



**MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY
MALAYSIA**

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MALAYSIA EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS

**TRADE PERFORMANCE FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2017 AND THE
PERIOD OF JANUARY- FEBRUARY 2017 #**

Highest Trade, Exports and Imports Ever Recorded for the Month of February

Malaysia's **total trade in February 2017 expanded by 27.1%**, reaching RM134.83 billion compared to the same month last year. Expansion in trade were seen with all major trading partners, namely ASEAN, China, India, Japan, Taiwan, the European Union (EU) and the United States of America (USA).

Exports remained at a higher level, increasing by 26.5%, amounting to **RM71.77 billion**. This was the fourth consecutive month exports exceeded **RM70 billion** since **November 2016**, higher than the monthly average of **RM64 billion** recorded in the first ten months of 2016. Imports in February 2017 grew by **27.7%** to **RM63.06 billion** while trade surplus stood at **RM8.71 billion**, making it the **232nd** consecutive month of trade surplus since November 1997.

Total trade for the first two months of 2017 surged by **20.6%** to **RM270.63 billion** compared with **RM224.4 billion** in the corresponding period of 2016. Exports were higher by **19.8%** to **RM142.04 billion** while imports increased by **21.5%** to **RM128.59 billion**, resulting in trade surplus of **RM13.45 billion**.

On a month-on-month basis, exports rose by 2.1%, while imports and total trade posted a decline of 3.8% and 0.7%, respectively.

Export Performance of Major Sectors

In February 2017, double digit exports growth was registered for all major sectors, namely manufactured, mining, and agriculture goods.

Export Composition

Exports of **manufactured goods** grew by 24.3% to RM57.45 billion compared to February 2016, **accounting for 80% share of Malaysia's total exports**. The increase was contributed by higher exports of electrical and electronic (E&E) products, petroleum products, chemicals and chemical products as well as rubber products.

Exports of **mining goods** increased by 21.6% to RM6.83 billion. This was attributed mainly to higher exports of crude petroleum which expanded by 50.4% to RM2.36 billion. The increase in exports of crude petroleum in February 2017 was driven by higher Average Unit Value (AUV).

Exports of **agriculture goods** surged by 50.7% to RM6.78 billion, led by palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products. Exports of palm oil registered a double digit growth of 61.1% to RM3.97 billion, compared with RM2.47 billion in February last year due to higher volume and AUV.

Major exports in February 2017 were:

- E&E products, valued at RM24.57 billion and constituted 34.2% of total exports, increased by 22.4% from February 2016;
- Chemicals and chemical products, RM5.91 billion, 8.2% of total exports, increased by 37.5%;
- Petroleum products, RM5.21 billion, 7.3% of total exports, increased by 50.9%;
- Palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products, RM4.78 billion, 6.7% of total exports, increased by 63.5%; and

- Machinery, equipment and parts, RM3.33 billion, 4.6% of total exports, increased by 12.9%.

During the first two months of 2017, exports of **manufactured goods** expanded by 17.9% to RM114.2 billion, accounting for 80.4% share of Malaysia's total exports. Higher exports exceeding RM1 billion were registered for E&E products, petroleum products, as well as chemicals and chemical products.

Exports of **mining goods** expanded by 20.2% to RM13.52 billion. This was contributed mainly by increase in exports of crude petroleum which grew by 49.2% to RM4.85 billion.

Exports of **agriculture goods** rose by 32% to RM12.9 billion due to higher exports of palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products, particularly palm oil. Exports of palm oil registered a double digit growth of 38.4% to RM7.53 billion, compared to RM5.44 billion in the same period last year.

On a month-on-month basis, exports of manufactured goods increased by 1.2% or RM691.4 million, agricultural goods (↑10.6% or RM651.1 million) and mining goods (↑2.3% or RM152.8 million).

Performance of Major Markets

Trade with ASEAN Remained Strong

Trade with ASEAN in February 2017 grew by 36.1% to RM39.03 billion from a year ago. Exports expanded by 34% to RM21.55 billion, contributed mainly by significant growth in exports of manufactured good which grew by 31.1% to RM18.96 billion. Higher exports were recorded for petroleum products, E&E products, crude petroleum, chemicals and chemical products, machinery, equipment and parts, as well as palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products. **Exports to ASEAN accounted for 30% share of Malaysia's total export, compared to 28.4% registered in February 2016.**

Imports from ASEAN rose by 38.7% to RM17.48 billion, due to higher imports of petroleum products, E&E products and chemicals and chemical products.

