



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY  
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

## MEDIA STATEMENT

### EMPLOYEE WAGES STATISTICS (FORMAL SECTOR) REPORT, THIRD QUARTER 2025

#### National median monthly wage of formal employees rose to RM2,864 in September 2025

**PUTRAJAYA, 27 JANUARY 2026** – The median monthly wage of 7.06 million formal employees stood at RM2,864 in September 2025, an increase of 4.3 per cent year-on-year (September 2024: RM2,745), according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) in its **Third Quarter 2025 Employee Wages Statistics (Formal Sector) Report**. The improvement in wages coincided with steady employment gains, with the number of formal employees increasing 3.5 per cent year-on-year in July, August and September 2025, pointing to continued resilience in the formal labour market through the third quarter 2025.

Looking at the comparison by sex, male formal employees comprised 55.1 per cent (3.89 million persons) of the total formal employees in September 2025, received higher median monthly wage than female formal employees. The median monthly wage for male formal employees recorded at RM 2,900 while female formal employees who made up 44.9 per cent (3.17 million persons) of total formal employees received RM2,800.

Wage statistics by age group showed that formal employees aged 45 to 49 years continued to record the highest median monthly wage throughout the third quarter of 2025 (September 2025: RM3,800; August 2025: RM3,800; July 2025: RM3,800). All age groups experienced consistent year-on-year increases in median monthly wage. The highest growth was recorded among employees aged below 20 years, with the median monthly wage reaching RM1,700 in September 2025, an increase of 13.3 per cent compared with the same period of the previous year.

An analysis of wages by economic activity showed that all sectors recorded increases in median monthly wage across all three months of the third quarter of 2025. Despite, contributing 0.6 per cent of formal sector employment, the Mining & quarrying sector continued to record the highest median monthly wage at RM6,600 in September 2025, representing an 11.9 per cent year-on-year increase. Meanwhile, the Agriculture sector, accounting for 1.8 per cent of citizen formal employees, recorded the lowest median monthly wage at RM2,245.

Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur recorded the highest median monthly wage at RM4,064, followed by Selangor at RM3,127 and Pulau Pinang at RM2,927. Meanwhile, the lowest median monthly wage was recorded in Kelantan and Perlis at RM1,800, as well as Sabah and Kedah at RM2,000 during the same period.

Chief Statistician Malaysia highlighted that 8.8 per cent of Malaysian's formal employees earned monthly wages below RM1,700 in September 2025, which was reduced by 13.5 percentage points as compared to September 2024. Furthermore, percentile analysis revealed that the bottom 10 per cent of Malaysian formal employees received monthly wages of RM1,700 or less, while employees in the 90th percentile earned at least RM9,000 per month. This disparity illustrates that employees in the 90th percentile earned five times more than those in the lowest wage group, underscoring the prevailing wage gap between the highest and lowest earners.

Concluding his statement on today's release, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin stated, "These statistics are based on administrative data sources obtained from relevant agencies, which focus on the citizens employed 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 an extensive understanding of Malaysia's labour market."

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.

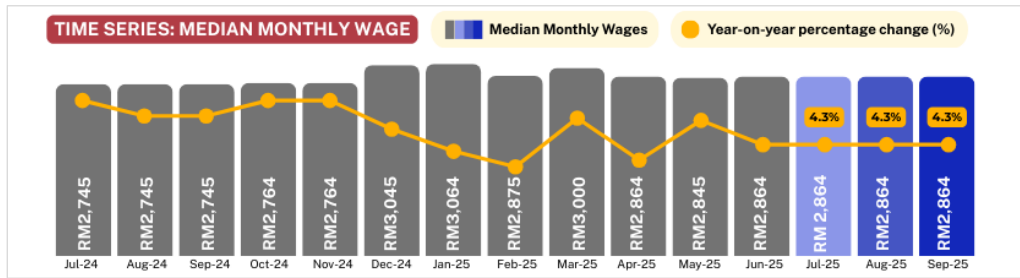
OpenDOSM NextGen is a medium that provides data catalogue and visualisations to facilitate users' analysis and can be accessed through <https://open.dosm.gov.my>.

