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## MEDIA STRATEGIC RESEARCH SERVICE

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### **An Overview of Saudi Arabia's Online Newspapers Landscape**

There are eighteen local newspapers running in Saudi Arabia. Fifteen out of the eighteen newspapers are published in Arabic, one in Urdu, and two in English language. A total of twelve newspapers have an online presence.

All newspapers in Saudi Arabia are privately owned. The newspapers must obtain a royal decree in order to operate, and the government has power over their content to make sure they don't offend the social and religious norms of the country. Recently, the Saudi government has also loosened its control, and newspapers have reported on new subjects such as women's rights, corruption, and religious affairs.

The Media usage section in Arab Advisors Group's survey conducted in Saudi Arabia between October 30, 2006 and December 3, 2006, entitled "Saudi Arabia Cellular Users Survey", shows the top five newspapers in Saudi Arabia used for news updates. The survey involved face to face interviews with 674 respondents from different households in the Western district (Makkah, Jeddah, Madinah), Riyadh City, Dammam and Dharan, selected randomly in a manner proportionate to the estimated population size. Respondents were 15 years old and above, and were cellular service users.

**Exhibit 1** shows the top five newspapers used for news updates in Saudi Arabia according to Arab Advisors Group's survey.

### **Exhibit 1: Top Five Newspapers Used for News Updates**

<b>Name</b>	<b># of Responses</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Al Sharq Al Awsat</b>	155	39.7%
<b>Okaz</b>	152	39.0%
<b>Al Hayat</b>	84	21.5%
<b>Al Yaum</b>	78	20.0%
<b>Al Riyadh</b>	77	19.7%
<b>Total who read the newspaper for news updates</b>	<b>390</b>	

*Source: "Saudi Arabia Cellular Users Survey 2006"*

**Exhibit 2** displays a summary of the 12 daily newspapers in Saudi Arabia with an online presence.

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This research note is taken from the Arab Advisors Group Strategic Research Service - Media. We also publish comprehensive media reports which provide primary research and analysis of the broadcast media markets and players in the region. The reports analyze regional trends and players in the Satellite TV, Terrestrial TV, Cable TV and Radio markets.

**Exhibit 2: Saudi Arabian Daily Newspapers with an Online Presence**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Website</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Language</b>	<b>Publisher</b>
<b>Al Eqtisadiyah</b>	www.aleqt.com	Daily	Arabic	Saudi Research & Publishing Company
<b>Al Riyadiyyah</b>	www.arriy.com	Daily	Arabic	Saudi Research & Publishing Company
<b>Arab News</b>	www.arabnews.com	Daily	English	Saudi Research & Publishing Company
<b>Al Sharq Al Awsat</b>	www.asharqalawsat.com	Daily	Arabic	Saudi Research & Publishing Company
<b>Al Riyadh</b>	www.alriyadh.com	Daily	Arabic	Al Yamama Establishment for Press and Distribution
<b>Al Madina</b>	www.almadinapress.com	Daily	Arabic	Al Madina Establishment for Press and Distribution
<b>Al Watan</b>	www.alwatan.com.sa	Daily	Arabic	Al Aseer Establishment for Press and Publishing
<b>Al Yaum</b>	www.alyaum.com.sa	Daily	Arabic	Al Yaum for Print, Press and Distribution
<b>Al Hayat</b>	www.alhayat.com	Daily	Arabic	Al Hayat for Print & Publishing
<b>Al Jazira</b>	www.al-jazirah.com	Daily	Arabic	Al Jazira Establishment for Press, Print and Distribution
<b>Okaz</b>	www.okaz.com.sa	Daily	Arabic	Okaz publishing for Press & Distribution
<b>Saudi Gazette</b>	www.saudigazette.com.sa	Daily	Arabic	Okaz publishing for Press & Distribution

Source: Newspapers

All newspapers in Saudi Arabia with an online presence offer online and print advertising.

