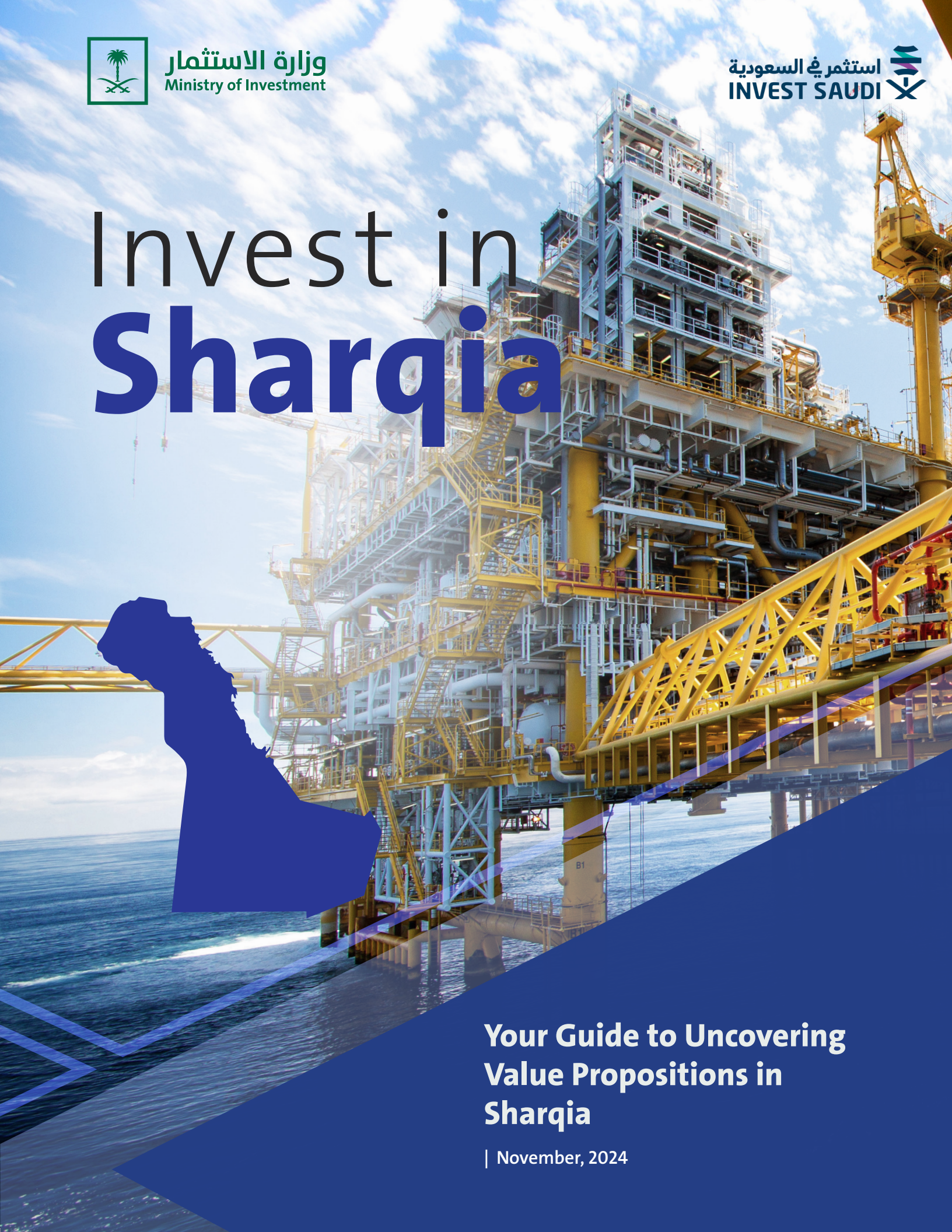
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Ministry of Investment

استثمر في السعودية
INVEST SAUDI

Invest in Sharqia



Your Guide to Uncovering Value Propositions in Sharqia

| November, 2024



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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

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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.

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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 Mohammed 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. 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.

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

Non-oil activities in Saudi Arabia reached a historic milestone in 2023, accounting for 50% of the country's GDP. 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. In 2023, FDI inflows amounted to USD 25 billion, exceeding the NIS target of USD 22 billion by 16% (actual performance vs. NIS target). The FDI inflows as a percentage of Nominal GDP reached 2.4% in 2023, thereby achieving also this NIS target.

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SPOTLIGHT ON THE KINGDOM

Ranked #5	For the Entrepreneurship Policies and Culture Index as per the 2024 WIPO (out of 133 countries)
Ranked #15	For economic performance as per the IMD 2024 World Competitiveness Ranking (out of 67 countries)
Ranked #12	For business efficency as per the IMD 2024 World Competitiveness Ranking (out of 67 countries)
Ranked #2	Ranked second in the venture capital index included in the Global Digital Competitiveness Index for 2024 (out of 67 countries)
Ranked #16	As per the IMD 2024 World Competitiveness Ranking (Overall) (out of 67 countries)
Ranked #2	Ranked second in the Industrial Clusters Development Index according to WIPO for the Year 2024 (out of 133 countries)
Ranked #24	Ranked 24th in Venture Capital Received (% of GDP) per the 2024 Global Innovation Index (out of 133 countries)
Ranked #33	Ranked 33rd in research and development as per the 2024 Global Innovation Index (out of 133 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.

