

# MEDIA STATEMENT



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## **PERFORMANCE OF WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE, MALAYSIA, JANUARY 2025**

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***Malaysia's Wholesale & retail trade begins 2025 with 4.6 per cent growth in January, reaching RM148.9 billion in sales***

**PUTRAJAYA, MARCH 12, 2025** – The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) today released the **PERFORMANCE OF WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE, JANUARY 2025** report. The Wholesale & retail trade sector began the year 2025 with total sales of RM148.9 billion in January, recording a 4.6 per cent growth year-on-year.

In a statement today, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd. Uzir Mahidin, Chief Statistician Malaysia said, "The increase in sales for January was mainly driven by the Retail trade and Wholesale trade sub-sectors. Retail trade recorded total sales of RM66.1 billion, an increase of RM5.0 billion, reflecting a year-on-year growth of 8.2 per cent. Meanwhile, Wholesale trade registered total sales of RM66.8 billion, increased by RM3.1 billion, with a year-on-year growth of 4.9 per cent. However, the Motor vehicles sub-sector saw total sales of RM16.0 billion, a decline of RM1.6 billion or -9.1 per cent year-on-year, following an exceptional performance in December 2024."

*The Chief Statistician also stated, “Wholesale trade continued to demonstrate resilience in January 2025, driven by robust demand for essential consumer goods. The Wholesale of household goods grew by 5.3 per cent to RM13.9 billion, primarily supported by increased sales of clothing and pharmaceutical-related products. The Wholesale of food, beverages & tobacco also saw a 5.0 per cent increase to RM13.9 billion, fueled by the festive season's heightened consumption. In addition, this growth was further supported by Other specialised wholesale trade, which rose by 2.6 per cent.”*

*Elaborating on the Retail trade sub-sector, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd. Uzir Mahidin explained that this sub-sector was supported by Retail sales in non-specialised stores, which increased by 9.7 per cent to RM25.5 billion and Retail sales in specialised stores, which grew by 8.3 per cent to RM14.0 billion in January 2025. The surge in retail sales activity was largely driven by the Chinese New Year celebrations and the school holiday season. Additionally, in January, Malaysia was selected as the host for the first-ever Chinese New Year celebration held outside of China, which boosted tourist arrivals from China and positively impacted retail activities. Retail sales of automotive fuel also showed an increase of 7.8 per cent to RM6.0 billion, reflecting a rise in travel activity. Meanwhile, Retail sales of household goods grew by 4.7 per cent to RM7.5 billion, driven by higher consumer demand for home appliances during the festive season. Furthermore, Retail sales of cultural & recreational goods saw a 9.4 per cent increase to RM2.9 billion, supported by purchases of school supplies in preparation for the new academic term starting in February.*

*However, during the same period, the Motor Vehicles sub-sector recorded a decline in sales compared to January of the previous year. A similar trend was also reported by the Malaysian Automotive Association (MAA), which recorded sales of*

48,732 vehicles, a drop from 66,923 vehicles sold last year. Meanwhile, the Road Transport Department (JPJ) registered 53,930 vehicle registrations, lower than the 70,186 registrations recorded the previous year. The decline in purchases this month was partly due to early purchases made in December. Another contributing factor to the downturn in this sub-sector was the Sales, maintenance & repair of motorcycles, which recorded a negative growth of -1.2 per cent, amounting to RM1.1 billion. However, two other groups showed positive growth namely Sales of motor vehicle parts & accessories which grew by 8.0 per cent, while Maintenance & repair of motor vehicles increased by 5.1 per cent.

Retail sales over the internet in January showed a significant increase, with the retail sales index rising by 9.9 per cent year-on-year, driven by various promotions in conjunction with festive celebrations and back-to-school preparations. After accounting for seasonal adjustments, the index recorded a 7.0 per cent month-on-month increase.

