

MEDIA STATEMENT



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PERFORMANCE OF WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE, MALAYSIA, MARCH 2025

***Festive season spending, Bantuan Khas Kewangan Aidilfitri, and
Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah (STR) led to a 5.7 per cent increase in
Wholesale & retail trade sales, reaching RM154.0 billion***

PUTRAJAYA, MAY 13, 2025 – The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) today released the ***PERFORMANCE OF WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE, MARCH 2025*** report. Wholesale & retail trade recorded total sales of RM154.0 billion in March, marking a year-on-year growth of 5.7 per cent.

In a statement today, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, Chief Statistician Malaysia said, "Sales growth in March was primarily driven by the Retail trade and Wholesale trade sub-sectors. The Retail trade sub-sector registered total sales of RM67.0 billion, marking an increase of RM4.2 billion and a year-on-year growth rate of 6.6 per cent. The Wholesale trade sub-sector posted total sales of RM67.8 billion, reflecting a rise of RM3.7 billion and a year-on-year growth of 5.7 per cent. Meanwhile, the Motor vehicles sub-sector recorded sales of RM19.2 billion, representing an increase of RM0.4 billion or 2.3 per cent on a

year-on-year basis.”

Elaborating on the performance of the Retail trade sub-sector, Dato’ Sri Dr. Mohd. Uzir Mahidin emphasized that the growth was underpinned by strong performance across various categories, driven by festive season preparations and increased spending during Ramadan. The disbursement of Special Aidilfitri Assistance followed by RM1.7 billion under the Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah (STR) significantly boosted consumer activity. This led to higher consumers traffic in supermarkets, shopping malls, and other retail outlets. Retail sales in non-specialised stores increased by 6.5 per cent to RM25.8 billion, while Retail sales in specialised stores grew by 7.3 per cent to RM14.2 billion, driven by higher sales in several industries. These included the Retail sale of articles of clothing, articles of fur and clothing accessories, Stores specialized in retail sale of pharmaceuticals, medical and orthopaedic goods, Stores specialized in retail sale of perfumery, cosmetic and toilet articles, as well as the Retail sales of jewellery. Additionally, Retail sales of household goods rose by 5.8 per cent to RM7.6 billion, while Retail sales of automotive fuel climbed 7.9 per cent to RM6.2 billion, supported by heightened intercity travels during the month of Ramadan and the Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebrations. Retail sales of food, beverages, and tobacco in specialised stores rose by 8.1 per cent to RM4.3 billion. Among the main contributors were Retail sale of rice, flour, other grains, and sugar, as well as Retail sales of fresh or preserved vegetables and fruits.

In March 2025, the Wholesale trade sub-sector remained strong, supported by domestic demand for household-related products and food items, particularly in conjunction with the festive season. According to the Chief Statistician, Wholesale of household goods rose by 7.6 per cent to RM14.5 billion, primarily driven by increased sales in industries such as the wholesale of pharmaceutical and medical goods, perfumeries, cosmetics, soap and toiletries, as well as jewellery. Wholesale

of food, beverages & tobacco also recorded an increase, with a year-on-year growth of 7.7 per cent, reaching RM14.0 billion. Similarly, Other specialised wholesale trade also contributed to the growth of this sub-sector, with a 2.5 per cent increase to RM24.7 billion, mainly driven by sales related to house finishings.

During the same period, the Motor vehicles sub-sector recorded an increase in sales compared to March of the previous year, supported by a 4.1 per cent rise in Sales of motor vehicle parts & accessories, amounting to RM5.2 billion. This was followed by a 1.5 per cent growth in Sales of motor vehicle, reaching RM10.1 billion. A similar trend was reported by the Malaysian Automotive Association (MAA), which recorded sales of 72,704 vehicles compared to 71,199 vehicles in the previous year. Meanwhile, the Road Transport Department (JPJ) reported 77,121 vehicle registrations, higher than the 75,067 registrations recorded last year. The increase in purchases this month was partly driven by attractive promotional offers from automotive companies in conjunction with the festive period.

Online retail sales in March showed an increase, with the index rose by 7.1 per cent year-on-year, driven by festive promotions. After seasonal adjustment, the index recorded a month-on-month growth of 4.2 per cent.

