

JANUARY-JULY PERIOD

Manufacturing sector sales rise to RM1.03tril

KUALA LUMPUR: The sales value of the manufacturing sector rose 2.5 per cent year-on-year to RM1.03 trillion for the first seven months of this year, said the Statistics Department.

During this period, the number of employees rose to 2.34 million, or by 1.7 per cent, while salaries and wages grew 3.8 per cent to RM56.6 billion.

"Consequently, the sales value per employee posted a marginal growth of 0.8 per cent, amounting to RM441,255," said chief statistician Datuk Seri Mohd Uzir Mahidin in a statement.

On a monthly basis, he said the manufacturing sector's sales value was down by three per cent to RM144 billion in July.

"The sales value of the manufacturing sector fell for a second consecutive month in July, narrowing to negative three per cent year-on-year from negative four per cent in the preceding month."

The deterioration was primarily influenced by the petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic sub-sector, which registered a continuous decline, reaching -15.3 per cent during the month (June: -12.4 per cent) as well as to a contraction in the food, beverages and tobacco (-7.8 per cent)

and wood, furniture, paper products and printing (-0.6 per cent) sub-sectors.

Compared to the previous month, the sales value decreased by 2.4 per cent against June's RM147.4 billion.

The sales value of export-oriented industries, which represented 72.1 per cent of total sales,

continued to decline by seven per cent in July (June: -7.4 per cent).


"This is mainly attributed to a decrease in the manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products (-25.6 per cent); manufacture of vegetable and animal oils and fats (-18.5 per cent) and manufacture of rubber products

(-10.8 per cent)," said Uzir.

Nonetheless, the performance of domestic-oriented industries remained vigorous, reaching 9.2 per cent in July versus 6.8 per cent in June.

Hence, this mitigated the impact of the deterioration in the export-oriented industries.

"The steady momentum of domestic-oriented industries was primarily underpinned by a strong growth in the sales value of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers manufacturing, which registered 22 per cent," he added. **Bernama**

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DATUK SERI MOHD UZIR MAHIDIN

Statistics Department chief statistician