



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

**EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS, MALAYSIA
SECOND QUARTER OF 2026**

Malaysia's labour demand expanded by 1.7 per cent in the second quarter of 2026, with a total of 9.25 million jobs.

PUTRAJAYA, 13TH AUGUST 2026 – Malaysia's labour demand expanded by 1.7 per cent in the second quarter of 2026, with a total of 9.25 million jobs. This was reported by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) in its publication of the **Employment Statistics, Second Quarter 2026** today. The statistics published in this report are based on the Employment Survey conducted among registered private sector business establishments. This report presents labour demand statistics encompassing indicators for the number of jobs, filled jobs, job vacancies and jobs created by skill category and economic activity.

In today's statement, DOSM reported that Malaysia's labour demand continued to expand, recording a total of 9.25 million jobs in Q2 2026. Despite global uncertainties such as geopolitical conflicts, supply chain realignments and cost pressures, the total number of jobs increased by 1.7 per cent, equivalent to an additional 152.3 thousand jobs compared to Q2 2025 (9.10 million). Out of the total number of jobs, 97.9 per cent were filled, while the remaining 2.1 per cent constituted job vacancies. In addition, 31.5 jobs were created in this quarter.

The number of filled jobs maintained an upward trend, reaching 9.05 million, an increase of 1.7 per cent year-on-year compared to 8.90 million in Q2 2025. This growth was supported by positive performance across all sectors, led by the Services sector with a growth rate of 2.4 per cent. The Services sector continued to account for the largest share of filled jobs at 53.4 per cent, or 4.83 million jobs, followed by Manufacturing sector at 26.7 per cent (2.42 million) and Construction sector at 13.8 per cent (1.25 million). By skills category, the majority of filled jobs were in the semi-skilled category, accounting for 62.2 per cent, or 5.63 million jobs. This was followed by the skilled category at 25.4 per cent (2.30 million), while the low-skilled category recorded the smallest share at 12.4 per cent (1.13 million).

DOSM also reported that job vacancies in Malaysia stood at 195.7 thousand in Q2 2026, rising marginally by 0.4 per cent year-on-year from 194.9 thousand in Q2 2025. The Manufacturing sector remained dominant in the composition by economic sector, offering the highest number of vacancies at 114.0 thousand (58.3%),

particularly in the Electrical, electronic and optical products sub-sector (35.1 thousand) and the Petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products sub-sector (19.1 thousand). This was followed by the Agriculture sector with 30.4 thousand vacancies (15.5%) and the Construction sector with 26.5 thousand vacancies (13.5%). A breakdown by skill category shows that the majority of vacancies were contributed by the semi-skilled category, with a share of 54.8 per cent (107.3 thousand). The skilled and low-skilled categories followed at 25.7 per cent (50.2 thousand) and 19.5 per cent (38.2 thousand), respectively.

Turning to the performance of jobs created, a total of 31.5 thousand jobs were created in Q2 2026, registering a moderate year-on-year decline of 1.2 per cent. By economic activity, jobs creation was concentrated in the Services sector with 14.4 thousand new jobs (45.7%), driven primarily by the Wholesale and retail trade sub-sector (8.6 thousand). Meanwhile, the Manufacturing and Construction sectors recorded 12.1 thousand jobs created (38.3%) and 3.1 thousand (9.8%), respectively. Analysis by skill category indicates that the semi-skilled category continued to lead job creation at 66.1 per cent (20.8 thousand), surpassing the skilled category (25.2%; 7.9 thousand) and the low-skilled category (8.7%; 2.8 thousand).

Overall, Malaysia's labour demand performance in Q2 2026 indicated that the national economy remained resilient, with the business sector continuing to absorb labour force. This situation is proven by the growth in filled jobs and a low unemployment rate of 3.0 per cent, as reported in the **Labour Force Statistics, Malaysia, Second Quarter 2026**. Malaysia's extensive trade network and diversified export markets also helped cushion the domestic economy from the impacts of global economic uncertainties.

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) is conducting the **Economic Census 2026 (BE2026)**, with themed “*Data Nadi Ekonomi Rakyat*”. The sixth Economic Census, will be carried out from **5th January to 31st October 2026**. BE2026 aims to collect comprehensive and structured data from all registered and unregistered business establishments in Malaysia to assess the nation's economic performance, structure and characteristics in an evidence-based manner.

