

AIO Watch: Method Note (Indicators A to D)

Coverage: UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman

Series: AIO Watch, quarterly AI adoption and governance index. Public, free sources only. Zero cost, no accounts.

AIO Research Team. AIO-M01, v1.1, 23 Oct 2026. Not for publication; for Board approval through Mr Philosophy.

1. SUMMARY

AIO Watch tracks four indicators each quarter for five states: United Arab Emirates (ARE), Qatar (QAT), Bahrain (BHR), Kuwait (KWT) and Oman (OMN). We observe published facts only: official instruments, registered policy actions, listed compute systems and published adoption statistics. No value is estimated, imputed or modelled. Missing values are shown as *n/a*. Every value is logged in [aio/watch/data/source-log.csv](#) before it enters a chart.

ID	Indicator	Unit	Frequency
A	National AI strategy and governance instruments	checklist score 0 to 6	quarterly check
B	AI policy and regulatory actions	count of actions in quarter	quarterly
C	Public compute footprint	count of listed systems; listed GPU cluster count	quarterly check (source updates vary)
D	Digital adoption base	% of population online (fixed 0 to 100)	annual source, carried forward each quarter

Access date for all sources below: 23 Oct 2026 unless stated. "Verified" means we loaded the page on that date (HTTP 200 or readable content). Country-level coverage inside each source still has to be confirmed row by row by Researchy.

2. INDICATORS

INDICATOR A. NATIONAL AI STRATEGY AND GOVERNANCE INSTRUMENTS

- **Measures:** whether each state has published, in force, the core governance instruments for AI.
- **Unit and scale:** checklist score 0 to 6, one point per item present and publicly documented:
 - a published national AI strategy;
 - a named lead government body or minister for AI;
 - published AI ethics principles or guidelines;
 - published guidance on government use or adoption of AI;
 - a data protection law in force;
 - a binding AI-specific law or regulation in force. An item scores 1 only with a primary official document (URL logged). Otherwise 0, or *n/a* if the official site cannot be reached.
- **Sources (A1, national strategy), status at 23 Oct 2026:**
- **UAE:** Cabinet adoption notice dated 21 Apr 2019 [1] (live page returns 403; verified via Internet Archive snapshot of the official page, 15 Oct 2026); u.ae AI resources listing the strategy, AI Ethics Guide and AI Adoption Guideline in Government Services [2] (verified).
- **Qatar:** National Artificial Intelligence Strategy for Qatar 2019, MCIT PDF [14] (verified, HTTP 200). Adoption announced at QITCOM, 29 Oct 2019, according to HBKU news [15] (verified).
- **Oman:** AI programme 2024 to 2026 (MTCIT National Programme for AI and Advanced Digital Technologies), announced 22 Sep 2024 [16] (verified, HTTP 200). It upgrades the Executive Programme of Oct 2022. MTCIT General Policy for the Safe and Ethical Use of AI Systems, dated 1 Apr 2025 [17] (verified, HTTP 200; page lists "Date Published : 01 April 2025"). Under the AIO CEO ruling of 23 Oct 2026, the AI programme 2024 to 2026 counts as Oman's national instrument and scores A1; it is labelled 'AI programme 2024 to 2026', never 'strategy'.
- **Bahrain:** indicator A is *n/a* (AIO CEO ruling, 23 Oct 2026). Gap: see Limitations; nothing is scored.
- **Kuwait:** A1 = *n/a*. Gap: see Limitations; we found no primary strategy text, so nothing is scored. CITRA public consultation on an AI adoption guideline, announced 19 Feb 2026, closed 20 Apr 2026 [18] (verified); this is a draft, so it does not score A4.
- OECD.AI national dashboard [3] names UAE and Oman only; used as a cross-check, not a source of scores.
- **Update frequency:** checked every quarter; instruments change rarely.
- **Coverage:** all five; Kuwait A1 *n/a* pending primary text.

