

Unemployment rate hit 11-year low in November 2025: Statistics Dept

PUTRAJAYA: The unemployment rate in November 2025 dropped to its lowest level in 11 years, reaching 2.9%, with 518,400 people unemployed, according to the Statistics of the Labour Force Malaysia for November 2025 released by the Statistics Department yesterday.

Chief statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said the last time the unemployment rate fell below 3% was in November 2014.

He added that the improvement reflects the continued strengthening of the labour market, supported by

stable economic conditions and demand for labour across key sectors.

"The labour force expanded by 0.2% to reach 17.61 million individuals in November 2025 compared with 17.58 million in October 2025, while labour force participation rate during the month was unchanged at 70.9%."

He also said Malaysia's labour market is expected to remain stable and continue to grow positively in the coming months, supported by emerging job opportunities in strategic sectors, ongoing reskilling and upskilling initiatives, and more

balanced employment growth between urban and rural areas.

"Therefore, the labour market is forecast to remain competitive, inclusive and resilient in addressing challenges, while leveraging opportunities from digital transformation and the green agenda."

Mohd Uzir said the number of employed individuals continues to rise, growing 0.2% to 17.09 million compared with 17.06 million previously, while unemployed individuals decreased to 518,400 from

518,900 in the previous month.

He added that employees accounted for 74.8% of total employment, increasing to 12.78 million individuals compared with 12.76 million in October 2025, while own-account workers rose to 3.26 million compared with 3.25 million the previous month.

He said employment growth remained broad-based, led by steady gains in the services sector, particularly in human health and social work, wholesale and retail trade, accommodation, as well as food

and beverage services, while growth was also recorded in the agriculture, manufacturing, construction, mining and quarrying sectors.

He also said the number of individuals working less than 30 hours per week rose to 237,000 in November 2025, compared with 233,200 in October 2025, while time-related underemployment increased to 129,900 individuals from 126,400.

"Time-related underemployment rose to 0.8% in November 2025 compared with 0.7% in October 2025." – Bernama