



المركز الاتحادي
للتنافسية والإحصاء
FEDERAL COMPETITIVENESS
AND STATISTICS CENTRE



THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

Transformation of the UAE National Statistics System – 2026 and Beyond

How the United Arab Emirates is rebuilding official statistics
and setting the global reference model for an AI-native
statistical system.

For half a century, official statistics described the past. The UAE is now building statistics that describe the present — **as it happens.**

They arrived in periodic releases, assembled from surveys and separate institutional processes, telling decision-makers where the nation had already been. That model built a remarkable country. It is not the model that will build the next one.

The UAE is undertaking one of the most consequential transformations for the statistical system: the shift from periodic measurement to **continuous national intelligence** — from a compiler of records into the real-time nervous system of the state.



In the UAE, data infrastructure is becoming national economic infrastructure — and official statistics are becoming the substrate on which the entire government runs.

HE HANAN AHLI

Managing Director of the Federal Competitiveness & Statistics Centre (FCSC)

01

A unified National Statistics Strategy

02

A complete policy & governance architecture

03

The NSDP — AI-native production infrastructure

04

A world-first mandate for agentic government

05

The GDP National Comprehensive Review

From the rear-view mirror to the real-time engine.

The UAE's statistical transformation is one coherent system with a single destination: one trusted, real-time, sovereign source of truth for the nation's numbers.

01

A unified strategy

One National Statistics Strategy replaces fragmented attempts with four pillars and a vision of "Unified UAE Numbers."

02

A policy backed system

A national charter and eight statistical policies establish the legal, quality and governance architecture for data to move safely.

03

AI-native infrastructure

The National Statistics Data Platform (NSDP) embeds AI across the production lifecycle: AI produces, humans validate.

04

An agentic state

The UAE will convert 50% of government to autonomous AI in two years — a state that runs on real-time, high-quality data.

05

A re-anchored economy

The GDP National Comprehensive Review rebuilds the 2010–2026 series on a 2024 base year — bringing to the surface the economy's true scale.

01

CHAPTER

The National Statistics Strategy: **one system, one architecture, one truth.**

A single national strategy replaces a patchwork of attempts with a unified design — and a destination the UAE has named precisely: Unified UAE Numbers , produced by a smart, proactive, world-leading statistical system.

VISION & MISSION

What would it take for the UAE to have one authoritative number for everything?

THE VISION

Unified UAE Numbers — a national statistical system that is intelligent, proactive, and leading.

THE MISSION

To enable an integrated, intelligent national statistical system that strengthens competitiveness and powers decisions.

THE FOUR PILLARS

The design principles of a world-leading system.

01

Integrated — مُتكاملة

Clear roles and a single institutional model for official statistics across federal and local entities — less duplication, greater efficiency of national resources.

02

Unified — مُوحدّة

Common methods, classifications, definitions and standards — so Unified UAE Numbers are genuinely comparable across every source and every emirate.

03

Intelligent — ذكية

An accelerated shift to a proactive model built on administrative registers, AI and data science — statistics that anticipate, not just report.

04

Globally Influential — مؤثرة دوليًا

An international position that reflects the true strength of the economy and reinforces trusted, standards-compliant data.

THE FOUR STRATEGIC GOALS

From pillars to outcomes.

Integrated governance & talent

01

Embed integrated governance across the national statistical system and build its human capabilities.

AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM

A unified data architecture

02

Build one national statistical data architecture that delivers real-time data to decision-makers.

A UNIFIED SYSTEM

An intelligent statistical system

03

Transition to a smart national system built on AI and advanced analytics.

AN INTELLIGENT SYSTEM

Trust & global standing

04

Strengthen confidence in the UAE's official numbers and cement its national and international presence.

A GLOBALLY INFLUENTIAL SYSTEM

THE EIGHT NATIONAL DIRECTIONS

The strategic forces shaping the design.

01

Real-time decision support

Data-driven government demands instantaneous evidence.

02

Registers as a primary source

Administrative records become the backbone of official statistics.

03

A strengthened data platform

The NSDP as unified national production environment.

04

Data as a sovereign asset

Governed, secured and treated as strategic national property.

05

Assistive AI & deep analytics

Embedded intelligence across the production lifecycle.

06

Reliability that mirrors reality

Numbers that represent the UAE's true economic picture.

