



PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

LABOUR MARKET REVIEW, SECOND QUARTER OF 2021

Labour market improved in the second quarter of 2021 compared to the same quarter last year but has yet to return to pre-pandemic level

PUTRAJAYA, 19 August 2021 – Labour market improved in the second quarter of 2021 compared to the same quarter last year but has yet to return to pre-pandemic level, Department of Statistics, Malaysia (DOSM) stated today in its latest release of Labour Market Review, Second Quarter 2021 (LMR Q2 2021). This report consolidates quarterly labour statistics and highlighted the recent situation to provide a comprehensive narrative on Malaysia's labour market.

According to, the Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, "Malaysia's labour market was in a better situation in the second quarter of 2021 as compared to a year ago indicated by improvement in both labour supply and demand but has yet to return to pre-pandemic level. The improvement was underpinned by more operations of economic and social activities particularly at the beginning of the second quarter including reopening of secondary education as well as permission for food stalls and hawkers to operate in conjunction of the fasting month of Ramadan. Nevertheless, Full Movement Control Order (FMCO) was implemented since 1 June 2021 as the daily COVID-19 cases and deaths soared. At this point, permission to operate was only granted to essential activities encompassing selected manufacturing sub-sectors, food & beverages, securities, health and medical services, banking and communications. However, this situation was different from the same quarter of the previous year with up to 60 per cent of workers of essential private sectors were allowed on site.

Indicative of more people participating in the labour force compared to the same quarter of the preceding year, labour force participation rate went up by 0.2 percentage points to 68.3 per cent. The number of employed persons rose 2.2 per cent to record 15.21 million persons (Q2 2020: 14.88 million persons). Meanwhile, the number of unemployed eased by 3.4 per cent to 764.9 thousand persons (Q2 2020: 791.8 thousand persons), resulting in the decrease of unemployment rate by 0.3 percentage points to 4.8 per cent. Nevertheless, the number of unemployed remained high as against an average of 500 thousand persons recorded during the pre-COVID period. Thus, the number of the labour force in the second quarter of 2021 grew 1.9 per cent registering 15.97 million persons (Q2 2020: 15.68 million persons)

while the number of outside labour force rose 1.0 per cent to record 7.42 million persons (Q2 2020: 7.35 million persons)."

During the quarter, the number of employed persons working less than 30 hours per week reduced to 474.1 thousand persons (Q2 2020: 789.6 thousand persons). Subsequently, the number in time-related underemployment; or those who were able and willing to work additional hours reduced to 329.7 thousand persons (Q2 2020: 413.5 thousand persons) with a rate of 2.2 per cent (Q2 2020: 2.8%). In the meantime, tertiary educated employed persons in skill-related underemployment rose to 1.85 million persons (Q2 2020: 1.67 million persons). The rate of skill-related underemployment remained elevated at 37.7 per cent (Q2 2020: 36.5%), signalling prolonged structural issue in terms of skills mismatch.

Meanwhile, in terms of labour demand, the Chief Statistician said, "The total number of jobs in the economic sector improved with a smaller year-on-year decreased of 0.4 per cent against negative 1.7 per cent in the previous quarter registering a total of 8.35 million (Q2 2020: 8.38 million). During the same period, filled jobs which comprised of 97.9 per cent or equivalent to 8.17 million reduced by 0.5 per cent (Q2 2020: 8.21 million). Jobs opening or vacancies which encompassed of 2.1 per cent of total jobs, rose 5.0 per cent to 178.0 thousand as compared to 169.5 thousand. During the second quarter 2021, the number of jobs created gained 18.3 per cent to record 16.2 thousand jobs after recording an all-time low of 13.7 thousand jobs in second quarter last year."

Along with the surged in value added by 16.1 per cent following the low base in the same quarter of 2020, labour productivity per employment went up by 13.6 per cent compared to a marginal decline of 0.4 per cent in the previous quarter. Meanwhile, labour productivity per hour worked dropped 12.8 per cent (Q1 2021: 0.4%) following a larger increase in hours worked as compared to the growth in value added. During this period, total hours worked recorded a double-digit growth of 33.2 per cent to 8.31 billion hours. More statistics on labour productivity is available in the report which was just released yesterday.

