



MEDIA STATEMENT

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MALAYSIA EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS MAY 2025

***Malaysia's trade maintained its growth momentum, expanding
by 2.6 per cent in May 2025***

PUTRAJAYA, 20 JUNE 2025 – Malaysia's trade performance maintained its growth momentum in May 2025, driven by continued global economic growth and changes in demand for Malaysian goods in international markets. Total trade exhibited a 2.6 per cent increase from RM246.1 billion in the previous year to RM252.5 billion, primarily driven by the growth in imports by 6.6 per cent, reaching RM125.9 billion while exports downed by 1.1 per cent, valued at RM126.6 billion. On the other hand, the trade balance recorded RM0.8 billion in May 2025 compared to RM10.0 billion in May 2024 as reported today in **MALAYSIA EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS BULLETIN, MAY 2025**. This bulletin also presents the performance of export and import products with its trading partners.

Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin emphasised that Malaysia's export reduction was driven by a decrease in domestic exports in May 2025. Domestic exports, which accounted for 79.6 per cent of total exports, down by 4.7 per cent to RM100.8 billion, while re-exports, making up 20.4 per cent of total exports, up by 16.1 per cent to RM25.8 billion as compared to May 2024. Additionally, imports amounted to RM125.9 billion, an increase of

6.6 per cent or RM7.8 billion. The trade surplus continued for 61st consecutive month of surplus since May 2020, it decreased 92.3 per cent to record RM766.3 million. Comparing with April 2025, exports, imports, total trade and trade balance recorded a decrease of 5.2 per cent, 2.0 per cent, 3.6 per cent and 85.1 per cent, respectively.

From the perspective of the commodity group, 136 out of 258 export groups showed a decrease. Meanwhile, 118 out of 260 import groups showed an increase as compared to the same month of the previous year.

Chief Statistician Malaysia further explained slower exports was attributable mainly to Singapore (-RM4.0 billion), followed by Japan (-RM1.8 billion), Philippines (-RM719.0 million), China (-RM679.2 million), India (-RM557.2 million), Russian Federation (-RM400.5 million) and Turkiye (-RM295.3 million). However, higher imports were mainly contributed from the United States (+RM5.1 billion), followed by Taiwan (+RM3.2 billion), China (+RM3.0 billion), Kuwait (+RM685.2 million), Switzerland (+RM424.1 million), Mexico (+RM401.1 million) and Hong Kong (+RM352.7 million).

Commenting further on exports, the decrease was reflecting the decline in petroleum products (-RM3.3 billion); liquefied natural gas (-RM1.7 billion); chemical & chemical products (-RM952.5 million); crude petroleum (-RM730.5 million); iron & steel products (-RM377.3 million); and paper & pulp products (-RM279.2 million). On the other hand, the increase in imports was logged for electrical & electronic products (+RM14.3 billion); metalliferous ores & metal scrap (+RM1.1 billion); other agriculture (+RM366.4 million); other manufactures (+RM321.7 million); jewellery (+RM228.6 million); and palm oil & palm-based agriculture products (+RM129.2 million).

Adding to this, the Chief Statistician Malaysia also underscored the upsurge in imports by End Use which was in accordance with higher demand for capital goods. Imports of capital goods (18.0% of total imports), surged by 63.7 per cent or RM8.8 billion to post a value of RM22.7 billion. However, imports of intermediate goods (51.8% of total imports), was down by 4.4 per cent or RM3.0 billion valued at RM65.1 billion and imports of consumption goods (8.0% of total imports), registered a decrease of 1.1 per cent or RM113.8 million to reach RM10.1 billion as compared to May 2024.

Total trade, exports and imports for the period of January to May 2025 registered an improvement. Total trade grew by 6.2 per cent, from RM1.2 trillion, in line with the rise in exports (+5.5%) as well as imports (+6.9%). However, trade surplus decreased by 9.4 per cent to post a value of RM46.9 billion as compared to the same period in 2024.

ASEAN-Malaysia 2025 Chairmanship: The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) will chair the 15th ASEAN Community Statistical System Committee (ACSS15) which aims to strengthen the statistical cooperation towards sustainable regional development.

