2026 Something shifted in Malaysia's trading scene over the past year or so and you can literally feel it in every single Telegram group discussion about money and literally every coffee shop gossip session between friends about growing their income online. Forex trading has gone from being a relatively niche hobby for finance experts and a handful of expats to suddenly being one of the most discussed, most whispered ways Malaysians look to supplement their earnings on the side. Partly due to timing, naturally.

For the past few years the ringgit's been struggling against the US dollar. Instead of just sitting around complaining about it and crying at the exchange rate office, many started asking themselves, "If the currency's fluctuating that much, why not just speculate on the currency's movement itself?". This mental shift is probably more common than many forex brokers are willing to admit. Accessibility The fact that we now have legitimate, regulation-compliant forex brokers with regulated bank accounts, faster verification processes, and easy top-ups via FPX at our fingertips has also driven growth significantly. A few years back, you would need to use shady offshore brokers and send your funds via channels you didn't even fully understand. Having a low barrier to entry makes a huge extra resources difference when introducing new demographics. Income Pressure So Many Malaysians Are Silently Struggling with Income. Living in Kuala Lumpur, Penang or Johor Bahru has become increasingly expensive and keeping up with the rising costs of living means a side income is no longer a choice but a necessity for many Malaysian household budgets. Forex is marketed as a more flexible way to achieve that – you can trade before work, between jobs, anytime, if it clashes with European market opening hours, trade around lunch time. They are not usually mentioning the obvious risk associated with it. The 'Social Proof' effect Malaysians love word of mouth more than any advert. Someone's cousin takes a screenshot of some Forex trade they made and within hours, their whatsapp group will consist of over fifteen other friends wanting to know how to get into forex. Of course most don't even research it. It looks easy, right? As many Malaysians trust the person beside them more than a faceless advert (even those on TV), it was inevitable that forex would trickle down to Main Street in the way it has done. Local Support Many Malaysian forex communities have really grown. There are local mentors offering courses, youtube channels providing lessons on Forex in Bahasa as well as English, and frankly, there are still a lot of people who actually talk about how to manage losses and risks associated with forex in these groups and YouTube channels, not hiding them. While its nowhere close to a guaranteed way to make money but as we can see in 2026, it is clearly no longer just another small topic of discussion in the country.