

SAUDI ARABIA

Capital: Riyadh

GEODATA

Area

1,960,582 km²

Population

21.5 million

Population growth rate

3.4 %

Major languages

Arabic (official), English

Major religious groups

Muslim (Sunni 90 %, Shi'a 10 %)

POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Absolute monarchy

Leaders

King Fahd

Crown Prince Abdullah

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Prince Saud

UN Human Development Index (1999)

Saudi Arabia ranks 78th among 174 countries

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$131.5 billion US (1998)

GDP growth rate

1.6 % (1998)

GDP per capita

\$6,526 US (1998)

Inflation rate

-0.4% (1998)

Unemployment rate

6.5% (1998 est.)



Main exports

Petroleum and petroleum products

Main imports

Machinery and equipment, foodstuffs, chemicals, motor vehicles, textiles

Main exports to Canada

\$428.9 million (1999), including petroleum and petroleum-based products, machinery parts

Main imports from Canada

\$277.9 million (1999), including armoured vehicles, telecommunications equipment, aircraft parts

CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE

D. E. (Ted) Hobson, Ambassador

The Canadian Embassy

Diplomatic Quarter

Riyadh

Saudi Arabia

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