



المركز الاتحادي
للتنافسية والإحصاء
FEDERAL COMPETITIVENESS
AND STATISTICS CENTRE



United Arab Emirates

أرقام الامارات UAE Numbers

50
عام الخمسين
YEAR OF THE FIFTIETH
٢٠٢٤ UAE

THE UAE..

Mapping the Nation's Progress
in Figures





The union lives in my soul, in my heart, and is the dearest thing in my existence. I can never imagine neglecting it or growing complacent about its future.

His Highness late Sheikh
Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan

“God bless his soul”



UAE Numbers

Narrating the journey



Special Edition to mark the
United Arab Emirates'
Golden Jubilee



His Highness late Sheikh
Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
"God bless his soul"



The successive wise leadership that has ruled
the Union since its establishment has always
sought excellence as
a guiding methodology in all its efforts to build
the United Arab Emirates.



His Highness Sheikh
Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

President of the United Arab Emirates



On the occasion of the UAE's 50th National Day, we are immensely proud of our country's achievements and look forward to the future with renewed hope, ambition, and determination.

May our nation's founding fathers rest in peace and may God bless the UAE and its people with happiness and wellbeing.



His Highness Sheikh
Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Vice President and Prime Minister
of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai



50 years ago, we had a dream... a dream of building a state, a home, a united people, a homeland for all and a country that performs in the same league as the world's top nations.

The Journey of the Fifty

In a relatively short period, the United Arab Emirates has become a global model of inspiration and achieved a unique development record that started back in 1971 with the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, God bless his soul, and the founding fathers. The government has charted a progressive path forward through hard work, construction, and planning in order to lay solid foundations for a modern nation.

As such, a comprehensive nationwide development process was rolled out to advance various sectors. such as education, which was regarded as the pillar to drive renaissance; housing, health, agriculture, road infrastructure, and other sectors that led to the large scale overall progress, allowing the UAE to rank first globally in most indicators over the past years, particularly with respect to its per capita income, roads, health, quality of services and competitiveness, among others.

This exceptional progress, as illustrated below, was achieved in several different stages, since establishing the Union, building and empowering the nation, and growing globally; all of which were governed by flexible measures enforced by the country to meet the requirements of each stage. The UAE strived and succeeded in adopting a strategy to diversify its sources of income to reduce its dependence on the oil sector and achieve a sustainable source of growth. As such, the share of oil revenues in the composition of the UAE's GDP decreased from 77 % in 1975 to 17.3 % in 2020, a clear testament to the country's successful policy to diversify its economy, achieve sustainable development, and expand more solid economic bases.

The outlined figures reflect the steady growth across the various sectors, which achieved great leaps since the establishment of the Union and was focused mainly on improving per capita income and gross domestic product, rising from 58.3 billion dirhams in 1975 to 1.317 trillion dirhams in 2020. Economic growth maintained an upward trend for years, from the 1970s until the end of the second decade of the 21st century.

The United Arab Emirates set out ambitious plans to shift from traditional energy and promote the widespread adoption and sustainable use of renewable energy, ultimately becoming one of the most important examples of a country seeking to strengthen its renewable energy sector. It achieved this by launching a comprehensive development, sustainability, and environmental protection strategy, as well as building the world's largest solar power plants. The UAE has also adopted a policy of economic diversification, by encouraging tourism, logistics, and other non-oil sectors, as part of an ambitious vision for the future to ensure further development and growth across the various sectors, built on strong foundations. The report provides figures and data to highlight the UAE's remarkable growth and rapid pace of development over the last 50 years since the nation's founding. Today, the UAE has become a global tourism, economic, prosperity and investment hub, built on the values of coexistence, safety, knowledge, innovation, and human values, and where peace, prosperity, and well-being prevail.

Hanan Mansoor Ahli

Director of the Federal Competitiveness & Statistics Centre

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If God Almighty has blessed us with wealth, our first commitment, and in order to express our gratitude to Him, is to dedicate this wealth to ensuring the country's progress and improve the living standards of its people.

His Highness late Sheikh
Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan
“God bless his soul”



Economy

- Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- Government Expenditure
- Inflation
- Banks
- Insurance Companies
- Foreign Trade
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
- Communications
- Hotel Establishments

UAE
50

1.091 Trillion Dirhams
Non-oil GDP

1.317 Trillion Dirhams
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

2020



1975

24.9 Billion Dirhams
Non-oil GDP

58.3 Billion Dirhams
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

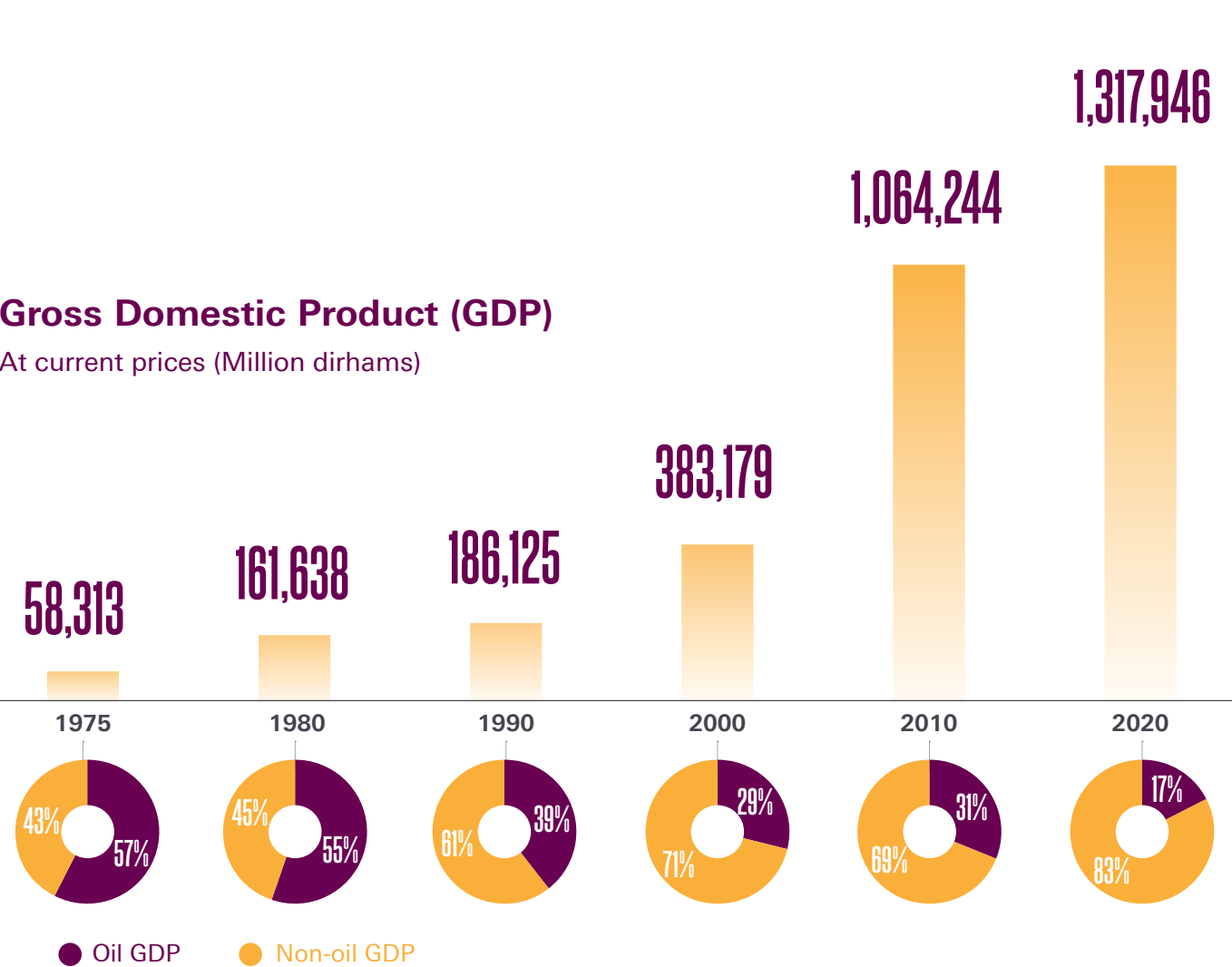
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

The country's gross domestic product increased significantly during the first five decades of the union's establishment, rising from 58.3 billion dirhams in 1975 to 1.317 trillion dirhams in 2020, following an extended growth trend from the 1970s until the end of the second decade of the 21st century.

Statistics from the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre indicated that between the periods of 1975 and 2020, the UAE's GDP (at current prices) in 1975 amounted to 58.313 billion dirhams, consisting of 33.38 billion dirhams of oil GDP and 24.94 billion dirhams of non-oil GDP.

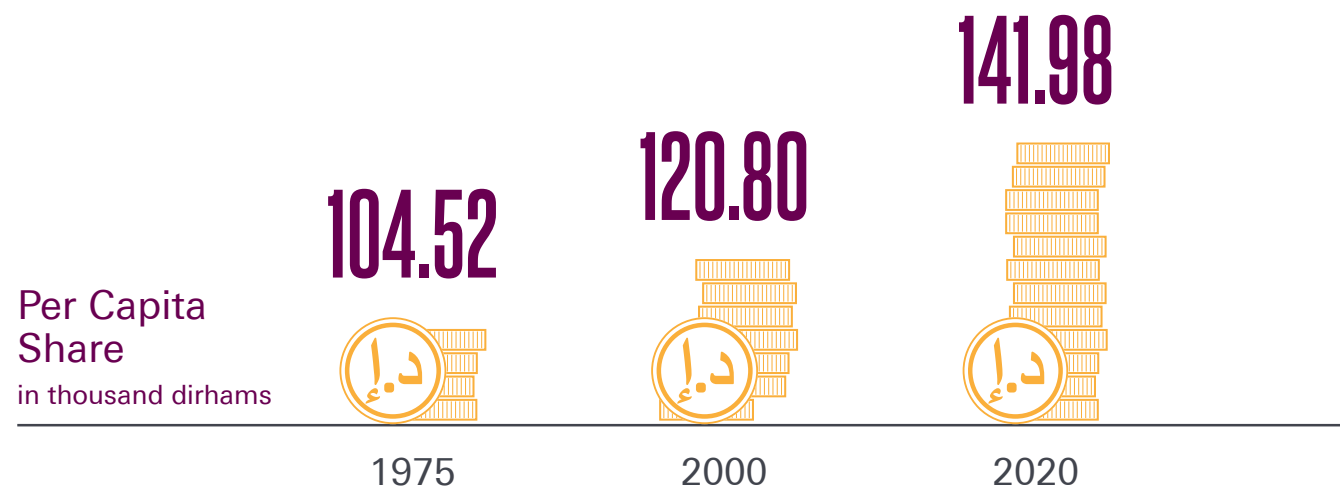
Economic Diversification

In 1985, the oil sector's contribution to GDP declined in favor of increased growth in the non-oil sectors (such as transformative industries, wholesale and retail trade, real estate activities, and others). At the time, GDP totaled 149.05 billion dirhams of which 56.75 billion was generated by the oil sector (equivalent to 38%). The oil sector contribution to GDP gradually started declining in favor of the non-oil sector, which in turn benefited from the wide scale economic diversification, bringing the contribution of the non-oil sector to the GDP to 83% in 2020.



Improvement of GDP per capita share

Since 1975, the UAE's GDP per capita has continuously increased. In 1975, the GDP per capita has been 104,500 dirhams. The GDP per capita grew to 108,600 dirhams in 1985, before the 1990's increased population saw a slight drop to 100,900 dirhams (1990), and 100,100 in 1995. Adjusting to a larger population number, the GDP per capita has increased to 127,940 dirhams (2000), 128,780 dirhams (2010), and 144,470 (2015). The GDP per capita in 2020 stood at 141,980 dirhams.



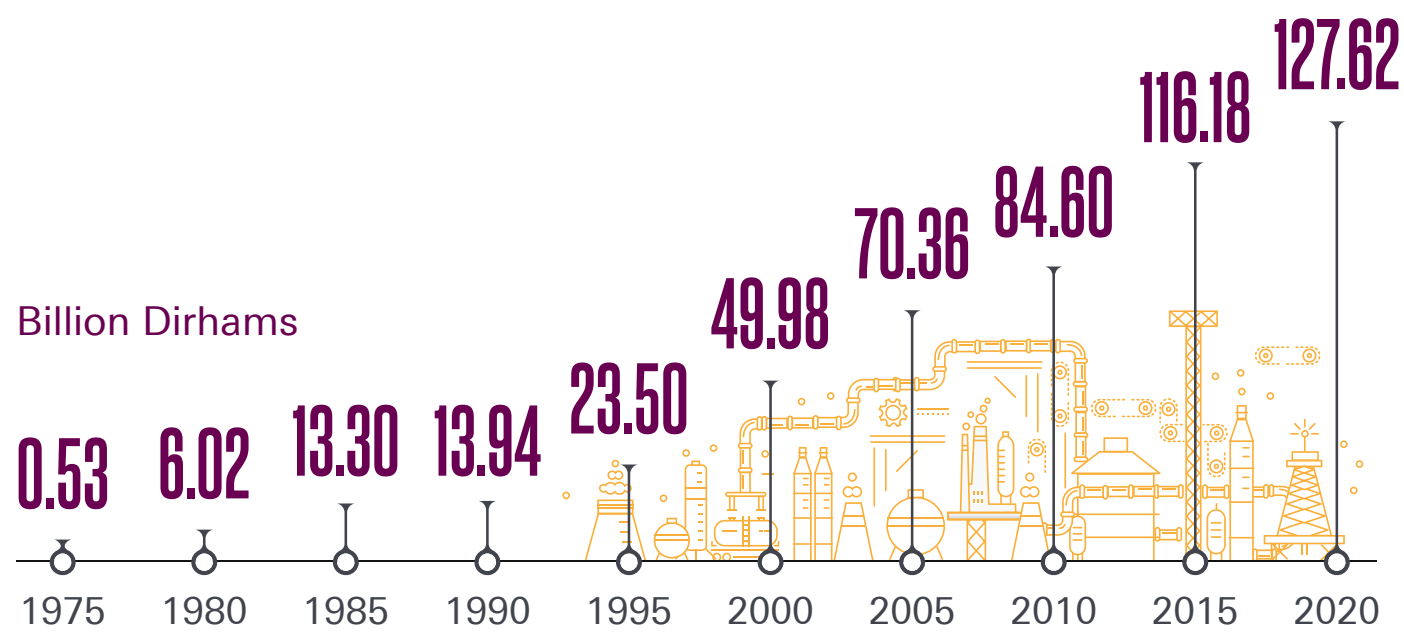
Evolution of key national economic sectors in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Indicators of success in economic diversification are reflected in the significant rise in the non-oil sectors' contribution to GDP, which surged from 43 percent in 1975 to 83 percent in 2020, while the contribution of oil sectors to GDP declined from 57% in 1975 to only 17% in 2020.

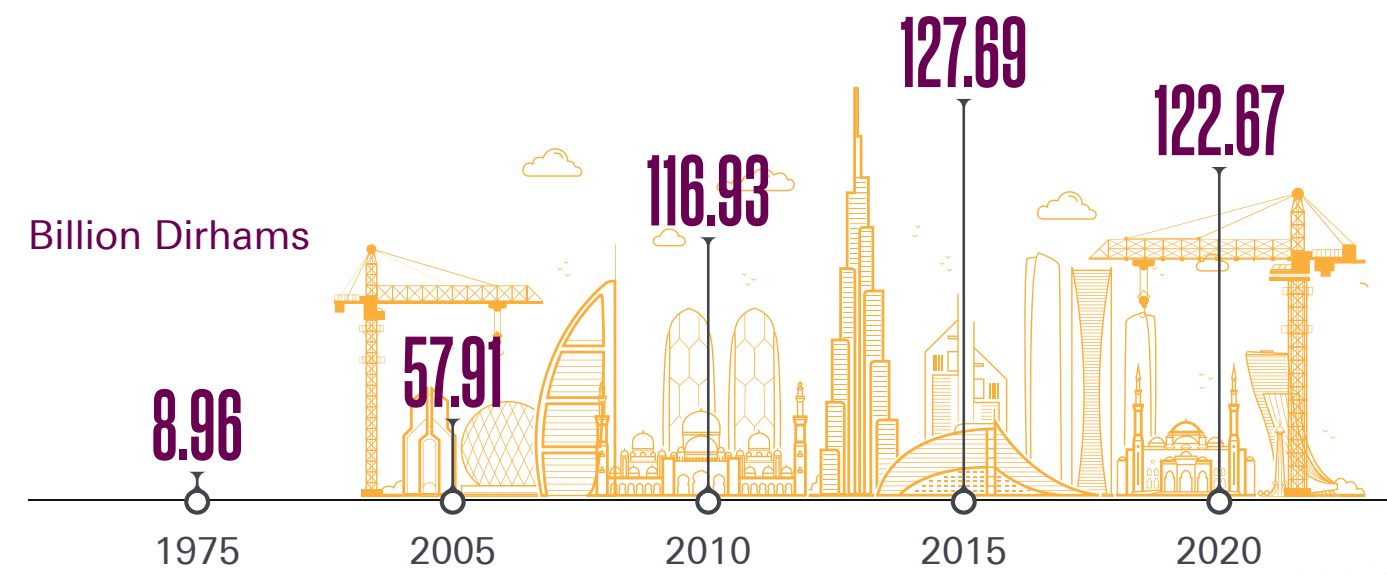
The UAE's economic diversification efforts proved successful attributed to a combination of key factors, including increasing the private sector's contribution to overall development and developing high-value economic sectors.

Key sectors that contributed to the UAE's GDP in terms of economic diversification include the transformational industry sector, construction, insurance, finance, real estate, wholesale and retail, trade, and other sectors.

