

Last Updated: March 2024

Bahrain has a growing agriculture sector with a 4.7% year-on-year growth in gross value added in 2023. The agriculture sector includes crop and animal production, forestry, fishing and aquaculture. The country has focused on agriculture and fisheries to achieve food security by developing new regulations such as taking steps to protect its marine wealth and enhance its food security by prohibiting the export of fish and shrimps. Bahrain has long been an important trading hub and its natural resources, such as date palms, are valuable to the region. The agriculture sector has grown with activities such as vegetable gardens, poultry production and dairy farms that adapt to consumer demand.



Sector Opportunities & Trends

01. Boosting food processing value chains

Strengthening the value chains in food processing entails expanding and optimizing the various stages of production, from farm to fork. This involves establishing connections between farmers and businesses for customized packaging and branding solutions. Additionally, by harnessing the potential of byproducts and residual materials, valuable substances can be extracted, leading to the creation of marketable goods. This approach improves operational efficiency, promotes sustainability and facilitates the development of value-added products by utilizing unused or leftover materials generated during the production process.

02. Digitalization and advanced analytics

The agriculture sector needs to go digital to keep up with increasing demand for food. This means using technology such as AI, analytics and Internet of Things (IoT) or connected sensors to enable farmers to increase yields, improve resource efficiency and build sustainability and resilience across crop cultivation. At the same time, the sector also needs to expand digital platforms and establish direct sales channels to reach more consumers.

03. Agri-tourism

There is a huge potential for Bahrain to develop agri-tourism initiatives following the huge success of farmers markets that attract locals, residents and tourists alike. These could include opening local farms to allow the public to experience Bahrain's agriculture, offering visitors guided tours, new festivals and farm-to-table dining experiences.

04. Vertical farming & hydroponics

Vertical farming and hydroponics present an opportunity for Bahrain as a country with limited arable land. These methods allow for the farming of crops in a controlled environment using less water and space. This will maximize production in urban areas and conserve resources such as water and land.

05. Climate-resilient crops

Achieving food security amid climate change requires intensive research efforts. In Bahrain as in other countries, there is still a lot of uncertainty concerning the resilience of plants, soils and associated microbes with regards climate change. Research is needed for the adoption and promotion of resilient crops for climate risk mitigation and import substitution.

