



مركز الإحصاء
STATISTICS CENTRE

Abu Dhabi Over a Half Century



Facts and Figures 1960 - 2015



50
عالمياً
YEARS
1966-2016



مركز الإحصاء
STATISTICS CENTRE

Our Vision: Leadership and Innovation in Statistics

The Late Sheikh
Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan
Founder of the United Arab Emirates



"A country that does not know its past cannot understand its present and future ... Our people should not forget their past and their ancestors, how they have lived and on what they depended in their lives. The more aware people are of their past, the more they know their heritage, the more interested they will be in their country and the more ready they will be to defend it"





His Highness Sheikh
Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
President of the United Arab Emirates



"The new generation of Emiratis is the fruit of a generation of fathers and forefathers who deserve all our respect and appreciation, and it does not constitute a break from our past, thanks to its keenness to reinforce the solid traditions that are part and parcel of the heritage and the embodiment of commitment"





His Highness Sheikh
Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme
Commander of the UAE Armed Forces



"Homelands are constructed by developing loyal and devoted citizens. This, in turn, can only be achieved through more education, knowledge transfer and ongoing training. This has been instilled in us by our father, Sheikh Zayed Al Kheir "May God rest his soul", affirming the need to continue doing so with the next generations. Determination and resolve to reach our goals and objectives defies the impossible"





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Over the past five decades, Abu Dhabi has witnessed major transformations and leading achievements that are almost unparalleled in the history of human civilization. Abu Dhabi has witnessed economic boom, social prosperity, and cultural and civilizational progress. It has combined authenticity and modernism, the past and the present, heritage and the spirit of our era. Therefore, customs and traditions have remained stable and deep-rooted, and have even flourished more with the achieved progress and development.

To many people, Abu Dhabi is only known as a rich oil emirate which has been able to accomplish great development achievements during a short period of its history. Yet few know that the miracle of Abu Dhabi has been created and protected by Emiratis, by man not by mineral wealth, by thinking minds and not by imported brains. The sixteenth of August 1966 was a new birth date of Abu Dhabi. On this very date, the sixth of August 1966, His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah rest his soul in peace, assumed the reins of power in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, ushering in a rarely matched boom in all walks of life. Thanks to his wise management of the abundant natural resources in the country, the Emirate of Abu Dhabi is now among the world's leading nations in terms of economic prowess and living standards of the citizens.

A look at Abu Dhabi today reveals a place of magnificent beauty, developed infrastructure, quality services and remarkable development in the various aspects discussed in this book, which spans more than five decades of prosperity, development and progress (1960-2015), visible in the diverse accomplishments that have encompassed all aspects of life in the Emirate and have come about as a direct result of the wise planning that chalked out the guidelines for the period under review.

Comprehensive development has continued under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and Ruler of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. With a strong political commitment to success and advancement in all ways, and through a clear vision for development and ambitious planning, the Emirate of Abu Dhabi continues to advance from strength to strength, pioneering a new model of development in the Arab world and the Middle East in general, where it is seen as one of the dynamic and fastest growing economies in the various fields of development.

*Message from
the Chairman*

The Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi, being proud to work under the supervision of the Executive Council of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and Chairman of the Executive Council, is also well aware of the magnitude of its responsibilities, and is determined to fully meet them, as a trusted and reliable institution on which all decision-makers depend for planning, policymaking and action.

Although the Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi is a relatively new entity, having been established under Law No. (7) of 2008, the Centre has initiated an ambitious strategic project to collect and review all the historical statistical data on the key development indicators in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi during the last five decades, and to improve their quality and accuracy in consistent chronology.

The effort of Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi has not been limited to publishing statistical tables that include the values of these indicators, but has also attempted, through this publication, to provide a new resource for writing the history of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, based on reliable statistical figures, data and indicators, thereby paving the way for historians, academics, researchers and all those interested in the history of development in the Emirate to uncover a wealth of important data that has not been available before.

The book "Abu Dhabi over a Half Century .. Facts and Figures" is an important statistical document on the achievements of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in the past five decades (1960 – 2015), the fruit of the insightful vision, prudent administration and sound directives of the supreme leadership and a synopsis of the progress arising from it, and serves as example and proof of what this leadership has achieved and still offers to achieve in building this nation and developing its people in the various spheres of life.

Rashed Lahej Al Mansoori
Chairman of the Board



Foreword

If there ever was a case of global excellence and innovation that has been underdocumented, it must surely be that of the development in Abu Dhabi; and if there have been some pioneering global experiences in rapid and balanced development, the experience of Abu Dhabi deserves well to be at their forefront.

The Emirate of Abu Dhabi has witnessed over the past five decades major transformations and undergone pioneering achievements unparalleled in the history of human civilization. Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi is proud to document the development of the Emirate over the years, providing statistics, graphs, and real images that add a new dimension to reading the history of its development and paint a clear picture of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi's progress.

Half a century ago, i.e. in 1966, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan assumed power in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. His reign ushered in a new era of large-scale developmental and construction that transformed the Emirate of Abu Dhabi from the depth of the desert to the horizons of human civilization, setting one of the best examples in the field of comprehensive, rapid and balanced development in record time. In five decades, the Emirate of Abu Dhabi has changed from somewhere that lacked the most basic necessities of life into one of the most developed areas in the world.

As we celebrate this year the lapse of 50 years since the start of this epic development story, Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi is pleased to release the second edition of its publication "Abu Dhabi over a Half Century," which documents in statistical figures the key achievements of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi over the course of the past five decades (1960 --2 015).

The Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi, which has taken upon itself to develop statistical work at the Emirate level, has recognized the inconsistency and inaccuracy of historical data for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, and has undertaken to review, evaluate, standardize and improve its quality, and to publish it in chronological series which extended for more than half a century (1960 – 2015). It has been compiled in one volume entitled: "Abu Dhabi over a Half Century", and now this is the second edition of this book, which is updated every five years.

Anyone studying these figures will realize from the outset that the development experience of Abu Dhabi is a unique model at the global level, and that these great achievements witnessed by Abu Dhabi have not come about by chance; nor are they the spontaneous outcome of natural wealth. It is rather the product of clear thought and insight that characterized the unique personal leadership of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may God rest his soul. It is through his wise planning and solid strategy that Abu Dhabi has made its way successfully, relying on its people, investing in science and learning, and depending on the individual first and foremost in the overall development process.

Progress has continued at an accelerated pace under the wise leadership of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, as well as under the meticulous and wise direction of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and Chairman of the Executive Council of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

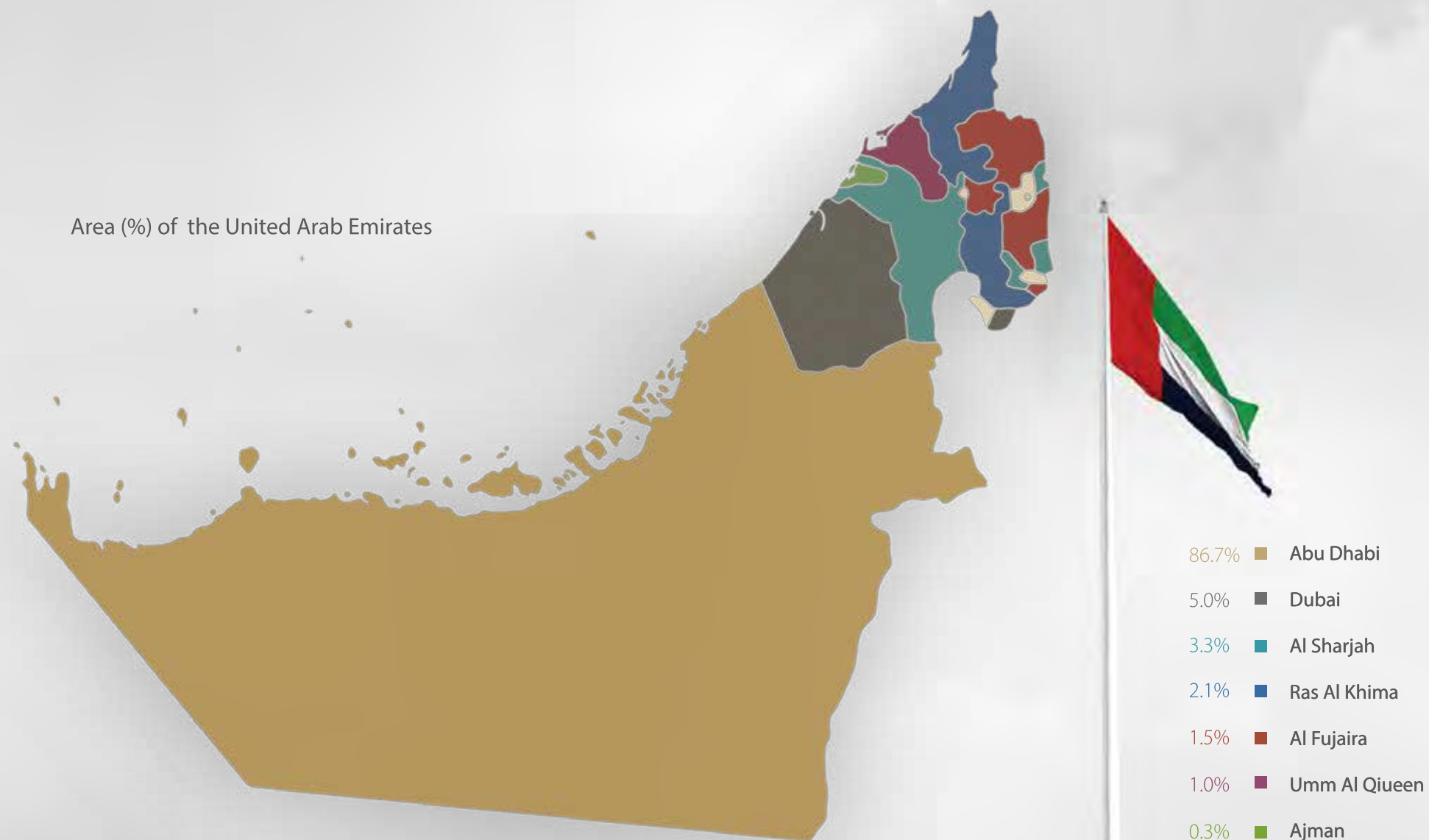
The major development boom in Abu Dhabi during the past years - the general features of which are outlined in this book - is only a prelude to further growth expected in the Emirate in the coming years, the product of a sound development strategy and the prudent fiscal policies pursued by Abu Dhabi.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that this publication does not aim to provide an advertising or media work about Abu Dhabi; rather, it establishes a sound statistical basis for major work of documentation that covers all areas of economic and social development which are outside the purview of the Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi. The field is still fertile for researchers, academics and historians to extract from the historical data provided by this book precious treasures of knowledge, whatever their area of specialization may be, since the progress of development in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi is amazing in every respect, though previously under-recorded.

Butti Ahmed Mohamed Butti Al Qubaisi
Director-General

November 2016

Area (%) of the United Arab Emirates



Abu Dhabi: General Information

The United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) consists of seven emirates, namely Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, Ajman, Umm Al Quwain and Fujairah. These emirates were united on 2 December 1971, and chose Abu Dhabi as capital of the Federation. The Emirate of Abu Dhabi is the largest of these emirates. Its area is 87% of the overall UAE area, and it contains about 34% of the total population of the country. Citizens form more than 50% of the total number of the UAE citizens.

Abu Dhabi contributes over 60% to the GDP of the country. The Emirate produces more than 90% of the overall UAE production of oil, while it ranks sixth globally in terms of the volume of proven oil reserve, amounting to 10% of world's oil resources. Its production is more than 8% of the total production of The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), while it ranks seventh at the global level in terms of natural gas reserve, since it possesses around 5% of world natural gas resources.

Location and Area

The Emirate of Abu Dhabi is located in the far south western corner of the United Arab Emirates, overlooking the Arabian Gulf between latitudes 40' 22° and 25° north and longitudes 51° and about 56° degrees east, with a total area of 67,340 square kilometres representing approximately 86.7% of the total area of the country.

Population density in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi was 29.2 people/km² in 2015, indicating that the Emirate is still an area of low population density.

The coastal waters of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi embrace around 200 islands, including Das Island which lies 170 km north west of the Abu Dhabi City, Mebrez Island, and Seer Bani Yas Island which lies 180 km west of the capital. The Emirati coastline extends more than 700 km.

The Emirate of Abu Dhabi comprises three main regions: the first region is Abu Dhabi Region, the most of which overlooks the Arabian Gulf and includes Abu Dhabi City. The second is the eastern region, Al Ain Region, which includes Al Ain City. The third is the western region, Al Gharbia, which comprises 52 towns and villages, mainly Bida' Zayed of Madinat Zayed, and is characterized by its extensive area, including most oil and gas fields and refineries of the Emirate.

Climate

Abu Dhabi has a sub-tropical, arid climate. So it has a desert climate characterized by relatively high temperatures most of the year, particularly in summer. Its winter is generally warm, with low temperatures from time to time. Minimum temperatures range from a low of around 9-15°C in winter, to 21-27°C in summer months. There is difference in temperatures between coastal areas, internal desert areas and heights, which all form the Emirates terrain. Sunny blue skies and high temperatures can be expected throughout the year. The Emirate has relatively little rainfall, averaging 100 mm per year, and falling suddenly on some internal areas in summer.



The Journey of Man

The Emirate of Abu Dhabi, which is embraced by the sea and extends over the desert sands, is a name reiterated by every tongue and pointed at by every fingertip. It has not come about by chance, for its roots are deep in ancient history. Its old history dates back to the Stone Age, specifically the third millennium B.C. Archaeological excavations in the island of Dalma, Hafeet Mountain, Umm Al Nar, and Wadi Al Souq, unveiled an ancient civilization that had commercial relations with other civilizations, including those in Mesopotamia and Sind Valley.

Man first appears in what is now the Emirate of Abu Dhabi more than 7500 years ago. Archaeological discoveries have shown that the first inhabitants of the Emirate arrived in the first Stone Age, and there is evidence of mass graves dating back to 3000-2500 B.C. on the slopes of Jebel Hafeet in Al Ain. Over time, the Emirate saw the emergence of iron production and the start of the use of the Arabic alphabet, as well as evidence of a close relationship with the Assyrian and Persian empires.

During the Bronze Age, Abu Dhabi established trade relations with Mesopotamia (now Iraq) and the Indus Valley. Two years before the death of the Prophet Mohammed (peace and blessings be upon him), in 630, a delegation from Medina came to this region to lead the call to Islam,

The Emirate of Abu Dhabi is characterized by an age-old heritage, from its ancient history to the contemporary diversity of its natural environment and wildlife. It is renowned for its tradition in poetry, prose and handicrafts. There is ample evidence of a strategically-important, thriving, resource-rich and diverse civilization, evidenced in archaeological excavations dating back thousands of years.

The modern history of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi starts in the early seventeenth century, when the Bani Yas tribe settled in the Dhafra area. They controlled the areas stretching from the coastal Sabkha Matti in the north to the sand dunes of the Empty Quarter in the south. In 1761 water was discovered on the Island of Abu Dhabi, and some members of the Bani Tribe lived there by fishing and pearl diving. Maleeha flourished to become the first coastal settlement of the Bani Yas, and Sheikh Shakhboot bin Dhiab bin Issa Al Nahyan took the Island of Abu Dhabi as his permanent home.

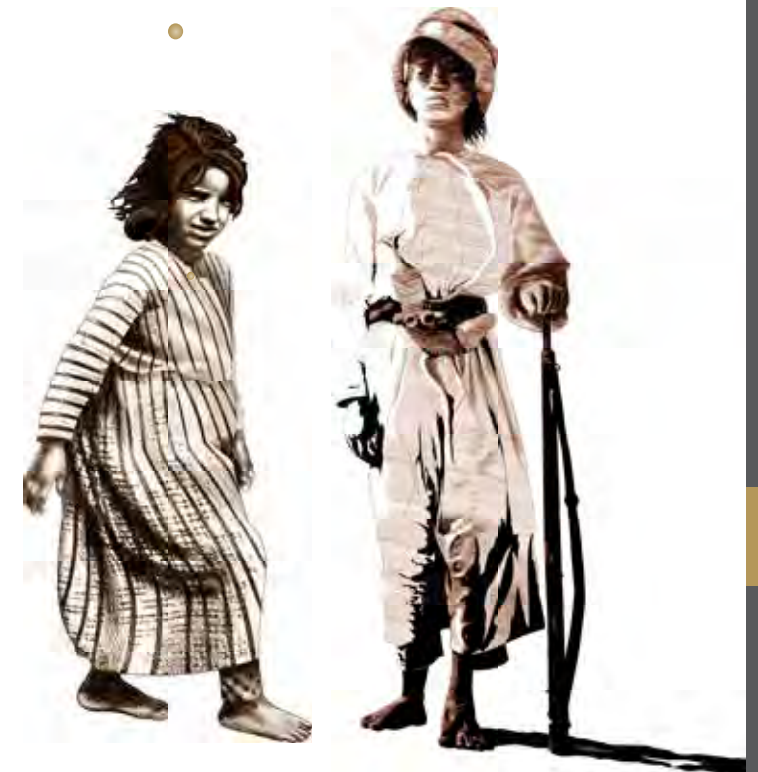
The Emirate of Abu Dhabi continued to prosper economically throughout the nineteenth century until the end of the first decade of the twentieth century, thanks to the abundance of pearls.

In 1915, 100 years ago, the population of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi was about 23.49 thousand persons, including settled and nomadic groups. In those times, life in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi was one of epic heroism, courage and patience in the face of the desert's cruelty and the scarcity of water. The old residents of Abu Dhabi worked in camel herding, harvesting dates, fishing and pearl diving.

Population groups in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi 1915

Region	Population
Liwa & Ghiyathi	8,580
Al Ain & Al Buraimi Oasis	7,190
Abu Dhabi City	6,780
Al Bateen	850
Dalma Island	90

TOTAL
23,490





The Beginning

In 1918, the year when World War I ended and the promising signs of peace spread all over the world, the world was on a date with a great event. On the sixth of May of that year, the first child to the Ruler of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Sultan Al Nahyan was born, Sheikh Zayed (may God rest his soul), who was named after his grandfather, and who showed, from a young age, great interest in acquiring knowledge, understanding the mysteries of the desert and the sea, and how people are influenced by their environment.

When he became a Representative of the Governor in Al Ain, at the age of only 28, he administered the affairs of Al Ain, six surrounding villages, and some villages in neighbouring areas. During that period, he gained intimate knowledge of the affairs of government and the tribes, and put the plans in place that made Al Ain a model society in the field of agriculture, the provision of water resources, education, and other fields.

In 1966, Sheikh Zayed (may God rest his soul) became the Ruler of Abu Dhabi, succeeding his brother. The first thing he did in that year was to create a modern government structure a little more than a month after the beginning of his term. He also announced the establishment of a number of the new departments, to manage different government aspects for the emirate, especially social affairs and development, where history still remembers his well-known words: «Wealth has no value unless it is harnessed in the service of people.»

This was followed by the announcement of a series of major projects, including the establishment of a sewage system, a breakwater, the first hospital in Abu Dhabi, an international airport, Al Maqta bridge to replace the old crossing, and the construction of an international four-lane highway across the desert to the city of Al Ain, as well as a road network in Abu Dhabi and Al Ain, and a power and water desalination plant.



Thus, Abu Dhabi made successfully its way towards progress, development and prosperity, capitalizing on its citizens, investing in science and knowledge, and focusing on citizens as the target of overall development.

In 1968, the British announced their intention to withdraw from the area within three years. When the idea of independence came to the fore, Sheikh Zayed (may God rest his soul) hastened to invite the rulers of the other emirates to form a strong federation, a vision that materialized on December 2, 1971, the birth date of the United Arab Emirates. His counterparts wisely chose to elect him as the head of the new federal state.



The Pearl Era:

During the first half of the 20th century, the residents of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi practiced many professions that were suitable to their local conditions at that time. Residents of sea shores practiced pearl diving, fishing and trade, while oases population practiced farming due to the availability of fertile land and fresh water. Nomadic tribes practiced herding camels and cattle. During the pearling season, Abu Dhabi's traders concluded trade deals with India and some European countries, where they exported pearls, incense and leather to those countries.



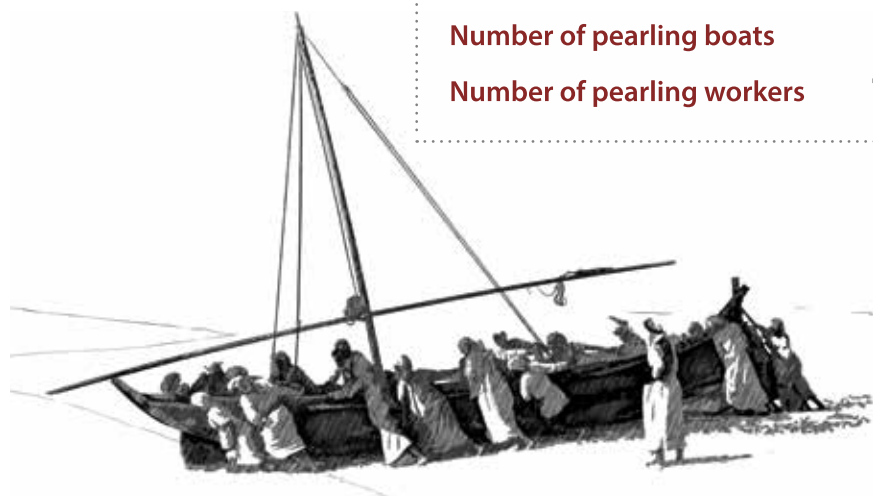
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Before World War I, pearl industry was the backbone of the emirate economy in Abu Dhabi. People working in the pearling industry, directly or indirectly, were about 85% of Abu Dhabi's population at that time. The pearl industry contributed 95% of the country's income, compared with only 5% for other activities as represented in agriculture, trade, herding and fishing.

The importance of pearling activity was due to the long beach of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, overlooking the Arabian Gulf, and the large number of islands and places of pearl diving, in addition to Abu Dhabi's population's experience in navigation seafaring for a long time. This allowed Abu Dhabi to occupy a prominent position in the field of fishing and trade of natural pearls. The number of boats used in the search for pearls amounted to around 535 boats in 1915, while the number of workers in pearling amounted to about 7,270 workers.

in 1915

Number of pearling boats	535
Number of pearling workers	7,270



The Abu Dhabi's territorial waters are among the richest areas in pearls. Pearl fishermen from neighbouring emirates headed for it during summer, which was the pearling season. Abu Dhabi's traders concluded trade deals with India and some European countries, where they exported pearls, incense and leather to those countries.

“History is a continuous series of events. The present is only an extension to the past, so if someone does not know his past, he cannot live his present or future.”

The late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may God rest his soul!



Oil Era:



While the human civilization in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi is very old, the most important development in the history of human history in Abu Dhabi only took place in the 1930's, when oil exploration began in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. Oil was discovered in Abu Dhabi for the first time in 1958, so Abu Dhabi was the first emirate to export oil. Oil discovery, extraction and export from the Emirate of Abu Dhabi was a quantum leap, as the region's economy depended mainly on the pearling, agriculture and grazing.

The first ship loaded with oil sailed from Das Island in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in late July 1962 to mark the beginning of the great evolution and comprehensive and continuous development that has been taking place in the emirate since that date until today. This potential wealth that erupted from the ground was transformed into a major economic power, which led to radical changes in various aspects of social and cultural life.

The wealth that is not run by prudent management and brilliant mentality is of no avail, and will not be able to achieve the desired progress. Therefore, the presence of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may God rest his soul, was a milestone in this respect. With his magnanimous humanitarian nature honed by his rich experiences and open-mindedness, he was able - after taking power as the Ruler of Abu Dhabi in 1966 – to invest this wealth in the service of his people. He made every effort, so that Abu Dhabi became one of the major developed cities in the world.

Sheikh Zayed, may God rest his soul, employed oil revenues to increase the welfare of his people in education and infrastructure development. His reign, which lasted 33 years, witnessed an unprecedented development, major changes and pioneering achievements which are almost unparalleled in the history of human civilization. In a short period of time, Abu Dhabi was transformed from a settlement of a semi-nomadic group to the home of one of the most important promising and highly advanced economic centres in the world.

During the past five decades, economic performance in the emirate has been a direct reflection of the developments in the crude oil sector, not only because oil sales are the main source of country's income, but also because oil is a key driver of the non-oil sectors, through what is spent by the emirate to support these sectors. Despite all that, the most important role - in the process of development witnessed by the Emirate of Abu Dhabi during the past decades - is not oil per se, but the leadership that ran this resource and harnessed it to people's interest and welfare.



Abu Dhabi and the Union

We are determined, God willing, to continue working on the formation and establishment of balanced economic structure, based on the diversification of income sources, continuation of new growth rates in all sectors, and raising the standard of living and per capita income.

His Highness the President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

The most important event in the history of the United Arab Emirates is probably the declaration of its union on the second of December 1971. This important event was the foundation upon which all development achievements were based. Such achievements would not have been possible without the announcement of the united will of the seven emirates making up the state. The union came as a natural consequence of the efforts of faithful men who had the vision and ambition. Their thinking was limited to a local narrow-minded outlook or individual transient interests, but they had a comprehensive future outlook.

