



MITI in the News Trade Performance for the Month of January 2016 Exports of Manufactured Goods Help Boost Malaysia's Trade in January



Exports of manufactured goods for January 2016 grew by RM1.95 billion to RM50.59 billion, accounting for 81.8% of Malaysia's total exports. The increase was supported mainly by higher exports of machinery, equipment and parts by RM588.7 million, electrical and electronic (E&E) products (up RM566 million), manufactures of metal (up RM496 million) as well as optical and scientific equipment (up RM407.1 million).

The performance of this sector helped Malaysia register total trade of RM118.31 billion in January 2016, a marginal increase from the RM118.25 billion recorded in January 2015. The higher trade numbers serve to underline Malaysia's resilience despite the challenging global economic environment.

Higher trade was recorded with ASEAN which grew by RM1.6 billion, China (up RM827.2 million), the United States of America (USA) (up RM727 million), India (up RM600 million), Germany (up RM353.1 million), Switzerland (up RM350.8 million) and Turkey (up RM317.9 million). Exports decreased by 2.8% to RM61.85 billion and imports expanded by 3.3% to RM56.46 billion. Positive trade balance of RM5.39 billion recorded in January 2016, made it the 219th consecutive month of trade surpluses since November 1997.

Major exports in January 2016 were:

- E&E products valued at RM22.35 billion, an increase of 2.6% from January 2015. They constituted 36.1% of total exports;
- Chemicals and chemical products (RM4.35 billion) an increase of 3.4% and constituting 7% of total exports;
- Palm oil and palm-based products (RM3.45 billion), up by 9.2%;
- Petroleum products (RM3.35 billion); and
- Machinery, equipment and parts (RM3.28 billion), an increase of 21.9%

Ministry of International Trade and Industry, 4 March 2016

Click here to read full press release on Trade Performance January 2016

MITI Weekly Bulletin (MWB) Mobile Apps

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Thai Firms in Malaysia Keen to Increase Investments, Expand Ops



Many Thai companies in Malaysia are keen to increase their investments and expand their operations in the country, said Minister of International Trade and Industry, Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed.

Mustapa, who met senior management teams from five Thai companies with operations in Malaysia, said they wanted to boost investments in the country. The companies are Berli Juncker pcl, Tipco Asphalt plc, Thai Beverage plc, Charoen Pokphand Foods pcl and Interlink Thailand.

"They saw a lot of opportunities (in Malaysia). Malaysia is the natural choice because it's closer. I met them and they said they wanted to increase their investments in Malaysia, which is good," he told the media after attending ness opportunities in Malaysia and Thailand' here today. Also present at the

a seminar on 'Business opportunities in Malaysia and Thailand' here today. Also present at the seminar was Thai Industry Minister Atchaka Sibunruang.

Mustapa made a stopover here to attend the seminar before flying to Chiangmai to participate in the Asean Economic Ministers' retreat. The Thai companies, he said, were aggresively expanding abroad and wanted to use Malaysia as their base in Asean and the world due to the country's political and economic stability. The minister said Charoen Pokphand Foods, a Thai food processing company with global operations, wanted to expand its Malaysian operation and make the country its base in the halal industry.

"They saw Malaysia as a country which is well ahead in the halal industry," he said, adding that, he was surprised by the huge turnout from Thai companies. The organiser expected about 400 representatives from Thai companies but they swelled to over 500. Malaysia and Thai bilateral relations, he said, had been progressing well with trade and investment as well tourism growing between the two countries.

"Thailand is Malaysia's fifth largest trading partner with total trade between both countries of US\$22 billion (US\$1=RM4.15) last year. Meanwhile, a representative from Charoen Pokphand Foods, who spoked at the seminar, said in terms of halal industry, Malaysia was the best destination to invest in compared to other countries. "From Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia and Brunei, the best centre of halal industry is Malaysia. This is the answer why we invest in Malaysia," he said.

BERNAMA, 2 March 2016

Exports of Processed Food to Grow Further in 2016: MATRADE

Exports of processed food are expected to grow further this year given the continuous promotional efforts in place, says Malaysia External Trade Corporation (MATRADE) Chief Executive Officer Datuk Dzulkifli Mahmud. Processed food exports grew 8.8 per cent to RM18.02 billion in 2015, mainly attributed to exports of edible products and preparations, cocoa and cocoa preparations, cereals and flour.

Besides the conventional method of expanding footprints, Malaysian companies should also use the 17th Malaysian International Food and Beverage Trade Fair 2016 (MIFB 2016) to boost exports, he told reporters here today. Dzulkifli also urged local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to tap into the ASEAN marketplace and countries in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) to strengthen their market presence and meet international standards for exports. He added that MATRADE and related agencies such as SME Corp would help and nurture the SMEs to grow further and to meet the international standards.

