



2020

ANNUAL REPORT

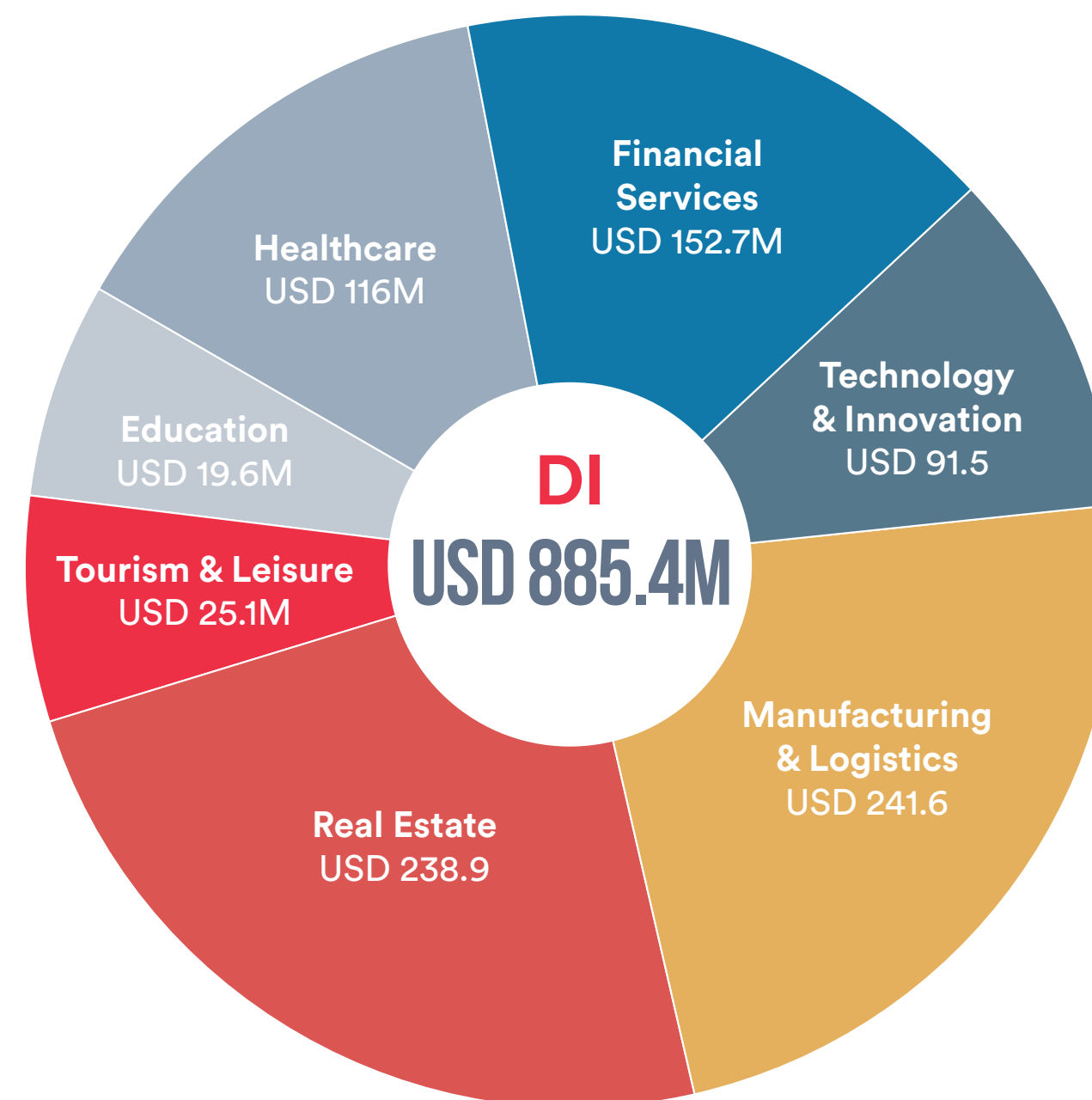
BUSINESS
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BAHRAIN

