

State of AI

in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



“ We are living in a time of scientific innovation, unprecedented technology, and unlimited growth prospects. These new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and the Internet of Things, if used optimally, can spare the world many disadvantages and can bring enormous benefits to the world. ”

His Royal Highness

Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

Crown Prince, Prime Minister

Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Saudi Data and AI Authority (SDAIA)



Executive Summary

Since the launch of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, artificial intelligence (AI) has been adopted as a fundamental pillar to enhance economic capabilities, international competitiveness, and improve service efficiency. This sector has undergone a rapid and transformative shift, redefining Saudi Arabia's position on the global stage. With the launch of the National Strategy for Data and AI (NSDAI) in 2020 under the supervision of the Saudi Data & AI Authority (SDAIA), Saudi Arabia has progressed from planning and regulatory framework development to active enablement and tangible technological and developmental impact. This progress is anchored in the use of data as a strategic national asset.

These efforts reached a milestone as Saudi Arabia ranked **14th globally** in the Global AI Index 2025 issued by the Observer. Saudi Arabia has also achieved leading positions at both the global and national levels across other indices related to governance, innovation, and human capital, reflecting a balanced approach between regulation and effective enablement, as well as between strategic ambition and execution efficiency.

This report builds on the first edition of the State of AI in Saudi Arabia report, issued in 2024 during the third edition of the Global AI Summit (GAIN). It highlights Saudi Arabia's efforts and progress across seven main pillars: **Policies and Regulations; Investment; Infrastructure; Data; Talent and Human Capabilities; Research, Development, and Innovation; and Institutional Readiness and Adoption.**

7 MAIN PILLARS

15 SUB-PILLARS



Global Recognitions

3rd globally

in AI talent growth rate, according to the AI Index issued by Stanford HAI in 2026.

3rd globally **1st** Arab world & region

in the development of notable AI models, according to the AI Index issued by Stanford HAI in 2025.

5th globally, **1st** Arab world

in AI sector growth, according to the Global AI Index issued by the Observer in 2025.

Certificate of Excellence

Awarded to the Smart Labor Market Oversight Model project

Developed by the Ministry of HRSD under the category of ethical dimensions of the information society at ITU WSIS 2026.

1st place globally

in the World AI Competition for Youth (WAICY) with Saudi Arabia winning **26 awards** at WAICY 2025.

Member of the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI)

in 2026, in a step that reflects Saudi Arabia's role in shaping the future of AI globally.

01



Policies and Regulations

47 Regulatory instruments

in data and AI, including **33 instruments** dedicated to Data and **14** focused on AI during 2026.

313 Offices

The total number of **Data Management Offices** across government entities during 2026.

180 AI Officers

The total number of **Government AI Officers** registered through the National Data Governance Platform up until mid-2026.



Investment

20%

The growth rate in government spending on AI and emerging technologies in 2025 compared with 2024.

\$9.1 Billion

The total fund obtained by Saudi AI companies in 2025 across nearly **70 investment deals**.

174%

The increase rate in companies offering AI technology services or developing them in 2025 compared to 2023.

26.4%

The increase rate in the value of VC investments in AI startups in 2025 compared with 2023.

03



Infrastructure

115.8%

The **total increase** in total data center capacity in Saudi Arabia between 2023 and 2025.

Shaheen III

Supercomputer

Ranked **1st** in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, according to the **Top500** list of global high-performance computers issued in 2026.

HEXAGON,

the world's largest government data center

with a Tier IV classification and a total planned capacity of **480 megawatts**.

9 Cloud regions

in Saudi Arabia, including **4 regions** under development by global cloud service providers as of mid-2026.



Data

515+ Government systems

have integrated their data into NDL, part of NDB, with hosted data exceeding **5.87+ Betabytes** provided by **90+ government entities** as of mid-2026.

21.8K+

The total number of open datasets published on the Open Data Platform by **346 public and private** entities during 2026.

500+ Billion

Arabic tokens used to develop the ALLaM 34B language model in 2025.

2.2 Billion word

The total number of linguistic and audio words available on KSGAAL's FALAK Platform in 2025.

05



Talent and Human Capabilities

84%

of the public in Saudi Arabia are familiar with the concept of AI, and **74%** are aware of real-world AI applications.

nv = 700 participants, 2025.

1.2+ Million

The total beneficiaries reached via SAMAI Initiative in its first edition.

69.3K+

The total number of graduates in technology-related disciplines such as CS and IT between 2021 and 2025.

15%

The compound annual growth rate (CAGR) in AI talent concentration in the Saudi labor market between 2021 and 2025.



Research, Development, and Innovation

37.4%

The CAGR in AI scientific publications between 2021 and 2025.

34.52%

The CAGR in AI patents between 2020 and 2024.

8 LLMs

and **58 AI applications** developed locally in Saudi Arabia, according to MCIT Annual Report for 2026.

5 Leading AI models

developed in Saudi Arabia, according to the AI Index Report issued by Stanford HAI in 2025.



Institutional Readiness and Adoption

90%

of government entities in Saudi Arabia have an AI strategy and a unified framework to measure the success and impact of AI initiatives.

n=30 entity, 2025.

77%

of government entities have adopted AI governance practices, while **63%** have established formal procedures to comply with the national AI principles issued by SDAIA.

n=30 entity, 2025.

97%

of government entities in Saudi Arabia are using or developing AI models and tools.

n=30 entity, 2025.

48%

of government entities that have adopted AI report internal operational efficiency gains exceeding 10%.

n=30 entity, 2025.

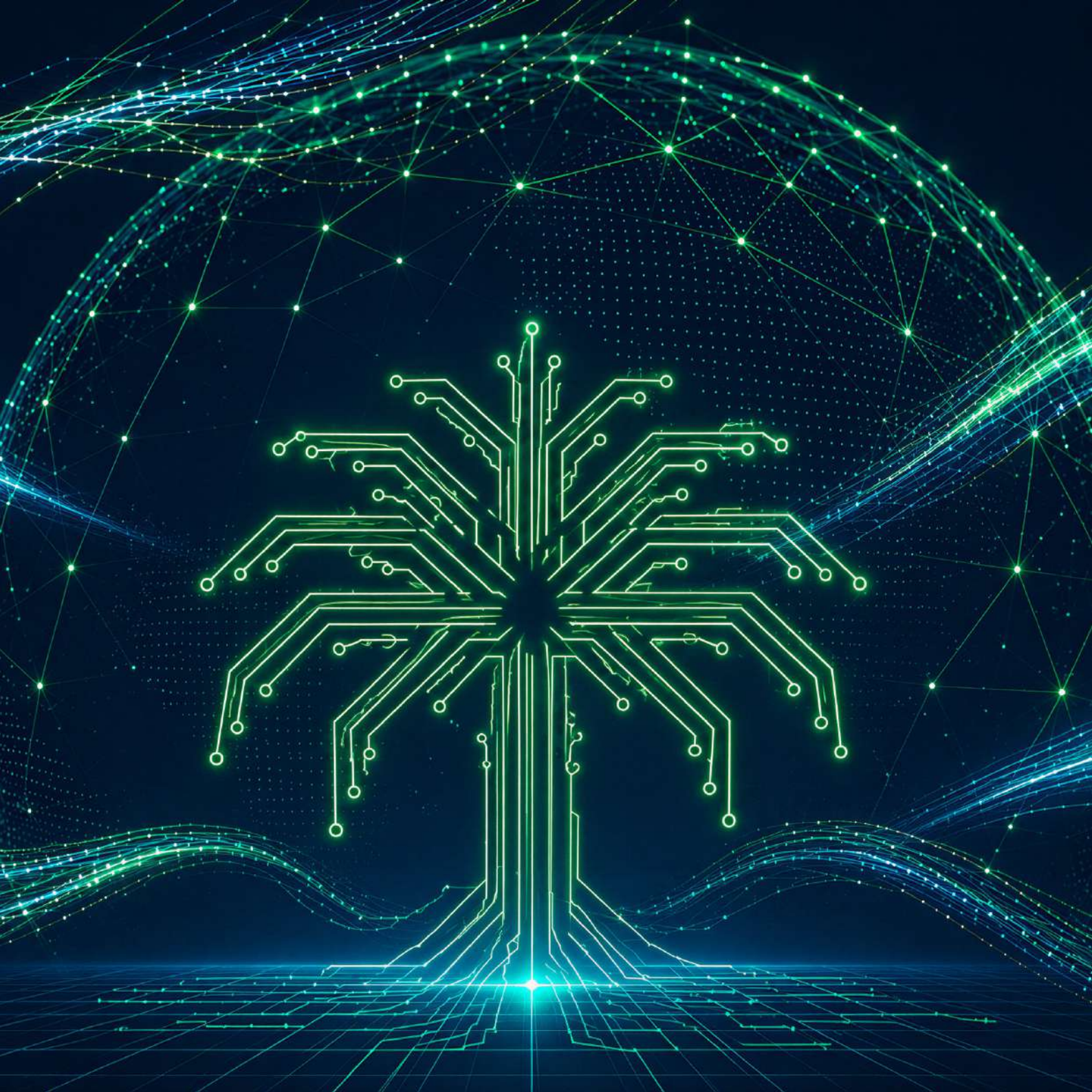




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1. Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) stands as one of the most preeminent drivers reshaping economies, redefining business and productivity models, and transforming services and innovation worldwide. Recognizing this strategic shift, Saudi Arabia continues its journey to establish itself as a global hub for data and AI, in line with the objectives of Vision 2030, which positions AI as a fundamental pillar for enhancing the efficiency of development and economic sectors, improving service quality, and strengthening the competitiveness of the national economy amid rapid technological advancements.

Accordingly, since the launch of the National Strategy for Data and AI (NSDAI) in 2020, Saudi Arabia has progressed from the foundational stage to the stage of enablement and impact, through building an integrated ecosystem that focuses on developing supportive policies and regulations, expanding investments in digital infrastructure and advanced computing, and implementing diverse initiatives to develop national talent, in addition to strengthening the research, development and innovation ecosystem, thereby enabling the transformation of outputs into practical applications with profound economic and societal impact. This integrated approach has solidified Saudi Arabia's position as an emerging regional hub in AI, with growing capabilities to compete globally.

This report presents the state of AI in Saudi Arabia, building on the first edition published during the 3rd Global AI Summit (GAIN) in 2024. The report tracks Saudi Arabia's progress across **seven main pillars**, comprising **15 sub-pillars**. The main pillars include **Policies and Regulations, Investment, Infrastructure, Data, Talent and Human Capabilities, Research, Development and Innovation, and Institutional Readiness and Adoption (Figure 1)**. This assessment aims to clarify the level of maturity, understand developments, and document the initiatives contributing to this progress.

 Figure (1): Pillars of the State of AI in Saudi Arabia

1.1. Saudi Arabia's AI Journey





- 2022
- Launch of **LEAP** as the largest annual global technology conference and exhibition.
 - Launch of the **Saudi Company for AI (SCAI)**.
 - Hosting of the **2nd GAIN Summit**.
 - Launch of the **National AI Ethics Principles**.

Expansion and Development

2023-2024

- 2023
- Designation of Riyadh as the headquarters of the **International Center for AI Research and Ethics (ICAIRE)**, affiliated with UNESCO.
 - Launch of the **Cloud Computing Special Economic Zone**.
 - Launch of the **National Data Index (NDI)**.
 - Launch of the **global Elevate initiative**.
- 2024
- Launch of the **One Million Saudis in AI (SAMAI)**.
 - Development of the **Arabic Large Language Model (ALLaM)**.
 - Establishment of **Alat** to localize the manufacturing of advanced chips and electronics.
 - Issuance of the Generative AI Guidelines.

Global Leadership

2025-2026

- 2025
- Launch of second edition of **SDAIA Regulatory Sandbox** to govern experimental innovation.
 - Launch of the **National AI Index**.
 - Launch of **HUMAIN**.
 - Launch of **HUMAIN Chat**, powered by the ALLaM model.
 - Investments, memoranda of understanding, and strategic partnerships in AI and advanced computing.
 - Launch of KAUST's **Shaheen III** supercomputer.
- 2026
- Laying the foundation stone for **HEXAGON**, the world's largest government data center.

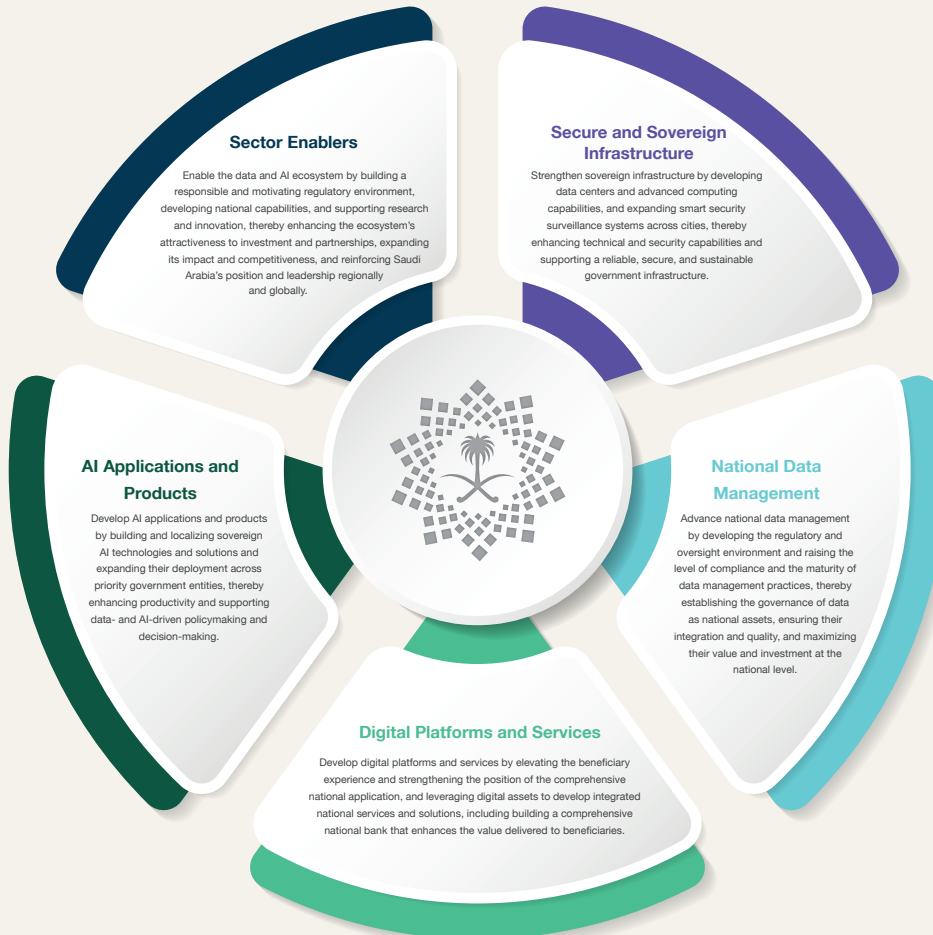
2. National Strategy for AI

Saudi Arabia is advancing at an accelerated pace to unify efforts across the public and private sectors in data and AI, and to institutionalize them within a cohesive national ecosystem. This aims to accelerate the transition toward a data-driven economy and strengthen digital economic diversification. In this context, Saudi Arabia launched NSDAI in 2020, led by SDAIA as the national reference responsible for guiding initiatives and overseeing their implementation, thereby reinforcing Saudi Arabia's global position and competitiveness in this field. This strategy was later updated to keep pace with the rapid changes in the sector and in response to national priorities and aspirations.

NSDAI represents a key pillar for achieving the objectives of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030. It seeks to lead the national transformation toward a data-driven knowledge economy, enabling Saudi Arabia to lead in future technologies aligned with national priorities while enhancing economic diversification. The strategy is built on **five strategic pillars: Secure and Sovereign Infrastructure, National Data Management, Digital Platforms and Services, AI Applications and Products, and Sector Enablers (Figure 2).**

Accordingly, SDAIA leverages its full capabilities to advance Saudi Arabia within data- and AI-driven economies through its integrated ecosystem, comprising three core sub-entities: the National Data Management Office (NDMO), the National Information Center (NIC), and the National Center for AI (NCAl).



Figure (2): National Strategic Pillars


3. Global Recognitions

Saudi Arabia has made significant strides in AI, supported by sustained leadership commitment and a clear strategic vision toward global leadership. This progress is the result of integrated strategies and intensified efforts to enable AI across sectors—achieved through establishing regulatory frameworks, mobilizing substantial investments, fostering innovation, and developing national talent. This cohesive ecosystem has propelled Saudi Arabia to top positions in several global indices and earned it as well as the receipt of international awards and certificates recognizing its advanced standing in this vital field.

3.1. Global Indices

Saudi Arabia has further strengthened its leadership position in the global AI landscape, demonstrating a strong presence in global indices as of 2026. These are centered around four key themes: Regulatory Environment, Human Capital, Development and Innovation, and Economic Competitiveness (**Figure 3**).

At the overall level, Saudi Arabia advanced its global standing across several international indices. It **ranked 14th globally out of 93 countries in the Global AI Index issued by The Observer** in 2025¹, **15th globally out of 195 countries in the Oxford Government AI Readiness Index** in 2025², and **19th globally in the AI Index issued by the Stanford Institute for Human-Centered AI** in 2025³.



1. The Global AI Index. The Observer. <https://observer.co.uk/data/global-ai> (2025).

2. Government AI Readiness Index 2025. Oxford insights. <https://oxfordinsights.com/ai-readiness/ai-readiness-index/> (2025).

3. Stanford AI Index. Stanford HAI. <https://hai.stanford.edu/ai-index/2025-ai-index-report>. (2025).

Figure (3): Saudi Arabia's Ranking in Specialized Global Indices

01 Regulatory Environment

6th globally

in government strategy

Global AI Index, The Observer, 2025.

6th globally

in the governance pillar

Government AI Readiness Index, Oxford Insights, 2025.

12th globally 1st locally and regionally

in AI safety

GIAIS, the International Research Center for AI Ethics and Governance in Beijing, and the Beijing Institute of AI Safety and Governance, 2025.

3rd globally

in the OECD AI Policy Observatory

OECD, 2025.

02 Human Capital

3rd globally

in the growth rate of AI talent

AI Index, Stanford HAI, 2026.

1th globally

in women's empowerment in AI

AI Index, Stanford HAI, 2026.

4th globally

in AI talent attraction

AI Index, Stanford HAI, 2026.

3rd globally

in the share of students using generative AI

AI Index, Stanford HAI, 2026.

03 Development and Innovation

3rd globally 1st across the Arab world and region

in the development of notable AI models

AI Index, Stanford HAI, 2025.

