

JOBS COMPASS REPORT QUARTER 2, 2021



CONTENTS

JOB VACANCIES ABSTRACT	2
IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS	3
Growth in Job Vacancies	3
Upsurge Hiring Pace in Essential Sectors	4
Polarising Fast Growing Jobs in Demand	5
Silver Lining Through Covid-19 Pandemic	6
Just Stay Ambitious, It's Liberating	7
THOUGHTS IN A BOX: ADVERTISING CAREER IN SOC MED ERA	8
MATTER YOU MAY ASK	9
REFERENCES	10



JOB VACANCIES ABSTRACT

Total Vacancies Q2, 2021

653,626



Increases **45.4%** from Q1, 2021

Where Are the Jobs?



27,646

job vacancies gain in
Accommodation, Food &
Services Activity

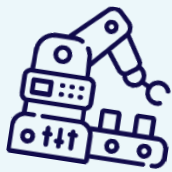
1,361

reduction in
Agriculture Sector



TOP 5

Highest Job Vacancies in Sectors



Manufacturing

144,316



Wholesale and Retail

74,792



Administrative

70,069



Accommodation and
Food Service Activity

66,350



Construction

46,064

What Professions*?

Manufacturing Labourers

90,391

Highest in Sarawak 24,907



Sales, Marketing and Public
Relations Professionals

54,438

Highest in Selangor 21,566



Shop Salespersons

39,610

Highest in Selangor 16,666



Administrative and
Specialised Secretaries

24,847

Highest in Selangor 10,300



Software and Applications
Developers and Analysts

18,684

Highest in Kuala Lumpur 9,094





IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS

The beginning of May 2021 saw a sudden surge of Covid-19 cases, of which daily reported cases were on average above 5,000 and peaked to 8,000 in the first week of June 2021. This situation had led to the enforcement of stricter Movement Control Order (MCO) in the beginning of May. This report proposes to analyse the outlook of job vacancies in the Quarter 2 (Q2), 2021 (April, May and June) comparing with Quarter 1 (Q1), 2021 (January, February and March).

Growth in Job Vacancies

Overall, despite countrywide MCO 3.0 in May and June, the vacancy rate in Q2, 2021 unexpectedly elevated to 45.4% or up by 204,137 jobs. Much of these were contributed by various demand which includes stimulus packages implemented by the Government such as PENJANA KERJAYA 2.0. This was also supported by the survey-based report from DOSM, entitled Business Tendency Statistics Report¹ where most businesses anticipated that business may continue to improve for this quarter as business confidence had increased slightly to -3.1% compared with Q1, 2021 (-11.3%).

Figure 1: Quarterly Job Vacancies, 2021

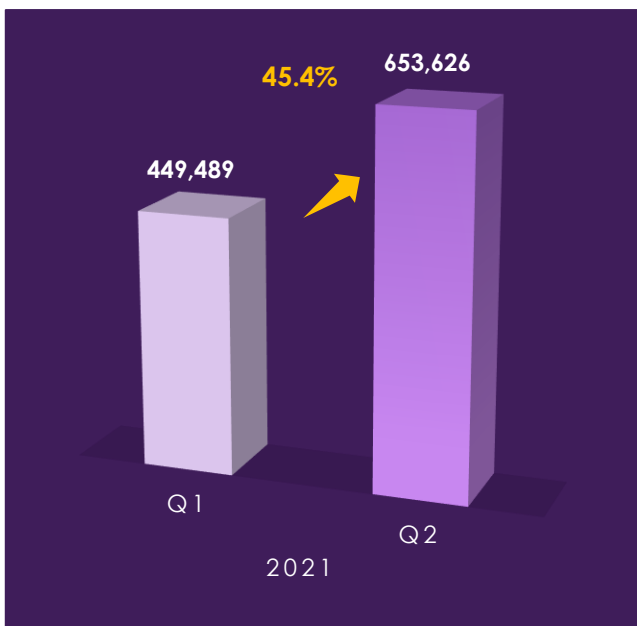
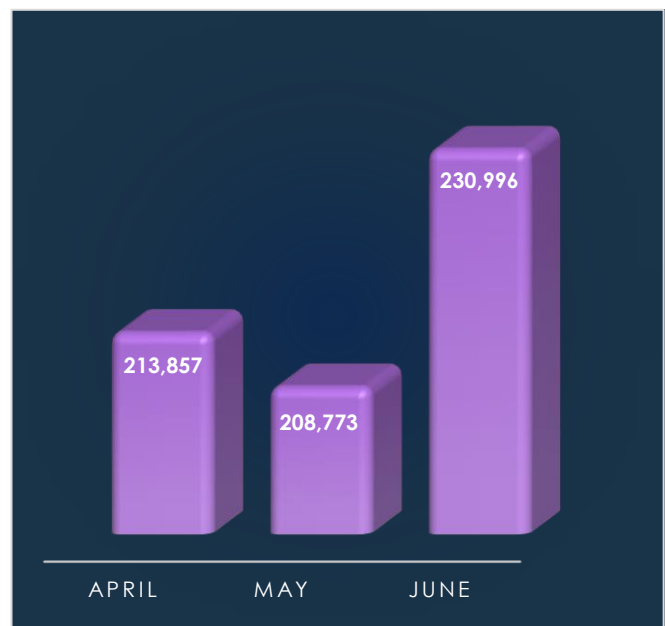


