

Unemployment rate for total population reaches 3.5% in Q4 of 2025

According to estimates from the Labor Force Survey of the General Authority for Statistics, the overall unemployment rate (for Saudis and non-Saudis) recorded 3.5% in Q4 of 2025. This represents a 0.1 percentage point increase over Q3 2025, while remaining stable year-on-year at 3.5 percentage points relative to Q4 2024. The overall labor force participation rate (for Saudis and non-Saudis) reached 67.4%, showing an increase of 0.5 percentage point compared to Q3 of 2025 and a yearly increase of 1.0 percentage point compared to Q4 of 2024.

The Saudi unemployment rate in Q4 of 2025 reached 7.2%, showing a 0.3 percentage point decrease compared to Q3 of 2025, and a yearly increase of 0.2 percentage point compared to Q4 of 2024. On the other hand, the results indicated an increase in the employment-to-population ratio for Saudis by 0.6 percentage point compared to Q3 of 2025, reaching 45.9%, and a decrease by 1.6 percentage points compared to Q4 of 2024. The labor force participation rate for Saudis in Q4 of 2025 increased by 0.5 percentage point compared to Q3 of 2025, reaching 49.5%, and decreased by 1.6 percentage points compared to Q4 of 2024.

Quarterly changes of labor market indicators for Saudis

In Q4 of 2025, the labor market indicators in the Kingdom showed an increase in the labor force participation rate for Saudi females by 0.8 percentage point, reaching 34.5%. Additionally, the employment to population ratio of Saudi females increased by 1.3 percentage points reaching 31.0%. At the same time, the unemployment rate of Saudi females decreased by 1.8 percentage points recording 10.3%, compared to the previous quarter of 2025.

Regarding Saudi males, the labor force participation rate increased by 0.4 percentage point to the level of 64.7%. The employment to population ratio remains unchanged at 61.1%. Also, the unemployment rate increased to 5.6% compared to the previous quarter of 2025.

Increase of employment to population ratio and participation rate for Saudi youth

In Q4 of 2025, Saudi female youth aged 15-24 experienced a 0.2 percentage point increase in the employment to population ratio, reaching 13.5%. Additionally, there was a 0.2 percentage point decrease in the participation rate, reaching 17.4%. However, the unemployment rate decreased by 1.8 percentage points reaching 22.4% compared to the previous quarter of 2025.

On the other hand, the employment to population ratio for Saudi male youth showed a 0.1 percentage point increase, reaching 28.0%, and recorded a 0.6 percentage point increase in the labor force participation rate, reaching 32.9%. The unemployment rate increased by 1.4 percentage points, reaching 15.0% compared to the previous quarter of 2025.

The results concerning labor market indicators for the Saudi population (both males and females) in the core working age group (25-54 years) during Q4 of 2025 showed a 0.8 percentage point increase in employment to population ratio, reaching 63.6%, and a 0.6 percentage point increase in the participation rate, reaching 67.5%. Also, the unemployment rate decreased to reach 5.8% compared to the previous quarter of 2025.

For Saudis aged 55 and above, the labor market indicators for Q4 of 2025 indicated an increase in the labor force participation rate and the employment to population ratio and a decrease in the unemployment rate compared to the previous quarter of 2025.

Active methods of job search for unemployed Saudis

Saudi job seekers use a variety of active job search methods, with an average of 4.0 active methods per job seeker. Directly applying to employers was the most commonly used job search method recording 74.1%, followed by the use of the national unified employment platform (jadarat) by 58.0%, and updating or posting CVs on professional social media platforms by 50.2%.

Additional indicators for unemployed Saudis

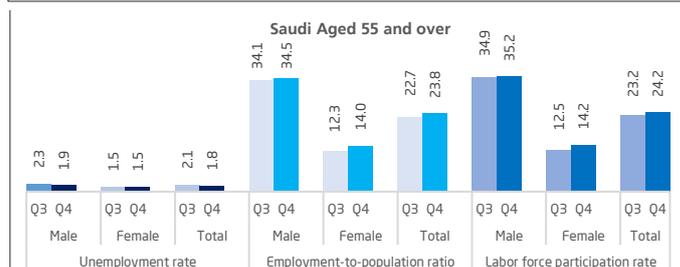
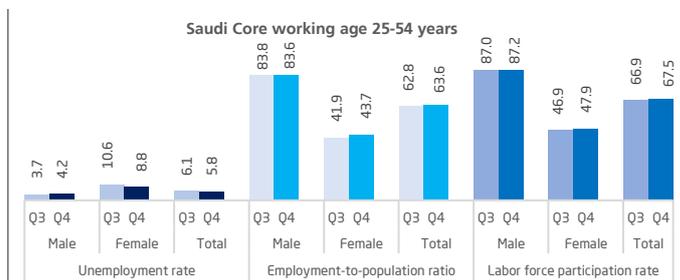
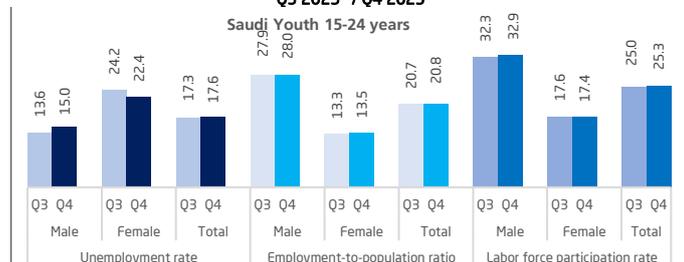
The results showed that 95.9% of unemployed Saudis are willing to accept job offers in the private sector. Additionally, 63.8% of unemployed Saudi females and 46.2% of unemployed Saudi males are willing to commute to work for at least one hour. Furthermore, 67.8% of unemployed Saudi females and 83.0% of unemployed Saudi males indicated that they are willing to work for eight hours or more per day.

