

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB



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## United Arab Emirates

الإمارات العربية المتحدة (Arabic)  
*al-'Imārāt al-'Arabīyyah al-Muttaḥidah*



Flag



Emblem

Anthem: عيشي بلادي  
*"Īshiy Bilādī"*

"Long Live My Nation"



Location of United Arab Emirates (green)  
in the Arabian Peninsula (white)

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_Arab\\_Emirates/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Arab_Emirates/)

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

Statistics of the seven emirates								
Flag	Emirate	Arabic name	Date joined the UAE	Capital	Population <sup>[1][2]</sup>	% of total population	Area (km <sup>2</sup> ) <sup>[1]</sup>	Area (sq mi)
	Abu Dhabi	أبو ظبي ' <i>Abū Zabī</i>	2 December 1971	Abu Dhabi	2,784,490	28.4%	67,340	26,000
	Ajman	عجمان ' <i>Ajmān</i>	2 December 1971	Ajman	504,846	5.1%	259	100
	Dubai	دبي <i>Dubayy</i>	2 December 1971	Dubai	4,177,059	42.6%	3,885	1,500
	Fujairah	الفجيرة <i>Al-Fujayrah</i>	2 December 1971	Fujairah	152,000	1.5%	1,165	450
	Ras Al Khaimah	رأس الخيمة <i>Ra's al-Ḥaymah</i>	10 February 1972	Ras Al Khaimah	416,600	4.2%	1,684	650
	Sharjah	الشارقة <i>Aš-Šāriqah</i>	2 December 1971	Sharjah	2,374,132	24.2%	2,590	1,000
	Umm Al Quwain	أم القيوين ' <i>Umm Al-Qaywayn</i>	2 December 1971	Umm Al Quwain	72,000	0.7	777	300

## Emirates of the United Arab Emirates إمارات دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة (Arabic)



<b>Category</b>	Federated state
<b>Location</b>	United Arab Emirates
<b>Number</b>	7 Emirates
<b>Populations</b>	72,000 (Umm Al Quwain) – 4,177,059 (Dubai)
<b>Areas</b>	260 km <sup>2</sup> (100 sq mi) (Ajman) – 67,000 km <sup>2</sup> (26,000 sq mi) (Abu Dhabi)
<b>Government</b>	Emirate government
<b>Subdivisions</b>	Regions, Municipalities, Counties

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB



**LIFE EXPECTANCY**  
75 (M) 80 (W)



**CAPITAL**  
Abu Dhabi



**LARGEST CITY**  
Dubai



**NATIONALITY**  
Emirati



**RELIGIONS**  
Islam, Christianity,  
Other

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## UNITED ARAB EMIRATES OVERVIEW

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**CURRENCY**  
Dirham (AED)



**POPULATION**  
9,400,000  
(UN est., 2017)



**LANGUAGES**  
Arabic, English, Persian,  
Urdu, Hindi



**AGRICULTURE**  
Dates, Vegetables, Eggs,  
Watermelons, Poultry, Fish,  
Dairy Products



**INDUSTRIES**  
Petroleum, Petrochemicals, Fish,  
Aluminum, Cement, Fertilizers,  
Ship Repair/Building, Textiles

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

## United Arab Emirates

Capital: Abu Dhabi

**Population** 8.1 million

**Area** 77,700 sq km (30,000 sq miles)

**Major language** Arabic

**Major religion** Islam

**Life expectancy** 76 years (men), 78 years (women)

**Currency** Dirham

UN, World Bank



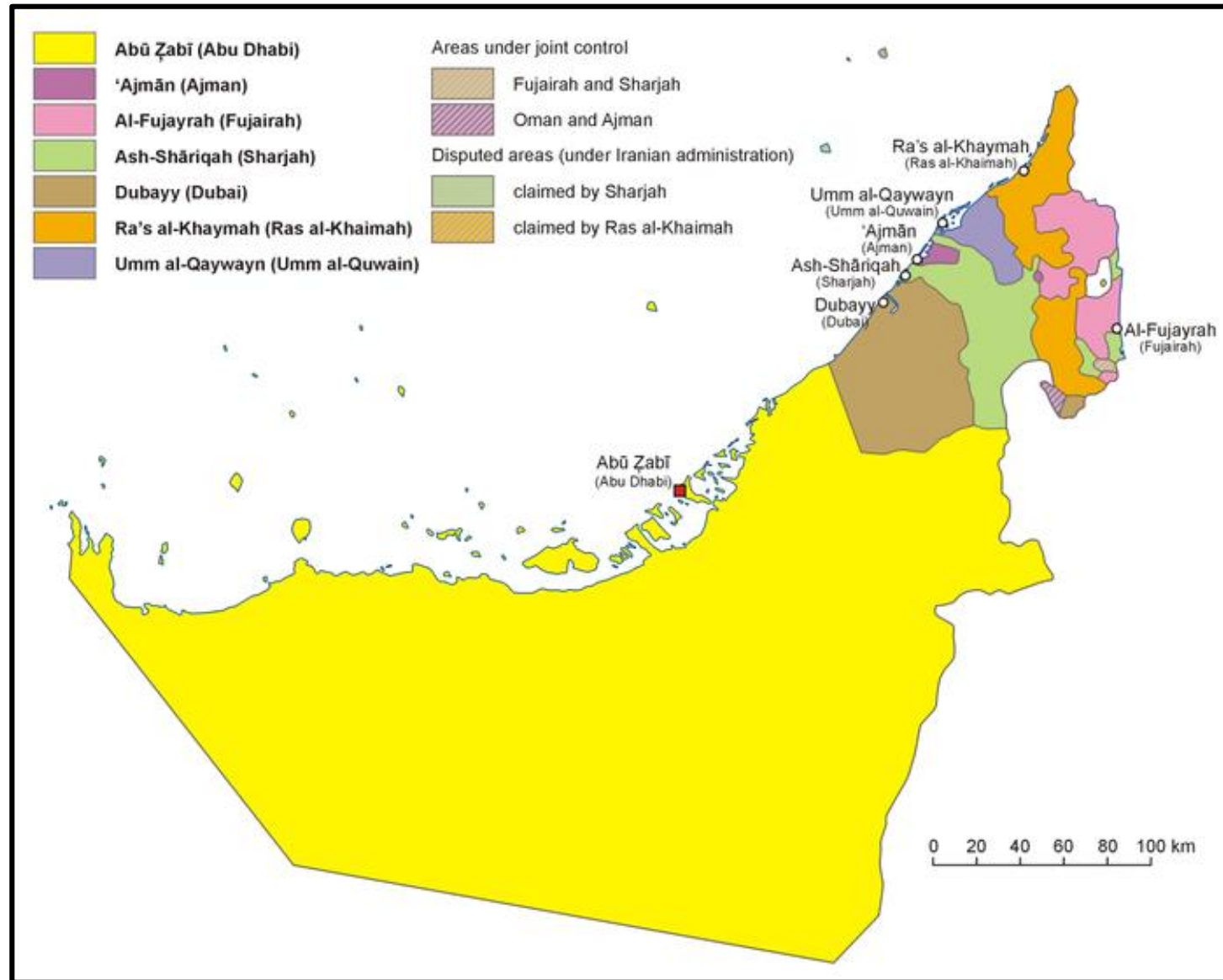
Getty Images

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

<b>Capital</b>	Abu Dhabi  24°28'N 54°22'E
<b>Largest city</b>	Dubai  25°15'N 55°18'E
<b>Official languages</b>	Arabic
<b>Ethnic groups</b> (2015) <sup>[1]</sup>	11.6% Emirati 59.4% South Asian <small>(38.2% Indian, 9.4% Pakistani, 9.5% Bangladeshi)</small> 10.2% Egyptian 6.1% Filipino 12.8% Others
<b>Religion</b>	Islam
<b>Demonym(s)</b>	Emirati <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Government</b>	Federal constitutional monarchy <sup>[2]</sup>
• <b>President</b>	Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
• <b>Prime Minister</b>	Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
• <b>Speaker</b>	Amal Al Qubaisi
<b>Legislature</b>	Federal National Council

