



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, MALAYSIA, MARCH 2026

Malaysia's inflation increased at 1.7 per cent in March 2026

PUTRAJAYA, 17TH APRIL 2026 – Malaysia's inflation increased at 1.7 per cent in March 2026 with the index points increased to 136.4 from 134.1 in the same month of the previous year. The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) reported today on the release of **CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI), MARCH 2026**.

Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin informed that Malaysia's inflation in March 2026 was mainly driven by an increase of Transport group to 1.6 per cent from negative 0.7 per cent in February 2026. Besides, Malaysia's inflation also contributed by increases in Personal Care, Social Protection & Miscellaneous Goods & Services, 7.0 per cent (February 2026: 6.9%); Insurance & Financial Services, 4.9 per cent (February 2026: 4.7%); Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco, 2.7 per cent (February 2026: 2.6%); Restaurant & Accommodation Services, 2.6 per cent (February 2026: 2.5%); Health, 1.4 per cent (February 2026: 1.2%); Information & Communication, 1.4 per cent (February 2026: 0.5%); Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels, 1.2 per cent (February 2026: 1.1%) and Recreation, Sport & Culture, 1.0 per cent (February 2026: 0.8%).

Nevertheless, the groups of Education, 2.5 per cent (February 2026: 2.8%); Food & Beverages, 1.1 per cent (February 2026: 1.3%) and Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance, 0.1 per cent (February 2026: 0.2%) moderated as compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, Clothing & Footwear group recorded a marginal decrease to negative 0.1 per cent in March 2026 as compared to the same month of the previous year.

About 62.5 per cent of items (358 out of 573) recorded price increases. Nonetheless, out of this total, 348 items (97.2%) registered an increase of less than or equal to 10 per cent, while only 10 items recorded increases of more than 10 per cent in March 2026. The remainder 171 items (29.8%), showed a decline and 44 items remained unchanged.

The Food & Beverages group which contributes 29.8 per cent of the total CPI weight registered inflation rate at 1.1 per cent in March 2026 (February 2026: 1.3%). This was contributed by subgroups of Food away from home, 2.3 per cent (February 2026: 2.4%) and Food at home, 0.1 per cent (February 2026: 0.3%). There

are two expenditure classes of Food at home that eased in March 2026 as compared to February 2026 namely Fish & other seafood and Meat. Meanwhile, the expenditure classes of Vegetables, Oils & fats and Cereals & cereal products registered a decrease as compared to the previous year.

The expenditure class of Meat eased to 0.9 per cent in March 2026 as compared to 1.7 per cent in February 2026. This were contributed by Pork and Duck which increased to 3.4 per cent (February 2026: 4.4%) and 0.6 per cent (February 2026: 0.9%). Chicken as the largest component comprised of 32.6 per cent in the expenditure class of Meat decreased to negative 0.3 per cent as compared to 2.5 per cent registered in the previous month. The average price of Standard chicken for Malaysia in March 2026 were at RM10.59 per kilogramme as compared to RM10.56 per kilogramme in March 2025 (February 2026: RM10.75). Meanwhile, the average price of Standard chicken in Peninsular Malaysia was RM9.84 per kilogramme, the same rate as recorded in March 2025 (February 2026: RM10.08).

The expenditure class for Vegetables continued to record a decrease to negative 4.9 per cent as compared to February 2026 (-6.0%). Among the Vegetables that still showed year-on-year decrease in March 2026 were Big onion, negative 18.6 per cent (February 2026: -19.4%); Garlic, negative 16.2 per cent (February 2026: -16.8%) and Tomato, negative 15.1 per cent (February 2026: -3.9%).

The subgroup of Food away from home recorded an inflation rate of 2.3 per cent in March 2026 as compared to 2.4 per cent in the previous month. Among the items that eased in March were Cooked beef, 4.3 per cent (February 2026: 4.6%); Fried rice, 3.5 per cent (February 2026: 3.7%) and Rice with side dishes, 3.0 per cent (February 2026: 3.2%).

Inflation for the group of Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels increased to 1.2 per cent in March 2026 as compared to 1.1 per cent in February 2026. This was driven by the inflation of subgroup of Maintenance, repair & security of the dwelling, 3.3 per cent (February 2026: 3.2%). Meanwhile, the inflation for subgroup of Water supply & miscellaneous services relating to the dwelling and Actual rentals for housing remained unchanged as compared to the previous month, each recording inflation of 6.8 per cent and 1.5 per cent. The subgroup of Electricity, gas & fuel remained in the negative territory at negative 4.0 per cent (February 2026: -4.5%).

The Automatic Fuel Adjustment (AFA) revised rate imposed on domestic users in Peninsular Malaysia for consumption of more than 600 kilowatt hours (kWh) received a rebate of 2.15 cents/kWh for the period between 1st to 31st March 2026 as compared with the AFA applied for the period between 1st to 28th February 2026 (2.77 cents/kWh). This adjustment impacted the average electricity tariff as against the previous period. However, domestic users consuming 600 kWh and below remained unaffected.

Inflation for Transport group inclined to 1.6 per cent as compared to negative 0.7 per cent in February 2026. This was driven by the subgroup of Public transport services, 7.0 per cent (February 2026: 3.8%) and Operation of personal transport equipment, 1.5 per cent (February 2026: -1.2%). However, the inflation for both Transport services of goods, negative 1.9 per cent (February 2026: -1.9%) and Purchase of vehicles subgroups, negative 0.5 peratus (Februari 2026: -0.4%) still recorded decreases in March 2026.

