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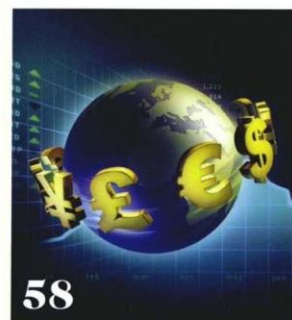
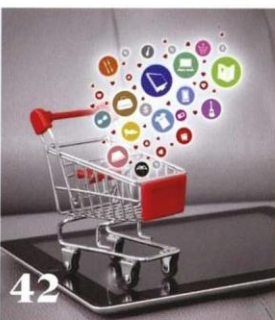
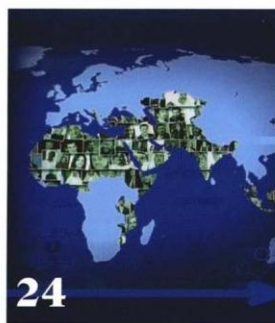
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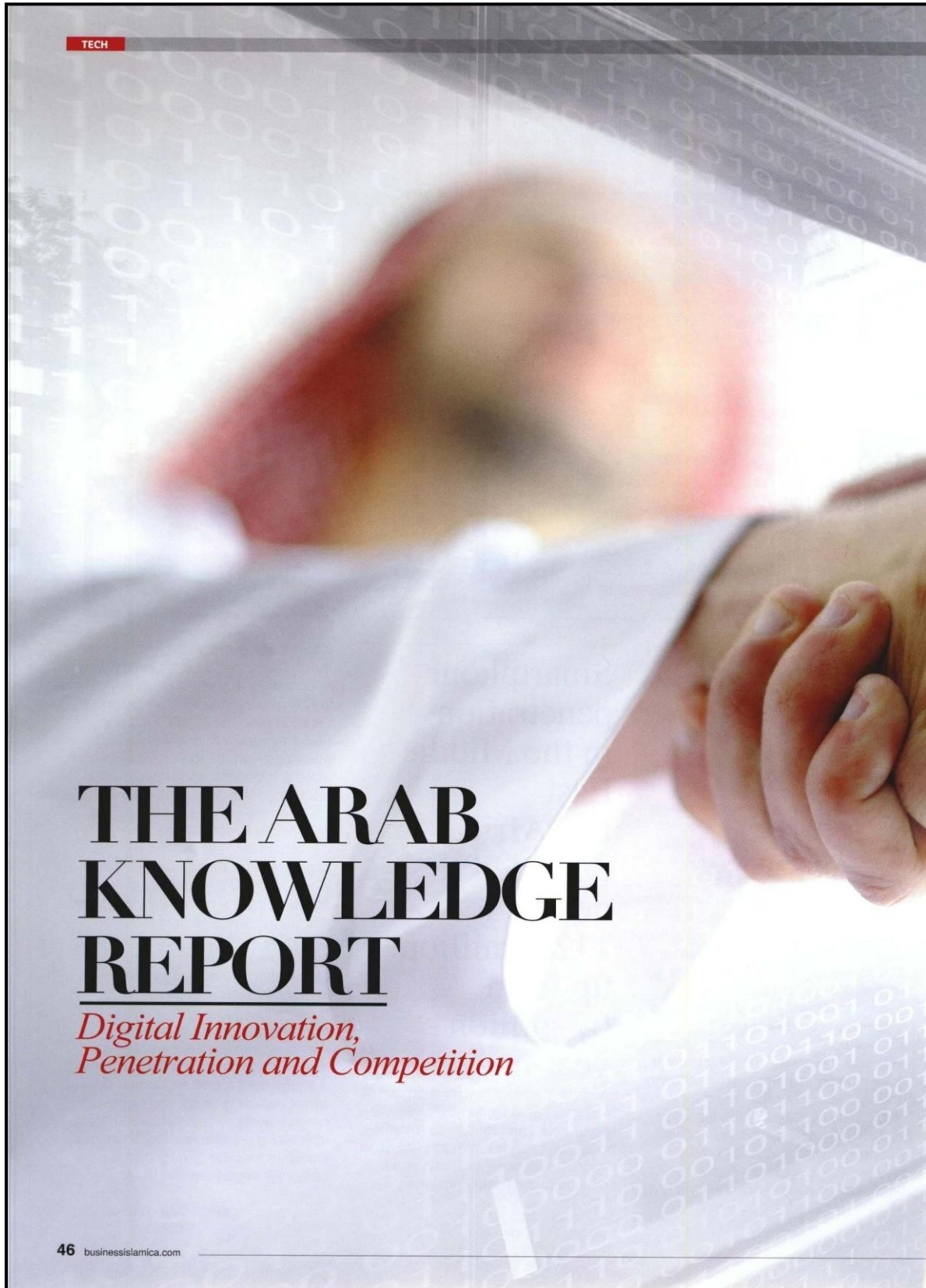
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THE ARAB KNOWLEDGE REPORT

*Digital Innovation,
Penetration and Competition*

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ARAB KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY REPORT

About

Arab Knowledge Economy Report 2015-2016 provides a comprehensive overview of all the Arab countries' rankings, developments and initiatives as well as the current state of the region's ICT structure.

