



**MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY  
MALAYSIA**

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**MALAYSIA EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS**

**TRADE PERFORMANCE FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2016 AND THE PERIOD  
OF JANUARY-AUGUST 2016<sup>#</sup>**

***August Exports, a Record High for Eight Months 2016***

In **August 2016**, Malaysia's **exports** rebounded by 1.5% to RM67.58 billion, improving from the 5.5% decline recorded in July 2016. This is the highest value of monthly exports recorded thus far in 2016. The expansion was supported mainly by higher exports to India, ASEAN, the United States of America (USA), Mexico, Turkey, Hong Kong and the European Union (EU).

**Imports** were higher by 4.9% to RM59.07 billion while **trade** registered a value of RM126.65 billion, an increase of 3%. **Trade surplus** widened to RM8.51 billion from RM1.91 billion in July 2016, making it the 226<sup>th</sup> consecutive month of trade surplus since November 1997.

For the period of **January to August 2016**, **trade** totalled RM948.45 billion, with **exports** amounting to RM500.33 billion and **imports**, RM448.12 billion. Trade, exports and imports for this period registered a growth of 0.9%, respectively. **Trade surplus** increased by 1.8% to RM52.21 billion from RM51.28 billion.

## **Export Performance of Major Sectors**

Overall, the better export performance in **August 2016** was reflected in the positive growth in manufactured and agricultural exports, compared to a contraction in July 2016. Exports of mining goods, however, continued to decline.

### ***Export Composition***

In **August 2016**, exports of **manufactured goods** increased by 1.5% or RM796.4 million to RM55.34 billion with higher exports of electrical and electronic (E&E) products which expanded by RM743 million, chemicals and chemical products (↑RM540.2 million), machinery, equipment and parts (↑RM222.2 million), optical and scientific equipment (↑RM200.9 million), processed food (↑RM134.7 million) as well as transport equipment (↑RM107.8 million).

Exports of **agricultural goods** expanded by 13.8% to RM6.81 billion, boosted mainly by higher exports of palm oil and palm-based agriculture products, by RM867 million. Exports of palm oil in August 2016 grew by 19.9% to RM4.32 billion, attributed to higher Average Unit Value (AUV) and volume.

Exports of **mining goods** decreased by 14% to RM4.9 billion, affected mainly by the decline in exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) which contracted by 38.9% to RM1.89 billion, due to lower AUV and volume.

**Major exports in August 2016** were:

- E&E products, valued at RM25.83 billion and constituting 38.2% of total exports, increased by 3% from August 2015;
- Chemicals and chemical products, RM5.13 billion, 7.6% of total exports, an increase of 11.8%;
- Palm oil and palm-based agriculture products, RM4.95 billion, 7.3% of total exports, increased by 21.3%;
- Petroleum products, RM3.94 billion, 5.8% of total exports, declined by 15.7%; and

- Machinery, equipment and parts, RM3.26 billion, 4.8% of total exports, an increase of 7.3%.

In the **first eight months of 2016**, exports of **manufactured goods** expanded by 3.8% to RM413.26 billion, contributing 82.6% to total exports as compared to 80.3% during the same period last year. The increase was led by higher exports of E&E products, machinery, equipment and parts, optical and scientific equipment, chemicals and chemical products, manufactures of metal, processed food as well as transport equipment.

Exports of **agricultural goods** grew by 1.6% to RM43.95 billion mainly on higher exports of palm oil and palm-based agriculture products.

Exports of **mining goods** fell by 22.4% to RM39.79 billion following lower exports of LNG, due to lower AUV and volume.

### **Performance of Major Markets**

#### ***Exports to ASEAN Remained Strong in August 2016***

In **August 2016**, exports to **ASEAN** rose by 4% or RM769 million to reach a value of RM20.02 billion. Exports to ASEAN accounted for 29.6% of Malaysia's total exports, expanding from 28.9% registered in August last year. The increase in exports was driven by higher exports of E&E products, palm oil and palm-based agriculture products, transport equipment, machinery, equipment and parts, manufactures of metal, processed food as well as chemicals and chemical products. **Imports** from ASEAN, however, contracted by 7% to RM14.22 billion while **trade** declined marginally by 0.9% to RM34.24 billion.