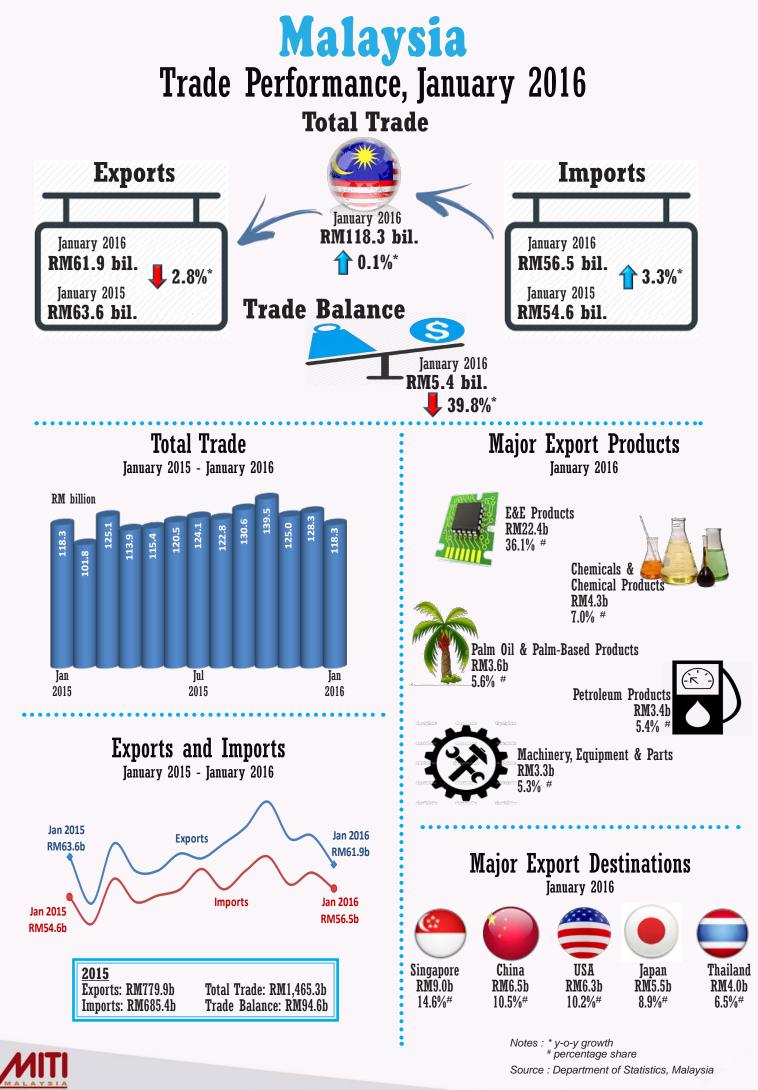
"We would like to see more cross-border business between Malaysia and other ASEAN countries. Food and beverages can also be a strong sector that we can promote to ASEAN and the TPP countries," said Dzulkifli. At the event, Dzulkilfli also witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Sphere Exhibits Malaysia and MY Exhibition Co Ltd to co-organise the inaugural Taiwan International Fruits and Vegetable Show in November.

MIFB 2016, co-organised by Sphere Exhibits Malaysia Sdn Bhd and Mutiara Sigma Sdn Bhd, will be held on July 27-29 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. More than 350 exhibitors from 45 countries will participate in the exhibition at which 20,000 trade visitors are expected.

"The event is expected to generate RM300 million in sales from our business matching sessions and buyer programme," said Sphere Exhibits General Manager Paul Ng.

BERNAMA, 1 March 2016



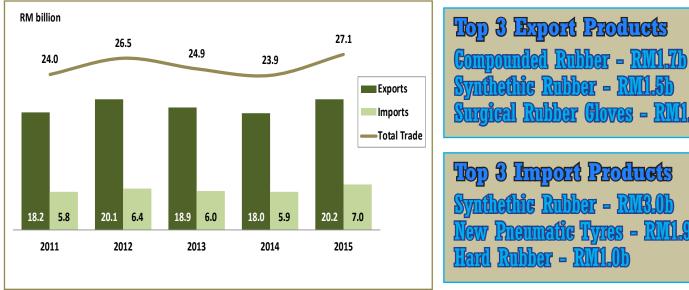


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Trade in Rubber Products, 2011-2015



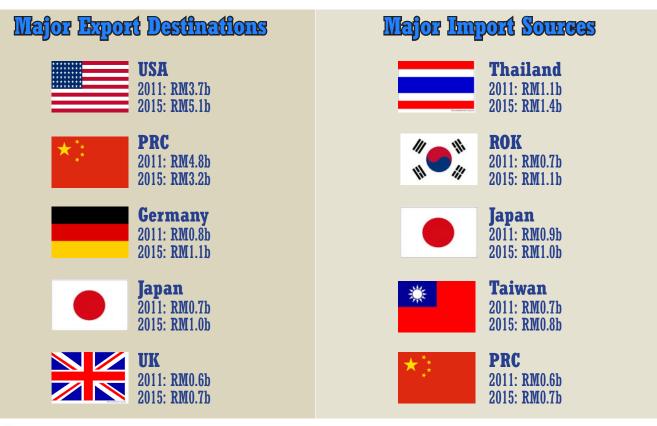
Note : * Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR)



