



MEDIA STATEMENT

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LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS, MALAYSIA, OCTOBER 2025

The unemployment rate remained at 3.0 per cent in October 2025, recording 518.9 thousand unemployed

PUTRAJAYA, DECEMBER 10, 2025 - The unemployment rate remained at 3.0 per cent in October 2025, recording 518.9 thousand unemployed, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM). The figures were detailed in the **Statistics of the Labour Force, Malaysia, October 2025** release. The report provides insights into Malaysia's labour supply, drawing from findings collected through the Labour Force Survey conducted by DOSM.

Commenting on the overall performance for October 2025, Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin said, "The country's labour market showed further improvement in October 2025, driven by robust economic activity, with solid growth in employment and unemployment remaining low. Therefore, the labour force continued its upward momentum during the month, rising by 0.2 per cent month-on-month to 17.58 million persons (September 2025: 17.54 million persons). October's labour force participation rate stood at 70.9 per cent, as recorded in September 2025."

In addition, the total number of employed persons increased further in October 2025, recorded a rise of 0.2 per cent to 17.06 million persons from 17.03 million persons registered last month. On the same note, the number of unemployed rose marginally by 0.1 per cent to 518.9 thousand persons (September 2025: 518.6 thousand persons). The unemployment rate during the month remained unchanged at 3.0 per cent, as in the prior month.

According to the Chief Statistician Malaysia, the employees' category constituted 74.8 per cent of the total employed persons in October 2025. This group increased slightly by 0.1 per cent to 12.76 million persons, up from 12.74 million persons in September 2025. Likewise, the number of own-account workers went up by

0.4 per cent to 3.25 million persons, compared to 3.24 million persons in September 2025.

Additionally, the employment in the Services sector continued to rise steadily in October 2025, mainly attributed by Accommodation and food & beverage services; Wholesale and retail trade; as well as Information and communication activities. Similarly, the Agriculture, Manufacturing, and Construction sectors also recorded increases in the number of employed persons, while the employment in the Mining & quarrying sector posted decreases.

Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin also explained that the number of persons working less than 30 hours per week continued to decrease, edged down by 1.4 per cent to 233.2 thousand persons in October 2025 (September 2025: 236.5 thousand persons). Correspondingly, the number of persons working less than 30 hours per week but willing and available to work additional hours or classified as time-related underemployment also declined by 1.7 per cent to 126.4 thousand persons, recording the time-related underemployment rate of 0.7 per cent (September 2025: 128.6 thousand persons; 0.8%).

Providing more insight into the unemployment situation for October 2025, the Chief Statistician Malaysia stated that those who were available for work and were actively seeking jobs, or referred to as actively unemployed, represented 79.7 per cent of the total unemployed persons. This category registered a slight increase of 0.03 per cent, with the number rose to 413.8 thousand persons compared to 413.6 thousand persons in the preceding month. By duration of the unemployment for the actively unemployed during the month, 64.5 per cent were those who had been unemployed for less than three months, while 5.0 per cent were those in long-term unemployment for more than a year. Meanwhile, those who believed that there were no jobs available, or referred to as inactively unemployed, rose by 0.2 per cent to 105.1 thousand persons (September 2025: 104.9 thousand persons).

The unemployment rate for youth aged 15 to 24 years remained unchanged at 10.1 per cent, recording 297.6 thousand unemployed youths in October 2025 (September 2025: 296.9 thousand persons). Meanwhile, the youth unemployment rate for those aged 15 to 30 years lessened by 0.1 percentage points to 6.1 per cent, with 398.5 thousand unemployed youths (September 2025: 398.1 thousand persons; 6.2%).

As for the number of persons outside the labour force, the number was on an increasing trend, rising by 0.1 per cent to 7.22 million persons during the month, compared with 7.21 million persons in September 2025. The main reason for those being outside the labour force was due to housework/ family responsibilities, with a share of 43.6 per cent. The schooling/ training category ranked second at 40.7 per cent.

Concluding the statement, the outlook for Malaysia's labour market in the coming months is expected to remain positive and resilient, supported by moderate economic growth, strategic investments, and human capital development. Although global challenges such as trade volatility and slowing external demand may pose pressures, Malaysia's labour market is anticipated to stay competitive, inclusive, and stable.

Malaysia, for the first time, ranked as number one (1) globally in the biennial Open Data Inventory (ODIN) 2024/25 report released by Open Data Watch (ODW), surpassing 197 other countries. This achievement marks a significant leap from its 67th position in the ODIN 2022/23 assessment.

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: Employed persons, Malaysia, January 2024 - October 2025