06. Aquaculture

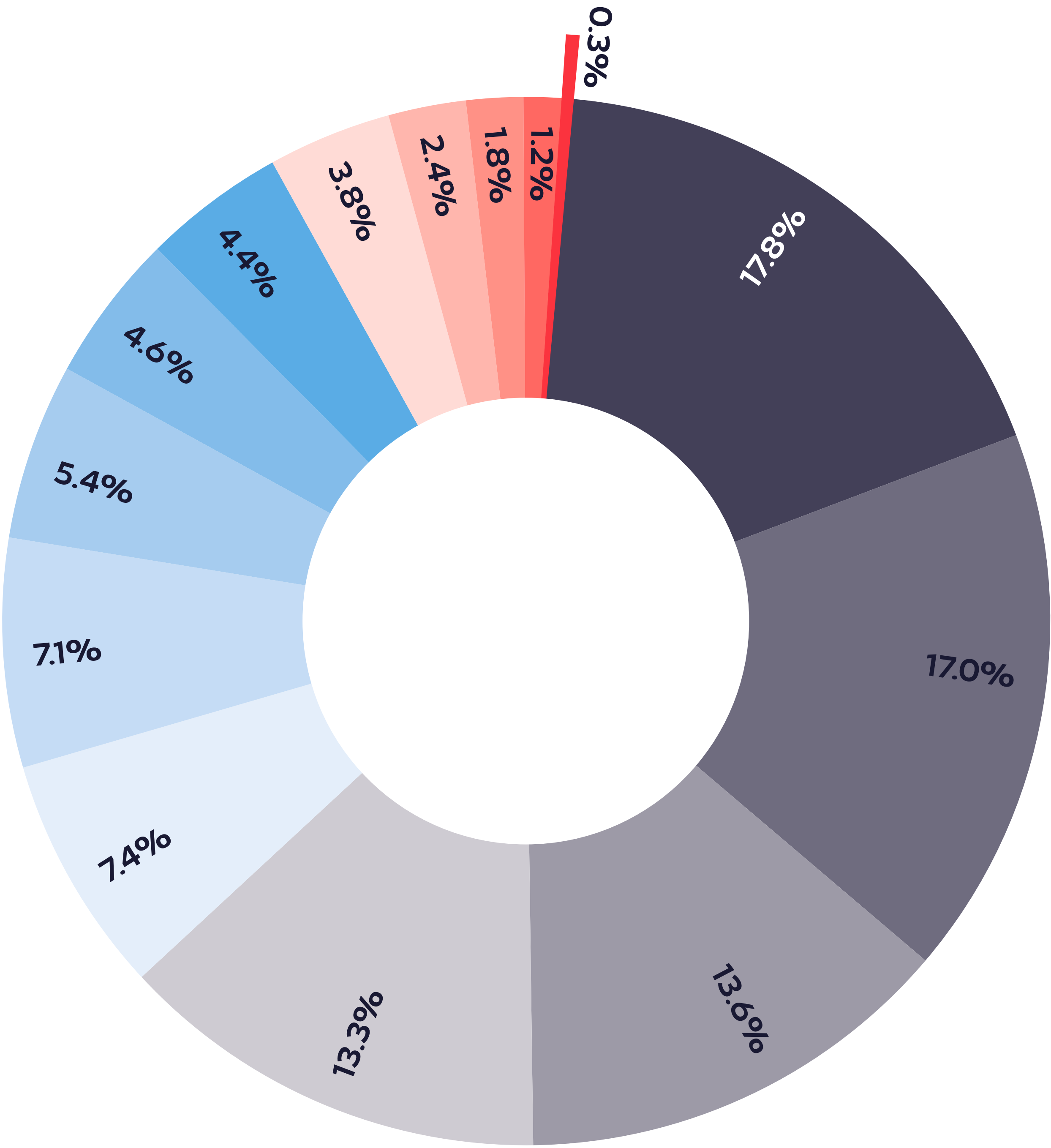
Aquaculture presents an opportunity for sustainable seafood stock management and localized value addition. Beyond the cultivation of various aquatic species, Bahrain can explore the production of fish feeds, for example. In the past, Bahrain's fisheries output has been primarily exported in its unprocessed form, with value addition occurring elsewhere. However, by focusing on aquaculture and implementing sustainable practices, Bahrain could not only enhance its seafood industry but also retain value within its borders.