This historic event was an important turning point that paved the way for the emergence of new economic activities that played an active role in pushing forward the wheel of development and increasing its momentum. It was natural under the union to accelerate the pace of development significantly, especially after solid foundations have been laid for this ongoing journey to this day. The 1970's witnessed the most prominent shift, when the abundant flow of oil and the discovery of its huge reserves, associated with higher prices at that time, provided an opportunity to increase spending on gigantic, pioneering development projects that left a clear mark on the various economic and social aspects of life.





Population and Labour Force

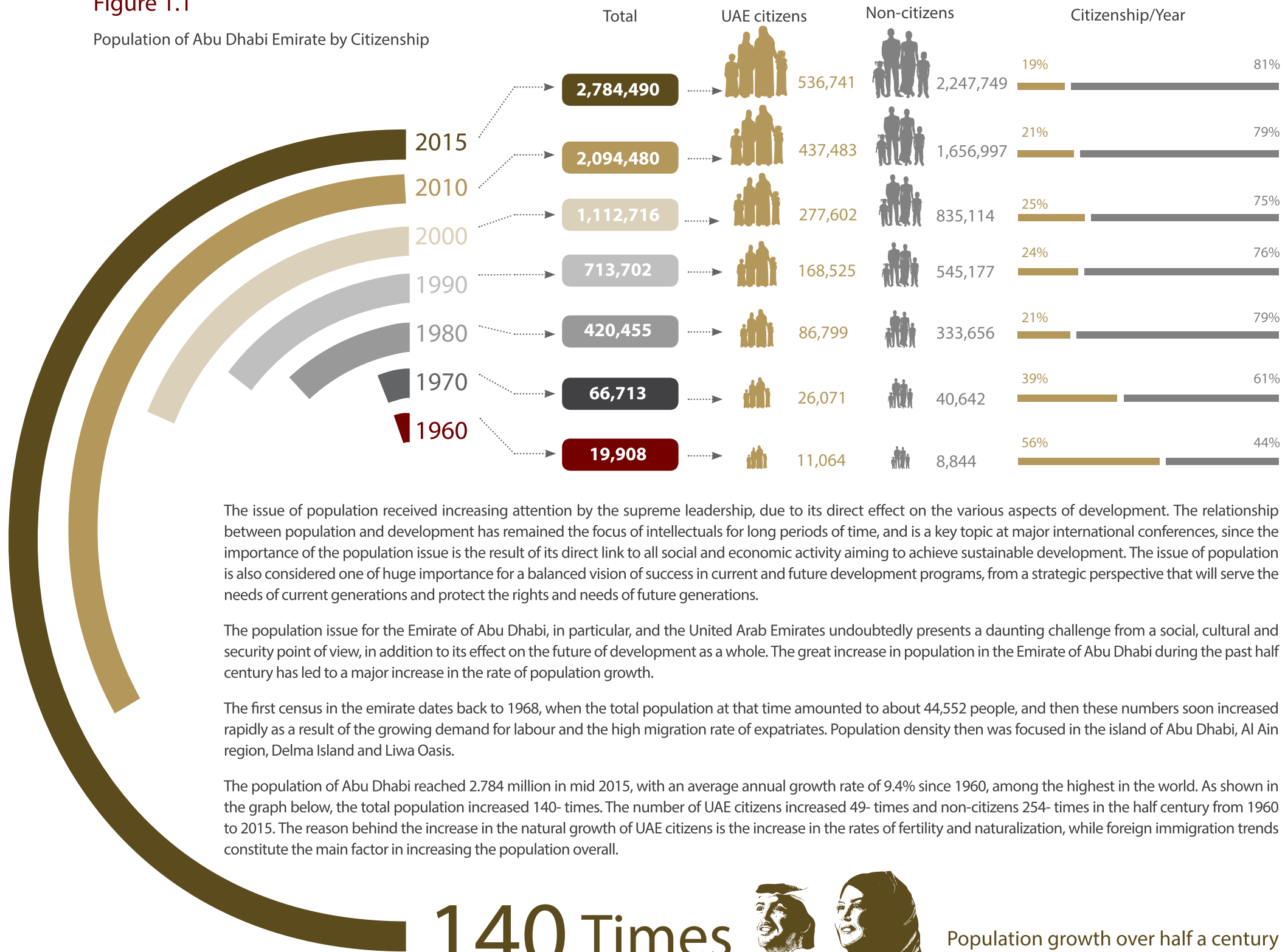
Population by Citizenship:



The population of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi reached 2.784 million people by mid 2015, of which UAE citizens constituted 19.3%. Males account for 65.8% of the total population compared to 34.2% females. The historical data of the Emirate indicate that the total population increased about 140 times during the period 1960 to 2015.

Figure 1.1

Population of Abu Dhabi Emirate by Citizenship



Geographic Distribution of the Population:

During the last five decades, the Emirate of Abu Dhabi has seen clear changes in the balance of population concentrations between rural and urban areas: the percentage of rural population gradually increased from 22% in 1968 to 39% in 2015. This movement is mainly due to the developments witnessed in rural areas with respect to the infrastructure and services in general, as well as the streams of immigration which have concentrated for the most part in rural areas, especially those adjacent to major cities in the Emirate.



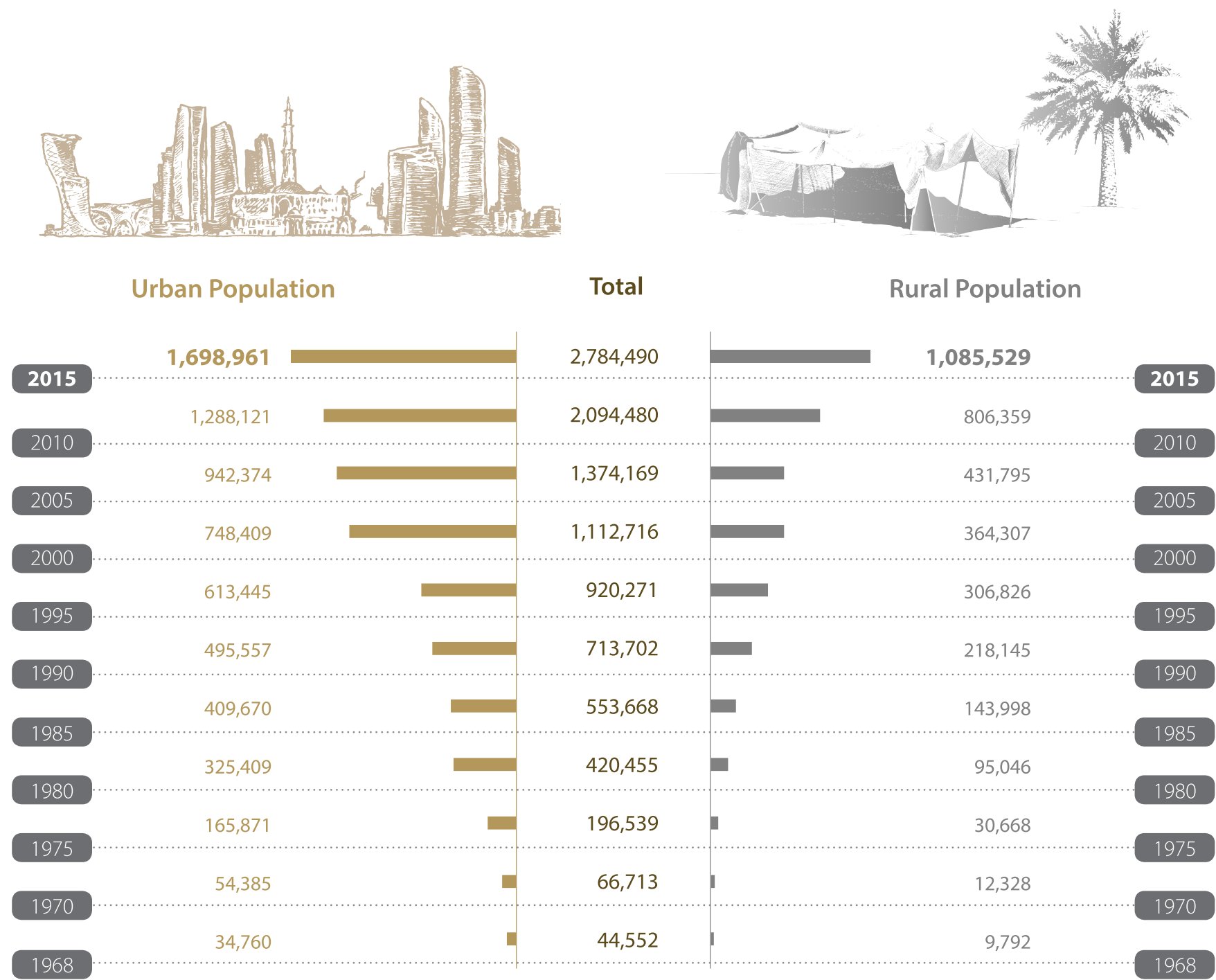
During the last five decades, the Emirate of Abu Dhabi has had significant development and demographic transformation. Geographic distribution of the population in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi has been greatly affected by the ability of the various regions to attract people. Also the development of social, cultural, and economic services in major rural areas leads to acceleration in rural population growth, particularly in the suburbs of Abu Dhabi City.

Demographic data indicates that the population of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi has significantly transformed in both qualitative and quantitative ways during the past five decades, and that the discovery of oil and the emergence of related industries and services has expedited the process of development and demographic shift. A quick overview of population growth over the past five decades (shown in the figure below) reveals that there have been major changes in the distribution of the population between rural and urban areas.

It becomes clear that the percentage of urban population has been continually declining in favour of rural areas, from 78% in 1968 to 61% in 2015. This is due to the development in infrastructure, services, modes of transport and the implementation of some major projects in rural areas that have enhanced the appeal of these areas, which consequently attracted a large number of citizens. Rural areas adjacent to major urban centres have also seen waves of internal migration due to the low cost of living and accommodation in those areas.

Figure 1.2

Population of Abu Dhabi Emirate by Rural and Urban Areas



Population Gender Distribution:

According to population statistics, the Emirate of Abu Dhabi has a high percentage of males, due to the influx of migrants particularly of young single males of working age. Males form 65.8% of the total population of the Emirate in 2015, compared to only 34.2% for females. With regard to UAE citizens; the ratio between males and females is broadly comparable, with males constituting 51.4% and females 48.6%.

The gender structure of the population means the number of males to females. The age and gender structure of the population profile are among the demographic characteristics that affect and are affected by major demographic processes (births, deaths and migration). Therefore, these factors are considered indirect means for estimating the levels of fertility and mortality, and their effect on the movement of the people in the future.

The importance of studying these factors lies in understanding human resources in a society. It provides a great service to planners in order to properly prepare economic and social development plans for all segments of society. Researchers usually study these factors holistically, represented together in a graph called the population pyramid, which reflects the gender and age characteristics of the population as well as the extent to which they are affected by the said demographic variables, and the factors influencing them over a given period of time.

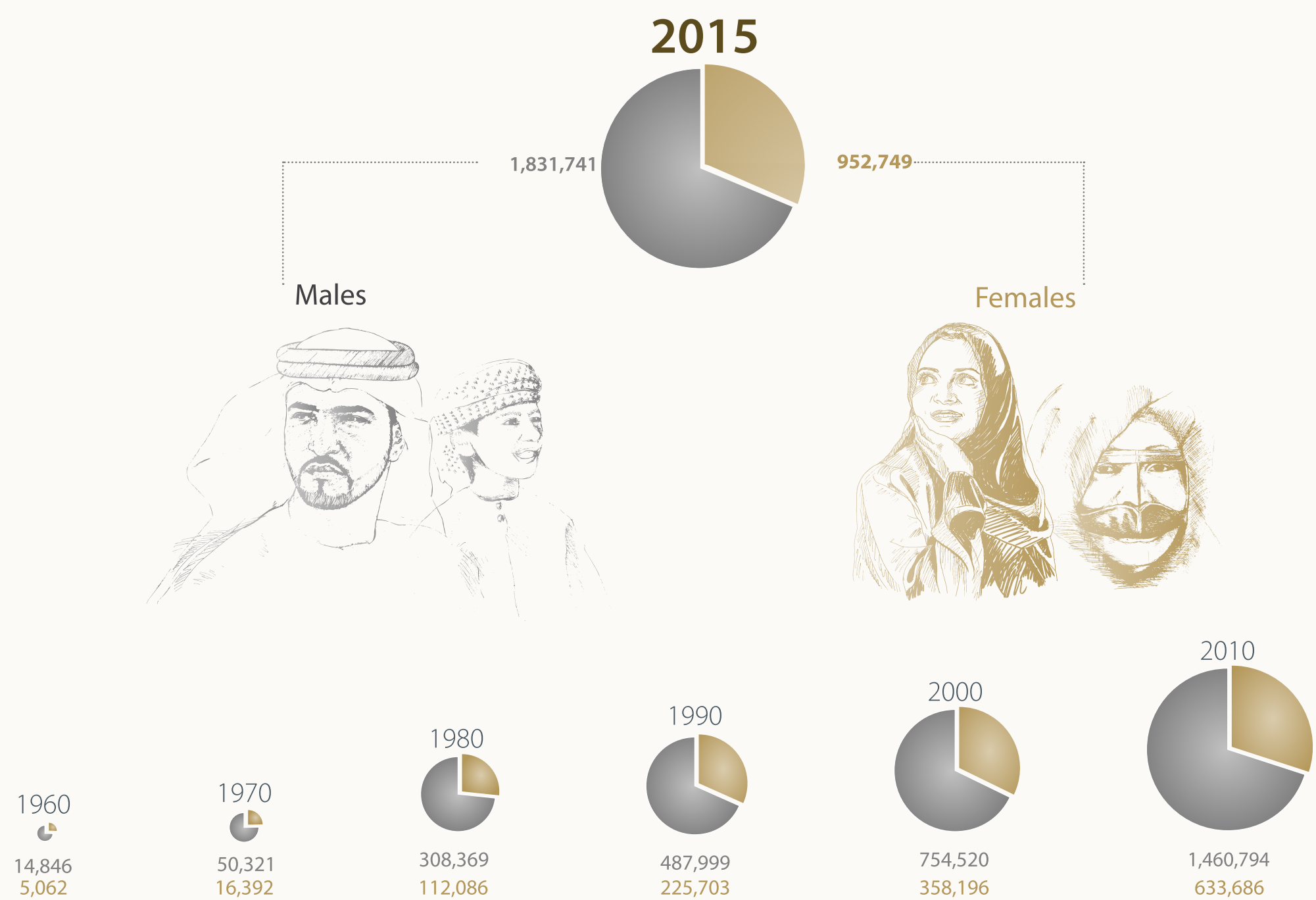
Taking a quick historical overview, we can see critical changes in the gender structure of the population of Emirate of Abu Dhabi. In 2015, the total population of the Emirate reached around 2.784 million, of which males represented 65.8% and females 34.2% (a ratio of males to females of 1.92 : 1).

This distribution is linked to the extent of male elective immigration, with no clear indication that the picture for UAE citizens has been socially affected by this disparity, the indigenous population is still a balanced one with respect to the gender distribution, with the percentage of males in the population constituting 51.4% while females make up 48.6% of the Emirate's national population.



Figure 1.3

Population of Abu Dhabi Emirate by Gender



Age Structure of the Population:

According to the 2015 data, 82.4% of the total population of Abu Dhabi are in the age group 15-64. With respect to UAE citizens, the proportion of people under the age of 15 years is 38.5%, which puts Abu Dhabi in the category of young societies because the majority of the population is comprised of youth.



Experts pay a great deal of attention to the age composition of the population because of its relevance to various developmental and social fields. The age structure of the population in any society is usually represented by a population pyramid, which is a general picture of the different demographic processes, due to the relationship between these processes and diverse social and economic factors in the society. This picture is not only derived from short-term but also longer-term factors, in the sense that the effects and implications of social change take time to manifest themselves clearly in the population pyramid.

The changes that have affected the population pyramid in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, the effects of which we are witnessing today, are the result of the various ongoing social and economic transformations, experienced by the Emirate in the past, the effects of which are starting to show through now. The evolution taking place in the size and composition of the population in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi has been largely influenced by the increasing waves of immigration over the past five decades, especially with regard to males of working age.

The population pyramid indicates that the gender ratio reached 192 males per 100 females in 2015, and that the population in the age group 15-64 make up 82.4% of the total population, while those in the age group 0-14 make up 16.7 %. The age composition of UAE citizens is witnessing a gradual decrease in the proportion of youth (under 15 years old) and a rise in the proportion of the elderly (60 years and above). In 2015, people under 15 years made up 38.5% of the UAE citizen population, while the elderly (60 years and above) formed only 2.2%.

The general picture of the age profile clearly shows that there is an unusually large immigrant populous, such that the percentage of the population in the middle category has come to represent more than three-quarters of the population, while the proportion of the population in the category for young people, as well as the age group for the elderly decreases, giving a picture of a population pyramid with a narrow base widening out towards the middle. This reflects the phenomenon of elective expatriate immigration and its impact on the characteristics of the population.

Figure 1.4 A

Population Pyramid of Abu Dhabi Emirate by Gender (Mid 2015)

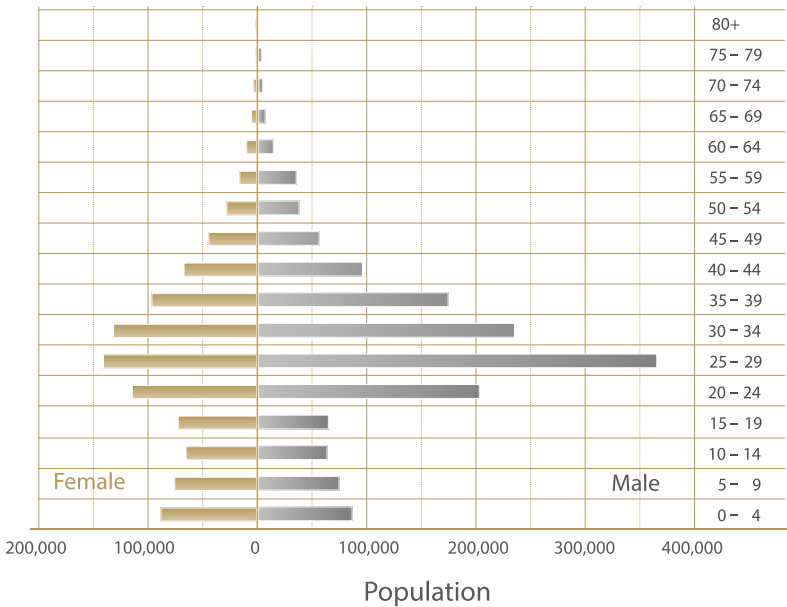
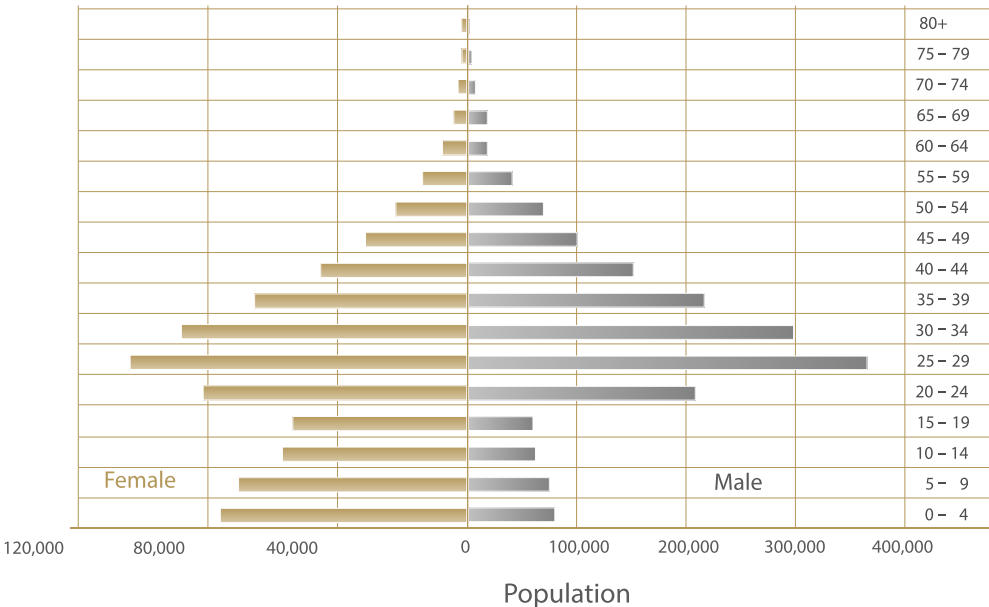


Figure 1.4 B

Population Pyramid of Abu Dhabi Emirate by Gender (Mid 1975)



Note: The drawing scale has been enlarged in pyramid (B) above for clarity. However, the total population in 2010 is almost 14 times the population size in 1975.



Labour Force by Citizenship:

Statistics Centre Abu Dhabi estimates indicate that the proportion of the labour force in 2015 amounted to the total population 15 years and over 81.3%, citizens of them accounts for about 8.4%, and female 32.8% of the total citizens labour force. These figures compare with 1975 about 78.7% in the total labour force, of which citizens constituted about 10.0% and females about 2.2% of the total citizens labour force.

The subject of the labour force has been given increasing attention at official and societal levels as one of the most important issues for present and future economic development, given that economic and social development cannot be achievement without well-qualified human resources capable of achieving the various aspects of development. The labour force includes employed and unemployed persons aged 15 years and above.

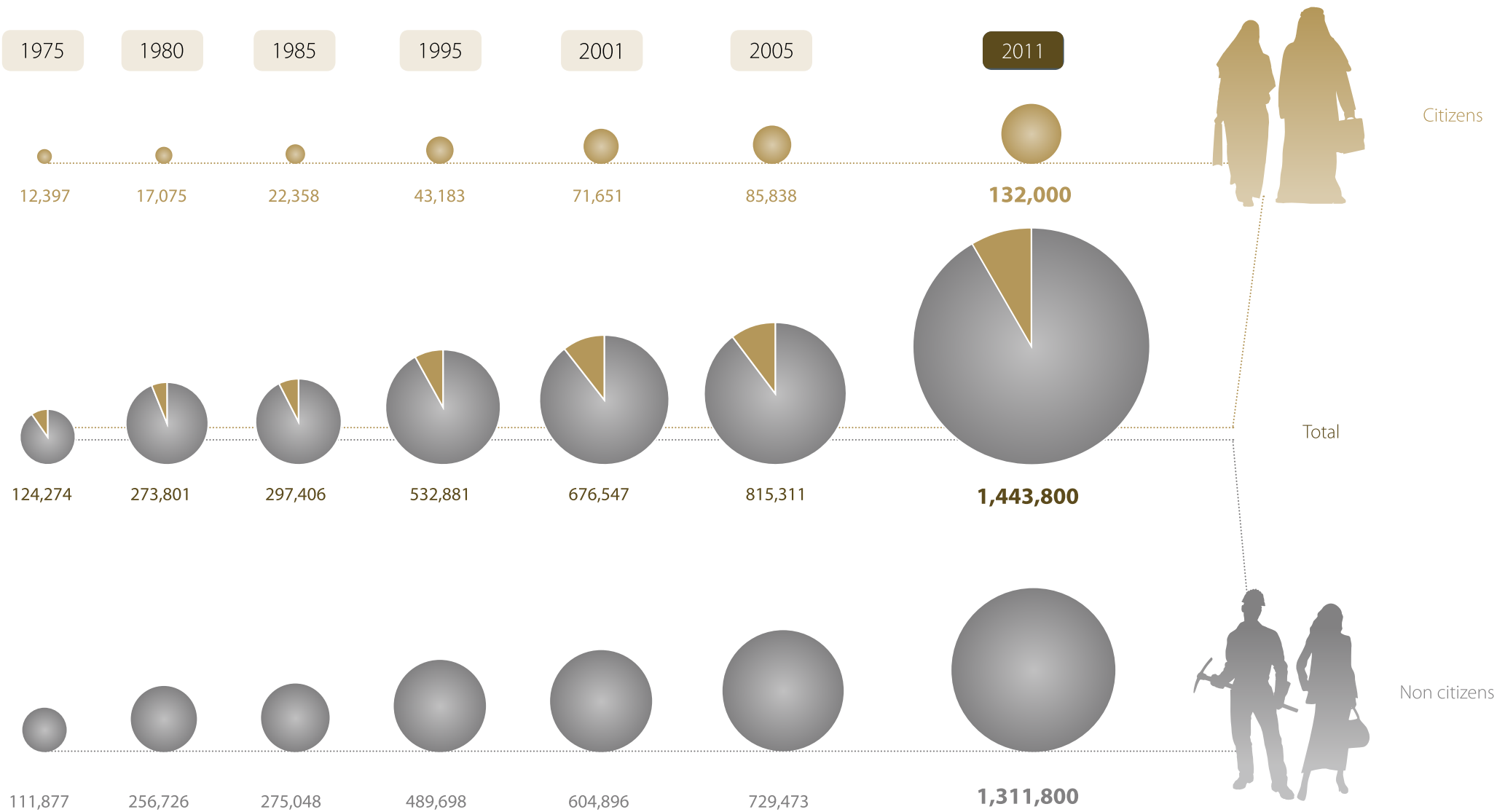
In the past four decades, the local labour market in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi has witnessed a number of quantitative and qualitative changes resulting from the increasing demand for foreign workers during the economic booms experienced by the Emirate.

