



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

PRINCIPAL STATISTICS OF LABOUR FORCE, MALAYSIA, FOURTH QUARTER 2025



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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
519.9 thousand
Q3 2025
▼ -0.4%

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



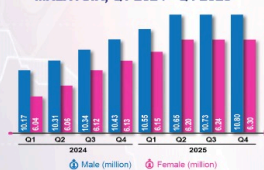
EMPLOYED PERSONS

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

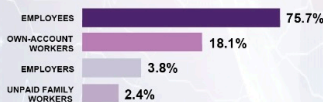
EMPLOYED PERSONS

17.10 million
Q4 2025
16.97 million
Q3 2025
▲ 0.8%

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



EMPLOYED PERSONS BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS, MALAYSIA, Q4 2025



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
17.49 million
Q3 2025
▲ 0.8%

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
7.18 million
Q3 2025
▲ 0.6%

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



Notes: ▲ Quarter-on-quarter; ▼ Percentage point

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

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



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- 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

11th FEBRUARY 2026

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