

## Unemployment rate decreases to 3.3% in Q2/2024

Based on the estimates from the Labor Force Survey conducted by the General Authority for Statistics, the overall unemployment rate (for both Saudis and non-Saudis) reached 3.3% in the second quarter of 2024, marking a decrease of 0.2 percentage points compared to the first quarter of 2024. It also recorded an annual decline of 0.8 percentage points compared to the second quarter of 2023. The unemployment rate for Saudis was 7.1% in the second quarter of 2024, down by 0.5 percentage points compared to the first quarter of 2024 and showing an annual decrease of 1.4 percentage points compared to the second quarter of 2023.

The results showed a decrease in the participation rate of Saudis in the labor force in the second quarter of 2024 by 0.6 percentage points compared to the first quarter of the same year, reaching 50.8%. However, there was a slight annual increase of 0.1 percentage points compared to the second quarter of 2023. Meanwhile, the employment-to-population ratio for Saudis declined by 0.3 percentage points compared to the first quarter of 2024, standing at 47.2%, while it increased by 0.8 percentage points annually compared to the second quarter of 2023.

### Decrease of unemployment rate for Saudi females

In the second quarter of 2024, the labor market indicators in the Kingdom showed an increase in the employment-to-population ratio for Saudi females by 0.1 percentage points, reaching 30.8%. Additionally, the labor force participation rate of Saudi females decreased by 0.4 percentage points reaching 35.4%. At the same time, the unemployment rate of Saudi females decreased by 1.4 percentage points recording 12.8%, compared to the previous quarter of 2024.

Regarding Saudi males, the employment-to-population ratio remained unchanged at the level of 63.6%. The labor force participation rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points, reaching 66.3%. However, the unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 percentage points reaching 4.0% compared to the previous quarter of 2024.

### Decrease of unemployment rate for Saudi core working age

In the second quarter of 2024, Saudi female youth aged 15-24 experienced a 0.5 percentage points decrease in the employment-to-population ratio, reaching 13.0%. Additionally, there was a 0.6 percentage points decrease in the labor force participation rate, reaching 17.0%. However, the unemployment rate increased by 0.6 percentage points reaching 23.6% compared to the previous quarter of 2024.

On the other hand, Saudi male youth recorded a 0.6 percentage points decrease in the employment-to-population ratio, reaching 29.7%, and a 0.8 percentage points decrease in the labor force participation rate, reaching 33.5%. The unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 percentage points reaching 11.4% compared to the previous quarter of 2024.

The results concerning labor market indicators for the Saudi population (both males and females) in the core working age group (25-54 years) during the second quarter of 2024 showed a 0.1 percentage points decrease in the employment-to-population ratio, reaching 64.5%, and a 0.7 percentage point decrease in the labor force participation rate, reaching 68.7%. Also, the unemployment rate decreased by 6.2% compared to the previous quarter of 2024.

For Saudis aged 55 and above, the labor market indicators for the second quarter of 2024 indicated a slight change in the unemployment rate compared to the previous quarter of 2024.

### Active methods of job search for unemployed Saudis

Saudi job seekers use a variety of active job search methods, with an average of 5.0 active methods per job seeker. The method of asking friends or relatives about job opportunities was the most commonly used job search method recording 89.7%, followed by directly applying to employers by 78.1%, and the use of the national unified employment platform (Jadarat) by 69.0%.

### Additional indicators for unemployed Saudis

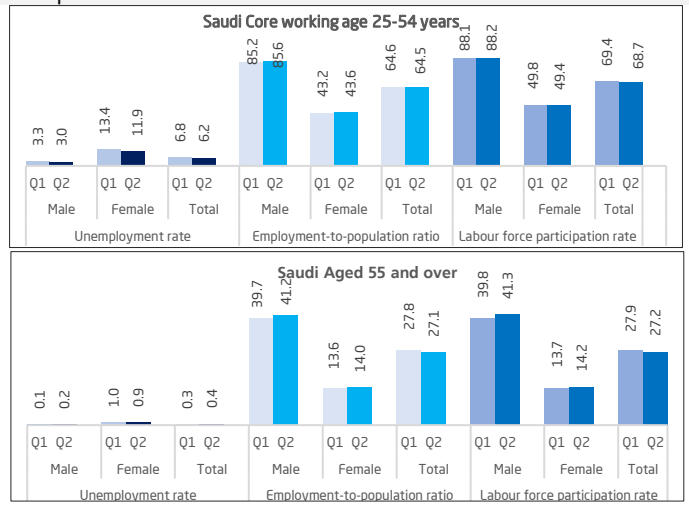
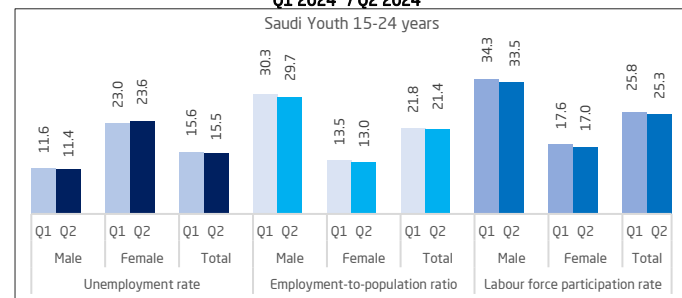
The results showed that 95.5% of unemployed Saudis are willing to accept job offers in the private sector. Additionally, 59.1% of unemployed Saudi females and 43.0% of unemployed Saudi males are willing to commute to work for at least one hour. Furthermore, 81.9% of unemployed Saudi females and 93.8% of unemployed Saudi males indicated that they are willing to work for eight hours or more per day.

