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**Dubai
observatory**

Expo 2020 Dubai: Big scenario & Updates

Dubai | March 2022

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EXPO PILLS

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News & topics from the UAE

Covid cases firmly down

Cases in February dropped from 2,084 cases on Feb 1, **to 674 by Feb 28**. Testing is at an average of 450,000 per day. high of 1,500 cases per day down to 478 by end February. More than 138 million PCR tests have been made to date. Costs of PCR are at 40 AED in ABu Dhabi and 150 AED in Dubai.

Border controls with checks in Abu Dhabi have been removed, and it's free to enter the capital, though entering public spaces require a green pass or a 72 hour negative PCR result.

The UAE has scrapped PCR test rules for fully vaccinated people arriving in the UAE from February 26. **Fully vaccinated passengers only need to show a vaccine certificate with a readable QR code**. Those who are not vaccinated must show a negative PCR test conducted within 48 hours of departure.

The UAE remains top of the latest Covid-19 global resilience ranking, ahead of Ireland and Saudi Arabia. As more countries moved towards living with the virus, Bloomberg said the Emirates scored highest among the 53 economies tracked on vaccine doses administered

An Economy in Boom

The Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates said it expects **the UAE economy to grow 4.2% in 2022, accelerating from last year's 2.1% growth.** The central bank's projection, in its latest quarterly report on the economy, is rosier than that of the International Monetary Fund, projects the UAE economy will grow 3% this year. Non-oil real gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to increase by 3.9%, due to a continued increase in public spending, positive outlook for credit growth, higher employment and better business sentiment with a world fair EXPO event in Dubai, the bank said on its website.

To this it is added that the UAE signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with India that is **expected to boost non-oil trade between the two countries** to \$100 billion in five years, from \$60bn currently. Sectors, such as gems and jewellery, leather, plastic products, agriculture products, *medical devices*, *pharmaceutical products*, and automobiles will benefit from the agreement. Similar deals are being negotiated with Indonesia, South Korea and Israel.

INVESTMENTS

New \$100m fund set up to invest in UAE, Israeli technology start-ups

Synaptech Capital, a UAE-based company, announced a new \$100m fund on February 2nd aimed at investing in UAE and Israeli technology startups.

The firm, which is supported by the Avnon Group, an Israel-based company, said that the fund will focus on five key pillars: **fintech, insuretech, smart cities, public safety and cybersecurity**.

“As part of the collaboration we will create at Synaptech, we will bring the spirit of the start-up nation and the most advanced technologies we have to offer to the Gulf States. At the UAE Innovation Center, we will allow Israeli technology companies to recruit strategic investors and develop their products according to market demands in collaboration with their future customers in the Gulf. We believe that in a short time, Synaptech will become a **symbol of peace and economic cooperation between Israel and the United Arab Emirates**,” said Moshe Ya’alon, chairman of Synaptech Capital and former Israeli vice prime minister in a statement.

Notable Investment News

Emerging FemTech and preventive healthcare champion Nabta Health raises \$1.5M to further support its Hybrid platform offering, and expand across the UAE and the GCC regions. accelerates the detection, diagnosis, and treatment of chronic diseases in women in emerging markets using a new model of hybrid healthcare. It combines the best of digital and traditional healthcare

Dubai International Financial Centre and the UAE Artificial Intelligence Office **launched an AI and coding licence to attract technology companies and coders from around the world**. Companies holding the licence will be able to work at the DIFC Innovation Hub, which is the largest cluster of FinTech and innovation companies in the region.

Investcorp Technology Partners (ITP), which focuses on technology companies based in Europe, and is the alternative asset manager that counts Mubadala Investment Company as its biggest shareholder, bought a majority stake in Italian cybersecurity company HWG.

