

Kuwait: Male residency permit holders by group of countries of origin (2017-2024)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Arab countries	651,246	686,601	690,455	670,747	630,047	678,087	676,964	694,817
Non-Arab Asian countries	1,251,440	1,311,673	1,310,185	1,151,263	1,020,961	1,174,599	1,249,759	1,276,256
Non-Arab African countries	8,791	9,864	10,728	9,382	8,527	11,991	15,511	22,221
Europe	7,643	7,683	6,823	6,412	5,756	6,054	5,979	6,167
North America	11,707	11,731	10,484	10,242	9,452	10,101	9,796	10,110
South and Central America	837	999	1,008	937	888	1,046	1,109	1,159
Australia and Pacific	864	853	788	764	685	646	637	690
Other	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,932,529	2,029,405	2,030,472	1,849,747	1,676,316	1,882,524	1,959,755	2,011,420

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 valid and/or effective until the issuance of the Bulletin,

on December 31st of the given year,

EXCEPT the numbers of holders of permit n°14 (temporary residents), which are not available before 2019 and were not included in this table.

The present figures include permits delivered for all other purposes of stay in Kuwait:

1- Labour in all sectors: governmental sector (n°17); private sector (n°18); business (freelance) (n°19) and domestic sector (n°20)

2- Residence: as family dependent (permit n°22); studies (n°23) and self-residence (n°24).

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

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Date of access: 29 May 2026.

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Keywords: Kuwait, Foreign Population, Employment, Legal Document, Residence Conditions, Family Reunification