



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Monthly Newsletter April 2025

The Pulse of Finance



الإمارات العربية المتحدة
وزارة المالية

الهيئة الاتحادية للضرائب
FEDERAL TAX AUTHORITY



فريق تطوير المنظومة الضريبية في دولة الإمارات



Under the chairmanship of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Cabinet reviewed the latest developments in building the UAE's tax system

UAE takes part in Spring Meetings of the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund in Washington

UAE Participates in International Monetary and Financial Committee Deputies Meeting in Riyadh

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The tax system is a fundamental pillar in shaping the future economic infrastructure of the UAE, with its efficiency reflecting the strength of the national economy and the country's leadership in financial governance.



Maktoum bin Mohammed: UAE Global Cadres to empower Emirati talents to play influential role in financial and economic sectors globally

The Ministry of Finance has launched a new initiative to raise awareness among Emirati professionals and students about opportunities within international financial organisations.

The "UAE Global Cadres" initiative targets Emiratis working in the UAE, as well as those enrolled in academic institutions both locally and abroad, aiming to encourage them to pursue training, secondment, and career opportunities offered by these international institutions.

Part of the UAE's well-established strategic relationships with international financial institutions, the initiative reflects the ministry's commitment to fostering national talent and reinforcing the country's presence on the global stage in line with the leadership's long-term vision.

His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, First Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Finance, stressed that the "UAE Global Cadres" initiative will significantly support the UAE's strategic vision of empowering national talent and strengthening their role in global decision-making.

His Highness said: "This initiative is more than just an opportunity to raise awareness among national talent; it is a long-term investment in empowering Emiratis to contribute to international financial institutions and offer innovative perspectives that showcase the UAE's excellence across various financial and economic domains."

UAE takes part in Spring Meetings of the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund in Washington

The United Arab Emirates, represented by the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of the UAE, participated in the Spring Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, held in Washington, D.C., from 21 to 26 April. The meetings addressed key global challenges related to growth, inflation, financial sustainability, digital transformation, and climate action, with the participation of leading international economic figures, including finance and development ministers, central bank governors, senior private sector executives, and representatives of civil society organisations.

The UAE delegation included H.E. Mohamed bin Hadi Al Hussaini, Minister of State for Financial Affairs; H.E. Khaled Mohamed Balama, Governor of the Central Bank of the UAE; H.E. Younis Haji AlKhoori, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance; Ali Abdullah Sharafi, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for International Financial Relations; and several experts from both entities.

The delegation took part in several key events, including the Meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors from the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan (MENAP); the second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting; sessions of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC); and high-level bilateral meetings to discuss economic and financial relations with Pakistan, Zimbabwe, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).



Awareness Session for Emirati Students in Washington on Training and Employment Opportunities in International Financial Organisations

The Ministry of Finance organised an awareness session at the UAE Embassy in Washington, D.C., bringing together a group of Emirati students studying in the United States, in conjunction with the launch of the UAE Global Cadres initiative, aimed at exploring training programmes and career opportunities in international financial organisations.

The session is part of the Ministry's efforts to invest in human capital and to prepare and empower national talent to take on roles within international financial institutions.

The gathering was attended by H.E. Younis Haji AlKhoori, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance; Ali Abdullah Sharafi, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for International Financial Relations at the Ministry of Finance; Azza Ali AlJassmi, Director of Government Communication; and Thuraiya Hamid AlHashmi, Director of International Financial Relations and Organisations.



Representatives from the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) also participated, providing an overview of recruitment mechanisms and professional development opportunities at both institutions.

Ministry of Finance and Lulu Hypermarket Sign Strategic Agreement to Provide Exclusive Deals for Federal Catalogue



The Ministry of Finance has signed a strategic agreement with Lulu Hypermarket in a significant step to improve the efficiency of the government's digital procurement system. This partnership will enable federal entities to access a wide range of catalogue products at competitive prices through the digital procurement platform.

The signing ceremony was attended by H.E. Mohamed bin Hadi Al Hussaini, Minister of State for Financial Affairs, and Mr. Yusuff Ali, Chairman and Managing Director of LuLu Group International.

The agreement aims to provide federal entities with a wide range of high-quality products that meet their operational needs. Federal entities using the digital procurement platform will also benefit from exclusive discounts, contributing to enhanced public spending efficiency and achieving better value for money.

UAE Participates in International Monetary and Financial Committee Deputies Meeting in Riyadh



The UAE took part in the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) Deputies Meeting, held in Riyadh on April 6 and 7, 2025. The UAE delegation was led by H.E. Younis Haji AlKhoori, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance, and included Ali Abdullah Sharafi, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for International Financial Relations at the Ministry.

