

Socio-Economic **Research Centre** SERC 社会经济研究中心

FIABCI Malaysia Morning Talk

Budget 2025 – Charting the Future of Malaysia

Lee Heng Guie **Executive Director** 2 October 2024

Agenda



Global Economy is Growing but Risks still Prevalent



Domestic Economy Remains on the Expansion Path



The State of Malaysia's Real Estate Market



Budget 2025 – Sustaining Growth with Fiscal Stability



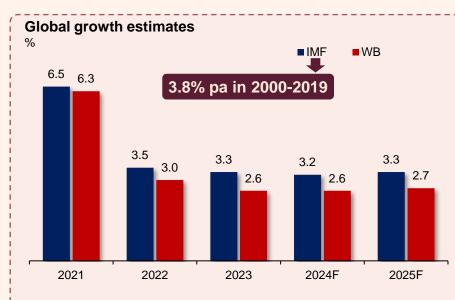
Global Economic Outlook

Global Economy is Growing but Risks still Prevalent

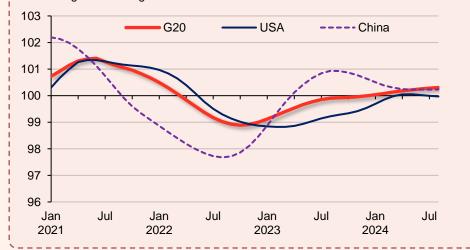
- 1. Global Growth Continued amid the Challenges and Risks
- 2. The US Economy is "Cruising" Along; Can Avoid Recession
- 3. Inflation "Emergency" is Over and the Fed Rate Cuts Coming; How Much?
- 4. China Economy is Hitting the Wall; Policy Bazooka Comes to Rescue
- 5. Geopolitical Risks will Remain Top of Mind



The global economy continues to grow at a slower pace

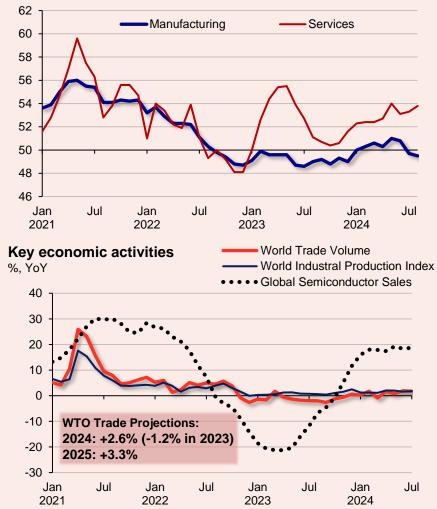


OECD Composite Leading Indicators (CLI) 100=Long-term average





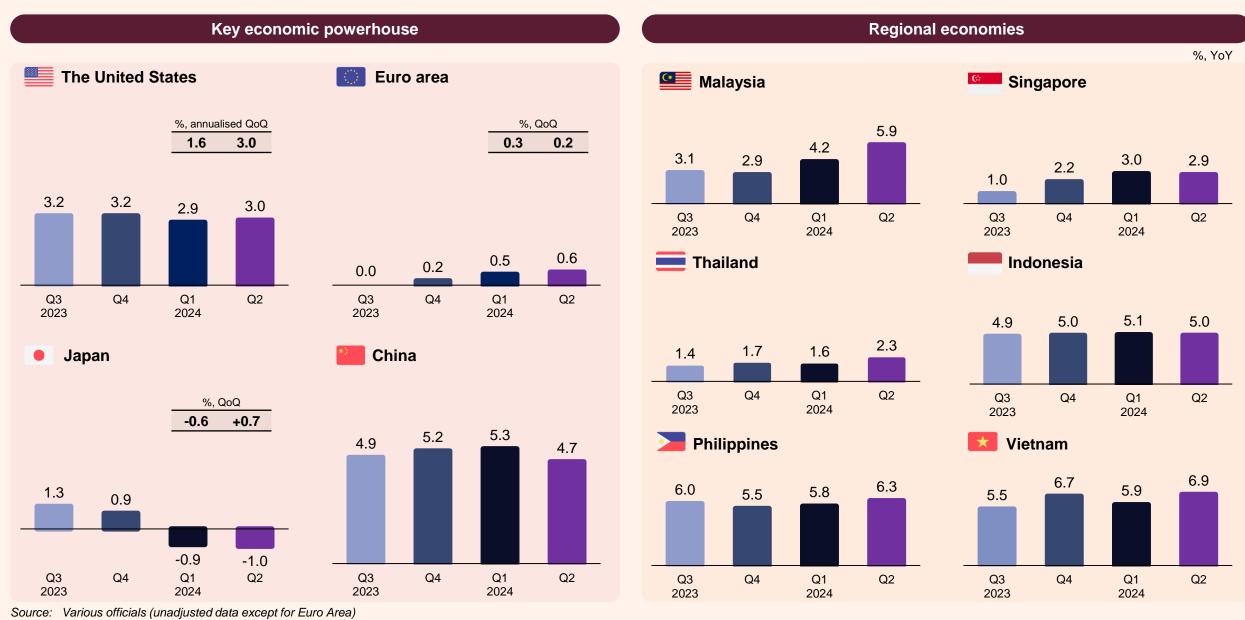
Global PMI for manufacturing & services 50=Threshold



Mixed indicators:

- Global Manufacturing PMI fell below threshold for two straight months (49.7 in Jul and 49.5 in Aug), after maintaining positive momentum in the first six months of 2024. Global Services PMI remains on a solid expansion.
- The OECD composite leading indicators (CLI) for G20 were pointing a stable growth ahead.
- Global semiconductor sales recorded strong double-digit growth since Dec 2023.
- World trade volume growth remained uneven.

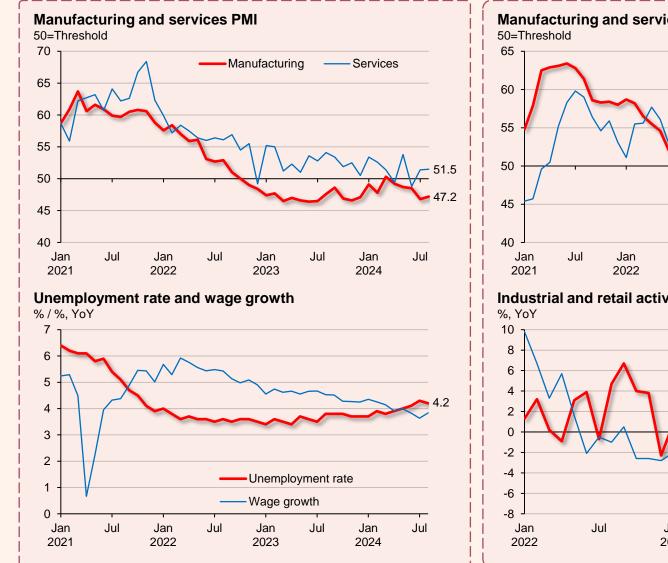
GDP growth heatmap for advanced and emerging economies





