



PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

LABOUR MARKET REVIEW, THIRD QUARTER OF 2021

Gradual recovery in the labour market in the third quarter of 2021 supported by transition to National Recovery Plan

PUTRAJAYA, 19 November 2021 – Gradual recovery in the labour market in the third quarter of 2021 supported by transition to National Recovery Plan (NRP), Department of Statistics, Malaysia (DOSM) reported in the release of Labour Market Review, Third Quarter 2021 (LMR Q3 2021) today. This publication consolidates quarterly labour statistics and highlighted the recent situation to provide a comprehensive narrative on Malaysia's labour market.

Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, Chief Statistician Malaysia said, "The nation has entered the period of NRP at the beginning of third quarter of 2021. As vaccination rate continued to rise throughout the quarter, several states had transitioned to the next phases of the NRP while restrictions were slowly lifted. Thus, more business activities had resumed and operation hours were extended. However, inter-state travel was still banned throughout the quarter. On top of that, Selangor and Kuala Lumpur which together attributed to average share of 40 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 30 per cent to national employment remained in Phase 1 for most part of the third quarter which only essential services activities were allowed with limited operation hours. Both states were moved to Phase 2 at the end of the third quarter. In line with the shift to the NRP that enable progressive and safe reopening of social and economic activities in the new normal, labour market indicated better performance as compared to the previous quarter. Thus, gradual recovery was observed in the labour market during the third quarter of 2021 as reflected by the modest year-on-year increment of employment while jobs in the economic sector declined marginally."

The number of employed persons recorded an increase of 1.2 per cent to 15.27 million persons after rising by 2.2 per cent in the previous quarter. In the meantime, the number of unemployed rose by 0.2 per cent to 746.2 thousand persons (Q3 2020: 745.0 thousand) while unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.7 per cent. During this quarter, the labour force participation rate edged down by 0.1 percentage point to 68.3 per cent as compared to a year ago.

While explaining underemployment situation for the third quarter, the Chief Statistician said, "Since only between 60 to 80 per cent of private sector's employees were allowed to work at-site on rotation basis depending on the phases of the NRP while permission to expand business operation hours were also granted in stages throughout third quarter of 2021, the number of employed persons working less than 30 hours per week surged 15.0 per cent year-on-year to 464.6 thousand persons (Q3 2020: 403.8 thousand). Subsequently, the rate of time-related underemployment rose to 2.1 per cent, encompassing 326.2 thousand persons (Q3 2020: 2.0%; 300.8 thousand). In the meantime, the number of tertiary educated employed persons working in semi-skilled and low-skilled occupation categories recorded an increase of 6.3 per cent as compared to the third quarter of 2020 to record 1.87 million persons. This resulted in the skill-related underemployment rate to edge up by 0.9 percentage points to 37.7 per cent."

From the viewpoint of labour demand, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin informed, "Given that the economy was still adjusting from continuously changing containment measures according to the phases of the NRP, total number of jobs in the private sector reduced by 0.8 per cent to 8.41 million jobs in the third quarter of 2021 as compared to 8.47 million jobs in the same quarter last year. Filled jobs dropped 0.7 per cent to 8.23 million jobs (Q3 2020: 8.29 million) while vacancies lessened by 3.0 per cent to 174.0 thousand jobs (Q3 2020: 179.3 thousand). The rate of vacancies remained at 2.1 per cent for five successive quarters since Q3 2020, while rate of filled jobs stood at 97.9 per cent. The third quarter of 2021 saw lower number of jobs created at 15.0 thousand compared to 21.0 thousand jobs created in similar quarter a year ago."

As the economy returned to a contraction of 4.5 per cent in the third quarter of 2021, labour productivity per employment fell 5.6 per cent year-on-year (Q2 2021: 13.7%). With a 3.9 per cent reduction in total hours worked to 8.21 billion hours, labour productivity per hour worked in the third quarter of this year continued to drop albeit at a smaller negative of 0.6 per cent after registering double-digit decline of 12.9 per cent

in Q2 2021. Detailed statistics on the performance of labour productivity by economic sectors are available in the report which was released yesterday.

Irregularity in the economy or crisis more often than not will cause some interference to the labour market. As for return to labour, economic hardship might cause a downward pressure on wages. With emphasis on manufacturing sector which ranked second in term of contribution to Malaysia's GDP and owned almost 20 per cent of the national employment, one of the articles in the LMR Q3 2021 assessed the stickiness of manufacturing wages throughout four major economic crises since 1985 to date. This article which entitled "Sticky Wages: An Assessment in Malaysia's Manufacturing Sector" highlighted that against the reduction in the number of employees during major crises, salaries & wages per employee increased, though at a slower rate than pre-crisis points.

