

ECONOMY

**Malaysia's Export Growth Decelerated in March 2026**

*The Edge – 20 April 2026*

Malaysia's exports expanded at a more moderate pace in March 2026, as softer external demand and persistent global uncertainties continued to weigh on trade momentum, with total exports rising 8.3% year on year to RM148.8 billion.

**Malaysia's Trade Expands 10.4% to RM789.85 billion in 1Q 2026**

*The Edge – 20 April 2026*

Malaysia's trade continued to expand in the first quarter of 2026, rising by 10.4% year on year to RM789.85 billion despite ongoing global uncertainties, according to the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry. The Ministry reported that exports grew by 12.7% to RM426.53 billion, while imports increased by 7.7% to RM363.31 billion, resulting in a trade surplus of RM63.22 billion.

**Impact of Global Supply Crisis Starting to Trickle into Everyday Costs**

*The Edge – 21 April 2026*

Economy Minister, Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir stated that the effects of the global supply crisis are increasingly being felt across transportation, logistics, goods prices and daily expenses, signalling that the Country is entering a more evident phase of cost adjustment.

**Weak Demand from Iran Weighs on Palm Oil Sector**

*The Edge – 21 April 2026*

Dato' Sri Reezal Merican Naina Merican, chairman of Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation, stated that the palm oil sector has been significantly affected by ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, largely due to weakening demand from Iran. He noted that exports of palm oil and palm-based products to Iran fell sharply by 86.1% year on year to RM90 million in the first quarter of 2026.

**Over 4,700 Retrenched in April 2026**

*The Star – 21 April 2026*

More than 4,700 workers were retrenched in the first 16 days of April 2026, according to Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir, the Minister of Economy, who cautioned that the second quarter of 2026 would be a critical period for the local labour market.

**Malaysia Announces RM5 billion Loan Facility to Support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)**

*The Edge – 21 April 2026*

Prime Minister, Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim announced that Malaysia will introduce a RM5 billion loan facility to support SMEs and other sectors affected by the global energy crisis, aimed at helping businesses navigate ongoing economic challenges.

## [Malaysia's International Reserves Rises to US\\$128.8 billion at Mid-April 2026](#)

*The Edge – 22 April 2026*

Malaysia's international reserves stood at US\$128.8 billion as at 15 April 2026, up by US\$2.2 billion from US\$126.6 billion recorded at end-March 2026, with the increase largely attributed to a rise in foreign currency reserves.

## [Youth Bankruptcy Hits 4,704 Cases](#)

*The Star – 24 April 2026*

A rising number of young Malaysians are facing bankruptcy, with 4,704 cases involving those aged 34 and below recorded over the past five years, according to Economy Minister, Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir. This figure represents 15% of the 31,517 total bankruptcy cases reported between 2021 and March 2026, raising concerns over growing financial vulnerability among youths.

## GOVERNMENT

### [Government Delays E-Invoicing for MSMEs By Another Year](#)

*The Edge – 20 April 2026*

Prime Minister, Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim announced that the implementation of e-invoicing will be deferred until 31 December 2027, as part of targeted measures to ease cost pressures faced by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) affected by the global energy crisis.

### [National Carbon Market Policy Launched to Guide Malaysia's Carbon Market Ecosystems](#)

*The Edge – 21 April 2026*

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability introduced the National Carbon Market Policy to establish a framework for carbon credit trading ahead of any carbon tax implementation in Malaysia. Its Minister, Dato' Sri Arthur Joseph Kurup, noted that a carbon tax may be perceived as a penalty on polluters and would be unfair without a functioning carbon market.

### [Carbon Tax on Hold Amid Mideast Conflict](#)

*The Star – 22 April 2026*

The Government has postponed its carbon tax plan due to the Middle East conflict, with Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Minister, Dato' Sri Arthur Joseph Kurup stating that the move is to avoid adding financial pressure on industries and the *Rakyat* amid current geopolitical uncertainties.

### [Security Committee Plays Vital Role as Mediator in Sensitive Land Issues](#)

*The Star – 23 April 2026*

The Selangor District Security Committee (SDCC) has been activated to mediate sensitive land disputes, particularly involving unauthorised places of worship on private land, with Selangor Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari noting its aim to balance property rights with communal harmony.

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