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SPOTLIGHT ON THE KINGDOM

SAUDI GREEN INITIATIVE

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

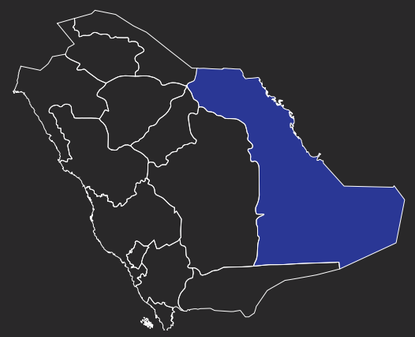
Image source: www.saudigreeninitiative.org

SHARQIA
AT A GLANCE

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

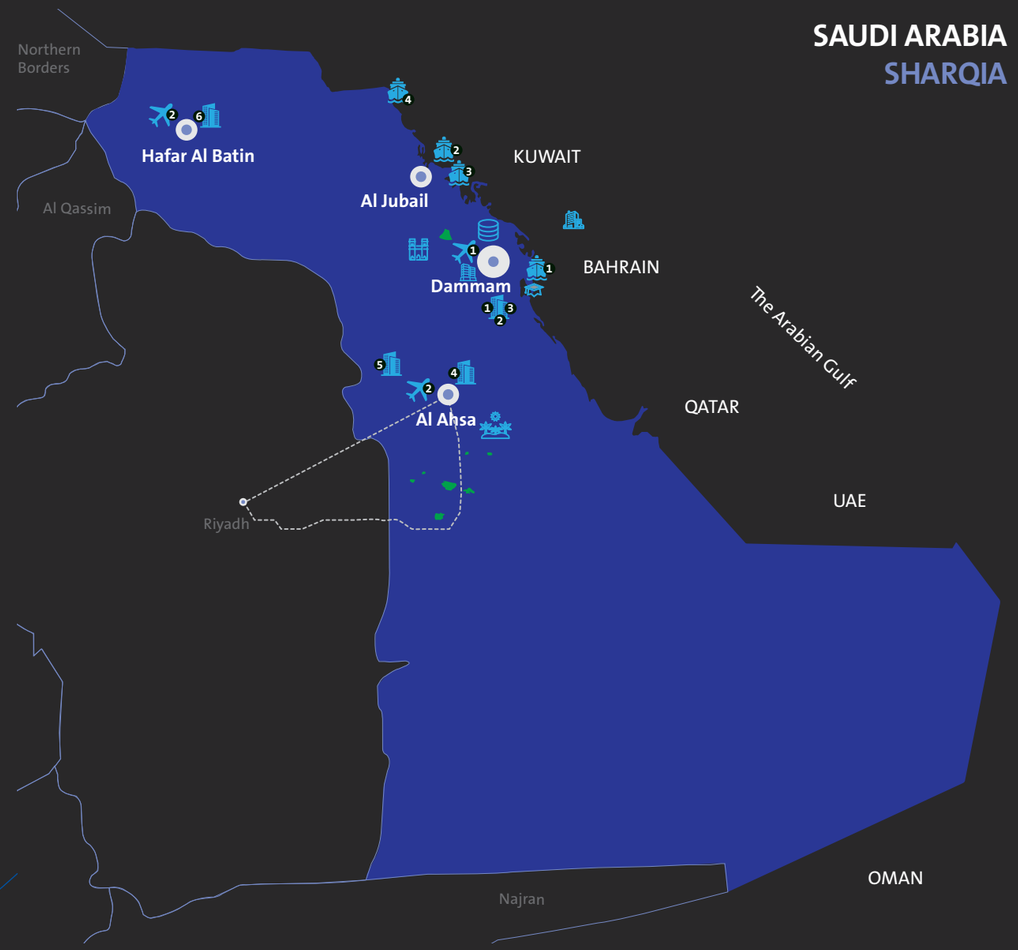
Sharqia is located in the eastern part of Saudi Arabia on the coast of the Arabian Gulf. The region is the Kingdom's gateway to Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Sharqia is the largest region in the country in terms of land area, which amounts to about 540,000 square kilometers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

Sharqia has a total of 13 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.



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SHARQIA AT A GLANCE

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 indusctrial 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

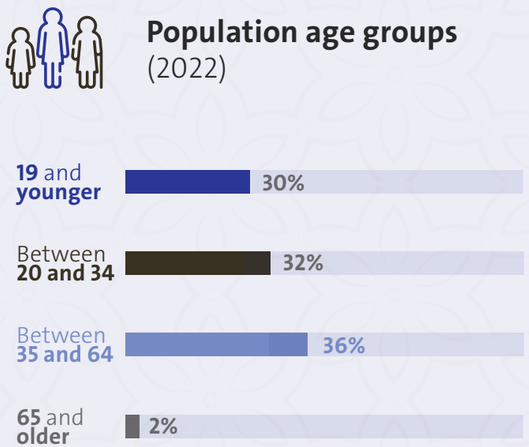
Population

Sharqia has a population of 5,125,254 with over 62% of individuals under the age of 35.

