Recollective MITI Monthly Bulletin | Issue #7, April 2021



BERSAMA MALAYSIA

Public-Private Collaboration to Fast Track Economic Recovery



FIRST WORD

THE rise and fall of COVID-19 cases may have cast some doubts but overall, the trade market remains bullish. Trade with ASEAN for the month of February 2021 constituted RM40.95 billion or 26% of Malaysia's total trade, increased by 13.2% compared to February 2020. Exports recorded a double-digit expansion of 13.7% to RM24.42 billion owing to higher exports of E&E products and petroleum products. Imports from ASEAN expanded by 12.4% to RM16.52 billion.

Contributing significantly to the trade market performance is the manufacturing sector. Its growth is driven by Electrical & Electronic products; Food, Beverage and Tobacco products, Transport Equipment and others.

As frontliners of the economy, MITI and the agencies under its purview strive to facilitate trade in a secure trading environment, promoting Malaysia as a safe country to trade and continue to strengthen cooperation with the private sector and relevant multilateral organisations.

MITI continues to monitor its various programmes to ensure effectiveness and impact, stradling the line between economic sustainability and public health. We intend to facilitate a smooth and progressive recovery for the betterment of all.

Recollective intends to capture the moments on the digital plane, immortalising the efforts of our agencies to protect livelihoods and resuscitate the economy. In addition, we keep track of the overall monthly trade performance and numerous investment news that may cast away doubts.

Come what may, there will always be a silver lining and we want to be right where the action's at to capitalise on the positives. We're in this together; stay tuned and stay committed.

#EconomicFrontliners





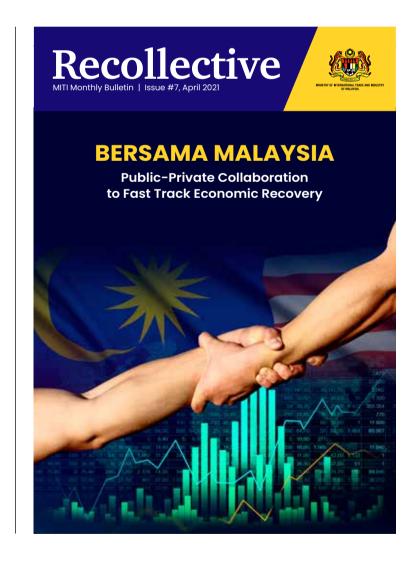
MITI's Recollective is a monthly bulletin that outlines the Ministry's efforts and the latest Malaysian trade, industry and investment news. It highlights Malaysia as one of the most globally competitive trading and investment destinations. It also reflects the Ministry's outlook on trade and investments in the near future and serves to drive the Industry4WRD initiative for Industry 4.0 development within the nation.

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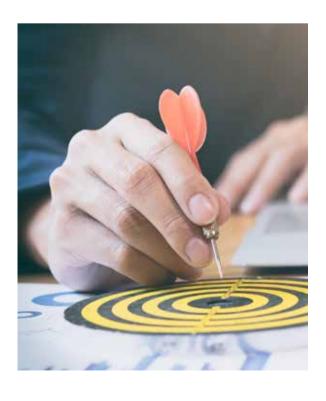
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MALAYSIA'S TRADE FOR THE FIRST THREE MONTHS

OF 2021 SHOWS STRONG SIGNS OF RECOVERY



TRADE, EXPORTS AND IMPORTS HIT NEW RECORD HIGH

Malaysia's trade performance continued its upward trajectory in March 2021, registering the highest monthly value for trade, exports and imports. Total trade expanded by 25.6% to RM185.74 billion compared to March 2020. Exports accelerated by 31%, surpassing the RM100 billion mark to reach RM104.95 billion. Imports increased by 19.2% to RM80.79 billion and trade surplus surged by 96.1% to RM24.15 billion. Trade, exports, imports and trade surplus recorded double-digit growth for two consecutive months.

Exports were boosted by higher global demand notably for electrical and electronic (E&E) products mainly semiconductors used in 5G technology and high-performance computing

as well as rubber products. Exports to major markets namely ASEAN, China, the United States (US) and the European Union (EU) registered a new all-time high.

Compared to February 2021, total trade, exports, imports and trade surplus grew by 18.1%, 19.8%, 15.9% and 35.1%, respectively.

Total trade for the first quarter (Q1) of 2021 grew by 14.8% to RM505.65 billion, compared to Q1 2020. Exports increased by 18.2% to RM282.14 billion and imports rose by 10.8% to RM223.51 billion. Trade surplus expanded by 58.6% to RM58.63 billion.

Compared to the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2020, total trade, exports and imports registered an increase of 4.7%, 3.9% and 5.6%, respectively. Trade surplus declined by 2.1%.

EXPORT PERFORMANCE OF MAJOR SECTORS

Exports of Manufactured Goods Reached a New High

Exports of manufactured goods in March 2021 reached their highest monthly value at RM91.21 billion or 86.9% of total exports, grew by 34.9% year-on-year (y-o-y). The expansion was due mainly to higher shipments of E&E products, rubber products, manufactures of metal, chemicals and chemical products as well as machinery, equipment and parts. These products recorded the highest export value thus far.

Exports of agriculture goods (7.1% share) surged by 43.8% to RM7.48 billion compared to March 2020 buoyed mainly by higher exports of palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products.

Exports of mining goods (5% share) declined by 24.1% y-o-y to RM5.23 billion on account of lower exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG), crude petroleum as well as metalliferous ores and metal scrap.

Major exports in March 2021:

- E&E products, valued at RM39.54 billion and constituted 37.7% of total exports, increased by 47.1% from March 2020;
- Rubber products, RM7.32 billion, 7% of total exports, surged by 210.6%;
- Chemicals and chemical products, RM6.32 billion, 6% of total exports, increased by 32.3%;
- Palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products, RM5.46 billion, 5.2% of total exports, increased by 54.1%; and
- Manufactures of metal, RM5.32 billion, 5.1% of total exports, increased by 88.4%.

On a month-on-month (m-o-m) basis, exports of manufactured, agriculture and mining goods expanded by 20.2%, 31.4% and 0.8%, respectively.

During the first three months of 2021, exports of manufactured goods rose by 21.9% to RM245.9 billion compared to the same period of 2020, on account of higher exports of E&E products, rubber products, manufactures of metal, chemicals and chemical products, machinery, equipment and parts as well as optical and scientific equipment. Exports of agriculture goods grew by 15.2% to RM18.17 billion attributed to higher exports of palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products. Exports of mining goods contracted by 21.9% to RM15.36 billion due to lower exports of LNG and crude petroleum.

TRADE PERFORMANCE WITH MAJOR MARKETS

ASEAN – E&E Products Continued to Boost Exports

In March 2021, trade with ASEAN contributed RM47.76 billion or 25.7% to Malaysia's total trade, increased by 22.3% y-o-y. Exports continued its double-digit expansion of 17.4% to RM28.52 billion, backed mainly by higher exports of E&E products. Imports from ASEAN accelerated by 30.3% to RM19.24 billion.

Breakdown of exports to ASEAN countries:

- **Singapore** RM14.97 billion, **increased** by 31.6%
- **Thailand** RM4.38 billion, **increased** by 29.0%
- Viet Nam RM4.24 billion, increased by 101.1%
- **Indonesia** RM2.75 billion, **decreased** by 46.4%
- Philippines RM1.64 billion, increased by 6.5%
- **Brunei** RM244.9 million, **increased** by 34.8%
- **Cambodia** RM154.6 million, **increased** by 6.9%
- **Myanmar** RM146.6 million, **decreased** by 65.4%
- Lao PDR RM5.4 million, decreased by 24.7%

Exports to major markets in ASEAN that recorded expansion include **Singapore**, which increased by RM3.6 billion due to higher exports of E&E products, **Thailand (increased** by RM985.1million, chemicals and chemical products), **Viet Nam (increased** by RM2.13 billion, E&E products) and the **Philippines (increased** by RM99.9 million, E&E products).

Compared to February 2021, trade, exports and imports were up by 16.6%, 16.8% and 16.4%, respectively.

During Q12021, trade with ASEAN increased by 14.3% to RM131.73 billion, compared to the same period of 2020. Exports to this region rose by 12.8% to RM78.68 billion following higher exports of E&E products as well as chemicals and chemical products. Imports from ASEAN increased by 16.5% to RM53.05 billion.

China — Five Consecutive Months of Double— Digit Export Growth

In March 2021, trade with China surged by 36.1% y-o-y to RM33.86 billion, representing 18.2% of Malaysia's total trade. Exports to China recorded double-digit growth for five consecutive months, surged by 46.6% to RM16.07 billion on higher exports of E&E products, manufactures of metal as well as iron and steel products. Imports from China expanded by 27.8% to RM17.8 billion.

On a m-o-m basis, trade, exports and imports recorded growth of 17.8%, 25.4% and 11.6%, respectively.

Trade with China during the period of January to March 2021 grew by 31.3% to RM92.53 billion compared to the same period of 2020. Exports expanded by 36.3% to RM41.99 billion, boosted by higher exports of E&E products, manufactures of metal as well as iron and steel products. Imports from China rose by 27.3% to RM50.53 billion.

The US — Exports of Rubber and E&E Products Remained Strong

Trade with the US in March 2021 rose by 41.8% y-o-y to RM18.26 billion, accounting for 9.8% of Malaysia's total trade. Exports continued to expand with double-digit growth of 67.5% to RM12.31 billion. Higher shipments were recorded mainly for rubber products and E&E products. Imports from the US increased by 7.6% to RM5.94 billion.

Compared to February 2021, trade, exports and imports were higher by 21.3%, 23.3% and 17.4%, respectively.

During the first three months of 2021, trade with the US rose by 17.1% to RM49.24 billion compared to the same period of 2020. Exports increased by 35.9% to RM32.62 billion driven by higher exports of rubber products and E&E products. Imports from the US was lower by 8% to RM16.62 billion.

The EU — Trade, Exports and Imports Recorded Double-Digit Growth

TTotal trade with the EU which constituted 8.7% of Malaysia's total trade in March 2021 rose by 38.9% y-o-y to RM16.21 billion. Exports surged by 45.9% to RM9.85 billion, underpinned by higher exports of rubber products, E&E products as well as transport equipment. This was the fourth consecutive months of double-digit expansion to the EU. Imports from the EU grew by 29.2% to RM6.36 billion.

All top 10 EU markets which accounted for 91.3% of Malaysia's total exports to the EU recorded increases namely, the **Netherlands** (**increased** by 26.3%), **Germany** (increased by 55.8%), **Italy** (**increased** by 54.1%), **Belgium** (**increased** by 69%), **France** (**increased** by 52.5%), **Spain** (**increased** by 44.7%), **Poland** (**increased** by 160.9%), the **Czech Republic** (**increased** by 61%), **Slovenia** (**increased** by 111.5%) and **Sweden** (**increased** by 96.5%).

Compared to February 2021, trade, exports and imports grew by 27.1%, 27.3% and 26.9%, respectively.

For the first three months of 2021, trade with the EU expanded by 17.6% to RM42.18 billion from the same period of 2020. Exports grew by 24% to RM25.61 billion on account of higher exports of rubber products and transport equipment. Imports from the EU rose by 8.9% to RM16.57 billion.

Japan – Manufactured Goods Continued to Drive Exports

In March 2021, trade with Japan which constituted 7.4% of Malaysia's total trade increased by 21% y-o-y to RM13.8 billion. Exports grew for two straight months, recording a growth of 14.4% to RM6.74 billion. Exports of manufactured goods continued to expand since September 2020, surged by 45.8% to RM4.81 billion mainly on higher exports of E&E products, rubber products, optical and scientific equipment as well as manufactures of metal. Imports from Japan grew by 28.1% to RM7.05 billion.

On a m-o-m basis, trade, exports and imports increased by 20.9%, 17.5% and 24.3%, respectively.

For the period of January to March 2021, trade with Japan expanded by 10.6% to RM36.86 billion compared to the same period of 2020. Exports rose by 5% to RM18.96 billion on account of higher exports of E&E products, rubber products, manufactures of metal as well as optical and scientific equipment. Imports from Japan increased by 17.2% to RM17.9 billion.

Trade with FTA Partners

In March 2021, trade with Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners which made up 66.7% of Malaysia's total trade rose by 26% y-o-y to RM123.97 billion. Exports to FTA partners grew by 25.8% to RM69.49 billion and imports expanded by 26.3% to RM54.47 billion.

An increase in exports was recorded to **Hong Kong SAR**, by 39% to RM 6.79 billion due to higher exports of E&E products, **India** (**increased** by 70.6% to RM3.59 billion, palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products), **Turkey** (**increased** by 164.4% to RM1.43 billion, manufactures of metal), Chile (increased by 94% to RM74.2 million, rubber products) and **the Republic of Korea** (**increased** by 0.9% to RM3.12 billion, E&E products).

Compared to February 2021, trade, exports and imports rose by 17.5%, 19.1% and 15.6%, respectively.

Trade with FTA partners for the first three months of 2021 which accounted for 67% of Malaysia's total trade increased by 17% to RM338.93 billion. Exports grew by 16.2% to RM188.54 billion and imports expanded by 18% to RM150.39 billion.

