

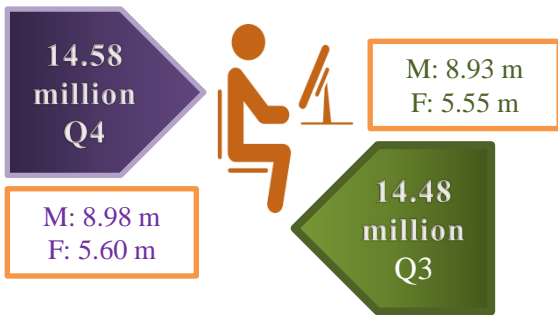
**PRINCIPAL STATISTICS OF LABOUR FORCE, MALAYSIA, FOURTH QUARTER (Q4) 2017**

**Labour force participation rate 68.0% (Q3: 67.9%)**  
**Unemployment rate 3.4% (Q3: 3.4%)**

Among working age population (15–64 years old), **labour force** increased 0.6 per cent.

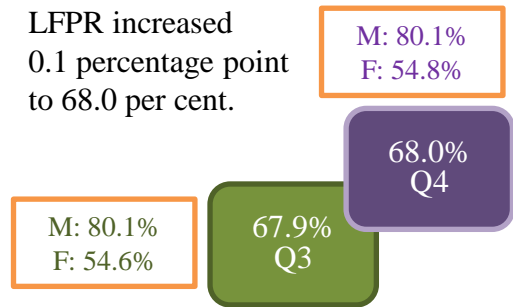


**EMPLOYED PERSONS**



**LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE (LFPR)**

LFPR increased 0.1 percentage point to 68.0 per cent.



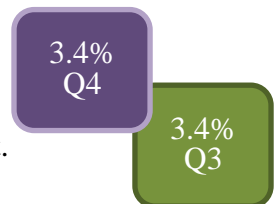
Note:  
M: Male  
F: Female

**UNEMPLOYED PERSONS**

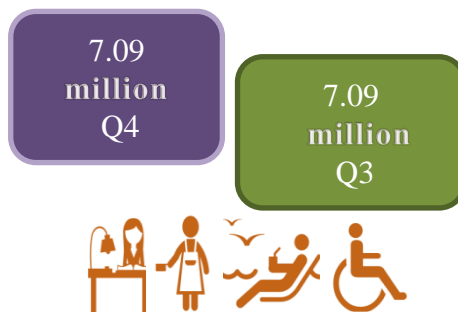


**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

For three consecutive quarters, the unemployment rate remained at 3.4 per cent.

