

Saudi Arabia (capital: Riyadh) is the largest country of the Arabian Peninsula. It covers an area of 2,150,000 km².

Officially known as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the country is a member of the United Nations (24 October 1945), the League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The official language of Saudi Arabia is Arabic.



 $\underline{Source} : http://data.un.org/CountryProfile.aspx?$



POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Population size of Saudi Arabia

The population of Saudi Arabia rose from 9.6 millions in 1980 to over 23.6 millions in 2005. It is expected to increase to around 43.6 millions in 2050. In 2005, the total population of Saudi Arabia was composed of around 13 million males (55.2 percent) and 10.5 million females (44.8 percent).

Table 1: Population Size of Saudi Arabia by Sex, 1980 to 2050

Year	Population Size (thousands)					
Teal	Males	Females	Total			
1980	5,188	4,416	9,604			
1985	7,115	5,752	12,867			
1990	9,029	7,230	16,259			
1995	10,190	8,064	18,255			
2000	11,520	9,288	20,808			
2005	13,046	10,567	23,613			
2010*	14,355	11,891	26,246			
2015*	15,683	13,250	28,933			
2020*	16,994	14,614	31,608			
2025*	18,237	15,939	34,176			
2030*	19,361	17,184	36,545			
2035*	20,324	18,319	38,644			
2040*	21,132	19,342	40,473			
2045*	21,847	20,304	42,152			
2050*	22,471	21,187	43,658			

Source: United Nations, World Population Prospects: 2008 Revision.

Population Growth in Saudi Arabia

The population in Saudi Arabia was growing at a rate of 5.85 percent in 1980-1985. The growth rate then decreased and reached 2.53 percent in 2000-2005. It is projected to continue decreasing and reach 0.70 percent in 2045-2050.

Table 2: Population Growth in Saudi Arabia, 1980 to 2050

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Year	Population Growth Rate (%)
1980-1985	5.85
1985-1990	4.68
1990-1995	2.32
1995-2000	2.62
2000-2005	2.53
2005-2010*	2.12
2010-2015*	1.95
2015-2020*	1.77
2020-2025*	1.56
2025-2030*	1.34
2030-2035*	1.12
2035-2040*	0.93
2040-2045*	0.81
2045-2050*	0.70

Source: United Nations, World Population Prospects: 2008 Revision.

^{*}Projections (medium variant)

^{*}Projections (medium variant)



Population Age Composition of Saudi Arabia

The proportion of the population under 15 years of age has been decreasing since 1980 and is projected to continue in this trend till the year 2050. The working-age group (15-64) has increased from 52.9 percent in 1980 to 62.7 percent in 2005; it is projected to increase and reach 67.6 percent in 2050. The proportion of elderly (65+) fluctuated between 2.3 and 2.8 percent from 1980 to 2005; it is projected to increase and reach 13.4 percent by 2050.

Table 3. Population Distribution by Broad Age Groups in Saudi Arabia, 1980 to 2050 (percent)

Year		Age (years)			
real	0-4	5-14	15-64	65+	
1980	18.9	25.4	52.9	2.8	
1985	16.9	25.4	55.3	2.4	
1990	16.4	25.5	55.8	2.3	
1995	15.2	26.3	56.1	2.4	
2000	13.3	24.7	59.3	2.7	
2005	12.0	22.5	62.7	2.8	
2010*	11.0	21.0	65.1	3.0	
2015*	10.3	19.6	66.8	3.4	
2020*	9.6	18.4	67.9	4.1	
2025*	8.9	17.5	68.5	5.2	
2030*	8.1	16.5	68.7	6.7	
2035*	7.3	15.4	68.7	8.6	
2040*	6.8	14.2	68.7	10.3	
2045*	6.6	13.1	68.1	12.1	
2050*	6.4	12.6	67.6	13.4	

Source: United Nations, World Population Prospects: 2008 Revision.

Internal Migration in Saudi Arabia

The percentage of urban dwellers in Saudi Arabia was estimated at 65.9 percent in 1980 and increased to reach 81 percent in 2005. Population projections show that it will continue increasing and reach 89.7 percent in 2050.

