



حُكُومَةُ الشَّارِجَة  
دَائِرَةُ التَّنْمِيَةِ الْاِقْتِصَادِيَّةِ

Government of Sharjah  
Economic Development Department

# SEDD Licenses Annual Report

Economic Indicators for Business in the Emirate of Sharjah

# 2023

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in the Emirate of Sharjah

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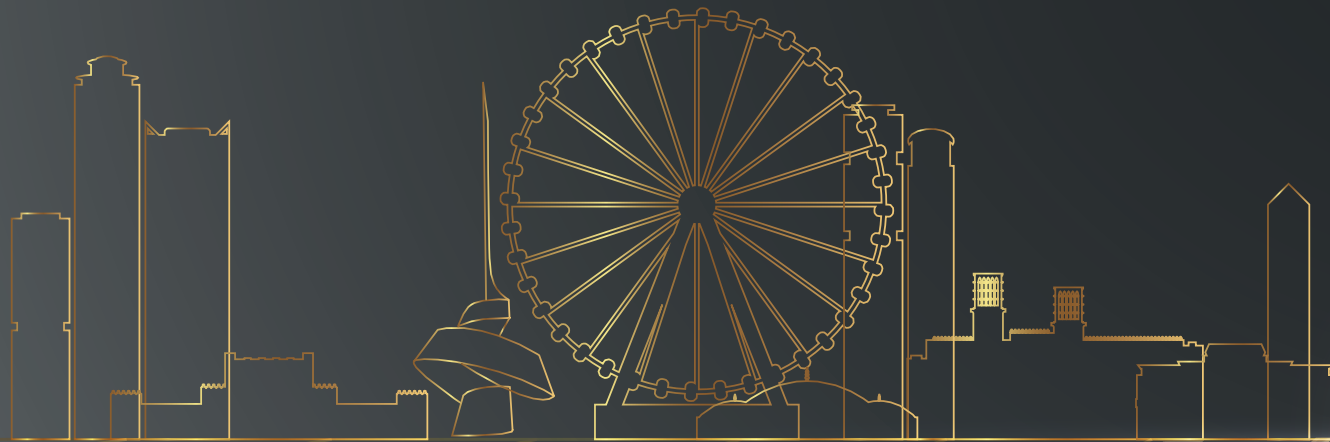


His Highness Sheikh  
**Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi**  
Member of the Supreme Council  
Ruler of Sharjah





His Highness Sheikh  
**Sultan bin Mohammed bin Sultan Al Qasimi**  
Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Sharjah  
Chairman of Executive Council



# Chairman Message



**Hamad Ali Abdalla Al Mahmoud**  
SEDD Chairman

# Continuous Governance of Statistical and Economic Data System

Eleven years have passed since the release of “SEDD Business Licenses Report” first edition in 2013. Since then, the report has been annually classifying the overall work of “SEDD” with regard to business license transactions, investors, and qualitative investment movement. This release focuses on documenting the economic and administrative indicators of the businesses and transactions of establishments. Also, it highlights the economic development process in various areas in Sharjah and provides investors, owners of establishments and entrepreneurs with the needed data and indicators aiming at the disclosure and documentation of information through adopting transparency standards and using a scientific methodology. This all is done according to the wise directives of HH Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, and the continuous supervision of HH Sheikh Sultan bin

Mohammed bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Crown Prince, Deputy Ruler of Sharjah and Chairman of the Executive Council, to provide a qualitative platform for economic numbers, indicators, statistics, and data for researchers and investors to create an advanced digital statistical system which allows for rapid linking between the various data of the emirate. This report aims at categorizing the movement of business licenses into five main chapters, which are presenting the total movement of qualitative business licenses in Sharjah, introducing the development of investments in different geographical areas to identify the type and characteristics of economic growth, dividing the growth and classifying the movement of economic sectors and activities, highlighting the legal forms of business licenses, and finally providing a detailed section on foreign and national investment indicators through the transactions of foreign investors and national investments. These categories allow the reader to

