

Hours Worked and Economic Crises: Malaysia's Experience

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Abstract

The year 2020 had seen countries mobilizing efforts to contain the infection of COVID-19 pandemics, including border closures, movement restrictions and physical distancing; hence affecting the global economies, Malaysia included. With restrictions in businesses operation and slower demand in certain subsectors, industries had resolved to reduce operation hours, thus impacting labour market with limited working hours, job rotation and subsequent reduction in income. While the pandemic had also caused economic crisis, such crises had occurred throughout the years, causing certain impact to the labour market. Hence, this study attempted to evaluate the impact of economic crises towards Malaysia's labour market, specifically assessing the indicators of total hours worked, average hours worked, value added by economic sectors and the labour productivity as compiled by Department of Statistics Malaysia through household and economic surveys as well as administrative data sources. The study will provide insights into sectors that were most affected and labour market responses as crises struck, hence, allowing for better labour market management to ensure economic continuity and people's wellbeing.

Keywords: Hours worked, Economic crises, Labour market responses