



وزارة الشؤون
البلدية و القروية
Ministry of Municipal & Rural Affairs

CPI PROFILE

ARAR



UN-HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

مستقبل المدن السعودية
FUTURE SAUDI CITIES

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Introduction

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs (MOMRA) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia jointly launched the “Future Saudi Cities Programme (FSCP)”. The UN-HABITAT Office has been providing technical support to the MOMRA and targets 17 main cities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The cities include Riyadh, Makkah, Jeddah, Taif, Medina, Tabouk, Dammam, Qatif, Al Ahsa, 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 an urban future that is economically, 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 made up of several indicators that relate to factors and conditions necessary for a city to thrive and prosper. The six dimensions include productivity, infrastructure development, equity and social inclusion, quality of life, environmental sustainability, and urban governance and legislation. The CPI uses the concept of ‘The Wheel of Urban Prosperity’ and the ‘Global Scale of Urban Prosperity’ to enable stakeholders to assess achievements in their respective cities. The City Prosperity Index (CPI) not only provides indices and measurements relevant to cities, but it is also an assessment tool that enables city authorities, local and national stakeholders, and policy-makers to identify opportunities and potential areas of intervention for their cities to become more prosperous.

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

This CPI Profile Report applies the CPI framework and provides 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, quality of life, equity and social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and urban governance and legislation.

The CPI was developed by UN-Habitat to provide 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 an urban future that is economically, politically, socially and environmentally prosperous. The CPI is a multidimensional framework that integrates six dimensions made up of several indicators that relate to factors and conditions necessary for a city to thrive and prosper. The six dimensions include productivity, infrastructure development, equity and social inclusion, quality of life, environmental sustainability, and urban governance and legislation. The CPI uses the concept of ‘The Wheel of Urban Prosperity’ and the ‘Global Scale of Urban Prosperity’ to enable cities assess achievements in terms of service delivery to their residents. The CPI not only provides indices and measurements relevant to cities, but it is also an assessment tool that enables city authorities, local and national stakeholders, and policy-makers to

identify opportunities and potential areas of intervention for their cities to become more prosperous.

Overview of Arar City

Arar is in northern Saudi Arabia near the Iraqi border. It is the capital of Northern Borders Region in Saudi Arabia. The region is sub-divided into three governorates, Arar, Rafha, and Turayf. It is known for its fertile pasture lands which support its principal occupation of sheep and camel herding. The city serves as a significant supply stop for travelers on the Saudi Arabian highway 85.

History of the City

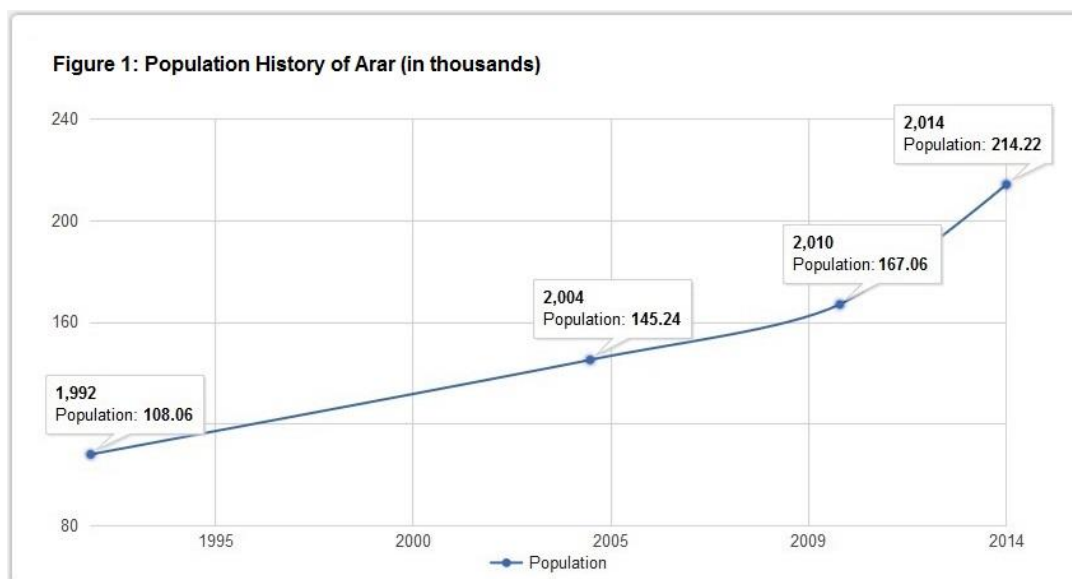
The city of Arar was founded in 1951 after the construction of the Aramco oil pipeline (Tapline). It was initially an oil pumping station with a health center and workers housing. Workers at Arar were primarily from the regional cities of Al-Ahsa, Ha'il, Yanbu and Al Wajh. Arar got its name from the original oil field that existed before the town, "Field RR", one of many in the country, where it was known by the locals as "R.R." which later became Ar ar. The name Arar also means juniper (evergreen shrub or trees) in Arabic. In 1968, the remains of an ancient city were unearthed 30 km from the city of 'Ar'ar. The site yielded numerous sculptures of fish, turtles and other aquatic animals.

