

## 15. SAUDI ARABIA

### Contents

Major Changes .....	1
General Data .....	2
Arms Trade .....	4
Strategic Assets .....	6
Armed Forces .....	7
Ground Forces .....	8
Air Force .....	12
Air Defense Forces .....	16
Navy.....	18

### Major Changes

---

- King Abdallah bin Abd al-Aziz assumed the throne following the death of King Fahd. Prince Sultan bin Abd al-Aziz is the newly appointed heir apparent.
  - The RSAF ordered 48 new Typhoon combat aircraft from the UK. The planes are to be delivered beginning 2008.
  - The RSAF will upgrade 84 of its aging Tornado IDS attack aircraft to the GR-4 standard. Concurrently it will phase out its obsolete F-5 aircraft..
-

## Saudi Arabia

### General Data

**Official Name of the State:** The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

**Head of State:** King Abdallah ibn Abd al-Aziz al-Saud

**Prime Minister:** King Abdallah ibn Abd al-Aziz al-Saud

**First Deputy Prime Minister and Heir Apparent:** Crown Prince Sultan ibn Abd al-Aziz al-Saud

**Defense and Aviation Minister:** Crown Prince Sultan ibn Abd al-Aziz al-Saud

**Chief of General Staff:** General Salih ibn Ali al-Muhaya

**Commander of the Ground Forces:** Lieutenant General Husein al-Qubeel

**Commander of the National Guard:** Crown Prince Abdallah ibn Abd al-Aziz al-Saud

**Commander of the Air Force:** Lieutenant General Abd al-Rahman ibn Fahd al-Faisal

**Commander of the Navy:** Vice Admiral Fahd ibn Abdallah

**Area:** 2,331,000 sq. km.

**Population:** 25,000,000

### Demography

---

#### Ethnic groups

• Arabs	22,850,000	91.4%
• Afro-Arabs	1,250,000	5.0%
• Others	900,000	3.6%

#### Religious groups

• Sunni Muslims	23,025,000	92.1%
• Shi'ite Muslims	1,250,000	5.0%
• Others (mainly Christians)	725,000	2.9%

#### Nationality

• Saudis	18,175,000	72.7%
• Others	6,825,000	27.3%

---

## Saudi Arabia

### Economic Data

		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
• GDP (current prices)	\$ bn	188.7	183.3	188.8	214.7	241.0
• GDP per capita	\$	8,538	8,039	8,021	8,743	9,640
• Real GDP growth	%	4.9	0.5	0.1	7.2	3.3
• Consumer price index	%	-1.1	-1.1	0.2	0.6	0.8
• External debt	\$ bn	38.9	35.3	30.5	32.5	36.3
<b>Balance of payments</b>						
• Exports fob	\$ bn	77.6	68.0	72.5	95.3	116.2
• Imports fob	\$ bn	-27.7	-28.6	-29.6	-33.9	-39.4
• Current account balance (including services and income)	\$ bn	14.3	9.3	11.7	29.7	44.3
<b>Government expenditure</b>						
• Total expenditure	\$ bn	55.54	68.02	60	66.66	NA
• Defense expenditure	\$ bn	20.0	21.14	18.7	19.1	NA
• Real change in defense expenditure	%	13.6	5.3	1.4	2.1	NA
• Defense expenditure/GDP	%	10.6	11.5	9.8	8.9	NA
Population	m	22.1	22.8	23.5	24.2	25.0
Official exchange rate	SR:1\$	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75

*Sources:* EIU Quarterly Report, EIU Country Profile, IMF International Financial Statistical Yearbook, SIPRI Yearbook

### Foreign Military Cooperation

Type	Details
• Foreign forces	GCC "Peninsula Shield" rapid deployment force: 7,000-10,000 men at Hafr al-Batin, mostly Saudis, and from other GCC countries ; some 8,000 Instructors and technicians from Pakistan. U.K (25) (2004) 270 US troops (as of December 2005).
• Joint maneuvers	Egypt (2004), France, GCC countries (2004), Jordan (2001), Pakistan (2005), UK, US (2001), Yemen (2005)