IMPORT PERFORMANCE

Total imports in March 2021 grew by 19.2% y-o-y to RM80.79 billion from March 2020. The three main categories of imports by end use which accounted for 73.1% of total imports were:

- Intermediate goods, valued at RM43.65 billion or 54% of total imports, increased by 12.4%, following higher imports of processed industrial supplies particularly non-monetary gold;
- Capital goods, valued at RM8.32 billion or 10.3% of total imports, grew by 93.4%, due mainly to higher imports of capital goods (except transport equipment), primarily parts of machinery and mechanical appliances; and
- **Consumption goods**, valued at RM7.12 billion or 8.8% of total imports, rose by 13%, as a result of higher imports of durables, especially jewellery.

From January to March 2021, imports increased by 10.8% to RM223.51 billion from the same period of 2020. Imports of **intermediate goods** grew by 4.6% to RM121.38 billion, **capital goods** (RM23.15 billion, **increased** by 32.7%) and **consumption goods** (RM19.56 billion, **increased** by 10.1%).

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF MALAYSIA'S EXTERNAL TRADE

Change q-o-q (%) Change y-o-y (%)	18.2	10.8	58.6	14.8
Q1	282,138.9 <i>3.</i> 9	223,507.1 <i>5.6</i>	58,631.8 <i>-2.1</i>	505,646.0 <i>4.7</i>
2021 ^p	202 120 0	222 507 4	50 624 0	505 646 O
	•	-	-	-
Q4	271,445.2	211,573.3	59,871.9	483,018.5
Q3	260,594.1	200,254.3	60,339.8	460,848.4
Q2	210,255.7	182,649.1	27,606.7	392,904.8
2020 ^p Q1	238,684.0	201,717.4	36,966.6	440,401.3
Change m-o-m (%) Change y-o-y (%)	31.0	19.2	96.1	25.6
March	104,946.3 <i>19.8</i>	80,794.1 <i>15</i> .9	24,152.3 <i>35.1</i>	185,740.4 <i>18.1</i>
February March	87,567.1	69,690.0	17,877.0	157,257.1
January	89,625.5	73,023.0	16,602.5	162,648.5
2021 ^p	20 205 5	70,000,0	40.000.5	100 010 5
2020 (Jan-Dec) ^p	980,979.1	796,194.1	184,785.0	1,777,173.1
December	95,732.4	75,038.9	20,693.5	170,771.3
November	84,661.0	67,607.6	17,053.5	152,268.6
October	91,051.7	68,926.8	22,124.9	159,978.6
September	88,905.4	66,956.6	21,948.8	155,862.1
August	79,129.8	65,914.5	13,215.2	145,044.3
July	92,559.0	67,383.2	25,175.8	159,942.1
June	82,819.5	61,966.0	20,853.5	144,785.5
May	62,649.6	52,262.9	10,386.7	114,912.5
April	64,786.6	68,420.2	-3,633.6	133,206.9
March	80,118.9	67,804.8	12,314.1	147,923.7
February	74,451.0	61,831.6	12,619.4	136,282.6
2020 ^p January	84,114.1	72,081.0	12,033.1	156,195.1
20200				
Period	(RM Million)	(RM Million)	(RM Million)	(RM Million)
Year/	Total Exports	Total Imports	<u>Trade Balance</u>	<u>Total Trade</u>

Note: Total may not add up due to rounding

TABLE 2: MAJOR EXPORT PRODUCTS (MARCH)

Products	Mar 2021 ^p	Feb 2021 ^p	Mar 2020 ^p	Change m-o-m	Change y-o-y
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million	%	%
Total Exports	104,946.3	87,567.1	80,118.9	19.8	31.0
E&E Products	39,542.2	31,306.9	26,885.2	26.3	47.1
Rubber Products	7,323.8	6,683.8	2,357.6	9.6	210.6
Chemicals & Chemical Products	6,324.7	5,176.2	4,782.0	22.2	32.3
Palm Oil & Palm Oil-Based					
Agriculture Products	5,463.8	3,942.2	3,544.6	38.6	54.1
Manufactures of Metal	5,324.0	3,754.2	2,825.5	41.8	88.4
Petroleum Products	4,695.2	6,675.4	7,688.1	-29.7	-38.9
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	4,521.3	3,459.9	3,019.6	30.7	49.7
Optical & Scientific Equipment	4,115.0	3,306.3	3,146.2	24.5	30.8
LNG	2,536.6	2,795.9	3,352.3	-9.3	-24.3
Iron & Steel Product	2,393.6	1,803.0	1,778.8	32.8	34.6

TABLE 3: MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS (MARCH)

Markets	Mar 2021 ^p	Feb 2021 ^p	Mar 2020 ^p	Change m-o-m	Change y-o-y
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million	%	%
Total Exports	104,946.3	87,567.1	80,118.9	19.8	31.0
China	16,069.6	12,816.7	10,961.2	25.4	46.6
Singapore	14,970.7	12,646.8	11,374.5	18.4	31.6
USA	12,314.5	9,988.9	7,353.3	23.3	67.5
Hong Kong SAR	6,793.3	5,355.1	4,886.5	26.9	39.0
Japan	6,740.9	5,736.8	5,891.0	17.5	14.4
Thailand	4,376.8	3,528.9	3,391.6	24.0	29.0
Viet Nam	4,237.1	3,152.9	2,107.0	34.4	101.1
India	3,588.9	3,025.4	2,103.8	18.6	70.6
Taiwan	3,400.9	2,647.1	2,860.1	28.5	18.9
ROK	3,116.5	3,071.8	3,088.0	1.5	0.9

TABLE 4: MAJOR EXPORT PRODUCTS (QUARTERLY)

Products	Q1 2021 ^p	Q4 2020 ^p	Q1 2020 ^p	Change q-o-q	Change y-o-y
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million	%	%
Total Exports	282,138.9	271,445.2	238,684.0	3.9	18.2
E&E Products	107,157.0	109,389.9	84,412.6	-2.0	26.9
Rubber Products	20,369.8	15,766.2	6,886.9	29.2	195.8
Chemicals & Chemical Products	16,201.8	13,619.9	13,336.3	19.0	21.5
Petroleum Products	15,931.2	14,352.3	19,485.4	11.0	-18.2
Manufactures of Metal	12,787.4	10,686.2	8,875.3	19.7	44.1
Palm Oil & Palm Oil-Based					
Agriculture Products	12,736.5	15,988.9	10,844.9	-20.3	17.4
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	11,373.6	10,617.4	9,939.7	7.1	14.4
Optical & Scientific Equipment	10,791.5	11,319.9	9,526.9	-4.7	13.3
LNG	7,724.9	6,203.5	10,706.4	24.5	-27.8
Iron & Steel Product	6,122.6	5,886.7	5,898.1	4.0	3.8

TABLE 5: MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS (QUARTERLY)

Markets	Q1 2021 ^p	Q4 2020 ^p	Q1 2020 ^p	Change q-o-q	Change y-o-y
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million	%	%
Total Exports	282,138.9	271,445.2	238,684.0	3.9	18.2
China	41,993.8	44,056.5	30,798.7	-4.7	36.3
Singapore	40,537.1	41,339.6	34,837.4	-1.9	16.4
USA	32,615.1	31,723.8	23,990.9	2.8	35.9
Japan	18,960.2	16,546.5	18,052.9	14.6	5.0
Hong Kong SAR	18,203.6	19,181.2	14,465.2	-5.1	25.8
Thailand	12,200.4	12,056.4	11,377.0	1.2	7.2
Viet Nam	10,936.3	8,536.6	6,791.2	28.1	61.0
India	9,120.4	10,279.4	7,638.7	-11.3	19.4
Taiwan	9,056.2	8,761.3	8,308.7	3.4	9.0
ROK	8,815.5	8,188.1	9,903.8	7.7	-11.0

TABLE 6: MAJOR IMPORT PRODUCTS (MARCH)

Products	Mar 2021 ^p	Feb 2021 ^p	Mar 2020 ^p	Change m-o-m	Change y-o-y
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million	%	%
Total Imports	80,794.1	69,690.0	67,804.8	15.9	19.2
E&E Products	24,549.3	21,056.4	19,299.0	16.6	27.2
Chemicals & Chemical Products	8,121.8	6,671.6	6,673.4	21.7	21.7
Petroleum Products	6,096.1	6,524.2	6,701.1	-6.6	-9.0
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	5,591.5	5,109.7	4,418.7	9.4	26.5
Manufactures of Metal	4,786.4	4,068.5	3,303.0	17.6	44.9
Transport Equipment	3,244.4	2,708.9	1,981.9	19.8	63.7
Iron & Steel Products	2,574.8	2,200.8	2,383.1	17.0	8.0
Optical & Scientific Equipment	2,325.2	1,970.4	1,705.2	18.0	36.4
Processed Food	2,104.3	1,751.9	1,959.3	20.1	7.4
Rubber Products	1,710.9	1,413.7	585.3	21.0	192.3

TABLE 7: MAJOR IMPORT SOURCES (MARCH)

Sources	Mar 2021 ^p	Feb 2021 ^p	Mar 2020 ^p	Change m-o-m	Change y-o-y
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million	%	%
Total Imports	80,794.1	69,690.0	67,804.8	15.9	19.2
China	17,795.3	15,942.8	13,923.7	11.6	27.8
Singapore	7,963.0	6,386.5	5,902.1	24.7	34.9
Japan	7,054.9	5,676.7	5,506.2	24.3	28.1
USA	5,941.7	5,058.9	5,519.9	17.4	7.6
Taiwan	5,733.6	4,842.0	4,505.6	18.4	27.3
Indonesia	4,227.5	4,078.0	3,484.8	3.7	21.3
Thailand	4,177.9	3,787.5	2,714.3	10.3	53.9
ROK	3,890.4	3,350.1	3,732.1	16.1	4.2
Germany	2,230.2	1,899.4	1,750.2	17.4	27.4
India	2,082.6	2,124.2	1,910.0	-2.0	9.0

TABLE 8: MAJOR IMPORT PRODUCTS (QUARTERLY)

Products	Q1 2021 ^p	Q4 2020 ^p	Q1 2020 ^p	Change q-o-q	Change y-o-y
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million	%	%
Total Imports	223,507.1	211,573.3	201,717.4	5.6	10.8
E&E Products	69,417.7	67,714.3	58,342.1	2.5	19.0
Chemicals & Chemical products	21,517.6	19,934.5	18,941.4	7.9	13.6
Petroleum Products	17,596.4	14,990.0	20,003.6	17.4	-12.0
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	15,663.0	16,061.7	14,192.8	-2.5	10.4
Manufactures of Metal	13,442.9	12,684.4	11,367.7	6.0	18.3
Transport Equipment	8,334.7	8,857.9	6,837.7	-5.9	21.9
Iron & Steel Products	6,979.6	6,293.6	7,050.9	10.9	-1.0
Optical & Scientific Equipment	6,220.0	6,502.0	5,348.7	-4.3	16.3
Processed Food	5,705.7	5,791.7	5,376.8	-1.5	6.1
Rubber Products	4,464.1	3,303.6	1,868.5	35.1	138.9

TABLE 9: MAJOR IMPORT SOURCES (QUARTERLY)

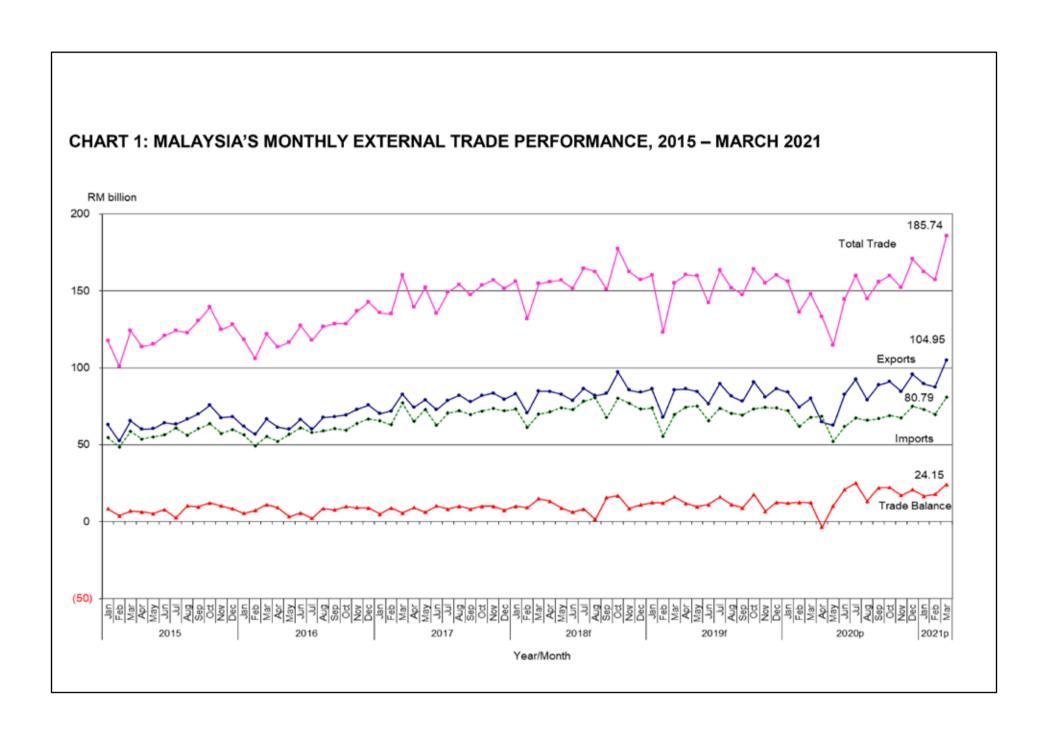
Sources	Q1 2021 ^p	Q4 2020 ^p	Q1 2020 ^p	Change q-o-q	Change y-o-y
	RM Million	RM Million	RM Million	%	%
Total Imports	223,507.1	211,573.3	201,717.4	5.6	10.8
China	50,532.4	48,566.9	39,681.4	4.0	27.3
Singapore	21,583.5	18,874.9	19,637.2	14.3	9.9
Japan	17,904.3	17,277.5	15,272.1	3.6	17.2
USA	16,624.1	17,199.3	18,072.6	-3.3	-8.0
Taiwan	16,242.5	14,953.8	13,613.4	8.6	19.3
Indonesia	12,164.4	10,871.0	9,613.7	11.9	26.5
Thailand	11,409.7	10,271.2	8,553.1	11.1	33.4
ROK	10,823.3	9,470.5	10,365.5	14.3	4.4
India	6,285.6	6,192.6	6,411.8	1.5	-2.0
Germany	5,971.1	5,656.7	6,055.3	5.6	-1.4

Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia

Tabulated by: MATRADE

Notes:

p - provisional data



WAY FORWARD FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY

PRIME MINISTER MEETS WITH INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS TO DISCUSS WAY FORWARD FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY.



