

QUARTERLY ECONOMY TRACKER (APR-JUN 2020)

Getting the Economy Back on Track

Lee Heng Guie Executive Director 9 July 2020

Outline





Predictions for the Global Economy

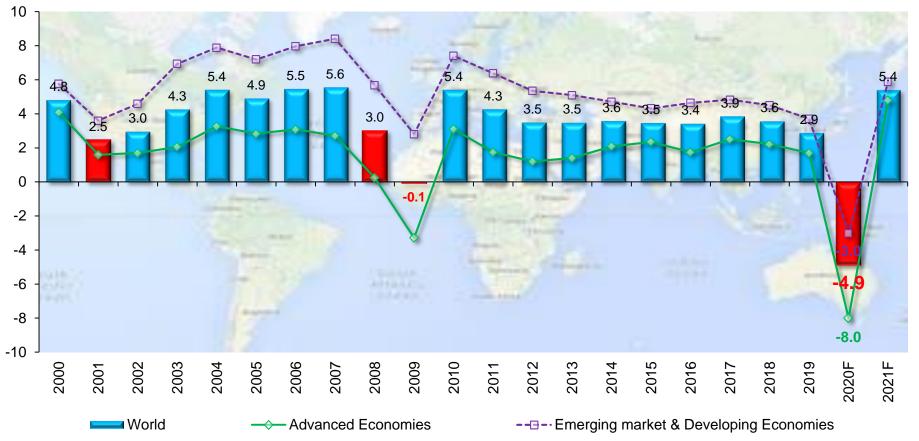
As the global economy emerges from COVID-19 pandemic, governments are grappling with policies how to move forward, how to recover growth, how much structural adjustment to make and how long to maintain the financial support?



"Extraordinary Uncertain" path to global recovery

- An uneven and gradual recovery
- Global activity in 1H 2020 has experienced a sharp and synchronized contraction greater than anticipated
- The question is how effective the policy countermeasures to limit economic damage?

Real GDP Growth (%)



Source: IMF (WEO Update, Jun 2020)



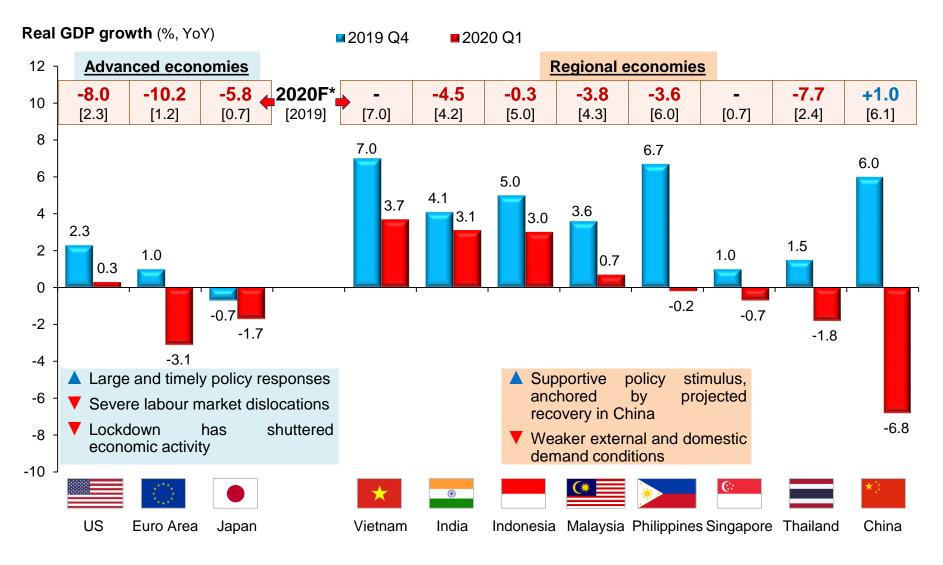
Global Growth Scenarios for 2020-2021*

Scenario		Projected global GDP growth in 2020	Projected global GDP growth in 2021
Upside	 Global growth stabilisation and recovery. Disruptions from pandemic fade in 2H COVID-19 outbreak is contained in 2H 2020. Hopeful vaccine will be found in 2021 Monetary and fiscal stimulus are working 	0.5%	5.0%
Base Case	 Global stabilisation and moderate recovery in 2H 2020 A prolonged COVID-19 outbreak, disrupted supply chains, financial turbulence; geopolitical shocks Monetary and fiscal stimulus are working 	-3.0%	4.5%
Downside	 Deeper global recession Deepening impact from a prolonged COVID-19 outbreak Ineffective monetary and fiscal policy stimulus Sharp correction in global equities and commodities market 	-5.0%	2.0%

* SERC's estimates

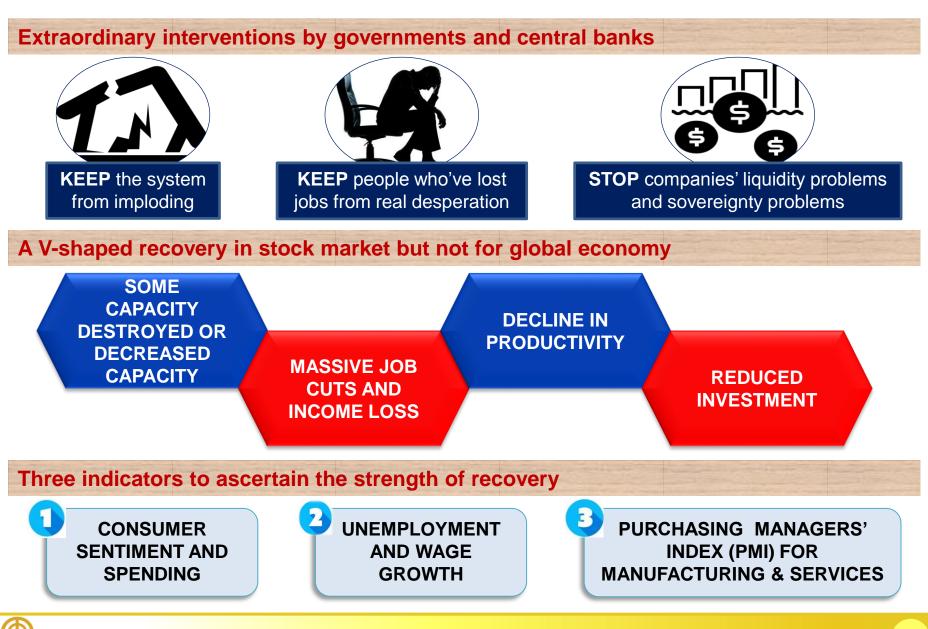


Global economic contraction – What has happened so far?



