



**MINISTRY OF
INVESTMENT, TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

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MALAYSIA EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS

**TRADE PERFORMANCE FOR MAY 2023 AND THE PERIOD OF JANUARY- MAY
2023 #**

37th Consecutive Month of Trade Surplus with Double-Digit Expansion

Malaysia registered the 37th consecutive month of trade surplus in May 2023, registering double-digit growth of 21.4% to RM15.42 billion. Total trade slipped by 2% to RM223.8 billion, in tandem with slower global demand and lower commodity prices. Exports showed signs of recovery, posting a marginal contraction of 0.7% to RM119.61 billion compared to double-digit decline recorded last month. Imports decreased by 3.3% to RM104.19 billion. The performance was similar to other regional countries namely China, Taiwan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) which recorded negative trade growth for May 2023.

Despite the decline, exports to major trading partners notably China, the United States (US) and Japan recorded expansion. Meanwhile, higher exports was seen for petroleum products, electrical and electronic (E&E) products, machinery, equipment and parts as well as processed food.

Compared to April 2023, trade, exports, imports and trade surplus recorded double-digit expansion of 13.2%, 13.7%, 12.6% and 22.1%, respectively.

In the first five months of 2023, total trade surpassed RM1 trillion to reach RM1.066 trillion, a decrease of 1.7% compared to the corresponding period of 2022. Exports was down by 2.3% to RM579.39 billion and imports declined by 1% to RM486.96 billion. Trade surplus edged down by 8.7% to RM92.43 billion.

Export Performance of Major Sectors

Exports of Manufactured and Mining Goods Rebounded after Two Months of Contraction

In May 2023, exports of manufactured goods which constituted 85.4% or RM102.18 billion of total exports rebounded by 1.8% year-on-year (y-o-y) after registering two consecutive months of export contraction. This was on account of increased exports of petroleum products, E&E products, machinery, equipment and parts, processed food as well as optical and scientific equipment.

Exports of mining goods (7.7% share) rose by 5.9% y-o-y to RM9.26 billion buoyed by strong exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Exports of agriculture goods (6.2% share) totalled RM7.44 billion, shrank by 30.9% compared to May 2022 owing mainly to lower export value of palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products.

Major exports in May 2023:

- E&E products, valued at RM46.53 billion and accounted for 38.9% of total exports, increased by 1.3% compared to May 2022;
- Petroleum products, RM13.81 billion, 11.5% of total exports, increased by 10.5%;
- Chemicals and chemical products, RM6.26 billion, 5.2% of total exports, increased by 1.7%;
- Palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products, RM5.41 billion, 4.5% of total exports, decreased by 39.2%; and
- LNG, RM5.24 billion, 4.4% of total exports, increased by 9.3%.

On a month-on-month (m-o-m) basis, exports of manufactured, mining and agriculture goods expanded by 12.5%, 43.7% and 3.2%, respectively.

For the period of January to May 2023, exports of manufactured goods fell by 1.5% to RM492.15 billion compared to the same period last year following lower demand of rubber products, manufactures of metal, palm oil-based manufactured products as well as chemicals and chemical products. However, robust exports of petroleum products, E&E products, optical and scientific equipment as well as paper and pulp products offset the impact of the decline.

Exports of mining goods rose by 7.2% to RM45.56 billion boosted by higher exports of LNG.

Exports of agriculture goods was valued at RM38.23 billion, dropped by 20.6% mainly due to lower y-o-y prices of palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products.

Trade Performance with Major Markets

ASEAN – Exports of E&E Products Recovered in May

In May 2023, trade with ASEAN represented 28.4% or RM63.61 billion of Malaysia's total trade, reduced by 5% y-o-y. Exports edged down by 1.6% to RM36.38 billion, attributed to lower demand of palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products, iron and steel products and petroleum products. Despite the contraction, robust exports were registered for E&E products, machinery, equipment and parts as well as processed food. Imports from ASEAN declined by 9.1% to RM27.24 billion.

Breakdown of exports to ASEAN countries:

- Singapore RM19.60 billion, increased by 6.8%;
- Thailand RM5.12 billion, ↓8.8%;
- Indonesia RM4.19 billion, ↓11.8%;
- Viet Nam RM4.09 billion, ↓0.7%;
- Philippines RM2.19 billion, ↓21.5%;

- Myanmar RM467.5 million, ↑16.7%;
- Brunei RM410.9 million, ↓27.2%;
- Cambodia RM303.3 million, ↑107.0%; and
- Lao PDR RM11.3 million, ↓95.7%.

