

Labour market shifts from recruitment to **retention**

New work permits fell 10.1pc in 2025, while renewals jumped 11.2pc

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

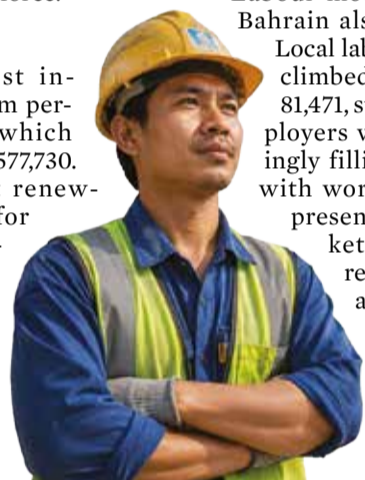
Bahrain issued fewer new work permits in 2025 as employers increasingly renewed existing workers and relied more on labour already inside the Kingdom, according to figures released by the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA).

New work permits fell by 10.1 per cent to 159,759 last year, down from 177,659 in 2024, a drop of 17,900 permits.

Despite the decline in new recruitment, the number of active work permits held by non-Bahrainis edged up by 1.8pc to 654,672 at the end of 2025, indicating only modest growth in the foreign workforce.

Permit renewals

The strongest increase came from permit renewals, which rose by 11.2pc to 577,730. Labour permit renewals accounted for 502,808 of the total, while investor permit renewals reached 15,075 and dependant permit renewals stood at 59,847.



Labour mobility within Bahrain also increased. Local labour transfers climbed by 13.9pc to 81,471, suggesting employers were increasingly filling vacancies with workers already present in the market rather than recruiting from abroad.

Permit cancellations requested during the

year totalled 116,006, including 98,025 labour permits, 1,861 investor permits and 16,120 dependant permits.

Construction remained the largest source of new labour demand, accounting for 20.4pc of new labour permits issued in 2025. Wholesale and retail trade followed with 19.2pc, while accommodation and food services made up 13.4pc. Together, the three sectors accounted for more than half of all new labour permits.

Domestic worker recruitment continued to grow, with new permits rising by 7.4pc to 34,557 and renewals increasing by 10pc to 28,721.

Overall, the figures point to a labour market increasingly focused on retaining and re-allocating workers already in Bahrain, rather than expanding through large-scale new overseas recruitment. The trend comes as Bahrain continues efforts to boost employment opportunities for citizens while allowing foreign hiring in sectors facing labour shortages.

Recruitment



Coffee or matcha? The answer may surprise you

Dr. Sharifa Adel Explains the Effects of Coffee and Matcha on Skin

Rehab Mohammad
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Coffee and matcha may both offer benefits for healthy skin, but the real threat to a glowing complexion often comes from what is added to the cup, according to dermatologist Dr. Sharifa Adel.

Dr. Adel said both beverages are rich in antioxidants that help protect skin cells from damage caused by free radicals. Coffee may also improve blood circulation, supporting skin vitality, while matcha contains high levels of catechins, powerful antioxidants.

pounds known for their anti-inflammatory properties.

“Both drinks can be beneficial when consumed in moderation,” she explained, noting that matcha may help calm the skin and promote a healthy glow.

However, Dr. Adel warned that sugar, flavoured syrups, sweetened milk and creamers commonly added to these drinks can diminish their health benefits.

She said excessive sugar intake can increase inflammation in the body and damage collagen, the protein responsible for maintaining skin firmness and elasticity. This may contribute to dull skin and accelerate signs of ageing.

To maximise the benefits of coffee and matcha, Dr. Adel advised opting for less sugar and avoiding heavily sweetened additions whenever possible.

She added that healthy skin depends on more than a single drink, stressing the importance of staying hydrated, eating a balanced diet and getting adequate sleep.

“The key is the overall lifestyle,” she said. “Even healthy drinks work best when supported by good daily habits.”

Dr. Sharifa Adel, Dermatology Specialist



Southern Council wraps up term with 291 decisions

Fourth session records 55 decisions and recommendations

Hasan Barakat
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The Southern Municipal Council has completed its four-year term after issuing 291 decisions and recommendations, with members set to continue their work during a six-month extension approved



Council Chairman Abdulla Ibrahim Abdul Latif

by the Cabinet.

Council Chairman Abdulla Ibrahim Abdul Latif said

the fourth session included 20 meetings that produced 55 decisions and recommendations on municipal and service matters. The council also sent 756 official correspondences to ministries and service authorities, bringing the four-term total to 3,815.

He said the figures reflect ongoing efforts to address residents' concerns, improve services and support development projects across the Southern Governorate.

Abdul Latif welcomed the six-month extension, saying it would ensure continuity while

ongoing projects are completed. He added that the council would maintain its current pace, although it is awaiting clarification from the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture on whether the extension will form part of the fourth term or a separate session.

The chairman thanked government agencies, service authorities, media organisations and council members for their support and contributions, saying the extension period would help determine the impact of ongoing initiatives.

Canopies shouldn't come at a cost

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Families should not be charged for shade canopies that have become a necessity rather than a luxury, a Muharraq municipal council has said while reviewing proposed changes to the law governing the occupation of public roads.

The council backed amendments to Decree-Law No. 2 of 1996, saying the legislation would modernise road-use regulations through clearer rules, stronger oversight and enhanced public safety measures.

However, it raised concerns over plans to increase fines, warning that penalties should



discourage violations without adding to the financial pressures already facing residents, traders and business owners.

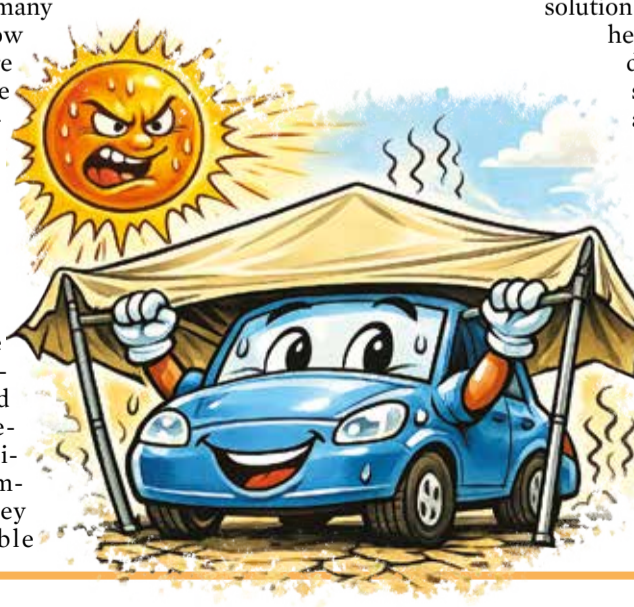
The council said punishment must be proportionate to the

offence and urged authorities to strike a balance between enforcement and affordability.

Making the case for exempting private shade canopies from permit fees, the committee

noted that many households now own two or more vehicles, while modern housing plots often provide limited garage or parking space.

With cars increasingly left outdoors, canopies have become a practical safeguard against the region's harsh climate. The committee said they offer a sensible



solution for homeowners while helping preserve the orderly appearance and safety of residential areas.

The recommendation followed a review of a draft bill submitted by the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture. The council said the amendments would update the legal framework governing public roads while reflecting the changing needs of residents.