



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

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### **LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS, MALAYSIA, DECEMBER AND FOURTH QUARTER 2024**

***Malaysia's unemployment rate in December 2024 hit the lowest rate in nine years at 3.1 per cent with 544.3 thousand unemployed***

**PUTRAJAYA, FEBRUARY 10, 2025** – Malaysia's unemployment rate in December 2024 hit the lowest rate in since 116 months at 3.1 per cent (May 2015: 3.1%), with 544.3 thousand unemployed, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) reported today in the release on **Statistics of the Labour Force, Malaysia, December and Fourth Quarter 2024**. The statistics described the labour supply situation based on the Labour Force Survey conducted by DOSM.

Enlightening on the overall performance for December 2024, Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin said, "Towards the end of 2024, the Malaysian economy is showing resilience and strong growth. Thus, the labour market is also performing well, with the unemployment rate declining further in December 2024. Employment is witnessing steady development, and the number of unemployed persons continued to decrease. Therefore, the number of labour force in December 2024 remained on an uptrend with a rise of 0.1 per cent to 17.32 million persons (November 2024: 17.29 million persons), recording a higher labour force participation rate (LFPR) of 70.6 per cent compared to 70.5 per cent in the last month."

The Chief Statistician of Malaysia also added that the number of employed persons in December 2024 continued its positive trend, reaching 16.78 million persons, with an increase of 0.2 per cent (November 2024: 16.75 million persons). In the meantime, the number of unemployed persons during the month dropped 0.4 per cent from 546.7 thousand persons in November 2024 to 544.3 thousand persons. The unemployment rate in December edged down to 3.1 per cent, recording the lowest rate almost a decade (May 2015: 3.1%; November 2024: 3.2%).

*Discussing the employment situation further, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin stated that in December 2024, the employee's category, which represented 74.9 per cent of the total employed persons, showed a rise of 0.1 per cent to 12.56 million persons (November 2024: 12.54 million persons). Likewise, the category of own-account workers was also on an upward trend, with an increase of 0.4 per cent to 3.12 million persons (November 2024: 3.11 million persons).*

*In terms of economic sector, the number of employed persons in the Services sector steadily increased, largely in Wholesale & retail trade; Art, entertainment & recreation; and Accommodation and food & beverage services activities. On the same note, the Manufacturing, Construction and Agriculture sectors also registered positive employment growth, while employment in Mining & quarrying sector decreased during the month.*

*Further elaboration on the unemployment situation in December 2024, 79.5 per cent of the total unemployed persons were actively unemployed, or those who were available for work and were actively seeking jobs. The number in this category decreased by 0.8 per cent to record 432.8 thousand persons (November 2024: 436.2 thousand persons). Among those actively unemployed, 62.7 per cent had been unemployed for less than three months, while 5.8 per cent were in long-term unemployment for more than a year. Meanwhile, the number of individuals who believed that there were no jobs available, or the inactively unemployed, rose by 0.8 per cent to 111.5 thousand persons (November 2024: 110.6 thousand persons).*

*The unemployment rate for youth aged 15 to 24 years decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 10.3 per cent, recording 299.7 thousand unemployed youths during December 2024 (November 2024: 10.4%; 300.6 thousand persons). Similarly, the unemployment rate for youth aged 15 to 30 years declining 0.1 percentage points to 6.1 per cent, with 410.8 thousand unemployed youths compared to the previous month (November 2024: 6.2%; 415.6 thousand persons).*

*As for the inactivity group, the number of persons outside the labour force showed a slight decline of 0.04 per cent to 7.22 million persons in December 2024 (November 2024: 7.23 million persons). Housework/ family responsibilities were the main reason for being outside the labour force (43.1%), and schooling/ training reasons ranked second with 42.3 per cent.*

*Summarising the overall performance for the fourth quarter of 2024, the Chief Statistician Malaysia highlighted, "During the quarter, the number of labour force showed an upward trend, rising by 0.4 per cent to 17.34 million persons (Q3 2024: 17.26 million persons). The LFPR increased by 0.1 percentage points, recording 70.6 per cent as compared to 70.5 per cent in the previous quarter. In line with this, the number of employed persons increased by 0.5 per cent to 16.79 million persons (Q3 2024: 16.72 million persons). Meanwhile, the number of unemployed persons*

decreased by 0.2 per cent to 546.9 thousand persons (Q3 2024: 547.9 thousand persons), while the unemployment rate remained at 3.2 per cent compared to the third quarter of 2024.”

