



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

▲0.3%

79.8%

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



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%

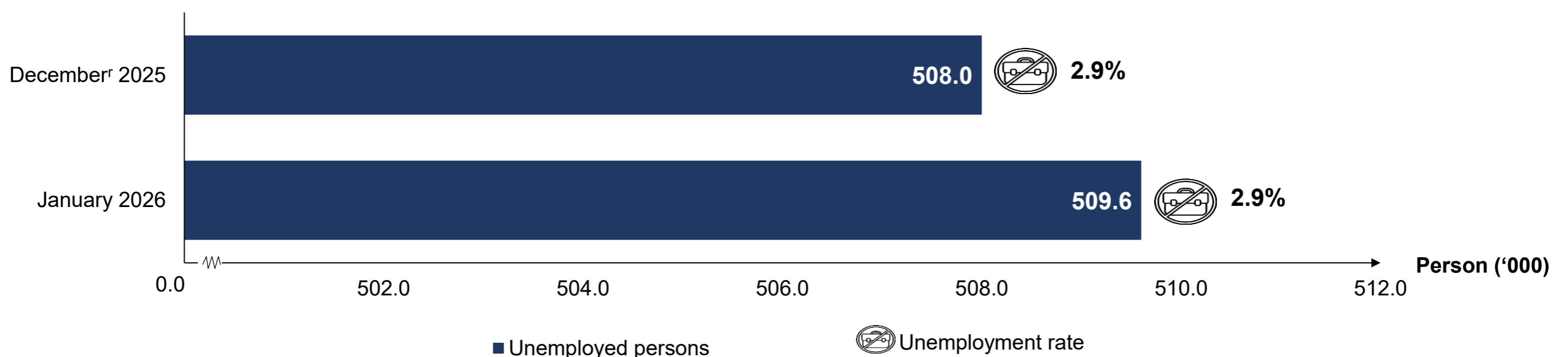


Schooling/ training
40.4%

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

Unemployed persons and unemployment rate, December^r 2025 and January 2026



Notes:

- ^r The monthly Labour Force Survey statistics for December 2025 are revised based on the latest current population estimate data
- The monthly Labour Force Survey statistics for 2026 are estimated using projection data based on the latest current population estimates

The country's labour market remains stable, recording an unemployment rate of 2.9 per cent

- The **labour force** continued its positive momentum in January 2026, rising by **0.1 per cent** month-on-month to **17.28 million persons** (December^r 2025: 17.27 million persons). Accordingly, the **labour force participation rate** edged up by **0.1 percentage points** to **70.9 per cent** (December^r 2025: 70.8%), indicating more labour participation in the market.
- The number of **unemployed** recorded a slight uptick of **0.3 per cent**, reaching **509.6 thousand persons** during the month (December^r 2025: 508.0 thousand persons).
- January's **unemployment rate** remained at **2.9 per cent**, as in the prior month.
- The number of **employed persons** continued to increase in January 2026, with a marginal increase of **0.04 per cent** to **16.77 million persons** from 16.76 million persons in December^r 2025.
- The **Services** sector continued to record increases in the number of employed persons during the month, largely in **Wholesale & retail trade, Accommodation and food & beverage services activities**, as well as **Transportation & storage activities**. The **Agriculture, Manufacturing, Construction and Mining & quarrying** sectors also posted positive growth in employment.
- The number of persons **outside the labour force** posted a decrease of **0.4 per cent** to **7.11 million persons**, compared with 7.13 million persons in December^r 2025.

