

# Data Insight

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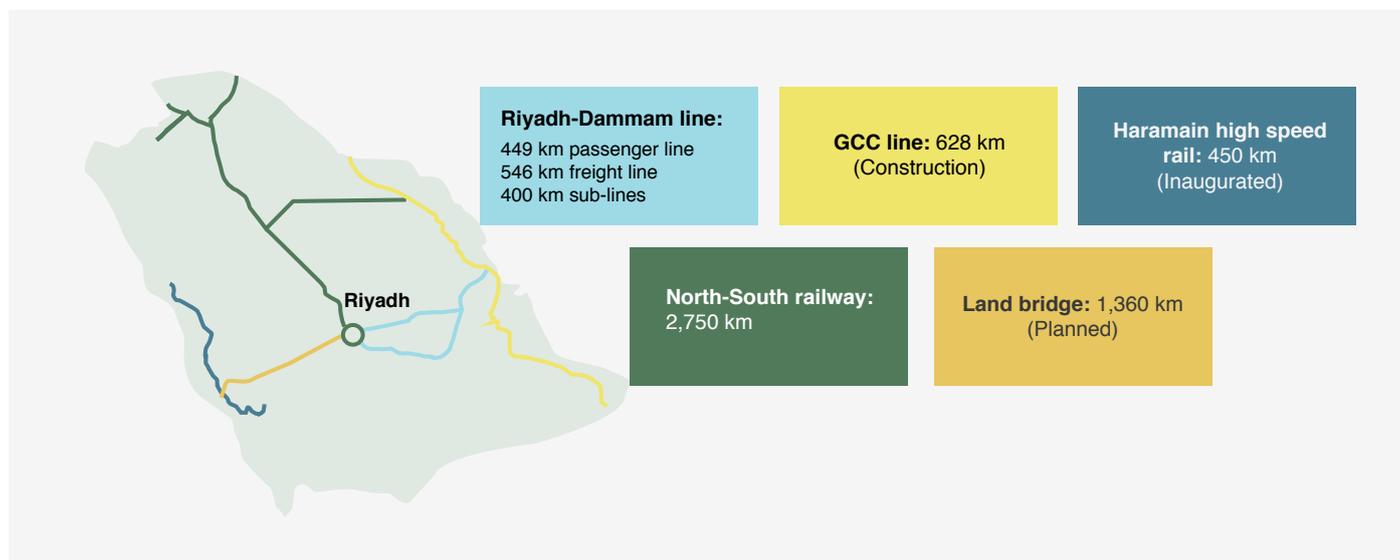
## Insight 01: Transportation

Dear colleague

We are pleased to launch a new series of data insights. Every week, we will aim to share topical insights and data on a range of interesting themes.

We trust that you will find them valuable and informative.

