



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

MALAYSIA ECONOMIC STATISTICS REVIEW, VOLUME 1/2026

External trade and domestic demand remained strong, supporting overall economic momentum despite global uncertainties

PUTRAJAYA, 30th JANUARY 2026 – Today, the Department of Statistics, Malaysia (DOSM) released the **Malaysian Economic Statistics Review (MESR), Volume 1/2026**. This edition focuses on the recent statistics released in November 2025 and some forthcoming statistics for December 2025. On top of that, this edition features an additional article titled, “Malaysia Human Development Index (MHDI): A Reflection of Daily Life, International Benchmarking and Policy Implications under RMK13”, which highlights that Malaysia’s human development progress extends beyond income and health, with education quality and inequality emerging as key drivers. Strengthening the Malaysia Human Development Index (MHDI) as a policy and daily-life compass provides critical insights to guide RMK13 priorities and enhance inclusive, sustainable well-being.

Amid trade tensions and policy uncertainty, the January 2026 Global Economic Prospects reports that the global economy demonstrated stronger-than-expected resilience in 2025, expanding by an estimated 2.7 per cent, exceeding earlier projections by 0.4 percentage points. As supportive factors fade and demand for traded goods softens, global growth is projected to moderate to 2.6 per cent in 2026 before recovering to 2.7 per cent in 2027, driven by strengthening domestic demand, monetary policy easing, and improving trade conditions.

Focusing on recent economic developments, Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato’ Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin stated, “Malaysia’s advance Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimates recorded a higher expansion of 5.7 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2025 (Q3 2025: 5.2%), underscoring sustained economic momentum. On a quarter-on-quarter basis, the economy grew by 3.0 per cent, moderating from 5.4 per cent in the third quarter of 2025, reflecting a more measured and balanced pace of growth toward the year-end.”

Amid steady economic growth in Malaysia, the Industrial Production Index (IPI) maintained its momentum, rising 4.3 per cent year-on-year in November 2025. The

expansion was broad-based, led by Manufacturing (4.9%), Electricity (2.7%) and Mining (2.3%) sectors, reflecting ongoing industrial resilience. On a month-on-month basis, the IPI eased slightly by 1.1 per cent after October's 2.1 per cent growth, while overall industrial activity continued to show strength.

Momentum in the Manufacturing sector remained positive, with total sales value rising 4.6 per cent year-on-year in November 2025 (October 2025: 6.3%), reaching RM169.4 billion. The expansion was led by the Electrical & Electronics (E&E) sub-sector, which grew 10.8 per cent, reflecting robust domestic and export demand. Cumulative sales for January to November 2025 reached RM1.8 trillion, representing 4.0 per cent growth compared to the same period in 2024, signaling steady performance throughout the year. On a month-on-month basis, sales eased by 1.3 per cent from RM171.6 billion in October 2025.

Driven by steady consumer spending, Malaysia's Services sector continued to show resilience, with total sales in Wholesale and Retail trade reaching RM158.9 billion in November 2025, up 6.4 per cent year-on-year. Growth was led by Retail Trade, followed by Wholesale Trade and Motor Vehicles, reflecting strong domestic demand and sustained commercial activity. While sales eased slightly by 1.2 per cent on a month-on-month basis, the overall sector performance remained solid, underscoring steady momentum and resilience.

Highlighting Malaysia's external trade trends, merchandise trade continued to show strong performance in November 2025, with total trade rising 11.1 per cent year-on-year, supported by exports of RM135.0 billion, up 7.0 per cent, and imports of RM128.9 billion, increasing 15.8 per cent. Exports were led by Electrical & Electronics (E&E) products and Professional, Scientific & Controlling Instruments & Apparatus, while import growth was driven primarily by E&E goods, reflecting sustained domestic and global demand. On a month-on-month basis, total trade, exports, and imports saw movements of -4.5 per cent, -9.0 per cent, and 0.7 per cent, respectively, highlighting short-term market adjustments amid a generally strong trade performance. Trade performance strengthened further in December 2025, maintaining an 11.1 per cent year-on-year expansion, underscoring Malaysia's resilience and steady momentum in merchandise trade amid global uncertainties.

From a price perspective, Malaysia's inflation edged up from 1.3 per cent in October 2025 to 1.4 per cent in November, driven mainly by price increases in Education (2.6%), Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco (2.4%), and Transport (0.2%). Food & Beverages inflation remained steady at 1.5 per cent, while Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels moderated to 0.7 per cent. In December 2025, headline inflation increased further to 1.6 per cent, with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) standing at 135.5 points, supported by price rises in Personal Care, Social Protection, Miscellaneous Goods & Services, and Education, indicating steady and manageable inflationary pressures.

