



MEDIA STATEMENT

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
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LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS, MALAYSIA, SEPTEMBER AND THIRD QUARTER 2025

The unemployed in September 2025 decreased further to 518.6 thousand persons, recording an unemployment rate of 3.0 per cent

PUTRAJAYA, NOVEMBER 10, 2025 – The unemployed in September 2025 decreased further to 518.6 thousand persons, recording an unemployment rate of 3.0 per cent, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM). The figures were detailed in the **Statistics of the Labour Force, Malaysia, September and Third Quarter 2025** release. The report provides insights into Malaysia's labour supply, drawing from findings collected through the Labour Force Survey conducted by DOSM.

Elaborating on the overall performance for September 2025, Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin said, "The encouraging economic performance has helped strengthen Malaysia's labour force in September 2025, with an increase in the number of employed persons, a reduction in unemployment, and the expansion of inclusive regional development. In line with that, the labour force expanded further, increasing by 0.2 per cent to 17.54 million persons (August 2025: 17.51 million persons). In the meantime, the labour force participation rate (LFPR) remained at 70.9 per cent, unchanged from the previous month."

Furthermore, the number of employed persons in September increased by 0.2 per cent to 17.03 million persons, compared to 16.99 million persons in August 2025. At the same time, the unemployed fell by 0.3 per cent to 518.6 thousand persons (August 2025: 520.0 thousand persons). The unemployment rate held at 3.0 per cent, as in the previous month.

The Chief Statistician Malaysia also stated that in September 2025, the employees' category accounted for 74.9 per cent of the total employed persons. This group edged up by 0.1 per cent to 12.74 million persons, compared to 12.73 million persons in

August 2025. Similarly, the number of own-account workers rose by 0.4 per cent to 3.24 million persons (August 2025: 3.22 million persons).

Employment by economic sectors showed that the number of employed persons in the Services sector continued to increase steadily during the month, primarily in Wholesale and retail trade; Accommodation and food & beverage services; as well as Information and communication activities. Likewise, the Manufacturing, Construction, Mining & quarrying and Agriculture sectors also recorded increases in employment.

Explaining further on the unemployment landscape in September 2025, the Chief Statistician Malaysia highlighted that those who were available for work and were actively seeking jobs, or the actively unemployed, accounted for 79.8 per cent of the total unemployed persons. A decline of 0.3 per cent was recorded in this category, with the number falling to 413.6 thousand persons compared to 414.9 thousand persons in the previous month. Within this group, those who had been unemployed for less than three months comprised 64.6 per cent, while those who were in long-term unemployment for more than a year were 4.9 per cent. Likewise, those who believed that there were no jobs available, or the inactively unemployed, decreased by 0.2 per cent to 104.9 thousand persons as against August 2025 at 105.1 thousand persons.

The youth unemployment rate among those aged 15 to 24 years edged down by 0.1 percentage points to 10.1 per cent, with 296.9 thousand unemployed youths in September 2025 (August 2025: 298.0 thousand persons, 10.2%). Meanwhile, the unemployment rate for youth aged 15 to 30 years was unchanged at 6.2 per cent, registering 398.1 thousand unemployed youths (August 2025: 398.7 thousand persons).

The number of persons outside the labour force during the month rose by 0.1 per cent to 7.21 million persons, compared to 7.20 million persons in August. Housework/ family responsibilities were the major composition of those outside the labour force, accounting for 43.6 per cent, followed by schooling or training at 40.8 per cent.

Commenting on the overall performance in the third quarter of 2025, the Chief Statistician Malaysia stated that the labour force expanded by 0.7 per cent, recording 17.49 million persons (Q2 2025: 17.37 million persons). The LFPR edged up by 0.1 percentage points to 70.9 per cent, compared to 70.8 per cent in the preceding quarter. Following this upward trend, the number of employed persons also rose by 0.7 per cent to 16.97 million persons (Q2 2025: 16.85 million persons). Meanwhile, the number of unemployed persons declined by 0.2 per cent to 519.9 thousand persons (Q2 2025: 520.9 thousand persons). The unemployment rate for the third quarter of 2025 stood at 3.0 per cent, as in the previous quarter.

Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin also highlighted that the number of persons working less than 30 hours per week declined by 4.2 per cent, registering 230.9 thousand persons during the quarter (Q2 2025: 241.0 thousand persons). In line with this, the number of persons working less than 30 hours per week but willing and able to work additional hours, classified as time-related underemployment, decreased by 5.5 per cent to 133.3 thousand persons, thereby posting a time-related underemployment rate of 0.8 per cent (Q2 2025: 141.0 thousand persons; 0.8%). In the meantime, skill-related underemployment, which comprises individuals with tertiary education but working in semi-skilled and low-skilled occupations, rose by 0.3 per cent to 1.96 million persons, recording a skill-related underemployment rate of 35.5 per cent (Q2 2025: 1.96 million persons; 35.6%).

Looking at the state comparison, W.P. Putrajaya registered the lowest unemployment rate at 1.4 per cent for the third quarter of 2025, followed by Pahang with 1.7 per cent and Selangor at 1.8 per cent. On the other hand, nine states posted an increase in the LFPR, with the highest LFPR in Selangor at 78.2 per cent, W. P. Putrajaya ranked second (77.8%) and followed by W. P. Kuala Lumpur (75.6%).

As a final note, Malaysia's labour market is recording its best performance in over a decade, with promising prospects for the coming year in terms of employment opportunities, economic stability, and social development. The labour market is also expected to expand steadily, with a strong focus on human capital development, entrepreneurship, and strategic sectors such as the halal industry and digital technology.

ASEAN-Malaysia 2025 Chairmanship: The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) will chair the 15th ASEAN Community Statistical System Committee (ACSS15) which aims to strengthen the statistical cooperation towards sustainable regional development.

Malaysia, for the first time, ranked as number one (1) globally in the biennial Open Data Inventory (ODIN) 2024/25 report released by Open Data Watch (ODW), surpassing 197 other countries. This achievement marks a significant leap from its 67th position in the ODIN 2022/23 assessment.

The Government of Malaysia has declared October 20th as National Statistics Day (MyStats Day), with the theme 'Statistics is the Essence of Life'. Meanwhile, the Fourth World Statistics Day was celebrated on 20th October 2025, with the theme 'Driving Change with Quality Statistics and Data for Everyone'.

OpenDOSM NextGen is a medium that provides data catalogue and visualisations to facilitate users' analysis and can be accessed through <https://open.dosm.gov.my>.

