

KUALA LUMPUR (Oct 12): Malaysia's manufacturing sector saw its sales value fall 3.3% year-on-year (y-o-y) to RM152.3 billion in August 2023, mainly due to the petroleum chemical, rubber and plastic sub-sector, which shrank 12.1%, said the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM).

In a statement on Thursday, chief statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said the decline in August was also attributable to a contraction in the food, beverages and tobacco sub-sector by 6.6%, and the wood, furniture, paper products and printing sub-sector by 0.1%.

Month-on-month (m-o-m), he said the sales value rebounded by 5.8%, versus a 2.4% contraction previously.

On export-oriented industries, Mohd Uzir said the sales value, which accounted for 72.7% of total sales, decreased 6.7% in August from a contraction of 7% in July, mainly owing to lower sales for the manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products (-19.7%), manufacture of vegetable and animal oils and fats (-15.1%), and manufacture of rubber products (-8.8%).

On the domestic-oriented industries, he said the sales value grew 7.2% in August, versus 9.1% in the previous month.

August manufacturing sales value down 3.3% to RM152.3 bil – DOSM

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For the first eight months of 2023, Mohd Uzir said the sales value of the manufacturing sector stood at RM1.2 trillion, up 1.7% from a year earlier.

In terms of the number of employees, he said the manufacturing sector engaged 2.36 million persons in August, up 2% y-o-y from 2.31 million persons.

"In line with the increase in employment, salaries and wages paid in the manufacturing sector grew 3% y-o-y, amounting to RM8 billion in August 2023," he said.

M-o-m, Mohd Uzir said salaries and wages increased 0.9%, from RM7.9 billion recorded in July.