



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY, FIRST QUARTER 2026

A steady level of labor productivity was recorded in the first quarter of 2026, with growth of 4.8 per cent in labour productivity per hour worked

PUTRAJAYA, 21ST MAY 2026 – Labour productivity, or value added per hour worked remained firm after registered a growth of 4.8 per cent in the first quarter of 2026, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) reported today in its release of **Labour Productivity Statistics, Malaysia, First Quarter 2026**.

According to the Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, **“National labour productivity grew by 4.8 per cent** from 5.8 per cent in Q4 2025 with value added per hour worked stood at RM45.5 per hour in Q1 2026 (Q4 2025: RM47.7 per hour). **This is driven by Malaysia's economy, which expanded by 5.4 per cent, while total hours worked increased marginally by 0.5 per cent to 9.6 billion hours (Q4 2025: 0.3%; 9.6 billion hours).”**

Meanwhile, **labour productivity measured as value added per employment, rose by 4.3 per cent in Q1 2026** (Q4 2025: 5.3%), with value of RM26,171 per person (Q4 2025: RM27,454 per person). This was attributable to total employment increase by 1.0 per cent (Q4 2025: 0.9%) to record 16.7 million persons in Q1 2026 (Q4 2025: 16.7 million persons).

Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin also stated “The **sectoral performance** for labour productivity, measured by **value added per hour worked** in this quarter, continued to grow albeit at a more moderate pace, underpinned by **Construction** sector 7.8 per cent (Q4 2025: 10.8%), followed by **Manufacturing** at 5.8 per cent (Q4 2025: 6.7%), **Services** at 4.5 per cent (Q4 2025: 5.4%) and **Agriculture** at 3.6 per cent (Q4 2025: 5.8%). Meanwhile, the **Mining and quarrying** sector declined by 2.4 per cent as compared with a growth of 1.2 per cent in the preceding quarter.”

In terms of labour productivity measured by **value added per employment**, each sector showed a similar growth rates during this quarter. The **Construction** sector led the overall performance with a growth of 7.0 per cent (Q4 2025: 10.2%),

followed by **Manufacturing** which sustained at 5.8 per cent (Q4 2025: 5.8%), **Services** at 4.1 per cent (Q4 2025: 4.8%) and **Agriculture** at 2.5 per cent (Q4 2025: 5.8%). Meanwhile, the **Mining and quarrying** sector dropped by 2.5 per cent (Q4 2025: 0.8%).

Concluding his statement, Chief Statistician Malaysia said, "Malaysia's resilient economic performance amid a challenging global environment, coupled with stable and favourable labour market conditions, will continue to stimulate increase in the country's labour productivity rate. In this challenging era, high labour productivity performance through enhanced value added generation and resource efficiency is essential to sustaining global competitiveness and achieving the aspiration of the 13th Malaysia Plan."

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.

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>.

The quarterly Labour Productivity statistics from first quarter of 2024 were revised based on latest Labour Force Statistics estimates.

Released by:

THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA
21 MAY 2026

Chart 1: Labour productivity, value added per hour worked, Q1 2023 – Q1 2026

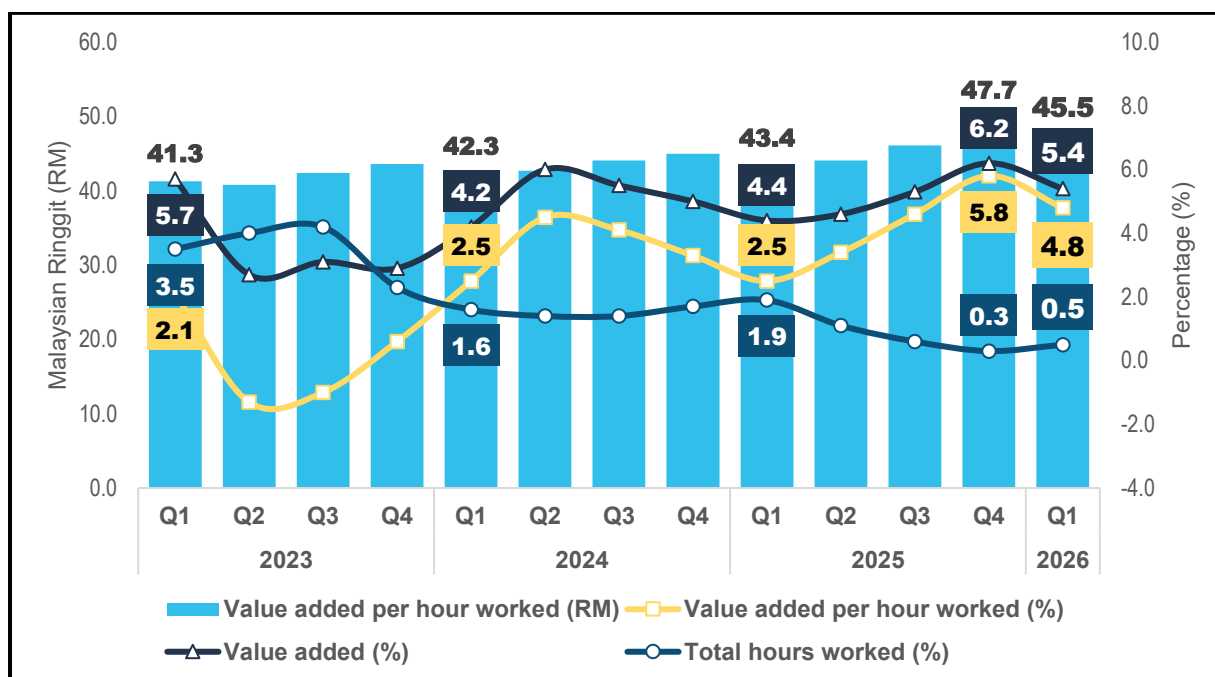


Chart 2: Labour productivity, value added per employment, Q1 2023 – Q1 2026