PRIME Minister, YAB Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin met with more than 48 local and international industry associations as well as chambers of commerce, accompanied by Senior Minister and Minister of International Trade and Industry YB Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali at Menara MITI. The event was organised by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) in full adherence to the Standard Operating Procedures set by the National Security Council.

The initiative was timely as Malaysia progresses towards expedited economic recovery amidst the background of a very challenging economic landscape faced by not only Malaysia, but other world economies too. The meeting provided a conducive avenue for industry stakeholders to share on–the–ground issues, provide constructive suggestions to the Government and discuss opportunities to help industry players reinvigorate their businesses that have been affected by the COVID–19 pandemic.

ONE FOR THE BOOK... LEADERS GATHERED TO DISCUSS WAYS TO EXPEDITE ECONOMIC RECOVERY AMIDST A CHALLENGING ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE.



LISTENING
INTENTLY TO
FEEDBACK
AND OPINIONS
OF INDUSTRY
PLAYERS.

The feedback from the industry players is invaluable for the Government to ensure the execution of more effective and strategic facilitation for companies in Malaysia including Small and Medium Enterprises, Mid-Tier Companies and Multinational Companies, in our efforts to achieve a balance in protecting the public health and livelihoods for economic sustainability.

The matters discussed at the session included the need to prioritise industry players who are regarded as the nation's economic frontliners for the National Vaccination Programme; utilisation of economic stimulus packages introduced by the Government; flexibility of financing mechanism and price control for the selected products/industry; manpower management and talent requirement; improved facilitation for new investments: swift ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP); and resumption of the Malaysia-EU Free Trade Agreement (MEUFTA); as well as the development of the new National Investment Aspiration (NIA).

YB Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin shared in his remarks the pivotal role industry stakeholders play in transforming and future-proofing the Malaysian economy. "It bears stressing that

the agenda of defining Malaysia's investment value proposition is encapsulated in our NIA, a forward-looking strategy aimed at attracting quality investments driven by innovation, high-technology, green economy and greater inclusion of domestic supply chains," he said.

IT BEARS STRESSING THAT
THE AGENDA OF DEFINING
MALAYSIA'S INVESTMENT
VALUE PROPOSITION IS
ENCAPSULATED IN OUR
NIA, A FORWARD-LOOKING
STRATEGY AIMED AT
ATTRACTING QUALITY
INVESTMENTS DRIVEN
BY INNOVATION, HIGHTECHNOLOGY, GREEN
ECONOMY AND GREATER
INCLUSION OF DOMESTIC
SUPPLY CHAINS."

"At the same time, we have taken on board the need to ensure that reforms are aligned with global benchmarks, including the Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) goals. In addition, outcomes on this front will also reflect our commitment in facilitating investors, enhancing efficiency and improving the ease of doing business," the Senior Minister added.

During the session, the attendees were also informed of the positive impact MITI's Safe@ Work Programme can bring to their businesses. Safe@Work is a risk mitigation programme

that helps companies remain productive by empowering employers to provide safe accommodation for their employees and to effectively manage the employees who have been tested positive for COVID-19, their close contacts, health screening as well as measures to prevent transmission among employees.

Moving forward, MITI will continue to join forces with other Ministries and Government Agencies and most importantly with the industry players, to ensure Malaysia is well on its way to revitalising its economy, post-pandemic.

Safe@Work will help companies execute a strategic plan in isolating close contacts among workers at the workplace, their accommodation and company's transportation. More info on miti.gov.my

Safe@Work brings a lot of benefits for manufacturers & those in the manufacturing-related services. Click bit.

ly/2PKq9XI to get the details of the programme and go to notification miti.gov.my to start registering.





HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTE THRIVING IN THE 4IR SPACE

AIMST UNIVERSITY IS ALL GEARED UP FOR THE FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION.



THE global pandemic has posed a lot of challenges in various industries, including the education sector due to a series of lockdowns to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. This prevented most higher education institutions (HEIs) from operating as usual. With closure of borders due to the pandemic across the globe, the international student count plummeted significantly. This also resulted in lesser funding available for research, while extended closures of research laboratories during lockdowns slowed down research progress in universities.

However, AIMST remains resilient despite the unprecedented times. Being in the industry for 20 years, we have secured increases in grants. We produced high-impact scholarly publication with high citation numbers, intellectual properties and coveted international innovation awards like PECIPTA'19, ITEX'19, ASIA INVENT, Singapore and Falling Wall Labs, Germany. Also, in line with the changing trends, all our faculties have incorporated Industry 4.0 related courses such as data analytics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), coding and Internet of Things (IoT).

Additionally, AIMST has secured more than RM5 million of national and international grants in the last three years, out of which half was secured in 2020. The major portion of these grants is funded by the industry and the rest by the Ministry of Education of Malaysia. Aside from national grants, we also managed to secure international grants from the UK Research Council. This establishes us as a research–driven university that researches to solve industry and global problems.

Their cutting-edge research has attracted collaboration with worldwide top universities. These include Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School (US), University of Copenhagen (Denmark), University of Leicester (the UK), Deakin University (Australia), Technical University of Denmark, and Karolinska Institutet of Sweden. We expect to see a spike in the number of research collaborations in the near future considering that we have embarked on niche research areas like precision agriculture, CRISPR technology, drug formulation, cancer research, application of AI in rainforest conservation, digital healthcare, IoT surveillance device for smart cities, and drone-based applications. All these research areas are in line with the 4th Industrial Revolution and National Priority Areas (NPA) as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The Ministry of Education recently awarded a grant worth RM500,000 to one of our centres of excellence — the Centre of Excellence for Omics–Driven Computational Biodiscovery (COMBio) and recognised the centre as a

Consortium of Research Excellence in the thrust area of Al. AlMST heads this consortium with Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) and Universiti Tun Hussein Onn as partners in the project. This recognition would further enhance our chances to be considered as the Ministry of Education's Higher Institution Centre of Excellence (HICoE) in the future.

In the frontiers of commercialisation, we have developed a first-of-its-kind cold chain-free vaccine formulation. The Ministry of Education funded this project through three continuous grants worth close to RM1 million. This project would benefit the global patients who suffer from cholera. Our technology would be able to reduce the cost of vaccination packages significantly as the major cost for vaccination is its storage at cold temperatures. Therefore, making it cold chain-free means that the vaccine will be stable at any temperature, thus eliminating the need to store it at cold temperatures.

Currently, the Malaysian Institute of Pharmaceuticals and Nutraceuticals (IPHARM) is working on ICH GLP-Compliant Pre-Clinical Safety Studies to validate our technology. This validation is a prerequisite before we can license it for clinical studies. Once this validation is complete, we shall arrive at a licensing dossier that will attract industries to take up our technology. This is very timely as Malaysia is now focused on becoming a vaccine-producing nation as mentioned by our Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) Minister, YB Tuan Khairy Jamaluddin in a recent press statement.

Also, based on some of our recent studies, we found that the aforementioned vaccine could also cross protect humans from traveller's diarrhoea. It also has the potential to be used to deliver vaccines DNA like the ones developed for COVID-19. These will open up a world of possibilities for the formulated vaccine and will contribute new knowledge in science.

Besides this, our researchers are also working on an intelligent and automated ovitrap for mosquito surveillance. This technology seeks to curb dengue outbreaks in Malaysia. This is a Collaborative Research in Engineering, Science and Technology (CREST) funded project. The patent has been filed and the field trial is ongoing. We are also in the process of taking this to the market.

AIMST strongly believes that universities need to carry out applied research and be a centre for learning new technologies. Only then we would be able to produce graduates who are ready for the Industry 4.0 era. Industries are anticipating graduates to be skilled and to have the ability to think critically. They also demand that graduates have strong practical exposure to Industry 4.0 technologies. Our student job placement rate is close to 100 per cent upon graduation. This is a testament to the University's ability to produce industry–relevant graduates.

We believe that the University's dedication to quality research and teaching would enable its graduates to chart promising careers beyond the shores of Malaysia. The international acceptance of our graduates in top-notch universities such as the National University of Singapore (NUS), University of Cambridge, Imperial College London, Ontario University, and John Hopkins University is emblematic of that commitment.

AIMST STRONGLY BELIEVES
THAT UNIVERSITIES NEED
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PRODUCE GRADUATES WHO
ARE READY FOR THE INDUSTRY
4.0 ERA."

EMBRACING INDUSTRY 4.0 FOR BUSINESS **SUSTAINABILITY**

GLOBETRONICS EMBARKS ON RM50 MILLION INDUSTRY 4.0 TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME FOR BUSINESS SUSTAINABILITY.

Globetronics embarks on RM50 million Industry 4.0 **Transformation Programme**





 Globetronics Techology Bhd., a leading miniaturised optical sensors manufacturer in Malaysia, announced the establishement of a cloud-based state-of-the-art platform through the adoption of Industry 4.0 processes in their high volume mass production operations.

Globetronics' IR4.0 transformation focuses on:

- workforce transformation
- reimagining manufacturing
- · workforce training via Extended Reality (ER)

The closed-loop integration of product, process and quality data via Al will serve as an inadvertent error prevention guarantee of its quality excellence, enabling technology to directly uplift lesser skilled workers.

The expansion worth RM50.2 million will incorporate:



Artificial Intelligence (AI)



Big Data Analytics



Extended Reality (AR+VR)







in Malaysian Investment Development Authority | 🚾 MIDA TV



GLOBETRONICS Technology Bhd., a leading miniaturised optical sensors manufacturer in Malaysia, announced the establishment of a cloud-based state-of-the-art platform through the adoption of Industry 4.0 processes in their high volume mass production operations. The expansion worth RM50.2 million will incorporate Artificial Intelligence (AI), big data analytics and Extended Reality (AR + VR) into their end-to-end intelligent supply chain and manufacturing which enables higher levels of customisation, reduction of cycle times and superior quality traceability for a diversified product portfolio and dynamic customer needs.

The move towards integrating intelligence into the company's machines and business processes is timely in addressing the nonskilled labour acquisition challenges as well as increasing the resilience in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The implementation of automation to its processes will also help Globetronics to focus on high revenue generation activities such as predictive and prescriptive data to maximise machine operations. The initiative maps the path for the Company's "Lights off" factory within the next five (5) years.

Mr Arham Abdul Rahman, Chief Executive Officer of MIDA, expressed that "In line with the Government's aspiration to spearhead rapid digital transformation in the manufacturing sector, Globetronics' expansion will pave the way for enhancement in productivity, job creation and deepening the Malaysians skill set by leveraging on cutting-edge technology and emerging Al capabilities."

"The introduction of Industry 4WRD policy, served as a strategic direction for Malaysia to fully embrace Industry 4.0, including smart manufacturing and smart cities, smart grids, as well as smart solutions. While digitalisation is the antidote for business survival and growth in innovation—led value creation, Globetronics' Industry 4.0 adoption will complement the electrical and electronics industry by producing

advanced semiconductor photonic products through the utilisation of autonomous robots and smart manufacturing," he added.

Globetronics' IR4.0 transformation focuses on workforce transformation, reimagining manufacturing and workforce training via Extended Reality (ER). The Company's ER technology will bridge the gap between the digital and physical world by superimposing live-streamed images with its extensive database of machine learnt data from research and development (R&D) as well as manufacturing phases.

Subsequently, a digital guru may be utilised to ensure a seamless work action and reduced human errors in day-to-day operations. The closed-loop integration of product, process and quality data via AI will serve as an inadvertent error prevention guarantee of its quality excellence. This will be the enabling technology to directly uplift lesser-skilled workers and proportionally bring up the minimum wage.

The new recharacterising of Globetronics' manufacturing processes will be the testbed to proliferate and intensify the use of big data across its end-to-end supply chain and manufacturing system. The workforce transformation will position the company to be the front runner in Malaysia in establishing a data-driven culture and hub to attract data science talents, locally and globally. Besides, the expansion would also demonstrate Globetronics' commitment to continually invest in emerging technologies that are critical to support the constantly evolving landscape to ensure its business sustainability.

Globetronics' new platform is set to gear up for exciting next-generation semiconductor wafer-level packaging technology including the 2.5D, where the stacking of dies will be replaced by flip-chip on a silicon interposer.

