MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

TODAY'S STATISTICS
by DOSM at 12:00 pm

31 OCTOBER 2025 | #245

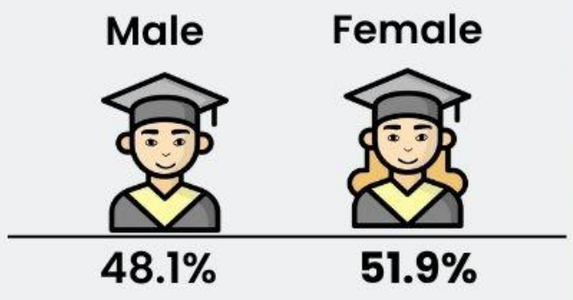
GRADUATES STATISTICS 2024

5.98 million graduates in 2024

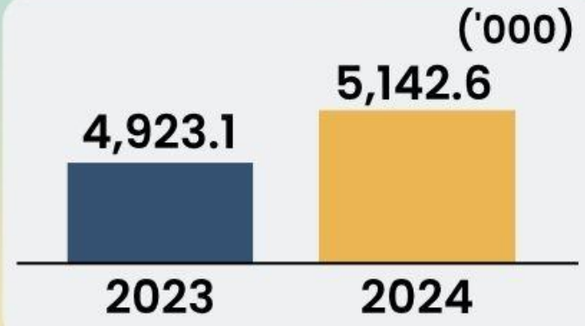
Who are Graduates?

Graduates refers to individual with the highest certificate obtained from universities, colleges, polytechnics, recognised bodies or equivalent, where duration of study is at least two years.

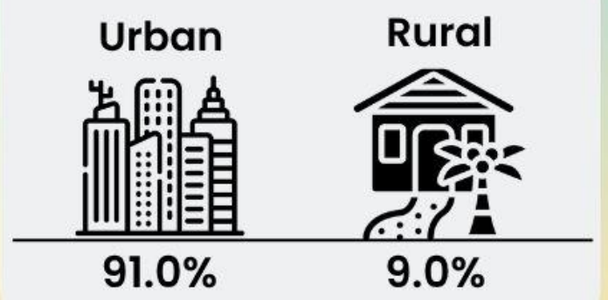
Graduates' Labour Force by Sex, 2024



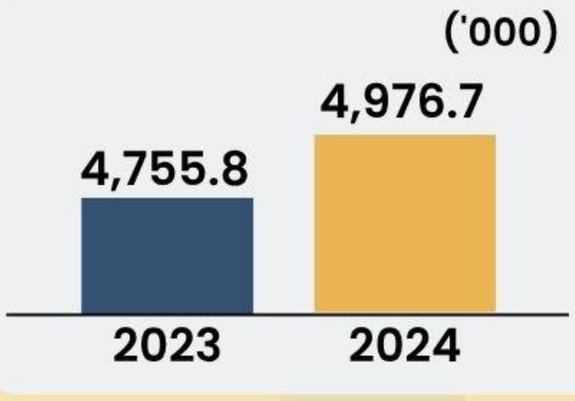
Number of Gradutes' Labour Force



Graduates' Labour Force by Strata, 2024

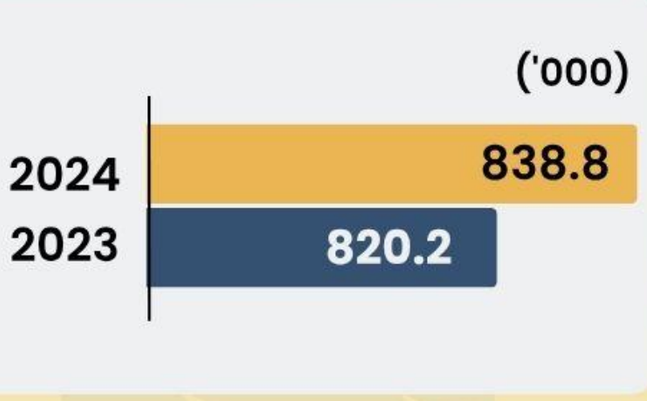


Employed Graduates



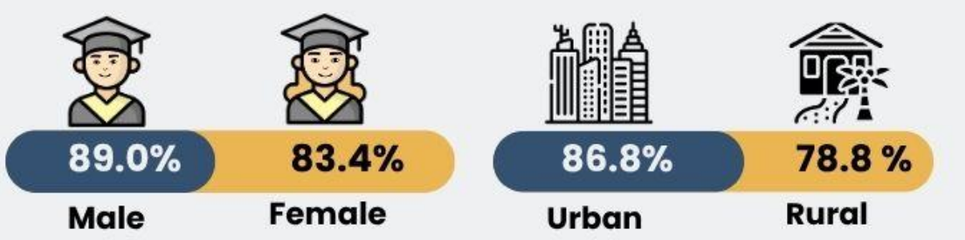
Unemployed Graduates

Graduates' Outside Labour Force



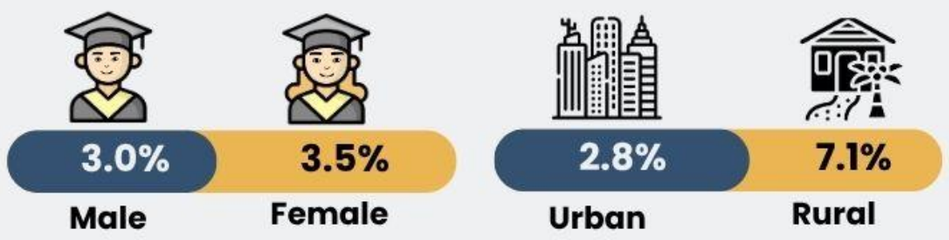
Graduates Labour Force Participation Rate (GLFPR)