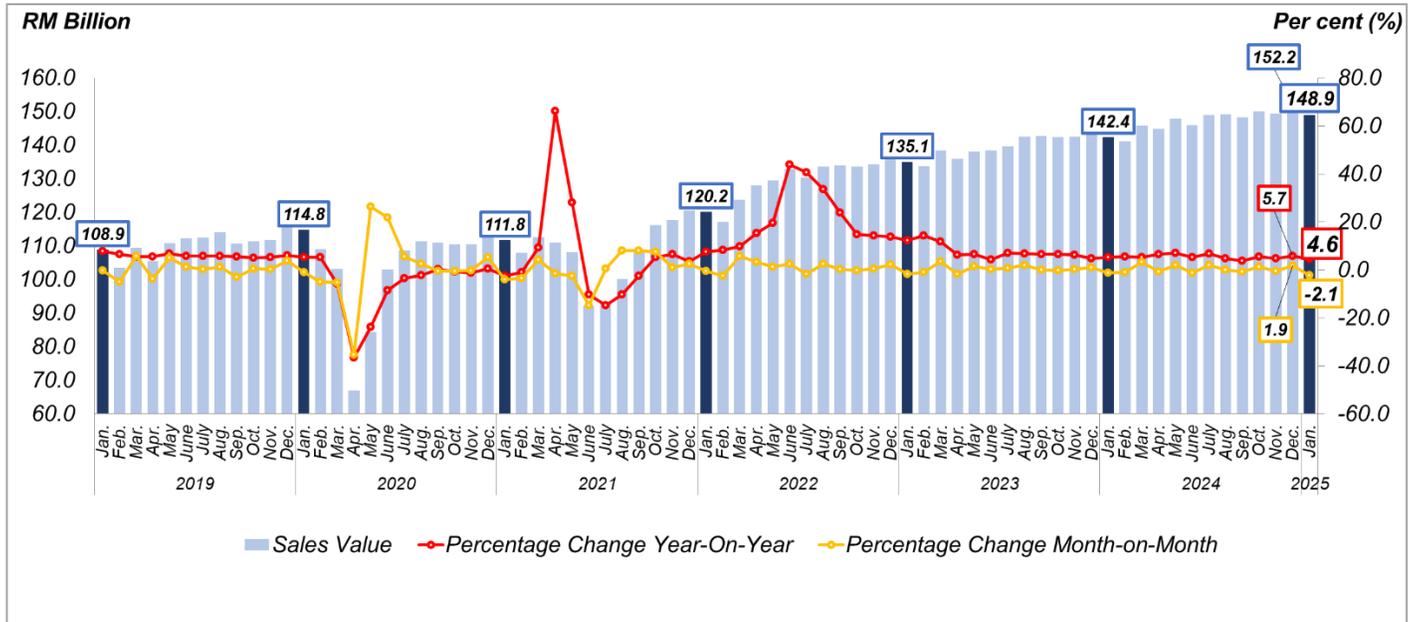
In terms of the volume index, Wholesale & retail trade recorded a year-on-year increase of 3.8 per cent. This growth was primarily driven by the Retail trade sub-sector, which rose by 6.6 per cent, followed by Wholesale trade, which saw an increase of 4.5 per cent. On the other hand, the Motor vehicles sub-sector recorded a decline of -11.1 per cent this month. After seasonal adjustments, the volume index registered a 0.4 per cent month-on-month increase compared to December 2024.

Malaysia's Wholesale & retail trade sector recorded slightly lower growth in January 2025, due to downturn in Motor vehicles segment while the Retail trade and Wholesale trade sub-sectors continued the positive drive. This sector is expected to maintain its growth momentum, supported by stable domestic consumption and the continuous tourism activities.

