



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

SPECIAL RELEASE: TIME SPENT ON UNPAID DOMESTIC AND CARE WORK IN MALAYSIA 2025

Women in Malaysia Spend 25.5% of Their Daily Time on Unpaid Work, Highlighting Persistent Gender Gap

PUTRAJAYA, 2 July 2026 – The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) today released the **Special Release: Time Spent on Unpaid Domestic and Care Work in Malaysia 2025** presenting official statistics on the time spent by the population aged 15 years and over on unpaid domestic and care work activities based on the National Household Indicators Survey (NHIS) 2025.

According to the Chief Statistician of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, unpaid domestic and care work constitutes an essential component of daily life, supporting household well-being and the continuity of social functions. Although these activities are not directly captured within the formal economy, the statistics provide valuable insights into the time contributed by Malaysians, forming an important basis for policymaking related to work-life balance, social development, and gender equality.

Overall, Malaysians spend a substantial proportion of their daily time on unpaid domestic and care work, averaging **5 hours 12 minutes daily**, highlighting the significant role of unpaid labour in sustaining households and communities.

Insights reveal only a marginal difference in the time spent on unpaid work between urban and rural populations. Rural residents spend **21.7 per cent (5 hours and 13 minutes)** of their daily time on unpaid work as compared **21.5 per cent (5 hours and 10 minutes)** among urban residents. This indicates that place of residence has only a limited influence on time-use patterns.

Analysis by age group shows that individuals aged **45 to 54 years** allocate the highest proportion of time to unpaid work, at **23.8 per cent (5 hours and 43 minutes per day)**, followed by those aged **25 to 44 years (23.3%; 5 hours and 35 minutes)** and **55 to 64 years (23.0%; 5 hours and 31 minutes)**. In contrast, individuals aged **15 to 24 years** spend the least time, at **16.2 per cent (3 hours and 53 minutes per day)**. This pattern reflects greater domestic and caregiving responsibilities among individuals in the middle stages of life.

By citizenship, Malaysians spend an average of **21.8 per cent** of their daily time on unpaid work as compared with **19.5 per cent** for non-citizens. Across ethnic groups, the **Others** category recorded the highest proportion (**23.7%**), followed by **Malays**

(**22.6%**), while the **Chinese** recorded the lowest (**20.5%**). Nevertheless, domestic work remains the primary component across all groups

By disability status, persons without disabilities spend an average of **21.7 per cent (5 hours and 12 minutes)** daily on unpaid work as compared with **12.5 per cent (2 hours and 59 minutes)** among persons with disabilities. Despite spending less time, persons with disabilities continue to participate in domestic and care activities, underscoring the importance of inclusive social support systems.

From an international perspective, Malaysia records a higher level of participation in unpaid domestic and care work compared to the average among **OECD** countries. Women in Malaysia spend **25.5 per cent** of their daily time on these activities (approximately **6 hours and 7 minutes**) as compared to around **17 per cent** in OECD countries, while men spend **18.1 per cent** as compared approximately **9 to 11 per cent** internationally. These findings indicate that the burden of unpaid work in Malaysia remains substantial for both women and men, with women continuing to shoulder a larger share.

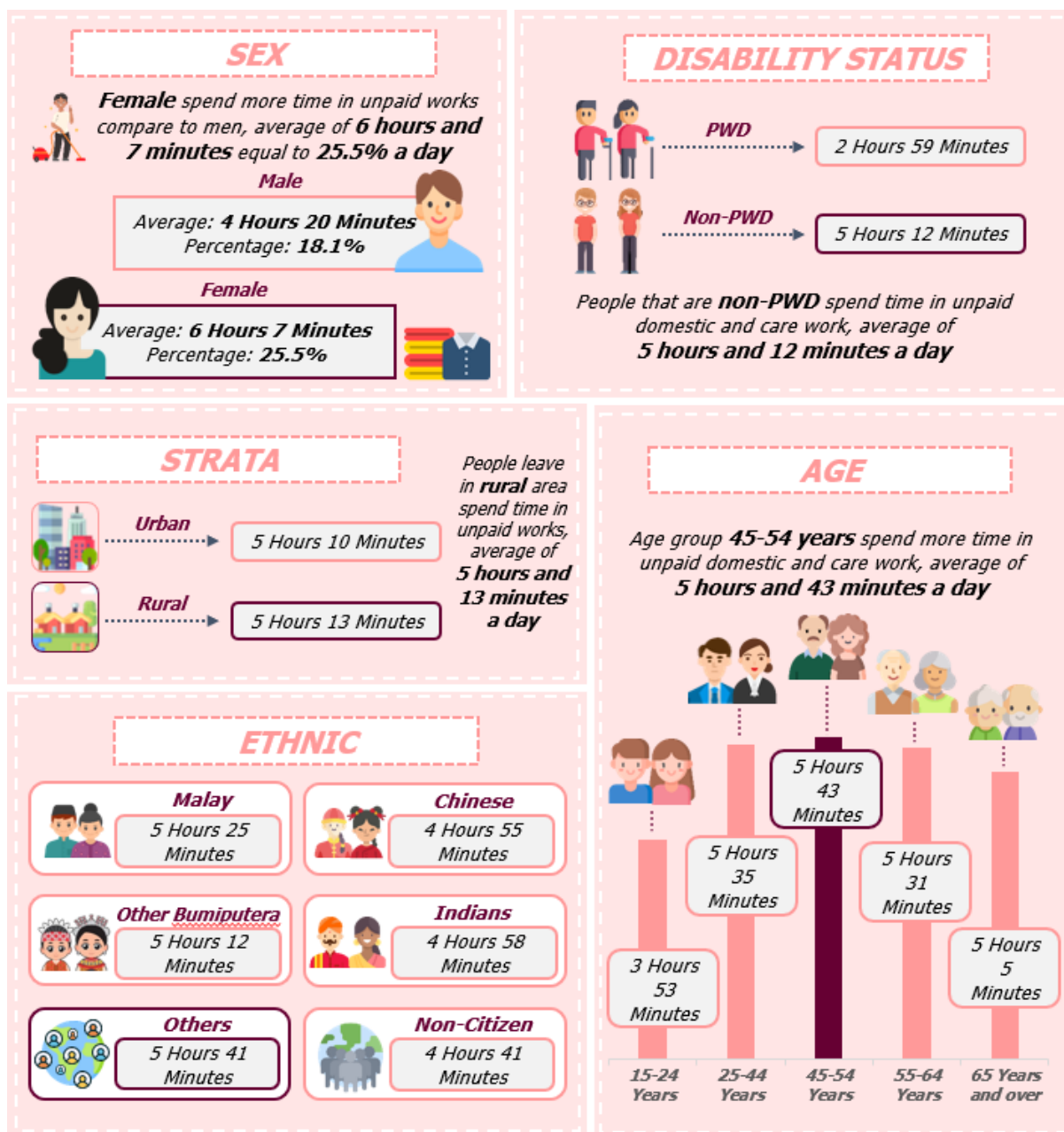
In conclusion, these statistics provide a foundation for strengthening policies related to social development, work-life balance, and gender equality. Recognising the value of unpaid domestic and care work, alongside policies that support the care economy, expand access to support services, and promote a more equitable sharing of responsibilities, will be crucial in enhancing overall well-being and national productivity.

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>.

Exhibit 1: Time Spent on Unpaid Domestic and Care Work in Malaysia 2025



Released by:

THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA
2nd JULY 2026