<b>Establishment from the United Kingdom and the Trucial States</b>	
• Ras al-Khaimah	1708
• Sharjah	1727
• Abu Dhabi	1761
• Ajman	1816
• Dubai	1833
• Fujairah	1952
• Independence	2 December 1971
• Admitted to the United Nations	9 December 1971
• Admission of Ras al-Khaimah to the UAE	10 February 1972
<b>Area</b>	
• Total	83,600 km <sup>2</sup> (32,300 sq mi) (114th)
• Water (%)	negligible
<b>Population</b>	
• 2018 estimate	9,599,353 <sup>[3]</sup> (92nd)
• 2005 census	4,106,427
• Density	99/km <sup>2</sup> (256.4/sq mi) (110th)
<b>GDP (PPP)</b>	
• Total	\$732.861 billion <sup>[4]</sup> (32nd)
• Per capita	\$70,262 <sup>[4]</sup> (7th)
<b>GDP (nominal)</b>	
• Total	\$432.612 billion <sup>[4]</sup> (28th)
• Per capita	\$41,476 <sup>[4]</sup> (19th)

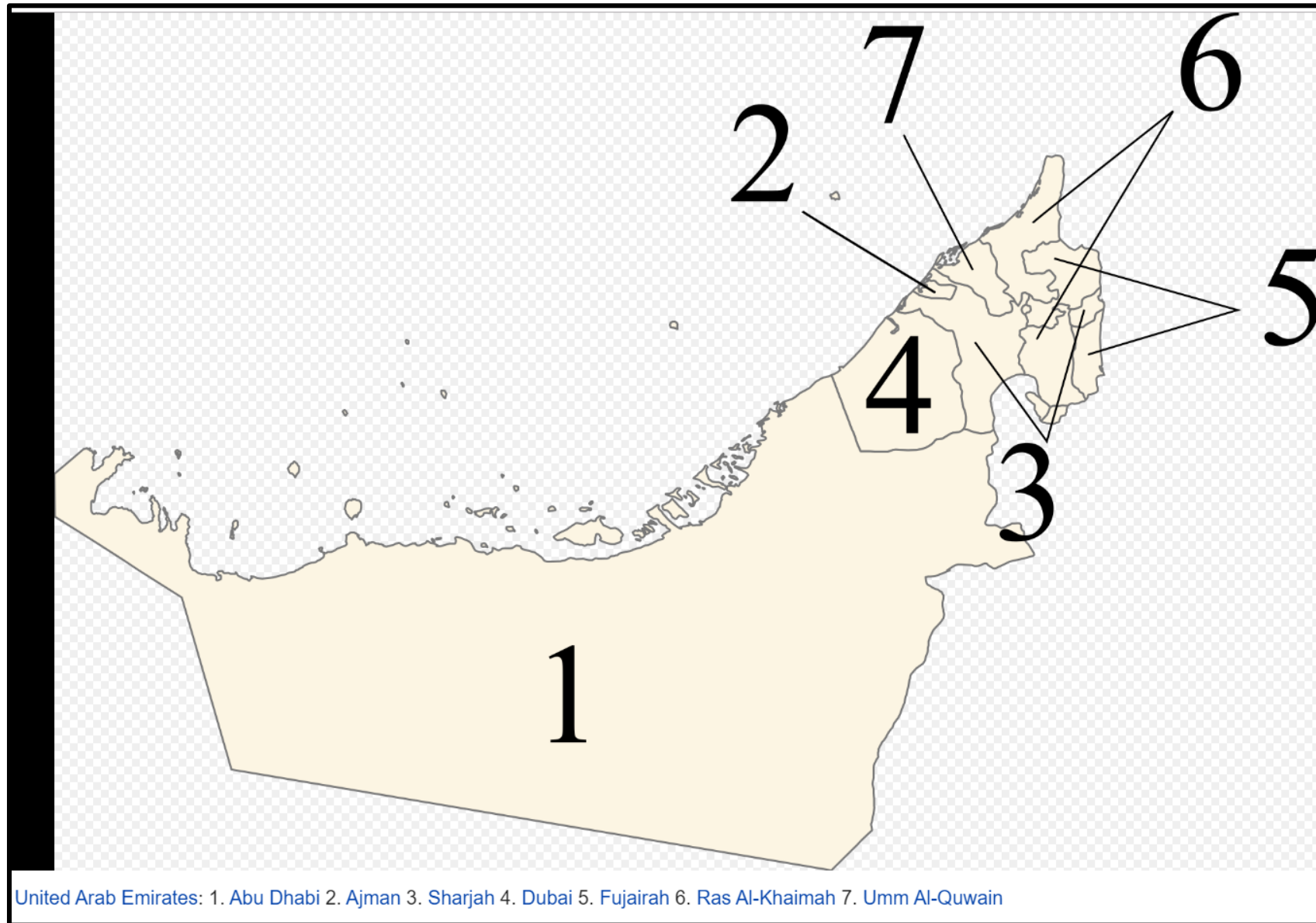
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Flag	Emirate	Capital	Population		Area		
			2018	%	(km <sup>2</sup> )	(mi <sup>2</sup> )	%
	Abu Dhabi	Abu Dhabi	2,784,490	29.0%	67,340	26,000	86.7%
	Ajman	Ajman	372,922	3.9%	259	100	0.3%
	Dubai	Dubai	4,177,059	42.8%	3,885	1,500	5.0%
	Fujairah	Fujairah	152,000	1.6%	1,165	450	1.5%
	Ras al-Khaimah	Ras al-Khaimah	416,600	4.3%	2,486	950	3.2%
	Sharjah	Sharjah	2,374,132	24.7%	2,590	1,000	3.3%
	Umm al-Quwain	Umm al-Quwain	72,000	0.8%	777	300	1%
	<b>UAE</b>	Abu Dhabi	9,599,353	100%	77,700	30,000	100%

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

Largest cities or towns in the United Arab Emirates			
2019 Calculation			
Rank	Name	Emirate	Pop.
1	Dubai City	Dubai	3,297,980
2	Abu Dhabi City	Abu Dhabi	1,807,000
3	Sharjah City	Sharjah	1,274,749
4	Al Ain	Abu Dhabi	766,936
5	Ajman City	Ajman	226,172
6	RAK City	Ras al Khaimah	115,949
7	Fujairah City	Fujairah	97,226
8	Umm Al Quwain	Umm Al Quwain	61,700
9	Khor Fakkan	Sharjah	39,151
10	Kalba	Sharjah	37,545

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB



Historic photo depicting the first hoisting of the United Arab Emirates flag by the rulers of the emirates at The Union House, Dubai on 2 December 1971



Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan was the first President of the United Arab Emirates and is recognised as the father of the nation.

