

TRADE PERFORMANCE FOR MAY 2020 AND THE PERIOD OF JANUARY- MAY 2020



Highest Monthly Trade Surplus for May since 2008

In May 2020, Malaysia recorded a trade surplus above RM10 billion for the fourth time in 2020, registering a double-digit growth of 14.7% year-on-year (y-o-y) to RM10.41 billion. This was the highest monthly trade surplus for the month of May since May 2008.

Trade in May 2020 amounted to RM114.96 billion, a decrease of 27.8% compared to May 2019. Lower trade was recorded particularly with Singapore, Thailand, India, China, Japan and Indonesia. The performance was similar in other regional countries, which recorded lower trade growth for May 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic that continued to slow economic activities globally. Exports totalled RM62.69 billion, contracted by 25.5% while imports decreased by 30.4% to RM52.27 billion.

Compared to April 2020, trade, exports and imports slipped by 13.7%, 3.2% and 23.6%, respectively.

Malaysia's trade during the first five months of 2020 declined by 8.7% to RM688.57 billion compared to the corresponding period of 2019. Lower trade was recorded with Thailand, Singapore, India, China and Hong Kong SAR. Meanwhile, higher trade was registered with the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Indonesia. Exports during the period registered a decrease of 9.7% to RM366.16 billion and imports contracted by 7.5% to RM322.41 billion. Trade surplus was valued at RM43.75 billion, declined by 23% compared to the same period of 2019.

Export Performance of Major Sectors

Demand for Rubber Products Surged due to COVID-19

Exports of rubber products especially rubber gloves registered a doubledigit growth for 2 consecutive months, increasing 20.5% or RM461 million in May 2020. Higher exports of rubber products was underpinned by growing demand of rubber gloves which benefitted from the pandemic. This is despite the decline in exports of manufactured goods by 23.5% y-o-y to RM54.21 billion. The contraction of manufactured goods which constituted 86.5% of total exports was due to lower exports of electrical and electronic (E&E) products, petroleum products, manufactures of metal, chemicals and chemical products as well as machinery, equipment and parts.

Exports of agriculture goods (7.9% share) decreased by 21.3% to RM4.94 billion due to lower exports of palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products compared to May 2019.

Exports of mining goods (5.1% share) dropped by 49.1% y-o-y to RM3.22 billion. This was mainly due to lower exports of crude petroleum and liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Major exports in May 2020:

- E&E products, valued at RM23.5 billion and constituted 37.5% of total exports, decreased by 19.9% from May 2019;
- Petroleum products, RM3.94 billion, 6.3% of total exports, decreased by 42.7%;
- Chemicals and chemical products, RM3.68 billion, 5.9% of total exports, decreased by 24.2%;

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- Palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products, RM3.6 billion, 5.8% of total exports, decreased by 15.6%; and
- Rubber products, RM2.71 billion, 4.3% of total exports, increased by 20.5%.

Compared to April 2020, exports of manufactured goods and mining goods reduced by 2.1% and 29.4%, respectively while exports of agriculture goods expanded by 5%.

For the first five months of 2020, exports of manufactured goods contracted by 8.5% to RM311.36 billion compared to the same period a year ago. Lower exports was recorded for E&E products, manufactures of metal, chemicals and chemical products as well as machinery, equipment and parts. However, exports of iron and steel products, other manufactures especially solid-state storage devices (SSD), transport equipment and rubber products registered a double-digit growth.

Exports of agriculture goods slipped by 6.9% to RM25.42 billion underpinned by lower exports of sawn timber and moulding, natural rubber as well as palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products. Exports of mining goods contracted by 21.4% to RM27.45 billion mainly due to lower exports of LNG and crude petroleum.

Trade Performance with Major Markets

ASEAN – Palm Oil & Palm Oil-Based Agriculture Products and LNG Grew y-o-y despite Overall Decline in Exports

Trade with ASEAN in May 2020 contracted by 35.6% y-o-y to RM28.11 billion, accounting for 24.5% share of Malaysia's total trade. Exports to ASEAN edged down by 30.6% to RM17.19 billion partly due to lower exports of petroleum products, E&E products, iron and steel products, manufactures of metal and crude petroleum. However, higher exports was recorded for palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products and LNG. Imports from ASEAN declined by 42.2% to RM10.92 billion.

Breakdown of exports to ASEAN countries:

٠	Singapore	RM8.9 billion, decreased by 21.9%
٠	Thailand	RM3.14 billion, ↓40%
•	Viet Nam	RM2.16 billion, ↓34.1%
٠	Indonesia	RM1.44 billion, ↓37.5%

- Philippines
 RM929 million, 148.6%
- Myanmar RM310.3 million, ↑32.7%
- Brunei RM188 million, ↓4.5%
- Cambodia RM116.1 million, ↓62.8%
- Lao PDR RM5.9 million, ↑114.3%

Compared to the previous month, trade, exports and imports dipped by 7.1%, 10.7% and 0.9%, respectively.

