Bahrain

Revenue of BHD 934 million generated from duties and taxes in 2018, 2019 and 2020

Based on local news reports, the total revenues generated by the Bahrain government from excise tax, Value Added Tax (VAT), customs duties and oil and gas sector amounted to BHD 934 million during 2018, 2019 and 2020. A breakdown of the collections has been provided below:

	2018	2019	2020
VAT	-	260 million	220 million
Excise tax	56 million	61 million	55 million
Customs duties	99 million	91 million	85 million
Amounts in BHD			

Citizens using online platforms for business purposes urged to use national schemes

HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Bahrain has urged citizens who use online platforms for business related purposes to choose between Khatwa (a free scheme run by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development for home based businesses) or Sijili (an application by the Ministry of Industry Commerce and Tourism for SMEs).

Click here to read more about Khatwa. Click here to read more about Sijili.

Swiss Parliament approves tax treaty with Bahrain

On 19 March 2021, the Swiss Parliament approved the Bahrain - Switzerland Income and Capital Tax Treaty (2019). Once in force and effective, the new treaty will replace the Bahrain - Switzerland Transport Tax Treaty (2004).

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)

General Authority of Zakat and Tax (GAZT) signs memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture (MoEWA)

On 22 March 2021, GAZT and MoEWA signed an MoU with the aim of developing the relationship between the two authorities. The MoU will benefit both authorities from experiences in the areas of zakat and tax, environmental awareness and sustainable development, as well as electronic connectivity and cooperation in joint initiatives and projects

Click here to read more (in Arabic).

GAZT reminds taxpayers to submit their VAT returns for the month of February 2021

On 22 March 2021, GAZT reminded taxpayers subject to VAT to submit their VAT returns for the month of February 2021 latest by 31 March 2021 to avoid any late payment/submission penalties.

Click here to read more (in Arabic).

GAZT continues inspection of businesses to identify non-compliance

On 23 March 2021, GAZT reported that it has continued inspection of businesses to identify non-compliance with tax obligations. In the previous week, 8,049 inspection visits were conducted which resulted in discovery of 1,067 violations. GAZT highlighted that a significant number of violations were discovered based on reports received through official reporting channels.

Click here to read more (in Arabic).

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Federal Tax Authority (FTA) issues VAT public clarification regarding bad debt relief

FTA has recently issued VAT public clarification no. VATP024 regarding bad debt relief for VAT purposes, which highlights the prescribed method for notifying the customer that debts have been written off.

Click here to access the VAT public clarification.

Oman

Oman Tax Authority (OTA) publishes English translation of VAT Executive Regulations

OTA has released an unofficial English translation of the Oman VAT Executive Regulations on its website.

Click here to access the translated VAT Executive Regulations.

OTA held a number of workshops for its employees

OTA held a number of workshops for its employees to complement the training and qualification series it started since last year with regard to the implementation of VAT. The workshops were held at the OTA in cooperation with Bin Mubarak Office for Auditing and Accounting Services.

Click here to read more.

Kuwait

Swiss Parliament approves protocol to tax treaty with Kuwait

On 19 March 2021, the Swiss Parliament approved the amending protocol, signed on 6 November 2019, to the Kuwait - Switzerland Income and Capital Tax Treaty (1999).

Kuwait and Luxembourg sign protocol to tax treaty

On 25 March 2021, Kuwait and Luxembourg signed an amending protocol to update the not yet in force Kuwait - Luxembourg Income and Capital Tax Treaty (2007).

The above is for general information only and is not intended to address the circumstances of any particular scenario. Please seek professional advice in relation to your particular circumstances.

For a detailed discussion on how the above updates may impact your business, [contact us.]

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