

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**



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### **LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS, MALAYSIA, SEPTEMBER AND THIRD QUARTER OF 2024**

***September's unemployed declined further to 555.3 thousand persons, with an unemployment rate of 3.2 per cent***

**PUTRAJAYA, NOVEMBER 8, 2024** – September's unemployed declined further to 555.3 thousand persons, with an unemployment rate of 3.2 per cent, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) reported today in the release on **Statistics of the Labour Force, Malaysia, September and Third Quarter of 2024**. The statistics described the labour supply situation based on the Labour Force Survey conducted by DOSM.

Elaborating on the overall performance for September 2024, Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin said, "Following the country's encouraging economic performance, the country's labour market position in September 2024 remains strong. This was illustrated by the increasing number of employed persons, while the number of unemployed persons is declining. Therefore, the number of labour force continued to expand in September, with an addition of 0.1 per cent to register 17.24 million persons (August 2024: 17.22 million persons). Accordingly, a higher labour force participation rate (LFPR) was recorded at 70.5 per cent, rising by 0.1 percentage points as compared to the previous month (August 2024: 70.4%)."

In addition, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin stated that the number of employed persons continued to be on a positive trend with a month-on-month increase of 0.2 per cent to 16.69 million persons during the month, as against 16.66 million persons in August 2024. In the meantime, the number of unemployed persons was declining, with a reduction of 0.6 per cent to 555.3 thousand persons (August 2024: 558.5 thousand persons). The unemployment rate for September 2024 remained at 3.2 per cent, as recorded in the previous month.

*Commenting further on the employment situation, the Chief Statistician Malaysia said, “The employees’ category comprised 75.1 per cent of the total employed persons. During the month, the number increased by 0.1 per cent to 12.51 million persons (August 2024: 12.50 million persons). Similarly, the category of own-account workers was on an upward trend, with an addition of 0.3 per cent to 3.09 million persons (August 2024: 3.08 million persons).”*

*In the economic sector, the number of employed persons which was concentrated in the Services sector continued to record increases, particularly in Food & beverage services; Wholesale & retail trade, and Information & communication activities. On the same note, the Manufacturing, Construction, Mining & quarrying and Agriculture sectors also registered a rise in employment.*

*Elaborating further on the unemployment, the unemployment rate among youth aged 15 to 24 increased to 10.5 per cent, rose 0.1 percentage points from last month, with 304.2 thousand unemployed youths (August 2024: 10.4%; 303.0 thousand persons). Meanwhile, the unemployment rate for youths aged 15 to 30 fell to 6.3 per cent, recording 420.1 thousand unemployed youths (August 2024: 6.4%; 428.5 thousand persons).*

*In the meantime, those who were available for work and were actively seeking jobs or the actively unemployed made up 79.9 per cent of the total unemployed persons. This category edged down by 0.7 per cent to register 443.5 thousand persons (August 2024: 446.6 thousand persons). By duration of unemployment for the actively unemployed, 62.0 per cent were those who were unemployed for less than three months, while those who were in long-term unemployment for more than a year comprised 6.5 per cent. Likewise, the inactively unemployed or those who believed that there were no jobs available, posted a decrease of 0.1 per cent to 111.8 thousand persons (August 2024: 111.9 thousand persons).*

*As for the inactivity group, the number of persons outside the labour force in September 2024 posted a slight decrease of 0.01 per cent to 7.23 million persons (August 2024: 7.23 million persons). The major composition for the outside labour force was housework/ family responsibilities, accounting for 42.9 per cent, followed by the schooling/ training category at 41.1 per cent.*

*Commenting on the overall performance for the third quarter of 2024, the Chief Statistician Malaysia said, “During the quarter, the number of labour force showed a positive trend, increasing by 0.7 per cent quarter on quarter to 17.26 million persons (Q2 2024: 17.15 million persons). The LFPR remained at 70.5 per cent as in the previous quarter. In addition, the number of employed persons increased by 0.7 per cent to 16.72 million persons (Q2 2024: 16.59 million persons). Meanwhile, the number of unemployed persons reduced by 1.8 per cent to 547.9 thousand persons*

(Q2 2024: 557.8 thousand persons), recording 3.2 per cent of the unemployment rate in the third quarter of 2024 as compared to 3.3 per cent in the second quarter of 2024.

