

Prices stable

Bahrain food inflation eases despite heavy reliance on imports

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TDT | Manama

Food prices in Bahrain have stayed relatively steady in 2025 even though the Kingdom imports about 90 per cent of its basic food needs and is closely tied to swings in world markets, according to recent economic data.

Trading Economics figures show that Bahrain's food inflation rate fell by 0.60 per cent year-on-year in September 2025.

Prices of food and non-alcoholic drinks dropped by 1.7 per cent in March 2025, while the general level of food prices between January and May 2025 was down by around 1.6 per cent.

Economic front

On the wider economic front, overall inflation in November 2024 stood at about 0.4 per cent.

This reading was linked to a 2 per cent fall in food and non-alcoholic drink prices, alongside



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price control and market supervision measures applied by the government.

Data from Prices in Bahrain and Numbeo show that basic food items stayed within a narrow price band in 2025.

A litre of milk cost about BD0.62, 500 grammes of white bread around BD0.50, a kilogram of white rice roughly BD0.99, a dozen eggs about BD0.95 and a kilogram of chicken roughly BD2.66.



A report on the Zawya website notes that seasonal offers in local supermarkets also played a part in lowering shelf prices.

One example is a cut in the price of a carton of long-life milk from BD1.955 to BD1.390.

Bahraini traders say the domestic market has been partly shielded from swings in world food costs by the exemption of more than 94 basic goods from value added tax, a step they argue has helped keep prices in check and supported household purchasing power.

World prices

Bahrain's food bill is closely linked to world prices because of its reliance on imports.

The global food price index rose by 8.2 per cent in February 2025 as sugar, vegetable oils and dairy products became more expensive, then eased by 1.6 per cent in October 2025 as grain and vegetable supplies increased. Movements in world markets pass through directly to Bahrain.

Asian nightclub manager jailed

Three years for human trafficking

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The High Criminal Court sentenced an Asian nightclub manager to three years in prison and fined him BD2,000 after convicting him of trafficking two Asian women and coercing one of them into sexual activity.

The court also ordered his deportation from Bahrain following the completion of his sentence and required him to cover the victims' repatriation costs.

According to case details, the defendant brought the two women to Bahrain in 2025 under the pretext of employing them as singers and dancers at a hotel nightclub he managed.

Upon arrival, he confiscated their passports, confined them to the hotel, and forced them to work daily without breaks.

Investigations revealed that he later pressured the victims to engage in prostitution, threatening to prevent one from returning to her country or re-entering Bahrain if she refused.

Exploiting her financial vulnerability, he coerced her into prostitution and collected the proceeds.

Bahrain residential land allocation up for housing

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Residential land in Bahrain edged up in October 2025, with areas set aside for housing increasing by 108,000 square metres compared with September, a rise of 0.13 per cent.

Land allocated to Housing Ministry projects grew by 61,500 square metres over the same month, an increase of 0.31 per cent.

Data from the Urban Planning Authority show that the total residential area in the kingdom reached 80.52 million square metres by the end of October 2025, up from 80.41 million square metres in September.

The total area assigned to Housing Ministry projects rose to 20.19 million square metres, compared with 20.13 million square metres a month

earlier.

By governorate, the Northern Governorate recorded almost all of the additional residential land, adding 102,800 square metres, an increase of 0.28 per cent.

Governorate

Its total rose from 37.23 million square metres in September to 37.33 million square metres in October, keeping it as the largest governorate in terms of residential space, with 46.4 per cent of Bahrain's total.

The Capital Governorate came next, with its residential area increasing by 8,200 square metres, or 0.05 per cent, from 16.57 million to 16.58 million square metres over the month.

Muharraq Governorate saw only a small rise of 137 square metres, with its residential area steady at 9.79 million square metres.

‘Bridge 26’ concludes

Riyadh

The Royal Bahraini Naval Force, concluded the joint naval exercise “Bridge 26,” conducted with the Royal Saudi Naval Forces, represented by the Eastern Fleet, which took place in Saudi Arabia.

This joint naval exercise

forms part of the ongoing “Bridge” series, conducted regularly within the framework of the strong military co-operation between the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) and the Armed Forces of Saudi Arabia. It aims to further strengthen operational integration.

Memorial service for Dr. Araya today

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A memorial service will be held for Dr. Gebreslassie Araya, an Eritrean who faithfully served the royal family for 46 years, at the Salmabad Christian Cemetery at 2 p.m. today.

Lovingly known as Dr. G. Araya, he lived a life marked by purpose, integrity, and devotion—to his work, his faith, his family, and his deep love for animals.

Born on September 29, 1949, in Asmara, Eritrea, he began his education there before



Dr. Gebreslassie Araya continuing his studies at the Agricultural Technical High School in Jimma, Kaffa.

