



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

**LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS, MALAYSIA,
NOVEMBER 2025**

November's unemployment rate fell to its lowest level since December 2014 at 2.9 per cent, with the number of unemployed at 518.4 thousand persons

PUTRAJAYA, JANUARY 09, 2026 – The unemployment rate in November 2025 dropped to its lowest level in 11 years, the lowest in 132 months, with the number of unemployed recorded at 518.4 thousand persons. The last time the unemployment rate fell below 3 per cent was in November 2014, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM). The figures were detailed in the **Statistics of the Labour Force, Malaysia, November 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 in November 2025, Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin said, "The favourable economic conditions during the month continued to support steady growth in the labour market. Accordingly, the labour force expanded by 0.2 per cent to reach 17.61 million persons in November 2025 (October 2025: 17.58 million persons). The labour force participation rate during the month was unchanged at 70.9 per cent as in the previous month."

The total number of employed persons was on an increasing trend in November 2025, rising by 0.2 per cent to 17.09 million persons as compared to 17.06 million persons in October 2025. Meanwhile, the number of unemployed persons decreased slightly by 0.1 per cent to 518.4 thousand persons (October 2025: 518.9 thousand persons). The unemployment rate in November dropped by 0.1 percentage points to 2.9 per cent (October 2025: 3.0%), the lowest rate in eleven years.

The Chief Statistician Malaysia also stated that out of the total employed persons during the month, 74.8 per cent were classified into the employees' category. This category recorded an increase of 0.1 per cent, reaching 12.78 million persons as against 12.76 million persons in October 2025. Similarly, the number of own-account workers was also increased by 0.3 per cent to 3.26 million persons, compared to the previous month at 3.25 million persons.

In addition, the number of employed persons in the Services sector continued to show steady growth, particularly in Human health and social work activities; Wholesale & retail trade, and Accommodation and food & beverage services activities. Likewise, the Agriculture, Manufacturing, Construction and Mining & quarrying sectors also registered increases in employment.

According to Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, the number of persons working less than 30 hours per week increased by 1.6 per cent to 237.0 thousand persons in November 2025, compared to 233.2 thousand persons in October 2025. Concurrently, the time-related underemployment, defined as persons working less than 30 hours per week but willing and available to work additional hours, increased by 2.7 per cent to record 129.9 thousand persons (October 2025: 126.4 thousand persons). As a result, the time-related underemployment rate rose to 0.8 per cent in November 2025 (October 2025: 0.7%).

Further insight into the unemployment scenario for November 2025, the Chief Statistician Malaysia stated that those who were available for work and were actively seeking jobs, or classified as actively unemployed, accounted for 79.8 per cent of the total unemployed persons. This group registered a decrease of 0.1 per cent, with the number easing to 413.5 thousand persons (October 2025: 413.8 thousand persons). Among the actively unemployed, 64.4 per cent were those who had been unemployed for less than three months, whereas those who were in long-term unemployment for more than a year encompassed 5.0 per cent. In the meantime, the inactively unemployed or those who believed that there were no jobs available, declined by 0.2 per cent to 104.9 thousand persons as compared to 105.1 thousand persons in October 2025.

The unemployment rate among youths aged 15 to 24 years remained unchanged at 10.1 per cent in November 2025, with 297.9 thousand unemployed youths, as compared to 297.6 thousand persons in October 2025. Likewise, the unemployment rate for youths aged 15 to 30 years stood at 6.1 per cent, registering 398.0 thousand unemployed youths, lower than the 398.5 thousand persons recorded in October 2025.

As for the outside labour force, the numbers posted a marginal increase of 0.01 per cent to 7.22 million persons during the month (October 2025: 7.22 million persons). Housework/ family responsibilities were the largest composition of the outside labour force, with a share of 43.7 per cent. This was followed by the schooling/ training category at 40.8 per cent.

Concluding the statement, Malaysia's labour market is expected to remain stable and continue to grow positively in the coming months, with new job opportunities emerging in strategic industries. Moreover, workforce skills will be further enhanced through reskilling and upskilling initiatives. At the same time, more balanced regional development is anticipated, with employment opportunities expanding into rural areas. Therefore, Malaysia's labour market is forecast to remain competitive, inclusive, and

resilient in addressing global challenges, while leveraging opportunities from digital transformation and the green agenda.

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) is conducting the Economic Census 2026 (BE2026), themed “Data Nadi Ekonomi Rakyat”. The sixth Economic Census, running from 5th January to 31st October 2026. BE2026 aims to collect comprehensive, structured data from all registered and unregistered business establishments in Malaysia to assess the nation’s economic performance, structure and characteristics in an evidence-based manner.

Malaysia has, for the first time, successfully secured the top position 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 67th position in the ODIN 2022/23 assessment.

