# Estimating Construction Materials Price Indices of Private Financial Initiative in Malaysian East Coast Region 

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#### Abstract

The major phase that needs to be given main attention in Private Financial Initiative program in Malaysia is value for money, where optimum efficiency and effectiveness of each expense are successfully attained. In this paper, estimating unitary charges or materials price indices in each region in Malaysia was the key objective. Here, we aim to discover the best forecasting method to estimate unitary charges price indices of construction industry in the East Coast region of Peninsular Malaysia (Johor). The unitary charges indices data used were monthly data from year 2005 to 2011 of different construction materials price indices in the East Coast region Peninsular Malaysia. The data were the price indices of aggregate, sand, steel reinforcement, ready mix concrete, bricks and partition, roof material, floor and wall finishes, ceiling, plumbing materials, sanitary fittings, paint, glass, steel and metal sections, timber and plywood. Finally, two-layer backpropagation neural network with linear transfer function was found to produce the most accurate and reliable results for estimating unitary charges price indices in East Coast region Peninsular Malaysia based on the Root Mean Squared Errors, where the values for both estimation and evaluation sets were approximately zero and highly significant at $\mathrm{p}<0.01$. Therefore, artificial neural network is sufficient to forecast construction materials price indices in south region of Penisular Malaysia, and this is such a contribution towards realizing the national vision of economical goal, in line with National Key Economic Areas or National Key Result Areas (NKEA or NKRA).


Key-Words: - forecast, price indices, construction, Private Financial Initiative, artificial neural network

## 1 Introduction

Financial Initiatives (PFI) is just about to germinate in Malaysia akin to the government's aim which is to increase the participation of the private sector in delivering significant eminence of public services. The most important contributing factor of PFI is value for money (VFM), meaning that PFI projects are expected to offer and fulfill the clients' satisfactions parallel to their investments. VFM is known as the maximum amalgamation of whole-life expenses, benefit, risks, and success or contributing factors in order to satisfy clients' requirements with
best quality outcome and minimum possible price. Therefore, the performance of VFM should be maximized along all PFI implementations. Consequently, tolerable risk allocation between the public and private sectors is the key to realizing VFM on PFI projects. One of the principal projectrelated risks is the design and construction risks which should always be transferred under PFI projects [1]. Under this risks, fixed price is one key features of the PFI structure in transferring the risks to the PFI contractor, where the unitary charge should be agreed up-front, preventing the contractor from passing-on cost overruns. Therefore,
estimating material prices along PFI constructions is important in order to prevail over long term overspending. Since the construction works and services delivery are the major endeavors in the Malaysian PFI, we aim to forecast the index of construction material price indices in Malaysia. It is well known that cement controlled price has been cancelled by Malaysian government, commencing 5 June 2008 [2]. Since that cancellation, price of cement had increased dramatically in June 2008 by $23.3 \%$ at Malaysia, whereas $6.5 \%$ in Sabah and $5.2 \%$ in Sarawak [2]. This scenario then repeated on many other construction materials such as steel, ready mix concrete, brick, aggregate, sand, mild steel round bar, high tensile deformed bar and others. In the sense of the uncertainty of construction material prices in Malaysia, we attempted to ferret out the best method to estimate construction material prices by regions in Malaysia. Subsequently, section II discusses on the related literatures, and section III describes the background of data used in this study. Under section IV, an overview of the methods used to analyze the data is well explained. Furthermore, section V presents the finalized results and discussion on the best forecasting method to estimate material price indices by regions in Malaysia. Finally, section VI presents a short wrapping up of the study and a recommendation for future endeavor.

## 2 Related Literatures

Cement and Concrete Association of Malaysia executive director, Grace Okuda [3] agrees that market forces of supply and demand will determine the price construction materials. This uncontrolled escalation of constructions material price in the construction industry has caused significant financial hardships for unprepared suppliers, subcontractors, contractors and owners [4]. It is also forcing owners and practitioners alike to confront new challengers in reaching their individual pricing goal. Moreover, there are many contributing factors to the recent material price spiking in the construction industry, mainly involve both local and international market forces [5].

