



International
Labour
Organization

► ASSESSMENT OF LABOUR MIGRATION STATISTICS

IRAQ Country Profile

To be read with Tables 1, 2 and 3
10 March 2022



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Estimates of the numbers of foreign nationals in Iraq are hard to come by, due to a lack of data and labour migration policy. Before the First Gulf War of 1990-1992, Egyptian workers alone numbered between 700,000 and above 1 million in the country.¹ Since 2003, Iraq has mainly recovered its position as a migrant host country. Foreign workers can be found in all sectors of the economy, in both skilled and unskilled roles. It was estimated, for instance, that 75 per cent of the workers employed in the construction sector were foreign in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) in 2013.² The estimated number of migrant workers in the country was 147,000 in 2000; 83,000 in 2010; and 96,000 in 2013.³ The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the KRI stated in 2015 that just over 10,000 foreign workers held permits for project and domestic work that year.⁴ These figures are underestimated, as informal employment is frequent in Iraq.⁵ In January 2016, for instance, the Iraqi Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs reported that approximately 140,000 foreign workers were lacking formal work permits.⁶

I. Iraq’s statistical apparatus and major sources of immigration data

Iraq has a long statistical tradition. After two censuses in 1927 and 1934, the country has been conducting population censuses every ten years between 1947 and 1997. Moreover, “Iraq was once considered a leader in household expenditure and income surveys. Its first was conducted in 1946, with follow-up surveys in 1954 and 1961. After the establishment of the Central Statistical Organization (CSO, the precursor to COSIT (see below)), household expenditure and income surveys were carried out every three to five years (in 1971/1972, 1976, 1979, 1984/1985, 1988)”.⁷

The **Central Organization of Statistics and Information Technology (COSIT)** also referred to as the **Central Statistical Organization (CSO)** was created in 1968 under the umbrella of Iraq’s Ministry of Planning. The CSO’s Population and Manpower Statistics Directorate carries out the population censuses and other surveys on population, social, economic, and housing issues at the level of the smallest administrative units for both urban and rural areas.⁸ Since the 1990s, a series of political events have disrupted the coverage of CSO’s operations.⁹ The three governorates of Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dohouk (Kurdistan region) were not covered in the 1993 and 2002/2003 socio-economic household surveys, and in the 1997 census. Census 2009 had to be postponed and Iraq could only complete a numbering of the population, while some parts of the country were inaccessible to fieldwork in the period 2014 to 2018, as seen in Table 1 (Rapid Welfare Monitoring Survey (SWIFT) of 2017-2018 and the Assessment of the Labour Market & Skills Analysis, for instance).

The COSIT and the newly established **Kurdistan Region Statistics Organization (KRSO)**,¹⁰ the Kurdistan Region Government’s official statistical organization, started cooperating on the Iraq Household Socio-Economic Survey (IHSES) of 2006, which covered all governorates including those in the Kurdistan Region, while the KRSO has been conducting specific surveys with the assistance of UN organizations, such as the 2018 Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) Demographic Survey conducted with IOM and UNFPA. In cooperation with ILO, CSO and KRSO conducted a Labour Force Survey in 2020-2021, in which a set of questions was asked about migration (see Table 1, line 11).

Iraq’s planned 2022 general population census will cover all the 18 governorates. Household enumeration forms will be registered electronically during field visits. The declared aim of the census is “building a database, identifying demographic characteristics, and developing long-term plans, as well as knowing the needs related to the education, health, infrastructure and other sectors”,¹¹ an essential phase in the country’s reconstruction.

1 Fargues, Ph. *Générations arabes*, Paris, Fayard, 2000, p. 256.

2 Government of Iraq and KR-I/ UNESCO/European Union TVET Reform Programme. *Assessment of the Labour Market & Skills Analysis*. Iraq and Kurdistan Region-Iraq, Baghdad, UNESCO, 2019, p. 37.

3 National Strategy for Migration Management in Iraq, p.5.

4 Government of Iraq and KR-I/ UNESCO/European Union TVET Reform Programme. *Assessment of the Labour Market & Skills Analysis*. Iraq and Kurdistan Region-Iraq, Baghdad, UNESCO, 2019, p. 37.

5 <https://iraq.un.org/index.php/en/160608-new-report-identifies-drivers-informality-iraqs-labour-market>.

6 <https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-trafficking-in-persons-report/iraq/>.

7 <http://www.erfdataportal.com/index.php/catalog/107>.

8 <http://cosit.gov.iq/ar/2013-01-31-06-16-32/2013-05-02-14-21-49>.

9 Establishment of an autonomous Kurdistan Region in 1991; the United States-led occupation of Iraq and fall of Saddam Hussein’s regime; and the 2014-2017 war against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

10 The KRSO covers the KRI’s three governorates of Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dohouk.

11 <https://mop.gov.iq/en/news/view/details?id=766>.

Since the establishment of the KRI’s government, all institutions dealing with international migrants and migrant workers are replicated in the two zones, but policies and attributions may differ.

The **Foreign Workers Department, of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA)**, like its counterpart in the KRI, issues work permits to migrant workers.