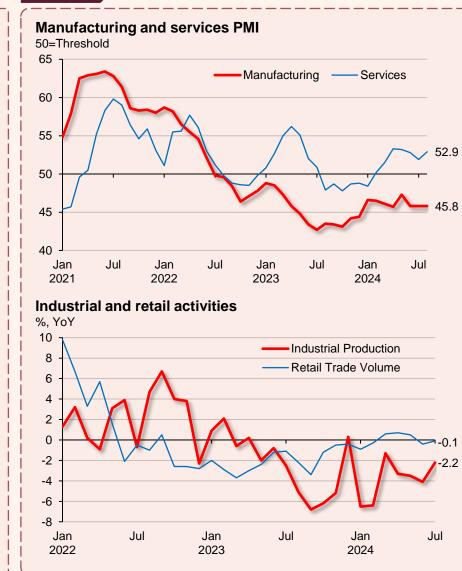
Growth divergences among major economies

The United States



Source: Institute for Supply Management (ISM); US Bureau of Labour Statistics; S&P Global; Eurostat

Euro Area



The United States

Starting rate-easing cycle

 Mixed economic performance. Manufacturing PMI has persistently fallen; slowing-down job market, while the retail sector still steady; and headline inflation level held steady. Question: How aggressive is the rate cut?

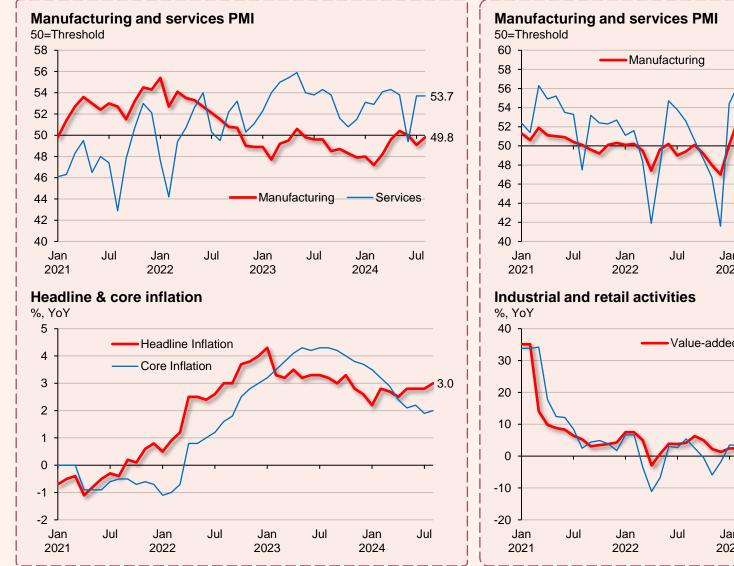
Euro Area

Still weak economic growth

- High-frequency economic data indicated unfavourable performance. Both retail sales and industrial production continued to contract.
- Inflation rate at three-year low (2.2% in Aug 2024).

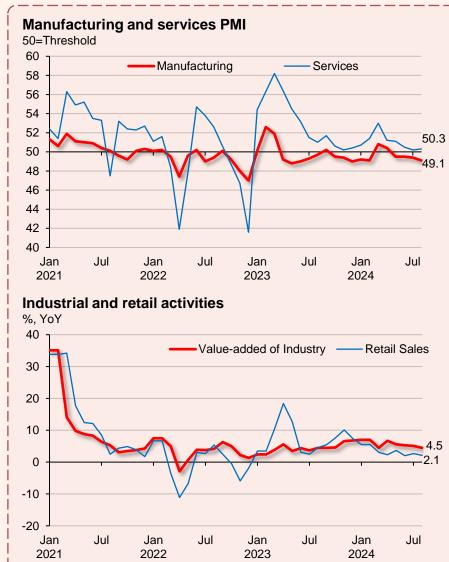
Growth divergences among major economies (cont.)

Japan



Source: S&P Global; Statistics Bureau of Japan; National Bureau of Statistics of China





Japan

A turnaround in growth?

- A modest turnaround in growth is expected in 2H 2024, driven by stronger wage growth and consumer spending, but may be partially offset by potentially aggressive rate hikes.
- Bank of Japan signals further rate hikes as long as inflation remains above its 2% target.

China

Searching for a breakthrough

- Economic data in recent months has missed forecasts, raising concerns that the growth target was at risk.
- Pulls the bold stimulus package trigger to prop up its economy.

How will the US and China economic slowdown affect Malaysia?

Approved Foreign Approved Foreign % share 2023 **Total Trade** Exports Imports (value) **Manufacturing Investment** Investment Rankings 11.3% of total 7.3% 9.5% 11.4% 14.1% **United States** #3 #4 #3 #3 #2 (RM161.3 billion) (RM89.0 billion) (RM250.2 billion) (RM21.5 billion) (RM18.1 billion) 13.5% 21.3% 17.1% 7.7% 9.3% #1 #5 China #2 #1 #5 (RM450.8 billion) (RM192.2 billion) (RM258.6 billion) (RM14.5 billion) (RM12.0 billion) 6.0% 5.9% 5.9% 7.2% 7.9% Japan #6 #6 #5 #6 #6 (RM70.9 billion) (RM156.6 billion) (RM13.6 billion) (RM10.2 billion) (RM85.7 billion) 7.7% 7.9% 7.8% 27.0% 35.0% #4 European Union #4 #3 N/A N/A (RM112.9 billion) (RM93.8 billion) (RM206.7 billion) (RM50.9 billion) (RM45.0 billion) RM1,211.5 billion RM2,637.1 billion RM188.4 billion RM128.4 billion Malaysia's Overall RM1,425.6 billion

Note: The European Union excludes the United Kingdom.

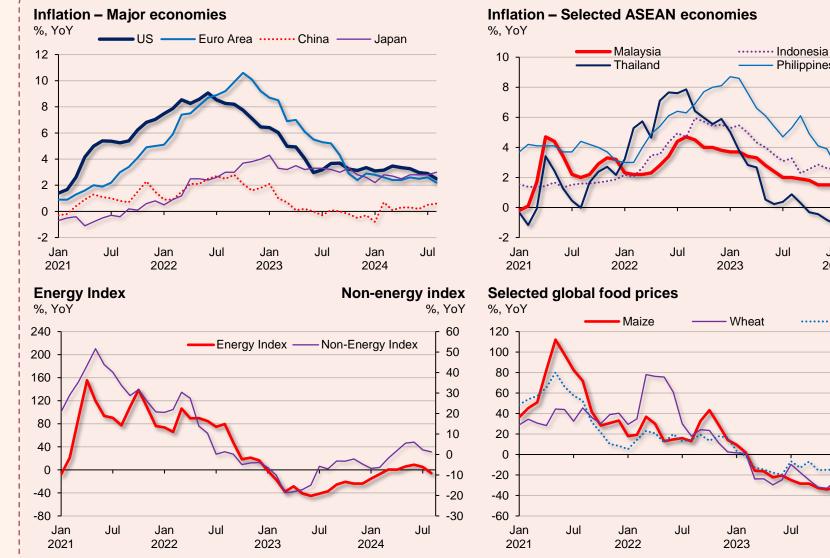
Trade and investment with selected countries

The European Union rankings in approved and manufacturing investments are excluded.

