

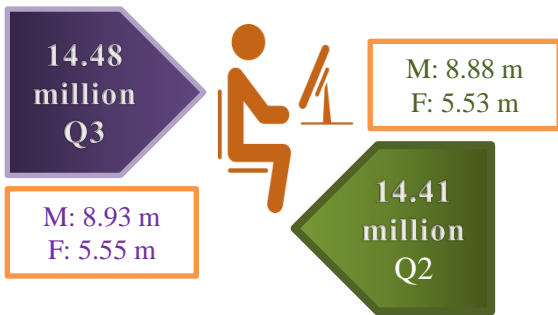
**PRINCIPAL STATISTICS OF LABOUR FORCE, MALAYSIA, THIRD QUARTER (Q3) 2017**

**Labour force participation rate 67.9% (Q2: 67.7%)**  
**Unemployment rate 3.4% (Q2: 3.4%)**

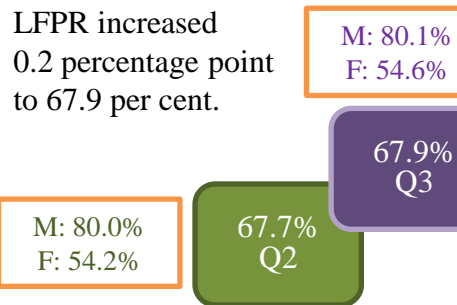
Among working age population (15–64 years old), **labour force** increased 0.5 per cent.



