



# SAUDI ARABIA



## INTRODUCTION

Saudi Arabia is the birthplace of Islam and home to Islam's two holiest shrines in Mecca and Medina. The modern Saudi state was founded in 1932 by ABD AL-AZIZ bin Abd al-Rahman Al SAUD (Ibn Saud) after a 30-year campaign to unify most of the Arabian Peninsula. The country remains a leading producer of oil and natural gas and held about 16% of the world's proven oil reserves as of 2015.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

King and Prime Minister SALMAN bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud

### Head of Government

King and Prime Minister SALMAN bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud

### Government Type

absolute monarchy

### Capital

Riyadh

### Legislature

unicameral Consultative Council or Majlis al-Shura (150 seats)

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 2.15 million sq km  
Land: 2.15 million sq km  
Water: 0 sq km

### Climate

harsh, dry desert with great temperature extremes

### Natural Resources

petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, gold, copper

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

high-income, oil-based Middle Eastern economy; OPEC leader; diversifying portfolio; declining per-capita incomes; young labor force; key human capital gaps; heavy bureaucracy and increasing corruption; substantial poverty; low innovation economy

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$1.543 trillion (2020 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$44,300 (2020 est.)

**Industries** - crude oil production, petroleum refining, basic petrochemicals, ammonia, industrial gases, sodium hydroxide (caustic soda), cement, fertilizer, plastics, metals, commercial ship and commercial aircraft repair, construction

**Agricultural products** - milk, dates, poultry, fruit, watermelons, barley, wheat, potatoes, eggs, tomatoes

**Exports** \$184.1 billion (2020 est.)

crude and refined petroleum, polymers, industrial alcohols, natural gas (2019)

**partners:** China 20%, India 11%, Japan 11%, South Korea 9%, US 5% (2019)

**Imports** \$179.8 billion (2020 est.)

cars, broadcasting equipment, refined petroleum, packaged medicines, telephones (2019)

**partners:** China 18%, UAE 12%, US 9%, Germany 5% (2019)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

34.8 million (July 2021 est.)

### Population Growth

1.62% (2021 est.)

### Ethnicity

Arab 90%, Afro-Asian 10%

### Language

Arabic (official)

### Religion

Muslim (official; citizens are 85-90% Sunni and 10-15% Shia), other (includes Eastern Orthodox, Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, and Sikh) (2012 est.)

### Urbanization

urban population: 84.5% of total population (2021)

rate of urbanization: 1.69% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