Population growth (2021-2022)

5.03%

Population age groups (2022)





Education

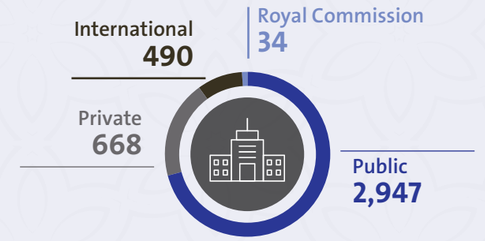
Sharqia's education system provides key sectors, especially Petroleum Engineering, Chemical Engineering and Finance among others, with a highly-skilled and educated young population. The region's talent pool is further supported by vocational schools and STEM-related (science, technology, engineering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

Training facilities (2022):

32

Number of schools (2023):

4,139



Ratio of students per number of schools and universities (2023):

- Students to teacher ratio: 15
- Students to school ratio: 240

Number of university students by largest programs category (2024):

- Business & Management: 116,727
- Humanities and Social sciences: 37,107
- Communication & IT: 2,046
- Natural sciences: 2,267
- Education: 3,879

Number of university students in STEM-related programs (2024):

- Biological sciences: 746
- Physical Sciences: 318
- Behavioral Sciences: 2,012
- Communication & IT: 2,046
- Engineering: 1,890

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	Number of graduates	Key areas of focus
King Fahd University for Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM)	10,167 (2024)	47,185 (1963 - 2024)	Petroleum Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil and Structural Engineering, Mining Engineering.

The university was founded in 1963 and is a leading university in the Kingdom. It ranked 163 globally in 2022 and was the top university in the Arab world in 2023 according to QS rankings. All its engineering specialties are among the top 60 in the world, with Petroleum Engineering ranked fourth globally and Mining Engineering ranked ninth. In line with Saudi Vision 2030, the university began its transformation in 2019 to become a non-profit university aiming to contribute to the Kingdom's transition to a competitive knowledge-based economy globally by enhancing education, scientific research, and innovation for human development.

King Faisal University	185,771 (2024)	21,340 (2023)	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. According to the **2023 Shanghai Global Ranking**, King Faisal University ranked **801-900** globally among the top 1,000 internationally ranked universities.

Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University	35,642 (2023)	7,367 (2023)	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 made significant progress, achieving the **21st place globally** in dentistry according to the **QS World University Rankings** in 2023.

	The total number of enrolled students	Number of graduates	Key areas of focus
University of Hafr Al Batin	23,608 (2022)	3,646 (2022)	Social and behavioral sciences, mathematics, statistics, engineering, information technology, and others.

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 made significant progress, achieving the **21st place globally** in dentistry according to the **QS World University Rankings** in 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.

KFUPM has established over 20 research centers to enhance scientific research and innovation for human welfare and to find solutions to major challenges. Additionally, the university achieved fourth place globally in patents according to the annual ranking by the National Academy of Inventors and Intellectual Property Owners Association for Universities in 2023.

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 established to support the knowledge-based economy and innovation, The Valley hosts research and development centers for global companies and national industries in various scientific fields, including all forms of energy, technology, and advanced industries such as robotics and artificial intelligence. The Valley aims to create an innovative and stimulating environment to foster the establishment and development of startups, in addition to facilitating technology transfer.

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 includes 79 hospitals and 219 primary care centers.

219
Number of healthcare centers (2022)

30
Number of private sector hospitals (2022)

49
Number of public sector hospitals (2022)

Hospitals and beds per 100,000 population (2022)

Hospitals
1.54 / 100,000

Beds
260.78 / 100,000



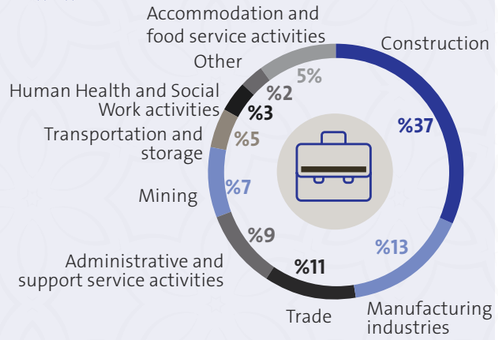
Labor Market

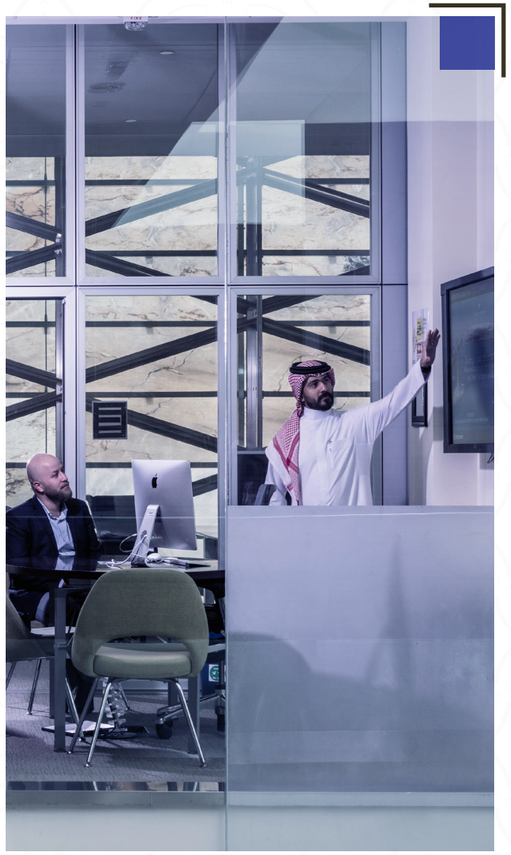
According to Saudi Labor Law, the legal working age in the Kingdom is 15 years. Top sectors of employment in Sharqia include: construction, wholesale and retail trade, and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles followed by manufacturing.

