



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, MALAYSIA
FEBRUARY 2023

Malaysia's inflation remained at 3.7 per cent in February 2023

PUTRAJAYA, 24 March 2023 – The Consumer Price Index February 2023 remained at 3.7 per cent with the index recording 129.8 as against 125.2 in the same month of the preceding year. Department of Statistics, Malaysia reported today on the release of **CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI), FEBRUARY 2023**.

In a statement today, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, the Chief Statistician Malaysia said, "The increase in Malaysia's inflation in February 2023 was still driven by Restaurants & Hotels (7.4%) and Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (7.0%). Nevertheless, the slower increase in Transport group which was at 3.7 per cent as compared to January 2023 (4.0%) to a certain extent offset further rise in inflation. In addition, the increase in Malaysia's inflation was also due to the increase in Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance (3.4%); Miscellaneous Goods & Services (2.5%) and Health (1.8%). Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels and Recreation Services & Culture recorded an increase of 1.7 per cent respectively, while Education increased 1.6 per cent. Both Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco and Clothing & Footwear inclined 0.8 per cent and 0.4 per cent respectively as against February 2022.

Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin also added, "Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages group which contributes 29.5 per cent of total Consumer Price Index (CPI) recorded an increase of 7.0 per cent (January 2023: 6.7%). Out of the 230 Food items, 203 items or 88.3 per cent recorded price increases. The Food at home component which made up of almost 58 per cent of total Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages group recorded a higher increase of 5.8 per cent as compared to 5.1 per cent in January 2023.

Nevertheless, the component of Food away from home recorded a lower increase of 8.9 per cent as against January 2023 (9.3%). Among the Food away from home that recorded a slower increase were Satay, 9.9 per cent (January 2023: 11.0%); Rice with side dishes, 9.1 per cent (January 2023: 10.2%); Chicken rice, 7.8 per cent (January 2023: 8.0%) and Cooked beef, 7.3 per cent (January 2023: 8.7%). Among the initiative that was introduced by the Government to reduce the cost of living and ease the inflation of Food away from home was Menu Rahmah that was announced on 31st January 2023.

The increase in the component of Food at home was driven by the increase in all subgroups of Food at home, mainly by the subgroup of Meat (9.0%); Rice, bread & other cereals (6.7%); Milk, cheese & eggs (6.6%) and Vegetables (5.8%). This was followed by Fruits (4.7%); Sugar, jam, honey, chocolate & confectionery (3.6%) and Fish & seafood (3.2%). Meanwhile, Oils & fats subgroup moderated to 0.6 per cent.

The subgroup of Meat which includes chicken, beef, pork, lamb, buffalo and duck registered an increase of 9.0 per cent as compared to 8.3 per cent in January 2023. Chicken recorded an increase of 8.0 per cent as against to 6.5 per cent in the previous month. The average price of standard chicken in February 2023 increased to RM10.33 per kilogramme as compared to RM9.46 in February 2022 (January 2023: RM10.30). Meanwhile, the average price in Peninsular Malaysia was RM9.76 per kilogramme as compared to RM8.94 per kilogramme in February 2022 (January 2023: RM9.70), exceeding the control price set by the Government at RM9.40. In addition, the increase in this subgroup was also driven by the increase in pork (31.8%) and duck (10.5%). On a monthly basis, Fresh meat increased 0.5 per cent, contributed by an increase in pork which recorded at 2.4 per cent, followed by chicken and duck which increased 0.4 per cent respectively. The continuous double-digit increase in pork since May 2022 was due to supply shortages following African Swine Fever which has hit several states. However, beef recorded a decrease of negative 0.1 per cent (January 2023: 0.5%).

The subgroup of Milk, cheese & eggs increased at a slower pace of 6.6 per cent in February 2023 (January 2023: 7.0%). Chicken eggs which contributed 22.8 per cent weight to this subgroup increased at the same rate as January 2023 which was

4.5 per cent. In order to ensure that the supply of chicken eggs remains stable, on 27th February 2023, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (KPKM) announced that it will continue to provide subsidies for eggs and chicken until June 2023. Meanwhile, Evaporated milk and sweetened condensed milk continued to register a double-digit increase, albeit at a slower rate of 14.7 per cent as compared to 16.2 per cent in January 2023. The subgroup of Rice, bread & cereals increased and remained at 6.7 per cent as compared to January 2023. The increase was mainly contributed by the increase in Wheat flour (28.5%) and Wet noodles (20.5%). Bread and bakery products which increased by 6.9 per cent in February 2023 also contributed to the increase for this subgroup. Meanwhile, the subgroup of Oils & fats continued to ease to 0.6 per cent as compared to January 2023 (0.7%). The maximum retail price of bottled cooking oil for one to five kilogrammes that remained unchanged for the period of 8th February to 7th March 2023 also contributed to the marginal increase of this subgroup.