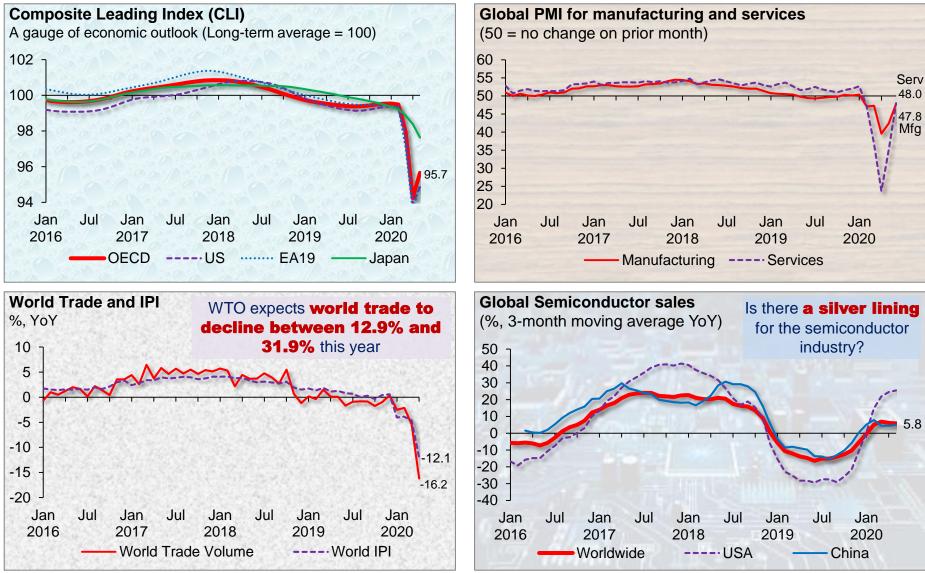
* IMF, World Economic Outlook Update, Jun 2020 Source: Officials (unadjusted data except Euro Area); IMF

Decoupling of real economy from stock market



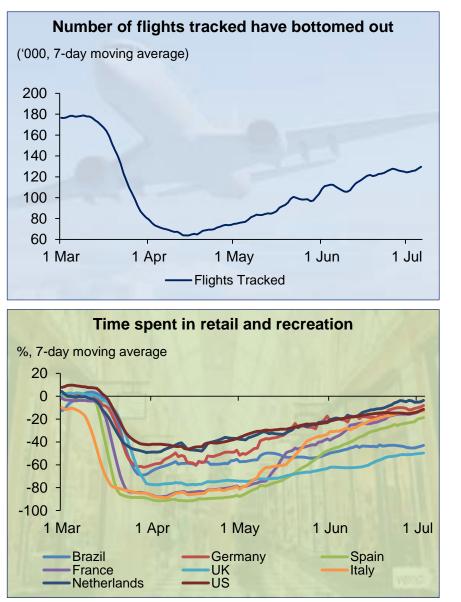
SERC

High-frequency data suggest steepest economic slump has bottomed out



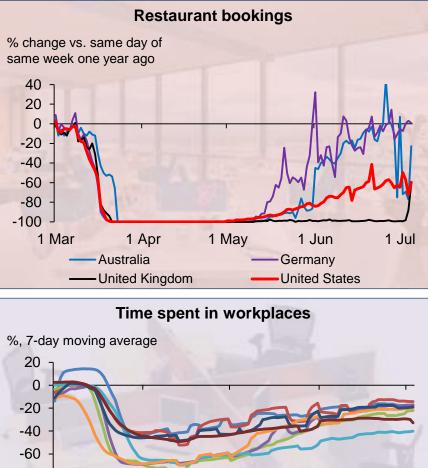
Source: OECD; IHS Markit; SIA

Post-Great Lockdown: Global mobility tracker



Source: Flightradar24; OpenTable; Google Mobility





-80 -100 1 Mar 1 Apr 1 May 1 Jun 1 Jul Brazil France Netherlands UK US

We caution developments that would trigger a reversal in riskier assets' prices





1

Investors pare down expectations and lower optimism about the central banks' continued liquidity support

2

Investors reassess their appetite and pricing of risk on worse-thanexpected corporate earnings. Assets' repricing could result in a sharp tightening in financial conditions, causing stock market volatility

3

Renewed trade tensions between the US and China The US Presidential Election outcome in November and potential policies' ramifications

5

Geopolitical tensions could lead to a reversal

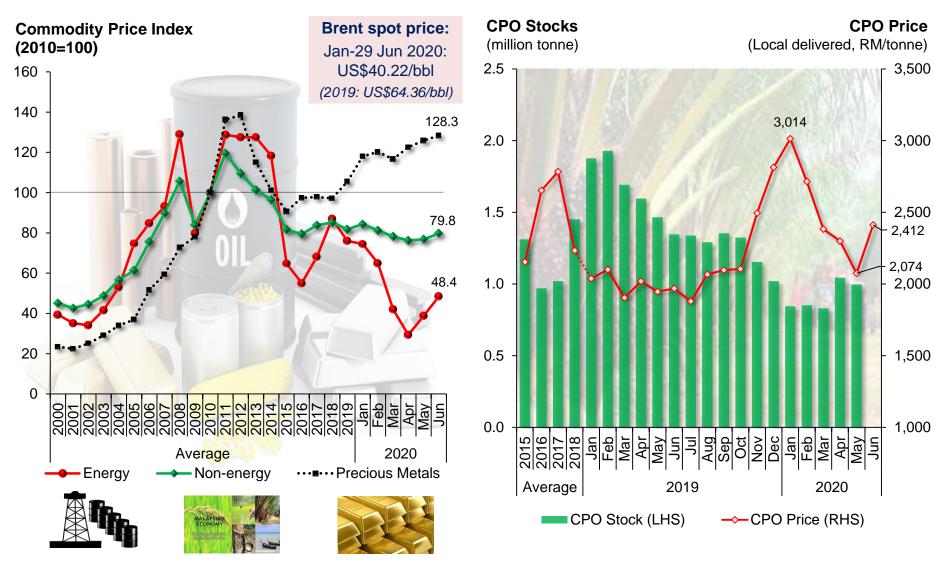
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in investors' sentiment

Serilinieni



Crude oil prices seem stabilising; Crude palm oil prices on the mend

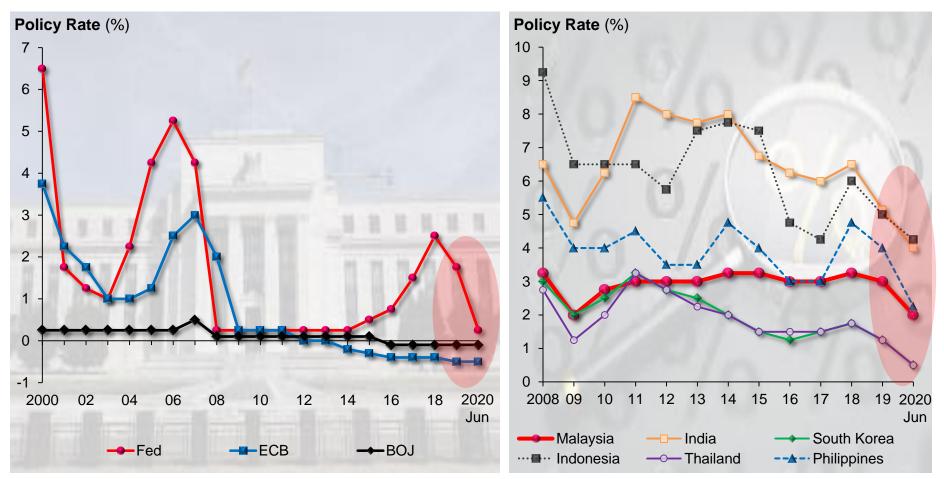


Source: World Bank; MPOB



Profoundly low interest rates are here to stay

If 2008-09 GFC was the "too big to fail" crisis, **2020 is the "too many to fail" version**: Central bankers cannot allow a domino effect of firms collapsing for fear that the economic damage will be so severe.



