



الهيئة العامة للإحصاء  
General Authority for Statistics

# Saudi Women's Report 2022



**“I am The Brother of Noura”**

**King Abdulaziz Al Saud**  
-may Allah bestows mercy on him-



**“Women are a main source of development for any society. Hence, without empowered women, it is almost impossible to implement any societal reforms. Throughout history, women have proven their prominent and effective role in driving change and decision-making”**

From the speech of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques  
**King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud** -may Allah protect him-  
at the Saudi G20 Presidency 2020.



**“Empowering women and youth remain two key pillars to achieving sustainable growth”**

Crown Prince  
**Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud**  
-may Allah protect him-

## Concepts:

### ● Survey:

The process of collecting data from its sources, whether according to the comprehensive enumeration method or according to the methods and procedures of selecting statistical samples.

### ● Administrative register:

Paper or digital registers in which data or information are registered in various other agencies, related to statistical fields and other things related to the conditions and activities of society.

### ● Economic Activity:

All business or services that are done or provided by an establishment to realize financial returns. Establishments sometimes do not receive a return on their business, as in the case of charities, which rely on donations.

### ● Establishment:

An economic business entity with legal personality. It has a fixed location and carries out a certain amount of economic activity. It is owned by one or a group of individuals, a company, a semi-government sector, or an enterprise. The establishment is the smallest economic unit that may have data on employees and their remunerations in addition to expenses, revenues, sales, and capital formations.

### ● Main Occupation:

The main work that the worker practices and spends most of his/her time during the reference period.

### ● Freelance Certificate:

A document approved by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development that enables individuals to register for several activities. It provides them with the opportunity to work independently in the activities approved by the Ministry through the Freelance E-portal.

## Preparation and Mechanisms for the Saudi Women's Report in 2022:

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This report has been prepared to provide a number of indicators relating to Saudi women aged 15 and above.

Different fields, such as education, health, sports, technology and a number of other statistics, relying on available official sources. Having adopted the Saudi Women's Report 2022 on two types of data sources, These are:

- Data from surveys carried out by the General Authority for Statistics.
- Data from the administrative register available to other official bodies.

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## Introduction

Since the founding of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia until now, the empowerment of Saudi women has been provided by the grace of Allah Almighty and the support of our wise leadership. During the reign of King Abdulaziz, may Allah bless his soul, women began to study reading, writing, and the Holy Quran at basic education institutions. Following that point, empowerment continued unabatedly. Many improvements, including the creation of schools and colleges, international scholarships, and other programs encouraging the education and employment of Saudi women, have taken place. Under the reign of King Salman, may Allah protect him, women empowerment experienced unprecedented growth, as they were granted many domains in the public and private labor markets, as well as many leadership positions, such as deputy ministers, chairs of economic and social conferences, and diplomatic service. Women were appointed as ambassadors, the first time in the Kingdom history. In addition, women were tasked with directing security and organizing the Two Holy Mosques.

Under the direction of His Majesty, new laws were made that make it illegal to conduct any type of harassment which demonstrates that the government's keen to safeguard women as a fundamental human value. Raising the legal age of marriage for women to 18 years of old, emphasizing the husband's commitment to alimony regardless of her financial circumstances, and allowing women to register for childbirth and divorce are among the most noteworthy processes affecting personal status. The legislation also evaluated and addressed rules about facilitating marriage for women in the absence of their guardians and allow courts to perform women's marriage if male guardians refuse to sanction the marriage of women under their care.

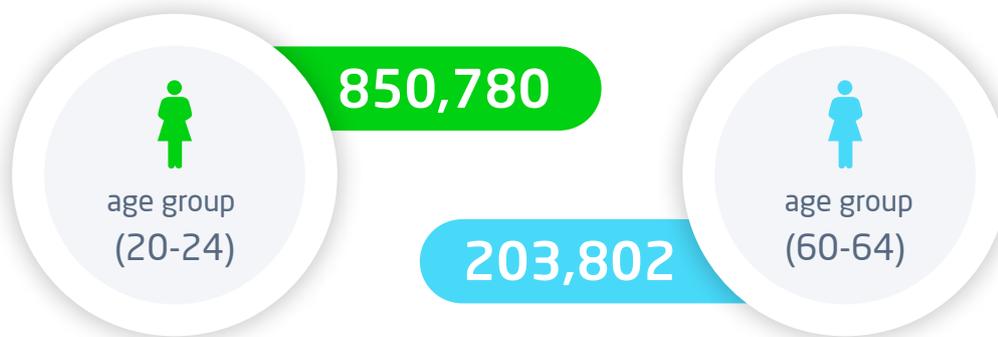
This report will review the most important indicators for women in education, health, sports, and technology, based on the recent surveys made public by the General Authority of Statistics and information from several different sources.



QR Code - Vedio

## Saudi Women in figures (age group 15 years and above):

The highest number of Saudi women in the age group 15 to 19 years was (916,439), followed by the age group 20 to 24 years (850,780). However, the lowest number of Saudi women was (203,802) for the age group 60 to 64 years of total population of Saudi Arabia.



