

## ECONOMY

### [Malaysia's Wage Growth Lagged GDP Growth Since 2010](#)

*The Edge – 14 May 2026*

World Bank reported that Malaysia's wage growth since 2010 has lagged Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth and remained uneven across income groups and States, raising concerns over whether current job productivity and income levels are sufficient to achieve the Country's high-income goals.

### [Malaysia's Population Reaches 34.4 Million Amid Slower Growth Rate](#)

*The Edge – 14 May 2026*

Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) reported that Malaysia's population grew to an estimated 34.4 million in 1Q2026 from 34.2 million a year earlier, reflecting a slower annual growth rate of 0.5%.

## GOVERNMENT

### [Penang Government Denies Claims Chinese Nationals Bought Homes Below MM2H Standards](#)

*The Edge – 14 May 2026*

The Penang Government denied claims that Chinese nationals purchased hundreds of homes below the Malaysia My Second Home (MM2H) minimum price threshold, clarifying that only 15 out of 365 foreign-buyer property transactions in 2025 involved units priced between RM400,000 and RM1.5 million under approved Home Ownership Campaign (HOC) exemptions.

### [Penang Urges Appeals for Nominal Land Tax on Non-Profit Properties](#)

*The Star – 12 May 2026*

Penang Government urged landowners using properties for non-profit purposes such as houses of worship, schools and cemeteries to appeal for nominal land tax rates, noting that many such properties are still registered under individuals or associations rather than their actual non-profit use.

### [Negeri Sembilan Poised to Transform into High-Value Manufacturing Hub](#)

*The Edge – 12 May 2026*

Negeri Sembilan is transitioning into a high-value manufacturing hub through initiatives such as the NS Semiconductor Valley and Aerospace Valley, with Federal and State Governments collaborating to strengthen industrial growth, financing, technical capabilities and global market access.

### [Proposed 3% Property Transfer Tax on Non-Locals Will Help Curb Speculation](#)

*The Star – 11 May 2026*

A proposed 3% property transfer premium tax on non-locals in Penang aims to curb speculation and improve housing affordability.

## [DBKL Assesses Urban Crowding to Update Rules on Future Development](#)

*The Star – 9 May 2026*

Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) plans to review development density in rapidly growing and highly populated areas across Kuala Lumpur, with findings from the upcoming six-month studies will be used to amend the Kuala Lumpur Local Plan 2040 to strengthen development controls if necessary.

### PROPERTY

## [1Q2026 Property Transactions Recorded at About 90,000 Units](#)

*The Edge – 14 May 2026*

Malaysia's property market recorded stable performance with moderate growth in 1Q2026, registering 89,966 transactions worth RM51.9 billion. Compared to 1Q2025, transaction value declined marginally by 0.6% while transaction volume decreased by 8%.

## [REHDA Backs Proposed 'Option to Purchase' Clause](#)

*The Edge – 13 May 2026*

**Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association Malaysia (REHDA)** expressed support for the proposed "Option to Purchase" clause under the new Real Property Development Act, stating that the mechanism could better protect prospective homebuyers while allowing flexibility to reconsider purchases if their circumstances change.

### CONSTRUCTION

## [Construction Sector Grew 8.5% to RM46.5 Billion in 1Q2026](#)

*The Star – 13 May 2026*

Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) reported that Malaysia's construction sector grew by 8.5% year-on-year to RM46.5 billion in 1Q2026, driven mainly by strong growth in special trade activities, non-residential buildings.

### INFRASTRUCTURE

## [Penang Government Exploring Bridge Option](#)

*The Star – 14 May 2026*

The Penang Government is evaluating the feasibility of a bridge linking the Island and mainland as an alternative to the proposed undersea tunnel.

## [ECRL Project in Pahang at 97.3% Completion as of April 2026](#)

*The Edge – 14 May 2026*

East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) in Pahang has reached 97.3% completion as of April 2026, with the overall project at 93.66% progress and expected to commence operations in January 2027.

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