

**South Korea's inflation reaches eight-month high**  
**Malaysian Insider**  
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South Korea's inflation rate hit an eight-month high in April, government data showed today, on increases in the cost of oil and industrial goods.

The consumer price index rose 1.5% year-on-year, up from 1.3% the previous month, according to Statistics Korea.

The rate was slightly lower than the median 1.6% increase forecast by analysts surveyed by Dow Jones Newswires.

Officials at the statistical office attributed the accelerated inflation in April partly to a lower comparison base a year ago when the prices of oil and other industrial goods were falling.

Month on month, the April index was up 0.1% after a 0.2% rise in March.

The core inflation rate – which excludes volatile oil and food prices – rose 2.3% on the year in April following a 2.1% increase in March.

The Bank of Korea has estimated an inflation rate of 2.1% for 2014, following a 1.3% increase in 2013 – the slowest in 14 years.

The central bank has held its key policy rate at 2.5 percent since May last year. – AFP, May 1, 2014.

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