With the fluctuating economic scenario due to various domestic and global challenges, an article in the LMR Q2 2021 highlighted experimental study on the relationship between investment of fixed assets and the labour market. The preliminary findings suggested the existence of relationship between investment of fixed assets and employment, specifically for Machinery & equipment which comprised of Other machinery & equipment; ICT equipment; and Computer software & database. This indicated that by increasing the amount of investment may be able to create more employment opportunity and consequently reduce unemployment.

The pandemic had provided the opportunity for the national statistical offices to strengthen their role in response to the current situation. In this regard, besides ensuring the production of the official statistics, DOSM also conducted special studies to assess the short-term or immediate impacts of COVID-19. Although the findings of these studies cannot be generalised to the national circumstances, additional insights could be gained to complement the analysis of the official statistics. From the perspective of labour market, two articles are included in LMR Q2 2021 which elaborate the findings of recent focus studies conducted this year.

The first article entitled “Special Study on the Personnel of Short-Term Employment Programme” elaborates that the measure to create short-term employment opportunity in the public and private sectors can be part of the solutions to address the issue of unemployment. This measure is seen to be particularly beneficial among youth graduates who completed their study since 2019. The temporary or contractual basis of this job offers the pathway for the new entrants to gain experience, knowledge and skills as they make their ways up in the labour market and subsequently provides them with the prerequisites of the industry and make them more marketable.

Meanwhile, the next article, “The Impact of Full Closure of Social and Economic Sector on Labour Demand: A Quick Survey” discussed the impact of full closure of the economic sector in June 2021 towards the labour demand. It was found that the companies that responded to this study primarily opted to implement salary cuts instead of reducing employees in ensuring business operations can be sustained. In the meantime, it was also observed that businesses in non-essential sectors recorded higher percentage of salary cuts compared to other essential sectors. Slower or no demand which resulted in decline of production was the main reasons of employees’ being laid-off.

The unfavourable economic situation since 2020 had been particularly hard on Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMEs) since they normally operate with limited resources, obtain small profit margin and spend more in workers’ compensation. SMEs which comprised of 97.2 per cent of total business entities in Malaysia owned 7.25 million persons or 48.0 per cent of total employment. Recognising the important roles of the SMEs in Malaysia’s economy and its vulnerability to uncertain factors, unique initiatives and stimulus packages are continuously tailored to aid this segment of businesses. In terms of cash flow management, the Wage Subsidy Programme and loan moratorium are among the short-term initiatives that could ease the cash flow of the SMEs. In the longer run, a systematic shift towards automations and digitalisations can be explored with initiatives such as SME Digitalisation Matching Grant, SME Technology Transformation Fund, Smart Automation Grant and Small Entrepreneur Digital Empowerment Programme (PUPUK). These initiatives are some of the means to assist SMEs sustain their businesses and ensure that they are equipped with the right tools and skills required to innovate and scale their businesses to greater heights.

In concluding the labour market performance for the second quarter of 2021, the Chief Statistician said, “Malaysia’s labour market situation improved considerably compared to the same quarter in the preceding year when the impact of COVID-19 first hit the country. However, necessary mitigation actions were implemented towards the end of the second quarter 2021 to protect the public health constituted continuous restrictions of social and economic activities. Due to more stringent procedures in comparison to the first quarter of the year, the labour market gradual recovery momentum did not pick up during the quarter.

It has remained an uphill battle for Malaysia to level off the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and ease the burden of this crisis towards the public health system, especially with emergence of new variants. However, with the on-going vaccinations efforts through National COVID-19 Immunisation Programme, the target to achieve herd immunity may materialise soon. A comprehensive and dynamic National Recovery Plan has also been introduced and the latest review includes permission for more social and economic sectors to resume operation or loosen up the standard operation procedures upon completed vaccinations among the employees and patrons of the premises. The recent developments coupled with the latest addition of stimulus packages in 2021 is expected to stimulate economic activities and encourage hiring of more workers. However, in line with the revised lower forecast of the economic growth for the year 2021, it is foreseen that the labour market growth momentum will be rather gradual as businesses adopt a rather cautious approach in conducting their operations to ensure the pandemic is kept at bay.”

The Malaysia Population and Housing Census 2020 (Malaysia Census 2020) via online (e-Census) is being conducted nationwide until full coverage has been accomplished. All Malaysian residents are urged to cooperate in realising the success of Malaysia Census 2020 to ensure that no one is left behind as your data is our future. Please visit the Malaysia Census 2020 portal at www.mycensus.gov.my or social media @MyCensus2020 for more information.

