



Trade Facts

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U.S. - Bahrain Free Trade Agreement

FTA Creates Opportunities for Services Suppliers

- Bahrain will accord substantial market access across its entire services regime, subject to very few exceptions, using the so-called “negative list” approach.
- Bahrain will lift existing restrictions for U.S. suppliers in a variety of significant sectors, for example: accounting, architecture, engineering, advertising, construction, tourist services, consultancy and management, and publishing.
- The Agreement removes market access barriers for U.S. telecommunications suppliers.
- U.S. financial service suppliers have full rights to establish subsidiaries, joint ventures or branches for banks and insurance companies.
- Bahrain will allow U.S.-based firms to supply insurance on a cross-border basis, including reinsurance; reinsurance brokerage; marine, aviation and transport (MAT) insurance; and other insurance services.
- Bahrain will allow U.S.-based firms to offer services cross-border in areas such as financial information and data processing, and financial advisory services. In addition, Bahrain mutual funds will be able to use foreign-based portfolio managers.
- Market access to services is supplemented by requirements for regulatory transparency, including commitments regarding the maintenance of open and transparent administrative procedures, consultations with interested parties before issuing regulations, and the provision of advance notice and comment periods for proposed rules and regulations.