The process of demographic transition, in addition to the large waves of migration to the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, is reflected in the increase in the labour force from 124,274 in 1975 to 1,970,521 in 2015, of which UAE citizens constitute 8.4% (whereas this percentage was approximately 10% in 1975).

This means that the number of people economically active in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi has increased more than 7-fold in 40 years. In this regard, Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi data shows that in mid-2015 the size of the labour force was 1,970,521 people (15 years and above), of which approximately 8.4% were UAE citizens and 21.4% females. It should be noted here that the crude activity rate (percentage of the population in the labour force) was 67.9%, while the unemployment rate was 3.7% across the entire labour force.

Figure 1.5

Developments of Labour Force (15 years and above) by citizenship



Educational Level of the labour force:

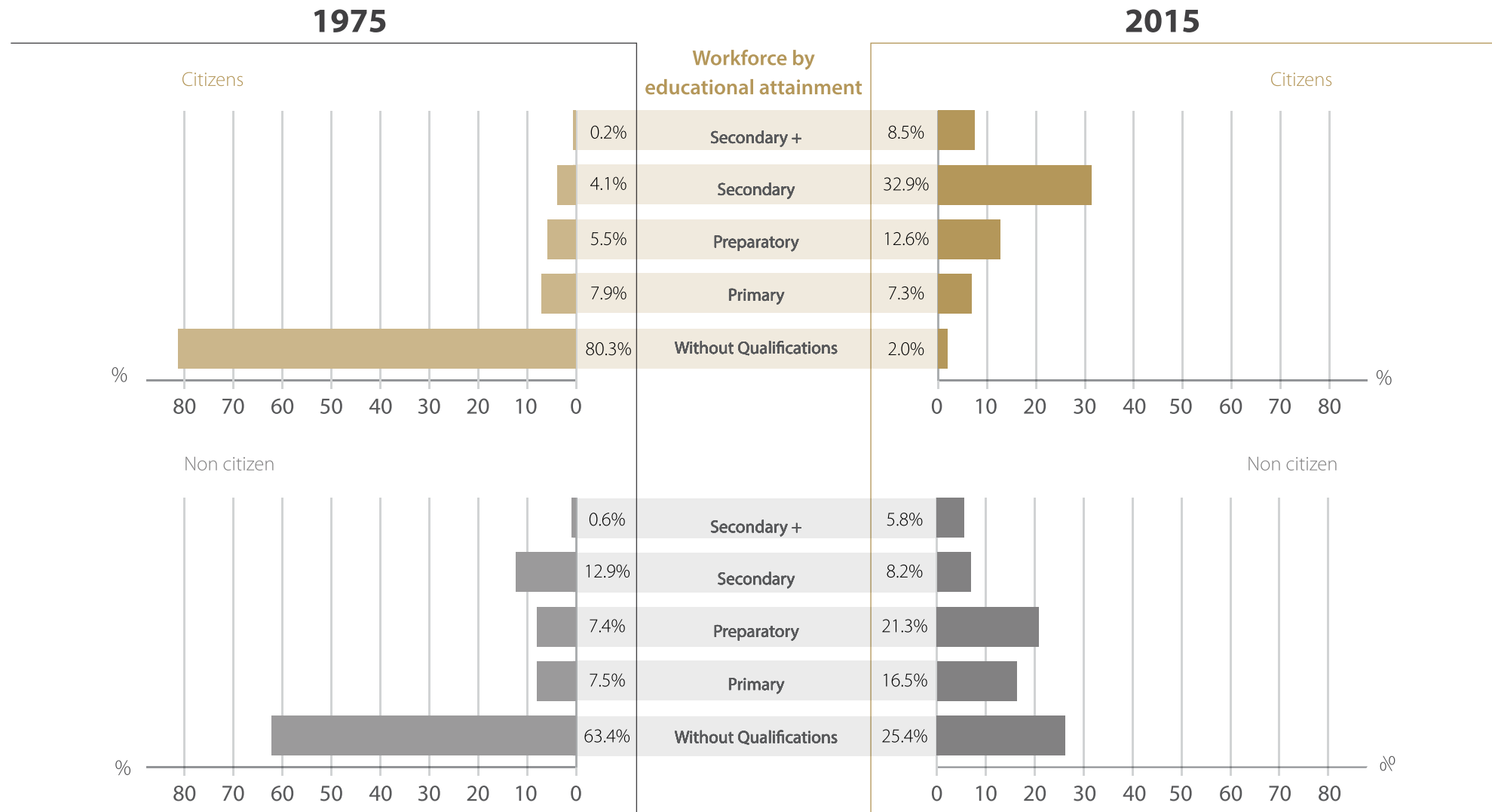
The importance of the human element in production and service provision depends on its qualitative development, achieved through effective human development, education and different types of training. There can be no dispute that the educational level of the labour force is the most important factor affecting economic growth. Experience in some developed countries indicates that the impact of education on economic growth represents one third of the increase in productivity, and that the contribution made by education was twice that of capital.



Education is the key to the progress and development of peoples. It is also one of the important indicators of development progress, and a driver for economic growth, scientific innovation and creativity. It contributes effectively to the achievement of the state’s development goals. Available data on labour force by level of education in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi confirms that there has been a fundamental shift in the structure of the labour force in terms of educational level, especially for UAE citizens.

Figure 1.6

The percentage distribution of the labour force by educational level and citizenship between 1975 and 2015.



Female Citizens Participation in the Labour Market:

An analysis of the past and present of women in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi shows that Emirati women were able to make an increasingly dramatic and unprecedented impact in all fields of work. The data shows major qualitative and quantitative leaps forward in the contribution of Emirati women to the labour market, , As the number of females in the labor force has doubled in four decades from 1975 to 2015, Where the proportion of the contribution of women in the labor market rose from 2.2% in 1975 to 32.8% in 2015 from the citizens labor force.



Out of a firm belief in the vital role played by women in development, the Government has placed great importance on supporting this role thorough medium- and long-term policies, given that women have their own specific needs, and their movement into the labour force without clear planning may result in high social costs that would undermine the economic gains. Moreover, women's entry into economic activity on sound, thought-out basis will have a cultural impact that women will pass through to the next generations, the pillars of the economic and social future of the country.

Women's issues come at the forefront in the Government of Abu Dhabi's policy and strategic vision, which aim to empower women to occupy their rightful position in society. The only way to achieve this is through providing an environment that grants women the freedom to contribute effectively to economic and social development, in the context of certain standards that would help women move forward.

In the economic sphere, Abu Dhabi women have been able to cope with development in all sectors in the Emirate and have moved in record time from home into the private economy through large-scale investment from small projects to increasingly major projects and large multinational corporations. This has come about since the government opened all fields of investment and economic activity to women. Many government and quasi-governmental bodies have also played an important role in facilitating the investment environment for women, in a way that suits their financial resources and educational levels.

Figure 1.7

The developments of Citizens labour force (15 years and above) by gender



UAE women have proved their status and ability to excel and have become an important component on the map of human resources in the government sector in various ministerial, judicial, diplomatic and other positions. Emirati women constitute 73.3% of the total citizens in government jobs, about 12.6% of female employed citizens occupy higher leadership positions related to decision-making, and 61.2% hold professional positions, which include medicine, teaching, pharmacy and nursing, as well as joining the ranks of the regular armed forces, police and customs.





Economic Development

Gross Domestic Product:

The economy of Abu Dhabi has witnessed strong, broadly-based and diverse development by comparison with other states in the region over the last four decades. This has caused the GDP of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi to increase 238 times in the past 45 years at current prices, from 3.3 billion AED only in 1970 to 778.5 billion AED in 2015, at an average annual growth rate of 17.2%.



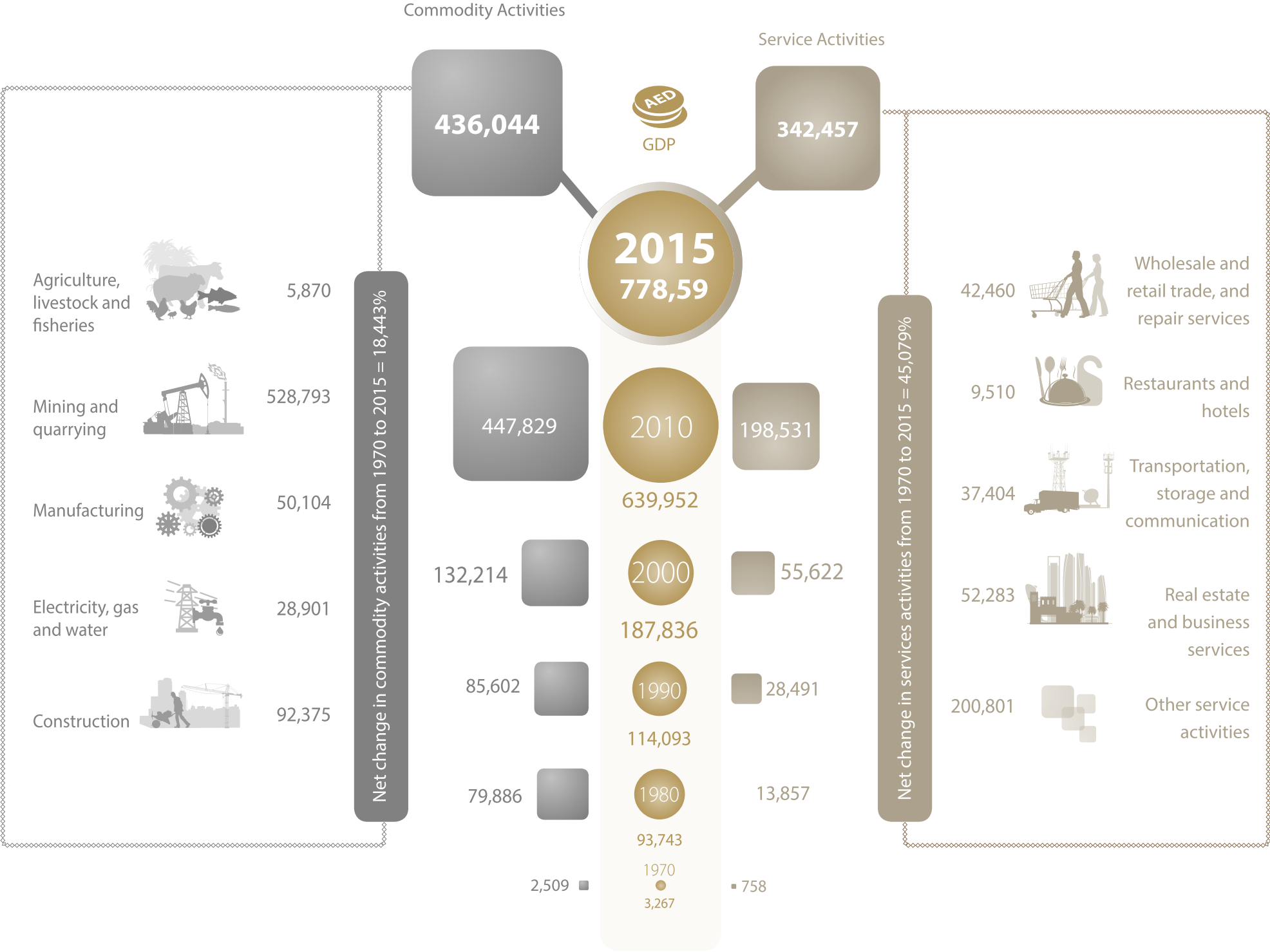
Development and economic reform in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi has been of crucial concern to the political leadership aiming to achieve progress and development and to catch-up with the advanced world. The development process took shape a short period after the ascension of the late sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan as the ruler of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, when the emirate announced its first five-year plan in the late 1960s.

As a result of this concern, development in the Emirate has advanced immensely, and the Abu Dhabi Emirate economy has developed to global comparability, being competitive with various economies regionally and globally. The local economy has achieved a leading position in all performance indicators, as well as a highly unique investment environment, the result of the wise policies of the senior leadership, which has contributed to creating an attractive environment for global investments, and is capable of attracting companies of all kinds from various parts of the world.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is one of the most important indicators of the economic performance of a country. GDP is the total value of all productive activities in an economy. Over the past years, the Emirate of Abu Dhabi has continuously contributed around 60% of the GDP of the United Arab Emirates, while its population constitute only 34% of the total UAE population according to the 2005 census.

Figure 2.1

Abu Dhabi GDP at Current Prices (AED million)



Diversifying the Economic Base:



In light of the extensive efforts exerted by the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in its development and in various aspects of the economy, non-oil sectors have emerged as an important part of the process of economic development and have played an important role in the structure of GDP. The contribution of the non-oil sectors to GDP at current prices has increased 446 times over the past four decades, rising from AED 1.1 billion in 1970 to 502.4 billion dirhams in 2015. Today these sectors constitute more than half of GDP.

Any reading of the economy of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi will confirm that it has made significant strides and has achieved a high degree of development and diversity in a short period and that it is moving from strength to strength under a wise leadership that benefits from past experience in its endeavour to achieve the best utilization of available opportunities. This is reflected in the economic progress of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi over the past years, within a context of initiating major projects that include practical vision and an accurate reading of prospects which, in turn, draw the country's economy to the attention of investors from various parts of the world and make it an important base for conducting major commercial deals.

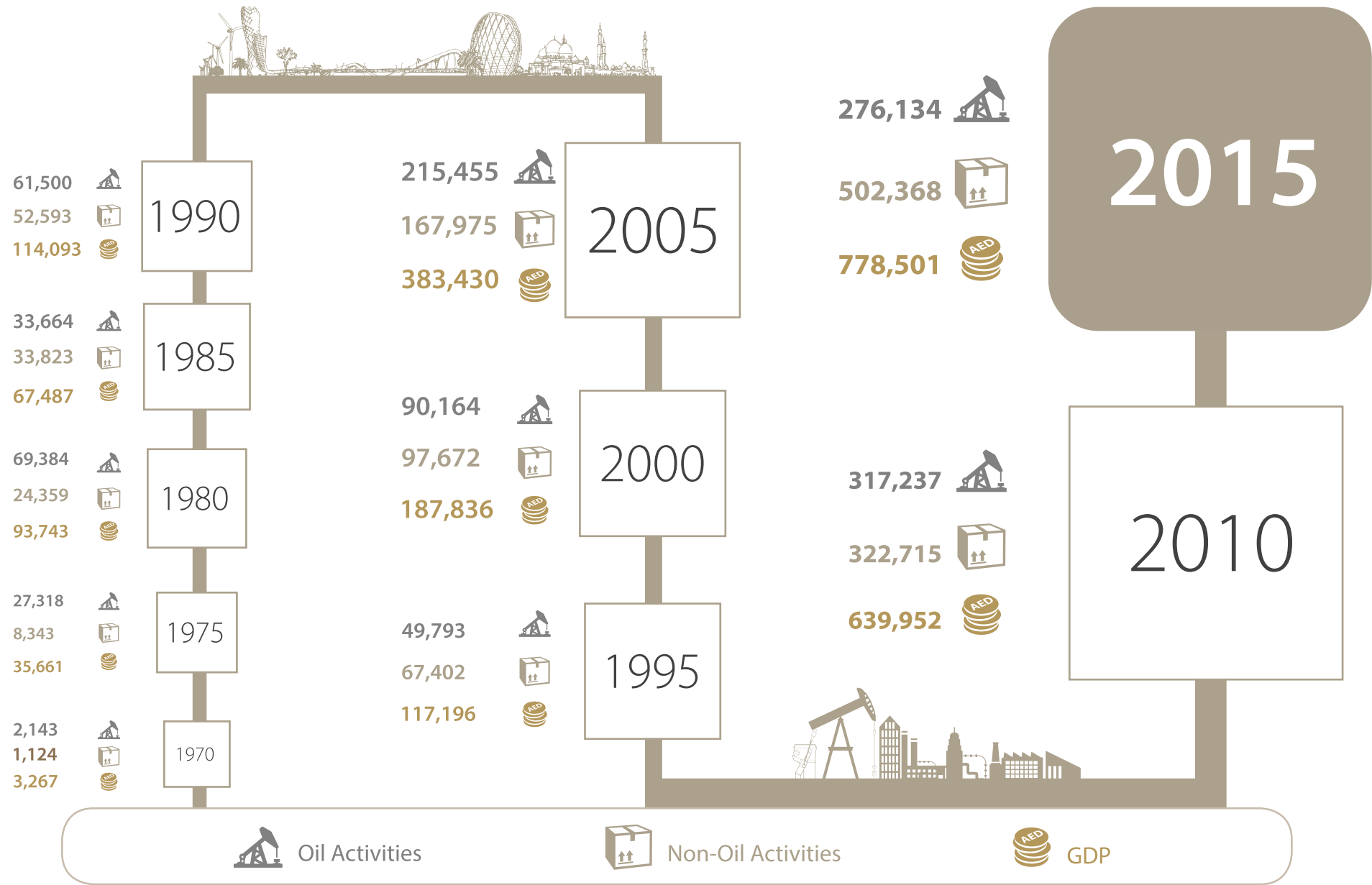
The Abu Dhabi economy has progressed strongly in recent years towards the establishment of a firm basis for itself, founded on economic diversity and comprehensive development. It has become the most dynamic economy in the region and the third biggest economy in the Arab world. Breaking through from an economy depending, for most of its activities, on public sector spending, which is directly affected by fluctuating oil revenue, to a diversified local economy that has become a financial, commercial and tourist centre in the region.

Parallel to this, the private sector has achieved similar success, and has numerous competitive advantages in the fields of production and exports, which will allow it to play a more effective future role in facing up to economic uncertainties, both regionally and internationally.

Thus, there is concern to support the private sector in the economic diversification process through continuing to create the right investment climate to strengthen the role of the private sector in the economic development process. There is also increasing interest in privatization programmes for government and public sector companies, which contributes to expanding the capacity and lightening the administrative and financial burdens on government entities, achieving optimal utilization of capabilities and financial resources.

Figure 2.2

Abu Dhabi GDP at Current Prices (AED million)



Per Capita GDP:



The economic performance over the past years tells the success story of Abu Dhabi in harnessing natural resources to serve a sustainable development process, in order to ensure that the people enjoy one of the highest living standards in the world, with per capita GDP increasing more than six times at current prices during the past five decades. GDP per capita has increased from AED 49 thousand in 1970 to AED 279.6 thousand in 2015, and the Emirate of Abu Dhabi today enjoys the second highest rate in the world. However, the economic success story is only one aspect of providing a decent living for citizens and expatriates, which would not have been possible without the progress that has been achieved in other areas of life.

“Development is a means, not an end in itself. It is a way to ensure human dignity, and provide living requirements, including food, housing, education, healthcare, social welfare, employment opportunities and production.»

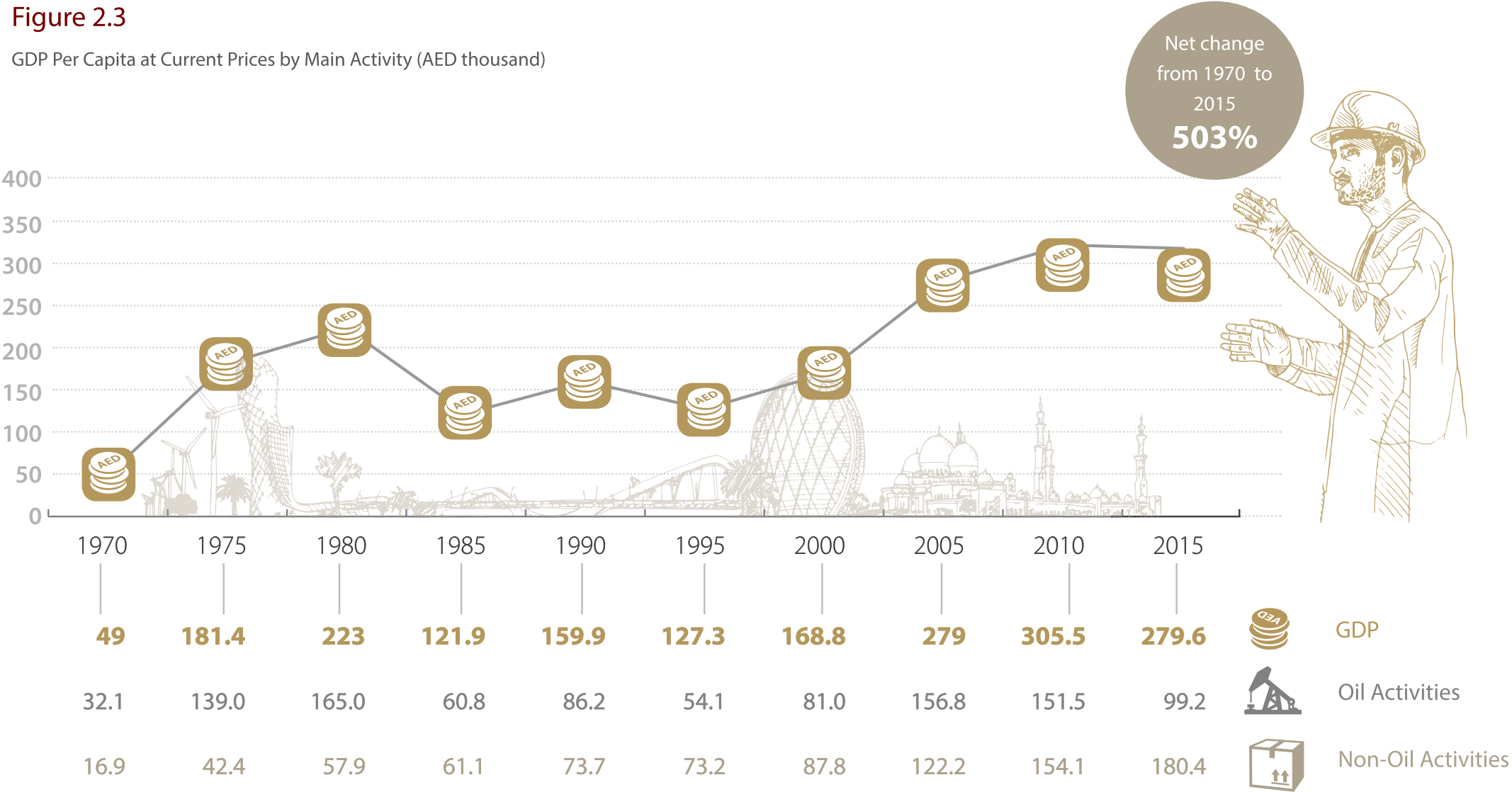
The late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan

Per capita GDP is GDP divided by the population at mid-year. The GDP is the sum of the total value added by all resident producers in the economy, plus any taxes on products. This is calculated without deducting the depreciation value of manufactured assets, or any deductions as a result of the depletion of natural resources.

Over the years, the various economic sectors in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi have witnessed continuous growth that has reflected directly in dramatic rise in the per capita GDP, reaching AED 279.6 thousand in 2015, the second highest in the world. This achievement can be attributed to the economic policies adopted by the Emirate which aim to diversify sources of income by diversifying the economic base. Non-oil sectors have now come to contribute the biggest share of this figure. The impressive economic growth experienced by the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in recent years has been characterized by the rapid growth of the non-oil economy, with the pace of moving away from dependence on oil in the economy being the fastest in the region.

Figure 2.3

GDP Per Capita at Current Prices by Main Activity (AED thousand)



Foreign Trade as a Percentage of GDP:



Foreign trade in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi has witnessed major changes in the past five decades, both geographically and structurally, increasing in size 150 times at current prices, from AED 2.362 billion in 1970 to AED 354.18 billion in 2015, while the volume of exports has increased about 117 times at current prices, from AED 2.009 billion in 1970 to AED 234.86 billion in 2015.

Foreign trade leads to optimal use and efficient allocation of economic resources by directing local labour and capital to the branches and activities of the economic sectors that have a comparative advantage and competitive capabilities. Foreign trade enables the Emirate of Abu Dhabi to obtain larger quantities of imports of goods and services, encourage and increase domestic and foreign investment, and apply modern techniques in the production of export goods, which leads in its entirety to the reinforcement of the economic base, and to a large and sustained increase in the growth rate.

Total foreign trade for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi has increased by 14,897%, from 2.362 billion in 1970 to 354.18 billion dirhams in 2015, while the value of exports has increased by 11,588%, at current prices from 2.009 billion to 234.856 billion dirhams, and the value of imports increased from AED 352 million in 1970 to AED 119.328 billion in 2015, an increase of 33,762% over the 45 year period.

