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# UAE Healthcare & Wellness Market

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# UAE Economy *Overview*

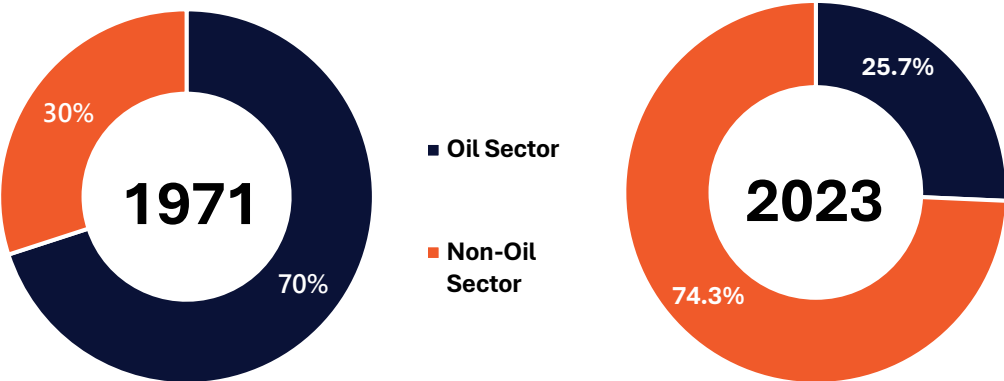
The UAE, a nation of significant economic prowess, is the third-largest economy in the Middle East. **With a projected GDP of USD 509 billion in 2023**, it trails only behind economic powerhouses Saudi Arabia and Israel. This ranking underscores the UAE's economic might and potential for further growth. Additionally, **the nation boasts a per capita income of USD 53,707 in 2024**, a testament to its wealth and prosperity.

Furthermore, the country's recent economic success is attributed to strategic positioning, robust financial reserves, a substantial sovereign wealth fund, investor confidence, economic diversification initiatives, thriving free zones, and significant foreign investment.

Moreover, the UAE has made remarkable strides in reducing its dependence on oil through deliberate economic diversification efforts. **In 2023, the non-oil sectors contributed 74.3% of the total GDP**, completely reversing the share from 1971.

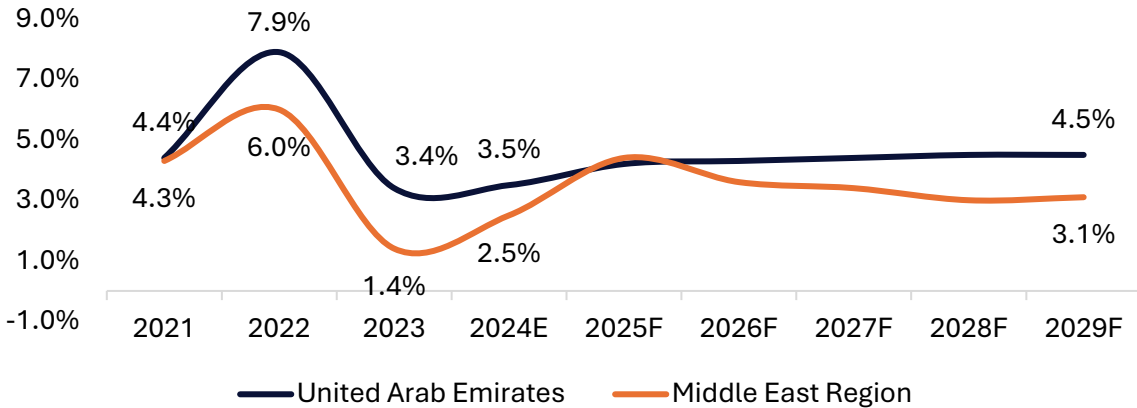
The region is touted to grow faster than the rest of the Middle East region for the rest of the decade.

