

FREEZONE VS MAINLAND

Company Formation Services

PRO Partner Group provides a complete range of company set up solutions to help entrepreneurs turn business ideas into fully-fledged companies. We combine our in-depth knowledge of government regulations and international standards with experience of the Middle East market to accelerate the company formation process and deliver valuable services that benefit our clients.

Free Zones:

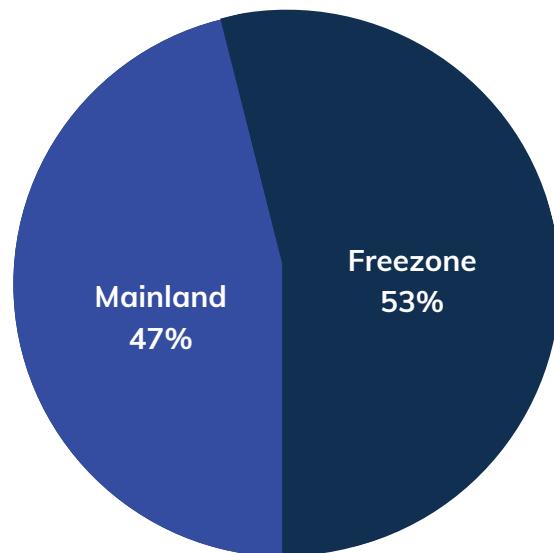
There are over 40 free zones in the UAE. Typically, free zones have been established to accommodate specific industries with technology and infrastructure in place to support certain business activities. For example, Dubai Airport Free Zone Authority (DAFZA) has a core focus on logistics and aviation sectors.

Mainland:

A mainland company is an onshore company licensed by Department of Economic Development (DED). Mainland companies can conduct business in a majority of industrial, commercial, trading, professional or tourism activities. Mainland companies are known for their less restrictive trading opportunities.

Freezone vs Mainland

PRO Partner Group has formed over a thousand companies in the UAE Mainland and Freezone jurisdictions.



PPG Company Formation Breakdown, 2023

Our clients are always particularly interested in the key differences between Freezone and Mainland company set up. With our expert knowledge of the market, we help advise our clients on the best jurisdiction based on the company's business activities and target market.

Freezone vs Mainland Comparison

Considerations	Mainland	Freezone
Conduct Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No geographical restrictions • Inside or outside the UAE • Allows more business activities • Bid for UAE government contracts • Year-end audit required • Can apply for ADNOC access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the registered freezone and internationally • No services or products can be sold into Mainland UAE • Limited access to government contracts • Work with ADNOC generally not possible
Ownership Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be 100% foreign owned (for majority of business activities) • Abu Dhabi Activities List • Dubai Activities List • May require or elect to have local corporate nominee partner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full foreign ownership and control
Office Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum requirement of 140-200 sqft office space • Choice of office location in the emirate and can establish multiple branches • Virtual office space options available for 1-2 visas • For certain activities in Abu Dhabi - no office space requirement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office space not always required • Generally office costs are higher • Lower cost 'virtual office' space options available for 1-2 visas
Visas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No visa restrictions (subject to workspace and labour quota) • Visa process direct with immigration • Must be registered with Ministry of Labour, pay staff through WPS and provide Health Insurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some visa restrictions depending on the freezone (ranging from 1-6) • Visa process through freezone authority • Special permissions may be required for staff
Governing Bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Economic Development • Dubai Municipality • Ministry of Labour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FreeZone Authority - each freezone has its own regulations and government regulatory body
Tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No personal income tax • 9% Corporate Tax from June 2023 on net profits exceeding AED375,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No personal income tax • 'Tax Holidays' offered for each freezone • Exempt from Corporate Tax (June 2023) assuming trade is based outside of UAE or net profits less than AED375,000
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May initially be a larger fee, but provide a more inexpensive path to growth - PPG experts can provide guidance best suited to your business • Abu Dhabi gov fee have been reduced by 50% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May initially be less expensive to establish, but be mindful of company growth as further costs may be required for staff office space, etc. - PPG experts can provide guidance best suited to your business
Import/Export	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can import and trade within in the UAE - within their activity range 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exempt from import and export duties • Cannot import or trade in the UAE or with UAE counterparties - must use an onshore agent