During January to May 2020, trade with ASEAN decreased by 13.9% to RM173.68 billion compared to the same period last year. Exports to this region was valued at RM106.19 billion, a decline of 9.7% owing to lower exports of E&E products, crude petroleum, manufactures of metal as well as machinery, equipment and parts. Nevertheless, higher exports was recorded for transport equipment, iron and steel products, palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products and petroleum products which collectively increased by RM4.26 billion. Imports from ASEAN declined by 19.8% to RM67.49 billion.

China – Exports Continued to Rise in May 2020

In May 2020, trade with China which represented 20.7% of Malaysia's total trade or RM23.75 billion, decreased by 10.6% y-o-y. Exports to China continued to expand for 2 consecutive months, rising by 4.5% to RM11.78 billion. This was led by exports of manufactured goods which grew by 9.1% mainly due to higher exports of petroleum products, iron and steel products as well as other manufactures (SSD). Imports from China slipped by 21.7% to RM11.96 billion.

On a month-on-month (m-o-m) basis, trade, exports and imports contracted by 9.5%, 2.4% and 15.6%.

Trade with China for the first five months of 2020 stood at RM120.48 billion, declined by 3.8% compared to the same period of 2019. Exports to China increased by 1.1% to RM54.65 billion, driven by higher exports of iron and steel products, other manufactures (SSD), manufactures of metal, optical and scientific equipment as well as palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products. Imports from China dropped by 7.5% to RM65.83 billion.

USA – Double Digit Export Growth for Rubber & Wood products

Trade with the US in May 2020 which constituted 10.7% of Malaysia's total trade decreased by 12.5% y-o-y to RM12.26 billion. Exports to the US declined by 9.3% to RM7.09 billion, weighed down by lower exports of E&E products, palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products, optical and scientific equipment as well as textiles, apparels and footwear. Doubledigit export growth were recorded for rubber products and wood products. Imports from the US contracted by 16.4% to RM5.16 billion.

In comparison with April 2020, trade and exports were higher by 14.8% and 33.4%, respectively while imports declined by 3.6%.

During January to May 2020, trade with the US contracted marginally by 0.3% to RM64.99 billion compared to the same period last year. Exports decreased by 2.8% to RM36.4 billion attributed to lower exports of E&E products, optical and scientific equipment as well as iron and steel products. Expansion in exports was seen for wood products, rubber products and other manufactures (SSD). Imports from the US increased by 3% to RM28.59 billion.

EU – Exports Expanded for Commodity-Based Products

In May 2020, trade with the European Union (EU) which contributed 8.7% to Malaysia's total trade registered a decrease of 29.8% y-o-y to RM10.01 billion. Exports amounted to RM5.62 billion, contracted by 25.4% due to lower exports of E&E products, optical and scientific equipment, machinery, equipment and parts as well as transport equipment.

Meanwhile, higher exports were recorded for commoditybased products notably, rubber products, palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products as well as petroleum products. Imports from the EU was valued at RM4.39 billion, lower by 34.8%.

Compared to April 2020, trade and exports increased by 6.3% and 17.8%, respectively while imports fell by 5.5%.

Trade with the EU for January to May 2020 decreased by 19.6% to RM55.31 billion. Exports amounted to RM31.05 billion, declined by 18% due to lower exports of E&E products, machinery, equipment and parts as well as manufactures of metal. However, exports of petroleum products, palm oil and palm oil-based products as well as rubber products recorded increases. Imports from the EU slipped by 21.5% to RM24.26 billion.

Japan – Exports of Commodity-Based Products Grew

In May 2020, trade with Japan contracted by 25.9% y-o-y to RM7.97 billion and accounted for 6.9% of Malaysia's total trade. Exports declined by 33% to RM4.01 billion owing to lower exports of LNG, E&E products, manufactures of metal and wood products.

However, expansion in exports was recorded for commodity-based products particularly, crude petroleum and rubber products. Imports from Japan decreased by 16.9% to RM3.96 billion.

On a m-o-m basis, trade and imports decreased by 7.2% and 16%, respectively while exports inched up by 3.7%.

For the first five months of 2020, trade with Japan decreased by 8.4% to RM49.89 billion in comparison to the same period of 2019. Exports slipped by 11.7% to RM25.93 billion, contributed by lower exports of E&E products, LNG, manufactures of metal and wood products. Meanwhile, exports of crude petroleum, palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products, rubber products as well as optical and scientific equipment registered increases. Imports from Japan was lower by 4.4% to RM23.96 billion.

