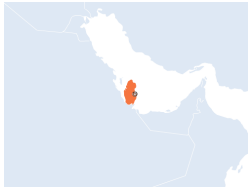


Introduction

Qatar is a country in the Middle East occupying the Qatar Peninsula on the larger Arabian Peninsula. It is bordered by Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf. Much of the country is desert. The government system is an emirate; the chief of state is the amir, or sheikh, and the head of government is the prime minister. Qatar is a member of the League of Arab States (Arab League) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).



Location: Western Asia

Capital City: Doha (+3 GMT)

Chief of State: Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani

Head of Govt.: Prime Minister Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani

Currency: Rials (QAR)

Major Languages: <p>Arabic (official), English commonly used as a second language</p>

Primary Religions: <p>Muslim 77.5%, Christian 8.5%, other (includes mainly Hindu and other Indian religions) 14%</p>

Calling Code: 974

Voltage: 240

Key Websites

Main Government Page: gov.qa

Commerce Ministry: mec.gov.qa

Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	High Income
Level of Development:	Developing
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$338.82 billion (2017)
GDP growth (annual %):	1.60% (2017)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$128,378.30 (2017)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	9.05% (2016)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	\$6.43 billion (2017)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	2.87% (2016)
Labor force, total:	1,975,202 (2017)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	0.12% (2017)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$63.46 billion (2016)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$72.40 billion (2016)

GDP Composition %

Agriculture Services Industry Manufacturing

0 0 0 0

**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	29 / 178
Global Competitiveness Index	30 / 139
Global Enabling Trade Index	43 / 136
Index of Economic Freedom	29 / 180
International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	30 / 160
Inward FDI Potential Index	7 / 139
KOF Index of Globalization	29 / 185
Networked Readiness Index (NRI)	27 / 139
Open Budget Index	110 / 115

Risk Assessment (Provided by Coface)

Country rating: A4 - A somewhat shaky political and economic outlook and a relatively volatile business environment can affect corporate payment behavior. Corporate default probability is still acceptable on average.

Business Climate rating: A3 - The business environment is relatively good. Although not always available, corporate financial information is usually reliable. Debt collection and the institutional framework may have some shortcomings. Intercompany transactions may run into occasional difficulties in the otherwise secure environments rated A3.

Strengths

- Third largest gas reserves in the world
- World's leading exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG)
- Development of non-oil sector thanks to the diversification strategy
- Hosting of World Cup 2022 that sustain infrastructure and construction activities
- Huge financial buffers

Weaknesses

- Limited flexibility of the monetary policy due to the currency peg regime
- Dependence on foreign labor
- Possible negative impacts of longer-than-expected diplomatic rift
- Rising geopolitical turmoil

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<https://qa.usembassy.gov>