

Malaysia's March exports up 8.4%, trade surplus widens
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Malaysia's exports in March rose by 8.4% from a year earlier, in line with expectations, and the trade surplus that month was significantly higher than expected, data showed today.

Imports rose 0.5% from a year ago, below expectations, due to a 3.4% drop in intermediate goods. A Reuters poll forecast a 8.5% rise in exports and a 5.2% rise in imports from March 2013.

The March trade surplus was RM9.6 billion, according to data from the Statistics Department. Fourteen economists had forecast a surplus of RM7.4 billion, compared to RM10.4 billion in February.

Exports to China, traditionally Malaysia's largest trade partner though second to Singapore in March, decreased 1.8% from a year earlier due to a decline in commodity shipments. – Reuters, May 7, 2014.

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