Continuous heavy rain since the end of December 2022 to February 2023 in several states has led to increases in food prices, especially vegetables. As a result of the transition of the monsoon, the inflation for the Vegetables subgroup has recorded a significant increase of 5.8 per cent as compared to 1.0 per cent in January 2023. On a monthly basis, vegetables recorded an increase of 2.8 per cent as compared to 0.7 per cent in January 2023. Among the vegetables which recorded a year-on-year increase were Cucumber (24.8%) with an average price of RM 5.20 per kilogramme (February 2022: RM3.82), Lady's finger (19.0%) with an average price of RM11.66 per kilogramme (February 2022: RM9.31), Tomatoes (17.1%) with an average price of RM8.73 per kilogramme (February 2022: RM6.78) and Green spinach (16.8%) with an average price of RM6.53 per kilogramme (February 2022: RM5.27). Meanwhile, some vegetables that recorded decreases were Round cabbage (-7.2%) with an average price of RM4.73 per kilogramme (February 2022: RM5.35), Fresh green chilli (-2.0%) with an average price of RM14.77 per kilogramme (February 2022: RM14.70) and Fresh red chilli (-2.6%) with an average price of RM17.02 per kilogramme (February 2022: RM17.78).

Inflation of Transport slowed down to 3.7 per cent in February 2023 as compared to January 2023 (4.0%) contributed by the moderate increase in Operation of personal

transport equipment subgroup to 2.9 per cent (January 2023: 3.3%). In addition, the incline in Transport services (18.8%) and Purchase of vehicles (1.9%) also attributed to the increase in this group. The increase of the average price of Unleaded petrol RON97 eased to 4.4 per cent (RM3.35 per litre) as compared to 9.5 per cent recorded in January 2023 (RM3.35 per litre). The moderate increase in fuel prices was in tandem with the decline in the price of Brent crude oil (-13.6%) to US\$82.71 per barrel in February 2023 (February 2022: US\$95.76).

Commenting on the inflation at the state level, Chief Statistician Malaysia elaborated that six states recorded increases above the national inflation level of 3.7 per cent namely Wilayah Persekutuan Putrajaya (4.7%), Selangor (4.3%), Johor (4.1%), Sarawak (4.0%), Pahang (4.0%) and Perak (3.8%). However, Kedah and Wilayah Persekutuan Labuan recorded the lowest increase of 2.3 per cent respectively. All states registered an increase in the inflation of Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages. The highest increase was recorded by Selangor (8.6%), followed by Sarawak (8.1%), Johor (7.5%) and Pahang (7.4%). Meanwhile, other states showed increases below the national inflation of Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages rate of 7.0 per cent in February 2023.

Meanwhile, the inflation for the income group below RM3,000 increased 3.7 per cent from 126.0 in February 2022 to 130.7 in February 2023. The increase was attributed by Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages group at 6.5 per cent and the increase was mainly recorded for subgroup of Meat (9.5%), followed by Milk, cheese & eggs (6.1%) and Rice, bread & other cereals (6.0%). In addition, the inflation for Restaurants & Hotels also went up 7.7 per cent, followed by Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance (3.9%); Transport (2.1%); Health (2.0%) and Recreation Services & Culture (1.1%).

Core inflation which measures changes in the prices of all goods and services, excluding volatile prices of fresh food as well as administered prices of goods by the government registered a slower increase of 3.9 per cent in February 2023 as compared to the same month of the previous year. The highest increase was recorded by Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages group with a 7.6 per cent. In addition, the Restaurants & Hotels group also recorded an increase of 7.4 per cent, followed by

Transport (6.2%); Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance (3.4%) and Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels (1.9%).

Commenting on inflation of other countries, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin said, "The Eurozone inflation eased to 8.5 per cent in February 2023 from 8.6 per cent in the previous month. The slower increase was mainly due to the slowing down of Energy inflation at 13.7 per cent (January 2023: 18.9%). Nevertheless, Food, alcohol & tobacco (15.0%); Non-energy industrial goods (6.8%) and Services (4.8%) showed a higher inflation rate as compared to January 2023. The inflation rate in the United States of America eased to 6.0 per cent in February 2023 as against January 2023 (6.4%). This is contributed by the slowing down of energy inflation to 5.2 per cent (January 2023: 8.7%) and food 9.5 per cent (January 2023: 10.1%). In comparison to the selected countries in the Asia Pacific region, the inflation rate in Malaysia (3.7%) was lower than the inflation in Republic of Korea, Thailand, Indonesia and Philippines.

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) is conducting the Economic Census in 2023. DOSM greatly appreciates the cooperation from respondents to provide information to DOSM and in making this census a success. Please visit www.dosm.gov.my for more information.

DOSM has launched OpenDOSM NextGen as a medium that provides a catalogue of data and visualisation to facilitate users in analysing various data. OpenDOSM NextGen is an open source data sharing platform and accessible through <https://open.dosm.gov.my> portal.

