

Malaysia's trade surplus expands to RM14.27b in July 2019

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 4 — Malaysia recorded a trade surplus in July 2019 amounting to RM14.27 billion, up 75.6 per cent from the same month of the previous year and marking the 261st consecutive month of trade surplus since November 1997.

Exports picked up by 1.7 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to RM87.96 billion, mainly due to higher exports to Taiwan, the United States (US), China and Singapore, while imports contracted by 5.9 per cent to RM73.69 billion.

"Total trade was valued at RM161.65 billion, a decline of 1.9 per cent," the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said in a statement.

On a monthly basis, MITI said total trade, exports and imports registered double-digit growth of 14 per cent, 15.5 per cent and 12.3 per cent respectively. The trade surplus rose by 35.8 per cent.

In January-July, total trade stood at RM1.057 trillion, declining by 1.4 per cent compared to the same period in 2018, with exports slipping 0.4 per cent to RM569.46 billion and imports easing 2.6 per cent to RM487.84 billion.

During the period, the trade surplus increased by 15.9 per cent to RM81.62 billion, said MITI. Exports of manufactured goods in July 2019, which accounted for 86.1 per cent of total exports, grew by 3.8 per cent to RM75.7 billion.

"The expansion was contributed mainly by higher exports of electrical and electronics (E&E) products, iron and steel products, processed food, machinery, equipment and parts as well as transport equipment," said MITI.

Mining goods (7.5 per cent share) were valued at RM6.6 billion, declining by 11.6 per cent on account of reduced exports of crude petroleum due to lower volume and average unit value (AUV).

Agriculture goods (5.7 per cent share) totalled RM4.97 billion, down by 9.3 per cent due to lower exports of palm oil and palm oil-based agriculture products, especially palm oil, which recorded a decline of 14.2 per cent to RM2.59 billion following a lower AUV.

Compared to June 2019, exports of manufactured goods grew by 18.7 per cent, agriculture goods increased 3.2 per cent, but mining goods decreased by 5.2 per cent.

Trade with Asean in July 2019, which made up 26.4 per cent of Malaysia's total trade, decreased by 3.7 per cent Y-o-Y to RM42.72 billion.

MITI said exports to the region increased by 1.8 per cent to RM25.16 billion, supported by higher exports of E&E products, machinery, equipment and parts, iron and steel products as well as liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Major markets that recorded expansion were Singapore, which increased by RM372.9 million due to higher exports of E&E products, Vietnam (RM191.5 million, manufactures of metal) and the Philippines (RM247.4 million, petroleum products).

Imports from Asean contracted by 10.7 per cent to RM17.56 billion, said MITI.