



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS, MAY 2026



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**MALAYSIA
LABOUR FORCE,
MAY 2026**

May's unemployment rate remained at **3.0 per cent**, recording the number of unemployed at 513.4 thousand persons

LABOUR FORCE

May 2026



17.34
million

▲ +0.1%

The labour force continued its upward trend in May 2026

APRIL 2026
17.33
million

**LABOUR FORCE
PARTICIPATION RATE**

70.9%

↔ 0.0 pp

The labour force participation rate (LFPR) for May 2026 remained unchanged at 70.9 per cent

APRIL 2026
70.9%

LFPR by sex

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

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

May 2026

3.0%

May's unemployment rate stood at 3.0 per cent

↔ 0.0 pp

APRIL 2026: 3.0%

UNEMPLOYED



513.4
thousand

▲ +0.3%

APRIL 2026
511.8
thousand

Unemployed by category

- Actively unemployed
MAY 2026: 408.0 thousand ▲ +0.2%
APRIL 2026: 407.1 thousand
- Inactively unemployed
MAY 2026: 105.5 thousand ▲ +0.7%
APRIL 2026: 104.7 thousand

EMPLOYED PERSONS

May 2026



16.82
million

▲ +0.1%

APRIL 2026
16.82
million

Employment - to - population ratio

68.8%

↔ 0.0 pp

APRIL 2026
68.8%

**Employed persons by status
in employment**



The employees' remained as the largest employment category, accounting for **75.0 per cent** from the total employed persons in May 2026

OUTSIDE LABOUR FORCE

APRIL 2026
7.10
million

MAY 2026
7.10
million

▲ +0.04%

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



Housework/family responsibilities
43.3%



Schooling/training
40.5%

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



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BK26
BANKI EKONOMI 2026
DATA NADI EKONOMI RAKYAT

MALAYSIA
MADANI
keajaiban

ODIN
OPEN DATA WISDOM
MALAYSIA
IN THE WORLD

20 October

2016 - 2030

- The number of **employed persons** in May 2026 continued to expand at a moderate pace, increasing by **0.1 per cent (+9.0 thousand persons)** to **16.82 million persons**, from the previous month (April 2026: 16.82 million persons). The **employment-to-population ratio**, which indicates an economy's capacity to create jobs, remained unchanged at **68.8 per cent** in May 2026, the same as in the previous month.
- From a sectoral perspective, the Services sector continued to be the main contributor to total employment in the current month, with Wholesale & retail trade; Accommodation and Food & beverage service activities; and Information & communication activities accounting for the largest share of the employment. Other major sectors, including the Manufacturing, Construction, Agriculture, and Mining & Quarrying, also registered increases in the number of employed persons in May 2026.
- The **employees'** remained as the largest employment category, accounting for **75.0 per cent** from the total employed persons in May 2026. The number of employees' edged up by **0.04 per cent (+5.1 thousand persons)** to **12.61 million persons** (April 2026: 12.61 million persons). Meanwhile, the number of **own-account workers** increased by **0.1 per cent (+3.2 thousand persons)** to **3.15 million persons** (April 2026: 3.15 million persons).
- The number of **unemployed persons** in May 2026 rose slightly to **513.4 thousand persons**, with an addition of **0.3 per cent (+1.6 thousand persons)** from 511.8 thousand persons in April 2026. May's **unemployment rate** stood at **3.0 per cent**, unchanged from the rate recorded in the preceding month.
- In May 2026, the **labour force** continued its upward trend, expanding by **0.1 per cent (+10.6 thousand persons)** to **17.34 million persons** (April 2026: 17.33 million persons). Meanwhile, the **labour force participation rate (LFPR)** remained unchanged at **70.9 per cent**, the same as in April last month.
- The number of persons **outside the labour force** in May 2026 recorded a marginal increase of **0.04 per cent (+2.6 thousand persons)** to **7.10 million persons** (April 2026: 7.10 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 **40.5 per cent**.

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

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