Chart 1: Employed persons, Malaysia, January 2024 - September 2025

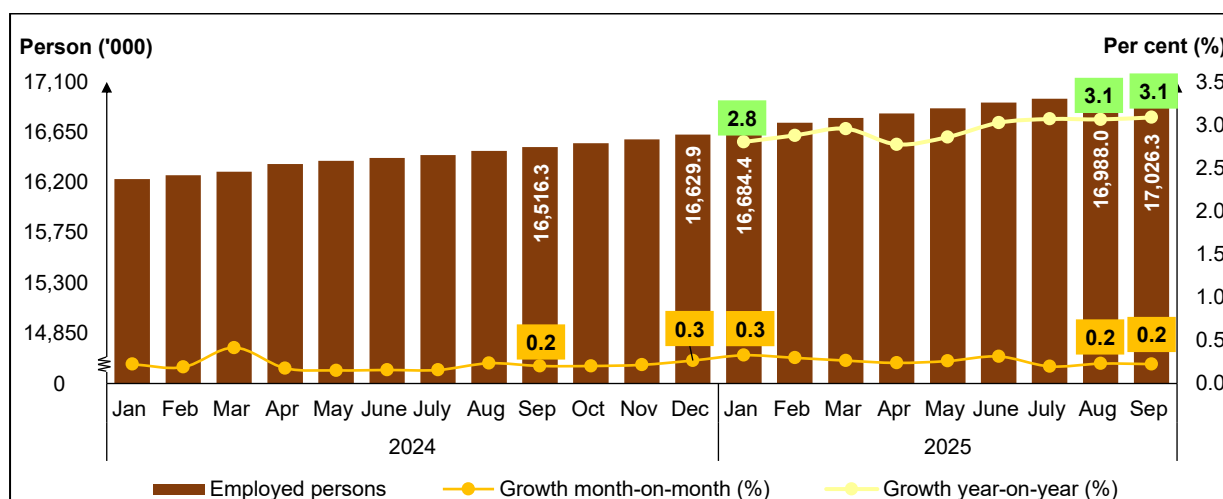


Chart 2: Unemployment, Malaysia, January 2024 - September 2025

