

Saudi Arabia has a large labor pool, as it has a population of 25 million with approximately half of them 20 years or younger. The size of the Saudi labor force is estimated to have risen from 1.2 million in 1969 to 3.2 million in 1999, increasing by an average annual rate of about 3.3 percent. At the same time, the availability of skilled labor is also growing, with student enrollment (male and female) at various educational institutions having increased from 0.6 million in 1969 to about 4.7 million in 1999, denoting an average annual growth rate of 7.0 percent.