



International
Labour
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► ASSESSMENT OF LABOUR MIGRATION STATISTICS

SAUDI ARABIA Country Profile

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

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The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the largest country in the GCC region, with a population of 35,013,414 as of mid-2020. Unlike in most Gulf countries, and as with Oman, international migrants are not a majority in the resident population of Saudi Arabia. International migrants were estimated to number 13,583,286 in mid-2020,¹ and thus comprised 39 per cent of the country's total population. Saudi Arabia hosts 45 per cent of all international migrants in the GCC² and is, therefore, a major destination country for migrant workers.

I. Saudi Arabia's statistical apparatus and major sources of immigration data

Until the 2000s, available data on Saudi Arabia's population were scattered and scarce. To date, Saudi Arabia has conducted five censuses – in 1962 (on a sample of the resident population only); 1974; 1992; 2004 and 2010. Census 2020 was postponed till 2022 due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The 1974 census was thus the first comprehensive census in Saudi history, but its rate of coverage and accuracy of data were considered weak, while the 1992 and 2004 censuses were said to have inflated the Saudi population numbers and growth rates.³ More readjustments were made to the census 2010 figures on the basis of the 2016 Demographic Survey. Over the last decade, a wealth of data and sources have been produced in Saudi Arabia, yet following various methodologies, classifications, and concepts' definitions. Since 2015, the statistical apparatus has been under constant reforms and readjustments, which aim at harmonising the country's statistical production, as well as developing the use of administrative sources of population and labour data. Despite such changes, Saudi data are never disaggregated beyond the nationality level (Saudi / non-Saudi) in publications.

The **General Authority for Statistics (GASat)** is Saudi Arabia's national statistical office and a public authority enjoying a legal personality, and financial and administrative independence. Created in 2015 to replace the Central Department for Statistical Information (CDSI), GASat was appointed as "the only official statistical reference for statistical data and information in Saudi Arabia. It executes all the statistical work, in addition to the technical oversight of the statistical sector, which includes a multiple system of centres and statistical units established within the administrative structures of government agencies and some private sector institutions as well."⁴ GASat conducts surveys, studies, and research, as well as centralises and disseminates the statistics produced by other public entities.

The most relevant source to study migrant workers' populations in Saudi Arabia, so far, is the Labour Force Survey (LFS). LFS were first conducted in 2001 and became bi-annual after 2006. Data were first collected through nationally representative household sample surveys, the sampling for which was based on the most recent censuses. Since 2016, LFS have been conducted and published on a quarterly basis. Administrative records became the source for estimating the figures and characteristics on employment: the social security records of the General Organisation for Social Insurance and of Civil Service insurance schemes for public and private sectors' employees, and the National Information Centre, which manages the Ministry of Interior's electronic records, for domestic workers. Household composition and data on the inactive and unemployed continued to be collected through field surveys. Due to the discrepancy between the two sources of data, which will be discussed in section III, the survey data are only presented as rates.

Census 2022 in Saudi Arabia, as part of the harmonised GCC census round 2020,⁵ will use a combined methodology, i.e., administrative records' data supported by fieldwork. The first phase of then-Census 2020 started on February 3, 2020 (enumeration of buildings and households). The second stage ("actual enumeration"), due to start on the census' original reference date (March 17, 2020), was suspended by the outbreak of the COVID-19 crisis and was conducted in October 2021.⁶ Household data will also be collected from an e-portal of self-enumeration.⁷ The new date of reference for the census is set for May 10, 2022.⁸ The collection of administrative data in the census data basket requires linking the GASat records with those of the National Information Centre (NIC) of the Ministry of Interior on population and housing, as well as with other specific records on education, commercial activities, etc.⁹

1 Saudi Arabia Central Bank (SAMA). Annual Statistics 2020, table 37.

2 <https://gulfmigration.grc.net/gcc-gcc-pop-1-2-total-population-and-percentage-of-nationals-and-non-nationals-in-gcc-countries-national-statistics-2020-with-numbers/>.

3 Winckler, O. "The Surprising Results of the Saudi Arabian 2004 Demographic Census," IJMES, no. 40, 2008, pp. 12-15.

4 <https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/page/114>.

5 <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2021/egm-covid19-census-20210209/docs/s03-09-GCCStat.pdf>.

6 <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/census/censusdates/>.

7 <https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/node/61352>.

8 <https://saudicensus.sa/en>.

9 Altekhaifi, Fahad S., Alfahead, Fahad, and Alshanghiti, Arwa. "A New Approach to Censuses in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," Statistical Journal of the IAOS, vol. 36, no. 1, 2020, pp. 151-158 (<https://content.iospress.com/articles/statistical-journal-of-the-iaos/sji190573>).

Using administrative records as a base for the census is a ground-breaking innovation in Saudi Arabia, which aims to create new population and other statistical data registers in the country, updatable in real time with residents’ new events.¹⁰ In line with international standards, the questionnaire’s content also introduces changes compared to previous censuses: for example, the “residency” or migration data section will collect information on the interviewee’s country of birth, parents’ country of birth, residency abroad, year of entry to Saudi Arabia and the place of residence one year ago.¹¹

The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (MHRSD), formerly Ministry of Labour and Social Development (MLSD), is responsible for labour planning and the general monitoring of matters relating to private sector employment affairs. In February 2020, a royal decree was issued to merge Ministry of Labour and Social Development with Ministry of Civil Service. In addition to social development issues, the MHRSD’s mandate now encompasses employment matters in the public and private sectors.¹² The MHRSD handles activities relevant for flow data, such as work visas and permits, records transfers of residency sponsorship, changes in professions and activity sector. It also records stocks of work permit holders employed in the private sector by occupation, activity, and socio-demographic characteristics. The MHRSD monitors the Wage Protection System (WPS), which ensures the payment of wages to all workers and workers in private sector enterprises (Saudis and expatriates). The WPS covers all workers in the private sector since the end of 2020.¹³ The MHRSD stopped publishing data on stocks and flows of work permit holders in the private sector in 2015; data are sporadically released in the “open data section”, but without usable metadata. The MHRSD does not release data on domestic workers.

Family dependents¹⁴ and certain de facto Syrian and Yemeni refugees,¹⁵ acknowledged by specific Saudi charity organisations, were given the possibility to access employment, albeit on a temporary basis, through the MHRSD’s **Ajeer portal**.¹⁶ Opportunities are limited to a specific subset of activities, and exclusively in private sector establishment qualifying for recruiting foreign workers. No data is publicly available on temporary employment under this scheme.

The General Organization for Social Insurance (GOSI) was established to implement the provisions of the Social Insurance Law and follow-up the process of achieving compulsory insurance coverage, collecting contributions from employers, and paying benefits for the eligible contributors or their family members. The Occupational Hazards branch applies mandatorily to Saudis and non-Saudis employed in the Kingdom. The Unemployment insurance (SANED) and Annuities branches are reserved for Saudi nationals. Until mid-2021, the GOSI covered private sector employees as well as a share of the employees in the public sector, who were not covered as civil servants by the former Ministry of Civil Service. In June 2021, the public sector Saudi Public Pension Agency merged with the General Organization for Social Insurance (GOSI).¹⁷ Public and private sector workers are now all covered by GOSI. GOSI records are used in Labour Force Surveys to describe private sector workers’ characteristics, while public sector workers’ characteristics are taken from MHRSD records.

The Ministry of Interior produces flow data (entries and exits, as well as arrests and deportations of migrants in irregular situations), and stocks of residency permits, through several offices:

- ▶ The **Border Police** records movements at border posts, as well as figures for the number of irregular entrants apprehended, detained, and returned. This necessarily includes citizenship data.
- ▶ The **General Directorate of Passports** issues entry and exit visas, and manages residence permits.
- ▶ The **National Information Centre**, Saudi Arabia’s information system in charge of centralising and managing electronic administrative records,¹⁸ which presumably includes residence permits records. Some information from the NIC on domestic workers (presumably, taken from residency permits records) is released in the LFS.

As indicated in Tables 1 and 2, Saudi Arabia produced a wealth of data on international and international work migration during the last decade, which is not all produced or released by GStat. The combination of these sources allows to capture much of the migrants’ profiles and dynamics, including on flows (residence permits issued, hirings in the private sector / outflows from the private sector), and on unemployment.

10 https://saudicensus.sa/sites/default/files/library/printfiles/Infographic_8_E.pdf.

11 <https://saudicensus.sa/en/content/what-questions-are-asked>.

12 <https://www.hrsd.gov.sa/en/ministry/about-ministry/about-us/ministry-sectors>.