Survieal Rubber Cloves - RM1.3b Top 3 Import Products Synthethic Rubber - RMB.0b New Pneumatic Types - RM1.9b

Hard Rubber - RMI.Ob

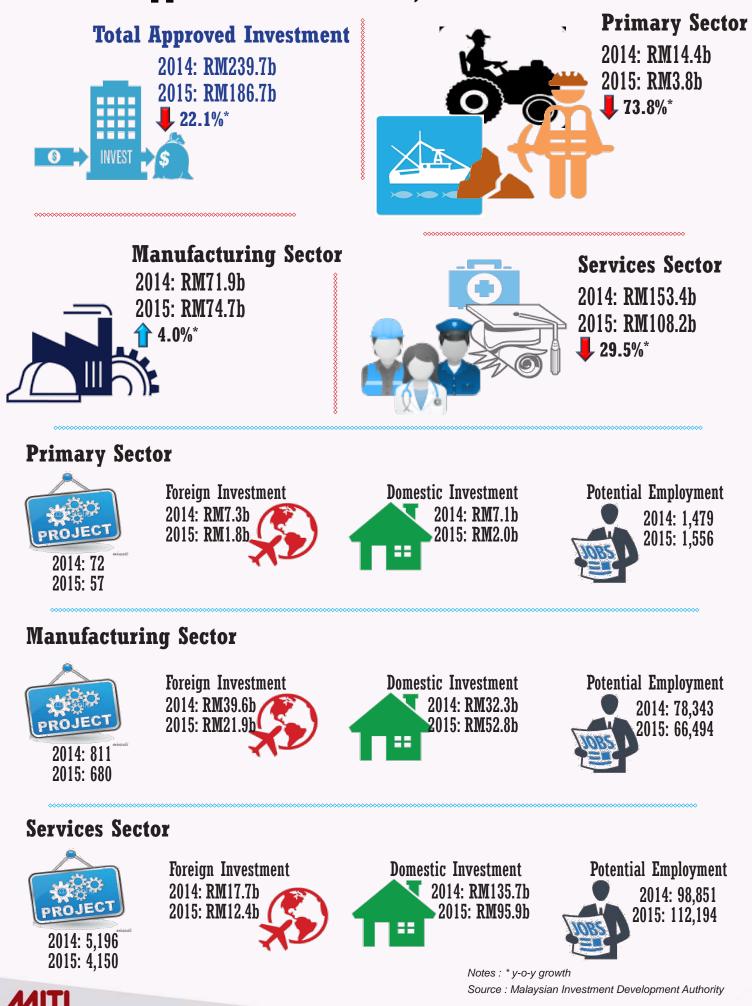
Source : Department of Statistics, Malaysia





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Approved Investments, 2014 and 2015



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Five Unique Hotels in Selected ASEAN Countries



Hang Nga Guesthouse, Dalat City (Vietnam)

Known as 'Crazy House', this building is truly a work of art and it will take you back to your childhood by making you feel like you are in the heart of a rainforest

Container Hotel, Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)

This eco-friendly alternative to traditional hotel rooms provides you with all the features you may desire for a pleasant stay, including Wi-Fi in every room





Sharma Springs, Bali (Indonesia)

This tree house & eco-resort is made entirely of black and white bamboo, guests get the chance to be one with nature whilst having all necessary modern comforts.

4 Rivers Floating Lodge, Koh Kong Province (Cambodia)

This hotel gives you experience living in floating bungalows stretched out over dazzling turquoise waters



4

Red Rose Hotel, Chiang Rai (Thailand)

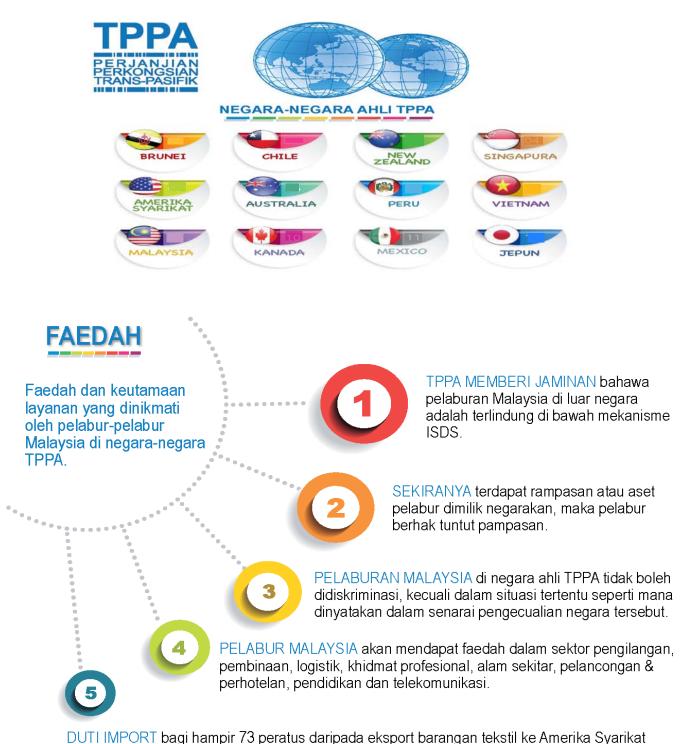
It provides various room themes & design for customers such as suspended boat, in a jungle, or even up in the clouds