## Saudi Arabia

### Arms Trade

#### Arms Procurement and Security Assistance Received

Country	Type	Details
Canada	• Arms transfers	Naval simulators(2002)
Egypt	• Military training	Instructors in country (2005)
France	• Arms transfers	Upgrading SAMs (2005), al-Riyadh missile frigates (2002), C4I system (2004)
	• Military training	Training of naval personnel (2004)
Jordan	• Arms transfers	Black Iris RVs (2004)
Norway	• Arms transfers	Tactical communication systems (2005)
Pakistan	• Arms transfers	Super Mashak aircraft (2004), al-Khalid MBTs (2004)
	• Military training	Instructors and technicians (2004)
PRC	• Military training	Foreign advisers/instructors/serving personnel for CSS-2 missiles (unconfirmed)
Russia	• Arms transfers	Armored trucks (2004)
Sweden	• Arms transfers	Communication systems (2004)
UK	• Arms transfers	Typhoon aircraft (2006), Upgrading of Tornado aircrafts (2005)
US	• Arms transfers	AIM-120/9M/9X AAMs (2005), Simulators (2002), upgrading of Hawk air defense batteries (2004), C4I naval system (2004), avionics for aircraft (2005)
	• Maintenance aid	Technical assistance and maintenance (2005)
	• Military training	Foreign advisers, trainees in the USA

#### Arms Sales and Security Assistance Extended

Country	Type	Details
Brazil	• Arms transfers	F-5 aircrafts (2005)
US	• Facilities	HQ at Riyadh, facilities for combat aircraft at Taif and Dhahran air bases

## Saudi Arabia

### Defense Production

	M	P	A
<b>Army equipment</b>			
• al-Fahd 8x8 APC	✓		
• Small arms ammunition	✓		
<b>Air Force equipment</b>			
• Some accessories and components for foreign-made aircraft, flares and chaff		✓	
<b>Electronics</b>			✓
• Radio transceivers			✓
• parts for EW equipment			✓
• Radar subsystems		✓	
• Components of aircraft radars			✓
• Hand-held thermal imager/binocular		✓	

Note: M - manufacture (indigenously developed)  
P - production under license  
A - assembly

## Saudi Arabia

### Strategic Assets

#### NBC Capabilities

---

##### Nuclear capability

No known nuclear activity. Party to the NPT.

##### Chemical weapons and protective equipment

No known CW activities.

Personal protective equipment, decontamination units, US-made CAM chemical detection systems; Fuchs (Fox) NBC detection vehicles.

Party to the CWC.

##### Biological weapons

No known BW activities. Party to the BWC.

---

#### Ballistic Missiles

---

Model	Launchers	Missiles	Since	Notes
• CSS-2	8-12	30-50	1988	Number of launchers unconfirmed

---

#### Space Assets

---

Model	Type	Notes
<b>Satellites</b>		
• Arabsat 1/2/3	Communication	Civilian
• Saudi Comsat 1/2	Communication	Commercial; 12 kg. each.
• Saudi Sat 1A/1B/1C/2	Remote sensing and space research	2 (10 kg. each) were launched in September 2000 by a Russian military rocket, and are orbiting 650 km above earth. The third satellite was launched in December 2002. Saudi Sat 2 (30kg.) was launched in June 2004.
<b>Ground Stations</b>		
• SCRS	Imagery	Receiving SPOT, Landsat and NOAA
<b>Future procurement</b>		
• Arabsat	Communication	2 fourth generation satellites scheduled for 2006
• Stratsat	Communication	4 satellites planned to be Arabsat's Fifth generation from 2010 onward.

---

## Saudi Arabia

### Armed Forces

#### Order-of-Battle

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>General data</b>					
• Personnel (regular)	171,500	171,500	171,500	171,500	171,500
• SSM launchers	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12	8-12
<b>Ground Forces</b>					
• Number of brigades	20	20	20	20	20
• Tanks	750 (1,015)	750 (1,015)	750 (1,015)	750 (1,015)	750 (1,015)
• APCs/AFVs	~4,500 (~5,300)	~4,630 (~5,430)	~4,630 (~5,430)	~4,630 (~5,430)	~4,430 (~5,230)
• Artillery (incl. MRLs)	~410 (~780)	~410 (~780)	~410 (~780)	~410 (~780)	~410 (~780)
<b>Air Force</b>					
• Combat aircraft	~360 (~365)	~345	289* (~344)	286 (~340)	256* (~340)
• Transport aircraft	42 (55)	42 (55)	42 (55)	42 (55)	38 (51)
• Helicopters	214 (216)	214 (216)	214 (216)	214	228
<b>Air Defense Forces</b>					
• Heavy SAM batteries	25	25	25	25	25
• Medium SAM batteries	21	21	21	21	21
<b>Navy</b>					
• Combat vessels	24	25	27	27	27
• Patrol craft	74	64	68	68	68

\* Due to change in estimate.