In terms of markets, expansion in exports were recorded to all ASEAN countries. Breakdown of exports to ASEAN countries in February 2017 as follows:

- Singapore RM 9.96 billion, increased by 25.3%
- Thailand RM 4.26 billion, ↑29.7%
- Indonesia RM 3.48 billion, ↑71.9%
- Viet Nam RM 2.08 billion, ↑64.1%
- Philippines RM 1.20 billion, ↑9.9%
- Myanmar RM 310.2 million, ↑17.0%
- Brunei RM 177.4 million, ↑28.2%
- Cambodia RM 82.8 million, ↑31.8%
- Lao PDR RM 6.9 million, ↑40.8%

For the period of January to February 2017, trade with ASEAN expanded by 23.5% to RM76 billion while exports rose by 23.2% to RM42.47 billion. The increase in exports was attributed to petroleum products, E&E products, chemicals and chemical products, crude petroleum, as well as palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products. Meanwhile, imports from ASEAN grew by 23.8% to RM33.53 billion.

On a month-on-month basis, total trade, exports, and imports increased by 5.5%, 3% and 8.9% respectively.

China- Double Digit Growth in Trade, Exports and Imports

Trade with China in February 2017 increased by 28.9% to RM19.79 billion, contributing 14.7% share to Malaysia's total trade. Exports to China grew by 47.6% to RM9.57 billion, due to higher exports of E&E products, petroleum products, chemicals and chemical products, rubber products, liquified natural gas (LNG), as well as palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products. Imports from China amounted to RM10.22 billion, an increase of 15.3%.

Malaysia's trade with China for the first two months of 2017 expanded by 28.6% to RM43.14 billion. Exports rose by 39.6% to RM18.14 billion, while imports increased by 21.6% to RM24.99 billion. Higher exports were recorded for E&E products, chemicals and chemical products, petroleum products, as well as palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products.

On a month-on-month basis, exports to China rose by 11.7% while imports and total trade declined by 30.8% and 15.2%, respectively.

Expansion in Trade with the EU Driven by Higher Exports

In February 2017, trade with the EU amounted to RM12.7 billion, a growth of 11.2%. Exports to the region recorded a double digit growth of 26.6% to RM7.64 billion, supported by higher exports of E&E products, palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products, chemicals and chemical products, iron and steel products, as well as optical and scientific equipment. Imports declined by 6.1% to RM5.06 billion.

Among the top 10 EU markets, double digit export growth was recorded to 9 countries, namely the Netherlands (↑37.5%), Germany (↑20.7%), United Kingdom (↑26.5%), Belgium (↑43.7%), Italy (↑15.2%), Spain (↑98.8%), the Czech Republic (↑43.6%), Sweden (↑17.7%) and Hungary (↑81.1%).

In January to February 2017, total trade with the EU expanded by 10.5% to RM25.58 billion, compared to the corresponding period in 2016. Exports to the region increased by 19.1% to RM15.01 billion with higher exports were recorded for E&E products, chemicals and chemical products, palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products, as well as petroleum products. Imports grew marginally by 0.2% to RM10.57 billion.

Compared to January 2017, exports to the EU expanded by 3.6%, while imports and total trade contracted by 8.2% and 1.4%, respectively.

Exports to Japan Resilient

Total trade with Japan in February 2017 increased by 17.3% to RM11.84 billion. **Exports to Japan registered double digit growth for 2 consecutive months after posting a continuous year-on-year decline since July 2016.** Exports was valued at RM6.72 billion, an increase of 19.9%, attributed mainly to higher exports of E&E products and LNG. Imports from Japan rose by 13.9% to RM5.13 billion.

For the first two months of 2017, trade with Japan was valued at RM23.23 billion, an increase of 17.6%. Exports to Japan increased by 21.5% to RM13.51 billion due to higher exports of E&E products and LNG. Imports expanded by 12.4% to RM9.72 billion.

On a month-on-month basis, total trade and imports from Japan increased by 3.9% and 11.5%, respectively, while exports to Japan reduced by 1.2%.

Manufactured Goods Led Higher Trade with the USA

Trade with the USA increased by 8.6% to RM11.58 billion in February 2017. Higher exports was recorded, growing 13.2% to RM6.71 billion **driven mainly by exports of manufactured goods. Exports of manufactured goods accounted for 94.2% of Malaysia's total exports to the country.** Expansion in exports were recorded for E&E products, optical and scientific equipment, chemicals and chemical products, rubber products and wood products. Imports were higher by 2.8% to RM4.86 billion.

For the first two months of 2017, trade with the USA rose by 12% to RM24.02 billion. Exports expanded by 9.3% or RM1.14 billion to RM13.4 billion contributed mainly by higher exports of E&E products, machinery, equipment and parts, optical and scientific equipment, as well as rubber products. Imports increased by 15.5% to RM10.62 billion.

Compared to January 2017, exports to the USA increased marginally by 0.4%, while imports and total trade contracted by 15.5% and 6.9%, respectively.

