



社会经济研究中心
SOCIO-ECONOMIC
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OPUS Investment Talk

Malaysia in the New Normal – Policy Pathways for Sustainability

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Outline



Predictions of the World Economy Post COVID-19 Pandemic



Malaysia's Post- MCO Recovery Tracker



Rebooting Malaysia – Recovery, Revitalise and Reform

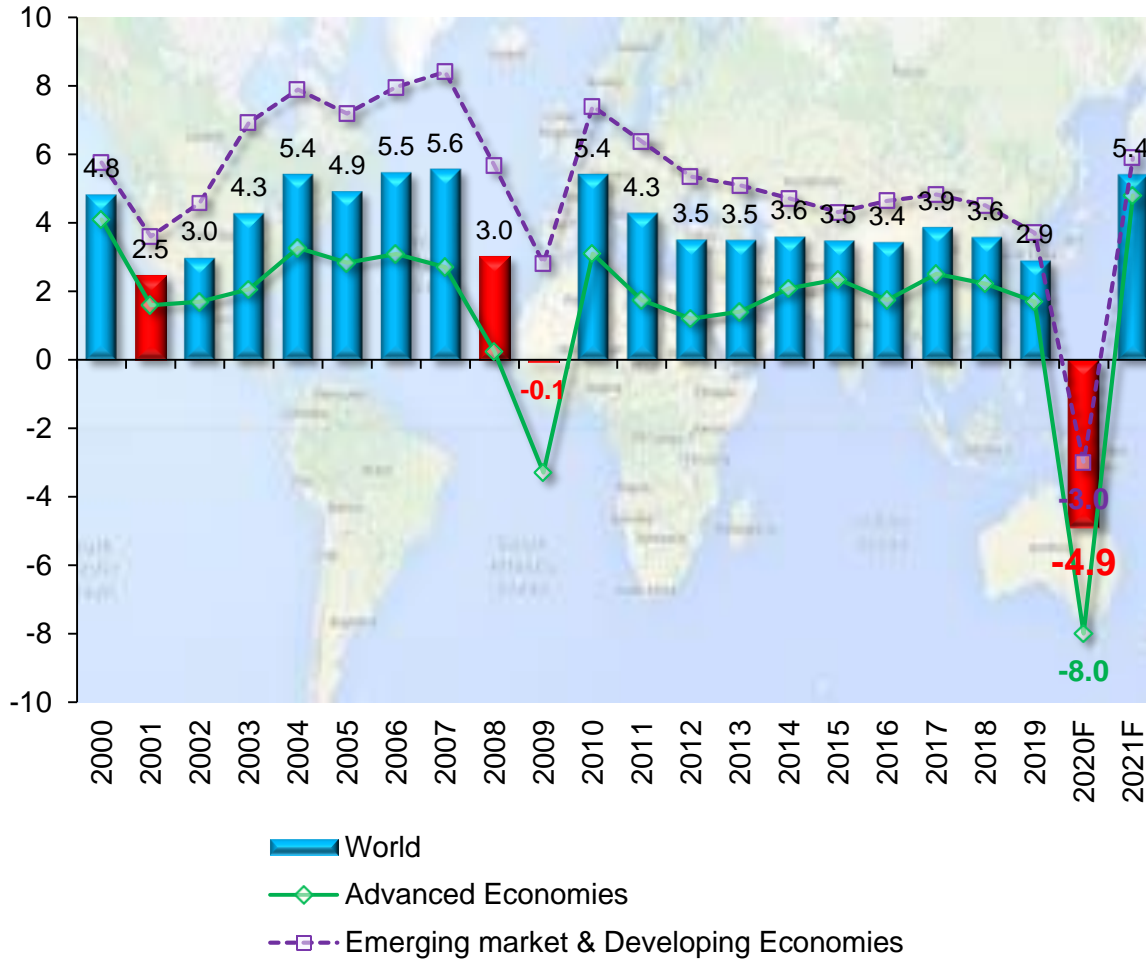
Predictions for the Global Economy

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




Real GDP Growth (%)



- 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?

Source: IMF (WEO Update, Jun 2020)

Global Growth Scenarios for 2020-2021*

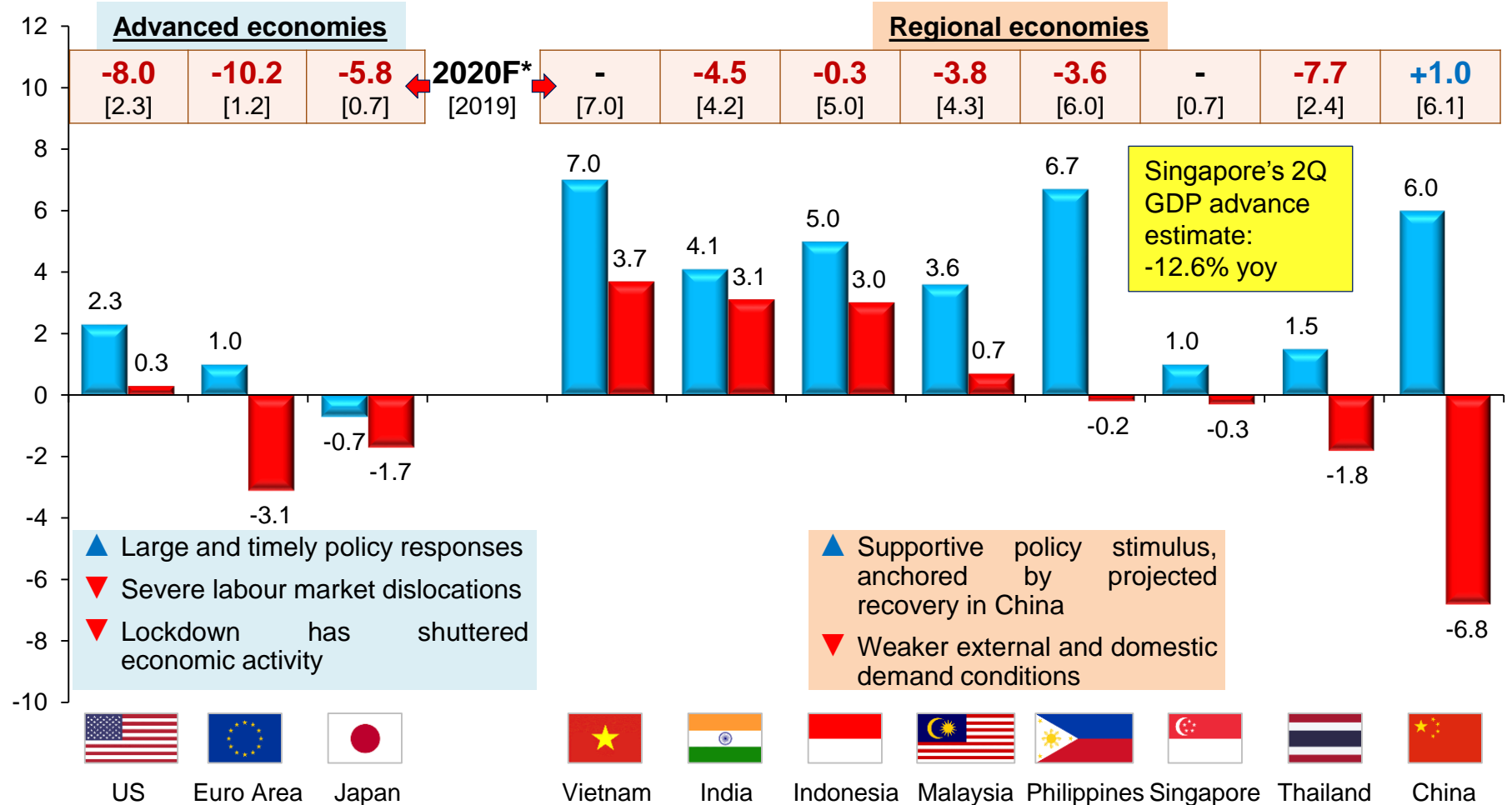
Scenario	Projected global GDP growth in 2020	Projected global GDP growth in 2021
<p>Upside</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global growth stabilisation and recovery. Disruptions from pandemic fade in 2H • COVID-19 outbreak is contained in 2H 2020. Hopeful vaccine will be found in 2021 • Monetary and fiscal stimulus are working 	0.5%	5.0%
<p>Base Case</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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%
<p>Downside</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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?

Real GDP growth (% , YoY)

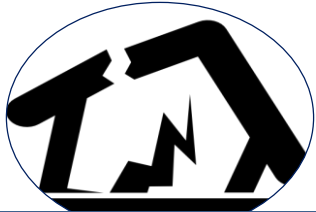
■ 2019 Q4 ■ 2020 Q1



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

Decoupling of real economy from stock market

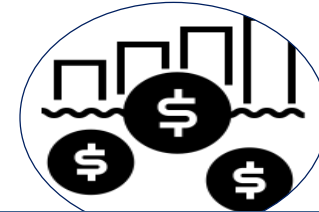
Extraordinary interventions by governments and central banks



