



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA RELEASE

LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS, MALAYSIA, JULY 2026

**July's unemployment rate remained at 3.0 per cent, with
520.3 thousand unemployed**

PUTRAJAYA, 11TH SEPTEMBER 2026 - Department of Statistics Malaysia published **RELEASE FOR LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS, JULY 2026**. This report provides statistics on the Malaysia's labour supply, based on data from the Labour Force Survey.

The number of labour force in July 2026 increased by 0.1 per cent month-on-month, with a total of 17.37 million persons (June 2026: 17.34 million persons). At the same time, the labour force participation rate stood at 70.9 per cent, same as previous month. The number of employed persons continued to record a marginal increase of 0.1 per cent, registering 16.85 million persons compared to 16.83 million persons in June 2026. Meanwhile, the number of unemployed persons increased by 0.5 per cent, rose to 520.3 thousand persons (June 2026: 517.8 thousand persons). Nevertheless, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.0 per cent.

The employees' category, accounted for 74.9 per cent of the total employed persons, recorded an increase of 0.1 per cent to 12.62 million persons in July 2026 (June 2026: 12.61 million persons). Similarly, the number of own-account workers increased marginally by 0.3 per cent to 3.16 million persons (June 2026: 3.15 million persons).

The Services sector continued to serve as the primary driver of total employment during the month. Growth in this sector was largely contributed by Arts, entertainment and recreation, Accommodation and food & beverage service activities as well as Financial and insurance/ takaful activities. Likewise, employment expanded across all other sectors namely Agriculture, Mining & quarrying, Manufacturing and Construction.

The actively unemployed, or those who were available for work and actively seeking jobs representing 79.3 per cent of the total unemployed persons, while the remaining 20.7 per cent comprised the inactively unemployed. This group rose by 0.4 per cent to 412.6 thousand persons, from 410.9 thousand persons in June 2026. Among the actively unemployed, 63.5 per cent were unemployed for less than three months, while long-term unemployment exceeding one year consist of 5.4 per cent. As for the

inactively unemployed, those who believed that no jobs were available, rose 0.7 per cent to 107.7 thousand persons (June 2026: 106.9 thousand persons).

The youth unemployment rate for those aged 15 to 24 years remained at 10.2 per cent, recording 292.5 thousand unemployed persons (June 2026: 292.2 thousand persons). In the meantime, the unemployment rate for youths aged 15 to 30 years increased to 6.4 per cent, registering 404.5 thousand unemployed persons (June 2026: 400.8 thousand persons; 6.3%).

The number of persons in the outside labour force increased slightly by 0.7 thousand persons recording 7.11 million persons. Housework/ family responsibilities constituted the largest component of persons outside the labour force at 43.3 per cent, while schooling/ training category accounted for 40.2 per cent.

Overall, Malaysia's labour market remained stable in July 2026, supported by continued employment growth and a low unemployment rate. However, ongoing structural economic changes and technological advancements highlight the importance of strengthening human capital development to ensure that the nation's workforce remains competitive and capable of meeting future labour market demands.

