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Report Highlights:

Malaysia's hotel, restaurant, and institutional (HRI) sector continues to exhibit strong growth. Tourism has returned to pre-pandemic levels, and both government and the private sector continue to invest to further increase tourism receipts. The food service sector provides many opportunities for U.S. food and agricultural exporters that can provide high-quality products to cater to the diverse Malaysian market. However, some Western food service brands have experienced declines in the past year, while local chains appear to be expanding.

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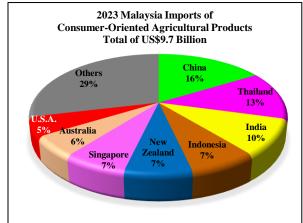
Market Fact Sheet: Malaysia

Executive Summary

Malaysia's hotel, restaurant, and institutional (HRI) industry has continued to recover with the sustained growth of tourism and hospitality receipts. Malaysian government estimates food, beverage, and accommodation service growth at 5.8 percent for 2024. Total imports in 2023 reached \$9.7 billion USD, indicating Malaysian demand for foreign consumeroriented food and beverage products continues to grow.

Imports of Consumer-Oriented Products

Malaysian demand for U.S. consumer-oriented food and beverage products is strong. The United States maintains about five percent of the market share representing \$488 million USD. The United States is currently Malaysia's eighth largest supplier of these products.



Source: Trade Data Monitor

Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional

The Malaysian hotel, restaurant, and institutional (HRI) industry's significant growth is predominantly driven by domestic tourism and increased consumer spending.

Food Retail Industry

Malaysia's food retail sector has seen an increase in grocery retailers and convenience stores. Additionally, consumer demand for natural and healthy products is on the rise. E-commerce has seen significant growth and is used widely by retail food outlets.

Food Processing

The Malaysian food processing industry growth in 2022 and Malaysian manufacturing sector share comprise of 24.3 percent of the country's economy. Several multinational companies with regional production facilities in and around Kuala Lumpur and the Government of Malaysia have identified the food processing industry as critical for future economic growth.

Quick Facts CY 2024

Imports of Consumer-Oriented Products: \$488 million					
List of Top 10 Growth Products in Host Country					
1. Dairy Products	2. Food Preparation				
3. Processed Vegetables	4. <u>Tree nuts</u>				
5. <u>Fresh Fruit</u>	6. Bakery Goods, Cereals & Pasta				
7. Processed Fruit	8. Pork & Pork Products				
9. Dog & Cat Food	10. Chocolate & Cocoa Products				
Food Industry by Channels	(U.S. billion)				
Retail Food Industry	\$2.24 (in December 2023)				
Food Service – HRI	\$8.42 (in Year 2022)				
Food Processing	\$2.29 (in February 2023)				
Food and Agriculture Exports	s \$24.43 (in Year 2023)				
Top 10 Retailers in Malaysi	a (based on sales)				
1) 99 Speedmart 2) L	otus				
3) 7-Eleven 4) E	Eleven 4) Econsave				
5) AEON 6) M	6) Mydin				
7) Jaya Grocer 8) V	cer 8) Village Grocer				
9) KK Super Mart 10) Kedai Mesra					
GDP/Population					
Population (millions): 34					
GDP (billions USD): 50					
GDP per capita (USD): \$					
	of Statistic, Euromonitor, Trade Data				
	velopment Authority, Retail Group				
Malaysia)	, <u>,</u> ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,				

Opportunities and Challenges for U.S. Exporters					
Strengths	Weaknesses				
U.S. food and agricultural products are trusted and perceived to be of high quality.	Halal certification requirements may require lengthy process at an additional cost.				
Opportunities	Challenges				
The growing HRI sector relies on a wide range of imported food products and ingredients. Demand continues to grow due to good economic performance and rising disposable income.	Other suppliers have free trade agreements with Malaysia and the food sector is very competitive. In the past year, many Western brands have faced challenges as consumers try to shift to local brands and chains.				

SECTION I: MARKET SUMMARY

Malaysia's hotel, restaurant, and institutional (HRI) sector continues to grow, and it remains a priority area of the economy for the government. The Department of Statistics of Malaysia (DOSM) estimates 2024 growth in food, beverage, and accommodation at 5.8 percent. A further increase of 6.2 percent has been forecasted for 2025.

