

STATISTICS DEPARTMENT DATA

PPI contraction narrows in August

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's Producer Price Index (PPI) contracted 1.8 per cent last month, an improvement compared with the contraction of 2.3 per cent in July.

Chief statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said this was contributed by the mining sector, which slipped 3.8 per cent (July: -10.8 per cent), with the extraction of crude petroleum index posting a negative 6.5 per cent last month.

The manufacturing sector decreased by 2.3 per cent, affected by the drop in manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products (-13.4 per cent) and manufacture of food products (-7.6 per cent) indices.

The electricity and gas supply sector also recorded a decline of 0.1 per cent (July: 0.1 per cent).

On the other hand, the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector increased 2.9 per cent, supported by the index of animal production (6.0 per cent) and growing of perennial crops (2.0 per cent).

The water supply sector rose 2.5 per cent last month.

On a monthly basis, PPI local production went up by 0.3 per cent last month (July 2023: 0.2 per cent).

The mining sector increased by 3.9 per cent owing to the extraction of crude petroleum (5.0 per cent) and extraction of natural gas (0.7 per cent) indices.

The agriculture, forestry and fishing sector edged up by 1.9 per cent with the index of growing of perennial crops posting an increase of 5.0 per cent. The water supply

sector recorded an increase of 0.2 per cent during the month.

On the PPI local production by stage of processing, Uzir said the crude materials for further processing index continued to decline 2.4 per cent last month (July: -6.3 per cent), with the non-food materials index posting a -3.5 per cent.

The intermediate materials, supplies and components index dropped by 3.7 per cent due to processed fuel and lubricants (-10.2 per cent) and materials and components for manufacturing (-5.6 per cent) indices.

Meanwhile, the finished goods index increased 3.2 per cent due to the increase of capital equipment (4.8 per cent) and finished consumer goods (1.2 per cent).