Considering the way forward to near real-time official statistics by leveraging data sharing among various agencies, another article in LMR Q3 2021 discussed the national effort towards development of an integrated labour market information database. This initiative is anchored by one of the strategies under the Twelfth Malaysia Plan (12MP) with the aim to enhance labour market information infrastructure towards strengthening labour market data for policy planning and thus improve the efficiency of the labour market.

As the country experiences a challenging socioeconomic landscape due to the public health crisis, some of the structural labour market issues have further escalated. With the shrinking labour demand and increasing number of potential new entrants into the labour market, continuous reform is required in scaling up job opportunities. Hence, long term ideal interventions may enable better absorption of labour supply into the labour market, and ultimately guarantee rise in efficiency as well as economic growth. In relation to this, the 12MP is focusing on four catalytic policy enablers including developing future talent which the priority areas are realigning the labour market for inclusive and sustainable growth; and developing future-ready talent.

Concluding the overall labour market performance in the third quarter of 2021, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin said, "Malaysia's labour market performance has yet to pick up relative to the pre-pandemic period. While supply side indicated moderate performance year-on-year with increase in employed persons and slight addition to unemployment, demand by the economic sector registered a mild decline. Entering the fourth quarter of 2021, the public health situation appeared to be improving alongside the accelerated vaccination efforts. As most states had shifted to Phase 4,

the economy is anticipated to regain momentum and consequently foster jobs growth hence improving the labour market conditions. As the nation is poised to exit the pandemic phase, the strategies and initiatives in Budget 2022 and 12MP will definitely facilitate better interactions in the labour market and ensure its gradual improvement surpassing the pre-pandemic level.”

Thank you and highest appreciation to all Malaysians, including non-citizens, who have given their full support and cooperation in making the Malaysia Census 2020 a success. For those who have not yet had the opportunity to fill out the census questionnaire, please contact DOSM at 1-800-88 -7720 for further information. The activities of Quality Check (QC) and Post Enumeration Survey (PES) for Malaysia Population and Housing Census 2020 (Malaysia Census 2020) is ongoing in November and December 2021. All Malaysian residents are urged to cooperate the said activities of Malaysia Census 2020 because "Your Data is Our Future". Please visit the Malaysia Census 2020 portal at www.mycensus.gov.my or social media @MyCensus2020 for more info.

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JABATAN PERDANA MENTERI
JABATAN PERANGKAAAN MALAYSIA

KENYATAAN MEDIA

SOROTAN PASARAN BURUH, SUKU KETIGA 2021

Pasaran buruh pulih beransur-ansur pada suku ketiga 2021 disokong oleh peralihan ke Pelan Pemulihan Negara

PUTRAJAYA, 19 November 2021 – Pasaran buruh pulih beransur-ansur pada suku ketiga 2021 disokong oleh peralihan kepada Pelan Pemulihan Negara (PPN), Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia (DOSM) melaporkan hari ini dalam keluaran terkini Sorotan Pasaran Buruh, Suku Ketiga 2021 (LMR ST3 2021). Laporan ini menghimpunkan statistik buruh suku tahunan dan mengetengahkan situasi terkini bagi menyediakan naratif yang komprehensif berhubung pasaran buruh Malaysia.

Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, Ketua Perangkawan Malaysia berkata "Negara telah memasuki tempoh PPN pada awal suku ketiga 2021. Selaras dengan peningkatan berterusan kadar vaksinasi sepanjang suku tahun ini, beberapa negeri telah beralih ke fasa PPN berikutnya manakala pelonggaran sekatan dilaksanakan secara beransur-ansur. Justeru, lebih banyak aktiviti perniagaan dibuka semula dan waktu operasi juga telah dilanjutkan. Walau bagaimanapun, perjalanan merentas negeri masih tidak dibenarkan sepanjang suku ini. Selain itu, Selangor dan Kuala Lumpur yang menyumbang sekitar 40 peratus daripada Keluaran Dalam Negeri Kasar (KDNK) dan merangkumi 30 peratus guna tenaga negara, kekal dalam Fasa 1 bagi hampir keseluruhan tempoh suku ketiga yang mana hanya aktiviti perkhidmatan perlu dibenarkan beroperasi dengan waktu operasi yang terhad. Kedua-dua negeri tersebut telah beralih ke Fasa 2 pada penghujung suku ketiga. Dengan pelaksanaan PPN yang membolehkan pembukaan semula aktiviti sosial dan ekonomi secara progresif dan selamat dalam norma baharu, pasaran buruh menunjukkan prestasi yang lebih baik berbanding suku tahun sebelumnya. Oleh itu, pemulihan beransur-ansur dalam pasaran buruh dilihat pada suku ketiga 2021 yang digambarkan oleh peningkatan sederhana guna tenaga berbanding suku yang sama tahun sebelumnya, manakala jawatan dalam sektor ekonomi merekodkan penyusutan perlahan."

