



مكتب أبوظبي للاستثمار  
ABU DHABI INVESTMENT OFFICE

# ABU DHABI INDUSTRIAL VALUE PROPOSITION OVERVIEW



[investinabudhabi.gov.ae](http://investinabudhabi.gov.ae)



“The UAE’s Industrial Strategy brings together the private and public sectors to re-imagine the future of industries. It is a determination to build our nation’s knowledge and expertise and forge our path towards long-term sustainable growth that benefits people and planet.”

**President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**



# Abu Dhabi: A destination where businesses and people thrive



Abu Dhabi combines an unparalleled quality of life with an innovation-led business environment, making it one of the best places in the world to invest, work, and live. It is the capital of the United Arab Emirates and is home to more than 200 nationalities. It is an aspiring global financial centre, a growing innovation hub, a leading energy producer, and a world-class tourist destination and cultural centre. Abu Dhabi is a destination where business and people thrive, and we want you to thrive with us.

## Abu Dhabi is a stable, resilient and fast-growing economy



Federal capital of the UAE

87%

Total land area of the UAE



GDP ~ USD 229bn  
(55% of UAE GDP)



Non-oil contribution to  
Abu Dhabi GDP ~58% (2021)

10<sup>th</sup>

Sovereign Rating  
AA (Highest)<sup>4</sup>

12<sup>th</sup>

Global Cities of the  
Future FDI Ranking<sup>6</sup>



Stable currency  
UAE Dirham is pegged to  
the US Dollar @3.67

6<sup>th</sup>

Largest proven oil  
reserves (~8% of global  
oil reserves)

## Abu Dhabi is a friendly and open destination for business

1<sup>st</sup>

WEF Global  
Competitiveness Index  
Middle East<sup>6</sup>

1<sup>st</sup>

Ease of Doing Business  
in MENA Region<sup>6</sup>

10<sup>th</sup>

Ease of Doing  
Business Globally<sup>6</sup>

8<sup>th</sup>

Starting a Business  
Ranking Globally

1<sup>st</sup>

Global Entrepreneurship  
2022

100%

foreign ownership  
and 100% repatriation  
of capital and profits

137

Countries with double  
taxation avoidance  
agreements in place



Protection of intellectual  
property and trademarks  
under UAE Federal Law 17

5<sup>th</sup>

Most popular city in the  
world for expats to work<sup>5</sup>

1. 2020, SCAD data at current prices  
2. 2021, SCAD and Statista  
3. 2021, SCAD GDP data at current prices  
4. 2022, Fitch Ratings  
5. 2021, Boston Consulting Group



## Abu Dhabi has a world-class physical and digital infrastructure, enabling growth

**80%**

of the world within an 8-hour flight, that is 4.5bn consumers in 4 time zones

**1<sup>st</sup>**

Capital in the world to have 100% fiber-to-the-home connection

**2<sup>nd</sup>**

Fastest 5G connection in the world

**1<sup>st</sup>**

Smartest City in Middle East<sup>6</sup>

**11<sup>th</sup>**

in IMD's World Digital Competitiveness Yearbook 2020

**1,000+**

Global destinations connected to Khalifa Port

## Abu Dhabi offers its people and residents an unparalleled lifestyle

**1<sup>st</sup>**

Named the most livable city in Middle East and North Africa<sup>7</sup>



World-class healthcare facilities to serve a local and international workforce

**1<sup>st</sup>**

Happiest City in Middle East

**1<sup>st</sup>**

Safest City in the World<sup>8</sup>

5. 2016, Abu Dhabi Competitiveness Report  
 6. 2022, Ookla  
 7. Economist Intelligence Unit  
 8. 2022, Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development



# A competitive hub powering growth opportunities

Abu Dhabi is home to one of the world's most robust, competitive and advanced industrial sectors. This position is being strengthened through the ambitious Abu Dhabi Industrial Strategy, which plans to double the sector's contribution to GDP by 2031, leveraging strong enablers such as infrastructure, competitive operational costs, business-enabling regulations and access to financing. Abu Dhabi's industrial sector presents an unparalleled opportunity for investors across the value chain.



