



وزارة الاستثمار
Ministry of Investment

استثمر في السعودية
INVEST
SAUDI



Invest in Sharqia



**Your Guide to Uncovering
Value Propositions in
Sharqia**

| January, 2023



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My primary goal is to be an exemplary and leading nation in all aspects, and I will work with you in achieving this endeavor.

**Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques,
King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud**



Our nation holds strong investment capabilities, which we will harness to stimulate our economy and diversify our revenues.

**His Royal Highness the Crown Prince,
Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz
Al-Saud**



HRH Prince Saud bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz Al- Saud
Prince of Sharqia region

The Eastern Province has many comparative advantages that makes it a key region at a global level in terms of energy and petrochemicals. In addition, the region has borders ports with neighboring countries, making it an important logistical hub in terms of trade between the Kingdom and many foreign countries. It is also marked by a cultural and demographic diversity, as well as rich historical and touristic sites in addition to an excellent quality of life.

Since the launch of the development project; “Saudi Vision 2030”, led by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques; King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and under the constant guidance and follow-up of His Royal Highness, Prince Muhammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud; The Crown Prince, the Prime Minister, and the Kingdom are in constant quest to achieve the goals of this ambitious Saudi vision 2030, starting with diversifying the resources of the national economy, as well as developing and putting into action ambitious plans and strategies designed to boost economic growth across the Kingdom. Work to attract and promote investments in all regions of the Kingdom is among the most crucial of these strategies.

In order to build a strong foundation for achieving Saudi Vision 2030’s goals, in the years since Saudi Vision 2030’s inception, the Kingdom will pursue strategies such as a strong and developing economy, abundant energy resources, distinctive geographical features, a young population, and an integrated infrastructure. and so on. The Kingdom benefited from this advantage to solidify its position as an ideal destination for those looking to invest in a number of highly competitive sectors and take advantage of promising investment opportunities.

The Kingdom’s focus on diversifying the national economy, coupled with its ambitious economic growth plans and unprecedented government support such as the Ministry of investment, has positioned Saudi Arabia as an ideal choice for investment. Saudi Arabia’s economy has proven to be both resilient and one of the fastest globally to rebound from the effects of the “COVID-19” pandemic. In fact, the Kingdom is predicted by the IMF to see the most rapid economic growth in the world at 7.6 percent in 2022. In addition, As one of the overarching objectives of Saudi Vision 2030 is to grow and diversify the economy, Saudi Vision 2030 aims to make Saudi Arabia one of the top 15 economies globally. Doing so requires significant investment

that is estimated to exceed USD 3.2 trillion through the National Investment Strategy, launched by HRH the Crown Prince a year ago.

Over the past few years, the Kingdom has undergone a major transformation not seen anywhere else in the world. We have developed leading information and communications technologies (ICT) infrastructure, introduced comprehensive eGovernment solutions, and embraced public-private partnerships to deliver our ambitious targets on a scale and at a speed that are unparalleled. We are continuing to transform to create further investment opportunities and increase our competitiveness across key and emerging sectors. We are doing this through developed rules and regulation such as Mining Regulations and strategic initiatives such as Saudi Vision 2030, the National Investment Strategy, National Transport and Logistics Strategy, National Industrial Strategy, the National Development Fund, and Global Supply Chain Resilience Initiative. These initiatives come with significant government support in helping to attract investment and enable growth.

We understand that one of the key factors associated with successful investment decisions is site selection. The Ministry of Investment (MISA), through collaboration with key entities, has developed reports such as this one to showcase opportunities found in all regions across the Kingdom. Our 13 provinces have key differentiators and a unique value proposition in specific sectors. Throughout this report, we help shine a light on Sharqia — the energy hub of Saudi Arabia, with an abundance of petroleum resources, major industrial centers, and a distinct coastal strip that can attract many promising and diverse investments.

HE Minister of Investment Eng. Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih

SPOTLIGHT ON THE KINGDOM

The Kingdom's Transformational Journey Through Saudi Vision 2030



Saudi Arabia's nominal GDP was ~USD 834 billion in 2021, Based on the efforts of Sharqia region, the contribution of the Energy – Oil & Gas, Petrochemicals, Transport and Logistics, and Industrial Manufacturing to the Kingdom's GDP is expected to increase. The Kingdom's growth perspectives are supported by a set of major Saudi Vision 2030 Realization Programs and initiatives.

These programs and initiatives include the Public Investment Fund Program, Pilgrim Experience Program, Quality of Life Program, National Industrial Development and Logistics Program, Housing Program, Privatization Program, and the Regional Headquarters program, among others.

These transformative investment programs are critical components of the Kingdom's strategy to achieve Saudi Vision 2030 targets, including:

- Raising the share of non-oil exports in non-oil GDP to 50%
- Positioning the Kingdom within the top 15 economies worldwide
- Doubling overall domestic investment component
- Increasing foreign direct investment (FDI) approximately twenty-fold

The country's determination to diversify its economy has fueled both local and foreign investment, while increasing the contribution of small and medium-sized (SME) enterprises to the national GDP. According to the Saudi central bank (SAMA), foreign direct investment inflows to the Kingdom increased significantly from USD 1.4 billion in 2017 to almost USD 19.3 billion in 2021. This is mainly due to increased competitiveness in key areas such as ease of doing business, road connectivity, cybersecurity, and education.

Ranked
#36

For the ease of starting a business as per the 2021 Global Innovation Index (out of 132 countries)

Ranked
#1

For road connectivity as per the 2019 Global competitiveness report by the World Economic Forum (out of 141 countries)

Ranked
#2

Overall in the 2020 Global Cyber Security Index by the United Nations International Telecommunication Union (out of 194 countries)

Ranked
#6

For total public expenditure on education as per the 2021 IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook (out of 64 countries)

Ranked
#9

For technical and vocational education training as per the 2021 Global Knowledge Index (out of 154 countries)

Ranked
#41

Overall in INSEAD's 2021 Global Talent Competitiveness Index (out of 134 countries)

Ranked
#3

Ranked 3rd for the ease of protecting minority investors per the 2021 Global Innovation Index (out of 132 countries)


Ranked
#47

Ranked 47th for the gross expenditure on research and development as per the 2021 Global Innovation Index (out of 132 countries)

A key area of focus for the Kingdom has been building top-tier digital infrastructure to enable its digital transformation strategy, through the adoption and implementation of state-of-the-art information and communications technology (ICT).


E-Government programs enabling the digitalization and improvement of multiple services have been leveraged to support this goal. This was done by developing electronic platforms, channels, and applications to improve the end-user experience and ensure the Kingdom can effectively support businesses and their new ways of working.

To foster new investment opportunities, facilitate investments for the private sector and encourage innovation, an extensive network of institutions offers attractive incentives to projects across sectors and regions. These include nearly **290 programs** such as:

-  **Employment support (covering a percentage of wages) offered by the Saudi Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF)**
-  **Project finance and working capital financing offered by the Saudi Industrial Development Fund (SIDF)**
-  **Tax credits on R&D investment and tax exemption on earnings from exports offered by the Zakat Tax and Customs Authority (ZATCA).**
-  **Customs exemption on raw material, machinery and equipment, and spare parts offered by the Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources (MIMR).**



Key sectors have been identified for the country which include renewable energy, tourism, healthcare, financial services, industrial manufacturing, logistics, and mining. In line with Vision 2030, the Kingdom has set **ambitious goals across target sectors**, such as:

-  **Reaching net zero emissions by 2060**
-  **Doubling the number of Saudi heritage sites registered with UNESCO**
-  **Having three Saudi cities recognized in the top-ranked 100 cities worldwide**
-  **Increasing household spending on cultural and entertainment activities inside Saudi Arabia from current level of 2.9% to 6%**

Growing the Kingdom's global footprint through increased exports is also a key priority. The Kingdom's strategic geographical location makes it a key contributor to international trade as it connects three continents: Africa, Asia, and Europe. Trade-intensive sectors that are ripe for exporting are supported through various incentives and enablers that are being rolled out across the Kingdom.



