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MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT
EMPLOYEE WAGES STATISTICS (FORMAL SECTOR) REPORT, FOURTH QUARTER 2023

The median monthly wages for formal sector increased 4.9 per cent year-on-year to RM2,900 in December 2023.

PUTRAJAYA, 31 May 2024 *– The median monthly wages for formal sector increased 4.9 per cent year-on-year to RM2,900 in December 2023, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) reported on May* 31st *in its quarterly* ***EMPLOYEE WAGES STATISTICS (FORMAL SECTOR) REPORT, FOURTH QUARTER 2023's*** *summary.*

Commenting further on the report, the Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin said "The number of Malaysian formal employees was 6.67 million persons in December 2023, an increase of 1.8 per cent as compared to the same month in the previous year."

In terms of formal employees by sex, male formal employees accounted for 55.5 per cent of the total formal employees or equivalent to 3.70 million persons in December 2023. The median monthly wages for male formal employees stood at RM2,945 while female formal employees which comprised 44.5 per cent (2.97 million persons) of total formal employees received RM2,845.

Looking at detailed wage statistics by age group indicates the group that received the highest median monthly wages was for the age group of 45 to 49 years which is RM3,927 in December 2023. This age group also received the highest median monthly wages in October 2023 (RM3,500) and November 2023 (RM3,500). In December 2023, all age groups experienced an increase in median monthly wages compared to December last year, except for those below 20 years old. The age group of 60 to 64 years old experienced the highest year-on-year growth of median monthly wages with 7.4 per cent to RM2,900 in December 2023. Meanwhile, the median monthly wages of Malaysian formal employees under 20 years old was RM1,500 in December 2023, which remained unchanged for 19 consecutive months.

Further disaggregation of wages situation by economic activity, the Chief Statistician said, "In the fourth quarter of 2023, all sectors recorded a year-on-year increase in median monthly wages. Mining and quarrying sector received the highest median monthly wages of RM6,844 in December 2023, despite only representing 0.6 per cent of total formal employees. This sector also experienced the highest year-on-year growth of median

monthly wages at 7.7 per cent compared to the same month in the previous year. However, Agriculture sector which comprised of 1.9 per cent of total formal employees, recorded the lowest median monthly wages of RM2,300 with an increase of 3.3 per cent in December 2023."

Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin added, "The median monthly wages witnessed a positive year-on-year growth for all states in the last three months of 2023. Three states posted a higher median monthly wages compared to the national median monthly wages of RM2,900 with Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur posted the highest median monthly wages of RM4,045, followed by Pulau Pinang at RM3,245 and Selangor at RM3,164. Meanwhile, Kelantan, Perlis and Sabah registered the lowest median monthly wages in December 2023, with RM1,600, RM1,700 and RM1,882 respectively."

In terms of wage distribution in December 2023, the Chief Statistician stated that 31.2 per cent of Malaysian formal employees earned a monthly wages below RM2,000, marking a decrease from 33.7 per cent as compared to the previous year. In the meantime, 10.7 per cent of Malaysian formal employees earned monthly wages of RM10,000 and above in December 2023. In addition, the percentile analysis shows that the 10th percentile of Malaysian formal employees earned wages of RM1,500 or less. However, this group registered an increase of 5.1 per cent in monthly wages as compared to the same month last year (December 2022: RM1,427). The wage ratio between the 90th and the 10th percentile indicates that the top 10 per cent of wage earners received more than six times the earnings of the lowest 10 per cent of wage earners.

Concluding his statement on today's release, Dato' Sri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said, "These statistics are based on administrative data sources obtained from relevant agencies, which focus on the citizens who work in the formal sector, notably in the private sector. Looking ahead, DOSM will continue to enhance the dissemination of employee wages statistics by integrating various administrative data to produce more comprehensive statistics for a deeper understanding of Malaysia's labour market dynamics."

Time series statistics and more information on the labour market can be obtained from the Malaysia Labour Market Interactive Data (MyLMID) portal. For more information, please visit https://mbls.dosm.gov.my/mylmid/ or scan the QR code below.

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) has launched OpenDOSM NextGen as a medium that provides a catalog of data and visualisations to facilitate users' analysis of various data and can be accessed through https://open.dosm.gov.my.

