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	<i>TITLE :</i> 209		
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WRITTEN BY		August 10, 2024	

<b>REVISION HISTORY</b>
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NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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# Chapter 1

## 209

### 1.1 209.guide

Texified version of data for Saudi Arabia.

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Saudi Arabia

### 1.2 209.guide/Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia

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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)  
 =====

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 km<sup>2</sup>  
     land area:  
         1,960,582 km<sup>2</sup>  
     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%

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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:

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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)