

Volume 781

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Malaysia's inflation remained at 1.5%, the same rate since November 2023



INFLATION BY MAIN GROUP Housing, Water, Electricity, Alcoholic Beverages & Food & Beverages Clothing & Footwear Gas & Other Fuels Tobacco Ň 2.3% 2.0% 0.4% 0.6% 0.0% 2.0% 1.6% -0.2% **05** Furnishings, Household 06 Information & Health **Transport Equipment & Routine** Communication Household Maintenance **₩ 0 B** 1.0% 2.4% 2.5% 0.7% 0.3% -2.4% -3.7% Restaurant & Recreation, Sport & Insurance & Education Accommodation Culture Financial Services Services 1.7% 2.0% 0.8% 1.9% 0.0% 0.0% 3.2% Personal Care, Social **CORE INFLATION & INFLATION** INFLATION FOR URBAN Protection & & RURAL Miscellaneous Goods & Services 1.5% 1.6% Inflation Without Fuel Inflation 2.5%













Rural











Percentage Change: Year-on-Year

Source: Malaysia's Consumer Price Index (2010=100), Department of Statistics, Malaysia (DOSM)

LEADING, COINCIDENT & LAGGING INDEXES, DECEMBER 2023

LEADING INDEX REBOUNDED TO 0.3 PER CENT WITH 110.1 POINTS IN DECEMBER 2023, ANTICIPATING A HEALTHIER ECONOMIC PROSPECT IN THE NEAR FUTURE

Leading Composite Index (2015=100) and Annual Change (%)

-0.2% Sept. 2023

Sept. 2023: 109.4 point Sept. 2022: 109.6 point -0.1% Oct. 2023

Oct. 2023: 109.3 point Oct. 2022: 109.4 point -0.2% Nov. 2023

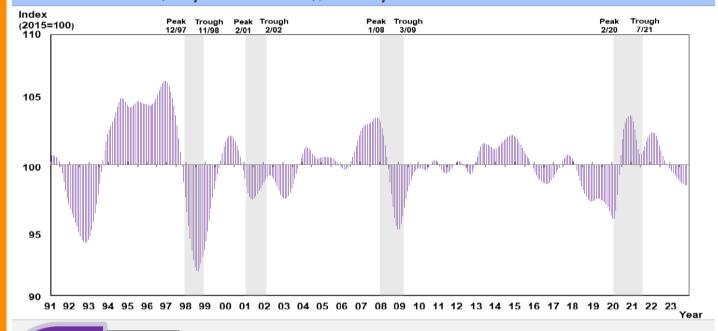
Nov. 2023: 109.8 point Nov. 2022: 110.0 point

December 2023

Dec. 2023: 110.1 point Dec. 2022: 109.8 point

Note: Economic direction forecast by Leading Composite Index in average of 4 to 6 months ahead

Leading Composite Index (Long Term Trend = 100) and Business Cycle (Grey Shaded Areas), January 1991 to December 2023



0.3% December

0.5% November

Leading Composite Index, Monthly Change (%)

Contribution of Each Component to the Percentage Change in the Leading Composite Index from the Previous Month



Real Imports of Semi Conductors

-0.6% 1.0%

Real Imports of Other Basic Precious & Other Non-ferrous Metals **-0.2%** | -0.4%

