

MINISTRY OF INVESTMENT, TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Embargo until 1200 hours, Tuesday, 19th September 2023

MALAYSIA EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS

TRADE PERFORMANCE FOR AUGUST 2023 AND THE PERIOD OF JANUARY-AUGUST 2023

40th Consecutive Month of Trade Surplus

Malaysia registered the 40th consecutive month of trade surplus in August 2023, registering a year-on-year (y-o-y) growth of 0.1% to RM17.31 billion. Total trade decreased by 19.8% to RM213.01 billion amid slower global demand and lower commodity prices. Exports was lower by 18.6% to RM115.16 billion and imports edged down by 21.2% to RM97.85 billion. The performance was similar to Malaysia's key trading partners notably the Republic of Korea (ROK), China, Taiwan and Indonesia which recorded negative trade growth for August 2023 and drop in their global imports.

Compared to July 2023, trade, exports, imports and trade surplus contracted by 1.5%, 1.4%, 1.6% and 0.3%, respectively.

For the period of January to August 2023, trade reduced by 8.1% to RM1.718 trillion compared to the same period of last year. Exports shrank by 7.6% to RM935.22 billion, imports slipped by 8.6% to RM782.29 billion and trade surplus fell by 2% to RM152.92 billion, respectively.

Export Performance of Major Sectors

Manufactured Goods Contributed 85.4% to Total Exports

In August 2023, exports of manufactured goods which accounted for 85.4% or RM98.36 billion of total exports dropped by 17.7% y-o-y following reduced demand for electrical and electronic (E&E) products, petroleum products as well as palm oil-based manufactured products. Meanwhile, export growth was registered for paper and pulp products as well as processed food.

Exports of mining goods (7.3% share) was lower by 23.1% y-o-y to RM8.46 billion due to reduced exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and crude petroleum.

Exports of agriculture goods (6.6% share) decreased by 27.1% to RM7.61 billion compared to August 2022 owing to slower exports of palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products that was affected significantly by weaker export prices of palm oil.

Major exports in August 2023:

- E&E products, valued at RM43.38 billion and accounted for 37.7% of total exports, decreased by 15.3% compared to August 2022;
- Petroleum products, RM12.44 billion, 10.8% of total exports, ↓38.6%;
- Chemicals and chemical products, RM5.99 billion, 5.2% of total exports, ↓10%;
- Palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products, RM5.56 billion, 4.8% of total exports, 131.9%; and
- Machinery, equipment and parts, RM5.06 billion, 4.4% of total exports, ↓9.9%.

On a month-on-month (m-o-m) basis, exports of mining and agriculture goods rose by 15.3% and 0.7%, respectively while exports of manufactured goods edged down by 3%.

For the period of January to August 2023, exports of manufactured goods contracted by 5.9% to RM800.62 billion compared to the same period of 2022 following decreased exports of palm oil-based manufactured products, manufactures of metal and rubber

products. However, strong exports of paper and pulp products, processed food as well as E&E products cushioned the impact of the decline.

Exports of mining goods slipped by 9.1% to RM68.27 billion on lower shipments of crude petroleum, LNG as well as petroleum condensates and other petroleum oil.

Exports of agriculture goods fell by 25.8% to RM60.81 billion, due to slower exports of palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products following decrease in export prices of palm oil.

Trade Performance with Major Markets

ASEAN Comprised 27.9% of Total Trade

In August 2023, trade with ASEAN comprised 27.9% or RM59.46 billion of Malaysia's total trade, dropped by 16.3% y-o-y. Exports weakened by 20.6% to RM33.48 billion as a result of reduced exports of petroleum products and E&E products. Meanwhile, higher exports was recorded for machinery, equipment and parts as well as LNG. Imports from ASEAN eased by 9.9% to RM25.98 billion.