Looking at producer prices, Malaysia's Producer Price Index (PPI) for Local Production declined by 1.8 per cent year-on-year in November 2025, deepening from a marginal 0.1 per cent decrease in October. The contraction was primarily driven by Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing (-9.7%) and Mining (-7.2%), while Manufacturing also recorded a moderate decline of 0.6 per cent. On a month-on-month basis, the PPI for local production edged down 0.3 per cent, indicating a measured adjustment in producer prices. Malaysia's PPI continued to decline by 2.7 per cent year-on-year in December 2025, highlighting ongoing moderation in producer price trends amid mixed sector performance.

On the labour market front, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin highlighted that Malaysia's labour force grew 2.8 per cent year-on-year to 17.61 million persons in November 2025, while the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) remained steady at 70.9 per cent, reflecting continued stability in labour market conditions. Meanwhile, employment rose 3.1 per cent to 17.09 million, lifting the employment-to-population ratio to 68.8 per cent, up 0.5 percentage points from a year earlier, underscoring steady and resilient labour market performance.

From a forward-looking perspective, Malaysia's Leading Index (LI) showed signs of moderation, increasing marginally by 0.2 per cent year-on-year to 113.2 points. The improvement was supported mainly by a sharp rise in the Number of Housing Units Approved for Construction (67.5%) alongside stable growth in Real Money Supply, M1 (5.5%), indicating continued resilience in domestic demand. However, on a month-on-month basis, the LI declined by 2.4 per cent, largely due to weaker imports of semiconductors and non-ferrous metals. Overall, the Leading Index points to a moderating growth trajectory, with domestic fundamentals providing support amid softer external conditions.

Amid a gradually moderating global environment, Malaysia's economy demonstrated resilient growth toward the end of 2025, with advance estimates showing higher expansion in the fourth quarter supported by steady momentum in Services, Manufacturing and industrial sectors. Overall, Malaysia's economy closed 2025 on a resilient footing, supported by strong domestic demand, manageable inflation and stable labour market conditions, while remaining well positioned to navigate moderating growth amid external uncertainties.

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) is conducting the Economic Census 2026 (BE2026), themed "Data Nadi Ekonomi Rakyat". The sixth Economic Census, running from 5th January to 31st October 2026. BE2026 aims to collect comprehensive, structured data from all registered and unregistered business establishments in Malaysia to assess the nation's economic performance, structure and characteristics in an evidence-based manner.

Malaysia has, for the first time, successfully secured the top position globally in the biennial Open Data Inventory (ODIN) 2024/25 report released by Open Data Watch (ODW), surpassing 197 other countries. This achievement marks a significant leap from its 67th position in the ODIN 2022/23 assessment.

OpenDOSM NextGen is a medium that provides data catalogue and visualisations to facilitate users' analysis and can be accessed through <https://open.dosm.gov.my>.

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THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA

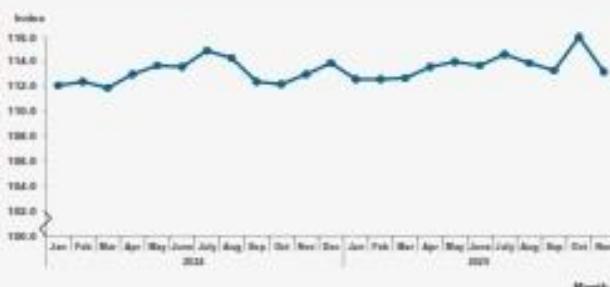
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9 JANUARY 2026