The **Directorate of Residency Affairs/Department of Arab Affairs**, of the **federal Ministry of Interior (MoI)**, issues the residency documents to foreign residents, like the Ministry of Interior of the KRI. Sponsored foreigners formally residing in KRI (Dohouk, Suleymaniyeh, Erbil governorates), including Arab Iraqis, receive a residency card for a residence exceeding 30 days. However, Kurdish individuals born in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq or born abroad but whose family is originally from the Kurdistan Region, do not need a residency card.¹²

The **Permanent Committee for Refugee Affairs** of the **Ministry of Interior** oversees the issuance of identification documents to UNHCR-recognised refugees in Iraq.¹³ The Refugee Residence Card issued after registration allows the bearer freedom of movement,¹⁴ the right to work, and access to food, public schools, and health services.¹⁵

The **Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD)** was established in 2003, to assist displaced Iraqis, Iraqi returnees from abroad, 1948 Palestinian refugees, as well as refugees from other countries in Iraq.¹⁶ The MoMD maintains records of refugees and asylum-seekers who are residing in Iraq, and whose asylum has been accepted in accordance with international laws and conventions to which Iraq is a party.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 illustrate the lack of data available on migration in Iraq. CSO’s many productions, for instance, do not tackle migration, to the exception of two surveys conducted with the assistance of UN bodies (the six sectoral reports of the Assessment of the Labour Market & Skills Analysis, Iraq and Kurdistan Region-Iraq, and the Demographic Survey conducted in 2018 in the KRI). The Labour Force Survey conducted in late 2021 with the assistance of ILO will also cover and single out migrant workers in Iraq in a new module on international migration (Table 1, line 11).

The administrative records maintained by the MoMD, MoLSA and MoI are not published, or reprocessed anywhere for publication.

II. Methodologies, classifications, and definitions: compliance with ICLS Guidelines, and limitations

Methodologies

Iraq’s long experience in conducting field surveys and UN assistance guarantee the soundness of methodologies applied to the many field surveys. However, the political and fragile security situation and the central or regional delegations’ lack of control over their territories, added to the geographic dispersion of some populations, such as Bedouin nomads or semi-nomads in tribal areas, hamper the full representativity of statistical operations.

The administrative registration of populations, such as international migrant workers, in Iraq and in the KRI, is also weak, and informal employment is frequent.¹⁷ The Iraqi Labour Law of 2015 imposes on all foreign workers to apply for a work permit before starting employment in Iraq.¹⁸ However, the previous Iraqi Labour Code No. 71 of 1987 treated Arab employees as Iraqis, and therefore exempted Arab workers from the obligation to obtain work permits.¹⁹ The decades-long tolerance towards Arab workers’ insertion in the Iraqi labour market may have contributed to the prevalence of informal employment in the country. Moreover, Recommendation 46 (2012) allows for employers to employ 50 per cent foreign labour, and Law 80 (2013) allows foreign companies with government contracts to bring in their own labour without approval for one month.²⁰ Consequently, some of these workers will not register themselves, and will continue to stay in Iraq as migrants in an irregular situation.

12 <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5aa915c07.html>.

13 <https://reliefweb.int/report/iraq/unhcr-ministry-interior-achieve-milestone-refugee-rights-iraq-new-memorandum-signing>.

14 Within the Southern and Central governorates of Iraq only (<https://help.unhcr.org/iraq/en/rights-and-obligations/civil-documentation-and-residency/>).

15 <https://www.unhcr.org/4fc880ae13.pdf>.

16 <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/5c75602f7.pdf>.

17 <https://iraq.un.org/index.php/en/160608-new-report-identifies-drivers-informality-iraqs-labour-market>.

18 <https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/MONOGRAPH/96652/114261/F-218842884/IRQ96652%20Eng.pdf>, chapter 5.

19 <https://shieldgeo.com/iraq-immigration-and-work-permits/>.

20 Government of Iraq and KR-I/ UNESCO/European Union TVET Reform Programme. Assessment of the Labour Market & Skills Analysis. Iraq and Kurdistan Region-Iraq, Baghdad, UNESCO, 2019, p. 37.

Classifications

Recent surveys conducted during the 2010s in Iraq, with UN assistance, use the international classifications of activities and occupations.

Definitions

In Iraq, like elsewhere in the region, long-term settlement of foreign nationals is not encouraged. The Law on the Residence of Foreigners (2017) does not provide a path for foreign residents to obtain permanent residence permits in Iraq, except for Palestinian refugees. Naturalisations are rare. The Iraqi Nationality Law of 2006 grants all non-nationals the possibility to apply for citizenship, provided they hold a valid status and they resided in Iraq for ten continuous years.²¹

Moreover, the birth right for citizenship and maternal transmission of citizenship do not apply in Iraq, like in most countries in the region. This has a major implication as regards the consistency of concepts and definitions used in Iraq with those of the ILO. International migrants are referred to as “foreigners”;²² yet, this category is not consistent with the concept of international migrant as defined in the ICLS Guidelines 2018 (§13), which “include[s] all those residents of a given country who have ever changed their country of usual residence.” Indeed, a share of the foreign residents, born in Iraq but not naturalised, are not “migrants” according to the UN definition, which takes as a criterion the change of usual residence. Children of a foreign father and an Iraqi or a foreign mother, for instance, are unduly counted as migrants.

