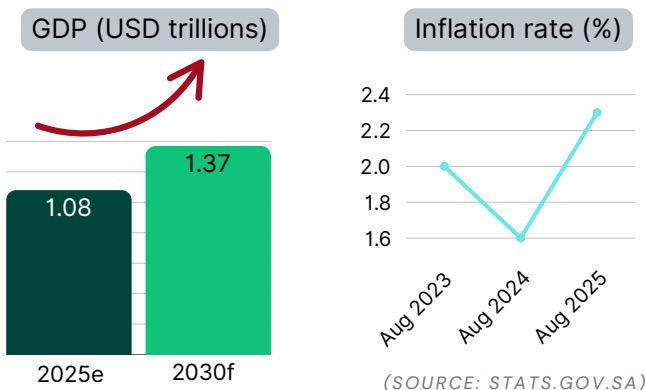




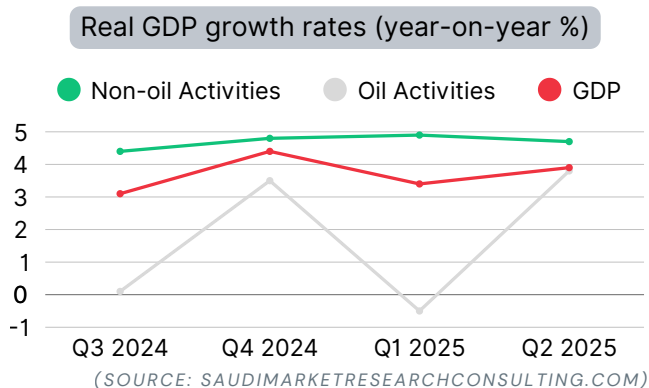
Saudi Arabia

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia presents investment opportunities for Singapore businesses looking to expand their international presence.

Specifically, Singapore businesses benefit from a multitude of longstanding agreements and schemes that establishes friendly business relations between the Republic and Saudi Arabia.



Saudi Arabia's USD1.1 trillion GDP is projected to reach USD1.4 trillion in 2030. With a consistently small but positive inflation rate (2.3% in August 2025), the Kingdom boasts a stable and robust economy, providing a conducive environment for business investment.



Despite their historical reliance on oil for growth, the Saudi economy has seen rapid diversification. The stable GDP growth rate (3.4% in Q1 2025 and 3.9% in Q2 2025) is largely driven by the growth in the non-oil sector (4.9% in Q1 2025 and 4.7% in Q2 2025).

Specifically, the Green Energy and Renewables sector, along with the Food Sector are rapidly growing sectors with abundant opportunities for investment.



SINGAPORE-SAUDI ARABIA PARTNERSHIPS

- Singapore – Saudi Arabia Double Tax Avoidance Agreement (DTA)
- Singapore Saudi – Arabia Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT)
- MOU establishing the Singapore-Saudi Strategic Partnership Council signed in January 2025, reaffirming partnerships in various aspects

SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES

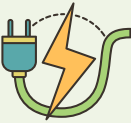


King Abdullah Economic City (KAEC)

Focuses on logistics, light manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, and ICT. Proximity to major cities and direct railway and road links optimise supply chain efficiency.

Jazan Special Economic Zone

Emphasises renewable energy, agriculture, and fishing. Businesses can benefit from preferential customs tariffs and streamlined regulatory processes for imports and exports.



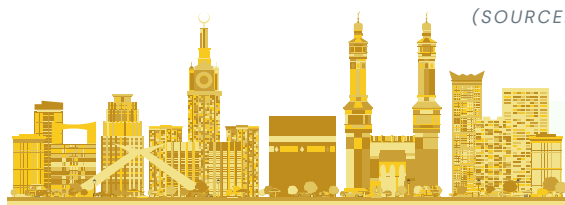
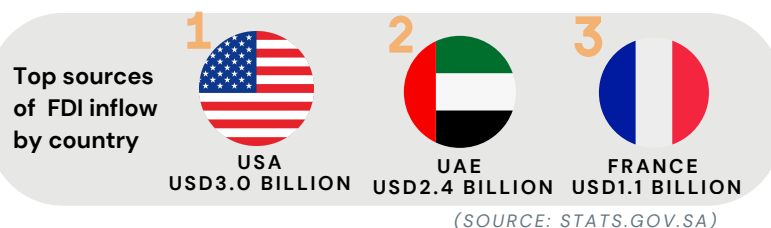
Ras Al-Khair Special Economic Zone

Specialises in mineral processing, power generation, and steel manufacturing. Companies receive incentives in the form of reduced tariffs on imported inputs for mineral processing and strong government support for export activities.