Ministry of International Trade and Industry 29 June 2020

Trade with FTA Partners

In May 2020, trade with Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners which made up 66.4% of Malaysia's total trade recorded a decline of 28.4% y-o-y to RM76.3 billion. Exports to FTA partners was valued at RM42.76 billion, a decrease of 26.3% and imports was lower by 31% to RM33.54 billion.

Compared to the previous month, trade, exports and imports declined by 20%, 9.3% and 30.4%, respectively.

Trade with FTA partners for the first five months of 2020 which constituted 67% of Malaysia's total trade amounted to RM461.37 billion, decreased by 8% compared to the same period of 2019. Exports contracted by 9.2% to RM252.16 billion while imports declined by 6.4% to RM209.22 billion.

Import Performance

Total imports in May 2020 decreased by 30.4% to RM52.27 billion from May 2019. The three main categories of imports by end use which accounted for 81.6% of total imports were:

- Intermediate goods, valued at RM30.79 billion or 58.9% share of total imports, decreased by 27.8%, due to lower imports of processed industrial supplies particularly plastics and articles;
- Capital goods, valued at RM6.66 billion or 12.7% of total imports, contracted by 27.8%, due mainly to lower imports of capital goods (except transport equipment), particularly machinery, mechanical appliances and parts; and
- **Consumption goods**, valued at RM5.18 billion or 9.9% of total imports, declined by 21.9%, on account of lower imports of semi-durable goods, particularly footwear.

During January to May 2020, imports amounted to RM322.41 billion, decreased by 7.5% from the same period of 2019. Imports of intermediate goods totalled RM175.14 billion, decreased by 8.2%, capital goods (RM39.08 billion, \downarrow 6.9%) and consumption goods (RM28.78 billion, \downarrow 4.8%).

MALAYSIA CALLS FOR COHESIVE ECONOMIC MEASURES AMONG ASEAN MEMBER STATES TO BUILD SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESILIENCE



YB Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali, Senior Minister and Minister of International Trade and Industry attended the 36th ASEAN Summit via virtual conference hosted by Viet Nam on 26 June 2020. The Malaysian delegation was led by Prime Minister YAB Tan Sri Dato' Hj. Muhyiddin Yassin.

The ASEAN Summit is the supreme policymaking body of ASEAN which deliberates and provides policy guidance, including taking decisions on key issues pertaining to the realisation of the objectives of ASEAN among which are the acceleration of the economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region through joint endeavors in the spirit of equality and partnership. ASEAN leaders stress the centrality and importance of unity, cooperation and solidarity, economic integration, and the importance of promoting ASEAN proactiveness and capacity in addressing the challenges in the global landscape. The summit also discusses important matters of interest to Member States and all issues referred to it by the ASEAN Secretariat from the various councils and bodies.

At the summit, ASEAN Leaders took note of the Hanoi Plan of Action on Strengthening ASEAN Economic Cooperation and Supply Chain Connectivity in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic which was adopted by the ASEAN Economic Ministers at the Special ASEAN Economic Ministers' Virtual Conference Meeting on COVID-19 Response held on 4 June 2020. The Hanoi Plan of Action demonstrates ASEAN unity and determination in mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic through strengthening regional economic resilience, in line with the key priorities of Viet Nam's ASEAN Chairmanship 2020.

The Prime Minister, in his intervention, emphasised that in moving beyond efforts to contain the COVID-19 pandemic in the region, leaders must inculcate a similar sense of urgency to also push for economic recovery. The public health crisis has had a profound impact on economies and rebooting the regional economy must be our utmost priority to mitigate disruptions to trade and strengthen the resilience of the regional supply chains.

The Prime Minister made a strong case for Governments to implement measures to establish "travel bubbles" between 'green' ASEAN Member States to shore up investments and create job opportunities. Malaysia also broached the idea of opening up borders for intra-ASEAN tourism to flourish and provide financial boost into the region's economies. Further, promoting intra-ASEAN travel and tourism will in turn generate the commercial and business spinoffs that are key to restarting the economy.

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On that note, Malaysia shared the view by His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei Darussalam and the President of Indonesia that ASEAN officials should begin work on the establishment of an ASEAN travel bubble and to explore the possibility of sectoral exemptions for travel restrictions such as medical tourism, or high-value economic visits.

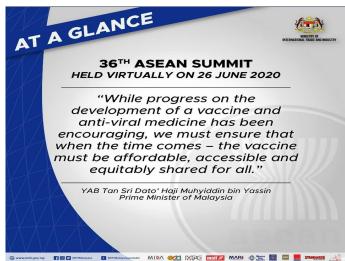
In 2019, ASEAN trade reached USD 2.8 trillion, of which USD 619.6 billion was intra-regional. China (18.0% share of total ASEAN trade), the US (10.4%), the EU (8.7%) and Japan (8.0%) remain as ASEAN's largest trade partners. The main investors to ASEAN are the United States with 15.2% followed by Japan (12.7%), Hong Kong (7.0%) and China (5.7%). Despite the challenges and uncertainty faced in 2019, and notwithstanding the decline in global FDI flows by 1.4%, FDI inflows to ASEAN recorded an increase of 4.9% in 2019, to USD 160.6 billion.