07

Talent & statistical innovation

National capability in data science and official statistics.

08

Partnerships & global role

Reinforcing the UAE's leadership on the world stage.

02

CHAPTER

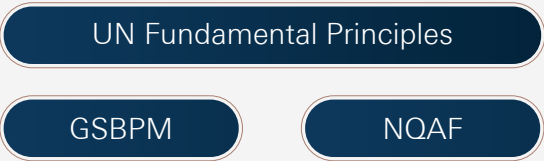
One charter, eight national policies: **The operating system beneath the numbers**

Before data can flow safely across, the rules must exist.
The UAE has built the invisible code that makes a unified
statistical system possible.

THE GOVERNANCE FOUNDATION

Data moves at the speed of trust.

Anchored in **Federal Decree-Law No. 34 of 2020** establishing the Centre, and coordinated through the **National Statistics Committee** (Cabinet Resolution 22/5, 2024), the policy stack translates the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics into enforceable national practice — the precondition for everything that follows.



1

National Statistical Practice Charter — the ethical & professional constitution of official statistics.

8

National statistical policies — a complete, interlocking governance framework.

7

Emirates aligned to one framework via the National Statistics Committee.

THE EIGHT NATIONAL POLICIES

A complete, interlocking governance framework.

01
UMBRELLA

Official Statistics

The master framework — independence, unified standards, quality, register-first sourcing, dissemination and confidentiality.

02

Data Availability & Exchange

How statistical data is shared and accessed across entities — securely, by design.

03

Administrative Records

Turning government registers into primary statistical sources — the "administrative data first" mandate.

04

Data Quality

A national quality framework: accuracy, completeness, consistency, timeliness, accessibility.

05

Data Classification

Sovereign confidentiality tiers governing how statistical data is protected and used.

06

Statistical Metadata

The documentation layer that makes data discoverable, interpretable and machine-ready.

07

Data Lifecycle Management

Governance from collection to production to archival — one disciplined lifecycle.

08

Gender Statistics

Consistent, comparable gender-disaggregated data for global competitiveness.

KEY MESSAGE



Every policy exists to enable one thing the platform cannot supply on its own: machine-readable, interoperable, quality-assured data that AI can safely act on. The policy architecture is not paperwork surrounding the transformation **it is load-bearing structure.**

HE HANAN AHLI

Managing Director of the Federal
Competitiveness & Statistics Centre
(FCSC)

03

CHAPTER

The National Statistics Data Platform (NSDP):

where the transformation becomes real.

Not a data warehouse — a national programme that changes how official statistics are produced, governed and used and that is metadata-driven, with a governed statistical production backbone, and AI agents embedded as part of the lifecycle.

THE STRATEGIC REDEFINITION

Move from periodic statistical production to near real-time statistical intelligence.

Data integration and platform capability matter — but they are enabling components, not the objective. The goal is to transform the production process itself: to produce official statistics using surveys, administrative data and registers, metadata, quality, governance, and GSBPM workflows.

01

Unified UAE Numbers

One trusted source of official statistical outputs, harmonized across institutions, methods and definitions.

02

Administrative Data First

Administrative records and registers as core inputs, with surveys used where direct statistical collection remains required.

03

AI-Native Production

AI agents support validation, metadata, classification, forecasting, quality review and narrative drafting.

04

Timely Intelligence

Faster statistical signals for decision-makers, supported by validation, metadata, quality controls and release governance.

05

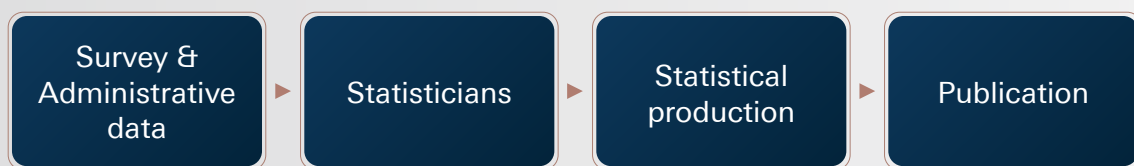
System Transformation

The national statistical production model re-engineered around metadata, workflows, governance, data quality, automation and AI support.