Dato’ Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin also added that the number of persons who worked less than 30 hours per week decreased by 2.5 per cent to 261.4 thousand persons in the fourth quarter of 2024 (Q3 2024: 268.1 thousand persons). The number of persons who worked less than 30 hours per week and were able and willing to work additional hours or time-related underemployment also decreased by 3.6 per cent to 153.4 thousand persons, contributing to time-related underemployment rate of 0.9 per cent (Q3 2024: 159.1 thousand persons; 1.0%). Moreover, skill-related underemployment, which involves individuals with tertiary education but working in semi-skilled and low-skilled jobs, fell by 0.9 per cent to 1.93 million persons, representing 36.0 per cent of the skill-related underemployment rate (Q3 2024: 1.95 million persons; 36.8%).

In terms of the unemployment rate and LFPR by state, Selangor and Kedah recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 1.7 per cent for the fourth quarter of 2024, followed by Melaka (1.8%), Johor and Pulau Pinang (2.2%). However, nine states experienced an increase in LFPR, indicating higher labour participation in the market. Selangor had the highest LFPR at 76.4 per cent, followed by W.P. Kuala Lumpur (74.9%) and Pulau Pinang (73.2%).

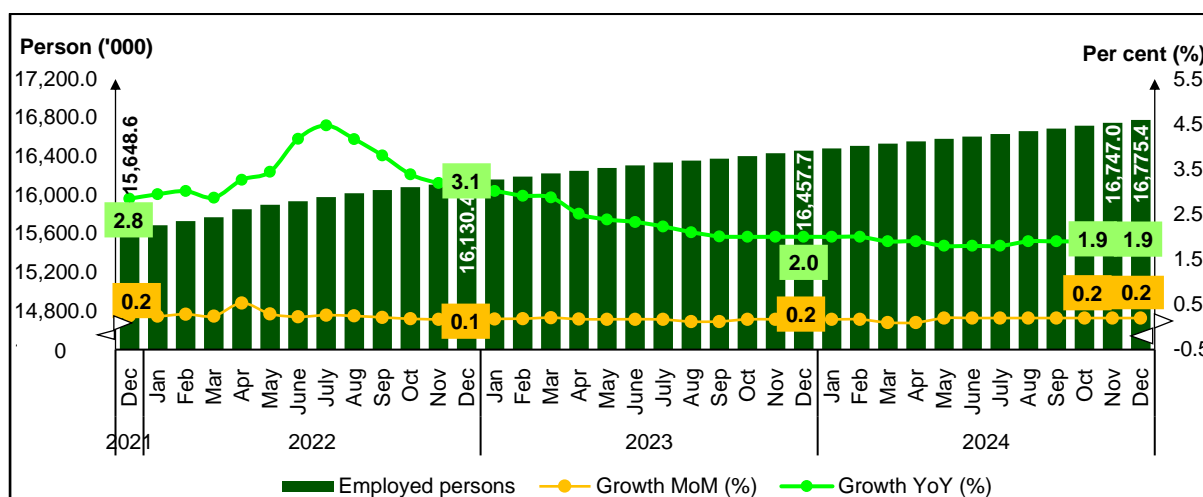
Commenting on the summary of the overall performance of the year 2024, the Chief Statistician of Malaysia stated that based on monthly average data, the LFPR in 2024 increased by 0.4 percentage points to 70.4 per cent as against 70.0 per cent in 2023. In the meantime, the unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage points to 3.3 per cent in 2024, compared to 3.4 per cent recorded in the previous year. Malaysia’s economy is seen to remain on a positive growth trajectory in 2024, driven by strong economic performance despite ongoing uncertainties in the external environment. In line with this performance, the country’s labour market position continued to show a healthier growth momentum throughout the year, steered by encouraging economic growth. In relation to this, the final data for the year 2024 will be published in June 2025.

Concluding the statement, Malaysia’s labour market performed well throughout the year, with unemployment remaining low while employment saw a steady expansion. The positive country’s labour market in 2024 was partly contributed by a sustained labour demand across various sectors, particularly in the private sector, which saw an increase in job opportunities. The anticipation for Malaysia’s labour force in 2025 is comparatively favourable, whereby employment was observed to rise consistently, while unemployment is expected to remain low. Key sectors such as Manufacturing particularly electrical and electronics, and Services will propel job creation.

