The Saudi economy achieved a positive growth of 6.8 percent during the fourth quarter of last year compared to the same period in 2020, thanks to economic activities that witnessed a rise in various sectors.

The real GDP in Saudi Arabia managed during the previous year to achieve a growth of 3.3 percent, compared to the decline it witnessed in 2020 of -4.1 percent, as a result of the economy recovering from the emerging Corona crisis through the growth of non-oil activities, to be the fastest growth achieved since 2015.

According to the estimates of the General Authority for Statistics, the Kingdom's real GDP witnessed a growth due to the significant increase in oil and non-oil activities by 10.8 percent and 5 percent, respectively, while government services activities recorded an increase of 2.4 percent.

According to the authority, real GDP recorded an increase of 1.6 percent during the fourth quarter of 2021, compared to the third quarter of the same year. This is due to the positive growth witnessed in oil activities by 1.8 percent, in addition to an increase in non-oil activities by 1.5 percent. Government activities also achieved a growth of 1.2 percent.

**Saudi Economy is Records the Fastest Growth Since 2015**

*Source (Al-Sharq Al-Awsat Newspaper, Edited)
The UAE ranked first globally in the "Entrepreneurship 2022 Index". The report, according to the Global Entrepreneurship Index, shows that the UAE is the most supportive environment for entrepreneurship. The report also highlights that the UAE achieved the highest overall score in the index with a score of 6.8, ranking among the top in the world for establishing and starting businesses.

Source (Emirati Gulf Newspaper, Edited)
Global Tourism Rebounded 4 percent in 2021

In its latest report, the World Tourism Organization revealed that global tourism will recover 4% in 2021, compared to 2020, when the number of tourists around the world reached 415 million, compared to 400 million a year ago. However, the number of international tourists remained 72 percent lower in 2021, compared to 2019, i.e. before the pandemic. While the year 2020 was the worst year ever for tourism, with a 73 percent decline in the number of international tourists.

Regarding the performance of the Middle East region, the Regional Director for the Middle East at the World Tourism

Organization, Basma bint Abdulaziz Al-Maiman, pointed to a decline that the tourism sector has not witnessed before at the regional and global levels since the beginning of the epidemic. Noting that the sector's decline in the Middle East in 2021 occurred by 24 percent compared to 2020, and 79 percent compared to 2019. She explained that the region lost about 19 million tourists, and hotel occupancy rates in December recorded the lowest record levels by 39%, due to the decline in international air traffic in the region by 86%.

Source (Al-Arabiya.net Website, Edited)