



# MALAYSIAN RUBBER BOARD

## D I G E S T

A monthly publication of the Malaysian Rubber Board

2020  
JULY

## Natural Rubber Market Review

### July

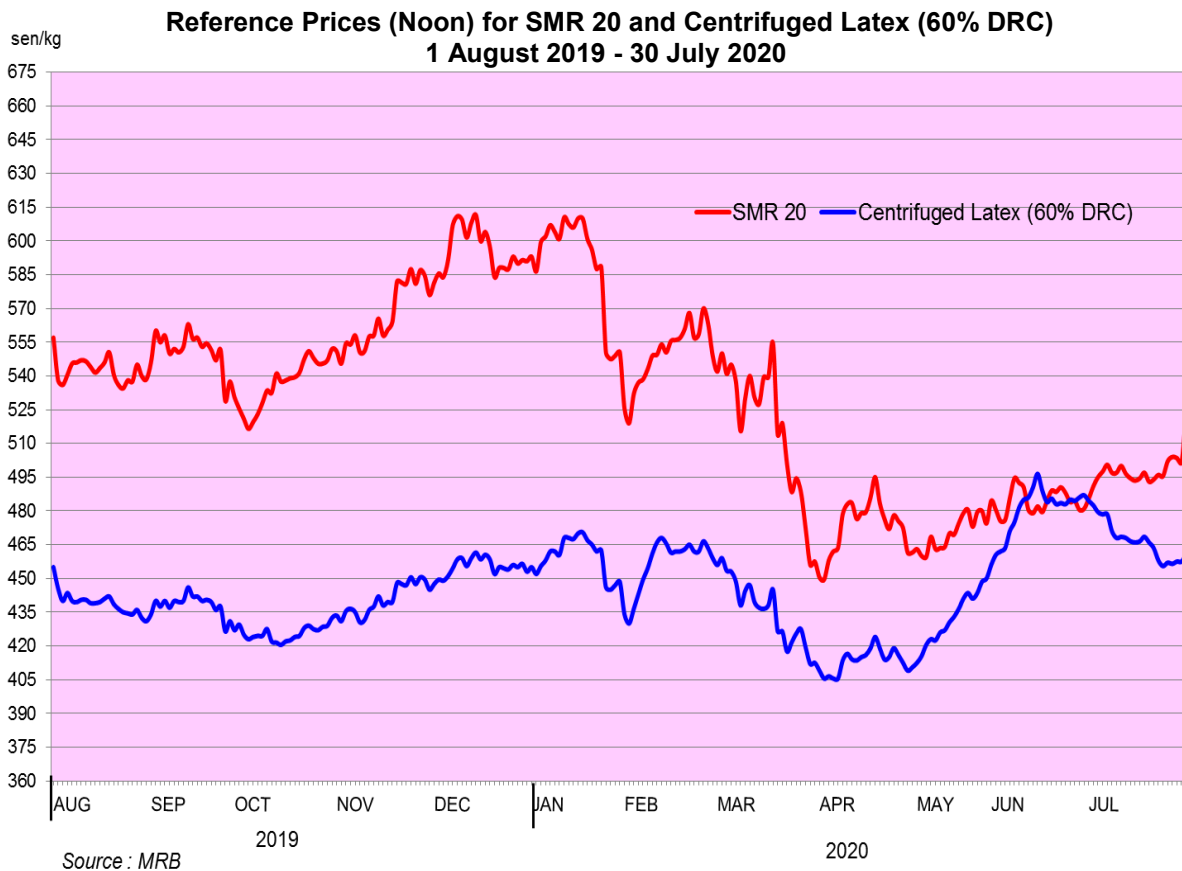
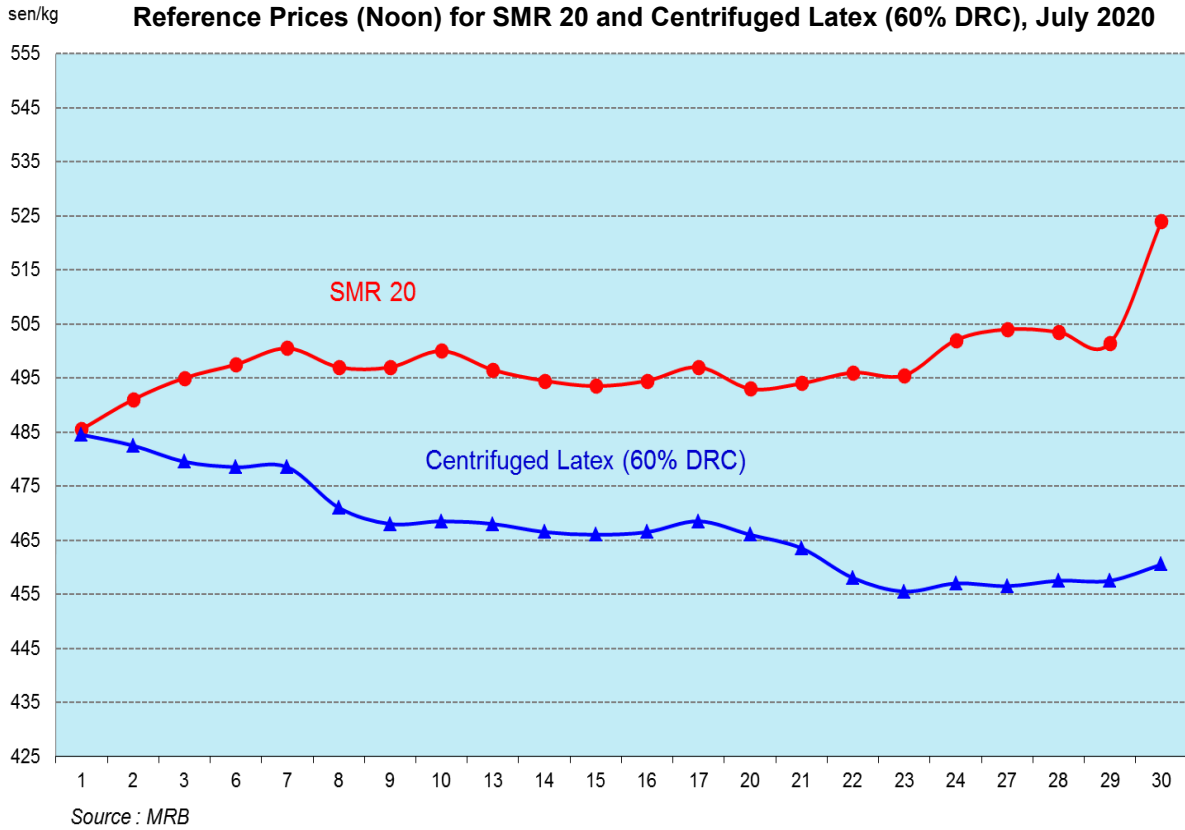
In July, the Kuala Lumpur rubber market started the month on a firm note where SMR 20 rose to the highest level since March 2020, taking a cue from regional rubber futures markets following better-than-expected China's economic data. However, prices thereafter drifted within a tight range as worries over the rising number of COVID-19 cases globally continued to add uncertainty to the demand of commodities. Prices rebounded towards the end of month, supported by firmer advice from regional rubber futures markets and benchmark crude oil prices following optimism on the recovery in China's manufacturing activity for July 2020. Compared with that on 30 June 2020, the price of SMR 20 increased sharply by 43.0 sen/kg or 8.9% to close at 524.00 sen/kg. Meanwhile, latex concentrate closed at 460.50 sen/kg, down by 26.5 sen/kg or 5.4% due to technical correction by market players after the prices rose sharply in June following rising demand. Price movements of selected grades of rubber in July are shown in Table 1.