Agriculture Sector Economic Indicators

iGA-National Accounts, 2023

Agriculture Sector Contribution to Real GDP

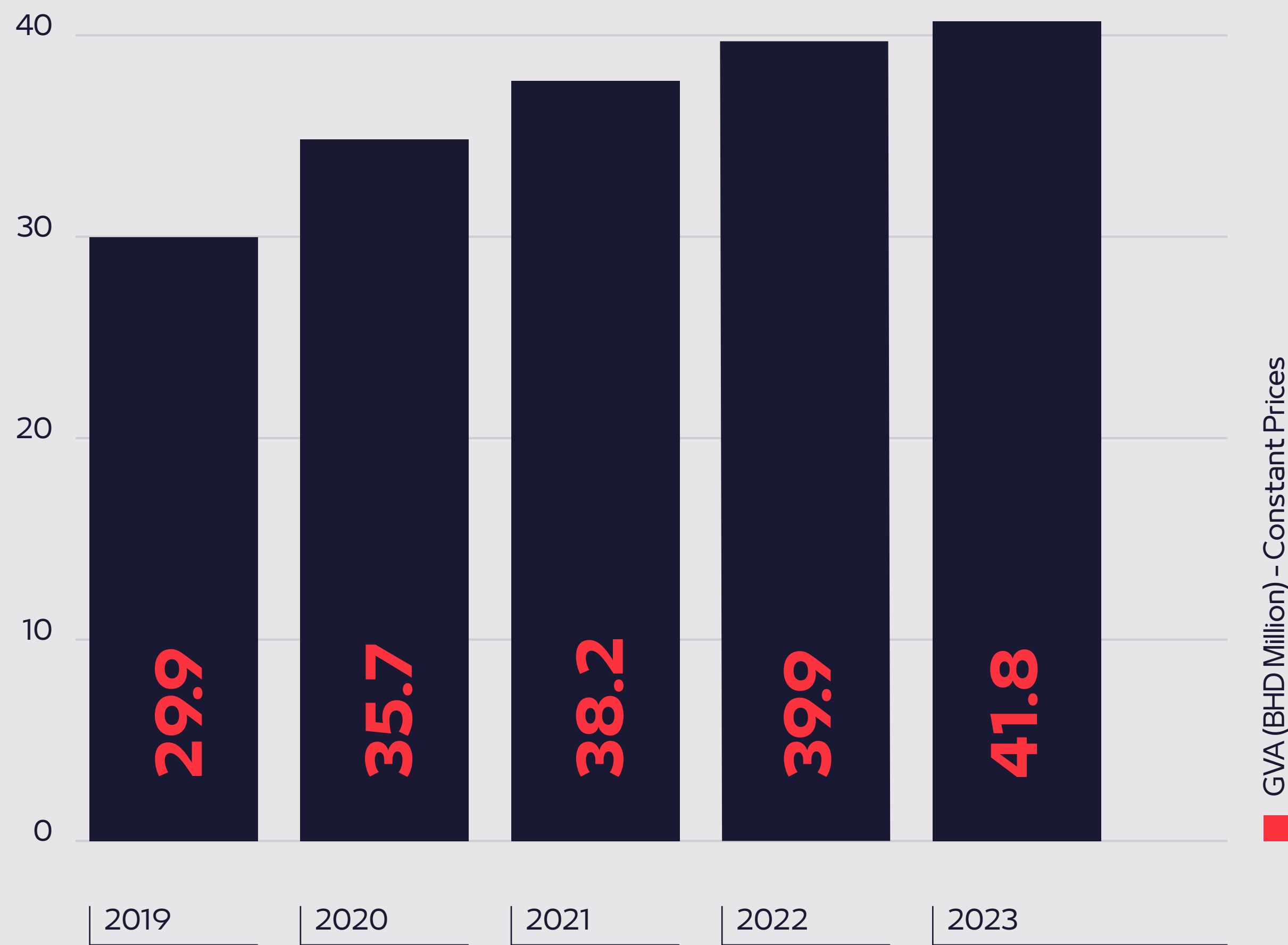
(%, 2023)



Financial & Insurance Activities	17.8%	Net Tax on Products	4.6%
Mining & Quarrying	17.0%	Trade	4.4%
Manufacturing	13.6%	Others ²	3.8%
Government Services	13.3%	Private Education Services	2.4%
Transport & Communication	7.4%	Hotels & Restaurants	1.8%
Construction	7.1%	Private Health Services	1.2%
Real Estate & Business Activities	5.4%	Agriculture & Fishing	0.3%

Agriculture Sector GVA¹

(BHD M, 2019 - 2023)



¹ Gross Value added (GVA) is the measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area, industry or sector of an economy

² Others include Electricity & Water, Other Social & Personal Services, Private Non-Profit Institutions, and Households with Employed Persons

