

ABSTRACT

THESIS: Economic Diversification in Saudi Arabia: An Overview and Analysis of Attitudes

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Saudi Arabia has developed a strong economy in the last fifty years which relies mostly on oil production. However, recent changes in global demand, production patterns and prices have reduced the amount of oil income available to the Saudi government and its citizens. Along with demographic and societal changes, these factors have led many Saudis to increasingly consider whether transitioning to an economy that depends on more diverse sources of production and income is desirable. This thesis investigates the factors behind the changing economic landscape faced by Saudi Arabia including price, supply and demand. Available data is summarized and discussed in this regard. Also, Saudi attitudes towards diversification are examined through a survey of over three-hundred and sixty Saudi citizens designed and implemented by the author. Statistical analysis of the results identifies overall patterns in Saudi attitudes towards diversification and significant relationships between demographic factors and these attitudes. Also, the reliability and consistency of the survey is considered through its design and statistical measures.