Source : www.goasean.com/stories/5-unique-hotels-in-southeast-asia

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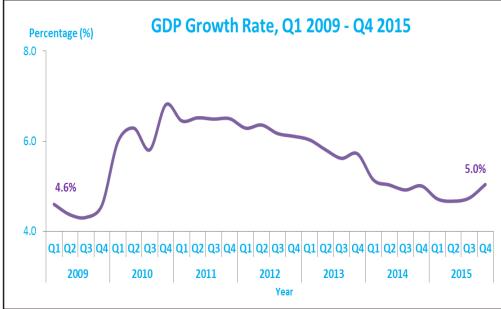
akan dimansuhkan serta-merta dengan berkuat kuasanya TPPA. Tanpa TPPA, hanya 11 peratus daripada eksport tekstil ke Amerika Syarikat yang menikmati duti import sifar. Selain itu, TPPA juga akan memansuhkan duti import bagi produk-produk eksport utama Malaysia seperti produk elektrikal dan elektronik, barangan getah, minyak sawit, alat ganti automotif, serta produk kayu-kayan ke pasaran TPPA khususnya ke Amerika Syarikat, Kanada, Mexico dan Peru.

Buku kecil TPPA di dalam versi PDF boleh di muat turun melalui pautan <u>http://fta.miti.gov.my/miti-fta/resources/MITI_TPPA.pdf</u>





Indonesia



Year	Annual GDP Growth (%)
2015	4.8
2014	5.0
2013	5.6
2012	6.0
2011	6.2
2010	6.4
2009	4.6

Source : Statistic Indonesia

GDP per capita

6.8%

Inflation

US\$3,415.8

Economic Indicators 2015

US\$872.6b GDP (current prices)









5.8% Unemployment (% labour force)



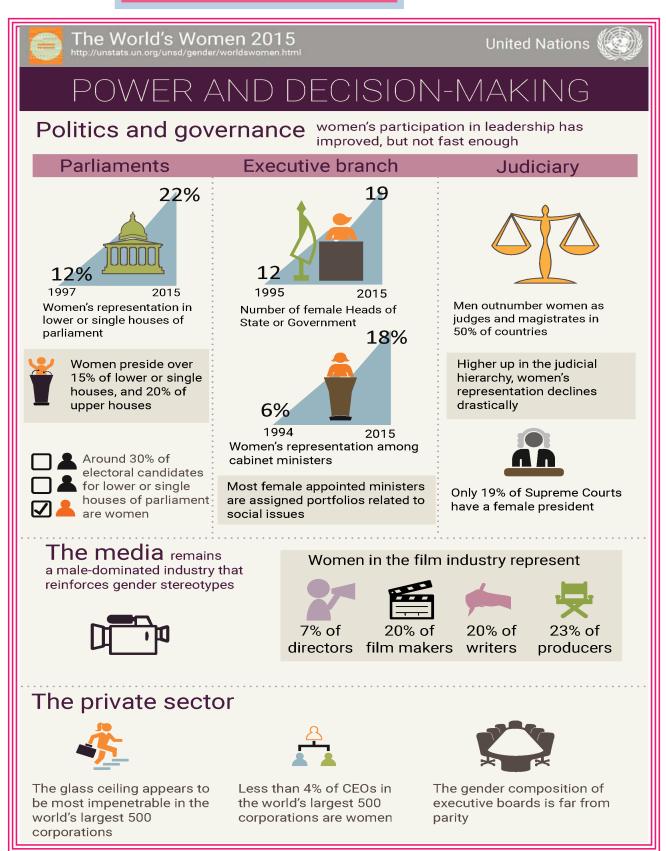
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Source : http://www.bps.go.id/QuickMap



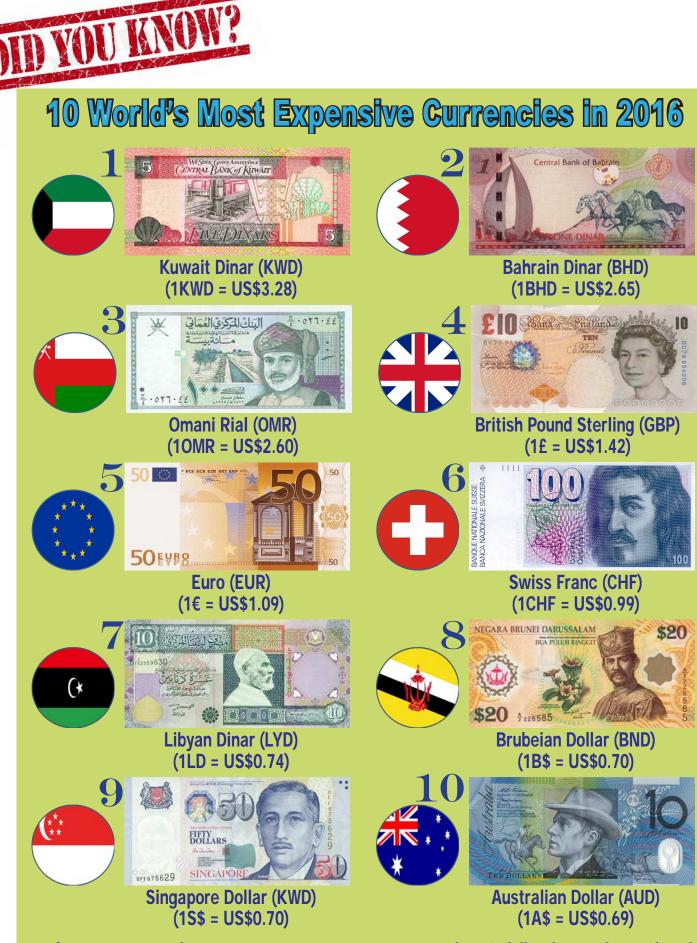
Happy Women's Day! You deserve to be happy today so enjoy your day to the fullest...