In terms of volume index, Wholesale & retail trade recorded a year-on-year increase of 5.0 per cent. This growth was mainly driven by the Wholesale trade sub-sector, which rose by 6.3 per cent, followed by Retail trade with a 4.9 per cent increase. Meanwhile, the Motor vehicles sub-sector recorded a marginal increase of 0.9 per cent in this month. After seasonal adjustment, the volume index posted a month-on-month increase of 0.3 per cent compared to February 2025.

Malaysia's Wholesale & retail trade sector continued to register strong performance in March 2025, driven by solid year-on-year growth in both the Wholesale trade and Retail trade sub-sectors. The Retail segment benefitted from festive-related spending and cash assistance initiatives, while the Wholesale segment was bolstered by heightened demand for household goods and food items. The Motor vehicles sub-sector also recorded steady growth, supported by increased vehicle sales and registrations in conjunction with festive promotions. Moving forward, the sector is expected to maintain its growth trajectory, supported by resilient domestic demand and continued positive sentiment.

ASEAN-Malaysia 2025 Chairmanship: The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) will chair the 15th ASEAN Community Statistical System Committee (ACSS15) which aims to strengthen the statistical cooperation towards sustainable regional development.

The Government of Malaysia has declared October 20th as National Statistics Day (MyStats Day), with the theme 'Statistics is the Essence of Life.' Meanwhile, the Fourth World Statistics Day will be celebrated on 20th October 2025, with the theme 'Driving Change with Quality Statistics and Data for Everyone'.

OpenDOSM NextGen is a medium that provides data catalogue and visualisations to facilitate users' analysis and can be accessed through <https://open.dosm.gov.my>.