Spotlight: The Saudi Green Initiative

The Saudi Green Initiative is an ambitious national initiative for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia aiming to improve quality of life and protect future generations. Saudi Arabia is taking a leading role in global efforts, by committing to **protect at least 30% of global ocean** in Marine Protected areas, and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures by 2030, contributing to UNFCCC climate action by guiding and supporting actors to achieve global climate change goals, and cutting global **methane emissions by 30% by 2030**.



Top Commitments include





-  Reducing Carbon emissions by more than **4%** related to global contributions by 2030
-  Planting **10 billion** trees across Saudi Arabia by 2030
-  Raising protected areas to more than **20%** of total land area by 2030
-  Increasing domestic generation capacity from renewable energy to **50%** by 2030

Image source: www.saudigreeninitiative.org

WHY INVEST IN SHARQIA

Home to some of the largest oil fields in the world, Eastern Region is known as the Kingdom's prime energy hub. The region's abundant natural resources and industrial ecosystem support the development of competitive oil, gas and petrochemicals industries.

Sharqia has world-class transportation infrastructure which enables large-scale local and global trade. Sharqia also provides a platform for new and innovative industries for the region, such as automotive. With and a strategic location, diverse geography of coastline and deserts, unique culture and heritage – Home to Al-Asha Oasis a UNSECO World Heritage Site – opportunities in Sharqia await.

The region is home to Saudi Aramco (the Kingdom's leading oil and gas company) and Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (one of the largest chemical companies in the world). Furthermore, two of the largest onshore and offshore oil fields in the world (by reserves) – Al Ghawar and Al Safaniya – are located in the region. Sharqia is central to the Kingdom achieving Saudi Vision 2030's objectives of growing the value of the oil, gas and petrochemical sectors of the Kingdom.

Sharqia's abundant natural resources of oil and gas and the existence of major companies as Saudi Aramco and SABIC have helped the region in establishing one of the major ports as King Abdulaziz port in Dammam and King Fahad Industrial Port in Jubail, and industrial cities as Ras Al Khair and Jubail in the Kingdom. The region has direct access to all Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries through land and sea transportation, with 66% of non-oil exports passing through Sharqia's seaports. Specifically, the region's favorable location on the eastern coastline and its four major ports support the large-scale movement of goods to and from the Kingdom and enable the region's growing industrial sector. In the fourth quarter of 2021, the region's ports handled over USD 11 billion in non-oil exports (accounting for approximately 20% of Saudi Arabia's sea exports) and USD 10 billion in imports.

In addition to ports, the region has a well-developed railway connecting the region with Riyadh and Ras Al khair with phosphate mines in Northern Borders region, and air transportation network that connects the region to GCC countries with plans to advance the freight system connecting key industrial cities. The region is home to King Fahd International Airport in Dammam – the world's largest airport by land area, and the Kingdom's 3rd largest airport by the number of passengers. . In addition to regional airports such as Al-Ahsa and Al Qaisumah.

With its strong transportation system, abundance of materials and industrial cities, the region is set to be a future logistic. Sharqia is considered to be a transportation hub for GCC countries with 60% of border crossing are located in the region. The region's ongoing expansion centers around industrial manufacturing capacity, with a focus on the automotive sector. Sharqia benefits from access to raw materials, numerous industrial cities and government support for the establishment of the automotive cluster. The cluster is dedicated to the growth of the Kingdom's automotive sector through vehicle manufacturing and working on research and development of the sector. Sharqia's strong economy has placed it as the highest region on terms of average household monthly income with a total of USD 3,974 in 2018. The region's transformative focus on creating highly technological jobs and diversifying into non-oil-based industries, the time is now to invest in Sharqia.



Centre of the Kingdom's oil and gas sector – with the **five largest oil fields** by reserves in the Kingdom



Energy hub and home to large-scale refineries such as **SASREF** (the Saudi Aramco Jubail Refinery Company) and **SATORP** (the Saudi Aramco Total Refining and Petrochemical Company)

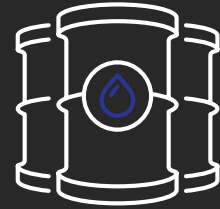


Well-connected region, having 60% of the Kingdom's borders hosting four of the major ports, third largest international airport in Saudi Arabia and a railway network



Strong ongoing government support for future growth and **a business-friendly environment**

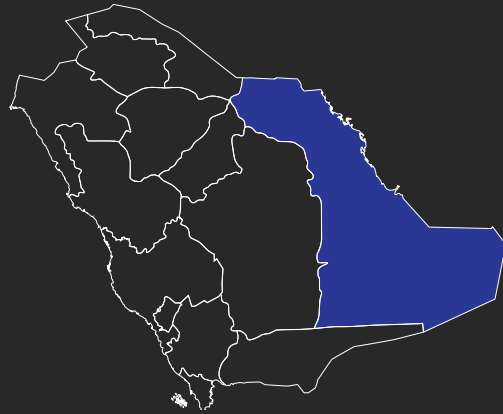
SHARQIA AT A GLANCE



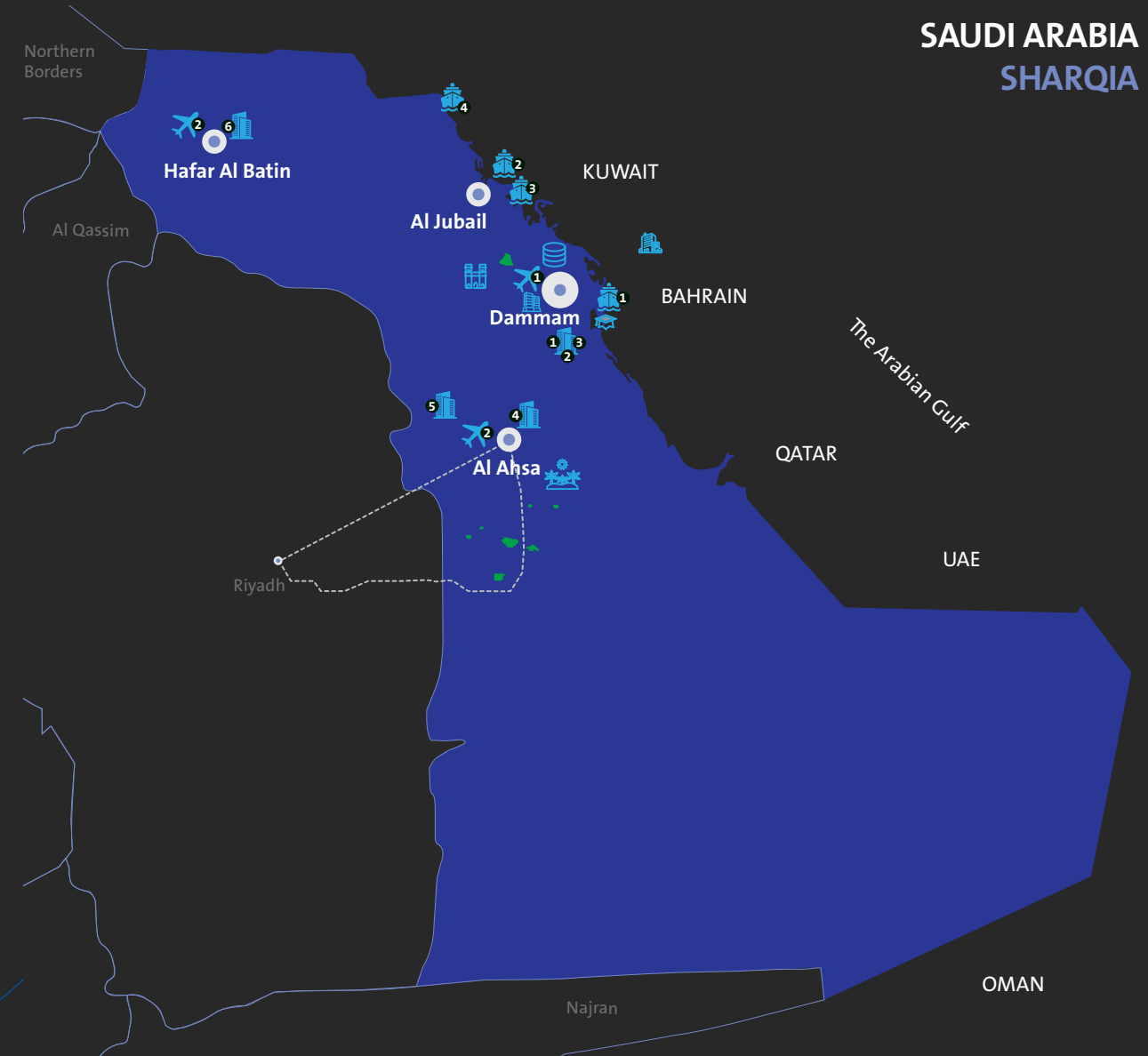
- Population ▶
- Education ▶
- Innovation ▶
- Healthcare ▶
- Employment ▶
- Infrastructure ▶
- Economic Performance ▶
- Business Enablers ▶