KEEP the system from imploding



KEEP people who've lost jobs from real desperation



STOP companies' liquidity problems and sovereignty problems

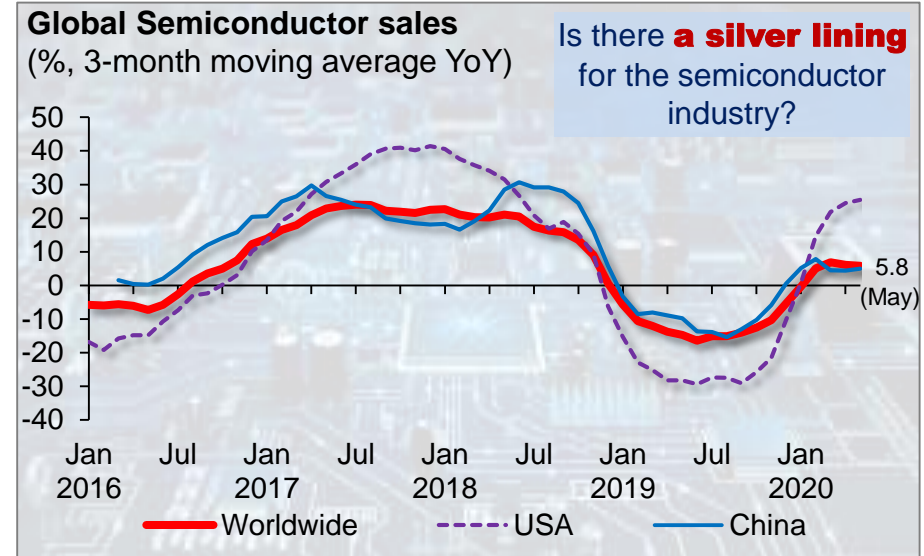
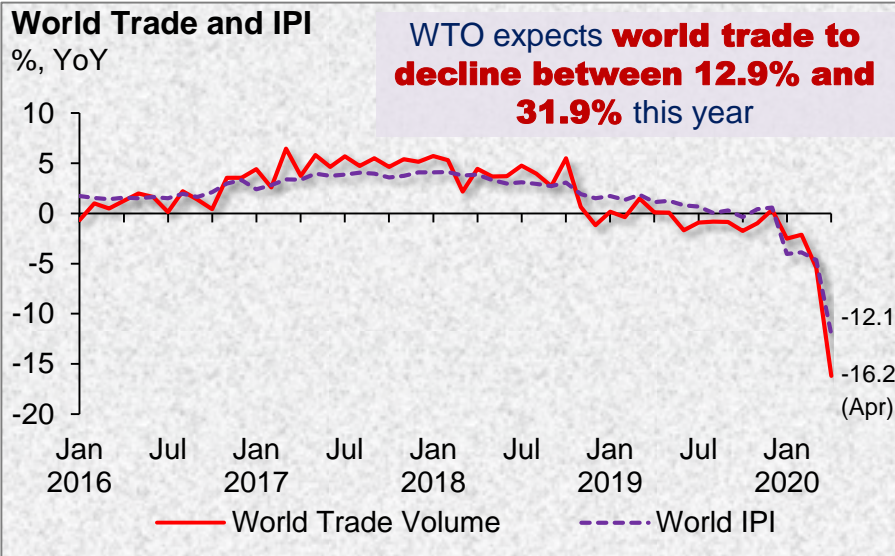
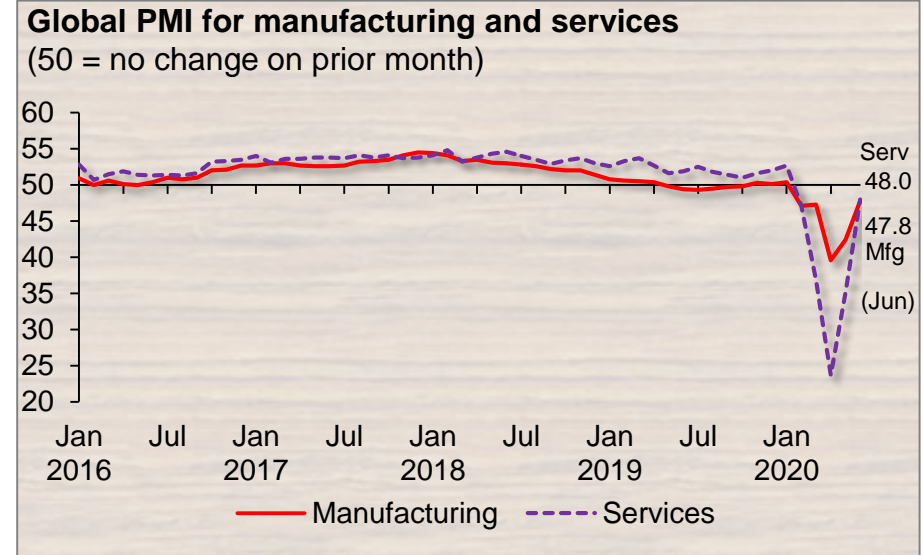
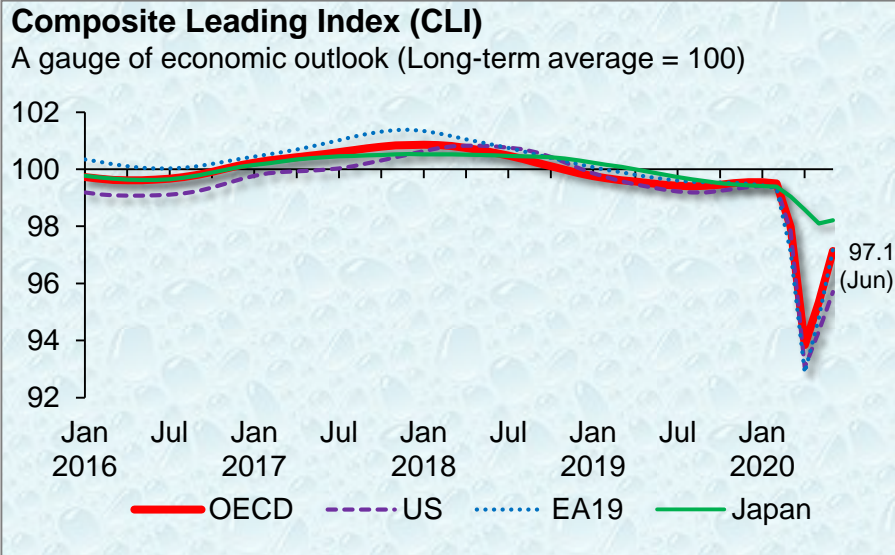
A V-shaped recovery in stock market but not for global economy



Three indicators to ascertain the strength of recovery

- 1** CONSUMER SENTIMENT AND SPENDING
- 2** UNEMPLOYMENT AND WAGE GROWTH
- 3** PURCHASING MANAGERS' INDEX (PMI) FOR MANUFACTURING & SERVICES

High-frequency data suggest steepest economic slump has bottomed out

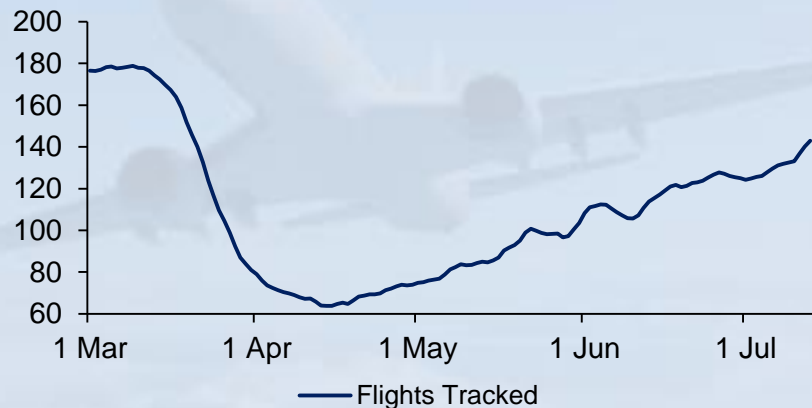


Source: OECD; IHS Markit; SIA

Post-Great Lockdown: Global mobility tracker

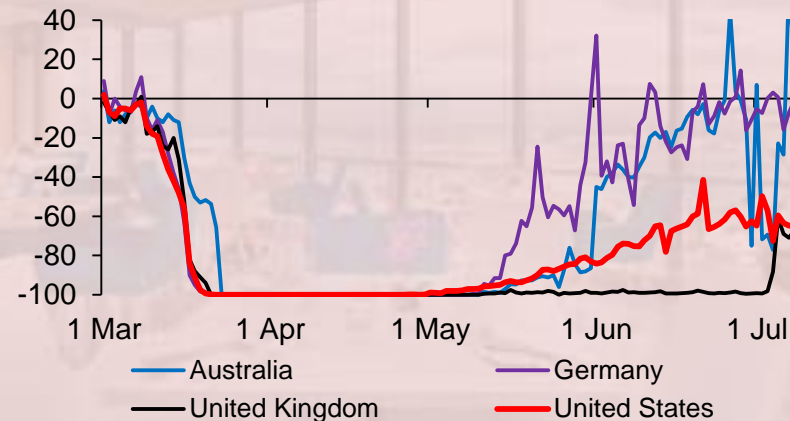
Number of flights tracked have bottomed out

('000, 7-day moving average)



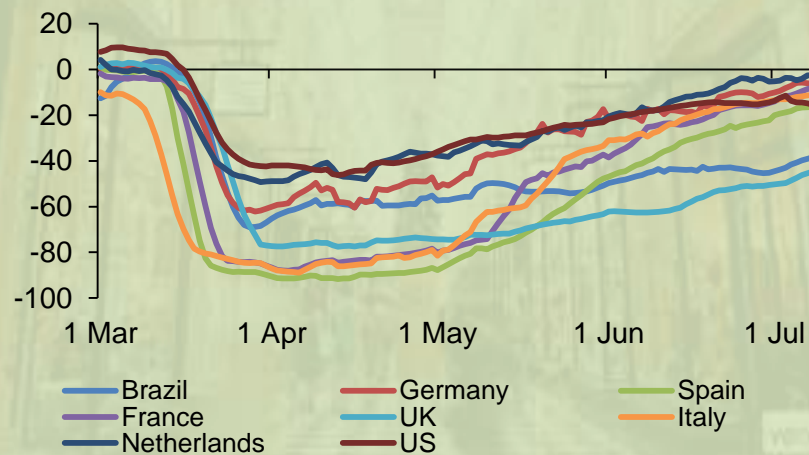
Restaurant bookings

% change vs. same day of same week one year ago



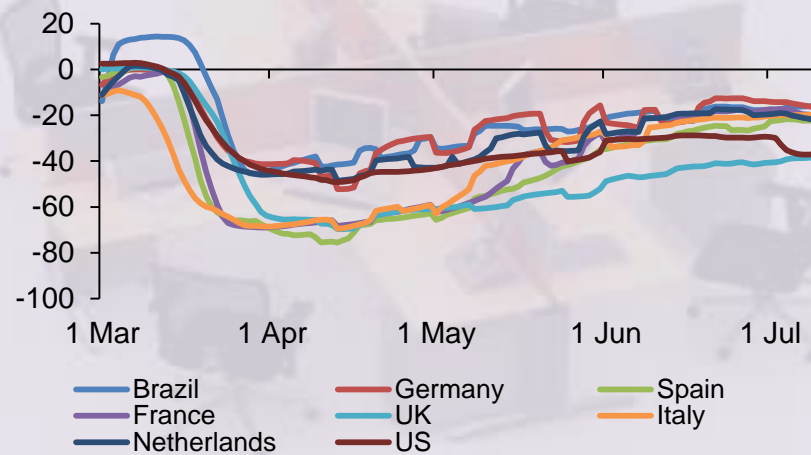
Time spent in retail and recreation

%, 7-day moving average



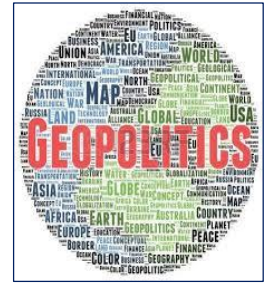
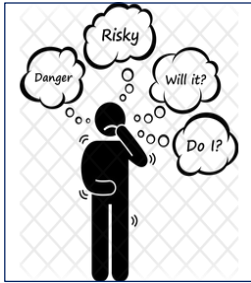
Time spent in workplaces

%, 7-day moving average



Source: Flightradar24; OpenTable; Google Mobility

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



1

2

3

4

5

6

A protracted and deeper recession than anticipated.