**Diversification of GDP By UAE, 1971 & H1 2023**



Source: Ministry of Finance & Stratrich Analysis

**UAE & Middle East GDP Growth Comparison, 2021-2029F**



Source: World Bank

# UAE Healthcare & Wellness *Market*

## Overview

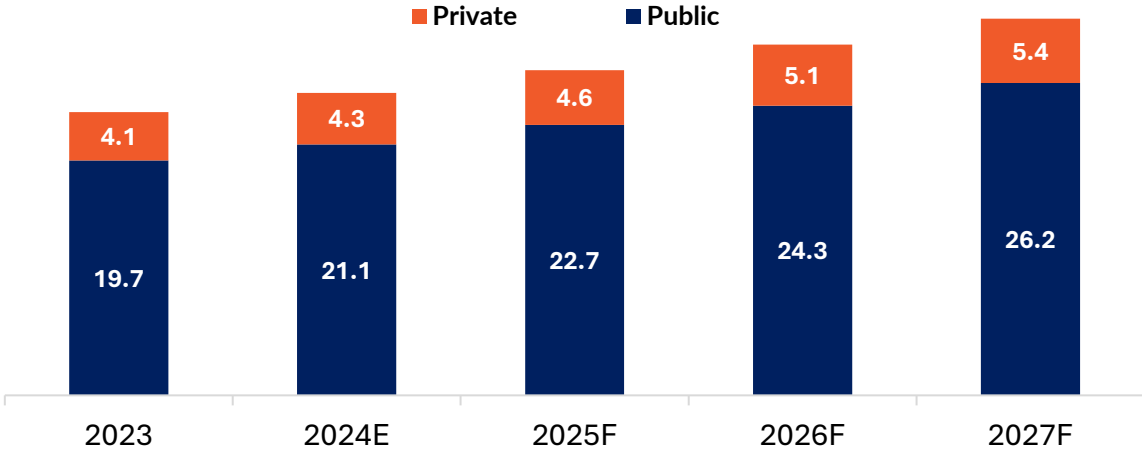
The UAE is one of the Middle East's most advanced and dynamic healthcare markets, supported by a robust and rapidly evolving infrastructure. This growth is driven by government initiatives, increasing private investments, and rising demand for high-quality medical services. The country is also strategically focusing on expanding its clinical research and manufacturing capabilities to position itself as a regional hub for healthcare innovation.

In addition, the UAE's appeal as a medical tourism destination is bolstered by renowned institutions such as **Cleveland Clinic and Mayo Clinic**, which have established branded hospitals in the region. These facilities offer specialised treatments that are not easily accessible in neighbouring countries, further enhancing the UAE's reputation as a premier centre for medical care.

UAE Healthcare Market (In Billion), 2022-2030F



UAE Healthcare Sector Spending Outlook (In USD Billion), 2018-2027F



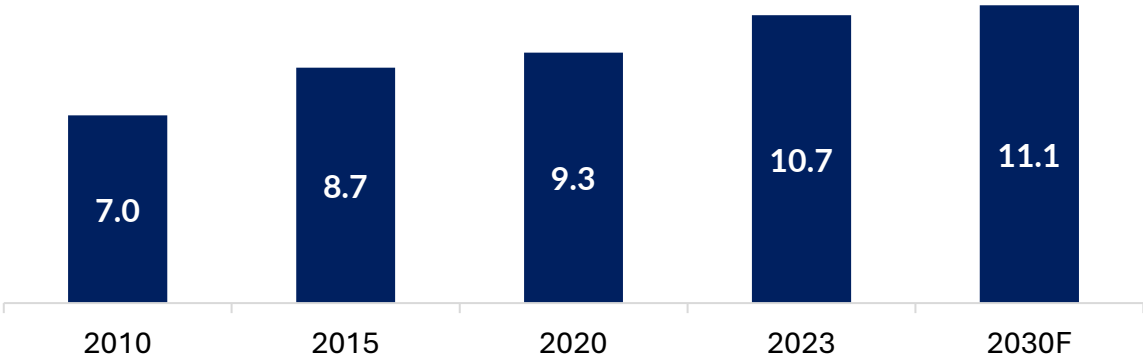
Furthermore, the UAE healthcare and wellness market is poised for significant growth in the coming years, fueled by rising private and public healthcare expenditures. This expansion is expected to open up vast business opportunities across various sub-sectors, including pharmaceuticals, digital health, medical tourism, and medical equipment manufacturing.

