

## Introduction

Saudi Arabia is a country in the Middle East bordering the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea. Extensive coastlines provide leverage on shipping, especially crude oil, through the Persian Gulf and Suez Canal. Neighboring countries include Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. The geography of Saudi Arabia is primarily desert with rugged mountains in the southwest. The government system is a monarchy; the chief of state and head of government are the king and prime minister. Saudi Arabia is a member of the League of Arab States (Arab League) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).



**Location:** Western Asia

**Capital City:** Riyadh (+3 GMT)

**Chief of State:** King Salman bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud

**Head of Govt.:** Crown Prince and Prime Minister Muhammad Bin Salman bin Abd Al-Aziz Al Saud

**Currency:** Saudi riyal (SAR)

**Major Languages:** <p>Arabic (official)</p>

**Primary Religions:** <p>Muslim (official; citizens are 85-90% Sunni and 10-12% Shia), other (includes Eastern Orthodox, Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, and Sikh)&nbsp;</p>

**Calling Code:** 966

**Voltage:** 127/220

## Key Websites

Main Government Page: [my.gov.sa](http://my.gov.sa)

Commerce Ministry: [mc.gov.sa](http://mc.gov.sa)

Export Promotion Agency: [fsc.org.sa](http://fsc.org.sa)

Investment Promotion Agency: [misa.gov.sa](http://misa.gov.sa)

## Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	High Income
Level of Development:	Developing
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$2,150.49 billion (2022)
GDP growth (annual %):	8.74% (2022)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$59,065.00 (2022)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	14.68% (2022)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	\$150.75 billion (2022)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	2.47% (2022)
Labor force, total:	15,913,705 (2022)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	5.64% (2022)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$257.27 billion (2022)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$442.35 billion (2022)

## GDP Composition %

Agriculture Services Industry Manufacturing



*\*Although Manufacturing is included in the Industry figures, it is also separately reported because it plays a critical role in economy.*

## Rankings

Index	Rank
Corruption Perceptions Index	51 / 178
EY Globalization Index	41 / 60
Global Competitiveness Index	36 / 141
Global Enabling Trade Index	67 / 136
Global Manufacturing Competitiveness Index (GMCI)	34 / 40
Index of Economic Freedom	98 / 176
International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	55 / 160
Inward FDI Potential Index	28 / 139
KOF Index of Globalization	51 / 185
Networked Readiness Index (NRI)	33 / 139
Open Budget Index	93 / 114

## Risk Assessment (Provided by Coface)

**Country rating: B** - Political and economic uncertainties and an occasionally difficult business environment can affect corporate payment behavior. Corporate default probability is appreciable.

**Business Climate rating: B** - The business environment is mediocre. The availability and the reliability of corporate financial information vary widely. Debt collection can sometimes be difficult. The institutional framework has a few troublesome weaknesses. Intercompany transactions run appreciable risks in the unstable, largely inefficient environments rated B.

### Strengths

- Key oil producer with over 15% of the world's proven reserves, leading role in OPEC
- Strong financial buffers
- Intensified economic diversification efforts within the Vision 2030 program
- Improved diplomatic relations with neighboring countries
- Young population and rising inclusion of women into the workforce

### Weaknesses

- Economy is still driven by the oil sector and fiscal spending despite diversification efforts, slow progress in reforms
- Oil still accounts for 60% of public revenues
- Dependence on foreign workers
- Persistent tensions with Iran, geopolitical uncertainties

## U.S. Embassy

U.S. Embassy Riyadh  
 P.O. Box 94309  
 Riyadh 11693  
 Saudi Arabia  
 Telephone: 966-11-4883800  
<https://sa.usembassy.gov>