

ECONOMY

Nearly Two-Thirds of Malaysians Made RM2,200 or Less a Month in 2025

The Edge – 21 September 2026

In 2025, nearly two-thirds of Malaysia's wage earners were employed in semi-skilled and low-skilled jobs, with median monthly wages of RM2,223 or less, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia. Semi-skilled workers accounted for 55.6% of wage earners and recorded a median monthly wage of RM2,223, while low-skilled workers made up 7.8% and earned RM1,758.

Malaysians' Average Monthly Salary Up 4% to RM3,803 in 2025

The Edge – 21 September 2026

According to the Salaries and Wages Survey Report 2025 published by the Department of Statistics Malaysia, the average monthly salary and wage of Malaysians increased by 4.1% to RM3,803 in 2025, compared with RM3,652 in 2024. Meanwhile, the median monthly salary and wage rose by 5.3% to RM2,940 from RM2,793 in 2024.

Malaysia's Exports Jump 31.2% to RM1.36 Trillion in First Eight Months

The Star – 21 September 2026

Malaysia's exports increased by 31.2% to RM1.356 trillion in the first eight months of 2026, up from RM1.033 trillion in the corresponding period in 2025, supported by market and product diversification. According to the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE), exports to 40 Countries, including the United States, France and Ireland, had already exceeded their respective full-year export values recorded in 2025.

GOVERNMENT

Education Ministry Relaxes Bumiputera Equity Requirement for Private Educational Institutions

The Edge – 21 September 2026

The Ministry of Education has removed the requirement for private limited companies operating private educational institutions to have a minimum of 30% Bumiputera equity ownership. The decision, reached following discussions with the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, aims to align the regulatory framework with the current needs of the education sector and ensure that participation remains open to all parties seeking to contribute to the development of education in Malaysia.

Higher Pay Under Review

The Star – 23 September 2026

The Government will conduct a comprehensive assessment of the Progressive Wage Policy by the end of 2026 or early 2027 to evaluate its effectiveness in raising workers' wages. Economy Minister, Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir said the policy is currently being implemented and is scheduled to conclude at the end of 2027, with the assessment intended to guide the Government's next course of action.

PROPERTY

REAL ESTATE AND HOUSING DEVELOPERS' ASSOCIATION (REHDA) MALAYSIA PROPERTY INDUSTRY SURVEY (PIS) 1H 2026 AND MARKET OUTLOOK 2H 2026 & 1H 2027

[Loan Rejection, High Prices, Bumiputera Units Main Contributors to Unsold Homes](#)

The Edge – 23 September 2026

Almost 60% of developers surveyed in the latest **REHDA Malaysia** Property Industry Survey 1H 2026 reported having unsold completed residential units as at 30 June 2026. Based on responses from 181 REHDA members across Peninsular Malaysia, the main factors contributing to the unsold units were rejected end-financing applications, property prices and unreleased *Bumiputera* units.

[Outdated Compliance Costs Should be Reviewed to Help Reduce Housing Cost](#)

The Edge – 23 September 2026

REHDA Malaysia called for a review of statutory, regulatory and other compliance-related costs that may no longer be necessary or relevant, noting that such costs ultimately increase the cost of housing delivery and contribute to higher house prices. **REHDA Malaysia president, Datuk Zaini Yusoff** stressed that housing affordability should be assessed beyond house prices, taking into account access to financing as well as the costs associated with housing production and delivery.

[REHDA Seeks Enhanced Housing Credit Guarantee Scheme, Stamp Duty Relief in Budget 2027](#)

The Star – 23 September 2026

REHDA Malaysia has proposed several measures for Budget 2027, including enhancements to the Housing Credit Guarantee Scheme, improved financing structures, an extension of existing stamp duty relief and a special Home Ownership Campaign for unsold completed residential units. According to **REHDA president, Datuk Zaini Yusoff**, the proposals submitted are intended to address financing constraints faced by homebuyers while mitigating the rising costs of housing delivery.

INFRASTRUCTURE

[Malaysia, China Agree on Proposed East Coast Rail Link \(ECRL\) Extension to Rantau Panjang](#)

The Edge – 24 September 2026

Malaysia and China have agreed on a proposal to extend the ECRL from Kota Bharu to Rantau Panjang in Kelantan, potentially bringing the railway closer to the Thai border. Prime Minister, Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the proposed extension could spur economic activity in less-developed areas of Kelantan and strengthen connectivity with Thailand. The proposed continuation from Kota Bharu to Rantau Panjang could span approximately 20km to 25km.

RI - Weekly News is published by REHDA Institute

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