Source: Dubai Healthcare City Authority

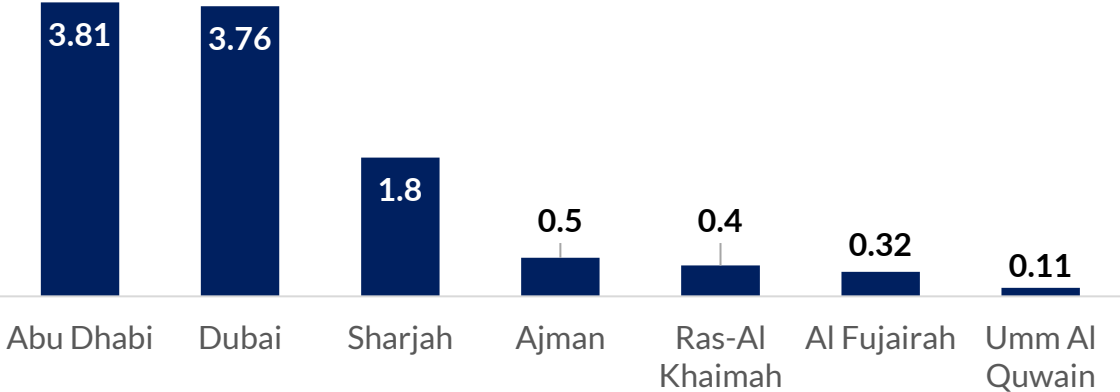
# UAE *Population*

As of 2023, the UAE's estimated population is about 10.7 million, of which only 11% are Emiratis. The UAE's population is expected to reach 11.1 million by 2030. Additionally, Abu Dhabi is the most populous emirate, with a population of over 3.81 million in 2023, followed by Dubai and Sharjah, with populations of 3.76 million and 1.80 million, respectively.

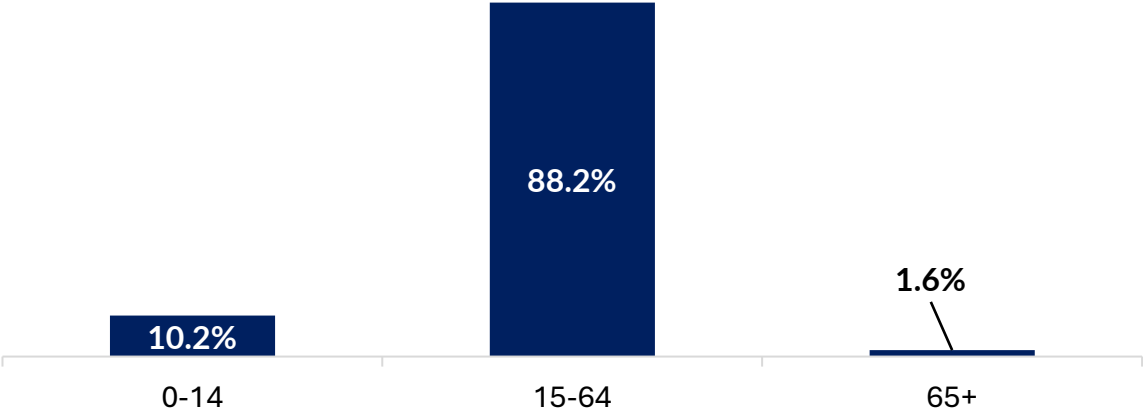
UAE Population(In million), 2010-2030F



UAE Population By Emirates (In million), 2023



UAE Age distribution of population (%), 2023



Source: UAE Government

# Dubai Healthcare *Ecosystem*

## Public health expenditure in Dubai remains strong:

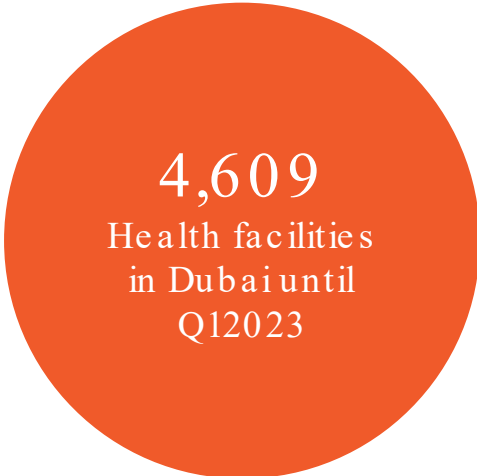
Dubai's population is expected to increase from 3.65 million in 2023 to 5.8 million by 2040. To meet this demand, the city plans to expand its healthcare and education facilities by 25% as part of the Dubai 2040 Master Plan. This expansion will improve local services and strengthen Dubai's position as a regional center for specialized medical tourism.

**5.2%**

Contribution of the healthcare sector to Dubai's GDP in 2022 from 3.1% in 2012

**8%**

CAGR of Dubai's healthcare expenditure over 10 years to 2022



**52**



Hospitals

**1,325**



Pharmacies

**82**



Dental Clinics

**56,239**



Licensed healthcare professionals (Q1 23)

**77**



Specialized Clinics

**160**



Nursing Homes

Source: Dubai Healthcare City Authority

# Abu Dhabi Healthcare *Ecosystem*

Abu Dhabi boasts some of the finest medical facilities in the Middle East, and its healthcare sector is experiencing significant growth.