Table 4. Urban and Rural Population in Saudi Arabia, 1980 to 2050

	Popu	lation (thous	ands)				Annual Rate	e of Change
Year	Urban	Rural	Total	Percentage Urban	Percentage Rural	Year	of percentage Urban (%)	of percentage Rural (%)
1980	6,325	3,279	9,604	65.9	34.1	1980-1985	1.96	-4.43
1985	9,346	3,519	12,865	72.6	27.4	1985-1990	1.06	-3.11
1990	12,449	3,807	16,256	76.6	23.4	1990-1995	0.54	-1.87
1995	14,358	3,893	18,251	78.7	21.3	1995-2000	0.30	-1.14
2000	16,614	4,193	20,807	79.8	20.2	2000-2005	0.28	-1.15
2005	19,120	4,492	23,612	81.0	19.0	2005-2010*	0.27	-1.19
2010*	21,681	4,735	26,416	82.1	17.9	2010-2015*	0.26	-1.24
2015*	24,334	4,930	29,265	83.2	16.8	2015-2020*	0.25	-1.29
2020*	27,022	5,067	32,089	84.2	15.8	2020-2025*	0.24	-1.35
2025*	29,661	5,137	34,797	85.2	14.8	2025-2030*	0.23	-1.40
2030*	32,178	5,135	37,314	86.2	13.8	2030-2035*	0.22	-1.43
2035*	34,517	5,074	39,591	87.2	12.8	2035-2040*	0.20	-1.44
2040*	36,634	4,960	41,594	88.1	11.9	2040-2045*	0.19	-1.46
2045*	38,583	4,811	43,394	88.9	11.1	2045-2050*	0.18	-1.47
2050*	40.391	4.639	45.030	89.7	10.3			

Source: United Nations. World Urbanization Prospects: The 2007 Revision

^{*}Projections (medium variant)

^{*} Projections (medium variant)



INDICATORS OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION

Mortality Transition in Saudi Arabia

The Infant Mortality Rate of the Saudi Arabian population was estimated at 56.4 infant deaths per 1000 live births in 1980-1985 and decreased to 22.4 infant deaths in 2000-2005; it is projected to decline to 8.1 per 1000 by 2050.

The under-five mortality was estimated at 31 deaths under age five per 1,000 live births in 1995-2000; it decreased to 26 deaths by 2005, and is projected to continue declining to reach 9 deaths per 1,000 live births by 2050.

Life Expectancy at Birth in Saudi Arabia has gained 8.5 years from the period 1980-1985 to the period 2000-2005, increasing from 63.1 years to 71.6 years. It is expected to reach 79.1 years by 2050.

Table 5. Vital Statistics of Saudi Population, 1980 to 2050

Year	Infant Mortality Rate (per 1.000 live births)		Under-Five Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)			Life Expectancy at Birth (years)			
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1980-1985	60.1	52.6	56.4	-	-	-	61.9	64.5	63.1
1985-1990	46.3	38.5	42.5	-	-	-	65.0	68.1	66.4
1990-1995	35.6	28.5	32.1	-	-	-	67.4	70.8	68.9
1995-2000	29.8	22.1	26.0	35	27	31	68.9	72.7	70.5
2000-2005	26.5	18.2	22.4	31	21	26	69.8	74.0	71.6
2005-2010*	22.7	14.8	18.8	26	17	22	70.9	75.3	72.8
2010-2015*	19.4	13.3	16.4	22	15	19	71.9	76.3	73.8
2015-2020*	16.5	12.1	14.3	19	14	16	72.8	77.3	74.7
2020-2025*	14.1	11.0	12.6	16	12	14	73.7	78.2	75.5
2025-2030*	12.0	10.2	11.1	13	11	12	74.5	79.0	76.3
2030-2035*	10.3	9.4	9.9	11	11	11	75.2	79.7	77.0
2035-2040*	9.7	8.8	9.2	11	10	10	75.9	80.4	77.7
2040-2045*	9.0	8.2	8.6	10	9	10	76.5	81.0	78.4
2045-2050*	8.5	7.7	8.1	9	9	9	77.1	81.6	79.1

Source: United Nations. World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision

- Maternal Mortality in Saudi Arabia

The Maternal Mortality Ratio in Saudi Arabia was estimated at 18 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2005. The presence of a skilled attendant at birth was observed in around 91 percent of the deliveries in 1996.

Source: World Health Organization 2008. http://www.who.int/whosis.

Fertility Transition in Saudi Arabia

The Total Fertility Rate in Saudi Arabia declined from 7 children per woman in 1980-1985 to 3.8 children per woman in 2000-2005. Projections show that total fertility will decline further and reach 1.85 children per woman in 2040-2045 and stay at this level till 2050.