Exports to ASEAN major market, **Singapore** grew by RM1.26 billion led by strong exports of E&E products. Meanwhile, exports to **Myanmar** increased by RM66.9 million supported by higher exports of petroleum products.

Compared to April 2023, trade, exports and imports registered double-digit expansion of 19.4%, 17.8% and 21.6%, respectively.

For the period of January to May 2023, trade with ASEAN fell by 1.2% to RM293.08 billion compared to corresponding period of 2022. Exports rose by 1% to RM172.99 billion backed by higher exports of petroleum products and E&E products. Imports from ASEAN dipped by 4.2% to RM120.08 billion.

China – Exports Improved after Five Consecutive Months of Decline

In May 2023, trade with China which contributed 16.6% or RM37.07 billion to Malaysia's total trade declined marginally by 0.2% y-o-y. Exports to China improved by 1.5% to RM15.49 billion after registering five consecutive months of decline. The growth was driven by higher demand of metalliferous ores and metal scrap, LNG as well as chemicals and chemical products. Imports from China reduced by 1.4% to RM21.58 billion.

Compared to April 2023, trade, exports and imports edged up by 8.9%, 12.1% and 6.7%, respectively.

Trade with China during the period of January to May 2023 eased by 4.3% to RM179.76 billion compared to the same period of 2022. Exports contracted by 8.9% to RM75.31 billion attributed to lower exports of iron and steel products, E&E products and petroleum products. On the contrary, strong exports was recorded for LNG as well as

metalliferous ores and metal scrap. Imports from China was down by 0.6% to RM104.45 billion.

The US – Exports Accelerated with Double-Digit Growth

Trade with the US in May 2023 which constituted of 9.3% of Malaysia's total trade picked up by 4.4% y-o-y to RM20.9 billion. Exports rebounded sharply with double-digit growth of 14.9% to RM13.77 billion after posting a negative growth last month. This was driven mainly by robust exports of E&E products. Imports from the US weakened by 11.3% to RM7.13 billion.

On a m-o-m basis, trade, exports and imports grew by 17.4%, 22.3% and 8.9%, respectively.

For the period of January to May 2023, trade with the US edged down marginally by 0.5% to RM98.35 billion compared to the same period of 2022. Exports improved by 2.5% to RM63.98 billion boosted by increased shipments of E&E products and petroleum products. Imports from the US shrank by 5.6% to RM34.37 billion.

The EU – Exports of E&E Products Improved Despite Lower Overall Exports

In May 2023, trade with the European Union (EU) absorbed 7.7% of Malaysia's total trade, decreased by 1.2% y-o-y to RM17.2 billion. Exports amounted to RM9.15 billion, weakened by 6.1% on lower exports of palm oil and palm oil-based products as well as iron and steel products. Nevertheless, growth in exports was recorded for E&E products, petroleum products and processed food. Imports from the EU climbed by 5.1% to RM8.05 billion.

Breakdown of exports to the top 10 EU markets which accounted for 91.8% of Malaysia's total exports to the EU were:

- Netherlands RM2.71 billion, decreased by 18.2%;
- Germany RM2.54 billion, ↑15.8%;
- Belgium RM747.7 million, ↑20.4%;

- France RM609.4 million, ↑4.9%;
- Spain RM569.3 million, ↓5.1%;
- Italy RM477.0 million, ↓27.9%;
- Poland RM257.2 million, ↓2.6%;
- Hungary RM179.5 million, ↓21.4%;
- Sweden RM163.4 million, ↓31.3%; and
- Czech Republic RM153.1 million, ↓42.9%.

Exports to the EU major markets that recorded growth were **Germany**, which increased by RM346.4 million due to strong exports of E&E products, **Belgium** (↑RM126.7 million, iron and steel products) and **France** (↑RM28.5 million, optical and scientific equipment).

Compared to April 2023, trade, exports and imports rose by 10.2%, 13.5% and 6.6%, respectively.

