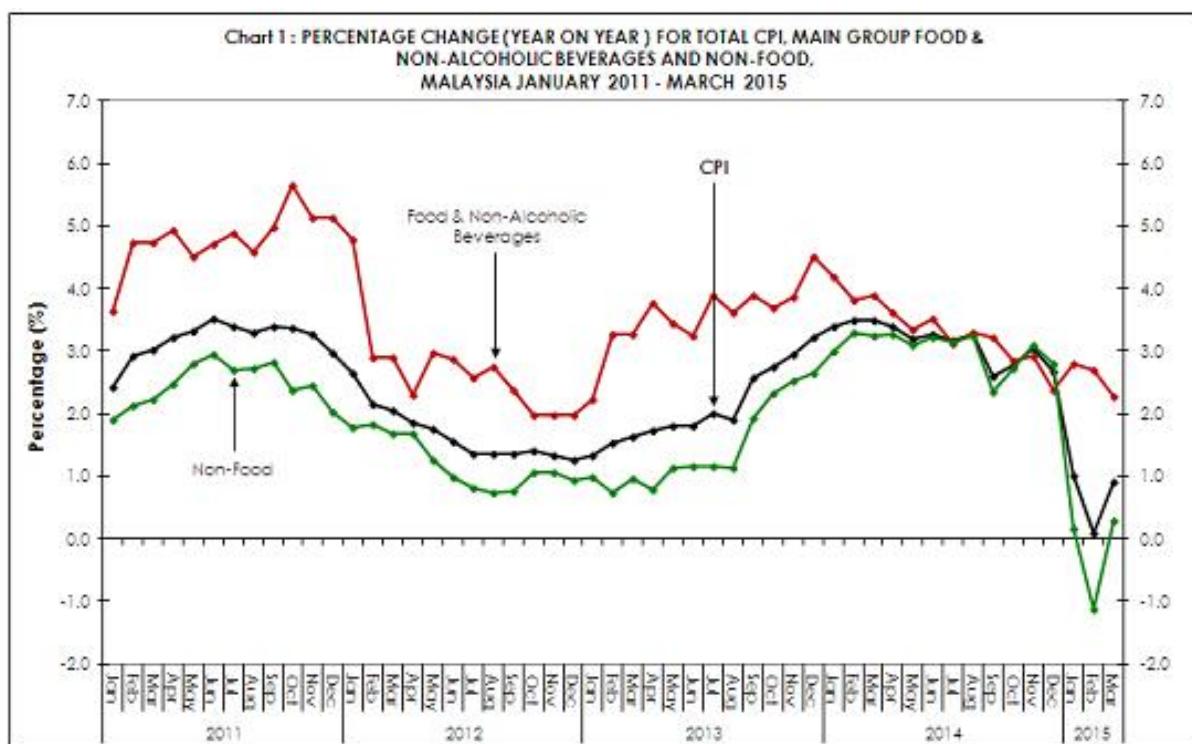




CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MALAYSIA MARCH 2015

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for March 2015 increased by 0.9 per cent to 110.9 compared with 109.9 in the same month last year. This increase was due to increases in Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco group by 10.6 percent ; Health by 3.6 percent ; Restaurants & Hotels (+2.8 per cent); and Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (+2.3 per cent). In addition, the value of this index is influenced by the decrease in Transport (-4.9 per cent).

Apart of that, main groups which recorded to these decrease were Communication by 0.9 per cent and Clothing & Footwear by 0.2 per cent. Overall, the index for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages and the index for Non-Food increased by 2.3 per cent and 0.3 per cent respectively in March 2015 compared with the same month in 2014 (Chart 1 and Table 1). However, a modest increase in the Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages was not able to increase the overall index due to higher contribution by Non-Food group (+69.7 per cent).



CPI changes for the period January - March 2015 / 2014

The slower increase of 0.7 per cent in the CPI for the first three month in 2015 was brought about by decreases observed in the indices of Transport (-7.6 per cent); Communication and Clothing & Footwear decrease by 0.9 and 0.3 per cent respectively. Notable increases among these main groups with high weights were Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (+2.5 per cent) and Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels (+2.1 per cent). Other increases were Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco (+10.6 per cent); Health (+3.4 per cent); Restaurants & Hotels (+3.1 per cent) and Education (+2.1 per cent).