Sharqia is located in the eastern part of Saudi Arabia on the coast of the Arabian Gulf. The region is the Kingdom's gateway to Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Sharqia is the largest region in the country in terms of land area, which amounts to about 540,000 square kilometers (covering over 30% of the total area of the Kingdom) and the third largest in terms of population.

Sharqia has a total of 12 governates and is surrounded by Northern Borders, Al Qassim, Riyadh and Najran regions. The region's key cities include Dammam, Al Khobar, Jubail, Dhahran, Al Hafouf, Al-Ahsa, Buqaiq, and Ras Tannurah. Sharqia has a diverse geography with a 700 kilometer coastline and majestic scenic views of Al Ahsa Oasis, a haven within the Empty Quarter Desert and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



SAUDI ARABIA SHARQIA



Legend:

- Main cities** - Hafar Al Batin, Al Jubail, Al Ahsa and Dammam
- Airports** - 1 Dammam International Airport 2 Al-Ahsa International Airport 3 Al Qaisumah /Hafr Al Batin Airport
- Industrial cities / clusters** - Dammam - 1 1st Industrial city, 2 2nd Industrial city, 3 3rd industrial city, 4 Ahsa 1st industrial city, 5 Modon Oasis Al Ahsa industrial city, 6 Hafr Al Batin industrial city
- Key Projects** - Jubail Industrial City, The RIG., King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture-ITHRA, Google Data Center, AMAAD Business Park, Al-Asha Oasis
- Major Ports** - 1 King Abdulaziz Port Dammam, 2 King Fahad Industrial Port Jubail, 3 Jubail Commercial Port, 4 Ras Al-Khair
- University Agriculture land Railways



Population

Sharqia has a population of 5,266,998 (2020) with over 59% of individuals under the age of 35. Over the last few years, Sharqia has experienced strong population growth and an increase in the local talent pool.



Population growth
(2016-2020)

10%



Population age groups
(2019)

19 and younger 30%

Between 20 and 34 29%

Between 35 and 64 39%

65 and older 2%



Education

Sharqia's education system provides key sectors, especially Petroleum Engineering, Chemical Engineering and Finance among others, with a highly-skilled and educated young population. The region's talent pool is further supported by vocational schools and STEM-related (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) programs.

Number of technical and vocational training units (2019)



Number of schools (2021):



International 198
Royal Commission 29

Private 459
Public 1,975

Ratio of students per number of schools and universities (2021):



Number of university students by largest programs category (2019):










Number of university students in STEM-related programs (2019):



Education (cont.)

Sharqia is home to multiple public universities including King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals in Dhahran, King Faisal University in Al-Ahsa, Imam Abdulrahman bin Faisal University in Dammam, and the University of Hafr Al Batin.

The region's higher education system relies on three renowned universities:

			
The total number of enrolled students	Previous year graduates	Key areas of focus	
 King Fahd University for Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM)	12,550 (2019)	1,108 (2019)	Petroleum Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Finance, Mathematics and more.
Founded in 1964, King Fahd University for Petroleum and Minerals ranks as the 7th best petroleum engineering university worldwide and is a pioneering university within the Kingdom. The university started a transformation in 2019 from a government university to a non-profit institute, as part of an initiative within Saudi Vision 2030.			
 King Faisal University	103,059 (2019)	19,817 (2019)	Agriculture and food science, veterinary medicine, business, education, engineering, computer science and IT and more.
Established in 1975, the university has been successfully operating for more than 4 decades and its creation marked a turning point for education in the Al-Ahsa area. The university is renowned for being in the top 8 Asian universities in International Strategy. The university's efforts in sustainable environment landed the entity a place in the final list of United Nations Green Gown Awards for sustainable initiatives by universities.			
 Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University	37,930 (2019)	6,388 (2019)	Medicine, architecture and planning, business administration, computer science and IT, education and more.
Established in 1975, aims to develop and upscale the academic capabilities in the region. The University grew from two colleges to 21 colleges across Sharqia through four decades. The university has witnessed a notable development ranked amongst the top 500 universities globally as per QS ranking for 2023.			

Innovation

Innovation is fostered across the region by organizations and companies such as King Fahd University for Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM), SABIC and Saudi Aramco.

The KFUPM is directing its efforts for research in its diverse centers covering areas of petroleum, advanced materials, robots, smart logistics, renewable energy and power systems. Furthermore, the university has been ranked 14th globally in the list of universities granted patents in the United States.

 Saudi Aramco, has contributed to the innovation of the energy sector through cutting edge technology. The company has three research centers across Saudi Arabia, two of which are located in the region. Key research centers in the region include the:

- Dhahran Techno Valley**

» A subsidiary of KFUPM which was established to promote a knowledge-based economy in the region focusing on advanced materials, refining and petrochemicals process, geosciences and petroleum engineering, water management, production and treatment, energy efficiency and renewable and advanced computing.
- Saudi Aramco Global Research Centers (R&DC and EXPEC ARC) in Dhahran :**

» The EXPEC center develops specialized technologies to achieve upstream objectives. The R&DC focuses on technologies that enhance operational reliability, efficiency, and safety.
- King Abdullah International Medical Research Center in Dammam and Al-Ahsa**

» The center has a goal of transforming lab results into products to improve the quality of life in the Kingdom. The center has a notable list of projects such as the Saudi biobank, the Cord Blood Bank and the Trauma Research project which lead into advancement in understanding of common diseases in Saudi Arabia such as diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular diseases.

Healthcare

Healthcare infrastructure is considered advanced in the region with a network of public and private hospitals.

A notable example is the first-of-its-kind healthcare joint venture between Johns Hopkins Medicine and Saudi Aramco. At Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare, about 255,000 eligible recipients. To facilitate healthcare access, the Ministry of Health launched healthcare clusters. The region has a healthcare cluster which comprises of 22 hospitals and 131 primary care centers.



