

SERVICES COST

Inflation rises 1.7pc due to higher transport cost

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's inflation rose 1.7 per cent year-on-year in March, with the consumer price index (CPI) increasing to 136.4 from 134.1 a year earlier, according to the Statistics Department.

Chief Statistician Datuk Seri Mohd Uzir Mahidin said that Malaysia's inflation last month was driven mainly by the transport group, which rose 1.6 per cent after a 0.7 per cent decline in February.

The rise in inflation was also contributed to by increases in personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services, which rose seven per cent.

Among other groups, insurance and financial services rose 4.9 per cent, alcoholic beverages and tobacco increased 2.7 per cent, while restaurants and accommodation services edged up 2.6 per cent.

Health and information and communication each grew 1.4 per cent, while housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels rose 1.2 per cent.

Recreation, sport and culture increased 1.0 per cent.

Meanwhile, education moderated to 2.5 per cent, food and beverages eased to 1.1 per cent, and furnishings and household maintenance slowed to 0.1 per



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cent from February.

On a month-on-month basis, inflation rose 0.3 per cent in March from 0.2 per cent in February.

For the first quarter, inflation averaged 1.6 per cent, up from 1.3 per

cent in the fourth quarter of 2025.

DOSM data showed 62.5 per cent of items, or 358 out of 573, recorded price increases.

Of these, 97.2 per cent rose by 10 per cent or less, while only 10 items

posted increases above 10 per cent.

The remaining 171 items showed a decline, and 44 items remained unchanged.

The food and beverages group, which contributes 29.8 per cent of the total consumer price index (CPI), posted an inflation rate of 1.1 per cent in March.

Within food at home, prices for fish and seafood as well as meat eased in March.

Meat inflation eased to 0.9 per cent from 1.7 per cent, despite higher prices for pork and duck, which rose 3.4 per cent and 0.6 per cent respectively.

Chicken, as the largest component in the expenditure class of meat, dropped to 0.3 per cent as compared with 2.5 per cent registered in February.

Inflation for the group of housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels increased to 1.2 per cent in March as compared to 1.1 per cent in February.

At the state level, eight states recorded inflation above the national rate of 1.7 per cent: Pahang (2.5 per cent), Labuan (2.4 per cent), Negeri Sembilan (2.2 per cent), Kuala Lumpur (2.2 per cent), Sabah (2.1 per cent), Johor (2.0 per cent), Kedah (1.9 per cent) and Penang (1.8 per cent).