

ECONOMY

Ringgit Gained 4.31% to RM3.89 as at 1 March 2026

The Edge – 2 March 2026

As at 1 March 2026, the ringgit had appreciated by 4.31% to RM3.89 against the US dollar, according to Finance Minister II, Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan. He noted that the currency's strengthening reflects Malaysia's solid domestic fundamentals, with Gross Domestic Product growth reaching 5.2% in 2025, surpassing the initial forecast.

National Semiconductor Strategy (NSS) Draws RM59.8 billion Investments

The Edge – 2 March 2026

The implementation of Malaysia's NSS has attracted RM59.85 billion in investments in the semiconductor sector between January 2024 and September 2025. Deputy Investment, Trade and Industry Minister, Sim Tze Tzin stated that this total comprises RM56.8 billion in foreign direct investment and RM3.05 billion in domestic direct investment.

Higher Tax Revenue in 2026 on Wage, Corporate Earnings Growth

The Edge – 2 March 2026

Malaysia's tax revenue is expected to increase in 2026, supported by sustained wage growth, stronger corporate profits and better tax compliance. Individual income tax collection is projected to rise 9.4% year on year to RM49.07 billion, while corporate income tax revenue is forecast to grow 6.5% to RM103.35 billion.

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) Keeps Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) at 2.75%

The Edge – 5 March 2026

BNM maintained its benchmark OPR at 2.75%, in line with market expectations. The central bank noted that the current monetary policy stance remains appropriate and continues to support economic growth and price stability, despite rising global uncertainties stemming from geopolitical tensions.

Over 60% of Malaysian Exporters Likely Affected by Middle East Conflict

The Edge – 5 March 2026

The Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) reported that over 60% of Malaysian exporters expect to be affected by the Middle East conflict, citing shipment delays and higher shipping and insurance costs. A survey assessing ground-level business impacts included 53.7% micro, small and medium enterprises, 32.7% mid-tier companies and 13.6% multinational corporations, with preliminary results indicating anticipated sales declines, order cancellations and rising raw material costs, particularly for plastics tied to crude oil.

GOVERNMENT

[Revised Land Tax Formula Fairer on All Landowners](#)

The Edge – 5 March 2026

Penang Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow stated that Penang's revised land tax formula, effective in 2026, is intended to ensure fair and equitable treatment for all landowners by removing the distinction between First Grade and non-First Grade land, noting that the tax rates had not been reviewed for more than 30 years.

[Federal Grants to State Governments Expected to Hit RM10.5 billion in 2026](#)

The Star – 5 March 2026

National Finance Council has agreed to increase the grants provided by the Federal Government to State Governments, with the total allocation expected to reach RM10.5 billion in 2026, according to Prime Minister, Anwar Ibrahim. He noted the increase reflects the Madani Government's commitment to strengthening the financial position of State Governments to support socio-economic development and infrastructure nationwide.

PROPERTY

[Property Sector Recorded RM240 billion Transactions in 2025, Highest in Over a Decade](#)

The Edge – 4 March 2026

Housing and Local Government Minister, Nga Kor Ming said the national property sector recorded RM240 billion in transactions in 2025, marking the highest level in more than a decade. He noted that the strong performance indicates the sector has not only recovered but has also emerged as a key driver of economic growth.

INFRASTRUCTURE

[Twenty-Six New Train Sets for Kelana Jaya Light Rail Transit \(LRT\) Expected in 2028](#)

The Edge – 2 March 2026

Twenty-six new trains for the Kelana Jaya LRT line are expected to arrive by 2028, according to Transport Minister, Anthony Loke. He explained that the procurement forms part of Prasarana's strategy to stabilise the ageing Bombardier 818 Series train sets, including the early purchase of additional spare parts.

[Penang International Logistics Aeropark \(PILA\) Project Begins in First Quarter of 2026](#)

The Edge – 5 March 2026

The development of PILA project commenced in the first quarter of 2026, according to Deputy Transport Minister, Hasbi Habibollah. He explained that the PILA project is being carried out in phases to upgrade and expand the new cargo terminal, with the goal of enhancing services in the air cargo sector.

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