

Kuwait: Holders of article 24 residence permits (self-sponsorship) by nationality group and sex (2019-2024)

	2019			2020			2021			2022			2023			2024		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Arab countries	835	965	1,800	826	996	1,822	821	1,068	1,889	693	1,029	1,722	434	996	1,430	412	1,026	1,438
Non-Arab Asian countries	190	280	470	184	278	462	194	299	493	168	284	452	122	280	402	116	294	410
Non-Arab African countries	4	7	11	4	10	14	4	14	18	3	13	16	1	10	11	1	11	12
Europe	35	26	61	33	23	56	35	24	59	40	23	63	37	24	61	41	30	71
North America	46	22	68	50	22	72	55	27	82	50	21	71	27	22	49	27	18	45
South and Central America	11	5	16	10	5	15	10	6	16	12	6	18	16	2	18	14	2	16
Australia and Pacific	8	6	14	9	6	15	9	6	15	5	5	10	6	3	9	5	4	9
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,129	1,311	2,440	1,116	1,340	2,456	1,128	1,444	2,572	971	1,381	2,352	643	1,337	1,980	616	1,385	2,001

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

ANNEXED NOTE

1. Definitions

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.

Data presented in the table are stock data: non-national residents holding a residence permit on December 31st, the given year (residencies delivered for the first time a given year+residencies renewed that year)

The present figures include permits delivered for the purpose of residing in Kuwait, as a self-sponsored resident.

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.

As of 2026, residency conditions underwent reforms:

<https://www.fragomen.com/insights/kuwait-new-immigration-rules-increase-residency-and-visa-stay-periods-clarify-visit-visa-conversion-relax-passport-requirements-increase-fees.html>

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.

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

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Date of access: 01 July 2026.

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Keywords: Kuwait, Foreign Population, Legal Document, Residence Conditions, Sponsorship, Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, South America, Oceania