1st globally

in AI security, privacy, and encryption

AI Index, Stanford HAI, 2026.

8th globally

in AI scientific citations

AI Index, Stanford HAI, 2025.

1st globally

in digital readiness

Digital Readiness Index, ITU, 2025.

04 Economic Competitiveness

5th globally 1st across the Arab world

in AI sector growth

Global AI Index, The Observer, 2025.

7th globally

in financial sector funding

Global Artificial Intelligence Competitiveness Index, IFF in collaboration with DKG, 2026.

3.2. International Certifications

Saudi Arabia, through its various government entities, obtained several international certifications, showcasing its global leadership in innovation and digital transformation. For instance, DGA and the Ministry of Energy both received ISO certification under the Innovation Management System standard (ISO 56001:2024), in recognition of their efforts to establish an enabling innovation environment for the development and implementation of digital initiatives during 2025. Furthermore, at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS 2026), organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Saudi Arabia received **five certificates of excellence** for various projects, including **four** in the field of AI. These include the SDAIA's National Open Data Platform under the access to information and knowledge category and the Smart Labor Market Oversight Model under the ethical dimensions of the information society category, developed by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (HRSD) **(Figure 4)**.

Figure (4): Certifications Received by Saudi Arabia in Data and AI Globally



3.3. Global Awards

Saudi Arabia has earned distinguished regional and international awards for its AI ecosystem (Figure 5), underscoring its high-impact outcomes and diverse range of initiatives. This recognition spanned multiple pillars, from government excellence in data and digital connectivity initiatives to the leadership of national companies in customer experience and the global distinction achieved by young Saudi talent in innovation competitions.

Figure (5): Awards Received by Saudi Arabia in Data and AI Regionally and Globally



4. SDAIA Claims Top Open Data Initiative Prize at GCC Digital Government Awards. GOV.SA. <https://my.gov.sa/en/news/948534>. (2025).

5. Center3 Recognized with Best Data Centre Award in Middle East & Africa. Center3. <https://center3.com/media-center/news/6>. (2025).

3.4. Global Memberships

Reflecting international recognition of Saudi Arabia's leading role and its efforts in AI regulation and governance, the Kingdom has secured memberships in global networks and partnerships that shape technological decision-making. This presence is crowned by the selection of Saudi Arabia, represented by SDAIA, to chair the Global Network of AI Supervisory Authorities (GNAIS), led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). This milestone reaffirms the Kingdom's status as a pivotal player in advancing emerging technologies globally **(Figure 6)**.

Figure (6): Saudi Arabia's Global Memberships in Data and AI



Chair of Global Network of AI Supervisory Authorities (GNAIS)
of UNESCO.



UNESCO, 2025



Member of Global Partnership on AI (GPAI)
To strengthen Saudi Arabia's role as a key player in shaping the future of AI globally.



OECD, 2026

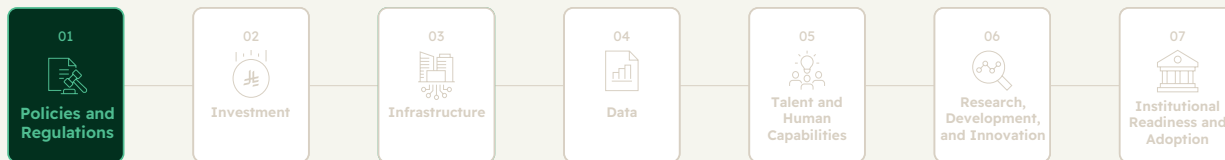


Member of Global Privacy Assembly (GPA)
To enhance Saudi Arabia's international presence in personal data protection.



GPA, 2026.

A futuristic digital interface with a world map, glowing green lines, and various data charts and graphs, representing the state of AI in Saudi Arabia. The interface features a central globe with a network of glowing green lines connecting various data points. Surrounding the globe are several floating panels displaying different types of data visualizations, including bar charts, line graphs, and 3D wireframe models. The overall aesthetic is high-tech and digital, with a dark background and vibrant green and blue light effects. The text "State of AI in Saudi Arabia" is visible in the top left corner.



4. Policies and Regulations

Data and AI regulation is a cornerstone of Saudi Arabia's digital transformation journey, acting as a catalyst for building trust, fostering innovation, and ensuring the responsible use of cutting-edge technologies. As the adoption of data and AI applications accelerates across the government and private sectors, Saudi Arabia has adopted a proactive and integrated approach to build a national governance ecosystem that brings together legislation, regulation, and guiding frameworks, while balancing innovation with the maximization of economic and technological value.

This approach has been grounded in clear, complementary institutional roles within a unified national framework that supports the ethical and responsible use of technologies and aligns national policies and procedures. Furthermore, Saudi Arabia has designed its governance ecosystem to be agile and adaptive to technological shifts and international standards, reinforcing its regional and global position in data and AI governance.

Policies and Regulations Pillar's Highlights

01 Data Domain

33

Regulatory instruments issued in data domain.

313

27.8%+

Data management offices across government entities in 2026, marking an increase of **27.8%** compared to 2024.

SDAIA Regulatory Sandbox

A regulatory sandbox designed to support responsible innovation in the development of (PETs) within a trusted experimental environment.

02 AI Domain

14

Regulatory instruments in AI domain.

180

AI Officers from government entities registered on the National Data Governance Platform as of mid-2026.

4.1. Data Regulations

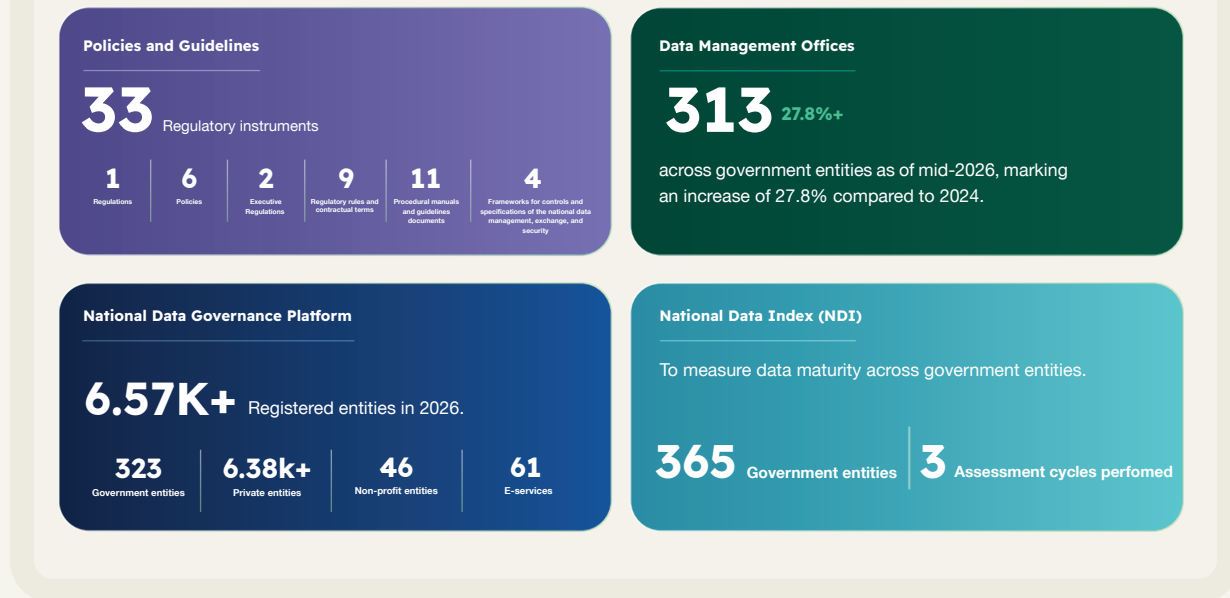
Recognizing data as a foundational pillar for achieving Vision 2030 objectives and for enabling AI, Saudi Arabia has spearheaded extensive efforts to strengthen data governance and enhance data protection. Through its regulatory arm, NDMO, SDAIA, in coordination with the National Cybersecurity Authority (NCA) and DGA, has led broad efforts to develop and implement policies and regulatory frameworks, ensuring responsible and secure management and use of data.

These efforts are supported by a comprehensive ecosystem that includes the **PDPL**, which entered into force in September 2024, and the **National Data Governance Platform**, which expanded its services during 2026 by **61+ electronic services**. In addition to **data management offices** across government entities, whose number increased by **27.8%** as of mid-2026 compared to 2024 (**Figure7**).

It further includes the **Data Sharing Policy**, designed to streamline data exchange among government entities and with the private sector or individuals. Complementing this, DGA has regulated interoperability through its **Digital Government Regulatory Framework**⁶, which governs interoperability, data exchange, and the “Once-Only Principle” to ensure the consistency of information provided, as well as the **National Interoperability Framework** that defines shared data standards. These standards extend to specialized sectors, such as the **eHealth Interoperability Standards** issued by the National Health Information Center (NHIC), which ensure secure clinical information exchange among healthcare institutions. In addition, these efforts are reinforced by the **Open Data Strategy** and its principles, which aim to make high-value, reusable data available, contributing to greater transparency and fostering innovation, alongside the NCA’s **cybersecurity controls** to strengthen data security.

To support implementation and drive institutional maturity, SDAIA launched the **National Data Index (NDI)**, which has completed **three assessment cycles** since its launch in 2023. This Index aims to assess and measure the progress of government entities in the maturity of national data management practice, compliance with national data management controls and specifications, and operational excellence. To achieve the highest levels of compliance, SDAIA has adopted a proactive empowerment track, delivering a range of intensive training programs to raise awareness, build capabilities among government entities’ personnel, and equip specialists with essential skills in data management, data governance, and personal data protection.

6. Data Regulation and Cybersecurity, GOVSA. <https://my.gov.sa/en/content/legal-regulatory-framework#section-2>, (2025).

 Figure (7): Achievements of National Efforts in Data Regulation


Moreover, since early 2024, Saudi Arabia, led by SDAIA, has accelerated the practical execution of these policies, updated or issued supporting regulations, and launched a range of complementary guidelines. Key highlights include the **Rules for Appointing the Personal Data Protection Officer**, which set out the requirements and responsibilities of the officer within the entity, and the **Risk Assessment Guideline for Transferring Personal Data Outside the Kingdom**, which issued in February 2025 to define relevant concepts and preparatory steps. In addition, the **Rules Governing the National Register of Controllers Within the Kingdom** have been introduced to identify entities required to register on the National Data Governance Platform, reinforcing compliance with the PDPL.

On the experimental regulatory front, SDAIA advanced its pioneering approach by launching the **second edition of the SDAIA Sandbox** in 2025. Originally, it was introduced in 2023 as the first regulatory sandbox for data and privacy. The sandbox aims to embed the 'Privacy by Design' approach into early-stage technical solution development and to provide a secure environment for experts, policymakers, and entrepreneurs to test advanced privacy-enhancing technologies (PETs) in line with leading regulatory practices, fostering responsible innovation, raising the efficiency of the public and private sectors, and enhancing data-driven economic growth.

4.2. AI Regulations

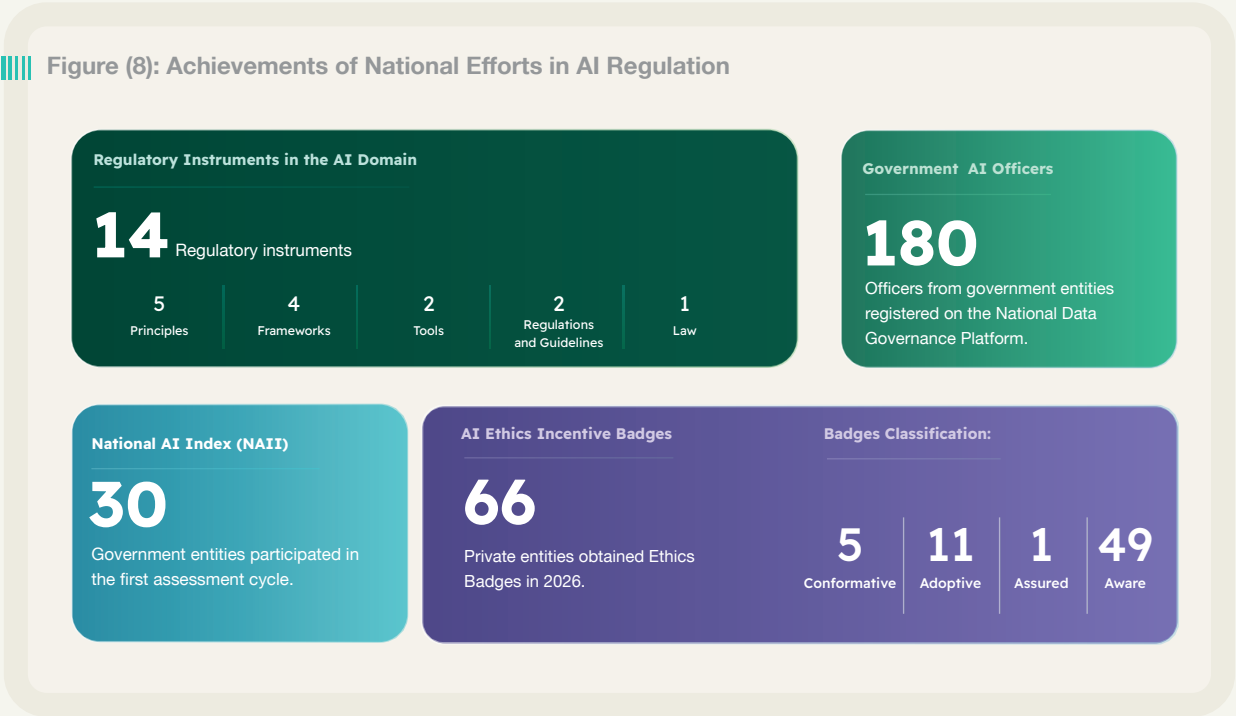
As part of its digital legislative ecosystem, Saudi Arabia remains focused on establishing controls and standards for AI technologies to ensure alignment with local values, national priorities, and international benchmarks. Building on its leading role in this field, SDAIA has continued to strengthen the regulatory ecosystem and intensify its efforts, raising the number of comprehensive **regulatory instruments to nine** by 2025, covering all dimensions of governance, from ethical use and institutional adoption to capability development and market regulation (**Figure 8**).

Within this context, the **Deepfakes Guidelines** offer guidance and recommendations for developers, content creators, and users to avoid or mitigate the risks associated with this technology, in harmony with the AI Ethics Principles and personal data protection practices. The **AI Adoption Framework** has helped in accelerating AI adoption across the public sector through three main pillars: Directions, Enablers, and Outputs. To date, SDAIA has registered **142 AI Officers** across ministries and government entities to ensure strategic and responsible integration of AI across all development sectors in Saudi Arabia. Complementing these efforts, the **National Occupational Standard Framework for Data & AI (NOSF)** serves as a national benchmark for labor market requirements, while the **Saudi Academic Framework for AI Qualifications** guides educational and training institutions in cultivating national talent in this field. The second edition of both frameworks was launched in January 2026.

To enhance market trust, SDAIA issued the **AI Market Regulation Tools**, introducing the **AI Ethics Incentive Badges** as a mechanism for classifying products across five progressive levels reflecting organizational AI maturity, ranging from (Aware) to (Visionary). These badges are linked to the **AI Service Provider Accreditation Certificates** for the private sector. During 2026, **66 companies** obtained accreditation certificates, representing an increase of approximately **20%**, up from **55 companies** in 2025. Industry leaders among these accredited firms include Sdeem, Elm, Tahakkom, and SCAI. **Nine government entities** also received **16 ethics badges** for their technical products, including the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) and the Saudi Industrial Development Fund (SIDF).

To monitor impact and measure progress, SDAIA launched the **National AI Index (NAII)** in July 2025 to assess the readiness of government entities to adopt AI technologies and their level of compliance with policies and regulatory guidelines. The index focuses on **three main pillars and seven sub-pillars**, including: Directions (strategy and governance), Enablers (data, infrastructure, and human capabilities), and Outputs (applications and impact), from which **23 sub-domains** are derived.

Figure (8): Achievements of National Efforts in AI Regulation



These efforts have not been limited to general frameworks but extended to specialized developmental sectors. In the education sector, the Ministry of Education (MOE), in collaboration with SDAIA, issued the **Guideline for the Responsible Use of Generative AI in K-12 Education** in 2025, aiming to elevate educational quality and optimize outcomes through ethical and responsible use. Meanwhile, the National eLearning Center (NELC) updated the **National Framework for AI in Digital Learning (AIDL)**, originally issued in 2023, to serve as a practical blueprint for the successful planning, development, and implementation of AI in digital education. This was accompanied by the issuance of the **Regulations and Guidelines for the Use of GenAI Tools and Applications in Digital Learning**, ensuring effective integration, optimal use, maximized benefits, and reduced risks. In the media sector, the Ministry of Media, in partnership with SDAIA and a number of other entities, launched the **AI Principles in Media** as a reference framework to guide the responsible use of technology at various stages of the digital content lifecycle. In the context of digital infrastructure, the Communications, Space & Technology Commission (CST) introduced the draft **Global AI Hub Law** to cultivate a pro-growth regulatory environment for

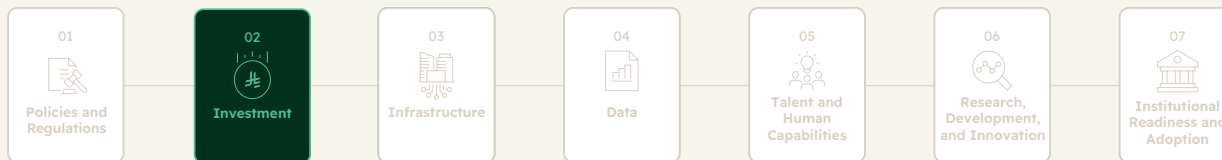
sovereign data centers, thereby safeguarding data sovereignty and fortifying digital security as a key requirement for the safe expansion of AI applications.

Saudi Arabia's efforts extend far beyond national regulation, leading an international momentum to share its pioneering expertise and actively shape global standards. During the 3rd edition of GAIN Summit in Saudi Arabia, SDAIA, in collaboration with the ITU, launched the **AI Readiness Framework**, the 1st globally recognized framework designed to assess national readiness and support country-level AI strategies. At the same summit, the **Riyadh Charter on AI for the Islamic World** was announced in partnership with the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) and the Saudi National Commission for Education, Culture and Science (SNC-ECS), to align technological development with Islamic values. To institutionalize this impact, the **AI Index for the Islamic World**, derived from the Riyadh Charter, was launched in December 2025 as a practical tool for measuring progress and fostering sustainable development across Islamic nations, firmly reinforcing Saudi Arabia's pivotal role in shaping the future of AI, both regionally and globally.