CHANGELOG

- **v1.1, 23 Oct 2026:** editorial, global-scope wording; identifier AIO-M01; no method, figures or references changed.
- **v1.0 (23 Oct 2026):** frozen. Includes editorial rewording of backlog items 3 and 8; no method, figures or references changed.
- **v0.2d, 23 Oct 2026:** dropped the five references that did not load (old numbers 1 and 20 to 23) and the uncited ITU Facts and Figures 2024 (old 15); remaining references renumbered 1 to 19; the gaps moved to Limitations as plain text (AIO CEO ruling).
- **v0.2c (cont.), 23 Oct 2026:** removed every unverified tag: sources that did not load are kept as references with that status and carry no claim; Bahrain and Kuwait text rests on checked sources only; third-party Kuwait tracker mention dropped; planned Signal 03 timeline set to 2017 to 2024 without Bahrain.
- **v0.2c, 23 Oct 2026:** UAE Cabinet adoption notice of 21 Apr 2019 verified via Internet Archive snapshot of the official page (15 Oct 2026); Oman General Policy of 1 Apr 2025 verified by direct load (HTTP 200). ai.gov.ae PDF and Kuwait CAIT page did not load; no claim rests on them.
- **v0.2b, 23 Oct 2026:** Bahrain set to *n/a* on A (AIO CEO ruling: no score on an unverified source).
- **v0.2a, 23 Oct 2026:** AIO CEO rulings: Oman's MTCIT programme counts as its national instrument, labelled 'AI programme 2024 to 2026'; AIO Signals 01 rests on the June 2026 TOP500 list only, and the Nov 2025 observation stays in this note only.
- **v0.2, 23 Oct 2026:** applied Researchy fact-check. (1) Logged primary strategy or policy sources for Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and Kuwait under A. (2) Dropped D2 (Oxford Insights): no scores for the five states openly readable; live page and Wayback snapshot of 23 Feb 2026 both return HTTP 202 to us, and data download needs a form. (3) D1 now scored on a fixed 0 to 100 scale, not min-max. (4) C: latest TOP500 list is June 2026; we read it row by row: 5 UAE systems, none for the other four states. (5) OECD.AI national dashboard names UAE and Oman only; Stanford AI Index names none of the five, so D3 is dropped. v0.1 kept at `methods-v0.1.md`.
- **v0.1, 23 Oct 2026:** first draft.

5. DATA VIZ HANDOVER

All CSVs are UTF-8 with a header row, one row per observation, ISO 3166-1 alpha-3 country codes, ISO dates, *n/a* for missing values. Files: `watch/data/A_instruments.csv`, `B_actions.csv`, `C_compute.csv`, `D_base.csv` (D1 only), plus the master `source-log.csv` (existing columns: indicator, data_point, value, unit, date_of_value, source_title, publisher, url, accessed, notes). Colours: teal #0E7C86 main, coral #FF6B4A for one highlight only, text #0B0F14.

6. REFERENCES

- **Limits:** presence is not quality or enforcement. A score of 6 says nothing about implementation. Several official sites block or time out on automated access, so checks need manual reading and Arabic pages.
- **CSV spec:** `quarter, country_iso3, item_id (A1..A6), present (0/1/n/a), instrument_title, issuer, date_issued, url, accessed, verified_by; derived score_A = sum of A1..A6.`

INDICATOR B. AI POLICY AND REGULATORY ACTIONS

- **Measures:** the number of new public AI policy actions in the quarter: laws, regulations, decrees, official guidelines, strategies, national programmes, regulator statements and sandboxes.
- **Unit and scale:** integer count per state per quarter, split by type (binding / non-binding).
- **Sources:**
 - OECD.AI policy initiatives database [4]. Verified; Researchy confirms all five states are named on the page. Per-state counts and update lag to log.
 - Official government news and gazettes of each state, for example UAE Cabinet news [1] and UAE Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority [5] (verified page load). Other states' gazettes: not yet checked; none is used.
- **Update frequency:** quarterly; a 30-day lag after quarter end for late announcements.
- **Coverage:** ARE, QAT, BHR, KWT, OMN.
- **Limits:** counts reward volume, not substance. Arabic-only announcements may be missed unless the Arabic Desk scans them. Deduplicate: one instrument counts once, on its issue date.
- **CSV spec:** `quarter, country_iso3, action_date (YYYY-MM-DD), action_title, action_type (law|regulation|guideline|strategy|programme|sandbox|statement), binding (Y/N), issuer, url, language (en|ar), accessed, verified_by; derived count_B, count_B_binding.`

