Second Quarter 2026

Labour Market
Advance Release

Ministry of Manpower | MANPOWER RESEARCH & STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

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Director
Manpower Research and Statistics Department
Ministry of Manpower
18 Havelock Road #05-01
Singapore 059764
Republic of Singapore

Email: mom_rsd@mom.gov.sg

MISSION

To provide timely and reliable national statistical information on the labour market to facilitate informed decision-making within the government and community-at-large.

Statistical activities conducted by the Manpower Research and Statistics Department (MRSD) are governed by the provisions of the Statistics Act 1973 (2020 Revised Edition). The Act guarantees the confidentiality of information collected from individuals and companies. It spells out the legislative authority and responsibility of the Director, Manpower Research and Statistics Department.

Statistics compiled and disseminated by the MRSD adhere to international standards on official statistics set by the International Labour Organisation and International Monetary Fund.

For insights on the labour market, visit us at stats.mom.gov.sg.

For data requests and queries pertaining to our reports, reach out to us at mom_rsd@mom.gov.sg.

CONTENT

Notations

-	:	Nil or Negligible
P	:	Preliminary
Q	:	Quarter
M	:	March
J	:	June
S	:	September
D	:	December

Abbreviations

MDW	:	Migrant Domestic Workers
MOM	:	Ministry of Manpower
SSIC	:	Singapore Standard Industrial Classification
excl	:	Excluding

Highlights

Advance estimates indicated that Singapore's labour market continued to expand in 2Q 2026. Employment grew for the 19th consecutive quarter, and unemployment rates stayed low and stable. While retrenchments increased, they occurred mainly due to business restructuring in selected outward-oriented sectors. Labour demand remains resilient, and business expectation polls point to an uplift in employers' hiring sentiments.

- Total employment grew by 10,700 in 2Q 2026, up from 9,400 in 1Q 2026 and broadly similar to the 10,400 in 2Q 2025.
- Following slower non-resident employment growth in 1Q 2026, overall employment growth in 2Q 2026 was mainly driven by non-residents in Construction and Manufacturing. Resident employment continued to grow, albeit at a slower rate than last quarter, with growth concentrated in essential and public services.
- Unemployment rates remained low and stable in June 2026 (overall: 2.0%, resident: 2.9%, citizen: 3.0%), broadly comparable to March 2026 (overall: 2.0%, resident: 2.9%, citizen: 3.1%).
- In 2Q 2026, retrenchments (4,500 or 1.9 per 1,000 employees) increased from the previous quarter (3,830 or 1.6 per 1,000 employees) with the rise concentrated in selected outward-oriented sectors, mostly due to business reorganisation or restructuring.
- Forward-looking indicators improved in June, with the share of firms expecting to hire in the next three months rising from 40.6% in May 2026 to 43.9% in June 2026. Over the same period, the share of firms expecting to raise wages increased from 23.7% to 29.3%, while the share expecting to retrench declined from 3.2% to 2.7%.
- Overall, the improvement in hiring, wage, and retrenchment expectations points to labour demand that remains resilient. Nonetheless, expectations remain below pre-crisis levels in February, suggesting that firms are likely to stay measured in their hiring and wage decisions in the near term amid continued economic uncertainties.

The *Labour Market Report Second Quarter 2026*, to be released in mid-September 2026, will provide more details, such as resident and non-resident employment breakdowns, sectoral data, number of job vacancies, labour turnover, and re-entry rates among retrenched residents.

For data requests and queries pertaining to the report, please reach out to MOM's Research and Statistics Department at mom_rsd@mom.gov.sg.

Overview

Advance estimates showed that Singapore's labour market continued to expand in 2Q 2026, with employment expanding for the 19th consecutive quarter since 4Q 2021. Unemployment rates remained low and stable, while retrenchments increased, with the majority driven by business restructuring in selected outward-oriented sectors.

Labour demand remains resilient even as firms remain cautious amid economic uncertainties. Forward-looking indicators improved in June 2026, with the share of firms expecting to hire and raise wages increasing from May to June. However, they remained below pre-crisis levels in February, suggesting that firms continue to be measured in their hiring and wage decisions in the near term.

