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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

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### **SARAWAK EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS 2025**

**JULY 2025**

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#### ***Sarawak's Trade Records Positive Growth, Reflecting Economic Resilience***

**PUTRAJAYA, JULY 4, 2025** – In 2024, Sarawak recorded total trade of RM198.7 billion and trade surplus of RM71.1 billion, despite facing external uncertainties such as global market fluctuations and geopolitical tensions as reported today in **SARAWAK EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS FOR REFERENCE YEAR 2024**. The report presents Sarawak's trade performance vis-a-vis trading partners in terms of volume and value of merchandise goods by detailed classification of commodity based on physical transactions at the entry/ exit points of the state of Sarawak.

Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin said, higher commodity prices particularly crude palm oil supported by firm global demand was the primarily driven growth of Sarawak's trade performance. Major exports including palm oil, liquefied natural gas (LNG), and crude petroleum remained strong, thereby driving trade growth. In 2024, Sarawak's recorded a total trade of RM198.7 billion marking an increase of 2.7 per cent compared to 2023. The trade balance also grew by 4.2 per cent to RM71.1 billion. Both exports and imports showed an upward trend. Exports expanded by 3.1 per cent to RM134.9 billion while imports surged by 1.9 per cent to RM63.8 billion.

Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin further elaborated that, Japan, China, the Republic of Korea, Peninsular Malaysia and India were Sarawak's top five major export destinations in 2024. In 2024, Japan and China were the main exports destinations for Sarawak accounting for 35.1 per cent of the state's total exports, valued at RM47.3 billion.

Exports to Japan reached RM29.1 billion an increased 1.4 per cent year-on-year. The main products exported to Japan were LNG valued at RM25.4 billion, followed by wood products valued at RM1.4 billion and iron and steel products RM0.8 billion. Exports to China valued at RM18.2 billion and accounting for 13.5 per cent of Sarawak's total exports, declined by 1.7 per cent or RM0.3 billion compared to the previous year. LNG remained the primary export product to China amounting to RM13.5 billion, followed by manufactured metal products at RM1.1 billion while palm oil and palm-based products at RM0.9 billion.

Meanwhile exports to ASEAN countries accounted for 12.5 per cent of Sarawak's total exports shrinking by 2.8 per cent to RM16.9 billion compared to RM17.4 billion in the preceding year. It was mainly attributed by the decrease in electrical and electronic (E&E) products (-RM1.6 billion, 70.9%), crude petroleum (-RM1.1 billion, -17.9%) and sawn timber and moulding (-RM0.05 billion, -64.9%). Thailand became Sarawak's top export destination among ASEAN countries contributing 39.8 per cent of total exports to the region valued at RM6.7 billion. This was followed by Brunei Darussalam with 17.5 per cent or RM2.9 billion, and Vietnam contributing 16.7 per cent or RM2.8 billion.

Commenting further on exports by sector, mining dominated total exports accounting for 58.5 per cent or RM79.0 billion with a growth of 2.7 per cent (RM2.1 billion). The primary drivers of the expansion were LNG (+RM2.0 billion, +3.7%) and condensates and other petroleum oil (+RM0.9 billion, +13.0%). Meanwhile, export of manufactured products, which made up 26.2 per cent of total exports, stood at RM35.4 billion a year-on-year declined of 1.4 per cent or RM0.5 billion. This was in line with lower exports of E&E products (-RM2.7 billion, -33.4%) followed by chemical and chemical products (-RM1.0 billion, -24.0%) and wood products (-RM0.1 billion, -4.6%).

Exports of agricultural products, which accounted for 14.8 per cent of total exports, rose by 14.1 per cent from RM17.5 billion in 2023 to RM20.0 billion. The increase corresponded with higher exports of palm oil and palm-based products which grew by 16.6 per cent to reached RM18.7 billion.

On the same note, the three main categories of imports by end use, which were intermediate goods, consumption goods and capital goods contributed 84.6 per cent of Sarawak's total imports. Intermediate goods which valued at RM32.0 billion or 50.2 per cent of total imports decreased by 2.8 per cent with lower imports of industrial supplies, processed (-RM1.1 billion, -4.9%), fuel and lubricants, processed (-RM0.4 billion, -24.6%), fuels & lubricants, primary (-RM0.1 billion, -21.4%), and food and beverages, processed, mainly for industry (-RM21.1 million, -7.9%).

Consumption goods, amounted to RM13.2 billion (20.8% of total imports), recorded an increase of 16.4 per cent, resulting from higher imports of food and beverages, process, mainly for household consumption (+RM847.7 million, +18.1%), semi-durable goods (+RM566.8 million, +32.1%), non-durables goods (+RM259.8 million, +9.3%) and food & beverages, primary, mainly for household consumption (+RM110.0 million, +11.4%). On

*the other hand, capital goods which stood at RM8.7 billion (13.6% of total imports) grew by 0.2 per cent driven by an increase in imports of capital goods (except transport equipment) of 4.0 per cent or RM273.8 million.*

*The Department also publishes the annual External Trade Statistics for 15 states, providing the value of each state's international trade with foreign countries for the period from 2019 to 2024. For the state of Sarawak, the reported trade values represent Sarawak's international trade, excluding transactions with Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah. In 2024, Sarawak's total trade, based on this definition, recorded a growth of 2.6 per cent, reaching RM146.7 billion compared to RM143.0 billion in 2023. This total trade comprised exports valued at RM116.6 billion, reflecting an increase of 3.9 per cent, while imports amounted to RM30.1 billion, a decline of 2.0 percent.*

