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ASEAN-EU FTA Talks Not Affected by Brexit

The ASEAN-European Union (EU) free-trade agreement (FTA) negotiations will not be affected by Brexit, International Trade and Industry Minister Mustapa Mohamed said. He said the ASEAN-EU FTA and Brexit (Britain's decision to leave the EU), were two different discussions and ASEAN was negotiating with a group and not a region.

"For us, it (ASEAN-EU FTA) is independent from what is going on between Britain and EU. Whether we could reach an agreement on the discussions depends on EU and ASEAN as groups," he told reporters at the "Brexit and Malaysia: A New Opportunity" seminar here today.

Meanwhile, British High Commissioner to Malaysia Vicki Treadell said even though Brexit would stall the ASEAN-EU negotiations, Britain remained supportive towards the negotiations, even after the completion of the exercise."We believe in free trade, we want to see this agreement (sealed), whether it is (with) us, or us as a part of EU," she said, adding that the British government would continue to champion the FTAs after the UK's exit from the EU is completed.

On the Brexit exercise, she said the British government was expected to evoke Article 50 by next year when it would be ready to start the details of the negotiations to determine the new terms of relationship with the EU. Article 50 of the Treaty on EU allows a member state to notify the EU of its withdrawal and obliges the EU to try to negotiate a "withdrawal agreement" with that state.

"We have a whole new state department that has been established to manage the negotiations, led by a new cabinet minister. When we evoke Article 50, a two-year time table will begin (for the negotiations to complete)," she added.

Earlier in his speech, Mustapa said Malaysia was the second largest investor in the London commercial property market after the US, while trade relations between Malaysia and the UK remained strong.

"In 2015, Malaysia's total trade with the UK increased 9.4 per cent to RM16.5 billion. Export expanded 17.6 per cent to RM9.32 billion while imports increased 0.3 per cent to RM7.13 billion," he said.

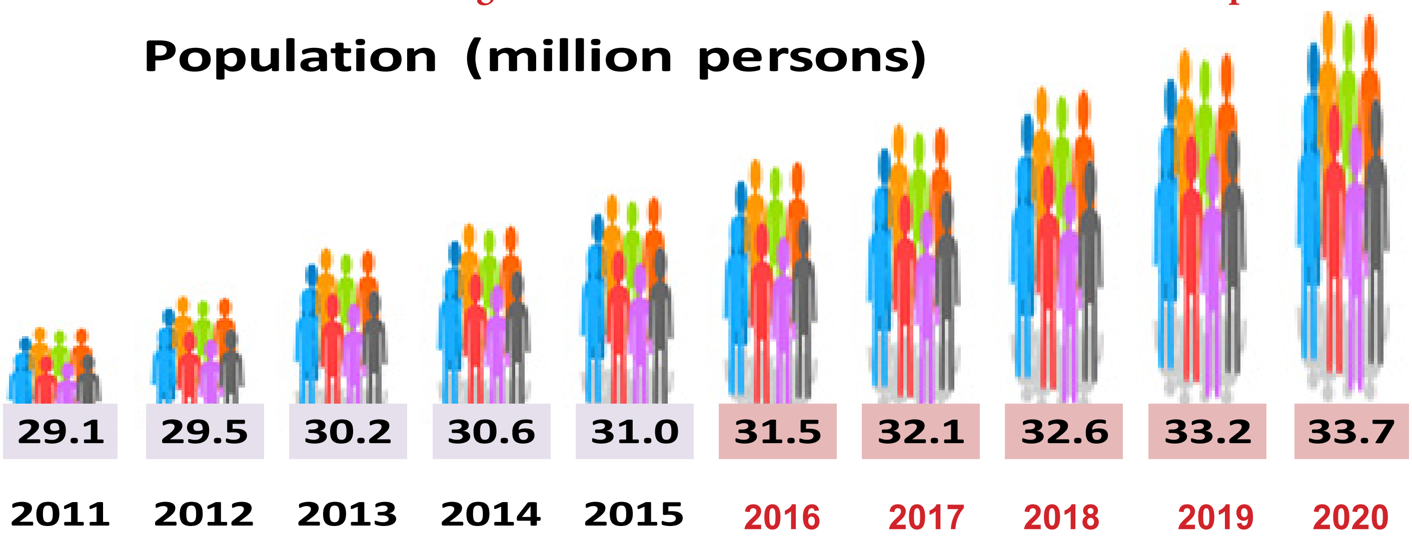
BERNAMA, 23 August 2016

Malaysia's Statistics

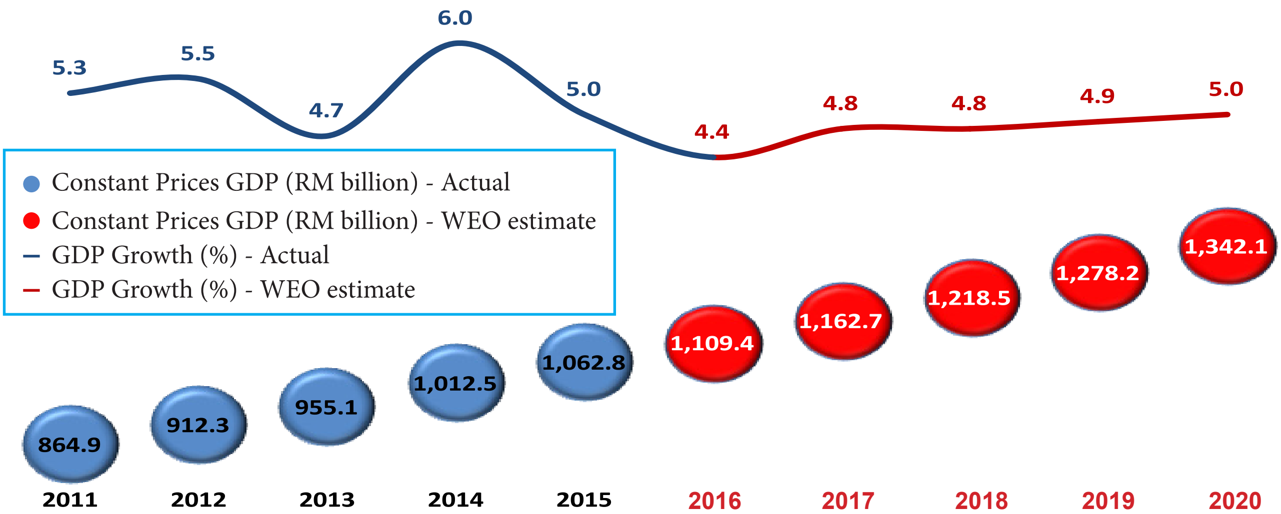
Key Economic Indicators

Note: 2016 to 2020 is estimate figure from World Economic Outlook Database April 2016

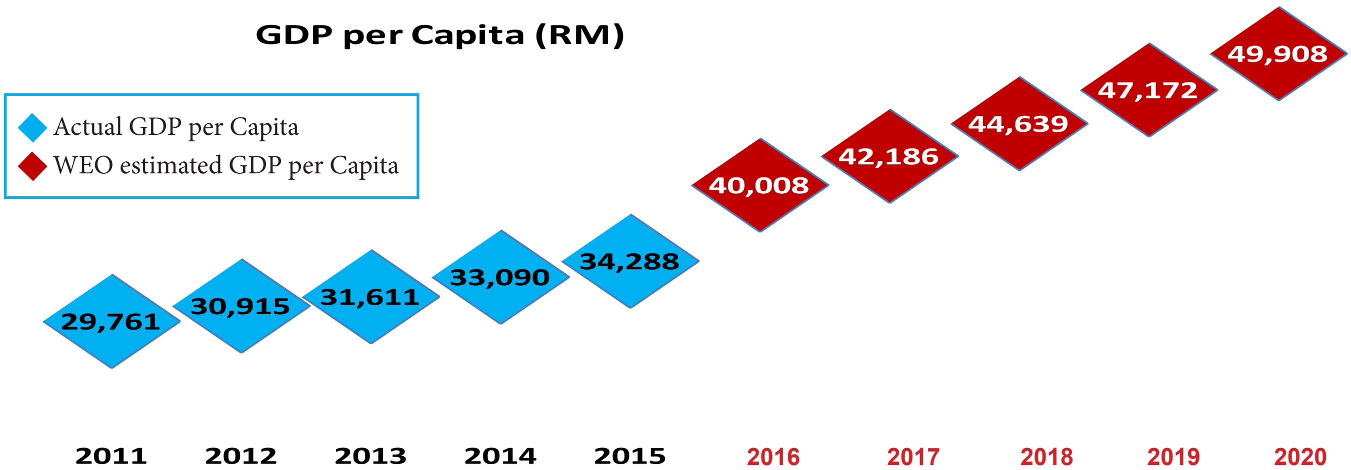
Population (million persons)



