



CPS Paper

The role of expatriate population in overall population growth and structure

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Brief Description

The expatriate population witnessed its crucial role in the development of GCC member states.

The significance of mortality and fertility changes to the process of population transition and structure has been widely proven in different demographic research.

The six countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) - United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sultanate of Oman, State of Qatar, and State of Kuwait, are recognized for their high levels of economic development, which have helped in the transformation of their societies and economies.

The region has undergone considerable development over the last fifty years.

Along with the well-known infrastructure developments and significant improvements in social development, including in health and education outcomes.

Much of this development has been heavily dependent on the non-citizen population in the GCC region, so that is why the region had a large movement of temporary workers.

The percentage of expatriates has systematically been growing over the last decades in some GCC member states, most of them shorter-term workers while international migration is often seen as a permanent move rather than a complex series of backward or onward movements.

(1)

GCC-Stat estimates that the population of the GCC in 2021 was 56.4 million (GCC-Stat, 2022), compared to the UN Population Division (UNPD) estimate of 28.0 million in 1998 (UNPD).

This was an increase of 28.4 million or 101.4 percent over the 1998-2021 period and represents an annual growth rate of 3.3 over the period. There is also a significant sex difference in the citizen and non-citizen populations.

The non-citizen population still remains predominantly male – with a sex ratio (ratio of males to females) of 151.8 in 2021 (GCC-Stat, 2021).

This means that males made up 60.3% of the overall population, totaling 34.0 million.

There were 22.4 million females or 39.7% of the total population.

The working-age population (15-64) is the majority of the non-citizen, with an average of 87.7%.

In 2017 with a median age of 30.7 years (GCC-Stat, 2020).

In 2020, over 65% is the proportion of employed non-citizens from the total employed.

However, there are clear signs that there is an impact of the covid-19 on regular movement and impact on the labor market, with decreasing number of employed non-citizens by 5.4% between Q1-2020 to Q3-2020.

Over the last decades, the reliance of the gulf cooperation council (GCC) countries' economy on the expatriate workforce has increased incessantly.

This increase in the demand for expatriates is due to the rapid growth of development in different aspects.

(1) Global Migration: Demographic Aspects and Its Relevance for Development, United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, Technical Paper No.

Abstract

The expatriate population witnessed its crucial role in the development of GCC member states. The significance of mortality and fertility changes to the process of population transition and structure has been widely proven in different demographic research. The six countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) - United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sultanate of Oman, State of Qatar, and State of Kuwait, are recognized for their high levels of economic development, which have helped in the transformation of their societies and economies. The region has undergone considerable development over the last fifty years. Along with the well-known infrastructure developments and significant improvements in social development, including in health and education outcomes. Much of this development has been heavily dependent on the non-citizen population in the GCC region, so that is why the region had a large movement of temporary workers. The percentage of expatriates has systematically been growing over the last decades in some GCC member states, most of them shorter-term workers while international migration is often seen as a permanent move rather than a complex series of backward or onward movements. (1) GCC-Stat estimates that the population of the GCC in 2021 was 56.4 million (GCC-Stat, 2022), compared to the UN Population Division (UNPD) estimate of 28.0 million in 1998 (UNPD). This was an increase of 28.4 million or 101.4 percent over the 1998-2021 period and represents an annual growth rate of 3.3 over the period. There is also a significant sex difference in the citizen and non-citizen populations. The non-citizen population still remains predominantly male – with a sex ratio (ratio of males to females) of 151.8 in 2021 (GCC-Stat, 2021). This means that males made up 60.3% of the overall population, totaling 34.0 million. There were 22.4 million females or 39.7% of the total population. The working-age population (15-64) is the majority of the non-citizen, with an average of 87.7%. In 2017 with a median age of 30.7 years (GCC-Stat, 2020). In 2020, over 65% is the proportion of employed non-citizens from the total employed. However, there are clear signs that there is an impact of the covid-19 on regular movement and impact on the labor market, with decreasing number of employed non-citizens by 5.4% between Q1-2020 to Q3-2020. Over the last decades, the reliance of the gulf cooperation council (GCC) countries' economy on the expatriate workforce has increased incessantly. This increase in the demand for expatriates is due to the rapid growth of development in different aspects. (1) Global Migration: Demographic Aspects and Its Relevance for Development, United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, Technical Paper No. 2013/6 (2) Source: The Gulf Cooperation Council Statistical Office for the Arab States (GCC stat)

Figures/Tables

Presentation2

Table 1: Population by Nationality and Gender in GCC, 2021

Item	Kuwait	Qatar	Oman	KSA	Bahrain	*UAE	GCC
Total	4,216,900	2,677,001	4,527,446	34,110,821	1,504,365	9,282,410	56,318,943
Male	2,505,146	1,941,660	2,761,154	19,363,656	925,747	6,468,460	33,965,823
Female	1,711,754	735,341	1,766,292	14,747,165	578,618	2,813,950	22,353,120
Citizen	1,420,836	450,809	2,804,117	21,690,648.00	719,333	566,078	27,651,821
Male	705,843	98,875	1,412,508	11,028,006.00	364,891	48,668	13,658,791
Female	714,993	351,934	1,391,609	10,662,642.00	354,442	517,410	13,993,030
Non-Citizen	2,796,064	2,226,192	1,723,329	12,420,173	785,032	8,716,332	28,667,122
Male	1,799,303	1,842,785	1348646	8,335,650	560,856	6,419,792	20,307,032
Female	996,761	383,407	374683	4,084,523	224,176	2,296,540	8,360,090

Derived from GCC-Stat and UNPD (UAE & Qatar data by nationality from UNPD)
GCC-Stat Center, 2022, Population statistics in GCC countries https://www.gccstat.org/images/gccstat/docman/publications/Population2021_1.pdf