

The United Arab Emirates Report: A Geographical Review

March 2022



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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES REPORT

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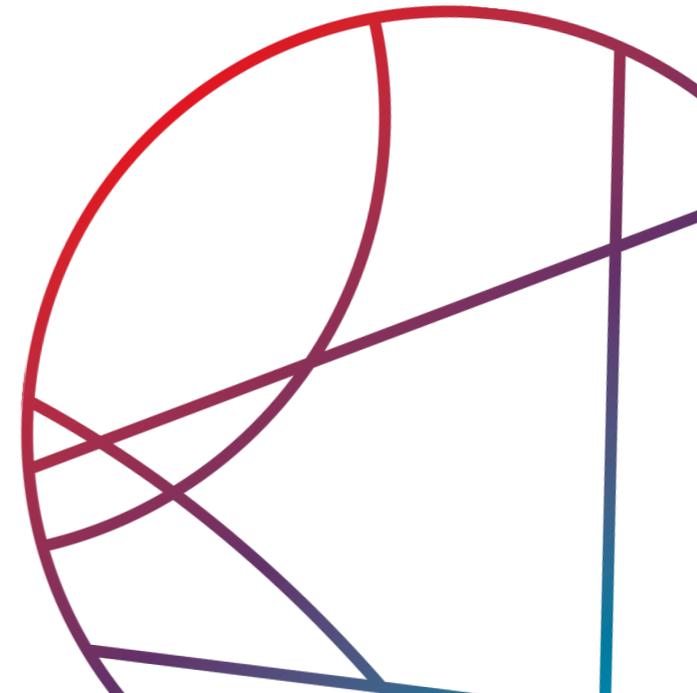
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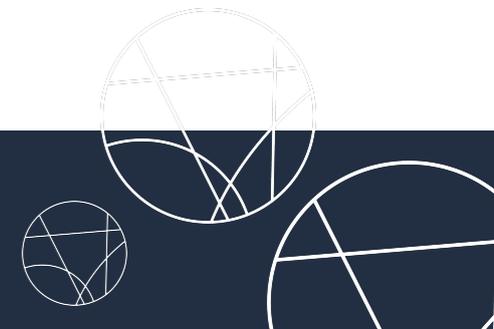
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Headlines



- Located in Western Asia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has the second highest expatriate population share in the world. Immigrants make up 88.5 per cent of the population.
- The UAE has one of the highest gender imbalance of any country with 2.2 men for every woman.
- The United Arab Emirates is an elective monarchy formed from a federation of seven emirates, consisting of Abu Dhabi and Dubai (the two largest) Ajman, Fujairah, Ras Al Khaimah, Sharjah and Umm Al Quwain. Each emirate is governed by an Emir and together they form the Federal Supreme Council, of whom one serves as President.
- The government has made healthcare a priority for the UAE with its Vision 2021 programme. This consists of four main elements, ***An ambitious and confident nation grounded in its heritage, A strong union bonded by a common destiny, A competitive economy driven by knowledgeable and innovative Emiratis, and A nurturing and sustainable environment for quality living.***
- The country has a rapidly growing private health sector.
- The MedTech industry is dependent on imports but domestic production is increasing.

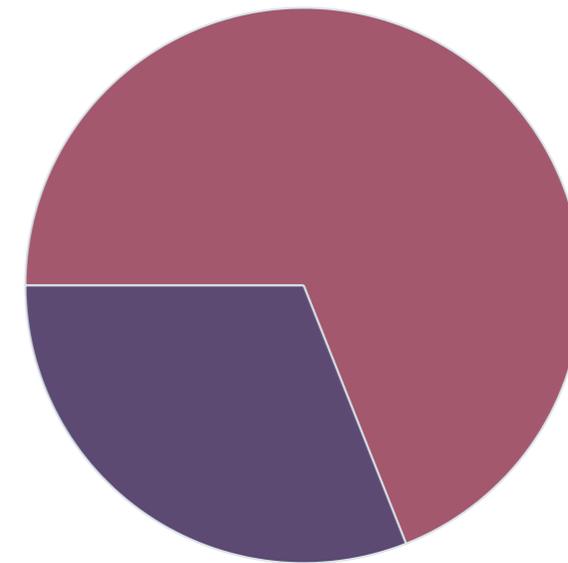


Population & language



- In March 2022, the UAE population reached 10.1m, with a lower than average growth rate for the Middle East region.
- Only 11.5 per cent of the population are UAE nationals, making it the country with the second highest share of expats globally.
- The UAE has the highest gender imbalance in the world with 69 per cent men and 31 per cent women.
- Life expectancy in the UAE is 78.3 years. In 2020, only 1.6 per cent of the Emirati population was aged 65-plus. This is expected to rise to 18.5 per cent by 2050.
- Arabic is the official language of the UAE, and the Gulf dialect of Arabic is spoken natively by Emirati people. With a high number of British expatriates resident, English is the primary lingua franca in the UAE. Consequently, a knowledge of English is a requirement when applying for most local jobs.

