



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS, APRIL 2026



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**MALAYSIA
LABOUR FORCE,
APRIL 2026**

April's unemployment rate returned to **3.0 per cent**, recording 511.8 thousand unemployed

LABOUR FORCE

April 2026



17.33
million

▲ +0.1%

The labour forces continued to trend up in April 2026

MARCH 2026
17.31
million

**LABOUR FORCE
PARTICIPATION RATE**

70.9%

↔ 0.0 pp

The labour force participation rate (LFPR) stood at 70.9 per cent in April 2026

MARCH 2026
70.9%

LFPR by sex

Male **82.9%** Female **57.3%**

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

April 2026

3.0%

April's unemployment rate rose to 3.0 per cent, returning to the level recorded in October 2025

▲ +0.1 pp

MARCH 2026: 2.9%

UNEMPLOYED



511.8
thousand

▲ +0.6%

MARCH 2026
509.0
thousand

Unemployed by category

- Actively unemployed
APRIL 2026: 407.1 thousand
MARCH 2026: 405.8 thousand
- Inactively unemployed
APRIL 2026: 104.7 thousand
MARCH 2026: 103.2 thousand

EMPLOYED PERSONS

April 2026



16.82
million

▲ +0.1%

MARCH 2026
16.80
million

Employment - to - population ratio

68.8%

↔ 0.0 pp

MARCH 2026
68.8%

Employed persons by status in employment

- 75.0%** Employees ▲ +0.05%
- 18.7% Own-account workers ▲ +0.2%
- 3.6% Employers ▲ +0.04%
- 2.7% Unpaid family workers ▼ -0.2%

The employees' category constituted **75.0 per cent** of the total employed persons in April 2026

OUTSIDE LABOUR FORCE

MARCH 2026

7.10 million

APRIL 2026

7.10 million

▼ -0.01%

Housework/ family responsibilities remained the primary reason for being outside the labour force



Housework/ family responsibilities
43.3%



Schooling/ training
40.5%

Notes:
• Percentage point
• Percentage change (month-on-month)
• Unchanged



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BK26
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MALAYSIA
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MALAYSIA
IN THE WORLD

20 October

2016 - 2030

- The number of **employed persons** in April 2026 continued to record modest growth, rising by **0.1 per cent (+11.8 thousand persons)** to **16.82 million persons**, compared to the prior month (March 2026: 16.80 million persons). The **employment-to-population ratio**, which reflects the economy's capacity to create jobs, remained at **68.8 per cent** in April 2026, unchanged from the preceding month.
- From an economic sector perspective, the Services sector remained the primary contributor to total employed persons, with the majority engaged in the Wholesale and retail trade; Accommodation and food & beverage service activities; and Information & communication. The number of employed persons in the Manufacturing, Construction, Agriculture, and Mining & quarrying sectors likewise recorded positive growth during the month.
- The **employees'** category constituted **75.0 per cent** of the total employed persons in April 2026. The number of employees' increased marginally by **0.05 per cent (+6.3 thousand persons)** to **12.61 million persons**, compared with 12.60 million persons in March 2026. Likewise, the number of **own-account workers** continued to trend upward and rose by **0.2 per cent (+6.2 thousand persons)** to **3.15 million persons** from 3.14 million persons a month earlier.
- In April 2026, the number of **unemployed persons** was on an uptrend, increasing by **0.6 per cent (+2.9 thousand persons)** to **511.8 thousand persons** from 509.0 thousand persons in the previous month. As a result, the **unemployment rate** during the month rose by **0.1 percentage points** to **3.0 per cent** (March 2026: 2.9%), returning to the level recorded in October 2025.
- The **labour force** continued to trend up in April 2026, rising by **0.1 per cent**, or the equivalent of **14.6 thousand persons** to **17.33 million persons** (March 2026: 17.31 million persons). The **labour force participation rate (LFPR)** stood at **70.9 per cent**, unchanged from last month.
- The number of persons **outside the labour force** in April 2026 declined marginally by **0.01 per cent (-0.4 thousand persons)** to **7.10 million persons**, compared to the previous month (March 2026: 7.10 million persons). **Housework/ family responsibilities** remained the primary reason for being outside the labour force, constituting **43.3 per cent**, followed by the **schooling/ training** reason with **40.5 per cent**.

The full publication of the Labour Force Report, April 2026 can be downloaded through eStatistik Portal

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DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

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