

Labour Market Report First Quarter 2023



MINISTRY OF
MANPOWER

Manpower Research
and Statistics Department

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LABOUR MARKET REPORT FIRST QUARTER 2023

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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 (Chapter 317). 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

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Explanatory Notes

Notations

-	: nil or negligible
Q	: Quarter
M	: March
J	: June
S	: September
D	: December

Abbreviations

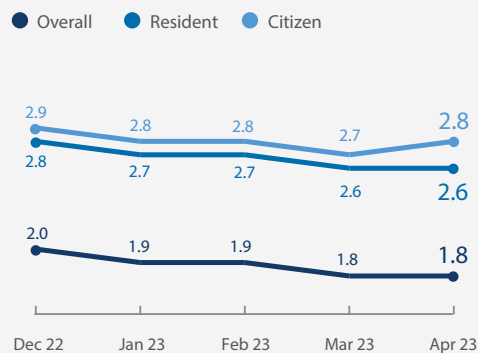
excl	: Excluding
MDW	: Migrant domestic workers
MOM	: Ministry of Manpower
MTI	: Ministry of Trade and Industry
PMETs	: Professionals, Managers, Executives & Technicians
Prod & Tpt Op, Cleaners & Labourers	: Production & Transport Operators, Cleaners & Labourers
Prof, Mgrs, Execs & Tech	: Professionals, Managers, Executives & Technicians
SSIC	: Singapore Standard Industrial Classification

Labour Market Report First Quarter 2023

Unemployment

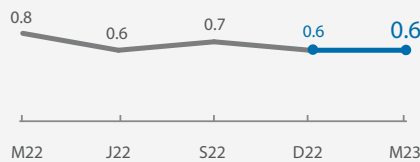
Unemployment rates remained low in April 2023 and were below pre-pandemic levels

Unemployment rate (%), seasonally adjusted



Resident long-term unemployment stayed below pre-pandemic average

Resident long-term unemployment rate (%), seasonally adjusted



Short Work-Week Or Temporary Layoff

Number of employees placed on short work-week or temporary layoff stayed below pre-pandemic levels

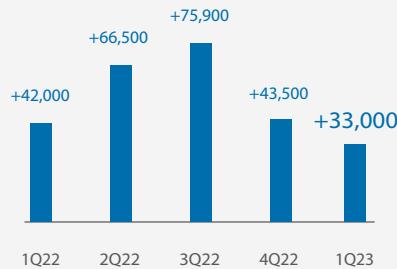


1,040
4Q 2022 ↓ 420
1Q 2023

Employment

Total employment expanded for the sixth consecutive quarter in 1Q 2023 but the pace of increase continued to moderate from 3Q 2022

Employment change (Quarterly)



Employment level (excl. MDW)

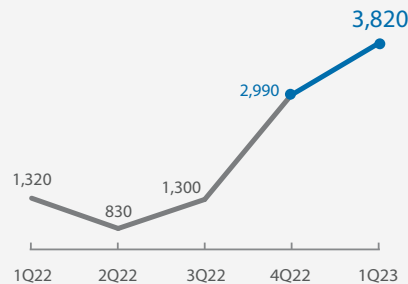


3,658,000
March 2023

Retrenchment

Number of retrenchments increased but remained low

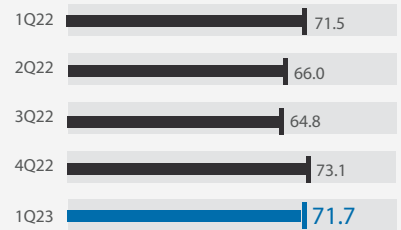
Retrenched employees



Re-entry into Employment

Rate of re-entry into employment declined slightly but remained above pre-COVID average

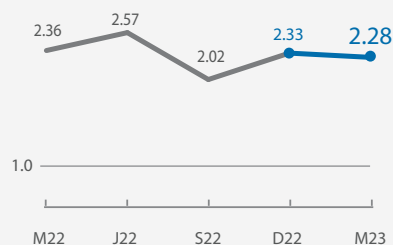
Resident rate of re-entry into employment (6 months post-retrenchment) (%)



Job Vacancy

The ratio of job vacancies to unemployed persons remained below its peak in June 2022

Ratio of job vacancies to unemployed persons, seasonally adjusted



Recruitment and Resignation Rates

There was a slowdown in hiring as recruitment rates declined marginally while resignation rates remained unchanged

Average monthly recruitment and resignation rates (%), seasonally adjusted



1.1 UNEMPLOYMENT

RESIDENT UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY SEX, AGE AND HIGHEST QUALIFICATION ATTAINED

Characteristics	2020	2021	2022	Per Cent	
				Mar	
				2022	2023
TOTAL	4.1	3.5	2.9	2.7	2.3
SEX					
Male	3.9	3.3	2.8	2.8	2.3
Female	4.4	3.8	3.0	2.6	2.2
AGE GROUP (YEARS)					
Below 30	7.5	5.7	4.7	3.8	4.5
30 - 39	3.0	2.6	2.3	2.2	1.7
40 & Over	3.7	3.3	2.7	2.6	2.0
40 - 49	3.4	3.2	2.5	2.3	2.1
50 & Over	3.9	3.4	2.8	2.8	1.9
50 - 59	3.9	3.5	2.7	2.7	2.1
60 & Over	3.7	3.4	2.9	3.0	1.7
HIGHEST QUALIFICATION ATTAINED					
Below Secondary	4.1	3.1	2.5	2.2	1.6
Secondary	4.6	4.1	3.1	3.2	2.2
Post-Secondary (Non-Tertiary)	4.9	4.5	3.4	3.7	3.0
Diploma & Professional Qualification	4.7	3.9	3.0	2.5	2.4
Degree	3.5	3.2	2.8	2.6	2.3

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

Note : Figures for the month are non-seasonally adjusted. Annual figures are the simple averages of the figures obtained at quarterly intervals.