THE OPERATING MODEL, REINVENTED

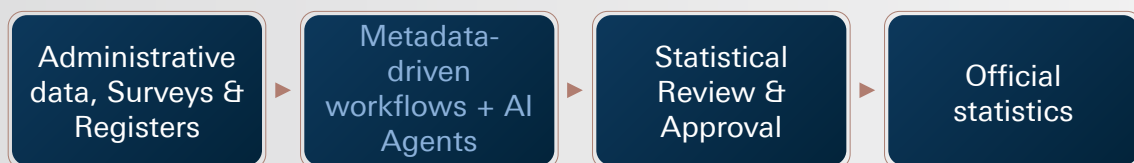
The single change that changes everything.
An agentic pipeline with a human at the controls.

THE TRADITIONAL MODEL — LINEAR, MANUAL, PERIODIC



BECOMES

THE FUTURE NSDP MODEL — AI PRODUCES AT SCALE, HUMANS GOVERN AND VALIDATE



AI does not replace statistical governance — It supports validation, metadata, classification, analysis and drafting, while methodology, assumptions, approvals and official publication remain in human hands.

PHASE ONE · UNDER IMPLEMENTATION

The build has begun — starting with the numbers that matter most.

380

National economic indicators in Phase One

160

GDP indicators — the flagship domain

141

Balance of payments — external-sector statistics

28

Federal and local entities targeted for governed data integration

One source of truth

Unified production with a central repository of national indicators and harmonised definitions and methodologies.

AI agents as statistical experts

Assistive AI agents support validation, metadata, classification, anomaly detection, narrative drafting and quality review, aligned to governed GSBPM workflows.

Sovereign governance

Full data sovereignty within the UAE, national-legislation compliance, auditability and clear accountability.

DELIVERED THROUGH A NATIONAL COALITION:

FCSC

Platform owner and national statistical publisher

LSOs / Federal Entities

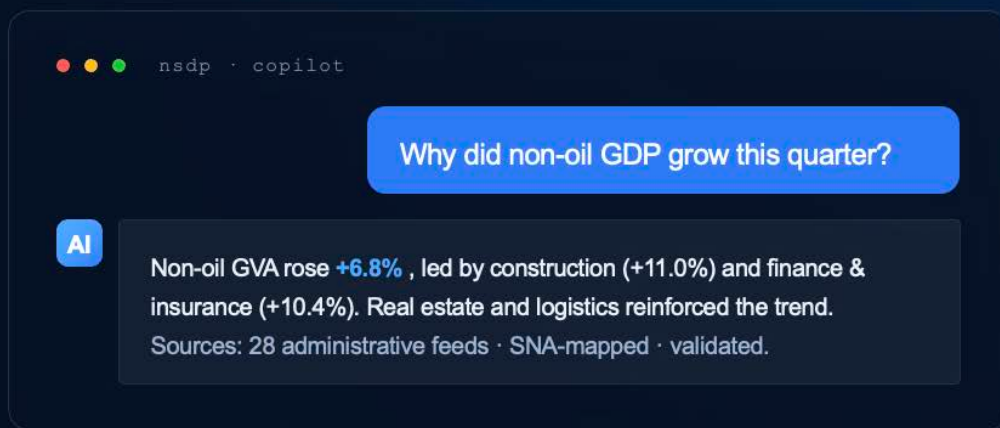
Data owners, co-design and onboarding partners

Presight

Solution Implementation Partner

THE HORIZON CAPABILITY · GOVERNED NATIONAL STATISTICAL COPILOT

From static publications to a living decision-support tool.



Ask a question in natural language. The system retrieves approved data and metadata, supports analysis, drafts visualizations and narratives, explains drivers, and routes outputs for expert review.

RETRIEVE

Retrieves approved data and metadata from governed sources

ANALYSE

Supports driver analysis, contribution analysis and revision review

NARRATE

Drafts commentary, cites sources and flags confidence / limitations

04

CHAPTER

The world's first agentic government — and the data engine that makes it possible.

An agentic UAE runs on real-time, trusted, interoperable data — a precondition most observers miss. The statistical system is that engine.

THE MANDATE · 23 APRIL 2026 · UAE
GOVERNMENT 4.0

"AI will be our government's executive partner."

50%

Of government to agentic AI — sectors, services & operations, within two years

1st

Government worldwide to deploy agentic AI at national scale

80K

Federal employees in training — the largest programme in its history

AMBITION, CALIBRATED

The government sets the pace at 50%. Its own centre of coordination sets it higher.

