



**MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY
MALAYSIA**

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MALAYSIA EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS

**TRADE PERFORMANCE FOR APRIL 2019 AND THE PERIOD OF JANUARY-
APRIL 2019 #**

Trade Rebounded in April 2019

Malaysia's trade in April 2019 expanded by 2.6% to RM159.55 billion compared to April 2018. Higher trade was recorded with ASEAN, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, the United States (US), Japan, India and China.

Exports increased by 1.1% to RM85.2 billion after registering 2 consecutive year-on-year (y-o-y) declines since February 2019. This was also the highest export value ever recorded for the month of April. Imports rose by 4.4% to RM74.35 billion. Trade surplus was RM10.86 billion, lower by 16.6% and was the 258th consecutive month of trade surplus since November 1997.

On a month-on-month (m-o-m) basis, total trade, exports and imports increased by 3.8%, 1.4% and 6.7%, respectively. Trade surplus contracted by 24.5%.

In the first 4 months of 2019, total trade was still marginally lower by 0.4% to RM594.72 billion compared to the same period of 2018. Exports amounted to RM321.26 billion, a decrease of 0.2% while imports slipped by 0.7% to RM273.45 billion. Trade surplus grew by 3.1% to RM47.81 billion during the period.

Export Performance of Major Sectors

Exports of Manufactured Goods Expanded by RM1.94 billion in April 2019

Exports of manufactured goods in April 2019 which accounted for 85.1% of total exports expanded by 2.7% to RM72.49 billion. This was contributed by higher exports of electrical and electronic (E&E) products, petroleum products, optical and scientific equipment, iron and steel products as well as processed food.

Exports of mining goods (7.8% share) was recorded lower by 1.5% to RM6.66 billion, mainly as a result of lower exports of crude petroleum due to lower volume. Exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) however increased, attributed to an expansion in volume and Average Unit Value (AUV).

Exports of agriculture goods (6.4% share) fell by 9.3% to RM5.45 billion. This was mainly on account of lower exports of palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products, primarily palm oil which decreased by 17.3% to RM3.07 billion following lower volume and AUV.

Major exports in April 2019:

- E&E products, valued at RM33.1 billion and constituted 38.9% of total exports, increased by 3.9% from April 2018;
- Petroleum products, RM7.14 billion, 8.4% of total exports, increased by 11.6%;
- Chemicals and chemical products, RM4.76 billion, 5.6% of total exports, increased by 3.9%;
- Manufactures of metal, RM3.63 billion, 4.3% of total exports, decreased by 23%; and

- LNG, RM3.6 billion, 4.2% of total exports, increased by 26.3%.

Compared to March 2019, exports of manufactured goods rose by 2.4% while exports of mining and agriculture goods declined by 7.6% and 0.4%, respectively.

During the first 4 months of 2019, exports of manufactured goods grew by 0.9% to RM269.39 billion compared to the same period of 2018, owing to an increase in exports of E&E products, chemicals and chemical products, optical and scientific equipment, iron and steel products, jewellery as well as processed food. Exports of mining goods increased by 2.5% to RM28.63 billion, supported by higher exports of LNG. Exports of agriculture goods fell by 11.7% to RM21.04 billion, as a result of lower exports of palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products.

Trade Performance with Major Markets

Trade with ASEAN Expanded in April 2019

Trade with ASEAN in April 2019 which accounted for 26.5% of Malaysia's total trade or RM42.23 billion, grew by 2% y-o-y. Exports to ASEAN expanded by 7.2% to RM25.63 billion, boosted by higher exports of E&E products, petroleum products (refined petroleum products), iron and steel products, petroleum condensates and other petroleum oil as well as machinery, equipment and parts. Imports from ASEAN contracted by 5.1% to RM16.6 billion.

Breakdown of exports to ASEAN countries:

- Singapore RM12.21 billion, increased by 11.3%
- Thailand RM5.17 billion, ↑1.2%
- Viet Nam RM3.39 billion, ↑16.9%
- Indonesia RM2.68 billion, ↓3.0%
- Philippines RM1.49 billion, ↓0.7%
- Cambodia RM268.5 million, ↑42.1%
- Brunei RM222.9 million, ↑14.3%
- Myanmar RM197.7 million, ↓27.4%
- Lao PDR RM2.7 million, ↓10.5%

Exports to major markets in ASEAN that recorded expansion were **Singapore**, which increased by RM1.24 billion due to higher exports of petroleum products, **Thailand** (↑RM59.5 million, E&E products) and **Viet Nam** (↑RM491.3 million, E&E products).