13 <https://www.migrant-rights.org/2020/11/saudi-arabia-to-begin-the-final-phase-of-the-wage-protection-system/>

14 <https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/servicesDirectory/servicedetails/12272>;

15 <https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/servicesDirectory/servicedetails/s9132>; <https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/servicesDirectory/servicedetails/s9133>

16 <https://www.ajeer.com.sa/>.

17 <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1878151/business-economy>.

18 <https://nic.gov.sa/?Lang=en&page=SectionGoals>.

Table 2 also indicates that the items of data collection defined as minimal by the ICLS 2018 Guidelines concerning statistics of international labour migration¹⁹ are all collected in the identified major sources of labour migration data. It is even expected that data on migrants’ and their parents’ place of birth will be collected in census 2022. If ever made available to the public, such data would be supplying original information on second- and third-generation foreign residents. This information, so far, is only available in Kuwait. Census 2022 also plans to explore migrants’ duration of stay.

However, since 2016, no more data is available on the inactive foreign population, beyond a labour force participation rate taken from the LFS survey data. Administrative records, similarly, bypass non-Saudi employees who perform short-term assignments for less than three months as of March 2022, data disaggregated beyond nationality (national / non-national) are not available anywhere.²⁰

Table 3 confirms that core indicators²¹ (included flow indicators) are available or can be calculated on the basis of available data, especially before 2020, with the exception of those focussing on temporary, non-resident migrants. However, the lack of consistency in methodologies, sources of information, definitions and availability of data makes the comparison between sources difficult.

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

Methodologies

The multiplicity of formats and sources of statistics on foreign populations and workers, the irregular quality of metadata, and the changes of methodologies applied to LFS, for instance, affect the consistency of Saudi data. The construction of long time-series using one source is made difficult, while comparisons of data between sources, as shown in Table 3, is prevented. Moreover, data producers such as GStat conceal discordant data and sources without explanations to the users. This happened with the population estimates published during the 2010s by GStat, which were based on projections from census 2010 and the 2016 Demographic Survey, using the components methods. These data ceased being published in a disaggregated format in 2019 and 2020, which suggests that there may be an accuracy issue.

Unlike countries such as Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait, which have small populations and cannot easily be accessed without using official border posts, the scale of irregular migration in Saudi Arabia is presumably high. This is not only because of the long border with Yemen, crossed by migrants from Yemen and the Horn of Africa countries, but also the overstaying of pilgrims who entered for the purpose of Hajj or the Umrah. It is estimated that 2.7 million foreigners were deported from Saudi Arabia between 2013 and 2018, during large campaigns of expulsions of foreigners in an irregular situation. About 800,000 (presumably) lawfully resident expatriates also left the country between 2017 and mid-2018, due to low oil prices and sluggish economic growth, and the introduction of certain taxes such as VAT and of levies on foreign employees and dependents’ fees.²² Moreover, the COVID-19-induced health and economic crisis pushed an estimated quarter of a million workers to leave their jobs in the private sector during 2020 (between Q4 2019 and Q4 2020), according to LFS. The context of large-scale Saudization measures and tax and other fees’ implementation were not conducive to a significant increase in the number of expatriates coming to the country during 2019-2020. Figures of residency permits issued had effectively declined by 13 per cent between 2017 and 2019.²³ However, the decline in inflows and the many exits were not reflected in population stocks data, which continued growing linearly until mid-2020 (last available data to date).²⁴ The steady growth of migrant populations, at a rate above 3.5 per cent annually despite the circumstances of the period, casts doubt on the accuracy of Saudi foreign population data. It also suggests that a large share of the exiting migrants may be persons in irregular situations, who had remained unrecorded throughout their stay.

It is therefore fortunate that field surveys are still conducted in Saudi Arabia, in conjunction with the increasing reliance of Labour Force and other sectoral surveys on administrative records (insurance registration figures from the General Organisation for Social Insurance (GOSI) or from the former Ministry of Civil Service (MCS), until Q2 2020).²⁵ As will be discussed in section III, the administrative records paradoxically can help to adjust field data; yet these only capture the workers who hold valid documentation. Survey data, on the other hand, provide information on inactive migrants, which may be confronted to family reunion residence permits data, for example. The 2022 census, which combines three sources (field survey, self-enumeration, and administrative records), should reset Saudi population estimates. It is thus likely that existing data sources will have to be readjusted a posteriori, on the basis of the results of the census.

19 ILO. Guidelines concerning statistics of international labour migration, 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, Geneva, 10-19 October 2018, ICLS/20/2018/Guidelines, §46.

20 Except in some MHRSD raw datasets for 2020 (see Table 1, lines 42-43).

21 ILO, 2018, §40 and 41.

22 Figure 4, in De Bel-Air, F. “Demography, Migration and Labour Market in Saudi Arabia 2018,” Explanatory Note No. 5/2018, GLMM, <http://gulfmigration.org>.

23 Figures of residency permits issued, GStat. Annual Statistical Abstracts 2017 to 2019, “Population” section (last available data as of 13 September 2021).

24 <https://gulfmigration.grc.net/bahrain-gcc-pop-1-2-foreign-population-in-the-six-gcc-states-mid-year-figures-2000-2021/>

25 Foreigners in the public sector were covered by GOSI and by the MCS, while those in the private sector are covered by GOSI only,

Classifications

The GStat uses international classifications and concepts in its statistical production, as well as national adaptations of these.²⁶ Cabinet Resolution No. 540 dated 9/16/1440 AH (21/05/2019 G.) assigns GStat the task of conceiving a Unified Saudi Occupational Classification. The aim of this assignment is to harmonise existing national classifications in Saudi Arabia, which include the classification of the General Authority for Statistics, the Arab Standard Occupational Classification endorsed by the MHRSD, and the public sector job classification approved by the former Ministry of Civil Service (now Civil Service section of the MHRSD). The new classification is aligned with the International Classification (ISCO) 2008 and its subsequent updates, and includes occupations descriptions based on the Arab Standard Occupational Classification descriptions, as well as classification descriptions of other relevant authorities. The Unified Saudi Occupational Classification follows ISCO's skill-based method for the classification of occupations (4 skill levels and their definitions), based on ISCED 11. The Classification also conforms to ISCO's coding methodology and comprises the same 1 digit-10 major groups; 43 sub-major groups; 130 minor groups and 432 units as with ISCO-08. The Unified Saudi Occupational Classification adds a fifth tier with 2013 occupations, identified with 2 digits (01-99) as the number of occupations in one unit group may exceed nine occupations.²⁷

Definitions

In Saudi Arabia like elsewhere in the GCC region, the definition of international migrant is citizenship-based. Naturalisations are almost inexistant. Like in the other countries in the region, immigration is mostly linked to employment, and foreigners' stay is not meant to be permanent or even long-term. Expatriates are considered temporary contract workers, although some (very selective) paths to long-term or permanent residence do exist.²⁸ Requirements to qualify for citizenship are equally restrictive and mainly target expatriates with "outstanding capabilities",²⁹ who can be of use to the country's economic diversification from oil, drive towards innovation and building of a "knowledge society," which are at the core of the country's modernisation project described in the Saudi reform masterplan "Vision 2030".³⁰

Therefore, it could be said that the very notion of immigration/ immigrant is rejected in Saudi Arabia. No definition exists of an international migrant in the methodological sections of the country's statistical publications. International migrants are thus labelled "guests" or wafidîn³¹ in publications in the Arabic language or referred to as "non-nationals" ("non-Saudis") in English-language publications. Because it could encourage international migrants to seek longer-term settlement, family reunion was made conditional on the sponsoring worker's profession and is de facto reserved to white collar professionals.³²

This has several implications as regards the consistency of concepts and definitions used in Saudi Arabia with those of the ILO.

- ▶ First, the categories of "wafidîn" (guest labourers), or "non-Saudis" are 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." Since the birth right for citizenship and maternal transmission of citizenship do not apply in Gulf countries, a share of the foreign residents, born in these countries but not naturalised, are not "migrants" according to the ILO/ UN definition, which takes as a criterion the change of usual residence. Children of a foreign father and a national of a foreign mother, for instance, are unduly counted as migrants (non-nationals or expatriates).
- ▶ Second, Saudi Arabia's and other Gulf States' rejection of the very notion of international migrant workers and the subsequent representation of (most) migrants and migrant workers as "temporary sojourners" may create confusion between international bodies and Gulf states, over the concept of "temporary migrant workers" found in the ICLS Guidelines 2018 (§ 34 and 35) within the "For-work international migrants" or "international migrant workers" categories. According to ICLS Guidelines, these two categories may be split between categories 14a and 14b ("usual resident migrant workers" and "non-usual resident migrant workers"). Specific durations and types of work permits should be identified for reaching a common ground in identifying the specific subset of migrants, in accordance with international definitions.

