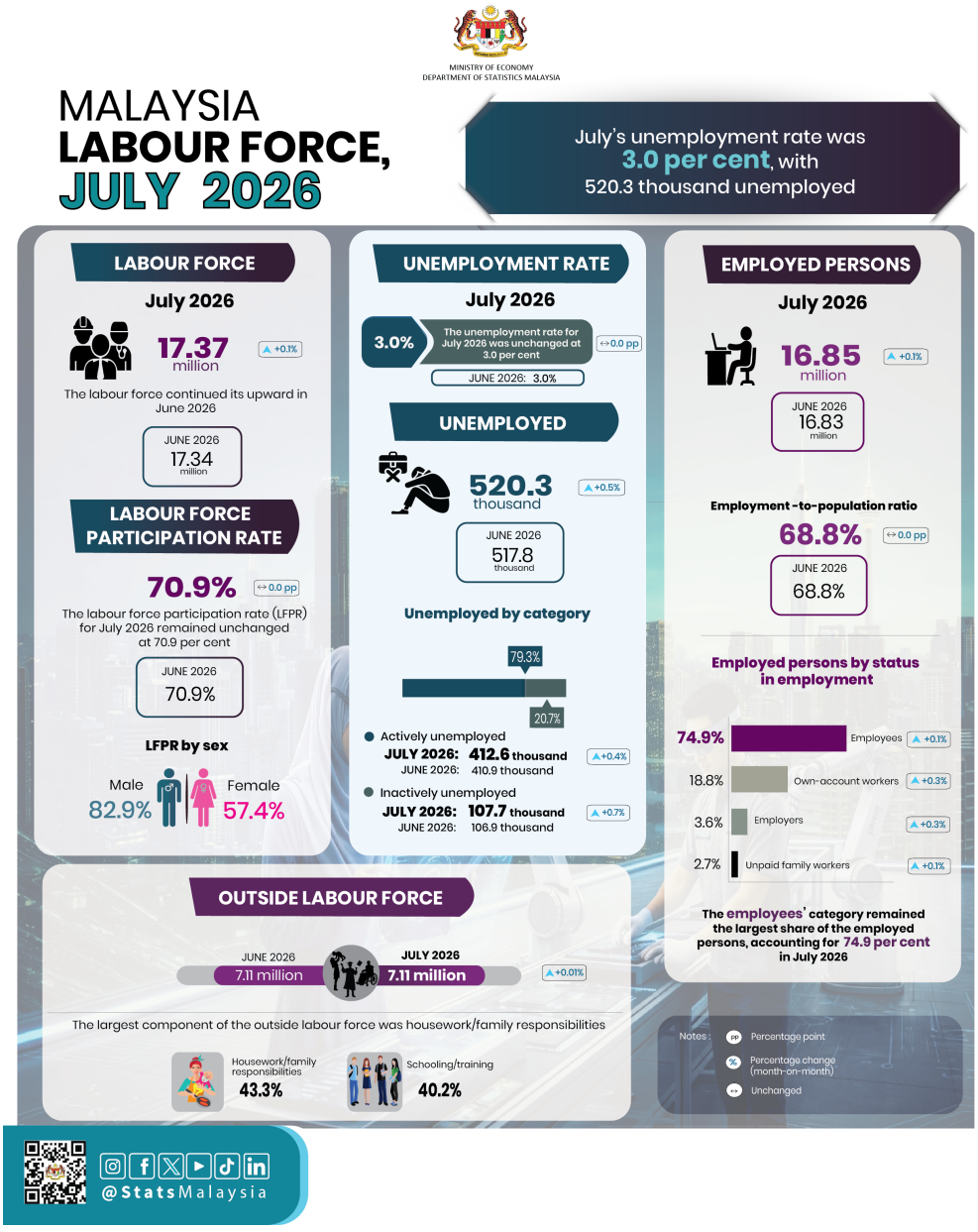
EMBARGO: Only to be published or disseminated at **12:00 hour, Friday, 11 September 2026**

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS, JULY 2026



- The **labour force** continued its upward trajectory in July 2026, rising by **0.1 per cent (+21.0 thousand persons)** to **17.37 million persons** (June 2026: 17.34 million persons). The **labour force participation rate (LFPR)** remained unchanged at **70.9 per cent**.

- Malaysia's labour market in July 2026 sustained its resilience, as the number of **employed persons** grew modestly by **0.1 per cent (+18.5 thousand persons)** to **16.85 million persons**, compared to 16.83 million in June 2026. The **employment-to-population ratio**, reflecting the economy's capacity to generate jobs, held steady at **68.8 per cent**, unchanged from the previous month.

- The Services sector continued to serve as the primary driver of total employment during the month. Growth in this sector was largely contributed by Arts, entertainment and recreation, Accommodation and food & beverage service activities as well as Financial and insurance/ takaful activities. Likewise, employment expanded across all other sectors namely Agriculture, Mining & quarrying, Manufacturing and Construction.

- The **employees**' category remained the largest share of the employed persons, accounting for **74.9 per cent** in July 2026. The number of employees' edged up by **0.1 per cent (+7.6 thousand persons)** to **12.62 million persons** (June 2026: 12.61 million persons). Similarly, the number of **own-account workers** increased marginally of **0.3 per cent (+8.7 thousand persons)** to **3.16 million persons** (June 2026: 3.15 million persons).

- The number of **unemployed** in July 2026 went up by **2.5 thousand persons (+0.5%)** to **520.3 thousand persons** (June 2025: 517.8 thousand persons). The **unemployment rate** was unchanged at **3.0 per cent**, as in the previous month.

- The number of persons **outside the labour force** in July 2026 recorded a marginal increase of **0.01 per cent (+0.7 thousand persons)** to **7.11 million persons** (June 2026: 7.11 million persons). The largest component of the outside labour force was **housework/family responsibilities**, accounting for **43.3 per cent**, followed by the **schooling/training** category which constituted **40.2 per cent**.

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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