Furthermore, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin stated that the number of persons who worked less than 30 hours per week fell by 2.8 per cent to 268.1 thousand persons in the third quarter of 2024 (Q2 2024: 275.8 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 decreased by 6.3 per cent to 159.1 thousand persons, leading to time-related underemployment rate of 1.0 per cent (Q2 2024: 169.8 thousand persons; 1.0%). In contrast, skill-related underemployment, which involves individuals with tertiary education but working in semi-skilled and low-skilled jobs, increased by 0.7 per cent to 1.95 million persons, representing 36.8 per cent of the skill-related underemployment rate (Q2 2024: 1.94 million persons; 37.0%).

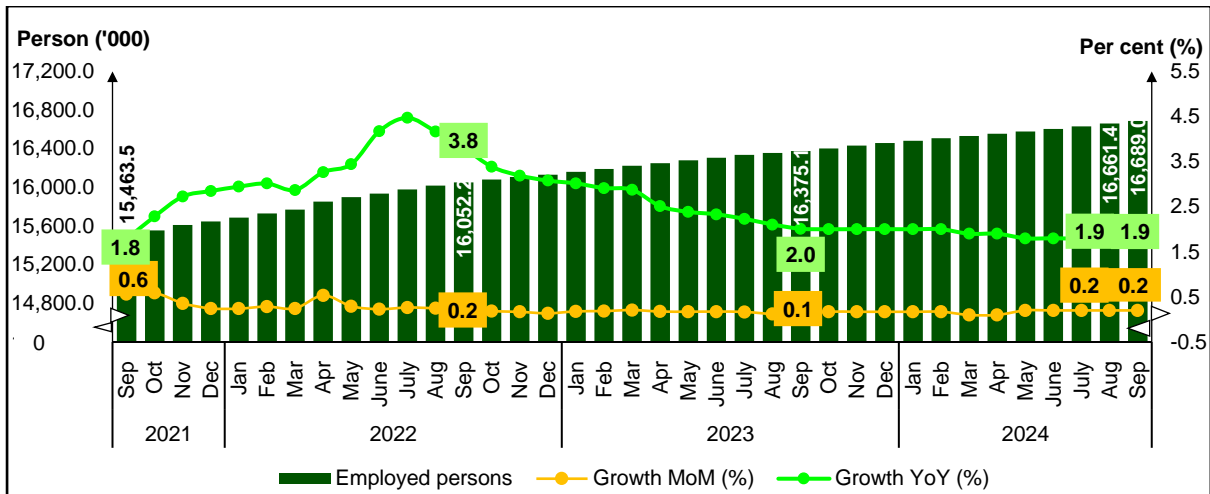
In terms of the unemployment rate and LFPR by state, Kedah had the lowest unemployment rate at 1.6 per cent during the quarter, followed by Selangor (1.9%), Pulau Pinang (2.0%) and W.P. Putrajaya (2.0%). Nonetheless, six states saw an increase in LFPR, reflecting greater labour participation in the market. Selangor posted the highest LFPR at 76.3 per cent, followed by W.P. Kuala Lumpur (74.9%) and Johor (71.4%).

Concluding the statement, in line with the encouraging current Malaysian economic performance, the country's labour market has also shown consistent improvement. Strong domestic demand and recovery in the external sector have also created more job opportunities in the market, thus having a positive impact on the performance of Malaysia's labour force. Therefore, with various initiatives designed that are seen to encourage more labour participation in the market in the near future, the country's labour force performance is anticipated to be more competitive and continue to strengthen and stabilise in the coming months.