Stemming from a second wave of infections, compelling more restricted movements and containment measures

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

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

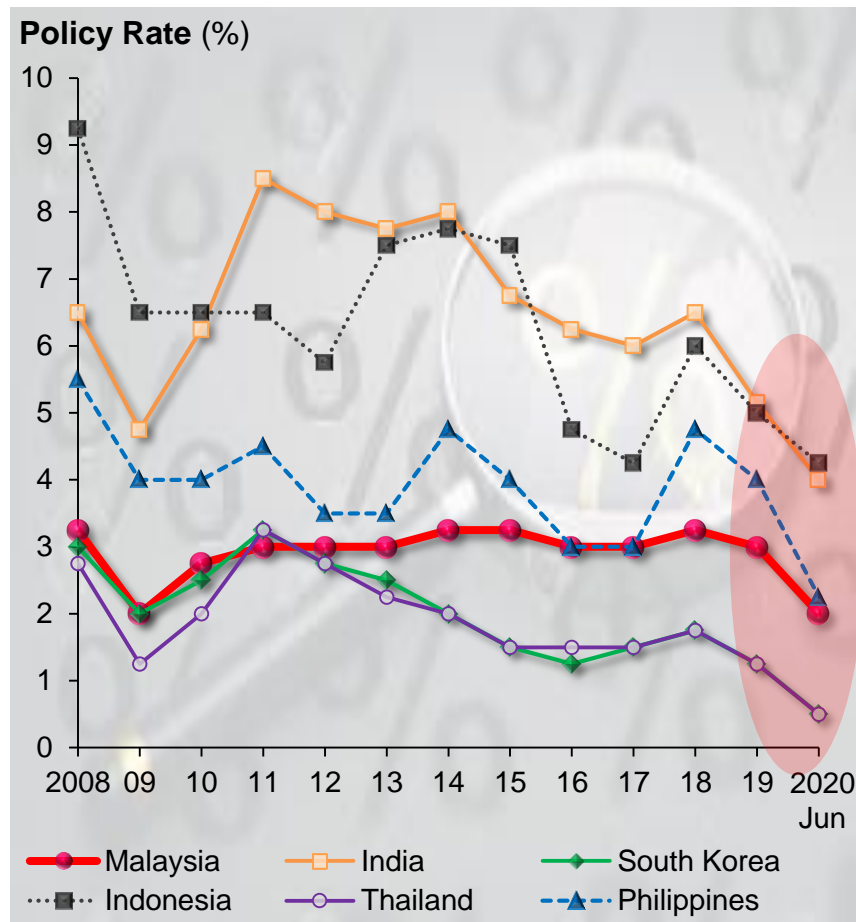
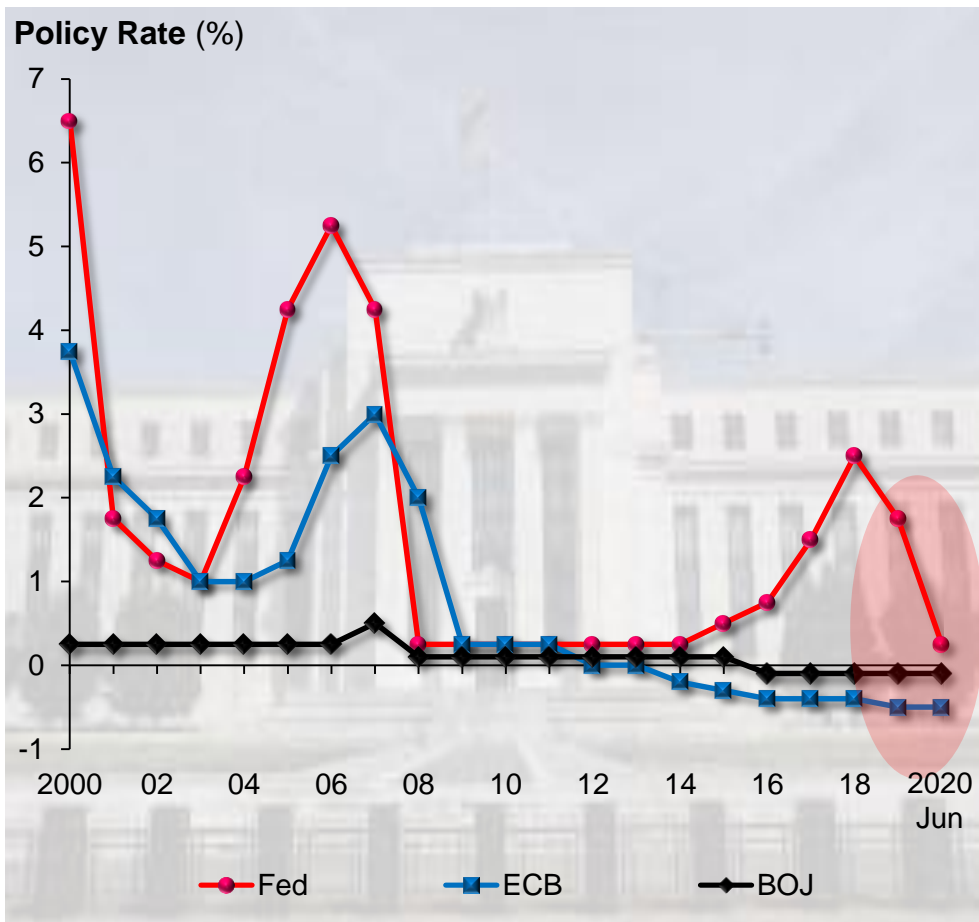
Renewed trade tensions between the US and China

The US Presidential Election outcome in November and potential policies' ramifications

Geopolitical tensions could lead to a reversal in investors' sentiment

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.
- How long –lasting will this environment of super interest rates be?

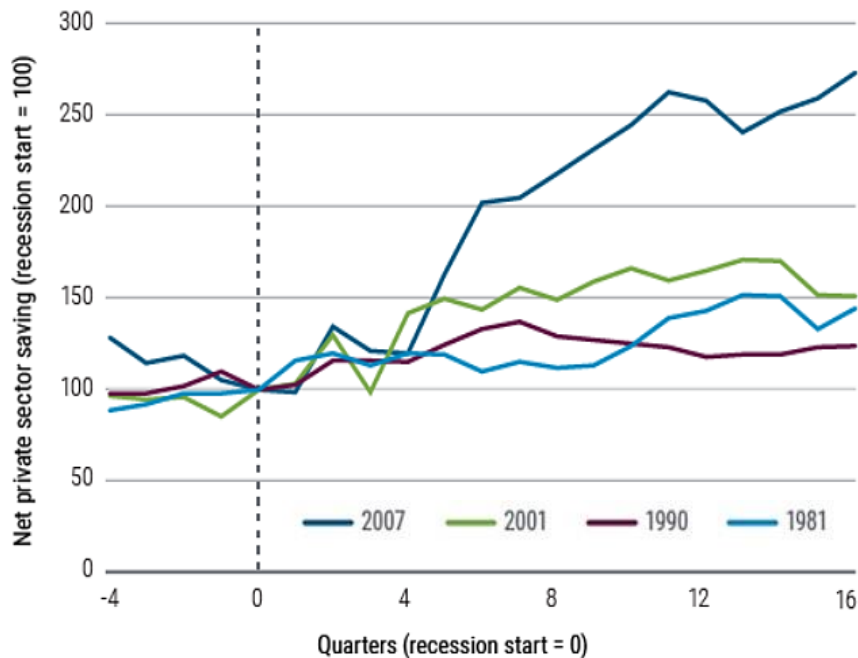


Note: Interest rate on deposit facility applied as ECB's policy rate
 Source: Fed; ECB; BOJ, Official central banks

Post COVID-19: Depressing effects on interest rates will likely linger for a long time

FOR – Higher fiscal deficits and debt could cause concerns about fiscal sustainability, and lead to higher inflation. This will push nominal and real interest rates back up to pre-pandemic levels.

Fig 1: US firms and households increased net saving following past 4 recessions

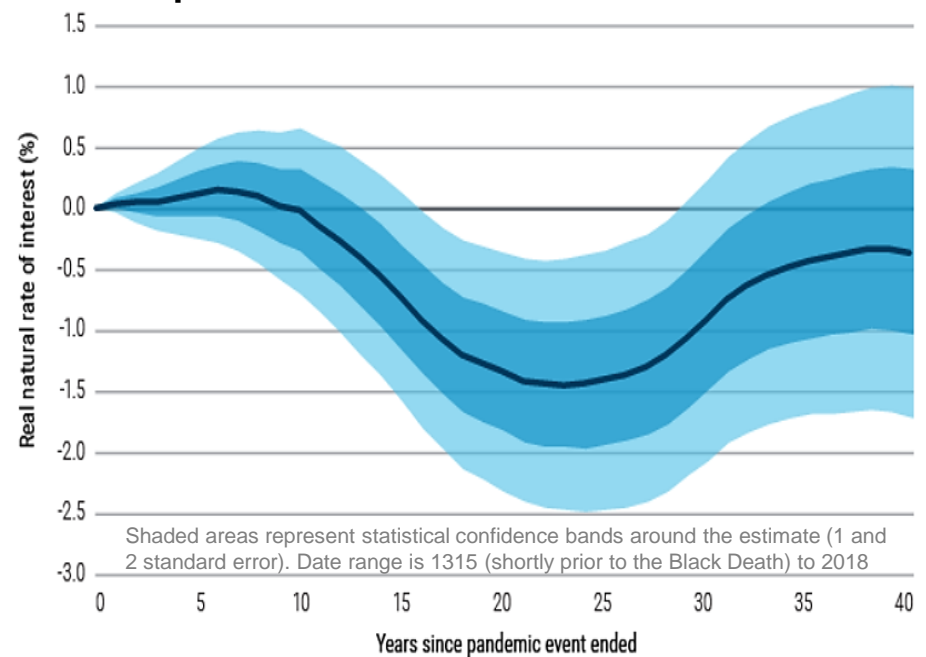


Source: Haver Analytics data, June 1980-Dec 2011

effects on interest rates will

AGAINST – Larger private sector saving glut and implicit or explicit nominal yield curve control by central banks will keep low interest rates longer after the pandemic past.

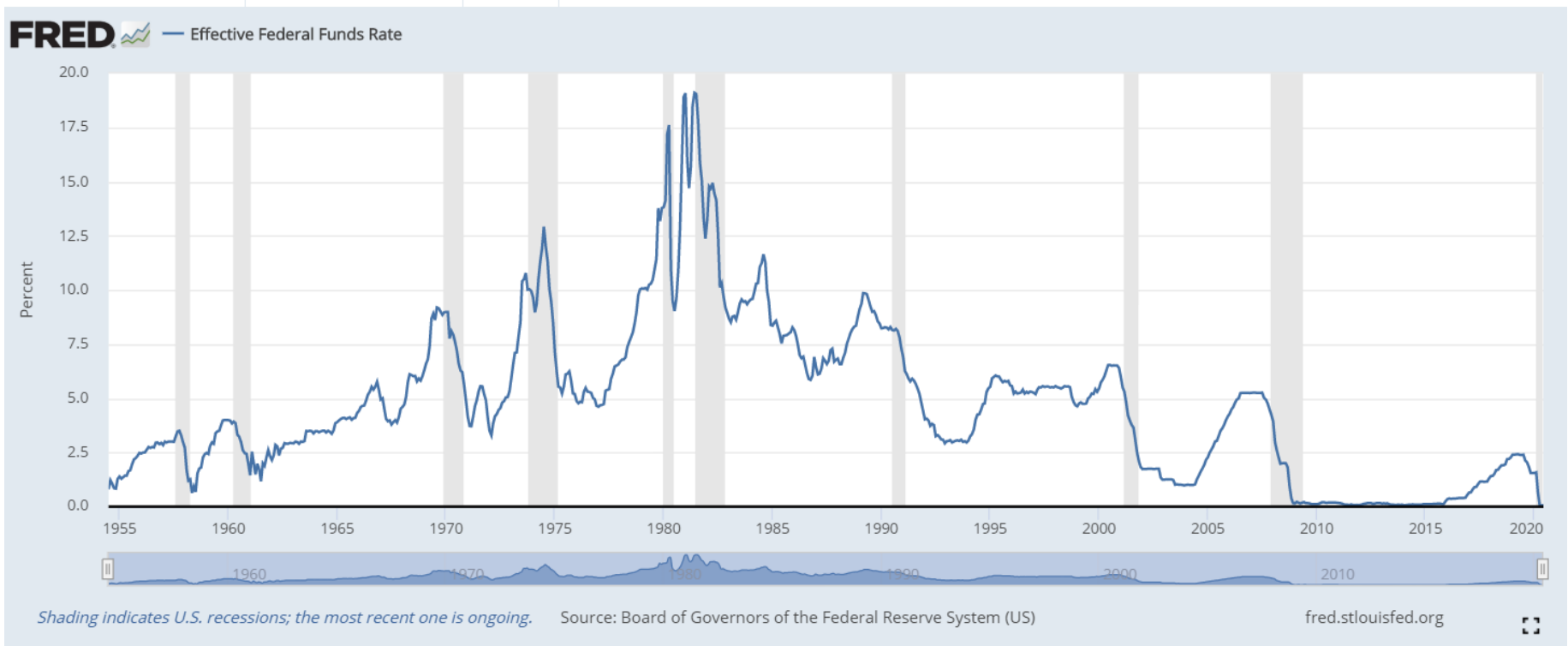
Fig 2: Average pattern of Europe real interest rates in the past 4 decades following the end of historic pandemics



Source: Jorda, Oscar, Sanjay R. Singh, Alan M. Taylor. 2000. "Longer-Run Economic Consequences of Pandemics." Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco Working Paper 2020-09.