easily identify the most important indicators of business licenses, such as the growth of the total business licenses registered in 2023 by 4%, or the concentration of commercial activities in the city of Sharjah and the Industrial Areas and the number of main activities, or achieving a growth of 2% for small and micro-national entrepreneurial projects, or showcasing the increase on commercial licenses by 4% in 2023 with a 3% increase in demand for establishing new professional projects. The report also deals with the increase in the share of e-commerce licenses, with an analysis of the growth in trading in 136,000 economic activities in the emirate. Finally, this work represents the importance of classifying, documenting and disclosing figures through data governance methodology, with the aim to reach all investors effectively to provide the needed advice, guidance and direction for business in Sharjah.

# Economic Impact of Business Licenses on Growth and Development in Sharjah



Billion dirhams  
GDP in the emirate  
for the year 2023



License  
Registered in the  
Emirate for the year  
2023

Companies influence the economic growth by increasing productivity, not by increasing consumption and intermediate production. This basically affects the increase in the gross domestic product (GDP), through the efficiency of producing goods and services that add to the GDP. Establishments also invest in capital assets such as production equipment and information technology, which enhances long-term economic growth and helps companies continuously to improve and develop in order to provide advanced

products and services, open new markets and expand the scope of business. Likely, it enables them to finance development, provide public services and participate in financing fees and tax revenues. Therefore, companies play a vital role in enhancing economic growth through their productive outputs and improving the welfare of society in general. In addition, SEDD sets the most important indicators for business growth in 2023, which indicate that more than 136,000 activities for

business licenses will be traded in the same year. This led to the growth of the emirate's GDP to exceed 145 billion dirhams in 2023. It is worth mentioning that SEDD holds more than 66,000 licenses registered in Sharjah during the same year in managing sustainable development, innovation and manufacturing, which represents a significant strength in the added value of the emirate's economy and in the growth it's GDP. To carry on, the economic and statistical indicators included in this report indicate the

development of the qualitative business licenses' movement in the emirate, with a growth of 4% in 2023. Likewise, the industrial establishments witnessed an increment of 10% with a growth of about 2% in small and micro entrepreneurial projects. In addition, business establishments achieved a growth of 4%, and there was an increase of 3% in new professional investment. Also, there was a 25% growth in e-commerce licenses in 2023, and the consumption activity in restaurants and the sale of snacks increased by





## 1 Development of Business License Transactions (2022-2023)

The total number of licenses registered in Sharjah reached 66,365 ones in 2023. This figure exceeds the number of licenses operating in the emirate compared to last year, which hit about 63,776 licenses, with a growth rate of 4%.

Growth in Total Business Licenses Movement (2022-2023)			
Registered Licenses			
Month	2022	2023	%
January	5,055	5,841	16%
February	5,445	5,565	2%
March	6,470	6,043	-7%
April	4,967	4,576	-8%
May	4,835	6,438	33%
June	6,217	5,166	-17%
July	4,378	5,354	22%
August	5,264	5,643	7%
September	5,005	4,358	-13%
October	5,307	6,180	16%
November	5,612	5,988	7%
December	5,221	5,213	0%
Total	63,776	66,365	4%

Business licenses in the emirate are classified into five types which are commercial, professional, industrial, “Eitimad”, and e-commerce licenses. Commercial licenses

are the most commonly used type of license in the emirate. The number of the renewed commercial licenses increased from 36,310 licenses in 2022 to 37,652 ones in 2023, with a

growth rate of 4%. On the other hand, the issued commercial licenses grew by 6%, as the number was 4,493 licenses in 2022 and increased to reach 4,766 ones in 2023. However,

the total number of commercial licenses reached 42,418 ones during 2023, compared to 40,803 licenses in 2022, with a growth rate of 4%.

