

SALARY AND MARKET REPORT 2019

United Arab Emirates



CONTENTS

Page 1: Introduction

Page 2: Private Practice

Page 3: Salary Tables

Introduction

2017 and the first half of 2018 was a challenging period in the Middle East, with conflict in the Middle East creating economic and political instability across the region. The slump in the oil price impacted various industries, stalling construction and infrastructure projects and slowing recruitment across most sectors. The later part of 2018 provided a brighter outlook with greater confidence as the oil price improved and as we approach the 2022 Qatar World Cup in Qatar and Expo 2020 in Dubai.

We expect 2019 to continue on a stable trajectory and hopefully improve as the year progresses.



UAE Private Practice



The recruitment market for legal professionals was stable during 2018 and improved notably as the year progressed. Most demand came from international firms in Dubai, with the region being the most established and appealing market for overseas lawyers. There are also opportunities in Abu Dhabi, particularly within Construction.

The main practice areas which provided the greatest level of demand were Corporate M&A, Construction (both back-end and front-end) and Projects (including Project Finance). Lawyers at 3-5 PQE level are highly sought after and the top tier candidates often have multiple suitors in these practice areas.

Salaries remain attractive across Dubai and Abu Dhabi. On average, lawyers can expect to earn at least as much and often more than is achievable at comparative firms in London or NYC. This, coupled with zero tax makes the UAE an extremely attractive prospect for lawyers looking to save money and enjoy the lifestyle perks associated with the region.



Salary Tables

*At the time of writing: 100,000 Emirati Dirham = 38,000AUD = 20,700GBP

Silver Circle/UK Firm

| PQE | Emirati Dirham |
|-----|-------------------|
| 1 | 400,000 – 470,000 |
| 2 | 450,000 – 550,000 |
| 3 | 480,000 – 590,000 |
| 4 | 500,000 – 620,000 |
| 5 | 590,000 – 650,000 |
| 6 | 650,000+ |

Magic Circle Firm

| PQE | Emirati Dirham |
|-----|-------------------|
| 1 | 420,000 – 495,000 |
| 2 | 470,000 – 594,000 |
| 3 | 530,000 – 625,000 |
| 4 | 550,000 – 660,000 |
| 5 | 650,000 – 700,000 |
| 6 | 720,000 + |

US Firm

| PQE | Emirati Dirham |
|-----|---------------------|
| 1 | 500,000 – 620,000 |
| 2 | 550,000 – 710,000 |
| 3 | 610,000 – 800,000 |
| 4 | 690,000 – 890,000 |
| 5 | 870,000 – 1,000,000 |
| 6 | 1,000,000+ |

Contact Us

Please contact Alex to discuss any aspect of this Salary and Market Report or for general advice on relocation to Asia, London, NYC, The Middle East or Offshore.

Alex Gotch, Director
 Alex.Gotch@beacon-legal.com.au
 + 61 449 990 768

