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ELYSIAN CONSULTING GROUP

YOUR COMPLIANCE PARTNER IN THE UAE

# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER




## INSIGHTS

1. Corporate Tax Revenue Jumps 34% to AED 46.5 Billion — and the FTA Is Now Measuring Compliance
2. E-Invoicing: Seven Weeks to Go-Live — Where Businesses Really Stand
3. Core Inflation Firms, December Fed Hike Now Fully Priced; Brent Slips Toward $90
4. Your Compliance Calendar
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## 28 & 30 NOVEMBER 2026

**Sat 28 Nov:**
October VAT return for monthly filers — the first under FTA Decisions 13/2026 and 17/2026 and Cabinet Decision 149/2026.

**Mon 30 Nov:**
Pillar Two Top-Up Tax registration for in-scope multinational groups — 17 days away (checklist in Issue 25).

## OUR SERVICES

- CORPORATE TAX
- VAT CONSULTING
- ACCOUNTING SERVICES
- AUDITING IN DUBAI

info@elysianuae.com | +971 54 243 9656 | www.elysianuae.com

# CORPORATE TAX REVENUE JUMPS 34% TO AED 46.5 BILLION – AND THE FTA IS NOW MEASURING COMPLIANCE

+971 54 243 9656 WWW.ELYSIANUAE.COM INFO@ELYSIANUAE.COM

On **11 November 2026** the FTA published its first full set of revenue and compliance figures since the Corporate Tax regime matured. **Corporate Tax revenue for 2025 financial years reached AED 46.5 billion,** up about **34%** from AED 34.75 billion for 2024, bringing the total since June 2023 to **AED 81.27 billion**. Alongside the revenue, the FTA reported filing and payment rates for each tax. The message for businesses: **the regime has moved from registration to measurement,** and the FTA knows who files late.

CORPORATE TAX REVENUE · 2025 FINANCIAL YEARS

**AED 46.5 BN**

Up about 34% on 2024 · AED 81.27 billion since June 2023

## What the Figures Tell Us

- **Corporate Tax is now a major revenue line:** AED 46.5 billion for a single year sits alongside AED 28.27 billion of VAT distributed for the first eight months of 2026. A tax that size will attract audit resources in proportion.
- **The gaps are visible:** A 91% Corporate Tax filing rate means roughly one in eleven expected returns was not filed. For VAT, about one return in six was filed late. Those are the populations the FTA can target first, because it already knows them.
- **Payment discipline is high – filing is the weak point:** On-time payment rates of 97–98% sit well above filing rates. For most businesses the risk is not unpaid tax but late or missing returns, and the AED 500-a-month Corporate Tax late-filing penalty that follows.
- **Expect reviews of 2025 returns:** With the first two full cycles of returns in, the FTA can compare filings with financial statements, VAT returns and e-invoicing data from 2027. Consistency between the three is where questions will start.

*AED 46.5 billion makes Corporate Tax one of the UAE's main revenue sources, and the FTA has started reporting compliance as a number. Businesses that file late or inconsistently are now easy to identify. Use the quiet period before year-end to confirm every entity has filed and that the Corporate Tax and VAT figures tell the same story.*

## The FTA's Numbers

**REVENUE**
**CT AED 46.5bn · VAT AED 28.27bn**

- Corporate Tax: 2025 financial years, up from AED 34.75bn
- VAT: AED 28.27bn distributed for January–August 2026
- Excise: AED 1.4bn for January–August 2026

**COMPLIANCE RATES · 2026 vs 2025**
**CT filing 91% · VAT on time 83%**

- Corporate Tax filing 91% (87%); on-time payment 97%
- VAT timely filing 83% (81%); on-time payment 98%
- Excise filing 92% (91%); on-time payment 98%

## The FTA's Numbers

1. **Check that every entity has filed:** Run a list of each group company's Corporate Tax and VAT filings to date, including dormant and free zone entities that may have been missed.
2. **Reconcile Corporate Tax and VAT:** Compare revenue in the Corporate Tax return with turnover in the four VAT returns for the same year. Document any differences now, before the FTA asks.
3. **Correct errors voluntarily:** Where a filed return is wrong, a voluntary disclosure before an audit notification carries a lower penalty than an assessment after it.
4. **Fix the late filers:** If any VAT return was filed late in 2026, find out why – signatory access, data delays or payment approvals – and change the process before the 28 November return.