**EMPLOYED PERSONS**



**LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE (LFPR)**

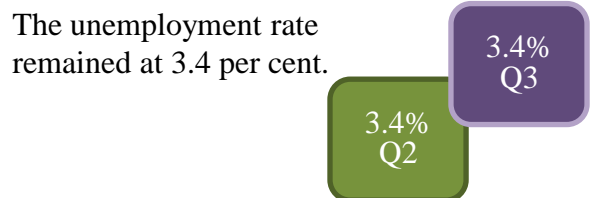


Note:  
M: Male  
F: Female

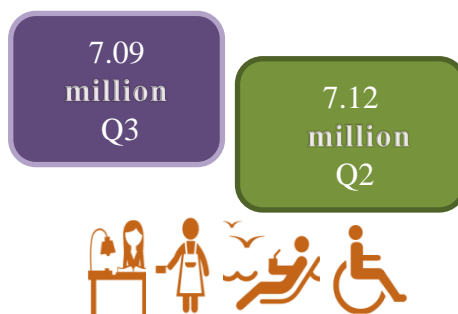
**UNEMPLOYED PERSONS**



**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

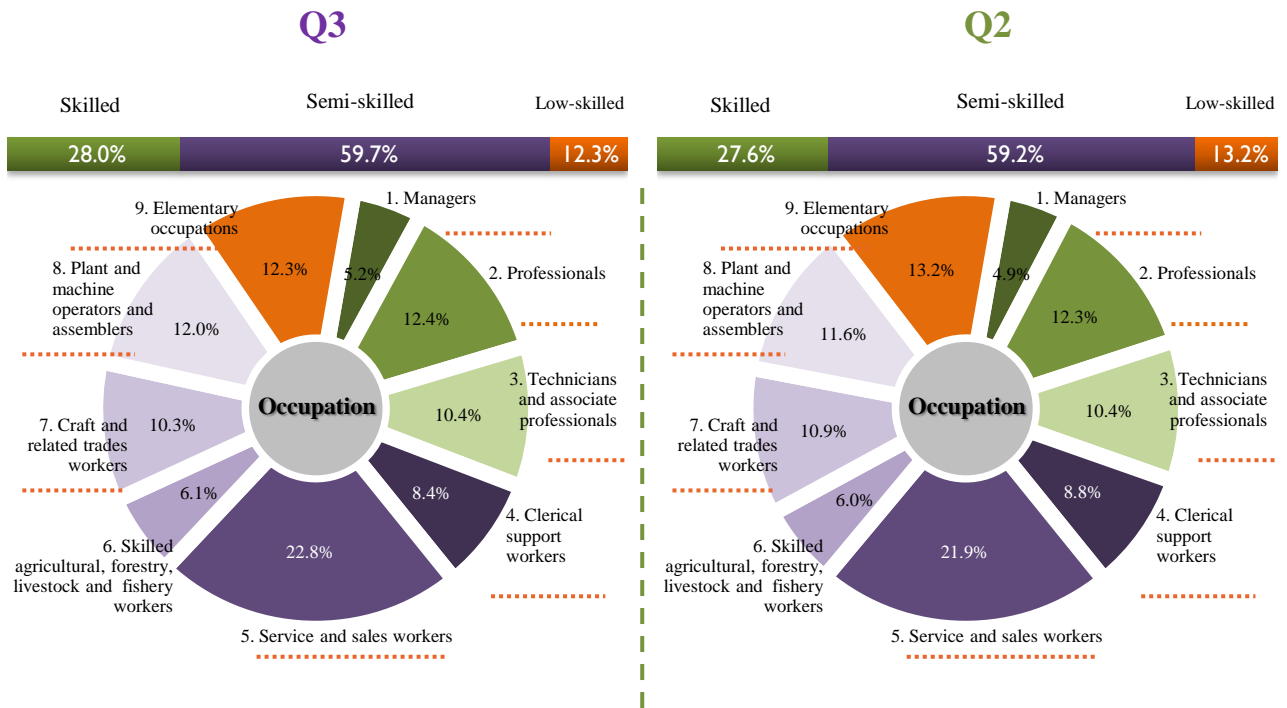


A total of 32.1% working age population were **outside labour force** due to studies, housework, retirement, disabled or not interested to work.



## PROFILE OF EMPLOYED PERSONS, MALAYSIA, THIRD QUARTER (Q3) 2017

Nearly **one third** of employed persons were **skilled workers** in the occupation categories of Managers, Professionals, and Technicians and associate professionals.



Note:

Occupation was classified according to **Malaysia Standard Classification of Occupation (MASCO) 2013**

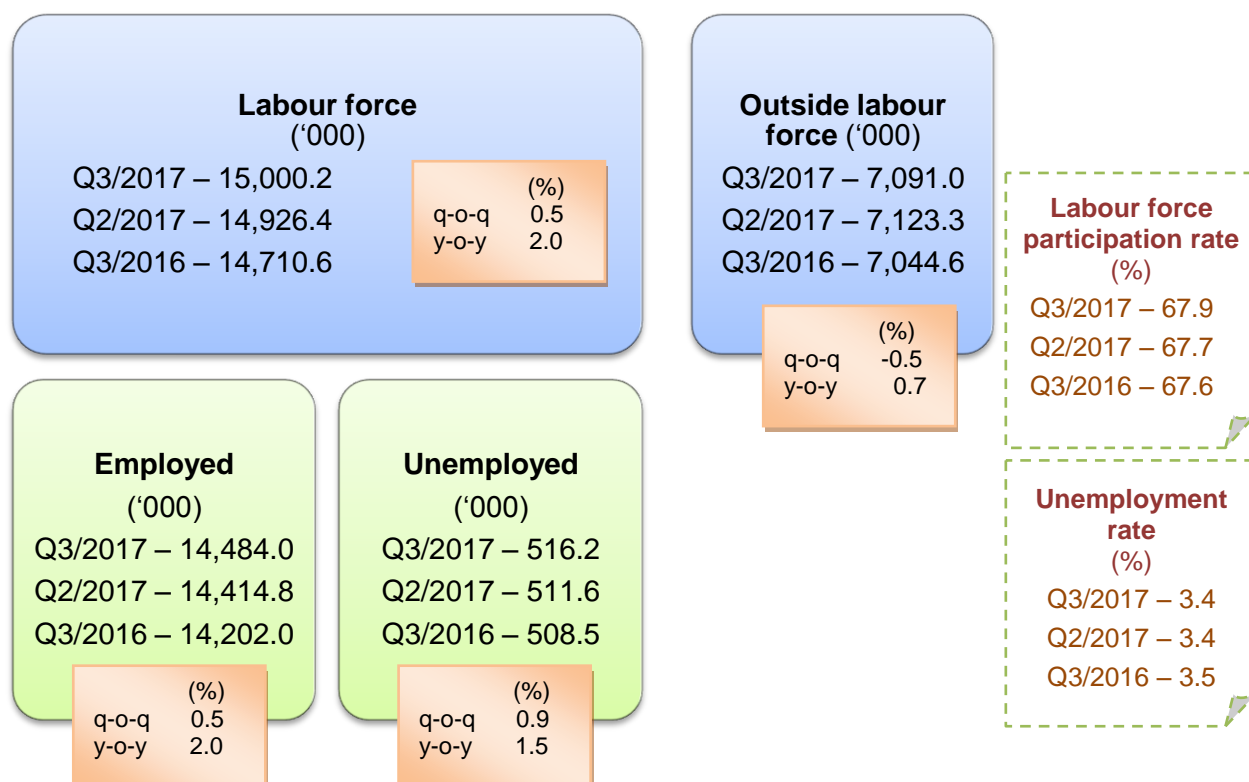
**Skilled workers** – 1. Managers; 2. Professionals; 3. Technicians and associate professionals; **Semi-skilled workers** – 4. Clerical support workers; 5. Service and sales workers; 6. Skilled agricultural, forestry, livestock and fishery workers; 7. Craft and related trade workers; 8. Plant and machine operators and assemblers; **Low-skilled workers** – 9. Elementary occupations

