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MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MALAYSIA MARCH 2019

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) MARCH 2019

CPI MARCH 2019 **INCREASED 0.2%**
AS COMPARED TO MARCH 2018

121.1
Feb 2019 : 120.8

0.2%
Feb 2019 : 0.2%
Month-on-Month

0.2%
Feb 2019 : -0.4%
Year-on-Year

Percentage Change For Main Groups

1.1% Feb 2019: 1.0% Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	**1.1%** Feb 2019: 1.1% Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco
-3.0% Feb 2019: -3.2% Clothing & Footwear	**2.0%** Feb 2019: 2.0% Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels
0.3% Feb 2019: 0.1% Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance	**-0.2%** Feb 2019: -0.4% Health
-3.0% Feb 2019: -6.8% Transport	**-1.1%** Feb 2019: -1.2% Communication
-0.4% Feb 2019: -0.4% Recreation Services & Culture	**1.3%** Feb 2019: 1.3% Education
1.0% Feb 2019: 1.3% Restaurants & Hotels	**-2.0%** Feb 2019: -2.2% Miscellaneous Goods & Services

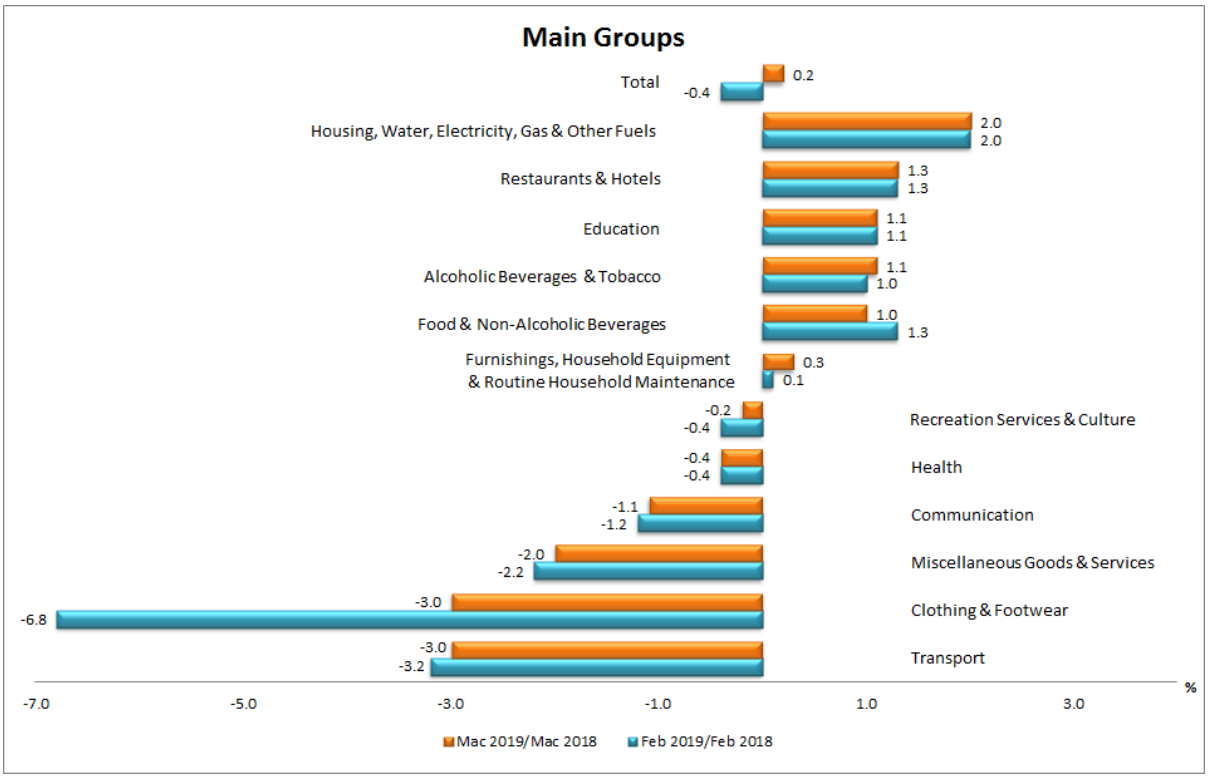
Source: Consumer Price Index (2010=100), Department of Statistics Malaysia

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Consumer Price Index (CPI) picked up slightly to **0.2 per cent** in March 2019 to 121.1 as compared to 120.9 in March 2018. The increase in the overall index was driven by the index of **Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels (+2.0 per cent), Education (+1.3 per cent), Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (+1.1 per cent), Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco (+1.1 per cent)** and **Restaurants & Hotels (+1.0 per cent)**. (Chart 1).

On a monthly basis, CPI increased **0.2 per cent** as compared to February 2019. It was mainly supported by the index of **Transport (+2.6 per cent), Miscellaneous Goods & Services (+0.4 per cent)** and **Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance (+0.3 per cent)**.

