



MALAYSIA LABOUR FORCE, FEBRUARY 2026

February's unemployed recorded 506.8 thousand persons, with an unemployment rate of **2.9 per cent**

LABOUR FORCE

February 2026



17.30
million

▲ 0.1%

JANUARY 2026
17.28
million

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

70.9%

↔ 0.0 pp

February's labour force participation rate (LFPR) held steady at 70.9 per cent

JANUARY 2026
70.9%

LFPR by sex

Male **82.9%** Female **57.3%**

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

February 2026

2.9%

The unemployment rate in February 2026 was unchanged at 2.9 per cent

↔ 0.0 pp

JANUARY 2026: 2.9%

UNEMPLOYED



506.8
thousand

▼ -0.6%

JANUARY 2026
509.6
thousand

Unemployed by category

● Actively unemployed

▼ -0.5%

79.9%

FEBRUARY 2026: 404.7 thousand
JANUARY 2026: 406.9 thousand

● Inactively unemployed

20.1%

▼ -0.7%

FEBRUARY 2026: 102.1 thousand
JANUARY 2026: 102.8 thousand

EMPLOYED PERSONS

February 2026



16.79
million

▲ 0.1%

JANUARY 2026
16.77
million

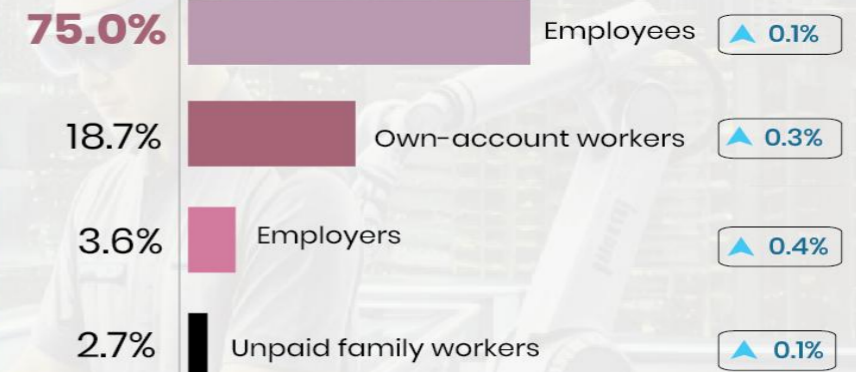
Employment - to - population ratio

68.8%

↔ 0.0 pp

JANUARY 2026
68.8%

Employed persons by status in employment



In February 2026, the employees' category accounted for **75.0 per cent** of the total employed persons

OUTSIDE LABOUR FORCE

JANUARY 2026
7.11 million

FEBRUARY 2026
7.10 million

▼ -0.04%

Housework/ family responsibilities was the main reason for being outside the labour force



Housework/ family responsibilities
43.2%



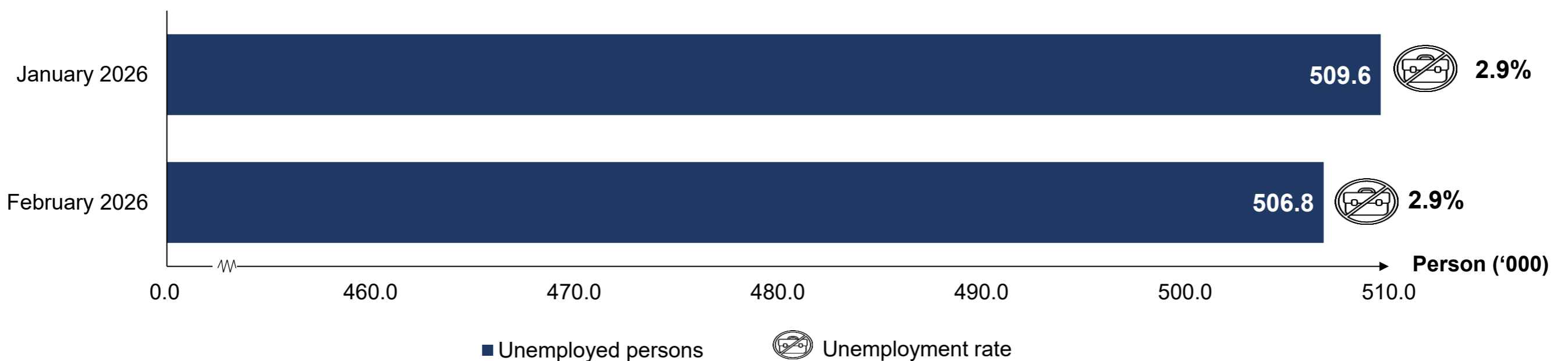
Schooling/ training
40.4%

Notes: pp Percentage point

% Percentage change (month-on-month)

↔ Unchanged

Unemployed persons and unemployment rate, January and February 2026



The unemployment rate in February 2026 remained at 2.9 per cent, registering a lower number of unemployed at 506.8 thousand persons

- The **labour force** in February 2026 portrayed further enhancement, expanding by **0.1 per cent to 17.30 million persons** as compared to the previous month (January 2026: 17.28 million persons). February's **labour force participation rate** held steady at **70.9 per cent**, unchanged from the previous month.
- The number of **unemployed** during the month declined **0.6 per cent to 506.8 thousand persons** (January 2026: 509.6 thousand persons).
- The **unemployment rate** in February 2026 stood at **2.9 per cent**, as in the prior month.
- The number of **employed persons** during the month was on an uptrend, recording a slight increase of **0.1 per cent to 16.79 million persons**, compared to 16.77 million persons in January 2026.
- The number of employed persons in the **Services** sector was on an increasing trend in February 2026. Within the sector, **Wholesale & retail trade** activities remained as the main contributor, followed by **Accommodation and food & beverage services**, as well as **Information and communication activities**. Employment in the **Agriculture, Manufacturing, and Construction** sectors recorded increases, while the **Mining & quarrying** sector registered a decline.
- The number of persons **outside the labour force** in February decreased marginally by **0.04 per cent to 7.10 million persons**, compared with 7.11 million persons in the previous month.