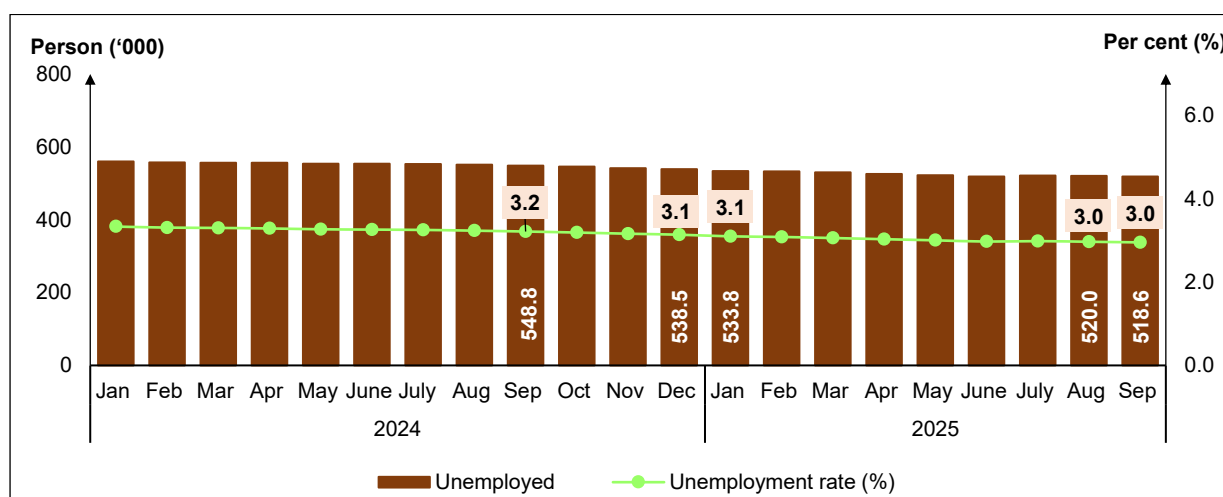


Chart 3: Outside labour force, Malaysia, January 2024 - September 2025

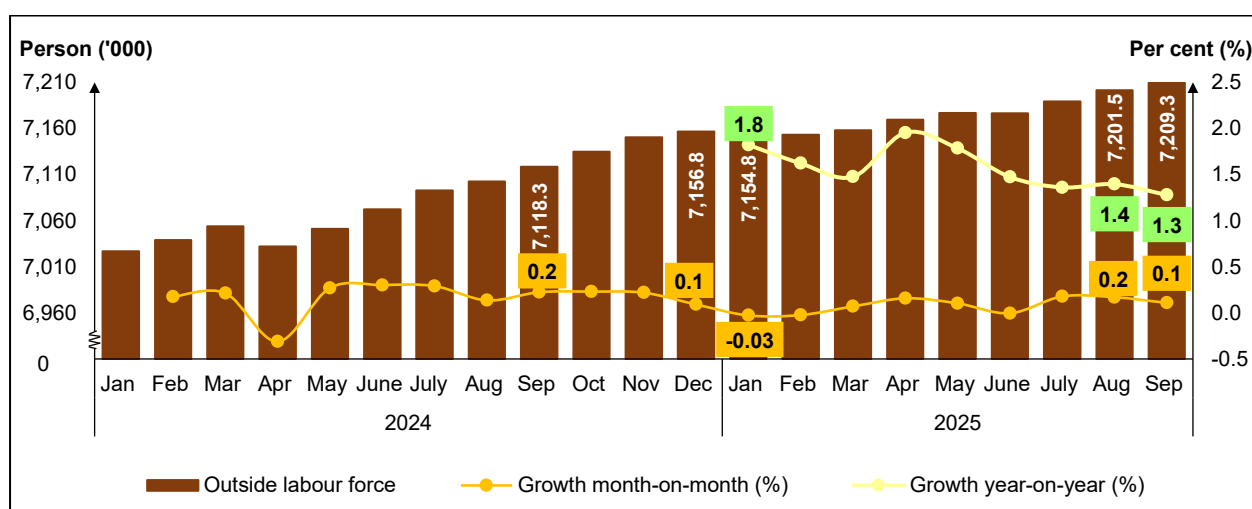