Note: Interest rate on deposit facility applied as ECB's policy rate Source: Fed; ECB; BOJ, Official central banks

The Malaysian Economy

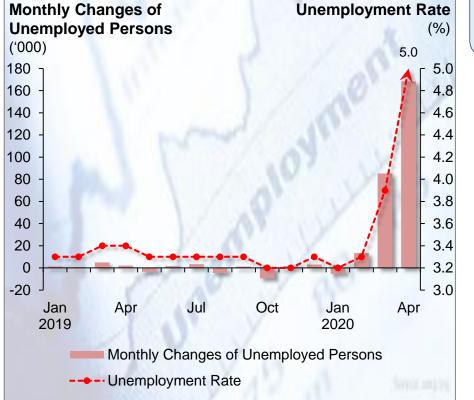
Aggressive policy responses to limit economic repercussions

- PRIHATIN & PENJANA: RM295bn or 21.1% of GDP
- Direct fiscal injection: RM45.0bn or 3.2% GDP

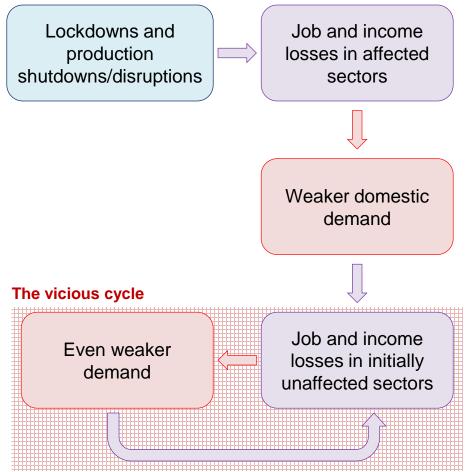


COVID-19's supply shock induced demand shock's vicious cycle

Jobless rate hit a record 5.0% in April (number of unemployed persons increased by 261,800 to 778,800 in April 2020 vs. end-2019: 517,000). Expect unemployment rate to reach 5.5%-6.5% in 2Q-3Q in 2020.



A vicious cycle of job loss and income retrenchment



Source: BNM; DOSM



PRIHATIN Economic Stimulus Package (ESP) – Status update

PROTECTING RAKYAT



Bantuan Prihatin Nasional (BPN)

- Benefitted 10.2 million individuals & households
- Distributed RM10.9 billion
- Achievement status: 97.5%

SUPPORTING BUSINESS



SME Soft Loan Funds

- Benefitted 20,104 SMEs
- Approved loan amounted to RM8.7 billion

Source: LAKSANA Report



- Benefitted 4.3 million individuals
- Withdrawal up to RM2.2 billion a month



PRIHATIN Special Grant (GKP)

- Benefitted 544,632 micro enterprises
- Approved grant amounted to RM1.6 billion





Grant for small scale government projects

 Allocated RM3.8 billion for SMEs to kick-start public projects awarded

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The Malaysian Economy

Economic and Business impact – Counting the cost





PENJANA – Short-term Economic Recovery Plan

PRIHATIN's measurable impact:

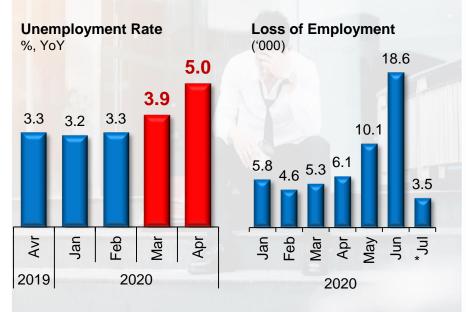
Saved 2.7 million jobs	Eased more than 10 million individuals' cash flow burden	Supported businesses micro SMEs	800,000 and
Wage Subsidy Programme	Bantuan PRIHATIN Nasional (BPN)	Various financial assistance	
Employment Retention Programme	Loans moratorium EPF's i-Lestari	Loans moratorium	

Many businesses still concerned about 3Cs and struggling to cope several challenges:

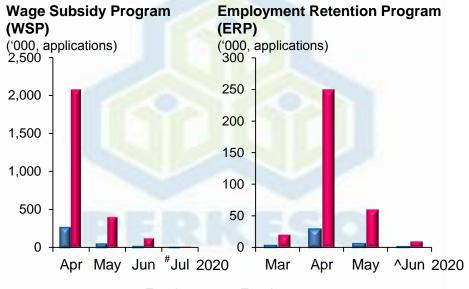


Source: PENJANA Short-Term Economic Recovery Plan; DOSM Special Survey on COVID-19 Impact on Business Sector (10 Apr -1 May)





Job savings program





- Unemployment rate jumped to 5.0% in April
- Expect further rise to 5.5%-6.5% in 2Q-3Q
- EIS data (Jan-4 Jul 2020): 53,952 persons loss of employment (vs. 40,084 in Jan-Dec 2019)[@]
- A rebound can't truly get underway until people are able to go back to work and jobless rate recedes from a record high

- 2.7 million jobs saved (2.5m via WSP; 0.2m via ERP)
- Both the number of employers applied and employees benefited from WSP and ERP moderated sharply in May-Jun
- ERP (wage subsidy on no pay leave) may presage the potential loss of employment

* As of 4 July

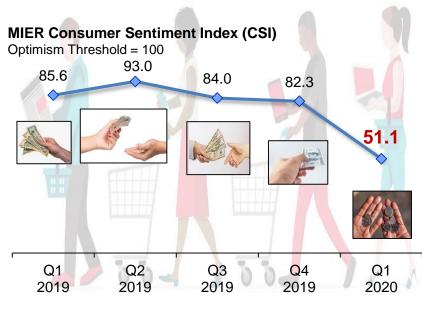
As of 3 July

^ As of 21 June

Source: DOSM; PERKESO

Unemployment

[®] Unemployment claims under Employment Insurance System (EIS)



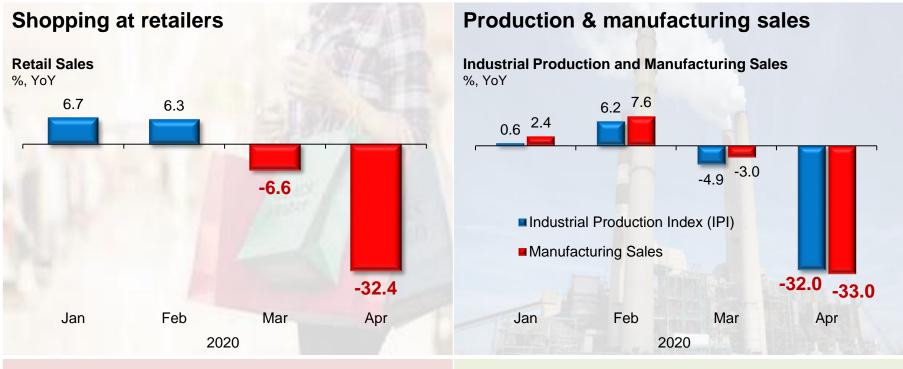
Consumer sentiment

- Consumers' optimism has suffered a record plunge
- Until Malaysians feel safer from the virus and have secured job and income, they won't regain confidence and spend normally → hurdle to a strong recovery

