

**Embargo until 1200 hours,
Monday, 5th June 2017**

MALAYSIA EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS

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

April 2017- Double Digit Trade Growth for 5 Straight Months

Malaysia's **total trade in April 2017 surged by 22.5%** to **RM139.18 billion** compared with the year before. The growth was supported by expansion in trade with ASEAN, China, Japan, India, the European Union (EU) and the United States of America (USA).

Exports maintained its double digit growth for the fifth straight month since December 2016. Exports in April 2017 **grew by 20.6%** to **RM73.97 billion** from April 2016 and **imports expanded by 24.7%** to **RM65.21 billion**, resulting in a **trade surplus of RM8.75 billion**. This marks the 234th consecutive month of trade surplus since November 1997.

On a month-on-month basis, total trade, exports and imports dropped by 12.9%, 10.5% and 15.6%, respectively due to the high base effect in March.

Total trade for the first four months of 2017 was valued at RM569.68 billion, grew by 23.8% compared with RM460.02 billion recorded in the same period last year. Exports totalled RM298.65 billion, an increase of 21.2% while imports rose by 26.9% to RM271.03 billion. The trade surplus amounted to RM27.62 billion.

Export Performance of Major Sectors

Manufactured Goods Continued to Lead Export

Exports of **manufactured goods** in April 2017 grew by 17.3% to RM60.48 billion which accounted for 81.8% share of Malaysia's global shipments. Higher exports of electrical and electronic (E&E) products, chemicals and chemical products, iron and steel products as well as rubber products led to stronger export performance.

Exports of **mining goods** expanded by 51.8% to RM6.49 billion, contributing 8.8% share of Malaysia's total exports. This was spurred by higher exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and crude petroleum, due to higher Average Unit Value (AUV) and volume.

Exports of **agriculture goods** with 8.5% share of Malaysia's total exports, registered an increase of 20.9% to RM6.3 billion. This was steered by higher exports of palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products especially palm oil as well as natural rubber, led by higher AUV and volume.

Major exports in **April 2017** were:

- E&E products valued at RM26.24 billion and constituting 35.5% of total exports, increased by 22.2% from April 2016;
- Petroleum products, RM5.5 billion, 7.4% of total exports, increased by 5.4%;
- Chemicals and chemical products, RM5.49 billion, 7.4% of total exports, increased by 18%;
- Palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products, RM4.21 billion, 5.7% of total exports, increased by 20.8%; and
- Machinery, equipment and parts, RM3.48 billion, 4.7% of total exports, decreased by 1.2%.

In the first four months of 2017, exports of manufactured goods recorded the highest value increase of RM38.48 billion or 18.9% to RM241.95 billion. Higher exports was

recorded for all manufactured subsectors except for jewellery, beverages and tobacco as well as non-metallic mineral products. Exports of mining and agriculture goods soared by 30.8% (RM6.52 billion) to RM27.68 billion and 27.4% (RM5.61 billion) to RM26.08 billion, respectively.

Performance of Major Markets

Trade with ASEAN Remain Resilient

Total trade with ASEAN showed an upward trend for 6th consecutive month, rising by 19.7% to RM37.38 billion in April 2017. Exports to ASEAN climbed by 14.9% to RM21.13 billion and contributed 28.6% of Malaysia's total exports. Higher exports was contributed by E&E products, crude petroleum, chemicals and chemical products, processed food as well as machinery, equipment and parts. Growth in exports was registered to all ASEAN markets except for Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos. Exports to Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia and Myanmar recorded double digit growths and collectively contributed 89.2% of Malaysia's total exports to the region. Imports from ASEAN rose by 26.6% to RM16.25 billion.

Breakdown of exports to ASEAN countries is as follows:

- Singapore RM 10.60 billion, **increased** by 15.8%
- Thailand RM 3.86 billion, ↑22.1%
- Indonesia RM 2.70 billion, ↑13.0%
- Viet Nam RM 2.01 billion, ↓4.6%
- Philippines RM 1.39 billion, ↑30.7%
- Myanmar RM 286.0 million, ↑27.2%
- Brunei RM 189.9 million, ↑3.8%
- Cambodia RM 76.5 million, ↓8.8%
- Lao PDR RM 5.5 million, ↓44.6%

In January-April 2017, trade with ASEAN surged by 23.6% to RM155.86 billion compared with the same period in 2016. Exports to ASEAN grew by 21.6% to RM87.56 billion, representing 29.3% share of Malaysia's total exports. The increase was underpinned by expansion in exports of E&E products, petroleum products, crude

petroleum as well as chemicals and chemical products. Growth in exports was registered to all ASEAN markets except for Cambodia and Laos. Imports from ASEAN rose by 26.4% to RM68.3 billion.

