

STATUS OF THE FISHERIES SECTOR 1983.

I. LANDINGS OF MARINE FISH

1. PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

The amount of fish landed in Peninsular Malaysia experienced a sharp increase over the last 14 years. It increased from 302,885 metric tons in 1969 to 609,055 metric tons in 1983. The landing in 1983 was an increase of about 7% over that of 1982.

West Coast.

The West Coast contributed about 72% of the total catch of Peninsular Malaysia. The fishing activities and the number of boats in the west coast were much more than in the east coast. There was an increase of about 82% in the landings of the west coast over a period of 14 years, that is from 243,620 metric tons in 1969 to 442,173 metric tons in 1983. The trend is shown in Graph 1. The peak was in 1983 when it coincided with the peak of the pelagic landings. The landings of the pelagic fishes increased by 43% from 103,645 metric tons in 1969 to 148,672 metric tons in 1983.

The landings of the demersal fishes increased by more than one fold from 74,238 metric tons in 1969 to 171,812 metric tons in 1983. However, the increase in the edible demersal fishes was only 44% from 34,270 metric tons to 49,444 metric tons.

Another important item was prawns which comprised about 11% of the total (at 50,521 metric tons). The prawn landings used to be made largely by the trawlers. However the latter's contribution has decreased due to the intensification of management measures. Instead the drift nets and bag nets have increased their prawn landings.

On the average, landing of the west coast in the last 5 years (at 446,000 metric tons) have exceeded the maximum sustainable yield of 345,000 metric tons.

East Coast

The known resource potentials in the east coast are smaller than that of the west coast. The landings have increased by more than 3 folds, from 54,220 metric tons in 1969 to 166,883 metric tons in 1983.

The pelagic landings formed about 66% of the total catch (at 110,245 metric tons). Most of the pelagic landings were recorded in the state of Terengganu by such gears as drift nets and lift nets.

The landings of demersal catch has increased since the introduction of trawlers in the east coast. In 1983 it formed about 28.8% of the total landings in east coast. Some 49% of the demersal catch were caught by the trawlers, whilst the rest were landed by the traps and drift nets.

The prawn resource potentials are between 5,000 to 6,000 metric tons, thus the low catch of prawn in the East Coast.

The maximum sustainable yield in the east coast is 265,000 metric tons, therefore there is scope for further increase in landings.

2. SABAH AND SARAWAK

The data on the fisheries sector in the states of Sabah and Sarawak is not that comprehensive. Graph 3 shows the landing trends in the two states.

Sabah

The total landings have increased by 91% from 24,029 metric tons in 1969 to 45,950 metric tons in 1983. Most of these were fin fishes (at 33,600 metric tons) and the rest were crustaceans (at 10,700 metric tons), molluscs (at 850 metric tons) and other aquatic landings (at 800 metric tons).

The value of the landings was estimated at \$155.55 million, an increase of about 17% over that of 1982. The crustaceans contributed about 51% of the total. The other important species were the groups "Jacks, mullets and others" (16%) and "Mackerel, bill fishes and others" (10%).

The resource potentials in Sabah is estimated at 119,000 metric tons, indicating that the catch in 1983 was only 38.6% of the total.

Sarawak

The landings in Sarawak has decreased over the last 4 years (by 14.7%) as indicated in Graph 3. The landings in 1983 was 70,438 metric tons and in 1979 it was 82,293 metric tons. This trend coincides with the decrease in the trawl landings which contributed the most. Its contribution of 58,840 metric tons (or about 71% of the total) was reduced to 30,116 metric tons (or 43% of the total).

II. EMPLOYMENT

There were some 106,373 fishermen in the whole of Malaysia. They formed about 2.04% of the total labour force in the country. The breakdowns are as follows: 75,000 persons in Peninsular Malaysia, 11,783 persons in Sarawak and 19,000 persons in Sabah. The number of fishermen in Peninsular Malaysia and Sarawak in 1983 was less than that in 1982. There was however an increase in Sabah (refer to Table I).

