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Labor Competitiveness Indicators in the UAE

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Views presented in this working paper are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent views of Zayed University

LABOR COMPETITIVENESS INDICATORS IN THE UAE

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Summary

Labor competitiveness indicators relate to the way a country's institutions, policies and factors related to labor markets impact the country's productivity and economic performance. Maintaining or improving the UAE's performance on these key labor market competitiveness indicators will not only result in increased prosperity but will also contribute to each of four pillars of the country's 2021 vision (United in Responsibility, United in Destiny, United in Knowledge, United in Prosperity).

For this report, a number of labor market indicators has been selected primarily from the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report (2014-15) and from IMD's World Competitiveness Yearbook (2013). Both reports are similar in scope in the sense that they provide scores for indicators that determine a country's competitiveness level. For both reports, scores are determined either on the basis of national statistics or on the basis of an executive opinion survey in the countries covered. The World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report includes 144 countries, whereas IMD's World Competitiveness Yearbook covers 60 countries.

Fifteen competitiveness Indicators are investigated, and policy actions have been proposed to improve performance in relation to each indicator. The list includes: Flexibility of wage determination (WEF), women in labor force (IMD), female participation in the labor force (WEF), country capacity to attract talent (WEF), country capacity to retain talent (WEF), foreign skilled people (IMD), total employment in millions (IMD), percentage of the population in employment (IMD), employment growth (IMD), employment in the public sector (IMD), compensation level in manufacturing sector (IMD), unit labor cost in the manufacturing sector (IMD), equal opportunity (IMD), working hours (IMD) and remuneration spread (IMD).