China - Double Digit Trade Growth

Trade with China expanded by 28.9% to RM22.62 billion compared with April 2016. In April 2017, exports amounted to RM10.16 billion or 13.7% share of total exports. Exports recorded a sturdy growth of 50.6% buoyed by higher exports of petroleum products, E&E products, LNG as well as rubber products. **Exports to China continued to record the positive year-on-year growth since October 2016.** Imports from China increased by 15.3% to RM12.46 billion.

In the first four months of 2017, trade with China registered a growth of 32.7% to RM91.36 billion. Exports surged by 42.5% to RM39.27 billion and imports expanded by 26.1% to RM52.09 billion. Products that contributed to the increase in exports were E&E products, petroleum products, chemicals and chemical products as well as rubber products.

Trade with the EU Uphold the Positive Momentum

In April 2017, trade with the EU rose by 15.1% to RM12.91 billion. Exports to the EU was valued at RM7.48 billion, an increase of 26.5% and accounted for 10.1% share of Malaysia's total exports. The increase was attributed to the exports of E&E products, chemicals and chemical products, palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products as well as iron and steel products. Imports from the EU grew by 2.5% to RM5.44 billion.

Among the top 10 EU markets, exports to 7 countries registered double digit growth. Exports to the Netherlands increased by 61.1%, Germany (↑23.1%), the United Kingdom (↑11.3%), Poland (↑57.2%), Hungary (↑38.4%), Sweden (↑27.7%) and Spain (↑20%).

Trade with the EU expanded by 15.9% to RM53.95 billion for the period of January to April 2017. Exports increased by 23.2% to RM31.1 billion while imports totalled RM22.85 billion, higher by 7.3%. The main contributors to the increase in exports were E&E products, chemicals and chemical products, palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products, iron and steel products as well as optical and scientific equipment.

USA - Double Digit Growth in Trade, Exports and Imports

In April 2017, trade with the USA stood at RM12.63 billion, up by 13.6% over the level in April 2016. **Exports to the USA sustained double digit growth since the past 2 months**, grew by 11% to RM7.36 billion or 10% share of Malaysia's total exports. The increase was on account of higher exports of E&E products, rubber products as well as machinery, equipment and parts. Imports expanded by 17.4% to RM5.27 billion.

In the first four months of 2017, trade with the USA grew by 21.6% to RM53.75 billion. Exports increased by 11.6% to RM28.69 billion while imports totalled RM25.06 billion, higher by 35.4%. Products which contributed to the increase in exports were E&E products, rubber products as well as machinery, equipment and parts.

Japan - Trade Continued to Remain Buoyant

Trade with Japan in April 2017 was valued at RM11.47 billion, jumped 27.4%. **Exports to Japan rose at a faster pace in April, surging by 44.7%** to RM6.38 billion or 8.6% share of Malaysia's total exports, following robust demand for LNG, E&E products and petroleum products. **This was the highest year-on-year growth recorded since June 2010.** Imports posted an increase of 10.8% to RM5.09 billion.

Over the past four months of 2017, trade with Japan increased by 19.3% to RM47.72 billion from RM40 billion recorded in the same period last year. Exports recorded a value of RM26.8 billion, grew by 23.5% while imports expanded by 14.3% to RM20.92 billion. The increase in exports to Japan was mainly due to E&E products and LNG.

Trade with FTA Partners

In April 2017, total trade with Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners was valued at RM88.04 billion, expanded by 25.3%, accounting for 63.3% of Malaysia's total trade. Exports amounted to RM46.92 billion, increased by 26.9% and imports totalled RM41.13 billion, rose by 23.6%.