# E-INVOICING: SEVEN WEEKS TO GO-LIVE – WHERE BUSINESSES REALLY STAND

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The ASP appointment deadline passed on 30 October, and most large businesses met it. But appointment was the easy step. **Go-live for businesses with revenue of AED 50 million or more is Friday 1 January 2027 – 49 days away.** From that date invoices are validated automatically, and those that fail are rejected. Under Cabinet Decision 173/2026 (Issue 25), each invoice or credit note not issued electronically can cost AED 100, up to AED 5,000 a month for each. Market reports this week suggest **many businesses have not yet started integration.**

## What Practitioners Are Seeing

- **Appointment without integration:** Advisers quoted this week say many firms treated the provider appointment as "a signature on a contract rather than the start of an integration project".
- **Data is the bottleneck, not software:** Integration problems tend to appear in data mapping and testing, where inconsistent customer and supplier records surface. Most businesses can keep their existing ERP if the data is fixed.
- **Readiness means a tested process:** The benchmark is a process that has been tested end to end and that billing and accounts-payable staff can actually operate – not a connector that has been installed.




## The Readiness Gap

**WHAT THE SURVEYS SHOW**

- ClearTax survey (June, 500+ finance executives): 14.1% fully prepared
- 60.5% had not done an ERP gap analysis
- About 35,000 Peppol IDs recorded in the UAE (ClearTax estimate)

**WHY INVOICES GET REJECTED**

- Missing or incorrect customer TRN or TIN
- Inconsistent tax codes and duplicate customer records
- Older or heavily customised ERP systems not mapped to PINT AE

## The FTA's Numbers

1. **Week of 16 November – gap analysis:** Compare invoice and credit-note fields with the PINT AE data set and the V2.0 Guidelines (Issue 24). List every missing field and every system that issues invoices.
2. **Weeks of 23 and 30 November – fix the data:** Clean customer and supplier masters: TRN or TIN, Peppol ID, address and tax codes. Remove duplicates.
3. **Weeks of 7 and 14 December – test:** Run test invoices for each invoice type, credit notes, advances and exports through the provider. Track every rejection to its cause.
4. **Weeks of 21 and 28 December – cut-over:** Train staff, agree a year-end invoicing cut-off with key customers, set up a daily rejection report and confirm provider support over the holidays.

*Seven weeks is enough to go live if the gap analysis starts now and the data clean-up is treated as the main task. Businesses that wait for their provider to lead will find the rejection queue on 4 January. Start with the customer master – it causes most failures.*

# CORE INFLATION FIRMS, DECEMBER FED HIKE NOW FULLY PRICED; BRENT SLIPS TOWARD $90

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US **October CPI** (10 November) rose **0.4%** on the month and **core prices 0.3%,** both above forecasts. After hawkish comments from Governor Christopher Waller, a **25bp hike at the 8–9 December FOMC is now almost fully priced**. Oil kept falling on peace-talk hopes: **Brent briefly dropped below $90/bbl** on 10 November – its lowest since August – and traded near **$91.70** on 12 November. At home, Sheikh Mohammed said UAE trade in the first nine months approached **AED 3 trillion, up 10%.**

## The Numbers That Moved

**US INFLATION · OCTOBER**

**CPI +0.4% m/m · Core +0.3%**

- Both above forecasts (0.3% and 0.2%)
- No year-on-year rate published this month
- December hike now almost fully priced

**OIL & GOLD · 10–12 NOVEMBER**

**Brent ~$91.70 · Gold ~$4,055/oz**

- Brent below $90 briefly on 10 Nov
- WTI near $85.70 on 12 Nov
- Gold −2% after the CPI release