The delegation took part in high-level discussions addressing global economic challenges and frameworks for strengthening international financial coordination. The meeting explored strategies to overcome low economic growth trajectories, address the issue of high debt levels, and enhance the global financial safety net, with a particular focus on coordination between the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and regional financial institutions.

The UAE delegation also participated in the closed session for deputies, which focused on IMF operations and governance amid a rapidly evolving global landscape.

UAE Participates in Annual Joint Meetings of Arab Financial Institutions, Reaffirming Commitment to Arab Financial Development



The United Arab Emirates, represented by the Central Bank of the UAE and the Ministry of Finance, participated in the Joint Annual Meetings of Arab Financial Institutions, held in the State of Kuwait.

The meetings discussed the future of Arab financial cooperation, efforts to enhance economic stability, and the prospects for achieving sustainable development in the region in light of global financial challenges.

The UAE delegation was headed by H.E. Khaled Mohamed Balama, Governor of the Central Bank of the UAE, and included H.E. Younis Haji AlKhoori, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance; H.E. Ebrahim Obaid Al Zaabi, Assistant Governor for Monetary Policy and Financial Stability at the Central Bank of the UAE; Ali Abdullah Sharafi, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for International Financial Relations at the Ministry of Finance; Thuraiya Hamid Alhashmi, Director of the International Financial Relations and Organisations Department at the Ministry; and Azza Ali Aljassmi, Director of the Government Communications Department at the Ministry.



UAE Internal Auditors Association Award

The Ministry of Finance received the UAE Internal Auditors Association Award in the Governance, Risk, and Compliance category, in recognition of its outstanding efforts in applying best practices within the internal audit framework. This prestigious award reflects the Ministry's commitment to enhancing transparency, strengthening risk management principles, and advancing governance and regulatory compliance standards. It also reaffirms the Ministry's leading role in promoting a culture of accountability and continuous improvement in line with national and international best practices.

Launch of the First Cohort of the “Specialised Certificate in Government Procurement” Programme



The Ministry of Finance (MoF) has launched the first cohort of the Specialised Certificate in Government Procurement programme, in collaboration with the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS), one of the world’s leading institutions in the field.

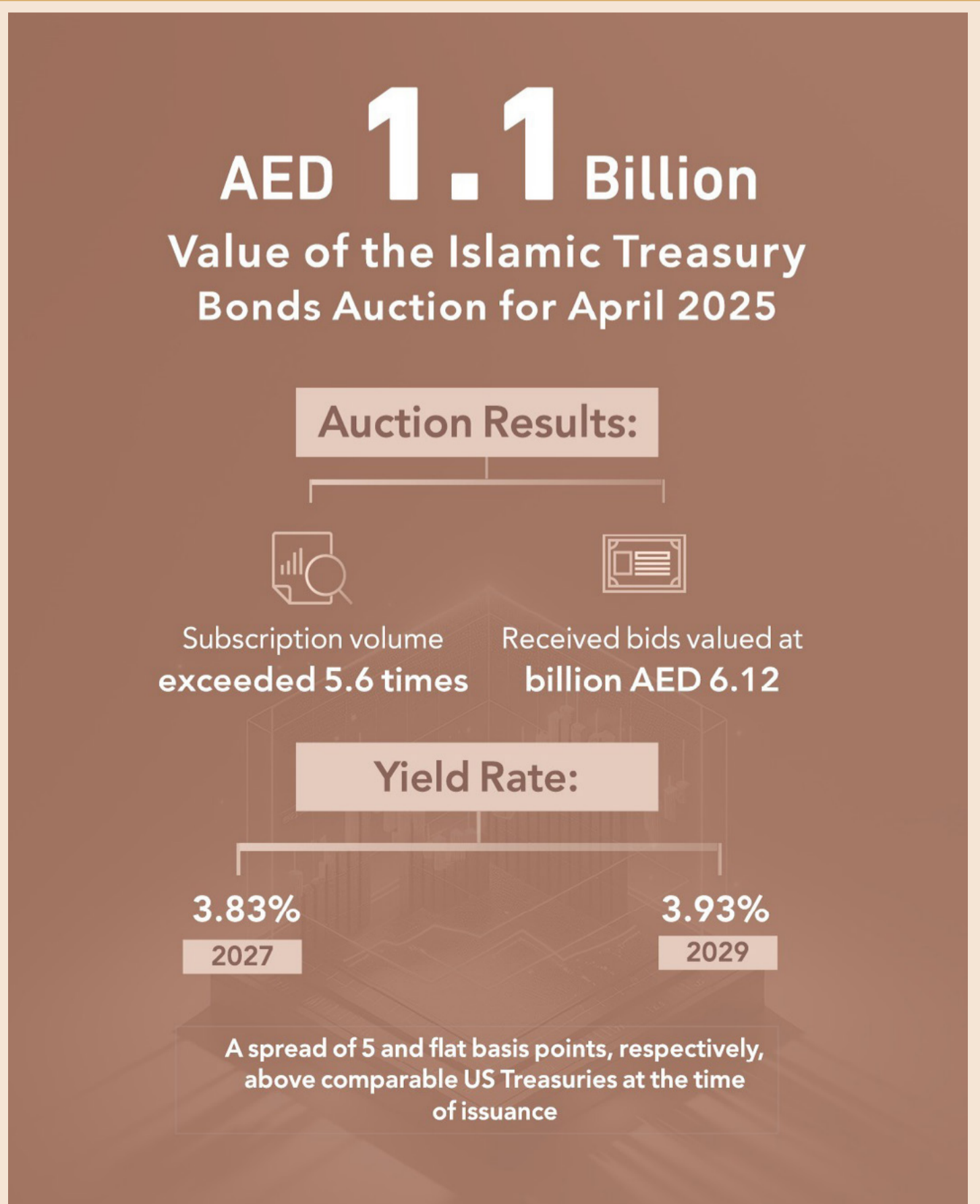
The certification programme was announced during a workshop organised by the ministry in Dubai, bringing together finance and procurement directors, heads of procurement departments, and specialised professionals from various federal ministries and entities.