All Corporate Services

Visas & Licensing

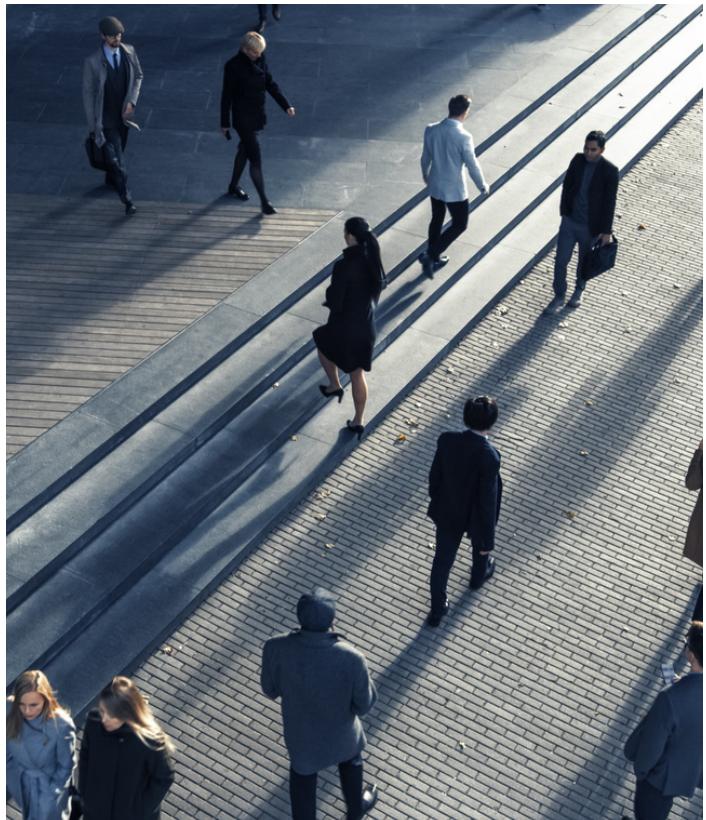
We provide expedient, reliable and cost-effective services for large corporations and SMEs, making us one of the choice PRO companies in the UAE. Through years of local industry experience, we have built enduring relationships with key government bodies, allowing us to offer our clients a seamless and efficient process for all their company and visa requirements.

Corporate Services

PRO Partner Group offer a wide range of corporate services and secretarial services to help keep our clients on top of corporate governance and overall company operations.

Local Partner Services

We provide a professional, dedicated corporate sponsorship platform for onshore companies, with a focus on providing the foreign party with security and full management control.



Management Services

PRO Partner Group offer appointed manager services by providing an individual manager within the Group, who can act as the on the ground resident manager, company secretary and/or authorised signatory for the company, for the purposes of carrying out managerial, administrative and secretarial tasks.

The PRO Partner Group resident manager will assist the company, and undertake managerial tasks only under direct approval and instruction from the parent company or board.

Compliance

We can provide companies in the UAE with a breadth of services under the domain of AML and CFT compliance including documentation of AML/CFT policies, AML training, annual risk assessment, in-house AML compliance department set up, AML software selection and Health Checks

Document Attestation

The government requires attestation of documentation to ensure the authenticity of personal documents, certificates and commercial documentation required for company set-up, residence visa and employment.



HR Services

To offer our clients a 360 platform, PRO Partner Group have recently launched our HR Services which include HR admin support, HR consultancy, payroll management and recruitment solutions.

Accounting Services

We can assist with bookkeeping, monthly management of accounts, VAT registration and set up, VAT quarterly submissions and filing, annual audit and Economic Substance Regulations (ESR) assessment, notification and reporting services.

PRO Partner Group team



Greg Hastings
Head of Corporate Structuring



Libbie Burtinshaw
Head of Operations



James Elliot-Square
Business Development Manager



Jade Wong
Business Development Consultant



Khalil Ahmed
Senior Government Liaison Officer



Navas Hamsa
Senior Government Liaison Officer

Our Clients

"We had an excellent experience with PRO Partner Group. The team were tremendously knowledgeable and communicated with us throughout every step of the process. We were extremely pleased with the speed of conversion and will certainly recommend PRO Partner Group!"

Ischebeck Titan

"We have had a good experience with PRO Partner Group. Communication from them has always been a strong point and they completed tasks in a timely manner. Their process is also very user friendly for expat companies. We would recommend any expat company looking to set up in the region contact PRO Partner Group."

WT Partnership

"PRO Partner Group are very professional. All our queries were answered and responded to promptly. They met and exceeded the level of service we expect from a service provider. They delivered within the agreed time frames. Overall, we felt the quality of their work was excellent. PRO Partner Group is a reliable business partner and we would highly recommend them."

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