Unemployment rate (Q4/2024)

Male	1.1%
Female	7.4%
Total	2.1%

Participants on job - GOSI (Q4/2024):





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 is home to the second-largest port in terms of handled goods, with the volume of handled goods at King Fahd Industrial Port in Jubail exceeding 67.7 million tons in 2022.

Sharqia is the home to the third largest airport in the Kingdom, King Fahd International Airport, by number of passengers and flights. The region is also home to a railway network that connects cities of Al-Hufof, Abqaiq and Dammam to Riyadh.

Major ports operated by the Saudi Ports Authority (2022)

King Abdulaziz Port Dammam

Terminals	3	Capacity	105 million tons
Berths	43	Area	14 square kilometers

King Fahad Industrial Port Jubail

Terminals	5	Capacity	70 million tons
Berths	29	Area	6.8 square kilometers

Jubail Commercial Port

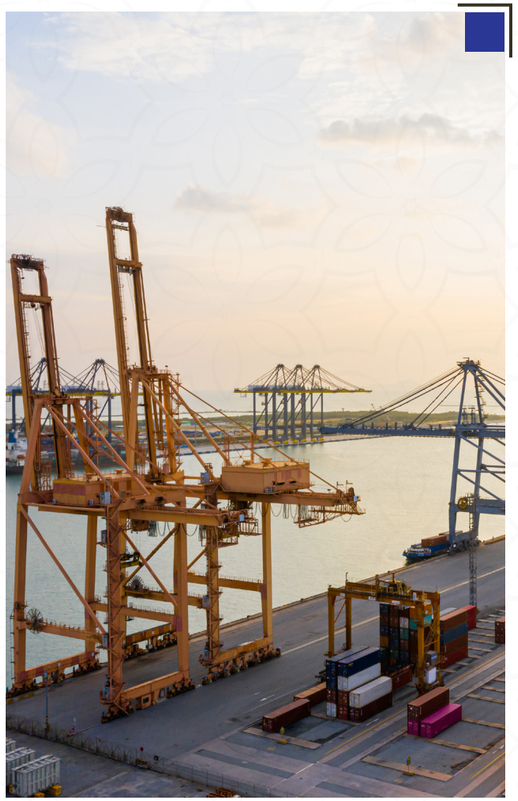
Terminals	2	Capacity	36 million tons
Berths	16	Area	4.8 square kilometers

Ras Al-Khair Port

Terminals	1	Capacity	35 million tons
Berths	14	Area	23 square kilometers

Ras Tanura Port

Terminals	5	Capacity	500 million tons
Berths	28	Area	-



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SHARQIA AT A GLANCE

Major airports

King Fahd International Airport (2023)

Total flights	Passengers	International flights
99,568	11,091,000	46,123

Top Domestic destinations

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

Top international destinations

Cairo (CAI), and Dubai (DXB), Istanbul (IST), Amsterdam (AMS), Frankfurt (FRA).

- King Fahd International Airport, is Saudi Arabia's third largest airport by number of passengers. It is the major airport serving the region. Nonstop passenger flights are available from the airport to 58 destinations to 42 international destination, and 16 domestic destination.
- King Fahd International Airport achieved high rankings in the top 50 airports in Skytrax program for the first time in the Kingdom.
- Direct flights to Europe, Africa, Western Asia, South Asia, South-East Asia, and Central Asia.

Al-Ahsa Airport (2023)

Total flights	Passengers	International flights
7,134	182,000	277

Domestic destination	International destination
Jeddah	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)

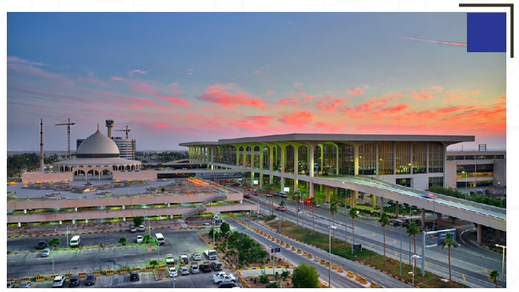
Al Qaisumah (Hafr Al Batin) Airport (2023)

Total flights	Passengers
3,266	226,074

Domestic destinations

Jeddah, Riyadh.

A domestic airport serving the governorate and the adjacent governorates flights to Riyadh (RUH), Jeddah (JED), Al-Ahsa (HOF), and Abha (ABH). One of the Key Achievements in 2022 is the design and implementation of Al Qaisumah Airport expansion project, including: raising the capacity by (367%) to reach (700) thousand passengers per year (2022).