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As of January 19, 2016, the most expensive currency in 2016 is not the U.S. dollar, the British pound, or the euro. Surprisingly, the most valuable currencies in the world don't always belong to the wealthiest economies. The more expensive a currency is, the more dollar is required to buy that currency. Expensive currency means it has strong purchasing power compared to others.



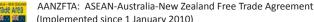
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Source : http://www.profitconfidential.com/u-s-dollar/the-10-most-expensive-currency

Number and Value of Preferential Certificates of Origin (PCOs) umber of Certificates (Provisional data)

	<u>10 Jan 2016</u>	<u>17 Jan 2016</u>	<u>24 Jan 2016</u>	<u>31 Jan 2016</u>	<u>7 Feb 2016</u>	<u>14 Feb 2016</u>	<u>21 Feb 2016</u>	28 Feb 2016
AANZFTA	1,065	929	817	825	824	412	793	689
AIFTA	613	646	626	676	693	412	599	642
AJCEP	244	217	208	229	222	74	160	183
ATIGA	4,100	4,570	4,368	3,645	4,199	2,079	3,612	4,642
ACFTA	1,432	1,383	1,136	867	1,304	720	1,647	1,702
AKFTA	820	865	861	959	929	482	828	994
MICECA	287	284	289	311	368	178	350	286
MNZFTA	12	13	7	3	14	3	7	1
MCFTA	71	66	36	69	48	34	69	54
MAFTA	570	463	489	370	438	179	393	301
MJEPA	836	898	758	888	859	479	892	831
MPCEPA	139	177	167	151	170	94	137	104
GSP	134	165	100	130	133	63	142	109
MTFTA	282	196	148	187	172	103	258	195

Notes: The preference giving countries under the GSP scheme are Liechtenstein, the Russian Federation, Japan, Switzerland, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Norway.



ATIGA: ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement

(Implemented since 1 May 2010)

AJCEP: ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (Implemented since 1 February 2009)

ACFTA: ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement

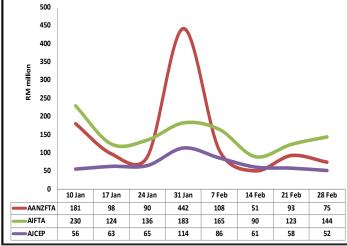
(Implemented since 1 July 2003)

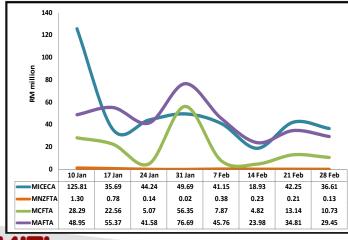
AKFTA: ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Agreement

(Implemented since 1 July 2006)

AIFTA: ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (Implemented since 1 January 2010)

Value of Preferential Certificates of Origin





MPCEPA: Malaysia-Pakistan Closer Economic Partnership Agreement (Implemented since 1 January 2008) MJEPA: Malaysia-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (Implemented since 13 July 2006)

(*

MICECA: Malaysia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (Implemented since 1 July 2011) MNZFTA: Malaysia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement

(Implemented since 1 August 2010) MCFTA: Malaysia-Chile Free Trade Agreement

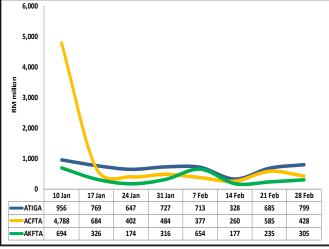
(Implemented since 25 February 2012)

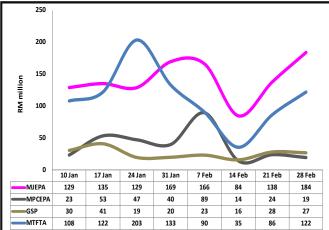
MAFTA: Malaysia-Australia Free Trade Agreement

(Implemented since 1 January 2013)

MTFTA: Malaysia-Turkey Free Trade Agreement

(Implemented since 1 August 2015)

