SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS (SEI) BHUTAN

Third Quarterly Issue

2026

NATIONAL STATISTICS BUREAU

ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The publication of the Socio-Economic Indicators for the third quarter of 2026 has been possible with the valuable contributions of numerous individuals and organizations who provided data and insights. We extend our sincere gratitude to the focal officials from various ministries, agencies, and corporations for the support and willingness to share data.

We would also like to thank all the data suppliers for their dedication, time, and effort in ensuring that reliable data is available for this report. Your commitment to data quality and your responsiveness to our needs have greatly enriched this publication, enabling us to deliver a reliable resource for policymakers, researchers, and the general public.

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	2026		% CHANGE/ % POINT
	2ND QTR	3RD QTR	
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	65.3	64.4	0.90 ▼
Male	73.5	73.5	0.00 -
Female	56.3	54.5	1.80 ▼
Unemployment Rate (%)	2.9	3.0	0.10 ▲
Male	2.4	2.3	0.10 ▼
Female	3.5	4.0	0.50 ▲
Youth Unemployment Rate (%)	17.3	17.5	0.20 ▲
Male	13.8	16.8	3.00 ▲
Female	20.3	18.1	2.20 ▼
Number of New Jobseekers Registered	2,792	2,907	4.12 ▲
Male	1,635	1,698	3.85 ▲
Female	1,157	1,209	4.49 ▲
Placement through Overseas Employment Program	7	121	1628.57 ▲
Male	1	40	3900.00 ▲
Female	6	81	1250.00 ▲

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	2026		% CHANGE/ % POINT
	1ST QTR	2ND QTR	
GDP by Sector (Nu. in Million)	70,708.40	91,262.79	29.07 ▲
Agriculture	6,497.52	11,417.71	75.72 ▲
Industry	21,865.21	33,516.03	53.28 ▲
Service	42,345.67	46,329.05	9.41 ▲
GDP Growth (%)	5.55	6.46	0.91 ▲
Share of Agriculture to GDP (%)	9.19	12.51	3.32 ▲
Share of Industry to GDP (%)	30.92	36.72	5.80 ▲
Share of Service to GDP (%)	59.89	50.76	9.13▼

Source: Quarterly Gross Domestic Product, First Quarter, 2026, NSB.

INDICATORS	2026		% CHANGE/ % POINT
	2ND QTR	3RD QTR	
Inflation Rate (%)[1]	7.26	5.97	1.29 ▼
Total Foreign Exchange Reserves (USD in Million)[2]	1,224.81	1,298.95	6.05 ▲
USD (in Million)	1,096.55	1011.17	7.79▼
Rupees (Rs. in Million)	12,140.74	27,386.46	125.57 ▲
Exchange Rate 1 USD to Ngultrum[2]	94.66	95.16	0.53 ▲
Non Performing Loans Ratio (NPR) (%)[2]	4.07	3.90	4.18 ▼
Credit to Deposit Ratio (%)[2]	74.24	75.40	1.56 ▲
Money Supply (Nu. in Million)[2]	318,107.00	330,426.00	3.87 ▲
Minimum Lending Rate (%)[2]	5.72	5.72	0.00 -
Claims on other Sectors including Private Sector (Million Nu.)[2]	244,498	253,814	3.81 ▲
Claims on Central Government (Million Nu.)[2]	42,286	51,927.00	22.80 ▲

Number of Domestic Digital Transactions (In Million)	91.32	94.86	3.88 ▲
Value of Domestic Digital Transactions (Billion Nu.)	341.17	356.37	4.46 ▲
Volume of Remittances (Million Nu.)	8,804.58	9,197.95	4.47 ▲
Number of Accounts[2]			
Saving	1,359,112	1,338,330	1.53▼
Current	95,619	90,368	5.49▼
Recurring Deposits	56,960	57,029	0.12 ▲
Fixed Deposits	74,067	73,843	0.30▼

Note: Data are reported either for the respective Qtr or as of the end of the Qtr and are provisional.[2] Data are as of August 2026 for 3rd QTR, 2026.

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

PUBLIC FINANCE (NU. IN MILLION)

INDICATORS	2026		% CHANGE/ % POINT
	2ND QTR	3RD QTR	
Government Revenue Receipt[1]	31,019.49	15,060.74	51.45 ▼
Tax Revenue	15,954.37	9,436.15	40.86 ▼
Non-Tax Revenue	15,065.12	5,624.58	62.66 ▼
Government Expenditure	49,597.63	27,306.18	44.94 ▼
Current	16,970.65	11,889.76	29.94 ▼
Capital	28,503.32	8,522.30	70.10 ▼
Net Lending	13.69	1,582.73	-
Repayment	4,109.96	5,311.38	29.23 ▲
Total Public Debt	356,063.80	...	-
As % of GDP	105.2	...	-
External Debt	331,965.75	...	-
As % of GDP	98.10	...	-
Hydro Debt	211,146.12	...	-
As % of GDP	62.40	...	-
Non-Hydro Debt	120,819.63	...	-
As % of GDP	35.70	...	-
Domestic Debt	24,098.05	...	-
As % of GDP	7.10	...	-
Covertible Currency Debt (USD in Million)	1,035.29	...	-
As % of GDP	29.64	...	-
Rupee Debt (Rs. in Million)	231,786.14	...	-
As % of GDP	68.57	...	-
Total Debt Service through Budget	20,618.89	...	-

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

Source: Ministry of Finance.