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JABATAN PERDANA MENTERI
JABATAN PERANGKAAAN MALAYSIA

KENYATAAN MEDIA

SOROTAN PASARAN BURUH, SUKU KEDUA 2021

Pasaran buruh lebih baik pada suku kedua 2021 berbanding suku sama tahun sebelumnya namun belum kembali kepada kedudukan sebelum pandemik

PUTRAJAYA, 19 Ogos 2021 – Pasaran buruh lebih baik pada suku kedua 2021 berbanding suku sama tahun sebelumnya namun belum kembali kepada kedudukan sebelum pandemik, Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia (DOSM) melaporkan hari ini dalam keluaran terkini Sorotan Pasaran Buruh, Suku Kedua 2021 (LMR ST2 2021). Laporan ini menghimpunkan statistik buruh suku tahunan dan mengetengahkan situasi terkini bagi menyediakan naratif yang komprehensif berhubung pasaran buruh Malaysia.

Menurut Ketua Perangkawan Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, "Kedudukan pasaran buruh adalah lebih baik pada suku kedua 2021 berbanding setahun yang lalu ditunjukkan oleh peningkatan dalam penawaran dan permintaan buruh, namun masih belum kembali seperti sebelum pandemik. Peningkatan ini disokong oleh pengoperasian aktiviti ekonomi dan sosial yang lebih banyak terutamanya pada awal suku kedua termasuk pembukaan semula pendidikan menengah serta kebenaran bagi gerai makanan dan penaja untuk beroperasi sempena bulan Ramadan. Walau bagaimanapun, Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) Penuh telah dilaksanakan sejak 1 Jun 2021 berikutan peningkatan kes harian dan kematian akibat COVID-19. Dalam fasa ini, kebenaran untuk beroperasi hanya diberikan kepada aktiviti penting merangkumi subsektor pembuatan terpilih, makanan & minuman, keselamatan, perkhidmatan kesihatan dan perubatan, perbankan dan komunikasi. Namun, keadaan ini berbeza dari suku yang sama tahun sebelumnya dengan kebenaran berada di premis sehingga 60 peratus bagi pekerja sektor penting swasta.

Peningkatan penyertaan dalam tenaga buruh berbanding suku yang sama tahun sebelumnya ditunjukkan oleh pertambahan 0.2 mata peratus kadar penyertaan tenaga buruh kepada 68.3 peratus. Bilangan penduduk bekerja naik 2.2 peratus merekodkan 15.21 juta orang (ST2 2020: 14.88 juta orang). Sementara itu, bilangan penganggur berkurang 3.4 peratus kepada 764.9 ribu orang (ST2 2020: 791.8 ribu orang), menyebabkan penurunan sebanyak 0.3 mata peratus kadar pengangguran kepada 4.8 peratus. Meskipun begitu, bilangan penganggur kekal tinggi berbanding purata 500 ribu orang yang direkodkan pada tempoh sebelum COVID-19. Oleh itu, bilangan tenaga buruh pada suku kedua 2021 naik 1.9 peratus mencatatkan 15.97 juta orang (ST2 2020: 15.68 juta orang) manakala bilangan yang

di luar tenaga buruh naik sebanyak 1.0 peratus merekodkan 7.42 juta orang (ST2 2020: 7.35 juta orang).”

Pada suku tersebut, bilangan yang bekerja kurang 30 jam seminggu menurun kepada 474.1 ribu orang (ST2 2020: 789.6 ribu orang). Seterusnya, bilangan guna tenaga tidak penuh berkaitan masa; atau mereka yang mampu dan bersedia menerima tambahan jam bekerja berkurang kepada 329.7 ribu orang (ST2 2020: 413.5 ribu orang) dengan kadar 2.2 peratus (ST2 2020: 2.8%). Sementara itu, penduduk bekerja berpendidikan tertiar dalam guna tenaga tidak penuh berkaitan kemahiran naik kepada 1.85 juta orang (ST2 2020: 1.67 juta orang). Kadar guna tenaga tidak penuh berkaitan kemahiran kekal tinggi pada 37.7 peratus (ST2 2020: 36.5%) menunjukkan isu struktur yang berlarutan dari segi ketidaksepadanan kemahiran.

