



## MEDIA STATEMENT

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY  
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

Block C6 & C7, Complex C,  
Federal Government Administrative Centre, Precinct 1,  
62514 Federal Territory of Putrajaya  
Telephone : 03 - 8090 4681

### **LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS, MALAYSIA, AUGUST 2025**

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***August's unemployed declined to 520.0 thousand persons, with an unemployment rate of 3.0 per cent***

**PUTRAJAYA, OCTOBER 10, 2025** – August's unemployed declined to 520.0 thousand persons, with an unemployment rate of 3.0 per cent, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM). The figures were detailed in the **Labour Force Statistics, Malaysia, August 2025** release. The report provides insights into Malaysia's labour supply, drawing from findings collected through the Labour Force Survey conducted by DOSM.

Commenting on the overall performance for August 2025, Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin said, "Malaysia's continued strong economic performance drove the labour market to remain stable and resilient in August 2025. This was reflected in the continuous increase in the number of employed persons, accompanied by a lower number of unemployed. Thus, the labour force further strengthened during the month, rising by 0.2 per cent month-on-month to 17.51 million persons (July 2025: 17.47 million persons). As a result, the labour force participation rate edged up by 0.1 percentage points to 70.9 per cent (July 2025: 70.8%), signalling higher labour participation in the market."

In addition, the number of employed persons in August also rose by 0.2 per cent to 16.99 million persons (July 2025: 16.95 million persons). Meanwhile, the number of unemployed persons within the month declined by 0.3 per cent to 520.0 thousand persons, reversing the previous month's increase (July 2025: 521.6 thousand persons). The unemployment rate in August stood at 3.0 per cent, as in last month.

The Chief Statistician Malaysia also highlighted that out of the total employed persons in August 2025, 74.9 per cent were classified into the employees' category. This category showed a growth of 0.2 per cent to 12.73 million persons during the month (July 2025: 12.71 million persons). On the same note, the number of own-account

*workers edged up by 0.5 per cent to register 3.22 million persons, compared to the previous month (July 2025: 3.21 million persons).*

*Across economic sectors, employment in the Services sector continued to register strong growth in August, notably within Wholesale & retail trade; Information & communication activities; as well as Accommodation and food & beverage services. Similarly, the number of employed persons in the Manufacturing, Construction, Mining & quarrying and Agriculture sectors also experienced an upward trend during the month.*

*Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin also stated that the number of persons working less than 30 hours per week continued to decline by 0.5 per cent to 239.3 thousand persons in August 2025 (July 2025: 240.5 thousand persons). Similarly, the number of persons working less than 30 hours per week but willing and available to work additional hours or classified as time-related underemployment dropped by 2.4 per cent to 131.6 thousand persons, recording the time-related underemployment rate of 0.8 per cent (July 2025: 134.8 thousand persons; 0.8%).*

*In providing further insights into the unemployment scenario for August 2025, the Chief Statistician Malaysia explained that the actively unemployed, or those who were available for work and were actively seeking jobs, comprised 79.8 per cent of the total unemployed persons in August 2025. This group recorded a decrease of 0.3 per cent to 414.9 thousand persons (July 2025: 416.2 thousand persons). Among them, 64.5 per cent are those who had been unemployed for less than three months, while 5.0 per cent were those who were in long-term unemployment for more than a year. Likewise, the inactively unemployed, or those who believed there were no jobs available, fell by 0.3 per cent to 105.1 thousand persons, as against 105.5 thousand persons in July 2025.*

*The youth unemployment rate among those aged 15 to 24 years remained unchanged at 10.2 per cent, registering 298.0 thousand unemployed youths in August 2025 (July 2025: 298.9 thousand persons). Similarly, the unemployment rate for youth aged 15 to 30 years stood at 6.2 per cent, with 398.7 thousand unemployed youths (July 2025: 399.0 thousand persons).*

*The number of outside labour force rose by 0.2 per cent to 7.20 million persons in August 2025 as compared to 7.19 million persons in the previous month. The main reason for being outside the labour force was due to housework/ family responsibilities, which encompassed 43.7 per cent, followed by the schooling/ training category at 40.7 per cent.*

*Concluding the statement, Malaysia's labour market is expected to remain resilient in the coming months, with the unemployment rate potentially remaining low, supported by stable economic growth, increased labour demand, and the recovery of key sectors*

such as Services and Manufacturing. Overall, the labour market is on a strong path and is anticipated to achieve its best performance in over a decade, provided the current positive momentum is sustained and continues to show encouraging progress.

