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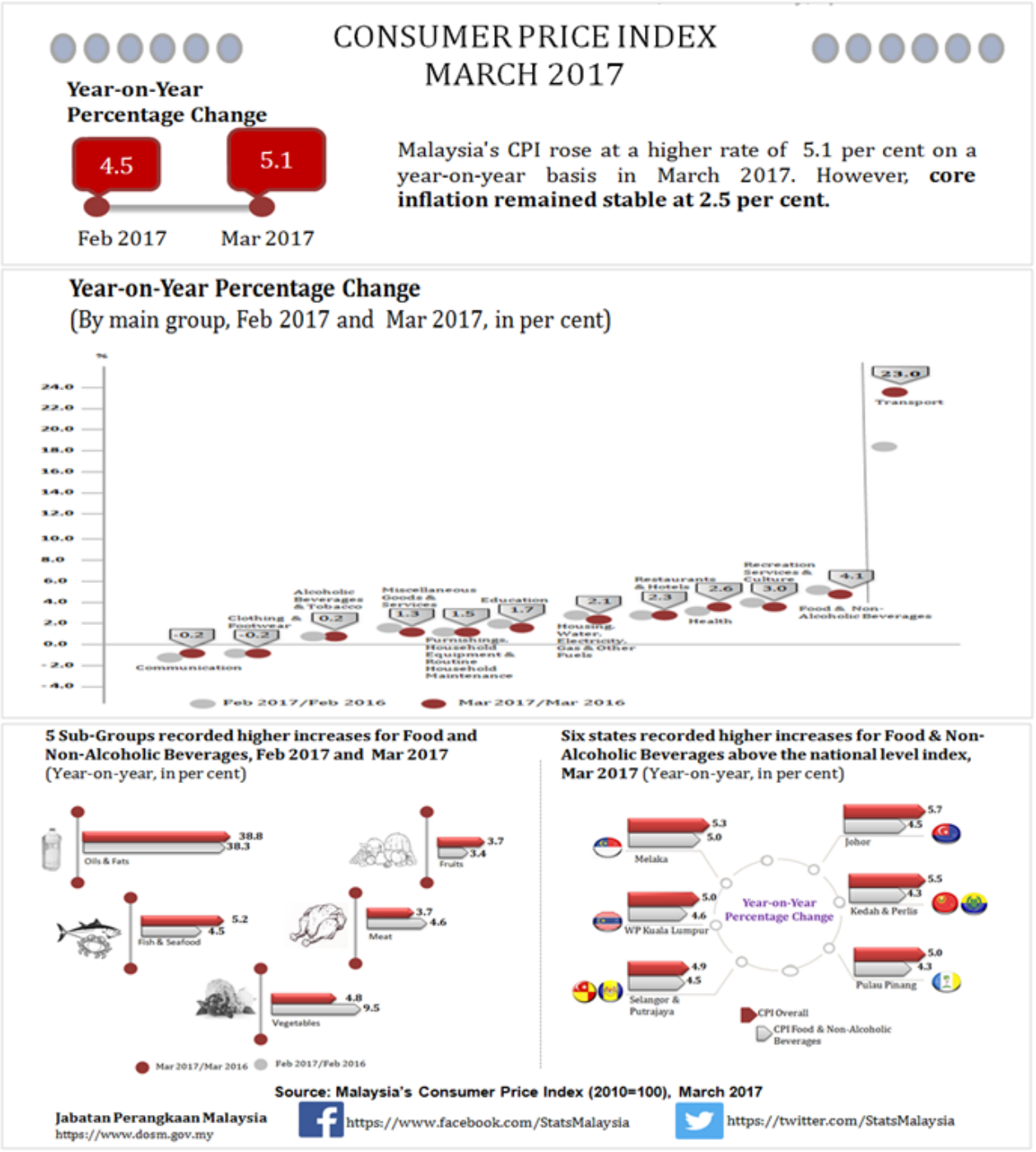
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