Dato' Seri Azmin also participated in the ASEAN Leaders Interface Session with representatives of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) to discuss private sector recommendations and feedback on the implementation of ASEAN economic cooperation. The Senior Minister stressed that support from the business community is crucial in bolstering government initiatives in dealing with COVID-19 and called for ASEAN to take the lead in pressing for greater global battle and enhanced collaborative efforts to fight the pandemic, together with a concerted Regional Economic Recovery Plan. As time is of the essence, Dato' Seri Azmin reiterated the Prime Minister's call for the expeditious formulation of the recovery plan as this is crucial to achieve ASEAN's objective of greater economic integration.

Malaysia believes that acting in a cohesive and responsive manner is not an option, but indeed an utmost necessity for ASEAN economic revitalisation. Malaysia together with ASEAN colleagues and FTA partners, will continue working towards the conclusion and signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) this year which Malaysia believes would contribute to the deepening of regional economic integration and prosperity.

The Senior Minister also underscored the imperative of enhancing ASEAN competitiveness in global trade and commerce through consistent capacity-building including the full adoption of digitalization in all crucial areas of economic activity towards the realization of a knowledge economy.





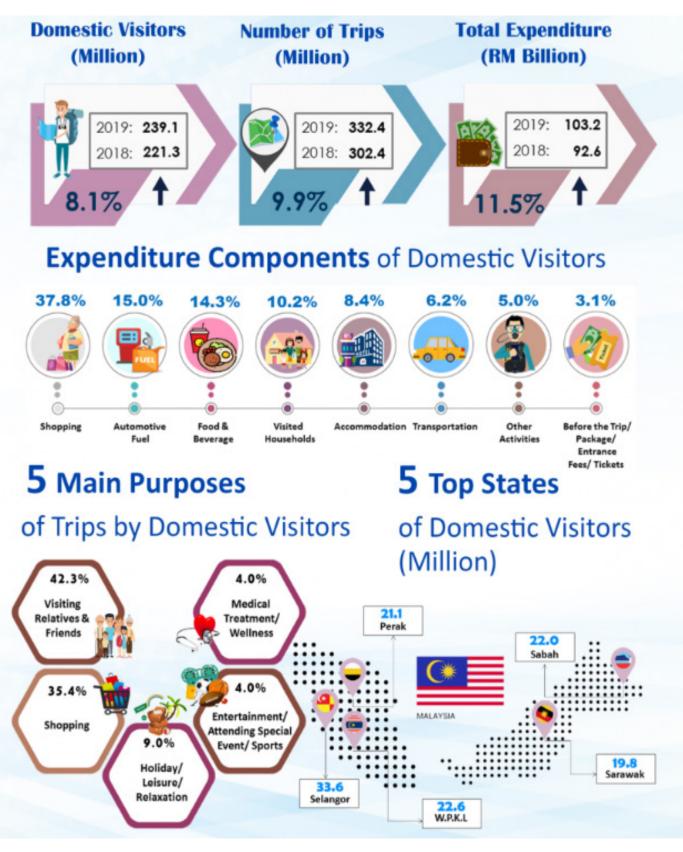
Ministry of International Trade and Industry 27 June 2020

TRADE PERFORMANCE JANUARY-MAY 2020

Malaysia's trade during the first five months of 2020 declined by 8.7% to RM688.57 billion compared to the corresponding period of 2019. The performance was similar with other regional countries, which recorded lower trade growth for May 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic that continued to slow economic activities globally.



DOMESTIC TOURISM 2019



Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia

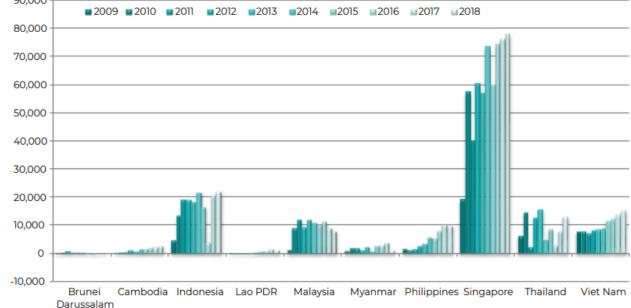
Malaysia Statistics

90,000 80,000 70,000

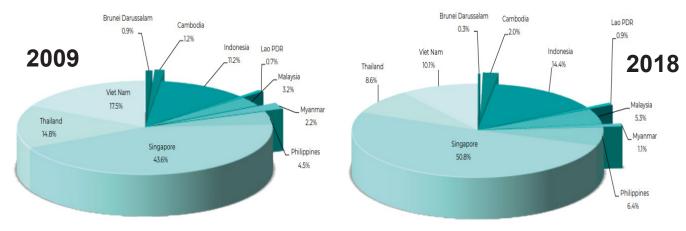
US\$ million

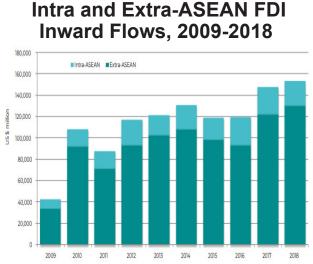
FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI)

