

MALAYSIA WEEKLY ECONOMIC NEWS

(11 October 2021 – 15 October 2021)

Topics	Highlights
<p>ICT industry contributed 22.6% to GDP</p>	<p>The Information and Communications Technology (ICT) industry registered a 10.4% growth in 2020, valued at RM320 billion, compared with 7.3% in the previous year, said the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM). DOSM said the ICT industry had shown positive growth despite the country having to face bitter challenges following the COVID-19 pandemic. The positive growth is in line with the government's main focus on empowering the digital economy which will strengthen the country's economic growth under the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP) 2021-2025 to restore growth beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. The ICT industry contributed 22.6% to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), comprising Gross Value Added of ICT industry (GVAICT) at 14.2% and e-commerce of other industries at 8.4%.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Source: The Star, 15 October 2021)</i></p>
<p>Bank Pembangunan launches impact assessment framework MIND</p>	<p>Bank Pembangunan Malaysia Bhd (BPMB) launched its impact assessment framework "Measuring Impact on National Development (MIND)," which reinforced its strong commitment as the country's leading sustainable development finance provider. BPMP also established the sustainable development Sukuk framework which sets out the principles under which the bank issued its sustainable development Sukuk. As at July 2021, 82 transactions have been evaluated using MIND with the following estimated development impact to be materialised upon completion of projects. They are 5,185 jobs created during and post-construction periods; 177,720 megawatt hour of total renewable energy generated annually; 1,880 units of affordable homes and workers' quarters built; and on average approximately 33,880 direct beneficiaries including 6,000 students per day benefit from the projects.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Source: The Star, 15 October 2021)</i></p>
<p>Financial assets of households up 7.3% in 2020</p>	<p>The gross financial assets of Malaysia's private households increased 7.3% in 2020 to €18,240 (RM87,782) per capita at the end of the year, according to the "Allianz Global Wealth Report 2021". However, this growth rate remained markedly below the regional average, as despite the Covid-19 crisis, gross financial assets of Asian (excluding Japan) households rose by a healthy 12.7% in 2020, even faster than in the already strong previous year (9.8%), said Allianz. In terms of net financial assets per capita, Malaysia ranked sixth in Asia behind China and 37th in international comparison. In Malaysia, the growth driver in 2020 was the increase in securities with 10.6%. Life insurance and pension fund assets grew by 7.4% and deposits by 4.2%.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Source: The Star, 13 October 2021)</i></p>
<p>August manufacturing sales expand as more economic sectors open up</p>	<p>Malaysia's manufacturing sales in August 2021 expanded by 6.8% to RM126.5bil from a year ago, more economic sectors in line with the transition phase of the National Recovery Plan (NRP). The Statistics Department said the sales value increased by 5.5% on-month. The growth in sales value for this month was driven by the petroleum, chemical, rubber & plastic products subsector (31.4%) especially in the manufacture of coke & refined petroleum products industries. The expansion was also due to the food, beverages & tobacco subsector (7%) supported by the manufacture of food products industries as well as the electrical & electronics products subsector (6.9%) mainly in the manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products industries.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Source: The Star, 12 October 2021)</i></p>