

Introduction

Bahrain is an archipelago of thirty-three islands in the Persian Gulf in the Middle East. It is located off the coast of Saudi Arabia and Qatar. Bahrain has a strategic location in the Persian Gulf, through which much of the Western world's petroleum must transit to reach open ocean. The geography of Bahrain is mostly low desert plains. The government system is a constitutional monarchy; the chief of state is the king, and the head of government is the prime minister. Bahrain is a member of the League of Arab States (Arab League) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).



Location: Western Asia

Capital City: Manama (+3 GMT)

Chief of State: King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

Head of Govt.: Prime Minister Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa

Currency: Bahraini dinar (BHD)

Major Languages: <p>Arabic (official), English, Farsi, Urdu</p>

Primary Religions: <p>Muslim 70.3%, Christian 14.5%, Hindu 9.8%, Buddhist 2.5%, Jewish 0.6%, folk religion <.1, unaffiliated 1.9%, other 0.2%</p>

Calling Code: 973

Voltage: 230

Key Websites

Main Government Page: bahrain.bh

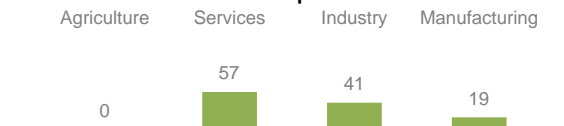
Commerce Ministry: moic.gov.bh

Investment Promotion Agency: bahrainedb.com

Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	High Income
Level of Development:	Developing
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$70.94 billion (2017)
GDP growth (annual %):	3.88% (2017)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$47,526.90 (2017)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):	\$10,729,125,000.00 (2011)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	18.59% (2017)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	-\$1.60 billion (2017)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	1.39% (2017)
Labor force, total:	865,078 (2017)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	1.20% (2017)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$21.09 billion (2016)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$23.78 billion (2016)

GDP Composition %



**Although Manufacturing is included in the Industry figures, it is also separately reported because it plays a critical role in economy.*

Rankings

Index	Rank
Corruption Perceptions Index	103 / 178
Global Competitiveness Index	50 / 139
Global Enabling Trade Index	42 / 136
Index of Economic Freedom	49 / 180
International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	59 / 160
Inward FDI Potential Index	30 / 139
KOF Index of Globalization	43 / 185
Networked Readiness Index (NRI)	28 / 139

Risk Assessment (Provided by Coface)

Country rating: C - A very uncertain political and economic outlook and a business environment with many troublesome weaknesses can have a significant impact on corporate payment behavior. Corporate default probability is high.

Business Climate rating: A4 - The business environment is acceptable. Corporate financial information is sometimes neither readily available nor sufficiently reliable. Debt collection is not always efficient and the institutional framework has shortcomings. Intercompany transactions may thus run into appreciable difficulties in the acceptable but occasionally unstable environments rated A4.

Strengths

- Relatively diversified and open economy (oil, gas, aluminium, petrochemicals, financial services, tourism)
- Presence of the main US naval base in the region (5th Fleet of the US Navy)

Weaknesses

- Diminishing hydrocarbon reserves and exposed to fluctuations in hydrocarbon prices
- Acute socio-political tensions between the ruling Sunni minority and the majority
- Uncertain regional geopolitical environment Shiite population, fueled by tense regional context between Iran and the embargo on Qatar.
- Dependence on foreign labor
- Very high public debt

U.S. Embassy

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<https://bh.usembassy.gov>