



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY  
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**BUILDING COST INDEX, MARCH 2026**

**The unit price index of steel recorded an increase between  
0.2 per cent to 1.1 per cent in March 2026**

**PUTRAJAYA, 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026** – The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) published **SPECIAL RELEASE FOR BUILDING AND STRUCTURAL WORKS, MARCH 2026**. This report provides the unit price index of major building materials and the Building Material Cost Index (BCI) by building category and region.

In a statement today, Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin stated that the unit price index of steel recorded an increase in March 2026, ranging from 0.2 per cent to 1.1 per cent as compared to the previous month. The highest increase in the price index for this material was recorded in Terengganu & Kelantan (1.1%), followed by Kota Kinabalu and Tawau (1.0%), respectively.

The Chief Statistician of Malaysia further informed that the unit price index of cement also recorded an increase in March 2026, ranging from 0.1 per cent to 1.0 per cent in all areas in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak. The highest increase in the price index for this material was recorded in Miri (1.0%), followed by Kuching and Sibü (0.5%), respectively.

In addition, the price index of steel and metal sections registered a slight increase in March 2026, with month-on-month changes ranging from 0.1 per cent to 1.0 per cent across all areas in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak.

Meanwhile, the unit price index of sand showed a slight increase in March 2026, with month-on-month change ranging from 0.3 per cent to 5.2 per cent in all areas in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak.

An annual comparison for the period of March 2025 and March 2026 has indicated that the unit price index for steel recorded a decline ranging from negative 1.0 per cent to negative 6.9 per cent involving most areas in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak. The highest decrease in the unit price index for steel was observed in Miri (-6.9%), followed by Kuching (-6.7%) and Sibü (-5.5%).

The year-on-year comparison of the unit price index of cement increased between 0.5 per cent to 5.9 per cent in March 2026 as compared to the same month last year across all areas in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak. The highest increase was observed in Pahang (5.9%), followed by Perak (5.6%) and Kuching (5.3%).

The Chief Statistician of Malaysia also mentioned that the average price per unit of steel, consisting of mild steel round bars and Mycon 60 high tensile deformed bars, recorded an increase of 0.7 per cent with an average price of RM3,426.80 per metric tonne as compared to the previous month (February 2026: RM3,404.40 per metric tonne). In addition, the average price of Ordinary Portland cement also showed an increase (0.8%) with an average price of RM25.55 per 50 kg bag, as compared to February 2026 (RM25.35 per 50 kg bag).

The monthly comparison of BCI with steel bars, by building category and region in Peninsular Malaysia for March 2026 recorded an increase ranging from 0.1 per cent to 0.7 per cent in the areas of Pulau Pinang, Kedah & Perlis, as well as Terengganu & Kelantan. However, a slight decline in the BCI with steel bars for several building categories ranging from negative 0.1 per cent to negative 1.1 per cent was recorded in Perak, Johor and Pahang.

The BCI with steel bars in Sabah recorded a slight increase ranging from 0.1 per cent to 0.6 per cent for all building categories in March 2026 as compared to the previous month.

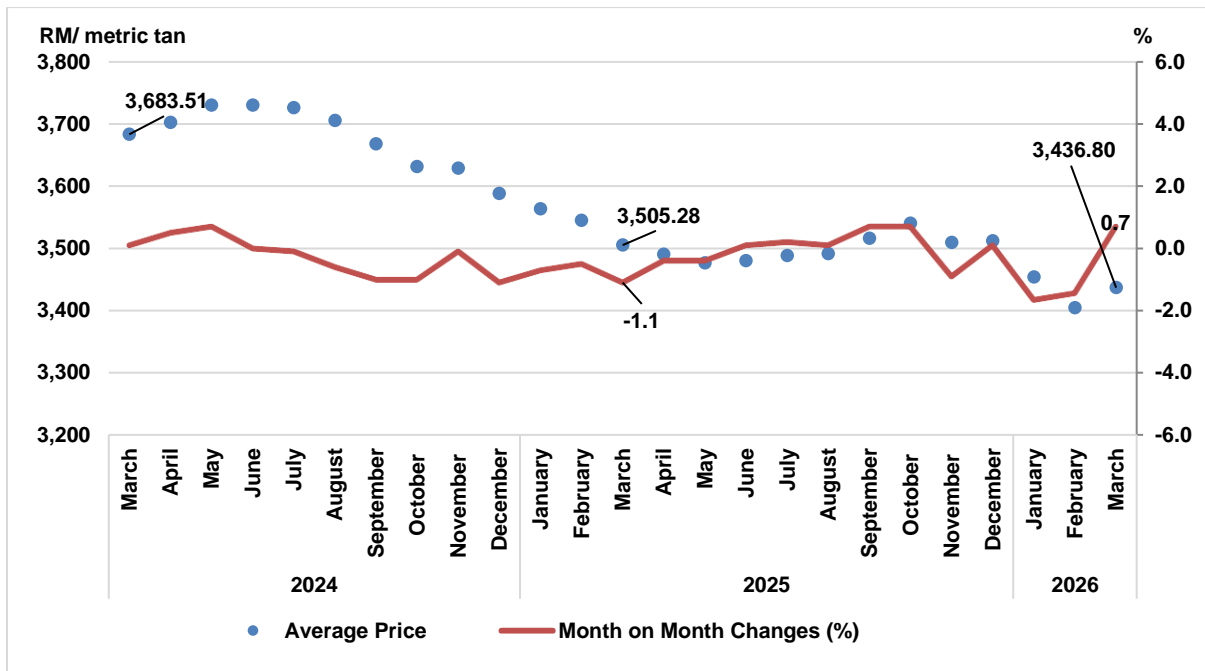
The month-on-month comparison of BCI with steel bars in Sarawak registered a slight decrease ranging from negative 0.1 per cent to negative 0.3 per cent for all categories of buildings in Kuching (except for the timber building, timber piling and piling categories). Meanwhile, the BCI in Sibul and Miri recorded a slight increase ranging from 0.1 per cent to 0.5 per cent for all building categories.

