

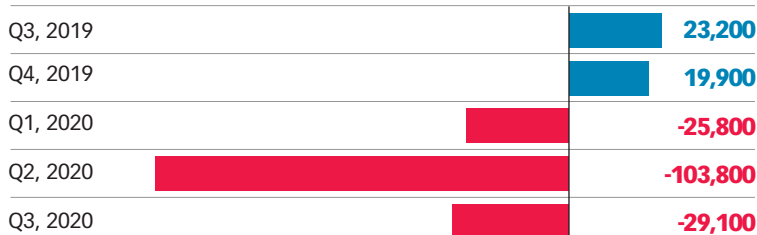
## Labour market's darkest year

Covid-19 hit the economy where it hurt most, bringing employment down in its worst-ever quarterly fall during the year. The unprecedented government support offered has helped soften the blow, but the shock and pain of it linger for many workers. Even as the economy reopens cautiously in small steps – and employment for residents returning to nearly where it was before the nightmare began, with job openings inching up – retrenchments and the unemployment rates continue to rise, though at a slower pace. **BY CHUANG PECK MING**

### Total employment

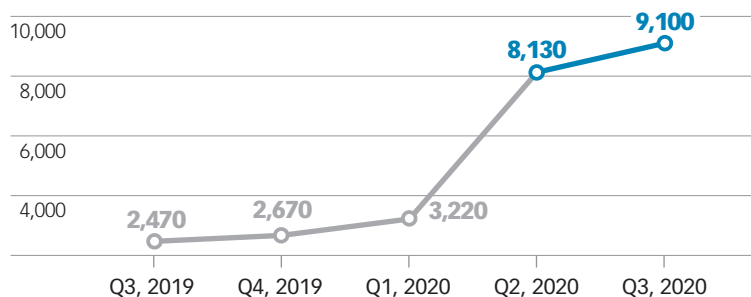
Still contracting, dragged down by non-resident employment. For residents, it's back to near pre-Covid-19 levels.

(QUARTERLY CHANGE, EXCLUDING FOREIGN DOMESTIC WORKERS)



### Retrenchment

Continued to rise



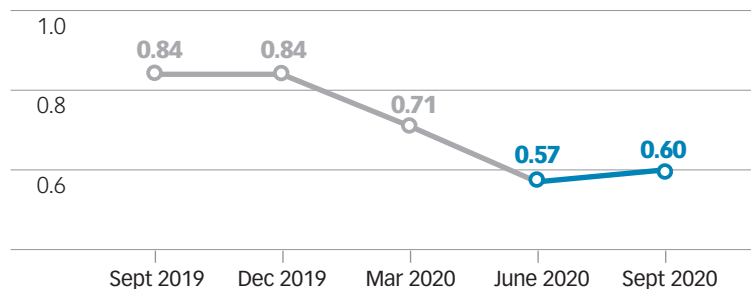
### Re-entry into employment

Dip easing



### Job vacancies to unemployed ratio

Job vacancies rose for the first time in 2020 in September, boosting the ratio of job openings to unemployed



### Unemployment

Still rising

(UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, %, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

