

# Wholesale and retail trade grows 6.6% on-year in May

**PUTRAJAYA:** Malaysia's wholesale and retail trade recorded monthly sales value of RM138 billion, grew 6.6% year-on-year in May 2023, according to Department of Statistics Malaysia (DoSM) in its report "Performance of Wholesale & Retail Trade, May 2023" released yesterday.

The increase of 6.6% for wholesale & retail trade in May 2023 was attributed to motor vehicles sub-sector, which surged 22% or RM3.1 billion to register RM17 billion. Retail trade also expanded by registering 5% or

➤ Increase attributed to motor vehicles sub-sector, which surged 22% or RM3.1b

RM2.8 billion to RM58.8 billion, followed by wholesale trade with an increase of 4.4% or RM2.6 billion to settle at RM62.2 billion.

For month-on-month (m-o-m) comparison, sales value of wholesale and retail trade rebounded 1.5%, contributed by motor vehicles and wholesale trade sub-sectors of 16.2% and

2.1%, respectively.

Looking at the performance across sub-sectors, the double-digit growth of 22% in motor vehicles sub-sector this month was pushed up by sales of motor vehicles which jumped 29.8% or RM2.1 billion to RM8.9 billion. This was followed by sales of motor vehicles parts and

accessories and maintenance and repair of motor vehicles which climbed 17.7% and 20.4%, respectively.

However, sales, maintenance and repair of motorcycles decreased -5%. For monthly comparison, this sub-sector bounced back 16.2%, contributed by all groups, mainly sales of motor vehicles with 30.8%.

Commenting further on retail trade sub-sector, the growth of 5% in May 2023 was supported by retail sales in non-specialised stores which grew 8.4% or RM1.7 billion to RM22.5 billion. Other groups in this sub-sector also recorded positive growth namely retail sales in specialised stores 6%, retail sales of food, beverages and tobacco 10%, retail sales of automotive fuel 6.0%, retail sales not in stores, stalls or market 2.5%, and retail sales in stalls and market 6%.

On the other hand, for month-on-month comparison, sales of this sub-sector went down -2.7% with most of the groups registered a negative growth.

DoSM also informed that the increase of 4.4% in wholesale trade was attributed to wholesale of food, beverages and tobacco which rose RM1.1 billion or 9.6% to RM12.3 billion. This was followed by wholesale of household goods 7.9%, wholesale of agricultural raw materials and live animals 8.6%, wholesale of machinery, equipment and supplies 5.8%, non-specialised wholesale trade 11.6%, and wholesale on a fee or contract basis 7.3%.

For monthly comparison, wholesale trade rose 2.1%, mainly attributable to wholesale of agricultural raw materials and live animals and other specialised wholesale which increased 7.5% and 1.1%, respectively.

For index of retail sale over the internet, the index recorded -0.8% growth year-on-year in May 2023 as compared to 4.1% in April 2023. For seasonally adjusted value, the index contracted -5.5% as against the previous month.

In terms of volume index, wholesale and retail trade for May 2023 registered a year-on-year growth of 4.6%. DoSM also added that the expansion was attributed to all sub-sectors namely motor vehicles 17.8%, wholesale trade 5.3%, and retail trade 2.4%. For seasonally adjusted volume index, it declined -4.1% month-on-month.