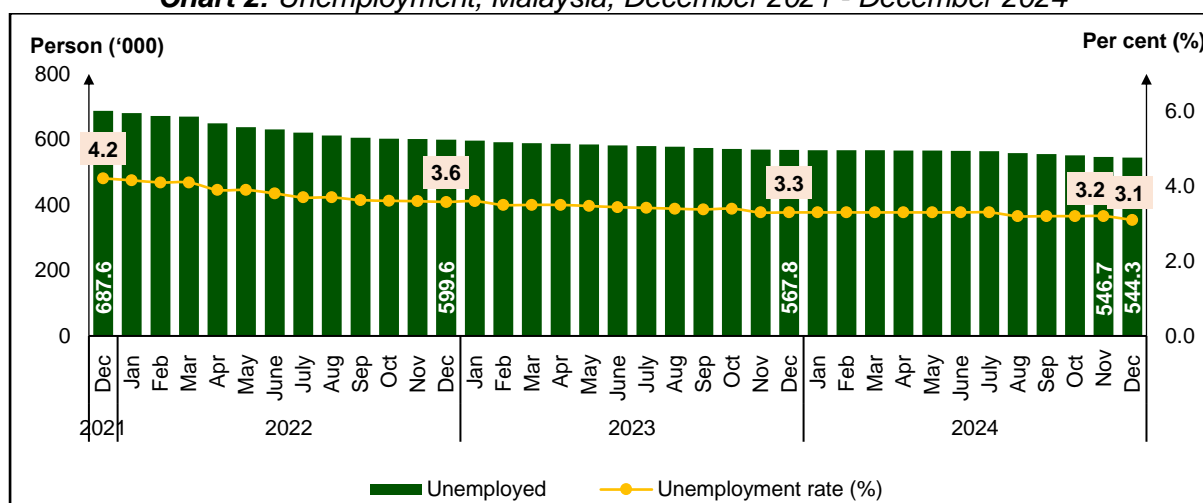
The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) has launched OpenDOSM NextGen as a medium that provides data catalogues and visualisations to facilitate users' analysis and can be accessed through <https://open.dosm.gov.my>.

The Government of Malaysia has declared National Statistics Day (MyStats Day) on October 20<sup>th</sup>. MyStats Day theme is "Statistics is the Essence of Life".

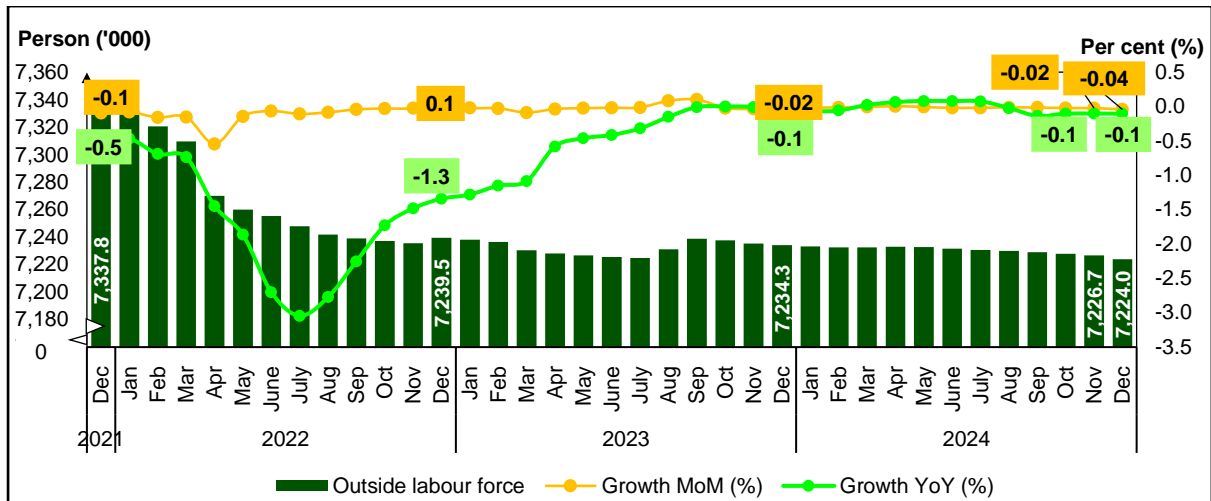
**Chart 1: Employed persons, Malaysia, December 2021 - December 2024**



