

HIGHLIGHTS

- The labour force participation rate (LFPR) for residents aged 15 & over dipped in 2016¹, after registering a sharp increase in 2015 which partly reflected the temporary boost from one-off policies. Discounting the dip, the LFPR has been on an uptrend in the last five years. This was due to the rise in female LFPR from 57.0% in 2011 to 60.4% in 2016, and the stable male LFPR at around 76%.
- The unemployment rate was stable in the range of 2.6% to 2.9% (seasonally adjusted) from 2012 to 2015, as the decline in female unemployment rate offset the increase for males. However the unemployment rate rose in 2016, as both males and females saw increases. As the rise in female employment rate balanced the fall for males, the employment rate for residents aged 25 to 64 in 2016 (80.3%) was similar to 2015 (80.5%).
- Year-on-year, the nominal median monthly income (including employer CPF contributions) of full-time employed residents rose by 2.7% to \$4,056 in June 2016, or 3.3% in real terms (after adjusting for inflation). This moderated from the increase of 4.7% (nominal) and 5.3% (real) in June 2015. From 2011 to 2016, there was sustained real income growth of 3.1% p.a. at the median and 2.6% p.a. at the 20th percentile.
- Time-related underemployment continued to decline but at a slower pace. The overall decline was due to a fall in the female underemployment rate, as the male underemployment rate rose. The time-related underemployment rate increased in external-oriented industries.
- The number of discouraged workers rose from 8,700 in June 2015 to 9,900 in June 2016, but was lower than the 11,100 in June 2009. The incidence of discouraged workers stayed low at 0.4% in June 2016, unchanged since June 2013.
- With more initiatives to promote skills upgrading and lifelong learning, the training participation rate for the resident labour force aged 15 to 64 rose to an all-time high² of 42% for the 12-month period ending June 2016,³ resuming the general uptrend after a slight dip in the previous year. As participants spent more days on training, the training intensity, derived by multiplying the average (mean) training days per trainee with training participation rate, increased to 5.1 days per adult in 2016 from 4.0 days per adult a year ago and back to the level last seen in 2006.

¹ Unless otherwise stated, data in this report pertain to residents aged 15 & over and are for June of the respective years.

² Since the series started in 2000.

³ Data on training pertain to residents aged 15 to 64, and are for the 12-month period ending June of the respective years.