The Global Energy Crisis, which began on 28 February 2026, has continued to persist and has driven global crude oil prices up by more than 40 per cent to exceed USD\$100 per barrel, thereby increasing the risk of disruptions to global oil supply. The Government, through the Ministry of Finance, has maintained the subsidised RON95 price at RM1.99 per litre under the BUDI MADANI RON95 (BUDI95) scheme to protect the public, while prices of other fuels are being adjusted gradually in line with rising global prices. However, by maintaining the BUDI95 price at RM1.99 per litre and Diesel at RM2.15 per litre for the targeted group, the subsidy burden continues to rise. With crude oil prices reaching USD\$100 per barrel, the subsidy cost for petrol and diesel is estimated to reach RM4 billion per month. Accordingly, the Government has revised the BUDI95 eligibility ceiling from 300 litres to 200 litres per month, effective April 2026. This adjustment is a temporary measure until global supply conditions stabilise.

The average price of Unleaded petrol RON97 in March 2026 registered at RM4.03 per litre as compared to RM3.11 per litre in February 2026. Meanwhile, the average price for Diesel in Peninsular Malaysia increased to RM4.12 per litre as compared to RM2.98 per litre in February 2026. However, the average price of Diesel for Sabah, Sarawak and Wilayah Persekutuan Labuan remained at RM2.15 per litre. The average market price of Unleaded petrol RON95 increased to RM3.16 per litre (February 2026: RM2.55 per litre) as compared to the subsidised price of RM1.99 per litre.

In addition, the subgroup of Public transport services which increased to 7.0 per cent in March 2026 was driven by an increase of Passenger transport by air at 25.8 per cent as compared to 11.5 per cent in February 2026. Several airlines have announced a phased adjustment of fuel surcharges following the increase in global oil prices. The adjustment is implemented to help mitigate the impact of rising global fuel costs while ensuring that service quality, operational reliability, and flight network connectivity can be maintained.

Chief Statistician Malaysia also added that, with regards to inflation at the state level, eight states recorded increases above the national inflation level (1.7%), namely Pahang (2.5%), Wilayah Persekutuan Labuan (2.4%), Negeri Sembilan (2.2%), Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur (2.2%), Sabah (2.1%), Johor (2.0%), Kedah (1.9%) and Pulau Pinang (1.8%). However, the remainder eight states increased below and equal to the national inflation rate with Kelantan recorded the lowest inflation (0.7%) in March 2026. All states registered an increase in inflation of Food & Beverages except Kelantan (-0.7%). Seven states recorded increases over the national inflation of Food & Beverages (1.1%) in March 2026. The highest increase

was recorded by Negeri Sembilan (2.7%), followed by Pahang (2.1%), Johor (1.9%), Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur (1.8%), Pulau Pinang (1.6%), Kedah (1.4%) and Melaka (1.4%). Meanwhile, other states showed increases below to the national inflation of Food & Beverages.

The monthly headline inflation in March 2026 increased to 0.3 per cent as compared to 0.2 per cent in February 2026. This was driven by the group of Transport, 2.1 per cent (February 2026: 0.2%); Information & Communication, 0.8 per cent (February 2026: -0.2%); Insurance & Financial Services, 0.3 per cent (February 2026: 0.0%); Health, 0.2 per cent (February 2026: 0.0%); Recreation, Sport & Culture, 0.2 per cent (February 2026: 0.0%) and Education, 0.2 per cent (February 2026: 0.1%). Meanwhile, inflation for two groups eased in March 2026 namely Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels, 0.1 per cent (February 2026: 0.7%) and Personal Care, Social Protection & Miscellaneous Goods & Services, 0.4 per cent (February 2026: 1.0%). The groups of Food & Beverages; Clothing & Footwear; Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance and Restaurant & Accommodation Services recorded decreases to negative 0.1 per cent respectively in March 2026 as compared to the previous month.

Inflation for the first quarter of 2026 increased higher at 1.6 per cent as compared to 1.3 per cent in fourth quarter of 2025. This was contributed by Personal Care, Social Protection & Miscellaneous Goods & Services group, 6.9 per cent (Q4 2025: 5.8%); Education, 2.8 per cent (Q4 2025: 2.6%); Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco, 2.6 per cent (Q4 2025: 1.7%); Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels, 1.1 per cent (Q4 2025: 0.8%) and Information & Communication, 0.8 per cent (Q4 2025: -1.0%). As for quarter-on-quarter comparison, Malaysia's inflation also increased higher at 0.6 per cent as compared to 0.2 per cent in the previous quarter.

In comparison to inflation in other selected countries, inflation in Malaysia in March 2026 (1.7%) was lower than inflation in Viet Nam (4.7%), Philippines (4.1%), Indonesia (3.5%), and Republic of Korea (2.2%). However, the rate was higher than China (1.0%) and Thailand (-0.1%).

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) is conducting the Economic Census 2026 (BE2026), themed "Data Nadi Ekonomi Rakyat". The sixth Economic Census, running from 5th January to 31st October 2026. BE2026 aims to collect comprehensive, 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>.

MyPrice Dashboard is a platform developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Cost of Living (KPDN) that displays daily prices of selected essential goods across Malaysia. The initiative is timely in tandem with rising prices of essential goods and requires an intervention from the government and various parties. The dashboard can be accessed via the following link <https://www.dosm.gov.my/portal-main/article/dashboardmyprice>.

MyHIES is an interactive dashboard that displays information on income distribution, expenditure patterns, poverty and income inequality in Malaysia. The data is available in time series format at the national, state, administrative district and locality levels, with selected socioeconomic indicators. Please visit <https://myhies.dosm.gov.my> for more information.