Source: Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Department of Statistics, Malaysia

# PRINCIPAL STATISTICS OF LABOUR FORCE, MALAYSIA, THIRD QUARTER (Q3) 2017

## I. LABOUR FORCE IN MALAYSIA

Chart 1: Principal statistics of labour force, Malaysia, third quarter (Q3) 2016, second quarter (Q2) 2017 & third quarter (Q3) 2017



**Note:**

q-o-q quarter-on-quarter  
y-o-y year-on-year

Indicator	Q3/2016		Q2/2017		Q3/2017	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Labour force	9,043.7	5,666.9	9,206.6	5,719.9	9,242.6	5,757.6
Employed	8,744.8	5,457.3	8,883.9	5,530.9	8,932.3	5,551.7
Outside labour force	2,246.6	4,798.3	2,295.4	4,827.9	2,293.9	4,797.1
Labour force participation rate	80.1	54.2	80.0	54.2	80.1	54.6
Employment to population ratio	77.5	52.1	77.2	52.4	77.4	52.6

## Labour force participation rate 67.9 per cent and unemployment rate 3.4 per cent

Labour force in Malaysia increased 0.5 per cent to 15.00 million persons in third quarter 2017 compared to 14.93 million persons in the previous quarter. The rise was contributed by the increase of 69,200 employed persons to 14.48 million persons as well as the increase of 4,600 unemployed persons to 516.2 thousand persons.

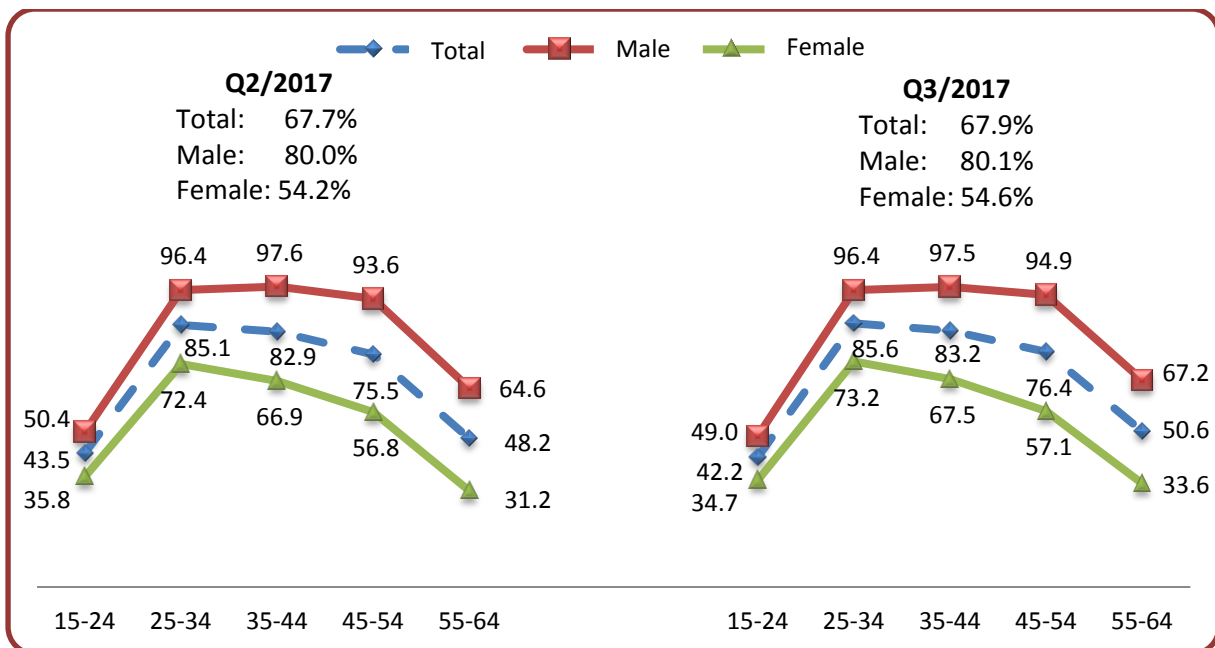
Labour force participation rate (LFPR) in third quarter 2017 was 67.9 per cent, rose 0.2 percentage point compared to second quarter 2017. Hence, another 32.1 per cent of the working age population were outside the labour force. Meanwhile, unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.4 per cent for two consecutive quarters.