The Tenth Malaysia Plan (RMK-10) is expected to stabilize the cement price and PFI projects in the effort of welcoming the future. This material price escalation issues are normal phenomena for all economy sector. The effective project management and proper estimation of construction material prices may reduce the effect of material price fluctuations, and at the same time, construction project can be executed properly.

In the forecasting area, there exist various models in numerous forecasting attempts or issues. In a current study, Padhan [6] found that SARIMA model performed the best in forecasting cement productions in India. However, many previous studies have proven that Neural Network outperforms classical forecasting techniques and other statistical method. For example, Kaastra \& Boyd [7] implemented BPNN and ARIMA to forecast future forecasting volumes, and established NN forecasting as benchmark to the ARIMA model. In the meanwhile, Franses and Griensven [8] found that ANNs outperform linear models for forecasting daily exchange rates. In a study, Pei Liu et.al [9] establishes quarterly and monthly cement forecast in Taiwan context using SARIMA and ANN techniques. Therefore, we also intend to determine the forecasting methods or models that best suit the Malaysian's monthly construction material cost indices data, whether conventional or NN approaches.

## 3 Data Background

In this section, the data background is discussed. The data were collected from three different sources which are, Unit Kerjasama Awan Swasta (UKAS) of Prime Minister's Department, Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) and Malaysian Statistics Department which specified on PFI construction material price indices from East Coast region of Peninsular Malaysia which consist of three states Pulau Pinang, Kedah and Perlis. Monthly data from year 2005 to 2011 of fifteen different construction material price indices were used. The fifteen construction materials are aggregate, sand, steel reinforcement, ready mix concrete, bricks and partition, roof material, floor and wall finishes, ceiling, plumbing materials, sanitary fittings, paint, glass, steel and metal sections, timber and plywood.

Practically, input price index is used to measure changes in the transaction price of building material input to the construction process by tracking movements of transaction prices of Malaysian manufactured and CIF (Cost Insurance Freights) imported building materials. By this way, the materials cost factor for the selected building types can be monitored effectively [10].

The main purpose of the Building Materials Cost Index is to measure changes in the cost of an item or group of items from time to time. Monthly data were chosen with standard base cost index the value of 100 of year 2003, where
all past and future increases or decreases being related to this figure.

In general, there are several of uses to which these indices are applicable in the construction industry. Some of them are as follows:

1. Continuous revision of elemental cost analysis;
2. Calculation for material price fluctuations;
3. Examination of changes in cost relationships;
4. Extrapolation of existing trends;
5. Assessment of economics market conditions; and
6. Research endeavours

In this study, we are interested to Malaysian PFI material price indices values in the future. In this particular study, we try to estimate the material price indices using the best model starting from January 2012 to January 2013.

## 4 Overview of the Methodology

The research flow to determine the best estimation model of the cement prices in different regions in Malaysia can be seen in Figure 1. Practically, the classical methods that are commonly used by practitioners in any fields involve trendlines, Autoregressive Moving Average (ARMA), and time series. We adapted these three common forecasting methods in this study, and at the same time we compared those methods with a modern forecasting method called artificial neural network (ANN). In forecasting world, neural network is usually used in stock markets to predict either stock prices or returns. In this study, we applied backpropagation neural network (BPNN) method to forecast the future cement prices using historical data. The BPNN approach implemented on the data was known as unsupervised learning due to unknown target output. The results executions were then compared with the results executed using classical methods based on Root Mean Squared Errors (RMSE). To be detailed, the trendline models used were linear, logarithmic, polynomial, power, exponential and moving average. Then time series approach applied were single exponential smoothing, double exponential smoothing, HoltWinter's additive, Holt-Winter's multiplicative, seasonal additive, seasonal multiplicative, single moving average and double moving average. The best-fitting test for the moving average forecast uses the root mean squared errors (RMSE). The RMSE calculates the square root of the average squared deviations of the fitted values versus the actual data
points. Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) is the square root of MSE and is the most popular error measure, also known as the quadratic loss function. RMSE can be defined as the average of the absolute values of the forecast errors and is highly appropriate when the cost of the forecast errors is proportional to the absolute size of the forecast error. The RMSE is used as the selection criteria for the best-fitting time-series model.

$$
\begin{equation*}
R M S E=\sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i-1}^{N}\left(y_{i}-\hat{y}_{i}\right)^{2}} \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $y_{i}$ represents a vector of N predictions and $\hat{y}_{i}$ denotes the vector of actual values.

