

ECONOMY

Malaysia's Household Debt at RM1.65 Trillion as at End-March 2025

The Edge – 13 August 2025

As at end-March 2025, Malaysia's household debt stood at RM1.65 trillion, or 84.3% of gross domestic product (GDP), one of the highest in Southeast Asia after Thailand. While elevated, the level is supported by strong household financial assets totalling RM3.45 trillion, 2.1 times higher than total debt. The median debt service ratio for household loans was a prudent 34% at end-2024. Of the total debt, 61.1% comprised loans for residential property purchases. Household debt rose slightly from RM1.63 trillion at end-2024, reflecting steady borrowing growth alongside stable economic conditions.

GOVERNMENT

Urban Development Must be Balanced, Sustainable and Inclusive

The Edge – 11 August 2025

According to Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Aiman Athirah Sabu, urban development in Malaysia must be inclusive, engaging all stakeholders to ensure sustainability and community well-being. Balanced urbanisation requires addressing environmental preservation, climate change challenges and the needs of vulnerable groups, particularly women and youth.

Pahang Plans 145 PR1MA Projects to Boost Affordable Housing Access

The Edge – 11 August 2025

The Pahang State Government has lined up 145 PR1MA housing projects to increase access to affordable and quality homes across the State. The initiative is part of the State's continued efforts to enhance public welfare through sustainable housing development. To date, 8,614 units have been completed and handed over to homeowners, while 2,653 units are under construction in various locations. The remainder are in the planning phase and will be implemented in stages based on each area's development potential.

RM113 Billion Worth of Sick, Abandoned Private Housing Projects Revived

The Edge – 13 August 2025

Since its inception in 2023, the Task Force for Sick and Abandoned Private Housing Projects (TFST) under the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (KPKT) has revived 1,171 private housing projects worth RM113.55 billion in gross development value (GDV), restoring 139,848 housing units. In the first half of 2024 alone, TFST revived 244 projects involving 27,101 units with a GDV of RM21.07 billion. It also completed five abandoned projects, totalling 887 units and valued at RM55.74 million, by carrying them through to the Certificate of Completion and Compliance (CCC) stage. Currently, TFST is monitoring 233 delayed, 360 sick and 109 abandoned private housing projects nationwide.

Pahang Eyes Mineral Collection Hub in Maran Ahead of ECRL Expansion

The Edge – 14 August 2025

Pahang plans to develop a mineral collection hub in Maran to leverage the upcoming East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) station, targeting growth in bauxite, gold, silica and iron ore industries. Maran's position in a major palm oil-producing region also supports plans for a palm oil processing and packaging cluster, aided by improved rail logistics and export potential.

Other Districts along the ECRL corridor will see targeted industrial growth. In Temerloh, the station will bolster furniture manufacturing given its proximity to the Temerloh Industrial Area, Songsang and Kampung Sempadan. In Paya Besar, the station will spur high-impact industries through infrastructure such as the Pahang Technology Park, Gambang Halal Park and Halal Food Complex, home to SMEs and related facilities.

CONSTRUCTION

Miti to Develop Standards for Steel Use in Buildings

The Edge – 11 August 2025

The Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (Miti) will collaborate with relevant agencies to set standards for steel use in buildings, following feedback from architects who favour steel but face challenges due to the lack of standardisation. While concrete remains popular for its lower cost, steel offers notable benefits. It is more durable, lighter and easier to repurpose, reducing waste over its lifecycle.

INFRASTRUCTURE

West Ipoh Span Expressway Concession Given Two Years Ago Hasn't Started

The Edge – 12 August 2025

The West Ipoh Span Expressway (WISE) concession remains on hold nearly two years after being awarded, as concessionaire East Coast Road Sdn Bhd (ECRSB) works to meet prerequisites, including proving financing, submitting environmental, social and traffic impact assessments and securing State Government and Local Authorities approvals. ECRSB has until 5 September 2025 to comply, with a possible 12-month extension. The RM4.51 billion, 60.88 km expressway from Gopeng to Kuala Kangsar, aimed at easing Menora Tunnel congestion, was approved in December 2023. Land acquisition for 1,600 lots (RM618 million) will begin once the concession takes effect, with construction expected to take four years.

Trans-Borneo Railway Feasibility Study to Conclude by 3Q 2026

The Edge – 14 August 2025

The feasibility study for the Trans-Borneo Railway, connecting Sabah, Sarawak, Brunei and Kalimantan, is expected to conclude by 3Q 2026. A local consultant began the 12-month study in June 2025 to assess the project in Sabah and Sarawak.

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