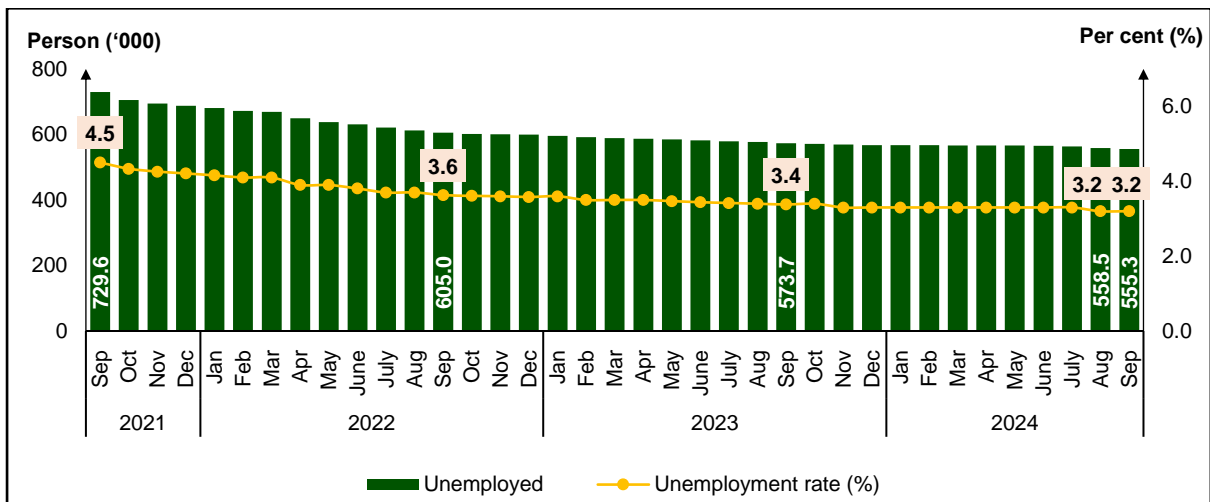
The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) has launched OpenDOSM NextGen as a medium that provides data catalogue and visualisations to facilitate users' analysis and can be accessed through <https://open.dosm.gov.my>.

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

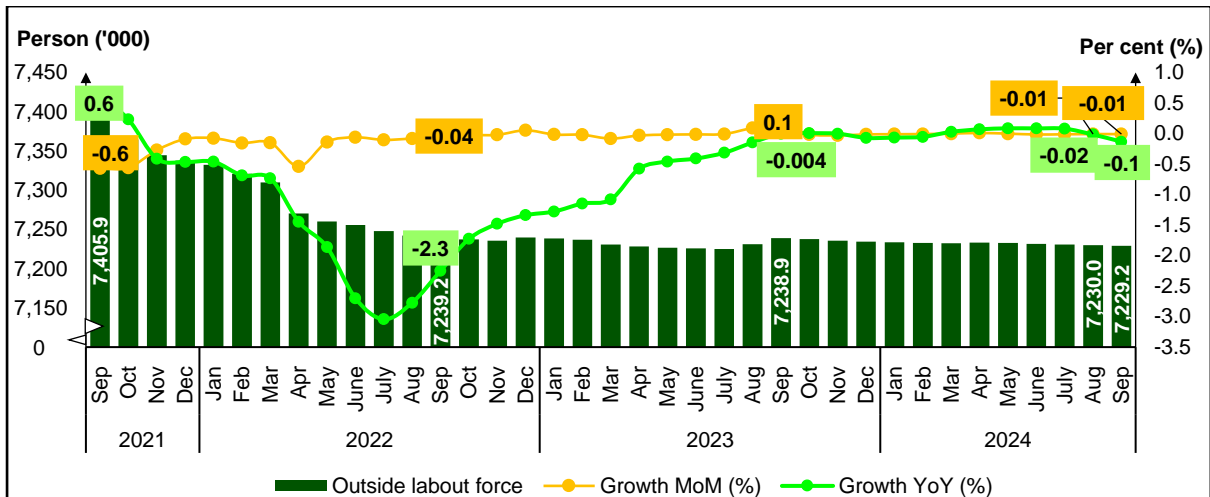
**Chart 1: Employed persons, Malaysia, September 2021 - September 2024**



