

UAE Foreign Direct Investment

REPORT 2025



وزارة الاستثمار

MINISTRY OF INVESTMENT

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The United Arab Emirates' 2024 foreign direct investment (FDI) performance and momentum are a reflection of the resilience of our economy and the confidence international investors continue to place in the UAE's clear policies, strategic partnerships, and bold agenda.

Amid rising global uncertainty, more selective cross-border capital flows and a global decline in investment activity, the UAE's FDI performance in 2024 told a different story. We continued to strengthen our position as a global economic powerhouse, officially entering the ranks of the world's top 10 FDI destinations, and standing out as a beacon of stability and opportunity for investors.

That story is neither new nor a turning point. It is a culmination of our long-standing commitment to building an agile, investor-centric economy anchored in resilience, openness, and innovation, and a success we are proud of and determined to continue building on in the future.

FDI inflows into the UAE grew by 48.7% in 2024 to reach US\$ 45.6 billion, the number of greenfield project announcements rose by 2.8% – nearly triple the global average of 0.8% – with 1,369 new projects announced. Strong GDP performance supports this upward trajectory. In 2024, our total GDP grew by 4% with a stronger 5% increase in the non-oil component, which contributed 75.5% of overall GDP. This has strengthened investor confidence across key industries.

This performance is the product of deliberate choices. Pro-investor reforms and forward-thinking policies have created an exceptionally favorable

environment for international businesses seeking efficiency and scalability. With 21 Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements (CEPAs) and 120 Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs), the UAE also offers unmatched global connectivity and access to high-growth markets, reinforcing our role as a global hub for trade, capital, and innovation.

Beyond capital and policies, FDI is about people. The UAE's diverse talent pool, world-class infrastructure, commitment to innovation, and high quality of life continue to attract leading professionals, entrepreneurs, and innovators from around the world, ensuring that both investors and their families find a long-term home in the UAE.

At the heart of this momentum is the Ministry of Investment. Our mission is to enable and accelerate investment across sectors, foster a vibrant ecosystem for global capital, and serve as

a strategic partner to investors. We work closely with governments and the private sector to shape fit-for-purpose policies, remain competitive, and unlock new opportunities. We invite investors from around the world to come and explore the wealth of opportunities the UAE has to offer – across innovative industries, transformative technologies, and future-facing sectors. The Ministry stands ready to support and partner with you on your investment journey in the UAE.

Looking ahead, the National Investment Strategy 2031 sets an ambitious yet attainable vision – to double annual FDI inflows and further strengthen the UAE's position among the world's leading investment destinations. This is a path we are already progressing on with confidence and momentum.

This report offers a snapshot of where we stand today and a roadmap towards what we are building for tomorrow: a dynamic, diversified economy powered by innovation, sustainability, and global partnerships.

I invite you to explore the insights in this report and to see the UAE as we see it: open for business, open to partnership, and open to shaping the future together.

H.E. Mohamed Hassan Alsuwaidi
UAE MINISTER OF INVESTMENT

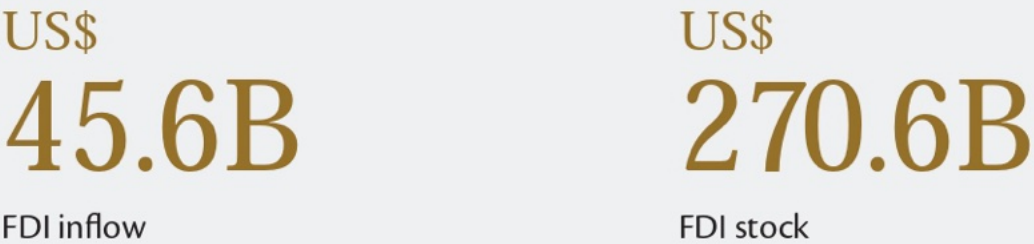


Maintaining momentum

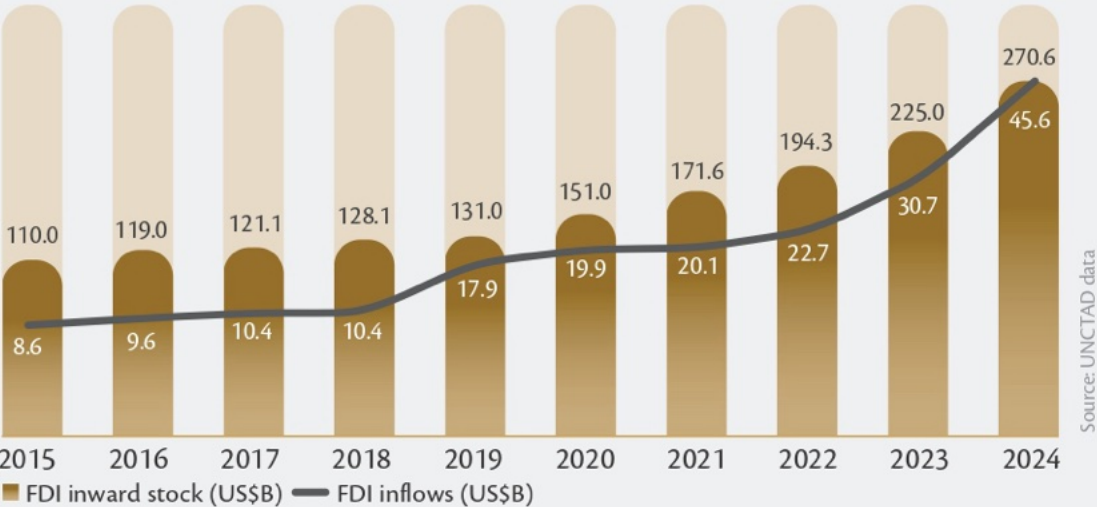
Few countries have managed to reshape their investment landscape as rapidly or as effectively as the UAE. Over the past decade, the country has established itself as a destination where investment is matched by a climate that encourages fresh ideas and lasting collaboration. In 2024, when many economies felt the drag of uncertain economic growth, the UAE moved forward, bolstered by long-term reforms, active trade relationships, and a willingness to open doors to emerging industries.

