MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

TODAY'S STATISTICS
by DOSM at 12:00 pm

22 MAY 2026 | #119

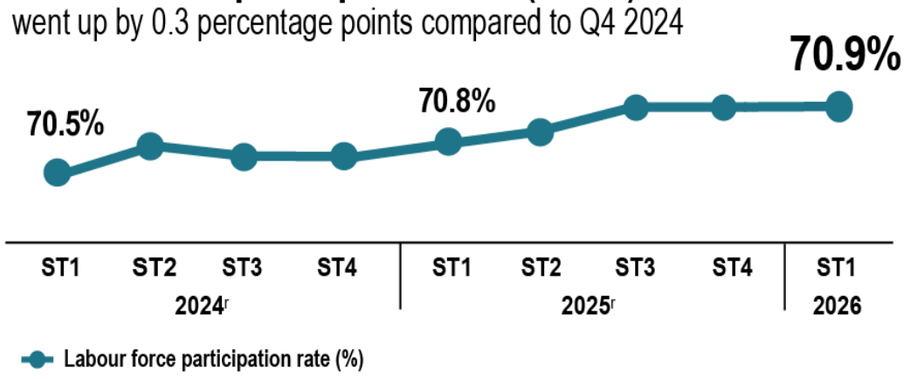
LABOUR MARKET REVIEW, FIRST QUARTER 2026

LABOUR SUPPLY

17.23 million labour force

- 0.9% YoY
- 0.3% QoQ

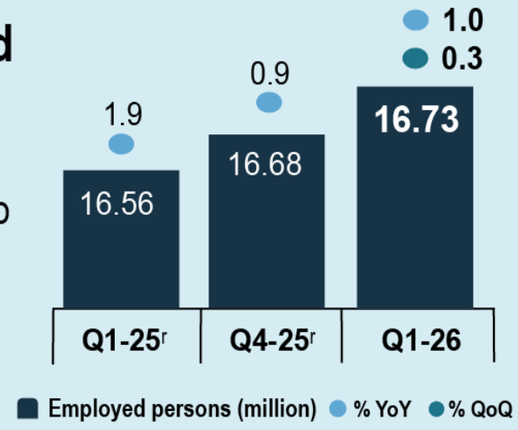
Labour force participation rate (LFPR)
went up by 0.3 percentage points compared to Q4 2024



Total hours worked during Q4, **9.63 bilion hours**

- 0.5% YoY
- 0.3% QoQ

Employed person continue to increased, to **16.73 million persons**



7.08 million outside labour force

- 0.4% YoY
- 0.2% QoQ

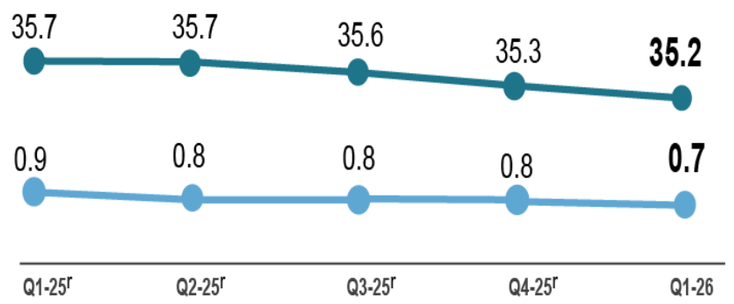
***85.2 per cent** did not seek for work due to:

- 45.1% *Housework/ Family resposible
- 40.1% *Schooling/ Training program
- 14.8% Others
  - Disabled person
  - Retired/ Old age
  - Not interested
  - Completed study/ Further study

Underemployment situation

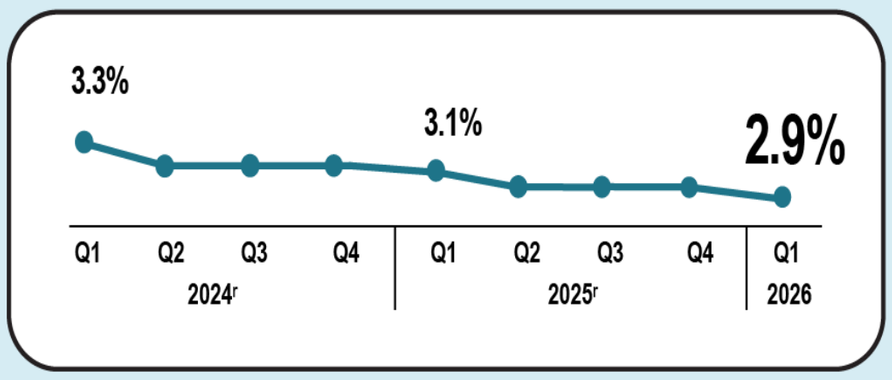
Skill-related underemployment rate (%) decreased 0.5%

