



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

LABOUR MARKET REVIEW (LMR), FIRST QUARTER 2025

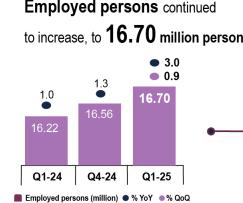
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LABOUR MARKET REVIEW, FIRST QUARTER 2025

The national labour market remained robust in the first quarter of 2025, with 17.23 million labour force and a stable 3.1 per cent unemployment rate.

Employed persons continued

to increase, to **16.70** million persons

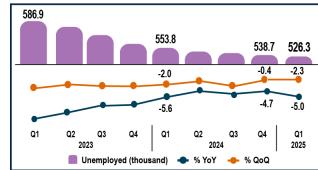


Total hours worked

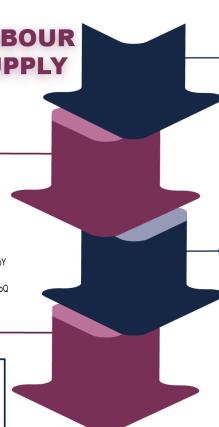
during Q1 **9.76** billion hours

▲ 3.3% YoY
▲ 0.2% QoQ

National unemployment situation



LABOUR SUPPLY



Unemployed decreased during Q1 2025 to **526.3** thousand persons

Unemployment rate

declined 0.2 percentage points year-on-year, stable at 3.1 per cent



Labour force participation rate (LFPR)

went up by 0.2 percentage points compared to Q1 2024



17.23 million

labour force

▲ 2.7% YoY
▲ 0.8% QoQ

7.13 million

outside labour force

▲ 1.5% YoY
▲ 0.2% QoQ

More than 85 per cent did not seek for work due to schooling and housework

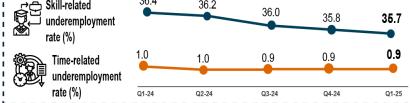
■ Schooling/ Training program
■ Household/ family responsible
○ Others

*refer to people who are going for further study, disabled, not interested just completed study and retired/ old age

Underemployment situation

Time-related underemployment rate stood at 0.9 per cent, while

Skill-related underemployment rate declined 0.7 percentage points as compared to Q1 2024



Employee Wages Statistics (Formal Sector)

In December 2024, **6.83** million citizen formal employees

Growth YoY: 2.3%

Median monthly wages (RM)

▲ 5.0% YoY

29.2% (2.0 million) of Malaysian formal employees earned below RM2,000 in Dec. 2024

2.0 million employees

RM15,000

RM14,000-RM14,999

RM13,000-RM13,999

RM12,000-RM12,999

RM11,000-RM11,999

RM10,000-RM10,999

RM9,000-RM9,999

RM8,000-RM8,999

RM7,000-RM7,999

RM6,000-RM6,999

RM5,000-RM5,999

RM4,000-RM4,999

RM3,000-RM3,999

RM2,000-RM2,999

RM1,000-RM1,999

RM0-RM999

LABOUR DEMAND

9.06
millions jobs

Jobs in economic sector
increased by 1.4 per cent compared to Q1 2024

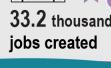


194.1 thousand

vacancies

▲ 1.2% YoY
▲ 0.3% QoQ

More than half (57.3%) of jobs opening during Q1 2025 were in the Manufacturing sector with a total 111.2 thousand vacancies



LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY

Both measures of labour productivity registered an increase compared to the same quarter of the previous year

RM42.5 per hour worked

RM24,580 per employment



@StatsMalaysia



20 October

- The national labour market remained robust in the first quarter of 2025, with 17.23 million labour force and a stable 3.1 per cent unemployment rate.
- In Q1 2025, the labour force strengthened further by 2.7 per cent year-on-year to record 17.23 million persons. Therefore, the labour force participation rate increased by 0.2 percentage points to 70.7 per cent. The number of employed persons continued to increase by 3.0 per cent to 16.70 million persons, with employment-to-population ratio trend up to 68.6 per cent. Concurrently, the number of unemployed persons declined by 5.0 per cent (-27.5 thousand) to 526.3 thousand persons, with an unemployment rate of 3.1 per cent.
- The number of employed persons working less than 30 hours per week continued to trend down by 11.1 per cent from Q1 2024 to 242.7 thousand persons, driven by strong domestic demand throughout Q1 2025. Accordingly, the rate of time-related underemployment declined to 0.9 per cent. In the meantime, skill-related underemployment, which comprised more than one-third of employed persons with tertiary education, decreased by 0.7 percentage points to 35.7 per cent in Q1 2025.
- Looking at labour demand in the economic sector, the number of jobs grew by 1.4 per cent year-on-year to record a total of 9.06 million jobs. Filled jobs, which comprised 97.9 per cent, also increased by 1.4 per cent over the same quarter of the preceding year to 8.87 million. Meanwhile, job openings in the economy, as indicated by the number of vacancies, rose by 1.2 per cent to 194.1 thousand vacancies during Q1 2025. Additionally, the number of jobs created in the economic sector rose by 3.4 per cent year-on-year, reaching 33.2 thousand.
- Malaysia's economy expanded by 4.4 per cent, while employment sustained its positive growth, labour productivity as measured by value added per employment posted an increase of 1.3 per cent registering the level of

RM24,580 per person in Q1 2025. During the same period, total hours worked surged by 3.3 per cent to 9.76 billion hours. Thus, labour productivity per hour worked grew 1.0 per cent to bring the level of productivity to RM42.5 per hour.

- Malaysia's labour market remained resilient, underpinned by stable domestic activity and sustained government policies. Growth in manufacturing, services, and robust domestic demand has contributed to a favourable economic environment, along with initiatives such as investment incentives and infrastructure development, continued to boost market confidence. These factors are expected to support employment creation, especially in high-skilled sectors, and contribute to household income enhancement.

The publication of Labour Market Review, First Quarter of 2025 can be downloaded through [eStatistics](#) portal.

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