



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS, AUGUST 2026



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**MALAYSIA
LABOUR FORCE,
AUGUST 2026**

The number of unemployed declined to 511.6 thousand persons, with an unemployment rate of **2.9 per cent**

LABOUR FORCE

August 2026



17.39
million

▲+0.1%

The labour force increased as compared to the previous month

JULY 2026
17.37
million

**LABOUR FORCE
PARTICIPATION RATE**

71.0%

▲+0.1 pp

The labour force participation rate (LFPR) edged up to 71.0 per cent

JULY 2026
70.9%

LFPR by sex

Male
83.1%



Female
57.2%



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

August 2026

2.9%

The unemployment rate declined to 2.9 per cent

▼-0.1 pp

JULY 2026: 3.0%

UNEMPLOYED

511.6
thousand

▼-1.7%



JULY 2026
520.3
thousand

Unemployed by category

- Actively unemployed
AUGUST 2026: 405.1 thousand
JULY 2026: 412.6 thousand ▼-1.8%
- Inactively unemployed
AUGUST 2026: 106.5 thousand
JULY 2026: 107.7 thousand ▼-1.2%

EMPLOYED PERSONS

August 2026



16.87
million

▲+0.2%

JULY 2026
16.85
million

Employment-to-population ratio

68.9%

▲+0.1 pp

JULY 2026
68.8%

Employed persons by status in employment



The **employees** remained the largest share accounting for **74.9 per cent** from total employed persons

OUTSIDE LABOUR FORCE

JULY 2026

7.11 million



AUGUST 2026

7.11 million

▼-0.1%

The largest component of the outside labour force was housework/family responsibilities



Housework/family responsibilities
43.6%



Schooling/training
40.2%

Notes:
● Percentage point
▲ Percentage change (month-on-month)
● Unchanged



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- The **labour force** sustained its upward momentum in August 2026, increasing by **0.1 per cent (+20.1 thousand persons)** to **17.39 million persons** (July 2026: 17.37 million persons). The **labour force participation rate (LFPR)** edged up by **0.1 percentage point** to **71.0 per cent** (July 2026: 70.9%).
- Malaysia's labour market in August 2026 maintained its resilience, as the number of **employed persons** grew modestly by **0.2 per cent (+28.8 thousand persons)** to **16.87 million persons**, up from 16.85 million persons in July 2026. The **employment-to-population ratio**, reflecting the economy's capacity to generate jobs, rose by **0.1 percentage point** to **68.9 per cent**, compared to 68.8 per cent in July 2026.
- The **employees'** category continued to represent the largest share of the total employed persons, accounting for **74.9 per cent** in August 2026. The number of employees' edged up by **0.1 per cent (+13.5 thousand persons)** to **12.63 million persons** (July 2026: 12.62 million persons). Similarly, the number of **own-account workers** recorded a marginal increase of **0.2 per cent (+5.3 thousand persons)** to **3.17 million persons** (July 2026: 3.16 million persons).
- The number of **unemployed** in August 2026 declined by **8.7 thousand persons (-1.7%)** to **511.6 thousand persons**, compared to 520.3 thousand persons in July 2026. The **unemployment rate** eased by **0.1 percentage point** to **2.9 per cent** (July 2026: 3.0%).
- The number of persons **outside the labour force** in August 2026 registered a marginal decline of **0.1 per cent (-4.5 thousand persons)** to **7.11 million persons** (July 2026: 7.11 million persons). The largest component of the outside labour force was **housework/family responsibilities**, accounting for **43.6 per cent**, followed by the **schooling/training category** which constituted **40.2 per cent**.

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

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