SAUDI ARABIA

INTRODUCTION
Saud 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

as of October 2021

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.)