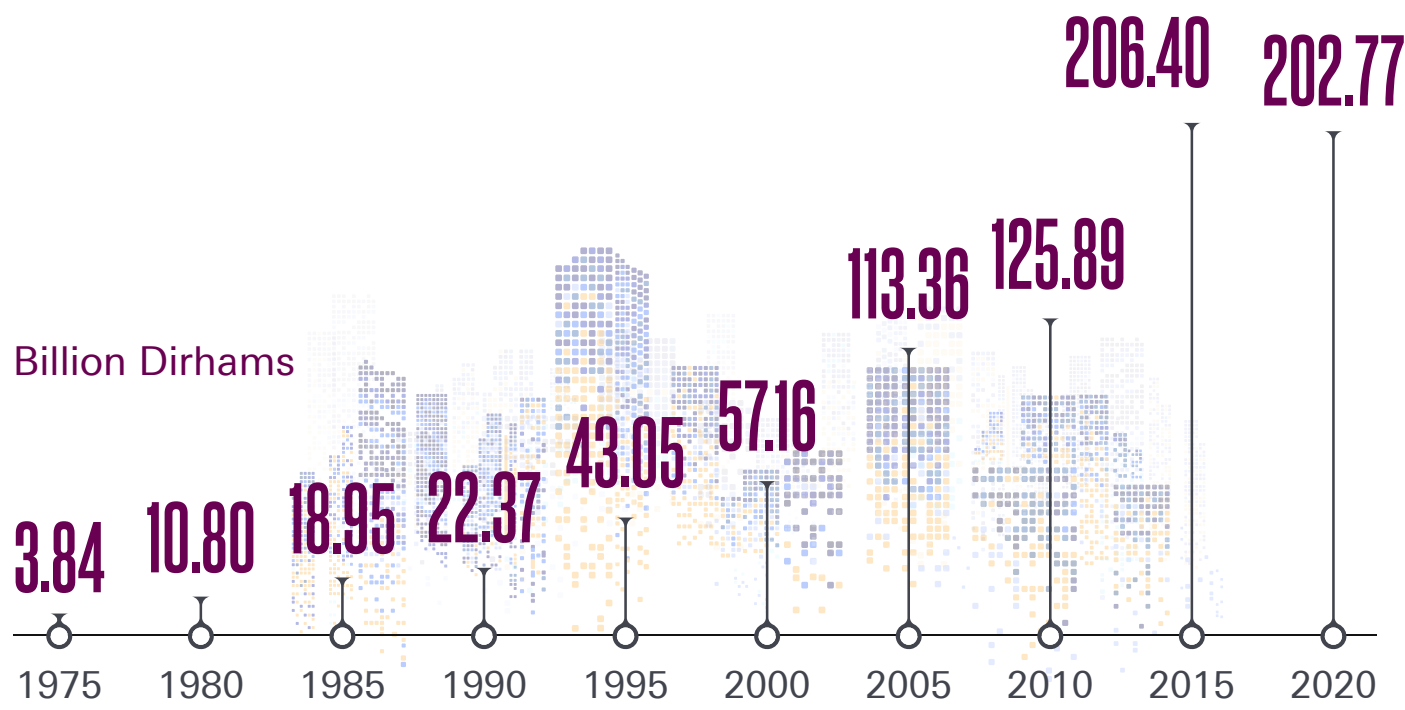
Manufacturing Activities



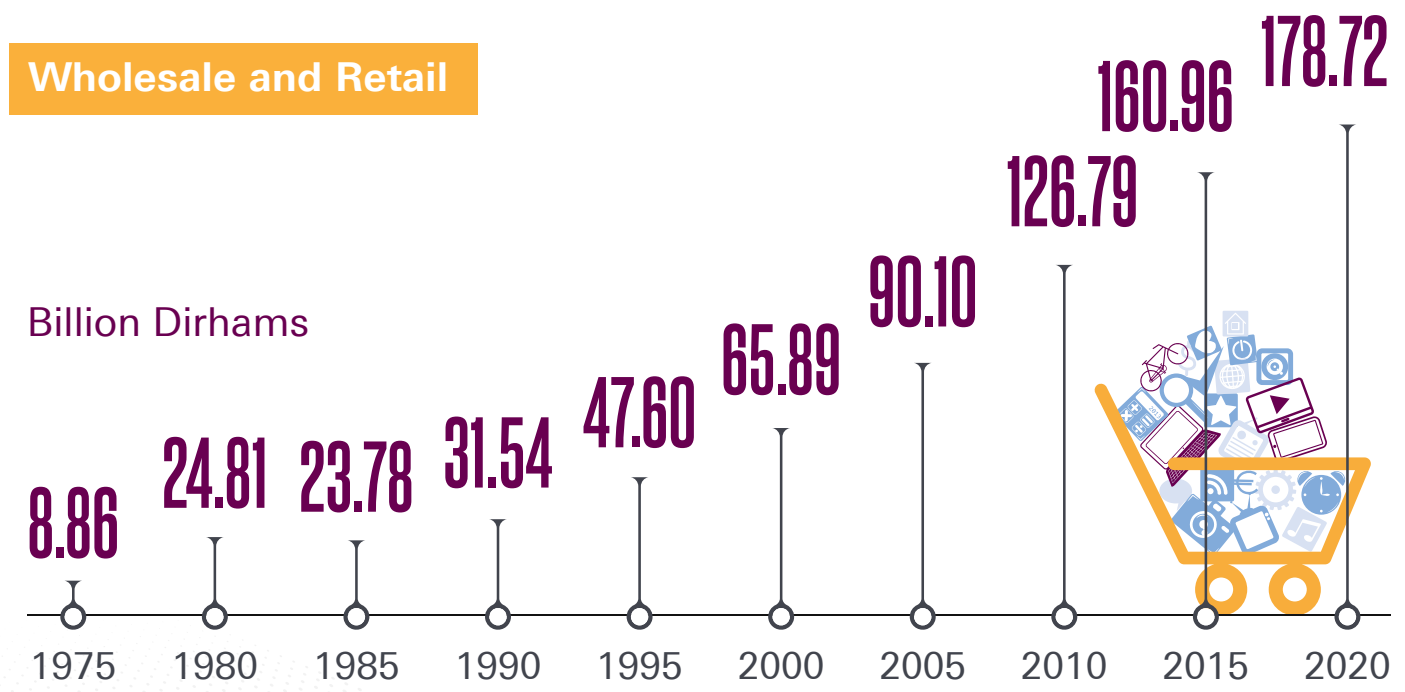
Construction



Insurance, Finance and Real Estate

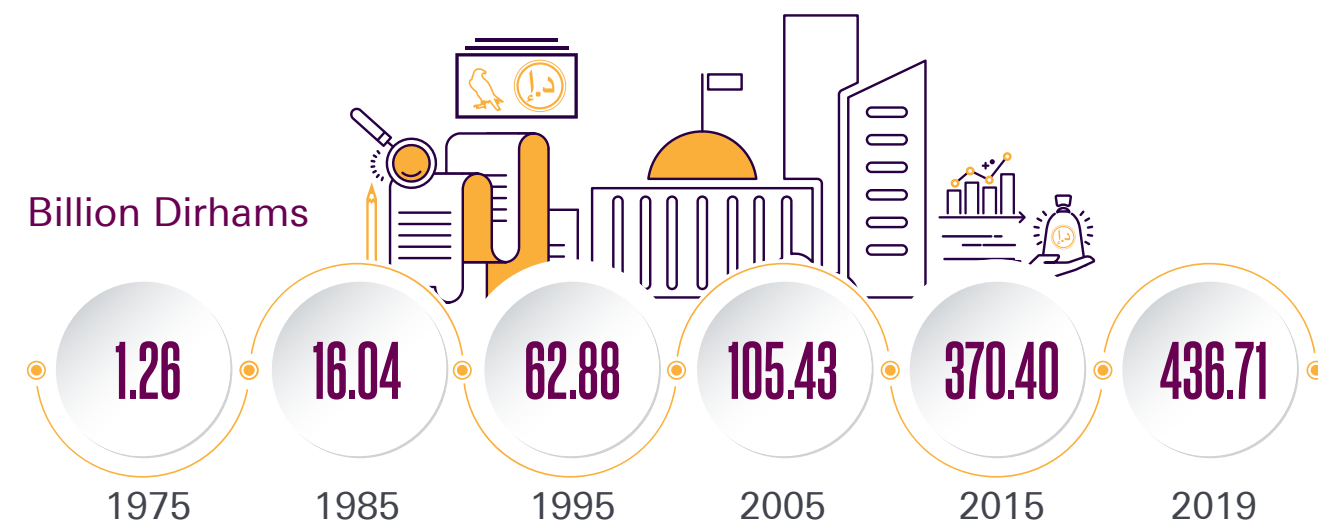


Wholesale and Retail



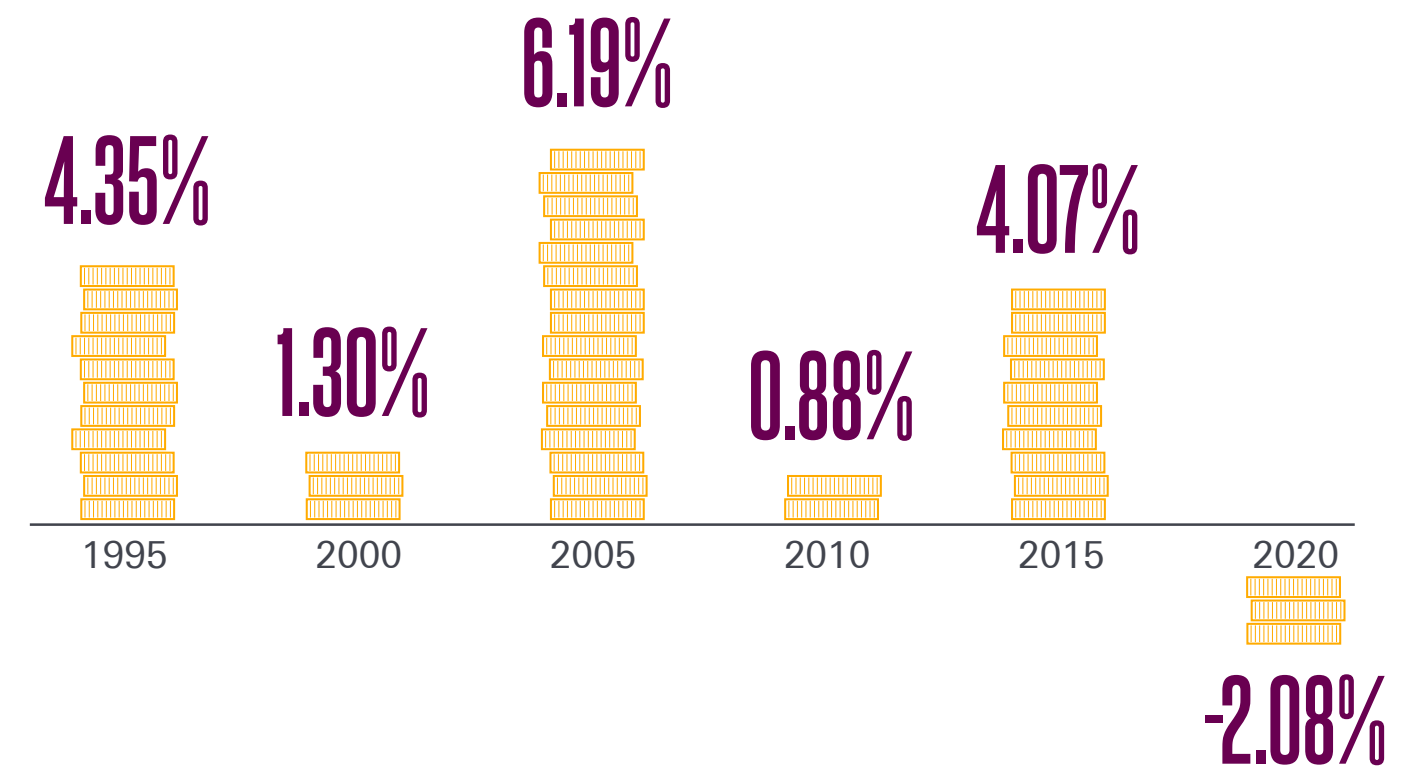
> Government Expenditure

Over the last fifty years, government spending in the United Arab Emirates has been a key pillar in strengthening the national economy, stimulating growth, and increasing economic diversification. This is aligned with the UAE government's integrated approach, which has been adopted since the establishment of the nation.



> Inflation

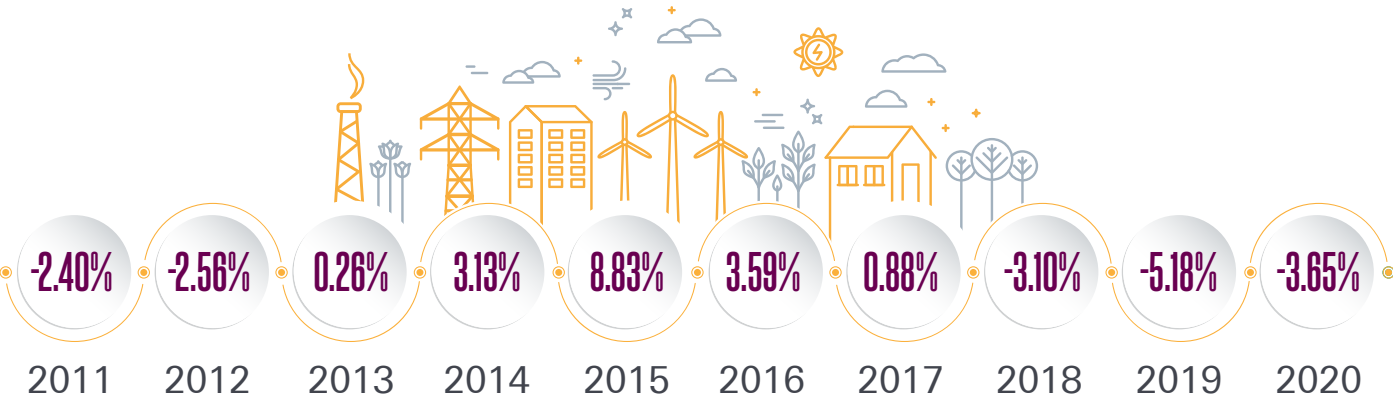
The United Arab Emirates has maintained moderate annual inflation rates over the last five decades, indicating the country's economic stability and the effectiveness of its monetary policy, as well as its ability to contain any domestic or external inflationary pressures, particularly during the global fallout from the pandemic. This resulted in the UAE being ranked as one of the leading countries in the competitive Consumer Price Index (CPI) that measures inflation in the 2020 IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook (WCY) report, published by the International Institute for Management Development.



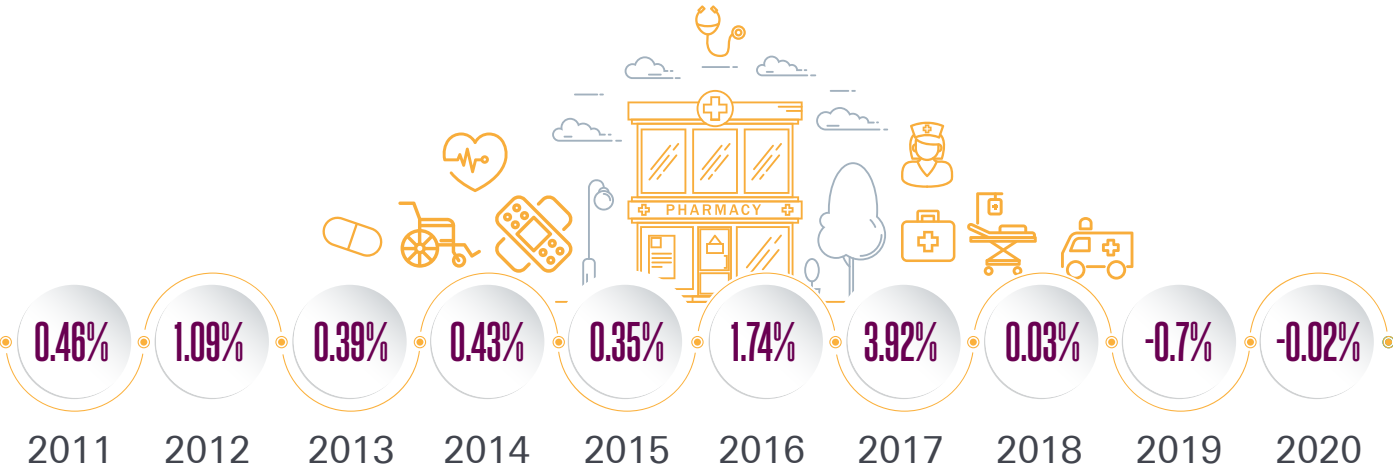
Evolution of Consumer Price Index (CPI) and inflation for miscellaneous commodities 2010-2020

Statistics on the evolution of inflation rates for the five major commodity groups, year-on-year, indicate a stabilization of consumer prices within their normal range during the period from 2010 to 2020.

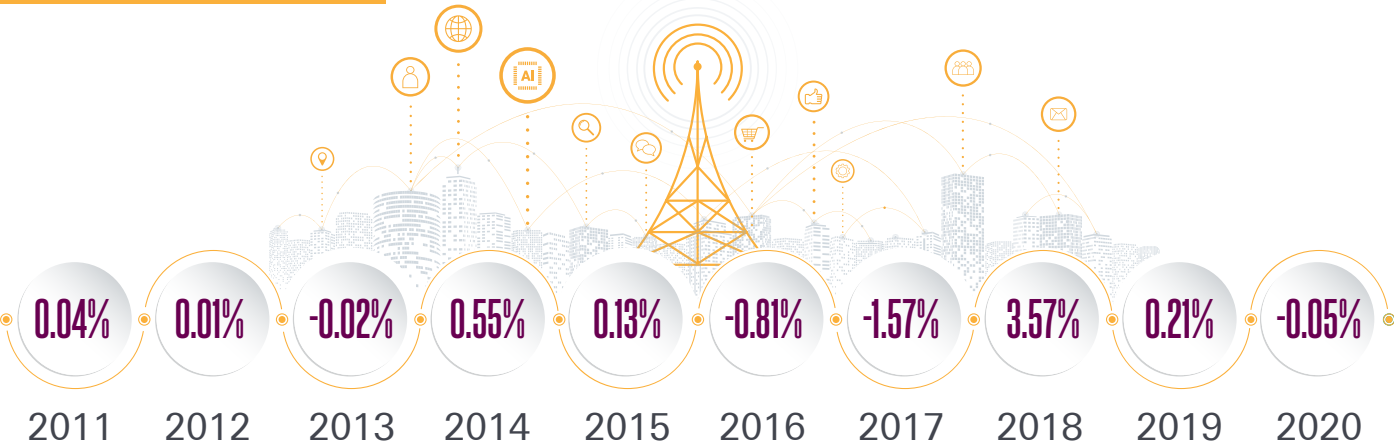
Housing, water, electricity, and gas



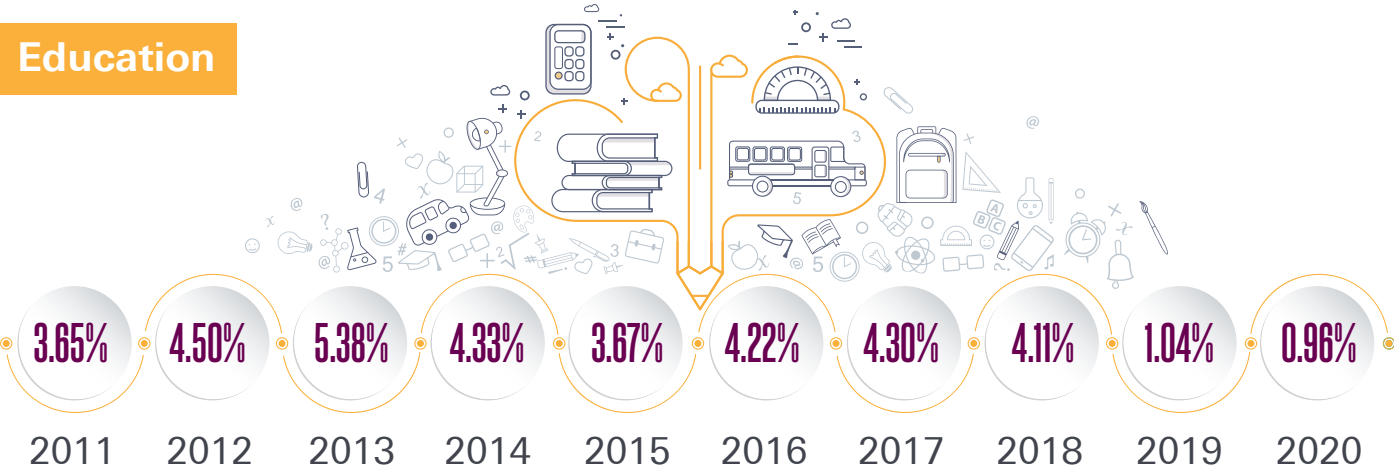
Health Services



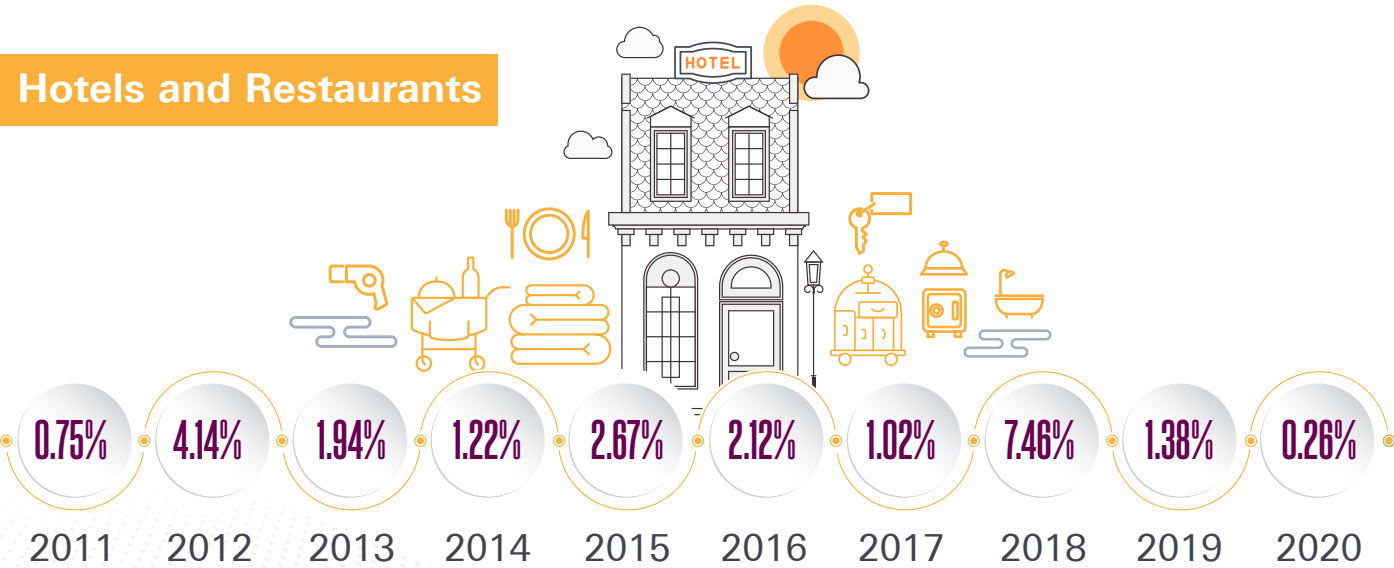
Communications



Education



Hotels and Restaurants



> Banks

The banking sector in the United Arab Emirates is a living testimony to the economic progress and prosperity achieved by the nation in the past 50 years since the formation of the Union. It also reflects the country's rapid development over the decades, positioning it as a trusted and sought-after global trading and business hub.