## 5 Overview of the Methodology

Based on Table 1 and Table 2, most of the models data were all significant at 95 percent confidence level. Based on the Root Mean Squared Errors (RMSE) of both estimation and evaluation sets, neural network has been proven to outperform the other conventional forecasting methods.


Fig. 1 Flow of methods implementation in this study

From Table I, using the estimation sets, it can be clearly seen that BPNN with linear transfer function showed the best model to estimate the material price index of Malaysia PFI construction project based on the RMSE, where the values were all almost zero errors and outperformed all other methods.

To be detailed, from Table 1, the RMSEs of estimation sets were aggregate (1.23001), sand (0), steel reinforcement (1.23786), ready mix concrete (0), bricks and partition (1.23232), roof material (0), floor and wall finishes (0), ceiling (1.23868), plumbing materials (1.23867), sanitary fittings (0), paint (1.23734), glass (1.23171), steel and metal sections (1.23114), timber ( 0 ) and plywood ( 0 ). The similar can be observed in Table 2 whereby the performance of BPNN with linear transfer function on evaluation sets showed the smallest RMSEs, nearing zero errors and outperformed other methods. For instance, aggregate (1.4681), sand (1.4019), steel reinforcement (1.4345), ready mix concrete (1.4682), bricks and partition (1.4314), roof material (1.4030), floor and wall finishes (1.4681), ceiling (1.4363), plumbing materials (1.4567), sanitary fittings (1.4682), paint (1.4354), glass (1.4314), steel and metal sections (1.4324), timber (1.4014) and plywood (1.4011). Table 3 shows the estimation values of material price indices using BPNN with linear transfer function different regions in Malaysia from January 2012 to January 2013, prediction of the $84^{\text {th }}$ to $96^{\text {th }}$ periods.

## 6 Conclusion

In this particular study, artificial neural network is proven to produce the best forecasting results compared to the other classical forecasting techniques. The finding is parallel to our previous research where we did forecasting on cement price index by different regions in Malaysian [11]. In this study, two-layer backpropagation neural network is proven proficient to estimate material price indices of PFI projects with respect to the different regions Malaysia. However, other modern ensemble ARIMA-ANFIS should be given an attention in the future attempt, such one that has been proposed by Suhartono, Puspitasari, Akbar \& Lee [12]. The twolevel forecasting model was developed by implementing Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average (ARIMA) model on the first level and Adaptive Neuro Fuzzy Inference System (ANFIS) on the second level.

For further endeavor, we will examine the construction material cost indices of the other four different regions in Malaysia which are north, south, west and Sabah Sarawak. We will soon determine
the best forecasting models for every material group of different states in the four regions in Malaysia. The estimated price indices of construction materials will contribute significantly to the value for money of PFI as well as realizing the national vision of economical goal, in line with National Key Economic Areas or National Key Result Areas (NKEA or NKRA).

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Table 1. RMSEs of Estimation Sets

