

**Embargo until 1200 hours,  
Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

## **MALAYSIA EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS**

### **TRADE PERFORMANCE FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2018 AND THE PERIOD OF JANUARY- OCTOBER 2018** #

#### ***October Exports Reached a New High, Breaching RM90 billion***

**Malaysia's trade continued its positive growth momentum in October 2018, expanding by 14.8% to RM176.43 billion compared to the same month last year.** Higher trade was seen with ASEAN, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong SAR, Australia, the Republic of Korea (ROK), Saudi Arabia, the United States of America (USA), India and the European Union (EU).

**Exports in October 2018 recorded a new milestone, breaching RM90 billion for the first time.** Exports recorded the highest monthly value of RM96.38 billion, an increase of 17.7% year-on-year (y-o-y), outpacing import growth for two consecutive months. Imports rebounded by 11.4% to RM80.05 billion from a decline of 2.8% in September 2018.

Trade surplus widened by 63.1% to RM16.32 billion, **the largest trade surplus ever recorded thus far.** This surplus marked the 252<sup>nd</sup> consecutive month of trade surplus since November 1997.

On a month-on-month (m-o-m) basis, exports, imports and total trade were recorded a double-digit growth of 16.2%, 18.2% and 17.1%, respectively. Trade surplus increased by 7.2%.

For the first 10 months of 2018, total trade expanded by 6.5% to RM1.558 trillion compared to the same period in 2017. Exports soared by 7.5% to RM829.89 billion while imports grew by 5.4% to RM727.88 billion. Trade surplus for this period rose by 25.6% to RM102.01 billion compared to the same period last year.

### **Export Performance of Major Sectors**

#### ***Double-Digit Growth in Exports of Manufactured & Mining Goods***

In October 2018, exports of manufactured goods registered a strong growth of 19.9% y-o-y to RM80.99 billion and accounted for 84% of Malaysia's total exports. The expansion was driven mainly by higher exports of electrical and electronic (E&E) products, petroleum products, chemicals and chemical products as well as manufactures of metal.

Exports of mining goods rose by 29.6% to RM8.69 billion, accounting for 9% of total exports in October 2018. Higher exports were recorded for liquefied natural gas (LNG) and crude petroleum due mainly to higher Average Unit Value (AUV).

Exports of agriculture goods which accounted for 6.3% of total exports contracted by 12.3% to RM6.11 billion. This was mainly due to lower exports of palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products, particularly palm oil, on account of lower AUV.

#### **Major exports in October 2018:**

- E&E products valued at RM38.38 billion, constituting 39.8% of total exports, increased by 23.3% from October 2017;
- Petroleum products, RM8.13 billion, 8.4% of total exports, increased by 31.2%;
- Chemicals and chemical products, RM5.68 billion, 5.9% of total exports, increased by 36.5%;
- Manufactures of metal, RM4.38 billion, 4.5% of total exports, increased by 29%; and
- Palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products, RM4.12 billion, 4.3% of total exports, decreased by 17.3%.

Compared to September 2018, exports of manufactured goods accelerated by 15.3%, mining goods by 33.1% and agriculture goods by 8.4%.

In the first 10 months of 2018, exports of manufactured goods which constituted 83.8% of total exports expanded by 9.9% to RM695.43 billion compared to the corresponding period of 2017. Higher exports were recorded for E&E products, chemicals and chemical products, manufactures of metal, petroleum products as well as optical and scientific equipment. Exports of mining goods (8.6% share) increased by 7.2% to RM71.09 billion, mainly led by higher exports of crude petroleum. Meanwhile, exports of agriculture goods (6.8% share) recorded a decline of 13.4% to RM56.67 billion, owing to lower exports of palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products.