Table 6. Total Fertility Rate in Saudi Arabia, 1980 to 2050 (children per woman)

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Year	Total Fertility Rate (children per woman)
1980-1985	7.02
1985-1990	6.22
1990-1995	5.45
1995-2000	4.62
2000-2005	3.81
2005-2010*	3.17
2010-2015*	2.83
2015-2020*	2.56
2020-2025*	2.34
2025-2030*	2.15
2030-2035*	1.98
2035-2040*	1.86
2040-2045*	1.85
2045-2050*	1.85
Course: United Nations World Deputation	Prospects: The 2009 Povision (Medium variant projections)

Source: United Nations. World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision (Medium variant projections)

^{*}Projections (medium variant)



- Contraceptive Prevalence in Saudi Arabia

In 1996, the prevalence of contraceptive use among married Saudi Arabian women was estimated at 31.8 percent. The prevalence of use of modern methods reached 28.5 percent and that of traditional methods 3.3 percent.

Source: United Nations. World Contraceptive Use 2007. ST/ESA/SER.A/273.

Trends in Migration in Saudi Arabia

The number of international migrants increased from 1.9 million migrants in 1980 (or 20 percent of the total population) to around 6.4 million migrants in 2005 (or 26 percent of the total population). Female migrants represented 32 percent of all the migrants in 1980 and 30 percent of all the migrants in 2005. Refugees represented 5.2 percent of all migrants in 1980 and their percentage decreased to 3.8 percent in 2005. The growth rate of the migrant stock was at its peak of 11.4 percent in 1980-1985 then it decreased to 4.3 percent in 2000-2005. The net migration rate for the period 2000-2005 amounted to an increase of 2.6 migrants per 1,000 population annually.

Table 7a: Saudi Arabia International Migrant (IM) Stock, 1980 to 2005

Table 74. Saddi 711 abia Titternational Migrant (IM) 510014, 1700	10 2000				
Indicator	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005
Estimated number of IM at mid-year (total)	1,920,483	3,401,029	4,743 010	4,610,708	5,136,418	6,360,730
Estimated number of IM at mid-year (male)	1,306,279	2,347,071	3,318 788	3,181,357	3,451,716	4,448,492
Estimated number of IM at mid-year (female)	614,205	1,053,958	1,424 222	1,429,351	1,684,702	1,912,238
Estimated number of refugees at mid-year	100,000	117,750	0	15,567	5,436	240,410
IM as a percentage of the population	20.0	26.4	29.0	24.7	23.9	25.9
Female migrants as a percentage of all IM	32.0	31.0	30.0	31.0	32.8	30.1
Refugees as a percentage of IM	5.2	3.5	0.0	0.3	0.1	3.8

Source: United Nations. World Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision

Table 7b: Growth rate of the migrant stock in Saudi Arabia, 1980 to 2005

Year	Growth Rate of the Migrant Stock, 1980-2005 (percent)
1980-1985	11.4
1985-1990	6.7
1990-1995	-0.6
1995-2000	2.2
2000-2005	4.3

Source: United Nations. World Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision

Table 8. Net migration in Saudi Arabia, 1980 to 2050

Year	Net Migration (average annual)				
rear	Rate	Number			
	(per 1,000 pop)	(thousands)			
1980-1985	24.9	280			
1985-1990	14.4	210			
1990-1995	-5.8	-100			
1995-2000	0.7	14			
2000-2005	2.6	57			
2005-2010*	1.2	30			
2010-2015*	1.1	30			
2015-2020*	1.0	30			
2020-2025*	0.9	30			
2025-2030*	0.8	30			
2030-2035*	0.8	30			
2035-2040*	0.8	30			
2040-2045*	0.7	30			
2045-2050*	0.7	30			

Source: United Nations. World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision *Projections (medium variant)



Box 1: Monitoring Progress of Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is performing very well in meeting the global goals set by ICPD/MDG with regards to infant mortality, child mortality, life expectancy and maternal mortality.

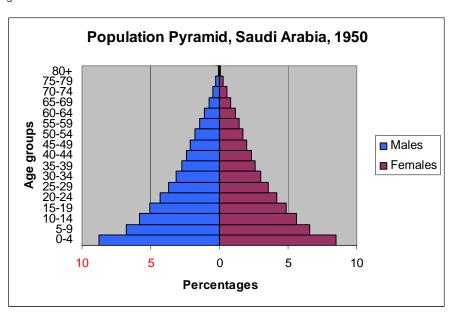
The country's infant mortality rates in 2000 and 2005 were estimated at 26 and 22.4 infant deaths per 1000 live births; therefore, Saudi Arabia has already met the targets set by ICPD/MDG of 50/70 and 50/60 infant deaths for these two years respectively. The infant mortality rate is also projected to decrease and be around 16.4 infant deaths in 2015 and this is also lower than the target of 35 deaths per 1000 live births for the year 2015. The same applies for child mortality rates.