Breakdown of exports to ASEAN countries:

•	Singapore	RM16.81 billion, decreased by 19.3%;
•	Thailand	RM4.53 billion, \22.3%;
•	Viet Nam	RM4.35 billion, †23.4%;
•	Indonesia	RM4.00 billion, ↓40.3%;
•	Philippines	RM2.98 billion, †12.6%;
•	Brunei	RM426.0 million, ↓46.0%;
•	Myanmar	RM204.8 million, \$\\$5.3%;
•	Cambodia	RM168.0 million, ↓59.9%; and
•	Lao PDR	RM17.0 million, ↓66.6%.

Exports to ASEAN major markets that recorded double-digit growth was **Viet Nam** which grew by RM825.7 million and **the Philippines**, increased by RM333.8 million supported by strong exports of petroleum products, respectively.

Compared to July 2023, trade, exports and imports decreased by 2.3%, 3.2% and 1.1%, respectively.

For the period of January to August 2023, trade with ASEAN was lower by 7.5% to RM475.32 billion compared to the corresponding period of 2022. Exports edged down by 6.3% to RM278.73 billion due to slower shipment of chemicals and chemical products, petroleum products as well as palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products. The contraction however was softened by higher exports of non-metallic mineral products as well as jewellery. Imports from ASEAN contracted by 9.1% to RM196.59 billion.

China – Trade Was Lower in August 2023

In August 2023, trade with China which absorbed 16.7% or RM35.65 billion of Malaysia's total trade reduced by 18.7% y-o-y. Exports to China fell by 20.3% to RM14.72 billion on lower exports of E&E products and LNG. Nonetheless, export growth was posted for paper and pulp products as well as petroleum products. Imports from China shrank by 17.5% to RM20.94 billion.

Compared to July 2023, imports expanded by 2.8% while trade and exports were down by 4.1% and 12.4%, respectively.

Trade with China during the first eight months of 2023 slipped by 8.7% to RM288.51 billion compared to the same period of 2022. Exports fell by 8.6% to RM123.6 billion on account of decreased exports of iron and steel products, E&E products as well as palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products. Despite the contraction, higher exports was posted for paper and pulp products as well as metalliferous ores and metal scrap. Imports from China dropped by 8.7% to RM164.9 billion.

The US – Absorbed 9.7% of Total Exports

Trade with the United States (US) in August 2023 which constituted 9.7% of Malaysia's total trade weakened by 15.7% y-o-y to RM20.68 billion. Exports reduced by 9.7% to RM13.52 billion following lower demand for E&E products and petroleum products.

However, expansion in exports was recorded for iron and steel products as well as chemicals and chemical products. Imports from the US eased by 25.1% to RM7.16 billion.

On a m-o-m basis, trade, exports and imports dipped by 2.7%, 0.5% and 6.7%, respectively.

For the period of January to August 2023, trade with the US decreased by 6.8% to RM160.29 billion compared to the same period of 2022. Exports was lower by 2.7% to RM104.66 billion attributed to reduced exports of wood products, rubber products as well as iron and steel products. On the contrary, expansion in exports was registered mainly for E&E products. Imports from the US edged down by 13.8% to RM55.62 billion.

The EU – Exports of E&E Products Remained Steady

In August 2023, trade with the European Union (EU) contributed 8.2% to Malaysia's total trade, grew by 0.6% y-o-y to RM17.49 billion. Exports reduced by 4.6% to RM9.57 billion underpinned by lower shipment of petroleum products, palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products as well as machinery, equipment and parts. Meanwhile, export growth was registered for E&E products as well as iron and steel products. Imports from the EU increased by 7.7% to RM7.92 billion.

