MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

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November's unemployment rate returned to the pre-pandemic level of 3.3 per cent, registering 569.2 thousand unemployed persons

PUTRAJAYA, 10 January 2024 – The unemployment rate in November fell to 3.3 per cent and returned to the pre-pandemic level, registering 569.2 thousand unemployed persons, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) reported today in the release on **Statistics of the Labour Force, Malaysia, November 2023**. The statistics described the labour supply situation based on the Labour Force Survey conducted by DOSM.

Elaborating on the overall performance for November 2023, Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin said, "The performance of the country's labour force portrayed an improvement in November 2023, signalling the positive growth of the current economy, with the continuous increase in the number of employed persons, whereas unemployment further declined. Therefore, the number of labour force continued to register an increase in November 2023, rising by 0.2 per cent month-on-month to 17.0 million persons (October 2023: 16.97 million persons). The labour force participation rate in November 2023 stood at 70.1 per cent, similar to the preceding month."

In addition, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin also explained that the number of employed persons in November 2023 continued to rise with an addition of 0.2 per cent month-on-month, reaching a total of 16.43 million persons compared to the prior month (October 2023: 16.40 million persons). In contrast, the number of unemployed persons in November 2023 saw a persistent decrease, marking a reduction of 0.3 per cent to 569.2 thousand persons (October 2023: 570.9 thousand persons). The unemployment rate during the month fell to its pre-pandemic levels of 3.3 per cent compared to 3.4 per cent recorded last month.

Explaining further on the employment situation, the Chief Statistician Malaysia said, "Out of the total employed persons in November 2023, 75.3 per cent were in the employees' category. This category posted a slight increase of 0.1 per cent to 12.37 million persons (October 2023: 12.35 million persons). On the same note, the own-account workers category was on an upward trend, rising by 0.3 per cent to 2.99 million persons (October 2023: 2.99 million persons)."

Across various economic sectors, the number of employed persons in the Services sector remained increased, particularly in Information & communication; Food & beverage services; and Transportation & storage activities. Similarly, the Manufacturing, Construction and Mining & quarrying sectors also showed rises in the number of employed persons in November 2023. Meanwhile, the Agriculture sector recorded a decline in the number of employed persons during the same month.

Enlightening further on the unemployment situation during the month, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin stated that those who were available for work and were actively seeking jobs or the actively unemployed, comprised 79.9 per cent of the total unemployed persons. This category dropped by 0.6 per cent to 454.5 thousand persons (October 2023: 457.2 thousand persons). By duration of unemployment for the actively unemployed, 61.8 per cent were those who were unemployed for less than three months, while 6.3 per cent were those who were in long-term unemployment for more than a year. Nevertheless, the inactively unemployed or those who believed that there were no jobs available, rose by 0.8 per cent to 114.7 thousand persons (October 2023: 113.8 thousand persons).

The unemployment rate for youth aged 15 to 24 years edged down by 0.1 percentage points to 10.6 per cent in November 2023, registering 308.5 thousand unemployed youths (October 2023: 10.7%; 313.3 thousand persons). Likewise, the unemployment rate among youth aged 15 to 30 years declined by 0.1 percentage points to 6.5 per cent, with the number of unemployed youths at 432.0 thousand persons (October 2023: 6.6%; 439.6 thousand persons).

As for the inactivity group, the number of outside labour force during the month was in a downward trend, with a marginal decline of 0.03 per cent to record 7.24 million persons (October 2023: 7.24 million persons). Housework/ family responsibilities were the major composition of the outside labour force (42.6%), while the schooling/ training category ranked second with 41.1 per cent.

Concluding the statement, despite the global challenges, Malaysia's diversified economic structure and strong fundamentals facilitated stable economic growth. Therefore, the country's labour market also showed steady growth momentum for the eleven-month period in 2023, with an increasing number of employed persons and unemployment dwindling to bring the unemployment rate back to its pre-pandemic levels. Moreover, the upcoming holiday season is poised to boost the economy, particularly in tourism activities. Although floods in 2023 impacted several states in Malaysia, the situation is unlikely to significantly affect the overall labour market as they are seen as affecting the local area. Thus, the country's labour market landscape is expected to remain in a strong position in the coming months, in line with the country's growing economic performance.

Time series data and more information on the labour market can be obtained through the Malaysia Labour Market Interactive Data (MyLMID) dashboard. For more

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information, please visit https://mbls.dosm.gov.my/mylmid/ or scan the QR code below.

DOSM has launched OpenDOSM NextGen as a medium that provides a catalogue of data and visualisations to facilitate users' analysis of various data and can be accessed through https://open.dosm.gov.my.

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) will conduct the Agricultural Census in 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."