III. Coherence/ discrepancies between sources of data; estimates of the migrant population

No data is available to assess discrepancies between sources.

IV. Suggestions for improvement of the data and indicators

The focus of attention in federal Iraq and in the Kurdistan region has been on refugees since the outbreak of the many conflicts affecting the country since the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980. Iraq and the KRI are now well advanced in the reconstruction phase, which started attracting foreign workers,²³ especially in the KRI.²⁴ It would be important to monitor the employment of these workers, register them to protect their rights, as well as disclose figures of employed foreign workers, recorded and non-recorded. More generally, the newly-drafted Migration Strategy for Iraq²⁵ should be implemented to set up a migration policy which is currently lacking in Iraq.²⁶

More generally, Table 1, 2 and 3 illustrate the lack of data available on international migration in Iraq: a lot of statistics are produced by the CSO, for example, but these investigations do not include questions specifically addressing migrants in Iraq. No publication is dedicated to or mentions migration among the CSO’s productions.

21 Except for Palestinian refugees, as naturalisation would compromise their right of return to Palestine.

22 <https://arabic.sputniknews.com/20211115/%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D9%85%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%84-%D8%A3%D8%AC%D9%86%D8%A8%D9%8A-%D9%81%D8%A7%D9%82%D9%85%D9%88%D8%A7-%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%AF%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A8%D8%B7%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A9-%D8%A8%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%82%D9%8A%D9%8A%D9%86-1050709109.html>

23 <https://arabic.sputniknews.com/20211115/%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D9%85%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%84-%D8%A3%D8%AC%D9%86%D8%A8%D9%8A-%D9%81%D8%A7%D9%82%D9%85%D9%88%D8%A7-%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%AF%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A8%D8%B7%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A9-%D8%A8%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%82%D9%8A%D9%8A%D9%86-1050709109.html>

24 <https://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/12052019>.

25 The national migration strategy for Iraq was prepared by an intragovernmental technical working group, consisting of MoMD, MoI, MoFA, MoLSA, the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Justice, the Central Statistics Organisation and officials from the Kurdistan Regional Government. The process was facilitated by IOM (National Strategy for Migration Management in Iraq, October 2020). Besides some limited discussion on data (pp. 2-3), the report identifies the strengthening of the use and the reporting of migration data as one of the strategic objectives (pp. 8-9).

26 IOM. Migration Governance Indicators (MGI): Republic of Iraq, Geneva: IOM, 2020, p. 15; ; National Strategy for Migration Management in Iraq, p.4. The Residence of Foreigners Law No. (76) of 2017 does not address the issue of immigration and refugees.

Government bodies dealing with international migrants (MoDM, MoI, MoLSA) do not have publications disseminating data pertaining to the various migrant populations they deal with, or migration stages they cover. Administrative data is not reprocessed in other publications either. It is absent from the CSO's Statistical Abstracts, for instance, unlike in many countries in the region, which routinely reproduce administrative data in their National Statistical Office (NSO)'s yearly publications.

Given the significant presence of refugees and growing numbers of international work migrants in the two parts of the country, systematically addressing migration in statistical research, as well as disseminating data of concern on migration (survey results as well as administrative data), is a priority.

► Table 1: IRAQ. National sources of statistical data on migration and work migration to Iraq and their characteristics (as of 30/09/2021)

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Data collection						
	Data-producing body	Source	Type of data collection operation	Data collected	Periodicity of data collection	Data collection method
Stocks	Minister of Planning, Central Statistical Organisation (CSO)	census	Survey	2009: listing and numbering of population at national, governorate and local level; 1997: housing, household demographics, employment (6 years and above), disability, fertility, migration (incl. Place of birth and nationality of HH members, residence during 1987 census), and education. The census day was October 17, 1997.	1947; 1957; 1967; 1977; 1987; 1997; 2009 (numbering and listing only-census postponed); Nov. 2022 (forecasted)	Interviews
		Employment and Unemployment Survey	Survey		2003-2006; 2008	Interviews
		Mining and quarrying survey of the Private sector 2014	Establishment survey	On workers in the sector:sex, nationality, occupation/skill level, paid/unpaid, average salary	2014	Interviews
	Ministry of Planning, Central Statistical Organisation (CSO)/ Kurdistan Statistical Organization (KRSO)	Population statistics	Estimates	Total population of Iraq (2015-2030); total population by sex, age (single years; five-years age groups); governorate of residence, urban/rural; fertility and mortality indicators	yearly-since 2015	estimates based on census 2009; IHSES 2013 and other surveys (fertility, mortality)
		Labour Force statistics	Estimates	Unemployment rates (15+; 15-24); activity rates (15+; 6-14), disaggregated by sex and governorate of residence.	2014; 2016	estimates based on IHSES-CHS 2014 and ? For 2016
		Labour Force Survey	Survey	Socio-demographic and employment characteristics of persons in employment and in unemployment. Includes new modules on international migration, time use, disabled persons, impact on COVID-19 on Labour market, and participation of persons and establishments in unions	2021	Interviews
		Iraq Household Socioeconomic Survey (IHSES)	Income/ Expenditure/ Household Survey	NO MENTION OF INTERVIEWEES' NATIONALITY. Part 1: Socio – Economic Data: - Section 1: Household Roster: one question on household member's place of birth (governorate inside Iraq/outside Iraq-no specification of country (http://www.erfdataportal.com/index.php/catalog/108/variable-groups/VG17); mention of non-kin-related members of HH: domestic and other foreign workers presumably included; Section 2: Emigration (migration events and reasons for migration): one question on previous place of residence (inside Iraq-governorate/outside Iraq), one question on reason for changing place of residence- includes work, migration and forced migration, and return from emigration or forced emigration- May concern foreign residents, or Iraqi returnees from abroad; Section 8: job seeking and previous job, labour: Labour force status; Main activity status in the current period; Status of Employment; Occupation classification for the main job; Industry classification for the main job; Sector of employment	since the 2000s: 2006-2007; 2012-2013	Face to face interviews
		Continuous Household Survey (CHS)			2014	Face to face interviews
		Rapid Welfare Monitoring Survey (SWIFT) 2017-2018		Short questionnaire: Syrian refugees singled out (question 1B)+period of arrival in Iraq. Household structure and enrolment/education characteristics: HH members aged 6 and above: activity status, relation to labour force (for paid and unpaid jobs), reason for not working, actions undertaken to find a job, (for employed) type of job, sector; housing; durable goods; shocks experienced; subjective wellbeing..	2017-2018	Computer Assisted Personal Interview [capi]