Estimates of Age Groups for Saudi Women (15 years and above)



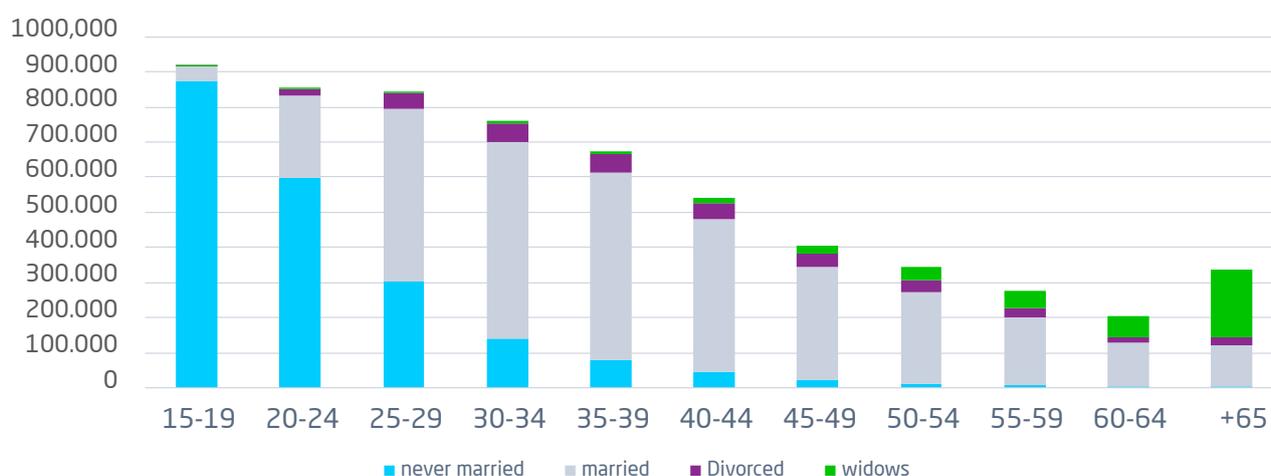
## Women by marital status:

The marriage law was enacted in the Kingdom to start from the age of 18 years and over, as the number of never married women reached 873,240 from the age of 15 to 19 years, which is the highest compared to the rest of the age groups. The largest number of women were married with 558,203 and 54,193 divorced from the age of 30 to 34 years, while the largest number of widows is 191,639. The number of households headed by a female is 702,929 households. However, the fertility rate was 2.80.

The following table with the chart shows all the details of the marital status of women by age group:

Women by marital status 15 years and above

Age group	Never married	Married	Divorced	widows
15-19	873240	40348	2436	415
20-24	596455	234970	18406	949
25-29	303603	492688	43978	2462
30-34	141225	558203	54193	4941
35-39	81775	530641	53473	9134
40-44	44935	436106	46695	15368
45-49	22399	321980	37002	22975
50-54	12942	261941	30979	37429
55-59	7196	195107	23850	50783
60-64	4311	123754	16724	59013
+65	4716	116232	23005	191639



## Gender:

Islam elevated and honoured women's dignity and status. Allah the Almighty said, **"O mankind, fear your Lord, who created you from one soul and created from it its mate and dispersed from both of them many men and women. And fear Allah, through whom you ask one another, and the wombs. Indeed Allah is ever, over you, an Observer"** (Surat An-Nisa, Ayah:1). Allah has mentioned in the Quran this diversity between men and women who are of the same origin, with equal rights and duties. Islam paid great attention to women and guaranteed their rights. Women make up half of society; they are mothers, sisters, and wives, they mentor and educate future generations, and they constitute the foundation of family cohesiveness due to their roles in sustaining the family, which is the nucleus of society.

Gender roles are defined as the socially identified roles of both males and females. These roles are developed in the process of socialization, change over time, vary widely within a single culture, and vary from one culture to another.

Gender refers to the relationships, social roles, and values determined by society for each of the sexes (men and women). These roles, relationships, and values change according to place and time, due to their overlap and intertwining with other social relations such as religion, social class, race, and others.

Women's contributions, empowerment and engagement in many areas in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia have been of great importance as it helped to create a positive impact on GDP.

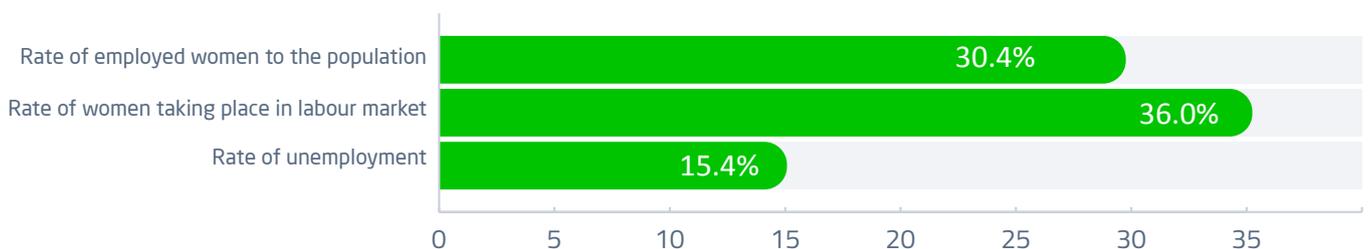
## Empowering Women in the Labor Economy and Vision 2030:

One of Vision 2030 goals was dedicated to the empowerment of women and increasing their participation in the labor market. During the reign of King Salman, may Allah protect him, many areas and opportunities were provided for women to engage in various public and private sectors; including female lawyers, the expansion of women's participation in the military sector, and the creation of new jobs for the first time in leading positions in the General Presidency of the Grand Mosque and the Prophet's Mosque as assistant president, female undersecretaries to the President, and assistant undersecretaries in various developmental disciplines.

