



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

**EMPLOYEE WAGES STATISTICS (FORMAL SECTOR) REPORT
FIRST QUARTER 2026**

Formal sector employees earned a median monthly wage of RM3,027 per month in March 2026.

PUTRAJAYA, July 29, 2026 – The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) reported that the formal sector employees earned a median monthly wage of RM3,027 per month in March 2026, according to the **Employee Wages Statistics (Formal Sector) First Quarter 2026**.

In today's statement, DOSM reported that the Malaysia's labour market remained on a positive trajectory, supported by continued employment growth. This was reflected in the increase in the number of Malaysian formal employees to 7.05 million persons in March 2026, representing a 3.8 per cent year-on-year growth compared to March 2025.

By sex, male formal employees who accounted for 55.0 per cent or 3.88 million persons of the total Malaysian formal employees received median monthly wage of RM3,064 in March 2026, higher than female formal employees who received RM3,000. Female formal employees represent 45.0 per cent or 3.17 million persons of the total Malaysian formal employees.

Wage statistics by age group showed that Malaysian formal employees aged 45 to 49 years continued to record the highest median monthly wage throughout the first quarter of 2026 (March 2026: RM4,100; February 2026: RM4,145; January 2026: RM4,156). All age groups recorded positive growth in the median monthly wage except for the age group below 20 in March 2026. The highest year-on-year growth was recorded among employees aged 55 to 59 years, while the median monthly wage for employees aged below 20 years remained unchanged at RM1,700 since February 2025.

By economic activity, the Mining & quarrying sector, which accounted for only 0.5 per cent of all Malaysian formal employees, recorded the highest median monthly wage at RM9,678 in March 2026. In contrast, the Agriculture sector, representing

1.8 per cent of formal employees, recorded the lowest median monthly wage at RM2,327, reflecting a year-on-year increase of 5.8 per cent during the same period.

Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur recorded the highest median monthly wage at RM4,527, followed by Selangor at RM3,445 and Pulau Pinang at RM3,064 in March 2026. In contrast, Kelantan, Perlis and Sabah recorded the lowest median monthly wage at RM1,827, RM1,855 and RM2,082 respectively.

A total of 7.9 per cent of Malaysian formal employees earned monthly wage below RM1,700 in March 2026, which representing a decrease of 2.0 percentage points as compared to March 2025. Furthermore, percentile analysis revealed that the bottom 10 per cent of Malaysian formal employees received monthly wage of RM1,700 or less, while employees in the top 10 per cent earned at least RM11,500 per month. This disparity illustrates that employees in the 90th percentile earned more than six times than those in the lowest wage group, underscoring the prevailing wage gap between the highest and lowest earners.

Overall, Malaysia's formal labour market continued to demonstrate stable and resilient performance in the first quarter of 2026, supported by growth in the number of formal employees and an increase in median wages. Moving forward, DOSM will continue to strengthen the production of labour market statistics through the integration of multiple data sources to provide more comprehensive, timely and evidence-based information in support of national planning and policy formulation.

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) is conducting the **Economic Census 2026 (BE2026)**, with themed “*Data Nadi Ekonomi Rakyat*”. The sixth Economic Census, will be carried out from **5th January to 31st October 2026**. BE2026 aims to collect comprehensive and 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.

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>.

Released by:

THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA
29th JULY 2026

Chart 1: Median Monthly Wage, January 2025 – March 2026

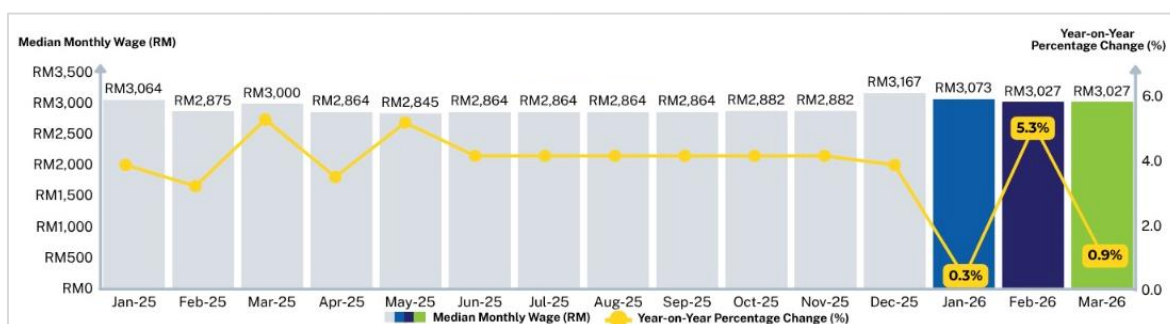


Exhibit 1: Median Monthly Wage by Sex, January – March 2026

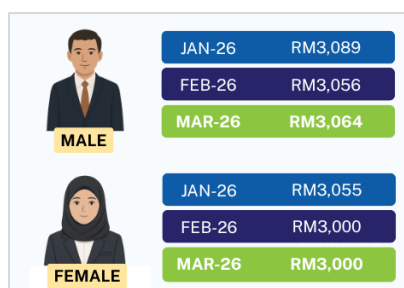


Chart 2: Median Monthly Wage by Age Group, January – March 2026

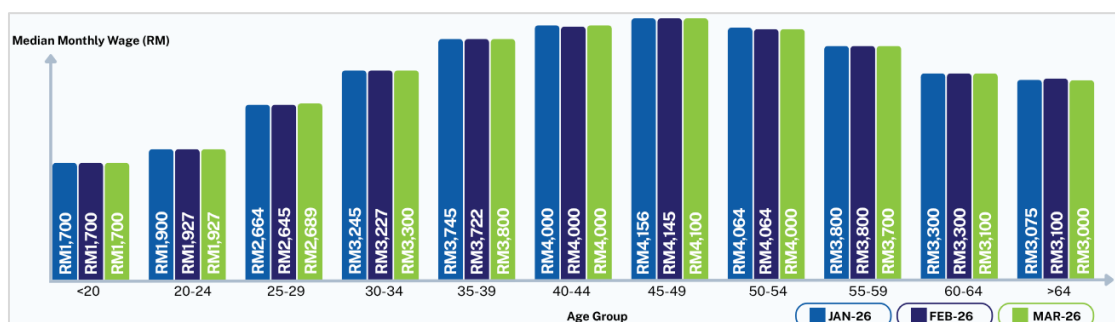


Exhibit 2: Median Monthly Wage by Economic Activity, January – March 2026

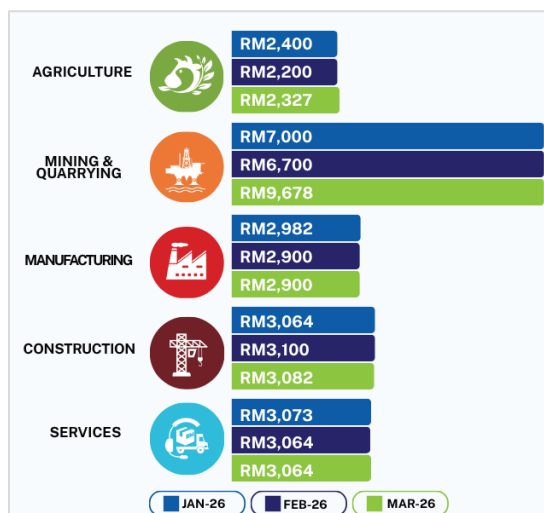


Exhibit 3: Median Monthly Wage by State and Region, January – March 2026

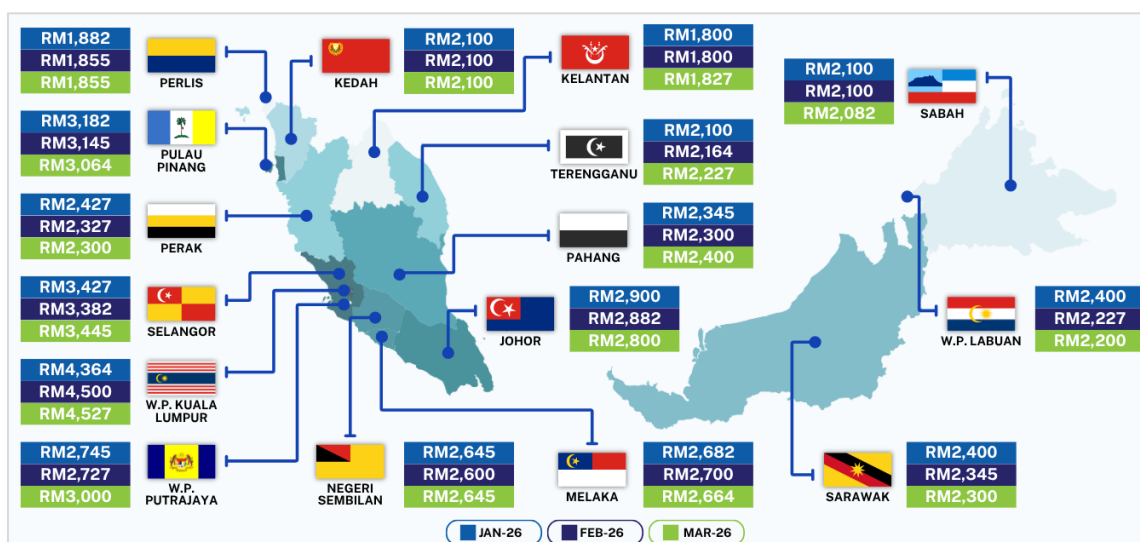


Chart 3: Distribution of Formal Employees by Wage Scale, March 2026