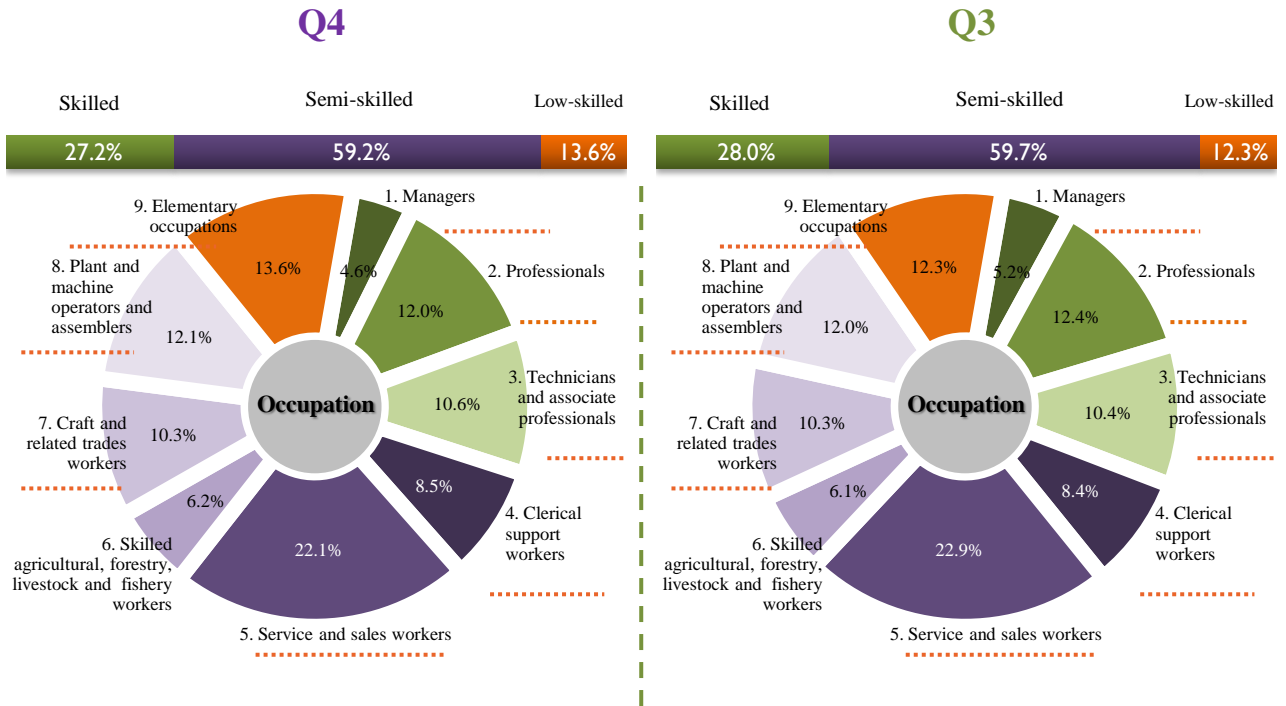


A total of 32.0% working age population were **outside labour force** due to studies, housework, retirement, disabled or not interested to work.



## PROFILE OF EMPLOYED PERSONS, MALAYSIA, FOURTH QUARTER (Q4) 2017

Nearly **one third** of employed persons were **skilled workers** in the occupation categories of Managers, Professionals, and Technicians and associate professionals.



Note:

Occupation was classified according to **Malaysia Standard Classification of Occupation (MASCO) 2013**

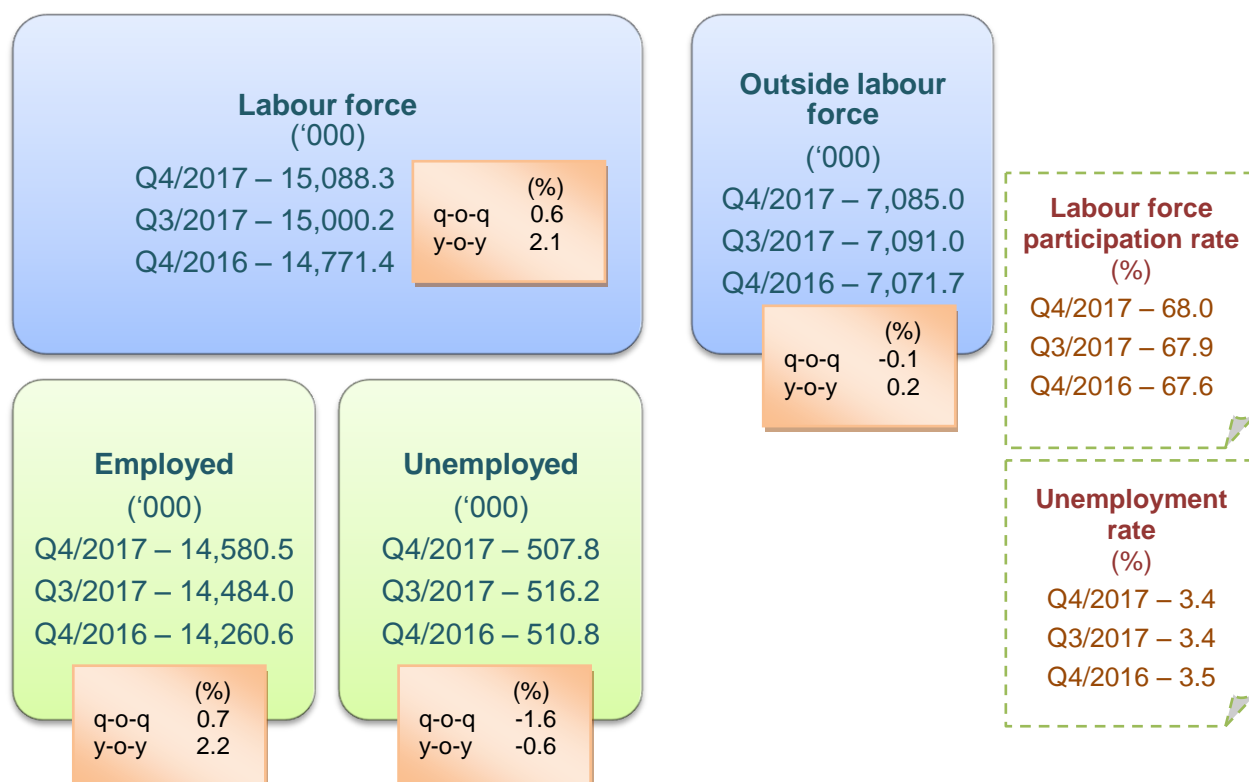
**Skilled workers** – 1. Managers; 2. Professionals; 3. Technicians and associate professionals; **Semi-skilled workers** – 4. Clerical support workers; 5. Service and sales workers; 6. Skilled agricultural, forestry, livestock and fishery workers; 7. Craft and related trade workers; 8. Plant and machine operators and assemblers; **Low-skilled workers** – 9. Elementary occupations

