



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY  
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS, MALAYSIA, AUGUST 2026**

**August's unemployment rate decreased to 2.9 per cent, with  
511.6 thousand unemployed**

**PUTRAJAYA, 09<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2026** - Department of Statistics Malaysia published **RELEASE FOR LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS, AUGUST 2026**. This report provides statistics on the Malaysia's labour supply, based on data from the Labour Force Survey.

Malaysia's labour market continued to strengthen in August 2026, with the number of labour force increasing by 0.1 per cent month-on-month to 17.39 million persons (July 2026: 17.37 million persons). In line with this, the labour force participation rate rose by 0.1 percentage points to 71.0 per cent, compared to 70.9 per cent in the preceding month. The number of employed persons grew by 0.2 per cent to 16.87 million persons, up from 16.85 million persons in July 2026. Meanwhile, the number of unemployed persons dropped by 1.7 per cent to 511.6 thousand persons (July 2026: 520.3 thousand persons), with the unemployment rate declining to 2.9 per cent, from 3.0 per cent in July 2026.

The employees' category, which constituted 74.9 per cent of the total employed persons, increased marginally by 0.1 per cent to 12.63 million persons in August 2026 (July 2026: 12.62 million persons). Correspondingly, the number of own-account workers rose by 0.2 per cent to 3.17 million persons (July 2026: 3.16 million persons).

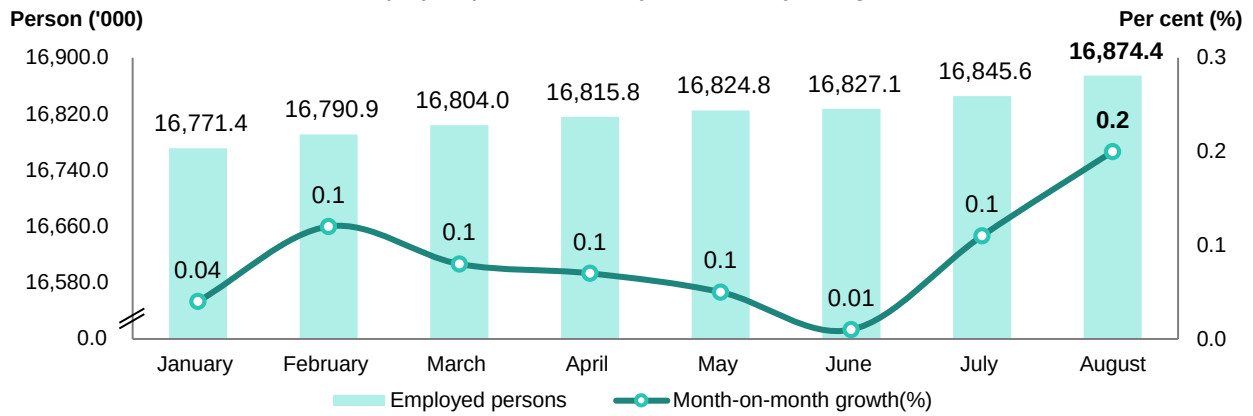
The actively unemployed, comprising those who were available for work and actively seeking jobs, accounted for 79.2 per cent of the total unemployed persons, while the remaining 20.8 per cent were classified as inactive unemployed. This group declined by 1.8 per cent to 405.1 thousand persons, from 412.6 thousand persons in July 2026. Among the actively unemployed, 64.2 per cent had been unemployed for less than three months, while those experiencing long-term unemployment of more than one year accounted for 5.0 per cent. Meanwhile, the number of inactive unemployed persons who believed that no jobs were available decreased by 1.2 per cent to 106.5 thousand persons (July 2026: 107.7 thousand persons).

The youth unemployment rate among those aged 15 to 24 years declined by 0.1 percentage points to 10.1 per cent, registering 291.3 thousand unemployed persons in August 2026 (July 2026: 292.5 thousand persons). Similarly, the unemployment rate for those aged 15 to 30 years edged down by 0.1 percentage points to 6.3 per cent, with 394.6 thousand unemployed persons (July 2026: 404.5 thousand persons).

The number of persons outside the labour force decreased marginally by 0.1 per cent or equivalent to 4.5 thousand persons recording 7.11 million persons. Housework/family responsibilities accounted for the largest share at 43.6 per cent, followed by schooling/training at 40.2 per cent. Meanwhile, the remaining 16.2 per cent comprised persons who were outside the labour force for other reasons, such as retirement and disability.

Overall, the continued positive performance of the labour market remains supportive of the country's economic growth. Moving forward, improving workers' productivity through skills enhancement and the adoption of technology will be crucial to sustaining economic growth and improving the well-being of the population.

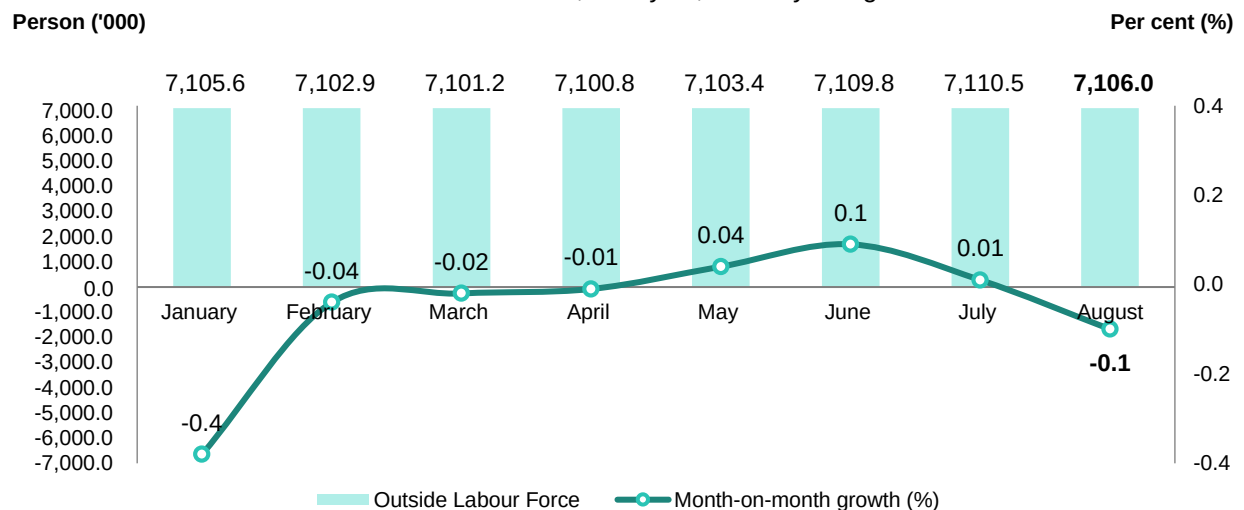
**Chart 1: Employed persons, Malaysia, January - August 2026**



**Chart 2: Unemployment, Malaysia, January - August 2026**



**Chart 3: Outside labour force, Malaysia, January - August 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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DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA  
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