²⁶ <https://www.stats.gov.sa/en#>.

²⁷ https://www.stats.gov.sa/sites/default/files/Report_GAStat%20Unified%20Saudi%20Occupational%20Classification_English_V1.pdf.

²⁸ For example, the Premium Residency Card (PRC) scheme introduced in 2019, a new type of 'premium' residency without the need for a sponsor (<https://saprc.gov.sa/#/rules>). Permanent residency may be granted for 800,000 riyals (US\$213,000) or as a temporary, one-year renewable permit for 100,000 riyals (US\$27,000). Duration varies between one year (renewable) and permanent residency.

²⁹ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-11-11/saudi-arabia-gives-citizenship-to-outstanding-expats-in-shift>.

³⁰ <https://www.vision2030.gov.sa/v2030/overview/>.

³¹ The Arabic term used to designate foreign residents in these countries is wafed, pl. wafidîn, which designates foreigners who arrived, and is generally used for students and workers.

³² The list of professions with the right to bring dependents is available at: <https://expatbio.com/iqama-professions-eligible-family-visa-saudi-2020/>.

III. Coherence/discrepancies between sources of data

Table 3 underlines the large gap (14 per cent) between figures of working-age migrants, obtained from two survey operations, the Demographic Survey, conducted in April-June 2016. and the quarterly LFS, conducted during Q2 (May) 2016. The two operations rely on census 2010 as a base for the survey’s sampling. Their sample size is equivalent (33,350 households) and is distributed in an identical way between Saudi Arabia’s governorates.³³ The gap must, therefore, originate in the selection of the surveyed households within each administrative region. LFS’ sampling, effectively, was said to “giv[e] preference to the number of Saudi households”,³⁴ which is not specified in the methodology of the Demographic Survey. The underrepresentation of foreign households, hence, lower the representativity of the sample, may therefore explain the underestimation of the foreign population of working age in LFS.

More surprisingly, the numbers of foreign workers retrieved from administrative records in Q3 2018’ LFS show a marked discrepancy (+16 per cent) with figures of foreign workers³⁵ taken from sample surveys conducted as part of the LFS after 2016.³⁶

► Table A: A comparison between numbers of employed foreign workers by source of estimate (Q3 2018)

Sector	Category	Adm. records	Survey
Public	affiliated	78,011	a
	non-affiliated	0	b
Private	affiliated	7,128,654	c
	non-affiliated	0	d
Domestic	registered with MoI	2,371,390	e
	non-registered	0	f
Total		9,578,055	8,067,055
Discrepancy adm. records - survey figures		number	1,511,000
		%	15.8

Source: LFS 2018, Q3.

As illustrated in Table A, administrative records only provide figures for registered workers, and for those affiliated to Social Security schemes,³⁷ when survey figures, in theory, should cover a wider range of workers: those affiliated with Social Security schemes and registered with Saudi authorities, as well as those non-affiliated and non-registered with Saudi authorities (i.e., fully or partly undocumented) (a,b,c,d,e).

It is unlikely that administrative records would overestimate foreign workers, given the fact that affiliation to the social security is not free. Under-coverage of foreign workers would be more likely than overestimation. The question is, therefore, why administrative records show a better coverage of foreign workers than survey-based estimates. One set of reasons may be a better registration of foreign workers, due to reforms of the sponsorship system, such as the prohibition of free visas,³⁸ or due to the penalties applied to employers of workers in an irregular administrative situation. These measures aimed at strengthening governmental control over the recruitment process. The March 2021 Labour Reform Initiative (LRI)³⁹ cancelled the obligation for foreign

33 https://www.stats.gov.sa/sites/default/files/en-demographic-research-2016_7.pdf, p. 12; https://www.stats.gov.sa/sites/default/files/so-lfs-06-2016-en_2.pdf, p. 14.

34 https://www.stats.gov.sa/sites/default/files/so-lfs-06-2016-en_2.pdf, p. 14.

35 Foreign labour force – unemployed foreign workers.

36 The coexistence of the two figures disappears from records-based LFS publications after Q3 2018.

37 Social Security records from GOSI and MCS are the source used in administrative-records-based sections of Labour Force Surveys since Q4 2016. The processing of administrative data is completed by sample surveys that tackle unemployment and inactivity, as explained in Table 1.

38 <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/43893>.

39 The Labour Reform Initiative (LRI) was announced by the MHRSD in November 2020. The reform came into force on 14 March 2021. The LRI introduces two major changes to the system regulating the employment of foreign workers in the private sector in Saudi Arabia: 1. the cancellation of the No-Objection Certificate (NOC) to change employer (transfer sponsorship), after the worker has spent at least twelve months in Saudi Arabia; and 2. the cancellation of the exit permit from the employer, previously needed for the foreign worker to be allowed to leave Saudi Arabia. The reforms do not apply to domestic workers and to other workers not covered by the Labour Law. See: <https://www.hrsd.gov.sa/sites/default/files/2020-11/1112020.pdf>; <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/03/25/saudi-arabia-labor-reforms-insufficient>.

workers to obtain an exit permit from their employer to leave the country. However, migrant workers de facto need MHRSD approval to exit Saudi Arabia.⁴⁰ Domestic workers still need a No-Objection Certificate from the employer to leave, which is recorded in the fully computerised Ministry of Interior's data system. Moreover, the legally registered among them would logically leave the country through official border posts, and consequently be recorded as having left the country. Another set of reasons may be related to the quality of the field surveys in the country, such as the weak representativity of foreign households in LFS samples, as suggested earlier, or the undercounting of domestic workers in the surveyed Saudi and non-Saudi households. Household respondents may not consider migrant domestic workers as part of the household, and/or omit mentioning these workers if they are employed illegally. As a matter of fact, survey-based LFS conducted before 2016 did not offer a distribution of workers by sector. It is hoped that the field survey conducted as part of census 2022 will provide a basis for assessing the coverage of records-based LFS.

IV. Suggestions for improvement of the data and indicators

Saudi Arabia is the largest country in the region and the main destination for international and work migrants. It is thus essential that more can be understood from existing data on migrants' stocks, flows, structure, and dynamics.

It is assumed that the upcoming census will adjust the issues of migrants' underrepresentation and improve estimates. Recent reforms conducted in the framework of the Labour Reform Initiative aim to make employment in Saudi Arabia more attractive for foreign workers. However, many other measures (Saudisation of the workforce, increase of the administrative costs of immigration, etc.) and regional and world events (fluctuating oil prices, COVID-19 health and economic crisis) have disrupted migrants' movements to Saudi Arabia. The development of the use of administrative records to complement field-based data collection should also improve the consistency of data in time. The harmonisation of methodologies and classifications used to describe and record migrants, in turn, may increase the consistency of data between sources. However, disclosing data by origin of migrants, or countries of citizenship, for instance, would be essential and possible, particularly as the Saudi population is large enough not to fear being outnumbered by single foreign nationalities, like is the case in Qatar, the UAE or Kuwait.

Nonetheless, the significant volume of data on international migrants produced in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, added to the disaggregation items available, may be used to construct a more developed set of quantitative indicators than the core indicators identified in the ICLS 2018 Guidelines:

Indicators of international migrant workers' employment characteristics (by sector, occupation, and skill level, and by sex and age group, etc.);

- ▶ Sector-specific indicators, for the domestic and private sectors, when data is available;
- ▶ Indicators of international migrant workers' social conditions, such as households and accommodation characteristics (whether collective or private), prevalence and profile of inactive migrants and accompanying family members (whether active or inactive, their education level, etc.).

These would be useful, as they may document the evolution of labour and recruitment policies in the region, as well as the incentives put in place by Gulf host countries, and more generally, the reality of Gulf international migration on the ground.

⁴⁰ In case of final exit, employees should obtain their final exit visas to leave the country after the end of the employment contract, via the MHRSD's online portal or Absher smartphone application. The employer is notified electronically when the employee is granted the visa.