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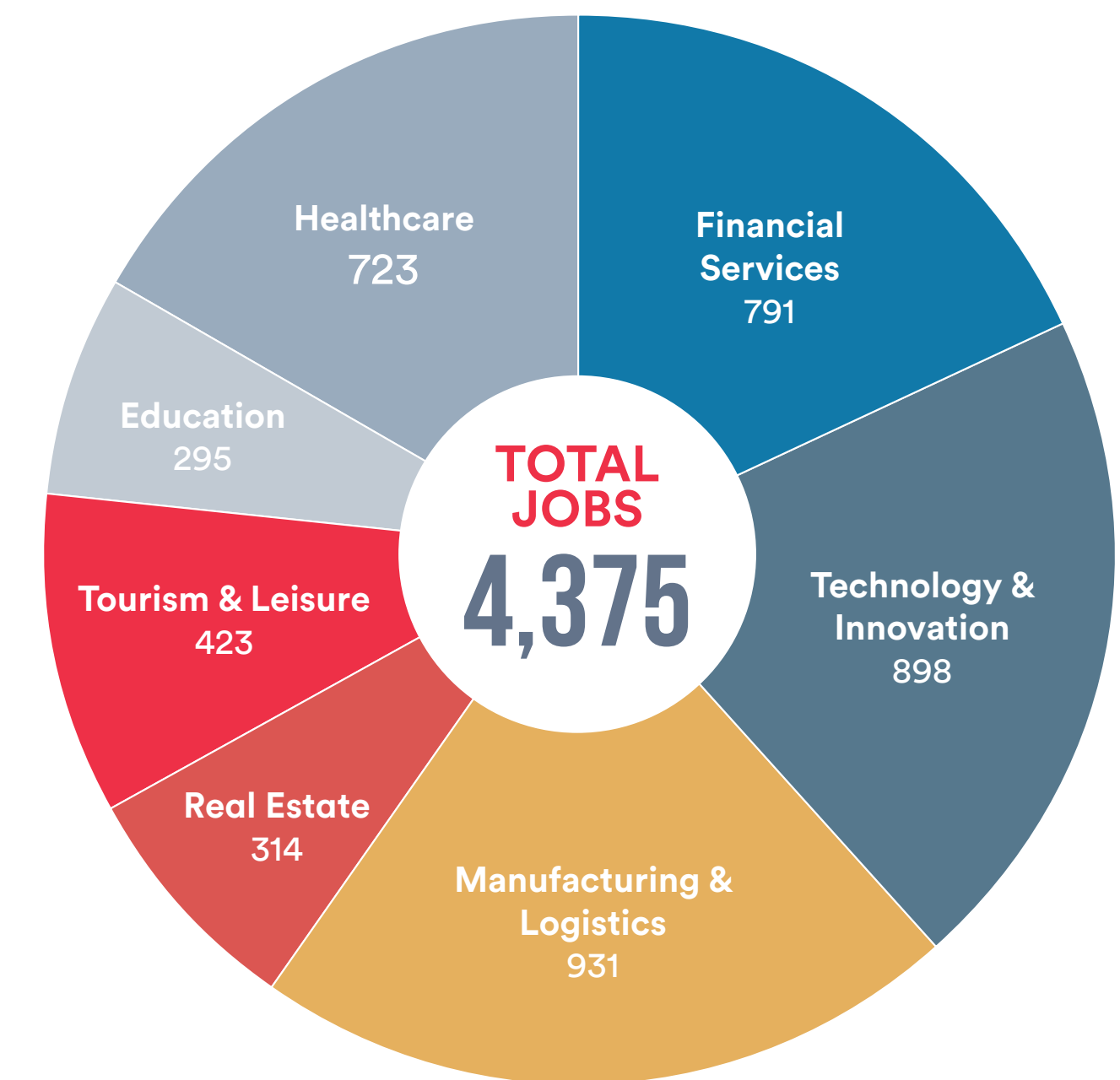
OPEN FOR BUSINESS

2020 was an unprecedented year for Bahrain - \$885.4m in direct investment from 105 companies choosing to set up here. Our collaborative approach to business and robust digital infrastructure offered international and local partners a catalyst for growth and a fertile gateway to the GCC market.

Diversification has always been at the heart of Bahrain's economic development and this multi-sector strategy is projected to create 4,375 new jobs over the next 3 years. This approach will remain a key priority as we continue to open up Bahrain's business ecosystem to the world.



