مكتب أبوظبي للاستثمار
ABU DHABI INVESTMENT OFFICE

Abu Dhabi Investment Office Overview

May 2021

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I dreamt of our land keeping pace with the growth of the modern world.„

The Late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan
Founding Father of the United Arab Emirates (1953)

Abu Dhabi’s enabling business environment

Abu Dhabi is a proven expansion ground and a gateway to the world’s fastest growing economies

A strong and stable economy

GDP of **$249b** in 2019[1]

UAE’s economy is among the top **30** globally[2]

$19.8b
FDI inflow in 2020 (increase of 44.2% from 2019)[3]

Abu Dhabi’s contribution to the UAE’s GDP[4]

Established infrastructure

80% of the world within an 8-hour flight

1st capital in the world to have 100% fiber-to-the-home connection[5]

1st smartest city in MENA in terms of Smart City Development[6]

Business friendly

12th globally for ease of doing business[7]. #1 in the region

100% foreign ownership across locations and activities[8]

0% income tax

A place residents love to call home

1st happiest city in the Arab region[9]

5th best city for expats to work[10]

1st safest city in the world[11]

1 2019, SCAD Yearbook GDP at Current Prices (AED 915b)
2 2018, World Bank GDP rankings
3 2020, Wam
4 2019, Oxford Business Group
5 2016, Abu Dhabi Competitiveness Report 2016
6 2020, IMD Smart City Index
7 2020, World Bank Doing Business Subnational Report
8 2020, Federal Decree Law No. 26 of 2020; except strategic sectors
9 2020, World Happiness Report
10 2021, BCG
11 2019, Numbeo

Abu Dhabi’s innovation ecosystem

Abu Dhabi’s ecosystem is the ideal testbed for innovation and advanced manufacturing

Entrepreneurial mindset

#5 globally for attractive work environment, #12 globally for ease of doing business, no restriction on repatriation of capital, 0% income tax, 2-year fee waiver for new licenses

Enabling environment

Ghadan 21 accelerator programme, UAE Strategy for Artificial Intelligence, Hub71, Abu Dhabi Global Market RegLab, Masdar City

Funding sources

ADIO’s Incentive Programme, ADQ, Mubadala Ventures, the region’s second largest bank (FAB), established capital markets (ADX)

Integrated infrastructure

Ranked #12 worldwide for quality of infrastructure: 5 specialised free zones, 5G internet, international airport connects to 100+ global cities

Research universities

16 universities including Khalifa University, INSEAD, NYU Abu Dhabi, Mohamed Bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence

Talent pool

Multinational workforce with a 93.4% literacy rate, substantial government support for gender balance

Your Abu Dhabi growth partner

The Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO) is the central government hub supporting private sector investment in the emirate of Abu Dhabi.

We support investors and businesses with innovation at the core to help ensure long-term, sustainable success in Abu Dhabi and across the region.

PROMOTE
Abu Dhabi as a preferred investment destination.

ATTRACT
Innovation-focused companies to Abu Dhabi and create investment opportunities.

FACILITATE
An open, thriving and sustainable business environment, and a robust public-private partnership model.

Driving private sector investment

ADIO is committed to the innovation-led growth of Abu Dhabi's private sector

Investor care services

Managing the end-to-end investor journey, ensuring the seamless establishment of new legal entities, the mobilisation of employees and the efficient start of your journey in Abu Dhabi.

Incentive instruments

Supporting eligible businesses with innovation at the core using financial and non-financial incentives to help ensure long-term, sustainable success in the market and across the region.

Infrastructure partnerships

Facilitating transparent, long-term arrangements between private sector entities and government partners to design, build, finance and maintain or operate public assets.

Investor care

ADIO provides investors with end-to-end support during the business setup phase of their investor journey

Data
Providing information on all aspects of doing business in Abu Dhabi, including data on the economy and focus sectors.

Real estate
Identifying cost-effective solutions for office space, industrial activities and connection to brokers for employee accommodation.

Networks
Connecting innovation-focused companies to the Abu Dhabi ecosystem and investment opportunities.

Talent & visas
Helping investors tap into sources of local talent, as well as obtain residency visas for their international workforce.

Licensing & permits
Providing insight into applicable laws and regulations, as well as assistance obtaining economic licences and operating permits.

Banking & finance
Introduction to local banking partners to expedite setting up bank accounts and financing options.

Incentives

ADIO, directly or together with Abu Dhabi ecosystem partners, offers a range of financial and non-financial incentives to eligible investors

Financial incentives

ADIO: Rebates and grants to support investments in innovation

Ecosystem partners: Equity investments and other incentives through partner entities

Non-Financial incentives

Assistance to access land, office space and other facilities

Regulatory assistance including visas, select trial licences and others

Potential exemptions for select government fees and requirements

ADIO financial incentives

Abu Dhabi is home to a variety of industries and ADIO provides additional incentives to sectors with high-growth opportunities

Qualitative assessment

- Abu Dhabi strategic priority
- Disruptive technology focus
- Priority cluster alignment
- Proof of concept

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Quantitative assessment

- Number of high-skilled jobs created
- Number of Emirati jobs created
- Planned innovation capital expenditure
- Economic impact on Abu Dhabi

Rebates

- Salaries
- Capital expenditure
- Operating expenditure

Grants

- Feasibility study
- Product development
- Capability building

Infrastructure Partnerships

ADIO facilitates transparent, long-term arrangements between private sector entities and government partners

Network

Build long-term partnerships across key public sector entities

Capability building

Develop knowledge, experience and skills from major infrastructure projects

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Investment opportunities

Gain access to major capital infrastructure projects

Innovation & efficiency

Build in synergies and innovative ways of delivering the infrastructure required to meet the outcomes

Governance Framework

ADIO developed a robust governance structure and stage-gate approval process consistent with global best practice

STAGE 1
Origination

STAGE 2
Structuring and due diligence

STAGE 3
Tender process

STAGE 4
Contract management

Partnership Projects Guidebook (public)

- Providing developers, investors and financiers with a single, trusted source of information when assessing, bidding and executing projects
- Covers procurement procedures, as well as best practice approaches to promote effective partnerships between government and private sector stakeholders

Supplementary procurement procedure (public)

- Unsolicited Proposals

Guidance notes & templates

- Project Selection Criteria
- Value for Money Guidelines
- Contract Management Guidelines

Discover the Abu Dhabi difference

Download our guides to help you grow in Abu Dhabi

2021 Abu Dhabi Prospectus

The new guide showcases the emirate's business opportunities and innovation ecosystem for investors, entrepreneurs and all those who want to invest, live and work in Abu Dhabi.

Download the Abu Dhabi Prospectus. Today.

Abu Dhabi Investor Guide

Abu Dhabi is ranked 1st in the MENA region for ease of doing business. To make things even easier, ADIO has launched the Abu Dhabi Investor Guide – an A-Z of everything you need to know to start and expand your business in the emirate.

Download the Abu Dhabi Investor Guide. Today.

Get in touch

Our team welcomes your enquiries

Abu Dhabi Investment Office

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Thank you