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Ministry of Municipal & Rural Affairs

CPI PROFILE NAJRAN

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

مستقبل المدن السعودية
FUTURE SAUDI CITIES

The Future Saudi Cities Programme
CPI PROFILE - Najran

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Introduction

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (MOMRA) jointly launched UN-HABITAT Saudi Arabia Programme titled “Future Saudi Cities Programme (FSCP)”. The UN-HABITAT Office has been providing technical support to the MOMRA and targets 17 key cities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The cities include Riyadh, Makkah, Jeddah, Taif, Medina, Tabouk, Dammam, Qatif, Ihsa, Abha, Najran, Jazan, Hail, Araar, AlBaha, Buraydah, and Sakaka, to respond to national and local urban challenges.

UN-Habitat provides a new approach for measuring urban prosperity: which is holistic, integrated and essential for the promotion and monitoring of socio-economic development, inclusion and progressive realization of the urban-related human rights for all. This new approach redirects cities to function towards a path of an urban future that is economical, politically, socially and environmentally prosperous. The new approach or monitoring framework, The Cities Prosperity Index (CPI), is a multidimensional framework that integrates six carefully selected dimensions and several indicators that relates to factors and conditions necessary for a city to thrive and prosper. The six dimensions include productivity, infrastructure development, equity and social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and urban governance. The CPI uses the concept of The Wheel of Urban Prosperity and the Scale of Urban Prosperity to enable stakeholders to assess achievements in cities. The City Prosperity Index (CPI) not only provide indices and measurements relevant to cities, it is an assessment tool that enables city authorities as well as local and national stakeholders, to identify opportunities and potential areas of intervention for their cities to become more prosperous.

Under FSCP, the UN-HABITAT, MOMRA, and Municipality of Najran together with its Local Urban Observatory has been working on developing urban statistics and spatial information (Geographic Information System) in order to provide relevant urban information that strongly supports decision making process on urban development and urban planning in the city.

This CPI Profile Report applies the CPI framework and provide a summary of the basic information and urban statistics about the City and gives an overview of the city's achievements, opportunities and potential areas that contribute to its prosperity in areas such productivity, infrastructure development, equity and social inclusion, environmental sustainability and urban governance and legislation.

Overview of Najran City

Najran is a city in southwestern Saudi Arabia near the border with Yemen. It is the capital of Najran region, so it is the headquarters of the Governor, local councils, and branches of various governmental departments. Najran is regarded as a modern or new town.

Historical Background

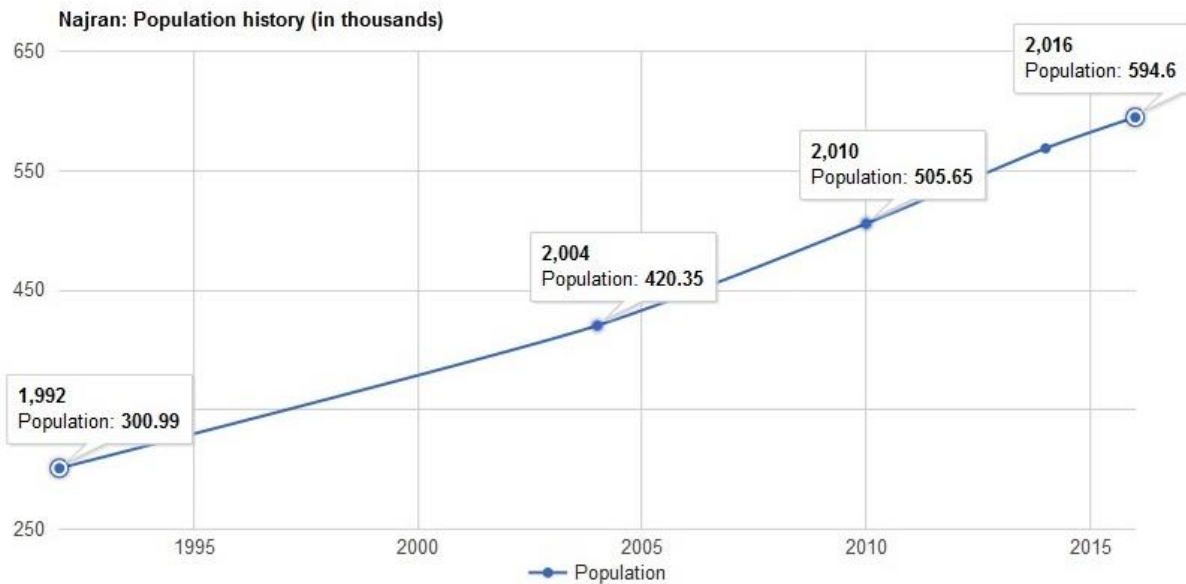
Local tradition has it that the land derived its name from the first man to settle in the area, Najran ibn Zaydan ibn Saba ibn Yahjub ibn Yarub ibn Qahtan. The oasis of Najran has been inhabited for about 4,000 years. Najran most prosperous trading time was during the first and second centuries B.C. when it was known as Al-Ukhdoon. The main activity of its habitats was agriculture and cattle rearing and breeding. It was known by this name when the Roman general Aelius Gallus captured it in 24BC. Around the year 250BC, the area came under the control of the Himyarites.

