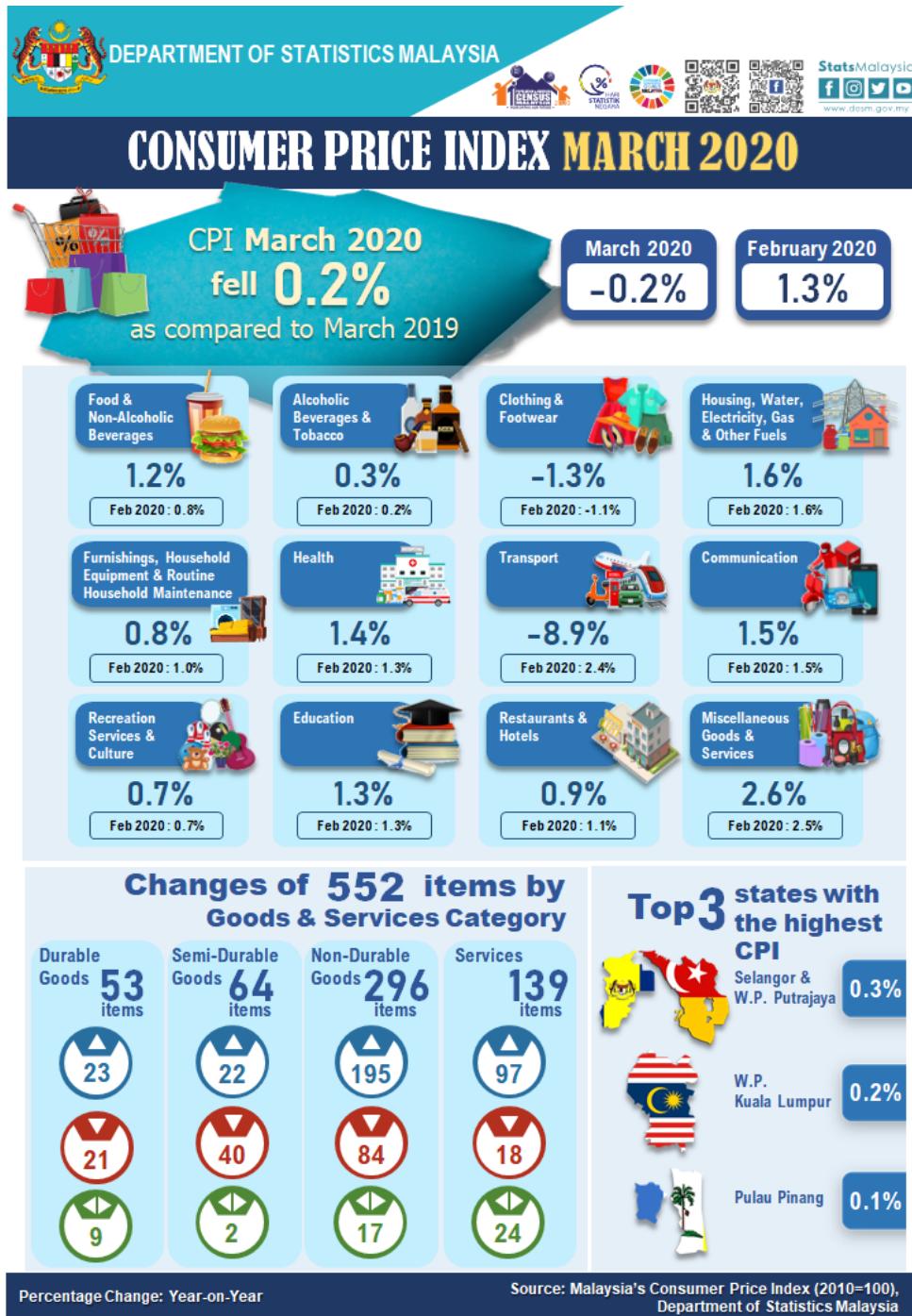




CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MALAYSIA MARCH 2020



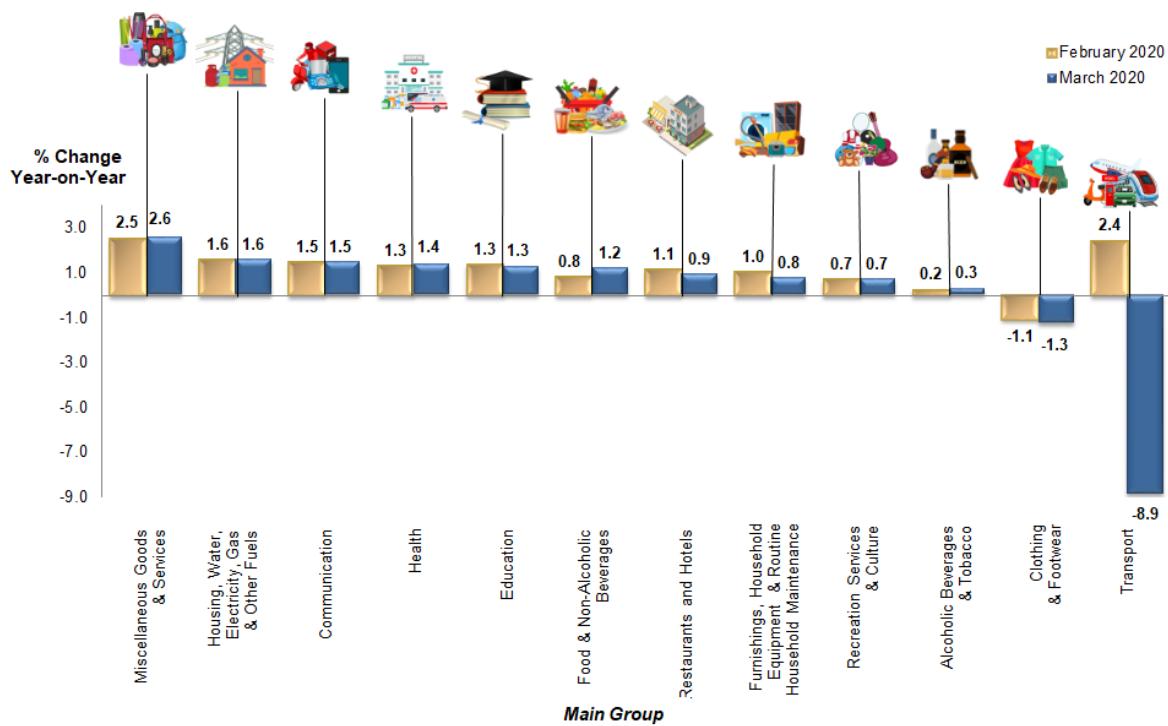
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Consumer Price Index (CPI) fell **0.2 per cent** in March 2020 to 120.9 as against 121.1 in the same month of the preceding year. The decrease in the index of **Transport (-8.9%)** which contributed 14.6 per cent of overall weight was countered by the increase in the index of **Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels (1.6%)** and **Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (1.2%)**.

The lower average price of RON95 in March 2020 which recorded RM1.74 per litre as compared to RM2.08 in March 2019 also contributed to the decrease of the Transport and overall index. In addition, the average price of RON97 decreased to RM2.04 per litre as compared to RM2.51 while Diesel declined to RM1.89 per litre from RM2.18 in corresponding month of the preceding year.

Nevertheless, **Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages** continued to increase in March 2020 by 1.2 per cent to 134.1 as compared to 132.5 in corresponding month of the preceding year. Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages contributes 29.5 per cent of Consumer Price Index (CPI) weight. Similarly, **Miscellaneous Goods & Services** also inclined by **2.6 per cent**, followed by **Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels (1.6%)**, **Communication (1.5%)**, **Health (1.4%)** and **Education (1.3%)**. (Chart 1)

Chart 1: Percentage Change of Consumer Price Index by Main Group



On a monthly basis, CPI decreased **1.2 per cent** as compared to February 2020. The decrease was contributed by **Transport (-8.7%)** and **Restaurants & Hotels (-0.2%)**.

Meanwhile, CPI in the first quarter of 2020 increased **0.9 per cent** to 121.9 as compared to 120.8 in the same quarter of the previous year. On a quarterly basis, the CPI decreased 0.2 per cent as compared to the fourth quarter of 2019.

Index for Subgroup Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages

The index for **Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages** increased **1.2 per cent** in March 2020 as compared to the same month of the previous year. The increase was attributed by the subgroup of **Vegetables (5.7%)**, **Food Products not elsewhere classified (2.6%)** and **Oils & Fats (1.4%)**.

Among the index of goods which recorded price increases in most states were **Small Onion (34.6%)**, **Garlic (33.8%)** and **Big Onion (29.9%)**.

The index for **Food Away From Home** increased **1.6 per cent** in March 2020 as against March 2019. The increase in price of Nasi Lemak, Fried Rice and Rice with Side Dishes contributed to the increase of the index of this subgroup. (Table 1)

Table 1: Percentage Change of Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages Subgroup

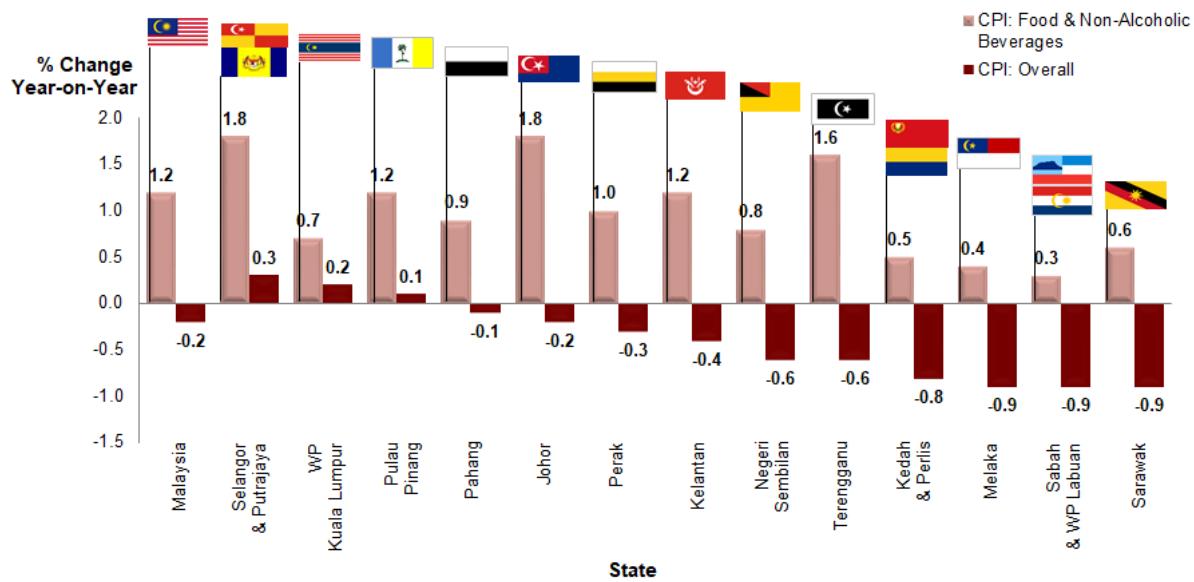
Subgroup	Index	Year-on-Year Percentage Change		Month-on-Month Percentage Change		
		Weight	Mar 2020	Feb 2020/ Feb 2019	Mar 2020/ Mar 2019	Feb 2020/ Jan 2020
Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	29.5	134.1	0.8	1.2	0.1	-0.1
Food	28.4	135.1	0.8	1.2	0.1	-0.1
Food At Home	16.9	130.8	0.2	0.9	-0.1	-0.2
Rice, Bread & Other Cereals	3.5	111.3	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.0
Meat	2.5	126.3	-2.8	0.9	1.0	0.8
Fish & Seafood	4.0	152.0	-0.1	0.3	-1.1	-1.0
Milk, Cheese & Eggs	1.5	123.3	-3.8	-3.5	-0.6	0.2
Oils & Fats	0.6	120.2	0.3	1.4	0.5	1.3
Fruits	1.2	133.6	0.1	0.6	-0.4	-0.2
Vegetables	2.1	137.6	6.3	5.7	0.8	-1.6
Sugar, Jam, Honey, Choc. & Confectionery	0.6	134.9	0.2	0.1	0.1	-0.1
Food Products n.e.c.	1.0	134.9	2.1	2.6	0.4	0.5
Food Away From Home	11.5	141.9	1.6	1.6	0.2	0.1
Coffee, Tea, Cocoa & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	1.1	113.0	1.3	0.9	0.3	0.0