On a m-o-m basis, trade and exports rose by 2.7% and 8.6% respectively, while imports were down by 5.3%.

In January-April 2019, trade with ASEAN was lower by 2.6% to RM158.2 billion compared to the same period of 2018. Exports to this region expanded by 1.4% to RM92.93 billion, supported by higher exports of E&E products, LNG, iron and steel products, optical and scientific equipment as well as petroleum condensates and other petroleum oil. Imports were lower by 7.8% to RM65.27 billion.

Trade with China Picked Up in April 2019

In April 2019, trade with China which made up 16.7% of Malaysia's total trade rose by 1.4% y-o-y to RM26.63 billion. Exports contracted by 6.9% to RM11.55 billion underpinned by lower exports of E&E products, petroleum products as well as metalliferous ores and metal scrap. However, increases in exports were recorded for optical and scientific equipment, LNG, paper and pulp products, iron and steel products as well as processed food. Imports from China was up by 8.8% to RM15.08 billion.

Compared to March 2019, trade and imports were higher by 4.7% and 9.6% respectively, while exports were down by 1.1%.

Trade with China in January to April 2019 rose by 3.6% to RM98.65 billion compared to the same period of 2018. Exports to China expanded by 2.8% to RM42.75 billion, attributed to higher exports of LNG, chemicals and chemical products, palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products, iron and steel products as well as paper and pulp products. Imports from China totalled RM55.91 billion, 4.3% higher from April 2018.

Exports of E&E to the EU Increased in April 2019

Total trade with the European Union (EU) which comprised 9.7% of Malaysia's total trade in April 2019, shrank by 4.3% y-o-y to RM15.45 billion. Exports slipped by 8.6% to RM8.16 billion on account of lower exports of manufactures of metal, palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products, chemicals and chemical products, textiles, apparels and footwear as well as iron and steel products. However, increase in exports was recorded for E&E products by 5.3%, accounting for 51.7% of Malaysia's total exports to the EU. Other products which registered growth in exports were optical and scientific equipment, machinery, equipment and parts, petroleum products as well as processed food. Imports from the EU increased by 1% to RM7.29 billion.

Among the top 10 EU markets which accounted for 91.1% of Malaysia's total exports to the EU, exports to 6 countries recorded increases namely, **Germany** (↑0.8%), **the United Kingdom (UK)** (↑9.4%), **France** (↑6%), **Belgium** (↑4.3%), **Hungary** (↑3%) and **Slovenia** (↑56.3%).

On a m-o-m basis, imports expanded by 4.9% while trade and exports were lower by 0.7% and 5.3%, respectively.

For the first 4 months of 2019, trade with the EU dipped by 3.5% to RM59.66 billion compared to the same period of 2018. Exports contracted by 1.7% to RM33.19 billion on lower exports of manufactures of metal, palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products, iron and steel products as well as textiles, apparels and footwear. Meanwhile, increases in exports were recorded for E&E products, petroleum products, machinery, equipment and parts as well as optical and scientific equipment. Imports from the EU contracted by 5.7% to RM26.46 billion.

Manufactured Goods Boosted Exports to the US

Trade with the US in April 2019 grew by 3.4% y-o-y to RM13.27 billion, constituting 8.3% of Malaysia's total trade. Exports expanded by 3.1% to RM7.72 billion on the back of higher exports of manufactured goods which made up 98% of total exports to

the US. Increased exports were recorded for E&E products, optical and scientific equipment, manufactures of metal, processed food as well as rubber products. Imports from the US expanded by 3.9% to RM5.55 billion.

Compared to March 2019, exports grew by 1.1% while trade and imports decreased by 1.4% and 4.7%, respectively.

During the first 4 months of 2019, trade with the US was valued at RM51.19 billion, an increase of 1.5% compared to the same period of 2018. Exports expanded marginally by 0.03% to RM29.62 billion due to higher exports of E&E products, optical and scientific equipment, rubber products, manufactures of plastics, wood products as well as processed food. Imports from the US was higher by 3.5% to RM21.57 billion.

Exports to Japan Up by 7.7% in April 2019

In April 2019, trade with Japan which accounted for 6.9% of Malaysia's total trade increased by 4.1% y-o-y to RM11.03 billion. Exports surged by 7.7% to RM5.41 billion after registering 5 consecutive y-o-y declines since November 2018, driven mainly by a rise in exports of LNG. Other products which registered increases in exports were processed food, iron and steel products, transport equipment, metalliferous ores and metal scrap, non-metallic mineral products as well as machinery, equipment and parts. Imports from Japan grew by 0.8% to RM5.63 billion.

