Islamic finance has been developed in its modern form over the past three decades, although its key principles, as set out in the side panel on page 7, remain unchanged. This report, the second that IFSL has published on Islamic Finance, features the countries and sectors that are leading the way. The report highlights the growing UK position in the market, and indicates where Islamic finance has been impacted by the global economic downturn.

OVERVIEW

The global market for Islamic financial services, as measured by Sharia compliant assets, is estimated to have reached $729bn at end-2007, 37% up from $531bn in 2006 (Chart 1). Islamic commercial banks accounted for the bulk of the assets with investment banks and Sukuk issues making up most of the remainder. The developing funds and Takaful sectors also made a contribution. Key centres are concentrated in Islamic countries including Iran, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Kuwait, UAE and Bahrain (Chart 2). The UK, in 8th place, is the leading Western country with $18bn of reported assets, largely based on HSBC Amanah.

The Islamic finance industry has felt the influence of the credit crunch and downturn in the global economy in 2008, with a drop in Sukuk issuance and a fall in the value of equity funds. Islamic banks, however, have been less affected than many conventional banks because they are not exposed to losses from investment in toxic assets nor have they been dependent on wholesale funds, as they are prohibited from these activities.

While London has been providing Islamic financial services for 30 years, it is only in recent years that this service has begun to receive greater profile. An important feature of the development of London and the UK as the key Western centre for Islamic finance has been supportive government policies intended to broaden the market for Islamic products. The outcome is reflected in the establishment of various aspects of Islamic finance in the UK:

- 22 banks including five that are fully Sharia compliant, more than in any other Western country. Two Islamic banks were granted licences in 2008.
- 18 Sukuk issues raising $10bn listed on London Stock Exchange, exceeded only by Dubai Nasdaq.
- Seven Sharia compliant ETFs, including four launched in 2008; two new equity funds also launched in 2008.
- First company to offer Takaful to UK residents authorised in 2008.
- 18 law firms supplying services in Islamic finance.
- Advisory services provided by Big Four professional service firms.
- A total of 55 institutions offering educational and training products in Islamic finance, more than that provided in any other country worldwide.
- Off-exchange trading in commodity-based agreements linked to LME contracts.
GLOBAL MARKET FOR ISLAMIC FINANCE

The global market for Islamic financial services, as measured by Sharia compliant assets, is estimated to have reached $729bn at end-2007, 37% up from $531bn in 2006 (Chart 1). This growth is partly related to improved coverage of the Banker’s second annual survey of Islamic financial institutions, which make up the bulk of the figure. However there continues to be underlying growth in assets including a number of new firms that have started business during the year. Assets have grown from about $150bn in the mid-1990s. Islamic commercial banks accounted for 74% of the assets, investment banks 12% and Sukuk issues 11%. The balance is made up by net assets of funds and assets of Takaful providers.

Assets that can be allocated to individual countries from The Banker’s survey of 500 organisations reveal that the leading countries for Sharia compliant assets are Iran with $235bn, Saudi Arabia $92bn and Malaysia $67bn (Table 1). Other Gulf states including Kuwait, UAE, Bahrain and Qatar are also prominent. The UK, in 8th place, is the leading Western country with $18bn of reported assets, largely based on HSBC Amahan.

Emerging centres of expertise Bahrain, Dubai/UAE and Kuala Lumpur have both strong historical positions and future ambitions as centres for Islamic financial services. Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Singapore also have aspirations to become centres for Islamic finance. Following the lead set by the UK, other countries, such as Japan and France, are looking to make the appropriate regulatory and legal reforms that would facilitate provision of Islamic financial products. London is seeking to consolidate its position as the gateway to Islamic finance in Western Europe. Providers in London are likely to focus on services that complement those available in other centres. Government strategy for the development of Islamic finance in the UK is set out on page 7.

Broadening geographical customer base for Islamic services The market is currently most developed in Malaysia, Iran and the majority of countries that form the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC). However, Islamic finance is moving beyond its historic boundaries in these countries into new territories both within and outside the Arab world. Key future markets include:

- Other Arab countries such as Egypt, Turkey, Lebanon and Syria.
- Other Asian countries such as Indonesia, which has the largest indigenous Muslim population in the world, and China.
- Western countries in Europe and North America. Countries such as the US, France, Germany and the UK each have indigenous Muslim populations of between one and five million. Moreover, the customer base in Western countries is not necessarily restricted to Moslems: other customers may be attracted by the ethical and environmental basis of Islamic finance.

