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The FTA by the numbers: awareness, inspections and tourist VAT refunds

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A quick read of the Authority's published statistics for the first half of 2026.

The Federal Tax Authority's recent releases give a useful picture of where its attention sits.

- **Awareness:** events drew nearly 34,000 participants in the first half of 2026, up 23.3%.
- **Inspections:** 103,680 visits in six months, up 21%.
- **Excise enforcement:** 8.5 million non-compliant excise products seized, tied to AED 174 million in tax liabilities and administrative penalties.
- **Tourist VAT refunds:** more than 19,300 retail outlets are now connected to the digital tourist refund system.

The direction is plain: more education, more checking, and more digital connection between taxpayers and the Authority. For finance teams that means clean records, timely returns and systems that can share data.

Sources

• FTA news centre
• FTA home

Important. This summary is for general information and is not tax, legal or financial advice. It is based on public Ministry of Finance and Federal Tax Authority publications and may be incomplete or out of date. The official legislation and guidance prevail; check the official text before acting.

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