Tourism is a key contributor to the sector overall, and in 2024 tourism receipts have exceeded prepandemic levels for the first time. Malaysia estimates that approximately 27 million tourists visited the country in 2024. Malaysia anticipates that arrivals will continue to increase over the next two years. Malaysia will be the host of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) meetings in 2025, which will see significant numbers of official visitors. The government has also launched the Visit Malaysia 2026 campaign, which seeks to draw international tourists. Meanwhile, international hotel chains such as Marriott have recently announced plans to open additional hotels in Malaysia in 2024 and 2025.

Demand for imported food and beverages is strong, with total imports of consumer-oriented food and beverage up just under ten percent during the first nine months of 2024. Imports of U.S. consumer-oriented food products total value in 2023 was \$488 million USD, accounting for five percent of the Malaysian market share.

Sector Trends

- Sustainability continues to be a point of differentiation for many companies and brands seeking to improve their brand positioning while prioritizing health and nutrition. Restaurants and establishments are sourcing ingredients locally to reduce food miles and adopting environmentally friendly packaging.
- Plant-based and alternative protein products are experiencing growth in the market and are generally found in specialty stores and menu offerings. Additionally, healthy and organic products are increasingly popular.
- Malaysia's relatively young and educated population traditionally enjoys eating out. A growing and highly urbanized population demands fast and convenient food choices. Third-party food delivery services have continuously increased usage in urban areas.
- Malaysia's food service industry is incredibly diverse with a broad range of Asian and Western cuisine available in various dining formats, from food stalls to full-service restaurants.
- To attract local and international Muslim tourism, most hotels in the country (including international chains) maintain halal certification (please see the Halal Certification section below).
- American chain restaurants dominate Western cuisine options in Malaysia with at least 18 U.S. franchises. However, local alternatives have grown in popularity over the past year.

Halal Certification



To ensure full market access to the Malaysian HRI industry, halal certification is strongly recommended for all imported food and beverage products. Furthermore, many products (e.g., beef, poultry, and dairy) require halal certification to enter the country. As roughly 60 percent of the Malaysian population is Muslim, most hotels, restaurants, and catering services obtain halal certification for their operations. As a result, they often require that all food and beverage products used in their

establishments also be halal certified (regardless of the regulatory requirements for the product).

Currently, the Department of Islamic Development (JAKIM) is the only authorized entity allowed to issue halal certification for domestic food industry. In the United States, JAKIM has appointed three Islamic institutions to inspect and certify as halal food and beverage products for export to Malaysia; the Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America (IFANCA), the Islamic Services of America (ISA) and the American Halal Foundation (AHF).

Organization & Address	Contacts	Halal Logo	
Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America (IFANCA) 5901 N. Cicero Ave, Suite 309 Chicago, Illinois 60646 IFANCA Halal Research Center 777 Busse Highway Park Ridge, Illinois 60068	Dr. Muhammad Munir Chaudry President Tel: +17732833708 Fax: +17732833973 Tel: +1 847 993 0034 EX 203 Fax: +1 847 993 0038 Mobile: +1 773 447 3415	(M) _R	
Islamic Services of America (ISA)	Email: <u>contact@ifanca.org</u> Website: <u>www.ifanca.org</u> Mr. Timothy Abu Mounir Hyatt		
P.O Box 521 Cedar Rapids, IOWA 52406 USA	Mr. Hinothy Abd Mounir Hyatt Managing Director Tel: (319) 362-0480 Fax: (319) 366-4369 Email: <u>thyatt@isahalal.org</u> <u>islamicservices@isahalal.org</u> Website: <u>www.isahalal.org</u>	SERVICES OF RELEASE	
American Halal Foundation (AHF) 10347-C Heritage Isles Golf & Country Club Plantation Bay Dr. Tampa, Florida-33647 USA	Mr. Mohammad Mazhar Hussaini (President) Tel: (+630) 759-4981 Fax:(+603) 310-8532 Email: <u>mmhussaini@halafoundation.org</u> Website: <u>www.halalfoundation.org</u>	CORMINIAL FOLMORING	

Source: JAKIM - The Recognized Foreign Halal Certification Bodies & Authorities

Advantages and Challenges for U.S. Exporters

Advantages	Challenges
U.S. food and agricultural products are trusted	Many U.S. products must be halal certified in
and perceived to be highly quality.	the Malaysian market, which can be
	complicated.
The Malaysian HRI sector requires a wide range	U.S. brands, particularly quick service
of imported food products and ingredients.	restaurants, have faced boycotts in the past year.
Most imported food and beverage products have	Australia and New Zealand both have free trade
low import and customs duties (except for	agreements with Malaysia and have a strong
alcoholic drinks).	presence in the country's consumer-oriented
	food and beverage market.
Many U.Sstyle restaurants and cafés operate in	In addition to Australia and New Zealand,
major cities, enabling new-to-market U.S.	products from China and other ASEAN
products easier market acceptance.	countries are gaining market share.
The high-end HRI segment maintains high	Most Malaysian consumers only dine at high-
quality and hygiene standards, which is very	end restaurants for special occasions.
positive for U.S. food and beverage prospects.	

