



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY  
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

**MEDIA STATEMENT**  
**EMPLOYEE WAGES STATISTICS (FORMAL SECTOR) REPORT,**  
**FIRST QUARTER 2024**

**Median monthly wages of the formal sector surged by 9.4 per cent to RM2,844 in March 2024.**

**PUTRAJAYA, 26 July 2024** – According to the **Department of Statistics Malaysia** in its **EMPLOYEE WAGES STATISTICS (FORMAL SECTOR) REPORT, FIRST QUARTER 2024** that was reported today, the median monthly wages of the formal sector surged by 9.4 per cent to RM2,844 in March 2024, compared to growth rates of 8.5 per cent in February and 5.2 per cent in January 2024. The median monthly wages was RM2,844 in March, RM2,782 in February, and RM2,945 in January 2024.

Commenting on the findings of statistics derived from administrative data, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, the Chief Statistician of Malaysia, stated that the increase in median monthly wages denotes a better labour market landscape, in line with the growing economic expansion in the first quarter of 2024. The number of citizens in the formal sector also continued to show a year-on-year increase, with a growth of 1.5 per cent (an increase of 97.3 thousand) in March 2024.

Looking at the comparison by sex, male formal employees comprised 55.3 per cent (3.62 million persons) of the total formal employees in March 2024, received a median monthly wages of RM2,900. Meanwhile, female formal employees, who made up 44.7 per cent (2.92 million persons) of the total formal employees, earned a median monthly wages of RM2,800 in March 2024.

Additionally, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin highlighted certain wages trends across age groups. Employees aged 45 to 49 years had the highest median monthly wages of RM3,818 in March 2024. This age group also had the highest median monthly wages in February 2024 (RM3,727) and January 2024 (RM4,000). Furthermore, all age groups except those below 20 years old experienced an increase in median monthly wages compared to the previous year. In March 2024, employees aged 65 years and above showed the highest year-on-year growth, while those below 20 years old received the lowest median monthly wages of RM1,500 since June 2022.

Delving into the statistics by economic activity also showed that all sectors recorded an increase in median monthly wages in all three months of the first quarter of 2024. The Mining & quarrying sector, which makes up only 0.6 per cent of all formal employees, recorded the highest year-on-year growth of 12.0 per cent in its median monthly wages,

reaching RM8,400 in March 2024. In contrast, the Agriculture sector, representing 1.9 per cent of formal employees, reported the lowest median monthly wages at RM2,000, showing a 5.3 per cent year-on-year increase during the same period.

Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin added, "In March 2024, two states exceeded the national median monthly wages of RM2,844 with Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur registered the highest median monthly wages at RM4,256 and followed by Selangor at RM3,164. In contrast, during the same period, Kelantan, Perlis and Sabah recorded the lowest median monthly wages of RM1,645, RM1,682 and RM1,882 respectively."

In terms of wages distribution, the Chief Statistician Malaysia stated that 31.2 per cent of Malaysian's formal employees earned below RM2,000 in March 2024, marking a decrease of 3.6 percentage points from the 34.8 per cent recorded in March 2023. Additionally, the percentile analysis shows that the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile of Malaysian formal employees earned wages of RM1,500 or less. However, this group registered an increase of 1.2 per cent in monthly wages as compared to the same month in the previous year (March 2023: RM1,482). The wage ratio between the 90<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> percentiles indicates that the top 10 per cent of wage earners received seven times the earnings of the lowest 10 per cent.

Concluding his statement on today's release, Dato' Sri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said, "These statistics are based on administrative data sources obtained from relevant agencies, which focus on the citizens who work in the formal sector, notably in the private sector. Looking ahead, DOSM will continue to enhance the dissemination of employee wages statistics by integrating various administrative data to produce more comprehensive statistics for a deeper understanding of Malaysia's labour market dynamics."

Time series statistics and more information on the labour market can be obtained from the Malaysia Labour Market Interactive Data (MyLMID) portal. For more information, please visit <https://mbls.dosm.gov.my/mylmid/> or scan the QR code below.



The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) has launched OpenDOSM NextGen as a medium that provides data catalogue and visualisations to facilitate users' analysis and can be accessed through <https://open.dosm.gov.my>.