DOSM will conduct the Agricultural Census in 2024. Please visit https://www.myagricensus.gov.my/ for more information. The theme is "Agriculture Census, Key to Agricultural Development."

The Government of Malaysia has declared National Statistics Day (MyStats Day) on October 20th each year. MyStats Day theme is "Statistics is the Essence of Life". DOSM commemorates its 75th Diamond Jubilee in 2024.

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THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA
31 MAY 2024

Exhibit 1: Median Monthly Wages, January 2022 – December 2023

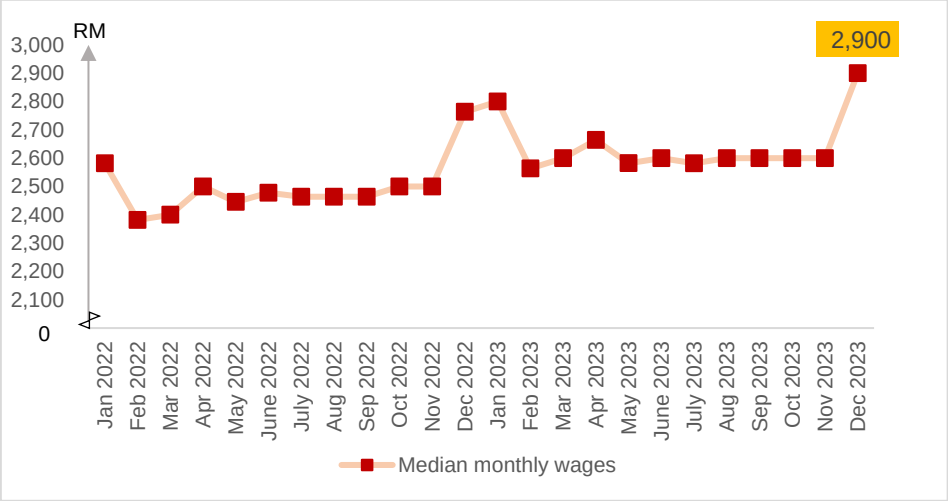


Exhibit 2: Median Monthly Wages by Gender, October – December 2023

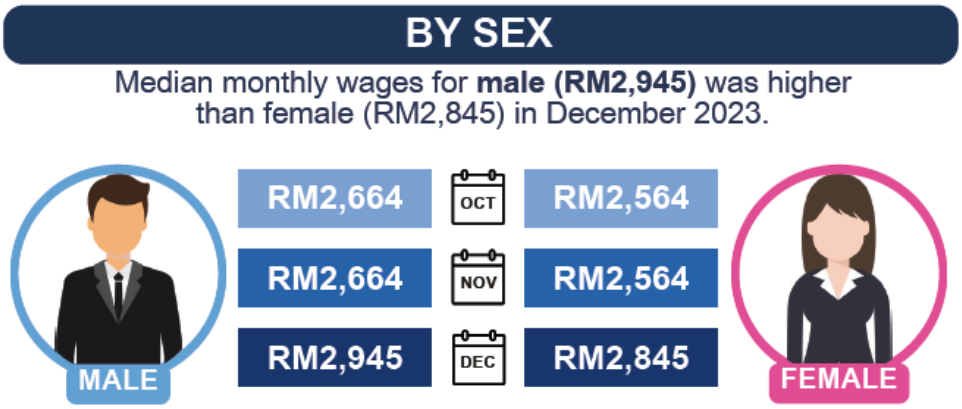


Exhibit 3: Median Monthly Wages by Economic Activity, October – December 2023