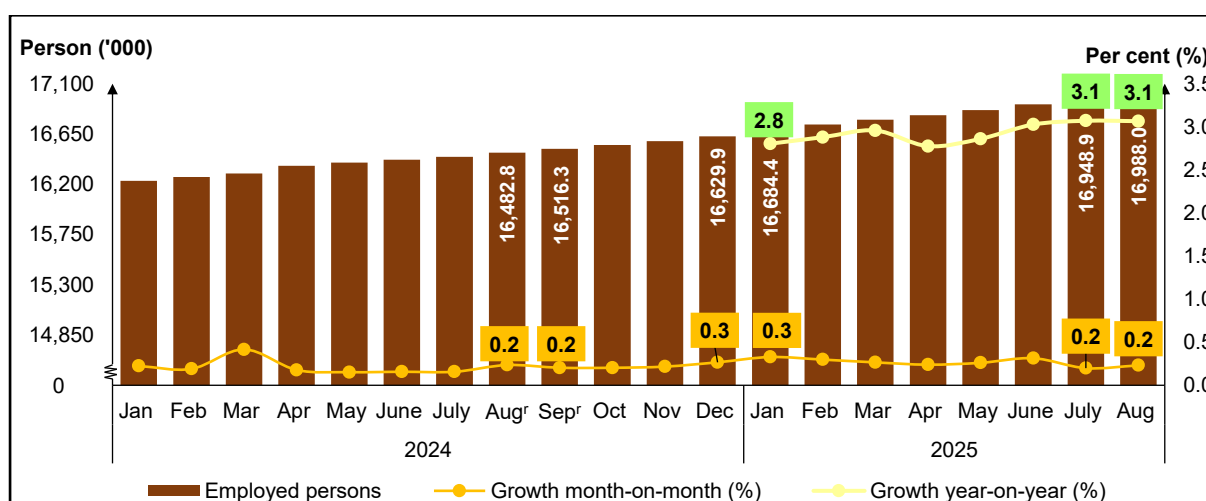
**ASEAN-Malaysia 2025 Chairmanship:** The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) will chair the 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Community Statistical System Committee (ACSS15) which aims to strengthen the statistical cooperation towards sustainable regional development.

Malaysia, for the first time, ranked as number one (1) globally in the biennial Open Data Inventory (ODIN) 2024/25 report released by Open Data Watch (ODW), surpassing 197 other countries. This achievement marks a significant leap from its 67<sup>th</sup> position in the ODIN 2022/23 assessment.