Exports to almost all FTA partners registered growth except for Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos. Exports to **India** surged by 23.6% to RM2.86 billion, underpinned by higher exports of E&E products, **Australia** (↑7.4% to RM2.58 billion, crude petroleum), **Republic of Korea (ROK)** (↑18.9% to RM2.12 billion, E&E products), **Turkey** (↑144.6% to RM905.4 million, manufactures of metal), **Pakistan** (↑0.5% to RM370 million, chemicals and chemical products), **New Zealand** (↑119.9% to RM365.2 million, crude petroleum) and **Chile** (↑8% to RM47.4 million, processed food).

During January-April of 2017, trade with FTA partners grew by 25.7% to RM360.98 billion, accounting for 63.4% of Malaysia's trade. Exports to FTA partners increased by 24.7% to RM190.12 billion while imports rose by 26.8% to RM170.86 billion.

Imports

Total imports in April 2017 surged by 24.7% to RM65.21 billion. The three main categories of imports by end use were:

- **Intermediate goods**, valued at RM38.39 billion or 58.9% share of total imports, increased by 29.2%;
- **Capital goods** valued at RM8.01 billion or 12.3% share of total imports, expanded by 14.8%; and
- **Consumption goods** valued at RM5.66 billion or 8.7% share of total imports, grew by 1%.

In the first four months of 2017, imports expanded by 26.9% to RM271.03 billion. Imports of **intermediate goods** totalled at RM158.3 billion, increased by 28.1%, **capital goods** (RM38.44 billion, ↑35.3%) and **consumption goods** (RM22.07 billion, ↑3.2%).

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, Monday, 5th June 2017 and can be downloaded through e-services 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 April 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	71,793.4	63,061.0	8,732.4	134,854.5
March	82,624.8	77,224.6	5,400.2	159,849.4
April	73,965.6	65,213.5	8,752.1	139,179.0
2016 (Jan-Apr)^P	246,504.5	213,513.7	32,990.8	460,018.2
2017 (Jan-Apr)^P	298,653.7	271,028.8	27,624.9	569,682.4

Note: Total may not add up due to rounding.

TABLE 2: MAJOR EXPORT PRODUCTS

Products	Apr 2017 ^P	Mar 2017 ^P	Apr 2016 ^P
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million
Total Exports	73,965.6	82,624.8	61,346.9
Electrical & Electronic Products	26,238.1	29,272.3	21,472.1
Petroleum Products	5,496.6	6,569.6	5,215.0
Chemicals & Chemical Products	5,490.8	6,125.2	4,653.3
Palm Oil & Palm Oil- Based Agriculture Products	4,208.6	4,426.8	3,484.4
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	3,478.2	3,887.9	3,520.0
Manufactures of Metal	3,296.4	3,210.0	2,811.0
LNG	3,250.6	3,414.9	2,164.6
Optical & Scientific Equipment	2,617.8	2,916.9	2,369.3
Crude Petroleum	2,358.4	3,053.2	1,422.9
Rubber Products	2,267.5	2,555.3	1,663.9

TABLE 3: MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS

Markets	Apr 2017 ^P	Mar 2017 ^P	Apr 2016 ^P
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million
Total Exports	73,965.6	82,624.8	61,346.9
Singapore	10,596.7	11,735.3	9,148.9
China	10,164.1	10,958.8	6,747.2
USA	7,361.2	7,926.9	6,630.7
Japan	6,381.4	6,912.0	4,409.1
Thailand	3,861.6	4,285.0	3,163.3
Hong Kong SAR	2,995.1	3,895.7	3,119.1
India	2,860.2	3,309.3	2,313.2
Indonesia	2,704.4	2,986.8	2,394.0
Australia	2,578.9	2,796.2	2,401.1
Netherlands	2,167.1	2,293.7	1,345.5

TABLE 4: MAJOR EXPORT PRODUCTS (JANUARY- APRIL)