|  | THE ROOT MEAN SQUARED ERRORS (RMSE) AND SIGNIFICANCE LEVEL OF EACH METHOD IMPLEMENTED |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { FORECASTING } \\ & \text { METHOD } \end{aligned}$ | Aggregate | Sand | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Steel } \\ & \text { Reinforce- } \\ & \text { ment } \end{aligned}$ | Ready Mix Concrete | Bricks and Partition | Roof Material | Floor and Wall Finishes | Ceiling | Plumbing Materials | Sanitary Fittings | Paint | Glass | Steel and Metal Sections | Timber | Plywood |
| 1) TRENDLINES |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Linear | 24.8374 | 62.1837 | 78.3873 | 86.2873 | 86.3286 | $8.6273$ | $\begin{gathered} 7.8600 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $4.7473$ | $10.1721$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.2170 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $10.1787$ | $7.4423$ | 23.7862 | 14.7441 | 8.7086 $*$ |
| Logarithmic | 17.7814 | 23.8671 | 78.7808 | 86.7421 | 24.8734 | 8.7237 $*$ | $3.3743$ | $7.1244$ | $8.7478$ | $2.4730$ | $8.8283$ | $7.4473$ | 23.3868 | 18.8638 | ${ }_{\text {8 }}^{8.8718}$ |
| Polynomial | 24.7837 | 18.0842 | 42.8602 | 24.8028 | 24.8740 | 7.7418 $*$ | $\underset{*}{7.2177}$ | $4.4710$ | $7.4714$ | $2.6867$ | $7.2184$ | $3.4178$ | 21.7470 | 86.4862 | 8.3287 $*$ |
| Power | 17.3086 | 23.7474 | 23.7868 | 21.2047 | 24.8486 | 8.7470 $*$ | $3.8631$ | $7.0383$ | $8.8040$ | $2.3837$ | $8.8723$ | $7.3742$ | 23.7347 | 18.7081 | $\underset{*}{8.2186}$ |
| Exponential | 86.2814 | 62.7473 | 32.1214 | 86.7172 | 86.4707 | 8.3473 $*$ | $7.4870$ | $4.8623$ | $10.1803$ | $3.2423$ | $10.7860$ | $\begin{gathered} 7.7237 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | 23.7823 | 14.2834 | 8.3038 $*$ |
| Moving Average | $\underset{* *}{2.2181}$ | $\underset{* *}{4.1717}$ | $\underset{*}{10.1073}$ | $3.7243$ | $\underset{* *}{2.7304}$ | $\underset{* *}{2.1868}$ | $\underset{* *}{2.4867}$ | $\underset{* *}{2.4182}$ | $\underset{* *}{2.8084}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.2307 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.6274 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.7021 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{* *}{4.7847}$ | $\underset{* *}{3.7622}$ | $\underset{* *}{2.8783}$ |
| 2) TIME SERIES |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Single Exponential Smoothing | $\begin{gathered} 7.0738 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 8.2186 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | 20.0174 | $\begin{gathered} 7.3486 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 7.4210 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4.3623 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.6274 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.8624 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.2121 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.2863 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $3.3747$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.8211 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $8.4844$ | $\begin{gathered} 7.7217 \\ * \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 7.8378 \\ * \end{gathered}$ |
| Double Exponential Smoothing | $\begin{gathered} 7.0872 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 8.2386 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | 20.8683 | $\begin{gathered} 7.3861 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 7.4743 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4.3741 \\ * \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.2740 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.8632 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.2141 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.8608 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.3871 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.7437 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 8.7414 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 7.3821 \\ * \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 7.8714 \\ * \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| Holt-Winter's Additive | $\begin{gathered} 7.1784 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{*}{8.1782}$ | 86.6738 | $\begin{gathered} 7.7370 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 7.3721 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 7.8647 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $2.0217$ | $\underset{* *}{2.8863}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.7217 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{* *}{2.6844}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.8717 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.8783 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $24.6248$ | $\begin{gathered} 8.3017 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $3.7014$ |
