



SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS (SEI) BHUTAN

First Quarterly Issue
2026



NATIONAL STATISTICS BUREAU
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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As we strive to enhance the quality and scope of our reports, we welcome comments and suggestions from users to further improve future editions. The SEI publication can also be accessed through the NSB website (www.nsb.gov.bt).

Thank you once again for your support and collaboration.

POPULATION

INDICATORS	2024	2025	2026
Population	777,224	784,043	790,718
Male	404,411	407,663	410,840
Female	372,813	376,380	379,878

Source: National Population Projection 2017-47, NSB.

INDICATORS	2005	2017
Population Density (Per Sq. Km)	16	19
Population Growth Rate (%)	1.3	1.3
Average Household Size	4.6	3.9
Dependency ratio	60.6	47.0
Sex ratio	111	110
Population Distribution (%)		
Urban	30.9	37.8
Rural	69.1	62.2
Life Expectancy at Birth	66.3	70.2
Male	65.7	68.8
Female	66.9	71.7

Source: PHCB 2005 and PHCB 2017, NSB.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

INDICATORS	2025	2026	% CHANGE/ % POINT
	4 TH QTR	1 ST QTR	
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	64.6	65.4	0.80 ▲
Male	72.7	73.9	1.20 ▲
Female	55.8	56.0	0.20 ▲
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.8	3.4	0.40 ▼
Male	3.1	3.0	0.10 ▼
Female	5.0	3.9	1.10 ▼
Youth Unemployment Rate (%)	20.6	16.5	4.10 ▼
Male	15.1	16.2	1.10 ▲
Female	26.5	16.7	9.80 ▼
Number of New Jobseekers Registered	1,997	2,930	46.72 ▲
Male	1,125	1,653	46.93 ▲
Female	872	1,277	46.44 ▲
Placement through Overseas Employment Program	312	118	62.18 ▼
Male	106	23	78.30 ▼
Female	206	95	53.88 ▼

Note: No overseas placements were made during the month of March due to the ongoing war situation.

Source: Quarterly Labour Force Survey Reports, NSB and Bhutan Labour Market Information System (BLMIS).

POVERTY

INDICATORS	2012	2017	2022
Poverty Rate (%)	12	8.2	12.4
Urban	1.8	0.8	4.2
Rural	16.7	11.9	17.5

Note: The poverty rate for 2022 is not comparable with previous years due to a change in the methodology.

Source: Poverty Analysis Report, NSB.

INCOME

INDICATORS	2025		% CHANGE/ % POINT
	3 RD QTR	4 TH QTR	
GDP by Sector (Nu. in Million)	89,162.48	82,566.74	7.40 ▼
Agriculture	12,105.78	14,221.88	17.48 ▲
Industry	34,530.35	26,427.66	23.47 ▼
Service	42,526.35	41,917.20	1.43 ▼
GDP Growth (%)	6.49	8.76	2.27 ▲
Share of Agriculture to GDP (%)	13.58	17.22	3.64 ▲
Share of Industry to GDP (%)	38.73	32.01	6.72 ▼
Share of Service to GDP (%)	47.7	50.77	3.07 ▲

Source: Quarterly Gross Domestic Product, Fourth Quarter, 2025, NSB.

INDICATORS	2025	2026	% CHANGE/ % POINT
	4 TH QTR	1 ST QTR	
Inflation Rate (%) ¹	3.64	5.81	2.17 ▲
Total Foreign Exchange Reserves (USD in Million)	1,116.29	...	-
USD (in Million)	889.30	...	-
Rupees (Rs. in Million)	20,878.30	...	-
Exchange Rate 1 USD to Ngultrum	91.99	94.80	3.05 ▲
Non Performing Loans Ratio (NPR) (%)	3.10	...	-
Credit to Deposit Ratio (%)	75.70	...	-
Money Supply (Nu. in Million)	292,769.20	...	-
Minimum Lending Rate (%)	6.11	5.72	6.38 ▼
Claims on Private Sector (Million Nu.)	267,548.00	...	-
Claims on Government and Public Corporations (Million Nu.)	36,340.20	...	-

Number of Domestic Digital Transactions (In Million)	102.53	85.32	16.79 ▼
Value of Domestic Digital Transactions (Billion Nu.)	289.09	306.69	6.09 ▲
Volume of Remittances (Million Nu.)	6,930.22	10,940.41	57.87 ▲
Number of Accounts			
Saving	1,011,850	...	-
Current	80,268	...	-
Recurring Deposits	66,585	...	-
Fixed Deposits	46,145	...	-

Note: Data are reported for each Qtr or as of the end of the respective Qtr. It is a provisional data for 4th Qtr.