Total Number of Licenses by Type (2022-2023)				
License Type		2022	2023	%
Commercial	Issued	4,493	4,766	6%
	Renewed	36,310	37,652	4%
	Total	40,803	42,418	4%
Professional	Issued	2,391	2,112	-12%
	Renewed	16,644	17,533	5%
	Total	19,035	19,645	3%
Industrial	Issued	346	397	15%
	Renewed	2,458	2,682	9%
	Total	2,804	3,079	10%
Eitimad	Issued	212	256	21%
	Renewed	627	598	-5%
	Total	839	854	2%
E-commerce	Issued	174	207	19%
	Renewed	121	162	34%
	Total	295	369	25%
Total	Issued	7,616	7,738	2%
	Renewed	56,160	58,627	4%
	Total	63,776	66,365	4%



## 2 Monthly Development of Total Business Licenses by Geographic Areas (2022-2023)

### • Sharjah City:

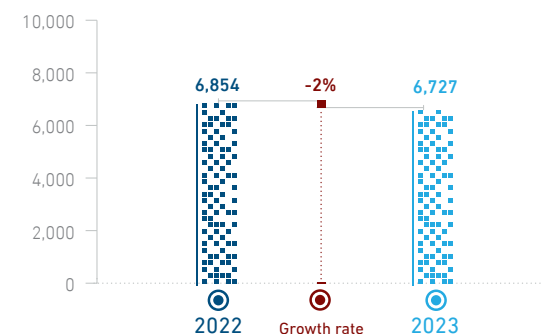
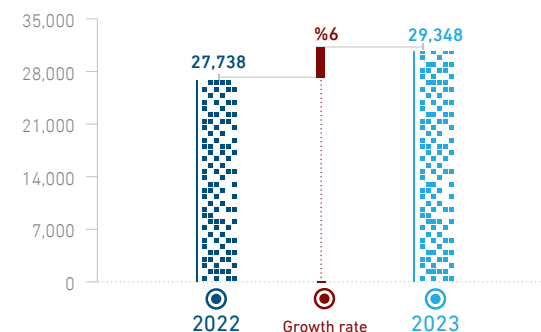
The city of Sharjah is considered the second largest region in terms of the total number of business licenses issued and renewed.

### • Industrial Areas:

Industrial areas have the largest number of business licenses compared to other areas. The total number of licenses issued and renewed reached 29,348 licenses in 2023, compared to 27,738 licenses in 2022, a growth of 6%.

### • Central Region:

It is considered the third highest region in the total number of licenses.