Data collection							
	Data-producing body	Source	Primary source of information (if administrative records)	Survey unit	Statistical population/ data coverage	Classifications used	Definitions (compliance with ILO concepts)
Stocks	Minister of Planning, Central Statistical Organisation (CSO)	census		Individuals; Households	De Facto and de jure population. 1997: Erbil, Suleymaniyeh and Dohouk governorates (Kurdistan region) are excluded		International migrants identified through nationality and place of birth. Labour-related concepts and definitions: compliance with ILO concepts and classifications, with some revisions to take into account the data available.
		Employment and Unemployment Survey		Households, Individuals			
		Mining and quarrying survey of the Private sector 2014		Establishments	All establishments in the "Mining and Quarrying" section of ISIC-4	ISIC-4	
	Ministry of Planning, Central Statistical Organisation (CSO)/ Kurdistan Statistical Organization (KRSO)	Population statistics		Individuals	Total population including KR-I		
		Labour Force statistics		Individuals			
		Labour Force Survey		Individuals	Representative sample of Iraq's population (16,000 households)	As per ILO's recommendations in ICLS 19	
		Iraq Household Socioeconomic Survey (IHSES)		Households, Individuals	Nationally and locally-representative sample of the households in the 18 governorates and 118 districts (qadhas) of the country (final sample size: 24,944 households and 176,042 individuals)	ISCO-08, ISIC Rev.4 (4 digits)	International migrants/refugees identified through place of birth, but no mention of nationality (except Syrian refugees in SWIFT 2017-2018). Labour-related concepts and definitions: compliance with ILO concepts and classifications, with some revisions to take into account the data available..
		Continuous Household Survey (CHS)			sub-sample of IHSES clusters		
		Rapid Welfare Monitoring Survey (SWIFT) 2017-2018			Nationally and locally representative sample + representative sample of IDPs. KR: refugee households (especially, Syrian refugees) were included in sample. Survey conducted in 106 of 120 districts (qadas) in the whole country (9 out of 10 in Nenevah, 3 in Anbar, 1 in Baghdad, 1 in Salah al-din were excluded for security reasons). Households residing in camps were excluded from the sample.		

	Data collection					
	Data-producing body	Source	Type of data collection operation	Data collected	Periodicity of data collection	Data collection method
Stocks	Government of Iraq and KR-I/ UNESCO/European Union TVET Reform Programme	Assessment of the Labour Market & Skills Analysis. Iraq and Kurdistan Region-Iraq (6 sectoral reports)	Sectoral survey	Research on skills available in 7 key sectors (Agriculture, Construction, Accommodation and Food Services (Hospitality), Wholesale and Trade, Manufacturing, Transport and Storage, ICT), and the informal sector	2018	Interviews
	Kurdistan Statistical Organization (KRSO)	Kurdistan labour market surveys (klfs)	?	?	2012-2014? (https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/672671468196766598/pdf/106132-v2-main-report-P159972-PUBLIC-KRG-Economic-Reform-Roadmap-post-Decision-Review-05-30-16.pdf , p. 197).	?
	Kurdistan Statistical Organization (KRSO)/UNFPA/ IOM	Demographic Survey- Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) 2018	field survey	a socio-demographic survey to improve the estimates of the age and sex structure of the population, as well as other indicators of families in the KRI. Section A of the questionnaire provides the geographical data on the household (governorate, district, sub-district; the type of location where the household was found (urban or rural); the interview date; the name of the enumerator and the identifier code numbers of the team and of the household questionnaire. Section B of the questionnaire records data on the type of household: habitual residence, shelter type, shelter conditions and ownership, sewage system, source of water, electricity source, heating and cooling devices, ownership of main household items, internet access, monthly income, and sources of subsistence. Section C of the questionnaire records the data on all members living or belonging to a household, and on absent members (whether temporarily or permanently absent) who have left the household or had passed away since 2014. Household members' information for current members include sex and age, the relation with the head of the household, marital status, number of children, number of living children, whether they attend school, education completed, employment status and type of work, vulnerabilities or physical/mental challenges and type. Household members' demographic information for absent members include the relation with the head of the household, the duration of absence (specified in month and year), sex, age (age at time of death for deceased persons or time of disappearance for absent members) and reason of absence and death.	2018	interviews
	Department of Immigration Affairs, Ministry of Displacement and Migration	Refugees and asylum seekers records	administrative recording		continuous	administrative records
	Directorate of Residency Affairs/ Department of Arab Affairs, Ministry of Interior (MoI)	residence permits records	administrative recording		continuous	administrative records
	Kurdistan Regional Government, Ministry of Interior	residence permits records	administrative recording	sex, date and place of birth, nationality, duration of stay	continuous	administrative records
	Foreign workers Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Labour permits and foreign workers records	administrative recording	The work contract stipulates the name of the employee, his date of birth, qualifications, place of residence and nationality; the nature and type of the work, the length and the starting date of the contract; the principal salary plus any allowances, any extras or increases, benefits or awards which the worker is entitled to; the agreed place and the time of payment; and the number of working hours agreed upon and how they are organised. No records of technical or professional level foreign workers. There is no complete record of the technical skills or qualifications of foreign workers (http://cosit.gov.iq/documents/population/demographic/reports/UNESCO-EU%20LMS%20Report_Informal_20022019.pdf).	continuous	administrative records

