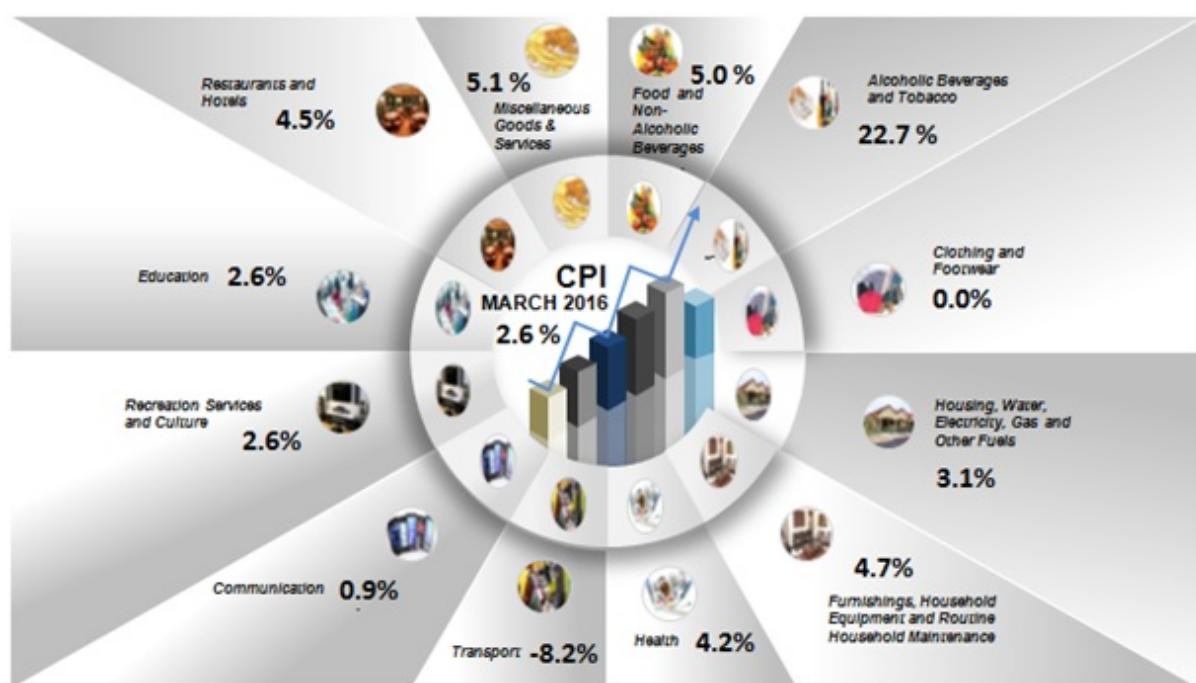




CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MALAYSIA MARCH 2016

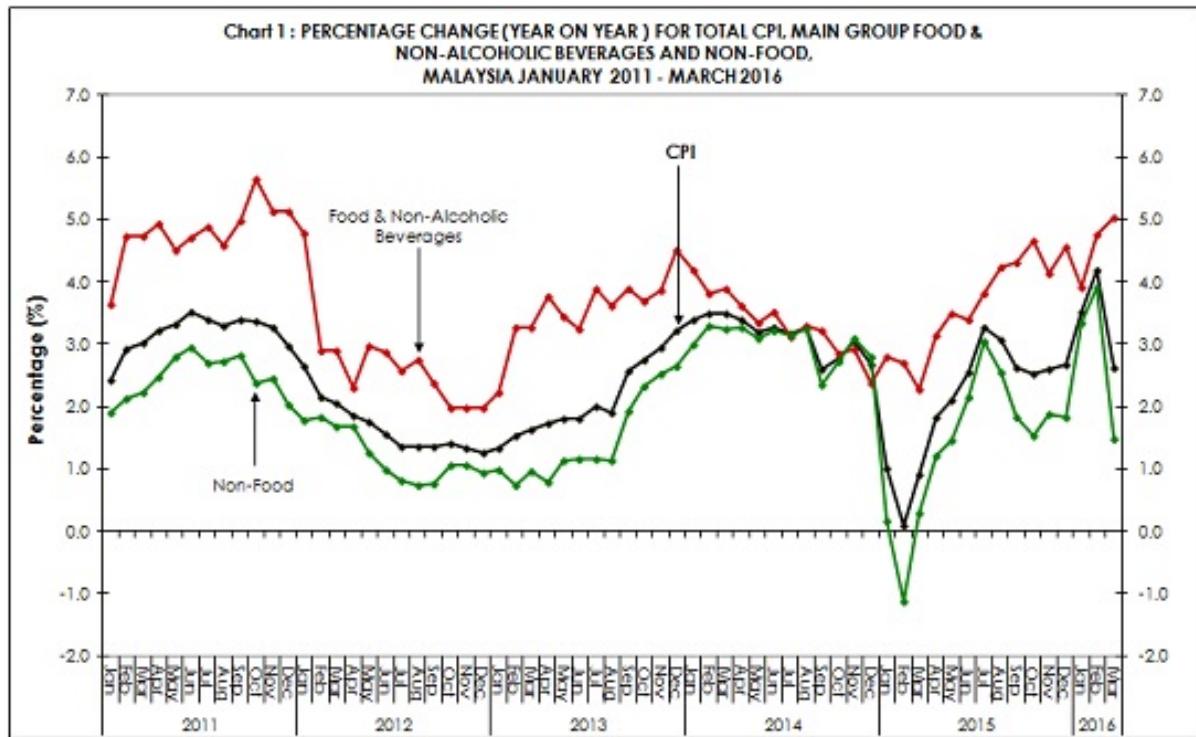
Year-on-Year Percentage Change in Consumer Price Index by Main Groups



