

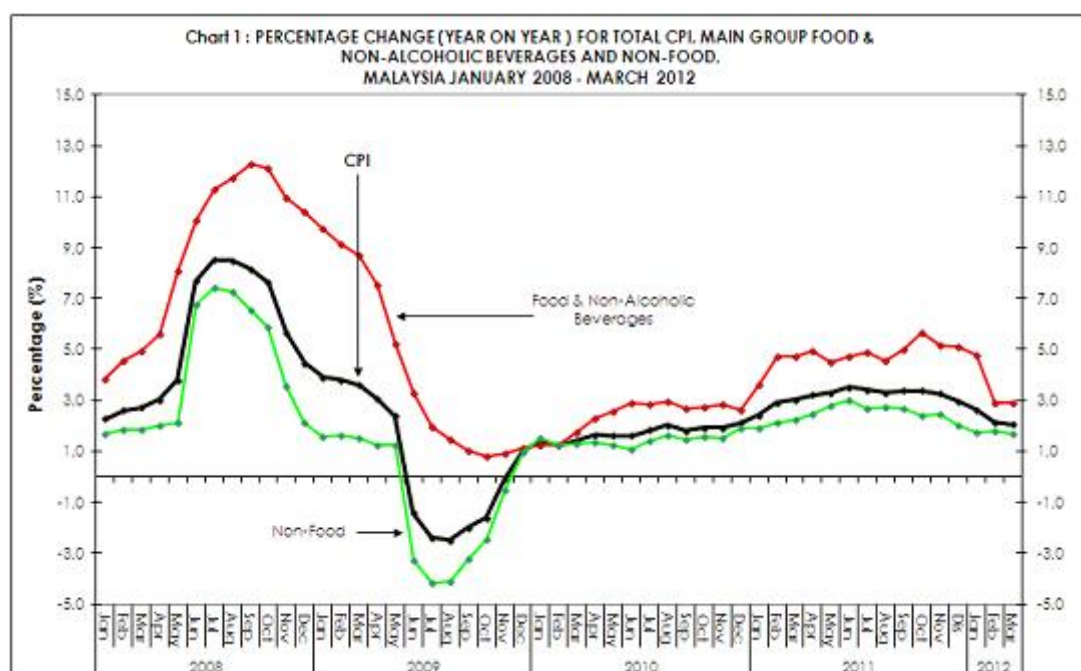


CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MALAYSIA MARCH 2012

Consumer Price Index Malaysia March 2012

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the period January to March 2012 increased by **2.3 per cent** to 104.5 compared with that of 102.2 in the same period last year. Compared with the same month in 2011, the CPI for March 2012 registered an increase of 2.1 per cent from 102.4 to 104.5 and when compared with the previous month, the CPI remained unchanged at 104.5.

The index for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages and Non-Food for the month of March 2012 showed increases of 2.9 and 1.7 per cent respectively as compared to the same month in 2011. For the period January to March 2012, the index for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages and Non-Food increased by 3.6 per cent and 1.7 per cent respectively. Compared with the previous month, the index for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages and Non-Food remained unchanged at 106.7 and 103.5 respectively (Table 1).



CPI changes for the period January - March 2012 / 2011

The 2.3 per cent increase in the CPI was brought about by increases observed in the indices of all the main groups except those of Communication (- 0.6 per cent) and Clothing & Footwear (- 0.4 per cent). Notable increases among these main groups with high weights were Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (+ 3.6 per cent); Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels (+ 1.9 per cent) and Transport (+ 1.5 per cent). Other increases were Restaurants & Hotels (+ 3.9 per cent); Recreation Services & Culture (+ 3.1 per cent); Education and Miscellaneous Goods & Services by 2.9 per cent respectively; Health (+ 2.2 per cent) and Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance (+ 2.1 per cent). The index for Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco remained unchanged at 104.6.