MyLabourHub is a comprehensive platform that integrates institutions, data and technology to deliver relevant, accurate and accessible labour market information. Access the labour market data for Malaysia at <https://mylabourhub.dosm.gov.my>.

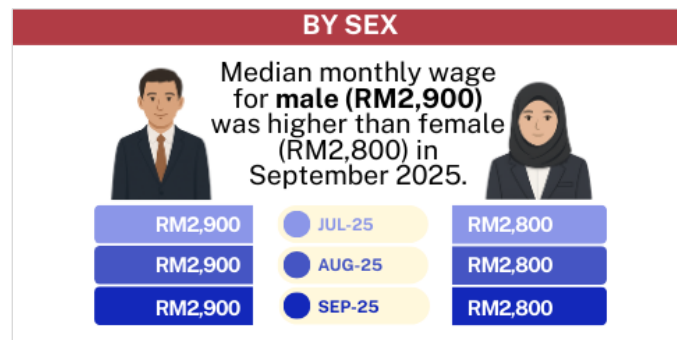
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**DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA**  
**27 JANUARY 2026**

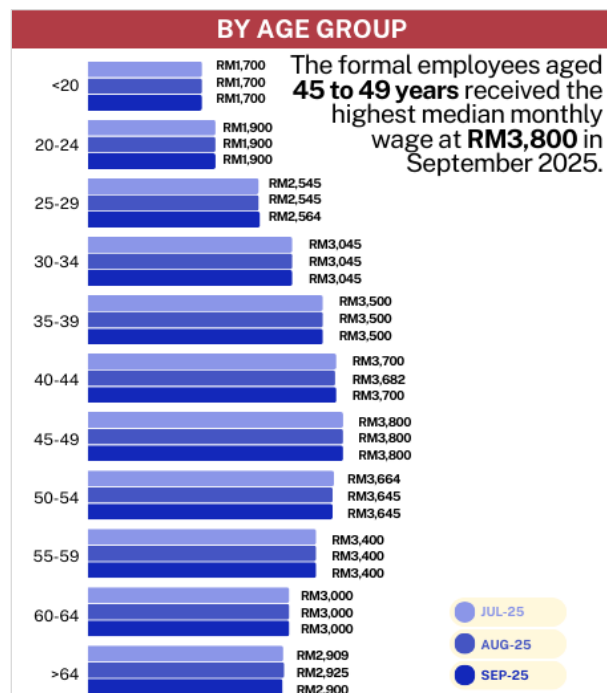
**Exhibit 1: Median Monthly Wage, July 2024 – September 2025**



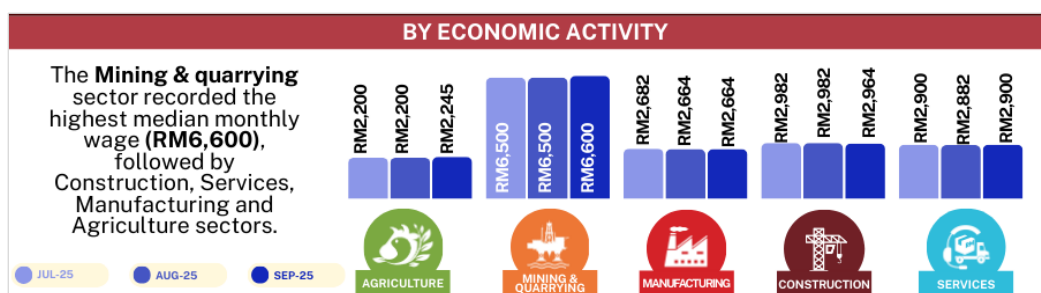
**Exhibit 2: Median Monthly Wage by Sex, July – September 2025**