This expansion has been largely driven by the government's strategic initiatives, such as the **Tawteen targets**, which aim to increase the participation of UAE nationals in the healthcare workforce.

These efforts have yielded impressive results in 2023 alone, with over 1,200 **healthcare professionals** entering the industry within six months. These initiatives create job opportunities for Emiratis and enhance the quality of healthcare services, ensuring that residents and visitors receive top-notch care from highly skilled professionals.

S.No	Abu Dhabi's Latest Healthcare Projects
1.	Abu Dhabi Life Science Hub on the Metaverse
2.	Genome & Personalised Medicine Programme
3.	Malaffi Health Portal
4.	Disease Registry (DOH & ADPHC joint project)

65+



Hospitals

950+



Pharmacies

770+



Clinics

1,520+



Medical Centers

Major Hospital in Abu Dhabi	Number of Beds	Founding Year
Ahalia Hospital	110	1984
Bareen International Hospital	586	2015
Danat Al Emarat Hospital for Women & Children	225	2017
LLH Hospital	740	2007
Lifecare Hospital	200	2007

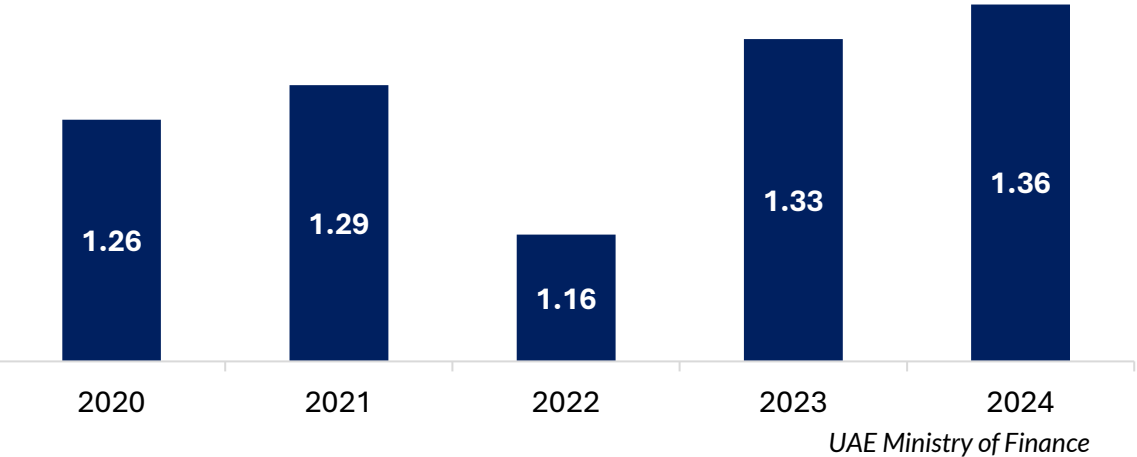
# Growth *Drivers*

## 1. : Robust Government Initiatives & Investment

The UAE government has prioritized healthcare in its national development plans. Policies such as the **National Nutrition Strategy 2030** and the **Abu Dhabi Healthcare Strategic Plan** aim to enhance service quality, expand hospital capacity, and promote innovation in medical research. A central focus of these initiatives is attracting foreign investment and expertise, further strengthening the UAE’s position as a global healthcare hub.

The UAE’s health policies and strategies aim to provide everyone with high-quality, easily accessible, and efficient healthcare. These policies and strategies are designed to improve patient care, build a more robust healthcare system, support sustainability, and make the UAE a global leader in healthcare.

UAE Federal Budget Allocated For Healthcare (USD Billion)