OpenDOSM NextGen is a medium that provides data catalogue and visualisations to facilitate users' analysis and can be accessed through <https://open.dosm.gov.my>.

Chart 1: Jobs, Q1 2023 – Q2 2026

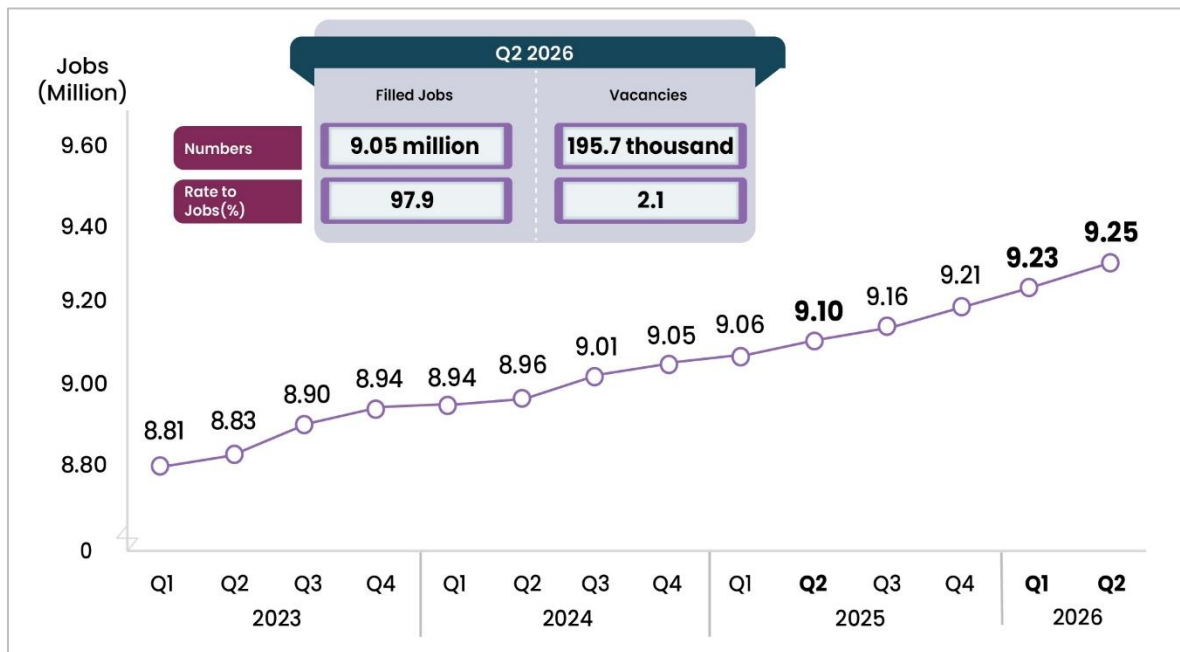


Chart 2: Jobs Created, Q1 2023 – Q2 2026

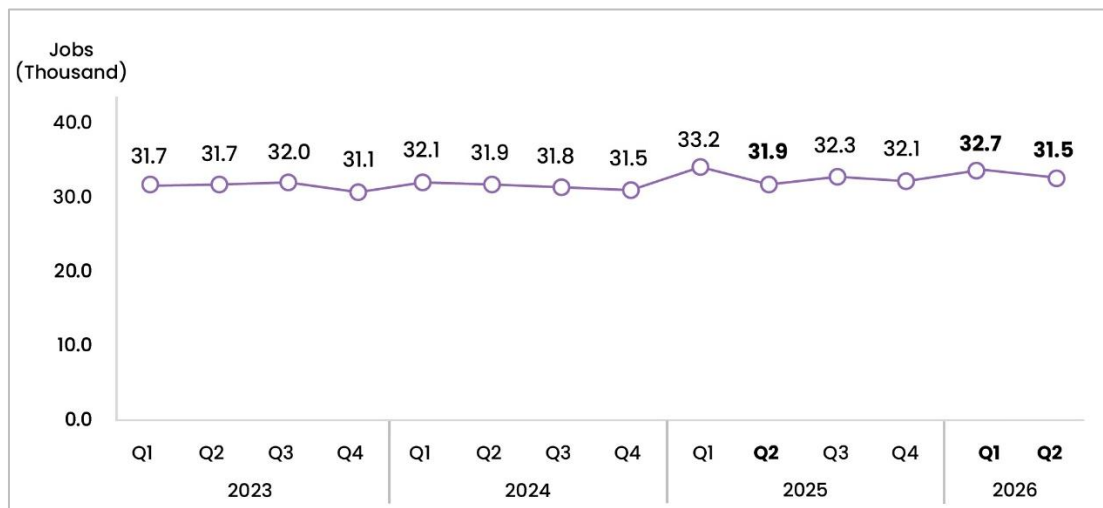


Exhibit 1: Labour Demand by Economic Activity, Q2 2026 (% Share)