In the Global Financial Index, published by the Work Bank, the UAE ranks first among the MENA region and is ranked among the top countries globally, for providing various financial services including bankin and insurance. The banking sector played a prominent role in enabling the UAE to achieve and maintain its prestigious status, contributing significantly to the growth of the national economy and GDP, ultimately becoming a key partner in the UAE's economic and financial development.

There was a significant increase in the number of commercial banks in the United Arab Emirates from 20 in 1972 to 49 in 1980, according to the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates. The UAE's banking industry began with the creation of the Union; as the economy grew, the Currency Board was created, which was subsequently replaced by the Central Bank of the UAE. A number of national banks have been established since then, to support the construction boom, economic growth, and prosperity

of the UAE and its rapid transformation into a booming trade and oil hub, which placed the region under the spotlight and attracted the interest of major international banks.

The UAE had 51 banks in 1985, 47 in 1990 and 1995, then 46 in 2000 and 2005. There were 49 banks in the UAE in 2007, 51 banks in 2010, and 57 banks in 2015. In 2020, the UAE banking sector consisted of 58 banks, 21 of which are national banks.

Throughout the years, the national monetary authority endeavored to maintain financial soundness by setting up a specific number of national and foreign banks, in line with the local market capacity. This was accomplished by withholding licenses from any new banks, and by limiting the number of branches of foreign banks to a maximum of eight. Simultaneously, the UAE's banking sector witnessed major mergers and consolidations between several national banks over the past few years. In

March 2007, the National Bank of Dubai (NBD) and Emirates Bank International (EBI) merged their operations to form the Emirates NBD; and the merger of the First Gulf Bank (FGB) and National Bank of Abu Dhabi (NBAD) in 2017, creating First Abu Dhabi Bank, the largest bank in the UAE and one of the largest banks in the region. In 2019, Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (ADCB), Union National Bank (UNB), and Al Hilal Bank merged to create the ADCB Group, followed by the Dubai Islamic Bank's acquisition of Noor Bank in 2020.

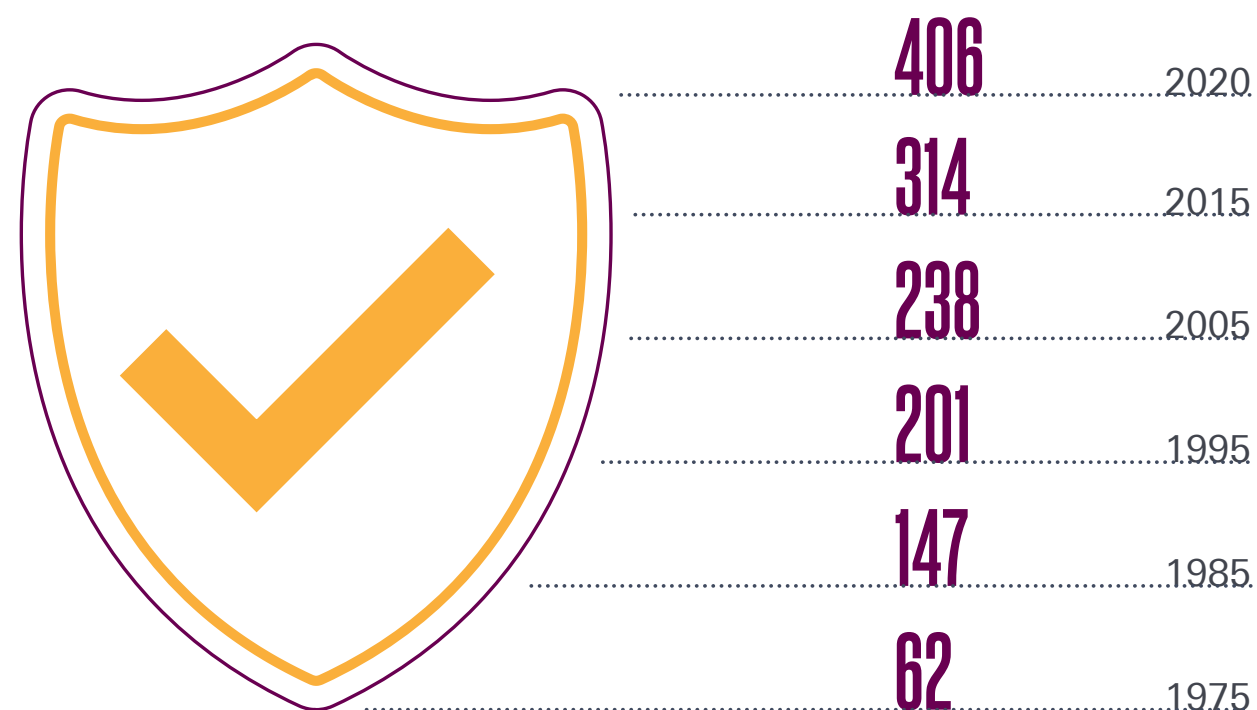
Bank Deposits' Growth



Insurance Companies

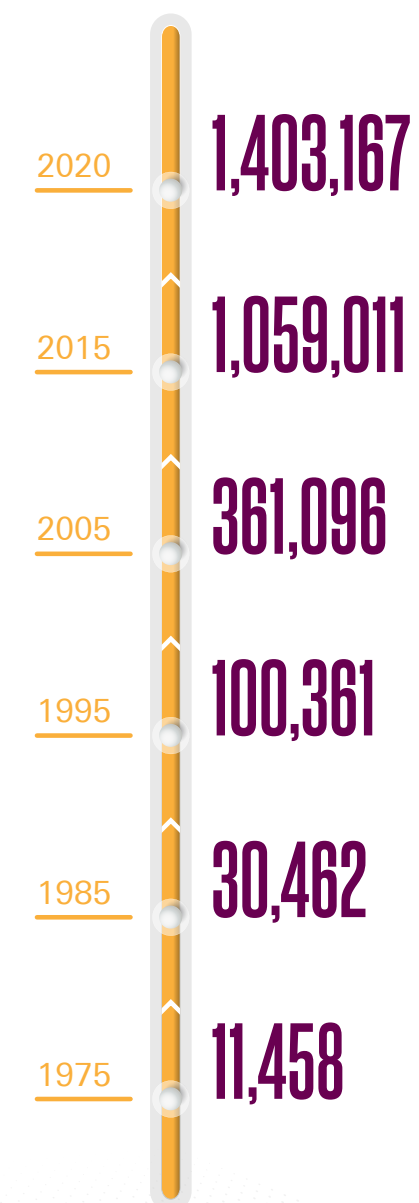
The successful fast-paced economic, urban, and social development in the UAE over the past five decades has had a resounding impact on the insurance sector, which represents one of the key drivers of the Gross Domestic Product.

Entities operating in the insurance sector include national insurance companies, branches of foreign insurance companies, intermediaries, insurance brokers and consultants, detection and damage assessment experts, actuarial experts, and health insurance claims management companies.



Foreign Trade

Total trade value
in million dirhams



Since the establishment of the United Arab Emirates, non-oil foreign trade has been one of the government's strategic priorities resulting in leveraging economic openness and trade liberalization to consolidate the country's position as a global logistics and trade hub on the international trade map.

In over half a century, the UAE managed to achieve a remarkable leap in its non-oil commodities trade, with overall foreign trade rising from 11.45 billion dirhams in 1975, following the establishment of the Union, to 1.40 trillion dirhams in 2020. Leveraging the UAE's strong international relations with world governments, its advanced infrastructure of world-class airports and ports, and its sophisticated logistics and banking systems capable of ideally meeting all trade requirements, the UAE managed to position itself at the forefront of foreign trade, as acknowledged by specialized international organizations, notably the World Trade Organization (WTO).

UAE Ranking in Foreign Trade Indicators



The rankings further strengthens the world-renowned status of the UAE as an international center for trade, finance and services, and its impact on the global trade movement.

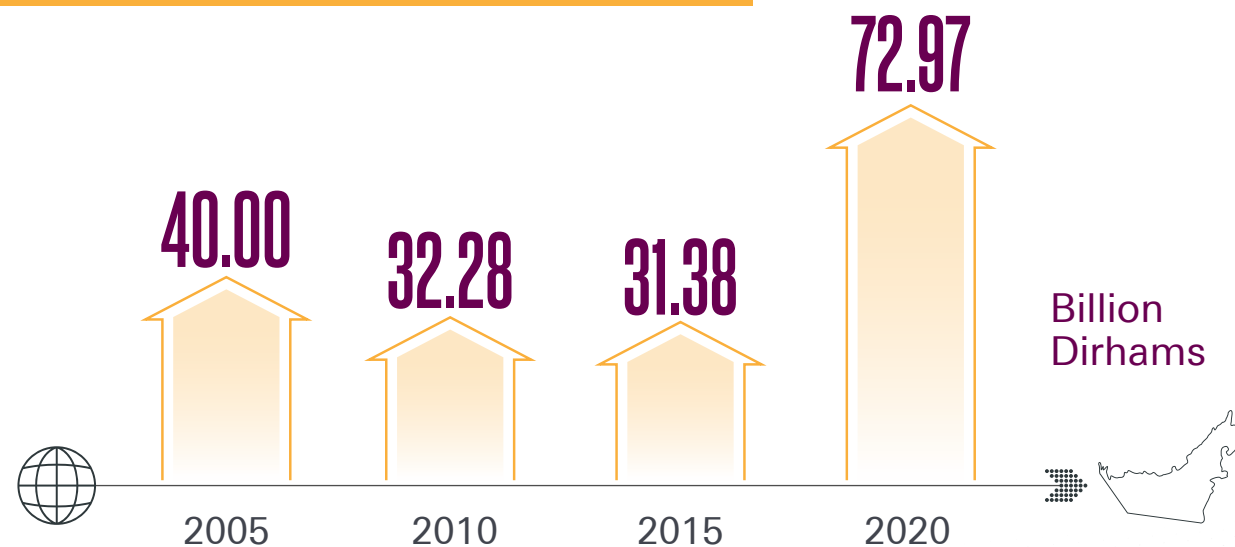
> Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

The UAE managed to achieve a prominent position as the ideal regional and global investment destination, having established a favorable infrastructure and legislative system to provide a flexible, open and attractive investment environment for investors, as well as the necessary capital to various sectors.

Over the past years, the UAE has implemented a set of measures to spark the economy's attractiveness to foreign investment. The significant investment inflows boosted its cumulative balance of foreign direct investments to 554.1 billion dirhams (151 billion USD) in 2020, to become one of the most preferred investment destinations around the world and one of the world's top destinations for foreign direct investment outflows.

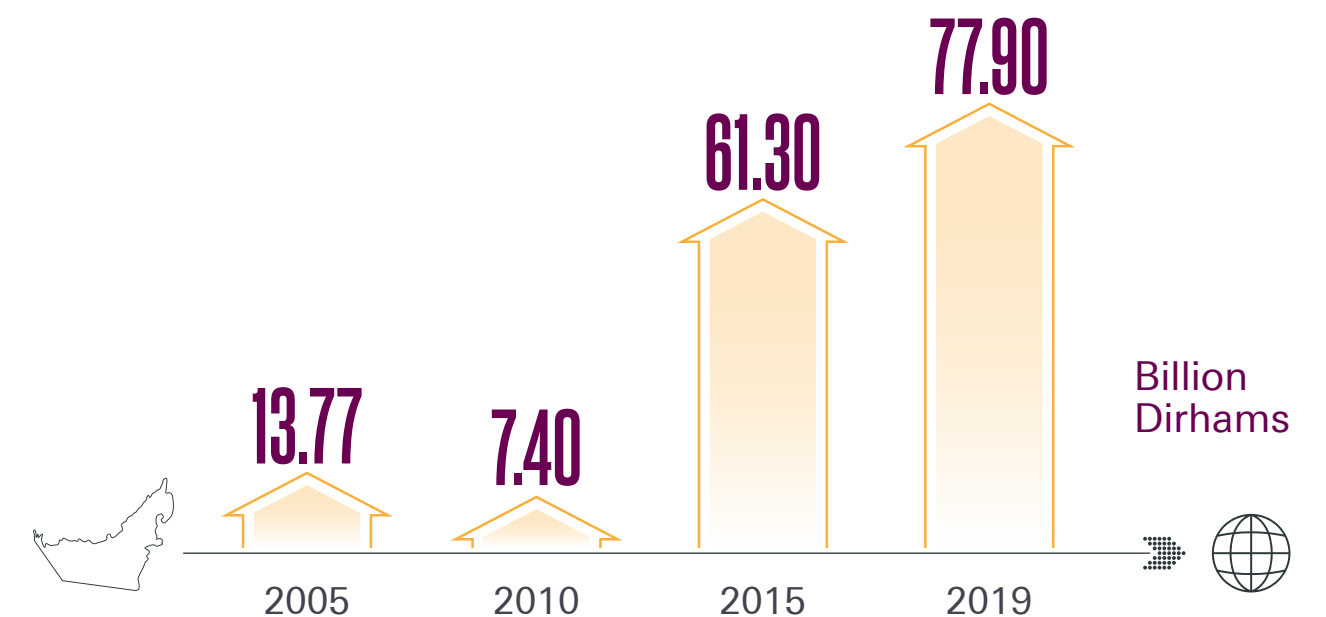
The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) ranked the UAE 15th globally in terms of Foreign Direct Investment (outflows) in 2020. Furthermore, the UAE has achieved the best ranking for investment opportunities in West Asia, Middle East and North Africa.

Foreign Direct Investment (net inflows)



Foreign Direct Investment (net outflows)

According to UNCTAD, the UAE's direct investment abroad has seen a significant increase, which placed the UAE among the top 20 countries globally for outward direct investment in 2019.



> Communications

The UAE's remarkable modernization is reflected in its outstanding infrastructure, especially when it comes to communications. The communications sector sparked as early as the 1960's, and soon witnessed successive developments upon the formation of the UAE in 1971. In 2020, this vital and important sector serves as an active component of the UAE's progress over the past five decades, as it further strengthens the UAE's global competitiveness among future readiness and preparedness, and digital innovation.

Evolution of fixed lines subscriptions

The Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA) reported that the number of fixed line subscriptions in the UAE grew from 26,200 (1975) to 120,600 (1980).

The surge in numbers, and the new era for telecommunications in the UAE, can be tied to the establishment of the Emirates Telecommunication Group Company (Etisalat) that initiated on 30 August 1976.

Since the establishment of Etisalat, numbers continued to grow from 217,100 (1985), to 396,400 (1990), and 672,300 (1995).

At the start of the 21st century, fixed line subscribers stood at 1.2 million. Numbers soon grew to 1,236,900 (2005), and to 1.461 million subscribers in 2010. Fixed line subscriptions surged in 2015, accounting for 2,258,646 subscribers, and continued its growth in the following years with 2,345,578 (2019) and 2,380,860 (2020) subscribers.

2,380,860

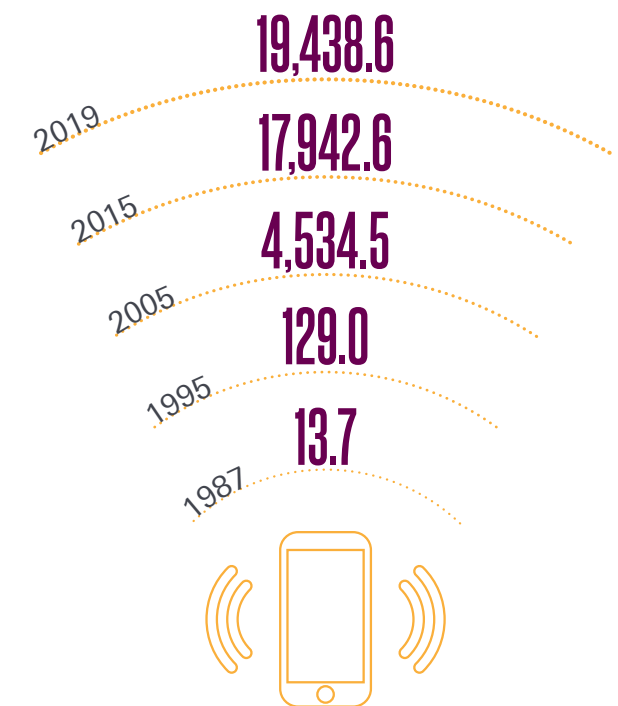
2020

26,200

1975

Mobile Phone Subscriptions 1987-2019

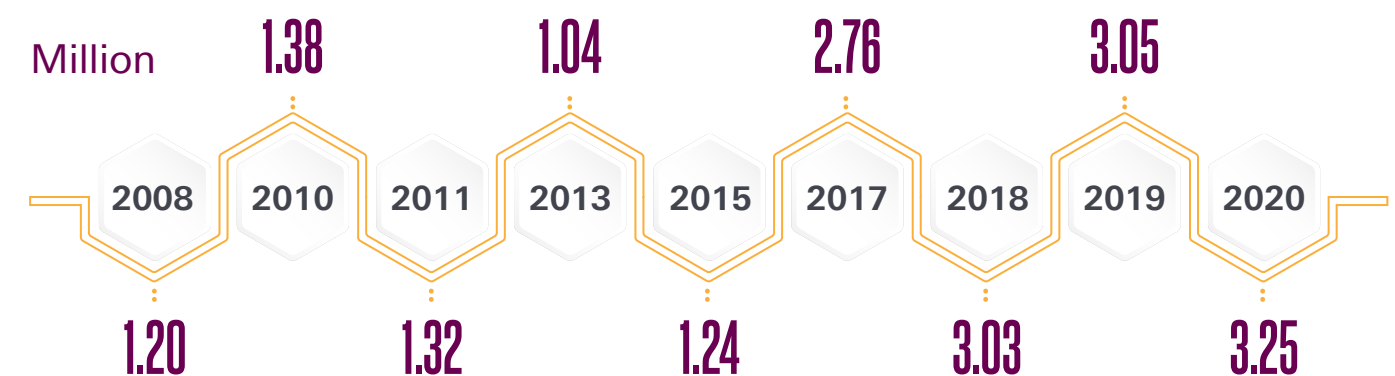
Mobile phone subscriptions grew from 13,700 in 1987, to 19,438,562 in 2019.



