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EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS, THIRD QUARTER 2025



Introduction

This publication presents the labour demand statistics derived from the Quarterly Employment Survey conducted among registered private sector businesses encompassing major economic activities namely, Agriculture, Mining & Quarrying, Manufacturing, Construction and Services. The principal statistics of employment presented in this report are jobs, filled jobs, vacancies and jobs created by economic activity and skills category.

Labour Demand, Third Quarter of 2025

Analysing the overall performance of labour demand in Q3 2025, all indicators showed an upward trend, signifying a stable labour market in Malaysia. The number of jobs, comprising of filled jobs and vacancies stood at 9.16 million jobs (Q3 2024: 9.01 million). From the total, the number of filled jobs was 8.97 million, elevated by 1.7 per cent on yearly basis (Q3 2024: 8.82 million). Meanwhile, job vacancies posted 197.1 thousand vacancies, increased from 191.8 thousand in Q3 2024. In line with the expansion of these indicators, jobs created also continued to grow by 1.6 per cent year-on-year, reaching 32.3 thousand jobs to meet the needs of the ongoing business activities and economic growth.

Labour Demand by Skills Category

For the skilled category, the number of jobs registered was 2.31 million jobs, up by 2.3 per cent year-on-year compared to 2.25 million jobs recorded in Q3 2024. The rate of filled jobs was 97.9 per cent, or corresponding to 2.26 million filled jobs, while the vacancy rate stood at 2.1 per cent with 48.2 thousand vacancies. The number of jobs created for this category dropped by 2.6 per cent on annual basis, amounting to 8.2 thousand jobs created compared to the same quarter last year (Q3 2024: 8.4 thousand).

A total of 5.71 million jobs were recorded for the semi-skilled category in Q3 2025, an increase of 1.4 per cent year-on-year from 5.63 million in Q3 2024. Alongside, the number of job vacancies in this category rose to 111.2 thousand vacancies, an increase of 3.8 per cent. The rate of filled jobs for this category accounted for 98.1 per cent, whereas vacancies rate was 1.9 per cent. In total, there were 20.8 thousand jobs created in this category.

On the other hand, the low-skilled category showed a total of 1.15 million jobs, edge up by 2.1 per cent (Q3 2024: 1.12 million). An amount of 1.11 million were filled jobs with a rate of 96.7 per cent. Furthermore, the vacancy rate was 3.3 per cent, corresponding to 37.6 thousand vacancies. There were 3.4 thousand jobs created, with a growth of 2.8 per cent year-on-year (Q3 2024: 3.3 thousand).

Additionally, the distribution of labour demand by skills category shows that the semi-skilled category remained as the largest composition, making up over half of all the indicators,

followed by the skilled and low-skilled categories. This category also accounted for 62.3 per cent of total jobs, 62.5 per cent of filled jobs, 56.4 per cent of vacancies and 64.3 per cent of jobs created. The skilled category came next as the second largest contributor with 25.2 per cent of total jobs, 25.2 per cent of filled jobs, 24.5 per cent of vacancies and 25.3 per cent of jobs created. Meanwhile, the low-skilled category recorded the smallest percentage share, accounting for 12.5 per cent of jobs, 12.4 per cent of filled jobs, 19.1 per cent of vacancies and 10.4 per cent of jobs created.

Labour Demand by Economic Activity

Analysing the labour demand by economic activity, the Services sector led with the highest share of total jobs, presenting 52.2 per cent (4.78 million), followed by Manufacturing at 27.5 per cent (2.52 million). The Construction sector contributed 13.9 per cent of jobs (1.28 million), while Agriculture accounting for 5.5 per cent (502 thousand) jobs. The Mining & Quarrying sector had the smallest share of 0.9 per cent (80.8 thousand).

Likewise, the Services sector also dominated the filled jobs with 53.1 per cent (4.76 million) followed by the Manufacturing and Construction with 26.9 per cent (2.41 million) and 13.9 per cent (1.25 million) of filled jobs, respectively. The Agriculture sector comprised 5.2 per cent of filled jobs (470.1 thousand) whereas the Mining & Quarrying recorded 0.9 per cent with 80.2 thousand filled jobs.

The job vacancies was mainly in the Manufacturing sector with a total share of 58.2 per cent equivalent to 114.7 thousand vacancies, resulting a sustained labour demand in this sector. The Agriculture sector accounted for 16.2 per cent (32.0 thousand) vacancies followed by Construction (12.8%; 25.2 thousand) and Services (12.5%; 24.6 thousand). The remaining of 0.3 per cent (0.6 thousand) of vacancies were in the Mining & Quarrying sector.

With regards to jobs created, the Services sector covered most of the share with 48.3 per cent (15.6 thousand). Second largest share was recorded by the Manufacturing sector with 37.7 per cent (12.2 thousand), followed by Construction (9.6%; 3.1 thousand), Agriculture (3.8%; 1.2 thousand) and Mining & Quarrying (0.6%; 0.2 thousand).

The publication of the Employment Statistics, Third Quarter of 2025 can be downloaded through eStatistics portal.

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Contact person:

Baharudin Mohamad

Public Relation Officer
Strategic Communication and International Division
Department of Statistics Malaysia
Tel : +603-8090 4681
Fax : +603-8888 9248
Email : baharudin[at]dosm.gov.my

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