**Exhibit 3: Publishers of the Newspapers with an Online Presence**

<b>Publishing Company</b>	<b>Newspapers Published</b>
<b>Saudi Research &amp; Publishing Company</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Al Eqtisadiyah</li> <li>▪ Al Riyadiyyah</li> <li>▪ Arab News</li> <li>▪ Al Sharq Al Awsat</li> </ul>
<b>Al Yamama Establishment for Press and Distribution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Al Riyadh</li> </ul>
<b>Al Madina Establishment for Press and Distribution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Al Madina</li> </ul>
<b>Al Aseer Establishment for Press and Publishing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Al Watan</li> </ul>
<b>Al Yaum for Print, Press and Distribution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Al Yaum</li> </ul>
<b>Al Hayat for Print &amp; Publishing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Al Hayat</li> </ul>
<b>Al Jazira Establishment for Press, Print and Distribution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Al Jazira</li> </ul>
<b>Okaz publishing for Press &amp; Distribution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Okaz</li> <li>▪ Saudi Gazette</li> </ul>

*Source: Newspapers*

Below is a summary of each newspaper in Saudi Arabia with an online presence:

**Al Eqtisadiyah Newspaper**

Al Eqtisadiyah newspaper (“Economy” in English) is an economic daily newspaper published in the Arabic language. This newspaper was established in 1972 by Saudi Research & Publishing Company (SRPC). The SRPC was founded in 1972 and now publishes a list of publications consisting of 18 daily, weekly and monthly newspapers and magazines. Al Eqtisadiyah newspaper focuses on consumer affairs and financial trends within the region and abroad. Al Eqtisadiyah newspaper has a corresponding website ([www.aleqt.com](http://www.aleqt.com)) which updates local and international economic news. The website offers all articles available on Al Eqtisadiyah newspaper’s print edition. Furthermore, the online user can view the following:

- ❑ Saudi capital markets
- ❑ International capital markets
- ❑ Firms
- ❑ Local reports
- ❑ Public Opinion
- ❑ Islamic banking
- ❑ International Politics
- ❑ Financial Times
- ❑ Health in the pilgrimage
- ❑ Sport variety
- ❑ Previous editions
- ❑ Search Service
- ❑ Weather updates

Al Eqtisadiyah newspaper’s online portal also provides the following economic features:

- ❑ Oil prices
- ❑ Metal prices
- ❑ Riyal against currencies
- ❑ Shares statistics

- ❑ American Shares
- ❑ Global Indicators
- ❑ Interactive polls on economic issues

Al Eqtisadiyah newspaper's website offers online and print advertising.

### **Al Riyadiyyah Newspaper**

Al Riyadiyyah newspaper ("Sports" in English) is the first daily sports newspaper in Saudi Arabia. This newspaper is an Arabic language newspaper, which provides coverage of local and international sports and sporting events. Al Riyadiyyah newspaper was established in 1972 by the Saudi Group Establishment for Research & Distribution. Al Riyadiyyah newspaper has a corresponding website ([www.arriy.com](http://www.arriy.com)) which provides daily update to the daily print version. The website offers an update of football matches results in addition to the following features:

- ❑ Local sports news
- ❑ International sports news
- ❑ Sport Media
- ❑ Sport discussions
- ❑ Interactive polls
- ❑ Subscription
- ❑ Search service

In terms of distribution, Al Riyadiyyah newspaper is distributed throughout Saudi Arabia, the Gulf countries, the Arab world and Europe.

### **Arab News Newspaper**

Arab News newspaper was founded in 1972 by the Saudi Establishment for Research & Distribution. This newspaper is the first English-language newspaper published in Saudi Arabia. Arab News newspaper is a daily newspaper which offers its readers local and international news, covering politics and finance to sports and social events. Arab News newspaper has an online presence; the portal ([www.arabnews.com](http://www.arabnews.com)) offers a search service to give the online user the opportunity to locate all previous additions and articles published by this newspaper.

Online advertising is available, in addition to the following features:

- ❑ Local press
- ❑ Community news
- ❑ Law
- ❑ Art & culture
- ❑ Opinions
- ❑ Arab View
- ❑ Weather updates
- ❑ Prayer times
- ❑ Business market review
- ❑ Exchange rates
- ❑ Interaction letters
- ❑ Interaction polls

Additionally, Arab News newspaper is distributed in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Sultanate of Oman, Europe, and USA.

### **Al Sharq Al Awsat Newspaper**

Al Sharq Al Awsat newspaper ("Middle East" in English) was founded in 1978 by the Saudi Research & Publishing Company (SRPC). This newspaper is a daily newspaper published in the Arabic language. Al Sharq Al Awsat

newspaper has 20 correspondence offices around the world. Al Sharq Al Awsat newspaper has an online presence at [www.asharqalawsat.com](http://www.asharqalawsat.com), which offers the online user with the articles and sections provided in the print paper. Furthermore, Al Sharq Al Awsat newspaper's online portal offers the following:

- ❑ Local news
- ❑ International news
- ❑ Information system Supplement
- ❑ Religion
- ❑ Economy
- ❑ Health
- ❑ Money and Business
- ❑ Tourism
- ❑ Previous additions
- ❑ Subscription
- ❑ Search service
- ❑ Culture

Online and print advertising is available.