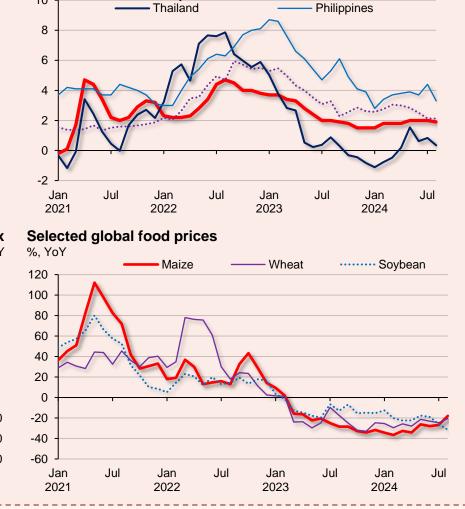
Source: BNM; DOSM



Overall price levels are now stabilising, but no room for complacency

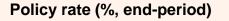


Source: World Bank; Various officials for inflation data



- Headline inflation has been moderating over the past few months and has started to stabilise at its current level. Overall commodities prices also have tamed.
- The Drewry World Container Index (WCI) has shown a significant increase in the price of 40ft containers, rising from USD1,342 on 26 Oct 2023 to a peak of USD5,937 (+342.6%) on 18 Jul 2024, before easing to USD3,970 as of 19 Sep 2024.

Global monetary policy tracker







Indonesia

5.00

6.00 5.75 5.25

2019 2023 2024E 2025F

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said that a 50 basis point rate cut reflects the Fed's growing confidence that, with an appropriate recalibration of policy, it can maintain strength in the labour market while achieving moderate growth and ensuring that inflation moves sustainably toward the 2% target.



Malaysia





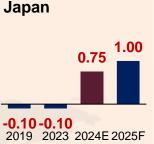
2019 2023 2024E 2025F

2019 2023 2024E 2025F

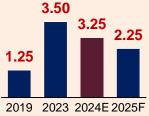
4.35 4.35 4.10

Australia

0.75



South Korea



Philippines



Source: Various officials; SERC's forecasts



Malaysia Economic Outlook

Domestic Economy Remains on the Expansion Path

- 1. The Malaysian Economy Fired on Twin Cylinders
- 2. Continued Reforms to Boost Macro-Economic Stability
- 3. Stage Set for Robust Private Investment Cycle
- 4. 2025 Budget Insights
- 5. Drivers of the Real Estate Market



Tracking Malaysia's economic indicators



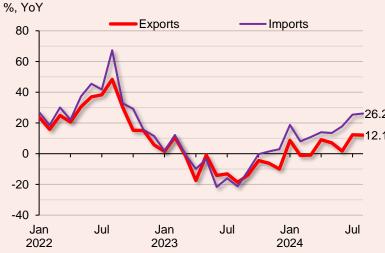
Wholesale, retail & manufacturing sales %, YoY

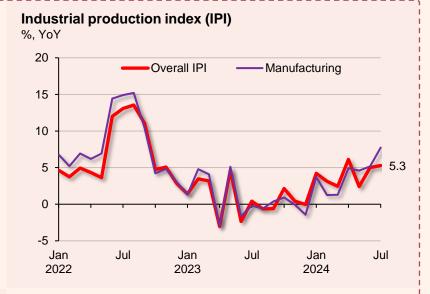


Source: S&P Global; DOSM; Malaysian Automotive Association (MAA)

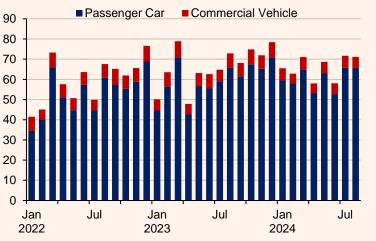








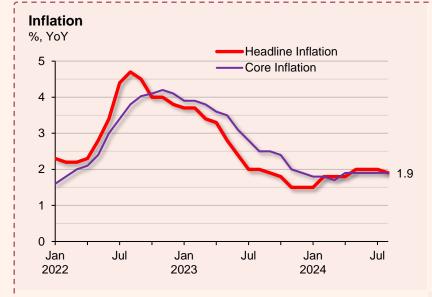
Sales of passenger & commercial vehicles Thousand units



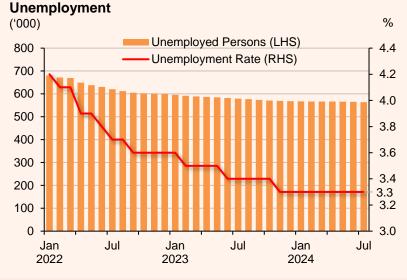
Socio-Economic Research Centre

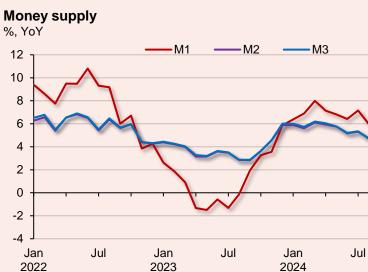
SERC

Tracking Malaysia's economic indicators (cont.)



Outstanding banking loan growth %, YoY Household 8 **Business and Others** 7 6.4 6 5 3 2 0 Jul Jan Jul Jan Jul Jan 2024 2022 2023







Foreign exchange reserves USD billion



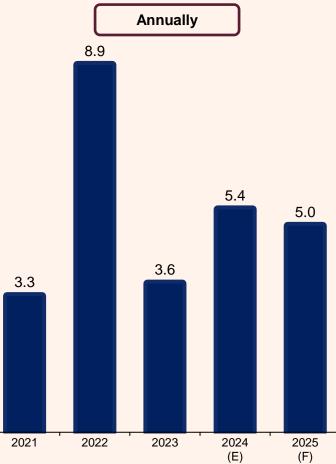
Source: DOSM; BNM; MIDA



The Malaysian economy is doing better

Malaysia's real GDP growth (%, YoY)





Drivers of economic growth in 2024-2025

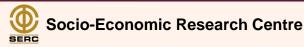
Supporting drivers

- Stronger growth in domestic economy as well as an upswing in external demand.
- Investment upcycle in the technology and digital infrastructure.
- Increase in tourist arrivals in line with the visa exemption given to tourists from China and India.