Geography and Location

Najran is the capital of Najran region located along the Southern border with Yemen. It is bounded by Yemen to the south; Al-Silayel and Wadi Al-Dawasir to the north; Dhahran Al-Janoub and the Asir region to the west; and Oman in the east. Najran contains three geographical areas. First, the flat area which lies in the middle of Najran. It has several valleys, the most famous of them being Najran's valley. Second, the mountainous area which is in the west and the north. The region has moderate weather in summer with an average temperature of 32 degrees Celsius and mild during the winter months. The city is at 1,293 m (4,242 ft) above sea level. The city covers an area of about 149,511 km² and the urban extent area is 101 km².

Demographic Background

Najran is one of the fastest-growing cities in the kingdom; its population has risen from 47,500 in 1974 and 300,000 in 1992 to 420,350 in 2004 and to 594,600 in 2016. The average household size in the city is 6.4 persons. The city's population density within the urban extent area is 3,761.



Socio-Economic Background

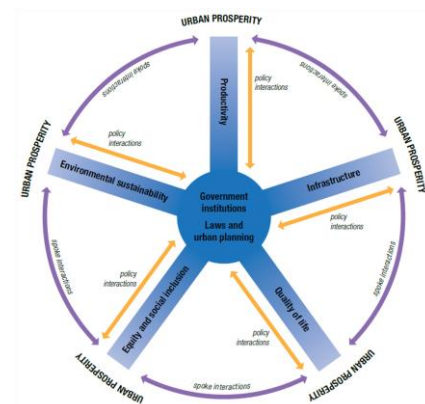
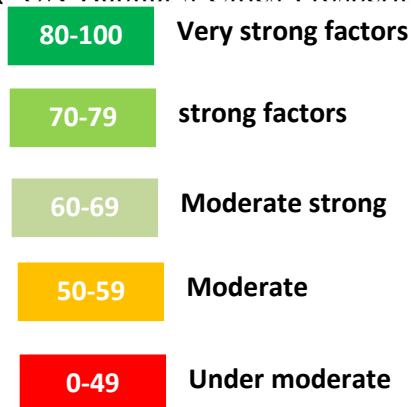
The economy of Najran traditionally depended on and still depends significantly on Agriculture, Livestock farming, and traditional manufacturing industry. The traditional industry of handicraft is still thriving where making pottery in its various forms, as well as daggers and leather, are still very popular. According to Najran chamber of commerce and industry, 2014, the city has four main industrial groups namely Non-metallic industries (construction materials), Plastic industries, Metallic industries and Food industries. Najran factories produce consumer products, such as food industries, e.g. dairy products, healthy water, and juice. Chemical and plastic products, such as plastic bags, shampoo, liquid detergents, and houseware. Non-metallic products (construction materials), such as block, fabricated concrete, cement and various forms of ceramic. Metal industries, such as iron, aluminum, wood, steel doors, prefabricated houses, and warehouses. (The Saudi industrial development fund, 2014)