FDI Inward Flows to ASEAN, 2009-2018

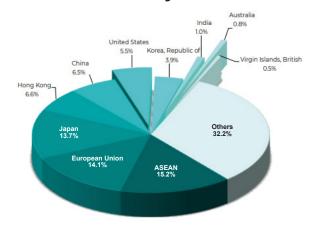


FDI to ASEAN by Host Country





ASEAN Top Ten FDI by Source Country 2018



Source: ASEAN Statistical Yearbook 2019

WORLD TOP TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT EXPORTING COUNTRIES Global Exports 2018: US\$748.8 billion **_14.8%** 2018: US\$316.68b 2017: 2018: US\$237.86b China 33.1% US\$99.30b 2017: US\$97.38b Hong Kong 2018: 2.0% US\$62.99b 2017: 2018: US\$54.97b Viet Nam US\$49.08b 14.6% 2017: US\$51.01b **Netherlands** 2018: 7 3.8% US\$44.98b 2017: 2018: US\$53.12b USA 15.3% US\$35.77b 2017: US\$38.76b Mexico 7.7% 2018: US\$26.25b 2017: US\$17.23b 2018: UAE 🔺 2.4% US\$26.03b 2017: US\$24.38b Germany 🔺 6.8% 2018: US\$15.18b 2017: 2018: **Chinese Taipei** US\$8.51b US\$8.66b ▲ 78.3% 2017: US\$8.44b Malaysia 🔺 2.6%

Malaysia was the second largest exporter amongst ASEAN members after Viet Nam in 2018 Note: % refer to Y-o-Y Growth Source: https://timeseries.wto.org

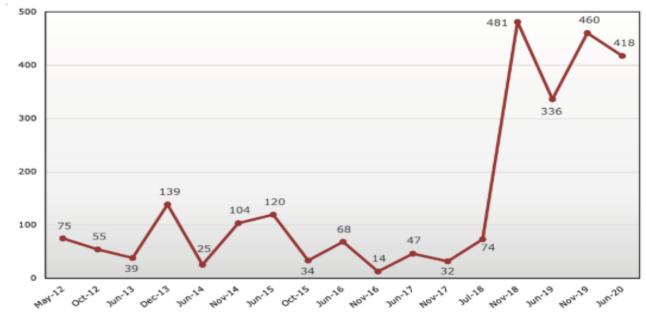
TRADE MONITORING

WTO report on G20 shows moves to facilitate imports even as trade restrictions remain widespread

Trade coverage of new import-restrictive measures in each reporting period

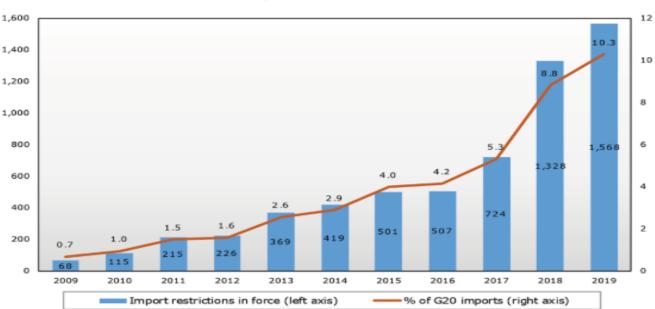
(not cumulative)

(USD billion)



Note: These figures are estimates and represent the trade coverage of the measures (i.e. annual imports of the products concerned from economies affected by the measures) introduced during each reporting period, and not the cumulative impact of the trade measures. COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures are not included.

Cumulative trade coverage of G20 import-restrictive measures in force since 2009

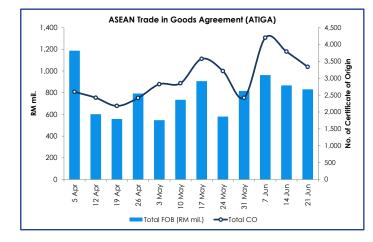


(USD billion and % of world merchandise imports)

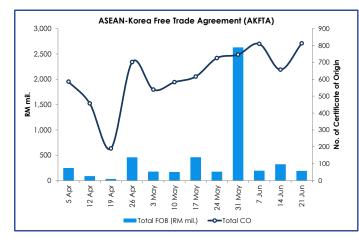
Note: he cumulative trade coverage estimated by the Secretariat is based on information available in the Trade Monitoring Database (TMDB) on import measures recorded since 2009 and considered to have a traderestrictive effect. The estimates include import measures for which HS codes were available. The figures do not include trade remedy measures. COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures are not included. The import values were sourced from the UNSD Comtrade database.

