

Qoyod Report · Economy & Vision 2030

Saudi SMEs in 2026: The Numbers, the Achievements, and the Future

A data report in numbers: the size of Saudi SMEs, their share of GDP and jobs, financing and digital transformation, and the road ahead under Vision 2030.

June 2026

Saudi Arabia's small and medium enterprises are writing one of the most successful stories of Vision 2030, turning the sector in under a decade into a leading engine of national economic diversification. The number of enterprises has more than quadrupled to reach around 1.7 million active commercial registers, the workforce they employ has grown to more than 8.8 million workers, and their contribution to GDP has continued climbing to nearly 22.9%, driven by ambitious enablement policies. This report tracks that success story in numbers: the size of the sector, its rising economic contribution, its expanding financing, and the financial digital transformation opportunities that strengthen its journey.



Size of the sector: accelerating growth

The number of small and medium enterprises grew from around 429,000 enterprises in 2016, when Vision 2030 was launched, to more than 1.7 million active commercial registers by the end of the third quarter of 2025. That is a leap of more than fourfold in under a decade, and the pace remains strong: around 80,000 new commercial registers were issued in the second quarter of 2025 alone.

Growth in the number of SMEs since the launch of Vision 2030

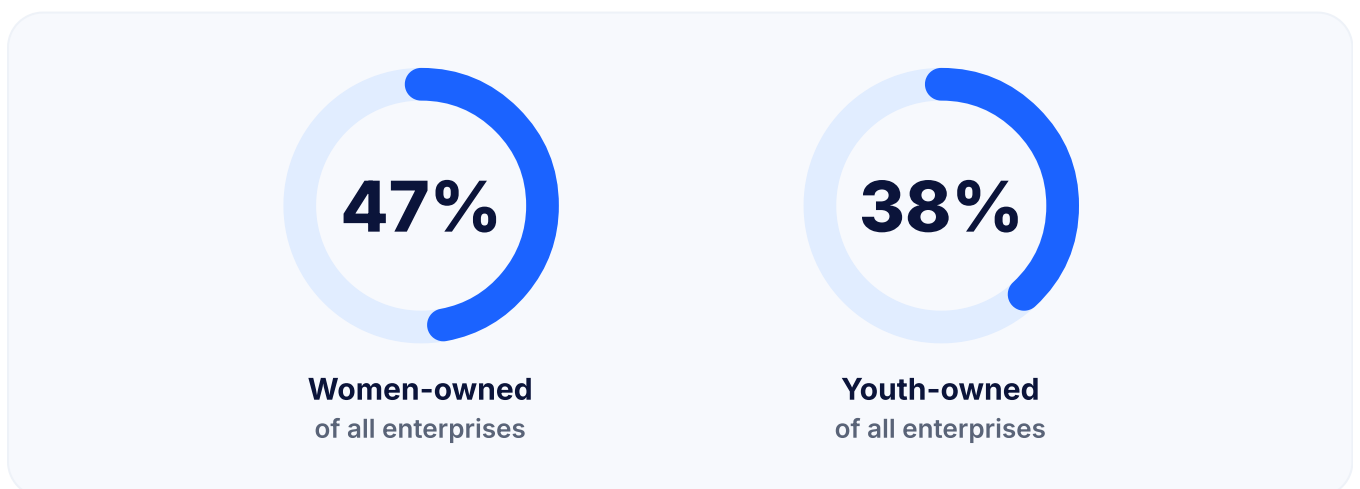


A precise distinction is useful here: the 1.7 million figure represents active commercial registers, while the number of actual enterprises (existing economic entities) is around 1.3 million according to the Monsha'at observatory, since a single enterprise may hold more than one register. This distinction is helpful when comparing figures across years or between sources.

Who owns these enterprises?

One of the sector's most notable features is its young and diverse demographic makeup, reflecting the success of economic enablement policies under Vision 2030. Any product or service targeting this sector is addressing a young and diverse audience.