INDUSTRIES AND TRADE

INDICATORS	2026		% CHANGE
	2ND QTR	3RD QTR	
Industries			
Industries by Sector	32,056	33,968	5.96 ▲
Production and Manufacturing	4,449	4,600	3.39 ▲
Services	25,637	27,309	6.52 ▲
Contruction	1,970	2,059	4.52 ▲
Industries by Ownership	32,056	33,968	5.96 ▲
Sole Proprietorship	30,315	32,254	6.40 ▲
Partnership	358	457	27.65 ▲
Company	1,234	1,102	10.70 ▼
Others	149	155	4.03 ▲
Industries by Size	32,056	33,968	5.96 ▲
Large	488	444	9.02 ▼
Medium	968	896	7.44 ▼
Small	19,156	20,915	9.18 ▲
Cottage	11,444	11,713	2.35 ▲
Number of FDI Industries	184	150	18.48 ▼
Trade			
Trade by Sector	24,496	18,578	24.16 ▼
Micro Trade	9,869	5,686	42.39 ▼
Retail	13,707	12,022	12.29 ▼
Wholesale	920	870	5.43 ▼
Trade by Ownership	24,496	18,578	24.16 ▼
Sole Proprietorship	23,555	17,769	24.56 ▼
Partnership	211	164	22.27 ▼
Company	676	47	93.05 ▼
Others	54	598	1007.41 ▲
Trade by Size	24,496	18,578	24.16 ▼
Large	1,589	1,452	8.62 ▼
Medium	724	588	18.78 ▼
Small	12,314	10,852	11.87 ▼
Cottage	9,869	5,686	42.39 ▼

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	2026		% CHANGE
	2ND QTR	3RD QTR	
Export	13,221.93	15,067.07	13.96 ▲
India	10,483.89	12,299.07	17.31 ▲
Third Countries	2,738.04	2,768.00	1.09 ▲
Import	41,747.69	44,813.64	7.34 ▲
India	32,391.17	33,339.70	2.93 ▲
Third Countries	9,356.52	11,473.94	22.63 ▲
Balance of trade	-28,525.77	-29,746.57	4.28 ▲
India	-21,907.28	-21,040.63	3.96 ▼
Third Countries	-6,618.49	-8,705.94	31.54 ▲

Note: Provisional figure.

Source: Department of Revenue and Customs.

TOURISM

INDICATORS	2026		% CHANGE
	2ND QTR	3RD QTR	
Total number of Tourists Arrival	86,250	35,591	58.74 ▼
Tourists from Countries other than India (COTI)	16,355	10,242	37.38 ▼
Tourists from India	68,410	25,349	62.95 ▼
Tourists from Bangladesh	1,485	1,424	4.11 ▼
Tourists Arrival by Port of Entry	86,250	35,591	58.74 ▼
Gelephu	108	...	-
Paro	27,773	...	-
Phuentsholing	57,908	...	-
Samdrup Jongkhar	456	...	-
Samtse	4	...	-
Nganglam	1	...	-
Tourists Revenue to Government (USD in Million)	12.91	7.11	44.94 ▼

Note: Data includes only SDF paying tourists.

Source: Dapartment 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	2024	2025	2026
Health Institutes (Number)			
Hospitals	55	59	62
Primary Health Centres (PHC)	187	194	189
Sub-Posts	51	51	53
Outreach Clinics (ORC)	557	555	540
Health Information and Service Centres (HISC)	7	7	...
Indigenous Hospitals	1	1	...
Indigenous Units	80	80	...
Training Institutes	4	4	...

Source: Annual Health Bulletins Report.

