

ECONOMY

**Unemployment Hits Decade-Low** 

*The Star – 11 February 2025*

Malaysia's unemployment rate in December 2024 dropped by 0.1 percentage point to 3.1%, the lowest in nearly a decade, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia. The number of unemployed persons declined by 0.4% to 544,300, while the labour force continued its upward trend, increasing by 0.1% to 17.32 million.

**Bank Negara Says Ready to Curb Ringgit Volatility** 

*The Edge – 12 February 2025*

Malaysia's Central Bank is ready to manage excessive Ringgit fluctuations, expecting support from State-linked inflows and Country's economic prospects. After recent losses that wiped out most of its January gains due to market jitters from President Trump's trade levies, Bank Negara Malaysia reaffirmed its role in curbing volatility and ensuring market stability.

**Government to Accelerate Fiscal Reforms for Long-Term Resilience Amid Trade War** 

*The Edge – 13 February 2025*

Malaysia will accelerate fiscal reforms to strengthen Government finances and economic resilience amid a global trade war. Economic Minister, Datuk Seri Rafizi Ramli said new policies by the Trump administration will impact Malaysia, causing short-term market volatility. In response, the country will focus on strengthening economic fundamentals, enhancing fiscal resilience, and boosting activities.

**Foreign Holdings in Capital Market Remain Around 19% as of January 2025** 

*The Star – 13 February 2025*

Foreign holdings in Malaysia's capital market stood at 19.4% as of January 2025, said Prime Minister and Finance Minister, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim. He noted that foreign investments have remained around 19% since 2023, rising to 19.7% by the end of 2024.

GOVERNMENT

**Works Ministry Urges Contractors to Complete Projects Ahead of Schedule** 

*The Edge – 10 February 2025*

Deputy Works Minister, Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan has urged contractors handling projects under the Works Ministry to complete them ahead of schedule rather than just meeting the stipulated timeline, in line with the Ministry's directive to prevent delays and reduce requests for time extensions.

## [Johor Targets Over 15,000 Electric Vehicle \(EV\) Registrations by 2030](#)

*The Edge – 12 February 2025*

The Chairman of Johor Health and Environment Committee, Ling Tian Soon announced that the Johor Green Development Committee has implemented a transportation policy to boost EV registrations in the State to 15,840 units by 2030. He stated that under this policy, all new commercial areas must allocate a portion of their parking spaces for EV charging stations.

## CONSTRUCTION

### [Malaysia's Construction Work Done Value Up 20.2% in 2024 at RM158.8 billion](#)

*The Edge – 10 February 2025*

According to the Department of Statistics Malaysia, the value of construction work done in Malaysia rose by 20.2% in 2024, totalling RM158.8 billion. This upward trend continued, with a 23.1% year-on-year increase in the fourth quarter 2024, following a 22.9% growth in the third quarter 2024, bringing the total construction work done value to RM42 billion.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### [Malaysia-Thailand Road Link Nears Completion, To Boost Trade and Ties](#)

*The Star – 11 February 2025*

The Malaysia-Thailand road alignment project connecting the Bukit Kayu Hitam Immigration, Customs, Quarantine and Security complex with the Sadao Customs, Immigration and Quarantine (CIQ) complex is set for completion by the end of 2025. According to Malaysia's Consul General in Songkhla, Ahmad Fahmi Ahmad Sarkawi, Thailand had completed its new CIQ complex several years ago. However, finalising the road alignment was delayed due to various technical obstacles.

### [Weighing The Impact of Ipoh Sentral Project](#)

*The Star – 14 February 2025*

Ipoh, Perak, is set for a major transformation with the RM6.26 billion Ipoh Sentral project over the next 20 years. This development, spanning 27.1 hectare near the historic Ipoh Railway Station, will integrate public transport with residential, commercial, and recreational spaces. The project involves Railway Asset Corporation, Perak Government and private sector partners.

### [Council to Repair Roads, Drainage Systems Damaged in Sibul Floods](#)

*The Star – 14 February 2025*

Sibu Municipal Council will repair and upgrade all roads and drainage systems following recent floods that damaged homes and roads, says Chairman Clarence Ting. With Government funding secured in 2024, work will begin soon, prioritising identified areas, including flood-prone roads.

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