



# SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS

## BHUTAN

First Quarterly Issue  
(January - March)  
**2024**

NATIONAL STATISTICS BUREAU  
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN

# **SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS**

## **BHUTAN**

**First Quarterly Issue**  
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**2024**

Indicator	2023	2024	Percentage (%) - Increase (▲)/ Decrease (▼)/ No Change (—)
	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	
<b>Population</b>			
Population <sup>1</sup>	770,276	777,224	▲0.90
Male	401,092	404,411	▲0.83
Female	369,184	372,813	▲0.98
Population density (per sq. km) <sup>2</sup>	19	19	—0.0
Population growth rate (%) <sup>2</sup>	1.3	1.3	—0.0
Average household size <sup>3</sup>	4.0	4.0	—0.0
<b>Labour and Employment (%)<sup>4</sup></b>			
Labour Force Participation Rate	63.1	65.0	▲1.90
Male	73.4	72.4	▼1.00
Female	53.5	56.8	▲6.17
Unemployment Rate	5.1	3.5	▼1.60
Male	4.4	2.7	▼1.70
Female	7.9	4.5	▼3.40
Youth Unemployment Rate	28.6	15.9	▼12.70
Male	24.4	13.5	▼10.90
Female	32.8	18.3	▼14.50
Total registered job seekers <sup>5</sup>	2,548	4,047	▲58.83
<b>Income</b>			
GDP (Nu. in million) <sup>6</sup>	227,813.72	227,813.72	—0.0
Per capita GDP in US \$ (1 US \$ = Nu 78.60)	3,833.03	3,833.03	—0.0
GDP growth (%)	5.21	5.21	—0.0
Share of agriculture to GDP (%)	14.67	14.67	—0.0
Saving as % of GDP	23.59	23.59	—0.0
Investment as % of GDP	55.78	55.78	—0.0
Export of goods and services as % to GDP	25.79	25.79	—0.0
Import of goods and services as % to GDP	60.14	60.14	—0.0
Inflation rate (%) <sup>7</sup>	3.9	4.61	▲0.71
Foreign exchange reserves (\$ in million) <sup>8</sup>	533.29	533.29	—0.0
USD (\$ in million)	474.69	474.69	—0.0
Rupees (Rs in million)	4,884.32	4,884.32	—0.0
Exchange rate 1 US \$ = Nu 83.35			

<sup>1</sup> Projected population Bhutan 2017 - 47, NSB. <sup>2</sup> Population and Housing Census of Bhutan, 2017. <sup>3</sup> Bhutan Living Standard Survey 2022 report. <sup>4</sup> Labour Force Survey report, 2022 and Quarterly Labour Force Survey Report, 2023. <sup>5</sup> The number of job seekers registered in the BLMIS, MoICE. <sup>6</sup> National Accounts Statistics, 2023. <sup>7</sup> Quarterly inflation (year on year), NSB. <sup>8</sup> As of 30th November, 2023.

Indicator	2023	2024	Percentage (%) - Increase (▲)/ Decrease (▼)/ No Change (–)
	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	
<b>National Poverty Rate (2022)*</b>			
Bhutan Poverty Rate (%)	12.4	12.4	–0.0
Urban	4.2	4.2	–0.0
Rural	17.5	17.5	–0.0
<b>Public Finance</b>			
Government revenue receipt (Nu. in million) <sup>1</sup>	8,587.89	10,906.87	▲27.00
Tax revenue	5,569.67	9,270.84	▲66.45
Non-tax revenue	3,018.22	1,636.03	▼45.79
Govt. expenditure (Nu. in million)	16,019.13	22,162.32	▲38.35
Current	10,153.66	11,458.46	▲12.85
Capital	4,566.48	6,853.08	▲50.07
Net lending (Nu. in million)	377.36	1,749.51	▲363.62
Repayment	921.63	2,101.27	▲127.99
<b>Total Public Debt (Nu. in million)<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>279,931.14</b>	<b>293,089.46</b>	<b>▲4.70</b>
As percentage (%) of GDP	103.2	109.8	▲6.41
External debt	251,830.59	261,122.84	▲3.69
As percentage (%) of GDP	92.9	97.8	▲5.27
Domestic debt	28,100.55	31,966.62	▲13.76
As percentage (%) of GDP	10.4	12.00	▲15.38
Convertible currency debt (US \$ in million)	1,080.74	1,060.74	▼1.85
Rupee debt (Rupees in million)	161,837.66	172,566.79	▲6.63
Total debt service through budget (Nu. in million)	14,536.77	14,536.77	–0.0
<b>Trade &amp; Industries Establishments<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>51,092</b>	<b>51,495</b>	<b>▲0.79</b>
Production and manufacturing	3,837	3,841	▲0.10
Services	23,792	23,071	▼3.03
Contract	2,153	2,072	▼3.76
Trade	20,871	22,049	▲5.64
Entertainment	439	462	▲5.24
<b>Industries by ownership<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>30,221</b>	<b>29,446</b>	<b>▼2.56</b>
Sole proprietorship	28,966	28,186	▼2.69
Partnership	349	349	–0.0
Company	792	793	▲0.13
Others	114	118	▲3.51