SECTION II: ROAD MAP FOR MARKET ENTRY

U.S. exporters of food and agricultural products should consider the following when planning to enter the Malaysian HRI market:

- Analyze Malaysian food laws, packaging & labeling requirements, and importer criteria for entry into the market. Detailed information on Malaysian regulations and requirements can be found by accessing the <u>USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service Export Library</u> and the latest FAS Malaysia Food and Agricultural Import Regulations & Standards (FAIRS) <u>https://fas.usda.gov/data/malaysia-fairs-country-report-annual</u>.
- Review the types of U.S. food products that can be readily targeted in the HRI market. Consider the price competitiveness of U.S. products compared to similar products available in Malaysia.
- Contact one of the approved U.S. halal certifying bodies and begin the certification process, if required.
- Participate in regional trade shows and trade missions by tapping into the resources offered by <u>State and Regional Trade Associations</u>.
- Develop links with local importers that target the major hotels, restaurants and caterers. U.S. exporters are advised to appoint local distributors or at least a local representative to help guide them through the requirements of Malaysian food regulations and local trading practices.
- After establishing links with importers, strive to educate them (in person if possible) on the qualities of your product/s and supply chain.

- After establishing agreements with local importers, conduct market visits, product promotional activities, and provide end-users technical assistance (e.g., handling techniques and product formulations).
- Maintain strong communication with your local importer to ensure all certificates and import permits are valid and up to date.

Name	Website
Doubletree by Hilton Kuala Lumpur	https://www.hilton.com/en/locations/malaysia/kuala- lumpur/doubletree/
Amari Kuala Lumpur	https://www.amari.com
EQ Kuala Lumpur	https://www.eqkualalumpur.com/
Four Point by Sheraton KLCC	https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/kulfk-four-points- kuala-lumpur-city-centre/overview/
Grand Hyatt Kuala Lumpur	kualalumpur.grand.hyatt.com
Grand Millennium Kuala Lumpur	www.millenniumhotels.com
Hilton Kuala Lumpur	https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/kulhihi-hilton-kuala- lumpur
Hotel Maya Kuala Lumpur	www.hotelmaya.com.my
Intercontinental Kuala Lumpur	https://kualalumpur.intercontinental.com/
Le Meridien Kuala Lumpur	www.lemeridienkualalumpur.com
Mandarin Oriental Kuala Lumpur	www.mandarinoriental.com/kualalumpur
Pavilion Hotel Kuala Lumpur Managed by Banyan Tree	https://www.banyantree.com/hotels
Renaissance Hotels	https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/kulrn- renaissance-kuala-lumpur-hotel/
Shangri-La Hotel Kuala Lumpur	http://www.shangri-la.com/kualalumpur/shangrila/
Sheraton Imperial Kuala Lumpur	https://sheraton.marriott.com/
The Four Seasons Kuala Lumpur	www.fourseasons.com/kualalumpur/
The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur	www.majestickl.com
The Ritz-Carlton Kuala Lumpur	www.ritzcarlton.com
The Royale Chulan Kuala Lumpur	https://www.royalechulan.com/KualaLumpur/Home.aspx
The St. Regis Kuala Lumpur	www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/kulxr-the-st-regis-kuala- lumpur/
The Westin Kuala Lumpur	https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/kulwi-the-westin- kuala-lumpur/
Traders Hotel Kuala Lumpur	www.shangri-la.com/kualalumpur/traders
W Kuala Lumpur	https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/kulwh-w-kuala- lumpur

Sampling of Major Hotel & Resort Chains in Malaysia

SECTION III: COMPETITION

Malaysia maintains a very open trade policy, and has free trade agreements with many key competitors. While overall tariffs are low, the United States does face a tariff disadvantage compared to some competitors in certain categories. Examples include fresh fruit and alcoholic beverages. Overall, Malaysia is a price-competitive market, which can pose a challenge. Some competitors are also set up to better handle the smaller-volume shipments that many Malaysian customers prefer.

