

Content

SAUDI - placing 47th based on the latest Global/Worldwide Cost of Living Survey Rankings, is an affordable Kingdom to live in. Saudi Arabia, officially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, is a sovereign state in Western Asia, constituting the bulk of the Arabian Peninsula. With a land area of approximately 2,150,000 km² (830,000 sq mi), Saudi Arabia is the largest sovereign state in the Middle East, the second-largest in the Arab world (after Algeria), the fifth-largest in Asia, and the 12th-largest in the world.



Among the issues considered by expatriates who want live and work in Saudi Arabia is the cost of living and the possible savings, they can make. But with this latest survey report, Saudi Arabia's livability comes ahead of other countries in Europe, Asia and some parts of the United States.

A typical double-room apartment for a family costs 330 - 400 USD, and the rent is paid in advance, either once or twice a year, depending on the owner's preference. In the Kingdom, rent cannot increase within the duration of a contract, a rule well appreciated by expatriates. However, rates can go as high as 900 USD a month for luxurious rentals. These facilities are usually unfurnished but are within a compound with a swimming pool and a gym.

Considering the Kingdom's general lack of taxation and huge salary or wages offered to workers, a significant cost-lowering impact is inevitable on most commodities. The cost of imported food is naturally high, but there are plenty of cheaper, locally-produced alternatives of excellent quality.

Bread and especially gas are amongst the cheapest in the Kingdom. The government provides utilities such as electricity and water; hence, rates are notably more affordable than in most European countries. Eating in a hotel is more costly than eating in restaurants where an ex-pat can get a decent meal for about USD 5. The most common local food is the kebab or shawarma, which will run you around .80 - 1 USD per serving.

There are many ways to get around in Saudi Arabia, although the most common and developed mode is through buses which serve inter-urban and local transport needs. Modern vehicles have been recently operating, including air-conditioned double-deckers. Newly arrived expatriates will probably find it a surprise to find a screened-off section of the bus exclusively for the use of female passengers. Taxis are also available in all cities but the fare, although cheap due to low petrol prices, should be negotiated in advance. Other means of transportation are car rentals and trains, which can cost a person between \$16 - \$ 32.

The Saudi state school system is excellent but unavailable to ex-pat children. However, several international schools are based on American and British curricula. Fees for these schools are high, and it is wise to negotiate a contract where the children's education is paid for or subsidised by the employer. Costs can exceed \$8,000 a year.

Riyal is the official currency, although US Dollars can also be used, along with Australian and Canadian dollars, British pounds, the Euro and Swiss Francs. Foreign currencies and travellers' cheques in Sterling Pounds, Euro and US dollars can be exchanged at banks, bureau de change and airports, railway stations, ports and major hotels in Saudi Arabia at the official exchange rates. Credit and debit cards like American Express, Diners Club, Master Card and Visa are also widely accepted by tourists, mainly expatriates, who often find it more convenient to use cards than cash.

The cost of living for expatriates will depend on their lifestyles. When negotiating a work contract, it's usual for an employer to produce detailed cost of living figures for the country, which help the ex-pats decide whether the proposed job is financially attractive.

In general, ex-pats had always found what they had hoped to see when they decided to live in Saudi. The rewards may not always come in gold, but the wealth of experience is enough to make each happy ex-pat feel simply more precious.

The cost of living in Saudi Arabia is 23.25% lower than in United Arab Emirates (aggregate data for all cities, rent is not taken into account).

Rent in Saudi Arabia is 74.15% lower than in United Arab Emirates (average data for all cities).

Restaurants Range (AVERAGE / Range - Lowest to Highest)

Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant **20.00** Range 15,00 - 29,00

Meal for 2 People, Mid-range Restaurant, Three-course **100.00** Range 60.00 - 160.00