240

Number of healthcare centers (2019)



Hospitals and beds per 100,000 population (2019)



31

Number of private sector hospitals (2020)



Hospitals 1.53 / 100,000



38

Number of public sector hospitals – Ministry of Health (2020)



Beds 277 / 100,000

Employment

According to Saudi Labor Law, the legal working age in the Kingdom is 15 years. Top sectors of employment in Sharqia include: construction, wholesale and retail trade, and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles followed by manufacturing.



Employment rate (2022/Q2)



Average monthly wage (salary) of Sharqia (2019):
Male: 3,200.27 USD Female: 2,450.13 USD



Employment by sector (2022/Q2):

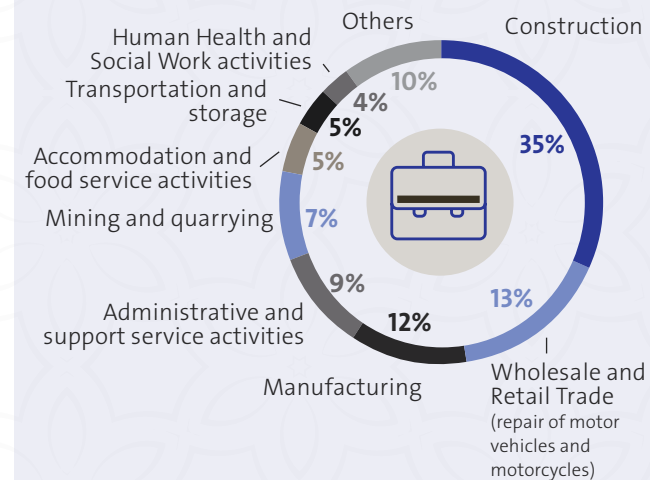


Image source: www.ksrnr.gov.sa/

Infrastructure

Sharqia has well-developed infrastructure comprised of an advanced network of ports, airports, King Fahad Causeway (connects the Kingdom with the Kingdom of Bahrain), and roads to support the region's economy and key sectors including oil, gas and petrochemicals. The region has the 2nd largest port in the Kingdom in terms of the throughput (the Jubail Industrial Port) with capacity of handling 70 million tons.

Sharqia is the home to the third largest airport (King Fahd International Airport) by number of passengers. King Fahd International Airport connects the region to 21 countries. The region is also home to a railway network that connects cities of Al-Hufuf, Abqaiq and Dammam to Riyadh.

Major ports operated by the Saudi Ports Authority (Mawani)

King Abdulaziz Port Dammam			
Terminals	3	Capacity	105 million tons
Berths	43	Area	19 square kilometers

King Fahad Industrial Port Jubail			
Terminals	5	Capacity	70 million tons
Berths	34	Area	6.8 square kilometers

Jubail Commercial Port			
Terminals	4	Capacity	36 million tons
Berths	16	Area	4.2 square kilometers

Ras Al-Khair			
Terminals	1	Capacity	35 million tons
Berths	14	Area	23 square kilometers



Major airports

King Fahd International Airport pre-pandemic

Total flights	Passengers	International flights
94,790	11,168,383	37,255

Top Domestic destinations

Jeddah (JED), Riyadh (RUH), Abha (AHB), and Al-Madinah (MED)

Top international destinations

Cairo (CAI), and Dubai (DXB), Khartoum (KRT), Amsterdam (AMS), Frankfurt (FRA).

- King Fahd International Airport, is Saudi Arabia's third largest airport by number of passengers and the largest in the world in terms of the land area. It is the major airport serving the region. Nonstop passenger flights are available from the airport to 33 destinations in 13 international flights in 10 countries and has domestic flights to 20 domestic flights.
- Direct flights to Europe, Africa, Western Asia, South Asia, South-East Asia, and Central Asia.

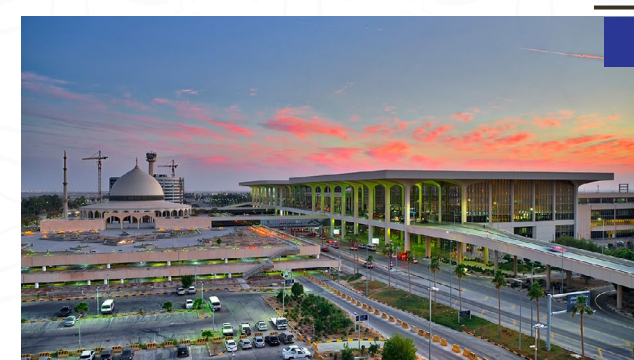


Image source: <https://daco.sa/kfia-dammam-airport/>

Al-Ahsa Airport pre-pandemic

Total flights	Passengers	International flights
6,962	179,599	453

Domestic destination

Jeddah, Riyadh, and Madinah

International destination

Dubai

Al-Ahsa Airport is the 2nd airport in the region and mainly serves Ahsa governorate and the governorates surrounding it. The airport fly to one international destination (Dubai- DXB) and one domestic destination (Jeddah - JED)

Al Qaisumah /Hafr Al Batin Airport pre-pandemic

Total flights	Passengers
3,328	321,891

Domestic destinations

Jeddah, Riyadh, Al-Ahsa, and Abha

A domestic airport serving the governorate and the adjacent governorates flights to Riyadh (RUH), Jeddah (JED), Al-Ahsa (HOF), and Abha (ABH). The airport is currently being expanded to accommodate 1 million passengers.



Image source: <https://foursquare.com/>

Infrastructure (cont.)

Industrial and economic cities



Number of industrial cities administered by Saudi Authority for Industrial Cities and Technology Zones (MODON)

6

Number of industrial cities administered by the Royal Commission of Jubail and Yanbu

1

Further details on some of the key industrial cities include:

	Annual rental rates for industrial land	Leasing prices for Ready- built factories	Utilities	Targeted industries
Dammam 1st Industrial City	USD 1.33 / Square meter	-	Drinking Water Capacity 3,400 cube meters under implementation	Fabricated metal products, service contracts, rubber and plastics, chemical and chemical products, and machinery & equipment
Dammam 2nd Industrial City	USD 1.07 / Square meter	USD 66,666 for 1,500 / Square meters	Electricity 134 MVA Drinking water capacity 27,000 cube meters under implementation	Service contracts, fabricated metal products, chemicals and chemical products, rubber and plastics, other non-metallic mineral products, and electrical equipment
Dammam 3rd Industrial City	USD 0.8 / Square meter	USD 40,000 for 1,500 / Square meters	Electricity 500 MVA Drinking water capacity 6,000 cube meters under implementation	Chemicals and chemical products, rubber and plastics, electrical equipment, machinery and equipment, and food products

	Annual rental rates for industrial land	Leasing prices for Ready- built factories	Utilities	Targeted industries
Ahsa 1st Industrial City	USD 1.07 / Square meter	-	Electricity - Drinking water capacity 2,300 cube meters under implementation	Rubber and plastics, service contracts, fabricated metal products, chemicals and chemical products, and paper and paper product
Modon Oasis – Al Ahsa Industrial City	USD 0.27 / Square meter	USD 40,000 for 1,500 / Square meters	Electricity 30 MVA Drinking water capacity 4,000 cube meters under implementation	Food products, textiles, and other manufacturing industries
Hafr Al Batin Industrial City	USD 0.27 / Square meter	USD 24,000 for 1,500 / Square meters	Electricity - Drinking water capacity 1,000 cube meters under implementation	Beverages, refined petroleum products and rubber and plastic products
Jubail Industrial City	USD 0.27 / Square meter	-	Electricity -	Petroleum refining, petrochemical industry, chemical fertilizer, iron plants.