Sementara itu, dari sudut permintaan buruh, Ketua Perangkawan berkata, “Jumlah jawatan dalam sektor ekonomi bertambah baik dengan penyusutan tahun ke tahun yang lebih kecil sebanyak 0.4 peratus berbanding negatif 1.7 peratus pada suku sebelumnya mencatatkan sejumlah 8.35 juta (ST2 2020: 8.38 juta). Dalam tempoh yang sama, jawatan diisi yang merangkumi 97.9 peratus atau bersamaan dengan 8.17 juta berkurang 0.5 peratus (ST2 2020: 8.21 juta). Peluang pekerjaan atau kekosongan jawatan yang merangkumi 2.1 peratus daripada jumlah jawatan, naik 5.0 peratus kepada 178.0 ribu berbanding 169.5 ribu. Pada suku kedua 2021, bilangan pewujudan jawatan meningkat 18.3 peratus dengan sejumlah 16.2 ribu jawatan, setelah merekodkan bilangan terendah sebanyak 13.7 ribu jawatan pada suku kedua tahun lepas.”

Seiring dengan lonjakan pertumbuhan nilai ditambah sebanyak 16.1 peratus berikutan asas yang rendah pada suku yang sama 2020, produktiviti buruh per pekerja meningkat 13.6 peratus berbanding penurunan marginal 0.4 peratus pada suku sebelumnya. Sementara itu, produktiviti buruh per jam bekerja jatuh 12.8 peratus (ST1 2021: 0.4%) berikutan peningkatan lebih besar dalam jam bekerja berbanding pertumbuhan nilai ditambah. Dalam tempoh ini, jumlah jam bekerja merekodkan pertumbuhan dua digit 33.2 peratus kepada 8.31 bilion jam. Statistik terperinci produktiviti buruh tersedia dalam laporan yang baru diterbitkan semalam.

Dengan senario ekonomi yang tidak menentu disebabkan pelbagai cabaran di peringkat domestik dan global, sebuah artikel dalam LMR ST2 2021 mengetengahkan kajian eksperimental hubungan antara pelaburan aset tetap dan pasaran buruh. Penemuan awalan menunjukkan wujud hubungan antara pelaburan aset tetap dan guna tenaga, terutamanya bagi aset jentera & peralatan yang terdiri daripada Lain-lain jentera & peralatan; Peralatan ICT; dan Perisian komputer & pangkalan data. Ini menunjukkan dengan peningkatan jumlah pelaburan akan membuka lebih banyak peluang pekerjaan dan seterusnya mengurangkan pengangguran.

Pandemik telah membuka peluang kepada organisasi statistik negara untuk mempertingkatkan peranan dalam bertindak balas kepada situasi semasa. Dalam hal ini, di samping memastikan pengeluaran statistik rasmi, DOSM telah menjalankan kajian khas bagi menilai kesan jangka pendek COVID-19. Walaupun penemuan kajian fokus ini tidak menggambarkan keadaan seluruh negara, maklumat ini menyokong analisis statistik rasmi. Dari aspek pasaran buruh, dua artikel yang dimuatkan dalam LMR ST2 2021 memperihalkan penemuan kajian fokus yang dijalankan pada tahun ini.

Artikel pertama bertajuk “Kajian Khas Personel *Short-Term Employment Programme*” menghuraikan bahawa langkah mewujudkan peluang pekerjaan jangka pendek di sektor awam dan swasta menjadi antara penyelesaian kepada isu pengangguran. Inisiatif ini dilihat dapat memberi manfaat terutamanya dalam kalangan siswazah belia yang menamatkan pengajian mereka sejak 2019. Perkhidmatan bertaraf sementara atau kontrak yang ditawarkan membuka peluang kepada golongan ini untuk menimba pengalaman, pengetahuan dan kemahiran sekali gus melengkapkan mereka dengan keperluan pra-syarat oleh industri dan mempertingkatkan kebolehpasaran.

Sementara itu artikel seterusnya, “Impak Penutupan Penuh Sektor Sosial dan Ekonomi Terhadap Permintaan Buruh: Kajian Jangka Pendek” membincangkan kesan penutupan penuh sektor ekonomi pada Jun 2021 terhadap permintaan buruh. Didapati bahawa syarikat yang terlibat dalam kajian ini cenderung melaksanakan pemotongan gaji daripada memberhentikan pekerja dalam mengekalkan operasi perniagaan. Di samping itu, didapati juga perniagaan dalam sektor tidak penting merekodkan peratus pemotongan gaji yang lebih tinggi berbanding sektor penting yang lain. Pengurangan pengeluaran berikutan ketiadaan atau permintaan yang perlahan merupakan antara faktor utama pemberhentian pekerja.