Geography and Location of the City

Arar is in the north of Saudi Arabia, in the heart of a vast rocky limestone plain. It lies about 1100 km northwest of Riyadh, and about 60 km from the Iraqi border and 1,451.3 km away from Jeddah. Arar climate is described as moderately hot desert with an annual average temperature of 28.8°C (high), but the temperature can go as high as 40°C in summer; the annual average low is 14.47°C, but it can go as low as 3°C during winter. The average annual precipitation is 96 mm. The city is situated at 537m above sea level.

Demographic Background of the City

The city is the headquarter of a region with the lowest population in the country. The population of the entire Northern Borders Region, including the cities of Rafha, Turayf and Alaoiqilah and suburban villages and their inhabitants, was 320,524 at the 2010 census.



Source: Population.city (march 2018)

The population of Arar city stood at about 219,080 people in 2016. This was as a result of a steady increase from 145,240 in 2004 to 161,057 in 2010; this was followed by a sharp increase to 214,220 people in 2014. This may have occurred due to frequent labour related immigration into the city of Arar. In 2010, the number of household in the city was 24804, with an average household size of 7.7 persons per household.

Socio-Economic Background of the City

About a half of the region where Arar is located is covered in sand and gravel desert. Winter in Arar is superb as most of the valleys will be lush in vegetation and carpeted with flowers making it a moderate tourist and holiday destination. People in the suburbs find great fun in hunting with hawks and falcons and Arar is the main station of the sporting activity; it also attracts tourists into the area. It will be one of the main events that a tourist will remember after a visit to the region.

Table 1: Number of establishments according to economic activity and sector type 2010		
Economics Activity	Economic Sector	Economic Indicator

	Private	Public	Non-Profit	Total	Percent	Revenues		Expenditure	Operating surplus
						Total	%		
Agriculture and Fishing	42	0	3	45	0.6%	38150	0.4%	15222	22928
Oil and minerals	12	0	0	12	0.2%	2996804	29.7%	330886	2665918
Transformational industries (TI)	1150	1	0	1151	16.3%	1612597	16.0%	1111004	501593
Electricity, gas and water	39	8	2	49	0.7%	272990	2.7%	178146	94844
Construction	105	0	0	105	1.5%	695447	6.9%	348918	346529
Wholesale and retail trade	4134	1	1	4136	58.4%	3175719	31.4%	2468902	706817
Hotels and restaurants	695	0	2	697	9.8%	281237	2.8%	17924	263313
Transport, storage and telecommunications	127	9	1	137	1.9%	572777	5.7%	328909	243868
Financial intermediation	15	0	0	15	0.2%	201135	2.0%	113481	87654
Real estate, rent, and commercial projects	214	1	0	215	3.0%	119103	1.2%	76084	43019
Education	17	0	1	18	0.3%	17585	0.2%	11128	6457
Health and social services	21	0	11	32	0.5%	52808	0.5%	25194	27614
Collective and personal services	460	2	3	465	6.6%	62899	0.6%	39682	23217
Total	7031	22	24	7077	100.0%	10,099,251	100.0%	5,065,480	5,033,771

