

Global Immigration alert

June 2025

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia lifts suspension on issuance of work visa quotas and short-term visas for nationals of certain countries

Executive summary

The government of Saudi Arabia has lifted the suspension on issuance of [block visa quotas](#) and [short-term visas](#) (i.e., business visit visas, family visit visas and tourist visas). This has been confirmed on the government portal [Qiwa](#), which indicates that block visas are now available to nationals of these countries. Access to this information is limited to users who are logged into the government portal. Applications for short-term visas can now be made to the relevant consular post for previously impacted nationals. The issuance of temporary work visas remains suspended.

Background

A block visa is a quota issued by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development that allows companies to sponsor foreign nationals for long-term work authorization in Saudi Arabia. This recent measure follows the April 2025 suspension on the issuance of temporary work visa quotas and short-term visas, affecting nationals of several countries.

Key developments

Employers can once again submit block visa requests on Qiwa, and proceed with the full work visa process, for nationals of the following 15 countries: Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sudan, Tunisia, Türkiye and Yemen.

In addition, nationals of these 14 countries are once again permitted to enter Saudi Arabia on business, tourist and family visit visas: Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen.

Impact on employers

Employers may resume pending recruitment and short-term travel plans for previously restricted individuals, which may help reduce delays in onboarding and project execution. However, with a likely increase in demand following the lifting of restrictions, visa-related steps such as qualification verification procedures (e.g., Qualification Verification Program or QVP and Mosadaqa) and consular processing may take longer than usual.

Employers may plan accordingly and allow extra time as needed to account for potential delays in the work visa process. The temporary work visa category remains suspended.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.



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