



Malaysia registers lower unemployment rate in February at 4.1 pct

Malaysia's unemployment rate fell to 4.1 percent in February from 4.2 percent in January, as unemployed persons decreased to 671,800, official data showed Friday.

The labor force situation strengthened in February 2022 prompted by the continuous operation of all economic and social activities during the month, the **Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)** said in a statement.

"February also saw an ever-increasing growth of the employed persons reflecting more labor demand by the business as well as the creation of job opportunities in the market to sustain the businesses. Subsequently, it led to the reduction in the number of unemployment and lower unemployment rate during the month," the statement said.

According to the DOSM, employed persons in February also increased 0.3 percent month on month to 15.73 million, recording a higher employment-to-population ratio at 66.3 percent, as compared to 66.2 percent in January.

Therefore, the labor force continued to increase month on month, rising by 0.2 percent to 16.40 million persons.

Meanwhile, the labor force participation rate during the month remained unchanged at 69.1 percent.

Looking ahead to the overall labor force situation, the DOSM said the recovering economic situation in the first two months of 2022 was driven by encouraging economic activity.

This situation allows the economic and business activities to continue operating, leading to more labor demand in the market to accommodate the needs of business operations, it added.

"This situation gives a positive signal to the labor market, thus encouraging more inclusion in the labor market and enabling the labor market to remain strong for the months to come," it said.

The reopening of the country's borders is also seen as a catalyst to revive the shortage of foreign labor in the country.

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