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

Group	Wt.	Index					% Change		
		Mac 2011	Feb 2012	Mac 2012	Jan - Mac 2011	Jan - Mac 2012	Mac 2012/ Feb 2012	Mac 2012/ Feb 2011	Jan - Mac 2012/ 2011
TOTAL	100.0	102.4	104.5	104.5	102.2	104.5	0.0	2.1	2.3
Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	30.3	103.7	106.7	106.7	103.3	107.0	0.0	2.9	3.6
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco	2.2	104.6	104.6	104.6	104.6	104.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Clothing and Footwear	3.4	99.8	99.8	99.4	99.9	99.5	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	22.6	101.2	103.0	103.0	101.0	102.9	0.0	1.8	1.9
Furnishings, Household Equip. & Routine Household Maintenance	4.1	101.1	103.3	103.5	101.1	103.2	0.2	2.4	2.1
Health	1.3	102.0	104.1	104.2	101.9	104.1	0.1	2.2	2.2
Transport	14.9	103.6	104.9	104.9	103.4	104.9	0.0	1.3	1.5
Communication	5.7	100.0	99.4	99.3	100.0	99.4	-0.1	-0.7	-0.6
Recreation Services & Culture	4.6	100.4	103.4	103.2	100.2	103.3	-0.2	2.8	3.1
Education	1.4	101.9	104.5	104.6	101.5	104.4	0.1	2.6	2.9
Restaurants and Hotels	3.2	104.7	108.1	108.4	104.0	108.1	0.3	3.5	3.9
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	6.3	101.2	104.2	104.1	101.1	104.0	-0.1	2.9	2.9
Non-Food	69.7	101.8	103.5	103.5	101.7	103.4	0.0	1.7	1.7
Durable Goods	6.5	100.1	100.9	100.7	100.1	100.8	-0.2	0.6	0.7
Semi-Durable Goods	4.4	100.1	100.6	100.2	100.2	100.3	-0.4	0.1	0.1
Non-Durable Goods	41.6	103.5	105.5	105.4	103.3	105.7	-0.1	1.8	2.3
Services	47.5	101.9	104.4	104.5	101.6	104.3	0.1	2.6	2.7

Based on the above changes and the weights assigned to the main groups, the relative contribution to the overall increase of 2.3 per cent in the CPI can be identified as shown in [Table 2](#). The three main groups, Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages; Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels and Transport together accounted for 76.2 per cent of the overall increase recorded for the current period.

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

Group	Wt.	2011 / 2010		March 2012 / 2011		January - March 2012 / 2011	
		% Change	% Contribution	% Change	% Contribution	% Change	% Contribution
TOTAL	100.0	3.2	100.0	2.1	100.0	2.3	100.0
Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	30.3	4.8	46.4	2.9	45.0	3.6	49.2
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco	2.2	4.6	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Clothing and Footwear	3.4	-0.2	-0.3	-0.4	-0.6	-0.4	-0.6
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	22.6	1.8	12.5	1.8	19.8	1.9	17.6
Furnishings, Household Equip. & Routine Household Maintenance	4.1	1.8	2.3	2.4	4.6	2.1	3.7
Health	1.3	2.7	1.2	2.2	1.4	2.2	1.2
Transport	14.9	4.4	20.7	1.3	9.6	1.5	9.4
Communication	5.7	-0.3	-0.5	-0.7	-2.1	-0.6	-1.7
Recreation Services & Culture	4.6	2.0	2.8	2.8	6.1	3.1	6.0
Education	1.4	2.2	1.0	2.6	1.8	2.9	1.8
Restaurants and Hotels	3.2	5.9	6.0	3.5	5.7	3.9	5.7
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	6.3	2.4	4.7	2.9	8.7	2.9	7.7

The 3.6 per cent increase in the index for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages was the result of increases for Food At Home (+ 3.0 per cent); Food Away From Home (+ 4.6 per cent) and Coffee, Tea, Cocoa & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (+ 3.4 per cent). Among the subgroups of Food At Home which showed significant increases during this period were **Fish & Seafood (+ 7.9 per cent); Milk & Eggs (+ 5.2 per cent); Sugar, Jam, Honey, Chocolate and Confectionery (+ 5.1 per cent); Fruits (+ 2.1 per cent); Rice, Bread and Other Cereals (+ 1.5 per cent)** and (+ 1.1 per cent).

