

**Embargo until 1200 hours,
Friday, 3rd June 2016**

MALAYSIA EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS

TRADE PERFORMANCE FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2016 AND THE PERIOD OF JANUARY- APRIL 2016 #

April 2016 Trade Surplus at RM9.06 billion, Up 31.9%

Malaysia's **exports** rose by 1.6% to RM61.35 billion in **April 2016** compared with April 2015. Export growth in April 2016 was supported by expansion in exports to ASEAN, the United States of America (USA) and Taiwan. **Imports** were lower by 2.3% to RM52.29 billion while **total trade** remained at RM113.64 billion compared with RM113.9 billion in April 2015.

The nation's trade surplus in April 2016 increased by 31.9% to RM9.06 billion compared to RM6.87 billion in April 2015. This marks the 222nd consecutive month of trade surplus since November 1997.

In the first four months of 2016, exports expanded to RM246.51 billion, an increase of 1.2% while **imports** decreased by 0.9% to RM213.51 billion. **Total trade** was valued at RM460.02 billion compared with RM459.04 billion recorded during the same period of last year. **Trade surplus** registered a double digit growth of 17% to reach a value of RM32.99 billion during the period.

Export Performance of Major Sectors

Overall, exports of both manufactured and agricultural goods increased in **April 2016**. Exports of mining goods, however, decreased.

Manufactured Goods Exports Expanded 4.7%

Exports of **manufactured goods** in **April 2016** grew by RM2.31 billion to RM51.54 billion compared to RM49.23 billion in April 2015. The share of manufactured exports expanded to 84% from 81.5% for the same period. The higher exports were driven mainly by increased exports of petroleum products, machinery, equipment and parts, electrical and electronic (E&E) products, optical and scientific equipment, processed food, manufactures of metal as well as chemicals and chemical products.

Exports of **agricultural goods** increased by 7.3% to RM5.21 billion, attributed mainly to higher exports of palm oil which registered an increase of 5.2% or RM145.5 million, mainly due to higher Average Unit Value (AUV).

Exports of **mining goods** decreased by 28.1% to RM4.28 billion with lower exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and crude petroleum due to the contraction in the AUV.

Major exports in April 2016 were:

- E&E products valued at RM21.47 billion and constituting 35% of total exports, increased by 2.1% from the corresponding period of 2015;
- Petroleum products (RM5.22 billion), 8.5% of total exports, increased by 34.4%;
- Chemicals and chemical products (RM4.65 billion), 7.6% of total exports, an increase of 2.5%;
- Machinery, equipment and parts (RM3.53 billion), 5.8% of total exports, an increase of 17.2%; and
- Palm oil and palm-based agriculture products (RM3.48 billion), 5.7% of total exports, an increase of 9.4%.

In **the first four months of 2016**, exports of manufactured goods increased by 6% to RM203.47 billion. Higher exports were recorded for all manufactured subsectors except for petroleum products, iron and steel products as well as non-metallic mineral products. Exports of agricultural goods recorded a value of RM20.47 billion, an increase of 6.7%. Exports of mining goods decreased by 31.6% to RM21.16 billion.

Performance of Major Markets

ASEAN's Share to Total Exports Expanded to 30%

Exports to ASEAN rose by 7.2% to RM18.38 billion and contributed to a 30% share of Malaysia's total exports in **April 2016**. The increase was due to higher exports of petroleum products, manufactures of metal (aluminium alloys), E&E products (electronic integrated circuits), machinery, equipment and parts (parts for civil engineering and contractor's plant and equipment) as well as processed food. **Imports** from ASEAN dipped 5.8% to RM12.84 billion while **trade** with ASEAN grew by 1.4% to RM31.22 billion.

Breakdown of **exports to ASEAN countries** as follows:

- Singapore RM 9.15 billion, **increased** by 15.4%
- Thailand RM 3.16 billion, ↓12.4%
- Indonesia RM 2.39 billion, ↓10.1%
- Viet Nam RM 2.11 billion, ↑44.7%
- Philippines RM 1.07 billion, ↑14.4%
- Myanmar RM 224.8 million, ↑3%
- Brunei RM 183.0 million, ↓32.7%
- Cambodia RM 83.9 million, ↑23.3%
- Lao PDR RM 9.9 million, ↑212.1%

Exports to **Singapore** registered an expansion of RM1.22 billion, due mainly to higher exports of petroleum products, optical and scientific equipment as well as E&E products. Exports to **Viet Nam** increased by RM651.3 million, contributed mainly by higher exports of petroleum products.

