

# Bahrain & GCC Tax News



18 May 2026

## Bahrain

### National Bureau for Revenue (NBR) updates Tax Agent/VAT Representative guide

On 13 May 2026, the NBR published an updated version of the Tax Agent/VAT Representative guide.

Click [here](#) to access the updated guide.

### Tax treaty update

On 10 May 2026, the Bahrain Shura Council approved the “Bahrain - Saudi Arabia Income Tax Treaty (2025)”.

### Draft Bahrain Corporate Income Tax (CIT) Law

On 29 December 2025, during the weekly Cabinet Meeting, a draft CIT law was referred to the Bahraini legislative authorities imposing 10% tax on local businesses. Subsequently, on 23 February 2026, the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) invited representatives from the Bahrain business community to provide a brief overview of the draft CIT law. The BCCI also shared an Arabic copy of the draft CIT law as part of a closed consultation inviting inputs on the draft CIT law.

In our recent Tax Alert, we have summarized the key provisions under the draft Bahrain CIT law.

Click [here](#) to read our latest Tax Alert on the Draft Bahrain CIT Law.

### Bahrain CIT – Withholding tax (WHT)

We expect the Bahrain CIT regime to have specific provisions related to WHT which is a tax deducted at source from income derived from a jurisdiction. Bahrain is likely to apply WHT of 5% on payments to non-residents for royalties, interest, and services. We expect that dividends will be subject to 0% WHT. Bahrain resident persons responsible for collecting WHT will be required to file periodic returns and remit the WHT to the NBR.

In this article, we discuss the applicability of WHT, impact of tax treaties and the WHT rates that are expected to apply to cross-border payments made by Bahrain resident entities to recipients from jurisdictions with whom Bahrain has a tax treaty.

Click [here](#) to read our recent Tax Insights article ‘Bahrain CIT – WHT’.

## Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)

### Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority (ZATCA) to conduct tax related workshops

- On 19 May 2026, ZATCA will conduct a virtual session on the cancellation of fines and exemption of financial penalties initiative.
- On 20 May 2026, ZATCA will conduct a virtual session on phase 2 of e-invoicing (integration phase).
- On 21 May 2026, ZATCA will conduct a virtual session on excise tax.

Click [here](#) to register for upcoming virtual workshops.

## United Arab Emirates (UAE)

### Tax treaty update

On 12 May 2026, the National Assembly of Burundi approved the “Burundi - United Arab Emirates Income Tax Treaty (2017)”.

### Federal Tax Authority (FTA) conducts tax workshops

- On 13 May 2026, the FTA conducted a virtual session focusing on tax compliance challenges in the logistics and international transportation sector, and another virtual workshop about the latest Corporate Tax (CT) updates.

On 14 May 2026, the FTA conducted a virtual workshop on excise tax, and another virtual session on how to register for CT.

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

Best regards,

### Mubeen Khadir

Partner – Head of Tax & Corporate Services

KPMG Fakhro

T: +973 3222 6811

E: [mubeenkhadir@kpmg.com](mailto:mubeenkhadir@kpmg.com)

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[kpmg.com/bh](http://kpmg.com/bh)

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