At the beginning, the market was boosted by stronger advices from regional rubber futures markets after Chinese equities market soared to its highest in five years on 7 July 2020 due to optimism of a speedy economic recovery in China. China's economy grew by 3.2% in the second quarter after it shrank by 6.8% in the first quarter of 2020 caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The uptrend throughout the month was supported by positive news about the development of a potential COVID-19 vaccine. Market players also took cue of the encouraging factors in China including updates in auto sales, industrial profits and manufacturing data. According to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM), China's auto sales grew marginally by 1.8% in June over a year earlier. However, sales were off 22.4% for the first half of 2020 as economy was shut down to fight the COVID-19. On the other hand, China's industrial profits in June rose at the fastest pace since March 2019 at 11.5% year-on-year, raising optimism over the prospects of an economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. It was reported that China's manufacturing Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) expanded at a faster pace in July to 51.1 from 50.9 in June, supported by accelerated production and recovering demand. The market reacted positively to the declining

**Table 1: Reference Prices (Noon) of SMR CV, SMR 20 and Centrifuged Latex (60% DRC), July 2020**

	SMR CV		SMR 20		Centrifuged Latex (60% DRC)	
	sen/kg	RM/tonne	sen/kg	RM/tonne	sen/kg	RM/tonne
<b>Highest</b>	827.50	8,275.00	524.00	5,240.00	484.50	4,845.00
<b>Lowest</b>	779.00	7,790.00	485.50	4,855.00	455.50	4,555.00
<b>Average</b>	798.66	7,986.60	497.86	4,978.60	467.20	4,672.00
<b>Change from the last day of the previous month</b>	-44.00	-440.00	43.00	430.00	-26.50	-265.00

Note: \* Reference price of Centrifuged Latex, 60% DRC  
Source: Malaysian Rubber Board



Malaysian natural rubber (NR) production as reported by Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) on 15 July. Production of NR decreased 39.2% in May 2020 to 21,044 tonnes as compared to 34,616 tonnes in the previous month. Comparison year-on-year also showed the decrease of 52.7% as compared to the same month in the previous year. Stocks of NR started to decline in May 2020 by 8.2% to 295,146 tonnes compared to 321,413 tonnes in April 2020.

Nevertheless, the gains during the month were capped by dull and featureless conditions that prevailed in the regional rubber futures markets as the resurgence of COVID-19 cases globally clouded optimism about a swift economic recovery. The market also took cue from declining Singapore Exchange (SGX) SICOM rubber futures as Singapore's economy slipped into recession in the second quarter of 2020, contracting by a record of 41.2% from the previous quarter. Market sentiment was pressured by weaker global market sentiment following renewed concerns about diplomatic tension between the United States and China. Market prices was also affected by the stronger ringgit. The ringgit strengthened in July to RM4.2425-4.2870, as compared with June at RM4.2540 - 4.3230.

## Outlook

Prices are expected to fluctuate within a narrow range in the near term as worries over the resurgence COVID-19 cases globally will likely limit a recovery in demand. The market remained uncertain due to a general lack of firm direction from supply-demand fundamentals. The Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries (ANRPC) in its latest Natural Rubber Trends & Statistics June 2020 released on 3 July 2020 anticipated that the world production of NR in 2020 to reach 13.199 million tonnes, down 4.5% from the previous year. Meanwhile, the world consumption outlook for 2020 was revised down to 12.668 million tonnes, down 7.5% from the previous year. Prices are also expected to take cues from the performance of ringgit, crude oil prices and regional rubber futures markets. Market operators are expected to monitor the economic impact from the resurgence of COVID-19 cases coupled with the developments of the U.S-China diplomatic relations for further cues.

