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FEBRUARY STATISTICS

Factory sales hit RM159.2m, lifted by E&E

KUALA LUMPUR: The manufacturing sector posted sales of RM159.2 million in February, up 3.9 per cent year-on-year, driven by the electrical and electronics (E&E) sub-sector.

Chief statistician Datuk Seri Mohd Uzir Mahidin said the E&E sub-sector rose 13.8 per cent in February.

"The growth was further supported by the non-metallic mineral products, basic metal and fabricated metal products sub-sector and food, beverages and tobacco sub-sector, which increased by 3.2 per cent and 2.8 per cent, respectively.

"In comparison by month-on-month, sales value declined six per cent, from RM169.2 billion recorded

in January," he said.

Export-oriented industries, which accounted for 70.4 per cent of total sales, grew 4.5 per cent in February, led by the rise in the E&E sub-sector.

Manufacture of electrical equipment also registered an increment at 1.3 per cent while manufacture of machinery and equipment grew 1.5 per cent.

Compared to the sales value in the preceding month, the export-oriented industries dropped 5.6 per cent.

Domestic-oriented industries rose 2.7 per cent in February after registering 6.9 per cent in the previous month.

The performance was mainly supported by the growth in the manufac-

ture of food processing products industry at 6.3 per cent in February as well as in the manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products and manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment.

The salaries and wages paid in the manufacturing sector also posted an expansion of two per cent, amounting to RM8.58 billion in February.

Compared to the amount recorded in the prior month, the salaries and wages paid dropped 1.5 per cent.

The sales value per employee stood at RM65,870, while the average salaries and wages per employee was RM3,550, which increased by 1.1 per cent year-on-year.