Number of Housing Units Approved 0.5% -0.4%



Expected Sales Value. Manufacturing

Number of **New Companies** Registered

0.2% -0.1%

-0.4% -0.2%

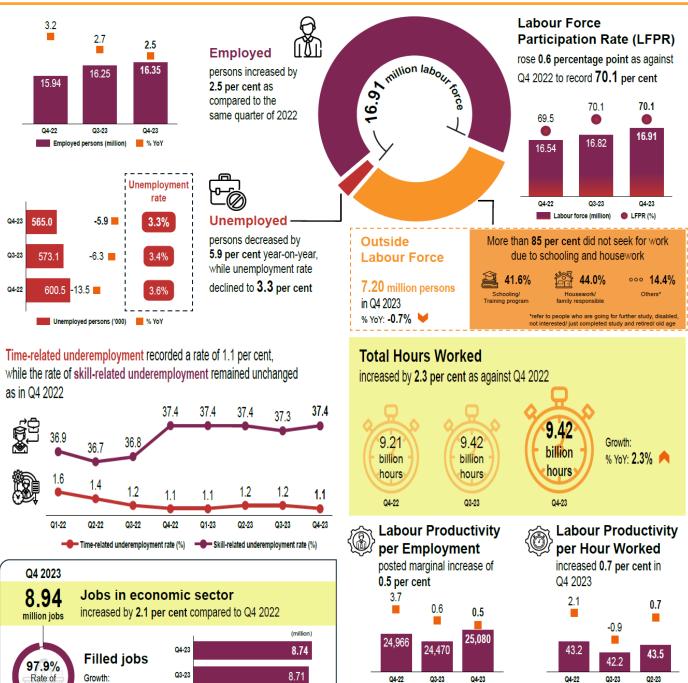
Note: December 2023 | November 2023

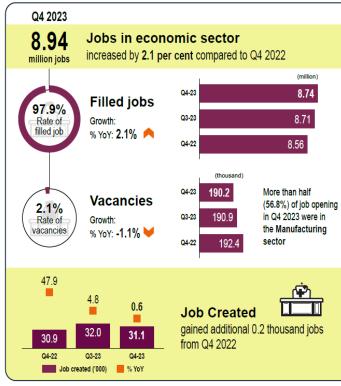
Source: Malaysian Economic Indicators- Leading, Coincident & Lagging Indexes, December 2023, Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)

LABOUR MARKET REVIEW, Q4 2023

Favourable labour market situation in the fourth quarter of 2023,

as the unemployment rate back to the pre-pandemic level at 3.3 per cent





In September 2023 Distribution of RM14.000-RM14.999 monthly wages 6.68 million citizen formal employees 34.6% RM12,000-RM12,999 RM11,000-RM11,999 Malaysian % YoY: 1.3% / formal sector RM9.000-RM9.999 employees RM8.000.RM8.999 earned below RM7,000-RM7,999 RM2,000 in Sept. 2023 RM5,000-RM5,999 RM4,000-RM4,999 Jul Ogs Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mac Apr May Jun Jul Ogs Sep Q4-22 Q1-23 Q2-23 Median monthly wages (RM) % YoY

Employee Wages Statistics (Formal Sector)

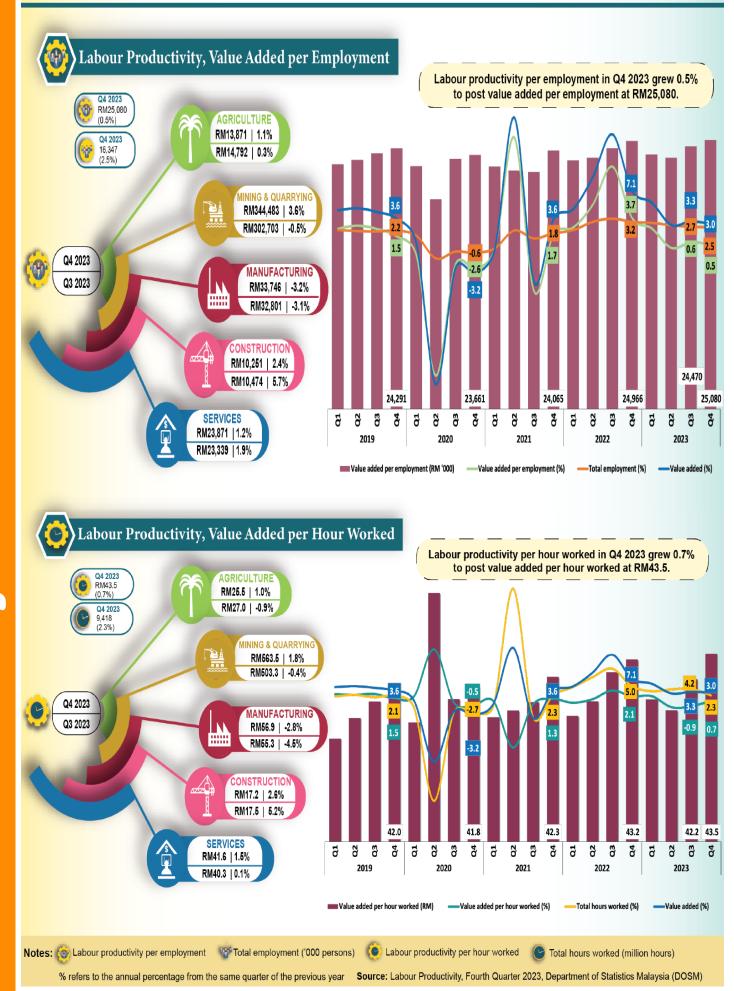
Value added per hour worked (RM) | % YoY