For the first five months of 2023, trade with the EU declined by 1.1% to RM84.87 billion compared to the same period of 2022. Exports reached RM46.5 billion, a contraction of 9.4% as a result of lower exports of E&E products, palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products as well as rubber products. Conversely, higher exports was seen for petroleum products, optical and scientific equipment as well as other vegetable oil. Imports from the EU rose by 11.3% to RM38.37 billion.

Japan – Exports Rebounded Mainly on LNG

In May 2023, trade with Japan which comprised 6% or RM13.45 billion of Malaysia's total trade rose by 0.2% y-o-y. Exports rebounded from a negative growth last month, expanding by 2.1% to RM7.17 billion. This was supported by robust exports of crude petroleum and LNG. Imports from Japan declined by 1.9% to RM6.28 billion.

On a m-o-m basis, trade, exports and imports recorded double-digit growth of 19.6%, 19.5% and 19.8%, respectively.

For the period of January to May 2023, trade with Japan slipped by 4.7% to RM67 billion compared to the same period of 2022. Exports amounted to RM36.84 billion, a decline

of 1.5% due to lower shipments of manufactures of metal, palm oil-based manufactured products as well as wood products. The decrease however was softened by strong exports of LNG and crude petroleum. Imports from Japan eased by 8.2% to RM30.16 billion.

Trade with FTA Partners

In May 2023, trade with Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners which contributed 68.3% or RM152.9 billion to Malaysia's total trade edged down by 1.9% y-o-y. Exports to FTA partners picked up by 0.3% to RM83.89 billion and imports decreased by 4.5% to RM69 billion.

Increases in exports were recorded to **Australia** which rose by 28.7% to RM4.89 billion, **the ROK**, (↑10.3% to RM4.65 billion) and **New Zealand** (↑5.5% to RM794.7 million) boosted by robust exports of petroleum products. Exports to **Mexico** increased by 6.8% to RM1.35 billion bolstered by strong exports of iron and steel products while exports to **Peru** (↑60.5% to RM58.4 million, machinery, equipment and parts).

Compared to April 2023, trade, exports and imports improved by 14.1%, 12.2% and 16.5%, respectively.

Trade with FTA partners during the first five months of 2023 edged down by 1.7% to RM723.85 billion compared to the corresponding period of 2022. Exports contracted marginally by 0.6% to RM406.02 billion while imports eased by 3% to RM317.82 billion.

Import Performance

Total imports in May 2023 decreased by 3.3% y-o-y to RM104.19 billion. The three main categories of imports by end use, which accounted for 71.2% of total imports were:

- **Intermediate goods**, valued at RM55.34 billion or 53.1% of total imports, decreased by 12.3% y-o-y, following lower imports of parts and accessories for non-transport capital goods;

- **Capital goods**, valued at RM9.95 billion or 9.6% of total imports, increased by 13.7%, due to higher imports of non-transport capital goods; and
- **Consumption goods**, valued at RM8.87 billion or 8.5% of total imports, grew by 4.5%, as a result of strong imports of processed food and beverages mainly for household consumption.

During the period of January to May 2023, imports slipped by 1% to RM486.96 billion compared to the same period of 2022. Imports of intermediate goods contracted by 10.1% to RM251.56 billion compared to the same period last year, capital goods (↑5% to RM47.35 billion) and consumption goods (↑1.1% to RM41.59 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, 28th June 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 May 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 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 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 Exports</u> (RM Million)	<u>Total Imports</u> (RM Million)	<u>Trade Balance</u> (RM Million)	<u>Total Trade</u> (RM Million)
2022^P				
January	111,068.0	92,507.4	18,560.6	203,575.5
February	102,266.2	82,451.8	19,814.4	184,718.0
March	131,559.5	104,911.9	26,647.6	236,471.3
April	127,584.7	104,105.0	23,479.7	231,689.8
May	120,491.6	107,793.9	12,697.8	228,285.5
June	146,026.3	124,162.8	21,863.5	270,189.2
July	134,073.9	118,488.8	15,585.1	252,562.7
August	141,271.2	124,234.4	17,036.8	265,505.6
September	144,253.1	112,415.9	31,837.2	256,669.1
October	131,586.2	113,525.1	18,061.1	245,111.3
November	129,663.9	107,907.1	21,756.7	237,571.0
December	131,774.5	103,631.8	28,142.6	235,406.3
2022 (Jan-Dec) ^P	1,551,619.2	1,296,136.0	255,483.1	2,847,755.2
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	119,607.2	104,188.2	15,419.0	223,795.4
<i>Change m-o-m (%)</i>	13.7	12.6	22.1	13.2
<i>Change y-o-y (%)</i>	-0.7	-3.3	21.4	-2.0
Jan-May 2022 ^P	592,970.1	491,770.0	101,200.1	1,084,740.1
Jan-May 2023^P	579,392.2	486,959.3	92,432.9	1,066,351.5
<i>Change y-o-y (%)</i>	-2.3	-1.0	-8.7	-1.7

