

# Saudi Economic Cities



In 2005, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announced the launch of six new economic cities. The objective of these economic cities is to grow the national economy and raise the standard of living for Saudi citizens. These six economic cities will create new jobs, improve Saudi skill levels, add to regional development, and diversify the Kingdom's economy. Job creation in Saudi Arabia is critical 40% of Saudi's population is under the age of 15. By 2020 these cities will create 1.5 million jobs. The idea of creating six economic cities, came from the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA), as a strategy to balance the economy of Saudi Arabia. SAGIA expects the Economic Cities to contribute \$150 billion to GDP by 2020.



- Tabouk
- Hail
- Eastern Province
- Medinah
- Rabigh
- Jazan

## King Abdullah Economic City (KAEC)

King Bin Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, officially launched KAEC in December 2005. It is the first economic city to be built. KAEC will be located north of Jeddah along the coast of the Red Sea, and will encompass an area of 168 million square meters. KAEC will be a new age city designed for the next generation of Saudi citizens.

KAEC will allow for easy driving access to and from the Holy Cities of Makkah and Medina. KAEC will have six components: a modern world – class seaport, an industrial district, a financial district, an education district, and resort and residential areas. Each district will have its own mosques, shops, services and recreational facilities. KAEC will help create one million jobs and will further diversify Saudi's oil based economy with foreign investments. Estimated population by 2020 is two million people.

## Prince Abdullah Bin Mousaed Economic City (PABMEC)

The second economic city will be located in Hail, which is 500 miles north of Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia. PABMEC will be a premier investment hub for mining, information technology, building materials, housing and education facilities. PABMEC will have new schools and hospitals, as well as a new airport serving the northern part of Saudi Arabia. When completed, the city will provide 55,000 jobs and residences for 300,000 people.



## Knowledge Economic City (KEC)

The third economic city, will be located in Madinah, near the Holy Mosque of Prophet Muhammad. The focus of KEC will be knowledge based industries, with an Islamic focus. KEC will feature an interactive museum on Prophet Muhammad's life and a center for studies of Islamic Civilization.

KEC will also develop Saudi Arabia's technology base, and will create about 20,000 jobs. An Information Technology Center will be created, as well as a center for medical studies and another center for biosciences research. KEC will position young Saudis as international leaders within knowledge based industries.



## Jazan Economic City (JEC)

This will be the fourth economic city. Jazan is an important port city, located in the south-west region of Saudi Arabia. It has a coast line of 185 miles, and is close to the main trade routes to Europe, the Far East, and the Persian Gulf. JEC will be located 450 miles south of Jeddah. JEC will focus on minerals, construction materials, and agribusiness. JEC will have its own desalination and power plant. Heavy industry will be a key sector for JEC, with plans for an oil refinery, and mining facilities for copper, aluminum, iron and steel. JEC will create 55,000 new jobs with an anticipated population of 80,000.



## Tabuk Economic City (TEC)

The fifth economic city, will be located in the northern city of Tabuk. The development of TEC will further the goal of promoting development through out Saudi Arabia. Major industries will include energy, trade, environment, education and health.

## Eastern Province Economic City (EPEC)

The sixth economic city will be located in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia. Eastern Province is the largest province of Saudi Arabia, located in the east of the country on the Persian Gulf coast. The main industries for EPEC will be health, water, and electricity and energy.