### Main Indicators of the Labor Market:

The chart below shows the main indicators of the Women's Labor Force Survey, which has seen a marked improvement in recent years as the unemployment rate among Saudi women declined -especially in the fourth quarter of 2022 to 15.4% compared to the previous years 2021, 2020, 2019. In line with the decline in women's unemployment, the expansion of their economic participation and the increase and growth of their employment in various areas, the ratio of employed women to the population rose to 30.4% from the fourth quarter of 2021, where the rate was 27.6%. Women's participation in the labor market was 36%, up slightly from 35.6% in the fourth quarter of 2021.

Main Indicators of Labour Market



## Main Indicators of Labor Market Based on Administrative Records:

The total number of employed women in the fourth quarter of 2022 was (1,470,561), the highest score compared to the fourth quarter of 2021 (1,225,152).



\*Data provided by the General Organization for Social Insurance and the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (Civil Service Department). Preliminary Data.  
Data does not include employees in the security and military sectors and workers who are not registered in the records of the General Organization for Social Insurance and the Ministry of Human Resources and Human Development (Civil Service Department).

## Employed women by sector type:

The graph below illustrates the difference between the numbers of female workers in the private and government sectors, where the number of female workers in the private sector is higher than those working in the government sector. The total number of female workers in both sectors is 1,470,561.

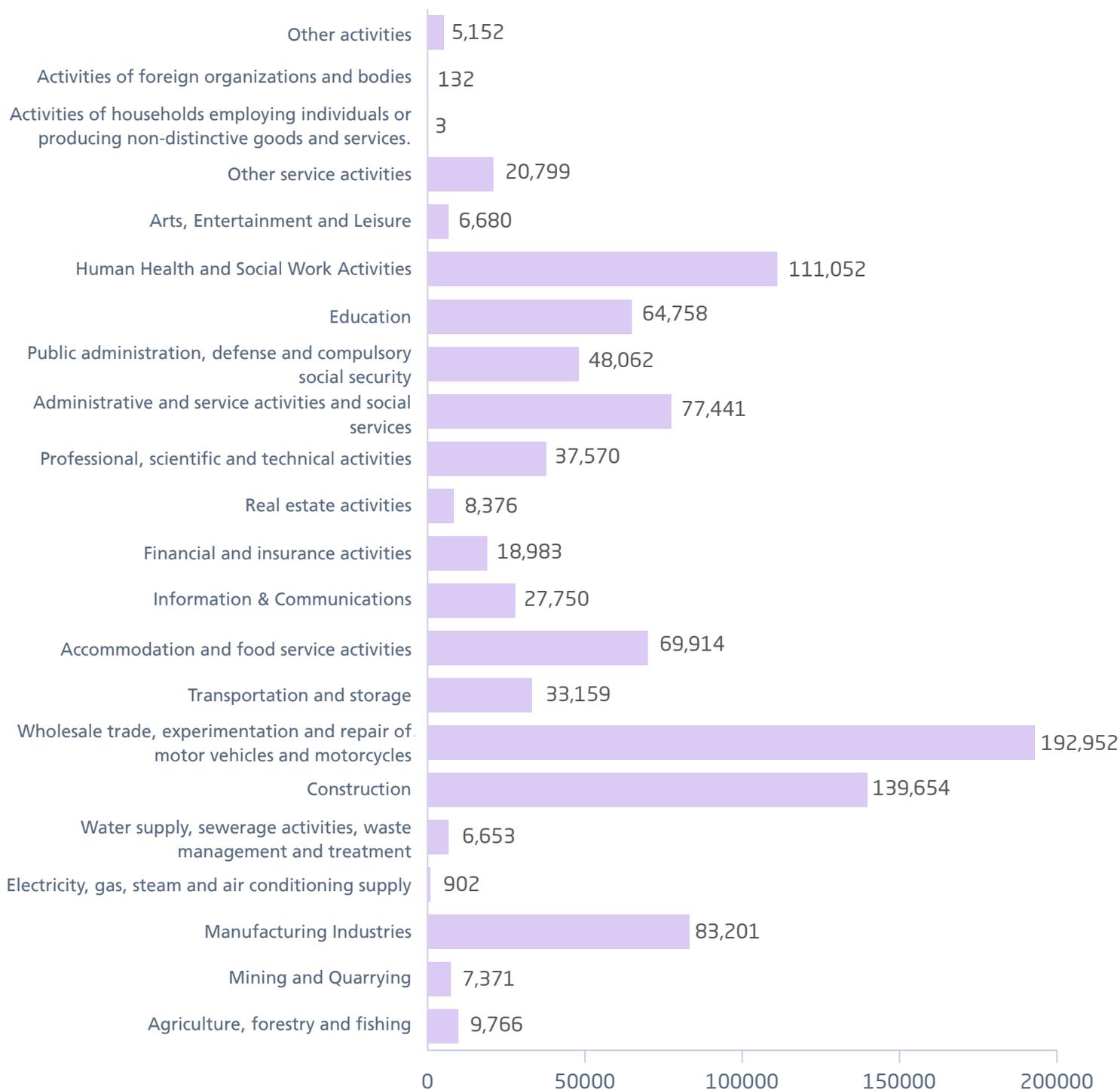


- \*The government sector includes those subject to civil service laws and government workers subject to social insurance laws.
- \*Data provided by the General Organization for Social Insurance and the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (Civil Service Department). Preliminary Data.  
(Data does not include employees in the security and military sectors and workers who are not registered in the records of the General Organization for Social Insurance and the Ministry of Human Resources and Human Development (Civil Service Dep.).