### Table 1 Islamic finance by country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Banking, Takaful &amp; fund assets, $bn, end-2007</th>
<th>Inv. firms</th>
<th>Total 2007</th>
<th>Total 2006</th>
<th>Number of firms*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Banks</td>
<td>Takaful</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>233.0</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>235.3</td>
<td>154.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.Arabia</td>
<td>91.2</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>92.0</td>
<td>69.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>65.7</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>67.1</td>
<td>65.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>54.0</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>63.1</td>
<td>37.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>48.2</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>49.1</td>
<td>35.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>37.1</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>37.4</td>
<td>26.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>10.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>10.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>15.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>14.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>622.0</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>639.1</td>
<td>471.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes only those firms submitting data to survey

Source: The Banker
Islamic Finance 2009

Sharia compliant financial services

Banking and Sukuk - the issue of Islamic notes - represent the forms of Islamic finance that are most well established, although Takaful (insurance) and funds are also evolving. Products that may be the subject of innovation include private equity and private wealth management.

Banking Islamic banks have been perceived more positively during 2008 in view of the major challenges faced by many conventional banks arising from the credit crunch. Islamic banks have not, like many conventional banks, been exposed to losses from investment in toxic assets or become dependent on wholesale funds, as they are prohibited from these activities. Islamic banks, like conventional banks, need to have appropriate capital and adequate access to liquidity and manage risks appropriately. This includes managing their exposure to bad debts arising from the general downturn in business.

Islamic banks have continued to build on their natural competitive advantages including customer loyalty, sensitivity to religious practices and stable base of deposits. They compete not only with each other but also conventional banks that have moved to open Islamic ‘windows’ through setting up branches or creating Sharia compliant subsidiaries. In the Banker’s survey, balance sheet assets of Sharia compliant bank assets totalled $622bn in 2007, of which $537bn were in commercial banks and $85bn in investment banks. Countries with most of the 280 banks reporting to the Banker’s survey, include Malaysia with 38, while Kuwait, Bahrain, Iran and Pakistan each have between 20 and 29 banks supplying Islamic financial services (Table 1).

In the UK, five fully Sharia compliant banks have been established putting it in the lead in Western Europe (Table 2). The Islamic Bank of Britain (IBB) became the first stand-alone retail Islamic bank in the country in 2004 and has over 70,000 customers. European Islamic Investment Bank (EIIIB), AIM-listed in 2006, was created with the aim of recycling surplus institutional and private liquidity from the Gulf into Sharia compliant asset classes in Western markets. Opening in 2007, The Bank of London and The Middle East (BLME) offers Sharia compliant investment and corporate banking to businesses and high net worth individuals globally. European Finance House, a unit of Qatar Islamic Bank, and Gatehouse Bank each received a banking licence in 2008. European Finance House offers a balanced range of Sharia compliant investment and corporate banking to clients that include companies and wealthy investors. Gatehouse Bank is a wholesale investment bank operating in capital markets, institutional wealth management, Treasury business and advisory services.

In addition to the five Sharia compliant banks, there are an estimated 17 conventional banks that have set up windows in the UK to provide Islamic financial services (Table 2). These include Alburaq (ABC International Bank), Barclays Bank, Deutsche Bank, HSBC Amanah, Lloyds Banking Group, Standard Chartered and UBS. HSBC Amanah is the only conventional bank with an Islamic window to report to the Banker’s survey: its assets of $15.2bn account for 87% of the UK’s identified assets and were up over a half on the previous year (Table 3).

### Table 2 Islamic banks in UK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fully sharia compliant</th>
<th>Bank of London and Middle East</th>
<th>European Finance House</th>
<th>European Islamic Investment Bank</th>
<th>Gatehouse Bank</th>
<th>Islamic Bank of Britain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Islamic windows</td>
<td>Ahli United Bank</td>
<td>Alburaq</td>
<td>Barclays</td>
<td>BNP Paribas</td>
<td>Bristol &amp; West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bank of Ireland</td>
<td>Barclays</td>
<td>Citi Group</td>
<td>Deutsche Bank</td>
<td>Citi Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Europe Arab Bank</td>
<td>HSBC Amanah</td>
<td>IJ International London</td>
<td>Lloyds Group</td>
<td>Deutshe Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Royal Bank of Scotland</td>
<td>Standard Chartered</td>
<td>United National Bank</td>
<td>United Bank</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the five Sharia compliant banks, there are an estimated 17 conventional banks that have set up windows in the UK to provide Islamic financial services (Table 2). These include Alburaq (ABC International Bank), Barclays Bank, Deutsche Bank, HSBC Amanah, Lloyds Banking Group, Standard Chartered and UBS. HSBC Amanah is the only conventional bank with an Islamic window to report to the Banker’s survey: its assets of $15.2bn account for 87% of the UK’s identified assets and were up over a half on the previous year (Table 3).