(SOURCE: PIF.GOV.SA)

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

FDI NET INFLOW, 2024



GREEN ENERGY & RENEWABLES

The green energy sector includes the renewable energy and clean energy sectors. The former refers to energy from naturally replenishing sources with zero emissions, whereas the latter refers to low-carbon non-renewable sources. The growth in both sectors is driven by the Kingdom's ambitious Vision 2030 scheme, which aims to have renewable energy provide for 50% of the nation's energy mix by 2030.

CLEAN ENERGY

Market overview

- A key enabler of the clean energy transition is the development of the minerals sector, which provides key ingredients in rechargeable batteries for electric vehicles (EVs), power storage and solar panels.
- The Saudi mining sector's contribution to GDP is expected to more than quadruple from USD17 billion in 2024 to USD75 billion in 2030.

(SOURCE: CLIMATECHANGENEWS.COM, SAUDIMININGCONSULTING.COM)



Minerals sector estimated to support
110GW
of renewables by 2030

Most abundant minerals by value

USD2.5 trillion
worth of untapped minerals, including lithium, rare earths, zinc and copper

- 1 Phosphate**
USD1.2 trillion
- 2 Iron & Limestone**
USD297 billion
- 3 Copper**
USD137 billion

Policies and Initiatives

- Saudi Arabia hosts an annual Future Minerals Forum, where 126 deals worth more than USD28.5 billion were signed in 2025.
- The government also plans to open up 5,000km² of mineral-rich regions for exploration in 2025.
- Financial support in the form of USD182 million of exploration funds and up to 75% of co-financing capital is available for investors.

(SOURCE: SAUDIGULFPROJECTS.COM, MIM.GOV.SA, REUTERS.COM)

Challenges and Considerations

- **Regulatory and Policy Environment:** While the licensing process for mining activity has been streamlined, navigating policies on environmental regulations and local content remains complex. Firms may wish to engage local experts and forge strong relationships with regulatory authorities to mitigate against compliance risks.
- **Manpower challenges:** The mining sector faces a talent gap due to limited skilled professionals available domestically. Consequently, companies can benefit from investing in training and knowledge transfer.

(SOURCE: MINING-TECHNOLOGY.COM, MIM.GOV.SA, SETUPINSAUDI.COM)

Recent Developments



Vedanta Resources signed MOU to invest
USD2 billion
in establishing a copper processing facility in Saudi Arabia

Burkhan World Investment (BWI) signed MOU to develop new mining investment and operations worth
USD9 billion



(SOURCE: WAMSAUDI.COM, ARABNEWS.COM, BLOOMBERG.COM)

Geopolitical Advantages

- Saudi Arabia has pitched itself as a politically neutral alternative minerals supplier in the growing US-China race over critical minerals.
- The Kingdom also stands to benefit as the global West seeks to diversify their supply chain beyond China, which dominates the global minerals market.

(SOURCE: CLIMATECHANGENEWS.COM)



1,379 new industrial licenses issued in 2025
598 exploration licenses issued in 2025
33 new exploration sites

USD 97.6 million

worth of expected investments over the next three years



(SOURCE: TASCOUTSOURCING.SA, MIM.GOV.SA)

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Market size and growth

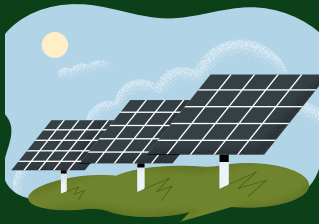
- The renewables energy market in Saudi Arabia is forecast to nearly triple in size from 10.3 GW in 2025 to 29.3 GW by 2030, at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 23.3% during the five-year window.

(SOURCE: MORDORINTELLIGENCE.COM)



- Ranked among **top 10** Global Markets in energy storage in 2025
- 2nd best scorer** in the MENA region in the World Economic Forum's 2025 Energy Transition Index

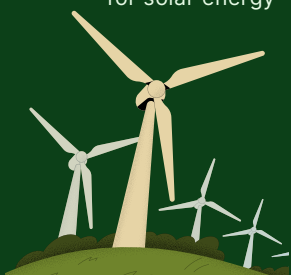
(SOURCE: SPA.GOV.SA, WEFORUM.ORG)



Average daily sunshine of
8.9
hours

5,600Wh/m²
of horizontal solar radiation

Global record-low Levelised Cost of Electricity (LCOE) of
USD0.0104/kWh
for solar energy



Annual Average Onshore Wind Speed
7.0 m/s

Global Ranking
13th
in potential for onshore wind production

(SOURCE: MORDORINTELLIGENCE.COM, GLOBALBUSINESSOUTLOOK.COM)

Physical Climate

- Saudi Arabia's climate provides prime conditions for the generation of renewable energy – specifically solar and wind energy – given its position along the sunbelt, and the high wind speeds.