Exports to **Thailand** declined by RM448.1 million attributed to lower exports of crude petroleum. Exports to **Indonesia** decreased by RM267.9 million with lower exports of petroleum products, non-metallic mineral products as well as chemicals and chemical products.

In **January-April 2016**, **exports** to **ASEAN** grew by 6.7% to reach a value of RM72.03 billion, contributing to a 29.2% share of Malaysia's total exports. The increase was due to higher exports of E&E products, manufactures of metal, machinery, equipment and parts, as well as processed food. Growth in exports was registered to all ASEAN markets except for Indonesia and Brunei. **Imports** from ASEAN were down 3% to RM54.06 billion while **trade** with ASEAN grew by 2.3% to RM126.09 billion.

Double Digit Expansion in Exports to the USA

In **April 2016**, **exports** to the **USA** expanded by 11.7% to RM6.63 billion, accounting for 10.8% of Malaysia's total exports. The strong export performance to the USA was contributed mainly by E&E products especially photosensitive semiconductor devices, which increased by 18.8%. Other products that contributed to the increase in exports to the USA were transport equipment (parts for aircraft), palm oil and palm-based agriculture products, processed food as well as optical and scientific equipment (medical instruments and apparatus for surgical, dental and veterinary). **Imports** expanded by 3.6% to RM4.49 billion. **Trade** with the USA increased by 8.3% to RM11.12 billion in April 2016.

In the **first four months of 2016**, **trade** with the USA grew by 10.4% to RM44.2 billion. **Exports** increased by 12.8% to RM25.7 billion while **imports** totalled RM18.51 billion, higher by 7.2%. Products which contributed to the increase in exports were E&E products, transport equipment, wood products, manufactures of metal as well as optical and scientific equipment.

China – Lower Exports of Commodities, Trade Down 2.1%

In **April 2016**, **trade** with **China** accounted for 15.4% or RM17.55 billion of Malaysia's total trade. **Exports** to China were valued at RM6.75 billion, a decrease of 16.6% due to lower exports of commodities, mainly palm oil and palm-based agriculture products, petroleum products, LNG and metalliferous ores. However, higher exports were

registered for optical and scientific equipment, machinery, equipment and parts as well as natural rubber. **Imports** from China increased by 9.8% to RM10.81 billion.

In the **first four months of 2016**, trade with China registered a growth of 2.8% to RM68.87 billion. **Exports** decreased by 3.8% to RM27.55 billion and **imports** expanded by 7.7% to RM41.32 billion.

Trade with the EU Contracted in April 2016

Trade with the European Union (EU) was down by RM387.4 million to RM11.22 billion. **Exports** to the EU decreased by 5.3% to RM5.91 billion, the first decline since June 2015 attributed to lower exports of E&E products, palm oil and palm-based agriculture products, manufactures of plastics as well as chemicals and chemical products. However, exports of machinery, equipment and parts, optical and scientific equipment, transport equipment as well as petroleum products registered increases. **Imports** from the EU were lower by 1% to RM5.31 billion.

Exports to the EU remained positive in **January-April 2016**, recording a growth of 4.5% to RM25.24 billion. Among the top 10 EU markets, 7 markets registered growth in exports. Markets which recorded double digit growth were Germany (↑19.7%), Italy (↑28.2%), France (↑15.1%), Belgium (↑21.1%) and Spain (↑32.6%). **Imports** declined by 6.4% to RM21.3 billion while **trade** decreased marginally by 0.8% to RM46.54 billion.

Exports of LNG to Japan Decreased by 45.1%

Trade with Japan in **April 2016** was valued at RM9 billion, a decline of 11.3%. **Exports** totalled RM4.41 billion while **imports** amounted to RM4.6 billion. Exports declined by 18.7% due to lower exports of LNG which accounted for 25.4% share of total exports to Japan. However, increases were registered in exports of E&E products which contributed to RM1.38 billion or 31.2% share of total exports. Other products that registered increases were crude petroleum, machinery, equipments and parts, as well as non-metallic mineral products.

During the **first four months of 2016**, trade with Japan amounted to RM40 billion with **exports** and **imports** value of RM21.7 billion and RM18.31 billion, respectively. The decline in exports to Japan by 20.2% was due mainly to lower exports of LNG, petroleum products and E&E products.

Trade with FTA Partners

In **April 2016**, total trade with **Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners** was valued at RM70.24 billion with exports valued at RM36.98 billion and imports totalled RM33.26 billion. Higher exports were recorded to Singapore, Viet Nam, the Philippines, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Turkey, India and Pakistan.