Source: Royal Monetary Authority (RMA) and ¹ Monthly CPI Report, NSB.

PUBLIC FINANCE (NU. IN MILLION)

INDICATORS	2025	2026	% CHANGE/ % POINT
	4 TH QTR	1 ST QTR	
Government Revenue Receipt ¹	13,673.07	15,896.34	16.26 ▲
Tax Revenue	10,364.62	11,738.31	13.25 ▲
Non-Tax Revenue	3,308.45	4,158.03	25.68 ▲
Government Expenditure	25,705.26	25,063.90	2.50 ▼
Current	11,679.94	12,380.64	6.00 ▲
Capital	9,282.83	11,388.05	22.68 ▲
Net Lending	-119.59	-943.24	688.70 ▼
Repayment	4,862.08	2,238.46	53.96 ▼
Total Public Debt	302,770.75	...	-
As % of GDP	86.9	...	-
External Debt	285,672.69	...	-
As % of GDP	82.6	...	-
Hydro Debt	171,803.67	...	-
As % of GDP	49.30	...	-
Non-Hydro Debt	113,869.02	...	-
As % of GDP	32.70	...	-
Domestic Debt	17,098.05	...	-
As % of GDP	4.9	...	-
Convertible Currency Debt (USD in Million)	1,130.49	...	-
As % of GDP	29.18	...	-
Rupee Debt (Rs. in Million)	184,053.01	...	-
As % of GDP	52.84	...	-
Total Debt Service through Budget	28,333.14	...	-

Note: ¹ Provisional data from Department of Revenue and Customs.

Source: Ministry of Finance.

INDUSTRIES AND TRADE

INDICATORS	2025	2026	% CHANGE
	4 TH QTR	1 ST QTR	
Industries			
Industries by Sector	31,337	30,441	2.86 ▼
Production and Manufacturing	4,507	4,351	3.46 ▼
Services	25,012	24,310	2.81 ▼
Construction	1,818	1,780	2.09 ▼
Industries by Ownership	31,337	30,441	2.86 ▼
Sole Proprietorship	29,647	28,866	2.63 ▼
Partnership	438	306	30.14 ▼
Company	1,111	1,136	2.25 ▲
Others	141	133	5.67 ▼
Industries by Size	31,337	30,441	2.86 ▼
Large	450	445	1.11 ▼
Medium	902	883	2.11 ▼
Small	18,717	17,885	4.45 ▼
Cottage	11,268	11,228	0.35 ▼
Number of FDI Industries	135	175	29.63 ▲
Trade			
Trade by Sector	24,210	24,276	0.27 ▲
Micro Trade	9,934	9,880	0.54 ▼
Retail	13,366	13,472	0.79 ▲
Wholesale	910	924	1.54 ▲
Trade by Ownership	24,210	24,276	0.27 ▲
Sole Proprietorship	23,345	23,372	0.12 ▲
Partnership	246	211	14.23 ▼
Company	567	52	90.83 ▼
Others	52	641	1132.69 ▲
Trade by Size	24,210	24,276	0.27 ▲
Large	1,539	1,574	2.27 ▲
Medium	672	697	3.72 ▲
Small	12,063	12,125	0.51 ▲
Cottage	9,936	9,880	0.56 ▼

Note: Data on number of active licenses as of end of Qtr.

Source: Department of Industry & Department of Trade, MoICE.

