

## **Economic activity to continue expanding in 2017**

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KUALA LUMPUR: The annual change of Leading Index (LI) which monitors the economic performance in advance increased 0.6% in June 2017, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DoS).

However, the monthly change of LI showed a negative growth of 0.6% in the reference month, mainly owing to real imports of semi conductors that declined 0.5% and expected sales value in the manufacturing sector, which fell 0.4%.

In a press release issued on Wednesday, the DoS also reported that the Coincident Index (CI), which measures current economic activity, rose 0.4% in June 2017 on the back of increases in volume index of retail trade by 0.7% and Industrial Production Index by 0.2%, respectively.

The annual change of CI increased 4% in the reference month, in line with the growth of gross domestic product at constant price, which expanded 5.8% in the second quarter of 2017 from 5.6% in the previous quarter.

The annual change of LI and CI in June 2017 remained favorable at a slower momentum as compared to the previous month.

At the same time, both Diffusion Indexes have sustained above 50% since January 2017. Supported by the growth rate, economic activity is expected to continue expanding throughout the year 2017.