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

Zayed bin Sultan married seven times.<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup> His children are as follows:

Name	Lifespan	Notes
Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan	25 January 1948 (age 71)	Ruler of Abu Dhabi <a href="#">Shamsa bint Suhail Al Mazrouei</a> (b. 1950)
Sultan bin Zayed Al Nahyan	1955 (age 63–64)	Former Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE
Shamsa bint Zayed Al Nahyan <sup>[<i>citation needed</i>]</sup>		
Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan	11 March 1961 (age 58)	Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikha Salama bint Hamdan bin Mohammed Al-Nahyan (m. 1981)
Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan	1963 (age 55–56)	Sheikha Shamsa bint Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Nahyan (m. 1979)
Hazza bin Zayed Al Nahyan	1965 (age 53–54)	Mozah Bint Mohammed Bin Butti Al Hamed (m. 1981)
Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan	1968 (age 50–51) <sup>[<i>citation needed</i>]</sup>	Skilled Jiu-Jitsu practitioner <sup>[47][48]</sup> and son of <a href="#">Fatima bint Mubarak Al Ketbi</a> . He works in the banking sector. <sup>[49]</sup>
Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan	20 November 1970 (age 49)	<a href="#">Alia bint Mohammed bin Butti Al Hamed</a> (m. 1995) <a href="#">Manal bint Mohammed Al Maktoum</a> (m. 2005)
Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan	30 April 1972 (age 47)	Sheikha Alyazia bint Saif Al Nahyan (m. 1988)
Al Yazia bint Zayed Al Nahyan	1968 (age 50–51)	Daughter of <a href="#">Fatima bint Mubarak Al Ketbi</a> <sup>[50]</sup>
Shamma bint Zayed Al Nahyan	1967 (age 51–52)	Daughter of <a href="#">Fatima bint Mubarak Al Ketbi</a> <sup>[50]</sup>
Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan	1968 (age 50–51)	Deputy Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates
Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan	1971 (age 47–48) <sup>[51]</sup>	Chief of Abu Dhabi Crown Prince's Court
Omar bin Zayed Al Nahyan		Son of <a href="#">Mouza bint Suhail Al Khaili</a> Second Deputy President of Baniyas Sports Club <sup>[52]</sup>
Khalid bin Zayed Al Nahyan		Founder and Chairman of <b>Bin Zayed Group</b> <sup>[53]</sup> Vice-chairman of <a href="#">Etihad</a> <sup>[54]</sup>
Ahmed bin Zayed Al Nahyan	March 26, 2010 (aged 40–41)	Son of <a href="#">Mouza bint Suhail Al Khaili</a>
Shamsa bint Zayed Al Nahyan <sup>[<i>citation needed</i>]</sup>		
Afra bint Zayed Al Nahyan		Daughter of <a href="#">Mouza bint Suhail Al Khaili</a> <sup>[<i>citation needed</i>]</sup>
Issa bin Zayed Al Nahyan		Real estate developer
Nasser bin Zayed Al Nahyan	June 2, 2008 (aged 38–39)	Former chairman of the Abu Dhabi planning and economy department
Rawdha bint Zayed Al Nahyan <sup>[<i>citation needed</i>]</sup>		
Dana Amari bint Zayed Al Nahyan <sup>[<i>citation needed</i>]</sup>		
Saeed bin Zayed Al Nahyan	(born 1980) <sup>[<i>contradictory</i>]</sup>	
Falah bin Zayed Al Nahyan	7 November 1970 (age 49)	
Nahyan bin Zayed Al Nahyan <sup>[<i>citation needed</i>]</sup>		
Dhiyab bin Zayed Al Nahyan <sup>[<i>citation needed</i>]</sup>		
Latifa bint Zayed Al Nahyan <sup>[<i>citation needed</i>]</sup>		
Mouza bint Zayed Al Nahyan <sup>[<i>citation needed</i>]</sup>		
Wadeema bint Zayed Al Nahyan <sup>[<i>citation needed</i>]</sup>		
Sheikha bint Zayed Al Nahyan <sup>[<i>citation needed</i>]</sup>		

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

<p>Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan</p> <p><b>House of Al Nahyan</b></p> <p>Born: 1918      Died: 2 November 2004</p>		
<b>Regnal titles</b>		
Preceded by <b>Shakhbut Bin-Sultan Al Nahyan</b>	<b>Ruler of Abu Dhabi</b> 6 August 1966 – 2 November 2004	Succeeded by <b>Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan</b>
<b>Political offices</b>		
Preceded by Post Created	<b>President of the United Arab Emirates</b> 2 December 1971 – 2 November 2004	Succeeded by <b>Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan</b>

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

**The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a federation of seven states that has grown from a quiet backwater to one of the Middle East's most important economic centres.**

Though traditionally conservative, the UAE is one of the most liberal countries in the Gulf, with other cultures and beliefs generally tolerated. Politically it remains authoritarian, however.

Relations with neighbouring Iran have been tense because of an ongoing territorial dispute over Gulf islands. The UAE was one of only three countries to recognise Taliban rule in Afghanistan.



# UNI EMIRAT ARAB



Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Ajman, Fujairah, Ras al Khaimah, Sharjah and Umm al Quwain - the seven emirates that make up the UAE - maintain a large degree of independence.

The UAE is governed by a Supreme Council of Rulers made up of the seven emirs, who appoint the prime minister and the cabinet.

## **President: Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed**

Abu Dhabi President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed, who has a reputation as a pro-Western moderniser, was named as president by the UAE Federal Council in November 2004, shortly after the death of his father, Sheikh Zayed Bin-Sultan Al Nahyan.



# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

## MEDIA

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The UAE is a regional and international centre for TV and media. Dubai Media City and twofour54, Abu Dhabi's media zone, were set up to attract key international players.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14703998>

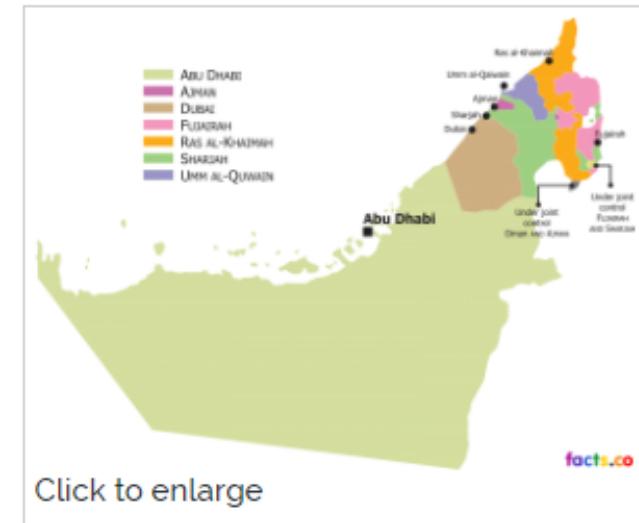
# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

## GEOGRAPHY

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a small country that is actually a confederation of seven contiguous emirates: Abu Dhabi (the capital), Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras Al Khaimah, Sharjah and Umm Al Quwain. The UAE has extensive oil and gas reserves. It borders Saudi Arabia and Oman. It has a strategic location on the Arabian Peninsula, overlooking approaches to the Strait of Hormuz, which is a vital transit point for world oil.

The Emirates has a desert climate, with high temperatures all- year round, with cooler temperatures in the eastern mountain area.

The UAE has an area of approximately 82,880 sq km, an area slightly smaller than the state of Maine. It is a flat country made up of coastal areas and desert; only 1% of the land is arable. Dust and windstorms are frequent problems caused by the flat terrain. Other geographical-related issues are desertification, pollution from oil spills and a decreasing availability of fresh water. The latter is due to limited access to freshwater sources and the low rainfall; the UAE is one of the world's 10 most water-scarce countries. To address this shortfall, the UAE has built desalination plants. The desalination process has recently become more expensive due to concentrated wastewater resulting from the desalination, making the water in the Gulf even more salty.



# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

## HISTORY

For centuries the sheikhdoms that make up the United Arab Emirates were individual competing dynasties. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the British called the area of the Pirate Coast because of occasional raids on shipping. In 1820, the British negotiated a treaty with the coastal tribes that prohibited piracy. In 1892, the British negotiated agreements establishing the sheikhdoms as protectorates, which gave the British exclusive rights to handle their foreign relations. These agreements lasted until Britain withdrew from the Gulf in 1971. After unsuccessful efforts to include Qatar and Bahrain in a union of Arab emirates, the seven sheikhdoms of Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ras al-Khaimah, Umm al-Quwain, Ajman and Fujairah established the independent United Arab Emirates in December 1971. Under the protectorate, the seven emirates were referred to as the Trucial States.