(SOURCE: MORDORINTELLIGENCE.COM)

Policies and Initiatives

- The Kingdom has begun forming strategic partnerships with leading Chinese renewable energy companies.
- Meanwhile, government schemes including the National Renewable Energy Programme (NREP), NEOM City Project and Energy Efficiency Programme create conducive environments for investors.

(SOURCE: ENERGYPOLICY.COLUMBIA.EDU, BLOOMBERG.COM)

Recent Developments

- July 2025:** USD8.3 billion worth of power purchase agreements were signed for 7 new renewables energy projects with an estimated capacity of 15GW.
- September 2025:** Saudi's Ministry of Energy launched a seventh round of auction for 6 new solar and wind energy projects totalling 5.3GW under the NREP.

(SOURCE: MOENERGY.GOV.SA)



Al Kahfah Solar Plant

Planned capacity of
1.4GW
Designed to supply electricity to
400,000 homes



NEOM Gayal Wind Farm Project

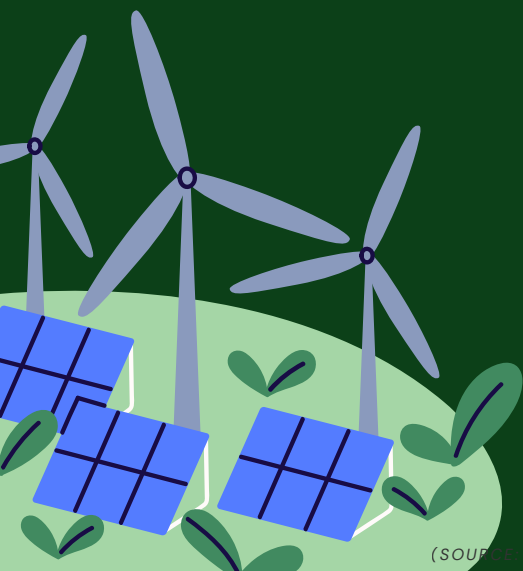
Planned capacity of
1.2GW
Project worth
USD500 billion

(SOURCE: ACWAPOWER.COM, NEOM.DIRECTORY)

Challenges and Considerations

- Localisation:** As the Saudi government strives for energy self-sufficiency, it aims to achieve 75% local content in the renewables sector by 2030. Singapore businesses may wish to consider joint ventures, invest in knowledge transfer, and build up local supply chains to position themselves competitively.
- Market competition:** While the market is still relatively nascent, new entrants may face competition from well-established local players such as ACWA Power, Aramco and Masdar. Firms would do well to invest in technology and innovation to differentiate themselves while aligning with Vision 2030 priorities to strengthen their reputation and competitiveness.

(SOURCE: MECOUNCIL.ORG, MORDORINTELLIGENCE.COM)



(SOURCE: INVESTSAUDI.SA, VISION2030.GOV.SA, SAUDIARABIA.DOINGBUSINESSGUIDE.CO, IMF.ORG, STATS.GOV.SA, MORDORINTELLIGENCE.COM, ACWAPOWER.COM, NEOM.DIRECTORY)

FOOD INDUSTRY

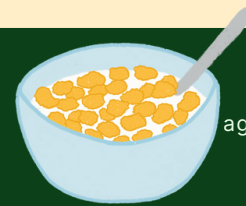
Saudi's Food & Beverage market is the largest in the Middle East, with a revenue of USD57 billion in 2025 and an expected CAGR of 4.0%. The industry is set for a further USD20 billion boost by 2035, in alignment with the government's initiative to increase localisation of food production to improve food security as part of its Vision 2030 strategy. Investment opportunities are abundant in the various stages of the food supply chain - from agriculture, to food manufacturing and food trade.

AGRICULTURE

Market size and growth

- The gross production value in the Saudi agriculture market is expected to grow from USD16.0 billion in 2025 to USD17.7 billion in 2030, at a CAGR of 2.6%.
- Additionally, the market is expected to see an inflow of investments amounting to USD70 billion by 2030.