Chart 1: Consumer Price Index (2010=100): Percentage Change by Main Groups, Malaysia, March 2019/March 2018



The CPI in the first quarter of 2019 recorded a decline of **0.3 per cent** to 120.8 compared to 121.2 in the same quarter of the preceding year. The decline was contributed by **Transport (-5.9 per cent), Clothing & Footwear (-3.1 per cent), Miscellaneous Goods & Services (-2.2 per cent) and Communication (-1.2 per cent)**. On a quarterly basis, the CPI decreased 0.1 per cent as compared to the fourth quarter of 2018.

Index for Sub-Groups Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages

The overall index for **Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages** increased **1.1 per cent** in March 2019. The increase was attributed by the food sub-group index of **Milk & Eggs (+2.0 per cent)** and **Fish & Seafood (+0.1 per cent)**.

Among the index of goods which recorded price increases in most states were **Eggs (+14.9 per cent), Cockles (+7.6 per cent), Spanish Mackerel (Fish) (+3.4 per cent), Crab (+3.1 per cent), Cuttlefish (+1.1 per cent), Red Snapper (Fish) (+0.8 per cent)** and **Prawn (+0.7 per cent)**.

Meanwhile, the index for **Food Away From Home** increased **3.4 per cent** in March 2019 as against March 2018. The rise in the price of Burger, Fried Chicken, Rice with Side Dishes and Food Made from

Noodles contributed to the increase of the index of this sub-group. (Table 1)

Table 1: Consumer Price Index (2010=100): Annual Percentage Change by Sub-Groups Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages, Malaysia, March 2019/March 2018

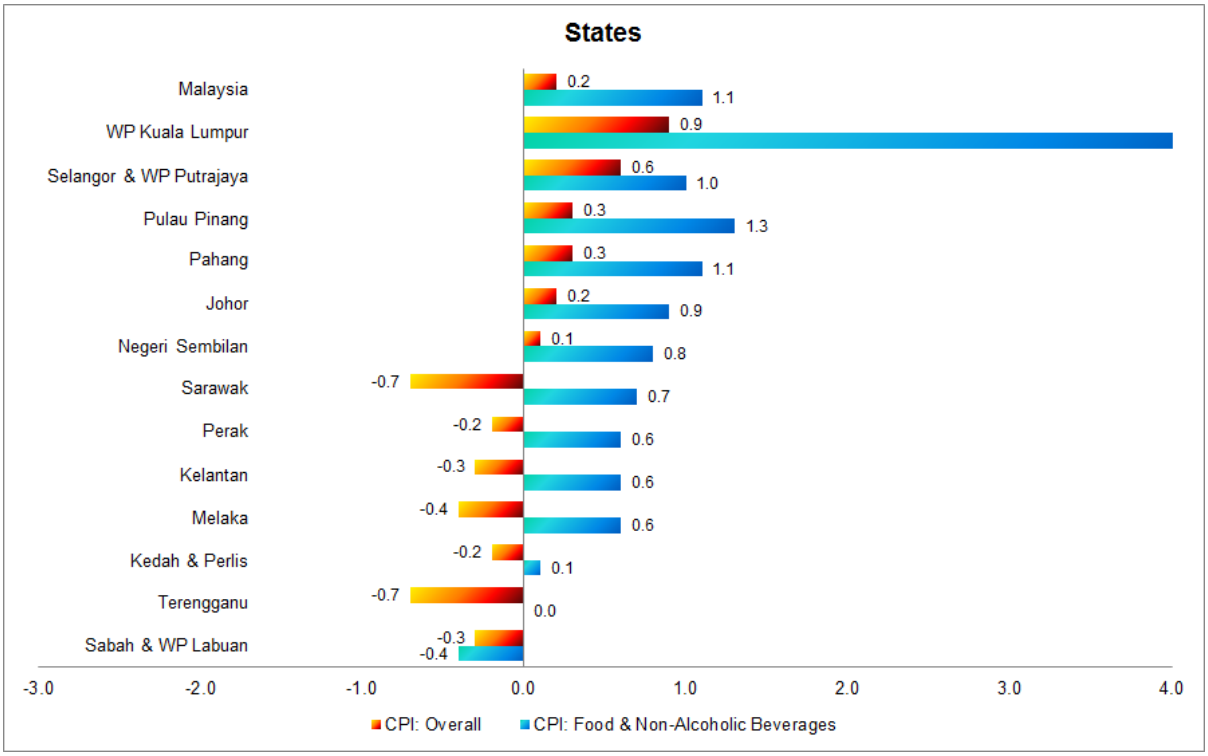
Sub-groups		Index		Year-on-Year Percentage Change		Month-on-Month Percentage Change	
	Weight	Mar 2019	Feb 2019/ Feb 2018	Mar 2019/ Mar 2018	Feb 2019/ Jan 2019	Mar 2019/ Feb 2019
Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	**29.5**	**132.5**	**1.0**	**1.1**	**0.2**	**-0.5**
Food	**28.4**	**133.5**	**1.1**	**1.1**	**0.1**	**-0.4**
Food At Home	16.9	129.6	-0.5	-0.4	0.1	-0.9
Rice, Bread & Other Cereals	3.5	110.6	-0.2	-0.2	0.2	0.1
Meat	2.5	125.2	2.1	-1.1	-0.8	-2.9
Fish & Seafood	4.0	151.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	-1.3
Milk & Eggs	1.5	127.8	1.8	2.0	0.5	0.0
Oils & Fats	0.6	118.5	-0.6	-0.8	0.2	0.2
Fruits	1.2	132.8	0.1	-0.2	0.1	-0.7
Vegetables	2.1	130.2	-6.3	-2.0	0.2	-1.1
Sugar, Jam, Honey, Choc. & Confectionery	0.6	134.7	-2.2	-2.3	0.1	0.0
Food Products n.e.c.	1.0	131.5	-0.6	-0.5	0.1	0.1
Food Away From Home	11.5	139.7	3.4	3.4	0.3	0.1
Coffee, Tea, Cocoa & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	**1.1**	**112.0**	**-0.6**	**-0.5**	**0.5**	**0.4**

