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# Chapter 1

## 247

### 1.1 247.guide

Texified version of data for United Arab Emirates.

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United Arab Emirates

### 1.2 247.guide/United Arab Emirates

United Arab Emirates  
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Geography (United Arab Emirates)  
 Geography (United Arab Emirates 2. usage)  
 People (United Arab Emirates)  
 Government (United Arab Emirates)  
 Government (United Arab Emirates 2. usage)  
 Economy (United Arab Emirates)  
 Communications (United Arab Emirates)  
 Defense Forces (United Arab Emirates)

### 1.3 247.guide/Geography (United Arab Emirates)

Geography (United Arab Emirates)

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Location:

Middle East, along the Persian Gulf, between Oman and Saudi Arabia

Map references:

Middle East, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

75,581 km<sup>2</sup>

land area:

75,581 km<sup>2</sup>

comparative area:

slightly smaller than Maine

Land boundaries:

total 867 km, Oman 410 km, Saudi Arabia 457 km

Coastline:

1,318 km

Maritime claims:

continental shelf:

defined by bilateral boundaries or equidistant line

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

3 nm assumed for most of country,

12 nm for Ash Shariqah (Sharjah)

International disputes:

location and status of boundary with Saudi Arabia is not final; no defined boundary with most of Oman, but Administrative Line in far north; claims ↔ two

islands in the Persian Gulf occupied by Iran (Jazireh-ye Tonb-e Bozorg or Greater Tunb, and Jazireh-ye Tonb-e Kuchek or Lesser Tunb); claims island ↔ in

the Persian Gulf jointly administered with Iran (Jazireh-ye Abu Musa or Abu Musa); in 1992, the dispute over Abu Musa and the Tumb islands became more acute when Iran unilaterally tried to control the entry of third country nationals into the UAE portion of Abu Musa island, Tehran subsequently backed off in the face of significant diplomatic support for the UAE in the region

Climate:

desert; cooler in eastern mountains  
Terrain:  
flat, barren coastal plain merging into rolling sand dunes of vast desert  
wasteland; mountains in east  
Natural resources:  
petroleum, natural gas  
Land use:  
arable land:  
0%  
permanent crops:  
0%  
meadows and pastures:  
2%  
forest and woodland:  
0%  
other:  
98%  
Irrigated land:  
50 km2 (1989 est.)  
Environment:  
frequent dust and sand storms; lack of natural freshwater resources being  
overcome by desalination plants; desertification

## 1.4 247.guide/Geography (United Arab Emirates 2. usage)

Geography (United Arab Emirates 2. usage)  
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Note:

strategic location along southern approaches to Strait of Hormuz, a vital  
transit point for world crude oil

## 1.5 247.guide/People (United Arab Emirates)

People (United Arab Emirates)  
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Population:  
2,657,013 (July 1993 est.)  
Population growth rate:  
5.06% (1993 est.)  
Birth rate:  
28.4 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
Death rate:  
3.07 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
Net migration rate:  
25.27 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
Infant mortality rate:

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22.5 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)  
 Life expectancy at birth:  
 total population:  
   72 years  
 male:  
   69.91 years  
 female:  
   74.2 years (1993 est.)  
 Total fertility rate:  
   4.67 children born/woman (1993 est.)  
 Nationality:  
 noun:  
   Emirian(s) adjective:  
   Emirian  
 Ethnic divisions:  
   Emirian 19%, other Arab 23%, South Asian 50%, other expatriates (includes  
   Westerners and East Asians) 8% (1982)  
 note:  
   less than 20% are UAE citizens (1982)  
 Religions:  
   Muslim 96% (Shi'a 16%), Christian, Hindu, and other 4%  
 Languages:  
   Arabic (official), Persian, English, Hindi, Urdu  
 Literacy:  
   age 10 and over can read and write (1980)  
 total population:  
   68%  
 male:  
   70%  
 female:  
   63%  
 Labor force:  
   580,000 (1986 est.)  
 by occupation:  
   industry and commerce 85%, agriculture 5%, services 5%, government 5%  
 note:  
   80% of labor force is foreign

## 1.6 247.guide/Government (United Arab Emirates)

Government (United Arab Emirates)

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Names:  
 conventional long form:  
   United Arab Emirates  
 conventional short form:  
   none  
 local long form:  
   Al Imarata al Arabiyah al Muttahidah  
 local short form:  
   none  
 former:

Trucial States  
 Abbreviation:  
 UAE  
 Digraph:  
 TC  
 Type:  
 federation with specified powers delegated to the UAE central government ←  
 and  
 other powers reserved to member emirates  
 Capital:  
 Abu Dhabi  
 Administrative divisions:  
 7 emirates (imarat, singular - imarah); Abu Zaby (Abu Dhabi), 'Ajman, Al  
 Fujayrah, Ash Shariqah (Sharjah), Dubayy, Ra's al Khaymah, Umm al Qaywayn  
 Independence:  
 2 December 1971 (from UK)  
 Constitution: 2 December 1971 (provisional)  
 Legal system:  
 secular codes are being introduced by the UAE Government and in several  
 member emirates; Islamic law remains influential  
 National holiday:  
 National Day, 2 December (1971)  
 Political parties and leaders:  
 none  
 Other political or pressure groups:  
 a few small clandestine groups may be active  
 Suffrage:  
 none  
 Elections:  
 none  
 Executive branch:  
 president, vice president, Supreme Council of Rulers, prime minister, ←  
 deputy  
 prime minister, Council of Ministers  
 Legislative branch:  
 unicameral Federal National Council (Majlis Watani Itihad)  
 Judicial branch:  
 Union Supreme Court  
 Leaders:  
 Chief of State:  
 President Zayid bin Sultan Al NUHAYYAN, (since 2 December 1971), ruler of  
 Abu Dhabi; Vice President Shaykh Maktum bin Rashid al-MAKTUM (since 8  
 October 1990), ruler of Dubayy  
 Head of Government:  
 Prime Minister Shaykh Maktum bin Rashid al-MAKTUM (since 8 October 1990),  
 ruler of Dubayy; Deputy Prime Minister Sultan bin Zayid Al NUHAYYAN (since  
 20 November 1990)