% YoY: Percentage change year-on-year

Source: Labour Market Review, Fourth Quarter 2023, Department of Statistics Malaysia

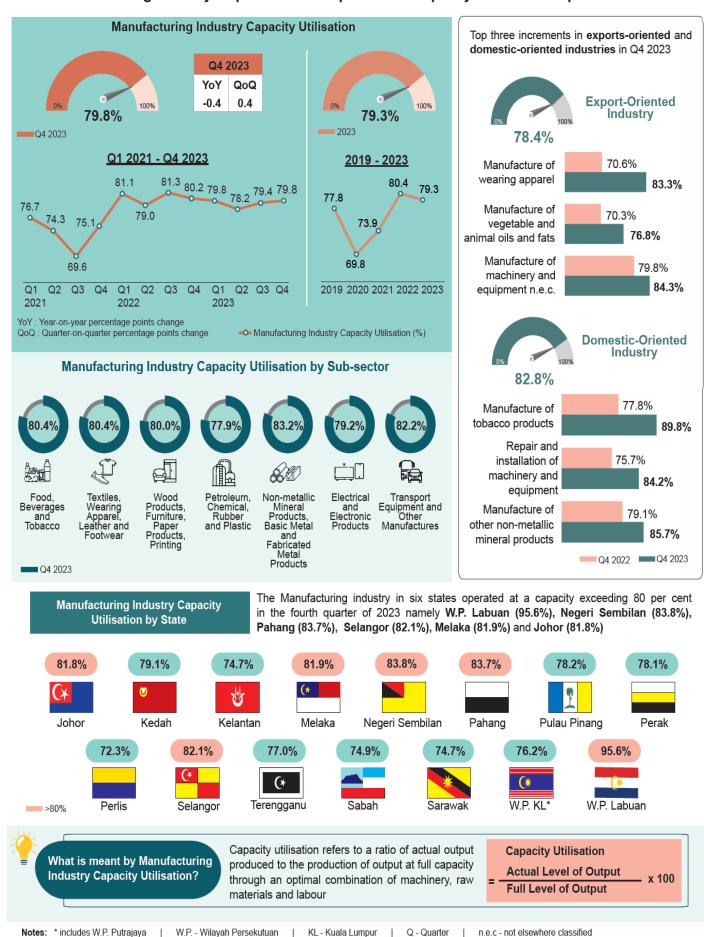
Value added per employment (RM) | % YoY

LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY, Q4 2023



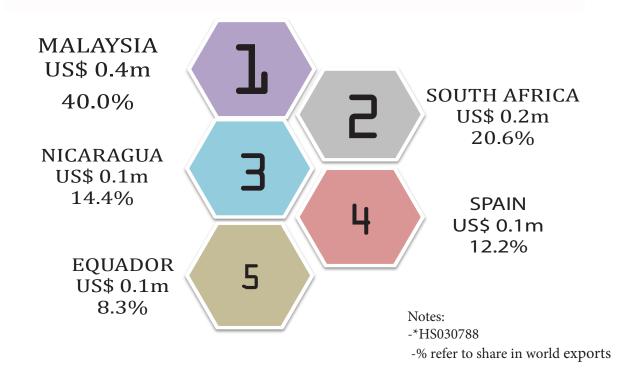
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY CAPACITY UTILISATION, Q4 2023