INDICATOR C. PUBLIC COMPUTE FOOTPRINT

- **Measures:** publicly documented high-performance and AI compute located in each state.
- **Unit and scale:** (C1) number of systems on the latest TOP500 list by country; (C2) number of entries in Epoch AI's GPU clusters dataset by country, with reported performance where given.
- **Sources:**
 - TOP500, latest list June 2026 [6][19] (lists published June and November). We read ranks 1 to 500 on 23 Oct 2026: 5 systems in the UAE (ranks 46, 47, 109, 241, 301), none in Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait or Oman. Note (methods only, not used in any Signal): Researchy found UAE-only entries among the five on the Nov 2025 list too.
 - Epoch AI, GPU clusters dataset [7]. Verified; CC BY licence stated on the page (confirmed by Researchy). Gap: entries for the five states not yet checked, as the dataset file was not read on 23 Oct 2026; no Epoch AI figure is used until it is.
 - Data-centre capacity in MW is mostly in paid or commercial directories (for example, Data Center Map returned HTTP 429 to us; Cloudscene loads but detail may need an account). We do not use them unless freely readable; not scored.
- **Update frequency:** TOP500 twice a year; Epoch AI on a rolling basis. Carried forward in quarters without an update.
- **Coverage:** all five states; zero is a valid value on TOP500.
- **Limits:** only voluntarily disclosed systems appear. Private and sovereign clusters are often missing, so this is a floor, not a total. Announced capacity is not operational capacity: we record only operational entries.
- **CSV spec:** `quarter, country_iso3, source (TOP500|EP0CH), list_edition, system_name, operator, status (operational|planned), rmax_pfllops (or n/a), gpu_count (or n/a), url, accessed, verified_by; derived count_C1, count_C2.`

INDICATOR D. DIGITAL ADOPTION BASE

- **Measures:** the population base for AI adoption: share of individuals using the internet.
- **Unit and scale:** D1, % of population (ITU data via World Bank, IT.NET.USER.ZS), on a fixed 0 to 100 scale. A value of 100 scores 100 points; no min-max scaling is applied.
- **Latest values (World Bank API, read 23 Oct 2026) [8]:** UAE 100 (2024), Bahrain 100 (2024), Kuwait 100 (2025), Qatar 98.1 (2024), Oman 95.3 (2024).
- **Sources:** World Bank Open Data [8] (verified); ITU ICT statistics [9] (verified).

[1] UAE Cabinet. "UAE Cabinet adopts National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2031", 21 Apr 2019. <https://uaecabinet.ae/en/news/uae-cabinet-adopts-national-artificial-intelligence-strategy-2031>. Live page HTTP 403; read via Internet Archive snapshot of 15 Oct 2026, <https://web.archive.org/web/20261015053711/https://uaecabinet.ae/en/news/uae-cabinet-adopts-national-artificial-intelligence-strategy-2031>. Accessed 23 Oct 2026.

[2] UAE Government portal (u.ae). AI resources. <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/digital-uae/digital-technology/artificial-intelligence/ai-resources>. Accessed 23 Oct 2026.

[3] OECD.AI Policy Observatory. National AI policies dashboard. <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/national>. Accessed 23 Oct 2026.

[4] OECD.AI Policy Observatory. Policy initiatives dashboard. <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives>. Accessed 23 Oct 2026.

[5] UAE Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority. <https://www.tra.gov.ae/>. Accessed 23 Oct 2026.

[6] TOP500. TOP500 lists. <https://www.top500.org/lists/top500/>. Accessed 23 Oct 2026.

[7] Epoch AI. GPU clusters data. <https://epoch.ai/data/gpu-clusters>. Accessed 23 Oct 2026.

[8] World Bank Open Data. Individuals using the Internet (% of population), IT.NET.USER.ZS. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IT.NET.USER.ZS>. Accessed 23 Oct 2026.

[9] ITU. ICT statistics. <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/stat/default.aspx>. Accessed 23 Oct 2026.

[10] Oxford Insights. Government AI Readiness Index 2025. <https://oxfordinsights.com/ai-readiness/ai-readiness-index/>. Accessed 23 Oct 2026.

[11] Stanford HAI. AI Index Report 2025. <https://hai.stanford.edu/ai-index/2025-ai-index-report>. Accessed 23 Oct 2026.

[12] UN DESA. E-Government Knowledge Base, data centre. <https://publicadministration.un.org/egovkb/en-us/Data-Center>. Accessed 23 Oct 2026.

[13] ITU. Global Cybersecurity Index. <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/global-cybersecurity-index.aspx>. Accessed 23 Oct 2026.

[14] Qatar MCIT. National Artificial Intelligence Strategy for Qatar 2019 (PDF). https://www.mcit.gov.qa/-/media/mcit/documents/strategies/national_artificial_intelligence_strategy_for_qatar_2019_en.pdf. Accessed 23 Oct 2026.

[15] HBKU. "Minister of Transport and Communications Announces Qatar's National Artificial Intelligence Strategy", 29 Oct 2019. <https://www.hbku.edu.qa/en/news/qitcom-qcri-hbku>. Accessed 23 Oct 2026.