Chart 4: Unemployment, Malaysia, Q1 2024 - Q3 2025

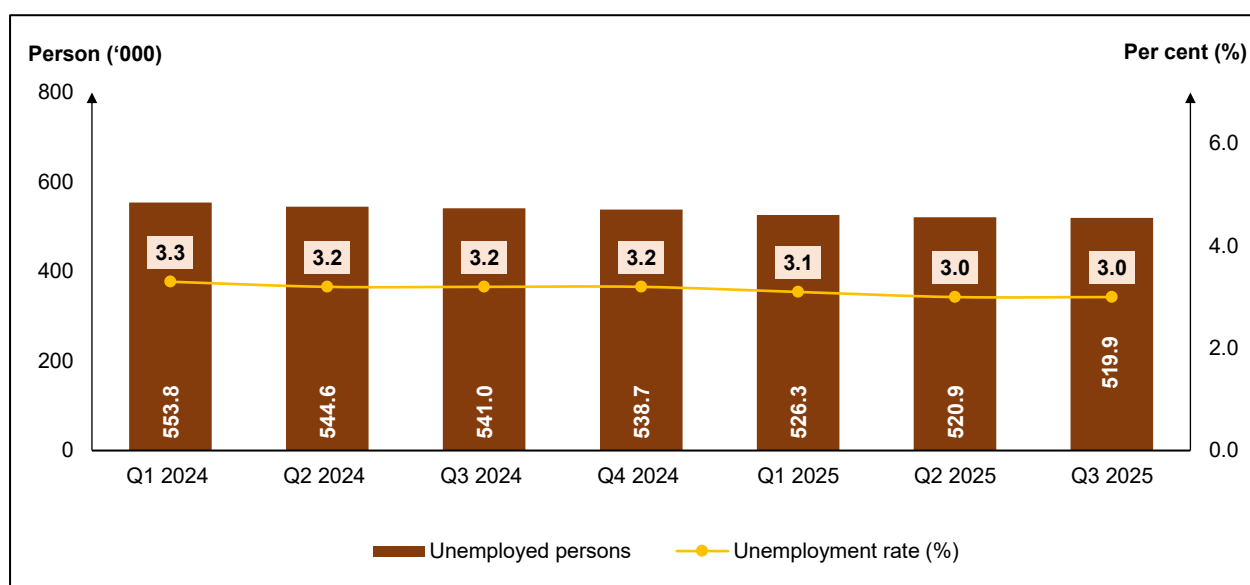
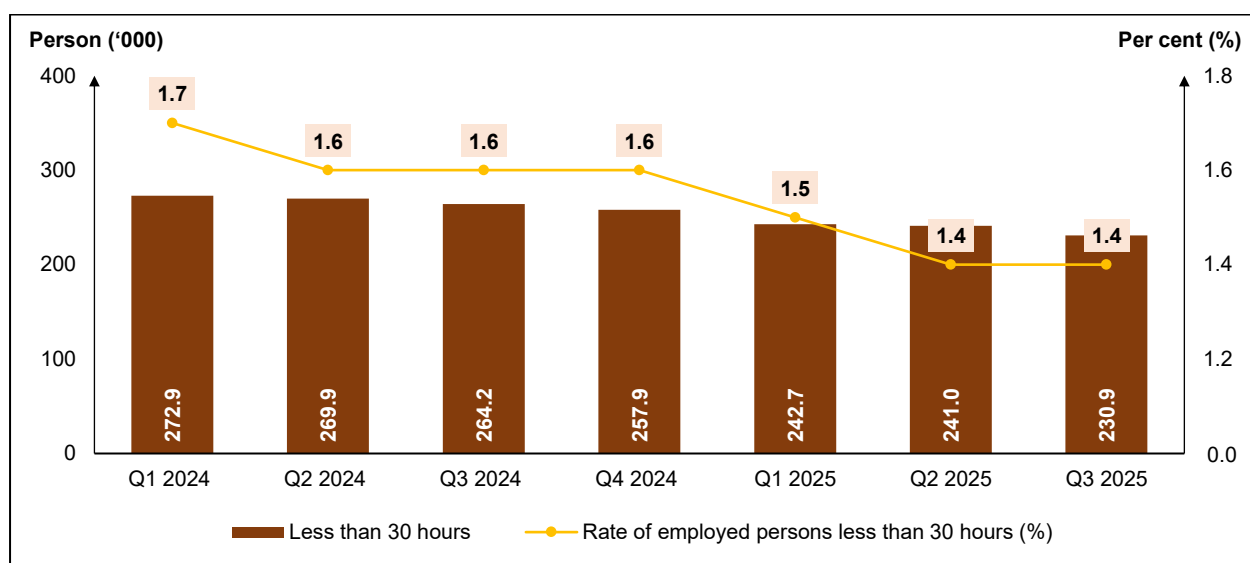
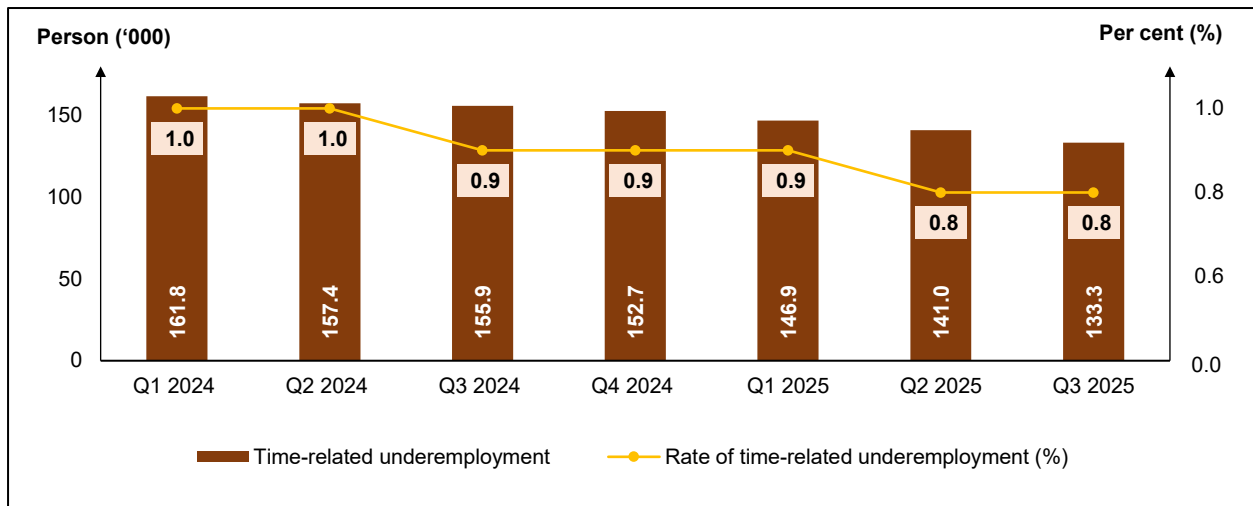


