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MEDIA STATEMENT



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LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS, MALAYSIA, JUNE AND SECOND QUARTER OF 2024

The number of unemployed in June 2024 declined further to 565.3 thousand persons, with a 3.3 per cent unemployment rate

PUTRAJAYA, AUGUST 9, 2024 – The number of unemployed in June 2024 declined further to 565.3 thousand persons, with a 3.3 per cent unemployment rate, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) reported today in the release on **Statistics of the Labour Force, Malaysia, June and Second Quarter of 2024**. The statistics described the labour supply situation based on the Labour Force Survey conducted by DOSM.

Commenting on the overall performance for June 2024, Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin said, “The country’s labour force position remained in a positive growth trend with a marginal increase in the number of employed persons, while the unemployed continued to decrease following the expansion of the economic position. Therefore, the number of labour force continued to increase in June 2024, with a month-on-month rise of 0.1 per cent to 17.17 million persons (May 2024: 17.15 million persons), registering a higher labour force participation rate (LFPR) during the month at 70.4 per cent (May 2024: 70.3%).”

Furthermore, according to Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, the number of employed persons in June continued to trend up by 0.2 per cent to 16.61 million persons (May 2024: 16.58 million persons). In contrast, the number of unemployed persons during the month fell by 0.1 per cent month-on-month to 565.3 thousand persons (May 2024: 566.1 thousand persons). The unemployment rate in June 2024 remained at 3.3 per cent as in the previous month.

Elaborating further on the employment situation, the Chief Statistician Malaysia said, “From the total employed persons during the month, 75.0 per cent were in the employees’ category. This category registered a monthly growth of 0.1 per cent to 12.46 million persons (May 2024: 12.44 million persons). On the same note, the own-account workers category remained on a positive trend, with a 0.3 per cent increase to 3.06 million persons (May 2024: 3.05 million persons).”

By economic sector, the Services sector continued to exhibit increases in the number of employed persons, especially in Wholesale & retail trade; Food & beverage services; and Information & communication activities. A similar trend of employed persons was also observed in the Manufacturing, Construction, Mining & quarrying and Agriculture sectors.

Explaining further on the unemployment situation in June, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin stated that, out of the total unemployed persons during the month, 79.9 per cent were the actively unemployed or those who were available for work and were actively seeking jobs. This category decreased marginally by 0.02 per cent to record 451.9 thousand persons (May 2024: 452.0 thousand persons). Among the actively unemployed, those who were unemployed for less than three months comprised 61.5 per cent, while those who were in long-term unemployment for more than a year encompassed 7.0 per cent. Likewise, those who believed that there were no jobs available or the inactively unemployed, declined by 0.5 per cent to 113.4 thousand persons (May 2024: 114.0 thousand persons).

In June 2024, the unemployment rate for youth aged 15 to 24 years stood at 10.5 per cent, registering 305.0 thousand unemployed youths (May 2024: 10.5%; 305.6 thousand persons). Meanwhile, the unemployment rate among youth aged 15 to 30 years was 6.5 per cent, with the number of unemployed youths at 434.2 thousand persons (May 2024: 6.5%; 434.6 thousand persons).

As for the inactivity group, the number of persons outside the labour force in June 2024 continued to decrease, falling slightly by 0.02 per cent to 7.23 million persons (May 2024: 7.23 million persons). Housework/ family responsibilities were the main reasons for the outside labour force with 42.8 per cent, followed by schooling/ training reason at 41.4 per cent.

Commenting on the overall performance for the second quarter of 2024, the Chief Statistician Malaysia said, “During the quarter, the number of labour force posted a positive trend, with a rise of 1.1 per cent to 17.15 million persons (Q1 2024: 16.96 million persons). Subsequently, the LFPR rose by 0.3 percentage points to 70.5 per cent (Q1 2024: 70.2%). In line with this, the number of employed persons went up by 1.2 per cent, reaching 16.59 million persons during the quarter (Q1 2024: 16.40 million persons). Meanwhile, the number of unemployed persons reduced further by 0.6 per cent to 557.8 thousand persons (Q1 2024: 561.1 thousand persons),

recording 3.3 per cent of the unemployment rate in the second quarter of 2024 (Q1 2024: 3.3%).

Additionally, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin stated that the number of persons who worked less than 30 hours per week decreased by 2.8 per cent to 275.8 thousand persons during the second quarter of 2024 (Q1 2024: 283.9 thousand persons). The number of persons who worked less than 30 hours per week and were able and willing to work additional hours or time-related underemployment also fell by 3.2 per cent to 169.8 thousand persons, resulting in 1.0 per cent of the time-related underemployment rate (Q1 2024: 175.4 thousand persons; 1.1%). In contrast, skill-related underemployment, which includes individuals with tertiary education but working in semi-skilled and low-skilled jobs, rose by 0.2 per cent to 1.94 million persons, with 37.0 per cent of the skill-related underemployment rate (Q1 2024: 1.93 million persons; 37.1%).

