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Prepared By: Rowena Ngumbang

Approved By: Karen Richards

Report Highlights:

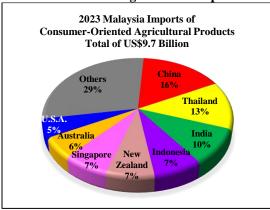
The Malaysian food and beverage sector continues to grow steadily. U.S. exporters can expect new opportunities in the expanding food manufacturing sector especially for food ingredients. While halal certification is mandatory or strongly required for most foods, there are ample prospects for market share growth in the halal product space.

Market Fact Sheet: Malaysia

Executive Summary:

Malaysia is a growing middle-income country and the GDP reached \$407 billion at the end of 2022. Notwithstanding halal requirements, Malaysia's trade and regulatory policies are relatively open and provide opportunities for a broad range of imported foods and beverages. Malaysia's total agricultural related product imports in 2023 reached \$24 billion USD, roughly four percent of which was sourced from the United States.

Consumer-Oriented Agricultural Imports



Top Exporting Countries to Malaysia

Food Retail Industry:

Malaysia's food retail sector is a well-established market space. Smaller format retail spaces in high-density residential areas are especially popular. Trends on the rise include health and wellness, organics, convenience foods, and demand for sustainable food and packaging.

Food Processing Industry:

The food processing industry accounts for about 7.3 percent of the overall manufacturing sector in Malaysia. The industry is expected to see steady growth in 2024. Several multi-nationals have regional production facilities in and around Kuala Lumpur.

Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional:

Malaysia has an extensive and wide variety of food service. The Malaysian food service industry grew 13.5 percent in 2023. However, costs are rising and finding workers for food service is often a challenge for businesses trying to compete.

Quick Facts CY 2024

Imports of Consumer-Oriented Products: \$488 million

List of Top 10 Growth Products in Host Country

- Dairy
 Prepared Food
 Processed Vegetables
 Tree Nuts
- 5) Bakery goods cereals, & pasta 6) Processed fruits 7) Pork & Pork products 8) Pet foods
- 9) Chocolate & Cocoa products 10) Condiments & Sauces

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	\$24.43 (in Year 2023)
Exports	

Top 10 Retailers in Malaysia (based on sales)

1) 99 Speedmart 2) Lotus
3) 7-Eleven 4) Econsave
5) AEON 6) Mydin
7) Jaya Grocer 8) Village Grocer
9) KK Super Mart 10) Kedai Mesra

GDP/Population

Population (millions): 33.7 GDP (billions USD): 407 GDP per capita (USD): \$13,034

(Sources: Malaysia Department of Statistic, Euromonitor, Trade Data Monitor, Malaysia Investment Development Authority, Retail Group Malaysia)

U.S. Exporter Opportunities and Challenges		
Strengths	Weaknesses	
-Well established market	-Halal certification is required	
with modern distribution	for many U.S. products in the	
channels.	Malaysian market for better	
-CPTPP opens	market access.	
opportunities for		
processed and packaged	-Malaysia can be a competitive	
food exports in the region.	market	
Opportunities	Challenges	
-The growth in Food	-Manufacturers require technical	
Processing, HRI, and	and marketing support for new	
Retail sectors require a	products.	
wide range of imported		
food products and	-Inflation and decrease in value	
ingredients.	of the local currency.	
-Increasing tourism		
activities and rising		
disposable income		
increased consumption.		

Section I: Market Overview

Malaysia is a politically and economically stable country with a population of slightly over 33 million people and is open to foreign trade. As one of Southeast Asia's most developed countries, over half of its population falls into the middle to high-income bracket contributing to its increasingly urbanized market with high demand for imported food and beverages. With a GDP per capita of \$13,034, Malaysian consumers possess growing purchasing power reflected in an affluent and modern lifestyle. This is especially true for younger generations.

The Malaysian food and beverage market is well developed and is supplied by both local and imported products. The café scene is thriving with several chained and independent cafes opening over the past year. International coffee chains such as Indonesia's Kopi Kenangan, and Tanamera, South Korea's Paris Baguette, Singapore's Bacha Coffee, the UK's EL&N and US-based Ralph's penetrated the market in the past year signaling the rise of specialty and premium coffee trends.

Consumer consumption trends are led by affluent young Malaysians. This growing demographic of buyers make Malaysia a high potential market in various segments of food manufacturing, food service, and retail for U.S. food and beverage exports including halal products. Additionally, this group pushed Malaysia to be an early adopter of digital transactions and in-app purchases offering varying platforms for marketing and purchasing.