#10 UAE's global ranking in FDI inflow in 2024, one rank higher than in 2023

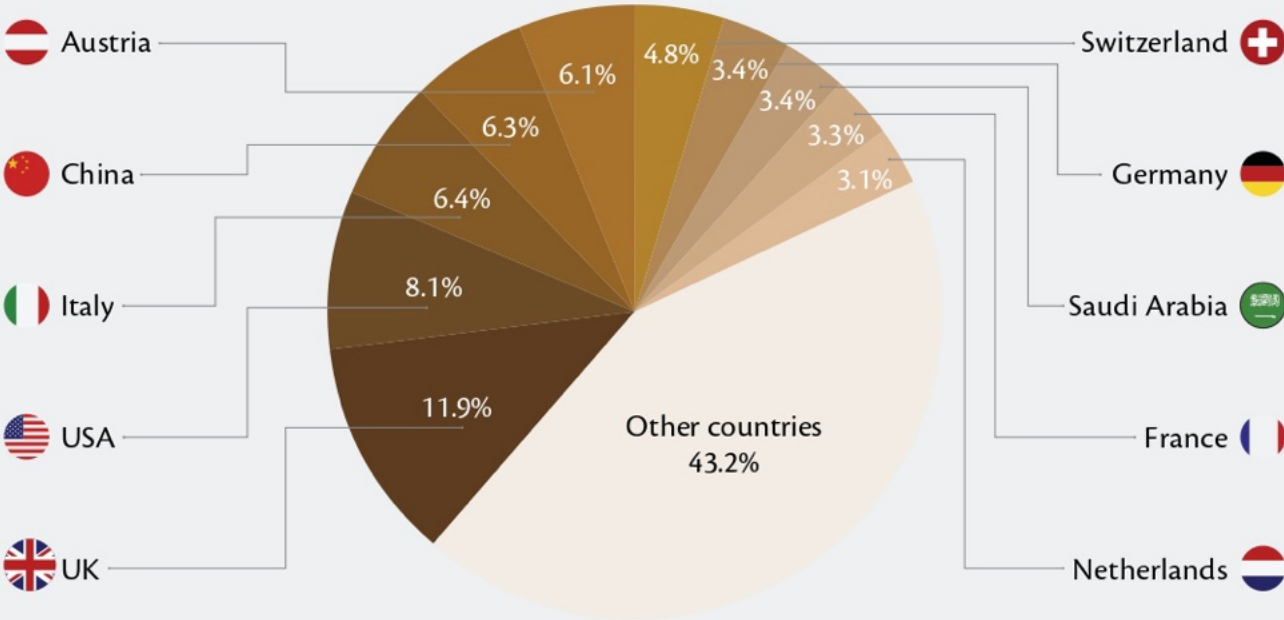
FDI inflow and stock increased in 2024



A success story in attracting FDI



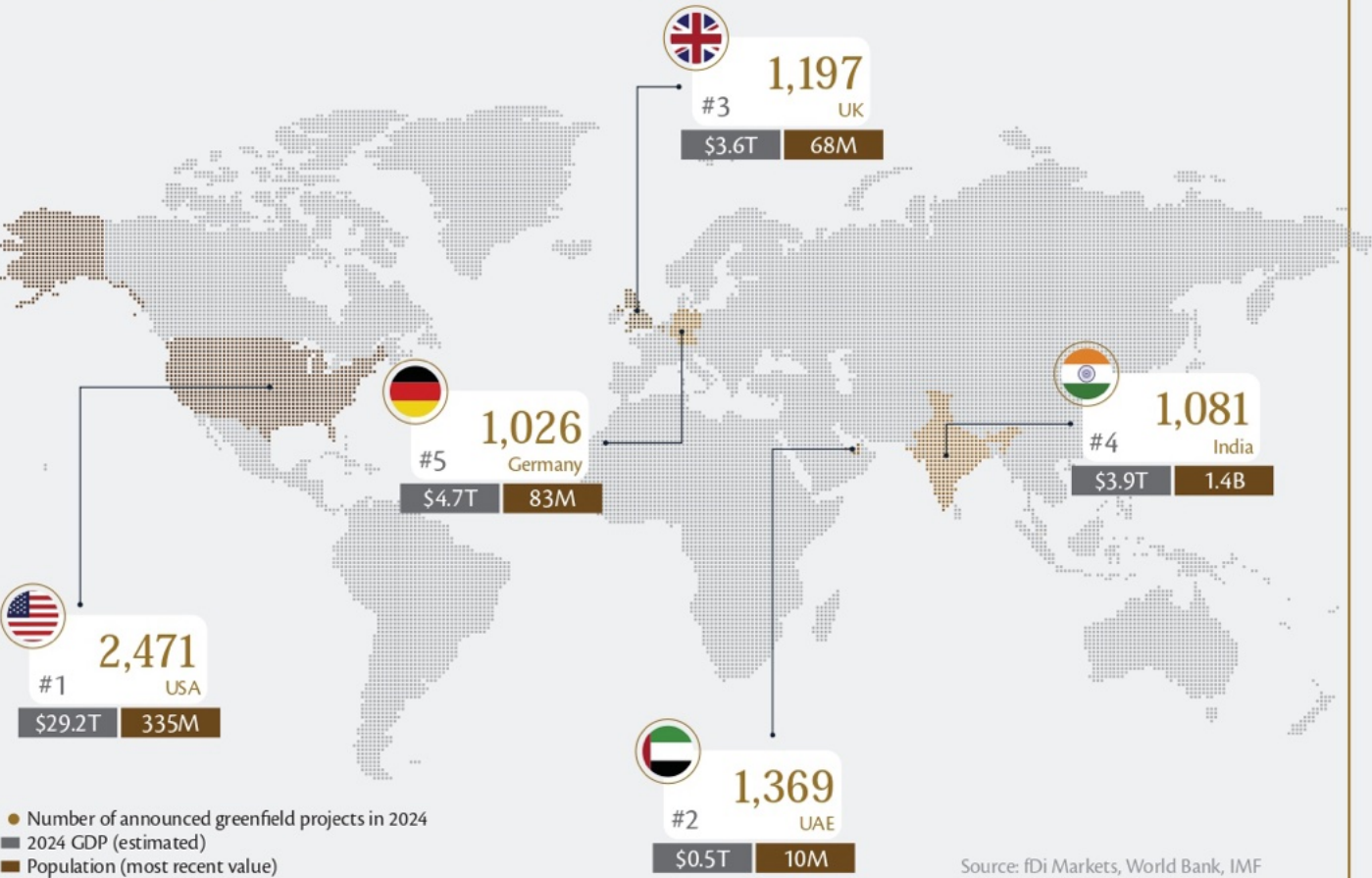
Top 10 sources of inward FDI stock in UAE



Source: UAE Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Center, IMF, authors' calculation for 2023

Greenfield FDI trends

#2 globally by number of greenfield FDI projects announced in 2024



A shifting global map of capital

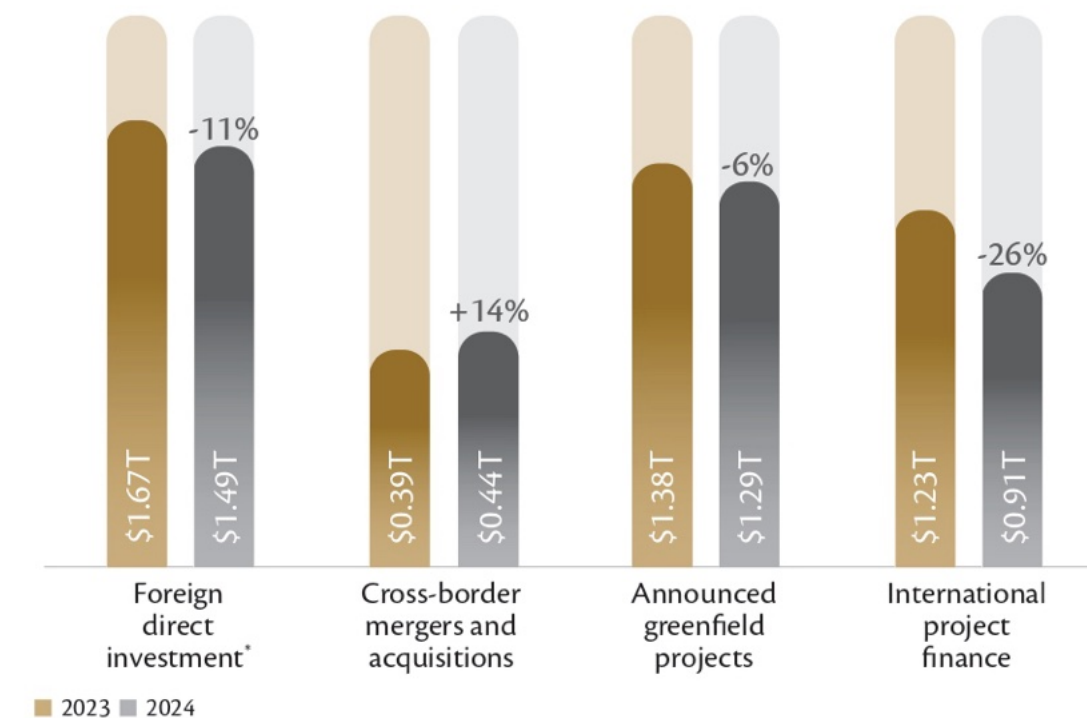
The central theme of 2024 is that FDI has become more selective, fragmented, and cautious. Global investment was 11% lower than in 2023, according to UNCTAD, if the internal flows through conduit economies in Europe are discounted. Developed markets were hardest hit, with a 22% decline in FDI.

- Friendshoring and nearshoring increased
- Policy incentives played a major role
- UAE steered past global headwinds

Finding friends in volatile times

Since 2020, investor confidence has shifted toward markets such as North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa, as capital veered away from merely low-cost destinations to those geographically closer or those that provide higher returns. Regions and countries that offer robust infrastructure, affordable labor, and enabling policy environments emerged as key beneficiaries. Both developed and emerging markets now face a more cautious investment landscape, all vying for the same pool of global capital.

A challenging year for global cross-border capital in 2024 (US\$T)



Source: UNCTAD data, based on information from fDi Markets, and LSEG Data & Analytics
*Excludes financial transactions through European economies with high levels of conduit flows.



-11%

FDI inflows globally



+4%

Number of global cross-border M&A deals



-11%

Global SDG-related investment

Source: UNCTAD data

A fragmented regional picture

Europe

-58%

FDI inflow, excluding flows through conduit economies (countries that serve as stepping stones or intermediaries for investments flowing from one location to another). Germany, Italy, and France recorded declines in greenfield activity.

Latin America

-12%

FDI inflow, with Brazil FDI slipping 8%. Mexico witnessed a 1% increase on the back of nearshoring – mainly projects set up by US companies.

Asia

-3%

FDI inflow, as China saw a 29% decline, while India declined only 2% mitigated by incentives in place.

North America

+23%

FDI inflow, driven by higher M&A activity (+90%), particularly in the US.

Africa

+75%

FDI inflow increased to US\$ 97 billion, driven mainly by the UAE's investment in the Ras El-Hekma project in Egypt, without which the increase was 33%.

Ras El-Hekma: A US\$24B investment from the UAE

The UAE continues to be a significant investor across the world. A standout example in 2024 is the Ras El-Hekma megaproject in Egypt. ADQ, an Abu Dhabi-based investment and holding company, has acquired the development rights for Ras El-Hekma for US\$ 24 billion to develop the region into one of the largest new city developments by a private consortium.



Source: UNCTAD data

Policy incentives play a major role

United States 🇺🇸

US\$ +36B

The Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors and Science (CHIPS) Act as well as production grants and expanded clean energy tax credits resulted in FDI inflow increasing from US\$ 117 billion to US\$ 153 billion.

Mexico 🇲🇽

US\$ +27B

FDI inflow increased from US\$ 4 billion to US\$ 31 billion after the country rolled out nearshoring incentives in October 2023.

Spain 🇪🇸

US\$ +10B

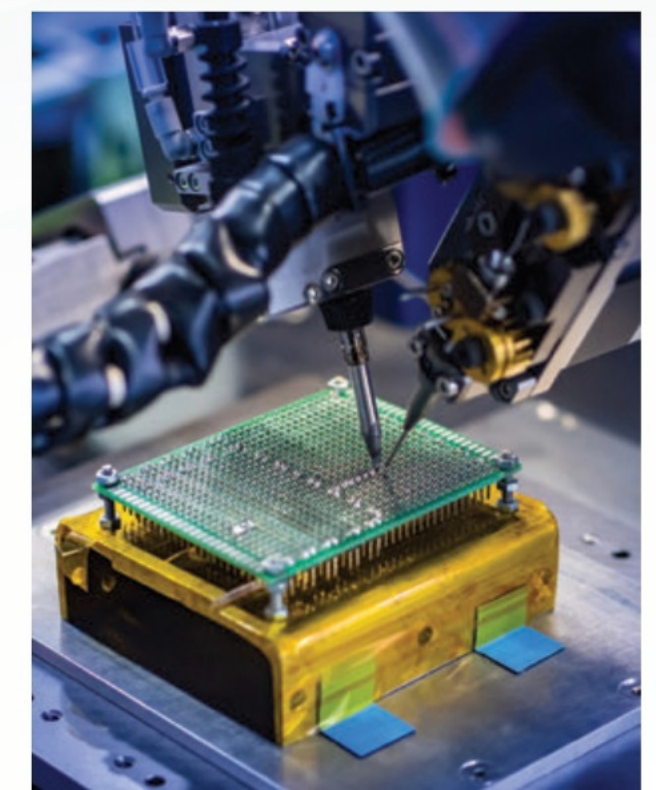
FDI inflow increased from US\$ 11 billion to US\$ 21 billion, driven by the country's Recovery and Resilience Plan.

India 🇮🇳

US\$ +7B

The Production Linked Incentive scheme is credited with FDI inflows going from US\$ 11 billion to US\$ 18 billion.