Together, these efforts form a comprehensive governance architecture that cascades from ethical principles and regulatory frameworks down to capacity building, market oversight, and precise sectoral policies. Consequently, Saudi Arabia continues to successfully balance accelerated innovation with compliance assurance, thereby reinforcing mature, sustainable technology practices.







5. Investment

Saudi Arabia continues to advance its strategic direction toward anchoring a sophisticated digital economy and accelerating AI adoption across sectors. This includes developing the necessary digital infrastructure and delivering intelligent solutions and services across various domains, fueled by expanding public and private investments in emerging technologies, in general, and AI in particular. As a result, Saudi Arabia ranked 3rd among the Middle East’s most attractive countries for AI investment, according to the AI Investment Potential Index (AIPI)⁷.

These transformations extend far beyond financial injection, reflecting an integrated approach to positioning Saudi Arabia as a global hub for digital innovation. This strategy centers on three key pillars: strengthening global partnerships with tech giants like Microsoft and Google, developing high-capacity infrastructure—including cutting-edge data centers and HPCs—and cultivating national talent through advanced academic and training programs that drive the development of local models and applications. This integration of vision and execution enables AI investment to deliver sustainable economic and development impact, with AI’s contribution to Saudi Arabia’s **GDP** projected to reach approximately **\$74.6+ billion** (Over SAR 280 billion) between 2025 and 2030⁸.

7. AI Investment Potential Index. The Agence Française de Développement (AFD). <https://www.aipotentialindex.org/home>. (2025).

8. Estimation by SDAIA. (2025).

Investment Pillar's Highlights

74.6\$+ billion

The estimated total value of AI's contribution to GDP between 2025 and 2030⁸.

01 Government Sector

20%

The percentage increase in government spending on AI and emerging technologies in 2025 compared to 2024.

11 Agreements and MoUs

The total agreements signed by SDAIA during the 1st and 2nd editions of the Saudi-U.S. Investment Forum in 2025.

02 Private Sector

9.1\$ billion

The total fund obtained by Saudi AI companies in 2025 across nearly 70 investment deals

174%

The increase rate in the number of companies providing or developing AI technologies in 2025 compared to 2023.

26.4%

The increase rate in AI startups venture capital investments in 2025 compared to 2023.

5.1. Government Sector

Saudi Arabia's Digital spending indicators in 2025 reflect the continuous investment in this vital sector, as government spending on information and communications technology (ICT) services accounted for **31%** of total domestic sector spending, securing the highest share globally that year. Moreover, spending by the Kingdom's government sector accounts for **44%** of total government-sector spending on these services across the Middle East and North Africa, placing the Kingdom **16th globally** by total government spending value⁹ maintaining the same advanced position it held in 2024.

Total government spending on the sector reached **SAR 31.90 billion** (approximately \$8.5 billion) in 2025, bringing cumulative spending since 2022 to **SAR 145 billion** (around \$38.7 billion) (**Figure 9**)⁹. As for government contracts, their total value stood at **SAR 31.70 billion** (around \$8.44 billion) in 2025, after reaching **SAR 38 billion** (about \$10.13 billion) in 2024. This points to a strategic shift: while the period between 2022 and 2024 focused on investment in digital infrastructure, 2025 leaned toward leveraging existing digital assets, improving operational efficiency, and directing resources toward higher-impact projects.

In the same context, government contract spending on AI and emerging technologies surged by **20%** in 2025 compared to 2024⁹. This reflects a strategic direction toward adopting AI technologies and strengthening emerging technologies in the delivery of government services, raising operational efficiency, improving the quality of government services, enhancing the beneficiary experience, and accelerating digital transformation across various sectors.

Government spending trends also point toward harnessing innovation to develop more mature digital service models, complementing local efforts to strengthen scientific and research capabilities. National research institutions are accelerating this trajectory through funding programs and the establishment of R&D centers of excellence. Key entities include the Research, Development, and Innovation Authority (RDIA), SDAIA, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), and King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST). In parallel, investment in human capital continues to expand, with Saudi Arabia launching training and qualification initiatives in partnership with global technology leaders such as IBM and NVIDIA.

To catalyze local innovation, government investments have seamlessly integrated with entrepreneurship programs and support initiatives for startups and SMEs, led by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), the Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Monsha'at), the National Technology Development Program (NTDP), SDAIA, and KAUST¹⁰. These initiatives include funding programs such as the **Saudi Innovation Grants Program (SIGP)**, launched by RDIA in

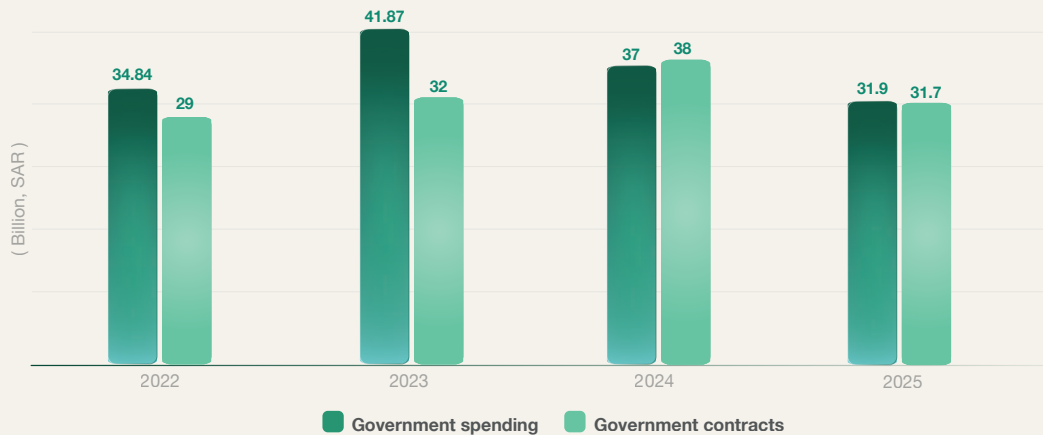
9. Government Spending Report On Information and Communication Technology for 2025. DGA. <https://shorturl.at/Xodm9>. (2026).

10. Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Regulations, GOV.SA. <https://my.gov.sa/en/content/245207>. (2025).

collaboration with NTDP, which supports startups in transforming research into market-ready commercial products. In addition, several specialized **technical accelerators and incubators** have been launched to provide comprehensive support, mentorship, and direct access to local and global investment networks. A notable example includes KAUST’s incubation programs, which graduated about **52 AI startups** in 2025, including TAQADAM, which offers funding up to **\$40K** (about SAR 150K), NEXTERA, which provides support up to **\$800K** (about SAR 3 million), and ScaleX. Furthermore, the Center of Digital Entrepreneurship (CODE), in partnership with SDAIA, NTDP, and deep-tech giants like Groq and SCAI, launched an AI incubator that supported **10 specialized companies**. Complementing these efforts, the Arabic Language Innovation Accelerator, led by the King Salman Global Academy for Arabic Language (KSGAAL), incubated **15 companies**. Additionally, the “**Design in Saudi Arabia with AI**” initiative, launched by RDIA in collaboration with Qualcomm and Aramco, supports early-stage startups from design through to commercialization, offering financial grants of **\$10.67K** (around SAR 40K) and reimbursements of up to **\$5.33K** (around SAR 20K) for patent applications¹¹.

Beyond enablement, Saudi Arabia is advancing toward transformative impact by investing in champions of change.

Figure (9): Volume of Government Spending and value of contracts in the ICT Sector (2022–2025)



Source: DGA, 2024

11. Design in Saudi Arabia with AI (DISAI). RDIA. <https://www.rdia.gov.sa/en/media-center/news/design-in-saudi-arabia-with-ai-disai/>. (2025).

In this context, (PIF) launched HUMAIN as a national champion for intelligent solutions, partnering with global companies like NVIDIA, (AWS), and Cisco to build AI factories and a dedicated zone for developing national applications and models across energy, industry, healthcare, and finance sectors. This step is part of an investment portfolio valued at **\$10 billion**¹² (around SAR 37.5 billion). This strategic direction has been translated into a series of agreements and partnerships across multiple domains (**Figure 10**), including developing data centers and infrastructure, such as the partnership with NVIDIA to deploy hundreds of thousands of GPUs via an AI supercomputer with approximately 18K GB300 Grace Blackwell units, in addition to launching the era of physical AI through NVIDIA Omniverse platform to accelerate robotics and physical AI development.

These movements have not taken place in isolation from the global landscape. Rather, Saudi Arabia has strategically built a vast international network to strengthen its position within global AI value chains. This has attracted massive foreign investment, international partnerships, and long-term collaborations that go beyond technology transfer to domestic localization and development. Notable examples include NEOM's agreement with European company GMT Robotics to deploy advanced robotics in construction. Additionally, during LEAP 2025, Saudi investments exceeded **\$14.9 billion**¹³ (approximately SAR 55.88 billion) in AI and advanced technologies projects. Furthermore, the 1st edition of the Saudi-US Investment Forum witnessed the signing of over **140 agreements and MoUs** valued at more than **\$300 billion**¹⁴ (around SAR 1.13 trillion), spanning sectors of energy, technology, AI, industry, supply chains, healthcare, biosciences, finance, and asset management.

SDAIA played a pivotal role in these investments, signing **four MoUs** during the 1st edition of the Forum with Pure Storage, DataDirect Networks, WEKA.ai, and Palo Alto Networks. These memoranda aim to strengthen Saudi Arabia's data and AI infrastructure, support AI innovation, and enhance collaboration across technical and security domains. This momentum was reinforced by **seven additional strategic agreements** with leading technology companies during the 2nd edition of the Forum, held in Washington in November of the same year. Notable agreements include collaborations with Supermicro on server and data center solutions, and a partnership with Dell to accelerate the adoption of intelligent solutions.

Public-private partnerships further reinforce these investments. In enhancing AI infrastructure, Saudi Arabia invested, through Aramco, **\$1.5 billion** (around SAR 5.63 billion) for the benefit of Groq to build the largest AI inference data center with advanced Language Processing Unit (LPU) chips, supporting large language models (LLMs) and high-compute AI applications. KAUST also collaborated with companies like NVIDIA to enable startups within its ecosystem to access cloud services and specialized AI programs

12. Project HUMAIN. Vision 2030.GOV. <https://www.vision2030.gov.sa/en/explore/projects/humain>. (2025).

13. LEAP 2025 concludes with billion-dollar investments and launches, and the announcement of two editions to be held in Riyadh and Hong Kong next year. MCIT News. <https://shorturl.at/DaYYY>. (2025).

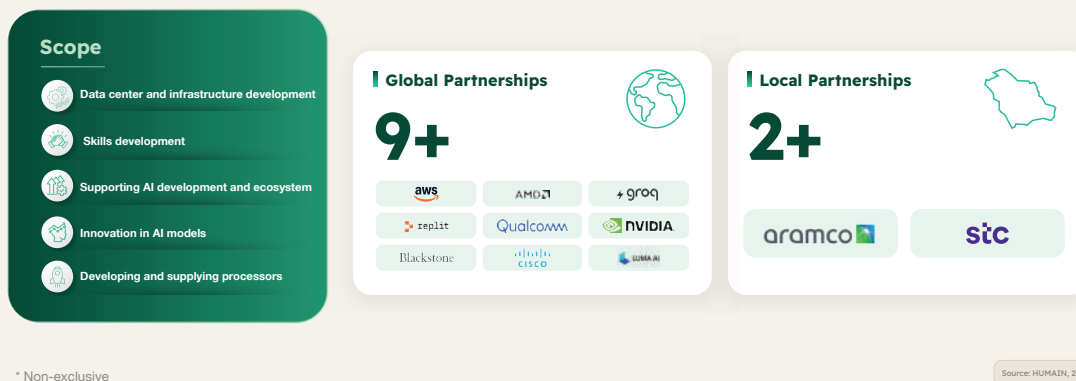
14. His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and the US President participate in the Saudi-US Investment Forum. MOFA News. <https://www.mofa.gov.sa/ar/ministry/news/Pages/n937.aspx>. (2025).



Figure (10): HUMAIN's Strategic Partnerships, Total Value, and Scope*

\$23 billion

Tha Total Value of Strategic Partnerships with Major Companies



via the NVIDIA Inception Program. On the other hand, Ula Capital announced in 2025 the launch of the 1st Saudi fund dedicated to applied AI and deep technology projects, valued at **\$75 million** (approx. SAR 281.25 million), strengthening Saudi Arabia's leadership and supporting technological innovation.

Concluding this ecosystem, government partnerships have played a key role in translating these technologies into tangible services. For instance, the Balady¹⁵ platform collaborated with SDAIA in data analytics, AI, and smart city management, and with SCAI to apply AI technologies in geospatial data analysis, enhancing urban planning and providing predictive solutions for traffic congestion and crisis management. In parallel, (EXPRO) signed **nine MoUs** with public and private entities, and two framework agreements for cloud and telecommunications services in collaboration with (MOF) and other entities, aimed at advancing government technical infrastructure. Prominent among these is the MoU with SDAIA to develop AI-driven government service models designed to elevate spending efficiency and enhance public services.

15. "Balady" Enhances Strategic Partnerships and Enables Interactive Maps During LEAP 2025. Balady: <https://balady.gov.sa/en/news/%E2%80%99Balady%E2%80%9D-enhances-strategic-partnerships-and-enables-interactive-maps-during-leap-2025>. (2025).

5.2. Private Sector

Private sector investment in AI technologies in Saudi Arabia has experienced a qualitative shift since 2020, transcending the phases of experimentation and exploration to become a core investment pillar within corporate growth and transformation strategies, as a strategic economic asset capable of elevating productivity, creating new business models, and enhancing competitiveness across vital sectors spanning financial services, energy, commerce, logistics, industry, and healthcare.

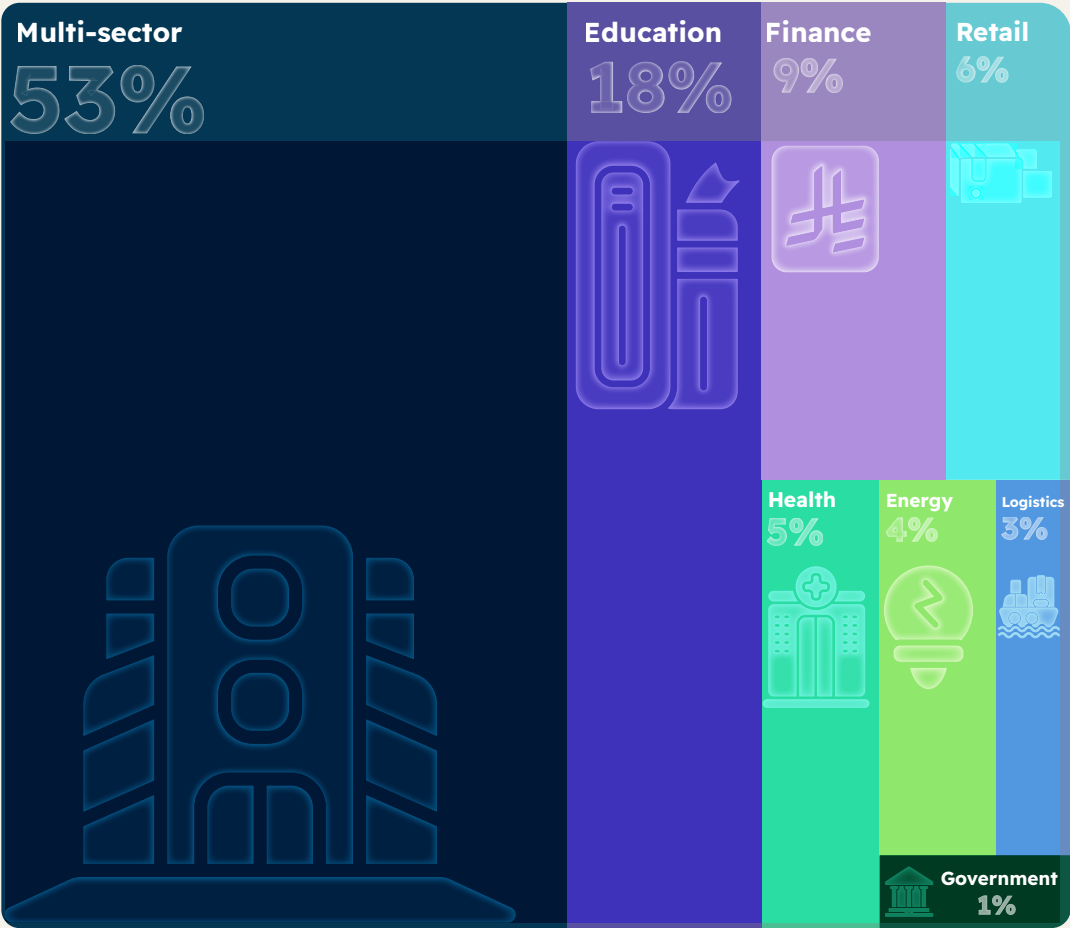
In this context, the private sector in 2025 marks a new era of institutional maturity and accelerated growth, characterized by unprecedented investment momentum and a qualitative rise in capital inflows. This impact is clearly evident in the transition of leading national companies, such as Lucidya and Intelmatix, from their foundational phase to commercial expansion. This shift coincided with the entry of strategic players into the market at the beginning of 2025, most notably HUMAIN, which aims to lead innovation within the national AI ecosystem, and DEEP.SA, which specializes in developing AI engines and building AI agents.

By the end of 2025, the total number of companies in the data and AI field reached **664**, an increase of **174%** compared to 2023. Of these, **565 companies provide or develop AI technologies**¹⁶. These companies, both enablers and developers, vary in their areas of focus: 18% specialize in AI infrastructure, **44%** develop AI tools, and **38%** provide AI-powered services, either through customization or integration into core offerings. On the other hand, **53%** of these companies serve multiple sectors, while others specialize in specific sectors, including education (**18%**) and financial services (**9%**) (**Figure 11**)¹⁶. This growth was not limited to the number of companies; the total funding obtained by Saudi AI companies reached approximately **\$9.1 billion (around SAR 34.13 billion)**, across nearly **70 investment deals**, reflecting the competitiveness of the Saudi market and its attractiveness for deep technology investments¹⁶.



¹⁶. Crunchbase. Crunchbase, (Advanced Search | Companies). <https://www.crunchbase.com/discover/organization.companies> (2026).