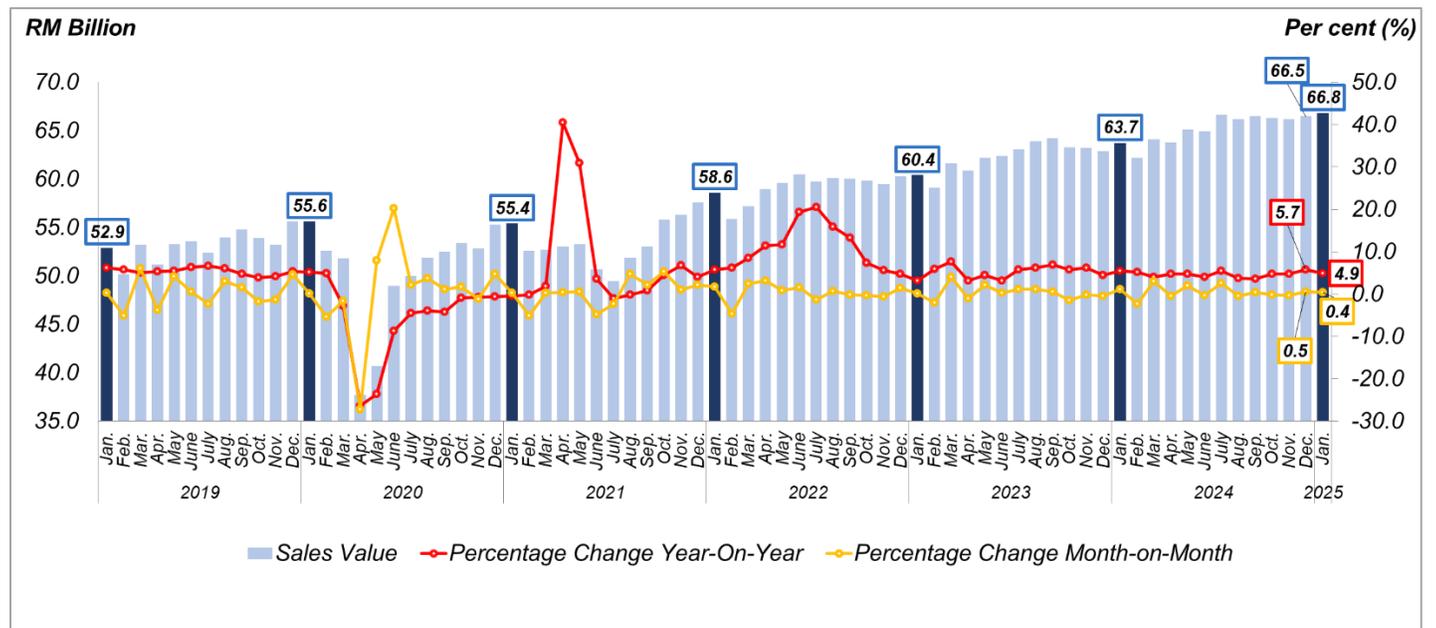
*DOSM has launched OpenDOSM NextGen as a medium that provides data catalogue and visualisations to facilitate users' analysis and can be accessed through <https://open.dosm.gov.my>.*

*The Government of Malaysia has declared National Statistics Day (MyStats Day) on October 20th. MyStats Day theme is “Statistics is the Essence of Life.”*