Gender



Men 69 Women 31

Sources: www.globalmediainsight, www.worldpopulationreview, www.statista.com, www.data.worldbank.org, www.Britannica.com, <https://utesinternationallounge.com/expat-population-worldwide/>



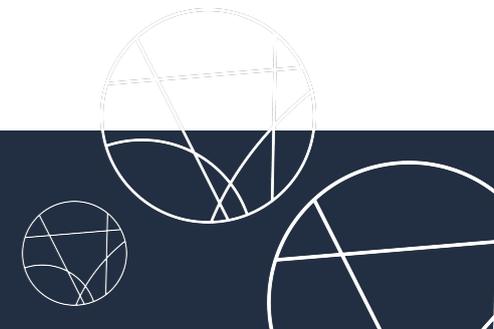
Geography



- The UAE is divided into seven Emirates. The largest is Abu Dhabi, accounting for 87 per cent of the total area, but Dubai is the most populous.
- Dubai is the second largest emirate and its size is due to double with the addition of man-made islands The Waterfront, The Three Palms, The World, The Universe and Dubailand.
- On average, Dubai experiences five days of rainfall a year.
- The main cities of the UAE are along saltwater creeks, known as khors. The most famous of these is the Dubai Creek, whose development in the 1950s was fundamental to the growth of Dubai.



Sources: www.countrystudies.us, www.dubai.com, www.worldatlas.com, www.fanack.com



Time Zones & Holidays



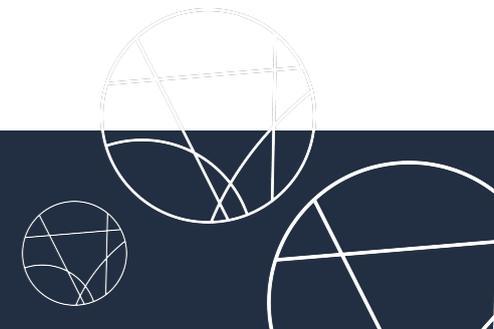
Holiday	Date
New Year's Day	January 1
Eid al-Fitr	April 30
Eid al-Fitr	May 1-4
Arafat Day	July 8
Eid al-Adha	July 9-11
Prophet Muhammad's Birthday	October 8
Commemoration Day	December 1
National Day	December 2-3



The UAE observes Gulf Standard Time (GST +4) throughout the whole year. Daylight saving is not used.

In December 2021, the UAE changed its working week to Monday to Thursday with a half-day on Friday for government employees.

Source: www.timeanddate.com, www.publicholidays.ae



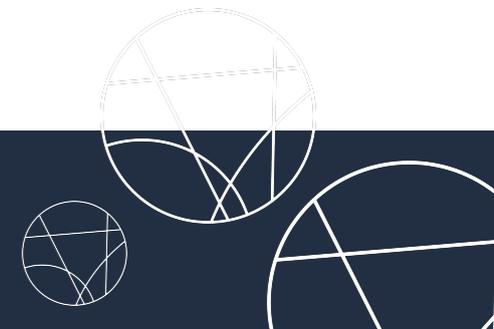
GDP & Economy



- Trade lies at the heart of the UAE economy, with two of the world's busiest ports in Abu Dhabi's Port Khalifa, one of the largest deepwater harbours in the world, and Port Zayed.
- The UAE launched its UAE 50 Economic Plan in 2020, in line with the UAE Centennial 2071 goals.
- The Jebel Ali free-trade zone was established in the 1980s to attract industrial investment. Several other free zones have since been established.
- The Dubai International Financial Centre (2006) is set aside in the UAE constitution as an independent legal jurisdiction, allowing international financial companies to establish a presence in the Middle East.
- In 2018, the UAE achieved the highest regional ranking on the World Bank Group's Ease of Doing Business Index.
- In 2019, the UAE's GDP was \$421bn.