- While sales tax exemption would spur demand, car buyers won't return in droves and make the biggest purchase unless they have secured job and income as well as can get a loan
- PENJANA: Exempts sales tax on passenger cars (100% for locally assembled (CKD) and 50% for imported (CBU)) till end-2020

Source: MIER; BNM





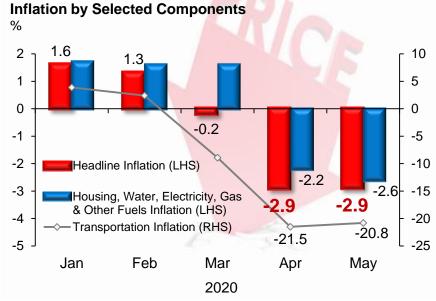
- Footfall in major shopping malls about between 50%-70%, but sales are up to 40% vs. pre-MCO
- Amid wary about the virus, social distancing and SOP are likely to discourage many people away when stores reopen
- How fast they return is critical for domestic consumption and spending
- Manufacturing capacity has gradually restored back to 70%-80% and 90%-100% for some strong products demand industries (still low around 30%-50% for wearing apparels)
- Sharp plunge in industrial production and manufacturing sales will hit the peak in 2Q and will improve to decline shallowly in the months ahead

Source: DOSM





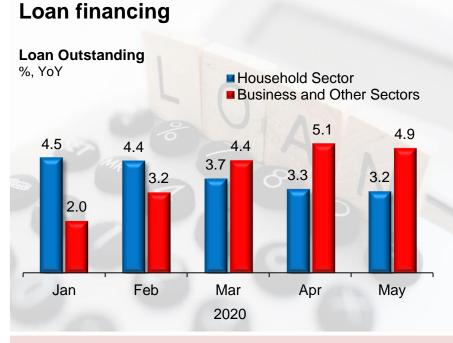
Consumer Price Index (CPI)



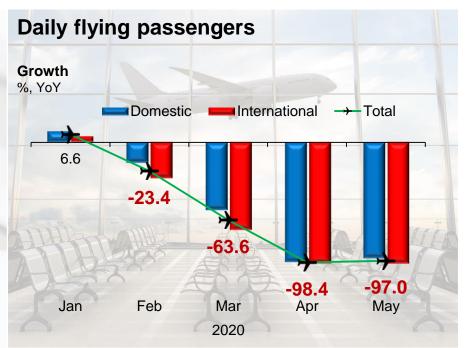
- Exports contracted sharply due to lockdown impact on demand from our major buyers amid supply chain disruptions
- Our major trading partners' pace of economic recovery in 2H 2020 would help to lift export growth and support the economy
- Deflation inflicted by lower petrol prices and electricity tariff discounts amid slow price increases in other main groups. Capacity slack and oversupply amid slower demand
- As long as there is no a broad-based decline in prices for a sustained period, says at least more than a year, it is a lesser concern about deflation

Source: DOSM





- Business loan growth (4.5% yoy in May and 4.7% in April) and households' demand eases
- As of 6 July, total loan moratorium amounted to RM51.4 billion (RM33.4 billion for individuals and RM17.9 billion for businesses)
- Real test is the expiry of loan moratorium in September

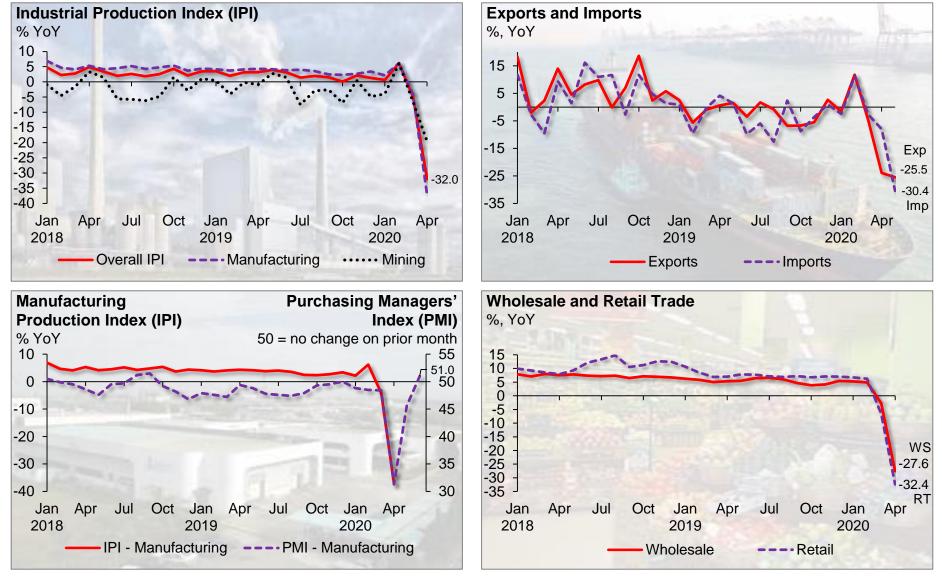


- Air passengers traffic has already dropped due to the pandemic outbreak and lockdown in China before the starting of domestic MCO and the Great Lockdown
- Following the inter-state travel and on-going negotiations to allow cross-border travel using the "Green Bubble" countries method, the aviation and travel industry will be gradually on the mend

Source: BNM; MAHB



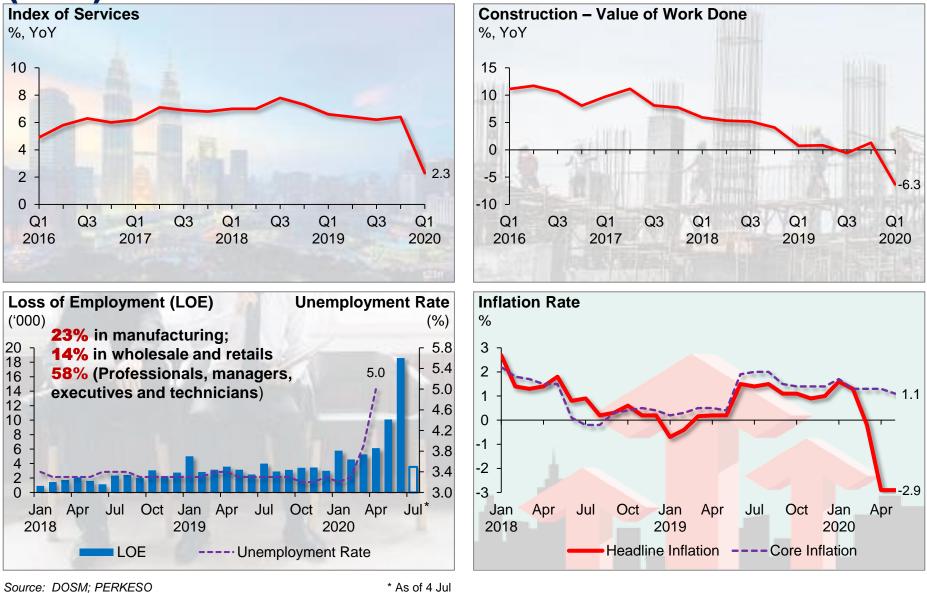
High frequency data show a sharp contraction to peak in 2Q