Breakdown of **exports to ASEAN countries** is as follows:

- Singapore RM 10.01 billion, **increased** by 3.2%
- Thailand RM 3.72 billion, ↓11.3%
- Indonesia RM 2.47 billion, ↑4.5%

- Viet Nam RM 1.92 billion, ↑40.7%
- Philippines RM 1.23 billion, ↑7.8%
- Myanmar RM 380.0 million, ↑108.6%
- Brunei RM 185.2 million, ↓13.5%
- Cambodia RM 85.2 million, ↑12.4%
- Lao PDR RM 6.0 million, ↑56.1%

Among major ASEAN markets, increase in exports was recorded for Singapore, Indonesia, Viet Nam and the Philippines, while exports to Thailand decreased. Exports to **Singapore** expanded by RM310 million, owing to higher exports of E&E products. Expansion in exports to **Viet Nam** by RM555.8 million was attributed to petroleum products and manufactures of metal. Exports to **Indonesia** and **the Philippines** expanded by RM106.8 million and RM88.7 million, respectively, driven by higher exports of crude petroleum. Exports to **Thailand** decreased by RM472.8 million due to lower exports of crude petroleum.

In **January-August 2016**, exports to **ASEAN** registered a growth of 5.6% to RM148.21 billion. The growth was supported by higher exports of E&E products (electronic integrated circuits), manufactures of metal (aluminium alloys), machinery, equipment and parts (air conditioner), processed food as well as chemicals and chemical products (alcohols, phenols and derivatives). **Imports** from ASEAN fell by 5.5% to RM110.03 billion while **trade** with ASEAN expanded by 0.5% to RM258.23 billion.

### ***Exports to the USA Up 5.2% in August 2016***

In **August 2016**, trade with the **USA** rose by 3.5% to RM11.52 billion. **Exports** expanded by 5.2% to RM6.94 billion while **imports** were higher by 1.1% to RM4.57 billion. Higher exports to the USA was attributed mainly to E&E products, particularly, photosensitive semi-conductor devices. E&E products accounted for 60% of total exports to the USA in August 2016. Other contributors to the increase were optical and scientific equipment as well as machinery, equipment and parts.

For the **first eight months of 2016**, **exports to the USA** recorded a double digit growth of 12.4% to RM52.42 billion, accounting for 10.5% of Malaysia's total exports. The increase was driven mainly by exports of E&E products which grew by RM3.97 billion. Apart from E&E products, exports of optical and scientific equipment, transport equipment, manufactures of metal, wood products, palm oil and palm-based agriculture products as well as machinery, equipment and parts were also contributed to the increase. **Imports** from the USA rose by 4.6% to RM37.04 billion while **trade** rose by 9% to RM89.46 billion.

### ***August Exports to the EU, a Record High for Eight Months 2016***

In **August 2016**, **trade with the EU** amounted to RM12.14 billion, slightly higher from RM12.13 billion recorded in August 2015. **Exports** to the EU grew by 0.5% to RM6.9 billion while **imports** declined marginally by 0.4% to RM5.24 billion. During the month, seven of top 10 EU leading export markets, namely, Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Sweden, Poland and the Czech Republic registered positive export growth. Decline in exports were recorded to the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Spain. Higher exports to the EU was mainly attributed to palm oil and palm-based agriculture products, machinery, equipment and parts, chemicals and chemical products, optical and scientific equipment as well as transport equipment.

In **January-August 2016**, **exports to the EU** registered growth of 2.7% to reach RM50.99 billion. **Imports** were lower by 1.9% to RM44.85 billion. As a result, **trade** with the EU rose by 0.5% to RM95.85 billion. Increased exports to the EU was contributed by exports of machinery, equipment and parts, optical and scientific equipment, chemicals and chemical products, transport equipment, apparels as well as rubber gloves.