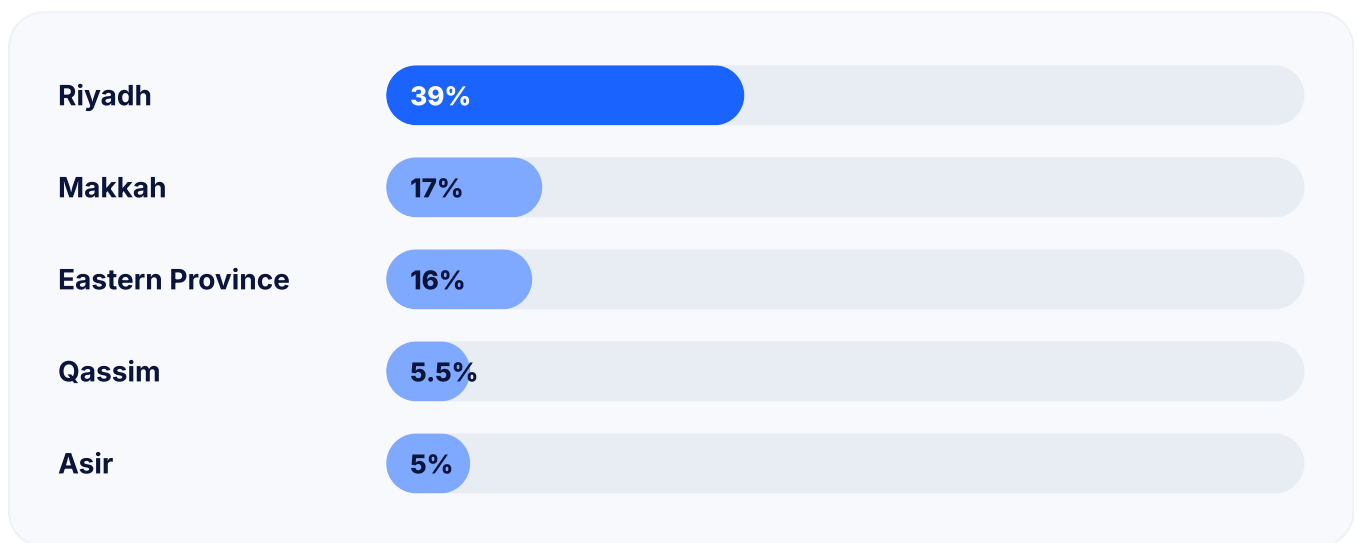
Who owns small and medium enterprises in Saudi Arabia? (2025)



Geography: three leading regions and wide growth horizons

Enterprises are concentrated in three main regions that account for more than 70% of the total, and they are steadily expanding across all regions of the Kingdom as financial and digital services grow. Riyadh is the heart of activity, while the remaining regions represent promising growth horizons for the sector.

Geographic distribution of enterprises by region (2025)

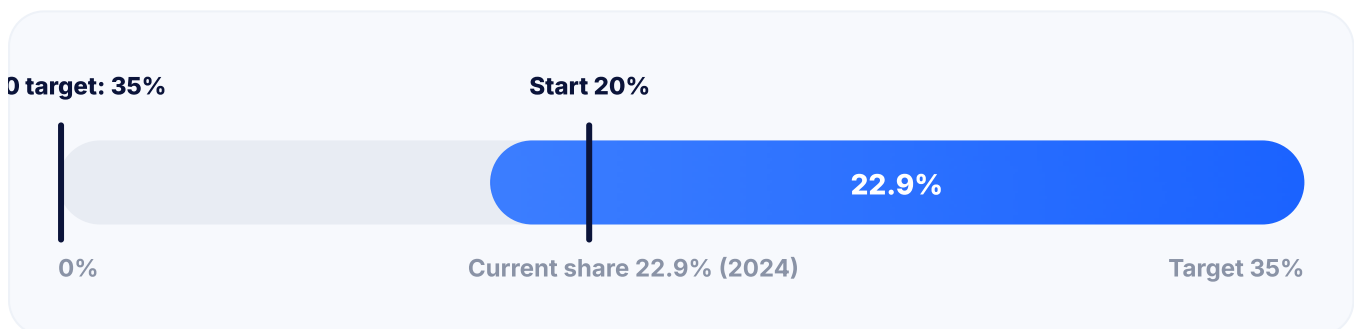


The economic engine: employment leads and contribution rises

The sector's performance stands out on two fronts. On employment, enterprises exceeded their targets early: the number of workers they employ rose to around 8.88 million by the end of 2025, surpassing the annual target of 7.55 million workers, making the sector the largest employer of the workforce outside the government sector and large corporations.

On GDP contribution, the sector's share continues its steady climb from around 20% at the launch of the Vision to 22.9% in 2024, on an upward path toward the 35% target by 2030.

