

GCC: Population employed in the private sector and percentage of non-nationals in the sector in GCC countries (2015-2024)

| | Bahrain | | | Kuwait | | | Oman | | | Qatar | | | Arabie Saoudite | | | UAE |
|------|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | Total pop. employed in private sector | Non-nationals employed in private sector | % non-nationals in private sector | Total pop. employed in private sector | Non-nationals employed in private sector | % non-nationals in private sector | Total pop. employed in private sector | Non-nationals employed in private sector | % non-nationals in private sector | Total labour force in private sector | Non-nationals in private sector | % non-nationals in private sector | Total pop. employed in private sector | Non-nationals employed in private sector | % non-nationals in private sector | Total pop. employed in private sector |
| 2015 | 546,572 | 445,374 | 81.5 | 1,480,249 | 1,410,010 | 95.3 | 1,583,462 | 1,373,842 | 86.8 | 1,511,627 | 1,499,956 | 99.2 | 10,140,936 | 8,416,681 | 83.0 | NA |
| 2016 | 611,229 | 509,062 | 83.3 | 1,580,347 | 1,509,087 | 95.5 | 1,728,019 | 1,504,936 | 87.1 | 1,602,630 | 1,592,577 | 99.4 | 10,168,137 | 8,492,965 | 83.5 | NA |
| 2017 | 599,714 | 495,912 | 82.7 | 1,638,020 | 1,566,782 | 95.7 | 1,741,496 | 1,502,808 | 86.3 | 1,606,550 | 1,596,340 | 99.4 | 9,701,960 | 7,928,287 | 81.7 | NA |
| 2018 | 608,220 | 503,006 | 82.7 | 1,698,528 | 1,625,589 | 95.7 | 1,687,285 | 1,435,153 | 85.1 | 1,652,818 | 1,642,498 | 99.4 | 8,599,487 | 6,895,514 | 80.2 | NA |
| 2019 | 605,824 | 498,999 | 82.4 | 1,714,063 | 1,640,830 | 95.7 | 1,626,288 | 1,363,955 | 83.9 | 1,661,807 | 1,651,951 | 99.4 | 8,138,590 | 6,437,886 | 79.1 | NA |
| 2020 | 564,641 | 460,022 | 81.5 | 1,567,114 | 1,494,133 | 95.3 | 1,468,057 | 1,115,322 | 76.0 | 1,710,948 | 1,702,251 | 99.5 | 8,026,901 | 6,280,145 | 78.2 | NA |
| 2021 | 507,978 | 411,129 | 80.9 | 1,434,824 | 1,362,602 | 95.0 | 1,482,180 | 1,107,574 | 74.7 | 1,593,673 | 1,584,118 | 99.4 | 8,084,253 | 6,174,178 | 76.4 | NA |
| 2022 | 560,037 | 459,986 | 82.1 | 1,572,384 | 1,500,551 | 95.4 | 1,742,955 | 1,359,776 | 78.0 | 1,675,213 | 1,665,285 | 99.4 | 9,422,233 | 7,227,688 | 76.7 | NA |
| 2023 | 560,290 | 458,768 | 81.9 | 1,656,955 | 1,584,125 | 95.6 | 1,853,973 | 1,454,170 | 78.4 | 1,721,695 | 1,710,971 | 99.4 | 10,292,270 | 7,991,679 | 77.6 | NA |
| 2024 | NA | NA | NA | 1,739,735 | 1,665,994 | 95.8 | 1,837,840 | 1,433,124 | 78.0 | 1,775,873 | 1,765,650 | 99.4 | 11,837,519 | 9,429,359 | 79.7 | NA |

Sources: national institutes of statistics and relevant national institutions

1- Definitions and remarks:

Non-nationals are:

- persons bearing nationality of a foreign State other than the GCC State of residence, or bearing no proof of nationality from any given state (stateless persons and holders of refugee status and travel document in a third country);
- Holders of residence permit residing in the given GCC country at date of census, as per definition of residence used in each of the countries.

