

GULF COUNCIL COUNTRIES

The Gulf Cooperation Council-5 (GCC-5) countries covered by the Dubai Agricultural Trade Office are a relatively homogeneous group of small nations with a total population of 12.2 million. Of the five countries, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is the largest market for food products, followed by Kuwait. Within the UAE, Dubai is the country's commercial center and the region's trade hub. Efficient infrastructure (sea and air ports), large free trade zones and a strong business orientation help provide the tools to make Dubai an important commercial center for the Middle East and beyond. Dubai derives sizable revenue from the re-export business and invests heavily in infrastructure development, while working to attract foreign investment and buyers. Other countries in the region and other Emirates, particularly Abu Dhabi, the capital of the U.A.E, are following Dubai's lead in an effort to improve infrastructure and attract business interests.

The harsh climate, limited water resources and poor soil conditions continue to be a barrier to increased agricultural production in the GCC-5. Consequently, the countries must import nearly 90% of their food, raw materials for further processing, and feed requirements. Annual GCC-5 food imports are estimated at US\$10 billion, of which the UAE share is about 60%. Rising populations and the dollar peg have helped to boost exports of U.S. agricultural products to the GCC-5, particularly of consumer-ready food products which account for about 60% of total U.S. food exports. Accurate re-export trade data is not available, it is estimated that 40%-50% of UAE food imports are re-exported to Middle Eastern, Asian and African countries. Saudi Arabia is the largest importer of agricultural, fish and forestry products among the GCC countries. Potential for expanding agricultural production in Saudi Arabia is limited due to a scarcity of arable land and water. Future food import dependence will continue to be high, and import volumes will grow proportionally with the population.



United Arab Emirates

Total area: 83,600 km²

Population: 5,148,664 (July 2011 est.)

Currency: Emirati dirhams (AED)

Official Australian languages: English 78.5%, Chinese 2.5%, Italian 1.6%, Greek 1.3%, Arabic 1.2%, Vietnamese 1%, other 8.2%, unspecified 5.7% (2006 Census)

In 1971, six of these states - Abu Zaby, 'Ajman, Al Fujayrah, Ash Shariqah, Dubayy, and Umm al Qaywayn - merged to form the United Arab Emirates (UAE). They were joined in 1972 by Ra's al Khaymah. The UAE's per capita GDP is on par with those of leading West European nations. The government type is federation with specified powers delegated to the UAE federal government and other powers reserved to member emirates.

Climate: Desert; cooler in eastern mountains.

Economy: The UAE has an open economy with a high per capita income and a sizable annual trade surplus. Successful efforts at economic diversification have reduced the portion of GDP based on

oil and gas output to 25%. The country's Free Trade Zones - offering 100% foreign ownership and zero taxes - are helping to attract foreign investors. GDP per capita ranks 9th worldwide and is equivalent to USD 49,000 (2010). It is divided as such: **Agriculture:** 0.9%; **industry:** 55.5%; **services:** 43.6% (2010 est.).

Exports: crude oil 45%, natural gas, reexports, dried fish, dates. Value: USD 212 billion (2010).

Imports: machinery and transport equipment, chemicals, food. Value: USD 162 billion (2010 est.).



KUWAIT

Total area: 17,818 km²

Population: 2,595,628 (July 2011 est.)

Currency: Kuwaiti Dinar (KD)

Official Australian languages: Arabic (official), English widely spoken

Climate: Dry desert; intensely hot summers; short, cool winters

Economy: Kuwait has a geographically small, but wealthy, relatively open economy with self-reported crude oil reserves of about 102 billion barrels - about 9% of world reserves. Petroleum accounts for nearly half of GDP, 95% of export revenues, and 95% of government income. GDP per capita ranks 10th worldwide and is equivalent to USD 48,900 (2010 est.). It is divided as such; **Agriculture:** 0.3%; **industry:** 48%; **services:** 51.7% (2010 est.)

Exports: oil and refined products, fertilizers. Value: USD 67 billion (2010).

Imports: food, construction materials, vehicles and parts, clothing. Value: USD 19 billion (2010).