Source: Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Department of Statistics, Malaysia

# PRINCIPAL STATISTICS OF LABOUR FORCE, MALAYSIA, FOURTH QUARTER (Q4) 2017

## I. LABOUR FORCE IN MALAYSIA

Chart 1: Principal statistics of labour force, Malaysia, fourth quarter (Q4) 2016, third quarter (Q3) 2017 & fourth quarter (Q4) 2017



**Note:**

q-o-q quarter-on-quarter  
y-o-y year-on-year

Indicator	Q4/2016		Q3/2017		Q4/2017	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Labour force	9,109.2	5,662.2	9,242.6	5,757.6	9,278.2	5,810.1
Employed	8,823.0	5,437.6	8,932.3	5,551.7	8,981.7	5,598.8
Outside labour force	2,239.0	4,832.7	2,293.9	4,797.1	2,301.9	4,783.1
Labour force participation rate	80.3	54.0	80.1	54.6	80.1	54.8
Employment to population ratio	77.7	51.8	77.4	52.6	77.6	52.9

## Labour force participation rate 68.0 per cent and unemployment rate 3.4 per cent

Labour force in Malaysia increased 0.6 per cent to 15.09 million persons in the fourth quarter 2017 as compared to 15.00 million persons in the previous quarter. The rise was contributed by the increase of 0.7 per cent or 96,500 employed persons to 14.58 million persons.

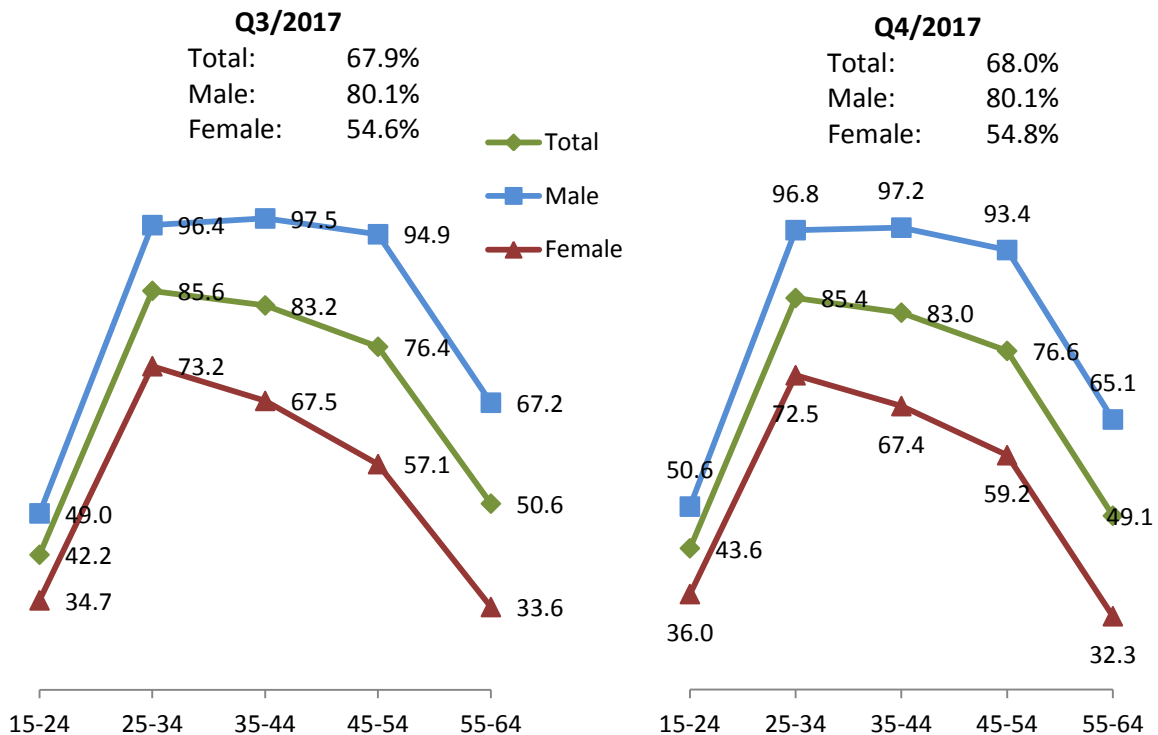
Labour force participation rate (LFPR) in the fourth quarter 2017 was 68.0 per cent, rose 0.1 percentage point as compared to the third quarter 2017. Hence, another 32.0 per cent of the working age population were outside the labour force. Meanwhile, unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.4 per cent for three consecutive quarters.