Global trends in long-run interest rates

- **STRUCTURAL SHIFTS TO THE ECONOMY:** Low inflation expectations, an aging population (more savers, fewer workers), increasing economic stability, and a variety of other factors.
- **SLOWER PRODUCTIVITY (TFP) growth, DECLINING WORKING-AGE POPULATION growth and LOW MARGINAL PRODUCT OF CAPITAL** suggest that long-run real interest rates may be low for some time.
- Low interest rates are sometimes used as the rationale for expansionary fiscal policy because they lower the costs of servicing government debt used to finance public spending.



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

The Malaysian Economy

Aggressive policy responses to limit economic repercussions

- **PRIHATIN & PENJANA: RM295bn or 21.1% of GDP (contributes 3.0-4.0% pts to GDP growth)**
- **Direct fiscal injection: RM45.0bn or 3.2% GDP**

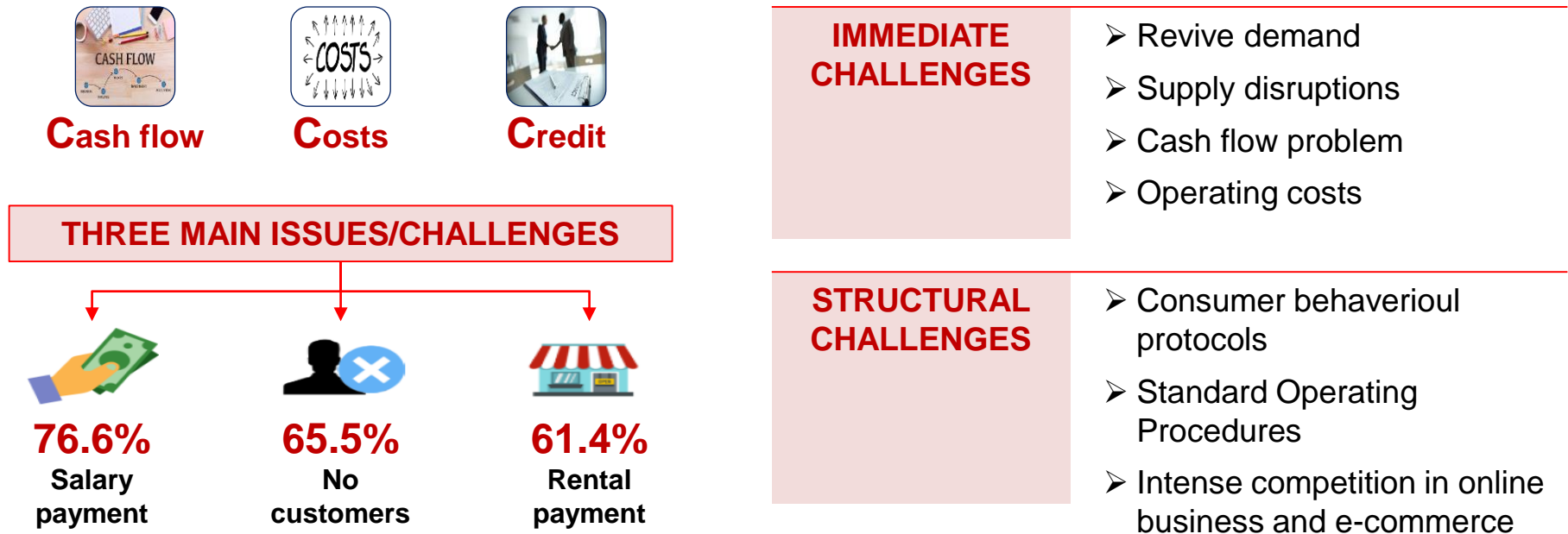


PENJANA – Short-term Economic Recovery Plan

PRIHATIN's measurable impact:



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

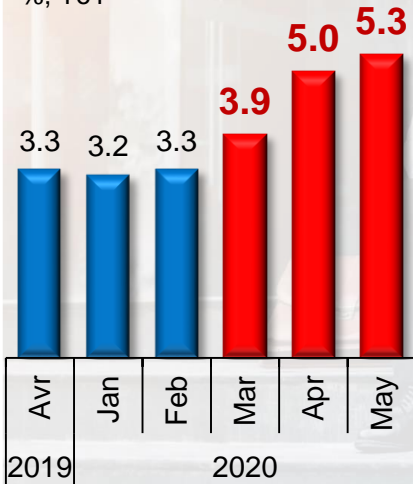


Source: PENJANA Short-Term Economic Recovery Plan; DOSM Special Survey on COVID-19 Impact on Business Sector (10 Apr -1 May)

Malaysia's post COVID-19 recovery tracker

Unemployment

Unemployment Rate
%, YoY

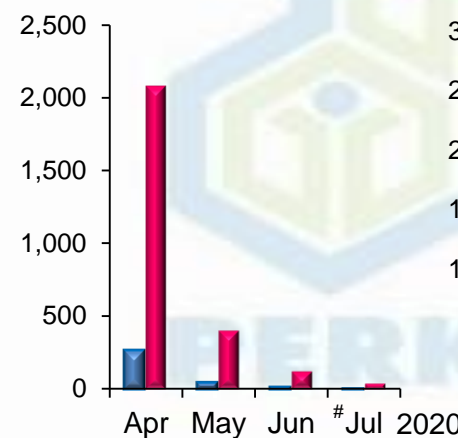


Loss of Employment
(‘000)

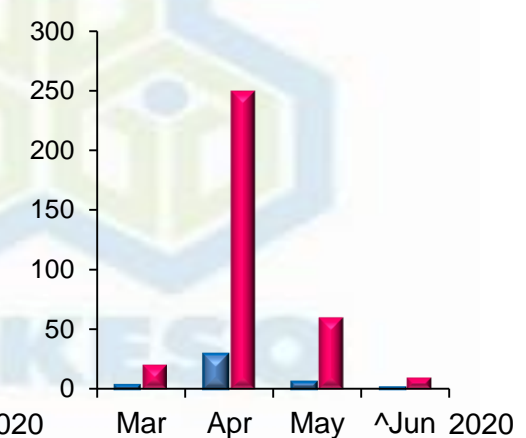


Job savings program

Wage Subsidy Program
(WSP)
(‘000, applications)



Employment Retention Program
(ERP)
(‘000, applications)



■ Employers ■ Employees

- Unemployment rate jumped to 5.3% in May
- Expect further rise to 5.5%-6.5% in 2Q-3Q
- EIS data (Jan-11 Jul 2020): **58,523 persons loss of employment** (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

* As of 11 July

- **2.8 million jobs saved** (2.6m 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 11 July

^ As of 21 June

Source: DOSM; PERKESO

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

Malaysia's post COVID-19 recovery tracker (cont.)

Consumer sentiment

MIER Consumer Sentiment Index (CSI)

Optimism Threshold = 100

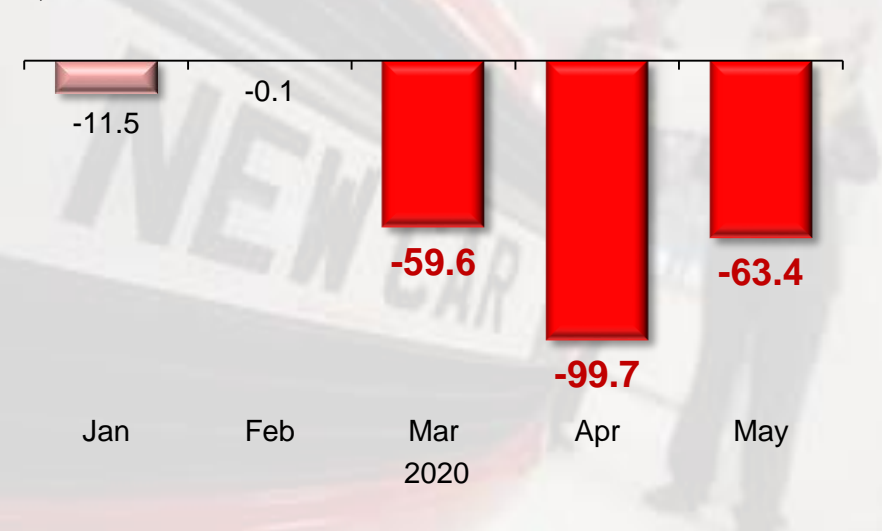


- Consumers' optimism has suffered a record plunge
- Until Malaysians feel safer from the virus and have secured job and income, they won't regain confidence and spend normally → hurdle to a strong recovery

Buying a car

Passenger Car Sales (Volume)

%, YoY



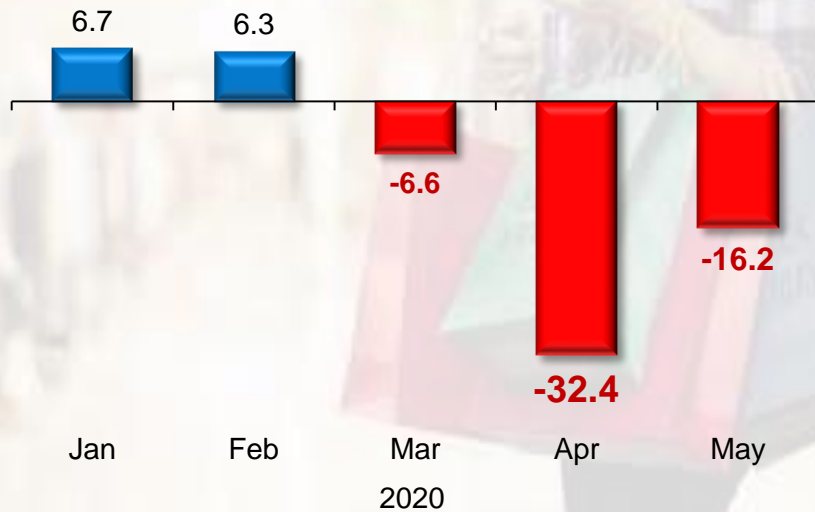
- While sales tax exemption would spur demand, car buyers won't return in droves and make the biggest purchase unless they have secured job and income as well as can get a loan
- **PENJANA**: Exempts sales tax on passenger cars (100% for locally assembled (CKD) and 50% for imported (CBU)) till end-2020

Source: MIER; BNM

Malaysia's post COVID-19 recovery tracker (cont.)

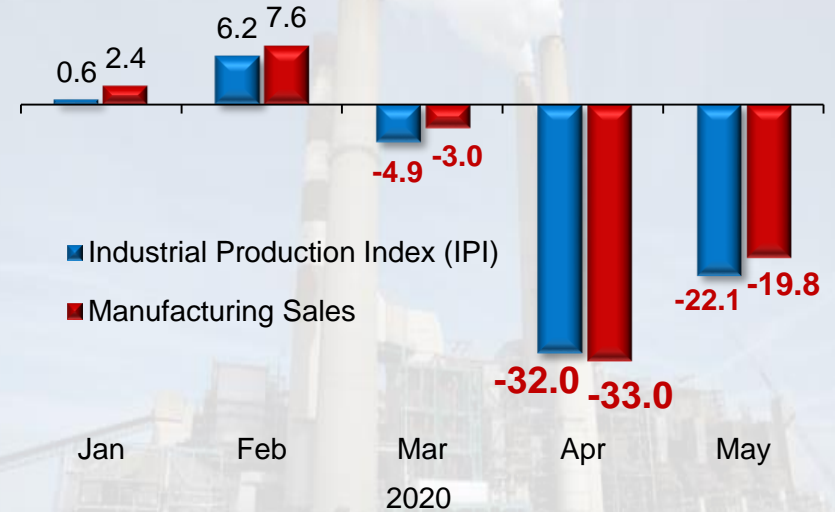
Shopping at retailers

Retail Sales
%, YoY



Production & manufacturing sales

Industrial Production and Manufacturing Sales
%, YoY



- **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

Malaysia's post COVID-19 recovery tracker (cont.)