Source: DOSM; IHS Markit

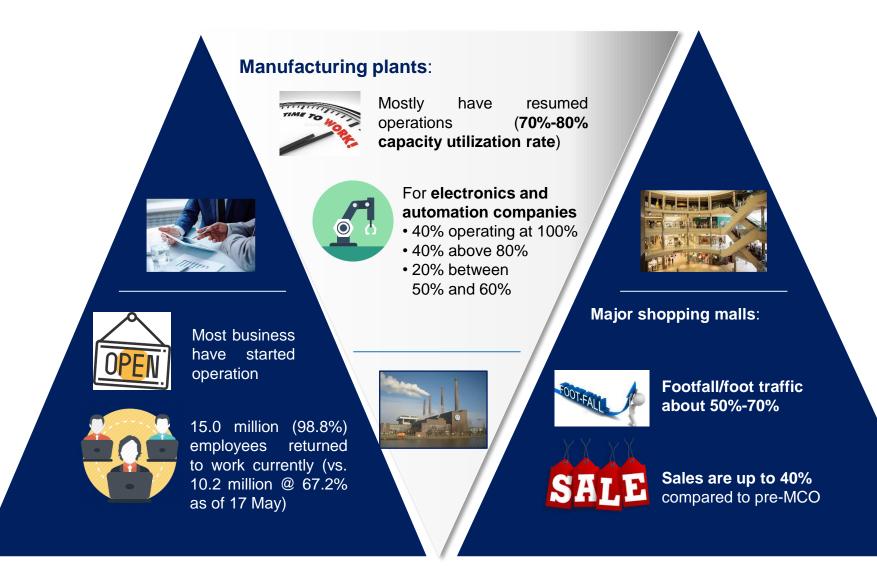


High frequency data show a sharp contraction to peak in 2Q (cont.)



Socio-Economic Research Centre

Our channel checks on reopening of the economy





Our channel check on reopening the economy (cont.)



Dined-in was constrained by decreased seating capacity (social distancing)

(functions/events/wedding



Hotels:



Overall occupancy rate still below 30%



MAH survey: 15% will close business permanently and 35% temporarily

MAH survey: Occupancy rate is expected to rise from 15.83% at end-June to **32.10%** at end-Dec 2020



Potential loss of key sources of income

dinner) for August



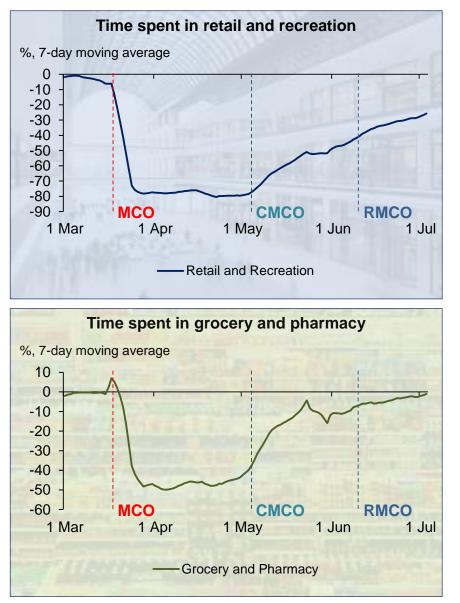
During the sites inspection made between 22 June-1 July, about **9%-29%** of construction sites have **not started operations**

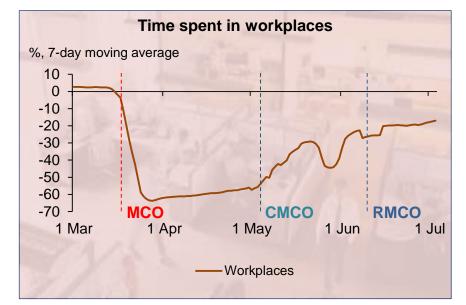


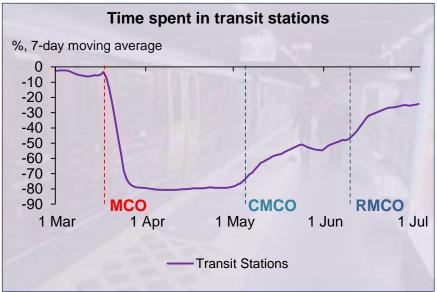
56%-82% of the construction sites have complied with SOP.



Reopening economy: Malaysia's mobility tracker







Source: Google Mobility



The Malaysian Economy

Prospects in 2020-2021 – What might the recovery look like?



Malaysia: Be prepared for an uneven & gradual global recovery

- Malaysia must be prepared for a challenging nature and complexity "new normal" path ahead post the COVID-19 global pandemic.
- Given the following evolving economic and financial developments, **downside risks to** economic growth remain in 2020-2021.



GLOBAL RECESSION IN 2020 – HOW DEEP AND DURATION? SLOW RECOVERY IN 2021-2022



VOLATILITY RISK IN GLOBAL FINANCIAL MARKETS



MODERATING COMMODITY PRICES



SOFTENING CRUDE OIL PRICES



WEAKENING DOMESTIC AND BUSINESS CONDITIONS

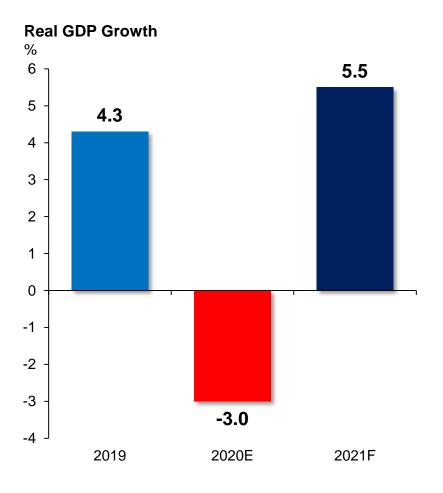


VOLATILITY RISK IN STOCK MARKET AND WEAK RINGGIT



LINGERING CONCERNS ABOUT THE US-CHINA'S TRADE TENSION

Get back on track: Well positioned to recover but risks remain



Positive Outlook

- "Sudden stop" in activity in 2020 will normalise in 2021 amid some permanent loss in output
- Technical base comparison sees a "sharp" bounce in annual growth comparison in 2021
- Services and tourism-related sectors will be revitalised as tourist arrivals resume gradually
- Construction: Supported by on-going public infrastructure projects and new projects
- Exports will rebound as global trade picks up