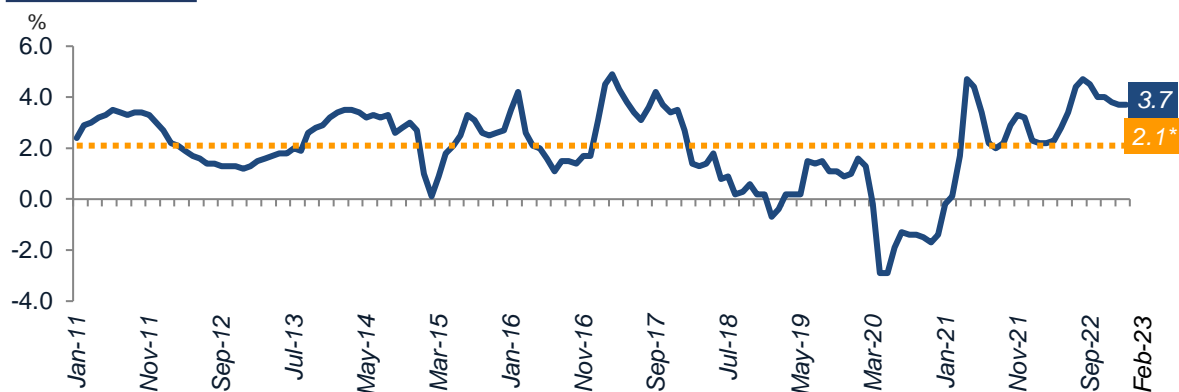
Please be informed that the Government of Malaysia has declared National Statistics Day (MyStats Day) on October 20 each year. MyStats Day theme is "Connecting the World with Data We Can Trust".

Released by:

**THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA
24 MARCH 2023**

Embargo: Only to be published or disseminated at 1200 hour, Friday, 24 March 2023

Chart 1 Malaysia Headline Inflation, January 2011 – February 2023



Note: * Average inflation for the period of January 2011 to February 2023

Chart 2 Malaysia Headline Inflation, Core Inflation and Inflation without Fuel, February 2022 – February 2023