COMPREHENSIVE REFORMS ON MALAYSIA'S INVESTMENT POLICIES

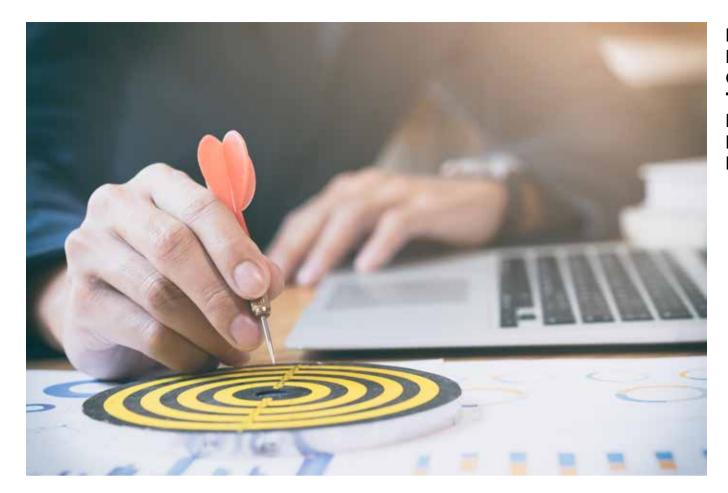
INVESTMENT POLICY REFORMS TO BE ROOTED IN THE NATIONAL INVESTMENT ASPIRATIONS (NIA).



THE Cabinet on 21st April 2021 approved the National Investment Aspirations (NIA), a forward-looking growth framework that will form the basis for comprehensive reforms of Malaysia's investment policies. At its core, the NIA will focus on coherence and cohesiveness, with these aspirations being reflected across all national policy documents and initiatives

related to investment, including the Fourth Industrial Masterplan and the 12th Malaysia Plan.

In pursuing investment policy reviews and reforms, the NIA is also guided by the essence of the Shared Prosperity Vision (SPV) 2030. The NIA is a product of comprehensive stakeholder



NIA IS A COMPREHENSIVE, FORWARD-LOOKING GROWTH FRAMEWORK THAT WILL GUIDE THE REFORMATION OF MALAYSIA'S INVESTMENT POLICIES.

consultations and has taken into account views and feedback from Ministries and Agencies, Government-linked Companies (GLCs) and Government-linked Investment Companies (GLICs), the private sector, as well as research organisations and think tanks.

Senior Minister and Minister of International Trade and Industry (MITI), Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali underscored that the NIA will be central to revitalise Malaysia's investment climate, attract high-quality investments into the country and create high-income jobs, particularly in a post-COVID era. He also highlighted the leadership role that will be assumed by MITI in spearheading national-level efforts to review policies and restructure the nation's investment strategies, as mandated by the NIA.

The 5 core parameters framing the NIA will be integral to enhance the nation's competitiveness and ensure that Malaysia remains a preferred investment destination. These aspirations will bear the foundation for Malaysia to become a regional investment hub, which will:

- increase economic diversity and complexity through the development of sophisticated products and services, with high local Research and Development (R&D) and innovation;
- 2. create high-skill jobs to provide better income for the rakyat;
- 3. expand and integrate domestic linkages into regional and global supply chains, by improving their resiliency;
- 4. develop new and existing clusters focusing on high productivity sectors, including local products and services; and
- 5. improve inclusivity to contribute towards the socio-economic developmental agenda.

Going forward, Malaysia must adopt a comprehensive approach to reinvigorating the investment ecosystem and respond adequately to emerging megatrends as well as the evolving needs of our investors, the Senior Minister added. Malaysia needs to rise to this challenge by continuously enhancing our unique value propositions, which span across a wide array of elements such as incentives, facilitation, talent, infrastructure, as well as legal, regulatory, procedural and institutional mechanisms.

NIA WILL BE CENTRAL
TO REVITALISE
MALAYSIA'S
INVESTMENT
CLIMATE, ATTRACT
HIGH-QUALITY
INVESTMENTS INTO
THE COUNTRY AND
CREATE HIGHINCOME JOBS,
PARTICULARLY IN A
POST-COVID ERA."

"In order to enable further diversification and ventures into more complex industries, emphasis should also be accorded towards fostering a robust and dynamic tax and incentives regime, building our talent pool in close collaboration with the relevant industries, improving our licensing and regulatory frameworks and augmenting the facilitation elements such as customs procedures", said the Senior Minister and Minister of International Trade and Industry.

The NIA also recognises the significant role of investment promotion strategies in attracting quality investments. In this context, the NIA will guide policy and non-policy prescriptions that place a specific emphasis on more targeted, relevant and effective investment promotion and facilitation strategies. This is pivotal to ensure that investments in the identified priority sectors are able to flow into the country and thus lead to positive economic spillover effects.

The NIA focuses on inclusivity and sustainability that is compatible with the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) goals,

as new investments that are anchored upon these elements will propel growth in the technologically sophisticated sectors, as well as strengthen forward and backward linkages. This will also provide a pathway for investors to access new market opportunities, particularly in developed countries that mainstream sustainability throughout their value chain. In this context, the NIA takes into account the global interest surrounding carbon neutrality, including the use of technology to help reduce carbon footprint.

The NIA will also serve to improve the existing institutional setup, as it mandates the establishment of a National Investment Council, to be chaired by the YAB Prime Minister. The membership of the Council will include relevant Ministries and Agencies, as well as GLCs and GLICs led by Khazanah Nasional. Membership may also be extended to other relevant stakeholders. This Council will be responsible for the formulation of overarching investment policies and the resolution of key implementation issues. It will ensure that the NIA is reflected across all Government measures related to investment.

As part of the institutional reforms, and in line with the NIA mandate for better policy coherence, the role of MIDA will be further strengthened. In fulfilling its role as the coordinating central investment promotion agency and a one-stop centre for potential investments, MIDA will work collaboratively with the relevant investment promotion agencies to harness the competitive strengths of each and every state within Malaysia.

In the long term, the NIA will encourage the sustained flow of quality investments in new and possibly complex growth areas, foster innovation and sophistication, create greater job opportunities and improve income prospects. It will also further build investors' and business confidence in Malaysia, as we continue to remain competitive and serve as the epicentre for economic and business activities in the region.

LEADING TRANSFORMATION: ECONOMY CLUSTER UNDER MED4IR

CHARTING AN OUTCOME-DRIVEN, RAKYAT-CENTRIC FORMULA TO ACCELERATE MALAYSIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH DIGITAL ECONOMY AND FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION.

MITI organised the inaugural meeting of Economy Cluster under the National Council of Digital Economy and Fourth Industrial Revolution (MED4IR) on 19 April 2021. Sets out to boost economic competitiveness through digitalisation, the Economy Cluster meeting brought together members from the public and private sectors as well as think tank luminaries.

MED4IR is a Council chaired by Prime Minister YAB Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and the Economy Cluster spearheaded by YB Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali, is one of the six clusters supporting the role of the Council. The other clusters are tasked to develop Malaysia's digital and data infrastructure; talent pool; delivery service of the public sector; an inclusive digital society; and digital environment.

MED4IR was established to provide a clear leadership in mapping Malaysia's digital transformation policy. It also encapsulates inclusivity, a whole-of-nation approach and prioritises public-private sector collaboration to promote a sustainable digital transformation for Malaysia. Accordingly, the Economy Cluster assumes its part by strategising efforts to elevate Malaysia's economic competitiveness through digitalisation.

Efforts coordinated by the Economy Cluster meeting are aligned with MyDIGITAL and the Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint (DEB) that were launched on 19 February 2021. MyDIGITAL and DEB signify the Government's commitment to transform Malaysia into a digitallydriven, high-income nation and a regional leader in digital economy. At today's meeting,

the Economy Cluster members discussed policy directions on two key components of the digital economy, namely e-commerce and investment.

On e-commerce, the meeting acknowledged the monumental achievements of the National e-Commerce Strategic Roadmap (NESR), implemented from 2016 to 2020, including:

- 378,487 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) have adopted e-commerce through various business educational and upskilling programmes;
- 2. 231,365 SMEs participated in the programmes by Ministries and Agencies under NESR in 2020 itself;
- 3. 27,635 SMEs have successfully exported their products and services through e-commerce platforms via programmes by Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) such as eTrade and other joint programmes organised with Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC); and
- 4. RM1.5 billion of investments were approved to establish regional e-fulfilment hubs in Malaysia. In 2020 alone, RM863 million new investments for e-fulfilment hubs projects were approved by the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA).

The Economy Cluster meeting today also endorsed the roll out of the NESR 2.0 document with the primary target of having 825,000 MSMEs adopting e-commerce by 2025 and this agenda will be led by MITI and MDEC.

MITI is at the forefront of this agenda and fully committed to driving Malaysia's digital transformation particularly in industrial development, investment, trade and productivity policies. As for the nation's investment, Malaysia's value proposition is embedded in the National Investment Aspiration (NIA). The NIA is aimed at attracting quality investments driven by innovation, high-technology, green economy and greater inclusion of domestic supply chains. This reflects the Malaysian Government's commitment in facilitating investors, enhancing efficiency and improving the ease of doing business in the country.

In line with the MyDIGITAL and NIA agenda, MITI together with the Ministry of Communication and Multimedia have agreed to set up a platform, known as Digital Investment Office (DIO), run collaboratively by MIDA and MDEC. The DIO platform will streamline and strengthen the efforts in attracting and facilitating all investments in digitalisation in Malaysia.

During the meeting too, MIDA introduced InvestMalaysia portal, an online application submission platform with an integrated technology system that optimises automation for data processing and seamless data capturing and analysis. Currently, InvestMalaysia portal offers 10 modules on online applications and serves as a single-entry point for the industry stakeholders. This new initiative is expected to deliver a more efficient evaluation, some with an automated approval process and easier information-sharing at a single-entry point.

Such real-time investment project updates and reporting on a centralised data warehouse will allow faster and more accurate analysis and enhanced KPI monitoring functions by the Government. This digital initiative will expedite investors' applications and ultimately enable companies to accelerate their project implementation.



THE ECONOMY CLUSTER COMMITTEE UNDER THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF DIGITAL ECONOMY AND FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION (MED4IR) IS SET TO DEVELOP POLICIES TO BOOST MALAYSIA'S ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS THROUGH #DIGITALISATION.



MORE AND MORE MALAYSIAN SMES ARE SELLING OVERSEAS BY LEVERAGING THE POWER OF DIGITAL PLATFORMS. THIS NOT ONLY ENSURES THE NATION'S ECOMMERCE ENVIRONMENT REMAINS ROBUST, BUT IS INDICATIVE OF LOCAL SMES STRENGTH IN DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP.

INVESTKL TARGETS 100

FAST-GROWING COMPANIES BY 2030

SPUR GROWTH IN GREATER KL & ECONOMIC CORRIDORS.



INVESTKL aims to attract 100 of the world's leading multinational corporations (MNCs) and fast–growing companies to set up their regional services and technology hubs in Malaysia by 2030.

The 10-year strategic plan, anchored on the National Investment Aspiration (NIA), is focused on attracting high quality investments in technology and innovation-based activities to catalyse Malaysia's move towards a high-income economy. This comes as InvestKL, an agency under the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), successfully completed its 2011–2020 (10-year) target of attracting 100 MNCs to invest in Greater KL.

Senior Minister and Minister of International Trade and Industry, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said these achievements are a testament to foreign investors' confidence in Malaysia's strong fundamentals, the country's investor friendly policies, and continued preferred investment destination.

"Malaysia intends to introduce a new national investment policy to attract more high–quality investors. This new policy is aimed at attracting more 'attractive to innovative' and high–tech MNCs especially those in new digital technologies such as virtual reality and augmented reality, artificial intelligence, blockchain, and 5G," he added.

InvestKL Chief Executive Officer, Muhammad Azmi Zulkifli said, "The 10-year blueprint which acts as a strategy driver to attract the next 100 MNCs and fast-growing companies aims to achieve three objectives. Firstly, encourage these companies to bring and share their best

practices with us to revitalise the nation's innovation capacity, especially to build a pool of globally competitive Malaysian talent.

"Secondly, to promote the advantages of investing in the five local economic corridors, and Asia with Greater KL as their strategic regional hub. Thirdly, to collaborate with and boost the growth of SMEs (small and mid-size enterprises), local businesses and create high-value jobs."

"Our objectives are based on the NIA, with its focus on high-technology and innovation, and is aimed at striking a balance between economic development and environmental sustainability, in line with global ESG (environmental, social and governance) benchmarks. This is also consistent with Malaysia's Shared Prosperity Vision 2030," he also said.

InvestKL also unveiled two key initiatives today, which are the Greater Kuala Lumpur (GKL) Live Lab and Fit4Work.

THE GREATER KL (GKL) LIVE LAB

The GKL Live Lab programme aims to attract companies to collaborate with local players to elevate GKL's competitive advantages for quality, innovation-led and knowledge-intensive activities. The initiative aims to create high value jobs, increase economic complexity, extend domestic linkages, and improve inclusivity.

"Companies are reviewing their local and global business strategies due to the changes brought by Covid–19. Many are now prioritizing innovation and digitalisation. The GKL Live Lab is a strategic move, an added incentive to encourage companies to commit new or increase their investments in GKL and Malaysia," Azmi said.

The innovation and ideation focus areas are driving innovation, accelerating digital adoption, growing local champions, developing digital workforce, and future-proofing Malaysia.

Key industry sectors for local and MNC col-

laborations are technology products and services; medical technology; autonomous vehicle mobility; pharmaceutical or medical testing and clinical trials; R&D, design and development; deep and emerging technology; and ESG.

