



## MONTHLY PRINCIPAL STATISTICS OF LABOUR FORCE, MALAYSIA, DECEMBER 2014

### Labour Market in Malaysia, December 2014

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Indicator	Previous Month			Same month of the previous year	
	December 2014	November 2014	Change %	December 2013 <sup>1</sup>	Change (%)
Labour force ('000)	14,180.5	14,082.9	0.7	13,920.5	1.9
Employed ('000)	13,748.4	13,707.8	0.3	13,497.0	1.9
Unemployed ('000)	432.1	375.1	15.2	423.5	2.0
Outside labour force ('000)	6,700.6	6,777.1	-1.1	6,663.1	0.6
Labour force participation rate (LFPR) (%)	67.9	67.5	0.4	67.6	0.3
Unemployment rate (%)	3.0	2.7	0.3	3.0	-
Seasonally adjusted					
Unemployment rate (%)	2.9	2.8	0.1	2.9	-



#### Labour force participation rate increased to 67.9%

The participation in the labour force experienced an increase of 0.4 percentage point to 67.9 per cent in December 2014 as compared to 67.5 per cent in the previous month.

Year-on-year comparison showed that the labour force participation rate was 0.3 percentage point higher as compared to 67.6 per cent in December 2013.



#### Unemployment rate increased to 3.0%

The unemployment rate increased to 3.0 per cent in December 2014 as compared to 2.7 per cent in November 2014. However, the unemployment rate for the current month was similar with the rate that was recorded in December 2013.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 2.9 per cent, increased by 0.1 percentage point as compared to the previous month.

## TECHNICAL NOTES

This information derived from the **Labour Force Survey (LFS)** which carried out according to concepts and definitions based from the standard guidelines of International Labour Organizations (ILO) through “Manual on Concepts and Methods of Surveys: Economically Active Population, Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment” which is also used by other country.

The LFS uses the actual status approach, where a person is classified, on the basis of his labour force activity during the reference week.

- **Labour force** refers to those who, during the reference week, are in the 15 to 64 years (in completed years at last birthday) and who are either employed or unemployed;
- **Employed** refers to all persons who, at any time during the reference week worked at least one hour for pay, profit or family gain (as an employer, employee, own-account worker or unpaid family worker). Also considered as employed are persons who did not work during the reference week because of illness, injury, disability, bad weather, leave, labour dispute and social or religious reasons but had a job, farm, enterprise or other family enterprise to return to. Also included are those on temporary lay-off with pay who would definitely be called back to work. Employed persons who had worked less than 30 hours during the reference week because of the nature of their work or due to insufficient work and are able and willing to accept additional hours of work are considered **underemployed** but are nevertheless included in the 'employed' category.

- **Unemployed**

The unemployed are classified into two that is the **actively unemployed** and **inactively unemployed**. The actively unemployed include all persons who did not work during the reference week but were available for work and actively looking for work during the reference week.

Inactively unemployed persons include the following categories:

- (a) persons who did not look for work because they believed no work was available or that they were not qualified;
  - (b) persons who would have looked for work if they had not been temporarily ill or had it not been for bad weather;
  - (c) persons who were waiting for result of job applications; and
  - (d) persons who had looked for work prior to the reference week.
- The economic activity of a population depends on the demographic characteristics of that population. The proportion of economically active persons, therefore, differs between subgroups of that population. These variations are measured by specific activity rates termed labour force participation rate. **Labour force participation rate** is defined as the ratio of the labour force to the working age population (15 to 64 years), expressed as percentage.
  - **Unemployment rate** is the proportion of unemployed population to the total population in labour force. This rate measures the percentage of unemployed population in the labour force.

## Seasonally adjusted

Malaysian economic time series data are affected by major religious festivals such as the Eid-ul Fitr, the Chinese New Year and the Deepavali. The major festivals in this country are usually related to the religious activities and such as, the dates are determined by the respective religious calendar. The dates of these holidays are not in line with the Gregorian calendar. Hence, they tend to move along the Gregorian calendar and has strong seasonal influence on many economic time series data.

Since these non-fixed holidays have large impact on the time series data, they need to be taken into account when performing seasonal adjustment process so as to avoid confusion in seasonally adjusted data and trend estimates. Furthermore, the presence of the non-fixed holidays effects may complicate the interpretation of the data.

Seasonal adjustment is a process of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the original series so that the effects of other influences on the series may be more clearly recognized.

Seasonal adjustment can be derived by various methods and the results may vary according to the procedure adopted. The approach used for seasonal adjustment in Malaysia is the **Seasonal Adjustment for Malaysia (SEAM)**.

SEAM is a procedure to remove moving holiday effect on the selected Malaysian economic time series data by introducing steps that can be used to overcome the limitations of the existing seasonal adjustment procedure. To apply the SEAM procedure, the X-ARIMA program which is available in Statistical Analysis Software (SAS) is used.

This seasonal adjusted rate will be revised when a complete 12 months time series for the particular year are obtained.

Indicator of seasonal adjustment is being published for the first time starting on January 2012 for comparison with actual data.

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