



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

**LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS, MALAYSIA,
APRIL 2026**

**April's unemployment rate returned to 3.0 per cent, recording
511.8 thousand unemployed**

PUTRAJAYA, JUNE 11, 2026 - April's unemployment rate returned to 3.0 per cent, recording 511.8 thousand unemployed according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM). The figures were detailed in the **Labour Force Statistics, April 2026** release. The report provides insights on the Malaysia's labour supply, based on data from the Labour Force Survey conducted by DOSM.

Commenting on Malaysia's overall labour force performance in April 2026, Chief Statistician Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin said, "The country's labour market continued to show modest growth during the month, reflecting the economy's steady expansion. Accordingly, the labour force edged up 0.1 per cent to 17.33 million persons compared to 17.31 million persons in March 2026. Meanwhile, the labour force participation rate remained unchanged at 70.9 per cent, the same as in the previous month."

In the meantime, the number of employed persons continued to increase in April 2026, rising by 0.1 per cent to 16.82 million persons against the previous month (March 2026: 16.80 million persons). Likewise, the number of unemployed persons remained on an upward trajectory, edging up by 0.6 per cent to 511.8 thousand persons, compared to 509.0 thousand persons in the prior month. Consequently, the unemployment rate during the month rose by 0.1 percentage points to 3.0 per cent (March 2026: 2.9%), returning to the level recorded in October 2025.

According to the Chief Statistician Malaysia, the employees' category constituted 75.0 per cent of total employed persons in April 2026. This category increased marginally by 0.05 per cent to 12.61 million persons (March 2026: 12.60 million persons). In the meantime, the number of own-account workers continued to trend upward and rose by 0.2 per cent to 3.15 million persons against the preceding month (March 2026: 3.14 million persons).

From an economic sector perspective, the Services sector remained the primary contributor to the total employed persons, with the majority engaged in the Wholesale & retail trade; Accommodation and food & beverage service activities; and Information & communication. The number of employed persons in the Manufacturing, Construction, Agriculture, and Mining & quarrying sectors likewise recorded positive growth during the month.

Providing further insight into the unemployment situation in April 2026, the Chief Statistician Malaysia highlighted that the actively unemployed, defined as those who were available for work and actively seeking jobs, accounted for 79.5 per cent of the total unemployed persons. This group posted an increase of 0.3 per cent to 407.1 thousand persons (March 2026: 405.8 thousand persons). A total of 63.9 per cent of the actively unemployed were unemployed for less than three months, while 5.0 per cent were in long-term unemployment for more than a year. At the same time, the inactively unemployed, comprising those who believed that no jobs were available, went up by 1.5 per cent to 104.7 thousand persons compared with 103.2 thousand persons in the previous month.

The unemployment rate among youths aged 15 to 24 years stood at 10.2 per cent in April 2026, with a total of 290.8 thousand unemployed youths (March 2026: 290.0 thousand persons). Meanwhile, the unemployment rate for youths aged 15 to 30 years edged up by 0.1 percentage points to 6.3 per cent, with 394.7 thousand unemployed youths recorded during the month (March 2026: 6.2%; 390.9 thousand persons).

In the meantime, the number of persons outside the labour force in April 2026 declined marginally by 0.01 per cent to 7.10 million persons, compared with the previous month (March 2026: 7.10 million persons). Housework/ family responsibilities remained the primary reason for being outside the labour force, constituting 43.3 per cent, followed by the schooling/ training reason with 40.5 per cent.

Concluding the statement, Malaysia's economic and labour market outlook is expected to remain favourable in the near term, supported by resilient domestic fundamentals, sustained investment momentum and ongoing development initiatives. Nevertheless, uncertainties arising from the global energy crisis, geopolitical developments and external demand conditions may continue to influence the pace of economic expansion and labour market performance. Moving forward, efforts to strengthen business confidence, enhance workforce adaptability and support productivity growth will remain crucial in ensuring the continued resilience of both the economy and the labour market.

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>.

Chart 1: Employed persons, Malaysia, January - April 2026

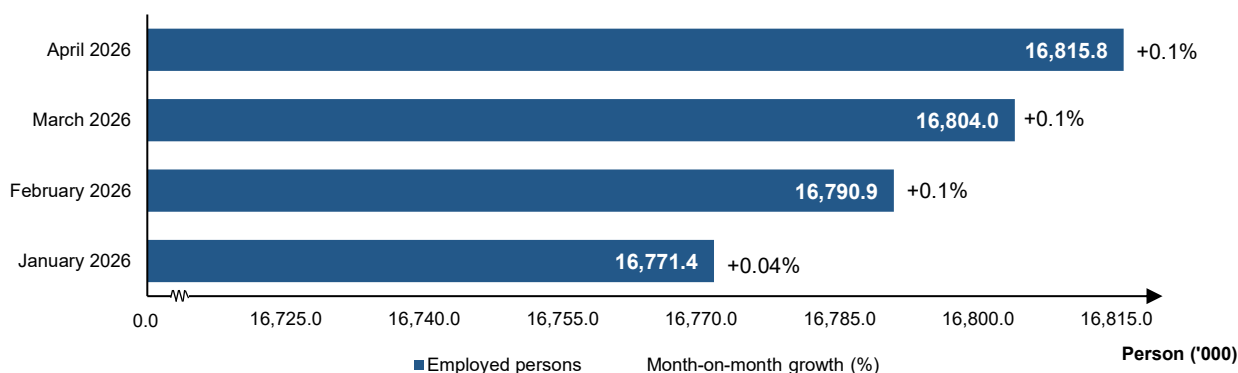


Chart 2: Unemployment, Malaysia, January - April 2026

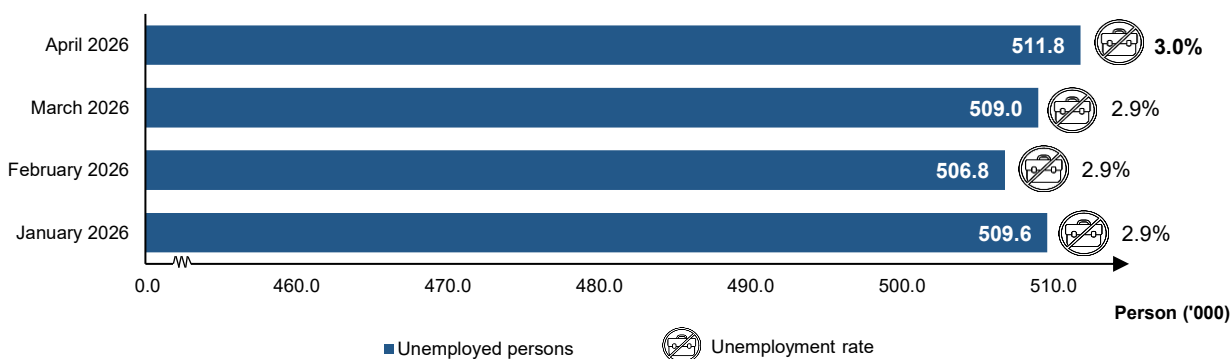


Chart 3: Outside labour force, Malaysia, January - April 2026



Note: The Labour Force Survey statistics for January 2026 onwards are estimated using projection data based on the latest current population estimates

Released by:

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