Bilangan penduduk bekerja mencatatkan peningkatan sebanyak 1.2 peratus kepada 15.27 juta orang selepas meningkat 2.2 peratus pada suku sebelumnya. Sementara itu, bilangan penganggur meningkat 0.2 peratus kepada 746.2 ribu orang (ST3 2020: 745.0 ribu orang), manakala kadar pengangguran kekal pada 4.7 peratus. Pada suku ini, kadar penyertaan tenaga buruh turun 0.1 mata peratus kepada 68.3 peratus berbanding setahun yang lalu.

Dalam menjelaskan situasi guna tenaga tidak penuh pada suku ketiga 2021, Ketua Perangkawan berkata, “Memandangkan sekitar 60 hingga 80 peratus pekerja sektor swasta dibenarkan bekerja di premis mengikut giliran tertakluk kepada fasa PPN manakala kebenaran pelanjutan waktu operasi perniagaan secara berperingkat sepanjang suku ketiga 2021, bilangan yang bekerja kurang dari 30 jam seminggu melonjak 15.0 peratus tahun ke tahun kepada 464.4 ribu orang (ST3 2020: 403.8 ribu). Susulan itu, kadar guna tenaga tidak penuh berkaitan masa meningkat kepada 2.1 peratus, merangkumi 326.2 ribu orang (ST3 2020: 2.0%; 300.8 ribu). Dalam masa yang sama, bilangan penduduk bekerja berpendidikan tertiar yang bekerja dalam kategori pekerjaan separuh mahir dan berkemahiran rendah mencatatkan peningkatan 6.3 peratus berbanding suku ketiga 2020 merekodkan seramai 1.87 juta orang. Ini menyebabkan kadar guna tenaga tidak penuh berkaitan kemahiran meningkat sebanyak 0.9 mata peratus kepada 37.7 peratus.”

Dari aspek permintaan buruh, Dato’ Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin memaklumkan, “Memandangkan ekonomi masih dalam tempoh penyelarasan berikutan perubahan langkah kawalan yang berterusan mengikut fasa PPN, jumlah jawatan dalam sektor swasta berkurang sebanyak 0.8 peratus kepada 8.41 juta jawatan pada suku ketiga 2021 berbanding 8.47 juta jawatan pada suku yang sama tahun lalu. Jawatan diisi jatuh 0.7 peratus kepada 8.23 juta jawatan (ST3 2020: 8.29 juta), sementara kekosongan jawatan berkurang sebanyak 3.0 peratus kepada 174.0 ribu jawatan (ST3 2020: 179.3 ribu). Kadar kekosongan jawatan kekal pada 2.1 peratus bagi tempoh lima suku tahun berturut-turut sejak ST3 2020, manakala kadar jawatan diisi adalah 97.9 peratus. Suku ketiga 2021 menyaksikan pewujudan jawatan lebih rendah iaitu 15.0 ribu dibandingkan 21.0 ribu pewujudan jawatan pada suku sama setahun yang lalu.”

Dengan ekonomi kembali merekodkan penyusutan 4.5 peratus pada suku ketiga 2021, produktiviti buruh per pekerja jatuh 5.6 peratus tahun ke tahun (Q2 2021: 13.7%). Berikutan pengurangan sebanyak 3.9 peratus jumlah jam bekerja kepada 8.21 bilion jam, produktiviti buruh per jam bekerja pada suku ketiga tahun ini terus mencatatkan penurunan yang lebih kecil iaitu negatif 0.6 peratus setelah

merekodkan kejatuhan dua digit 12.9 peratus pada ST2 2021. Statistik terperinci mengenai prestasi produktiviti buruh mengikut sektor ekonomi boleh didapati dalam laporan yang diterbitkan semalam.