The initiative is part of the Ministry’s ongoing efforts to enhance the federal financial system and improve the efficiency of public financial management. It also builds on the Financial Sustainability and Accounting Capacity Building Programme, which has already led to introducing a package of specialised certifications in finance and accounting.

Islamic Treasury Sukuk Auction for April 2025 Attracts Bids Worth AED 6.12 Billion

The Ministry of Finance (MoF), in its capacity as the issuer and in collaboration with the Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE) as the issuing and payment agent, successfully completed the auction of UAE Dirham-denominated Islamic Treasury Sukuk (T-Sukuk) amounting to AED 1.1 billion. This issuance forms part of the T-Sukuk issuance program for the year 2025, as published on the MoF’s official website.

The auction attracted robust demand from eight primary dealers across both tranches maturing in May 2027 and September 2029. The total bids received reached AED 6.12 billion, reflecting an oversubscription rate of 5.6 times, underscoring the strong confidence of investors in the UAE’s creditworthiness and Islamic finance framework.



TAX NEWS

Ministry of Finance and Federal Tax Authority Launch Initiative to Waive Late Registration Penalties under the Corporate Tax Law

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) and the Federal Tax Authority (FTA) have announced the issuance of a Cabinet Decision launching an initiative to waive administrative penalties for corporate taxpayers and certain exempt persons who failed to submit their tax registration applications with the FTA within the required timeframe.

To qualify, eligible parties must file their tax return or annual statements within a period not exceeding seven (7) months from the end of their first tax period, as stipulated under the Corporate Tax Law.

The Cabinet's decision reflects the proactive approach of the Ministry of Finance and the Federal Tax Authority to enhance tax compliance. It aims to encourage registrants to file tax returns or annual statements before the deadline, bolstering early compliance with legal requirements.



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Ministry of Finance and Federal Tax Authority
Launch Initiative to Waive Late Registration Penalties
under the Corporate Tax Law

Initiative Objectives:

- Promote voluntary compliance with the Corporate Tax Law
- Ease administrative and financial burdens on businesses
- Encourage timely submission of tax returns and annual declarations
- Strengthen the UAE's position across global competitiveness indices

Conditions to Benefit from the Initiative:

Applicable to corporate taxpayers and certain exempt persons required to register with the Federal Tax Authority

Submit the tax return or annual declaration within seven months from the end of the first tax period

Full compliance with the provisions of the Corporate Tax Law

Announcement of Cabinet Decision on Qualified Investment Funds and Qualified Limited Partnerships for the Purposes of the Corporate Tax Law

As part of its continuous efforts to enhance the investment environment in the United Arab Emirates, the Ministry of Finance has announced the issuance of Cabinet Decision No. 34 of 2025 on Qualifying Investment Funds and Qualifying Limited Partnerships for the Purposes of Federal Decree-Law No. 47 of 2022 on the Taxation of Corporations and Businesses, which replaces the provisions of Cabinet Decision No. 81 of 2023. The new decision aims to strengthen the UAE's position as an investment hub and attract further investments that contribute to national economic growth. It also reflects the UAE Government's commitment to providing a supportive and flexible investment environment that facilitates compliance requirements for investors.





