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PRINCIPAL STATISTICS OF LABOUR FORCE, MALAYSIA, FOURTH QUARTER 2025



- The **labour force** continued trending upward in the fourth quarter of 2025, with a rise of **0.8 per cent** or **131.6 thousand persons**, to register **17.62 million persons** (Q3 2025: 17.49 million persons). The **labour force participation rate (LFPR)** remained unchanged at **70.9 per cent**, as recorded in the third quarter of 2025.
- The number of **employed persons** continued to record a positive performance in the fourth quarter of 2025, increasing by **0.8 per cent (+133.5 thousand persons)** to **17.10 million persons** (Q3 2025: 16.97 million persons). On a year-on-year comparison, total employment edged up by **3.3 per cent**, or equivalent to an increase of **541.1 thousand persons** compared to the fourth quarter of 2024 (Q4 2024: 16.56 million persons).
- In the fourth quarter of 2025, the number of **unemployed persons** continued to record a downward trend of **0.4 per cent (-2.0 thousand persons)** to **517.9 thousand persons** (Q3 2025: 519.9 thousand persons). Moreover, the **unemployment rate** fell to its lowest level since the second quarter of 2014, dropping 0.1 percentage points to **2.9 per cent**. Year-on-year comparison showed the number of unemployed persons decreased by 20.8 thousand persons equal to 3.9 per cent, corresponding to a lower unemployment rate of **2.9 per cent**, compared to 3.2 per cent in the same quarter of 2024.
- At the national level, the **LFPR** remained unchanged at **70.9 per cent** in the fourth quarter of 2025. Improvements in labour participation in the market were observed in **nine states**. **Selangor** led with the highest **LFPR** of **78.5 per cent**, followed by **W.P. Putrajaya 78.2 per cent** and **W.P. Kuala Lumpur at 75.5 per cent**.
- In terms of **unemployment rate by state**, **eight states** recorded below the **national unemployment rate** of **2.9 per cent**. During the quarter, **Pahang** and **W.P. Putrajaya** posted the lowest unemployment rate at **1.6 per cent**, followed by **Selangor** at **1.8 per cent**, **Johor** and **Melaka** at **2.5 per cent**.

Note: The Labour Force Statistics from first quarter of 2024 are estimated based on the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia 2020

The full publication of the Labour Force Survey Report, Fourth Quarter 2025 can be downloaded through eStatistic Portal.

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