MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

TODAY'S STATISTICS
by DOSM at 12:00 pm

11 AUGUST 2026 | #186 | SDDS

MALAYSIA LABOUR FORCE
SECOND QUARTER 2026

The unemployment rate in second quarter of 2026 rose to **3.0 per cent**, with **509.7 thousand** unemployed

UNEMPLOYMENT

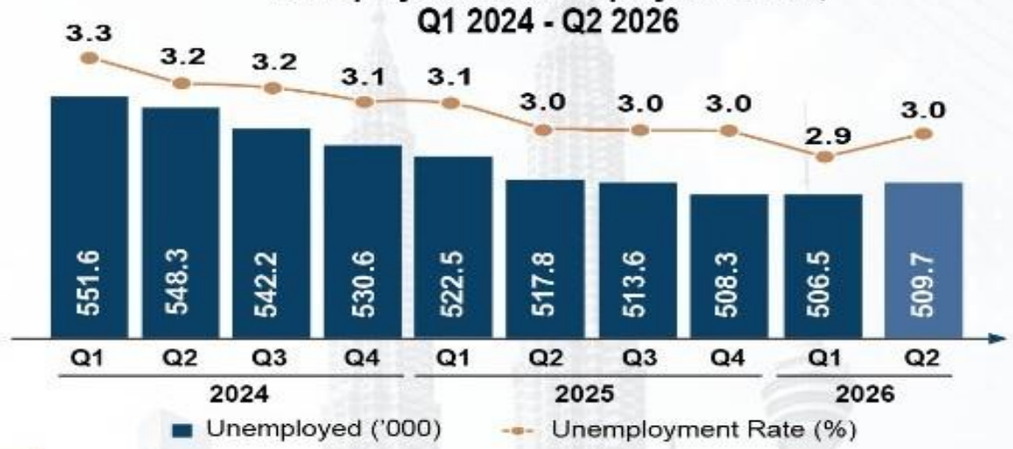
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