# Growth Drivers

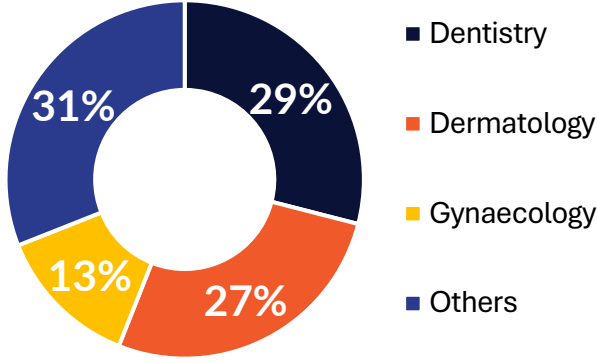
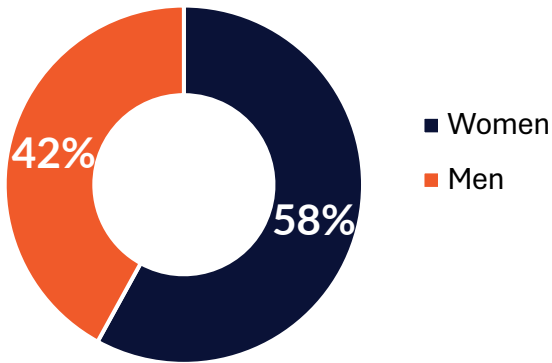
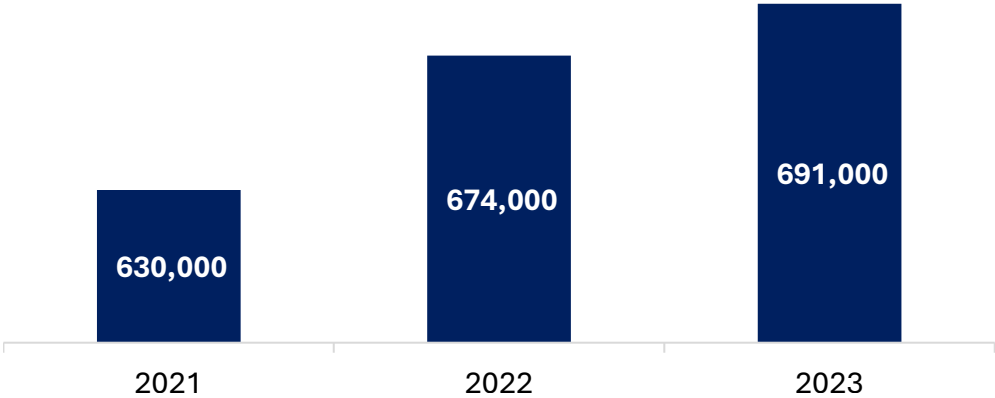
## 2. Medical Tourism

- The UAE is already one of the world's top destinations for medical tourism, with significant potential for further growth.
- While countries like Mexico, Costa Rica, Malaysia, Thailand, Turkey, and India rank among the leading destinations for medical tourism, the UAE is one of the fastest-growing in this sector.
- **In 2023, Dubai attracted over 691,000 health tourists** from around the globe, with their combined spending on healthcare services surpassing **USD 350 million**. This marked an **increase from 2022, when 674,000 international health tourists** visited the city, contributing **USD 270 million in spending**.
- Furthermore, in 2018, Abu Dhabi launched its Medical Tourism e-portal, a digital platform offering visitors access to numerous healthcare facilities within a national medical tourism network. The portal has boosted medical tourism in the UAE by providing easy access to healthcare facilities and treatment options throughout the Emirate. It also features nearly 300 treatment packages from over 170 doctors across the emirate.

International Health Tourists, 2021-2023

International Health Tourists by Gender, 2023

Top 3 in-demand specialties, 2023



Source: Dubai Health Authority

# Leading Sub-Sectors

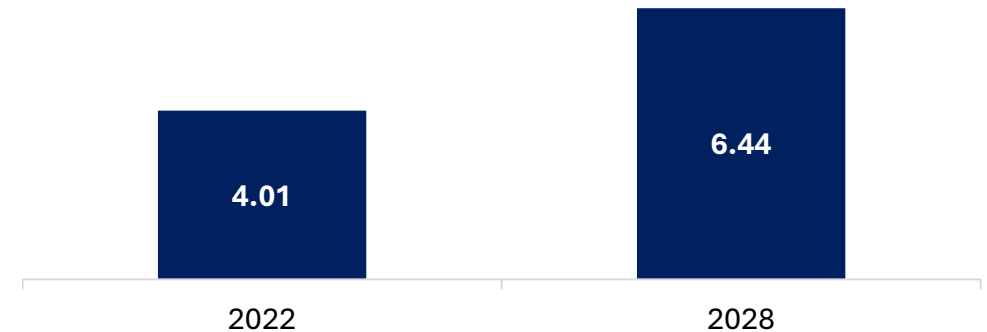
## 1. Pharmaceutical Sector

- The UAE's pharmaceutical market, with 23 manufacturing centers and 2,500 locally produced medicines, is projected to reach a value of **USD 4.7 billion by 2025**.
- While pharmaceutical prices in the UAE are typically **10 to 20 percent higher** than in other Middle Eastern countries, the market is evolving.
- Though most drugs are imported, this is beginning to change as international pharmaceutical giants partner with UAE companies to manufacture products locally.