(SOURCE: STATISTA.COM, SAUDIFOODTECH.SA)



Cereals

dominate the Saudi agriculture market with a

38.8%
market share

Vegetables

are an expanding product with a

7.9% CAGR
from 2025-2030



(SOURCE: MORDORINTELLIGENCE.COM)

Recent Developments

- **May 2025:** The Kingdom signed USD3.7 billion worth of agreements with China, aimed at improving water recycling, agri-tech and smart-city clusters dedicated to food security.
- **February 2025:** Saudi Agriculture and Livestock Investment Company acquired majority stakes in Singapore's Olam Agri business in a USD1.8 billion deal.

(SOURCE: AGBI.COM, REUTERS.COM)

Policies and Initiatives

- In 2024, the Saudi government-established Agricultural Development Fund provided a total of USD17.3 billion worth of funding directed at improving farming technology and operations amongst other areas of investment.
- The Fund also provided USD4.6 billion in loans covering up to 70% of capital outlays for advanced greenhouses.

(SOURCE: ADF.GOV.SA, SAUDIFOODTECH.SA)

Controlled Environmental Agriculture



Controls temperature, humidity and light levels, helping to mitigate environmental risks

Vertical Farming



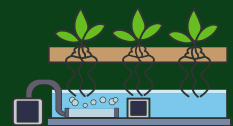
Space-saving and controlled farming technology that helps improve farming efficiency

Agriculture Science School



The Kingdom is home to 25 agricultural schools, which create opportunities and drive innovation in the sector

Hydroponic Efficiency



Employs solar energy to desalinate water, increasing efficiencies in crop yield

(SOURCE: GBREPORTS.COM)

Challenges and Considerations

- **Climate change:** Erratic weather patterns threaten agricultural activity in the already harsh and arid climate of Saudi Arabia. Firms must adopt climate-smart practices and technologies to ensure more resilient operations.
- **Logistical challenges:** Fragmented supply chains and underdeveloped market infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, can threaten operational efficiency. Companies can invest in modern logistics technologies, form partnerships with local distributors, and leverage government initiatives that promote transparency, efficiency, and resilience.

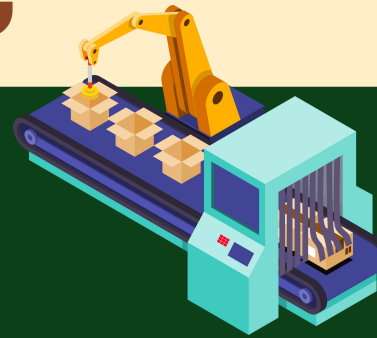
(SOURCE: SPA.GOV.SA, SAUDIFOODTECH.SA)

FOOD MANUFACTURING

Market size and growth

- Output in the Saudi food manufacturing market alone is estimated to reach USD10.6 billion in 2025, with a CAGR of 2.3%.

(SOURCE: STATISTA.COM)



198.4
thousand workers

1,616
food production
facilities

USD31.7
billion of capital stock

13.1%
of value-added in
manufacturing sector



Increasing demand

- The Kingdom is experiencing increasing demand for locally manufactured products, driven by national policies such as the “Made in Saudi” programme launched in 2021.
- A growing trend of health consciousness amongst local consumers translates to an increased demand for organic and functional foods, presenting a novel opportunity for investors looking to differentiate themselves.

(SOURCE: VISION2030.GOV.SA, THESAUDIFOODSHOW.COM)

Policies and Initiatives

- In 2024, the Saudi Authority for Industrial Cities and Technology Zones established the Jeddah Food Cluster, the largest food industrial cluster in the region. Its establishment is aimed at promoting food manufacturing, enhancing production and storage capacities, and is projected to attract up to USD6 million in private sector investments.
- The Saudi government allocated USD2.7 billion to the Standard Incentives Programme, which covers up to 35% of initial project investments, aimed at boosting the local manufacturing scene.
- A potential obstacle for businesses is ensuring halal compliance during the manufacturing process. However, the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) allows streamlined approvals for halal-compliant products, thereby enhancing the overall ease of doing business.