1.3 LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT

RESIDENT LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY SEX, AGE AND HIGHEST QUALIFICATION ATTAINED

Characteristics	2020	2021	2022	Per Cent	
				Mar	
				2022	2023
TOTAL	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.6
SEX					
Male	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.6
Female	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.6	0.5
AGE GROUP (YEARS)					
Below 30	1.1	1.0	0.5	0.6	0.7
30 - 39	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.3
40 & Over	1.0	1.2	0.8	1.0	0.6
40 - 49	1.0	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.6
50 & Over	1.0	1.3	1.0	1.1	0.7
50 - 59	1.1	1.2	0.9	1.1	0.7
60 & Over	1.0	1.4	1.0	1.2	0.6
HIGHEST QUALIFICATION ATTAINED					
Below Secondary	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.3
Secondary	1.0	1.2	0.8	1.1	0.6
Post-Secondary (Non-Tertiary)	0.9	1.3	0.7	1.0	0.5
Diploma & Professional Qualification	1.0	1.1	0.7	0.7	0.7
Degree	1.0	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.6

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

Note : Figures for the month are non-seasonally adjusted. Annual figures are the simple averages of the figures obtained at quarterly intervals.

Standard hours worked refers to the number of hours, excluding meal breaks worked by an employee during a normal working week.

Paid overtime hours worked refers to the number of hours worked by an employee during a week in excess of the standard hours for which the employees were paid. It excludes overtime hours worked for which “time-off” was granted instead of wage payment.

Uses and Limitations

Data on paid total and overtime hours worked are used as a gauge of the level of economic activities and working conditions of the various industries. The data can also be used for social studies on family and community life.

Management staff and executives are normally not paid additional hourly wages for working overtime. For this group of staff, users can refer to statistics on usual hours worked from the mid-year Comprehensive Labour Force Survey.

Reliability of Data

In a sample survey, inferences about the target population are drawn from the data collected from the sample. Errors due to extension of the conclusions based on one sample to the entire population are known as sampling errors. The sampling error of an estimate is the extent of variation between the estimated value obtained from a sample and the true value from the population. Factors influencing the sampling error include the sample size, the sample design, method of estimation, the variability of the population and the characteristics studied.

A common measure of the sampling error of an estimate is its standard error, which is a measure of the variation among the estimates derived from all possible samples. An alternative measure is the relative standard error of an estimate which indicates the standard error relative to the magnitude of the estimate. A sample estimate and an estimate of its standard error can be used to construct an interval that will, at specified levels of confidence, include the true value. By statistical convention, the confidence level has been set at 95 per cent.

Estimates of the sampling variability of selected indicators are as follows:

	Reference Period	Estimate	Standard Error	Relative Standard Error (%)	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower	Upper
UNEMPLOYMENT						
Number of Unemployed Residents	Mar 23	54,900	2,200	4.0%	50,600	59,300
Resident Unemployment Rate	Mar 23	2.3%	0.09%-pt	4.0%	2.1%	2.5%
JOB VACANCY						
Job Vacancy Number	Mar 22	97,400	1,300	1.4%	94,700	100,100
Job Vacancy Rate	Mar 22	4.3%	0.06%-pt	1.3%	4.1%	4.4%
LABOUR TURNOVER						
Average Monthly Recruitment Rate	1Q 23	2.2%	0.03%-pt	1.2%	2.1%	2.2%
Average Monthly Resignation Rate	1Q 23	1.5%	0.02%-pt	1.1%	1.4%	1.5%
HOURS WORKED						
Average Weekly Paid Overtime Hours Worked Per Employee	Mar 23	2.3	0.04	1.6%	2.2	2.3

Note: Data are non-seasonally adjusted.

OTHER RELEASES



UPCOMING ...

Singapore Yearbook Of Manpower Statistics 2023	30 Jun 2023
Labour Market Advance Release Second Quarter 2023	27-28 Jul 2023*

PAST ...

Labour Market Report First Quarter 2023	15 Jun 2023
Report On Wage Practices 2022	29 May 2023
Conditions Of Employment 2022	11 May 2023
Labour Market Advance Release First Quarter 2023	28 Apr 2023
Job Vacancies 2022	30 Mar 2023
Labour Market Report Fourth Quarter 2022	15 Mar 2023
Labour Market Advance Release 2022	31 Jan 2023
Labour Force In Singapore 2022	31 Jan 2023
Labour Market Report Third Quarter 2022	15 Dec 2022
Labour Force In Singapore Advance Release 2022	1 Dec 2022

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TITLE OF REPORT: LABOUR MARKET REPORT FIRST QUARTER 2023

1. How would you rate this publication in terms of :

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
a) Relevance to your work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Providing useful insights on prevailing labour market trends/development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Ease of understanding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Which area(s) of the report do you find most useful? Please provide reasons.

3. How do you find the length of the report?

Too detailed Just right Too brief

4. Overall, how would you rate this publication?

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Thank you for your valuable feedback

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