### Recent Development and Investment

- Sigachi MENA FZCO, a subsidiary of Sigachi Industries, and iConsult Trading Consultancy, part of iMass Investments, have formed a joint venture, Sigachi Global, to enter the expanding UAE food and pharma markets.
- Mubadala Investment Company will build the UAE's first GMP facility in Abu Dhabi to manufacture advanced biopharmaceuticals. The project aims to boost the region's life sciences ecosystem and produce vital biologics.
- In 2022, the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology (MoIAT) signed **two MoUs worth USD 70.8 million with UAE pharmaceutical and medical device companies**. PureHealth will collaborate with Abu Dhabi Medical Devices Company (ADMD), Abu Dhabi Ports, and Borouge to establish a medical supplies production line and partner with Julphar to build a Glargine manufacturing facility in Ras Al Khaimah.

UAE Pharmaceutical Market (USD Billion)

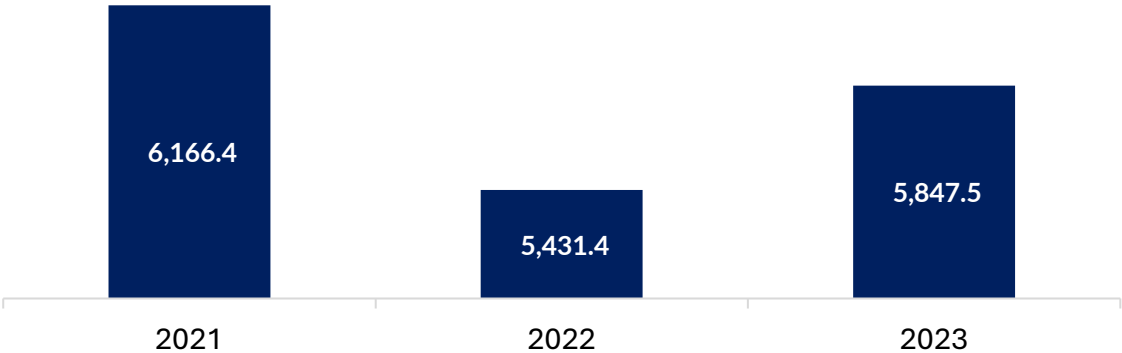


# Leading Sub-Sectors

## 2. Medical Equipment

- The growth of the UAE’s medical equipment market mirrors trends seen across other sectors. With a focus on manufacturing, the market is projected to reach **USD 1.5 billion by 2025**, growing at a CAGR of 4.4% from 2020. A
- Although domestic production of medical equipment remains limited, this presents significant business opportunities for international companies. The pandemic has also spurred the UAE to explore local manufacturing of certain medical devices.
- Notably, diagnostic imaging equipment constitutes a large share of the UAE medical device market.

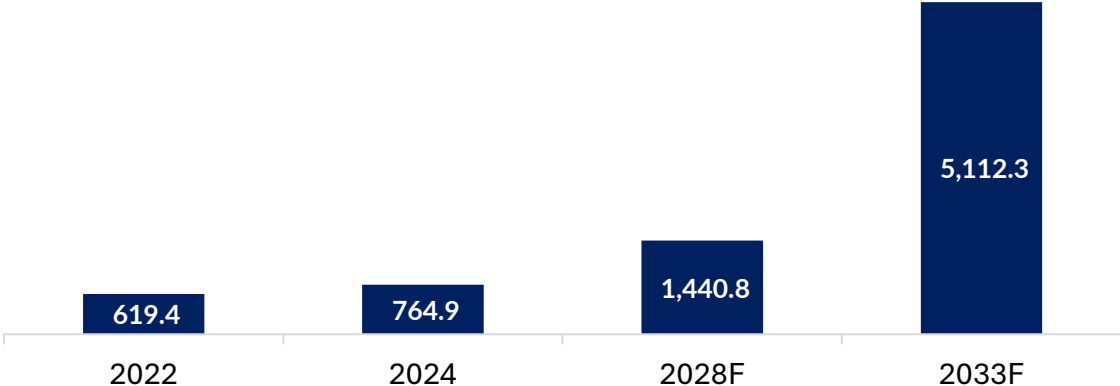
UAE Medical Equipment Imports, million USD



## 3. Digital Health

- The UAE digital health market was valued at USD 619.35 million in 2023 and is **projected to grow to USD 764.90 million in 2024**. It is expected to reach approximately **USD 5,112.18 million by 2033**, expanding at a **compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 23.54% from 2024 to 2033**.
- This market growth is fueled by government initiatives, tech advancements, and an increasing focus on preventive healthcare, driving innovation and a shift toward proactive health management.