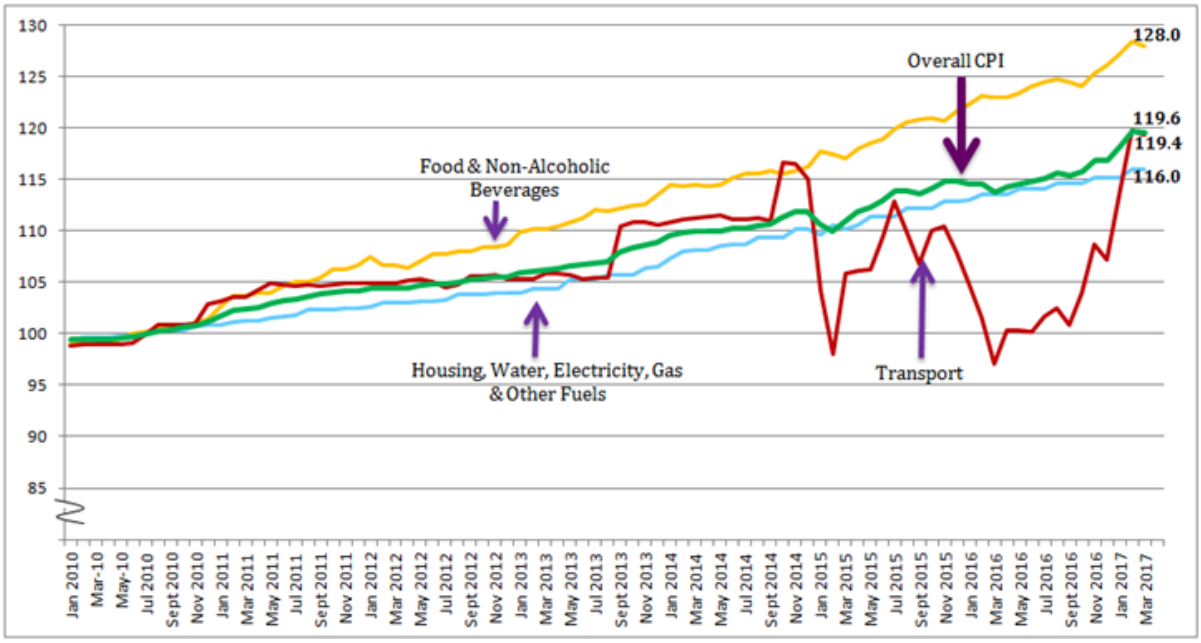
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MALAYSIA MARCH 2017



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The overall index for CPI rose at a higher rate of 5.1 per cent in March 2017 owing to the low base last year and higher retail fuel prices compared to March 2016. Among the major groups which recorded increases were the indices for Transport (+23.0 per cent), Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (+4.1 per cent), Recreation Services & Culture (+3.0 per cent), Health (+2.6 per cent), Restaurants and Hotels (+2.3 per cent) and Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels (+2.1 per cent). (Table 1)

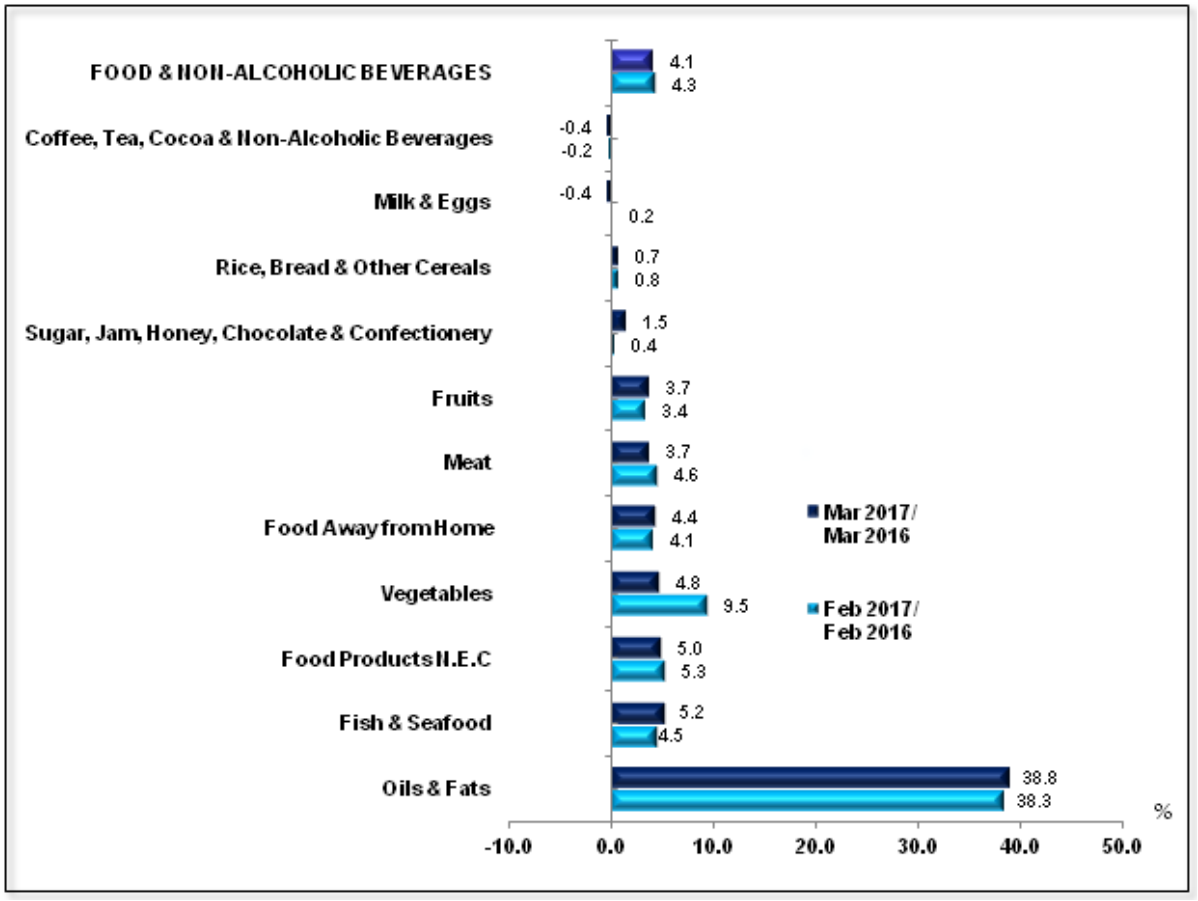
Chart 1: Consumer Price Index: Index Number for Overall and Selected Main Groups