Table 1 : CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR MAIN GROUPS, MALAYSIA (2010=100)

Group	Wt.	Index					% Change		
		Mar 2014	Feb 2015	Mar 2015	Jan - Mar 2014	Jan - Mar 2015	Mar 2015/ Feb 2015	Mar 2015/ Mar 2014	Jan - Mar 2015/2014
TOTAL	100.0	109.9	109.9	110.9	109.7	110.5	0.9	0.9	0.7
Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	30.3	114.5	117.5	117.1	114.5	117.4	-0.3	2.3	2.5
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco	2.2	121.7	134.6	134.6	121.7	134.6	0.0	10.6	10.6
Clothing and Footwear	3.4	98.8	98.2	98.6	98.8	98.5	0.4	-0.2	-0.3
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	22.6	108.1	110.6	110.2	107.8	110.1	-0.4	1.9	2.1
Furnishings, Household Equip. & Routine Household Maintenance	4.1	106.5	106.6	106.7	106.4	106.7	0.1	0.2	0.3
Health	1.3	108.6	112.1	112.5	108.4	112.1	0.4	3.6	3.4
Transport	14.9	111.3	98.0	105.8	111.1	102.7	8.0	-4.9	-7.6
Communication	5.7	98.1	97.2	97.2	98.1	97.2	0.0	-0.9	-0.9
Recreation Services & Culture	4.6	104.9	105.7	105.5	104.9	105.5	-0.2	0.6	0.6
Education	1.4	109.4	111.7	111.8	109.2	111.5	0.1	2.2	2.1
Restaurants and Hotels	3.2	115.9	118.8	119.2	115.3	118.9	0.3	2.8	3.1
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	6.3	105.4	106.7	107.0	104.9	106.6	0.3	1.5	1.6
Non-Food	69.7	107.9	106.6	108.2	107.6	107.5	1.5	0.3	-0.1
Durable Goods	6.5	97.7	96.3	96.2	97.5	96.2	-0.1	-1.5	-1.3
Semi-Durable Goods	4.4	99.6	99.0	99.3	99.6	99.2	0.3	-0.3	-0.4
Non-Durable Goods	41.6	113.0	110.0	112.3	113.0	111.6	2.1	-0.6	-1.2
Services	47.5	109.7	112.6	112.7	109.7	112.4	0.1	2.7	2.7

Based on the above changes and the weights assigned to the main groups, the relative contribution to the overall increase of 0.7 per cent in the CPI can be identified as shown in Table 2.

Table 2 : CONTRIBUTION TO THE CHANGES IN THE OVERALL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX BY MAIN GROUPS, MALAYSIA (2010=100)

Group	Wt.	2014 / 2013		March 2015 / 2014		January - March 2015 / 2014	
		% Change	% Contribution	% Change	% Contribution	% Change	% Contribution
TOTAL	100.0	3.2	100.0	0.9	100.0	0.7	100.0
Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	30.3	3.3	34.0	2.3	80.2	2.5	122.1
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco	2.2	11.6	8.3	10.6	28.2	10.6	37.7
Clothing and Footwear	3.4	-0.2	-0.3	-0.2	-1.1	-0.3	-1.8
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	22.6	3.4	24.1	1.9	47.5	2.1	72.5
Furnishings, Household Equip. & Routine Household Maintenance	4.1	1.0	1.3	0.2	0.6	0.3	1.3
Health	1.3	2.9	1.2	3.6	5.2	3.4	6.6
Transport	14.9	4.9	23.1	-4.9	-81.9	-7.6	-169.0
Communication	5.7	-0.7	-1.3	-0.9	-5.4	-0.9	-7.5
Recreation Services & Culture	4.6	1.5	2.2	0.6	2.4	0.6	3.5
Education	1.4	2.4	1.1	2.2	3.4	2.1	4.5
Restaurants and Hotels	3.2	4.7	5.0	2.8	10.9	3.1	15.6
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	6.3	0.7	1.3	1.5	10.0	1.6	14.5

The 2.5 per cent increase in the index for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages was the result of increases for Food At Home (+2.3 per cent); Food Away From Home (+3.4 per cent) and Coffee, Tea, Cocoa & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (+0.5 per cent). Among the subgroups of Food At Home which showed significant increases during this period as shown in Table 3 were **Milk & Eggs (+6.3 per cent); Vegetables (+4.2 per cent); Fish & Seafood (+2.9 per cent)** and **Fruits (+2.5 per cent)**.