(SOURCE: SPA.GOV.SG, MIM.GOV.SA, SGS.COM)

Local
Dairy
production covers
109%
of domestic demand



Local
Egg
production covers
116%
of domestic demand

Local
Poultry
production covers
60%
of domestic demand



(SOURCE: SAUDI FOODTECH.COM)

FOOD TRADE

Market size and growth

- Saudi Arabia boasts the largest Food & Beverage (F&B) market in the Middle East, with a revenue of approximately USD57 billion.

(SOURCE: STATISTA.COM)

Policies and Initiatives

- The Saudi Export Development Authority provides compensations for up to 90% of export costs.
- The Kingdom hosts an annual Saudi Food Show, ushering over 1,300 international exhibitors, and serving as a key venue for forging global food trade deals and exploring key industry trends.

(SOURCE: SAUDIEXPORTS.GOV.SA, THESAUDIFOODSHOW.COM)



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Why Invest in Saudi Arabia?



Pro-business environment

- Young workforce with approximately 71% of the population under the age of 35 and average age of 27 (2025).
- High government spending on education.
- Integrated industrial, logistical and digital infrastructure.
- Resilient banking sector and large asset base.
- Competitive production costs and availability of basic raw materials such as oil, gas and petrochemicals.
- Special economic zones (SEZ): Cloud Computing, Riyadh Integrated Special Logistics Zone, Jazan, Ras Al-Khair and King Abdullah Economic City.

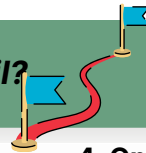
Strategic location

- Situated at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa with 4 hours of access to 40 fast growing economies.
- Bordering the Red Sea in the west (13% of global trade passes through), Arabian Gulf, United Arab Emirates and Qatar in the east; Iraq and Jordan in the north; Yemen and Oman in the south.
- 10 seaports and 28 airports.
- Well-established railway (5,590km) and road connectivity (71,500km) across the Kingdom.

(SOURCE: INVESTSAUDI.SA, VISION2030.GOV.SA, SAUDIARABIA.DOINGBUSINESSGUIDE.CO, IMF.ORG, STATS.GOV.SA, EN.MAJALLA.COM, ECONOMICTIMES.INDIATIMES.COM, ECZA.GOV.SA)



What does the investor's journey entail?



1. Issuance of Investment License

- Certification of company's commercial registration and previous year financial statement by Saudi Embassy.
- Provider: Ministry of Investment

2. Documentation of Memorandum of Association

- For branches of foreign companies, submit a decision to open the branch in the Kingdom to complete the issuance of the Commercial Register.
- Provider: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Justice

3. Issuance of Commercial Registration

- Commercial registration of the parent company
- Decision of the Board of directors of opening a branch (branches of foreign companies only)
- Memorandum of Association (for new companies)
- Appointment of general director
- Proof of the owners and general director's ID
- Provider: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

4. Open Files

- Obtaining a file of the General Authority of Zakat and Tax
- Obtaining a file of Saudi Ministry of Labor and Social Development
- Obtaining a file of The General Organization for Social Insurance
- Providers: General Authority of Zakat & Tax, General Organisation for Social Insurance, Human Resource & Social Development

5. Issuance of General Directors Visa

- A letter of appointing the general director
- Proof of the general director's ID
- Provider: Human Resources and Social Development

[Click here to find out more](#)

(SOURCE: INVESTSAUDI.SA)



What is the legal landscape like for foreign investors in Saudi Arabia?

The Investment Law (February 2025)

Non-discriminatory Principles

- The Investment Law guarantees foreign and local investors equal legal footing, by unifying and updating legal frameworks that previously granted foreign and local investors different rights and protection.

Streamlined Registration and Licensing Reforms

- The Foreign Investment License previously administered by the Saudi Ministry of Investment (MISA) is now replaced with a simplified registration process, with reduced approval times, lowering the barriers to entry for foreign investors eyeing opportunities in the Kingdom.

Foreign Ownership Rights

- Previous limitations have been lifted to allow 100% ownership by foreign investors in most sectors, including the renewables sector.



[Click here to find out more](#)

(SOURCE: BAKERMACKENZIE.COM, EQUIVATOR.COM)



FOR MORE INFORMATION

SUPPORT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

- [Singapore Global Enterprises Initiative](#)
- [Market Readiness Assistance Grant](#)
- [Enterprise Development Grant](#)
- [Enterprise Financing Scheme](#)

Initiatives such as **GlobalConnect@SBF** and **Scale-up SG** enable companies in their journey towards internationalisation.

Visit [SBF Singapore Business Institute \(SBI\)](#) for the list of available training for your respective areas of interest.

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