INDICATORS	2023	2024	2025
Health Human Resources			
General Specialists/Sub-Specialists	121	177	202
Medical Officers (MS/CMO/MO/GDMO)	211	173	261
Clinical Nurses	359	368	438
Staff/Assistant Nurses	1,229	1204	1431
Health Assistants (HA)	580	574	566

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 abov	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	2026		% CHANGE
	2ND QTR	3RD QTR	
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	68,313	52,884	22.59 ▼
Revenue Earned by Druk Air (Nu. in Million)	1,832.16	1,379.41	24.71 ▼
Number of Revenue Earning Passengers Carried by Bhutan Airlines	43,767	25,454	41.84 ▼
Revenue Earned by Bhutan Airlines (Nu. in Million)	885.69	579.32	34.59 ▼
Number of Revenue Earning Passengers Carried by Helicopter Service	1,528	1,089	28.73 ▼
Revenue Earned by Helicopter Service (Nu. in Million)	87.85	56.59	35.59 ▼
Number of Motor Vehicles Registered	132,156	137,412	3.98 ▲
Heavy	7,943	8,123	2.27 ▲
Medium	2,529	2,602	2.89 ▲
Light	94,167	97,994	4.06 ▲
Two-Wheeler	9,353	9,706	3.77 ▲
Taxi	7,427	8,120	9.33 ▲
Other[2]	10,737	10,867	1.21 ▲
Electric Vehicle (EV)	1,531	1,741	13.72 ▲
Telecommunication			
Number of Telephone Exchange Stations	...	...	-
Number of Telephone Connections	9,778	9,275	5.14 ▼
Number of Internet Connections	846,719	855,038	0.98 ▲
Lease Line Connections	61,174	66,283	8.35 ▲

Broadband Internet Connections	8,032	8,366	4.16 ▲
EDGE/GPRS+3G+4G Connections	652,088	639,358	1.95 ▼
5G Connections	125,425	141,031	12.44 ▲
B-Mobile Subscribers	521,281	526,143	0.93 ▲
Tashicell Subscribers	309,730	310,617	0.29 ▲

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

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

Source: MoIT and BICMA.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION (IN METRIC TC

INDICATORS	2025		% CHANGE
	3RD QTR	4TH 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, Santuaries 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	2026		% CHANGE/ % POINT
	2ND QTR	3RD QTR	
Total Electricty Generation[1]	3,287.12	7,770.31	136.39 ▲
Total Scheduled Electricity Export	693.82	4,416.06	536.49 ▲
Total Schedule Export of Electricity to India (%)	21.11	56.83	35.73 ▲
Hydro Electricity Generated by Chhukha	451.91	773.22	71.10 ▲
Schedule Electricity Export from Chhukha	10.96	114.65	946.34 ▲
Hydro Electricity Generated by Kurichhu	113.18	141.52	25.04 ▲
Schedule Electricity Export from Kurichhu	0.00	0.00	-
Hydro Electricity Generated by Tala	1,136.18	2,417.73	112.79 ▲
Schedule Electricity Export from Tala	0.49	0.03	94.53 ▼
Hydro Electricity Generated by Dagachhu	43.33	199.37	360.17 ▲
Schedule Electricity Export from Dagachhu	42.46	195.39	360.17 ▲
Hydro Electricity Generated by Mangdechhu	900.68	1,704.05	89.20 ▲
Schedule Electricity Export from Mangdechhu	125.20	1,641.47	1211.06 ▲
Hydro Electricity Generated by Basochu	65.92	140.59	113.28 ▲
Schedule Electricity Export from Basochu	15.27	93.39	511.66 ▲
Hydro Electricity Generated by Nikachhu	120.83	271.28	124.51 ▲
Schedule Electricity Export from Nikachhu	100.89	238.17	136.07 ▲
Hydro Electricity Generated by Punatsangchhu II	455.09	2,122.55	366.41 ▲

Schedule Electricity Export from Punatsangchhu II	398.55	2,132.97	435.19 ▲
Total Electricity Import (Bid Quantum)	297.73	0.00	100.00 ▼
Total Domestic Sales	2,982.03	3,238.15	8.59 ▲
Total Subsidized Energy	46.38	46.80	0.91 ▲
Number of Villages Electrified	4,493	4,493	0.00 -
Number of Towns Electrified	54	54	0.00 -
Number of Electricity Consumers	268,175	269,143	0.36 ▲

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

Source: Department of Energy, MoENR and BPC.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

INDICATORS	2026		% CHANGE
	2ND QTR	3RD QTR	
Number of Contributors to NPPF	65,320	65,625	0.47 ▲
Civil and Corporate Members	51,333	51,672	0.66 ▲
Male	33,277	33,379	0.31 ▲
Female	18,056	18,293	1.31 ▲
Armed Force Members	13,987	13,953	0.24 ▼
Male	12,282	12,247	0.28 ▼
Female	1,705	1,706	0.06 ▲
Number of Pensioners	11,598	11,697	0.85 ▲
Civil and Corporate Members	7,097	7,199	1.44 ▲
Armed Force Members	4,501	4,498	0.07 ▼

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.

www.nsb.gov.bt

nationalstatisticsbureau@gmail.com

+975-2-333296/ 326802

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS (SEI) BHUTAN

Third Quarterly Issue

2026

NATIONAL STATISTICS BUREAU

ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN