Unemployment rate for total population of Saudi Arabia decreases to 3.0% in Q2 of 2026

According to estimates from the Labor Force Survey of the General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT), the overall unemployment rate (for Saudis and non-Saudis) recorded 3.0% in Q2 of 2026. This represents a decrease of 0.1 percentage points compared to Q1 of 2026, while decreasing by 0.2 percentage points year-on-year compared to Q2 of 2025. The overall labor force participation rate (for Saudis and non-Saudis) reached 67.2%, remaining stable compared to the previous quarter, while increasing by 1.0 percentage points year-on-year compared to the corresponding quarter of 2025. The unemployment rate among Saudis reached 6.5% in Q2 of 2026, increasing by 0.1 percentage points compared to the previous quarter, while decreasing by 0.3 percentage points year-on-year compared to Q2 of 2025. Meanwhile, the employment-to-population ratio among Saudis decreased by 0.3 percentage points compared to the previous quarter, reaching 45.5%, and decreased by 0.4 percentage points year-on-year compared to the same quarter of 2025. The labor force participation rate among Saudis decreased by 0.3 percentage points compared to Q1 of 2026, reaching 48.7%, and decreased by 0.5 percentage points year-on-year compared to the corresponding quarter of 2025.

Quarterly changes of labor market indicators for Saudis

The labor market indicators in Q2 of 2026 for Saudi Arabia showed that the unemployment rate among Saudi females increased by 0.6 percentage points, reaching 9.6%. The labor force participation rate among Saudi females also declined by 0.2 percentage points, reaching 33.7%, while the employment-to-population ratio also decreased by 0.3 percentage points, reaching 30.5%, compared to the previous quarter.

Among Saudi males, the unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points, reaching 4.8%. The labor force participation rate also declined by 0.3 percentage points, reaching 63.9%, while the employment-to-population ratio recorded a decrease of 0.2 percentage points, reaching 60.8%, compared to the previous quarter.

Unemployment rate decreases among Saudi Youth

The labor market indicators for Q2 of 2026 showed that the unemployment rate among young Saudi females aged 15-24 years decreased by 0.9 percentage points, reaching 19.5%. The employment-to-population ratio among young Saudi females also declined by 0.4 percentage points, reaching 13.0%, while the labor force participation rate decreased by 0.6 percentage points, reaching 16.2%, compared to the previous quarter.

Regarding young Saudi males, the unemployment rate decreased by 0.8 percentage points, reaching 13.0% compared to the previous quarter. The employment-to-population ratio also declined by 0.3 percentage points, reaching 27.1%, while the labor force participation rate decreased by 0.5 percentage points, reaching 31.2%

For the core working-age Saudi population (males and females) aged 25-54 years, the unemployment rate increased to 5.5% compared to the previous quarter. The employment-to-population ratio decreased by 0.4 percentage points, reaching 62.9%, while the labor force participation rate declined by 0.1 percentage points, reaching 66.6%

For Saudis aged 55 years and above, labor market indicators in Q2 of 2026 showed stability in the unemployment rate, labor force participation rate, and employment-to-population ratio compared to the previous quarter.

Active methods of job search for unemployed Saudis

Saudi unemployed jobseekers used a variety of active job search methods, averaging three active search methods per jobseeker. Direct application to employers was the most commonly used job search method, accounting for 76.8%, followed by the Unified National Employment Platform (Jadarat) at 53.5%. Meanwhile, 48.9% reported updating or posting their CVs on professional social media platforms.

Additional indicators on unemployed Saudis

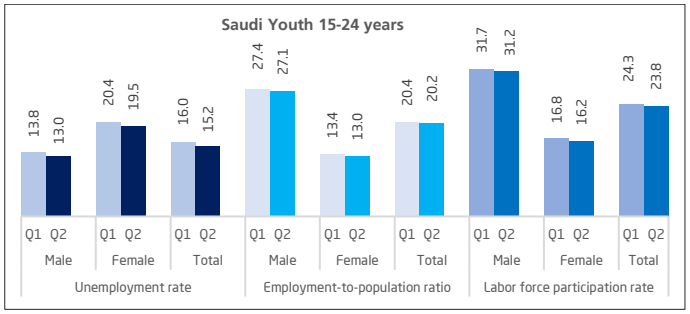
The results showed that 96.7% of the total unemployed Saudis would accept a job offer in the private sector. In addition, 62.2% of unemployed Saudi females and 46.7% of unemployed Saudi males indicated that they would accept a maximum commuting time of one hour to work. Furthermore, 70.0% of unemployed Saudi females and 82.9% of unemployed Saudi males reported that they would accept working eight hours or more per day.