<sup>1</sup> Provisional data from DRC. <sup>2</sup> As of 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023 for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, 2023 and as of 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2024 for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, 2024.  
\*Poverty Analysis Report, 2022.

Indicator	2023	2024	Percentage (%) - Increase (▲)/ Decrease (▼)/ No Change (—)
	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	
<b>Foreign Trade</b>			
Export (Nu. in million)	9,218.71	9,405.32	▲2.02
India	7,391.94	7,181.58	▼2.85
Third countries	1,826.78	2,223.73	▲21.73
Import (Nu. in million)	23,385.55	24,531.11	▲4.90
India	20,408.05	20,803.11	▲1.94
Third countries	2,977.50	3,728.01	▲25.21
Balance of trade (Nu. in million)	-14,166.84	-15,125.80	▲6.77
India	-13,016.11	-13,621.52	▲4.65
Third countries	-1,150.72	-1,504.27	▲30.72
<b>Tourism (Number)</b>			
Total number of tourists arrival	35,393	25,003	▼29.36
International	12,281	10,019	▼18.42
Regional	23,112	14,984	▼35.17
Total tourists earnings (US \$ in million) <sup>1</sup>	7.48	5.88	▼21.42
<b>Health</b>			
Life expectancy at birth <sup>2</sup>	70.2	70.2	—0.0
Male	68.8	68.8	—0.0
Female	71.7	71.7	—0.0
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	15.1	15.1	—0.0
Crude Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	15.5	15.5	—0.0
Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	6.7	6.7	—0.0
Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100,000 live births)	89	89	—0.0
Total Fertility Rate (children per woman)	1.7	1.7	—0.0
Health coverage (%) <sup>3</sup>	>90	>90	—0.0
<b>Health Institutes (Number)</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>—0.0</b>
Hospitals <sup>4</sup>	58	58	—0.0
Public hospitals <sup>4</sup>	52	52	—0.0
RBA hospitals <sup>4</sup>	2	2	—0.0
IMTRAT hospitals <sup>4</sup>	3	3	—0.0
Indigenous hospitals <sup>4</sup>	1	1	—0.0
Indigenous units <sup>5</sup>	72	72	—0.0
Training institutes <sup>5</sup>	3	3	—0.0
Primary Health Centers (PHC) <sup>4</sup>	182	182	—0.0
Outreach clinics <sup>5</sup>	552	552	—0.0
Sub-posts <sup>4</sup>	54	54	—0.0

<sup>1</sup> Estimated using Sustainable Development Fee, Department of Tourism, MoICE. <sup>2</sup> Population and Housing Census of Bhutan 2017 for both the quarters. <sup>3</sup> Health 12<sup>th</sup> FYP Document. <sup>4</sup> Administrative data, MoH. <sup>5</sup> Annual Health Bulletin 2022.