In terms of unemployment rate and LFPR by state, Kedah had the lowest unemployment rate at 1.7 per cent during this quarter, followed by Selangor (1.8%), Pulau Pinang (1.8%), W.P. Putrajaya (2.1%) and Negeri Sembilan (2.1%). Nonetheless, 10 states portrayed an increase in LFPR, indicating higher labour participation in the market. Selangor recorded the highest LFPR at 76.3 per cent, with W.P. Kuala Lumpur ranked second with 75.4 per cent, followed by Pulau Pinang (73.5%) and W.P. Putrajaya (73.4%).

Concluding the statement, Malaysia's economy was observed to be steady, with robust economic activities that were contributed by the continuous domestic and export factors, a healthier job market and positive growth in the Agriculture and Construction sectors. The improvement in business activities is also seen to attract more investment and trade in Malaysia, further boosting more job creation, which will have a positive impact on Malaysia's labour market. Therefore, the country's labour market is foreseen to continue to be in a stable growth momentum due to the country's encouraging economic position as well as the continuous increase in tourist arrivals and better growth in all sectors of the economy.

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) has launched OpenDOSM NextGen as a medium that provides data catalogue and visualisations to facilitate users' analysis and can be accessed through <https://open.dosm.gov.my>.

DOSM is conducting the Agricultural Census 2024. Please visit <https://www.myagricensus.gov.my/> for more information. The theme is "Agriculture Census, Key to Agricultural Development."

The Government of Malaysia has declared National Statistics Day (MyStats Day) on October 20th each year. MyStats Day theme is "Statistics is the Essence of Life". DOSM commemorates its 75th Diamond Jubilee in 2024.