Year-on-year, the number of labour force and employed persons rose 2.0 per cent respectively. Even though the number of unemployed persons increased 1.5 per cent, year-on-year unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage point. Year-on-year performance of participation in the labour market also improved 0.3 percentage point.

The scenario of unemployment rate below 4.0 per cent shows that the country's economy is operating in full employment<sup>1</sup>.

## Female LFPR increased 0.4 percentage point to 54.6 per cent

**Chart 2: Labour force participation rate by sex and age group, Malaysia, second quarter (Q2) & third quarter (Q3) 2017**



<sup>1</sup> The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) defines full employment as unemployment rate below 4.0 per cent.

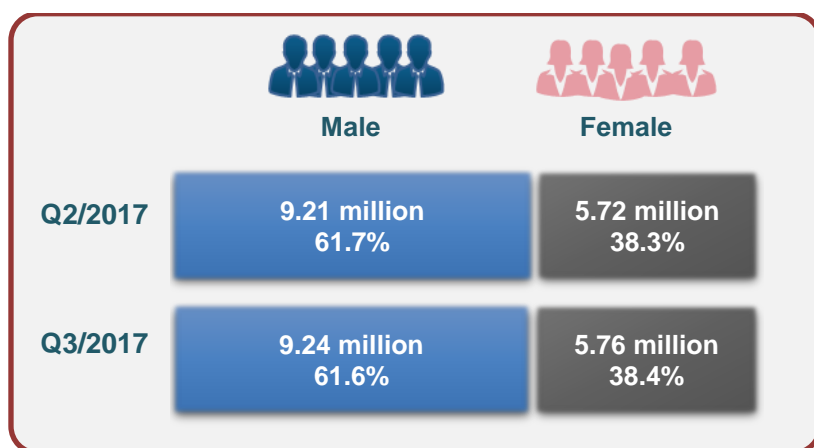
Female LFPR rose 0.4 percentage point to 54.6 per cent in third quarter 2017. Female participation in the labour market for *prime age*<sup>2</sup> 25–34 years (73.2%), 35–44 years (67.5%) and 45–54 years (57.1%) were higher against female LFPR at the national level (54.6%). [Chart 2]

Participation of male labour force rose 0.1 percentage point to 80.1 per cent in third quarter 2017. Male participation in the labour market for age group 55–64 years recorded the highest increase of 2.6 percentage point to 67.2 per cent. Meanwhile, age group 45–54 years registered an increase of 1.3 percentage point. Overall, male LFPRs remained consistently higher than female for all age groups.

Year-on-year, the increase of labour force participation in Malaysia (0.3 percentage point) was contributed by the increase of female labour force participation of 0.4 percentage point.

**Female represented 38.4 per cent of the labour force**

**Chart 3: Labour force by sex, Malaysia, second quarter (Q2) & third quarter (Q3) 2017**



In third quarter 2017, 38.4 per cent females were in the labour market with an increase of 0.1 percentage point (37,900 persons) to 5.76 million persons compared to 5.72 million persons in second quarter 2017.







<sup>2</sup> International Labour Organization (ILO) defines prime age as population aged 25–54 years.

## II. PROFILE OF EMPLOYED PERSONS

### More than 25 per cent employed persons with tertiary education

The level of educational attainment of employed persons in Malaysia has improved even though majority employed persons were of secondary education. In third quarter 2017, 28.8 per cent of employed persons were of tertiary education, registering an increase of 0.8 percentage point compared to previous quarter. Meanwhile, employed persons with secondary and primary educations dropped 0.3 percentage point respectively and no formal education fell 0.2 percentage point.