Employment[P,1,2]

Total employment grew by 10,700 in 2Q 2026, up from 9,400 in 1Q 2026 and was broadly similar to the 10,400 in 2Q 2025. This marked the 19th consecutive quarter of growth since 4Q 2021.

Following the slower non-resident employment growth in 1Q 2026, overall employment growth was mainly driven by non-residents in 2Q 2026 in *Construction* and *Manufacturing* sectors. Resident[3] employment continued to grow, albeit at a slower rate than last quarter, with growth concentrated in essential and public services, namely *Transportation & Storage* and *Community, Social & Personal Services such as Health & Social Services* and *Public Administration & Education*.

[1] Employment figures cited in this report exclude Migrant Domestic Workers (MDW).

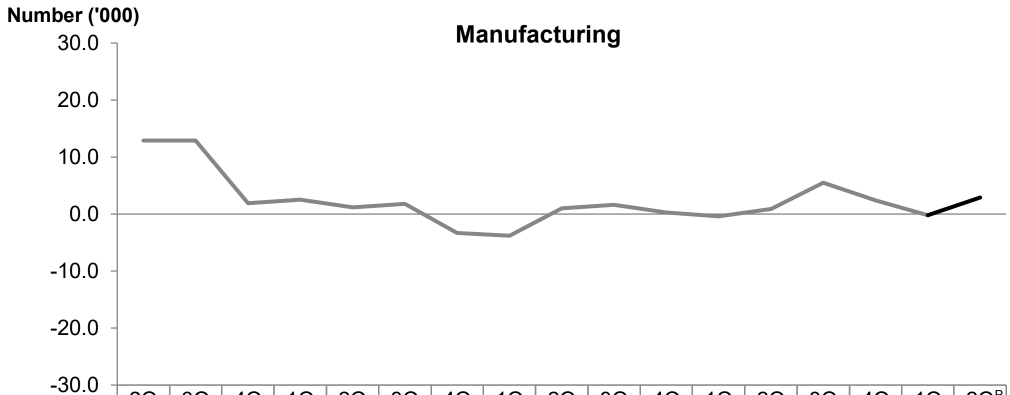
[2] Based on preliminary estimates, 500,900 persons were employed in *Manufacturing*, 577,300 in *Construction*, and 3,039,600 (2,715,800 excl. MDW) in *Services* in June 2026. Employment totalled 4,144,000 (3,820,200 excl. MDW) in June 2026 (total includes other sectors like agriculture, fishing etc.).

[3] Refers to Singapore citizens and permanent residents.

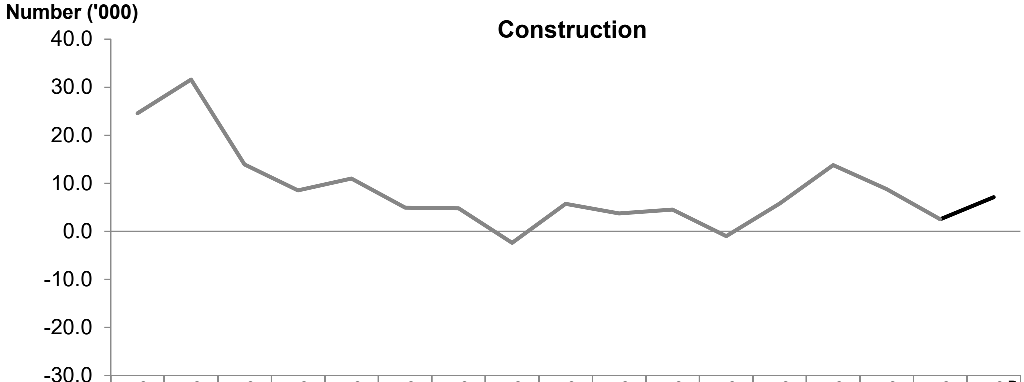
Chart 1 Quarterly Employment Change

Total (excl. MDW)