The City Prosperity Index (CPI) Assessment

Prosperity implies success, wellbeing, thriving conditions, safety and security, long life etc. Prosperity in cities, therefore, is about successfully meeting today's needs without compromising tomorrow and working together for a smart, competitive economy, in a socially inclusive society and a healthy, vibrant environment for individuals, families, and communities. Prosperity in cities is a process and cities can be at different levels of prosperity. In order to measure the level and also track how cities progress on the path to becoming prosperous, UN-Habitat introduced a monitoring framework: The Cities Prosperity Index (CPI). The CPI is a composite index with six carefully selected dimensions that captures all important elements of a prosperous city. This index along with a conceptual matrix, The Wheel of Urban Prosperity and a Global Scale of City Prosperity, are intended to help city authorities, decision-makers, partners and other stakeholders to use existing evidence and formulate clear policies and interventions for their cities.

Figure 2: Scale of Urban Prosperity and the Wheel of Urban Prosperity

The UN-Habitat's Cities Prosperity Index (CPI) allows authorities and local groups to identify



opportunities and potential areas for action or adjustments in order to make their cities more prosperous. The CPI is a multidimensional framework that integrates several dimensions and indicators that are not only related but have a direct and indirect influence on in regard to fostering prosperity in cities. These components are embodied in the following six dimensions: Productivity, Infrastructure Development, Quality of life, Equity and social inclusion, Environmental sustainability, and Governance and legislation. Each of the dimensions is comprised of several indicators measured differently. Since the indicators are measured in different units, the first step in the index computation involves the normalization of the indicators into values ranging between 0 and 1¹; the normalized values are then aggregated stepwise to create the single value called the City Prosperity Index.

¹ Can also be expressed in percentages so that values range between 0% and 100%, as used in this report.

The following sections apply the CPI framework, the concept of the Wheel of Urban Prosperity and the Scale of Urban Prosperity to conduct an assessment of the level of prosperity in the city. The assessment provides an indication of the strengths or weaknesses in the factors of prosperity (in reference to the scale of urban prosperity); it also provides an indication of the level of achievement towards the set of prosperity goals (based on the magnitude of the CPI scores); and highlights whether there are disparities between and within the six dimensions of prosperity (based on the concept of the Wheel of Urban Prosperity-stressing balance). An in-depth analysis of the findings will help to identify which particular sub-dimensions and indicators contribute to high or low values in each of the dimensions and the CPI scores.

Overall City Prosperity Index for Najran

The CPI is made-up of six dimensions that relate to prosperity in cities, the overall CPI is the aggregate of the six dimensions. However, due to challenges with data availability, the CPI may be computed using less than six dimensions or fewer sub-dimensions within a dimension. Whichever the case care is always taken to make the dimensional indices as representative as possible; and in such cases, it may not be advisable to compare prosperity between cities. The overall CPI for Najran was calculated using four dimensions, the overall index score is 50.2%. According to the global scale of city prosperity, the score categorized as moderate, suggesting the need to strengthen existing urban policies to foster further prosperity. The shape of the polygon in the chart below indicates the level of imbalance between the dimensions of the prosperity of the city. Prosperous cities have more or less of a balance between all the dimension of prosperity. Unbalanced cities with extremely high and extremely low scores are undesirable². From the chart, it is observable that three out of the four dimensions (productivity, infrastructure, and quality of life) are under-moderate and that only equity and social inclusion is moderately strong. The observed general weakness can, therefore, be linked to the three under moderate dimensions (productivity with 43.9%, quality of life with 46.5%, and infrastructure with 43.9%). In the radar chart in Figure 3, the orange line represents the CPI index line or the meanwhile the blue line represents the calculated index of the city.

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