The index of transport group showed a significant increase of 23.0 per cent on a year-on-year basis in March 2017, after rising 17.9 per cent in February 2017. This increase is due to the base effect of low Transport group index in March 2016 and the increase in fuel prices in March 2017. The average price of 1 litre of RON95 petrol was RM2.29 in March 2017 compared to RM1.60 in March 2016. As for RON97, the average price increased to RM2.59 in March 2017 compared to RM1.95 in March 2016. Fuels & lubricants for personal transport equipment accounted for 7.8 per cent of the CPI weights.

The index for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages which accounted 30.2 per cent in the CPI weights, increased 4.1 per cent in March 2017. The increase was fuelled by food sub-group which comprised of **Oils and Fats (+38.8 per cent), Fish & Seafood (+5.2 per cent), Vegetables (+4.8 per cent), Meat (+3.7 per cent)** and **Fruits (+3.7 per cent)**. As for Food Away From Home index, it continued to rise in March 2017 and showed an increase of 4.4 per cent.

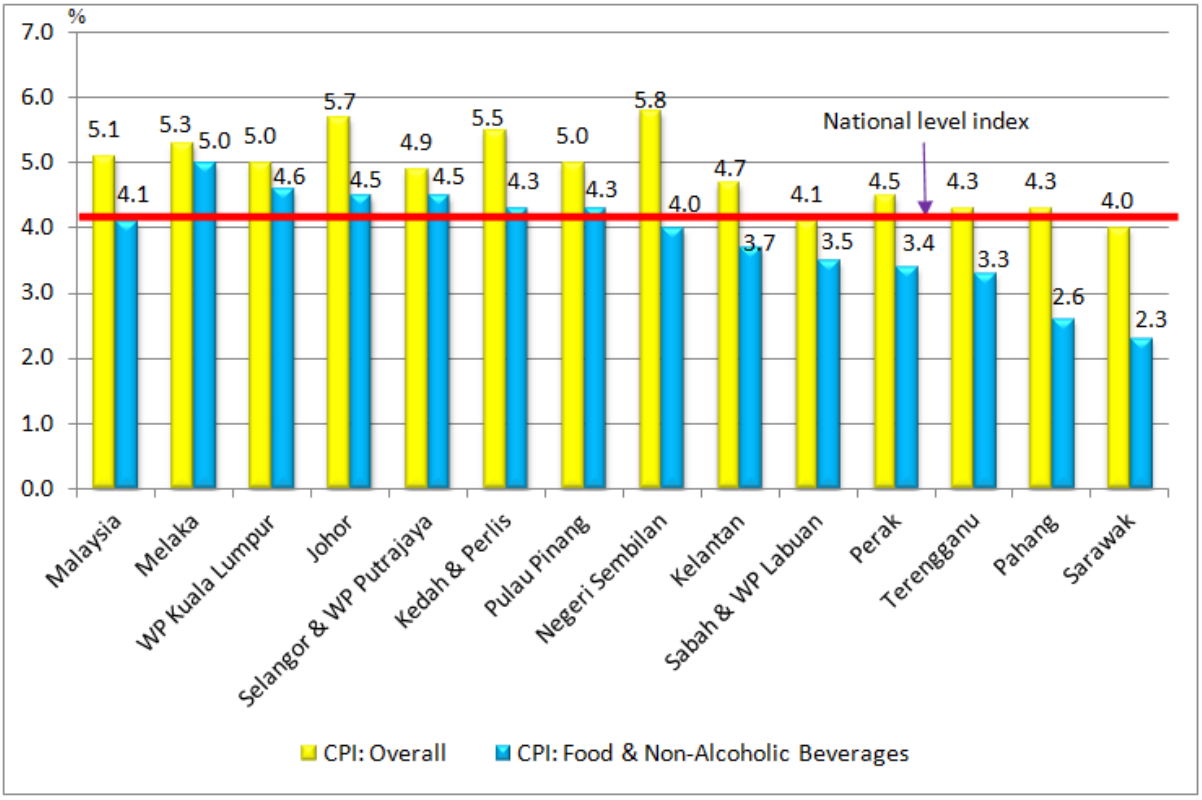
Chart 2: Consumer Price Index: Annual Percentage Change for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages



Among the index of food items which recorded notable increases in March 2017 compared to the same period last year were **Cooking Oil (+48.5 per cent), Watermelon (+15.4 per cent), Spinach (+10.9 per cent), Prawn (+9.1 per cent), Round Cabbage (+8.2 per cent), Choy Sam (+7.6 per cent), Indian Mackerel (Fish) (+7.0 per cent), Spanish Mackerel (Fish) (+5.2 per cent), Cuttlefish (+4.4 per cent)** and **Chicken (+3.4 per cent)**. Meanwhile, decreases were registered in the index of some food items such as **Shallots (-14.0 per cent), Onions, Big (-4.6 per cent)** and **Carrots (-2.2 per cent)**.

The increase in the index for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages was reflected in most states in Malaysia especially those in highly urbanised states such as Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur, Selangor & Wilayah Persekutuan Putrajaya, Pulau Pinang, Johor and Melaka.

Chart 3: Consumer Price Index: Annual Percentage Change for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages by State