External trade

External Trade
%, YoY

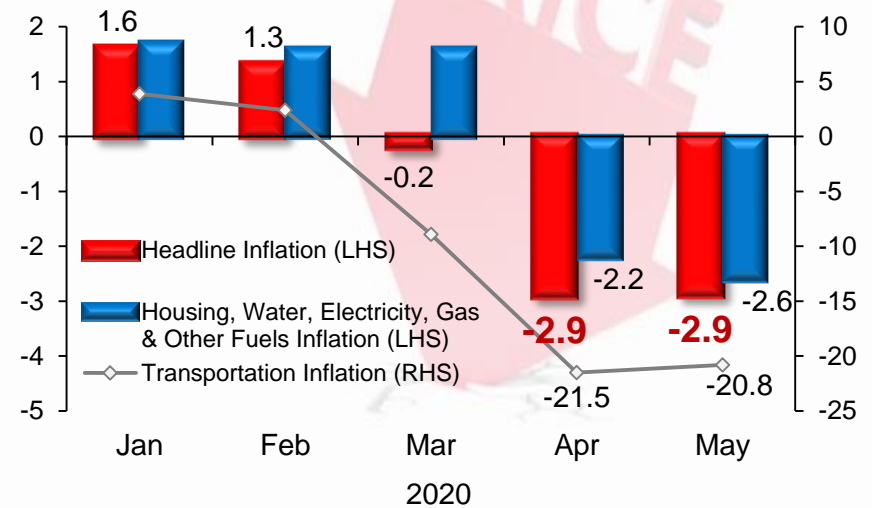


- Exports contracted sharply due to lockdown impact on demand from our major buyers amid supply chain disruptions
- Our major trading partners' pace of economic recovery in 2H 2020 would help to lift export growth and support the economy
- Jan-May 2020: -9.7% yoy; 2020E: -11.2% (2019: -1.7%)

Source: DOSM

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

Inflation by Selected Components
%



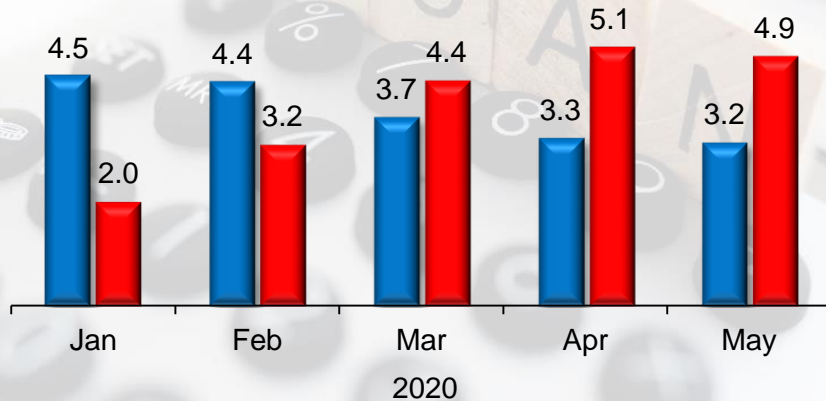
- Deflation inflicted by lower petrol prices and electricity tariff discounts amid slow price increases in other main groups. Capacity slack and oversupply amid slower demand
- Policy intervention-driven such as car prices, electricity tariff discounts and demand shocks (fuel prices)
- 27.3% of goods in the CPI basket saw decreases in prices in Jan-May 2020

Malaysia's post COVID-19 recovery tracker (cont.)

Loan financing

Loan Outstanding
%, YoY

■ Household Sector
■ Business and Other Sectors

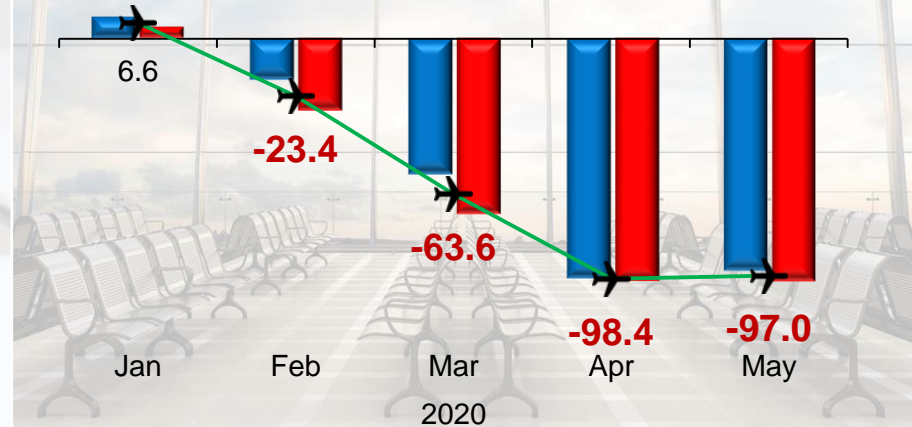


- Business loan growth (4.5% yoy in May and 4.7% in April) and households' demand eases
- As of 6 July, total **loan moratorium amounted to RM51.4 billion** (RM33.4 billion for individuals and RM17.9 billion for businesses)
- Real test is **the expiry of loan moratorium in September**

Daily flying passengers

Growth
%, YoY

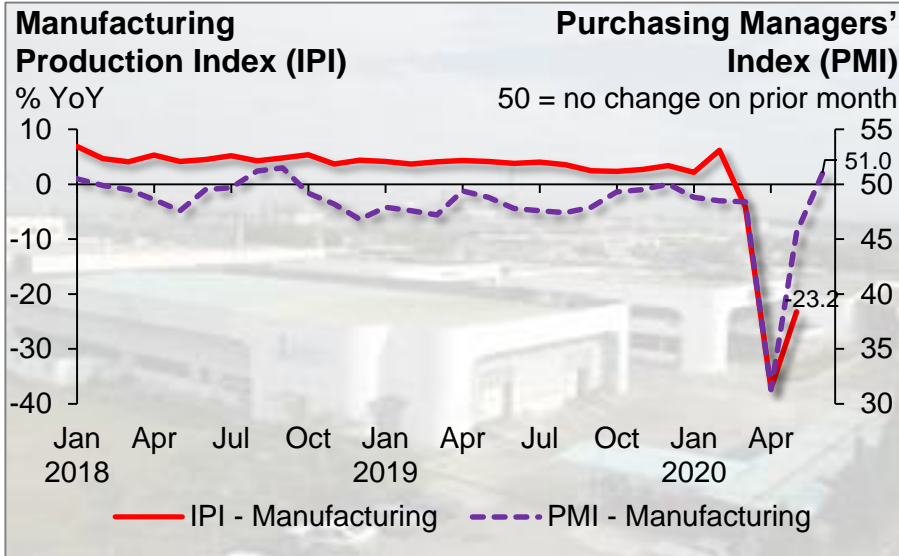
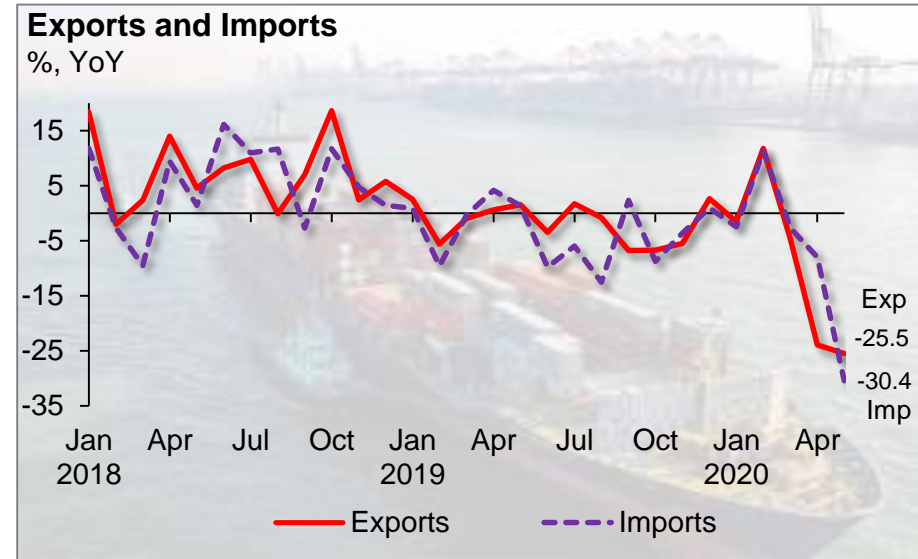
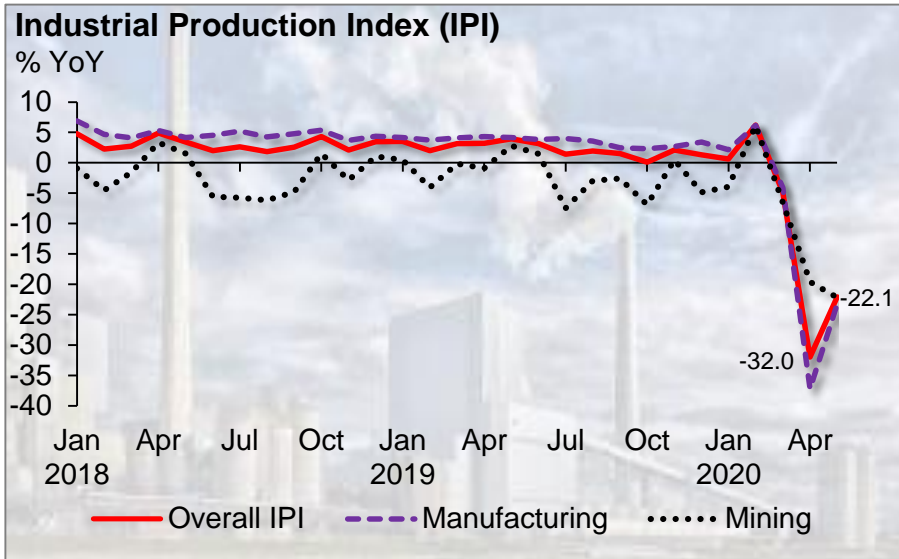
■ Domestic ■ International → Total