In thousands

Internet Subscriptions

Internet subscriptions in the UAE grew from 1,202,000 in 2008, to 3,245,000 in 2020.

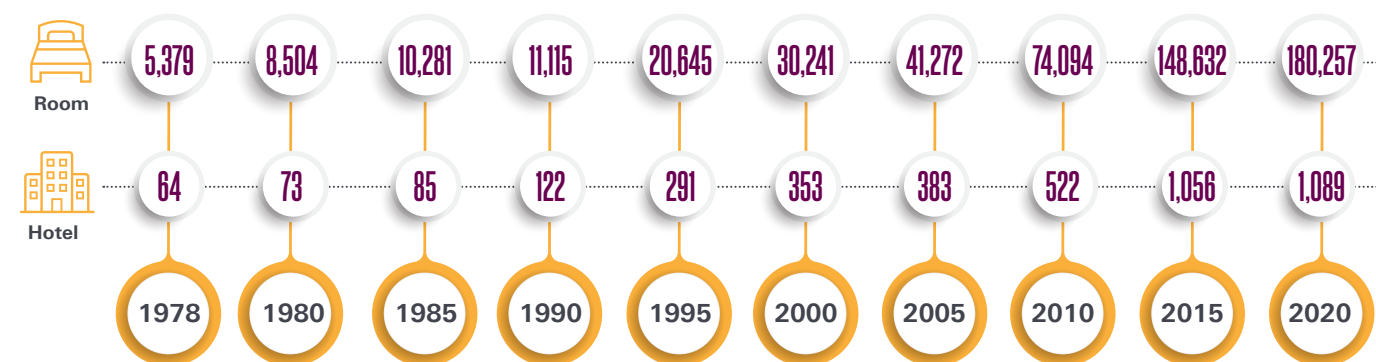


Hotel Establishments

Since UAE's formation, the Emirati leadership had a clear vision to diversify its economy and sources of income. As a result, the UAE directed its efforts to promote tourism through establishing high quality infrastructure inclusive of top quality airports and hotel facilities. In addition, the UAE has invested in building tourist facilities, commercial centers, recreational adventures and more, to boost the domestic and international tourism. Consequently, it further positions the UAE as one of the most popular tourist destinations with more than 27,000,000 (27 million) tourists annually.

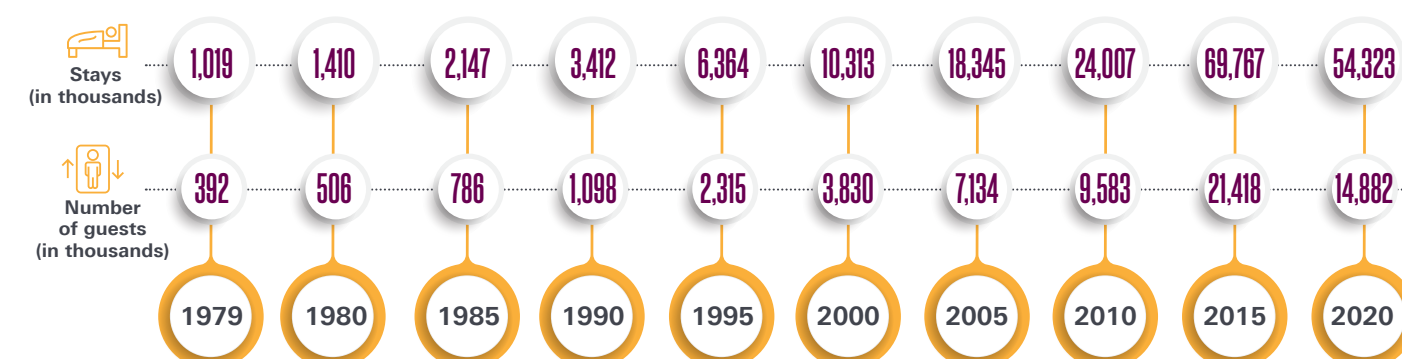
The hotel establishments and premium services are an important component of the UAE's tourism industry, which contributes to attract domestic and foreign tourists. This prompted the UAE to expand investments to better accommodate the significant annual increase in tourism demand, based on the needs of each emirate.

Data provided by the Federal Competitiveness & Statistics Centre (FCSC) indicate an evolution in the operational capacity of hotel establishments from 1978-2020. A steady increase in the number of hotel establishments in the UAE grew from 64 establishments with a capacity of 5,379 rooms in 1978, to 1,089 facilities with a capacity of 180,257 rooms and apartments in 2020.



Evolution of Operational Capacity of Hotel Establishments

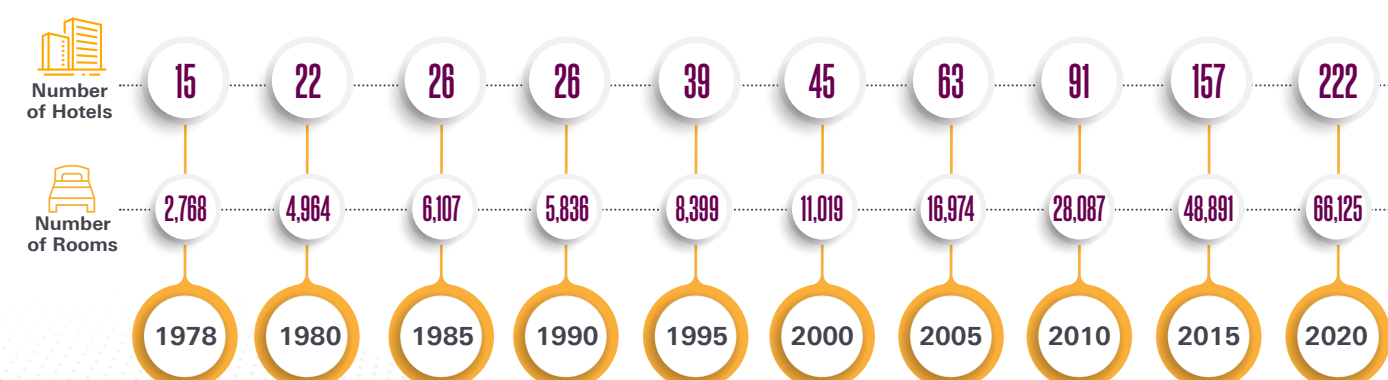
Operational capacity of hotel establishments in the UAE, which includes the number of guests and the number of overnight stays, has continuously increased from 1979-2020, whereas the number of guests and overnight stays surged from 392,000 guests and 1.019 million overnight stays in 1979, to 14,882,258 guests, bringing the number of overnight stays to 54,322,945 in 2020.



In 2020, tourism was one of the sectors most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, globally.

Evolution of Operational Capacity of Hotel Establishments – Five-Star Hotels

Data also indicated a significant development in five-star hotels capacity (including the number of hotels and rooms), during 1978-2020, whereas the number of five-star hotels rose from 15 hotels with a capacity of 2,768 rooms in 1978, to 222 hotels with a capacity of 66,125 rooms in 2020.





Raising the level of the citizen and the state as a whole is our chief priority and comes above all else. The state, just like a tree, needs the care and attention of its citizens to ensure its development; and every citizen has to respect his homeland.

His Highness late Sheikh
Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan

“God bless his soul”



Population, Health and Community

- Population
- Births
- Marriage
- Health Sector
- Education
- Private Sector Employees
- Workforce
- Evolution of Diplomatic Representation
- Cultural Activities

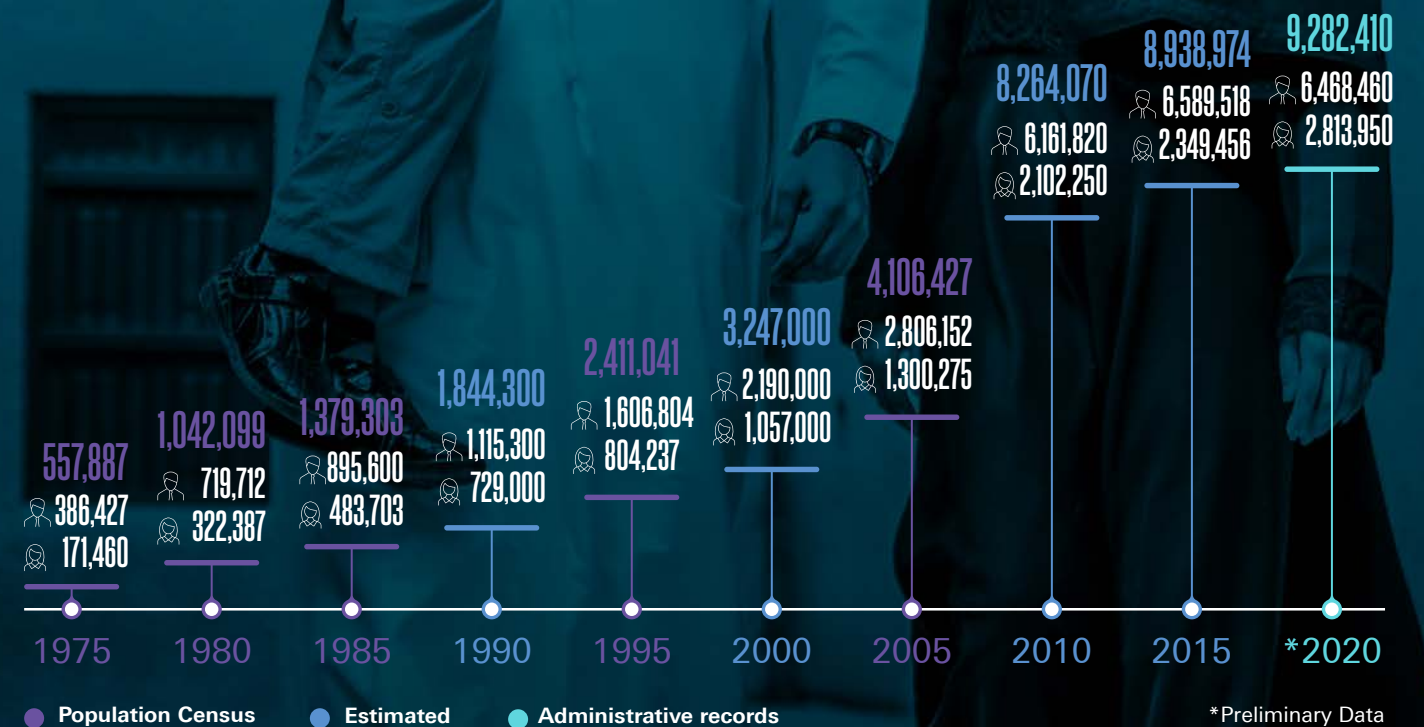
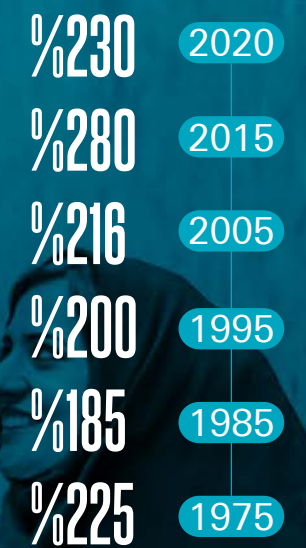
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Population

Since its formation and over the last five decades, the UAE has witnessed a significant population growth, from 557,887 in 1975 to 9,282,410 in 2020.

Statistics show that the UAE's 2020 population stood at 6,468,460 males and 2,813,950 females, resulting in a gender divide of 69.7% males and 30.3% females.

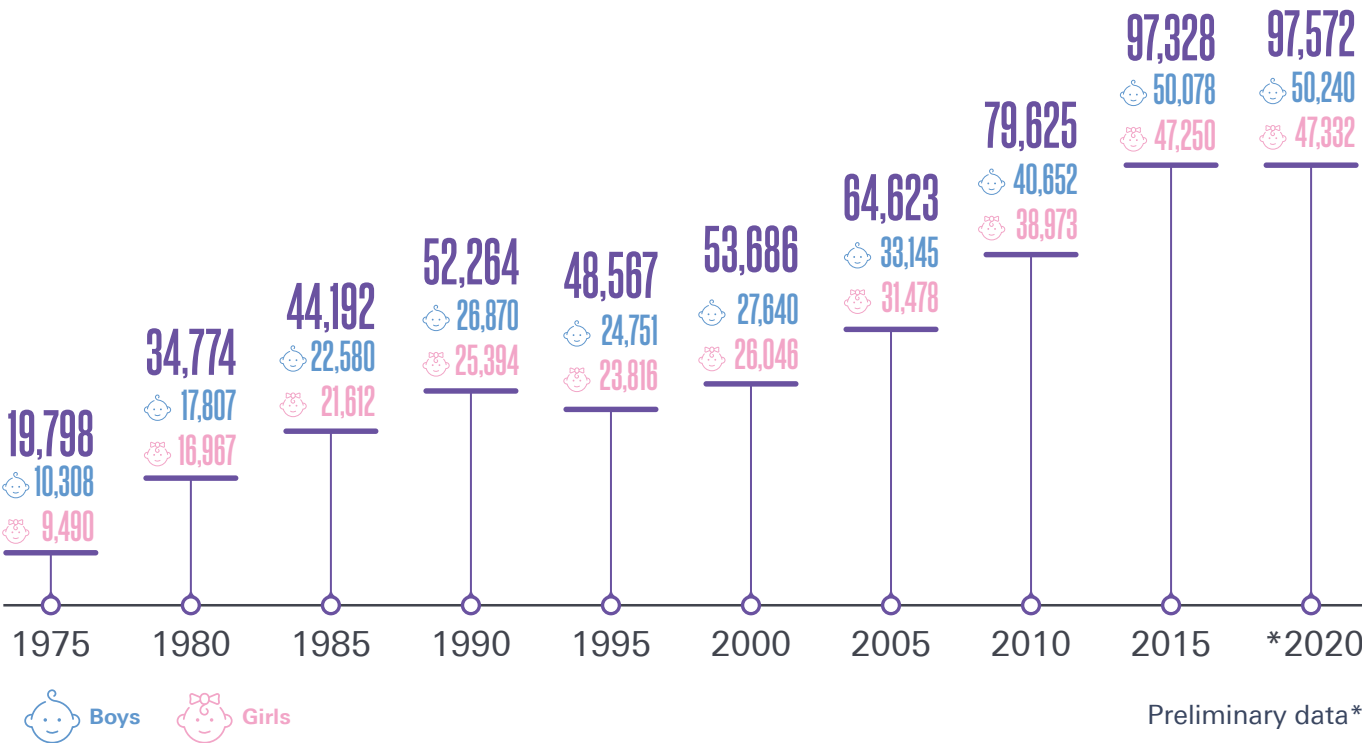
Over the past 10 years, from 2010 to 2020, the average annual population growth in the United Arab Emirates was approximately 1.2%.



Births

Births statistics, mortality, and migration rates are the key drivers that directly affect population growth and demographic transition in society. They also provide decision and policy makers with the necessary data and information to set forth appropriate and relevant plans for all segments of society and establish development plans in several sectors, such as education, health, labor, and other life-related areas.

Data from the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre (FCSC) has revealed that the UAE’s population has grown significantly from 1975 to 2020. In 2020, the population number stood at 9,282,410, including 97,572 newborns, compared to 19,798 newborns in 1975. The difference in newborns has seen an increase of 392.8% since 1975 to 2020.



Marriage

Since the inception of the UAE, marital contracts has seen year on year growth. In 1980, a total number of 3,098 marital contracts has been recorded compared to 8,970 marital contracts in 2000 (annual growth rate of 5.5%). In 2020, the UAE has recorded 17,653 marital contracts, achieving a growth rate of 1.6% over the last decade.



Healthcare Sector

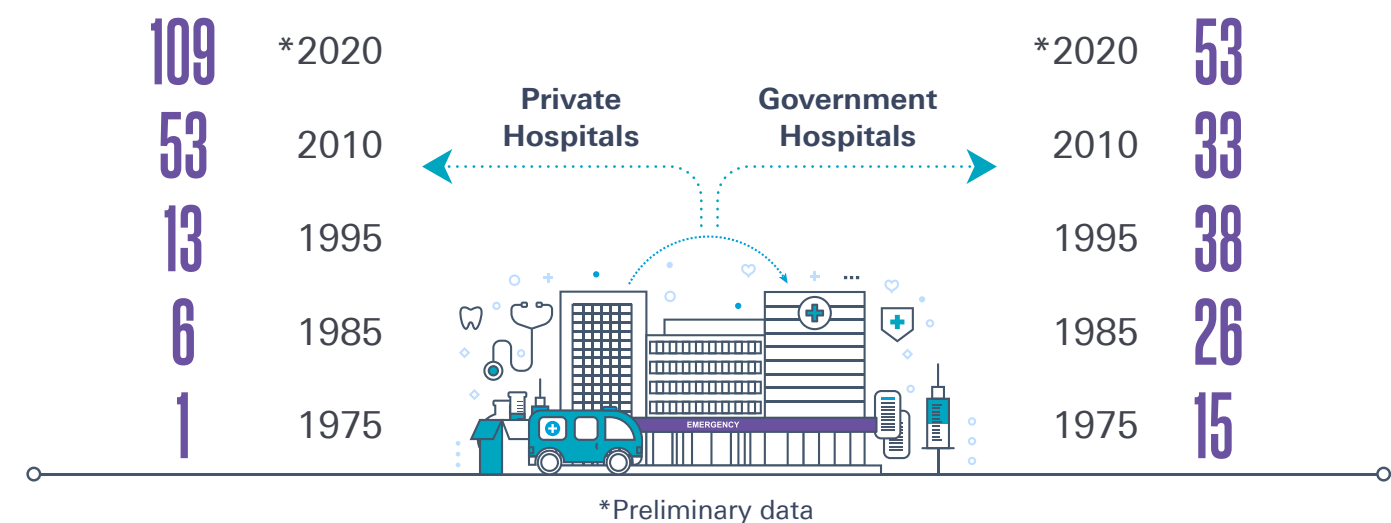
Over the past 50 years, the UAE has witnessed significant development in the healthcare industry, rapidly becoming an important and dynamic contributor to the country's economy. The development went hand-in-hand with the pace of progress and prosperity achieved by the country across all sectors, in the journey towards achieving the UAE Vision 2021 (to be amongst the best countries globally).