Chart 1: Sales Value of Wholesale & Retail Trade

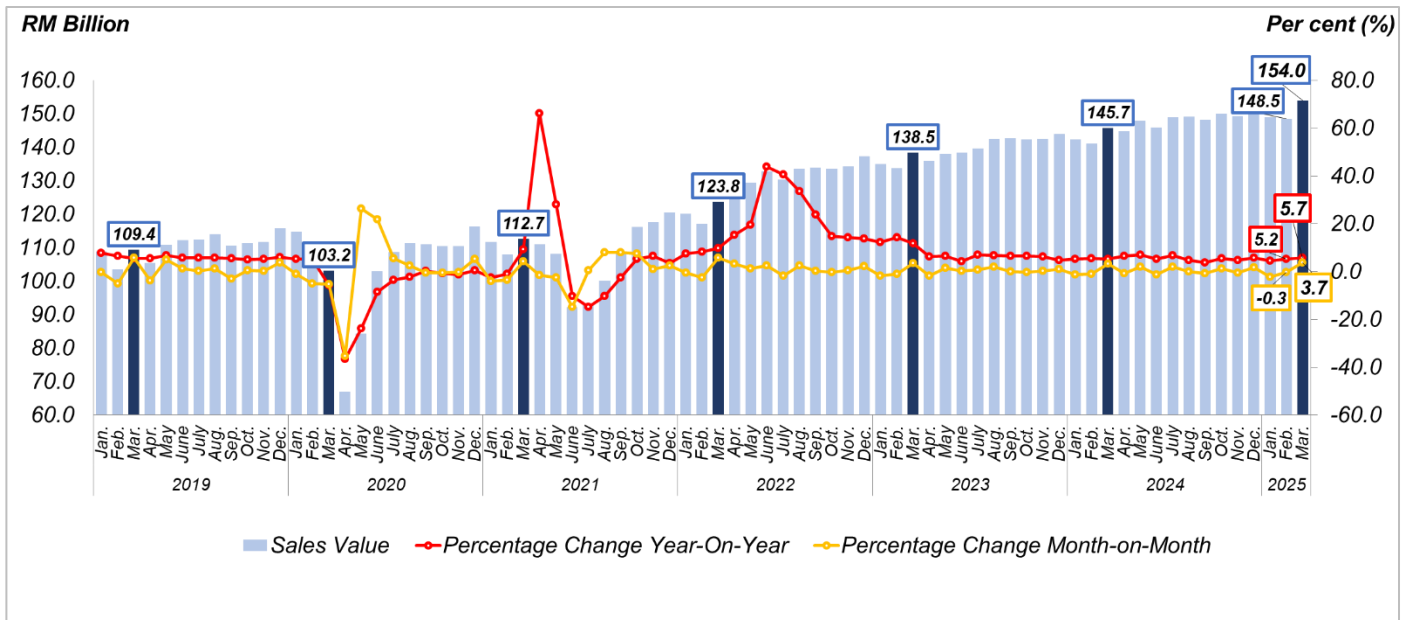


Chart 2: Sales Value of Wholesale Trade

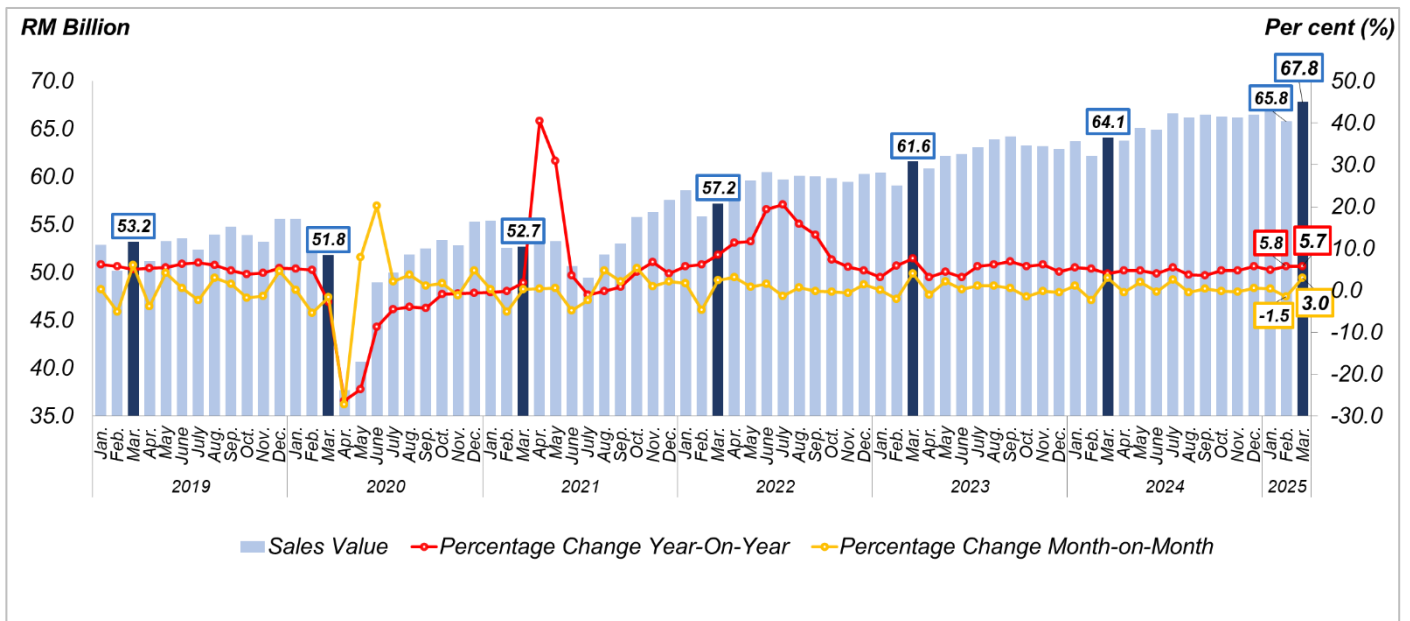