## Female workers subject to the social insurance laws and regulations according to the main groups of economic activities:

The total number of women workers subject to the social insurance laws and regulations reached 970,330, where the highest number of female workers was in wholesale and retail trade activity and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, amounting to 192,952 female workers, followed by construction activity with 139,654 female workers, and Human health and social work activities with 111,052 female workers. The graph shows the number of female workers in the rest of the economic activities.

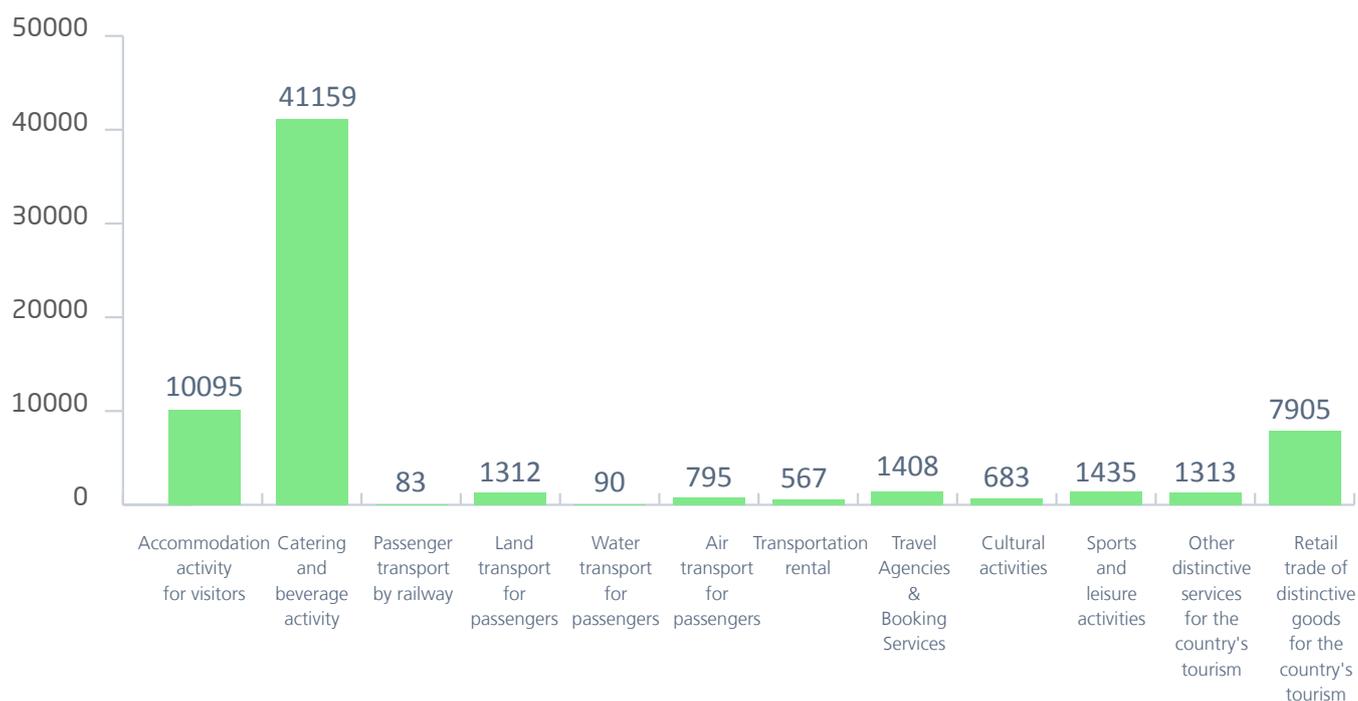
### Female workers subject to the social insurance laws and regulations according to the main groups of economic activities



## Women and Tourism:

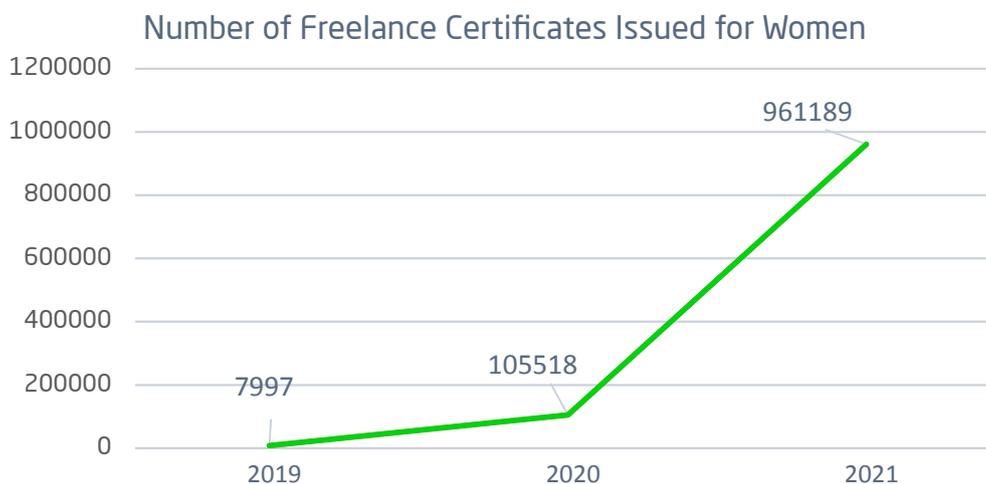
Due to the significant role of tourism to the Kingdom and its contribution to economic growth, Saudi women were in high demand across the board in tourism. Saudi women engaged in a variety of economic activities in tourist establishments, making up 66,845 of the total number of female workers in tourism establishments in 2020. The graph below illustrates the types of economic activities in tourist establishments. The highest number of female workers was 41,159 in the food and beverage activity, while the lowest number of female workers was in the rail passenger transport activity with 83 female workers.