Real estate average prices (latest available as of 2022)		
	Agricultural land USD 49/ square meters	Commercial land USD 282/ square meters

Number of real estate deals (2020)

Agricultural 1,105	Commercial 7,334
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Further information on real estate prices in Sharqia and across the Kingdom can be found via the [Real Estate Indicators database](#)

Economic Performance

Sharqia has a strong economy due its strong oil and gas and petrochemical sector. The region economy is expected to further grow supported by targeted government initiatives as the National Transformation Program and the National Industrial Development Program. These programs and projects along with others are supported by governmental entities such as the Agricultural Development Fund, Tourism Development Fund, etc.



Average household monthly income (2018): USD 3,974

Number of commercial registers (2021): 490,771

Number of active foreign investment licenses (2015-2021): 1,246

Volume of point of sales transactions (Dammam) (2021): USD 6.74 billion

Annual inflation (Dammam) (2022/Q3): 2.9%

Business Enablers

The economy of the region is supported by a strong network of enabling services, currently undergoing expansion. Furthermore, opportunities exist for further investment within these enablers to support growth across Sharqia's economic sectors.

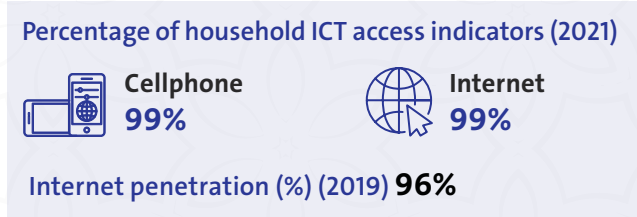


Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

The region has strong ICT infrastructure which is anticipated to see further improvements due to various projects by the Communications and Information Technology Commission on areas such as 5G network penetration. The government of Saudi Arabia is focused on ensuring residents have the required skillsets to effectively navigate the digital era. To support this endeavor, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, has introduced the Future Champions initiative. The initiative is focused on providing youth with the necessary capabilities to navigate emerging online challenges such as managing cybersecurity and protecting personal data.

The region's increasing focus on digitization is aligned with growing efforts across the Kingdom to provide strong ICT infrastructure by launching several initiatives to support the sector, such as Dhahran's technology and innovation district. Various R&D centers for technological improvements will be hosted under this initiative, which will help foster innovation and technical discoveries across the region. With a timeframe of 5 to 6 years, the initiative is expected to generate an ongoing GDP of around USD 986.4 million and create roughly 3,400 new job opportunities.

The main players in the ICT space in the Kingdom are STC, Mobily, and Zain, all three have presence in Sharqia. The 5G network has increased its coverage and speed through the kingdom covering a total of **84 governorates** by 4Q2021 with an average download speed of **368.69 Mbps**.



The National Development Fund

Established in 2017, the fund's mandate is to advance the performance of development funds and banks to fulfill the Kingdom's aspirations for economic diversification and realizing Saudi Vision 2030 objectives.



National Development Fund will inject more than **USD 152 billion into Saudi Arabia's real GDP growth by 2030**. NDF also aims to expand non-oil GDP by more than thrice to reach **USD 161 billion by 2030**, as well as create a large number of job opportunities in the Kingdom.

Key fund related to Sharqia's key sectors:



Saudi Industrial Development Fund – Focused on the financing of industrial investment opportunities, the fund aims to supporting the industrial sector through project financing, the allocation of land and factories, and support to small and medium-sized businesses (e.g., "Kafalah" funding scheme). Since its inception, the fund offered a total of almost USD 21 billion through 1,250 loans in the region, with Sharqia as the second highest in terms of approved loans.



KEY COMPETITIVE SECTORS



Energy – Oil & Gas



Petrochemical



Transport and Logistics



Energy – Oil & Gas

With abundant oil and gas reserves, proximity to neighboring countries and availability of well-developed logistics infrastructure, Sharqia is considered the main energy hub of the Kingdom. The region features oil refinery facilities and special zones which make it a top destination for investors in this sector.

The Kingdom possesses 31% of the proven oil reserves in the Middle East and 15% of the world's reserves – meaning the region has the largest number of fields in the Kingdom. Saudi Arabia's oil and gas reserves are spread across 130 fields and the region is the home to nine of the largest fields by reserves: Al Ghawar, Safaniya, Khurais, Manifa, Shaybah, Qatif, Khursaniyah, Al-Zuluf and Abqaiq. Specifically, Al Ghawar and Safaniya are the world's largest onshore and offshore fields. Al Ghawar accounts for 50% of the Kingdom's crude oil production, with a total capacity of more than 5 million barrels per day. Opportunities continue to exist in the region for the discovery of new fields. In 2020, Saudi Aramco announced the discovery of seven new fields and one new reservoir.

While Sharqia's oil and gas sector is highly mature, opportunities exist to build synergies across downstream sectors due to the availability of raw materials and multiple industrial cities including Jubail (one of the largest industrial cities in the world). These opportunities include oil refining, distribution and sales of the final product.

Saudi Arabia's downstream industry is being developed as part of the country's larger economic diversification strategy away from hydrocarbons. Low local energy costs, a ready supply of raw materials, and a fast-growing population, in addition to the Saudi government's commitment to industrial diversification through foreign investment, have all contributed to the growth of Saudi Arabia's downstream economy.

The region accounts for more than 50% of the Kingdom crude oil production and has the largest onshore and offshore fields - Al Ghawar and Safaniya

The Kingdom holds 15% of the proven oil reserves in the world and the largest crude oil producer in OPEC

Part of Saudi Arabia's vision 2030 is to shift towards using different sources of energy from unconventional gas and renewable energy

Saudi Arabia is the largest crude oil producer in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The country is also a leading natural gas producer holding 333 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves, the 6th largest in the world. To continue developing the sector, the Kingdom aims to increase the localization of resources and the workforce to optimize the energy mix and tap into unconventional gas and renewable energy. Sharqia plays a pivotal role in achieving these

objectives. Two major projects which are part of this endeavor include the establishment of the Fadhili Gas Plant in Jubail and the Jafurah field development in the Al Ahsa. The former is the first by Saudi Aramco to treat non-associated gas to increase the supply of cleaner burning natural gas to reduce emissions. The latter is set to meet the rising demand for high value petrochemicals feedstock and complement Saudi Aramco's focus on hydrogen.



Key Projects and Initiatives

01 King Salman Energy Park (SPARK)

King Salman Energy Park (known as 'SPARK') is an energy mega project in Buqaiq that provides a fully integrated industrial ecosystem with its first phase completed in 2021. Comprising over 50 square kilometers, SPARK seeks to be a platform for the energy sector where investors can access key resources.

Three zones (including industrial, non-industrial and logistics zones) are expected to be developed in SPARK to facilitate the investment process. The first is an industrial community focusing on upstream, refined petroleum products, power, and ICT. Investors can benefit from pre-built facilities and ready-to build lands and utilities to enhance the ecosystem efficiencies.

The 2nd zone will be a non-industrial investment opportunity to build a dynamic community focusing on commercial, office and accommodation infrastructure.

The 3rd zone will be a logistics area with highly automated services to ease the process for investors. The area is the only industrial city in the world to receive a silver Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification.

The Park is expected to contribute more than USD 6 billion to the Kingdom's GDP and create up to 100,000 jobs.

02 Jafurah Unconventional Gas Field

Discovered in 2016, the Jafurah is the largest non-associated gas field. It is a key project by Saudi Aramco and is currently under development in Sharqia. The estimated development cost is approximately USD 24 billion, and it will begin commercial production in 2026. The gas field is the largest unconventional non-associated gas field in the Kingdom to date.