► **Table 1: SAUDI ARABIA. Sources of statistical data on migration and work migration to Saudi Arabia 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	General Authority for Statistics (GASStat)	Population data	estimates	Saudi and non-Saudi populations: sex and age distribution (total size, single-year and five-year distribution)	Annual (mid-year)	Projections for Saudi and non-Saudi populations, based on: Population Censuses; Demographic Surveys; Recent administrative records giving data on (births, deaths and migration) (https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/node/9756).
		Pilot census 2021	Survey	numbering and enumerating buildings and enumerating the components of buildings such as housing units and households; population's social, economic, and demographic characteristics. The first type involves demographics related data, which includes five categories starting with the personal information category that includes date of birth, nationality, marital status, language spoken, place of usual residence, gender, and relationship to the head of the household. The second category will include data related to educational level such as literacy, educational attainment, educational enrollment and the field of study. The third category includes residency data, such as the country of birth, parents' country of birth, foreign-land residency, year of entry to KSA and the place of residence one year ago. The fourth category deals with work and employment; it includes several variables such as labor force status, employment status, occupation, monthly income, financial activity, establishment sector, and workplace location. The last category covers disability and health; it includes disability status and chronic health conditions. The second type of data that will be collected is concerned with residential characteristics, which revolves around housing growth and development, such as the type of housing, type of ownership, useful floor space, number of rooms, internet access, electricity supply, main source of water, construction material, languages spoken at the living place, and any cases of death in the household during the past 12 months. (https://saudicensus.sa/en/content/what-questions-are-asked).	27 September to 12 October 2021.	self-enumeration online (Head of HH)+Interviews with tablets
		census 2010	survey	Relation to head of household, sex, age and date of birth, nationality (in detail); disability status, individuals aged 3-30 Years: Educational StatusPeople aged (10+) years: Educational Status (Highest Degree), Area of Study (Major); Individuals (15+ years): Marital status; Married, Divorced and Widowed Women: Births during the Past Twelve Months; Occupational Status [relation to labour force+work status] (individuals); Main Occupation (in detail), section, main economic activity of the Employer, Category, Sector to which the employer belongs; culture and entertainment; housing characteristics; construction type and material; deaths during the past 12 months (age, sex, Saudi/non-Saudi) (https://content.iospress.com/download/statistical-journal-of-the-iaos/sji190573?id=statistical-journal-of-the-iaos%2Fsj190573).	irregular (1974; 1992; 2004; 2010) next census expected to be held in 2021	face to face interviews

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	General Authority for Statistics (GAStat)	Population data	Population Censuses; Demographic Surveys; Recent administrative records (vital statistics; migration)	Individuals	Total resident population		no definition of international migrant. De facto: non-Saudi
		Pilot census 2021		Households, individuals	Sample of resident households (private households+individuals in labor gatherings and public housing)	2020 census round is conducted within framework of internationally-acknowledged methodologies, classifications and definitions. No definition of international migrant: de facto, non-Saudis.	
		census 2010		Households, individuals	All individuals (Saudis and non-Saudis) located within the borders of the Kingdom at the moment of time reference enter the process of counting, whether they are permanent residents or visitors of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The census also includes: Saudi Diplomatic Corps' members whose work requires residence outside the Kingdom are counted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs+Saudis who are temporarily outside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for any reason (medical treatment, trade or tourism, etc.) and are counted within their families members residing inside the Kingdom	The National Classification of Economic Activities- Rev.4. The Saudi Vocational Classification Guide and the International Standard Classification of Occupations - ILO 1988 The International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED)	no definition of international migrant. De facto: non-Saudi

Data collection						
	Data-producing body	Source	Type of data collection operation	Data collected	Periodicity of data collection	Data collection method
Stocks	General Authority for Statistics (GASat)	2016 Demographic Survey	Household survey	Section 2 of the questionnaire: Basic characteristics of individuals: sex, age, education, employment, marital status, fertility, and mortality	not regular (1998, 2001, 2007, 2016, 2017)	interview with head of the household
		Population Characteristics survey 2017		na		na
		Labour Force Surveys 2016-2021	survey+processing of administrative data	1. Household telephone survey, General Authority for Statistics: Name of the individual, gender, relationship with the head of the household, nationality, age, marital stawtus, educational status, specialization for holders of secondary education and above, workers and those absent from work during the 7 days preceding the contact with the family, job seekers, method of job seeking, reasons of not looking for a job, duration of job seeking, the availability of work, previous work experience, reasons for leaving the previous job, occupation, name of the employer, type of sector, economic activity, work status, monthly net per employed capita, pension system of employed, number of main working hours during the previous 7 days, if the individual has another work in addition to his main work, and work contract (https://www.stats.gov.sa/sites/default/files/file_manger/LFS%20Questionnaire_2021_Q2_EN.pdf). 2. Administrative records a. Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development: Includes data on employees subjected to Civil Service regulations and policies according to a number of variables. Also includes data of work visas for the private sector. b. Data from General Organisation for Social Insurance (GOSI): Includes data related to those who are registered and are working, who are subjected to GOSI's regulations and policies according to a number of variables. 3. Data from the National Information Center (NIC): Includes data related to domestic workers and visas for the government sector and individuals, according to a number of variables.	quarterly (2016-2021)	household telephone survey+electronic questionnaire filled by interviewer during phone call with head of household (Labor Force Survey); administrative records (electronic linkage to GASat)
		Labour Force Surveys 2006-2016	Field Survey	socio-demographic and employment characteristics of all interviewees (active and inactive): Individual's name, gender, relation to household head, nationality, age, marital status, educational status, major, present and absent employees during the last week, job seekers, method of job seeking, reasons behind not looking for a job, seeking job duration, availability for jobs, reasons behind not being available for a job, training type, duration, and institution, previous experience, reasons behind leaving previous job, occupation, organization in which an individual works, sector type, economic activity, working status, monthly wage, retirement system of Saudi employees, worked hours in man work and other works if the individual has an additional work during the reference week, and work contract		

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	General Authority for Statistics (GAStat)	Population data		Households, individuals	Sampling base: census 2010. Size of sample: 33,350 households. The demographic household sample includes the Saudi and non-Saudi households living in the kingdom. It also covers individuals who take the lodging houses as their residences and Saudis who are temporarily living abroad for medication, study, tourism, etc who are counted as members of the included households as long as they were picked up in the sample. The survey's sample covers all 23 governorates in the kingdom. The Survey population is all members of the households selected as a sample who are residing in the house, including domestic workers and drivers who live in the same house.		no definition of international migrant. De facto: non-Saudi
		Pilot census 2021		Households, individuals	na		no definition of international migrant. De facto: non-Saudi
		census 2010	Survey+Records of the Ministry of Human resources and Social Development (MHRSD) (employees subject to Civil Service regulations), General Organization of Social Insurance (GOSI) (workers registered with GOSI and subjects to the Social Insurance laws and regulations-covers private sector and a share of the public sector workers, those not under Civil Service payroll), National Information Center (NIC), Ministry of Interior: domestic workers.	households, individuals	Individuals aged 15 and above. Survey: nationally-representative sample of households (Saudis and non-Saudis) whose members habitually live in Saudi Arabia. Size of the sample: 53,360 households. This sample includes all household members (aged 15 and above, inside and outside the labour force), who share the same dwelling, including domestic workers and the like. NO MENTION OF THE TYPE OF HOUSEHOLDS (private, collective). Unclear wether the LFS use 13th or 19th ICLS resolution for defining employment. https://www.stats.gov.sa/sites/default/files/statistical_definitions_manual_english_2.pdf . Administrative records: all active residents registered in the administrative records. Administrative records' data do not include the following categories: 1. Workers in the military and security sectors 2. Workers who are not registered in the civil service and social insurance records, which include: • Saudis working for their own businesses and are not subjected to the labour regulations, also, not registered in social insurance, such as: those who work in delivery through electronic apps • Saudi employers who work in establishments and not registered in the social insurance • Non-Saudi staff working in foreign international, political or military missions. 3.Non-Saudi employees who come to the Kingdom for work that normally takes less than three months to be completed.	Activity: National Classification of the Economic Activities (statistical classification based on ISIC4 which is the reference of the productive activities). Occupations: Saudi classification of professions (statistical classification based on ISCO) Employment status: ICSE 19 93 Education: Saudi classification for majors and educational levels (statistical classification based on ISCED which is the reference for organizing educational programs and related qualifications based on the education levels and fields). https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/statistical-knowledge#	No definition of international migrant worker. De facto: non-Saudi worker. Classifications of workers: based on international classifications, but adapted to national context (see "classifications"). Employment-related concepts, definitions, indicators: consistent with ILO recommendations. GAStat adds: "Based on the international standards that Saudi Arabia is committed to, and applied to the G-20 countries: Indicators of labor Force Participation rate, employment rate, unemployment rate, average weekly working hours, and average monthly wages of employees are all based on the estimates of (the Labor Force Survey), which is a telephone survey conducted by GASTAT through contacting households to complete the survey's form. Data of workers from administrative records have several indicators for labor market, but they are not used statistically to measure employment, unemployment, or labor Force Participation rate. Commitment to these standards will facilitate international comparisons between countries in labor market indicators" (https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/node/9787).

