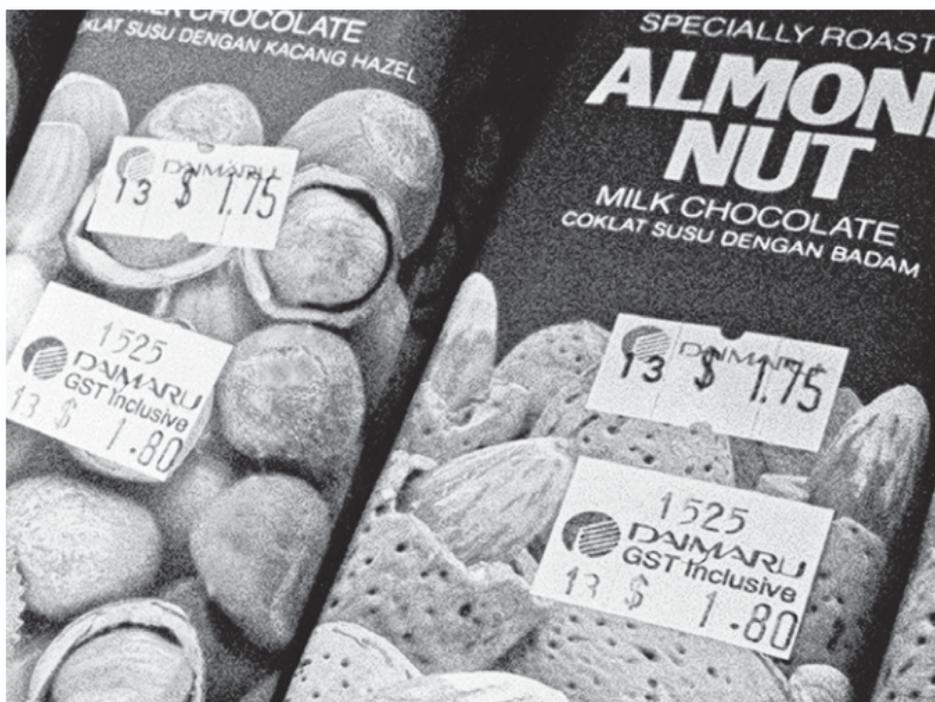


## Excerpt



The new GST made consumption a little more costly

## No major hiccups on day one of GST

SINGAPORE – Singapore's first day with the Goods and Services Tax (GST) proceeded without any major hiccups.

Speaking at a press briefing at the Woodlands Customs checkpoint yesterday, Finance Minister Richard Hu said the GST has been smoothly implemented.

Dr Hu added that the Government will continue to monitor the situation for the next three to six months, although he does not expect many teething problems.

The minister had earlier visited People's Park and the

Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS) office in International Plaza to get a feel of the situation and to gather feedback on the GST.

Dr Hu said the Government's relationship with businesses will be especially important in the GST's case, as it will be the merchants who will be collecting the tax.

He encouraged businesses to absorb the GST where possible during the first year. He said the next nine months will be particularly sensitive to price changes.

OCTOBER 22, 1994

**Six professions to set pay for ministers and civil servants**

APRIL 1, 1994

**OSA trial: all five accused found guilty and fined**