



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

**MEDIA STATEMENT
LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS, MALAYSIA,
JANUARY 2024**

January's unemployed declined further to 567.3 thousand persons, with an unemployment rate of 3.3 per cent

PUTRAJAYA, 08 March 2024 – January's unemployed declined further to record 567.3 thousand persons, with an unemployment rate of 3.3 per cent, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) reported today in the release on **Statistics of the Labour Force, Malaysia, January 2024**. The statistics described the labour supply situation based on the Labour Force Survey conducted by DOSM.

Commenting on the overall performance for January 2024, Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin said, "The country's labour market sustained its upward trend, in line with the ongoing improvement of the national economic situation and consistent with global economic expansion. Therefore, the labour force in January 2024 saw further enhancement, increasing by 0.1 per cent to 17.05 million persons compared to the previous month (December 2023: 17.03 million persons). The labour force participation rate during the month was unchanged at 70.2 per cent, as in the preceding month. This positive trend was driven by a continuous increase in the number of employed persons, while the number of unemployed persons declined."

In addition, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin also said that the number of employed persons continued in an upward trend, with a rise of 0.2 per cent from the previous month to record 16.48 million persons (December 2023: 16.46 million). In the meantime, the number of unemployed persons decreased further, with a marginal drop of 0.1 per cent to 567.3 thousand persons (December 2023: 567.8 thousand persons). January's unemployment rate remained at 3.3 per cent as recorded in the previous month.

Elaborating further on the employment situation, the Chief Statistician Malaysia said, "The majority of employed persons in January 2024 were in the employees' category, constituting 75.2 per cent. This category saw a marginal increase of 0.1 per cent, totaling 12.39 million persons compared to 12.38 million in December 2023. On the same note, the own-account workers category continued its increasing trend during the month, rising by 0.3 per cent to 3.01 million persons (December 2023: 3.0 million persons)."

By economic sector, the number of employed persons in the Services sector remained upward, notably in Wholesale & retail trade; Food & beverage services; and Transportation & storage activities. A similar trend was also observed in the number of employed persons in the Manufacturing, Construction and Mining & quarrying sectors in January 2024. The number of employed persons in the Agriculture sector rebounded during the month compared to last month.

Enlightening further on the unemployment situation in January 2024, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin stated that, 79.8 per cent of the total unemployed persons were those who were available for work and were actively seeking jobs, or the actively unemployed. This category posted a decrease of 0.2 per cent to record 452.5 thousand persons (December 2023: 453.6 thousand persons). By duration of unemployment for the actively unemployed, 61.7 per cent were those who were unemployed for less than three months, while 6.5 per cent were those who were in long-term unemployment for more than a year. Meanwhile, the inactively unemployed or those who believed that there were no jobs available rose by 0.5 per cent registering 114.7 thousand persons (December 2023: 114.2 thousand persons).

In January 2024, the unemployment rate for youth aged 15 to 24 years stood at 10.6 per cent, recording the number of unemployed youths at 306.8 thousand persons (December 2023: 10.6%; 307.2 thousand persons). On the same note, the unemployment rate among youth aged 15 to 30 years was 6.7 per cent, with 439.7 thousand unemployed youths (December 2023: 6.4%; 432.1 thousand persons).

As for the inactivity group, the number of persons outside the labour force posted a slight decline of 0.01 per cent to 7.23 million persons in January 2024 compared to the previous month (December 2023: 7.23 million persons). The major composition of those outside the labour force was housework/ family responsibilities, accounting for 42.5 per cent, while schooling/ training ranked second with 40.8 per cent.

Concluding the statement, in early 2024, the economic situation in Malaysia was observed to be steady, with higher domestic demand anticipated as a result of January's inflation decreases, a robust job market, and supportive financial positions. The increase in tourism activities may improve economic activities, thus lead to various businesses and job opportunities as well. Therefore, the labour market in Malaysia is anticipated to improve and remain stable over the next few months, driven by a resilient domestic economy. This situation is expected to continue to generate increased demand for employment, thus serving as an important key to sustaining economic stability.

Time series data and more information on the labour market can be obtained through the Malaysia Labour Market Interactive Data (MyLMID) dashboard. For more information, please visit <https://mbls.dosm.gov.my/mylmid/> or scan the QR code below.



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

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".