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 **2**

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.

Value of real estate deals (Q1/2025)

Agricultural land
USD 55 Million

Commercial land
USD 782 Million

Number of real estate deals (Q1/2025)

Agricultural
120

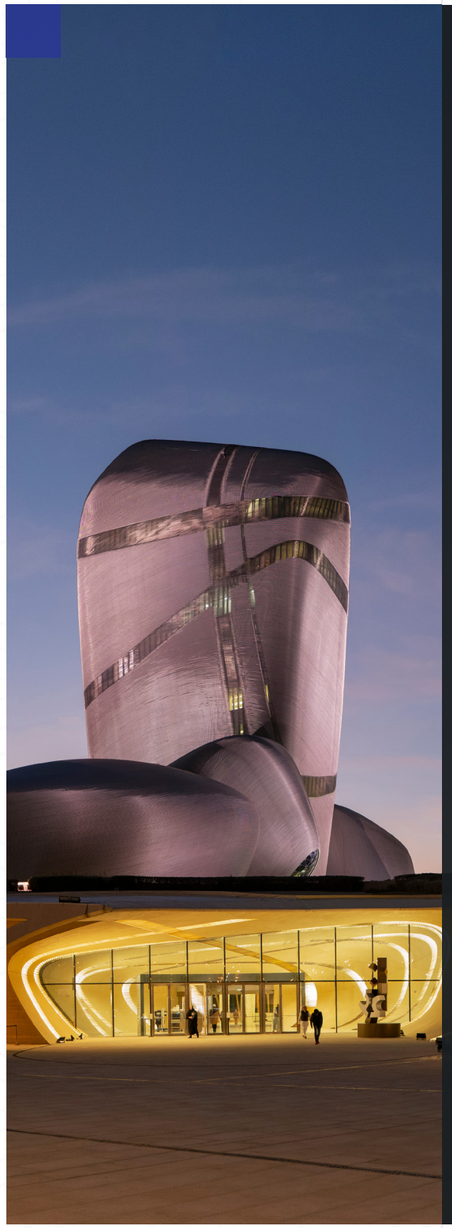
Commercial
748

Further information on real estate indicators in Sharqia and across the Kingdom can be found via the (https://www.moj.gov.sa/ar/OpenData/PowerBIReport/Pages/default.aspx)

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.





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SHARQIA AT A GLANCE

Number of active foreign investment licenses (Until January/2025):

5,456

Foreign direct investment inflow (2023):	Foreign direct investment stock (until 2023):	Foreign direct investment net inflow (2023):
USD 7.59 Billion	**USD 97.55 Billion**	**USD 6.55 Billion**

Region contribution rate to FDI stock (2023)	Volume of point of sales transactions in Dammam city (2023):	Average Annual Inflation Rate Dammam city (2023):
40.77%	**USD 8.28 Billion**	**0.19%**

Active commercial registrations (Q1/2025):

263,328

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, Space & 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 **97 governorates** in Q1 of 2023 with an average download speed of **327.49 Mbps.**

Percentage of household ICT access indicators (2021)

Cellphone **99%**

Internet **99%**

Internet penetration (2022): **98%**



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.The fund offered a total of almost USD 19.01 billion through 1,100 loans in the region until the first quarter of 2023. The region ranked first in terms of the value of loans provided by SIDF and second in terms of the number of loans among the kingdom regions.



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. 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 petrochemical 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 five ports support the large-scale movement of goods to and from the Kingdom and enable the region's growing industrial sector. In 2022, the region's ports handled more than USD 44 billion in non-oil exports (accounting for approximately 70% of the value of the Kingdom's non-oil sea exports) and more than USD 50 billion in non-oil 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.

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WHY INVEST IN SHARQIA

The region's focus is on its manufacturing capabilities, particularly in the energy, petrochemicals, and basic industries sectors. The region benefits from its access to raw materials and the presence of numerous industrial cities. In addition, the region includes Ras Al-Khair Special Economic Zone ,which is located in the center of the Arabian Gulf, with an abundant supply of industrial talent and a quick and efficient multi-modal transport system which seamlessly connects business to global markets.

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 Kingdoms boarders 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

KEY COMPETITIVE SECTORS

Energy – Oil & Gas
Petrochemical
Transport and Logistics

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 aims to increase the percentage of local content in the oil and gas sector to 75% by 2030

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

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.

In 2021, Crude oil reserves in the Kingdom increased by 0.04% compared to 2020, reaching 37,065 million tons of oil equivalent (TOE), which is equivalent to 267,192 million barrels. 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.

In late 2022, Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Saudi Aramco) discovered two unconventional natural gas fields, Awtad and Al-Dahna, in the region. The Awtad unconventional natural gas field was discovered southwest of Al-Ghawar field, 142 kilometers southwest of Al Hafouf city. Al-Dahna unconventional natural gas field was also discovered 230 kilometers southwest of the city of Dhahran. In November 2023, Saudi Aramco announced new discoveries of natural gas in Sharqia region and the Empty Quarter. The company discovered Al-Hiran natural gas field. In addition, natural gas was also discovered in five reservoirs in previously discovered fields.

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.