Saudi Women Employed in Tourism Establishments By Economic Activity



## Women in the Freelance Market:

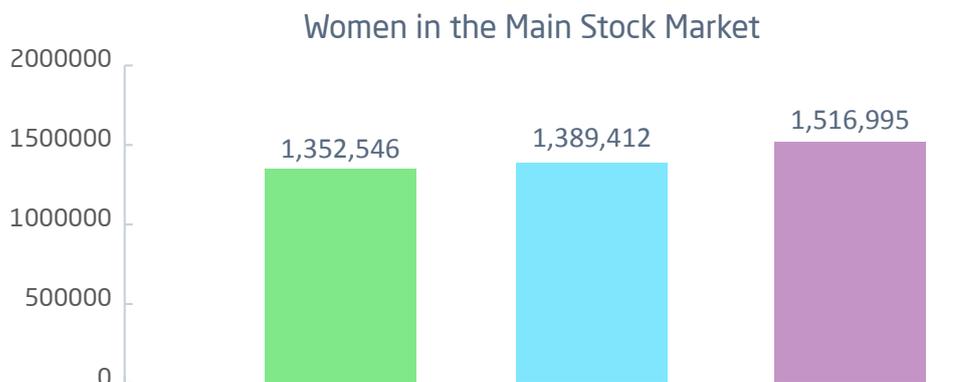
In keeping with the Saudi Vision 2030, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development created a freelance certificate program to boost women's earning options and improve their skills and expertise in a variety of business disciplines. The number of certificates issued to women in 2021 was (961,189), which is more than the number issued in 2020 (105,518), while the number of freelance certificates issued in 2019 was 7,997, which is the lowest.



Source: Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development.

## Women in the Main Stock Market:

With the advancement and development of technology, trading or investing in stocks has become simpler than ever before, as has the monitoring of significant market indicators via various trading platforms, most notably Tadawul. The stock market has experienced with a strong demand from women recently. The graph below illustrates that the number of female investors grew in 2021 compared to prior years.



## Women and Art:

The diverse forms of art reflect the cultures of different countries. Saudi women have made a variety of contributions to various forms of art, including theatre. Through involvement in theatrical productions at schools and universities, women have historically been involved in Saudi theater since the first half of the 1970s. The first official women's theatre in Jeddah was founded in 2017 under the umbrella of the Culture and Arts Society. It is the first theatre that does not follow an educational or social institution. The following table summarizes Saudi women's contributions to Saudi theatre:

Indicator: Contributions of Saudi Women to Saudi Theater	Number
Number of female playwrights	100
Number of theatrical directors	7
Number of critics	15
Number of scripts (creative scripts)	14
Number of scripts (critical studies)	17

## Empowering Women in Education:

The prudent leadership provided unrestricted support for women's education, as well as higher education, including, but not limited to, the establishment of the world's first and biggest women's institution, Princess Noura bint Abdulrahman University. The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques has undertaken significant measures to encourage women, their scientific research endeavors, and their efforts in overall development. Sarah Al-Sudairi Center for Women's Studies at Princess Noura bint Abdulrahman University has been established with the kind approval of King Salman. The Center intends to improve women's roles and status in accordance with Vision 2030, as well as provide activities, events, and programs that contribute to knowledge creation and instillation, and boost the Kingdom's position in global competitiveness. The Center also has a museum dedicated to the pioneering efforts exerted by women in service to the nation and a digital library with a focus on producing scientific and research work. The Ministry of Education carried out a number of qualitative initiatives to support women's leadership in the field of research, innovation and development, which contributed to an increase in the percentage of classified scientific publishing by 91%, during the years 2019 to 2021. The percentage of citations of scientific papers for female researchers has also increased to 52%, especially in health, medical, engineering, technology and computer sciences.