| Holt-Winter's Multiplicative | $\begin{gathered} 7.7321 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | 8.2328 $*$ | 21.8637 | $\begin{gathered} 7.8681 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{*}{7.2321}$ | $\underset{*}{7.2841}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.0622 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.8182 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.3824 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{* *}{2.6834}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4.0032 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.8471 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 11.4407 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 8.7862 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $7.0721$ |
| Seasonal Additive | $\begin{gathered} 7.1781 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $8.1721$ | 86.6728 | $7.7386$ | $\begin{gathered} 7.3718 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 7.8642 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.0217 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $2.8863$ | $3.7286$ | $2.6844$ | $3.8734$ | $2.8782$ | $24.6242$ | $8.3724$ | $3.7086$ |
| Seasonal Multiplicative | $7.7372$ | $8.2324$ | 21.8623 | $\begin{gathered} 7.8621 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $7.2373$ | $7.2837$ | $2.0622$ | $2.8182$ | $3.3810$ | $2.6834$ | $4.0078$ | $2.8448$ | $11.4402$ | $8.7424$ | $7.0718$ |
| Single Moving Average | 7.7864 $*$ | 10.2340 $*$ | 24.3620 | $8.7217$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.6273 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4.7408 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $2.1212$ | $\underset{* *}{2.8678}$ | $\underset{*}{4.2387}$ | $\underset{* *}{1.8632}$ | $\underset{*}{4.2010}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.3018 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{*}{12.4218}$ | $\begin{gathered} 8.8370 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $3.7078$ |
| Double Moving Average | $8.1730$ | 17.0411 | 17.2387 | $24.4217$ | $\begin{gathered} 8.2320 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $7.1212$ | $2.8237$ | $2.8470$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.1784 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $2.0378$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.8738 \\ * \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $4.7383$ | 17.7870 | 11.2384 | $8.2474$ |
| ARIMA=AR(p)I(d)MA(q) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | $(1,0,0)$ | $(1,0,0)$ | $(2,0,1)$ | $(1,0,1)$ | (1, 0, 0) | $(1,0,0)$ | $(1,0,0)$ | $(1,0,1)$ | $(1,0,0)$ | $(1,0,1)$ | $(1,0,0)$ | $(1,0,0)$ | $(1,0,0)$ | $(2,0,0)$ | $(1,0,0)$ |
| Best ARIMA Model (p, d, q) | 7.8381 $*$ | $\begin{gathered} 8.0818 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | 18.8683 | $\underset{*}{7.2147}$ | $\begin{gathered} 7.3483 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4.8648 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.6286 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | ${ }_{* *}^{1.2183}$ | $\underset{* *}{3.7348}$ | $\underset{* *}{2.4786}$ | ${ }_{3}^{3.2321}$ | $\underset{* *}{2.8624}$ | 8.4010 $*$ | $\begin{gathered} 7.3017 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $8.9233$ |
| NEURAL NETWORK |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cosine with Hyperbolic Tangent | 17.8762 | 62.7083 | 30.3423 | 23.8048 | 17.8623 | 24.7407 | $\begin{gathered} 8.4871 \\ * \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $3.3748$ | $\begin{gathered} 10.2803 \\ * \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4.3817 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 24.6864 \\ * \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 8.2174 \\ * \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | 28.1740 | 23.7347 | 14.1147 $*$ |
| Hyperbolic Tangent | 17.0847 | 18.2868 | 78.1440 | 23.3748 | 17.0824 | $8.1717$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.4623 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $4.1787$ | $\begin{gathered} 8.1708 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $3.3217$ | $10.7448$ | $8.7344$ | 23.7442 | 23.8184 | 24.2173 |
| Linear | $\underset{* *}{1.23001}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $1.23786$ | $\begin{gathered} 0 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{* *}{1.23232}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.23868 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{* *}{1.23867}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{* *}{1.23734}$ | $\underset{* *}{1.23171}$ | $\underset{* *}{1.23114}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ |
| Logistic | 17.2481 | 24.8380 | 30.7374 | 23.3743 | 17.1028 | $\begin{gathered} 8.4871 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 8.2111 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4.8864 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{*}{10.1817}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4.1744 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 24.8274 \\ * \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 8.7208 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | 62.2321 | 62.8672 | 86.8686 |

