MOM 2Q 2026: employment up 11,400 as retrenchments rise to 4,620

Description

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Singaporeâ??s total employment rose by **11,400** in the second quarter of 2026, the Ministry of Manpower said on **Sunday, 21 September 2026**, marking a nineteenth straight quarter of growth and a step up from 9,400 in the previous quarter.

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Image: Ministry of Manpower

Resident employment grew more slowly, by **2,200**, after 5,400 in 1Q. Growth for residents was concentrated in Transportation & Storage, Public Administration & Education, Health & Social Services, Professional Services, Financial Services and Information & Communications. Non-resident employment rose by **9,200**, led by Work Permit Holders in Construction and Manufacturing. Figures exclude migrant domestic workers.

Unemployment stayed low; retrenchments rose

Unemployment rates in June 2026 remained low: overall **1.9%**, resident **2.9%**, citizen **3.0%**. Resident long-term unemployment edged up to **1.0%** from 0.9% in March.

Retrenchments climbed from **3,830** in 1Q (1.6 per 1,000 employees) to **4,620** in 2Q (2.0 per 1,000). MOM tied the rise to business reorganisation in outward-oriented sectors such as Manufacturing, Information & Communications and Financial Services. The share of retrenched residents who found work within six months fell from 60.7% to 54.9%, while the 12-month re-entry rate held near 70%.

Vacancies and GRIT

Job vacancies eased from **73,300** in March to **68,600** in June, mainly on fewer PMET openings in Financial Services and Information & Communications. There were still **1.48** vacancies per unemployed person in June. Entry-level PMET roles remained about **45%** of all vacancies.

MOMâ??s July business polls showed more firms intending to hire in the next three months (48.7%, up from 43.9% in June), though wage-rise intentions softened slightly. For the 2026 graduating cohort, applications for GRaduate Industry Traineeships (GRIT) remain open through MyCareersFuture and Careers@Gov.

The full Labour Market Report 2Q 2026 and technical notes sit on stats.mom.gov.sg.

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