

## INFOGRAPHIC

COMPILED BY LIEW JIA TENG | INFOGRAPHIC BY NURUL AIDA MOHD NOOR/THE EDGE

SOURCE: BAKER TILLY MALAYSIA, BURSA MALAYSIA

GRAPHIC: FREEPIK, VECTEEZY

# Navigating the road to capital markets in Asia-Pacific

Malaysia recorded 55 initial public offerings (IPOs) in 2024 — the highest in 19 years and the most across Southeast Asia. The last time IPO activity hit this level was in 2005, when 79 companies went public.

The 2024 tally saw a 72% surge from the 32 listings in 2023, with total proceeds more than doubling to RM7.42 billion from RM3.58 billion. The increase reflects renewed investor confidence in Bursa Malaysia as a fundraising platform, fuelled by a robust pipeline of companies in consumer goods, healthcare, logistics and technology.

Despite lingering uncertainty from the US-China trade tensions and broader global risk factors, Bursa Malaysia is still eyeing 60 listings in 2025, with a combined market

capitalisation target of RM40.2 billion. To tap into this momentum, accounting and business advisory firm Baker Tilly Malaysia launched its Pathways to the APAC Capital Markets publication in June.

It should be noted that in recent years, the pace of regulatory development across Asia-Pacific has accelerated, as the authorities in many jurisdictions have introduced reforms aimed at strengthening investor confidence, enhancing transparency and encouraging market participation.

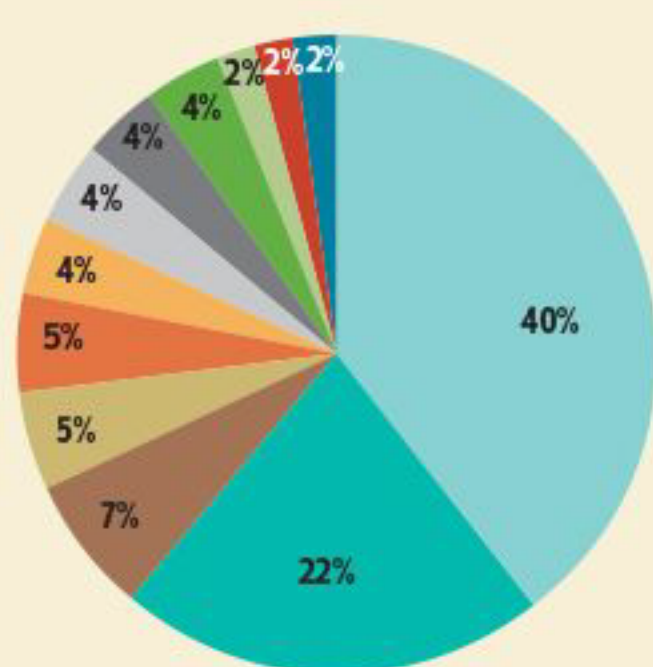
Let's have a look at comparative, up-to-date overview of the primary listing requirements and regulatory considerations in Malaysia, Singapore and China.

## BURSA MALAYSIA

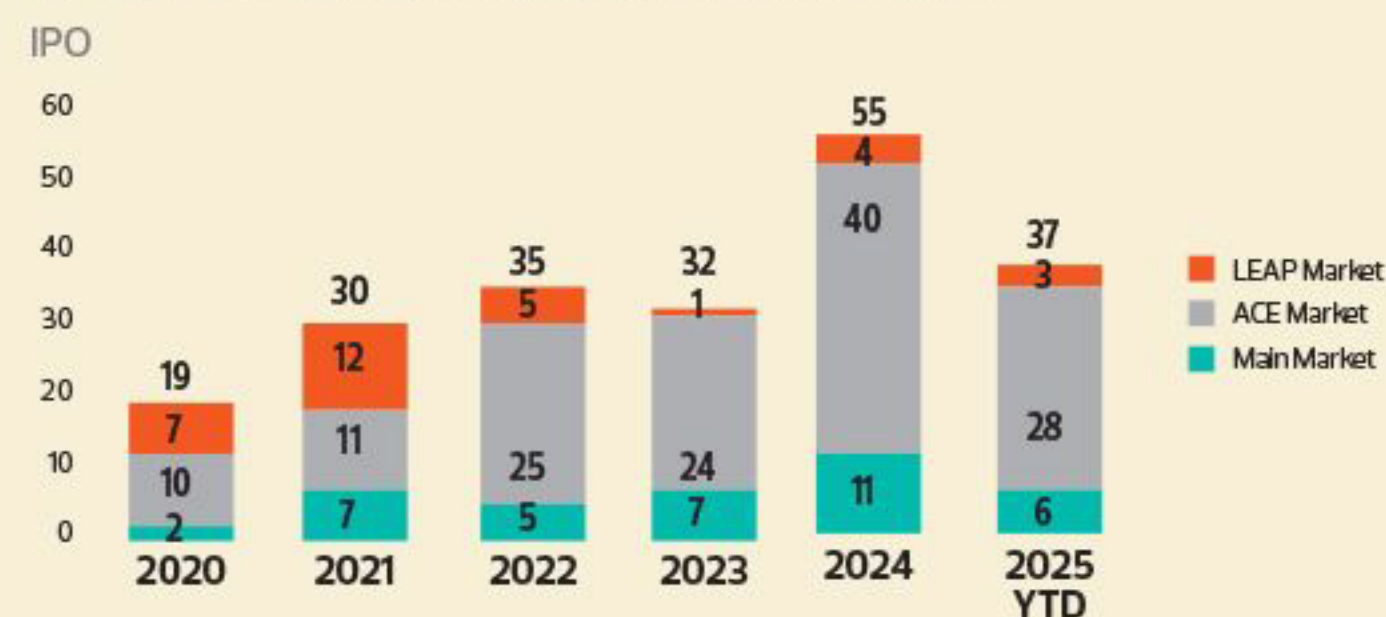
	MAIN MARKET	ACE MARKET
Approving authority	Securities Commission Malaysia	Bursa Malaysia
Profit test	Aggregate group profit after tax and minority interest (Patami) of RM20 mil over three to five years; at least RM6 mil for the latest year	No minimum requirement
Market capitalisation test	Total market capitalisation of at least RM500 mil upon listing	No minimum requirement
Infrastructure project corporation test	Have rights to build and operate an infrastructure project in or outside Malaysia with project cost of at least RM500 mil; concession awarded by a government or state agency with at least 15 years remaining	No minimum requirement
Public shareholding spread	25% (12.5% of which is allocated to bumiputera investors)	25% (12.5% of which is allocated to bumiputera investors)
Results announcement	Quarterly reporting — two months after the end of each quarter Annual reporting — four months after the end of the reporting period	Quarterly reporting — two months after the end of each quarter Annual reporting — four months after the end of the reporting period