## What Happened Under the Hood

1. **Why no annual inflation figure:** The US statistics bureau did not publish year-on-year rates for October, because the 2025 government shutdown prevented comparable data collection a year ago. September's annual rate was 3.7%.
2. **Core inflation is sticky:** Core prices have risen 0.3% in each of the last three months, which is why markets moved from about 84% to near-certain pricing of a December hike.
3. **Oil is following diplomacy:** Brent has fallen from above $113 at the end of October on hopes for US–Iran and Russia–Ukraine talks; a two-day Russia–Ukraine round in Abu Dhabi produced a prisoner-exchange agreement. Shipments through Hormuz remain disrupted, and US crude stocks rose by about 9 million barrels in the latest week.
4. **UAE trade and investment held up:** Nine-month trade of nearly AED 3 trillion was up 10%, with exports to the top ten partners up 31%. UNCTAD put UAE foreign direct investment in 2025 at a record $48.24 billion, and First Abu Dhabi Bank plans a rights issue of up to AED 15 billion – the country's largest.

## What It Means for UAE Clients

- **Treasury & FX teams:** Treat a December hike as the base case. EIBOR-linked facilities will reprice in January; refresh 2027 interest budgets on a 4.00–4.25% Fed range.
- **Fuel-sensitive operators:** Brent has fallen about 20% from its late-October high. If it holds near $90, December UAE fuel prices – announced at the end of November – should fall further.
- **Importers and traders:** Lower oil and freight costs should start to ease landed costs in Q1 2027. Avoid locking in long-term supply prices at today's levels.
- **Gold & jewellery businesses:** Gold is again near $4,050 as rate expectations firm. Review hedge cover before the December FOMC.




*Three signals into December: (1) the 8–9 December FOMC – a hike is almost fully priced, so the guidance for 2027 matters more than the decision; (2) the course of the US–Iran talks, which now drives Brent; (3) the end-November announcement of December UAE fuel prices. For UAE CFOs, plan Q1 2027 on higher funding costs and lower fuel.*

# YOUR COMPLIANCE CALENDAR

Refreshed for the next **11** months.

| DATE | WHAT'S DUE / WHAT KICKS IN |
|---|---|
| **10 Nov 2026 (Tue)** | US October CPI – the last major inflation print before the December FOMC. |
| **16 Nov 2026 (Mon)** | Excise Tax return for October 2026 due. |
| **28 Nov 2026 (Sat)** | VAT return for October 2026 (monthly filers) – the first return under FTA Decisions 13/2026 and 17/2026 and Cabinet Decision 149/2026. |
| **30 Nov 2026 (Mon)** | Pillar Two Top-Up Tax registration (Decision 12/2026) AND Pillar Two Information Return filing framework (MD 133/2026) – first cycle for FY starting 1 Jan 2025. |
| **8–9 Dec 2026** | FOMC meeting – about 81% priced for a 25bp hike. Dirham peg tracks USD. |
| **31 Dec 2026 (Thu)** | FTA Decision 15/2026 – exemption deadline for CD 55/2025 and CD 34/2025 cohorts. Also Top-Up Tax deregistration for entities ceased pre-30 Jun 2026. |
| **1 Jan 2027 (Fri)** | Mandatory e-Invoicing go-live for businesses ≥ AED 50M. Per-document penalties under Cabinet Decision 173/2026 can apply. VAT group grace period begins. |
| **31 Mar 2027 (Wed)** | ASP appointment deadline for businesses < AED 50M and government entities. |
| **1 Jul 2027 (Thu)** | Mandatory e-Invoicing go-live for businesses < AED 50M (government entities: 1 Oct 2027). |
| **31 Dec 2028 (Sun)** | VAT group e-invoicing grace period ends; intra-group supplies enter the system from 1 Jan 2029. |
| **31 Dec 2029 (Mon)** | Small Business Relief window closes (extended by MoF MD 131/2026 from 31 Dec 2026). |

# FREE E-INVOICING PENALTY & READINESS CHECK

LET'S TALK

**Book a free 30-minute E-Invoicing Penalty & Readiness Check**

Missed the 30 October appointment, or worried about per-invoice penalties from 1 January? Send us your provider contract (or shortlist), a sample of invoices and credit notes, and your FTA registration details. We'll assess your exposure under Cabinet Decision 173/2026, identify the controls you need before go-live, and give you a written action list. No obligation.

*To book, write to me directly:*

**CA Midhun Nair**

Chartered Accountant, Partner, Elysian Consulting Group

+971 54 243 9656 WWW.ELYSIANUAE.COM INFO@ELYSIANUAE.COM

