



MEDIA STATEMENT

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LABOUR MARKET REVIEW, FOURTH QUARTER 2024

Malaysia's labour market strengthened with 17.34 million persons in the labour force and labour productivity reached RM25,647 per employment in the fourth quarter of 2024

PUTRAJAYA, FEBRUARY 21, 2025 – Malaysia's labour market strengthened with 17.34 million persons in the labour force and labour productivity reached RM25,647 per employment in the fourth quarter of 2024. The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) released the **Labour Market Review, Fourth Quarter 2024 (LMR Q4 2024)** today, consolidating quarterly labour statistics and providing an in-depth analysis of Malaysia's labour market trends. This edition also features a special article, "Uncovering Hidden Labour Market Gaps in Malaysia: Insights from Experimental Measure of Labour Underutilisation", which examines the application of these experimental measures of labour underutilisation in Malaysia, offering a tool for more targeted policy interventions and fostering sustainable economic development.

Malaysia's labour market continued to strengthen in the fourth quarter of 2024, driven by improvements in both labour supply and demand. This expansion reflects the country's strong economic performance, supported by resilient domestic demand and a favourable environment for industries, resulting in an increase in production and a heightened demand for labour. As a result, Malaysia's economy exceeded expectations in 2024, growing by 5.1 per cent. This growth was also boosted by strong investment expansion and steady growth in goods and services exports. These factors contributed to higher employment, increased job opportunities, and overall improvements in labour force participation.

Commenting on the overall performance for the fourth quarter of 2024, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, Chief Statistician of Malaysia, stated that labour supply remained strong as the labour force expanded significantly with an increase of 428.0 thousand

persons, recording 17.34 million persons as compared to 16.91 million persons in the fourth quarter of 2023. This performance is primarily contributed by a 2.7 per cent year-on-year increment in employed persons, reaching 16.79 million persons (Q4 2023: 16.35 million persons). In the meantime, the labour force participation rate (LFPR) rose by 0.5 percentage points year-on-year, reaching 70.6 per cent (Q4 2023: 70.1 per cent). Meanwhile, the number of unemployed persons decreased to 546.9 thousand persons (Q4 2023: 565.0 thousand persons), while the unemployment rate remained at 3.2 per cent.

Observing the underemployment situation, the Chief Statistician stated, "Further growth in employment throughout the fourth quarter of 2024 led to a decrease of 8.6 per cent year-on-year in the number of persons who worked less than 30 hours per week, with a total of 261.4 thousand persons. Accordingly, the number of persons in time-related underemployment decreased by 15.5 per cent year-on-year to 153.4 thousand persons, with a rate of 0.9 per cent. On the other hand, skilled-related underemployment, which indicated those with tertiary education but were employed in semi-skilled and low-skilled occupation categories, recorded a total of 1.93 million persons as compared to 1.94 million persons in the fourth quarter of 2023. The rate of skilled-related underemployment in this quarter shows a declining trend to 36.0 per cent (Q4 2023: 1.94 million; 37.4%).

According to the Chief Statistician of Malaysia, labour demand in Malaysia remained stable with 9.05 million jobs recorded in the private sector, representing a 1.3 per cent annual increase. Of these, 97.9 per cent (8.86 million jobs) were filled jobs, while 2.1 per cent (193.6 thousand) were vacancies, mainly in the Manufacturing sector, which accounted for 57.1 per cent (110.5 thousand) of total vacancies. Additionally, the number of jobs created saw an improvement of 1.3 per cent year-on-year, recording 31.5 thousand in the fourth quarter of 2024 compared to 31.1 thousand in the fourth quarter of 2023.

While in the viewpoint of labour productivity, measured by value added per employment, rose by 2.2 per cent year-on-year to RM25,647 per person in the fourth quarter of 2024 (Q4 2023: RM25,101). During the same period, labour productivity per hour worked also increased by 1.4 per cent year-on-year to RM44.2 per hour worked (Q4 2023: RM43.6).

Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin concluded his statement on today's release by saying, "Malaysia steps into 2025 with positive confidence, supported by a stable labour market, strong economic growth, rising investments, and a competitive import-export sector. The government's strategic initiatives, along with Malaysia's key role as ASEAN Chair this year, present significant opportunities to strengthen the domestic economy,

enhance its global standing, and reinforce regional unity. Amid geopolitical and economic uncertainties shaping the global landscape, Malaysia's leadership, guided by the 'ASEAN Community Vision 2045,' provides a platform to showcase national stability, attract greater investment, and solidify its position as a regional hub."

Time series statistics and further information on the labour market can be obtained from the Malaysia Labour Market Interactive Data (MyLMID) portal by visiting <https://mbls.dosm.gov.my/mylmid/> or scanning the QR code below, or accessing DOSM eStatistics at <https://www.dosm.gov.my/portal-estatistik>.



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

The Government of Malaysia has declared National Statistics Day (MyStats Day) on October 20th each year. MyStats Day theme is "Statistics is the Essence of Life."

Released by:

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