

Kuwait: Residency permits issued for the first time, by nationality group (2011-2024)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Arab countries	51,135	51,526	49,936	44,376	43,118	25,419	30,732	33,503	30,115	11,217	15,925	36,441	23,281	27,322
Non-Arab Asian countries	174,289	149,163	117,996	152,609	160,576	41,863	43,153	60,347	62,051	17,650	25,071	82,997	58,209	60,640
Non-Arab African countries	9,980	9,027	6,640	11,235	12,765	706	695	944	733	423	701	957	904	1,538
Europe	2,121	1,914	1,503	1,315	1,110	605	624	711	733	496	852	1,099	930	876
North America	6,769	5,663	3,622	2,632	2,568	1,238	1,152	1,270	1,326	698	1,120	1,575	1,378	1,626
South and Central America	215	198	212	117	80	73	89	96	116	63	125	221	196	188
Australia and Pacific	175	155	145	139	98	62	56	57	57	41	74	69	77	79
Other	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total	244,686	217,647	180,054	212,424	220,316	69,967	76,501	96,929	95,131	30,588	43,869	123,359	84,975	92,269

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

ANNEXED NOTE

1. Definitions

Processing by CSB of 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 present figures include permits delivered for all purposes of stay in Kuwait:

- 1- Labour in all sectors: governmental (n°17); private sector (n°18); business (n°19) and domestic (n°20) sectors
- 2- Residence: temporary residence (n°14); as family dependent (permit n°22); for the purpose of studying (n°23) and for self-sponsorship (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.

2. Institution which provides data

Migration Department, Ministry of Interior (MoI) and 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?ID=56&ParentCatID=1>

Date of access: 01 July 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, Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, South America, Oceania