	Data collection					
	Data-producing body	Source	Type of data collection operation	Data collected	Periodicity of data collection	Data collection method
Stocks	General Authority for Statistics (GAStat)	Employment and Wages Surveys	Field survey	Form "Who joined this year": sex, age, detailed nationality, education level, education speciality, principal occupation in details, date of entry into current establishment/ current job, whether job was created during past year (yes/no); type of contract (temporary contract/ long-term contract), work status (employer/ employed/ worker with no salary), number of monthly working hours; for workers with salary: monthly salary (raw; extras; additional benefits (incentives, rewards), allowances (housing, transportation, ...), new entrants to the job: previous status (student, not working, employed in private/ government sector, independent worker) (https://www.stats.gov.sa/sites/default/files/stmr_msh_ltwzf_wljwr2019.xls).	annual	interviews
		Economic Establishments Survey (2003-2017)	Field survey	On employees: Average numbers of employees in a year; compensations paid to workers over a year (https://www.stats.gov.sa/ar/64)	annual	interviews+electronic questionnaire
		Wholesale and retail trade sector survey (2016 to 2019)	Field survey	On employees: Average numbers of employees in a year; job qualifications and competences (full questionnaire: https://www.stats.gov.sa/sites/default/files/internal_trade_activity_sur...)	quarterly since 2018	interviews
		Construction sector survey (2017 and 2018)	Field survey	Main economic activity of establishment; Average number of workers during the year; Jobs occupied by workers during the year; Working hours for employees; Workers' compensation payable during the year; Share in capital ownership; Projects worked on during the year; The value used of raw materials and raw materials in construction activity; Commodity Supplies; Service supplies; Operating income; Change in assets and obligations; Salaries and wages; Benefits; Allowances.	Annual	interviews

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	General Authority for Statistics (GAStat)	Employment and Wages Surveys		Establishments	Nationally-representative sample of all economic establishments included in the Economic Activities Classification (ISIC4) in the Kingdom, based on the framework of the establishments census for the year (2010). Establishments are classified into 4 categories: Ultra-small: includes all establishments in which the number of employees is (1-5) workers; Small: includes all establishments that employ (6-49) workers; Medium: includes all establishments that employ (50-249) workers; Large: includes all establishments with (more than 250) workers. Sample size: (13,000) operative establishments engaged in targeted economic activities and distributed over all thirteen regions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.	Occupations: Saudi classification of professions (based on the international classification ISCO-88); Activities: National Classification of Economic Activities (based on ISIC REV.4); Education: Saudi classification for specialisations and educational levels (based on ISCED)	Employment-related concepts, definitions, indicators: consistent with ILO recommendations.
				Establishments		International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC REV.4).	Employment-related concepts, definitions, indicators: consistent with ILO recommendations.
		Economic Establishments Survey (2003-2017)		Establishments	Nationally-representative sample of all for-profit economic establishments in private and public sector throughout the kingdom's administrative districts with oversampling of cities, for they have most establishments and workers.Nationally-representative sample of all economic establishments included in the Economic Activities Classification (ISIC4) in the Kingdom, based on the framework of the establishments census for the year (2010). Establishments are classified into 4 categories: Ultra-small: includes all establishments in which the number of employees is (1-5) workers; Small: includes all establishments that employ (6-49) workers; Medium: includes all establishments that employ (50-249) workers; Large: includes all establishments with (more than 250) workers. Sample size: (13,000) operative establishments engaged in targeted economic activities and . Size of sample: 33,000 establishments, distributed over all thirteen regions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.	International Classification of Economic Activities (ISIC REV.4)	Employment-related concepts, definitions, indicators: consistent with ILO recommendations.
		Wholesale and retail trade sector survey (2016 to 2019)		Establishments	Nationally-representative sample of all economic establishments included in the Economic Activities Classification (ISIC4) in the Kingdom, based on the framework of the establishments census for the year (2010). Establishments are classified into 4 categories: Ultra-small: includes all establishments in which the number of employees is (1-5) workers; Small: includes all establishments that employ (6-49) workers; Medium: includes all establishments that employ (50-249) workers; Large: includes all establishments with (more than 250) workers. Sample size: (13,000) operative establishments engaged in targeted economic activities and . Size of sample: 11,130 establishments, distributed over all thirteen regions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.	International Classification of Economic Activities (ISIC REV.4)	Employment-related concepts, definitions, indicators: consistent with ILO recommendations.
		Construction sector survey (2017 and 2018)		Establishments	Nationally-representative sample of all economic establishments included in the Economic Activities Classification (ISIC4) in the Kingdom, based on the framework of the establishments census for the year (2010). Establishments are classified into 4 categories: Ultra-small: includes all establishments in which the number of employees is (1-5) workers; Small: includes all establishments that employ (6-49) workers; Medium: includes all establishments that employ (50-249) workers; Large: includes all establishments with (more than 250) workers. Sample size: approximately 5,800 working enterprises engaged in targeted economic activities distributed to all 13 regions of Saudi Arabia.		

	Data collection					
	Data-producing body	Source	Type of data collection operation	Data collected	Periodicity of data collection	Data collection method
Stocks	General Authority for Statistics (GAStat)	Tourism sector survey (2010-2018)	field survey	Workers' data: sex, occupation during the year, wages and salaries, allowances and benefits (https://www.stats.gov.sa/ar/491-0)	Annual	interviews with e-questionnaire
		Financial and insurance services survey (2010-17)	Field survey	Workers' data: number of Saudi and non-Saudi employees; compensations of employees (salaries and benefits)(https://www.stats.gov.sa/sites/default/files/copy_of_stmr_nsht_lml_wltnyn2.pdf)	Annual	Interviews
		Information and Communication Technologies sector survey (2010-2017)	Field survey	Workers' data: number of Saudi and non-Saudi employees; compensations of employees (salaries and benefits)	Annual	Interviews
		Non-profit Sector Establishments Survey (2018)	Field survey	Numbers of workers, volunteers; workers' compensations, average weekly working hours of workers and volunteers	Annual	Interviews
		Institutional Innovation Survey (2018)	Field survey	Number and education level of employees	Data for the Institutional Innovation Survey builds on the three years prior to the survey's implementation: 2016, 2017, 2018.	Interviews

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	General Authority for Statistics (GAStat)	Tourism sector survey (2010-2018)		Establishments	Nationally-representative sample of all economic establishments included in the Economic Activities Classification (ISIC4) in the Kingdom, based on the framework of the establishments census for the year (2010), with oversampling of cities. Sample size: approximately 6,717 establishments distributed to all 13 regions of Saudi Arabia. Employees refer to all Saudi and non-Saudi, female or male individuals who work at an establishment, including the owner, partners and staff, whether working full-time, part-time, or temporarily, and whether they receive daily, weekly, or monthly payment or not. This includes partners, members in shareholder companies, board chairmen and members, as well as employees who are on paid leave.	International Classification of Economic Activities (ISIC REV.4)	Employment-related concepts, definitions, indicators: consistent with ILO recommendations.
		Financial and insurance services survey (2010-17)		Establishments	Based on the framework of the establishments census for the year (2010), nationally-representative sample of institutions whose main activities have to do with finance and insurance and who employ (50 workers and more). However, stratified sampling have been used to represent institutions that employ less than (50 workers). Institutions by size of workers are classified as follows: Small institutions that employ (1-4) workers; Medium institutions that employ (5-19) workers; Large institutions that employ (20 workers) and more. The survey covered all Saudi administrative regions represented by their administrative centers, and some of the region's main cities.	International Classification of Economic Activities (ISIC REV.4)	Employment-related concepts, definitions, indicators: consistent with ILO recommendations.
		Information and Communication Technologies sector survey (2010-2017)		Establishments	?	International Classification of Economic Activities (ISIC REV.4)	Employment-related concepts, definitions, indicators: consistent with ILO recommendations.
		Non-profit Sector Establishments Survey (2018)		Establishments	All establishments in sector (approximately 6,902 establishments), defined as legal or social entities created for the purpose of producing goods and services but whose status does not permit them to be a source of income, profit or other financial gain for the units they create, control or finance (non-profit, voluntary, civil society, or non-governmental organizations).	International Classification of Non-Profit Establishments (ICNPO).	Employment-related concepts, definitions, indicators: consistent with ILO recommendations.
		Institutional Innovation Survey (2018)		Establishments	Based on 2010 Establishments census: small, medium and large enterprises with more than 6 employees, as well as some government entities that conduct institutional innovation activities. Size of sample: 6,700 establishments, distributed among the thirteen administrative regions of Saudi Arabia. Innovation: It can be a product, an operation, or a new or improved organization or marketing method that is largely different from previous products or operations at the establishment, and that is provided to potential users or used in the production process. Innovation can be measures in two parts: 1. Innovation in products: A new or improved good or service introduced to the market that is largely different from the previous good or service provided by the establishment. 2. Innovation in business operations: A new or improved commercial operation rolled out for one or more functions that is largely different from the previous commercial operation used at the establishment.	National Classification of Economic Activities is derived from the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, forth version (ISIC4) issued by the United Nations Economic and Social Council.	meets international requirements set out by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Global Innovation Index.