Year-on-year, the number of persons in labour force and employed persons rose 2.1 and 2.2 per cent respectively. Meanwhile, the number of unemployed persons decreased 0.6 per cent and year-on-year unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage point. Year-on-year performance of labour force participation rate in the labour market also improved 0.4 percentage points.

The scenario of unemployment rate below 4.0 per cent indicates that the country's economy is operating in full employment<sup>1</sup>.

## Female LFPR increased 0.2 percentage point to 54.8 per cent

**Chart 2: Labour force participation rate by sex and age group, Malaysia, third quarter (Q3) & fourth quarter (Q4) 2017**



<sup>1</sup> The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) defines full employment as unemployment rate below 4.0 per cent.

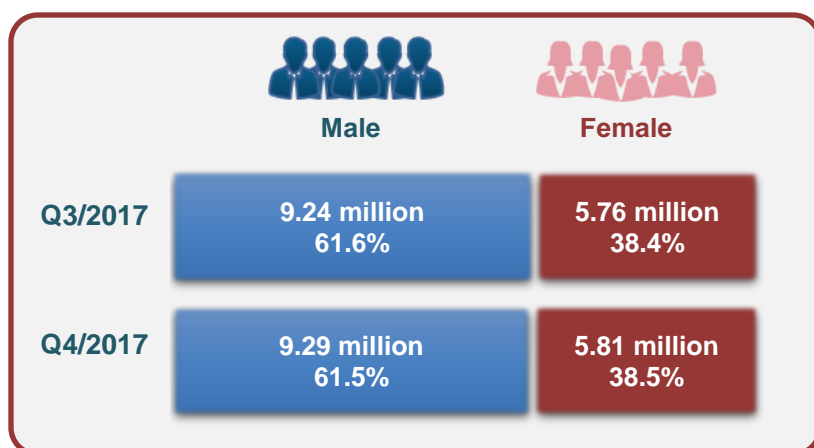
Female LFPR rose 0.2 percentage points to 54.8 per cent in the fourth quarter 2017. Female participation rate in the labour market for *prime age*<sup>2</sup> 25–34 years (72.5%), 35–44 years (67.4%) and 45–54 years (59.2%) were higher against female LFPR at the national level (54.8%). **[Chart 2]**

Male LFPR remained at 80.1 per cent in the fourth quarter 2017. Male participation rate in the labour market for age group 15–24 and 25–34 years recorded an increase of 1.6 and 0.4 percentage points to 50.6 and 96.8 per cent respectively. Meanwhile, the other age groups registered a decreasing trend. Overall, male LFPRs remained consistently higher than female for all age groups.

Year-on-year, the increase of labour force participation rate in Malaysia (0.4 percentage points) was contributed by the increase in female labour force participation rate at 0.8 percentage points.

**Female represented 38 per cent of the labour force**

**Chart 3: Labour force by sex, Malaysia, third quarter (Q3) & fourth quarter (Q4) 2017**



In the fourth quarter 2017, there was 38.5 per cent females in the labour market, an increase of 0.1 percentage point or 52,500 persons to 5.81 million persons as compared to the last quarter.




<sup>2</sup> International Labour Organization (ILO) defines prime age as population aged 25–54 years.

## II. PROFILE OF EMPLOYED PERSONS

### More than 25 per cent employed persons with tertiary education

In the fourth quarter 2017, the level of educational attainment for employed persons with secondary education in Malaysia has increased by 1.0 percentage point to 56.2 per cent. Meanwhile, employed persons with tertiary education decreased of 0.8 percentage points to 28.0 per cent as compared to the previous quarter.

**Table 1: Employed person by educational attainment, Malaysia, third quarter (Q3) & fourth quarter (Q4) 2017**

Educational attainment		Q3/2017	Q4/2017
	No formal education	0.34 million 2.4%	0.38 million 2.6%
	Primary	1.96 million 13.6%	1.93 million 13.2%
	Secondary	8.00 million 55.2%	8.19 million 56.2%
	Tertiary	4.18 million 28.8%	4.08 million 28.0%

### More than 70 per cent of employed persons were employees

In the fourth quarter 2017, the percentage of employed persons who were paid employees increased 1.4 percentage points to 75.1 per cent. Meanwhile, own-account worker fell 0.8 percentage points to 17.4 per cent.