GDP Value and Growth



GDP per Capita (RM)

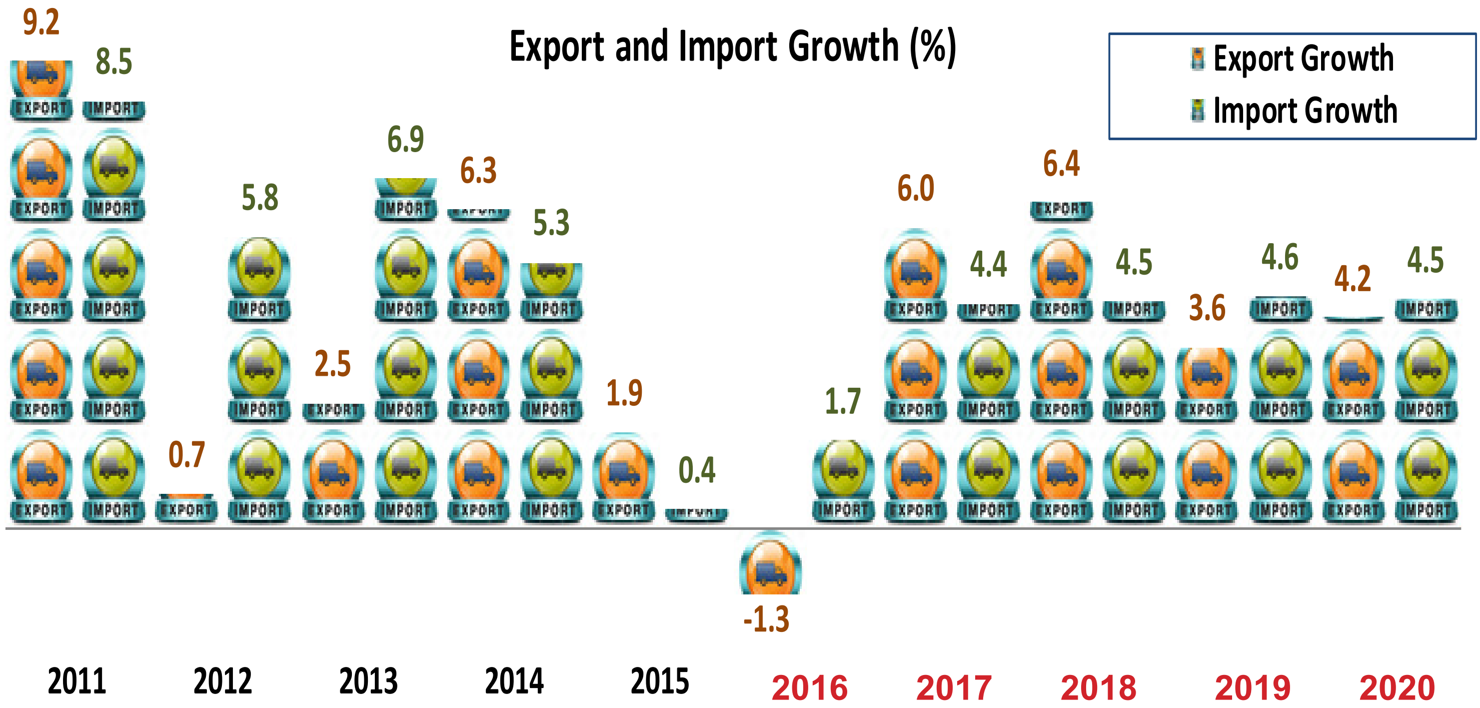


Sources: World Economic Outlook Database April 2016 and Department of Statistics, Malaysia.

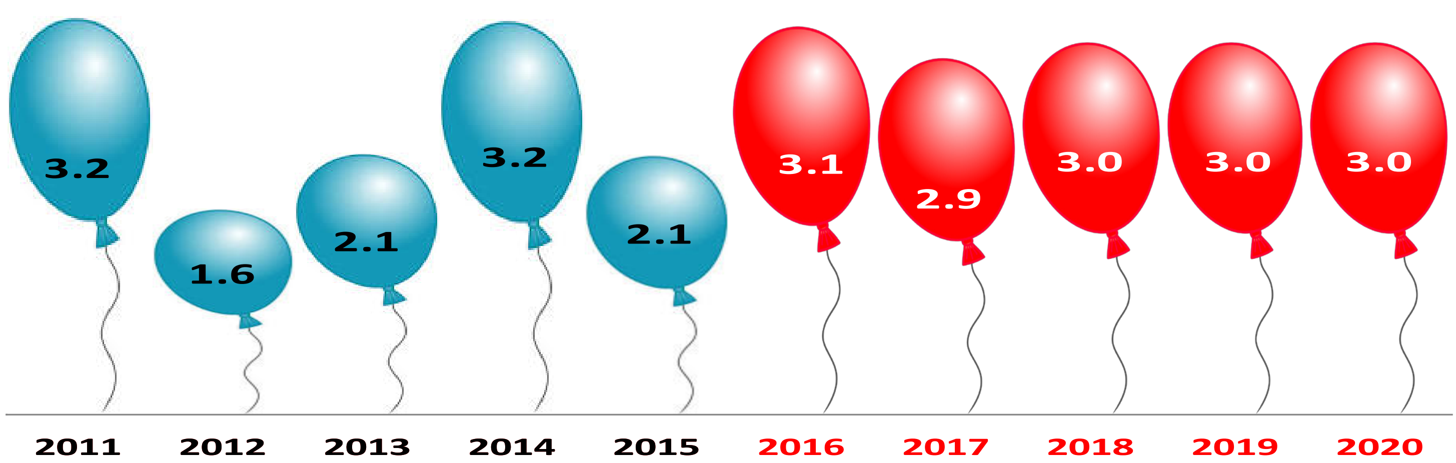
Key Economic Indicators

Note: 2016 to 2020 is estimate figure from World Economic Outlook Database April 2016

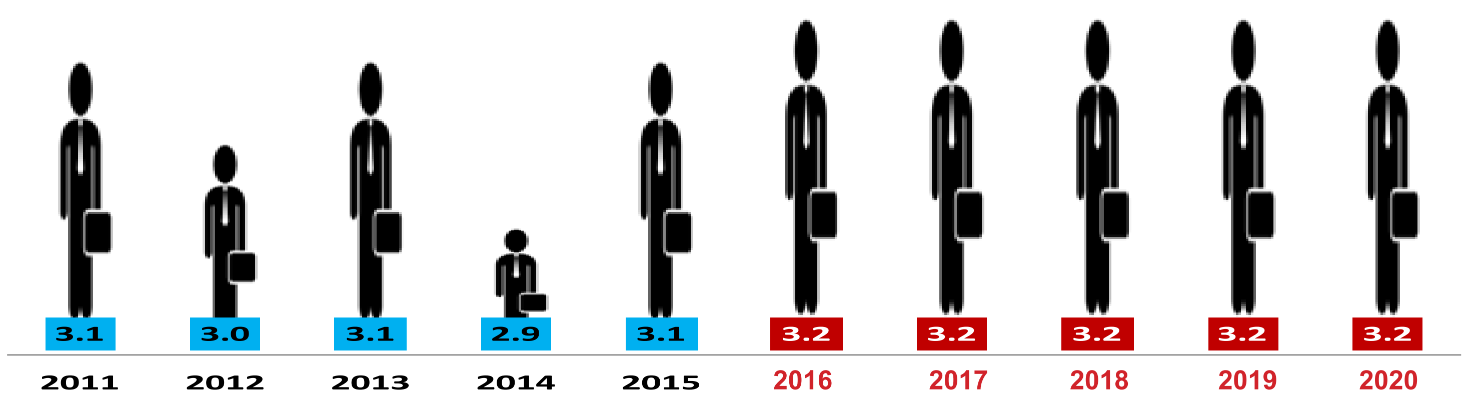
Export and Import Growth (%)



Inflation Rate (%)



Unemployment Rate (%)



Sources: World Economic Outlook Database April 2016 and Department of Statistics, Malaysia.