## News Briefs

### ***Post-pandemic recovery for the Asian rubber market***

Flexed by the surging demand for personal protective equipment (PPE) to manage COVID-19, consumption for gloves and other rubber based healthcare products has partially offset the fall in demand for NR from the automotive/tyre manufacturing sector, especially in Malaysia and Thailand. With the abrupt fall in the demand for NR, both from domestic end-users and overseas buyers, the factories producing block rubber and centrifuged latex reduced the purchase of cup lump and field latex, compelling farmers to reduce or stop harvesting. However, the sector could see a reprieve by July, the report said, finding that until then, the monthly trends in world production show an indication of world production continuing along the current trend of falling prices/demand.

- *rubberjournalasia.com*, 1 Jul

### ***Oil demand to return to pre-pandemic levels by 2022, Goldman says, but unlikely to peak this decade***

In a research note published, analysts at Goldman Sachs estimated global oil demand would decline by 8% in 2020, rebound by 6% in 2021 and "fully recover" to pre-COVID-19 levels by 2022. It comes after oil prices staged a dramatic recovery in the three months through to June, notching their best quarterly performance in 30 years. Over the long term, analysts at the U.S. investment bank said they now believed oil demand would not peak before 2030.

- *cnbc.com*, 2 Jul

### ***ANRPC Releases Natural Rubber Trends & Statistics June 2020***

ANRPC in its Natural Rubber Trends & Statistics June 2020 anticipated that the world production of natural rubber (NR) in 2020 to reach 13.199 million tonnes, down 4.5% from the previous year, but marginally higher compared to 13.130 million tonnes in the May publication. Meanwhile, the world consumption outlook for 2020 was revised down to 12.668 million tonnes, down 7.5% from the previous year based on the

downward revision made by China.

- [anrpc.org](http://anrpc.org), 6 Jul

### **EIA raises Brent crude oil price outlook**

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) raised its price outlook for Brent crude to USD41 per barrel for the second half of 2020—this is USD4 per barrel higher than the EIA's forecast last month. In its Short-Term Energy Outlook (STEs expectation that global oil inventories will continue to decline in the second half of the year and throughout next year. "EIA expects high inventory levels and surplus crude oil production capacity will limit upward price pressures in the coming months, but as inventories decline into 2021, those upward price pressures will increase," the EIA said in a summary of its monthly report.

- [oilprice.com](http://oilprice.com), 7 Jul

### **Analysis: Natural rubber demand in danger**

COVID-19 is not only a threat to human health but also to the economy, including the natural rubber sector. Global natural rubber import quantity in the period from January to April was recorded at 2 million tonnes, or declining by 19.7% year-on-year (y-o-y). Natural rubber import quantity from China, as the biggest consumer, weakened by 4.9% y-o-y in the same period. Similarly, natural rubber import quantity from the United States and Japan also dropped 9.2% y-o-y and 13% y-o-y, respectively. From the producer side, all top four natural rubber producers experienced declining performance. Natural rubber export quantity from Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam decreased 11.3% y-o-y, 8.3% y-o-y and 54.4% y-o-y respectively from January to April.

- [thejakartapost.com](http://thejakartapost.com), 8 Jul

### **GRI unveils rubber collection center**

As part of its GreenX Circle initiative, industrial tyre manufacturer GRI has opened a new natural rubber collection center in the Monaragala District of Sri Lanka, to support local rubber tree planters. The company said this will enable rural farmers to

earn fair value for their natural rubber product. This is a concept that GRI has created and launched at Agritechnica as the GreenX Circle connecting rubber farmers from our motherland with farmers across the world," said Dr Mahesha Ranasoma, CEO of GRI.

- [tyretechnologyinternational.com](http://tyretechnologyinternational.com), 7 Jul

### **COVID-19 pandemic has cost the world's economy USD3.8 trillion**

The COVID-19 pandemic and measures to slow its spread cost the global economy USD3.8 trillion, and put 147 million people out of work, a new study shows. In the first work to attempt to quantify the impact of the pandemic, researchers from the University of Sydney created a detailed model of the global economy. The sector to be hit the hardest is the travel industry - due to cancelled flights and countries closing their borders to visitors - particularly in Asia, Europe and the US.

- [dailymail.co.uk](http://dailymail.co.uk), 9 Jul

### **Continental's dandelion rubber tyres recognised for sustainability**

Continental's Urban Taraxagum bicycle tyre from made from dandelion rubber has been recognised with two awards. The Red Dot Design award was awarded for the design of the tread of the tyre, which is based on the cell shape of the dandelion and Focus E-Bike has commended the sustainability of rubber extraction from dandelions.

- [bike-eu.com](http://bike-eu.com), 10 Jul

### **Boosting rubber tappers' incomes through pineapple and mushrooms**

The Ministry of Primary Industries and Commodities (MPIC) will come up with a suitable integrated farming model to enable rubber smallholders to earn extra income through other crops rather than just depending on their main harvest. "Among the integrated crops proposed are pineapple and mushroom. This is important as a rubber tapper's income can be erratic, currently at around RM1,000 for each acre," said

Deputy Primary Industries Minister Wee Jock Seng.