Although the country's strict halal requirements complicate trade for certain products, Malaysia's trade and regulatory policies are relatively open and provide opportunities for a broad range of imported food and beverages. Malaysia's total consumer-oriented agricultural product imports in 2023 reached \$9.7 billion USD, roughly five percent of which was sourced from the United States.

Advantages and Challenges for U.S. Exporters

Advantages	Challenges	
Malaysia's emerging market and growing	The market and consumers are generally price	
consumer purchasing power	sensitive.	
Growing trend in popularity and numbers for	Neighboring supply countries enjoy logistic	
premium retail stores.	advantages.	
Malaysia relies on imports for about 70 percent	Certain foods have mandatory halal	
of its food. This includes beef, lamb, dairy	requirements for market access (beef, lamb,	
products, baking ingredients, pasta, and	poultry and dairy products). While not	
temperate fruits and vegetables.	mandatory, halal certification for HRI and the	
	food processing sector will likely be requested.	
Malaysians are familiar with western foods,	U.S exporters face competition from locally	
western menus and U.S. food service franchise	produced raw food materials that are in	
operations.	sufficient supply (e.g. poultry and palm oil)	
Local manufacturers seek to expand exports	The United States does not have a free trade	
using imports as raw material. High potential in	agreement with Malaysia as many other	
food and beverage manufacturing sector.	countries do, including Australia and New	

	Zealand.
The high-end segment maintains high standards	Consumer purchasing power may hindered by
of quality and hygiene, which is positive for	rising inflation.
U.S. food products.	
Restaurants and food service segment are	Market penetration for imported products is
offering more niche products to appeal to	mostly concentrated in Kuala Lumpur and
consumers with higher incomes by offering	Klang Valley including major tourist-destination
premium products.	areas.

Section II: Exporter Business Tips

Business Customs

Malaysian business customs have evolved significantly in recent years, blending traditional practices with modern approaches influence by global trends. While in-person relationship building and long-standing business partnerships remain highly valued, younger generations are increasingly open to innovative products and are keen on developing new business relationships with foreign companies though remote and electronic communications.

Key Business Practices:

1. Initial Market Entry

Before entering the Malaysian market, conducting a thorough market survey is crucial. This helps in understanding the local demand, competition and regulatory requirements. Appointing a reputable local sales agent or importer can facilitate the distribution and clearance of goods at ports and aid in networking with wholesalers and retailers. Regular visits by U.S. exporters to Malaysia are important to nurture and enhance business relations to grow the business.

2. Cultural Sensitivity and Etiquette

Malaysia's multicultural and multiracial population is a key consideration in conducting business. While business customs are generally the same to those in the West, being considerate and mindful of local cultural nuances is essential. For example, Muslims avoid alcohol or pork at business functions, and it is polite to use your right hand or both hands when presenting or receiving business cards.

3. Marketing and Promotion

It is important to allocate a budget for in-market promotions strategy that includes and not limited to in-store promotions, published advertisements and a strong social media presence that can significantly boosts U.S. exporters market position. This is crucial to compete effectively against local and international competitors in the market.

4. Documentation and Compliance

Keeping up to date with Malaysian customs regulations of import regulations into Malaysia market is important to ensure that all products are in compliance to avoid unnecessary delay and additional cost at port of entry. This includes import declarations, invoices, packing lists, bill of landing, certificates of origin, and specific import permits for regulated goods.

5. Communication

Maintain strong communication with your local importers is important to ensure that all certifications and permits remain valid and up-to-date. Effective communication can help address and prevent trade disruptions and maintain smooth operations.

By understanding and adapting to these business customs and practices, U.S. exporters can navigate the Malaysian market to build successful and long-lasting business relationships.

General Consumer Tastes and Preferences

Malaysia's diverse population, which includes various ethnic groups and a sizeable expatriate community, contributes to its rich culinary landscape. The increasing affluence and education levels of the younger generation have influenced consumer habits, particularly in urban areas where modern retail outlets offering one-stop shopping convenience are preferred. Chain convenience stores and premium retails formats have seen significant growth in recent years replacing hypermarkets and supermarkets.

The Malaysian demographics are adventurous food lovers and are open to try new cuisines. Dining out is common and affordable, with a wide range of options from street stalls to fine dining, featuring various international cuisine options to choose from.