Unless stated otherwise (if specific categories of workers are excluded from statistics, for instance), employment refers to: all persons of working age (15 and above), who during a reference period worked to produce goods or provide services for pay (cash or kind) or worked for profit from their own (or partially owned) business or worked without pay in the family business or with other individuals. It also includes those who have a temporary absence from a job during the reference period due to vacation or illness or any other reason.

Figures refer to workers employed in the private sector.

Reference period: end of year

Q4 of quarterly data published for Bahrain (until 2020), Kuwait, Saudi Arabia Annual data published for Oman, Qatar, UAE, and Bahrain (2021-).

Bahrain (until 2020):

Labour Market Regulation Authority (LMRA). Bahrain Labour Market Indicators (BLMI), Q4 2022,

https://blmi.lmra.gov.bh/2022/12/mi_dashboard.xml

Employment data include all civilian employed persons in the private and public sectors (insured, uninsured and self-employed) and domestic workers. Since Q1 2010, LMRA has been using data from LMRA Expat management System (EMS) to produce the total number of foreign worker employment in public and private sectors.

These include data taken from the Social Insurance Organisation (SIO), Pension Fund Commission (PFC), and Civil Service Bureau (CSB) monthly data files to LMRA

Private Sector for Non-Bahraini workers refers to the sum of “Commercial” and “Non-Commercial, Non-Government” (NCNG) sectors of LMRA’s EMS system.

No data on employment by sector after Q2 2023 in LMRA statistics.

2021-2023 data: IGA, Labour Force 2021, 2022, 2023.

<https://www.data.gov.bh/pages/homepage/>

Data for the Labour Force publication is taken from SIO records, Bahrain’s official social insurance authority.

As of 20 April 2026, no data is available beyond 2023.

Kuwait: Central Statistical Bureau. Integrated Database – LMIS, Q4 data, 2015 to 2024.

<https://lmis.csb.gov.kw/>

Data are taken from administrative records. The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) maintains statistics on workers in the private sector.

Oman: National Center for Statistics and Information (NCSI). Statistical Yearbook 2025, Chapter “Employment”

<https://www.ncsi.gov.om/publications>

<https://api.ncsi.gov.om/uploads/pdfs/publicationpdf1765273616.pdf>

“Private sector” includes Private, Communal and Other Sectors.

2020 and after: employment data published in the Yearbooks is taken from National Registration system (includes insured and uninsured employees).

Qatar: National Planning Council (NPC), formerly Planning and Statistics Authority. Annual Bulletins of Labour Force Sample Surveys 2015 to 2023

<https://www.npc.qa/en/statistics/pages/subjectdetails.aspx>

Population of reference: labour force.

Labour Force Survey data are collected on a monthly basis, and based on field surveys.

Saudi Arabia: General Authority for Statistics (GASat). Labour Market Statistics (2017-2022) and Register-based Labour Market Statistics (2023-2024), Q4 data.

2023-2025: available at:

<https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/statistics-tabs/-/categories/417515?tab=436312&category=417515>

Before 2023: available in the “archived data”:

<https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/statistics?index=1317550>

“social statistics”, and “labour force”

<https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/statistics-tabs?tab=436312&category=1333429>

2015-2016: Saudi Arabia Central Bank (SAMA). Yearly statistics

<https://www.sama.gov.sa/en-US/EconomicReports/Pages/report.aspx?cid=127>

The data is taken from the administrative records of subscribers to the General Organization of Social Insurance (GOSI).
Population of reference: workers employed in the private sector, registered with the GOSI.

UAE: No data available on total employed population by sector.

Last accessed: 20 April 2026

GLMM and GRC cannot guarantee that the link to access the source will not change;

that the information will not be removed from the website it was obtained from;

that no geo-blockages will be imposed; or that the information will not be available for any another reason.

Keywords: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Employment, Female Employment, Labour Market, National & Foreign Labour