Breakdown of exports to the top 10 EU markets which accounted for 92.1% of Malaysia's total exports to the region were:

•	Netherlands	RM3.22 billion, increased by 5.7%;
•	Germany	RM2.48 billion, ↓1.9%;
•	Belgium	RM807.7 million, ↑4.0%;
•	Italy	RM596.6 million, ↓4.7%;
•	Spain	RM529.4 million, †50.9%;
•	France	RM520.4 million, ↓34.7%;
•	Poland	RM223.3 million, ↓37.5%;
•	Czech Republic	RM192.9 million, ↓41.1%;
•	Hungary	RM130.6 million, ↓32.6%; and
•	Sweden	RM116.0 million, ↓16.5%.

Exports to the EU major markets that recorded growth were **the Netherlands**, which increased by RM172.5 million due to strong exports of E&E products, **Belgium** (†RM30.9 million, iron and steel products) and **Spain** (†RM178.6 million, palm oil-based manufactured products).

Compared to July 2023, trade, exports and imports grew by 3.9%, 6.4% and 1.1%, respectively.

In January to August 2023, trade with the EU slipped by 3.8% to RM136.12 billion compared to the same period of 2022. Exports decreased by 10.2% to RM74.6 billion owing to lower exports of palm oil and palm oil-based products as well as rubber products while higher demand was seen for optical and scientific equipment, processed food as well as paper and pulp products. Imports from the EU was up by 5.2% to RM61.53 billion.

Japan – Trade and Exports Grew M-o-M

In August 2023, trade with Japan which made up 5.9% or RM12.62 billion of Malaysia's total trade fell by 25.7% y-o-y. Exports dropped by 19.3% to RM7.43 billion following lower shipment of LNG, petroleum products as well as E&E products. However, the decline was offset by strong exports of crude petroleum as well as manufactures of metal. Imports from Japan weakened by 33.2% to RM5.19 billion.

On a m-o-m basis, trade and exports rose by 11.4% and 28.1%, respectively while imports contracted by 6.2%.

For the first eight months of 2023, trade with Japan dipped by 12% to RM104.04 billion compared to the corresponding period of 2022. Exports decreased by 10.1% to RM56.93 billion on slower exports of LNG as well as petroleum products. Conversely, higher demand was recorded for crude petroleum and optical and scientific equipment. Imports from Japan was lower by 14.2% to RM47.11 billion.

Trade with FTA Partners

In August 2023, trade with Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners which took up 67.5% or RM143.71 billion of Malaysia's total trade edged down by 17.7% y-o-y. Exports to FTA partners contracted by 18.6% to RM79.47 billion and imports reduced by 16.6% to RM64.24 billion.

In term of markets, increases in exports were recorded to **Australia** which expanded by 12.6% to RM4.29 billion boosted by solid exports of petroleum products. Additionally, exports to **Turkiye** rose by 24.1% to RM1.83 billion bolstered by higher exports of iron and steel products.

Compared to July 2023, imports climbed by 0.1% while trade and exports shrank by 1.7% and 3.1%, respectively.

Trade with FTA partners during the first eight months of 2023 slipped by 7.8% to RM1.162 trillion compared to the same period of last year. Exports fell by 5.9% to RM654.89 billion and imports dropped by 10.1% to RM507.31 billion.

Import Performance

Total imports in August 2023 was lower by 21.2% y-o-y to RM97.85 billion. The three main categories of imports by end use, which accounted for 72.3% of total imports were:

- Intermediate goods, valued at RM51.45 billion or 52.6% of total imports, decreased by 22.6% y-o-y, following lower imports of processed fuel and lubricants;
- Capital goods, valued at RM10.71 billion or 10.9% of total imports, expanded by 5.4%, due to higher imports of non-transport capital goods; and
- **Consumption goods,** valued at RM8.53 billion or 8.7% of total imports, contracted by 5.4%, driven by lower imports of non-durables.

During the period of January to August 2023, imports edged down by 8.6% to RM782.29 billion compared to the corresponding period of 2022. Imports of intermediate goods contracted by 15.6% to RM399.42 billion compared to the same period last year, capital goods (†1.2% to RM78.17 billion) and consumption goods (†1.3% to RM67.02 billion).