Manufacturing industry's operated at 79.8 per cent of capacity in the fourth quarter of 2023



WORLD LARGEST EXPORTERS OF SMOKED, DRIED, SALTED OR IN BRINE, EVEN IN SHELL, STROMBOID CONCHS "STROMBUS SPP."

In 2022, Malaysia's export of Smoked, dried, salted or in brine, even in shell, stromboid conchs "Strombus spp." recorded US\$ 0.4 million which was 40.0% share of the world exports.



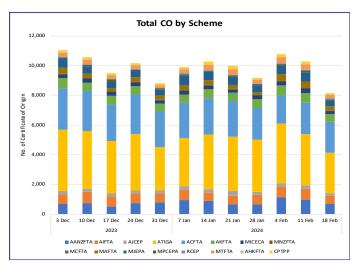
MALAYSIA'S TOP EXPORT DESTINATION



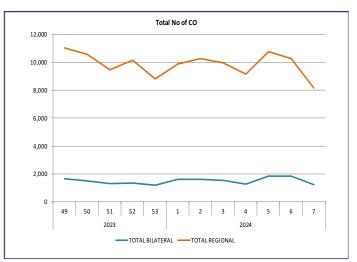
Source: https://www.trademap.org/index.aspx

Number of PCO as at 18 February 2024 Weekly / Monthly/ Annually

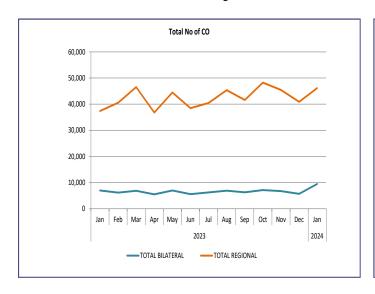
Weekly Total Scheme



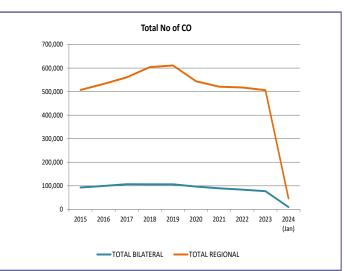
Weekly



Monthly



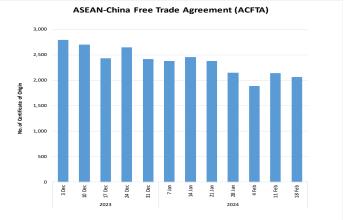
Annually

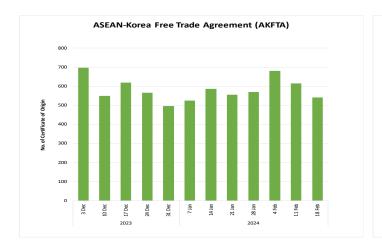


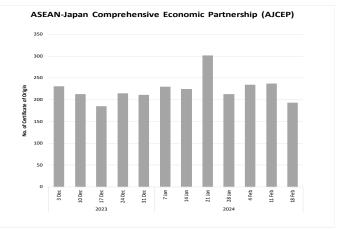
Note: *Provisional Data Source: Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, Malaysia

Regional FTA Number of Preferential Certificates of Origin (PCOs) as at 18 February 2024