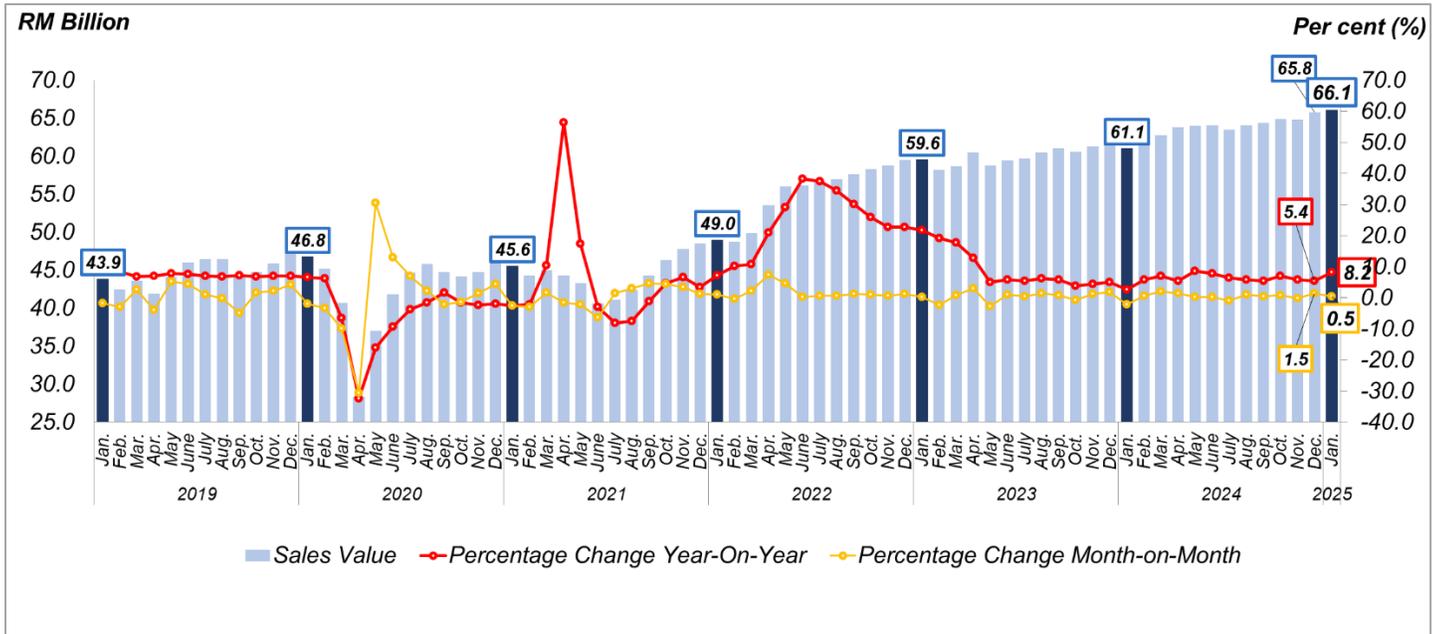
**Chart 1: Sales Value of Wholesale & Retail Trade**



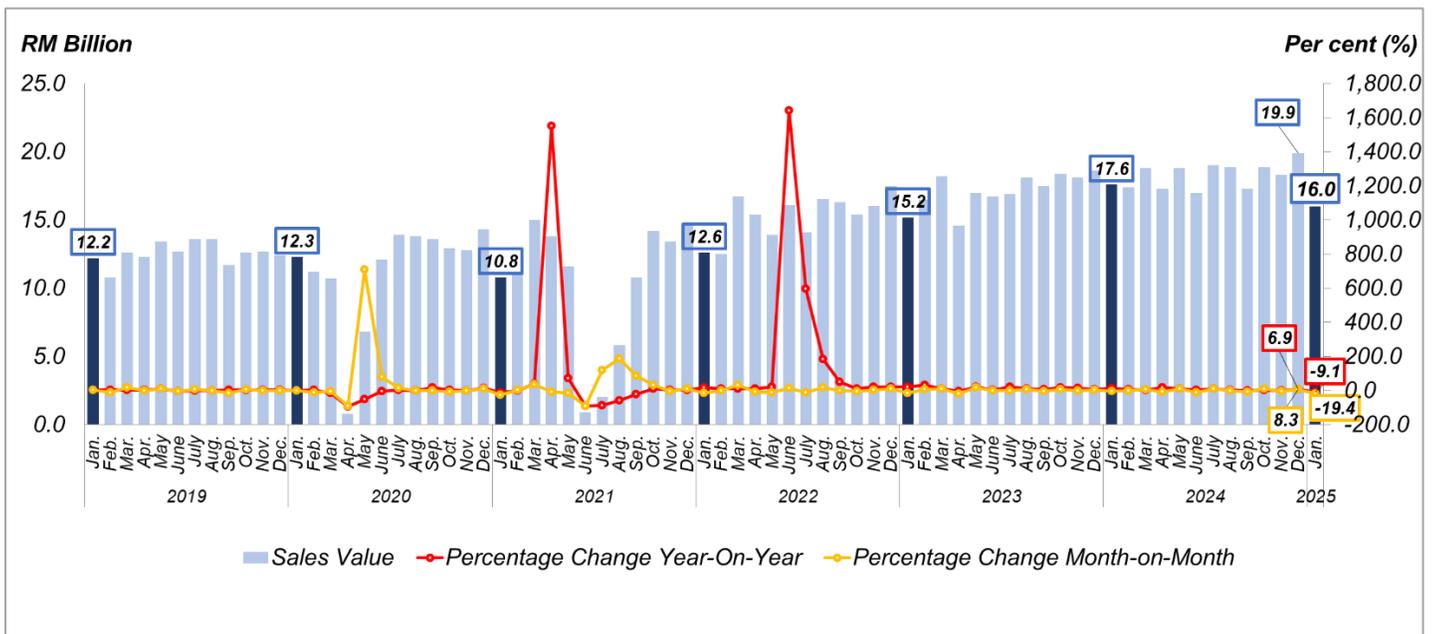
**Chart 2: Sales Value of Wholesale Trade**



