

MALAYSIA LABOUR FORCE, JANUARY 2026

January's unemployment rate remained at **2.9 per cent**, recording 509.6 thousand persons unemployed

LABOUR FORCE

January 2026



17.28
million

▲ 0.1%

DECEMBER'2025
17.27
million

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

70.9%

▲ 0.1 pp

The labour force participation rate (LFPR) increased to 70.9 per cent in January 2026

DECEMBER'2025
70.8%

LFPR by sex

Male **82.9%** Female **57.2%**

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

January 2026

2.9%

January's unemployment rate stood at 2.9 per cent

↔ 0.0 pp

DECEMBER' 2025: 2.9%

UNEMPLOYED



509.6
thousand

▲ 0.3%

DECEMBER' 2025
508.0
thousand

Unemployed by category

Actively unemployed

▲ 0.3%

79.8%

JANUARY 2026: 406.9 thousand
DECEMBER' 2025: 405.5 thousand

Inactively unemployed

20.2%

▲ 0.3%

JANUARY 2026: 102.8 thousand
DECEMBER' 2025: 102.4 thousand

EMPLOYED PERSONS

January 2026



16.77
million

▲ 0.04%

DECEMBER'2025
16.76
million

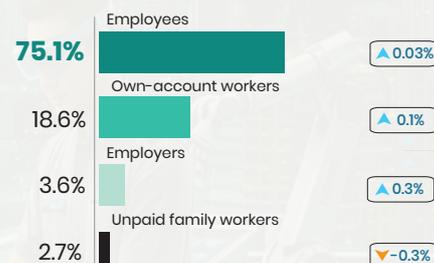
Employment - to - population ratio

68.8%

▲ 0.1 pp

DECEMBER'2025
68.7%

Employed persons by status in employment



The employees' category made up **75.1 per cent** of the total employed persons in January 2026

OUTSIDE LABOUR FORCE

DECEMBER'2025
7.13 million

JANUARY 2026
7.11 million

▼ -0.4%

The main reason for being outside the labour force was due to housework/ family responsibilities



Housework/ family responsibilities
43.3%



Schooling/ training
40.4%

Notes:
 pp Percentage point
 % Percentage change (month-on-month)
 ↔ Unchanged
 r The monthly Labour Force Survey statistics for December 2025 were revised based on the latest current population estimates