Six states recorded higher increases for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages index above the national level index for March 2017 compared to the corresponding month in 2016. The index for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages rose 5.0 per cent in Melaka, 4.6 per cent in Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur, 4.5 per cent in Johor, 4.5 per cent in Selangor & Wilayah Persekutuan Putrajaya, 4.3 per cent in Kedah & Perlis and 4.3 per cent in Pulau Pinang.

On a monthly basis, the index for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages decreased 0.3 per cent in March 2017, after rising 0.9 per cent in February 2017. Meanwhile, the index for Non-Food remains unchanged in March 2017 compared with the preceding month.

Based on a seasonally adjusted term, the overall CPI for March 2017 decreased 0.1 per cent as compared to February 2017.(Table 1)

Core inflation has remained stable at 2.5 per cent in March 2017 compared to the same month of the previous year. Among the major groups which influenced the higher core rate were price increases for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (+3.7 per cent), Recreation Services & Culture (+3.0 per cent), Transport (+2.9 per cent), Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels (+2.7 per cent) and Health (+2.6 per cent).(Table 3)

CPI changes for the period January – March 2017/2016

CPI for the period January to March 2017 registered an increase of 4.3 per cent as compared to the same period last year. The index for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages were the main contributor to the CPI rise in the period January to March 2017, registered an increase of 4.2 per cent. The increase was the result of increases in the index for Food At Home (+4.5 per cent) and Food Away From Home (+4.0 per cent). While, the index for Coffee, Tea, Cocoa & Non-Alcoholic Beverages decreased 0.2 per cent. Among the subgroups of Food At Home which showed significant increases during this period as shown in Table 2 were **Oils & Fats (+38.3 per cent), Vegetables (+7.4 per cent), Fish & Seafood (+5.2 per cent), Meat (+3.4 per cent)** and **Fruits (+3.1 per cent)**.

