



# REHDA WEEKLY

17<sup>th</sup> March 2017

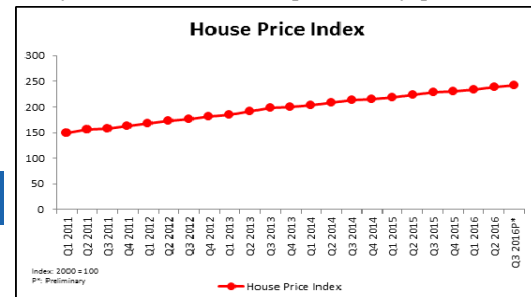
For the week 11<sup>th</sup> March – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017

*Relevant, Responsive, Responsible, Respected.*

The REHDA Weekly provides brief news summaries on local and international topics related to property and national economic indicators.

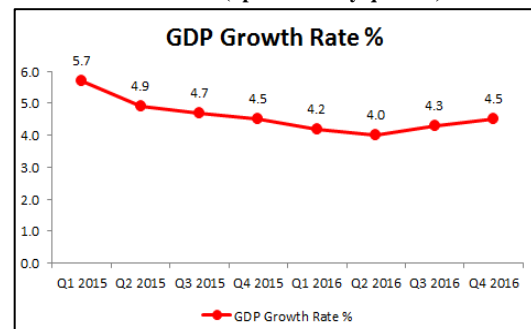
## National Economic Indicators

### Malaysia House Price Index (updated every quarter)



Source: National Property Information Centre (NAPIC) as of 08/12/2016

### GDP Growth Rate % (updated every quarter)



Source: Department of Statistics Malaysia as of 17/2/2017

### Consumer Price Index Malaysia (updated every month)



Source: tradingeconomics.com as of 24/2/2017

## MALAYSIA NEWS

### ECONOMY

#### Ringgit in for a rough ride

IT is almost certain that the US Federal Reserve (Fed) will raise interest rates again when it meets next week. The rate hike, if it happens, will be the third since December 2015...

| [The Star Online, 11 March 2017, LINK](#)

#### Analysts bullish on Bursa

ARE the bulls back on Bursa Malaysia? Analysts appear to believe so, based on the sharp increase in average daily value (ADV) of local stocks traded so far this year. This is bolstered by a similarly solid improvement of futures contracts in the derivatives market...

| [New Straits Times, 16 March 2017, LINK](#)

### CONSTRUCTION, HOUSING AND POLICY

#### MRT Corp awards RM2.74b contracts to Gadang, SunCon, TRC and Arc Works

Mass Rapid Transit Corp Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) has awarded work packages worth a total of RM2.74 billion to four companies for the MRT2 construction. The companies are Trans Resources Corporation Sdn Bhd, Gadang Engineering (M) Sdn Bhd, Acre Works Sdn Bhd, Sunway Construction Sdn Bhd, MRT Corp said in a statement...

| [The Edge Property, 10 March 2017, LINK](#)

#### Sarawak mulls policy for middle-income group to buy houses

Sarawak will fine-tune its own financial model to enable the middle-income group to buy their own house in the state. Chief Minister Datuk Amar Abang Johari Abang Openg said under the new financial model, those under the middle-income bracket will purchase housing projects financed by the state government...

| [The Edge Property, 13 March 2017, LINK](#)

## MALAYSIA NEWS

### Construction firms told to explore infrastructure projects in India

Malaysian construction firms should explore infrastructure projects and investment opportunities in India due to the country's rapid development and economic expansion...

| [The Edge Property, 17 March 2017, LINK](#)

### Ekovest set to secure Blue River Project

Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) is seeking to appoint Ekovest Bhd's unit, EkoRiver Construction Sdn Bhd (ERCSB), as the design and build contractor for the proposed "Blue River Project" in the vicinity of the River of Life Precinct 7 – Masjid Jamek Kuala Lumpur zone...

| [The Star Online, 16 March 2017, LINK](#)