Situasi ekonomi yang kurang memberangsangkan sejak 2020 memberi kesan terutamanya kepada Perusahaan Kecil dan Sederhana (PKS) kerana kebiasaannya perusahaan ini beroperasi dengan sumber yang terhad, memperoleh margin keuntungan yang kecil dan cenderung untuk memperuntukkan perbelanjaan yang besar bagi pampasan pekerja. PKS yang merangkumi 97.2 peratus daripada keseluruhan entiti perniagaan di Malaysia memiliki 7.25 juta orang atau 48.0 peratus daripada keseluruhan guna tenaga. Menyedari peranan penting PKS dalam ekonomi Malaysia dan kerentanannya terhadap faktor luar jangka, inisiatif dan pakej rangsangan unik disediakan secara berterusan bagi membantu perniagaan dalam kategori ini. Dari segi pengurusan aliran tunai, Program Subsidi Upah dan moratorium pinjaman adalah antara inisiatif jangka pendek yang dapat mengurangkan beban aliran tunai PKS. Dalam jangka masa panjang, peralihan sistematik ke arah automasi dan pendigitalan dapat diterokai melalui inisiatif seperti Geran Padanan Digital PKS, Dana Transformasi Teknologi PKS, Geran Automasi Pintar dan Program Pemeraksanaan Pendigitalan Usahawan Kecil (PUPUK). Inisiatif ini merupakan salah satu alternatif bagi membantu PKS mengekalkan perniagaan dan memastikan mereka

dilengkapi dengan perisian, perkakasan dan kemahiran yang bersesuaian dalam melaksanakan inovasi dan mempertingkatkan perniagaan ke tahap yang lebih tinggi.

Merumuskan prestasi pasaran buruh bagi suku kedua 2021, Ketua Perangkawan berkata, “Kedudukan pasaran buruh bertambah baik berbanding suku yang sama tahun sebelumnya apabila impak COVID-19 melanda negara buat pertama kalinya. Namun, langkah kawalan yang merangkumi sekatan berterusan aktiviti ekonomi dan sosial telah dilaksanakan menjelang akhir suku kedua 2021 bagi melindungi kesihatan awam. Berikutan prosedur yang lebih ketat berbanding suku pertama tahun ini, telah menyebabkan momentum pemulihan pasaran buruh terjejas pada suku ini.

Malaysia terus berdepan dengan cabaran dalam menangani jangkitan pandemik COVID-19 dan mengurangkan kesan krisis ini kepada sistem kesihatan awam, terutamanya dengan kemunculan varian baharu. Walau bagaimanapun, dengan usaha vaksinasi melalui Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan, sasaran imuniti kelompok dijangka akan dicapai dalam masa terdekat. Pelan Pemulihan Negara yang komprehensif dan dinamik juga telah diperkenalkan dan semakin terkini dengan kebenaran lebih banyak sektor sosial dan ekonomi beroperasi semula termasuk kelonggaran prosedur operasi standard bagi premis yang mempunyai pekerja dan pelanggan yang telah lengkap vaksinasi. Dengan pembangunan pelan ini beserta penambahan pakej rangsangan terbaharu pada 2021, dijangka akan dapat merangsang aktiviti ekonomi dan mendorong pengambilan lebih ramai pekerja. Namun, selaras dengan semakin semula unjuran pertumbuhan ekonomi yang lebih rendah pada 2021, momentum pertumbuhan pasaran buruh dijangka akan meningkat secara beransur-ansur berikutan langkah berhati-hati perniagaan dalam menjalankan operasi bagi memastikan pandemik dapat dikawal.”

Banci Penduduk dan Perumahan Malaysia 2020 (Banci Malaysia 2020) secara dalam talian (e-Census) sedang dilaksanakan di seluruh negara sehingga liputan penuh dapat dicapai. Semua penduduk Malaysia diseru untuk memberikan kerjasama dalam menjayakan Banci Malaysia 2020 bagi memastikan tiada yang ketinggalan kerana data anda masa depan kita. Sila layari portal Banci Malaysia 2020 di www.mycensus.gov.my atau media sosial [@MyCensus2020](https://www.instagram.com/MyCensus2020) untuk maklumat lanjut.

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