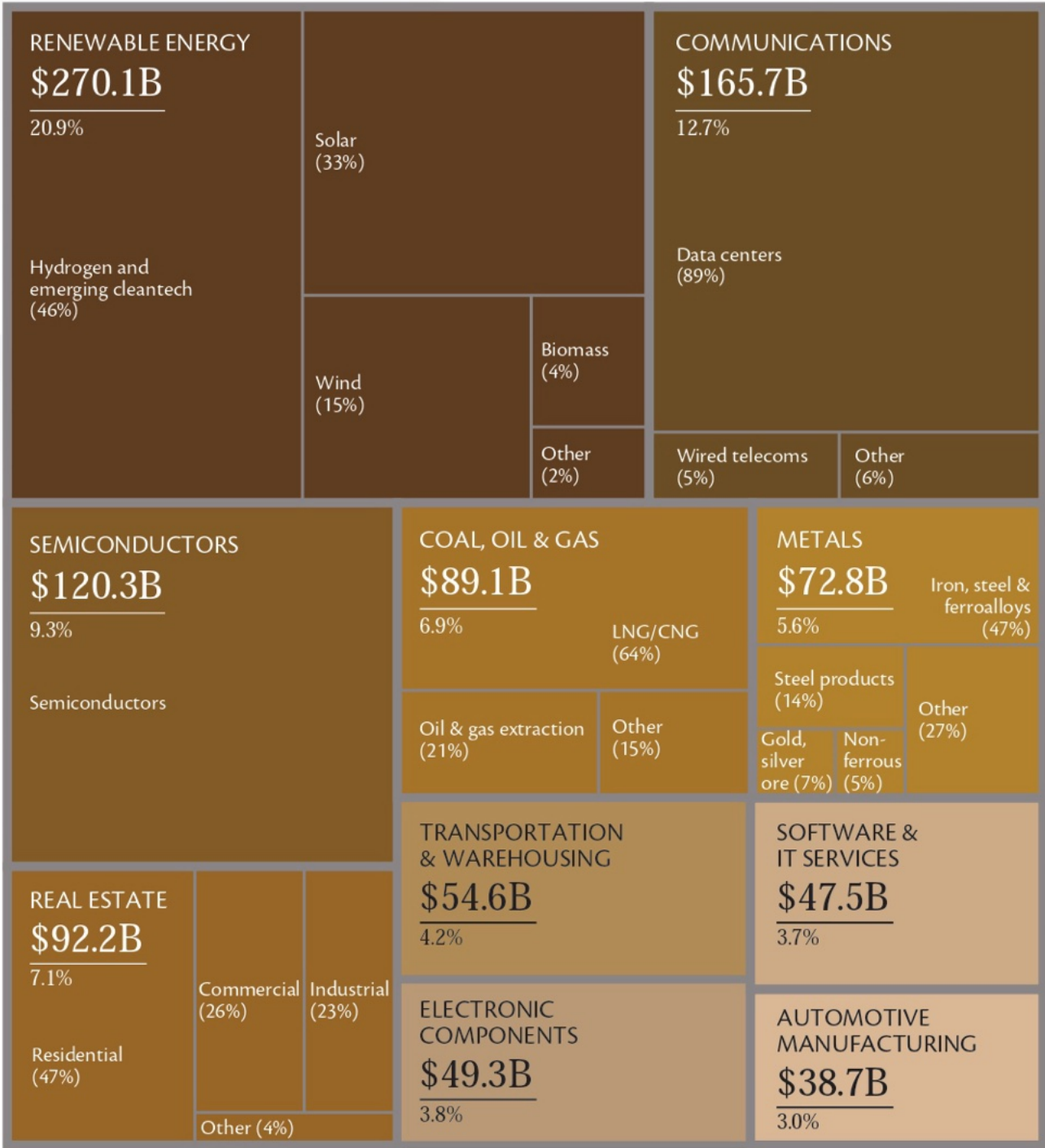
Source: OECD International Direct Investment Statistics database, comparing FDI inflows in the second half of 2023 (H2-2023) to the succeeding first half of 2024 (H1-2024) after countries introduced investment incentives



Global greenfield FDI capital eases

Capital pledges for greenfield FDI projects globally were lower in 2024 than in the previous two years, but making them the third-highest ever. Renewables, semiconductors, and data centers were major drivers.

Top 10 sectors account for 77% of global greenfield FDI of US\$1.3T in 2024



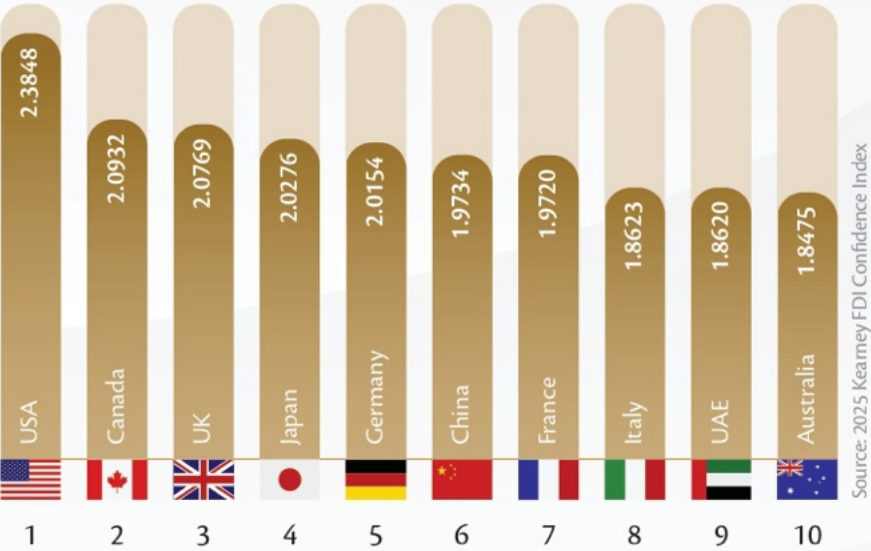
(%) = Share within sector

Source: fDi Markets – sub-sectors are simplified for ease of visualization.

The UAE steers past global headwinds

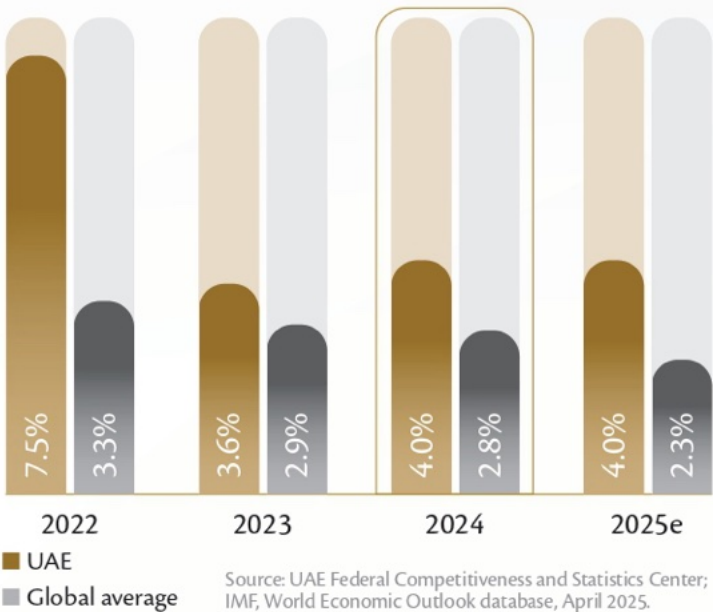
Despite a global slowdown in economic growth and project starts, the UAE saw greenfield FDI announcements increase 2.8% in 2024, compared with a 0.8% rise worldwide. Investors are drawn to the UAE’s modern infrastructure and seamless regional access, while also benefiting from the country’s GDP performance. This has been achieved as a result of forward-focused and innovative policies and strategies.

UAE is in the top 10 of the FDI confidence index



Source: 2025 Kearney FDI Confidence Index

UAE’s GDP growth outpaces the global average



Source: UAE Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Center; IMF, World Economic Outlook database, April 2025.

Growth in number of announced greenfield FDI projects



Source: fDi Markets, 2024 vs. 2023

UAE continues to be a magnet for investment

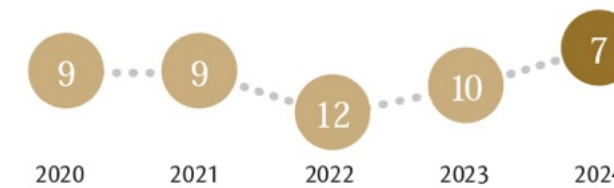
In a year of global headwinds, the UAE demonstrated its resilience in attracting FDI. In 2024, the country attracted USD 45.6 billion in FDI inflows. The announcement of 1,369 greenfield FDI projects positioned the country at #2 globally, behind only the US.

- Global confidence in UAE remains steady
- FDI stock and inflows remain strong
- Greenfield FDI remains the bedrock
- UAE continues to diversify the investment blend
- Foreign funding via project finance grows
- UAE is a powerhouse of start-up capital
- A clear roadmap for the future

Global confidence in UAE remains steady

Global investors continue to show strong confidence in the UAE's economic and business fundamentals, driven by forward-thinking policies and strategies.

UAE ranks high on competitiveness globally



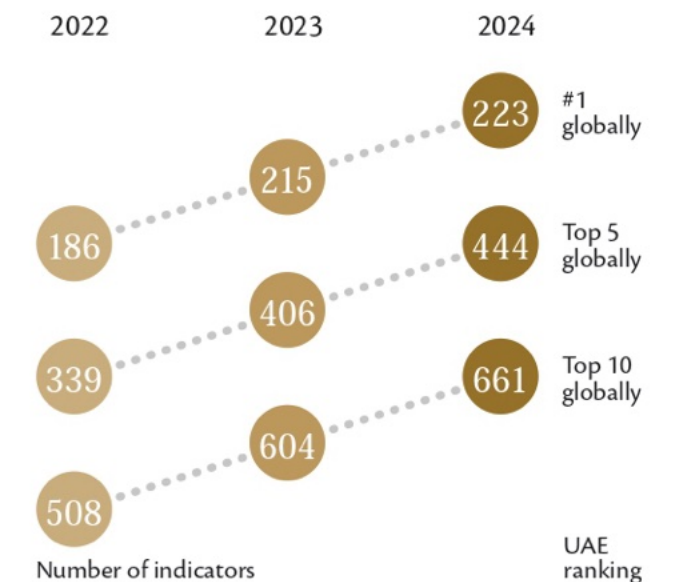
Source: IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2024

As a magnet for talent, UAE builds for the future

4x Increase in AI workforce between 2021 and 2023

Source: UAE Ministry of State for AI, Digital Economy, and Remote Work Applications