Two innovative companies; Signify, a world leader in lighting for professionals, consumers, and lighting for the Internet of Things, and CANBOT, a leading intellectual service robotics creator, manufacturer and commercial solutions provider, are the first two MNCs to participate in the GKL Live Lab programme. Both companies inked a Memorandum of Agreement respectively to seal their collaboration with InvestKL.

FIT4WORK - ENHANCING SKILLSETS OF GRADUATES

"Fit4Work will start off with an intake of 100 graduates in May. The programme aims to increase the quality and competitiveness of young graduates, with potential job placements with MNCs, GLCs (government-linked companies) and major corporations within the services industry," Azmi said.

Graduates will undergo a three-month programme in four core areas: management skills, knowledge skills, essential skills and IR4.0 business skills. Participating companies will provide the industry exposure and training.

Upon successful completion of the programme, participants employed by these companies would be offered a minimum employment period of a year. The government, under the PERKESO initiative. will provide hiring incentives to the participating companies.

The Fit4Work initiative by InvestKL is supported by public and private universities. Universiti Malaya and Universiti Putra Malaysia are the pilot project partners for the first cohort.

10 YEARS IN REVIEW: 2011-2020

Azmi said, "We have successfully achieved our target of 100 corporations in October 2020,

and we ended the year by securing a total of 103 high growth companies in various industries in line with the nation's key economic growth areas. Investments totalled RM15.8 billion while 14,111 regional executive jobs were created."

To date, some RM11.4 billion or 72% of the committed investment have been realised. A total of 10,411 or 74% of the committed jobs have been filled, and 8,646 Malaysians are currently employed in these high value jobs. (Please refer to the table below).

He also said, "Despite a challenging business environment due to Covid–19, the 12 companies secured last year are fast–growing companies which have committed RM1.73 billion of invest–ments. These companies in e–commerce,

digital solutions, artificial intelligence and machine learning, robotics, and other key areas will create 1,527 executive jobs."

Of the 12 companies secured in 2020, 50% are from Asia Pacific and the remaining are from Europe and US. These companies include ALD Automotive (France), Alcon (Switzerland), Baozun (China), Elanco (US), Hapag-Lloyd (Germany), Kamstrup (Denmark), Meiko (Germany), PCCW (China), Ricoh (Japan) and Taisei (Japan).

He added that he is optimistic these companies are well placed in Malaysia to capitalize on the economic recovery. Bank Negara has projected a growth of 6% to 7.5% for Malaysia in 2021, on the sustained progress in the vaccine rollouts that will boost consumption worldwide.

INVESTKL'S ACHIEVEMENTS: 103 FAST GROWING COMPANIES IN 10 YEARS (2011 TO 2020)

INVESTMENTS	TOTAL: RM15.8 BILLION	REALISED: 72% OR RM11.4 BILLION
HIGH SKILLED REGIONAL JOBS MALAYSIANS EMPLOYED	TOTAL: 14,111	REALISED: 74% OR 10,411 83% OR 8,646 OF TOTAL JOBS REALISED (10,411)
TOP 3 REGIONS		1. EUROPE – 51 COMPANIES 2. ASIA PACIFIC – 28 COMPANIES 3. US – 24 COMPANIES



GREATER KUALA LUMPUR IS SET TO BENEFIT FROM MALAYSIA'S NEW NATIONAL INVESTMENT POLICY, NATIONAL INVESTMENT ASPIRATION (NIA), WHICH AIMS TO ATTRACT HIGH-QUALITY INVESTMENTS -THOSE THAT ARE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION-BASED.

MITI WELCOMES MICROSOFT'S FIRST DATACENTRE REGION IN MALAYSIA - A GAMECHANGER FOR MALAYSIA'S DIGITAL ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

PARTNERSHIP FOR MICROSOFT'S FIRST DATACENTRE REGION AND SKILLING OF ONE (I) MILLION MALAYSIANS IN NEW AND ADVANCED CLOUD TECHNOLOGIES.

THE Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) through its agency Malaysian Investment is proud to pronounce Microsoft's Bersama Malaysia initiative as a game-changer towards the country's digital-first agenda, in line with the nation's MyDIGITAL aspirations.

Microsoft's plan to establish its first data centre region in Malaysia and its catalytic role in digital infrastructure is set to accelerate the nation's innovation in cloud technologies, further boosting local and foreign investors' confidence in Malaysia. Microsoft's commitment to providing up to 1 million Malaysians by December 2023 will propel the local digital workforce to drive the nation's digital economic growth.

Microsoft's Bersama Malaysia was launched yesterday by Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Prime Minister of Malaysia. Also present at the launch ceremony were Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali, Senior Minister and Minister of International Trade and Industry (MITI); Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office for Economics; Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz, Minister of Finance; and Datuk Seri M. Saravanan, Minister of Human Resources.

This collaboration strengthens Microsoft's long-term commitment to help empower Malaysia's inclusive digital economy through public-private partnerships.

Mr Arham Abdul Rahman, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MIDA, who was also present at the launch, congratulated Microsoft on its Bersama Malaysia initiative. "Malaysia has tremendous opportunity to fortify itself as a preferred location for technology players. Microsoft's investment with its first data centre region in our country is a strong testament to Malaysia's pro-business, pro-trade and business-friendly investment policies. Having Microsoft, a global technology player expanding its footprint in the digital infrastructure in Malaysia, helps form the backbone for a sustainable digital ecosystem. Most importantly, Microsoft's commitment through its world-class digital infrastructure will position us in a higher rank to progress into a digital nation." said Mr Arham.

"Microsoft's long-term presence for nearly 30 years also reflects their confidence in our local talents in driving the nation's digital transformation. We will continue to support Microsoft's efforts in Malaysia, particularly in

transforming the nation's digital landscape, infrastructure and its skilled workforce, thus enhancing Malaysia's competitiveness and attractiveness as the preferred destination for high technology investments," he added. The upcoming Microsoft data centre region is expected to benefit local businesses, the Government, and communities across all sectors. The local data centre region will comprise a set of data centres located within Greater Kuala Lumpur, deployed within a latency-defined perimeter and connected through a dedicated low-latency network. Users are able to gain fast access to Microsoft's leading-edge cloud services as well as the ability to store data and applications in the country.

The data centre region will also feature Azure Availability Zones, with unique features such as physical locations equipped with independent power; network and cooling support for additional tolerance and withstand datacenter failures. This ensures data remains available and protected, even when there's an event impacting the data centre site such as power failure; without comprising data residency, privacy, security or compliance. Based on research conducted by IDC1, Microsoft's investment in Malaysia will assist in generating approximately RM19 billion in revenues over the next four (4) years within the country's ecosystem of local partners and cloud-consuming customers. Moreover, Microsoft and its partners, together with the cloud-using customers will also assume significant roles in growing the nation's workforce, contributing more than 19,000 direct and indirect new job opportunities over the same period of time.

Mr K. Raman, Managing Director of Microsoft Malaysia, added, "Having a robust digital infrastructure and a future-ready digital workforce will play a profound role in ensuring Malaysia's economic recovery and resilience. We fully support the Government's bold and progressive vision as targeted in the Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint. We are confident that the digital-first, cloud-first policy outlined in the Blueprint will further propel innovation and accelerate the nation's transformation to become a regional leader in the digital economy.

In support of this and echoing our Bersama Malaysia commitment, we are humbled by the support extended by MIDA and we look forward to strengthening our partnership to realise Malaysia's inclusive digital aspirations."

Mr Arham concluded that the Government will continue to adopt a targeted approach in attracting investments. The Government recognises the need to develop the high technology sectors as one of the strategies to sustain the momentum of economic growth and to improve the competitiveness and resilience of the Malaysian economy. In remaining on this steady path, the National Digital Economy and Fourth Industrial Council (MED4IR) will optimise the development of Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technology and digital economy, in line with the 2030 Shared Prosperity Vision and Sustainable Development Agenda. The Economic Cluster of the MED4IR Council will be governed by MITI, with MIDA as an active Committee Member in the Government's initiatives to drive the national 4IR and digital growth.



MICROSOFT'S FIRST DATA CENTRE REGION IN MALAYSIA WILL BOOST MALAYSIA'S #DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND IS SET TO ACCELERATE THE NATION'S INNOVATION IN #CLOUD TECHNOLOGIES, FURTHER BOOSTING LOCAL AND FOREIGN INVESTORS' CONFIDENCE IN #MALAYSIA.



TRADE MISSION TO THE MIDDLE EAST

TRADE AND INVESTMENT MISSION TO THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.

SENIOR Minister and Minister of International Furthermore, the mission is aimed to keep the Trade and Industry (MITI), YB Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali will lead a Trade and Investment Mission (TIM) to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 26 April to 4 May 2021. This mission is part of the continuous effort by MITI to promote business opportunities and strategic partnerships between Malaysia and the West Asia region.

momentum of economic relations between Malaysia and both the nations, following the official visit of YAB Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin to the KSA and the UAE last March.

The mission is expected to reinforce the value proposition of Malaysia as the preferred investment destination and trading partner by boosting the confidence of the business communities in the KSA and the UAE. Both these countries are among the most important trading and investment partners in West Asia and Malaysia hopes to elevate this deeply rooted partnership to a more strategic level in the sphere of quality investments and diversified trade.

During his visit to KSA, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali will meet H.E. Dr Majid Abdullah Alkassabi, Minister of Commerce and Chairman of the Board of Director of The General Authority of Foreign Trade; and H.E. Bandar I. Al Khorayef, Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources. In UAE, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali will be meeting H.E. Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy; and H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade. During this mission, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin is expected to meet other senior ministers of both countries.

The meetings will discuss key bilateral issues and collaboration in areas of mutual interest, including bilateral and regional economic cooperation, finance and post-pandemic economic recovery measures. Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali will brief his counterparts in the KSA and the UAE on the newly minted National Investment Aspirations (NIA), a forward-looking growth framework that will form the basis for comprehensive reforms of Malaysian investment policies. NIA will be central to Malaysia's new investment direction, offering various opportunities for investors from the KSA and the UAE.

Besides the official meetings, the Senior Minister will also be conducting one-to-one business meetings with prominent Saudi and Emirati companies, as well as potential investors, to further explore new business opportunities and collaboration in the oil and gas, healthcare and retail industries.

Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali will also be witnessing the signing of Memorandum of Business Exploration (MOBE) between UEM

Edgenta Bhd., a subsidiary of Khazanah Nasional Bhd., and ASMA Advanced Solutions LLC in Riyadh. This MoU signifies a strategic venture by a Malaysian company in the healthcare support services and integrated facility management market in Saudi.

In 2020, the KSA was Malaysia's second largest trading partner and largest source of import in the West Asia region. Total trade between both countries was recorded at RM20.27 billion (USD4.83 billion) with Malaysia's exports to the KSA amounted to RM4.13 billion (USD0.99 billion) and imports value at RM16.14 billion (USD3.84 billion). Main investments from KSA include chemicals and chemical products, food manufacturing, electronics and electrical products, and textiles.

Meanwhile, the UAE is Malaysia's largest trading partner and largest export destination in the West Asia region for 2020. Total trade between both countries stood at RM20.59 billion (USD4.92 billion) with total exports to the UAE amounted to RM8.49 billion (USD2.03 billion) while imports were at RM12.10 billion (USD2.89 billion). The main source of investments from the UAE were in the machinery and equipment sectors, halal pharmaceutical and food manufacturing.

Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali will be accompanied by a small delegation of senior officials from MITI, Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) and Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE). The mission will be subjected to strict COVID-19 Preventive Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) as agreed upon by Malaysia's Ministry of Health (MOH) and National Security Council (NSC) as well as by the Government of KSA and the Government of UAE. MITI's delegation is required to undergo mandatory quarantine as soon as they return to Malaysia as prescribed by MOH.

WHAT THE INDUSTRY SAYS

THOUGHTS & OPINIONS FROM INDUSTRY LEADERS.