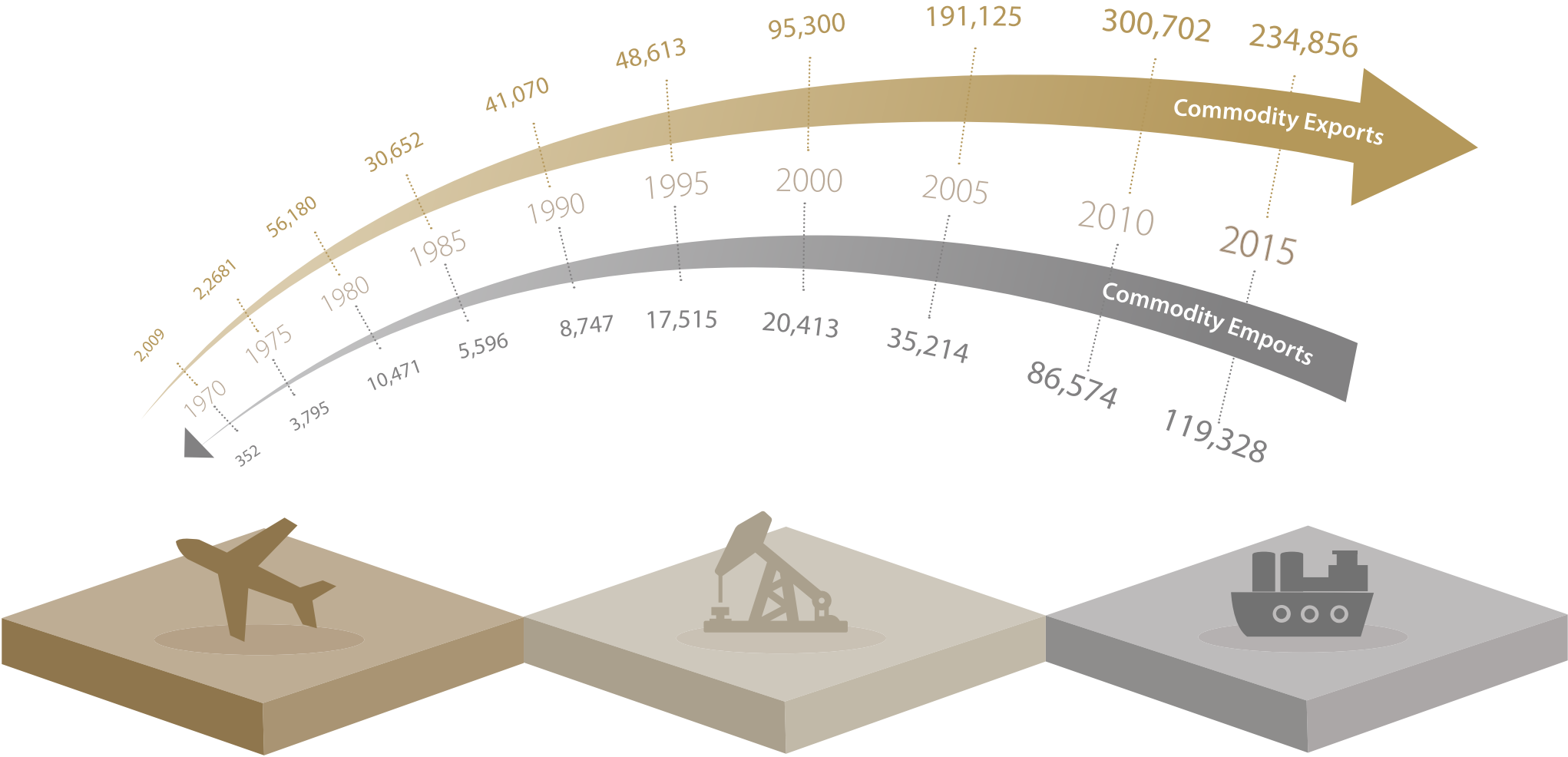
The data on foreign trade in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and its relative importance to GDP indicates trends in the Emirate to open up to the outside world, especially with the Emirate's trade balance, a key indicator of the financial standing, continuously in surplus. As a broad average over the past four decades, exports were equivalent to approximately 49.5% of GDP, while imports and the trade balance surplus represented 11.8% and 37.8% respectively of GDP.

The figure below shows the importance of foreign trade to the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. Foreign trade as a proportion of GDP ranged between 43.1% in 2015 and 76.5% in 1974.

These significant shares for foreign trade as a percentage of the GDP makes the Emirate of Abu Dhabi a model for export economies, where the level of economic activity depends on the situation prevalent in its export markets on the one hand, and on its imports on the other.

Figure 2.4

Commodity Exports and Imports at Current Prices (AED million)



*Preliminary estimates for 2015

Commodity Trade Balance Surplus:



The major transformations witnessed by the domestic economy had to reflect remarkably on foreign trade and the volume of exports and imports, which has achieved a surplus in the trade balance and record growth rates. It is impressive that the trade balance of Abu Dhabi has never had a trade deficit since the inception of trade dealings with foreign markets to date.

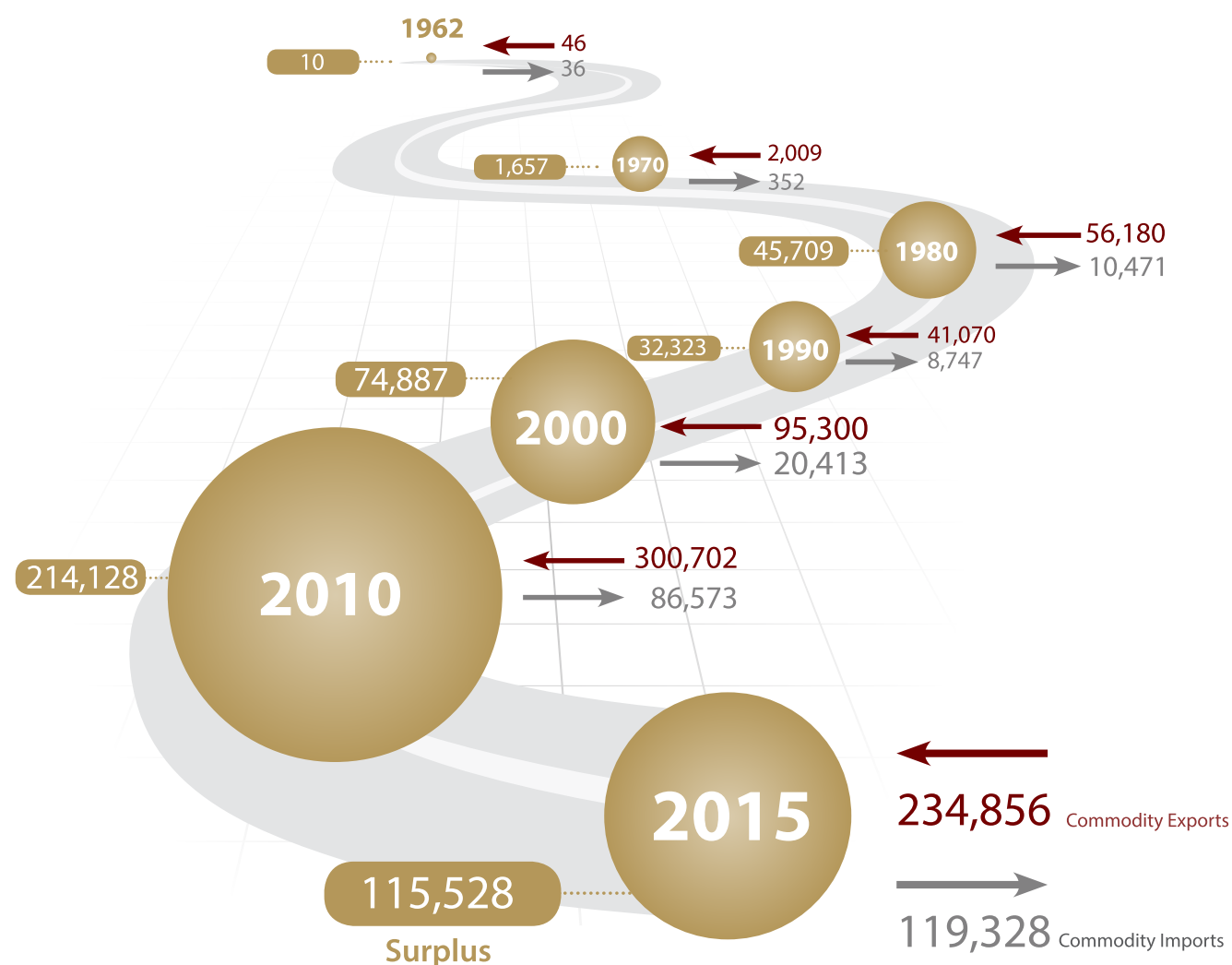
Foreign Trade in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi is a significant activity, as it plays a main role in balancing supply and demand through exchanging the surplus in local commodities (especially oil) for a basket of commodities needed by the Emirate. As the economy of Abu Dhabi has been characterized, for a long time, by a lack of diversity in its commodity production, where dependence was mainly on oil revenues, demand for foreign commodities is very diverse, as the Emirate depends on importing from overseas. Imports play an important role in the economy of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. These increasing imports reflect the continued improvements of the economic and demographic conditions in the Emirate, and the efforts made towards a comprehensive development. A manifest of the development is the rapid growth in the rates of imports of consumer goods and capital goods/production inputs, needed by the various economic sectors for the development processes.

One of the important characteristics of the commodity trade balance of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in the period from 1965 to 2015 was the existence of a large surplus. Even during periods that had a drop in the price, production and export of crude oil, the total exports of the Emirate was close to five times its imports. The trade surplus also constituted an average of 62% of total foreign trade in commodities. This surplus has contributed to strengthening the position and stability of the balance of payments, as well as financing the deficit in services. There is no doubt that such a large surplus in the trade balance is considered one of the main strengths of the local economy in meeting the requirements of development.

The Emirate of Abu Dhabi continued to be open to the global economy and to increase foreign trade by increasing the degree of interdependence. The average annual growth rate of commodity exports during the period from 1970 to 2015 was about 18%, compared with an average annual growth rate of commodity imports during the same period at about 16%, resulting in a surplus in the balance of trade that increased at an average annual growth rate of 20.6% over the same period.

Figure 2.5

Commodity Trade Balance Surplus for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi (AED million at current prices)



*Preliminary estimates for 2015

Oil:

In July 1962, the world oil markets received the first shipment of crude oil from Abu Dhabi, and from that date forward, the oil sector has remained the essential foundation upon which the Emirate's economic and social development projects are based, although the proportion of this sector's contribution to GDP has been declining gradually from almost 70% during the first half of the 1970s to less than 50% during the last two years, reflecting the policy of economic diversification pursued by the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.



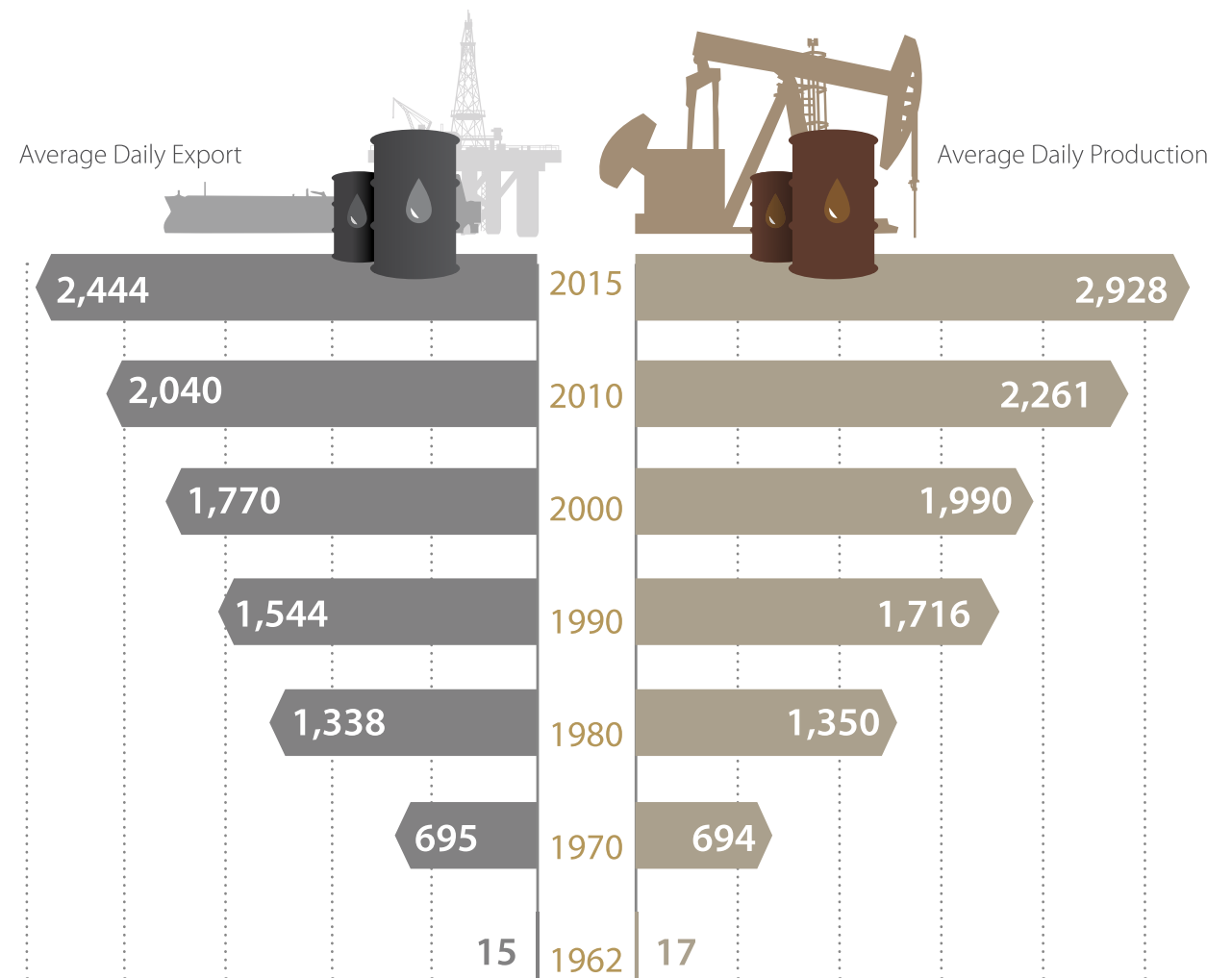
The first attempt at oil exploration in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi took place on January 11th, 1939, shortly before the events leading up to World War II and exploration slowed down during the war years. Exploration in the Emirate resumed in 1947, yet all the tests conducted affirmed that there was no economic feasibility due to the high cost of drilling and low price of oil at that time. This situation lasted until 1959, when oil was discovered in commercial quantities in the Marban field.

The first ship carrying oil sailed from Das Island in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in late July 1962, representing the beginning of the major, comprehensive and continuous development witnessed by the Emirate from that point onwards. During the past five decades, economic performance in the Emirate has continued to directly reflect developments in the crude oil sector, not only because oil sales constitute the main source of national income, but also because oil is the main catalyst in non-oil sectors, through what is spent by the Emirate to support them.

Since then, the oil sector in the Emirate has continued to the mainstay the local economy and the main source of national income, and will continue to do so for many years to come, given that Abu Dhabi is sixth in the world in terms of the global reserves, with reserves estimated currently at around 92 billion barrels, equivalent to 7% of the total confirmed global reserves, while its current production constitutes more than 8% of total OPEC production. Thus the Emirate of Abu Dhabi could continue its oil production for more than 100 years from now at current rates. Despite all this, the most important role in the course of development is not the oil itself, but the wise leadership that has managed and utilized the oil for the benefit and welfare of the people.

Figure 2.6

Daily Average of Oil Production and Export in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi



Commodity Trade Balance Surplus:

Abu Dhabi has about 212 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, making it seventh in size globally in terms of confirmed reserves. Khuff natural gas reservoirs beneath the Umm Shaif and Abu Al Bukhush oil fields are among the largest gas reserves in the world. Abu Dhabi produces about 4,847 million cubic feet of natural gas daily, most of which is used in domestic consumption.

Natural gas is of no less importance than oil as a source of energy and a primary material/feedstock in many industries. Production of natural gas from the main fields in Abu Dhabi has increased significantly. The Emirate of Abu Dhabi produces gas from all of its onshore and offshore oil fields, and a number of gas companies in Abu Dhabi process it.

Natural gas is hydrocarbon material in its gaseous form, while oil represents its liquid form and they are both often found in the same place. Natural gas may also be present in areas independent of oil fields: so-called non-associated gas. In order to benefit from this natural resource, a number of gas processing projects have been implemented in Das Island and Al Ruwais. Natural gas is currently used in two forms: some is liquefied and exported, and some is directed towards the petrochemical industries, through which gas is transformed into dry ammonia and then to urea to be used as fertilizer. The effects of the exploitation of this wealth on the local economy were visible, as well as domestic uses of this wealth as energy and raw material for many industries.

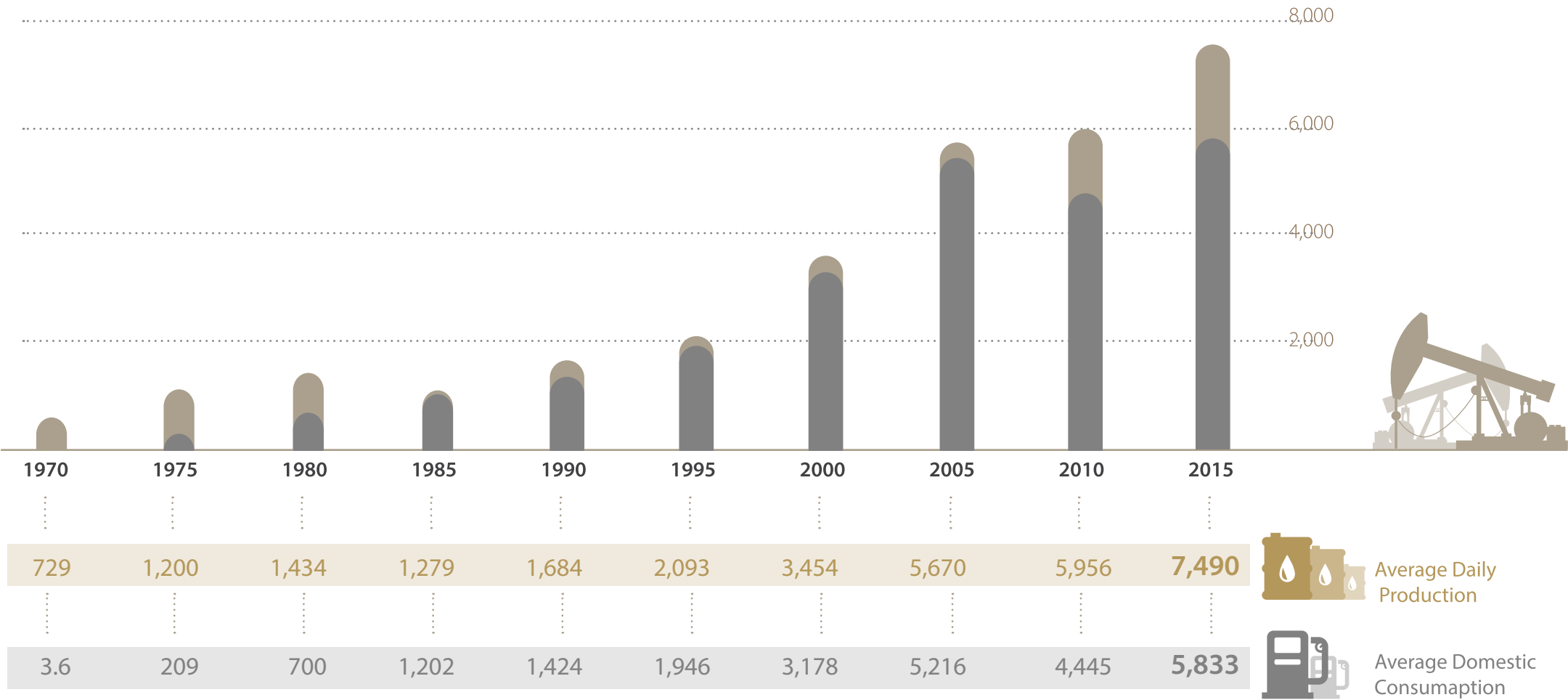


Increasing local consumption for the purposes of generating electricity, as well as for the growing petrochemical industry has encouraged increased production, such that local consumption has constituted 90% of the total production in the last decade, compared to only 16% in the 1970s.

The development of natural gas fields has also led to increased production and export of condensates, which do not fall under the OPEC quota, a significant matter taking into account that gas exports constitute a more stable source of income compared to oil, as the quantity is fixed on the basis of a contractual period, and its price is less volatile.

Figure 2.7

Daily average of Natural gas production in the emirate of Abu Dhabi



Manufacturing Industry:



The industrial sector in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi has witnessed major growth represented in the increasing number of industrial establishments and the expansion of their investments into various fields. In addition, the Emirate entered into major industrial joint ventures with several multinationals, established large-scale state-of-the-art industrial zones to attract more investments to the industrial sector, and the value added by this sector has increased from 10.4 million in 1970 to 52.6 billion dirhams in 2015, while the volume of fixed investment has increased from 8.6 million to 12.9 billion dirhams during the same period. These investments have contributed to the manufacturing sector playing an increasingly crucial role in the productivity, diversification and development of the economic and productive base, and as a source of income.

The manufacturing industry is one of the strategically important economic activities in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. The long-term economic development plan pays special attention to the development of the various aspects of the industrial sector, while exerting maximum care for the oil sector specifically, as a prominent contributor to the value of the GDP of the Emirate. The last years witnessed the execution by the competent bodies of programs pertaining to major expansion in industrial activity through establishing several developed industries in various industrial activities.

The Emirate of Abu Dhabi has been able to establish a solid foundation for major industrial expansion, thus increasing the contribution of this vital sector in the Emirate's economy, especially given the serious commitment of the state leadership to support and encourage these sectors.

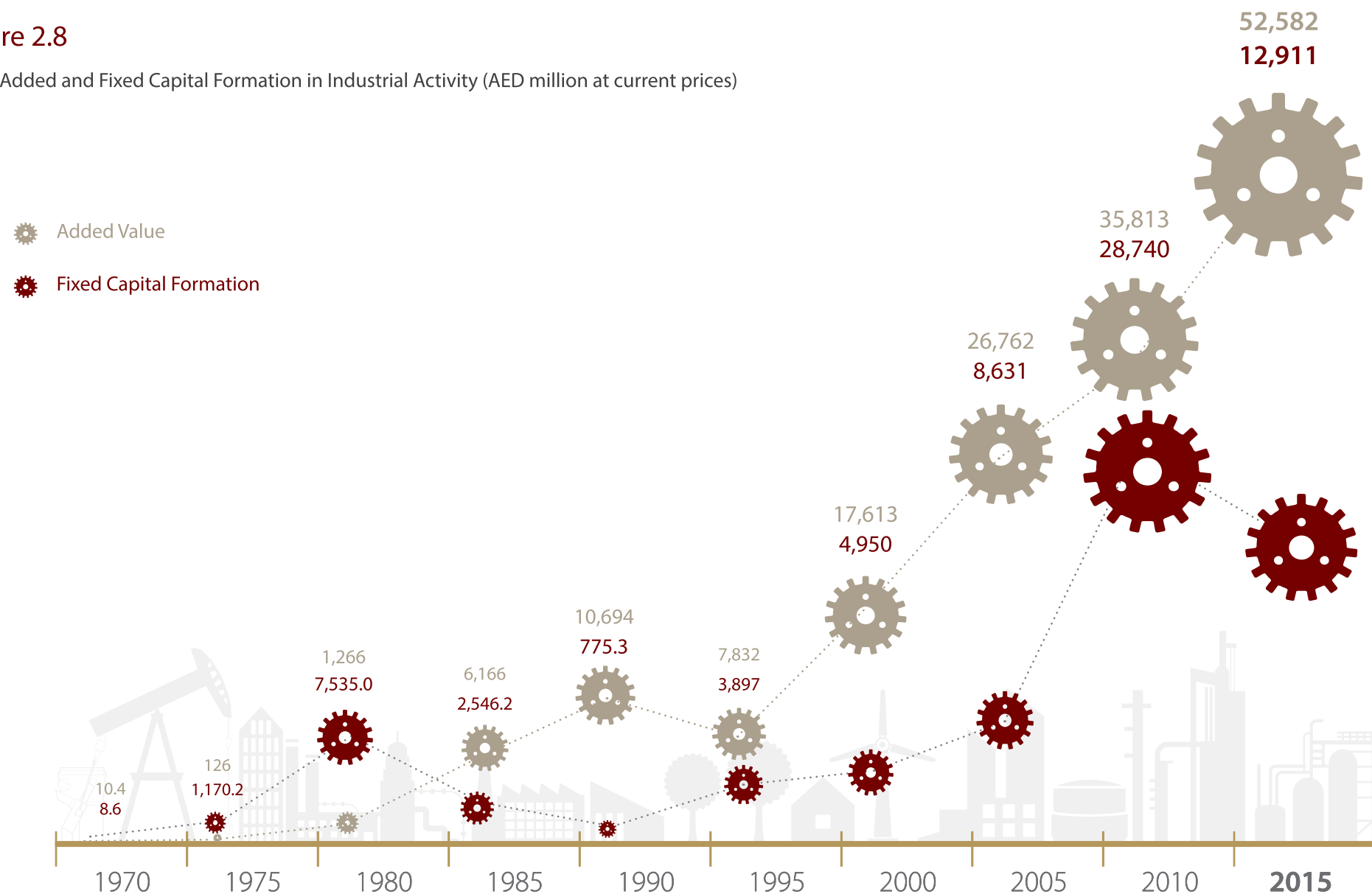
This is achieved through legislation supportive of industrial development, in addition to the increasing interest in the quality of industrial products. The aluminium, iron, steel, glass, metals, plastic and petrochemical industries are only some of the heavy industries capable of driving growth in the industrial sector.