Ketidaktentuan dalam ekonomi atau krisis seringkali menimbulkan gangguan terhadap pasaran buruh. Dari sudut pulangan kepada buruh, permasalahan ekonomi mungkin akan menyebabkan tekanan terhadap pengurangan gaji. Dengan fokus kepada sektor pembuatan yang merupakan penyumbang kedua terbesar kepada KDNK Malaysia dan merangkumi hampir 20 peratus guna tenaga negara, salah satu rencana dalam LMR ST3 2021 mengkaji kelekitan upah sektor pembuatan merentasi empat krisis ekonomi utama sejak tahun 1985 hingga kini. Rencana ini yang bertajuk “Kelekitan Upah: Penilaian dalam Sektor Pembuatan Malaysia” mendapati walau bilangan pekerja berkurang semasa krisis ekonomi, pembayaran gaji & upah pekerja masih mencatatkan peningkatan, namun pada kadar yang lebih perlahan berbanding tempoh sebelum krisis.

Mengambil kira hala tuju dalam menyediakan statistik rasmi masa nyata dengan memanfaatkan perkongsian data antara pelbagai agensi, artikel seterusnya dalam LMR ST3 2021 membincangkan berkenaan usaha negara ke arah pembangunan pangkalan data maklumat pasaran buruh bersepadu. Inisiatif ini bersandarkan kepada salah satu strategi di bawah Rancangan Malaysia Kedua Belas (RMKe-12) dengan matlamat untuk meningkatkan infrastruktur maklumat pasaran buruh ke arah mengukuhkan data pasaran buruh bagi perancangan dasar dan seterusnya meningkatkan kecekapan pasaran buruh.

Ketika negara berdepan landskap sosioekonomi yang mencabar akibat daripada krisis kesihatan awam, sebahagian daripada isu struktur pasaran buruh semakin ketara. Dengan penyusutan dalam permintaan buruh dan peningkatan bilangan kemasukan baharu ke dalam pasaran buruh, pembaharuan berterusan diperlukan untuk mempertingkatkan peluang pekerjaan. Oleh itu, langkah intervensi jangka masa panjang yang ideal membolehkan kemasukan lebih ramai tenaga buruh ke pasaran buruh yang selanjutnya menjamin peningkatan kecekapan dan pertumbuhan ekonomi. Selaras dengan ini, RMKe-12 memberikan tumpuan kepada empat pemangkin dasar termasuk membangunkan bakat masa hadapan dengan bidang keutamaan menjajarkan semula pasaran buruh untuk pertumbuhan yang inklusif dan mampan; dan membangunkan bakat tersedia masa hadapan.

Merumuskan prestasi keseluruhan pasaran buruh pada suku ketiga 2021, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin berkata, “Prestasi pasaran buruh di Malaysia masih belum

menunjukkan peningkatan ke paras pra-pandemik. Dari aspek penawaran menunjukkan prestasi sederhana berbanding setahun yang lepas dengan pertambahan penduduk bekerja dan sedikit peningkatan dalam pengangguran manakala dari segi permintaan oleh sektor ekonomi merekodkan penurunan perlahan. Memasuki suku keempat 2021, situasi kesihatan awam dilihat bertambah baik seiring dengan perkembangan pantas vaksinasi. Dengan kebanyakan negeri telah beralih ke Fasa 4, ekonomi dijangka memperoleh semula momentum yang mana akan meningkatkan peluang pekerjaan sekaligus dapat memulihkan kedudukan pasaran buruh. Melihat kepada kesediaan negara untuk keluar daripada fasa pandemik, strategi dan inisiatif dalam Bajet 2022 dan RMKe-12 dijangka akan dapat mempertingkatkan interaksi pasaran buruh dan seterusnya memastikan pemulihan beransur-ansur kepada paras pra-pandemik.”

Ucapan penghargaan dan terima kasih yang tidak terhingga kepada seluruh Penduduk Malaysia termasuk bukan warganegara yang telah memberikan kerjasama dalam menjayakan Banci Malaysia 2020. Bagi mereka yang masih belum berkesempatan mengisi borang soal selidik bancian, sila hubungi DOSM di talian 1-800-88-7720 untuk maklumat lanjut. Aktiviti Semakan Kualiti (QC) dan Survei Penilaian Liputan Banci (SPLB) bagi Banci Penduduk dan Perumahan Malaysia 2020 (Banci Malaysia 2020) sedang dilaksanakan sepanjang November dan Disember 2021. Semua penduduk Malaysia diseru untuk memberikan kerjasama dalam aktiviti yang dijalankan Banci Malaysia 2020 kerana "Data Anda Masa Depan Kita". Sila layari portal Banci Malaysia 2020 di www.mycensus.gov.my atau media sosial @MyCensus2020 untuk maklumat lanjut.

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