### • Khor Fakkan:

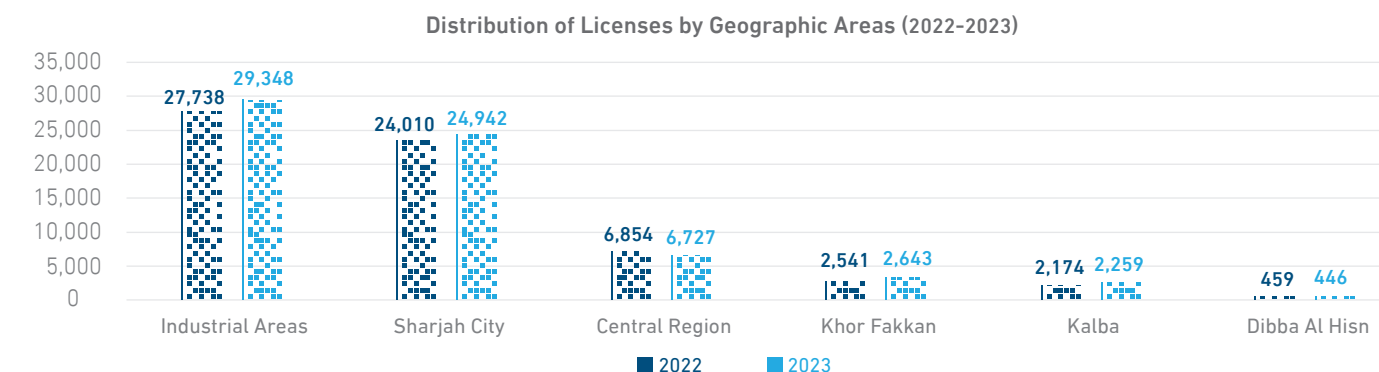
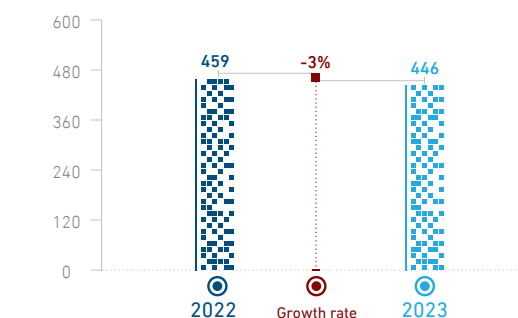
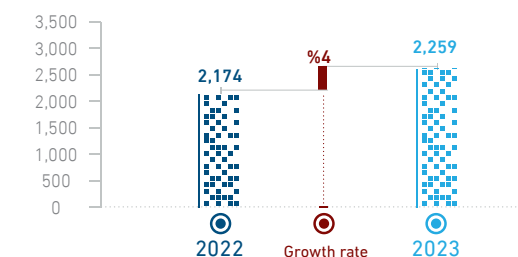
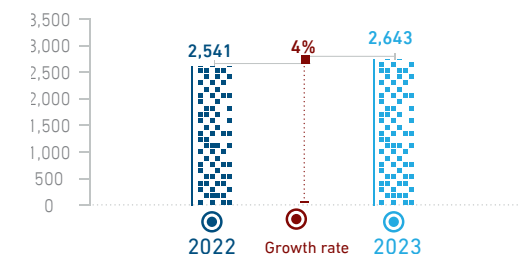
It is considered the fourth highest region in the total number of licenses in the emirate, with a total of 2,643 licenses in 2023.

### • Kalba:

Kalba is considered the fifth highest region in the total number of licenses, as the number reached 2,174 ones in 2022, and the number increased to reach 2,259 licenses in 2023.

### • Dibba Al Hisn:

The total number of licenses reached 459 in 2022 and decreased to 446 licenses in 2023.



- **Commercial Licenses:**

The shares of commercial licenses rose well in some regions and decreased in some other

regions. The city of Sharjah had the majority of licenses, but with a decrease from 39% in 2022 to 38.9% in 2023.

- **Professional Licenses**

The data indicates that there is a slight change in some areas related to professional licenses, as

the city of Sharjah accounts for the largest percentage, and the percentage has remained the same over the two years.

- **Industrial Licenses:**

Industrial Areas hold the largest proportion of industrial licenses during 2023.

- **Eitimid Licenses:**

"Eitimid" licenses are widely distributed in both the city of Sharjah and the Industrial

Areas. Their percentage in the city of Sharjah decreased from 33.1% in 2022 to 31.6% in 2023.