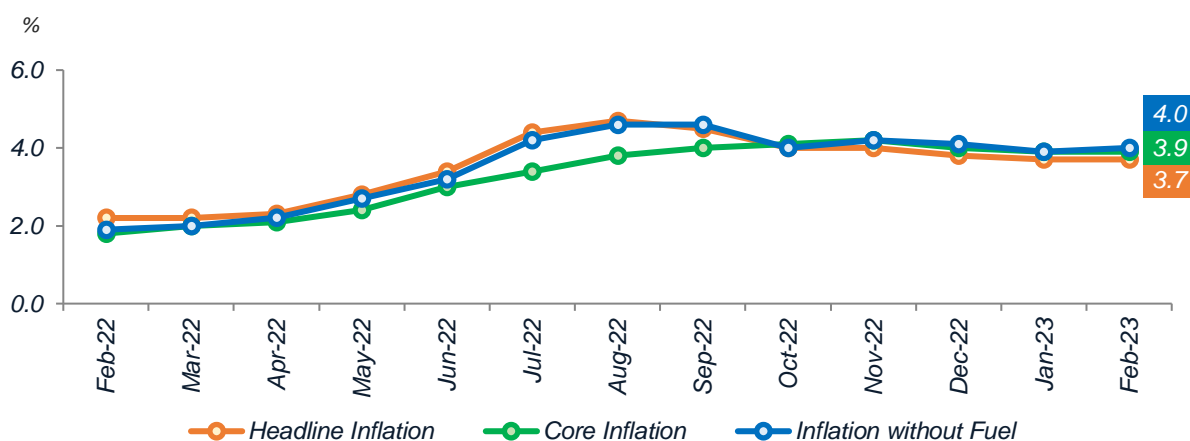


Chart 3 Inflation for Income Group Below RM3,000, February 2020 – February 2023

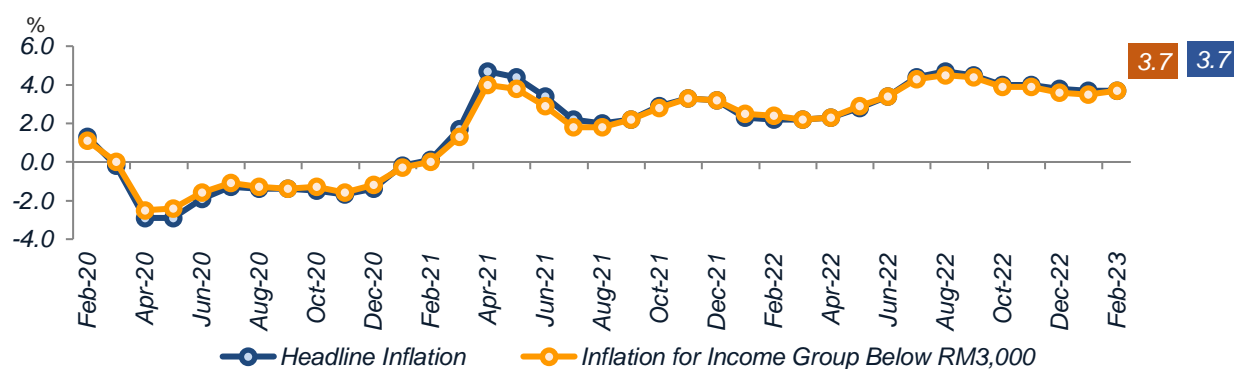


Chart 4

Inflation by Quadrant, January 2023 & February 2023

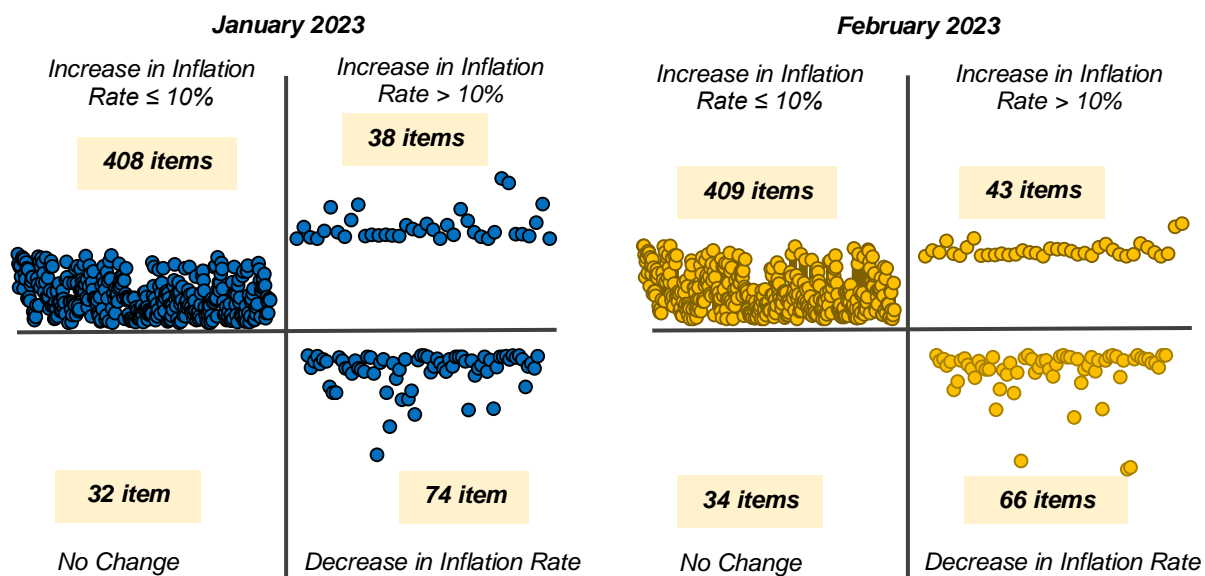


Chart 5

Distribution of Inflation for Food and Non-Food that Increased ≤10%, January 2023 & February 2023