Released by:

THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA
17 APRIL 2026

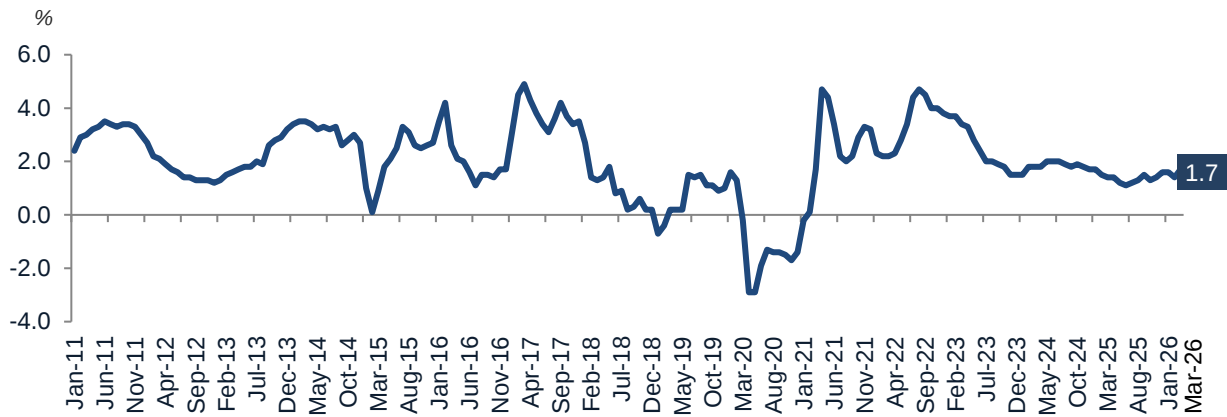
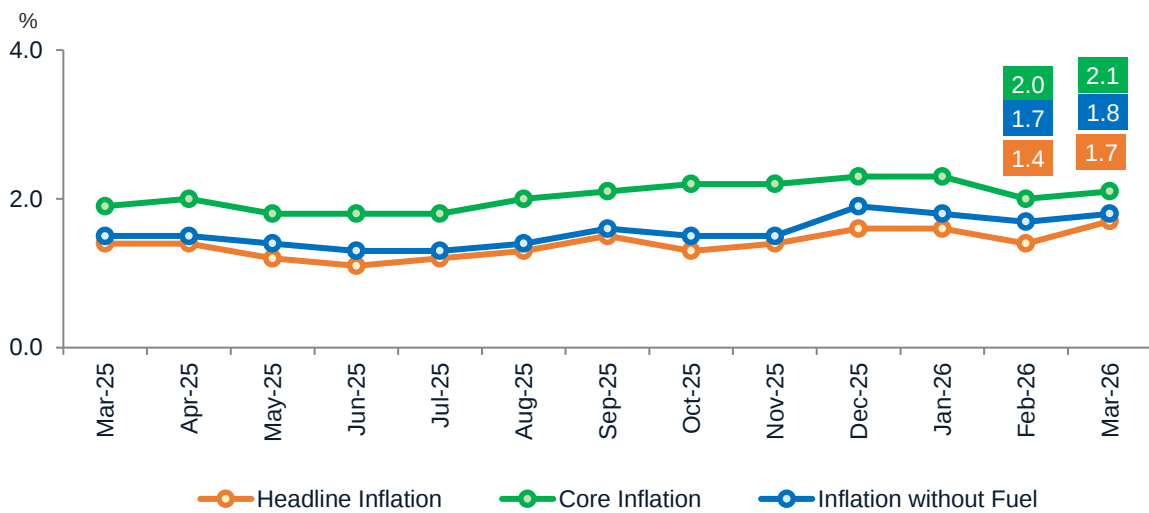
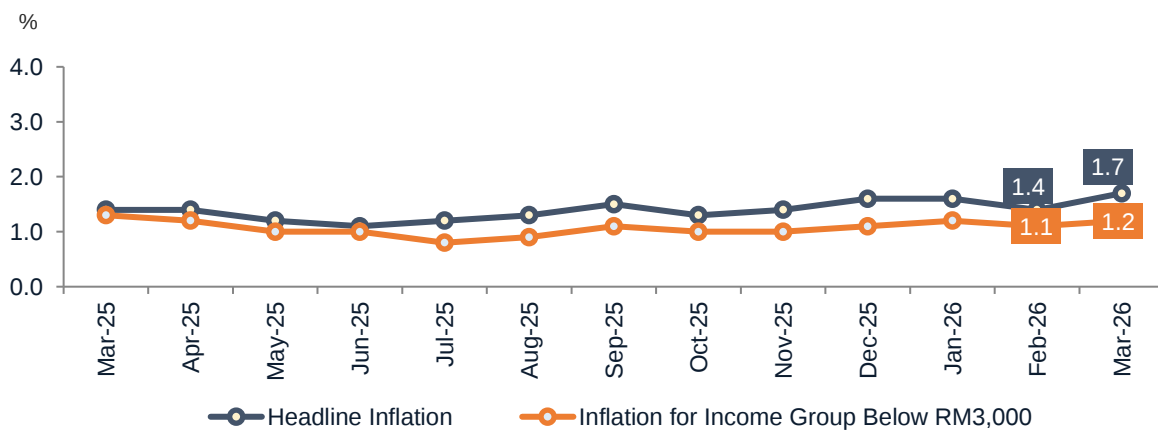
Chart 1
Monthly Inflation Malaysia, January 2011 – March 2026

Chart 2
Malaysia Inflation, Core Inflation and Inflation without Fuel, March 2025 – March 2026