On a m-o-m basis, trade and imports rose by 0.6% and 11.4% respectively, while exports contracted by 8.6%.

For the period of January to April 2019, trade with Japan declined by 2.9% to RM43.69 billion compared to the same period of 2018. Exports to Japan contracted by 3.6% to RM23.39 billion on lower exports of LNG, crude petroleum as well as optical and scientific equipment. Higher exports however were registered for transport equipment, processed food as well as non-metallic mineral products. Imports from Japan slipped by 2% to RM20.3 billion.

Trade with FTA Partners

In April 2019, trade with Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners which accounted for 61.3% of Malaysia's total trade expanded by 2.7% to RM97.74 billion. Exports to FTA partners amounted to RM51.97 billion, an increase of 2.4% y-o-y and imports rose by 3.2% to RM45.77 billion.

Increases in exports were recorded to **India**, up by 6.7% to RM3.2 billion, attributed mainly to higher exports of palm oil and palm oil based agriculture products, **Republic of Korea (ROK)** (↑5.7% to RM2.47 billion, LNG), **Australia** (↑4.2% to RM2.3 billion, petroleum products) and **Chile** (↑36.3% to RM92.2 million, chemicals and chemical products).

Compared to March 2019, trade, exports and imports rose by 3.1%, 0.6% and 6.1%, respectively.

Trade with FTA partners for the first 4 months of 2019 which accounted for 61.8% of Malaysia's total trade reduced by 0.9% to RM367.36 billion. Exports during this period amounted to RM197.21 billion, an increase of 0.5% while imports totalled RM170.15 billion, a decline of 2.4%.

Import Performance

Total imports in April 2019 grew by 4.4% y-o-y to RM74.35 billion from RM71.23 billion in April 2018. The three main categories of imports by end use which accounted for 75.6% of total imports were:

- **Intermediate goods**, valued at RM40.73 billion or 54.8% share of total imports, increased by 20.3%, following higher imports of processed industrial supplies, particularly aluminium and articles thereof;

- **Capital goods**, valued at RM8.87 billion or 11.9% of total imports, up by 5.7%, due mainly to higher imports of capital goods (except transport equipment) particularly electrical machinery, equipment and parts; and
- **Consumption goods**, valued at RM6.62 billion or 8.9% of total imports, surged by 18.9%, as a result of higher imports of non-durables mainly for essential oils and resinoids; perfumery, cosmetic or toilet preparations.

During January-April 2019, imports valued at RM273.45 billion, a decline of 0.7% from the same period of 2018. **Intermediate goods** totalled RM148.09 billion, increased by 4.9%, **capital goods** (RM32.76 billion, ↓6.1%) and **consumption goods** (RM23.59 billion, ↑5.5%).

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, Monday, 3rd June 2019 and can be downloaded through statistic at the Department of Statistics, Malaysia’s portal (<https://www.dosm.gov.my/v1>).

+ *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 April 2019 data is provisional and subject to revision in later issue.

With effect from reference month April 2018, selection of codes for exports and imports of palm oil and palm oil-based products has been reviewed and revised for better representation of the product and this has resulted in some changes to the data.

FTA partners comprises of China, Singapore, Japan, Thailand, Republic of Korea, Indonesia, India, Australia, Viet Nam, Philippines, New Zealand, Turkey, Pakistan, Myanmar, Cambodia, Brunei, Chile and Lao PDR.

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)
2018^P				
January	82,820.1	73,152.8	9,667.3	155,972.8
February	70,342.6	61,325.0	9,017.6	131,667.5
March	84,467.0	69,778.7	14,688.3	154,245.7
April	84,246.7	71,225.2	13,021.5	155,472.0
May	82,110.4	73,993.6	8,116.8	156,104.0
June	78,610.8	72,609.9	6,000.9	151,220.7
July	86,154.4	77,827.4	8,327.0	163,981.8
August	81,810.2	80,197.1	1,613.1	162,007.3
September	82,953.0	67,720.0	15,233.0	150,673.0
October	96,363.9	80,050.5	16,313.4	176,414.4
November	84,861.0	77,018.6	7,842.4	161,879.6
December	83,538.4	72,861.9	10,676.4	156,400.3
2018 (Jan-Dec)^P	998,278.4	877,760.7	120,517.6	1,876,039.1
2019^P				
January	85,399.9	73,885.7	11,514.2	159,285.5
February	66,599.5	55,543.1	11,056.4	122,142.5
March	84,063.2	69,678.9	14,384.2	153,742.1
April	85,201.8	74,345.6	10,856.2	159,547.4
Change m-o-m (%)	1.4	6.7	-24.5	3.8
Change y-o-y (%)	1.1	4.4	-16.6	2.6
2018 (Jan-Apr) ^P	321,876.4	275,481.6	46,394.7	597,358.0
2019 (Jan-Apr)^P	321,264.3	273,453.3	47,811.0	594,717.6
Change (%)	-0.2	-0.7	3.1	-0.4