	Data collection						
	Data-producing body	Source	Primary source of information (if administrative records)	Survey unit	Statistical population/ data coverage	Classifications used	Definitions (compliance with ILO concepts)
Stocks	Government of Iraq and KR-I/ UNESCO/European Union TVET Reform Programme	Assessment of the Labour Market & Skills Analysis. Iraq and Kurdistan Region-Iraq (6 sectoral reports)		Establishments, individuals	a sample of firms from each of the 7 economic sectors from 8 governorates	ISIC-4	
	Kurdistan Statistical Organization (KRSO)	Kurdistan labour market surveys (klfs)			??		
	Kurdistan Statistical Organization (KRSO)/UNFPA/ IOM	Demographic Survey- Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) 2018		households, individuals	Sample: 13,200 households in the governorates of Duhok, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah+ an additional sample of 400 IDP families in 8 camps across KRI, representative of the reference population of 5,122,747 individuals as of 2014.		
	Department of Immigration Affairs, Ministry of Displacement and Migration	Refugees and asylum seekers records	MoMD records	Individuals	Palestinian refugees who were forced to leave their homeland since 1948 and legally resided in Iraq; Asylum-seekers and refugees from other nationalities to Iraq and those whose asylum has been accepted in accordance with international law and conventions to which Iraq is a party		
	Directorate of Residency Affairs/Department of Arab Affairs, Ministry of Interior (MoI)	residence permits records	Residence permits records	Individuals	Sponsored foreigners formally residing in Iraq (outside the 3 governorates of KR), including Palestinians, for durations longer than 3 months. Residency is granted for one year.		
	Kurdistan Regional Government, Ministry of Interior	residence permits records	KR-MoI records of residencies	Individuals	Sponsored foreigners formally residing in KR (Dohouk, Suleymaniyeh, Erbil governorates), including Arab Iraqis. The residency card is issued by the KRG Ministry of Interior for all those who intend to stay in the Kurdistan Region for more than 30 days. The residency is for six months or one year, renewable (Oct. 2017). Kurdish individual born in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq or born abroad but his/her family is from the Region, he or she does not need a residency card (https://www.refworld.org/docid/5aa915c07.html).		
	Foreign workers Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Labour permits and foreign workers records	MoLSA records	Individuals	All foreign workers, according to Labour Law of 2015 (https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/MONOGRAPH/96652/114261/F-218842884/IRQ96652%20Eng.pdf). MoLSA in Iraq and KR-I issue work permits for 'domestic' and 'project' foreign workers		