### Saudi Women's Education Indicators:

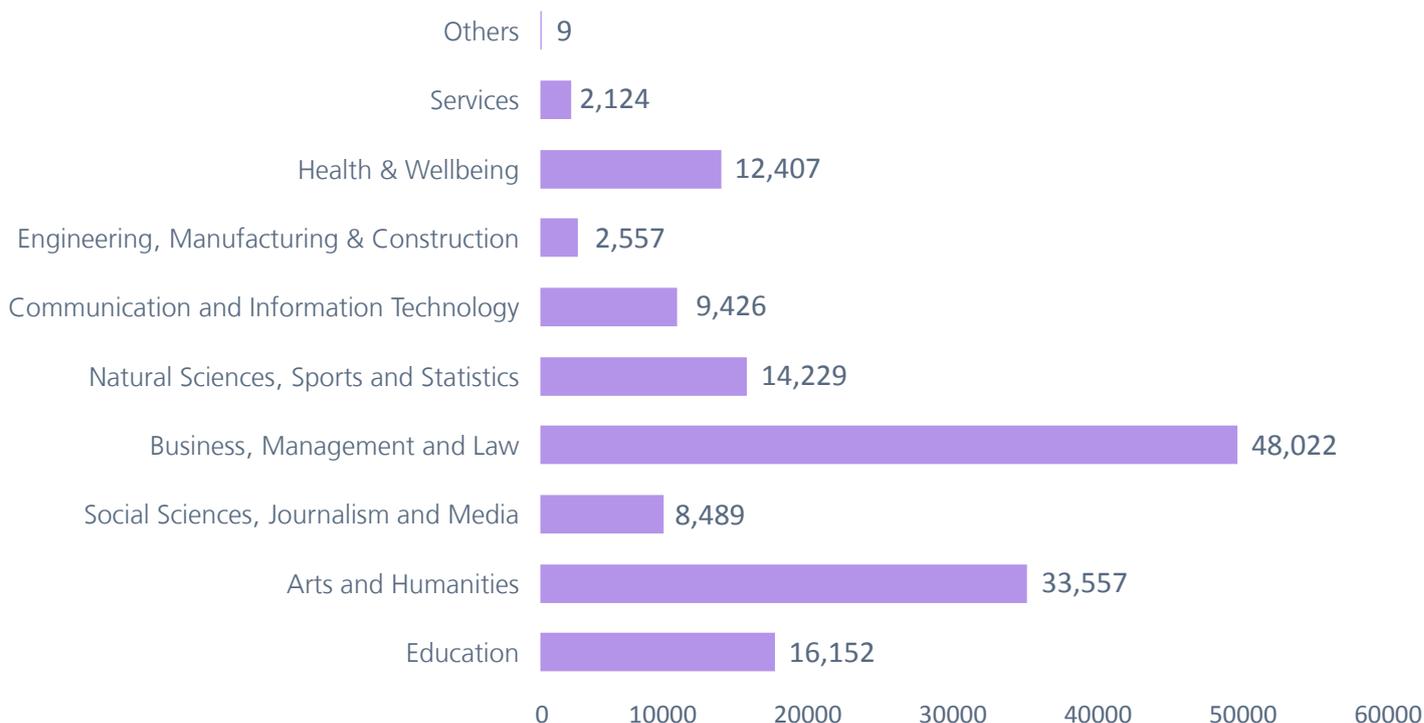
- The percentage of women instructors at the Ministry of Education reached 51.8%, while in higher education, the percentage of female students among all male and female students reached 49.99%.

Indicator	Percentage
Percentage of female instructors at the Ministry of Education out of the total number of instructors	51.8%
Percentage of female students in higher education to the total number of students (males and females) (Bachelor - Master - PhD)	49.99%

### Number of Female Graduates in Higher Education by Discipline:

In higher education, there were 146,972 female graduates overall in 2021 across all disciplines. Business, management, and law had the highest number of female graduates with 48,022 graduates, followed by arts and humanities with 33,557 graduates. The following graph breaks down the number of female graduates in higher education by discipline.

Number of Female Graduates in Higher Education by Different Disciplines



Source: Ministry of Education, 2021.

### Total female scholarship students (newcomers, enrolled students, & graduates) abroad in 2019:

In order to improve the status of women and provide them with the opportunity to work and find jobs in a variety of fields, the Kingdom's government has made the necessary arrangements and offered legal and financial support for women who choose to pursue higher education outside the Kingdom. The total number of (newcomer) scholarship students was 4,713, the total number of (enrolled students) was 28,934, and the total number of graduates was 4,260.

Total Number of Students	Number of females
Scholarship students (newcomers)	4,713
Scholarship students (enrolled)	28,934
Scholarship Students (graduates)	4,260

Source: Ministry of Education, 2019.

## Number of female trainees in the Technical and Vocational Training Corporation in various administrative regions:

The Technical and Vocational Training Corporation is in charge of developing national human resources through training, which contributes to meeting the needs of the labor market of manpower. Makkah Region had the highest number of trainees in the Technical College's Diploma Program at 6022 trainees, while the Northern Border Region had the lowest number with 450 trainees. The Technical College's Bachelor Program witnessed the largest number in the Riyadh Region at 414 trainees, while the lowest number was in the Qassim Region with 22 trainees.

### Number of female trainees in the Technical and Vocational Training Corporation

Region	Program Type	Number of trainees
Al-Baha	Technical Collages' Diploma	824
Al-Jouf	Technical Collages' Diploma	962
Northern Borders	Technical Collages' Diploma	450
Riyadh	Technical Colleges' Bachelor	414
Qassim	Technical Colleges' Bachelor	22
Madinah	Technical Collages' Diploma	1,670
Tabuk	Technical Colleges' Bachelor	39
Jazan	Technical Collages' Diploma	579
Hail	Technical Collages' Diploma	1,379
Aseer	Technical Collages' Diploma	3,713
Makkah	Technical Collages' Diploma	6,022
Najran	Technical Collages' Diploma	928

## Women in Health and Sports:

Women's health is a crucial and basic pillar of the household and community's well-being since it forms the basis for the overall health of the household. Sports and women's health are connected as sports can reduce some health issues that might harm women, such as obesity and coronary heart diseases. Women who exercise regularly are less susceptible to hormonal fluctuations, which are crucial to their growth. Furthermore, exercises are important to reduce nervous tension, which might improve mental health.

Sport exercise is one of the most prominent ways to maintain health. Saudi society has recently witnessed an increased interest in physical health and sport because of the widespread awareness on sports and the realization of its important role in maintaining the health of the individual which can definitely be reflected on the safety and happiness of individuals. This contributes to the formation of a vital society. The government has paid great attention to women's health by including classes of sports in the public education programs to encourage women to exercise. Women's empowerment in sports activity has also expanded by providing opportunities to work in several sports fields such as joining football teams. Moreover, for the first time, women were allowed to enter sports stadiums to attend various sports activities. Women motorcycle driving training program was launched in Dammam for the first time in the Kingdom's history.