FOREIGN TRADE (NU. IN MILLION)

INDICATORS	2025	2026	% CHANGE
	4 TH QTR	1 ST QTR	
Export	12,608.01	14,465.60	14.73 ▲
India	9,487.70	11,401.86	20.18 ▲
Third Countries	3,120.31	3,063.74	1.81 ▼
Import	63,695.58	34,860.63	45.27 ▼
India	26,808.13	28,207.43	5.22 ▲
Third Countries	36,887.45	6,653.20	81.96 ▼
Balance of trade	-51,087.57	-20,395.03	60.08 ▼
India	-17,320.43	-16,805.57	2.97 ▼
Third Countries	-33,767.14	-3,589.46	89.37 ▼

Note: Provisional figure.

Source: Department of Revenue and Customs.

TOURISM

INDICATORS	2025	2026	% CHANGE
	4 TH QTR	1 ST QTR	
Total number of Tourists Arrival	58,742	37,141	36.77 ▼
Tourists from Countries other than India (COTI)	26,239	14,176	45.97 ▼
Tourists from India	32,503	22,965	29.34 ▼
Tourists Arrival by Port of Entry	58,742	37,141	36.77 ▼
Gelephu	58	125	115.52 ▲
Paro	28,829	15,650	45.71 ▼
Phuentsholing	29,221	20,882	28.54 ▼
Samdrup Jongkhar	611	451	26.19 ▼
Samtse	16	33	106.25 ▲
Nganglam	7	0	100.00 ▼
Tourists Revenue to Government (USD in Million)	15.58	8.44	45.83 ▼

Note: Data includes only SDF paying tourists.

Source: Department of Tourism, MoICE.

HEALTH

INDICATORS	2000	2012	2023
Health			
Infant Mortality Rate (Per 1,000 Live Births)	60.5	30.0	15.2
Crude Birth Rate (Per 1,000 Population)	34.1	17.9	18.0
Crude Death Rate (Per 1,000 Population)	8.6	6.2	8.5
Maternal Mortality Ratio (Per 100,000 Live Births)	255.0	86.0	53.0
Total Fertility Rate (Children Per Woman)	4.7	2.3	2.0
Deliveries Attended by Skilled Health Workers (%)	23.7	74.6	98.5
Institutional Delivery (%)	19.8	73.7	98.0
Under-5 Mortality Rate (Per 1000)	84.0	37.3	19.5
Neonatal Mortality Rate (Per 1000)	...	21.0	6.9
% of Population within 2 Hours from the Nearest Health Facility	...	87.7	96.8
Sanitation			
Rural Population Access to Improved Drinking Water Source (%)	73.2	97.2	99.5
Rural Population Access to Improved Sanitation (%)	...	57.9	98.9
Crude Childhood Immunization Coverage (%)	...	95.1	99.4

Source: National Health Survey, MoH.

INDICATORS	2023	2024	2025
Health Institutes (Number)			
Hospitals	54	55	59
Primary Health Centres (PHC)	186	187	194
Sub-Posts	51	51	51
Outreach Clinics (ORC)	554	557	555
Health Information and Service Centres (HISC)	...	7	7
Indigenous Hospitals	1	1	1
Indigenous Units	72	80	80
Training Institutes	3	4	4

Source: Annual Health Bulletins Report.

INDICATORS	2022	2023	2024
Health Human Resources¹			
General Specialists/Sub-Specialists	136	121	177
Medical Officers (MS/CMO/MO/GDMO)	143	211	173
Clinical Nurses	278	359	368
Staff/Assistant Nurses	1,330	1,229	1204
Health Assistants (HA)	659	580	574

Note: ¹ For 2022, the data is as of January 2022.

Source: Annual Health Bulletins Report.