The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for March 2016 increased a slower pace of 2.6 per cent to 113.8 compared with 110.9 in the same month last year. The rise in the CPI was due to increases in ten major groups. Among the major groups which recorded increases were the index for Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco by 22.7 per cent; Miscellaneous Goods & Services (+5.1 per cent); Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (+5.0 per cent); Furnishing, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance (+4.7 per cent); Restaurants & Hotels (+4.5 per cent); and Health (+4.2 per cent). In addition, the overall index is also influenced by the decrease in Transport group by 8.2 per cent.

The index for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (weight: 30.2) rose 5.0 per cent on a year-on-year basis in March 2016. Meanwhile, the index for Non-Food (weight: 69.8) recorded an increase of 1.5 per cent (Chart 1 and Table 1).

On a monthly basis, CPI for March 2016 decreased 0.6 per cent to 113.8 from 114.5. CPI for the period January to March in 2016 registered an increase of 3.4 per cent as compared to the same period last year.



Monthly Changes for CPI

When compared with the previous month, CPI for March 2016 decreased 0.6 per cent to 114.5. Of the twelve major groups, three recorded a decrease, while six main groups registered increases and three remained unchanged. Among the main groups that recorded increases were Miscellaneous Goods and Services (+0.2 per cent); Restaurant & Hotel (+0.2 percent) and Education (+0.2 per cent).

Based on a seasonally adjusted term, the CPI for March 2016 decreased by 0.6 per cent as compared to February 2016 (Table 1).

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

Group	Wt.	Index	Year-on-Year Percentage Change				Month-on-Month Percentage Change		Seasonally Adjusted Index	
			Mar 2016	Feb 2016/Feb 2015	Mar 2016/Mar 2015	Jan - Mar 2016/2015	Feb 2016/Jan 2016	Mar 2016/Feb 2016	Mar 2016	% Change Mar 2016/Feb 2016
TOTAL	100.0	113.8	4.2		2.6	3.4	0.0	-0.6	113.8	-0.6
Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	30.2	123.0	4.8		5.0	4.6	0.7	-0.1	123.0	0.2
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco	2.9	165.1	22.6		22.7	22.6	0.0	0.1	165.1	0.1
Clothing & Footwear	3.3	98.6	0.5		0.0	0.3	-0.3	-0.1	98.6	-0.1
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	23.8	113.6	2.6		3.1	3.0	0.4	0.1	113.6	0.3

Furnishings, Household Equip. & Routine Household Maintenance	3.8	111.7	4.7	4.7	4.5	0.4	0.1	111.7	0.1
Health	1.7	117.2	4.5	4.2	4.5	0.3	0.0	117.2	0.0
Transport	13.7	97.1	3.6	-8.2	-1.6	-3.1	-4.3	97.1	-2.3
Communication	5.2	98.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0	98.1	-4.3
Recreation Services & Culture	4.9	108.2	2.4	2.6	2.4	0.5	0.0	108.2	0.0
Education	1.1	114.7	2.5	2.6	2.6	0.4	0.2	114.2	0.2
Restaurants & Hotels	2.9	124.6	4.7	4.5	4.5	0.4	0.2	124.6	0.2
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	6.5	112.5	5.2	5.1	5.3	0.3	0.2	112.5	0.2
Non-Food	69.8	109.8	3.9	1.5	2.9	-0.3	-0.9	119.8	-0.9

Note: ⁽¹⁾ From the release of Consumers Price Index: January 2016 onwards, the weights used in the index are based on the Household Expenditure Survey 2014

The decrease of 0.1 per cent in the index for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages in March 2016 compared with the previous month was the result of a decrease in the index for Food At Home by 0.3 per cent. Meanwhile the index for Food Away From Home and index for Coffee, Tea, Cocoa & Non-Alcoholic Beverages recorded increases of 0.2 and 0.3 per cent respectively in March 2016 (Table 2).

Among the food items which recorded notable decreases in March 2016 compared with the previous month were **Cucumber (-12.0 per cent); Spinach (-6.3 per cent); Choy Sam (-6.3 per cent); Round Scad (Fish) (-4.8 per cent); Kai Lan (-4.0 per cent), Long Bean (-3.7 per cent); Watermelon (-3.2 per cent); Indian Mackerel (Fish) (-2.9 per cent); Red Chillies (-2.7 per cent); Onion, Big (-2.5 per cent) and Chicken (-2.1 per cent)**.

