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MINISTRY OF ECONOMY  
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SPECIAL RELEASE 2 - FOR BUILDING AND STRUCTURAL WORKS

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## Unit Price Index of Building Materials

- A month-on-month comparison of construction materials and selected areas showed an increase in the unit price index for selected materials such as steel, sand, steel and metal sections, and cement for all areas of Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah, and Sarawak.
- The unit price index of cement has increased, but at a slower rate of 0.3 per cent in April 2023 as compared to 1.1 per cent in March 2023. Meanwhile, the unit price index of steel remained at 0.9 per cent as recorded in March 2023. The incline in index of steel was in tandem with the increase of iron ore and steel prices at the global level.
- Apart from steel and cement, other important components of the construction industry such as sand and bricks & walls have also recorded an increase in prices. The unit price index for bricks & walls increased by 1.1 per cent in April 2023 (March 2023:1.0 per cent). Besides that, the price index per unit of sand increased by 0.5 per cent in April 2023 as compared to 0.4 per cent (March 2023).
- A year-on-year comparison of the unit price index of construction materials recorded an increase in the index between 1.3 per cent and 8.3 per cent, almost for all construction materials except for steel & metal sections and steel.
- The index for bricks and walls recorded the highest increase of 8.2 per cent, followed by ceiling materials (8.1%) and cement (7.7%) in April 2023 as compared to the same month last year.
- Meanwhile, the price index for a unit of steel, and steel & metal sections recorded a decrease of 2.1 per cent and 0.3 per cent respectively in April 2023, as compared to the same month in the previous year.

## Average Price of Selected Building Materials

- The average price per unit of steel consisting of mild steel round bars and Mycon 60 high tensile deformed bars was RM3,721.72 per metric tonne, recording a 0.8 per cent increase as compared to the previous month (March 2023: RM3,690.90 per metric tonne).
- The average price of cement (Ordinary Portland) recorded a lower increase of 0.4 per cent compared to March 2023 (1.1 per cent), with an average price of RM22.50/ 50 kg compared to RM22.41/ 50 kg in March 2023.

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