## Saudi Arabia

### Personnel

	Regular	Reserves	Total
Ground Forces	75,000		75,000
Air Force	20,000		20,000
Air Defense	4,000		4,000
Navy	13,500		13,500
National Guard	57,000	20,000	77,000
Royal Guard	2,000		2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>171,500</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>191,500</b>
<b>Paramilitary</b>			
• Mujahidun (affiliated with National Guard)		30,000	30,000
• Coast Guard	4,500		4,500
• Frontier Corps	10,500		10,500

### Ground Forces

#### Formations

	Independent brigades / groups	Independent battalions
Armored (Ground Forces)	4	
Mechanized (5 Ground Forces, 3 National Guard)	8	
Infantry (Royal Guard)	1	
Infantry (National Guard)	6	19
Marines		2
Airborne/ Special Forces (Ground Forces)	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>

Note: Saudi ground forces comprise 10 brigades (5 mechanized, 4 armored, 1 airborne/infantry), plus one Royal Guard brigade; the National Guard has 9 brigades (3 mechanized, 6 infantry)



## Saudi Arabia

### Tanks

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
<b>MBTs</b>				
<b>High quality</b>				
• M1A2	315	200	1993	115 in storage
<b>Medium and low quality</b>				
• M60 A3	400	400	1985	
• AMX-30	300	150	1975	
Subtotal	700	550		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>750</b>		
<b>Future procurement</b>				
• Al-Khalid	+			Under negotiation

### APCs/AFVs

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
<b>APCs</b>				
• Piranha APC	420	420	2000	Of which 34 are ENGs and 67 ARVs
• M113 A1/A2	1,600	1,600	1976/1981	
• AMX-10/ AMX-10P	500	500	1975	Of which 90 are carrying ATGMs
• BMR-600	140	140	1985	With marines
• M-3 (Panhard)	150	150		
Subtotal	~2,800	~2,800		
<b>IFVs</b>				
• Piranha IFV	570	570	1992	Of which 73 are 120mm TDA and 111 are ITVs
• M-2/M-3 Bradley	400	400		
• V-150 Commando	980	290	1977	690 in storage
• AML-60/90	350	~225	1969	
Subtotal	2,300	~1,500		
<b>Reconnaissance</b>				
• Piranha LAV-AG	130	130		
<b>Total</b>	<b>~5,230</b>	<b>~4,430</b>		

## Saudi Arabia

<b>Artillery</b>					
<b>Model</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>In service</b>	<b>Since</b>	<b>Notes</b>	
<b>Self-propelled guns and howitzers</b>					
• 155mm M109 A2	280	110			
• 155mm GCT	51	51	1980		
Subtotal	331	161			
<b>Towed guns and howitzers</b>					
• 155mm M-198	90	60	1982		
• 155mm M-114	50	50	1980		
• 155mm FH-70	72	0			
• 105mm M102/ M101	100	0	1975		
Subtotal	312	110			
<b>Mortars, under 160mm</b>					
• 120mm TDA SP	73	73	2000	On Piranha	
• 107mm M-30	+	+	1981		
<b>MRLs</b>					
• Astros II	60	60		180mm SS-40 or 127mm SS-30	
<b>Total</b>	<b>~780</b>	<b>~410</b>			
<b>Artillery/mortar-locating radars</b>					
• AN/TPQ-37	+	+			

## Saudi Arabia

### **Logistics and Engineering Equipment**

M-123 Viper minefield crossing system, Aardvark Mk 3 flail, M-69 A1 bridging tanks, bridging equipment, AFV transporters (600), Piranha ARVs (67), Piranha ENG (34)

### **Anti-Tank Missiles**

Model	Launchers	Missiles	Since	Notes
• Piranha ITV	111	+	2001	Listed also under APCs
• AMX-10P SP	90	+	1982	Listed also under APCs; carrying HOT
• VCC-1 SP	200	+		Carrying TOW
• BGM-71C Improved TOW/BGM-71D TOW II	750	+	1988	
• M-47 Dragon	1,000	+	1977	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,150</b>	+		
<b>Future procurement</b>				
• TOW-2A		1,827		

## Saudi Arabia

### Air Force

#### Order-of-Battle

Category	Quantity	In service	Notes
• Combat	~340	256	
• Transport	51	38	
• Helicopters	228	228	

