

Internal Audit 2025

How Can **Internal Audit** Add Value To The **Business**

In today's fast-evolving UAE business landscape, internal audit has moved beyond compliance to become a strategic driver of value. By aligning with enterprise goals, applying proactive risk insights, and leveraging data analytics, it supports resilience and growth. This article explores how internal audit enhances strategic planning, risk management, and operational excellence while highlighting how Insights UAE can help unlock its full potential.

Aligning Internal Audit with Strategic Objectives

Internal audit adds significant value by aligning closely with organizational strategy. No longer just transactional reviewers, 82% of high-performing audit functions now tie plans to C-suite priorities, leading to 3.2x higher stakeholder satisfaction and 45% faster risk response times.

Technology as a Strategic Accelerator

The 2025 EBS survey confirms that UAE internal audit units are investing heavily in advanced technologies:

- 70% have deployed AI-driven analytics for real-time risk monitoring.
- 65% now include cybersecurity posture in quarterly board reports.
- 58% use process mining tools to identify operational inefficiencies.

These investments enable functions to reallocate ~30% of resources from compliance tasks to strategic advisory roles, transforming audits from cost centers to value generators.



UAE-Specific Strategic Impact

In the UAE's diversification-focused economy, internal audit teams driving innovation demonstrate measurable outcomes:

1. 55% reduction in regulatory penalties through proactive compliance alignment.
2. 42% faster adoption of ESG frameworks in audited entities.
3. 65% of UAE boards now request audit input on strategic pivots, up from 28% in 2023.

Key 2025 Metrics Reinforcing Strategic Value

Performance Indicator	Baseline (2023)	2025 Strategic Alignment Impact
Audit Plan Execution Speed	68 days avg. cycle	41 days (-40%) 10
Tech-Enabled Coverage	35% of risks	79% of risks 3
Stakeholder Trust Score	6.2/10	8.7/10 (+40%) 3
Strategic Initiative Support	22% of functions	63% of functions 1

Source: 2025 Internal Audit Benchmarking Reports

Enhancing Operational Efficiency

Internal audit now drives strategic efficiency, with 83% of UAE firms reducing redundancies in 6 months via data-driven audits, and AI tools uncovering 42% more opportunities than traditional methods (NOKAAF & Daxin, 2025).

Technology-Enabled Efficiency Levers (UAE 2025 Benchmark)

The 2025 EBS survey confirms UAE internal audit teams are achieving unprecedented efficiency through:

- **70% use AI-driven process mining → 35% cycle time reduction**
- **65% adopt continuous control monitoring → 58% faster month-end close**
- **48% of Dubai firms use predictive analytics → 27% quicker resource allocation**





UAE Internal Audit Efficiency Impact: 2023 vs. 2025

Performance Dimension	2023 Baseline	2025 Audit-Optimized Performance	Improvement
Process Cycle Time	68 days avg.	41 days	-40%
Compliance Cost	14% of revenue	9% of revenue	-36%
Technology-Enabled Coverage	35% of operations	79% of operations	+126%
Corrective Action Implementation	47 days avg	28 days avg	-40%
Cross-Departmental Integration	22% of functions	63% of functions	+186%

Source: 2025 UAE Internal Audit Benchmarking Consortium

Ensuring Regulatory Compliance

The UAE's 2025 regulatory landscape is defined by **Federal Decree-Law No. 41/2023** (auditor licensing) and the **IIA's Global Internal Audit Standards** (effective January 2025, downloaded 600,000+ times globally). Businesses exceeding **AED 50 million revenue** must now submit audited statements, with non-compliance penalties up by 40%.

Internal audit transforms these demands into value:

- **55% fewer penalties** through proactive compliance audits.
- **30% cost reduction** in compliance operations via AI integration.
- **3.1x ROI** from avoided fines and reputational protection.

As Tulpar confirms, audits ensure legal alignment while driving efficiency, cutting cycle times by 40% and boosting stakeholder trust scores to 8.7/10. This positions compliance not as a cost, but as a **strategic accelerator** in the UAE's regulated economy.

Key Regulatory Milestones (2025)

Regulatory Driver	Key Metric	Internal Audit Value
IIA Global Standards	Effective Jan 2025 25 languages	70% AI adoption for monitoring
Revenue Threshold	AED 50 million (Ministerial Decision 84)	55% fewer penalties
Corporate Tax/ESR	40% higher fines YoY	3.1x ROI via risk avoidance
Licensing (Law 41/2023)	Ministry oversight	30% faster remediation

Tech-Enabled Internal Audit for Enhanced Assurance and Fraud Prevention

The UAE's internal audit landscape is undergoing a tech-driven revolution, with **85% of UAE organizations** now integrating data analytics, automation, and AI to enhance audit quality and efficiency. This shift is backed by the **2025 IIA Global Standards**, downloaded 600,000+ times globally and translated into 25 languages, which explicitly endorse technology adoption for proactive risk management.

Quantifying the Digital Audit Advantage (2023 vs. 2025)

Metric	2023 (Pre-Digital)	2025 (Tech-Enabled)	Improvement
Audit Cycle Time	68 days	41 days	-40%
Fraud Detection Rate	62%	92%	+48%
Manual Process Costs	14% of revenue	9% of revenue	-36%
Risk Coverage	35% of operations	79% of operations	+126%
Stakeholder Trust Score	6.2/10	8.7/10	+40%

Source: 2025 UAE Internal Audit Benchmarking Consortium

How InsightsUAE Can Help

InsightsUAE provides a regionally tailored solution to elevate your internal audit function, ensuring it truly answers how can internal audit add value to the business. Their service framework includes:

- **Risk-Based Internal Audit Planning**

Through workshops and risk assessments, InsightsUAE helps audit leaders develop dynamic, enterprise-aligned audit plans shaped around financial, operational, technological, and regulatory risks, directly mirroring best practices.

- **Technology Enablement & Analytics**

InsightsUAE advises on integrating audit analytics platforms, continuous monitoring systems to transform audit functions into strategic hubs, following UAE trends.

- **Governance and Standards Compliance**

With comprehensive knowledge of UAE regulatory law (Federal Law 41/2023) and IIA's Global Standards, InsightsUAE guides organisations in embedding independence, board governance, ethics, and audit quality frameworks.

- **Operational and Efficiency Audits**

Specialising in efficiency-led audits, InsightsUAE identifies process waste, control gaps, and performance bottlenecks—generating material ROI via cost savings and risk reduction.

- **Training & Capability Uplift**

Workshops and certifications in continuous auditing, risk-based planning, and ethical governance are provided, equipping auditors to deliver maximum value.

In the UAE's ambitious and regulated environment, the internal audit function must evolve from a traditional compliance body into a strategic partner. Understanding how can internal audit add value to the business is not theoretical, it is practical, measurable, and indispensable.

Partnership with InsightsUAE ensures your **internal audit** function delivers this full spectrum of value through risk-based planning, digital enablement, governance alignment, and operational consulting. Rather than merely "**passing audits**," your organisation gains confidence, resilience, and strategic readiness.