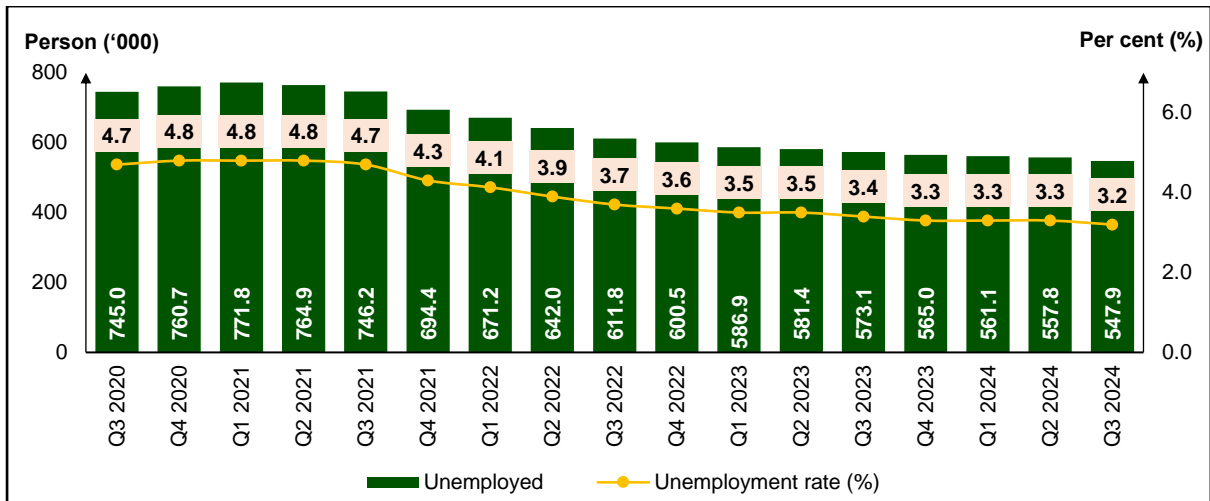
**Chart 2: Unemployment, Malaysia, September 2021 - September 2024**



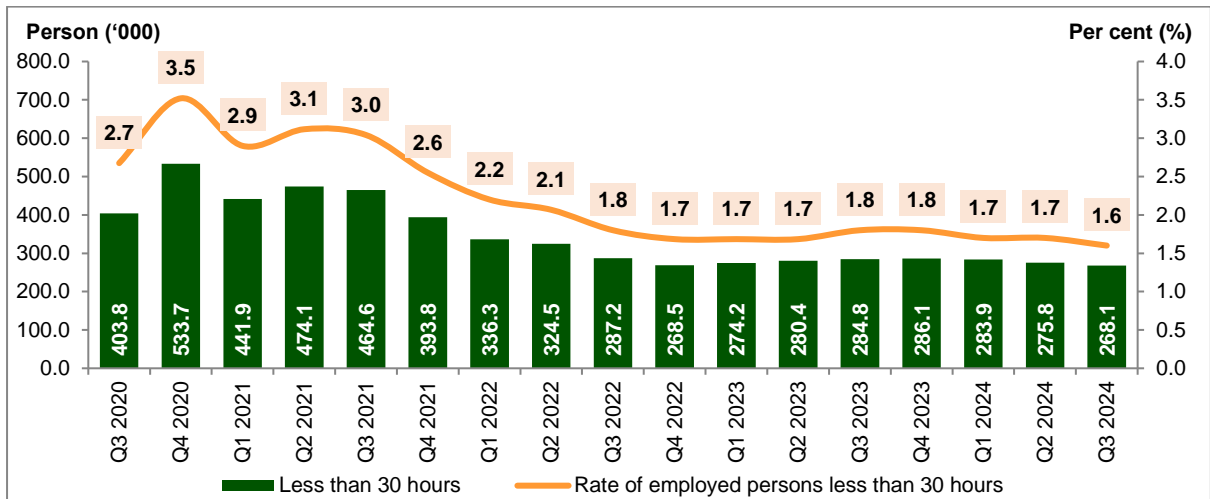
**Chart 3: Outside labour force, Malaysia, September 2021 - September 2024**



