

GCC: Total populations (nationals+non-nationals) employed in the private sector, by sex and GCC country (2015-2024)

	Bahrain			Kuwait			Oman			Qatar			Arabie Saoudite			UAE		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
2015	482,263	64,309	546,572	1,328,307	151,942	1,480,249	1,501,783	81,679	1,583,462	1,420,294	91,333	1,511,627	NA	NA	NA	4,309,434	424,851	4,734,285
2016	544,404	66,825	611,229	1,422,982	157,365	1,580,347	1,638,478	89,541	1,728,019	1,502,773	99,857	1,602,630	NA	NA	NA	4,404,163	447,419	4,851,582
2017	528,854	70,860	599,714	1,475,338	162,682	1,638,020	1,642,361	99,135	1,741,496	1,504,040	102,510	1,606,550	NA	NA	NA	4,539,473	473,161	5,012,634
2018	533,679	74,541	608,220	1,529,783	168,766	1,698,549	1,582,368	104,917	1,687,285	1,543,199	109,619	1,652,818	7,842,830	756,657	8,599,487	4,491,771	488,501	4,980,272
2019	528,412	77,412	605,824	1,538,184	175,879	1,714,063	1,514,008	112,280	1,626,288	1,555,969	105,838	1,661,807	7,353,681	784,909	8,138,590	4,569,274	525,133	5,094,407
2020	492,063	72,644	564,707	1,398,092	169,022	1,567,114	1,335,192	132,865	1,468,057	1,465,237	150,661	1,615,898	7,204,939	821,962	8,026,901	4,292,692	506,504	4,799,196
2021	482,190	75,673	557,863	1,270,371	164,453	1,434,824	1,334,099	148,081	1,482,180	1,459,912	133,761	1,593,673	7,160,076	924,177	8,084,253	4,359,741	550,369	4,910,110
2022	526,791	82,756	609,547	1,391,153	181,231	1,572,384	1,581,704	161,251	1,742,955	1,510,423	164,790	1,675,213	8,279,279	1,142,954	9,422,233	4,916,810	659,645	5,576,455
2023	NA	NA	NA	1,456,419	200,536	1,656,955	1,676,943	177,030	1,853,973	1,531,429	190,266	1,721,695	9,029,273	1,262,997	10,292,270	NA	NA	NA
2024	NA	NA	NA	1,521,311	218,424	1,739,735	1,656,416	181,424	1,837,840	NA	NA	NA	10,406,818	1,430,701	11,837,519	NA	NA	NA

Sources: national institutes of statistics and relevant national institutions

1- Definitions and remarks:

Non-nationals are:

1- 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);

2- 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, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia

Annual data published for Oman, Qatar, UAE.

Bahrain: 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.

No data on employment after Q2 2023 in LMRA statistics.

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/Elibrary/LibraryContentDoc/bar_bar_Statistical%20Year%20Book%202024%20Issue%2052_a0f3084d-42a7-4183-83c0-3c9e603f89b5.pdf

<https://www.ncsi.gov.om/Pages/Publications.aspx>

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

2020 and after: employment data 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, except for 2020 (employed population) Labour Force Survey data are collected on a monthly basis, and based on field surveys.

Annual Bulletin of Labour Force Survey 2024 unavailable as of 17 November 2025.

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>

From 2017 onwards, 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.

Data for 2015 and 2016 were not included, to keep consistency of sources.

UAE: Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization (MoHRE), Open Data section

<https://www.mohre.gov.ae/en/open-data/statistical-report>

https://bayanat.ae/en/Datasets?subtopic=x5RFL7NcnLlf6cZVR0r2U0s92UUJIeNXozZ3_zb-1pk

Total population (nationals+non-nationals) employed in private sector, registered as private sector employee by MoHRE.

See: <https://gulfmigration.grc.net/uae-total-labour-force-in-the-private-sector-by-occupation-2011-2022/>

Estimates for total employed population for years 2020 and beyond no longer available to the public as of November 2025.

Last accessed: 17 November 2025

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