ESTERAD BANK B.S.C. (C)

Condensed Consolidated Interim Financial Information - For the Nine-months ended 30 September 2025



Condensed Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 September 2025

	30 Sept 2025 (Reviewed)	31 Dec 2024 (Audited)
ASSETS		
Balances with banks	772	1,127
Placements with financial institutions	2,777	650
Investments	2,901	17,127
Funding to project companies	319	1,939
Other assets	2,419	2,163
Right-of-use asset	3,058	3,175
Property and equipment	3,781	3,874
TOTAL ASSETS	16,027	30,055
LIABILITIES		
Employee accruals	374	308
Ijarah liability	3,446	3,519
Other liabilities	11,338	21,460
Total liabilities	15,158	25,287
EQUITY		
Share capital	1,005	1,005
Statutory reserve	249	249
Accumulated losses	(26,906)	(22,742)
Equity attributable to Shareholders	(25,652)	(21,488)
Subordinated Mudharaba (ATI)	26,521	26,256
Total equity	869	4,768
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	16,027	30,055

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Income

Nine-months period ended 30 September 2025

	Nine-months ended 30 Sept 2025 (Reviewed)	30 Sept 2024 (Reviewed)	Three-months ended 30 Sept 2025 (Reviewed)	30 Sept 2024 (Reviewed)
REVENUE				
Asset Management fee	5,155	4,721	450	1,270
Net change in fair value of investments carried at fair value through income	(677)	(479)	(64)	1,495
Net realised (loss) / gains on exit of investments	(4,185)	1,129	40	(1,529)
Other investment income	156	143	4	34
Rental and other income	2,181	2,070	684	734
Total revenue	2,630	7,584	1,114	2,004
EXPENSES				
Staff cost	2,843	2,333	1,089	851
Legal and professional fees	515	562	246	159
Finance expense	126	130	42	43
Depreciation	281	278	95	89
Loss on settlement of liabilities	-	1,131	-	583
Other expenses	2,510	1,407	350	574
Total expenses	6,275	5,841	1,822	2,299
(LOSS) / PROFIT BEFORE IMPAIRMENT ALLOWANCES	(3,645)	1,743	(708)	(295)
Impairment charge on investments	-	(291)	-	(141)
Reversal / (impairment) for credit losses	225	469	(113)	(77)
Reversal of impairment on property and equipment	49	60	19	-
(LOSS) / PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD	(3,371)	1,981	(802)	(613)

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

Nine-months period ended 30 September 2025

	2025 (Reviewed)	2024 (Reviewed)
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net (loss) / profit for the period	(3,371)	1,981
Adjustments for:		
Impairment of investments	-	291
Provision for credit losses	(225)	469
Reversal of impairment on property and equipment	(49)	(60)
Gain on sale of property and equipment	-	117
Fair value loss on investments carried at fair value through profit or loss - net	677	479
Realised fair value loss / (gains) on exit of investment	4,185	(1,129)
Restricted cash for AUM investors	(2,275)	-
Depreciation	281	278
Finance cost on right-of-use asset	126	130
Loss from investment swaps	-	671
Operating profit before changes in operating assets and liabilities	(651)	3,227
Investments	9,364	(1,203)
Funding to project companies	1,800	14,844
Property and equipment	(26)	(105)
Other assets	(220)	(1,295)
Employee accruals	66	(14)
Other liabilities	(9,235)	(11,887)
Placements with financial institutions (original maturity more than 3 months)	(151)	(244)
Net cash from operating activities	947	3,323
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Murabaha financing to investee company	(875)	(1,609)
Profit distribution attributable to Subordinated Mudharaba (ATI)	(528)	(1,170)
Rent paid towards right-of-use asset	(199)	(199)
Net cash used in financing activities	(1,602)	(2,977)
NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(655)	346
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the period	1,392	3,591
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF THE PERIOD	737	3,937
Represented by:		
Balances with banks	772	3,331
Less: Restricted cash from exit of investments	(233)	-
Net balances with banks	539	3,331
Placements with financial institutions (original maturity less than three months)	2,240	606
Less: Restricted cash from exit of investments	(2,042)	-
	198	606
	737	3,937

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Changes in Owner's Equity

Nine-months period ended 30 September 2025

	Share capital	Statutory reserve	Investment fair value reserve	Accumulated losses	Equity attributable to shareholders	Subordinated mudharaba ATI	Total
2025 (Reviewed)							
Balance at 1 January 2025	1,005	249	-	(22,742)	(21,488)	26,256	4,768
Loss for the period	-	-	-	(3,371)	(3,371)	-	(3,371)
Subordinated Mudharaba (ATI) 2% profit capitalised	-	-	-	(265)	(265)	265	-
Profit distribution attributable to Subordinated Mudharaba (ATI)	-	-	-	(528)	(528)	-	(528)
Balance at 30 September 2025	1,005	249	-	(26,906)	(25,652)	26,521	869
2024 (Reviewed)							
Balance at 1 January 2024	1,005	5,441	45	(29,252)	(22,761)	22,803	42
Profit for the period	-	-	-	1,981	1,981	-	1,981
Subordinated Mudharaba (ATI)	-	-	-	-	-	3,063	3,063
Subordinated Mudharaba (ATI) 2% profit capitalised	-	-	-	(390)	(390)	390	-
Profit distribution attributable to Subordinated Mudharaba (ATI)	-	-	-	(780)	(780)	-	(780)
Movement in equity-type investments at fair value through equity	-	-	(46)	-	(45)	-	(45)
Movement in statutory reserve	-	(5,441)	-	5,441	-	-	-
Balance at 30 September 2025	1,005	-	-	(23,000)	(21,995)	26,256	4,261