Efforts to develop a world-class healthcare system for citizens and residents, has always been a key priority for the Government of the UAE. As such, the UAE endeavored to build an impressive health infrastructure consisting of government hospitals, health centers, clinics, and specialized hospitals to meet both the evolving healthcare needs of the population and the nation's growth. It also encouraged the private sector to establish new services and hospitals to meet the rising healthcare demands, therefore doubling the number of healthcare facilities and increasing the health sector's capacity, while attracting and strengthening the medical, technical, and nursing skills to deliver the required health services. The UAE has established medical and nursing colleges to support the healthcare system and workforce. The country's endeavors to build and integrated healthcare system, delivered in providing world class health services to all its citizens, residents, and medical tourists.

The UAE further focused its efforts on expanding the healthcare industry to include latest technologies and advancements, as recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and other relevant international authorities. The UAE has achieved multiple best ranking positions in several global health indexes, and currently ranks first globally in terms of number of accredited health facilities. In addition, the UAE has multiple specialist care facilities to reduce the requirements for patients to seek treatment abroad and positioned the country as one of the best medical tourism destinations in the world.

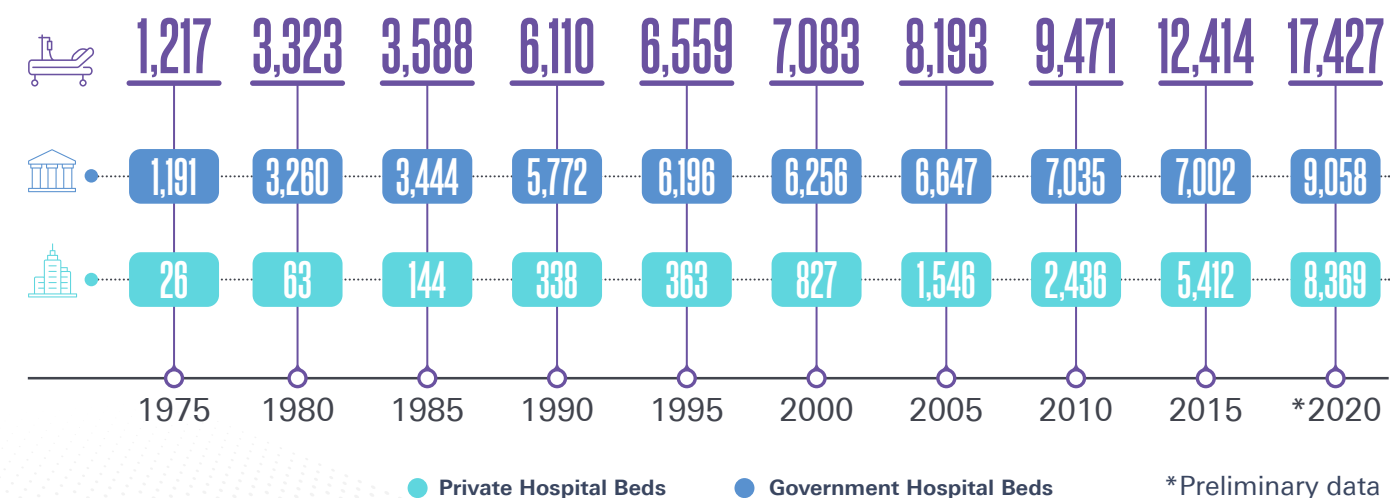
Number of Hospitals

Back in 1975, there were 16 hospitals in the UAE, of which 15 government hospitals and 1 private hospital. The number grew to 162 in 2020, with 53 government and 109 private hospitals.



Number of Hospital Beds

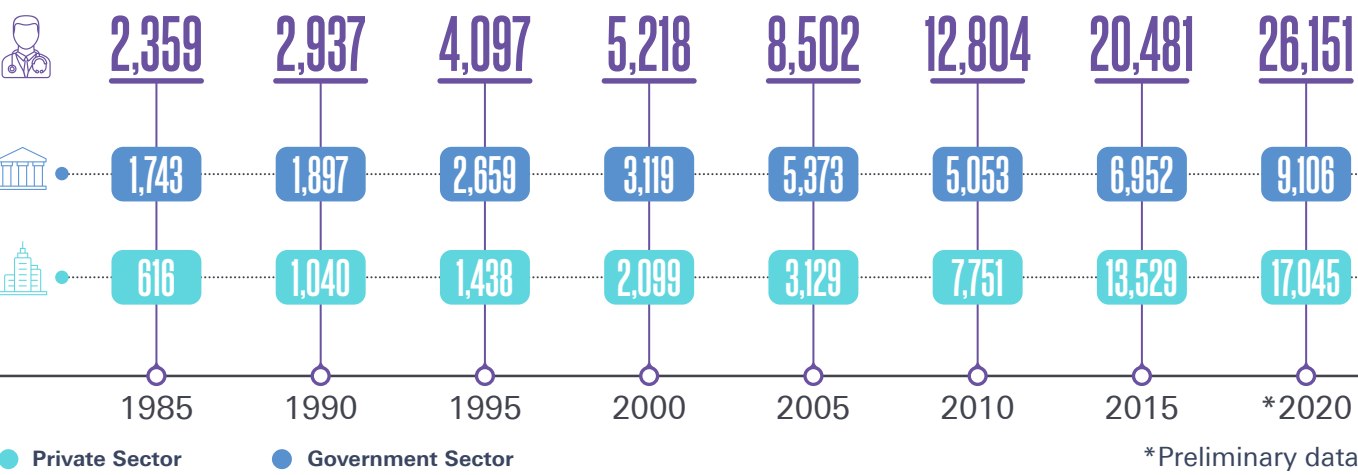
Over the last few years, the construction of additional government and private medical facilities has resulted in a significant increase in the number of beds available, which increased from 1,217 in 1975 to 17,427 beds in 2020.



Medical Personnel (careers)

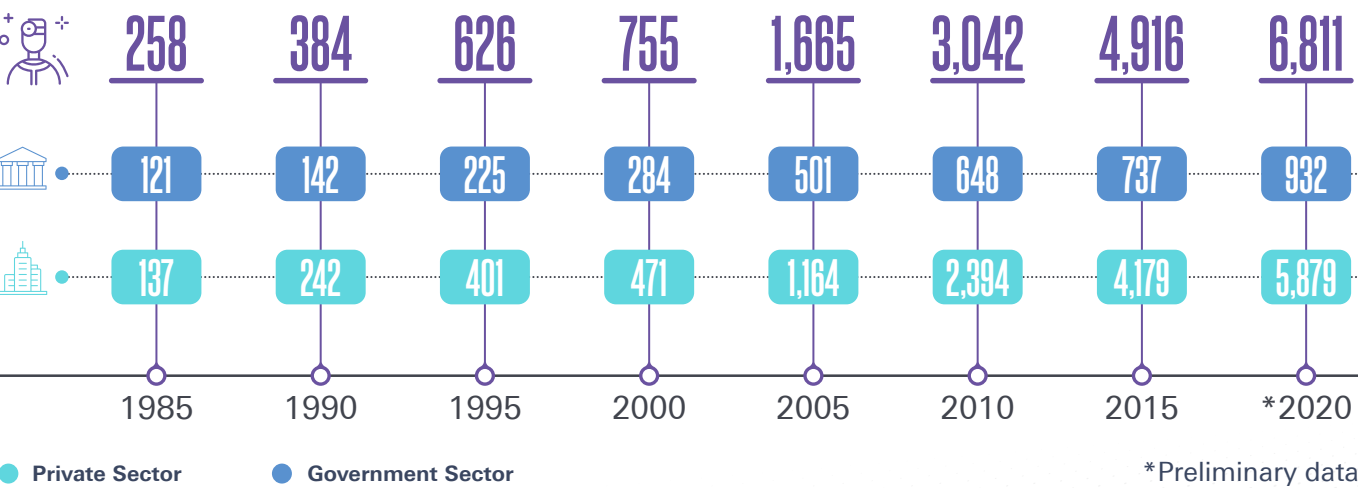
Number of Physicians

Statistics show a significant increase in the number of healthcare personnel in the United Arab Emirates. In 1985, there were 2,359 physicians in the public and private sectors (1,743 in the government sector and 616 in the private sector); the number surged to 26,106 physicians in both sectors in 2020.



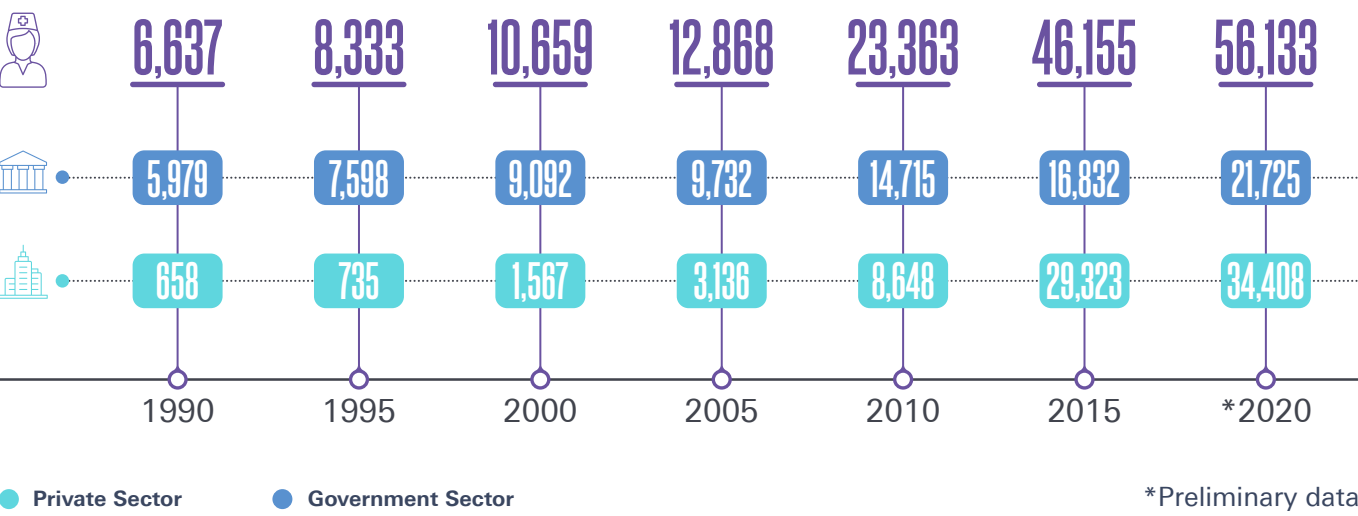
Number of Dentists

Driven by remarkable progress in the health sector, the number of dentists in government and private hospitals increased from 258 in 1985 to 6,811 in 2020.



Number of Nurses

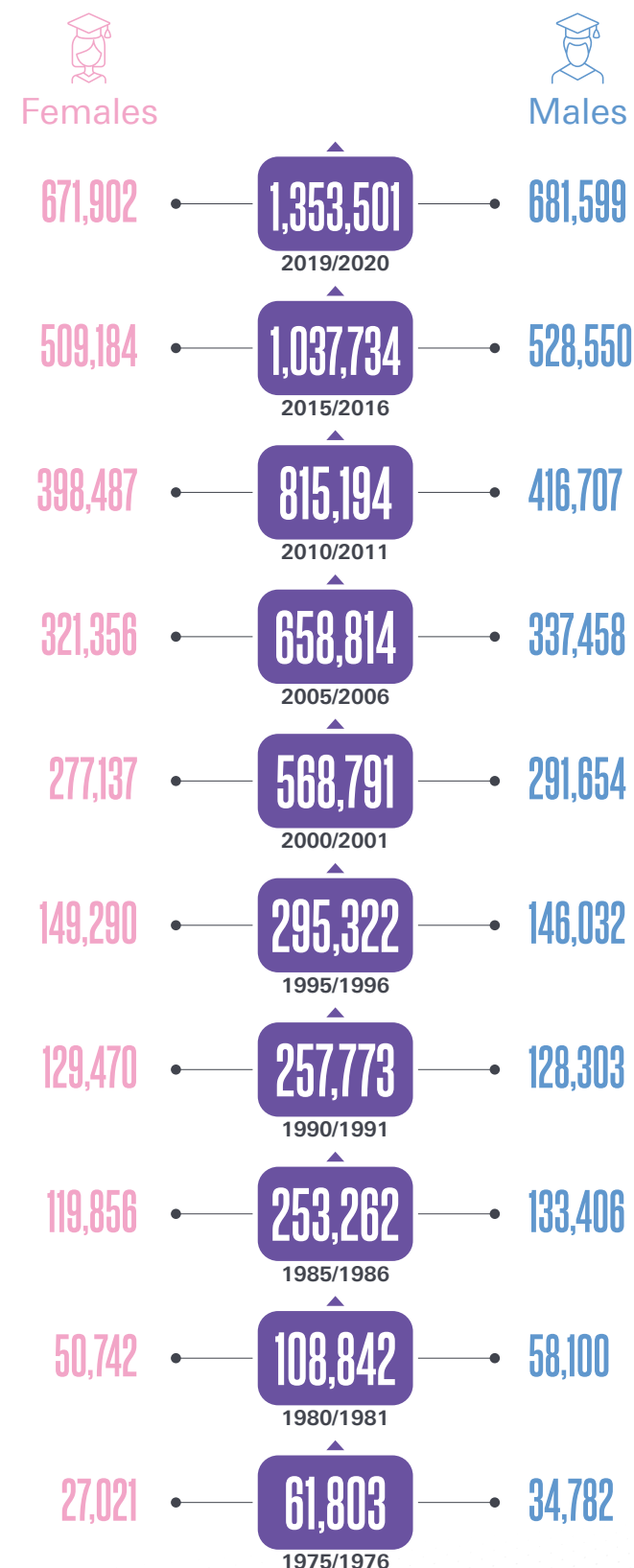
Similarly, the nursing sector witnessed a significant growth, with an increase in the number of personnel enrolled in government and private hospitals. In 1990, there were 5,979 nurses in the government sector and 658 nurses in the private sector; by 2020, following the opening of several government hospitals, the number increased to 21,725 nurses, with the number of private sector nurses rising to 34,408.



General Education

Since the establishment of the UAE, education has been a key priority and one of the fastest growing sectors in the region. Efforts and resources have been devoted to improving the education system on both a qualitative and quantitative level across all levels. UAE leaders set out to build public schools, equip them with sophisticated equipment and tools, and hire talented teachers, as well as send academic missions abroad. Furthermore, it created the first Ministry of Education, tasked with overseeing the various stages of the education system and achieving education efficiency. The UAE has continuously aspired to advance quality education at a national level as a driving force for development, earning the country a position among the Top 20 in global competitiveness of the education sector.

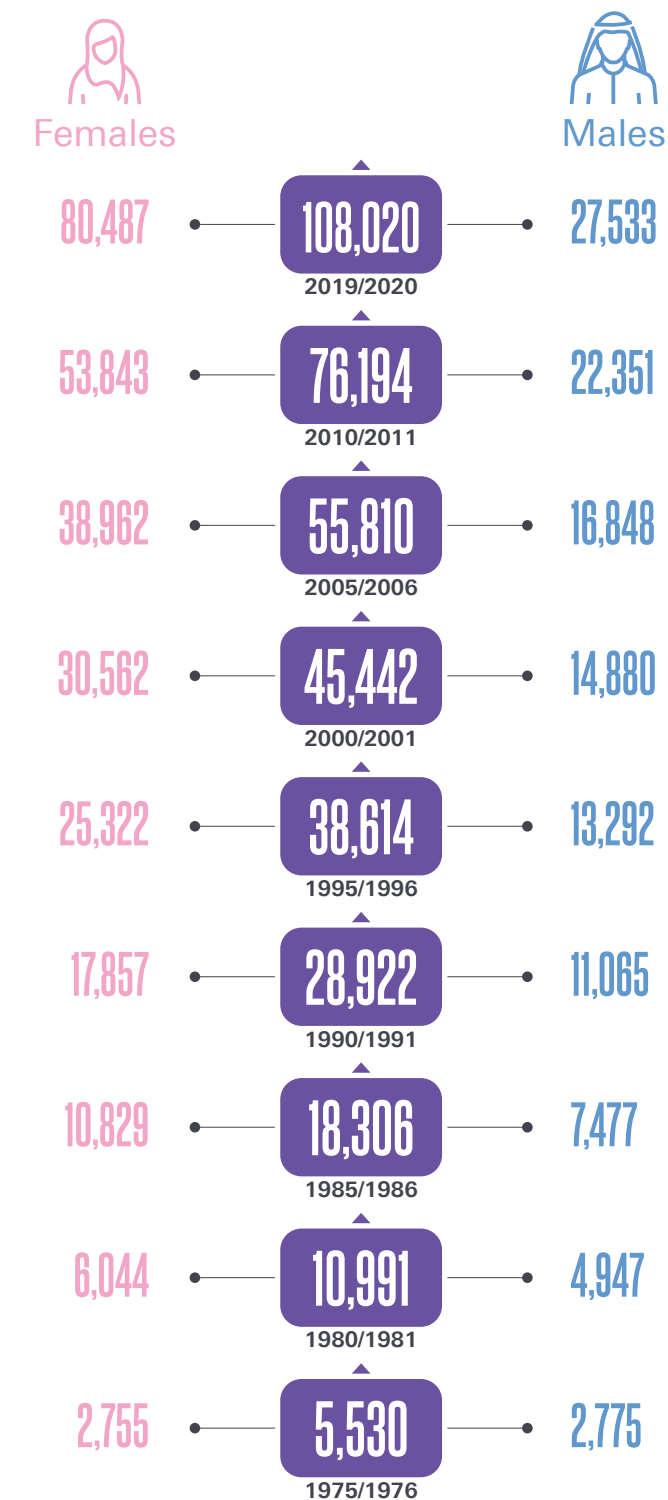
According to statistics, the number of school students increased significantly between 1975 and 2020. It marked a record increase from 61,803 students in the 1975-1976 academic year to 1,353,501 students in the 2019-2020 academic year.



Increase in the Number of General Education Teachers

Education has always been the focus of the leadership of the UAE, which is why the government spared no effort or resources to improve quality of education and the competencies of teaching. It equipped educational facilities with top talents and educational competencies to meet the needs of the growing number of students.