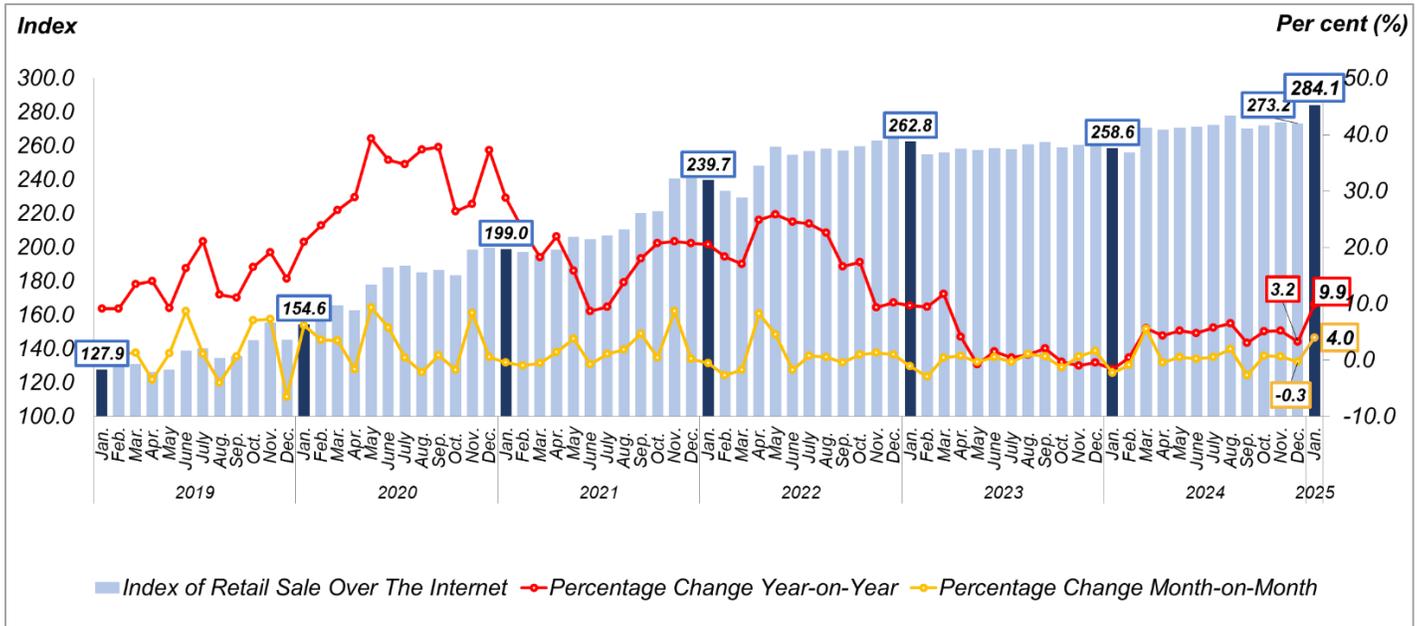
**Chart 3: Sales Value of Retail Trade**



**Chart 4: Sales Value of Motor Vehicles**



**Chart 5: Index of Retail Sale Over the Internet**



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