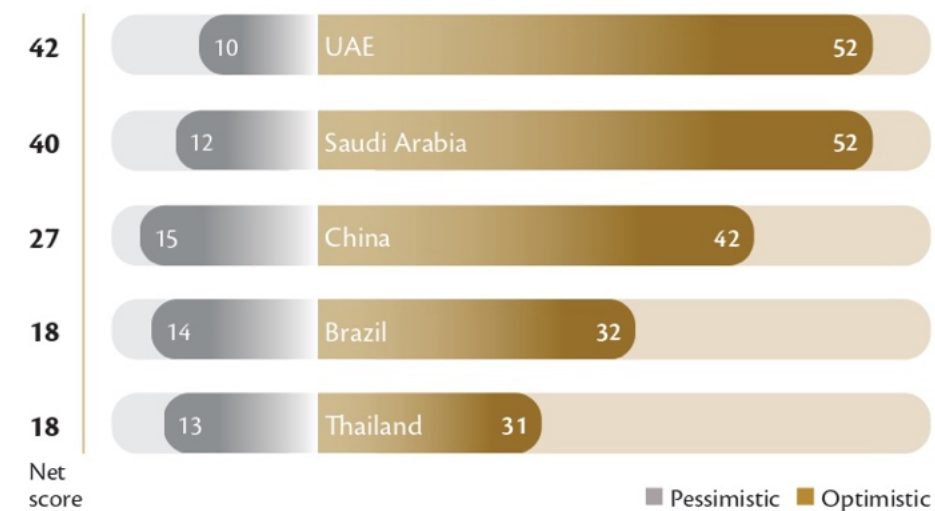
Policy and reform drive the UAE to perform better on key global metrics



Number of indicators

Source: UAE Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Center

UAE's strategy puts it at the top of the emerging markets optimism ranking



Net score

■ Pessimistic ■ Optimistic

Source: 2025 Kearney Foreign Direct Investment Confidence Index

A consistent FDI performance

The UAE continues to cement its position as a top destination for FDI. In 2024, the country attracted US\$ 45.6 billion in FDI inflow, outpacing global trends. This momentum is set to accelerate under the National Investment Strategy 2031, which aims to double annual FDI inflows to USD 65 billion, boost FDI's share of GDP to 8%, and raise total FDI stock to US\$ 600 billion. Strong external balances, structural reforms, and pro-investment policies have created an environment that continues to attract global capital.

CAGR in inbound FDI (2015-2024)

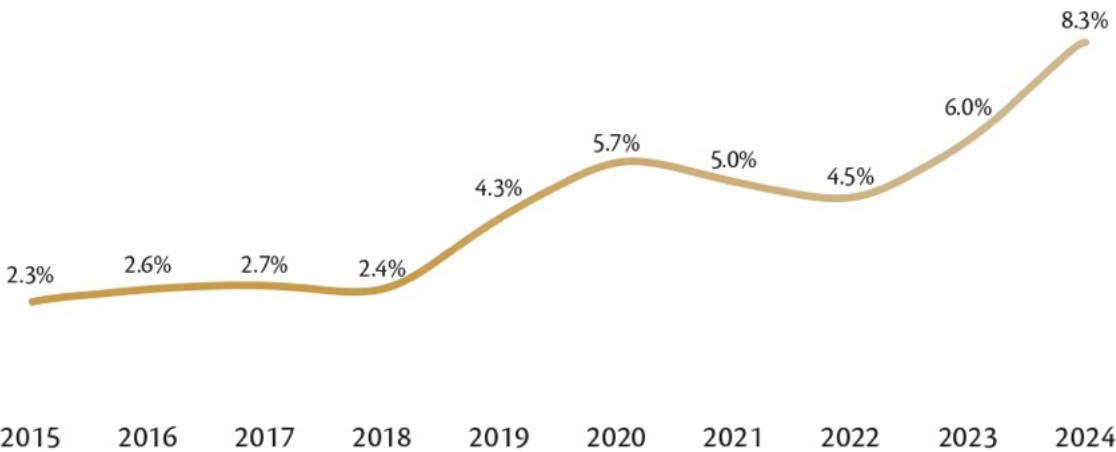
20.4%

FDI inflow

10.5%

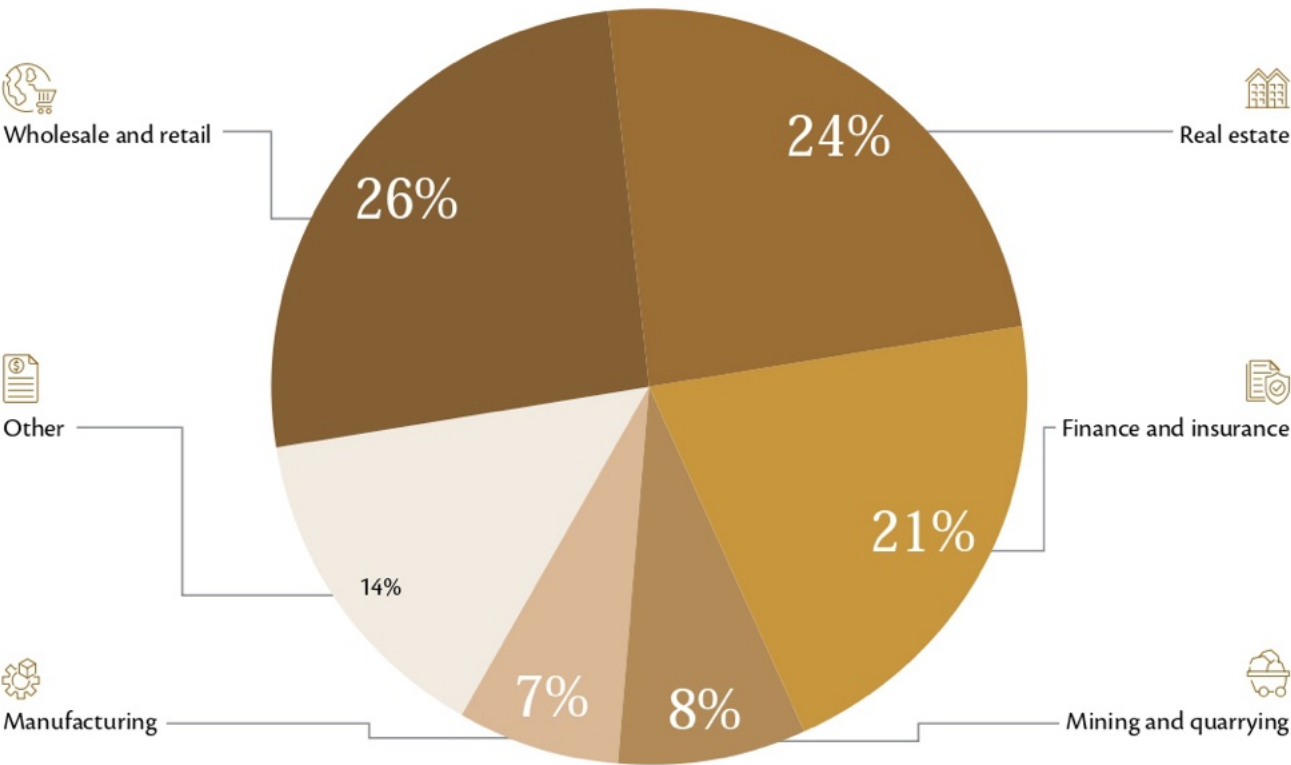
FDI stock

Steady increase in FDI inflow as share of GDP



Source: UNCTAD data

Strategic sectors play a large role in attracting inward FDI stock



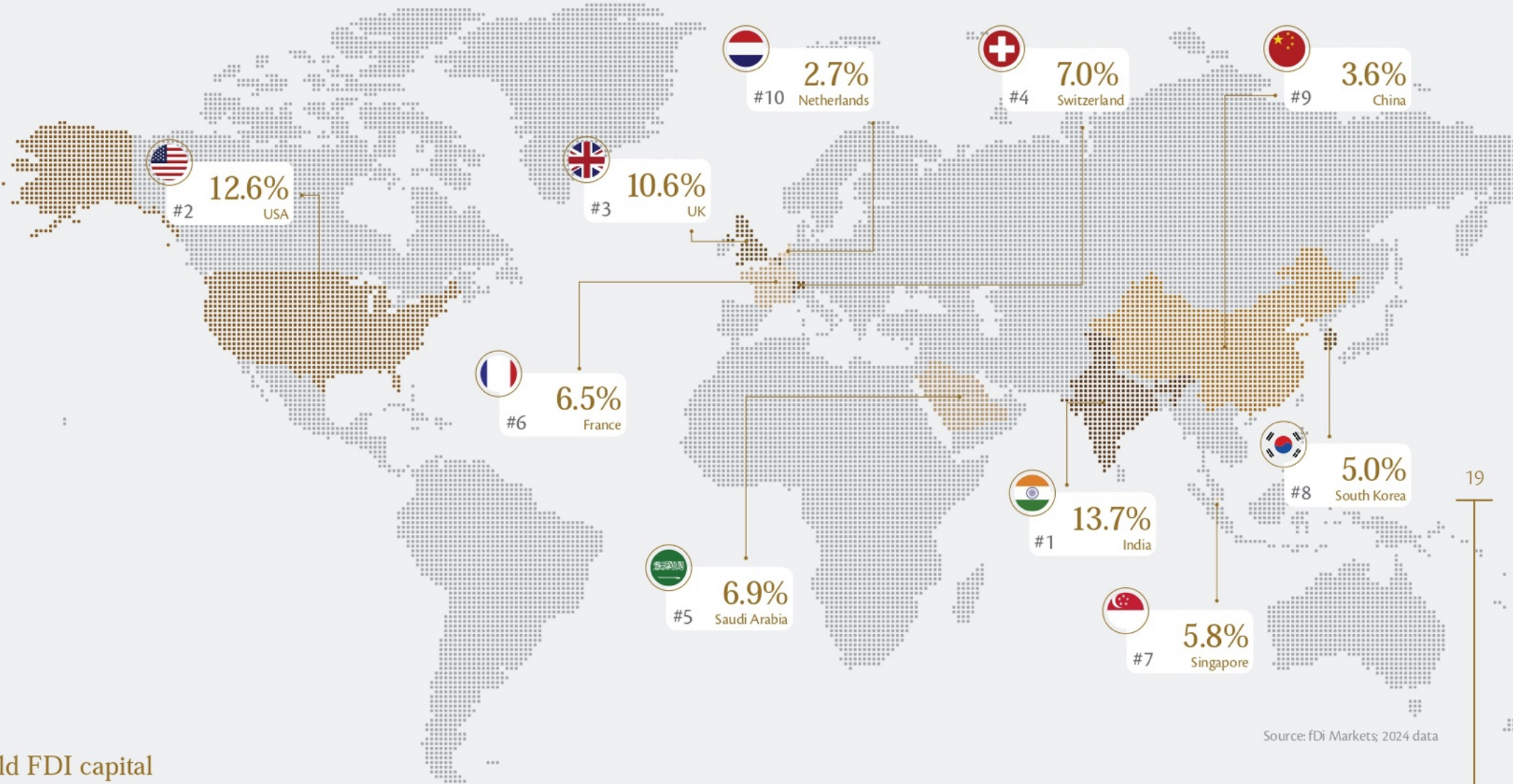
Source: UAE Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Center, authors' calculation for 2023