With over 65 percent of the population being Muslim, there is a strong demand for halal foods. Certain products like beef, lamb, poultry and dairy have mandatory halal certification requirements. Even when not mandatory, halal certification significantly broadens market access, particularly in the food manufacturing sector as Malaysia is geared to be the regional halal hub for exports globally.

Section III: Import Food Standards, Regulations and Procedures

Malaysia's Food Act 1983 and the Food Regulations of 1985 govern food import and export regulations/procedures. The Food Safety and Quality Division (FSQD) of the Malaysian Ministry of Health (MOH) along with several other government agencies are charged with implementing and enforcing the law under these statutes, including routine compliance, sampling, inspection, import control and regulation. Among the many regulations and required procedures related to shipping food and agricultural products to the country, of note are Malaysia's halal certification and dairy facility registration requirements.

Customs Clearance

For exports from United States to Malaysia, it is important to ensure that your products comply to the Malaysian good import and export regulations/procedures. The common documentation that is required for customs clearance in all port of entry into the country includes/not limited to import declaration, bill of lading, invoice, airway bill and packing list. For specific products, it may be necessary to apply for an import license/permit and additional supporting documents such as certificates of origin and health certificates. Engaging a forwarding agent or working with a local importer to ensure compliance in local regulations can ensure a successful export clearance in any of the port of entry.

Documents Generally Required by the Country Authority for Imported Products

For most U.S. exports products, proper documentation such as import declarations, invoices, packing list, bills of lading, certificates of origin, and specific import permits for regulated goods such as meat and dairy exports are required. It is important to be updated with the Malaysian customs regulations in ensuring all necessary documents are correctly filed to prevent delays and additional costs.

Country Language Labelling Requirements

For importer foods, all labels must be in either Bahasa Malaysia or English and it is important to take into consideration of labelling requirements that includes and not limited to description of the products, special indications, ingredient labelling, food additive labelling, ingredients derived from animals or modern biotechnology, minimum net weight of the package content, name and address of manufacturers, importer as well as country of origin.

Duties and Taxes

In Malaysia, shipments can only be fully cleared for release once all the taxes and duties have been paid and checked by the proper authorities. Taxes and duties that are required to be paid for specific products are subject and categorized through Harmonized System (HS) code. Malaysian import tax usually ranges between 5 to 30 percent. For general queries regarding Malaysian custom clearance, please refer to the web portal: Royal Malaysian Customs Department

HS Code Classification

For composite products other than raw food ingredients it is important to comply with import requirements under Food Act 1983 and its regulations before exporting to Malaysia. Please work with a local importer to ensure that the product is accurately classified with the Royal Malaysian Customs Department to avoid detainment and delay at the port of entry. For further details on food export activities into Malaysia, please refer to Ministry of **Health** – Food Safety and Quality Section.

Trademarks and Patents Market Research

In Malaysia, trademark registration is regulated by the <u>Trademarks Act 2019</u>. The Ministry of Trade and Affairs incorporated the Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MyIPO) to develop and manage the IP system in Malaysia. According to the MyIPO portal, 45 distinct classifications of goods and services may be trademarked. Registration of a trademark in a specific class confers the exclusive rights and protection only with that class. Therefore, trademark owners must register their marks in all applicable classes to protect their rights. Before applying your goods and services, it is essential to note that the goods or services to be trademarked must be distinguishable, distinctive, and publicly recognized.

Halal Certification

Many food products (e.g. beef and poultry) require halal certification in order to enter the country. Currently, the Islamic Development Foundation of Malaysia (JAKIM) is the only authorized entity

allowed to issue halal certification. In the United States, JAKIM has appointed three Islamic institutions to inspect, and halal certify food and beverage products for export to Malaysia: Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America (IFANCA), Islamic Services of America (ISA), and the American Halal Foundation (AHF). For further details on halal requirements in Malaysia market, please refer to Malaysia: Halal Country Report

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

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

Dairy Facility Registration

In March 2018, Malaysia implemented a measure that requires foreign producers and exporters of dairy products to apply for registration with the Malaysian Government. New to market suppliers must undergo a standard review process lasting three to six months and this is a one-time registration for the plant and its intended dairy products for export to Malaysia.

Duplicative Registration Requirements in East Malaysia

The states of Sabah and Sarawak in East Malaysia may have separate and/or additional facility registration requirements for certain products, especially livestock and meat/poultry products. It is best to work with your local importer to ensure all products exported comply with local regulations.