Notes:

- 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 on Wednesday, 27th September 2023 and can be downloaded through statistic at the Department of Statistics, Malaysia's portal (https://newss.statistics.gov.my/newss-portalx/ep/epLogin.seam).
- 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 August 2023 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 oilbased 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 22 countries: China, Singapore, Japan, Thailand, Republic of Korea, Indonesia, India, Australia, Viet Nam, Philippines, New Zealand, Turkiye, Pakistan, Myanmar, Cambodia, Brunei, Chile, Lao PDR, Hong Kong SAR, Canada, Mexico and Peru.
- With effect from reference month of February 2020, the United Kingdom no longer be a Member State of the European Union (EU).
- Commencing from reference month of June 2022, Harmonised Commodity description and Coding system 2022
 (HS2022) also known as Customs Duties Order (PDK) 2022 was used for the processing of external trade
 statistics (merchandise). This coding classification replaced the HS2017 which were in use from April 2017 to
 May 2022. However, for Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Rev.4 is still in use with appropriate
 update.
- Total figure may not add up due to rounding.

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF MALAYSIA'S EXTERNAL TRADE

Year/ Period	<u>Total</u> Exports (RM Million)	<u>Total</u> <u>Imports</u> (RM Million)	<u>Trade</u> <u>Balance</u> (RM Million)	<u>Total</u> <u>Trade</u> (RM Million)
2022 ^f				
January	111,060.0	92,822.5	18,237.5	203,882.5
February	101,741.7	82,589.3	19,152.5	184,331.0
March	131,488.1	105,244.1	26,244.0	236,732.2
April	127,482.9	104,107.5	23,375.4	231,590.3
May	120,589.6	107,791.3	12,798.3	228,381.0
June	144,275.5	121,093.5	23,182.0	265,369.0
July	134,325.5	118,486.7	15,838.8	252,812.3
August	141,518.9	124,231.3	17,287.5	265,750.2
September	144,249.6	112,410.4	31,839.2	256,660.0
October	131,977.2	113,518.1	18,459.1	245,495.4
November	129,693.9	107,890.4	21,803.5	237,584.3
December	131,606.3	103,626.2	27,980.0	235,232.5
2022 (Jan-Dec) ^f	1,550,009.3	1,293,811.4	256,197.9	2,843,820.7
2023 ^p				
January	112,655.3	94,524.7	18,130.5	207,180.0
February	112,268.5	92,699.9	19,568.6	204,968.4
March	129,668.2	102,979.8	26,688.5	232,648.0
April	105,192.9	92,566.7	12,626.2	197,759.6
May	119,510.3	103,812.0	15,698.3	223,322.3
June	123,951.7	98,403.1	25,548.7	222,354.8
July	116,811.0	99,456.2	17,354.8	216,267.2
August	115,158.7	97,850.1	17,308.6	213,008.8
Change m-o-m (%)	-1.4	-1.6	-0.3	-1.5
Change y-o-y (%)	-18.6	-21.2	0.1	-19.8
Jan-Aug 2022 ^f	1,012,482.2	856,366.2	156,116.0	1,868,848.5
Jan-Aug 2023 ^p	935,216.7	782,292.5	152,924.2	1,717,509.3
Change y-o-y (%)	-7.6	-8.6	-2.0	-8.1

Note: Total figure may not add up due to rounding

TABLE 2: MAJOR EXPORT PRODUCTS (AUGUST)