*It is important to understand that the two publications mentioned above refer to different concepts in terms of the business company's location, as well as points of entry and exit. The publication of Malaysia External Trade Statistics by State aims to assess trade performance based on business companies, whereas the publication of Sarawak External Trade Statistics is intended to measure trade performance at the macro level.*

*ASEAN-Malaysia 2025 Chairmanship: The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) will chair the 15th ASEAN Community Statistical System Committee (ACSS15) which aims to strengthen the statistical cooperation towards sustainable regional development.*

*Malaysia has, for the first time, successfully recorded the top position globally in the biennial Open Data Inventory (ODIN) 2024/25 report released by Open Data Watch (ODW), surpassing 198 other countries. This achievement marks a significant leap from its 67th position in the ODIN 2022/23 assessment.*

*The Government of Malaysia has declared October 20th as National Statistics Day (MyStats Day), with the theme 'Statistics is the Essence of Life.' Meanwhile, the Fourth World Statistics Day will be celebrated on 20th October 2025, with the theme 'Driving Change with Quality Statistics and Data for Everyone'.*

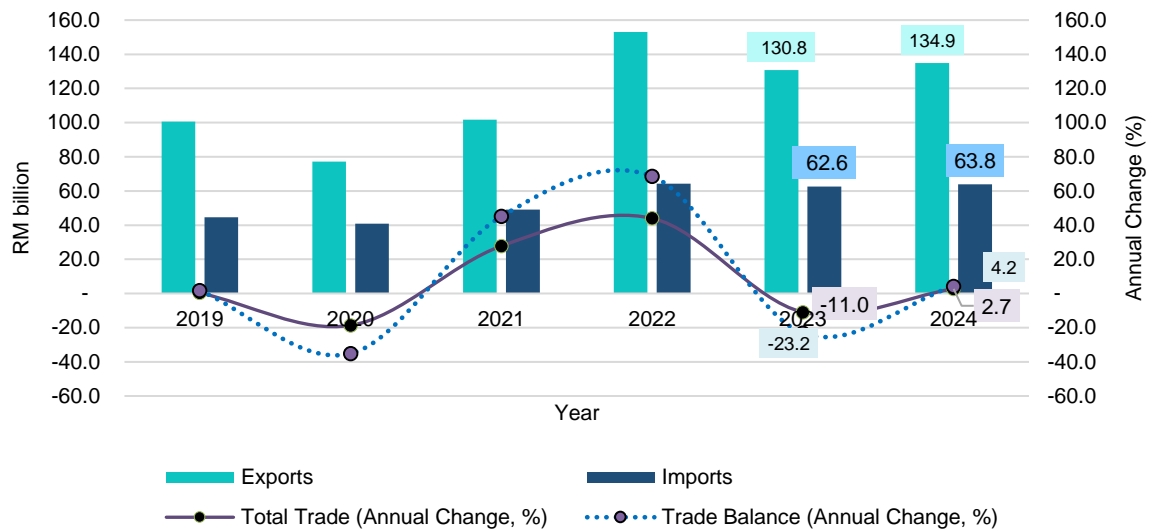
*OpenDOSM NextGen is a medium that provides data catalogue and visualisations to facilitate users' analysis and can be accessed through <https://open.dosm.gov.my>*

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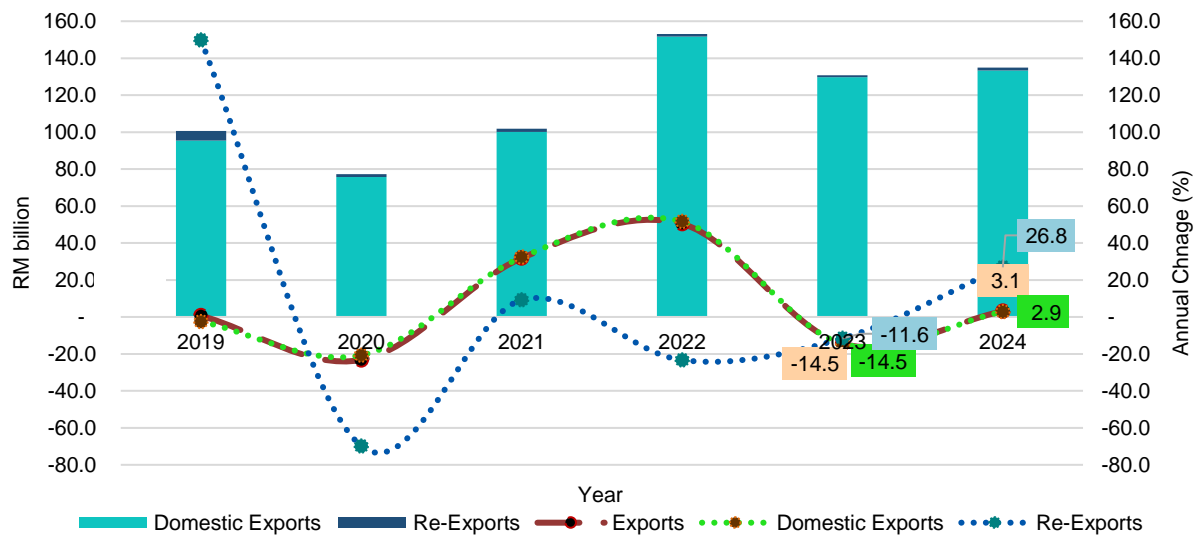
**THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA  
4 JULY 2025**

## APPENDIX

**Chart 1: Exports, Imports, Total Trade and Trade Balance, 2019-2024**



**Chart 2: Performance of Exports, 2019-2024**



**Chart 3: Performance of Imports, 2019-2024**