### **Al Riyadh Newspaper**

Al Riyadh newspaper, founded in 1964, is a daily newspaper in the Arabic language. This newspaper is issued by Al Yamama Establishment for Press and Distribution. Al Riyadh newspaper focuses on local and Arab affairs. This newspaper has a corresponding website ([www.alriyadh.com](http://www.alriyadh.com)) which offers the online user the articles of the print newspaper by clicking on the selected title. Online and print advertising is available.

Al Riyadh online newspaper offers the following features:

- ❑ Local news
- ❑ International affairs
- ❑ Culture
- ❑ Information system
- ❑ Sports
- ❑ Most active stocks by quantity
- ❑ Most highest and lowest stocks
- ❑ Search service with 'Arabi Search Engine'
- ❑ Interactive polls
- ❑ Weather updates

### **Al Madina Newspaper**

Al Madina newspaper ("The City" in English) is a daily newspaper published in the Arabic language. This newspaper is issued by Al Madina Establishment for Press and Distribution, which also issues the following publications:

- ❑ Al Mala'eb weekly newspaper (Playfield newspaper in Arabic)
- ❑ Al Arba'a weekly supplement (Wednesday weekly supplement in Arabic)
- ❑ Al Risalah weekly newspaper (The Message newspaper in Arabic)
- ❑ Ahwal Al Nas daily supplement (People supplement in Arabic)

Al Madina newspaper launched a corresponding website in 2004 ([www.almadinapress.com](http://www.almadinapress.com)). The website offers a PDF format of Al Madina newspaper offering the online user a mirror image of the print edition. All the above publications are offered on PDF format on Al Madina Press Establishment website ([www.almadinapress.com](http://www.almadinapress.com)).

Al Madina Press Establishment's website presents the following features:

- ❑ Local affairs
- ❑ International affairs
- ❑ Money and Business
- ❑ Religion
- ❑ Sports
- ❑ Search service
- ❑ Previous editions
- ❑ Public Opinion

### **Al Watan Newspaper**

Al Watan newspaper ("The Homeland" in English) is an Arabic language newspaper published on a daily basis. This newspaper was established in 1998 by Al Aseer Establishment for Press & Publishing. Al Aseer Press Establishment's building, with a 17 thousand square meters space, is estimated at a total budget of 55 million SD. Al Watan newspaper has a corresponding website ([www.alwatan.com.sa](http://www.alwatan.com.sa)) which offers a PDF format of the print version. Al Watan online newspaper offers advertising, in addition to the following:

- ❑ Local news
- ❑ Politics
- ❑ Economy
- ❑ Social issues
- ❑ Sports
- ❑ Opinion
- ❑ Cases & Discussions
- ❑ Culture

### **Al Yaum Newspaper**

Al Yaum newspaper ("Today" in English) was founded in 1965 by Dar Al Yaum Establishment for Print, Press and Distribution. This newspaper was first launched as a weekly eight-page publication before it became a daily newspaper in 1978. Al Yaum newspaper is a daily newspaper published in the Arabic language. Al Yaum newspaper launched a corresponding website in 2002 ([www.alyaum.com.sa](http://www.alyaum.com.sa)) which offers all articles published in the print paper. Al Yaum newspaper's online portal provides online advertising in addition to the advertising fees to those who wish to submit their ads online or on the print version. The following features are also available:

- ❑ Politics
- ❑ Culture
- ❑ Economy
- ❑ Sports
- ❑ Arts
- ❑ Society and life
- ❑ Public Opinion
- ❑ Weather updates
- ❑ Currencies
- ❑ Subscription
- ❑ Prayer times
- ❑ Arab newspapers addresses & portals
- ❑ Government advertisement

### **Al Hayat Newspaper**

Al Hayat newspaper ("Life" in English) was founded in October 1988 by Prince Khalid bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud. This newspaper is a political newspaper published on a daily basis in the Arabic language. Al Hayat newspaper has a corresponding website ([www.alhayat.com](http://www.alhayat.com)) which offers the reader the opportunity to browse the titles and full sections of Al Hayat

newspaper, all assembled in PDF format. The website also provides an English version of Al Hayat newspaper for all English-speaking online readers. Online and print advertising is available.

