MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

PERFORMANCE OF WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE, MALAYSIA, JANUARY 2026

Wholesale & retail trade begins 2026 with robust sales of RM159.8 billion in January

PUTRAJAYA, 12TH MARCH 2026 – The Department of Statistics, Malaysia (DOSM) today released the **Performance of Wholesale & Retail Trade, January 2026**, which recorded monthly sales amounting to RM159.8 billion, representing a year-on-year increase of 7.3 per cent.

In a statement today, the Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, said, "The growth in sales recorded in January was primarily supported by the Retail trade and Wholesale trade sub-sectors. Retail trade registered total sales of RM70.2 billion, an increase of RM4.1 billion, reflecting a year-on-year growth of 6.1 per cent. Wholesale trade also recorded sales of RM70.8 billion, rising by RM4.0 billion, which corresponds to a year-on-year growth of 6.0 per cent. Meanwhile, the Motor vehicles sub-sector continued to demonstrate notable expansion, registering total sales of RM18.8 billion, an increase of RM2.8 billion, translating into a year-on-year growth of 17.3 per cent."

Elaborating on the Retail trade sub-sector, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin noted that the performance was mainly supported by Retail sales in non-specialised stores, which increased by 7.9 per cent to RM27.5 billion. This growth was largely driven by higher sales recorded by provision stores, department stores and supermarket. The overall improvement in retail activity was mainly attributed to the school holidays, New Year celebrations, the disbursement of Bantuan Awal Persekolahan (BAP), as well as early preparations for the Chinese New Year festivities. Meanwhile, Retail sales in specialised stores expanded by 5.4 per cent to RM14.7 billion in January 2026, supported by stronger demand for pharmaceuticals, medical & orthopaedic goods, as well as jewellery. In addition, Retail sales of automotive fuels rose by 7.0 per cent to RM6.5 billion. Retail sales of household equipment also recorded a 3.3 per cent increase to RM7.8 billion, driven by higher purchases of construction materials & hardware, household furniture, as well as household utensils & cutlery, including crockery & glassware.

The Chief Statistician further stated that Wholesale trade continued to demonstrate steady performance in January, with Wholesale of household goods expanding by 9.4 per cent to RM15.2 billion. This increase was mainly attributed to stronger sales of perfumeries, cosmetics, soap & toiletries, stationery, books, magazines & newspapers, as well as jewellery. At the same time, the Other specialised wholesale group recorded an increase of 4.3 per cent, reaching RM25.7 billion, supported by higher demand for construction materials, fertilizers & agrochemical products, along with logs, sawn timber, plywood, veneer & related products. Growth was also underpinned by the Wholesale of food, beverages & tobacco, which recorded a 5.8 per cent increase, driven by higher sales of rice, other grains, flour & sugars, fish & other seafood, and coffee, tea, cocoa & other beverages."

During the same period, the Motor vehicles sub-sector registered notable growth, driven primarily by Sales of motor vehicles, which reached RM9.0 billion, representing a 25.9 per cent increase year-on-year. The strong performance was partly supported by year-opening promotional campaigns by automotive dealers and increased consumer demand ahead of the festive season, which traditionally encourages higher vehicle purchases and replacement demand. This performance is consistent with data from the Malaysian Automotive Association (MAA), which reported 64,298 vehicles sold, while the Road Transport Department Malaysia (JPJ) recorded 67,995 vehicle registrations during the month. Other groups that contributed to the expansion of the sub-sector included Sales, maintenance & repair of motorcycles (32.7%), Sales of motor vehicle parts & accessories (6.2%), as well as Maintenance & repair of motor vehicles (9.3%), reflecting continued demand for vehicle servicing and aftermarket components.

Meanwhile, online retail sales continued to register positive growth in January, with the sales index rising 5.9 per cent year-on-year, compared with 8.9 per cent in the previous month. This performance reflects sustained strong demand within the e-commerce segment.

Digital payment activities continued to gain momentum in January. E-money transactions surged by 55.4 per cent year-on-year to RM30.3 billion, reflecting the growing adoption of cashless payment methods. The Real-time Retail Payments Platform (RPP) also sustained strong performance, with total transactions amounting to RM359.0 billion, recording a growth of 23.5 per cent. Meanwhile, FPX transactions expanded by 32.6 per cent to RM51.2 billion, while credit card and debit card transactions were recorded at RM20.7 billion and RM14.6 billion, respectively.