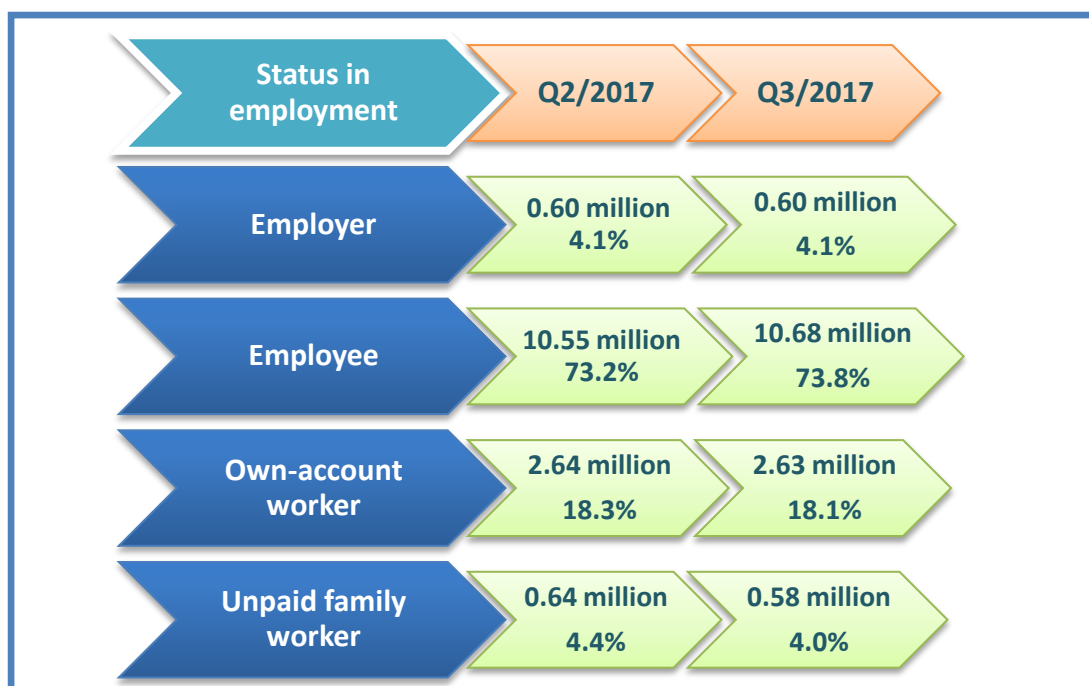
**Table 1: Employed person by educational attainment, Malaysia, second quarter (Q2) & third quarter (Q3) 2017**

Educational attainment		Q2/2017	Q3/2017
	<b>No formal education</b>	0.38 million 2.6%	0.34 million 2.4%
	<b>Primary</b>	2.00 million 13.9%	1.96 million 13.6%
 	<b>Secondary</b>	8.00 million 55.5%	8.00 million 55.2%
  	<b>Tertiary</b>	4.03 million 28.0%	4.18 million 28.8%

### More than 70 per cent of employed persons were paid employees

In third quarter 2017, the percentage of employed persons who were paid employees increased 0.6 percentage point to 73.8 per cent. Meanwhile, own-account worker fell 0.2 percentage point to 18.1 per cent. [Table 2]

**Table 2: Employed persons by status in employment, Malaysia, second quarter (Q2) & third quarter (Q3) 2017**



**Skilled<sup>3</sup> employed persons rose 0.4 percentage point to 28.0 per cent**

In third quarter 2017, skilled employed persons rose 0.4 percentage point to 28.0 per cent. Furthermore, semi-skilled employed persons also registered an increase of 0.5 percentage point to 59.7 per cent. This scenario is in line with the government's strategy to create more skilled jobs<sup>4</sup>. [Chart 4]

<sup>3</sup> Skill levels were classified based on **Malaysia Standard Classification of Occupation (MASCO) 2013** as follows: **Skilled workers** – 1. Managers; 2. Professionals; 3. Technicians and associate professionals; **Semi-skilled workers** – 4. Clerical support workers; 5. Service and sales workers; 6. Skilled agricultural, forestry, livestock and fishery workers; 7. Craft and related trades workers; 8. Plant and machine operators and assemblers; **Low-skilled workers** – 9. Elementary occupations

<sup>4</sup> Strategic Paper 8, Eleventh Malaysia Plan

**Chart 4: Employed persons by skill level, Malaysia, second quarter (Q2) & third quarter (Q3) 2017**