Ministry of Finance Announces the issuance of Cabinet Decision on Determining a Non-Resident Person's Nexus in the UAE for the purposes of the Corporate Tax Law

UAE, 06 April 2025 – The Ministry of Finance has announced the issuance of Cabinet Decision No. 35 of 2025 on the Determination of a Non-Resident Person's Nexus in the State for the Purposes of Federal Decree-Law No. 47 of 2022 on the Taxation of Corporations and Businesses which replaces the provisions of Cabinet Decision No. 56 of 2023.

The new decision specifies the cases in which a non-resident juridical investor in a Qualifying Investment Fund (QIF) or Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) is considered to have a nexus in the UAE and is therefore subject to taxation. This follows the issuance of Cabinet Decision No. 34 of 2025 on Qualifying Investment Funds and Qualifying Limited Partnerships for the Purposes of Federal Decree-Law No. 47 of 2022 on the Taxation of Corporations and Businesses.

Announcement of Ministerial Decision on Audited Financial Statements for Corporate Tax Purposes

As part of its continued efforts to enhance transparency and ensure robust financial reporting standards for businesses operating in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) under the Corporate Tax regime, the Ministry of Finance has issued an updated Ministerial Decision clarifying the requirements for the preparation and maintenance of audited financial statements in accordance with Federal Decree-Law No. 47 of 2022 on the Taxation of Corporations and Businesses ("Corporate Tax Law").

Issuance of Ministerial Decision Adopting OECD Guidance and Commentary on Global Minimum Tax Rules

The UAE Ministry of Finance has announced the issuance of Ministerial Decision No. (88) of 2025, adopting all guidance issued by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on Global Anti-Base Erosion (GloBE) Rules (Pillar Two). This decision follows the issuance of Cabinet Decision No. (142) of 2024 regarding the imposition of a Top-up Tax on Multinational Enterprises.

This decision reaffirms the UAE's continued commitment to applying international standards and best practices in the field of taxation, in line with the OECD Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS), of which the UAE is a member.

Public-private partnership: A sustainable path to development

By **Younis Haji AlKhoori**
Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance



In today's rapidly evolving world, no single sector can carry the weight of development alone. The journey toward sustainable growth, better services, and more resilient communities is no longer just a government endeavour—it's a shared responsibility. That's why the partnership between the public and private sectors has become more than just a technical framework; it's a philosophy for progress.

The Ministry of Finance has prioritised creating a robust framework for this partnership, establishing legislative and regulatory foundations that enable federal entities to execute projects efficiently while encouraging private sector investment in strategic, high-impact projects.

In this respect, Federal Law No. (12) of 2023 on Regulating the Federal Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) represents a pivotal turning point. It's more than legislation—it's a statement of intent. The law provides a clear framework that ensures transparency, accountability, and fair distribution of roles and responsibilities, aligning with shared interests.

But laws alone aren't enough—we need practical tools to bring them to life. That's where the Federal PPP Projects Manual, issued by the Ministry of Finance after Cabinet approval, steps in. This guide is not just a procedural manual; it's a practical roadmap that helps government entities and private partners navigate every stage of a project—from planning and design to execution and management.

More importantly, the guide provides a clear methodology that ensures the highest levels of governance while maximising the use of available resources, thereby enhancing the quality of public services and delivering innovative, effective solutions across various sectors.

What makes PPPs truly powerful is that they go beyond funding. They bring together the best of both worlds: government vision and private sector innovation. These partnerships are platforms for exchanging knowledge, building institutional capacity, and applying global best practices in service delivery. They combine operational efficiency, financial strength, and technical expertise in a way that empowers governments to serve communities better and faster.

The Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with relevant authorities, has identified key priority sectors where public-private partnerships can drive the greatest value—including infrastructure, energy, education, healthcare, and community services—all aligned with the strategic objectives of the UAE. With that in mind, the ministry is committed to implementing vital projects reflecting this approach.

Driven by the belief that awareness and capacity-building are key to the success of such partnerships, the Ministry has launched a series of awareness workshops. These meetings provided government entities and private sector stakeholders with insights into the partnership guide and its implementation mechanisms, helping to maximise the benefits of the new regulatory framework and ensuring that projects are executed according to international best practices.

In today's fast-evolving economic environment, public-private partnerships are not a luxury—they are a necessity. They provide a resilient, flexible, and efficient model for sustaining public services and delivering high-impact development projects. Recognising this, the Ministry continues to pursue this path with a clear strategic vision: to integrate public resources with private sector expertise in a way that drives innovation, efficiency, and value.

This approach not only strengthens the UAE's development journey but also positions the nation as a global model for successful and future-ready partnership frameworks—fully aligned with the ambitions of the UAE Centennial 2071.