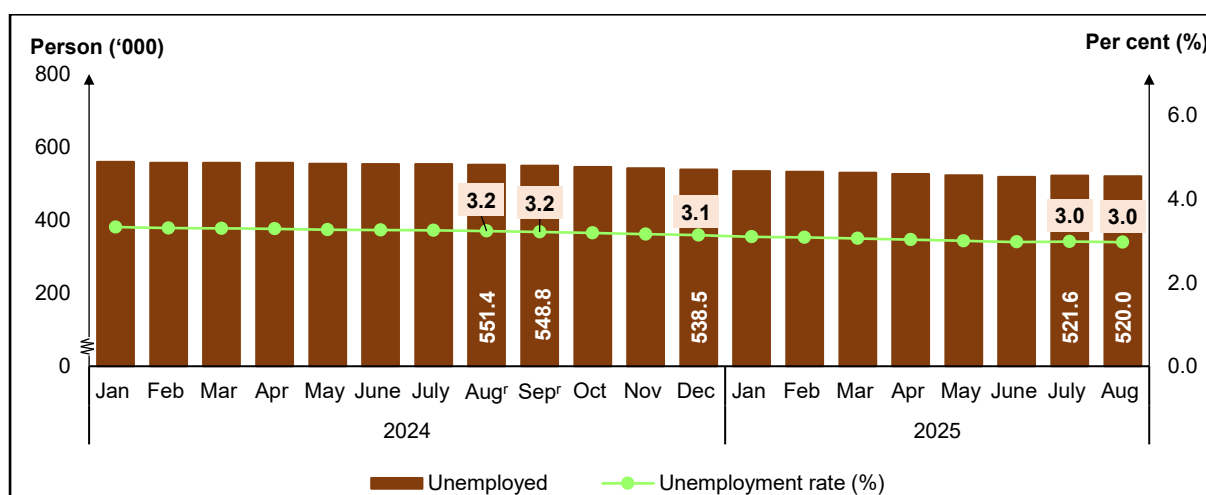
The Government of Malaysia has declared October 20<sup>th</sup> as National Statistics Day (MyStats Day), with the theme 'Statistics is the Essence of Life'. Meanwhile, the Fourth World Statistics Day will be celebrated on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025, with the theme 'Driving Change with Quality Statistics and Data for Everyone'.

OpenDOSM NextGen is a medium that provides data catalogue and visualisations to facilitate users' analysis and can be accessed through <https://open.dosm.gov.my>.

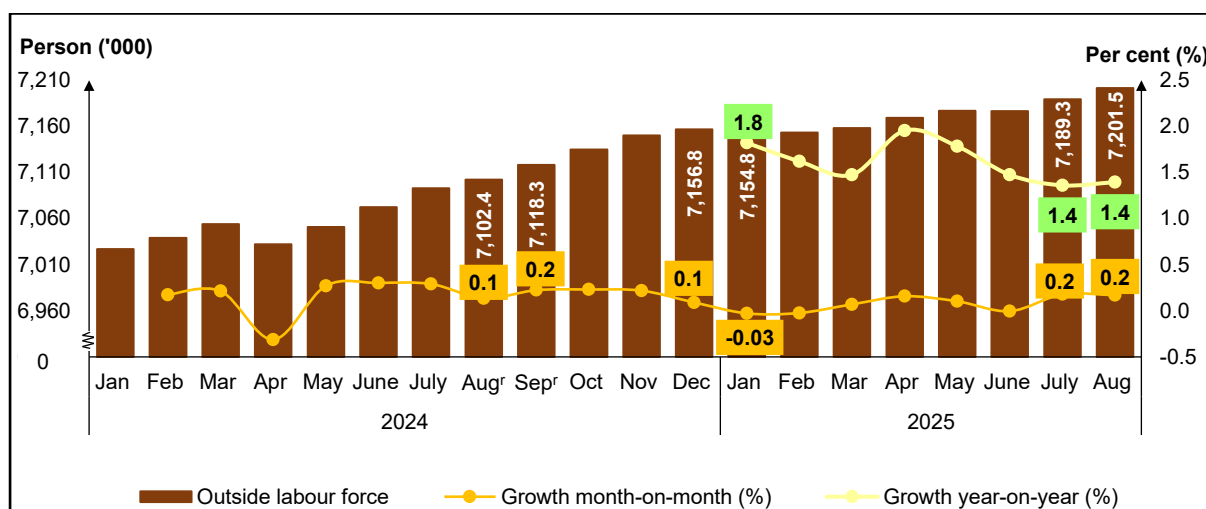
**Chart 1: Employed persons, Malaysia, January 2024 - August 2025**



**Chart 2: Unemployment, Malaysia, January 2024 - August 2025**



**Chart 3: Outside labour force, Malaysia, January 2024 - August 2025**



*Note:*

1. The Labour Force Survey indicators from January 2024 onwards are estimated based on the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia 2020
2. <sup>r</sup> Revision based on the current population estimates from the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia 2020

*Released by:*

**THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA**

**DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA**

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