Industry plays an important role in the economic structure of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi as one of the main themes on which most of the other branches of production are based. It is also one of the most important sources of diversification of the emirate's income by virtue of the multiplicity of its areas of activities and its capacity to accommodate natural and human resources. Therefore, the tendency to establish a well-developed industrial base tops the list of priorities of the development plans and programs.

Thanks to the arduous efforts made in previous years to develop and improve the manufacturing sector as the backbone of the plan to diversify the economy, the manufacturing industries constituted about 6.8% of GDP, and 10.9% of the non-oil GDP in 2015. While the value added by this sector leapt from AED 10.4 million in 1970 to AED 54.6 billion in 2015, with an average annual growth rate of 79% during that period. The industrial sector also experienced a giant leap in the rate of growth of industrial establishments during that period, with the volume of fixed investments in the manufacturing activity increasing from AED 8.6 million in 1970 to AED 12.9 billion in 2015.

Figure 2.8

Value Added and Fixed Capital Formation in Industrial Activity (AED million at current prices)



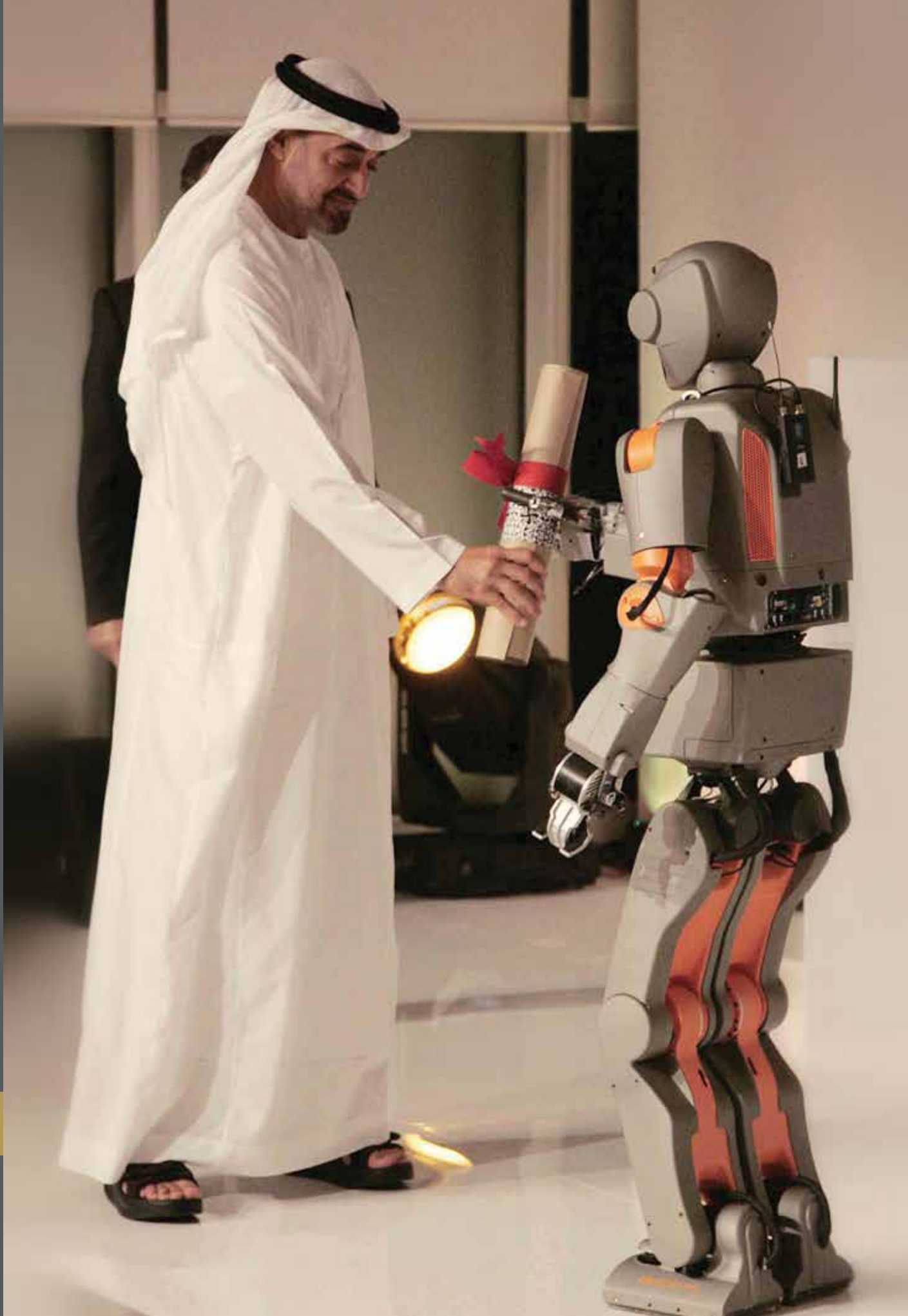
Investment:

In recent years, the Emirate of Abu Dhabi has pursued an investment plan that has made it a destination for major international companies, given that government policies have operated in harmony with private sector efforts. During the past four decades the number of trade licenses has increased about 43 times from 1,947 in 1970 to 84,620 in 2015. These licenses have also seen a similar qualitative development during this period.

Investment is highly important to drive the economy, achieve sustainable development and increase production capacity. In the course of the past five decades, the Emirate of Abu Dhabi has developed several plans and programs to encourage investment in various fields, including the exploitation of emirate's resources, and the establishment of the infrastructure necessary to facilitate economic activity. This focus on development encourage businessmen and financiers to enter into fields of investment that contribute to development, diversification, production quality enhancement and global competitiveness.

Within this framework, a number of important initiatives have been launched, focusing on economic development and supporting local and foreign private investment.

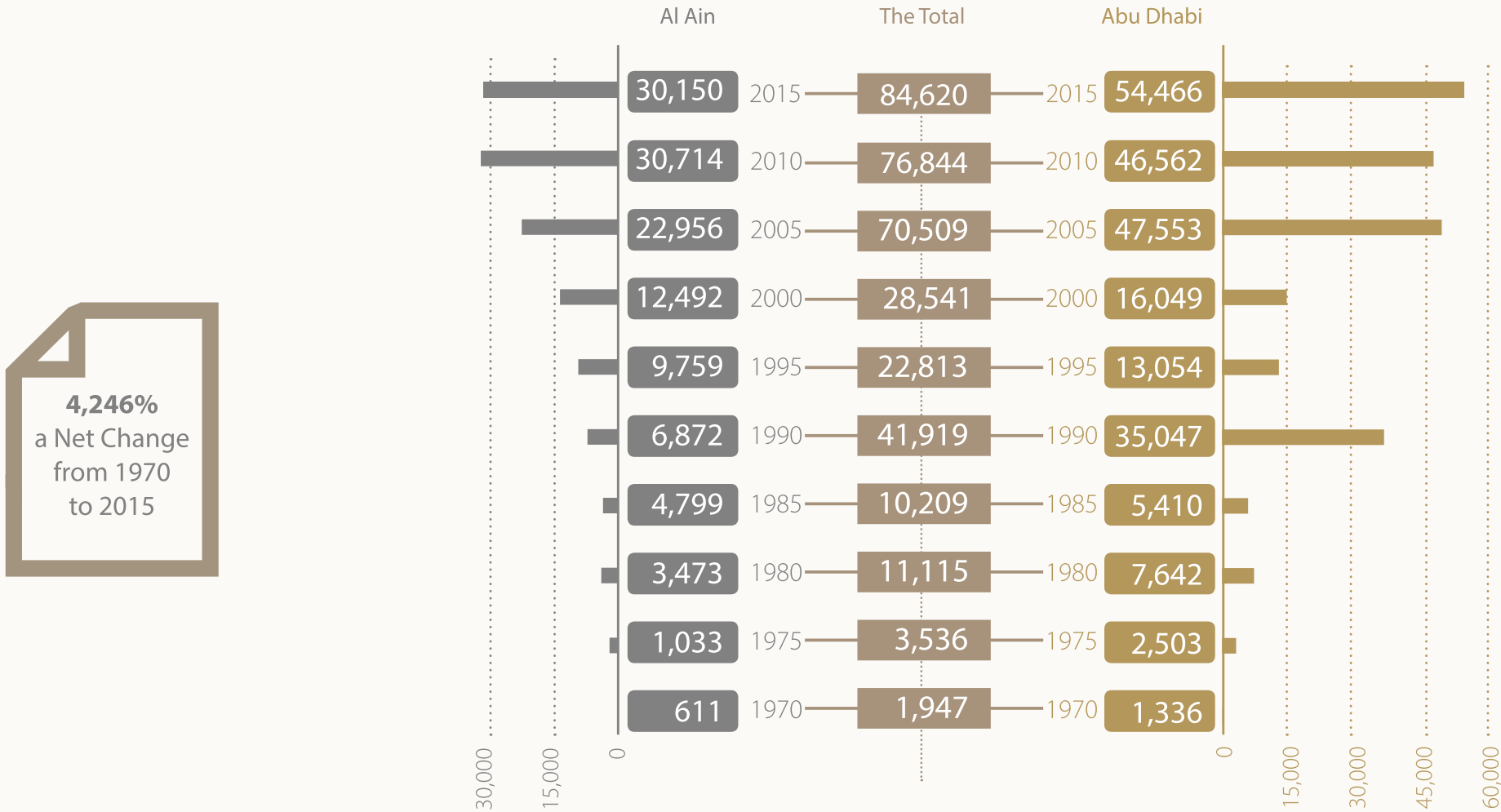
The most important features of the Abu Dhabi Vision 2030 consist in enhancing economic performance through the optimal utilization of the financial resources available to achieve structural balance and diversity in the local economy, increasing production, developing services and their quality, improving performance in institutional, legal and executive bodies regulating the economy to support openness and transparency, encouraging the private sector, enabling it to participate in all economic activities, and the encouragement of partnerships between the local and foreign private sectors.



The effect of all these developments is evident in the increase in the number of trade licenses registered, which increased during the past four decades from 1,947 in 1970 to 96,381 in 2015. Trade licenses have also seen a similar qualitative development during this period.

Figure 2.9

The Number of Registered Commercial Licenses by Area





Continued..Investment:

The Emirate of Abu Dhabi has adopted a number of plans over the past years that have incorporated a growing role for local and foreign investment in development projects of all sizes and types. This is reflected directly in the size of fixed investments at current prices, which have multiplied 314 times, from AED 565 million in 1970 to AED 177.4 billion in 2015.

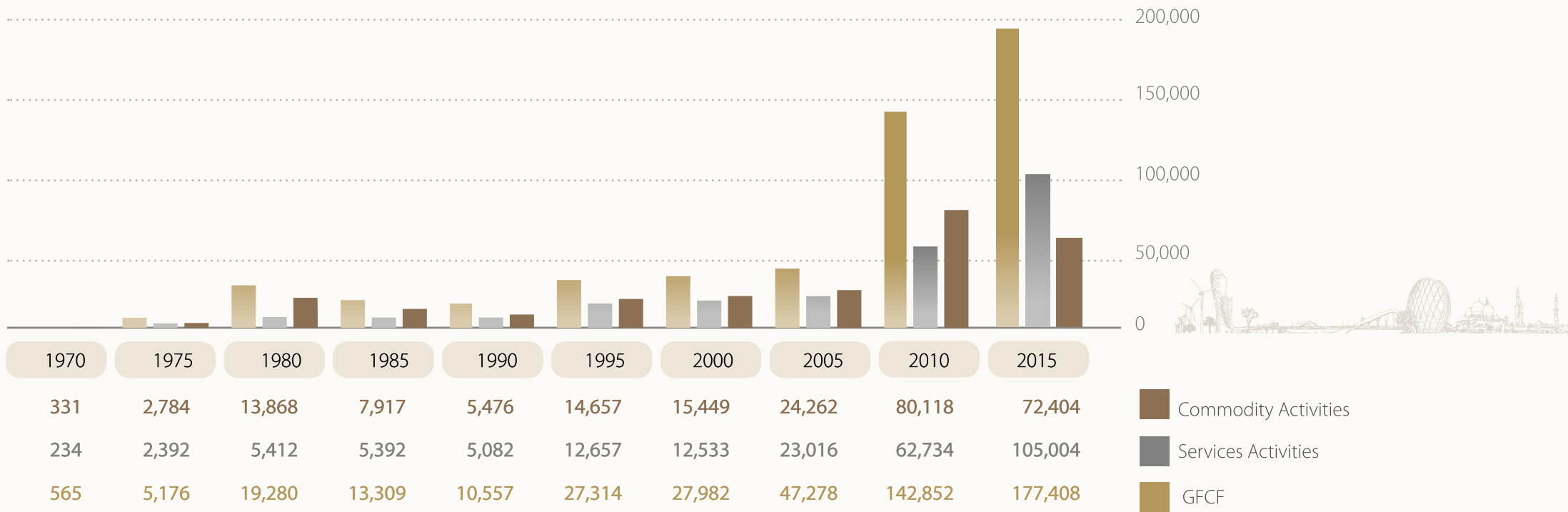
Economic development in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi is characterized by huge investment in commercial and service activities, bringing about a diversification of emirate's income sources and establishing a productive base. The size of fixed investments has increased from 565 million in 1970 to 177.4 billion dirhams in 2015, with the share of commodity activities reaching 40.8% of these investments and the share of the service sector 59.2%.

The Government of Abu Dhabi has succeeded in expanding the participation of the public sector in productive development, providing services that contribute to the growth of the economic activity, encouraging the private sector by providing vital support. Also, the plans recently adopted by the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, especially Abu Dhabi Vision 2030, include an increasing role for local and foreign investment in future development in projects of various sizes and types.

There are many factors that make the investment climate in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi an ideal one, including: the strategic geographical location; modern infrastructure; well-qualified Labour; several bilateral, regional, and international agreements that facilitate the flow of capital and goods between Abu Dhabi and those countries; free zones and industrial cities encouraging foreign and local investment; very low taxes; cheap sources of energy, with oil as the main engine for economic growth; optimal utilization of financial surpluses resulting from oil sales; a modern network of financial establishments necessary to facilitate capital flows and serve national and foreign investors.

Figure 2.10

Fixed Capital Formation by Economic Activity (AED million at current prices)



Developments in Prices:

In the past four decades, Abu Dhabi has witnessed relative stability in prices, during which time the average rates of inflation did not exceed 5%. Inflation rate reached its highest level in 2008, at 14.9%, but bounced back to its lowest level ever in the following year when it reached 0.8%, as one of the favourable outcomes of the global financial crisis.

“The State’s development strategy adopted the principle of balance and activation of all available potential, without exception. Most importantly, this strategy took upon itself to keep up with the evolution and transformation movement known to the world economy and the associated challenges”

His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

In general, the reasons for high prices in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi are increased costs of production and rising demand for goods and services at a rate that exceeds supply, and that, in practice, the UAE dirham is pegged to the US dollar most of the time, interest rate policy, and rise in the prices of imported goods.

The government of Abu Dhabi has continued to monitor consumer prices and inflation rates on an annual basis since 1977, while the Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi began the compilation and publication of these indicators on a monthly basis in 2008.

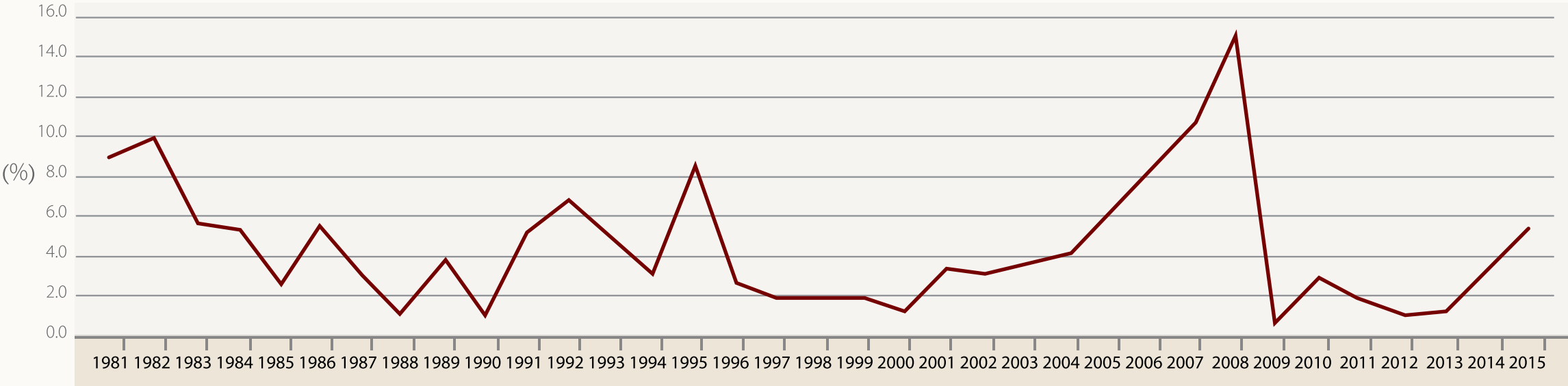


As shown in the figure below, the Emirate of Abu Dhabi has experienced relative stability in prices over the past three decades, punctuated by jumps in inflation rates in a few years, particularly the early eighties due to the first Gulf War, and in 2007 and 2008 when the strong economic growth in the Emirate led to an accompanying rise in domestic demand for goods and services, and increased government spending.

Such price rises are an inevitable phenomenon in fast-growing economies when supply fails to keep up with demand, especially with respect to the real estate sector in which leases accounted for the largest source of increase in prices during these two years, leading to increased costs to businesses across all economic sectors.

Figure 2.11

Annual Inflation Rates in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi



Transportation:

Land, air and sea transportation in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi has experienced remarkable development in the last four decades, with an increase in the length of paved roads from 591 km in 1975 to 29,696 km in 2015, the number of licensed vehicles from 49,104 vehicles to 739,850 vehicles, and the size of passenger traffic at the Abu Dhabi International Airport from 44.2 thousand to 23.29 million passengers, while the number of commercial vessels docking at the Zayed Port increased from 763 to 41,645 vessels during the same period.

In the course of the past four decades, Abu Dhabi has been able to establish a solid infrastructure of communications networks, transportation, roads, bridges, tunnels, airports, ports and other infrastructure projects that match those of the developed nations. The Emirate of Abu Dhabi is also well-provided for in motorways linking the different regions of the Emirate, and other advanced means of transport that help effectively to create the temporal and spatial points for commodities and services. Thus, transport plays a major role in development and constitutes the key element in the economic infrastructure.

Therefore, the Emirate of Abu Dhabi pays particular attention to roads, considering them the arteries that feed all parts of the Emirate with their needs of goods and services, and stimulate production and trade. Roads are the arteries of modern life, and the progress of nations is measured by the state of their networks of roads. An obvious consequence of the social and economic development in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi is for the transportation sector to develop rapidly and progressively, in order to facilitate transport between all parts of the emirate and to provide links to neighbouring countries.

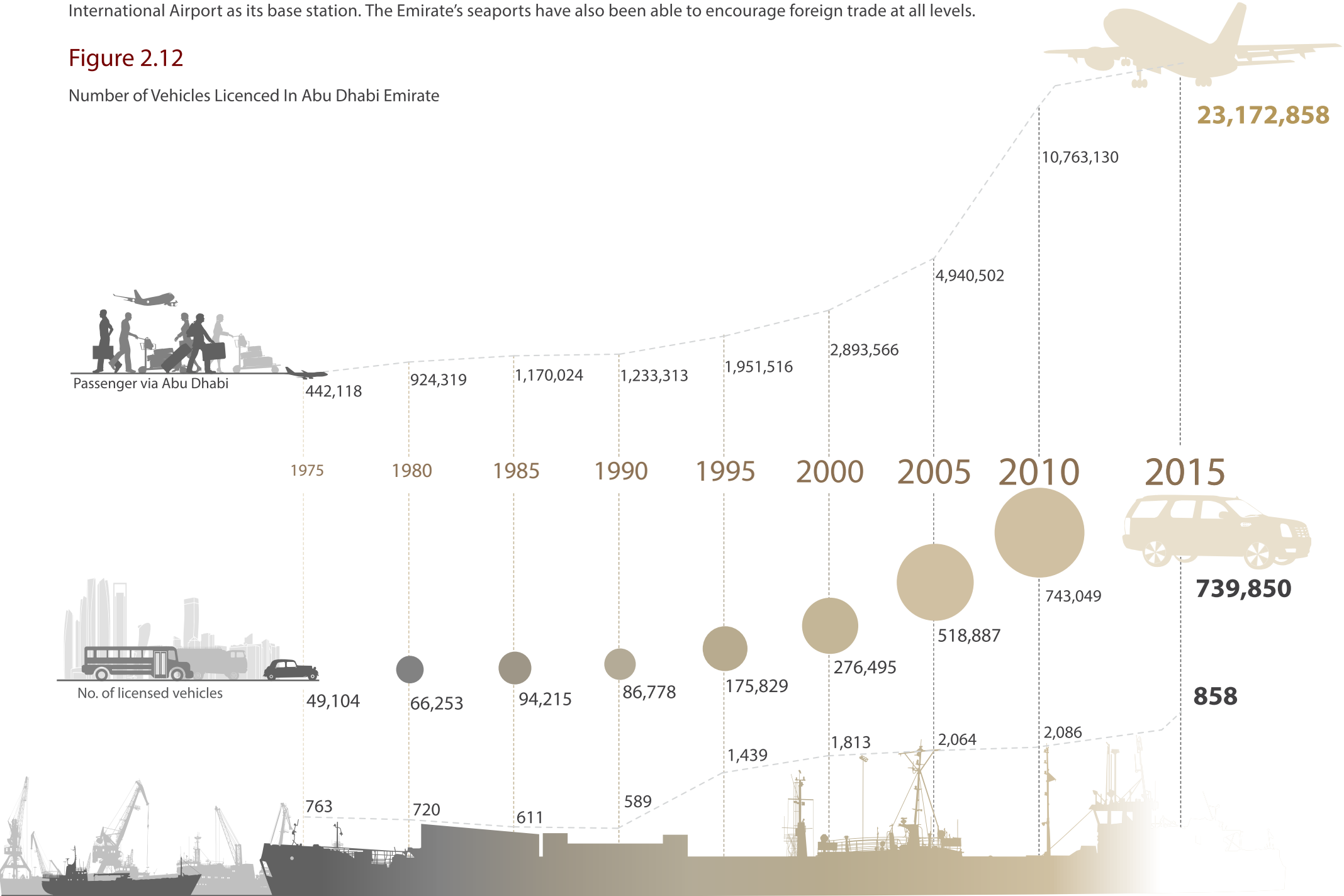


The Emirate has focused on linking cities together through a network of modern roads with multiple lanes in addition to a network of roads within the major cities and villages all over the Emirate. The Emirate has developed plans to establish a distinctive overland network (including railways). These projects are currently in progress. As for sea ports, there is Zayed Port, which is equipped with the latest installations and advanced facilities for the reception of large vessels ships, as well as Khalifa Port, which is a major milestone in the development of infrastructure in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

In the field of air transport, the airports in the Emirate have managed to considerably expand air traffic, with more than 35 international airlines now operating regular flights to over 150 destinations worldwide at Abu Dhabi International Airport. Etihad is the national carrier of the United Arab Emirates. The airline operates regular flights from Abu Dhabi International Airport as its base station. The Emirate’s seaports have also been able to encourage foreign trade at all levels.

Figure 2.12

Number of Vehicles Licenced In Abu Dhabi Emirate



Movement of commercial vessels in Zayed Port

Tourism:

The Emirate of Abu Dhabi has a prominent and distinctive place as an international tourist destination. The tourism sector in the Emirate has witnessed considerable qualitative development over the past few years. This industry is now highly competitive and refined and realizes increasing levels of return, especially since the establishment of Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority in 2004, which has come to play a key role in promoting Abu Dhabi's tourism, developing infrastructure and upgrading the tourist products on offer in the Emirate.

It is evident that the Emirate of Abu Dhabi is moving towards having the development of the tourism sector as one of the key drivers of economic development, within the framework of the Emirate's integrated plan to diversify the economic base through a strategic vision aimed at promoting the growth of tourism activity and increase its contribution to GDP. At the present time, the emirate has an unprecedented boom in the number of hotels, recreational parks, entertainment venues, shopping malls, residential complexes and luxury waterfront housing, sport and entertainment facilities, art galleries and museums.

In the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, we are witnessing a broad and highly significant tourist boom that aims to put the Emirate on the world map, given the importance of this sector in supporting and diversifying the economy, driving growth, and boosting development in other activities. The signs of this tourism boom have started to become manifest, with the emergence of several tourism projects launched by the Abu Dhabi Government.