	Data collection					
	Data-producing body	Source	Type of data collection operation	Data collected	Periodicity of data collection	Data collection method
Stocks	Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development	Statistics of employees in the governmental sector	synthesis/ extraction from administrative records	Number of foreign employees in sector by socio-demographic and professional characteristics	continuous	administrative records
		Statistics of employees in the private sector	extraction/ synthesis from administrative records	Number of foreign employees in sector by socio-demographic and professional characteristics	continuous	administrative records
		Statistics of temporary employment	administrative recording	Foreign employees on temporary/specific labour contracts or secondment, mostly recruited from within Saudi Arabia	continuous	administrative records
	General Organisation for Social Insurance (GOSI)	Public and Private Sector Contributors' statistics	synthesis from administrative records	Number and characteristics of foreign subscribers in the private and public sectors; foreign workers' insurance coverage	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	Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development	Statistics of employees in the governmental sector	administrative records of MHRSD	Individuals	Covers government employees under Civil Service regulations, registered by MHRSD. The statistics include men and women working under the following scales: (Public scale of Employee Salaries, scale of Health Jobs, scale of Educational Jobs, scale of the Teaching staff, lecturers and teaching assistants, Judges' scale, scale of Investigation staff and public prosecutors, and scale of Wage-earners).		
		Statistics of employees in the private sector	administrative records of MHRSD	Individuals	Based on the number of holders of work visas for private sector issued by MHRSD?		
		Statistics of temporary employment	administrative records of Ajeer portal, MHRSD	Individuals	holders of specific work permits issued for a temporary and specific period of time (up to 6 months, renewable), issued to family dependents of foreign workers (private education only); workers temporarily seconded from another business with no change of sponsor; temporary and seasonal workers (Hajj for instance); refugees (Yemenis; Syrians). Ajeer permits are issued for certain sectors only; private education; construction; consultancy and business services; cleaning and maintenance; operation and maintenance		
	General Organisation for Social Insurance (GOSI)	Public and Private Sector Contributors' statistics	GOSI records	Individuals	Public and private sector workers/contributors registered (insured) with GOSI (non-civil servants in the public sector; registered private sector workers)	occupations: ISCO; Economic activity: Classification set up from several sources including the Ministry of Commerce, the Department of General Statistics and the Unified Guide to the Classification of Economic Activities of the Gulf Cooperation Council	

Data dissemination										Remarks
Name of publication/ dataset		Available data	disaggregation variables	Frequency of dissemi- nation	Last issue(s) published as of 30/09/2021	Language	Publisher	url/ path		
Stocks	1	Saudi Arabia Central Bank (SAMA), Yearly Statistics ("Miscellaneous" section).	Population by nationality (Saudi/ non-Saudi)	sex	annual (mid-year)	2020	English/ Arabic	SAMA	https://www.sama.gov.sa/en-us/EconomicReports/pages/YearlyStatistics.aspx	No data disaggregated by nationality published by GStat since 2018
	just completed as of end of November 2021								https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/news/410	
	1	Population and Housing Census releases	Stocks of foreign population	sex, age group, marital status, rel. To HH, administrative region and subregion, births and deaths during past 12 months; educational characteristics; activity status, employment status, economic activity, disability status, housing characteristics	after census	2016	English/ Arabic	GStat	https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/13	
			Stocks of foreign households	by housing characteristics						
		Demographic Research Bulletin 2016	Foreign population	sex, age group, governorate	ad hoc	2016	English/ Arabic	GStat	https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/43	
		Population Characteristics survey 2017	Foreign population	sex, age group, governorate	ad hoc	2017				
	1	Labour Market Statistics	Unemployed non-Saudis, participation rates and employment rates from LFS sample survey	none	2017-Q3 2018	Q3 2018	English/ Arabic	GStat	https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/814	
			Numbers of foreigners in employment (until Q4 2020)	sex, age, administrative region, sector, insurance regulation	quarterly	Q2 2021				
			Numbers of foreign employees covered by social insurance in public and private sector (until Q4 2020)	sex, age, administrative region, economic activity, occupation, sector						
			Numbers of foreign employees in public sector (civil service regulation+insurance regulation) (until Q4 2020)	sex age, detailed education attainment, administrative region,						
			Numbers of domestic workers (until Q4 2020)	sex; main groups of occupation						
			Average salaries and work hours	sex						
			Rates of labour force participation, unemployment, employment	sex, age group, administrative region, education, specialisation						
			Percentage distribution of those in labour force, unemployed, employed for each sex	by sex, age, educational level, occupation, sector (2021)						

Data dissemination								
	Name of publication/ dataset	Available data	disaggregation variables	Frequency of dissemi- nation	Last issue(s) published as of 05/09/2021	Language	Publisher	url/ path
Stocks	2 Statistical Yearbook, "Labour market and Social Security" section	Numbers of foreign employees (public, private and domestic sectors)	sex, age group, administrative region	Annual	2019	English/ Arabic	GASat	https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/1017
	1 Labour Force Survey publication	Non-Saudi population aged 15 and above	sex, age group, education attain- ment, administrative region, marital status, relation to labour force	Bi-annually	2016 Q3	English (tables only)/ Arabic	CDSI(before 2015)/ GASat	https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/814
		Non-Saudi population aged 15 and above in the Labour force	sex, age group, education attain- ment, administrative region, marital status, relation to employment (employed/unemployed)					
		Non-Saudi population aged 15 and above outside the labour force	sex, age group, education attain- ment, administrative region, marital status, inactivity status					
		Employed non-Saudi population aged 15 and above	sex, age group, education attain- ment, administrative region, marital status, occupation, activity					
	1 Employment and Wages Survey 2017	Number of foreign employees	size and economic activity of establishment, occupation of worker	Annual	2017	English/ Arabic	GASat	https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/1067
		Average salaries and work hours	size of establishment, sex, activity, occupation of worker	Annual			GASat	
	1 Establishments Economic Survey	Relative distribution of foreign workers	economic activity (1 dig.); establish- ment' size category & economic activity (2 dig).	Annual	2017	English/ Arabic	GASat	https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/1067
	1 Wholesale and Retail trade Statistics (previ- ously Internal Trade Bulletin)	Number of foreign employees in sector	by activity, sex, age, administrative region, employment requirement (req. Education?)	Annual	Q4 2019	English/ Arabic	GASat	
	1 Survey of construction activity	Number of foreign employees in sector	by sex, activity (2 digits), occupation, size of establishment, average working hours	Annual	2018	English/ Arabic	GASat	
	1 Tourism Establishments Survey	Number of foreign employees in sector	sex, establishment size, occupation and economic activity	Annual	2018 (2017 data)	English/ Arabic	GASat	
	1 Finance and Insurance Survey	Compensations of workers in sector	activity	Annual	2018	English/ Arabic	GASat	
	1 Information and Communication Technologies Sector	Number of foreign employees in sector	sex, activity (4 digits)	Annual	2018 (2017 data)	English/ Arabic	GASat	
	1 Non-profit Sector Establishments Survey	Number of foreign employees and volunteers in sector	sex, category of non-profit establish- ment	Annual	2019 (2018 data)	English/ Arabic	GASat	
	1 Institutional Innovation Survey Bulletin	Number of foreign employees in sector	sex; education level	3 years	2019 (2018 data)	English/ Arabic	GASat	

Data dissemination									
Name of publication/ dataset		Available data	disaggregation variables	Frequency of dissemina- tion	Last issue(s) published as of 05/09/2021	Language	Publisher	url/ path	
Stocks	1	Saudi Arabia Central Bank (SAMA), Yearly Statistics ("Miscellaneous" section).	Number of foreign employees in Public sector	sex	Annual	2020	English/ Arabic	SAMA	https://www.sama.gov.sa/en-us/EconomicReports/pages/YearlyStatistics.aspx
	1	Civil Service in Numbers	Number of non-Saudi employees in civil service	sex, age category, salary scale (teaching, health, ...), education level	Annual	2017 (2016 data)	Arabic only	MHRSD	https://hrsd.gov.sa/node/538932
			Non-Saudis retired or having ended contract	salary scale					
			Non-Saudis working in education scale jobs at the end of the given year	administrative level, education level, age category					
	2		Non-Saudis working in the health scale jobs at the end of the given year	administrative level, education level, age category					
			Non-Saudis working for the commis- sion of teaching, lecturers and assistant lecturers at the end of the given year	administrative level, education level, age category					
			Non-Saudis working in technical education at the end of the given year	administrative level, education level, age category					
	3	Statistical Yearbook, "Labour market and Social Security" section	Number of non-Saudi employees in civil service	position	Annual	2019	English/ Arabic	GASat	https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/1017
	4	Ministry's open data (2020 only as of 2021)	Number of foreign employees in Public sector (raw dataset)	country of citizenship, sex, education level, profession	no periodicity	2020	Arabic only	MHRSD	https://hrsd.gov.sa/en/page/statistics
	1		Number of foreign employees in private sector (raw dataset)	country of citizenship, detailed activity	no periodicity	2020	Arabic only	MHRSD	
	2	MHRSD Statistical Yearbooks	Number of foreign employees in private sector	sex	Annual	2017 (2016 data)	Arabic only	MHRSD	
no data available									https://www.ajeer.com.sa/about

