

Median **wage** at RM2,600 in June

➤ 4.9% increase year-on-year for mostly formal Malaysian workers in private sector

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PUTRAJAYA: The median wage of Malaysian employees in the formal sector rose by 4.9% in June to RM2,600 compared with the corresponding period last year, chief statistician Datuk Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said yesterday.

Titled "Employee Wages Statistics (Formal Sector) Report, Second Quarter 2023", he said the statistical compilation is based on administrative data sources obtained from relevant agencies, which focused on Malaysians who worked mostly in the private sector.

Mohd Uzir said the number of Malaysian formal employees in June was 6.6 million persons.

"This is a rise of 1.6% compared with the same month in the previous year. The number accounted for nearly two-thirds (64.3%) of the total number of employees in the formal sector. In the meantime, the median monthly wages in June increased by 4.9% year-on-year to RM2,600.

"The median monthly wage for male formal employees in June stood at RM2,645 while females, who made up 44.5% (2.94 million) of the total, earned RM2,527.

"Also, the detailed wage statistics by age group indicate that those in the 45-49 years age group earned the highest median monthly wages in June at RM3,500."

Mohd Uzir said this age group also received the highest median monthly wage in April (RM3,582) and May (RM3,482). Comparing June with the same month in the previous year, all



All sectors except agriculture recorded a year-on-year increase in median monthly wages in June. — **AFPPIC**

age groups experienced an increase in median monthly wages, except for those aged below 20 years.

"Those in the 60-64 years age group showed the highest year-on-year growth in June with wages increasing by 11.7% to RM2,764."

He said those aged below 20 years enjoyed the highest year-on-year growth (25%) for four consecutive months since January.

"Those below 20 years recorded a slower growth of median monthly wages in May, with year-on-year growth at 5.5%. However, their wages remained stagnant in June this year as the base effect of the new minimum wage rate of RM1,500 in 2022 had subsided."

On wages across economic activity in the second quarter of this year, Mohd Uzir said mining and

quarrying notably registered double-digit year-on-year growth in median monthly wages in June at RM5,200.

This is despite the sector only representing 0.5% of the total number of formal employees.

"All sectors recorded a year-on-year increase in median monthly wage in June, except for the agricultural sector, which registered a decrease of 0.9% to RM1,927."

Mohd Uzir said three states posted greater median monthly wages compared with the national median monthly wages of RM2,600.

These were Kuala Lumpur, which registered the highest median monthly wage at RM3,822, Selangor at RM2,945 and Penang at RM2,645.

"But Kelantan, Perlis and Sabah registered the lowest median monthly wages at RM1,600, RM1,600 and RM1,800 respectively."

In terms of wage distribution in June, Mohd Uzir said 34.7% of formal employees in Malaysia earned below RM2,000, marking a decrease of 3.6 percentage points from the 38.3% recorded in June last year.

Concurrently, Mohd Uzir said some 7.9% of Malaysian formal employees earned wages exceeding RM10,000.

"The percentile analysis indicates that the median monthly wages of the highest wage recipient group (90th percentile) is at least five times higher than the median monthly wages of the lowest (10th percentile).

"This is also at least three times higher than the median monthly wages of the middle-wage recipient group (50th percentile).

"The lowest wage worker category earned the most significant increase of 17% year-on-year in June. This indicates that the median wages for this group has risen sharply from RM1,282 in June last year to RM1,500 in June this year."