Please refer to the <u>USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service Export Library</u> and <u>Malaysia: FAIRS Annual Country Report.</u>

Section IV: Market Sector Structure and Trends

Food Industry Breakdown

Modern retail outlets dominate the urban retail landscape as high-income consumers spur the growth of premium retail outlets. Convenience stores are widespread, catering to the demand for quick and accessible shopping options. Both local and international chains operate extensively across urban areas. Despite the rise of modern retail, traditional grocery stores and wet markets still play a crucial role, in rural and semi-urban regions. They are important distribution channel for daily fresh product and staple goods. Please refer to the most recent <u>FAS Malaysia Retail Foods annual report</u> for more details on the sector.

The food and beverage (F&B) market sector in Malaysia is a diverse and dynamic, reflecting the country's multicultural population and its growing economic development. Restaurants range from fast food and quick-service restaurants (QSRs) to fine dining. Cafes and specialty shops are a growing are gaining popularity among urban consumers while street food and hawkers remains an integral part of Malaysian food culture, offering affordable and authentic local dishes. Please refer to the most recent FAS Malaysia Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional GAIN report for more details on the sector.

Several multi-nationals have regional production facilities in and around Kuala Lumpur and the Government of Malaysia has identified the food processing industry as a critical sector for future economic growth and recovery. Please refer to the most recent <u>FAS Malaysia Food Processing</u> Ingredients annual report for more details on the sector.

U.S. Food and Beverage Products in the Malaysian Market

The United States is Malaysia's eighth largest supplier of consumer-oriented food and beverage products. Retail supermarkets are one of the key channels of distributions especially within Kuala Lumpur and Klang Valley.

Top 10 Retailers in Malaysia

No.	Retailer in Malaysia	Store Format	Website
1.	99 Speedmart	Convenience Store	99 Speedmart
2.	Lotus	Hypermarket	Lotus's Malaysia - Homepage (lotuss.com.my)
3.	7-Eleven	Convenience Store	7-Eleven Malaysia Always There For You
4.	Econsave	Supermarket	(7eleven.com.my) Econsave Everyday Low Price Supermarket Grocery Shopping

5.	Mydin	Hypermarket / Supermarket	Shop Smart with Mydin: Your One-Stop Destination for Ouality Products
6.	AEON	Hypermarket / Supermarket	Home Page - AEON CO. (M) BHD. (aeonretail.com.my)
7.	Jaya Grocer	Supermarket (Premium Retail)	Jaya Grocer Online I Freshness Delivered, Quality Ensured
8.	KK Super Mart	Convenience Store	KK Super Mart - KK GROUP
9.	Kedai Mesra	Convenience Store (Gas Station)	Kedai Mesra - Promotions MyMesra
10.	Village Grocer	Supermarket (Premium Retail)	Home Village Grocer

Competition Chart

Major Products, Market Shares by Value and Competitor Situations			
Product Category (Jan-Dec 2023)	Major Supply Sources (Jan-Dec 2023)	Foreign Supplier Situation	Local Supplier Situation
Beef	Australia: 11%	suppliers have a	Inadequate supply of local beef.
Net Value: USD \$716 million	New Zealand: 2%	significant portion of their beef industry halal certified for	
		export to Malaysia. Beef from India is very cheap and serves the low-end outlets. Australia dominates higher-end HRI market.	
Pork – Fresh, Frozen, Chilled Net Value:	U.S.A.: 7% Belgium: 7%	are very competitive, and several EU plants are approved for	Domestic demand for pork has grown significantly over the past several years and local industry has
· ·			struggled to keep-up.
Potatoes - Fresh or Chilled Net Value:	Pakistan: 21%	Chinese potatoes are very price competitive.	Little domestic production.
	Bangladesh: 5%	High quality potatoes from other sources are for high-end retail	