	Data dissemination					
	Data-producing body	Source	Name of publication/ dataset	Available data	disaggregation variables	Frequency of dissemination
Stocks	Minister of Planning, Central Statistical Organisation (CSO)	census		No data disaggregated by nationality, place of birth in 2009 publication		after survey
		Employment and Unemployment Survey		Surveys not available		
		Mining and quarrying survey of the Private sector 2014		Survey results only available on SPSS format		after survey
	Ministry of Planning, Central Statistical Organisation (CSO)/Kurdistan Statistical Organization (KRSO)	Population statistics		No data disaggregated by nationality in publication		Annual since 2015
		Labour Force statistics		No data disaggregated by nationality in publication		2016
		Labour Force Survey		Data collection ongoing until December 2021.		
		Iraq Household Socioeconomic Survey (IHSES)		No data disaggregated by nationality in publications		after survey
		Continuous Household Survey (CHS)				
		Rapid Welfare Monitoring Survey (SWIFT) 2017-2018				
	Government of Iraq and KR-I/ UNESCO/European Union TVET Reform Programme	Assessment of the Labour Market & Skills Analysis. Iraq and Kurdistan Region-Iraq (6 sectoral reports)	1 7 sectoral reports	foreign workers in employment (section 2.2.3, all reports)		ad hoc
			Annex 6 in the 7 sectoral reports	Number of foreign employees in sector-related occupations	occupation (4 digits)	
	Kurdistan Statistical Organization (KRSO)/UNFPA/ IOM	Kurdistan labour market surveys (klfs)				
	Kurdistan Statistical Organization (KRSO)/UNFPA/ IOM	Demographic Survey- Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) 2018	1 Demographic Survey- Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) 2018- Report	KRI population	governorate, location (urban/rural), country of citizenship, country of birth	after survey
				KRI population aged 6 and above	highest completed degree by sex, age group, governorate, household income category, camp/non-camp residence	
				KRI population aged 12-64 years	labour force participation, sector (public, private, domestic) and work status (employer, employee, unpaid FW, self employed, daily wage labourer) by sex, 10-years age group, governorate, household income category, education level, camp/non-camp residence	
	Department of Immigration Affairs, Ministry of Displacement and Migration	Refugees and asylum seekers records		No published data		

	Data dissemination					
	Data-producing body	Source	Last issue(s) published as of 05/09/2021	Language	Publisher	url/ path
Stocks	Minister of Planning, Central Statistical Organisation (CSO)	census	2009	Arabic/ English	CSO	http://cosit.gov.iq/images/census/listing_and_enumeration/houses%20and%20buildings/report_1.pdf ; https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/quest/IRQ1997en.pdf .
		Employment and Unemployment Survey	Surveys not available			
		Mining and quarrying survey of the Private sector 2014	2014	Arabic	CSO	http://cosit.gov.iq/ar/?option=com_content&view=article&id=1098 ; http://cosit.gov.iq/documents/PUF10_AR/2/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A9.pdf
	Ministry of Planning, Central Statistical Organisation (CSO)/ Kurdistan Statistical Organization (KRSO)	Population statistics	2021	Arabic	CSO	http://cosit.gov.iq/ar/2013-01-31-08-43-38 ; http://cosit.gov.iq/ar/pop-main/manpower
		Labour Force statistics	2016	Arabic	CSO	http://cosit.gov.iq/ar/2013-01-31-08-48-55
		Labour Force Survey	Data collection ongoing until December 2021.			
		Iraq Household Socioeconomic Survey (IHSES)	2013	Arabic	CSO	http://cosit.gov.iq/ar/?option=com_content&view=article&id=656 ; http://www.erfdataportal.com/index.php/catalog/108 .
		Continuous Household Survey (CHS)	2014	Arabic	CSO	http://cosit.gov.iq/ar/living-conditions-main
		Rapid Welfare Monitoring Survey (SWIFT) 2017-2018	2018	Arabic	CSO	https://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/catalog/3461/study-description
	Government of Iraq and KR-I/ UNESCO/European Union TVET Reform Programme	Assessment of the Labour Market & Skills Analysis. Iraq and Kurdistan Region-Iraq (6 sectoral reports)	2019	English	UNESCO	http://cosit.gov.iq/ar/pop-main/enumerating2009-2
	Kurdistan Statistical Organization (KRSO)/ UNFPA/IOM	Kurdistan labour market surveys (klfs)				website not accessible
	Kurdistan Statistical Organization (KRSO)/ UNFPA/IOM	Demographic Survey- Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) 2018	2018	English	UNFPA	https://iraq.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/KRSO%20IOM%20UNFPA%20Demographic%20Survey%20Kurdistan%20Region%20of%20Iraq_0.pdf
	Department of Immigration Affairs, Ministry of Displacement and Migration	Refugees and asylum seekers records	No published data			https://momd.gov.iq/
						website not accessible
						https://gov.krd/moi-en/services/
						https://ar-ar.facebook.com/molasa.iraq.molsa/

