



Overall performance

The United Arab Emirates resource wealth and strong credit rating support its ability to fund infrastructure projects. The processes around starting a business and registering property, which promote competition, have also been improved. To attract more investment capital, the United Arab Emirates could look to improve stock market liquidity and invest in larger infrastructure deals.

Drivers	Rank (/16)	Rank change (2017-20)	Score (/100)	Emerging	Aspiring	Contender	Top performer	Global leader
Governance	27	↑ 1	61					
Regulatory frameworks	18	↑ 4	72					
Permits	26	↓ 7	79					
Planning	18	—	95					
Procurement	33	↑ 14	80					
Activity	44	↑ 4	33					
Funding capacity	14	↑ 1	69					
Financial markets	28	↓ 1	43					

United Arab Emirates at a glance



\$37,750
GDP per capita
(USD, 2019)



10.7 million
Population
(2019)



—
Infrastructure investment
(2019 estimate)



—
Infrastructure gap
(2019 estimate)



88.5
Infrastructure quality
(0-100, 100 is best, 2019)



\$1,130 million
Private infrastructure investment
(5-year average, USD, 2019)

Top performing metrics



98.7/100

Registering property

According to the World Bank, registering a property takes one and a half days in the United Arab Emirates. This is significantly less time than the High Income Countries' average of 24.6, placing the United Arab Emirates in the top five for InfraCompass 2020 countries for the metric.



91.2/100

Time required to start a business

According to the World Bank, the time required to start a business has decreased dramatically over the decade from 15.5 days in 2009 to only four days in 2019. Shorter times to set up can persuade businesses to set up in a country, including new infrastructure entities.



90/100

Summary credit rating

The United Arab Emirates has a strong credit rating, with a stable outlook. The United Arab Emirates high credit worthiness provides favourable borrowing costs for infrastructure investments.

Opportunities to grow



2.7/100

Value of closed PPP infrastructure deals

The value of closed PPP infrastructure deals as a proportion of GDP is substantially less than the average for the High Income Countries, at only 0.01% compared to 0.11%. This low value may reflect the limited availability of PPP investments in the country.



26.1/100

Long term GDP growth trend

The long-term GDP growth rate for the United Arab Emirates remains at 2.6% compared to the 20 year historical average of 4.7%. Long-term growth rates signal a country's capacity to fund infrastructure from future growth. The COVID-19 pandemic may impact GDP growth trends.



5.6/100

Stocks traded

The value of stocks traded as a proportion of GDP has fallen quite dramatically in the United Arab Emirates from 36% in 2014 to 6% in 2018. As this indicator measures the liquidity of equities, it is important to infrastructure investors to know they can exit investments at appropriate points.

For guidance on how to improve these metrics, please see the [United Arab Emirates Country Page](#) on the InfraCompass website.



ECONOMY OVERVIEW

GDP (\$US billion, 2019)	405.8	Population (million, 2019)	10.7	Unemployment rate (2019)	2.6%
GDP per capita (\$US, 2019)	37,750	Urbanisation ratio (2018)	87.0%	Inflation rate (2019)	-1.5%
GDP growth rate (annual, 2019)	1.6%	Gross Government Debt (% of GDP, 2019)	20.0%	Digital Adoption Index (0-1 best, 2016)	0.82
GDP per capita growth rate (annual, 2019)	-4.9%	Sovereign risk rating (2019)	90	Gini coefficient (0-100 worst, NA)	NA

METRIC SCORES

The below metrics are normalised so that they all range from 0 to 100. For original metrics and data sources, please see <https://infracompass.github.org/>

GOVERNANCE		REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS		PERMITS	
Post-completion reviews?	Yes -	Effect of taxation on incentives to invest	84.9 ↓	Cost to start a business	65.5 ↓
Infrastructure or PPP unit/agency?	Yes -	Prevalence of foreign ownership	76.9 ↓	Dealing with construction permits	84.9 ↑
Recovery rate	27.7 ↓	Product market regulation, network sectors	54.2 [^] -	Quality of land administration	70 ↑
Rule of law	66.1 ↓	Regulatory (including competition) quality	68.6 ↓	Registering property	98.7 -
Shareholder governance	53.3 -	Strength of insolvency framework	68.8 ↑	Time required to start a business	91.2 ↑
Political stability and absence of violence	62.4 ↑	Investment promotion agency?	Yes -		
PLANNING		PROCUREMENT		ACTIVITY	
Published project pipeline?	Yes -	Average procurement duration – transaction RFP	53.1 ↑	Infrastructure investment	54.5 [^] ↑
Published infrastructure plan?	Yes -	Degree of transparency in public procurement	75 ↑	Private infrastructure investment	55.6 ↓
Preparation of PPPs	67 ↑	Published procurement guidelines?	Yes -	Value of closed PPP infrastructure deals	2.7 ↓
Economic analysis assessment?	Yes -	Procurement of PPPs	60 -	Value of closed infrastructure deals with foreign equity sponsorship	19.7 ↑
Market sounding and/or assessment?	Yes -	PPP contract management	52 -		
Environmental impact analysis?	Yes -				
FUNDING CAPACITY		FINANCIAL MARKETS		Drawing on data from: International Monetary Fund, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, World Bank, World Economic Forum, IJ Global, CEPII, Oxford Economics, Trading Economics, and Deloitte.	
GDP per capita	48.2 ↑	Domestic credit to private sector	37.8 ↓		
Gross government debt	84.2 ↑	Financing through local equity market	66.8 ↑		
Long term GDP growth trend	26.1 ↓	Stocks traded	5.6 ↓		
Summary credit rating	90 -	Financial depth	56.6 ↑		
		Financial stability	88.5 ↓		

Metric key:

↑ Increase from InfraCompass 2017 ↓ Decrease from InfraCompass 2017 - No change from InfraCompass 2017

Note:

'Top performing metrics' are the metrics with the highest score out of 100.

'Opportunities to grow' are generally the metrics with the lowest weighted score out of 100.

[^]Denotes interpolated metric data. See Technical Appendix for further explanation on the interpolation techniques.