

**Embargo until 1200 hours,
Wednesday, 4th December 2019**

MALAYSIA EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS

TRADE PERFORMANCE FOR OCTOBER 2019 AND THE PERIOD OF JANUARY- OCTOBER 2019 #

Highest Monthly Export Value in 2019

Malaysia's exports in October 2019 stood at RM90.59 billion, the highest monthly export value recorded in 2019. Exports contracted by 6.7% year-on-year (y-o-y) due to high base effect of RM97.12 billion in October 2018. Higher exports were registered to Singapore, Taiwan, the United States (US) and Russian Federation while lower exports were recorded to Australia, China, Japan, Thailand and India.

Total trade decreased by 7.6% to RM163.86 billion and imports amounted to RM73.27 billion, a decline of 8.7% from October 2018. Trade surplus in October 2019 was valued at RM17.33 billion, rose by 2.8% compared to RM16.85 billion registered in October 2018. This marked the 264th consecutive months of trade surplus since November 1997 and the highest monthly surplus ever recorded thus far.

Compared to September 2019, total trade, exports, imports and trade surplus registered an increase of 11.4%, 16.6%, 5.6% and 107.4%, respectively.

Total trade in the first 10 months of 2019 declined by 2.8% to RM1.52 trillion. Exports during this period registered a decrease of 1.8% to RM819.13 billion. Lower exports were recorded to Hong Kong SAR, Australia, Japan, Indonesia and China. Higher exports however were registered to Taiwan, the US, India and the Philippines. Imports contracted by 3.9% to RM700.93 billion. Moreover, trade surplus expanded by 13.3% to RM118.2 billion and marked the highest trade surplus for January-October since 2009.

Export Performance of Major Sectors

New High of Exports of Optical and Scientific Equipment

Exports of manufactured goods in October 2019 which attributed 85.8% of total exports contracted by 4.5% to RM77.76 billion. However, exports of optical and scientific equipment hit a new monthly record high of RM4.03 billion, with a double digit expansion of 17.6% from October 2018. Higher exports were also recorded for transport equipment as well as non-metallic mineral products. Lower exports were registered for petroleum products, electrical and electronic (E&E) products, manufactures of metal and chemicals and chemical products.

Exports of mining goods (7.5% share) declined by 24.6% to RM6.78 billion. This was mainly due to declining exports of crude petroleum, on account of lower export volume and Average Unit Value (AUV). However, exports of crude petroleum grew by RM294.4 million to Singapore.

Exports of agriculture goods (6.1% share) were lower by 8.9% to RM5.57 billion mainly due to contraction in exports of palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products, especially palm oil. Exports of palm oil recorded a contraction of 9.8% y-o-y to RM3.26 billion, as a result of the decline in export volume and AUV.

Major exports in October 2019:

- E&E products, valued at RM37.39 billion and constituted 41.3% of total exports, decreased by 3.2% from October 2018;
- Petroleum products, RM5.82 billion, 6.4% of total exports, decreased by 28.4%;
- Chemicals and chemical products, RM4.96 billion, 5.5% of total exports, decreased by 12.7%;
- Optical and scientific equipment, RM4.03 billion, 4.4% of total exports, increased by 17.6%; and

- Palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products, RM3.73 billion, 4.1% of total exports, decreased by 9.5%.

On a month-on-month (m-o-m) basis, exports of manufactured goods, mining goods and agriculture goods expanded by 17.2%, 19% and 7.7%, respectively.

For the period of January to October 2019, exports of manufactured goods decreased marginally by 0.6% to RM692.47 billion compared to the same period of 2018, underpinned by lower exports of petroleum products, E&E products and manufactures of metal. Exports of mining goods contracted by 7.5% to RM66.97 billion mainly due to lower exports of crude petroleum. Meanwhile, exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) recorded an expansion of 6% to RM34.77 billion, buoyed by higher exports volume. Exports of agriculture goods decreased by 5.1% to RM53.79 billion attributed to lower exports of palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products. However, palm oil export volume for this period increased by 10.3%.

Trade Performance with Major Markets

ASEAN Reached the Highest Monthly Share to Total Trade Since December 2018

Trade with ASEAN in October 2019 decreased by 6.3% y-o-y to RM45.93 billion. This made up 28% share of Malaysia's total trade and marked the highest monthly share to total trade in 11 months. Exports to ASEAN were lower by 2.8% to RM26.69 billion. E&E products, crude petroleum and petroleum products registered contraction in exports. These products collectively contributed 51.3% of total exports to this region. Meanwhile, exports of transport equipment, manufactures of metal, machinery, equipment and parts as well as iron and steel products recorded expansion. Imports from ASEAN contracted by 10.7% to RM19.25 billion.