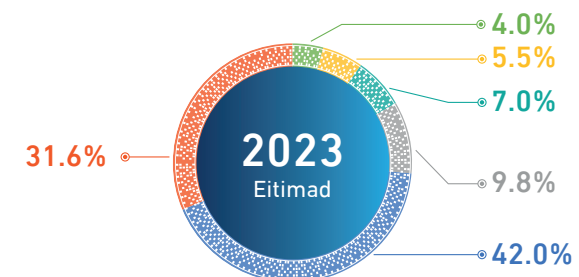
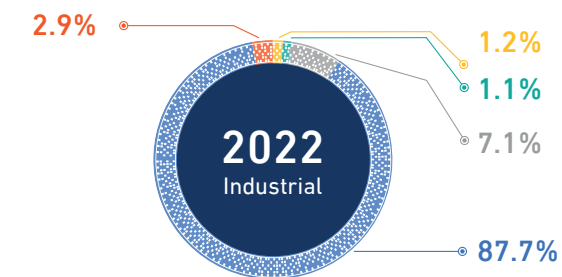
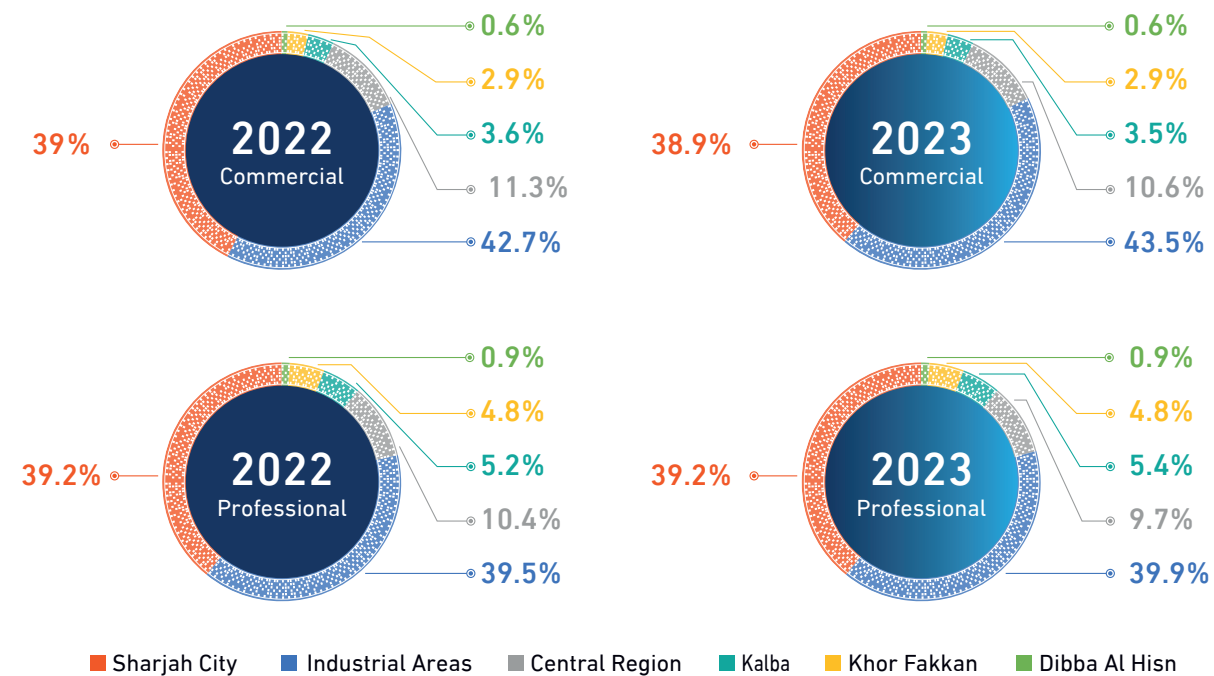
- **E-commerce Licenses :**

It is noted that most of the e-commerce licenses are distributed in the city of Sharjah,

as their relative weight reached 98.3% in 2022 and increased to reach 99.2% in 2023.



Distribution of Licenses According to type in Geographical Areas (2022-2023)



Sharjah City Industrial Areas Central Region Kalba Khor Fakkan Dibba Al Hisn



#### 4 Growth in Economic Sectors and Activities in Sharjah

- The main economic sectors contributed in increasing UAE and Sharjah's GDP by 145 billion dirhams in 2023.
- 2023 witnessed promising trading rates for 136,306 activities in the emirate.
- The Industrial Areas have the largest number of major activities, followed by Sharjah City.
- Wholesale and retail trade and vehicle repair are ranked first, followed by the construction sector in terms of turnover and then manufacturing industries.
- Total of 4,904 traded activities in Khor Fakkan with a growth of 5%.
- Consumption activities in restaurants and the sale of snacks increased by 9% and 6%, respectively, in the emirate.

