

## Saudi Arabia: Work visas allotted for employment in the private sector, by country of citizenship and sex of holder (2014)

	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% of total</b>
<b>India</b>	465,467	6,421	<b>471,888</b>	<b>28.8</b>
<b>Pakistan</b>	286,519	704	<b>287,223</b>	<b>17.5</b>
<b>Egypt</b>	236,301	3,432	<b>239,733</b>	<b>14.6</b>
<b>Philippines</b>	159,722	27,312	<b>187,034</b>	<b>11.4</b>
<b>Nepal</b>	130,084	3,278	<b>133,362</b>	<b>8.1</b>
<b>Sudan</b>	57,066	499	<b>57,565</b>	<b>3.5</b>
<b>Yemen</b>	53,570	244	<b>53,814</b>	<b>3.3</b>
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	38,332	2,464	<b>40,796</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b>Indonesia</b>	20,853	5,214	<b>26,067</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>Turkey</b>	21,833	74	<b>21,907</b>	<b>1.3</b>
<b>China</b>	20,059	61	<b>20,120</b>	<b>1.2</b>
<b>Jordan</b>	18,290	750	<b>19,040</b>	<b>1.2</b>
<b>Bangladesh</b>	10,347	270	<b>10,617</b>	<b>0.6</b>
<b>Vietnam</b>	7,505	2,337	<b>9,842</b>	<b>0.6</b>
<b>Lebanon</b>	6,760	404	<b>7,164</b>	<b>0.4</b>
<b>Kenya</b>	2,561	4,285	<b>6,846</b>	<b>0.4</b>
<b>UK</b>	4,815	741	<b>5,556</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>USA</b>	4,779	646	<b>5,425</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>Morocco</b>	4,480	899	<b>5,379</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>South Korea</b>	2,485	2	<b>2,487</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Other countries</b>	20,587	4,204	<b>24,791</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,572,415</b>	<b>64,241</b>	<b>1,636,656</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Ministry of Labour

### 1. Definitions

The labour visa allows the worker to enter Saudi Arabia. It is issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after Ministry of Labour issues its agreement. In order to employ workers from abroad, the sponsoring company must first file a "Block Visa" request with the Ministry of Labor, requesting pre-approval to sponsor foreign employees.

Once the Block Visa request is approved, the sponsoring company in Saudi Arabia should obtain a visa authorization number and an electronic power of attorney authorized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Saudi Arabia. Foreign nationals may then apply for work visas through Saudi consular posts in their country of residence. Several documents are required before issuance

of work visas, including medical certificate.

Therefore, work visas are more than the actual workers present in the country and granted labour permits, as some eventually do not terminate the procedure, or are rejected at a later stage (entry visa; residency procedures...).

Temporary or seasonal visas are allotted for short-term and limited employment duration, for example for the provision of services during the Hajj season in Makkah and Madina, or in agriculture.

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

Ministry of Labour of Saudi Arabia

(<http://portal.mol.gov.sa/Sites/default.aspx>)

## **3. Data availability**

The figures are published in the Ministry of Labour's website (open data section) (in Arabic).

<http://portal.mol.gov.sa/ar/Statistics/Pages/opendata.aspx?m=8>

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