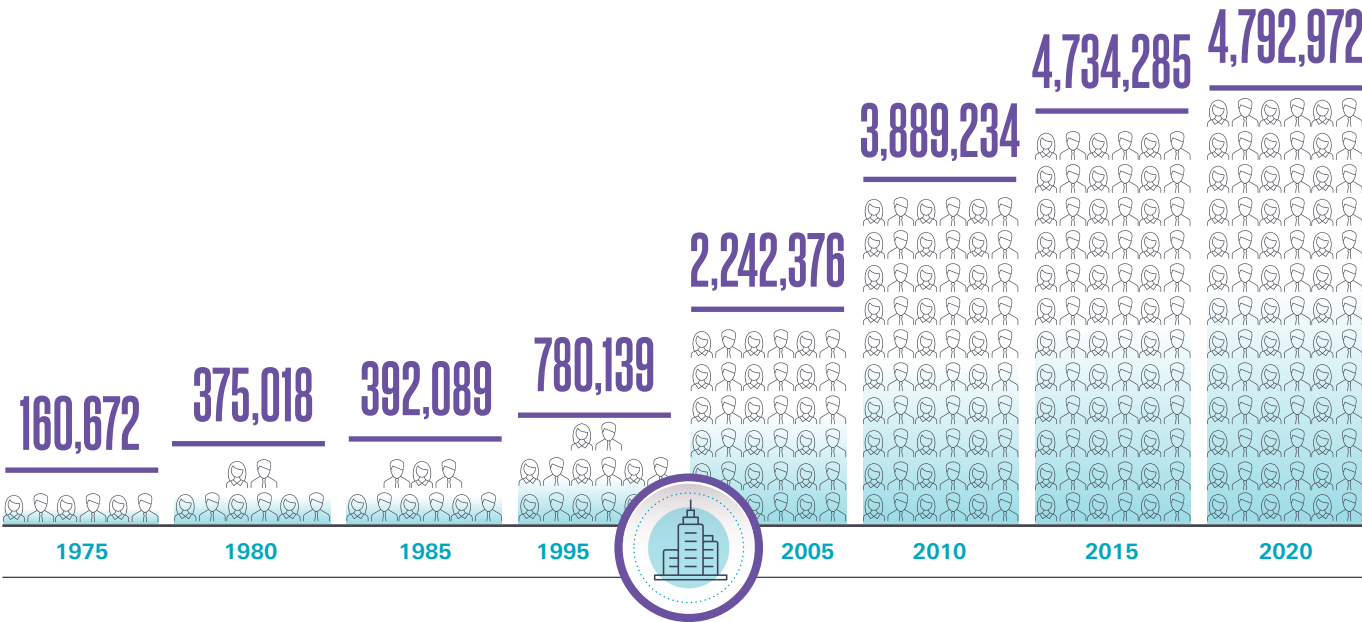
In the 1975-1976 academic year, there were 5,530 teachers, of which 2,775 were males and 2,755 were females. For the 2019-2020 academic year, the number of teachers surged to 108,020 (27,533 men and 80,487 women).



Private Sector Employees

It is evident from the significant number of employees in the private sector compiled for the period 1975-2020 that the sector has played an important role in the economic and social development of the UAE since the establishment of the Union. Furthermore, it is a testament to the significant efforts made by the wise leadership of the UAE to boost this industry.

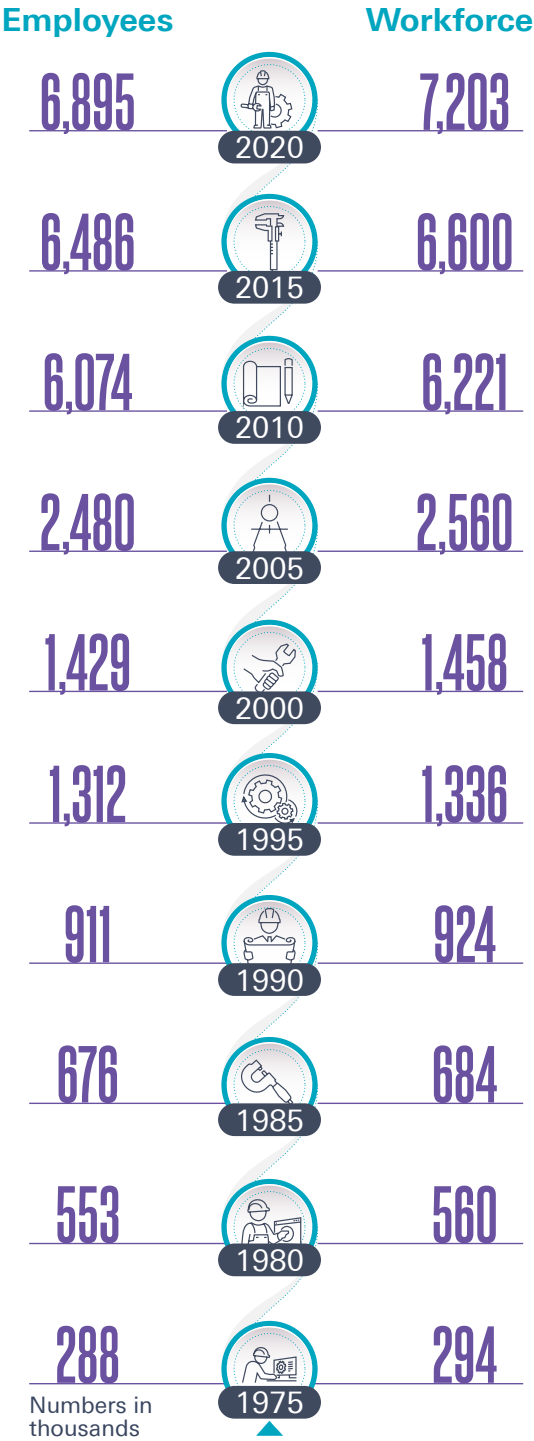
According to the data, the number of UAE private sector workers grew from 160,672 to 4,792,972 in 2020.



Workforce

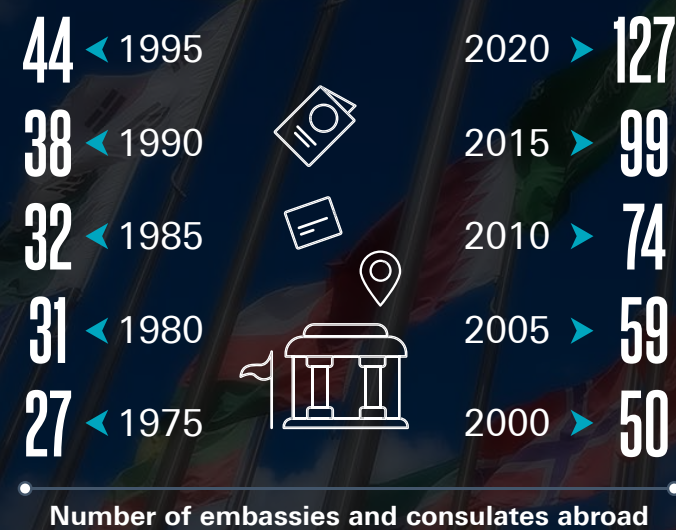
The UAE's labor force or workforce has coevolved with the country's rapid development and prosperity over the first five decades since its establishment. The UAE has maintained an ideal balance between the workforce and the number of employed persons.

According to statistics, the workforce grew from 294,000 in 1975 (including 288,000 employed persons) to 7,203,000 in 2020 (including 6,895,000 employed persons), a growth of 2350%.



> Diplomatic Representation (UAE Missions Abroad) 1975 – 2020

The United Arab Emirates has established diplomatic relations with world countries and has been significantly expanding these relations over the past five decades. The number of UAE consulates and embassies globally increased from 27 in 1975 to 127 in 2020.

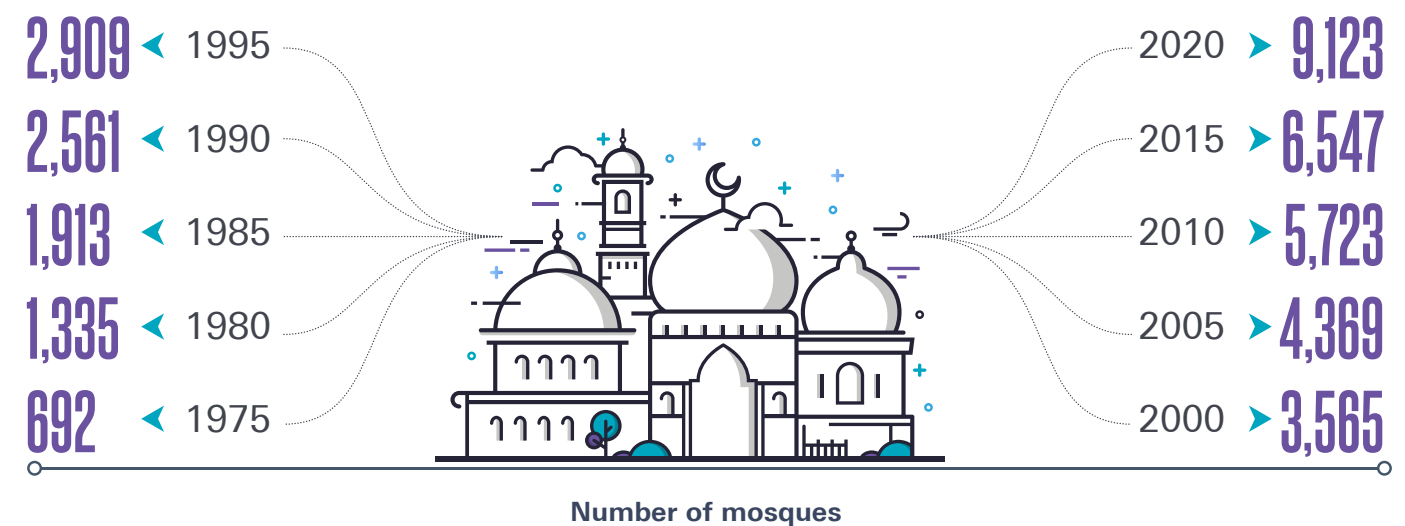


> Cultural Activities

Mosques and Places of Worship

Over the past 50 years, since the formation of the Union, the UAE has been keen on accommodating citizens' need to practice faith and worship, and to that end, mosques have been built across all regions on a nationwide scale, increasing the number of mosques from 692 in 1975 to 9,123 in 2020. Furthermore, in keeping with its commitment to promote tolerance and coexistence, the UAE granted other houses of worship a legal license to operate, allowing all residents and expatriates of different religions to practice their religious rites.

The total number of places of worship increased to 9,140 in 2019 and 9,182 in 2020.





They used to say that agriculture has no future [in the UAE] but with God's blessing and our determination, we have succeeded in transforming this desert into a green land.

His Highness late Sheikh
Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan

"God bless his soul"

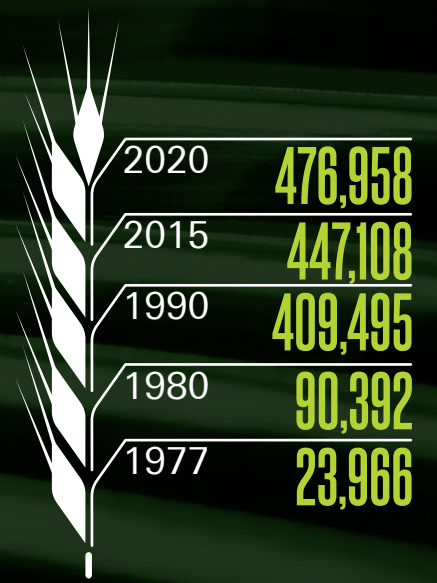


Agriculture, Environment and Energy

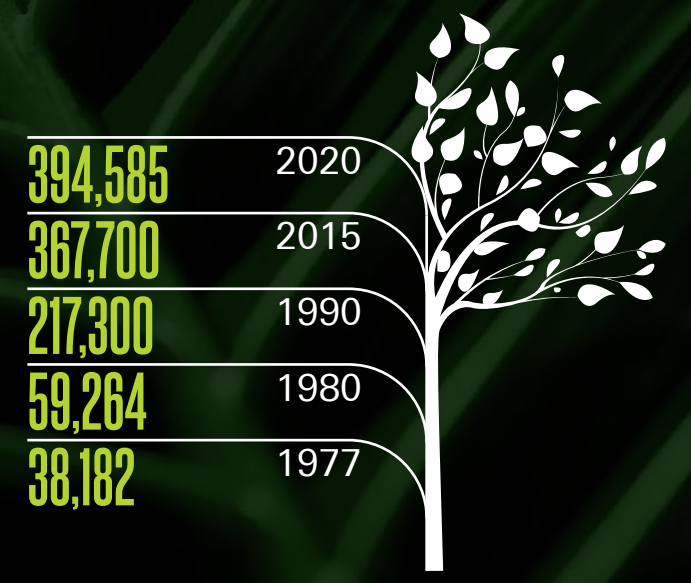
- Agricultural Crops
- Livestock
- Fishing
- Natural Reserves
- Desalinated Water
- Electrical Energy

Agricultural Crops

The UAE has been making extensive efforts to build a sustainable agricultural industry in the country. Thanks to the wise vision and role of His Highness, late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Founder of the Union, the agricultural sector developed rapidly since 1971, despite concerns regarding scarcity of water resources and arable land, soil salinity, difficult environmental conditions, high production costs, etc. Agriculture has become an economic activity centered on the employment of cutting-edge technologies and new solutions, such as soilless farming (hydroponics) and organic agriculture, thanks to the UAE's unwavering efforts.



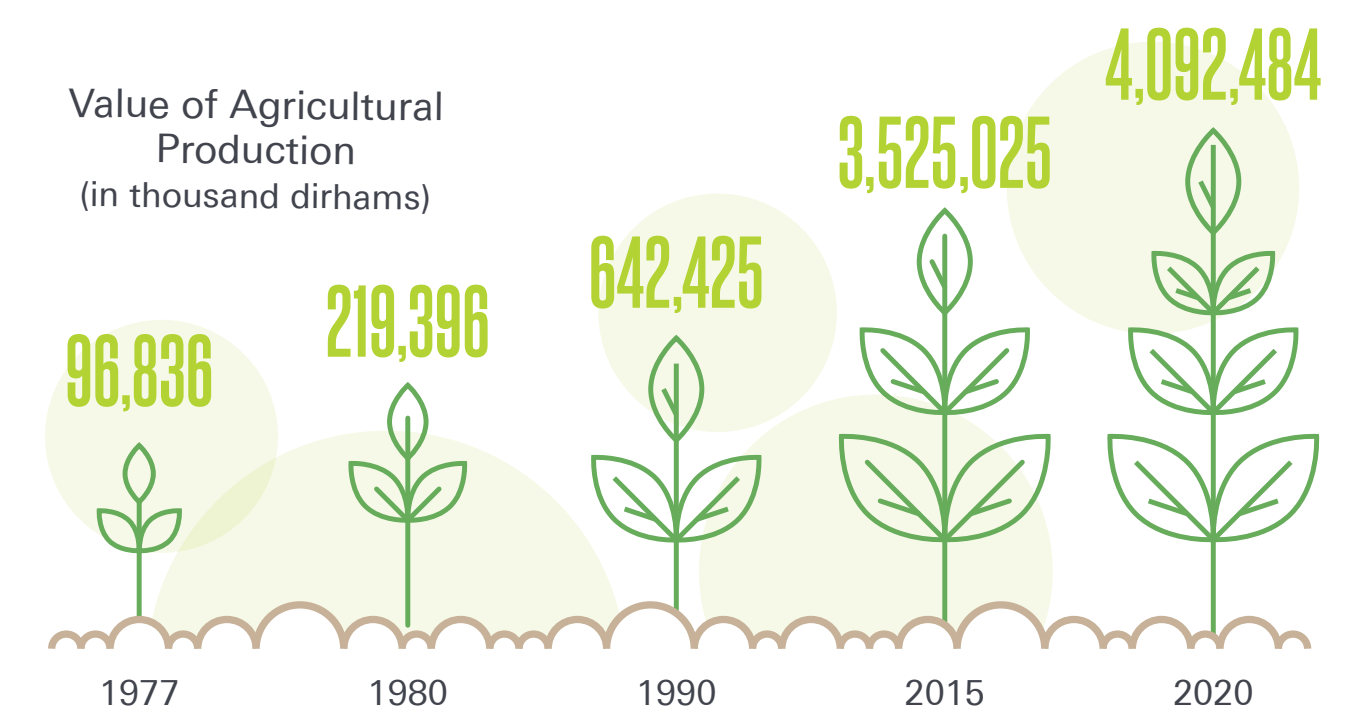
Quantity of field crop produced (in tons)



Quantity of fruit trees produced (in tons)

Value of Agricultural Production Evolution (1977-2020)

Crop production surged from 96.84 million dirhams in 1977 to 4.1 billion dirhams in 2020 in the UAE. This reflects the fruitful efforts to build a sustainable agricultural sector that is better able to contribute to its food security and national economy.



Livestock

The UAE government gave priority to its animal wealth and placed the livestock sector among its strategic objectives to boost and advance food security. Over the past few decades, the UAE provided the necessary sites and lands to build farms and estates, which in turn, helped grow the numbers of livestock (camels, cattle, sheep, and goats), as well as poultry.

Statistics by the the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre (FCSC) indicate a steady growth in the number of cows and goats from 213,945 in 1976 to 2,451,000 in 2019; with additional increase in the numbers of other animal species used in animal production, such as meat and milk.