Dampening drivers

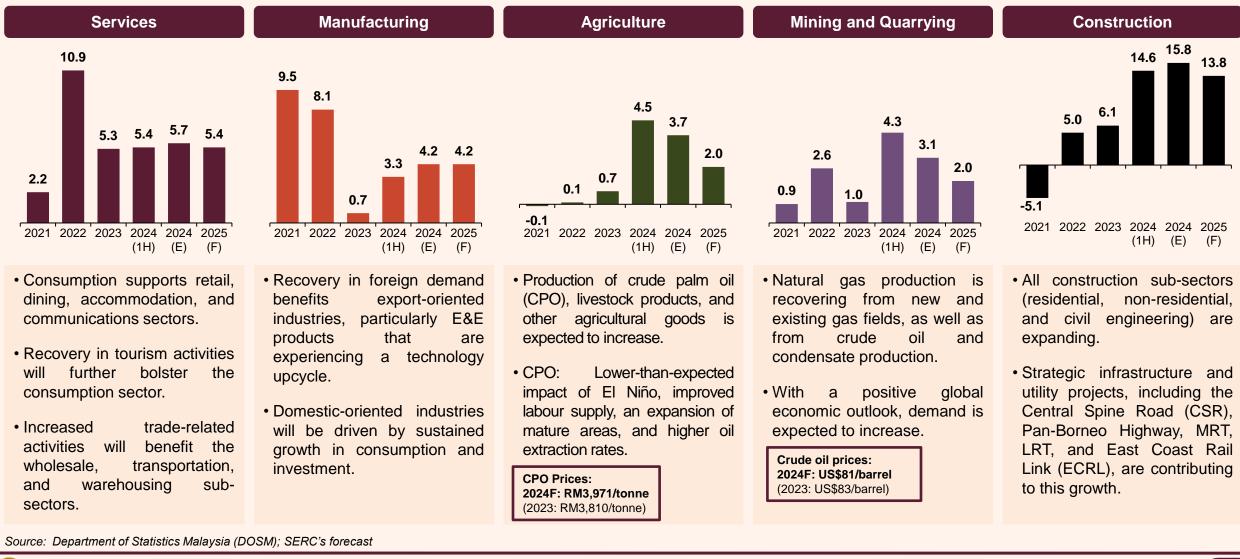
- Increased cost of living and business costs, especially with the implementation of the subsidy rationalisation for diesel.
- Businesses and households' anxieties have already built up over the petrol subsidy rationalisation will be next in line.
- Domestic economic growth outlook remains subject to downside risks, mainly from the worsening of geopolitical tensions, higher-thananticipated inflation outturns, and volatility in global financial markets.

Source: Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM); SERC's forecast



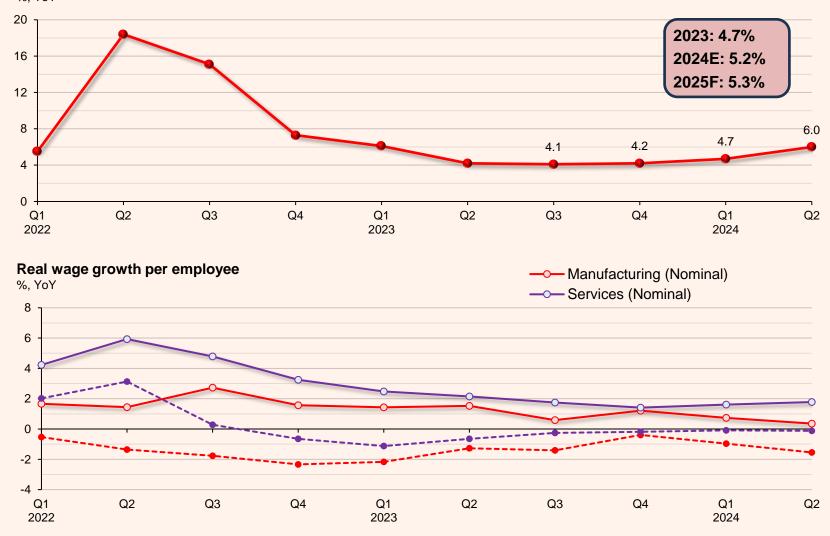
All economic sectors will register positive growth in 2024-2025

GDP growth by economic sector (%, YoY)



Sustaining private consumption

Private consumption growth (60.7% of GDP in 2023) %. YoY



Key focuses

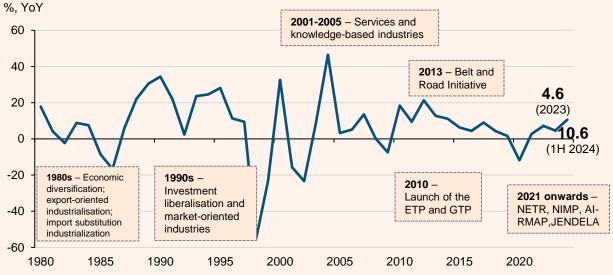
- Stable labour market conditions. Rising cost of bliving and high prices pressure as well as anxiety about retargeting subsidies rationalisation for RON95 may lead to cautious spending.
- Higher tourist arrivals and spending are expected with the implementation of visa free for India and China. Malaysia targets 27.3 million tourist arrivals with RM102.7 billion in total tourism receipts in 2024. China and India are expected to contribute 5 million and 1 million tourist arrivals, respectively.
- The Employees Provident Fund (EPF)'s Flexible Account (Account 3) allows members to withdraw funds for life cycle needs.
- As of 19 July 2024, 3.8 million or 29.3% of total 13.1 million EPF members under the age of 55 have transferred RM12.6 billion from the Sejahtera Account (Account 2) to the Flexible Account (Account 3).
- 3.4 million or 26.2% of total EPF members under the age of 55 have withdrawn RM8.9 billion from the Flexible Account, a 27.5% increase from RM6.98 billion as of 10 June 2024.

Source: DOSM



New private investment cycle is taking shape





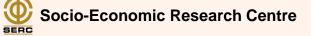
Private investment to GDP ratio



Key focuses

- 5-year Malaysia Plan, Industrial Master Plans, various roadmaps and plans covering agriculture, ICT, industrialisation, manufacturing, and services.
- 1970s-1980s Economic diversification; export-oriented industrialisation, imports substitution industrialisation based on heavy industries (automotive; iron and steel); and the Look East policy.
- **1990s** Investment liberalisation, including foreign equity for exportoriented industries.
- **2000s** Manufacturing cum services, knowledge-based, ICT; digitalisation, e-commerce, advanced technology, energy transition, climate change wave.
- 2010 The Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) to make Malaysia better and drive private investment; and Government Transformation Programme (GTP) to address the cost of living and security.
- **2013** China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which fostered closer trade and investment relations between Malaysia and China.
- 2020-2023 Malaysia MADANI Economy Framework, New Industrial Master Plan (NIMP) 2030, National Energy Transition Roadmap (NETR), National Artificial Intelligence Roadmap (AI-RMAP); JENDELA; Malaysian Aerospace Industry Blueprint 2030.
- **2024** Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JS-SEZ); KL20 Summit to attract more investments in startups.



