



December 23, 2025

SAMA issues fees guide for financial institutions' services

The Saudi Central Bank (SAMA) has introduced a new Guide to Financial Institutions Services Fees, including reductions and caps across a wide range of banking and payment services. The regulation comes as part of SAMA's efforts to enhance financial inclusion and improve transparency across the system. The new regulation, which is applicable on all financial institutions under SAMA's supervision, will replace the current Banking Tariff once it comes into effect, which is expected within 60 days of publication (22nd December, 2025) of the regulation.

Under the new regulation, SAMA has made reductions across several fee categories. Administrative fees on non-real-estate financing products, including consumer loans and motor finance leasing, have been lowered. The previous cap of 1.0% of the finance amount (or SAR 5,000, whichever is lower) has been reduced to 0.5% or SAR 2,500, whichever is lower, resulting in easing borrowing costs for customers. MADA card services costs have also been lowered, with reissuance fees cut from SAR 30 to SAR 10, international fees capped at 2.0% of transaction amount. Additionally, international cash withdrawals fee using MADA cards has been limited to 3.0% of transaction value, with an upper cap of SAR 25.

Several service costs have also seen reductions, including lower check issuance costs (from SAR 10 to SAR 5) and cheaper standing payment order services (from SAR 15 to SAR 5). The regulation has also eliminated certain charges entirely. For instance, the fee of SAR 25 previously for issuing bank account statements for a period of less than one year, when requested at the branch, has now been removed. Domestic electronic transfers have been standardized at lower rates, with a charge of SAR 0.5 for transfers of up to SAR 2,500 and SAR 1 for transfers exceeding SAR 2,500 and up to SAR 20,000.

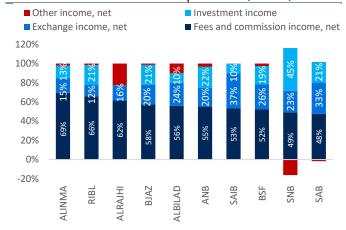
For Saudi commercial banks, the new framework carries important financial implications. In the short term, banks are likely to face pressure on fee and commission income, particularly in areas such as consumer finance, card services, transaction fees, and domestic transfers. Within the Saudi banking system, Alinma Bank, Riyad Bank, and Al Rajhi Bank have the highest share of fee and commission income accounting for over 60% of non-interest income (NII) during 9M25. Additionally, banks with a higher share of retail client exposure will likely see a higher impact on their fee and commission income than banks with a higher corporate client base. Retail banking typically generates a high volume of transactions, compared to more concentrated, fewer number of corporate clients. Within Saudi banks, Al Rajhi Bank has the highest retail exposure, with retail book making up 64.4% of its gross loan book, followed by Saudi National Bank and Bank Albilad, having a share of 49.6% and 47.4% of retail loans in their gross loan portfolio, respectively. In the near term, new guidelines may translate into slower non-interest income growth.

However, the new regulation is expected to benefit banks through incremental loan demand. As the cap for administrative fees on non-real-estate financing products is reduced, consumer's cost of borrowing will decline. Hence, banks may face headwinds due to lower fees, meanwhile the decline in borrowing costs may boost credit demand. The stronger loan growth driven by enhanced affordability and financial inclusion could help mitigate the earnings pressure stemming from reduced fee and commission income.

Furthermore, in the medium to long term, the regulation may support a healthier and more competitive market dynamic. With fee differentiation diminishing, banks will increasingly need to compete through service quality, customer experience, and digital innovation rather than pricing. Additionally, lower transaction costs may stimulate greater banking usage and transaction volumes, potentially offsetting some revenue loss through higher activity levels.

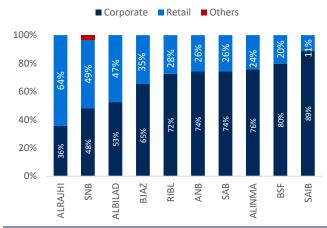


Non-interest income composition (9M25)



Source: Company financials, anbc research

Gross loan book composition (Sep-25)



Source: Company financials, anbc research

Major regulation changes

	Banking Tariff (Old Regulation)		Guide to Financial Institutions Services Fees	
	At branch	Electronically	At branch	Electronically
Accounts statement				
For less than one year	SAR 25		Free	Free
Over one year			SAR 15	Free
1-5 years	SAR 30			
Over 5 years	SAR 50			
MADA, ATM and POS cards				
Reissuance of MADA cards	SAR 30		SAR 10	
Issuance of additional MADA cards	SAR 30		SAR 10	
Bank transfers				
Setting up a standing payment order (one time)	SAR 15	SAR 10	SAR 5	
Transaction less than SAR 2,500	SAR 0.5 for transactions less than SAR 500; SAR 1 for transactions between SAR 500-SAR 20,000		SAR 0.5	
Transactions between SAR 2,500 and SAR 20,000			SAR 1	
Same day transactions exceeding SAR 20,000			SAR 25	SAR 7
Transfer to another bank inside the Kingdom through SARIE (forward)	SAR 15	SAR 5		
Transactions exceeding SAR 20,000 (next business day)			SAR 15	SAR 5
Checks				
Issuance of an additional checkbook (25 checks)	SAR 10		SAR 5	
Issuance & revocation of a bank check	SAR 10		SAR 5	
Requesting a copy of a check dated to one year	SAR 10		SAR 5	
Requesting a copy of a check dated more than one year	SAR 20		SAR 10	

Source: SAMA, anbc research



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