



THE DUBAI BUSINESS BULLETIN



ECONOMY

Hamdan bin Mohammed approved the launch of 'Dubai Research, Development & Innovation Grant Initiative'

This initiative seeks to provide essential funding for a range of research projects driving significant advancements in Dubai's key economic sectors.

UAE's GDP reached AED430 billion in Q1 2024



INFRASTRUCTURE

AED10 billion expansion plan for the Dubai Exhibition Centre at Expo City Dubai approved

On completion, the DEC will become the largest purpose-built indoor events and exhibitions venue in the region.

Dubai ranks 1st in the Arab world and 5th globally in the International Shipping Centre Development Index

In particular, Dubai witnessed a remarkable influx of 5.18 million international tourists, representing an 11% increase compared to the corresponding period in 2023.

[UAE private joint stock companies to ensure women's representation on their board of directors](#)

This UAE Ministry of Economy decision is a vital component of the nation's broader strategy to increase women's representation in leadership roles and strengthen their role in the private sector.

[UAE 1st globally in Network Readiness Index](#)

According to UN E-Government Survey 2024, UAE has achieved outstanding results in several indicators related to government and digital services.



FINANCIAL SERVICES

[DIFC in the News: DIFC strengthens role as global hub for wealth, asset management and brokerage firms](#)

- **[DIFC pioneers new initiatives to support influx of wealth and asset management firms](#)**

DIFC is launching a first-of-its-kind environment, the DIFC Funds Centre, in Q1 2025. DIFC now houses over 400 wealth and asset management firms, including 44 'billion-dollar club' hedge funds.

- **[DIFC preferred choice for international brokerage firms eyeing Dubai](#)**

DIFC has strengthened its position to become the preferred choice for globally renowned brokerage firms in the UAE, with 70 now established in the Centre.

Dubai was the only Arab city in the top 20. Singapore, London, Shanghai, and Hong Kong secured the top four positions in the index.

[RTA air taxis will take off in Dubai in Q1 2026](#)

The fully electric air taxis will launch as part of Dubai's Advanced Air Mobility initiatives. The project is considered an ambitious step in the field of autonomous air transportation.



INNOVATION

[The Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism has forged a strategic collaboration with Amazon UAE, to launch the 'DET x Amazon Accelerator'](#)

The programme's designed to bolster the growth of SMEs in Dubai and enhance their competitiveness on the international stage.

[Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation launched 'Future Skills Academy'](#)

The Academy will benefit over a million people in the Arab world, helping address unemployment challenges and highlighting ways to drive sustainable economic growth.

[AI set to contribute AED367 billion to UAE's GDP by 2030](#)

Abdallah Abu-Sheikh, Founder of Astra Tech and CEO of Botim, said that AI is projected to have a transformative impact on the UAE's economy, contributing up to 14% of its GDP by 2030.



UPCOMING EVENTS

WETEX: 1-3 October, Dubai World Trade Centre

WE TEX, organised by Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), is the perfect platform to display the latest technological advancements and discuss the latest trends related to energy, water conservation, saving natural resources and building a sustainable environment

World Green Economy Summit: 2- 3 October, Dubai World Trade Centre

The World Green Economy Organization (WGEO), Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), and the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, organise the World Green Economy Summit (WG ES) annually.

GITEX: 14- 18 October, Dubai World Trade Centre

GITEX GLOBAL is the biggest tech show in the world, connecting participants with industry leaders from big tech, global governments, innovative startups, expert investors, and corporate buyers, and is also the event around which the October FAM visits are organised.

Expand North Star Fintech Surge, and Future Blockchain Summit: 13-16 October, Dubai Harbour

Expand North Star is the annual go-to event for startups, investors, accelerators and tech enthusiasts to source funding, investment deals and stay up to date with the industry. Fintech Surge is also set to make its triumphant return to Dubai Harbour, as well as Future Blockchain Summit which is the leading blockchain exhibition and MENA region's most immersive large-scale blockchain event All these events are an integral part of Expand North Star, powered by GITEX GLOBAL.

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