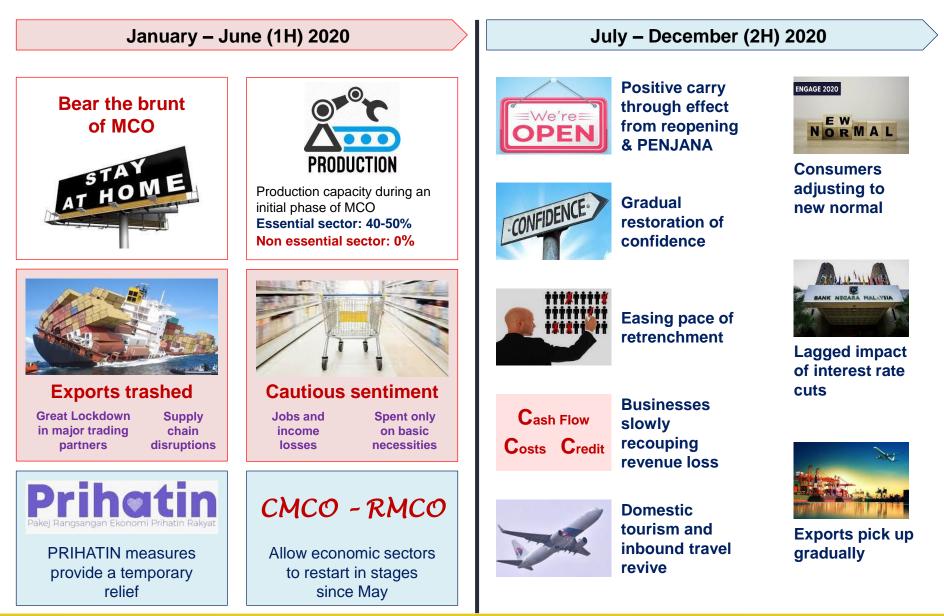
Risks to outlook

- A prolonged drag in global recovery
- Longer time for some domestic sectors to repair damage
- Households rebuild savings
- Slow recovery in jobs market

Source: DOSM; SERC

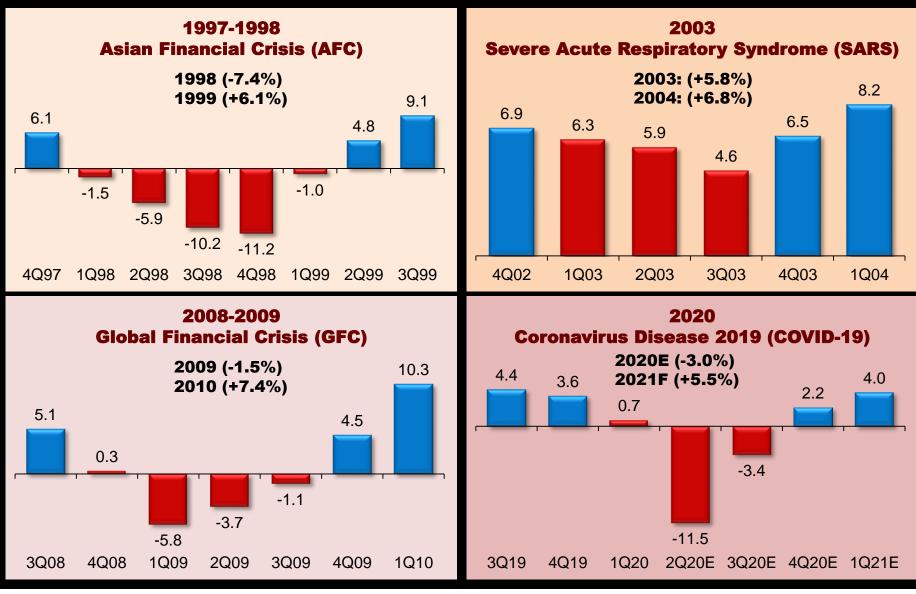


Set improving expectations in 2H 2020





The duration and depth of economic recession and recovery

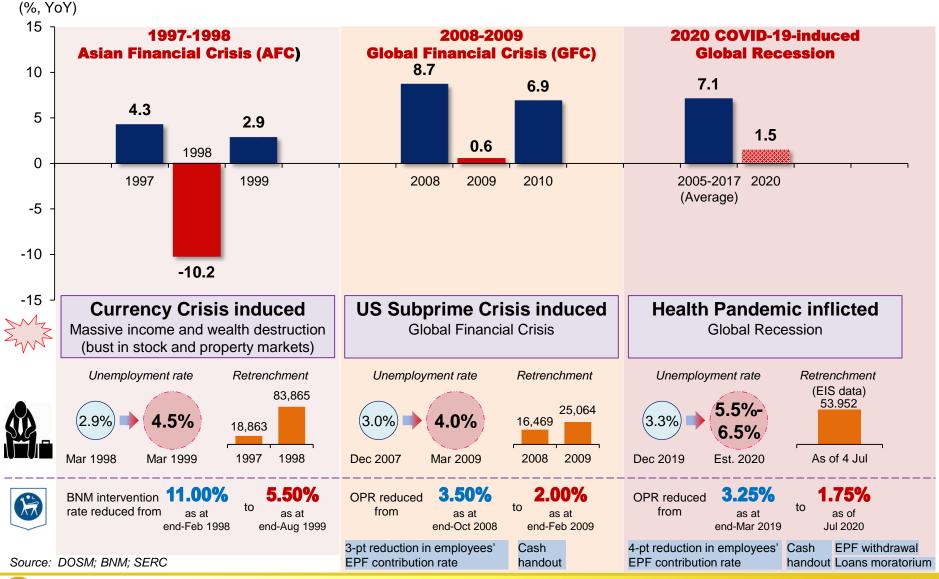


Source: BNM; DOSM; SERC



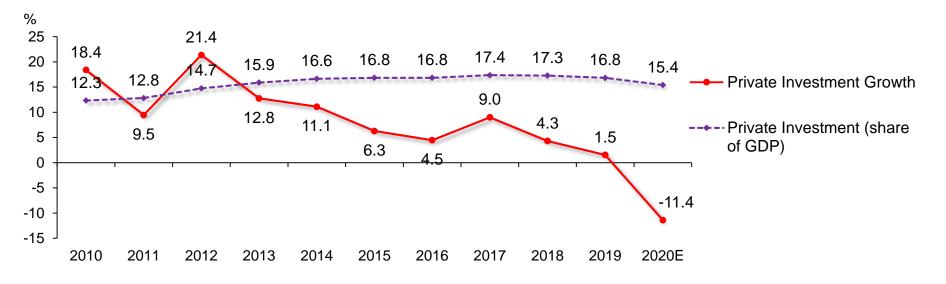
Permanent demand destruction vs. spending shifts vs. spending declines

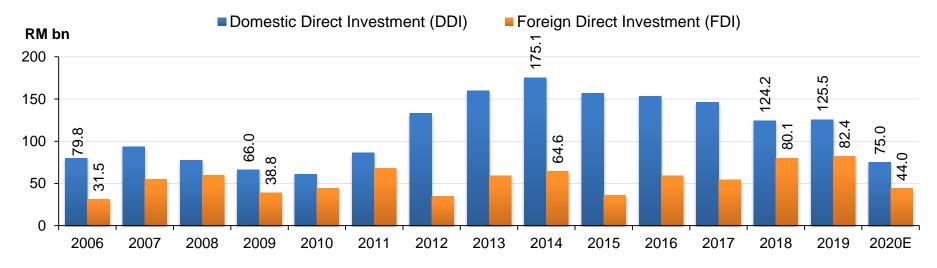
Private Consumption Growth





Private investment has been trending down in recent years

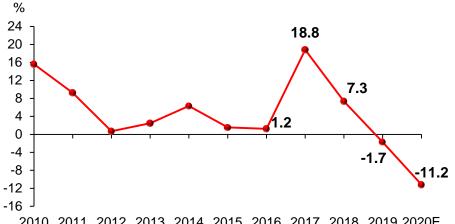




Note: Figure in parenthesis indicates changes of investment amount on year-on-year basis. Source: DOSM; MIDA; SERC

