

ECONOMY

Malaysia Logs 78% Home Ownership in 2024, Near-Universal Access to Electricity and Water

The Edge – 24 December 2025

Malaysia's home ownership rate rose to around 78% in 2024, up from 76% in 2022, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM). Of the remaining households, 19.7% lived in rented accommodations and 2.4% in quarters. Home ownership is highest among the top 20% of households (85.5%), followed by the bottom 40% (76.3%) and the middle 40% (75.9%).

DOSM Sees Non-Citizen Population in Malaysia Dipping in 2025

The Edge – 24 December 2025

Malaysia's non-citizen population is projected to decline slightly to 3.38 million in 2025, down 0.5% from last year's peak of 3.4 million, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM). This projected figure remains the second-highest level on record, representing 9.9% of the total population in Malaysia. Of the non-citizen population, 79.8% (2.7 million) are in the working-age group of 15–64 years.

Malaysia's Consumer Inflation A Tad Faster in November 2025

The Edge – 22 December 2025

Malaysia's inflation rose slightly to 1.4% year-on-year in November 2025, up from 1.3% in October 2025, driven by higher costs in education, transport and alcoholic drinks and tobacco, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM). This was slightly below the 1.5% increase forecast in a Bloomberg poll.

GOVERNMENT

Sabah MACC Proposes Governance Improvements for State Rural Housing Programme

The Star – 23 November 2025

The Sabah Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has proposed governance improvements for the Rumah Mesra Sabah Maju Jaya (RMSMJ) rural housing programme after discovering that some completed houses were unoccupied and rented out to third parties. Submitted to the Sabah Rural Development Ministry, the five recommendations include refining eligibility criteria to ensure applicants are heads of households, requiring owners of dilapidated homes to demolish old houses once new ones are completed, restricting approvals for applicants with an existing income source and preventing the transfer of RMSMJ house ownership to third parties except to lawful heirs after the death of the head of household.

Penang Raises Quit Rent Rebate to 50% for 2026

The Edge – 23 December 2025

The Penang State Government has increased the quit rent rebate for 2026 to 50%, up from the previously announced 32.5%, to ease landowners' financial burden while ensuring a gradual transition to new rates. Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow noted that the rebate is subject to the minimum quit rent rate. The new quit rent rates will remain in effect for at least 10 years.

Selangor Leads in Development Approvals for Selangor

The Star – 22 December 2025

As of 8 December 2025, Sepang Municipal Council (MPSepang) has issued 470 planning approvals, the highest number in Selangor for the year of 2025, surpassing Shah Alam and Petaling Jaya city councils. According to MPSepang president Dr Ani Ahmad, strong investor interest has been driven by the inclusion of Sepang and Kuala Langat in the State's Integrated Development Region in South Selangor (IDRISS).

Melaka Council Gets RM2 Million for Draft Development Plan

The Star – 20 December 2025

A total of RM2 million has been allocated to the Hang Tuah Jaya Municipal Council (MPHTJ) to prepare its draft Local Plan 2035, aimed at guiding the town's development in a more sustainable, liveable and competitive manner. The draft local plan will serve as the primary strategic reference for MPHTJ's development over the next 10 to 15 years, replacing the existing plan prepared 20 years ago. The plan is open for public feedback until 31 December 2025.

WORLD

Beijing Further Eases Home Buying Curbs

The Edge – 24 December 2025

Beijing Authorities have eased home-buying restrictions to boost demand amid falling property prices. Non-local residents can now purchase homes after one year of consecutive local tax payments, down from two years. Families with more than one child are allowed to buy an additional home in downtown Beijing.

China Pledges to Step Up Urban Renewal, Stabilise Housing Market in 2026

The Edge – 23 December 2025

China plans to intensify urban renewal and stabilise its property market in 2026, marking the start of its latest Five-Year Plan (2026–2030). A housing policy conference held on 22–23 December 2025 outlined key tasks, highlighting urban renewal, real estate market stabilisation, risk prevention and improving affordable housing supply as major priorities for the next five years.

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