Products	Aug 2023 ^p	July 2023 ^p	Aug 2022 ^f	Change m-o-m	Change y-o-y
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million	%	%
Total Exports	115,158.7	116,811.0	141,518.9	-1.4	-18.6
E&E Products	43,384.7	50,464.0	51,195.6	-14.0	-15.3
Petroleum Products	12,439.3	9,643.5	20,250.1	29.0	-38.6
Chemicals & Chemical Products	5,991.6	5,826.7	6,661.1	2.8	-10.0
Palm Oil & Palm Oil Based Agriculture Products	5,561.6	5,581.2	8,163.2	-0.4	-31.9
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	5,056.2	4,237.2	5,612.4	19.3	-9.9
LNG	4,689.9	3,760.0	6,335.8	24.7	-26.0
Manufactures of Metal	4,598.9	4,816.7	5,057.7	-4.5	-9.1
Optical & Scientific Equipment	4,353.9	4,889.2	5,011.0	-10.9	-13.1
Iron & Steel Products	2,863.7	2,645.9	2,912.0	8.2	-1.7
Processed Food	2,605.8	2,464.6	2,488.4	5.7	4.7

TABLE 3: MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS (AUGUST)

Markets	Aug 2023 ^p	July 2023 ^p	Aug 2022 ^f	Change m-o-m	Change y-o-y
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million	%	%
Total Exports	115,158.7	116,811.0	141,518.9	-1.4	-18.6
Singapore	16,806.5	17,825.4	20,832.6	- 5.7	-19.3
China	14,718.9	16,801.6	18,467.8	-12.4	-20.3
USA	13,516.1	13,586.8	14,971.8	-0.5	-9.7
Japan	7,428.0	5,798.4	9,210.0	28.1	-19.3
Hong Kong SAR	6,289.9	8,091.1	9,443.9	-22.3	-33.4
ROK	5,018.5	4,395.4	5,245.0	14.2	-4.3
Thailand	4,527.3	5,052.7	5,825.6	-10.4	-22.3
Viet Nam	4,348.3	4,348.1	3,522.6	0.004	23.4
Australia	4,293.7	3,890.3	3,814.2	10.4	12.6
Indonesia	3,996.9	4,138.2	6,694.1	-3.4	- 40.3

TABLE 4: MAJOR EXPORT PRODUCTS (JANUARY-AUGUST)

Products	Jan-Aug 2023 ^p	Jan-Aug 2022 ^f	Change
	RM Million	RM Million	%
Total Exports	935,216.7	1,012,482.2	-7.6
E&E Products	380,685.0	380,125.6	0.1
Petroleum Products	96,500.4	101,772.0	-5.2
Chemicals & Chemical Products	46,964.6	53,070.9	-11.5
Palm Oil & Palm Oil Based Agriculture Products	45,384.9	65,886.5	-31.1
LNG	38,965.1	41,401.9	- 5.9
Manufactures of Metal	37,578.7	44,802.5	-16.1
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	36,460.7	40,009.3	-8.9
Optical & Scientific Equipment	35,563.9	36,196.5	-1.7
Palm Oil-Based Manufactured Products	20,848.6	28,940.6	-28.0
Iron & Steel Products	20,126.9	23,227.1	-13.3

TABLE 5: MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS (JANUARY-AUGUST)

Markets	Jan-Aug 2023 ^p	Jan-Aug 2022 ^f	Change
	RM Million	RM Million	%
Total Exports	935,216.7	1,012,482.2	-7.6
Singapore	149,110.5	149,221.0	-0.1
China	123,604.1	135,302.8	-8.6
USA	104,664.8	107,555.9	-2.7
Hong Kong SAR	58,327.7	61,423.0	-5.0
Japan	56,932.4	63,310.9	-10.1
Thailand	39,573.0	44,968.2	-12.0
ROK	37,047.4	35,288.2	5.0
Australia	33,669.2	29,587.4	13.8
Indonesia	33,151.4	36,292.3	-8.7
Viet Nam	31,093.4	35,289.1	-11.9

TABLE 6: MAJOR IMPORT PRODUCTS (AUGUST)

