

# Digital Regulations and Institutions

Saudi Arabia's Institutional Architecture for Data Governance

4<sup>th</sup> March 2026

# Digital Economy

Saudi Arabia positions the digital economy as both a strategic objective and transformation enabler, anchored in advanced digital infrastructure and regulation



**USD 16T**

(15% of GDP)

The global digital economy is projected to reach **USD 16 trillion by 2025**, representing approximately **15% of global GDP**.

## Saudi Digital Economy

- Digital infrastructure, advanced regulatory frameworks, human capital development, and innovation ecosystems collectively act as a **strategic enabler**, providing the institutional and technological foundation required to scale and sustain the digital economy.
- Saudi Arabia's digital economy contributes approximately **15–17% of GDP**, equivalent to around **USD 132 billion**, reflecting its growing structural role in national economic diversification.

# Data as a Strategic Economic Asset

Data is the core asset of the digital economy; robust governance, protection, and trust frameworks are essential to safeguard its integrity and sustain growth



## Economic Value of Data

- 1. Large-scale national datasets across critical sectors** Enable cross-sector insights and evidence-based planning for sustainable economic resilience.
- 2. Data-driven policymaking enhances effectiveness** Improves decision accuracy, resource efficiency, and measurable public outcomes.
- 3. Advanced analytics boosts productivity and innovation** AI and predictive analytics optimize operations and accelerate innovation.
- 4. Public and digital services rely on trusted data flows** Secure and interoperable data ecosystems enable digital services and strengthen trust.

## Governance imperative

**Data scale heightens systemic risk and misuse exposure**

As data volumes grow, the impact of breaches, misuse, and systemic failures increases.

**Fragmented practices reduce interoperability**

Inconsistent frameworks across entities limit seamless data exchange and integration.

**Lack of unified standards weakens compliance**

Without common policies and controls, compliance become inconsistent.

**Sustainable value requires governance oversight**

Long-term data value depends on structured governance and effective regulatory frameworks.

# Saudi Arabia's Regulatory Model for the Data Economy

Saudi Arabia views data governance as strategic digital infrastructure that enables trust, innovation, and global competitiveness rather than merely serving as a regulatory obligation

## Overview

The Kingdom is emerging as a global benchmark in **Data Privacy** and the **Digital Economy**, supported by strong international rankings and its comprehensive data law, the **Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL)**, implemented under the oversight of the **Saudi Data and AI Authority (SDAIA)**.

## Key related achievements



1<sup>st</sup>

In 2025, Saudi Arabia maintained the 1<sup>st</sup> position globally in Cybersecurity Indicator of the IMD world



**National Data Governance Framework**

Through SDAIA, Saudi Arabia established a centralized framework for data governance across government entities



**SDAIA**  
الهيئة السعودية للبيانات  
والذكاء الاصطناعي  
Saudi Data & AI Authority

# Saudi Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority (SDAIA)



One of Saudi Arabia's Established Regulatory Institution, Saudi Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority (SDAIA), oversees Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL)

## Overview of Saudi's Digital Regulations and Institutions



- To institutionalize data governance at the national level, Saudi Arabia established a **centralized regulatory framework** through the **National Data Management Office (NDMO)** under SDAIA.
- The **framework** designates a national authority for data governance and establishes **unified standards for data management and personal data protection**.
- It standardizes **data lifecycle controls across government entities** and ensures centralized oversight to **promote accountability and interoperability**.

The following slide will cover key aspects of PDPL (non-exhaustive)

# Saudi Arabia's Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL)

The PDPL provides the legal foundation for personal data protection and the digital economy in the Kingdom

## Personal Data Protection Law (Saudi Arabia)

**Core Focus**

Protection of personal data and sensitive info for individuals

**Individual Rights**

Access, correction, and deletion of data

**Lawful Basis for Processing**

Requires entities to ensure data security, governance, and breach reporting compliance