### **Performance of Major Markets**

#### ***Exports to ASEAN Up by 16% - the Fastest Growth since December 2017***

Trade with ASEAN in October 2018 soared by 13.8% y-o-y to RM48.82 billion and constituted 27.7% of Malaysia's total trade. The upward trend of exports continued in October with an expansion of 16% to RM27.29 billion, buoyed by higher exports of E&E products, petroleum products, chemicals and chemical products, manufactures of metal as well as machinery, equipment and parts. Imports from ASEAN were up by 11.1% to RM21.53 billion.

Breakdown of exports to ASEAN countries in October 2018:

- Singapore RM 13.37 billion, **increased** by 18.3%
- Thailand RM 5.89 billion, ↑20.8%
- Viet Nam RM 3.09 billion, ↑36.3%
- Indonesia RM 2.73 billion, ↓3.6%
- Philippines RM 1.65 billion, ↑9.8%
- Myanmar RM 229.6 million, ↓46.9%
- Brunei RM 198.2 million, ↓0.6%
- Cambodia RM 121.0 million, ↑23.9%
- Lao PDR RM 2.5 million, ↓22.7%

Exports to major markets in ASEAN that recorded significant increases were **Singapore**, which expanded by RM2.07 billion, **Thailand** (↑RM1.01 billion) and **Viet Nam** (↑RM824.1 million), due to higher E&E shipments.

On a m-o-m basis, exports, imports and trade recorded a double-digit expansion of 15.9%, 17.9% and 16.8%, respectively.

For the first 10 months of 2018, trade with ASEAN expanded by 4.7% to RM422.33 billion compared to the same period of 2017. Exports to this region rose by 4.7% to RM235.79 billion driven by higher exports of E&E products, crude petroleum, transport equipment, manufactures of metal as well as chemicals and chemical products. Imports increased by 4.7% to RM186.53 billion.

### ***Exports to China Rebounded Strongly in October 2018***

Trade with China which absorbed 16.8% of Malaysia's total trade expanded by 19.1% y-o-y to RM29.71 billion. Exports to China picked up strongly in October 2018, rising by 33% to RM15.12 billion from a decline of 0.6% in September 2018. This was on the back of significant increases in exports of E&E products, petroleum products, chemicals and chemical products as well as LNG. Imports from China were higher by 7.6% to RM14.59 billion.

Compared to September 2018, exports, imports and trade surged by 33.5%, 11.2% and 21.5%, respectively.

Trade with China in the first 10 months of 2018 expanded by 9.5% to RM260.35 billion compared to the same period last year. For this period, exports to China recorded a growth of 12.2% to RM115.75 billion, attributed to higher exports of E&E products, chemicals and chemical products as well as manufactures of metal. Imports from China rose by 7.4% to RM144.61 billion.

***EU - Manufactured Goods Drove Export Growth***

Malaysia's trade with the EU in October 2018 stood at RM15.77 billion or 8.9% of Malaysia's total trade, an increase of 5.6% compared to October 2017. Exports grew by 8.5% to RM8.56 billion, led by stronger exports of manufactured goods which increased by 11.7%. Higher exports were recorded for manufactures of metal, E&E products, rubber products, palm-oil based manufactured products as well as optical and scientific equipment. Imports from the EU were up by 2.4% to RM7.22 billion.

**Among the top 10 EU markets which accounted for 91% of Malaysia's total exports to the EU, 8 countries recorded expansion** namely, **Germany** (↑8.7%), **Italy** (↑39.9%), **Netherlands** (↑4.6%), **Belgium** (↑24.1%), **Spain** (↑28.9%), **France** (↑5.4%), **Hungary** (↑10.7%) and **Poland** (↑10.1%).

On a m-o-m basis, exports, imports and trade registered a rise of 3.8%, 27% and 13.3%, respectively.

In January-October 2018, trade with the EU recorded an expansion of 7.8% to RM153.31 billion compared to the same period last year. Exports grew by 5.5% to RM83.14 billion, driven by higher exports of manufactures of metal, chemicals and chemical products, rubber products as well as iron and steel products. Imports from the EU rose by 10.7% to RM70.17 billion.