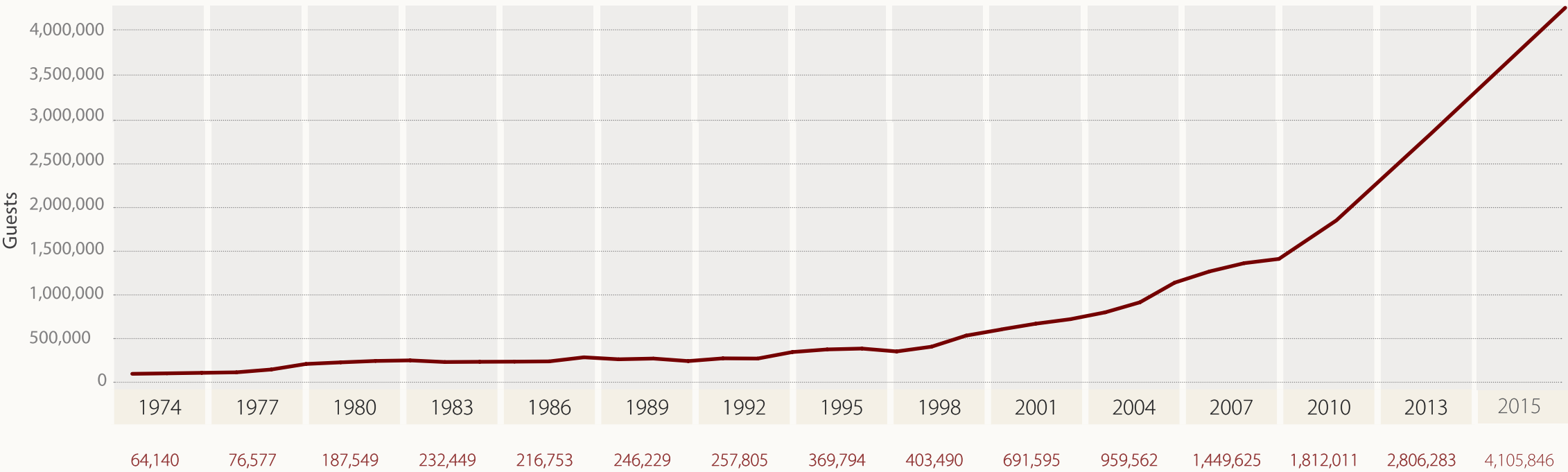


These make the most of many aspects of the Emirate, such as the beautiful scenery along 400 km of pristine coastline, 200 natural islands, warm and clean seas rich in marine life, ancient oases, vast deserts, deep rooted traditions that still retain their originality and authenticity, and a capital characterized by its globally-renowned architectural character.

The extensive efforts made by the Emirate of Abu Dhabi to diversify its economy have contributed to the growing importance of the tourism sector. That sector accounted for 2.1% of GDP of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and 6.5% of the non-oil GDP in 2015. As the chart below depicts, the number of hotel establishments increased from only 10 in 1975 to 168 in 2015, while the number of hotel rooms advanced from 181 to 29,760, and the number of guests from 64,000 to 4.1 million during the same period.

Figure 2.13

Guests for Hotel Establishments in Abu Dhabi







Social Developments

Human Development:



The real wealth of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi is the UAE citizen, who contributes actively in the process of economic and social development through hard work, and who is committed to the rights and duties of citizenship. Over the past years, attention to social and human development has remained at the forefront of the priorities of the government, which is reflected directly in the development of the education, health, housing, infrastructure, and social welfare sectors, as well as the other requirements for the well-being and welfare of all members of society.

“We want learning; we want culture, and we want the experience that we need from everywhere to help us realize progress for our country.”

The late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may God rest his soul!

One of the most important reasons for the success of comprehensive development in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi over the past decades is the focus on people, above all else, as the means and beneficiaries of development. Thus development is predominantly dedicated to issues of human development, and has managed, through concerted effort in these fields to achieve qualitative leaps forward, the likes of which can rarely be found anywhere in the world in the fields of education, health, and other fields of human and social development, in addition to the major achievements at the level of infrastructure.

Throughout the Emirate, literacy rates have increased, infant mortality rates have fallen and life expectancy has risen. The development effort in Abu Dhabi has gone beyond meeting the basic needs of the individual to steadily and qualitatively promoting education, healthcare, social protection, employment, and expanding the frameworks of development.

The Emirate of Abu Dhabi is seen as one of the countries in the region which pays the most attention to social welfare through the provision of various public services to maintain an advanced level of social and economic stability. This includes infrastructure and municipal services, as well as educational and health services at the highest international standards.

Here we can point to some brief statistics on human development over the past four decades from 1970 to 2015, that place the Emirate of Abu Dhabi strides ahead of other countries of the region:

- Illiteracy rate among UAE citizens (10 years and more) fell from 80.1% in 1970 to 5% in 2015.
- Illiteracy rate among female UAE citizens (10 years or more) fell from 89.9% in 1970 to 7.3% in 2015.
- The number of students doubled more than 50 times, from 6,972 students in 1969/1970 to 351,501 students in 2014/15.
- The number of schools grew more than 17 times, from 25 schools in 1969/1970 to 444 schools in 2014/15.
- Decrease in crude death rates (per thousand population) from 4.5 in 1975 to 1.1 only in 2015.
- Per capita GDP at current prices increased from AED 49 thousand in 1970 to AED 279.6 thousand in 2015, the second highest in the world.

Education:



In the past five decades, the development of education in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi has undergone major quantitative and qualitative leaps forward. More than 351 thousand students at various stages of education enrolled in public and private schools in the academic year 2014/2015, of whom 127.7 thousand students were in 256 public schools, and 223.8 thousand students in 188 private schools. The total number of students in the academic year 1960/1961 was only 81 students, all males, in 3 public schools. The education of females began in 1963/1964, while private schools emerged in 1973/1974.

“We must acquire modern sciences and vast knowledge and seek them enthusiastically and eagerly on the way to all areas of work, so that UAE can achieve a broad cultural leap during the third millennium.”

His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

81 Students



1960/61

3 Public School

351.5 Students



2014/15

256 Public School

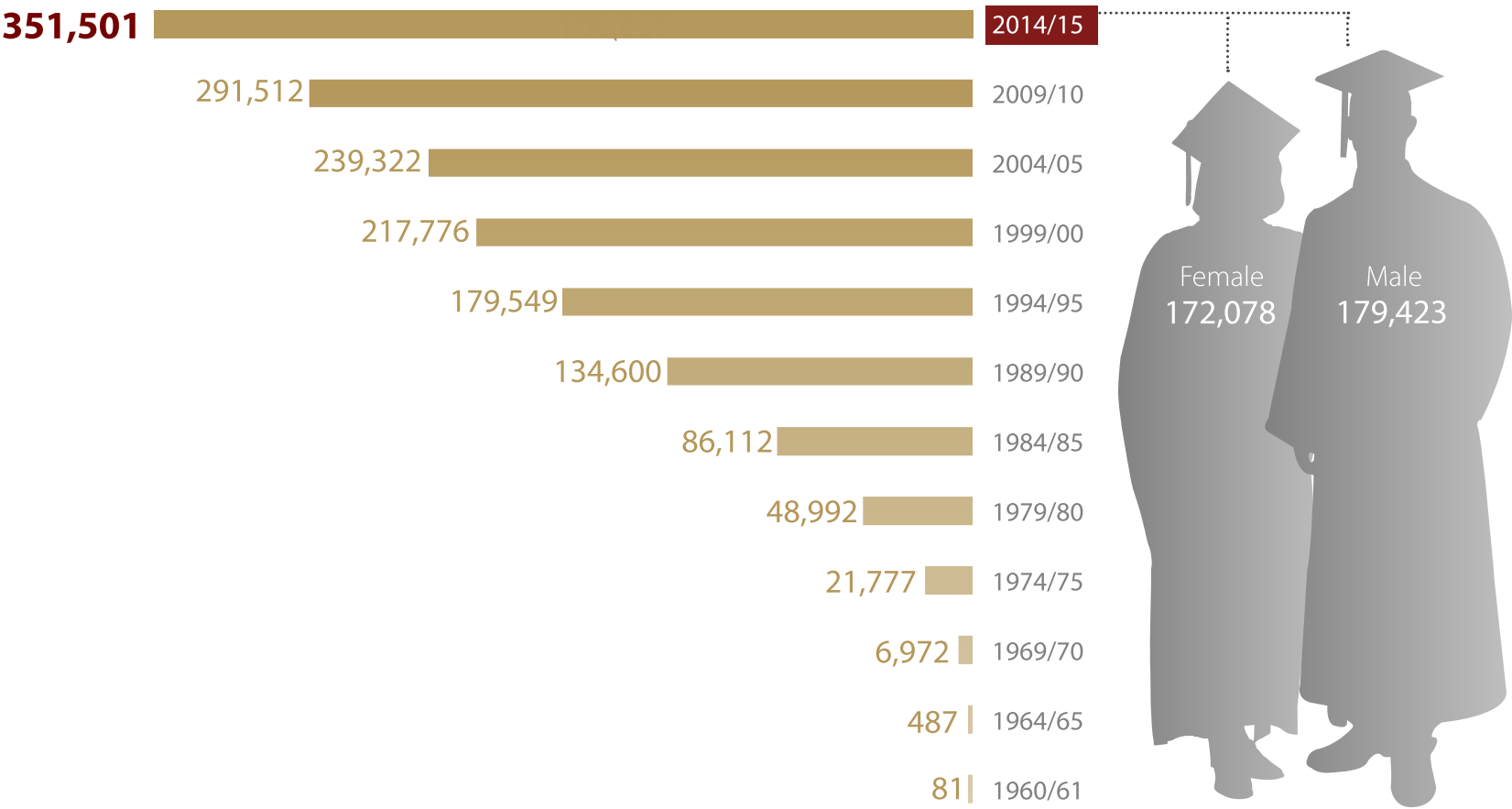
188 Private School

Traditional education in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi dates back centuries to ancient civilizations, the evidence of which has been found in several historical sites. In later years, different methods of traditional education emerged, including Quranic schools and classes taught by religious scholars, followed by a semi-formal education system. The first school in Abu Dhabi was built in 1930.

Formal education began effectively in the academic year 1960/1961, when three schools were opened and 81 male students enrolled in them and were taught by 6 teachers. The first girls' school was opened in the Emirate in 1963/64, while the first kindergarten was opened in 1968.

Figure 3.1

The Number of Pupils in Public Education in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi



When Sheikh Zayed - may God rest his soul - took over the reins of power in 1966, he accorded great importance to education, which experienced major quantitative and qualitative leaps forward, covering all parts of the Emirate in a short period of time, and offering both males and females free education in government schools. Private education came about in 1973/74 to complement the efforts of the public sector and provide education for more than 63% of students in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi by 2015.

continued .. Education:

The Emirate of Abu Dhabi has paid great attention to the educational sector, based on its belief that the prosperity and progress of nations depends on scientific advancement. It has exerted serious efforts to develop plans and strategies in order to achieve future aspirations. During the past five decades, the Emirate of Abu Dhabi has been able to achieve a major quantitative and qualitative transformation in provision of public education, adult literacy, and the development of vocational training as a means to sustainable human development. This reduced the illiteracy rate among the population of UAE citizens (10 years or more) from 90.13% in 1968 to 5% in 2015, while the rate of illiteracy among female UAE citizens (10 years and over) decreased from 97.4% to 7.3% during the same period.



“The education sector is the life-blood of sustainable development and the optimal road towards progress and glory of states and peoples.”

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

The highest level of government realized early that human skills and intellectual capital are vital elements in strengthening the productive and competitive capabilities of nations, and are vital components in the future of the economy and keys to its successful growth. Abu Dhabi set out immediately on this course, the contours of which were drawn up by the first educator of the Emirates, His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may God rest his soul.

This awareness of the value of people formed a basis for comprehensive development plans and programs, something which is still leading the process of development. The Emirate of Abu Dhabi regards the individual citizen as its true capital and most important means to achieving comprehensive and sustainable development.

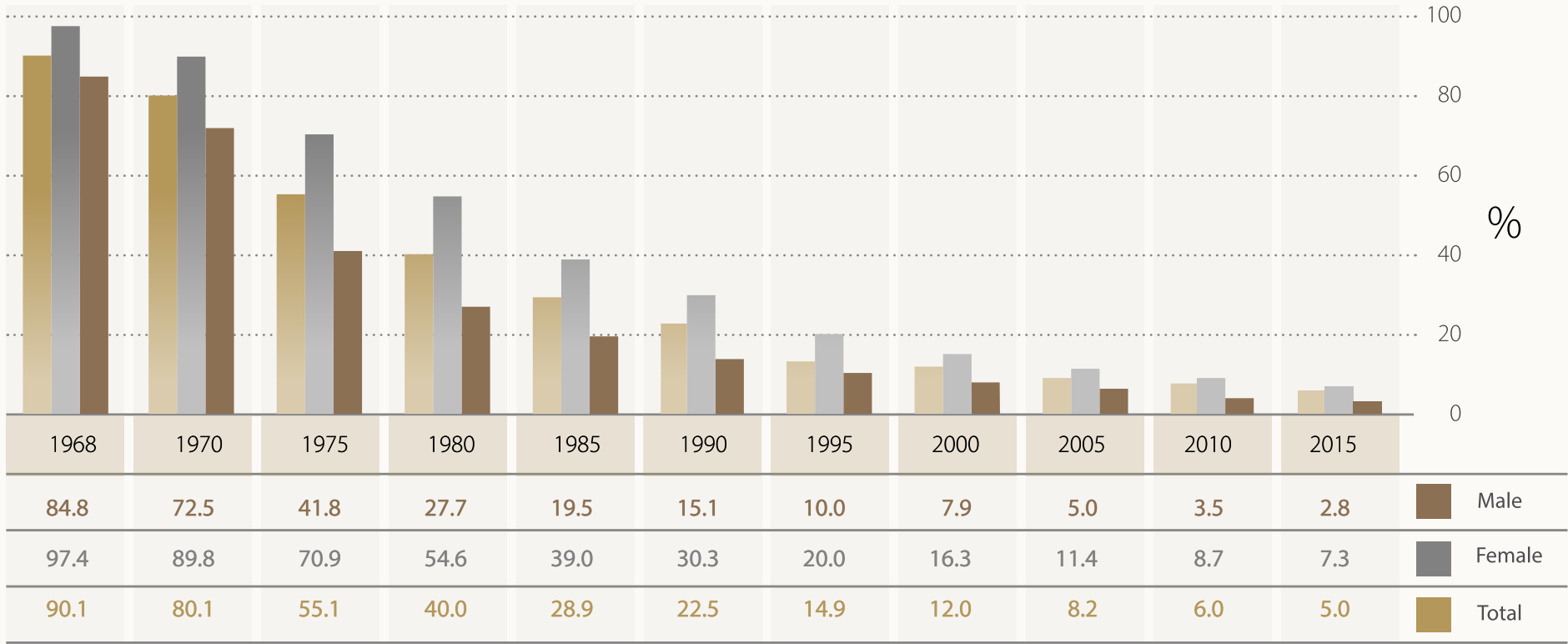
It is therefore keen to set up new methods and channels of education and knowledge, overcoming all the obstacles in its way. In light of this early-established interest, education had a remarkable growth in the number of students, teachers, and administrators, and government budget allocations. It has developed horizontally in a way that has reached out to all communities in rural and urban areas, and vertically to include all levels and types of education: academic, vocational and the eradication of illiteracy.

The Emirate of Abu Dhabi has adopted various strategies to expand the coverage and content of the educational system, vertically and horizontally, to meet the growing needs of the population. In addition, the educational system has responded positively to global technological developments, through including subjects related to information technology in the curricula.

Figure 3.2

Illiteracy Rates among UAE citizens (10 years and over) in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi

This evident and ongoing progress in education in a short period of time is reflected directly in the declining illiteracy rates among both females and males.



Women and Education:

Emirati women, due to the great attention they receive at the highest levels, have been able to notch up several achievements in different spheres of life. Their most significant accomplishments are in the educational field. Female education started for the first time in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in the academic year 1963/64 and at the time the total students did not exceed 131. This number continued to increase rapidly until the number of females in general education exceeded 172 in 2015.



“The greatness of nations is not measured by wealth or urban development, inasmuch as by the noble humanitarian values and their social coherent fabric, and also by the ability of their citizens to give, which deepens ties and unites feelings”

Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Mother of the Emirates

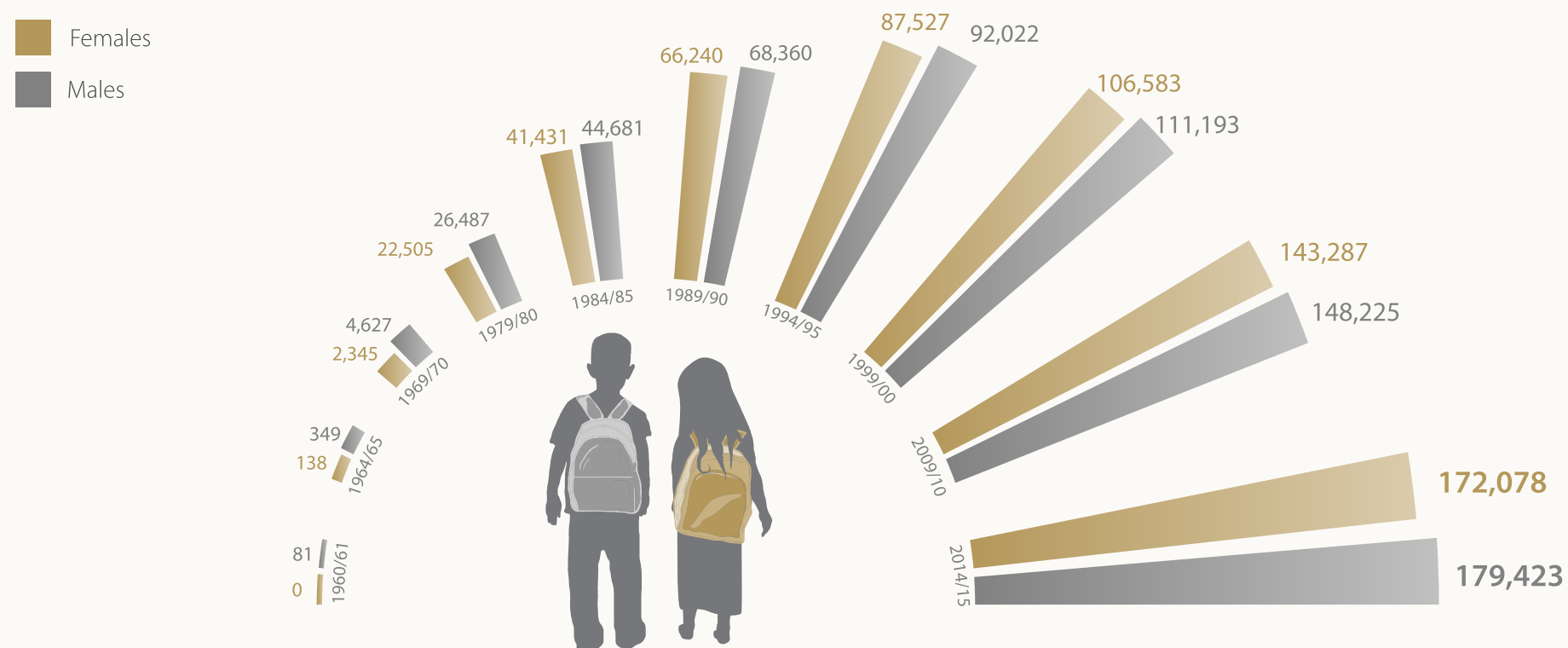
UAE women have played a vital and effective role in society throughout the history of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. Their role has been enhanced in the last quarter of the past century and acquired new dimensions with the development of education in the Emirate. The continual development achieved by women in the field of education reflects the great concern for this issue. The constitution of the United Arab Emirates has given women this right, as it explicitly states women's right to social freedom, their equality in rights with men, and their enjoyment of the same legal right to education and work and to reach the highest positions.

In order to continue the development and construction process and improve the quality of life, it was necessary to mobilize all UAE citizen human potential. The prudent leadership of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi gave special attention to women's issues in a social and economic environment which is protected by the Constitution and regulations that help women to play their role fully by caring for their families and contribution to the process of overall development. They managed to achieve many accomplishments at the national, regional and international levels, gained knowledge and learning and attained top decision-making positions through hard work and perseverance. Thus they entered universities as students and professors, received graduate degrees in various disciplines, became ministers, judges, physicians, engineers, and ambassadors, assumed ably advanced leadership positions, and participated in the nation-building side by side with men armed with knowledge and strong will.

Due to this dedicated attention, Emirati women have greatly benefited from the various educational opportunities provided by the Government of Abu Dhabi, demonstrating their ability to shoulder responsibility. The results of secondary education in the past two decades are proof of the excellence of female Emirati students, who achieved the highest ranking and success rates. Where the percentage of female to male increased from 0 in 1960/61 to 95.9 in 2014/15. The total number of females in 2014/15 was 172 Thousands to 179 Thousands for male.

Figure 3.3

The Number of Pupils in Public Education in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi by Gender



Health Services:

The healthcare system in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi has undergone remarkable development during the past four decades and currently provides basic health services in a comprehensive manner to all parts of the Emirate. During the period from 1975 to 2014, the number of government hospitals and the number of beds increased eight times. The number of doctors in government hospitals grew from 625 in 1985 to 2,508 in 2014. There are currently, in 2015, 45 hospitals, 629 health centres and 362 clinics in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, staffed by 7,516 doctors.



Based on the fact that only healthy people are able to continue the process of development, the prudent leadership has paid full attention to health issue and provided medical services for both citizens and expatriates wherever they lived on the lands of the Emirate. Death rate has dropped, while in turn life expectancy at birth has risen at record rates.

The Emirate of Abu Dhabi is one of the leading areas worldwide in terms of the efforts it makes to provide a good life for its people. In the past years, the Emirate has witnessed major development in the health sector, both public and private. As for the government sector, primary health care services have developed and are now available all over the Emirate. These centres provide the basic treatment services, dental services and health awareness. As for health and protection, the umbrella of protective medicine has included surveillance and control of communicable diseases programs through vaccination, chemical disinfection, contact tracing, and early detection of diseases, health awareness and education in cooperation with all concerned entities in the Emirate.

The efforts of Health Authority – Abu Dhabi have included the development of medicinal policy by drawing controls and regulations that govern medicines procurement, validity and side effects.

It is worth noting that the infrastructure for health services was represented in only two hospitals with around 600 beds in Abu Dhabi and Al Ain cities in 1975. By 2014, the number of government hospitals had reached 12, which have 2,507 beds, and 629 health centres (public and private). The number of doctors at state hospitals increased to 2,508 in 2014.

Specialized services also experienced major development reflected in the levels of performance in all departments.

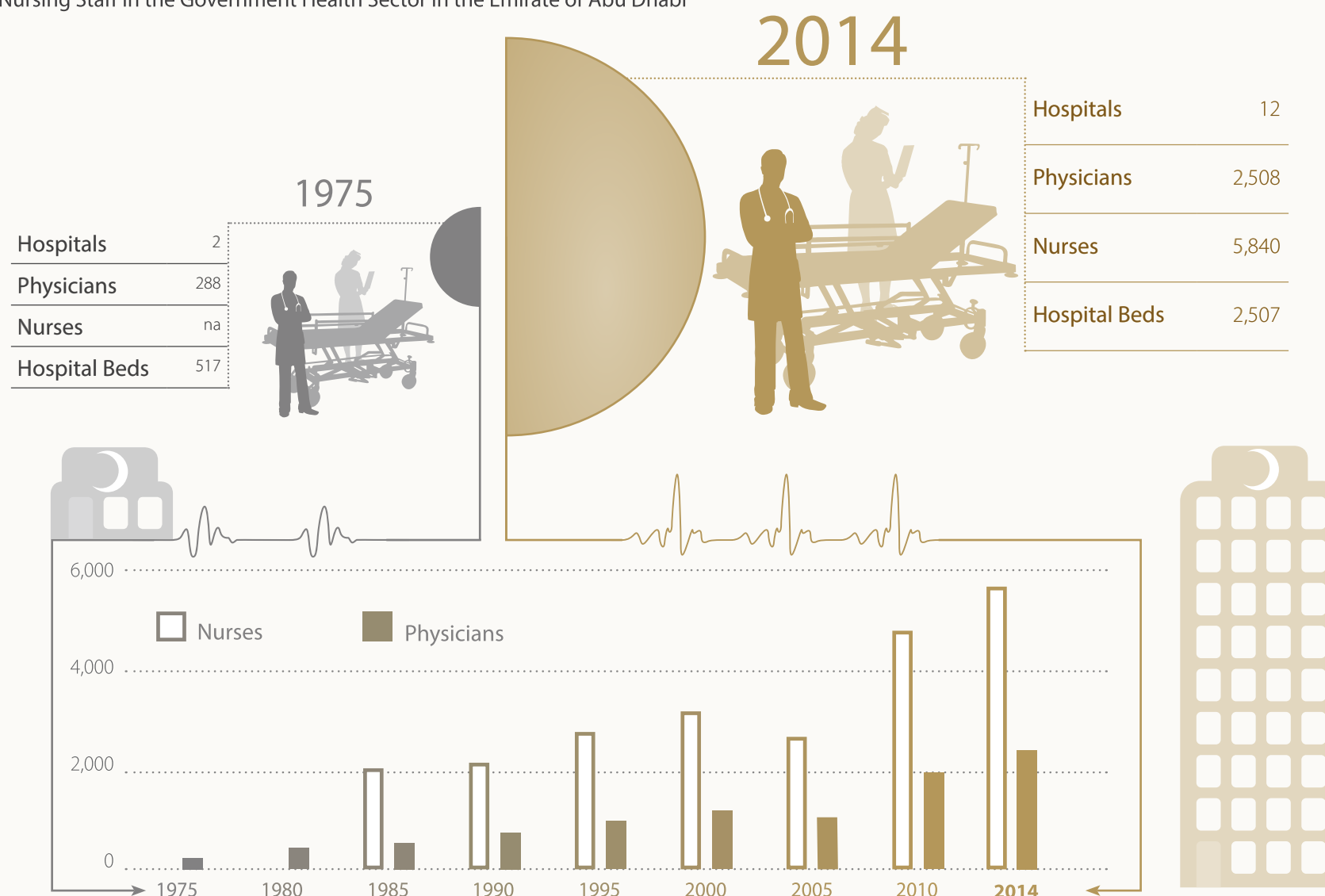


The private sector is also growing, especially with the improvement of the health insurance system that lightens the burden on government health facilities. The Emirate of Abu Dhabi currently has 33 private hospitals.