Since 2022, the Kingdom has connected renewable energy projects with a capacity of 2,100 megawatts to the national electricity grid, bringing the total capacity of renewable energy sources used to 2,800 megawatts, enough to power over 520,000 homes. This achievement represents a 300% increase in total capacity.

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KEY COMPETITIVE SECTORS

Saudi Arabia is the largest crude oil producer in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The Kingdom also aims to maximize the added value of the national economy, by increasing the percentage of local content in the oil and gas sector to reach 75% by 2030.

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. 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 one of the key projects 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 polyethene. SABIC had a production capacity of **61 million metric tons in 2022**.

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.

In addition, Saudi Aramco and TotalEnergies announced investments worth **USD 11 billion** to establish the **Amiral** petrochemical complex and integrate it with the **SATORP refinery** in Jubail. The complex will comprise of a mixed feed cracker, one of the largest mixed-load steam crackers in the Arabian Gulf, with a capacity to produce 1,650 kilotons per annum of ethylene and other industrial gases.

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 expands into downstream industries, conquering higher stages of the petrochemicals value chain.

Sharqia is home to the largest chemical companies in the Kingdom including **SABIC, SADARA, EXXON** and **Total Energies**

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

The abundance of natural resources in the region, including oil and gas, in addition to the presence of industrial cities and many large-scale refineries, has contributed to significant growth in the chemical products sector, such as SATORP, which has a total production capacity of 22 million metric tons of refined petroleum products.

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

The value of petrochemical and polymers exports in the Kingdom increased to over USD 50 billion in 2022, compared to USD 43 billion 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.

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.

The value of petrochemical and polymers exports in the Kingdom increased to over USD 50 billion in 2022

Chemicals

Feedback	Basic Chemicals	Intermediate Chemicals	Specialty Chemicals	Conversion	Distribution and Sales
• Primary resources used for the chemical production are crude oil, methane, ethane, LPG, naphtha, etc.	• Production of basic chemicals such as olefins, aromatics, petrochemicals, oleochemicals.	• Production of intermediate chemicals such as oils, pigments, dyes, glues, explosives.	• Production of specialty chemicals such as paints, fine chemicals, advanced polymers, personal care, adhesives, etc.	• Processing of final applications plastic, non-metallics, elastomers and polyurethanes.	• Logistics of final products • End markets include pharma, agriculture, automative, construction, electronics, textile, etc.

Key Projects and Initiatives

01 Sadara Project

A joint venture between Saudi Aramco and Dow Chemical company, it is the world's largest integrated chemical complex build in a single phase. The project is the cornerstone of Saudi Aramco's strategy to become a leading global integrated energy and chemicals enterprise, continuously increasing the value the company delivers from the Kingdom's hydrocarbon resources.

The complex has 26 integrated world-scale manufacturing plants that could produce more than three million tons of performance plastics and high-value chemicals per year. Of the 26 plants, 14 would be capable of producing specialty chemical products that have never been produced in the Kingdom before. These plants can produce more than three million tons of high-performance plastics and high-value chemicals annually.

02 Amiral Complex

Aramco and TotalEnergies today awarded Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contracts worth USD 11 billion for "Amiral" complex, a future world-scale petrochemicals facility expansion at the SATORP refinery in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Integrated with the existing SATORP refinery in Jubail, the new complex aims to house one of the largest mixed-load steam crackers in the Arabian Gulf, with a capacity to produce 1,650 kilotons per annum of ethylene and other industrial gases. This expansion is expected to attract more than USD 4 billion in additional investment in a variety of industrial sectors, including carbon fibers, lubes, drilling fluids, detergents, food additives, automotive parts and tires. The expansion is also expected to create about 7,000 local direct and indirect jobs.

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 five of the country's ports, which constitute an important route for crude oil and petroleum exports.

70% 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

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 2022, King Fahad Industrial Port and Jubail Commercial Port handled **USD 25 billion** in non-oil exports, accounting for over **26%** 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, as the Kingdom jumped **8 ranks in container handling,** reaching the **16th** position out of the largest 100 ports worldwide, according to "**Lloyd's List**". The Kingdom jumped from 24th to 16th position internationally in container handling. This comes as part of ongoing efforts to move forward towards achieving the objectives of the National Transport and Logistics Strategy by increasing the capacity of Saudi ports to reach more than 40 million standard containers by 2030.

Under the patronage of HRH Prince of Sharqia region, Mawani signed four contracts to provide diverse maritime services across Mawani ports with investments exceeding USD 266 million

The Kingdom aims to increase the capacity of Saudi ports to reach more than 40 million standard containers by 2030

The core of Sharqia's transportation and logistics network lies with its five 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 2023, King Abdulaziz Port processed **USD 6 billion** worth of non-oil exports and **USD 41 billion** in non-oil 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 2023, King Fahad Industrial Port processed **USD 11 billion** worth of non-oil exports and **USD 2 billion** in non-oil imports.

Jubail Commercial Port: A strategically located port, Jubail Commercial Port's handles the 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 2023, Jubail Commercial Port processed **USD 8 billion** worth of non-oil exports and **USD 1.4 billion in non-oil 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 2023, Ras Al-Khair Port processed **USD 4 billion** worth of non-oil exports and **USD 370 million** in non-oil imports.