UAE Digital Health Market (USD Million)



# Preferred Free Zones



## What is a Free Zone?

Free zones in the UAE are particular economic areas that provide customs duty benefits and tax concessions to investors, operating under their own unique rules and regulations. They are specifically designed to attract foreign investment by offering 100% ownership to all nationalities and streamlined startup processes, labor and immigration procedures, and various legal services.

### 1. Dubai Healthcare City (DHCC) Free Zone

Established in 2002, Dubai Healthcare City (DHCC) integrates essential healthcare services, drawing top-tier global and regional names alongside a network of businesses spanning hospitality, consultancy, and retail. Governed by the Dubai Healthcare City Authority (DHCA), DHCC offers a supportive ecosystem that simplifies the business setup process.

**Permitted Licences:** Professional, Commercial, Trading, Service, and Healthcare Licences

**Permitted company types:** FZ LLC, Branch of a Foreign Company, and Branch of a UAE Company.

**Sub Sector Opportunities:** Specialize in Clinical Facilities, Hospitals, Pharmacies & medical equipment suppliers, and diagnostics centres.

**Major Healthcare Facilities:** Al Jalila Children's Hospital, Clemenceau Medical Center, Mediclinic City Hospital, Barraquer Eye Hospital, Bioscience Clinic, and Dnagtx lab.

## Advantages of establishing a business in DHCC - Dubai Healthcare City

- 100% foreign ownership.
- Full repatriation of profits and capital.
- Guaranteed 50-year exemption from personal, income, and corporate taxes.
- Exemption from customs duty for goods and services.
- No restrictions on capital, trade barriers, or quotas

10



Hospitals

4,425



Healthcare Professionals

168



Clinical Facilities

36



Recreational Facilities

# Preferred Free Zones

## 2. Dubai Science Park

Dubai Science Park, the Middle East's first free zone dedicated to the science sector, hosts hundreds of companies with over 3,000 professionals. It offers state-of-the-art office spaces and labs, supporting entrepreneurs, SMEs, and multinational firms in scientific research. The park promotes innovation, creativity, and collaboration between government, investors, and experts in Al Barsha South.

**Permitted Licences:** Commercial, Industrial Licences

**Permitted company types:** FZ LLC, Branch of a Foreign Company, and Branch of a UAE Company.

**Sub Sector Opportunities:** R&D (medical, wellness, and pharma), F&B Labs, and manufacturing.

**Companies Operating:** Cipla, Bristol Myers Squibb, Acino MEA, Inventia Healthcare, DiaSorin Middle East, OLYMPUS MEA, and Himalaya Global Research Centre FZ-LLC



### Advantages of establishing a business in Dubai Science Park

- 100% foreign ownership is possible.
- 100% fund repatriation
- There is no import or export tax.
- Legal framework that promotes business
- Expedited visa processing
- Opportunities for collaboration with multinational corporations
- Cutting-edge laboratory infrastructure
- Skilled talent availability

# Preferred Free Zones

## 3. Sharjah Healthcare Park

Sharjah Healthcare City (SHCC) is a specialised healthcare and wellness hub hosting numerous hospitals and clinics. It welcomes Research & Development (R&D) centres, laboratories, hospitals, and rehabilitation facilities. Conveniently located near Sharjah International Airport, the Free Zone offers investors plots of land for hospital, clinic, and office construction, along with long-term lease options for various healthcare buildings.

**Permitted Licences:** Medical,, Pharmaceutical, Research & Development (R&D), and Service Licences

**Permitted company types:** FZ LLC, Branch of a Foreign Company, and Branch of a UAE Company.

**Sub Sector Opportunities:** Hospitals and Specialized Clinics, Light Pharmaceutical Manufacturing, Diagnostic and Imaging Services.

**Companies Operating:** Ahalia Group, and BinSina Pharmacy



مدينة الشارقة للرعاية الصحية  
Sharjah Healthcare City  
ثقافة الرعاية . Culture of care

### Advantages of establishing a business in Sharjah Healthcare City

- Single Window Service
- 100% ownership of their entity
- 100% repatriability of their capital and profit of the business at Sharjah Healthcare City
- Sharjah Healthcare City is accessible via major roads from all parts of the UAE and is close to Sharjah International Airport.