Chart 3: Sales Value of Retail Trade

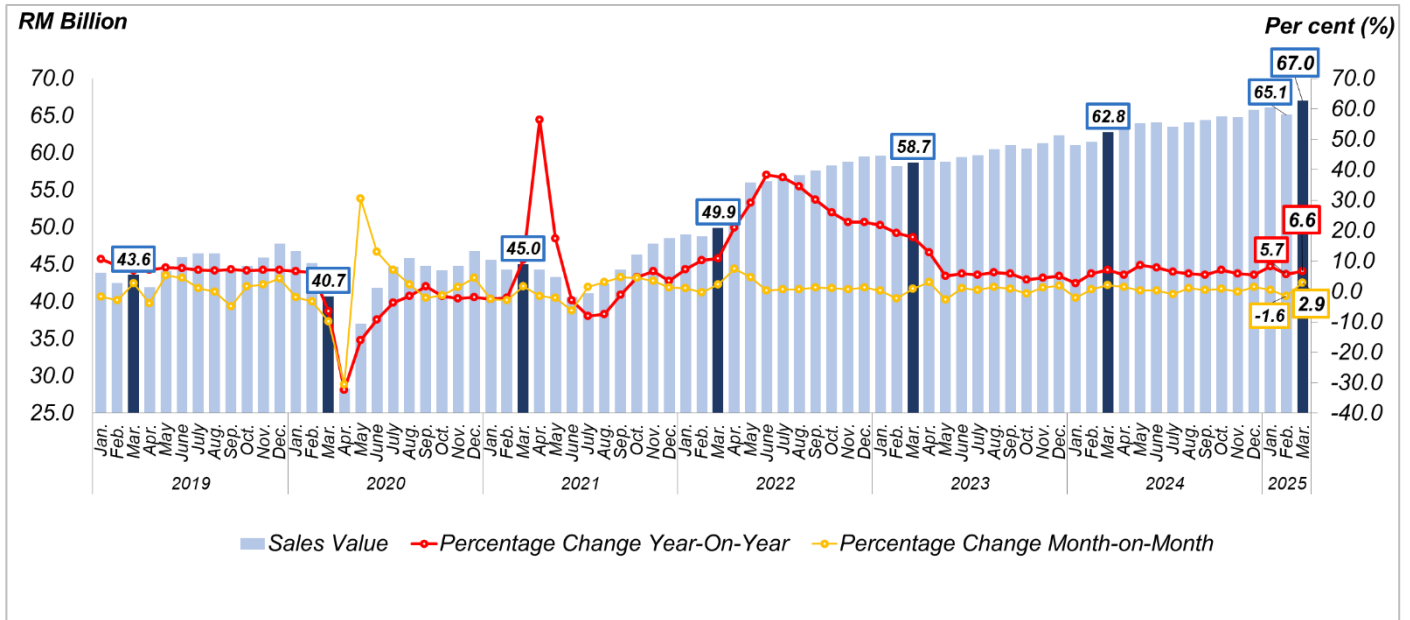


Chart 4: Sales Value of Motor Vehicles

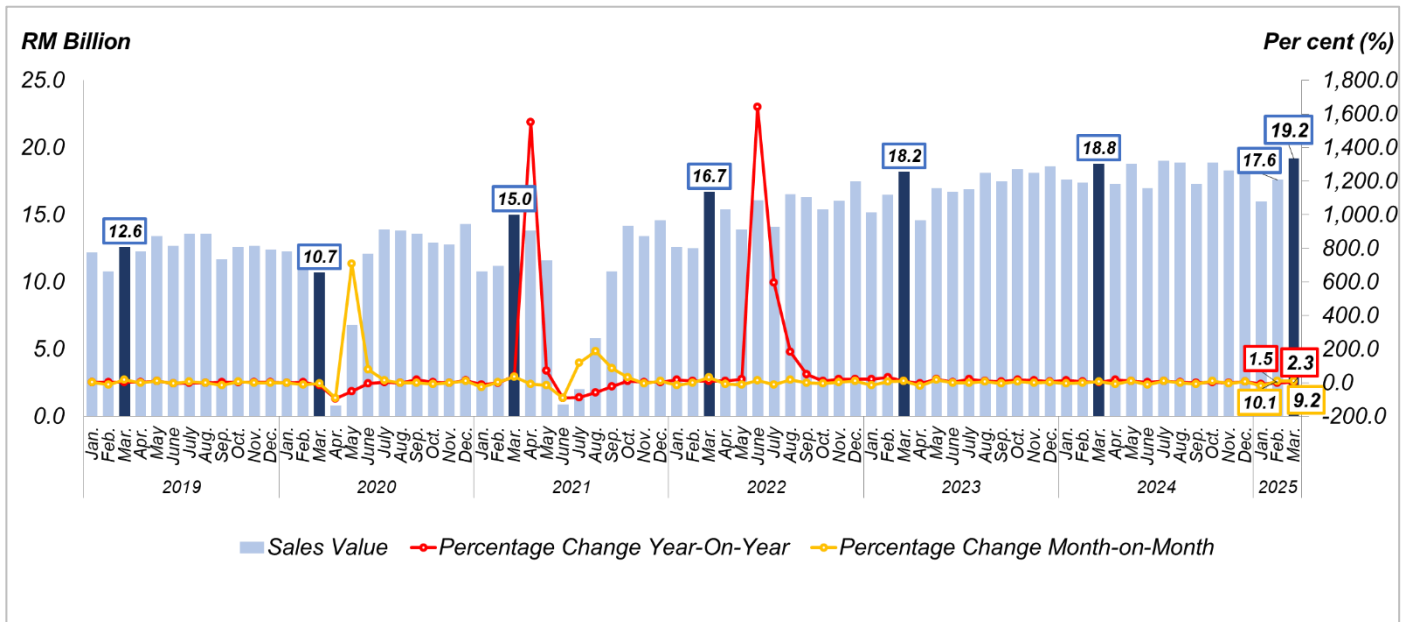