Agriculture Sector Enterprises

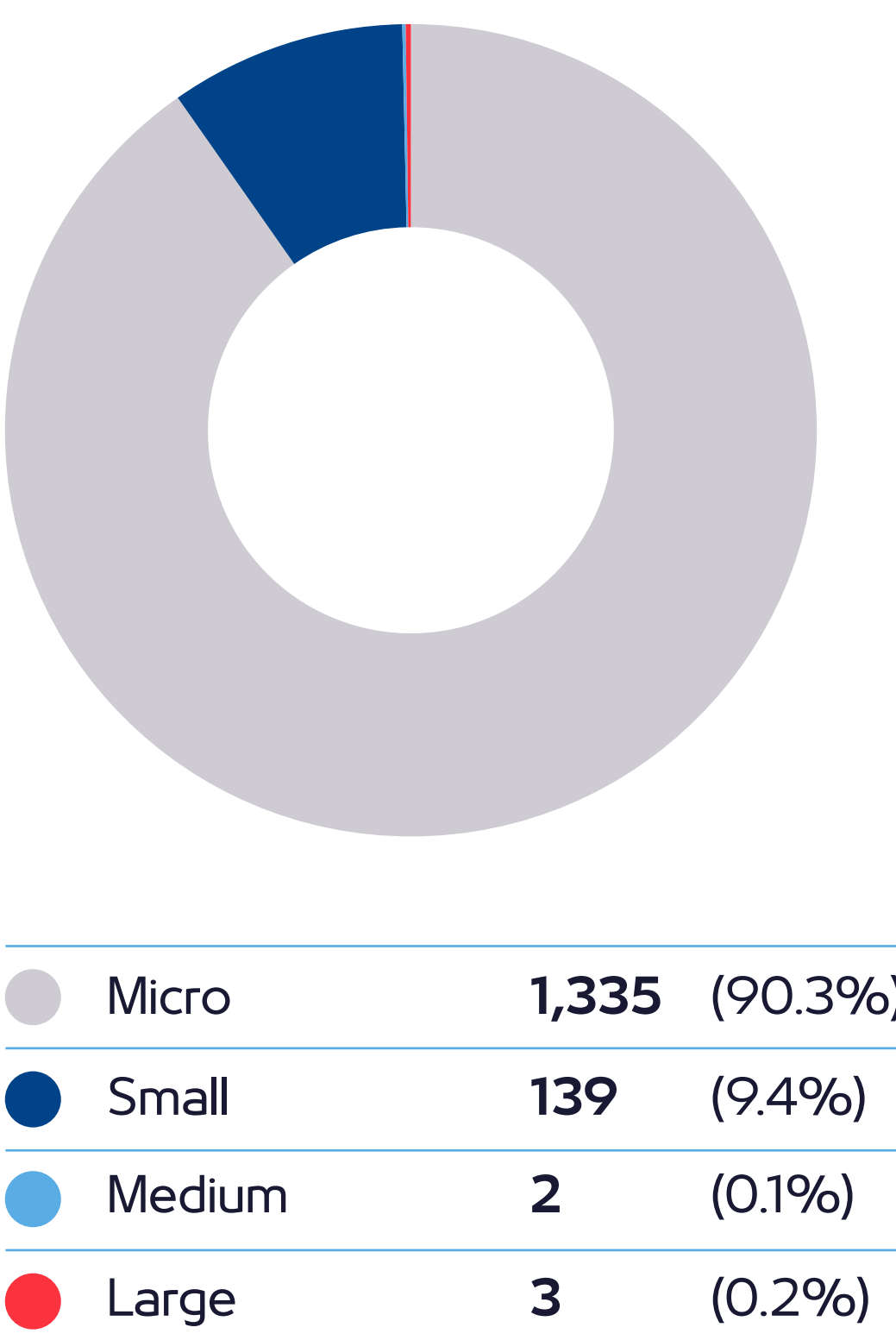
LMRA, Q2 2023 - BLMI

1,479
Active CRs

2.0%
of total Active CRs in Bahrain

