

# Manufacturing sector sales hit RM158.7b in September

➤ Value down 1.9% from year ago but up 4.3% compared with previous month

**PUTRAJAYA:** The manufacturing sector sales value dipped by 1.9% year-on-year to RM158.7 billion in September 2023, but showed a 4.3% increase compared to August 2023 according to the Department of Statistics, Malaysia (DoSM) report released yesterday.

Chief Statistician Malaysia Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said, "The sales value of the manufacturing sector decreased at a slower pace of 1.9% in September 2023 as compared to the 3.3% deterioration in the preceding month. The decrease was predominantly influenced by the continuous 12.3% decline in the petroleum, chemical, rubber & plastic sub-sector."

Additionally, the food, beverage & tobacco sub-sector contracted by 1.7%; and the wood, furniture, paper products & printing sub-sector fell by 0.7%.

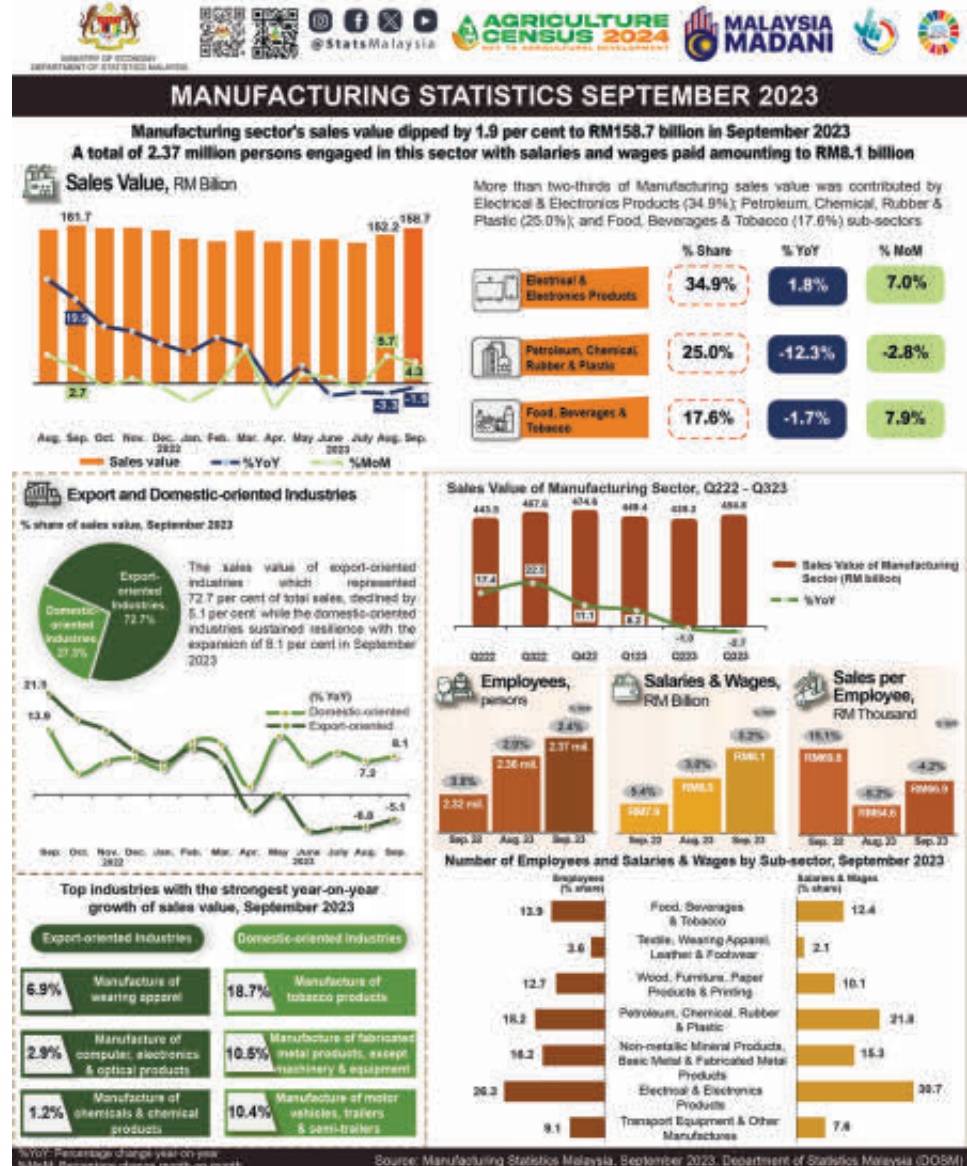
Compared with the preceding month, the sales value increased by 4.3% as against RM152.2 billion recorded in August 2023 (5.7%).

The sales value of export-oriented industries, which represented more than two-thirds of total sales, declined by 5.1% in September 2023 after shrinking by 6.8% in August 2023. The downturn was mainly attributed to the decrease in the manufacture of coke & refined petroleum products (-21.6%); manufacture of machinery & equipment n.e.c. (-10.5%); and manufacture of vegetable & animal oils & fats (-8.4%).

Nonetheless, the domestic-oriented industries sustained their resilience and grew 8.1% in September 2023 (August 2023: 7.2%). The continuous expansion was primarily underpinned by the substantial rise in the sales value of the manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery & equipment which rose by 10.5%; as well as manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers & semi-trailers at 10.4%; and manufacture of food products at 9.5%.

On a month-on-month comparison, export-oriented and domestic-oriented industries posted increases of 4.4% and 4.1%, respectively.

Mohd Uzir pointed out that the manufacturing sector engaged 2.37 million persons in September 2023, an increase of



2.4% compared with the 2.32 million persons registered a year earlier. The rise was mainly supported by the food, beverage & tobacco (7.4%); non-metallic mineral products, basic metal & fabricated metal products (2.8%); and electrical & electronic products (2.0%) sub-sectors.

On a month-on-month basis, the number of employees in the manufacturing sector increased by 0.8%.

On the same note, salaries & wages paid in

the manufacturing sector posted an increase of 3.2% year-on-year, totalling RM8.1 billion in September 2023.

Compared with August 2023, salaries & wages paid grew by 1.7% as against 0.9% growth registered in the preceding month.

Mohd Uzir said the sales value of the manufacturing sector for the first nine months of 2023 hit RM1.34 trillion, up by 1.3% compared with the same period in the preceding year (January-September 2022: 17.6%).