#### Combat Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
<b>Interceptors</b>				
• F-15 C/D Eagle	79	79	1982	
• Tornado ADV (F Mk 3)	21	21	1989	
Subtotal	100	100		
<b>Advanced multi-role</b>				
• F-15S	72	72	1995	
<b>Multi-role</b>				
• Tornado IDS (GR Mk 1/GR-1A)	84	84	1986	12 of which are reconnaissance To be upgraded to GR4 standard
• F-5E/F	~ 70	0	1973	Some also listed under reconnaissance
Subtotal	~155	84		
<b>Obsolete</b>				
• F-5A/B	15	0		Mostly employed as trainer aircraft
<b>Total</b>	<b>~340</b>	<b>256</b>		
<b>Future procurement</b>				
• Typhoon	48			Deliveries to begin 2008

## Saudi Arabia

### Transport Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
• C-130E/H Hercules	54	52	1970/1980	Some of which are tankers and some VIP planes
• CN-235	5	5	1987	
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>38</b>		

### Training and Liaison Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
<b>Jet trainers</b>				
• Hawk Mk65	46	46	1987	Possibly phased out
• BAC-167 Strikemaster	30	0	1968	
Subtotal	76	46		
<b>Piston/Turboprop</b>				
• Pilatus PC-9	50	50	1987	
• BAe Jetstream 31	2	2	1987	
• Cessna 172 G/H/L	12	12	1967	
• Super Mushshak	20	20	2004	
Subtotal	84	84		
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>130</b>		

## Saudi Arabia

<b>Helicopters</b>				
<b>Model</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>In service</b>	<b>Since</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Attack</b>				
• Bell 406CS	15	15	1990	In army aviation
• AH-64A Apache	12	12	1993	In army aviation
Subtotal	27	27		
<b>Naval combat</b>				
• AS-365 Dauphin 2/AS-565MA	25	25	1986	Including 6 in Medevac role
• AS-532 SC Cougar	6	6	1992	
Subtotal	31	31		
<b>Medium transport</b>				
• S-70A Black Hawk/Desert Hawk	37	37	1990	16 of which are Medevac
• AS-532 UC	18	18		At least 6 belong to Navy
• KV-107/KV-107 IIA	18	18	1979	
• AB-412	16	16	2001	
• AB-212	29	29	1977	Number unconfirmed
• Bell-205	24	24		
Subtotal	142	142		
<b>Light transport</b>				
• AB-206 JetRanger	28	28	1967	
<b>Total</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>228</b>		

## Saudi Arabia

### Miscellaneous Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
<b>Reconnaissance</b>				
• Tornado IDS	12	12	1986	Also listed under Combat Aircraft
• RF-5E	8	8	1973	Also listed under combat aircraft
<b>AEW/AWACS</b>				
• E-3A AWACS	5	5	1986	
• RE-3A	2	2	2004	
<b>Tankers</b>				
• KC-130H	8	8	1973	Alos listed under transport aircraft
• KE-3/Boeing 707	6	6	1986	
<b>Target drones</b>				
• TTL BTT-3 Banshee	+	+		
• MQM-74C Chukar II	+	+		

### Advanced Armament

#### Air-to-air-missiles

AIM-7F Sparrow (1,100); AIM-7M (1,000); AIM-9J/P Sidewinder (1,800); AIM-9L/M Sidewinder (1,500); AIM-9S (150), Red Top; Sky Flash (550), AIM-120 AMRAAM (500)

#### Air-to-ground-missiles

AGM-65A/D/G Maverick (1,805); ALARM (200); AM-39 Exocet; AS-15TT (220); Sea Eagle (350)

#### Bombs

CBU-86; CBU-87; BL-755 CBU; Paveway III (100); GBU-10/12/15

#### Future procurement

AIM-9M/9X (150)

Note: Numbers in parentheses refer to quantity of units purchased, not to current inventory levels.

### Air Force Infrastructure

#### Aircraft shelters

For combat aircraft

#### Military airfields : 15

Abqaiq, al-Ahsa, Dhahran, Gizan, al-Hufuf, Jidda, Jubail, Khamis Mushayt, al-Kharj, Medina, Riyadh, Sharawra, al-Sulayyil, Tabuk, Taif.