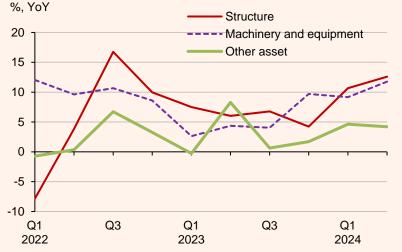


Strong investment upcycle set to take off

Private investment growth (15.5% of GDP in 2023) %, YoY



Gross fixed capital formation by type of assets



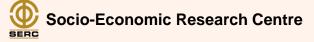
Outstanding loans to the business sector



Key focuses

- With a plethora of investments streaming in from multinationals like Google, Microsoft and Tesla, Malaysia will experience a global tech upcycle especially where digital infrastructure like Artificial Intelligence (AI), cloud computing, EVs are concerned.
- Several strategic plans, namely the New Industrial Master Plan (NIMP) 2030, National Energy Transition Roadmap (NETR), the Mid-Term Review of the 12th Malaysia Plan (2021-2025), and National Semiconductor Strategy (NSS) are gradually materialising and will be the catalyst for higher investment growth.
- Additionally, Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JS-SEZ), together with Special Financial Zone (SFZ) in the Forest City, are set to be a game changer.

Source: DOSM; BNM



Sustaining higher private investment prospects ahead

Private investment growth

%, YoY



Reduce bureaucracy, red tape and gold-plating as well as address skills mismatches and encouraging the deployment of technology and innovation would bring down costs of doing business.

Source: DOSM



Drivers of higher private investment growth in the medium term:

National Strategic Plans and Roadmaps

#1 Malaysia MADANI Economy

- A whole-of-Malaysia approach with 7 intermediate indicators.

#2 12th Malaysia Mid-Term Review (2021-2025)

- 17 big bolds to catalyse socio-economic development.

#3 New Industrial Master Plan 2030

- Key industries include E&E, chemical products, advanced materials, aerospace, and healthcare.

#4 National Energy Transition Roadmap

- Six energy transition levers and 10 flagship projects that address energy efficiency, renewable energy, hydrogen, bioenergy, green mobility, and CCUS.

#5 National Artificial Intelligence Roadmap 2021-2025

- Create a thriving and sustainable AI innovation ecosystem.

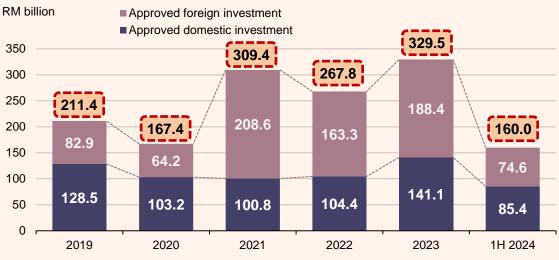
#6 National Semiconductor Strategy

- Boost the semiconductor industry by enhancing research, development, and manufacturing capabilities.

#7 Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (J-S SEZ)

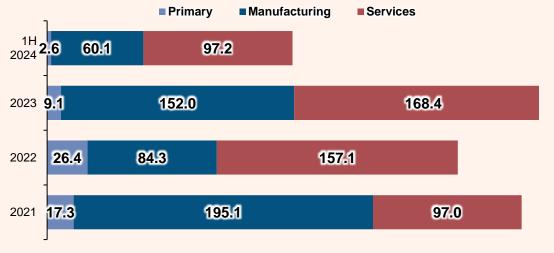
- Foster economic connectivity by improving cross-border flows of goods, investments, and people.
- On-going implementation of multi-year infrastructure projects.
- Realisation of some approved investments in previous years (2021-2023) and in 2024.
- Continued capacity expansions in the manufacturing sector (semiconductor, transport equipment, chemical and chemical products) and services (renewable energy, ICT, data centres, technology-related fields).

Highest investment approvals ever recorded in 2023



MIDA's approved DDI and FDI

MIDA's approved Investment by major sector



Major foreign investors by ranking (1H 2024) Approved investment value **RM30.1** 1. Austria billion (18.8%) **RM16.5** 2. Singapore billion (10.3%)RM9.8 billion 3. China (6.1%)RM4.0 billion 4. **Netherlands** (2.5%)* RM2.4 billion 5. Taiwan (1.5%)

Note: Figure in parenthesis indicates % share of total approved foreign approved investments.

Source: MIDA

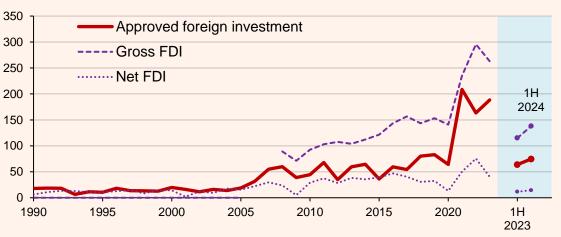


Notable flagship investment projects

United States	Project	United Arab Emirates	Project
	Google to invest RM9.4 billion in Malaysia to establish its first data centre and Google Cloud region		US\$8 billion for up to 10GW of renewable energy projects
- Microsoft	Microsoft to invest US\$2.2 billion in cloud and Al infrastructure over	Germany	Project
	the next 4 years Amazon Web Services (AWS)	BOSCH	Invest RM1.62 billion to open semiconductor backend
aws	RM25.5 billion (USD6 billion) by 2037 to open a Cloud Computing Infrastructure in several states	Infineon	An additional 5 billion euro over the next 5 years in Kulim to build world's largest 200mm SiC Power Fab in Kulim
	Setting up a vast network of fast- charging and regular-charging stations; establish its state-of-the- art head office and service center; and experiencing centers		
TESLA		Malaysia	Project
China	Project	KL2O ESOMAT	Khazanah Nasional Bhd will launch a National Fund-of-Funds to invest RM1 billion in innovative high-growth Malaysian companies which was announced during the KL20 Summit
Nation Gate	Partnering with xFusion partner to invest RM1.7 billion to open new facility	CPU	The newly launched National Semiconductor Strategy (NSS) which will be allocated RM25 billion, is expected to attract at least RM500 million (first phase) with a focus on integrated circuit design, advanced packaging and manufacturing equipment.

Source: MIDA

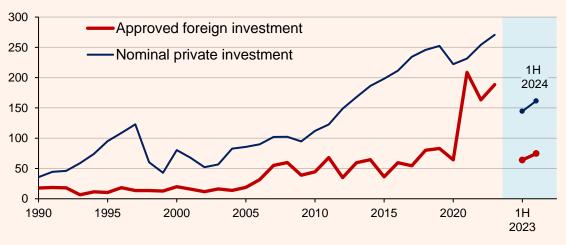
Higher FDI inflows and private investment



