

## STATISTICS DEPT DATA

# Price index of steel falls by 0.5-4pc last month

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Steel prices in most parts of Malaysia showed a month-on-month decline last month with the price index per unit of steel falling by between 0.5 and 4.0 per cent, said the Statistics Department yesterday.

Chief statistician Datuk Seri Mohd Uzir Mahidin said the price index per unit of steel and metal sections recorded a decrease of between 0.2 and 4.0 per cent for several areas in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak.

"The decreases were in line with the drop in the prices of steel and iron ore at the global level."

Prices of cement, another major building material, also declined by 0.2 to 1.7 per cent month-on-month.

However, aggregates increased in price by between 0.2 and 2.7 per cent, based on the selected areas, he added.



*According to the Statistics Department, the unit price index of building materials in Peninsular Malaysia rose by between 0.2 and 23.8 per cent year-on-year last month.*

On a year-on-year basis, Mohd Uzir said the unit price index of cement recorded an increase of between 2.9 and 23.8 per cent for all areas in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah, and Sarawak.

Overall, the unit price index of building materials in Peninsular Malaysia rose by between 0.2 and

23.8 per cent last month compared with the same period a year ago, it said.

In Peninsular Malaysia, cement prices rose the most in Kelantan and Terengganu (up 23.8 per cent), as well as in Penang, Kedah and Perlis (up 18 per cent).

The department said the Build-

ing Cost Material Index (BCI) (with steel bars) for all building categories in Peninsular Malaysia rose between 0.2 and 3.8 per cent month-on-month last month.

The highest increase was recorded for timber piling in Penang, Kedah and Perlis.

The BCI with steel bars for Sabah recorded a slower decrease of between 0.1 and 1.4 per cent month-on-month for almost all construction categories in Kota Kinabalu and Tawau last month.

On a monthly basis, BCI with steel bars in Sarawak showed decreases of between 0.1 and 2.1 per cent for almost all building categories, especially in Kuching and Miri.

"However, the index for most building categories in Sibul recorded increases of between 0.1 and 0.2 per cent," said the department. **Bernama**