### Table 3 Assets of Islamic banks in UK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source: The Banker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HSBC Amanah Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank of London and the Middle East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec-07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Islamic Investment Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islamic Bank of Britain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Finance House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gatehouse Bank</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BLME, EIB and IBB also reported a substantial rise in assets in the latest year to be reported. The 22 Islamic banks in the UK substantially exceed that in any other western country or offshore centre (Table 4). The UK market for Islamic mortgages has grown to about £500m, some 0.3% of the total UK mortgage market.

**Sukuk** are issues of Islamic notes that represent an alternative to conventional bonds. Issuance of Sukuk increased rapidly from $1bn a year in 2002 to $42bn in 2007 (Chart 3). In common with the broad-based slowdown in global capital market activity, Sukuk issuance fell away during 2008 to an estimated $20bn. Key contributing factors were a decline in asset valuation, a lack of liquidity and a lack of market confidence. There was also an earlier pause in February 2008 due to a ruling from the Accounting and Auditing Organisation for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOFI) questioning Sharia compliance of some Sukuk structures, but issues resumed in March. The leading underwriters in 2008, based on value of issuance, were HSBC, CIMB, Calyon and Standard Chartered, according to Bloomberg data reported in The Banker.

A breakdown by country for 2007 show that Malaysia remains the main issuer in the market with issuance of $26bn, over half the annual total. Much of the rest was accounted for by the UAE $10bn and Saudi Arabia $6bn with Pakistan, Bahrain and Kuwait each accounting for issues of $1bn each. Over a third of Sukuk are listed with the remainder being over the counter. Nasdaq Dubai and London Stock Exchange are the main centres for listing. At end-2008 there were 20 listings in Dubai totalling $18bn and 18 in London worth $10bn.

Although market activity has fallen away, particularly in the second half of 2008, the long term prospects for Sukuk are positive once markets recover. Three factors should have a role in fostering growth in demand when market conditions improve:

- There is a commitment to a substantial programme of infrastructure investment in the GCC totalling up to $1,000bn over the next ten years, some of which will be financed through Sukuk.
- Recent years have shown that there is an appetite and demand for investment in Sukuk that goes well beyond Islamic investors amongst those investors that wish to gain exposure to diverse but high quality assets.
- Governments and regulators in a variety of countries have recognised the important role that Sukuk can play in capital markets and have been giving priority to developing their countries as Sukuk centres. In addition to Dubai and the UK, these include Bahrain, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore and Japan.

**Islamic funds** The market for Islamic funds has expanded over the past decade. Eurekahedge estimates that the total number of Sharia compliant funds reached 680 funds during 2008 having risen from around 150 in 2000. These funds include mutual, alternative, investment trusts, private equity, real estate and structured products. The value of many funds has been
substantially reduced by the sharp decline in equity markets in the third quarter of 2008. The total value of equity funds, numbering around 420 in 2008, fell from $17.2bn at end-2007 to an estimated $12.5bn end-2008. Funds’ value had previously risen from a low point of $3bn in 2002 (Chart 4).

Eurekahedge estimates that returns on Islamic funds were down an average 28% in 2008. Overall Islamic funds have returned an average of 0.1% a year since 2000, better than the -4% generated by global equities, but well short of the 6% achieved by bonds (Chart 5). The bulk of Islamic funds are domiciled in the GCC and Malaysia. Several UK offerings have been launched in 2008:

- Four exchange traded funds (ETFs) listing on the London Stock Exchange;
- A fund of equity funds, the first of its type globally to be offered by SEI;
- Arab Banking Corporation, under its Alburyq brand, launching the first Sharia compliant retail capital-protected equity product in the UK;
- FTSE Group, the global index provider, launching the FTSE Bursa Malaysia Hijrah Sharia Index, in association with Bursa Malaysia.

These offerings supplement Scottish Widows’ global equity fund launched in 2006 and the three ETFs already listed on the LSE.