Approved foreign investment vs. FDI

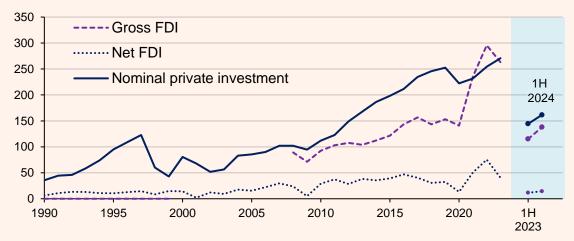
RM billion

Approved foreign investment vs. nominal private investment RM billion



FDI vs. nominal private investment

RM billion

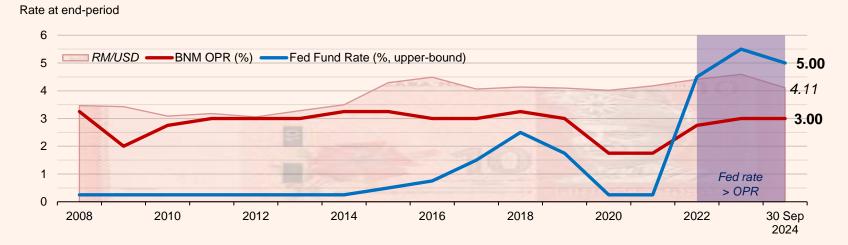


Realisation of approved investment is very crucial

Source: BNM; MIDA; DOSM

BNM's OPR to maintain status quo at 3.00% in 2024 and 1H 2025

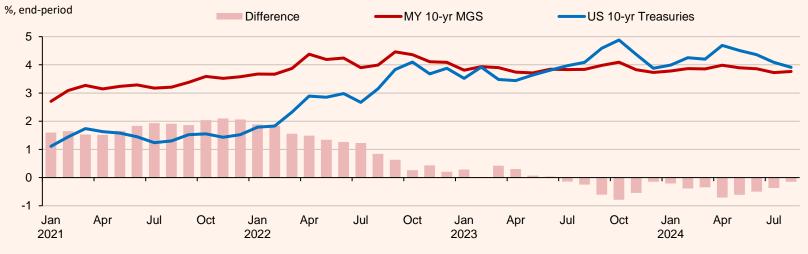
BNM OPR vs. Fed Funds Rate vs. RM/USD



OPR to stay put at 3.00%

- BNM will maintain the OPR at 3.00% in 2024 to support the economy while keeping domestic prices stable.
- Developments in global energy and commodities market, the implementation of subsidies rationalisation for RON95, the impending salary hike for civil servants and review of new minimum wage.

Yields: MY 10-year MGS vs. US 10-year Treasuries

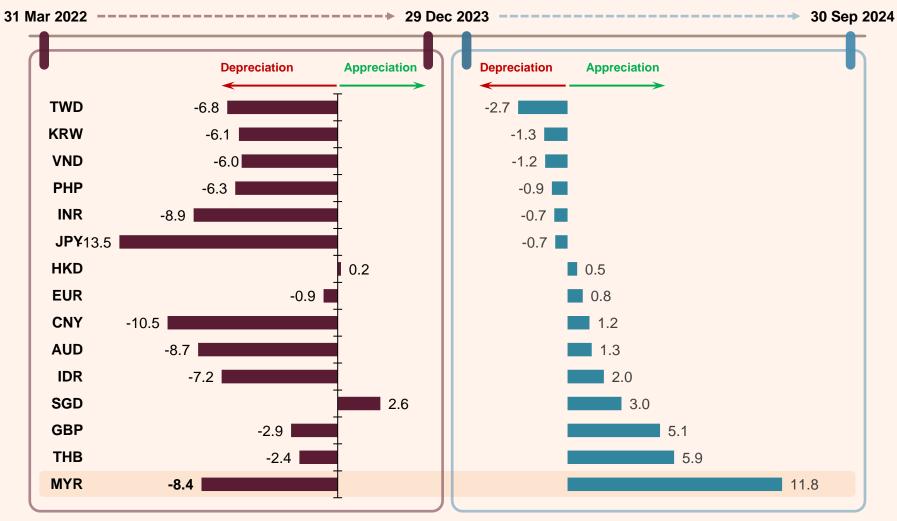


Source: Fed; BNM; US Treasury Department



The Ringgit has recouped its losses

Selected major and regional currencies against the USD (%)



Since 31 Mar 2022:

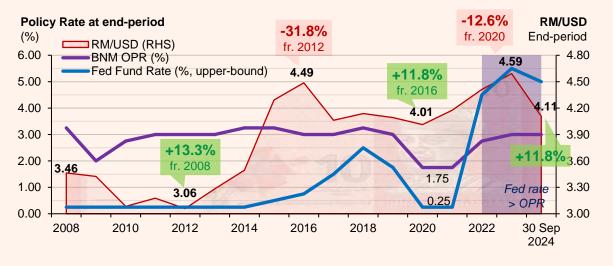
- SDG outperformed all other currencies, claiming the top spot.
- MYR ranked as the third strongest currency against the US dollar.
- JPY was the worst performing currency as of now.

Net Impact				
#12	TWD	-9.4		
#10	KRW	-7.3		
#8	VND	-7.1		
#9	PHP	-7.2		
#14	INR	-9.6		
#15	JPY	-14.1		
#5	HKD	+0.7		
#6	EUR	-0.05		
#13	CNY	-9.5		
#11	AUD	-7.4		
#7	IDR	-5.3		
#1	SGD	+5.7		
#4	GBP	+2.0		
#2	ТНВ	+3.3		
#3	MYR	+2.3		

Source: Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM)

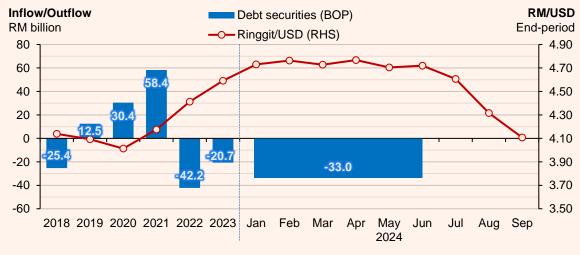


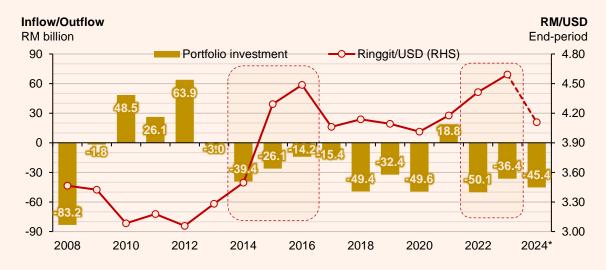
Interest rate differentials and capital flows impact on the Ringgit



BNM OPR vs. Fed Funds Rate vs. RM/USD

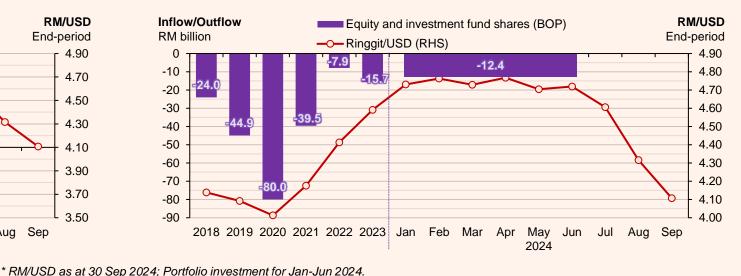
Net inflow/outflow in the Malaysian debt securities



