



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

PRINCIPAL STATISTICS OF LABOUR FORCE, MALAYSIA, THIRD QUARTER 2025



MALAYSIA LABOUR FORCE THIRD QUARTER

“The number of unemployed dropped to 519.9 thousand persons in third quarter of 2025, with the unemployment rate remained at 3.0 per cent”

2025

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

3.0%
Q2 2025 **3.0%**
Q3 2025

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS

519.9 thousand
Q3 2025

520.9 thousand
Q2 2025

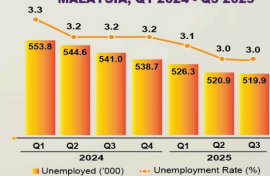
-0.2%



UNEMPLOYMENT

The number of unemployed persons reduced further by 0.2 per cent to 519.9 thousand persons, while the unemployment rate remained at 3.0 per cent.

UNEMPLOYED AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, MALAYSIA, Q1 2024 - Q3 2025



EMPLOYED PERSONS

The total number of employed persons edged up by 0.7 per cent to register 16.97 million persons in the third quarter of 2025.

EMPLOYED PERSONS

16.97 million
Q3 2025

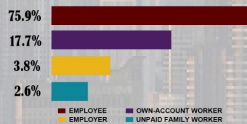
16.85 million
Q2 2025

0.7%

EMPLOYED PERSONS BY SEX, MALAYSIA, Q1 2024 - Q3 2025



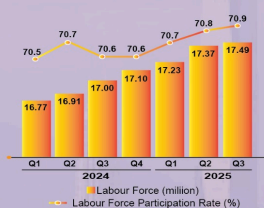
EMPLOYED PERSONS BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS, MALAYSIA, Q3 2025



LABOUR FORCE

The number of labour force in the third quarter of 2025 rose by 0.7 per cent to 17.49 million persons.

LABOUR FORCE AND LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE, MALAYSIA, Q1 2024 - Q3 2025



LABOUR FORCE

17.49 million
Q3 2025

17.37 million
Q2 2025

0.7%

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

70.8%
Q2 2025 **70.9%**
Q3 2025

0.1pp

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE BY SEX



MALE

83.3%
Q2 2025 **83.3%**
Q3 2025

MALE

FEMALE

56.4%
Q2 2025 **56.5%**
Q3 2025

FEMALE

0.1pp



OUTSIDE LABOUR FORCE

The number of outside labour force increased by 0.4 per cent to record 7.18 million persons in the third quarter of 2025.

7.18 million
Q3 2025

7.15 million
Q2 2025

0.4%



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- The **labour force** continued to expand in the third quarter of 2025, with a rise of **0.7 per cent** or **116.6 thousand persons**, to register **17.49 million persons** (Q2 2025: 17.37 million persons). A higher **labour force participation rate (LFPR)** was recorded during the quarter at **70.9 per cent**, an increase of **0.1 percentage points** from 70.8 per cent in the preceding quarter.
- The number of **employed persons** sustained its positive trend in the third quarter of 2025, rising by **0.7 per cent (+117.6 thousand persons)** to reach **16.97 million persons** (Q2 2025: 16.85 million persons). On a year-on-year basis, total employment expanded by **3.1 per cent**, with an increase of **511.0 thousand persons** compared to the third quarter of 2024 (Q3 2024: 16.46 million persons).
- In the third quarter of 2025, the number of **unemployed persons** recorded a downward trend by **0.2 per cent** (-1.0 thousand persons) to **519.9 thousand persons** (Q2 2025: 520.9 thousand persons). However, the **unemployment rate** remained unchanged at **3.0 per cent**, as in the previous quarter. Year-on-year comparison showed the number of unemployed persons decrease by **21.1 thousand persons** equal to 3.9 per cent, corresponding to a lower unemployment rate of **3.0 per cent** compared to 3.2 per cent in the same quarter of 2024.
- At the national level, the **LFPR** increased to **70.9 per cent** in the third quarter of 2025. **Nine states** recorded increases in the LFPR, indicating improved labour participation in the market. The highest LFPR was recorded by **Selangor (78.2%)**, followed by **W.P. Putrajaya (77.8%)** and **W.P. Kuala Lumpur (75.6%)**.
- In terms of **unemployment rate by state**, **nine states** recorded rates equal or below the **national unemployment level** of **3.0 per cent**. The lowest unemployment rate during this quarter was observed in **W.P. Putrajaya (1.4%)**, followed by **Pahang (1.7%)** and **Selangor (1.8%)**.

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, Third Quarter 2025 can be downloaded through eStatistic Portal.

Released by:

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