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MEDIA STATEMENT

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REGIONAL TOURISM SATELLITE ACCOUNT SABAH 2023

Sabah's tourism industry grew at 3.0 per cent in 2023, contributing 11.7 per cent to state's economy

PUTRAJAYA, 18 DECEMBER 2024 - Today, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) released statistics on **REGIONAL TOURISM SATELLITE ACCOUNT (RTSA) SABAH 2023**. RTSA Sabah provides comprehensive indicators and statistics related to tourism in a single publication and serves as a framework to measure the performance of the tourism industry and its contribution to Sabah's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The Chief Statistician of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, stated, "The Gross Value Added of Tourism Industries (GVATI) in Sabah recorded RM13.1 billion, grew at 3.0 per cent. Hence, Sabah's tourism contributed 11.7 per cent to the state's economy in 2023. The favourable performance of Sabah's tourism industry was supported by Retail trade activity (share: 43.9%) and Accommodation, food & beverage serving services (share: 30.2%). In terms of growth, Retail trade posted a growth of 2.2 per cent and Accommodation, food & beverage serving services grew at 2.7 per cent. Furthermore, Travel agencies, culture, sports & recreational and other tourism services (share: 16.2%); and Passenger transport services and retail sale of automotive fuel (share: 9.7%) was also further expanded 4.4 per cent and 6.1 percent respectively in 2023.

The Chief Statistician of Malaysia said, "The internal tourism consumption in Sabah amounted to RM8.2 billion, was supported by inbound tourism expenditure in 2023. The inbound tourism expenditure contributed 50.9 per cent (2022: 45.5%) to the internal tourism consumption, in line with a significant resurgence of tourism activities globally in 2023 after the pandemic COVID-19. Nevertheless, the contribution of domestic tourism expenditure reduced to 49.1 per cent in 2023 compared to 54.5 per cent of internal tourism consumption in Sabah".

He added, "Inbound tourism expenditure in Sabah amounted to RM4.2 billion (2022: RM2.7 billion), an increase of 57.5 per cent in 2023. More than 80 percent of Inbound tourism expenditure in Sabah was supported by visitors from Peninsular Malaysia (share: 51.7%) and international tourists (share: 37.0%). The main component of inbound tourism expenditure was attributed to Accommodation and food & beverage serving services (share: 30.5%); and Transport services & retail sale of automotive fuel (share: 28.3%)".

Meanwhile domestic tourism expenditure in Sabah posted RM4.0 billion (2022: RM3.2 billion) and grew at 26.7 per cent in 2023. The growth was spurred by Shopping activities with a share of 47.4 per cent and Accommodation and food & beverage serving services with a contribution of 34.5 per cent.

The tourism industry in Sabah has provided employment to 362.7 thousand persons, with a growth of 7.1 per cent. Hence, employment in Sabah's tourism industry has contributed 22.4 per cent to the overall employment in Sabah. The Retail trade (share: 43.9%) and Accommodation and food & beverage serving services (share: 42.1%) were the main contributors to employment in Sabah's tourism industry with a combination share of 86.0 per cent in 2023.

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) has launched OpenDOSM NextGen as a medium that provides data catalogue and visualisations to facilitate users' analysis and can be accessed through <https://open.dosm.gov.my>.

The Government of Malaysia has declared National Statistics Day (MyStats Day) on October 20th each year. MyStats Day theme is “Statistics is the Essence of Life”. DOSM commemorates its 75th Diamond Jubilee in 2024.

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THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA
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Exhibit 1: Tourism Industry Performance, Sabah 2022-2023

