

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



INTRODUCTION

The Trucial States of the Persian Gulf coast granted the UK control of their defense and foreign affairs in 19th century treaties. In 1971, six of these states - Abu Dhabi, 'Ajman, Al Fujayrah, Ash Shariqah, Dubayy, and Umm al Qaywayn - merged to form the United Arab Emirates (UAE). They were joined in 1972 by Ra's al Khaymah.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President MUHAMMAD BIN ZAYID Al Nuhayyan

Head of Government

Prime Minister and Vice President MUHAMMAD BIN RASHID Al Maktum

Government Type

federation of monarchies

Capital

Abu Dhabi

Legislature

unicameral Federal National Council or Majlis al-Ittihad al-Watani (40 seats)

Ambassador to US

Ambassador Yousif Mana Saeed Ahmed AL OTAIBA

US Ambassador

Ambassador Martina A. STRONG

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 83,600 sq km
Land: 83,600 sq km
Water: 0 sq km

Climate

desert; cooler in eastern mountains

Natural Resources

petroleum, natural gas

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

historically oil-driven Middle Eastern economy; diversifying into a trade-oriented logistics and supply chain leader; strong foreign direct investment orientation; building trade and investment ties through partnership agreements; growing banking sector; recent economic linkages with Israel slowing due to Gaza conflict

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$707.3 billion (2022 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$74,900 (2022 est.)

Industries - petroleum and petrochemicals, fishing, aluminum, cement, fertilizer, commercial ship repair, construction materials

Agricultural products - eggs, dates, cucumbers, camel milk, goat milk, tomatoes, goat meat, milk, poultry, camel meat

Exports \$335.2 billion (2020 est.)

crude and refined petroleum, gold, broadcasting equipment, natural gas, diamonds (2022)

partners: India 13%, Japan 10%, China 8%, Saudi Arabia 7%, Iraq 5% (2022)

Imports \$246.9 billion (2020 est.)

gold, broadcasting equipment, refined petroleum, diamonds, cars (2022)

partners: China 18%, India 10%, US 6%, UK 4%, Saudi Arabia 3% (2022)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

10 million (2023 est.)

Population Growth

0.58% (2023 est.)

Ethnicity

Emirati 11.6%, South Asian 59.4% (includes Indian 38.2%, Bangladeshi 9.5%, Pakistani 9.4%, other 2.3%), Egyptian 10.2%, Filipino 6.1%, other 12.8% (2015 est.)

Language

Arabic (official), English, Hindi, Malayam, Urdu, Pashto, Tagalog, Persian

Religion

Muslim 74.5% (official) (Sunni 63.3%, Shia 6.7%, other 4.4%), Christian 12.9%, Hindu 6.2%, Buddhist 3.2%, agnostic 1.3%, other 1.9% (2005 est.)

note: data represent the total population; as of 2020, immigrants made up about 88.1% of the total population, according to UN data