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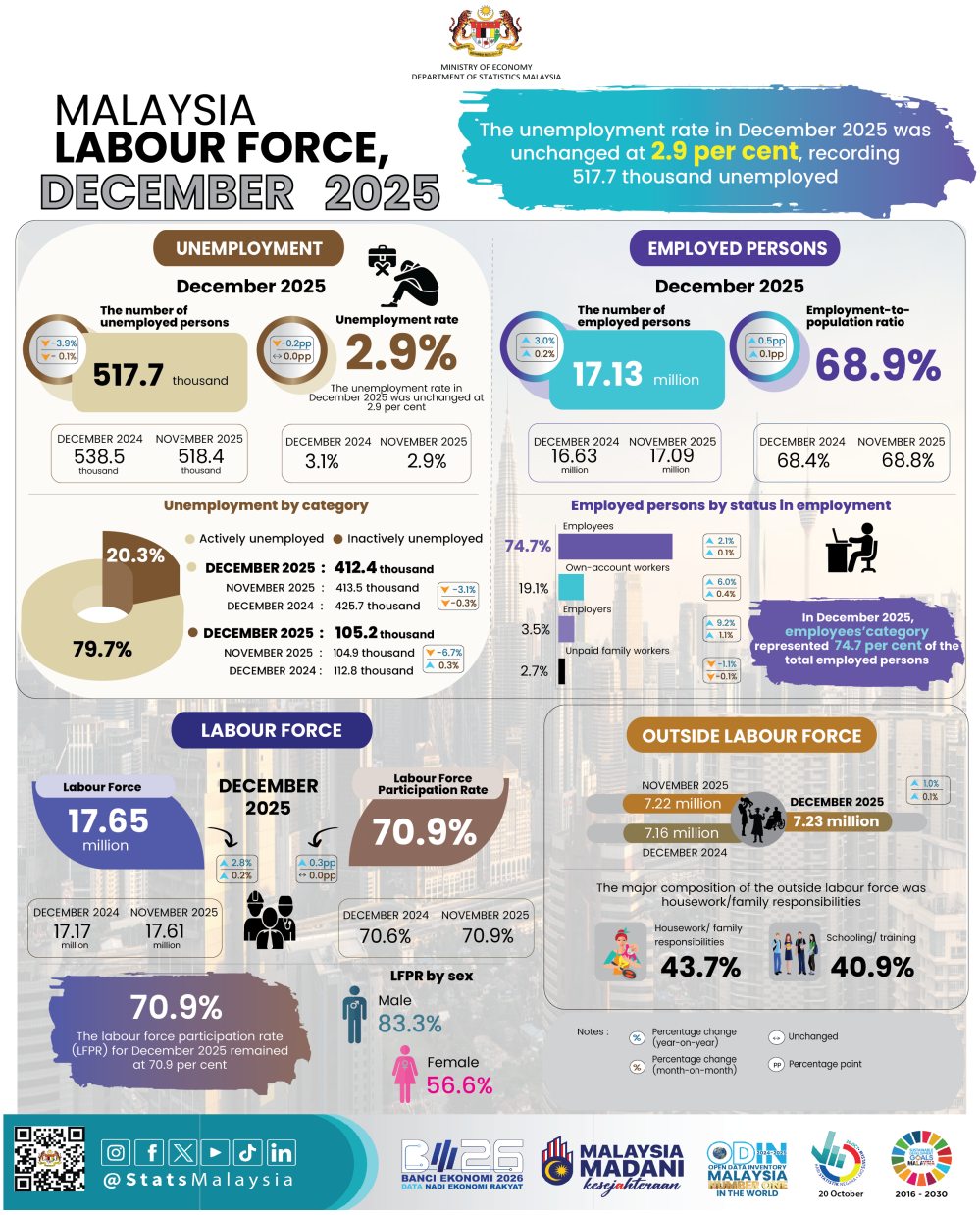
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS, DECEMBER 2025



- The number of **employed persons** in December 2025 continued its upward trend, with an increase of **0.2 per cent (+37.0 thousand persons)** to **17.13 million persons**, compared to 17.09 million persons in November 2025. The **employment-to-population ratio**, which signals the ability of an economy to create jobs, edged up **0.1 percentage points** to **68.9 per cent** in December 2025 (November 2025: 68.8%).
- Employment by economic sectors indicates that the number of employed persons in the Services sector continued to record steady growth, particularly in Wholesale & retail trade, followed by Accommodation and food & beverage service activities, as well as Information & communication activities. Similarly, the number of employments also increased in the Agriculture, Manufacturing and Construction sectors, while the Mining & quarrying sectors experienced a slight decline during the month.
- In December 2025, the **employees'** category represented **74.7 per cent** of the total employed persons. This category went up by **0.1 per cent (+18.7 thousand persons)**, bringing the total to **12.80 million persons** compared to the previous month (November 2025: 12.78 million persons). Likewise, the number of **own-account workers** also showed an improvement, rising by **0.4 per cent (+12.0 thousand persons)** to **3.27 million persons** from 3.26 million persons in the preceding month.
- The number of **unemployed persons** during the month posted a slight decrease of **0.1 per cent (-0.7 thousand persons)** to **517.7 thousand persons** compared to the prior month (November 2025: 518.4 thousand persons). The **unemployment rate** in December 2025 was unchanged at **2.9 per cent** as of November 2025.
- The **labour force** continued to expand in December 2025, rising by **0.2 per cent (+36.2 thousand persons)** month-on-month to **17.65 million persons**, as against 17.61 million persons last month. December's **labour force participation rate** remained at **70.9 per cent**, the same as in the previous month.
- During the month, the number of persons **outside the labour force** posted an increase of **0.1 per cent**, or the equivalent of **+7.0 thousand persons** to **7.23 million persons** (November 2025: 7.22 million persons). The major composition of the outside labour force was **housework/ family responsibilities**, accounting for **43.7 per cent**, followed by the **schooling/ training** category at **40.9 per cent**.

The full publication of the Labour Force Report, December 2025 can be downloaded through eStatistik Portal.

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