*Forecast over the next 3 years.



*Forecast over the next 3 years.

Sector highlights

TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

MENA is the fastest growing region for cloud traffic globally, presenting Bahrain as an optimal testbed for companies wanting to take advantage of growing opportunities for data centers, gaming, digital platforms and business outsourcing. It was this blueprint for success that led Live.me to establish its MENA headquarters in Bahrain; Data Direct to outsource part of its back-office operation to the Kingdom and Bahrain-based SAAS companies like SINC to flourish in 2020.

Key Successes



MANUFACTURING & LOGISTICS

Unparalleled market access, numerous trade agreements and an enviable talent pool have seen international players in FMCG, logistics, metals and packaging industries identify the Kingdom as their ideal MENA hub. 2020 saw Aleastur choose Bahrain as the site for the region's first aluminum grain refinery plant; Arla invest in a major expansion of its factory in Bahrain, a move that will transform it into the second largest dairy producer in the Middle East; DHL's plan to expand its MENA hub operations reaffirmed the strength of the Kingdom's logistics sector; and OMP Bell Racing announce plans to expand its existing manufacturing operations in 2021.

Key Successes



FINANCIAL SERVICES

A world-leading regulatory authority and a pool of highly qualified finance and fintech professionals has allowed Bahrain to emerge as a powerful player in fintech and digital banking. Bahrain offers international investors both an innovative ecosystem and access to the GCC's highly-receptive and profitable marketplace. The launch of the Kingdom's latest neo-bank, ila Bank, and the graduation of the insurtech platform Tasweya from the CBB's innovative Regulatory Sandbox are just a few of the success stories that emerged from Bahrain's flourishing financial ecosystem in 2020.

Key Successes



TOURISM & LEISURE

In 2020, Bahrain continued its ongoing investment in tourism infrastructure projects. 2020 saw the opening of Clay, a unique fine dining experience in Adliya. Bahrain's tourism offering was recognised by the FTI Group, a global network of 21 destination management companies, who established a presence in the Kingdom by setting up Meeting Point Bahrain. As Bahrain continues to raise its profile as a premier travel destination in the GCC, the government's investment strategy looks to unlock more opportunities in retail, leisure, food and hotel investment.

Key Successes



Sector highlights

REAL ESTATE

Bolstered by infrastructure projects worth over US \$32billion - comparable to its GDP - Bahrain presents an attractive proposition for international companies looking to benefit from the Kingdom's foreign ownership laws and the progressive Real Estate Regulatory Authority. One of the high-profile commercial entities to open up in 2020 was Thai Mart Bahrain, the first Thai shopping mall in the Middle East. 2021 will see the completion of the family-centric Mall of Dilmunia, which includes an ice rink and a rock-climbing wall, and the open-air El Balcon Mall, where Jarir Bookstore – the largest book retailer in Saudi Arabia – will be opening its first store in Bahrain.

Key Successes

EL BALCÓN
البلكون

MD
Mall of Dilmunia

تاي مارت
THAIMART
البحرين

HEALTHCARE

A rapidly growing MENA population has accelerated GCC healthcare demands. The Bahraini government, spearheaded by Supreme Council of Health, has set out multiple programs to modernise the Bahraini healthcare sector including SEHATI (National Health Insurance) and Hospital and Primary Care Autonomy initiatives. The new multispecialty American Mission Hospital is our most ambitious healthcare project to date. Other exciting additions to the healthcare sector include King Abdullah Medical City and the Mohammed Bin Khalifa Cardiac Center.

Key Successes

amh
American Mission Hospital
مستشفى الإميسالية الأمريكية

KIMSHEALTH

EDUCATION

The Kingdom's commitment to educational excellence has been fuelled by a rapidly growing youth population and a sizeable expat community. The demand for international education presents a real opportunity for investors in the private sector, with the newly launched American School of Bahrain just one of many offering an American curriculum. This state-of-the-art ESOL Education institution brings a wealth of global experience.

Key Successes

AMERICAN
SCHOOL OF
BAHRAIN



Meet the team

Our highly skilled team is ready to help you learn more about investment opportunities in Bahrain and find the best pathways to growth and opportunity in 2021.



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