The Emirate of Abu Dhabi has been able, over the past forty years, to lay the foundation of a healthcare network that covered all UAE citizens across the country, accompanied by an improvement in all health indicators. Chronic and infectious diseases such as malaria, diarrhoea, infantile paralysis (poliomyelitis), and measles have been eradicated, thus decreasing the mortality rate to only 1.1 per thousand population, compared to around 4.5 in 1975. All this has contributed to raising life expectancy at birth for UAE citizens to 77.0 years in 2015 (among the highest in the world) up from 49.3 years on average in 1970.

Figure 3.4

Doctors and Nursing Staff in the Government Health Sector in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi



Culture and Heritage:



Cultural life in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi is rooted in a long history of literature, camel and horse riding, falconry, traditional artwork, and the cultural exchange resulting from trade. However over the centuries, this culture has experienced radical changes with the development of modern lifestyles, but has been able to successfully reconcile tradition and modernity. Yet the values of Bedouin heritage and traditional culture still thrive today, despite the modernity of the Emirate's landscape, infrastructure and facilities, and the varied and evolving lifestyles.

The Emirate of Abu Dhabi has a rich cultural and traditional heritage, from its ancient history to the diversity of its natural environment and animal and plant wildlife, to the human heritage of literature and handicrafts. In the past, it was an important strategic location, resource-rich, and with a civilization of multiple elements. Archaeological excavations have proved that it had a thriving civilization, going back thousands of years with other ancient civilizations. Historically, the first appearance of man in what is now the Emirate of Abu Dhabi dates back to 5500 B.C., i.e. 7500 years ago. Archaeological discoveries have shown that the first residents of the Emirate came in the first Stone Age, and there are mass graves dating back to 3000-2500 B.C. on the slopes of Jebel Hafeet in Al Ain. The Emirate saw the use of iron and the beginnings of the Arabic alphabet, and established a close relationship with the Assyrian and Persian empires.

The harsh natural conditions and the scarcity of natural resources did not prevent this rich and varied heritage from developing and prospering. Architectural discoveries dating back to various ancient times indicate the presence of an honourable cultural past in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, which, since prehistoric ages, has been a meeting point for various cultures as a result of the migration of tribes, and trade caravans. This led to a rich cultural heritage, the traces of which still remain in local customs and traditions developed in various forms of cultural activity over thousands of years.

After oil was discovered, the Emirate of Abu Dhabi's population witnessed an unprecedented transformation in all aspects of life. The economic leap forward led to mass inflows of foreigners from all parts of the world to live and work in the Emirate, which highly influenced local culture. However, the highest levels of government in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi quickly realized the importance of protecting the unique heritage of the Emirate in the face of these changes, handing them down to the new generations, thus contributing to protecting that great cultural heritage. Several plans and ambitious initiatives were announced to provide for, protect, and manage cultural resources, such as the strategy for managing the heritage of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, the formation of the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage, the development of Saadiyat Island as a cultural centre for the Emirate and other initiatives. Abu Dhabi is proud today of its rich cultural mosaic that includes poetry, novels, popular beliefs, handicrafts, weaving, dancing, and traditional sports.

continued.. Culture and Heritage:

From the archaeological monuments dating back to the stone age, which indicate a vibrant culture that flourished around the green oases in the Emirate, up to the building of branches of the Guggenheim and Louvre museums in the cultural area of Al Sadiyaat Island, Abu Dhabi has come a long way in its amazing cultural voyage through the ages. It will not be long before the Emirate establishes itself as a prominent destination on the global cultural map.

Amidst the comprehensive development in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, the cultural aspect is occupying a growing importance. This has also received great attention at the highest levels, in the form of supporting the efforts of the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage, which has been able during the short period following its inception, to launch many important heritage and cultural projects, not on the regional level alone, but all over the world.

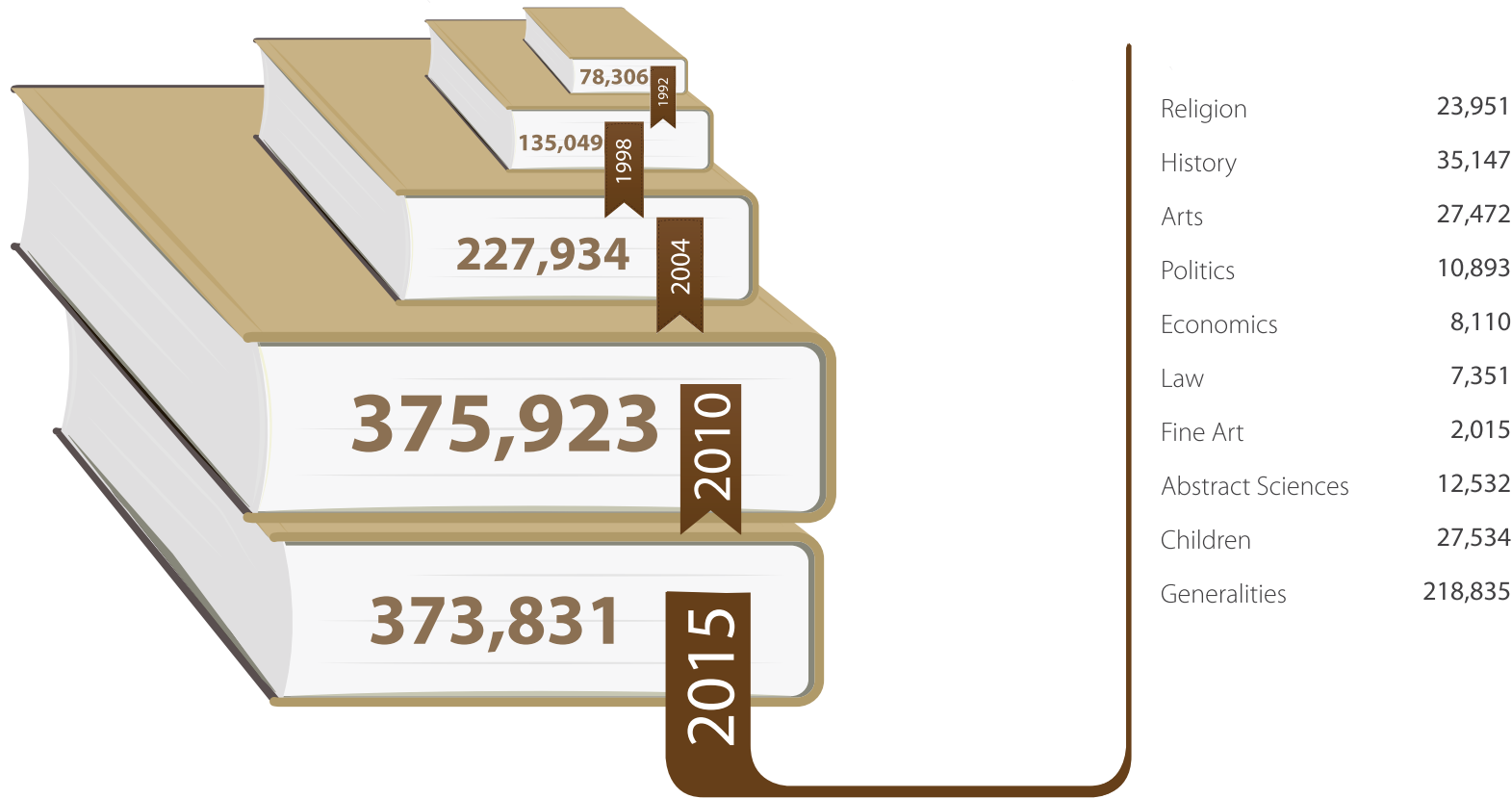
In the context of its constant endeavour to increase public awareness of these valuable cultural resources, the Emirate of Abu Dhabi exerts massive efforts, through a diverse and coordinated group of events and cultural programs held annually throughout the Emirate. These programs focus on appreciation and interest in the thriving cultural heritage of the Emirate, as well as its pride in its precious cultural heritage assets.

The local scene has witnessed several projects for the development and diversification of cultural infrastructure, including the development of museums and fostering their role in this cultural advance within the framework of a future vision that makes the Emirate a cultural centre between the west and east. The cultural scene is today a central issue in the vision of the future, in a world that includes many unknowns, new developments and concepts, and technologies that have direct effects on culture. There is only room today for those who have a strong cultural capacity to protect identity. In that regard, the Emirate of Abu Dhabi is moving along a twin-track cultural path that combines the preservation and revival of local cultural heritage and the importation of the evolving global creativity, thereby turning into a unique cultural centre in the Middle East.

The Emirate of Abu Dhabi is currently developing Saadiyat Island as the primary cultural centre in the Emirate. The island is the site of huge projects under construction valued at AED 100 billion. Many of these projects have a major cultural value, such as the Marine Museum, the Sheikh Zayed National Museum, the Guggenheim Museum for Modern Art, Louvre Abu Dhabi for Classic Arts, the Performance Arts Centre, New York University - Abu Dhabi Branch, and the Equestrian Centre. Perhaps all this, in addition to Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, the Sheikh Zayed Book Award (the largest international award), the Abu Dhabi Art Exhibition, the Abu Dhabi Classical Music Festival, the Abu Dhabi Film Festival, the Emirates Film Competition, the Abu Dhabi International Hunting and Equestrian Fair, the Mazayna Al-Zafra Camel Festival, the Mazayna Al-Rotab Festival, and other activities and events led by Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage, all give a clear indicator to the level of cultural aspirations in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Figure 3.6

Number of Books Available at the National Library of Abu Dhabi



Humanitarian Aid:



Arising out of the importance the United Arab Emirates places on social development, social development centres were established in all of its cities and villages, which perform a number of tasks, such as providing aid to categories that stand in need of social assistance, raising the level of awareness, social guidance, social education and the establishment of institutions caring for the family, children and others.

The UAE in general is at the forefront of in the Arab world in terms of the quantity and quality of social security provided for people with limited income, the number of aid beneficiaries as a percentage of the population, and the number of groups covered by social security, of which there are 12 main categories.

As a result of the United Arab Emirates' continuous concern for the welfare of its people ever since its foundation, being as it is the ultimate aim of development, the state cares for those who do not have employment opportunities, to eliminate poverty, misery, and deprivation in society. The State has developed social insurance that helps maintain the cohesion of the community, social security, improving livelihoods and supporting the needy. The government issued Federal Law No. 13 in 1972 as the first Social Security law, which aimed to provide financial assistance to members of the community who were prevented by circumstances from securing a good livelihood for themselves. The law defined the categories entitled to assistance as well as the level of assistance.

This law was followed by a number of pieces of legislation in the field of social care. The Pensions and Social Security Law was issued in 1999, a serious step toward achieving greater social stability and providing successive generations with support and security, guaranteeing them a good life.

The State social assistance system is based on a philosophy of the need to take care of individuals and families during their crises, and to encourage them to return to being productive members of society when they can. Social care is manifest in various ways, including social assistance, internal and external aid, care for the disabled and juveniles, kindergartens and nursing homes, non-governmental organizations, cooperatives, and social development centres founded on religious, moral, and national values including guaranteeing stability for everyone in the nation. On the other hand, the institution is regarded as a social unit that is set up deliberately in order to realize specific objectives and take a constructive nature which is appropriate for the achievement of these objectives.

"The constitution has set down a number of important principles that express the values and aspirations of the people to rebuild life on its land, stipulating the principles of: equality, social justice, the provision of security; equal opportunities for all people; solidarity; compassion ; a view of the family as the basis of society built on religion, manners, and love of country; care for children and mothers; the protection of minors and others who are unable to care for themselves; compulsory education in its primary stage and free provision at all levels; the provision of healthcare and employment to nationals; protection of personal property and the sanctity of public funds"

An excerpt of the address by Sheikh Zayed at the opening of the First Ordinary Meeting of the National Federal Council on Sunday, February 3, 1972

continued .. Humanitarian Aid:

Associations, institutions and social and charitable centres for public welfare in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in particular, and the UAE in general, have experienced a remarkable and broad development, covering all sections of society and reaching right across the nation to all cities, villages and into the countryside. In addition to the Sheikh Zayed Housing Fund, the Marriage Fund, and the Zayed Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation, the Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation for Acts of Humanity, the Red Crescent, the Zayed Higher Organization for Humanitarian Care, Special Needs and Minors Affairs, there are also non-profit associations, including 120 Societies with 68 branches within the State, in addition to a large number of cooperative societies and social development centres throughout the state.

Housing development represents a key indicator in the development of the people, being one of the requirements for stability in the lives of the people and their communities. The Emirate of Abu Dhabi, and the United Arab Emirates in general, has paid great attention to providing suitable housing to all its inhabitants as one of the factors in stability and development.

Thus housing has become one of the most important factors in the development of the building industry, which is one of the biggest and most active employment sectors. To that end, the Sheikh Zayed Housing Program was established for the purpose of providing suitable housing for eligible Emirati families, by providing accommodation services by way of both grants and loans and through providing numerous options (building, buying, maintaining, or expanding houses) according to approved policies and standards.

The Marriage Fund was also established in accordance with Federal Law No. (47) for the year 1992, complementing social policy, where the Fund aims to provide financial assistance and awareness to couples before marriage, contributing in the consolidation of the Emirati family on sound bases to achieve cohesion and stability.

One of the key social institutions in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi is the Zayed Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation which was established on August 5, 1992. It seeks to strengthen its role in charitable and humanitarian work in order to improve the standard of living of those targeted by its services, implementing a quality management system in all its charitable and humanitarian activities, and working to generalize this policy among its partners internally and externally.

The Zayed Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation contributes to humanitarian and charitable projects in the United Arab Emirates, encouraging establishments, research and study centres in various fields to push development forward and provide welfare, prosperity, and encourage progress by protecting education, Islamic values, heritage, and providing assistance to the suffering of people, contributing to their advance and improving their social, cultural, and health circumstances.

Another major institution in charitable and humanitarian work is the Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation for Humanitarian Work that was established in 2007. It focuses on the fields of health and education, locally, regionally, and globally.

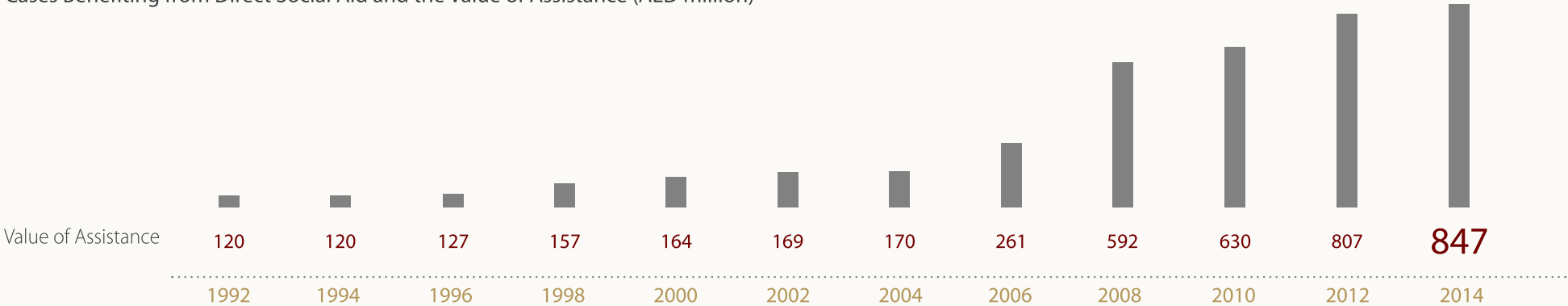
Its educational strategy includes supporting vocational education projects in the countries of the region. It also addresses health issues pertaining to malnutrition, the protection and care for children, and providing safe water around the world, in addition to supporting poor and needy communities in providing basic infrastructure, such as schools, hospitals and others facilities.

There are several other organizations in the field of charitable, humanitarian and social work internally and externally, prominent among which is the Red Crescent Organization in the United Arab Emirates, which was established in 1983. Since that date, the Organization has played an important role in humanitarian and charitable work locally and internationally to meet the needs of the poor and vulnerable.

In the field of caring for the disabled, Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 96 was issued in 1981 to establish centres for the care and support of the disabled in the UAE by providing medical, and psychological care to the disabled, along with educational opportunities, vocational training and networks for social integration. In 2004/2005, a centre for the disabled in Abu Dhabi and Al Ain became affiliated to the Supreme Zayed Foundation for Humanitarian Care, Special Needs, and Minors Affairs.

Figure 3.7

The Cases Benefiting from Direct Social Aid and the Value of Assistance (AED million)







*Agriculture and the
Environment*

Agricultural Holdings:

The Emirate of Abu Dhabi, with its remarkable achievements in the agricultural field, has a unique global status, and its pioneering experience in this sector has become a model in overcoming unfavourable conditions, conquer the desert sands, and convert its dunes into green parks and productive farms for all types of fruit and vegetables. In the past four decades, the number of agricultural holdings increased 38 times, from 634 1971 to 24,018 in 2015, while the acreage of agricultural land increased 33 times from 22,377 to 749,868 over the same period.

Anyone who observes Abu Dhabi's achievements in the agricultural sector will be amazed. With determination and persistence, the Emirate has been able to turn the arid desert into a green carpet. Livestock has also seen a significant increase in size as a result of the availability of medical and veterinary services at the highest levels, and many cattle and poultry farms have been established in accordance with the highest international standards.

Anyone who visited the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in the sixties, and revisited it now, would be astonished by the miracle which has taken place in this land. How could the sand dunes that extended to the horizon have been turned into parks, gardens, and green havens? The lands of the Emirate were barren deserts without any greenery or water, with the exception of some desert vegetation, such as ghaf and samur trees and to palms in scattered oases. The unbearable heat, salinity of the soil, and the absence of natural water sources like rain and rivers surely defied any notion of ever planting or rehabilitating the land.

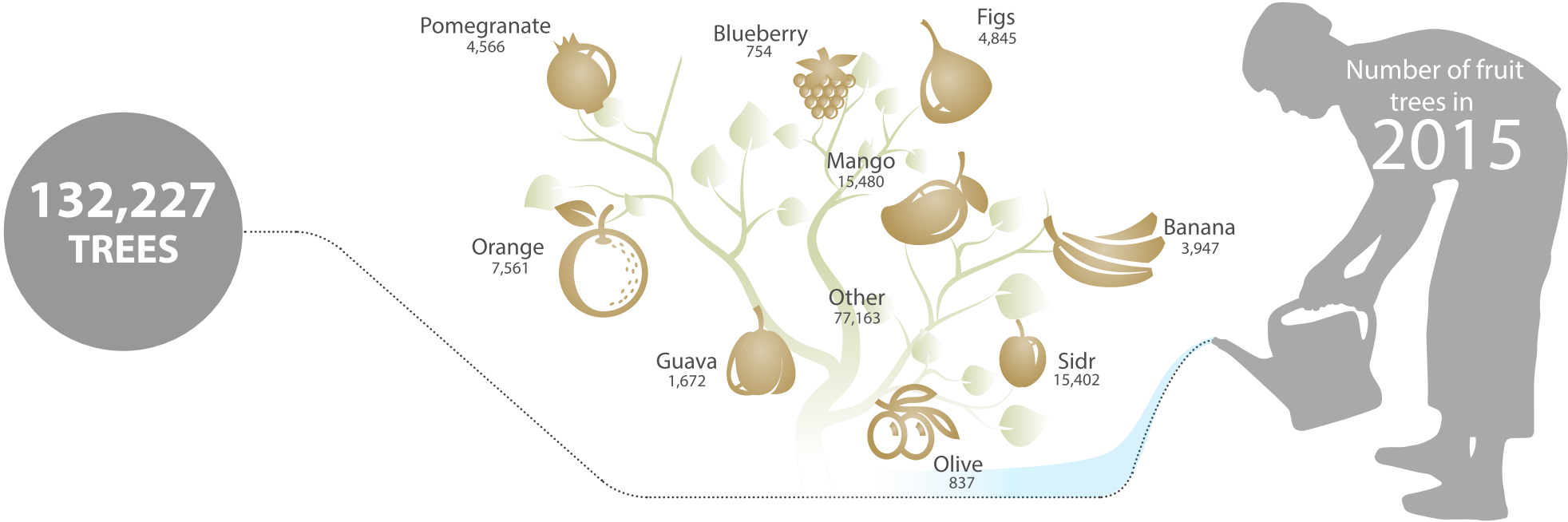
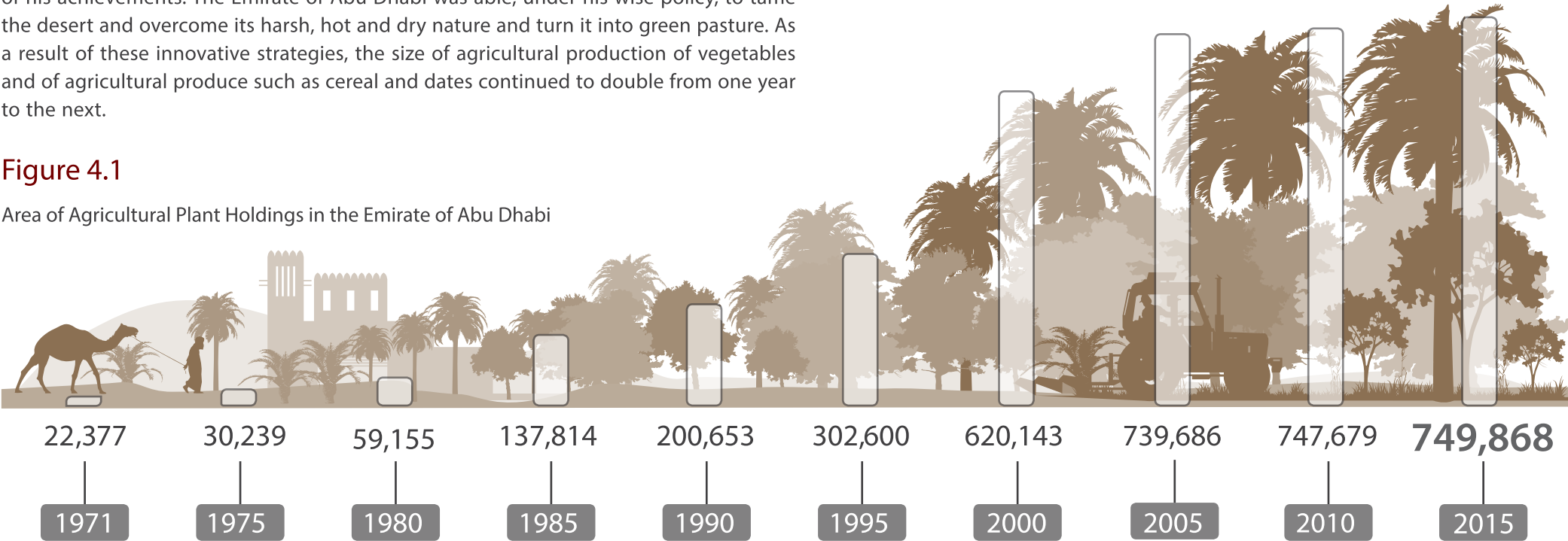
Despite these challenges to the agricultural sector in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, agricultural development has defied the odds and made tangible gains via ambitious plans and policies to achieve sustainable, long-term agricultural development. Indeed the agricultural sector represents one of the brightest prospects for cultural and economic progress in the Emirate. Agriculture received considerable attention from the late Sheik Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founder and first President of the UAE right from the time he governed Al Ain City in the 1940s, when agriculture constituted the backbone of the economy in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi before the discovery of oil. Sheikh Zayed gave priority to agricultural development out of his keenness to improve the living conditions of the people, through the reclamation of new agricultural lands, building conduits, cutting canals, in addition to providing free water and expanding the planting of palm trees and the production of agricultural crops. He issued his directives to establish the Agricultural Department in Al Ain in early 1966 to play its role in advancing agricultural development in the area.



As a result of the personal interest taken by Sheikh Zayed – may God rest his soul- in all that is related to agriculture, its development and progress, the miracle of planting the desert has been achieved, something considered one of the most significant and lasting of his achievements. The Emirate of Abu Dhabi was able, under his wise policy, to tame the desert and overcome its harsh, hot and dry nature and turn it into green pasture. As a result of these innovative strategies, the size of agricultural production of vegetables and of agricultural produce such as cereal and dates continued to double from one year to the next.

Figure 4.1

Area of Agricultural Plant Holdings in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi



Agricultural Exports:

The outstanding agricultural achievements realized in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi are shining examples of human capacity to adapt to the desert, and to produce all kinds of various vegetables, fruits and trees. Agriculture in the Emirate has seen a radical development and has made impressive progress, transforming itself from traditional farming dependent on palm tree plantations into modern agriculture confronting desert conditions, achieving self-sufficiency, fulfilling the needs of the consumer for agricultural products and exporting the surplus to world markets.