**Takaful**, similar to mutual insurance, is a risk sharing entity that allows for the transparent sharing of risk by pooling individual contributions for the benefit of all subscribers. The global market is at an early stage of development, with two thirds of global premiums, $4.8bn out of an estimated $7.2bn in 2007 based in Iran where Takaful is the compulsory form of insurance (Chart 6). Global Takaful premiums have doubled from $3.6bn over the three years since 2004. Other than Iran, the Takaful market is mainly concentrated in Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and UAE (Table 4). Penetration of Takaful is nevertheless low in these and other countries with Islamic majorities. Takaful represents a strong growth opportunity, particularly with regard to life insurance, as Sharia compliant products are developed. Takaful assets of $6bn were identified in the Banker’s survey. This probably understates global assets which IFSL has estimated at $10bn in Chart 1.

The Takaful market in the UK is at an early stage of development. Principle Insurance, authorised by the FSA in 2008, is the first Sharia compliant independent Takaful company in the UK. Its services to UK residents, sold under the Salaam Halal Insurance brand, include Sharia compliant motor and home insurance. It is the second Takaful available in the UK, following HSBC Amanah’s home insurance offering. Prudential was given approval in 2006 to launch a Takaful business in Malaysia in partnership with Bank Negara Malaysia.

**Other financial products** The range of products generated by Islamic finance has broadened steadily. In the UK in 2007 Merrill Lynch structured the first Sharia compliant credit default swap for a UK power company involving GCC investors. In 2008, Barclays Capital and Sharia Capital Inc. of the US...
launched the first Islamic fund of hedge funds. Sharia compliant public private partnerships (PPP) are also under consideration. This is a model, widely used both in the UK and elsewhere in Europe, that involves a partnership between the public and private sectors in the provision of infrastructure and services, such as hospitals and roads. In a PPP contract the private sector receives payment from the public sector in return for meeting pre-determined services: it is an approach that should fit into a Sharia compliant model.

The UK has a successful record as a trading centre for Islamic products as commodity-based LME contracts are traded off exchange. This has been a key mechanism for Islamic financial institutions to manage their assets and liabilities. In 2008 ETF Securities has launched a Sharia compliant precious metal exchange trade commodity platform, based on platinum, palladium silver, gold and a basket of other metals.

Law firms The UK is a major global provider of the specialist legal expertise required for Islamic finance. Chambers & Partners list 18 major law firms in the UK as providing legal services in Islamic finance (Table 5).

Professional service firms The Big Four professional services firms - PricewaterhouseCoopers, KPMG, Ernst & Young and Deloitte - have each established an Islamic finance team in London providing specialist services including advice on tax, listings, transactions, regulatory compliance, management, operations and IT systems.

Education and training There is a growing demand for skills as Islamic finance expands and UK institutions are at the forefront of providing qualifications for the global industry. Research Intelligence Unit has identified 55 such institutions in the UK, more than twice as many as Malaysia, the next largest provider with 24 (Chart 7). The UAE, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain each have between 16 and 18 institutions. Elsewhere the US has nine indicating the country’s growing interest in Islamic finance.

The UK offering spans the full range of qualifications starting from 16 year-old school level through vocational and career-based qualifications and undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. The courses offered by the Securities and Investment Institute (SII), Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, Association of International Accountants, Cass Business School and the Institute of Islamic Banking and Insurance, that are listed in the side panel, have been key to the development of Islamic finance qualifications.

In a separate initiative, the Islamic Finance Council UK has developed a pioneering ‘Scholar Professional Development Programme’ in conjunction with the SII. The objective of the course is to teach conventional finance to Shariah scholars worldwide.

Islamic finance qualifications provided from the UK

UK organisations providing qualifications in Islamic finance that can be accessed internationally include:

- Association of International Accountants (AIA) The AIA has cooperated with the Institute of Banking and Finance in Bahrain in developing and certifying the Diploma in Islamic Accounting and Compliance, which was launched in May 2008. The aim is to expand the cadre of expertise in Islamic banking.

- Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) The CIMA Certificate in Islamic Finance (Cert IF) represents the first global qualification to be offered by a professional chartered accountancy body to focus on Islamic finance. CIMA has worked closely with the International Institute of Islamic Finance Inc. to develop a relevant and highly applicable qualification.

- Securities and Investment Institute (SII) The Islamic Finance Qualification (IFQ) is a joint initiative between the SII, a leading professional body for the UK securities and investment industry, and the Ecole Superieure des Affaires (ESA), a leading business school in the Middle East. The IFQ covers Islamic finance from both a technical and Sharia perspective, providing the first international benchmark in the area of Islamic finance.