Tourism on the rise

Dubai hosted 7.28 million international overnight visitors between January and December 2021, as global tourism industry continues to recover from the coronavirus pandemic. The visitor numbers to the emirate last year were up 32 per cent year-over-year. International visitors to the emirate crossed 3.4 million in the fourth quarter of 2021, which is 74 per cent of the total pre-pandemic tourist arrivals in the same period in 2019.

Dubai Airport recorded a 12.7 per cent increase in annual passenger traffic in 2021, driven by a strong fourth quarter to beat its own forecast and retain the title of the world's busiest international hub for the eighth consecutive year. The airport, handled 29.1 million passengers last year. Whilst Abu Dhabi's airport expects 10.7 million passengers to pass through the UAE capital's main airport in 2022,

The UAE will be the base next winter for MSC World Europa, the biggest passenger ship to sail in the Middle East, in a big boost to the country's growing cruise tourism industry. The 2,626-cabin vessel will be able to accommodate up to 6,762 passengers and will be powered by liquified natural gas (LNG), the first vessel in MSC Cruises' fleet to use the cleanest fuel currently available at scale for ocean cruise ships.

Opening of the Museum of the Future

Made out of a fiberglass and stainless steel frame, the development was designed by architecture firm **Killa Design**, and has already been recognized by National Geographic as **one of the world's 14 most beautiful museums**.

Three floors include **immersive exhibitions** — focusing on outer space resource development, ecosystems and bioengineering, along with health and wellbeing.

Another floor will showcase **near-future technologies** that aim to revolutionize the world by addressing challenges in areas that include health, water, food, transportation and energy. The last floor is all about the little ones — dedicated to **children** to explore and solve challenges in their own way to become “our future heroes,” the site states.

Source: [link](#)



News in a nutshell

ETIHAD RAILWAY / tracks between Abu Dhabi and Dubai now linked Key part of the project stretches 256 kilometres between both emirates [LINK](#)

ECONOMY / Dubai Ruler launches Digital School to benefit 20,000 children in Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Mauritania, and Colombia Presented initially in three languages – Arabic, French, and Spanish – The Digital School will have materials matching the nationally approved curricula in the beneficiary countries, and will aim to benefit 1 million students in 5 years [LINK](#)

ECONOMY / Traded values on Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange increased 407% in 2021 Market capitalisation of stocks listed on the exchange more than doubled to reach Dhs1.6tn [LINK](#)

ECONOMY / UAE non-oil exports sets new record, hits \$96bn for first time in its history The total value of the UAE's non-oil foreign trade climbed 27% year-on-year to \$517.27bn (AED1.9tn) in 2021, showcasing consistent growth across all areas of trade, including exports, imports, and re-exports [LINK](#)

News in a nutshell – KSA

NEOM / Saudi billionaire's investment firm plans IPO of top drugstore Al Nahdi Medical plans to float 30% of the company on the Saudi stock market [LINK](#)

NEOM / Saudi pharma firm Al Dawaa seeks \$500m from IPO The initial public offering's price range has been set at 65 riyals (\$17.33) to 73 riyals [LINK](#) [LINK](#)

News & updates from Expo 2020 Dubai

Expo in numbers

- Expo 2020 Dubai **visitor numbers** neared the 16mln mark. School visits have resumed and clocked in 523,794 students. Virtual visitations have crossed 150 mln.
- **February** has been the record month so far with 4.4 million visits.
- The India, Saudi, Egypt, French and Italian pavilions have all passed the 1 to 1.5 million visitors. **Extended timings** till 11pm have been placed to increase visitations.
- **Top nationalities** visiting the Expo are from India, Saudi Arabia, the UK, Russia and France.
- **Ten attractions** to continue at Expo 2020 Dubai: UAE Pavilion, Saudi Pavilion, Al Wasl Plaza, Sustainability science pavilion, Mobility pavilion, Water feature, Garden in the sky, Exhibition center, recording studio, Vision Pavilion.
- **District 2020** will evolve from Expo 2020 Dubai as a smart and sustainable city centered on the needs of its urban community. It will provide a curated innovation-driven business ecosystem that brings together global minds and embraces technology and digital innovation to support industry growth. Following the six months of the World Expo, District 2020 will re-purpose 80% of the Expo's build environment into an integrated mixed use community that will continue to attract businesses and people to work, live, visit and enjoy. The District will be **home to start up firms, SME, technology and a general hub for innovation.**