'ASEAN and You...'

ASEAN

Area : 4,320,357 km^2

Population : 629.1m

GDP Growth : 4.7%[#]

GDP Nominal : US$2,424.3b.

Trade in Merchandise : US$2,244.3b

Trade in Services : US$614.5b

BRUNEI

Area : 5,270 km^2
Population : 0.4m
GDP Growth : -0.2%
GDP Nominal : US$11.8b.
Trade in Merchandise : US$9.2b
Trade in Services : US$2.8b
Inflation Rate : -0.4%
Unemployment Rate : 2.7%

PHILIPPINES

Area : 298,170 km^2
Population : 102.2m
GDP Growth : 5.8%
GDP Nominal : US$202.0b.
Trade in Merchandise : US$128.6b
Trade in Services : US$52.1b
Inflation Rate : 1.4%
Unemployment Rate : 6.3%

SINGAPORE

Area : 707 km^2
Population : 5.5m
GDP Growth : 2.0%
GDP Nominal : US$292.7b.
Trade in Merchandise : US$647.3b
Trade in Services : US$283.1b
Inflation Rate : -0.5%
Unemployment Rate : 1.9%

THAILAND

Area : 510,890 km^2
Population : 68.8m
GDP Growth : 2.8%
GDP Nominal : US$395.3b.
Trade in Merchandise : US$417.0b
Trade in Services : US$111.4b
Inflation Rate : -0.9%
Unemployment Rate : 0.9%

INDONESIA

Area : 1,811,570 km^2
Population : 255.5m
GDP Growth : 4.8%
GDP Nominal : US$859.0b.
Trade in Merchandise : US$293.0b
Trade in Services : US$52.3b
Inflation Rate : 6.4%
Unemployment Rate : 6.2%

LAO PDR

Area : 230,800 km^2
Population : 7.0m
GDP Growth : 7.0%
GDP Nominal : US$12.5b.
Trade in Merchandise : US$6.2b
Trade in Services : US$1.4b
Inflation Rate : 5.3%
Unemployment Rate : 1.9%[*]

CAMBODIA

Area : 176,520 km^2
Population : 15.5m
GDP Growth : 6.9%
GDP Nominal : US$18.2b.
Trade in Merchandise : US$26.4b
Trade in Services : US$5.9b
Inflation Rate : 1.2%
Unemployment Rate : 0.3%[*]

VIET NAM

Area : 310,070 km^2
Population : 91.7m
GDP Growth : 6.7%
GDP Nominal : US$191.5b.
Trade in Merchandise : US$328.2b
Trade in Services : US$26.7b
Inflation Rate : 0.6%
Unemployment Rate : 2.4%

MYANMAR

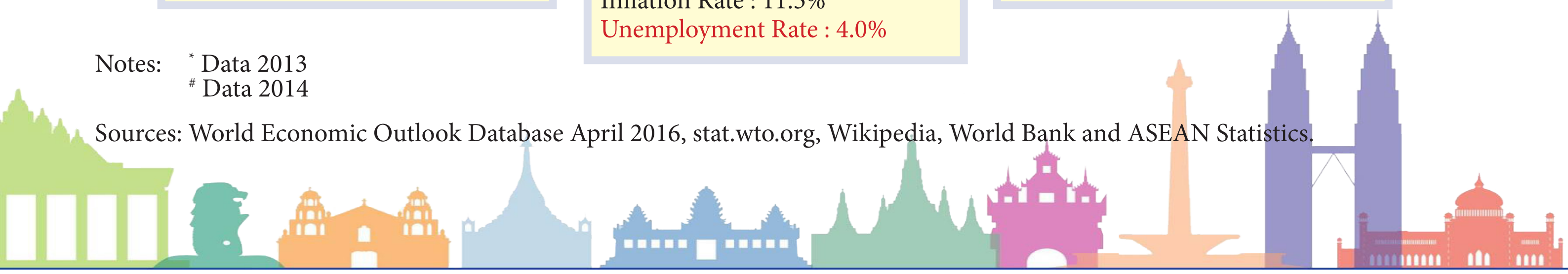
Area : 653,080 km^2
Population : 51.8m
GDP Growth : 7.0%
GDP Nominal : US$67.0b.
Trade in Merchandise : US$21.9b
Trade in Services : US$6.8b[#]
Inflation Rate : 11.5%
Unemployment Rate : 4.0%

MALAYSIA

Area : 328,550 km^2
Population : 31.0m
GDP Growth : 5.0%
GDP Nominal : US$296.2b.
Trade in Merchandise : US$375.8b
Trade in Services : US$74.9b
Inflation Rate : 2.1%
Unemployment Rate : 3.2%

Notes: [*] Data 2013
[#] Data 2014

Sources: World Economic Outlook Database April 2016, stat.wto.org, Wikipedia, World Bank and ASEAN Statistics.



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INTERNATIONAL REPORT

MERCHANDISE TRADE 2015

1	P.R.China
2	USA
3	Germany
4	Japan
5	UK
24	Malaysia

SERVICES TRADE 2015

1	USA
2	P.R.China
3	UK
4	Germany
5	France
31	Malaysia

GLOBAL OPPORTUNITY INDEX 2015

1	Singapore
2	Hong Kong SAR
3	Finland
4	New Zealand
5	Sweden
10	Malaysia

OPEN MARKET INDEX 2015

1	Singapore
2	Hong Kong SAR
3	Luxembourg
4	Belgium
5	Netherlands
33	Malaysia

GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX 2015

1	Switzerland
2	UK
3	Sweden
4	Netherlands
5	USA
32	Malaysia

GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS INDEX 2015-2016

1	Switzerland
2	Singapore
3	USA
4	Germany
5	Netherlands
18	Malaysia

WORLD COMPETITIVENESS YEARBOOK 2016

1	Hong Kong SAR
2	Switzerland
3	USA
4	Singapore
5	Sweden
19	Malaysia

EASE OF DOING BUSINESS 2016

1	Singapore
2	New Zealand
3	Denmark
4	R.O.Korea
5	Hong Kong SAR
18	Malaysia

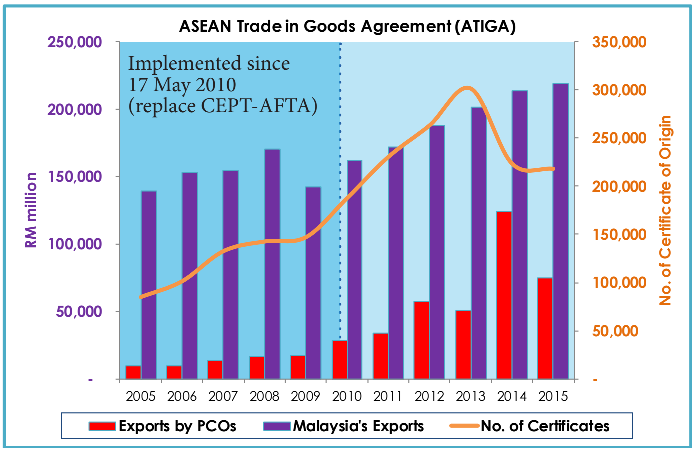
KOF INDEX OF GLOBALIZATION 2016

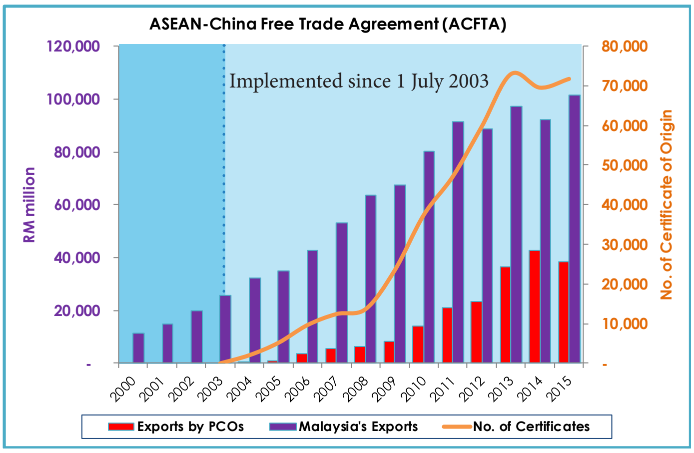
1	Netherlands
2	Ireland
3	Belgium
4	Austria
5	Switzerland
25	Malaysia