3.0%
Q2 2026 ▲ +0.1pp
Q1 2026 **2.9%**

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS

509.7 thousand
Q2 2026 ▲ +0.6%
506.5 thousand
Q1 2026

Unemployed and Unemployment Rate, Q1 2024 - Q2 2026



EMPLOYED PERSONS

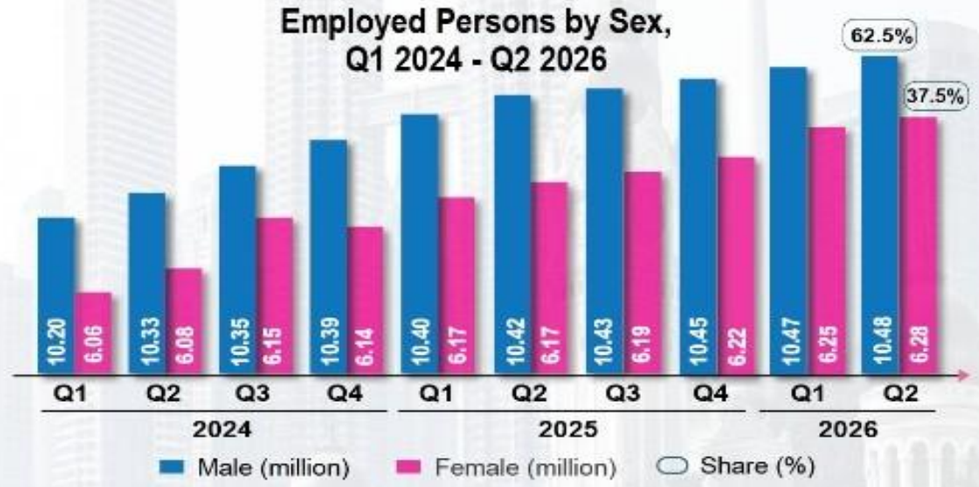
EMPLOYED PERSONS

16.77 million
Q2 2026 ▲ +0.2%
16.73 million
Q1 2026

Employed Persons by Employment Status, Q2 2026



Employed Persons by Sex, Q1 2024 - Q2 2026



LABOUR FORCE

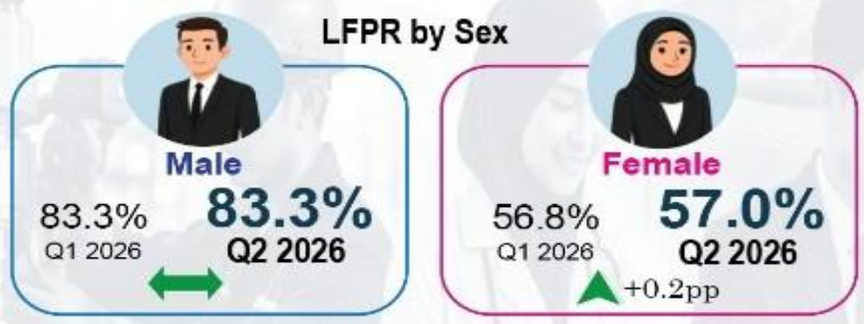
LABOUR FORCE

17.28 million
Q2 2026 ▲ +0.3%
17.23 million
Q1 2026

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

70.9% Q1 2026 **70.9%** Q2 2026

LFPR by Sex



Labour Force and Labour Force Participation Rate, Q1 2024 - Q2 2026



OUTSIDE LABOUR FORCE

OUTSIDE LABOUR FORCE

7.08 million
Q2 2026
7.08 million
Q1 2026

Housework/ family responsibilities were the largest component of the outside labour force

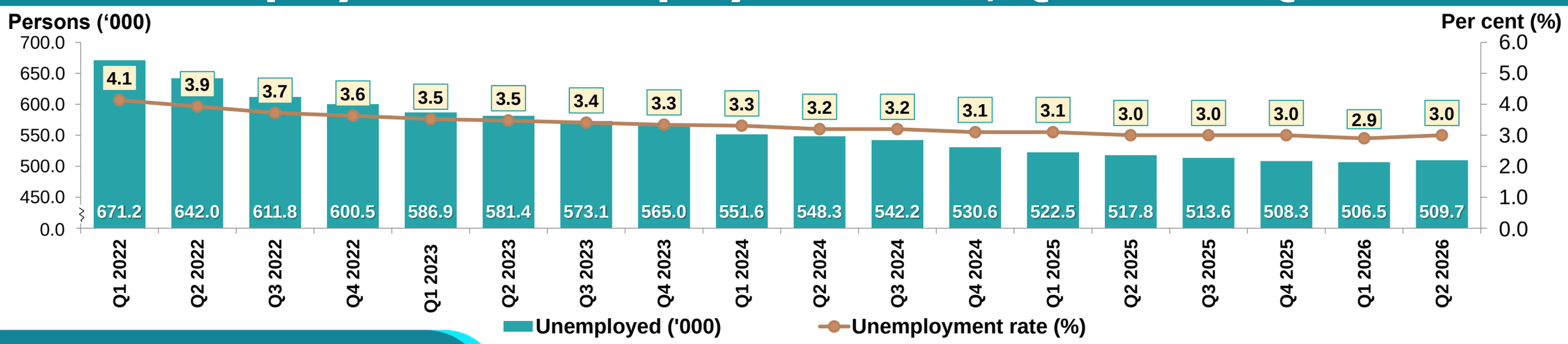


45.2% Housework/ family responsibilities



40.1% Schooling/ training program

Unemployed and Unemployment Rate, Q2 2022 – Q2 2026



@StatsMalaysia

The unemployment rate in second quarter of 2026 rose to 3.0 per cent, with 509.7 thousand unemployed

- Malaysia's labour market performance for the second quarter of 2026 showed that the **labour force** continued to expand, increasing by **0.3 per cent** to **17.28 million persons** (Q1 2026: 17.23 million persons).

- The **number of employed persons** also rose by **0.2 per cent** to **16.77 million persons**, compared to 16.73 million persons in the first quarter of 2026.

- The **number of unemployed persons** increased by **0.6 per cent** to **509.7 thousand persons**, resulting in an addition of **0.1 percentage points** in the unemployment rate to **3.0 per cent** (Q1 2026:506.5 thousand persons; 2.9%).

- The **labour force participation rate (LFPR)** remained at **70.9 per cent**, similar to the previous quarter. By sex, the **male LFPR** also remained unchanged at **83.3 per cent**, while the **female LFPR** increased to **57.0 per cent** (Q1 2026: 83.3%; 56.8%).

- The number of persons **working less than 30 hours per week** dropped by **0.7 per cent** to **230.0 thousand persons** in the second quarter of 2026 (Q1 2026: 231.6 thousand persons). Likewise, the number of persons **working less than 30 hours per week but willing and able to work additional hours**, or classified as **time-related underemployment**, decreased by **1.2 per cent** to record **121.9 thousand persons**, registering a **time-related underemployment rate** of **0.7 per cent** (Q1 2026: 123.3 thousand persons; 0.7%).

- **Skill-related underemployment**, which refers to individuals with tertiary education but working in semi-skilled and low-skilled occupations, edged up by **0.7 per cent** to **1.95 million persons** in the second quarter of 2026, while the **skill-related underemployment rate** remained at **35.2 per cent** (Q1 2026: 1.93 million persons; 35.2%).