Figure (11): Classification of Saudi Companies by Sector in which they Operate



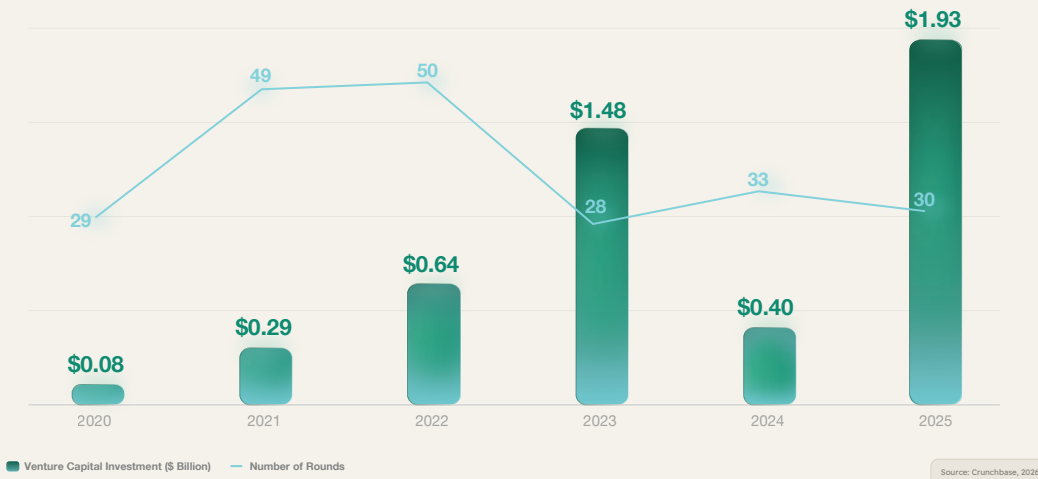
Source: Crunchbase, 2020.

In addition, venture capital (VC) investments have played a pivotal role, with the AI market growing gradually since 2020, which started with no more than **29 investment deals** and a total VC investment of approximately **\$80 million** (around SAR 300 million), before shifting qualitatively by early 2023 toward larger, more mature funding rounds, specifically in Series A and beyond (**Figure 12**).

Although the deal count indicator varied between 2020 and 2025, it recorded an average annual growth rate (AAGR) of approximately **7.2%**, indicating a dynamic market recalibrating its priorities, shifting focus from mere deal volume to deal maturity and commercial viability. On the other hand, the total value of VC investments increased to **\$1.93 billion** (around SAR 7.24 billion), with a growth rate of **26.4%** in 2025 compared to 2023. This indicates accelerating market maturity and growing investor confidence in the feasibility of strategic investments in this field.

Looking at the most prominent venture capital funds and firms investing in AI in the Kingdom, Raed Ventures from Aramco, Wa’ed Ventures, and Oqal topped the list of the most active investors in the field, with a combined total of **46 investment deals** through September 2025¹⁷.

Figure (12): Venture Capital Investments in AI Companies (2020–2025)



17. Top 50 Artificial Intelligence VC Funds in Saudi Arabia – September 2025. Shizune <https://shizune.co/investors/artificial-intelligence-investors-saudi-arabia> (2025).

Examples of local investments include a **\$30 million**¹⁸ (around SAR 112.5 million) investment in Lucidya within a Series B round by Impact46, Wa'ed Ventures, Takamol Ventures, and others. Additionally, Elm and Wa'ed Ventures invested **\$11.3 million** (around SAR 42.38 million) in Torod in a Series A round to support the development of the first AI-powered logistics agent¹⁹. Similarly, KAUST Investment Ventures has invested in several startups, including the Saudi company WhiteHelmet, which specializes in construction technology²⁰.

As for investments in international companies, these include a **\$19 million**²¹ (around SAR 71.26 million) investment by Wa'ed Ventures and Tali Ventures in the US-based Graphiant, a cloud computing and AI company. Additionally, the Egypt-based UltiAcademy secured **\$28 million**¹⁹ (around SAR 105 million) in a Series B funding round led by Rua Ventures with key participation from the Jordan Investment and Capital Fundg to support its expansion into Saudi Arabia and the launch of a digital learning platform powered by generative AI. These investments reflect growing confidence in AI-driven business models capable of achieving sustainable and scalable growth.

In parallel with venture capital activity, Saudi Arabia witnessed an expansion in private sector strategic investments during 2024 and 2025, directed toward enhancing digital infrastructure, cloud computing, and localizing advanced technologies. In the infrastructure field, KKR and Gulf Data Hub partnered in 2025 to develop advanced data centers with a total capacity reaching 300 megawatts²². Meanwhile, Tencent Cloud committed **\$150 million** (around SAR 562.5 million) to establish its first cloud region in the Middle East, powered by AI capabilities, enhancing Saudi Arabia's readiness to operate large-scale AI models.

In manufacturing and advanced technologies, Alat and Lenovo announced a **\$2 billion** (around SAR 7.5 billion) strategic investment to establish an advanced manufacturing hub powered by AI and robotics to enhance local content²³. In the services field, Databricks and Salesforce invested **\$300 million** and **\$500 million**²² (approximately SAR 1.13 billion and SAR 1.9 billion), respectively, to serve local customers, empower application developers, and enhance data analytics capabilities, supporting Saudi Arabia's digital economy.

Collectively, these diverse investments embody the transformation of the private sector's role from a funder of startups to a strategic partner in enabling the national AI ecosystem, reinforcing Saudi Arabia's position as a regional platform for innovating and deploying smart technologies with sustainable economic impact.

18. Lucidya Raises USD30 Million in Largest AI Funding Round in MENA. Lucidya News. <https://www.lucidya.com/en/news-media/lucidya-30m-ai-funding-round-mena>. (2025).

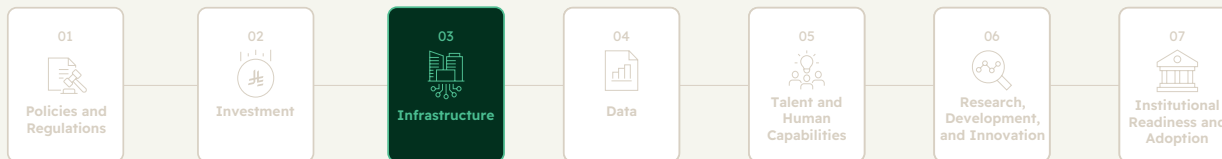
19. The LEAP conference enters its third day, featuring major technology investments and \$1.79 billion in funding rounds to support artificial intelligence and develop digital talent in the Kingdom. MCIT News. <https://shorturl.at/3t1L>. (2025).

20. Innovation Ecosystem AI contribution. KAUST. (2025).

21. Graphiant Plants Its Flag in Riyadh: \$19 Million Boost Powers AI-Ready Connectivity Across Saudi Arabia. Graphiant. <https://shorturl.at/6Xm2a>. (2025).

22. IDC Highlights From LEAP 2025 in Saudi Arabia, IDC, <https://myidc.com/getdoc.jsp?containerId=META52917524>. (2025).

23. Lenovo and Alat complete US\$2 billion investment and strategic collaboration deal. ALAT News. <https://alat.com/en/newsroom/alat-lenovo-us2-billion-investment-strategic-collaboration-saud-vision-2030/>. (2025).



6. Infrastructure

Saudi Arabia is steadily advancing toward establishing its position as a global hub for AI, underpinned by an advanced digital infrastructure purpose-built to meet the demands of this era. Indeed, 2025 witnessed a fundamental shift in the development compass, moving beyond expanding conventional capacities toward establishing an integrated ecosystem capable of high-intensity AI workloads. This ecosystem is anchored in increasing specialized data centers, providing advanced cloud computing services, and developing high-performance computing capabilities, ensuring massive processing capacities, low latency, and a secure environment that enables researchers, developers, and various entities to develop advanced smart models, operate generative applications, and simulate digital twins across various sectors.

This transformation is driven by a unique, integrated model that combines regulatory enablers and bold investment. The efforts of ministries and regulatory bodies like MCIT, DGA, SDAIA, and the Saudi Authority for Industrial Cities and Technology Zones (MODON), are integrated with PIF and leading companies such as Aramco, stc Group, and DataVolt, alongside strategic partnerships with global tech giants like NVIDIA and Google, to drive the progress of Saudi Arabia's infrastructure. For instance, the strategic collaboration between MCIT and MODON has activated the role of technology zones as primary incubators for data centers.

As a result, Saudi Arabia is experiencing rapid growth in specialized capacity, the launch of high-performance computers ranked among the world's top 500, and the provision of dedicated cloud computing services to support emerging technologies. This renders the national infrastructure an incubator for digital innovation and a key enabler in leading the AI era and the transition toward the economy of the future.

Infrastructure Pillar's Highlights

01 Data Centers

115.8%

The **percentage of increase** in the total data center capacity between 2023 and 2025.

3 GW

The **total targeted data center capacity** in Saudi Arabia by 2030, rising to 6.6 gigawatts by 2034.

HEXAGON

The **largest government data center** globally, classified as Tier IV, with a total capacity of **480 megawatts**.

02 High-Performance Computing

8 supercomputers

in Saudi Arabia ranked among the world's top 500 **supercomputers** in 2026.

Shaheen III

The **most powerful supercomputer** in the GCC region.

The first quantum computer

in the **Middle East** dedicated to industrial applications launched in Saudi Arabia.

03 Cloud Computing Services

43%

The **growth rate** in cloud computing market activity in 2024.

9 cloud regions

in Saudi Arabia, including four under development by global cloud service providers.

24%

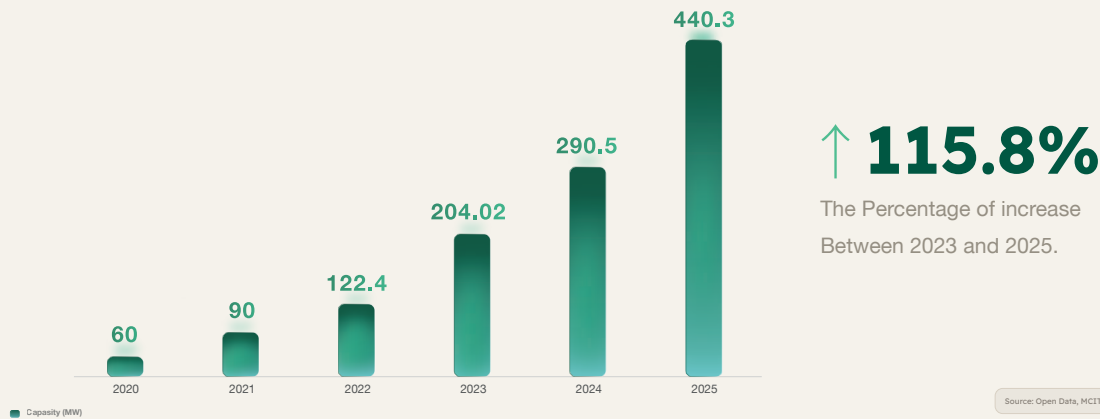
The **projected CAGR** in the number of cloud service providers through 2027.

6.1. Data Centers

Recognizing the critical role of data centers as a fundamental enabler of AI adoption, Saudi Arabia is spearheading ambitious efforts to enhance its digital infrastructure. Since 2024, Saudi Arabia, represented by MCIT, has ambitious strategies and plans, reflected in the establishment of robust regulatory frameworks and policies; in which the roles of various government agencies are integrated, such as CST, NCA, SDAIA, and DGA, to ensure data governance and security, and to regulate cloud computing licenses with efficiency and transparency. In addition to driving high-impact local and foreign investments with tech giants like Google, Oracle, and DataVolt, thereby reinforcing Saudi Arabia’s position as a global hub for AI and high-performance computing.

These efforts have driven a significant expansion in data center infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, with the number of **data centers reaching 60+** in 2025²⁴. Meanwhile, total capacity increased from **204 MW** to **440.3 MW** in 2025, representing a **115.8%** increase between 2023 and 2025²⁵ (**Figure 13**). The data center operator landscape in Saudi Arabia spans both local and global entities, including prominent local companies such as center3, a subsidiary of stc Group and winner of the Best Data Center in the Middle East and Africa Award in 2025²⁶, in addition to Mobily, and AI Moammar Information Systems (MIS). At the global level, major tech giants such as Google Cloud and Amazon have expanded their data center footprints in the Kingdom, reflecting Saudi Arabia’s position as a leading regional tech hub.

Figure (13): Growth of Data Center Capacity in Saudi Arabia (2020–2025)



24. LinkedIn Post, MCIT. <https://shorturl.at/A1wcl>. (2026).

25. Annual Report. MCIT . https://www.mcit.gov.sa/sites/default/files/2026-04/mcit_annual_report2025.pdf. (2026).

26. Center3 Recognized with Best Data Centre Award in Middle East & Africa. Center3. <https://center3.com/media-center/news/6>. (2025).



With rapid advances in AI technologies and national efforts to accelerate the adoption of generative AI, LLMs, and smart applications, demand has increased for more advanced data centers capable of supporting these workloads. In response, Saudi Arabia has leveraged enabling policies, targeted investments, and global partnerships to accelerate the development of data centers equipped with cutting-edge technologies and high computing capabilities to meet large-scale training and inference requirements.

In this context, Saudi Arabia is driving an ambitious national strategy to build a world-class AI infrastructure, targeting a total data center capacity of **3 gigawatts** by 2030 and approximately **6.6 gigawatts** by 2034²⁷, positioning the nation Saudi Arabia among the leading global players in AI. Humain, a PIF-owned entity, emerges as a pivotal catalyst in this transformation, leveraging strategic international partnerships, including collaboration with AMD to operate data centers with a total capacity of up to **one gigawatt** by 2030, with an initial operational phase of **100 megawatts** in 2026. In addition, partnerships with NVIDIA aim to develop **AI factories** with a capacity of up to **500 megawatts**, which led to the launch of the Defense AI Lab in collaboration with SAMI, strengthening national capabilities in cybersecurity and intelligent defense systems. HUMAIN has also partnered with Amazon to establish an **AI zone**, featuring advanced **AI infrastructure** and generative services, and enabling the operation of **15K+ NVIDIA GPUs**, as well as with Qualcomm to deploy advanced AI infrastructure with an operational capacity of **200 megawatts**²⁸. At the local level, HUMAIN has collaborated with stc Group to develop advanced infrastructure with an operational capacity of up to **one gigawatt** and a starting capacity of **250 megawatts**²⁹. These partnerships are expected to result in the launch of two data centers in 2026, equipped with NVIDIA chips, with an initial capacity of **100 megawatts** each³⁰.

Similarly, other national projects complement Saudi Arabia's digital infrastructure landscape. Notable among these is the development of the **largest inference data center** with a processing capacity of up to **100 billion tokens per day**, through a partnership between Aramco and Groq³¹. Meanwhile, stc Group, through center3, plans to expand its data center capacity to **1 gigawatt** by 2030³² to support AI workloads and high-performance computing to meet the demands of AI model training and inference efficiently.

To complement these efforts and support government-level AI infrastructure, SDAIA has adopted a national strategic plan to establish six data centers aligned with international best practices. As part of this plan, SDAIA laid the foundation stone for **HEXAGON** in early 2026, as the world's largest government data center, classified as Tier IV, with a total capacity of **480 megawatts**.

27. Alswaha, A. Saudi Arabia Leads the AI Age for Humanity at LEAPEast. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FDpXuk9EaQI>. (2026).

28. Qualcomm and HUMAIN to Develop State-of-the-Art AI Data Centers to Deliver Cloud-to-Edge Hybrid AI Services. Qualcomm News. <https://shorturl.at/3cpXQ>. (2025).

29. STC and HUMAIN Announce JV Partnership to Develop Data Centers Supporting up to 1 GW of AI Workloads in Saudi Arabia, SPA <https://www.spa.gov.sa/N2471037>. (2025).

30. Saudi's Humain to Open Data Centers With US Chips in 2026. Bloomberg. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-08-25/saudi-s-humain-to-open-data-centers-with-us-chips-in-early-2026?embedded-checkout=true> (2025)

31. Aramco Digital and Groq Announce Progress in Building the World's Largest Inference Data Center in Saudi Arabia Following LEAP MOU Signing. Groq. <https://groq.com/newsroom/aramco-digital-and-groq-announce-progress-in-building-the-worlds-largest-inference-data-center-in-saudi-arabia-following-leap-mou-signing> (2024)

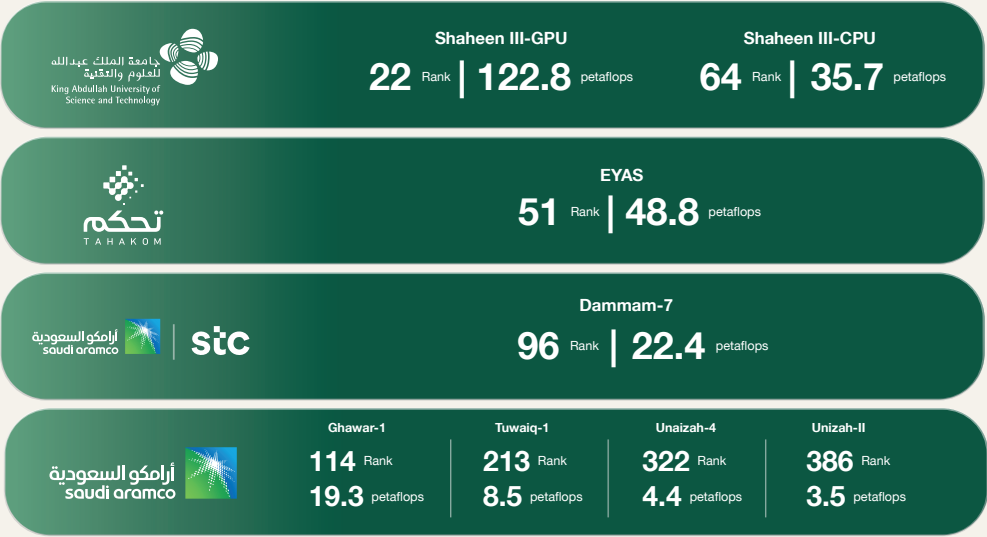
32. center3 Drives MENA's Digital Transformation with Ambitious 1 Gigawatt Data Center Expansion. Center3 News. <https://center3.com/media-center/news/7>. (2025).

6.2. High-Performance Computing

Saudi Arabia is advancing steadily to consolidate its position as a global force in high-performance computing, recognizing it as a critical enabler of AI research and advanced scientific and industrial applications. Saudi Arabia hosts **eight supercomputers ranked among the top 500 globally (TOP500 list)** as of June 2026 (**Figure 14**).