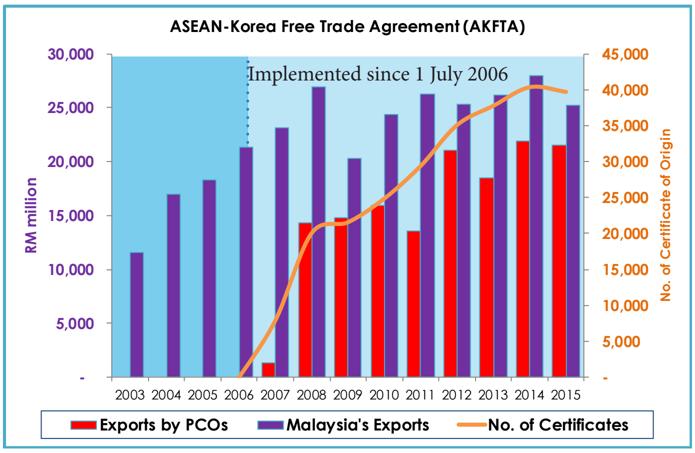
* KOF is an acronym for the German word "Konjunkturforschungsstelle", which means business cycle research institute

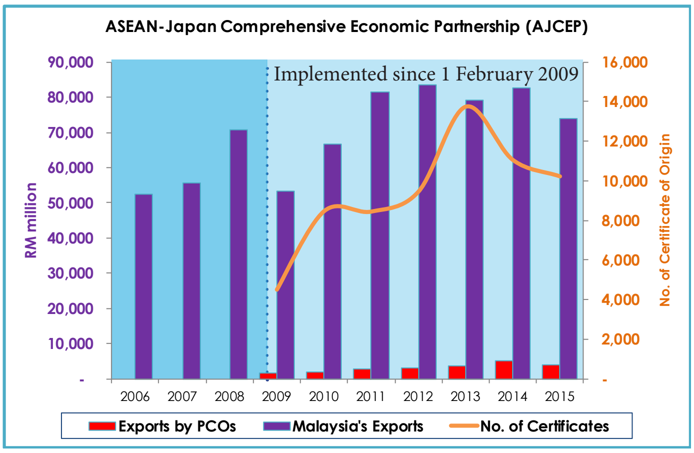
Source: wto.org, doingbusiness.org, globalopportunityindex.org, reports.weforum.org, globalization.kof.ethz.ch, imd.org, iccwbo.org, globalinnovationindex.org

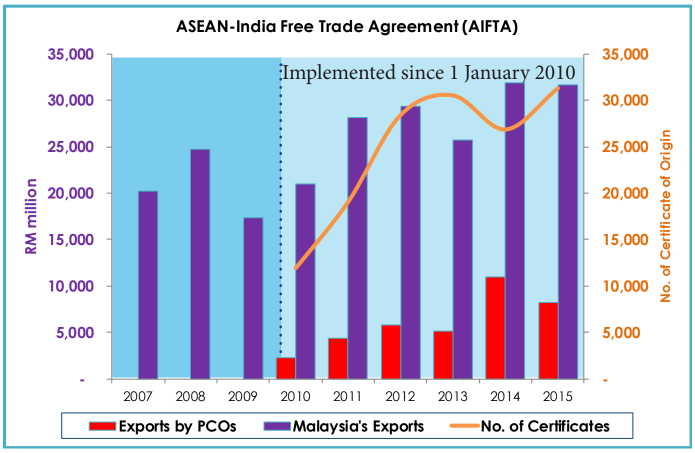
Number and Value of Preferential Certificates of Origin (PCOs)

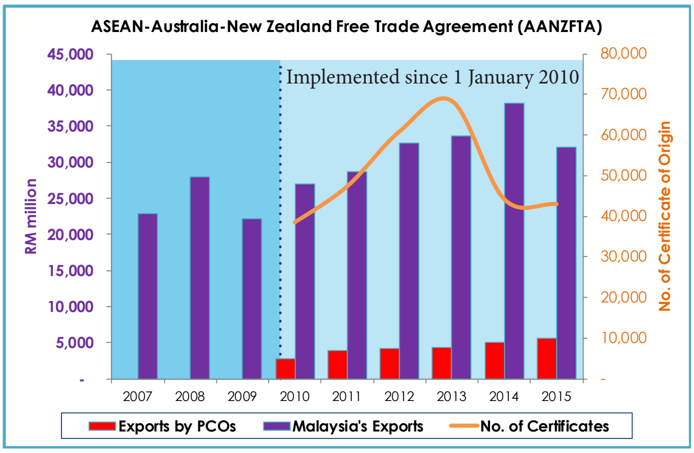


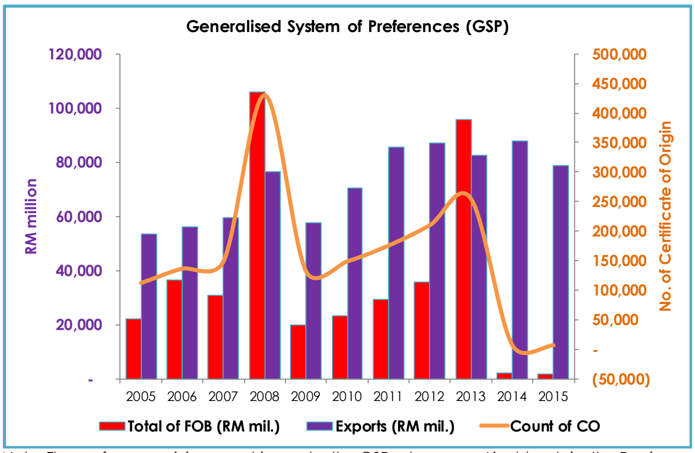










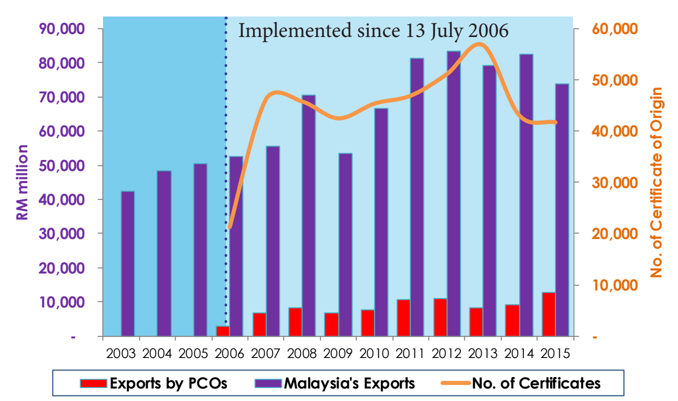


Note: The preference giving countries under the GSP scheme are Liechtenstein, the Russian Federation, Japan, Switzerland, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Norway.