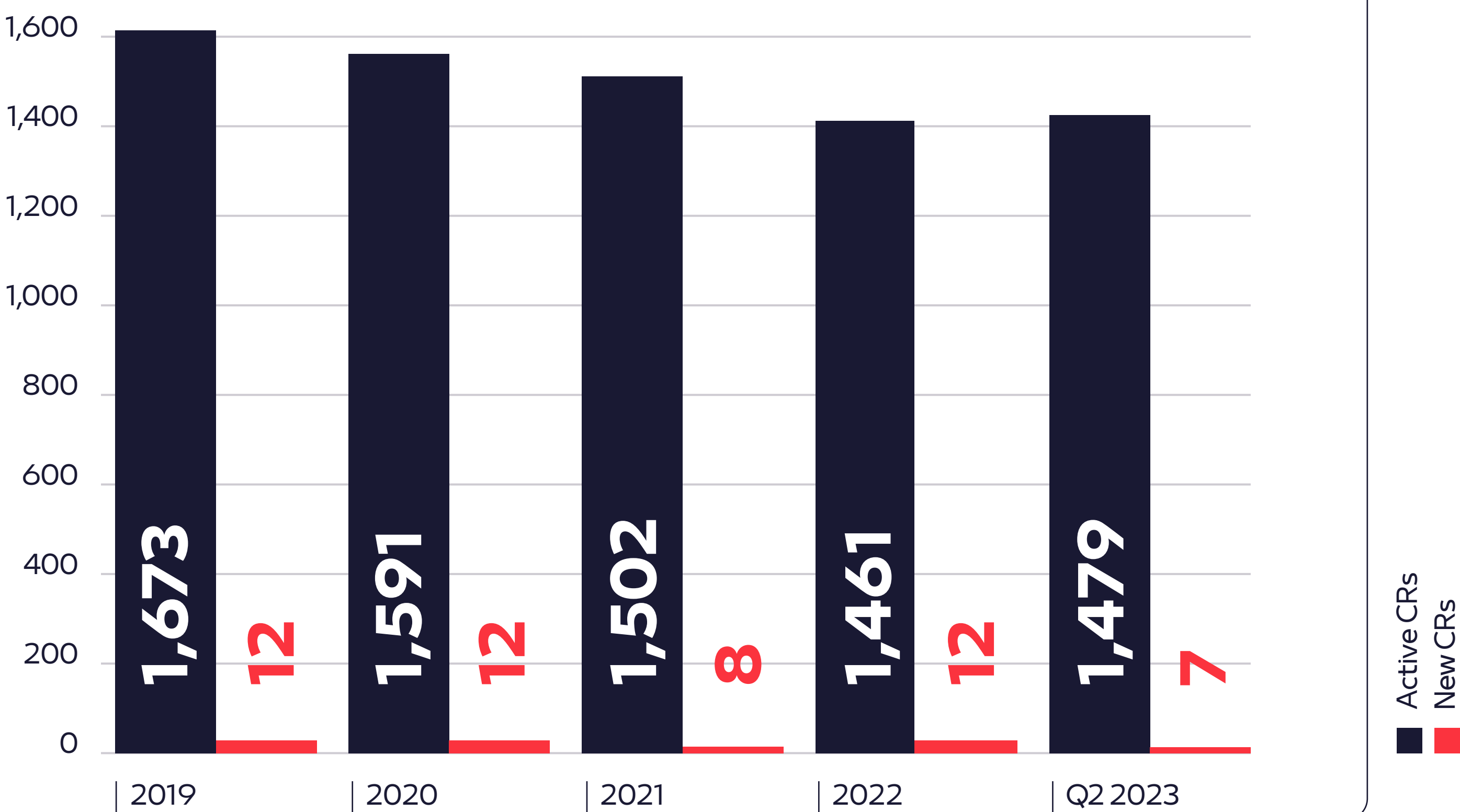
Agriculture Sector by Enterprise Size

(%, Q2 2023)



Agriculture Sector Active Commercial Registrations

(2019 - Q2 2023)