### Letter of award for Penang transport plan extended again - Gamuda

The validity of the letter of award to the Gamuda Bhd-led consortium chosen as project delivery partner for the RM46 billion Penang Transport Master Plan has been extended till Aug 31. This is second extension of the LOA by the Penang government after the previous one, announced on July 29 last year, expired on Feb 28...

| [The Edge Property, 16 March 2017, LINK](#)

## PROPERTY MARKET ACTIVITIES

### Country Garden: Closure of Forest Citysales galleries in China not because of capital outflow controls

Hong Kong-listed Country Garden Holdings Co Ltd has denied that the closure of Forest City's sales galleries in China was due to the government's capital control policy...

| [The Edge Property, 10 March 2017, LINK](#)

### M'sia tops US-based '2017 Best Countries to Invest In' survey

Malaysia is the clear front-runner in the '2017 Best Countries to Invest In' survey by US-based BAV Consulting and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania...

| [New Straits Times, 12 March 2017, LINK](#)

### PPR rent-to-own scheme only for those unable to secure financing elsewhere

The Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Ministry's People's Housing Project (PPR) rent-to-own scheme is only offered to applicants who fail to get financing from any financial institutions...

| [New Straits Times, 13 March 2017, LINK](#)

## STOCK MARKET INDICES

### Dow Jones Industrial Average



Source: [yahoofinance.com](#) as of 16/3/2017 04:46 PM EST

### Hang Seng Index



Source: [yahoofinance.com](#) as of 17/3/2017 9:49 AM GMT+8

### Nikkei 225



Source: [yahoofinance.com](#) as of 17/3/2017 10:30 AM GMT+9

### FTSE Bursa Malaysia Index



Source: [yahoofinance.com](#) as of 17/3/2017 9:50 AM GMT+8

## COMMODITIES PRICES

### Brent Oil



Source: investing.com as of 17/3/2017 9:58 AM GMT +8

### Crude Oil



Source: investing.com as of 17/3/2017 9:59 AM GMT +8

## MALAYSIA NEWS

### Mah Sing to launch its first RUMAWIP project

Mah Sing Group Bhd (Mah Sing) will be launching its first RUMAWIP project — Residensi Seri Wahyu in Taman Wahyu, Kuala Lumpur on March 29. The event will be held in Lakeville Residence Sales Gallery from 8am to 6pm that day, the developer said in a press release today...

| [The Edge Property, 14 March 2017, LINK](#)

### Kuala Lumpur gains more attention from commercial property investors

Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok are generating higher investor interest in direct commercial real estate investment, according to JLL's newly released Investment Intensity Index...

| [The Edge Property, 15 March 2017, LINK](#)

## CURRENCY EXCHANGE

### USD/MYR



Source: investing.com as of 17/3/2017 9:57 AM GMT +8

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Could surprise easing of property cooling measures in Singapore spark turnaround?

A surprise letup of property cooling measures — albeit minor and targeted tweaks — on Friday sent property developer stocks soaring to the highest in more than 20 months. But analysts believe that while the move is largely positive and buying sentiment can be expected to lift slightly, the impact on the property market is likely to gradual...

| [The Edge Property, 13 March 2017, LINK](#)

### Banks Start Cutting Lending to Riskier European Real Estate

Banks in Europe are starting to get nervous about real estate again. The amount of money available for property investment globally has fallen on an annual basis for the first time since 2011, led by Europe, as the amount of debt on offer diminishes, according to a report published on Tuesday by broker Cushman & Wakefield Inc. Lenders are prepared to offer less credit than before, particularly on riskier properties, the report shows...

| [Bloomberg, 14 March 2017, LINK](#)

### US housing starts jump; weekly jobless claims fall

US homebuilding jumped in February likely as unseasonably warm weather boosted the construction of single-family houses to near a 9-1/2-year high, suggesting the economy remained on solid ground despite an apparent slowdown in the first quarter...

| [The Edge Markets, 16 March 2017, LINK](#)