France Pavilion

Social Media				Website Visits	National day	District				
	6,850		2,553		5,536		8,631	<40,000	October 2nd 2021	Mobility

- The France Pavilion has passed **1.5 million visitors** by end February 2022.
- The France Pavilion thematic fortnight was based on **climate change** sponsored by ENGIE energy and its latest thematic launched end of February is dedicated to Couturier Jean Paul Gaultier "From A to Z".
- France think-tank, the "**Renewable Energies 2.0 in the territories of tomorrow**" Published a report on the diminishing costs of renewables and the role of france in playing leading role in innovations to make renewables more effective and less costly.
- Gastronomy and nutrition exhibition; Feb 21: Gastronomy and nutrition organized by the @institutpaulbocuse Research Center, @uaeunews and the @institutfrançaisuae. Visitors and students attended conferences, panel discussions about healthy diets and cooking shows by the Chef Julien Ferretti

PAVILIONS OVERVIEW

Germany Pavilion

Social Media					Website Visits	National day	District	
	9,596		1,533	 2,807	YT: 299	<30,000	November 29th 2021	Sustainability

- February 7:** Visit by Roland Weigert, Vice Minister of the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs, at the German Pavilion. He was accompanied by Her Excellency Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment..
- Launched Federal States Week: **14 to 20 February:** Cultural programmes for each state in Germany: regional musicians and modern formats such as science slams and a start-up night.
- February 4:** On the International Day of Brotherhood, the Pavilion Director welcomed a group of school kids who form part of the Dubai Police ‘Safety Ambassadors’. Their objective is to raise security awareness among their peers and report incidents of bullying and abuse.

Russia Pavilion

Big Scenario

Social Media					Website Visits	National day	District	
	7,026	 Down		1,007	 N.A.	2K.	January 16th 2022	Mobility

-Russia Pavilion Hosted its **1 million visitors** as at Dec 27, 2021

-February 4-5: Russian Cultural Heritage Lectures: A view of Russia’s long tradition of achievement in cultural fields: literature, folk music, and dancing, classical music, ballet, architecture, painting, and cinema. How Russia had a considerable influence on global culture.

-February 3: Russia: science. A conference focused on science and technological innovation, where experts and scientists discussed how technologies change lives in the future. Subjects under discussion: AI, industrial decarbonization, microfluidic technologies, the biggest biotech challenges, aging.

-February 16: Agrofood: A conference dedicated to the development of the food industry in Russia and opportunities for Russian food companies to enter global markets. Government officials and leaders of the agro-industrial sectors in Russia, the UAE and other countries discussed such topics as opportunities for trade and investment cooperation with foreign partners, the experiences of Russian companies in the UAE and the GCC markets, digital tools in the food trade, and opportunities for the promotion of Russian exports.

Source: [Link](#) [Link](#)

USA Pavilion

Big Scenario

Social Media				Website Visits	National day	District
 9,081	 2,171	 2,248	 7,300	N.A.	November 28th 2021	Al Forsan

February 22: The #USAPavilion welcomed U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Thomas J. Vilsack, who led the Agribusiness Trade Mission to the UAE and attended the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM for Climate)

February 5: On #WorldCancerDay, the Emirates Oncology Society set the Guinness World Record for most cancer awareness ribbons made in one hour. the US pavilion also hosted the Emirates Oncology Society for a panel discussion to support "Close the Care Gap," advocating for access to cancer care for patients in rural areas.

