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Wholesale and retail trade expanded 12.4pc in January

RM135.1b IN MONTHLY SALES VALUE

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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's wholesale and retail trade grew 12.4 per cent year-on-year in January to record a monthly sales value of RM135.1 billion, the Statistics Department said.

Chief statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said the increase was attributed to the retail trade sub-sector, which recorded an increase of RM10.6 billion, or 21.7 per cent, year-on-year to RM59.6 billion.

He said motor vehicles also expanded by 20.1 per cent year-on-year, or RM2.5 billion, to RM15.2 billion while wholesale trade went up 3.1 per cent year-on-year, or RM1.8 billion, to RM60.4 billion.

"However, for month-on-month comparison, the sales value of wholesale and retail trade declined 1.6 per cent, mainly from the motor vehicles sub-sector which decreased 13.4 per cent," he said yesterday.

Uzir added the retail trade sub-sector growth of 21.7 per cent in January this year was supported by retail sales in non-specialised stores which grew 24.6 per cent, or RM4.5 billion, to RM22.7 billion.

"For month-on-month comparison, sales of this sub-sector went up 0.2 per cent."

He said the 20.1 per cent growth in the motor vehicles sub-sector was attributed to sales of motor vehicles, which increased 25 per cent, or RM1.5 billion, to RM7.7 billion.

"However, on a monthly basis, sales in this sub-sector decreased 13.4 per cent influenced by sales of motor vehicles, which declined 23.4 per cent."

He said for wholesale trade sub-sector, the increase of 3.1 per cent was attributed to the wholesale of household goods, which increased by RM1 billion, or 8.6 per cent, to RM12.8 billion.

Uzir said for monthly comparison, wholesale trade grew 0.1 per cent, mainly contributed by the

wholesale of household goods which increased 4.4 per cent, or RM0.5 billion, to RM12.8 billion.

Additionally, he said the index of retail sale over the Internet for January this year recorded a 9.6 per cent growth year-on-year versus 10.2 per cent year-on-year growth in December last year.

"For seasonally adjusted value, the index rose 1.3 per cent against the previous month."

He said in terms of volume index, wholesale and retail trade for January this year registered a year-on-year growth of 8.6 per cent attributed to retail trade, which increased 16.2 per cent.

"Similarly, motor vehicles and wholesale trade also recorded positive growths of 10.8 per cent and 0.3 per cent, respectively."

"However, the seasonally adjusted volume index went down 4.4 per cent month-on-month."

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The 20.1 per cent growth in the motor vehicles sub-sector in January is attributed to higher sales. FILE PIC