## 1.7 247.guide/Government (United Arab Emirates 2. usage)

Government (United Arab Emirates 2. usage)

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## Member of:

ABEDA, AFESD, AL, AMF, CAEU, CCC, ESCWA, FAO, G-77, GCC, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INMARSAT, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ISO (correspondent), ITU, LORCS, NAM, OAPEC, OIC, OPEC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

## Diplomatic representation in US:

## chief of mission:

Ambassador Muhammad bin Husayn Al SHAALI

## chancery:

Suite 740, 600 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20037

## telephone:

(202) 338-6500

## US diplomatic representation:

## chief of mission:

Ambassador William RUGH

## embassy:

Al-Sudan Street, Abu Dhabi

## mailing address:

P. O. Box 4009, Abu Dhabi

## telephone:

[971] (2) 336691, afterhours 338730 FAX:

[971] (2) 318441

## consulate general:

Dubayy (Dubai)

## Flag:

three equal horizontal bands of green (top), white, and black with a ←  
thicker  
vertical red band on the hoist side

## 1.8 247.guide/Economy (United Arab Emirates)

### Economy (United Arab Emirates)

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## Overview:

The UAE has an open economy with one of the world's highest incomes per capita outside the OECD nations. This wealth is based on oil and gas, and the fortunes of the economy fluctuate with the prices of those commodities. Since 1973, the UAE has undergone a profound transformation from an impoverished region of small desert principalities to a modern state with a high standard of living. At present levels of production, crude oil ←  
reserves  
should last for over 100 years.

## National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$34.9 billion (1992)

## National product real growth rate:

NA%

## National product per capita:

\$13,800 (1992)

## Inflation rate (consumer prices):

1% (1990 est.)

## Unemployment rate:

NEGL% (1988)

**Budget:**

revenues \$4.3 billion; expenditures \$4.8 billion, including capital expenditures of \$NA (1993)

**Exports:**

\$21.2 billion (f.o.b., 1991 est.)

**commodities:**

crude oil 66%, natural gas, reexports, dried fish, dates

**partners:**

Japan 39%, Singapore 5%, Korea 4%, Iran 4%, India

**Imports:**

\$13.9 billion (f.o.b., 1991 est.)

**commodities:**

capital goods, consumer goods, food

**partners:**

Japan 15%, US 10%, UK 9%, Germany 7%, Korea 4%

**External debt:**

\$11 billion (December 1989 est.)

**Industrial production:**

growth rate 30% (1990 est.); accounts for 56% of GDP, including petroleum

**Electricity:**

6,090,000 kW capacity; 17,850 million kWh produced, 6,718 kWh per capita (1992)

**Industries:**

petroleum, fishing, petrochemicals, construction materials, some boat building, handicrafts, pearling

**Agriculture:** accounts for 2% of GDP and 5% of labor force; cash crop - ←  
dates; food

products - vegetables, watermelons, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish; only 25% self-sufficient in food

**Economic aid:**

donor - pledged \$9.1 billion in bilateral aid to less developed countries (1979-89)

**Currency:**

1 Emirian dirham (Dh) = 100 fils

**Exchange rates:**

Emirian dirhams (Dh) per US\$1 - 3.6710 (fixed rate)

**Fiscal year:**

calendar year

## 1.9 247.guide/Communications (United Arab Emirates)

### Communications (United Arab Emirates)

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**Highways:**

2,000 km total; 1,800 km bituminous, 200 km gravel and graded earth

**Pipelines:**

crude oil 830 km, natural gas, including natural gas liquids, 870 km

**Ports:**

Al Fujayrah, Khawr Fakkan, Mina' Jabal 'Ali, Mina' Khalid, Mina' Rashid, Mina' Saqr, Mina' Zayid

**Merchant marine:**

56 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 1,197,306 GRT/2,153,673 DWT; includes

15 cargo, 8 container, 3 roll-on/roll-off, 23 oil tanker, 4 bulk, 1 refrigerated cargo, 1 liquified gas, 1 chemical tanker

Airports:

total:  
37

usable:  
34

with permanent-surface runways:  
20

with runways over 3,659 m:  
7

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:  
5

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:  
5

Telecommunications:

modern system consisting of microwave and coaxial cable; key centers are ↔  
Abu  
Dhabi and Dubayy; 386,600 telephones; satellite ground stations - 1 ↔  
Atlantic

Ocean INTELSAT, 2 Indian Ocean INTELSAT and 1 ARABSAT; submarine cables to Qatar, Bahrain, India, and Pakistan; tropospheric scatter to Bahrain; microwave radio relay to Saudi Arabia; broadcast stations - 8 AM, 3 FM, 12 TV

## 1.10 247.guide/Defense Forces (United Arab Emirates)

Defense Forces (United Arab Emirates)

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Branches:

Army, Navy, Air Force, Federal Police Force

Manpower availability: males age 15-49 1,008,076; fit for military service ↔  
550,965; reach military  
age (18) annually 15,499 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$1.47 billion, 5.3% of GDP (1989 est.)