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

**Federal National Council**  
المجلس الوطني الاتحادي



**Type**

Type **Unicameral**

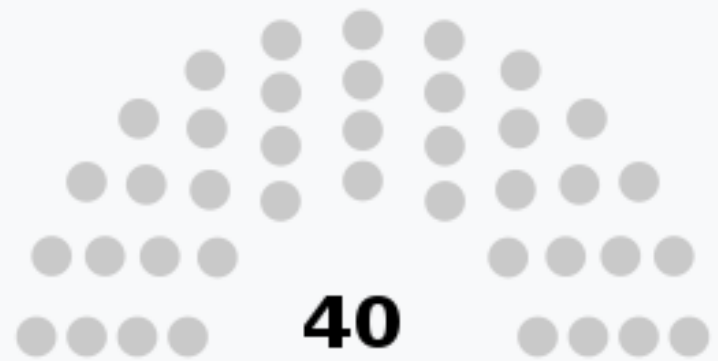
**Leadership**

**Speaker** **Amal Al Qubaisi**  
since 18 November 2015

**Deputy Speaker** **Marwan Ahmed Ali Bin Ghalita**  
since 18 November 2015

**Structure**

Seats 40



Political groups  Independent (40)

Length of term 4 years

**Elections**

**Voting system** Indirect single non-transferable vote in seven electoral colleges (20 seats)  
Appointed by rulers of each emirate (20 seats)

**Website**

[official website](#)

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

The composition of the Federal National Council

Emirate	Number of members
Abu Dhabi	8
Dubai	8
Sharjah	6
Ras Al Khaimah	6
Ajman	4
Fujairah	4
Umm Al Quwain	4
Total	40

Speakers of the Federal National Council [\[ edit \]](#)

Name	Entered Office	Left Office	Notes
Thani Abdullah Humaid	1972	1976	[8][9]
Taryam bin Omran Taryam	1977	1981	[8][9]
Hilal bin Ahmed bin Lootah	1981	1991	[8][9]
Al Haj bin Abdullah Al Muhairbi	1993	1996	[8][9]
Mohammed Khalifa Habtour	1997	2003	[8][9]
Saeed Mohammad Al Gandi	2003	2005	[8][9]
Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair	February 2007	15 November 2011	[10][9]
Mohammad Al-Murr	15 November 2011	18 November 2015	[11][9]
Amal Al Qubaisi	18 November 2015	Incumbent	[7][9]

## Parts of the Constitution [\[ edit \]](#)

Some of the important Articles and Parts of the Constitution are listed below:<sup>[3]</sup>

### 1. Part one

1. Article 2 — [Abu Dhabi](#) is the capital of the Union
2. Article 7 — [Islam](#) is the official [state religion](#), Islamic [Sharia](#) the primary source of legislation
3. Article 10 — aim of the Union is the maintenance of its independence and [sovereignty](#)
4. Article 11 — the Union forms a single economic and customs entity; free movement of all capital and goods between emirates is guaranteed; all inter-emirate taxes, duties and [tolls](#) are abolished
5. Article 12 — [Foreign policy](#) will be to support [Arab](#) and [Islamic](#) causes and consolidation of friendship and co-operation with all nations on the basis of the charter of the [United Nations](#)

### 2. Part Two: Fundamental Social and Economic Basis of the Union

1. Article 14 — Equality, social justice, ensuring safety and security and equality of opportunity for all citizens
2. Article 15 — The family is the basis of society. It is founded on morality, religion, ethics and patriotism. The law shall guarantee its existence, safeguard and protect it from corruption
3. Article 17 — Compulsory education at the [primary](#) level
4. Article 21 — [Private property](#) will be protected
5. Article 22 — The protection of [public property](#) is the duty of every citizen

### 3. Part Three: Freedom, Rights and Public Duties

1. Article 25 — All persons are equal before the law, without distinction between citizens of the Union in regard to race, nationality, religious belief or social status.
2. Personal liberty is guaranteed; no person may be arrested, searched, detained or imprisoned except in accordance with the provisions of law
3. Article 28 — penalty is personal; an accused shall be innocent until proven guilty
4. Article 29 — freedom of movement is guaranteed, within limits of the law
5. Article 30 — freedom of expression is guaranteed, within limits of the law
6. Article 32 — freedom to exercise religious worship is guaranteed in accordance with established customs and provided it does not conflict with public policy or violate public morals
7. Article 33 — freedom of assembly is guaranteed, within limits of the law

### 4. Part Four: Union Authorities

1. Article 45 — establishes the Supreme Council of the Union (SCN), the Council of Ministers, the National Assembly and the Judiciary.
2. National Assembly composition: 8 seats each of Abu Dhabi and Dubai, 6 each for [Sharjah](#) and [Ras al Khaimah](#), and 4 each for [Ajman](#), [Umm al Quwain](#) and [Fujairah](#)
3. Articles 51 and 52 — election and term of office of President and Vice President
4. Article 108 — The President is required to confirm all [death sentences](#) imposed by a Union judicial authority

### 5. Part Five: Union Legislation and Decrees and the Authorities having Jurisdiction therein

### 6. Part Six: The Emirates

1. Article 123 — the emirates may retain their individual memberships to [OPEC](#)

### 7. Part Seven

1. Islam is the official religion of the Union. The Islamic Sharia shall be a main source of legislation in the Union. The official language of the Union is Arabic .

### 8. Part Eight: Financial Affairs of the Union

### 9. Part Nine: Armed Forces and Security Forces



1. Article 137 — Any attack on one emirate is an attack on *all* emirates and upon the existence of the Union
2. Article 138 — establishment of a unified [air force](#), [navy](#) and land army

### 10. Part Ten: Final and Transitional Provisions

1. Article 145 — Constitution cannot be suspended except when [martial law](#) is in effect

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

Federal Supreme Council consists of the [seven Emirs](#):

Current member	Since	Status	Title	Emirate
 <p>Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan (President of the Supreme Council)</p>	2004	Emir and Ruler of Abu Dhabi	President of the United Arab Emirates	 Abu Dhabi
 <p>Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum (Vice-President of the Supreme Council)</p>	2006	Emir and Ruler of Dubai	Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates Vice President of the United Arab Emirates	 Dubai
 <p>Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi</p>	1987	Emir and Ruler of Sharjah	Member of the Federal Supreme Council	 Sharjah
	1981	Emir and Ruler of Ajman	Member of the Federal Supreme Council	 Ajman
	1974	Emir and Ruler of Fujairah	Member of the Federal Supreme Council.	 Fujairah
	2009	Emir and Ruler of Umm al-Quwain	Member of the Federal Supreme Council.	 Umm al-Quwain
 <p>Sheikh Saud bin Saqr al Qasimi</p>	2010	Emir and Ruler of Ras al-Khaimah	Member of the Federal Supreme Council.	 Ras al-Khaimah

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

## GOVERNMENT

The UAE is a constitutional monarchy federation that has developed into a modern and wealthy country. It is relatively moderate in the area of foreign policy, which has given them an important role in diplomacy in the region. The UAE is constantly developing its political system and seeks to make it more responsive to its society's needs and the country's economic growth.