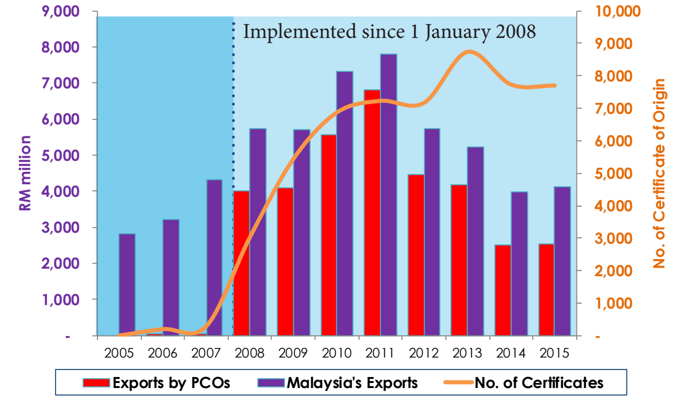
Source: Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia

Number and Value of Preferential Certificates of Origin (PCOs)

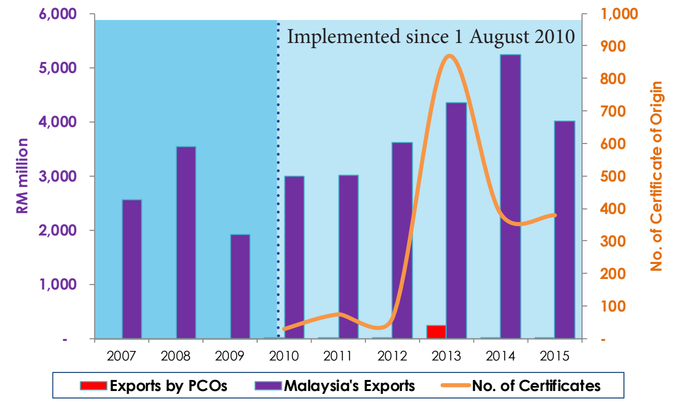
Malaysia-Japan Economic Partnership (MJEPA)



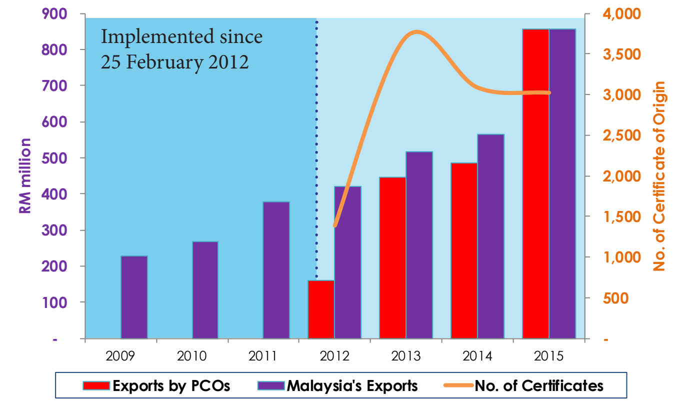
Malaysia-Pakistan Closer Economic Partnership (MPCEPA)



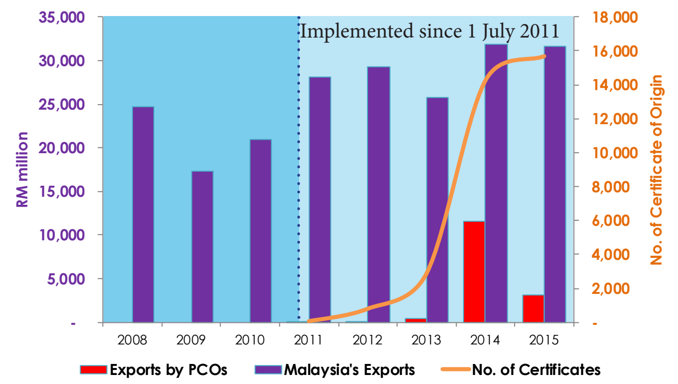
Malaysia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (MNZFTA)



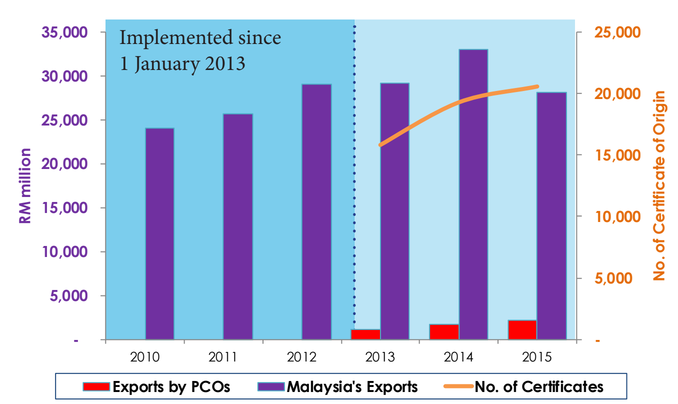
Malaysia-China Free Trade Agreement (MCFTA)



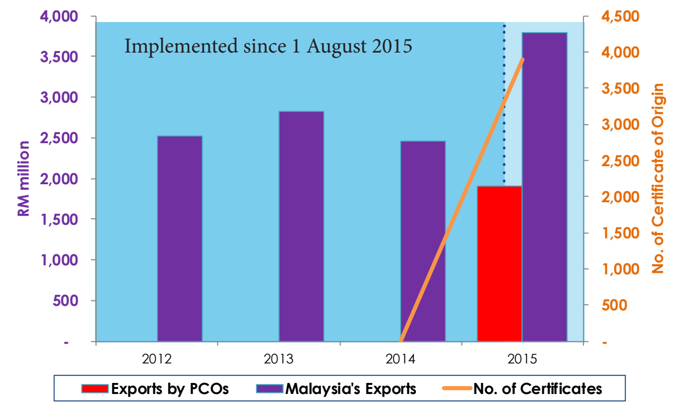
Malaysia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (MICECA)



Malaysia-Australia Free Trade Agreement (MAFTA)



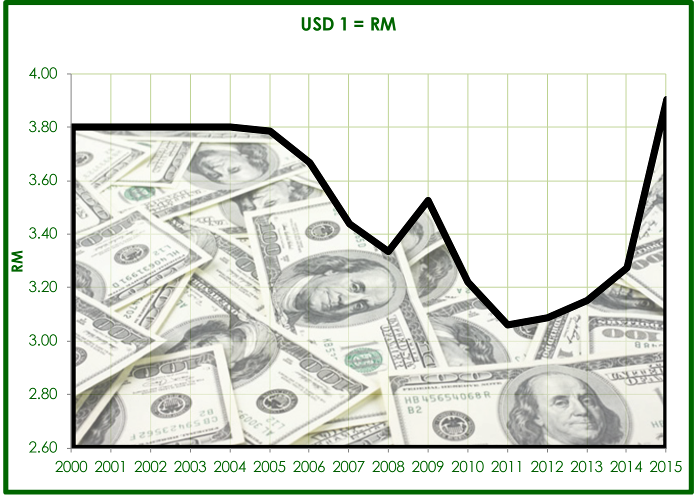
Malaysia-Turkey Free Trade Agreement (MTFTA)



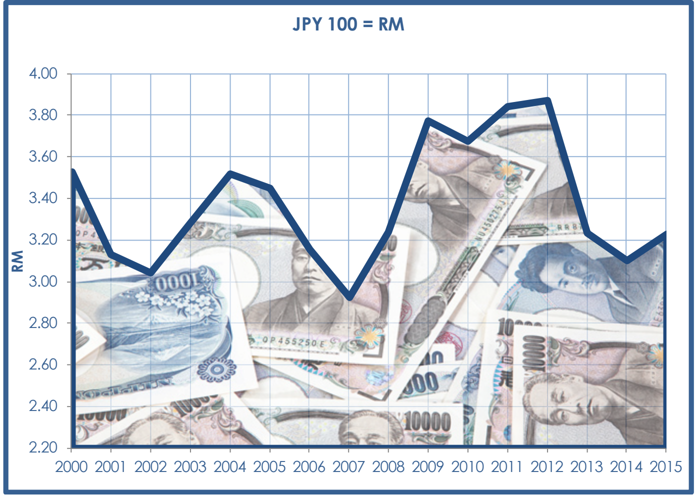
Source: Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia

Malaysian Ringgit Exchange Rate with Top Six Trading Partners, 2000 - 2015

1 United State of America

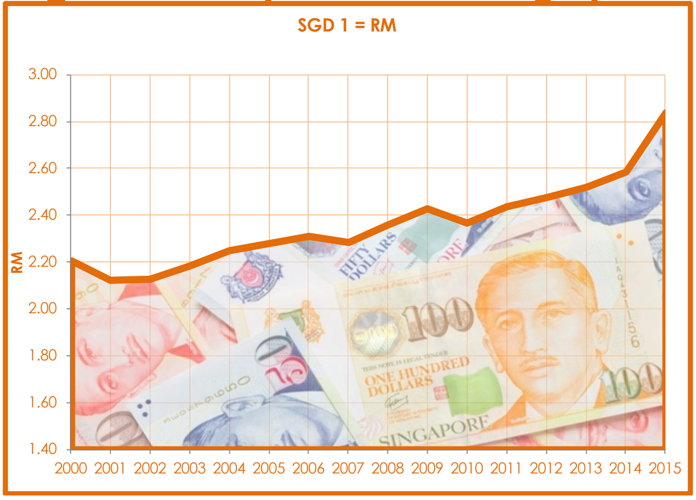


2 Japan



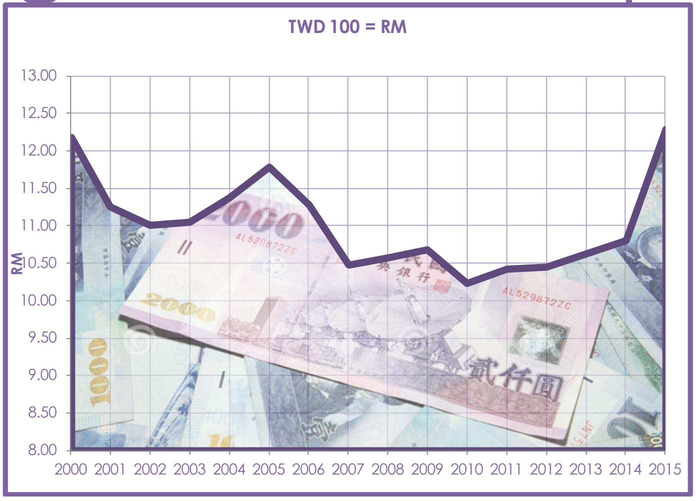
3 People's Republic of China

4 Republic of Singapore



5 Thailand

6 Chinese Taipei



Source : Bank Negara, Malaysia

Commodity Prices

CRUDE PETROLEUM (BRENT)
-per bbl-

12 August 2016 : US$47.0, ↑ 6.1%*
Average Price[i] : 2015: US$53.6
2014: US$99.5

CRUDE PALM OIL
-per MT-

12 August 2016 : US$695.5, ↑ 5.4%*
Average Price[i] : 2015: US$616.9
2014: US$823.3

SUGAR -per lbs-

12 August 2016 : US$19.7, ↓ 3.1%*
Average Price[i] : 2015: US$13.2
2014: US$16.6

RUBBER SMR 20
-per MT-

12 August 2016 : US$1,319.5, ↑ 1.0%*
Average Price[i] : 2015: US$1.364.3
2014: US$1,718.3

COCOA SMC 2
-per MT-

12 August 2016 : US$2,212.9, ↓ 2.1%*
Average Price[i] : 2015: US$2,077.0
2014: US$2,615.8

COAL -per MT-

12 August 2016 : US$43.5, unchange
Average Price[i] : 2015: US$49.9
2014: US$59.8

SCRAP IRON HMS
-per MT-

12 August 2016 : US$230.0 (high), ↑ 15.0%*
US$210.0 (low), ↑ 16.7%*
Average Price[i] : 2015: US$239.6
2014: US$370.0

HIGHEST and LOWEST 2015/2016

Crude Petroleum (Brent) -per bbl-

Highest
10 June 2016 : US$50.5
15 May 2015 : US$66.8

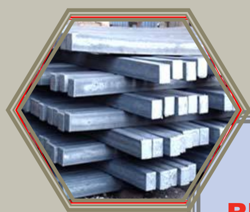
Lowest
15 January 2016 : US$28.9
18 December 2015 : US$36.9

Crude Palm Oil -per MT-

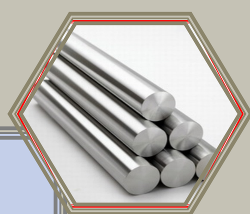
Highest
8 April 2016 : US$725.5
16 January 2015 : US$701.0

Lowest
15 January 2016 : US$545.5
4 September 2015 : US$500.5

Average Domestic Prices 12 August 2016



Billets
(per MT)
RM1,450 – RM1,550

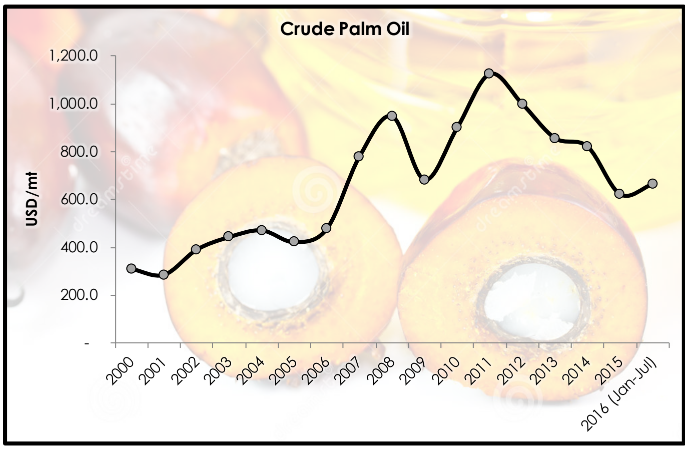


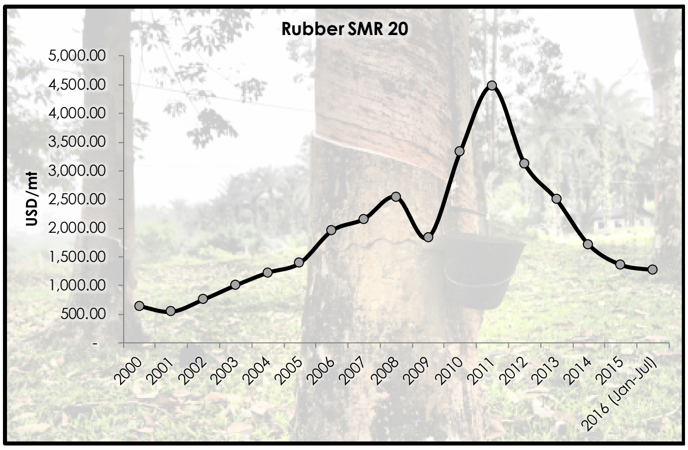
Steel Bars
(per MT)
RM1,840 – RM1,990

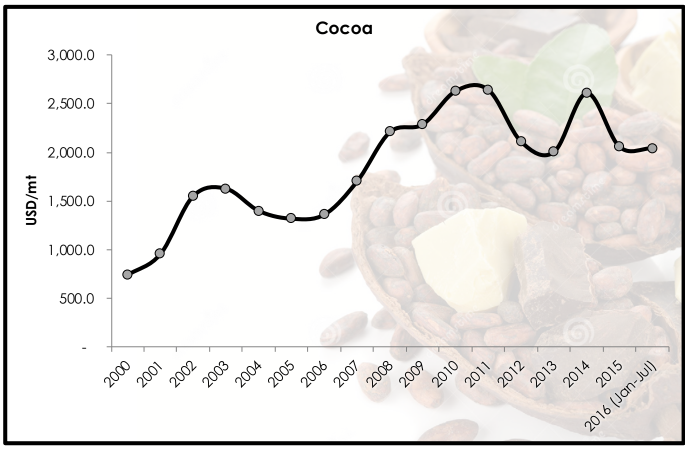
Notes: All figures have been rounded to the nearest decimal point
* Refer to % change from the previous week's price
i Average price in the year except otherwise indicated

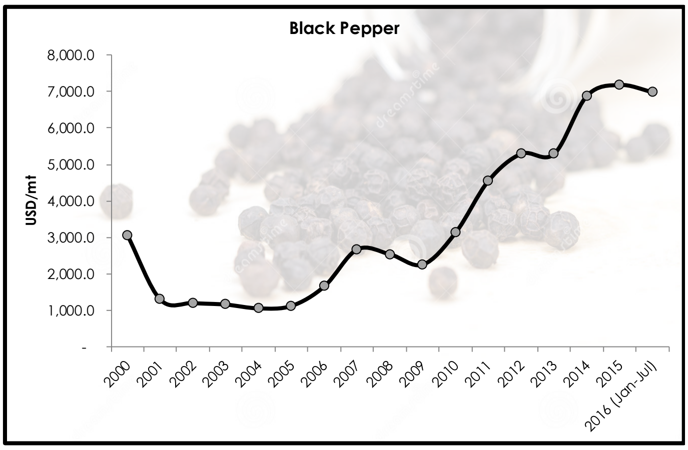
Sources: Ministry of International Trade and Industry Malaysia, Malaysian Palm Oil Board, Malaysian Rubber Board, Malaysian Cocoa Board, Malaysian Iron and Steel Industry Federation, Bloomberg and Czarnikow Group.