50%

UAE federal
government

75%

Ministry of Cabinet
Affairs —
home to FCSC

01

Assessment

02

Capability building

03

Pilot deployment

04

Full-scale rollout

THE INSIGHT THAT REFRAMES EVERYTHING

Agentic AI is only as good as the data it acts on.

An autonomous system that monitors, analyses, recommends and acts is entirely dependent on data that is real-time, high-quality, classified and interoperable — precisely the properties the National Statistical System is being rebuilt to guarantee. This makes the Cabinet's mandate the greatest strategic opportunity in the system's history.

ROLE 01

Transform its own production

Through the NSDP, FCSC becomes AI-native itself — the operational proof that a government function can run on autonomous, human-governed AI. The National Statistical Copilot and AI production agents are FCSC's contribution to the 75%.

ROLE 02

Power the entire agentic workflow

Every other ministry's AI agents need trusted, unified numbers to act on. FCSC supplies the "Unified UAE Numbers," the interoperable registers and the quality guarantees that make agentic decisions safe across the whole of government.

05

CHAPTER

When The Economy Grew Faster than the Instruments Measuring It

A once-in-a-generation rebuild of the national accounts on new audited data, unified methods and modern international standards.

PART I · THE IMPERATIVE — THE CASE FOR ACTION

The economy grew faster than the instruments measuring it.

\$517bn

AED 1.9 Trillion
UAE GDP 2025
(Constant Prices)

 **6.2%**

National Growth,
Above Global Averages

A larger, more complex and increasingly digital economy — fast-growing free zones, financial services, logistics and new-economy sectors — has outpaced the surveys and processes built to observe it.

When the instruments lag the economy they measure, the official number drifts from reality. A structurally transformed economy needs a structurally modern measurement to match it — comprehensive in coverage, unified in method, and comparable across borders.

PART I · THE BASIS — FOUR FOUNDATIONS

Why the UAE is undertaking the review — the reasons it rests on.

KEY DRIVER**A New Audited Data Foundation**

Federal Corporate Tax (Decree-Law No. 47 of 2022) created a near-universal, audited record of the business population — including the free zones — the single most powerful new source for measuring the modern economy.

Newer, Broader Data Sources

- 1 An updated business register, administrative records, field surveys and entirely new sources that reflect the true size and diversity of activity across all seven emirates.

Emerging Economic Activities

- 2 A fast-growing digital economy, free zones, financial services and logistics that demand updated, comprehensive coverage to be represented in the national accounts.

Modern International Standards

- 3 Alignment with the System of National Accounts and a refreshed 2024 base year — the conditions for accuracy, comparability and international acceptance.

THE NEW DATA FOUNDATION

Corporate tax gave the UAE a new audited view of its own economy — for the first time.

For most of its history the UAE was a light-tax economy — with no single, mandatory, audited record of the full business population, especially across its free zones. Federal Corporate Tax changed that overnight.

Under Federal Decree-Law No. 47 of 2022 — a 9% rate from June 2023, and a 15% Domestic Minimum Top-up Tax on large multinationals from January 2025 — virtually every business must register with the Federal Tax Authority, and larger entities file audited statements.

An updated business register

Near-universal, legally mandated coverage of active entities.

Audited value-added by entity

Verified financials mapped to sector and activity.

Free-zone visibility

The previously under-observed economy, brought into scope.

Higher-frequency signal

Structured, recurring filings that shorten production cycles.

The timing is not a coincidence: this foundation matured precisely when the National Statistics Data Platform (NSDP) was built to consume administrative data — and when the GDP review needed it.

PART II · THE ANATOMY OF THE REVIEW

Six pillars, one unified series.

PILLAR 01**Unified Base Year · 2024**

One national base year and a periodic rebasing cycle across all seven emirates, per international best practice.

PILLAR 02**Expanded Activity Base**

Wider coverage including the digital economy and previously non-observed activities, for a truly comprehensive GDP.

PILLAR 03**Unified Methods**

Harmonized methodological notes and one publication calendar.

PILLAR 04**Unified Financial-Sector Method**

A single national methodology for banking output (FISIM) and insurance activity.

PILLAR 05**Unified Government Method**

Harmonized public administration value-added, with functional classification and clean activity separation.