Table I: Number of Fishermen In Malaysia

Year	Peninsular	Sarawak	Sabah	Total
1982	80,237	12,143	19,850	112,230
1983	75,590	11,783	19,900	107,273

The ethnic compositions of the fishermen in Peninsular Malaysia are as follows: Malays 47,322 persons (62.6%); Chinese 25,238 person (33%) and others (Indians etc). Some 56.34% of the Malays were found in the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia. In view of the excess fishing efforts in Peninsular Malaysia, there are programs to intensify the reduction of fishing boats and thus the number of fishermen.

III. FISHING BOATS AND GEARS

There were some 40,168 licensed fishing boats in Malaysia. The details are as follows: 25,695 units in Peninsular Malaysia, 8,173 units in Sarawak and 6,300 units in Sabah. There was a decrease of about 3.2% over that of 1982. This was due largely to the decrease of number of boats in Peninsular Malaysia, from 27,741 units to 25,695 units (a decrease of about 7.4%).

The single most number of gears licensed in the Peninsular was the drift nets (some 47% of the total). Next was the trawlers at 4,591 unit (15% of the total). The percentage of trawl nets was about 21% in 1975 and that of the drift nets was only 40%.

There were still some 37% fishing boats which were non-powered and powered by outboard engines. The situation has not changed much over the last 5 years, during which the average was about 38%.

The state which had the most number of boats was Perak (about 19%), followed by Selangor and Terengganu (13% each).

Table II shows the number of fishing boats in Malaysia in 1982 and 1983.

Table II: Number of Licensed Fishing Boats in Malaysia.

Year	Peninsular	Sarawak	Sabah	Total
1980	27,741	7,706	6,050	41,497
1983	25,695	8,173	6,300	40,168

IV. EXPORT/IMPORT

The fisheries sector also contributes to the foreign exchange earnings in the form of export. The value of fish exports in 1983 was \$242,811,397 from Peninsular Malaysia, \$29,303,270 from Sarawak and \$85,914,149 from Sabah, giving a total of \$358,028,816. The export value of fishery commodities formed about 1.1% of the total exports of the nation. Table III shows the value of exports and imports in 1980 and 1983.

Table III: Value of Exports and Imports of Fisheries Products in Malaysia

Exports/Imports	Peninsular	Sarawak	Sabah	Total
1980 Exports (\$)	243,362,980	20,996,636	35,127,434	299,487,050
1980 Imports (\$)	130,218,222	20,067,755	21,966,287	172,262,264
1983 Exports (\$)	242,811,397	29,303,270	85,914,149	358,028,816
1983 Imports (\$)	202,888,003	25,211,348	24,005,475	255,104,826

The countries which imported the most from Peninsular Malaysia were: Japan (17.8%); Singapore (15.7%); Australia (15.2%); and USA (9.6%). The most important exports in 1980 were commodities under the groups "crustaceans" and "molluscs" which together comprised about 74.8% of the total value.

The value of imports has increased by some 55.8% for Peninsular Malaysia and by 48% for the whole of Malaysia. In term of quantity, there was only an increase of about 15% over 1980 imports. The large increase in the value of imports was largely contributed by the increase in the price of main fisheries commodities imported. As an example, the average price of "other marine fish, fresh or chilled" (the single most important import item, at 43%) has gone up from \$606/tonne in 1980 to \$812/tonne in 1983. Likewise, the import price of the commodity "sardines, in airtight containers" has increased from \$1,827/tonne to \$2,317/tonne.

Another important feature in fish trading is that the value and volume of export increased by 19% and 4% respectively.

V. AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

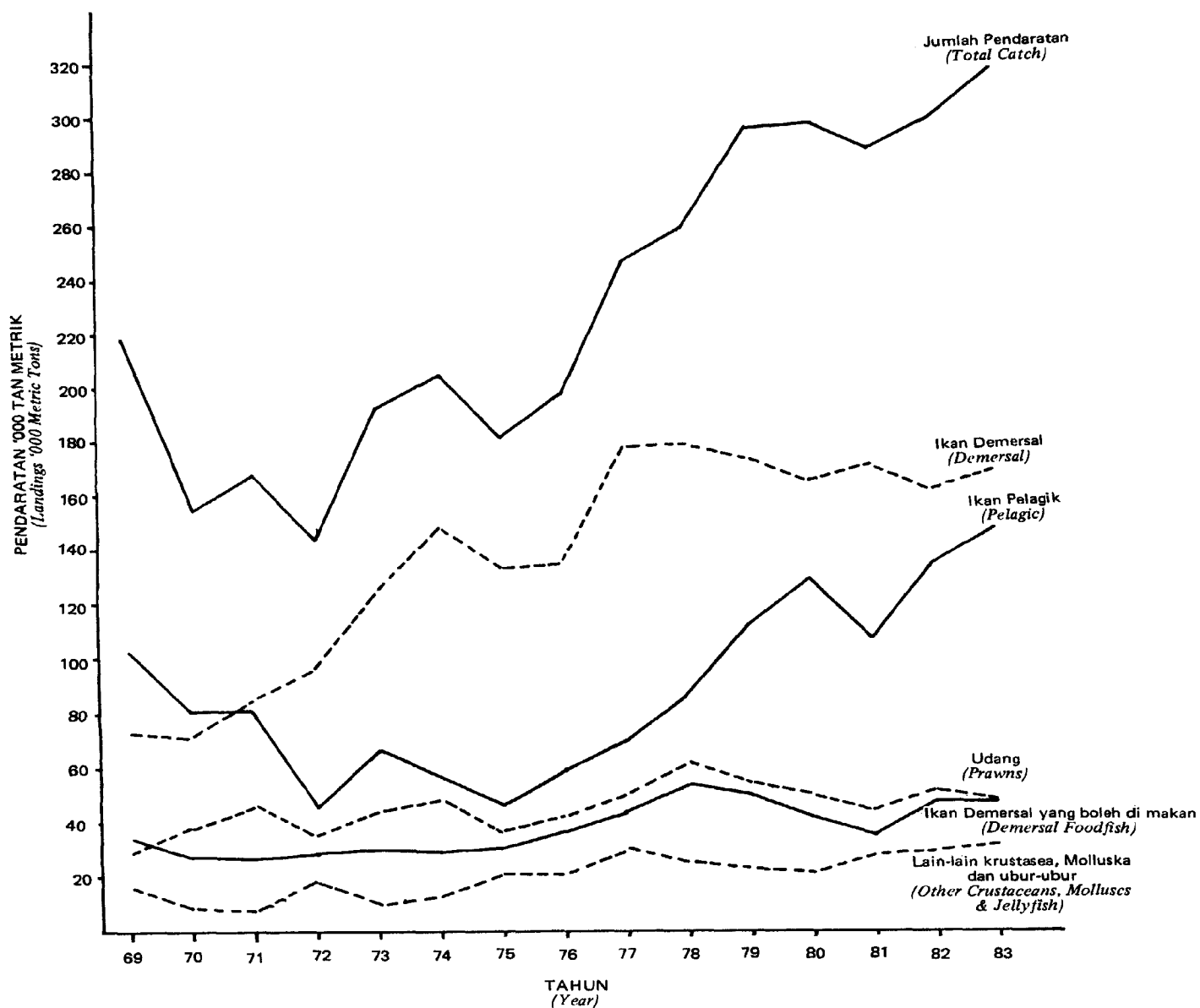
The number of ponds constructed in 1983 increased by 35.5% over that of 1980. The total area involved also increased by 54.4%. The number of ponds was 16,413 units with a total area of about 2,783 ha.

There was however a decrease of 49% and 34.4% in the number and area of old mining ponds used for aquaculture respectively. There were some 1,196 units of old using ponds used for aquaculture occupying a total area of 2,200 ha. On the other hand, aquaculture activity by culturing in cages was stepped up by almost two folds as compared to 1980, both in term of number and area (by 159.6% and 184.4% respectively). The total number of cages and area involved was 5182 units and 43,959 sq. meter respectively. Most of the cages (59%) were utilised for brackishwater aquaculture, while only 2% were used in ponds.