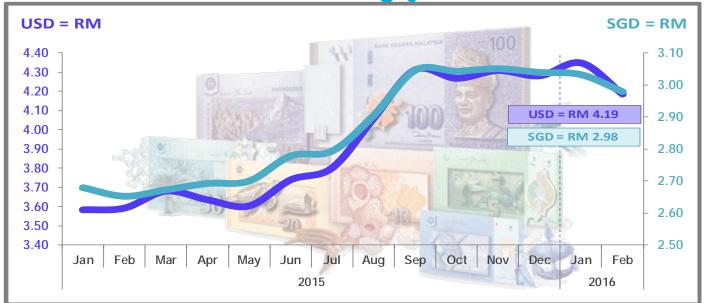




Source: Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia



Malaysian Ringgit Exchange Rate with US Dollar and Singapore Dollar



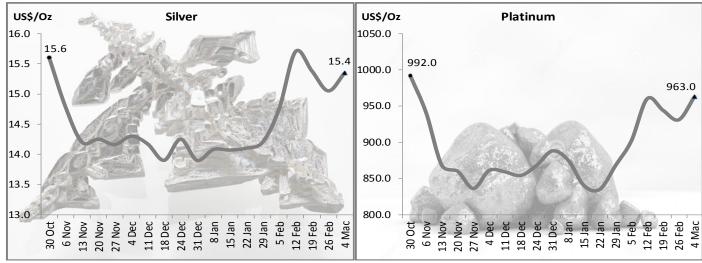
Source : Bank Negara Malaysia

Gold Prices, 30 October 2015 - 4 March 2016



Source : http://www.gold.org/investments/statistics/gold_price_chart/

Silver and Platinum Prices, 30 October 2015 - 4 March 2016





http://online.wsj.com/mdc/public/page/2_3023-cashprices.html?mod=topnav_2_3023

Commodity Prices

			SUGAR	SMR 20			
Commodity	Crude Petroleum (Brent) (per bbl)	Crude Palm Oil (per MT)	Sugar (per lbs.)	Rubber SMR 20 (per MT)	Cocoa SMC 2 (per MT)	Coal (per MT)	Scrap Iron HMS (per MT)
4 Mar 2016 (US\$)	38.7	647.5	14.8	1,299.5	2,076.7	47.6	190 (high) 160 (low)
% change*	10.3	0.9	1 5.9	14.2	2.7	1 0.1	unchanged unchanged
2015 ⁱ	36.9 - 66.8	616.9	13.2	1,364.3	2,077.0	49.9	239.6
2014 ⁱ	59.5 - 114.8	823.3	16.6	1,718.3	2,615.8	59.8	370.0

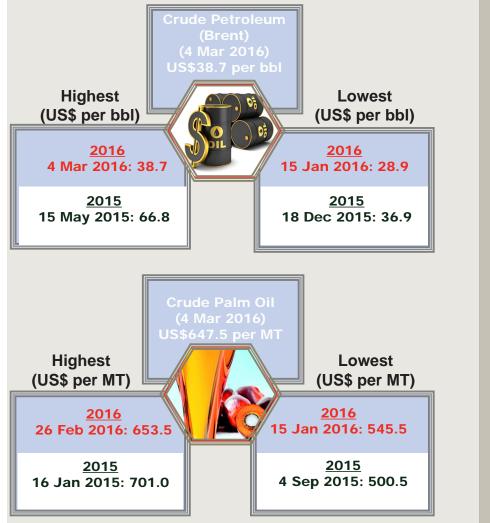
Notes: All figures have been rounded to the nearest decimal point

* Refer to % change from the previous week's price

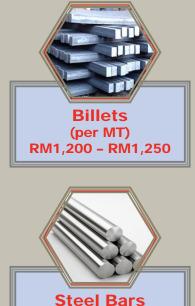
i Average price in the year except otherwise indicated

n.a Not availble

Highest and Lowest Prices, 2015/2016



Average Domestic Prices. 26 Feb 2016

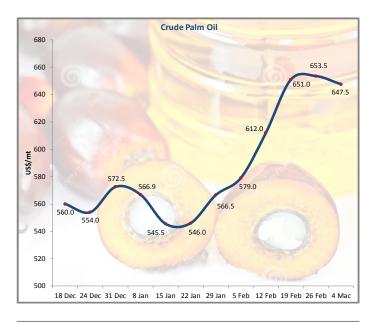


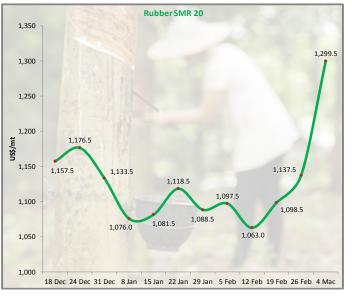
(per MT) RM1,520 - RM1,620

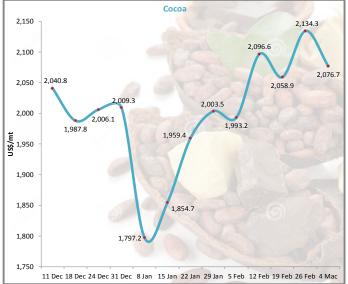
Sources: Ministry of International Trade and Industry Malaysia, Malaysian Palm Oil Board, Malaysian Rubber Board, Malaysian Cocoa Board, Malaysian Iron and Steel Industry Federation, Bloomberg and Czarnikow Group.

