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The United Arab Emirates, luxury, tax evasion and social inequality



Sources: New grandstand

They are located in Southwest Asia, bordering the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf, between Oman and [Saudi Arabia](#). It has an area of 83,600 km². The largest emirate is Abu Dhabi which has an area of 67,340 km² and the smallest emirate, Ajman which has only 259 km².

The UAE stretches for more than 650 km along the southern coast of the Persian Gulf. Most of the coast is made up of salt marshes that stretch several kilometers inland. The largest natural harbour is located in Dubai



The United Arab Emirates is made up of seven Emirates which are: **Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, um al-Quwain, Fujairah and Ajman.**

Numerous islands are located in the gulf, many of which are the subject of international disputes. Smaller islands, many of which are coral reefs and shifting sandbars, are a threat to navigation in the area. Significant tides and strong winds make it even more difficult to navigate close to the coast.

The UAE also stretches for ninety kilometers along the Gulf of Oman, in an area also known as the Al Batinah coast.

The **Al Hajar el Gharbi** mountains reach 2,500 m in some places, separating the Al Batinah coast from the rest of the country. The Al Hajar el Gharbi Mountains extend in a southeasterly direction for 150 km to the southernmost point of the border with Oman. The mountain range continues as Al Hajar ash Sharqi for 500 km within Oman.

To the south and west of **Abu Dhabi**, there are immense mobile dunes that constitute the Rub al-Jali desert, which extends beyond into neighboring Saudi Arabia. Abu Dhabi's desert area includes two major oases, with enough groundwater for permanent settlements and cultivation. The sprawling Al Liwa oasis in the south near the indefinite border with Saudi Arabia.

Despite being landlocked, the **Uae has** no internal rivers. Only with some oases in the interior of the country. **Drinking water for the population is obtained from the desalination of seawater and in this way it is possible to obtain 42% of the country's consumption.**



The climate of the United Arab Emirates is hot and dry. The hottest months are July and August, when the average maximum temperature exceeds 48° on the coastal plain. The climate is considerably cooler in the Al Hajar Mountains, due to their altitude.

The lowest average temperatures are recorded in January and February, between 10 and 14°. During the last summer months, a humid wind coming from the southeast, known as *Sharqi* mainly affects the coastal region.

Annual rainfall on the coast is less than 120 mm³, but in some mountainous areas it can reach 350 mm. Coastal rains fall during the summer in the form of intense but rapid storms, sometimes causing flooding in formerly dry wadis.

The region is exposed to occasional violent sandstorms that greatly reduce visibility. Mount **Jebel Jais**, in **Ras al-Khaimah**, has snowed only twice, since records began.

The United Arab Emirates has a population of 9,890,000 inhabitants in 2020, with immigrants constituting more than 80% of the total population, according to UN data. Its population growth rate is 2.71% per year and its density is 100 h / km² 99 inhabitants per km².

The main cities are Abu Dhabi with 1,200,000 inhabitants, Dubai with 2,300,000 inhabitants and Sharjah with one million inhabitants. Urban population represents 84.4% of the country's total population.

The official language is Arabic, but Persian, English, Hindi, Urdu are also used.

Their life expectancy is 77.09 years. Life expectancy in males is 74.49 years and female life expectancy is 79.83 years.

The majority religion is Muslim and represents 76% of the total population, Christian is 9%, other religions such as Hindu and Buddhist, Parsi, Baha'i, Druze, Sikh, Ahmadi, Ismaili, Dawoodi Bohra Muslim and Jewish reach 15%. Dubai is the only EMIRATE IN THE UAE with a Hindu temple. There are also temples of the Catholic Church in the country



Religion

There are usually no problems of coexistence between Muslims and the rest of religious confessions. Although Christmas Day is working in the country, citizens who profess Christian confessions, if they wish, are exempt from going to work that day.



Islam is the largest and most official state religion of the United Arab Emirates. The government follows a policy of tolerance towards other religions and rarely interferes with the activities of non-Muslims. For the same reason, non-Muslims are expected to avoid interfering in Islamic religious affairs or the Islamic education of Muslims.

Economy

The United Arab Emirates is one of the richest countries in the world, underpinned by a liberal and open economy with a high per capita income and a considerable annual trade surplus. The country is among the top 5 countries in the world in terms of per capita income, in the GCC Gulf Region of Cooperating Countries.