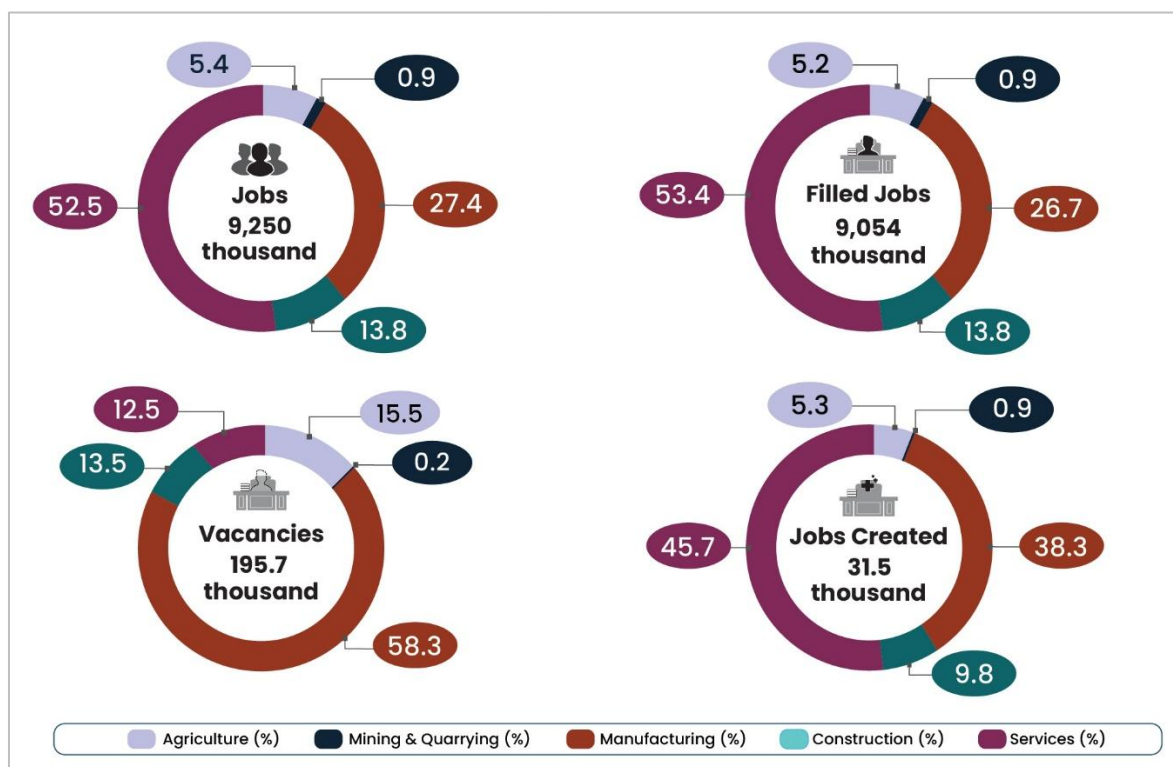


Exhibit 2: Labour Demand by Skills Category, Q2 2026

	Jobs	Filled Jobs	Vacancies	Jobs Created	Rate of Filled Jobs	Rate of Vacancies
Skilled	2.35 million 25.4	2.30 million 25.4	50.2 thousand 25.7	7.9 thousand 25.2	97.9%	2.1%
Semi-skilled	5.74 million 62.0	5.63 million 62.2	107.3 thousand 54.8	20.8 thousand 66.1	98.1%	1.9%
Low-skilled	1.17 million 12.6	1.13 million 12.4	38.2 thousand 19.5	2.8 thousand 8.7	96.7%	3.3%

Notes: The sum may differ from total due to independent rounding.

Released by:

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