Breakdown of exports to ASEAN countries:

- Singapore RM13.92 billion, increased by 4.1%

- Thailand RM4.91 billion, ↓18.2%
- Viet Nam RM3.06 billion, ↓1.9%
- Indonesia RM2.66 billion, ↓3.1%
- Philippines RM1.63 billion, ↓2.3%
- Brunei RM211.1 million, ↑6.7%
- Myanmar RM174.4 million, ↓24.0%
- Cambodia RM126.2 million, ↑4.3%
- Lao PDR RM2.8 million, ↑9.7%

Exports to major markets in ASEAN that recorded expansion were **Singapore**, which increased by 4.1% due to higher exports of crude petroleum and **Brunei** (↑6.7%, petroleum products).

Trade, exports and imports recorded an expansion of 19.1%, 23.4% and 13.7%, respectively when compared to September 2019.

From January to October 2019, trade with ASEAN contracted by 4.2% to RM406.37 billion compared to the same period of 2018. Exports to this region was valued at RM235.8 billion, decreasing marginally by 0.7% compared to the same period last year. Lower exports were registered for petroleum products, crude petroleum and E&E products while higher exports were recorded for iron and steel products, machinery, equipment and parts as well as LNG. Imports slipped by 8.8% to RM170.56 billion.

Highest Monthly Exports to China since November 2018

In October 2019, trade with China which represented 16.8% of Malaysia's total trade or RM27.46 billion, decreased by 8.6% y-o-y. Exports was valued at RM13.59 billion, contracted by 11% on lower exports of E&E products, petroleum products, chemicals and chemical products as well as crude petroleum. However, this was the highest monthly exports value recorded to China since November 2018. Products that recorded increases were optical and scientific equipment, metalliferous ores and

metal scrap, petroleum condensate and other petroleum oil as well as paper and pulp products. Imports from China declined by 6.2% to RM13.87 billion.

On a m-o-m basis, trade and exports rose by 8.8% and 25.2%, while imports dipped by 3.7%.

Trade with China for the period of January to October 2019 stood at RM256.45 billion, decreased by 1.6% compared to the same period of 2018. Exports to China declined by 1.8% to RM113.39 billion, on account of lower exports for E&E products, petroleum products and crude petroleum. Meanwhile, exports expansion was seen for LNG (↑RM1.33 billion), iron and steel products (↑RM1.04 billion), paper and pulp products (↑RM0.66 billion) as well as chemicals and chemical products (↑RM0.42 billion). Imports from China registered a decrease of 1.4% to RM143.06 billion.

Exports to the US Continued to Expand in October 2019

Trade with the US in October 2019 which composed 9.2% of Malaysia's total trade rose by 4.6% to RM15.13 billion. Exports to the US continued to grow for 7 straight months with an increase of 2.7% y-o-y to RM8.87 billion in October 2019. Higher exports of manufactured goods were recorded particularly for optical and scientific equipment, wood products, transport equipment as well as manufactures of plastics. Imports from the US increased by 7.5% to RM6.26 billion.

In comparison with September 2019, trade, exports and imports expanded by 9.8%, 7.9% and 12.6%, respectively.

During the first 10 months of 2019, trade with the US rose by 4.7% to RM135.39 billion compared to the same period of 2018. Exports grew by 4.4% to RM78.87 billion driven by higher exports of E&E products, wood products, manufactures of plastics, processed food and non-metallic mineral products. Imports from the US increased by 5.3% to RM56.53 billion.

EU – Exports and Imports Grew M-o-M

Trade with the European Union (EU) which contributed 8.8% to Malaysia's total trade registered a decrease of 9.2% y-o-y to RM14.35 billion. Exports amounted to RM8.12 billion, contracted by 5.2% as a result of lower exports of manufactures of metal, E&E products, rubber products as well as iron and steel products. Meanwhile, expansion in exports was seen for palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products, machinery, equipment and parts as well as optical and scientific equipment. Collectively, all these products increased by 8.8% from October 2018. Imports from the EU totalled RM6.23 billion, lower by 13.8%.

Compared to September 2019, trade, exports and imports increased by 6.5%, 10.3% and 1.9%, respectively.