**AED 83.5bn**

2021 Industrial GDP  
(largest non oil GDP contributor)



**AED 73.5bn**

2021 Non-oil exports

## 2031 objectives



**AED 172bn**

Industrial GDP



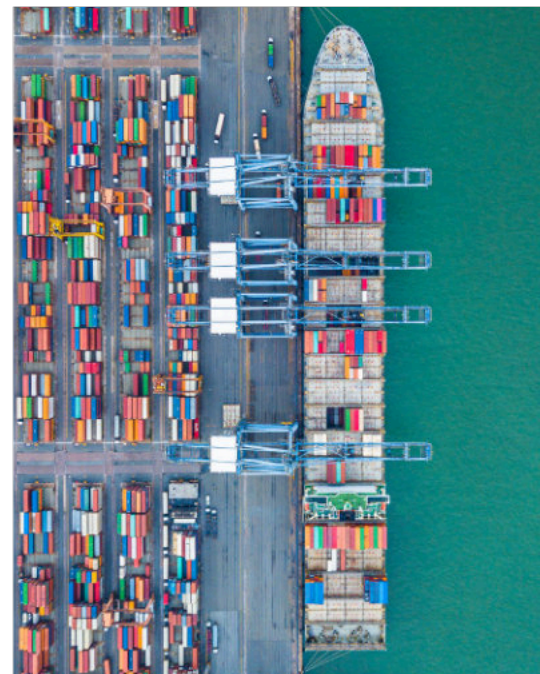
**AED 178bn**

Non-oil exports











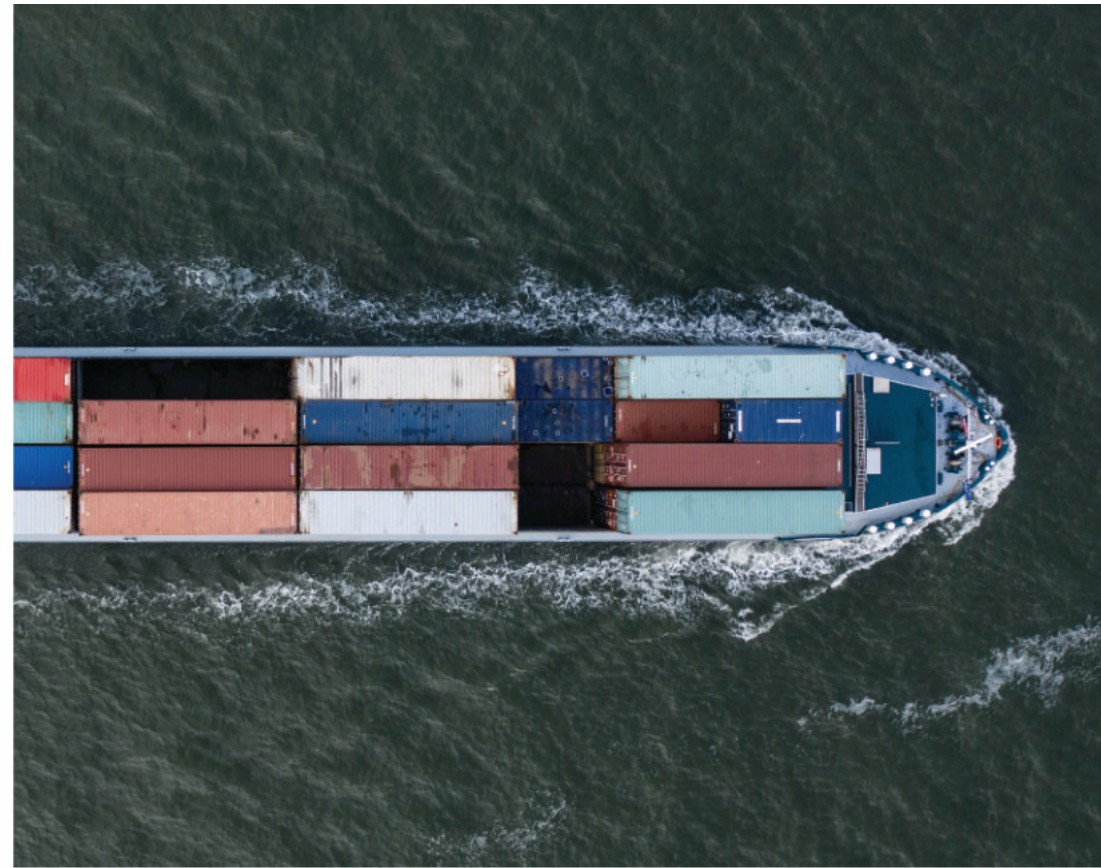
**13,600+**

New knowledge-based jobs













## Abu Dhabi has a robust infrastructure which can be leveraged to create a global manufacturing hub connected to Europe, Asia and Africa

-  **World-class supply chain infrastructure** with competitive import and export lead time
-  **500,000+ square meters pre-built facilities available and build-to-suit solutions** to facilitate faster business setup
-  Home to Khalifa Port: **world's second fastest growing port** with a projected capacity of 9.1mn TEU within 5 years, is connected to 1,000+ global destinations, and has a depth of 18.5 meters to accommodate mega vessels
-  **Access to key markets** thanks to over 20 free trade agreements and 5 Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements allowing free trade within GCC countries<sup>1</sup>
-  **Utility corridors** providing power, potable water, telecom, sewerage services and special utilities such as industrial water and gas
-  **Availability of green energy**, facilitating product export to developed markets in Europe and North America and manufacturing of green products
-  **Abundant oil, gas energy and petrochemical feedstock** as well as **metals** such as steel and aluminum
-  Abu Dhabi Global Market international financial centre, providing regulatory frameworks and legal regime based on **English Common Law**



