

MEDIA STATEMENT



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LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS, MALAYSIA, APRIL 2025

April's unemployment rate drops to 3.0 per cent, the lowest rate in ten years, with 525.9 thousand unemployed

PUTRAJAYA, JUNE 11, 2025 – April's unemployment rate drops to 3.0 per cent, the lowest rate in ten years, with 525.9 thousand unemployed, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) reported today in the release on **Statistics of the Labour Force, Malaysia, April 2025**. The statistics described the labour supply situation based on the Labour Force Survey conducted by DOSM.

Explaining the overall performance for April 2025, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, Chief Statistician Malaysia said, "A promising country's economic position has contributed to stable progress in Malaysia's labour force during the month, with an increase in the number of employed persons and higher labour force participation rates, while unemployment continues to decrease. In April 2025, the number of labour force continued its upward trend, increasing by 0.2 per cent to 17.34 million persons (March 2025: 17.31 million persons). Consequently, the labour force participation rate rose by 0.1 percentage points to 70.8 per cent (March 2025: 70.7%), indicating more labour participation in the market."

The Chief Statistician of Malaysia also added that the number of employed persons in April 2025 was increasing, with a rise of 0.2 per cent to 16.82 million persons compared to 16.78 million persons last month. Meanwhile, the number of unemployed persons decreased by 0.7 per cent to 525.9 thousand persons in April 2025 (March 2025: 529.6 thousand persons). April's unemployment rate hit the lowest rate in a decade at 3.0 per cent (April 2015: 3.0%), compared to March 2025 (3.1%).

Commenting further on the employment trends, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin emphasised that the employees' category accounted for 75.1 per cent of the total employed persons. This category experienced a 0.2 per cent increase, reaching 12.63 million persons in April 2025, compared to 12.61 million persons in the previous

month. Similarly, the number of own-account workers edged up by 0.6 per cent to 3.16 million persons, as against 3.15 million persons recorded last month.

In terms of economic sector, the number of employed persons in the Services sector was on an increasing trend, particularly in Wholesale and retail trade; Accommodation and food & beverage services; and Transportation & storage activities. Likewise, the number of employed persons also increased in the Manufacturing, Construction, Agriculture, and Mining & quarrying sectors.

Elucidating further on the unemployment situation in April 2025, the Chief Statistician Malaysia highlighted that 79.6 per cent of the unemployed persons were actively unemployed, or those who were available for work and were actively seeking jobs. During the month, the number of actively unemployed declined by 0.5 per cent to 418.6 thousand persons (March 2025: 420.7 thousand persons). Among the actively unemployed, those who were unemployed for less than three months comprised 64.2 per cent, whereas 5.3 per cent were those who were in long-term unemployment for more than a year. Similarly, the inactively unemployed, or those who believed that there were no jobs available, decreased by 1.5 per cent to record 107.2 thousand persons (March 2025: 108.9 thousand persons).

The unemployment rate for youth aged 15 to 24 years was unchanged at 10.3 per cent in April 2025, with 298.3 thousand unemployed youths (March 2025: 299.7 thousand persons). Meanwhile, the unemployment rate for youth aged 15 to 30 years fell to 6.2 per cent, with the number of unemployed youths at 400.6 thousand (March 2025: 6.3%; 399.4 thousand persons).

In April 2025, the number of persons outside the labour force rose by 0.2 per cent to 7.17 million persons as compared to the preceding month (March 2025: 7.16 million persons). The major composition of the outside labour force was housework/ family responsibilities accounted for 43.7 per cent, followed by schooling/ training reasons at 41.1 per cent.

Concluding the statement, the country's labour force is anticipated to remain optimistic and expand in the coming months of 2025, bolstered by strong economic policies and stable domestic demand. Despite the global geopolitical tensions, Malaysia's labour force is seen to remain resilient due to stable unemployment, the growing Services sector and technology, as well as an increasing investment in digitalisation and automation.

ASEAN-Malaysia 2025 Chairmanship: The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) will chair the 15th ASEAN Community Statistical System Committee (ACSS15) which aims to strengthen the statistical cooperation towards sustainable regional development.

Malaysia has, for the first time, successfully recorded the top position globally in the biennial Open Data Inventory (ODIN) 2024/25 report released by Open Data Watch (ODW), surpassing 198 other countries. This achievement marks a significant leap from its 67th position in the ODIN 2022/23 assessment.

The Government of Malaysia has declared October 20th as National Statistics Day (MyStats Day), with the theme 'Statistics is the Essence of Life'. Meanwhile, the Fourth World Statistics Day will be celebrated on 20th October 2025, with the theme 'Driving Change with Quality Statistics and Data for Everyone'.

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^r - April^r, November^r - December^r 2024, and January - April 2025