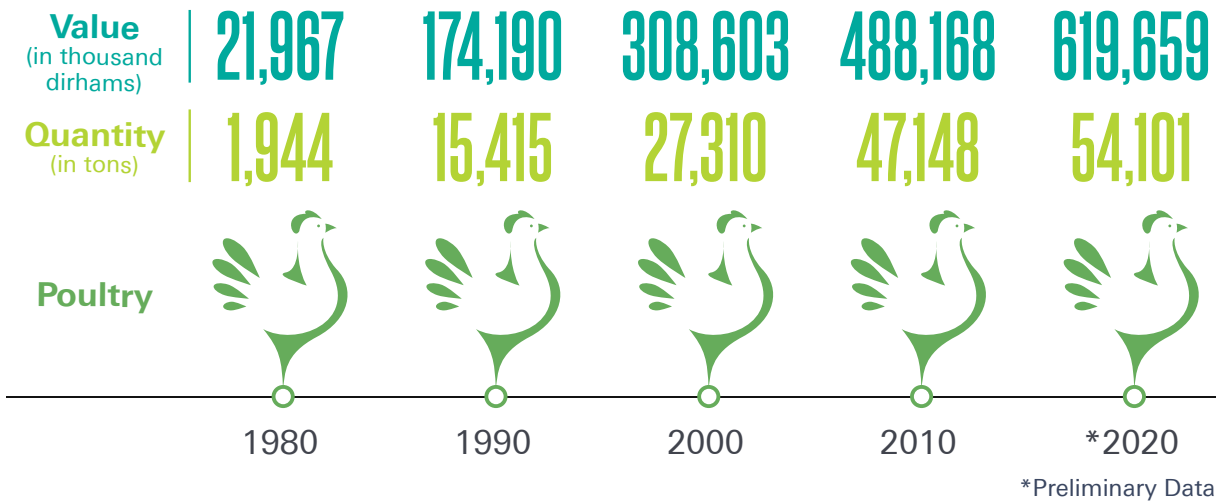
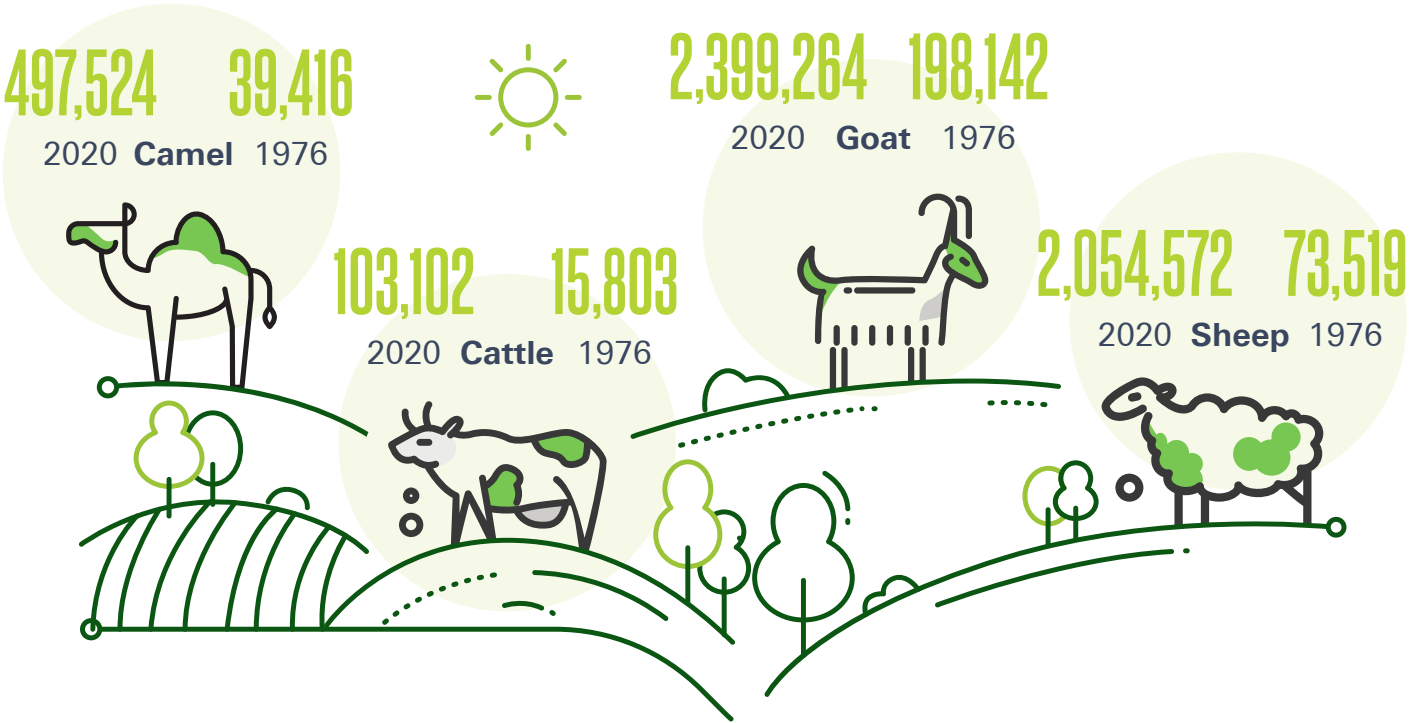
Statistics show a significant increase in the number of goats and cattle. In 1976, there were 15,803 heads of cattle and 198,142 heads of goat. the number grew to 25,665 heads of cattle and 341,622 heads of goats in 1980. In 1983, the numbers surged to 30,721 heads of cattle, while in 1985, the number rose 35,172 heads of cattle and 468,152 heads of goat.

In 1990, numbers spiked again, and stood at 49,328 heads of cattle and 656,608 heads of goat. In 1995, there were 69,183 heads of cattle and 985,389 heads of goat; in 2000, there were 1,278,547 heads of goat; while in 2005, there were 1,546,206 heads of goat, and in 2009, the number of cattle rose to 76,502 heads of cattle. In 2010, there were 1,883,630 heads of goat, and in 2011, there were 75,336 heads of cattle. Numbers surged in 2015, with 89,804 heads of cattle and 2,225,532 heads of goat. In 2019, there was 100,914 heads of cattle and 2,350,145 heads of goat.

The number of camels and sheep also increased significantly in recent years, with an estimated number of 39,416 camels and 73,519 heads of sheep in 1976; 58,709 camels and 132,274 heads of sheep in 1980; 80,455 camels and 181,216 heads of sheep in 1985; and 112,842 camels and 254,165 heads of sheep in 1990. Number rose again to 169,342 camels and 381,448 heads of sheep in 1995; and 219,713 camels and 494,917 heads of sheep in 2000.

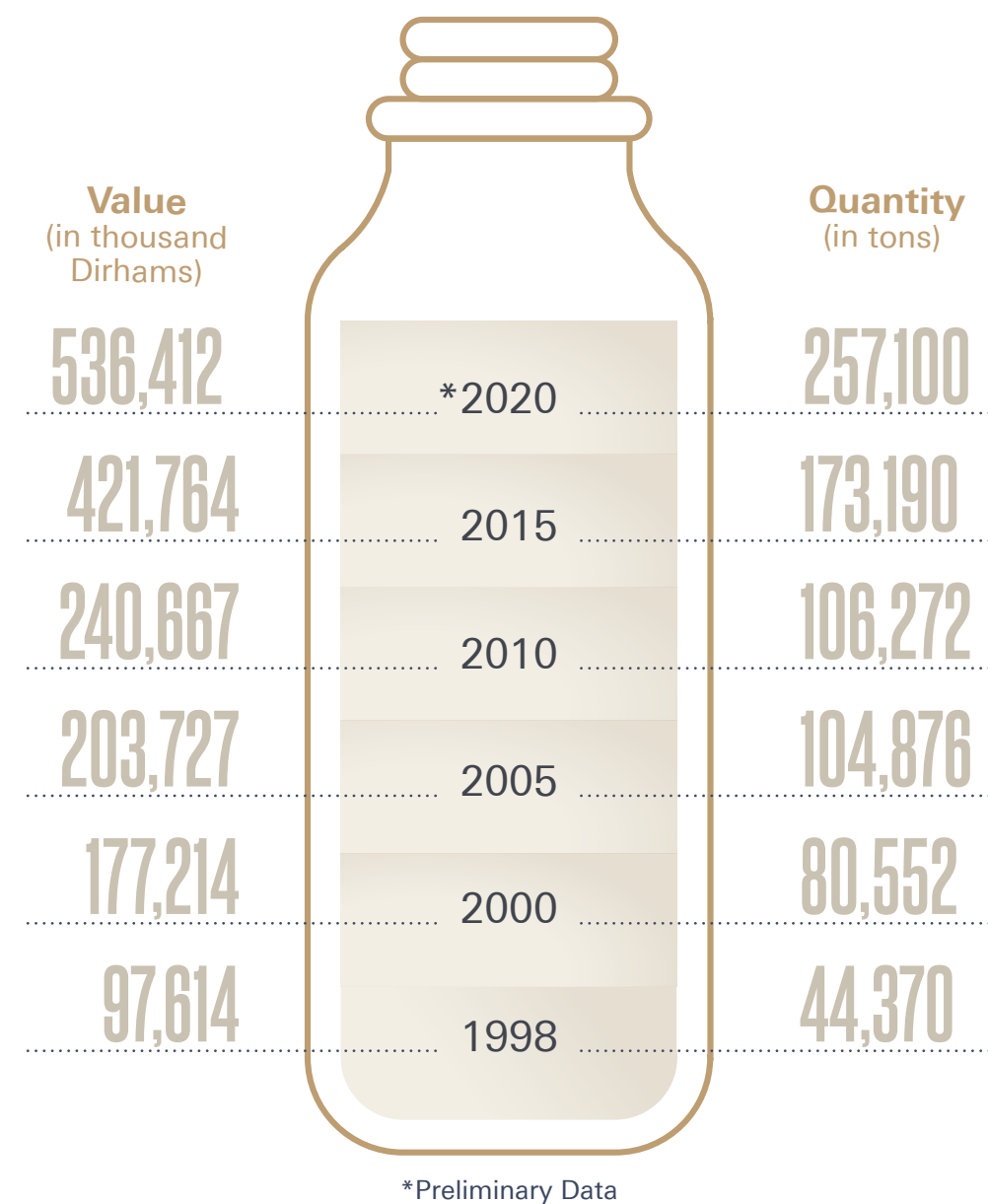
There were 441,395 camels and 1,085,146 heads of sheep in 2005; 358,027 camels and 1,350,665 heads of sheep in 2010; and 430,372 camels in 2015. In 2016, the number of sheep was estimated at 2,128,756 and grew to 2,043,993 in 2019.

Evolution of poultry farm production



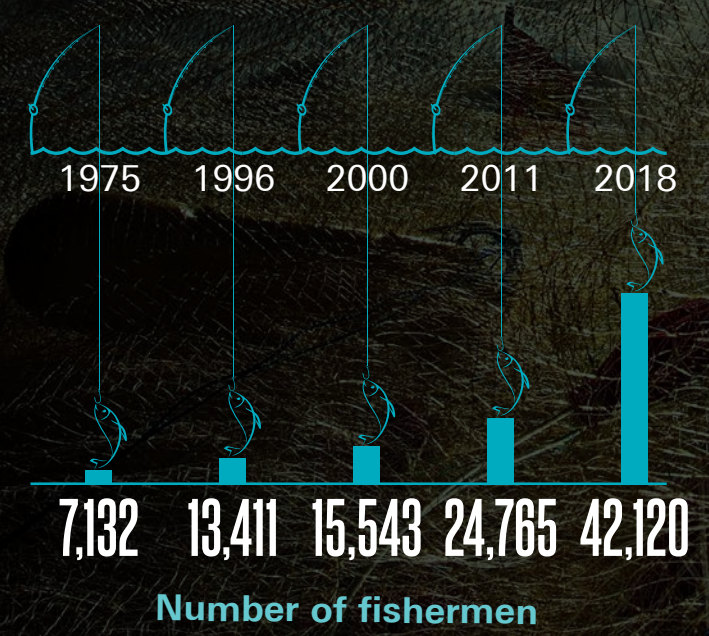
Evolution of Value and Quantity of Cow Milk Production (1998-2020)

Statistics from the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment indicate a significant rise in the volume of production and marketing value over the past few years.



Fishing

Despite the various developments at the nationwide level in the fishing sector, the UAE managed to preserve what was a major and lucrative profession for most of the population and a well-preserved key component of its heritage. The UAE has dedicated great attention to fishing, being a lasting legacy from parents and grandparents, and plays an integral role in achieving food security, which is one of the most important national objectives. Significant support to fishermen and the establishment of modern fishing ports has yielded an increase in the number of fishermen from 7,132 in 1975 to 42,120 in 2018.

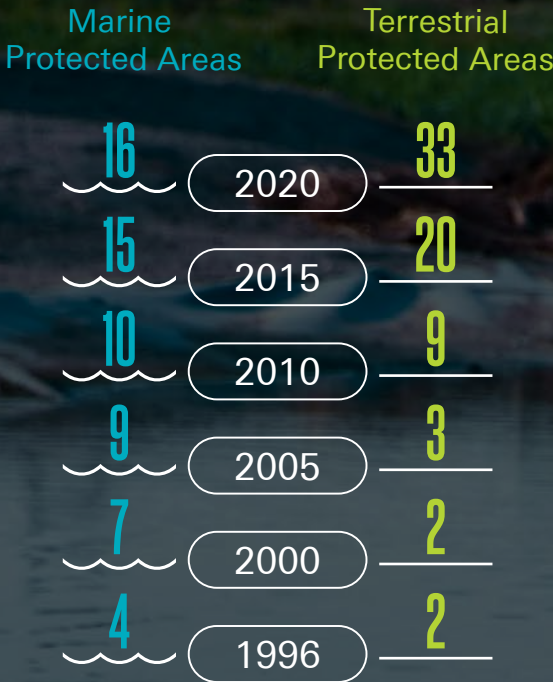




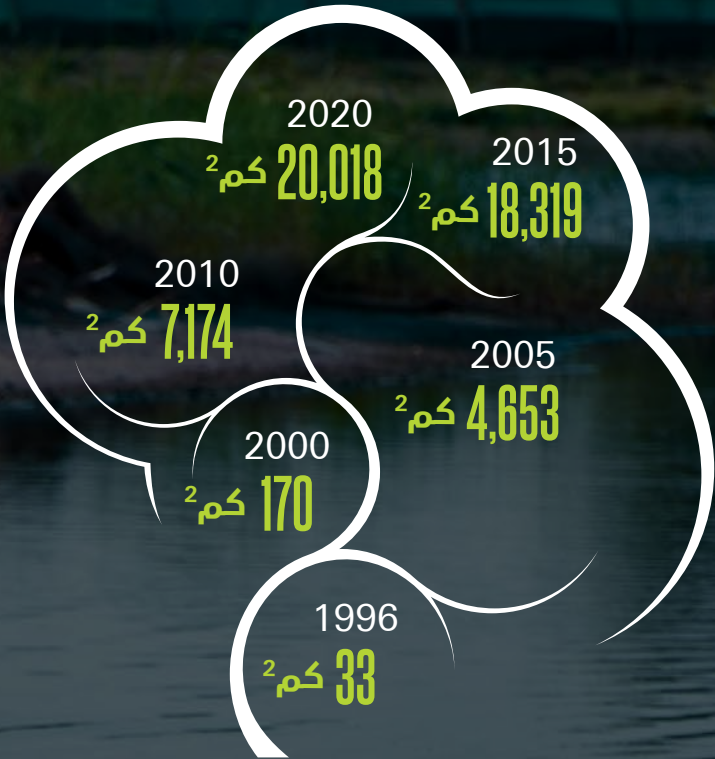
Natural Reserves

Building on the vision of His Highness late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the UAE has given environment conservation and resources' preservation its utmost attention and managed to achieve remarkable successes in the environmental field. It endeavored to instill sustainability and environmental protection in young people, school students and community members, supported by ambitious initiatives to transform large swathes of land into natural reserves, that house a wide variety of species and living organisms.

With growing attention to natural reserves in the UAE, the number of designated natural reserves significantly rose to 49 in 2020; with 5 new nature reserves designated in Sharjah in one single year, while the Emirate of Abu Dhabi expanded Al Dillfaweya Protected Area by 45 square kilometers km full of biodiversity.



Number of Natural Reserves



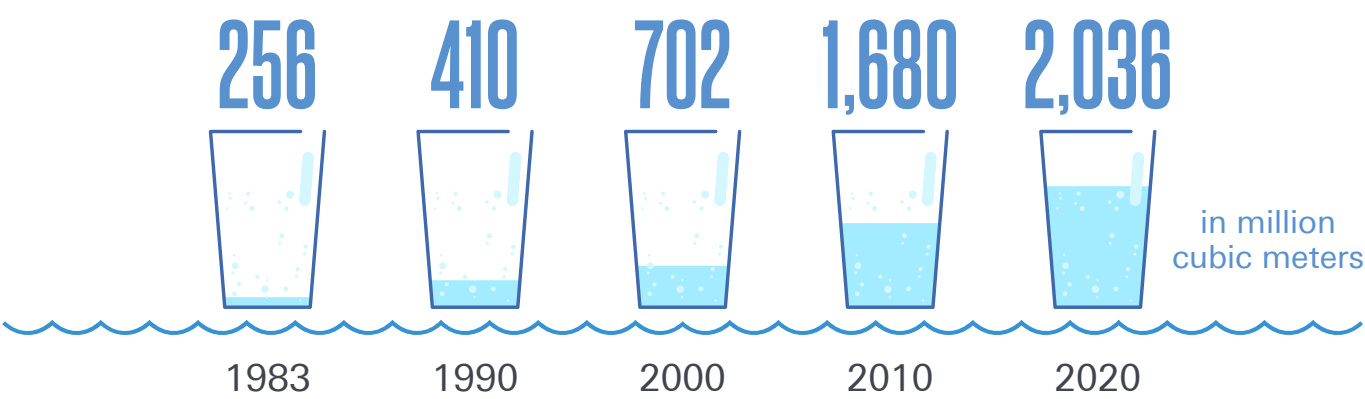
Total Area of Natural Reserves



Desalinated Water

Since its establishment on December 2, 1971, the UAE has dedicated special attention to ensuring sustainable and continuous access to water to cater to the various needs of its people. It also allocated several programs and strategies to enhance the quality and quantity of its water resources, on par with international best standards and criteria.

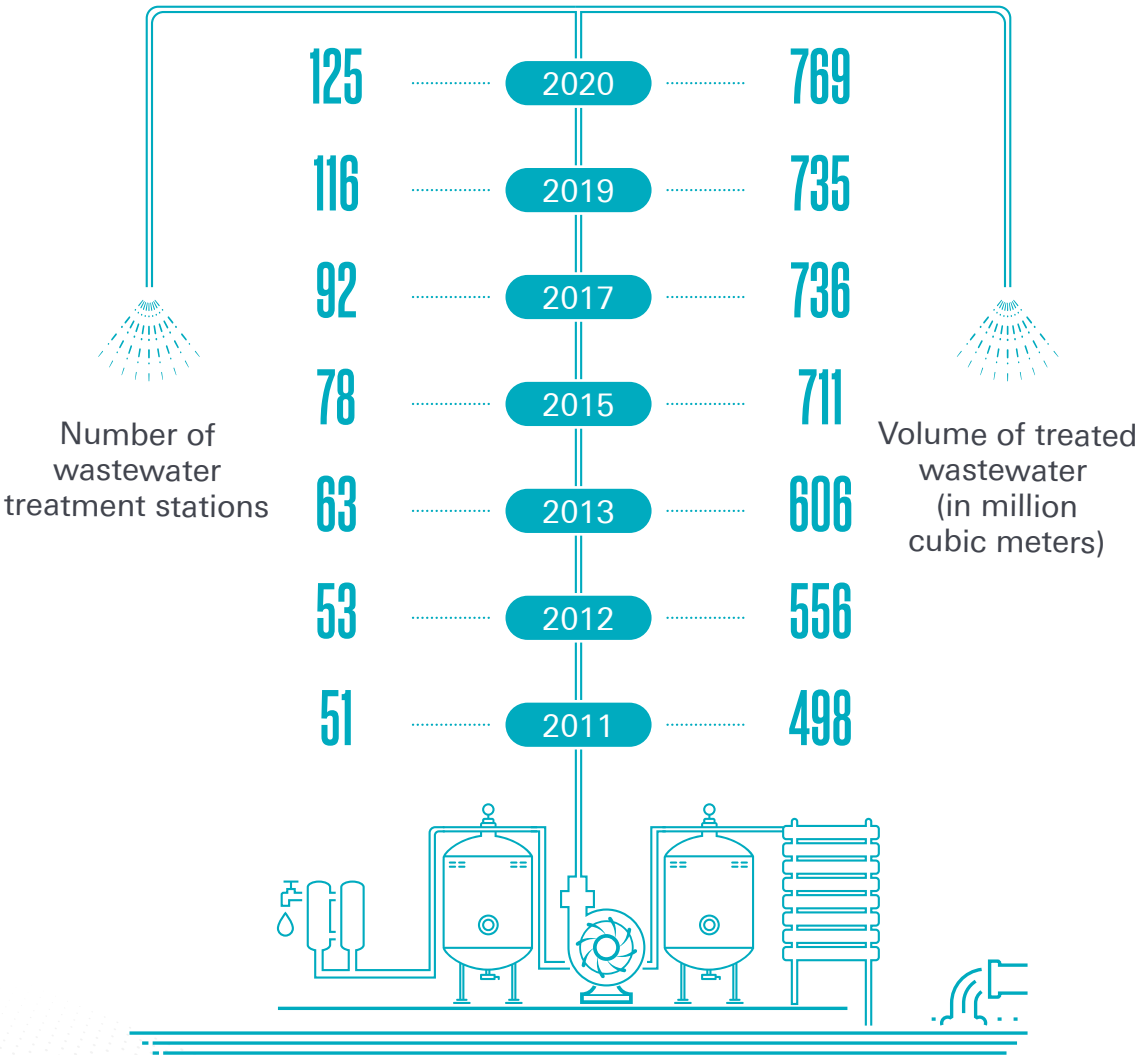
To meet the growing demands for freshwater annually, the demand for desalination is on the increase. Statistics from the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure indicate an increase in the quantity of desalinated water produced, from 256 million cubic meters in 1983 to 2 billion cubic meters in 2020.