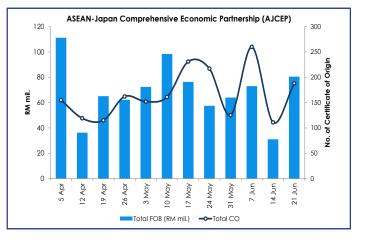
Source: WTO Secretariat (https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/trdev_29jun20_e.htm)

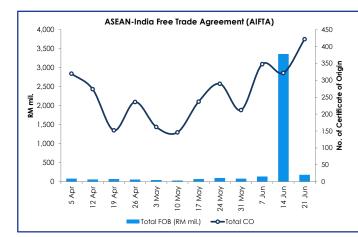
Number and Value of Preferential Certificates of Origin (PCOs)

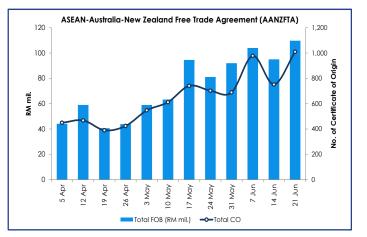


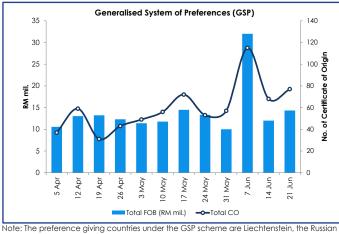












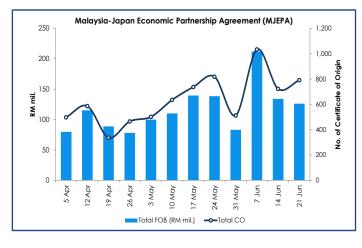
Federation, Japan, Switzerland, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Norway.

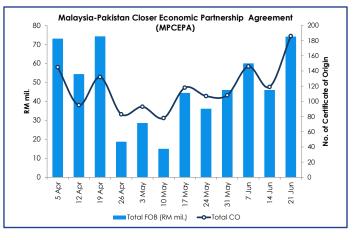
Note: *Provisional Data

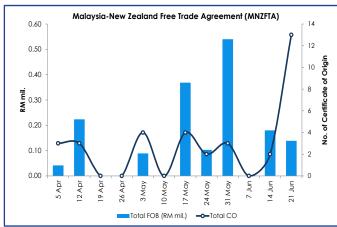
Source: Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia

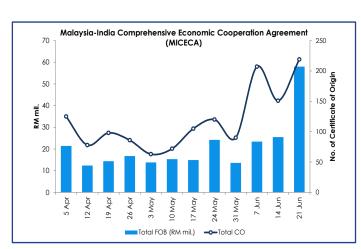
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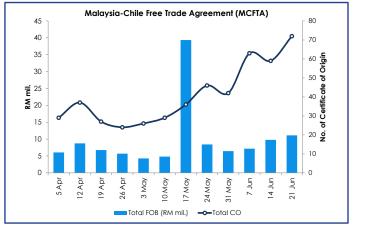
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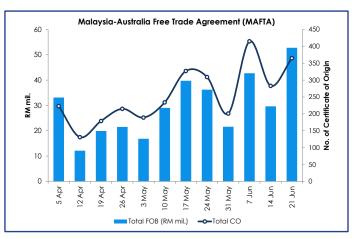


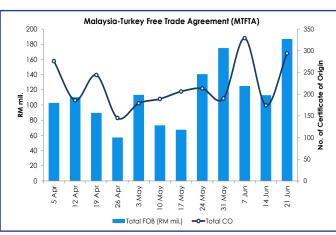








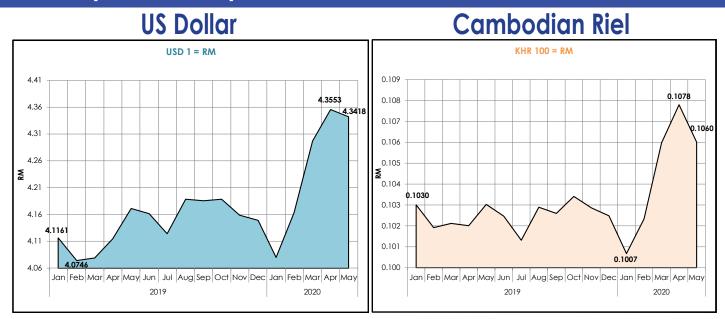




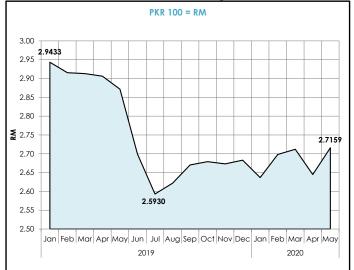
Note: *Provisional Data

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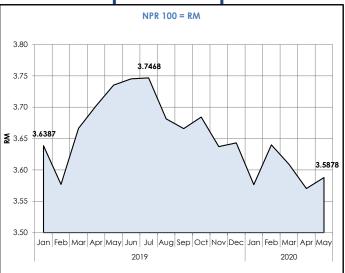
Malaysian Ringgit Exchange Rate with Selected Countries, January 2019 - May 2020