Ras Tanura Port: The port is located around 50 kilometers north of Dammam. In 2023, Ras Tanura Port processed **USD 4 billion** worth of non-oil exports and **USD 6 billion** in non-oil 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

Railway

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.



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 **1,162 cargo trailers** of various sizes and different types of cargo for industrial products such as vehicles and cement. Collectively, the total cargo handling capacity of vehicles equals to **7.3 million 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 2,213,490 passengers are transported on the east and north trains annually (2022)

There are a total of 1,162 cargo trailers on the Eastern Railway serving Sharqia

Key Projects and Initiatives

01 Linking the North and East Networks

His Royal Highness Prince Saud bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz, Prince of Sharqia, inaugurated the railway line linking the East Network (Dammam-Riyadh) and the North Network in Jubail Industrial City.

The total length of the new railway linking line is 124 km, while the length of the internal network in Jubail Industrial City is 69 km. In addition, it includes 10 railway and road bridges.

The project aims to expand shipping operations to provide advanced and efficient options and solutions, increase the capacity of freight trains, support exports and the competitiveness of Saudi products, reduce carbon emissions from other means of transportion, enhance logistical connectivity by linking the North Network to the East Network, which facilitates access to 4 ports in different parts of the network.

02 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

Ras Al-Khair Special Economic Zone
Jubail Industrial City
Launching the Master Plan for Logistics Centers
Discovery of two natural gas fields in Sharqia
The RIG
ALFULWA
Al-Ahsa Oasis

Ras Al-Khair Special Economic Zone

Ras Al-Khair Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is strategically located in the heart of the Arabian Gulf, with access to a highly skilled workforce and a developed and efficient multimodal transport system that provides access to global markets.

The SEZ builds on existing and well-established maritime industries in the region, with the aim to boost the growth of maritime industry and to be a leading destination in achieving the Kingdom's targets of developing a USD 14 billion maritime industry.

The zone covers an area of 20 square kilometers and is located near Ras Al-Khair Port, the Kingdom's newest industrial port, with the capacity to handle bulk cargo and serving more than 100 manufacturing projects. The port can accommodate any size of ship due to its depth.

Ras Al-Khair's shipyard, the largest in the MENA region, has the capability to provide newbuild and maintenance services, repair and overhaul services for offshore support vessels, jackup rigs, very large crude carriers (VLCCs) and bulk carriers.

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KEY PROJECTS

Ras Al-Khair Special Economic Zone is an attractive investment destination for investors from around the world. the SEZ is supported by the commercial incentives available to companies wishing to set up their business within Ras Al-Khair Special Economic Zone.

5%
Corporate Income Tax for up to 20 years

0%
Customs duties on capital equipment and inputs inside SEZ

0%
VAT for all intra-SEZ goods exchanged within the zone and between zones

0%
Withholding tax permanently for repatriation of profits from SEZ into foreign countries.

Flexible and supportive regulations around foreign talent during first 5 years

Expat levy ensuring fees exemption for employees and their families in the zone

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.

Launching the Master Plan for Logistics Centers

HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince, Prime Minister and Chairman of the Supreme Committee for Transport and Logistics, has launched the Master Plan for Logistics Centers, which aims to develop the infrastructure of the Kingdom's logistical sector, diversify the local economy, and enhance the status of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as a leading investment destination and a global logistical hub.

Master Plan for Logistics Centers includes 59 centers with a total area of over 100 million square meters. Sharqia region will include 17 logistics centers (the highest among the regions).

The logistics centers will contribute to supporting economic growth, developing local, regional and international connectivity of international trade networks and global supply chains, strengthening partnership with the private sector, expanding job creation opportunities, and consolidating the Kingdom's position as a global logistics hub. The centers will also enable local industries to export Saudi products with high efficiency, as well as support e-commerce to facilitate the connection between logistics centers and distribution centers within the regions, cities and governorates of the Kingdom, in addition to providing high traceability and facilitating the issuance of licenses to practice logistics activity.

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KEY PROJECTS

Discovery of two natural gas fields in Sharqia

Minister of Energy, HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, announced that the Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Saudi Aramco) has discovered two natural gas fields in the Empty Quarter and five reservoirs in previously discovered fields.

- **Al-Hiran natural gas field**: gas flows from Hanifa reservoir in the Al-Hiran – 1 well, at a rate of 30 Million standerd cubic feet (MMSCF), and 1,600 Barrel of Condensates daily (BCPD).
- **Al-Mahakik natural gas field**: Gas flows from the Al-Mahakik – 2 well, at a rate of 0.85 MMSCFD.
- **Unayzah B/C reservoirs in Mazalij field**: Gas flows at a rate of 14 MMSCFD, with about 4,150 BCPD.
- **Al-Sarah reservoir in Al-Wadhihi field**: Gas flows at a rate of 11.7 MMSCFD.
- **Al-Qusaibah reservoir in Awtad field**: Gas flows at a rate of 5.1 MMSCFD, respectively, with about 57 BCPD.

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.



Image source: https://therig.sa

ALFULWA

ROSHN announced the launch of "ALFULWA," its fourth residential community in the Kingdom and the first integrated community in Sharqia region.

