

E&E SUB-SECTOR BOOST

Manufacturing sales up 13.2pc to RM148b in April

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's manufacturing sales grew 13.2 per cent year-on-year to RM147.9 billion in April, said the Statistics Department yesterday.

Chief statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said the growth in sales value was driven predominantly by the electrical and electronics products (E&E) sub-sector (21.9 per cent), particularly in the computer, electronic and optical products industries.

"The expansion was also attributed to the food, beverages and tobacco products sub-sector (+14.9 per cent), supported by food products manufacturing, as well as the petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products sub-sector (+6.7 per cent), mainly in the making of coke and refined petroleum products," he said.

Sales value for export-oriented

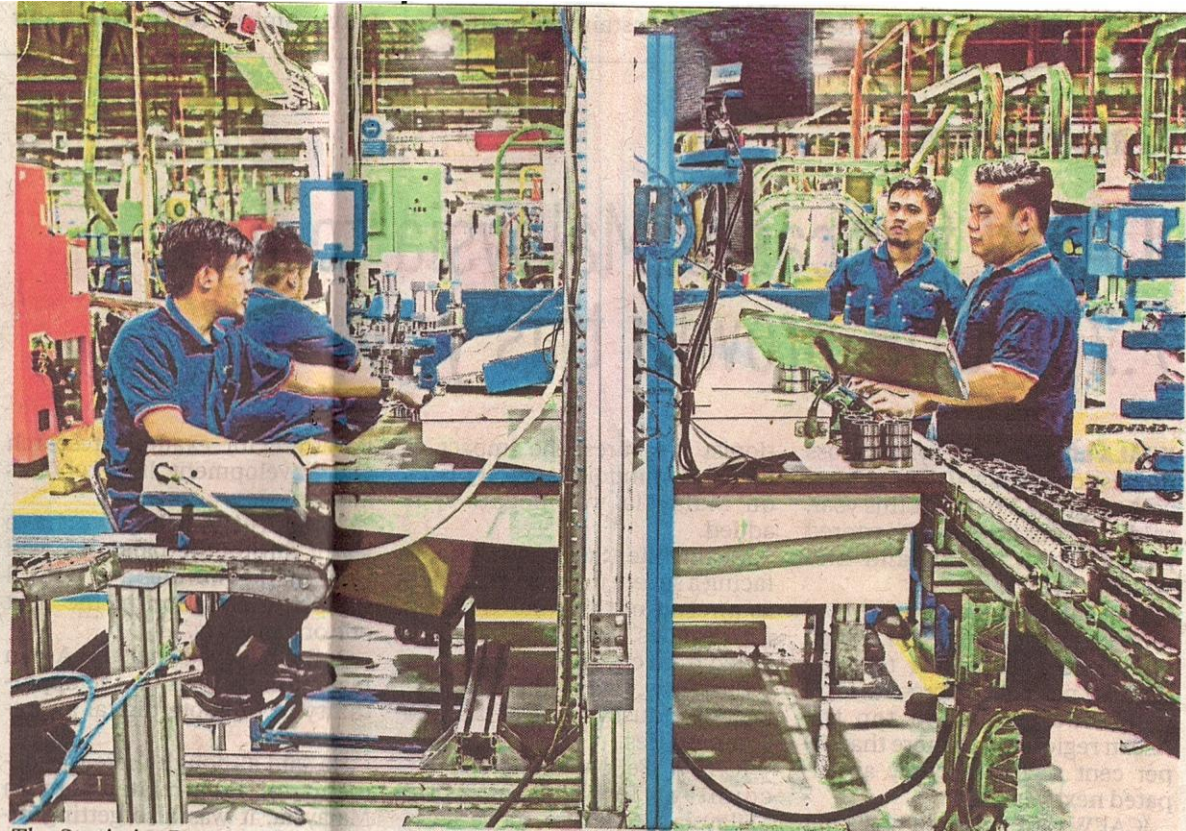
industries accounted for 72.4 per cent of the total sales value, recording an increase of 14.5 per cent, while domestic-oriented industries posted an increment of 10 per cent year-on-year.

The growth in the sales value for export-oriented industries parallels the trend in the external trade exports with favourable price factors.

On a month-on-month comparison, export-oriented and domestic-oriented industries grew 2.6 and 1.6 per cent, respectively.

Total employees in the manufacturing sector in April rose 2.5 per cent to 2.29 million from 2.23 million a year ago.

"The increase was contributed by the E&E sector (+5.2 per cent), transport equipment and other manufactured products sector (+3.0 per cent) and wood, furniture, paper



The Statistics Department says salaries and wages paid in April rose 4.5 per cent year-on-year, or by RM329.2 million, to RM7.71 billion. FILE PIC

products and printing sector (+2.7 per cent)."

Salaries and wages paid in April amounted to RM7.71 billion for an

increase of 4.5 per cent, or RM329.2 million, against the same period a year ago.

The sales value per employee rose

by 10.4 per cent to RM64,562 in April versus RM58,454 a year ago while the average salaries/wages per employee was RM3,367. **Bernama**