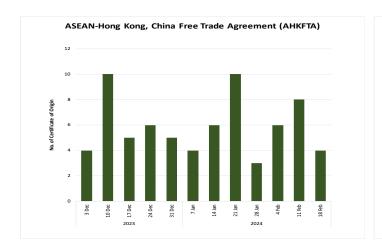


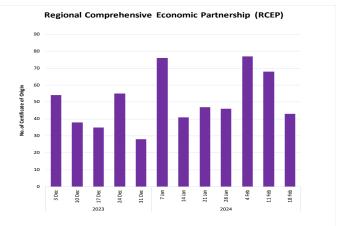


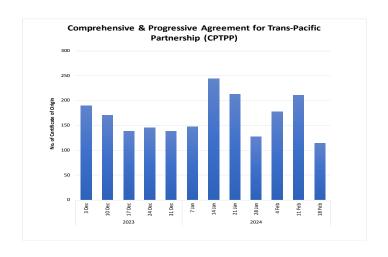
Regional FTA Number of Preferential Certificates of Origin (PCOs) as at 18 February 2024





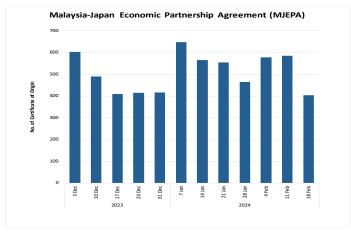


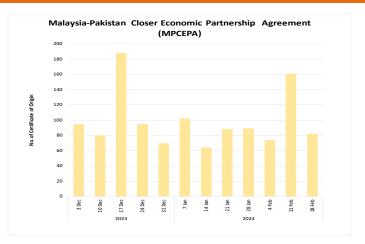




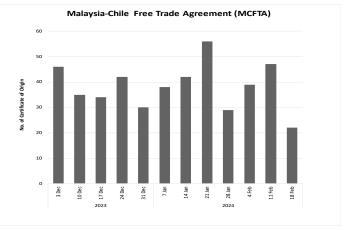
Note: *Provisional Data Source: Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, Malaysia

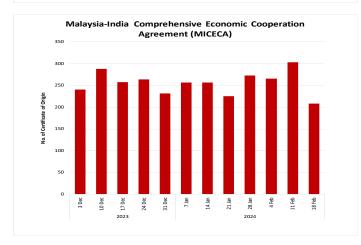
Bilateral FTA Number of Preferential Certificates of Origin (PCOs) as at 18 February 2024



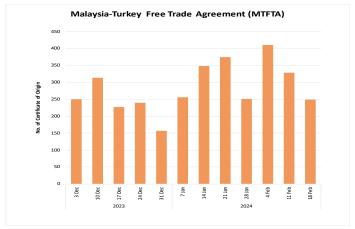








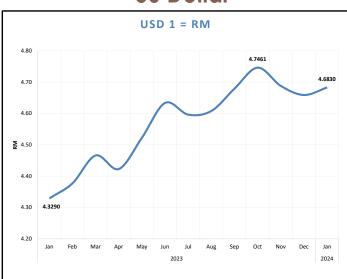




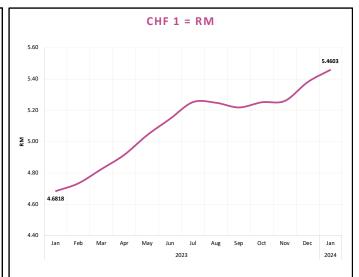
Note: *Provisional Data Source: Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, Malaysia

Malaysian Ringgit Exchange Rate with Selected Countries, January 2023 - January 2024