Source: www.moec.gov.ae, www.Britannica.com, www.mof.gov.ae



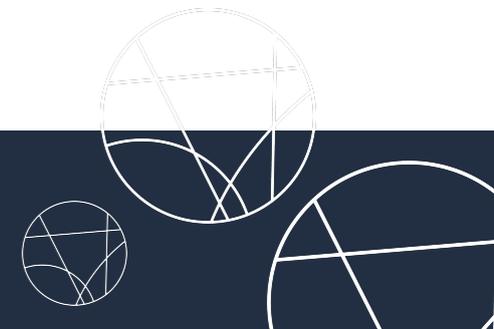
Politics



- The UAE is a constitutional federation established in December 1971. The seven emirates operate a hereditary tribal monarchy-styled political system called Sheikhdoms.
- The President and Vice President are elected every five years by the Federal Supreme Council (FSC). All responsibilities not granted to the national government are reserved to the individual emirate. A percentage of revenues from each emirate is allocated to the UAE's central budget.
- The UAE legislative is the Federal National Council, which convenes nationwide elections every four years and has a largely consultative role. The FNC consists of 40 members drawn from all the emirates. Each emirate is allocated specific seats to ensure full representation. Half are appointed by the rulers of the constituent emirates, and the other half are elected. By law, the council members have to be equally divided between males and females.



Source: www.u.ae, www.Expatica.com



Healthcare & regulations



Healthcare in the UAE has expanded significantly in recent years as the government has focused on creating a world-class healthcare infrastructure. The national agenda, or Vision 2021, makes the development of a world-class healthcare system of critical importance.



- The UAE has a comprehensive government-funded health service, supported by a rapidly developing private health sector but public healthcare is almost exclusively for UAE citizens.
- Healthcare is regulated at the federal and emirate levels of government, with some emirates having established health authorities.
- Public spending accounts for over two thirds of overall health expenditure.
- The Ministry of Health and Prevention is the key federal regulatory authority responsible for providing healthcare services.



- Key private healthcare players include Al-Noor Medical company and Saudi German Hospital Group.
- There are more private healthcare facilities than public ones in the UAE, driven by the expansion of healthcare privatization and the number of expats.
- The second largest emirates require residents to possess private health insurance and UAE law requires sponsors to provide health insurance for expat workers.

Source: www.trade.gov, www.u.ae, www.uae-embassy.org, www.pacificprime.ae, www.usauaebusiness.org/

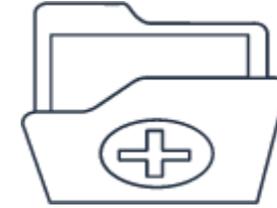


Clinical information



Physicians

- In 2017, there were 8,322 physicians in the government sector and 14,785 in the private sector.
- Statistics from 2012 to 2017 suggest that the number of physicians has doubled over that time period.

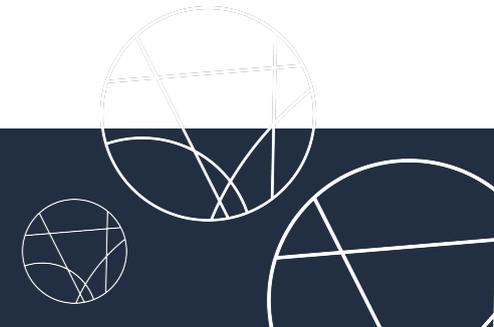


Hospitals

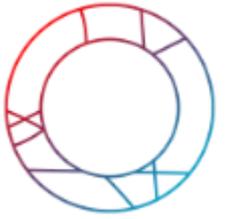
- In 2017, there were 45 hospitals in the government sector and 98 in the private sector.
- The UAE has opened a number of healthcare cities to improve access to healthcare facilities:
 - The Sheikh Khalifa Medical City
 - The Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City (SSMC)
 - Dubai Healthcare City
 - Sharjah Healthcare City



Source: www.u.ae, www.Expatica.com

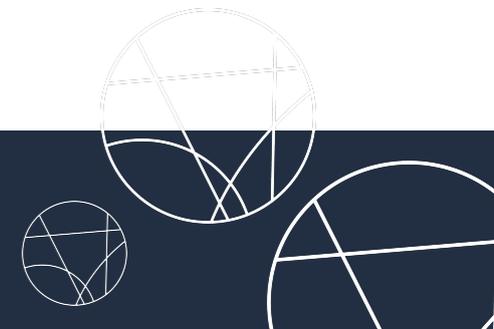


Medical Technology Industry



- There have been moves in recent years to turn the UAE into a regional medical tourism hub.
- The UAE is reliant on imports for its medical equipment, however the country has sought to increase its domestic production of medical equipment recently, in part due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The healthcare sector is being transformed by new medical technologies.
- Opportunities lie in the numerous hospital construction projects that are underway and the growing medical tourism sector.
- The market size of medical devices in the UAE was expected to reach \$4.9bn in 2021.

Source: www.trade.gov, www.usauaebusiness.org/





THANK YOU

For more information on the UAE market
or to enquire about any of our other
geographical reports, please get in touch.