### Saudi Arabia's passenger and freight railway network - current and planned



Source: Public Transport Authority

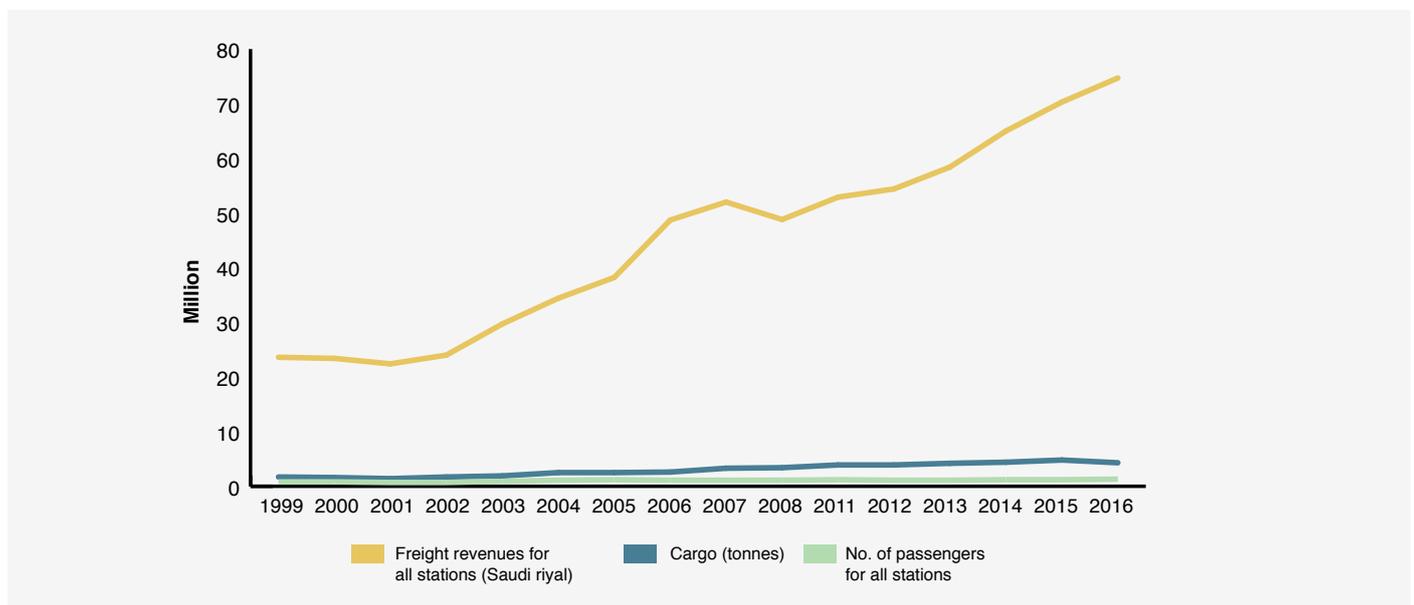
The Saudi railway network has five main lines. Two lines are operational: the Riyadh to Dammam and the North-South railway lines. The new high-speed Haramain rail line which can accommodate speeds of up to 300 kilometers (km) per hour and covers 450 km was inaugurated recently, connecting Mecca, Jeddah, King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah, King Abdullah Economic City, Rabigh and Madinah. This network will carry 60 million passengers a year with a fleet of 35 trains. The two other lines are in the planning stage.

The existing North-South Railway project is one of the largest railway projects, covering more than 2,750 kilometers of track. It connects Riyadh and the northern border through the cities of Al-Qassim and Hail.

The Riyadh to Dammam line was the first operational line:

- The freight line opened in the 1950s, connecting King Abdulaziz Port in Dammam with Riyadh, through Al-Ahsa, Abqaiq, Al-Kharj, Haradh, and Al-Tawdhihiyah.
- The passenger line opened in the 1980s and connects Riyadh to Dammam through Al-Ahsa and Abqaiq.
- A sub-line connects industrial, agricultural and other sites with export ports and residential areas.

### Saudi Arabia passenger and freight transportation (1999-2016)



Source: [General Authority for Statistics](#)

### 2016 data insight

- Rail cargo transportation in Saudi Arabia grew steadily from 2011-2016. 4.3 million tonnes of cargo were transported via rail.
- Between 2011-2016, freight revenues nearly doubled to 374 million Saudi riyals, with an average yearly growth of 18 percent.
- 1.3 million passengers took rail transport in 2016, with passenger rail use increasing by 12 percent between 2012-2016.

The Saudi Arabian Railway Company (SAR) says that the railway network in the Kingdom has transported over 12.5 million tonnes during the past year and it plans to increase its capacity to enable 20 million tonnes to be transported by 2025.\*

\* Source: Freight Solutions Forum Riyadh, and the Saudi Gazette

For further analysis and visualization, access to this data set is available via the [KAPSARC Data Portal](#).

This KAPSARC Data Insight uses data from the General Authority for Statistics. KAPSARC data analysts have made the data machine-readable for ease of use in economic models.

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