EDUCATION

INDICATORS	2022	2023	2024
Education			
Number of Students	162,536	155,159	155,272
Number of Teachers	10,584	10,158	10,096
Net Enrollment Rate in ECCD	39	38	38
Net Enrollment Rate in Primary (PP-VI)	93	94	89
Net Enrollment Rate in Basic (PP-X)	92	92.71	91
Net Enrollment Rate in Secondary (VII-XII)	55	69	63
National Literacy Rate (6 years and above) ¹	70.6	70.6	70.6
Number of Educational Institutes (Schools, Institutes and Centres)			
Government Schools	500	497	491
Higher Secondary Schools	71	79	78
Middle Secondary Schools	62	57	63
Lower Secondary Schools	59	38	32
Primary Schools	308	323	318
Extended Classrooms	62	45	47
Special Institutes	2	2	2
Private Schools	23	27	26
Higher Secondary Schools	21	14	10
Middle Secondary Schools	2	2	2
Lower Secondary Schools	1	1	1
Primary Schools	12	10	13
Centres and Institutes			
ECCD Centres	491	525	574
Schools with SEN Program	26	39	44
Tertiary Institutes	18	17	17
Other Institutes ²	536	692	518

Note: ¹ Data sourced from Bhutan Living Standard Survey 2022 (BLSS 2022).

² Other Institutes includes Technical Training Institutes, Institutes of Zorig Chusum, Continuing Education Centres, Non-Formal Education Centres and Monastic Education Institutes.

Source: Annual Education Statistics Reports.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

INDICATORS	2025	2026	%
	4 TH QTR	1 ST QTR	CHANGE
Transport			
Length of Road (Km) ¹	18,056.63	18,056.63	0.00 -
Number of Motorable Bridges	393	393	0.00 -
Number of Suspension Bridges	438	438	0.00 -
Number of Revenue Earning Passengers Carried by Druk Air	77,771	60,164	22.64 ▼
Revenue Earned by Druk Air (Nu. in Million)	2,063.91	1,213.48	41.20 ▼
Number of Revenue Earning Passengers Carried by Bhutan Airlines	37,698	32,502	13.78 ▼
Revenue Earned by Bhutan Airlines (Nu. in Million)	635.24	634.79	0.07 ▼
Number of Revenue Earning Passengers Carried by Helicopter Service	2,073	1,368	34.01 ▼
Revenue Earned by Helicopter Service (Nu. in Million)	75.64	60.33	20.24 ▼
Number of Motor Vehicles Registered	124,546	128,237	2.96 ▲
Heavy	7,885	7,957	0.91 ▲
Medium	2,491	2,517	1.04 ▲
Light	89,105	91,828	3.06 ▲
Two-Wheeler	9,114	9,415	3.30 ▲
Taxi	6,814	7,217	5.91 ▲
Other ²	9,137	9,303	1.82 ▲
Electric Vehicle (EV)	1,148	1,252	9.06 ▲
Telecommunication			
Number of Telephone Exchange Stations	-
Number of Telephone Connections	9,860	9,894	0.34 ▲
Number of Internet Connections	846,483	829,897	1.96 ▼
Lease Line Connections	51,705	57,280	10.78 ▲

Broadband Internet Connections	7,358	5,723	22.22 ▼
EDGE/GPRS+3G+4G Connections	690,921	674,059	2.44 ▼
5G Connections	96,499	92,835	3.80 ▼
B-Mobile Subscribers	509,220	515,874	1.31 ▲
Tashicell Subscribers	336,439	308,523	8.30 ▼

Note: ¹Data as per Road Classification and Network Information of Bhutan 2025.

²Includes tractors, power tillers, and earth-moving equipment.

Source: MoIT and BICMA.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION (IN METRIC TON)

INDICATORS	2025		% CHANGE
	3 RD QTR	4 TH QTR	
Cereals	19,572.19	55,062.94	181.33 ▲
Oilseeds	185.76	198.53	6.87 ▲
Vegetables	10,879.36	9,922.99	8.79 ▼
Species	1,888.98	3,998.63	111.68 ▲
Roots and Tubers	23,975.95	5,560.17	76.81 ▼
Fruits and Nuts	5,921.31	19,224.02	224.66 ▲
Dairy Products	16,570.88	13,735.00	17.11 ▼
Meat	1,781.73	1,751.61	1.69 ▼
Honey	24.64	9.66	60.79 ▼
Eggs (Number in Million)	19.19	18.49	3.63 ▼