Figure 2: Job Vacancies by Month, 2021



¹ Business Tendency Statistic is a quarterly survey by Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) that depicts the businesses expected performance for the next 3 to 6 months.



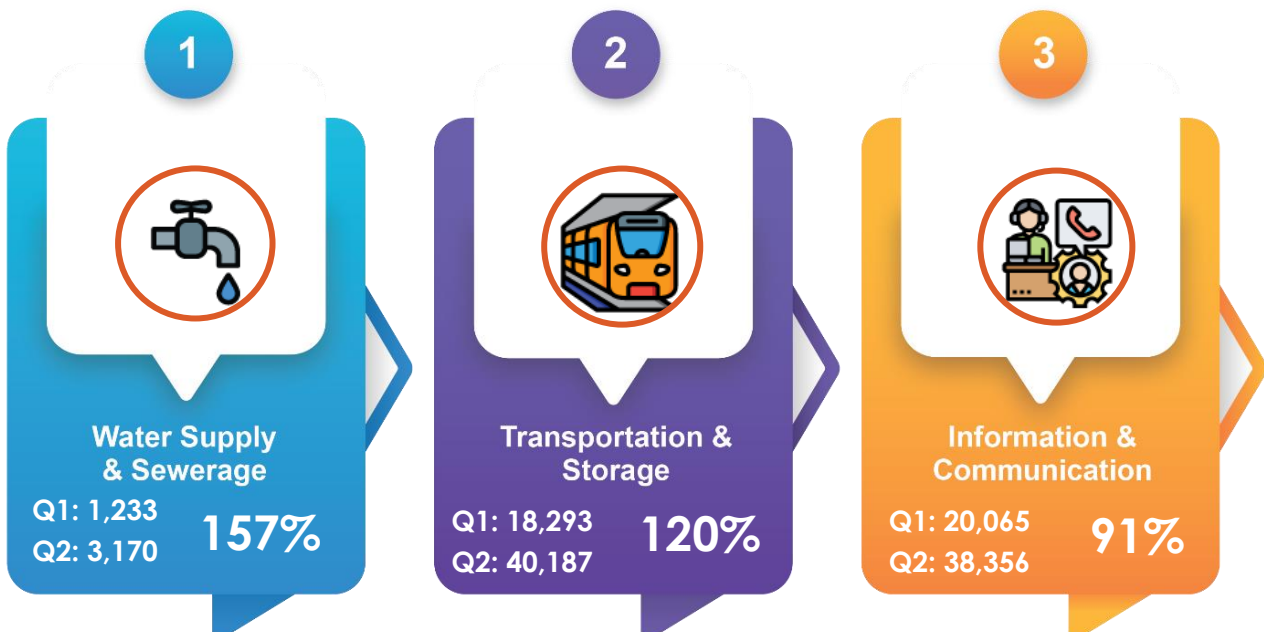
Upsurge Hiring Pace in Essential Sectors

As essential sectors remained open during the MCO 3.0, the labour demand for these sectors were rapidly rising during the Q2, 2021 with Water Supply & Sewerage and Transportation & Storage sectors charted the highest growth by 157% (or up by 1,937 jobs) and 120% (or up by 21,894 jobs) respectively. Total vacancies in both sectors rose spread across all the subsectors; of which Waste Collection and Postal/Courier Activities were highest in each sector.

The greatest job opportunity composition within Water Supply & Sewerage sector was for hiring Cleaners & Helpers, normally dominated by foreign workers. This increase, could be attributed to permit expiration and moratorium against hiring of foreign workers imposed by the Government during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile in Transportation & Storage sector, Courier Drivers (Motorcycle and Heavy/Truck/ Lorry) were high in demand due to natural progression of Malaysian economic activity and demand for delivery services during the Covid-19 pandemic. Although popular e-commerce platforms such as Zalora, Fashion Valet and Shopee has been well recognised prior the pandemic period, their popularity soared during the Covid-19 time when online retailing became the new normal worldwide. This online retailing hence birthed the positive spill over effect to supply transportation chain in Malaysia.