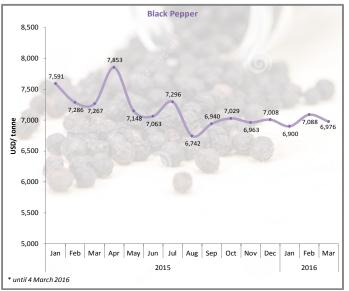


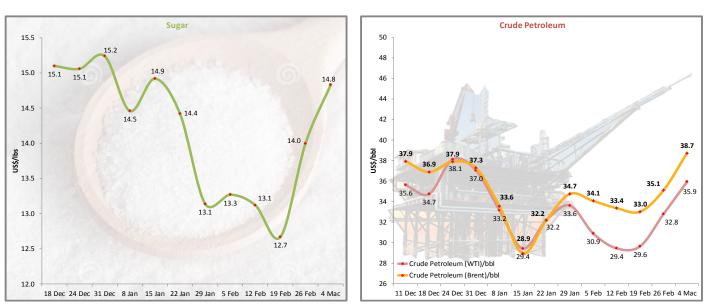
Commodity Price Trends







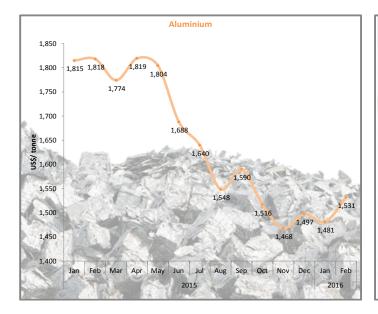


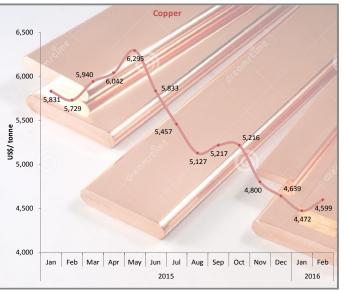


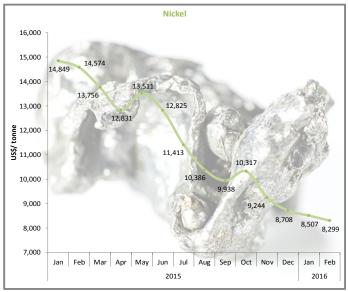
Sources: Ministry of International Trade and Industry Malaysia, Malaysian Palm Oil Board, Malaysian Rubber Board, Malaysian Cocoa Board, Malaysian Pepper Board, Malaysian Iron and Steel Industry Federation, Bloomberg and Czarnikow Group, World Bank.

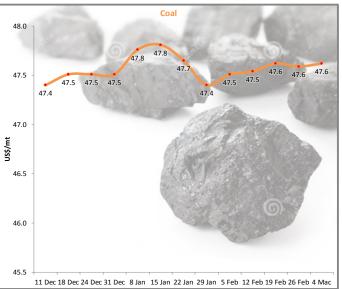


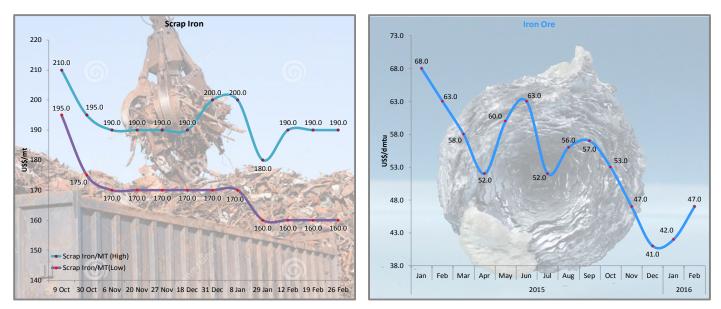
Commodity Price Trends











Sources: Ministry of International Trade and Industry Malaysia, Malaysian Palm Oil Board, Malaysian Rubber Board, Malaysian Cocoa Board, Malaysian Pepper Board, Malaysian Iron and Steel Industry Federation, Bloomberg and Czarnikow Group, World Bank.



DRIVING TRANSFORMATION, POWERING GROWTH

Success story

INSPEDIA SON BHD

Digital animation survivor Inspidea gears for rapid growth

DIGITAL animation company Inspidea Sdn Bhd started with four founders, but the two with the initial idea could not stand the pain that all entrepreneurs go through in the early years, and left to rejoin the corporate rat race and the solace of a regular income.

C.J. See (pic, left) and Andrew Ooi (right) however stayed the course, even though it was tough going for the first five years, recalls See."But you just have to believe in what you are doing and work really hard at it," says the 43-year old bachelor, adding that any new company in the creative content space needs time to get market traction.