PILLAR 06**Free-Zone Integration**

Comprehensive, unified coverage of free-zone and semi-government entities within GDP and its data flows.

Expected outcome by March 2027: a re-established 2010–2026 series on one methodology and comprehensive coverage, fully consistent with the System of National Accounts.

PART III · STANDARDS ALIGNMENT

Comprehensive revision is what credible systems do. The outlier is one that doesn't.

RECOMMENDED



A standing expectation

The System of National Accounts and the IMF recommend periodic rebasing — roughly every five years — so the base year stays representative of the economy.

ROUTINE



Standard among leading economies

Benchmark and comprehensive revisions are routine across the world's most advanced statistical offices.

RESPONSIBLE



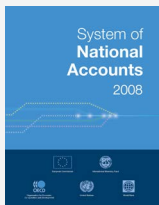
The UAE, realigning

The UAE is bringing its national accounts back onto the cycle that best practice expects — a deliberate step into line with its peers.

The risk is not in revising the number. The risk is a number left unrevised while the economy moves on.

 PART III · QUALITY ASSURANCE

Comparability and quality, designed in — not inserted.



CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

System of National Accounts

The internationally agreed framework for GDP — the standard against which the new series is built and read.



GOVERNING PRINCIPLES

UN Fundamental Principles

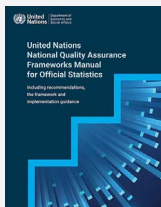
Professional independence, sound methods and transparency — the principles that make official statistics trusted.



PRODUCTION MODEL

GSBPM

The Generic Statistical Business Process Model — the common process language of national statistical offices.



QUALITY ASSURANCE

UN NQAF

The National Quality Assurance Framework — quality managed and evidenced across the full production lifecycle.

Each methodological choice in the review — base year, coverage, financial-sector and government methods — is made to be consistent with these standards, so the resulting series is comparable with peer economies and legible to every institution that consumes it.

PART III · GOVERNANCE & INDEPENDENCE

A Rigorous, Impartial Process — by Design.

01

Professional independence

Methods and results are determined on statistical grounds, insulated from any single outcome.

02

Documented, published methodology

Concepts, classifications and bridge tables set out in the open for external scrutiny.

03

Quality gates across the lifecycle

Checkpoints aligned to the UN NOAF at every stage of production.

04

Independent technical assistance

IMF technical assistance in reconstructing and reconciling the series will be requested.

05

Audit-grade source data

Anchored in audited corporate-tax filings and official administrative registers.

06

Full traceability

Every figure reproducible from source — defensible on the record, not on assertion.

Because the results are reproducible from audited records rather than analytical judgment, they are defensible to any reviewer.

PART IV · THE COMMITMENT — THE NATIONAL ROADMAP

A sequenced path to one number, announced to the world.



PART IV · THE COMMITMENT

The commitments behind the number.

01

Publish the full methodology

Concepts, classifications, sources and bridge tables released openly, so any reviewer can follow the reconstruction.

02

Maintain a regular rebasing cycle and a revision policy

A predictable schedule aligned to international practice — not repeated, ad-hoc revisions.

03

Engage the IMF and UN throughout

Technical assistance and consultation carried through to the release.

04

Maintain one consistent series forward

A single, coherent 2010–2026 series carried forward — a new steady state, not a moment.

06

CHAPTER

Five programmes, one architecture: **how it all connects.**

Read separately, these are five impressive initiatives. Read together, they are a single deliberate design — a national intelligence stack where each layer makes the next one possible.

THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE STACK

Each layer is the foundation for the one above it.



THE GLOBAL POSITION

Not following the standard — helping to set it.

MEMBERSHIP



**UN Statistical
Commission**

UAE is an elected member, 2025–2028 — a seat where global statistical standards are made.

HOST



Home to the UN Global Platform's regional hub for the Middle East & North Africa.

STANDARD



IMF SDDS

The UAE is committed to upgrade to the Special Data Dissemination Standard — one of the highest tiers of transparency.

STANDARD



**THE WORLD BANK
World Bank SPI**

Tracked on the Statistical Performance Index — capability rising on register-based production.

Aligned throughout with the **UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics**, the **GSBPM**, and the **UN National Quality Assurance Framework** — the shared grammar of world-class statistical systems.



For more information, please contact FCSC at:
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