The development of the gas field will be critical to Saudi Aramco's position in the global energy sector and will contribute to the firm's ambition of becoming the world's leading integrated energy and chemicals enterprise. The benefits of the Jafurah gas field will not be limited to Saudi Aramco; the Kingdom's economic development will improve tremendously. Forecasts indicate that the project will reach its peak in 2028 and will continue to produce until 2073, all in accordance with the highest environmental standards.

According to field studies, the volume of gas resources is projected to be 200 trillion cubic feet of rich raw gas, which will provide a lucrative feedstock for the petrochemical industries. By 2036, Saudi Aramco anticipates the project's production will be roughly 2.2 billion standard cubic feet per day of sales gas, with an associated 425 million standard cubic feet per day of ethane.

Petrochemicals

With access to some of the largest oil and gas fields in the world, advanced logistics infrastructure and an ecosystem of large companies, Sharqia is a key petrochemical hub.

Competitive access to raw materials positions the region as an ideal place to build synergies with the oil industry and to expand into downstream solutions, such as specialty chemicals.

The region leads the Kingdom in terms of petrochemical exports in the country. The region is home to SABIC, one of the largest petrochemical companies in the world and a leader in basic chemicals products such as ethylene, methanol and polyethylene. SABIC had a production capacity of **60.8 million metric tons in 2020**.

In addition, the region is home to Sadara petrochemical complex, a joint venture between Saudi Aramco and Dow Chemical business. Sadara is the world's largest integrated chemical complex built in a single phase. Furthermore, Saudi Aramco signed an agreement to establish the Amiral petrochemicals complex, which is planned to produce **2.7 million metric tons** of high-value chemicals and would include the first mixed feed cracker integrated with a refinery in the Gulf region.

Saudi Arabia is a global powerhouse in the production of basic chemicals, ranking first in the production of Mono-ethylene glycol (MEG), Methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE) and second in Ethylene. Through programs such as the National Industrial Development and Logistics Program, the region seeks to capitalize on its current position as a leader in basic chemicals and to expand into downstream industries, conquering higher stages of the petrochemicals value chain.

To support this process, incentives have been made available to companies operating within the sector. For example, the Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu's (RCJY) incentive programs aim to reduce the rental cost of commercial facilities requiring restoration or development, to waive lease costs for commercial projects with large investments, and to grant project planning grace periods regarding land cost.

Sharqia is home to the largest chemical companies in the Kingdom including SABIC and SADARA

The region is home to some of the largest petrochemical producers such as SATORP which produces 22 million metric tons of refined petroleum products

The Kingdom is a top producer of basic chemicals MEG, MTBE and Ethylene



Chemical Products

Sharqia's availability of abundant oil and gas resources, industrial cities, and multiple large-scale refineries have contributed to notable growth of the region's chemical products sector. With a total production capacity of **22 million** metric tons of refined petroleum products, the region offers ideal spaces to build synergies with the oil industry and to expand into mid and downstream solutions.

Sharqia has taken advantage of Saudi Arabia's economic reforms and changes designed to enhance the investment environment.

Saudi Arabia produces 4.7% of chemicals worldwide by volume – with chemicals comprising the third largest non-oil exports from the Kingdom in 2021. The sector offers numerous opportunities, benefitting from public investment and plans to diversify the Kingdom's portfolio into mid and downstream products. Sharqia's natural resources and strategic location help position the region to benefit from potential opportunities in the areas.

Saudi Arabia produces 4.7% of chemicals worldwide by volume

Major companies in the region such as SABIC are leading the efforts into diversification of mid and downstream production

Sharqia's chemical sector is mature with opportunities available across the chemicals value chain from the availability of feedstock to the production of different ranges of products in basic, intermediate and specialty chemicals.



Chemicals

Feedback	Basic Chemicals	Intermediate Chemicals	Specialty Chemicals	Conversion	Distribution and Sales
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary resources used for the chemical production are crude oil, methane, ethane, LPG, naphtha, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production of basic chemicals such as olefins, aromatics, petrochemicals, oleochemicals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production of intermediate chemicals such as oils, pigments, dyes, glues, explosives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production of specialty chemicals such as paints, fine chemicals, advanced polymers, personal care, ashesives, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processing of final applications plastic, non-metallics, elastomers and polyurethanes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logistics of final products End markets include pharma, agriculture, automotive, construction, electronics, textile, etc.



Key Projects and Initiatives

01 Sadara Complex

A joint venture between Saudi Aramco and Dow Chemical company, it is the world's largest integrated chemical complex build in a single phase and marks the largest FDI in Saudi Arabia's petrochemicals industry. The complex has 26 integrated world class manufacturing plants producing three million tons of products per year.

02 Amiral Complex

Saudi Aramco signed an agreement to develop the Amiral Petrochemicals Complex. With a total investment of more than USD 9 billion, the complex will generate 2.7 million metric tons of high-value chemicals, including the Gulf region's first mixed-feed cracker linked with a refinery. As a result, around 10 new chemical products (and the technology used to manufacture them) will be introduced to the Kingdom for use in industries as diverse as medical, construction, and automotive. It is also expected to create 8,000 local, direct, and indirect jobs, as well as a specialized training facility. The project is scheduled to be finished by late 2023 or early 2024.

03 PlasChem Park

Collaboration between Sadara and the Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu is creating a world-class industrial park for the chemical and conversion industries. The twelve square kilometer area in Jubail Industrial City II, known as PlasChem Park, is close to Sadara's new manufacturing complex and will be dedicated solely to the chemical and conversion industries that use Sadara's products directly or indirectly, as well as raw materials from other suppliers. The Chemical Park and the Conversion Park are the two main sections of the site.



Transport and Logistics

Sharqia is one of the Kingdom's main logistical hubs due to its world-class infrastructure and thriving economy. The region is set to become a competitive global logistics hub, particularly in the maritime sector, capitalizing on the existence of advanced ports and location on the Arabian Gulf.

The region is located on the east coast of Saudi Arabia and features four of the country's ports, which constitute an important route for crude oil and petroleum exports.

66% of non-oil products are exported through the region's port

The total market size of transport and logistics in the Kingdom is **USD 18 billion**, and it is expected to reach **USD 26 billion** in 2030

Freight transportation will be expanded as a result of the growth of seven separate industrial and economic centers, allowing cargo to be carried more freely.

Sharqia's transport and logistics network is supported by major seaports as King Abdulaziz Port Dammam, King Fahad Industrial Port, Jubail Commercial Port, Ras Tanura Port, and Ras Alkhair port, which connects Waad Al shamal Industrial city of the Northern Borders to the region. In the fourth quarter of 2021, King Fahad Industrial Port and Jubail Commercial Port handled **USD 6.7 billion** in non-oil exports, accounting for over **40%** of all non-oil exports in the Kingdom.

A number of strategic measures by the government and investments worth more than **USD 100 billion** in the industry nationwide over the previous decade have supported the development of the transportation and logistics sector. **The National Industrial Development and Logistics Program (NIDLP)**, in particular, has played a critical role in increasing the sector's efficiency and competitiveness, while also positioning Saudi Arabia as a top destination for international transportation and logistics companies. Key objectives of the program include:

Increasing the involvement of the private sector in the management of applicable port facilities

Improving import and export procedures and reducing clearance times to ensure the Kingdom's status as a global logistics center

Increasing the number of passengers, the volume of cargo, and the attractiveness of the aviation sector to investors

As part of the Kingdom's efforts to develop the transportation system, a strategy was issued by the Ministry of Transport and Logistics Services to achieve Saudi Vision 2030 aspiration of becoming a key logistics hub connecting the Kingdom to three continents.

