

DIFC at a glance

Drive the future of finance with us




#1 Global Financial Centre in MEASA


Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) is one of the world's most advanced financial centres, and the leading financial hub in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia (MEASA) region.


With a 20-year track record of driving the future of finance, DIFC creates value for companies by providing the best environment to accelerate growth.


The region's broadest and deepest range of activities in a financial centre



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DIFC Authority
Provides an independent legal framework, based on international standards of justice and English common law.
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Dubai Financial Services Authority
Regulates all financial services activities.
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DIFC Courts
Administers an independent English common law judiciary.
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Free Zone
Benefits include 100% foreign ownership, no restriction on capital repatriation, tax advantages.

**DIFC provides
the most stable
and trusted platform
for growth**

**MEASA's largest
financial ecosystem**

6,900+
Firms

46,000+
Workforce

1,200+
AI, FinTech and
Innovation firms

900+
DFSA regulated
and supervised
entities

World class

23 of the top 25 global banks

5 of the top 10 interdealer brokers by volume

8 of the top 10 global money managers

27 of the top 29 global systemically important banks



Our commitment to help you grow

- DIFC's platform is designed to help you grow faster than the market.
- We work with the industry and regulator to be a catalyst for innovation.
- We are a business offering a wide thanks to our range of licences, visa regimes and industry development initiatives.
- MEASA's largest financial services ecosystem and a magnet for global talent.
- Most progressive legal and regulatory framework – common law; leading data protection and IP regulations and pioneering digital asset regimes.

A location like no other



#1
in global cities in MEA
and **#5** globally
(2024 Global City Index)



#1
for innovation
in Arab world
(HSE Global Cities Innovation Index 2024)



250+
connections
to global destinations
across 100+ countries



#3
for work globally
(BCG's Decoding Global Talent 2024)



#1
in digital governance
in Arab world and
#5 globally
(UN E-Government Survey 2024)

Now is the time to join us

Select from a range of licence types to meet your business requirements.

- 1 Innovation and start-up licences.
- 2 Full licences ranging from:
 - Representative offices.
 - Market maker and provider of credit, brokerage, asset management, custody and money services.
 - Advising and arranging activities.
 - Full-fledged banking.
 - Holding/investment/managing offices.

Licensing process

- 1 Submit letter of intent.
[Click Here](#)
- 2 Process application and obtain in-principle approval.
- 3 Register your entity.

Note:

Specific Islamic Finance licences available • Licence requirements vary by sector, regulated and non-regulated business. Fees and capital requirements vary by licence category and sector.

