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Chapter 1

209

1.1 209.guide

Texified version of data for Saudi Arabia.

Texified using wfact from

Gerhard Leibrock
Neuhäuselerstr. 12
D-66459 Kirkel
Germany

Tel.: 06849 / 6134
INTERNET: leibrock@fsinfo.cs.uni-sb.de
fach5@cipsol.cs.uni-sb.de

Project Gutenberg

P. O. Box 2782

Champaign, IL 61825

When all other email fails try our Michael S. Hart, Executive
Director:

hart@vmd.cso.uiuc.edu (internet) hart@uiucvmd (bitnet)

We would prefer to send you this information by email (Internet,
Bitnet, Compuserve, ATTMAIL or MCI mail).

Saudi Arabia

1.2 209.guide/Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia

Geography (Saudi Arabia)
 People (Saudi Arabia)
 Government (Saudi Arabia)
 Government (Saudi Arabia 2. usage)
 Economy (Saudi Arabia)
 Economy (Saudi Arabia 2. usage)
 Communications (Saudi Arabia)
 Defense Forces (Saudi Arabia)

1.3 209.guide/Geography (Saudi Arabia)

Geography (Saudi Arabia)

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Location:

Middle East, between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf

Map references:

Africa, Middle East, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

1,960,582 km²

land area:

1,960,582 km²

comparative area:

slightly less than one-fourth the size of the US

Land boundaries:

total 4,415 km, Iraq 814 km, Jordan 728 km, Kuwait 222 km, Oman 676 km,
 Qatar 60 km, UAE 457 km, Yemen 1,458 km

Coastline:

2,640 km

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone:

18 nm

continental shelf: not specified

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

large section of boundary with Yemen not defined; status of boundary with
 UAE not final; Kuwaiti ownership of Qaruh and Umm al Maradim Islands is
 disputed by Saudi Arabia

Climate:

harsh, dry desert with great extremes of temperature

Terrain:

mostly uninhabited, sandy desert

Natural resources:

petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, gold, copper

Land use:

arable land:

1%

permanent crops:

0%

meadows and pastures:
 39%
 forest and woodland:
 1%
 other:
 59%

Irrigated land:
 4,350 km² (1989 est.)

Environment:
 no perennial rivers or permanent water bodies; developing extensive coastal
 seawater desalination facilities; desertification

Note:
 extensive coastlines on Persian Gulf and Red Sea provide great leverage on
 shipping (especially crude oil) through Persian Gulf and Suez Canal

1.4 209.guide/People (Saudi Arabia)

People (Saudi Arabia)

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Population:
 17,615,310 (July 1993 est.)
 note:
 the population figure is consistent with a 3.3% growth rate; a 1992 census
 gives the number of Saudi citizens as 12,304,835 and the number of ←
 residents
 who are not citizens as 4,624,459

Population growth rate:
 3.3% (1993 est.)

Birth rate:
 38.59 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Death rate:
 6.05 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Net migration rate:
 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Infant mortality rate:
 55.3 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 67.32 years male:
 65.71 years
 female:
 69.01 years (1993 est.)

Total fertility rate:
 6.7 children born/woman (1993 est.)

Nationality:
 noun:
 Saudi(s)
 adjective:
 Saudi or Saudi Arabian

Ethnic divisions:
 Arab 90%, Afro-Asian 10%

Religions:

Muslim 100%
 Languages:
 Arabic
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1990)
 total population:
 62%
 male:
 73%
 female:
 48%
 Labor force:
 5 million
 by occupation:
 government 34%, industry and oil 28%, services 22%, agriculture 16%

1.5 209.guide/Government (Saudi Arabia)

Government (Saudi Arabia)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
 conventional short form:
 Saudi Arabia
 local long form:
 Al Mamlakah al 'Arabiyah as Su'udiyah
 local short form:
 Al 'Arabiyah as Su'udiyah
 Digraph:
 SA
 Type:
 monarchy
 Capital:
 Riyadh
 Administrative divisions:
 14 emirates (imarat, singular - imarah); Al Bahah, Al Hudud ash Shamaliyah,
 Al Jawf, Al Madinah, Al Qasim, Al Qurayyat, Ar Riyad, Ash Sharqiyah, 'Asir,
 Ha'il, Jizan, Makkah, Najran, Tabuk
 Independence:
 23 September 1932 (unification)
 Constitution: none; governed according to Shari'a (Islamic law)
 Legal system:
 based on Islamic law, several secular codes have been introduced; ↔
 commercial
 disputes handled by special committees; has not accepted compulsory ICJ
 jurisdiction
 National holiday:
 Unification of the Kingdom, 23 September (1932)
 Political parties and leaders:
 none allowed
 Suffrage:

none
 Elections:
 none
 Executive branch:
 monarch and prime minister, crown prince and deputy prime minister, Council of Ministers
 Legislative branch:
 none
 Judicial branch:
 Supreme Council of Justice
 Leaders:
 Chief of State and Head of Government:
 King and Prime Minister FAHD bin 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud (since 13 June 1982); Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister 'ABDALLAH bin 'Abd al-'Aziz ← Al Sa'ud (half-brother to the King, appointed heir to the throne 13 June 1982)
 Member of:
 ABEDA, AfDB, AFESD, AL, AMF, CCC, ESCWA, FAO, G-19, G-77, GCC, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INMARSAT, INTELSAT, INTERPOL ←
 IOC, ISO, ITU, LORCS, NAM, OAPEC, OAS (observer), OIC, OPEC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO
 Diplomatic representation in US:
 chief of mission:
 Ambassador BANDAR Bin Sultan
 chancery:
 601 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20037
 telephone:
 (202) 342-3800