Sea Transportation

Saudi Arabia has a strong maritime sector and is ranked 5th for speed of handling container ships, according to an annual index issued by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), with a weighted **average of 16.8 port call hours**.

The contribution of the maritime sector to GDP is expected to increase from **USD 4.2 billion** in 2021 to around **USD 17 billion** in the Kingdom by 2030

The sector employed **77,000 people** in 2021 and is expected to add around **220,000 jobs** to the Kingdom by 2030

The core of Sharqia's transportation and logistics network lies with its five major seaports: King Abdulaziz Port Dammam, King Fahad Industrial Port Jubail, Jubail Commercial Port, Ras Al-Khair Port and Ras Tanura Port.

King Abdulaziz Port Dammam: is one of the largest port in the Arabian Gulf and one of the busiest in North Africa and the Middle East. It is a key point of entrance of products to be distributed across the Kingdom and offers a direct railway connection to Riyadh's dry port. In the fourth quarter of 2021, King Abdulaziz Port processed **USD 2.17 billion** worth of non-oil exports and **USD 7.18 billion** in imports

King Fahad Industrial Port (Jubail Industrial Port): is one of the largest industrial port in the Middle East and built to serve the Jubail Industrial City, the port is the primary import area for raw materials destined for the industrial city. Goods transported include refined oil products, chemical fertilizers, iron ore and gas products. In the fourth quarter of 2021, King Fahad Industrial Port processed **USD 4.08 billion** worth of non-oil exports and **USD 731.14 million** in imports

Jubail Commercial Port: A strategically located port, Jubail Commercial Port's handles the area commercial cargo with a very well-equipped terminals and a berth capacity of 36 million tons. Its proximity to Jubail, Saudi Arabia's primary industrial and petrochemicals complex, lowers the cost of material imports and exports, enhancing the Kingdom's competitiveness. In the fourth quarter of 2021, Jubail Commercial Port processed **USD 2.61 billion** worth of non-oil exports and **USD 328 million** in imports.

Ras Al-Khair Port: Located to serve the Ras Al Khair Industrial City, the port is rapidly becoming the Kingdom's aluminum and phosphate center. The port plays a strategic role for the Saudi economy by providing direct rail links to the Kingdom's mines and exporting raw materials all over the world. In the fourth quarter of 2021, Ras Al-Khair Port processed **USD 1.09 billion** worth of non-oil exports and **USD 150.13 million** in imports.

Ras Tanura Port: The port is located around 50 kilometers north of Dammam. The port has its own airport and highway infrastructure which supports oil exports. In the fourth quarter of 2021, Ras Tanura Port processed **USD 1.20 billion** worth of non-oil exports and **USD 1.89 billion** in imports.



Key Projects and Initiatives

01 King Salman International Complex for Maritime Industries and Services

Located in Ras Al Khair, the commercial maritime complex supports the growth of the Saudi energy industry and contributes to the development and diversification goals specified in Saudi Vision 2030- including building a sustainable, dynamic maritime sector that reinforces the Kingdom's status as a global logistics hub and empowers the nation's socio-economic ambitions. When finished, the facility will provide vessel and rig building, maintenance, repair, and overhaul services, as well as quality, efficiency, and economies of scale. The project will meet all environmental and sustainability regulations imposed by the Saudi government. The complex is consistent with the Kingdom's economic diversification goals; it will establish the Kingdom as a strategic logistics hub and will provide numerous job opportunities.

Saudi Aramco signed the first major contract with the complex in 2016. The first stage of development involves the dredging and reclamation of about 37 million cubic meters of fill, as well as ground improvement over an area of 7.4 million square meters. 4,500 linear meters of concrete quay walls and wharves will be built, as well as 12,000 linear meters of rock revetments and breakwaters to maintain the complex's integrity.



EMERGING SUB-SECTORS

In addition to well-established key sectors, Sharqia is home to emerging areas which demonstrate potential for growth and opportunity.

The region's automotive and railway sub-sectors are supported by strategic government initiatives and existing well-developed infrastructure that will further enable their growth and competitiveness. With anticipated growth over the coming years, investors have an opportunity to 'get in on the ground floor' of these emerging sub-sectors.



Automotive

Sharqia is home to a growing automotive industry which has experienced steady growth in recent years. The region has an increasing number of automotive manufacturing companies, accounting for 30% of the Kingdom's total auto parts makers and assemblers. Sharqia is ranked 1st in Saudi Arabia for the number of auto-parts companies and is home to a major truck assembly plant operated by Isuzu.

Sharqia accounts for **30%** of the total auto-parts manufacturers and assemblers in the Kingdom

The region is **ranked 3rd** in the Kingdom for manufacturing employment

The region currently has over 180 rubber and plastic factories, and the Kingdom plans to have the largest tire factory to be in Jubail by 2030.

The region has over **180** rubber and plastic factories which will contribute into the development of the sector

Sharqia's strong industrial network and infrastructure provides a competitive advantage for new automotive companies. The region is home to 8 industrial cities, including Ras Al-Khair Industrial City and Jubail Industrial City, (one of the world's largest industrial cities), which provides over **90%** of the raw materials used in direct automobile manufacturing.

Jubail Industrial City and Ras Al-Khair Industrial City provide **over 90%** of raw materials used in direct automobile manufacturing

Over the next few years, Sharqia is aiming to shift focus from car assembly to full-fledged automobile production. This shift opens up new opportunities for the region's automotive manufacturers and investors.

The global automotive market is expected to grow **from 85.32 million vehicles produced in 2020 to 122.83 million vehicles produced in 2030 at 3.71% CAGR**. Emerging automotive markets, which includes Saudi Arabia, will account for 80% of the global automotive sector.

The Kingdom intends to improve the infrastructure required to grow local manufacturing capabilities and capacity with the goal of constructing the first Saudi-made automobile in Sharqia. The Kingdom's ambition is to localize the entire automotive value chain in Jubail into a single cluster where The Saudi National Automotive Manufacturing Company (SNAM) manufacturing plant will be located.

The Kingdom is the leading Middle Eastern market for auto parts, used car sales, and new car sales, accounting for **53% of GCC vehicle sales** and **33% of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) vehicle sales (2022)**. The Greater Arab Free Trade Agreement (GAFTA) provides duty-free access to 17 Middle Eastern and North African countries where the added local value is 40% or greater.

With the Saudi government looking to expand the local automobile market through an industrial clustering approach, investors can obtain support from the Saudi Industrial Development Fund, and private venture capital. As part of the government's efforts to attract investment, several incentives have been made available to investors by governmental bodies. For example, exemptions from customs obligations on imports if an automotive raw material is not available locally, and assistance in obtaining permits and clearance for machinery and equipment.

Key Projects and Initiatives

01 Saudi National Automotive Manufacturing Company (SNAM)

SNAM is the Kingdom's first vehicle manufacturing company. For more than a decade, SNAM has conducted necessary research, feasibility studies and in-depth studies for all industries, factories, companies, and institutions that are directly or indirectly related to the automotive industry. SNAM has engaged with the world's major automotive manufacturers to create an ecosystem for automotive manufacturing in the Kingdom.

02 Training Programs

The Digital Skill Training & Labor Quality Enhancement Program will provide programming training to more than 600,000 students and 11,000 male and female teachers to aid digitization. This will also aid in the strengthening of the country's automotive manufacturing industry, which aims to attract Saudi and foreign investments, increase exports, create job opportunities, and contribute to economic diversification as part of Saudi Vision 2030.