The Central Database (PADU) was launched on 2 January 2024. PADU contains individual and household profiles covering citizens and permanent residents of Malaysia. The main goal of PADU is to ensure that Malaysians are not left behind from citizen centric initiatives implemented by the Government. Your kind cooperation is requested to register and update PADU by 31 March 2024. Please visit <https://www.padu.gov.my> for more information related to PADU or contact the following hotlines:

- i) Department of Statistics Malaysia: 1-800-88-7720/ 1-800-88-7721*
- ii) Online Enquiries through SISPA: <https://padu.spab.gov.my>.*

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

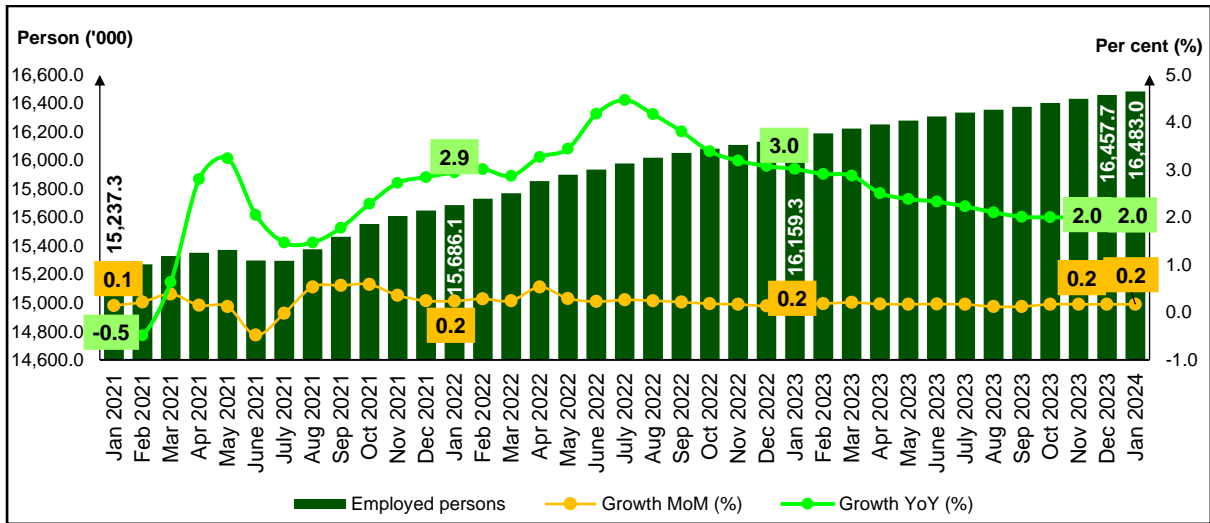
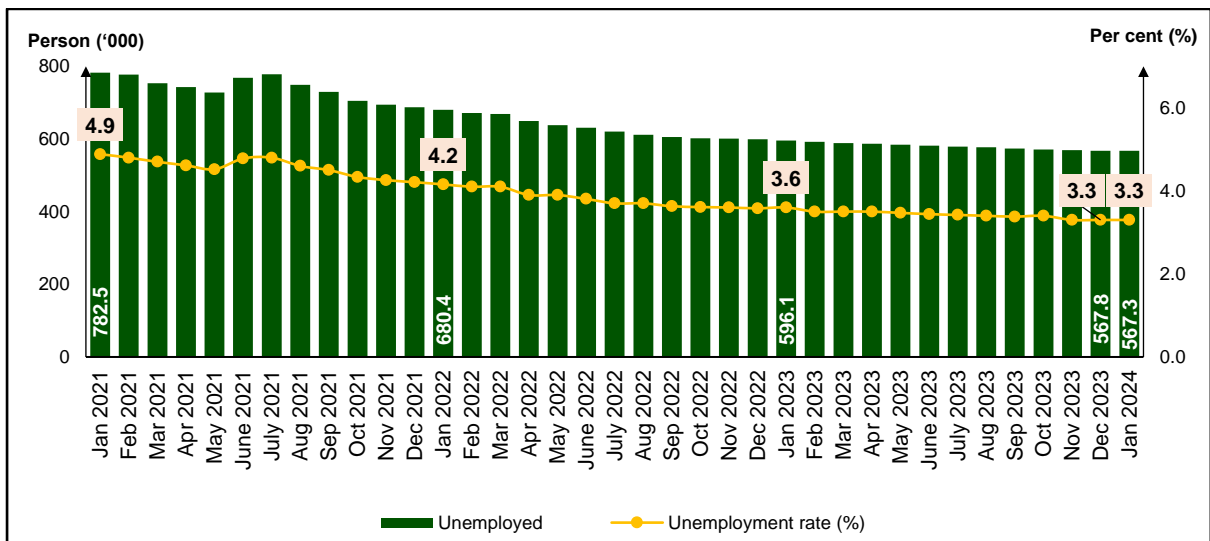


Chart 2: Unemployment, Malaysia, January 2021 - January 2024



Released by:

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