Malaysia, for the first time, ranked as number one (1) globally in the biennial Open Data Inventory (ODIN) 2024/25 report released by Open Data Watch (ODW), surpassing 198 other countries. This achievement marks a significant leap from its 67th position in the ODIN 2022/23 assessment.

The Government of Malaysia has declared October 20th as National Statistics Day (MyStats Day), with the theme 'Statistics is the Essence of Life'. Meanwhile, the Fourth World Statistics Day will be celebrated on 20th October 2025, with the theme 'Driving Change with Quality Statistics and Data for Everyone'.

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>.

Chart 1: External Trade Statistics, Jan 2024 – May 2025 (Value)

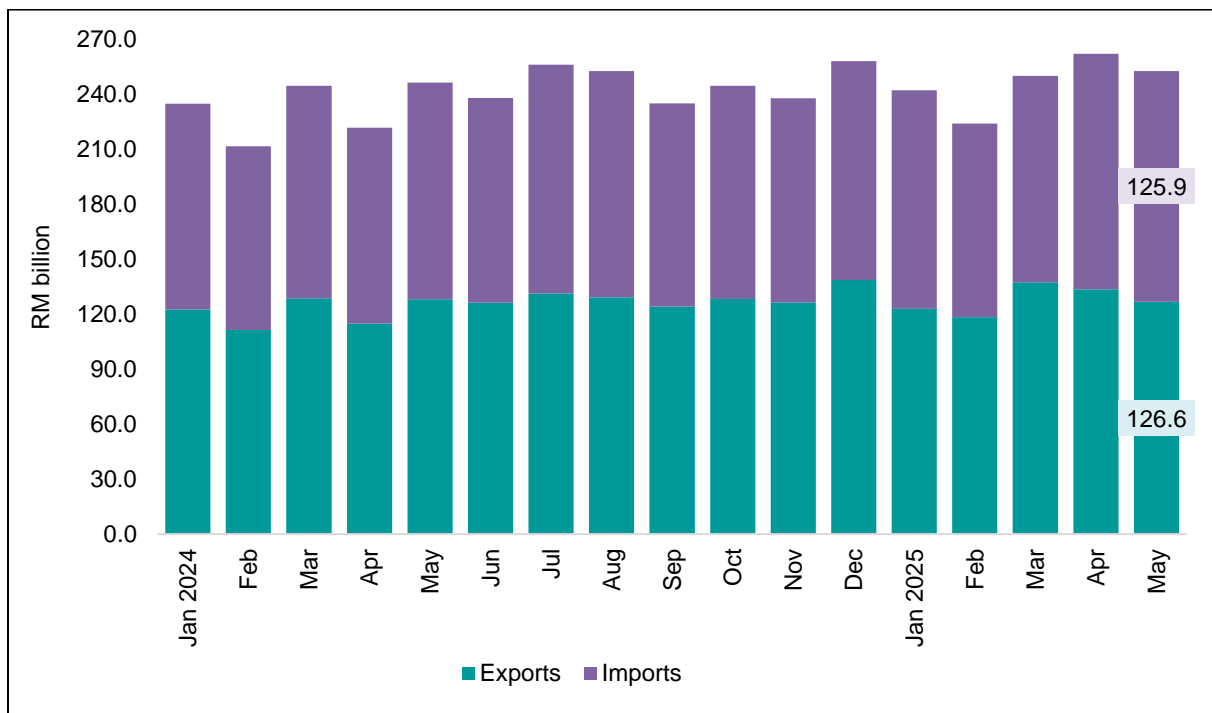


Chart 2: External Trade Statistics, Jan 2024 – May 2025
(Annual Percentage Change)