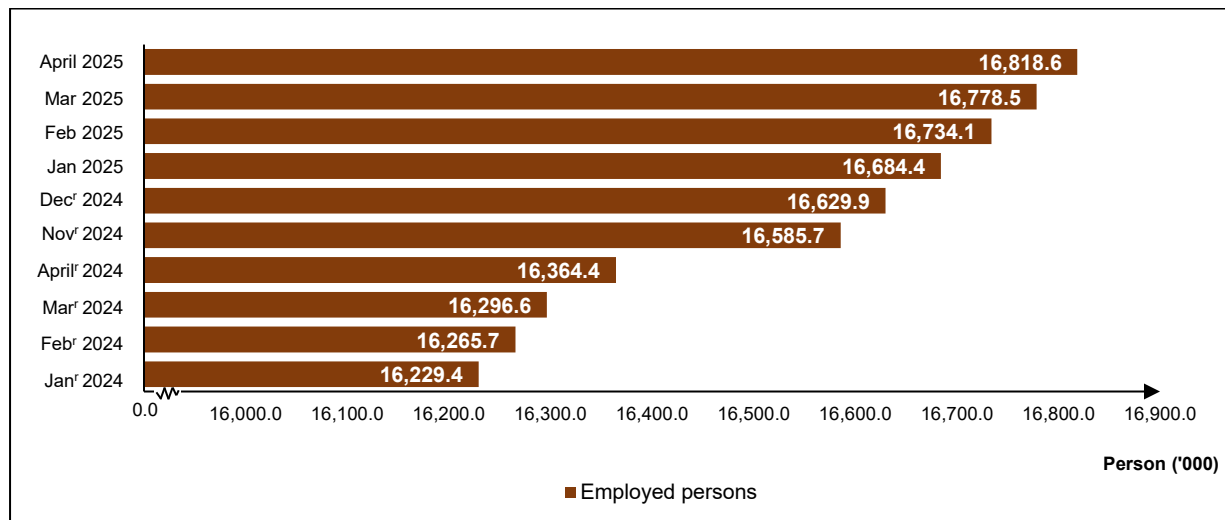


Chart 2: Unemployment, Malaysia, April 2015, January^r - April^r, November^r - December^r 2024, and January - April 2025

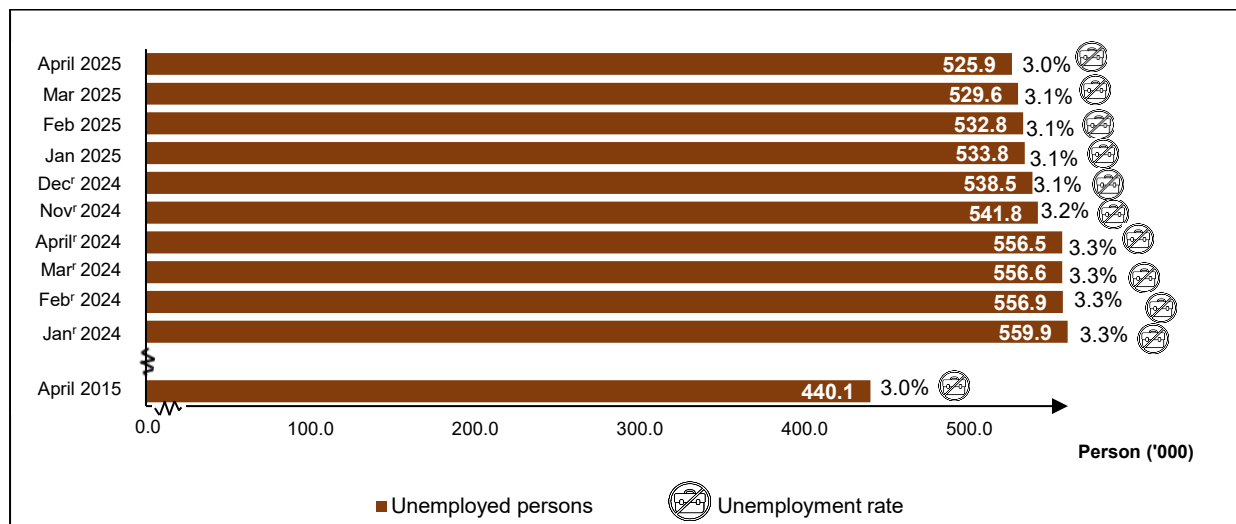
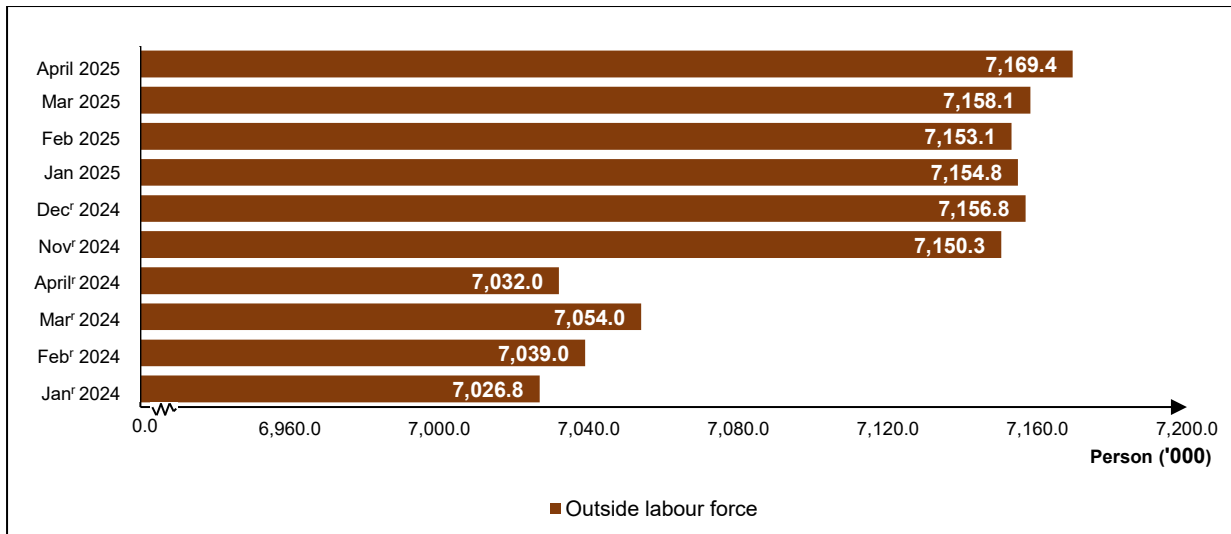


Chart 3: Outside labour force, Malaysia, January^r - April^r, November^r - December^r 2024, and January - April 2025



Note: ^r Revision based on the current population estimates from the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia 2020

Released by:

THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

11th JUNE 2025