Products	Aug 2023 ^p	July 2023 ^p	Aug 2022 ^f	Change m-o-m	Change y-o-y
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million	%	%
Total Imports	97,850.1	99,456.2	124,231.3	-1.6	-21.2
E&E Products	29,639.1	28,274.6	34,712.8	4.8	-14.6
Petroleum Products	10,257.0	10,828.4	20,178.8	-5.3	-49.2
Chemicals & Chemical Products	8,260.8	8,644.0	10,321.4	-4.4	-20.0
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	7,837.5	7,743.8	7,912.2	1.2	-0.9
Manufactures of Metal	5,299.6	5,224.9	5,083.2	1.4	4.3
Transport Equipment	4,471.8	4,660.6	4,635.1	-4.1	-3.5
Crude Petroleum	4,384.2	4,932.2	6,548.8	-11.1	-33.1
Optical & Scientific Equipment	2,466.4	2,821.1	2,542.2	-12.6	-3.0
Processed Food	2,421.6	2,443.3	2,701.9	-0.9	-10.4
Iron & Steel Products	2,371.0	2,706.9	2,891.0	-12.4	-18.0

TABLE 7: MAJOR IMPORT SOURCES (AUGUST)

Sources	Aug 2023 ^p	July 2023 ^p	Aug 2022 ^f	Change m-o-m	Change y-o-y
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million	%	%
Total Imports	97,850.1	99,456.2	124,231.3	-1.6	-21.2
China	20,935.4	20,369.7	25,366.3	2.8	-17.5
Singapore	12,571.8	13,325.6	12,544.6	-5.7	0.2
USA	7,161.7	7,672.1	9,558.1	-6.7	-25.1
Taiwan	7,088.2	5,978.8	11,860.2	18.6	-40.2
Japan	5,188.6	5,530.0	7,762.9	-6.2	-33.2
Indonesia	4,947.6	4,947.1	6,650.1	0.01	-25.6
Thailand	4,584.9	4,471.4	4,980.2	2.5	-7.9
ROK	4,228.3	3,985.0	6,043.5	6.1	-30.0
Saudi Arabia	3,262.2	3,700.0	5,215.1	-11.8	-37.4
Germany	2,819.8	2,984.3	2,586.4	-5.5	9.0

TABLE 8: MAJOR IMPORT PRODUCTS (JANUARY-AUGUST)

Products	Jan-Aug 2023 ^p	Jan-Aug 2022 ^f	Change
	RM Million	RM Million	%
Total Imports	782,292.5	856,366.2	-8.6
E&E Products	227,355.9	257,620.6	-11.7
Petroleum Products	89,112.6	98,928.0	- 9.9
Chemicals & Chemical Products	69,381.4	79,018.7	-12.2
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	56,933.0	57,061.0	-0.2
Manufactures of Metal	42,066.5	42,542.5	-1.1
Crude Petroleum	40,039.2	31,052.7	28.9
Transport Equipment	35,003.9	31,588.8	10.8
Iron & Steel Products	20,539.0	24,173.4	-15.0
Optical & Scientific Equipment	19,770.1	19,596.0	0.9
Processed Food	18,574.2	19,412.5	-4.3

TABLE 9: MAJOR IMPORT SOURCES (JANUARY-AUGUST)

Sources	Jan-Aug 2023 ^p	Jan-Aug 2022 ^f	Change
	RM Million	RM Million	%
Total Imports	782,292.5	856,366.2	-8.6
China	164,902.0	180,570.6	-8.7
Singapore	92,671.5	91,526.0	1.3
USA	55,622.6	64,490.9	-13.8
Taiwan	55,079.2	69,356.0	-20.6
Japan	47,109.8	54,901.8	-14.2
Indonesia	40,002.0	50,285.0	-20.4
Thailand	35,568.3	38,004.6	-6.4
ROK	34,711.6	39,872.9	-12.9
Saudi Arabia	29,228.2	22,110.4	32.2
Australia	23,195.9	25,008.8	-7.2

Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia Tabulated by: MATRADE

Notes:

f - final data

p - provisional data

CHART 1: MALAYSIA'S MONTHLY EXTERNAL TRADE PERFORMANCE, 2017-AUGUST 2023#