- *freemalaysia.com*, 11 Jul

### **India to set up e-trading platform for NR marketing**

India's Rubber Board is setting up an e-trading platform for natural rubber (NR) to bring transparency and visibility for buyers and sellers in the market. To function as an alternate marketing channel to physical transactions, the platform is being established in alignment with the Indian government's policy to initiate e-trading for all agricultural commodities, the board said.

- *rubbernews.com*, 13 Jul

### **Turkey's auto industry produces over 518,700 vehicles in H1**

Automakers in Turkey produced 518,727 vehicles, including automobiles, light commercial vehicles, and tractors, in the first half of 2020, according to a sectoral report. Driven by the COVID-19 pandemic, auto production slipped 29% year-on-year (y-o-y) in January-June, the Automotive Manufacturers Association said on 12 July. Exporting 77.5% of its production in the first six months of this year, the industry saw 37% drop in auto exports with 402,179 units.

- *thestar.com.my*, 14 Jul

### **Singapore economy enters recession, second quarter GDP plunges record 41.2%**

Singapore's economy slipped into recession in the second quarter, contracting by a record 41.2% from the previous three months and is facing its biggest slump ever this year as COVID-19 lockdown steps hammer the trade-reliant city-state. Economists polled by Reuters had expected a 37.4% slump, but the pandemic took a heavy toll on the construction sector, which plunged 95.6%.

- *reuters.com*, 14 Jul

### **China June exports unexpectedly rise 0.5% year-on-year, imports up 2.7%**

China's exports in June unexpectedly rose 0.5% from a year earlier, and imports increased 2.7%, customs data showed. Analysts in a Reuters poll had forecast exports would fall 1.5% from a year earlier after a 3.3% drop in May. Imports were estimated to have contracted 10.0%, versus a decline of 16.7% in May. China posted a trade surplus of USD46.42 billion last month, compared with the poll's forecast for a USD58.60 billion surplus and USD62.93 billion surplus in May.

- *reuters.com*, 14 Jul

### **'It will take the sector much time to recover', rubber producers reducing load**

In the first quarter of 2020, according to Rosstat data on the release of important products, domestic enterprises produced 404,000 tonnes of synthetic rubbers (SR) in primary forms, which is by 0.7% less than in the previous year's same period. In 2019, the output of all types of SR in Russia amounted to 1,318,000 tonnes or decreased 5% by 2018, the consumption decreased to 394,000 tonnes, or 16% by 2018. The decline in production reflects a global trend that has increased with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic a decline in demand for rubbers. In March, the production of synthetic rubbers in the world decreased by 6.6%, reported American Chemistry Council (ACC).

- *realnoevremya.com*, 14 Jul

### **Production of natural rubber decreased 39.2% in May 2020**

The monthly rubber census conducted for the reference month of May 2020 found that production of natural rubber (NR) decreased 39.2% in May 2020 to 21,044 tonnes as compared to 34,616 tonnes in the previous month. Comparison year on year also showed the decrease of 52.7% as compared to the same month in the previous year. Stocks of NR started to decline in May 2020 by 8.2% to 295,146 tonnes compared to 321,413 tonnes in April 2020. Exports of Malaysia's NR amounted 33,780 tonnes, decreased by 16.8% against 40,596 tonnes in April 2020. Rubber gloves remained the

major export item with an export value in May 2020 was RM2.13 billion compared to RM1.98 billion in April 2020. Total domestic consumption for natural rubber (NR) was 39,692 tonnes, increased 10.5% as compared to the previous month. Rubber gloves industry dominates the use of NR with 33,679 tonnes or 84.9% from the total domestic consumption.

- *dosm.gov.my*, 15 Jul

### ***ITC votes unanimously to continue tyre imports investigation***

The U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) is moving forward with antidumping and countervailing duty investigations into imports of passenger and light truck tyres from South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam that allegedly are being sold in the U.S. at less than fair value. The ITC investigations will move into the next phase after the agency's commissioners voted unanimously that there is a "reasonable indication" that the U.S. tyre industry is being "materially injured" as a result of these imports.

- *rubbernews.com*, 15 Jul

### ***Firestone begins conditional rubber purchase from local farmers***

After months of temporary halt to the purchase of rubber, the management of Firestone Liberia, through its purchase department, has announced that the company will officially commence rubber purchase from local farmers. This announcement is expected to spark the rush for farmers to begin taking their rubber to purchasing stations as they have since been parking the product and anxiously waiting to hear such an announcement from the only purchaser in the country. However, the company in its announcement also informed rubber farmers that it will not purchase much rubber as was in the past.

- *factiva.com*, 15 Jul

### ***China's economy rebounds in second quarter after steep slump, consumption and investment still weak***

China's economy returned to growth in the second-quarter after a deep slump at the start of

the year, as lockdown measures ended and policymakers stepped up stimulus steps to combat the shock from the COVID-19 crisis. Gross domestic product (GDP) rose 3.2% in the second-quarter from a year earlier, the National Bureau of Statistics said, faster than the 2.5% forecast by analysts in a Reuters poll, but it is still the weakest expansion on record.

- *reuters.com*, 16 Jul

### ***China auto sales off 22.4% in first half of 2020***

According to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM), China's auto sales rose 1.8% in June over a year earlier but fell by double digits for the first half of 2020 after the country shut down to fight the COVID-19. June sales of SUVs, sedans and minivans in the industry's biggest global market rose to 1.8 million. For the six months through June, sales were off 22.4% from a year ago. Total vehicle sales, including trucks and buses, rose 11.6% in June to 2.3 million.