Figure 3: Top 3 Largest Increase Sectors on Q1- Q2, 2021

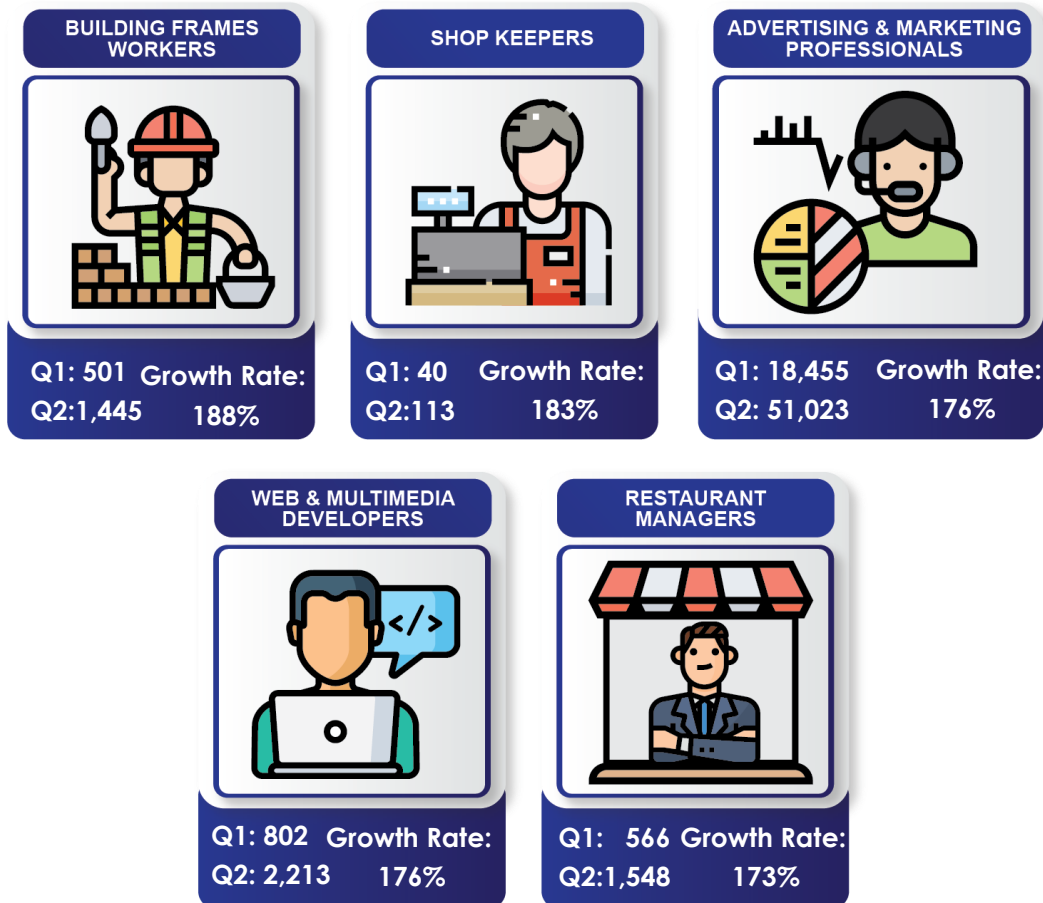




Polarising Fast Growing Jobs in Demand

Meanwhile, Building Frames Workers became the fastest growing occupation for this quarter, rising by 188% (increased by 944 jobs) followed by Shop Keepers at 183% (up by 73 jobs) and Advertising & Marketing Professionals at 176% (up by 32,568 jobs) as shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Top 5 Fast Growing Job Vacancies on Q1-Q2, 2021



The Building Frames Workers were mostly demanded in Construction sector, which was not surprising since the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for construction was expanded by 40.3% in Q2, 2021. The Building Frame Workers recorded all record high (1,445 jobs) in Q2, in contrast with the last five quarters since the inception of MYFutureJobs. Terengganu and Kedah were two top states that demanded this occupation since they were actively venturing into multiple construction projects to result in creating numerous jobs opportunities. For example, Kedah aimed to build Kulim International Airport (KXP) and








Aerotropolis while Terengganu has started building the biggest solar plant for Malaysia in Marang.

Likewise, the Shop Keepers jobs came second on job vacancies growth rate at 183% (or up by 73 jobs) and recorded all-time high in this quarter, particularly in the Wholesale & Retail sector. However, relative to other occupations, the Shop Keepers were among the smallest job vacancies been recorded. This was consistent with the MCO 3.0 policy that permitted only essential sectors to open while most services activities remained closed.

Silver Lining Through Covid-19 Pandemic

Despite the surge in Covid-19 pandemic, almost all states had an increase in job vacancies except for The Federal Territory of Putrajaya. Perlis, among the two smallest states in Malaysia had surpassed main economic hub such as The Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur and Selangor to reach first place in creating higher growth of job opportunities in this quarter (referred Table 1). Since Perlis was among the first state granted ease of restriction for MCO 3.0, it was plausible for employers to actively start recruitment activity. Most of the job opportunities in Perlis were for essential sectors specifically in Human Health (up by 423 jobs).