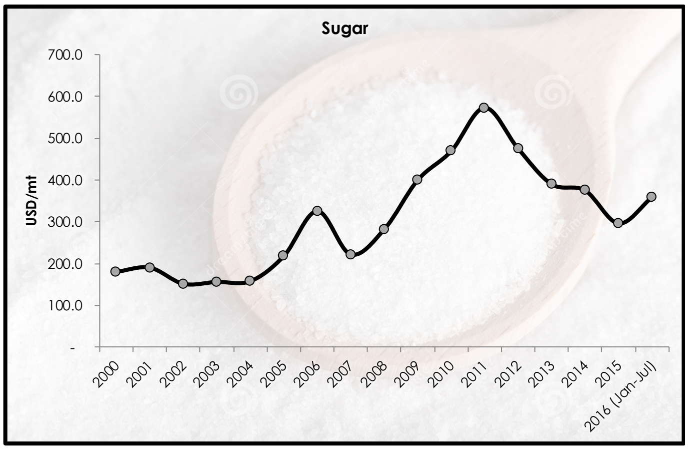
Commodity Price Trends

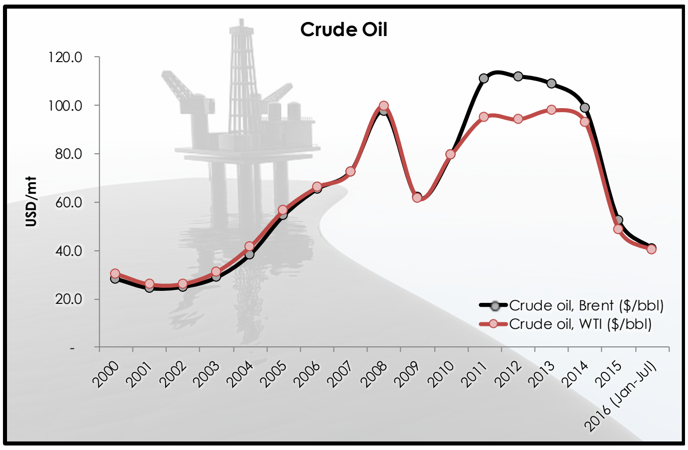


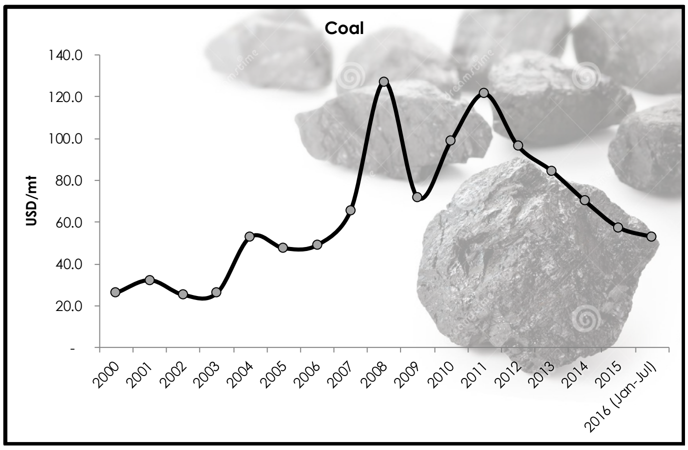






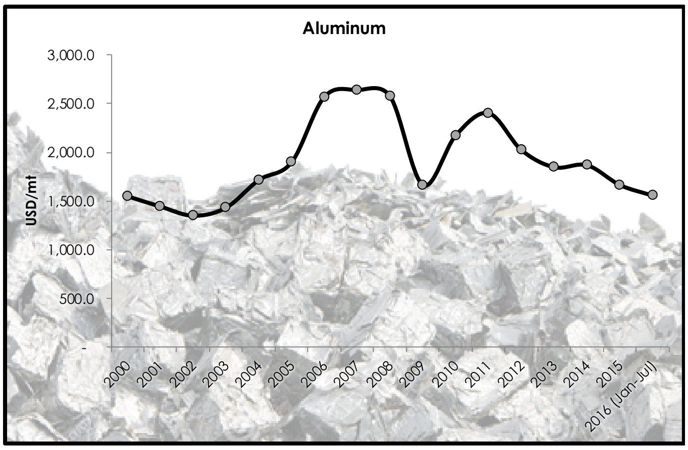


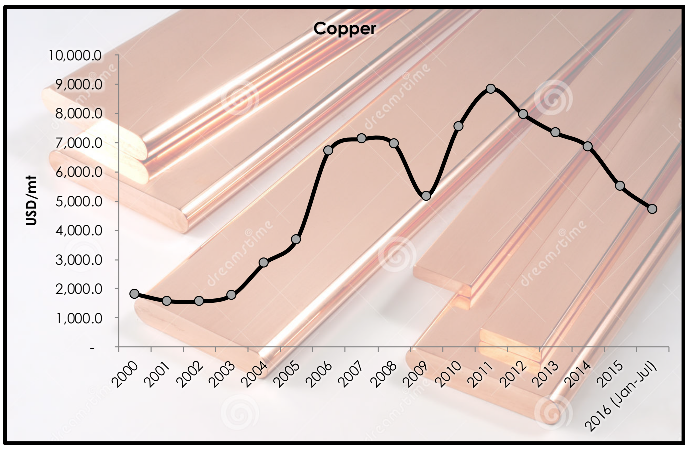


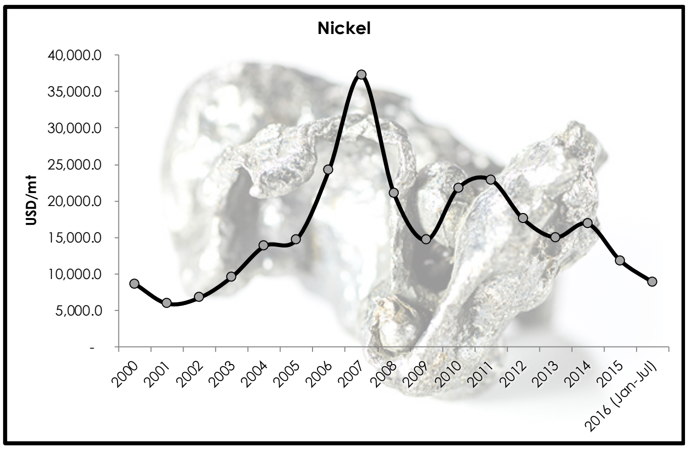


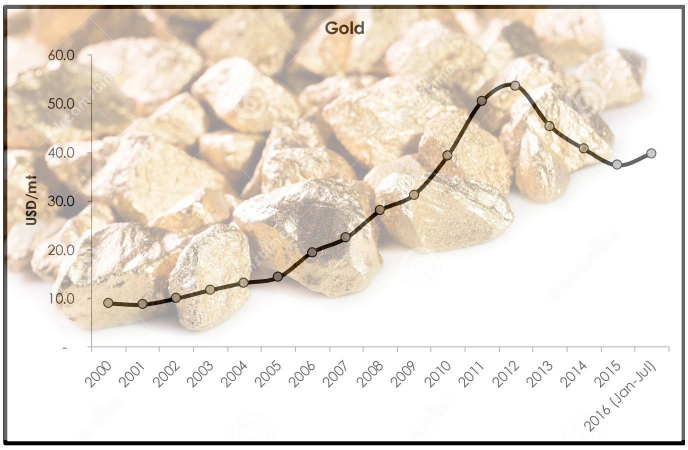
Sources: *Ministry of International Trade and Industry Malaysia, Malaysian Palm Oil Board, Malaysian Rubber Board, Malaysian Cocoa Board, Malaysian Pepper Board, Malaysian Iron and Steel Industry Federation, Bloomberg and Czarnikow Group, World Bank.*