In the area there are no rivers, only water is found in the oases, where mangoes, dates, incense and myrrh are grown. There are sheep and goats. Pearl oysters are grown in the gulf area. **The country's main wealth comes from oil extraction.**



La principal fuente de riqueza de los EAU, proviene de sus exportaciones de petróleo y gas natural, junto con al comercio de pescado seco y dátiles.

La riqueza de los EAU, se debe a la alta explotación de los recursos naturales, ya que el 40% del PIB proviene de la minería.

Oil production enters this part of GDP, crude oil is an important part of GDP to such an extent that oil exports constitute around 30% of GDP.

They are the world's fifth largest exporters of crude oil, and have a production capacity close to 3 million barrels per day. With almost 10% of the world's total supply of crude oil reserves, the UAE is a major supplier to global energy markets. In addition to being a major energy supplier, they are also becoming an increasingly important consumer.

Abu Dhabi holds 90% of its oil resources: its reserves are the third largest in the world and at the current rate of exploitation, it is expected to have reserves for around 100 years. As we can see the UAE economy, it is very diversified, this is due to the diversification policies, carried out between 2000 and 2010.

Thanks to this diversification, Dubai has become an important financial center representing 6% of GDP), tourism and services with 2% of GDP). Also to the creation of free trade zones, which have facilitated the development of light manufacturing industries with 9% of GDP.



Not all the emirates that make up the country find themselves in a homogeneous situation. So we see how the emirate of Abu Dhabi accounts for 63% of the UAE's GDP, and yet has only 34% of the population. Dubai accounts for 27% of GDP and has 35% of the population. Sharjah accounts for 7% of GDP and 17% of the population.

One of the objectives of the Federal Government Budget is to redistribute wealth among the emirates, so that a certain uniformity is achieved in the public services provided, such as transport, health or education.

The extraordinary growth of the country's GDP has been driven mainly by the growing price of oil in the international market and the constant arrival of companies and investments that decide to develop their businesses within the different tax-free zones

offered by the country; such growth continues to increase the development of more free zones to meet the demand for different items.

Its main trading partner is Japan, where 30% of its exports are destined, with the rest of its sales distributed among [India](#), [Singapore](#), and to a lesser extent, [South Korea](#) and Iran.

On the other hand, **the main countries of origin of the goods imported by the UAE are Japan, France, the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany and Italy.** The percentage corresponding to each of these countries does not exceed 10 per cent of the total and, the sum of the products from these countries, is less than 38 per cent of imports.

The UAE has an attractive tax regime for wealthy businesses and individuals, making it a preferred destination for companies seeking tax avoidance. The NGO Tax Justice Network places them in the year 2021 in the group of the ten largest tax havens in the world.



Do you understand now why the emiratus is there?

History

By the sixth century AD. C., the oases supplied water to the crops of the sparse stable population, which spoke different Arabic dialects. Some were farmers. Other merchants and artisans in the villages and others were nomads who raised camels, sheep and goats. The peoples of the coast added to these activities the fishing in the waters of the gulf.

The Bedouins who were mobile armed groups with tribal organization, united to the merchants, dominated the farmers and artisans.

Among farmers and herders, religion was another form of social control. The local gods, identified with the celestial bodies, could materialize in stones, trees or animals. Some families, interpreting the language of those gods, achieved some power over others.

Until the early seventh century, a long war between the Byzantine and Sassanid empires involved the peninsula, although not directly the territories of the Emirates. Likewise, such a movement and the opening of trade routes attracted merchants, traffickers and artisans, who contributed knowledge of the outside world and its culture.

Islam was adopted while Muhammad was still alive. The power of the tribal chiefs was strengthened without substantially modifying the way of life of the still few inhabitants.

Upon the prophet's death, different groups disputed his spiritual heritage. The Ibadis who called themselves direct descendants of Muhammad created the immanate of Oman in the middle of the eighth century. At the end of the ninth century it was suppressed by the Abbasids, who were the caliphs who claimed universal authority with capital in Baghdad.

From the eleventh century, the Sunni form of Islam gradually passed from being the religion of the rulers to the general population. The Ibadis continued to exist until the fifteenth century and exercised strong religious authority.

The ports of the Gulf served for the traffic of textiles, glass, porcelain and species from China, which then followed the chain of oases to the Red Sea.

During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the Ibadis had re-established their imamate under the Yaribi dynasty, remaining on the shores of the Ottoman Empire. To the north Bahrain was under Iranian rule.

