

ECONOMY

[Johor Investment Centre to be Completed by the end of 2024](#)

The Edge – 12 February 2024

The Invest Malaysia Facilitation Centre in Johor is expected to be completed by the end of 2024 and can attract more new investors into the State. The one-stop facility, a result of cooperation between the State Government and the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, will be a game changer and catalyst for Johor's economic development.

[Unemployed Persons Dropped to 567,800 Individuals in December 2023](#)

The Edge – 9 February 2024

According to the Department of Statistics Malaysia, the number of unemployed persons in December 2023 dipped to 567,800 individuals from 569,000 individuals in November 2023, with an unemployment rate of 3.3%. The figures indicate the Nation's stable economic foundations, driven by continuous growth in economic and social activities. The number of employed persons in December 2023 rose by 0.2% to 16.46 million persons, compared to 16.43 million persons in November 2023.

[Malaysia's Population Estimated to be 33.7 Million in 2023](#)

The Star – 14 February 2024

Malaysia's population was estimated at 33.7 million in 4Q 2023, a 2% increase from 33.0 million during 4Q 2022. Out of the total population, 30.5 million are citizens, with 3.2 million being non-citizens. The male population rose to 17.7 million in 4Q 2023 from 17.2 million in 4Q 2022, while the female population increased to 16.0 million in 4Q 2023 from 15.8 million in 4Q 2022. In addition, the number of live births, totalling 112,767 decreased by 1.1% in 4Q 2023 compared to 114,067 births in 4Q 2022.

INFRASTRUCTURE

[Penang LRT to Cross Sea from Komtar via Rail Bridge](#)

The Star – 14 February 2024

Penang's upcoming Light Rail Transit (LRT) project may see the 29-kilometre link, an extension from its initial end at Komtar, cross the North Channel to reach Penang Sentral, an integrated transport terminal in Butterworth, which is also adjacent to the Keretapi Tanah Melayu Butterworth station. The RM10 billion project, managed by Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd, is pending a Cabinet presentation and approval by relevant ministries.

[Road Construction Linking Miri to Long Terawan is Expected to Begin in 2025](#)

The Edge – 13 February 2024

The construction of a road spanning over 100 kilometres connecting Miri, Marudi, Mulu and Long Terawan in Sarawak is expected to commence in 2025. With this road, Mulu can be connected to the Gunung Buda area in Limbang and it would reduce travel time from Miri to Long Terawan by one and a half hours.

WORLD

[Rising Rents Push US Inflation Higher](#)

The Edge – 14 February 2024

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the United States increased 0.3% in January 2024 after gaining 0.2% in December 2023 based on the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Shelter, which includes rents, accounted for more than two-thirds of the rise in the CPI. Food prices rose 0.4%, the most in a year, which was partly blamed on the winter storms. Grocery food inflation also increased 0.4%, the largest gain since January 2023, boosted by more expensive sugar and sweets as well as fats and oils, fruits and vegetables. Prices for non-alcoholic beverages shot up 1.2%. But cereals and bakery products were cheaper. Prices for meat, eggs and fish were unchanged. Gasoline prices dropped 3.3%.

[Singapore Home Sales Off to Slowest Start of 2024 Since 2009](#)

The Edge – 15 February 2024

Singapore developers sold 281 new private homes in January 2024, according to the Urban Redevelopment Authority. While that was up from 135 units in December 2023, it was the slowest start since the global financial crisis deterred buyers 15 years ago. The muted rebound from December 2023 is likely to fuel growing concern among developers about flagging demand.

[New Regulations to Ease Real Estate Investments of Overseas Vietnamese](#)

The Star – 15 February 2024

The recently approved Land Law, Housing Law, and Law on Real Estate Business, which will take effect in 2025, is expected to improve conditions for Overseas Vietnamese (OVs) in real estate ownership and trading. The laws provide a uniform approach to issues related to land, housing and real estate, ensuring the rights of OVs with Vietnamese nationality to own and trade property just like Vietnamese citizens residing inside the Country, carrying out the Country's policy of taking OVs as an inseparable part of the Nation. The OVs are allowed to build houses and invest in construction projects for sale, lease, lease purchase, and invest in technical infrastructure in real estate projects to transfer, lease, and sublease the right to use land with technical infrastructure.

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