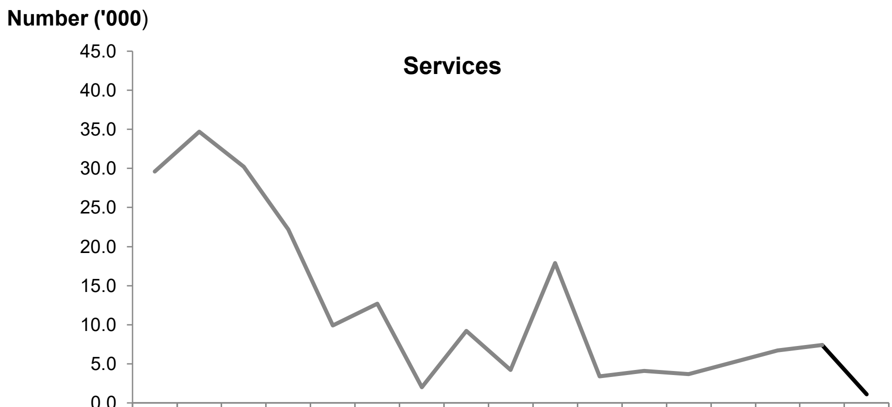
By Sector



2022			2023				2024				2025				2026	
2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2QP
12.9	12.9	1.9	2.5	1.2	1.8	-3.3	-3.8	1.0	1.6	0.3	-0.4	0.9	5.5	2.4	-0.2	2.9



	2022			2023				2024				2025				2026	
	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q[P]
Construction	24.6	31.6	13.9	8.5	11.0	4.9	4.8	-2.4	5.7	3.7	4.5	-1.0	5.8	13.8	8.8	2.5	7.1



	2022			2023				2024				2025				2026	
	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q[P]
Services	34.3	42.2	34.9	27.9	12.3	18.3	6.2	14.1	7.8	20.5	7.6	8.7	6.2	10.3	9.8	10.9	4.4
Services (excl MDW)	29.6	34.7	30.2	22.2	9.9	12.7	2.0	9.2	4.2	17.9	3.4	4.1	3.7	5.2	6.7	7.4	1.1

Source: Administrative Records and Labour Force Survey, Manpower Research & Statistics Department, MOM

[P]: Preliminary

Notes:

(1) Data are primarily from administrative records, with the self-employed component estimated from the Labour Force Survey.

(2) Data for the three major sectors do not add up to the total as the latter includes *Agriculture*, *Fishing*, *Quarrying*, *Utilities* and *Sewerage & Waste Management*.

(3) The industries are classified based on SSIC 2020.

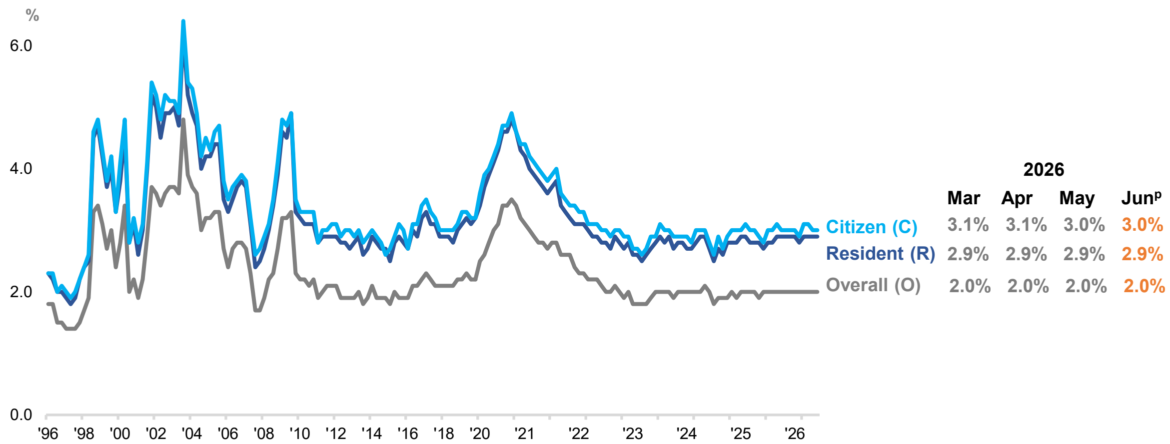
(4) Employment change refers to the difference between employment level at the end of the reference period and that at the end of the preceding period.