Railway

Eastern Railway is an important corridor for the transport of goods through the region and to neighboring markets. Opportunities exist to further leverage the region's railway network to support the large-scale movement of goods across the region and to neighboring countries.

The railway encompasses a total of **2,596 cargo trailers** of various sizes (double stacked) and different types of cargo for industrial products such as vehicles and cement. Each double stacked cargo car has an **80 ton** capacity, notably larger than the regular container car capacity of 50 tons. Collectively, the total cargo handling capacity of both types of vehicles equals to **48,250 tons**.

The passenger line is a double line with a total length of **733 kilometers** that connects the capital city of Riyadh to Dammam through Al-Ahsa and Abqaiq. The region is also served by the Saudi Arabia: Dammam - Riyadh line, which is a **556-kilometer-long cargo network** that connects Dammam's King Abdul Aziz Port with Riyadh through Al-Ahsa, Abqaiq, Al-Kharj, Haradh and Al-Tawdhihiyah.

The total length of railways in the Kingdom exceeds **5,500 kilometers**

More than **3 million** passengers are transported on the east and north trains annually

There are a total of **2,596 cargo trailers** on the Eastern Railway serving Sharqia

The Kingdom intends to increase the contribution of the railway industry to GDP from **USD 0.5 billion to USD 5.3 billion**.

The Kingdom expects to grow the number of jobs in the sector from **10,000 to 100,000 by 2030**

The Kingdom aspires to position itself as a global logistical hub connecting Asia, Africa, and Europe with competitive transport services. The country's ambitions in this field include, engaging in higher economic value activities and developing innovative concepts of shipping, handling and warehousing, transportation operations. The Kingdom is also aiming for the sector to increase its contribution to GDP from **USD 0.5 billion to USD 5.3 billion in 2030**, and to increase the number of jobs from **10,000 to 100,000**. With strong existing assets and a strategic location, Sharqia is well positioned to grow its railways sector.



Key Projects and Initiatives

01 Saudi Land Bridge

The Saudi land bridge network consists of Six railway tracks totaling 1,980 kilometers make up the Saudi land bridge network, which aims to one day connect the ports on the coasts of the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf. The project involves developing and improving the existing railway between Riyadh and Dammam, passing through seven modern logistic and economic activity centers, industrial cities, and mining activities.


The project intends to support the Kingdom's ambition to become a vital transportation hub connecting Asia, Europe and Africa. The project is in line with the objectives of the National Strategy for Transport and Logistics, which aims to improve the country's assessment in the Logistics Performance Index to reach the 10th position in the world, and to reach the 35th position in the world for the Cross-Border Trade Index. The project further entails the integration with numerous modes of transportation, increased efficiency, improved connectivity and sustainability.


KEY PROJECTS

 Jubail Industrial City

 The RIG.

 Google Data Centers

 AMAAD Business Park

 Al-Ahsa Oasis

Jubail Industrial City

Established in 1975, Jubail Industrial City is known as the largest industrial city in the world supporting the development of energy intensive industries. The city includes some of the largest petrochemical's players in the region such as SABIC, Petrokemya and Sadara.

The city has its own port (King Fahd Industrial Port) and is close to two other major ports in the area with an easy access to King Fahd International Airport.

Additional advantages that are provided to companies operating in the city including the proximity to energy sources and international sea lanes, abundance of raw materials, availability of industrial services, soft loans and competitive rates for land and utilities. Not only does the city focus on the industrial development but also improving the quality of life including ongoing initiatives related to the improvement of healthcare services, education, environment and entertainment.

The Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu plans to expand the residential areas of the industrial city by constructing more than 50,000 new housing units and inaugurating a university in 2026 in addition to investing 18 billion dollars to double the size of the industrial city by 2030.

The RIG.

Located in the Kingdom's east coast, 'THE RIG' is a tourism and entertainment project that is intended to contribute significant value to the local economy.

The entertainment complex consists of more than 150,000 square meters in size with 3 hotels, 11 restaurants and facilities for live shows, extreme sports and adventures with a fast ferry, yachts, cruises and helicopters.

The project is a one-of-a-kind tourism destination that is projected to draw visitors from all over the world, with a focus on citizens and residents of GCC countries in the region. To secure the long-term preservation of the environment in the project's vicinity, the project will adhere to top worldwide standards and best practices.

King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture – Ithra

Established in 2018, the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra), meaning 'enrichment' in Arabic, was built by Saudi Aramco.

Located in Dhahran, the center is Saudi Arabia's leading cultural and creative destination for talent development and cross-cultural experiences. Since its establishment, the center has been celebrating human potential and empowering creativity. This includes providing innovative spaces such as: the idea lab, library, theater, cinema, museum, children's museum, the great hall, the ithra tower and the energy exhibit.

Google Data Centers

In 2020, Google in partnership with Saudi Aramco reached an agreement to operate data centers in Dammam, with Saudi Aramco as the local strategic reseller of the services.

The availability of the service within the region will provide customers with better performance and flexibility.

The new cloud area will enable businesses across the country to extend their offerings while also providing digital products and services more quickly and reliably by offering high-performance, low-latency cloud services to enterprise customers in Saudi Arabia. The partnership capitalizes on Saudi Arabia's fast-growing demand for cloud services, which is expected to reach a market size of USD 10 billion by 2030.



AMAAD Business Park

Focused on fostering innovation, the business park is a collaboration between Saudi Aramco, King Fahd University for Petroleum and Minerals and Dharan Technology Valley.

The project is driven by the concept of driving innovation and development within the business park with visible economic impact obtained by attracting different investment opportunities, in alignment with the goals of Saudi Vision 2030.

The complex will be built with the goal to achieve **the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)** Silver certification providing a healthy, highly efficient green buildings. The complex will be mixed-used development comprising of offices, residential buildings, commercial buildings and hotels across the area.



Al-Ahsa Oasis

As one of the Kingdom's UNESCO world heritage sites, Al-Ahsa Oasis is comprised of gardens, canals, springs, wells and a drainage lake, as well as historical buildings, urban fabric and archaeological sites.

The Oasis is a nod to the city's many archaeological features, which show that human presence in the Gulf region has lasted from the Neolithic to the present, as shown by historical fortresses, mosques, wells, canals, and other water management systems.

Al-Ahsa is **the world's largest oasis, with 2.5 million date palms**. Al-Ahsa is also an extraordinary example of human interaction with the environment and a distinct geocultural landscape



INTERESTED IN INVESTING IN SHARQIA?

The Kingdom's Ministry of Investment (MISA) is your gateway to tapping into unique and fruitful investment opportunities in Sharqia.

MISA aims to facilitate and support new and current investors in their journey of venturing into a land of countless opportunities. MISA is eager to provide you with the necessary components to successfully invest within the Kingdom. This includes sharing relevant market and economic information, site research, and real-estate values to help familiarize investors with the Saudi Arabian ecosystem. Investors also have access to MISA's well-established infrastructure and connectivity.

Not only does MISA's connectivity range from trade associations, all sector companies, relevant universities, and much more, but the Ministry is responsible for issuing and regulating investment licenses.



The range of MISA's support is uncanny; whether it is providing and advising on available incentives or ongoing support for operational issues, MISA will serve as your guide to opportunities in Sharqia.



More detail can be found in investsaudi.sa and [Investor Journey](#).

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Investor Journey



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For more information about investment opportunities, please [click here](#) or scan the QR code



Scan here

Existing opportunities in Sharqia region include:

- Petrochemicals
 - PROPYLENE GLYCOL METHYL ETHER
- Transports and Logistics
 - Development Of A Bonded Zone In Dammam
- Automotive
 - AUTOMOTIVE EVAPORATOR



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