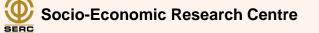


Overall net portfolio investment flow in Malaysia

Net outflow in the Malaysian equity and investment fund shares

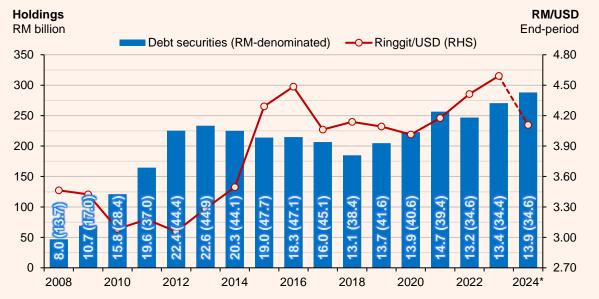


Source: Fed; BNM; DOSM

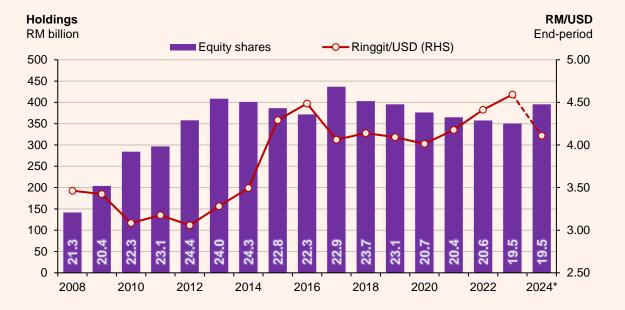


Foreign holdings of Malaysia's debt and equities

Foreign holdings in the Malaysian debt market



Foreign holdings in the Malaysian equity market



* RM/USD as at 30 Sep 2024; Debt securities holdings as at end-Aug 2024; Equity holdings as at end-Jun 2024. Note:

Data label indicates % share of foreign holdings as at end-period; figures in parenthesis indicates % share of foreign holdings in the Malaysian Government Securities (MGS).

Foreign holdings in equity market for the year 2008-2009 were computed based on the investor's country of incorporation, while 2010 onwards was computed based on the nationality of investors.



Factors that drive the real estate market

Climate Change

- **Natural disasters:** Areas prone to natural disasters, such as floods, hurricanes, or wildfires.
- **Regulations:** Sustainable building and smart cities. Climate-related regulations, energy-efficient buildings.

Cultural and Lifestyle Trends

- Workplace trends: Office-based hybrid working remains the new normal; hybrid working policies.
- Lifestyle preference: 71% prioritised access to public transportation, 65% favoured onsite F&B, and 48% preferred sustainable building features as the most desired amenities. *Source: 2023 Asia Pacific Office Occupier Sentiment Survey (CBRE)*
 - Supply chains security lead to reshoring: Regional conflict leads to higher costs of imported material and disruption in raw material supply.

Demographics

- Homeownership (76.9%) vs renting?
- **Demographic shifts:** Aging baby boomers currently 11% of total population (15.3% in 2030). Emerging millennial generation.



Geopolitics

Interest Rates

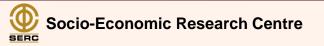
- **Mortgage rates:** Higher interest rate, higher borrowing cost.
- **Investment returns:** Lower interest rates can lead to higher property values as investors seek better returns.

Economic Performance

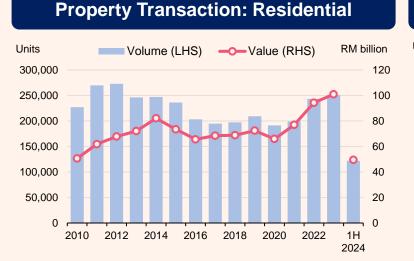
• Economic growth: Overall health of economy – economic cycle - economic / financial crisis.

Government Policies /Subsidies

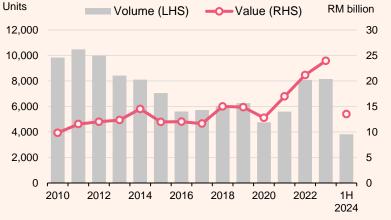
- Incentives: Home Ownership Campaign (HOC), public housing projects (PPRs), MM2H etc.
- Policy changes: Taxes, electricity tariffs, subsidies rationalisation, etc.



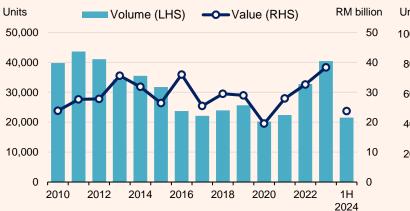
Malaysia's key property market trends: Transactions and Unsold

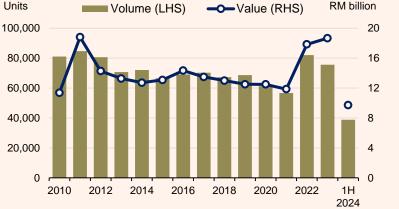


Property Transaction: Industrial



Property Transaction: Commercial Property Transaction: Agriculture

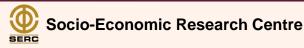




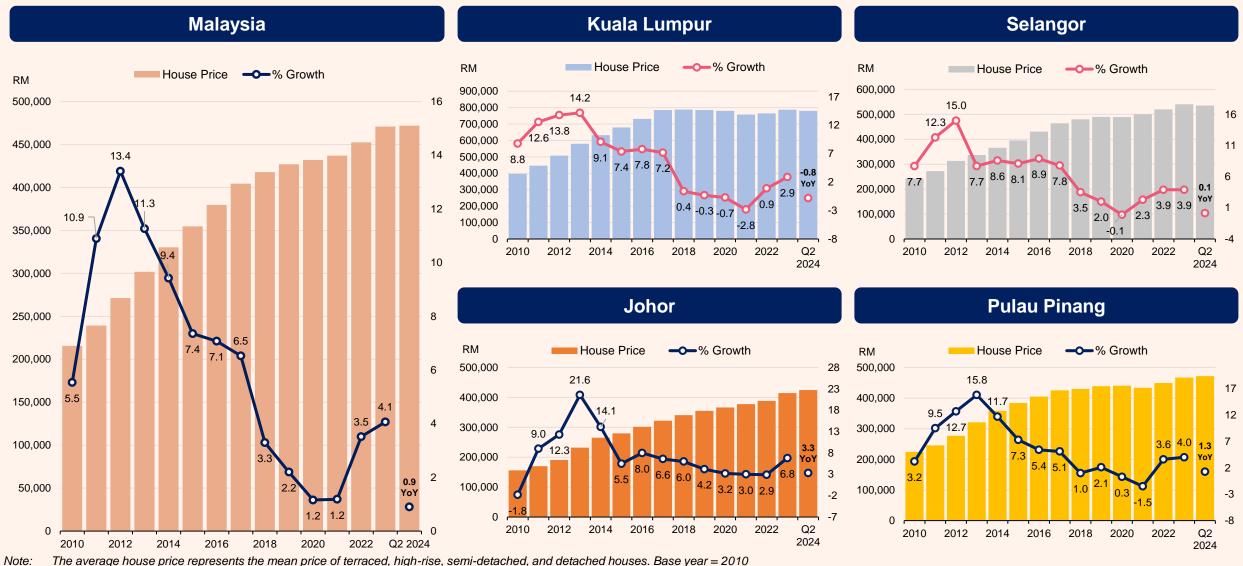
Overhang by Sub-Sector



Source: National Property Information Centre (NAPIC)



Average house prices in Malaysia and selected states



Note: The average house price represents the mean price of terraced, high-rise, semi-detached, and detached houses. Base year = 2010 Source: National Property Information Centre (NAPIC)

REHDA's property industry survey 1H2024

Overall Market Sentiment

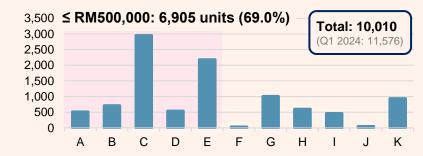
- **#1** 56% of respondents are not planning to launch new projects in 2H 2024, mostly due to unfavourable market and business constraints.
- #2 Property developers are more optimistic in 1H 2025.

