

GEORGIA

BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT FEATURE

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A strategic development partner for the UAE

Georgia is redefining its role in the global economy. A fast-emerging hub for logistics, innovation, digitalisation and investment, the country's past and future meet in its role as the gateway between East and West. Shifting trade routes and deepening international ties are shaping this evolution, but the real momentum comes from internal dynamics: a reform-driven outlook, a commitment to infrastructure development and sustained growth that is outpacing regional averages. All of this points to a growing reputation as a stable and forward-looking destination for investment.

October sees Georgia's strategic ambitions on full display at two major global events. On October 22nd-23rd, the country will host the fifth edition of the Tbilisi Silk Road Forum, under the theme 'Invest in Connectivity – Grow in Stability'. The biennial event has become Georgia's flagship platform on the international stage, bringing together heads of state, ministers and global CEOs to discuss key policy areas across logistics, trade, energy and the digital economy—areas central to Georgia's Middle Corridor vision.

Georgia is also a premier participant at GITEX Global, currently running at the Dubai World Trade Centre

until October 17. The world's largest technology, AI and startup showcase, Georgia's delegation is led by the Georgian Innovation and Technology Agency, highlighting the country's rapidly growing innovation ecosystem and commitment to global technology engagement.

These initiatives reflect more than a rising profile—they demonstrate the country's readiness. Across various sectors and regions, Georgia offers opportunities grounded in both a dynamic economy and a stable business environment. For UAE investors seeking long-term opportunities here, Georgia is making the case clearly: now is the moment to engage.



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INTERVIEW



IRAKLI NADAREISHVILI,
DEPUTY MINISTER OF ECONOMY
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
(INVESTMENT/INNOVATION)

Q: What are Georgia's main economic priorities?

Support for private sector development in general, and especially the development of SMEs, is set out as a priority. The SME sector makes up 99.7% of the total number of businesses in Georgia, and the output of the sector has more than tripled over the last decade, from \$4.6 billion in 2012 to \$15.3 billion in 2023.

“WE SHARE VALUES WITH THE UAE IN TERMS OF ENTREPRENEURIAL MINDSET AND CULTURAL TIES.”

Q: What makes Georgia attractive for investors?

Over the last decade, the government has been active in investing in the environment to facilitate business processes in this country, create an attractive investment climate and establish a transparent and predictable tax regime. Investors doing business in Georgia not only have access to the local geography but also tariff-free access to wider markets. Technology is a top priority for us because it creates high-profile jobs and brings capital investment, intellect and expertise, all of which will benefit the Georgian economy.

Q: Where do you see the strongest synergies with the UAE?

The relationship with the UAE in terms of technological developments is important. We have a lot to exchange, and from an investment perspective, Georgia targets the UAE investment market as a top priority because there is good synergy in what UAE investors can gain from the Georgian market. We share values with the UAE in terms of entrepreneurial mindset and cultural ties.

The tourism sector is another top priority, being a solid contributor to the Georgian economy. It is rapidly developing thanks to excellent connectivity.

OVERVIEW



Photo: Shutterstock.

A partnership for growth

A shared vision for progress and economic opportunity sees bilateral ties between Georgia and the UAE scaling new heights.

Georgia's partnership with the United Arab Emirates has emerged as one of the country's most strategically significant. Grounded in shared values, the relationship now spans high-level diplomacy, business ties and large-scale investment. As Georgia leverages its growing role as a regional trade and logistics hub, the UAE's backing for its Middle Corridor vision highlights the alignment between the two countries, focused through the lens of opportunity, economic growth and broad-based cooperation with the Middle East.

Underpinning the relationship is a strong connection at the highest levels of government. September 2025 saw UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan pay an official state visit to Georgia, where he was welcomed by Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze. The occasion marked a diplomatic milestone, building on the Prime Minister's January visit to Abu Dhabi, and the UAE President reaffirmed the depth of bilateral ties at the summit. “There is a strong bond between Georgia and the United Arab Emirates,” he said. “Our two nations share a common vision centred on stability, peace and people-to-people connections.”

The high-level meeting also provided an opportunity to review progress made under the UAE-Georgia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). The deal came into force in June 2024, providing a legal and commercial framework for deeper cooperation. The CEPA covers over 90% of tariff lines and is backed by simplified customs proce-

dures, investment protections and provisions on services—supporting Georgia's efforts to attract long-term capital and strengthen its integration with regional and global markets.

“OUR TWO NATIONS SHARE A COMMON VISION CENTRED ON STABILITY, PEACE, AND PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONNECTIONS.”

HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH MOHAMED BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN,
PRESIDENT OF THE UAE

Also on the agenda at September's summit was the conclusion of a landmark investment agreement. Emaar's planned commitment to developments in Tbilisi and Batumi was already among

the largest in the country's history, but the deal's announcement brought confirmation of an increased figure over \$6 billion. This expanded commitment, together with the recent opening of the Tbilisi Dry Port in partnership with Abu Dhabi-based AD Ports Group and UAE renewables company Masdar's agreement with the Georgian Energy Development Fund, all represent a further vote of confidence in Georgia's long-term economic trajectory and ensures the country remains a focus for global investors in real estate and beyond.

Georgia is also expanding economic dialogue with other regional partners. In 2025, the country launched CEPA negotiations with Qatar, aiming to build on the successful framework established with the UAE. As Georgia strengthens its ties with Gulf states, the partnership with the UAE stands as both a foundation and a benchmark.



Photo: Tbilisi Dry Port.