Note: Total may not add up due to rounding.

TABLE 2: MAJOR EXPORT PRODUCTS

Products	Apr 2019 ^p	Mar 2019 ^p	Apr 2018 ^p	Change m-o-m	Change y-o-y
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million	%	%
Total Exports	85,201.8	84,063.2	84,246.7	1.4	1.1
Electrical & Electronic Products	33,103.8	31,239.4	31,854.7	6.0	3.9
Petroleum Products	7,138.7	6,268.0	6,395.9	13.9	11.6
Chemicals & Chemical Products	4,756.3	5,038.7	4,579.3	-5.6	3.9
Manufactures of Metal	3,628.9	3,633.5	4,711.5	-0.1	-23.0
LNG	3,595.1	3,870.3	2,845.4	-7.1	26.3
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	3,520.1	3,665.0	3,491.5	-4.0	0.8
Palm Oil & Palm Oil-Based Agriculture Products	3,487.6	3,556.1	4,187.3	-1.9	-16.7
Optical & Scientific Equipment	3,370.0	3,460.1	2,820.4	-2.6	19.5
Rubber Products	2,192.7	2,279.0	2,156.6	-3.8	1.7
Crude Petroleum	1,891.7	2,404.8	2,894.3	-21.3	-34.6

TABLE 3: MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS

Markets	Apr 2019 ^p	Mar 2019 ^p	Apr 2018 ^p	Change m-o-m	Change y-o-y
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million	%	%
Total Exports	85,201.8	84,063.2	84,246.7	1.4	1.1
Singapore	12,207.9	10,477.6	10,966.3	16.5	11.3
China	11,547.7	11,674.2	12,404.7	-1.1	-6.9
USA	7,717.5	7,630.9	7,486.3	1.1	3.1
Hong Kong SAR	6,411.9	5,588.8	6,403.9	14.7	0.1
Japan	5,407.3	5,919.1	5,018.9	-8.6	7.7
Thailand	5,170.7	5,420.3	5,111.2	-4.6	1.2
Viet Nam	3,391.6	3,073.3	2,900.2	10.4	16.9
India	3,201.9	3,539.1	3,001.3	-9.5	6.7
Taiwan	3,196.1	2,975.2	2,886.1	7.4	10.7
Indonesia	2,679.4	2,555.0	2,762.3	4.9	-3.0

TABLE 4: MAJOR EXPORT PRODUCTS (JANUARY-APRIL)

Products	Jan-Apr 2019 ^P	Jan-Apr 2018 ^P	Change
	RM Million	RM Million	%
Total Exports	321,264.3	321,876.4	-0.2
Electrical & Electronic Products	124,446.8	119,979.3	3.7
Petroleum Products	22,330.7	23,834.3	-6.3
Chemicals & Chemical Products	18,889.0	17,961.7	5.2
LNG	15,775.1	12,798.8	23.3
Palm Oil & Palm Oil- Based Agriculture Products	13,804.9	16,587.9	-16.8
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	13,270.1	13,859.7	-4.3
Manufactures of Metal	13,052.3	14,913.0	-12.5
Optical & Scientific Equipment	12,095.4	11,261.4	7.4
Crude Petroleum	8,664.5	11,434.5	-24.2
Rubber Products	8,453.2	8,589.2	-1.6

TABLE 5: MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS (JANUARY- APRIL)

Markets	Jan-Apr 2019 ^P	Jan-Apr 2018 ^P	Change
	RM Million	RM Million	%
Total Exports	321,264.3	321,876.4	-0.2
Singapore	43,956.0	43,128.8	1.9
China	42,745.3	41,588.9	2.8
USA	29,619.9	29,611.6	0.0
Japan	23,390.1	24,266.4	-3.6
Hong Kong SAR	22,447.2	24,311.4	-7.7
Thailand	20,181.5	18,738.8	7.7
India	12,352.9	12,420.2	-0.5
Viet Nam	11,316.7	11,180.0	1.2
Taiwan	11,077.7	9,288.6	19.3
ROK	10,786.2	10,197.2	5.8