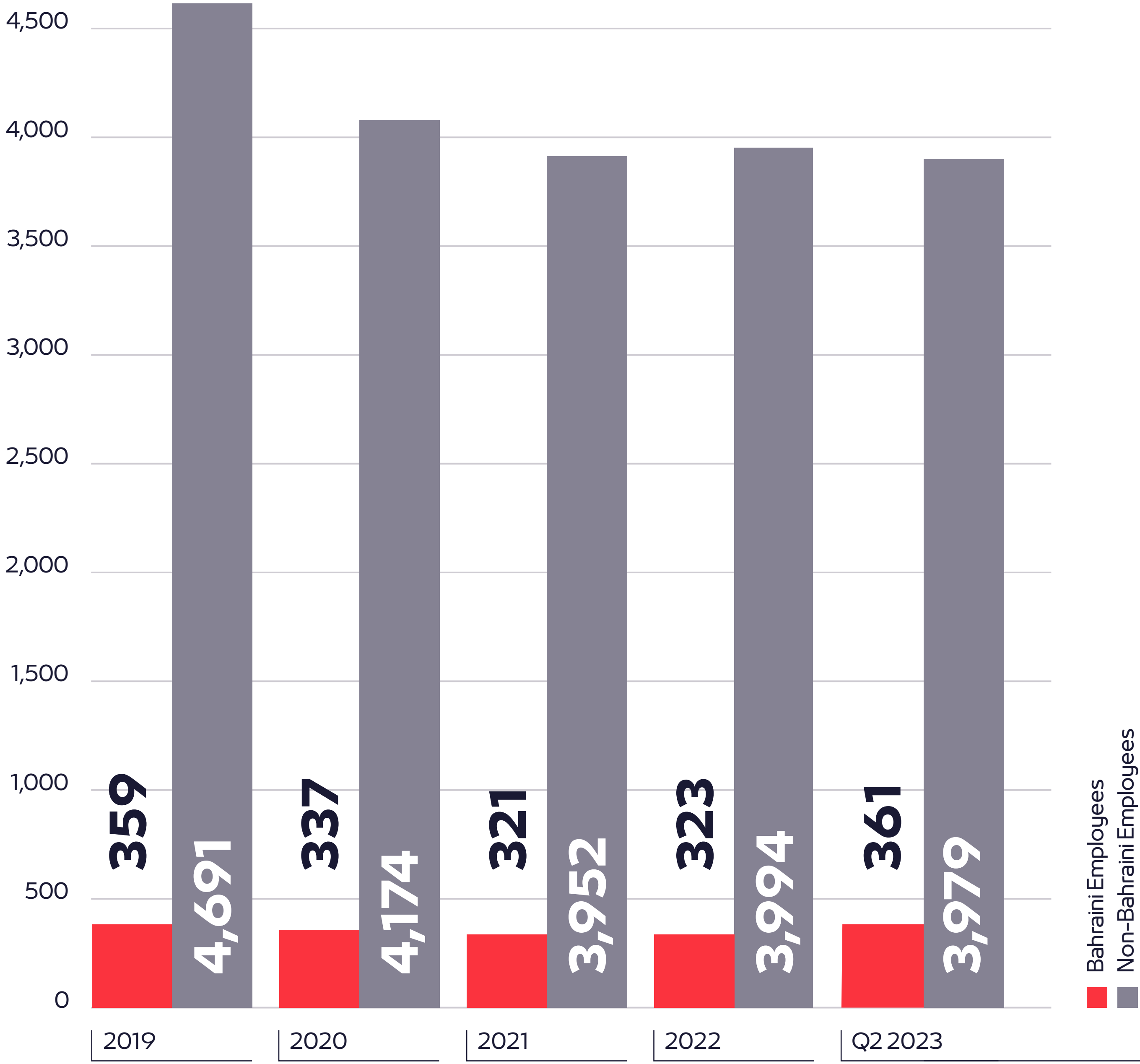
Agriculture Sector Employment

LMRA, Q2 2023 – BLMI



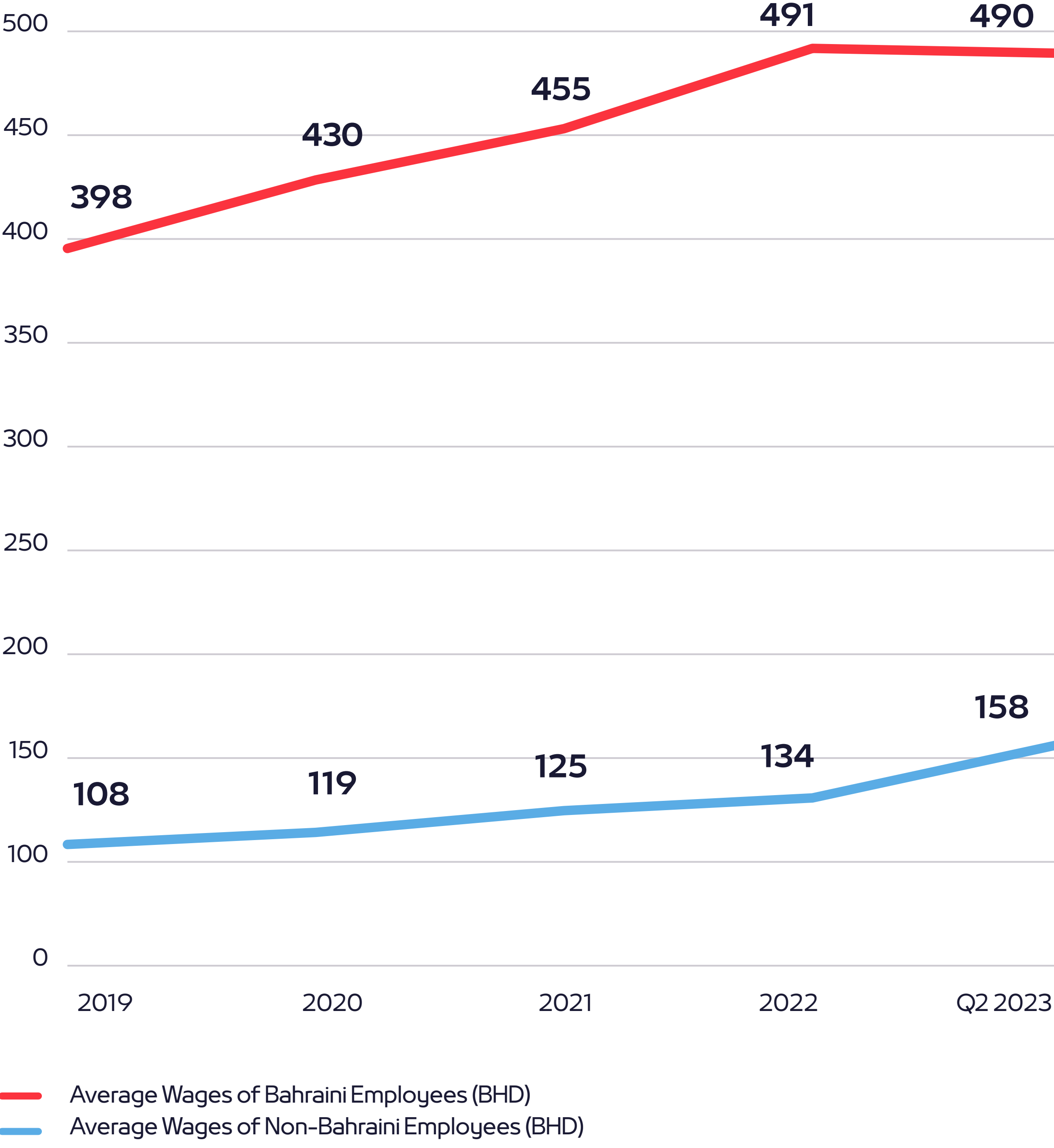
Agriculture Growth In Employees by Citizenship

(2019 – Q2 2023)



Agriculture Sector Average Wages by Citizenship

(BHD, 2019 – Q2 2023)



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