- 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

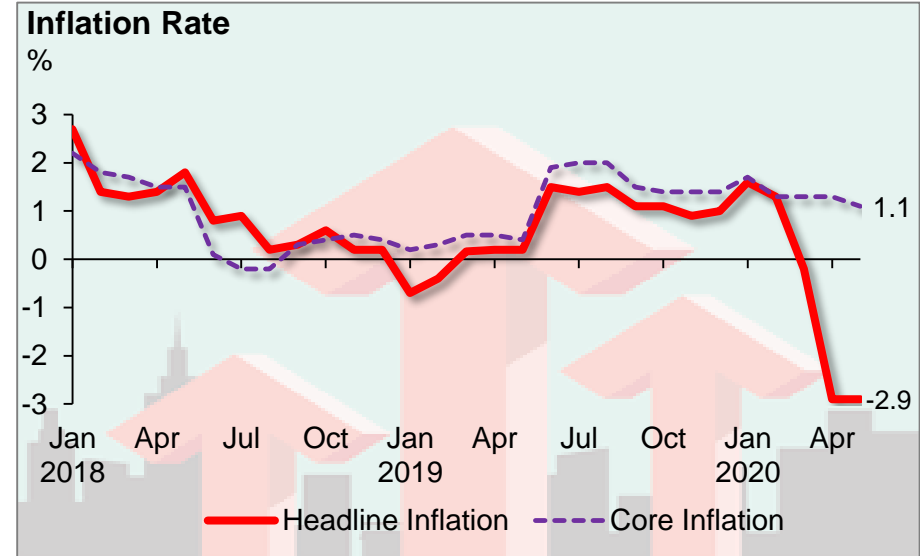
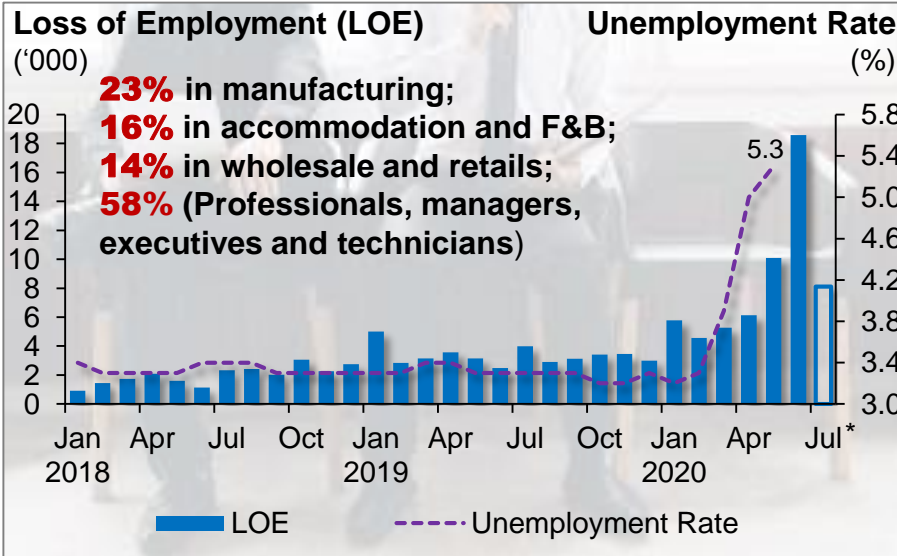
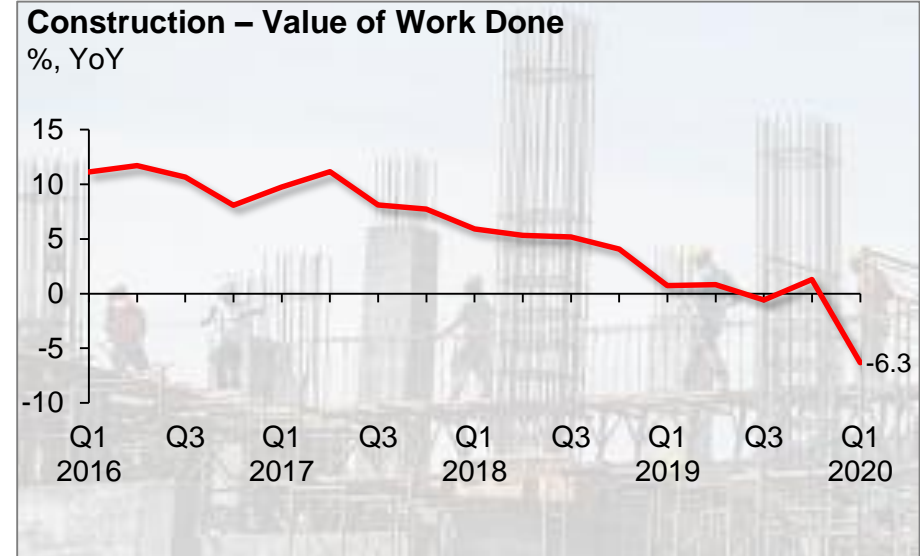
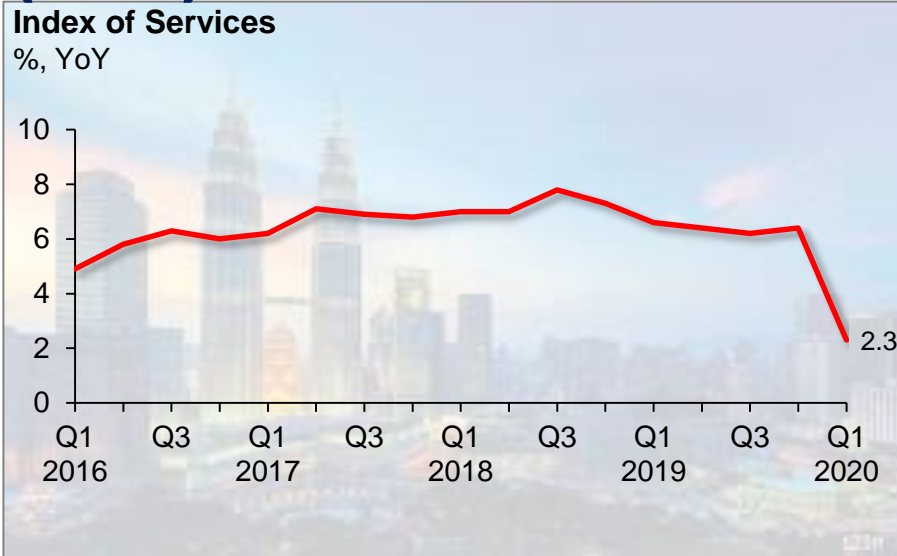
Source: BNM; MAHB

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.)



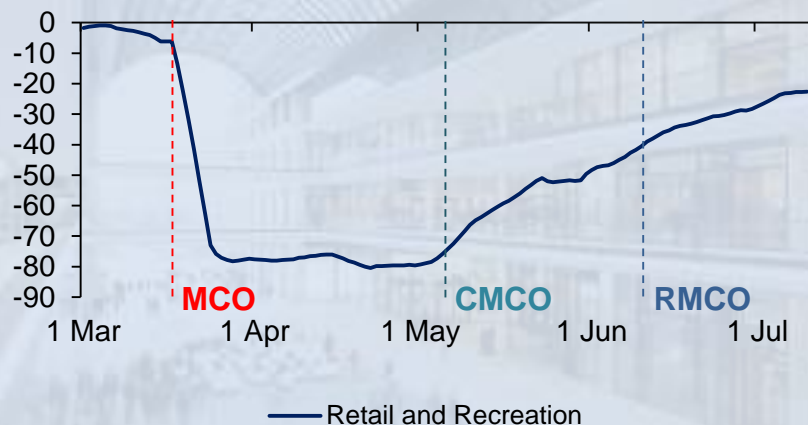
Source: DOSM; PERKESO

* As of 11 Jul

Reopening economy: Malaysia's mobility tracker

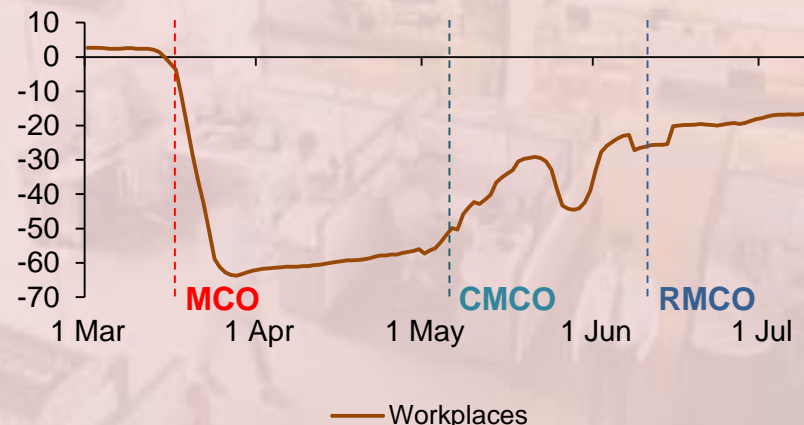
Time spent in retail and recreation

%, 7-day moving average



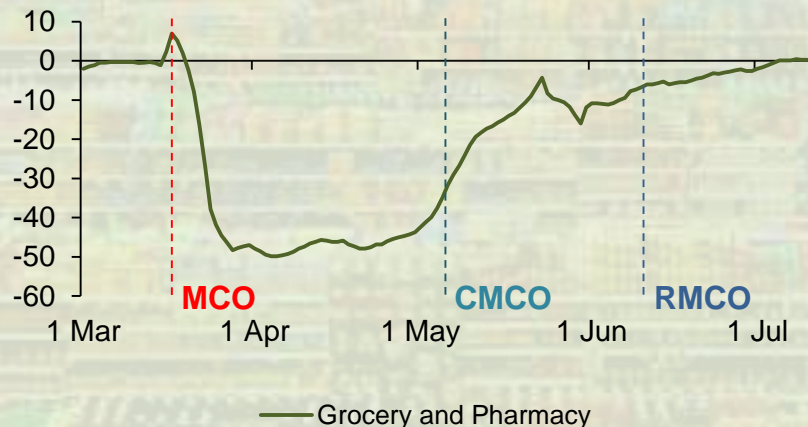
Time spent in workplaces

%, 7-day moving average



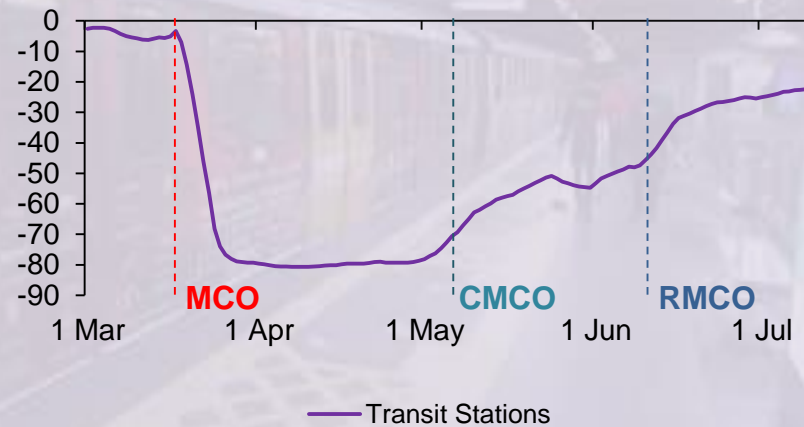
Time spent in grocery and pharmacy

%, 7-day moving average



Time spent in transit stations

%, 7-day moving average






Source: Google Mobility

The Malaysian Economy

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



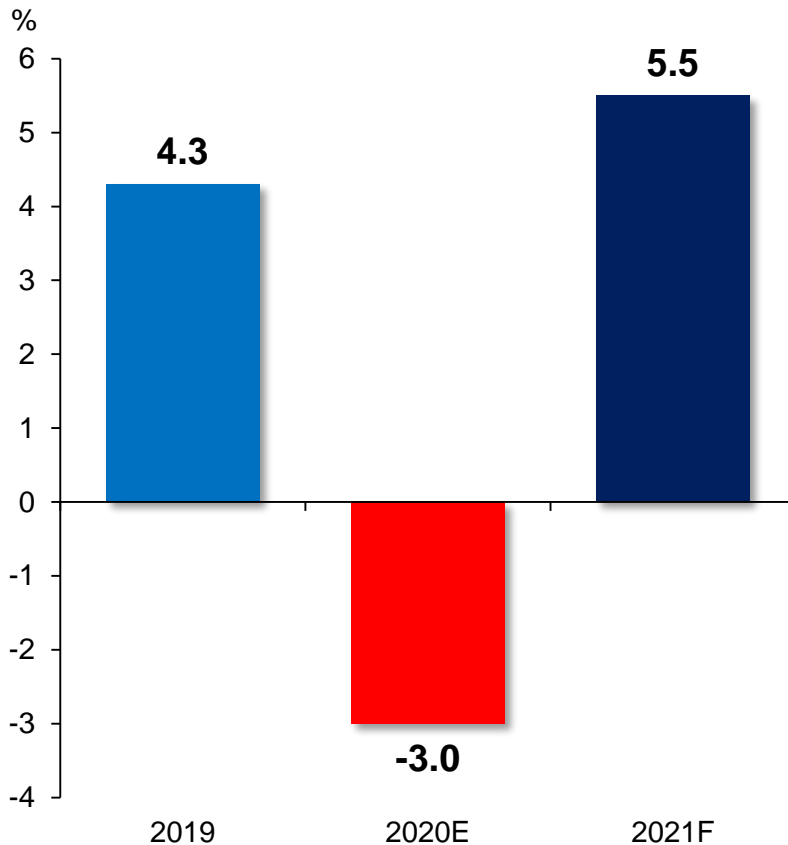
Malaysia's economic growth scenarios for 2020-2021*