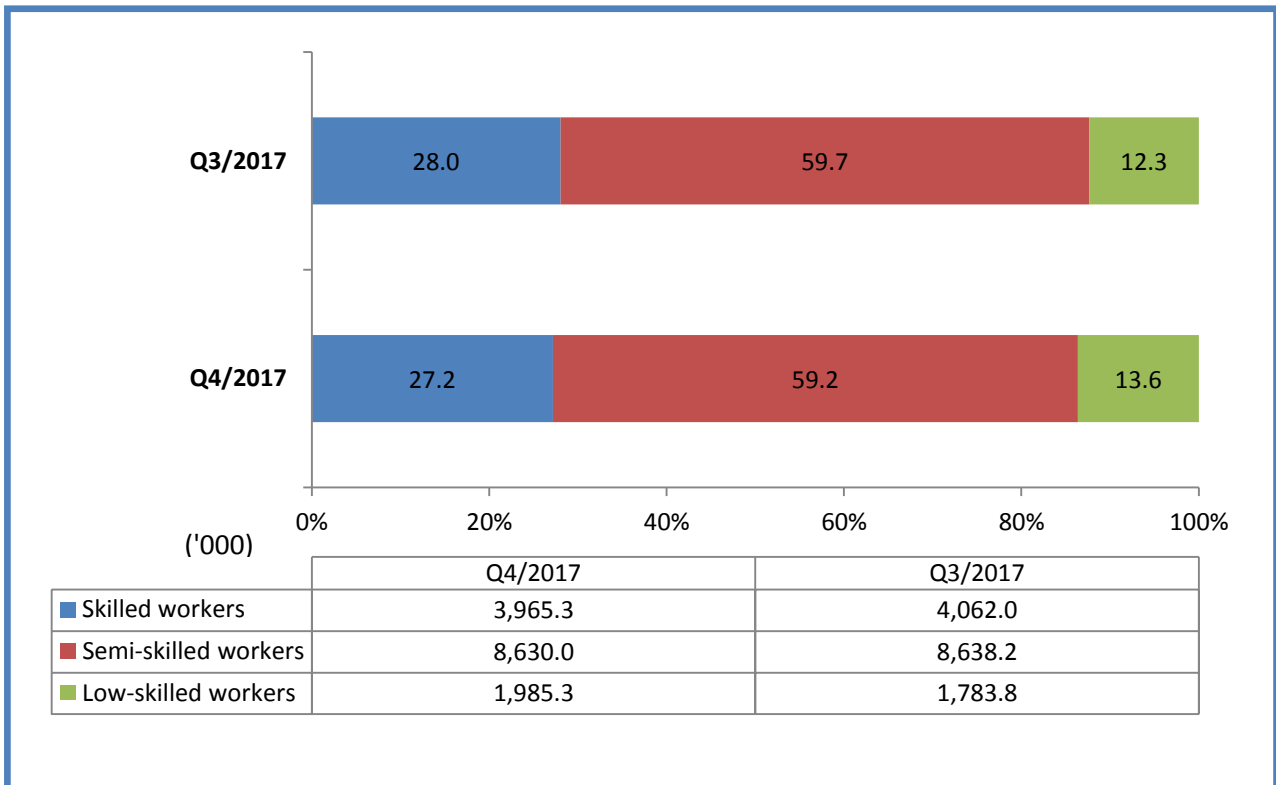
**Table 2: Employed persons by employment status, Malaysia, third quarter (Q3) & fourth quarter (Q4) 2017**

Employment status	Q3/2017	Q4/2017
Employer	0.60 million 4.1%	0.52 million 3.6%
Employee	10.68 million 73.7%	10.95 million 75.1%
Own-account worker	2.63 million 18.2%	2.54 million 17.4%
Unpaid family worker	0.58 million 4.0%	0.58 million 3.9%

## Skilled employed persons declined 0.8 percentage point to 27.2 per cent

In the fourth quarter 2017, skilled<sup>3</sup> employed persons dropped by 0.8 percentage point to 27.2 per cent. Semi-skilled employed persons also registered a decrease of 0.5 percentage points to 59.2 per cent.

**Chart 4: Employed persons by skill level, Malaysia, third quarter (Q3) & fourth quarter (Q4) 2017**



<sup>3</sup> Skill levels were classified based on **Malaysia Standard Classification of Occupation (MASCO) 2013** as follows: **Skilled workers** – 1. Managers; 2. Professionals; 3. Technicians and associate professionals; **Semi-skilled workers** – 4. Clerical support workers; 5. Service and sales workers; 6. Skilled agricultural, forestry, livestock and fishery workers; 7. Craft and related trades workers; 8. Plant and machine operators and assemblers; **Low-skilled workers** – 9. Elementary occupations