



## MIGRATION SURVEY REPORT, MALAYSIA, 2018



Department of Statistics Malaysia  
<https://www.dosm.gov.my>



WRC 2019, STATISTICS 70TH ANNIVERSARY, ISI 2019, WORLD POPULATION STATISTICS 2019

### SELECTED STATISTICS POPULATION'S MIGRATION 2018

**32.4 million**  
Malaysia population

**1.6%**  
Migrants

**98.4%**  
Non migrants



**89.3%**

Internal migrants

**10.7%**  
International migrants<sup>1</sup>

Excludes migrants from Malaysia to other countries

#### Inter-state migrants (28.5%)



#### Intra-state migrants (60.8%)

**66.9%**  
Urban to Urban



**6.3%**  
Urban to Rural  
Rural to Urban  
**19.8%**



**7.0%**  
Rural to Rural

#### Reason for Internal migration



**44.2%**  
Following family



**24.3%**  
Career



**22.4%**  
Environment



**4.8%**  
Marriage & divorce



**3.3%**  
Education



**1.0%**  
Others

Source: Migration Survey, Department of Statistics Malaysia

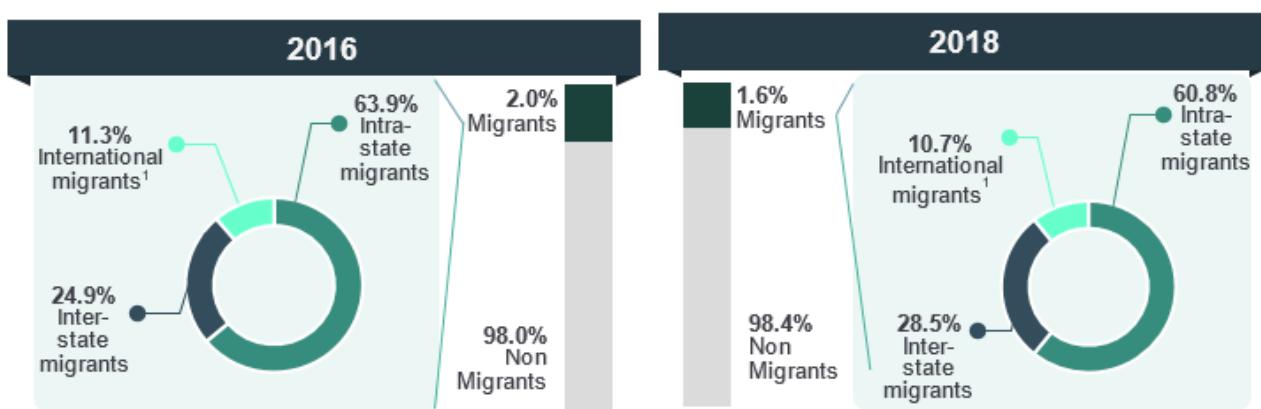
## SELECTED STATISTICS POPULATION'S MIGRATION

For the year 2018, 1.6 per cent of population aged one year and over was migrants, decreased 0.4 percentage points as compared to 2.0 per cent in 2016.

Nearly two-third (60.8%) of the total number of migrants were intra-state migrants, 3.1 percentage points decrease as compared to 63.9 per cent in 2016. In contrast, inter-state migrants registered an increase of 3.6 percentage points to 28.5 per cent from 24.9 per cent in 2016.

International migrants from abroad to Malaysia were 10.7 per cent, declined 0.6 percentage points from 11.3 per cent in 2016. [Chart 1]