Table 3 : CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR SUB-GROUPS OF FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, MALAYSIA (2010=100)

Sub-group	Wt.	Index						% Change		
		Mar 2014	Feb 2015	Mar 2015	Jan - Mar 2014	Jan - Mar 2015	Mar 2015/ Feb 2015	Mar 2015/ Mar 2014	Jan - Mar 2015/2014	
Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages		30.3	114.5	117.5	117.1	114.5	117.4	-0.3	2.3	2.5
Food	28.9	114.8	117.9	117.5	114.8	117.9	-0.3	2.4	2.7	
Food At Home	18.9	114.6	117.6	116.9	114.9	117.5	-0.6	2.0	2.3	
Rice, Bread & Other Cereals	4.4	105.3	106.2	106.4	105.2	106.2	0.2	1.0	1.0	
Meat	2.9	116.8	115.6	118.0	116.3	116.2	2.1	1.0	-0.1	
Fish & Seafood	4.5	123.1	129.1	126.1	124.3	127.9	-2.3	2.4	2.9	
Milk & Eggs	1.8	116.1	123.5	122.8	115.9	132.2	-0.6	5.8	6.3	
Oils and Fats	0.6	101.2	101.3	101.3	101.1	101.3	0.0	0.1	0.2	
Fruits	1.2	116.3	119.3	118.4	115.8	118.7	-0.8	1.8	2.5	
Vegetables	2.1	111.2	114.9	112.5	112.1	116.8	-2.1	1.2	4.2	
Sugar, Jam, Honey, Choc. & Confectionery	0.6	128.9	129.8	129.9	128.7	129.8	0.1	0.8	0.9	
Food Products n.e.c.	0.8	113.4	115.9	116.3	113.1	115.9	0.3	2.6	2.5	
Food Away From Home	10.0	115.1	118.6	118.8	114.6	118.5	0.2	3.2	3.4	
Coffee, Tea, Cocoa & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	1.4	107.7	108.2	108.3	107.7	108.2	0.1	0.6	0.5	

Monthly Changes for CPI

When compared with the previous month, the CPI for March 2015 increased by 0.9 per cent. Increases were for main groups namely Transport (+8.0 per cent); Clothing & Footwear and Health by 0.4 per cent respectively; Restaurant & Hotel and Miscellaneous Goods & Services by 0.3 per cent respectively; Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance and Education by 0.1 per cent respectively. On the other hand, decreases were observed in the group Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels by 0.4 per cent; Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (-0.3 per cent) and Recreation Services & Culture (-0.2 per cent). The other two main groups indices namely Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco and Communication remained unchanged at 134.6 and 97.2 respectively.

The 0.3 per cent decrease in the index for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages in March 2015 compared with the previous month was the result of decrease in the index for Food At Home by 0.6 per cent. The index for Food Away From Home and Coffee, Tea, Cocoa & Non-Alcoholic Beverages showed an increase by 0.2 and 0.1 per cent respectively.

Among the food items which recorded notable decreases in March 2015 compared with the previous month were **Watermelon (-11.4 per cent)**; **Tomatoes (-9.7 per cent)**; **Red Chillies (-9.4 per cent)**; **Cuttlefish (-4.6 per cent)**; **Indian Mackerel (Fish) (-4.0 per cent)**; **Round Scad (Fish) (-3.8 per cent)**

cent); Hardtail Scad (Fish) (-3.4 per cent); Hen's Egg (-2.6 per cent); Round Cabbage (-2.0 per cent) and Prawns (-1.7 per cent).

Meanwhile, the index of some food items increased in March 2015 compared with the previous month. Among these were **Chicken (+3.8 per cent); Carrots (+3.6 per cent); Long Beans (+1.9 per cent); Apples (+1.4 per cent); Choy Sum (+0.7 per cent); Sardin/Mackerel - Canned (+0.4 per cent); Local Rice 5% (+0.3 per cent); Crab (+0.3 per cent) and Beef (+0.1 per cent).**

A classification of index for items according to their durability and services rendered showed increases in the index for Non-Durable Goods by 2.1 per cent; Semi-Durable Goods (+0.3 per cent); and Services (+0.1 per cent). Meanwhile, the index for Durable Goods decreased by 0.1 per cent.

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