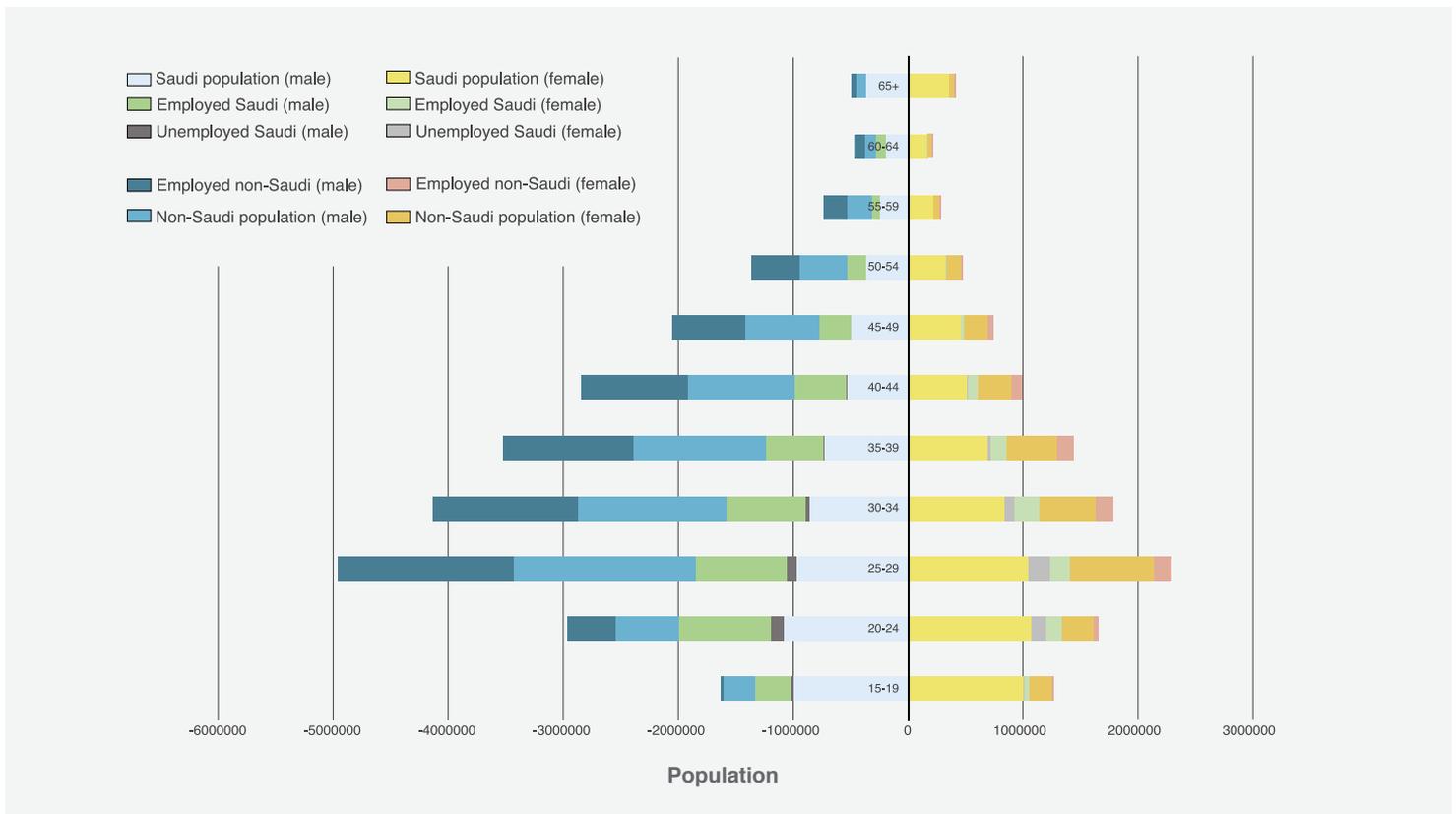


Data Insight

10/04/2018

Insight 02: Demography

Saudi Arabia population pyramid



Source: Data from the General Authority for Statistics, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Key insights

- Saudi Arabia's total population reached 32.5 million in 2017. The population distribution pyramid for 2016 shows that there are far more men than women above 15 years of age. This is the result of the country's dual labor market: Foreign workers, a large proportion of whom are male, exceed the supply of local labor by around 875,000.
- This over-representation of foreign workers aged between 25 and 55 shows an extremely low unemployment rate among non-Saudis of around 0.3 percent, compared to 12.8 percent unemployment among Saudis, which increased this year. Although the number of Saudis in work has been increasing, a large gap between Saudis and expatriates still exists.

- The private sector has relied heavily on foreign workers. However, new levies on foreign workers over the last year have increased labor costs, causing almost 1,500* expats to leave the country daily. Over 800,000* expatriates left the country in the past 18 months. Several job categories are now reserved only for Saudi citizens. The number of expatriate workers leaving Saudi Arabia will continue to rise.
- The Ministry of Labor and Social Development intends to bolster the country's economic growth through, among other measures, empowering women. In 2016, the ratio of men to women aged between 20 and 59 in the workforce was five to one. This was a positive change compared to 2006 when the ratio was six to one. Increasing the participation of women in the workforce would help reduce the unemployment rate among Saudi nationals to around 9 percent.

Please access this [link](#) for further analysis and visualization. Related data sets are available from the KAPSARC data [portal](#).

This KAPSARC Data Insight uses data from the General Authority for Statistics' labor force indicators of Saudi Arabia. Most numbers and ratios are calculated across the average for both genders and by segments (Saudis and non-Saudis) aged between 25 and 59 years old.

KAPSARC data analysts have made the data machine-readable for ease of use in economic models.

Sources: General Authority for Statistics; Ministry of Labor and Social Development; United Nations; *Saudi Gazette.

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