Meanwhile, the index of some food items registered an increase in March 2016 compared with the previous month. Among these food items were **Garlic (+8.5 per cent); Round Cabbage (+7.7 per cent); Brinjal (+2.0 per cent); Hen's Egg (+0.9 per cent) and Cuttlefish (+0.7 per cent)**.

Table 2 : Consumer Price Index for Sub-Groups of Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages, Malaysia (2010=100)

Sub-Groups	Wt. ⁽¹⁾	Index	Year-on-Year Percentage Change			Month-on-Month Percentage Change		
			Mar 2016	Feb 2016/ Feb 2015	Mar 2016/ Mar 2015	Jan - Mar 2016/2015	Feb 2016/ Jan 2016	Mar 2016/ Feb 2016
Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	30.2	123.0	4.8	5.0	4.6		0.7	-0.1
Food	29.0	123.5	4.9	5.1	4.7		0.7	-0.2
Food At Home	17.9	122.9	4.8	5.1	4.5		0.8	-0.3
Rice, Bread & Other Cereals	3.7	108.3	1.8	1.8	1.8		0.1	0.2

Meat	2.8	120.1	4.9	1.8	4.3	-0.7	-1.0
Fish & Seafood	4.3	137.8	7.5	9.3	7.6	2.0	-0.7
Milk & Eggs	1.6	123.8	-0.2	0.8	0.1	0.4	0.4
Oils & Fats	0.5	102.3	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.2	0.2
Fruits	1.1	125.8	5.9	6.2	6.1	-0.2	-0.2
Vegetables	2.4	125.6	9.7	11.6	6.8	2.5	-0.3
Sugar, Jam, Honey, Chocolate & Confectionary	0.6	134.4	3.4	3.5	3.4	0.1	0.1
Food Products n.e.c	0.9	124.1	6.6	6.7	6.6	0.4	0.5
Food Away From Home	11.1	124.5	4.8	4.8	4.8	0.4	0.2
Coffee, Tea, Cocoa & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	1.2	111.9	3.1	3.3	3.2	0.0	0.3

Note: ⁽¹⁾ From the release of Consumers Price Index: January 2016 onwards, the weights used in the index are based on the Household Expenditure Survey 2014

CPI changes for the period January - March 2016 / 2015

The increase of 3.4 per cent in the CPI for period January to March 2016 was led by increases in the main groups with high expenditure percentages: Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (+4.6 per cent) and Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels (+3.0 per cent). Other increases were Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco (+22.6 per cent); Miscellaneous Goods & Services (+5.3 per cent); Health (+4.5 per cent); Restaurants & Hotels (+4.5 per cent) and Furnishing, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance (+4.5 per cent).

The increase of 4.6 per cent in the index for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages was the result of increases for Food At Home (+4.5 per cent); Food Away From Home (+4.8 per cent) and Coffee, Tea, Cocoa & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (+3.2 per cent). Among the subgroups of Food At Home which showed significant increases during this period as shown in Table 2 were **Fish & Seafood (+7.6 per cent); Vegetables (+6.8 per cent); Fruits (+6.1 per cent) and Meat (+4.3 per cent)**.

Core Inflation

Core inflation, which excludes most volatile items of fresh food, as well as administered prices of goods and services rose 3.6 percent in March 2016 compared to the same period of the previous year (Table 3). Among factors contributing to a higher core rate were price increases for Miscellaneous Goods & Services (+5.1 per cent); Furnishing, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance (+4.7 per cent); Restaurants & Hotels (+4.5 per cent); Transport (+4.4 per cent); Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (+4.3 per cent) and Health (+4.2 per cent).

Table 3 : Headline CPI and Core Index by Main Groups, Malaysia (2010=100)

Group	Wt. ⁽¹⁾	HEADLINE CPI			CORE INDEX	
		Index	Percentage Change		Core Index	Percentage Change
		Mar 2016	Mar 2016/Feb 2016	Mar 2016/Mar 2015	Wt.	Mar 2016/Mar 2015
TOTAL	100.0	113.8	-0.6	2.6	100.0	3.6
Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	30.2	123.0	-0.1	5.0	26.3	4.3
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco	2.9	165.1	0.1	22.7	-	-
Clothing & Footwear	3.3	98.6	-0.1	0.0	4.6	0.0
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	23.8	113.6	0.1	3.1	26.8	3.0
Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance	3.8	111.7	0.1	4.7	5.2	4.7
Health	1.7	117.2	0.0	4.2	2.3	4.2
Transport	13.7	97.1	-4.3	-8.2	6.7	4.4
Communication	5.2	98.1	0.0	0.9	7.2	0.9
Recreation Services & Culture	4.9	108.2	0.0	2.6	6.6	2.6
Education	1.1	114.7	0.2	2.6	1.5	2.6
Restaurant & Hotel	2.9	124.6	0.2	4.5	3.9	4.5
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	6.5	112.5	0.2	5.1	8.9	5.1

Note: ⁽¹⁾ From the release of Consumers Price Index: January 2016 onwards, the weights used in the index are based on the Household Expenditure Survey 2014

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