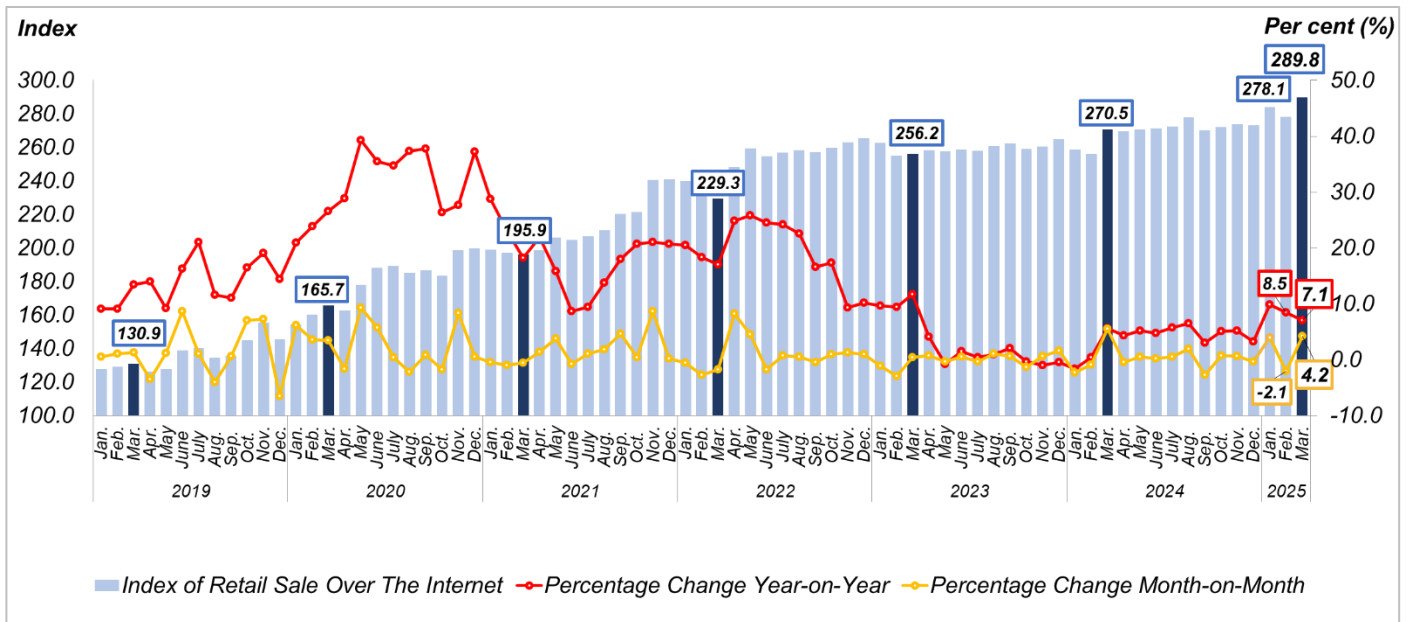


Chart 5: Index of Online Retail Sales



Released by:

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