Unsold Property

- **#3** As of 30 Jun 2024, 49% of respondents reported unsold completed residential units. The top 3 reasons are:
 - 19 23% End-financing loan rejection
 - 19% Low demand or interest
 - 🎽 18% 🛛 Bumiputera lots
- **#4** 46% of respondents reported having unsold completed units priced at RM500,000 or below.
- #5 33% of unsold completed Bumiputera lots aged more than 36 months, with 47% of them priced between RM500,000 and RM700,000.
- Note: Overhang refers to properties that are completed with a Certificate of Completion and Compliance (CCC) and have been on the market for over 9 months since the launch date.
- Source: Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association Malaysia (REHDA); National Property Information Centre (NAPIC)

SERC

As of Q2 2024 (units) K: > RM1,000 Unsold Not Constructed Residential Units

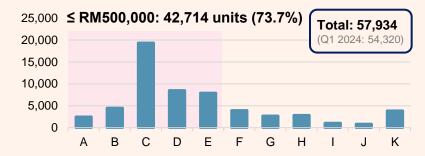


(2)

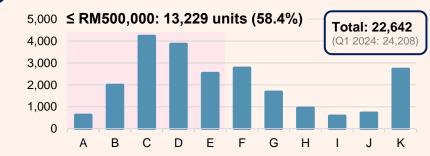
3

NAPIC

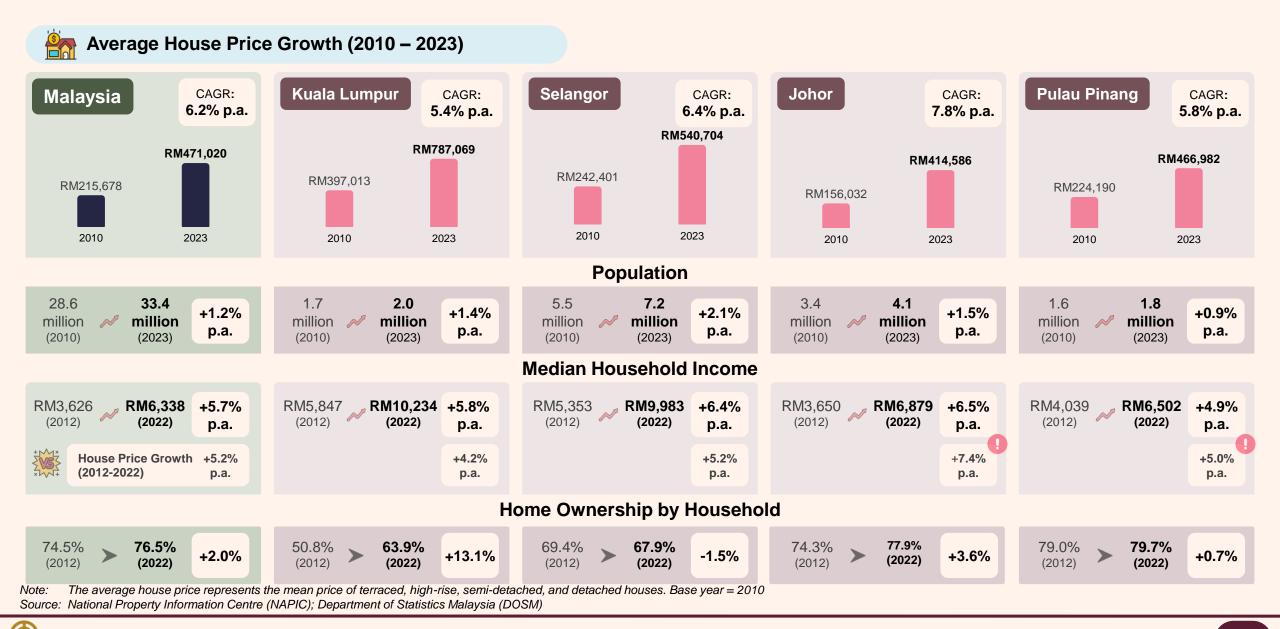
Unsold Under Constructed Residential Units



Overhang Residential Units



2010 vs. 2023: House prices growth



Socio-Economic Research Centre

SERC

A 2025 Budget Drives Growth with Fiscal Stability

Fiscal Consolidation

Skills Development

- Enhancement of Progressive Wage Model
- TVET, STEM

Sustaining High Investment

- Reinvestment Allowance
- Facilitation Fund/Grant
- · Family offices
- R&D Tax
- ESG Fund

Managing Business Costs

- Preferential Tax Rate for SMEs
- Minimum Wage Rate and Tiered Levy Not too Steep
- E-invoicing Higher Exemption for SMEs

Further reduction in deficit to GDP ratio (-3.8% in 2025 vs. -4.3% in 2024)



Revenue Enhancement and Tax System

- Reintroduction of GST
- E-invoicing
- Global Minimum Tax Rate (15%) and Domestic Minimum Top Up Tax (DMTT)

Operating Expenditure Rationlisation

- Fuel Subsidies Rationalisation
- Consolidation of departments and agencies

Easing Cost of Living

- Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah
- Tax Rebate and Relief for Individuals
- Medical Inflation; Income Enhancement for Retirees



In conclusion

- Attracting the right kind of quality investments will transform the Malaysian economy, pushing for the next economic take-off. Our narrative is that Malaysia offers compelling growth and boundless investment opportunities in this region.
- In the rapidly evolving world of complexity masked by geopolitical conflicts and shifts, increasingly volatile and difficult-to-predict global setting, navigating investment opportunities in Malaysia requires both domestic and foreign investors to have a better understanding of the dynamic global and domestic market landscape.
- By fostering a more business-friendly environment and thriving investment ecosystem, Malaysia can unlock the full potential of its investment opportunities, entrepreneurial spirit and innovative capabilities.
- Malaysia has "diversity" as selling points to differentiate us from other countries in the region. These diversities are natural resources, industries, markets, products, languages, ethnicities, cultures, and markets in the region.



Socio-Economic **Research Centre** SERC 社会经济研究中心

THANK YOU

Address	:	6 th Floor, Wisma Chinese Chamber, 258, Jalan Ampang,
		50450 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Tel	:	603 - 4260 3116 / 3119
Email	:	serc@acccimserc.com
Website	:	https://www.acccimserc.com

For our website:



For our LinkedIn:

