

## KUWAIT COUNTRY PROFILE

### Introduction

Kuwait is a country located in Western Asia. It is situated in the northern edge of Eastern Arabia at the tip of the Persian Gulf. It shares borders with Saudi Arabia and Iraq. Generally, Kuwait is low lying. It has 9 islands with only 1 being inhabited.

The current global understanding is to relook at education in the lens of the post 2015 era. The Incheon meeting, South Korea in May 2015, brought together countries to have a common front on the targets for the education 2030 agenda. One of the principles of the education 2030 agenda is that countries need to review their policies and targets to ensure achievement of an all-inclusive access to quality education. This country profile describes the status of the socio-cultural, economic and demographic factors followed by the education system. It gives the situation analysis of the education system at all levels and in particular provides benchmark information in participation, equity and quality in education.

### Socio- economic and demographic factors

The population was 3,753,121 in 2014, with annual population growth staying constant at 6% from 2009 to 2011 and decreasing to 5% in 2012 and 2013 then 4% in 2014. This is explained by the total fertility rate that has remained steady at 3 births per woman, on average between 2009 and 2013. The life expectancy of the population remained constant at 74 from 2009 to 2013. Infant mortality rate declined from 11% in 2009 to 9% in 2014.

**Table 1:** Demographic Indicators

Indicator	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women ages 15-19)	13	13	12	12	11	10
Annual population growth (%)	6	6	6	5	5	4
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	11	11	10	10	9	9
Life expectancy at birth (years)	74	74	74	74	74	-
Population density (people per sq. km of land area)	162	172	182	192	202	211
Surface area (sq. km)	17,820	17,820	17,820	17,820	17,820	17,820
Total fertility rate (births per	3	3	3	3	3	-

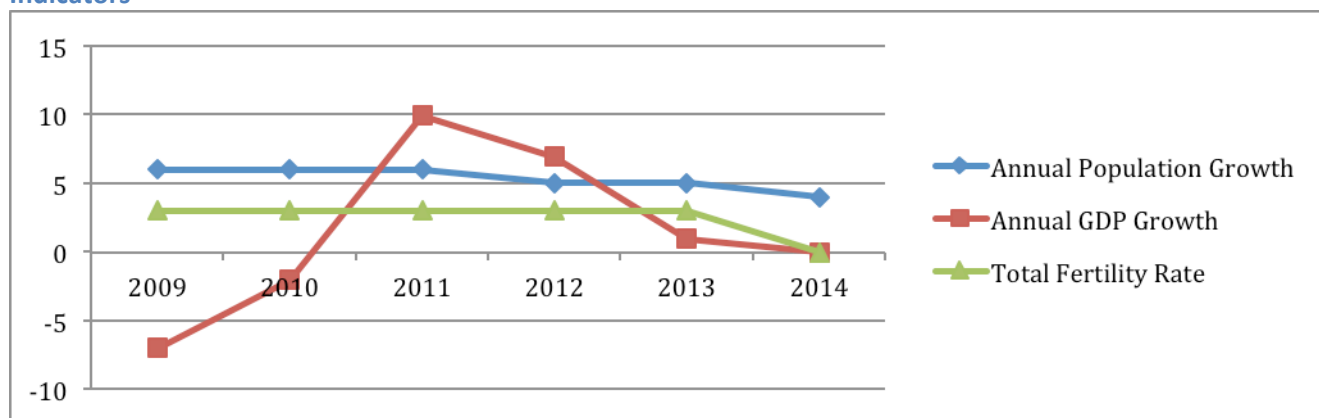
woman)						
Total population	2,881,243	3,059,473	3,239,181	3,419,581	3,593,689	3,753,121
Urban population growth (annual %)	6	6	6	5	5	4

**Table 2: Economic Indicators**

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Annual GDP growth (%)	-7	-2	10	7	1	-
GDP (current US\$)	105,905,295,689	115,416,397,090	154,034,941,942	174,044,698,001	175,826,716,256	-
Inflation, GDP deflator (annual %)	-17	11	17	7	1	-

Kuwait witnessed low growth in economic development and reporting an annual GDP growth of 1% in 2013. This is due to the fact that Kuwait has not implemented any development with significant economic value. This has come as a result of minimal diversification of the economy over the past years because of positive fiscal situation and the hostile relationship between the National Assembly parliament and government hindering economic reforms. The GDP in 2013 was 175,826,716,256

### Trend in Selected Socio-Economic Indicators



### Education System

A country that ensures that all the citizens have quality access to education makes them indispensable and competitive globally. This depends on the organization and management of the education sector. The education system of Kuwait is divided into two levels: basic education and higher education. The basic education consists of 5 year primary cycle followed by 4 year intermediary cycle and 3 year secondary cycle. The general education consists of four levels: kindergarten/nursery level, primary level, intermediate level and secondary level. The education system has 9 years of free and compulsory education which is attained at the primary and intermediate level.

All the levels of state education including higher education are free. The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education are in charge of the education sector.

### Pre-Primary Education

The government provides regulatory support to preschool education. The existing **policy** calls for pre-schools to be provided in nurseries and kindergartens targeting pupils aged 4 to 5.

**Participation** levels are tracked through data on GER (proportion of pupils in preprimary irrespective of age) and NER (proportion of pupils in school going age cohort). The level of participation is relatively high, with an almost constant GER of 80.7 between 2004 and 2007. NER was 64.7% in 2007. In overall, as at 2007 about 35.3% of the school-going children at pre-primary were not in school. There are no significant gender disparities at the pre-primary education level.

**Table 3:** Gross Enrolment Ratio (%)

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Male	81.5	79.9	81.4	81.1
Female	79.8	83.3	79.9	80.3
Total	80.7	81.6	80.7	80.7

**Table 4: Net Enrolment Rate (%)**

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Male	68	62.5	63.7	65.2
Female	66.7	64.7	62.1	64.1
Total	67.4	63.6	62.9	64.7

The one indicator on **quality** is the pupil teacher ratio (PTR). In 2013, the pre-primary PTR was 1:10.3. The PTR resonates well with the international benchmark being 1:20.

**Table 5: Pupil/Teacher Ratio**

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Pupil/teacher ratio	-	11.1	11	10.7	10.3

### Primary Education

The Kuwaiti public schools are segregated by gender starting at the primary level. The country has a **policy** of free and compulsory primary education. Before joining secondary schools, students are required to attend intermediate school where they undertake their middle education. Intermediate school is free and compulsory. Primary school and intermediate school constitute the 9 years of compulsory education in Kuwait.

On **access and Participation** the available data is for 2004 to 2007. The GER and NER in 2007 was 106.2% and 92.1% respectively. This means that as at 2007, 7.9% of the school going children was out of school.

**Table 6: Gross Enrolment Ratio (%)**

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Male	114.2	114.4	108.7	106.9
Female	113.5	111.9	107.7	105.5
Total	113.9	113.2	108.2	106.2

**Table 7: Net Enrolment Rate (%)**

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Male	-	100	-	92.9
Female	-	98.6	-	91.3
Total	92.8	99.3	-	92.1

The efficiency of an education system can be monitored based on data for retention and completion at primary education. In 2012, the percentage of repeaters was 0.6% while school life expectancy was recorded to be 14.6 in 2004. The country recorded impressive survival to the last grade in primary at 94.1%, with girls standing at 95.2% compared to 93% for boys. The transition rate from primary to secondary in 2011 was also outstanding at 100% for girls and 98.7% for boys.

**Table 8: Progression and completion in education**

	Total	Male	Female	Year
School life expectancy ISCED 1-8 (years)	14.6	14.2	15.2	2004
Percentage of repeaters in primary (%)	0.6	0.6	0.5	2012
Survival to the last grade of primary (%)	94.1	93	95.2	2011
Gross intake ratio into the last grade of primary (%)	107.8	107.7	107.9	2007
Primary to secondary transition rate (%)	99.4	98.7	100	2011

**Table 9: Primary to secondary transition rate (%)**

	2009	2010	2011
Male	99.9	-	98.7
Female	99.5	-	100
Total	99.7	-	99.4

The country attained gender parity at primary education level and also had impressive progress of boys and girls to secondary education. This is a demonstration of the effectiveness of the free and compulsory primary education.

The information on Pupil Teacher ratio can indicate the extent the quality issues are addressed in Kuwait. The PTR has mainly remained constant at 1: 8.6 from 2009 to 2013.

**Table 10: Pupil/Teacher Ratio**

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Pupil/teacher ratio	8.6	8.4	8.6	8.6	8.6

## Secondary Education

Secondary education lasts for a period of 3 years. Secondary education is free but voluntary. After completing secondary education, students can either follow the academic track by entering university or the vocational/technical track by gaining admission into a vocational college. The participation level for secondary education was relatively high with the reported GER and NER for 2007 being 100.3% and 86.7%. The female participation (NER) in secondary education recorded 87.9% compared to the male at 85.5% on 2007.

**Table 11:** Gross Enrolment Ratio (%)

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Male	107.5	109.1	103.8	100
Female	108.4	113	104.1	100.7
Total	107.9	111.1	104	100.3

**Table 12:** Net Enrolment Rate (%)

	2006	2007
Male	86.2	85.5
Female	89.5	87.9
Total	87.9	86.7

The transition from primary education to TVET sector can be tracked by comparing the enrolment at both levels. Over the years, the enrolment in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) as % of the total enrolment in secondary education has increased from 3.7% in 2009 to 4.3% in 2012.

**Table 13:** Enrolment in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) as % of the total enrolment in secondary education

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Male	6.5	8.1	9.5	-
Female	1	0.9	0.9	-
Total	3.7	4.5	5.3	4.3

The Pupil Teacher Ratio at secondary education was at 1: 8.2 in 2009. The low PTR means that teachers can have enough time to prepare and constantly engage the learner in the classroom.

**Table 14:** Pupil/Teacher Ratio

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Pupil/teacher ratio	9.7	9.5	9.1	8.2

**Table 15:** Literacy Rate

	Male	Female	Total	
Literacy rate (%)				
15-24	99.6	99.5	99.5	2015
15 yrs and older	96.9	95	96.2	2015

**Table 16:** Out of School Children

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Out of school children				
Male	-	18	-	1155
Female	-	1205	-	2336
Total	1040	1223	-	3490

### Tertiary including University

Kuwait has 4 state funded higher education institutions. Tertiary education in Kuwait is free and voluntary. The GER for tertiary education was 28.5% in 2013. The proportion of female population attending higher education stood at 41.2% compared to 18.4% for males in 2013.

**Table 17: Gross Enrolment Ratio (%)**

	2013
Male	18.4
Female	41.2
Total	28.5

**Table 18: Gross graduation ratio at ISCED 6 and 7. First degrees (%)**

	2013
Male	6
Female	22.8
Total	13

The gross graduation ratio was 13% in 2013. The proportion of male students (6%) graduating was lower than female students (22.8%)

### Financing of Education

The financing of education is a key issue for any government and development partners. Most of the funding for education comes from domestic budgets. In 2006, the public expenditure on education as a % of GDP was 3.8% while the public expenditure on education as a % of total government expenditure was 13.4%. These rates are lower than the international benchmark which is set at 4% and 15% respectively.

**Table 19: Government expenditure on education**

	2004	2005	2006
as % of GDP	5.5	4.7	3.8
as % of total government expenditure	15	13.9	13.4

**Table 20: Government expenditure per student (in PPP\$)**

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Primary education	9288.4	-	-	12800.5
Secondary education	12679.9	-	-	15979.8
Tertiary education	-	-	-	-



## Definitions

**Compulsory education:** The number of years or age span during which children are legally obliged to attend school.

**Expenditure on education as a percentage of total government expenditure:** Current and capital expenditure on education by local, regional and central governments (household contributions are excluded), expressed as a percentage of total government expenditure on all sectors (including health, education, social services, etc.).

**Government expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP:** Current and capital expenditure on education by local, regional and central governments (household contributions are excluded), expressed as a percentage of GDP.

**Government expenditure per student (in PPP\$):** Total public expenditure per pupil or student in the specified level of education, expressed in international dollars (current) adjusted in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP).

**Gross enrolment ratio:** Number of pupils or students enrolled in a given level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school-age population corresponding to the same level of education. For the tertiary level, the population used is the 5-year age group starting from the official secondary school graduation age.

**Gross graduation ratio from first degrees programmes (at ISCED 6 and 7) in tertiary education:** Number of graduates from first degree programmes (at ISCED 6 and 7) expressed as a percentage of the population of the theoretical graduation age of the most common first degree programme.

**Gross intake ratio to the last grade of primary education:** Total number of new entrants in the last grade of primary education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the population at the theoretical entrance age to the last grade of primary.

**Net enrolment rate:** Total number of pupils or students in the theoretical age group for a given level of education enrolled in that level, expressed as a percentage of the total population in that age group.

**Out-of-School population:** Total number of primary or lower secondary school-age children who are not enrolled in primary (ISCED 1) or secondary (ISCED 2 and 3) education.

**Percentage of repeaters:** Total number of pupils who are enrolled in the same grade as the previous year, expressed as a percentage of total enrolment in the given grade of education.

**Percentage of technical/vocational enrolment:** Total number of pupils or students enrolled in technical/vocational programmes at a given level of education, expressed as a percentage of the total number of pupils or students enrolled in all programmes (technical/vocational and general) at that level.

**Primary to secondary transition rate (%):** The number of new entrants to the first grade of secondary education (general programmes only) in a given year expressed as a percentage of the students enrolled in the last grade of primary education in the previous year who do not repeat that grade the following year. It measures the probability that a pupil in the last grade of primary education makes the transition to secondary general education.

**Pupil-teacher ratio:** The average number of pupils per teacher at a given level of education, based on headcounts of both pupils and teachers.

**School-age population:** Population of the age group theoretically corresponding to a given level of education as indicated by theoretical entrance age and duration.

**School life expectancy:** The number of years a person of school entrance age can expect to spend within the specified level of education.

**Survival rate by grade:** The percentage of a cohort of pupils or students enrolled in the first grade of a given level or cycle of education in a given school year who are expected to reach a given grade, regardless of repetition.

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