In terms of the volume index, Wholesale & retail trade recorded a 5.8 per cent year-on-year increase, driven mainly by the Motor vehicles sub-sector, which grew by 15.9 per cent, followed by Wholesale trade and Retail trade, which increased by 6.1 per cent and 3.7 per cent, respectively. However, on a seasonally adjusted basis, the volume index declined by 2.4 per cent month-on-month compared with the preceding month.

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) is conducting the **Economic Census 2026 (BE2026)**, with themed **"*Data Nadi Ekonomi Rakyat*"**. The sixth Economic Census, will be carried out from **5th January to 31st October 2026**. BE2026 aims to collect comprehensive and structured data from all registered and unregistered business establishments in Malaysia to assess the nation's economic performance, structure and characteristics in an evidence-based manner.

Malaysia has, for the first time, successfully secured the **top position** globally in the biennial **Open Data Inventory (ODIN) 2024/25** report released by Open Data Watch (ODW), surpassing 197 other countries. This achievement marks a significant leap from its 67th position in the ODIN 2022/23 assessment.

OpenDOSM NextGen is a medium that provides data catalogue and visualisations to facilitate users' analysis and can be accessed through https://open.dosm.gov.my.

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

Table 1: Payment Platforms in Malaysia (January 2025 – January 2026)

Year	Month	Payment Instruments			Payment System				
		(RM billion)							
		Credit Card	Debit Card	E-money	Interbank GIRO	FPX	Direct Debit	JomPAY	RPP
2025	Jan.	20.1	14.9	19.5	142.0	38.6	6.4	5.0	290.7
	Feb.	16.8	12.7	17.3	118.1	32.9	6.0	4.9	250.3
	Mar.	19.1	15.6	20.3	140.3	40.4	6.4	4.9	297.7
	Apr.	17.7	13.3	19.7	130.0	35.5	7.3	4.7	277.8
	May	18.7	14.1	21.5	130.0	39.2	6.9	4.9	289.4
	June	18.1	13.2	21.1	125.0	31.2	6.8	4.8	277.2
	July	18.8	13.3	22.8	140.7	41.4	8.0	5.3	311.5
	Aug.	19.2	13.5	23.7	131.4	41.3	7.2	5.2	306.8
	Sept.	19.0	12.9	23.9	131.2	40.3	7.7	4.6	307.8
	Oct.	19.4	13.7	26.3	141.1	40.7	8.0	4.9	344.1
	Nov.	19.5	13.5	27.0	126.8	41.5	7.2	4.5	322.6
	Dec.	21.4	15.0	29.4	152.9	42.2	8.4	4.8	362.3
2026	Jan.	20.7	14.6	30.3	138.9	51.2	7.5	4.9	359.0
		Year-on-Year (%)							
2025	Jan.	6.8	19.9	68.2	2.1	24.6	3.5	-1.0	26.6
	Feb.	-2.6	1.8	50.7	-2.3	19.3	3.8	2.8	20.6
	Mar.	7.0	16.2	71.2	9.2	25.9	1.4	3.5	29.9
	Apr.	5.5	4.5	68.7	0.5	25.4	9.1	0.8	21.1
	May	5.4	8.0	70.2	-3.9	21.1	9.0	0.6	20.3
	June	5.7	3.8	66.7	5.2	11.4	20.2	3.8	20.3
	July	6.0	5.4	69.8	1.6	23.4	16.9	3.2	21.6
	Aug.	7.8	6.3	67.0	-1.9	20.5	19.3	0.1	20.5
	Sept.	5.8	2.4	62.7	3.5	27.2	31.4	-0.6	26.1
	Oct.	4.7	4.2	66.7	6.4	27.6	25.4	0.7	31.0
	Nov.	6.9	6.8	66.9	-2.7	20.4	15.8	-3.7	23.6
	Dec.	4.2	1.4	64.2	6.5	20.6	23.7	-2.5	23.2
2026	Jan.	2.7	-1.9	55.4	-2.2	32.6	17.3	-1.7	23.5

Table 2: M1 Monetary Aggregates in Malaysia (January 2025 – January 2026)

Year	Month	M1 (RM billion)	Year-on-Year (%)
2025	Jan.	663.3	3.8
	Feb.	661.9	3.4
	Mar.	667.5	3.4
	Apr.	662.9	3.8
	May	663.1	4.4
	June	681.6	6.1
	July	680.2	6.8
	Aug.	679.5	6.6
	Sept.	694.3	7.7
	Oct.	693.5	7.5
	Nov.	700.5	6.9
	Dec.	726.3	9.0
2026	Jan.	722.2	8.9

Released by:

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