Table 1: Key Indicators of Saudi Labor Market by Quarter

| Indicators | Fourth Quarter 2024 | | | Third Quarter 2025 | | | Fourth Quarter 2025 | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------|-------|--------------------|---------|-------|---------------------|---------|-------|
| | Males | Females | Total | Males | Females | Total | Males | Females | Total |
| Unemployment rate | 2.0 | 10.4 | 3.5 | 2.2 | 9.4 | 3.4 | 2.5 | 8.2 | 3.5 |
| Saudi | 4.3 | 11.9 | 7.0 | 5.0 | 12.1 | 7.5 | 5.6 | 10.3 | 7.2 |
| Non-Saudi | 1.1 | 6.2 | 1.5 | 1.2 | 4.0 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 3.9 | 1.7 |
| Employment-to-population ratio | 81.9 | 30.0 | 64.0 | 82.0 | 31.0 | 64.6 | 81.9 | 32.1 | 65.0 |
| Saudi | 63.4 | 31.8 | 47.5 | 61.1 | 29.7 | 45.3 | 61.1 | 31.0 | 45.9 |
| Non-Saudi | 92.2 | 26.1 | 78.7 | 92.9 | 33.7 | 80.9 | 92.5 | 34.5 | 80.7 |
| Participation rate | 83.6 | 33.5 | 66.4 | 83.8 | 34.2 | 66.9 | 84.0 | 35.0 | 67.4 |
| Saudi | 66.2 | 36.0 | 51.1 | 64.3 | 33.7 | 49.0 | 64.7 | 34.5 | 49.5 |
| Non-Saudi | 93.2 | 27.9 | 79.9 | 94.0 | 35.1 | 82.1 | 93.9 | 36.0 | 82.1 |

Source: Estimated data from the Labor Force Survey according to population estimates for Q4 2025- General Authority for Statistics

Figure1. Main Labor Market Indicators for Saudis by Age Group Q3 2025 / Q4 2025



Source: Estimated data from the Labor Force Survey according to population estimates for Q4 2025- General Authority for Statistics

Notes to users

Comparison between Labor Force Survey Estimates and Employment Statistics from Administrative Records

The General Authority for Statistics publishes a Labor Market Statistics Bulletin containing key indicators of labor market statistics based on the Labor Force Survey. Additionally, it publishes registers-based Labor Market Statistics Bulletin containing statistics on the number of individuals subject to labor regulations based on administrative data issued by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, the General Organization for Social Insurance, and the National Information Center.

There are differences in concepts, calculation methodology, and coverage between statistics based on administrative records and Labor Force Survey estimates. Regarding coverage: Labor Force Survey estimates cover all households and settled residents with usual residence within the Kingdom excluding institutions, while administrative records cover only registered individuals. There are also differences in the reference periods between the Labor Force Survey and administrative records.

This implies that absolute numbers from the different sources do not match and there are variations between them.

You can access labor market statistics based on administrative records at the following [link](#):

Methodology

The Labor Force Survey sample for the quarter is designed based on the 2022 Census dwelling frame (see the Labor Market Statistics Methodology Report for more details).

The Labor Force Survey is a sample household survey with a sample size of about 96,000 dwellings per quarter.

Data is collected continuously throughout the quarter using both telephone and field interviews, ensuring comprehensive temporal coverage and measurement accuracy.

The survey provides estimates for the population within and outside the labor force. Some of the key indicators for the labor market include:

Unemployment rate: the number of unemployed individuals as a percentage of the labor force (unemployed and employed) in the working-age (15 years and above).

Labor force participation rate: individuals in the labor force as a percentage of the population of working age (15 years and above).

Employment-to-population ratio: employed individuals as a percentage of the population of working age (15 years and above).

Core definitions used in the survey according to International Labor Organization (ILO) Standards:

These indicators are based on internationally approved definitions, where the primary categories are defined as follows:

Employed: individuals (15 years and above) who, during the reference period (the reference week):

- Worked for at least one hour for pay or profit (cash or in-kind) as regular employees, temporary employees, employers, or self-employed individuals.
- Assisted a family member for at least one hour, with or without compensation, in any type of business or on a family farm or assisted a family member in his job.
- Were temporarily absent from work during the reference week due to vacation, illness, or any other reason and will return to work.
- Seasonal workers during the off-season if they continue to perform some job duties and responsibilities.

Unemployed: individuals (15 years and above) who were:

- Without work during the reference week.
- Actively looking for work during the four reference weeks prior to the interview.
- Available to start work or join the workforce in the reference week or the following two weeks.

Labor force: Represents the labor force (total number of employed and unemployed). In addition to applying ILO standards, the General Authority for Statistics uses Labor Market Policy Committee standards to validate Labor Force Survey data using administrative records data. Methodology [Link](#)