Source: Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure

Wastewater treatment

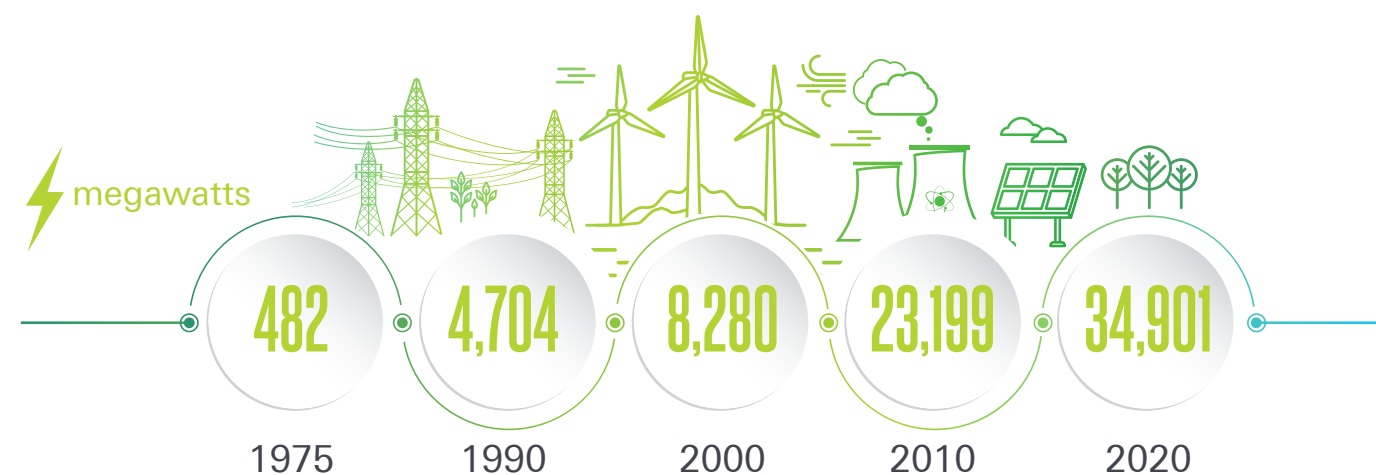
In an effort to boost water sustainability, the UAE implemented several wastewater treatment projects in recent years, with production volume of treated wastewater surging by 54.4% between 2011-2020, to support agricultural irrigation needs, reduce depletion of natural water resources and promote environmental sustainability.



Electricity

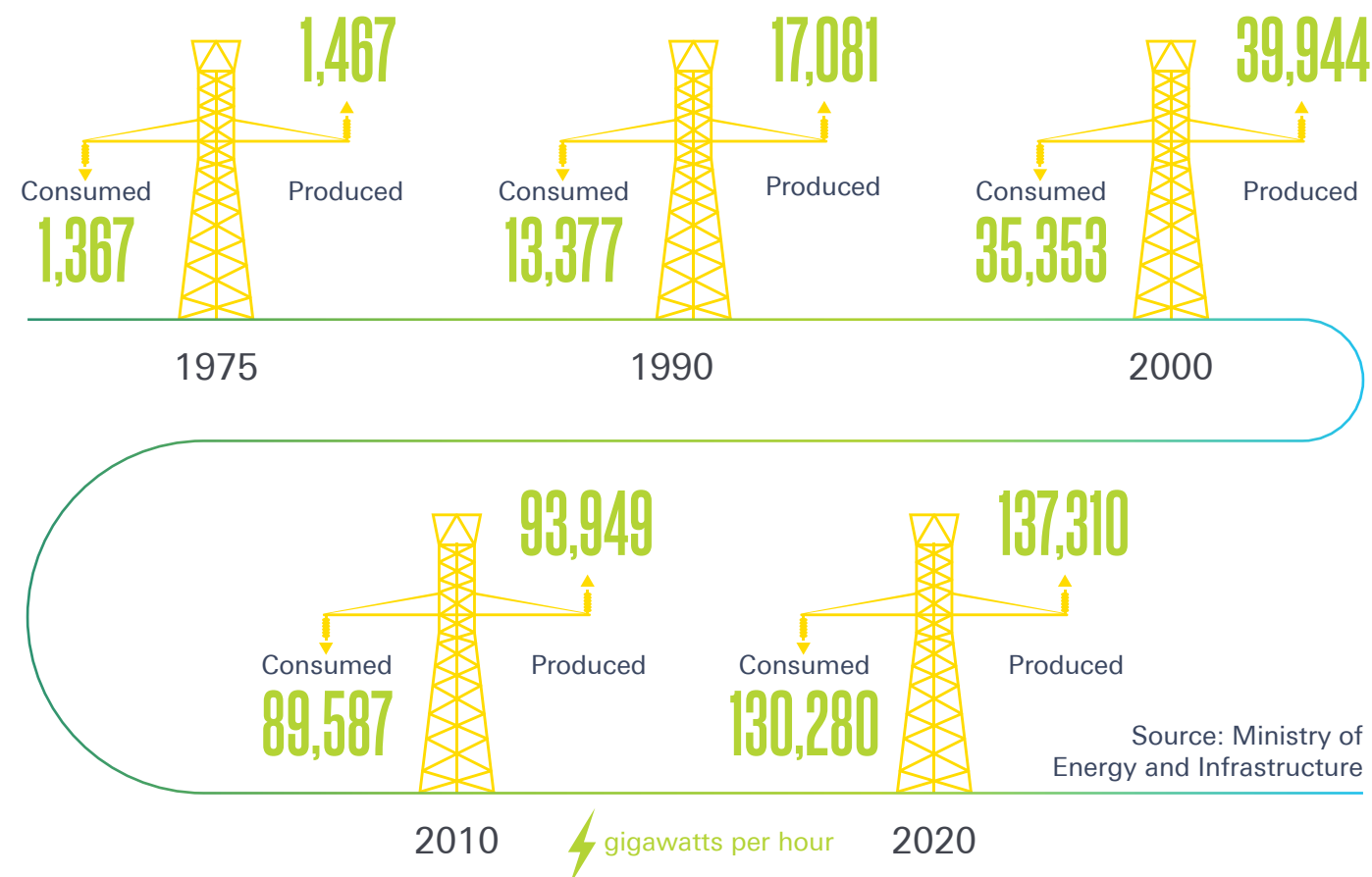
The electricity sector in the UAE has seen major developments, with the use of state-of-the-art power generation plants, while also leveraging renewable and clean energy, such as solar, wind and nuclear power.

The Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure indicated that the total capacity of the UAE's power plants increased from 482 megawatts in 1975 to around 35,000 megawatts in 2020, in response to the significant development and growth witnessed by the UAE over the past few years.



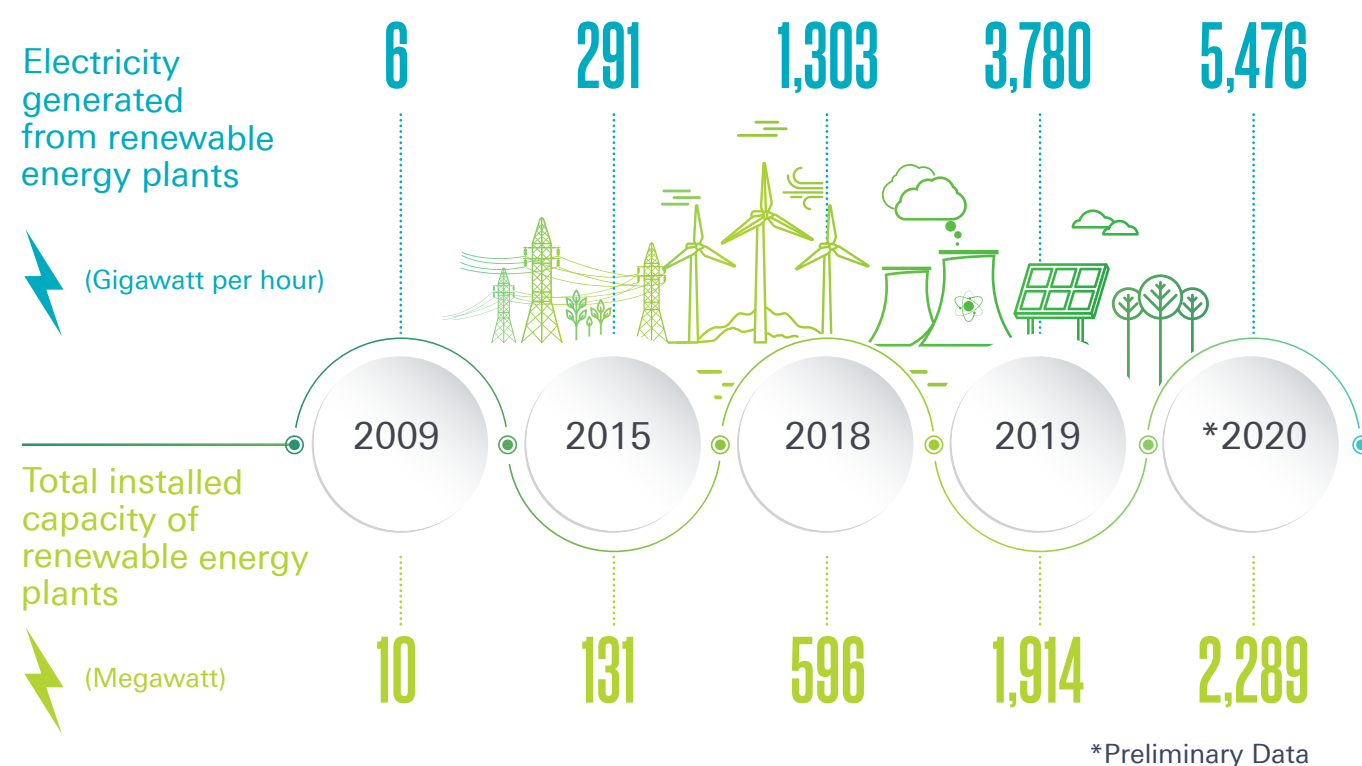
Electricity Generation and Consumption

Over the past five decades, the UAE has endeavored to meet the growing national need for electricity production and consumption, brought forth by the significant expansion of the housing sector, manufacturing, and tourism sectors, as well as commercial and agricultural growth, and other vital sectors.



Electricity from Renewable Energy

Electricity generation capacity from renewable energy, particularly solar, has grown significantly, with an increase in the total installed capacity of renewable energy plants from 10 megawatts (MW) in 2009 to 2,289 megawatts (MW) in 2020. Power generated by these plants surged from 5,476 gigawatts per hour, compared to just 6 gigawatts in 2009.



The UAE's Competitiveness Achievements

The United Arab Emirates leadership set out to achieve sustainable growth and ensure prosperity, by adopting a competitive strategy with the necessary essentials to support the national development process. It also chalked out a competitive framework governed by a set of wise policies and global best practices, designed to allow the UAE to build a sustainable and diversified economy, flexible in embracing transformation and capitalizing on the advantages of competitiveness.

The UAE has demonstrated its ability to compete with major world countries and keep pace with the world's most advanced and prestigious economies, positioning the country in the ranks of the best countries in the world during a relatively short period of time.





Top rankings in global indicators



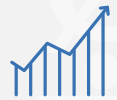
Government

- Absence of bureaucracy
- Adaptability of government policy
- Understanding the needs for economic and social reforms



Education

- Net flow of international students
- Enrolment in primary education
- Literacy rate
- International students



Economy

- Low inflation rate
- Trade balance
- Entrepreneurship



Health

- COVID-19 vaccination rates
- Antenatal care coverage (health care during pregnancy)
- Births registration for children under the age of 5 (%)
- Healthcare coverage
- National programs for early detection



Top rankings in global indicators



Advanced Technology

- Mobile data package subscriptions
- Wireless broadband
- Mobile network coverage (%)



Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

- Passport Strength Index



Gender Balance

- Women in parliament
- Presence of domestic violence legislation
- Presence of legislation and addressing harassment in the workplace
- Presence of paid paternity leave
- Presence of law against dismissal of pregnant women



Human Capital

- Ability to attract talent
- Availability of senior managers
- Availability of skilled labor



Top rankings in global indicators



Environment and Climate Change

- Satisfaction with preservation efforts
- Efficiency of environmental laws
- Absence of indoor air pollution



Energy and Infrastructure

- Satisfaction with the road and highway system
- Reliability of the electricity supply system
- Easy access to electricity
- Building quality control index
- Access to electricity (% of the population)



Community Development

- Low dependency ratio
- Use of virtual social media
- Gini coefficient, adjusted for top revenues



Finance and Taxes

- Efficiency of government spending
- Low tax evasion rate
- Depth of credit information
- Lack of real personal taxes
- Freedom to own foreign currency bank accounts



Top rankings in global indicators



Accommodation and Tourism

- Flexibility of accommodation systems
- Presence of the largest car rental companies



Tolerance and Coexistence

- Tolerance with foreigners



Safety and Security

- Absence of terrorism
- Cybersecurity



Culture

- Community support for competitiveness

Flexible legislative system

Since the beginning of the Union, the founding fathers of the UAE endeavored to strengthen the rule of law. To achieve this goal, they built an advanced legislative and legal system, capable of safeguarding the country's gains and achievements, enforcing justice and equality among community members, protecting the interests and rights of both individuals and institutions, and supporting economic development. Over the past five decades, the UAE leadership adopted a flexible legislative structure, to keep pace with its aspirations to foresight the future, build a society that achieves the well-being and prosperity of its members, and promotes human values based on mutual solidarity and coexistence. This approach cemented the country's position in global competitiveness reports and earned it top positions in several indicators

UAE
50

In the past few years, the UAE began implementing some legislative changes, which culminated this year, as part of the Union's fiftieth anniversary, with the government approving a wide-ranging legislative change, the largest reforms of the country's legal system, with over 40 laws included among the draft of new laws and legislative amendments. This aims to revamp the legislative system to keep pace with the developmental achievements of the UAE and reflect the country's aspirations in preparation for the next 50. A total of 7,805 legislations and resolutions were issued since 1971, including 894 federal laws, 276 federal decrees, 5,377 federal decrees and 1,258 cabinet resolutions.

Listed below are the most important laws and legislative amendments that have had positively influenced the United Arab Emirates' rankings in global competitiveness reports:

Regulation and Protection of Industrial Property

- Accelerates patent applications.
- Strengthens the UAE's position as an incubator for innovators, inventors, and creators.

Commercial Register Law

- Allows local authorities in each emirate to retain the right to establish and manage their commercial records.
- Creates an economic register as the official reference for data and information for companies, without any additional procedures for customers.
- Enables the use of a unified economic register number as a digital entity for companies.

Trademark Law

- Expands the scope of protection to include 3D trademarks, holograms, sound trademarks and more.

Commercial Companies Law

- Introduces new forms of privately regulated businesses.
- Facilitates and amends provisions related to public joint stock companies to ensure successful transformation and sustainability.

Electronic Transactions and Trust Services Law

- Gives digital signatures the same value as handwritten signatures using modern and secure technologies.
- Gives digital signatures the full legal authority to be accepted as a handwritten signature.
- The digital signature will obviate the need for personal attendance to complete transactions in institutions, banks, and courts, whether inside or outside the country.

Factoring and Transfer of Civil Accounts Receivable Law

- Diversifies financing tools available to economic enterprises, particularly SMEs.
- Increases financial efficiency by giving economic enterprises the ability to increase cash flow.

Crime and Punishment Law

- Ensures that the period of limitations does not expire in the criminal case of embezzlement and misappropriation of public funds.
- Enforces tougher punishment against people who compromise the safety of people, funds and who commit indecent assault offences.

Prevention of Gender-Based Discrimination

- Prevents discrimination based on religion, belief, creed, race, color, ethnicity, sex or gender by observing state laws.

Anti-Fake News and Cybercrime Law

- Criminalizes the use of websites, networks, and electronic systems to obtain government data or financial, commercial, or economic information.
- Criminalizes publishing fake news, rumors and misleading or inaccurate information that would harm the public interest, the national economy, public order, or public health.
- Punishes online begging, electronic fraud, and phishing.
- Gives electronic evidence the same strength and authenticity as physical forensic evidence in criminal prosecutions.

Personal Data Protection Law

- Prohibits the processing of personal data without the consent of the owner.
- Defines the rights and duties of all relevant parties, including personal data holders, companies, and institutions.
- Sets requirements for the cross-border transfer and sharing of personal data for processing purposes.

UAE Data Office Establishing Law

- Proposes and prepares policies, strategies and legislations related to data protection.
- Issues guidelines and instructions to implement data protection legislations.
- Raises awareness about the importance of data protection.

Higher Education Law

- Regulates the licensing of higher education institutions in the UAE.
- Approves curricula and ensures effective governance and management of higher education institutions.
- Improves the quality and competitiveness of higher education in the UAE.
- Encourages scientific research in educational institutions.

Law on Regulating Labor Relations and Uniform Labor Regulations in the UAE

- The employer may not use any means to coerce or force an employee to work against his/her own will and prevents an employer from threatening to impose any sanction on the employee to force him/her to perform certain work or service against his/her own will.
- The New Labor Law also prohibits sexual harassment and/or any verbal, physical or psychological form of bullying against an employee, by the employer or the employee’s supervisor/colleagues.
- It prohibits all forms of discriminations based on race, color, sex, religion, national or social origin or disability.
- It prohibits any kind of discrimination that would impair equal opportunities for an employee or prejudice an employee from gaining employment and continuing such employment.
- It protects working women from being sacked because they are pregnant.
- The law expressly states an equal pay right for women doing the same job, or other work of equal value, as men.
- Men shall be granted a paid paternity leave for five days.
- The law also prohibits any kind of harassment in the workplace that may include repeated offensive jokes, unnecessary comments, unwelcoming touching, intimidation and more.

Law on Domestic Violence

- Protects against all forms of domestic violence: physical abuse, psychological/mental abuse, sexual abuse and economic/financial abuse.
- Encourages social cohesion; protect the inviolability of private life, and maintain the social and moral values, practices, traditions and customs in the State.

Law on Establishing the National Commission for Human Rights

- Promotes and protects human rights and freedoms, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, laws in force in the country.
- Develops and implements a national action plan and spread a culture of human rights protection among community members.

New Updated Guidelines for Residence Permits and Entry Visas

- Apply for remote work residence/visa.
- Multiple entry tourist visas.
- Allows foreign university students to bring their families whenever they have the financial means resulting from recruitment and providing adequate housing.

Consumer Protection Law

- Preserves the health and safety of the consumer when using the goods or receiving the service.
- Encourages sound consumption patterns.
- Protects the privacy and security of the consumer data, and not to be used for the purposes of promotion and marketing.

Regulation of the Strategic Stock of Food Commodities Law

- Regulates and organizes food supplies in the event of crises, emergencies and disasters.
- Achieves food sustainability.

Banning the use of academic degrees and certificates issued by unlicensed entities for citizens and expats to get jobs in government agencies and private firms or for any other purposes



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