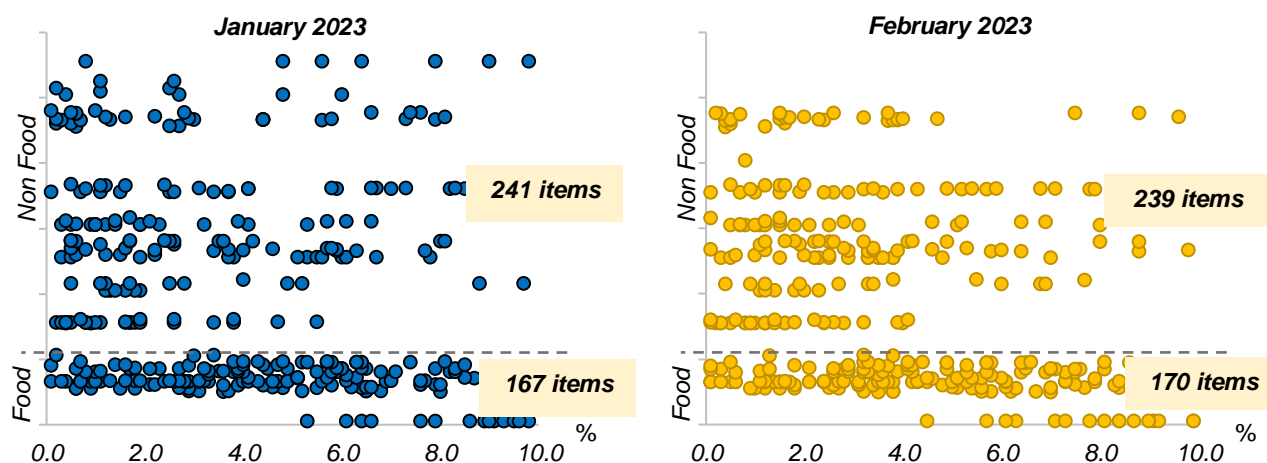


Chart 6

**Inflation of Selected Food for Household Income Group Below RM3,000,
February 2021 – February 2023**

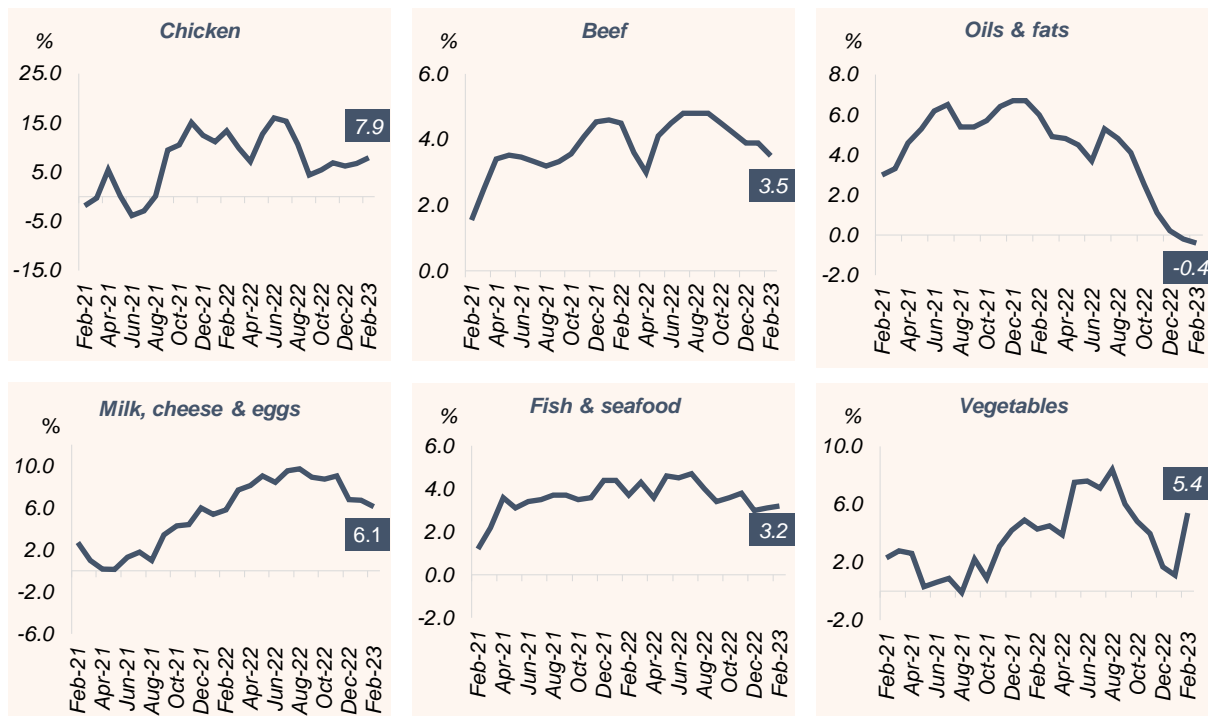


Chart 7

**Inflation of Subgroup for Fuels & Lubricants for Transport and Average
Price of Fuels, February 2022 – February 2023**