	Data collection							
	Data-producing body	Source	Type of data collection operation	Data collected	Periodicity of data collection	Data collection method	Primary source of information (if administrative records)	Survey unit
FLOWS	Department of Immigration Affairs, Ministry of Displacement and Migration	Refugees and asylum seekers records- newly registered and deregistered	administrative recording		continuous	administrative records	MoMD records	Individuals
	Directorate of Residency Affairs/Department of Arab Affairs, Ministry of Interior (MoI)	residence permits records- first issuances and terminations	administrative recording		continuous	administrative records	Residence permits records	Individuals
	Kurdistan Regional Government, Ministry of Interior	residence permits records- first issuances and terminations	administrative recording	sex, date and place of birth, nationality, duration of stay	continuous	administrative records	KR-MoI records of residencies	Individuals
	Permanent Committee for Refugee Affairs, Ministry of Interior	records of identification documents issued to refugees and asylum seekers in Iraq	administrative recording		continuous	administrative records	records of Refugee Residence Cards	Individuals
	Arab and Foreign workers Department, Department of Labour and Vocational Training, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Labour permits records-first issuances and terminations	administrative recording	The work contract stipulates the name and address of the employer, and the nature of the work; the name of the employee, his date of birth, qualifications, place of residence and nationality; the nature and type of the work, the length and the starting date of the contract; the principal salary plus any allowances, any extras or increases, benefits or awards which he (the worker) is entitled to; the agreed place and the time of payment; and the number of working hours agreed upon and how they are organised. No records of technical or professional level foreign workers. There is no complete record of the technical skills or qualifications of foreign workers (http://cosit.gov.iq/documents/population/demographic/reports/UNESCO-EU%20LMS%20Report_Informal_20022019.pdf).	continuous	administrative records	MoLSA records	Individuals
RETURNS	Ministry of Planning, Central Statistical Organisation (CSO)/ Kurdistan Statistical Organization (KRSO)	Iraq Household Socioeconomic Survey	Survey	NO MENTION OF INTERVIEWEES' NATIONALITY. Part 1: Socio – Economic Data: - Section 1: Household Roster: one question on household member's place of birth (gouvernorate inside Iraq/outside Iraq-no specification of country); mention of non-kin-related members of HH: domestic and other foreign workers presumably included; Section 2: Emigration: one question on previous place of residence (inside Iraq-governorate/ outside Iraq), one question on reason for changing place of residence- includes work, migration and forced migration, and return from emigration or forced emigration- May concern foreign residents, or Iraqi returnees from abroad; Section 8: job seeking and previous job.	2012-2013; 2006-2007	Face to face interviews		Households, Individuals

Data collection					
	Data-producing body	Source	Statistical population/ data coverage	Classifications used	Definitions (compliance with ILO concepts)
FLOWS	Department of Immigration Affairs, Ministry of Displacement and Migration	Refugees and asylum seekers records- newly registered and deregistered	Palestinian refugees who left Palestine since 1948 and legally resided in Iraq; Asylum-seekers and refugees from other nationalities to Iraq and those whose asylum has been accepted in accordance with international law and conventions to which Iraq is a party		
	Directorate of Residency Affairs/ Department of Arab Affairs, Ministry of Interior (MoI)	residence permits records- first issuances and terminations	Sponsored foreigners formally residing in Iraq (outside the 3 governorates of KR), including Palestinians, for durations longer than 3 months. Residency is granted for one year.		
	Kurdistan Regional Government, Ministry of Interior	residence permits records- first issuances and terminations	Sponsored foreigners formally residing in KR (Dohouk, Suleymaniyeh, Erbil governorates), including Arab Iraqis. The residency card is issued by the KRG Ministry of Interior for all those who intend to stay in the Kurdistan Region for more than 30 days. The residency is for six months or one year, renewable (Oct. 2017). Kurdish individual born in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq or born abroad but his/her family is from the Region, he or she does not need a residency card (https://www.refworld.org/docid/5aa915c07.html).		
	Permanent Committee for Refugee Affairs, Ministry of Interior	records of identification documents issued to refugees and asylum seekers in Iraq			
	Arab and Foreign workers Department, Department of Labour and Vocational Training, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Labour permits records-first issuances and terminations	All foreign workers, according to Labour Law of 2015 (https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/MONOGRAPH/96652/114261/F-218842884/IRQ96652%20Eng.pdf)		
RETURNS	Ministry of Planning, Central Statistical Organisation (CSO)/ Kurdistan Statistical Organization (KRSO)	Iraq Household Socioeconomic Survey	24,944 households and 176,042 individuals	ISCO, ISIC	

	Data dissemination									
	Data-producing body	Source	Name of publication/ dataset	Available data	disaggregation variables	Frequency of dissemination	Last issue(s) published as of 05/09/2021	Language	Publisher	url/ path
FLOWS	Department of Immigration Affairs, Ministry of Displacement and Migration	Refugees and asylum seekers records- newly registered and deregistered	No published data							https://momd.gov.iq/
	Directorate of Residency Affairs/ Department of Arab Affairs, Ministry of Interior (MoI)	residence permits records- first issuances and terminations								website not accessible
	Kurdistan Regional Government, Ministry of Interior	residence permits records- first issuances and terminations								https://gov.krd/moi-en/services/
	Permanent Committee for Refugee Affairs, Ministry of Interior	records of identification documents issued to refugees and asylum seekers in Iraq								
	Arab and Foreign workers Department, Department of Labour and Vocational Training, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Labour permits records-first issuances and terminations								https://ar-ar.facebook.com/molsa.iraq.molsa/
RETURNS	Ministry of Planning, Central Statistical Organisation (CSO)/ Kurdistan Statistical Organization (KRSO)	Iraq Household Socioeconomic Survey	No data disaggregated by nationality in publications			after survey	2013	Arabic	CSO	http://cosit.gov.iq/ar/?option=com_content&view=article&id=656 ; http://www.erfdataportal.com/index.php/catalog/108 .