Chart 3
Inflation for Income Group Below RM3,000, March 2025 – March 2026


Chart 4

Quarterly Inflation Malaysia, Q1 2011 – Q1 2026

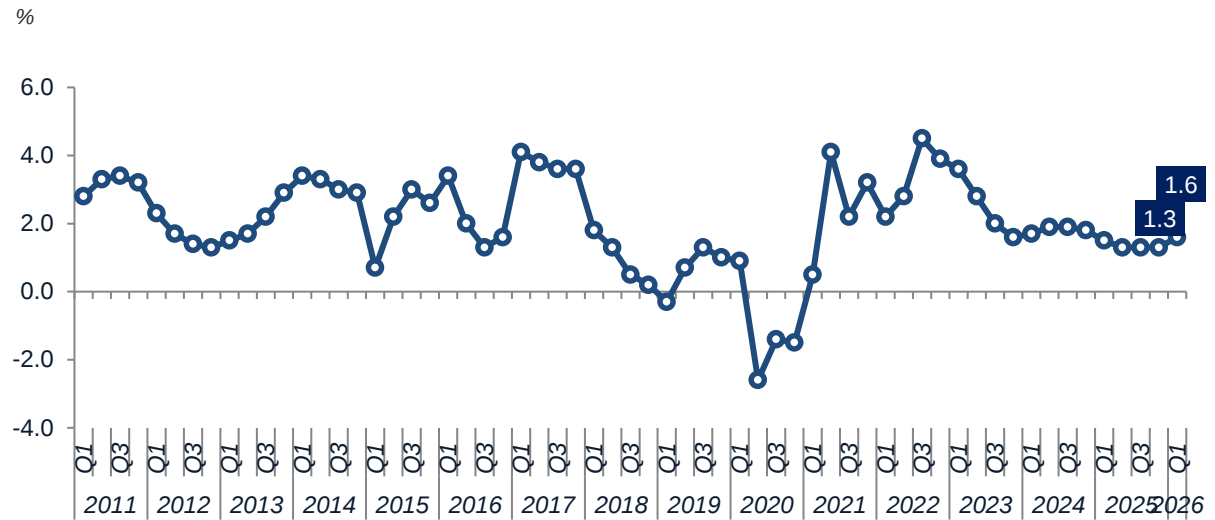


Chart 5

Annual Inflation Malaysia, 2011 - 2025

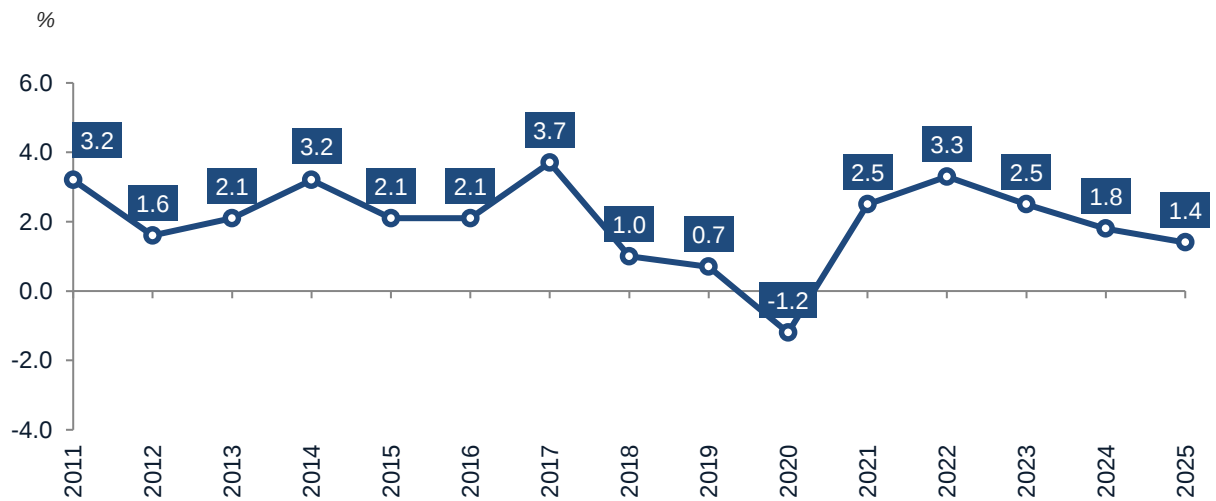


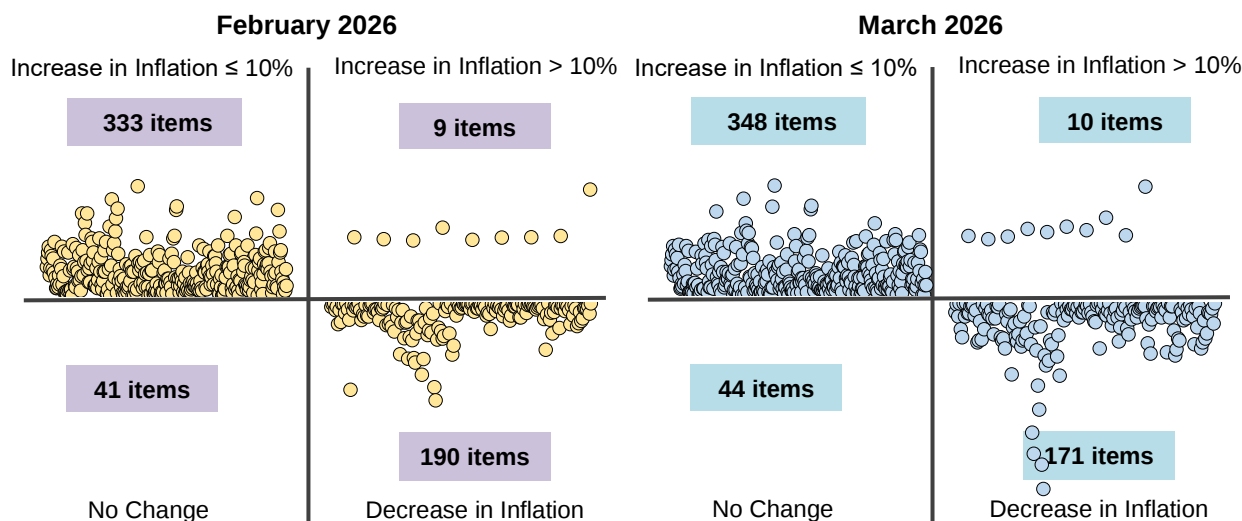
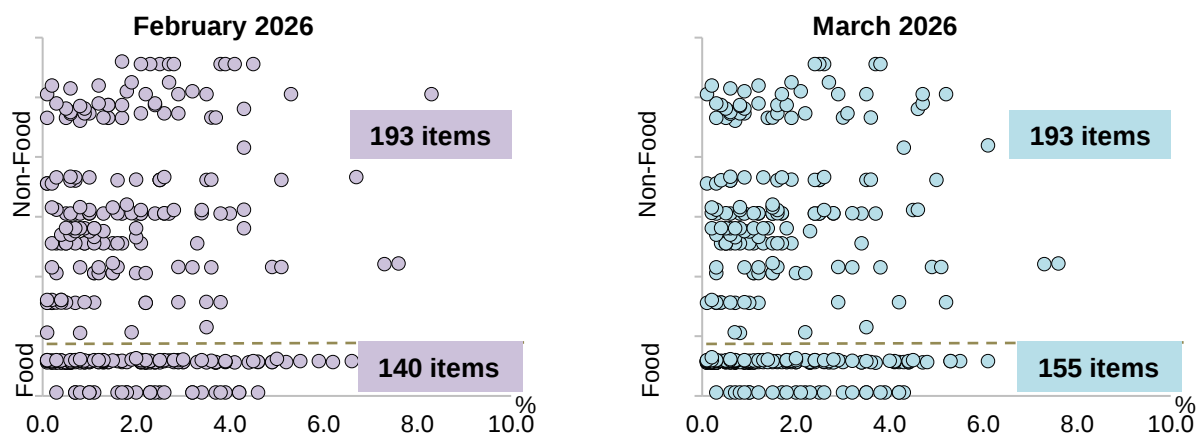