## Abu Dhabi has a strong access to skilled talent due to its positioning as one of the best cities to work, strong remuneration and high standards of living

-  **Literacy Rate: 93% (2018)**
  -  **16 higher education institutions** based in Abu Dhabi, including leading international ones, as well as the world first AI university
- 





-  **Ten-year Golden Visa** for foreign investors, entrepreneurs, and talented individuals
  -  **Ease of access to international talent** with no barriers to hiring expatriates

1. UAE Ministry of Economy - [www.moec.gov.ae/en/-free-trade-agreements](http://www.moec.gov.ae/en/-free-trade-agreements)

## Abu Dhabi is home to an established industrial ecosystem that enables players' growth



**Mainland investment zones and free zones**, including sector-focused industrial parks, covering **500+ square kilometers**, suitable for small startups to mega industrial projects with proximity to ports/airports



**900+ Industrial enterprises** across multiple sectors including petrochemicals, aluminum, steel, automotive, advanced materials, aerospace and defence, among others



**Support to startups and SMEs** via facilities such as KEZAD Entrepreneurship and Incubation Center and Hub 71, offering flexible workspaces as well as additional services



Close access to **financial and investments hubs** and proximity to key players - such as Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX) and sovereign wealth funds - that enable funding and co-investment opportunities in the industrial sector



**Strong local demand for industrial products** from local champions such as ADNOC, EDGE, EGA, TAQA ALDAR, Pure Health among others, which could feed into the local industrial value chain



## Abu Dhabi has launched multiple initiatives to reduce operational costs and enhance the competitiveness of its industrial sector



Among the **lowest business set-up charges** in the region



**Attractive land, office, and residential rates** with extended contracts



**75% of the KEZAD free zone services** are free of costs



**Broad range of financial incentives** available for companies setting up industrial activities in Abu Dhabi



# Incentives

The Abu Dhabi ecosystem has designed an appealing and comprehensive incentives scheme to support sustainable success in the emirate's industrial sector.



## Opex and Capex incentives

- Rebates on capex and opex on a pay-and-reclaim basis
- Grants to support eligible innovation investments
- Land Incentives offered with rates of as low as AED 5 per square meter for mainland industries
- Salaries and pensions support schemes for recruiting young Emiratis
- Customs duty exemption for industrial imports



## Energy tariff incentives

- Incentives up to 30% on electricity tariffs and up to 35% on gas tariffs



## Procurement incentives

- Make It in the Emirates initiative: AED 110bn (over 10 years) off-take opportunities for local manufacturers identified by leading UAE players across multiple industrial sectors
- Abu Dhabi Local Content Programme and Golden List initiative, directing government procurement towards locally manufactured goods
- Benefits for local manufactures offered by local champions like ADNOC, including upfront payment of a percentage of contract value for local manufacturers and payment of the 5% In-Country Value (ICV) withholding to suppliers who meet their ICV Improvement Plan
- Attractive rates on feedstock materials



## Credit and insurance incentives

- Capex debt financing for new industrial activities or expansions through various public, like Emirates Development Bank (EDB), and private financial institutions
- Advanced technology & equipment financing for upgrading or acquiring advanced and efficient machinery (such as Industry 4.0 technologies)
- Green finance for entities using alternative or renewable energy
- Working capital and cash management solutions
- Export credit support via local export agencies, Abu Dhabi Export Office and Etihad Credit Insurance





# Investor Care services

Abu Dhabi, through the Abu Dhabi Investment Office, offers comprehensive investor care to guide and supports industrial investors throughout their journey.

## Step 1 Pre-investment

- Providing data and information on all aspects of doing business in Abu Dhabi
- Providing insight into applicable laws and regulations, as well as assistance in obtaining economic licenses and operating permits
- Identifying real-estate cost-effective solutions for office space, and industrial activities
- Support in obtaining residency visas for the international workforce
- Introduction to local banking partners to expedite setting up bank accounts and financing options
- Connections to partner entities across the Abu Dhabi ecosystem for strategic partnerships, growth, and investment opportunities

## Step 2 Investment initiation

- Business set-up within 24 hours
- Dedicated customer services
- Account manager for major investments
- One-stop shop for most services, permits, approvals, etc.

## Step 3 Investor retention

- Fast-track prequalification for local manufacturers
- Inclusion in commercial directory



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY  
& ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY



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دائرة التنمية الاقتصادية  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



أدنوك  
ADNOC



مجموعة كيزاد  
KEZAD GROUP



MUBADALA



مجلس التوازن  
TAWAZUN COUNCIL



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