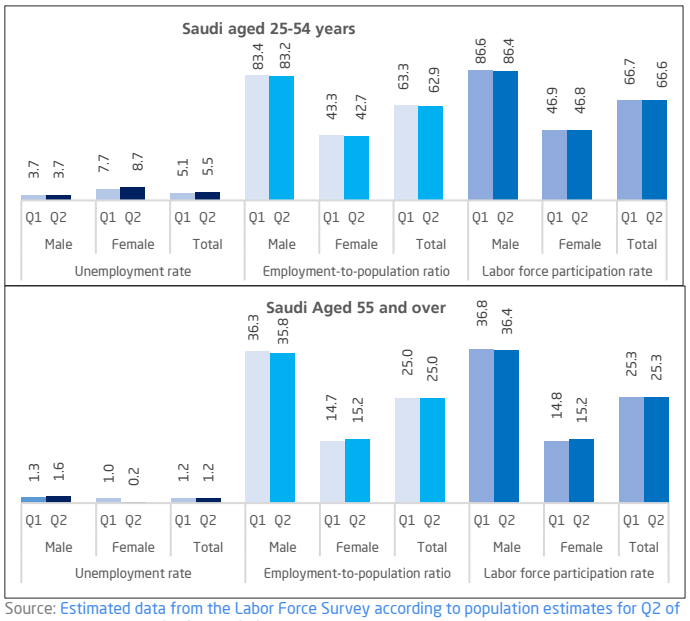
Table 1: Key Indicators of Saudi Labor Market by Quarter

Indicators	Second Quarter 2025			First Quarter 2026			Second Quarter 2026		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Unemployment rate	2.0	8.7	3.2	2.2	7.2	3.1	2.1	7.6	3.0
Saudi	4.3	11.3	6.8	4.9	9.0	6.4	4.8	9.6	6.5
Non-Saudi	1.2	3.4	1.4	1.2	3.8	1.5	1.1	3.8	1.3
Employment-to-working-age population ratio	81.8	32.3	65.0	82.2	31.8	65.1	82.5	31.5	65.2
Saudi	61.3	30.6	45.9	61	30.8	45.8	60.8	30.5	45.5
Non-Saudi	92.8	35.8	81.2	93	33.7	80.7	93.6	33.4	81.1
Labor force participation rate	83.5	35.4	67.1	84.0	34.3	67.2	84.3	34.0	67.2
Saudi	64.0	34.5	49.2	64.2	33.9	49.0	63.9	33.7	48.7
Non-Saudi	93.9	37.1	82.4	94.1	35.1	81.9	94.6	34.7	82.2

Source: Estimated data from the Labor Force Survey according to population estimates for Q2 of 2026- General Authority for Statistics

Figure1. Key labor market indicators for Saudis by age group, Q1 of 2026 / Q2 of 2026





Source: Estimated data from the Labor Force Survey according to population estimates for Q2 of 2026 - General Authority for Statistics

Notes for users

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

The General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT) publishes the "Labor Market Statistics" publication, which includes the key indicators of Labor Market Statistics based on the results of the Labor Force Survey. GASTAT also publishes the "Administrative Labor Market Statistics" publication, which include statistics by labor regulations (Civil Service Law, Labor Law, and domestic workers) based on administrative records provided by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, the General Organization for Social Insurance, and the National Information Center. There are differences between statistics based on administrative records and Labor Force Survey estimates in terms of concepts, methodology, and coverage. Regarding coverage, Labor Force Survey estimates cover all households and the usual resident population residing in the Kingdom, while administrative records cover individuals registered in labor systems. Reference periods also differ between the Labor Force Survey and administrative records.

Therefore, the absolute figures from the two sources are not identical and may vary.

Labor Market Statistics based on administrative records can be accessed through the following link:

Methodology and quality

The Labor Force Survey sample was designed based on the housing frame from the 2022 Census (see the Labor Market Statistics Methodology Report for more details).

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

Data are collected continuously throughout the quarter using both telephone and field interviews, ensuring comprehensive time coverage and accurate measurement.

The survey provides comprehensive estimates for the population within and outside the labor force and produces a number of key indicators for the labor market, including:

Unemployment rate: the percentage of unemployed individuals out of the total labor force (unemployed and employed individuals) in the working-age population (15 years and above).

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

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

Key definitions used in the survey according to International Labour Organization (ILO) Standards:

These indicators are based on internationally adopted 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 a commercial or agricultural activity owned by the family or one of its members.
- 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.
- Available to start work or join the workforce in the reference week or the following two weeks.

Labor force: Represents the total number of employed and unemployed individuals.

In addition to applying ILO standards, GASTAT uses Labor Market Policy Committee standards to validate Labor Force Survey data using administrative records. Methodology and quality, table