Saudi Arabia

**Air Defense Forces**

**Surface-to-Air Missiles**

Model	Batteries	Launchers	Since	Notes
<b>Heavy missiles</b>				
• MIM-104 Patriot	8		1991	
• MIM-23B Improved HAWK	17		1982	One used for training Being upgraded
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>			
<b>Medium missiles</b>				
• Crotale	16			Some are shelter-mounted for fixed sites
• Shahine I/II	5		1981	To be upgraded
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>			
<b>Shoulder-launched missiles</b>				
• FIM-92A/C Stinger		400	1984	
• MIM-43A Redeye		500		
• Mistral		900		
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,800</b>		



## Saudi Arabia

### Other Air Defense Systems

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
<b>Air defense systems (missiles, radars and guns)</b>				
• 35mm Skyguard AD system	60	60		
<b>Short-range guns</b>				
• 35mm Oerlikon- Buhle 35x2 GDF	156	156		Included in Skyguard
• 20mm M-163 Vulcan SP	~100	~100		
• 30mm AMX-30 SA	52	18		
<b>Total</b>	<b>~310</b>	<b>~275</b>		
<b>Radars</b>				
• AN/FPS-117 (Seek Igloo)	17	17		To be upgraded
• AN/TPS-43G	28	28		
• AN/TPS-59	+	+		
• AN/TPS-63	35	35		
• Giraffe Agile	1	1		
• AN/TPS-70	+	+		
<b>Command and control system</b>				
• C <sup>3</sup> I Peace Shield System				Currently installed
<b>Aerostat with airborne Radars</b>				
• LASS	+	+		

## Saudi Arabia

### Navy

#### Combat Vessels

Type	Quantity	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/armament
<b>Missile frigates</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• al-Riyadh class (F-3000S)</li> </ul>	3	135/4,500	1xAS-365 helicopter 8xMM40 SSM 2x8 Aster 15 SAMs 1x76mm Rapid gun 2x20mm guns 4x533mm torpedoes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Madina class (F-2000)</li> </ul>	4	115.0/2,000	1xAS-365 helicopter 8xOtomat SSMs 1x8 Crotale Naval SAMs 1x100mm gun 4x40mm guns 4x533mm torpedoes
Subtotal	7		
<b>Missile corvettes</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Badr class (PCG-1 class)</li> </ul>	4	74.7/870	8xHarpoon SSMS 1x76mm gun 2x20mm AA guns 1x20mm Phalanx 6x324mm torpedoes
<b>MFPBs</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Al-Siddiq (PGG-1 class)</li> </ul>	9	58.1/425	4xHarpoon SSMS 1x76mm gun 2x20mm AD guns 1x20mm Phalanx
<b>Mine warfare vessels</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addriyah (MSC-322 class minesweeper)</li> </ul>	4	46.6/320	1x20mm AD gun magnetic sweepers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• al-Jouf (Sandown class)</li> </ul>	3	52.7/450	2x30mm guns 2 PAP 104 Mk 5
Subtotal	7		
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>		

## Saudi Arabia

### Patrol Craft

Type	Quantity	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/armament
• Al-Jubatel (Abeking- Rasmussen)	2	26.2/96	1x20mm gun (with Coast Guard)
• Al-Jouf (Blohm & Voss)	4	38.6/210	2x20mm guns (with Coast Guard)
• Halter type	17	23.8/56	2x25mm guns
• Stan Patrol 2606 Class	6	26.5/55	
• Sea Guard	2	22.5/56	2x20mm guns (with Coast Guard)
• Simonneu Type 51	39	15.8/22	1x20mm gun
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>		

Note: Coast Guard has some 500 additional small patrol craft.

### Landing Craft

Type	Quantity	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/armament
• Slingsby SAH 2200 hovercraft	3	10.6	2.2 tons or 24 troops with Coast Guard
• 1610 class LCU	4	41.1/375	170 tons or 120 troops
• LCM 6	4	17.1/62	34 tons or 80 troops
• Griffon 8000TD(M)	5	21.1/18.2	16 troops
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>		

## Saudi Arabia

### Auxiliary Vessels

Type	Quantity	Length (m.) / displacement (t.)	Notes / armament
• Tabouk training ship	1	60/585	1x20mm gun
• Royal yacht Abd al-Aziz	1	1,450 dwt	
• Royal yacht al-Yamama	1		
• Royal yacht Pegasus	1		
• Durance class tanker	2	135.0/11,200	4x40mm guns 2 helicopter pads
• Coastal tugs	13		
• Small tankers	3	28.7/233	

### Coastal Defense

Type	Quantity	Notes
• Otomat	4	

### Naval Infrastructure

Naval bases (including coast guard): **13**

Aziziya (Coast Guard), al-Dammam, al-Haql (Coast Guard), Jidda, Jizan, Jubayl, Makna (Coast Guard), al-Qatif, Ras al-Mishaab, Ras Tanura, al-Sharma, al-Wajh, Yanbu

#### Ship maintenance and repair facilities

Repair of vessels dependent on foreign experts; 22,000-ton and 62,000-ton floating docks at Damman; 45,000-ton and 16,000-ton floating docks at Jidda