### ***Trade with China in August Expanded by 8.5%***

In **August 2016**, **trade with China** amounted to RM21.72 billion, a growth of 8.5% or RM1.7 billion. This accounted for 17.2% of Malaysia's total trade. **Exports** to China declined by 1.3% to RM9.32 billion, affected mainly by lower exports of manufactures

of metal, E&E products, petroleum products and natural rubber. Higher exports, however, were registered for palm oil and palm-based agriculture products, chemicals and chemical products, LNG as well as rubber products. **Imports** from China amounted to RM12.41 billion, an expansion of 17.2%.

From **January to August 2016**, trade with **China** rose 1.4% to RM149.33 billion, with **exports** and **imports** amounting to RM58.93 billion and RM90.4 billion, respectively. Exports to China decreased by 9.6%, on account of lower exports of E&E products and rubber products, coupled with sluggish demand for commodity related exports, namely, petroleum products, palm oil and palm-based agriculture products, LNG as well as natural rubber. **Imports** from China were higher by 10%.

### ***Trade with Japan Down 3.1% in August 2016***

**Trade** with **Japan** in **August 2016** totalled RM9.95 billion, a decline of 3.1% from August 2015. **Exports** to Japan was lower by 11.8% to RM5.16 billion mainly due to reduced exports of LNG, by RM936.8 million, coupled with E&E products which declined by RM128.3 million. Higher exports, however, were registered for crude petroleum, manufactures of metal, chemicals and chemical products, metalliferous ores as well as textiles. **Imports** from Japan rose by 8.5% to RM4.78 billion compared with August 2015.

For the **first eight months of 2016**, trade with **Japan** decreased by 5.4% to RM77.92 billion as compared to the same period of 2015. **Exports** to Japan contracted by 13% to RM40.98 billion mainly due to lower exports of LNG, by RM6.4 billion. LNG accounted for 31.7% of total exports to Japan, shrinking from 41.2% in the same period last year. Exports of manufactured goods to Japan, however, grew by 1% to RM24.98 billion, mainly from exports of machinery, equipment and parts, manufactures of metal, non-metallic mineral products, textiles as well as processed food. **Imports** amounted to RM36.94 billion, an expansion of 4.7%.

### ***Trade with FTA Partners***

In **August 2016**, trade with **Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners** expanded by 3.1% to RM80.05 billion, accounting for 63.2% of Malaysia's trade. **Exports** to FTA partners grew by 1.3% to RM42.5 billion with higher exports were seen to India, Viet Nam, Singapore, Myanmar, Turkey, Indonesia, the Philippines, Chile, Cambodia and Laos. **Imports** from FTA partners were valued at RM37.55 billion, an increase of 5.2%.

Exports to **India** surged by 31.2% from August 2015 to RM3.27 billion, contributed by higher exports of palm oil and palm-based agriculture products as well as crude petroleum. As for **Chile**, exports which grew by 28.8% to RM55.7 million was supported by higher exports of E&E products and textiles.

During **January to August of 2016**, trade with **FTA partners** was valued at RM594.37 billion or 62.7% of Malaysia's trade. **Exports** amounted to RM309.7 billion while **imports** totalled RM284.67 billion. Increase in exports were recorded to Viet Nam, Singapore, Turkey, the Philippines, Myanmar, Cambodia, India, Pakistan and Laos.

During the period, exports to **Turkey** grew by 107.9% to RM4.04 billion and exports to **Pakistan** rose by 7.4% to RM3.09 billion. The increase was contributed mainly by higher exports of palm oil and palm-based agriculture products.

### ***Growth in Other Markets***

In **August 2016**, exports to **Hong Kong** expanded by RM149.2 million, due to higher exports of E&E products.

For the **first eight months of 2016**, markets that recorded significant growth in exports of more than RM500 million were **Nigeria**, increased by RM1.39 billion, attributed mainly to petroleum products, **Mexico** (↑RM1.39 billion, E&E products),

**Bangladesh** (↑RM953.2 million, palm oil and palm-based agriculture products) and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** (↑RM502.5 million, E&E products).