***Exports to the USA - the Highest Value in 11 Years***

Malaysia's trade with the USA in October 2018 recorded a growth of 8.2% to RM14.45 billion and accounted for 8.2% of Malaysia's total trade. Exports to the USA rose by 7.6% to RM8.63 billion, the highest monthly value since October 2007. This was supported by higher exports of E&E products, rubber products, optical and scientific equipment as well as machinery, equipment and parts. Imports grew by 9% to RM5.82 billion.

Compared to September 2018, exports, imports and trade soared by 12.3%, 4.7% and 9.1%, respectively.

In January-October 2018, trade with the USA amounted to RM129.2 billion, a marginal increase of RM4.5 million compared to the corresponding period in 2017. Exports to the USA were up by 1.8% to RM75.5 billion supported by higher exports of optical and scientific equipment, transport equipment as well as manufactures of metal. Imports from the USA declined by 2.4% to RM53.7 billion.

### ***Exports to Japan Improved in October 2018***

In October 2018, trade with Japan which constituted 6.9% of Malaysia's total trade posted an expansion of 4.3% y-o-y to RM12.09 billion. After four consecutive months of decline, exports to Japan rebounded by 10.2% to RM6.61 billion driven by higher exports of LNG, manufactures of metal, wood products, chemicals and chemical products as well as E&E products. Imports from Japan decreased by 2.1% to RM5.48 billion.

On a m-o-m basis, exports, imports and trade increased by 25.7%, 6.7% and 16.3%, respectively.

For the first 10 months of 2018, trade with Japan amounted to RM109.72 billion, lower by 4.8% from the same period last year. Exports to Japan valued at RM57.07 billion, contracting by 8.8% on account of lower exports of LNG and E&E products. However, higher exports were registered for chemicals and chemical products, manufactures of metal, iron and steel products as well as petroleum products. Imports from Japan grew marginally to RM52.66 billion.

### ***Trade with FTA Partners***

In October 2018, trade with Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners which accounted for 63.2% of Malaysia's total trade registered a double-digit increase of 14.8% to RM111.52 billion. Exports to FTA partners amounted to RM60.48 billion, an increment of 19.3% and imports expanded by 9.9% to RM51.03 billion.

**Exports to Australia** surged by 47% to RM3.94 billion, attributed mainly to higher exports of petroleum products, **the ROK** (↑28.4% to RM2.99 billion, LNG) and **India** (↑17.4% to RM3.04 billion, crude petroleum).

Compared to September 2018, trade, exports and imports rose by 19.6%, 21.6% and 17.2%, respectively.

Trade with FTA partners for the first 10 months of 2018 which accounted for 62.3% of Malaysia's total trade rose by 4.4% to RM970.09 billion. Exports for this period amounted to RM509.37 billion, an increase of 4.8% while imports totalled RM460.72 billion, growing by 3.9%.

### ***Other Markets Registering Higher Exports***

In October 2018, **other markets with significant growth in exports were Hong Kong SAR and Taiwan**. Exports to **Hong Kong SAR** expanded by 42.1% y-o-y to RM7.32 billion, mainly driven by higher exports of E&E products. Exports to **Taiwan** surged by 63% to RM3.74 billion, on account of higher exports of E&E products as well as petroleum products.

### **Domestic Export Performance**

In October 2018, domestic exports which accounted for 78.4% of Malaysia's total exports increased by 12.1% to RM75.55 billion, registering the fastest y-o-y growth since December 2017. On a m-o-m basis, domestic exports were higher by 13.7%. During the first 10 months of 2018, domestic exports rose by 1% to RM660.25 billion.

### **Re-export Performance**

In October 2018, re-exports were valued at RM20.83 billion, a growth of 43.8% y-o-y. On a m-o-m basis, re-exports increased by 26%. For January-October 2018, re-exports expanded by 43.8% to RM169.64 billion.