Trade with FTA Partners

On a year-on-year basis, trade with Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners increased by 30.7% to RM86.28 billion, accounting for 64% share of Malaysia's total trade. Exports to FTA partners amounted to RM46.03 billion, an increase of 29.9% while imports from FTA partners increased by 31.6% to RM40.25 billion. Increases in exports were recorded to ASEAN, China, Japan, India, Turkey, New Zealand, Pakistan and Chile.

Double digit expansion in exports were recorded to some FTA partners, namely **India** which grew by 32.2% to RM2.77 billion, attributed to higher exports of crude petroleum, **Turkey** (↑82.1% to RM830.9 million, manufactures of metal), **New Zealand** (↑56% to RM344.6 million, crude petroleum), **Pakistan** (↑47.4% to RM312.7 million, palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products) and **Chile** (↑33.4% to RM57.4 million, wood products).

During January to February 2017, trade with FTA partners increased by 22.7% to RM172.92 billion. Exports and imports amounted to RM90.9 billion and RM82.02 billion, grew by 23.1% and 22.4%, respectively.

Compared to January 2017, exports to FTA partners rose by 2.6%, while imports and total trade contracted by 3.7% and 0.4%, respectively.

Imports

In February 2017, imports were higher by 27.7% to RM63.06 billion. The three main categories of imports by end use were:

- **Intermediate goods**, valued at RM38.48 billion or 61% share of total imports, increased by 39.9%, due mainly to higher imports of coal;
- **Capital goods** (RM7.29 billion, 11.6% share, ↑5.6%), due mainly to higher imports of air or gas compressors, hoods; and
- **Consumption goods** (RM4.57 billion, 7.3% share, ↓0.6%), with lower imports of food products.

During January to February 2017, imports were valued at RM128.59 billion, increased by 21.5% from the same period last year. Imports of **intermediate goods** amounted to RM76.86 billion, an expansion of 23.5%, **capital goods** (RM16.88 billion, ↑20.5%) and **consumption goods** (RM10.32 billion, ↓1.2%).

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, Wednesday, 5th April 2017 and can be downloaded through eStatistik at the Department of Statistics, Malaysia’s portal (<https://estatistik.dosm.gov.my>).”

+ *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 February 2017 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)
2016^P				
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
August	67,579.3	59,071.9	8,507.4	126,651.2
September	68,032.3	60,471.6	7,560.7	128,503.9
October	69,195.3	59,439.0	9,756.3	128,634.3
November	72,827.9	63,797.6	9,030.3	136,625.6
December	75,552.5	66,833.7	8,718.8	142,386.1
2016 (Jan-Dec)^P	785,934.8	698,662.3	87,272.5	1,484,597.2
2017^P				
January	70,269.8	65,529.6	4,740.2	135,799.5
February	71,769.7	63,061.0	8,708.7	134,830.8
2016 (Jan-Feb)^P	118,571.5	105,828.2	12,743.3	224,399.7
2017 (Jan-Feb)^P	142,039.6	128,590.7	13,448.9	270,630.3

Note: Total may not add up due to rounding.

TABLE 2: MAJOR EXPORT PRODUCTS

Products	Feb 2017 ^P	Jan 2017 ^P	Feb 2016 ^P
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million
Total Exports	71,769.7	70,269.8	56,719.7
Electrical & Electronic Products	24,570.9	24,908.3	20,076.8
Chemicals & Chemical Products	5,907.9	5,007.1	4,297.4
Petroleum Products	5,213.3	6,077.4	3,453.7
Palm Oil & Palm Oil-Based Agriculture Products	4,784.5	4,201.5	2,927.0
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	3,328.1	3,005.8	2,947.6
LNG	3,283.8	3,294.8	3,217.0
Manufactures of Metal	2,730.1	2,794.9	2,740.8
Optical & Scientific Equipment	2,381.8	2,432.8	2,084.4
Crude Petroleum	2,364.7	2,487.3	1,572.8
Rubber Products	2,054.2	1,941.7	1,484.6

TABLE 3: MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS

Countries	Feb 2017 ^P	Jan 2017 ^P	Feb 2016 ^P
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million
Total Exports	71,769.7	70,269.8	56,719.7
Singapore	9,956.3	10,680.0	7,943.6
China	9,572.1	8,570.2	6,485.7
Japan	6,715.7	6,794.3	5,600.4
USA	6,714.0	6,688.6	5,929.4
Thailand	4,255.0	4,124.0	3,280.8
Indonesia	3,475.4	2,243.0	2,022.3
Hong Kong SAR	2,863.1	3,035.9	2,671.1
India	2,773.1	2,490.5	2,097.4
Netherlands	2,296.4	2,150.5	1,670.0
Germany	2,157.2	2,109.0	1,786.6