Al Hayat newspaper's online portal offers the following features:

- ❑ Arab affairs
- ❑ International affairs
- ❑ Science and Technology
- ❑ Business
- ❑ Economy
- ❑ Social affairs
- ❑ Sports
- ❑ Previous editions
- ❑ Public opinion
- ❑ Weekly supplements
- ❑ Family issues
- ❑ Culture
- ❑ Cinema
- ❑ Weather updates

### **Al Jazira Newspaper**

Al Jazira newspaper is an Arabic daily newspaper, founded in 1972. This newspaper, owned by Al Jazira Establishment for Press, Print and Distribution, was the first newspaper with an online presence in Saudi Arabia. Al Jazira Establishment publishes several publications, these are:

Majalat Al Alam Al Waq'ey

Al Majalah Al Thaqafiah

Majalat Al Jazira (The Island Magazine)

Nady Al Sayarat (Cars Club Magazine)

Al Jazira newspaper launched a website in 1997, offering a mirror image of the print edition on PDF format. The corresponding website is [www.al-jazirah.com](http://www.al-jazirah.com). Online and print advertising is available.

Al Jazira newspaper's website provides the online user with the following:

- ❑ Local news
- ❑ International news
- ❑ Religion
- ❑ Sports
- ❑ Economy
- ❑ Previous editions
- ❑ Search service
- ❑ Online subscription
- ❑ Interactive polls
- ❑ Main currencies
- ❑ Weather updates
- ❑ Prayer times

### **Okaz Newspaper**

Okaz newspaper is a daily newspaper, founded in 1960. Saudi Okaz publishing for Press & Distribution issues two newspapers: Okaz newspaper and Saudi Gazette newspaper, established in 1976. This newspaper was named after the popular Okaz market. Okaz newspaper focuses on general issues covering local and international news updates. Okaz newspaper has a corresponding website ([www.okaz.com.sa](http://www.okaz.com.sa)) in which offers all articles and sections available on the print edition, in addition to the previous editions published by this newspaper. Okaz newspaper's website also provides online advertising in addition to clarifications on the advertising rates to those who

wish to apply their ads on the website. Furthermore, Okaz newspaper's website provides the following:

- ❑ Local news
- ❑ Religion
- ❑ Culture
- ❑ Life
- ❑ Economy
- ❑ Okaz market
- ❑ Sports updates
- ❑ Search service
- ❑ Interactive polls
- ❑ Social

### **Saudi Gazette Newspaper**

Saudi Gazette newspaper was established in 1976 by Saudi Okaz publishing for Press & Distribution. This newspaper is an English-language newspaper published on a daily basis. Saudi Gazette newspaper targets the English-speaking readers in Saudi Arabia. This newspaper has a corresponding website ([www.saudigazette.com.sa](http://www.saudigazette.com.sa)) which provides all the articles published by the daily print edition. Saudi Gazette newspaper's website provides the following features:

- ❑ Business
- ❑ National news
- ❑ Sports
- ❑ Islam
- ❑ Achieves
- ❑ Opinion
- ❑ Culture
- ❑ Stock market
- ❑ Social news
- ❑ Subscription

### **Related Arab Advisors Group research**

*"An Overview of Local Online Newspapers in Morocco". December 10, 2006*

*"UAE's newspapers embrace the Internet." July 13, 2006*

*"The local newspapers scene in Lebanon: No government ownership while online content thrives." July 13, 2006*

*"An overview of Tunisia's online newspapers landscape". June 26, 2006*

*"An overview of Local Newspapers in Syria with an Online Presence." June 11, 2006*

*"Local Newspapers in Jordan with an Online Presence" May 23, 2006*

*"Local Newspapers in Bahrain with an Online Presence" May 17, 2006*

*"An overview of the Online Newspapers Landscape in Qatar." May 14, 2006*

*"Local Online Newspapers in Oman." May 14, 2006*

*"An overview of Kuwait's thriving online newspapers scene." May 11, 2006*

*"An overview of Egyptian Newspapers' Online Presence" May 8, 2006*

*"The Online Presence of FTA Satellite Channels in the Arab World" May, 2006*

*"Arabic Online Portals Featuring News Content" April, 2006*

*"An analysis of Internet use patterns amongst Egypt's GSM users." March 26, 2006*

*"An overview of Maktoob.com Group and its growth strategy." March 13, 2006*

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