Indicator	2023	2024	Percentage (%) - Increase (▲)/ Decrease (▼)/ No Change (—)
	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	
<b>Sanitation</b>			
Rural water supply scheme (Number) <sup>1</sup>	5,569	5,569	—0.0
Rural population access to improved drinking water source (%) <sup>2</sup>	99.9	99.9	—0.0
Rural population access to improved sanitation (%) <sup>2</sup>	98.7	98.7	—0.0
Under one immunization coverage (%)	95.1	95.1	—0.0
<b>Education*</b>			
School enrolment (No. of students) <sup>3</sup>	155,159	155,159	—0.0
Number of teachers <sup>4</sup>	10,158	10,158	—0.0
Gross primary enrolment rate (%)	110.11	110.11	—0.0
Literacy rate (%) <sup>5</sup>	70.60	70.60	—0.0
<b>Number of Educational Institutes</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>—0.0</b>
Higher Secondary Schools (includes 14 private HSS)	93	93	—0.0
Middle Secondary Schools (includes 2 private MSS)	59	59	—0.0
Lower Secondary Schools (includes 1 private LSS)	39	39	—0.0
Primary Schools (includes 10 private PS)	333	333	—0.0
Tertiary institutes <sup>6</sup>	17	17	—0.0
Private schools	27	27	—0.0
Other institutes <sup>7</sup>	213	213	—0.0
<b>Transport &amp; Communications</b>			
Length of road (km) <sup>8</sup>	18,343	18,343	—0.0
Number of motorable bridges	383	383	—0.0
Number of suspension bridges <sup>9</sup>	430	437	▲1.63
Number of telephone exchanges	106	106	—0.0
Number of telephone connections	18,410	11,023	▼40.12
Number of internet connections <sup>10</sup>	729,712	736,379	▲0.91
Lease line connection	9,487	10,439	▲10.03
Broadband internet connection	3,966	4,033	▲1.69
3G+4G+5G and EDGE/GPRS (mobile broadband)	719,709	725,075	▲0.75
B-Mobile subscribers	490,542	488,392	▼0.44
Tashicell subscribers	294,959	300,066	▲1.73

Indicator	2023	2024	Percentage (%) - Increase (▲)/ Decrease (▼)/ No Change (–)
	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	
No. of revenue earning passengers carried by druk air	60,977	54,758	▼10.20
Revenue earned by Druk Air (Nu. in million)	1,502.25	1,080.15	▼28.10
No. of revenue earning passengers carried by bhutan airline	29,779	5,342	▼82.06
Revenue earned by Bhutan Airline (Nu. in million)	299.18	46.97	▼84.30
No. of revenue earning passengers carried by helicopter services	684	161	▼76.46
Revenue earned by helicopter services (Nu. in million)	113.56	28.87	▼74.58
Number of post offices	36	37	▲2.78
No. of motor vehicles registered	126,650	126,952	▲0.24
Heavy	14,743	14,741	▼0.01
Light	83,370	83,496	▲0.15
Two wheeler	12,375	12,388	▲0.11
Taxi	6,695	6,792	▲1.45
Others	9,467	9,535	▲0.72

\* Annual Education Statistics, 2023.

<sup>1</sup> Public Health Engineering (PHE) Admin Database, MoH. <sup>2</sup> Bhutan Living Standard Survey 2022. <sup>3</sup> It includes students studying in four levels of education, Extended classrooms and Special Institutes. <sup>4</sup> Number of teacher includes teachers in four levels of education, Extended classrooms and special institutes. <sup>5</sup> Bhutan Living Standard Survey 2022. <sup>6</sup> Tertiary institutes under RGoB, KGUMSB, MoICE and HM Secretariat. <sup>7</sup> Includes special institutes, technical training institutes and Monastic Education Institutes. <sup>8</sup> Includes Primary national highways, secondary national highways, urban roads, dzongkhag roads, access roads, express way and farm roads. <sup>9</sup> Includes wooden cantilever bridges and steel truss bridges. <sup>10</sup> Includes Bhutan Telecom Ltd., Tashi InfoComm Ltd., Nano, DrukCom Pvt. Ltd, Datanet Wifi, Supernet InfoComm, Bitcom Systems, Nilo FiberNet, Gelephu Gigital Network, TelNet, RimsoNet, NetVision, NLNET InfoComm Ltd and TeraNet Internet Services.