Since the outbreak of conflict in Gaza in October 2023, several prominent U.S. brands have faced boycott campaigns due to perceived linkages to Israel. Quick service restaurants have particularly been impacted. The boycotts have also encouraged a shift to local brands, such as Zeus Coffee, which have expanded in response.

Product Category (2023)	Major Supply Sources (2023)	Foreign Supplier Situation	Local Supplier Situation		
Beef and Beef Products	India: 75% Australia: 11% Brazil: 6%	beef industry halal certified	Inadequate supply of local beef.		
Net Imports: USD \$717 million	New Zealand: 2%	for export to Malaysia.			
		Buffalo meat from India is very cheap and serves the low-end outlets.			
		Australia dominates the higher-end HRI market.			
		Currently, only one U.S. beef plant is halal approved by			
		JAKIM (which severely			
		restricts U.S. access to the local HRI market).			
Pork and Pork	Spain: 45%	Currently, EU prices are very	Domestic demand for		
Products	Denmark: 23%	competitive, and several EU	pork has grown		
	U.S.A.: 7%	plants are approved for	significantly over the past		
Net Imports:	Belgium: 7%	export to Malaysia.	several years and local		
USD \$204 million			industry has struggled to		
			keep-up.		
Potatoes - Fresh or	China: 52%	Chinese potatoes are very	Little domestic		
Chilled	Pakistan: 21% India: 6%	price competitive.	production.		
Net Imports:	U.S.A.: 6%	High quality potatoes from			
USD \$104 million	Bangladesh: 5%	other sources are for high-			
		end retail and HRI markets.			

Vegetables -	China: 42%	U.S. frozen potatoes are in	There is a large market
Frozen	U.S.A.: 14%	strong demand for the retail	for chilled and frozen
	Netherlands: 7%	and HRI sectors.	processed vegetables,
Net Imports:	New Zealand: 6%		particularly potatoes.
USD \$25 million			
	China: 31%	Highly competitive market.	Malaysia does not grow
Fresh Fruits	South Africa: 21%		non-tropical fruits.
	Thailand: 10%		
Net Imports:	Egypt: 9%		
USD \$663 million	Australia: 7%		
	U.S.A.: 4%		
Dried Fruits	China: 28%	U.S. dried fruits are in strong	Limited local production.
	U.S.A.: 16%	demand for the growing	
Net Imports:	Thailand: 15%	bakery industry.	
USD \$35 million	India: 11%		
Tree Nuts	Indonesia: 34%	Imported nuts are in strong	Limited local
	U.S.A.: 20%	demand for use in the bakery	production.
Net Imports:	China: 14%	industry.	
USD \$191 million	Vietnam: 8%		

Source: Trade Data Monitor

SECTION IV: BEST PRODUCT PROSPECTS CATEGORIES

Top Consumer-Oriented Products Imported from the World

Malaysia's Top Consumer-Oriented Imports from the World (HS6, by value)						
		2023	2023 YTD (Jan-Oct)	2024 YTD (Jan-Oct)	%Δ 2024/23	
Food preparations	1	\$872,920,065	\$722,827,209	\$806,227,891	12	
Beef (boneless, frozen)	2	\$613,621,509	\$531,319,536	\$579,930,240	9	
Chicken cuts and edible offal (frozen)	3	\$427,524,489	\$366,661,202	\$353,224,959	-4	
Nonfat and low-fat milk powder	4	\$338,604,259	\$280,177,969	\$299,465,727	7	
Infant foods	5	\$285,559,455	\$233,751,885	\$239,806,729	3	
Dog and cat food, pu	6	\$256,763,004	\$215,654,303	\$236,264,738	10	
Garlic (fresh)	7	\$233,352,471	\$183,953,369	\$243,030,649	32	
Onions and shallots (fresh)	8	\$228,459,522	\$177,900,343	\$267,664,985	50	
Full fat milk powder	9	\$211,976,058	\$164,101,135	\$205,640,330	25	
Malt extract, puddings, and other						
related products	10	\$195,677,591	\$165,012,785	\$162,068,478	-2	

Source: Trade Data Monitor

Top Consumer-Oriented Products Imported from the United States

Malaysia's Top Consumer-Oriented Imports from the United States (HS6, by value)						
		2023	2023 YTD	2024 YTD	%Δ	