Chart 1: Employed persons, Malaysia, June 2021 - June 2024

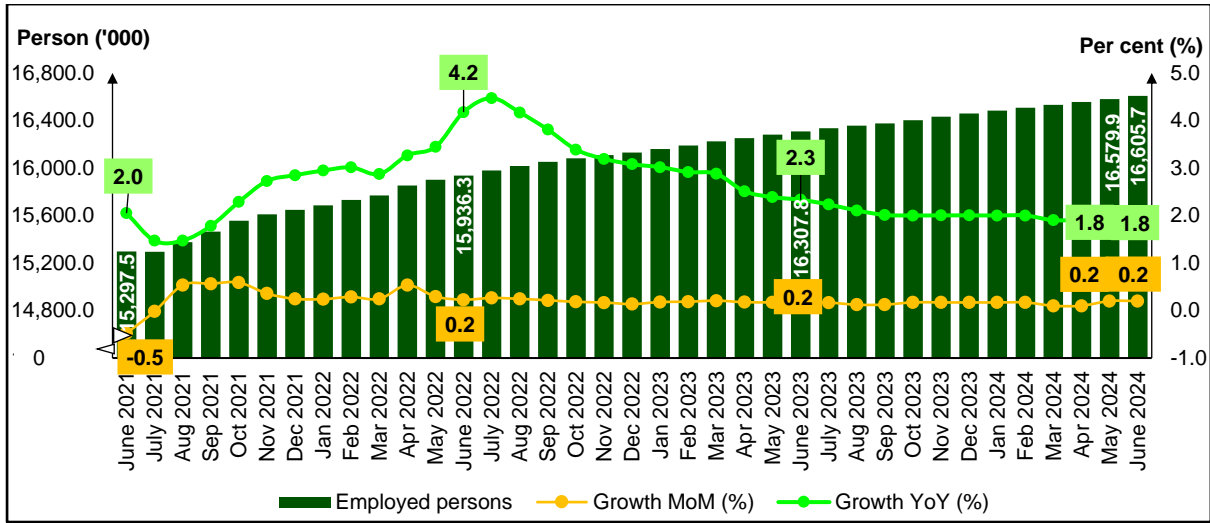


Chart 2: Unemployment, Malaysia, June 2021 - June 2024

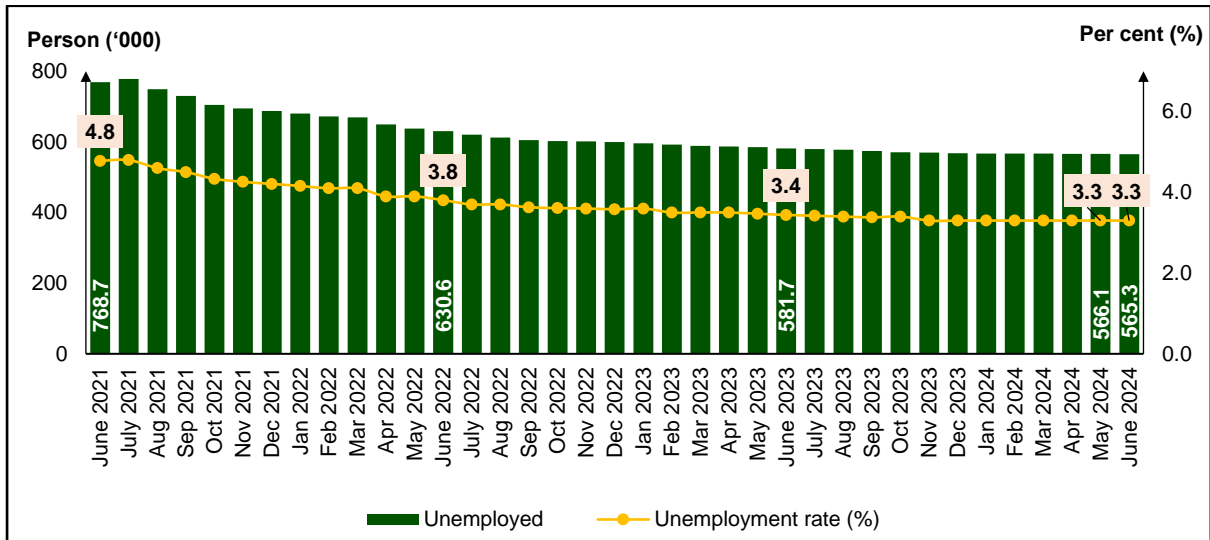