Trade with the EU for the first 10 months of 2019 decreased by 4.5% to RM146.51 billion. Exports amounted to RM80.94 billion, declined by 2.7% due to lower exports of manufactures of metal, palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products as well as chemicals and chemical products. Increases in exports were recorded for E&E products, petroleum products as well as machinery, equipment and parts. Imports from the EU reduced by 6.6% to RM65.57 billion.

Japan - Trade Grew Compared to September 2019

In October 2019, trade with Japan which absorbed 6.7% of Malaysia's total trade contracted by 10.1% y-o-y to RM11.02 billion. Exports totalled RM5.42 billion, decreased by 20.1% due to lower exports of LNG, E&E products, manufactures of metal and wood products. Expansion in exports were recorded for palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products, processed food, transport equipment as well as non-metallic mineral products. These products collectively expanded by 38.6% to RM439.5 million. Imports from Japan rose by 2.3% to RM5.6 billion.

On a m-o-m basis, trade and imports expanded by 2.6% and 5.3%, while exports slipped marginally by 0.02%.

For the period of January to October 2019, trade with Japan decreased by 4.1% to RM106.61 billion compared to the same period of 2018. Exports amounted to RM54.9 billion, a decline of 5.7% due to lower exports of LNG, wood products as well as optical and scientific equipment. Increases in exports were recorded for transport equipment, processed food as well as textiles, apparels and footwear. These products collectively rose by 21.5% to RM3.11 billion. Imports from Japan were lower by 2.4% to RM51.72 billion.

Trade with FTA Partners

In October 2019, trade with Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners which constituted 62.4% of Malaysia's total trade stood at RM102.3 billion, a decline of 8.9% y-o-y. Exports to FTA partners was valued at RM54.61 billion, a decrease of 10.6% and imports totalled RM47.7 billion, contracted by 6.9%.

Increases in exports were recorded to **Cambodia**, by 4.3% to RM126.2 million mainly attributed by higher uptake of petroleum products and **Lao PDR** (↑9.7% to RM2.8 million, E&E products).

Compared to September 2019, trade, exports and imports recorded an increase of 11.2%, 15.7% and 6.4%, respectively.

Trade with FTA partners for the first 10 months of 2019 which made up 62.1% of Malaysia's total trade amounted to RM943.48 billion, declined by 3.2%. Exports were valued at RM500.61 billion, a decrease of 2.3% and imports reduced by 4.2% to RM442.87 billion.

Import Performance

Total imports in October 2019 slipped by 8.7% to RM73.27 billion from RM80.27 billion in October 2018. The three main categories of imports by end use which accounted for 71.1% of total imports were:

- **Intermediate goods**, valued at RM37.52 billion or 51.2% share of total imports, decreased by 5.1%, following lower imports of parts and accessories of capital goods (except transport equipment) particularly parts of electrical machinery and equipment;
- **Capital goods**, valued at RM8.48 billion or 11.6% of total imports, down by 11.5%, due mainly to lower imports of capital good (except transport equipment) particularly parts of electrical machinery and equipment; and
- **Consumption goods**, valued at RM6.13 billion or 8.4% of total imports, contracted by 5%, as a result of lower imports of non-durables particularly pharmaceutical products.

During January to October 2019, imports amounted to RM700.93 billion, declined by 3.9% from the same period of 2018. **Intermediate goods** totalled RM384.33 billion, increased by 0.5%, **capital goods** (RM81.92 billion, ↓11.5%) and **consumption goods** (RM60.44 billion, ↑1%).

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, 4th December 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 October 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^f				
January	83,252.4	73,201.3	10,051.1	156,453.7
February	70,552.3	61,416.8	9,135.6	131,969.1
March	84,855.7	69,896.7	14,959.0	154,752.4
April	84,636.4	71,373.5	13,262.9	156,009.9
May	82,862.0	74,039.6	8,822.4	156,901.6
June	78,845.2	72,746.2	6,098.9	151,591.4
July	86,474.6	78,349.1	8,125.5	164,823.8
August	81,982.2	80,536.1	1,446.1	162,518.3
September	83,341.9	67,770.9	15,571.0	151,112.9
October	97,122.0	80,270.5	16,851.6	177,392.5
November	85,542.5	77,046.3	8,496.2	162,588.8
December	84,119.5	73,156.9	10,962.6	157,276.5
2018 (Jan-Dec)^f	1,003,586.9	879,804.0	123,782.9	1,883,390.9
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	85,155.0	74,345.6	10,809.4	159,500.6
May	84,138.2	75,062.7	9,075.5	159,201.0
June	76,143.2	65,631.0	10,512.2	141,774.2
July	87,958.4	73,682.5	14,275.9	161,640.9
August	81,357.4	70,460.9	10,896.4	151,818.3
September	77,721.3	69,367.2	8,354.0	147,088.5
October	90,594.0	73,268.1	17,325.9	163,862.1
Change m-o-m (%)	16.6	5.6	107.4	11.4
Change y-o-y (%)	-6.7	-8.7	2.8	-7.6
2018 (Jan-Oct) ^f	833,924.8	729,600.8	104,324.0	1,563,525.6
2019 (Jan-Oct)^P	819,129.9	700,925.8	118,204.2	1,520,055.7
Change (%)	-1.8	-3.9	13.3	-2.8