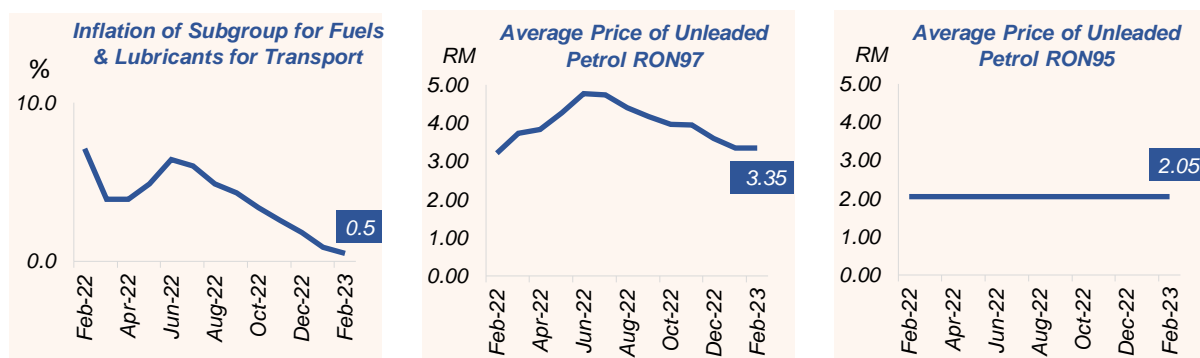


Chart 8

Inflation by Main Group, January 2023 & February 2023

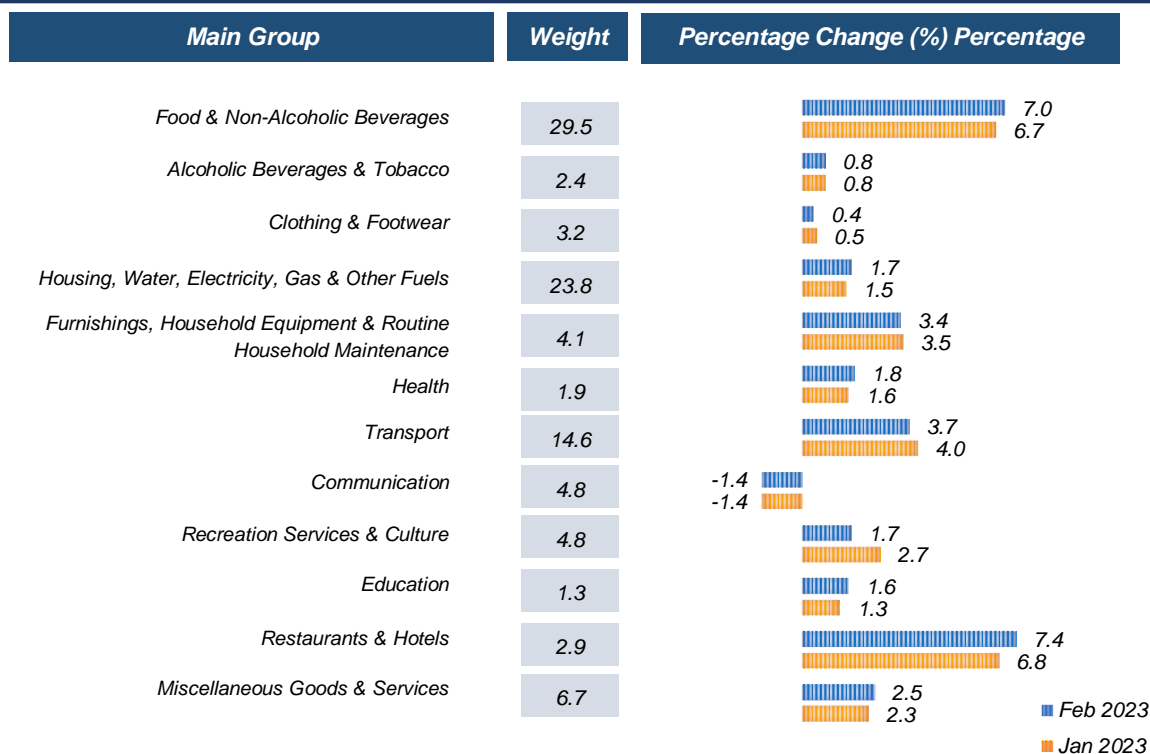


Chart 9

Inflation for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages, February 2020 – February 2023