Products	Jan-Apr 2017 ^P	Jan-Apr 2016 ^P
	RM Million	RM Million
Total Exports	298,653.7	246,504.5
Electrical & Electronic Products	105,042.3	88,034.3
Petroleum Products	23,380.6	16,327.3
Chemicals & Chemical Products	22,530.1	18,377.7
Palm Oil & Palm Oil- Based Agriculture Products	17,622.4	13,463.7
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	13,642.1	13,351.5
LNG	13,244.1	11,648.6
Manufactures of Metal	12,032.2	11,491.6
Optical & Scientific Equipment	10,349.2	9,413.3
Crude Petroleum	10,263.5	6,428.6
Rubber Products	8,818.4	6,473.0

TABLE 5: MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS (JANUARY- APRIL)

Markets	Jan-Apr 2017 ^P	Jan-Apr 2016 ^P
	RM Million	RM Million
Total Exports	298,653.7	246,504.5
Singapore	42,992.0	35,418.2
China	39,265.2	27,554.1
USA	28,690.7	25,699.3
Japan	26,803.4	21,696.6
Thailand	16,525.5	14,164.6
Hong Kong SAR	12,789.8	12,023.3
India	11,433.0	9,845.3
Indonesia	11,409.7	8,960.4
Australia	10,475.2	9,062.2
Netherlands	8,907.7	6,590.3

TABLE 6: MAJOR IMPORT PRODUCTS

Products	Apr 2017 ^P	Mar 2017 ^P	Apr 2016 ^P
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million
Total Imports	65,213.5	77,224.6	52,291.9
Electrical & Electronic Products	20,423.7	21,820.5	15,528.5
Chemicals & Chemical Products	6,544.5	7,353.6	5,747.9
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	5,798.6	7,501.5	4,775.3
Petroleum Products	5,124.8	6,526.2	3,767.8
Manufactures of Metal	3,145.7	3,618.8	3,004.5
Iron & Steel Products	2,437.2	2,517.1	1,552.1
Transport Equipment	2,312.7	6,569.9	2,841.6
Crude Petroleum	2,180.8	1,504.3	453.1
Optical & Scientific Equipment	1,941.2	2,266.5	1,777.7
Processed Food	1,498.4	2,059.5	1,423.4

TABLE 7: MAJOR IMPORT SOURCES

Markets	Apr 2017 ^P	Mar 2017 ^P	Apr 2016 ^P
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million
Total Imports	65,213.5	77,224.6	52,291.9
China	12,457.9	14,642.0	10,807.6
Singapore	6,656.5	7,115.8	5,420.1
USA	5,268.6	9,173.7	4,487.0
Japan	5,092.2	6,102.3	4,596.0
Taiwan	4,256.4	4,792.2	3,098.7
Thailand	3,809.3	4,619.5	3,296.4
Indonesia	2,936.4	3,444.2	2,409.8
India	2,722.5	1,958.0	1,000.0
ROK	2,602.2	4,158.5	2,418.2
Germany	1,997.3	2,132.2	1,947.3

TABLE 8: MAJOR IMPORT PRODUCTS (JANUARY- APRIL)

Products	Jan-Apr 2017 ^p	Jan-Apr 2016 ^p
	RM Million	RM Million
Total Imports	271,028.8	213,513.7
Electrical & Electronic Products	79,306.5	65,759.9
Chemicals & Chemical Products	25,829.2	21,898.5
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	25,355.2	19,351.0
Petroleum Products	23,382.7	14,613.3
Transport Equipment	14,260.6	11,283.8
Manufactures of Metal	13,182.5	12,226.0
Iron & Steel Products	9,333.9	6,319.5
Optical & Scientific Equipment	8,047.4	7,023.2
Crude Petroleum	6,893.1	2,783.3
Processed Food	6,809.9	5,891.9

TABLE 9: MAJOR IMPORT MARKETS (JANUARY- APRIL)

Markets	Jan-Apr 2017 ^p	Jan-Apr 2016 ^p
	RM Million	RM Million
Total Imports	271,028.8	213,513.7
China	52,093.2	41,317.2
Singapore	27,032.0	22,919.1
USA	25,059.8	18,505.7
Japan	20,917.1	18,305.8
Taiwan	16,893.7	12,011.7
Thailand	15,772.7	13,736.2
Indonesia	13,816.3	9,491.9
ROK	11,853.3	9,831.0
India	8,506.3	4,891.4
Germany	7,926.2	7,693.6

Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia
 Tabulated by: MATRADE

Notes:
 p - provisional data

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