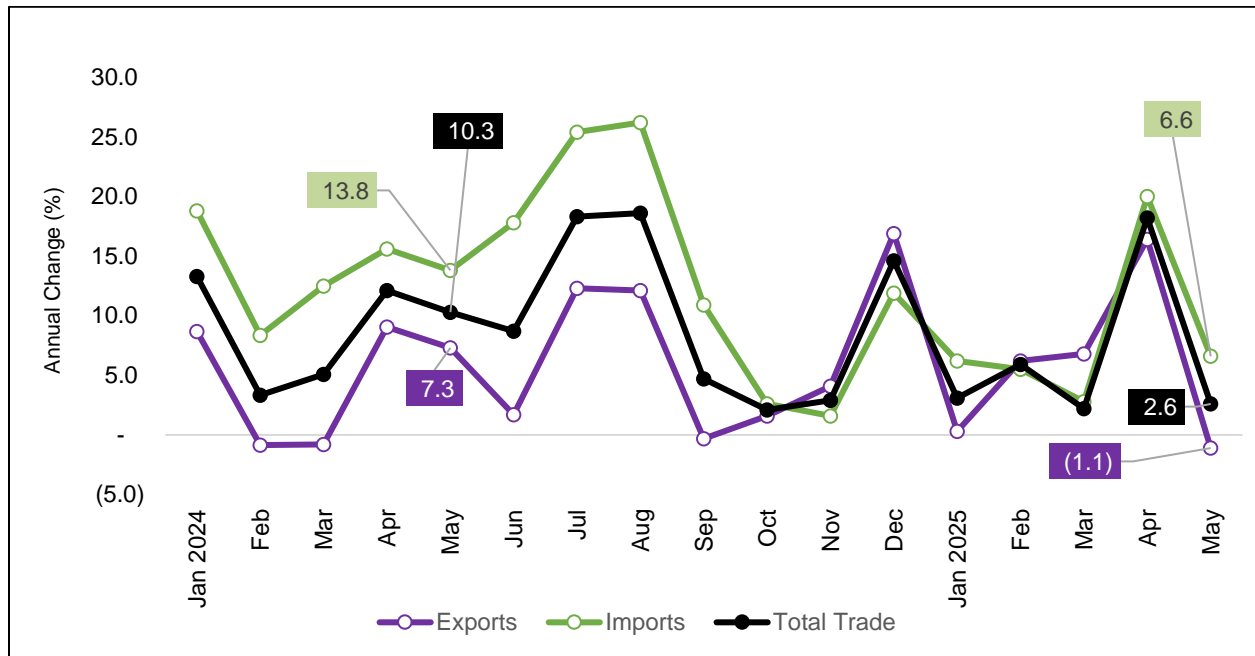
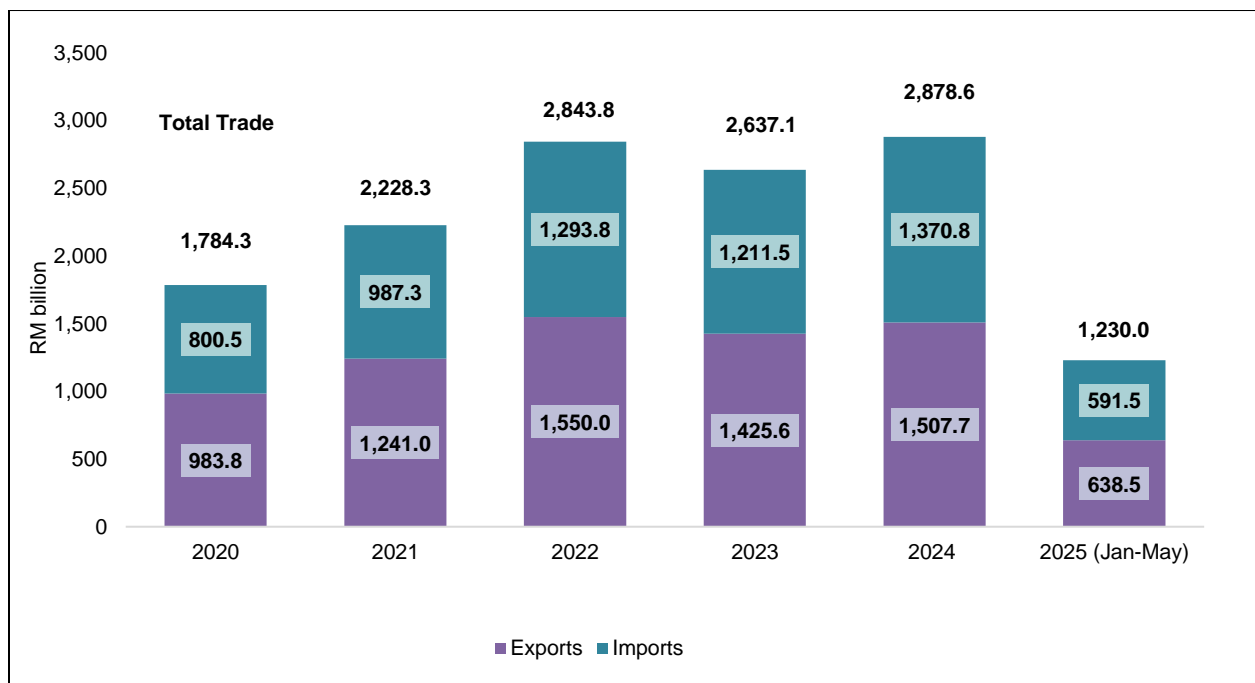