(5) Data for 1Q 2026 are revised to reflect updates in industry classification of firms.

Unemployment^P

Unemployment rates remained low and stable in June 2026 (overall: 2.0%, resident: 2.9%, citizen: 3.0%), broadly comparable to March 2026 (overall: 2.0%, resident: 2.9%, citizen: 3.1%).

Chart 2 Unemployment Rates (Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Labour Force Survey, Manpower Research & Statistics Department, MOM

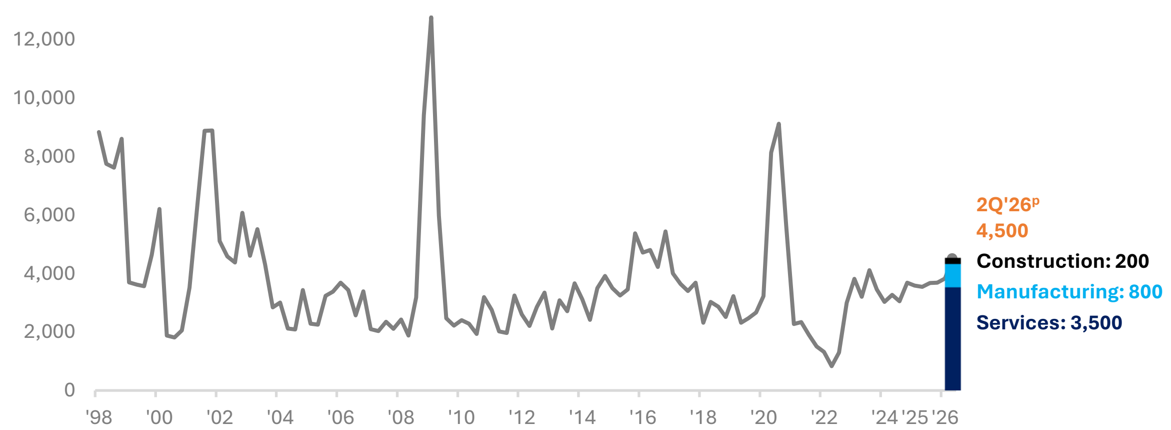
^P: Preliminary

Retrenchments[P]

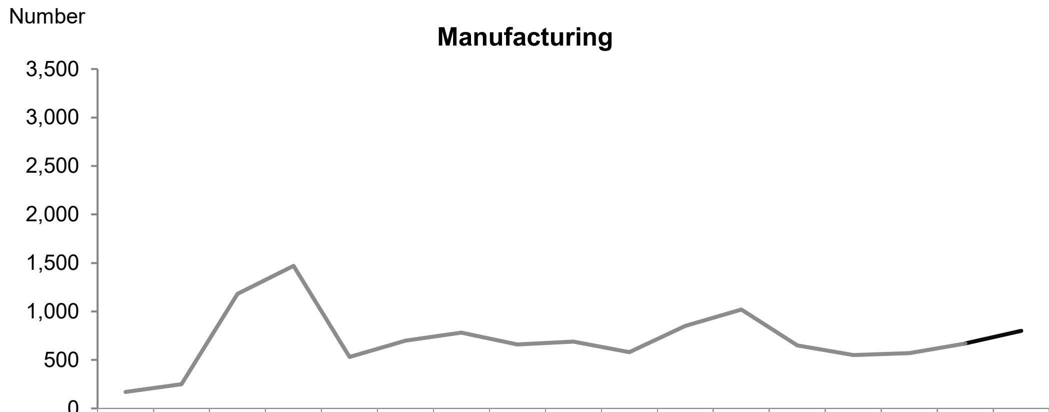
After remaining stable over the past few quarters, the number of retrenchments rose from 3,830 in 1Q 2026 to 4,500 in 2Q 2026, alongside an increase in the incidence of retrenchment from 1.6 to 1.9 retrenched per 1,000 employees. The increase was concentrated in selected outward-oriented sectors such as *Information & Communications* and *Manufacturing*, with the majority of retrenchments driven by business reorganisation or restructuring. Nonetheless, retrenchments remained well below levels typically observed during periods of downturn[4].

