



الهيئة العامة للإحصاء  
General Authority for Statistics

# Labor Force Survey Methodology

2016



### Description:

The labor force survey is one of the field household surveys conducted in the field of social statistics and included in GStat surveys plan. The design, processing and implementation of this survey were carried out to provide data on the work force of actual population aged 15 years and over in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The importance of these data lies in providing information on the size of the population inside and outside the labor force, with particular emphasis on working-age population of both genders who are economically active or non-active.

### Terms associated with the labor force survey:

#### Head of the family:

Head of the family (alternatively known as: paterfamilias) refers to the person regarded by the family members as its chairman. Usually, he is responsible for taking decisions of family affairs, and his age is not under 15 years. If the

family consists of children and their mother, the mother in this case will be the head of the family.

#### Population:

It refers to all individuals, Saudis and non-Saudis, living in the Kingdom at the time of the survey.

#### Survey population:

The members of the families of the households selected in the sample, including domestic workers, and the like, who live in one house.

#### Workforce (economically active population):

They are all individuals aged 15 years and over, whether employed or unemployed.

#### Workers:

They are the individuals (15 years and over) who, during the reference period (the week preceding visiting a family):

- worked for at least one hour for a salary or a wage (in cash or in kind) as regular or temporary employees, employers or self-employed individuals;
- assisted one of the family members for at least one hour for free in any type of business or in a farm owned by one of the members of the family;





- worked for at least one hour for others without a wage or a profit (in cash or in kind) as volunteers; or
- were temporarily absent from work all the week due to a leave, an illness or for any other reason and are scheduled to resume work.

Thus defined, workers include the students, job seekers, retirees, housewives, etc., who worked during the week preceding the visit for at least one hour, provided that this does not include household work, such as cooking and washing carried out by the housewife, or regular household maintenance work carried out by one of the family members.

### The unemployed:

They are the individuals (15 years and over) who, during the reference period:

1. were workless during the week preceding the family visit;
2. seriously looked for work during the four weeks preceding the family visit (followed at least one method to find a job). Included under this category are those who did not search for work during the four weeks preceding the family visit because of waiting to get work or set up their own business during the coming period, given that they already have searched for work before the fixed time); or  
are able to work and ready to join it when available (i.e., when they are available for work) during the week preceding the family visit.

### Outside workforce (economically non-active population):

They are the individuals (15 years and over) who are not classified within the workforce (workless or unemployed), because they do not work during the week preceding the family visit, and do not search for work during the four weeks preceding the visit. Nor are they ready to join it during the week preceding the said visit. This category includes students, housewives, non-working retirees, and individuals who are unable to work, as well as those unwilling to work or to seek jobs for any other reasons.



## Labor Force Survey Methodologies:

### 1- Survey Form Design:

The survey form was prepared and designed by labor force survey specialists in the General Authority for Statistics (GASat). When designing the form, the international recommendations, standards, and definitions issued by the International Labor Organization (ILO) in the field of labor force surveys were taken into consideration. The form was presented to the ILO experts during their visit to the Authority, as well as to the related bodies who were addressed and provided with a preliminary version of the form to take into account their feedback and observations.

The form was divided into eight sections according to the subject to increase the efficiency of the form in achieving the technical specifications of the field-work stage. Besides, the questions were re-formed so as to be directly asked to the targeted person to unify the question form directed by the researchers so as to achieve consistency of the answers.

The survey form included a group of questions relating to the demographic, social and economic characteristics of the individuals, the most important of which are:

The individual's name, gender, relation to the head of the family, nationality, age, marital status, education, and specialization (for holders of the secondary school or higher certificate. It highlights also whether or not they practiced work during the previous week; whether they look for work; and how they search for work. The survey covers, moreover, the reasons for not searching for work, the duration of the search for work, availability to work, the reasons for not being the available to work, and the type and duration of training and its financing body. It investigates, also, previous work experiences, reasons for leaving the previous work, the profession, the name of the organization for which the individual works, sector type, economic activity, career status, net monthly wage of the working individual, retirement system to the working Saudis, and the number of work hours of the main job and the additional one (if any) during the reference week. The work contract is also investigated.



## 2- Sample Design:

The Labor Force Survey is one of actual family surveys carried out by the General Authority for Statistics by using the general population and housing census framework. To get highly efficient and effective estimates, the survey society has been divided into non-overlapping parts, characterized by relative homogeneity in their units. Each part is considered a category, and each category is dealt with as an independent society. A random sample is independently drawn from each category. Finally, all drawn sampling units are integrated to form the entire sample. To prepare this framework, each administrative region was divided into a number of categories ranging 3-10 categories, defined according to population size, so that the total number amounted to fifty-four categories all over the Kingdom. The optimum size of the main sample that fulfills the purposes different family researches conducted by the Authority all over the Kingdom and the administrative regions was identified. After that, primary sampling units were drawn, represented in statistical areas that amounted to 1340 statistical areas distributed over all administrative regions.



### Survey Sample Design and Selection:

Before proceeding to design the survey sample and to choose the appropriate method, the survey objectives were discussed and studied and the results of the previous surveys were examined. Besides, an analysis was carried out to values of the standard deviation and the difference of some of the main variables, such as unemployment rate and number of workers at the level of the administrative regions. In the light of that, the size of the sample of the new survey has been estimated, and the selected sample, which is a random categorical cluster sample, was identified. It was selected through two stages, in accordance with the following:

#### First Stage:

After determining the optimum size of the survey sample of families of each administrative region, the process of drawing the primary sampling units, i.e. statistical areas, from the framework of restricting and numbering buildings and real estates begins. A number of 1340 statistical areas, of

36198 statistical areas within the framework of the census was drawn. They are distributed among all categories in all administrative regions using the method that is commensurate with the size, considering the number of Saudi families in them, distributed as follows:

Administrative region	Sampling units number	Administrative region	Sampling units number	Administrative region	Sampling units number
Riyadh	220	Asir	90	Najran	70
Makkah	240	Tabuk	70	Al-Bahah	70
Medina	90	Ha'il	70	Al-Jawf	70
Al-Qassim	70	Northern Borders	70	Total	1340
Eastern Province	140	Jazan	70		



### Second Phase:

The secondary sampling units, i.e.families, were randomly drawn from the statistical areas, which were chosen in the first phase using the regular random sample. 25families were chosen from each statistical area, totaling 933500) families all over the Kingdom.

### 3-Data Collection Method:

The Labor Force Survey is carried out on a quarterly basis. The process of collecting survey data continues for four weeks. Because of the fact that the family is the focus of the research, the method of direct contact with the family has been used in the process of completing survey form. Researchers, in charge of this process, visited the families within the survey sample and completed data directly using the Labor Force Survey Form.

Operations or laws used in Labor Force Survey

$$\text{Unemployment rate} = \frac{\text{Unemployed Number}}{\text{Total workforce (working + unemployed)}} \times 100$$



Employment Rate

$$\text{Employment Rate} = \frac{\text{Employed Number}}{\text{Total workforce (working + unemployed)}} \times 100$$

Revised Economic Activity Rate:

$$\text{Revised Economic Activity Rate} = \frac{\text{Workforce Individuals Number}}{\text{Total population number in work age (15-over)}} \times 100$$



Revised Rate of Women participation in workforce:

$$= \frac{\text{Number of female work force}}{\text{Total Number of females (15-over)}} \times 100$$

Age Dependency Rate :

$$= \frac{\text{Population in dependency age (population under 15 year + over 65 years, workless)}}{\text{Total population in work age (15-64)}} \times 100$$







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