## Imports

In **August 2016**, **imports** were valued at RM59.07 billion, higher by 4.9% from the same month last year. The **three main categories** of imports by end use were:

- **Intermediate goods**, valued at RM34.48 billion or 58.4% share of total imports, increased by 6.1%, due mainly to higher imports of electronic integrated circuits;
- **Capital goods** (RM8.04 billion, 13.6% share, up 9%), due mainly to higher imports of aircraft; and
- **Consumption goods** (RM5.29 billion, 9% share, up 10.4%), with higher imports of food products.

During **the first eight months of 2016**, **imports** expanded by 0.9% to RM448.12 billion. The **three main categories** of imports by end use were **intermediate goods** which amounted to RM256.43 billion, a decline of 2.4%, due to lower imports of petroleum products, **capital goods** (RM64.91 billion, ↑5.6%, floating structures) and **consumption goods** (RM43.68 billion, ↑12.5%, food products).



Note:

*It should be noted that, conceptually, the export and import figures in the external trade statistics are different from that in the goods account of the balance of payments compilation. The compilation of international merchandise trade statistics is usually based on customs records, which essentially reflect the physical movement of goods across borders, and follow international guidelines on concepts and definitions i.e. International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions 2010 (IMTS 2010) which is different from the principles of the System of National Accounts (SNA) and the Balance of Payments Compilation. Goods are defined in the SNA as “physical objects for which a demand exists, over which ownership rights can be established and whose ownership can be transferred from one institutional unit to another by engaging in transactions on markets”.*

*This is a preliminary release, full details would be published in the “MONTHLY EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS” report by the Department of Statistics, Malaysia, to be disseminated at 1200 hours, Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016 and can be downloaded through e-services at the Department of Statistics, Malaysia’s portal (<https://newss.statistics.gov.my/newss-portalx/ep/epLogin.seam>).*

+ *This media release can be accessed through the portal of Malaysian External Trade Statistics, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (<http://www.miti.gov.my>) and Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (<http://www.matrade.gov.my>).*

# *The August 2016 data is provisional and subject to revision in later issue.*

*With effect from reference month September 2015, there are some minor changes to the selection of codes for exports and imports of major and selected products/commodities by sectors.*

**TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF MALAYSIA'S EXTERNAL TRADE**

Year/ Period	<u>Total Exports</u> (RM Million)	<u>Total Imports</u> (RM Million)	<u>Trade Balance</u> (RM Million)	<u>Total Trade</u> (RM Million)
<b>2015<sup>f</sup></b>				
January	62,971.4	54,641.3	8,330.1	117,612.7
February	52,473.8	48,644.0	3,829.8	101,117.8
March	65,510.8	58,607.1	6,903.7	124,117.9
April	60,046.8	53,707.7	6,339.0	113,754.5
May	60,419.5	55,076.9	5,342.6	115,496.4
June	64,309.9	56,499.0	7,810.9	120,808.8
July	63,319.1	60,830.3	2,488.7	124,149.4
<b>August</b>	<b>66,572.6</b>	<b>56,332.7</b>	<b>10,239.9</b>	<b>122,905.3</b>
September	70,152.3	60,503.4	9,648.9	130,655.7
October	75,741.4	63,635.8	12,105.6	139,377.2
November	67,563.4	57,384.9	10,178.5	124,948.4
December	68,274.1	59,915.4	8,358.7	128,189.5
<b>2015 (Jan-Dec)<sup>f</sup></b>	<b>777,355.1</b>	<b>685,778.4</b>	<b>91,576.6</b>	<b>1,463,133.5</b>
<b>2016<sup>p</sup></b>				
January	61,851.8	56,460.1	5,391.7	118,311.9
February	56,719.7	49,368.1	7,351.6	106,087.9
March	66,586.2	55,393.6	11,192.6	121,979.7
April	61,346.9	52,291.9	9,054.9	113,638.8
May	59,943.4	56,660.1	3,283.3	116,603.5
June	66,449.6	60,932.0	5,517.6	127,381.5
July	59,850.1	57,942.8	1,907.4	117,792.9
<b>August</b>	<b>67,579.3</b>	<b>59,071.9</b>	<b>8,507.4</b>	<b>126,651.2</b>
<b>2015 (Jan-Aug)<sup>f</sup></b>	<b>495,623.8</b>	<b>444,338.9</b>	<b>51,284.9</b>	<b>939,962.8</b>
<b>2016 (Jan-Aug)<sup>p</sup></b>	<b>500,326.9</b>	<b>448,120.4</b>	<b>52,206.5</b>	<b>948,447.3</b>