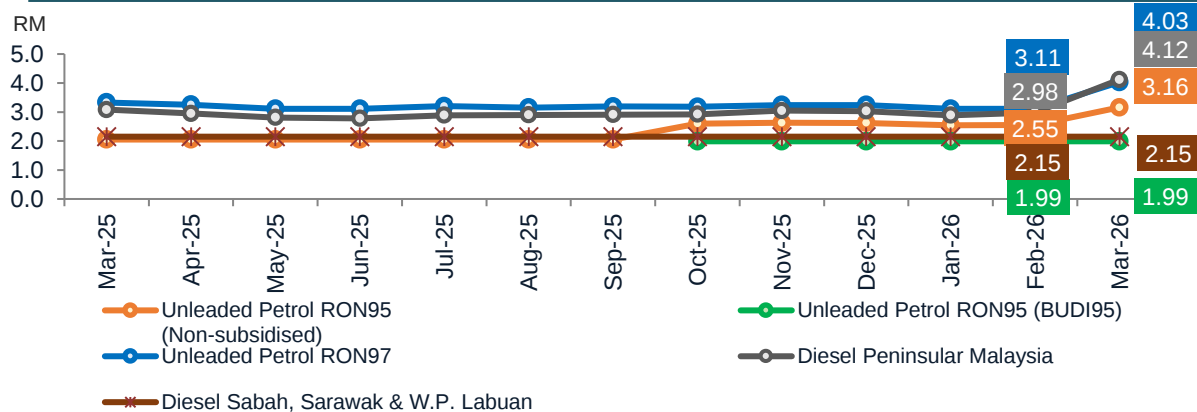
Chart 6
Inflation by Quadrant, February 2026 & March 2026

Chart 7
Distribution of Inflation for Food and Non-Food that Increased ≤10%, February 2026 & March 2026

Chart 8
Average Price of Unleaded Petrol RON95, Unleaded Petrol RON97 and Diesel, March 2025 – March 2026


