

Kuwait: Residency permit holders by group of countries of origin (2011-2025)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Arab countries	722,575	750,426	802,213	837,363	877,959	898,660	916,169	952,261	997,788	947,282	905,736	960,774	957,338	1,002,294	1,027,826
Non-Arab Asian countries	1,338,340	1,391,040	1,458,161	1,525,083	1,620,129	1,714,717	1,775,919	1,849,050	1,921,465	1,729,171	1,554,994	1,813,954	1,914,264	1,943,343	2,037,202
Non-Arab African countries	73,403	83,144	93,004	73,300	61,070	49,634	47,254	53,778	45,697	36,718	28,471	31,922	35,924	46,800	68,520
Europe	10,216	10,554	10,921	11,443	12,081	12,482	13,565	13,726	13,435	12,101	11,271	11,571	11,357	11,774	12,091
North America	19,191	19,311	18,244	18,297	18,403	18,860	19,079	19,223	18,899	17,882	16,847	17,303	16,831	17,274	17,046
South and Central America	1,121	1,131	1,109	1,104	1,179	1,343	1,499	1,746	1,897	1,934	1,733	1,921	2,017	2,093	1,903
Australia and Pacific	1,416	1,408	1,426	1,419	1,452	1,495	1,467	1,469	1,430	1,350	1,246	1,167	1,123	1,209	1,266
Other	13	13	11	9	3	4	3	2	2	1	3	1	0	1	4
Total	2,166,275	2,257,027	2,385,089	2,468,018	2,592,276	2,697,195	2,774,955	2,891,255	3,000,613	2,746,439	2,520,301	2,838,613	2,938,854	3,024,788	3,165,858

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.

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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