- *techxplore.com*, 17 Jul

### ***China industrial output rises 4.8% year-on-year in June; retail sales, investment fall***

China's industrial output rose 4.8% in June from a year earlier, data showed, expanding for the third straight month and offering some relief to an economy trying to regain its footing from the shock of the COVID-19 outbreak earlier in the year. Retail sales fell 1.8% on-year, much worse than a predicted 0.3% growth, after a 2.8% drop in May. Fixed asset investment fell 3.1% in the first half of the year from the same period last year.

- *reuters.com*, 16 Jul

### ***China's economy will continue recovery in second half: stats bureau***

China's economy will continue its recovery in the second half of the year, although the impact from the COVID-19 pandemic on the world economy would create some challenges for its growth, the statistics bureau said. China will maintain flexibility in economic policy, statistics bureau

spokeswoman Liu Aihua told reporters.

- *reuters.com*, 16 Jul

### **Steps taken to ease burden due to low commodity prices**

Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) Datuk Dr Mohd Khairuddin Aman Razali said one of the measures is to provide smallholders with agricultural input assistance under the Prihatin 2020 Economic Stimulus Package, amounting to RM3,000 for one hectare, which is given on a one-off basis through issuance of vouchers. For those in the rubber plantation sector, Mohd Khairuddin said the government is now introducing 'RRIMniaga Application' that can be used by licensees to record rubber transactions to speed up the process of applying Rubber Production Incentives from the Malaysian Rubber Board. "The government also implements the fixed pricing mechanism by providing an allocation of RM6.4 million as working capital to the cooperatives for the purpose of transactions involving rubber.

- *theborneopost.com*, 16 Jul

### **EU new car sales fall 22% in June**

New passenger car registrations throughout the European Union (EU) fell again in June, a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Registration fell 22.3% to 949,722 units in June, marking a slight improvement over May, which saw demand plummet by 50%. Consumer demand has not fully recovered, even as auto dealerships opened after lockdowns, the European Automobile Manufacturers Association (EAMA) said on 16<sup>th</sup> July. Markets throughout the EU experienced significant declines in June.

- *rubbernews.com*, 16 Jul

### **COVID-19, electric vehicles to reshape Thailand's auto industry**

The COVID-19 pandemic is accelerating the remaking of Thailand's automotive industry, the backbone of Southeast Asia's auto sector, as factory shutdowns compound a shift toward electric vehicles. Thailand's auto-related

businesses, which employ 900,000, are reopening after months of COVID-19 shutdowns, promising relief for many laid-off workers. Global sales will rise 6% this year to 2.3 million vehicles before exploding to 45 million by 2030, the International Energy Agency forecasts (IEA).

- *reuters.com*, 17 Jul

### **Growers wary of Rubber Act's repeal; board says no proposal**

The rubber sector, which has about 1.3 million rubber farmers contributing to a 1-lakh crore industry, is in turmoil amid concerns that the Centre plans to repeal the Rubber Act of 1947. The very existence of the Rubber Board, the system of licensing, extension, replanting, research, subsidies, control over export-import and a host of other support systems depend on the Act. However, the Rubber Board chairman K.N. Raghavan said that the board had sent a proposal for amendments to the Rubber Act to make it reflect the current scenario. He had not received any proposal for the repeal of the Act.

- *thehindu.com*, 19 Jul

### **IMF explores more tools to help pandemic-hit countries**

The International Monetary Fund is exploring additional tools to provide financing to the world's poorest countries and others hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said. Georgieva told finance ministers and central bank governors from the Group of 20 major economies that they should consider extending a freeze in official bilateral debt service payments offered to the poorest countries beyond the end of the year, and work to promote greater private-sector participation.

- *thestar.com.my*, 19 Jul

### **Cambodia's rubber export up 18% in H1**

Cambodia exported 123,151 tons of dry rubber in the first half of 2020, up 18% compared to the same period last year, said a General Directorate of Rubber report. The kingdom made a gross revenue of 160.7 million U.S. dollars from exports

of the commodity during the January-June period this year, up 15% over the same period last year, the report said. According to the report, Cambodia has so far planted rubber trees on a total area of 404,701 hectares, in which the trees in 250,107 hectares, or 62%, have grown big enough to be tapped

- *xinhuanet.com*, 20 Jul

### ***Global economy on track to recover by 4Q20, barring COVID-19 spike before flu season***

The global economy is expected to return to pre-COVID-19 levels by the fourth quarter of 2020 (4Q20), with developed markets (DMs) recovering by 4Q21, said Morgan Stanley analysts in a 15 July report.

- *theedgemarkets.com*, 21 Jul

### ***World car registrations rebound slightly***

World car registrations in June 2020 were down 18.1% compared with the same month in 2019 at 6.36 million units, according to LMC Automotive. In the U.S., sales were lower by 26.2% in June, reaching 1.1 million units. By comparison, U.S. dealers sold 1.5 million units in June 2019. Meanwhile, LMC Automotive notes that China's sales hit the 2.2 million unit mark, an increase of 6% compared to May. June's figures also represent a slight increase from June 2019, when Chinese dealers sold 2.1 million units.

- *rubbernews.com*, 20 Jul

### ***Use of natural rubber in making roads to be extended this year***

The government will extend the use of natural rubber (NR) in road construction throughout the country this year, said Deputy Works Minister Datuk Eddin Syazlee Shith. He said this will be implemented through the RM140-million allocation under the Prihatin Rakyat Economic Stimulus Package (Prihatin). This will help to further diversify the use of local rubber and increase the income of smallholders.