The journey of SMEs' GDP contribution: steady progress toward the Vision 2030 target



This climb reflects the success of enablement policies, and national efforts are coming together to raise the productivity of each enterprise and its capacity to grow and export by expanding financing, easing compliance, and accelerating digitization, all of which support the faster pace of progress toward the target.

Financing: rising momentum

Financing for small and medium enterprises is gaining rising momentum under Vision 2030. The financing portfolio has grown to nearly SAR 148 billion, and the sector's share of total bank lending is expanding on an upward path toward the Saudi Central Bank's target of 11%, then the long-term ambition of around 20%.

SME financing's share of total bank lending is on an upward path



148 billion

SME financing portfolio
(SAR)

12 billion+

Kafalah program financing
in a single year (SAR)

1.72 billion \$

Venture capital in 2025,
growing 145% year over
year

Programs such as Kafalah strengthen enterprises' access to financing by providing guarantees that encourage banks to lend, while the quality of financial records helps raise an enterprise's creditworthiness and speed up its access to financing. On the startup front, venture capital financing is at its strongest stage yet: the Kingdom attracted 1.72 billion dollars in 2025 to lead the Middle East and North Africa region, supported by the fintech, software, e-commerce, and artificial intelligence sectors.

Digital compliance: e-invoicing expands

One of the most notable features of the Kingdom's digital transformation is the organized expansion of e-invoicing ("Fatoora") under the Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority. The integration phase is advancing through successive waves that include broader segments of enterprises, so the digital benefit reaches the entire sector.

E-invoicing's scope widens to include broader segments of enterprises

Wave 23

31 March 2026

Taxpayers whose taxable revenue exceeded SAR 750,000

Wave 24

30 June 2026

Taxpayers whose taxable revenue exceeded SAR 375,000

By mid-2026, every taxpayer whose revenue exceeds SAR 375,000 per year comes within scope, making digital invoicing a routine practice in the sector.

The biggest advantage of digitization is efficiency: enterprises that adopt automated cloud solutions save up to 30% of the monthly time spent on VAT compliance and reporting compared with manual systems.

Financial digital transformation: the biggest opportunity

The sector's growth opportunities converge on a single point: an enterprise's ability to manage its finances efficiently. An enterprise seeking financing benefits from clean, reliable financial records; an enterprise within the scope of e-invoicing benefits from a system compliant with the Authority's requirements; and an enterprise pursuing growth benefits from real-time visibility into its financial performance.

As digital invoicing expands and financing becomes tied to the quality of financial records, a [cloud accounting system](#) becomes an enablement tool that shortens compliance time, produces records that raise an enterprise's eligibility for financing, and gives the business owner real-time visibility for faster, more accurate decisions.

Financial digitization is the thread that ties the sector's opportunities together: easier compliance, closer financing, and clearer decisions, accelerating the journey of enterprises toward the Vision 2030 targets.

Promising horizons and recommendations

The sector continues to grow in numbers, employment, and economic contribution, with a growing national focus on raising enterprises' productivity and their capacity to grow and export. As financing, compliance, and digitization come together, the sector's journey toward the Vision 2030 targets is accelerating.

- **Treat your financial records as an asset.** A clean record is the key to both financing and compliance.
- **Get ahead of the e-invoicing waves.** Moving to a compliant system early saves time and ensures readiness.
- **Invest in financial digitization early.** The real value lies in the time saved and the opportunities unlocked with cloud systems.
- **Turn data into decisions.** Real-time visibility into financial performance supports an enterprise's growth and expansion.

Saudi Arabia's small and medium enterprise sector is writing a bright chapter in the Vision 2030 success story: record growth and employment figures, a rising economic contribution, and regional leadership in venture capital. As financing, compliance, and digitization come together, the journey accelerates toward wider horizons. Enterprises that settle their financial choices early, with clean records, automated compliance, and real-time visibility, are best placed to seize these promising opportunities and carry the success story forward.

Sources

- 1 Monshaat — General Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises
- 2 General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT) — stats.gov.sa
- 3 Saudi Central Bank (SAMA) — sama.gov.sa
- 4 Vision 2030 — Annual Report 2025

Go digital with Qoyod

An Arabic cloud accounting system compliant with e-invoicing, connecting point of sale, invoicing, and accounting in one platform.

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