“Agricultural development is the real capital which the United Arab Emirates has sought to provide all aspects of spending in order to promote and develop it.”

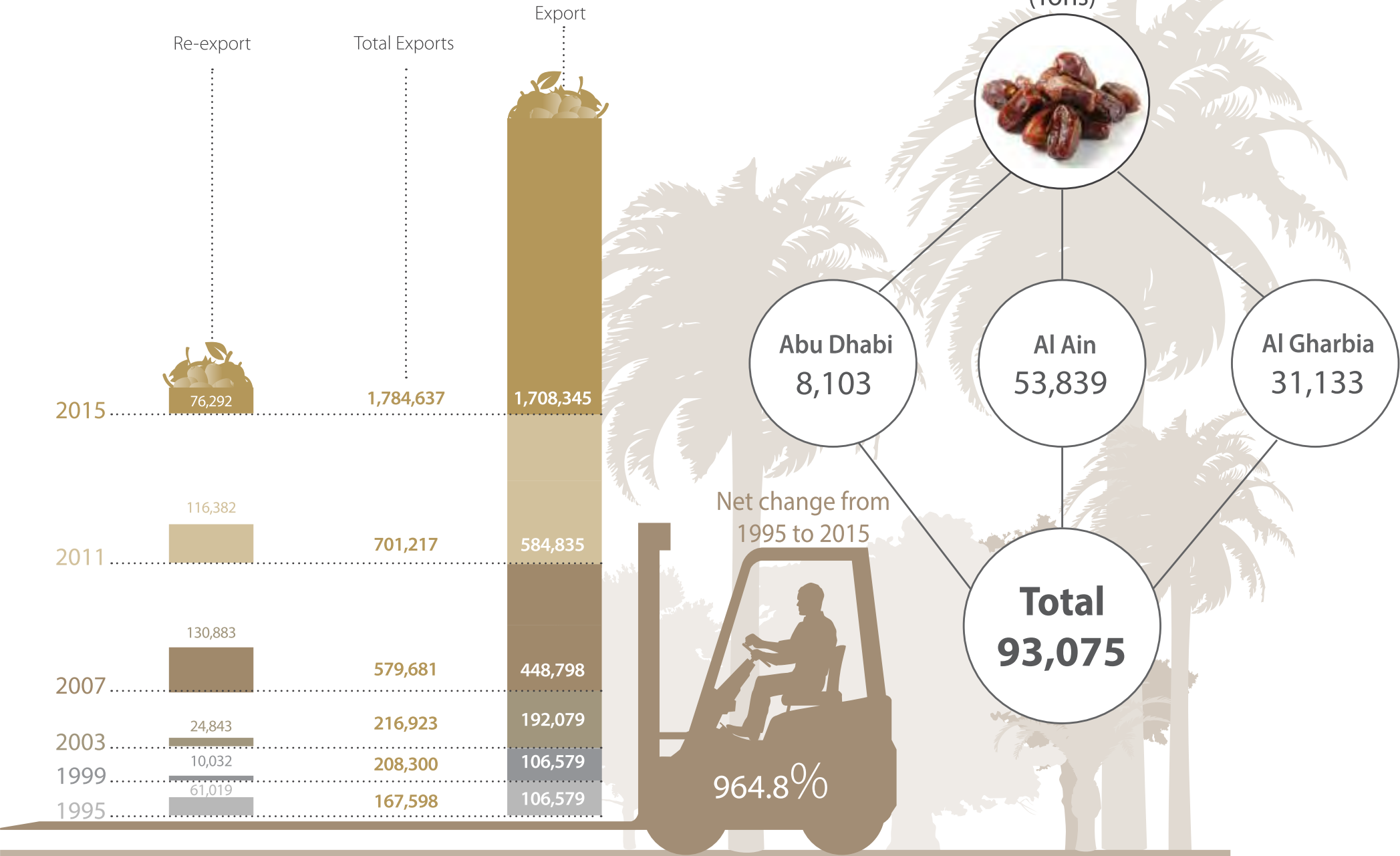
His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

The Emirate of Abu Dhabi enjoys a high volume of foreign trade in agricultural produce, assisted by its geographical location and proximity to the East Asian countries, in addition to the trade facilities, laws, and trade systems in effect, which have helped development and growth in commercial exchange. The Emirate has succeeded in exporting its vegetables and fruit to markets in the United States and Britain, exporting dates to Japan, Indonesia, and Malaysia and flowers to the GCC countries, Lebanon, Britain, Australia and Japan.

Perhaps one of the most important factors in agricultural development in the Emirate is the modernization of irrigation methods, such as drip-feeding instead of traditional irrigation. The second important factor is the system of loans provided by the authorities to UAE citizens under simple terms. As a direct outcome of this excellent system, farmed plots have made successive leaps forward in the past years, reflected in production that has developed both quantitatively and qualitatively, accompanied by a comparable increase in value and income. The efforts of the Government of Abu Dhabi have also focused on improving agricultural production and marketing through establishing marketing centres for dates, which has contributed to the farmers' increased interest in planting date palms, selecting high quality varieties that are profitable for farmers, and allowing them to benefit from the generous prices provided by the marketing centres.

Figure 4.2

Agricultural Exports and Re-exports (AED million)



In the context of the continued efforts for the development of the agricultural sector in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, the Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority was established through a resolution by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Abu Dhabi in March 2005. The Authority was established to manage sustainable development in the field of agriculture and food safety, providing safe food to the community, protecting animals and plants, and at the same time promoting good agricultural and food practices through policies, regulations, quality standards, research and effective and comprehensive awareness programs.

Livestock:

Human life in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi has always been dependent on animals. People have relied on them for their travel, food, dwellings and recreation. The increase in wealth in the years after the discovery of oil was directed towards devising new methods to this sector. These efforts managed to bring the number of sheep and goats to 3.084 million heads, cows to 70.8 thousand heads, and camels to 383.8 thousand heads in 2015.

Livestock in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi has witnessed a great expansion in recent years, due to tangible improvements in the quality and efficiency of the veterinary services provided by the Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority, via fixed and mobile clinics, which operate across the Emirate, and which are supported by a number of veterinary labs with numerous areas of responsibility, including the treatment and vaccination of animals and birds against diseases and epidemics.

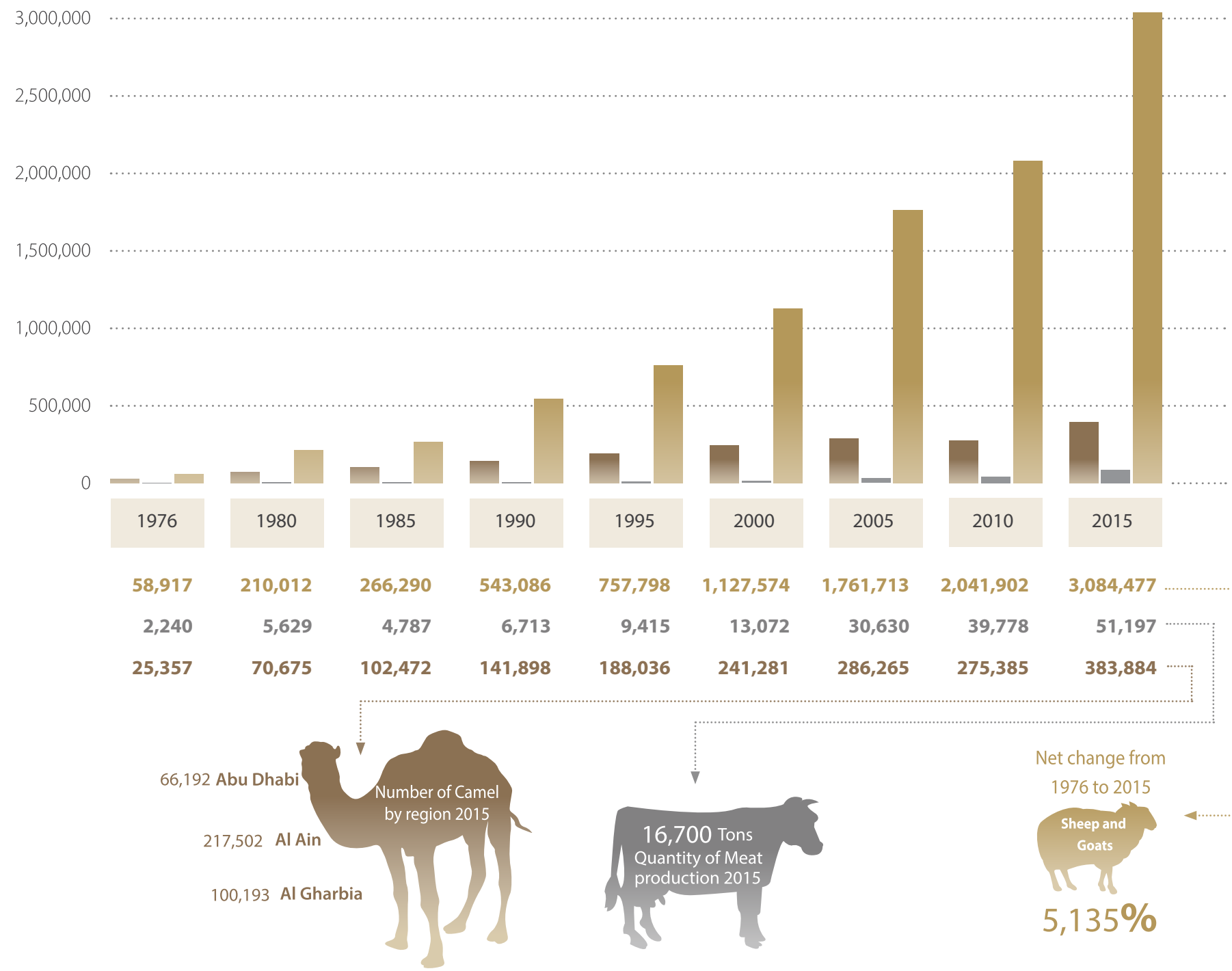
The approximate size of livestock populations in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, according to the last count in 2015 was approximately 3.539 million heads, distributed as follows: Sheep and goats 87.6%, cows 1.5%, camels 10.9%, in addition to horses and various other animals. During the past years, a number of modern dairy and poultry farms have been established, which has reflected positively on the development in the production of milk, eggs, and poultry.

The completion of the animal health and welfare infrastructure in the Emirate and the highly professional veterinary facilities provided have had a great effect on attracting many investors into production projects, especially in the field of dairy and poultry farms.



Figure 4.3

Development of the Numbers of Livestock in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi





The Poultry and Dairy Industry:

The poultry and dairy industry in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi have achieved remarkable development in recent years, turning into an important and influential industry in the national economy and playing a key role in obtaining animal protein, as a result of targeted investment in agricultural development. This includes the development of the livestock sector, particularly poultry, to enhance food production. There is wealth to be realized from poultry, whether in the production of meat or eggs. The number of poultry farms reached 16 in 2015, producing 22,632 tons of meat and 356.36 million eggs, compared with only one farm up until 1992. Likewise, dairy farms have evolved, numbering 13 by 2015, and producing up to 102.78 thousand tons of fresh milk.

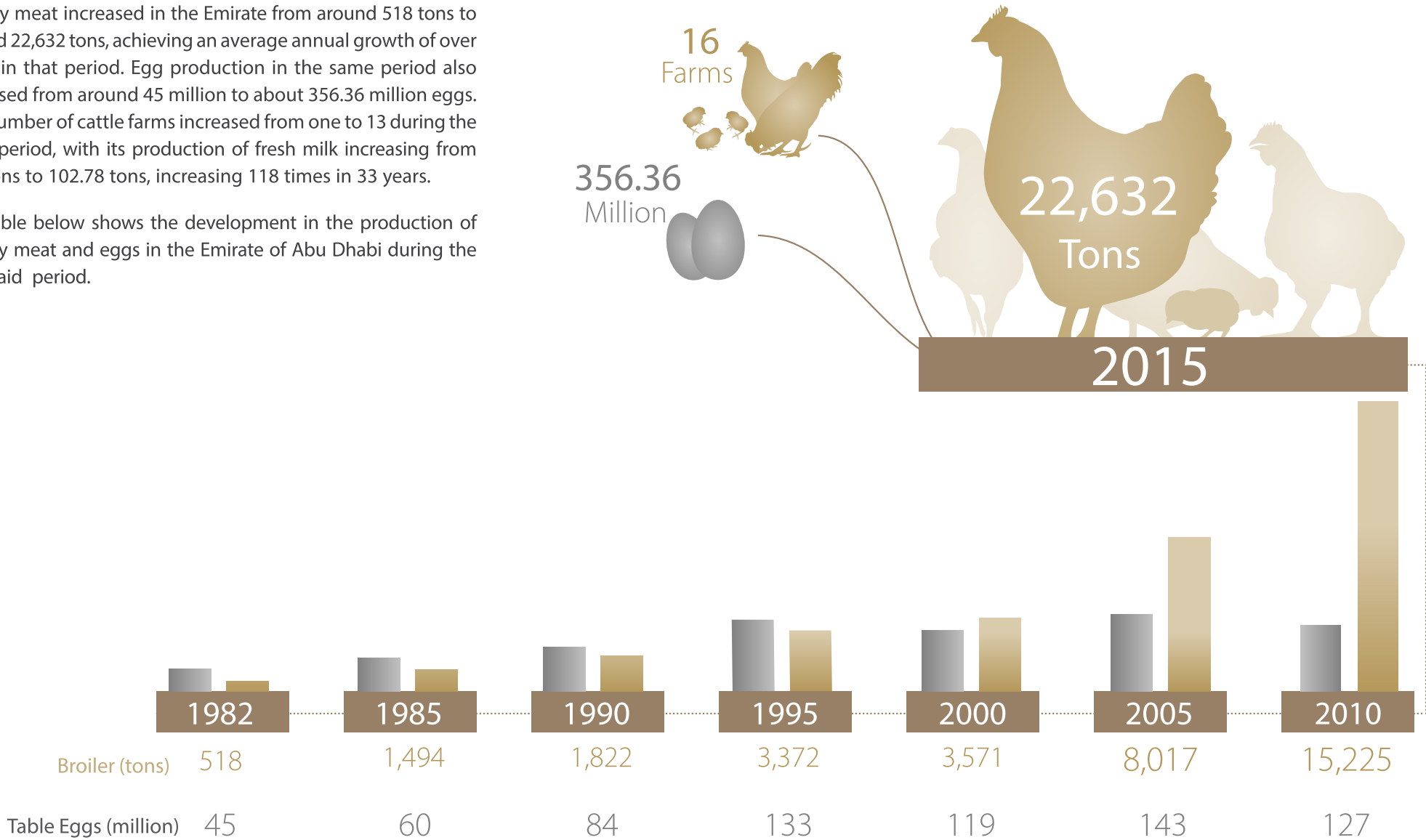
Given increasing interest in the agricultural sector, the poultry and dairy industry has notably flourished in recent years, modernizing its production methods. This success is the fruit of the remarkable expansion in agricultural investment in general, and the development of animal and poultry husbandry in particular. This has contributed towards improving food sufficiency status in the Emirate and helped meet part of the demand for animal source protein-rich food.

Figure 4.4

Production of Poultry Farms in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi (tons)

The tangible increase in demand for animal and poultry products has played a vital role in the growth of the poultry and dairy industry. During the period 1982-2015 production of poultry meat increased in the Emirate from around 518 tons to around 22,632 tons, achieving an average annual growth of over 129% in that period. Egg production in the same period also increased from around 45 million to about 356.36 million eggs. The number of cattle farms increased from one to 13 during the same period, with its production of fresh milk increasing from 870 tons to 102.78 tons, increasing 118 times in 33 years.

The table below shows the development in the production of poultry meat and eggs in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi during the aforesaid period.



Fish Production:

Fishing has been an important source of food in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi for thousands of years. Fishing has developed tremendously over time in terms of the tools and the techniques it uses. This took place hand in hand with the population growth, which increased demand for food especially protein-rich sources, bringing Emirate's fish catch in 2015 to a total of 5,235 tons, with a value of AED 128 million.

The Emirate of Abu Dhabi has a coastline exceeding 700 km in length that is rich in fish and other marine life. There are more than 200 islands of various sizes, environment profiles and historical and economic importance scattered in its waters. The geographic location of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi has made fishing a key economic activity, the main source for meeting the needs of the people for fish, the main element in the diet of coastal inhabitants. Fishing is also one of the most important renewable resources and a vital source of national income.

Therefore economic policy in the Emirate has placed great importance on fishing and has supported fishermen by providing in-kind loans related to the requirements of fish production, and the free services to repair and maintain fishing boats, training and direction in modernizing techniques to increase production, as well as raising their living standards to encourage them to keep to the trade of the forefathers.

The Emirate is also keen to study the marine environment in which the fisherman works and conduct surveys to determine the breeding seasons and migration routes of various species of fish and protect them from over-exploitation.

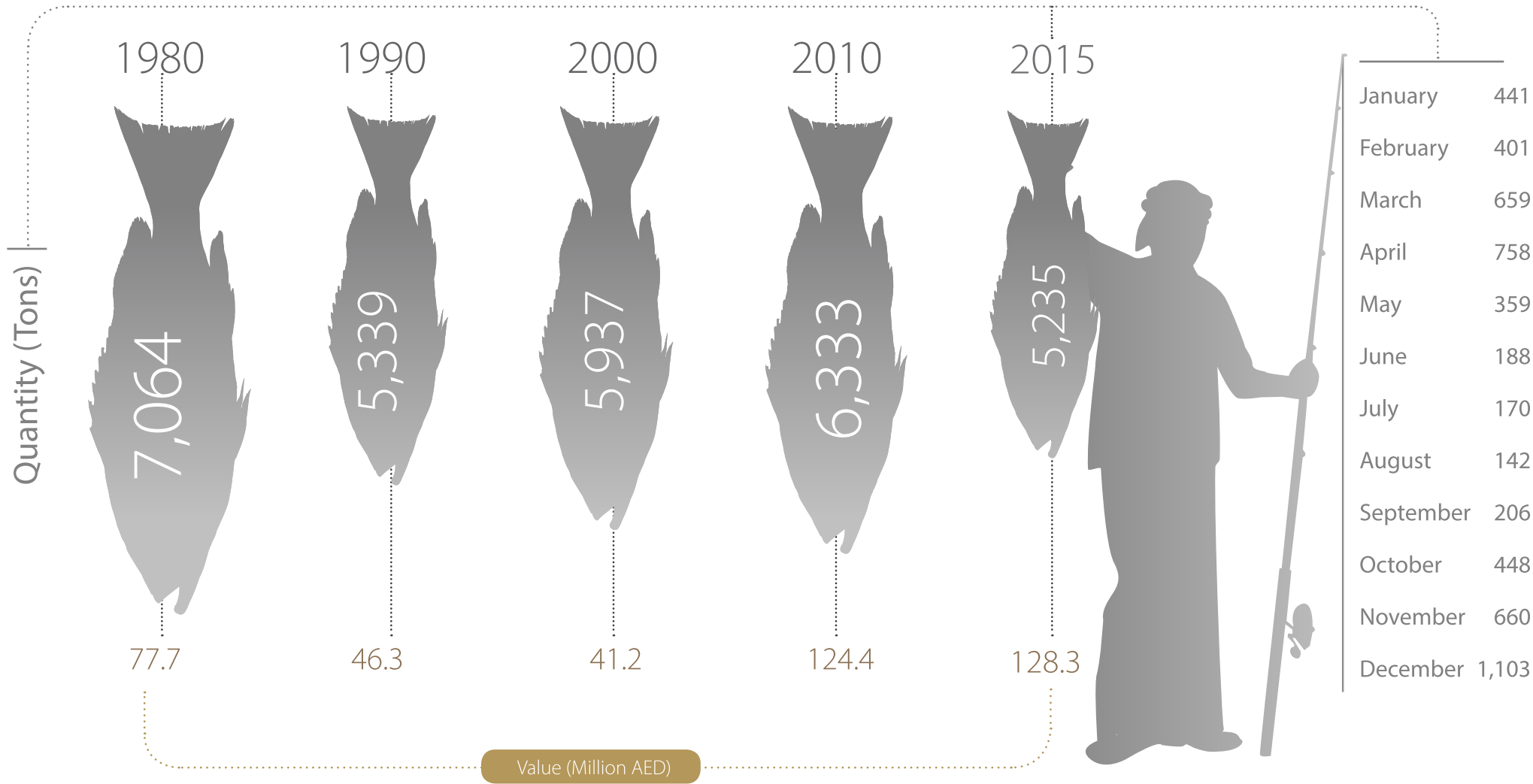


Necessary legislation has also been enacted to protect various species of fish from over-exploitation, as set out in Federal Law No. 23 for the year 1999 on the Use, Protection, and Development of Living Aquatic Resources in the State, which is considered the principal legal framework for fishing in the country, for developing fish stocks through breeding and related matters, and for conducting biological studies on fisheries.


The fisheries sector is considered the second most important source of food production in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, meaning that it needs careful support. The Emirate is now self-sufficient in fresh and frozen fish, with total fish production in the Emirate having increased from 3,378 tons in 1975 to 5,235 tons in 2015. The following table shows the development in the fish catches over the period 1980 - 2015.

Figure 4.6

The Quantity of Fish Caught in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi (tons)



Environmental Protection:

A large sea turtle, likely a Hawksbill, is captured swimming in clear, vibrant blue water. The turtle's head is in the foreground, facing right, with its eyes and patterned skin clearly visible. Its front flippers are extended forward, and its back flippers are visible behind. The water's surface is slightly rippled, and the overall scene conveys a sense of natural beauty and marine life.

With the significant and swift economic development, urbanization, and vast and rapid population growth witnessed by the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, the protection and development of the environment have become one of the main issues of concern to the Emirate's Government, which has therefore established various agencies to conduct scientific studies, manage and protect the environment, develop environmental strategies and identify priorities. Action taken in this regard seeks to reduce air and water pollution, combat desertification and conserve natural resources for development programs.

There was a deep and early awareness by the founder of the nation and one of the pioneers in environmental protection, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan – may Allah rest his soul. He made the protection of the environment a top priority, regarding it as a main factor in achieving sustainable, and balanced, and comprehensive growth. This is obvious in the vast areas of forest, plantation, gardens, and the millions of trees and plants of all types that are increasingly evident in the midst of desert terrain, and which stand today as witness to an enormous achievement, whereby vegetation now covers more than 6% of the total area of Abu Dhabi.

Despite being one of the major oil exporters in the world, Abu Dhabi is still a pioneer in adopting renewable sources of energy, leading global efforts to move over to the use of clean energy. The Emirate has also taken an important step in defence of the environment, when it launched an ambitious initiative in the field of renewable energy - namely the Masdar Initiative - through which it is seeking to reduce dependence on the traditional sources of energy that are primarily responsible for increasing carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere.

Interest in environmental issues has won the Emirate of Abu Dhabi wide acclaim internationally, especially in the fields of conserving nature, combating desertification, developing wildlife and developing nature reserves. It also involves encouraging and supporting global research for the preservation of endangered species such as Al-Maha (Oryx) antelope, the Arabian tiger, dugongs, green turtles and advanced programs for the breeding of wild birds, including falcons and bustards, using advanced technologies. In light of the rising concern over environmental protection, the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi was established in 1996 with the general objective of protecting and preserving the environment, in addition to working on achieving sustainable development in the Emirate.

The agency focuses on comprehensive and sustainable management of marine resources, ensuring high quality of air, limiting the impacts of climate change, preserving biological diversity, protecting wildlife and undertaking responsibility for regulating environmental protection in the Emirate. It also advises the government on environmental policy and administers environmental initiatives and awareness programs. The agency is the competent body assigned to implement environmental laws and regulations in the Emirate in coordination with the Federal Environment Agency, the Ministry of Environment and Water, and other competent bodies in the Emirate. Since its inception, the agency has made several distinguished achievements, and implemented a number of programs and projects that have made important qualitative and quantitative contributions in the domain of environment and sustainable development in the Emirate.

Recognizing the global importance of environmental protection and development, the basis of national policy in this regard was laid down by the late Sheik Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan - may Allah rest his soul - who worked early on to set up sound foundations to protect the environment, and received more than 16 Arab, regional, and international awards, medals, and certificates of merit in appreciation of his efforts in this field. Furthermore, the role of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in protecting the environment was not limited to its own borders, but included a robust strategy for active participation at the global level in the search for sustainable solutions for priority environmental issues. It has also consistently and actively participated in all regional and international events that addressed environmental issues. The Zayed International Environmental Award adds another dimension to the endeavour of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in the sphere of the environment underscoring the emirate's conviction of the need to do what it takes to protect the environment.

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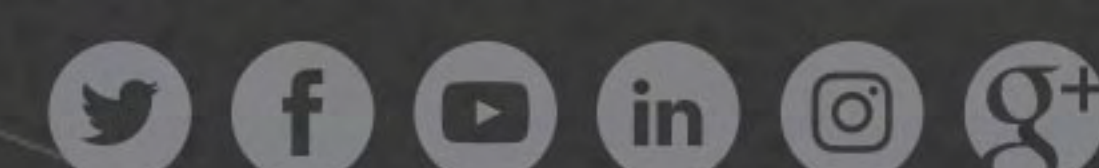
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