

## Kuwait: Holders of article 18 (Non-governmental labour) residence permits by nationality group (2019-2024)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Arab countries	576,804	539,583	505,881	552,510	557,322	566,620
Non-Arab Asian countries	944,661	822,386	722,500	836,695	913,787	988,151
Non-Arab African countries	8,766	7,787	7,296	10,932	15,082	23,315
Europe	7,077	6,000	5,432	5,724	5,833	5,889
North America	8,390	7,223	6,387	7,188	7,274	7,448
South and Central America	886	800	756	921	1,009	1,049
Australia and Pacific	621	557	483	473	469	496
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,547,205	1,384,336	1,248,735	1,414,443	1,500,776	1,592,968

**Source: Central Statistical Bureau, Migration Statistics Bulletin, given years.**

### **ANNEXED NOTE**

#### **1. Definitions**

Data taken from Ministry of Interior's (Directorate of Migration's) annual records of residency permits granted to foreign residents by type/ purpose of permit, sex and regional origin of holder.

**The data presented in the table are stock data: all the non-national residents holding a residence permit to work in the private sector, valid and/or effective until the issuance of the Bulletin, on December 31st of the given year,**

**Residency procedures do not apply to GCC nationals and to Bidouns (stateless residents of Kuwait).**

**The table thus excludes the Bidouns, the non-Kuwaiti GCC citizens and those in irregular situation.**

**Dependent permit:** spouse, children or elderly dependent relatives can join visa holder (sponsor) in Kuwait, if the expatriate has obtained a residency and meets the salary requirements. A working wife cannot sponsor her husband as a dependent. Sons over the age of 21 years cannot be sponsored as dependents,

though adult daughters and parents may be permitted. Dependent family members are not allowed to work on a Dependent Visa.

Every foreign resident including new born babies must hold a residency permit.

**Self residence permit:** Expatriates may sponsor themselves under article 24 of the regulations and obtain a residence for two to five years under several conditions, among which: being aged 60 and more, having worked no less than 25 years in Kuwait, owning a capital of 10,000 KD at least; holding a certificate of good conduct, effectively reside in Kuwait, etc.

This form of residence can be renewed upon expiry. Self-sponsored expatriates may sponsor their wives and children.

**Permits 17, 18, 19 and 20** are only granted after Ministry of Labour issues a work permit.

## **2. Institution which provides data**

Central Statistical Bureau (CSB), Ministry of Planning.

## **3. Period of data coverage**

December 31st, given years.

## **4. Data availability**

The present data is taken from the "Migration Statistics" reports, published annually by the CSB.

The report (in Arabic and English, PDF format with Excel tables) is available on CSB's website

(Population Statistics, then Migration Statistics)

[https://www.csb.gov.kw/Pages/Statistics\\_en?ID=56&ParentCatID=1](https://www.csb.gov.kw/Pages/Statistics_en?ID=56&ParentCatID=1)

<https://www.csb.gov.kw/Pages/Statistics?ID=56&ParentCatID=1>

**Date of access: 15 June 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:** Kuwait, Foreign Population, Employment, Legal Document, Residence Conditions