[16] Oman MTCIT. "Oman AI & Digital Future Program (2024–2026)", 22 Sep 2024. <https://mtcit.gov.om/media-4/news-announcements-11/news-85/oman-ai-digital-future-program-20242026-171>. Accessed 23 Oct 2026.

[17] Oman MTCIT. General Policy for the Safe and Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence Systems, 1 Apr 2025. <https://mtcit.gov.om/library-3/legislations-policies-8/policies-73/general-policy-for-the-safe-and-ethical-use-of-artificial>

- **Dropped in v0.2:** D2 Oxford Insights Government AI Readiness Index [10]: scores for the five states not openly readable (HTTP 202 empty body to automated access; archived copy of 23 Feb 2026 also HTTP 202; download behind a details form). D3 Stanford AI Index [11]: names none of the five states. Either may return in a later version only if openly readable figures for the five states are found.
- **Update frequency:** annual; carried forward each quarter with `date_of_value` showing the true year.
- **Coverage:** all five.
- **Limits:** at or near ceiling (three states at 100), so D has little power to separate the five states; it is a floor condition, not a ranking. Internet use is a proxy, not AI use. The data lag by one to two years.
- **CSV spec:** `quarter, country_iso3, sub_id (D1), value, unit (pct), date_of_value (YYYY), url, accessed, verified_by`.

3. SCORING AND AGGREGATION

1. Each sub-indicator is reported raw first. Numbers come before any composite.
2. For a composite, each indicator is put on 0 to 100: $A = \text{score_A} / 6 \times 100$ (fixed); $B = \text{count_B}$ scaled to the highest state that quarter (min-max); $C = \text{mean of C1 and C2 scaled to the highest state (min-max)}$; $D = \text{D1 value as is (fixed 0 to 100, because values cluster at the ceiling and min-max would turn a 4.7-point gap into a 0 to 100 spread)}$.
3. AIO Watch score = equal-weight mean of A to D. A state with two or more indicators *n/a* gets no composite.
4. Weights are equal by default and stated with every release. No ranking is published from fewer than three indicators.
5. Every quarter we publish a changelog of source edits and method changes.

4. LIMITATIONS

- Five states only; small sample, so min-max scaling exaggerates small gaps.
- Public sources favour states that publish in English and online; we mitigate with Arabic Desk review.
- Indicators A and B measure activity and instruments, not outcomes or enforcement.
- Indicator C is a floor because of non-disclosure.
- Indicator D lags by one to two years and sits near the ceiling, so it barely separates states.
- Mixed scaling (fixed for A and D, min-max for B and C) is stated with each release.
- No primary data, surveys or interviews are used. The index describes what is published, not the real state of AI in each country.
- Sources that did not load on 23 Oct 2026 and on which nothing rests: the UAE National Strategy for AI 2031 PDF on ai.gov.ae (HTTP 403); the Bahrain iGA pages on the National Policy for the Use of AI, the General Policy for the Use of AI and the AI Readiness Assessment report; and the Kuwait CAIT "Kuwait Strategy" page. Bahrain and Kuwait are *n/a* on indicator A until primary texts load.

7. BACKLOG: 10 CANDIDATE AIO SIGNALS

1. Seven years of the UAE National AI Strategy 2031: what the eight objectives commit to [1].
2. The UAE's published AI guidance shelf: ethics, government adoption, deepfakes [2].
3. National AI instruments in the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman, 2017 to 2024: strategy and programme timeline [1][14][16].
4. Who is on TOP500? Supercomputers in the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman on the latest list [6].
5. Disclosed GPU clusters in the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman: what is public and what is not [7].
6. Internet use in the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman: the adoption ceiling [8].
7. What OECD.AI records about AI policy in the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman, and the gaps [3][4].
8. E-government and AI readiness: do the UN E-Government Index and AI readiness move together? [12]. Depends on an openly readable AI readiness source; none is available at present.
9. Cybersecurity commitments as an AI governance base: ITU Global Cybersecurity Index [13].
10. Kuwait's AI adoption guideline consultation: what the draft covers [18].

intelligence-systems-291. Accessed 23 Oct 2026 (HTTP 200).
[18] Kuwait CITRA. Public consultation: AI adoption guideline for the State of Kuwait (Arabic), announced 19 Feb 2026. <https://www.citra.gov.kw/sites/ar/Pages/GCDetails.aspx?GCID=24>. Accessed 23 Oct 2026.
[19] TOP500. June 2026 list. <https://www.top500.org/lists/top500/list/2026/06/>. Accessed 23 Oct 2026.