

# Wages, salaries show promising growth in 2022

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The wages and salaries of Malaysians recorded promising growth in 2022 despite global economic challenges, reflecting the economic resilience and upward trajectory of the nation's job market.

Statistics Department chief statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said according to the department's "Statistics and Wages, Malaysia, 2022" report, the median monthly salary and wage was RM2,424, up from the previous year's RM2,250.

"This is a 7.7 per cent increase. This shows that 50 per cent of full-time employed citizens receive salaries and wages of RM2,424 and below.

"The average monthly salary and wage Malaysians received in 2022 increased by 5.8 per cent to RM3,212 from RM3,037 the previous year, showing steady improvement in the overall earnings of the Malaysian workforce."

Uzir said the country's gross domestic product (GDP) saw an

8.7 per cent increase, driven primarily by robust performances in the service and manufacturing sectors, which contributed a substantial 82.4 per cent to the GDP.

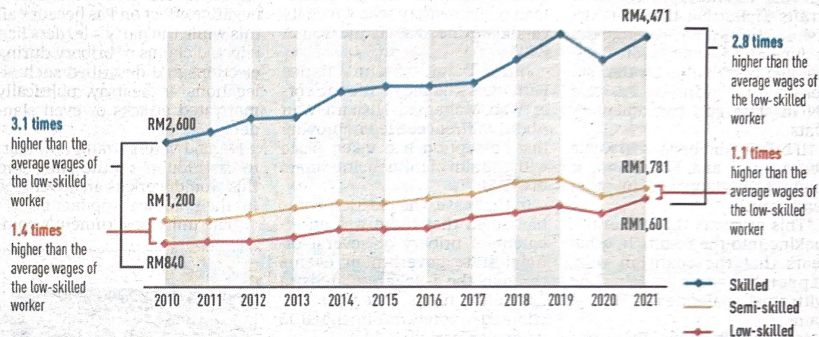
"The country's transition to the (Covid-19) endemic phase, the re-opening of international borders and the revival of the tourism industry have contributed to increased labour demand.

"The Malaysian government's decision to raise the minimum wage to RM1,500 in May 2022 further boosted monthly wages across various sectors compared with previous years."

He said the service sector, the largest in Malaysia's economy, had the highest number of salary and wage recipients, particularly in wholesale and retail trade, education, food and beverage services and accommodation.

"Following closely behind is the manufacturing sector, which saw a five per cent and 7.9 per cent increase in average monthly wage and salary, respectively,

## AVERAGE MONTHLY SALARIES AND WAGES OF EMPLOYEES BY SKILL CATEGORY 2010-2021



Source: Illustrated based on the data from the Statistics Department (2021) and Measures and Strategies to Increase Labour Compensation research report, funded by the Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC)

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compared with the previous year.

"For skilled workers, the average monthly salary and wage increased by 3.7 per cent, reaching RM5,025, a rise of RM177 from RM4,848 in 2021.

"Among skilled workers, managers received the highest average monthly salary and wage at RM6,385, followed by professionals at RM5,900 and technicians and allied professionals at RM3,668.

"Semi-skilled workers also saw

an increase in their average monthly salary and wage, reaching RM2,241 from RM2,064 in 2021.

"This category was primarily led by clerical support workers, machine and plant operators, assemblers and service and sales workers."

Uzir said low-skilled workers, including basic workers, saw an increase of RM66, raising their average monthly salary and wage to RM1,815 from RM1,749 in the

previous year.

He said the salary and wage situation by strata also increased, noting that urban areas saw an increase to RM3,351, while rural areas showed significant growth to reach RM2,393.

"Putrajaya reported the highest average monthly salary and wage at RM4,666, with four states surpassing the national average: Kuala Lumpur at RM4,207, Selangor at RM3,737, Labuan at RM3,418 and Penang at RM3,313."