Chart 9

Inflation by Main Group, February 2026 & March 2026

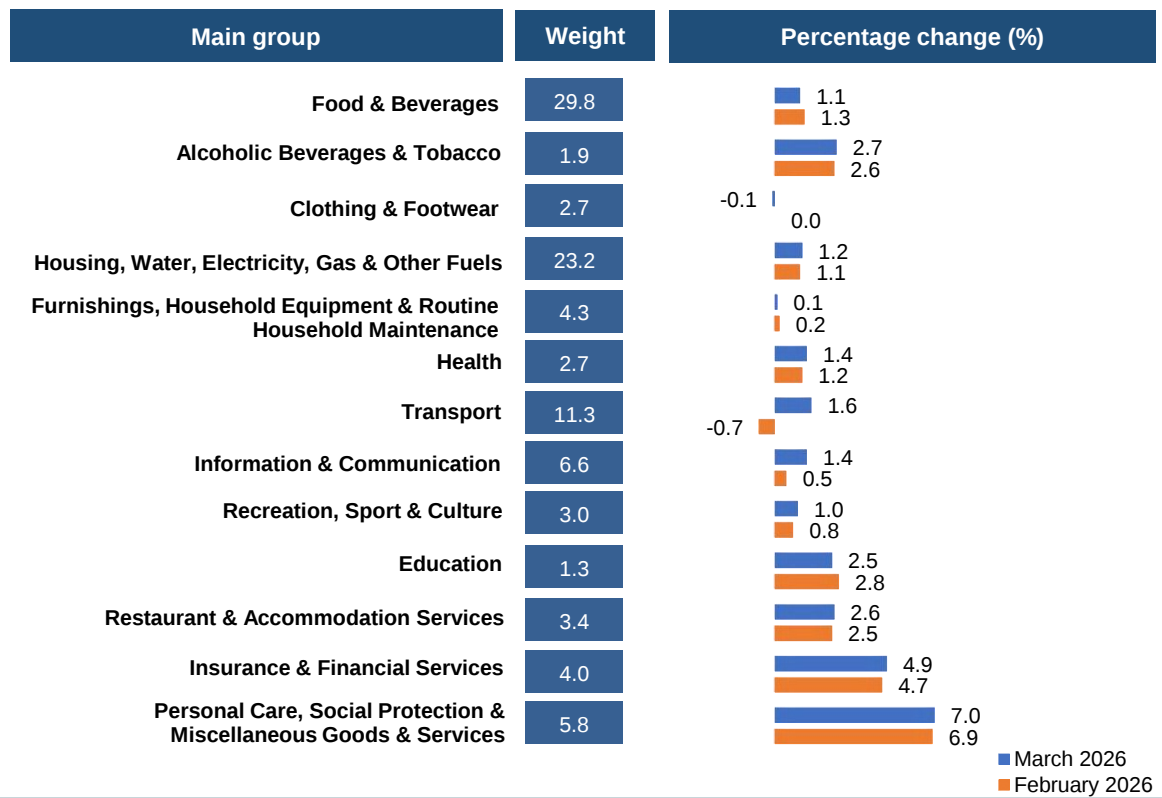


Chart 10

Inflation for Food & Beverages, March 2025 – March 2026

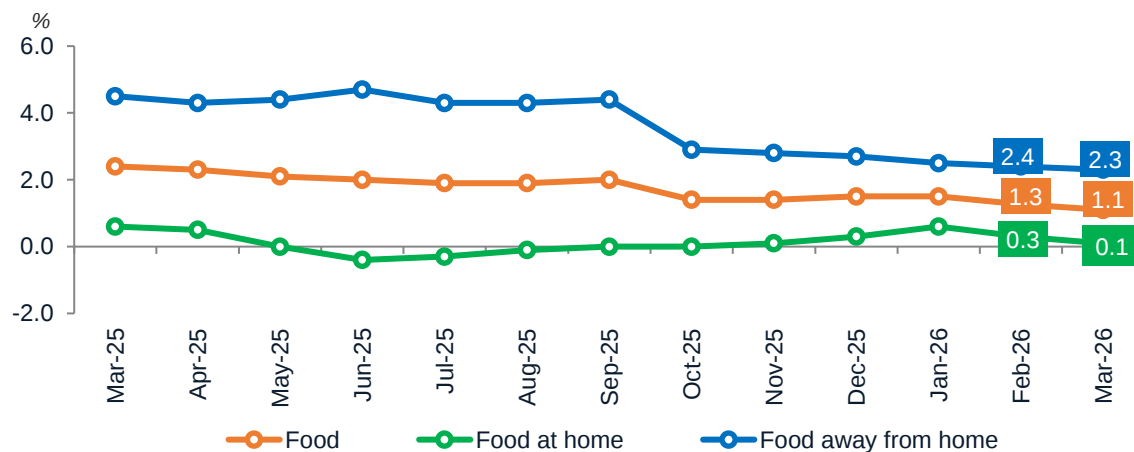
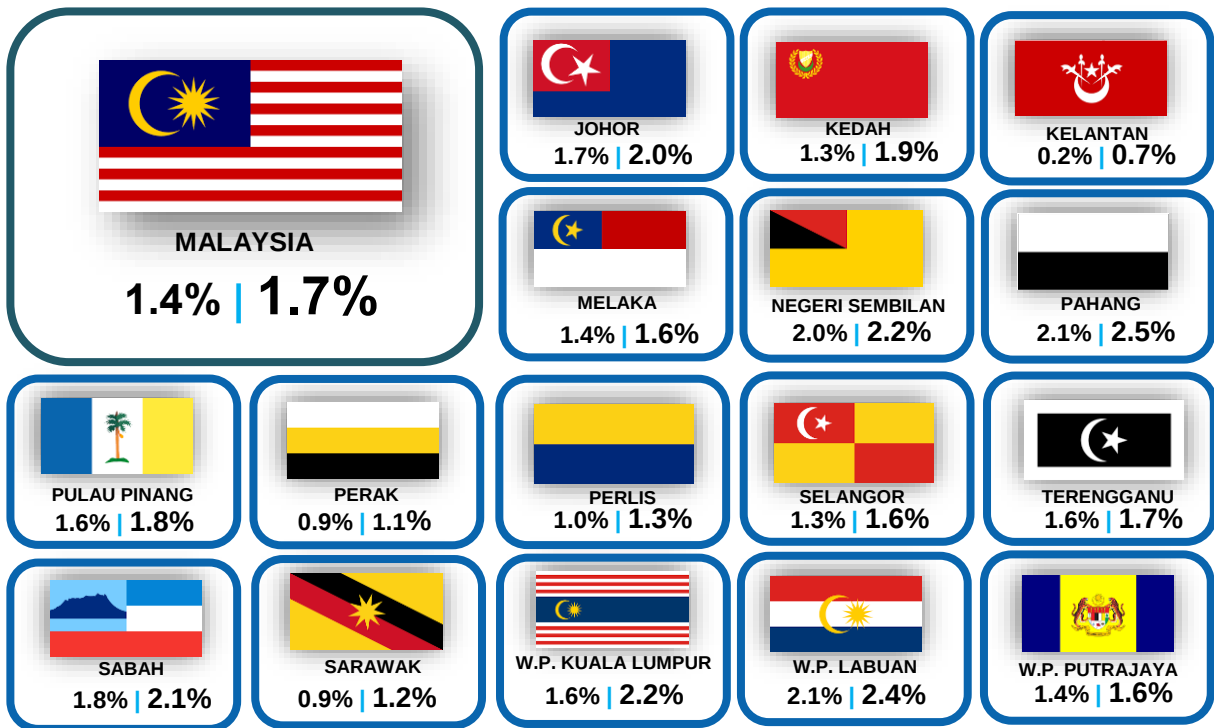