**TABLE 2: MAJOR EXPORT PRODUCTS**

Products	Aug 2016 <sup>p</sup>	Jul 2016 <sup>p</sup>	Aug 2015 <sup>f</sup>
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million
<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>67,579.3</b>	<b>59,850.1</b>	<b>66,572.6</b>
Electrical & Electronic Products	25,826.0	21,740.7	25,083.1
Chemicals & Chemical Products	5,126.5	4,846.1	4,586.3
Palm Oil & Palm-Based Agriculture Products	4,945.4	3,944.5	4,078.4
Petroleum Products	3,940.5	4,029.2	4,675.9
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	3,258.0	2,737.9	3,035.8
Manufactures of Metal	2,715.0	2,248.1	3,052.5
Optical & Scientific Equipment	2,256.6	2,317.8	2,055.8
Crude Petroleum	1,927.6	2,052.4	1,692.2
LNG	1,890.6	2,318.1	3,095.5
Rubber Products	1,739.5	1,614.0	1,735.7

**TABLE 3: MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS**

Countries	Aug 2016 <sup>p</sup>	Jul 2016 <sup>p</sup>	Aug 2015 <sup>f</sup>
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million
<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>67,579.3</b>	<b>59,850.1</b>	<b>66,572.6</b>
Singapore	10,013.1	9,154.4	9,703.1
China	9,316.1	7,283.8	9,436.2
USA	6,942.4	6,349.6	6,599.6
Japan	5,161.4	4,960.8	5,850.3
Thailand	3,723.6	3,562.0	4,196.4
India	3,273.6	2,301.1	2,494.3
Hong Kong	3,100.0	2,779.7	2,950.8
Indonesia	2,473.7	2,078.7	2,366.9
Australia	1,952.4	1,762.0	1,961.3
Viet Nam	1,919.9	1,807.5	1,364.1

**TABLE 4: MAJOR EXPORT PRODUCTS (JANUARY- AUGUST)**

Products	Jan-Aug 2016 <sup>p</sup>	Jan-Aug 2015 <sup>f</sup>
	RM Million	RM Million
<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>500,326.9</b>	<b>495,623.8</b>
Electrical & Electronic Products	181,641.7	177,666.5
Chemicals & Chemical Products	38,034.1	35,741.0
Petroleum Products	33,696.2	34,946.9
Palm Oil & Palm-Based Agriculture Products	29,766.9	29,214.7
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	25,921.6	23,036.3
Manufactures of Metal	22,342.4	20,259.7
LNG	19,744.9	28,981.9
Optical & Scientific Equipment	18,637.5	16,283.0
Crude Petroleum	13,681.9	16,314.5
Rubber Products	13,031.3	12,903.5

**TABLE 5: MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS (JANUARY- AUGUST)**

Countries	Jan-Aug 2016 <sup>p</sup>	Jan-Aug 2015 <sup>f</sup>
	RM Million	RM Million
<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>500,326.9</b>	<b>495,623.8</b>
Singapore	72,925.1	69,359.5
China	58,931.1	65,162.3
USA	52,415.3	46,643.4
Japan	40,981.8	47,094.0
Thailand	28,656.0	28,820.0
Hong Kong	24,227.7	24,298.4
India	20,726.6	20,475.9
Indonesia	17,686.5	18,858.6
Australia	17,138.1	17,759.4
Viet Nam	15,281.7	10,901.4