**4.5**  
**MILLION**  
Square Meter of Land

**3rd**  
**LARGEST**  
Populous Emirate in  
the UAE

**20**  
**MINUTES**  
from Dubai  
International Airport

# About **Stratrich**

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Stratrich Consulting removes the complexities of entering and operating in the Indian and UAE markets. We are your one-stop shop, guiding you through every stage of your journey, from pre-incorporation planning to post-incorporation support. Our team of experts in both regions ensures a smooth transition and helps you navigate the unique regulatory landscapes.

## **Strategic Approach, Agile Execution**

We combine a comprehensive strategy with an agile execution to equip you with the tools you need to succeed.

## **Our services are designed to help you:**

**Overcome challenges:** We understand the hurdles foreign businesses face in India and the UAE. We have the experience and knowledge to help you navigate them efficiently.

**Capture growth opportunities:** We identify and capitalize on market opportunities, ensuring your business thrives in these dynamic economies.

**Achieve sustainable growth:** Our focus goes beyond just market entry. We provide ongoing support to ensure your long-term success.

## **Tailored Solutions for Your Business**

We understand that every business is unique. Our solutions are customized to fit your specific needs and goals, whether you're a startup seeking to enter the Indian market or an established company looking to expand your reach in the UAE.

## **Your Trusted Partner**

Stratrich Consulting is your reliable advisor throughout your market entry and growth journey in India and the UAE.

Let us help you navigate the complexities and unlock your full potential in these exciting markets.



# Global *Scale*



Our Offices | IND | UAE | USA | UK

300+  
Employees

400+  
Clients

7  
Offices



# Our *Services*

Advisory & Regulatory



Business Setup & Incorporation



Tax



Corporate Services



# Our *Services*

Whether you are growing in one market or many, transforming your business, looking to operate more effectively, managing risk and compliance, or realising stakeholder value, Stratrich Consulting has the right experts to meet your needs.

## Advisory & Regulatory

Our adaptable advisory services seamlessly integrate with your team, guiding you through challenges, uncovering opportunities, and charting a course for sustainable growth.

- Business Consulting
- Business Risk Services
- Regulatory Advisory Services
- M&A and Transactions Advisory
- Market Research and Intelligence
- Market Entry Strategy & Entry Routes
- Supply Chain Services
- Business Planning and Techno-economic Viability Report/Detailed Project Report
- Location Analysis and Selection, and Incentive Benchmarking/Optimization

## Business Setup & Incorporation

Let our experts handle your Business Setup & Incorporation. Our cost-effective services free you and your stakeholders to focus on what matters most – running your business.

- Incorporation and PRO
  - Companies ( Public or Private)
  - Limited liability Partnerships (LLPs)
  - Liaison Offices
  - Branch Offices
  - Wholly Owned Subsidiary
  - Joint Ventures
  - Project Office

## Tax

Our team leverages deep industry expertise, both local and global, alongside powerful tax tools to simplify compliance and identify optimal tax strategies for your business.

- Corporate Tax
- Expatriate Services
- International Tax Services
- Transfer Pricing
- GST/VAT Services

## Corporate Services

Our comprehensive suite of corporate services streamlines essential tasks, unlocks talent potential, and provides the expertise you need to navigate challenges.

- Accounting & Bookkeeping Support
- Payroll Compliance & Management
- Legal & Regulatory Services
- Audit Support Services
- Human Capital Consulting

# Our *Leaders*

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**Rajat Chawla**  
Chief Business Officer  
Leads Business Development,  
Assurance, Market Entry &  
Technology



**Richa Juneja**  
Director  
Leads International Taxation,  
Transfer Pricing & Tax litigation



**Vipin Sachdeva**  
Deputy Director  
Leads Operations, Incorporation,  
Compliance Accounting  
& FPNA



**Priyam Pandit**  
Business Development Manager  
Leads Business Advisory and  
Pre-Incorporation Support Services



**Chandan Singh**  
Business Development Manager  
Leads Business Setup and Incorporation Services

# Industry Expertise

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Automobile



Banking & Financial Services



Civil Aviation



Defence



E-commerce



Education



FMCG



Healthcare



Infrastructure



IT & AI



Pharmaceuticals



Oil and gas



Real estate



Renewable Energy



Textile



Telecom

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