

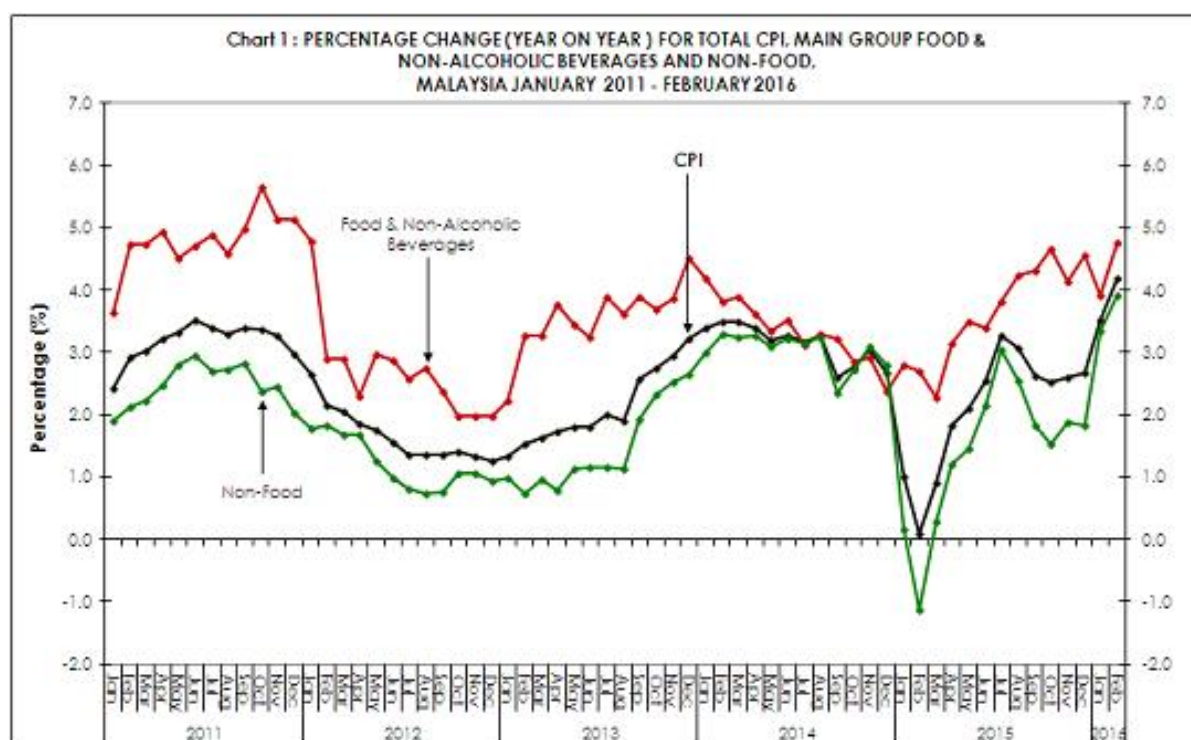


CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MALAYSIA FEBRUARY 2016

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for February 2016 increased by 4.2 per cent to 114.5 compared with 109.9 in the same month last year. The rise in the CPI was due to increases in all twelve major groups. Among the major groups which recorded increases were the index for Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco by 22.6 per cent; Miscellaneous Goods and Services (+5.2 per cent); Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (+4.8 per cent); Furnishing, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance (+4.7 per cent); Restaurants & Hotels (+4.7 per cent); and Health (+4.5 per cent).

The index for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (weight: 30.2) rose 4.8 per cent on a year-on-year basis in February 2016. Meanwhile, the index for Non-Food (weight: 69.8) recorded an increase of 3.9 per cent (Chart 1 and Table 1).

On a monthly basis, CPI for February 2016 remained unchanged at 114.5. CPI for the period January to February in 2016 registered an increase by 3.8 per cent as compared to the same period last year.



Monthly Changes for CPI

When compared with the previous month, CPI for February 2016 remained unchanged at 114.5. Of the twelve major groups, eight recorded an increase, while two main groups registered decreases in January 2016, namely Transport (-3.1 per cent) and Clothing & Footwear (-0.3 per cent) .

Based on a seasonally adjusted term, the CPI for February 2016 remained unchanged at 114.5 as compared to January 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	
		Feb 2016	Jan 2016/ Jan 2015	Feb 2016/ Feb 2015	Jan - Feb 2016/2015	Jan 2016/ Dec 2015	Feb 2016/ Jan 2016	Feb 2016	% Change Feb 2016/ Jan 2016
TOTAL	100.0	114.5	3.5	4.2	3.8	-0.3	0.0	114.5	0.0
Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	30.2	123.1	3.9	4.8	4.3	0.6	0.7	122.8	1.0
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco	2.9	98.7	0.4	0.5	0.2	17.5	1.7	165.1	1.7
Clothing & Footwear	3.3	98.7	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.0	-0.1	98.8	-0.1
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	23.8	113.5	3.1	2.6	2.5	0.5	0.0	112.9	0.1
Furnishings, Household Equip. & Routine Household Maintenance	3.8	111.6	4.1	4.7	2.7	0.2	0.1	110.9	0.1
Health	1.7	117.2	4.6	4.5	4.5	0.1	0.3	116.5	0.3
Transport	13.7	101.5	0.6	3.6	-4.5	0.4	-2.3	107.9	-2.3
Communication	5.2	98.1	0.9	0.9	1.9	0.0	-0.1	100.5	-0.1
Recreation Services & Culture	4.9	108.2	2.3	2.4	1.7	0.2	0.0	107.6	0.0
Education	1.1	114.5	2.6	2.5	2.4	0.1	0.3	113.7	0.3
Restaurants & Hotels	2.9	124.4	4.5	4.7	4.1	0.2	0.2	123.8	0.2
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	6.5	112.3	5.5	5.2	4.1	0.3	-0.2	111.5	-0.2
Non-Food	69.8	110.8	3.4	3.9	1.3	1.0	-0.3	111.8	-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

The 0.7 per cent increase in the index for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages in February 2016 compared with the previous month was the result of an increase in the index for Food At Home by 0.8 per cent, followed by index for Food Away From Home (+0.4 per cent). Meanwhile, the index for Coffee, Tea, Cocoa & Non-Alcoholic Beverages remained unchanged as compared to January 2016 (Table 2).