1.6 209.guide/Government (Saudi Arabia 2. usage)

Government (Saudi Arabia 2. usage)

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consulates general:
 Houston, Los Angeles, and New York
 US diplomatic representation:
 chief of mission:
 (vacant); Charge d'Affaires C. David Welch
 embassy:
 Collector Road M, Diplomatic Quarter, Riyadh
 mailing address:
 American Embassy, Unit 61307, Riyadh; International Mail: P. O. Box 94309, Riyadh 11693; or APO AE 09803-1307
 telephone:
 [966] (1) 488-3800
 FAX:
 Telex 406866 consulates general:
 Dhahran, Jiddah (Jeddah)
 Flag:
 green with large white Arabic script (that may be translated as There is no God but God; Muhammad is the Messenger of God) above a white horizontal

saber (the tip points to the hoist side); green is the traditional color of Islam

1.7 209.guide/Economy (Saudi Arabia)

Economy (Saudi Arabia)

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Overview:

The petroleum sector accounts for roughly 75% of budget revenues, 35% of GDP, and almost all export earnings. Saudi Arabia has the largest reserves of petroleum in the world, ranks as the largest exporter of petroleum, and plays a leading role in OPEC. For the 1990s the government intends to encourage private economic activity and to foster the gradual process of turning Saudi Arabia into a modern industrial state that retains ← traditional

Islamic values. Four million foreign workers play an important role in the Saudi economy, for example, in the oil and banking sectors.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$111 billion (1992 est.)

National product real growth rate:

3.6% (1992 est.)

National product per capita:

\$6,500 (1992 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

2.5% (1992 est.)

Unemployment rate:

6.5% (1992 est.)

Budget:

revenues \$45.1 billion; expenditures \$52.5 billion, including capital expenditures of \$NA (1993 est.)

Exports:

\$48.2 billion (f.o.b., 1991)

commodities:

petroleum and petroleum products 92%

partners:

US 21%, Japan 18%, Singapore 6%, France 6%, Korea 5%

Imports:

\$26.1 billion (f.o.b., 1991)

commodities:

food stuffs, manufactured goods, transportation equipment, chemical products, textiles

partners:

US 21%, UK 13%, Japan 12%, Germany 8%, France 6%

External debt:

\$18.9 billion (December 1989 est.)

Industrial production:

growth rate -1.1% (1989 est.); accounts for 37% of GDP, including petroleum

Electricity:

28,554,000 kW capacity; 63,000 million kWh produced, 3,690 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:

crude oil production, petroleum refining, basic petrochemicals, cement, two

small steel-rolling mills, construction, fertilizer, plastics

Agriculture:
 accounts for about 10% of GDP, 16% of labor force; subsidized by government ↔
 ;
 products - wheat, barley, tomatoes, melons, dates, citrus fruit, mutton,
 chickens, eggs, milk; approaching self-sufficiency in food

Illicit drugs:
 death penalty for traffickers

Economic aid:
 donor - pledged \$64.7 billion in bilateral aid (1979-89)

Currency:
 1 Saudi riyal (SR) = 100 halalas

Exchange rates:
 Saudi riyals (SR) per US\$1 - 3.7450 (fixed rate since late 1986), 3.7033
 (1986)

1.8 209.guide/Economy (Saudi Arabia 2. usage)

Economy (Saudi Arabia 2. usage)

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Fiscal year:
 calendar year

1.9 209.guide/Communications (Saudi Arabia)

Communications (Saudi Arabia)

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Railroads:
 1390 km 1.435-meter standard gauge; 448 km are double tracked

Highways:
 74,000 km total; 35,000 km paved, 39,000 km gravel and improved earth

Pipelines:
 crude oil 6,400 km, petroleum products 150 km, natural gas 2,200 km,
 includes natural gas liquids 1,600 km

Ports:
 Jiddah, Ad Dammam, Ras Tanura, Jizan, Al Jubayl, Yanbu al Bahr, Yanbu al
 Sinaiyah

Merchant marine:
 77 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 860,818 GRT/1,219,345 DWT; includes 1
 passenger, 6 short-sea passenger, 11 cargo, 13 roll-on/roll-off cargo, 3
 container, 6 refrigerated cargo, 5 livestock carrier, 23 oil tanker, 6
 chemical tanker, 1 liquefied gas, 1 specialized tanker, 1 bulk

Airports:
 total:
 213
 usable:

193
 with permanent-surface runways:
 71
 with runways over 3,659 m:
 14
 with runways 2,440-3,659 m:
 36
 with runways 1,220-2,439 m:
 107
 Telecommunications:
 modern system with extensive microwave and coaxial and fiber optic cable systems; 1,624,000 telephones; broadcast stations - 43 AM, 13 FM, 80 TV; microwave radio relay to Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, UAE, Yemen, and Sudan; coaxial cable to Kuwait and Jordan; submarine cable to Djibouti, Egypt and Bahrain; earth stations - 3 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT, 2 Indian Ocean INTELSAT, 1 ARABSAT, 1 INMARSAT

1.10 209.guide/Defense Forces (Saudi Arabia)

Defense Forces (Saudi Arabia)

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Branches:

Land Force (Army), Navy, Air Force, Air Defense Force, National Guard, ↔
 Coast

Guard, Frontier Forces, Special Security Force, Public Security Force

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 5,650,492; fit for military service 3,128,620; reach military age (17) annually 140,283 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$16.5 billion, 13% of GDP (1993 budget)