Exports to **Turkey** surged by 91.3% to RM370.3 million, contributed mainly by higher exports of palm oil and palm-based agriculture products, chemicals and chemical products as well as E&E products. Exports to **India** amounted to RM2.31 billion, an increase of 7.6%. This was contributed by higher exports of palm oil and palm-based agriculture products as well as manufactures of metal. Exports to the **Philippines** registered a double digit increase of 14.4% to RM1.07 billion due to higher exports of crude petroleum as well as chemicals and chemical products.

During **January-April of 2016**, trade with **FTA partners** amounted to RM287.22 billion, accounting for 62.4% of Malaysia's trade. **Exports** to FTA partners recorded a value of RM152.48 billion while **imports**, RM134.74 billion.

Imports

Total imports in **April 2016** declined by 2.3% to RM52.29 billion. The **three main categories** of imports by end use were:

- **Intermediate goods**, valued at RM29.7 billion or 56.8% **share** of total imports, decreased by 6.8%, due mainly to lower imports of petroleum products;
- **Capital goods** (RM6.99 billion, 13.4% share, down 0.02%), due mainly to lower imports of telecommunication equipment; and

- **Consumption goods** (RM5.6 billion, 10.7% share, up 15.3%), with higher imports of food products.

In the first four months of 2016, imports decreased by 0.9% to RM213.51 billion. The three main categories by end use were intermediate goods which valued at RM123.55 billion, capital goods (RM28.43 billion) and consumption goods (RM21.38 billion).

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, Friday, 3rd June 2016 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 2016 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)
2015^P				
January	63,604.8	54,647.7	8,957.1	118,252.5
February	53,168.7	48,613.6	4,555.1	101,782.3
March	66,466.4	58,644.6	7,821.8	125,111.1
April	60,381.7	53,516.6	6,865.1	113,898.3
May	60,453.9	54,941.0	5,512.9	115,395.0
June	64,258.4	56,280.1	7,978.3	120,538.5
July	63,216.7	60,850.3	2,366.3	124,067.0
August	66,499.0	56,336.9	10,162.1	122,835.9
September	70,161.3	60,470.9	9,690.4	130,632.2
October	75,810.2	63,645.6	12,164.6	139,455.7
November	67,627.6	57,393.1	10,234.5	125,020.6
December	68,297.9	60,050.2	8,247.6	128,348.1
2015 (Jan-Dec)^P	779,946.6	685,390.7	94,555.9	1,465,337.3
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	61,347.6	52,291.9	9,055.7	113,639.6
2015 (Jan-Apr)^P	243,621.7	215,422.6	28,199.1	459,044.3
2016 (Jan-Apr)^P	246,505.3	213,513.7	32,991.6	460,019.0

TABLE 2: MAJOR EXPORT PRODUCTS

Products	Apr 2016 ^P	Mar 2016 ^P	Apr 2015 ^P
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million
Total Exports	61,347.6	66,586.2	60,381.7
Electrical & Electronic Products	21,466.2	24,135.0	21,026.6
Petroleum Products	5,215.0	4,304.9	3,880.3
Chemicals & Chemical Products	4,653.3	5,079.6	4,540.5
Machinery, Equipment & parts	3,529.1	3,607.6	3,011.4
Palm Oil & Palm-Based Agriculture products	3,484.3	3,601.6	3,183.5
Manufactures of Metal	2,808.5	3,420.0	2,653.8
Optical & Scientific Equipment	2,369.3	2,530.9	2,063.7
LNG	2,164.6	3,062.0	3,203.1
Rubber Products	1,663.9	1,666.1	1,780.1
Processed Food	1,627.1	1,696.1	1,428.7

TABLE 3: MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS

Markets	Apr 2016 ^P	Mar 2016 ^P	Apr 2015 ^P
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million
Total Exports	61,347.6	66,586.2	60,381.7
Singapore	9,148.9	9,324.1	7,929.1
China	6,747.3	7,810.6	8,091.9
USA	6,630.2	6,804.8	5,933.1
Japan	4,408.9	6,171.9	5,424.2
Thailand	3,163.4	3,674.5	3,611.5
Hong Kong	3,119.1	3,340.1	2,874.1
Australia	2,401.1	2,445.2	2,534.7
Indonesia	2,394.0	2,254.5	2,661.9
India	2,313.2	2,871.8	2,150.1
Viet Nam	2,107.4	2,004.5	1,456.1

TABLE 4: MAJOR EXPORT PRODUCTS (JANUARY- APRIL)