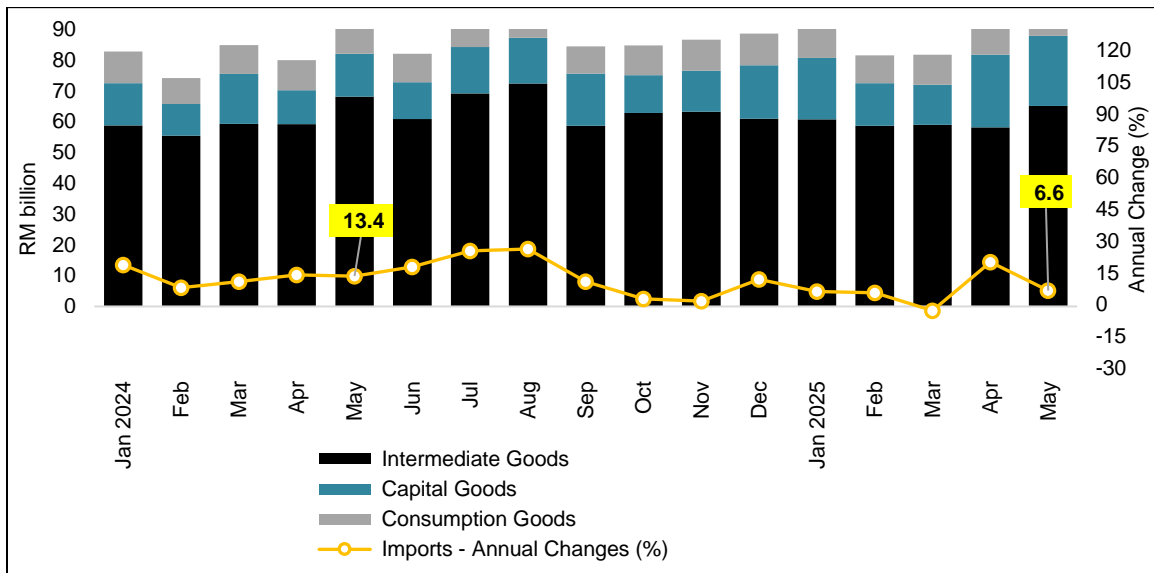