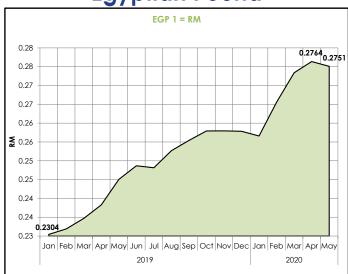
Pakistani Rupee



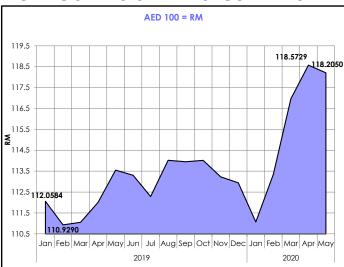
Nepalese Rupee



Egyptian Pound



United Arab Emirates Dirham



Source : Bank Negara Malaysia

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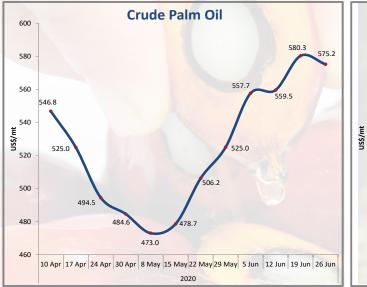
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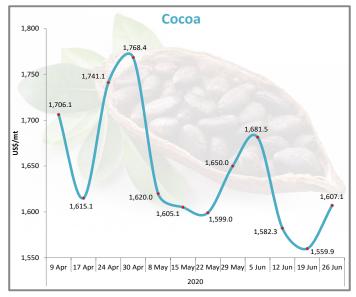
Commodity Prices

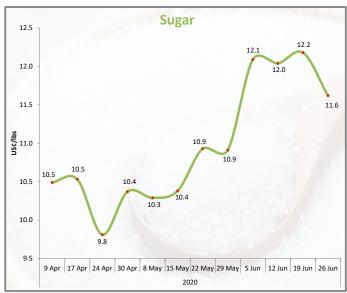


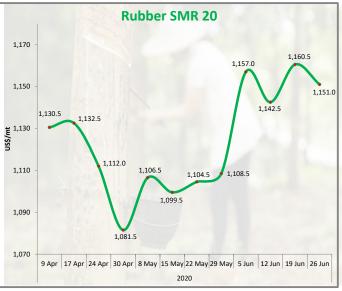
Sources: Ministry of International Trade and Industry Malaysia, Malaysian Palm Oil Board, Malaysian Rubber Board, Malaysian Cocoa Board, Malaysian Iron and Steel Industry Federation, and Bloomberg.

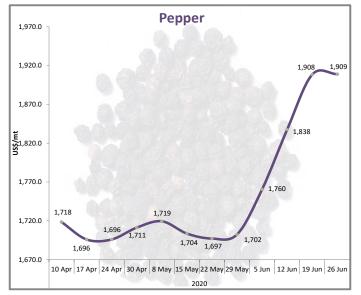
Commodity Price Trends

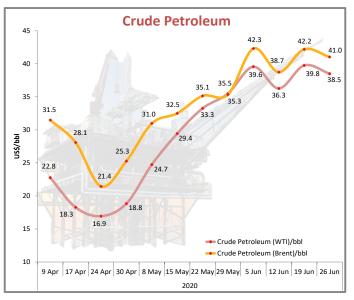












Sources: Ministry of International Trade and Industry Malaysia, Malaysian Palm Oil Board, Malaysian Rubber Board, Malaysian Cocoa Board, Malaysian Pepper Board, Bloomberg and Czarnikow Group, World Bank, World Gold Council, The Wall Street Journal.

