

## KERATAN AKHBAR

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TARIKH : 10 MAC 2023  
AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES  
MUKA SURAT : 8

### Economy improving fewer jobless in January

#### LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS

# Economy improving, fewer jobless in January

**PUTRAJAYA:** The number of unemployed persons in Malaysia fell in January by 0.6 per cent to 596,100 from 599,600 in December.

According to the latest labour force statistics, Malaysia's unemployment rate in January was at 3.6 per cent.

Commenting on the statistics, Chief Statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said in January, the labour market saw an upward trend due the improvement in the country's economic position.

He said the labour force grew in January by 0.2 per cent month-on-month to 16.76 million people from 16.73 million people.

The labour force participation rate in January was 69.8 per cent.

Uzir said the number of employed persons in January in-

creased by 0.2 per cent month-on-month to 16.16 million people from 16.13 million people.

He said employees accounted for 75.7 per cent of the total employed persons in January with a marginal increase of 0.1 per cent to 12.24 million people from 12.23 million people in December.

"A similar trend was observed in own-account workers, which saw an increase of 0.6 per cent to 2.88 million people from 2.86 million people in December."

He said the number of employed persons in the services sector increased, mainly in the wholesale and retail trade, food and beverage as well as administrative and support service sectors.

The same trend was observed in the manufacturing, construction, mining and quarrying and agriculture sectors, he said. **Bernama**