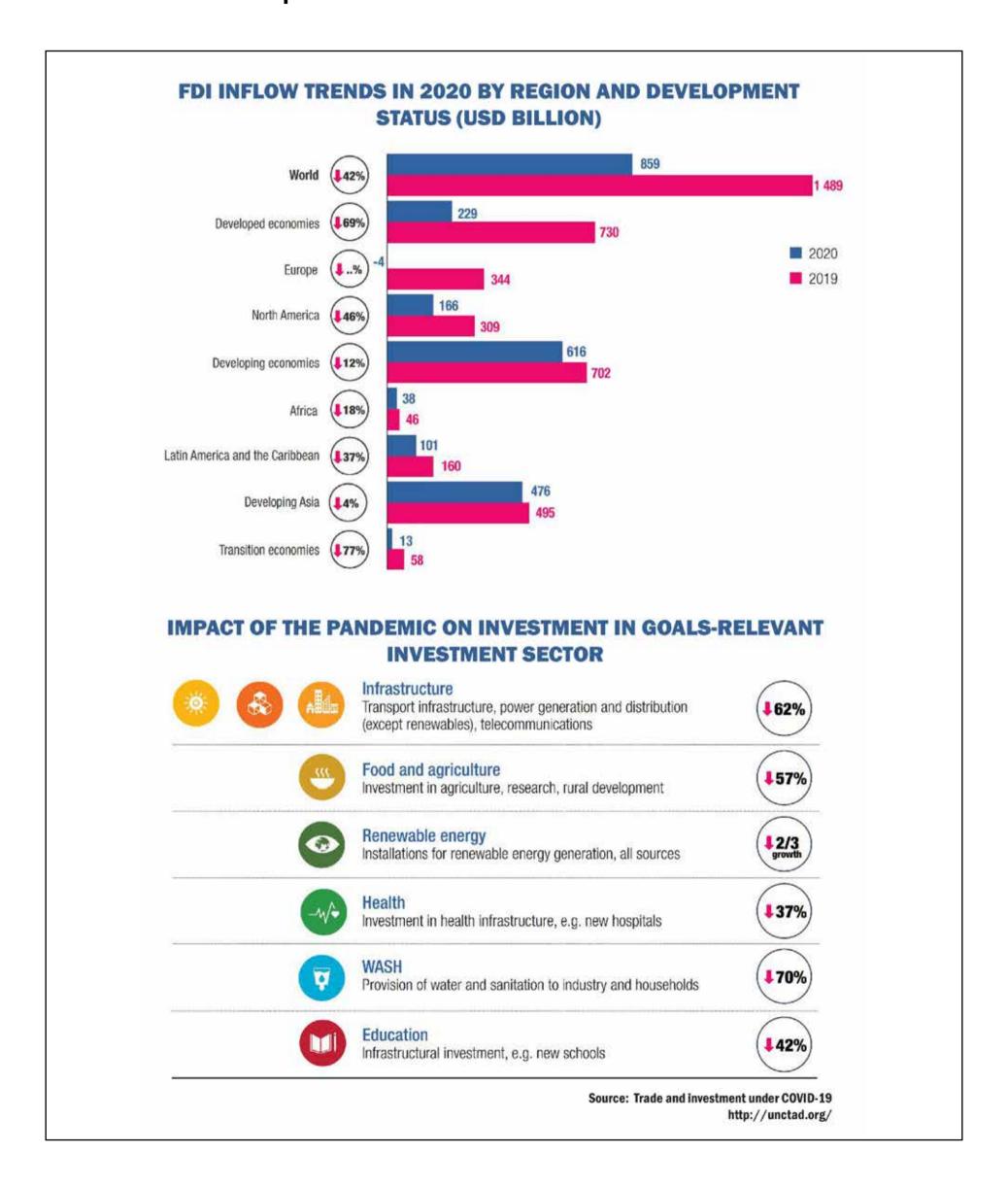




INVESTMENT UNDER

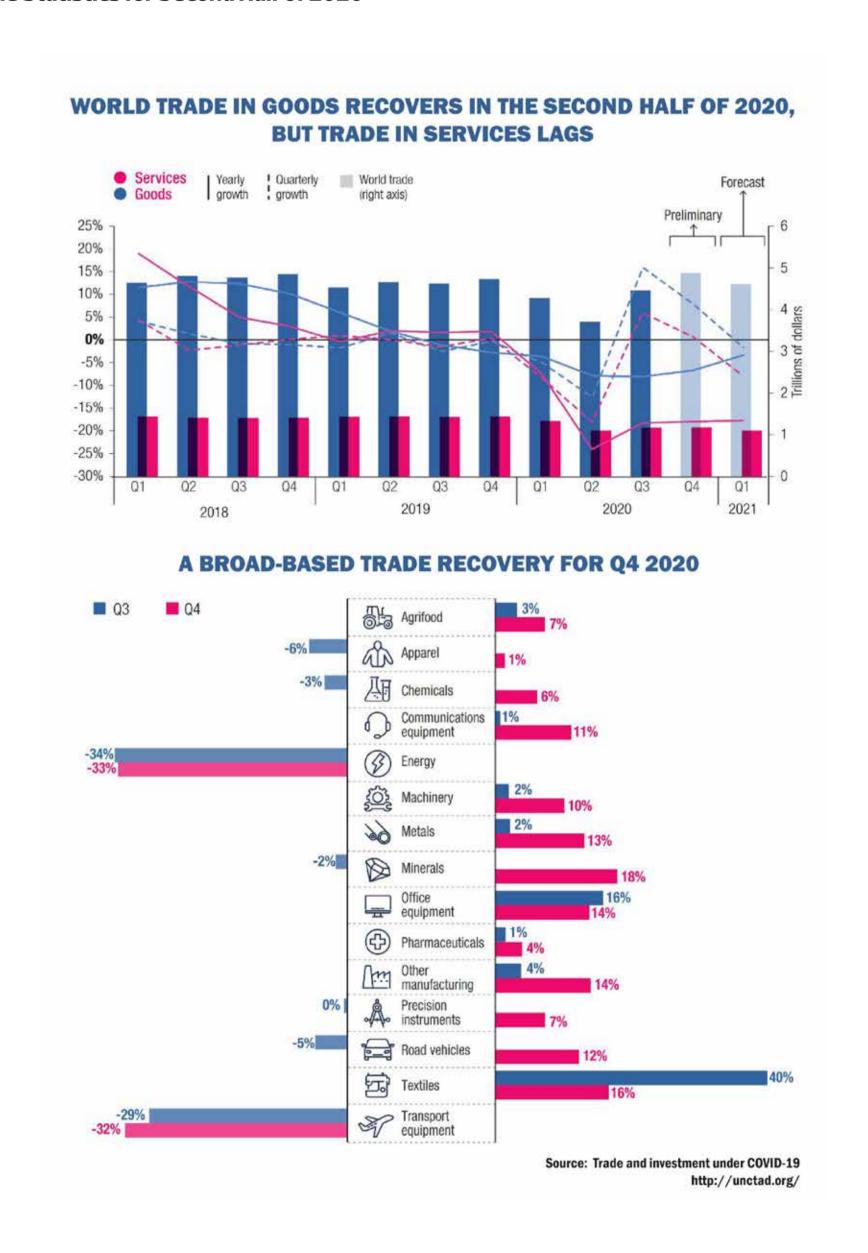
COVID-19

FDI Inflow Trends and Impact of the Pandemic on Investments



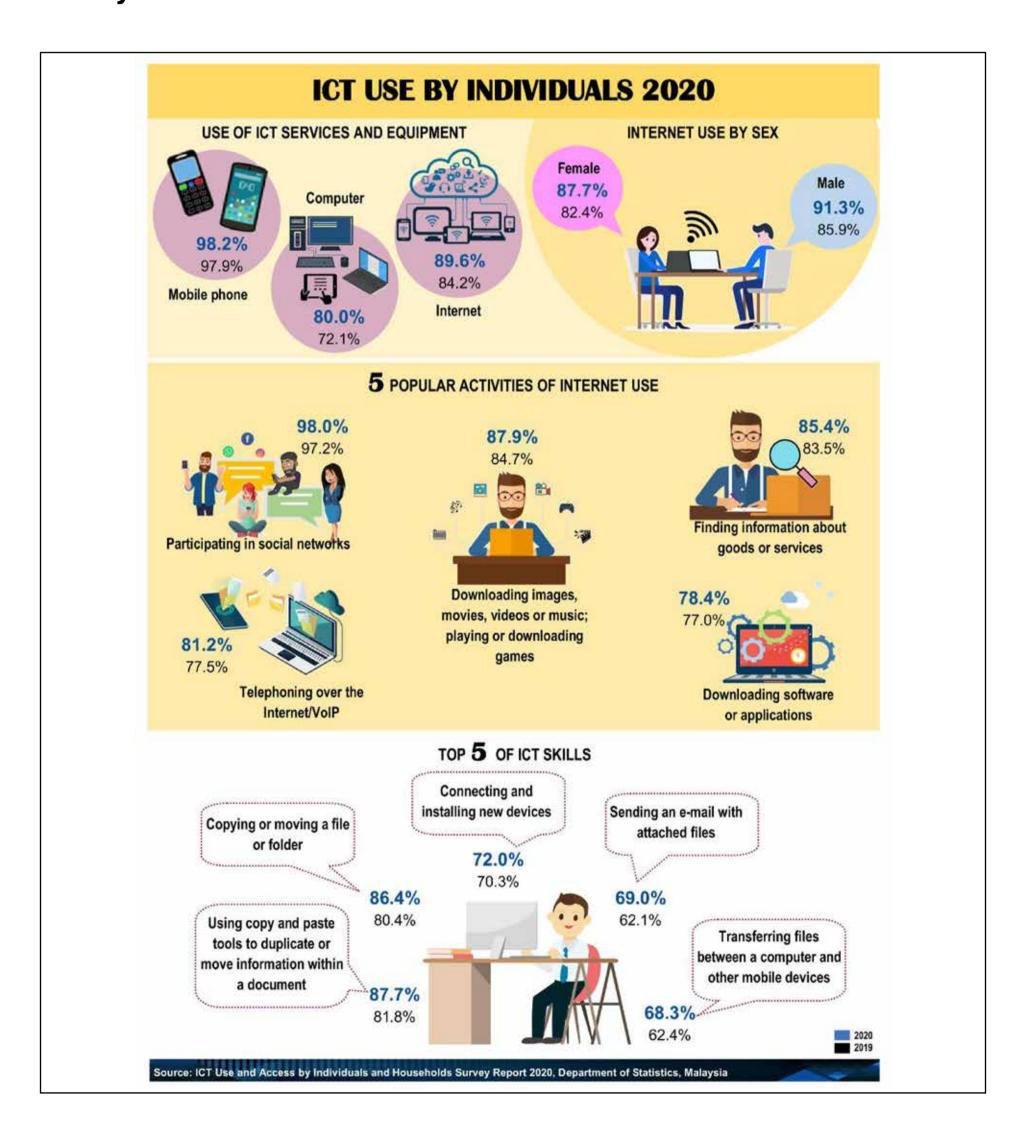
TRADE UNDER COVID-19

Trade Statistics for Second Half of 2020



ICT USE AND ACCESS BY INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS

For the year 2020

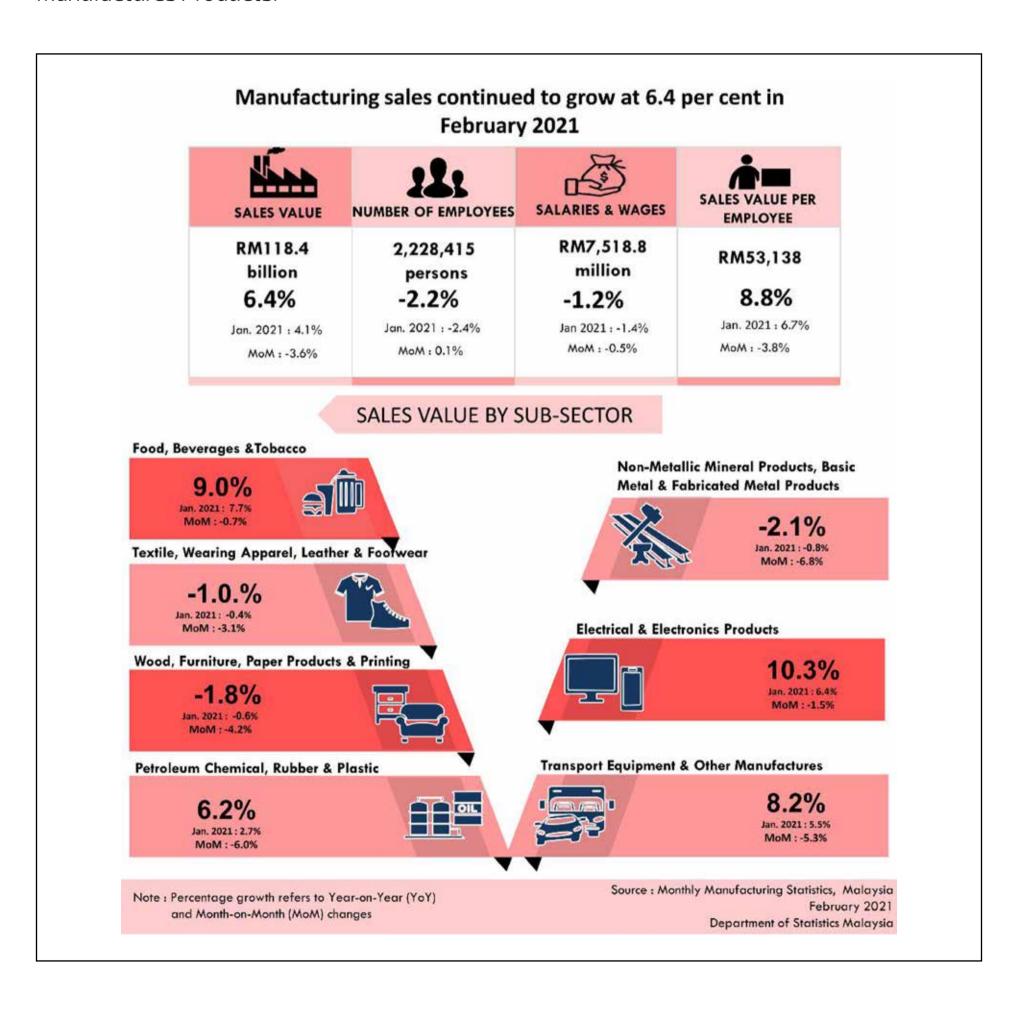


MONTHLY

MANUFACTURING

February 2021

Malaysia's Manufacturing sales in February 2021 stood at RM118.4 billion, grew 6.4 per cent as compared to RM111.2 billion reported a year ago. On month–on–month growth, the sales value went down by 3.6 per cent (RM4.5 billion) while in seasonally adjusted terms, the sales value increased by 8.3 per cent. The year–on–year increase in February 2021 was driven by Electrical & Electronics Products (10.3%), Food, Beverages & Tobacco Products (9.0%) and Transport Equipment & Other Manufactures Products.