Saudi Aramco and KAUST lead in terms of owning the largest number of supercomputers. Aramco operates more than six supercomputers, including **five** ranked among the world’s top 500, notably Dammam-7 and Ghawar-1. As for KAUST, it owns **Shaheen III - GPU, the most powerful supercomputer in the Middle East**, ranking **22nd globally**. Shaheen III - GPU is equipped with approximately **2.8K NVIDIA GH200 Grace Hopper GPUs** and delivers around **123 petaflops**, more than three times the performance of the previous version, Shaheen III - CPU. Meanwhile, the **EYAS** supercomputer, operated by Tahakom, ranked **51st globally**, delivering up to **48.8 petaflops** and is considered **the 2nd most powerful supercomputer** in the Kingdom.

Figure (14): Top-Ranked Supercomputers in Saudi Arabia Globally



Source: TOP500, June 2026.



In parallel, HUMAIN plans to acquire **hundreds of thousands of GPUs** over the next five years. As an initial phase, it intends to deploy an AI supercomputer powered by **18K NVIDIA GB300 Grace Blackwell GPUs**, as part of its ambition to build hyperscale data centers and provide secure infrastructure for training and deploying sovereign AI models at scale, as well as developing digital twins for smart cities, thereby empowering sectors in Saudi Arabia and around the world to accelerate innovation and digital transformation.

In a first of its kind step in the Middle East toward the next generation of advanced computing, Aramco, in collaboration with Pasqal, launched **the first quantum computer** in Saudi Arabia and the Middle East dedicated to industrial applications. This milestone opens new horizons for solving complex computational problems and accelerating innovation across energy, materials, and heavy industries. Adding this quantum computer to Saudi Arabia's high-performance computing ecosystem further reinforces its position as a leading regional platform for testing and developing the next generation of advanced digital technologies.



6.3. Cloud Computing Services

The massive expansion of data center capacity is the foundation for unlocking advanced cloud computing services. In recent years, Saudi Arabia has made notable progress in strengthening the readiness and reliability of its digital infrastructure. This has been reflected in the launch of **Oracle's second cloud region in Riyadh**, the completion of **three cloud regions** enabling Microsoft Azure services, and AWS' announcement of major investments to build a flexible, high-performance cloud infrastructure. To keep pace with the AI era, Saudi Arabia also took a significant step by signing an agreement with Aramco and Google Cloud to deploy high-performance and high-speed cloud services.

This expansion was clearly reflected in Saudi Arabia's cloud computing market indicators, with the **number of cloud service providers registered with CST** reaching **30** and expectations of continued growth at a **CAGR of 24%** through 2027³³. Meanwhile, the market recorded a **43%** growth in cloud computing activity in 2024³⁴, alongside a **33% increase** in the number of commercial registrations of cloud service providers by the end of the first quarter of 2025³⁵. As for cloud regions, the **number reached nine cloud regions** comprising **19 availability zones**, including **ten operational zones and nine currently under planning**³⁶.

Looking at cloud service providers, the landscape is led by global companies such as Amazon, Microsoft, Google Cloud, Alibaba Cloud, and Oracle, alongside local providers such as NourNet and (SITE), all of which offer advanced solutions that support AI applications. For example, in 2025, NourNet announced the launch of the NourNet AI Platform, the first Saudi sovereign platform for Inference as a Service, enabling the hosting and operation of generative models, the use of agents, and the deployment of models through application programming interfaces (APIs)³⁷.

On the demand side for these services, the adoption of cloud solutions by government entities rose to **41%** in 2025, representing an estimated total of **156 government entities**³⁸. This aligns with the growth of the technology sector in general over recent years, driven by an estimated **70%** increase in technology investments and targeted investments in cloud computing³⁹.

33. Annual Report 2024. Communications, Space and Technology Commission. <https://www.cst.gov.sa/en/knowledge-center/reports>. (2024).

34. Annual Report 2024. Ministry of Commerce (MOC). https://mc.gov.sa/ar/About/Statistics/Statistics_PDF/report-2024.pdf. (2024).

35. Quralat Reports for Business Sector -First Quarter 2025. MOC. <https://mc.gov.sa/ar/mediacenter/Documents/MCQ1-2025.pdf>. (2025).

36. Cloud Infrastructure Map. TeleGeography. <https://www.cloudinfrastructuremap.com/> (2025)

37. NourNet Launches NourNet AI Platform, The First Saudi Inference-as-a-Service Platform. NourNet. <https://nour.net.sa/news/nournet-ai-platform/>. (2025).

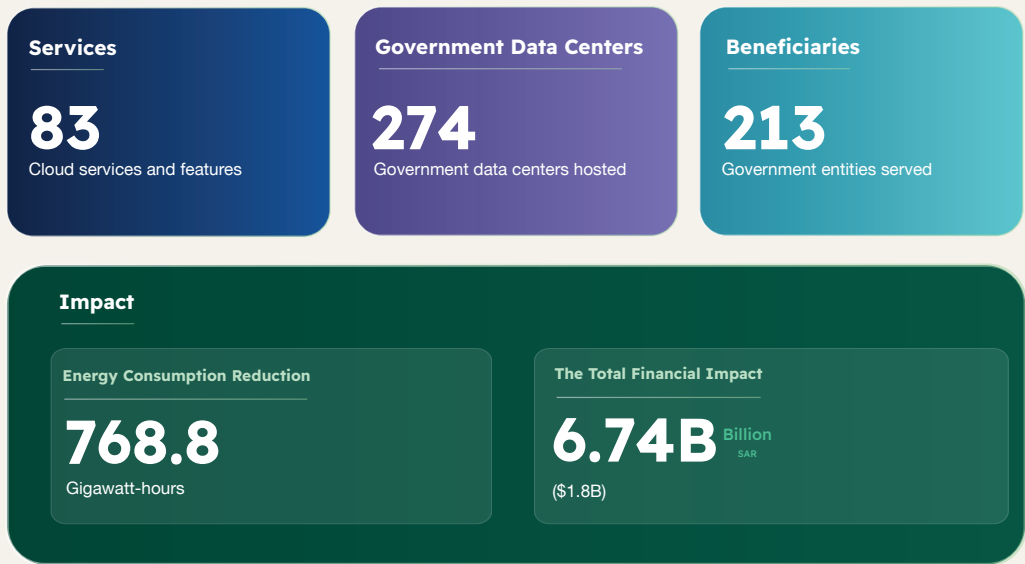
38. Digital Government Forum 2025. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZ8gLf5yLpw>. (2025).

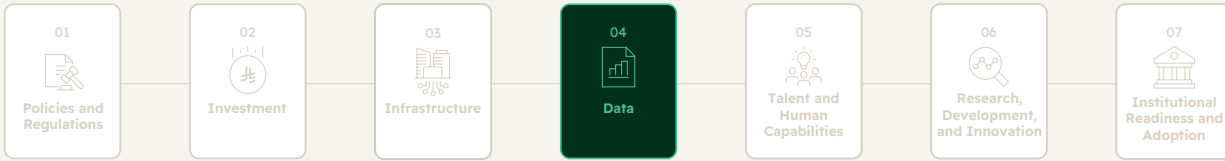
39. Annual Report 2024. MCIT. <https://shorturl.at/6sDx3>. (2025).

At the sovereign cloud infrastructure level, **DEEM Government Cloud**, launched by SDAIA in 2018, continues to grow as a key platform for delivering secure, reliable services to the government sector. As of 2026, DEEM achieved several milestones, including a **10.48%** increase in the number of integrated government data centers hosted, a **15.14%** increase in the number of beneficiary government entities, and a **62.75%** increase in the number of services provided compared to 2024 (**Figure 15**).

These figures translated into tangible economic and environmental impact, with a financial impact reaching **SAR 6.74B+** (approximately USD 1.8B+) and a **70%** reduction in government service delivery time. Environmentally, DEEM contributed to lowering carbon emissions and reducing energy consumption by **768.8 gigawatts**. Crowning these efforts, DEEM was recognized as one of the most prominent national projects in data and AI in 2025 and was among the best global projects in this domain.

Figure (15): Achievements of DEEM Government Cloud as of mid-2026





6. Data

As an extension of Saudi Arabia’s efforts since 2016 to advance the national data ecosystem and its integration, the year 2025 witnessed tangible progress, marked by expanded data availability and higher levels of integration and timeliness. This transformation has been driven by the central role SDAIA plays through NDMO in enhancing infrastructure readiness, ensuring the governance and standardization of digital assets, and supporting service development, decision-making, and the growth of diverse AI applications.

In this context, **NDB**, which comprises a suite of national data platforms aimed at improving data quality and facilitating data sharing across entities, witnessed unprecedented expansion in the integration and unification of government systems. The number of government systems integrated into the **National Data Lake** increased by **60.94%** by mid-2026 compared to 2024, resulting in the storage of **284K+ data fields** (**Figure 16**). Similarly, the number of services available through the **Data Marketplace** increased to **588+**, while the number of datasets available on the **Open Data Platform** rose by **150.6%** by 2026 compared to 2024. The platform now hosts **21.8K+ datasets** provided by **364 government and private entities**⁴⁰, creating a fertile environment for developers and researchers to innovate data-driven solutions. At the same time, efforts intensified to enhance documentation and data consistency at the national level through the **National Data Catalog**, while the **Data Analysis Labs** contributed analytical reports that support decision-making using advanced analytics tools powered by cutting-edge data and AI technologies.

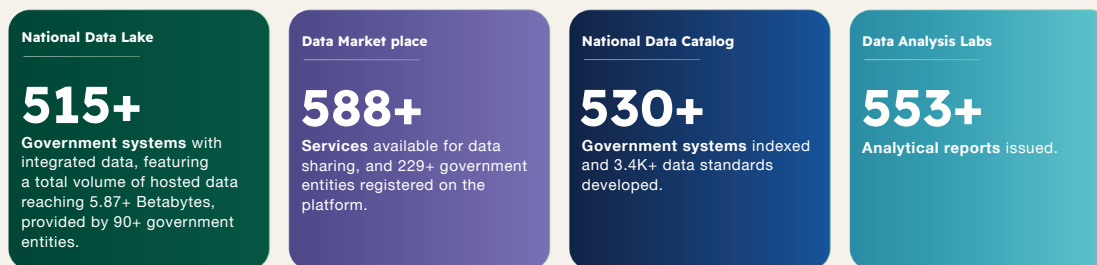
40. Open Data Platform. <https://open.data.gov.sa/en/home>. (Q1) (2026).

These efforts were complemented by operational platforms, including the **Bayan e-Store**, presented by SDAIA, which enables government and private entities to request the data they need. During 2026, the platform contributed **8.2K+ data fields** from **46+ sources**, in addition to offering **775+ e-services** to various entities.

In response to the demands of the generative AI era, a strategic focus has emerged on linguistic and speech data as key drivers of Arabic model development and technology localization. In this context, HUMAIN relied on a massive database of **500B+ Arabic tokens** to develop the **ALLaM 34B language model**, drawn from diverse data sources, including **394K+ books** totaling **380+ billion words**⁴¹. In parallel, KSGAAL has undertaken several efforts to collect linguistic and speech data. Among the most prominent are the **FALAK Platform**, which contains **2.2B words across 15 linguistic corpora**; the **Aswat Corpus**, which includes **2.5K audio hours covering 40 different dialects** and multiple age groups; and the **Voice Wall**, which contains more than **1K audio recordings**. This diversity constitutes a solid knowledge base that enables national models to absorb the richness of the Arabic language and its multiple contexts⁴².

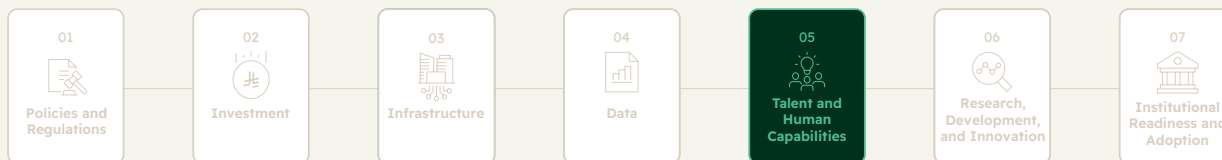
These indicators indicate that 2025 marked a turning point in the development of Saudi Arabia's national data infrastructure, as data shifted from being merely digital assets to a vital driver of innovation and growth. The integration between data accuracy and the diversity of its sources has offered an optimal environment to enhance the efficiency of government services and to stimulate both the public and private sectors to innovate sustainable digital solutions, reinforcing Saudi Arabia's position as a leading regional hub in the data economy.

Figure (16): Achievements Related to the NDB



41. Introductory Guide: HUMAIN Chat, DGA, https://dga.gov.sa/sites/default/files/2025-10/Booklet_HUMAINChat%203_1.pdf. (2025).

42. King Salman Global Academy for Arabic Language. (2025).



8. Talent and Human Capabilities

Saudi Arabia recognizes that leadership in the AI era depends on the availability of qualified and creative human capital capable of localizing, innovating, and applying technology. Accordingly, Saudi Arabia has adopted a comprehensive capabilities development strategy focused on strengthening **public awareness** and developing a flexible **educational ecosystem**, while aligning cognitive outputs with the changing demands of the **labor market**.

These directions have been reflected in the expansion of national initiatives led by several government entities, including SDAIA, KACST, DGA, and Tuwaiq Academy, as well as in the formation of strategic partnerships with major global technology companies and local entities, aiming to empower national capabilities and build advanced practical skills. Most prominent among these collaborations are the partnership between Alibaba Cloud and stc Group to launch a program for AI enablement in Saudi Arabia and train local talent, in addition to the partnership between Salesforce and Groq to train **30K Saudis** by 2030, reflecting Saudi Arabia's strong commitment to building a leading generation equipped with the tools of the future.

These efforts have not been limited to the government and private sectors but have also extended to the non-profit sector, as Saudi Arabia hosts **10+ associations** specializing in AI, data science, data management, and data governance. Prominent examples include the **AI Association** and the **Dal Association** under SDAIA's supervision. In addition to the **Saudi Society for AI and Intelligent Systems (SSAI)**, and the **Saudi Society for Data Science (SSDS)**, both are affiliated with King Saud University (KSU). These efforts also include the **AI Governance Association (AIGA)**, which is concerned with awareness, training, consultations, and services in AI ethics and regulatory compliance, and the **Buniah Association for AI and Data**, which aims to empower the healthcare sector to leverage advanced technologies and enhance public awareness of AI's role in improving the quality of healthcare.

Talent and Human Capabilities Highlights

Pillar's Highlights

01 Public Awareness

84%

Of the public in Saudi Arabia are familiar with the concept of AI, and **74%** are aware of real-world AI applications.

72%

Of the public use AI tools for scientific, educational, professional, or research purposes.

1.2+ million

The total beneficiaries reached via SAMAI Initiative in its first edition.

02 Education

41%

Of Saudi universities have technical academic programs, offer specialized bachelor's degrees in AI, and around **31%** provide specialized master's programs.

69.3 K+

The total graduates in technology-related disciplines such as computer science and information technology between 2021 and 2025.

61.64%

The percentage of increase in the number of graduates in technical disciplines between 2023 and 2025.

03 Workforce

15%

The CAGR in AI talent concentration in the Saudi labor market between 2021 and 2025.

102%

The percentage of increase in the concentration of female AI specialists between 2021 and 2025.

6.90%

The annual average of the AI talent hiring share relative to total hiring on LinkedIn in 2025.

8.1. Public Awareness

Saudi Arabia continues its efforts to empower individuals and organizations to effectively benefit from AI technologies, recognizing them as a fundamental pillar for digital transformation and national innovation. These efforts include a range of high-impact initiatives and programs aimed at disseminating knowledge and enhancing understanding of AI technologies and their benefits to build an aware generation capable of adopting these technologies responsibly across various domains.

Saudi Arabia has continued its efforts to raise awareness and knowledge of AI skills through diverse initiatives and programs targeting all segments of society. SDAIA has organized several awareness and knowledge-based initiatives, most notably: The **SAMAI Initiative**, launched in collaboration with MOE HRSD, whose beneficiaries exceeded **1.2M**, seeking to empower trainees with the base knowledge and skills required to engage with AI technologies and leverage their potential. SDAIA also launched the **SDAIA Podcast** series, which has garnered over **2.6M views** on YouTube and serves as an open knowledge platform for promoting digital culture and enhancing AI awareness.

In the same context, MCIT launched the “**Mostaqbali Program**”, aiming to qualify **50K citizens** (male and female) in AI and digital technology skills, as well as the “**Sayfik Thaki Initiative**” to empower individuals with digital and AI skills. Meanwhile, Tuwaiq Academy has contributed to building a digitally aware society through initiatives like events and Talks (Tuwaiq Talks). Moreover, SSAI, the AI Center of Advanced Studies (Thakaa), and DGA provide training programs to enhance knowledge of AI fundamentals and practical applications. In addition, Monsha’at offers programs and training courses for entrepreneurs and interested individuals to raise their awareness in AI, innovation, and technology.

A wide range of events has contributed to raising AI awareness across Saudi Arabia. Notably, **GAIN Summit** saw a remarkable increase in visitor turnout, reaching **30K+**, a **50% increase** over its previous edition. Furthermore, the number of its speakers rose to **456 speakers**, and it included **150+ sessions and workshops**, showcasing **100+ AI use cases** across sectors. Similarly, **LEAP** emerged as one of the leading global platforms, attracting **200K+ visitors** and bringing together experts, investors, and entrepreneurs to showcase the latest advancements in technology and AI. In the field of Arabic language, KSGAAL organizes its annual international conference to address challenges and explore technical solutions and best practices in natural language processing (NLP).

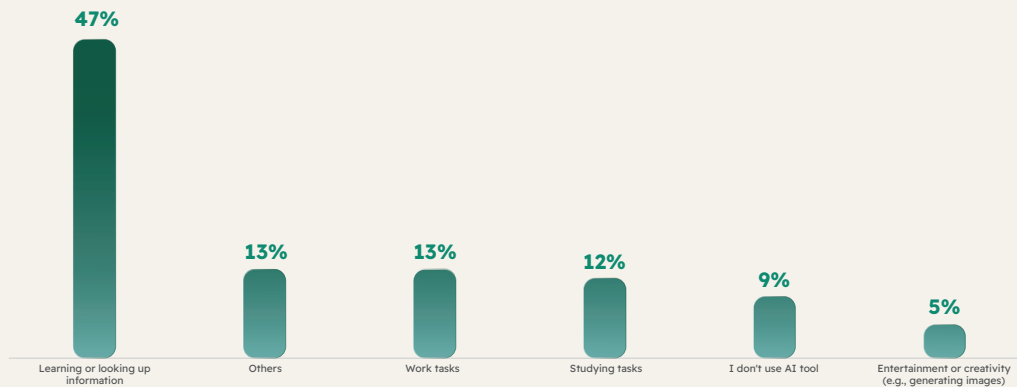


Additionally, several entities in Saudi Arabia publish specialized AI reports and studies to raise awareness and disseminate knowledge, including SDAIA, CST, MCIT, DGA, and RDIA. Notable publications include the “Human-Centered AI ” issued by DGA, as well as SDAIA’s studies on “Deepfakes” and “Agentic AI.” RDIA also publishes reports through the National Research, Development, and Innovation Observatory, focusing on emerging technologies and their economic implications.