Each of the seven emirates has its own leader. Traditionally the leader of Abu Dhabi is elected as president of the UAE and the leader of Dubai is the prime minister, even though this is not a written rule. The current head of state is the ruler of Abu Dhabi, President Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and the head of government is the ruler of Dubai, vice president and Prime Minister Muhammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum. The **relationship between the federal and local governments** is laid down in the constitution and allows some flexibility in the distribution of authority. Traditional government still plays an important part in the government of the UAE, with the institution of the *majlis* (council) maintaining a role in ensuring that the people have free access to their rulers. During the *majlis*, the leader hears grievances, mediates disputes, and dispenses largesse. In theory, anyone under the leader's rule must be granted access to the *majlis*.



Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan is the ruler of Abu Dhabi and the current president of the United Arab Emirates.



# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

On the whole, leadership in each emirate falls to that emirate's most politically-prominent tribe, and the paramount leader, the emir, is selected by the notables of the ruling tribe from among their number. The choice is usually, but not always, a son of the previous emir. Each tribe has its own leader, or sheikh, and a certain degree of political pluralism, as seen in the institution of the *majlis*, is necessary to maintain the ruling family's position.



Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. Credit: <https://sheikhmohammed.ae/>

According to the constitution, most of the power rests in the hands of the individual emirs (leaders) of each emirate; however, in recent years more power has been given to the federal government. The highest constitutional authority in the UAE is the Federal Supreme Council (FSC). The council consists of the rulers from each of the seven emirates and has both legislative and executive powers. Choosing among the councils' own members, they appoint the president and vice president. The FSC elects a cabinet that is headed by the prime minister. The cabinet is responsible for managing all internal and foreign affairs.

The Federal National Council (FNC) is the legislative body and the consultative council to the FSC. The council is comprised of 40 members. Half of the members are appointed by the FSC and the other half is appointed by public election every four years. Prior to the election in 2006, all members were appointed by the FSC. This was the first time the public had access to political participation and was a big reformation of the country's political system. The elections are based on individual candidates since political parties are prohibited.

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

The legal system in UAE is based on both civil law and sharia-based laws. Sharia, meaning "path," influences legal code to varying extent across the Islamic world. **Sharia guides all aspects** of Muslim life, including daily routines, familial and religious obligations, and financial dealings. Islam is the state religion according to the constitution and the principle source of law but the legal system has changed and modernized more recently. Sharia laws are mainly enforced in criminal and social law cases for Muslims. Islamic law is not applied to non-Muslims. Commercial disputes are usually solved by civil courts.

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

His Highness Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum has launched government plans called **UAE Centennial 2071**, through which he aims to make the UAE the best country in the world over the next five decades. Leaders will achieve this goal by developing knowledge, supporting science and research, and involving their youth in leadership training. This is an extension of Sheikh Mohammed's **UAE Vision 2021** which has similar objectives.

Though President Khalifa has ruled the UAE since his father's death in 2004, for much of the past decade his younger brother Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, commonly referred to as MBZ or MbZ, has effectively been in charge, leading negotiations and diplomacy with other nations. Khalifa suffered a stroke in 2014, which further strengthened MBZ's role. MBZ is the crown prince of Abu Dhabi and the deputy supreme commander of UAE's armed forces. He is he is sometimes considered the **UAE's de facto ruler**.



President Donald Trump meet with His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, Monday, May 15, 2017, in Washington, D.C. Credit: Official White House Photo/Shealah Craighead

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

## Some key dates in the UAE's history:

**1971** December - After independence from Britain, Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Fujayrah, Sharjah, and Umm al Quwain come together as the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Sheikh Zayed Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan presides over the federation.

**1972** - Ras al-Khaymah joins the federation.

**2006** - First-ever national elections. A small number of hand-picked voters choose half of the members of the Federal National Council - an advisory body.

**2015** - The UAE takes part in Saudi-led air strikes on Houthi rebels in Yemen.

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

## A chronology of key events:

**1820** - Britain and local rulers sign a treaty to combat piracy along the Gulf coast. From this, and later agreements, the area becomes known as the Trucial Coast.

**1892** - Deal between the Trucial States and Britain gives Britain control over foreign affairs and each emirate control over internal affairs.

**1948** - Sheikh Saqr Bin-Muhammad al-Qasimi becomes Ruler of Ras al-Khaymah.

**1950s** - Oil is discovered.

**1952** - The seven emirates form a Trucial Council.

**1962** - Oil is exported for the first time from Abu Dhabi.

**1966 August** - Sheikh Zayed Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan takes over as Ruler of Abu Dhabi.

**1968** - As independence looms, Bahrain and Qatar join the Trucial States. Differences cause the union to crumble in 1971.

**1971 November** - Iran occupies the islands of Greater and Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa.



Ambitious construction projects include Dubai's Princess Tower (centre)

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

## Federation formed

**1971** December - After independence from Britain, Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Fujayrah, Sharjah, and Umm al-Qaywayn come together as the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Sheikh Zayed Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan presides over the federation.

**1971** - UAE joins the Arab League.

**1972** - Ras al-Khaymah joins the federation.

**1972** January - Sheikh Sultan Bin-Muhammad al-Qasimi becomes Ruler of Sharjah.

**1972** February - Federal National Council (FNC) is created; it is a 40 member consultative body appointed by the seven rulers.

**1974** September - Sheikh Hamad Bin-Muhammad Bin-Hamad al-Sharqi becomes Ruler of Fujayrah.

**1981** February - Sheikh Rashid Bin-Ahmad al-Mualla becomes Ruler of Umm al-Qaywayn.

**1981** May - UAE is a founding member of the Gulf Cooperation Council; its first summit is held in Abu Dhabi.

**1981** September - Sheikh Humayd Bin-Rashid al-Nuaymi becomes Ruler of Ajman.

**1986** October - Sheikh Zayed Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan is re-elected as UAE president - his fourth term.

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

## Coup attempt

**1987** June - Attempted coup in Sharjah. Sheikh Sultan Bin-Muhammad al-Qasimi abdicates in favour of his brother after admitting financial mismanagement but is reinstated by the Supreme Council of Rulers.

**1990** October - Sheikh Rashid Bin-Said Al Maktum dies and is succeeded by his son Sheikh Maktum Bin-Rashid Al Maktum as ruler of Dubai and UAE vice-president.

**1991** - UAE forces join the allies against Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait.

**1991** July - Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) collapses. Abu Dhabi's ruling family owns a 77.4% share.

**1992** Iran angers the UAE by saying visitors to Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tunb must have Iranian visas.

**1993** December - Abu Dhabi sues BCCI's executives for damages.

**1994** June - 11 of the 12 former BCCI executives accused of fraud are given jail sentences and ordered to pay compensation.



Foreign workers and expatriates make up more than three quarters of the UAE population

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

## Islands disputed

**1996** - Iran fuels the dispute over Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tunb by building an airport on Abu Musa and a power station on Greater Tunb.

**1996** June - Two BCCI executives are cleared of fraud charges on appeal.

**1998** - UAE restores diplomatic relations with Iraq; they were severed at the outbreak of the 1991 Gulf War.

**1999** November - Gulf Cooperation Council backs the UAE in its dispute with Iran over Greater and Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa .

**2001** June - President Sheikh Zayed pardons 6,000 prisoners.

**2001** November - Government orders banks to freeze the assets of 62 organisations and individuals suspected by the US of funding terrorism.

**2004** November - UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin-Sultan Al Nahyan dies and is succeeded by his son, Sheikh Khalifa.

**2005** December - Sheikh Khalifa announces plans for the UAE's first elections. Half of the members of the consultative Federal National Council will be elected by a limited number of citizens.



# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

**2006** January - Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid al-Maktoum, UAE PM and vice-president and ruler of Dubai, dies during a visit to Australia. He is succeeded by his brother, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum.

**2006** March - Political storm in the US forces state-owned Dubai Ports World to relinquish control of terminals at six major American ports. Critics of the ports deal feared an increased risk of terrorist attack, saying the UAE was home to two of the 9/11 hijackers.



Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Zayed Mosque, the UAE's largest place of worship

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

**2006** March-June - Economic changes announced. They include bringing the days of the official weekend into line with Western nations, introducing laws to reduce the dependence on foreign workers and allowing labourers to form trade unions.

**2006** 16 December - First-ever national elections. A small number of hand-picked voters choose half of the members of the Federal National Council - an advisory body.

**2007** April - UAE unveils a national development strategy aimed at making it a world leader.

**2007** September - Dubai and Qatar become the two biggest shareholders of the London Stock Exchange, the world's third largest stock exchange.

**2008** January - France and the UAE sign a deal allowing France to set up a permanent military base in the UAE's largest emirate, Abu Dhabi.

**2008** July - The UAE cancels the entire debt owed to it by Iraq - a sum of almost \$7bn.

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

## Boom grinds to halt

**2009** February - Dubai sold \$10bn in bonds to the UAE in order to ease liquidity problems.

**2009** March - Sulim Yamadayev, a rival of Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov, dies after an apparent assassination in Dubai.

**2009** May - The UAE withdraws from plans for Gulf monetary union, dealing a blow to further economic integration in the region.

**2009** November/December - Government-owned investment arm Dubai World requests a moratorium on debt repayments, prompting fears it might default on billions of dollars of debt held abroad. Abu Dhabi gives Dubai a \$10bn handout - \$4.1bn to bail out Dubai World.

**2010** January - Burj Khalifa tower opens in Dubai as the world's tallest building and man-made structure.

Palestinian militant leader Mahmoud al-Mabhouh is killed in a Dubai hotel, in a hit widely blamed on Israel.

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

**2011** March - UAE joins international military operation in Libya.

**2011** April - Five activists who signed an online petition calling for reforms are imprisoned. They are pardoned and released in November.

**2012** April - The UAE recalls its ambassador to Iran after the Iranian president visits a Gulf island, Abu Musa, claimed by both countries.

A member of the ruling family in Ras al-Khaimah is put under house arrest after calling for political openness.

**2012** July - The UAE begins operating a key overland oil pipeline which bypasses the Strait of Hormuz. Iran has repeatedly threatened to close the strait at the mouth of the Gulf, a vital oil-trade route.

**2012** November - Mindful of protests in nearby Bahrain, the UAE outlaws online mockery of its own government or attempts to organise public protests through social media. Since March it has detained more than 60 activists without charge - some of them supporters of the Islah Islamic group, which is aligned with the Muslim Brotherhood elsewhere in Arab countries.

**2013** July - Sixty eight alleged members of Al-Islah are jailed on charges of planning to overthrow the government.

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

**2013** November - Trial in UAE of Egyptians and Emiratis accused of starting a branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, which is outlawed in the Gulf state.

**2014** January - Sheikh Kalifa, president of the UAE Federal Council and Abu Dhabi's ruler, undergoes surgery after suffering a stroke.

**2014** March - Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain withdraw their ambassadors to Qatar in protest at what they say is its interference in their internal affairs.

**2014** July - The UAE announces plans to send an unmanned spacecraft to Mars in what would be the first space probe by an Arab or Islamic country.

**2014** August - UAE intervenes in Libya, targetting Islamist militants with air strikes, US officials report.

**2014** September - The UAE and four other Arab states take part in US-led air strikes on Islamic State militants in Syria.

**2014** November - Amnesty International accuses UAE of carrying out an unprecedented clampdown on dissent since 2011.

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

UAE publishes its list "terrorist organisations", including dozens of Islamist groups and charities.

**2014** March - The UAE, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain temporarily withdraw their ambassadors from Qatar after alleging that it has been meddling in their internal affairs.

**2015** March - The UAE and four other GCC states take part in Saudi-led air strikes on Houthi rebels in Yemen.

**2017** January - Five UAE diplomats are killed in a bomb attack in Afghanistan.

**2017** February - UAE signs an agreement with the breakaway republic of Somaliland to station a military base there, angering the government of Somalia.

**2017** June - Diplomatic crisis as Saudi Arabia leads an air, land and sea blockade to get Qatar to cut its alleged connections with terrorism. UAE denies it was behind a hacking attack on Qatar's news websites which helped to trigger the crisis.

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

## INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL ISSUES

The UAE has been engaged in the war in Yemen since 2015 when they entered the conflict in March as part of a Saudi-led coalition with the aim of combating the opposition Houthi movement, helping the country reach political stabilization, and restoring President Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi and his government. The war is ongoing and Houthi rebels control Sanaa, the capital city. The participating countries of the coalition have a variety of reasons for their involvement. Saudi Arabia and the UAE are concerned about Iranian influence in the Gulf. The Emirates are also guided by other geostrategic interests. Beginning in early 2018, the UAE began backing southern separatists whose goal is to re-establish a distinct southern Yemen state. The separatists are opposed to a united Yemen led by Hadi, which seemingly contradicts the objective of the Saudi-led coalition. However, by supporting this group through arms and funding, the UAE could gain access to and influence over important and lucrative waterways that could be used for transporting gas and oil. The UAE has also been involved in providing humanitarian aid and emergency assistance to the Yemeni population.

The **UAE has given approximately 100,000 Syrian refugees residency permits** since 2011 and **contributed more than 700 million USD** to refugee aid efforts and host countries.

As a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) the United Arab Emirates has, along with neighboring countries, created regional unity and stability. This part of the Middle East has been more stable than others, but this stability has been challenged recently. Tension between Qatar and the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Egypt has increased for several years as Qatar was accused of undermining the security of its neighbors through interventions in their domestic affairs and through support for extremists in the region. This escalated in June 2017 when Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt cut off economic and diplomatic ties with Qatar. The resolution of the diplomatic crisis remains uncertain. There has not been any discussion of military sanctions but any outcome of this dispute will have an impact on the region.

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

## ECONOMY

In less than 50 years, the UAE has developed from a Bedouin society in which fishing and agriculture were the main livelihoods, into one of the most modern countries in the world with highly-advanced infrastructure. The country's wealth is derived from the hydrocarbon industry; the UAE's oil reserves are the seventh-largest and its gas reserves are the fifth-largest in the world. Oil and gas output stands for around **25% of the country's GDP**, a decrease from previous years as the country has, like its neighbors, explored ways to reduce its dependence on diminishing supplies of fossil fuels by diversifying its economy.

UAE leadership has initiated and engaged in a national development plan on the federal level and economic diversification programs on regional levels. The government has fostered a good business climate by boosting investments and creating open and vibrant capital markets. Like other Gulf states, these initiatives strive to create long-term roadmaps for economic progress that align policies, build human potential and cultivate the private sector. Common themes in these development plans include the nationalization of the workforce, which currently relies heavily on expatriate labor, as well as increased participation in the global economy.



# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

**The Abu Dhabi Investment Authority** (ADIA) is a sovereign wealth fund owned and supervised by the emirate of Abu Dhabi. ADIA is the third-largest sovereign wealth fund in the world and the biggest in the Middle East. The fund is financed by oil revenue surplus, with a mission to create long-term prosperity for Emirati citizens. The portfolio is diversified and consists of a variety of global assets in both developed and emerging markets. According to a **Wall Street Journal report**, ADIA has around 50 billion USD worth of real state holdings across 41 countries; however, as is the case in national investment in public companies, ADIA does not have a majority ownership in these holdings nor does it seek to manage them.

In an attempt to move away from its oil dependency, the UAE has invested heavily in alternative energy sources. The government has taken advantage of the constant access to sunlight and the country is now one of the world's largest providers of concentrated solar power.