► Table 2: IRAQ. International migrants' characteristics by source and availability (last available date for each source)

	STOCKS		FLOWS	
Source	IHSES Surveys		Records of work permits	
	collected	published	collected	published
(a) main socio-demographic characteristics (international migrants (IM), international migrant workers (IMW))	IM			
sex	Yes	-	Yes	-
age in single years or date of birth	Yes	-	Yes	-
age group	-	-	-	-
relation to head of household	Yes	-	-	-
marital status (15 and above)	Yes	-	-	-
level of education attained (10 years and above) (ISCED or other classification specified)	Yes	-	-	-
place of residence (administrative region, municipality, ..)	Yes	-	Yes	-
type of living quarters (private household, collective or institutional reason household, other type of living quarters, non-residential accommodation)	Yes	-	-	-
nationality (national/ non-national)	-	-	-	-
group of countries of origin (Arab states, non-Arab Asian countries, etc...)	-	-	-	-
country of birth and country of birth of parent(s)	Yes	-	-	-
country of citizenship	?	-	Yes	-
country of usual residence	Iraq			
(b) main migration characteristics (international migrants (IM), international migrant workers (IMW))	IM			
purpose of migration (declared or documented reason for first entry into the country, specifically the country of actual or intended labour attachment)	Yes	-	-	-
type of visa, residence permit, work permit	-	-	Yes	-
permanent, temporary or circular nature of migration	-	-	-	-
duration of stay: date of first entry into the country of labour attachment	Yes	-	-	-
(c) main work characteristics (resident and non-resident international migrant workers - IMW) (15 years and above)	IM and IMW 6 years and above			
labour force status (employed, unemployed, outside the labour force)	Yes	-	employed	
sector of activity (governmental, private, domestic, other)	Yes	-	Yes	-
branch of economic activity	Yes	-	Yes	-
current occupation	Yes	-	Yes	-
previous occupation	-	-	-	-
reasons for leaving previous employment	-	-	-	-
reasons for unemployment	Yes	-	-	-
status in employment	Yes	-	Yes	-
stability of employment (permanent/ temporary)	Yes	-	Yes	-
working time, including hours usually worked, contractual hours of work	Yes	-	Yes	-
duration of employment in months or years	-	-	Duration	-
duration of unemployment/ job search	Yes	-		-
employment-related income	Yes	-	Yes	-

Yes:
collected/
published
-: Not
collected/Not
published
Suggested
additions to
list of items
in ICLS 2018

► Table 3: IRAQ. Core statistics of stocks and flows and indicators pertaining to international migrant workers available in Iraq published sources (most recent relevant/comparable source as of 15/10/2021)

	statistics and indicators	indicator items and calculation	Remarks	Number/ rate by source			
A	stock of international migrants at mid point of the reference period (13b)	Observed (survey), or stock of residency permit holders					
A'	Stock of international migrants of working age (16a)	Observed (survey), or stock of residency permit holders					
B	stock of international migrant workers (labour force) (14) (16b)	Observed (survey), or stock of holders of residency permits for the purpose of working; or stocks of work permits holders					
	usual residents (14a)						
	non-residents (14b)	observed (survey), or holders of temporary work permits for non-residents					
C	inflow of international migrants	Observed (survey), or new residency permits issued to newcomers					
D	inflow of for-work international migrants	new residency permits issued to newcomers for the purpose of working					
E	inflow of international migrant workers	(a) number of international migrants already present in the country of measurement before the beginning of the specified reference period, who were outside the labour force at the beginning of the reference period but entered the labour force of the country of measurement during the reference period;					
		(b) inflow of international migrants who entered the country of measurement during the reference period – whether as for-work international migrants or for whatever other reason – and entered the labour force of the country of measurement during the reference period;					
		(c) non-residents of the country of measurement who became non-resident international migrant workers in the country during the reference period.					
		(a+b+c)					
F	outflow of international migrant workers	(a) number of international migrant workers who left the country of measurement (or died) during the specified reference period; and non-resident international migrant workers in the country of measurement whose labour attachment in that country terminated during the reference period, for whatever reason					
		(b) number of international migrant workers who remained in the country of measurement but left the labour force of the country during the reference period					
		(c) non-resident international migrant workers in the country of measurement whose labour attachment in that country terminated during the reference period, for whatever reason					
		(a+b+c)					
G	change in the stock of international migrant workers	(E-F)					

	statistics and indicators	indicator items and calculation	Remarks	Number/ rate by source			
H	labour force participation (activity) rate	(a) IMW 14a, 16b					
		(b) IM of working age 16a					
		a/b*100 (%)					
I	employment-to-population ratio	(a) Employed IMW 14a, 16c					
		(b) IM of working age 16a					
		a/b*100 (%)					
J	Unemployment rate of international migrants	(a) Unemployed IMW 14a, 16d					
		(b) IMW 14a, 16b					
		a/b*100 (%)					
K	share of inflow of for-work international migrants in the total inflow of international migrants during the reference period	D/C					
L	Share of women in migrant labour force	(a) females IMW 14a, 16b					
		(b) IMW 14a, 16b					
		a/b*100 (%)					
M	Migrant youth participation rate (15-29)	(a) IMW aged 15-29 14a, 16b					
		(b) IM aged 15-29 16a					
		a/b*100 (%)					
N	Share of highly-skilled workers in registered migrant labour force	(a) IMW in the 3 upper categories of occupation (ISCO 88 and 08 classification)					
		(b) IMW 14a, 16b					
		a/b*100 (%)					

ilo.org

International Labour Organization
Regional Office for the Arab States
P.O. Box 11-4088 Riad Solh 1107-2150
Beirut – Lebanon
Beirut@ilo.org