Source: Quarterly Integrated Agriculture and Livestock Survey of Bhutan, 2025

FORESTRY

INDICATORS	2026
Forestry (Number)	
Divisional Forest Office	14
Range Offices Division	42
Beat Office Division	76
Range Office Park	32
Beat Office Park	14
Forest Cover (%) ¹	69.7
Protected Area (%)	43.48
Protected Areas Number (Parks, Sanctuaries and Reserves)	10
Biological Corridors (%)	8.28
Royal Botanical Park (%)	0.24
Tiger Centre ²	1
Forestry Research Institute	1

Note: ¹ Excluding alpine shrubs 3.39% and shrubs 9.74%. ² Merged under Nature Conservation Division and it functions as a sub centre.

Source: Department of Forest and Park Services, MoENR.

HYDRO-POWER (UNITS IN MILLION)

INDICATORS	2025	2026	% CHANGE/
	4 TH QTR	1 ST QTR	% POINT
Total Electricity Generation ¹	3,630.50	1,438.78	60.37 ▼
Total Scheduled Electricity Export	1,256.76	93.39	92.57 ▼
Total Schedule Export of Electricity to India (%)	34.62	6.49	28.13 ▼
Hydro Electricity Generated by Chhukha	508.79	183.45	63.95 ▼
Schedule Electricity Export from Chhukha	102.02	3.12	96.94 ▼
Hydro Electricity Generated by Kurichhu	91.87	45.83	50.11 ▼
Schedule Electricity Export from Kurichhu	1.30	0.00	100.00 ▼
Hydro Electricity Generated by Tala	1,251.57	459.61	63.28 ▼
Schedule Electricity Export from Tala	15.74	1.75	88.89 ▼
Hydro Electricity Generated by Dagachhu	20.13	0.00	100.00 ▼
Schedule Electricity Export from Dagachhu	19.73	0.00	100.00 ▼
Hydro Electricity Generated by Mangdechhu	806.35	308.30	61.77 ▼
Schedule Electricity Export from Mangdechhu	408.54	15.48	96.21 ▼
Hydro Electricity Generated by Basochu	98.58	41.95	57.45 ▼
Schedule Electricity Export from Basochu	23.12	0.00	100.00 ▼
Hydro Electricity Generated by Nikachhu	138.50	48.05	65.31 ▼
Schedule Electricity Export from Nikachhu	69.33	31.16	55.06 ▼

Hydro Electricity Generated by Punatsangchhu II	714.71	351.59	50.81 ▼
Schedule Electricity Export from Punatsangchhu II	616.99	41.88	93.21 ▼
Total Electricity Import (Bid Quantum)	337.92	1,482.44	338.70 ▲
Total Domestic Sales	2,776.67	2,714.22	2.25 ▼
Total Subsidized Energy	45.60	46.28	1.49 ▲
Number of Villages Electrified	4,493	4,493	0.00 -
Number of Towns Electrified	54	54	0.00 -
Number of Electricity Consumers	262,234	265,411	1.21 ▲

Note: ¹ Does not include generation from solar plants, wind plant and mini/micro hydro power plants.

Source: Department of Energy, MoENR.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

INDICATORS	2025	2026	%
	4 TH QTR	1 ST QTR	CHANGE
Number of Contributors to NPPF	64,680	65,251	0.88 ▲
Civil and Corporate Members	50,815	51,237	0.83 ▲
Male	33,070	33,229	0.48 ▲
Female	17,745	18,008	1.48 ▲
Armed Force Members	13,865	14,014	1.07 ▲
Male	12,260	12,306	0.38 ▲
Female	1,605	1,708	6.42 ▲
Number of Pensioners	11,051	11,380	2.98 ▲
Civil and Corporate Members	6,787	6,925	2.03 ▲
Armed Force Members	4,264	4,455	4.48 ▲

Note: Data on total active members as of end of Qtr.

Source: National Pension and Provident Fund (NPPF).

INDICATORS	2023	2024	2025
Number Civil Servants	28,406	29,723	30,159
Male	17,035	17,563	17,523
Female	11,371	12,160	12,636

Source: Civil Service Statistics, RCSE.



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