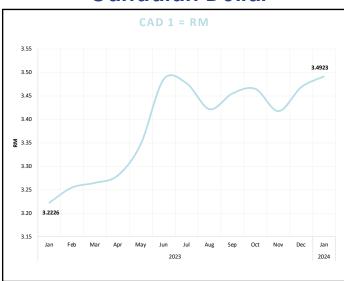
US Dollar



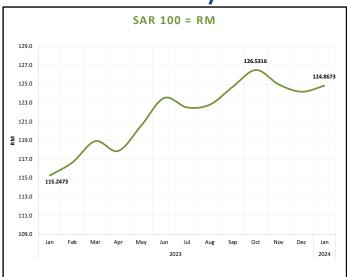
Swiss Franc



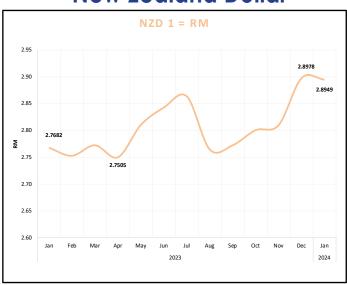
Canadian Dollar



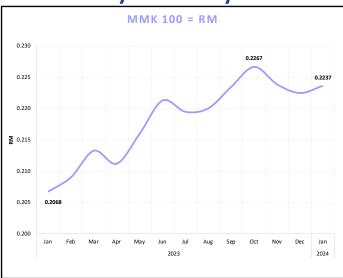
Saudi Riyal



New Zealand Dollar



Myanmar Kyat



Source: Bank Negara Malaysia

Commodity Prices

CRUDE PETROLEUM (BRENT) -per bbl-

US\$81.6

23 Feb 2024

Highest 2023/2024

26 Jan 2024: US\$83.6 29 Sept 2023 : US\$95.3

2 Feb 2024 : US\$77.3

17 March 2023 : US\$73.0

Lowest 2023/2024

Average Price 2023 : US\$82.3

CRUDE PALM OIL -per MT-



US\$828.2

23 Feb 2024

Highest 2023/2024

26 Jan 2024 : US\$842.2 3 Mar 2023 : US\$964.5

5 Jan 2024 : US\$791.5 2 Jun 2023 : US\$737.2

> Lowest 2023/2024

Average Price 2023 1: US\$842.3

RUBBER SMR 20 -per



US\$1,608.0 23 Feb 2024

Average Price 2023 1: US\$1,389.4

COCOA SMC 2 -per MT-



9.5%* US\$4,589.7 23 Feb 2024

Average Price 2023ⁱ: US\$2,136.7

SUGAR -per lbs-



23 Feb 2024



Average Price 2023 : US\$23.6

COAL -per MT-



1.1%* JS\$95.6 23 Feb 2024

Average Price 2023 : US\$127.0

SCRAP IRON HMS -per MT-



3.5%* (high)

2.7%* S\$344.1 (low)

December 2023

Average Price 2023 1: US\$389.3 (high) Average Price 2023 : US\$354.8 (low)

Domestic Prices December 2023



Steel Bars (per MT) RM2,745 - RM2,810



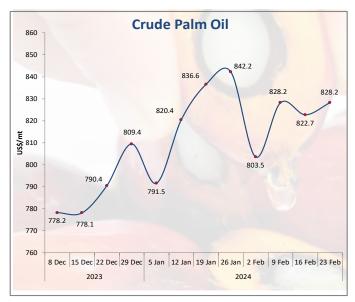
Notes: All figures have been rounded to the nearest decimal point

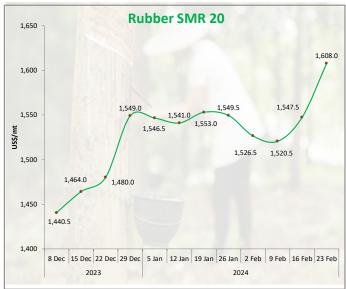
* Refer to % change from the previous week's price

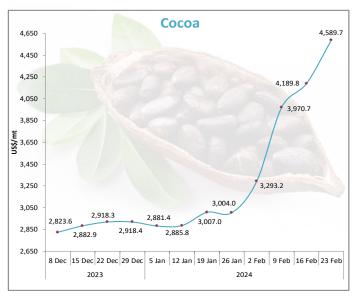
i Average price in the year except otherwise indicated

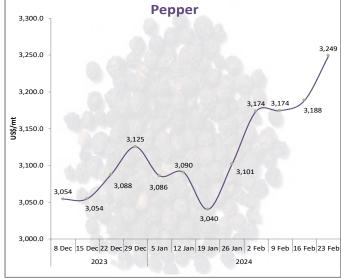
Sources: Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, Malaysian Palm Oil Board, Malaysian Rubber Board, Markets Insider, Malaysian Cocoa Board, Malaysian Iron and Steel Industry Federation, and International Sugar Organization.