TABLE 6: MAJOR IMPORT PRODUCTS

Products	Apr 2019 ^p	Mar 2019 ^p	Apr 2018 ^p	Change m-o-m	Change y-o-y
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million	%	%
Total Imports	74,345.6	69,678.9	71,225.2	6.7	4.4
Electrical & Electronic Products	20,390.3	20,852.4	20,960.6	-2.2	-2.7
Petroleum Products	7,305.5	6,344.9	7,735.1	15.1	-5.6
Chemicals & Chemical Products	7,222.6	6,869.0	6,539.6	5.1	10.4
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	6,137.4	5,392.4	6,163.8	13.8	-0.4
Manufactures of Metal	4,121.8	3,614.4	3,425.1	14.0	20.3
Transport Equipment	3,507.4	3,550.9	3,699.8	-1.2	-5.2
Crude Petroleum	2,805.9	2,083.2	1,712.7	34.7	63.8
Iron & Steel Products	2,470.1	2,285.2	2,501.4	8.1	-1.3
Optical & Scientific Equipment	2,036.0	2,054.2	1,852.1	-0.9	9.9
Processed Food	1,864.4	1,610.4	1,518.3	15.8	22.8

TABLE 7: MAJOR IMPORT SOURCES

Sources	Apr 2019 ^p	Mar 2019 ^p	Apr 2018 ^p	Change m-o-m	Change y-o-y
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million	%	%
Total Imports	74,345.6	69,678.9	71,225.2	6.7	4.4
China	15,080.5	13,762.3	13,865.8	9.6	8.8
Singapore	6,893.9	7,826.6	8,174.9	-11.9	-15.7
Japan	5,626.9	5,052.2	5,580.0	11.4	0.8
USA	5,551.3	5,825.7	5,340.5	-4.7	3.9
Taiwan	5,124.2	4,690.0	4,969.2	9.3	3.1
Thailand	3,723.9	3,955.5	3,732.6	-5.9	-0.2
Indonesia	3,301.7	2,930.3	3,081.3	12.7	7.2
ROK	3,071.1	3,207.3	2,906.1	-4.2	5.7
India	2,437.5	1,297.7	2,266.5	87.8	7.5
Saudi Arabia	2,342.5	1,827.1	1,647.9	28.2	42.1

TABLE 8: MAJOR IMPORT PRODUCTS (JANUARY-APRIL)

Products	Jan-Apr 2019 ^p	Jan-Apr 2018 ^p	Change
	RM Million	RM Million	%
Total Imports	273,453.3	275,481.6	-0.7
Electrical & Electronic Products	80,408.1	82,099.5	-2.1
Chemicals & Chemical Products	26,724.1	25,437.0	5.1
Petroleum Products	23,053.6	26,342.0	-12.5
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	22,738.7	24,296.4	-6.4
Manufactures of Metal	14,908.8	14,978.6	-0.5
Transport Equipment	13,480.9	14,880.2	-9.4
Iron & Steel Products	9,451.9	9,656.5	-2.1
Crude Petroleum	9,064.6	5,864.1	54.6
Optical & Scientific Equipment	7,390.9	7,203.3	2.6
Processed Food	6,661.7	6,294.9	5.8

TABLE 9: MAJOR IMPORT SOURCES (JANUARY- APRIL)

Sources	Jan-Apr 2019 ^p	Jan-Apr 2018 ^p	Change
	RM Million	RM Million	%
Total Imports	273,453.3	275,481.6	-0.7
China	55,905.6	53,618.0	4.3
Singapore	28,296.4	32,872.6	-13.9
USA	21,574.1	20,847.0	3.5
Japan	20,299.0	20,709.1	-2.0
Taiwan	18,957.3	18,264.5	3.8
Thailand	15,033.4	15,342.1	-2.0
Indonesia	12,010.0	12,680.8	-5.3
ROK	11,839.0	11,881.4	-0.4
Germany	8,662.3	8,755.6	-1.1
Saudi Arabia	7,579.6	4,526.0	67.5

Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia
 Tabulated by: MATRADE

Notes:

p - provisional data

CHART 1: MALAYSIA'S MONTHLY EXTERNAL TRADE PERFORMANCE, 2013 – APRIL 2019

