

Written Answer to PQ on PMET
Re-employment Outcomes

7 October 2026

NOTICE PAPER NO. 1391 OF 2026 FOR THE SITTING ON OR AFTER 7 OCTOBER 2026
QUESTION NO. 2178 FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

MP: Mr Patrick Tay Teck Guan

To ask the Acting Minister for Manpower (a) in the last three years, what proportion of retrenched professionals, managers, executives and technicians (PMETs) are re-employed into a different industry; (b) what proportion experience lower wages upon re-employment; (c) how these outcomes differ by previous industry and last-drawn salary band; and (d) whether the Jobseeker Support Scheme can be enhanced to support more PMETs.

ANSWER:

From 2023 to 2025, 67.4% of retrenched resident PMETs who were re-employed switched to a different industry, of which 60.2% of them earned lower wages than their last-drawn salary.

2. Retrenched resident PMETs who remained in the same industry were less likely to experience wage loss. Of those that switched to a different industry, retrenched resident PMETs from outward-oriented sectors (e.g. Manufacturing, Transport & Storage) were more likely to experience wage decline upon re-employment. On the other hand, those from domestic-oriented sectors (e.g. Food & Beverage Services, Retail Trade) were less likely to experience wage decline upon re-employment into a different sector. Retrenched resident PMETs with previous earnings above the median PMET income were more likely to experience wage loss.

3. The SkillsFuture Jobseeker Support (JS) scheme provides temporary financial support to involuntarily unemployed individuals who are actively seeking employment. MOM is studying the impact of the JS scheme which was launched in April 2025, and will assess if enhancements are needed.

Six in 10 retrenched PMETs who switched industry earned less in their new job

Description

Six in 10 retrenched PMETs who found work in a different industry from 2023 to 2025 earned less than their last-drawn salary. The figures come from a Ministry of Manpower [written parliamentary reply](#) on 7 October, answering a question from Mr Patrick Tay.

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Answer:

From 2023 to 2025, 67.4% of retrenched resident PMETs who were re-employed switched to a different industry, of which 60.2% of them earned lower wages than their last-drawn salary.

2. Retrenched resident PMETs who remained in the same industry were less likely to experience wage loss. Of those that switched to a different industry, retrenched resident PMETs from outward-oriented sectors (e.g. Manufacturing, Transport & Storage) were more likely to experience wage decline upon re-employment. On the other hand, those from domestic-oriented sectors (e.g. Food & Beverage services, Retail Trade) were less likely to experience wage decline upon re-employment into a different sector. Retrenched resident PMETs with previous earnings above the median PMET income were more likely to experience wage loss.

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The written answer to Mr Patrick Tay's question on 7 October. Photo: Ministry of Manpower

Switching was the norm. Of the retrenched resident professionals, managers, executives and technicians (PMETs) who were re-employed over those three years, 67.4 per cent moved to a different industry, and 60.2 per cent of that group took a pay cut.

What the two numbers mean together

Put the two figures on the same base of 100 re-employed PMETs. 67 changed industry and 33 stayed in the one they were retrenched from.

Of the 67 who switched, 40 earned less than before and 27 matched or beat their old pay. That makes 40.6 per cent of all re-employed retrenched PMETs who both changed industry and took a lower wage.

The 32.6 per cent who stayed in their old industry were less likely to lose pay than those who moved.

Which workers lost the most ground

The previous industry mattered. Among those who switched, PMETs from outward-oriented sectors such as manufacturing, and transport and storage, were more likely to see their wages fall in the new job.

PMETs from domestic-oriented sectors, such as food and beverage services and retail trade, were less likely to take a pay cut after moving to a different sector.

Salary band mattered too. Retrenched PMETs whose previous earnings were above the median PMET income were more likely to lose pay on re-employment.

Retrenchments are rising

The reply lands as retrenchments climb. In the second quarter of 2026, 4,620 workers were retrenched, up from 3,830 in the first quarter. That is 790 more retrenchments, a rise of 20.6 per cent, and the rate went from 1.6 to 2.0 per 1,000 employees. Restructuring in manufacturing, information and communications, and financial services drove the rise.

Retrenched workers are also taking longer to find jobs. The share of retrenched residents back in work within six months fell from 60.7 per cent in the first quarter to 54.9 per cent in the second. The 12-month re-entry rate held at 69.8 per cent, from 69.4 per cent.

Job vacancies fell from 73,300 in March to 68,600 in June, mainly because of fewer PMET openings in financial services and in information and communications. There were still 1.48 vacancies for every unemployed person in June. Entry-level PMET roles made up 45.3 per cent of all vacancies, or 31,700 openings.

The Jobseeker Support scheme is under review

Mr Tay also asked whether the SkillsFuture Jobseeker Support scheme could do more for PMETs. The scheme gives temporary financial support to involuntarily unemployed people who are actively looking for work, and started in April 2025.

MOM is studying the scheme's impact and will decide whether it needs to be enhanced.

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