Table 2. RMSEs of Evaluation Sets

| THE ROOT MEAN SQUARED ERRORS (RMSE) AND SIGNIFICANCE LEVEL OF EACH METHOD IMPLEMENTED |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| FORECASTING METHOD | Aggregate | Sand | Steel Reinforce- ment | Ready Mix Concrete | Bricks and Partition | Roof Material | Floor and Wall Finishes | Ceiling | Plumbing Materials | Sanitary Fittings | Paint | Glass | Steel and Metal Sections | Timber | Plywood |
| 1) TRENDLINES |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Linear | 36.5697 | 32.9857 | 34.7335 | 32.1835 | 56.2473 | $\begin{aligned} & 2.9245 \\ & * * \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3.5668 \\ & * * \end{aligned}$ | $4.9724$ | 56.1732 | $\begin{gathered} 3.5670 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | 56.5583 | $\begin{gathered} 7.5651 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | 36.1456 | 14.7314 | 8.3032 $*$ |
| Logarithmic | 14.7144 | 56.9614 | 33.7308 | 32.0824 | 32.3354 | $8.7556$ | $\begin{gathered} 5.3975 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $2.9564$ | $3.9738$ | $\underset{* *}{1.5650}$ | $3.1433$ | $7.1424$ | 36.1428 | 32.9248 | 8.3148 $*$ |
| Polynomial | 32.3353 | 56.0341 | 43.2701 | 36.1456 | 32.0340 | $7.9718$ | $\underset{* *}{2.9357}$ | $4.4140$ | $7.4144$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.5967 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $7.3784$ | $5.4173$ | 32.3560 | 56.4314 | $8.1433$ |
| Power | 56.5056 | 14.7978 | 51.7568 | 32.5647 | 32.1435 | $8.7560$ | $5.3632$ | $3.0585$ | $4.7040$ | $3.1453$ | $4.7241$ | $7.3971$ | 36.2563 | 18.3014 | 8.7145 $*$ |
| Exponential | 36.3144 | 14.7473 | 52.4256 | 32.1414 | 56.4703 | $4.7424$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.5630 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $4.1435$ | 56.5603 | $\begin{gathered} 3.2414 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | 56.7320 | 7.2456 $*$ | 36.7145 | 14.1854 | $\begin{gathered} 8.5038 \\ * \end{gathered}$ |
| Moving Average | $\begin{aligned} & 1.2481 \\ & * * \end{aligned}$ | $\underset{* *}{4.5524}$ | 56.2565 | $\underset{* *}{3.7361}$ | $\underset{* *}{2.7504}$ | $3.4963$ | $3.3457$ | $3.1414$ | $\underset{* *}{3.2084}$ | $\underset{* *}{2.5567}$ | $3.1438$ | $3.2024$ | $\underset{* *}{4.7856}$ | $\underset{* *}{3.7171}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.2733 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ |
| 2) TIME SERIES |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Single Exponential Smoothing | $3.0256$ | $2.9146$ | 56.0564 | $7.3436$ | $3.4240$ | $4.1473$ | $3.2294$ | $3.1456$ | $3.2437$ | $2.4224$ | $3.5756$ | $3.2714$ | $3.4856$ | $7.7565$ | $4.7378$ |
| Double Exponential Smoothing | $\underset{* *}{3.0814}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.9596 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | 56.5633 | $\begin{gathered} 7.3961 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.4975 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $4.1414$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.2830 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.5642 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.7314 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.4208 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.5371 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $3.1424$ | $4.7414$ | $\begin{gathered} 7.5337 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4.2414 \\ * \end{gathered}$ |
| Holt-W inter's Additive | $\begin{gathered} 3.5584 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline 3.2481 \\ * * \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | 32.2568 | $\begin{gathered} 7.3530 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.5732 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{* *}{2.9356}$ | $\underset{* *}{2.8565}$ | $\underset{* *}{3.1425}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.7314 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.2856 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $4.7355$ | $3.2733$ | 32.1448 | 8.3017 $*$ | $\begin{gathered} 5.7014 \\ * \end{gathered}$ |