With the Ottomans engaged in constant fighting in Europe, Africa and Asia, the southeast region was engaged in trade. Ruling families linked to merchants emerged and piracy developed taking advantage of the natural advantages of the coasts. When European fleets

increased the use of the sea route through the Cape, Britain gained influence throughout the region, using Gulf ports as a stopover on the Indian route while combating piracy.

In the early nineteenth century, through agreements with local chiefs and small port rulers, Britain achieved full control of the region. This relationship continued the same until the first decades of the twentieth century.

By 1914, the resurgence of the Saudi state in central Arabia and the pretensions of **Russia, France and Germany** in the area decided the British to formalize their relationship with the states of **Bahrain, Oman and Kuwait**, who left the management of their relations with the world to the London government.

World War I did not alter this relationship. Britain controlled the rule of Abd al-Aziz in the new kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from the southern and southeastern coasts of the peninsula. With the development of air routes, the airfields of the **Gulf, Egypt, Palestine and Iraq** came to play an important role.

After World War II the relationship between the Arab countries changed. In 1945 the League of Arab States was created with the participation of those who enjoyed a certain independence.

At the beginning of the 1960s it was known that the oil fields of the Near East were among the most important in the world. The United States shared with England control of the Gulf states, whose revenues depended almost entirely on this resource.

The growing influence of the **pan-Arabist Egyptian president Gammal Abd al-Nasser** caused Britain to increase local participation in the governments of the protectorate states. In 1968 the military force was withdrawn from the region.

In 1971, the exploitation of large-scale wells in Abu Dhabi began. The marking of internal borders became very important. The United Arab Emirates were born then, under British influence, without the participation of Qatar and Bahrain.



The new state had to face a conflict with Iran, a country that, citing historical reasons, occupied some islands, **Abu Mussa, Tunb al Cubra and Turb al Sughra** on the Strait of **Hormuz**. During the first decade, oil production grew continuously, while national control of exploitation increased.

When in 1973, **OPEC raised the price of a barrel by 70% and reduced supply by 5%, thus changing its relationship with the world.** The result in the Emirates was explosive. The annual growth of the 1970s was over 10% per year because of oil profits.

There was a rapid growth of cities with state-of-the-art highways, pipelines and banks. There was a flood of emigrants attracted by the possibilities of the region. Little remained of the ancient fishing villages or pearl pickers on its coast.

The 1980s began with the Iraq/Iran war. Despite the apparent neutrality, the Emirates provided economic support to Iraq, attempting to curb the Iranization of the region. At the end of the conflict, the UAE was the third largest oil producer in the Middle East, after Saudi Arabia and Libya.

Beginning in 1981, the government tried to strengthen other areas of industry that would lessen its heavy dependence on oil.

The country has been a member of the Non-Aligned Movement and has provided support to Palestinian claims. At the end of 1986, diplomatic relations were established with the USSR and the People's Republic of Benin. In 1987, relations with Egypt resumed, which had been suspended since the Davis Field Agreement with Israel.



During the 1991 Gulf War, the Emirates supported the fight against Iraq, which had occupied Kuwait.

In March 1991, the Gulf Cooperation Council signed agreements with the United States on common military strategy and mechanisms to [prevent the proliferation of weapons in the area](#).

In 1992, through Syria, Iran restricted its claims to the islands of the Strait of Hormuz. The conflict remained, under pressure from the Emirates, under international arbitration.

Islamic fundamentalism increased its influence in the Emirates between 1993 and 1996. Sheikh Zayed, president of the union, expressed his concern about the spread of religious fundamentalism.

In February 1994, Zayed extended Sharia law to crimes hitherto tried by civil courts. In 1997, faced with the threat of the Americans, Sheikh Zayed said that Iraq deserved a new opportunity and that new military action would be unacceptable.

In domestic politics, an economic opening continued that led, among other things, to the installation in the city of Ra's al-Khaymah of a free trade zone in 1998, the first in the Middle East. In April 2000, the embassy in Iraq was reopened.

The fall in oil prices was the main reason why, in 2001, the GDP of the Emirates fell. The country achieved some economic diversification in non-oil sectors, such as aluminum, tourism, telecommunications, aviation, etc. These account for two-thirds of GDP and 30% of its exports.



The story of his last years is well known. A country that treats migrants from all over Asia particularly badly and whose labour exploitation reaches unbearable levels. It is the country of luxury for a few and misery for the usual and has become a tax haven.

Source: <https://www.nuevatribuna.es/articulo/global/emiratos-arabes-unidos-lujo-evasion-fiscal-desigualdad-social-corrupcion/20220817175628201903.html>

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