

Statistics Dept: March median wages is RM2,600

KUALA LUMPUR: The median monthly wages for Malaysian formal employees rose 8.2 per cent year-on-year, or RM200, in the first quarter, said the Statistics Department yesterday.

According to the Employee Wages Statistics (Formal Sector) Report for the first quarter, median wages added 8.3 per cent year-on-year to RM2,600 in March, compared with RM2,800 in January (8.5 per cent growth) and RM2,564 in February (7.6 per cent increase).

Chief statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said there were 6.45 million formal employees in March.

“In terms of gender, male formal employees constituted 55.5 per cent, or 3.58 million persons, with monthly median wages of RM2,664.

“Female formal employees, at 2.87 million persons, had median monthly wages of RM2,545.

“Compared to March last year, the median monthly wages for both male and female formal employees showed an increase of eight and 8.6 per cent, respectively,” he added.

Formal employees aged 40 to 49 had the highest median monthly wages in March at RM3,500.

They made up nearly 20 per

cent of the total formal employees.

The median monthly wages decreased to RM3,400 for workers aged 50 to 54 years old.

“On the other hand, workers in the below 20 years old age group had the lowest median monthly wages of RM1,500.”

Uzir said all sectors posted an increase in median monthly wages in March.

The mining and quarrying sector recorded the highest median monthly wages at RM7,500, but represented only 0.5 per cent of the total formal employees.

The agriculture sector had the lowest median monthly wages at

RM1,900, although this was a 8.9 per cent year-on-year growth.

Kuala Lumpur had the highest median monthly wages at RM3,927 followed by Selangor (RM2,964) and Penang (RM2,627).

Kelantan, Perlis, and Sabah had the lowest median monthly wages at RM1,600, RM1,627 and RM1,782 respectively.

“In terms of wage distributions in March, 34.8 per cent of total Malaysian formal employees earned below RM2,000. However, this proportion decreased from 40.2 per cent recorded a year ago, likely due to the minimum wage increase to RM1,500 starting in May last year.”