Chart 3 Quarterly Retrenchments

Overall

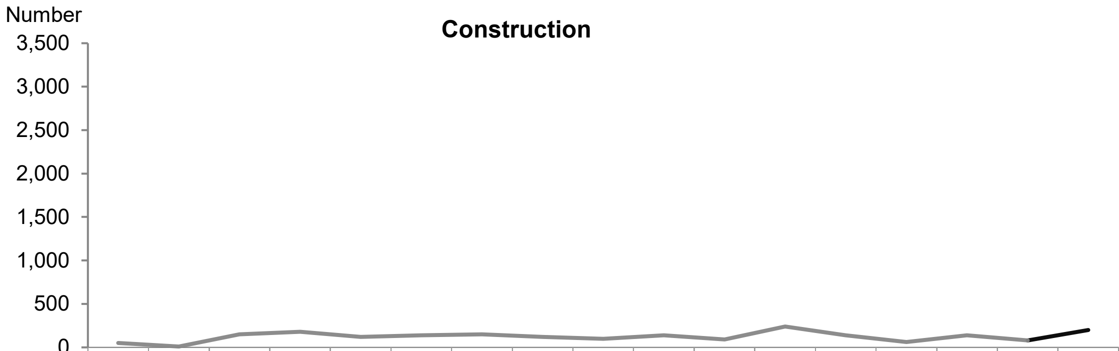


By Sector



2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q[P]
2022			2023				2024				2025				2026	
170	250	1,180	1,470	530	700	780	660	690	580	850	1,020	650	550	570	670	800

[4] Quarterly retrenchments ranged from 5,980 to 12,760 and 5,640 to 9,120 during the 2009 Global Financial Crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic respectively.



2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q[P]
2022			2023				2024				2025				2026	
50	10	150	180	120	140	150	120	100	140	90	240	140	60	140	80	200

2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q[P]
2022			2023				2024				2025				2026	
610	1,050	1,670	2,090	2,550	3,270	2,520	2,250	2,470	2,220	2,730	2,330	2,750	3,020	2,880	3,080	3,500

Source: Labour Market Survey, Manpower Research & Statistics Department, MOM

[P]: Preliminary

Notes:

(1) Before 2006, data pertain to private sector establishments (each with at least 25 employees). From 2006 onwards, it also includes the public sector.

(2) The industries are classified based on SSIC 2020.

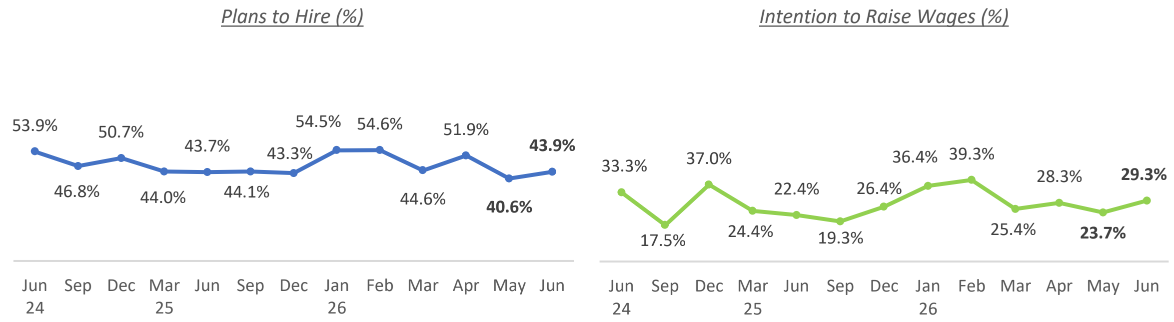
(3) Data for the three major sectors may not add up to the total as the latter includes *Agriculture*, *Fishing*, *Quarrying*, *Utilities* and *Sewerage & Waste Management*.

