

The business tax landscape in Qatar

Your strategic advisor for tax compliance and reporting

Introduction

The tax environment in Qatar and the wider Middle East (ME) region is fast evolving. This is evident through regular interactions between businesses and the tax authorities in the region on quality tax reporting and various tax topics. Businesses are required to maintain accurate income tax accounts and tax disclosures in their financial statements and are expected to prepare and attend audits and inspections by the authorities in a timely manner. This is in addition to complying with the applicable local, regional and global tax regulations.

However, given the novelty of these tax reforms, many businesses lack the needed capabilities and necessary tax technical and accounting skills to deal with these changes. Deloitte delivers deep knowledge of tax and statutory requirements as well as a breadth of experience applying them in practice in Qatar, the ME region and globally. We provide businesses with the expertise, required capabilities, technology, and innovative ideas to make it more agile. Deloitte delivers a holistic and coordinated approach to complex tax issues enabling businesses to lead with confidence.

The Deloitte business tax offerings in Qatar

Our business tax specialists can assist your business in managing the daily tax challenges and help transform your tax function. Our spectrum of business tax services ranges from tax advisory and planning to tax compliance, controversy, risk management, and tax accounting.

• Tax compliance

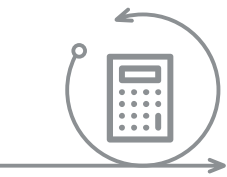
The successful management of tax compliance obligations is becoming increasingly more difficult and demanding. Regulatory changes and governmental requirements continue to increase the complexity and volume of tax compliance. Deloitte can support your business through the following range of compliance and reporting services:

- Tax registrations on the online tax portal, Dhareeba, and obtaining tax cards
- Preparation of Corporate Income Tax (CIT) returns and submissions on Dhareeba
- Support with withholding Tax (WHT) returns and submissions on Dhareeba
- Submission of recurring contract declarations
- Submission of applications to request "No Objection Letters" for
 - a. change of ownership in a company
 - b. cessation of activity and liquidation of company
 - c. for the release of contract retention
- Support with other notifications and reporting requirements
- Assistance with preparation and submission of the Economic Substance Report required by the Free Zones in Qatar
- Providing all tax compliance to entities registered in the Qatar Financial Centre

• Tax controversy management

Tax controversy management services cover broad-based and scalable solutions that can be tailored to the specific circumstances of each business and tax controversy requirements. Some of these services include:

- 1. Tax audit/inspection readiness** – It is very common for the General Tax Authority (GTA) in Qatar to conduct audits, whether desktop audits or field inspections, in which they require businesses to provide details within a short period of time. We help businesses prepare for such tax inspections ahead of time by simulating an inspection similar to the one the GTA would conduct, and strategically prepare a response folder that would include effective responses and supporting documented evidence to enable businesses to manage possible inquiries and inspections by the GTA in the future.
- 2. Assistance with attending tax inspections** – We also assist businesses to attend the actual tax inspections and audits conducted by the GTA, whether desktop reviews or on-site field inspections. Throughout the tax assessment journey, we assist clients with the inquiries raised by the GTA, prepare a response strategy and work closely with the management to compile a response memorandum including the documented evidence requested by the authorities. Subsequently, we attend meetings at the General Tax Authority's office to ensure that the audit/inspection is concluded in an effective manner until the issuance of the tax assessment.
- 3. Objection, appeals, and litigation support** – We support through effective and efficient management of administrative procedures related to objections and appeals to manage the dispute process. This is in addition to preparing robust defense memorandums to provide a solid tax position with regards to the tax returns that are disputed by the GTA. Our team of experienced professionals can also provide litigation support working with the appointed external legal counsel.



• Tax accounting and provision

We offer a combination of process and tax accounting technical capabilities to drive the delivery of valuable insights to help businesses effectively manage tax related yearend financial reporting by conducting the following activities:

- Assist management with preparation of tax provision and financial statement disclosure
- Quality review of tax provisions and financial statement disclosures prepared by the management
- Technical trainings on IAS 12
- Deferred tax and uncertain tax position validation assistance



• Business tax advisory

Whether you are a new entrant or an existing business aspiring to expand into the Qatari market, we can advise you on a broad range of business tax topics including:

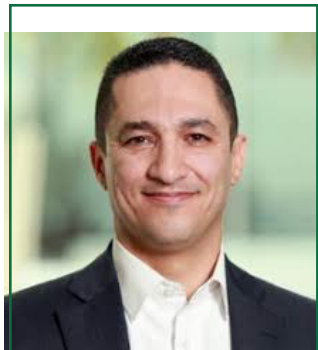
- Assessing Permanent Establishment risk and advising relevant risk mitigation strategies
- Assessing double tax treaty reliefs and recovery of withholding tax deductions under an effective Double Tax Avoidance Agreements ("DTAA")
- Performing health-checks or compliance due diligence checks to ensure a healthy compliance with all relevant tax obligations
- Advising on a tax effective form of business set up by assisting your business in selecting the most suitable and applicable tax regime and form of legal entity
- Advising on tax implications applicable in Qatar Financial Center as well as Qatar Free Zones
- Providing ad-hoc tax advice when needed

Contacts

For further information, please get in touch with one of our experts listed below.



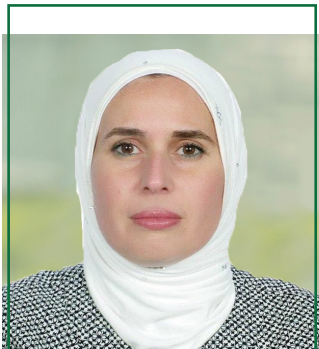
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