

# Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)

## Facts & Figures



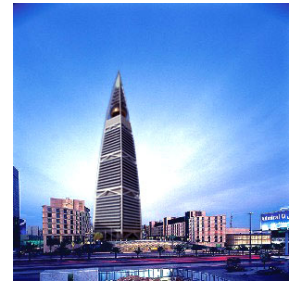
### Did you know that...?

- ◆ The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was formed in 1932 by King Abdul Aziz bin Abdul Rahman Al Saud. The Kingdom is also referred to as KSA, Saudi, Saudi Arabia
- ◆ Saudi Arabia represents a \$1.4 Trillion market opportunity
- ◆ Saudi Arabia is the largest economy in the Middle East, comprising 25 percent of the Arab world's GDP
- ◆ His Excellency King Abdullah has embarked on the development of impressive economic cities, universities, and investment in the Kingdom. Thus, creating jobs, infrastructure and vast opportunities
- ◆ United States is the Kingdom's largest trading partner in the region
- ◆ Saudi Arabia is the 19th largest exporter and the 20th largest import market in the world
- ◆ Saudi Arabia's non-petroleum exports totaled \$2.3 billion in 2007, up 7% from 2006
- ◆ In 1985 Prince Sultan bin Salman traveled aboard the space shuttle Discovery becoming the first Arab and first Muslim to travel in space
- ◆ The Saudi government signed 3,200 contracts worth \$22.2 billion with the private sector in 2007
- ◆ Saudi Arabia's annual growth target is 5.6% in 2008
- ◆ Saudi Arabia is the world's leading oil exporter, possessing one-fourth of the world's proven oil reserves.
- ◆ Saudi Arabia joined WTO in 2005 since then KSA has focused more on persuading economic reform and diversification
- ◆ Having a median age of 21 makes Saudi citizens almost half as young as American citizens
- ◆ Saudi currency, Riyal, has allowed high confidence in trades by staying constant at an exchange rate of 1/3.75
- ◆ There are estimated to be five times more mobile phones in Saudi than land lines
- ◆ Saudi Arabia is the world's largest producer of desalinated water: thirty-three plants produce nearly two million cubic meters of fresh water from the sea
- ◆ The Saudi Company, ARAMCO, is the world's largest producer of oil. Saudi Arabia has twenty-six percent of the world's share of present oil production
- ◆ Women in Saudi Arabia run companies, schools, play sports and are dedicated to family
- ◆ Saudi Arabia enjoys a very low crime rate
- ◆ Saudi Arabia is a founding member of OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries)
- ◆ Saudi Arabia is the birthplace of Islam and home to Islam's two holiest shrines in Mecca and Medina

### Other Information

- ◆ For more than 35 years, Saudi Arabian economic development has been broadly governed by five-year economic development plans. Early plans developed the Kingdom's infrastructure. Now the focus increasingly is on human resource and private-sector development. The 8th Plan, approved in 2005, emphasizes economic diversification and the increased importance of developing the non-oil sector. Keys to that process include the ongoing development of six new cities in Saudi with a wide array of supporting products and services.
- ◆ The Saudi health care network provides free general care to its citizens
- ◆ The Saudi economy is booming! Saudi Arabia is the top trading and investment partner for Northeast U.S. companies doing business in the Middle East. Total bilateral trade with the U.S. in 2006 was more than \$40 billion.
- ◆ Sites for Further Information: [www.us-sabc.org](http://www.us-sabc.org) [www.sct.gov.sa](http://www.sct.gov.sa) [www.saudiembassy.net](http://www.saudiembassy.net) [www.saudi-us-relations.org](http://www.saudi-us-relations.org)
- ◆ [www.alfaisaliahhotel.com](http://www.alfaisaliahhotel.com) [www.srpc.com](http://www.srpc.com) [www.jcci.org.sa](http://www.jcci.org.sa) [www.saudia-online.com](http://www.saudia-online.com)
- ◆ [www.datarabia.com](http://www.datarabia.com) [www.jef.com.sa](http://www.jef.com.sa) [www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQ\\_S5DwAc5M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQ_S5DwAc5M) [www.saudiaramcoworld.com](http://www.saudiaramcoworld.com)

# Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, KSA References



## Articles and Books for Further Reading

- ◆ *Abumustafa, Naser. "Benefiting From Diversity in Middle Eastern Stock Market." Applied Financial Economics, February 2008: 229-237*
- ◆ *Bomford, Andrew. "The Importance of the Connector." BBC News, December 15, 2006.*
- ◆ *Bowman, Dylan. "Saudi Education Reform." Arabianbusiness.com, October 24, 2007.*
- ◆ *Jubak, Jim. "U.S. Economy's Fate in Saudi Hands." MSN Money, 05 June, 2007.*
- ◆ *"Saudi State Visit." The Economist, November 1, 2007.*
- ◆ *"Tracking the Oil Trail." The Economist, June 7, 2007.*
- ◆ *North, Peter. "Culture Shock! Saudi Arabia:" Marshall Cavendish Corporation, 2007.*
- ◆ *Reed, Stanley, Emily Thornton, and Eamon Javers. "A Queue in the Sand." Business Week, December 17, 2007: 24-26.*
- ◆ *Wilhelm, Steve. "Oil rise spurs Mideast demand for local luxury jets." Puget Sound Business Journal, November 19, 2007*

## Web Resources

- ◆ *Arab Gateway — <http://www.al-bab.com/arab/countries/saudi.htm>*
- ◆ *Arab Net — <http://www.arab.net/saudi/index.html>*
- ◆ *Arabian Business — <http://www.arabianbusiness.com>*
- ◆ *BBC News Saudi Profile — [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle\\_east/country\\_profiles/791936.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/country_profiles/791936.stm)*
- ◆ *Columbia Uni. KSA Studies — <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/mideast/cuvm/Saudi.html>*
- ◆ *Economic News & Data — <http://www.zawya.com/countries/sa/default.cfm?cc>*
- ◆ *Economist Saudi Briefings — <http://economist.com/countries/SaudiArabia/>*
- ◆ *Governments of Saudi Arabia — <http://www.gksoft.com/govt/en/sa.html>*
- ◆ *Online Saudi Newspapers — <http://www.newspaperindex.com/en/newspapers/Saudi+Arabia>*
- ◆ *Middle East Economic Digest — <http://www.meed.com/index.html>*
- ◆ *Saudi Embassy — <http://www.saudiembassy.net>*
- ◆ *Saudi Press Agency — <http://www.spa.gov.sa/English/index.php>*
- ◆ *Saudi Royalty — <http://www.royalty.nu/MiddleEast/SaudiArabia.html>*
- ◆ *Saudi Supreme Commission for Tourism — <http://www.sct.gov.sa/>*
- ◆ *The Saudi Network — <http://www.the-saudi.net/>*
- ◆ *U.S - Saudi Arabian Business Council — <http://www.us-sabc.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=1>*
- ◆ *Weather — <http://www.wunderground.com/global/SD.html>*
- ◆ *Who's Who — <http://www.al-bab.com/arab/biog.htm#SAUDI>*
- ◆ *We encourage you to visit news sources such as the Financial Times, industry reports, local Arab news sources, BBC, the Economist and others for the latest on this dynamic subject.*