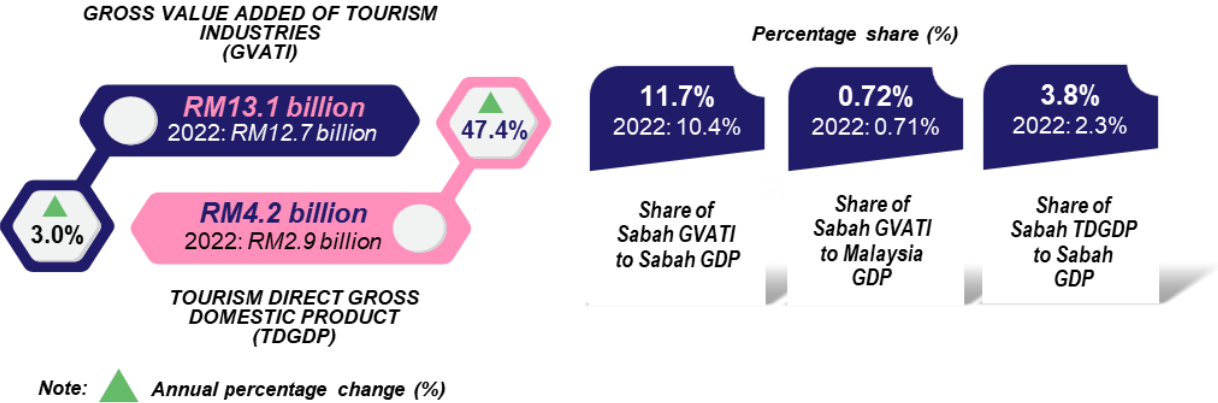


Exhibit 2: Internal Tourism Consumption, Sabah 2022-2023

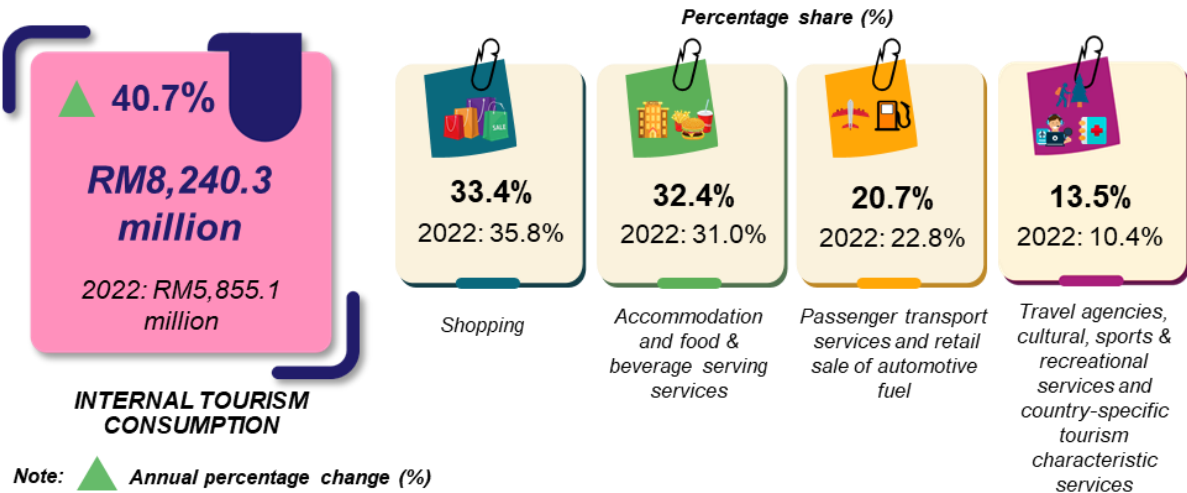


Exhibit 3: Inbound Tourism Expenditure, Sabah 2022-2023

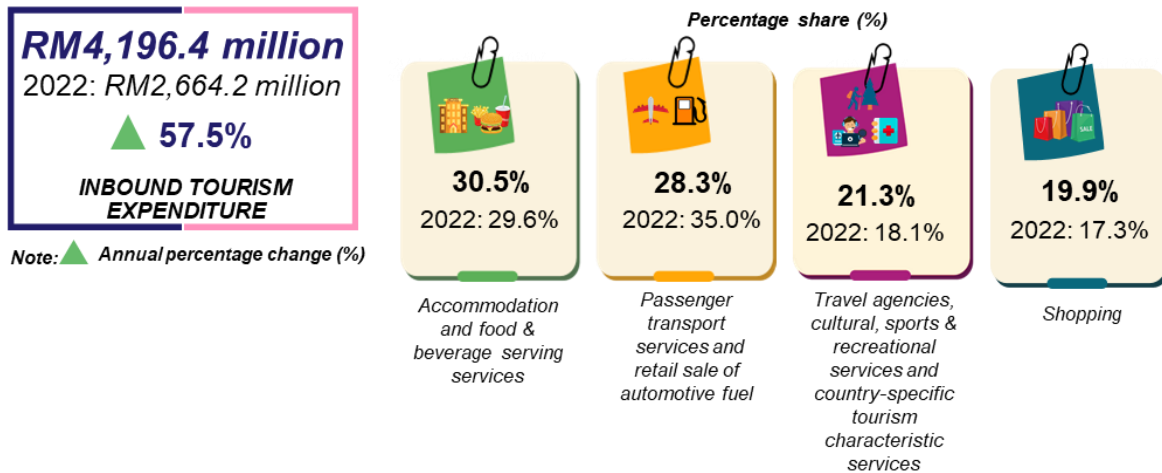


Exhibit 4: Domestic Tourism Expenditure, Sabah 2022-2023

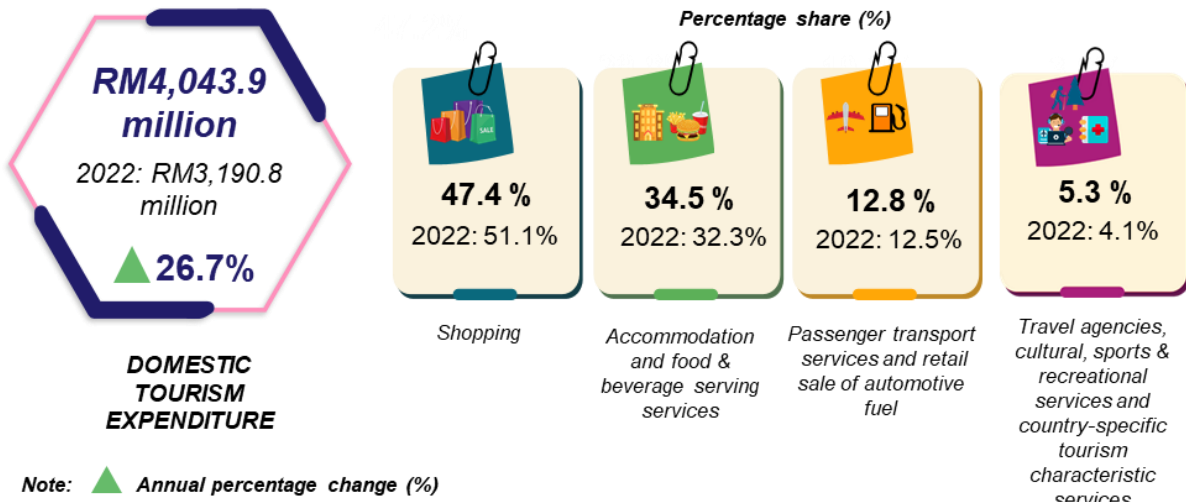


Exhibit 5: Employment in the Tourism Industry, Sabah 2022-2023