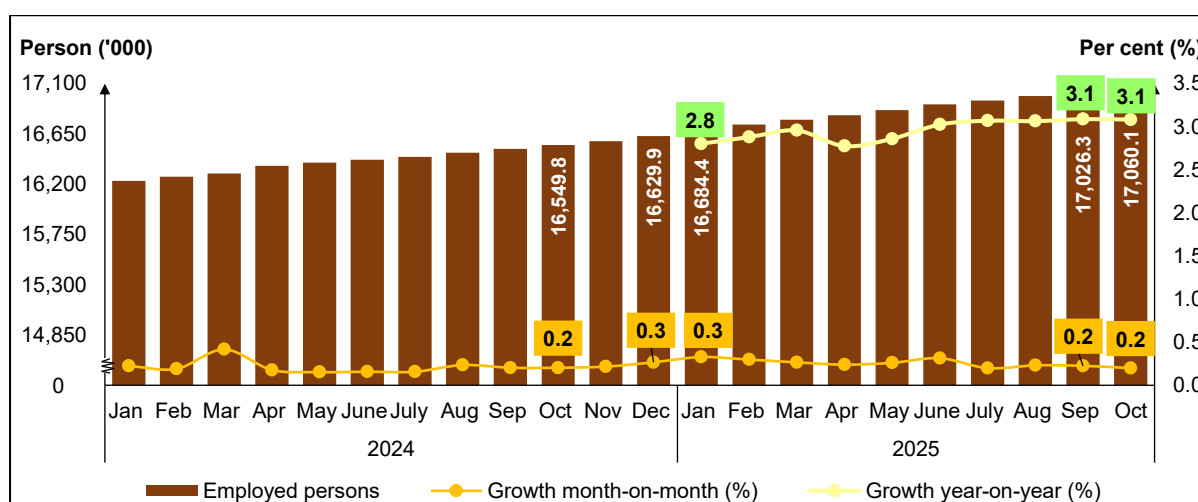


Chart 2: Unemployment, Malaysia, January 2024 - October 2025

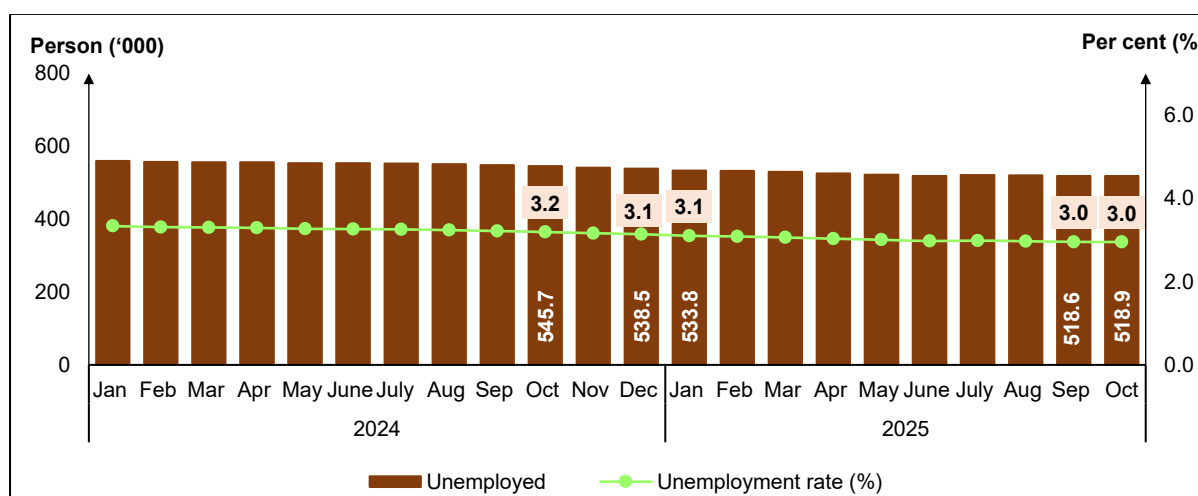
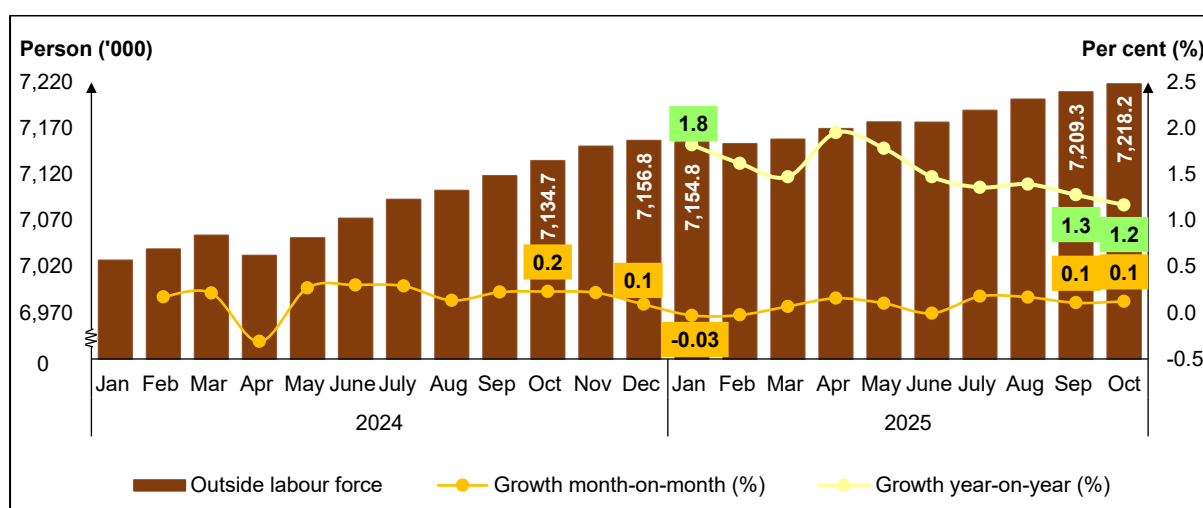


Chart 3: Outside labour force, Malaysia, January 2024 - October 2025



Note: The Labour Force Survey indicators from January 2024 onwards are estimated based on the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia 2020

Released by:

THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

10th DECEMBER 2025