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

Sub-group	Wt.	Index					% Change		
		Mac 2011	Feb 2012	Mac 2012	Jan - Mac 2011	Jan - Mac 2012	Mac 2012/ Feb 2012	Mac 2012/ Feb 2011	Jan - Mac 2012/2011
Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	30.3	103.7	106.7	106.7	103.3	107.0	0.0	2.9	3.6
Food	28.9	103.8	106.9	106.8	103.4	107.1	-0.1	2.9	3.6
Food At Home	18.9	104.1	106.5	106.3	103.8	106.9	-0.2	2.1	3.0
Rice, Bread & Other Cereals	4.4	100.9	102.3	102.4	100.8	102.3	0.1	1.5	1.5

Meat	2.9	105.9	103.7	103.8	103.5	104.5	0.1	-2.0	1.0
Fish & Seafood	4.5	103.4	111.1	110.4	103.7	111.9	-0.6	6.8	7.9
Milk & Eggs	1.8	104.7	109.9	108.8	104.1	109.5	-1.0	3.9	5.2
Oils and Fats	0.6	100.2	101.2	101.3	100.1	101.2	0.1	1.1	1.1
Fruits	1.2	106.3	108.2	108.2	105.8	108.0	0.0	1.8	2.1
Vegetables	2.1	107.9	103.9	103.5	109.1	105.1	-0.4	-4.1	-3.7
Sugar, Jam, Honey, Choc. & Confectionery	0.6	107.9	113.4	113.5	107.9	113.4	0.1	5.2	5.1
Food Products n.e.c.	0.8	103.9	110.3	110.3	103.1	110.2	0.0	6.2	6.9
Food Away From Home	10.0	103.3	107.5	107.8	102.8	107.5	0.3	4.4	4.6
Coffee, Tea, Cocoa & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	1.4	101.3	104.5	104.8	101.1	104.5	0.3	3.5	3.4

Monthly Changes for CPI

Compared with the previous month, the CPI for March 2012 remained unchanged at 104.5. The indices for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages; Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco; Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels and Transport remained unchanged at 106.7; 104.6; 103.0 and 104.9 respectively. However, increases were shown for main groups Restaurants & Hotels (+ 0.3 per cent); Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance (+ 0.2 per cent); Health and Education by 0.1 per cent respectively. On the other hand, decreases were for Clothing & Footwear (- 0.4 per cent); Recreation Services & Culture (- 0.2 per cent); Communication and Miscellaneous Goods & Services by 0.1 per cent respectively.

The indices for Food Away From Home and Coffee, Tea, Cocoa & Non-Alcoholic Beverages increased by 0.3 per cent respectively, however this is offset by the decrease in the index for Food At Home by 0.2 per cent. This has resulted in the index for Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages in March 2012 compared with that of the previous month remained unchanged at 106.7.

Among the food items which recorded notable increases in the index in March 2012 compared with the previous month were **Spinach (+ 9.4 per cent)**; **Shallots (+ 7.8 per cent)**; **Choy Sum (+ 5.9 per cent)**; **Water Spinach (+ 5.8 per cent)**; **Cucumber (+ 5.6 per cent)**; **Beef (+ 0.3 per cent)** and **Chicken (+ 0.3 per cent)**.

Meanwhile, the index of some food items decreased in March 2012 compared with the previous month. Among these were **Tomatoes (- 11.7 per cent)**; **Long Beans (- 6.4 per cent)**; **Red Chillies (- 5.5 per cent)**; **Hen's Eggs (- 4.4 per cent)**; **Round Scad (Fish) (- 2.6 per cent)**; **Red Snapper (Fish) (- 1.4 per cent)** and **Indian Mackerel (Fish) (- 1.2 per cent)**.

A reclassification of items according to their durability and services rendered showed decreases in Semi-Durable Goods (- 0.4 per cent); Durable Goods (- 0.2 per cent) and Non-Durable Goods (- 0.1 per cent) while Services increased by 0.1 per cent.

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