The number of internet users in the Arab World is expected to rise to an estimated 226 million by 2018, according to the Arab Knowledge Economy report 2015 - 2016. The internet penetration rate will jump from an estimated 37.5 per cent in 2014 to over 55 per cent in 2018, or about 7 per cent above the estimated world average of 3.6 billion users. These are the latest statistics noted in the Arab Knowledge Economy Report 2015- 2016 which was launched in late March this year by Orient Planet Research.

Dubai ranks among the world's top 10 cities in Digital Governance, topping world capitals such as London, Oslo, Stockholm and Vienna in 2014.

Abdul Kader Al Kamli, Research Consultant, said: "The Arab World is in the midst of change following a number of social and political upheavals. In the face of these dynamic reforms, many countries within the region continue to make great strides in their efforts to shift to a knowledge-based economy, marking a noticeable improvement in knowledge society indicators. In fact, The Global Competitiveness Index, ranked Qatar

14th and the United Arab Emirates 17th among 130 nations in the overall outcome. The UAE ranked first globally in six out of the 114 indicators. This has encouraged the development of smart government initiatives."

"We are optimistic that the data being presented within this edition of the Arab Knowledge Economy Report will serve as a point of reference for public and private organizations in the region as they develop their strategy for the coming years." Kamli added.

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Nidal Abu Zaki, Managing Director, Orient Planet Group, said: "The Arab world is in the middle of an economic evolution as a result of the changing oil prices. This has prompted a shift towards establishing a diversified economy with a particular focus on cultivating a knowledge economy evident in the increased investment towards ICT infrastructure as part of the region's effort to move away from its dependency on oil.

Considerable improvement has been made across health, service delivery, among other sectors. The UAE is an emerging leader in e-government development globally, and its level of digitalization is comparable with that of global leaders. Dubai outranks digitally advanced world capitals, such as London, Oslo, Stockholm and Vienna in terms of Digital Governance. Muscat came second among Arab cities in this regard, followed by Riyadh, Cairo, Amman, Tunis, Casablanca, Baghdad, Kuwait and Manama."

The report provides comprehensive data on various trends within the knowledge economy. It also reflects increased investments towards technology and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) infrastructure as well as noticeable advancements in research and development as evident in the high numbers of patents registered in Saudi Arabia.

The dynamic expansion of the knowledge economy is largely a result of the efforts of the countries within the region to shift their dependency from an oil-driven economy. This has led to pioneering initiatives for developing technical advancements in key economic sectors. Its influence has extended towards retail, hospitality and various other business areas.

A WIDE RANGE OF CRUCIAL INFORMATION CAN BE DRAWN FROM THE REPORT

INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING KEY DATA:

- The UAE ranked first on the 2015 Arab E-performance Index, with an average of 67.35.
- According to the report, the six GCC states led the Arab region in terms of ICT indicators in 2015.
- Bahrain took a commanding lead, registering 74.15 per cent in Internet user penetration, while Kuwait registered the highest in mobile subscription penetration with 194.62 per cent.

THE ARAB ICT USE INDEX EXAMINES FOUR MAJOR INDICATORS FOR EACH OF THE 18 MENA ECONOMIES:

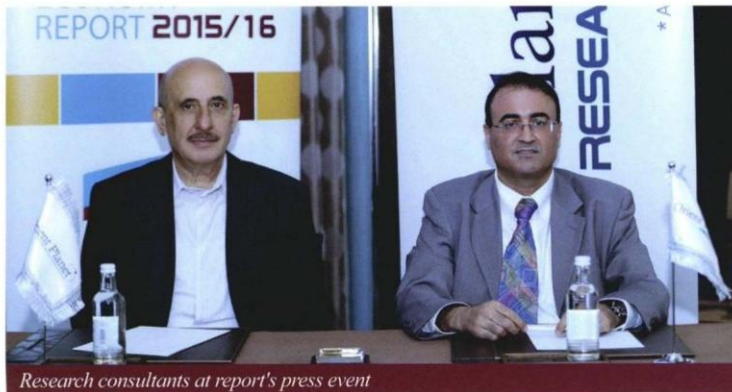
- Mobile phone subscribers
- Fixed-line subscribers