Note: Total figure may not add up due to rounding

TABLE 2: MAJOR EXPORT PRODUCTS (MAY)

Products	May 2023 ^P	Apr 2023 ^P	May 2022 ^P	Change m-o-m	Change y-o-y
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million	%	%
Total Exports	119,607.2	105,192.9	120,491.6	13.7	-0.7
E&E Products	46,528.1	44,197.1	45,926.8	5.3	1.3
Petroleum Products	13,810.1	11,518.3	12,501.6	19.9	10.5
Chemicals & Chemical Products	6,260.4	4,821.1	6,154.0	29.9	1.7
Palm Oil & Palm Oil Based Agriculture Products	5,413.9	5,446.9	8,907.2	-0.6	-39.2
LNG	5,241.0	3,800.6	4,794.9	37.9	9.3
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	5,002.4	3,680.5	4,426.6	35.9	13.0
Manufactures of Metal	4,714.4	4,632.7	4,859.3	1.8	-3.0
Optical & Scientific Equipment	4,319.4	3,930.5	3,872.1	9.9	11.5
Crude Petroleum	2,680.4	1,529.8	2,836.4	75.2	-5.5
Palm Oil-Based Manufactured Products	2,646.0	2,529.0	3,716.4	4.6	-28.8

TABLE 3: MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS (MAY)

Markets	May 2023 ^P	Apr 2023 ^P	May 2022 ^P	Change m-o-m	Change y-o-y
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million	%	%
Total Exports	119,607.2	105,192.9	120,491.6	13.7	-0.7
Singapore	19,598.1	16,728.8	18,342.8	17.2	6.8
China	15,487.2	13,818.8	15,263.4	12.1	1.5
USA	13,769.6	11,256.8	11,986.5	22.3	14.9
Japan	7,172.0	6,003.6	7,025.7	19.5	2.1
Hong Kong SAR	7,012.0	6,852.8	7,661.5	2.3	-8.5
Thailand	5,116.2	4,250.3	5,611.1	20.4	-8.8
Australia	4,892.3	4,371.7	3,800.0	11.9	28.7
ROK	4,647.0	4,861.6	4,215.0	-4.4	10.3
Indonesia	4,192.9	4,088.3	4,755.0	2.6	-11.8
Viet Nam	4,092.6	3,593.2	4,119.6	13.9	-0.7

TABLE 4: MAJOR EXPORT PRODUCTS (JANUARY-MAY)

Products	Jan-May 2023 ^P	Jan-May 2022 ^P	Change
	RM Million	RM Million	%
Total Exports	579,392.2	592,970.1	-2.3
E&E Products	232,652.9	230,552.9	0.9
Petroleum Products	61,832.5	45,038.0	37.3
Chemicals & Chemical Products	29,561.8	33,098.6	-10.7
Palm Oil & Palm Oil Based Agriculture Products	28,804.2	38,531.7	-25.2
LNG	26,800.9	22,607.5	18.5
Manufactures of Metal	23,112.0	28,261.1	-18.2
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	22,692.9	23,433.5	-3.2
Optical & Scientific Equipment	21,628.0	21,017.5	2.9
Palm Oil-Based Manufactured Products	13,400.0	17,935.8	-25.3
Crude Petroleum	11,588.6	12,001.9	-3.4

TABLE 5: MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS (JANUARY-MAY)

Markets	Jan-May 2023 ^P	Jan-May 2022 ^P	Change
	RM Million	RM Million	%
Total Exports	579,392.2	592,970.1	-2.3
Singapore	93,439.4	84,952.1	10.0
China	75,312.9	82,688.3	-8.9
USA	63,981.3	62,414.8	2.5
Japan	36,839.0	37,417.4	-1.5
Hong Kong SAR	35,888.2	34,478.6	4.1
Thailand	25,624.3	26,965.7	-5.0
ROK	22,680.3	21,201.7	7.0
Australia	21,033.0	18,025.6	16.7
Indonesia	20,476.8	19,592.1	4.5
India	18,564.8	22,000.9	-15.6

