

Unemployment rate for total population reaches 3.4% in Q3 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 3.4% in Q3 of 2025. This marked an increase of 0.2 percentage points compared to Q2 of 2025, and a yearly decrease of 0.3 percentage points compared to Q3 of 2024. The overall labor force participation rate (for Saudis and non-Saudis) reached 66.9%, showing a decrease of 0.2 percentage points compared to Q2 of 2025 and a yearly increase of 0.3 percentage points compared to Q3 of 2024. The Saudi unemployment rate in Q3 of 2025 reached 7.5%, showing a 0.7 percentage points increase compared to Q2 of 2025, and a yearly decrease of 0.3 percentage points compared to Q3 of 2024. On the other hand, the results indicated a decrease in the employment-to-population ratio for Saudis by 0.6 percentage points compared to Q2 of 2025, reaching 45.3%, and decreased by 2.1 percentage points compared to Q3 of 2024. The labor force participation rate for Saudis in Q3 of 2025 decreased by 0.2 percentage points compared to Q2 of 2025, reaching 49.0%, and a decrease of 2.5 percentage points compared to Q3 of 2024.

Quarterly changes of labor market indicators for Saudis

In Q3 of 2025, the labor market indicators in the Kingdom showed a decrease in the labor force participation rate for Saudi females by 0.8 percentage points, reaching 33.7%. Additionally, the employment to population ratio of Saudi females decreased by 0.9 percentage points reaching 29.7%. At the same time, the unemployment rate of Saudi females increased by 0.8 percentage points recording 12.1%, compared to the previous quarter of 2025.

Regarding Saudi males, the labor force participation rate increased by 0.3 percentage points to the level of 64.3%. The employment to population ratio decreased to 61.1%. Also, the unemployment rate increased to 5.0% compared to the previous quarter of 2025.

Increase of participation rate for Saudi youth

In Q3 of 2025, Saudi female youth aged 15-24 experienced a 0.5 percentage points decrease in the employment to population ratio, reaching 13.3%. Additionally, there was a 0.2 percentage points increase in the participation rate, reaching 17.6%. However, the unemployment rate increased by 3.6 percentage points reaching 24.2% 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 points decrease, reaching 27.9%, and recorded a 0.7 percentage points increase in the labor force participation rate, reaching 32.3%. The unemployment rate increased by 2.1 percentage points reaching 13.6% 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 Q3 of 2025 showed a 0.5 percentage points decrease in employment to population ratio, reaching 62.8%, and a 0.4 percentage point decrease in the participation rate, reaching 66.9%. Also, the unemployment rate increased to reach 6.1% compared to the previous quarter of 2025.

For Saudis aged 55 and above, the labor market indicators for Q3 of 2025 indicated a decrease in the labor force participation rate and the employment to population ratio and an increase 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 73.3%, followed by the use of the national unified employment platform (Jadarat) by 59.4%, and updating or posting CVs on professional social media platforms by 50.5%.

Additional indicators for unemployed Saudis

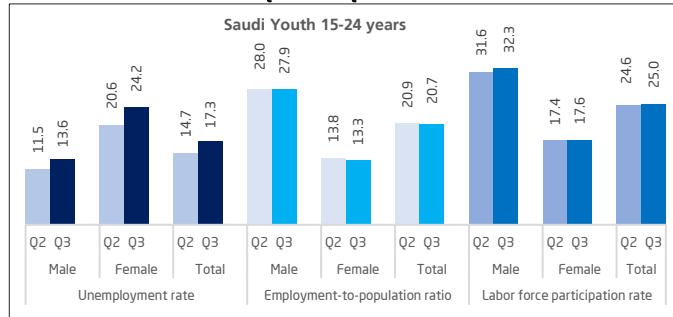
The results showed that 95.3% of unemployed Saudis are willing to accept job offers in the private sector. Additionally, 61.0% of unemployed Saudi females and 42.7% of unemployed Saudi males are willing to commute to work for at least one hour. Furthermore, 70.6 % of unemployed Saudi females and 86.7% 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

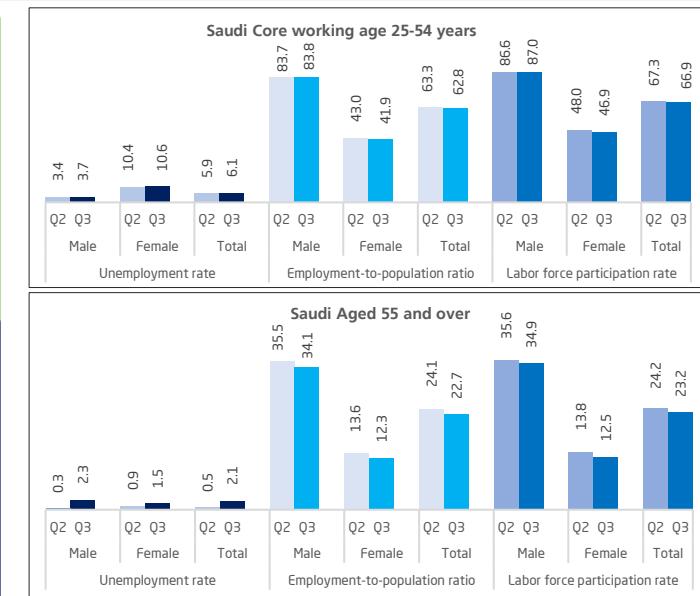
Indicators	Third Quarter 2024			Second Quarter 2025			Third Quarter 2025		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Unemployment rate	2.0	11.9	3.7	2.0	8.7	3.2	2.2	9.4	3.4
Saudi	4.7	13.6	7.8	4.3	11.3	6.8	5.0	12.1	7.5
Non-Saudi	0.9	7.2	1.4	1.2	3.4	1.4	1.2	4.0	1.4
Employment-to-population ratio	82.3	29.6	64.1	81.8	32.3	65.0	82.0	31.0	64.6
Saudi	63.7	31.3	47.4	61.3	30.6	45.9	61.1	29.7	45.3
Non-Saudi	92.7	25.9	79.1	92.8	35.8	81.2	92.9	33.7	80.9
Participation rate	84.0	33.6	66.6	83.5	35.4	67.1	83.8	34.2	66.9
Saudi	66.9	36.2	51.5	64.0	34.5	49.2	64.3	33.7	49.0
Non-Saudi	93.6	27.9	80.2	93.9	37.1	82.4	94.0	35.1	82.1

Source: Estimated data from the Labor Force Survey according to population estimates for Q3 2025- General Authority for Statistics

Figure1. Main Labor Market Indicators for Saudis by Age Group Q2 2025 / Q3 2025



Source: Estimated data from the Labor Force Survey according to population estimates for Q3 2025- General Authority for Statistics



Notes to users

A- Data collection for Q3 2025

In Q3 2025, data collection was conducted through field visits and telephonic interviews with households in the sample using Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI and CATI).

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

The General Authority for Statistics publishes a Labor Market Bulletin containing key indicators of labor market statistics based on the Labor Force Survey. Additionally, it publishes statistics on the number of participants 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 reporting periods between the Labor Force Survey and administrative records.

Since the coverage of the Labor Force Survey is broader than that of administrative records, the 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:

<https://www.stats.gov.sa/ar/814>

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.

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).

The basic definitions according to the ILO standards used in producing these indicators are:

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.

- 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](#)