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

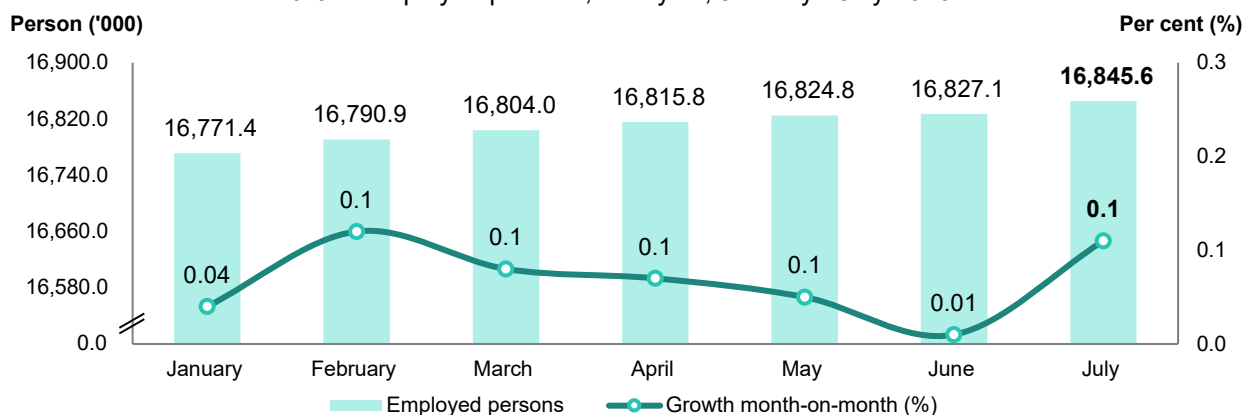


Chart 2: Unemployment, Malaysia, January - July 2026

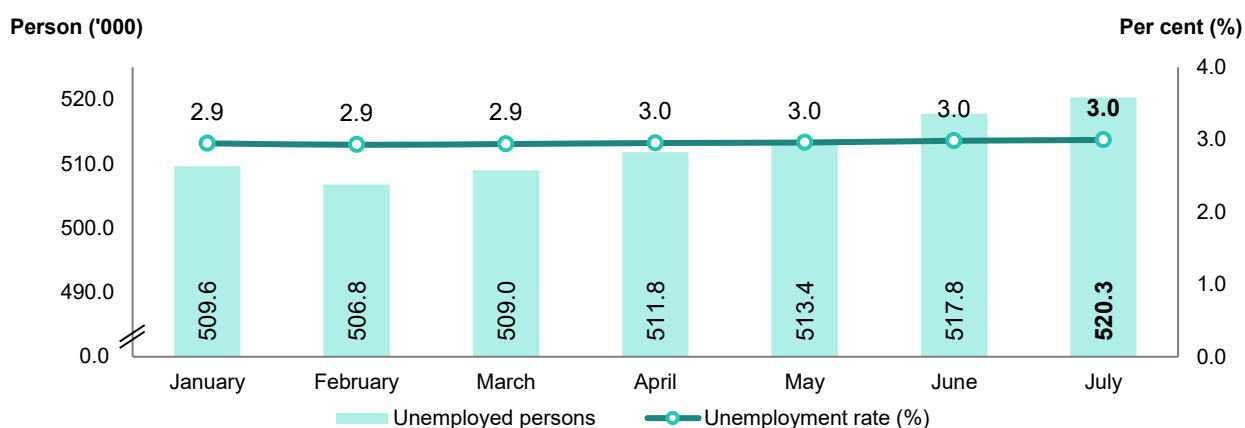
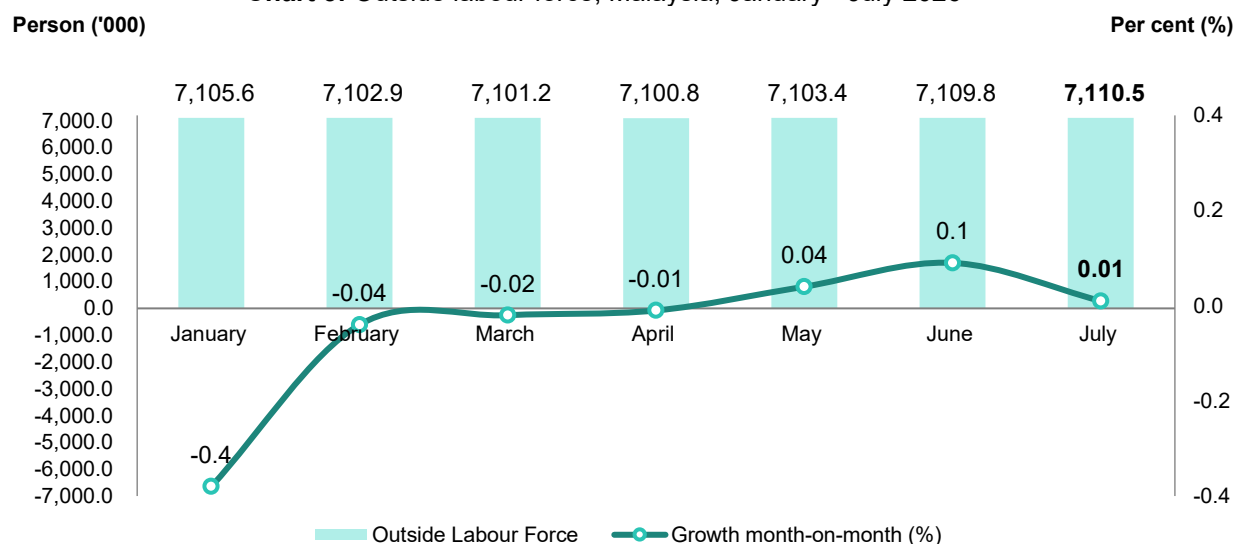


Chart 3: Outside labour force, Malaysia, January - July 2026



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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