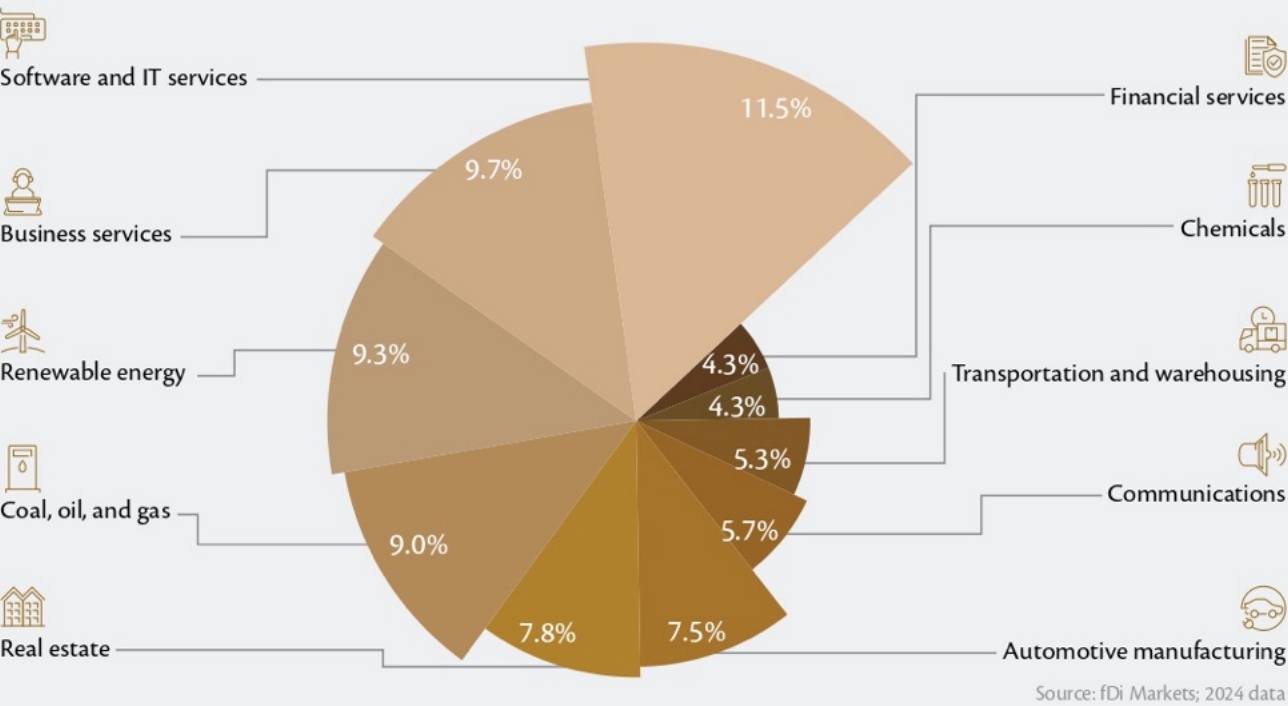
Greenfield FDI remains the bedrock

Greenfield FDI projects announced in 2024 brought in US\$ 14.5 billion. The UAE ranked second globally, after the United States, with 1,369 projects announced in 2024. The strength of the UAE's greenfield pipeline owes as much to its policy, strategy, and infrastructure as it does to the country's network of bilateral agreements. A comprehensive regulatory and legislative framework aligned with national priorities, meeting investors' needs, and providing a competitive business environment have attracted a steadily increasing number of greenfield projects over the years.

Top 10 source countries account for 75% of announced greenfield FDI capital

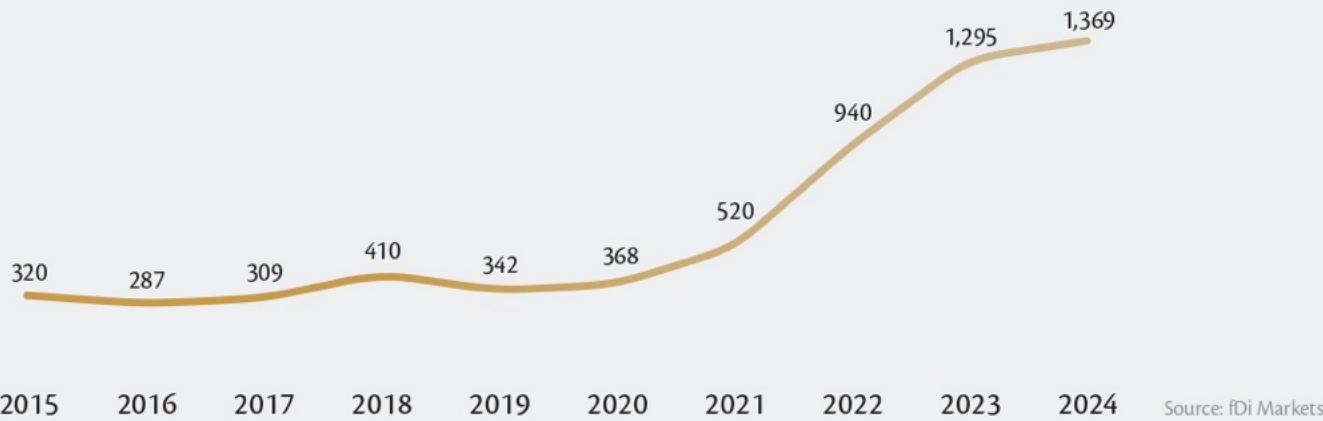


Top 10 sectors account for 74% of announced greenfield FDI capital



44K+ Jobs expected from greenfield FDI projects announced in 2024


Announced greenfield FDI projects in the UAE are on a consistent upward climb



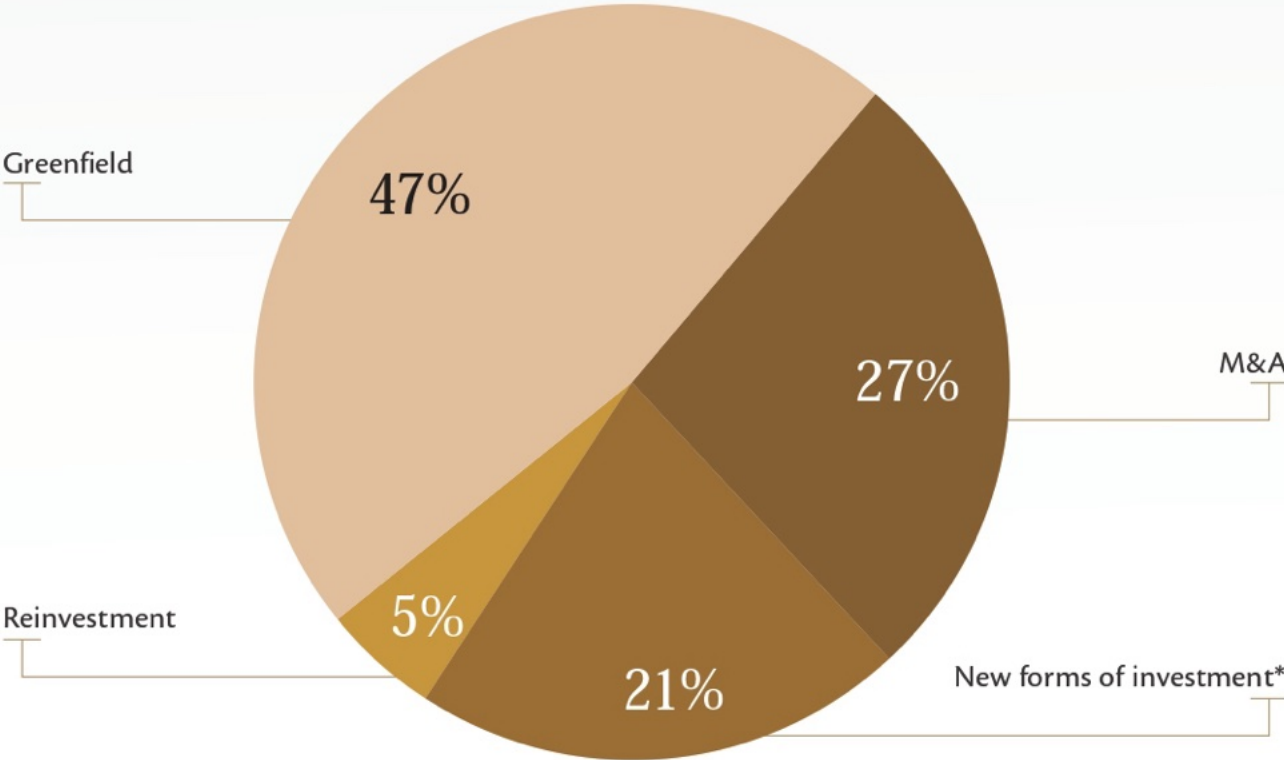
M&A: Strong component of a diversified investment blend

While greenfield inflows have traditionally been a key strength, the UAE has strategically diversified its sources of investment. Mergers and acquisitions (M&A) activity, foreign funding through international project finance (IPF), and start-up capital injections also played a significant role in shaping the investment story in 2024. M&A and start-up deal data show a healthy mix of domestic consolidation and inbound acquisitions in fintech, logistics, healthtech, and energy.

Top cross-border deals in 2024

		
#1	#2	#3
US\$ 2.8B	US\$ 1.5B	US\$ 600M
Brookfield Asset Management	Microsoft	Mercantile & Maritime Group
Canada's Brookfield Asset Management acquired Dubai-based payments firm Network International to deepen its footprint in the region's payments market. Funding includes US\$ 150 million by Brookfield Business Partners with co-investment from First Abu Dhabi Bank, Mubadala, ADQ, and Hana Investment Company.	US-based Microsoft has committed US\$ 1.5 billion to Abu Dhabi-based G42, a strategic equity stake in a joint venture in artificial intelligence research and international expansion. Of two planned R&D hubs, one will pair university researchers with industry to advance development of responsible AI, the other will build Large Language Models.	Singapore-based Mercantile & Maritime Group said it will scale its Fujairah footprint by adding a biofuel plant to its MENA Terminals complex. The US\$ 600 million, 92,900 m² facility — due online in 2026 — will be able to produce about 150 million liters of sustainable aviation fuel each year.