**Chart 1: Population aged one year and over by migration status, Malaysia, 2016 and 2018**



<sup>1</sup>Excludes migrants from Malaysia to other countries

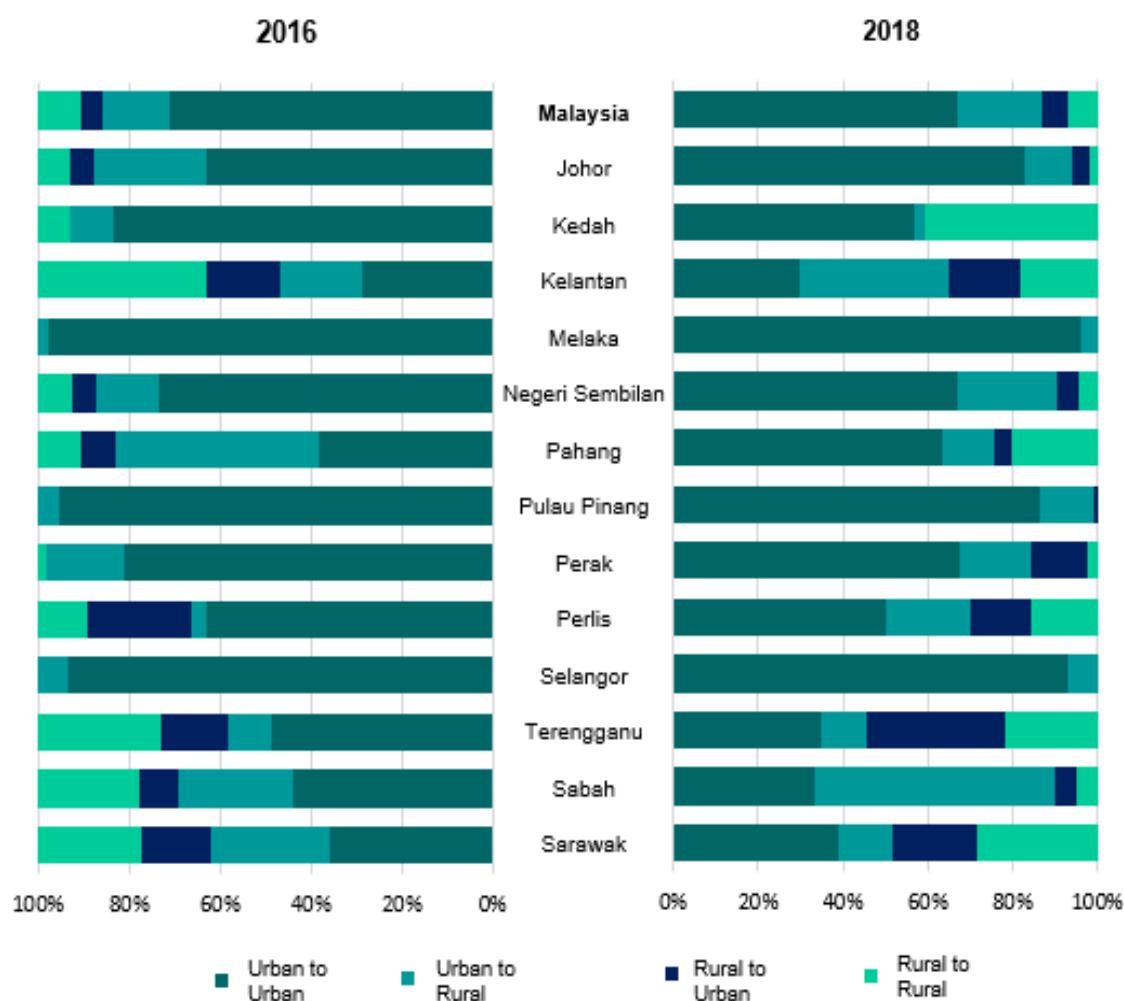
## INTERNAL MIGRATION FLOWS

### Intra-State Migration

The highest proportion of intra-state migration in Malaysia was urban to urban albeit decreased to 66.9 per cent in 2018 from 71.0 per cent in 2016.

The population movements were also focused to urban areas within the same state for 2018, except for Kelantan and Sabah which recorded the highest movement from rural to urban areas. [Chart 2]

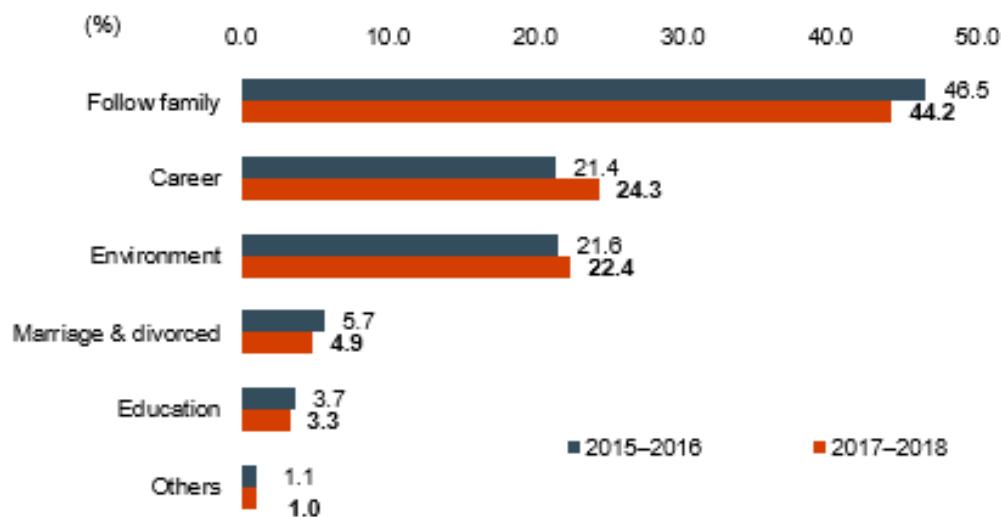
**Chart 2: Intra-state migrants by migration flows, Malaysia, 2016 and 2018**



## REASONS FOR MIGRATION

Main reasons for migration during 2018 were following family with 44.2 per cent, followed by career (24.3 per cent) and move to another house/looking for a new environment (22.4 per cent). [Chart 3]

**Chart 3: Internal migrants by reasons for migration, Malaysia, 2016 and 2018**



*Following family was the main reason for migration which is 44.2 per cent in 2018. This was followed by career (24.3%) and environment (22.4%).*

The detailed information regarding this report can be accessed through [eStatistik](#) application in the portal of [Department of Statistics Malaysia](#).

### Released By:

**DATO' SRI DR. MOHD UZIR MAHIDIN  
CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS, MALAYSIA**

DrUzir\_Mahidin Dr\_Uzir

#myHariBulan# #myBulan# #myTahun#

### Contact person:

Rohaida binti Mohamad  
Public Relation Officer  
Strategic Communication and International Division  
Department of Statistics, Malaysia  
**Tel** : +603-8885 7942  
**Fax** : +603-8888 9248  
**Email** : rohaida.mohamad[at]dosm.gov.my

### Contact person:

Baharudin Mohamad

Public Relation Officer  
Strategic Communication and International Division  
Department of Statistics Malaysia  
Tel : +603-8090 4681  
Fax : +603-8888 9248  
Email : baharudin[at]dosm.gov.my

**Copyright ©2026 Department of Statistics Malaysia Official Portal. All Rights Reserved.**