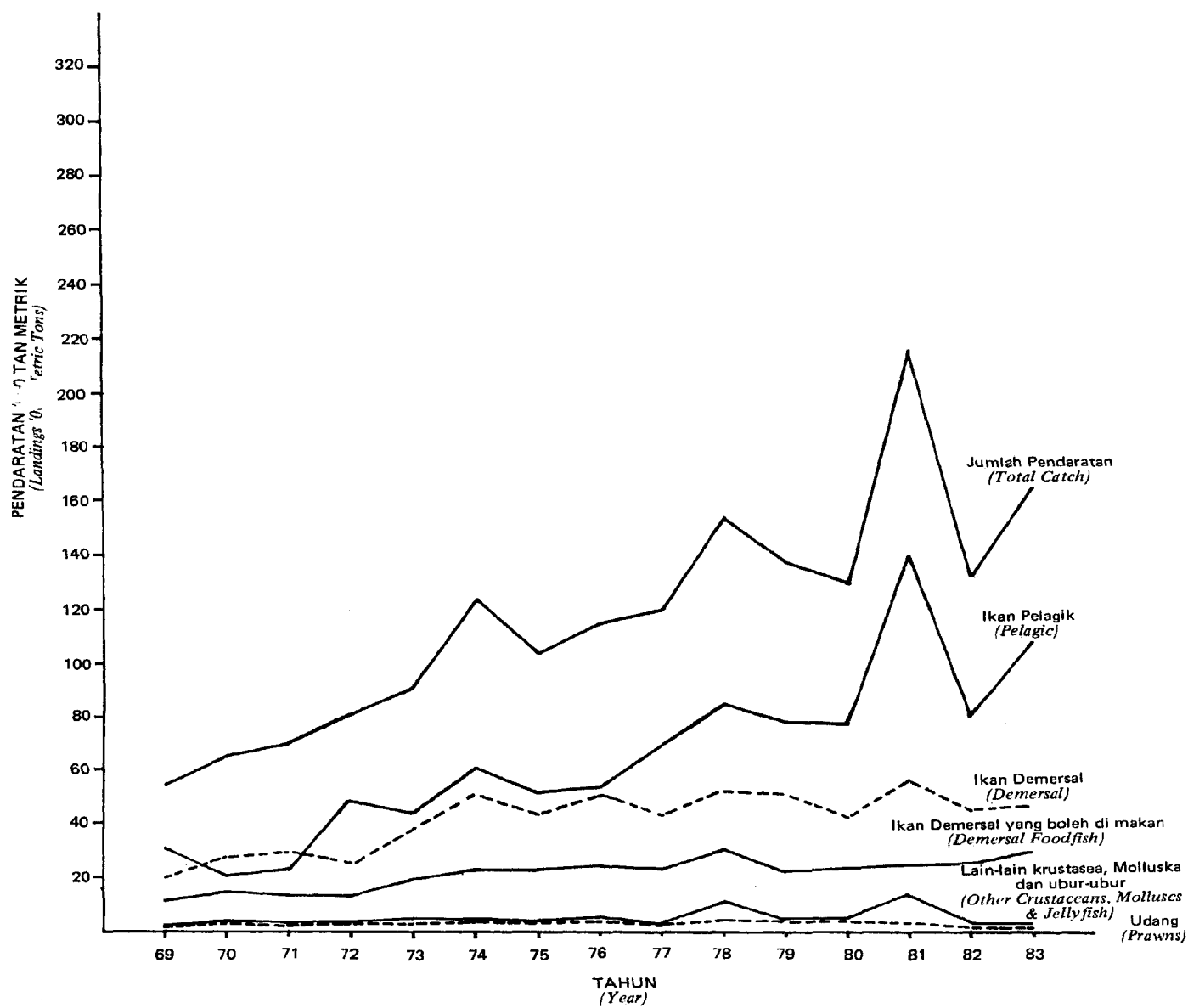
The most popular species in terms of production were: Big Head Carp (31%); Lee Koh (28%); Grass Carp (21%) and Javanese Carp (10%).

The number of culturists involved in pond and cage cultures was some 13,487 persons. The ethnic compositions were as follow: 10,569 Malays (78.4%); 2,367 Chinese (17.5%); 152 Indians (1.1%) and 397 others (3%).