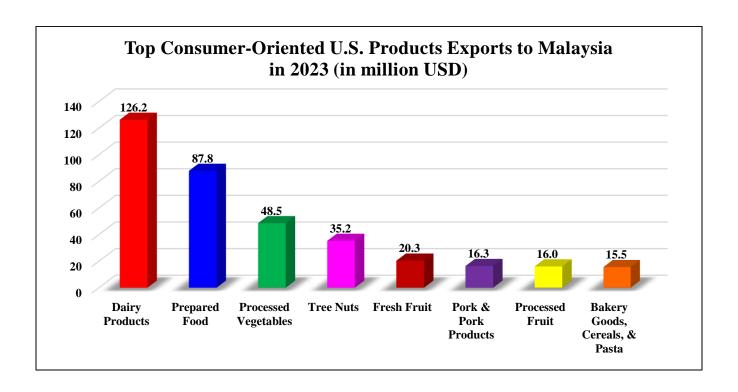
		and HRI markets.	
Vegetables -	China: 42%	U.S. frozen potatoes	There is a large market for
Frozen	U.S.A.: 14%	are in strong demand	chilled and frozen
	Netherlands: 7%	for retail and HRI	processed vegetables,
Net Value:	New Zealand: 6%	sectors.	particularly potatoes.
USD \$25 million			
Fresh Fruits	China: 31%	Highly competitive	Malaysia does not grow
rresh rruns	South Africa: 21%	market.	non-tropical fruits.
	Thailand: 10%		
Net Value:	Egypt: 9%		
USD \$691 million	Australia: 7%		
030 3091 111111011	U.S.A.: 4%		
Dried Fruits	China: 28%	U.S. dried fruits are	Limited local production.
	U.S.A.: 16%	in strong demand for	
	Thailand: 15%	the growing bakery	
Net Value:	India: 11%	industry.	
USD \$35 million	Indonesia: 9%		
Tree Nuts	Indonesia: 34%	Imported nuts are in	Limited local production.
	U.S.A.: 20%	increasingly strong	
	China: 14%	demand for use in the	
Net Value:	Vietnam: 8%	bakery industry.	
USD \$191 million			

Source: Trade Data Monitor

Section V: Agricultural and Food Imports

Best High-Value, Consumer-Oriented Product Prospects

High potential for a wide variety of foods, especially if halal certified.



Dairy Products

Dairy products have high potential growth all around. Dairy is especially well suited as a food ingredient product in the expanding food manufacturing sector. Sampling and technical support will provide better understanding of U.S. dairy products in various format as a key food processing ingredient. All dairy export products are mandatory required to have halal certification.

Pork and Pork Products

Malaysia is a pork producer and has generally met pork import needs buying from European sources. However, due to local African Swine Fever issues, Malaysia is looking for new pork suppliers and U.S. pork is gaining market share. Malaysian pork imports have increased 1,530 percent from 2022 to 2023.

Beef and Beef Products

U.S. beef and beef products are in high demand across food service and hotel institutions. However, there are no current U.S. beef plants that are approved for export to Malaysia. Malaysia has primarily bought prime meat in the past, however, there is potential in exporting U.S. whole carcass for further processing in Malaysia for distribution. Halal certification is mandatory for beef and beef products.

Section VI: 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 Fax: (011-60-3) 2168-5023

E-mail: <u>AgKualaLumpur@fas.usda.gov</u>

B) U.S. Dairy Export Council

20 Martin Road

Seng Kee Building #08-00

Singapore 239070 Tel: (65) 6230 8550 Fax: (65 6235 5142

Contacts: Dalilah Ghazalay, Regional Director, SEA Marketing & Operations

Email: dali@dairyconnect.biz

C) U.S. Grains Council

Wisma UOA Damansara II, Suite 14-1, Level 14

No. 6, Changkat Semantan

Damansara Heights

50490 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Tel: (60) 3 2789 3288

Contact: Caleb Wurth, Regional Director—Southeast Asia

Email: sea@grains.org

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: singapore@usmef.com.sg

E) USA Poultry and Egg Export Council

3, Ang Mo Kio Street 62, #07-05 Link@AMK

Singapore 569139 Tel: (65) 6586 0940

Contact: Thomas Tan, ASEAN Consultant

Email: thomas_tan@usapeecasean.sg

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: richardlieu@lieumktg.com.sg; siewkeat@lieumktg.com.sg

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: TLoh@ct.ussec.org

H) U.S. Wheat Associates

541 Orchard Road, #15-02 Liat Towers

Singapore

Tel: (65) 6737 4311 Fax: (65) 6733 9359

Contact: Joe Sowers, Regional Vice President for South Asia

Email: InfoSingapore@uswheat.org

I) Malaysia Government Websites:

Ministry of Health Food Safety and Quality Division: http://fsq.moh.gov.my/fsq/ms/

Ministry of Agriculture Department of Veterinary Services: www.dvs.gov.my Ministry of Finance Customs Headquarters: http://www.customs.gov.my

Attachment: Appendix 1- U.S. Exports to Malaysia

Attachments: Appendix 1 U.S. Exports to Malaysia.docx