Chart 3: Unemployment, Malaysia, Q2 2020 - Q2 2024

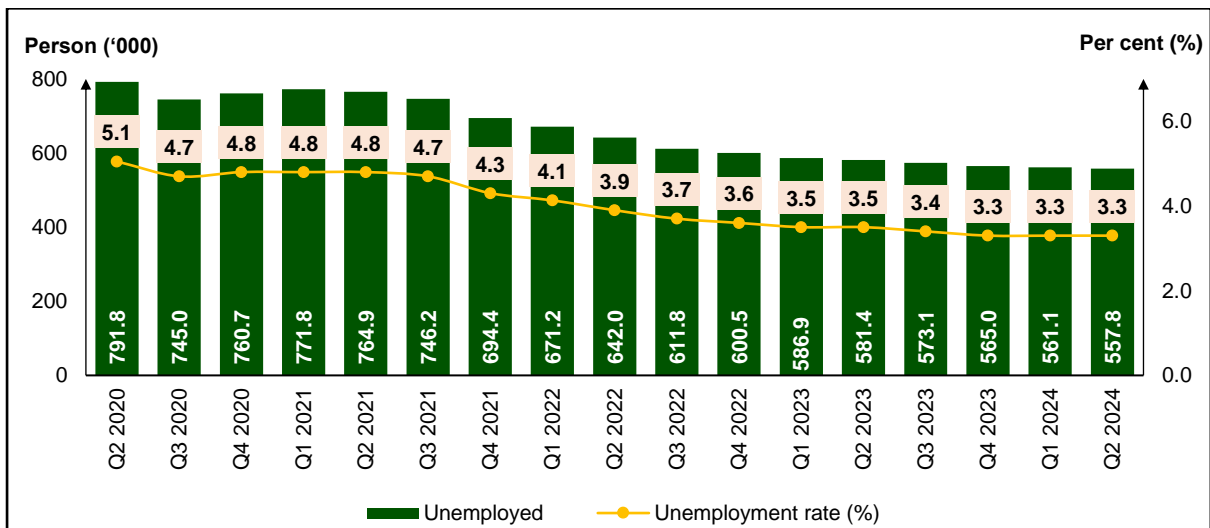
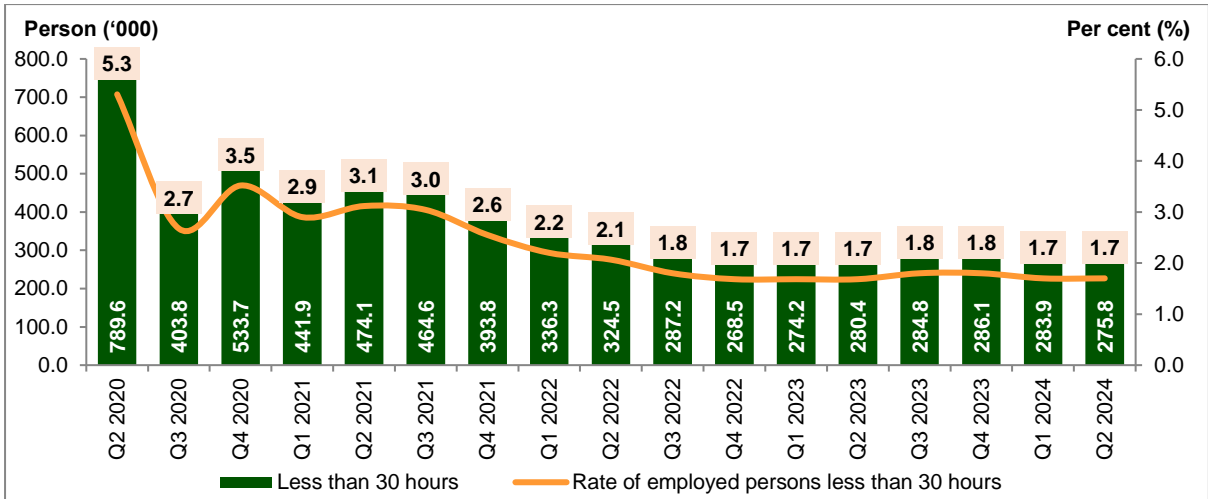
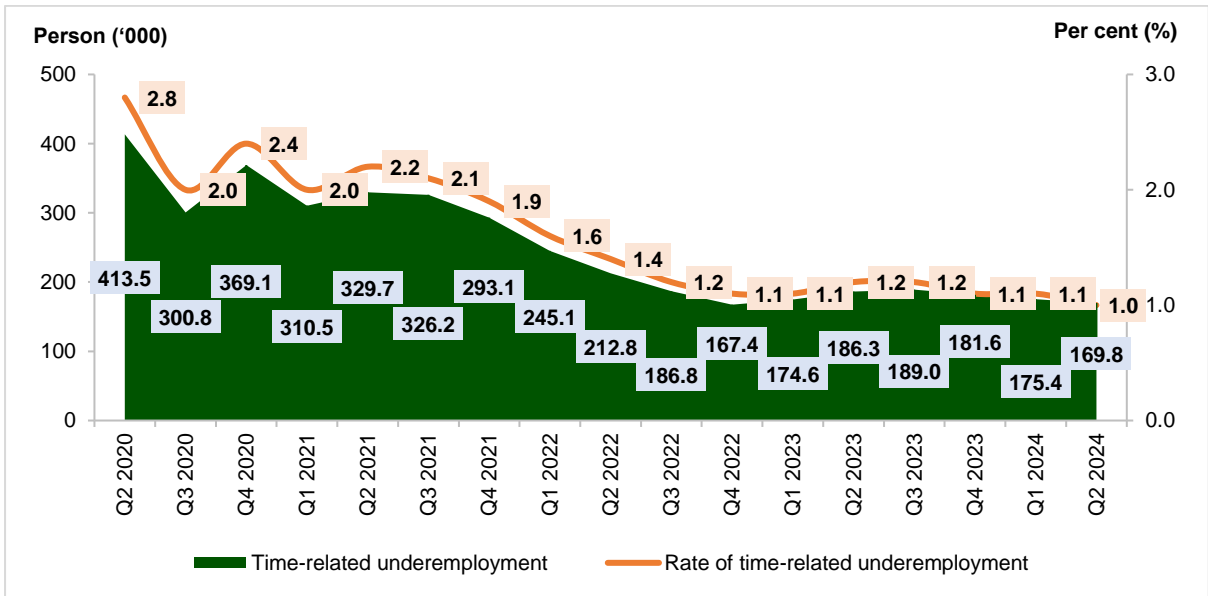