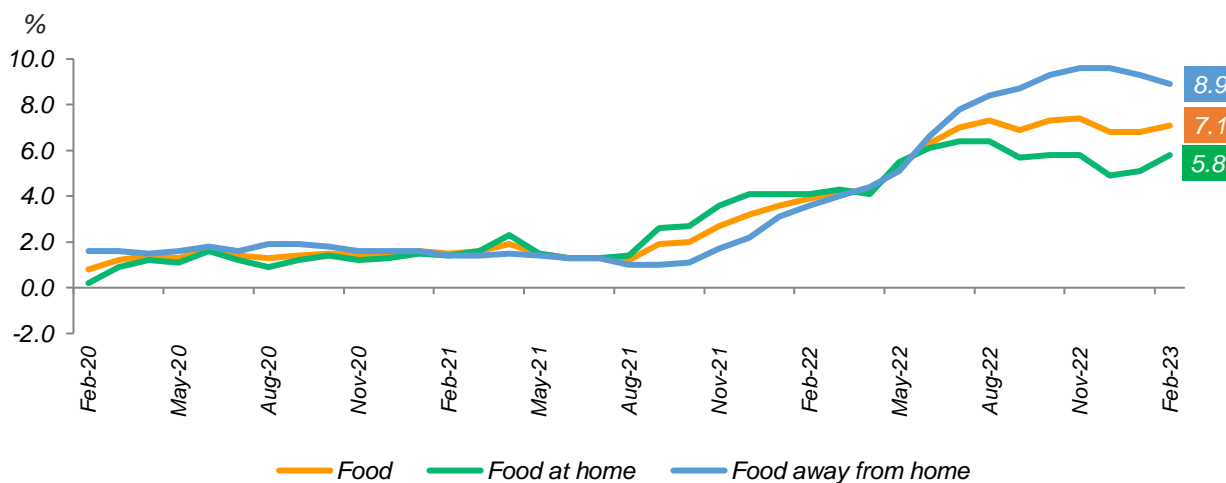


Chart 10

Inflation by State, January 2023 & February 2023

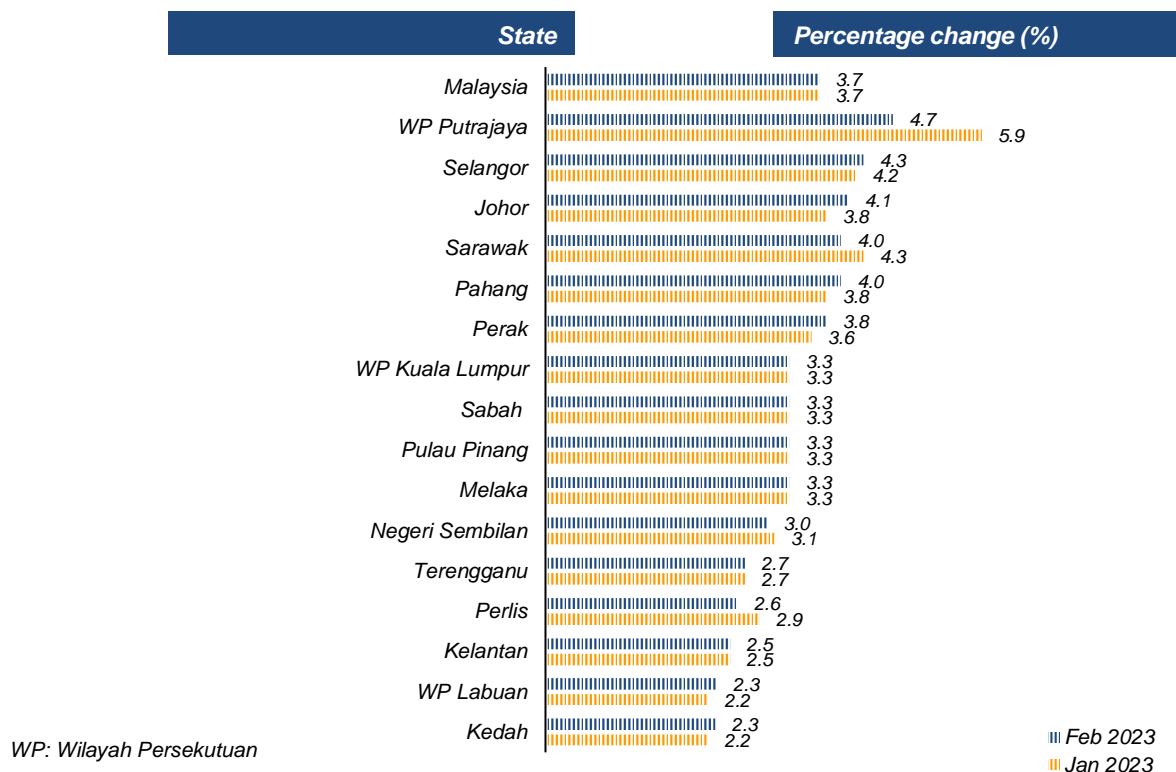


Chart 11

Inflation of Selected Countries, February 2021 – February 2023

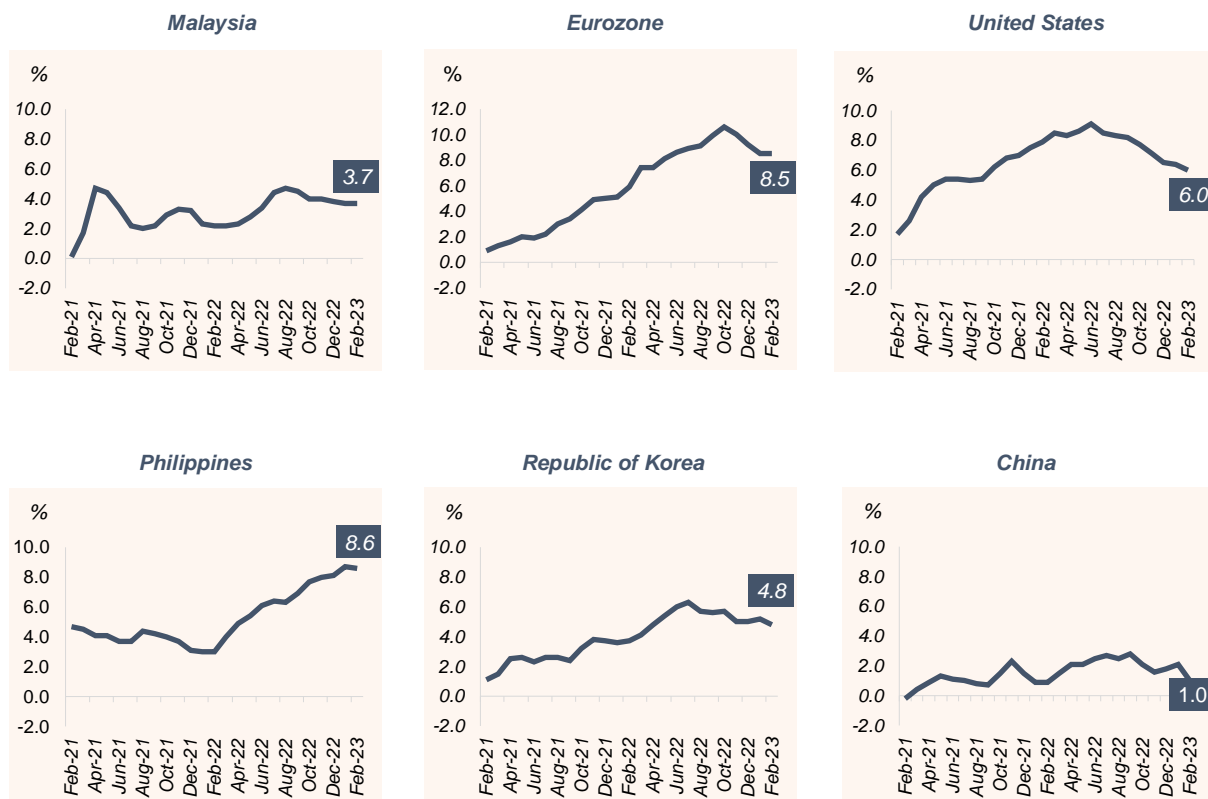
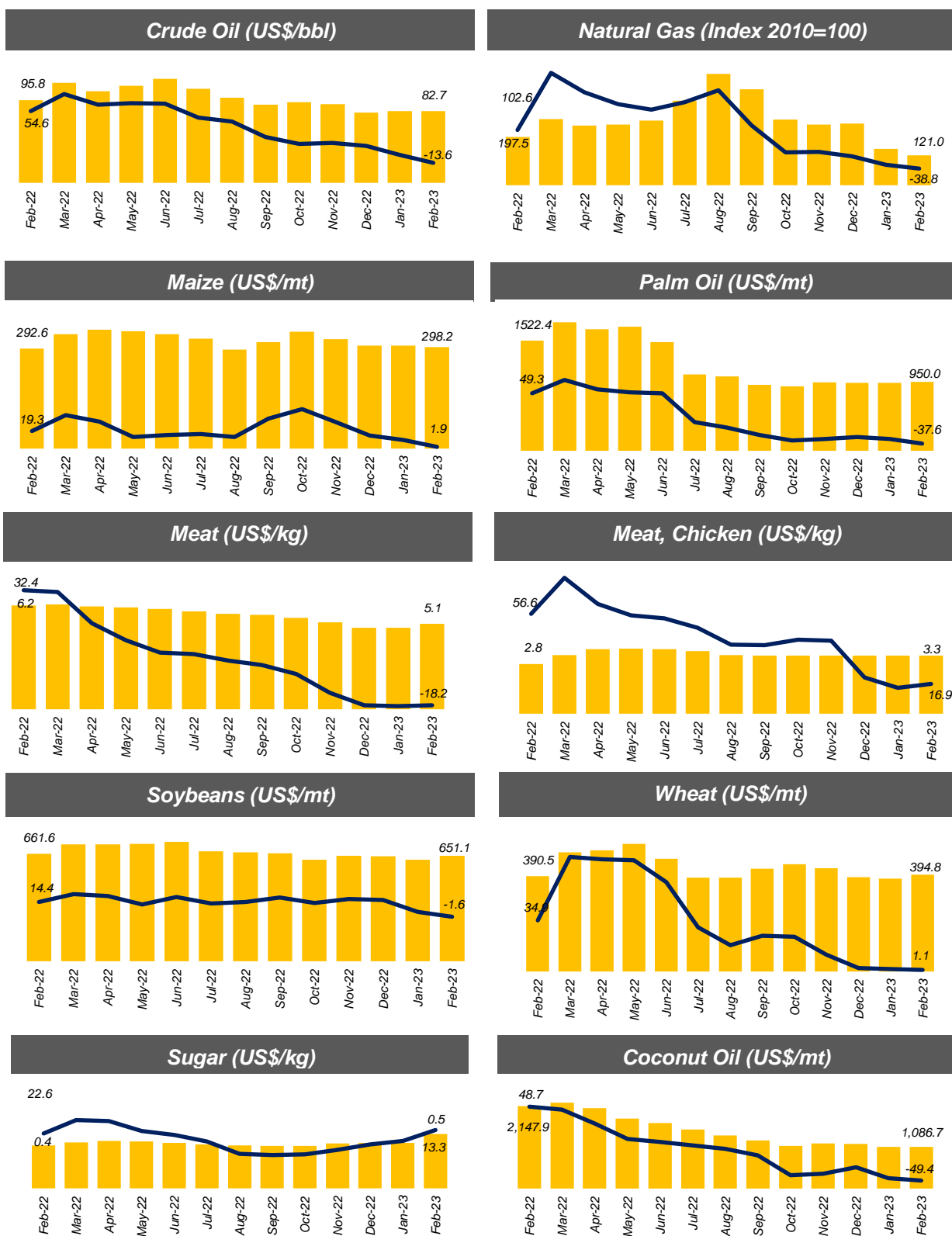


Chart 12 Global Selected Commodity Prices



Global commodity price (US\$) Percentage change year-on-year

Source: Commodity Monthly Prices, World Bank

Notes:

Bbl : Brazilian Butt Lift (barrel) (1bbl = 159 litres)

Mt : Million Tonne

Mmbtu : Metric Million British Thermal Unit