5.240

5,058

Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Scrap Iron/MT (High)

Scrap Iron/MT(Low)

2020

Oct 6

2019

Scrap Iron

Commodity Price Trends

Copper

Jun Jul Sep Oct Jan Mar Mar Mar Mar Abr Abr Abr Abr Abr

2018

7,500

7,000

6,500

e 6,000

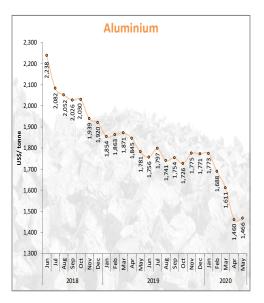
¥ \$\$5,500

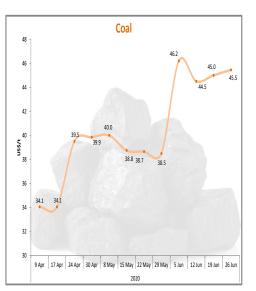
5,000

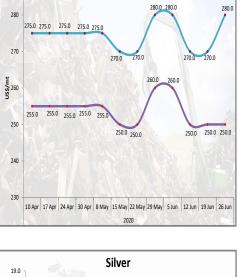
4.500

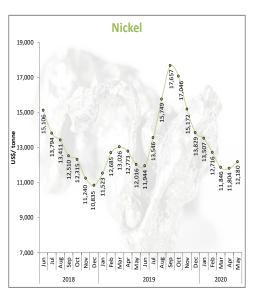
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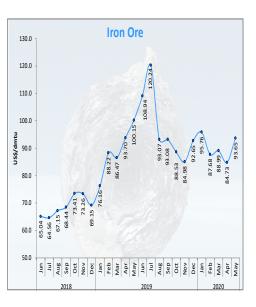
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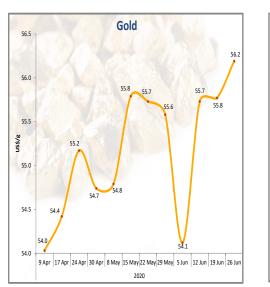


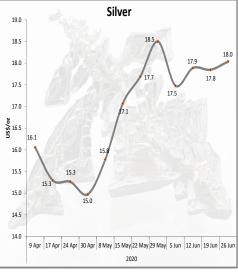


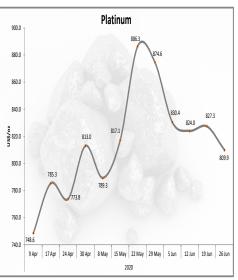




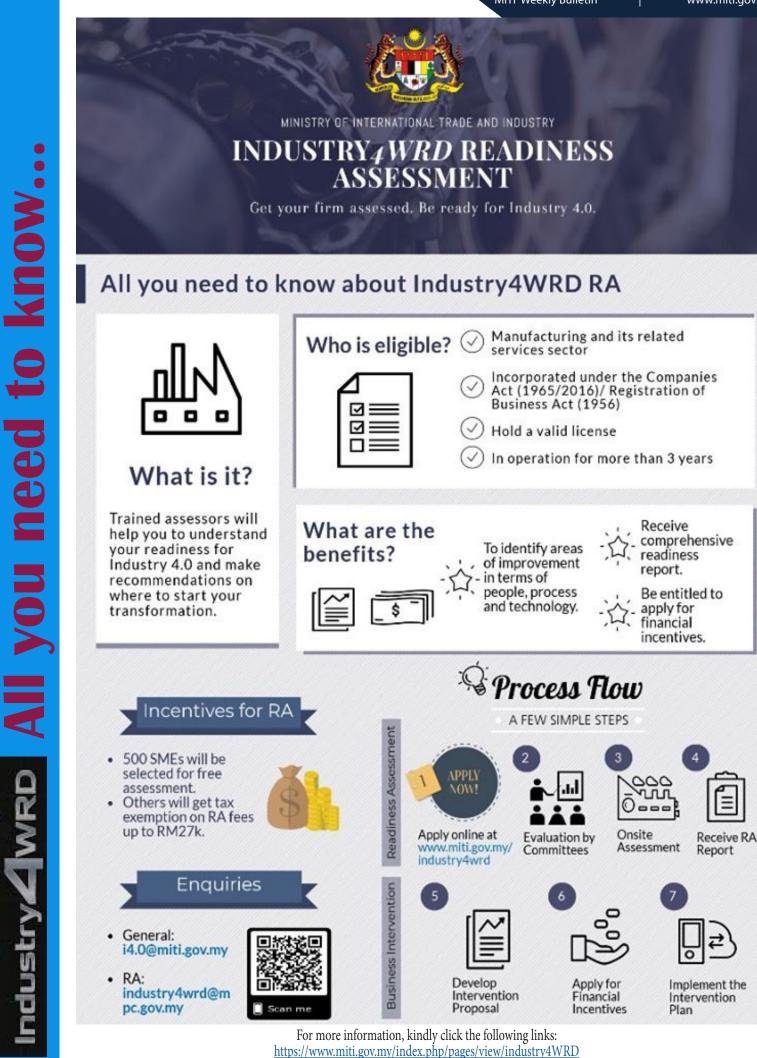








Sources: Ministry of International Trade and Industry Malaysia, , Malaysian Iron and Steel Industry Federation, Bloomberg and Czarnikow Group, World Bank, World Gold Council, The Wall Street Journal.



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