

INCREASED TRADE ACTIVITIES

Nation's leading index rises 1.3pc to 114.8 points in June

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's leading index posted an annual growth of 1.3 per cent to 114.8 points in June, reflecting the strengthening of the nation's trade activities, said the Statistics Department.

The index was driven by a surge in real imports of basic precious and non-ferrous metals (35.1 per cent), as well as real imports of semiconductors (14.2 per cent).

"This scenario is in line with the strengthening of Malaysia's trade activities, particularly sustained demand for electrical and electronics (E&E) products," said the department yesterday.

However, the overall performance was partly offset by declines in several components, notably the number of new companies registered.

On a monthly basis, the index also recorded a marginal increase of 0.02 per cent, contributed mainly by

real imports of other basic precious and other non-ferrous metals (0.8 per cent).

The department said the long-term smoothed trend of the leading index remained below 100 points.

"Nevertheless, the economy is expected to continue growing, supported by resilient domestic demand and continued expansion in investment activities.

"At the same time, an increasingly dynamic global economic

landscape and the recovery in international trade are expected to continue supporting Malaysia's economic growth," it added.

For current economic performance, the coincident index rose 2.6 per cent year-on-year with 131.6 points, underpinned by strong growth in all components, particularly real contributions of the Employees Provident Fund (16 per cent) and the volume index of retail trade (4.1 per cent).