Other major groups which contributed to the CPI rise during this period were Transport (+16.2 per cent), Recreation Services & Culture (+3.1 per cent), Health (+2.5 per cent), Restaurants & Hotels (+2.3 per cent) and Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels (+2.1 per cent).

Core inflation, which excludes most volatile items of fresh food, as well as administered prices of goods and services recorded changes ranging from 2.3 per cent to 2.5 per cent in the period January to March 2017 compared to the same period of the previous year.

Table 1: Consumer Price Index for Main Groups, Malaysia (2010=100)

Main Group	Wt	Index	Year-on-Year Percentage Change			Month-on-Month Percentage Change		Seasonally Adjusted Index	
		Mar 2017	Feb 2017/ Feb 2016	Mar 2017/ Mar 2016	Jan-Mar 2017/2016	Feb 2017/ Jan 2017	Mar 2017/ Feb 2017	Mar 2017	% Change Mar 2017/ Feb 2017
TOTAL	**100.0**	**119.6**	**4.5**	**5.1**	**4.3**	**1.3**	**-0.1**	**119.6**	**-0.1**
Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	**30.2**	128.0	4.3	4.1	4.2	0.9	-0.3	128.0	0.0
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco	2.9	165.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	165.4	0.1
Clothing and Footwear	3.3	98.4	-0.2	-0.2	-0.4	0.2	-0.1	98.4	-0.1
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	23.8	116.0	2.2	2.1	2.1	0.7	0.0	116.0	0.2
Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance	3.8	113.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.4	0.1	113.4	0.1
Health	1.7	120.2	2.4	2.6	2.5	0.3	0.2	120.2	0.2
Transport	13.7	119.4	17.9	23.0	16.2	5.5	-0.3	119.4	-0.3
Communication	5.2	97.9	-0.3	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1	0.1	97.9	0.1
Recreation Services & Culture	4.9	111.4	3.1	3.0	3.1	0.4	-0.2	111.4	-0.2
Education	1.1	116.6	1.7	1.7	1.8	0.2	0.1	116.1	0.1
Restaurants and Hotels	2.9	127.5	2.3	2.3	2.3	0.6	0.2	127.5	0.2
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	6.5	114.0	1.4	1.3	1.3	0.3	0.1	114.0	0.1
Non-Food	**69.8**	**116.0**	**4.7**	**5.6**	**4.3**	**1.4**	**0.0**	**116.0**	**0.0**

Table 2: Consumer Price Index for Sub-Groups of Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages, Malaysia (2010=100)

Sub-groups	Wt	Index	Year-on-Year Percentage Change			Month-on-Month Percentage Change	
		Mar 2017	Feb 2017/ Feb 2016	Mar 2017/ Mar 2016	Jan-Mar 2017/2016	Feb 2017/ Jan 2017	Mar 2017/ Feb 2017
Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	**30.2**	**128.0**	**4.3**	**4.1**	**4.2**	**0.9**	**-0.3**
Food	**29.0**	**128.8**	**4.5**	**4.3**	**4.3**	**1.1**	**-0.4**
Food At Home	17.9	128.0	4.8	4.1	4.5	1.2	-0.9
Rice, Bread & Other Cereals	3.7	109.1	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.1	0.1
Meat	2.8	124.6	4.6	3.7	3.4	1.9	-1.8
Fish & Seafood	4.3	144.9	4.5	5.2	5.2	0.5	-0.1
Milk & Eggs	1.6	123.3	0.2	-0.4	0.1	0.2	-0.2
Oils & Fats	0.5	142.0	38.3	38.8	38.3	0.5	0.6
Fruits	1.1	130.4	3.4	3.7	3.1	1.1	0.1
Vegetables	2.4	131.6	9.5	4.8	7.4	4.2	-4.6
Sugar, Jam, Honey, Choc. & Confectionery	0.6	136.4	0.4	1.5	0.8	0.1	1.2
Food Products n.e.c.	0.9	130.3	5.3	5.0	5.3	0.3	0.2
Food Away From Home	11.1	130.0	4.1	4.4	4.0	0.9	0.5
Coffee, Tea, Cocoa & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	**1.2**	**111.5**	**-0.2**	**-0.4**	**-0.2**	**-0.2**	**0.1**

Table 3: Headline CPI and Core Index by Main Groups, Malaysia (2010=100)