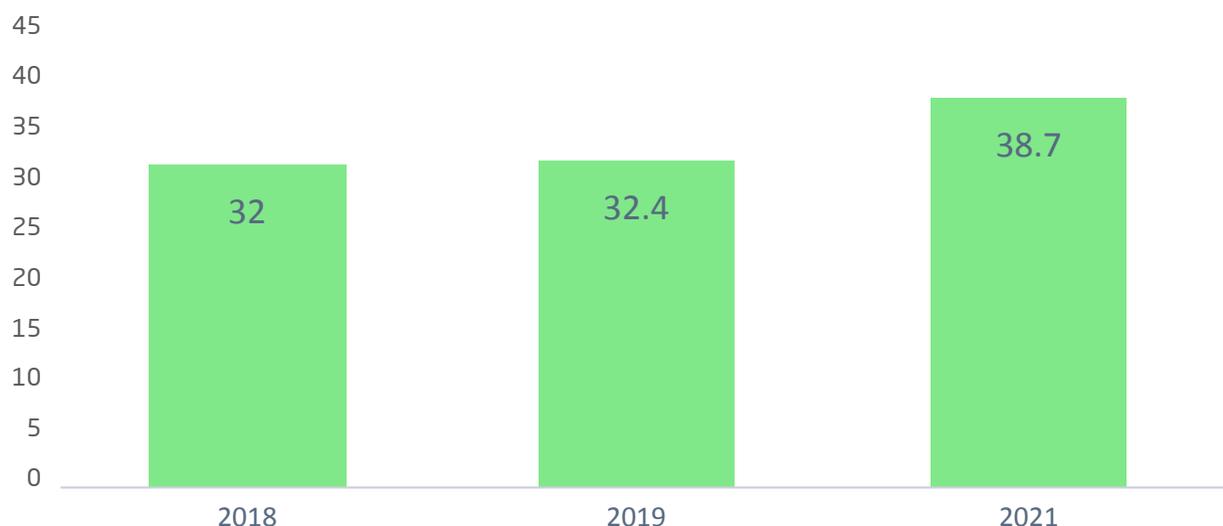
## Health and Sports Indicators:

The indicator of physical activity for at least 30 minutes per week is one of the indicators of the Quality of Life Program, which is part of the Saudi Vision 2030 program. \* Physical activity is defined as any movement of the body produced by skeletal muscle and requires energy. Moderate and intensive physical activity contributes to health improvements. Common ways of physical activity include walking, cycling, wheeling, sports, recreational activities and motor games. Regular physical activity has been shown to help prevent and manage non-communicable diseases such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes mellitus and many cancers. It also helps prevent hypertension and maintain healthy body weight and can improve mental health, quality of life and well-being\*.

\* Health Organization.

- Women (aged 15 years and above) engaged in physical activity for at least 30 minutes per week reached 38.7% in 2021, which is the highest percentage compared to the years.

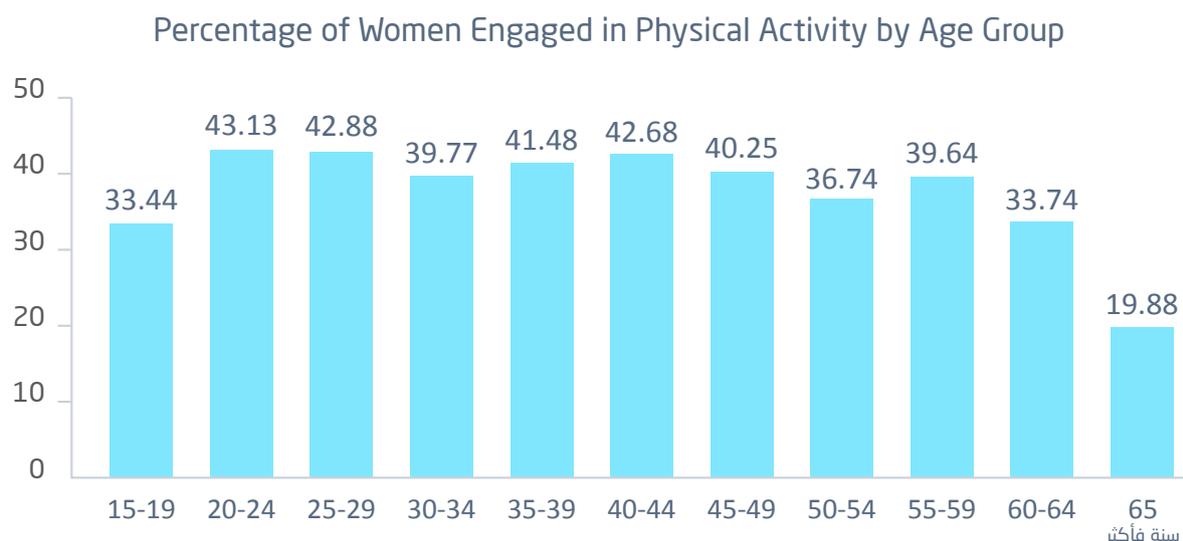
Percentage of Women Engaged in Physical Activity



Source: Household Sports Practice Survey, 2021 - General Authority for Statistics.