McMeal at Mcdonald's (or Equivalent Combo Meal) **24.00** Range 20.00 - 27.00

Domestic Non-Alcoholic Beer (0.5-litre draught) **5.00** Range 4.00- 8.00

Imported Non-Alcoholic Beer (0.33-litre bottle) **5.00** Range 4.00 - 6.00

Cappuccino (regular) **11.23** Range 7.00 - 15.00

Coke/Pepsi (0.33 liter bottle) **2.49** Range 2.00 - 3.00

Water (0.33 liter bottle) **0.84** Range 0.50 - 1.50

Supermarkets / Markets

Milk (regular), (1 litre) **4.72** Range 4.00 - 7.00

Loaf of Fresh White Bread (500g) **2.29** Range 1.00 - 4.85

Rice (white), (1kg) **6.52** Range 5.00 - 10.00

Eggs (regular) (12) **7.57** Range 5.60 - 13.00

Local Cheese (1kg) **19.53** Range 10.00 - 30.00

Chicken Breasts (Boneless, Skinless), (1kg) **18.85** Range 14.00 - 34.00

Beef Round (1kg) (or Equivalent Back Leg Red Meat) **38.38** Range 22.00 - 50.00

Apples (1kg) **6.87** Range 5.00 - 10.00
Banana (1kg) **5.42** Range 4.00 - 7.00
Oranges (1kg) **5.23** Range 4.00 - 7.00
Tomato (1kg) **5.46** Range 4.00 - 8.00
Potato (1kg) **3.92** Range 3.00 - 5.00
Onion (1kg) **3.63** Range 2.00 - 5.00
Lettuce (1 head) **3.92** Range 2.00 - 8.00
Water (1.5 liter bottle) **2.14** range 2.00 - 3.00
Bottle of Non-Alcoholic Wine (Mid-Range) **10.00** Range 5.00 - 20.00
Domestic Non-Alcoholic Beer (0.5-litre bottle) **4.91** Range 3.00 - 7.14
Imported Non-Alcoholic Beer (0.33-litre bottle) **4.94** Range 3.00 - 8.00
Cigarettes 20 Pack (Marlboro) **25.00** Range 23.00 - 26.00

Transportation

One-way Ticket (Local Transport) **3.00** Range 2.00 - 5.00
Monthly Pass (Regular Price) **150.00** range 40.00 - 300.00
Taxi Start (Normal Tariff) **10.00** Range 5.00 - 15.00
Taxi 1km (Normal Tariff) **5.00** range 2.00 - 10.00
Taxi 1-hour Waiting (Normal Tariff) **30.00** Range 20.00 - 50.00
Gasoline (1 litre) **1.45** Range 1.30 - 2.00
Volkswagen Golf 1.4 90 KW Trendline (Or Equivalent New Car) **73,500.00** Range 55,000.00 - 90,000.00
Toyota Corolla 1.6l 97kW Comfort (Or Equivalent New Car) **65,923.82** Range 60,000.00 - 80,000.00

Utilities (Monthly)

Basic (Electricity, Heating, Cooling, Water, Garbage) for 85m2 Apartment **314.03** Range 177.08 - 500.00
1 min. Of Prepaid Mobile Tariff Local (No Discounts or Plans) **0.46** Range 0.21 - 0.70
Internet (60 Mbps or More, Unlimited Data, Cable/ADSL) **247.81** Range 150.00 - 350.00

Sports And Leisure

Fitness Club, Monthly Fee for 1 Adult **320.96** Range 200.00 - 500.00
Tennis Court Rent (1 Hour on Weekend) **98.91** Range 40.00 - 250.00
Cinema, International Release, 1 Seat **65.00** Range 50.00 - 75.00

Childcare

Preschool (or Kindergarten), Full Day, Private, Monthly for 1 Child **1,039.00** Range 500.00 - 2,000
International Primary School, Yearly for 1 Child **19,088.49** Range 10,000 - 35,000

Clothing And Shoes

1 Pair of Jeans (Levis 501 Or Similar) **152.46** Range 80.00 - 300.00
1 Summer Dress in a Chain Store (Zara, H&M, ...) **190.24** Range 100.00 - 300.00
1 Pair of Nike Running Shoes (Mid-Range) **316.45** Range 200.00 - 450.00
1 Pair of Men Leather Business Shoes **284.41** Range 150.00 - 400.00

Rent Per Month

Apartment (1 bedroom) in City Centre **1,301.53** Range 800.00 - 2,000.00
Apartment (1 bedroom) Outside of Centre **979.75** Range 650.00 - 1,500.00
Apartment (3 bedrooms) in City Centre **2,324.33** Range 1,500.00 - 3,500.00
Apartment (3 bedrooms) Outside of Centre **1,778.98** Range 1,200.00 - 2,750.00

Buy Apartment Price

The price per Square Meter to Buy an Apartment in City Centre is **4,003.86** Range of 2,000.00 - 6,407.00
Price per Square Meter to Buy an Apartment Outside of the Centre **2,694.09** Range 1,400.00 - 5,000.00

Salaries And Financing

Average Monthly Net Salary (After Tax) 5,905.03
Mortgage Interest Rate in Percentages (%), Yearly, for 20 Years Fixed-Rate 4.08 Range 3.00-5.00

Prices in Saudi Arabia RIYALS

These data are based on 9043 entries in the past 18 months from 978 different contributors.

Last update: September 2021

Our data for each country are based on all entries from all cities in that country.