Exhibit 1: Monthly Economic Indicator

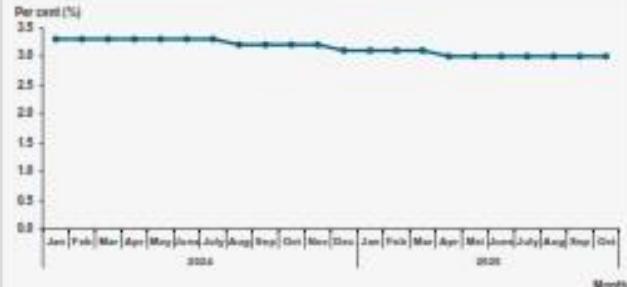
Leading Index

113.2 point
November 2025



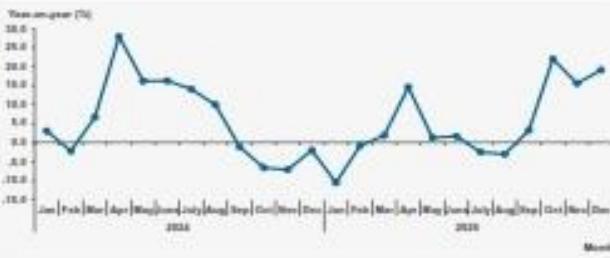
Unemployment Rate

2.9%
November 2025



Production of Fresh Fruit Bunches

19.1%
December 2025



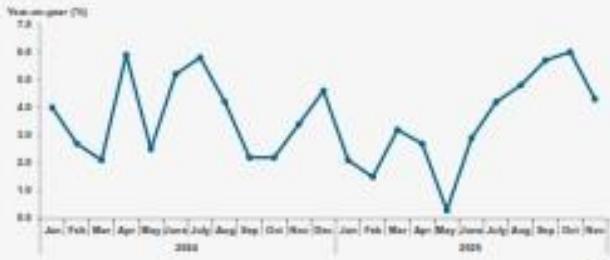
Production of Natural Rubber

-48.2%
November 2025



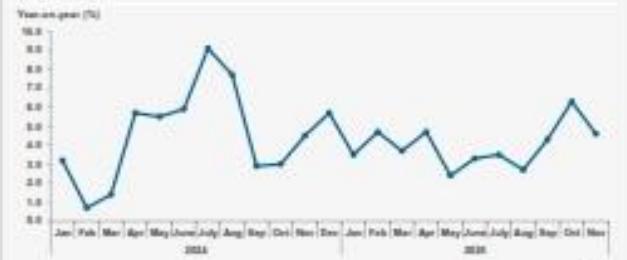
Industrial Production Index (IPI)

4.3%
November 2025



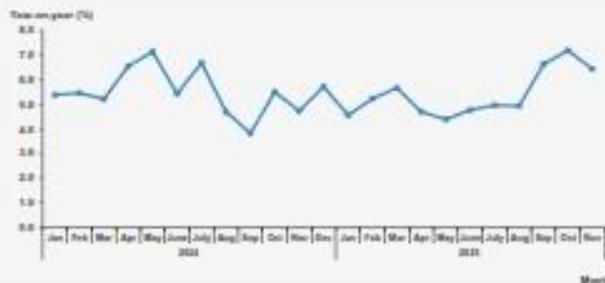
Sales Value of Manufacturing Sector

4.6%
November 2025



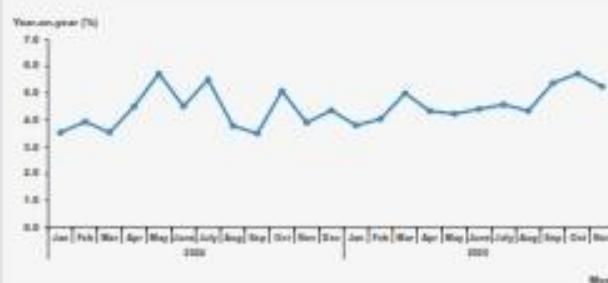
Sales Value of Wholesale & Retail Trade 6.4%

November 2025



Volume Index of Wholesale & Retail Trade 5.2%

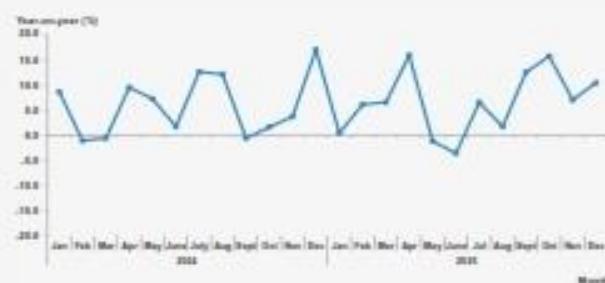
November 2025



Exports

10.4%

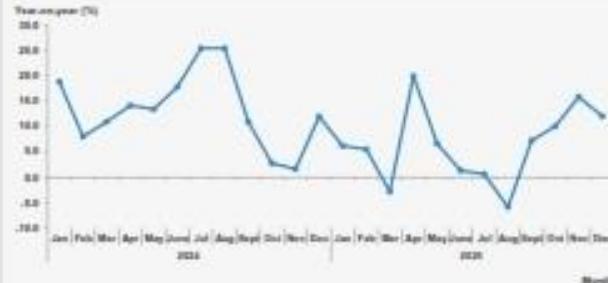
December 2025



Imports

12.0%

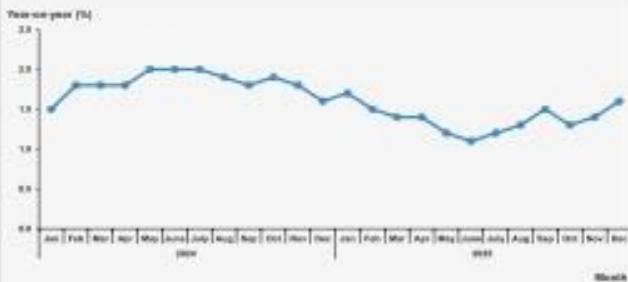
December 2025



Consumer Price Index (CPI)

1.6%

December 2025



Producer Price Index (PPI) Local Production

-2.7%

December 2025