ARAB COUNTRIES ICT INDICATORS 2015

POPULATION END 2015	INTERNET USERS*	INTERNET PENETRATION	PC INSTALLED BASE	PC PENETRATION	MOBILE SUBSCRIPTIONS	MOBILE PENETRATION
TOTAL 375,827,146	TOTAL 181,723,539	TOTAL 48.35%	TOTAL 62,829,153	TOTAL 16.72%	TOTAL 411,804,768	TOTAL 110.19%
TOTAL SUDAN & YEMEN 64,596,532	TOTAL SUDAN & YEMEN 17,609,316	TOTAL SUDAN & YEMEN 27.26%	TOTAL SUDAN & YEMEN 4,336,906	TOTAL SUDAN & YEMEN 6.71%	TOTAL SUDAN & YEMEN 45,320,000	TOTAL SUDAN & YEMEN 70.16%
TOTAL LEVANT 164,580,631	TOTAL LEVANT 86,375,191	TOTAL LEVANT 52.47%	TOTAL LEVANT 15,961,912	TOTAL LEVANT 9.70%	TOTAL LEVANT 164,691,968	TOTAL LEVANT 100.05%
TOTAL NORTH AFRICA 92,128,619	TOTAL NORTH AFRICA 41,642,483	TOTAL NORTH AFRICA 45.20%	TOTAL NORTH AFRICA 15,995,029	TOTAL NORTH AFRICA 17.36%	TOTAL NORTH AFRICA 109,008,126	TOTAL NORTH AFRICA 120.88%
TOTAL GCC 54,521,364	TOTAL GCC 36,096,549	TOTAL GCC 66.21%	TOTAL GCC 26,535,305	TOTAL GCC 48.67%	TOTAL GCC 92,784,674	TOTAL GCC 170.18%



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Research consultants at report's press event

- Internet users
- Installed computers.
- The index is calculated by adding the values of these four indicators for each country and dividing the sum by its population. A higher score on the index indicates more aggressive ICT adoption.
- The Arab Internet Population Forecast (2014-2018) also reflects the rapidly expanding sector, with the number of internet users in the Arab World predicted to rise to about 226 million users by 2018. According to the report, the Internet penetration rate will jump from around 37.5 per cent in 2014 to over 55 per cent in 2018, which would be approximately 7 per cent above the world average of 3.6 billion forecasted by eMarketer.
- The presence of Arabic content was also studied, particularly through Wikipedia, a free online encyclopedia which allows any individual to add or edit its content. Wikipedia was launched on January 15, 2001 in its original English version, followed by a French version and subsequently in hundreds of other languages. As of October 2015, Wikipedia boasted customized versions in 291 languages, including Arabic, and in total hosted more than 34 million articles.
- An overview of leading online retail stores is provided within the report in recognition of growing interest towards Middle East internet companies Online shopping in the Middle East has witnessed high growth in the past few years, and has subsequently encouraged global investments into the region's e-commerce market.

- The region's shift to a knowledge economy is well documented within the report with a crucial emphasis on Arab Digital Cities. According to the report, Dubai ranks among the world's top 10 cities in Digital Governance, topping world capitals such as London, Oslo, Stockholm and Vienna in 2014.
 - A survey of the official city websites of 100 major cities in 100 countries has ranked Dubai ninth overall. Fourth in service, delivery and fifth in privacy and security. The survey was released in September 2014 by Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey -Newark.
 - The survey titled 'Digital Governance in Municipalities Worldwide' is an assessment of the online presence of municipal or other official city websites or portals where the government provides information about city administration and online services.
- Ten Arab cities were also successfully assessed. Amman (Jordan), Manama (Bahrain), Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), Cairo (Egypt), Kuwait (Kuwait), Muscat (Oman), Casablanca (Morocco), Baghdad (Iraq) and Tunis (Tunisia) were also included aside from Dubai.

- The wide range of milestone achievements in the educational system can also be gleaned from the report as noted in the 2015 Academic Ranking of Arab Universities. King Abdulaziz University also ranked sixth worldwide in Mathematics.
- In 2015, five Arab universities appeared on the Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU). Four Saudi universities achieved a significant milestone by placing on the ranking in its latest issue released in June 2015, placing first on an Arab and Islamic scale.
- Both King Saud University and King Abdulaziz University remained among the top 151- 200 global universities in 2015, while King Abdullah University of Science and Technology 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 technology moved from being part of the top 401-500 global universities in 2014 to the top 301-400 in 2015. King Fahd University of Petroleum remained in the top 401-500 global universities.
- Seven Saudi Arabian supercomputers were also included in the TOP 500 list of the world's most powerful supercomputers.
- The patents also reflect the need for greater emphasis on research and development and fostering a culture of innovation. Since its inception till the end of 2014, a total of only 2,339 patents were granted by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to residents of Arab countries. To put this number into context, the total number of patents granted by the USPTO in 2014 alone reached 300,678.
- Saudi Arabia was the clear winner of the Arab patent race, registering 294 granted patents in 2014 and 1,152 in all documented years. Kuwait came in a distant second with 98 patents in 2014 and 370 in all years, while Egypt ranked third with 45 patents in 2014 and 257 in all years.

Source: USPTO

NOMINAL GDP IN GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL (GCC) (BILLION US DOLLAR)					
COUNTRY				PROJECTIONS	
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
KSA	734	744.3	752.5	645.4	697.7
UAE	372.3	402.3	401.4	362.8	396.1
KUWAIT	174.1	175.8	172.4	133.4	147.3

Source: IMF