Table1: Key indicators of Saudi labor market by quarter

Indicators	Second quarter 2023			First quarter 2024			Second quarter 2024		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Unemployment rate	2.2	12.9	4.1	1.8	11.8	3.5	1.7	10.8	3.3
Saudi	4.6	15.9	8.5	4.2	14.2	7.6	4.0	12.8	7.1
Non-Saudi	1.1	5.5	1.4	0.8	5.4	1.1	0.8	5.0	1.1
Employment-to-population ratio	81.4	29.6	63.4	81.7	29.5	63.7	82.1	29.8	64.0
Saudi	63.3	29.3	46.4	63.6	30.7	47.5	63.6	30.8	47.2
Non-Saudi	92.5	30.2	79.7	92.6	26.8	78.8	92.7	27.5	79.4
Participation rate	83.2	33.9	66.1	83.2	33.4	66.0	83.6	33.4	66.2
Saudi	66.3	34.8	50.7	66.4	35.8	51.4	66.3	35.4	50.8
Non-Saudi	93.5	31.9	80.8	93.3	28.3	79.6	93.4	28.9	80.3

Source: Estimated data from the Labor Force Survey according to population estimates based on Saudi Census 2022 - General Authority for Statistics

Figure1. Main labor market indicators for Saudis by age group Q1 2024 / Q2 2024



Source: Estimated data from the Labor Force Survey according to population estimates based on Saudi Census 2022 - General Authority for Statistics

### Notes

#### A- New population estimates based on the results of the 2022 census

- The General Authority for Statistics adopted population projections based on the Saudi 2022 Census from the first quarter of 2024 onwards, which had implications on the indicators of the Labor Force Survey results.
- The historical time series is currently being reviewed to re-estimate previous Labor Force Survey indicators and align them with the new population estimates, and estimates for the previous time series will be republished gradually. (See the Labor Market Statistics Methodology Report for more details).

#### B- Publishing Labor Market Statistics through the Statistical Database Platform

The Statistical Database Platform is a unified electronic portal for publishing all statistical data produced by the General Authority for Statistics. It provides access to a wide range of time series for Labor Force Survey statistics from the second quarter of 2016 to the latest release: <https://database.stats.gov.sa/beta/dashboard/landing>

#### C- 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 reference 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 The Labor Force Survey sample was designed based on the framework of the 2022 Census (see the Labor Market Statistics Methodology Report for more details).

The Labor Force Survey is a household survey with a sample size of about 96,000 households per quarter. Data is collected continuously throughout all weeks of the quarter using telephone and field interviews.

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

**Unemployment rate:** The percentage of unemployed individuals as a proportion of the labor force (employed and unemployed individuals) who are of working age (15 years and over).

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

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

The basic definitions, according to the International Labor Organization (ILO) standards used in producing these indicators, are as follows:

**Employed persons:** Individuals (15 years and over) who, during the reference period (the reference week):

- Worked for at least one hour in exchange for a salary or profit (in cash or in-kind), whether as regular or temporary employees, employers, or self-employed persons.
- Assisted a family member for at least one hour, with or without pay, in any type of business or on a family farm.
- Were temporarily absent from their job for the entire reference week due to leave, illness, or any other reason but are expected to return to it.
- Held seasonal jobs during the off-season period but continued to perform some tasks and duties related to the job.

**Unemployed persons:** Individuals (15 years and over) who:

- Were without a job during the reference week.
- Were actively seeking work during the four reference weeks preceding the interview.
- Were available to start work either in the reference week or within the next two weeks.

**Labor force:** Represents the labor force (the total number of employed and unemployed individuals).

In addition to applying International Labor Organization standards, the General Authority for Statistics uses the Labor Market Policy Committee standards to validate the Labor Force Survey data with administrative records.

Methodology [Link](#)