Main Group	Wt	HEADLINE CPI			CORE INDEX	
		Index Mar 2017	Percentage Change		Core Index[1] Wt.	Percentage Change
			Mar 2017/ Feb 2017	Mar 2017/ Mar 2016		Mar 2017/ Mar 2016
TOTAL	**100.0**	**119.6**	**-0.1**	**5.1**	**100.0**	**2.5**
Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	30.2	128.0	-0.3	4.1	26.7	3.7
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco	2.9	165.4	0.1	0.2	-	-
Clothing and Footwear	3.3	98.4	-0.1	-0.2	4.5	-0.2
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	23.8	116.0	0.0	2.1	26.6	2.7
Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance	3.8	113.4	0.1	1.5	5.2	1.5
Health	1.7	120.2	0.2	2.6	2.3	2.6
Transport	13.7	119.4	-0.3	23.0	6.7	2.9
Communication	5.2	97.9	0.1	-0.2	7.1	-0.2
Recreation Services & Culture	4.9	111.4	-0.2	3.0	6.6	3.0
Education	1.1	116.6	0.1	1.7	1.5	1.7
Restaurants and Hotels	2.9	127.5	0.2	2.3	3.9	2.3
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	6.5	114.0	0.1	1.3	8.9	1.3

Note: [1] Including cooking oil following the restructuring of Cooking Oil Price Stabilisation Scheme starting from 1 November 2016

Annex 1

Consumer Price Index March 2017

Month-on-month decreased 0.1 per cent

The index for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (weight: 30.2) decreased 0.3 per cent. While, the index for Non-Food (weight: 69.8) remains unchanged compared with the preceding month.

Higher prices this month

Food away from home prices rose 0.5 per cent

Oil & fats prices rose 0.6 per cent

Fruits prices rose 0.1 per cent

Coffee, tea, cocoa & non-alcoholic beverages rose 0.1 per cent

Medical products, appliances & equipment prices rose 0.1 per cent

Expenditure in restaurants & cafe rose 0.2 per cent

Personal care goods & services prices rose 0.1 per cent

Weights

Food away from home	11.1
Oil & fats	0.5
Fruits	1.1
Coffee, tea, cocoa & non-alcoholic beverages	1.2
Medical products, appliances & equipment	1.1
Expenditure in restaurants & cafe	2.5
Personal care goods & services	3.2

Lower prices this month

Meat prices fell 1.6 per cent

Fish & seafood prices fell 0.1 per cent

Milk, cheese & eggs prices fell 0.2 per cent

Vegetables prices fell 4.6 per cent

Operation of personal transport equipment prices fell 0.2 per cent influenced by lower prices of fuels & lubricants for personal transport equipment

Weights

Meat	2.6
Fish & seafood	4.3
Milk, cheese & eggs	1.6
Vegetables	2.4
Operation of personal transport equipment	11.3

Year-on year rose 5.1 per cent

The index for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (weight: 30.2) rose 4.1 per cent. Meanwhile, the index for Non-Food (weight: 69.8) recorded an increase of 5.6 per cent.

Higher prices this year

Food away from home prices rose 4.4 per cent

Meat prices rose 3.7 per cent

Fish & seafood prices rose 5.2 per cent

Oil & fats prices rose 35.6 per cent

Fruits prices rose 3.7 per cent

Vegetables prices rose 4.6 per cent

Actual rental for housing rose 2.9 per cent

Medical products, appliances & equipment prices rose 2.2 per cent

Operation of personal transport equipment prices rose 25.6 per cent influenced by higher prices of fuels & lubricants for personal transport equipment

Entertainment, recreational & cultural services prices rose 4.4 per cent

Expenditure in restaurants & cafe rose 2.5 per cent

Personal care goods & services prices rose 0.9 per cent

Weights

Food away from home	11.1
Meat	2.6
Fish & seafood	4.3
Oil & fats	0.5
Fruits	1.1
Vegetables	2.4
Actual rental for housing	16.1
Medical products, appliances & equipment	1.1
Operation of personal transport equipment	11.3
Entertainment, recreational & cultural services	2.6
Expenditure in restaurants & cafe	2.5
Personal care goods & services	3.2

Lower prices this year

Clothing prices fell 0.1 per cent

Telephone & telefax equipment prices fell 2.3 per cent

Weights

Clothing	2.7
Telephone & telefax equipment	0.5

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