As part of monitoring public awareness, SDAIA conducted a survey at the end of 2025 to assess levels of awareness across knowledge, usage, and perceptions of AI. The findings indicate that **84%** of the public are familiar with the concept of AI, while **74%** are aware of its real-world applications. In contrast, **34%** of individuals are enrolled in specialized AI courses, while **52%** are considering joining training and educational programs, reflecting a clear societal shift from general awareness toward specialized learning and practical, professional capability-building.

Regarding the general public’s use of AI tools such as ChatGPT and Gemini in Saudi society, **51%** use them daily or almost daily, while **21%** use them at least once per week. Learning and looking for information, and work and study tasks are among the most common purposes for which community members use AI tools, at **47%** and **25%**, respectively, while uses in the fields of creativity and entertainment did not exceed **5%** (**Figure 17**).

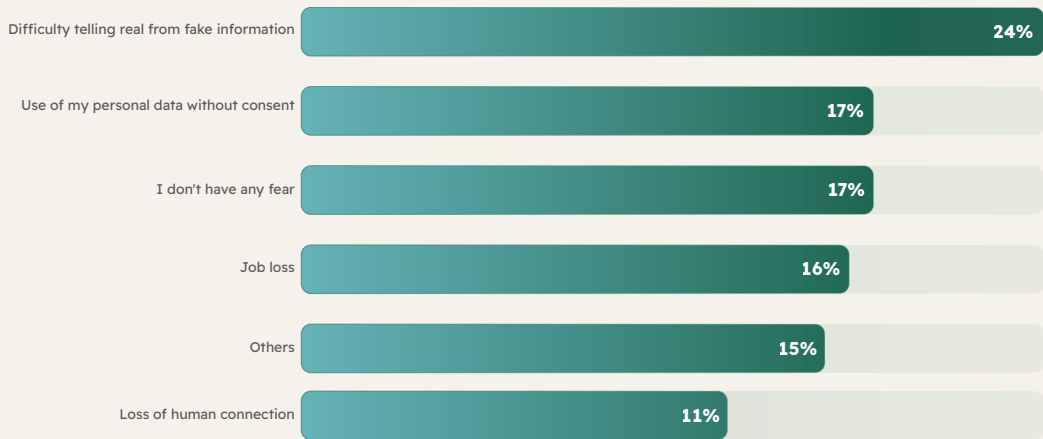
 **Figure (17): Use Cases of AI Tools Among the Population**



Source: SDAIA Public Awareness Survey, 2025 (n = 700+ respondents)

In terms of public sentiment, more than **80%** of individuals expressed positive or neutral attitudes toward the increasing use of AI technologies, with **53%** of them expressing optimism and **27%** maintaining a neutral stance, reflecting societal acceptance of this technology. However, concerns remain, with information credibility ranking as the top concern, as **24%** of respondents highlighted difficulty telling real from fake information. In comparison, the percentages were close for the use of personal data without consent at **17%**, concerns of job loss at **16%**, and the loss of human connection at **11%** (**Figure 18**).

Figure (18): Key Concerns Among the Population Regarding the Increasing Use of AI



Source: SDAIA Public Awareness Survey, 2025 (n = 700+ respondents)

Despite these concerns, **84%** of respondents expressed some level of trust in AI tools. However, the presence of human verification behavior was continuous, as 58% reported their commitment to reviewing and verifying outputs before adopting them, indicating responsible, balanced use of the technology. This behavior is reinforced by awareness of regulatory frameworks, as **63%** of respondents indicated familiarity with the national principles and guidelines for the responsible use of AI issued by SDAIA. Among them, **27%** reported full awareness, while **36%** had only heard of them, reflecting an advanced level of societal readiness to adopt AI within a more informed and secure paradigm.



8.2. Education

Saudi Arabia considers education the foundation for building national AI capabilities. Therefore, it approaches education as an integrated ecosystem that begins with general education and extends to higher education, and then continues to training and upskilling programs, ensuring the preparation of human capital capable of developing AI technologies and adopting them effectively across vital sectors.

Guided by this direction, the education sector has undergone a major transformation, with growing efforts to integrate advanced technologies into curricula to prepare a generation capable of keeping pace with rapid technological change. In July 2025, the National Curriculum Center, in partnership with MOE, MCIT, and SDAIA, announced the **launch of an AI curriculum** to be introduced across all levels of general education starting from the 2025–2026 academic year. This curriculum aims to establish AI learning as a core skill for the next generation through instructional units designed in line with students' age characteristics and delivered through interactive, applied methods that strengthen understanding and thinking skills. In addition, efforts were made to enhance the readiness of **13k+ teachers** through capacity-building programs in AI and its applications⁴³.

At the university level, Saudi Arabia has achieved notable progress in the academic programs it offers. Among **54 public and private universities and colleges** offering programs in technical fields, **98%** of them provide bachelor's programs in disciplines that include AI-related courses and skills, most notably computer science, information technology, and software engineering⁴⁴. This direction is further reinforced by the adoption of an AI course as a mandatory requirement across bachelor's programs⁴³ in **30 universities** in the Kingdom, to be developed based on the National Cross-Disciplinary for University Students in Data and AI launched by SDAIA. At the postgraduate level, **63%** of universities and colleges offer master's programs in technical disciplines, while **9%** offer doctoral programs. Additionally, **33%** of Saudi universities and colleges offer diploma programs in technical fields to support applied and vocational qualification pathways. Looking at specialized programs, **41%** of universities and colleges in Saudi Arabia offer bachelor's programs in AI and data science, **31%** offer master's programs, and **15%** offer diploma programs. This reflects the development of the education ecosystem and the expansion of academic and applied programs that align with labor market needs, helping prepare national talent capable of competing globally.

In terms of higher education outcomes, the number of graduates in technical disciplines increased from 2021 to 2025 (**Figure 19**). The total number of graduates during this period reached approximately **69.3K+**, with an increase of **61.64%** in the third quarter of 2025 compared to 2023⁴⁵. The years 2024 and

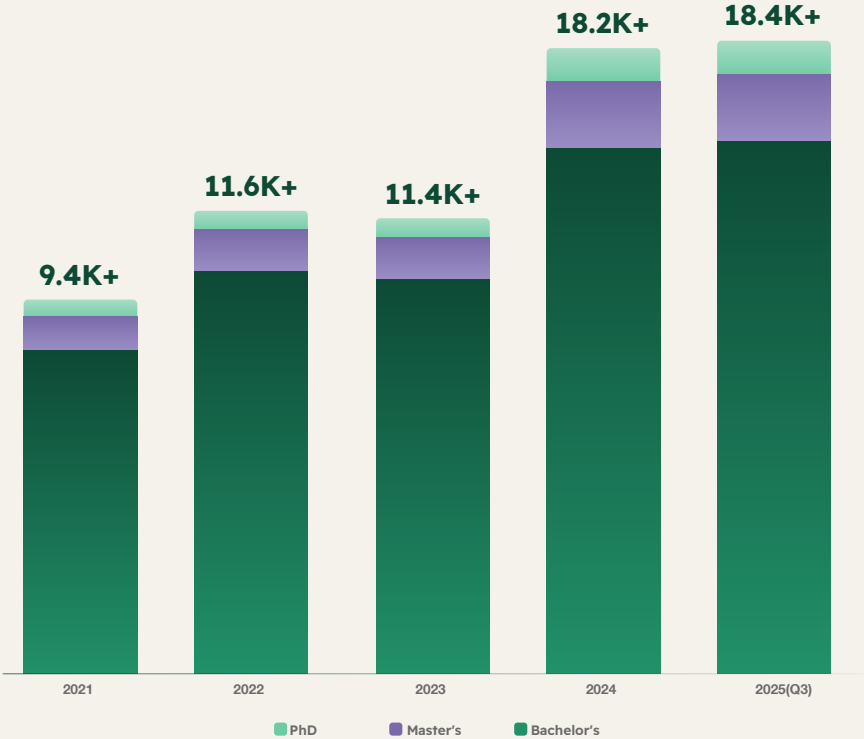
43. Annual Report. MCIT. https://www.mcit.gov.sa/sites/default/files/2026-04/mcit_annual_report2025.pdf. (2026).

44. Estimated by SDAIA. (2025).

45. MOE data via Estishraf Platform. SDAIA. (2025)

2025 recorded a notable surge, with **36.7K+ graduates**, representing nearly **53%** of the total number of graduates since 2021. Looking at 2024 and 2025 outcomes, bachelor's graduates accounted for the largest share, at **95%**, while master's and doctoral graduates accounted for **4%** and **1%**, respectively. As for specialized graduates, the number of AI and data science graduates reached **1.6K+ specialized graduates across bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees**. Additionally, Saudi universities graduated **44K+ students** from diploma and higher diploma programs in technical fields, reflecting the Kingdom's education ecosystem's emphasis on vocational qualifications to support labor market needs.

Figure (19): Number of Graduates in AI-Related Disciplines (2021–2025)



Source: SDAIA, MOE data via the Estifhaf Platform, Q3 2025.

Saudi Arabia's interest in building AI capabilities has not been limited to general and higher education. Rather, it forms part of a broader, cumulative path that includes the development of a continuous education and training ecosystem, reflected in the launch of **10+ AI-focused academies and training platforms**. Among the most prominent are SDAIA Academy, KAUST Academy, the Saudi Digital Academy (SDA), and the Saudi Academy for Robotics & AI. This is in addition to the MCIT's Future Skills Initiative, which aims to scale digital skills development. The initiatives also include the expansion of Tuwaiq Academy in its educational initiatives by the launch of the 'Satr' educational platform and the establishment of three specialized sub-academies through global partnerships: Holberton Academy, Alibaba Cloud Academy, and Meta Academy, as well as the launch of the first AI Innovation Center in the Middle East in collaboration with NVIDIA to build technical capabilities⁴⁶.

Building on this integrated education and training ecosystem, the focus has shifted to practical activation through specialized training programs and intensive bootcamps. SDAIA launched **81 training programs and bootcamps** since 2024 to mid-2026 in collaboration with global technology entities, most notably NVIDIA and Microsoft, with **14** of these offering a total of **24 professional certifications** in the field. These programs benefited **11.5K+ experts and specialists** over this period. Among the most prominent of these initiatives is the **Advanced Pathways Program in AI**, launched by SDAIA in November 2024 in collaboration with DeepLearning.AI and Stanford University, which trained **400 specialists** over five weeks of intensive training in advanced AI technologies, including machine learning, deep learning, and generative AI. In addition, RDIA, in collaboration with Alwaleed Philanthropies and KAUST Academy, launched the 'Women in STEM' program, which trained **97 postgraduate female students** in AI fields to qualify them for admission to the world's top 30 universities. This reflects Saudi Arabia's commitment to expanding female representation in advanced AI disciplines⁴⁷. Similarly, MCIT launched the **'FuelAI' initiative**, offering virtual bootcamps in AI and advanced technologies through the FutureX platform, affiliated with NELC, in partnership with leading national digital academies such as SDA.

In line with these efforts, Tuwaiq Academy has played a prominent role in building specialized capabilities in AI, data science, and advanced technologies. In 2025, it delivered **109 AI-related initiatives**, an increase of **28+ over 81** in 2024⁴⁶. These initiatives were distributed across educational programs (**50.6%**), enrichment sessions (**28.7%**), specialized bootcamps (**13.1%**), and webinars (**7.75%**). The target groups

46. Tuwaiq Academy. (2025).

47. RADIA. (2025).

for these initiatives over the two years diversified between talented young students (**11.3%**), general education students (**32.9%**), university students and graduates (**39.4%**), and adult professionals in the government and private sectors (**16.4%**). Looking at specialized initiatives, the rate of data science initiatives in 2024 and 2025 reached **19%** of the total initiatives, with a **34%** increase in AI, data science, and big data programs in 2025 compared to 2024⁴⁸. As for beneficiaries, the total number of participants in AI-related initiatives reached **2.2K** in 2025, with a growth rate of **39.7%** compared to 2024. Notably, the share of female beneficiaries reached **55.4%** in 2025, up **49.1%** from 2024.



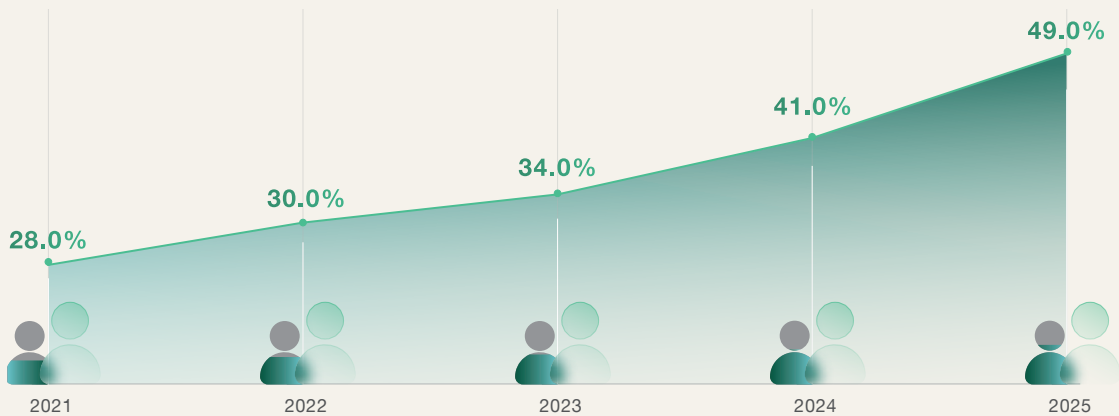
48. Tuwaiq Academy. (2025)

8.3. Workforce

Saudi Arabia’s labor market has witnessed rapid growth in the AI workforce in recent years, reflecting the gradual transformation in the nature of required skills and the rising demand for advanced digital capabilities across various development and economic sectors. AI is no longer confined to technical domains; it has become a vital career pathway, steadily expanding in the Saudi labor market.

Saudi market data shows an increase in the concentration of AI specialists, defined as the share of the workforce with at least two AI engineering skills or AI-related roles. The CAGR of AI talent concentration in the Saudi market is estimated at **15%** (**Figure 20**). AI talent concentration increased from **0.28%** of the total LinkedIn members in the Kingdom in 2021 to **0.49%** in 2025⁴⁹. The rapid growth in the percentage of AI specialists among LinkedIn members in the Kingdom over the past five years (2021-2025) reflects a remarkable expansion of this specialized discipline, indicating a gradual structural transformation in the skills required in the Saudi market.

Figure (20): AI Talent concentration in the Saudi Labor Market (2021–2025)



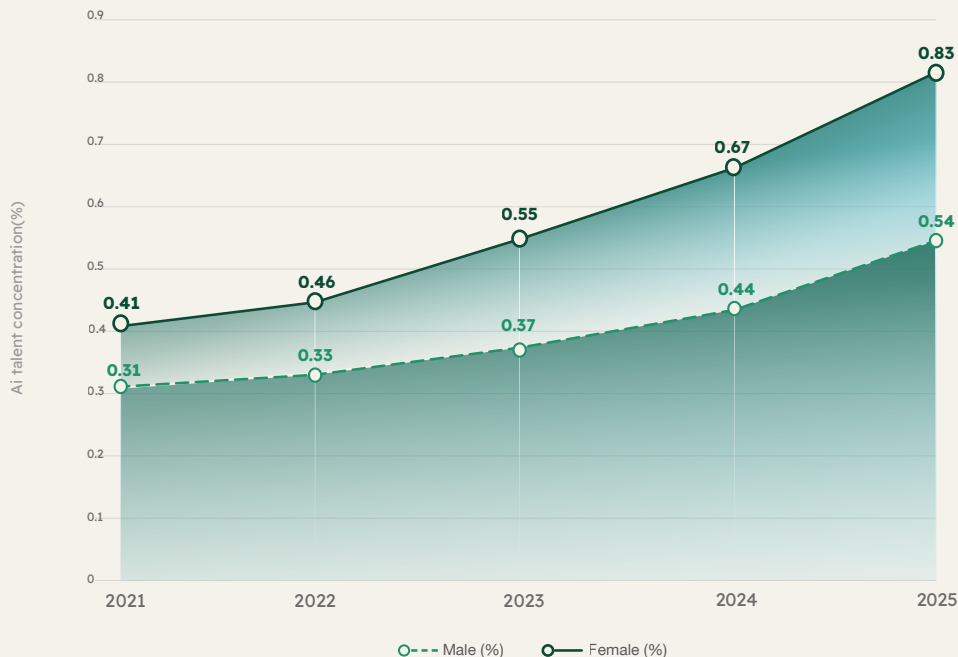
Source: LinkedIn data via OECD live data, July 2026.

49. AI Jobs and Skills. OECD data from LinkedIn Economic Graph. OECD. <https://oecd.ai/en/data>. (2026).



When AI talent concentration is analyzed by gender as a share of each group's total workforce in the Saudi market, the data shows a growth in female AI talent concentration. Female AI talent concentration recorded significant growth of **102%**, rising from **0.41%** in 2021 to **0.83%** of the total female workforce in 2025 (**Figure 21**)⁵⁰. By contrast, male AI talent concentration increased over the same period from **0.31%** to **0.54%** of the total male workforce, representing nearly a **74%** increase.

 **Figure (21): AI Talent concentration by Gender as a Share of Each Group's Total Workforce (2021–2025)**



Source: LinkedIn data via OECD live data, July 2026.

50. AI Jobs and Skills. OECD data from LinkedIn Economic Graph. OECD. <https://oecd.ai/en/data>. (2026).

This growth is also reflected in the share of female AI specialists relative to male specialists within the total workforce in Saudi Arabia, as the share of female AI specialists increased over the past five years by **5.70 percentage points**, against a decline in the male share, indicating a narrowing gender gap, broader women's participation in AI career pathways, and a stronger presence in the digital labor market (**Figure 22**)⁵¹.

With respect to the penetration rates of AI skills within the workforce across sectors, Saudi market data indicates that the education sector records the highest level of AI skills penetration, as the penetration index reached approximately **0.96**, a level close to the global average and higher than prominent regional markets such as the Singapore (**0.89**) and Hong Kong (**0.78**). In other sectors, professional services showed an advanced performance with a penetration rate of **0.85**, followed by the technology, information, and media sector at **0.68**⁵¹. In contrast, the manufacturing sector recorded a relatively lower penetration level, which points to differences in AI adoption stages across sectors, while also confirming future opportunities to expand its use.

