



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

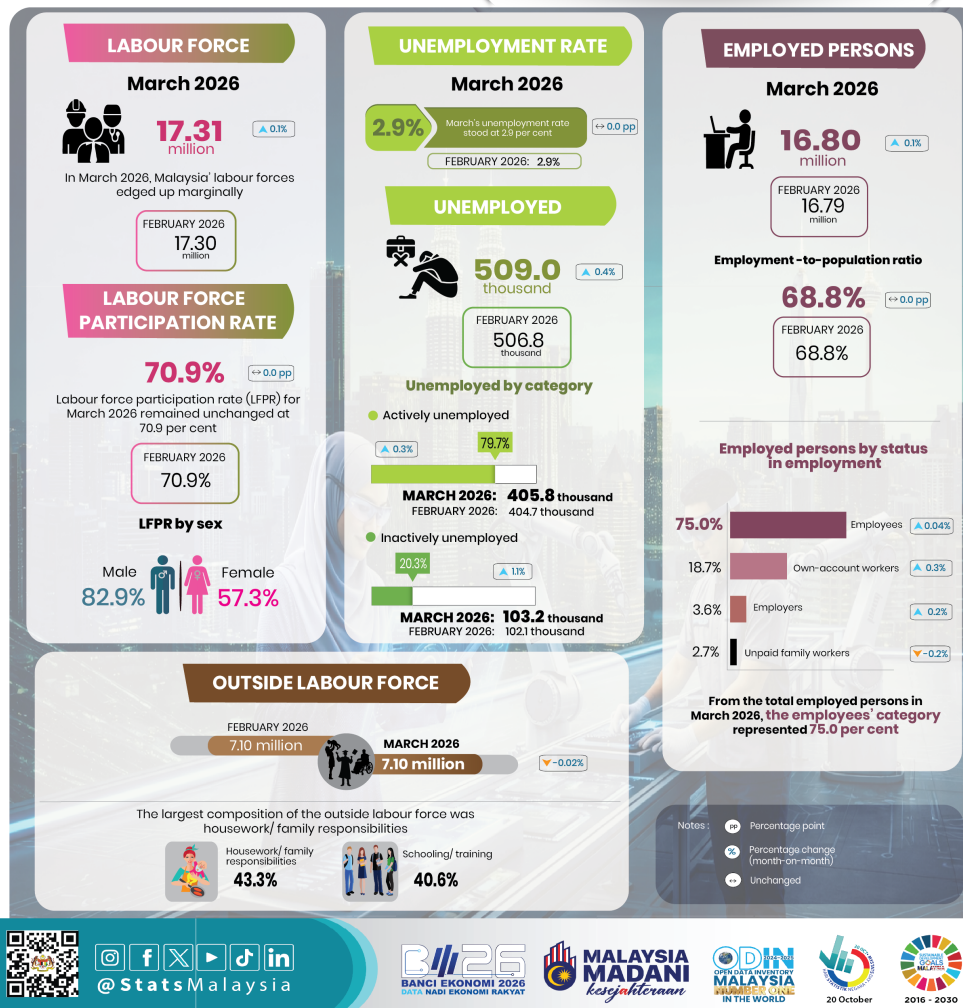
LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS, MARCH 2026



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**MALAYSIA
LABOUR FORCE,
MARCH 2026**

Malaysia's labour market remains stable in March 2026, with an unemployment rate of **2.9 per cent**



- The number of **employed persons** continued to increase in March 2026, increasing by **0.1 per cent (+13.2 thousand persons)** to **16.80 million persons**, compared with 16.79 million persons in February 2026. The **employment-to-population ratio**, reflecting the economy's ability to create jobs, remained unchanged at **68.8 per cent** in March 2026, consistent with the level recorded in the previous month.
- The Services sector remained the largest contributor to total employment in March 2026, particularly in Accommodation and food & beverage services; Information & communication activities and Transportation & storage activities. The Manufacturing, Construction and the Agriculture sector also recorded increases in the number of employed persons. Meanwhile, employment in the Mining & quarrying sector registered a slight decline during the month.
- From the total employed persons in March 2026, the **employees'** category represented **75.0 per cent**. This category recorded a modest increase of **0.04 per cent (+5.2 thousand persons)** to **12.60 million persons**, compared with 12.59 million persons in February 2026. The number of **own-account workers** also improved, registering a **0.3 per cent (+7.9 thousand persons)** rise to **3.14 million persons** from 3.13 million in the previous month.
- During the month, the number of **unemployed persons** posted a slight increase of **0.4 per cent (+2.2 thousand persons)** to **509.0 thousand persons** (February 2026: 506.8 thousand persons). March's **unemployment rate** remained at **2.9 per cent**, as recorded last month.
- In March 2026, the **labour force** continued to show improvement, rising by **0.1 per cent (+15.3 thousand persons)** to **17.31 million persons** (February 2026: 17.30 million persons). **The labour force participation rate (LFPR)** remained unchanged at **70.9 per cent**, as in the previous month.
- The number of persons **outside the labour force** in March 2026 continued to decline with a slight decrease of **0.02 per cent (-1.7 thousand persons)** to **7.10 million persons** (February 2026: 7.10 million persons). The largest composition of the outside labour force was **housework/ family responsibilities** with a share of **43.3 per cent**, followed by the **schooling/ training** category at **40.6 per cent**.

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

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