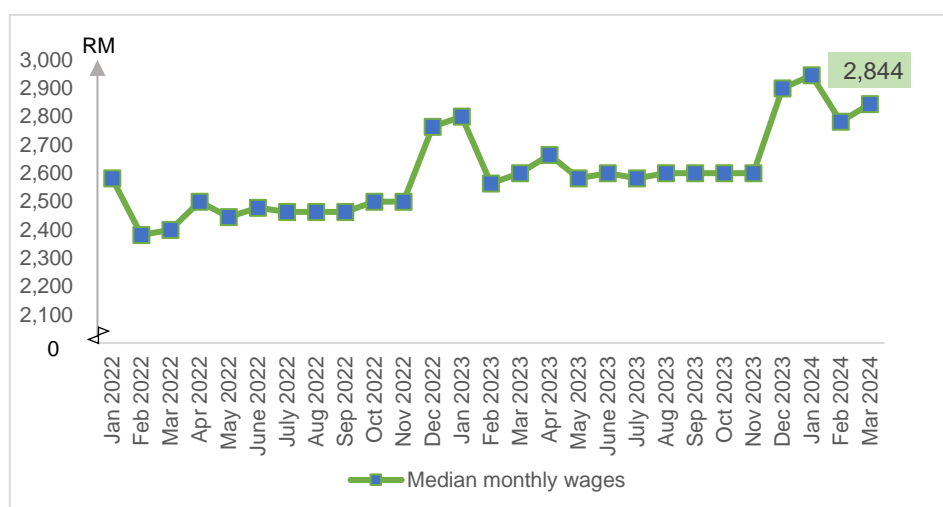
*DOSM is conducting the Agricultural Census in 2024. Please visit <https://www.myagricensus.gov.my/> for more information. The theme is "Agriculture Census, Key to Agricultural Development."*

*The Government of Malaysia has declared National Statistics Day (MyStats Day) on October 20<sup>th</sup> each year. MyStats Day theme is "Statistics is the Essence of Life". DOSM commemorates its 75<sup>th</sup> Diamond Jubilee in 2024.*

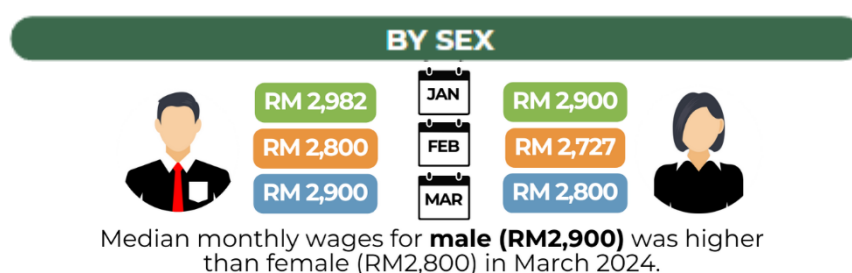
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26 JULY 2024**

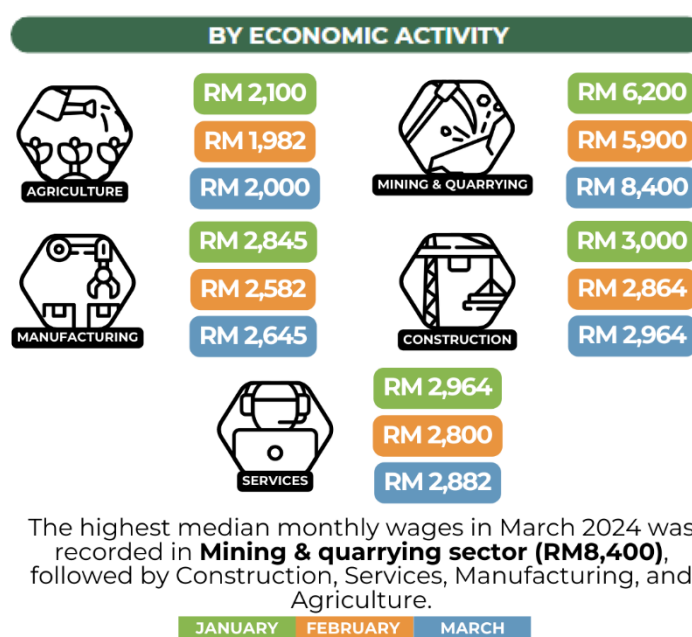
**Exhibit 1: Median Monthly Wages, January 2022 – March 2024**