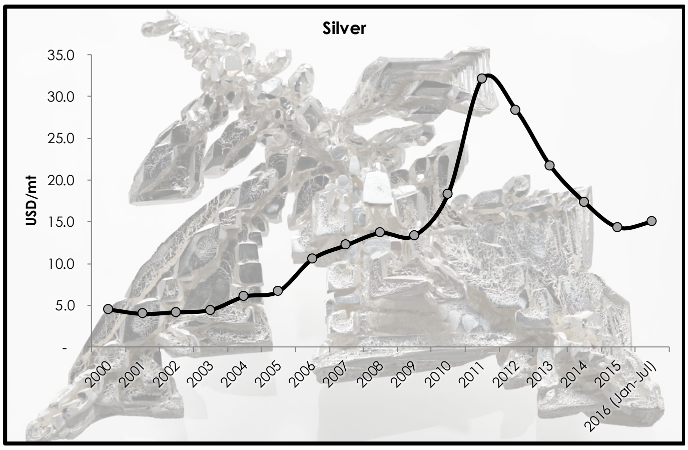
Commodity Price Trends

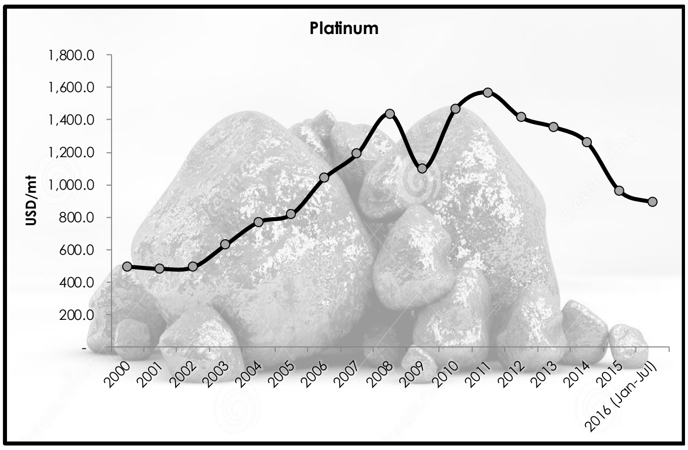


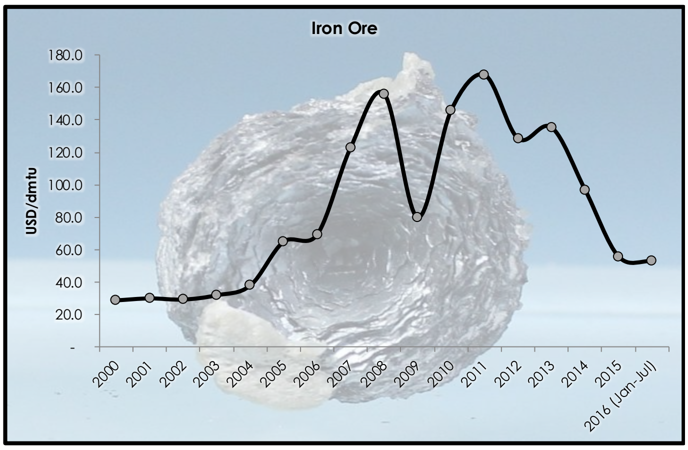








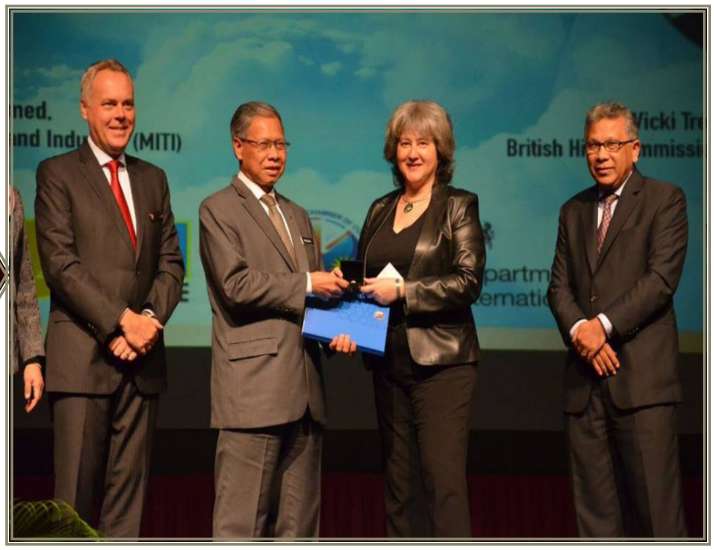




Sources: Ministry of International Trade and Industry Malaysia, Malaysian Palm Oil Board, Malaysian Rubber Board, Malaysian Cocoa Board, Malaysian Pepper Board, Malaysian Iron and Steel Industry Federation, Bloomberg and Czarnikow Group, World Bank.

MITI Programme

Seminar Brexit and Malaysia - “A New Opportunity”
23 August 2016



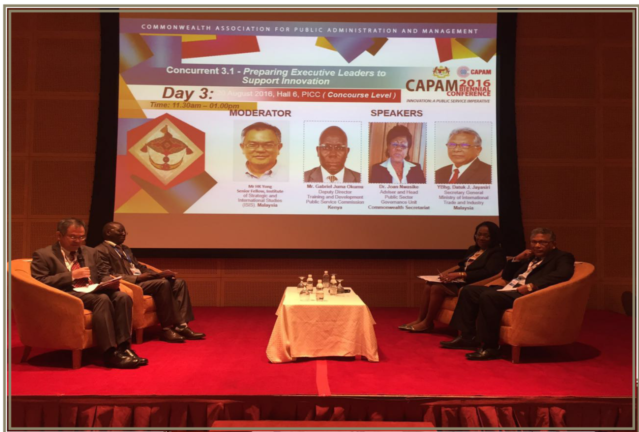
MITI Programme

Minister's Visit to Urban Transformation Centre, Kelantan
21 August 2016

MITI Programme

Press Conference on the Seminar Brexit and Malaysia
23 August 2016

MITI Secretary General in CAPAM 2016 Biennial Conference
20 August 2016



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STATISTICIAN

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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

MOHD AZRULNIZAM HUSSIN
ASSISTANT STATISTICAL OFFICER

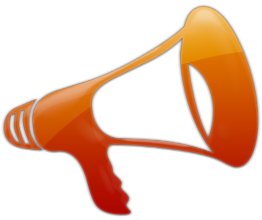
NORASHIKIN NASOKHA
ASSISTANT STATISTICAL OFFICER

Info from Bank Negara Malaysia

International Reserves of Bank Negara Malaysia as at 15 August 2016

The international reserves of Bank Negara Malaysia amounted to RM391.9 billion (equivalent to USD97.5 billion) as at 15 August 2016. The reserves position is sufficient to finance 8.1 months of retained imports and is 1.2 times the short-term external debt[1].

[1]Refers to the redefined short-term external debt, which includes short-term offshore borrowing, non-resident holdings of short-term ringgit debt securities, non-resident deposits with the banking system and other short-term debt. For more information, please refer to the box article titled 'The Redefinition of External Debt' in the Quarterly Bulletin on Economic and Financial Developments in the Malaysian Economy in the First Quarter of 2014.



Announcement

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