



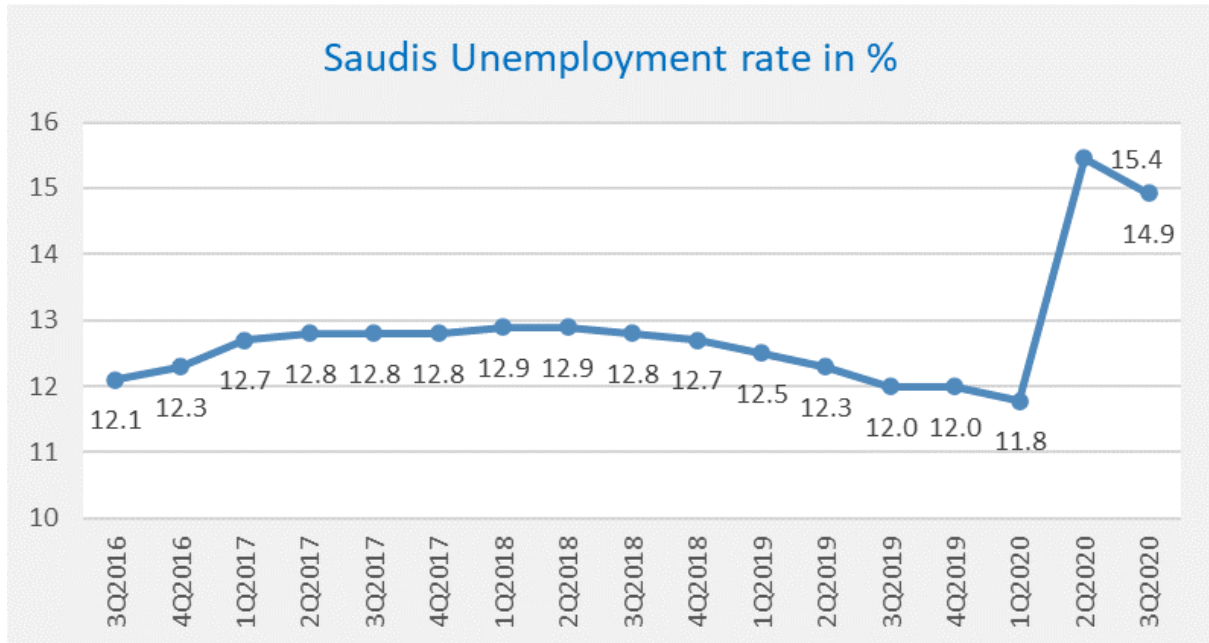
Saudi unemployment decreases to 14.9% in Q3/2020

Saudi unemployment rate decreased to 14.9% in the third quarter of 2020, and the total unemployment rate for Saudis and Non-Saudis decreased to 8.5 %. Compared to Q3/2019, Saudis' total unemployment rate is 2.9 pp higher than the same period of the previous year. The impact of COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect Saudi labor market and the economy. However, the total Labor Force Participation rate was 59.5% in Q3/2020, increasing by 0.1 pp compared to Q2 2020.

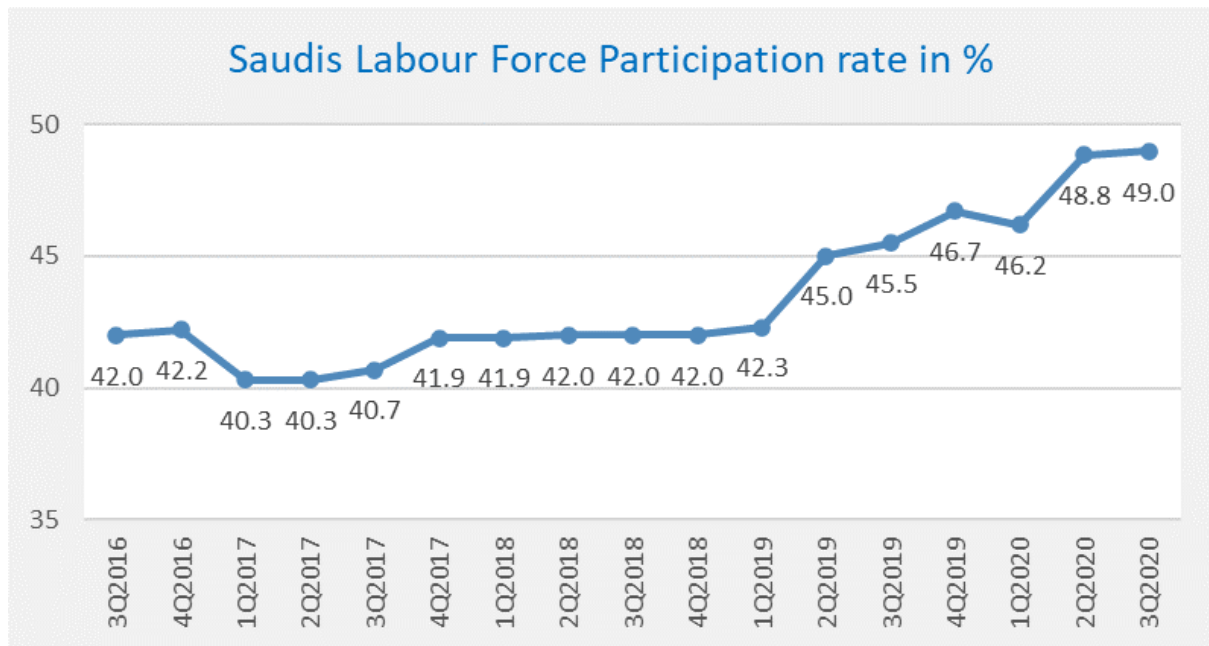
Saudi unemployment rate decreases by 0.5 pp, and Saudi Labor Force Participation rate increases to 49.0%