Forward-looking indicators improved in June, with MOM's business expectation polls showing that the share of firms expecting to hire over the next three months increased from 40.6% in May 2026 to 43.9% in June 2026. Over the same period, the share of firms expecting to raise wages also increased from 23.7% to 29.3%, while the share of firms expecting to retrench declined from 3.2% to 2.7%.

Although the uptick in hiring and wage sentiment was broad-based across sectors, these indicators remained below their pre-crisis levels in February. This suggests that firms will likely continue to adopt some caution with their hiring and wage decisions in the near term.

As a whole, the improvement in hiring, wage, and retrenchment expectations points to resilient labour demand, even as firms remain measured in their manpower planning and restructuring continues in selected sectors amid the uncertain economic situation.

Chart 4 Hiring and Wage Expectations for the Next Three Months



Source: Manpower Research & Statistics Department, MOM

Note:
Data reflect the proportion of companies that indicated 'yes' or 'maybe' to having plans to hire or to raising wages in the next three months.

Explanatory Notes

Employment

Source

Primarily from administrative records. The self-employed component is estimated from the Labour Force Survey.

Coverage

Employment data comprise all persons in employment i.e. employees and the self-employed. However, it excludes men who are serving their 2-year full-time national service liability in the Singapore Armed Forces, Police and Civil Defence Forces.

Data on the number of resident employees are compiled from the Central Provident Fund (CPF) Board's administrative records of active contributors, defined as resident employees who have at least one CPF contribution paid for him/her. A resident employee is a Singapore citizen or Permanent Resident who is employed by an employer under a contract of service or other agreement entered into in Singapore. Every resident employee and his/her employer are required to make monthly contributions to the CPF. The CPF is a compulsory savings scheme that provides workers financial security in old age and helps meet the needs of healthcare, home-ownership, family protection and asset enhancement.

Data on non-residents working in Singapore are compiled from administrative records of non-residents on valid work passes issued by the Ministry of Manpower. Non-residents can work in Singapore only if they have valid work passes issued by the Ministry of Manpower.

The number of self-employed residents is estimated from the Labour Force Survey. The self-employed comprises persons aged 15 years and over who are own account workers, employers or contributing family workers.

Concepts and Definitions

Employment change refers to the change in the number of persons who are in employment, derived by taking the difference in the employment level (i.e. number of employed persons) at the end of the reference period compared with the end of the preceding period. A positive change refers to the additional number of persons who are in employment, while a negative change refers to the decline in number of persons in employment.

Uses and Limitations

Analysis of employment change over time helps in understanding the impact of cyclical and structural changes in the economy on the demand for workers. In particular, the breakdown of employment by industry helps identify sectors where employment is growing or falling.

Conceptually, the change in employment over the reference period is the difference between people entering and exiting employment during the period. Users should not mistake an increase in employment as gross job creation i.e. the increase in employment in expanding establishments only.

Unemployment

Source

Labour Force Survey

Coverage

The survey covers private households in Singapore. It excludes workers living in construction worksites, dormitories and workers' quarters at the workplace and persons commuting from abroad to work in Singapore. Estimates of the total labour force are derived by combining data on residents obtained from the survey with non-resident employment data compiled from administrative records.[1]

Concepts and Definitions

Unemployed persons refer to persons aged 15 years and over who did not work but were actively looking and available for work during the reference period. They include persons who were not working but were taking steps to start their own business or taking up a new job after the reference period.

Unemployment rate is defined as the percentage of unemployed persons to the labour force (i.e. employed and unemployed persons) aged 15 years and over.

Long-term unemployed persons refer to persons aged 15 years and over who have been unemployed for 25 weeks or more.

Long-term unemployment rate is defined as the percentage of long-term unemployed persons to the labour force.