Data dissemination									
	Name of publication/ dataset		Available data	disaggregation variables	Frequency of dissemination	Last issue(s) published as of 05/09/2021	Language	Publisher	url/ path
Stocks	1	GOSI Open data "Contributors" report	Number of contributors to GOSI in the private sector	sex, wage category, sector (public/ private), administrative region's office	quarterly (since 2016)	Q2 2021	English/ Arabic	GOSI	https://www.gosi. gov.sa/GOSIOnline/ Open_Data_ Library&locale=en_ US
		GOSI Open data "Injuries" report	Private sector workers injured	sex, administrative region's office		2019	English/ Arabic	GASat	https://www.stats. gov.sa/en/1017
		GOSI Open data "Beneficiaries" report	Occupational Hazards monthly benefits	sex, sector, category of hazard and beneficiary; type of benefit (partial/ full disability; family member, death grant, lump sum, ..)		2020	English/ Arabic	SAMA	https://www.sama. gov.sa/en-us/ EconomicReports/ pages/ YearlyStatistics.aspx
	2	Statistical Yearbook, "Labour market and Social Security" section	Average monthly wage (salary) of employed migrant workers (15 years and above)	sex, main groups of economic activity, region	Annual	Q2 2021	English/ Arabic	GOSI	https://www.gosi. gov.sa/GOSIOnline/ Open_Data_ Library&locale=en_ US
			Employed foreign subscribers	by sector (public; private)		2019	English/ Arabic	GASat	https://www.stats. gov.sa/en/1017
	1	Saudi Arabia Central Bank (SAMA), Yearly Statistics ("Miscellaneous" section).	Number of foreign employees in private sector	sex, occupation, activity, regional office, average wages by activity, profession (occupation), sex, regional office.	Annual	2020	English/ Arabic	SAMA	https://www.sama. gov.sa/en-us/ EconomicReports/ pages/ YearlyStatistics.aspx

	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	Statistical population/ data coverage	Classifications used	Definitions (compliance with ILO concepts)
FLOWS	General Directorate of Passports, Ministry of Interior	Residency permits statistics	synthesis from administrative records	New residency permits issued	continuous	Administrative records	General Directorate of Passports, Ministry of Interior records	Individuals	All new/renewed foreign residents		
	National Information Center, Ministry of Interior	Labour inflows/ outflows statistics	extraction/ synthesis from administrative records	work visas issued to public and domestic sectors' workers			NIC, Ministry of Interior records		Workers in the domestic and governmental sectors		
	Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (MHRSD)			Approvals of employment for all sectors; issuances of visas for private sector, hirings and job terminations in civil service			MHRSD records		Applicants to visas in all sectors; workers in private sector; Civil Service employees	not available	
				Foreign employees recruited on temporary/ specific labour contracts, mostly recruited from within Saudi Arabia			administrative records of Ajeer portal, MHRSD		holders of specific work permits issued for a temporary and specific period of time (up to 6 months, renewable), issued to family dependents of foreign workers (private education only); workers temporarily seconded from another business with no change of sponsor; temporary and seasonal workers (Hajj for instance); refugees (Yemenis; Syrians). Ajeer permits are issued for certain sectors only: private education; construction; consultancy and business services; cleaning and maintenance; operation and maintenance		
				General Organisation for Social Insurance (GOSI)			New registrations/deregistrations from Social Insurance		GOSI records		

	Data dissemination									
	Name of publication/ dataset		Available data	disaggregation variables	Frequency of dissemination/ update	Last issue(s) published as of 30/09/2021	Language	Publisher	url/ path	
FLOWS	1	Statistical Yearbooks (population section)	Residency permits issued	sex, administrative region	Annual	2019	English/Arabic	GASat	https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/1017	
	1	Labour Market Statistics	work visas issued to government and domestic workers	by visa usage (used, not used, cancelled- 2020 only)	quarterly	Q4, 2020	English/Arabic	GASat	https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/814	
	1	Ministry's open data (1436- 1441/2014-2019)	Terminations of employ- ment (raw dataset) public sector?	sex, country of citizenship, profes- sion, place of work, administrative scale?, reason for suspension	Annual	2019	Arabic only	MHRSD	https://hrsd.gov.sa/en/page/statistics	
	2	MHRSD Statistical Yearbooks	Labour permits issued, transfers of professions and transfers of sponsor- ship	none	Annual	2017 (2016 data)	Arabic only	MHRSD	https://hrsd.gov.sa/en/reports	
			Visa applications for domestic workers	none	Annual	Q4, 2020	English/Arabic	GASat	https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/814	
	3	Labour Market Statistics	work visas issued to private sector workers	by visa usage (used, not used, cancelled- 2020 only)	quarterly	2019	English/Arabic	GASat	https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/1017	
	4	Statistical Yearbooks (Labour Force section)	Approved recruitment visas	economic activity	Annual	no data available			https://www.ajeer.com.sa/about	
		no data available					Q4, 2020	English/Arabic	GASat	https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/814
	1	Labour Market Statistics	New contributors to GOSI	sex, age, occupation	quarterly	2019	English/Arabic	GASat	https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/1017	
			Suspensions/terminations of contribution for contributors to GOSI	by sex, reason for suspension (2020 only)						
	2	Statistical Yearbooks (Labour Force section)	work injuries by sex and nationality	sex, administrative region	Annual					

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

Source	STOCKS				
	Census 2020 (ongoing as of November 2021- date of reference: 10 May 2022)	Population Statistics (Saudi Arabia Central Bank-SAMA) 2020		Labour Force Surveys (Q4 2020)	
	will be collected	collected	published	collected	published
(a) main socio-demographic characteristics (international migrants (IM), international migrant workers (IMW))	IM			IM+IMW	Employed IMW only
sex	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
age in single years or date of birth	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	-
age group	Yes	-	-	-	Yes
relation to head of household	Yes	-	-	Yes	-
marital status (15 and above)	Yes	-	-	Yes	-
level of education attained (15 years and above) (ISCED or other classification specified)	Yes	-	-	Yes	Yes (after 2020: %)
place of residence (administrative region, municipality, ..)	Yes	-	-	Yes	Yes
type of living quarters (private household, collective or institutional reason household, other type of living quarters, non-residential accommodation)	Yes	-	-	Yes	-
nationality (national/ non-national)	Non-nationals				
group of countries of origin (Arab states, non-Arab Asian countries, etc...)	inferred from citizenship	-	-	-	-
country of birth	Yes+Yes	-	-	-	-
country of citizenship	Yes	-	-	Yes	-
country of usual residence	Yes	Saudi Arabia			
(b) main migration characteristics (international migrants (IM), international migrant workers (IMW))	IM			IM+IMW	Employed IMW
purpose of migration (declared or documented reason for first entry into the country, specifically the country of actual or intended labour attachment)	?	-	-	-	-
type of visa, residence permit, work permit	?	-	-	Yes	-
permanent, temporary or circular nature of migration	Inferred	-	-	concerns those employed for 3 months and more	
duration of stay: date of first entry into the country of labour attachment	Yes	-	-	Yes?	-
(c) main work characteristics (resident and non-resident international migrant workers - IMW) (15 years and above)	IM+IMW	IM		IM+IMW	employed IMW
labour force status (employed, unemployed, outside the labour force)	Yes	-	-	Yes	rate of participation; unemployment rate
sector of activity (governmental, private, domestic, other)	Yes	-	-	Yes	Yes
branch of economic activity	Yes	-	-	Yes	Yes (public and private sectors' workers)
current occupation	Yes	-	-	Yes	
previous occupation	-	-	-	Yes	-
reasons for leaving previous employment	-	-	-	Yes	-
reasons for unemployment	-	-	-	Yes	-
status in employment	Yes	-	-	Yes	-
stability of employment (permanent/ temporary)	?	-	-	-	-
working time, including hours usually worked, contractual hours of work	?	-	-	Yes	Yes
duration of employment in months or years	?	-	-	-	-
duration of unemployment/ job search	?	-	-	Yes	-
employment-related income	Yes	-	-	Yes	Yes

