

Bahrain & GCC Tax News



5 October 2026

Bahrain

National Bureau for Revenue (NBR) updates VAT Guidelines

- On 28 September 2026, the NBR published the updated version of the [VAT Deregistration Manual](#).
- On 29 September 2026, the NBR published the updated version of the [VAT Registration Guide](#).

NBR to conduct VAT implementation workshop for the construction sector

The NBR will hold a VAT implementation workshop on 6 October 2026 for taxpayers in the construction sector.

Click [here](#) to register for the workshop.

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) releases full version of 2025 Model Tax Convention

On 30 September 2026, the OECD released the [full version](#) of the OECD Model Tax Convention on Income and on Capital (2025) (the 2025 OECD Model).

The full version of the 2025 OECD Model includes historical notes and background reports in addition to the articles and commentaries, non-member economies' positions, and the recommendation of the OECD Council.

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.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)

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

- On 5 October 2026, ZATCA will conduct a virtual workshop on the integration phase of e-invoicing (phase two).
- On 6 October 2026, ZATCA will conduct a virtual workshop on the updated rules for practicing the profession of customs clearance.

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

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Federal Tax Authority (FTA) issues new VAT decision

On 28 September 2026, the FTA published Decision No. 17 of 2026 titled 'Cases and Conditions for Input Tax Recovery on Employee Expenses'.

Click [here](#) to read the published decision.

FTA issues clarification on Free Zone or Designated Zone for tax purposes

On 2 October 2026, the FTA issued Tax Public Clarification 'TAXP010', setting out guidance on how Free Zones and Designated Zones are defined for VAT, Excise Tax and Corporate Tax purposes.

Click [here](#) to view the public clarification.

FTA conducts tax workshops

On 30 September 2026, the FTA conducted a virtual workshop on tax updates in the UAE.

Tax treaty update

The UAE and El Salvador have recently signed a tax treaty in New York.

Qatar

Tax treaty update

Qatar and Tanzania have recently signed an income tax treaty.

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

Best regards,

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