Source: Results of the Annual Economic Establishments Survey - 2010

Table 1 above lists the main economic activities by sectors in Arar showing the revenues obtained from each of the activity. From the table, the largest economic activity with highest revenue is the wholesale and retail trade sector accounting for 58.4% of the economic sector; it contributes 31.4% of the city's total revenue. The second most important economic activity in terms of revenue contribution is the Oil and minerals that contributes 29.7% of the total revenues and represents 0.2% of all the economic activities in the city. The second largest sector in terms of economic activities is the Transformation industries that accounts for 16.3% of the city's economic activity, but contributes 16% of total city revenue. Other important sectors in order of revenues are the Construction sector; Transport, storage and telecommunications; Electricity, gas and water; and the financial intermediation sector.

The City Prosperity Index (CPI)

Prosperity implies success, wellbeing, thriving conditions, safety and security, long life, etc. Prosperity in cities is about successfully meeting today's needs without compromising the needs of tomorrow and working together for a smart and competitive economy in an inclusive and healthy society, in a vibrant environment for individuals, families, and communities. Prosperity in cities is a process; cities can be at different stages or level of prosperity. To measure the level and track how cities progress on the path to becoming prosperous, UN-Habitat introduced a monitoring framework called The Cities Prosperity Index (CPI). The CPI is a composite index with six carefully selected dimensions that captures all important elements of prosperity in city cities. The 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 formulate evidence-based policies and interventions for their cities.

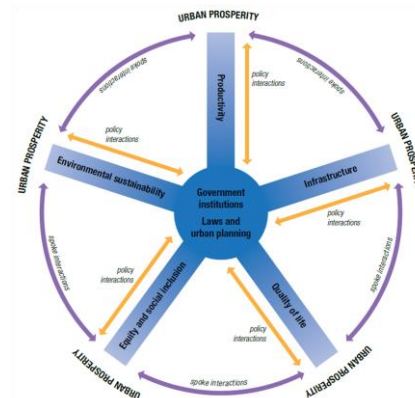
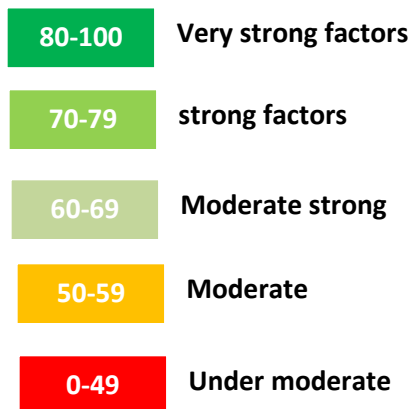


Figure 2: Scale of Urban Prosperity and the Wheel of Urban Prosperity

The CPI allows authorities and local groups to identify opportunities and potential areas for action or adjustments to make their cities more prosperous. It is a multidimensional framework that integrates several dimensions and indicators that are not only related but have a direct and indirect influence on prosperity in cities. These components are embodied in the six dimensions of the CPI: Productivity, Infrastructure Development, Quality of life, Equity and Social inclusion, Environmental sustainability, and Urban Governance and legislation. Each of the dimensions is comprised of indicators, which are measured in different units. The indicators are normalized into values ranging between 0 and 1 during the computation of the final score. The normalized values are then aggregated stepwise to create the single value called the City Prosperity Index.

The subsequent sections apply the CPI framework, the concept of the Wheel of Urban Prosperity and the Scale of Urban Prosperity to assess the level of prosperity in the city. The assessment provides an examination of prosperity in the city of Arar, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses in the factors of prosperity (using the scale of urban prosperity); provides an indication of the level of achievement towards the set prosperity goals (according to the magnitude of the CPI scores); and highlights whether there are disparities between and within the six dimensions of prosperity (using the Wheel of Urban Prosperity to depict balance). Findings from the assessment will help to identify sub dimensions and indicators that contributes to high or low values of the

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