



Setting Up a Business in Dubai: An Overview of All Required Costs

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The most important aspect of any business is its monetary aspect. It has remained so since an idea is born on paper or first sprouts in a conversation.

However, there aren't many books that can help you navigate this part of your business journey.

But, worry not! We are here to assist you. We've compiled a list of everything you need to know about the costs of starting a business in Dubai.



1

Dubai – the city of opportunities

Having Even if your idea is worth billions, if you leave loose ends in deciding on the initial financial support you'll need to get your business off the ground, you risk losing it all.

When it comes to starting a business, the UAE in general, and the metropolitan city of Dubai in particular, are both fertile and enabling ecosystems.

Benefits such as zero income tax, world-class technology infrastructure, multicultural and truly global work culture—all combine to make it a welcoming environment for hundreds of start-ups founded by people from over 200 nationalities who live and work here.

All of this, however, can only be explored and enjoyed if you are willing to start on the right (financial) foot. So, are you ready to get started?

If so, let's delve into the complexities of getting your Dubai business off to a good financial start.



2

What you need to know

The business market of the UAE is distinct from those of the United States, the United Kingdom, or larger Asian markets such as China or India.

The government and authorities here believe in creating a level playing field, so starting a business has the same rules and requires the same investment from everyone, regardless of size.

The World Bank's Ease of Doing Business rankings of 2020 Report placed the UAE 16th globally for starting a business. The UAE scores 80.9 out of 100 in ease of business score and is the strongest performer in the Middle East and North Africa region.

According to experts, the initial investment in doing business in the country ranges between US\$5000 and US\$12000, depending on a variety of factors such as the type of business, the number of employees, and the planned infrastructure.



3

Be aware of the fees

To ensure that your business gets off to a good start, you must register with a number of government entities and authorities in Dubai.

All of these authorities charge a fee for their services, and you must determine which category your company falls into so that you are fully aware of all of the costs ahead of time. Things like free-zone or onshore trading license costs must also be planned for if the journey is to be smooth.

This may not appear to be a large investment at first, but you may later realise that prior planning is actually a blessing in terms of keeping things simple and sorted right from the start.

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3

Other expenses to consider

Everyone is concerned with the larger expenses as they are widely discussed and written about, but most of us overlook important expenditures such as:

- Renting office space
- Purchasing furniture
- Putting in place the necessary technology infrastructure
- Covering visa fees for hiring staff

In this regard, prior research is beneficial, or you can rely on a genuine and supportive local partner to guide you through the process.

Organisations like the Seed Group are constantly working to create a welcoming environment for start-ups looking to enter the Dubai market and use it as a launching pad for expansion into the Middle East.



Conclusion

If you keep the aforementioned points in mind, you will be able to enter the Dubai market with much ease and confidence.

Your business journey in the awe-inspiring city of superlatives is likely to be pleasant and prosperous if you enter the business ecosystem here with a clear idea of the foundational investment required.

More information and resources



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