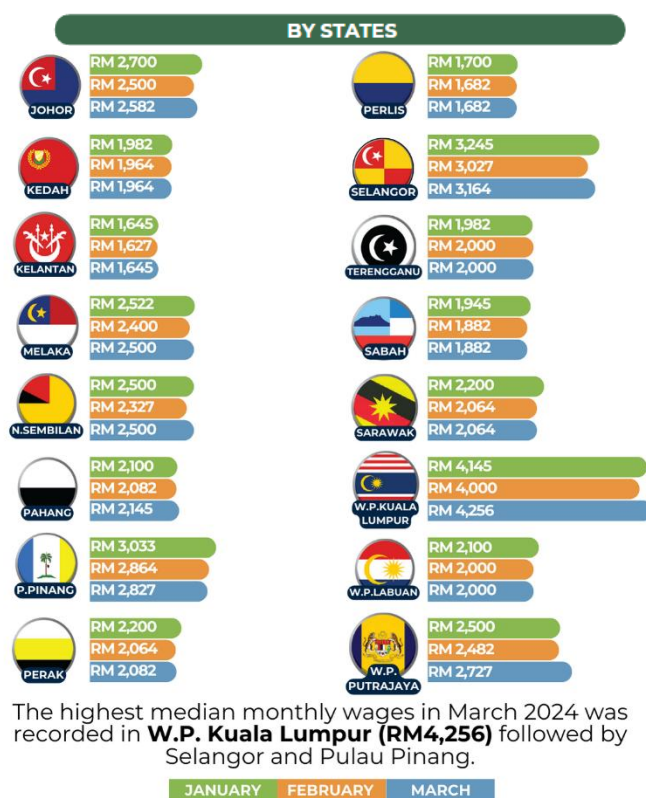
**Exhibit 2: Median Monthly Wages by Gender, January – March 2024**



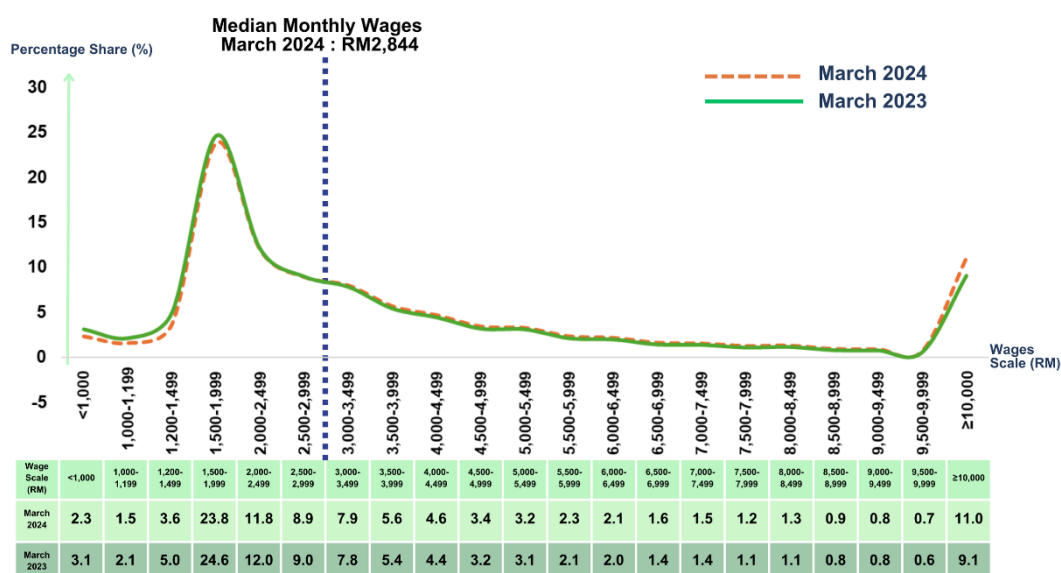
**Exhibit 3: Median Monthly Wages by Economic Activity, January – March 2024**



**Exhibit 4: Median Monthly Wages by State, January – March 2024**



**Exhibit 5: Employee Wages Distribution by Wage Scale, March 2023 & March 2024**



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