Table 1: Growth Rate of Job Vacancies on Q1-Q2 (State), 2021

State	Growth Rate	Q1,2021	Q2,2021
 PERLIS	205%	362	1,105
 WP KUALA LUMPUR	101%	62,565	125,492
 WP LABUAN	84%	231	426
 KELANTAN	77%	3,836	6,783
 PULAU PINANG	66%	32,087	53,268



Likewise, The Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur had a significant increase by 101% (or up by 62,927 jobs) in this quarter. Much of the increase were contributed by the administrative support services that provides security activities and Information & Communication sectors.

Just Stay Ambitious, It's Liberating

The introduction of two-pronged stimulus packages implemented by SOCSO and various agencies such as Malaysian Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC), BSN, SME etc. targeting to boost economy while protecting the existing employees may see the positive impact in job vacancies offered in the next quarter. Furthermore, this optimistic anticipation is further reinforced with the hike in daily vaccination rate starting June 2021; as according to the Covid-19 Vaccine Supply Access Guarantee Special Committee (JKJAV). Until then, the Government and community ought to hold hands together in facing the future challenges for better labour market recovery.

THOUGHTS IN A BOX: ADVERTISING CAREER IN SOC MED ERA

As we adjust to living in the new norm where online retailers are booming and social medias become main platform for business operation, businesses race to ensure that their websites or social media platforms are attractive and high consumers' traffic to market their products. This new normal is further reinforced by the growing number of Malaysians' smart phone users and expanding internet penetration. Kate Harrison (Forbes, 2018) states that harnessing e-commerce landing page and eye-catching advertising design are few of the important approaches for online retailers to boost their sales.

Thus, the emergence of B2C² retailing expanded the job opportunities for Advertising & Marketing Professionals in Malaysia Labour Market. In Q2, 2021, Advertising & Marketing Professionals ranked second for the most recruitment search especially for the position of Online Marketeer and Client Relations Manager. The demand of Advertising & Marketing Professionals has always been high even the pre-pandemic level where this occupation is either in Top 2 or Top 3 for Job Vacancies: as shown by ILMIA's Job Market Insight³. Additionally, Advertising & Marketing Professionals has been repeatedly cited in Critical Occupation List⁴ Report in Malaysia since its inception in 2015.

Figure 5: Skills Required (Advertising & Marketing Professional)



² Business 2 Customer is a process of selling products to customer and typically used to characterise online retailers.

³ Job Market Insight is ILMIA's initiative to collect information on Job Vacancies in Malaysia using web crawler search on popular online job platforms in Malaysia.

⁴ COL is a collaborative effort between ILMIA and Talent Corp to produce annual Critical Occupation List as mandated in 11th Malaysia Plan.



MATTER YOU MAY ASK

1. What is this report about?

This Jobs Compass report presents a brief review of short-term movement in Malaysia hiring situation for the month of April, May and June through the estimation from job vacancies registration in MYFutureJobs portal, MOHR and supplemented by other sources.

2. What are job vacancies?

Job vacancies refer to unfilled jobs that employers are trying to fill by recruiting people outside their establishments. In this report, the job vacancies info are mainly sourced from our National Employment Portal, MYFutureJobs.

3. Why do we need to read this report?

Job Vacancy indicator is becoming a popular signal in recent years to assess the employment outlook and measure employment growth within any country including Malaysia as we are maturing into well independent and high middle-income country. We intend to provide detailed and educational information on Malaysia current hiring landscape throughout this report given the practical constraints such as cost limitations and incomplete job vacancy resources (nonetheless, no countries in this world can gather a complete information of vacancies). We intend to improvise this report with additional resources in the near future.

4. Are there any standards used in this report?

Yes, we classify sectors using the Malaysian Standard Industrial Classification (MSIC) 2008 and occupations using Malaysian Skills, Occupations, Qualifications and Competences (MSOC).

5. What to expect in the future?

We plan to produce this report on a quarterly basis to provide readers with informative employment outlook in job market. We also anticipate producing interesting profession insight within this report. As we continue to grow, we also plan to continually improve our ways of explaining the job vacancies situation in Malaysia.

6. Where can you contact us?

As we are learning and growing as an organisation, we greatly welcome any feedback or reviews from the readers. The readers can always write to us through our website <https://eiscentre.perkeso.gov.my/> or eias.sjp@perkeso.gov.my.

Our Disclaimer: This publication is intended to disseminate job vacancies information using EIS administrative data and is correct at the time of published date. Hence, EIS will not be liable due to any manipulation or abuse of this information by the users other than its original intention.

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