

## **Malaysia's CPI up 2% in August**

THE consumer price index (CPI) has increased 2% to 122.5 in August 2021 against 120.1 in the same month of the preceding year due to the base effect last year.

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) said that the CPI has recorded an increase for the seventh consecutive month since February 2021.

“The transport group continued to record a double-digit increase since March and edged up by 11% in August, while food and non-alcoholic beverages was up by 1.2% against 1.3% in the previous month,” Chief Statistician Malaysia Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said in a statement today.

The index for food away from home has increased 1% and among the food are cooked beef, burger and satay.

Meanwhile, housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels also registered a marginal increase of 0.6%.

Other groups that recorded increases were the furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance with 1.7%, recreation services and culture (0.7%), and restaurants and hotels (0.6%).

“Both communication and education remained unchanged, while health increased by 0.3%, and alcoholic beverages and tobacco increased 0.4%. Both clothing and footwear and miscellaneous goods and services declined by 0.4% and 0.6% respectively,” Mohd Uzir added.

He said that the CPI for the period of January to August 2021 increased 2.3% compared to the same period last year and remained unchanged as compared to July 2021.

“The setting of maximum retail prices for pure palm cooking oil in bottled packaging by the government effective Aug 1 has slightly eased the inflation of subgroup oils and fats to 0.4% from 0.2% in July 2021,” he said.

According to him, the core index rose 0.6% in August 2021 as compared to the same month of the previous year, and there are six states that have surpassed the national CPI rate of 2%.

“The six states, namely Terengganu (2.6%), Sarawak (2.4%), Pahang (2.4%), Kelantan (2.4%), Perak (2.1%) and Kedah and Perlis (2.1%). All states registered an increase in the index of food and non-alcoholic beverages,” he noted.

Mohd Uzir said the highest increase was recorded by Selangor and Putrajaya by 1.8%, followed by Kelantan (1.4%) and Pahang (1.3%).

Meanwhile, other states showed an increase below the national index of food and non-alcoholic beverages rate of 1.2% in August 2021.

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