#### 5 Distribution of Economic Sectors by Business Activities (2022-2023)

Sharjah has a large number of major economic sectors, each of which works to raise the economy of the emirate and the country together. These sectors contributed to the growth of the emirate's GDP to 145 billion dirhams in 2023. This analytical paragraph represents the structure of the emirate's economy according to economic sectors, which

are evaluated by the number of registered activities and data on business and establishment licenses in Sharjah. Therefore, the total number of activities registered in SEDD according to the main economic sectors is about 136,306 main activities in 2023, compared to 130,505 activities in 2022, with a growth rate of 4%.

Total Number of Activities Distributed among Main Sectors (2022-2023)			
Main Sectors	2022	2023	%
Wholesale, Retail Sale, and Repair of Vehicles and Motorcycles	68,287	72,174	6%
Construction	17,272	16,680	-3%
Manufacturing Industries	12,662	13,221	4%
Others	7,893	8,515	8%
Accommodation and Catering Services	6,127	6,589	8%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	5,206	5,254	1%
Administrative and Support Services Activities	4,586	4,782	4%
Real Estate Activities	2,009	2,102	5%
Transportation and Storage	1,842	1,908	4%
Financial and Insurance Activities	1,213	1,286	6%
Education	923	1,040	13%
Art and Entertainment	803	927	15%
Health and Social Work Activities	766	812	6%
Water Supply, Drainage, Waste Management and Treatment Services	348	442	27%
Information and Communication	365	357	-2%
Mining and Quarrying	119	119	0%
Agriculture, Agroforestry and Fishing	74	83	12%
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	10	15	50%
Total	130,505	136,306	4%



## 6 Legal Forms

The Department indicators showed that there has been an increase in the Sole Proprietorship Licenses by 27% during