Import compression helps to keep current account surplus

Exports shrank by 9.7% yoy in Jan-May 2020 and are expected to decline further by 11.2% in 2020



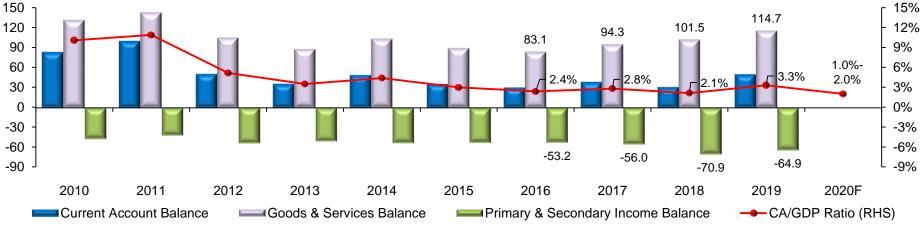
2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020E (SERC)

Current account surplus is expected to narrow further to 1.0%-2.0% of GDP in 2020

Exports performance of key products in Jan-May 2020

Major export products	RM billion	% Growth
E&E products [36.5%]	133.8	-13.0
Petroleum product [7.8%]	28.7	-1.4
Chemical and related products [5.7%]	20.9	-12.0
Palm oil & palm-based products [4.9%]	17.9	-1.0
LNG [4.3%]	15.6	-16.6
Optical & scientific equipment [3.9%]	14.4	-4.7
Machinery, equipment and parts [3.9%]	14.3	-16.5
Manufactures of metal [3.6%]	13.2	-23.1
Crude petroleum [2.2%]	8.2	-26.4

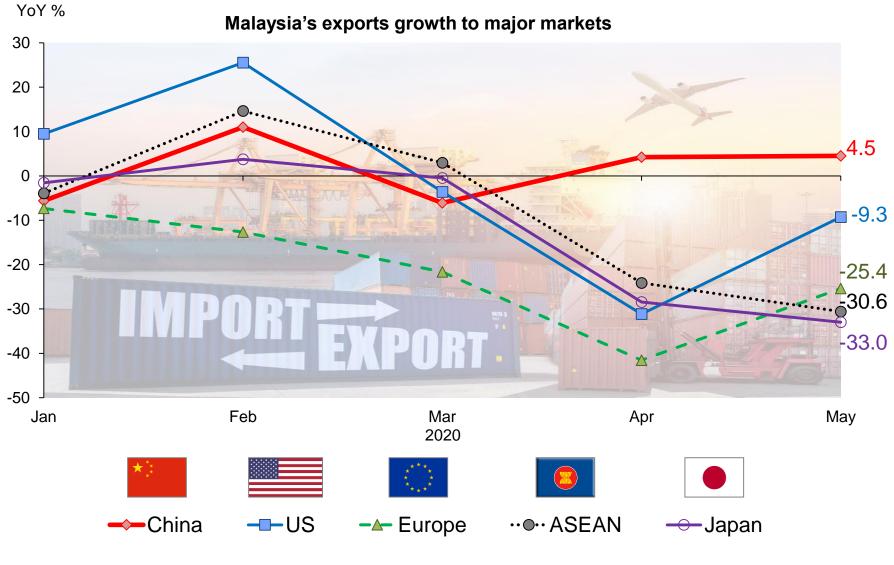
Figure in parenthesis indicates % share of gross exports in Jan-May 2020



Source: DOSM; BNM; SERC

RM billion

Only China offers the bright spot for now



Source: DOSM

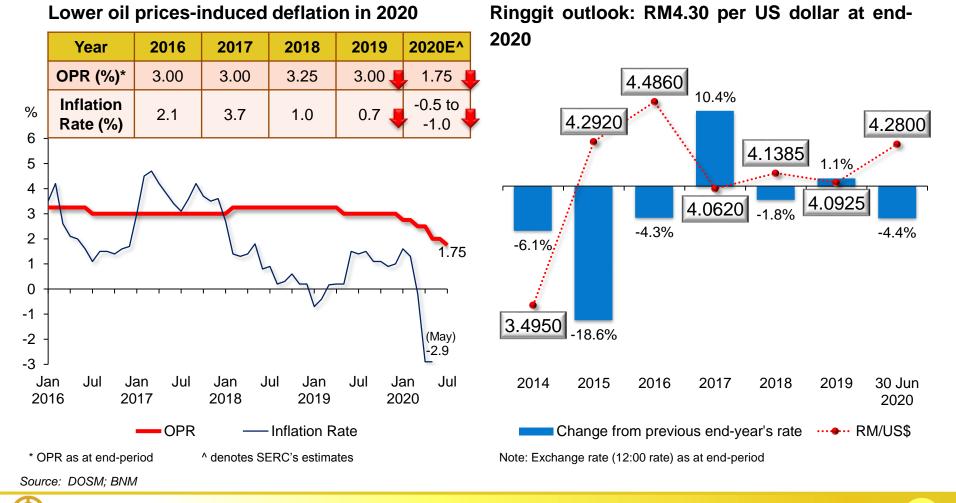


Is there a risk of sustained deflation?

Socio-Economic Research Centre

SERC

- Prices have slipped into deflation territory (-2.9% yoy in Apr-May and -0.2% in March) and average -0.7% in Jan-May 2020. Transport prices were the distortionary factor due to the tumbling petrol prices.
- 27.3% of goods in the CPI basket saw decreases in prices in Jan-May 2020.

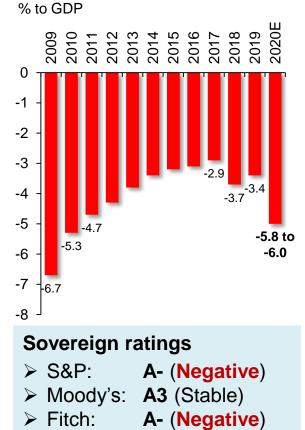


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Fiscal deficit may not matter much in an economic recession

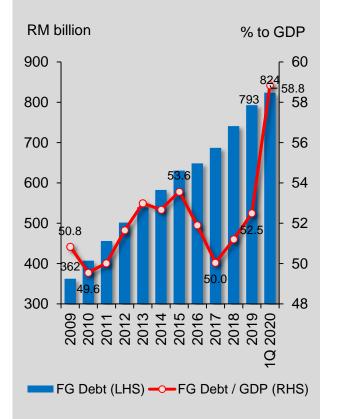
Fiscal deficit is expected to widen to 5.8% to 6.0% of GDP in 2020

Fiscal Deficit



Review statutory debt limit; self-imposed administrative 55% of GDP ceiling?