Consumer Price Index by States

Four states namely Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur (+0.9 per cent), Pulau Pinang (+0.6 per cent), Selangor & Wilayah Persekutuan Putrajaya (+0.3 per cent) and Negeri Sembilan (+0.3 per cent) surpassed the national CPI rate of 0.2 per cent in March 2019 as compared to March 2018. Meanwhile, Johor showed the same rate of increase as the national CPI.

The increase in the index of Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages was reflected in most states in Malaysia. Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur (+4.2 per cent) recorded higher increases for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages index above the national index level in March 2019 as compared to the corresponding month in 2018. Conversely, Negeri Sembilan recorded the same rate as the national index level for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages. (Chart 2)

Chart 2: Consumer Price Index (2010=100): Annual Percentage Change for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages by State, March 2019/March 2018



Core Index

Core index increased 0.5 per cent in March 2019 as compared to the same month of the previous year. Among the major groups which influenced the higher core rate were price increases of Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels (+2.3 per cent), Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (+1.7 per cent), Education (+1.3 per cent) and Restaurants & Hotels (+1.0 per cent).

Core index excludes most volatile items of fresh food as well as administered prices of goods and services. (Table 2)

Table 2: Consumer Price Index (2010=100): Percentage Change of Headline CPI, Seasonally Adjusted Index and Core Index by Main Groups, Malaysia, March 2019/March 2018

Main Group	Weight	HEADLINE CPI Index	HEADLINE CPI Percentage Change			SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDEX Index	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDEX Month-on-Month Percentage Change	CORE INDEX Core Index Weight	CORE INDEX Year-on-Year Percentage Change
		Mar 2019	Mar 2019/ Feb 2019	Mar 2019/ Mar 2018	Jan-Mar 2019/2018	Mar 2019	Mar 2019/ Feb 2019		Mar 2019/ Mar 2018
Total	**100.0**	**121.1**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**-0.3**	**121.1**	**0.2**	**100.0**	**0.5**
Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	29.5	132.5	-0.5	1.1	1.0	132.3	-0.1	26.5	1.7
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco	2.4	167.5	0.1	1.1	1.1	167.5	0.1	-	-
Clothing and Footwear	3.2	94.8	0.1	-3.0	-3.1	94.8	0.1	4.5	-3.0
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	23.8	120.7	0.0	2.0	2.0	120.7	0.2	26.5	2.3
Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance	4.1	116.1	0.3	0.3	0.0	116.1	0.3	5.5	0.3
Health	1.9	122.3	0.2	-0.2	-0.4	122.3	0.2	2.6	-0.2
Transport	14.6	114.1	2.6	-3.0	-5.9	114.1	2.6	6.5	-3.2
Communication	4.8	96.1	0.0	-1.1	-1.2	96.1	0.0	6.5	-1.1
Recreation Services & Culture	4.8	111.5	-0.1	-0.4	-0.4	111.5	-0.1	6.6	-0.4
Education	1.3	119.4	0.1	1.3	1.2	119.0	0.1	1.8	1.3
Restaurants and Hotels	2.9	131.3	0.0	1.0	1.2	131.3	0.0	3.9	1.0
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	6.7	112.2	0.4	-2.0	-2.2	112.2	0.4	9.1	-2.0
Non-Food	**70.5**	**116.3**	**0.6**	**-0.3**	**-0.9**	**116.3**	-	-	-

Annex 1: Average Price for Selected Items in Malaysia, March 2019 (RM)

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