

Labour survey launched

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In an initiative that serves decision and policy makers in the Kingdom of Bahrain, Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA) has announced the launch of the Labour Force Survey 2018 in Bahrain - in accordance with international statistical standards - to measure the size of the local and foreign labour forces along with level of production and activities promoting the national economic growth to achieve the Vision 2030 goals.

The survey aims at providing data to calculate a set of indicators on the size of local and foreign labour forces classified according to their population, social and economic features that contribute in determining priorities of upcoming strategic plans in all economic sectors.

The Authority confirmed the importance of statistics relevant to the labour market comprising the indicators



iGA officials will collect data on the size of local and foreign labour forces as part of the labour force survey 2018

necessary standards of distributing International Monetary Fund data along with International Labour Organization (ILO) indicators that cover the requirements of the Sustainable Development Goals indexes. Furthermore, iGA urges all targeted samples, citizens and residents, to constructively cooperate with the survey team in order to achieve the desired objectives and ensure continuous flow

of updated, high-quality data that are in accordance with international standards.

The survey aims at measuring unemployment, employment, participation, economic dependency and wages according to several variations. It also aims at providing data on training programs for job seekers and identifying their past experiences, unemployment and employment data according

to their specializations and qualifications. In addition to identifying occupational structure and economic activity for employees as per a number of variables including average of annual salaries. Moreover, provide data on average number of weekly actual working hours according to job requirements and needs. The survey also aims at providing a set of updated data on labour market statistics to

decision-makers, public and private sectors, researchers, regional and international organizations.

The Authority had previously organized a training course for fieldwork team that comprises of 27 iGA employees - working in Statistics - who have conducted several field surveys in the past. The course had introduced them to the survey methodology and mechanism of entering precise

data as well as confidentiality of attained information.

The survey will be conducted in line with the Economic Statistical Strategy Plan - approved by the GCC Supreme Council, supervised and implemented by the GCC-STAT Center in collaboration with the national statistic entities. Within the Kingdom of Bahrain, the survey is carried-out during the course of one year on randomly selected samples of 4,500 Bahraini and non-Bahraini households comprising labour camps throughout all governorates. These households will be contacted and informed that they are amongst the selected samples to conduct the survey as well as set an appointment to visit them at their convenience. The survey enables the monitoring and fulfilling of varied seasonal information that are available only through field visits taking into account seasonal variables in employment and unemployment.



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Flexi Permit system presented at UN

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The Flexi Permit, a Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) initiative allowing foreign workers to sponsor themselves, was highlighted at a United Nations forum yesterday. During the forum organized in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration, the Bahraini delegation represented by the LMRA CEO, Ausamah Abdulla Al Absi, presented the pioneering initiative.

The Flexi Permit reflects Bahrain's long-standing commitment to increasing its international and regional competitiveness by strengthening the role of the private sector, the LMRA CEO said.

The much-lauded two-year permit enables expatriates to work for multiple employers on a full time or part time basis, provided the job does not require a professional license to be exercised.

The eligible permit-holder is liable to pay BD 200 as work visa fee and BD 144 towards healthcare with a monthly payment of BD 30.

Following its launch July



LMRA CEO Ausamah Abdulla Al Absi speaking at the UN forum

2016, the LMRA received an average of around 50 expats every day with over 2,000 expatriate workers becoming legal residents as of January 2018.

Ausamah Abdulla Al Absi added that the Flexi Permit enables the Kingdom to capitalise on available opportunities at low-cost and within existing legal frameworks, all while improving employment conditions for Bahrain's irregular or temporary workforce.

Over 48,000 permits are expected to be issued within two years as part of the pilot project, the first of its kind in

the Middle East.

In September 2017, the LMRA extended the eligibility of Flexi Permits to expatriates who are not in possession of their passports, provided the passport has a six month validity.

The permit, a blue card carrying basic information and photograph of the permit holder, will considerably reduce illegal practices in the labor sector.

The permit has been adopted as a best practice example of effective management of migrant labor markets at the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).