TABLE 6: MAJOR IMPORT PRODUCTS (MAY)

Products	May 2023 ^P	Apr 2023 ^P	May 2022 ^P	Change m-o-m	Change y-o-y
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million	%	%
Total Imports	104,188.2	92,566.7	107,793.9	12.6	-3.3
E&E Products	28,609.5	27,220.5	35,618.9	5.1	-19.7
Petroleum Products	13,036.8	11,952.0	11,941.5	9.1	9.2
Chemicals & Chemical Products	9,777.1	8,080.4	9,482.8	21.0	3.1
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	8,037.2	6,307.4	6,639.7	27.4	21.0
Manufactures of Metal	5,587.5	4,999.5	5,132.0	11.8	8.9
Crude Petroleum	5,202.9	3,301.8	2,388.7	57.6	117.8
Transport Equipment	4,697.9	4,703.5	3,440.9	-0.1	36.5
Iron & Steel Products	3,286.9	2,701.3	3,115.8	21.7	5.5
Optical & Scientific Equipment	2,465.1	2,176.8	2,444.1	13.2	0.9
Processed Food	2,310.2	2,179.7	2,459.8	6.0	-6.1

TABLE 7: MAJOR IMPORT SOURCES (MAY)

Sources	May 2023 ^P	Apr 2023 ^P	May 2022 ^P	Change m-o-m	Change y-o-y
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million	%	%
Total Imports	104,188.2	92,566.7	107,793.9	12.6	-3.3
China	21,582.1	20,225.6	21,892.0	6.7	-1.4
Singapore	13,601.6	10,255.6	12,471.7	32.6	9.1
USA	7,133.8	6,553.4	8,043.7	8.9	-11.3
Taiwan	7,117.5	6,479.5	8,387.2	9.8	-15.1
Japan	6,282.5	5,243.7	6,403.5	19.8	-1.9
Indonesia	5,057.2	4,242.9	5,315.2	19.2	-4.9
ROK	4,984.2	4,490.9	5,009.8	11.0	-0.5
Thailand	4,875.8	4,063.8	4,739.8	20.0	2.9
Saudi Arabia	4,103.0	2,757.5	2,241.3	48.8	83.1
India	3,160.6	2,038.2	2,491.3	55.1	26.9

TABLE 8: MAJOR IMPORT PRODUCTS (JANUARY-MAY)

Products	Jan-May 2023 ^P	Jan-May 2022 ^P	Change
	RM Million	RM Million	%
Total Imports	486,959.3	491,770.0	-1.0
E&E Products	142,369.7	155,000.8	-8.1
Petroleum Products	57,877.8	45,003.1	28.6
Chemicals & Chemical Products	44,020.7	48,105.9	-8.5
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	34,233.9	33,816.7	1.2
Manufactures of Metal	26,474.5	25,225.6	5.0
Crude Petroleum	22,606.7	16,161.9	39.9
Transport Equipment	21,895.9	16,318.6	34.2
Iron & Steel Products	12,920.1	14,821.9	-12.8
Optical & Scientific Equipment	11,983.8	11,957.4	0.2
Processed Food	11,358.4	11,839.3	-4.1

TABLE 9: MAJOR IMPORT SOURCES (JANUARY-MAY)

Sources	Jan-May 2023 ^P	Jan-May 2022 ^P	Change
	RM Million	RM Million	%
Total Imports	486,959.3	491,770.0	-1.0
China	104,451.9	105,097.8	-0.6
Singapore	54,934.4	50,360.6	9.1
Taiwan	35,147.6	38,082.4	-7.7
USA	34,367.1	36,395.7	-5.6
Japan	30,156.3	32,857.3	-8.2
Indonesia	25,034.4	29,388.4	-14.8
ROK	23,193.2	23,130.6	0.3
Thailand	22,146.8	22,762.4	-2.7
Saudi Arabia	16,720.3	10,185.1	64.2
Australia	14,362.7	12,445.5	15.4

Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia
 Tabulated by: MATRADE

Notes:
 p - provisional data

CHART 1: MALAYSIA'S MONTHLY EXTERNAL TRADE PERFORMANCE, 2017 – MAY 2023[#]