GLFPR 2024 86.0%
2023 85.7%



Graduates Unemployment Rate (GUR)

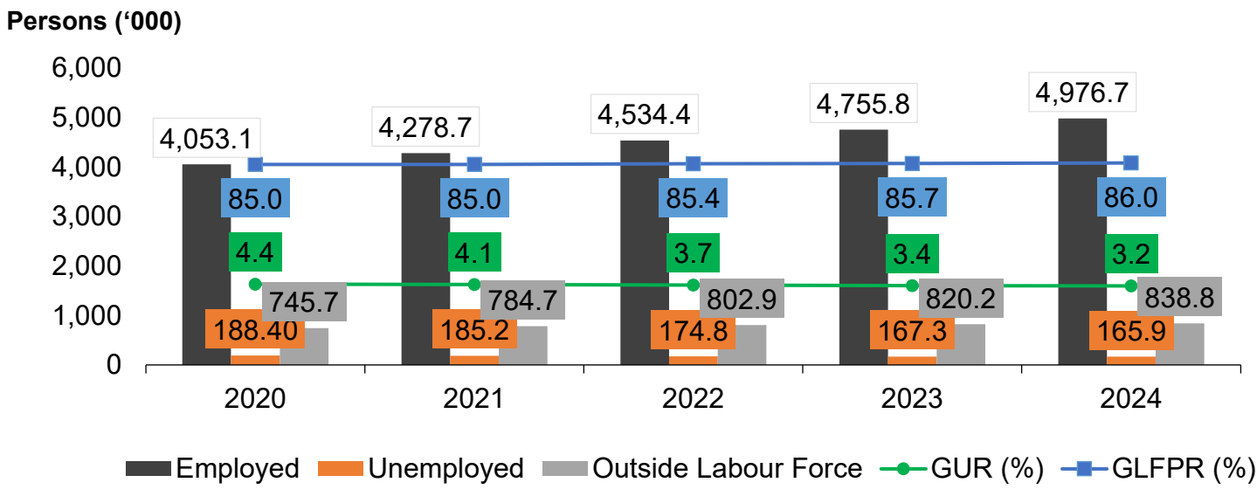
GUR 2024 3.2%
2023 3.4%



Source: Graduates Statistics 2024, Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)

SIRI MASA STATISTIK SISWAZAH, 2020-2024

Time Series Chart, Graduates Statistics, 2020 - 2024



Time Series Table, Graduates Statistics , 2020 - 2024

Main Indicator	Tahun				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Graduates ('000)	4,987.2	5,248.6	5,512.2	5,743.3	5,981.4
Graduates Labour Force ('000)	4,241.5	4,463.9	4,709.2	4,923.1	5,142.6
Employed Graduates ('000)	4,053.1	4,278.7	4,534.4	4,755.8	4,976.7
Unemployed Graduates ('000)	188.4	185.2	174.8	167.3	165.9
Graduates Outside Labour Force ('000)	745.7	784.7	802.9	820.2	838.8
GLFPR (%)	85.0	85.0	85.4	85.7	86.0
GUR (%)	4.4	4.1	3.7	3.4	3.2

The number of graduates increased to 5.98 million in 2024, with the unemployment rate declining to 3.2 per cent, in line with the strong growth of the labour market.

- In 2024, Malaysia's graduate labour market continued to demonstrate positive performance in line with the country's stable economic growth. The total number of graduates increased by 4.1 per cent to 5.98 million persons compared to the previous year.

- Of this total, 5.14 million were in the labour force, while 838.8 thousand or 14.0 per cent were outside the labour force. The Graduate Labour Force Participation Rate (GLFPR) rose to 86.0 per cent, reflecting a stronger engagement of graduates in the labour market.

- Graduates Labour force participation rate (GLFPR) by gender also showed favourable progress, with male graduates recording a participation rate of 89.0 per cent and females at 83.4 per cent. The narrowing gap in participation rates between genders reflects greater inclusivity and balance in employment opportunities for both men and women.

- At the same time, the graduate unemployment rate continued to decline to 3.2 per cent from 3.4 per cent in 2023, supported by greater employment opportunities across various economic sectors. This positive development was further reinforced by government initiatives and policies focusing on enhancing human capital development, employability, and the alignment of skills with industry needs.

- In terms of earnings, both mean and median monthly salaries of graduates recorded steady growth in 2024. The mean monthly salary rose to RM5,330, while the median salary increased to RM4,521. Degree holders earned a median salary of RM5,724, whereas diploma holders received RM3,390. These improvements highlight the continued returns on investment in higher education and the stability of the graduate labour market.

- Overall in 2024, despite ongoing global economic uncertainties, Malaysia's labour market maintained strong resilience in 2024, Announced in the Malaysia's Budget 2025, the student welfare and the graduate employability were among the focused initiatives. Moving forward, efforts to align education with labour market demand and integrate artificial intelligence (AI)-based learning tools will ensure future graduates are well-prepared to contribute to Malaysia's sustainable economic and innovation-driven growth.