## Percentage of women physically active at least 30 minutes per week for adults 15 years and older, by age group:

The highest age group of women engaged in physical activity for at least 30 minutes a week is the age group (20–24) (43.13%), followed by the age group (25-29) (42.88%), while the age group (40-44) amounted to (42.68%) with a slight difference with the age group (25-29). The survey showed that the age groups with the least physical activity compared to all age groups are the 65 and older group with 19.88%.



Source: Household Sports Practice Survey, 2021 - General Authority for Statistics.

## Percentage of physical activity for at least 150 minutes per week among adults 15 years - Time Series:

To compare the percentages of physical activity for at least 150 minutes per week, the results of the 2021 survey show that the percentage has increased compared to 2019, This rise indicates an increase in the level of awareness of sports, which is reflected in health. As shown in the table below:

No.	Survey	Female
1	2019	11.6
2	2021	20.9

Source: Household Sports Practice Survey, 2021 - General Authority for Statistics.

### Percentage of physical activity for at least 150 minutes per week among adults 15 years and above by age group:

The highest percentage of physical activity for at least 150 minutes per week was 25.30% for the age group 20 to 25 years, followed by the age group 25 to 29 years with a slight difference, reaching 24.40%. As for the age group 65 years and over, it was the lowest age group that practices physical activity for at least 150 minutes. The following table shows that percentages of physical activity for the age groups 40 to 64 years were almost consistent.

No.	Age group	Female
1	15-19	18.94
2	20-24	25.30
3	25-29	24.40
4	30-34	21.46
5	35-39	21.67
6	40-44	23.02
7	45-49	19.63
8	50-54	17.22
9	55-59	20.82
10	60-64	18.26
11	65 years & above	9.06
<b>Total</b>		<b>20.93</b>

## Women and Technology

Recently, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has seen a lot of growth and success in the development and use of technology, especially in the area of information technology. These developments have contributed to the prosperity of economic growth and keeping pace with progress and changes, as they have led to easy access to services in various sectors and their employment to serve the community.

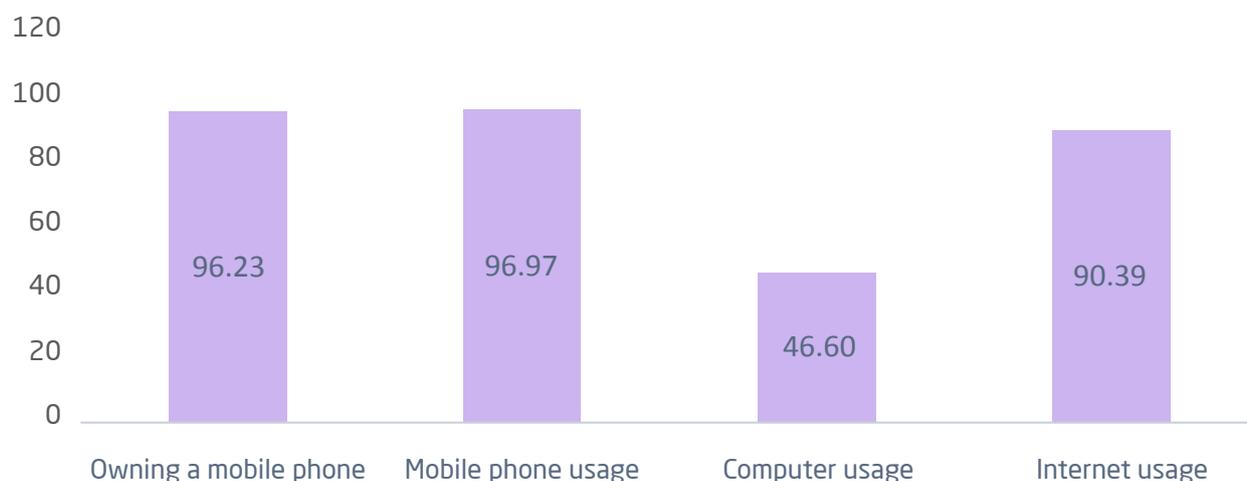
Women are a crucial axis for pushing growth in the field of technology through empowerment and government assistance. In this regard, women have had numerous successes and awards worldwide.

The Kingdom has received the Global Award for Women in Technology from the International Telecommunication Union, specifically in the ICT sector.

**The following are the most important ICT indicators for Saudi women (aged 15 years and above) at the level of the Kingdom (during 2021):**

The percentage of Saudi women's use of mobile phones reached (96.97%), which is higher than computer use, which reached (46.60%), while the percentage of Saudi women owning mobile phones reached (96.23%), while Saudi women use of the Internet reached (90.39%).

ICT indicators for Saudi women in 2021



## Conclusion:

The Kingdom's prudent leadership and the whole society are keen to protect and empower Saudi women, as a respect for Islam and its honour for women. The following objectives are among the most notable of the Kingdom's Vision 2030: Raising women's participation in the labour market, raising the level of quality of their lives and thus the quality of life of their families. This can build a strong, socially linked society by focusing on women and their critical and fundamental role in family life, which begins with their essential role in raising children and ensuring their proper socialization, caring for them, and showing concern for them. Children are the fundamental building blocks of society. Our care for society as a whole is well demonstrated in our focus on women, who are primarily responsible for raising children. The indicators that were tracked in this report regarding the status of Saudi women prove women's great accomplishments in numerous sectors and their national and worldwide achievements.

Last but not least, we must follow the Prophet's **(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)** commandment, which states: (I advise you to treat women kindly).