Indicator	2023	2024	Percentage (%) - Increase (▲)/ Decrease (▼)/ No Change (–)
	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	
<b>Agriculture (Number)</b>			
Agriculture extension centres	205	205	–0.0
Agriculture seed production farms	4	4	–0.0
National plant protection centre	1	1	–0.0
Agriculture machinery and training centre	1	1	–0.0
National mushroom centre	1	1	–0.0
National post harvest centre	1	1	–0.0
Agriculture research and development centres	3	3	–0.0
Agriculture research and development sub-centres	3	3	–0.0
Soil & plant analytical laboratory	1	1	–0.0
National centre for organic agriculture	1	1	–0.0
Farm machinery cooperation limited	1	1	–0.0

Indicator	2023	2024	Percentage (%) - Increase (▲)/ Decrease (▼)/ No Change (-)
	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	
<b>Livestock (Number)</b>			
Livestock extension centres <sup>1</sup>	15	15	-0.0
National livestock research centre	1	1	-0.0
National center for animal health	1	1	-0.0
Dzongkhag veterinary hospitals	20	20	-0.0
Regional livestock development centres	1	1	-0.0
National veterinary hospital	1	1	-0.0
Regional veterinary hospital & epidemiology centre	3	3	-0.0
Statellite veterinary laboratory	1	1	-0.0
Government livestock farms (for breeding/production)	16	18	▲12.50
Vaccine production centre	1	1	-0.0
Liquid nitrogen and semen processing centre	2	2	-0.0
Livestock product value addition centre	1	1	-0.0
National development centre for animal nutrition	1	1	-0.0
National highland development centre	2	1	▼50.00
<b>Forestry (Number)</b>			
Divisional forest offices	14	14	-0.0
Range offices division	42	42	-0.0
Beat office division	76	76	-0.0
Range office park	32	32	-0.0
Beat office park	14	14	-0.0
Forest cover (%) <sup>2</sup>	69.7	69.7	-0.0
Protected area (%)	43.48	43.48	-0.0
Protected areas number (parks, sanctuaries and reserves)	10	10	-0.0
Biological corridors (%)	8.28	8.28	-0.0
Royal botanical park (%)	0.24	0.24	-0.0
Tiger centre <sup>3</sup>	1	1	-0.0
Forestry research institute	1	1	-0.0

<sup>1</sup> Includes old livestock extension centres. <sup>2</sup> Excluding alpine shrubs 3.39% and shrubs 9.74%. <sup>3</sup> Merged under Nature Conservation Division and it functions as a sub center.



Indicator	2023	2024	Percentage (%) - Increase (▲)/ Decrease (▼)/ No Change (—)
	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	
<b>Power (Units in million)</b>			
Total electricity generation <sup>1</sup>	2,244.29	918.97	▼59.05
Hydro electricity generated by Chhukha	421.54	178.37	▼57.69
Export of electricity from Chhukha	146.54	0.00	▼100.00
Hydro electricity generated by Kurichu	83.27	44.11	▼47.02
Export of electricity from Kurichu	0.19	0.00	▼100.00
Hydro electricity generated by THP	921.97	351.69	▼61.85
Export of electricity from THP	64.81	0.00	▼100.00
Hydro electricity generated by Basochu	87.38	39.95	▼54.29
Export of electricity from Basochu	41.19	0.00	▼100.00
Hydro electricity generated by DHPC	199.18	42.93	▼78.45
Export of electricity from DHPC	198.38	38.11	▼80.79
Hydro electricity generated by MHP	530.95	261.93	▼50.67
Export of electricity from MHP	295.96	0.00	▼100.00
Total export of electricity to India (%)	31.45	4.15	▼86.81
Number of villages electrified	4,426	3,879	▼12.36
Number of towns electrified	43	42	▼2.33
Number of electricity consumers	243,285	245,532	▲0.92
<b>Diplomatic relations (Number)</b>			
Total number of countries with which Bhutan has diplomatic relations <sup>2</sup>	55	55	—0.0

<sup>1</sup> Does not include Bhutan Power Corporation's mini/micro generation. <sup>2</sup> Includes European Union.



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