MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MALAYSIA LABOUR FORCE, JANUARY 2026

January's unemployment rate remained at 2.9 per cent, recording 509.6 thousand persons unemployed

LABOUR FORCE

January 2026

17.28 million ▲0.1%

DECEMBER[r]2025: 17.27 million

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

70.9% ▲0.1 pp

The labour force participation rate (LFPR) increased to 70.9 per cent in January 2026

DECEMBER[r]2025: 70.8%

LFPR by sex

Male 82.9% | Female 57.2%

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

January 2026

2.9% January's unemployment rate stood at 2.9 per cent ↔0.0 pp

DECEMBER[r] 2025: 2.9%

UNEMPLOYED

509.6 thousand ▲0.3%

DECEMBER[r] 2025: 508.0 thousand

Unemployed by category

Actively unemployed — 79.8% ▲0.3%

JANUARY 2026: 406.9 thousand
DECEMBER[r] 2025: 405.5 thousand

Inactively unemployed — 20.2% ▲0.3%

JANUARY 2026: 102.8 thousand
DECEMBER[r] 2025: 102.4 thousand

EMPLOYED PERSONS

January 2026

16.77 million ▲0.04%

DECEMBER[r]2025: 16.76 million

Employment-to-population ratio

68.8% ▲0.1 pp

DECEMBER[r]2025: 68.7%

Employed persons by status in employment

75.1%	Employees	▲0.03%
18.6%	Own-account workers	▲0.1%
3.6%	Employers	▲0.3%
2.7%	Unpaid family workers	▼-0.3%

The employees' category made up 75.1 per cent of the total employed persons in January 2026

OUTSIDE LABOUR FORCE

DECEMBER[r]2025: 7.13 million
JANUARY 2026: **7.11 million** ▼-0.4%

The main reason for being outside the labour force was due to housework/ family responsibilities

- Housework/ family responsibilities: **43.3%**
- Schooling/ training: **40.4%**

Notes:
- pp — Percentage point
- % — Percentage change (month-on-month)
- ↔ — Unchanged
- r — The monthly Labour Force Survey statistics for December 2025 were revised based on the latest current population estimates

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BANCI EKONOMI 2026 DATA NADI EKONOMI RAKYAT

MALAYSIA MADANI kesejahteraan

ODIN 2024-2025 OPEN DATA INVENTORY MALAYSIA NUMBER ONE IN THE WORLD

20 October

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS MALAYSIA 2016 - 2030