Chart 4: Employed persons working less than 30 hours, Q2 2020 - Q2 2024



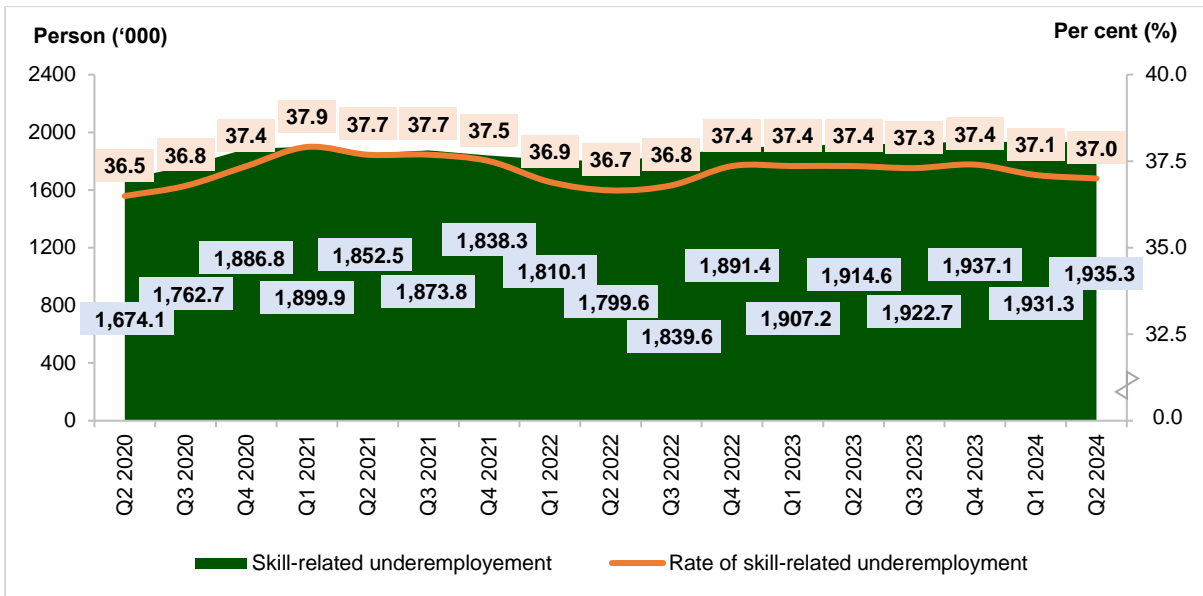
$$\text{Rate of employed persons less than 30 hours} = \frac{\text{Number of employed persons less than 30 hours}}{\text{Number of employed persons}}$$

Chart 5: Time-related underemployment, Q2 2020 - Q2 2024



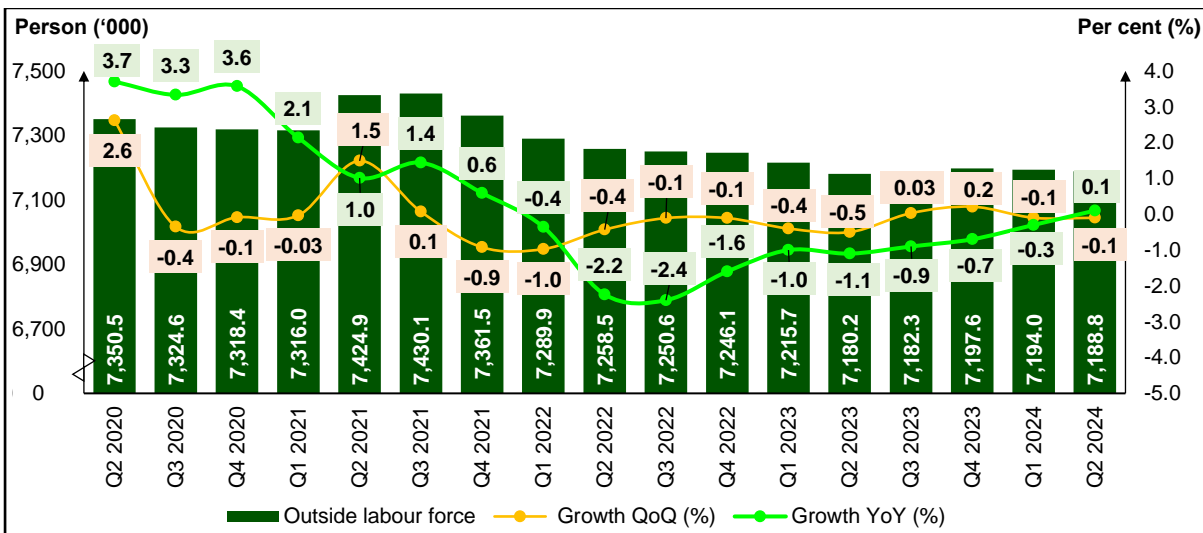
$$\text{Rate of time-related underemployment} = \frac{\text{Number of time-related underemployment}}{\text{Number of employed persons}}$$

Chart 6: Skill-related underemployment, Q2 2020 - Q2 2024



$$\text{Rate of skill-related underemployment} = \frac{\text{Number of skill-related underemployment}}{\text{Number of employed persons with tertiary education}}$$

Chart 7: Outside labour force, Malaysia, Q2 2020 - Q2 2024



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THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

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