

IRAN IRA of Horn Strait Claimed by Irai BAHRAIN Mīnā' Sag and UAE Ra's al Khaymah Persian Gulf Umm al Qaywayn 'Ajmān Khawr Fakkān OATAR Dubai, Sharjah OMAN Al Fujavrah Mīnā' Jabal 'Alī Dās Gulf of Oman Hattā Mīnā' Zāyid AI Mu ABU DHABI Al 'Ayn Al Khaznah Ar Ruways Tarīf UNITED ARAB EMIRATES OMAN SAUDI Quţūf ARABIA Liwa (oasis)

SUMMARY

The United Arab Emirates is located on the eastern side of the Arabian Peninsula bordering Saudi Arabia to the south west and Oman to the south east with the Persian Gulf on the northern coast.

Chief of State: President MUHAMMAD BIN ZAYID Al Nuhayyan Capital: Abu Dhabi Other notable cities: Dubai Gov Type: federation of monarchies Population: 10,032,213 Colonial History: In the 16th century, the Portuguese established a presence in the Arabian Gulf, including what is now the UAE. By the 19th century, Britain emerged as a dominant colonial power in the region, due

century, Britain emerged as a dominant colonial power in the region, due to its strategic interests in safeguarding sea lanes to India. The Trucial States (now the Emirates) entered into a series of maritime truces with Britain, beginning in the early 19th century, which granted Britain exclusive control over their foreign affairs. These arrangements ensured protection but limited the sovereignty of the Emirates. Throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries, British influence in the Trucial States increased with political agents (residents) stationed in the region. Negotiations with Britain led to the withdrawal of British forces from the Gulf region by December 1971. On December 2, 1971, the UAE formally gained independence from Britain and formed a federation of seven Emirates. (Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm Al-Quwain, Fujairah, and Ras Al Khaimah)

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

The United Arab Emirates is about 83,600 square kilometers in total area and has zero square kilometers of water but has 1,318 kilometers of coastline.

The climate is desert but can be cooler in eastern mountains.

The terrain is flat, barren coastal plain merging into rolling sand dunes of vast desert. There area also mountains in the east.

Natural resources include petroleum and natural gas.

MAL FACT SHEET



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DEMOGRAPHICS

Noun: Emirati(s)

Adjective: Emirati

Ethnic Groups: Emirati 11.6%, South Asian 59.4% (Indian 38.2%, Bangladeshi 9.5%, Pakistani 9.4%, other 2.3%), Egyptian 10.2%, Filipino 6.1%, other 12.8% Languages: Arabic (Official), English, Hindi, Malayalam, 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% (2020)

Literacy: 98.1% (Male 98.8%, Female 97.2%)

Population growth is at at 0.6%.

ECONOMY AND GDP

Historically the UAE is an oil-driven economy. Now the UAE strives to diversifying into a trade-oriented logistics, build strong foreign investments, and grow the banking sector.

(Note: due to the conflict in Gaza, the UAE has been changing their economic linkages with Israel which continually changes data)

Real GDP (Purchasing Power Parity): \$707.307 billion (2022), \$655.823 billion (2021), \$628.455 billion (2020) Real GDP Growth Rate: 7.85% (2022), 4.35% (2021), 4.96% (2020) Real GDP Per Capita: \$74,900 (2022) GDP (Official Exchange Rate): \$507.064 billion (2022) Inflation Rate (Consumer Prices): 4.83% (2022), -0.01% (2021), -2.08% (2020) GDP - Composition: agriculture: 0.9% (2017), industry: 49.8% (2017), services: 49.2% (2017) Unemployment Rate: 2.97% (2022), 3.11% (2021), 4.29% (2020) Youth Unemployment: 10.7% (2021)

MAIN POLITICAL CONTENTIONS

The UAE continues to navigate a complex regional landscape marked by geopolitical rivalries and shifting alliances. It has been actively involved in regional conflicts and proxy wars, including in Yemen and Libya, aligning itself with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states against perceived threats from Iran and its proxies.

Domestically, the UAE is undertaking ambitious economic reforms aimed at diversifying its economy away from oil dependency. This transition involves promoting sectors such as tourism, finance, technology, and renewable energy. However, the pace and impact of these reforms pose challenges, particularly in terms of employment and social welfare.

The UAE is a federal absolute monarchy with a unique political system where each emirate retains considerable autonomy under a federal framework. While political participation is limited, the government has implemented measures to enhance governance efficiency and promote citizen engagement through initiatives like the National Agenda and Vision 2021.

The UAE has pursued an assertive foreign policy aimed at projecting influence and promoting stability in the broader Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Its involvement in mediation efforts, peace building initiatives, and economic partnerships underscores its aspirations to play a significant role in regional affairs.

United Arab Emirates: A Timeline

6 December 1971 The UAE joins the Arab League after Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Fujayrah, Sharjah, and Umm al-Qaywayn officially become the UAE

1987

Following economic recession, after the 1980s oil glut, the brother of Sultan bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi attempted a coup in Sharjah.

1992

Tensions grow with Iran after Iran says visitors to Abu Musa and Tunb must have Iranian visas

1998

UAE restores diplomatic ties with Iraq

2001

Government orders banks to freeze the assets of 62 organizations and individuals suspected by the US of funding terrorism

2007-2010

UAE unveils a national development strategy at making it a world leader. In 2009, the government owned investment conglomerate Dubai World request moratorium on debt repayments Abu Dhabi gives Dubai a \$10bn handout to help it pay off its debt. In 2010, the Burj Khalifa tower opens in Dubai as world's tallest building and man-made structure

2013

68 alleged members of Al-Islah are jailed on charges of planning to overthrow the government

2015

The UAE, as part of the Saudi-led coalition, intervened in Yemen to support the Yemeni government against Houthi rebels.

2019

UAE-backed forces in southern Yemen took control of Aden.

October 2021-March 2022 Expo 2020 Dubai was successfully held showcasing innovation and fostering global

collaboration.

25 May 1981 The UAE is a founding member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

1991

UAE forces join allies against Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait contrary to past isolationists policies.

1996

Iran fuels the dispute by building an airport • on Abu Musa and a power station on Tunb

1999

The Gulf Cooperation Council backs the UAE in its dispute with Iran over Abu Musa and Tunb

2006

Economic changes announced. First ever national elections are held.

2011

UAE joins international military operation in Libya. UAE outlaws online mockery of its own government and outlaws attempts to organize public protests through social media; detains 60+ activists without charge Trial in UAE of Egyptians and Emiratis accused of starting a branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, which is outlawed in the Gulf state.

2014

The UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain withdraw their ambassadors to Qatar in protest over
interference in their internal affairs

2017

UAE joins Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Egypt, imposing a blockade on Qatar, accusing it of supporting terrorism and fostering relations with Iran.

2020

UAE normalized relations with Israel with the Abraham Accords.

2024

Successfully hosted COP28, bringing global leaders together to discuss climate change and sustainability initiatives.

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