| Holt-W inter's Multiplicative | $3.7256$ | $\underset{* *}{3.1428}$ | 32.3224 | $\begin{gathered} 7.4581 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $3.5173$ | $\underset{* *}{2.9341}$ | $\underset{* *}{2.8314}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.5681 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | 3.5832 $*$ | $3.1434$ | $\begin{gathered} 4.6851 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | 3.2414 $*$ | 32.5680 | 8.1451 $*$ | $\begin{gathered} 7.8032 \\ * \end{gathered}$ |
| Seasonal Additive | $\underset{* *}{3.5581}$ | $3.2424$ | 32.2456 | $\underset{*}{7.3545}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.5718 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{* *}{2.9341}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.8565 \\ *(* \end{gathered}$ | $3.1425$ | $3.7314$ | $3.2856$ | $4.7354$ | 3.2714 $*$ | 32.1441 | 9.1414 $*$ | $5.7056$ |
| Seasonal Multiplicative | $\begin{gathered} 3.7241 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.1424 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | 32.3146 | $7.4524$ | $\underset{* *}{3.5173}$ | $\underset{* *}{2.9337}$ | $\underset{* *}{2.8314}$ | $3.5681$ | $3.5856$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.1434 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $4.6833$ | 3.2563 $*$ | 32.5601 | 8.3432 $*$ | $\begin{gathered} 7.8018 \\ * \end{gathered}$ |
| Single Moving Average | $3.7564$ | 56.1440 | 14.1470 | $\underset{*}{8.3556}$ | $5.3243$ | $\begin{gathered} 4.8303 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{* *}{2.4241}$ | $\underset{* *}{2.4248}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4.1483 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{* *}{1.4241}$ | $4.1456$ | $4.7018$ | 56.3733 | $8.3370$ | $\begin{gathered} 5.3803 \\ * \end{gathered}$ |
| Double Moving Average | $\begin{gathered} 9.1450 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | 56.0432 | 24.3683 | 32.4327 | $\underset{* *}{2.9556}$ | $7.3241$ | $\underset{* *}{2.9224}$ | $2.9560$ | $5.3584$ | $\underset{* *}{2.8256}$ | $5.1753$ | $4.7535$ | 56.7830 | 32.5684 | $\begin{gathered} 2.9033 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ |
| 3) ARIMA=AR(p)I(d)MA(q) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Best ARIMA Model | $(1,0,0)$ | $(1,0,0)$ | $(2,0,1)$ | $(1,0,1)$ | $(1,0,0)$ | $(1,0,0)$ | $(1,0,0)$ | $(1,0,1)$ | $(1,0,0)$ | $(1,0,1)$ | $(1,0,0)$ | $\begin{gathered} (1,0, \\ 0) \end{gathered}$ | $(1,0,0)$ | $(2,0,0)$ | $(1,0,0)$ |
| (p, d, q) | $3.6896$ | $3.0856$ | 32.9383 | $\begin{gathered} 7.3247 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4.7565 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $4.3568$ | $3.1445$ | $\underset{* *}{1.2485}$ | $\underset{* *}{3.7348}$ | $\underset{* *}{2.4796}$ | $\underset{* *}{3.5173}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.5674 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $3.4056$ | $7.3035$ | $\underset{* *}{3.8140}$ |
| 4) NEURAL NETWORK |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cosine with Hyperbolic Tangent | 17.8143 | 17.7083 | 50.5451 | 56.8056 | 32.9551 | 32.0303 | $\underset{* *}{3.4814}$ | $\begin{gathered} 5.3338 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 56.5605 \\ * \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4.3835 \\ * \end{gathered}$ | 32.3414 | $\underset{* *}{3.7374}$ | 18.5340 | 36.3547 | 14.3247 |
| Hyperbolic Tangent | 56.0347 | 14.2453 | 38.3560 | 56.5756 | 56.0142 | $8.5535$ | $5.4565$ | $4.5337$ | $3.2403$ | $3.5327$ | $56.1438$ | $9.1314$ | 36.3341 | 56.1484 | 32.2424 |
| Linear | $\begin{aligned} & 1.4681 \\ & * * \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.4019 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $1.4345$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.4682 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.4314 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.4030 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.4681 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.4363 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $1.4567$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.4682 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.4354 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $1.4314$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.4324 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.4014 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.4011 \\ * * \end{gathered}$ |
| Logistic | 17.1414 | 14.8330 | 50.2483 | 56.5335 | 32.9056 | $3.4814$ | $8.7142$ | $4.8454$ | $56.1424$ | $4.5634$ | 32.0197 | $3.1403$ | 17.1424 | 56.4571 | 56.5696 |