WORLD'S AGRICULTURE

PERFORMANCE

For the Year 2020

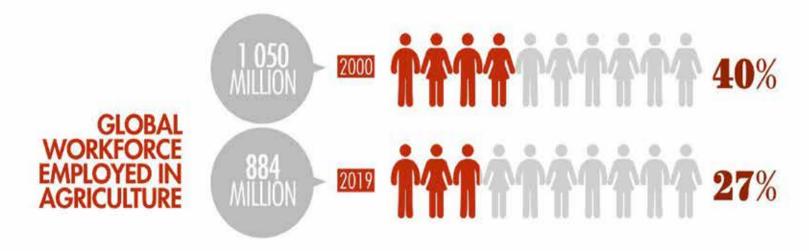


Agriculture value added went up 68% between 2000 and 2018 to around USD 3.4 trillion.

SHARE OF AGRICULTURE IN GLOBAL GDP



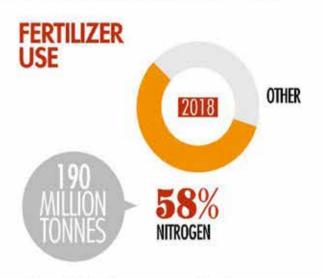
The share of agriculture in global GDP has been stable at around 4% since 2000.



Agriculture employed 884 million people in 2019, or 27% of the global workforce, compared with 1 050 million (or 40%) in 2000.



Pesticide use went up by one-third between 2000 and 2018, but has plateaued since 2012.



About 190 million tonnes of fertilizer were used in 2018, of which 58% was nitrogen.

Source: World Food and Agriculture 2020 https://www.fao.org/



All you need to know about Industry4WRD RA



What is it?

Trained assessors will help you to understand your readiness for Industry 4.0 and make recommendations on where to start your transformation.

Who is eligible?

Manufacturing and its related services sector

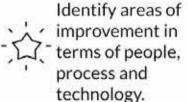


- Valid registration and business licences
- Company has at least 60% local equity
- In operation for more than 3 years

What are the benefits?









Receive comprehensive readiness report.



Be entitled to incentives.

Incentives for RA

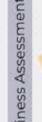
- Government-funded assessment for eligible SMEs.
- Others will get tax exemption on RA fees up to RM27k.



Enquiries

- General: i4.0@miti.gov.my
- RA: industry4wrd@ mpc.gov.my











Process Flow

A FEW SIMPLE STEPS





Onsite Assessment



Receive RA Report







Develop Intervention Proposal



Apply for Financial Incentives



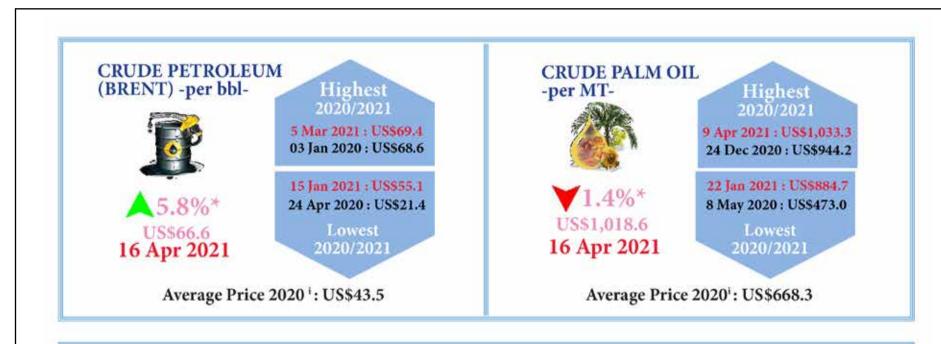
Implement the Intervention Plan

For more information, kindly click the following:

https://www.miti.gov.my/index.php/pages/view/industry4WRD

COMMODITY PRICES

Crude Petroleum, Crude Oil Palm, Rubber, Cocoa, Sugar, Coal, Scrap Iron, etc







Average Price 2020 1: US\$1,333.4

COCOA SMC 2 -per MT-



Average Price 2020 : US\$1,576.6

SUGAR -per lbs-





Average Price 2020 1: US\$12.9

COAL -per MT-



 $5.1\%^*$ US\$71.0

16 Apr 2021

Average Price 2020 : US\$47.7

SCRAP IRON HMS -per MT-



(=)%* US\$440.0 (high)

.6%*

(=) %* US\$430.0 (low)

16 Apr 2021

Average Price 2020 : US\$307.9 (high) Average Price 2020 : US\$284.7 (low)



Notes: All figures have been rounded to the nearest decimal point

- * Refer to % change from the previous week's price
- i Average price in the year except otherwise indicated

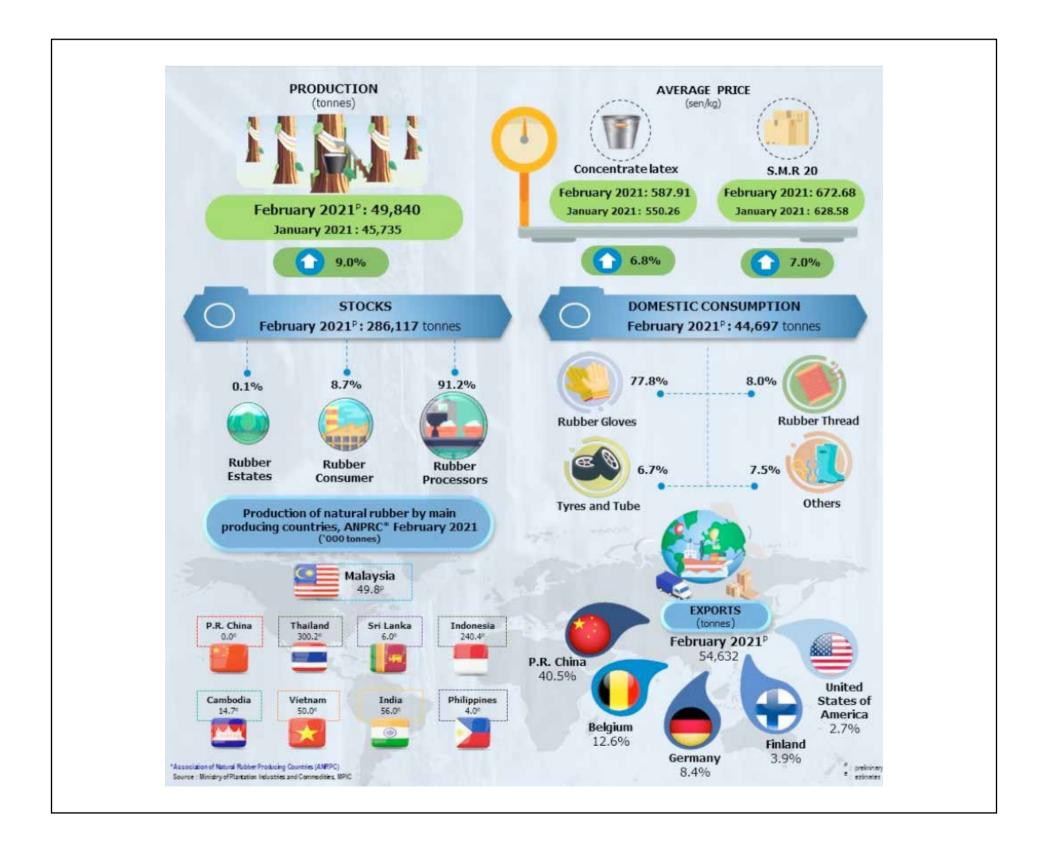
Sources: Ministry of International Trade and Industry Malaysia, Malaysian Palm Oil Board, Malaysian Rubber Board, Malaysian Cocoa Board, Malaysian Iron and Steel Industry Federation, and Bloomberg.

MONTHLY RUBBER STATISTICS

Feb 2021

Malaysia's natural rubber production in February 2021 amounted to 49,840 tonnes, decreased 0.1 per cent as compared to 49,894 tonnes in February 2020 but increased by 9.0 per cent from last month. The smallholdings sector was the main contributor to the natural rubber production of 90.9 per cent. Production of smallholdings decreased by 1.2 per cent while the estate sector increased by 12.2 per cent as compared to February 2020.

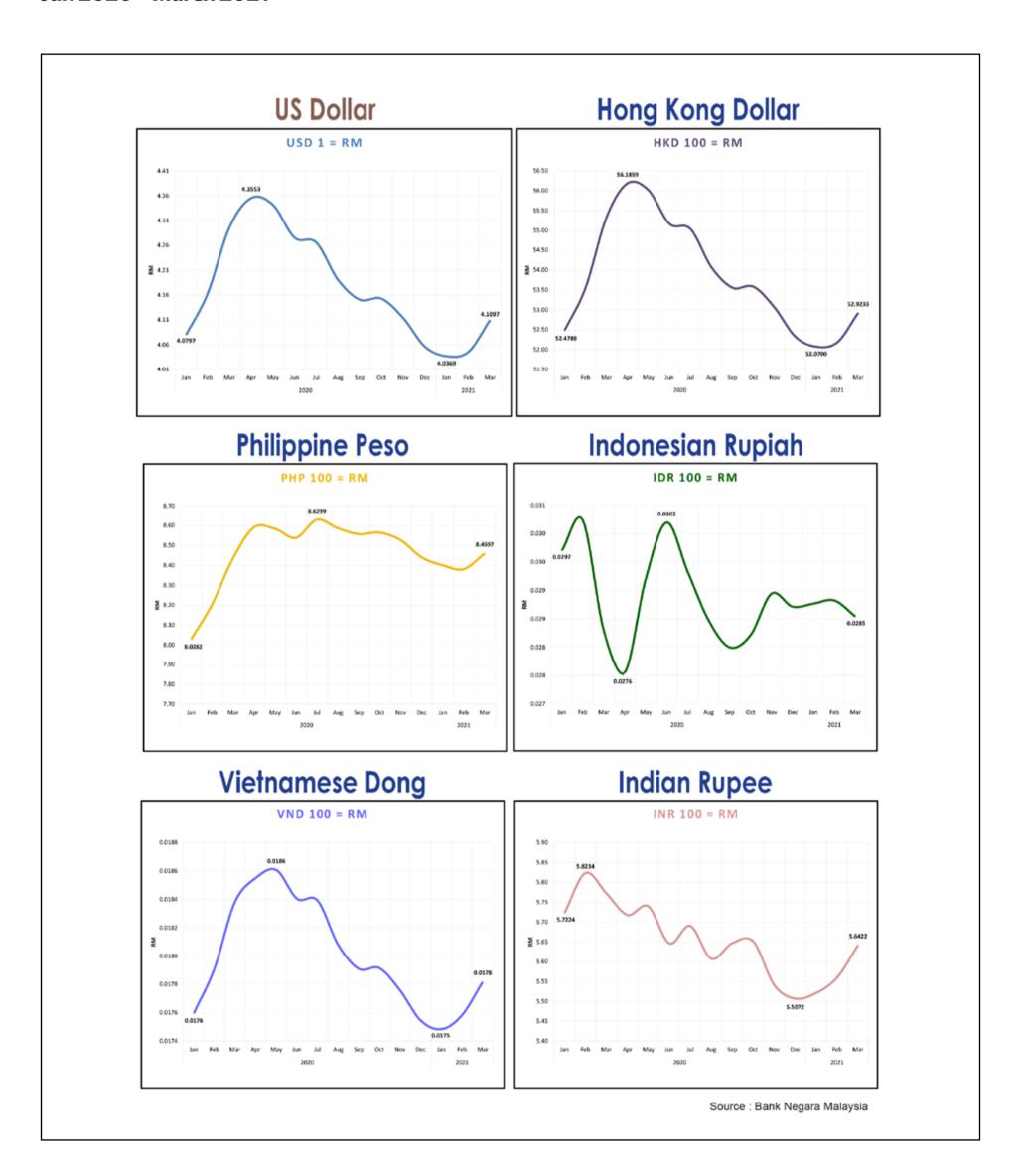
Domestic consumption of natural rubber in February 2021 was 44,697 tonnes, increased by 7.8 per cent against 41,470 tonnes in February 2020 while month–on–month comparison showed a decrease of 5.1 per cent from 47,101 tonnes in the last month. The rubber glove industry was the main industry for the use of natural rubber at 34,764 tonnes (77.8%).