Fortified by their belief, today they are reaping the benefits of that journey that began 12 years ago in 2002 when See had lost his job in a brokerage firm and Ooi was a rookie urban planner who wanted to do something more fun. They had help from one angel investor, whom See credits with helping them run the company with a financial discipline that today sees Inspidea being "cash-rich" and "looking to invest in other companies if the right opportunity comes along."

While Inspidea (inspiration+idea) did not hit the revenue target of exceeding US\$3.10 million (RM10 million) in 2013, it came close, says See, also the sales and marketing director, declining to reveal the actual figure.

If the target for 2014 seems ambitious at US\$5.27 million (RM17 million), it merely reflects the fact that the 250-strong company is at an inflection point, not just working at capacity but with a number of big projects that, when they materialize, will likely cement Inspidea's place as one of the top animation companies in the country. See seems particularly excited about one global project that will air next year, whose production work is currently ongoing at Inspidea's facilities in Kelana Jaya, a suburb.



But beyond that, he also credits government support for the creative content industry, specifically through an incentive programme introduced last year – Fimi (Film in Malaysia Incentives) – that gives a 30% rebate to any content, local owned or foreign, that is produced in Malaysia. Foreign production houses need to spend a minimum of RM5 million though, while local players need to spend at least RM2.5 million to qualify for the incentive.

While such an incentive is standard practice in many countries serious about encouraging creative content industries, Malaysia has been late to the game, despite the industry lobbying for years for such an incentive. In recent





times however, the lobby voice of the industry has been aided by the momentum of such initiatives as the National Key Economic Area (NKEA) on CCI (Communications, Content and Infrastructure), where one of the Entry Point Projects is on nurturing the creative content industry.

A more recent push to embed the digital economy into the Malaysian economy comes through the Digital Malaysia initiative led by Multimedia Development Corporation (MDeC). Aside from the Digital Malaysia initiative that MDeC is spearheading, See also credits the national ICT custodian as "being instrumental in promoting and driving the growth of the creative content industry." For instance, back in 2009 Inspidea was working on a project where MDeC extended it an RM4.5-million loan to help execute. The interest rate would have been much higher had Inspidea gone to commercial banks – that is, if it even succeeded in borrowing the money from them.

And with intellectual property (IP) financing on the table thanks to the US\$61.1-million (RM200-million) IP Financing Scheme managed by Malaysia Debt Ventures (MDV), creative content companies like Inspidea can create IP much more rapidly.

For Inspidea, the current scenario could not be further away from the beginnings of the company when it tried, unsuccessfully, to sell its first animation Johan the Young Scientist, to national broadcaster RTM. It had taken 18 months to make and cost it RM500,000 . On the advice of a travel agent friend, Inspidea got on a plane to Cannes, France to attend an industry trade show which eventually led to the breakthrough deal for a broadcaster in Dubai to buy the show. Very quickly, the company then found customers in 33 countries. Only then did Media Prima and Astro buy the show too.

Looking back now, See can afford to laugh at the experience. "We were so naïve. Firstly, we did not even know that such a trade show existed; and secondly, we had no idea of how competitive the landscape was when we got there." But survive it did, and is now thriving with See sharing that it had averaged a revenue growth of 67% a year. And it often gets invited to participate in co-creating content with some of the leading content producers in the world, such as Disney and the Cartoon Network.



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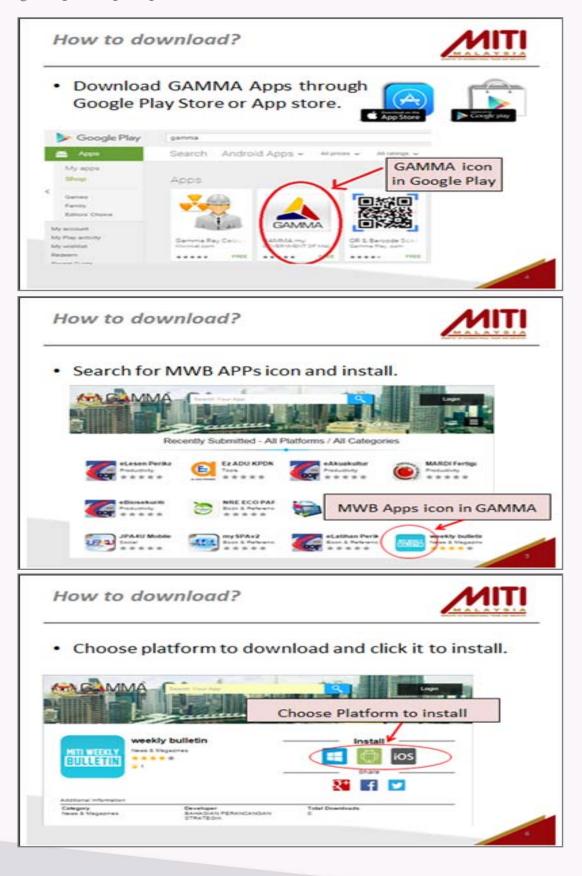
MITI Programme Bumiputera dan Industri Halal, 29 Februari 2016



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