Products	Jan-Apr 2016 ^P	Jan-Apr 2015 ^P
	RM Million	RM Million
Total Exports	246,505.3	243,621.7
Electrical & Electronic Products	88,028.5	85,263.4
Chemicals & Chemical Products	18,377.7	17,469.3
Petroleum Products	16,327.3	16,542.4
Palm Oil & Palm-Based Agriculture products	13,463.7	12,437.7
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	13,360.5	11,022.5
LNG	11,648.6	19,703.5
Manufactures of Metal	11,489.1	8,730.9
Optical & Scientific Equipment	9,413.3	8,152.6
Rubber Products	6,473.0	6,284.7
Crude Petroleum	6,428.6	8,392.7

TABLE 5: MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS (JANUARY- APRIL)

Markets	Jan-Apr 2016 ^P	Jan-Apr 2015 ^P
	RM Million	RM Million
Total Exports	246,505.3	243,621.7
Singapore	35,418.2	33,502.9
China	27,554.2	28,630.3
USA	25,698.8	22,790.6
Japan	21,696.5	27,205.4
Thailand	14,164.8	13,968.0
Hong Kong	12,023.4	12,074.5
India	9,845.3	9,461.8
Australia	9,062.2	9,589.3
Indonesia	8,960.4	9,121.4
ROK	7,943.5	9,111.1

TABLE 6: MAJOR IMPORT PRODUCTS

Products	Apr 2016 ^p	Mar 2016 ^p	Apr 2015 ^p
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million
Total Imports	52,291.9	55,393.6	53,516.6
Electrical & Electronic Products	15,528.5	17,329.5	16,304.2
Chemicals & Chemical Products	5,747.7	5,830.8	5,121.7
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	4,775.6	4,982.4	4,580.0
Petroleum Products	3,767.8	3,534.2	3,759.4
Manufactures of Metal	3,004.5	2,855.0	3,888.4
Transport Equipment	2,841.4	2,895.8	2,624.9
Optical & Scientific Equipment	1,777.7	1,989.1	1,662.2
Iron & Steel Products	1,552.1	1,677.2	1,848.3
Textiles, Apparels & Footwear	1,548.8	1,271.8	1,244.9
Processed Food	1,423.6	1,617.4	1,299.1

TABLE 7: MAJOR IMPORT SOURCES

Markets	Apr 2016 ^p	Mar 2016 ^p	Apr 2015 ^p
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million
Total Imports	52,291.9	55,393.6	53,516.6
China	10,807.6	9,953.7	9,845.6
Singapore	5,420.1	5,613.5	6,132.3
Japan	4,596.0	5,063.5	4,732.2
USA	4,487.0	4,829.7	4,329.6
Thailand	3,296.4	3,811.3	3,132.8
Taiwan	3,098.7	3,423.0	2,685.4
ROK	2,418.2	2,350.9	2,428.7
Indonesia	2,409.8	2,476.8	2,200.1
Germany	1,947.3	1,944.0	2,225.8
Australia	1,214.4	1,284.0	1,422.8

TABLE 8: MAJOR IMPORT PRODUCTS (JANUARY- APRIL)

Products	Jan-Apr 2016 ^p	Jan-Apr 2015 ^p
	RM Million	RM Million
Total Imports	213,513.7	215,422.6
Electrical & Electronic Products	65,759.8	62,523.2
Chemicals & Chemical Products	21,898.3	20,597.7
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	19,351.3	18,575.4
Petroleum Products	14,613.3	18,559.0
Manufactures of Metal	12,226.0	15,133.5
Transport Equipment	11,283.6	12,194.3
Optical & Scientific Equipment	7,023.2	6,726.5
Iron & Steel Products	6,319.5	7,924.2
Processed Food	5,892.1	5,567.2
Textiles, Apparels & Footwear	5,605.3	3,642.8

TABLE 9: MAJOR IMPORT MARKETS (JANUARY- APRIL)

Markets	Jan-Apr 2016 ^p	Jan-Apr 2015 ^p
	RM Million	RM Million
Total Imports	213,513.7	215,422.6
China	41,317.2	38,366.1
Singapore	22,919.1	24,859.7
USA	18,505.7	17,262.7
Japan	18,305.8	18,022.1
Thailand	13,736.2	12,774.1
Taiwan	12,011.7	11,390.0
ROK	9,831.0	9,728.9
Indonesia	9,491.9	9,717.6
Germany	7,693.6	7,328.8
Viet Nam	5,213.9	5,612.4

Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia
Compiled By: MATRADE

Notes:

p - provisional data

CHART 1: MALAYSIA'S MONTHLY EXTERNAL TRADE PERFORMANCE, 2009-2016