**Chart 4: Unemployment, Malaysia, Q3 2020 - Q3 2024**

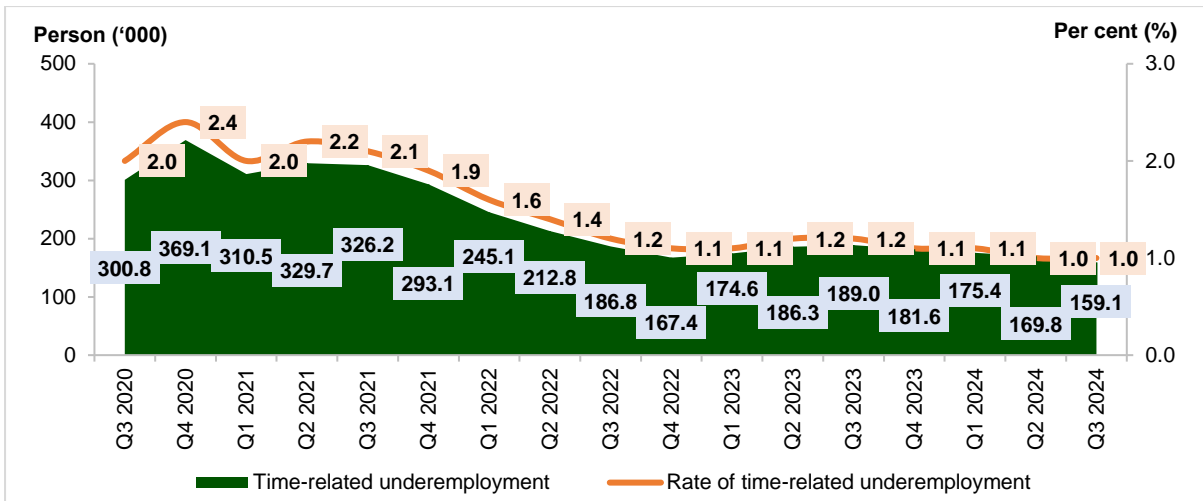


**Chart 5: Employed persons working less than 30 hours, Q3 2020 - Q3 2024**



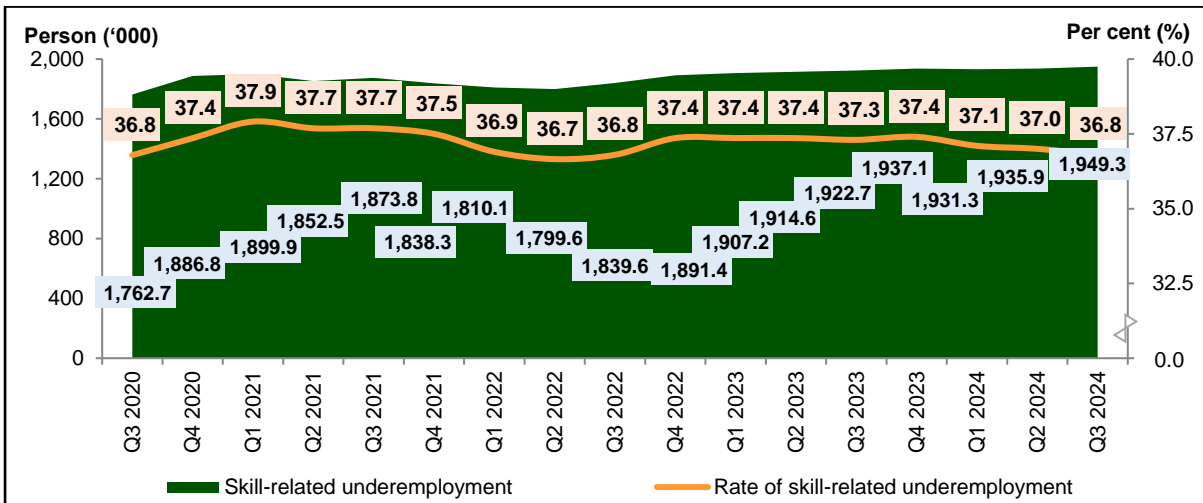
$$\text{Rate of employed persons less than 30 hours} = \frac{\text{Number of employed persons less than 30 hours}}{\text{Number of employed persons}}$$

**Chart 6: Time-related underemployment, Q3 2020 - Q3 2024**



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

**Chart 7: Skill-related underemployment, Q3 2020 - Q3 2024**



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

Released by:

**THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA**

**DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA**

**8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024**