- *theedgemarkets.com*, 20 Jul

### ***Global fluorine silicone rubber market is expected to reach USD232.00 million by 2027***

According to Statistics MRC, the Global Fluorine Silicone Rubber Market is accounted for USD129.12 million in 2019 and is expected to reach USD232.00 million by 2027 growing at a Compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.6% during the forecast period. Growing demand for both passenger and commercial vehicles and increasing commercial aircraft production are some of the factors propelling the growth of the market. However, the high cost of fluorine silicone rubber is hampering the market growth.

- *prnewswire.com*, 25 Jul

### ***ASEAN, China, Japan, South Korea to strengthen cooperation on combating COVID-19, prompting recovery***

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, China, Japan and South Korea (ASEAN+3) have agreed to promote effective cooperation in order to improve the capacity of coping with COVID-19, while minimizing its impact and promoting recovery and sustainable development. ASEAN suggested that China, Japan and South Korea enhance coordination in the research and production of vaccines against COVID-19, as well as in regional common efforts to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

- *theedgemarkets.com*, 27 Jul

### ***Pandemic hit to Japan's first-quarter business spending worse than first thought***

Japanese companies increased spending on plant and equipment in January-March by just 0.1% from the same period a year earlier, revised Ministry of Finance (MOF) data showed. The MOF data was revised down from a preliminary reading of a much sharper 4.3% increase in January-March. On a seasonally adjusted basis, capital expenditure rose 3.6% quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q).

- *reuters.com*, 27 Jul



***Eastern Thai province to become rubber trading centre for Eastern Economic Corridor manufacturing industry***

Rayong province in eastern Thailand will be turned into a rubber trading centre for manufacturing industry under the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) project, a top executive official said. Rubber Authority of Thailand (RAOT) Governor Nakorn Takaviraphat confirmed that Rayong will be promoted as the country's latest rubber trading center to accommodate rubber sheets and latex as raw materials for manufacturing and processing factories under the EEC project.

- *thestar.com.my*, 28 Jul

***China's tyre exports continue to decline in June***

China's tyre exports in June reached 36.3 million units, down 21.2% compared with a year ago. The value of exports in U.S. dollars fell 27.9% on the month to USD998 million, China's General Administration of Customs said. Weight of these exports dipped 20.7% to 460,000 metric tonnes. This is the third month in a row that such exports showed double-digit percentage decreases across the board, according to figures released by the Customs Office.

- *rubbernews.com*, 28 Jul

***IRSG: Global rubber demand to fall 12% in 2020***

Global rubber demand is expected to fall 12.6% year-over-year (y-o-y) to 25.2 million metric tonnes in 2020, according to the latest figures by the International Rubber Study Group (IRSG). The scenario expects global rubber demand to rebound by 7.9% in 2021, driven by a 6.9% recovery in the tyre sector and a 9.3% growth in the non-tyre sector. According to the WRIO, world natural rubber (NR) demand declined by 1% in 2019 to 13.6 million tonnes. Under the IMF scenario the growth is expected to decline by 11% in 2020, reaching 12.1 million tonnes.

- *rubbernews.com*, 29 Jul

***Fed leaves interest rates unchanged, remains committed to using full range of tools***

In a widely expected move, the Federal Reserve announced that interest rates will remain at near-zero levels amid the economic hardship imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Fed said it decided to maintain the target range for the federal funds rate at zero to 0.25 percent, where it has remained since an emergency rate cut on March 15. The central bank partly attributed the recent improvement in overall financial conditions to policy measures to support the economy and the flow of credit to U.S. households and businesses. The Fed also reiterated that it remains committed to using its full range of tools to support the U.S. economy in this challenging time.

- *nasdaq.com*, 29 Jul

***Malaysia's economy to recover gradually: DOSM***

The Malaysian economy will recover gradually in the months ahead, said the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM). This will mainly be supported by the performances of manufacturing sales and production, sales and volume of wholesale and retail trade and external trade. It reported that a significant improvement in business sentiment and rebound in operation activities had contributed to the 8.8% export growth in June to RM82.9 billion, resulting in a trade surplus of RM20.9 billion.