MALAYSIAN RINGGIT

EXCHANGE RATE

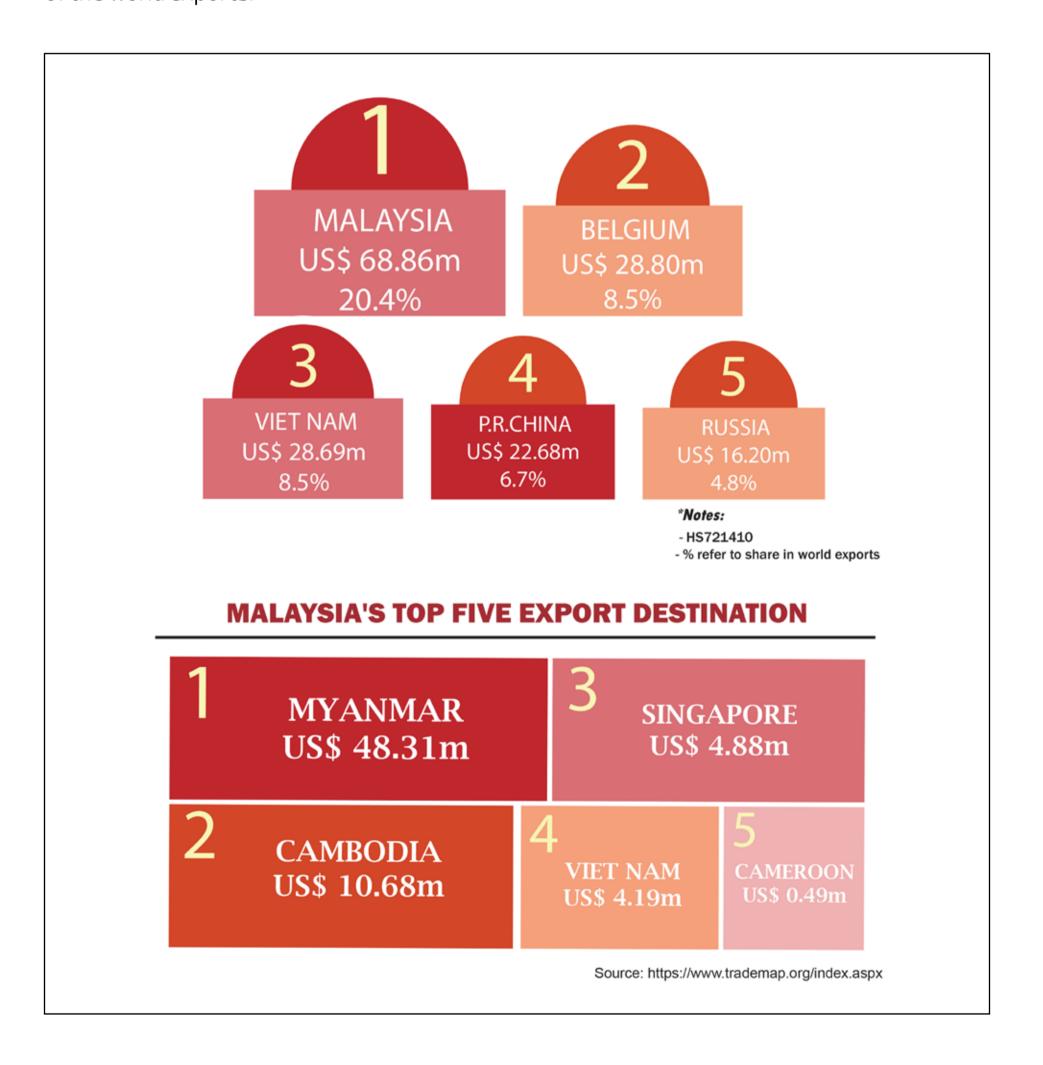
Jan 2020 - March 2021



WORLD'S LARGEST EXPORTER OF BARS & RODS

Iron or Non-Alloy Steel, Not Further Worked Than Forged (Excluding in Irregularly Wound Coils)

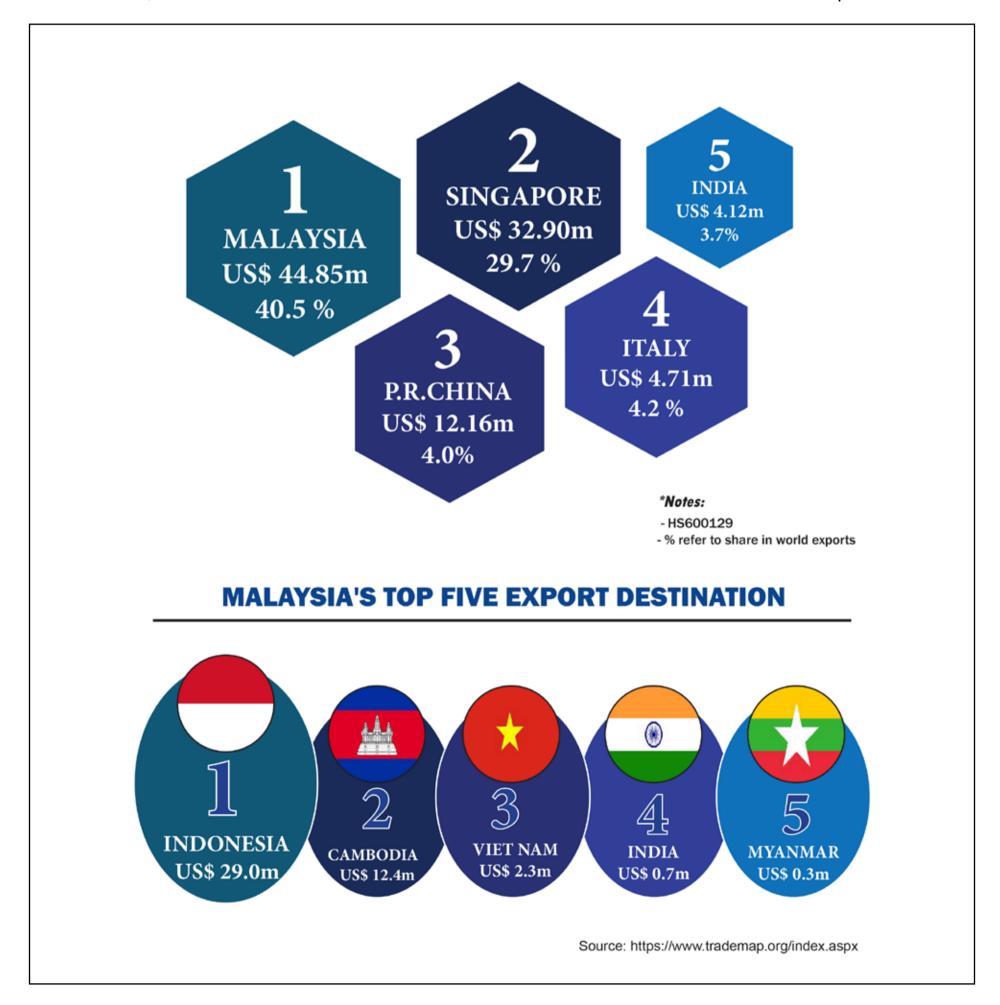
In 2019, Malaysia's export of Bars and rods, of iron or non-alloy steel, not further worked than forged (excluding in irregularly wound coils) recorded US\$68.86 million which was a 20.4% share of the world exports.



WORLD'S LARGEST EXPORTER OF LOOPED PILE FABRICS

Knitted or Crocheted (Excluding Cotton or Man-Made Fibres)

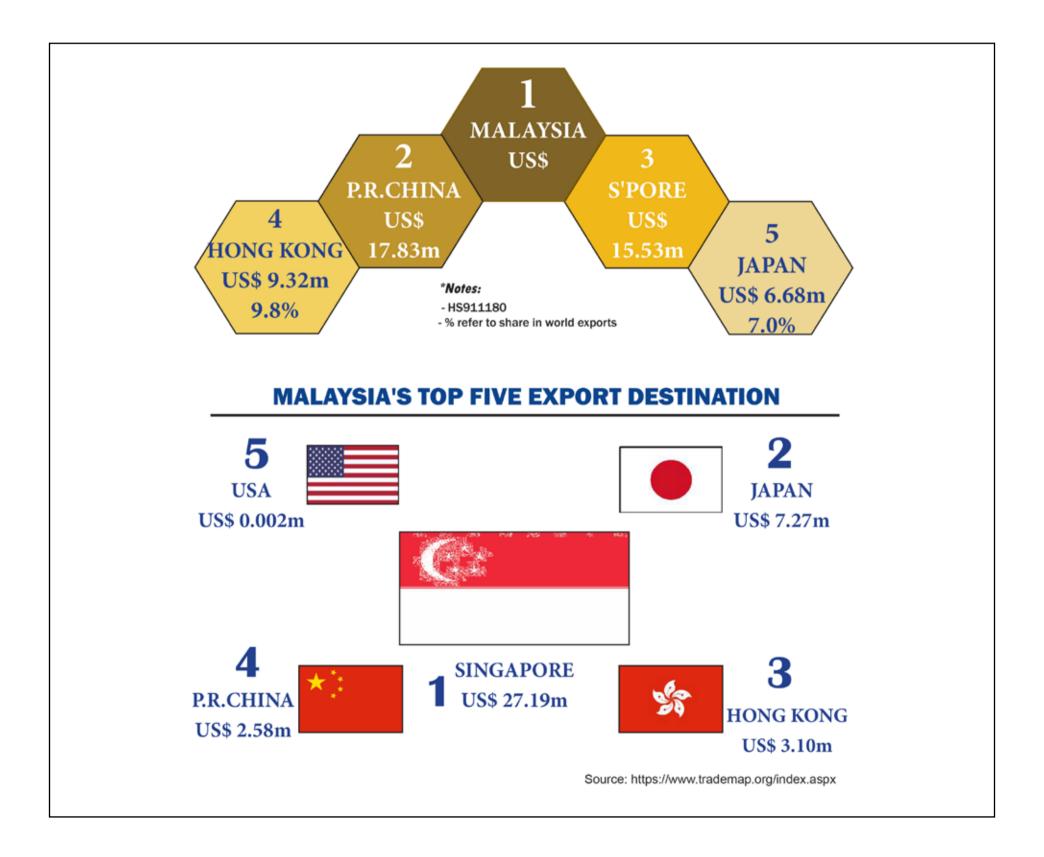
In 2019, Malaysia's export of Looped pile fabrics, knitted or crocheted (excluding cotton or man-made fibres) recorded US\$ 44.85 million which was a 40.5% share of the world exports.



WORLD'S LARGEST EXPORTER OF CASES FOR WRIST-WATCHES, POCKET-WATCHES & OTHER WATCHES OF HEADING 9101 OR 9102

Materials Other Than Precious Metal, Clad with Precious Metal or Base Metal

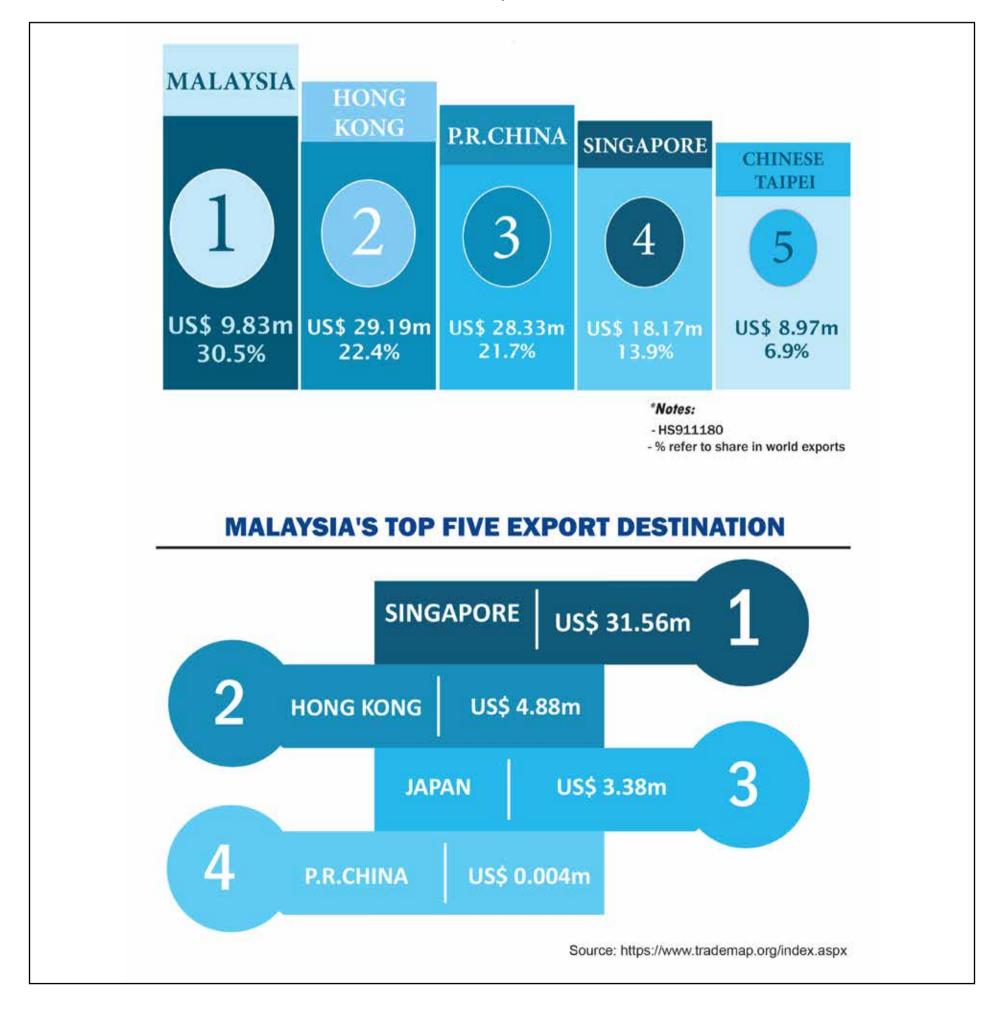
In 2019, Malaysia's export of cases for wrist-watches, pocket-watches and other watches of heading 9101 or 9102, of materials other than precious metal, clad with precious metal or base metal recorded US\$40.13 million which was 42% share of the world exports.



WORLD'S LARGEST

EXPORTER OF INCOMPLETE WATCH MOVEMENTS, ASSEMBLED

In 2019, Malaysia's export of Incomplete watch movements, assembled, recorded US\$ 39.83 million which was a 30.5% share of the world exports.





MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY

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