Note: Total may not necessarily add up due to rounding.

TABLE 2: MAJOR EXPORT PRODUCTS

Products	October 2019 ^p	September 2019 ^p	October 2018 ^f	Change m-o-m	Change y-o-y
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million	%	%
Total Exports	90,594.0	77,721.3	97,122.0	16.6	-6.7
E&E Products	37,393.9	29,043.5	38,637.7	28.8	-3.2
Petroleum Products	5,823.1	5,359.8	8,132.3	8.6	-28.4
Chemicals & Chemical Products	4,955.1	4,330.9	5,676.8	14.4	-12.7
Optical & Scientific Equipment	4,027.7	3,552.2	3,424.2	13.4	17.6
Palm Oil & Palm Oil-Based Agriculture Products	3,730.4	3,429.4	4,121.3	8.8	-9.5
LNG	3,626.8	3,265.5	4,372.4	11.1	-17.1
Manufactures of Metal	3,503.9	3,335.2	4,378.4	5.1	-20.0
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	3,446.2	3,282.0	3,327.5	5.0	3.6
Rubber Products	2,133.7	2,095.5	2,397.8	1.8	-11.0
Processed Food	1,979.7	1,792.4	1,795.5	10.5	10.3

TABLE 3: MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS

Markets	October 2019 ^p	September 2019 ^p	October 2018 ^f	Change m-o-m	Change y-o-y
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million	%	%
Total Exports	90,594.0	77,721.3	97,122.0	16.6	-6.7
Singapore	13,923.6	10,733.9	13,373.7	29.7	4.1
China	13,585.6	10,849.2	15,272.8	25.2	-11.0
USA	8,871.4	8,224.8	8,641.4	7.9	2.7
Hong Kong SAR	7,400.4	5,063.5	7,393.9	46.1	0.1
Japan	5,420.2	5,421.2	6,781.5	-0.02	-20.1
Thailand	4,906.9	4,018.6	5,999.1	22.1	-18.2
Taiwan	4,240.2	3,101.5	3,800.3	36.7	11.6
Viet Nam	3,056.1	2,464.1	3,115.7	24.0	-1.9
ROK	2,913.1	2,801.6	3,081.7	4.0	-5.5
India	2,667.8	2,938.4	3,046.3	-9.2	-12.4

TABLE 4: MAJOR EXPORT PRODUCTS (JANUARY- OCTOBER)

Products	Jan-Oct 2019 ^p	Jan-Oct 2018 ^f	Change
	RM Million	RM Million	%
Total Exports	819,129.9	833,924.8	-1.8
E&E Products	314,022.2	317,512.7	-1.1
Petroleum Products	58,237.8	63,556.2	-8.4
Chemicals & Chemical Products	47,258.8	47,323.0	-0.1
Palm oil & Palm Oil- Based Agriculture Products	35,557.6	38,071.8	-6.6
Manufactures of Metal	34,877.4	37,888.4	-7.9
LNG	34,766.1	32,786.5	6.0
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	34,233.8	33,946.4	0.8
Optical & Scientific Equipment	31,342.9	30,115.1	4.1
Crude Petroleum	21,656.7	30,491.6	-29.0
Rubber Products	20,965.4	21,994.6	-4.7

TABLE 5: MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS (JANUARY- OCTOBER)