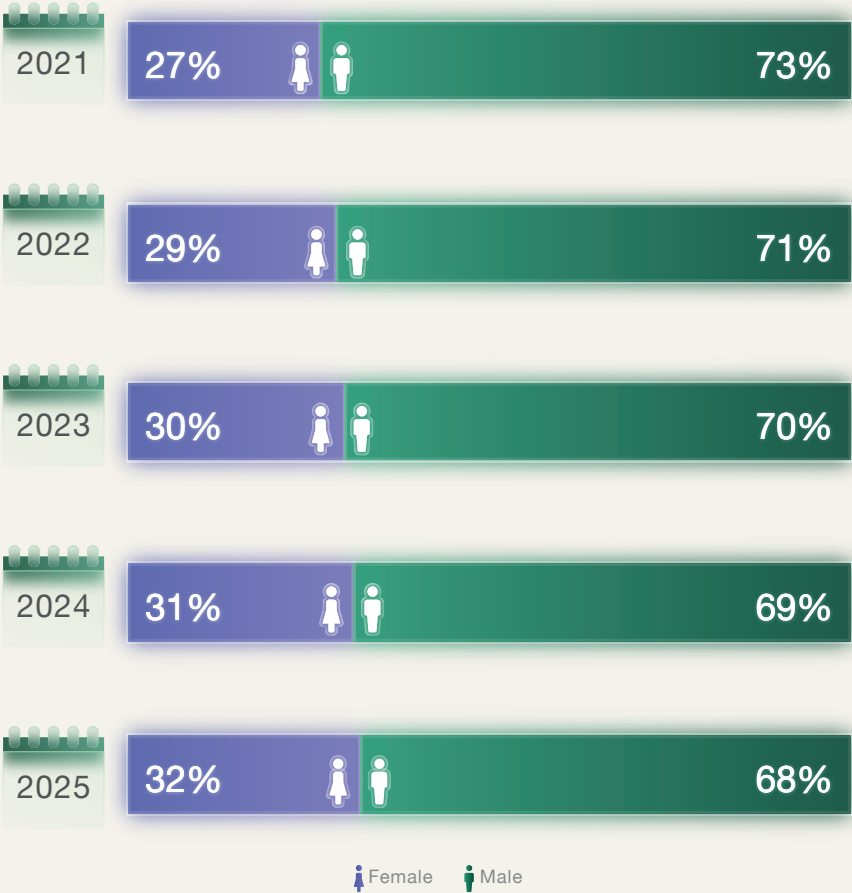
Further reinforcing this growth, demand for AI roles has increased markedly since 2023. The annual average of AI talent hiring share relative to the total hiring through LinkedIn rose from **4.69** in 2023 to **6.90** in 2025⁵¹. Notably, pointing to a rapid increase in demand for AI specialists, driven by the expansion of operational applications and the integration of intelligent technologies into economic activity. This reflects the market's entry into a more mature and sustainable growth phase.

It is also worth noting that meeting this **growing demand has not relied solely on new hiring**, but has been driven to a significant extent by career transitions from roles not directly related to AI. Looking at the features of the Saudi market, the largest share of these transitions came from analytical and technical roles primarily focused on data, including software engineers, business analysts, and business intelligence specialists. On the other hand, this transition has also extended to managerial roles, such as administrative assistants and project managers, reflecting the broadening use of AI across different levels of the job structure and highlighting the pivotal role of reskilling in building AI-specialized human capital.

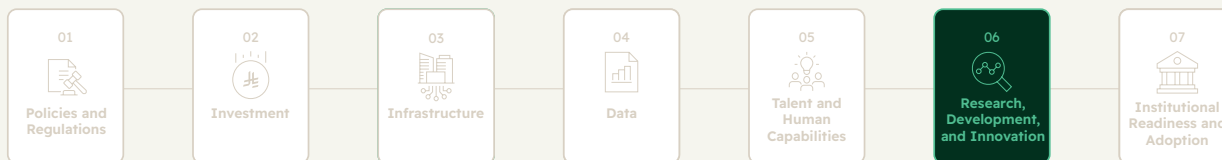
Overall, these indicators reflect a clear alignment between talent growth, skills penetration, and the momentum of demand for AI roles in the Saudi market, pointing to the gradual maturity of the human capital ecosystem in this field. This trajectory underscores the importance of sustained investment in skills development and reskilling to ensure the continued adoption of AI and to maximize its economic impact.

51. AI Jobs and Skills. OECD data from LinkedIn Economic Graph. OECD. <https://oecd.ai/en/data>. (2026).

Figure (22): Share of AI talent by gender in Saudi Arabia, One Gender Versus the other (2021-2025)



Source: LinkedIn data via OECD live data, July 2026.



9. Research, Development, and Innovation

Saudi Arabia is consolidating its leading position in AI by building an integrated AI innovation ecosystem that brings together advanced infrastructure, specialized innovation and research funding programs, and applied experimental environments led by government entities, academic institutions, research centers, and advanced companies, to transform research ideas into tangible economic products.

To strengthen applied innovation, Saudi Arabia has expanded the establishment of specialized labs and facilities, including **Robotics Bay** and the **Generative AI Factory** at KAUST, the **AI Lab** launched by stc in collaboration with RDIA, and the **AI Laboratory (SAIL)** launched by SFDA to develop AI-based technical solutions. In parallel, NELC, in collaboration with the RDIA, launched the **AI Sandbox** in Digital Learning to provide a flexible environment that enables innovators to test AI solutions and develop scalable, innovative educational tools.

To minimize the gap between innovation and market needs, Saudi Arabia launched **26+ national AI-related hackathons and challenges** during 2025 up to mid-2026, most notably the **Injaz Hackathon**, launched by SDAIA to develop technical solutions that enhance institutional efficiency readiness across the public and private sectors, with **400+ participants** and ending with **ten companies** winning; in addition to the AI Co-Innovation Program, launched by the RDIA in collaboration with **14 national entities**, and in strategic partnership with EXPEC ARC at Aramco, which resulted in the development of **22 prototypes** addressing more than **14 critical challenges** across the energy, industry, and logistics sectors⁵², as well as the Arabic Hackathon (Barmajan Al-Arabiyya) and research competitions within the **Arabic Reverse Dictionary (KSAA-RD)**, hosted by **KSGAAL**, which aimed to develop technical solutions, digital platforms, and specialized tools for automated Arabic language processing⁵³.

⁵² Research, Development and Innovation Authority (RDIA). 2025.

⁵³ King Salman Global Academy for Arabic Language. 2025.

Research, Development, and Innovation

Pillar's Highlights

01 Scientific Research

32.2 K+

The total number of scientific publications in AI in Saudi Arabia from 2021 to 2025.

37.4%

The CAGR in AI scientific publications from 2021 to 2025.

73%

of AI publications are journal articles, while 17% of them are conference papers, and 5% are review articles.

02 Patents

853+

The total number of AI patents in Saudi Arabia from 2020 to 2024.

34.52%

The CAGR in AI patents from 2020 to 2024.

52.04%

The percentage of increase in AI patents between 2023 and 2024 alone.

03 Development and Deployment

8 LLMs

and 58 AI applications developed locally in Saudi Arabia.

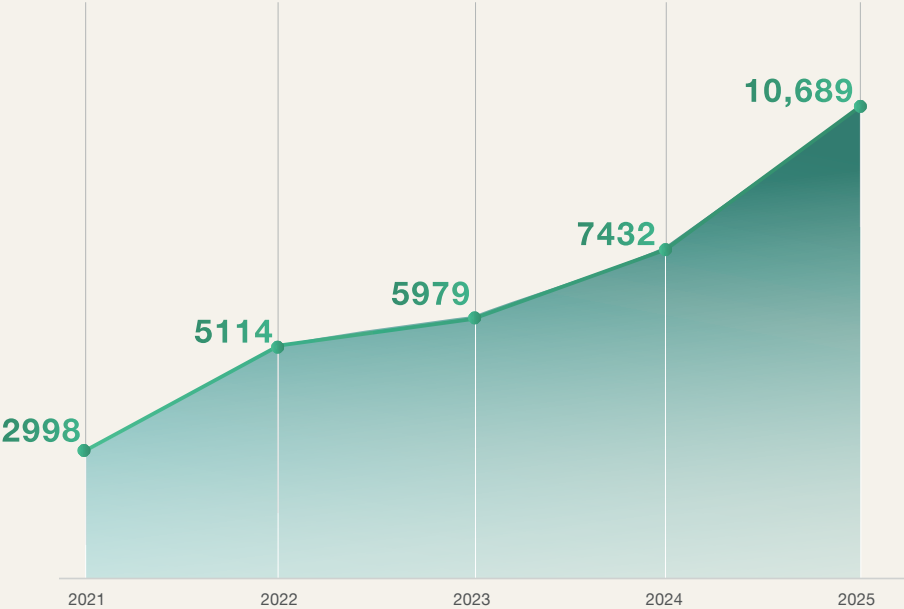
5 Leading models

according to the Stanford HAI AI Index published in 2025.

9.1. Scientific Research

Saudi Arabia continues its national efforts to strengthen the AI research ecosystem, as reflected in the rapid growth of research output in recent years. According to data from Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the number of AI-related scientific publications issued by the Kingdom increased from **7.38K+ research papers** in 2024 to **10.69K research papers** in 2025, representing a **43.8%** increase, with a CAGR of **37.4%** between 2021 and 2025⁵⁴ (Figure 23), and bringing the total research output to nearly **32.2k+ papers** from 2021 to 2025.

Figure (23): Number of Scientific Publications in Saudi Arabia (2021–2025)



Source: OECD, accessed in July 2026.

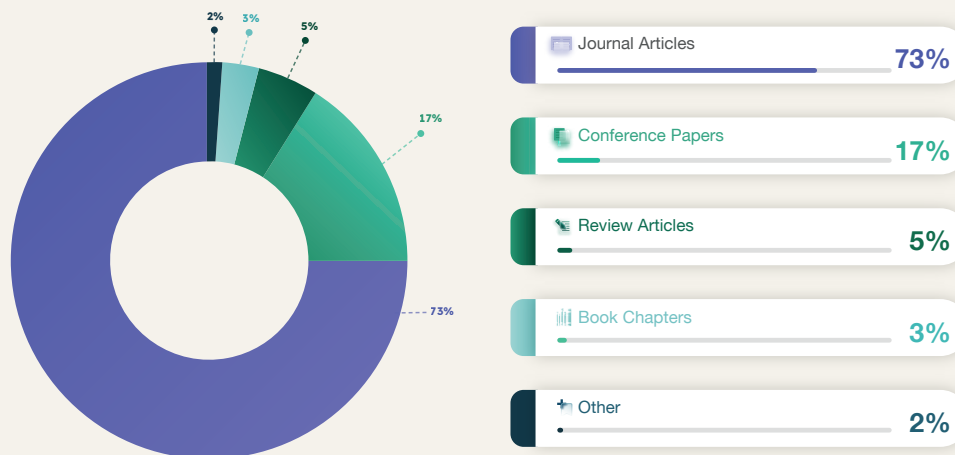
54. AI Research. OECD data from Elsevier. OECD. <https://oecd.ai/en/data>. (2026).

Publications from 2024 to 2025 covered a range of formats, including journal articles, conference papers, review articles, and book chapters. Journal articles accounted for the largest share of research output, at approximately **73%**, followed by conference papers at **17%**, and review articles at **5%** (**Figure 24**)⁵⁵. In terms of subject areas, these researches were primarily concentrated in computer science applications (**15%**), advanced AI (**14%**), general computer science and computer networks and telecommunications (**12%**), and electrical and electronic engineering (**11%**), reflecting both the diversity and depth of research outputs.

Data also indicate that Saudi universities are the primary source of AI research output, leading in publication share during this period, notably KSU at approximately **20%**, King Khalid University (KKU) at **14%**, Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University (PNU) at **13%**, and King Abdulaziz University (KAU) at **11%**⁵⁵.

To enhance the quality and impact of this research output, international collaboration has been a key pillar since 2024 to 2025, with approximately **77%** of research conducted in partnership with international research institutions across several countries, most notably India, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of China, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the United States, and the United Kingdom⁵⁵.

Figure (24): Distribution of Saudis' Scientific Publications issued by Saudi Arabia by Type (2024–2025)



Source: OECD, accessed in July 2026.

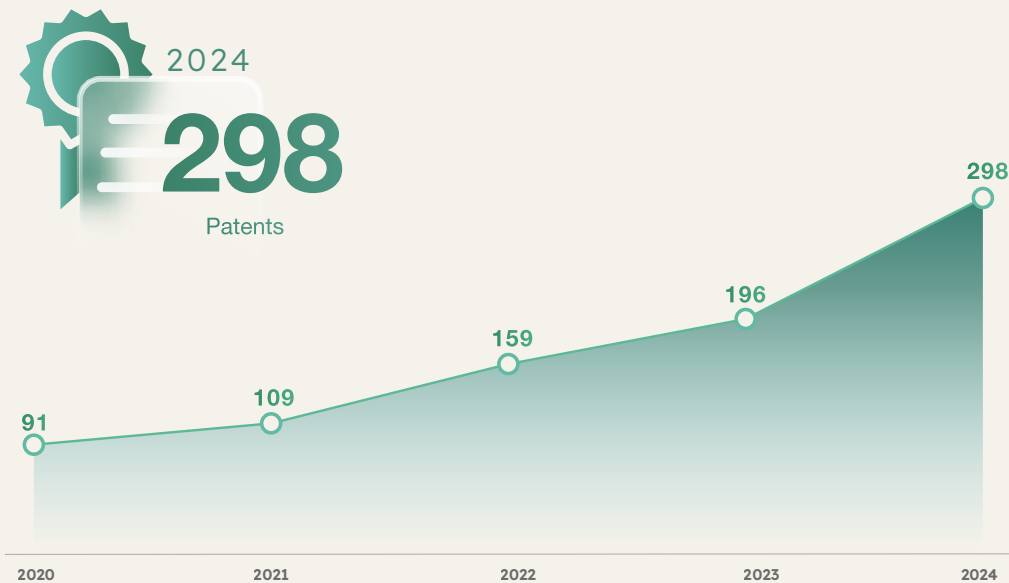
55. AI Research. OECD data from Elsevier. OECD. <https://oecd.ai/en/data>. (2026).

9.2. Patents

Saudi Arabia recorded notable growth in AI-related patent activity between 2020 and 2024. The number of granted AI **patents** increased from **91** in 2020 to **298** in 2024, with a **CAGR** of approximately **34.52%** (**Figure 25**), bringing the total to **853+** over this period⁵⁶.

This growth reflects a more than threefold increase over this period, indicating a clear acceleration in innovation, intellectual property protection, and the maturity of the innovation ecosystem in Saudi Arabia, particularly in AI.

Figure (25): Number of Scientific Publications in Saudi Arabia (2020–2024)



Source: SAIP, September 2025

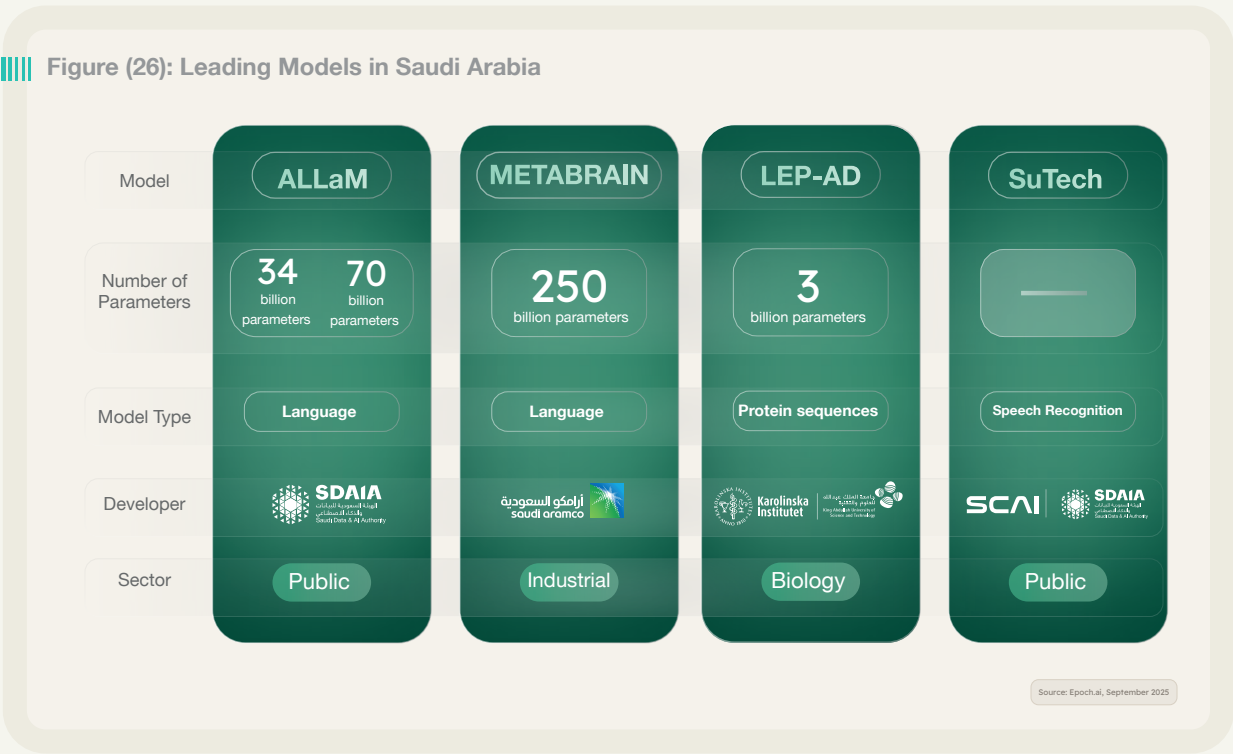
56. Patents Data. Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP), (2025).

9.3. Models and Intelligent Tools Development

In recent years, Saudi Arabia has undergone a qualitative shift in the development and deployment of AI technologies, with several innovations advancing from experimental research stages to more mature phases characterized by the development of national models, operational platforms, and the deployment of intelligent solutions and tools across key sectors in both the public and private domains.

These efforts have resulted in the development of several AI models, including **eight LLMs** by 2025, developed by government, semi-government, and private entities⁵⁷, as well as **five globally leading AI models (Figure 26)**. This has positioned Saudi Arabia third globally in terms of the number of leading LLMs, reflecting its capability to develop globally-competitive domestic models, such as the ALLaM model (ALLaM Adapted 70B) developed by SDAIA⁵⁸, and Aramco’s METABRAIN⁵⁹ model, designed to support advanced analytics in energy, industry, and large-scale operational domains.