Chart 11

Inflation by State, February 2026 & March 2026



Note: W.P. refers to Wilayah Persekutuan

February 2026 | March 2026

Chart 12

Inflation of Selected Countries, March 2025 – March 2026

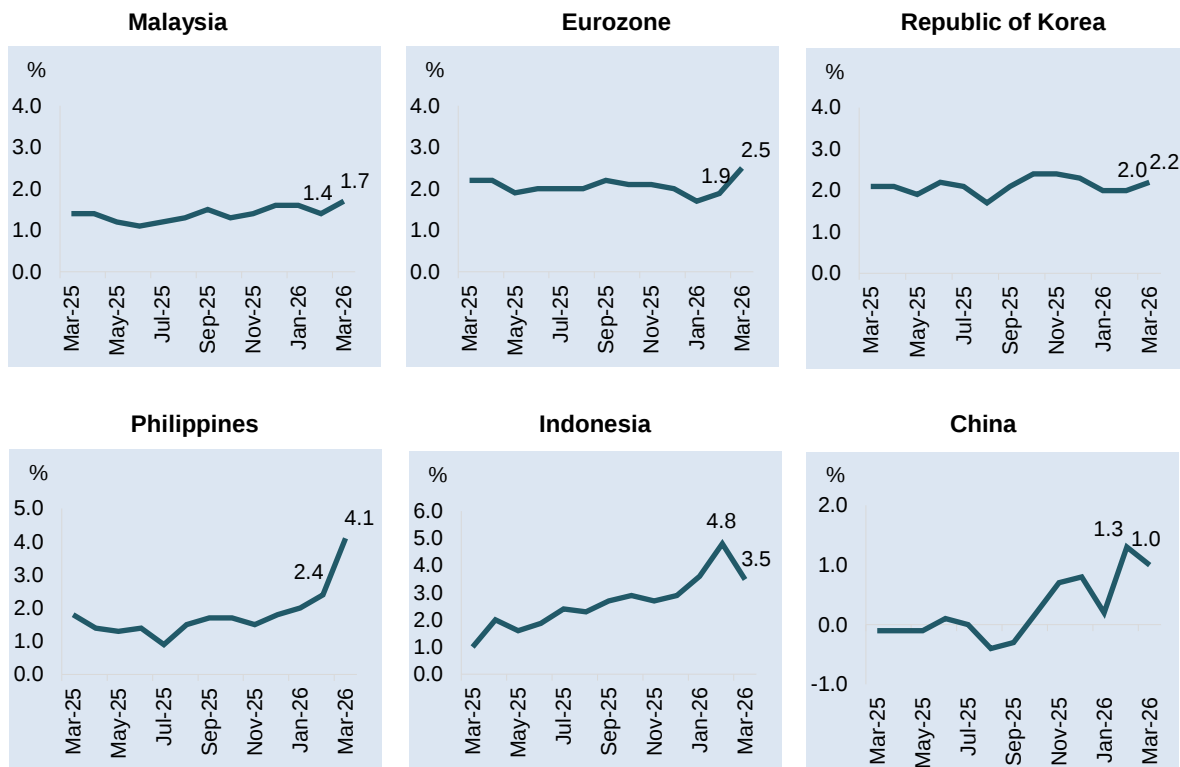
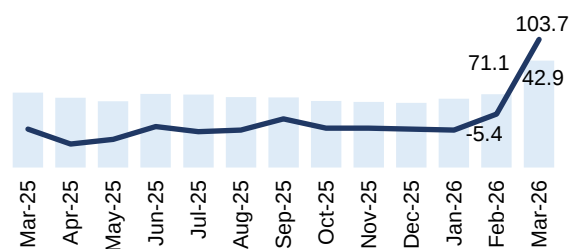


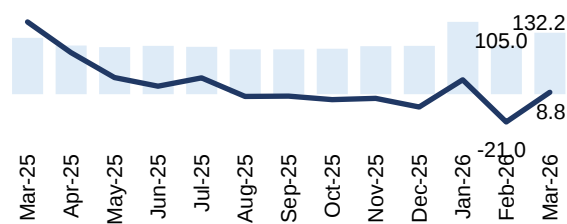
Chart 13

Global Selected Commodity Prices

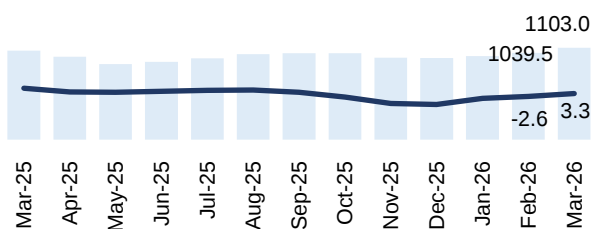
Crude Oil (US\$/bbl)



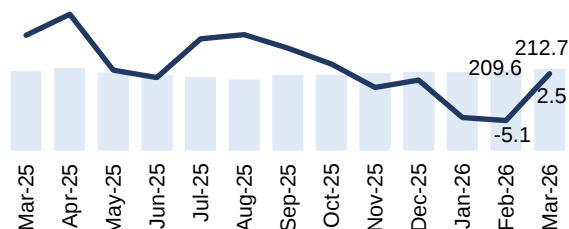
Natural Gas (Index 2010=100)



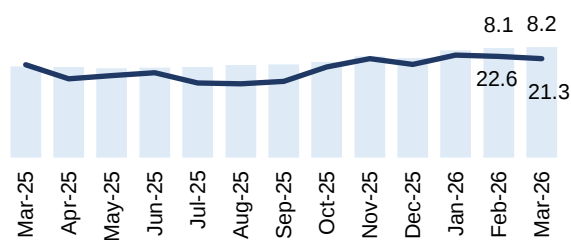
Palm Oil (US\$/mt)