The United Arab Emirates, particularly Dubai and Abu Dhabi, has spent billions of dollars on development and infrastructure. Its luxury hotels and man-made attractions, active nightlife, and international ambiance have made Dubai the top tourist destination in the Middle East. The UAE has become very accessible with two state owned carriers flying to over 155 destinations around the globe. Emirates airline, owned by the government of Dubai, is now the world's fourth largest airline with the world's biggest fleets of Airbus A380s and Boeing 777s. The government of Dubai expects the airline industry to contribute 32% to their GDP by 2020.

The UAE has become a desirable country in which to work and do business due to the absence of income tax along with the presence of free economic zones and free-trade zones. With its geographic location enabling an eight-hour (or less) flight for two-thirds of the world's population, the United Arab Emirates has successfully developed into a natural regional hub for many companies in various industries.

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

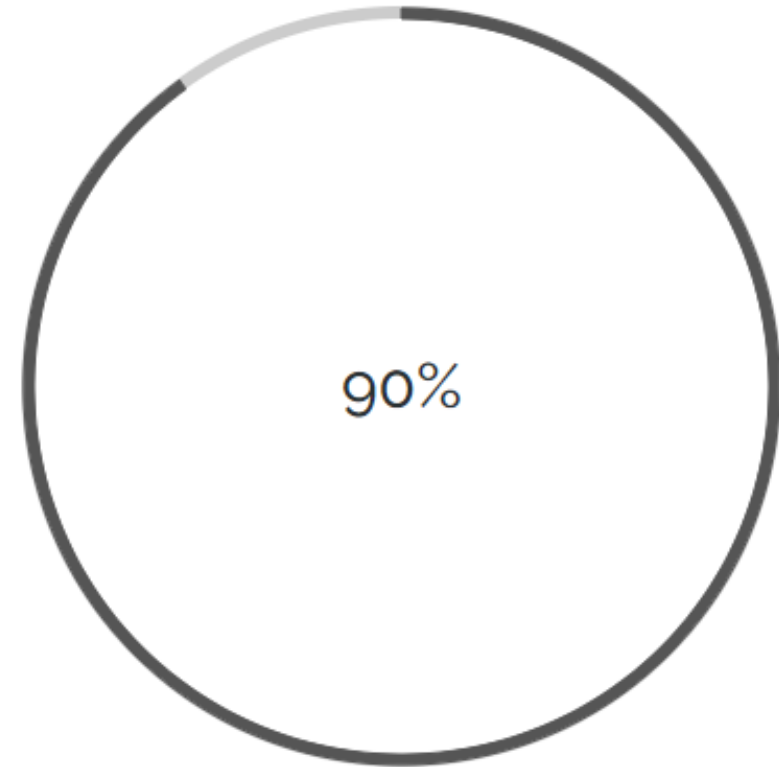
## Population of UAE

Emirati nationality 20%

Other 80%

The UN estimates the United Arab Emirates has a population of over 9 million people. The population is relatively old with only 20% being under 14, while 61% are adults between 25 and 54.

A majority of the population is foreign nationals; only about 20% of the population holds Emirati citizenship. There is a large expatriate workforce; in fact 96% of the workers are foreigners. With over 200 nationalities, the majority of the expats are from India, followed by Pakistan, Bangladesh and other Asian, European and African countries. The foreign workers are mainly employed in the construction industry and in the private sector, while UAE nationals are more present in the public sector.



Non-Emirati Population

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

The UAE has received some criticism in the areas of human rights and civil liberties by the **United States government**, **Human Rights Watch**, and the **United Nations** but the government has undertaken measures to protect migrant workers, women and other vulnerable populations. In 2017, for example, it made several modifications to its domestic workers law: a 24-hour toll-free hotline allows workers to file complaints, and penalties have been imposed for employers violating workers' rights. Employment centers known as **Tadbeer**, operated by the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization, have been established to make sure that people **only use legitimate channels to hire help** and don't mistreat domestic workers. The centers can handle all aspects of foreign labor operations, including interviews, legal issues, health care, disagreements between employers and employees, and transportation.

The government operates a comprehensive health care system that provides free services to citizens while non-citizens can obtain services for a low-cost. There is a growing private healthcare sector that is more specialized. Malaria, measles and polio have been eradicated. Because of the high standard of healthcare, the average life expectancy for most Emiratis is 77 years, one of the highest in the region.

Education is a priority in the UAE and the illiteracy rate has dropped to less than 1 per cent. In 2016, the government allocated **21.2 percent of the federal budget to education**. The government is trying to empower its youth by regularly updating the curriculum and developing mentorship programs to help students. Public education is free for students through the university level. Education is mandatory through 9<sup>th</sup> grade. From Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, students are taught in gender-segregated classes. In 2003, the Dubai Knowledge Zone was created in **Dubai Internet City**, a hub for e-campus and internet-based schools that encourage innovation and a knowledge-based economy. Additionally, the emirates of Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah have developed academic zones or cities that include both domestic and international institutes of all grade levels. Abu Dhabi, for example, is home to branches of NYU and the Sorbonne.

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

Women have been increasingly involved in the country's progress and development. The constitution guarantees equal rights between genders and the government has initiated many reforms to change social norms in order to empower women and engage them in the workforce. According to the **World Economic Forum's 2016 Global Gender Gap Report**, the UAE is the leading country in the region with regards to gender equality. **The government reports that** 70% of university graduates are women, 50% of employees of the space program are women, 66% of public jobs are held by women, more than 25% of cabinet-level ministers are women — on the current cabinet, women represent 9 of 32 positions — and the law requires female board members in every company. Women have made remarkable achievements in the last decade alone. In 2008, the **first female judge** was sworn in. In 2013, the country appointed its first female **Permanent Representative to the UN**. In 2015, the UAE appointed the **first female president of the Federal National Council**. There are also eight female ambassadors abroad and 20% of the diplomatic corps are women. In February 2016, the government began a portfolio dedicated to state happiness. In 2018, it developed the **National Program for Happiness & Wellbeing**, which is led by Her Excellency Ohood bint Khalfan Al Roumi, the minister of state for happiness and well-being. Her main responsibility is to harmonize all government plans, programs and policies to achieve a happier society. Another notable female leader is Shamma bint Suhail Faris Al Mazrui, who currently serves as minister of state for youth affairs; when she was elected in 2016 at 22-years-old, she became the youngest government minister in the world.

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

## RELIGION

Over 76 percent of the population is Muslim. The percentage is lower than other Gulf states because of the heavy reliance on foreign labor. The majority of Muslims in the UAE are Sunni; roughly 16 percent are Shia. The UAE constitution states that Islam is the official religion. The government regulates what is said in sermons by sending guidance to the sheikhs. Islamic studies are mandatory for Emirati students but Christians and Hindus are free to practice their religion. Emiratis are traditionally conservative but the UAE is one of the most liberal countries around the Arabian Peninsula, especially in Dubai.

In similarity to other Muslim countries, the official work-week in the UAE is from Sunday to Thursday. Fridays are reserved for prayer. During the holy month of Ramadan, working hours are usually shortened by two to three hours.



Sheikh Zayed Mosque in Abu Dhabi

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

## Religions in UAE (Pew Research) <sup>[362]</sup><sub>[363]</sub>

Religion	Percent
Muslim	76%
Christianity	12.6%
Hindu	6.6%
Buddhist	2%
Other	1%
None	1%

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

## CULTURE

Each of the UAE's seven distinct emirates has its own identity. Nevertheless, Emirati culture is held together by Islamic ideas, Bedouin traditions and the legacy of its sea-faring ancestors. In recent years, the oil boom has shaped society as a result of the massive amounts of money that were dedicated to rapid growth and industrialization.