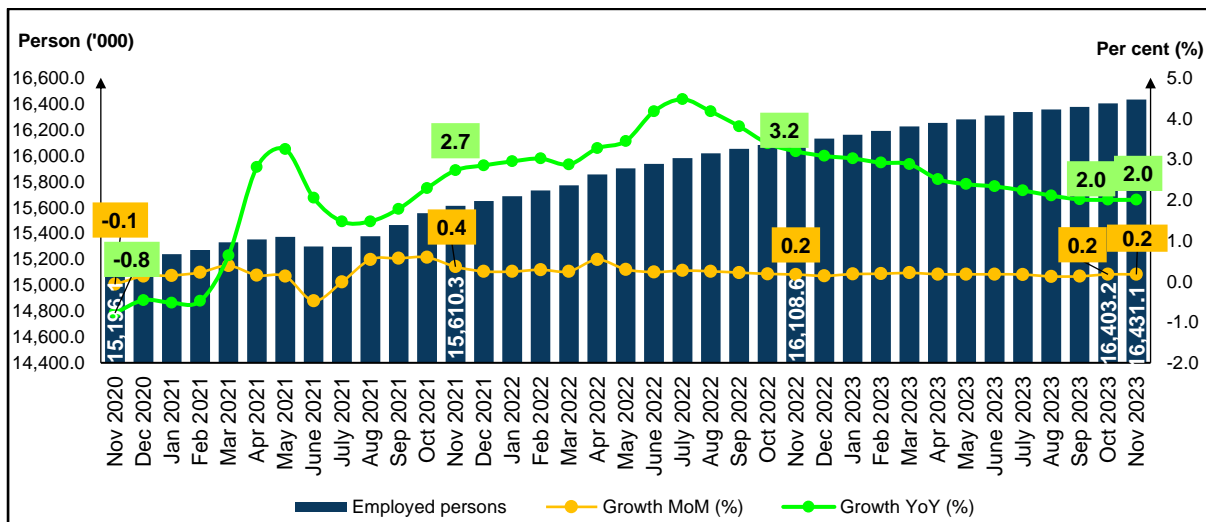***Chart 1:** Employed persons, Malaysia, November 2020 - November 2023*

Chart 2: *Unemployment, Malaysia, November 2020 - November 2023*
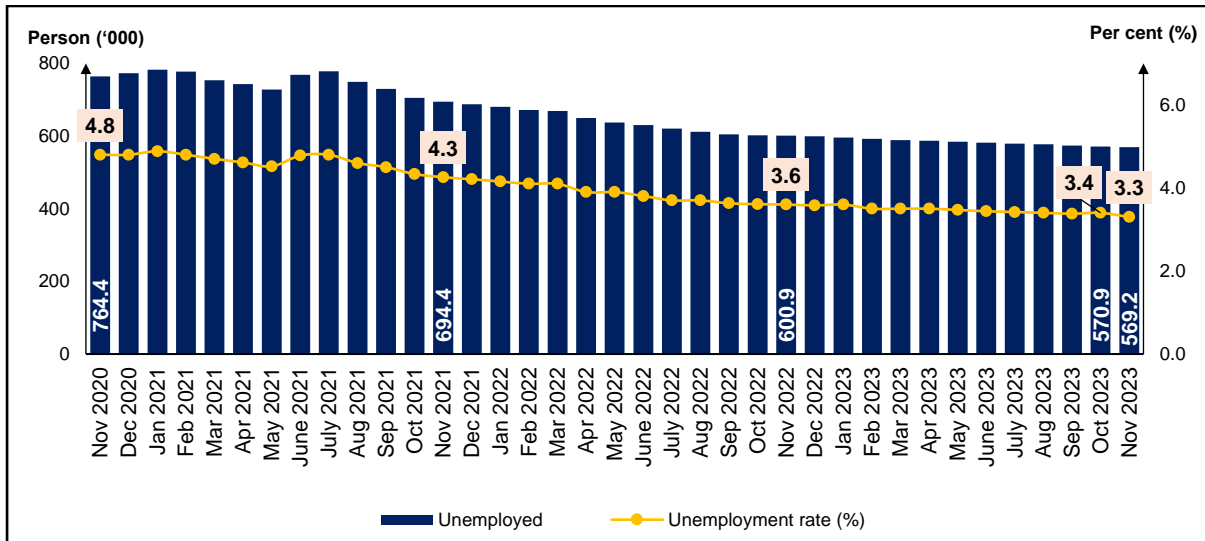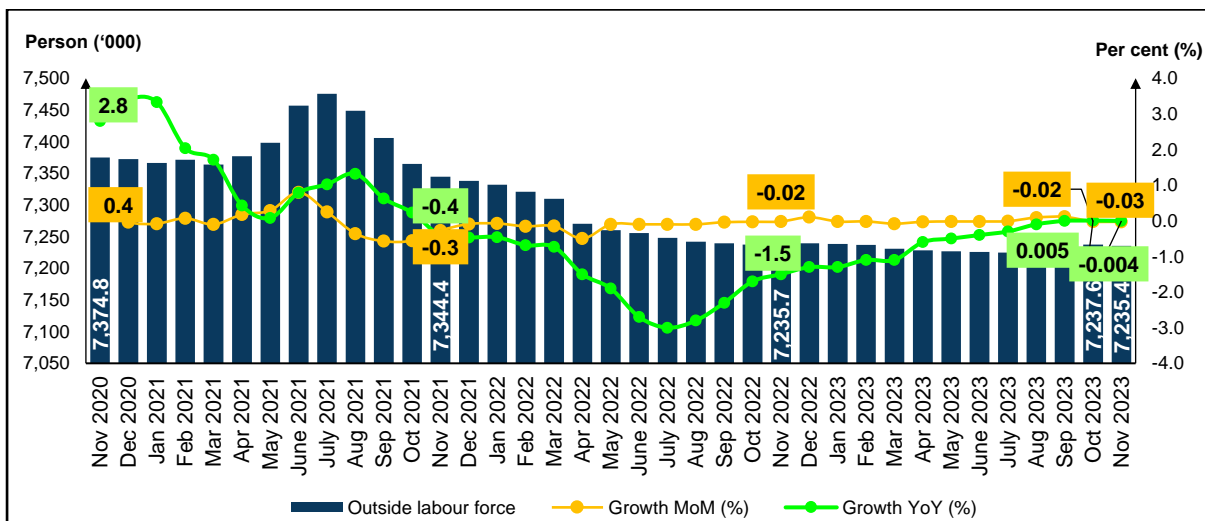

Chart 3: *Outside labour force, Malaysia, November 2020 - November 2023*

Released by:

THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

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