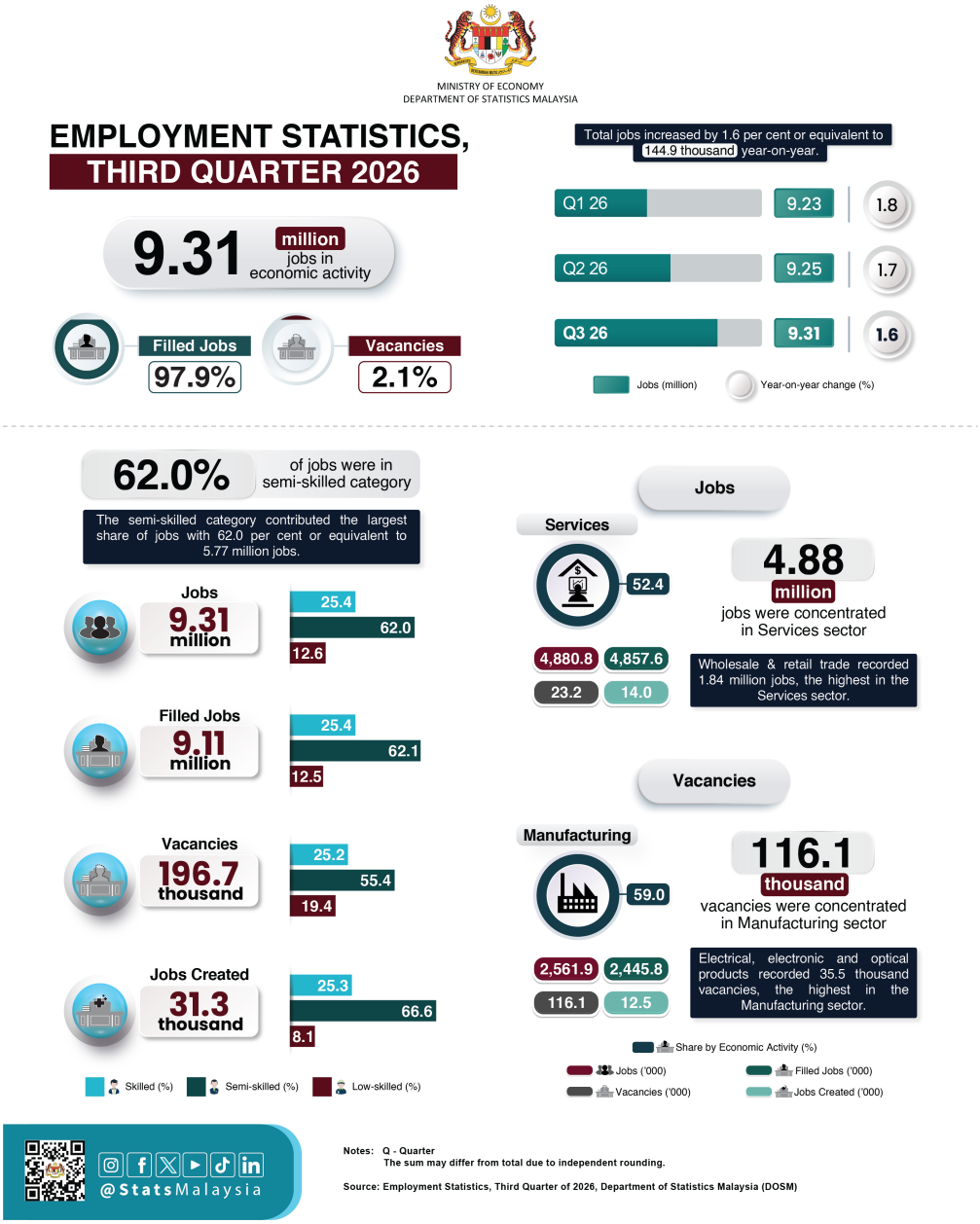
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MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS, THIRD QUARTER 2026



Notes: Q - Quarter
The sum may differ from total due to independent rounding.

Source: Employment Statistics, Third Quarter of 2026, Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)

Introduction

This publication presents the labour demand statistics derived from the Quarterly Employment Survey conducted among registered private sector businesses encompassing major economic activities namely, Agriculture, Mining & Quarrying, Manufacturing, Construction and Services. The principal statistics of employment presented in this report are jobs, filled jobs, vacancies and jobs created by economic activity and skills category.

