Saudi Arabia: Transfers of services (changes of sponsor) in private sector's companies agreed upon by Ministry of Labour's labour offices, by occupation category of employee (2013)

Occupation group	Transfers of services
Managers and Business Managers	12,852
Specialists in Scientific, Technical and Humanities Fields	229,670
Technicians in Scientific, Technical and Humanities Fields	196,373
Clerical Workers	18,637
Sales Persons	200,515
Service Persons	882,600
Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishing	89,664
Industrial, Chemical and Food Industries	88,139
Engineering Support	1,231,094
TOTAL	**2,952,572**

Source: Ministry of Labour

1. Definition

The Saudi Labour Law has provisions allowing the worker to change sponsor.
However, the procedure was conditionned to obtaining a Non-Objection
Certificate from the first sponsor.
Since the onset of the Nitaqat ("ranges", "zones") campaign of Saudisation of
the work force in September 2011, which classifies private sector companies
by "range" based on the
Saudisation performance, changes of sponsor have been made easier for the
workers in companies displaying the poorest rates of Saudisation (classified
in "red" and "yellow" categories).
Workers in these categories can now freely join sponsors whose companies are
in highest saudisation performance' categories ("Green" and "Premium" or
"Excellent"), without NOC from previous sponsor.
Since September 2014, the obligation for a worker to stay a minimum of two
years with a sponsor before applying for sponsorship' change was repealed.

2013′ figure is notably higher than previous ones as a result of the
"correction campaign" or amnesty period run by the government from April 3 to
November 3, 2013.

Ahead of a crackdown on irregular workers/ sojourners planned for November 4, 2013, the amnesty was meant to allow workers to sort out their administrative situation:
renew expired documents; register their current employer as their sponsor; register changes in profession and in activity sector, etc., or leave without paying a penalty.

2. Institution which provides data

Ministry of Labour

3. Data availability

The figures are published in the Ministry of Labour's 2013 Statistical Yearbook (in Arabic).
http://portal.mol.gov.sa/ar/Statistics/Documents/%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%83%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8%A8%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AD%D8%B5%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%8A%202013.pdf

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