TABLE 4: MAJOR EXPORT PRODUCTS (JANUARY- FEBRUARY)

Products	Jan-Feb 2017 ^P	Jan-Feb 2016 ^P
	RM Million	RM Million
Total Exports	142,039.6	118,571.5
Electrical & Electronic Products	49,479.2	42,427.2
Petroleum Products	11,290.6	6,807.3
Chemicals & Chemical Products	10,915.1	8,644.7
Palm Oil & Palm Oil- Based Agriculture Products	8,986.0	6,377.7
LNG	6,578.6	6,421.9
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	6,334.0	6,223.9
Manufactures of Metal	5,525.1	5,260.6
Crude Petroleum	4,852.0	3,252.2
Optical & Scientific Equipment	4,814.6	4,513.1
Rubber Products	3,995.8	3,143.0

TABLE 5: MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS (JANUARY- FEBRUARY)

Countries	Jan-Feb 2017 ^P	Jan-Feb 2016 ^P
	RM Million	RM Million
Total Exports	142,039.6	118,571.5
Singapore	20,636.3	16,945.2
China	18,142.3	12,996.3
Japan	13,510.1	11,115.6
USA	13,402.6	12,263.8
Thailand	8,379.0	7,326.8
Hong Kong SAR	5,899.0	5,564.2
Indonesia	5,718.4	4,311.9
India	5,263.5	4,660.2
Australia	5,100.1	4,216.0
Netherlands	4,446.9	3,476.5

TABLE 6: MAJOR IMPORT PRODUCTS

Products	Feb 2017 ^P	Jan 2017 ^P	Feb 2016 ^P
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million
Total Imports	63,061.0	65,529.6	49,368.1
Electrical & Electronic Products	17,500.5	19,560.6	15,355.6
Petroleum Products	6,218.8	5,512.9	3,339.7
Chemicals & Chemical Products	5,986.5	5,944.6	4,945.1
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	5,520.4	6,536.1	4,377.6
Manufactures of Metal	3,110.9	3,307.0	2,983.4
Transport Equipment	2,288.2	3,089.7	3,110.1
Iron & Steel Products	2,256.5	2,123.1	1,370.4
Optical & Scientific Equipment	1,862.3	1,977.4	1,538.1
Processed Food	1,624.5	1,627.6	1,262.9
Crude Petroleum	1,619.1	1,588.9	797.0

TABLE 7: MAJOR IMPORT SOURCES

Countries	Feb 2017 ^P	Jan 2017 ^P	Feb 2016 ^P
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million
Total Imports	63,061.0	65,529.6	49,368.1
China	10,220.0	14,773.3	8,867.2
Singapore	6,751.5	6,508.2	5,331.0
Japan	5,125.0	4,597.6	4,498.1
USA	4,864.3	5,753.2	4,733.4
Indonesia	3,988.9	3,446.8	2,249.4
Thailand	3,933.7	3,410.1	3,199.3
Taiwan	3,704.0	4,141.1	2,456.9
ROK	2,410.5	2,682.1	2,214.3
Australia	2,204.9	1,532.4	929.2
India	2,169.0	1,656.9	1,090.0

TABLE 8: MAJOR IMPORT PRODUCTS (JANUARY- FEBRUARY)

Products	Jan-Feb 2017 ^p	Jan-Feb 2016 ^p
	RM Million	RM Million
Total Imports	128,590.7	105,828.2
Electrical & Electronic Products	37,061.1	32,901.8
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	12,056.5	9,593.2
Chemicals & Chemical Products	11,931.1	10,319.8
Petroleum Products	11,731.7	7,311.3
Manufactures of Metal	6,417.9	6,366.4
Transport Equipment	5,377.9	5,546.5
Iron & Steel Products	4,379.6	3,090.2
Optical & Scientific Equipment	3,839.7	3,256.4
Processed Food	3,252.0	2,851.2
Crude Petroleum	3,208.0	1,523.3

TABLE 9: MAJOR IMPORT SOURCES (JANUARY- FEBRUARY)

Countries	Jan-Feb 2017 ^p	Jan-Feb 2016 ^p
	RM Million	RM Million
Total Imports	128,590.7	105,828.2
China	24,993.2	20,556.0
Singapore	13,259.7	11,885.6
USA	10,617.5	9,189.0
Japan	9,722.6	8,646.4
Taiwan	7,845.1	5,490.0
Indonesia	7,435.7	4,605.4
Thailand	7,343.8	6,628.5
ROK	5,092.5	5,061.9
India	3,825.9	2,678.6
Germany	3,796.8	3,802.2

Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia
 Tabulated by: MATRADE

Notes:

p - provisional data

CHART 1: MALAYSIA'S MONTHLY EXTERNAL TRADE PERFORMANCE, 2011-2017