Labour Demand, Third Quarter of 2026

The number of jobs which made up of filled jobs and vacancies, posted 9.31 million jobs during this quarter. From those, 9.11 million jobs were filled, representing a rate of 97.9 per cent and another 196.7 thousand were vacant with a rate of 2.1 per cent. The number of filled jobs expanded by 1.6 per cent compared to the same quarter last year (Q3 2025: 8.97 million), while the number of vacancies decreased marginally by 0.2 per cent over the same period. On the other hand, the number of jobs created edged down by 3.2 per cent on a yearly basis with 31.3 thousand.

Labour Demand by Skills Category

The **skilled category** recorded a 2.5 per cent year-on-year increase to record 2.36 million jobs (Q3 2025: 2.31 million). For this category, the number of filled jobs was 2.31 million, with 97.9 per cent rate to jobs. The vacancy rate comprised of 2.1 per cent, equivalent to 49.5 thousand vacancies and the number of jobs created showed a decline by 3.3 per cent from 8.2 thousand (Q3 2025) to 7.9 thousand (Q3 2026).

The **semi-skilled category** stood firm as the largest contributor to the total jobs with 5.77 million, a rise by 1.0 per cent (Q3 2025: 5.71 million). The filled jobs rate stood at 98.1 per cent, representing 5.66 million filled jobs, while the vacancy rate accounted for 1.9 per cent, corresponding to 109.2 thousand vacancies. Additionally, the jobs created in this category increased by 0.3 per cent year-on-year to 20.8 thousand.

As for the **low-skilled category**, the number of jobs edged up by 2.4 per cent, registered 1.17 million jobs compared to 1.15 million in Q3 2025. A total of 1.14 million jobs were filled with a rate of 96.8 per cent, while 38.1 thousand jobs left vacant, representing a vacancy rate of 3.2 per cent. There were 2.5 thousand new

jobs created, reflecting a year-on-year decline of 24.5 per cent from 3.4 thousand in Q3 2025.

Standing firm as the main contributor to the economic sector, the semi-skilled category accounted for more than half of all indicators, followed by the skilled and low-skilled categories. This was reflected in its shares of total jobs, filled jobs, vacancies and jobs created, which stood at 62.0 per cent, 62.1 per cent, 55.4 per cent and 66.6 per cent, respectively. The skilled category ranked second with 25.4 per cent for both total jobs and filled jobs, 25.2 per cent of vacancies and 25.3 per cent of jobs created. In contrast, the low-skilled category recorded the least share across all indicators, representing 12.6 per cent of total jobs, 12.5 per cent of filled jobs, 19.4 per cent of vacancies and 8.1 per cent of jobs created.

Labour Demand by Economic Activity

Analysing labour demand across all economic activities, the Services sector remained the largest contributor of jobs made up to 52.4 per cent (4.88 million). The Manufacturing sector was the second largest contributor, with 27.6 per cent (2.56 million). Meanwhile, the Construction and Agriculture sectors followed with 13.7 per cent (1.28 million) and 5.5 per cent (508.8 thousand), respectively. The Mining & Quarrying sector posted the smallest share of total jobs at 0.8 per cent (79.0 thousand).

Most of the filled jobs were in Services sector, accounting for more than half of total filled jobs at 53.3 per cent (4.86 million). The Manufacturing sector contributed 26.8 per cent (2.45 million), followed by Construction (13.7%; 1.25 million) and Agriculture (5.2%; 478.1 thousand). The Mining & Quarrying sector recorded a marginal share of 0.9 per cent (78.5 thousand).

Job vacancies was predominantly in the Manufacturing sector with a share of 59.0 per cent or equivalent to 116.1 thousand vacancies, indicating a sustained labour demand in this sector. The Agriculture sector accounted for 15.6 per cent (30.7 thousand), followed by Construction at 13.3 per cent (26.2 thousand) and Services at 11.9 per cent (23.2 thousand). The remaining 0.2 per cent (0.5 thousand) of vacancies were in the Mining & Quarrying sector.

Likewise, the jobs created were concentrated in the Services sector, constituting 44.7 per cent (14.0 thousand), followed by Manufacturing at 39.9 per cent (12.5 thousand). The Construction, Agriculture and Mining & Quarrying sectors accounted for the remaining share of jobs created at 9.1 per cent (2.9 thousand), 5.4 per cent (1.7 thousand) and 0.9 per cent (0.3 thousand), respectively.

The publication of the Employment Statistics, Third Quarter of 2026 can be downloaded through eStatistik portal.

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