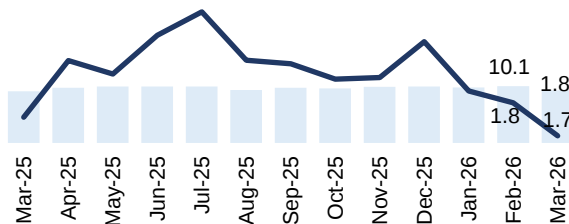
Maize (US\$/mt)



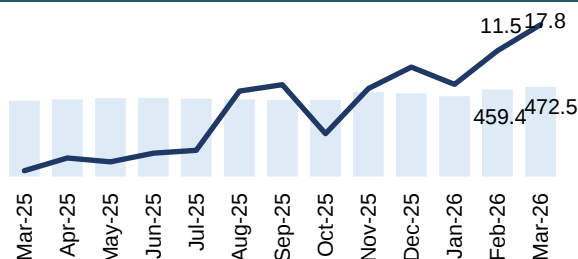
Beef (US\$/kg)



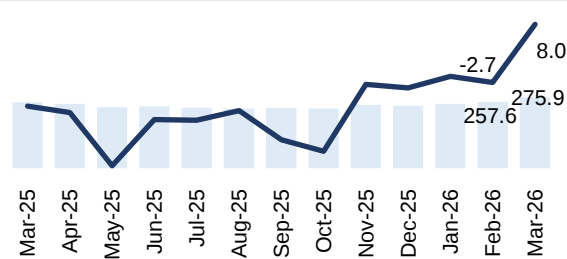
Meat, Chicken (US\$/kg)



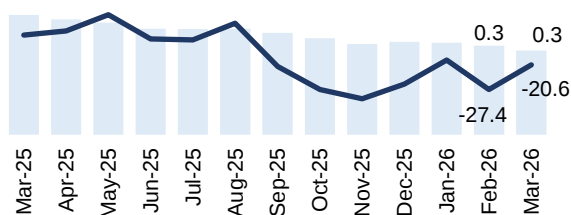
Soybeans (US\$/mt)



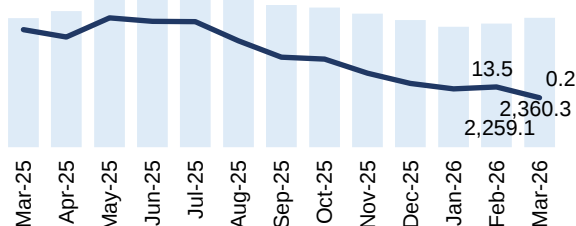
Wheat (US\$/mt)



Sugar (US\$/kg)



Coconut Oil (US\$/mt)



Global commodity price (US\$)

Percentage change year-on-year

Source: Commodity Monthly Prices, World Bank

Notes:

Bbl : Barrel (1bbl = 159 litres)

Mt : Million Tonne

Mmbtu : Metric Million British Thermal Unit

Chart 14

Percentage Change of Producer Price Index (PPI) Local Production, Malaysia

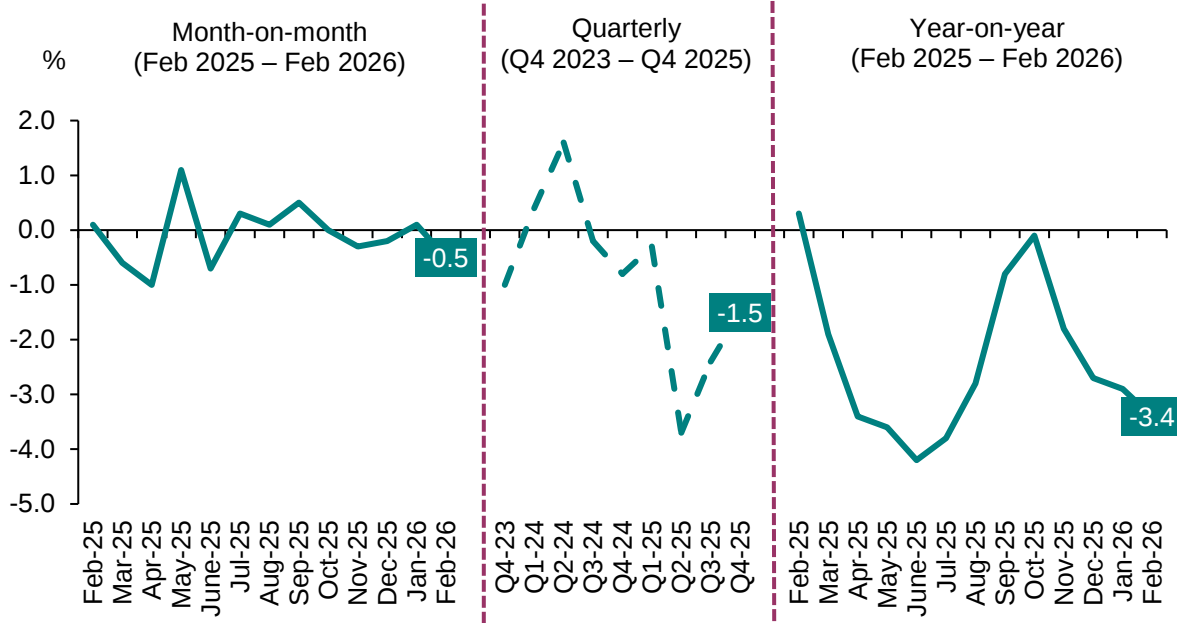


Chart 15

Percentage Change of Producer Price Index (PPI) Local Production by Sector (Year-on-Year), Malaysia