Chart 5: Employed persons working less than 30 hours, Q1 2024 - Q3 2025



$$\text{Rate of employed persons less than 30 hours} = \frac{\text{Number of employed persons less than 30 hours}}{\text{Number of employed persons}}$$

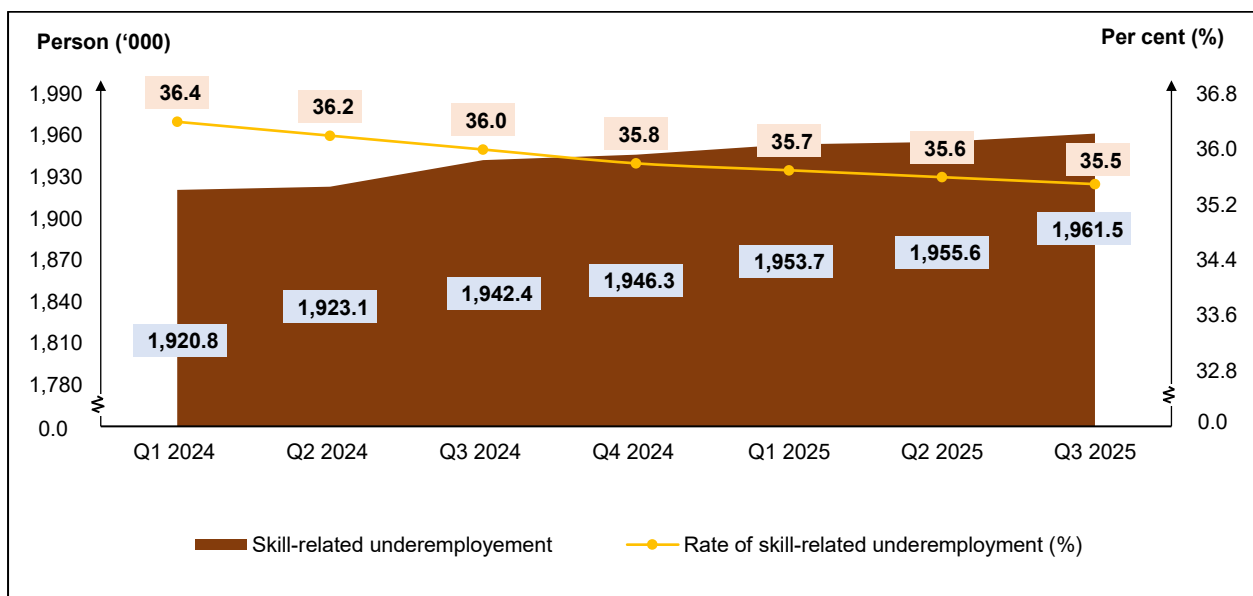
Chart 6: Time-related underemployment, Q1 2024 - Q3 2025



Rate of time-related underemployment

$$= \frac{\text{Number of time-related underemployment}}{\text{Number of employed persons}}$$

Chart 7: Skill-related underemployment, Q1 2024 - Q3 2025



Rate of skill-related underemployment

$$= \frac{\text{Number of skill-related underemployment}}{\text{Number of employed persons with tertiary education}}$$

Note:

1. The Labour Force Survey indicators from January 2024 onwards are estimated based on the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia 2020
2. The Labour Force Statistics from first quarter of 2024 are estimated based on the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia 2020

Released by:

THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

10th NOVEMBER 2025