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 - November 2025

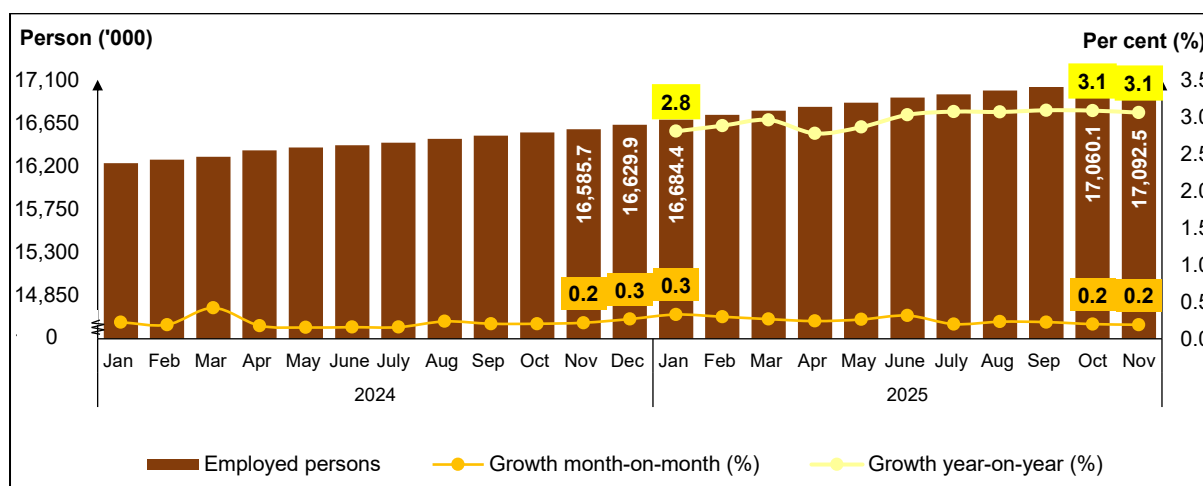


Chart 2: Unemployment, Malaysia, January 2024 - November 2025

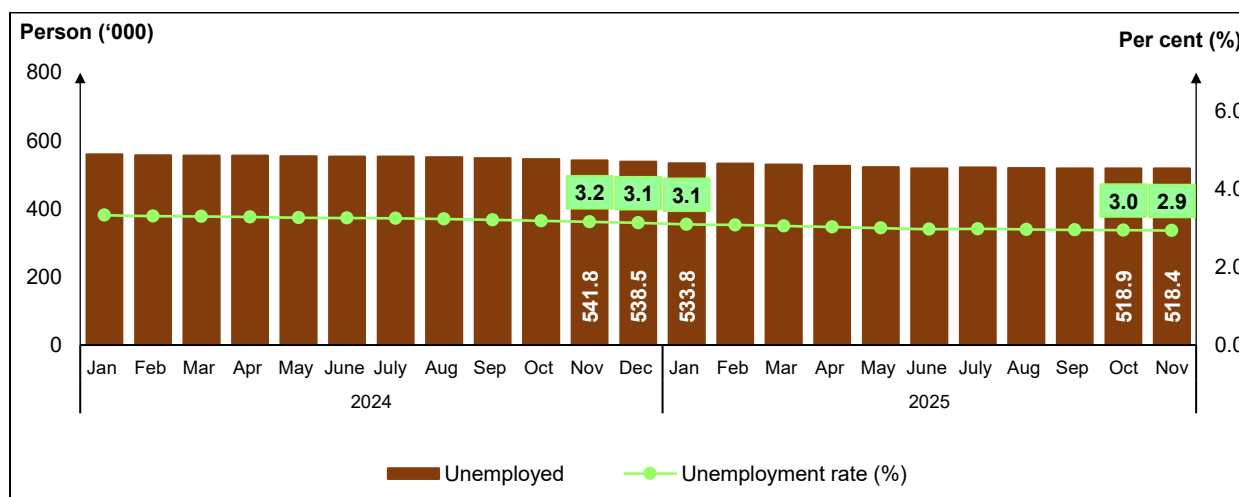
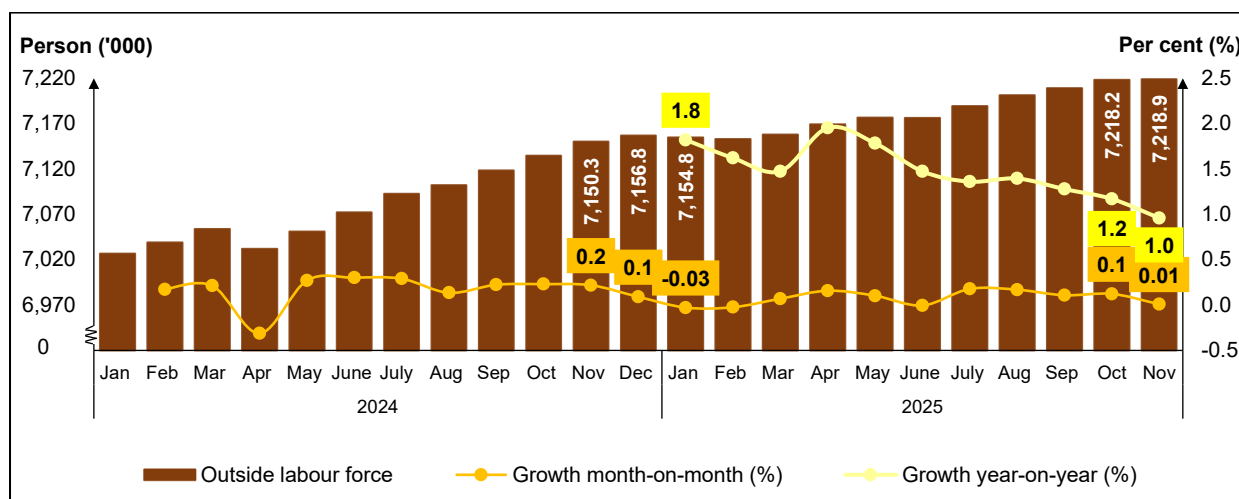


Chart 3: Outside labour force, Malaysia, January 2024 - November 2025



Note: The Labour Force Survey indicators from January 2024 onwards are estimated based on the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia 2020

Released by:

THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

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