Among the food items which recorded notable increases in February 2016 compared with the previous month were **Long Bean (+20.7 per cent); Cucumber (+18.1 per cent); Choy Sam (+6.6 per cent); Garlic (+5.3 per cent); Indian Mackerel (Fish) (+4.8 per cent); Spinach (+4.4 per cent); Hardtail Scad (Fish) (+3.9 per cent); Carrots (+3.6 per cent); Cuttlefish (+3.3 per cent)** and **Prawn (+1.5 per cent)**.

Meanwhile, the index of some food items registered a decrease in February 2016 compared with the previous month. Among these food items were **Tomatoes (-9.3 per cent); Watermelon (-8.4 per cent); Brinjal (-2.8 per cent); Chicken (-1.6 per cent)** and **Onion, Big (-1.3 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	
		Feb 2016	Jan 2016/ Jan 2015	Feb 2016/ Feb 2015	Jan - Feb 2016/2015	Jan 2016/ Dec 2015	Feb 2016/ Jan 2016
Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	30.2	123.1	3.9	4.8	4.3	0.6	0.7
Food	29.0	123.7	4.0	4.9	4.4	0.7	0.7
Food At Home	17.9	123.3	3.6	4.8	4.2	0.7	0.8
Rice, Bread & Other Cereals	3.7	108.1	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.2	0.1
Meat	2.8	121.3	6.1	4.9	5.5	3.2	-0.7
Fish & Seafood	4.3	138.8	6.0	7.5	6.8	2.3	2.0
Milk & Eggs	1.6	123.3	-0.3	-0.2	-0.2	-0.6	0.4
Oils & Fats	0.5	102.1	0.7	0.8	0.7	-0.1	0.2
Fruits	1.1	126.0	6.7	5.6	6.1	1.5	-0.2
Vegetables	2.4	126.0	-0.1	9.7	4.6	-3.9	2.5
Sugar, Jam, Honey, Chocolate & Confectionary	0.6	134.2	3.4	3.4	3.4	1.5	0.1
Food Products n.e.c	0.9	123.5	6.4	6.6	6.5	0.4	0.4
Food Away From Home	11.1	124.3	4.7	4.8	4.8	0.6	0.4
Coffee, Tea, Cocoa & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	1.2	111.6	3.1	3.1	3.1	0.2	0.0

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 - February 2016 / 2015

The increase of 3.8 per cent in the CPI for period January to February 2016 was led by increases in the main groups with high weights: Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages(+4.3 per cent); Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels (+2.9 per cent) and Transport (+2.1 per cent). Other increases were Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco (+22.6 per cent); Miscellaneous Goods & Services (+5.4 per cent); Health (+4.6 per cent); Restaurants & Hotels (+4.6 per cent) and Furnishing, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance (+4.4 per cent).

The increase of 4.3 per cent in the index for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages was the result of increases for Food At Home (+4.2 per cent); Food Away From Home (+4.8 per cent) and Coffee, Tea, Cocoa & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (+3.1 per cent). Among the subgroups of Food At Home which showed significant increases during this period as shown in Table 2 were **Fish & Seafood (+6.8 per cent); Fruits (+6.1 per cent); Meat (+5.5 per cent); and Vegetables (+4.6 per cent)**.

Core Inflation

Core inflation also rose 3.6 percent in February 2016 compared to the same period of the previous year (Table 3). Core inflation differs from overall CPI (headline CPI) in that it is calculated by excluding prices for goods and services that are subject to fluctuations which considered transitory in nature and do not have a lasting impact on the underlying trend in inflation. These include nine of the CPI's most volatile items of fresh food, as well as administered prices of goods and services. Core inflation measures are used as

operational guides for monetary policy in assessing the direction of inflation.

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
		Feb 2016	Feb 2016/ Jan 2016	Feb 2016/ Feb 2015	Wt.	Feb 2016/ Feb 2015
TOTAL	100.0	114.5	0.0	4.2	100.0	3.6
Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	30.2	123.1	0.7	4.8	26.3	4.1
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco	2.9	165.0	0.0	22.6	-	-
Clothing & Footwear	3.3	98.7	-0.3	0.5	4.6	0.5
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	23.8	113.5	0.4	2.6	26.8	3.0
Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance	3.8	111.6	0.4	4.7	5.2	4.7
Health	1.7	117.2	0.3	4.5	2.3	4.5
Transport	13.7	101.5	-3.1	3.6	6.7	4.1
Communication	5.2	98.1	0.0	0.9	7.2	0.9
Recreation Services & Culture	4.9	108.2	0.5	2.4	6.6	2.4
Education	1.1	114.5	0.4	2.5	1.5	2.5
Restaurant & Hotel	2.9	124.4	0.4	4.7	3.9	4.7
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	6.5	112.3	0.3	5.2	8.9	5.2

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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