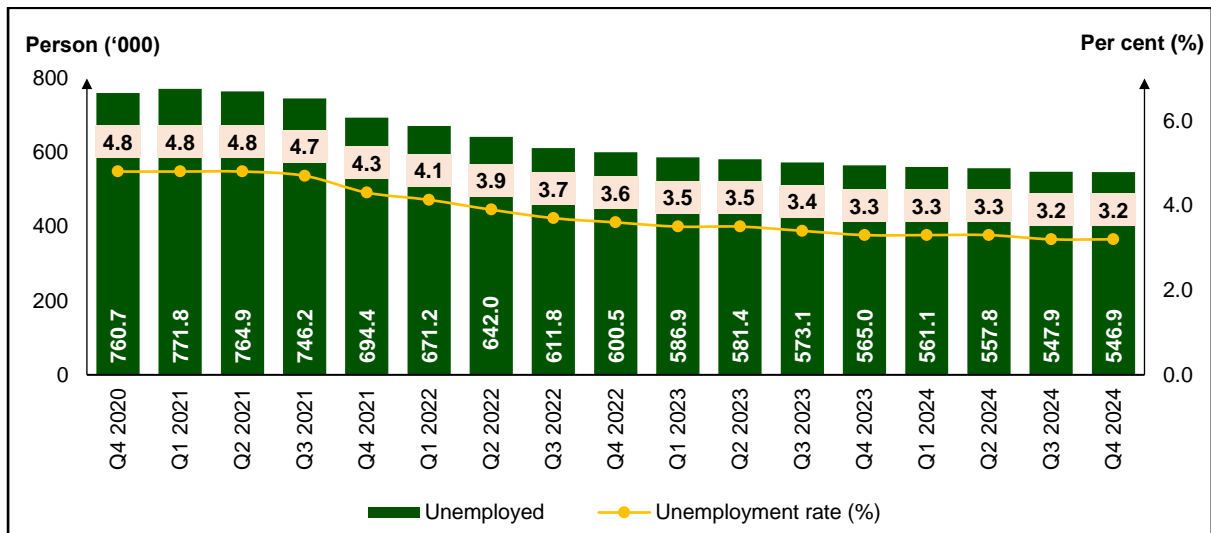
**Chart 2: Unemployment, Malaysia, December 2021 - December 2024**



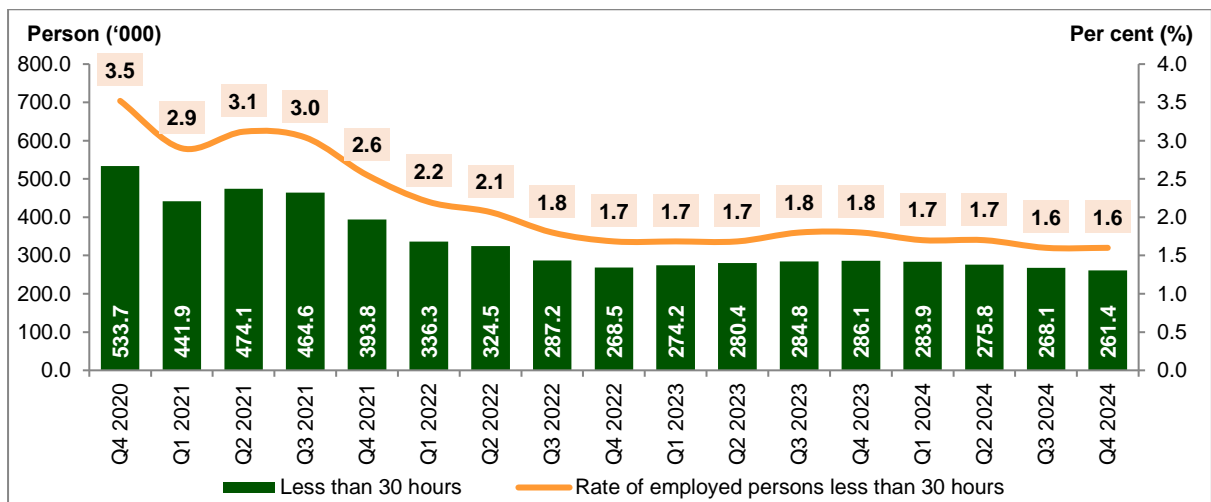
**Chart 3: Outside labour force, Malaysia, December 2021 - December 2024**



