



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY REPORT, FOURTH QUARTER 2025



MALAYSIA LABOUR FORCE, FOURTH QUARTER 2025

“The unemployment rate fell to 2.9 per cent, while the female labour force participation rate hit a record high of 56.6 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2025”

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
3.0%
Q3 2025
2.9%
Q4 2025
▼ -0.1pp

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS
517.9 thousand
Q4 2025
▼ -0.4%
519.9 thousand
Q3 2025

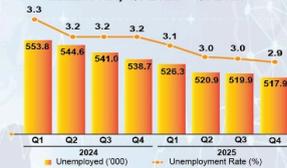


UNEMPLOYMENT

The number of unemployed persons reduced further by 0.4 per cent to 517.9 thousand persons, while the unemployed rate declined to 2.9 per cent.



UNEMPLOYED AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, MALAYSIA, Q1 2024 - Q4 2025



EMPLOYED PERSONS

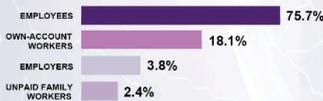
The total number of employed persons edged up by 0.8 per cent to register 17.10 million persons.

EMPLOYED PERSONS
17.10 million
Q4 2025
▲ 0.8%
16.97 million
Q3 2025

EMPLOYED PERSONS BY SEX, MALAYSIA, Q1 2024 - Q4 2025



EMPLOYED PERSONS BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS, MALAYSIA, Q4 2025

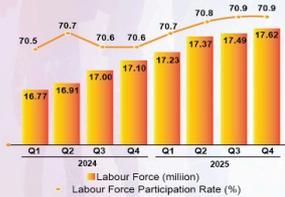


Notes: ▲ Quarter-on-quarter; pp Percentage point
The Labour Force Statistics from first quarter of 2024 are estimated based on the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia 2020

LABOUR FORCE

The number of labour force in the fourth quarter of 2025 rose by 0.8 per cent to 17.62 million persons.

LABOUR FORCE AND LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE, MALAYSIA, Q1 2024 - Q4 2025



LABOUR FORCE

17.62 million
Q4 2025
▲ 0.8%
17.49 million
Q3 2025

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

70.9%
Q3 2025
= 70.9%
Q4 2025

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE BY SEX

83.3%
Q3 2025
= 83.3%
Q4 2025
56.5%
Q3 2025
▲ 0.1pp
56.6%
Q4 2025

OUTSIDE LABOUR FORCE

The number of outside labour force increased by 0.6 per cent to record 7.22 million persons in the fourth quarter of 2025.

7.22 million
Q4 2025
▲ 0.6%
7.18 million
Q3 2025

Housework/ family responsibilities
category was the largest component of the outside labour force.

Housework/ family responsibilities
44.3%
Schooling/ training program
40.7%

Source: Labour Force Survey Report, Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)



- The **labour force** continued trending upward in the fourth quarter of 2025, with a rise of **0.8 per cent** or **131.6 thousand persons**, to register **17.62 million persons** (Q3 2025: 17.49 million persons). The **labour force participation rate (LFPR)** remained unchanged at **70.9 per cent**, as recorded in the third quarter of 2025.
- The number of **employed persons** continued to record a positive performance in the fourth quarter of 2025, increasing by **0.8 per cent (+133.5 thousand persons)** to **17.10 million persons** (Q3 2025: 16.97 million persons). On a year-on-year comparison, total employment edged up by **3.3 per cent**, or equivalent to an increase of **541.1 thousand persons** compared to the fourth quarter of 2024 (Q4 2024:16.56 million persons).
- In the fourth quarter of 2025, the number of **unemployed persons** continued to record a downward trend of **0.4 per cent** (-2.0 thousand persons) to **517.9 thousand persons** (Q3 2025: 519.9 thousand persons). Moreover, the **unemployment rate** fell to its lowest level since the second quarter of 2014, dropping 0.1 percentage points to **2.9 per cent**. Year-on-year comparison showed the number of unemployed persons decreased by 20.8 thousand persons equal to 3.9 per cent, corresponding to a lower unemployment rate of **2.9 per cent**, compared to 3.2 per cent in the same quarter of 2024.
- At the national level, the **LFPR** remained unchanged at **70.9 per cent** in the fourth quarter of 2025. Improvements in labour participation in the market were observed in **nine states**. **Selangor** led with the highest **LFPR** of **78.5 per cent**, followed by **W.P. Putrajaya 78.2 per cent** and **W.P. Kuala Lumpur at 75.5 per cent**.
- In terms of **unemployment rate by state**, **eight states** recorded below the **national unemployment rate** of **2.9 per cent**. During the quarter, **Pahang** and **W.P. Putrajaya** posted the lowest unemployment rate at **1.6 per cent**, followed by **Selangor** at **1.8 per cent**, **Johor** and **Melaka** at **2.5 per cent**.

Note: The Labour Force Statistics from first quarter of 2024 are estimated based on the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia 2020

The full publication of the Labour Force Survey Report, Fourth Quarter 2025 can be downloaded through eStatistic Portal.

Released by:

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

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