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Total area: 11,586 km²

Population: 848,016 (July 2011 est.)

Currency: Qatari Rial (QAR)

Official Australian languages: Arabic (official), English widely spoken

As of 2007, oil and natural gas revenues had enabled Qatar to attain the highest per capita income in the world.

Climate: Arid; mild, pleasant winters; very hot, humid summers.

Economy; Despite the global financial crisis, Qatar has prospered in the last several years - in 2010 Qatar had the world's highest growth rate. Its GDP per capita ranks 1st in the world at usd 179000.(2010);it is divided as such: **Agriculture:** 0.1%;**industry:**71.8%;**services:** 28.1% (2010 est.)

Exports; Liquefied natural gas (LNG), petroleum products, fertilizers, steel; Value;usd 72 billion.(2010)

Imports: machinery and transport equipment, food, chemicals. Value: usd 19 billion (2010).

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Total area: 309,500 km²

Population: 3,027,959 (July 2011 est.)

Currency: Omani Rial.

Official Australian languages: Arabic (official), English, Baluchi, Urdu, Indian dialects

Climate: Dry desert; hot, humid along coast; hot, dry interior; strong southwest summer monsoon (May to September) in far south.

Economy: Oman is a middle-income economy that is heavily dependent on dwindling oil resources. Because of declining reserves, Muscat has actively pursued a development plan that focuses on diversification, industrialization, and privatization, with the objective of reducing the oil sector's contribution to GDP to 9% by 2020. GDP per capita is usd 25600 ranking 25th worldwide.

Exports: Petroleum, reexports, fish, metals, textiles. Value usd 37billion (2010).

Imports: Machinery and transport equipment, manufactured goods, food, livestock, lubricants. Value: usd 18 billion. (2010).

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KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Total area: 2,149,690 km²

Population: 26,131,703 (July 2011 est.)

Currency: Saudi Rial (SR).

Official Australian languages: Arabic (official)

Climate: Harsh, dry desert with great temperature extremes

Economy: Saudi Arabia has an oil-based economy with strong government controls over major economic activities. It possesses about 20% of the world's proven petroleum reserves, ranks as the largest exporter of petroleum, and plays a leading role in OPEC. The petroleum sector accounts for roughly 80% of budget revenues, 45% of GDP, and 90% of export earnings. Saudi Arabia is encouraging the growth of the private sector in order to diversify its economy and to employ more Saudi nationals. Diversification efforts are focusing on power generation, telecommunications, natural gas exploration, and petrochemical sectors. Almost 6 million foreign workers play an important role in the Saudi economy, particularly in the oil and service sectors. GDP per capita is usd 24200 ranking 55 worldwide. It distributed as such: **Agriculture:** 2.6%; **industry:** 61.8%; **services:** 35.6% (2010 est.).

Exports: petroleum and petroleum products 90%. **Value: usd 238billion.(2010)**

Imports: machinery and equipment, foodstuffs, chemicals, motor vehicles, textiles.
Value: usd 88 billion(2010).



BAHREIN

Total area: 760 km²

Population: (July 2011 est.)

Currency: Bahraini Dinar (BHD).

Official Australian languages: Arabic (official) , English, Farsi, Urdu

Climate: Arid; mild, pleasant winters; very hot, humid summers.

Economy: Bahrain is one of the most diversified economies in the Persian Gulf. Highly developed communication and transport facilities make Bahrain home to numerous multinational firms with business in the Gulf. Petroleum production and refining account for more than 60% of Bahrain's export receipts, 70% of government revenues, and 11% of GDP (exclusive of allied industries). Other major

economic activities are production of aluminum - Bahrain's second biggest export after oil - finance, and construction. GDP per capita ranks high (20th) and was estimated in 2010 at USD 40,000. Its composition by sector is as follows: **Agriculture: 0.5%; industry: 58%; services: 41.5%** (2010).

Exports: petroleum and petroleum products, aluminum, textiles, Value: USD 14 billion (2010)

Imports: Crude oil, machinery, chemicals. Value: USD 11 billion (2010).

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