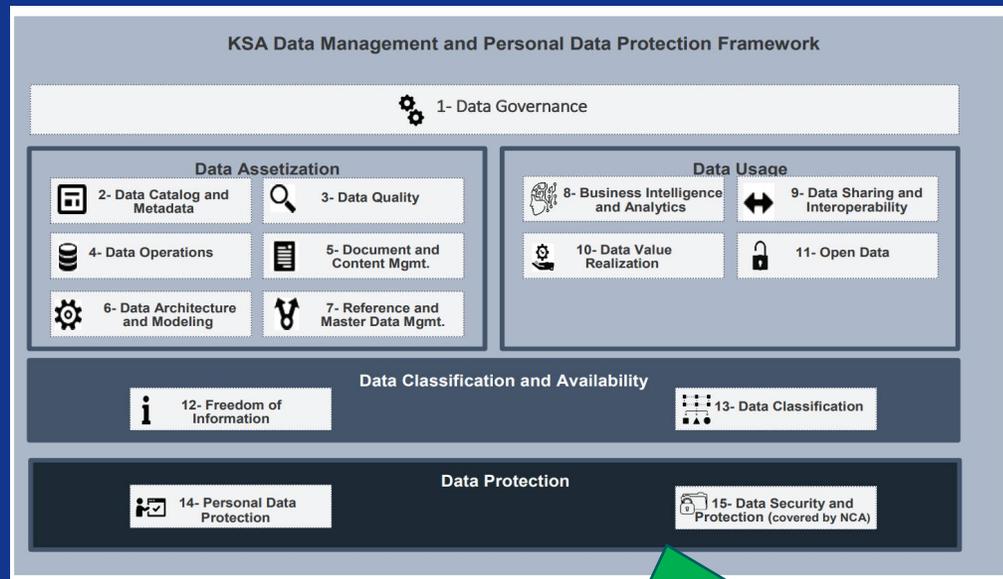
**Summary Conclusion**

PDPL establishes a national framework for personal data protection, individual rights, and organizational compliance

# Building a Data-Driven Nation: Governance Framework and National Data Index

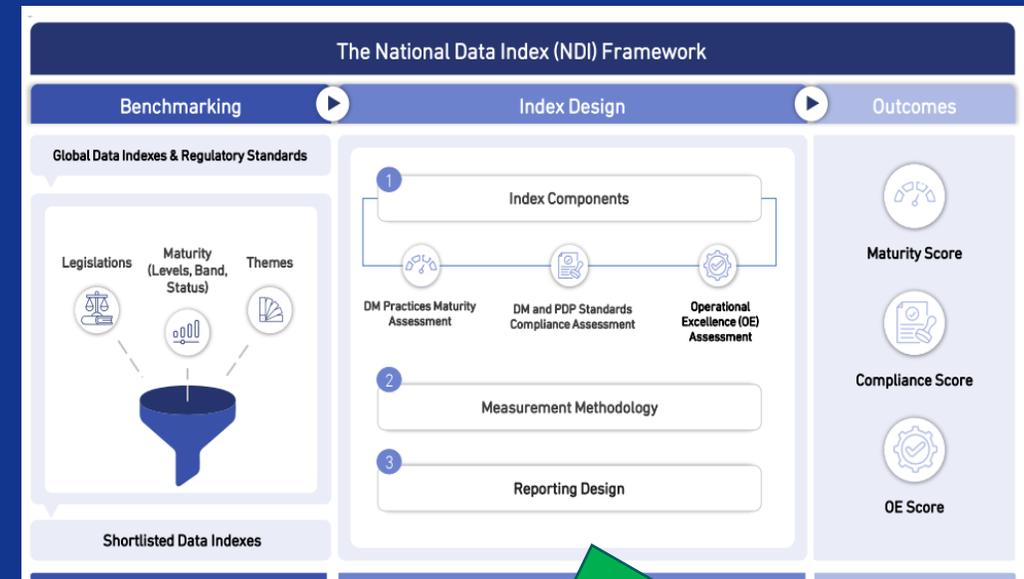
Establishing a national framework for data governance and measuring data maturity to enhance institutional performance.

## National Data Governance and Protection Framework



The PDPL provides the legal foundation for personal data protection

## Measuring Data Maturity to Drive National Excellence



The National Data Index serves as a strategic instrument to measure and enhance data maturity and governance effectiveness.

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# Thank you



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