			(Jan-Oct)	(Jan-Oct)	2024/23
Food preparations	1	\$106,438,675	\$88,890,613	\$113,074,664	27
Nonfat and low-fat milk powder	2	\$88,208,611	\$74,339,594	\$85,530,181	15
Frozen potatoes (including					
French fries)	3	\$55,484,035	\$45,869,051	\$39,650,033	-14
Almonds (shelled)	4	\$14,759,253	\$12,795,466	\$14,431,554	13
Pork (frozen)	5	\$14,397,519	\$12,528,144	\$23,043,123	84
Pistachios (in shell)	6	\$12,750,265	\$7,306,699	\$12,816,190	75
Dog and cat food	7	\$11,750,490	\$10,196,941	\$8,090,031	-21
Whey and modified whey	8	\$11,503,942	\$10,407,758	\$4,446,768	-57
Ice cream	9	\$10,074,327	\$7,957,795	\$8,337,596	5
Cheese	10	\$8,430,048	\$7,028,442	\$2,815,128	-60

Source: Trade Data Monitor

Products Present in Market with Good Sales Potential

U.S. pork exports to Malaysia have expanded dramatically in the past two years, and continue to be a strong growth area. Dairy products have also done very well in the past several years.

Products Not Present in Market with Good Sales Potential

There are currently no U.S. beef plants approved to export to Malaysia, due to challenges related to Malaysia's plant approval process. However, there continues to be significant demand for U.S. beef in the HRI sector. U.S. beef plants that are able to be approved should find interested customers in Malaysia.

Products Not Present in Market due to Significant Barriers

Malaysia currently bans all U.S. poultry due to concerns related to avian influenza. Prior to the ban, U.S. turkey enjoyed consistent sales in Malaysia.

SECTION V: KEY CONTACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

A) USDA Foreign Agricultural Service Malaysia

Office of the Agricultural Affairs Embassy of the United States of America 376, Jalan Tun Razak Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 50400 Tel: (011-60-3) 2168-5082 E-mail: <u>AgKualaLumpur@state.gov</u>

B) U.S. Dairy Export Council

U.S. Center for Dairy Excellence

20 Martin Road Seng Kee Building, #08-01 Singapore 239070 Tel: (65) 6230 8550 Fax: (65 6235 5142 Contacts: Dalilah Ghazalay, Regional Director, SEA Marketing & Operations Email: <u>dali@usdecsg.org</u>

C) U.S. Grains Council

Suite 14-1, Level 14 Wisma UOA Damansara II, No. 6, Changkat Semantan, Damansara Heights 50490 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Tel: (60) 3 2789 3288 Fax: (60) 3 2273 2052 Contact: Caleb Wurth, Regional Director, South & Southeast Asia Email: <u>sea@grains.org</u>

D) U.S. Meat Export Federation

627 A Aljunied Road #04-04 Biztech Centre Singapore Tel: (65) 6733 4255 Fax: (65) 6732 1977 Contact: Sabrina Yin, Regional Director Email: <u>singapore@usmef.org</u>

E) USA Poultry and Egg Export Council

3 Ang Mo Kio Street 62 #07-04 Link@AMK Singapore 569139 Tel: (65) 6586 0940 Contact: Thomas Tan, ASEAN Consultant Email: <u>thomas_tan@usapeecasean.sg</u>

F) Raisin Administrative Committee, Food Export-Midwest, Food Export-Northeast and the Western United States Agricultural Trade Association

48 Toh Guan Road East #02-129 Enterprise Hub Singapore Tel: (65) 6515 6113 Fax: (65) 6278 4372

Contact: Richard Lieu and Chuah Siew Keat Emails: <u>richardlieu@lieumktg.com.sg</u>; <u>siewkeat@lieumktg.com.sg</u>

G) U.S. Soybean Export Council

541 Orchard Road #11-03 Liat Towers Singapore Tel: (65) 6737 6233 Fax: (65) 67375849 Contact: Timothy Loh, Director Email: <u>TLoh@ct.ussec.org</u>

H) U.S. Wheat Associates

541 Orchard Road #15-02 Liat Towers Singapore Tel: (65) 6737 4311 Fax: (65) 6733 9359 Contact: Joseph K. Sowers, Regional Vice President for South Asia Email: <u>InfoSIN@uswheat.org</u>

I) Malaysia Government Websites:

Ministry of Health Food Safety and Quality Division: <u>http://fsq.moh.gov.my/v6/xs/index.php</u> Ministry of Agriculture Department of Veterinary Services: <u>www.dvs.gov.my</u> Ministry of Finance Customs Headquarters: <u>http://www.customs.gov.my</u>

Attachments:

No Attachments