February 7th: The #USAPavilion hosted the STEM Pioneers Program launch event. Funded by @boeing and managed by @amideastuae, the program will provide practical learning experience for students through STEM activities focused on aeronautical engineering.

February 28th: As part of Expo 2020 Dubai’s UAE Innovation Week, the Dubai Corporation for Ambulance Services (DCAS) and American Hospital Dubai (AHD) signed an agreement today to boost collaboration in health-care services at the US pavilion.

PAVILIONS OVERVIEW

UAE Pavilion

Social Media				Website Visits		National day	District
 11,800	 6,800	 1,571	 995	N.A.		February 10th 2022	Opportunity

February 8th: It has been launched the exhibition “On Foraging: Food Understanding as well as Environmental Imaginaries in the UAE’s Landscape”. The exhibition is accompanied by a publication exploring research work around food knowledge and environmental imaginaries in the UAE’s landscape, and both were curated by Dima Srouji, Faysal Tabbarah, and Meitha Al Mazrooui.

February 10th: Welcoming Prince William on his first official visit to the UAE, Sheikh Hamdan highlighted the deep historical ties between the two countries and their shared desire to take bilateral relations to greater heights, especially in the areas of sustainability and environmental conservation.

February 24th: The UAE Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai has launched the Dreamer Dialogues series of panel discussions. The series, hosted onsite at the UAE Pavilion, convenes leading innovators across the country who are at the forefront of embracing the greatest challenges and opportunities that face us today.

India Pavilion

Big Scenario

Social Media				Website Visits	National day	District
14,000	54,600	29,900	7,800	N.A.	January 9th 2021	Al Forsan

February 11th: The government of Andhra Pradesh organized an Investment “RoadShow” to promote the business and investment opportunities in the state, to eminent investors in UAE. The first MoU was signed between London-based Kajas e-mobility company for Rs 3,000 crore (G2B) deal. Key sectors such as Health & Wellness, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), New & Renewable Energy, Space, Urban and Rural Development, Oil & Gas, Textile, Knowledge and Learning, and Tourism have held respective weeks to highlight the growth and investment opportunities in these areas.

February 14th: India pavilion reached 1 million visitors.

PAVILIONS OVERVIEW

Japan Pavilion

Social Media					Website Visits	National day	District			
	2,567		129		1997		N.A.	N.A.	December 11th 2021	Al Forsan

February 25th: Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, visited the Pavilion of Japan at Expo 2020 Dubai and explored the innovations on display, such as the "Cities of the Future" experience, and the sustainability aspect of Japanese architecture and smart transportation.

Dr. Al Jaber met with Akio Isomata, Ambassador of Japan to the UAE, and was briefed on the latest technological developments in line with Tokyo Vision 2025.

PAVILIONS OVERVIEW

Korea Pavilion

Social Media						Website Visits	National day	District		
	12,200		891		N.A.		N.A.	4.2K	January 16th 2022	Mobility

The Korean government has launched its bidding to host Expo 2030 against Moscow; Rome; Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; and Odessa, Ukraine.

Busan is a city where Korea started to rebuild from the war and today is transforming into a city that runs on advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence. The theme proposed is "Transforming Our World, Navigating Toward a Better Future."

PAVILIONS OVERVIEW

Israel Pavilion

Social Media					Website Visits	National day	District
 21,000	 11,892	 8.976	 N.A.		N.A.	February 1st 2022	Al Forsan

The Israel Pavilion held a multitude of events during the food, agriculture and livelihoods week that started on the 17th of February and ran until the 23rd of February, 2022. The focus of the week was to provide a forum for knowledge sharing so that both Israel and the UAE could benefit from increased cooperation in their agricultural sectors, in light of the looming threat of climate change. The events were organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael – Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF). The events discussed many topics and featured notable speakers like Prof Dan Shechtman, Distinguished Professor Emeritus & Nobel Laureate, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology and Dr Michal Levy, Chief Scientist, Ministry of Agriculture.



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