Source	STOCKS			
	Statistics on workers in the public sector (2020)		Statistics on workers in private sector (2020)	
	collected	published	collected	published
(a) main socio-demographic characteristics (international migrants (IM), international migrant workers (IMW))	Employed IMW			
sex	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
age in single years or date of birth	Yes	-	Yes	-
age group	-	Yes		-
relation to head of household	-	-		-
marital status (15 and above)	?	-	?	-
level of education attained (15 years and above) (ISCED or other classification specified)	Yes	Yes	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)	Non-nationals			
group of countries of origin (Arab states, non-Arab Asian countries, etc...)	Yes (deductibnle from citiz.)	-	Yes (deductibnle from citiz.)	-
country of birth	-	-	-	-
country of citizenship	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
country of usual residence	Saudi Arabia			
(b) main migration characteristics (international migrants (IM), international migrant workers (IMW))	employed IMW			
purpose of migration (declared or documented reason for first entry into the country, specifically the country of actual or intended labour attachment)	-	-	-	-
type of visa, residence permit, work permit	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
permanent, temporary or circular nature of migration	-	-	-	-
duration of stay: date of first entry into the country of labour attachment	-	-	-	-
(c) main work characteristics (resident and non-resident international migrant workers - IMW) (15 years and above)	employed IMW			
labour force status (employed, unemployed, outside the labour force)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
sector of activity (governmental, private, domestic, other)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
branch of economic activity	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
current occupation	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
previous occupation	-	-	-	-
reasons for leaving previous employment	-	-	-	-
reasons for unemployment	-	-	-	-
status in employment	na		Yes	-
stability of employment (permanent/ temporary)	-	-	-	-
working time, including hours usually worked, contractual hours of work	Yes (according to adminis- trative level+salary scale)	-	-	-
duration of employment in months or years	inferred from records	-	inferred from records	-
duration of unemployment/ job search	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
employment-related income	Yes (according to adminis- trative level+salary scale)	-	Yes	-

Source	FLOWS					
	Residency permits statistics		Records of work permits (private, public and domestic sectors)		Public and Private Sector Contributors' statistics (GOSI)	
	collected	published	collected	published	collected	published
(a) main socio-demographic characteristics (international migrants (IM), international migrant workers (IMW))	IM		Employed IMW		Employed IMW (private and public sectors, except civil servants, Police and the Army)	
sex	Yes	-	Yes	-	Yes	Yes
age in single years or date of birth	Yes	-	Yes	-	Yes	-
age group		-	-	-	-	Yes
relation to head of household	?	-	-	-	-	-
marital status (15 and above)	Yes	-	-	-	-	-
level of education attained (15 years and above) (ISCED or other classification specified)	Yes	-	Yes	-	-	-
place of residence (administrative region, municipality, ..)	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	-
type of living quarters (private household, collective or institutional reason household, other type of living quarters, non-residential accommodation)	inferred from address	-	inferred from address	-	-	-
nationality (national/ non-national)	Non-nationals					
group of countries of origin (Arab states, non-Arab Asian countries, etc...)	Yes (deductible from citizen.)	-	Yes (deductible from citizen.)	-	Yes (deductible from citizen.)	-
country of birth	-	-	-	-	-	-
country of citizenship	Yes	-	Yes	-	Yes	-
country of usual residence	Saudi Arabia					
(b) main migration characteristics (international migrants (IM), international migrant workers (IMW))	IM		employed IMW		Employed IMW (private and public sectors, except civil servants, Police and the Army)	
purpose of migration (declared or documented reason for first entry into the country, specifically the country of actual or intended labour attachment)	Yes	-	Yes	-	-	-
type of visa, residence permit, work permit	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
permanent, temporary or circular nature of migration	Yes	-	Yes	-	Yes	-
duration of stay: date of first entry into the country of labour attachment	Yes (inferred from records)	-	Yes (inferred from records)	-	-	-
(c) main work characteristics (resident and non-resident international migrant workers - IMW) (15 years and above)	IM		employed IMW		Employed IMW (private and public sectors, except civil servants, Police and the Army)	
labour force status (employed, unemployed, outside the labour force)	Yes (ILF/OLF)	-	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
sector of activity (governmental, private, domestic, other)	-	-	Yes	-	Yes (public, private)	
branch of economic activity	-	-	Yes	-	Yes	Yes
current occupation	Yes	-	Yes	-	Yes	Yes
previous occupation	-	-	-	-	-	-
reasons for leaving previous employment	-	-	-	-	-	-
reasons for unemployment	-	-	-	-	-	-
status in employment	Yes	-	Yes	-	Yes	-
stability of employment (permanent/ temporary)	-	-	Yes	-	-	-
working time, including hours usually worked, contractual hours of work	-	-	Yes	-	-	-
duration of employment in months or years	-	-	inferred from records	-	-	-
duration of unemployment/ job search	-	-	-	-	-	-
employment-related income	-	-	Yes	-	Yes	Yes

no permanent migration; possibility to receive work permits (short-term work assignments) and residency for 3; 6, or 12 months (Nov. 2021)

no permanent employment
Yes: collected/
published
-: Not collected/Not published
Suggested additions to list of items in ICLS 2018

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

	statistics and indicators	indicator items and calculation	Remarks	Number/ rate by source		Discrepancy (%)	Number/ rate by source		Discrepancy (%)
				Population Statistics mid-2020	Labour Force Survey Q2 2020		Demographic Survey 2016 (ref. period: April-June 2016)	Labour Force Survey Q2 2016	
A	stock of international migrants at mid point of the reference period (13b)	Observed (survey), or stock of residency permit holders		13 583 286			11 677 338		
A'	Stock of international migrants of working age (16a)	Observed (survey), or stock of residency permit holders	no disaggregation by nationality of total non-Saudi population by age group in 2020				9 902 793	8 472 842	-14,4
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	No figures for the non-Saudi labour force in 2020					6 723 725	
	usual residents (14a)								
	non-residents (14b)	observed (survey), or holders of temporary work permits for non-residents	No figures of non-residents						
C	inflow of international migrants	new residency permits issued to newcomers	No data for 2020 as of 10 November 2021						
D	inflow of for-work international migrants	new residency permits issued to newcomers for the purpose of working	No data						
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;	New contributors to GOSI social security scheme (private sector+public sector workers- civil servants, Police and Army excluded) (during Q2 2020) (Q1: 289,496)		35 409				
		(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	Contributors to GOSI social security scheme (private sector+public sector workers- civil servants, Police and Army excluded) who suspended/ cancelled their affiliation during Q2 2020 (Q1 2020: 438,731)		168 208				
		(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						168 208	
		(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)							

	statistics and indicators	indicator items and calculation	Remarks	Number/ rate by source		Discrepancy (%)	Number/ rate by source		Discrepancy (%)
				Population Statistics mid-2020	Labour Force Survey Q2 2020		Demographic Survey 2016 (ref. period: April-June 2016)	Labour Force Survey Q2 2016	
G	change in the stock of international migrant workers	(E-F)			-132 799				
H	labour force participation (activity) rate	(a) IMW 14a, 16b						6 723 725	
		(b) IM of working age 16a						8 472 842	
		a/b*100 (%)	only a rate is available in 2020		73,9			79,4	
I	employment-to-population ratio	(a) Employed IMW 14a, 16c			10 459 032			6 682 497	
		(b) IM of working age 16a	No figures of IM by age group (aged 15+) available in 2020					8 472 842	
		a/b*100 (%)						78,9	
J	Unemployment rate of international migrants	(a) Unemployed IMW 14a, 16d	No figures available in Q2 2020					41 228	
		(b) IMW 14a, 16b						6 723 725	
		a/b*100 (%)	Q1 2020: 0.5%		3,1			0,6	
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	2020: Employed non-Saudis (No figures of non-Saudi labour force in 2020)		1 357 746			816 976	
		(b) IMW 14a, 16b			10 459 032			6 682 497	
		a/b*100 (%)			13,0			12,2	
M	Migrant youth participation rate (15-29)	(a) IMW aged 15-29 14a, 16b	2020: Data only available for GOSI and Civil Service members (domestic workers excluded)					990 189	
		(b) IM aged 15-29 16a						1 738 106	
		a/b*100 (%)						57,0	
N	Share of highly-skilled workers in foreign labour force	(a) IMW in the 3 upper categories of occupation (ISCO classification)	2020: Data only available for GOSI and Civil Service members (domestic workers excluded)					1 271 306	
		(b) IMW 14a, 16b						6 682 497	
		a/b*100 (%)						19,0	

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