

# KERATAN AKHBAR

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## CPI increases 2.3% in April, food inflation higher at 4.1%

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in April 2022 increased 2.3% to 125.9 compared with 123.1 in the same month of the preceding year, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DoSM) said.

According to its CPI April 2022 released yesterday, the DoSM said the increase surpassed the average inflation in Malaysia for the period of January 2011-April 2022 (1.9%).

Chief Statistician Datuk Sri Mohd Uzir Mahidin said food inflation in April was higher at 4.1% with 89.1% of food items in the food & beverages

(F&B) group recording increases.

This was followed by restaurants & hotels (3.2%), transport (3%), furnishings, household equipment & routine household maintenance (2.7%), miscellaneous goods & services (1.8%), and recreation services & culture (1.3%), he said in a statement yesterday.

Mohd Uzir said education increased 1.0%, and housing, water, electricity, and gas & other fuels climbed 0.8%.

He said alcoholic beverages & tobacco and health increased

marginally by 0.5% and 0.2%, respectively.

"Communication remained unchanged, while clothing & footwear declined 0.2% compared to the same month of the preceding year," he said.

Elaborating the report, he said the increase in food inflation, which contributed the highest to the overall weight of CPI, remained to be a major contributor to inflation.

"Inflation for this group increased 4.1% in April 2022 compared to the same month of the previous year.

"The increase in food & non-

alcoholic beverages group was largely due to an increase in the component for food away from home which inclined 4.4% compared to 4% in March 2022," he said.

He added that all subgroups in food & non-alcoholic beverages such as milk, cheese & eggs (7.2%), meat (6.2%), vegetables (4.5%), and fish & seafood (3.8%) recorded increases.

"The increase in vegetable prices was due to weather uncertainties that have affected the maturity of vegetables and caused a decline in supply in the market.

"In addition, the incline in the prices was attributed to the increase of fertiliser prices, logistics costs and labour shortage at agricultural sites," he said.

Furthermore, the increase in the transport group was largely due to the increase in the average price of unleaded petrol RON97 of RM3.84 per litre compared to RM2.55 per litre in the same month last year.

This was in line with the 63.3% increase in Brent crude oil prices to US\$105.78 per barrel in April 2022. - Bernama