Figure (26): Leading Models in Saudi Arabia



57. Annual Report. MCIT. https://www.mcit.gov.sa/sites/default/files/2026-04/mcit_annual_report2025.pdf. (2026).
58. AI Models. Epoch.ai. <https://epoch.ai/data/ai-models?view=table&tab=notable>. (2025).
59. World's largest industrial LLM revealed. Middle East AI News. <https://www.middleeastainews.com/p/aramco-launches-largest-industrial-llm> (2024)

The interest in Saudi Arabia has not been limited to developing native Arabic-language models; rather, it has also extended to establishing scientific evaluation frameworks to assess their quality and reliability. In this context, **KSGAAL**, in collaboration with **10+ academic and government institutions** across the Middle East, including SDAIA, KSU, and Qatar University, launched the **BALSAM Index** to evaluate the performance of Arabic language models using specialized benchmark datasets comprising **15K+ test questions** covering **67 linguistic tasks** across **14 different categories**. In early 2026, **20 Arabic-supporting language models** were tested and evaluated, contributing to providing a reliable, standardized reference that helps entities make informed, methodologically grounded decisions about adopting language models⁶⁰.

To further advance applied innovation, NELC launched the Digital Learning AI Sandbox Initiative to provide a flexible environment enabling researchers, developers, and innovators in the digital education sector to experiment with and test AI technologies. In 2025, the initiative resulted in the participation of **4.5K+ participants**, the development of **27 innovative solutions**, five of which are considered globally competitive, the execution of **350+ applied experiments**, and the establishment of 25 strategic partnerships locally and internationally, reflecting its role in translating research into scalable, evidence-based applications⁶¹.

In terms of innovative solutions, Saudi Arabia recorded remarkable growth in its national technological output, with the number of **locally developed AI applications** reaching **58** by 2025⁶². Within this context, government and private entities in Saudi Arabia focus on building operational AI tools and systems for real-world applications with direct impact. In the Hajj and Umrah sector, SDAIA introduced the portable **Banan device** to enable automated identity verification processes for crowd management across multiple locations. SDAIA also launched, in collaboration with (MOI), the **Smart Makkah Operations Center (Smart MOC)** in Makkah and supports it with an intelligent digital ecosystem that includes the Sawaher and Basier platforms, which assist in crowd organization and mobility management based on the capacity at each site. Additionally, the second version of the Manarah Robot was developed to respond to Sharia-related inquiries in **11 different languages** using AI. In the research and development domain, the RDIA developed a first-of-its-kind AI model for evaluating research grant proposals, whose pilot version reduced total evaluation time by **67%** and saved approximately **156K work hours**, and achieved an average accuracy of **88%** across all evaluation stages⁶³.

60. King Salman Global Academy for Arabic Language. 2025.

61. National eLearning Center. (2025).

62. Annual Report. MCIT. https://www.mcit.gov.sa/sites/default/files/2026-04/mcit_annual_report2025.pdf. (2026).

63. Research, Development and Innovation Authority (RDIA). 2025.

At the healthcare level, SFDA launched an **AI-powered model to accurately predict drug shortages in Saudi Arabia** by leveraging advanced algorithms and continuously analyzing historical data for each medication, supporting real-time decision-making, enhancing supply chain efficiency, and preventing potential shortages⁶⁴. In parallel, the Ministry of Health (MOH) announced the launch of a clinical trial for the AI-powered virtual physician (**AI Physician**) for accurate disease diagnosis, in collaboration with HUMAIN and LEAN, in addition to the **Smart Health Coach** developed in partnership with Google through the Sehaty application, serving as an AI-based health advisor⁶⁵.

As for the tourism sector, the Saudi Tourism Authority launched the **digital tourism assistant (SARA)**, an AI-powered virtual travel guide that provides personalized recommendations on destinations, accommodations, and events based on user preferences⁶⁶. At the agricultural level, **KAUST developed an innovative AI-powered robotic system to automate date-palm harvesting operations**⁶⁷.

In addition, several companies have contributed to this momentum, led by HUMAIN, which, since its launch in 2025, has introduced a range of intelligent tools and platforms, most notably **HUMAIN Chat**, powered by the Arabic language model ALLaM (Adapted 34B) developed by SDAIA, and **HUMAIN ONE**, an agentic AI platform for enterprise operations management, as well as **HUMAIN Compute**, an AI device powered by Qualcomm chips⁶⁸.

Similarly, Elm developed the **Arabic model Nuha**, which supports multiple languages, primarily Arabic, and is capable of contextual understanding, intelligent interaction, and customization based on the entity or service⁶⁹. Additionally, Deep.ai developed **KADI** as a customizable personal AI companion and **aiPlatform.ai** as a customizable multi-agent AI workspace with an interactive user interface, providing a secure, reliable, and governed environment to enhance employee productivity and facilitate the implementation of AI governance policies⁷⁰. Moreover, Mozon developed **Focal**, an advanced platform for financial crime prevention and compliance, and **OSOS**, a platform leveraging Arabic generative AI for document analysis and knowledge extraction⁷¹.

Collectively, these initiatives and efforts reflect Saudi Arabia's transition to a more mature stage in the development and deployment of AI, through the establishment of an institutional and structural ecosystem that enhances quality, governance, and sustainability, and enables entities to adopt AI solutions effectively and efficiently.

64. SFDA CEO Launches an AI Model to Proactively Predict Drug Shortages in Saudi Arabia. SFDA News. <https://www.sfda.gov.sa/ar/news/4875660>. (2025).

65. Saudi Health Minister Launches Global Health Exhibition, Seals SAR124B Deals, MOH News. Saudi Health Minister Launches Global Health Exhibition, Seals SAR124B Deals, MOH News.

66. Saudi Tourism Authority Launches Beta Version of SARA AI: A Virtual Travel Companion. The Saudi Tourism Authority (STA) News. <https://www.sta.gov.sa/en/news/saudi-tourism-authority-launches-beta-version-of-sara-ai>. (2025).

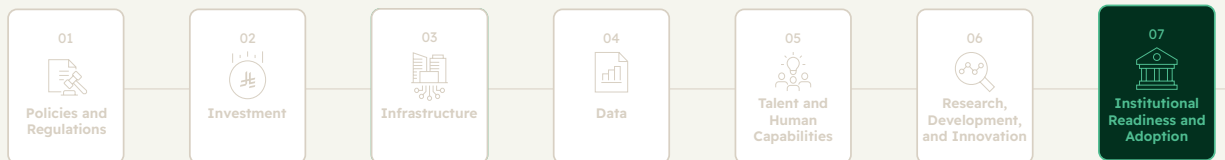
67. KAUST developing robotic system to improve date palm harvesting. KAUST News. <https://www.kaust.edu.sa/en/news/kaust-developing-robotic-system-to-improve-date-palm-harvesting>. (2025).

68. HUMAIN Products. HUMAIN. <https://www.humain.com/>. (2025).

69. Nuha Bridging Technology and Arabic Culture. ELM Case Studies. <https://www.elm.sa/ar/Pages/elm-ai.aspx>. (2025).

70. DEEPSA Products. DEEPSA. <https://deep.sa/>. (2025).

71. OSOS. MOZNI. <https://www.mozn.ai/osos>. (2025).



10. Institutional Readiness and Adoption

Institutional readiness and the level of AI adoption across sectors in Saudi Arabia serve as a key indicator of the depth of digital transformation within entities, distinguishing between the availability of enablers and their effective utilization. The presence of advanced technologies does not solely determine the success of AI adoption; rather, it depends on the readiness of institutional structures, the maturity of data practices, the integration of regulatory frameworks, and the ability of entities to translate capabilities into sustainable operations and tangible impact.

Accordingly, SDAIA conducted a survey involving **30 government entities**, covering their institutional readiness across organizational, technical, and human enablers, as well as the level of AI adoption and its impact.

Institutional Readiness and Adoption Pillar's Highlights

01 Institutional Readiness

90%

of government entities have an AI strategy and a unified framework to measure the success and impact of their initiatives.

77%

of government entities adopt AI governance practices, while 63% have established formal procedures to comply with national principles issued by SDAIA.

23%

of government entities possess a flexible infrastructure for high-performance computing.

02 Adoption

97%

of government entities use or develop AI models and tools.

48%

of entities adopting AI reported an increase in internal operational efficiency exceeding 10%.

45%

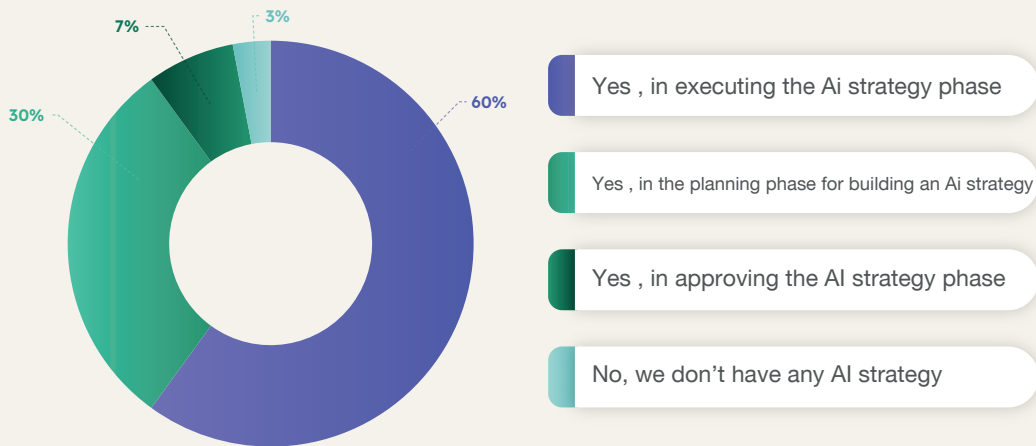
of entities adopting AI observed an increase in workforce productivity of up to 15%.

10.1. Institutional Readiness

Institutional readiness forms the foundation for AI adoption within government entities, reflecting preparedness in terms of strategic direction clarity, allocation of financial resources, availability of regulatory frameworks, maturity of data practices, availability of technical infrastructure, and readiness of human capabilities, ensuring the transition from pilot initiatives to sustainable applications with actual impact.

At the strategic level, **90% of government entities** reported having a dedicated AI strategy and a unified framework to measure success and impact⁷². Of these, **60%** are in the execution phase, **30%** are in the approval phase, while **7%** remain in the planning stage for building an AI strategy (**Figure 27**). In parallel, **90%** of government entities allocate dedicated budgets to support AI initiatives. Among them, **43%** allocate **2%** or more of their total budgets, while **47%** allocate budgets not exceeding **2%**, reflecting a shift from planning and strategy to financial commitment and execution across the government sector.

Figure (27): Status of AI Strategy Development in Government Entities



Source: AI Readiness & Adoption Survey, SDAIA (n=30), 2025.

72. AI Readiness & Adoption Survey, SDAIA, (2025).

On the regulatory front, **77%** of entities reported having formal governance practices, including dedicated frameworks and models for overseeing AI⁷³, while **7%** rely on informal governance practices. To ensure system reliability and safety, **63%** of entities have established approved procedures for assessing AI-related risks and mitigation plans, with **23%** reviewing and updating them periodically. Notably, **63%** of entities stated that they adhere to formal procedures for compliance with the Generative AI Guidelines for Government and the Deepfake Guidelines issued by SDAIA.

Regarding data and its governance, **53%** of government entities reported adopting secure, automated access management systems with regular updates, while **37%** of other entities rely on manual or limited mechanisms⁷³. To ensure data quality and integration, **73%** of entities reported using automated mechanisms to perform periodic data updates. Among them, **55%** of entities rely on centralized storage systems with regular backups, while **23%** use cloud-based storage with automated replication and monitoring systems, ensuring the secure and reliable storage of AI training data and enabling effective disaster recovery.

In terms of AI-supporting infrastructure within government entities, 23% reported having flexible infrastructure for high-performance computing⁷³, while **50%** reported possessing computing infrastructure with limited capacity or relying on traditional processors.

On the other hand, **77%** of entities indicate that they have formally established structural units dedicated to AI⁷³. The number of specialized roles varies across entities: **7%** have more than **30 AI-related roles**, while **38%** and **40%** have between 10 and 30 roles or fewer than 10 roles, respectively. To ensure the maturity of specialized expertise, **80%** of entities provide targeted training programs, while **37%** establish clear training pathways for each employee, including opportunities to obtain professional certifications. This supports operational sustainability and strengthens the readiness of internal capabilities to develop, operate, and scale AI solutions.



73. AI Readiness & Adoption Survey, SDAIA, (2025).

10.2. Adoption

AI adoption in Saudi Arabia reflects a clear strategic direction to maximize the impact of these technologies by enhancing government performance efficiency, improving the quality of public services, and accelerating the transition toward a more proactive and effective digital government. In this context, government entities have progressed from limited experimentation to systematic adoption through integrating AI solutions into institutional operations, enhancing services delivered to beneficiaries, and supporting decision-making processes.

According to the SDAIA survey on AI readiness and adoption, **97%** of government entities reported using or developing AI models and tools. Looking at the mechanisms entities use when adopting AI models⁷⁴, **69%** of entities adopt AI models by either customizing open-source models (**31%**) or fully developing them in-house (**38%**), while **30%** use open-source models directly without customization (**Figure 28**). Notably, **83%** of these entities adopting AI consider the following specific methodologies and standards aligned with their priorities when identifying their level of AI use cases, reflecting a growing maturity in linking development to operational needs rather than relying on ad hoc or purely experimental adoption.

Figure (28): Approaches to Using and Developing AI Models in Government Entities



Source: AI Readiness & Adoption Survey, SDAIA (n=30), 2025.

74. AI Readiness & Adoption Survey, SDAIA, (2025).

Looking at the scale of development within government entities, **48%** of entities adopting AI reported activating one to four intelligent applications⁷⁵, while **35%** of these entities activated between five and ten, and another **14%** activated more than ten intelligent applications to support a range of functions and tasks within the entity.

Regarding the tangible impact of AI adoption within entities, **48%** of AI-adopting entities reported an increase in internal operational efficiency exceeding **10%**⁷⁵, while **28%** reported improvements of 10% or less. At the workforce level, **45%** of these entities indicated that AI adoption increased workforce productivity by up to **15%**, while **31%** reported increases exceeding **15%**. For example, Tuwaiq Academy reported that generative AI has helped in improving the quality of the learning experience, resulting in **265%** increase in self-learning rates following the use of the services provided by OpenAI tools, ChatGPT, and Google LLMs, with **66%** of trainees relying on ChatGPT for educational and training purposes⁷⁶.

In addition, **83%** of government entities that develop and use AI models reported improvements in the quality of provided services⁷⁵. as the technology improved services by a percentage exceeding 20% for 29% of these entities, while the percentage ranged between **10%** and **20%** for **17%** of them, and it reached 10% or less for 54% of these entities.

These findings indicate that AI adoption within government entities in Saudi Arabia is advancing toward a more mature institutional model. It is no longer driven by fragmented initiatives but has rather become an expanding part of the planning and operational ecosystem within entities, with clear indicators of a transition from readiness to measurable value.



75. AI Readiness & Adoption Survey, SDAIA, (2025).

76. Tuwaiq Academy. (2025).

Appendix: Table of Abbreviations

Keyword	Definition
AAGR	Average Annual Growth Rate
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AIDL	National Framework for AI in Digital Learning
AIGA	AI Governance Association
AIPI	AI Investment Potential Index
AMCP	Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals
APIs	Application Programming Interfaces
AWS	Amazon Web Services
CAGR	Compound Annual Growth Rate
CODE	Center of Digital Entrepreneurship
CST	Communications, Space & Technology Commission
DGA	Digital Government Authority
DKG	Deep Knowledge Group
EXPRO	Expenditure and Projects Efficiency Authority
GAIN	Global AI Summit
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GIAIS	Global Index for AI Safety
GNAIS	Global Network of AI Supervisory Authorities
GPA	Global Privacy Assembly
GPAI	Global Partnership on AI
HPC	High-Performance Computing
HRSD	Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development
IAIO	International AI Olympiad
ICAIRE	International Center for AI Research and Ethics
ICESCO	Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Keyword	Definition
ICT	Communications and Information Technology
IFF	International Finance Forum
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
KACST	King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology
KAU	King Abdulaziz University
KAUST	King Abdullah University of Science and Technology
KFUPM	King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals
KKU	King Khalid University
KSGAAL	King Salman Global Academy for Arabic Language
KSU	King Saud University
LLMs	Large Language Models
LPU	Language Processing Unit
MCIT	Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
MIS	AI Moammar Information Systems
MODON	Saudi Authority for Industrial Cities and Technology Zones
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOI	Ministry of Interior
MOMAH	Ministry of Municipalities and Housing
Monsha'at	Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAII	National AI Index
NCA	National Cybersecurity Authority
NCAI	National Center for AI
NDB	National Data Bank
NDI	National Data Index

Keyword	Definition
NDMO	National Data Management Office
NDTC	National Digital Transformation Committee
NELC	National eLearning Center
NHIC	National Health Information Center
NIC	National Information Center
NLP	Natural Language Processing
NOSF	National Occupational Standard Framework for Data & AI
NSDAI	National Strategy for Data and AI
NTDP	National Technology Development Program
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OGDI	Open Government Data Index
PDPL	Personal Data Protection Law
PETs	Privacy-Enhancing Technologies
PDPL	Personal Data Protection Law
PETs	Privacy-Enhancing Technologies
PIF	Public Investment Fund
PNU	Nourah bint Abdulrahman University
RDIA	Research, Development and Innovation Authority
SAIL	AI Laboratory
SAIP	Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property
SAMAI	One Million Saudis in AI
SCAI	Saudi Company for AI
SCCC	Saudi Cloud Computing Company
SDA	Saudi Digital Academy
SDAIA	Saudi Data & AI Authority
SFDA	Saudi Food and Drug Authority
SIDF	Saudi Industrial Development Fund

Keyword	Definition
SIGP	Saudi Innovation Grants Program
SITE	Saudi Information Technology Company
SmartMOC	Smart Makkah Operations Center
SNC-ECS	Saudi National Commission for Education, Culture and Science
SSAI	Saudi Society for AI and Intelligent Systems
SSDS	Saudi Society for Data Science
Stanford HAI	Stanford Institute for Human-Centered AI
STC	Saudi Telecom Company
Thakaa	AI Center of Advanced Studies
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
VC	Venture Capital
WAICY	World AI Competition for Youth
WSIS	World Summit on the Information Society



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