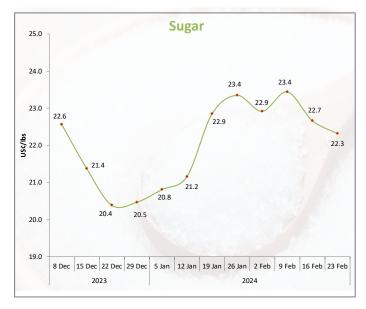
Commodity Price Trends

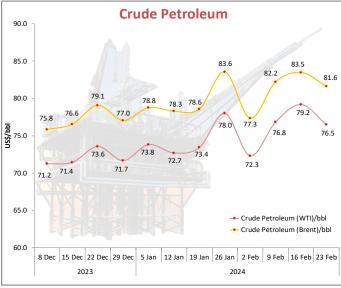






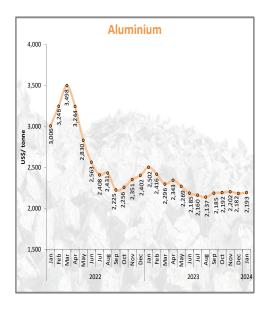


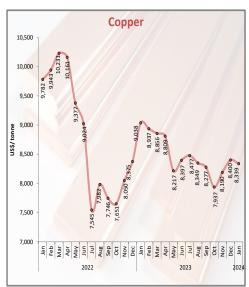


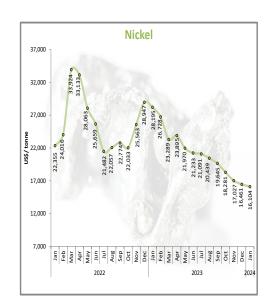


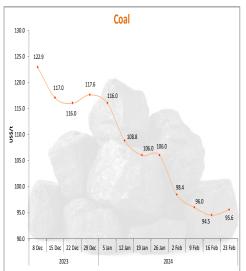
Sources: Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, Malaysian Palm Oil Board, Malaysian Rubber Board, Malaysian Cocoa Board, Malaysian Pepper Board, International Sugar Organization, Markets Insider.

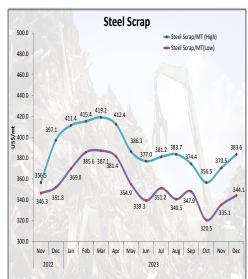
Commodity Price Trends

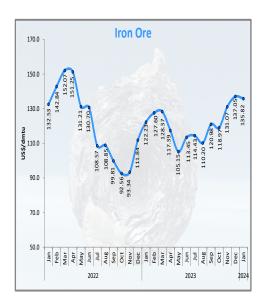


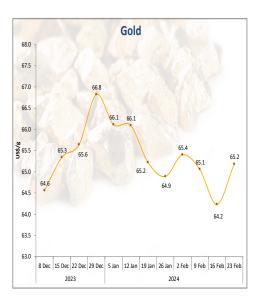


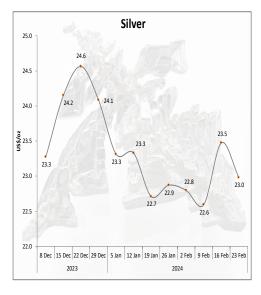


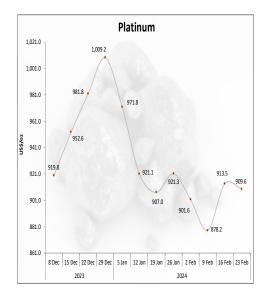












Sources: Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, Malaysian Iron and Steel Industry Federation, Markets Insider, World Bank, World Gold Council, The Wall Street Journal.