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 **5<sup>th</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

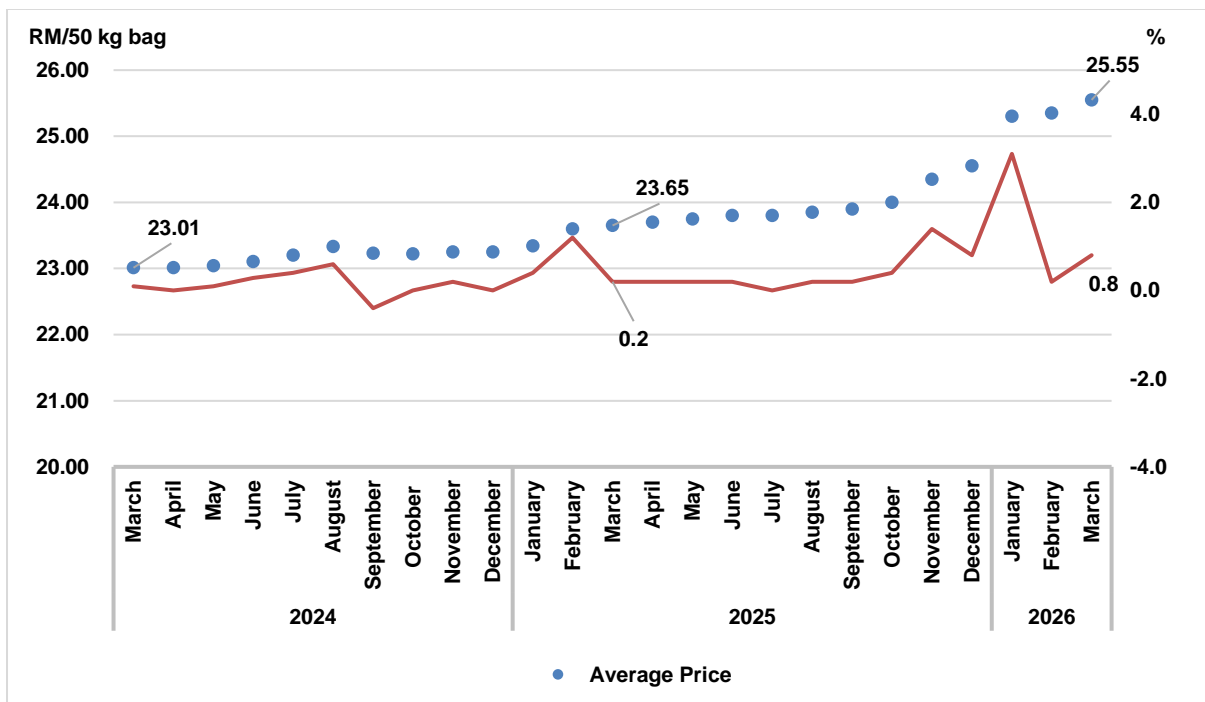
**Malaysia** has, for the first time, successfully secured the **top position** globally in the biennial **Open Data Inventory (ODIN) 2024/25** report released by Open Data Watch (ODW), surpassing 197 other countries. This achievement marks a significant leap from its 67<sup>th</sup> position in the 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: Average Price of Steel Bar, Malaysia, March 2024 – March 2026**



**Chart 2: Average Price of Cement (Ordinary Portland), Malaysia, March 2024 – March 2026**



Released by:

**THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA  
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