### **Import Performance**

In October 2018, **imports increased by 11.4% y-o-y to RM80.05 billion**. The three main categories of imports by end use which accounted for 68.9% of total imports were:

- **Intermediate goods**, valued at RM39.31 billion or 49.1% of total imports, increased by 1%, as a result of higher imports of primary fuel and lubricants, particularly mineral fuels, oils and distillation products, bituminous substances and mineral waxes;
- **Capital goods**, valued at RM9.44 billion or 11.8% of total imports, declined by 1.6%, led by lower imports of capital goods (except transport equipment), particularly parts for machinery and mechanical appliances; and
- **Consumption goods**, valued at RM6.4 billion or 8% of total imports, up by 7.6%, on account of higher imports of non durable goods, particularly pharmaceutical products.

During January-October 2018, imports amounted to RM727.88 billion, grew by 5.4% from the corresponding period of 2017. **Intermediate goods** totalled RM380.52 billion, dropped by 4.9%, **capital goods** (RM92.14 billion, ↓1%) and **consumption goods** (RM59.57 billion, ↑2.3%).

*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, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and can be downloaded through statistic at the Department of Statistics, Malaysia’s portal (<https://estatistik.dosm.gov.my>).”*

+ *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 2018 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.*

**TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF MALAYSIA'S EXTERNAL TRADE**

Year/ Period	<u>Total</u> <u>Exports</u> <u>(RM</u> <u>Million)</u>	<u>Domestic</u> <u>Exports</u> <u>(RM</u> <u>Million)</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Imports</u> <u>(RM</u> <u>Million)</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Trade</u> <u>(RM</u> <u>Million)</u>	<u>Trade</u> <u>Balance</u> <u>(RM</u> <u>Million)</u>
<b>2017<sup>f</sup></b>					
January	70,309.4	60,008.2	65,439.6	135,749.0	4,869.8
February	71,979.3	61,009.7	63,058.5	135,037.8	8,920.8
March	82,890.9	70,496.5	77,240.3	160,131.2	5,650.6
April	74,243.4	63,322.0	65,210.7	139,454.2	9,032.7
May	79,216.0	65,830.9	72,973.4	152,189.4	6,242.6
June	72,823.6	63,268.5	62,627.4	135,451.0	10,196.2
July	78,747.8	66,719.6	70,589.6	149,337.4	8,158.3
August	82,024.8	71,217.9	72,113.0	154,137.9	9,911.8
September	77,861.5	64,752.0	69,650.4	147,511.9	8,211.1
<b>October</b>	<b>81,862.2</b>	<b>67,372.9</b>	<b>71,851.1</b>	<b>153,713.3</b>	<b>10,011.1</b>
November	83,485.9	70,744.2	73,551.9	157,037.8	9,934.1
December	79,482.0	67,384.1	72,116.3	151,598.2	7,365.7
<b>2017 (Jan-Dec)<sup>f</sup></b>	<b>934,926.8</b>	<b>792,127.4</b>	<b>836,422.2</b>	<b>1,771,349.0</b>	<b>98,504.6</b>
<b>2018<sup>p</sup></b>					
January	82,820.1	65,419.1	73,152.8	155,972.8	9,667.3
February	70,342.6	55,811.6	61,325.0	131,667.5	9,017.6
March	84,467.0	68,375.8	69,778.7	154,245.7	14,688.3
April	84,246.7	64,119.8	71,225.2	155,472.0	13,021.5
May	82,110.4	65,854.6	73,993.6	156,104.0	8,116.8
June	78,610.8	62,876.2	72,609.9	151,220.7	6,000.9
July	86,154.4	67,502.1	77,827.4	163,981.8	8,327.0
August	81,810.2	68,332.9	80,197.1	162,007.3	1,613.1
September	82,953.0	66,414.7	67,720.0	150,673.0	15,233.0
<b>October</b>	<b>96,376.8</b>	<b>75,546.2</b>	<b>80,052.9</b>	<b>176,429.7</b>	<b>16,324.0</b>
<b>2017 (Jan-Oct)<sup>f</sup></b>	<b>771,958.9</b>	<b>653,998.8</b>	<b>690,754.0</b>	<b>1,462,712.9</b>	<b>81,204.9</b>
<b>2018 (Jan-Oct)<sup>p</sup></b>	<b>829,892.0</b>	<b>660,252.9</b>	<b>727,882.6</b>	<b>1,557,774.6</b>	<b>102,009.4</b>