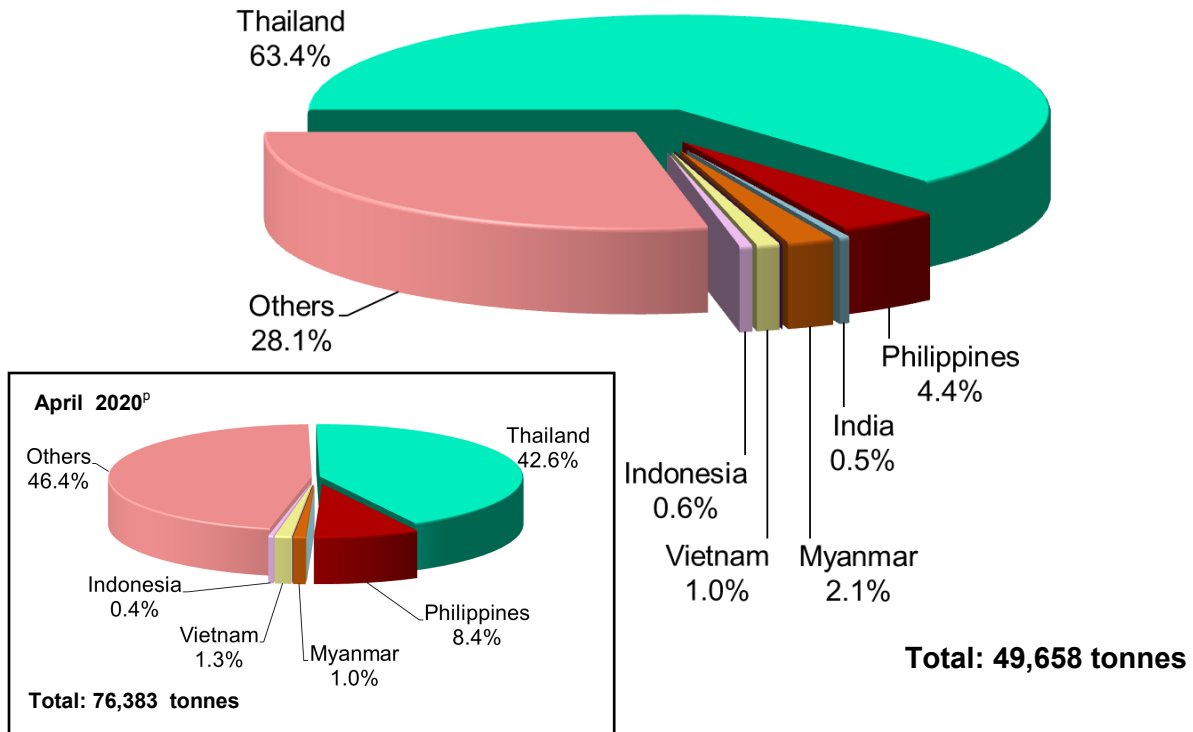
- *nst.com.my*, 30 Jul

***China's factories accelerate recovery in July as demand perks up***

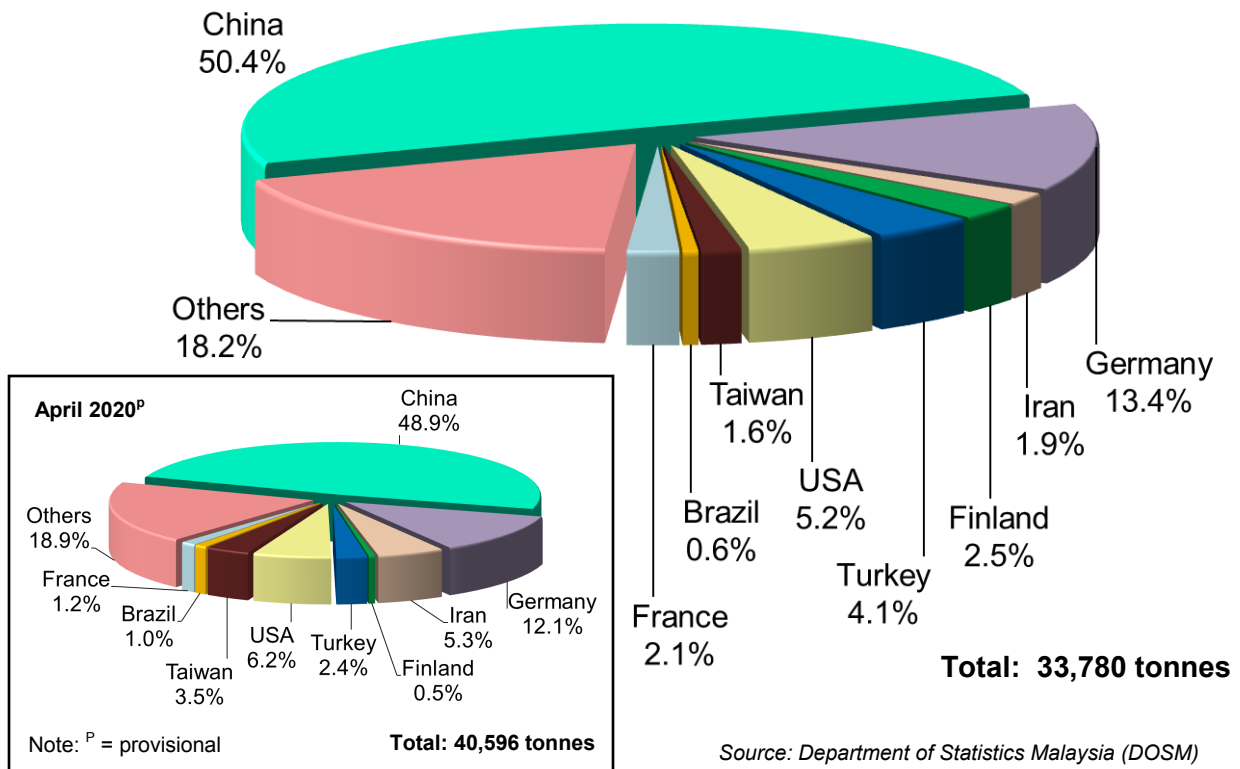
China's factories stepped up activity in July for a fifth straight month as improving prospects for electrical and pharmaceutical goods helped sustain a broader recovery from earlier COVID-19 shutdowns. The government's manufacturing Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) released, unexpectedly rose to 51.1 in July from June's 50.9. That was the highest reading since March and dashed analyst expectations for a fall to 50.7.