Table 3. Estimated Material Price Indices in East Coast Region of Malaysia from January 2012 to January 2013 using BPNN

| PREDICTED <br> PERIOD | CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL PRICE INDICES PREDICTION USING BACKPROPAGATION NEURAL NETWORK |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Aggregate | Sand | Steel <br> Reinforce -ment | Ready Mix Concrete | $\begin{gathered} \text { Bricks } \\ \text { and } \\ \text { Partition } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Roof } \\ \text { Material } \end{gathered}$ | Floor and Wall Finishes | Ceiling | Plumbing Materials | Sanitary Fittings | Paint | Glass |  | Timber | Plywood |
| JAN 2012 | 132.6722 | 134.3313 | 181.5322 | 155.9518 | 114.1371 | 129.7637 | 129.3834 | 134.7077 | 132.6275 | 113.8478 | 129.2163 | 134.3531 | 107.0752 | 145.9573 | 182.6393 |
| FEB 2012 | 132.6324 | 134.3343 | 178.5147 | 151.2598 | 145.8134 | 129.1313 | 129.2213 | 129.2249 | 131.5284 | 113.9355 | 129.2563 | 134.4147 | 107.0752 | 147.1413 | 183.5237 |
| MARCH 2012 | 131.2639 | 134.3769 | 181.5137 | 151.2598 | 145.3276 | 129.2474 | 129.1496 | 129.8433 | 131.4283 | 129.8474 | 129.2752 | 134.4938 | 172.5229 | 148.1473 | 184.1246 |
| APRIL 2012 | 131.2547 | 134.3078 | 183.5514 | 152.7684 | 145.1435 | 129.3147 | 129.1475 | 129.3553 | 132.6332 | 129.1376 | 129.8329 | 134.5362 | 172.8628 | 149.4763 | 184.7147 |
| MAY 2012 | 131.2156 | 134.1427 | 181.5964 | 152.2538 | 145.2522 | 129.4593 | 129.5534 | 129.1372 | 131.1414 | 134.2571 | 129.8334 | 134.3415 | 172.7256 | 243.3563 | 191.8342 |
| JUNE 2012 | 132.5633 | 134.1455 | 182.3254 | 154.1512 | 145.4738 | 129.5514 | 129.4795 | 129.2813 | 132.1353 | 129.6529 | 129.7684 | 134.7133 | 172.7256 | 213.1412 | 185.3783 |
| JULY 2012 | 132.1375 | 134.1483 | 183.3733 | 155.7135 | 145.5651 | 129.3522 | 129.7848 | 129.3722 | 132.8384 | 134.3783 | 129.3749 | 134.7841 | 172.7956 | 242.6281 | 183.1071 |
| AUG 2012 | 132.8714 | 134.3211 | 184.7214 | 155.7135 | 145.5832 | 129.7563 | 129.8722 | 129.5147 | 135.6214 | 134.5424 | 129.3118 | 134.7613 | 173.0713 | 246.0768 | 181.3459 |
| SEPT 2012 | 132.8137 | 134.3149 | 176.8495 | 155.5371 | 145.0772 | 129.8414 | 129.3128 | 129.3279 | 135.8107 | 129.6472 | 129.7683 | 134.6356 | 174.2625 | 245.2137 | 185.1614 |
| OCT 2012 | 132.8147 | 134.3247 | 183.8375 | 155.2453 | 145.8379 | 129.9472 | 129.6355 | 129.7421 | 135.7514 | 134.7293 | 129.7652 | 134.7242 | 172.5956 | 253.3458 | 188.1373 |
| NOV 2012 | 135.9847 | 134.3263 | 196.9147 | 155.2453 | 145.9184 | 129.3262 | 129.1474 | 129.7614 | 135.3578 | 129.2213 | 129.0713 | 113.3472 | 178.0707 | 256.1341 | 188.7507 |
| DEC 2012 | 135.6263 | 134.3149 | 137.7253 | 155.7135 | 145.9389 | 129.6319 | 129.3476 | 129.9733 | 135.5341 | 129.8134 | 129.1298 | 113.1147 | 182.4947 | 260.5754 | 191.1459 |
| JAN 2013 | 135.9114 | 134.4745 | 142.3837 | 155.5371 | 114.3237 | 129.2147 | 129.4596 | 129.3838 | 135.5613 | 129.3337 | 129.1298 | 113.1728 | 184.1914 | 265.3793 | 193.1371 |