Types of announced investments into the UAE in 2024



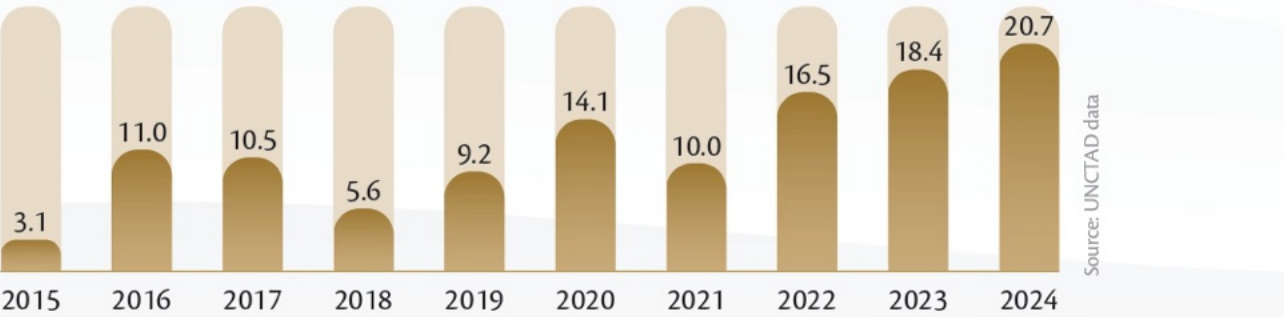
Source: fDi Markets
*Refers to non-equity investments that generate capital and jobs through long-term involvement of a foreign MNE, such as management contracts, technology licensing, and PPPs without equity participation.



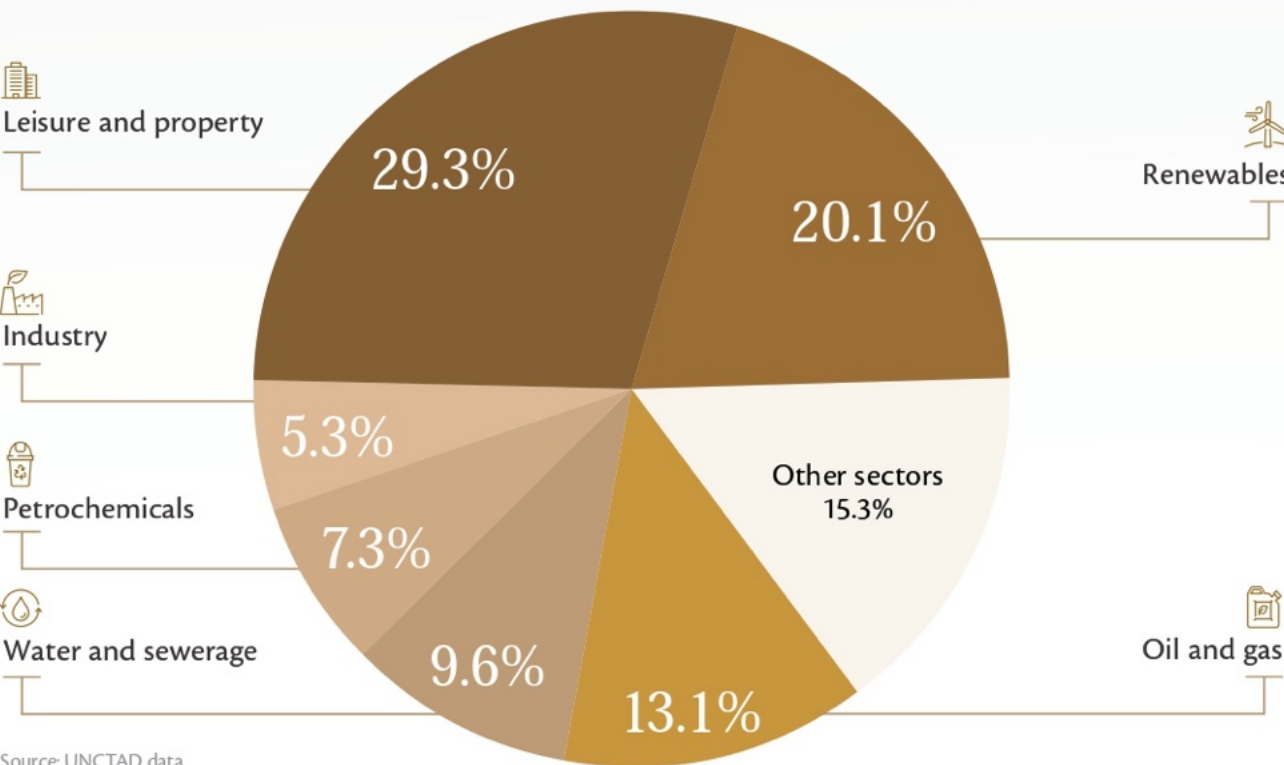
Foreign funding via project finance grows

International project finance (IPF) has been employed by the UAE to raise capital for major infrastructure and industrial projects, to deliver complex, capital-intensive projects faster and more effectively. Examples include the GCC-wide Hafeet Rail project by Etihad Rail and the refinancing of the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant project. By attracting foreign funding and technical know-how, project finance supports the rollout of essential infrastructure.

Funding through IPF in the UAE (US\$B)



Strategic sectors have attracted a significant share of IPF in UAE (2015-2024)



A powerhouse of start-up capital

Despite global economic headwinds, the UAE's start-up ecosystem demonstrates resilience, attracting increased deal activity and investor interest, particularly in emerging sectors like fintech and Web3. UAE start-ups secured approximately US\$ 1.1 billion across 207 deals in 2024, marking an increase from US\$ 977 million in 2023. The country maintained its position as the leading start-up hub in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

47.8%

Of all MENA start-up capital was raised by UAE start-ups in 2024

Source: wamda - Investments in MENA: 2024 Year in Review

US\$ 1.1B

Total start-up investment in the UAE in 2024

Source: wamda - Investments in MENA: 2024 Year in Review

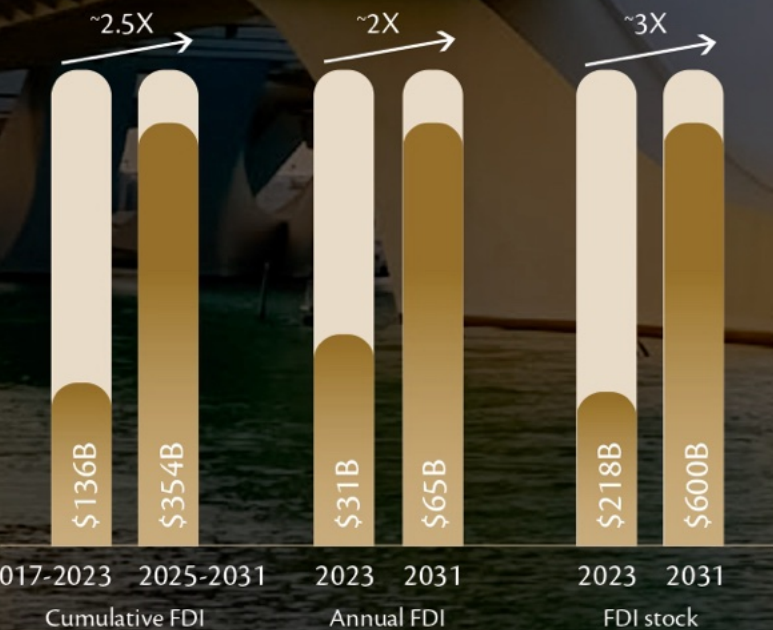
Start-up financing favors advanced technology sectors in 2024

	Investment	Deals
Fintech	\$265M	47
Web 3	\$258M	20
Proptech	\$197M	13
E-commerce	\$139M	21
Traveltech	\$42M	5

A clear roadmap for the future

The UAE has formulated a clear National Investment Strategy 2031 that aims to secure FDI momentum by setting targets, offering incentives, developing a stronger network of global partnerships, and rationalizing processes. These initiatives are intended to ensure that the UAE continues to be a dependable destination for international investors.

UAE has clear targets for FDI performance by 2031



Economic growth targets driven by investment

US\$
0.8T
GDP target by 2031, to be achieved with...

US\$
1.2T
Cumulative investment between 2025 and 2031

TOP
10
Global ranking in FDI inflows by 2031 (achieved in 2024)

Policy and innovation

Over the past decade, the UAE has steadily moved beyond hydrocarbons by supporting industries ranging from tourism and technology to renewable energy. This shift rests on policy reforms, which include full foreign ownership and a competitive corporate tax, streamlined license approvals and reinforced legal safeguards. While many markets tightened their regulations, the UAE has kept its doors open to new ideas, which helped fuel FDI inflows in 2024.

- Economic and policy foundations are being strengthened
- Infrastructure and connectivity reinforce competitiveness
- Global partnerships, PPPs promote business growth
- Quality of life attracts top global talent

An economy beyond hydrocarbons

By directing policy and investment toward new industries, the UAE has built a broader economic base. In 2024, wholesale and retail trade (12.7%), manufacturing (10.2%), and finance and insurance (10.0%) together made up around 33% of total GDP. In 2023 alone, industrial output hit a record US\$ 53.7 billion — already two-thirds of the federal target under Operation 300 Billion.

