

Cover Story: The rising subsidy bill quandary and its implications

MALAYSIA registered an inflation rate of 2.5% in 2021, versus -1.2% in 2020. The two biggest contributors to the rise in prices — according to the **Department of Statistics Malaysia** — were the ceiling price set for RON95 petrol in the country at RM2.05 effective from February last year, and the increase in chicken prices above their 2020 average.

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