ROSHN Group has announced the launch of "ALFULWA," its fourth residential community in the Kingdom, covering an area of more than 10.8 million square metres and located 7 kilometres from the centre of Al Ahsaa Governorate, the major urban centre in the Al Ahsaa Oasis in Sharqia region. The project will feature more than 18,000 residential units with a population capacity of over 100,000. ALFULWA project extends ROSHN's vision of promoting the concept of sustainable housing and making it available to the largest possible segment of the Saudi society. In its design and construction, ALFULWA adheres to the sustainability principle, contributing to a 18% reduction in energy consumption costs. In addition, the project incorporates unique architectural features of the Eastern Province's buildings, which combine horizontal grooves and carefully crafted details, making it an ideal example of traditional architectur.



Image source: https://www.roshn.sa/

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.

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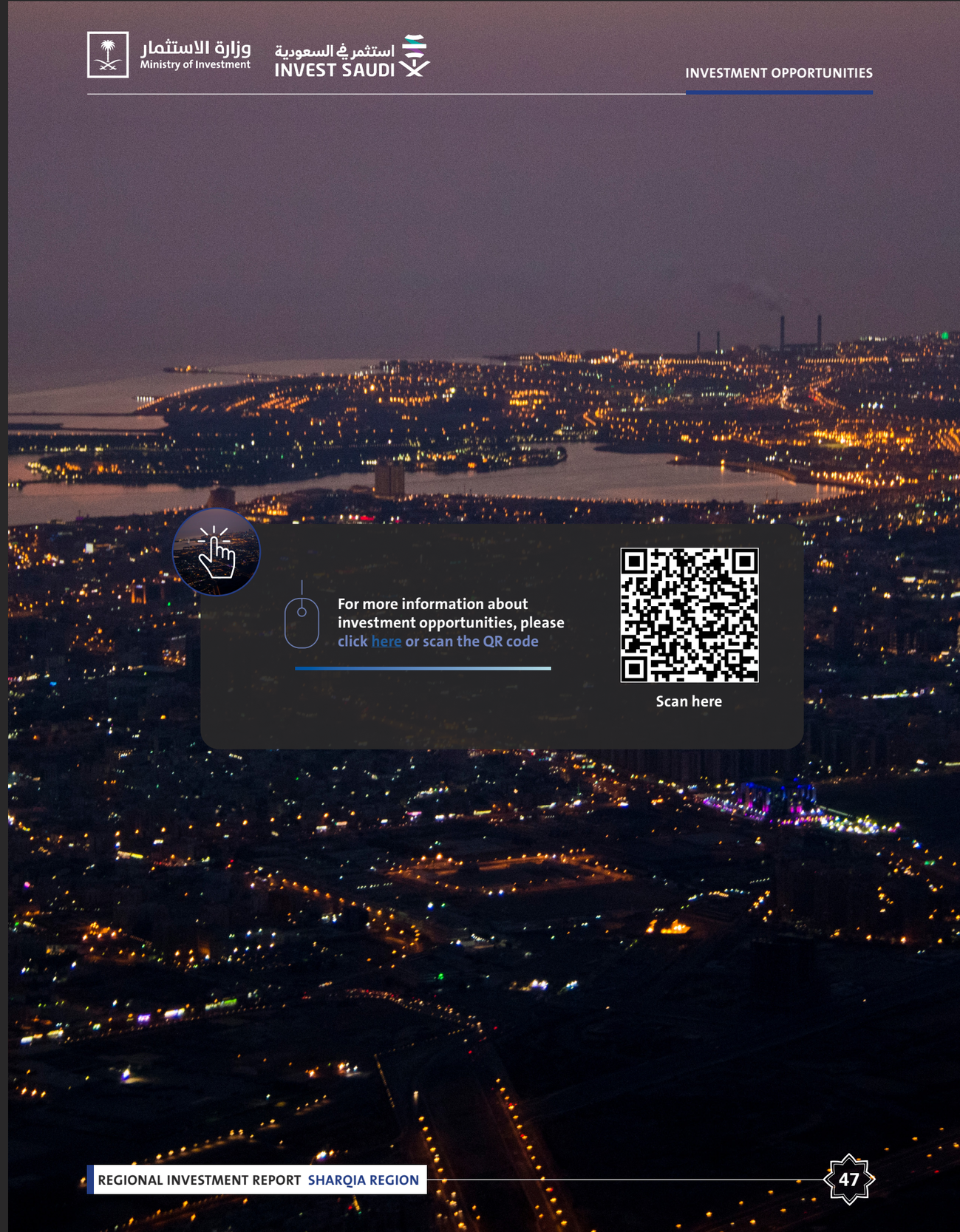
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6. DEVELOP A 5 STAR HOTEL IN SHARQIA
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8. INVESTMENT IN SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION
9. PETROCHEMICALS AND CONVERSION PRODUCTS
10. REHABILITATION HOSPITALS

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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.

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For questions and to learn more about opportunities in Sharqia, please contact: **regions@misa.gov.sa**

Assistance available 24/7 in English, German, Japanese, French, Spanish, Korean and Chinese. For questions, please contact: **InvestorCare@misa.gov.sa**

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