



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

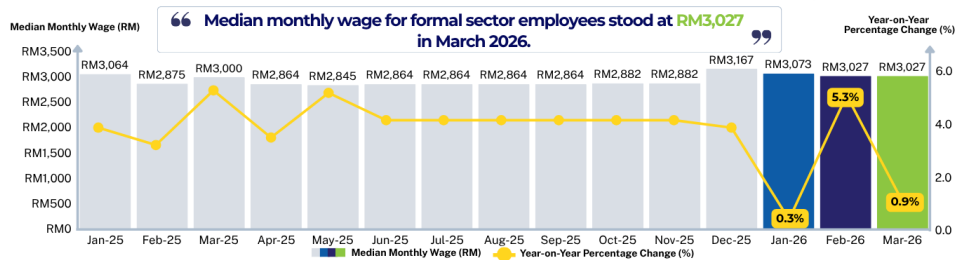
EMPLOYEE WAGES STATISTICS (FORMAL SECTOR), FIRST QUARTER 2026



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EMPLOYEE WAGES STATISTICS (FORMAL SECTOR) FIRST QUARTER 2026

TIME SERIES: MEDIAN MONTHLY WAGE



MEDIAN MONTHLY WAGE OF CITIZEN FORMAL EMPLOYEES BY DIMENSIONS

BY SEX

Median monthly wage for **male (RM3,064)** was higher than female (RM3,000) in March 2026.



MALE

JAN-26	RM3,089
FEB-26	RM3,056
MAR-26	RM3,064

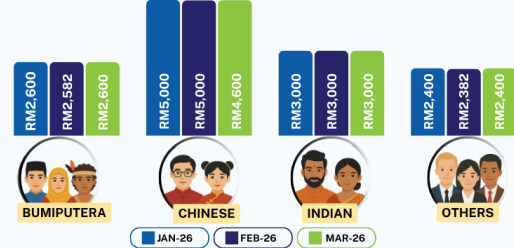


FEMALE

JAN-26	RM3,055
FEB-26	RM3,000
MAR-26	RM3,000

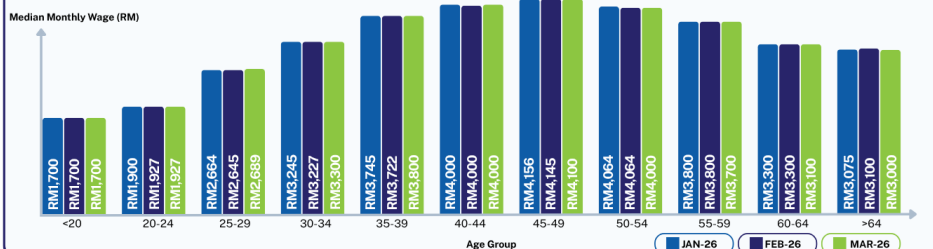
BY ETHNIC

Bumiputera formal employees recorded the median monthly wage of RM2,600, Chinese (RM4,600) and Indian (RM3,000) in March 2026.



BY AGE GROUP

Formal employees aged **45 to 49 years** received the highest median monthly wage at **RM4,100** in March 2026.



SCOPE & COVERAGE

These statistics is based on the administrative data, including data on the mandatory contribution of retirement savings by the private and non-pensionable public sectors and data on the contribution of social security insurance from various agencies. The data focus only on the citizen formal employees and does not cover employed persons fall under non-standard employment, including own-account workers and unpaid family workers.

CONCEPT & DEFINITION

Wage refers to all remuneration paid to employees, including bonuses, commissions and allowances, during the reference period.

The **Median** refers to the middle observation in a set of data arranged in a sequence. The median wage is used to give a more accurate picture of the "average wage", as the determination of the median is not affected by extreme values.

SOURCE: EMPLOYEE WAGES STATISTICS (FORMAL SECTOR) REPORT, FIRST QUARTER 2026, DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA (DOSM)



Formal sector employees earned a median monthly wage of RM3,027 per month in March 2026.

Malaysia's labour market remained resilient and stable, supported by continued employment growth. In line with the development, the number of Malaysian formal employees increase 3.8 per cent year-on-year to 7.05 million persons in March 2026 compared to the same month of previous year.

Male formal employees who accounted for 55.0 per cent or 3.88 million persons of the total Malaysian formal employees received median monthly wage of RM3,064 in March 2026, higher than female formal employees who received RM3,000. Female formal employees represent 45.0 per cent or 3.17 million persons of the total Malaysian formal employees.

Wage statistics by age group showed that Malaysian formal employees aged 45 to 49 years continued to record the highest median monthly wage throughout the first quarter of 2026 (March 2026:RM4,100; February 2026: RM4,145; January 2026: RM4,156). All age groups recorded positive growth in the median monthly wage except for the age group below 20 in March 2026. The highest year-on-year growth was recorded among employees aged 55 to 59 years, while the median monthly wage for employees aged below 20 years remained unchanged at RM1,700 since February 2025.

By economic activity, the Mining & quarrying sector, which accounted for only 0.5 per cent of all Malaysian formal employees, recorded the highest median monthly wage at RM9,678 in March 2026. In contrast, the Agriculture sector, representing 1.8 per cent of formal employees, recorded the lowest median monthly wage at RM2,327, reflecting a year-on-year increase of 5.8 per cent during the same period.

Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur recorded the highest median monthly wage at RM4,527, followed by Selangor at RM3,445 and Pulau Pinang at RM3,064. In contrast, Kelantan, Perlis and Sabah recorded the lowest median monthly wage at RM1,827, RM1,855 and RM2,082 respectively.

7.9 per cent of Malaysian formal employees earned monthly wage below RM1,700 in March 2026, which representing a decrease of 2.0 percentage points as compared to March 2025. Furthermore, percentile analysis revealed that the bottom 10 per cent of Malaysian formal employees received monthly wage of RM1,700 or less, while employees in the 90th percentile earned at least RM11,500 per month. This disparity illustrates that employees in the 90th percentile earned more than six times than those in the lowest wage group, underscoring the prevailing wage gap between the highest and lowest earners.

Contact person:

Baharudin Mohamad
Public Relation Officer

Strategic Communication and International Division
Department of Statistics Malaysia
Tel : +603-8090 4681
Fax : +603-8888 9248
Email : baharudin[at]dosm.gov.my

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