Markets	Jan-Oct 2019 ^p	Jan-Oct 2018 ^f	Change
	RM Million	RM Million	%
Total Exports	819,129.9	833,924.8	-1.8
Singapore	113,774.5	115,248.9	-1.3
China	113,393.3	115,499.9	-1.8
USA	78,866.1	75,564.5	4.4
Hong Kong SAR	56,537.5	62,392.3	-9.4
Japan	54,895.1	58,217.7	-5.7
Thailand	47,614.8	47,840.0	-0.5
India	32,064.7	30,394.6	5.5
Taiwan	30,828.5	27,065.5	13.9
Viet Nam	28,496.6	28,080.6	1.5
ROK	27,523.1	27,417.3	0.4

TABLE 6: MAJOR IMPORT PRODUCTS

Products	October 2019 ^p	September 2019 ^p	October 2018 ^f	Change m-o-m	Change y-o-y
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million	%	%
Total Imports	73,268.1	69,367.2	80,270.5	5.6	-8.7
E&E Products	21,872.4	20,056.3	23,800.5	9.1	-8.1
Chemicals & Chemical Products	6,470.7	6,619.7	7,711.4	-2.3	-16.1
Petroleum Products	6,411.2	6,610.5	9,355.9	-3.0	-31.5
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	5,686.4	6,042.7	6,245.1	-5.9	-8.9
Manufactures of Metal	5,199.2	3,764.5	4,234.9	38.1	22.8
Transport Equipment	3,286.6	3,042.1	3,573.3	8.0	-8.0
Iron & Steel Products	2,971.6	2,821.5	2,441.1	5.3	21.7
Optical & Scientific Equipment	2,172.7	2,067.8	2,055.3	5.1	5.7
Processed Food	1,722.3	1,499.9	1,800.7	14.8	-4.4
Crude Petroleum	1,422.0	2,149.3	2,341.5	-33.8	-39.3

TABLE 7: MAJOR IMPORT SOURCES

Sources	October 2019 ^p	September 2019 ^p	October 2018 ^f	Change m-o-m	Change y-o-y
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million	%	%
Total Imports	73,268.1	69,367.2	80,270.5	5.6	-8.7
China	13,872.1	14,398.7	14,782.1	-3.7	-6.2
Singapore	9,083.6	7,697.9	10,195.4	18.0	-10.9
USA	6,258.6	5,560.5	5,823.2	12.6	7.5
Japan	5,601.5	5,319.0	5,476.4	5.3	2.3
Taiwan	4,643.1	4,449.9	6,219.9	4.3	-25.4
Thailand	3,888.1	3,542.4	4,086.7	9.8	-4.9
Indonesia	3,655.9	3,104.9	4,178.7	17.7	-12.5
ROK	3,132.9	3,633.9	3,840.9	-13.8	-18.4
Australia	2,949.2	1,751.9	2,192.1	68.3	34.5
India	2,356.9	2,300.3	2,935.1	2.5	-19.7

TABLE 8: MAJOR IMPORT PRODUCTS (JANUARY- OCTOBER)

Products	Jan-Oct 2019 ^p	Jan-Oct 2018 ^f	Change
	RM Million	RM Million	%
Total Imports	700,925.8	729,600.8	-3.9
E&E Products	203,045.8	218,356.9	-7.0
Chemicals & Chemical Products	68,268.3	68,943.8	-1.0
Petroleum Products	62,027.8	69,905.6	-11.3
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	58,043.6	61,402.4	-5.5
Manufactures of Metal	38,336.7	38,111.7	0.6
Transport Equipment	33,653.9	37,513.0	-10.3
Iron & Steel Products	26,038.5	25,916.2	0.5
Crude Petroleum	21,393.4	18,289.7	17.0
Optical & Scientific Equipment	19,841.4	19,486.8	1.8
Processed Food	16,605.5	16,318.8	1.8

TABLE 9: MAJOR IMPORT SOURCES (JANUARY- OCTOBER)

Sources	Jan-Oct 2019 ^p	Jan-Oct 2018 ^f	Change
	RM Million	RM Million	%
Total Imports	700,925.8	729,600.8	-3.9
China	143,061.1	145,070.2	-1.4
Singapore	73,976.1	86,272.9	-14.3
USA	56,528.8	53,706.8	5.3
Japan	51,717.8	52,986.4	-2.4
Taiwan	47,456.0	53,010.5	-10.5
Thailand	37,122.7	40,272.5	-7.8
ROK	32,461.8	32,690.8	-0.7
Indonesia	32,238.6	33,601.9	-4.1
Germany	22,549.8	21,952.2	2.7
Australia	19,775.2	17,817.8	11.0

Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia
 Tabulated by: MATRADE

Notes:

p - provisional data

f - final data

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