Scenario	Projected GDP growth in 2020	Projected GDP growth in 2021
Upside  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global growth stabilisation and recovery • COVID-19 outbreak is contained in 1H 2020. Hopeful for a vaccine in 2021 • Monetary and fiscal stimulus help to cushion the dampening impact 	-1.5%	6.5%
Base Case  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A prolonged COVID-19 outbreak disrupted supply chains and dampened domestic demand • Financial turbulence • Fiscal and monetary stimulus help to ease the magnitude of impact 	-3.0%	5.5%
Downside  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deeper global recession • Deepening impact from a prolonged COVID-19 outbreak • Sharp correction in equities and commodities market • Ineffective monetary and fiscal stimulus 	-7.0%	2.0%

* SERC's estimates

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

Real GDP Growth



Source: DOSM; SERC

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

Set improving expectations in 2H 2020

January – June (1H) 2020

July – December (2H) 2020

**Bear the brunt
of MCO**



Production capacity during an initial phase of MCO
Essential sector: 40-50%
Non essential sector: 0%



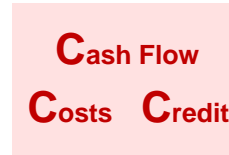
Positive carry through effect from reopening & PENJANA



Gradual restoration of confidence



Easing pace of retrenchment



Businesses slowly recouping revenue loss



Domestic tourism and inbound travel revive



Consumers adjusting to new normal



Lagged impact of interest rate cuts (125 bps will add 1.0% pts to GDP growth)



Exports pick up gradually



Exports trashed

Great Lockdown in major trading partners Supply chain disruptions



Cautious sentiment

Jobs and income losses Spent only on basic necessities

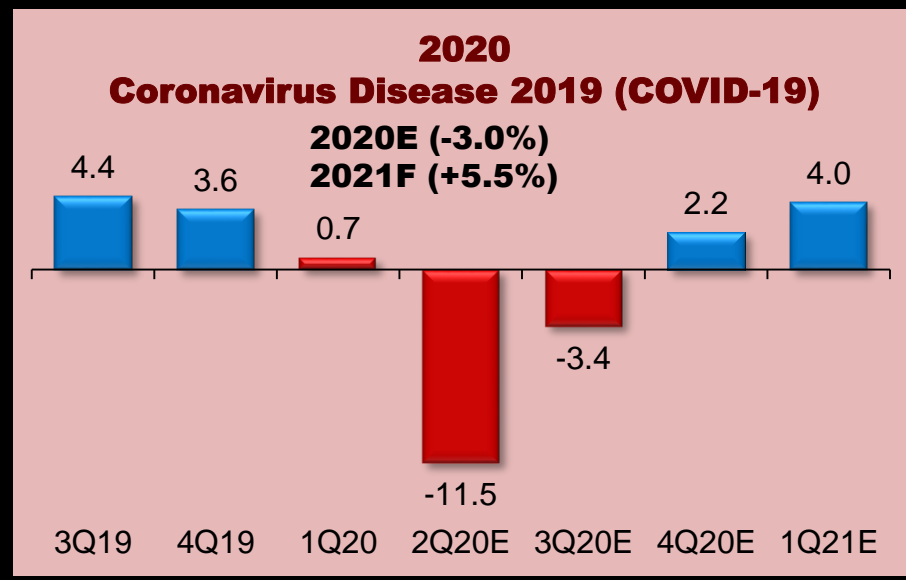
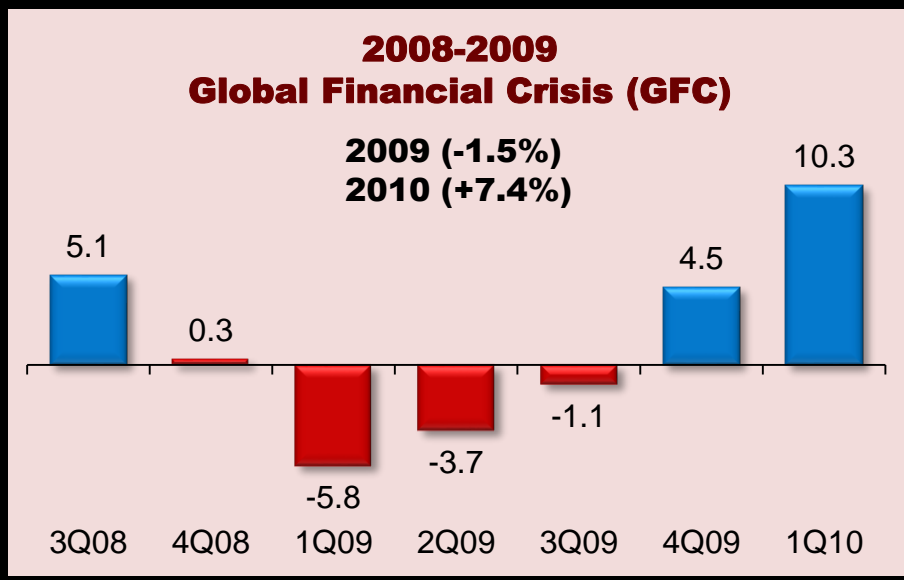
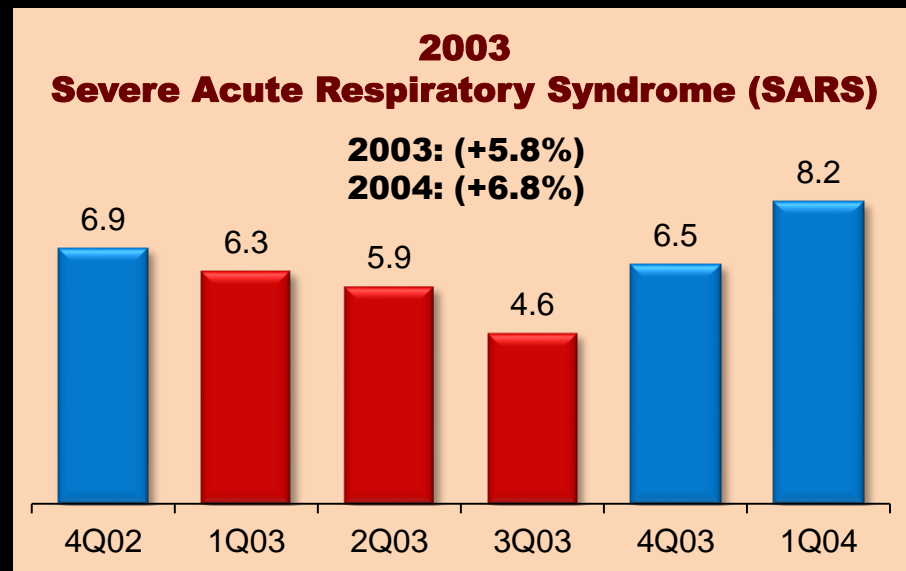
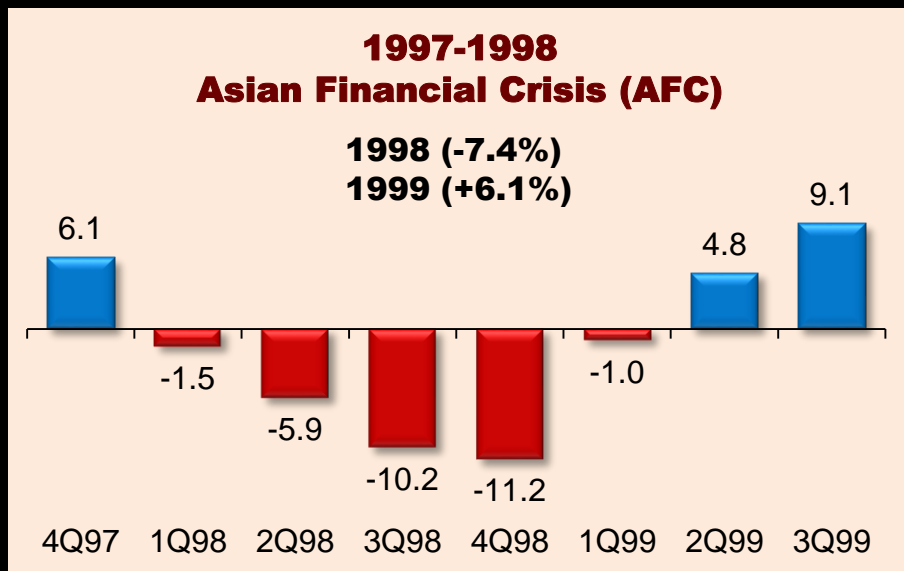


PRIHATIN measures provide a temporary relief

CMCO - RMCO

Allow economic sectors to restart in stages since May

The duration and depth of economic recession and recovery

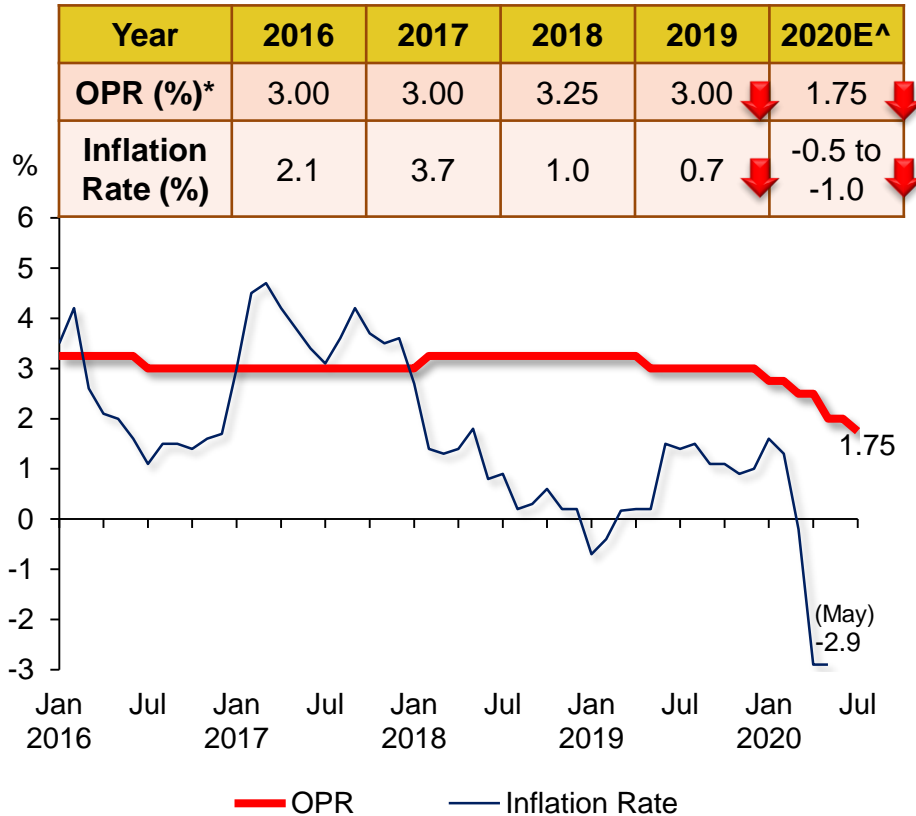


Source: BNM; DOSM; SERC

Accommodative interest rates to accelerate recovery

- 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.

