

# KERATAN AKHBAR

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**PETALING JAYA:** The unemployment rate in February dropped by 0.1 to 3.5% compared to January, stable in line with the current economic developments, the Department of Statistics Malaysia reported yesterday.

Releasing the Statistics of Labour Force for February, Chief Statistician Malaysia Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said, "The number of labour force in February was on an increasing trend, with a month-on-month increase of 0.2% to 16.78 million persons (January: 16.76 million persons), recording a higher labour force participation rate at 69.9% (January: 69.8%). This situation was attributed to a continuous addition in the number of employed persons while the number of unemployed was on a decreasing trend."

In February, he added, the number of employed persons continued to rise, recording 16.19 million persons, an increase of 0.2% month-on-month (January: 16.16 million persons). On the contrary, the number of unemployed persons in February continued to be on a downward trend, with a decrease of 0.7% to 591.9 thousand persons (January: 596.1 thousand persons). Accordingly, the unemployment rate during the month fell by 0.1 percentage points to 3.5% (January: 3.6%)."

Mohd Uzir said, "The employees' category comprised 75.7%, which consistently has the largest composition of employed persons in February. This category registered a month-on-month increase of 0.1% to 12.25 million persons (January: 12.24 million persons). The own-account workers also posted a rise of 0.5% to record 2.89 million persons in February (January: 2.88 million persons)."

Mohd Uzir said, "The actively unemployed or those who were available for work and were actively seeking jobs, comprised 80.3% of the total unemployed persons in February. Out of the total actively unemployed, those unemployed for less than three months comprised 61%, while those who were in long-term unemployment for more than a year was 6.3%."