Note: Total may not add up due to rounding

**TABLE 2: MAJOR EXPORT PRODUCTS**

Products	Oct 2018 <sup>p</sup>	Sep 2018 <sup>p</sup>	Oct 2017 <sup>f</sup>
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million
<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>96,376.8</b>	<b>82,953.0</b>	<b>81,862.2</b>
Electrical & electronic products	38,381.9	32,870.1	31,136.8
Petroleum Products	8,132.3	6,332.7	6,197.7
Chemicals & chemical products	5,676.8	4,888.1	4,159.2
Manufactures of Metal	4,379.0	3,181.4	3,395.2
Palm oil & palm oil based agriculture products	4,119.6	3,784.5	4,980.2
LNG	4,069.9	3,142.2	2,931.9
Crude Petroleum	3,791.7	2,695.3	2,854.7
Optical & Scientific Equipment	3,391.1	3,148.3	3,075.5
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	3,329.3	3,074.5	3,194.2
Rubber Products	2,397.9	2,106.1	2,099.9

**TABLE 3: MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS**

Markets	Oct 2018 <sup>p</sup>	Sep 2018 <sup>p</sup>	Oct 2017 <sup>f</sup>
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million
<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>96,376.8</b>	<b>82,953.0</b>	<b>81,862.2</b>
China	15,116.8	11,321.7	11,370.0
Singapore	13,372.6	12,140.4	11,304.3
USA	8,629.7	7,686.8	8,017.3
Hong Kong SAR	7,322.5	6,808.1	5,151.8
Japan	6,612.9	5,262.0	5,999.6
Thailand	5,891.7	4,158.2	4,879.0
Australia	3,942.4	2,889.6	2,681.0
Taiwan	3,736.0	2,996.8	2,292.2
Viet Nam	3,094.1	2,553.1	2,270.1
India	3,041.5	2,653.3	2,589.8

**TABLE 4: MAJOR EXPORT PRODUCTS (JANUARY-OCTOBER)**

Products	Jan-Oct 2018 <sup>p</sup>	Jan-Oct 2017 <sup>f</sup>
	RM Million	RM Million
<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>829,892.0</b>	<b>771,958.9</b>
Electrical & electronic products	316,827.8	282,624.5
Petroleum Products	63,924.1	60,398.3
Chemicals & chemical products	47,334.2	38,843.4
Palm oil & palm oil based agriculture products	38,041.8	45,264.3
Manufactures of Metal	37,895.0	30,846.3
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	33,934.8	33,659.3
LNG	31,455.5	33,575.4
Crude Petroleum	30,516.6	23,110.4
Optical & Scientific Equipment	29,904.8	26,687.5
Rubber Products	21,912.9	21,851.5

**TABLE 5: MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS (JANUARY- OCTOBER)**

Markets	Jan-Oct 2018 <sup>p</sup>	Jan-Oct 2017 <sup>f</sup>
	RM Million	RM Million
<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>829,892.0</b>	<b>771,958.9</b>
China	115,746.9	103,198.0
Singapore	114,140.6	112,816.0
USA	75,497.8	74,184.4
Hong Kong SAR	62,163.5	37,492.1
Japan	57,066.6	62,602.6
Thailand	47,582.1	41,888.6
India	30,365.9	29,108.7
Viet Nam	27,989.8	22,453.9
Australia	27,505.9	26,554.6
ROK	27,152.2	21,784.3

