

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910461786203321
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Titolo	Economic development in Saudi Arabia / / Rodney Wilson ; with Abdullah Al-Salamah, Monica Malik and Ahmed Al-Rajhi
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London ; ; New York : , : RoutledgeCurzon, , 2004
ISBN	1-283-71177-X 0-203-03757-X 1-136-13274-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (209 p.)
Collana	Durham modern Middle East and Islamic world series ; ; 1
Disciplina	330.9538
Soggetti	Globalization - Economic aspects - Saudi Arabia Electronic books. Saudi Arabia Economic conditions 21st century Saudi Arabia Economic policy
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [178]-185) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Economic Development in Saudi Arabia; Copyright; Contents; List of tables; List of figures; Acknowledgements; 1 Introduction; Development optimism; The challenges of globalisation; Explaining development; 2 Which development paradigm?; Historical perspectives on market development; The goal of self sustaining growth; The absence of feudalism; Emergent capitalism; Income distribution and development; The role of the state; 3 Government economic policy; Economic planning; From planning office to ministry; Reorganisation of economic management; The Seventh Five-Year Plan Lack of coordinated planningMacroeconomic priorities; The burden of indebtedness; Fiscal choices; Government funding and foreign investment; Economic dualism; 4 Oil, gas and petrochemicals; The development of the oil industry; Saudi Arabia's role in OPEC; Oil production; Oil pricing; Oil reserves, oil depletion and the future oil market; Contribution of oil to national economic development; Gas development; The petrochemical industry; 5 The banking sector and financial markets; Early banking history; The development of commercial banking; Coexistence of conventional and Islamic finance

Competition for bank deposits and lending; Corporate finance and investment banking; The stock market; Managed funds; Finance and development; 6 International trade and GCC economic relations; The economic rationale for Saudi Arabian trade; Regional implications of international trade; Analysis of exports and import trends and assessment of stability; Trade surpluses and payments deficits; The trading partners of Saudi Arabia; The GCC and regional trade; The GCC single market; WTO accession; 7 Employment issues; The demographic transition; Unemployment; Labour market trends
Structure of employment; The employment and replacement of expatriate labour; Education and training issues; Women in the workforce; 8 Employment conditions in SABIC; Industrialisation and job creation; The survey; Profile of the respondents; Training; Salaries; Promotion opportunities; Management decisions and labour relations; Working arrangements and time management; Conclusion; 9 The role of the private sector; The relationship between the private sector and the state; Ability of the private sector to initiate development; The efficiency of the private sector
Problems of management capability; Perceptions of the business environment and legal system; Views of the government's role in business; Shortcomings of the financial system; The inadequacy of the infrastructure; Excessive bureaucracy and regulation; Conclusion; 10 The electricity industry; Introduction; Restructuring of the electricity industry; Uncertainty in restructuring; Competition in production and monopoly in delivery; Functional transformation of the electricity industry; International experiences of reforming the electricity industry
The Saudi Arabian electricity industry: regulatory and organisational development

Sommario/riassunto

The changing political situation in the Middle East poses challenges for the economies of the region, and some see none more vulnerable to collapse than Saudi Arabia's. Yet as this study demonstrates, the fundamentals of the Kingdom's economy are relatively robust, as over three quarters of GDP is accounted for by the non-oil sector, and impressive modern industries have been established, notably in petrochemicals. The financial system functions well, and despite substantial government debts, there is low inflation and currency stability. The private sector increasingly drives the economy, alt