- *reuters.com*, 31 Jul

### Malaysia's NR Imports by Countries, May 2020<sup>P</sup>

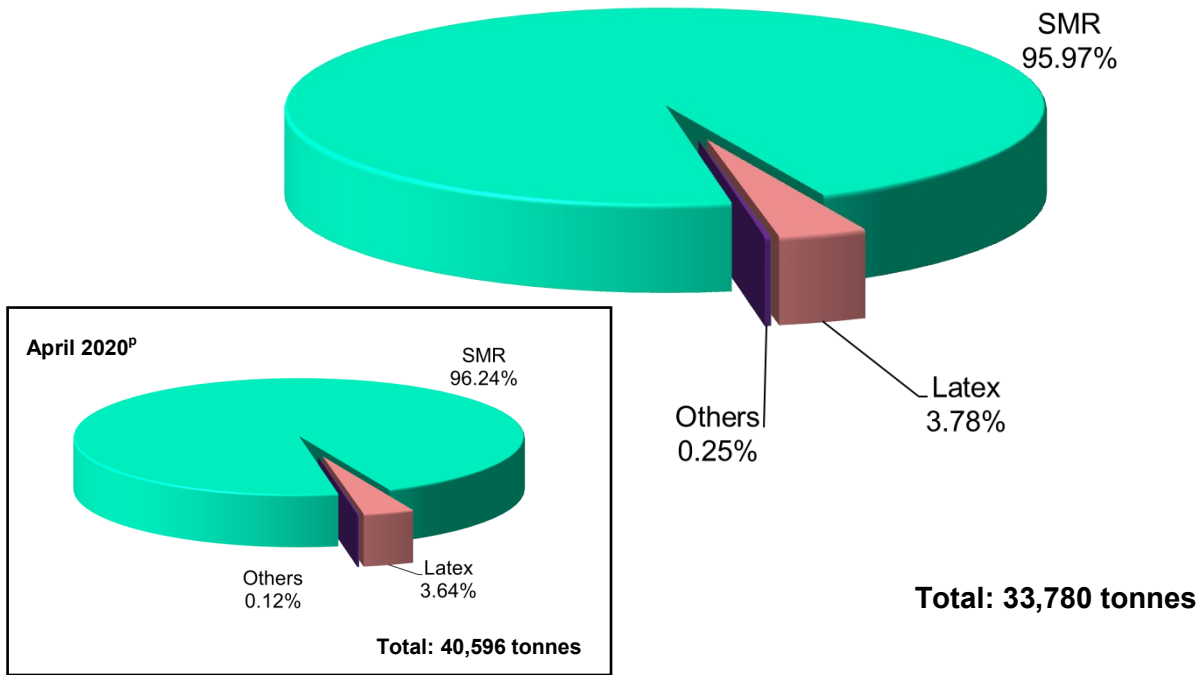


### Malaysia's NR Exports by Countries, May 2020<sup>P</sup>

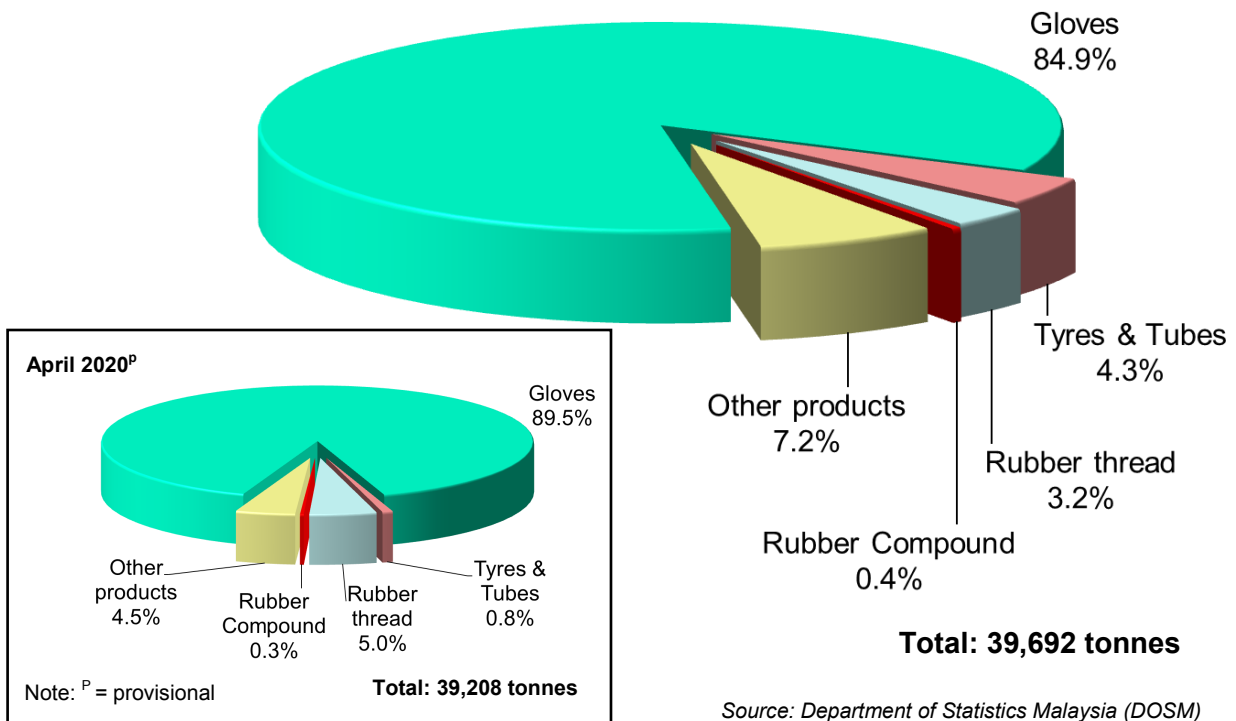


Source: Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)

### Malaysia's NR Exports by Types, May 2020<sup>P</sup>



### Malaysia's NR Consumption by Sectors, May 2020<sup>P</sup>



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