As development in the UAE has skyrocketed, Dubai and Abu Dhabi have established media zones to attract media organizations. Reuters, Sony, Fox, and CNN, as well as Middle Eastern broadcasters like MBC, Orbit Showtime Network, and Sky News Arabia have offices in the UAE. The UAE has one of the highest internet penetration rates in the Arab world: **according** to the International Telecommunication Union, 95 percent of the population had access to the internet in 2017, up from 91 percent the previous year. However, there is **extensive regulation of media content**, filtering at the ISP level, and censorship of foreign publications. Legislation dictates prison for internet content intended to "deride or damage" the state's reputation or "display contempt" for Islam. Nonetheless, digital media is a prominent feature of Emirati society: long-running, computer-animated series *Freej* tells the story of four older women living in Dubai, coping with the developmental boom in the area. The show debuts new episodes each year during Ramadan.

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

## Art



The Louvre Abu Dhabi (image captured from website).

The two art hubs in the United Arab Emirates are Abu Dhabi and Dubai. There are many museums and galleries that house the growing modern art collection and some of the traditional art forms. Traditional art forms include pottery, boat making, jewelry, rugs, and Islamic calligraphy. The United Arab Emirates is quite global in its outlook and often features displays from other Middle Eastern countries and beyond.

In collaboration with France, the **Louvre Abu Dhabi** opened up its doors in November 2017 and is the first museum of its kind in the Middle East. This is a big step toward their new post-oil-age and an effort to make UAE a top cultural destination. This is a way to show their recognition of the importance of art and education, and to bring cultures together.



# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

## Music

Music and dance have always been a part of Emirati culture. Traditionally, they were performed to entertain workers who accomplished something successful. **Ayala or the 'stick dance'** is one of the folk dance forms. It involves performances by two rows of dancers facing one another. Dancers are positioned close together in rows, signifying the unity and co-operation among tribal people. It is accompanied by drumming.

**Al Wahabiyyah** is one of the oldest art forms of Ras Al Khaimah and is only performed there. The songs during this performance are divided into three sections. Drum players stand between two rows of performers comprising the band. One of the performers begins by reciting a line of poetry. He repeats it a number of times until the other performers have memorized it. Then he recites another line of poetry from the same poem. The first line is a start and the second is the ostinato, or pedal. The two rows of dancers rhythmically move forward and backward, a row bows and drummers keep drawing nearer to it for 10 minutes while moving their heads. The opposite row repeats the some movements as the drummers draw nearer to them as well. Dancers with swords and guns add charm to the show. The dance was inscribed in 2014 on the **UNESCO 'Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity'**.

Today, Emiratis play traditional music and perform traditional dances on important social occasions, such as Eids — religious holidays — and weddings. The traditional music relies heavily on drums, tambourines and musical instruments that were used by the Bedouin — the area's original, nomadic tribes.

In addition to the traditional music and folk dances, there is a large underground pop music movement among the youth, especially expats. Dubai's famous and lavish nightlife has attracted many well-known international singers, DJs and dancers.



Ayala dance performance at the 2016 Qasr Al Hosn Festival in Abu Dhabi.  
Credit: Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

## Film

In just over two decades – starting with the first full-length Emirati film in the late 1980s – the UAE has cultivated a **burgeoning film industry**. Award-winning Emirati films like *City of Life* and *Sea Shadow* have been recognized for showcasing local talent. The country also hosts internationally-recognized film festivals like the **Dubai International Film Festival** and has helped co-produce international blockbusters and Academy Award-winning films like *The Help*. The UAE has also been the site of many movie sets including ones for *Iron Man*, *Jumper* and *The Kingdom*. Several Bollywood films have also been filmed there. The UAE has built a “studio city” in hopes of promoting the film industry. Film production and content creation is supported through partnerships with international companies and media zones, including **Dubai Studio City** and Abu Dhabi-based *Twofour54*.

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

## Literature

Reading, literature and the preservation of the Arabic language in such a diverse society are highly valued. In 2015, **Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid launched the Arab Reading Challenge** for children throughout the Arab world. The **Abu Dhabi International Book Fair** has been around for about twenty years and offers an opportunity for international authors to showcase their work to publishers. The public can also attend sessions on the current state of Arabic literature. Other literary festivals include the **Emirates Literature Festival** and the **Sharjah International Book Fair**.

Traditional UAE's literary heritage comprises Taghrouda and Nabati poetry. Taghrouda involves a poetry duel. This art was practiced in rural areas during searches for a lost camel or horse. Al Taghrouda, which is popular at weddings, is also performed on horseback to urge horses to speed up. The equestrian taghrouda is usually about courage, bravery and magnanimity.

Nabati refers to the dialect of Arabic spoken by non-Arabic natives. Nabati poetry has been a feature of life in the Arabian Peninsula since the 16th century. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum **composes Nabati poetry**. He has published **compilations of such compositions**.

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

## Clothing



*Kandura* is the national attire for men, which is an ankle length, long-sleeved and loose-fitting robe, usually in white. Other colors and materials of the kandura are commonly worn during the colder months of the year. The length of the kandura reveals social status and a longer kandura represents higher socio-economic belonging.

Women traditionally wear the *abaya*, a long-sleeved, floor length and loose-fitting dress, usually in black. Like their neighbor countries, both men and women usually cover their hair and women of Bedouin origin often cover their face more fully. Traditionally women wear a *gishwa*, which is a thin veil used to cover the face.

Men wear a *ghutrah*, made from a square piece of cloth, that is wrapped around the head in various styles. An *agal* is a

headband that is usually worn to keep the ghutrah in place and is a more formal way of dressing. Under the ghutrah they wear a *ghafiyah*, a close fitting knit white cap.

The style of clothing is very similar between the Gulf States. Although, modest details on the kandura and abaya can help distinguish the difference between countries. This includes even the way men wear the ghutrah, which can help distinguish their heritage.

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

## Sites



The UAE, specifically Dubai, has come to be known as a luxury tourist destination. Beautiful hotels, restaurants and resorts have been built, alongside architectural feats such as the world's tallest building, largest fountain, biggest shopping mall, and largest man-made island.

There are several modern features of architecture in addition to historical sites, such as the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, Qasr al-Hosn, and the Bastakia District.

There are plenty of entertainment parks including the **Ferrari World Abu Dhabi** where you can find the world's fastest roller coaster. At Dubai Miracle Garden you will find the world's largest natural flower garden with over 109 different flowers.

The **Burj Khalifa** (above, middle), at a height of 2,716.5 feet (828 meters) with 160 stories, is the tallest building in the world. It holds the world records for the highest number of floors, highest occupied floor, tallest free-standing structure, highest outdoor observation deck, elevator with the longest travel distance and tallest service elevator.

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB

The coastal location and hot climate have made water sports a hobby of many. Being known as a former fishing society, Emiratis have a long tradition of spending time boating and sailing.



Football is the nation's most popular sport and Zayed Sports City Stadium in Abu Dhabi is the biggest sport complex in the Middle East. The big South Asian population has made cricket the second most popular sport in the UAE.

Abu Dhabi started hosting Abu Dhabi Grand Prix in 2009, a Formula One motor race that has become very popular and attracts many tourists and celebrities. The race is held every fall at **Yas Marina Circuit**, one of the world's most technologically-advanced Formula One circuits. Yas Marina Circuit encourages the growth of sporting culture and is being used for numerous purposes, including the **Colour Run** and business events.

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB



City from Al Qawasim Corniche flagpole.

# UNI EMIRAT ARAB



Fadi Fayyadh Al Toubeh

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_Arab\\_Emirates/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Arab_Emirates/)



# PELABUHAN UNI EMIRAT ARAB



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# RESORT ROTANA UNI EMIRAT ARAB



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