

# KERATAN AKHBAR

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The unemployment rate in the country continues to show a downward trend, at 3.8% in June, which is the lowest since the pandemic hit the country, said Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed.

He said the number of unemployed individuals decreased to 630,600 in June from 637,700 the previous month.

Citing figures published by the Statistics Department in June, Mustapa said the country reached full employment in April by virtue of the unemployment rate being below 4%, as defined by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

He said the position of the labour force was more stable following the increase in the number of workers to 16.57 million compared with 16.54 million in May.

The labour force participation rate in the month remained at 69.5%.

"The achievement of the labour market in June is in line with stronger economic activity following the transition to the endemic phase in the country.

"The demand for labour has increased, thus opening up more job opportunities in the market," Mustapa said in a statement yesterday.

He added that some key economic indicators also showed encouraging performance such as the volume of trade, which increased by 43.4% in June to a new high of RM270.4 billion, with exports recording an increase of 38.8% to RM146.2 billion.

Mustapa also said the Industrial Production Index grew 12.1% in June, the highest since May 2021, with all components recording positive growth.

He said the sales value of the manufacturing sector in June increased by 23.4%, the highest since May 2021, recording a sales value of RM153.5 billion, adding that the achievement was mainly driven by the electrical and electronic equipment sub-sector, which increased by 25.4%. - Bernama

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