



# Unlock Saudi Arabia

The heart of the Arab world

2026

# Opportunity, Access and Growth

Saudi Arabia is undergoing one of the most significant economic transformations globally. Under Vision 2030, the Kingdom has moved beyond ambition into execution, reshaping industries, unlocking new markets, and positioning itself as a global centre for investment, innovation, and regional leadership.

For international businesses and institutions, this is no longer a future opportunity it is a present-day inflection point.

Saudi Arabia offers a rare combination of scale, policy momentum, and capital deployment. With giga-projects progressing at pace, regulatory frameworks continuing to mature, and a clear commitment to private sector participation, the Kingdom is creating an environment where global organisations can enter, expand, and lead.

This is a market where policy, capital, and execution are aligned.

## A Platform for International Growth

For global organisations, Saudi Arabia is increasingly serving as a regional command centre rather than a single-market entry point.

- Access to the largest economy in the Middle East and a gateway to wider GCC and emerging markets
- A young, digitally enabled population driving consumption, innovation, and workforce evolution
- Rapidly developing capital markets and financing ecosystems supporting growth and expansion
- A business environment that is becoming progressively more transparent, structured, and aligned with international standards

## Navigating Complexity with Confidence

Entering and scaling in Saudi Arabia requires more than market interest, it requires local insight, regulatory understanding, and execution capability.

At Grant Thornton Saudi Arabia (Aldar Audit Bureau), we bring over four decades of presence in the Kingdom, combined with the strength of a global network operating across more than 150 markets.

Our approach is built on three principles:

- Local depth, global perspective: Deep understanding of Saudi regulatory, cultural, and commercial dynamics, combined with international best practice
- Integrated service delivery: Seamless coordination across audit, tax, and advisory to support end-to-end market entry, compliance, and growth
- Execution-led advisory: Moving beyond strategy into practical implementation, ensuring outcomes are realised not just designed

We support international clients across their full journey from market entry and structuring, to operational scaling, regulatory compliance, and long-term value creation. Delivering Impact in a Transforming Economy

Our role extends beyond technical delivery. We act as a strategic partner to organisations navigating transformation at pace.

- Supporting multinational groups establishing regional headquarters and operating models
- Advising government entities and sovereign-backed organisations on complex programmes and transactions
- Enabling private sector businesses to scale, diversify, and access new opportunities
- Strengthening governance, reporting, and financial transparency to build trust and unlock capital

As Saudi Arabia continues its transformation, the organisations that succeed will be those that combine ambition with execution, and global capability with local insight.



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# Why choose Saudi Arabia?

Saudi Arabia has firmly positioned itself as the strategic hub of the Middle East, driven by its access to growth-enabling resources, progressive economic reforms, and a rapidly evolving regulatory environment that continues to enhance ease of doing business.

The Kingdom continues to build on its global standing. It is home to the Gulf region's largest IT market, remains the Middle East's largest construction hub, and benefits from one of the world's youngest and fastest-growing populations. As Vision 2030 accelerates, Saudi Arabia offers a compelling platform for businesses seeking scale, transformation, and long-term growth.

Saudi Arabia will support business growth through the following:

## Global position

- Geographically, Saudi Arabia is the largest sovereign state in Western Asia, the second largest in the Arab world, and among the largest economies globally.
- The Kingdom remains the largest economy in the Middle East and a key player within the G20.
- One of the youngest populations globally, with approximately 60 percent under the age of 35, creating a dynamic workforce and strong consumer base.
- A leading destination for foreign direct investment in the region, supported by regulatory reform and strategic sector development.
- Increasing global influence across energy transition, logistics, and emerging technologies.

## Market opportunity

- Significant investment into mega-projects and infrastructure development, including NEOM, Red Sea Global, and Diriyah.
- Continued focus on economic diversification across non-oil sectors.
- Competitive energy costs supporting industrial growth and large-scale production capabilities.
- Rapid expansion of the healthcare sector, with increased private sector participation and public-private partnerships.
- A digital-first national strategy positioning Saudi Arabia as the largest and fastest-growing digital economy in the region.
- Continued improvement in business environment rankings, supported by streamlined licensing, foreign ownership reforms, and investor-friendly policies.

## Diversification and structure

- Ongoing privatisation programmes unlocking state-owned assets and increasing private sector participation across key industries.
- Vision 2030 continues to drive structural transformation, focusing on economic diversification, innovation, and global competitiveness.
- Introduction of regional headquarters (RHQ) programme incentivising multinational companies to establish operations in Riyadh.
- One of the most competitive tax environments globally, with no personal income tax and attractive corporate frameworks for investors.
- Strengthened regulatory landscape, including enhancements in bankruptcy law, foreign investment regulations, and capital markets.
- Continued development of financial services infrastructure, including the growth of Tadawul and expansion of debt capital markets.
- Improved access to financing through regulatory reforms, fintech growth, and increased banking sector liquidity.
- Expansion of special economic zones offering incentives, sector focus, and streamlined operations for international investors.

# Supporting your business in Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is the largest oil-rich Middle Eastern country, fifth largest in Asia and second largest in the Arab world. The Kingdom is home to the world's two largest assets oil and the youngest population on earth.

The opportunities available across the country are abundant, and in keeping with the ethos of the country's ambitious Vision2030 strategy, it aims to build a vibrant society, a thriving economy and an ambitious nation that draw on the country's intrinsic strengths. Navigating the political, legal, and commercial landscape across the country can often be a challenge for companies considering the Kingdom as their base.

Our dedicated international expansion advisors are available to support businesses with their initial market feasibility study through to growth enabling strategies.

Our services for companies considering Saudi Arabia as their base include:



## Market entry and strategic positioning

- Market entry strategy and feasibility
- Entity setup and licensing
- Investment and tax structuring
- Regional headquarters (RHQ) advisory



## Staying compliant

- Audit and financial reporting
- Zakat and tax compliance
- Transfer pricing
- Regulatory and local content compliance



## Investing and transacting

- M&A and joint ventures
- Due diligence and valuation
- Financial modelling
- Capital raising and debt advisory



## Managing risk

- Governance and internal audit
- Risk and regulatory advisory
- Cybersecurity and data protection
- Forensics and dispute support



## Setting up operations

- Finance and accounting setup
- Business process and outsourcing
- Supply chain and operations design
- Technology enablement



## Scaling and growing

- Operational improvement
- Digital transformation and automation
- Data and analytics
- Expansion strategy

# We are where you need us in Saudi Arabia and beyond.

Beyond Saudi Arabia, we are part of Grant Thornton International, a global network of 80,000 professionals across more than 156 countries. Together, we share a single purpose: to help dynamic organisations realise their ambitions, wherever opportunity takes them.

By combining global reach with deep local knowledge, we support clients as they expand across markets, enhance operational efficiency, navigate complex risks and regulations, and create sustainable stakeholder value.

Through our assurance, tax, and advisory services, we deliver the insight and expertise needed to turn vision into measurable success.

Percentage of Forbes 100 companies served by Grant Thornton member firms



Percentage of Fortune 500 companies served by Grant Thornton member firms regionally



**93%** of Forbes 100 companies are clients of Grant Thornton member firms

**56%** of Fortune Global 500 companies are clients of Grant Thornton member firms

**Global**

- People **80,000**
- Offices **700+**
- Markets **156**

**KSA**

- People **250+**
- Years **40+**
- Offices **3**



America	Africa	Europe	Middle East	CIS	Asia Pacific
44 markets	22 markets	46 markets	10 markets	8 markets	20 markets
20,200+ people	3,000+ people	22,400+ people	1,500+ people	690+ people	24,900+ people



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