Consumer Price Index by States

The index for all states decreased between -0.1 to -0.9 per cent in March 2020 as compared to March 2019. However, Selangor & Wilayah Persekutuan Putrajaya, Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur and Pulau Pinang increased 0.3 per cent, 0.2 per cent and 0.1 per cent respectively as compared to the same month in the previous year.

All states registered an increase in the index of Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages. The highest increase was recorded by Selangor & Wilayah Persekutuan Putrajaya (1.8%), Johor (1.8%) and Terengganu (1.6%) and it surpassed the national index of 1.2 per cent for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages in March 2020. (Chart 2)

Chart 2: Percentage Change of Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages by State



Core Index

Core index rose 1.3 per cent in March 2020 as compared to the same month of the previous year. Among the major groups which influenced the increase were Miscellaneous Goods & Services (2.6%), Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels (1.9%), Communication (1.5%) and Health (1.4%).

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

Table 2: Percentage Change of Headline CPI, Seasonally Adjusted Index and Core Index by Main Group

Main Group	Weight	Index	HEADLINE CPI			Index	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDEX		CORE INDEX	
			Percentage Change				Month-on-Month Percentage Change	Core Index Weight	Year-on-Year Percentage Change	
		Mar 2020	Mar 2020/Feb 2020	Mar 2020/Mar 2019	Jan-Mar 2020/2019	Mar 2020	Mar 2020/Feb 2020	Mar 2020/Mar 2019	Mar 2020/Mar 2019	Mar 2020/Mar 2019
Total	100.0	120.9	-1.2	-0.2	0.9	120.9	-1.2	100.0	1.3	
Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	29.5	134.1	-0.1	1.2	1.0	133.9	0.5	26.5	1.2	
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco	2.4	168.0	0.1	0.3	0.2	168.0	0.1	-	-	
Clothing and Footwear	3.2	93.6	-0.1	-1.3	-1.2	93.6	-0.1	4.5	-1.3	
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	23.8	122.6	0.0	1.6	1.7	122.6	0.2	26.5	1.9	
Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance	4.1	117.0	0.0	0.8	1.0	117.0	0.0	5.5	0.8	
Health	1.9	124.0	0.3	1.4	1.4	124.0	0.3	2.6	1.4	
Transport	14.6	104.0	-8.7	-8.9	-0.9	104.0	-8.7	6.5	0.3	
Communication	4.8	97.5	0.0	1.5	1.5	97.5	0.0	6.5	1.5	
Recreation Services & Culture	4.8	112.3	-0.1	0.7	0.8	112.3	-0.1	6.6	0.7	
Education	1.3	120.9	0.0	1.3	1.4	120.5	0.0	1.8	1.3	
Restaurants and Hotels	2.9	132.5	-0.2	0.9	1.1	132.5	-0.2	3.9	0.9	
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	6.7	115.1	0.4	2.6	2.5	115.1	0.4	9.1	2.6	
Non-Food	70.5	116.3	-1.8	-0.8	0.9	-	-	-	-	

[**Annex 1: Average Price for Selected Items in Malaysia, March 2020 \(RM\)**](#)

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