**Chart 4: Unemployment, Malaysia, Q4 2020 - Q4 2024**

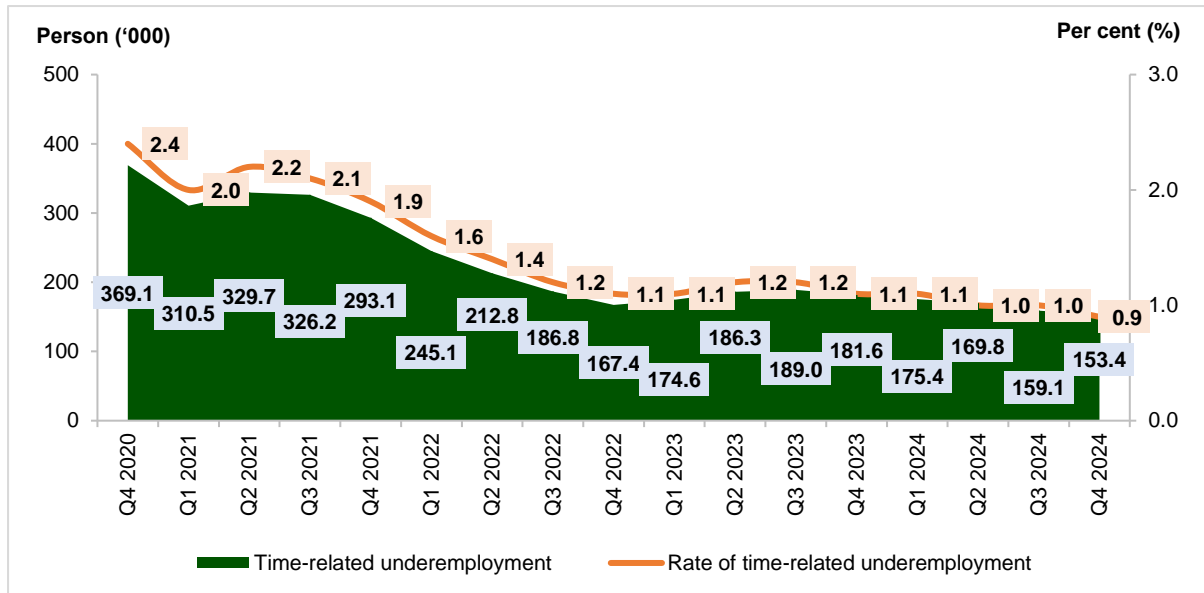


**Chart 5: Employed persons working less than 30 hours, Q4 2020 - Q4 2024**



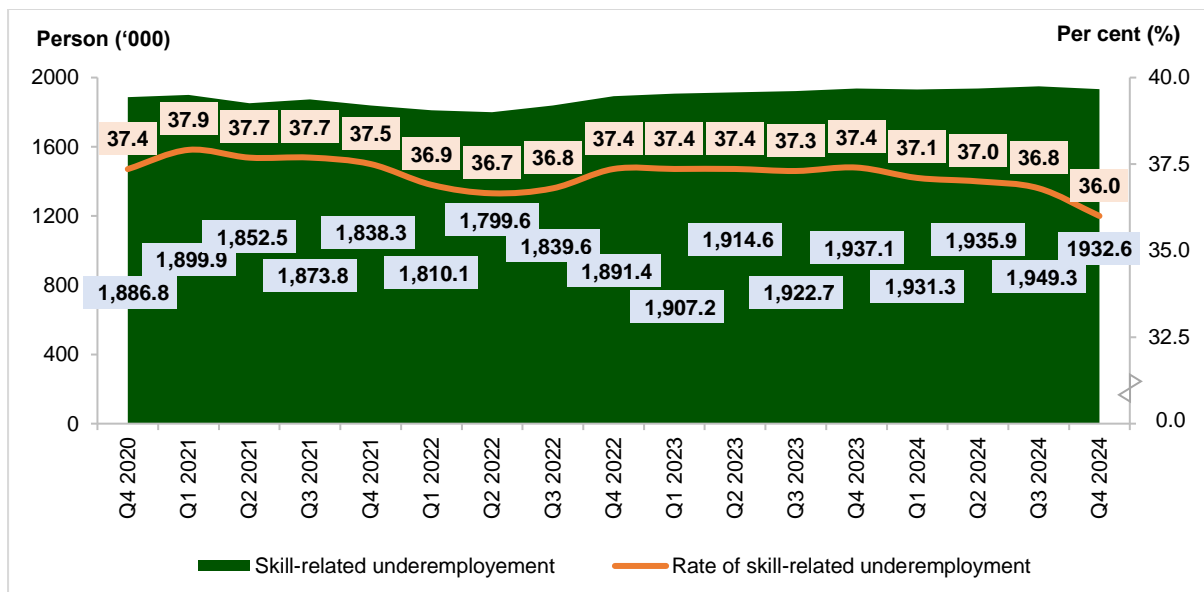
$$\text{Rate of employed persons less than 30 hours} = \frac{\text{Number of employed persons less than 30 hours}}{\text{Number of employed persons}}$$

**Chart 6: Time-related underemployment, Q4 2020 - Q4 2024**



$$\text{Rate of time-related underemployment} = \frac{\text{Number of time-related underemployment}}{\text{Number of employed persons}}$$

**Chart 7: Skill-related underemployment, Q4 2020 - Q4 2024**



Rate of skill-related underemployment	=	$\frac{\text{Number of skill-related underemployment}}{\text{Number of employed persons with tertiary education}}$
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*Released by:*

***THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA***

***DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA***

***10<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2025***