The maternal mortality rate for the year 2005 was estimated at 18 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births and this means Saudi Arabia has met the target of 100/125 set for that year. In addition, 91 percent of all deliveries were assisted by a skilled attendant in 1996, and this is well above the 40/80 percent target set for 2005 and even above the 60/90 target set for 2015.

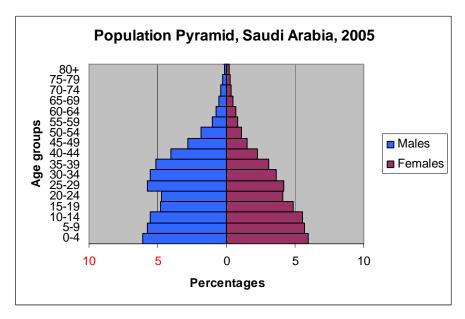
With a life expectancy of 71.6 years registered in 2005, Saudi Arabia has already achieved the ICPD/MDG target of 65/70 years set for that year. Projections show that the country will also meet the global goal of 70/75 set for 2015 by having a life expectancy of 73.8 years.

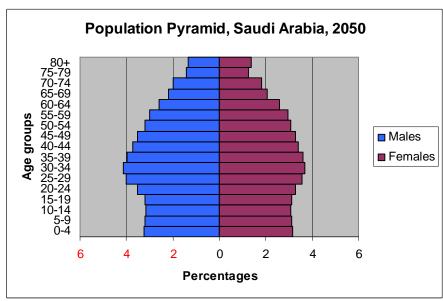
Changing Age Structure in Saudi Arabia

The Population Pyramid in Saudi Arabia shows an imbalanced age-sex structure due to high immigration rates and reliance on foreign labour.











Youth in Saudi Arabia

In Saudi Arabia, the percentage of youth (15-24) was estimated at 18.4 percent of the total population in 1980 (or 33.7 percent of the working-age group). In 2005, the percentage decreased reaching 18.5 percent of the total population (or 29.5 % of the working-age group). It is projected to continue declining to reach 13.2 percent of the total population in 2050 (or 19.5 % of the working-age group).

Table 9a: Youth (15-24) in relation to total population and to working-age population (15-64), Saudi Arabia, 1950-2050.

Year	Youth (thousands)	Youth (% of total population)	Working-age population (thousands)	Youth (% of working-age group)
1950	590	18.4	1,750	33.7
1955	663	18.5	1,942	34.1
1960	751	18.4	2,174	34.5
1965	884	18.4	2,527	35.0
1970	1,065	18.5	3,007	35.4
1975	1,366	18.8	3,822	35.7
1980	1,781	18.5	5,079	35.1
1985	2,492	19.4	7,110	35.0
1990	3,006	18.5	9,072	33.1
1995	3,152	17.3	10,236	30.8
2000	3,935	18.9	12,337	31.9
2005	4,363	18.5	14,803	29.5
2010*	4,949	18.9	17,085	29.0
2015*	5,298	18.3	19,314	27.4
2020*	5,490	17.4	21,462	25.6
2025*	5,652	16.5	23,400	24.2
2030*	5,793	15.9	25,110	23.1
2035*	5,962	15.4	26,553	22.5
2040*	6,013	14.9	27,809	21.6
2045*	5,929	14.1	28,718	20.6
2050*	5,741	13.2	29,504	19.5

Source: United Nations, World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision (Medium Variant Projections)

The distribution of the population by broad age groups and residence in Saudi Arabia shows that 23.7 percent of youth lived in urban areas in 1950; however, their percentage increased to 70.8 percent in 1980 and to 81.3 percent in 2005.

Table 9b: Urban/Rural distribution of population in Saudi Arabia (in thousands) by broad age groups in 1950, 1980 and 2005.

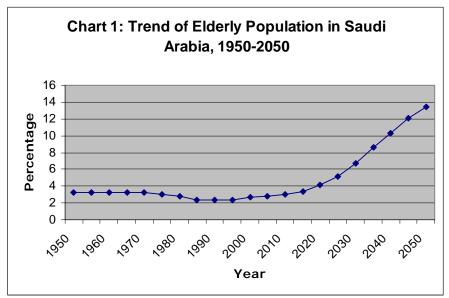
- J	.go g. ompo	.,00,.,00				
Year		URBAN (%)		1	RURAL (%)	
Year	1950	1980	2005	1950	1980	2005
0-14	18.3	60.9	77.3	81.7	39.1	22.7
15-24	23.7	70.8	81.3	76.3	29.2	18.7
25-64	23.4	69.9	84.2	76.6	30.1	15.8
65+	22.9	61.4	73.4	77.1	38.6	26.6

Source: United Nations. Population Division. May 2008.