- Cass Business School The Cass Executive MBA Dubai programme has been developed by the Cass Business School in collaboration with the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC). The course is designed for managers in the Gulf, Middle East and surrounding regions.

- Institute of Islamic Banking and Insurance IIBI is the only professional organisation that specialises in providing professional education, publications and training in Islamic finance.

Qualifications offered by these and many other providers give candidates an understanding of Shariah compliance in a business context and therefore equip them for key positions in Islamic finance industries.
GOVERNMENT STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ISLAMIC FINANCE IN THE UK

London has been providing Islamic financial services for 30 years, although it is only in recent years that this service has begun to receive greater profile. An important feature of the development of London and the UK as the key Western centre for Islamic finance has been supportive government policies intended to broaden the market for Islamic products for both Sharia compliant institutions and firms with ‘Islamic windows’ (see side panel).

A key aspect of supportive government policy has been the establishment since 2003 of an enabling fiscal and regulatory framework in the UK for Islamic finance. There have been a number of initiatives which are intended to form part of a continuing process:

- The removal in 2003 of double tax on Islamic mortgages and the extension of tax relief on Islamic mortgages to companies, as well as individuals.
- Reform of arrangements for issues of bonds so that returns and income payments can be treated ‘as if’ interest. This makes London a more attractive location for issuing and trading Sukuk.
- Initiatives by the Financial Service Authority to ensure that regulatory treatment of Islamic finance is consistent with its statutory objectives and principles.

Following a review into the case for issuing Sharia compliant government bonds, the UK Government announced in November 2008 that this would not offer value for money at the present time but it would keep the situation under review.

At the same time the UK Government announced other initiatives designed to support the UK as a centre for global finance and to ensure conventional and alternative finance are treated on the same basis. Firstly, new legislation is to be introduced in 2009 to provide relief from stamp duty land tax for alternative finance investment bonds. Secondly, it is undertaking a consultation on the legislative framework for alternative finance investment bonds (sukuk), which is intended to align the regulatory treatment of sukuk with that of conventional debt securities.

BARRIERS TO DEVELOPMENT OF ISLAMIC FINANCE

The global development of Islamic finance requires that further progress is made in addressing a number of barriers. These may be broadly grouped within the following headings including: taxation and regulation; standardisation; awareness; and skills. More details on these barriers are detailed in the The December 2008 UK Government paper on ‘The development of Islamic finance in the UK: the Government’s perspective’.

Government policy on the development of Islamic finance in the UK

“The Government’s policy objectives for Islamic finance are clear. First, to establish and maintain London as Europe’s gateway to international Islamic finance. Second, to ensure that nobody in the UK is denied access to competitively priced financial products on account of their faith. The Government’s approach to achieving these objectives is characterised by the principles of fairness, collaboration and commitment.

Significant progress towards meeting these objectives has been made. The UK is now the leading centre for Islamic finance outside of the Gulf Cooperative Council and Malaysia. London and Birmingham now host the only standalone Islamic financial institutions in the EU. UK consumers can now access a wide range of Shariah compliant retail financial products and services, which are regulated to the same standard as conventional financial products, conferring the same degree of consumer protection”


Islamic finance: principles & development in the modern era

Principles The underlying financial principles in Islamic finance have remained unchanged historically since their development over 1,400 years ago. Financial products must be certified as Shariah compliant by an expert in Islamic law. Certification requires that the transaction adheres to a number of key principles that include:

- Backing by a tangible asset, so as to avoid ‘speculation’ (gharar).
- Prohibition of interest payments (riba).
- Risk to be shared amongst participants.
- Limitations on sale of financial assets and their use as collateral.
- Prohibition of finance for activities deemed incompatible with Sharia law (haram), such as alcohol, conventional financial services, gambling and tobacco.

Modern development Modern Islamic finance emerged in the mid-1970s with the founding of the first large Islamic banks. Development initially occurred through marketing of a steadily expanding supply of Shariah compliant financial instruments. This supply-driven model contributed to relatively slow growth until the mid-1990s, since when demand has increasingly driven the development of Islamic financial instruments. Rising awareness and demand for Islamic products, along with supportive government policies and growing sophistication of financial institutions, have together raised the rate of growth.
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City of London Corporation administers and promotes the world’s leading international finance and business centre and provides free inward investment services.

UK Trade & Investment helps UK-based companies succeed in international markets and assists overseas companies to bring high quality investment to the UK’s vibrant economy.