

INTRODUCTION

Today, more than 3,500 Free Zones exist around the world and this number increases on a monthly basis. Many governments today see the benefits of Free Zones to attract more investment and as a tool to realize their economic development goals. Corporate investors, on the other hand, prefer to locate and operate in Free Zones not only due to the tax and other incentive benefits but also because of the ease of doing business in Free Zones.

However, information on the attractiveness of Free Zones is still difficult to find on the internet, let alone information that allows policy makers, corporate executives and academia to compare different Free Zones with each other.

The World Free Zones Organization (World FZO) and Investment Consulting Associates (ICA) have teamed up and developed a unique global product that allows users to benchmark, evaluate, rank and compare different Free Zones around the world. Free Zone Monitor allows users to find comprehensive and structured information on individual Free Zones and members of the World FZO.

Purpose of Free Zone Monitor

Free Zone Monitor, a unique global product that allows you to benchmark, rank and compare different Free Zones around the world. Free Zone Monitor allows users to find more information about individual Free Zones and members of the World FZO. The product has an accessible user-interface that has various modules to benchmark, compare and rank Free Zones.

This software application assists in addressing the following challenging questions:

- What are the key features and services of a particular Free Zone in a particular country?
- Which Free Zone offers the best configuration and value proposition for an investment case?
- How are competing Free Zones scoring on competitiveness?
- How can the competitiveness of the Free Zone as an investment location be improved?
- Has the Free Zone investment climate become more or less competitive?

Free Zone Monitor - Three Different Modules:

Free Zone Monitor includes three different modules, all offering a different technique to compare, assess and rank the competitiveness of Free Zones as potential investment locations:

1. **Free Zone Profile** - Select a Free Zone to retrieve an overview of its key incentives and customs benefits, target industries, eligibility criteria, locational features and contact details.
2. **Benchmarking** - Evaluate, benchmark and rank the competitiveness of countries and Free Zones by selecting a wide variety of location (sub-)categories.
3. **Benchmark with Weights** - Assign weights to prioritize categories to benchmark the competitiveness of Free Zones given your specific needs and requirements.

Use of Data

Free Zone Monitor runs on a comprehensive set of comparative data. This data is divided into two geographical levels: country and Free Zone data.

The country-level data in Free Zone Monitor is derived from external, secondary information sources, including:

- Specialized studies from research organizations regarding countries, regions, etc.
- Service firm reports regarding relevant business topics
- Government agency socio-economic and other reports
- International organizations and agency reports (e.g. the UN, the IMF, the World Bank, the WEF and the OECD)

The Free Zone-level data in Free Zone Monitor is derived from a survey that is conducted among members of the World FZO. The data obtained from these surveys have undergone a quality check by a team of analysts to ensure consistency, validity and reliability of Free Zone Monitor data.

Free Zone Monitor is a product that evolves over time as the database expands with more information on a periodical basis.

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