**TABLE 6: MAJOR IMPORT PRODUCTS**

Products	Aug 2016 <sup>p</sup>	Jul 2016 <sup>p</sup>	Aug 2015 <sup>f</sup>
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million
<b>Total Imports</b>	<b>59,071.9</b>	<b>57,942.8</b>	<b>56,332.7</b>
Electrical & Electronic Products	18,034.6	17,275.8	16,906.9
Chemicals & Chemical Products	5,931.3	5,257.5	5,270.2
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	5,452.1	5,585.7	4,884.9
Petroleum Products	3,795.5	4,073.8	5,685.4
Manufactures of Metal	3,579.6	2,988.3	3,511.8
Transport Equipment	3,082.8	5,955.7	2,541.1
Iron & Steel Products	2,110.6	2,005.3	1,848.2
Optical & Scientific Equipment	1,807.4	1,635.9	1,655.3
Processed Food	1,585.3	1,442.2	1,282.1
Textiles, Apparels & Footwear	1,416.3	1,301.8	1,280.3

**TABLE 7: MAJOR IMPORT SOURCES**

Countries	Aug 2016 <sup>p</sup>	Jul 2016 <sup>p</sup>	Aug 2015 <sup>f</sup>
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million
<b>Total Imports</b>	<b>59,071.9</b>	<b>57,942.8</b>	<b>56,332.7</b>
China	12,406.4	11,473.8	10,588.5
Singapore	5,930.1	5,855.2	7,188.4
Japan	4,784.0	4,716.2	4,409.2
USA	4,573.8	4,142.5	4,522.7
Taiwan	3,787.2	3,907.7	3,164.8
Thailand	3,437.5	3,231.6	3,212.7
ROK	3,000.5	5,982.0	2,393.9
Indonesia	2,313.9	1,869.7	2,595.0
Germany	2,036.9	2,059.5	1,851.5
Viet Nam	1,780.8	1,237.4	1,630.3

**TABLE 8: MAJOR IMPORT PRODUCTS (JANUARY- AUGUST)**

Products	Jan-Aug 2016 <sup>p</sup>	Jan-Aug 2015 <sup>f</sup>
	RM Million	RM Million
<b>Total Imports</b>	<b>448,120.4</b>	<b>444,338.9</b>
Electrical & Electronic Products	135,824.4	128,766.7
Chemicals & Chemical Products	44,964.4	42,451.9
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	41,170.4	38,358.5
Petroleum Products	32,055.7	41,777.9
Transport Equipment	27,731.9	23,395.6
Manufactures of Metal	25,119.8	29,355.4
Iron & Steel Products	14,397.4	15,165.8
Optical & Scientific Equipment	14,147.2	13,469.3
Textiles, Apparels & Footwear	11,995.2	9,691.3
Processed Food	11,722.7	11,273.7

**TABLE 9: MAJOR IMPORT SOURCES (JANUARY- AUGUST)**

Countries	Jan-Aug 2016 <sup>p</sup>	Jan-Aug 2015 <sup>f</sup>
	RM Million	RM Million
<b>Total Imports</b>	<b>448,120.4</b>	<b>444,338.9</b>
China	90,396.7	82,173.1
Singapore	47,062.9	53,026.7
USA	37,040.1	35,405.2
Japan	36,939.4	35,291.1
Thailand	27,452.0	26,128.2
Taiwan	26,546.9	23,920.0
ROK	24,504.2	20,054.1
Indonesia	18,357.9	20,055.5
Germany	15,674.8	15,190.1
Viet Nam	11,498.0	11,820.7

Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia  
 Tabulated by: MATRADE

Notes:

f – final data

p - provisional data

**CHART 1: MALAYSIA'S MONTHLY EXTERNAL TRADE PERFORMANCE, 2009-2016**