**TABLE 6: MAJOR IMPORT PRODUCTS**

Products	Oct 2018 <sup>P</sup>	Sep 2018 <sup>P</sup>	Oct 2017 <sup>f</sup>
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million
<b>Total Imports</b>	<b>80,052.9</b>	<b>67,720.0</b>	<b>71,851.1</b>
Electrical & electronic products	23,618.1	21,241.7	21,755.0
Petroleum Products	9,358.8	7,093.6	7,183.0
Chemicals & chemical products	7,712.2	7,147.2	6,250.0
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	6,244.8	5,216.8	6,902.7
Manufactures of Metal	4,250.6	3,529.3	3,819.6
Transport Equipment	3,572.7	2,256.2	3,257.9
Iron & Steel Products	2,441.0	2,529.7	2,252.4
Crude Petroleum	2,341.5	798.2	1,430.3
Optical & Scientific Equipment	2,049.1	1,955.9	2,199.3
Processed food	1,800.7	1,512.7	1,815.8

**TABLE 7: MAJOR IMPORT SOURCES**

Markets	Oct 2018 <sup>P</sup>	Sep 2018 <sup>P</sup>	Oct 2017 <sup>f</sup>
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million
<b>Total Imports</b>	<b>80,052.9</b>	<b>67,720.0</b>	<b>71,851.1</b>
China	14,594.3	13,129.9	13,567.9
Singapore	10,173.4	9,166.5	9,102.6
Taiwan	6,234.6	5,362.7	4,674.3
USA	5,821.8	5,562.4	5,341.2
Japan	5,475.6	5,130.9	5,595.8
Indonesia	4,177.1	2,934.7	3,091.0
Thailand	4,088.5	3,898.6	3,978.2
ROK	3,840.5	3,038.4	3,126.8
India	2,933.1	1,922.9	2,457.6
Germany	2,387.2	1,900.9	2,938.4

**TABLE 8: MAJOR IMPORT PRODUCTS (JANUARY-OCTOBER)**

Products	Jan-Oct 2018 <sup>p</sup>	Jan-Oct 2017 <sup>f</sup>
	RM Million	RM Million
<b>Total Imports</b>	<b>727,882.6</b>	<b>690,754.0</b>
Electrical & electronic products	217,659.2	209,024.3
Petroleum Products	70,069.2	62,947.4
Chemicals & chemical products	68,740.5	61,811.8
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	61,251.8	64,627.1
Manufactures of Metal	38,078.3	35,842.0
Transport Equipment	37,506.1	32,598.1
Iron & Steel Products	25,916.8	22,618.3
Optical & Scientific Equipment	19,372.3	20,810.6
Crude Petroleum	18,289.7	13,215.5
Processed food	16,315.8	17,177.8

**TABLE 9: MAJOR IMPORT SOURCES (JANUARY-OCTOBER)**

Markets	Jan-Oct 2018 <sup>p</sup>	Jan-Oct 2017 <sup>f</sup>
	RM Million	RM Million
<b>Total Imports</b>	<b>727,882.6</b>	<b>690,754.0</b>
China	144,605.5	134,592.3
Singapore	86,073.9	76,137.4
USA	53,703.5	55,012.3
Taiwan	53,005.5	45,104.6
Japan	52,658.0	52,644.6
Thailand	40,260.9	39,895.3
Indonesia	33,457.3	31,512.7
ROK	32,341.7	33,538.5
Germany	21,950.5	21,672.8
India	21,386.9	22,198.2

Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia  
 Tabulated by: MATRADE

Notes:

p - provisional data

f – final data

**CHART 1: MALAYSIA'S MONTHLY EXTERNAL TRADE PERFORMANCE, 2012 - October 2018**