Lower oil prices-induced deflation in 2020

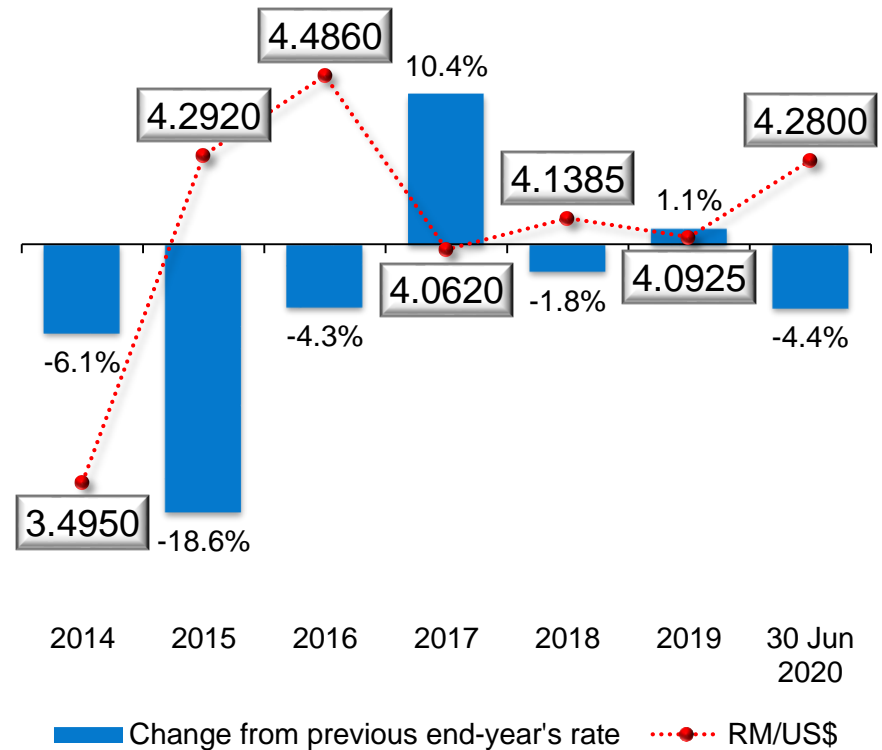


* OPR as at end-period

[^] denotes SERC's estimates

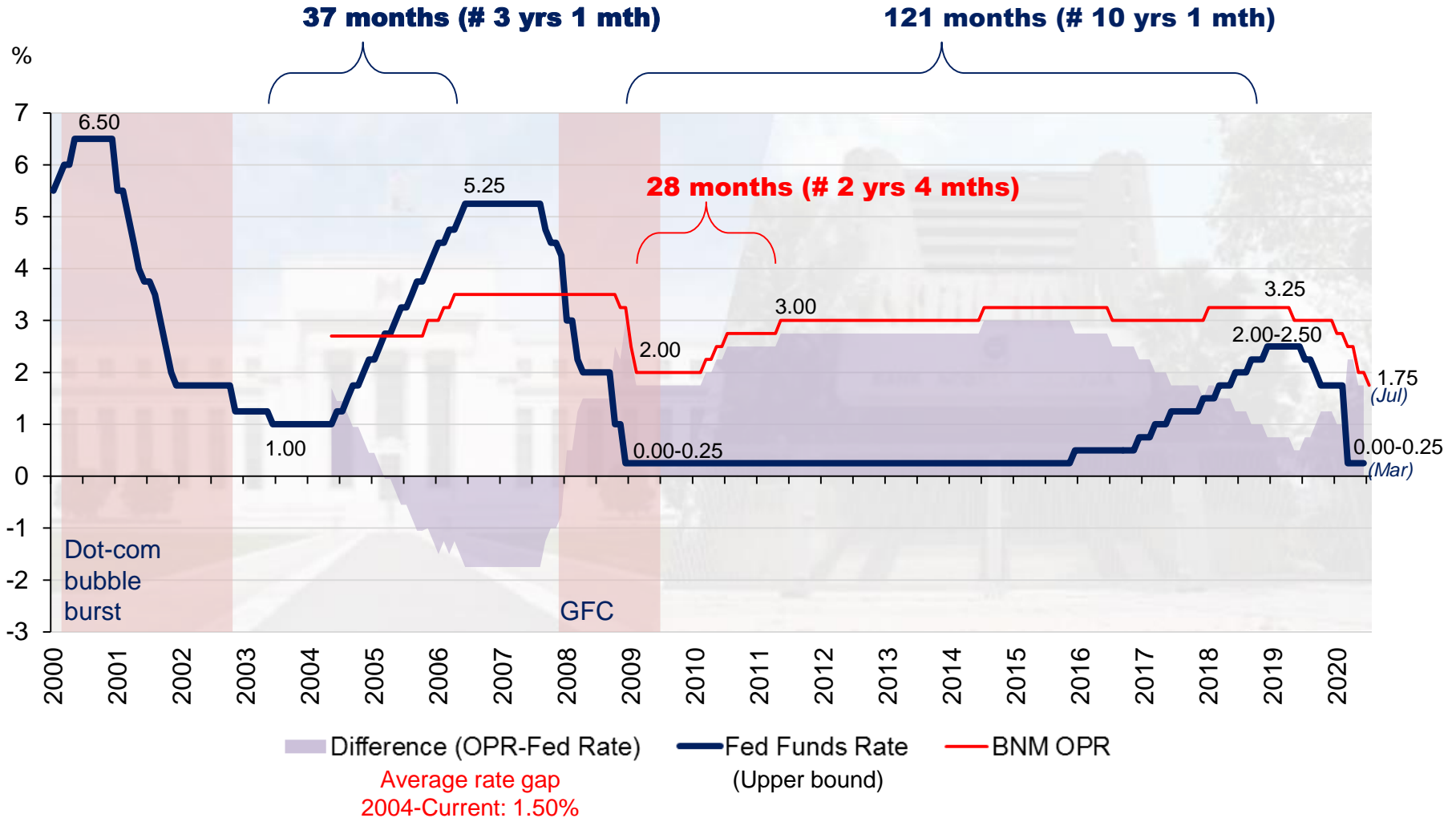
Source: DOSM; BNM

Ringgit outlook: RM4.30 per US dollar at end-2020



Note: Exchange rate (12:00 rate) as at end-period

Keeping ammunition for buffer should the threat to economic growth accelerate

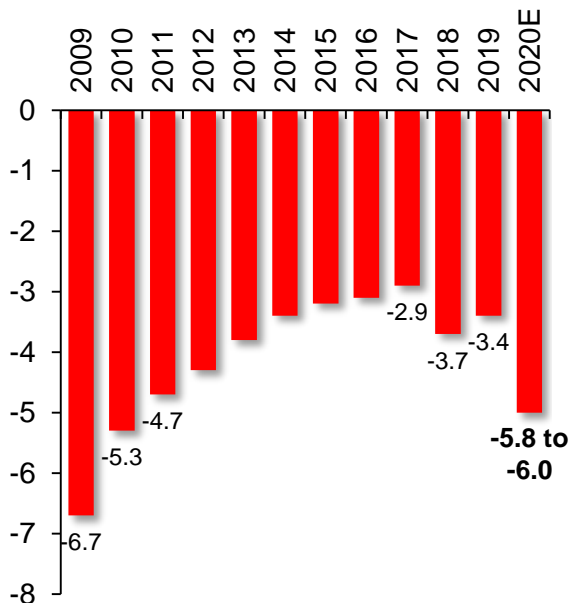


Source: Fed; BNM

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
% to GDP



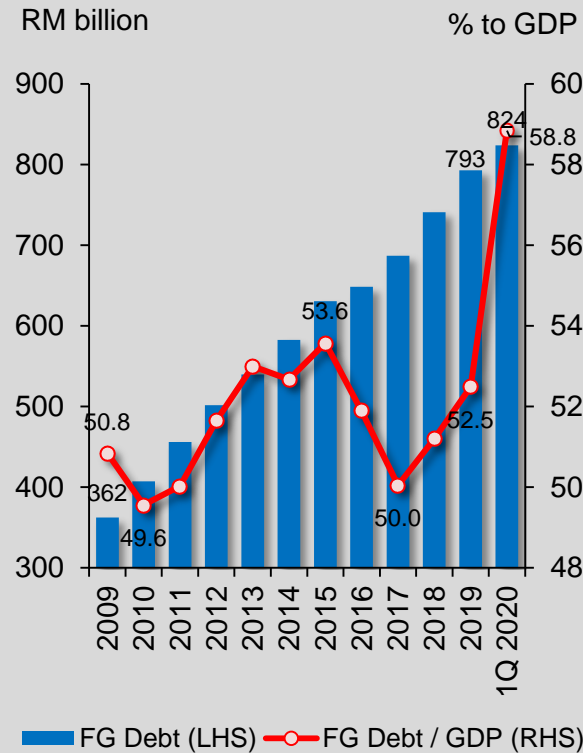
Sovereign ratings

- S&P: **A- (Negative)**
- Moody's: **A3 (Stable)**
- Fitch: **A- (Negative)**

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

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 GLICs 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

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 (MGS, MGII, MITB)	Not exceeding 55% of GDP Loan (Local) Act 1959 and Government Funding Act 1983	
Offshore borrowing ceiling	Not exceeding RM35 billion External Loans Act 1963	Self-imposed limit of 55% of GDP
Issuances of conventional Treasury bills	Not exceeding RM10 billion Treasury Bills (Local) Act 1946	
Limit of debt service charges (DSC)	Allocation for debt service charges are charged items and not required to be tabled to Parliament Federal Constitution Article 98 (1)(b)	DSC ≤ 15% of revenue or operating expenditure

➤ Debt-to-GDP ratio should not be a cause for alarm for now

- 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

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



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**



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) | – 4 th Malaysia Industrial Master Plan (2021-2030) |
| 6 Nov 2020 | – 2021 National Budget |
| Jan 2021 | – 12 th 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



UNLOCKING NEW SOURCES OF GROWTH



REINFORCE COMPETITIVENESS AND PRODUCTIVITY NEXUS



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 open and competitive tender

Fiscal transparency

Strengthen governance

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 2019 : **FDI (40%) = DDI (60%)**

Ease cost of doing business



Enhance business friendly and competitive place of doing business and investing

DDI = Domestic Direct Investment

1



Corporate Tax Rate

from current's

Ordinary

24%

SME

17%*

* For first RM500,000 chargeable income

2

Review and upgrade:

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



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)

For example:

Big data centres

5G infrastructure

Charging stations for new energy vehicles (NEVs)

Defense technology

Solar energy

Healthcare

Medical devices

Aerospace

Digitalisation and e-Commerce

RM21.0 billion National Fiberisation and Connectivity Plan (NFCP) (2019-2023)

Industry4WRD Plan (2018-2025)

Malaysia's Digitalisation Plan

Malaysia's National e-commerce Strategic Roadmap



Smart agriculture – Food – Halal industry

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





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谢谢
THANK YOU

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