Statistics for economic development and growth

The qualitative balance

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How I use data

- Macro surveillance and forecasting
- Dissecting trends
- Identifying issues
Economic agents as data points

- Data can uncover trends
- Qualitative aspects incorporate human behaviour
- Trends are a product of actions and decisions by economic agents
The role of investor sentiments

- Herd mentality
- ‘Pricing-in’ expectations
- Investor perceptions

*More important than fundamentals and yield hunts?*
Technology a big game-changer

• Speed of awareness
• Info asymmetry - a thing of the past
• New technologies create substitution effects
Data is a challenge for new industries

- “Is a hotel or airbnb your preferred choice of holiday accommodation?”
- Limited insight from scanty, empirical data
- Traditional industries – challenged by dynamic preferences
RAM Business Confidence Index

- 3,000+ firms nationwide (SMEs and Corporates)
- Business prospects for the next 6 months
- Effective leading indicator using a combination of quant and qual factors
RAM Business Confidence Index

**Outlook for employment conditions**

- **Corporate Hiring Sub-index**
- **Employment growth (RHS)**

**Outlook for private investment growth**

- **Corporate Investment Sub-index**
- **Private Investment growth (RHS)**

Source: Department of Statistics Malaysia and RAM Business Confidence Index
The qualitative balance provides the missing piece
Thank You

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