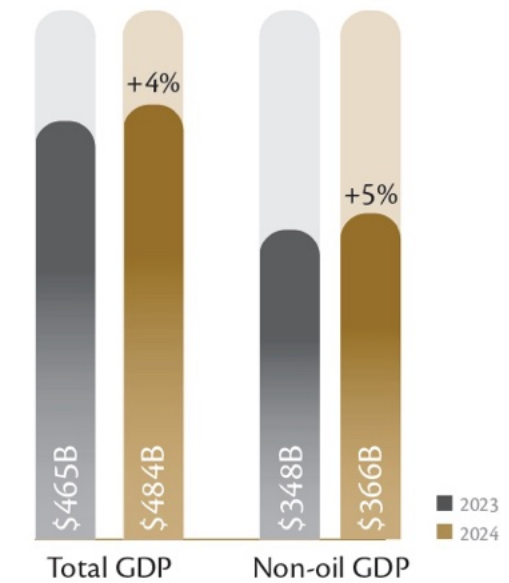
GDP growth

4%

Growth in total GDP in 2024, with non-oil GDP growing at 5%

Source: UAE Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority

Non-oil GDP continues to grow, reaching 75.5% of total GDP



Total trade growth

US\$

1.4T

Total foreign trade in 2024

Source: World Trade Organization

8.4%

Growth in 2024 over 2023

Source: UAE Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority



Encouraging entrepreneurship

Near-instant license approvals, 100% company ownership, competitive taxation, a confidence-inspiring legal system that includes corporate solvency protections, and a network of more than 45 free zones and special economic zones pave the path to business success in the UAE. These have driven a surge in start-up registrations and broadened the pipeline of FDI projects.

Investor-friendly legal systems

#1

In MENA and #39 globally in legal system effectiveness

Source: World Justice Project 2024

#3

Globally in investor-oriented regulations

Source: WEF Global Competitiveness Report 2024

#7

Globally on the competitiveness ranking

Source: IMD, World Competitiveness Ranking

Competitive tax rate

9%

Flat corporate tax on net profits over US\$ 102K in UAE

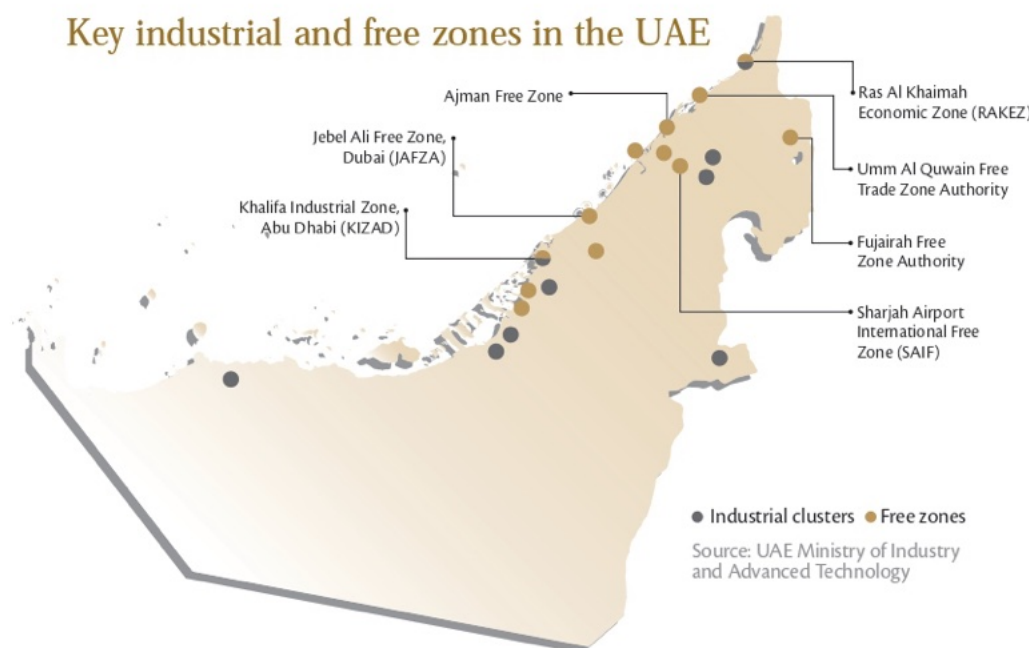
23.5%

Global average corporate tax rate

45+

Multidisciplinary free zones offering full corporate ownership

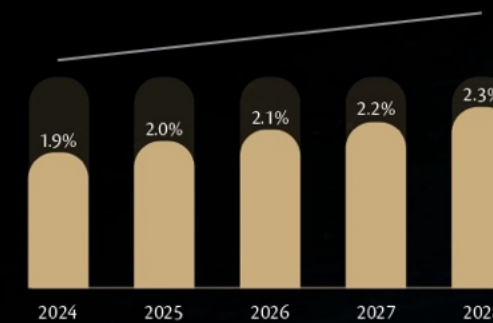
Key industrial and free zones in the UAE



Strategic focus on R&D

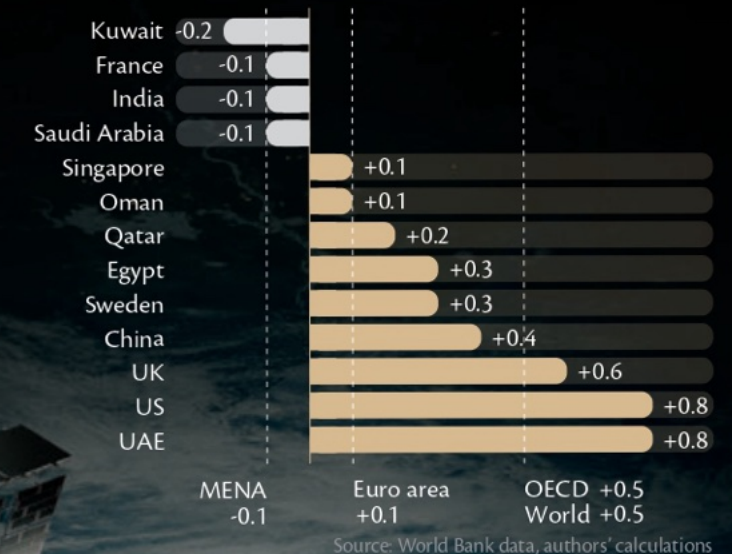
The UAE focuses on strategic sectors for R&D investment, including health and life sciences, cognitive cities, and environmental technology. Led by an enabling policy environment, several prominent educational institutions in the UAE have agreements with research universities in Asia, Europe, and North America. The UAE's spend on R&D is the highest in the GCC and continues to increase steadily as a percentage of GDP.

R&D investment as share of GDP is expected to continue growing



Source: R&D Expenditure in United Arab Emirates, ReportLinker, accessed on 2 May 2025

UAE leads in increasing R&D spend as percentage of GDP (2014-2021, p.p.)



1.8%

Share of the UAE's GDP spent on R&D in 2023, more than double the share of 0.68% in 2014

Source: R&D Expenditure in United Arab Emirates, ReportLinker, accessed on 2 May 2025

6.7%

CAGR in R&D spend over the five years to 2023

Infrastructure and connectivity

Infrastructure is the backbone of the UAE’s investment proposition. Strategically located within eight hours of two-thirds of the world’s population, the country pairs physical reach with a high-performing logistics network, world-class ports and airports, and near-universal digital connectivity.

#7

Globally in logistics performance in 2023, up 7 places from the previous ranking

Source: WB Logistics Performance Index 2023

10

Airports connect 281 destinations globally

12

Commercial trading ports connected seamlessly to 150 global ports

27

Ports and terminals owned and operated by AD Ports Group

1,200km

Rail network aims to connect five GCC countries by 2026

78

Marine and inland terminals operated across more than 40 countries by UAE-based DP World

4,500+

Weekly flights by UAE flag carriers

66%

Of the world reachable within 8 hours



Global partnerships

Proactive global partnerships are a key driver of the UAE’s investment attraction. These include G2G and G2B ties, tailored programs, and international partnerships that build more effective investment frameworks to reach new markets.

Public-private innovation hubs

Initiatives like Hub71 and Dubai Future Accelerators connect start-ups with government bodies to pilot emerging technologies and fast-track commercialization.

Infrastructure projects

Major infrastructure projects, such as rail, energy, and logistics networks, are increasingly delivered through public-private partnerships.

21

Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements (CEPAs) offer tariff reductions and improved market access

120

Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) protect investments from risks and allow free transfer of profits

142

Double Taxation Avoidance (DTA) eliminate double or additional taxes and any indirect levies

UAE’s CEPAs give a great boost to trade



Talent and quality of life

The UAE's attraction for global investors rests on the energy of its people. The country attracts global high-skilled talent, encourages local innovation, invests in education and healthcare, and offers opportunities for personal growth and wellbeing. These pillars reinforce the country's appeal as a place to live, work, and grow.

Talent access and retention

#3

Globally in inward migration of AI talent

Source: Stanford AI Index 2024

#2

Globally in availability of digital / tech talent

Source: WEF Future of Growth 2024

UAE has improved its standing on the global talent ranking



Healthcare and education

#7

Globally in health infrastructure

Source: IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2024

#6

Globally in quality of secondary education

Source: WEF Travel & Tourism Report 2024

Livability rankings

#14

Globally in overall quality of life

Source: IMD World Talent Ranking 2024

#7

Globally in gender equality

Source: IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2024

Tourism and hospitality are thriving sectors

104M

Hotel nights were booked in 2024, 7.6% more than in 2023

Source: UAE Ministry of Economy



78%

Hotel occupancy rate in 2024, an increase of 3.9% over 2023

Incentives for growth

Building on a robust foundation of existing incentives, a new wave of initiatives was introduced in 2024 at both the federal and emirate levels, further improving the UAE's competitiveness.

US\$

6.8B

Incentives from Dubai's FDI Development Program over 10 years.

Rationalizing business costs

VAT rationalization

New initiatives in 2024 reduced the VAT requirement considerably by conferring zero-tax status to more imports and exports; exempting some financial transactions; allowing recovery of employee medical insurance VAT; and reducing unrecoverable instances of VAT.

R&D tax credit

30%-50% refundable tax credit announced in 2024, to be implemented.

Lower power tariff in Northern Emirates

Etihad Water & Electricity (EtihadWE) offers discounted power bands for factories in the Northern Emirates that hit jobs and efficiency targets.

Human capital fee waiver

Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization fees slashed if factories score more than 60% In-Country Value (ICV).

Improving ease of doing business

Single regulator for medical products

The Emirates Drug Establishment (EDE) is now the single federal regulator for faster market authorizations of innovative medical products.

Full ownership for digital business

Ras Al Khaimah's Digital Assets Oasis (RAK DAO) now offers 100% foreign ownership, accelerators, and bespoke Web3 regulations.

One-stop digital licensing

Abu Dhabi Registration Authority (ADRA) is now the one-stop digital registry for all licensing touch-points in Abu Dhabi.