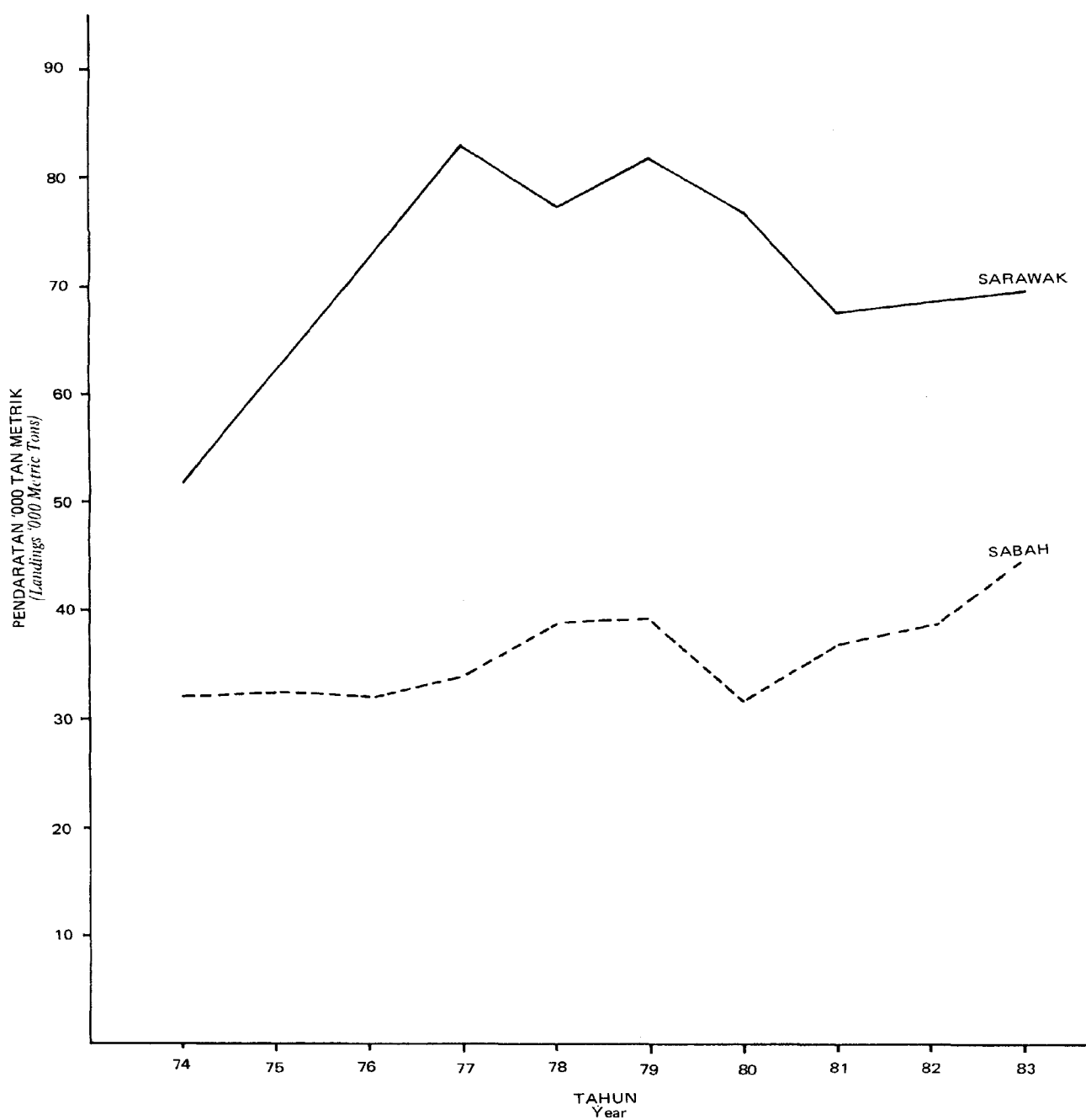
There was a decline of about 13% in the total production over that of 1982 to 12,909.92 metric tons. The reason could be due to the ponds and old mining pools being closed or abandoned.



RAJAH 1: ALIRAN PENDARATAN PANTAI BARAT
(Graph 1: West Coast – Trend of Landings)



RAJAH 2: ALIRAN PENDARATAN PANTAI BARAT
(Graph 2: West Coast – Trend of Landings)



RAJAH 3: ALIRAN PENDARATAN
(Graph 3: Trend of Landings)