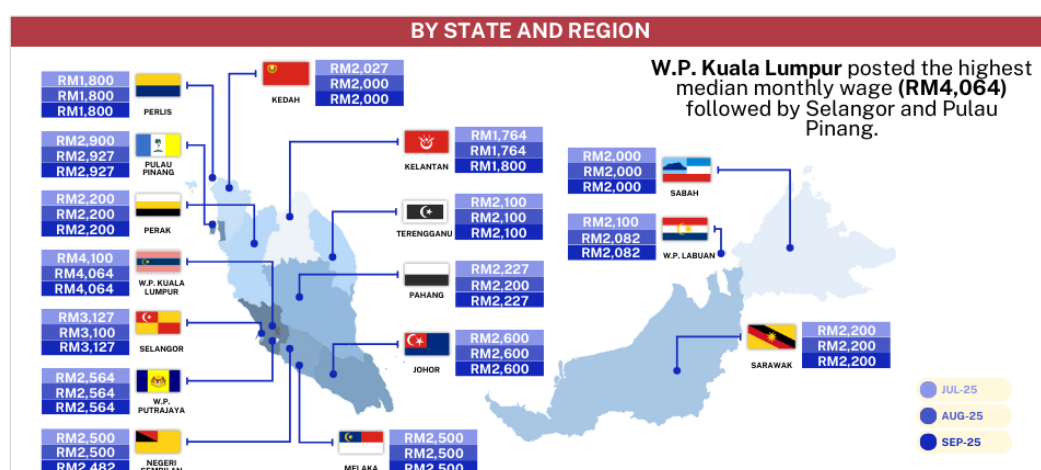
**Exhibit 3: Median Monthly Wage by Age Group, July – September 2025**



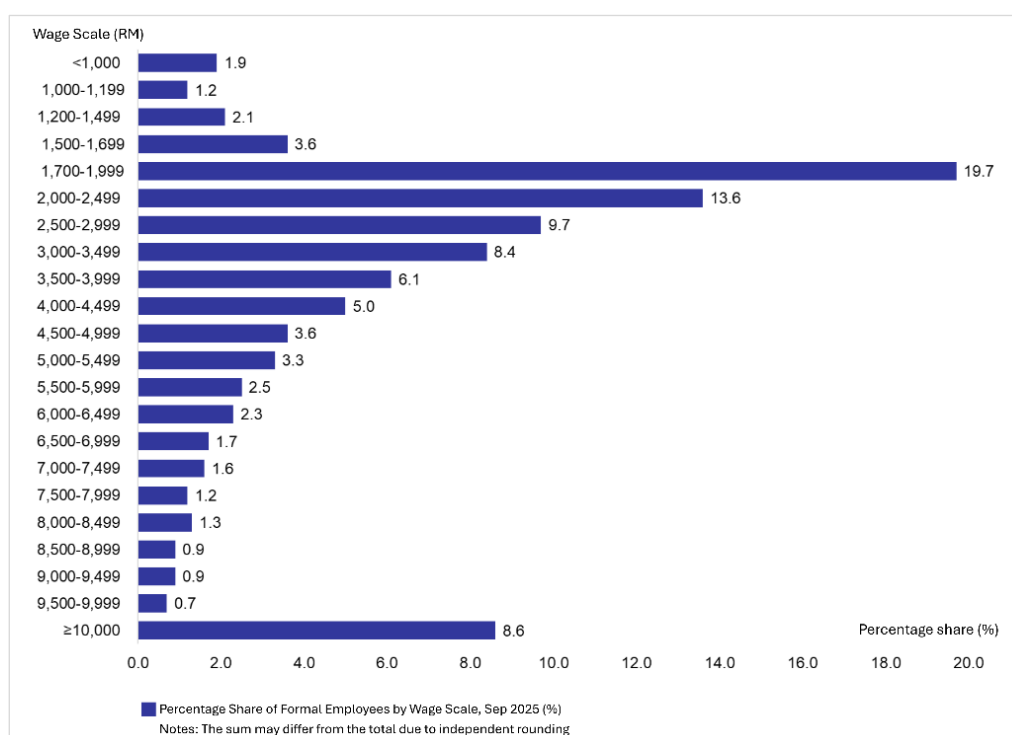
**Exhibit 4: Median Monthly Wage by Economic Activity, July – September 2025**



**Exhibit 5: Median Monthly Wage by State, July – September 2025**



**Exhibit 6: Distribution of Formal Employees by Wage Scale, September 2025**



**Exhibit 7: Wage Distribution of Formal Employees by Percentile, September 2025**