Engines of growth in the UAE

Over the past decade, the UAE has enhanced its diversification strategy with deliberate and nuanced specialization, channeling policy and capital support into high-impact industries that match global demand trajectories and its own net-zero, tech-forward agenda. Some of the sectors in focus include manufacturing, financial services, logistics, and renewable energy, with digital infrastructure being the enabler.

ENGINES OF GROWTH

Priority sectors lead growth



Manufacturing

The sector is diverse, encompassing multiple industries, and attracts substantial investment. The government actively supports growth as the sector moves toward advanced technologies, sustainable practices, and localized supply chains.



Financial services

Financial infrastructure has undergone significant digital transformation enabled by strategic initiatives and regulatory reform. Services have transitioned from legacy hardware to cloud, and the Central Bank of the UAE supports innovative fintech.



Transport and logistics

The sector is a major growth engine fueled by strategic location and robust infrastructure. Automation, robotics, and data analytics are being actively adopted while the development of multimodal hubs enhances efficiency.



Utilities and renewables

The sector is characterized by robust power, water, and sewerage systems while embracing renewable energy sources and nuclear power. Smart grid technologies and energy efficiency programs improve energy consumption.



ICT

The rapidly growing sector is a key driver of economic diversification. The country is an emerging hub for innovation in areas like AI, IoT, and digital transformation, through partnerships with global tech giants and research institutions.



Infrastructure

The sector, including digital infrastructure, is a primary driver of the UAE's economic diversification and global competitiveness. Its robust growth is fueled by strategic investments in transportation, energy, and other projects.

Advanced production lines at the hub of the region

The manufacturing sector, which has the 2nd largest share of non-oil GDP, is driven by favorable policies and regional reshoring and nearshoring trends. The UAE's Operation 300 Billion industrial strategy has enhanced investments in this sector by offering purpose-designed free zones such as Khalifa Economic Zones Abu Dhabi (KEZAD) and Dubai Industrial City (DIC) and incentives for green manufacturing, advanced industries, and Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technologies.

2nd

Largest sector in
non-oil GDP

7%

Share of sector
in FDI stock

Source: UAE Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority

ICEYE

Overview

In December 2024, Abu-Dhabi-based Space42 and Finland's ICEYE set up a joint venture to build Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) satellites at Space42's new assembly, integration, and testing (AIT) facility. By assembling satellites locally, the partnership strengthens the UAE's Earth Observation program and its drive to build home-grown remote-sensing skills. It also meets fast-rising demand for crisp, all-weather SAR imagery across a wide range of sectors.

Economic impact

Making the satellites in Abu Dhabi keeps everything – design, assembly, testing, and mission control – in one place. Emirati engineers learn alongside ICEYE's team, so the expertise stays in the country, and the UAE is able to have full ownership over its own earth observation capabilities. Sourcing parts and services from local companies increases business opportunities and economic diversification.

Job creation: Up to 2,500 direct
employment opportunities

“This joint venture is expected to bring efficiency in deploying, managing, and operating SAR constellations as Space42 and ICEYE join forces to address the market in a coordinated approach. We are excited to grow ICEYE's local footprint and look forward to accelerating the UAE space program and the local space and SAR capabilities by harnessing the most of both companies' expertise for the benefit of the people of the UAE.”

RAFAL MODRZEWSKI
CEO and Co-founder of ICEYE

A mature and dynamic sector continues to expand

The finance and insurance sector accounts for the 3rd largest share of the UAE's non-oil GDP and is one of its most mature and dynamic sectors. The UAE Central Bank granted 86% more Stored Value Facilities licenses and 92% more Payment Service Provider licenses in 2024, reflecting a surge in fintech activity. It also issued a new Open Finance framework during 2024. The sector attracted US\$ 555.7 million from 154 announced greenfield projects in 2024. Free zones such as DIFC and ADGM offer globally recognized regulatory frameworks.

3rd

Largest sector
in non-oil GDP

21%

Share of sector
in FDI stock

Source: UAE Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority

Overview

Revolut has applied for an Electronic Money License in the UAE as a first step in expanding its remittance and digital banking services into the region. It expects strong demand from consumers, business, and merchants, with a waitlist of tens of thousands in the region. The London-based fintech has grown to serve more than 55 million customers globally in just 10 years. It has also chosen to invest in the UAE, establishing a hub in Dubai to benefit from the strong talent base across the Gulf in product engineering, tech, and finance. Revolut is currently valued at US\$ 45 billion, and has received investment from strategic investors in the region such as Mubadala.

Economic impact

The project strengthens the UAE's fintech ecosystem and supports its goal of being a financial hub. The expansion will also drive innovation in digital payments and wealth management.

Job creation: The company has advertised for roles in compliance, engineering, crypto, and product.



Seamless and integrated multi-modal connectivity

The UAE logistics market generated US\$ 169.7 billion in revenue in 2024 and is forecast to reach US\$ 241.6 billion by 2030 at a CAGR of 6.1%. It accounts for 4.3% of the global logistics market. This continues to attract and support leading third-party (3PL) and fourth-party logistics (4PL) providers. The sector attracted greenfield FDI of US\$ 752.8 million in 2024 from 66 announced projects. Major expansions like the CMA CGM terminal at Khalifa Port and Etihad Rail's Phase II have improved cross-border connectivity.

#5

Globally for
road quality
(#1 in the
Arab world)

Source: WEF Travel and Tourism
Development Index 2024

4.3%

Of the global
logistics market
accounted for by
the UAE in 2024

Source: Horizon's UAE Logistics
Market Size and Outlook 2024-2030

Overview

FedEx marked a long-term investment of more than US\$ 350 million to build a 57,000 m² automated sorting and distribution hub at Dubai World Central (DWC) – Al Maktoum International, designed to serve 45% of the world's population across the Middle East, Indian Subcontinent, and Africa (MEISA) region. The facility includes AI-powered screening systems, cold storage, and electric ground-service equipment, all meant to improve efficiency and accuracy.

Economic impact

FedEx directly contributed 0.1% to the net economic output of MEISA's transportation, storage, and communications sector in 2024. The capital injection has supported the upgrade of cargo-handling operations, infrastructure, and technology at the DWC hub, contributing to the UAE's agenda for non-oil diversification.

Job creation: The facility will add multiple jobs in operations, maintenance, and logistics management.

“Our new hub in the UAE is a strategic move that not only expands our network but also enhances the region's connectivity and plays a key role in facilitating trade and commerce across the world. It also reaffirms the company's commitment to the UAE's economic growth, in line with the National Agenda for Non-oil Export Development, which aims to increase the nation's foreign trade.”

KAMI VISWANATHAN

President, FedEx Middle East,
Indian Subcontinent and Africa

Paving the road to net-zero by 2050

Beyond power, water, and sewerage, renewable energy now sits at the heart of the UAE's growth and investment ecosystem. The Energy Strategy 2050 intends to triple renewables capacity and ramp up clean energy from 14.2 GW to 19.8 GW by 2030, supported by up to US\$ 55 billion in investment, aiming for carbon neutrality by 2050. The UAE has some of the world's largest solar plants, wind farms and the region's first industrial scale carbon capture project. The sector witnessed US\$ 1.3 billion greenfield FDI in 2024 via four announced projects.

US\$

12B+

Invested in completed clean energy projects in the UAE by 2024

28%

Share of renewables in UAE's energy mix in 2023

Source: UAE Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure

Overview

In late 2024, Schneider Electric, in partnership with Arab Development Establishment (ADE), inaugurated the TAQANA Energy Solutions manufacturing facility in Abu Dhabi's Industrial City. This new joint venture will develop advanced electrification solutions that support the UAE's clean energy transition and industrial growth. The facility will manufacture electrification technology for renewable energy integration, energy management, and grid automation, directly supporting the nation's "Make it in the Emirates" initiative and the Abu Dhabi Industrial Strategy (ADIS).

Economic impact

The facility strengthens the UAE's position as a regional leader in sustainable technology and supports the ADIS goal to double the sector to US\$ 47 billion by 2031.

Job creation: The project will develop local talent through dedicated training and knowledge transfer programs.

“We at Schneider Electric are not just manufacturing energy solutions; we are engineering the future of sustainable energy in the UAE and beyond. This facility marks a watershed moment in advancing the nation's clean energy ambitions through innovative technologies that address the global and regional demand for sustainability.”

AMEL CHADLI

President of Gulf Countries at Schneider Electric



An ICT surge underpins the UAE's growth sectors

The UAE's ICT market is expected to double in value from US\$ 41.36 billion in 2023 to US\$ 83.57 billion by 2029, steered by the National Digital Government Strategy 2025 and the UAE Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2031. Data center capacity tops 250 MW, with another 500 MW in the pipeline. The sector witnessed US\$ 1.6 billion greenfield FDI in 2024 via 292 announced projects. Major cloud providers like Microsoft, AWS, and Google operate data centers in the UAE.

US\$

1.6B

Greenfield FDI
in 2024

Source: fDi Markets

292

Projects in 2024
created 6,735 jobs

Overview

Microsoft strengthened its commitment to the UAE's tech sector with a US\$ 1.5 billion investment in Abu Dhabi's G42, a leading AI technology holding company. G42 aims to accelerate AI development, expand cloud infrastructure, and foster innovation in the UAE and beyond. It will support academics and industry experts to establish standards for responsible AI for the Middle East and Global South and build large language models (LLMs) for underrepresented languages with a focus on healthcare, climate, and smart-city projects.

Economic impact

These investments will encourage digital transformation across the Middle East, Central Asia, and Africa, unlocking fresh economic opportunities with secure, advanced services.

Job creation: Will support the development of a skilled AI workforce through a US\$ 1 billion fund for developers.

“Our investment in G42 stands as a testament to the thriving and dynamic tech landscape in the UAE and the broader region. This strategic partnership is well-positioned to ignite opportunities for our customers and partners, accelerate innovation, and fuel economic growth. With G42, we will introduce cutting-edge technologies that will empower countries and markets to advance their digital agendas by harnessing the power of cloud and AI.”

SAMER ABU-LTAIF

Corporate Vice President and President,
Central and Eastern Europe, Middle
East, and Africa, at Microsoft

Guiding Your Investment Journey

The Ministry of Investment is dedicated to facilitating and enhancing the experience of foreign investors in the UAE. With a comprehensive mandate that includes strategy formulation, investment promotion, policy advocacy, partnerships, and enablement, the Ministry ensures a seamless and supportive environment for investors, offering a tailored experience for large-scale investments.

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