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PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia's wholesale and retail trade recorded a monthly sales value of RM134.3 billion, grew 14.7% in February, according to Chief Statistician Malaysia Datuk Sri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin.

Releasing yesterday the Performance of Wholesale & Retail Trade, February 2023 report, he said the increase of 14.7% was attributed to retail trade sub-sector, which surpassed the other sub-sectors with an increase of RM9.4 billion or 19.2% to RM58.2 billion.

Motor vehicles, he added, expanded with 36.1% or RM4.5 billion to RM16.9 billion. Within the same period, wholesale trade rose 5.9% or RM3.3 billion to RM59.1 billion.

However, for month-on-month comparison, sales value of wholesale & retail trade declined -0.6%, dragged down by wholesale trade and retail trade which decreased -2.0% and -2.4%, respectively, said Mohd Uzir.

Looking at the performance

➤ Year-on-year increase of 14.7% attributed to retail trade sub-sector, which surpassed other sub-sectors

across sub-sectors, he stated, "The retail trade sub-sector growth of 19.2% in February was supported by retail sales in non-specialised stores which elevated 21.1% or RM3.9 billion to RM22.1 billion. Other groups in this sub-sector also recorded positive growth namely retail sales in specialised stores 24.2%, retail sales of automotive fuels 45.9%, retail sales of food, beverages & tobacco 18.4%, retail sales of household goods 7.5%, retail sales of information, & communication equipment 8.0%, retail sales not in stores, stalls or market 14%, and retail sales in stalls & market 21%. On the other hand, for month-on-month comparison, sales of this sub-sector slipped -2.4%."

Mohd Uzir also informed, "The

36.1% growth in motor vehicles sub-sector this month was attributed to sales of motor vehicles which surged 49.8% or RM3.1 billion to RM9.3 billion. This was followed by sales of motor vehicles parts & accessories 22.6%, maintenance & repair of motor vehicles 21.2%, and sales, maintenance & repair of motorcycles 24.4%."

For month-on-month comparison, sales of this sub-sector increased 11.7%, contributed by sales of motor vehicles with a growth of 21.3%.

As for wholesale trade sub-sector, the increase of 5.9% was attributed to wholesale of household goods which rose RM1.7 billion or 15.8% to RM12.5 billion. This was followed by

wholesale of food, beverages & tobacco 9.9%, wholesale of agricultural raw materials & live animals 10%, and non-specialised wholesale 6.1%.

For monthly comparison, wholesale trade decreased -2%, mainly contributed by wholesale of food, beverages & tobacco, which contracted -5.1% to RM12 billion.

Mohd Uzir said, "Index of retail sale over the internet for February recorded 9.4% growth year-on-year (January: 9.6%). For seasonally adjusted value, the index contracted -1.7% as against the previous month."

In terms of volume index, wholesale & retail trade for February registered a year-on-year growth of 10.6%.

He added that the expansion was attributed to motor vehicles which increased 24%. Retail trade and wholesale trade also recorded positive growth of 13.9% and 3.4%, respectively. For seasonally adjusted volume index, it went up 5.5% month-on-month.