Uses and Limitations

The unemployment rate is probably the best-known measure of the labour market. It measures unutilised labour supply and is useful in the study of the economic cycle as it is closely related to economic fluctuations.

Unemployment can have frictional, cyclical and structural elements. As it takes time for job seekers and employers to find a match, there is always a certain level of frictional unemployment due to people changing jobs and from new entrants looking for work for the first time. Unemployment can also be structural e.g. arising from a mismatch between the job seekers and the job openings available. With structural unemployment, even if job vacancies and job seekers coexist in the labour market, they may not be matched over a long period of time. Finally, unemployment can be cyclical. This occurs when there is a general decline in demand for manpower as aggregate demand for goods and services falls in the event of a cyclical downturn. Unlike structural and frictional unemployment where the problem is in matching job openings with job seekers, cyclical unemployment occurs when there are not enough jobs to go around.

Unemployment can vary due to changes in demand or supply of manpower. It can decline if more people succeed in securing employment or when the unemployed persons stop looking for a job and leave the labour force either temporarily (e.g. to take up training) or permanently (e.g. to retire). Conversely, unemployment may rise due to increase in labour supply from new entrants or re-entrants to the labour market. It will also rise if more people quit their jobs to look for alternative employment or if there is an increase in layoffs.

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[1] Population figures for each quarter will be finalised in the next quarter. Unemployment data are therefore subject to the latest available population estimates.

Unemployment rates by specific groups, defined e.g. by age and educational attainment are useful in identifying groups of workers most vulnerable to unemployment.

Release Schedule

From July 2020, top-line unemployment rates for overall, residents and citizens for the month will be released on a monthly basis by the first week of the month after next. This availability of top-line unemployment rates on a monthly basis will enable us to detect shifts in the unemployment situation in a more timely manner. The information will be made available on the Ministry of Manpower's statistical portal https://stats.mom.gov.sg.

Additional breakdown on unemployment by profile e.g. age, education, will continue to be made available in the Labour Market Reports released at the end of every quarter. This is because variations in the profile of the unemployed are unlikely in the short term.

Data Quality

To ensure data quality, the Department analyses each survey response to identify and resolve inconsistencies that may suggest an inaccurate response. A response rate of at least 85% is achieved for the monthly labour force survey so as to ensure the sample retains its representativeness.

Seasonal Adjustment

The unemployment time series are influenced by seasonality – periodic fluctuations due to recurring calendar-related events such as holidays, and the beginning and end of school terms. Seasonal adjustment removes the influences of these fluctuations and allows users to derive a more meaningful analysis of the trends in a data series, especially for those with strong seasonal patterns.

The seasonally adjusted figures are derived using X-12 ARIMA program which removes seasonal influences in the data series. To ensure a more accurate reflection of seasonally adjusted figures, concurrent seasonal adjustment is also being done and the latest information available will be incorporated.

Revisions

In order to present timely data at the highest frequency, the monthly unemployment figures are subjected to revisions when the latest population figure becomes available or when the seasonal factors are updated with the latest data.

OTHER RELEASES

Title	Date of Release

UPCOMING ...

Labour Market Report Second Quarter 2026	9-15 Sep 2026*
Labour Market Advance Release Third Quarter 2026	29-30 Oct 2026*
Labour Force in Singapore Advance Release 2026	26 Nov - 2 Dec 2026*
Labour Market Report Third Quarter 2026	10-16 Dec 2026*

PAST ...

Labour Market Report First Quarter 2026	15 Jun 2026
List of top entry-level PMET job opportunities for fresh graduates	15 Jun 2026
Report on Employees' Working Condition 2024	28 May 2026
Report on Wage Practices 2025	28 May 2026
Adoption of Artificial Intelligence Among Firms	30 Apr 2026
Overqualification in Singapore 2025	14 Apr 2026
Youths In The Labour Market 2025	26 Mar 2026
Labour Market Report Fourth Quarter 2025	20 Mar 2026
Job Vacancies 2025	20 Mar 2026

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**The actual date of release will be indicated at least a week before the scheduled publication date.*