

# Arab Nationals in Saudi Arabia

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The Saudi Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (MHRSD) started publishing data on workers in the private and public sectors, disaggregated by worker's country of citizenship in 2020. The General Authority for Statistics (GASat) also released partial results of the last census conducted in 2022. These sources offer a glimpse of the numbers and characteristics of Arab nationals, the second-largest group of foreign residents in the country after Asians.

### Saudi Arabia: Employed and total Arab populations, by country of citizenship and sector of employment (2022)

	Employed Arabs/ <i>Foreign nat.</i>				Total Arabs/ <i>Foreign nat.</i>	
	Gov. Sector	% <i>fem.</i>	Private sector	Total employed	Number	% <i>fem.</i>
<b>Yemen</b>	583	13.9	840,881	<b>841,464</b>	<b>1,803,469</b>	<b>26.0</b>
<b>Egypt</b>	11,408	32.8	837,134	<b>848,542</b>	<b>1,471,382</b>	<b>19.7</b>
<b>Sudan</b>	8,562	47.2	354,988	<b>363,550</b>	<b>819,575</b>	<b>17.8</b>
<b>Syria</b>	1,708	13.9	140,953	<b>142,661</b>	<b>449,314</b>	<b>42.2</b>
<b>Jordan</b>	1,495	20.2	66,072	<b>67,567</b>	<b>204,249</b>	<b>N.A.</b>
<b>Palestine</b>	100	24.0	32,970	<b>33,070</b>	<b>129,869</b>	<b>N.A.</b>
<b>Lebanon</b>	45	22.2	30,245	<b>30,290</b>	<b>52,779</b>	<b>N.A.</b>
<b>Morocco</b>	74	33.8	18,028	<b>18,102</b>	<b>48,796</b>	<b>N.A.</b>
<b>Tunisia</b>	1,516	38.7	12,311	<b>13,827</b>	<b>24,818</b>	<b>N.A.</b>
<b>Other nat.</b>	280	N.A.	4,517	<b>4,797</b>	<b>N.A.</b>	<b>N.A.</b>
<b>Total Arab nationals</b>	<b>25,771</b>	<b>35.4</b>	<b>2,338,123</b>	<b>2,363,894</b>	<b>N.A.</b>	<b>N.A.</b>
<b>Total foreign nationals</b>	<b>43,180</b>	<b>47.6</b>	<b>7,744,139</b>	<b>7,787,319</b>	<b>13,382,962</b>	<b>23.5</b>

Sources: MHRSD, and GASat (census 2022). For details, see: <https://gulfmigration.grc.net/glmm-database/demographic-and-economic-module/?search=1&cmct=Saudi+Arabia>

Arab nationals made up almost a third of all foreign workers, but a half of those employed in the government sector. This may be due to their fluency in the Arabic language and to the contribution of certain nationalities (Egyptians, Jordanians, Palestinians) to the development of the Saudi governmental apparatus (education and health sectors, administration) since the 1950s. Sixty-five percent of Arab public sector employees held a university degree in 2022, as compared to 22.5 percent among Asian employees. Women among them were a minority (35 percent on average), except for Sudanese workers. Yet, the bulk of Arab migrants worked in the private sector (Table).

Sponsoring family dependents is only permitted to expatriates in managerial positions in Saudi Arabia. The share of workers among Arab nationals was below the average characterizing total foreign populations (Figure), and much lower than among nationals also found in low skilled positions, such as Indians (75 percent workers) or Bangladeshis (83 percent). The significant share of family members among residents thus confirms the generally skilled profile of most Arab nationals.

### Share of workers among Arab nationals in Saudi Arabia, by country of citizenship (2022)