RCEP



RCEP

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement is designed to broaden and deepen ASEAN's engagement with Australia, China, Japan, Korea and New Zealand. The objective of the trade agreement is to establish a modern, comprehensive, high-quality, and mutually beneficial economic partnership that will facilitate the expansion of regional trade and investment and contribute to global economic growth and development in the region.



PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

The RCEP Agreement is created to establish a modern, comprehensive, high-quality, and mutually beneficial economic partnership that will facilitate the expansion of regional trade and investment and contribute to global economic growth and development amongst RCEP member

The single regional free trade agreement (FTA) is also intended to strengthen regional value chain for businesses in the region, particularly the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

It is designed to create and support an open. inclusive, and rules-based multilateral trading system, which will in turn create avenues for market and employment opportunities for businesses and people within the region

The trade agreement will allow businesses in RCEP member countries to gain access to a much wider regional market. Progressive elimination and reduction of customs duties for trade in goods as well as facilitation of export and import of goods among the RCEP countries will serve to enhance inter and intra-regional trade and investment whilst strengthening regional value

To serve as a vital economic tool to spur economic growth in the region. It will also allow more seamless opening of markets whilst creating uninterrupted supply chains within the region The trade agreement is also intended to help facilitate transparency, information exchange and better compliance for technical regulations and standards amongst RCEP member countries.

KEY FEATURES OF THE RCEP



Trade In Goods

Progressive elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers on substantially all trade in goods including the related chapters of rules of origin, customs procedures, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures and trade remedies in order to establish a free trade area among the parties.



Liberalisation of services sectors, including financial services, telecommunications services and movement of natural persons. The RCEP will be comprehensive, of high quality and substantially eliminate restrictions and/or discriminatory measures with respect to trade in services between the RCEP participating countries. Rules and obligations on trade in services under the RCEP will be consistent with the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS).



Promotion, facilitation, protection and liberalisation of investment. The RCEP will aim to create a liberal, facilitative, and competitive investment environment in the region based on these four pillars in order to create an enabling investment environment in the region along with improved investment facilitation provisions as well as investor aftercare

Economic & Technical Cooperation

The economic and technical cooperation provisions in the RCEP will build upon existing economic cooperation arrangements between ASEAN and ASEAN's FTA partners to narrow the development gaps amongst member countries. Under the RCEP agreement, cooperation activities will also intrude trade activities such as include e-commerce and other areas that would be mutually agreed upon by the RCEP participating countries.



Protection Of Intellectual Property Rights

Aimed at reducing IP-related barriers to trade and investment by promoting economic integration and cooperation in the utilization, protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights amongst RCEP member countries







MINISTRY OF INVESTMENT, TRADE AND INDUSTRY

INDUSTRY4WRD READINESS ASSESSMENT

Get your firm assessed. Be ready for Industry 4.0.

All you need to know about Industry4WRD RA



What is it?

Trained assessors will help you to understand your readiness for Industry 4.0 and make recommendations on where to start your transformation.

Who is eligible? Manufacturing and its related services



- Valid registration and business licences
- Company has at least 60% local equity
- In operation for more than 3 years

What are the benefits?







Identify areas of improvement in terms of people, process and technology.



Receive comprehensive readiness report.



Be entitled to apply for financial incentives.

Incentives for RA

- Government-funded assessment for eligible SMEs.
- Others will get tax exemption on RA fees up to RM27k.





Enquiries

- General: i4.0@miti.gov.my
- industry4wrd@ mpc.gov.my



Process Flow

A FEW SIMPLE STEPS







Evaluation by Committees



Onsite Assessment



Receive RA Report



Business Intervention



Develop Intervention Proposal



Apply for Financial Incentives



Implement the Intervention Plan









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