2023. Also, the service agent transactions hit a growth of 1% in the same year.

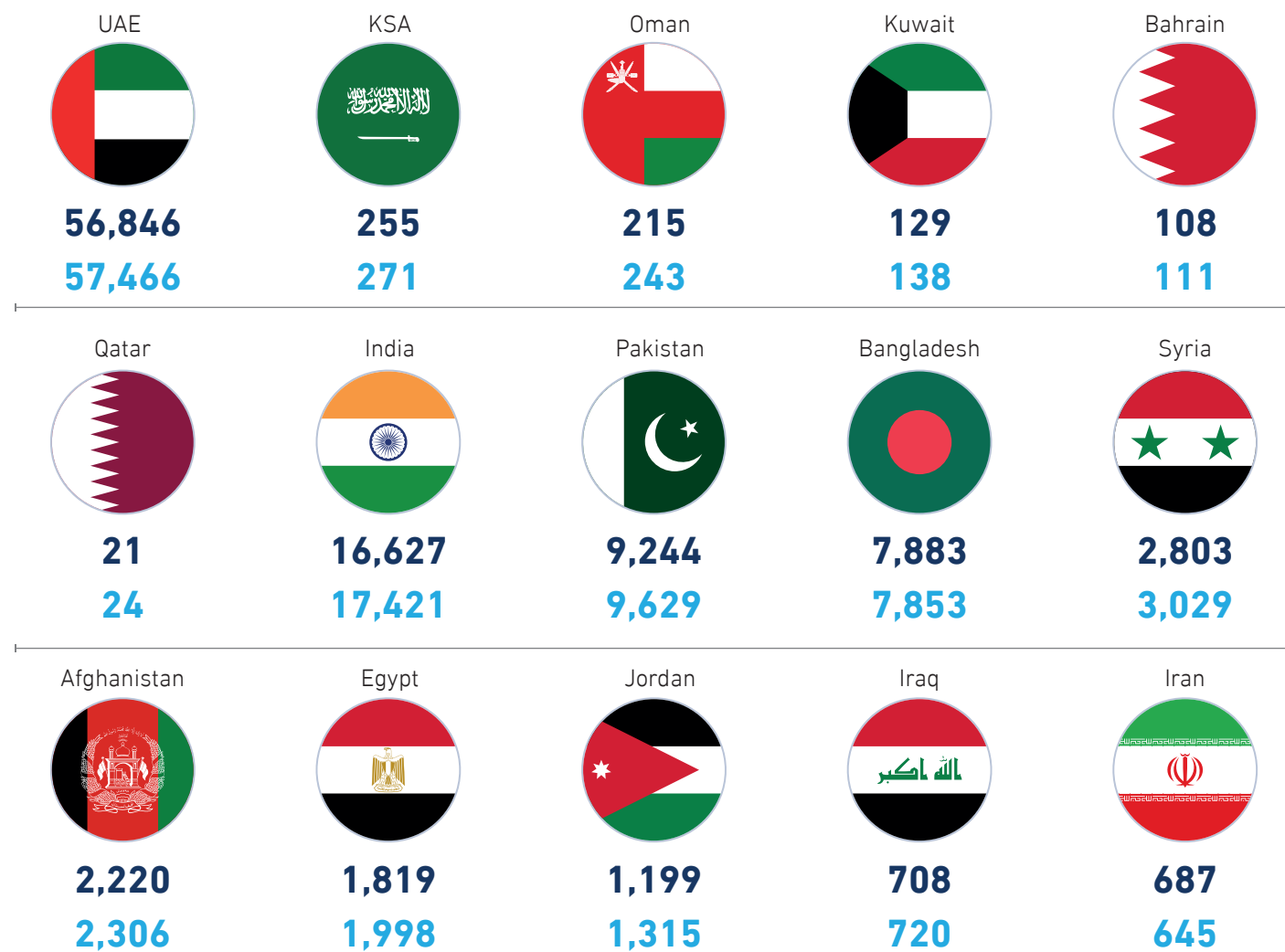
## 7 Development of Foreign Investment Requests and Diversity of National Investor Transactions

- Total of 109,100 transactions for various nationalities investing in 2023.
- Growth rate of 1% in UAE national transactions.
- Sharjah attracted Arab, European and Asian investors in 2023.
- Chinese investment increased by 20%, Filipino investment by 22%, Russian investment by 15%, British investment by 13%, Turkish investment by 6%, and Canadian investment by 4%.
- An increase in Arab-Omani investment by 13%.

## 8 Distribution of Licenses Transactions by Nationalities (2022-2023)

Transactions and growth rates of issued and renewed licenses by nationalities (2022-2023)							
Nationality	2022	2023	%	Nationality	2022	2023	%
UAE	56,846	57,466	1%	Palestine	561	580	3%
KSA	255	271	6%	Lebanon	577	579	0%
Oman	215	243	13%	China	369	444	20%
Kuwait	129	138	7%	UK	310	351	13%
Bahrain	108	111	3%	Turkey	327	346	6%
Qatar	21	24	14%	Canada	318	330	4%
India	16,627	17,421	5%	Yemen	291	290	0%
Pakistan	9,244	9,629	4%	Sudan	231	273	18%
Bangladesh	7,883	7,853	-0.4%	Morocco	225	221	%2-
Syria	2,803	3,029	8%	America	217	215	%1-
Afghanistan	2,220	2,306	4%	Philippine	146	178	22%
Egypt	1,819	1,998	10%	Ethiopia	136	135	-1%
Jordan	1,199	1,315	10%	Sri Lanka	129	135	5%
Iraq	708	720	2%	Russia	109	125	15%
Iran	687	645	-6%	Other	1,528	1,729	13%
				Total	106,238	109,100	3%

### Distribution of Most Important Nationalities according to Transactions (2022-2023)



# Contact us

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