Chart 3: External Trade Statistics, 2020 – 2025 (Jan – May)



*Chart 4: Imports for End Use & Broad Economic Categories (BEC) Classification,
Jan 2024 – May 2025
(Value and Annual Percentage Change)*



*Chart 5: Imports for End Use & Broad Economic Categories (BEC) Classification,
2020 – 2025 (Jan – May)*

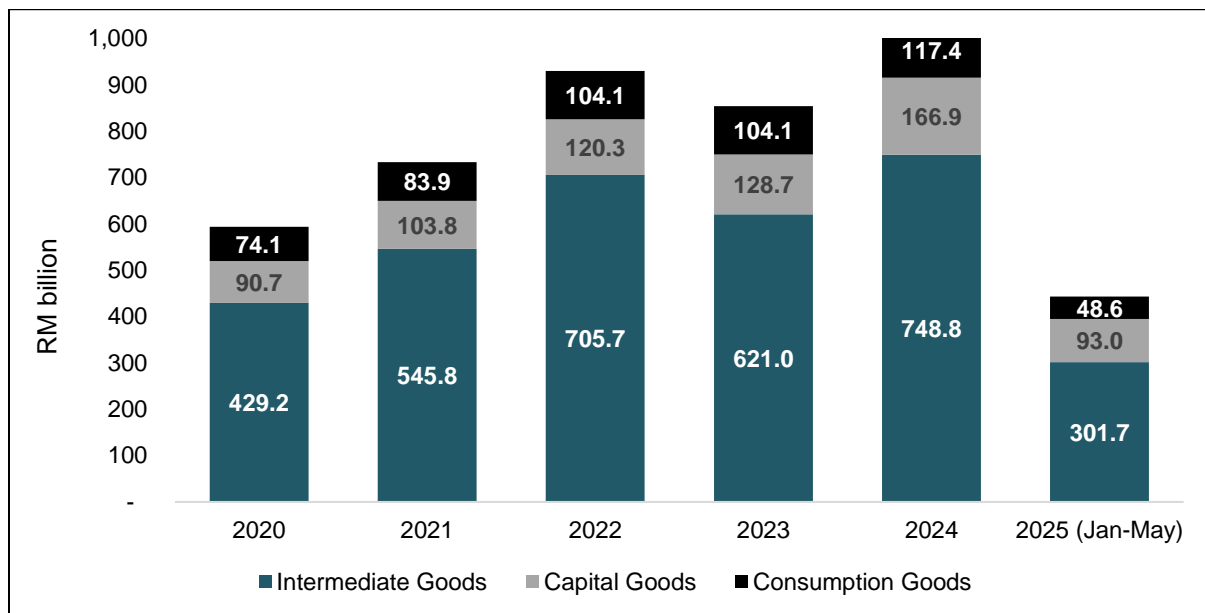


Table 1: Major Sub-sector Contributing to Export

COMMODITY DESCRIPTION	2024	2025	2025	SHARE TO TOTAL %	Y.O.Y	
	MAY	APR	MAY		VALUE	%
	RM MIL.	RM MIL.	RM MIL.		RM MIL.	
Total	128,037	133,499	126,623	100.0	(1,414)	(1.1)
<i>Electrical & Electronic Products (E&E)</i>	50,150	60,208	53,678	42.4	3,528	7.0
<i>Petroleum Products</i>	11,247	8,503	7,996	6.3	(3,251)	(28.9)
<i>Palm Oil & Palm-Based Agriculture Products</i>	6,803	6,307	7,368	5.8	565.1	8.3
<i>Machinery, Equipment & Parts</i>	5,496	6,468	6,395	5.1	898.6	16.4
<i>Manufacture of Metal</i>	6,017	5,103	5,830	4.6	(187.0)	(3.1)

Table 2: Major Sub-sector Contributing to Import

COMMODITY DESCRIPTION	2024	2025	2025	SHARE TO TOTAL %	Y.O.Y	
	MAY	APR	MAY		VALUE	%
	RM MIL.	RM MIL.	RM MIL.		RM MIL.	
Total	118,083	128,369	125,857	100.0	7,774	6.6
<i>Electrical & Electronic Products (E&E)</i>	36,145	54,615	50,396	40.0	14,251	39.4
<i>Machinery, Equipment & Parts</i>	10,103	10,806	10,163	8.1	59.3	0.6
<i>Chemical & Chemical Products</i>	9,288	8,388	8,175	6.5	(1,113)	(12.0)
<i>Petroleum Products</i>	11,410	7,497	7,105	5.6	(4,305)	(37.7)
<i>Manufacture of Metal</i>	6,336	5,409	5,809	4.6	(527.7)	(8.3)

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THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

20 JUNE 2025