## BREAKDOWN BY INDUSTRY FOR BURSA MALAYSIA IPOs IN 2024

SECTOR	NO OF IPOs
Industrial products and services	22
Consumer products and services	12
Technology	4
Energy	3
Healthcare	3
Construction	2
Financial services	2
Plantation	2
Transport and logistics	2
Business trust	1
Property	1
Telecommunications and media	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55</b>



## NUMBER OF NEW LISTINGS ON BURSA MALAYSIA



## AVERAGE PER AT IPOs ON BURSA MALAYSIA IN 2024

MARKET	PRICE-EARNINGS RATIO (TIMES)
Main Market	18.52
ACE Market	16.32
LEAP Market	14.96
<b>Average (three markets)</b>	<b>16.60</b>



“As investor confidence strengthens, we anticipate a steady pick-up in activity across the equity and debt capital markets across Asia-Pacific, with Malaysia playing a key role in anchoring sustainable capital flows in the region.”  
— Datuk Lock Peng Kuan, managing partner in audit and assurance at Baker Tilly Malaysia



“Malaysia has always punched above its weight in capital markets. As confidence returns post-pandemic and global dynamics shift, more companies are looking at IPOs and cross-border listings, and Malaysia is firmly on the radar.”  
— Andrew Heng, group managing partner at Baker Tilly Malaysia and chairman of the Baker Tilly Asia Pacific Regional Council

## SINGAPORE EXCHANGE

	MAIN BOARD	CATALIST
Quantitative requirements — pre-tax profit and market cap	<b>Alternative 1:</b> At least three years' operating track record; minimum consolidated pre-tax profit of at least S\$30 mil for the latest financial year  <b>Alternative 2:</b> At least three years' operating track record; profitable in the latest financial year; market capitalisation of not less than S\$150 mil  <b>Alternative 3:</b> Positive operating revenue in the latest completed financial year; market capitalisation of not less than S\$300 mil	Sponsors will determine the suitability of a company to list on the Catalist using their own house deal selection criteria
Shareholding spread	For market capitalisation <S\$300 mil, 25% of issued shares in the hands of at least 500 shareholders; for market capitalisation >S\$300 mil, shareholding spread varies between 12% and 20%	15% of post-invitation share capital in public hands; minimum 200 shareholders

## CHINA'S STOCK EXCHANGES

	MAIN BOARD	STAR MARKET
Market cap and financial indicator	Shall meet at least one of the following criteria:  1. In the last three fiscal years, the company has made continuous profits, and accumulated net profits of not less than RMB200 mil and not less than RMB100 mil in the latest year; cumulative net cash flow from operating activities of not less than RMB200 mil, or accumulated operating revenue of at least RMB1.5 bil  2. Estimated market cap of not less than RMB5 bil, operating revenue of not less than RMB600 mil in the latest year; cumulative net cash flow from operating activities of not less than RMB250 mil  3. Estimated market cap of not less than RMB10 bil, operating revenue of not less than RMB1 bil in the latest year	Shall meet at least one of the following:  1. Estimated market cap of at least RMB1 bil, net profit for the most recent two years of not less than RMB50 mil  2. Estimated market cap of at least RMB1 bil, positive net profit in most recent year, operating revenue of at least RMB100 mil  3. Estimated market cap of at least RMB1.5 bil, operating revenue of at least RMB200 mil in most recent year and cumulative R&D investment equivalent of at least 15% of aggregate operating venue in the past three years  4. Estimated market cap of at least RMB2 bil, operating revenue of at least RMB300 mil in most recent year, total net cash flow from operating activities of at least RMB100 mil in most recent three years  5. Estimated market cap of at least RMB3 bil and operating revenue of at least RMB300 mil in most recent year  6. Estimated market cap of RMB4 bil, with principal business or products meeting specific requirements approved by the authorities

1. Shanghai Stock Exchange (SSE) and Shenzhen Stock Exchange (SZSE) operate the Main Board  
2. STAR Market is operated by SSE