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MINISTRY OF ECONOMY  
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

**MEDIA STATEMENT**  
**MALAYSIA TRADE STATISTICS REVIEW**  
**2023**

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***Total trade of food industry in Malaysia grew 31.8 per cent or RM29.0 billion to RM120.2 billion in 2022***

***PUTRAJAYA, December 29, 2023*** – *The food industry is a major contributor to the national economy and has a high and constant demand. Total trade of Malaysia's food grew 31.8 per cent or RM29.0 billion to RM120.2 billion in 2022, attributable mainly to imports with a value of RM75.6 billion as compared to exports of RM44.6 billion. **MALAYSIA TRADE STATISTICS REVIEW (MTSR) 2023** presents a comprehensive overview and thorough information on the trade performance of Malaysia's food industry of selected products to offer beneficial information for the users to get more holistic picture of the economy.*

*Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin said, "MTSR 2023 reports on the trade performance of the food industry in Malaysia and its relationship with other relevant statistical indicators. This edition focusing on food, particularly the food processing sector, fruit industry, meat products, dairy products, chillies and coffee."*

*"The food processing industry in Malaysia is a cornerstone of economic growth, contributed 1.6 per cent to Malaysia's GDP with a value-added of RM28.1 billion in manufacturing sector in 2022. Malaysia's trade of fruit improved greatly from RM427.8 million in 1990 to an impressive RM6.1 billion in 2022. Besides that, meat*

sector in Malaysia experienced significant growth with exports of beef increasing from RM11.1 million in 2020 to RM21.3 million in 2022. Meanwhile, as the consumption of dairy products surpassed local production, the government had undertaken various efforts and initiatives to ensure a continuous supply at an affordable price, among others was through imports. The increase in yield in the local chili fertigation cultivation technology could reduce dependence on the imports. Malaysia exported coffee & coffee substitutes, with a value of RM1.2 billion in 2012 increasing to RM2.4 billion in 2022.”

Chief Statistician Malaysia explained that the high increase in imports as compared to exports of food products has led to an increase in the trade deficit amounting to RM31.0 billion in 2022. For the past 32 years, the trend of exports and imports of Malaysia’s food were seen uncertain with the highest export growth recorded in 2008 (+20.6%) and import growth peaking (+41.3%) last year.

“Singapore remained the main destination country with a 19.1 per cent contribution to Malaysia's total food exports last year. China was the second highest country of destination for food exports with a value of RM5.6 billion. The main country of origin of Malaysia’s food products in 2022 was dominated by China worth RM8.7 billion (11.5% of food imports), followed by Argentina (RM7.9 billion) and Thailand (RM7.0 billion).”

Food security is an important aspect of people's well-being and is always a major agenda at the global level. The National Food Security Policy 2021-2025 was introduced for the purpose of increasing internal resources, and at the same time diversifying import sources to ensure the country's preparedness in facing the food security crisis. In this regard, Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) may contribute to strengthen value chain activities with trading partners to maintain the security of Malaysia's staple food and other crops.

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

*DOSM will conduct the Agricultural Census in 2024. Please visit <https://www.myagricensus.gov.my/> for more information. The theme is “Agriculture Census, Key to Agriculture Development.”*

*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”.*

*Released by:*

**THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA**

**DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA**

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