Elderly in Saudi Arabia

In Saudi Arabia, the percentage of the population aged 65+ was estimated at 3.3 percent in 1950 and stayed at this level till 1975 where it slightly decreased to 3.0 percent. Afterwards, it decreased more and was estimated at 2.3 percent in 1990. Later, the percentage of elderly started increasing reaching 2.8 percent in 2005 and it is projected to reach 13.4 percent in 2050.



Source: United Nations, World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision (Medium Variant Projections)

Dependency Ratios in Saudi Arabia

The total dependency ratio in Saudi Arabia increased from 83 percent in 1950 to 91 percent in 1970. Then, it started its decrease and reached 60 percent in 2005. It is projected to continue decreasing to reach 46 percent in 2025 and then slightly increase to reach 48 percent in 2050.

Table 10: Dependency Ratios in Saudi Arabia, 1950 – 2050 (percent)

	Child dependency ratio	Old-age dependency ratio	Total dependency ratio
1950	77	6	83
1955	79	6	85
1960	81	6	87
1965	83	6	90
1970	85	6	91
1975	84	6	90
1980	84	5	89
1985	77	4	81
1990	75	4	79
1995	74	4	78
2000	64	5	69
2005	55	4	60
2010*	49	5	54
2015*	45	5	50
2020*	41	6	47
2025*	38	8	46
2030*	36	10	46
2035*	33	12	46
2040*	31	15	46
2045*	29	18	47
2050*	28	20	48

Source: United Nations. World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision (*Medium variant projections)



POPULATION POLICY PROFILE OF SAUDI ARABIA

Population Policy Variable	1976	1986	1996	2007
-				
Population size and growth - view	Too Low	Too Low	Too Low	Satisfactory
- policy	Raise	Raise	Raise	Maintain
Population Age Structure				
Level of concern about				
- working-age population	-	-	-	Major Concern Minor Concern
- ageing	-	-	-	Minor Concern
Fertility & Family Planning				
- view on fertility Level	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
 policy access to contraceptive methods 	Maintain Limits	Maintain Limits	Maintain Limits	Maintain Indirect Support
access to contracoptive methods	Limits	Littles	Ellinto	man eet oapport
Adolescent Fertility				Malan Camana
level of concernpolicies and programmes	-	-	_	Major Concern Yes
poncies and programmes				163
Health and Mortality				
View on - expectation of life	Unacceptable	Unacceptable	Unacceptable	Acceptable
- under-five mortality	-	-	-	Acceptable
- maternal mortality	=	-	=	Acceptable
- level of concern about HIV/AIDS	-	-	-	Major Concern
Measures Implemented to Control HIV/AIDS*	_	_	_	1,2,3,4,5
Grounds on which Abortion is				1,2,0,1,0
Permitted**	-	-	1,2	1,2,3
Spatial Distribution				
View	Minor Change	Minor Change	Minor Change	Minor Change
View	Desired	Desired	Desired	Desired
Policies on Internal Migration				
- from rural to urban areas	-	-	-	Lower
- from rural to rural areas	-	-	-	Raise
- from urban to rural areas	-	-	-	-
 from urban to urban areas into urban agglomerations 	- -	-	-	- Lower
into arban aggiornerations				Lower
International Migration				
Immigration - view	Too Low	Satisfactory	Too High	Too High
- view - policy	Raise	Maintain	Lower	Lower
- permanent settlement	-	-	-	No Intervention
- temporary workers	-	-	-	Lower
- highly skilled workers	-	-	-	Lower
- family reunification	-	-	-	Lower
- integration of non-nationals	-	-	-	Yes
Emigration - view	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
- view - policy	Maintain	Maintain	Maintain	Lower
- encouraging the return of nationals	-	-	-	Yes

^{*} Measures Implemented to Control HIV/AIDS: (1) blood screening; (2) information/education campaigns; (3) antiretroviral treatment; (4) non-discriminatory policies; and (5) distribution of condoms.

Source: United Nations. World Population Policies, 2007.

^{**} Grounds on which Abortion is Permitted: (1) to save the woman's life; (2) to preserve physical health; (3) to preserve mental health; (4) rape or incest; (5) fetal impairment; (6) economic or social reasons; (7) on request.