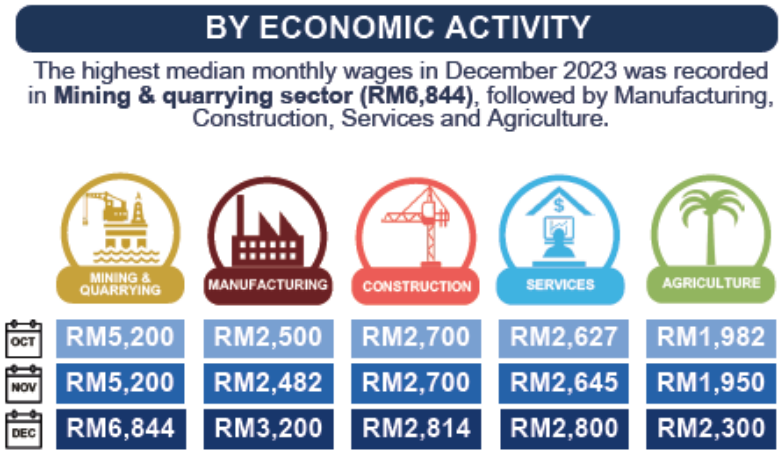


Exhibit 4: Median Monthly Wages by State, October – December 2023

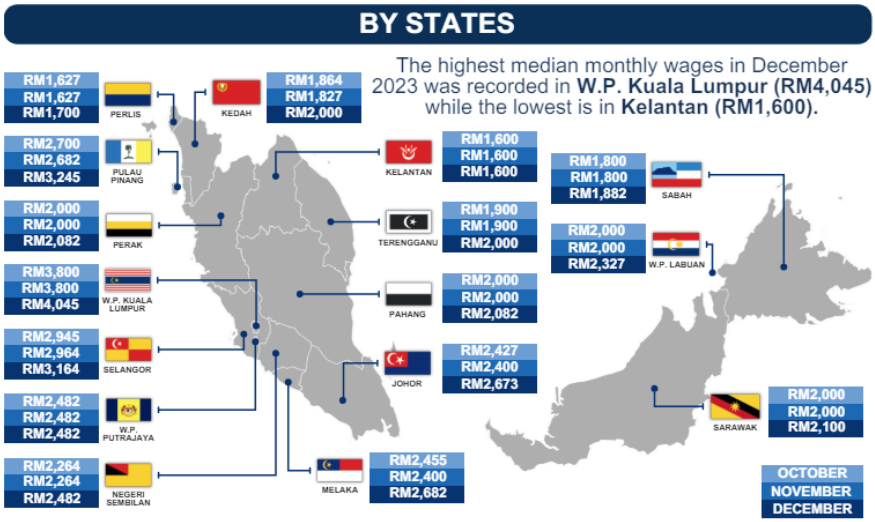
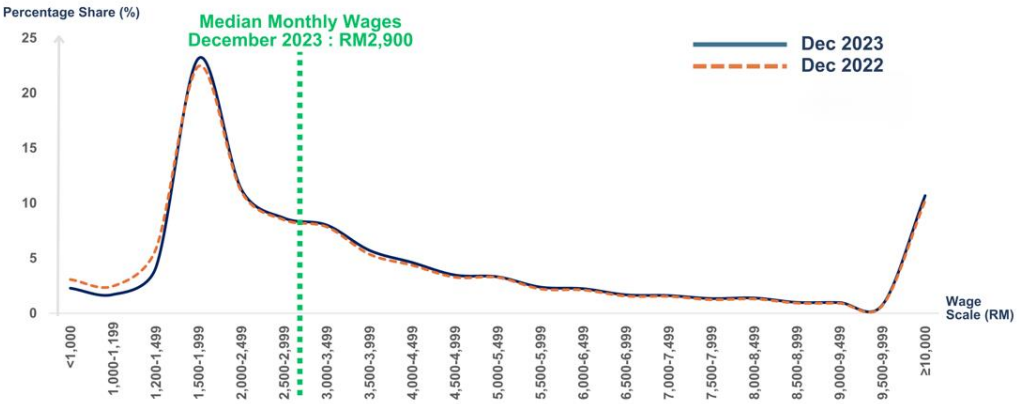


Exhibit 5: Employee Wages Distribution by Wage Scale, December 2022 & December 2023



Wage Scale (RM)	<1,000	1,000-1,199	1,200-1,499	1,500-1,999	2,000-2,499	2,500-2,999	3,000-3,499	3,500-3,999	4,000-4,499	4,500-4,999	5,000-5,499	5,500-5,999	6,000-6,499	6,500-6,999	7,000-7,499	7,500-7,999	8,000-8,499	8,500-8,999	9,000-9,499	9,500-9,999	≥10,000
Dec 2023	2.3	1.7	4.1	23.1	11.2	8.6	8.0	5.7	4.6	3.5	3.3	2.4	2.2	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.0	1.0	0.7	10.7
Dec 2022	3.1	2.5	5.8	22.4	11.1	8.5	7.8	5.4	4.4	3.3	3.3	2.2	2.1	1.6	1.5	1.2	1.3	0.9	0.9	0.7	10.2

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