Federal Government Debt



Revenue enhancement

- Additional non tax revenue, including higher dividend contributions from the GLCs and CLICs such as PETRONAS, KHAZANAH, Bank Negara Malaysia, etc.
- Reintroduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST)?
- Privatisation of some government-owned assets

Expenditure rationalisation

- More targeted subsidy; savings from fuel subsidy
- Reprioritisation and reallocation of expenditure
- Shortfall in government spending due to MCO

Source: BNM; MOF; S&P; Moody's; Fitch



Rating agencies downgrade Malaysia' sovereign ratings

S&P Global Ratings

Last revision: 26 June 2020

Rating: A- (maintained)

Outlook: Negative (from Positive)

Comments:

- Downside risks to fiscal metrics weak global economic climate and heightened policy uncertainty
- Covid-19, depressed oil prices and fiscal stimulus weaken government's debt position over next few years

Moody's

Last revision: 1 June 2020

Rating: A3 (maintained)

Outlook: Stable (maintained)

Comments:

 Malaysia balances its diverse economy with robust growth potential and large domestic savings against the government's narrow revenue base and high debt burden

FitchRatings

Last revision: 9 April 2020

Rating: A- (maintained)

Outlook: Negative (from Positive)

Comments:

- High uncertainty about economic deterioration and public finances
- Recent political volatility may affect governance standards, which had been improving in the past two years



No compromise on fiscal discipline and governance

- Federal Government debt stood at RM823.8 billion (estimated 58.8% of GDP) as at end-Mar 2020, has exceeded self-imposed administrative limit of 55% of GDP.
- It is required to seek Parliament's approval to relax these binding fiscal limits.

Fiscal indicators		Source: MOF	
Fiscal rules	Legislative / Statutory Guidelines	Administrative	
Borrowings are only to finance development expenditure	Loan (Local) Act 1959	Current balance always in surplus to ensure operating expenditure is financed by revenue	
Domestic debt ceiling	Not exceeding 55% of GDP	Self-imposed limit of 55% of GDF	
(MGS, MGII, MITB)	Loan (Local) Act 1959 and Government Funding Act 1983		
Offebore borrowing coiling	Not exceeding RM35 billion		
Offshore borrowing ceiling	External Loans Act 1963		
lssuances of conventional Treasury bills	Not exceeding RM10 billion		
	Treasury Bills (Local) Act 1946		
Q	Allocation for debt service charges are charged items and not	DSC ≤ 15% of revenue or	
Limit of debt service charges (DSC)	required to be tabled to Parliament	operating expenditure	
	Federal Constitution Article 98 (1)(b)	operating experioriture	

Resume fiscal consolidation when the economy recovers



- ✓ Committed to lower fiscal deficit to 4% of GDP in 3-4 years
- Find the right path between budget deficit (or fiscal stimulus) and sustainable debt level during the good times and stable years
- ✓ Macro-economic and political stability



- 60.1%-93.1% in 1982-1991
- 60% is considered as a prudential limit
- Balance between higher debt binding limit and erosion of fiscal credibility



However, the growing mountain of debt should be viewed seriously

Debt service charges (DSC) have been growing rapidly by 8.6% pa from RM15.6 billion in 2010 to RM32.9 billion in 2019, made up 12.5% of total revenue / operating expenditure.

Rebooting Malaysia

Political stability is key to macroeconomic stability and growth

Good sense and strong political will must prevail to reset our national development agenda

40



Malaysia's six-pronged strategy to address COVID-19 impact



Malaysia has adopted six approaches or 6Rs (RESOLVE, RESILIENCE, RESTART, RECOVERY, REVITALISE AND REFORM) to balance between the COVID-19 containment and people livelihood as well as the economy.



What to watch in 2020-2021?

- Aug 2020 (tentative) Economic Recovery Plan
- Sep 2020 (tentative)

- 4th Malaysia Industrial Master Plan (2021-2030)
- 2021 National Budget

Jan 2021

6 Nov 2020

- 12th Malaysia Plan (2021-2025)



10-pin policy priorities in the immediate- and short-term

- Broader stimulus. RM295.0 billion or 21.1% of GDP fiscal, monetary and micro-financial measures to blunt the amplification of economic damages on households and businesses (targeted) in the immediate-and short-term.
- In the immediate-term, there is pressure to reduce unemployment, revive consumer spending and stimulate economic growth. Address investors' lingering concerns about domestic political environment and future policy direction. The immediate priorities are to:
 - 1. RESTORE CONFIDENCE ON ECONOMY AND POLITICAL STABILITY
 - 2. SWIFTLY IMPLEMENT TARGETED FISCAL SPENDING
 - 3. EASE COST OF DOING BUSINESS
 - 4. HOLISTIC MANAGEMENT OF FOREIGN WORKERS
 - 5. SUSTAIN PRIVATE CONSUMPTION; EASE UNEMPLOYMENT
 - 6. REVITALISE PRIVATE INVESTMENT (DDI and FDI)
 - 7. DIGITALISATION AND AUTOMATION
 - 8. RESKILLING AND UPSKILLING WORKFORCE
 - 9. UPLIFT EXPORTS CAPACITY
 - **10. REJUVENATE CONSTRUCTION AND SLUGGISH PROPERTY SECTOR**



Rebooting Malaysia: Recovery, Revitalise and Reform



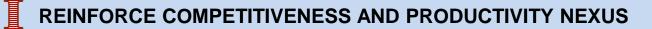
Malaysia's Economic Recovery Plan (ERP) in the medium- and long-term will constitute FIVE key pillars as follows:

FISCAL STABILITY AND GROWTH STABILISATION PACT



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UNLOCKING NEW SOURCES OF GROWTH



SMART AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN INVESTMENT

UPSKILLING WORKFORCE AND EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE



The Government must continue to implement:

Credible economic policies

Institutional and political reforms

 Including fiscal discipline, political stability and institutional quality



Malaysia's **institutional quality** must be strengthened further with

A wider implementation of	Fiscal transparency	
open and competitive	Strengthen	
tender	goverance	

To promote accountability and fiscal responsibility



Rebooting Malaysia: Recovery, Revitalise and Reform (cont.)



- Restore consumer and investor confidence on the economy and political stability.
- Macro and political stability are essential to ensure a sustained economic revival.



Policy continuity and meaningful reforms should take priority to shore up confidence and economic sustainability.



Avoid policy flip-flops as it hurts businesses and worrying investors.

Equal emphasis RM207.9bn approved in : FDI (40%) = DDI (60%) Ease cost of doing business business business friendly and competitive place of doing business and investing

DDI = Domestic Direct Investment



Review and upgrade:

- Domestic Investment Strategic Fund (DISF)
- Industry4WRD Intervention Fund
- Reinvestment Allowance
- Accelerated Capital Allowance
- Investment Tax Allowance
- Automation Capital Allowance

* For first RM500,000 chargeable income



Rebooting Malaysia: Recovery, Revitalise and Reform (cont.)

Investing in "new smart infrastructure" used for high-tech, digitalisation and sustainable purposes (renewable energy, climate change, eco-green)







Smart agriculture – Food – Halal industry

Rubber products, palm oil and oil palm products and wood-based products







谢谢 THANK YOU

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