Time-related underemployment rate (%) decreased 0.2%

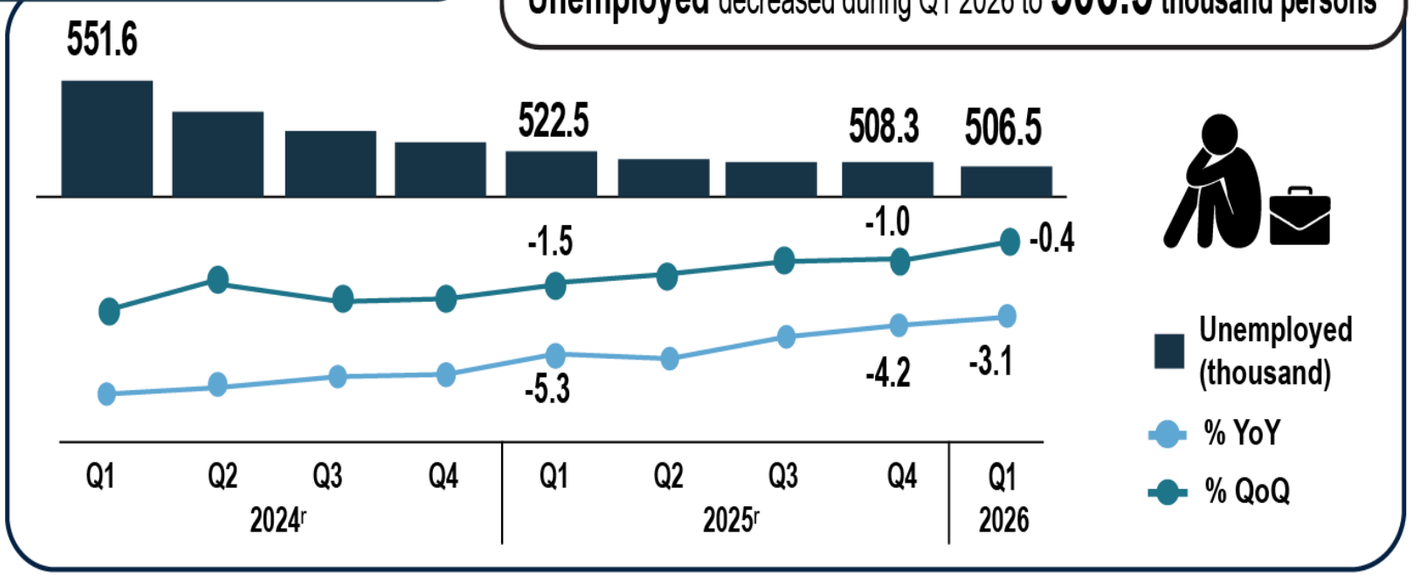


Unemployment

Unemployment rate declined by 0.2 percentage points year-on-year, stable at 2.9 per cent



Unemployed decreased during Q1 2026 to **506.5 thousand persons**



LABOUR DEMAND

9.23 million jobs

Jobs in economic sector increased by **1.8 per cent** compared to Q1 2025

9.03 million filled jobs

Rated of jobs filled: 97.8%

- 1.8% YoY
- 0.2% QoQ

194.8 thousand vacancies

Rated of vacancies: 2.2%

- 0.4% YoY
- 1.7% QoQ

32.7 thousand jobs created

- 1.5% YoY
- 1.8% QoQ

- 26.1% Skilled
- 64.1% Semi-skilled
- 9.7% Low-skilled

More than half (58.0%) of jons opening during Q1 2026 were in the **Manufacturing sector with** a total of 113.0 thousand vacancies

r : The Quarterly Labour Force Survey Statistics from first quarter of 2024 were revised based on the latest current population estimates

@StatsMalaysia

BANCI EKONOMI 2026 DATA NADI EKONOMI RAKYAT

MALAYSIA MADANI kesejahteraan

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

20 October

2016 - 2030

Malaysia's labour market remained strong and resilient in the First Quarter of 2026, with the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) at 70.9 per cent and Labour Demand improving, as reflected by a Job Vacancies Rate of 2.1 per cent

- The labour market remained resilient in the first quarter of 2026 despite the conflict in West Asia, supported by increment of labour force by 0.9 per cent year-on-year to 17.23 million persons. Consequently, the labour force participation rate rose by 0.1 percentage points to 70.9 per cent.

- The number of employed persons continued to expand by 1.0 per cent to 16.73 million persons, while the employment-to-population ratio increased to 68.8 per cent. At the same time, the number of unemployed persons declined by 3.1 per cent (-16.0 thousand) to 506.5 thousand persons, resulting in an unemployment rate of 2.9 per cent.

- The number of employed persons working less than 30 hours per week continued to record a decline of 4.1 per cent from a year ago to 231.6 thousand persons, supported by strong domestic demand throughout the first quarter of 2026. Correspondingly, the skill-related underemployment rate, which accounted more than one-third of employed persons with tertiary-education, decreased by 0.5 percentage points to 35.2 per cent in the first quarter of 2026, while the time-related underemployment rate also declined to 0.7 per cent.

- Labour demand recorded an increase in the number of jobs by 1.8 per cent year-on-year to 9.23 million jobs. Within this total, 97.9 per cent were filled job also rose by 1.8 per to reach 9.03 million. Meanwhile during the same period vacancies recorded marginal increase of 0.4 per cent to 194.8 thousand. However, the number of jobs created lessened by 1.5 per cent year-on-year to 32.7 thousand.

- Malaysia’s economy expanded by 5.4 per cent in the first quarter of 2026 as compared to 4.4 per cent in the previous year of the same quarter. Labour productivity, as measured by value added per employed person, increased by 4.3 per cent to RM26,171 per person. During the same period, total hours worked rose by 0.5 per cent to 9.63 billion hours. Consequently, labour productivity per hour worked grew by 4.8 per cent, reaching RM45.5 per hour.

- Overall, although Malaysia’s current labour market situation remains stable and resilient, supported by domestic economic growth, the government needs to ensure balance between price stability, maintaining consumer purchasing power and economic sustainability. At the same time, continuous efforts should be intensified to enhance productivity, strengthen skills development and ensure more inclusive and sustainable labour market growth amid the current economic uncertainties.