Compared to the Q2 2020, labor force indicators for Q3 of the same year showed the following changes for unemployed Saudis:

- Saudi unemployment rate decreased from 15.4% in Q2 2020 to 14.9% in Q3 2020.
- Saudi male unemployment rate amounted to 7.9%, decreasing by 0.2 pp compared to Q2 2020.
- Saudi female unemployment rate amounted to 30.2%, decreasing by 1.2 pp compared to Q2 2020.
- 60.7% of unemployed Saudis belong to the age group (20-29 years).
- More than half of the unemployed Saudis (53.5%) had a bachelor's degree, and 24.9% of unemployed Saudis who hold a diploma or higher degree, are specialized in humanity studies.
- 79.0% of unemployed Saudi males and 93.3% of unemployed Saudi females have never worked before.
- The labor force participation rate of Saudis reached a level of 49.0% in Q3 2020, increasing by 0.1 pp compared to Q2 2020.
- Saudi males labor force participation rate amounted to 66.0% in Q3 2020, increasing by 0.3 pp compared to the last quarter
- The Saudi female labor force participation rate amounted to 31.3% in Q3 2020, decreasing by 0.1 pp compared to the last quarter



Source: estimated data from LFS - General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT)



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Unemployment rate %					
Quarters	Total	Saudi			Non Saudi
		All	Male	Female	
3Q2016	5.7	12.1	5.7	34.5	0.8
4Q2016	5.6	12.3	5.9	34.5	0.5
1Q2017	5.8	12.7	7.2	33.0	0.7
2Q2017	6.0	12.8	7.4	33.1	0.9
3Q2017	5.8	12.8	7.4	32.7	0.5
4Q2017	6.0	12.8	7.5	31.0	0.7
1Q2018	6.1	12.9	7.6	30.9	0.9
2Q2018	6.0	12.9	7.6	31.1	0.7
3Q2018	6.0	12.8	7.5	30.9	0.9
4Q2018	6.0	12.7	6.6	32.5	1.0
1Q2019	5.7	12.5	6.6	31.7	0.6
2Q2019	5.6	12.3	6.0	31.1	0.3
3Q2019	5.5	12.0	5.8	30.8	0.3
4Q2019	5.7	12.0	4.9	30.8	0.4
1Q2020	5.7	11.8	5.6	28.2	0.5
2Q2020	9.0	15.4	8.1	31.4	3.1
3Q2020	8.5	14.9	7.9	30.2	2.7

Source: estimated data from LFS - General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT)

Labor Force Participation rate %					
Quarters	Total	Saudi			Non Saudi
		All	Male	Female	
3Q2016	55.3	42.0	64.6	19.0	73.1
4Q2016	56.5	42.2	64.6	19.3	76.2
1Q2017	55.1	40.3	61.9	17.4	75.6
2Q2017	54.2	40.3	62.1	17.4	73.4
3Q2017	54.8	40.7	62.6	17.8	74.2
4Q2017	55.6	41.9	63.4	19.4	74.2
1Q2018	55.5	41.9	63.5	19.5	73.9
2Q2018	56.2	42.0	63.5	19.6	75.5
3Q2018	56.4	42.0	63.5	19.7	75.7
4Q2018	55.9	42.0	63.0	20.2	74.5
1Q2019	56.4	42.3	63.3	20.5	75.3
2Q2019	57.9	45.0	66.0	23.2	75.2
3Q2019	58.4	45.5	67.0	23.2	75.6
4Q2019	58.8	46.7	66.6	26.0	75.2
1Q2020	58.2	46.2	65.8	25.9	74.5
2Q2020	59.4	48.8	65.6	31.4	73.9
3Q2020	59.5	49.0	66.0	31.3	73.8

Source: estimated data from LFS - General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT)



Methodology

Labor market statistics are based on two main sources:

First Source: Labor Force Survey, (General Authority for Statistics)

The Labor Force Survey is a sample household survey that is carried out by GASTAT by telephone calls to households. The enumeration areas have been updated in 2020. They provide estimates of the population inside and outside the labor force. The Labor Force Survey serves the most important indicators of the labor market, such as the unemployment rate and the labor force participation rate.

- **Unemployment rate:** ratio of unemployed people to the labor force at working-age population (15+ years)
- **Labor Force Participation rate:** ratio of the labor force (employed and unemployed) to the working-age population (15+).
- **Unemployed:** Individuals (15 years and above) who were:
 1. without a job in the week preceding the interview (phone call).
 2. Seriously looking for work during the four weeks preceding the interview (and have followed at least one method to look for a job). This category also includes those who did not search for work because they were waiting to start an already agreed job or because they want to set up their own business.
 3. People who are available to work and start a job in the week preceding the interview or the next two weeks.

During 2020, GASTAT conducted a comprehensive review of the Labor Force Survey to improve the quality of this important source of data for labor market statistics

Second Source: Administrative data, (GOSI, MHRSD, NIC)

Administrative data recorded and updated by government agencies related to the labor market, as these agencies are major sources of data of employees.

Links: [All Tables](#) , [Methodology](#)