

Bahrain's financial sector hits \$245bln in assets

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Assets worth \$245.6 billion sit on the books of Bahrain's banks, the Central Bank's May tally shows.

They are spread across 369 licensed finance houses.

Eighty-three of those houses are banks. Fifteen are Islamic, and their combined assets stand at \$62.6 billion.

The payroll in the wider financial field reached 14,775 in 2024.

Bahrainis held 10,259 posts, which accounts for around seven in ten. Expatriates filled the remaining 4,516.

Output

Nominal output came in at \$47.1 billion last year, a rise of two per cent.

In real terms the figure was \$40.3 billion, up 2.6 per cent. Finance accounted for 17.2 per cent of that real total.

Insurance followed suit. One hundred and thirty-seven licensed firms had written BD239.4 million in premiums by December 2024.

Investment firms numbered 50 at the same date.

BACA launches Children's Cultural Programme

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The Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) has announced the launch of the Children's Cultural Programme, set to take place from August 4 - 27, every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 9 am to 12 pm at the Bahrain National Museum.

The programme offers children and their families the flexibility to choose the week that best suits them, with registration open for any of the four themed weeks.

Aimed at nurturing cultural awareness among children, the programme features educational activities that highlight the importance of cultural heritage and promote its preservation, encouraging participants to become cultural ambassadors within their communities.

Field visits

It also includes field visits to prominent cultural landmarks such as the Bahrain National Museum, the Post Office Museum, the House of Basket Weaving, and the Al Jasra Handicrafts Centre.

These visits are designed to reinforce practical understanding of Bahrain's historical legacy, strengthen national identity, and introduce children to the civilisations of their ancestors.

Targeting children aged 8 to 12, registration is open via the Authority's official website: www.culture.gov.bh.

Farming on the rise

Bahrain's livestock numbers surge by 85% in a decade

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Bahrain's livestock numbers have risen sharply over the past decade, with the total number of animals recorded in 2024 reaching around 102,500.

This marks a rise from 55,300 in 2015, according to figures published by the government's public data platform, showing an increase of 85.4 per cent across various types of farm animals.

Sheep continue to dominate. Their numbers climbed from 30,000 in 2016 to more than 63,000 in 2018 and have stayed near that level since.

The figures suggest steady demand for mutton in the local market, both for daily use and during seasonal periods.

Goats

Goats rose from 20,000 in 2016 to 25,000 in 2018. Since then, the count has remained



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Sheep numbers doubled from 2016 to 2018, reflecting strong, consistent demand for mutton in daily and seasonal local markets.

between 24,000 and 25,000.

Cattle reached 7,000 in 2024, after shifting between 5,500 and 7,600 over the past ten years.

Horse numbers have stayed broadly stable.

They have ranged between

5,000 and 5,500, with 5,150 recorded in 2023.

Camels

Camels followed a similar pattern, holding at roughly 3,000 in most years.

One exception came in 2023, when the figure dropped to 31 before returning to the usual level in 2024.

Separate figures show little change in the number of chicken farms from 2015 to 2024, although broiler farms have consistently outnumbered those producing eggs.

Broiler farms

There were 17 broiler farms in 2024, compared with 21 in 2015 and again in 2020.

Layer farms dropped to two in the past three years, after reaching five in 2019 and 2020.

The gap is linked to the emphasis on local meat production, with broiler chickens playing a central role in the country's food supply.

Aluminium and iron drive BD2bln in Bahrain exports

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Bahrain's national exports reached BD2.014 billion in the first six months of 2025, driven largely by shipments of raw aluminium alloys and agglomerated iron ores.

Data from the Information and eGovernment Authority show that metals and basic industrial goods formed the bulk of what was sold abroad.

Raw aluminium alloys brought in BD572.7 million, the highest in value, while iron ores followed with BD322.3 million.

Iron ores also topped the list by weight, with exported quan-



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tities exceeding 5.4 billion kilograms.

Aluminium alloys came in

second at around 497 million kilograms, with urea in third place at roughly 449 million

kilograms.

The figures reflect Bahrain's continued focus on metals, chemicals, food items and scrap.

In the metalworks trade, unalloyed aluminium wire thicker than seven millimetres earned over BD103 million.

Iron bridge parts were valued at BD88.8 million.

Electrical cables made with aluminium and steel cores, and part-finished iron and steel pieces, were also among the exports.

Chemical products included urea, widely used in farming, which brought in nearly BD82 million. Methanol was export-

ed in bulk for use in industrial processes.

Processed cheese

Among food products, processed cheese stood out. Bahrain also re-exported tin-coated scrap iron and steel, feeding recycling factories abroad.

Most of the iron ore went to nearby markets. Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar together accounted for more than BD215 million of the trade. Algeria, Libya and Egypt were also among the destinations.

Aluminium and related products were shipped to the UAE, Germany and Australia.

Filipino bowling charity event at Funland successful

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Bowling enthusiasts and community members gathered at Funland Centre, for an exhilarating Friday gathering filled with games, fellowship, and fundraising during the "Bowling Charity" tournament on July 25, 2025.

This event blended camaraderie, competition, and a commitment to a noble cause.

Distinguished guests

Among the distinguished guests in attendance were Her Excellency Ambassador Anne Jalado-on Louis; Labor Attaché Dr. Orville Ballitoc; Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Welfare Officer Ms. Juvilyn Gumabay; Ms. Celia V. Cabadonga, Supervising Administrative Staff of the Migrant Workers Office (MWO); and Mr.



H.E. Philippine Ambassador Anne Jalado-on Louis and Pinay IKaw Na president Dinah Sta. Ana with organisers and participants

Yusuf Lori, Director of Communication and Follow-up of the Bahrain Capital Governorate — each representing unwavering support for the community and the humanitarian spirit of the occasion.

These interfaith initiatives were spearheaded by Pinay IKaw Na (PIN), coordinated by its president, Dinah Sta. Ana, along with Good Cause Bahrain

chairperson, Antonette Guese Avila.

A total of 18 teams from various groups and professions participated in the competition, resulting in a challenging and highly competitive tournament.

Engaging matches

Through a series of engaging matches, APO Bahrain Alumni

Association emerged Champion on account of their outstanding team coordination and reliability on the lanes.

THE FOBS emerged as the 1st Runner-Up, with AB Guardians earning the 2nd Runner-Up.

Individual awards were given to recognize outstanding performances:

High Series (Men): Carlo Gaspar (AB Guardians)

High Series (Women): Josephine Tomambo (APO Bahrain Alumni Association)

High Game (Men): Carlos Diapole (AB Guardians)

High Game (Women): September Rose Loplop (Golden Petals)

Most Strikes (Men): William Abiera (APO Bahrain Alumni Association)

Most Strikes (Women): Irma M. Ventura (The Lucky Strikers)

Spirit of giving

Apart from the friendly competition, the tournament also called forth the spirit of giving.

The proceeds from the tournament will be applied to help cancer patients, distress overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and members of the community who require the most attention and care.