

Qatar

The State of

MAL FACT SHEET



SUMMARY

The State of Qatar is a peninsular country that shares land borders with Saudi Arabia to the south and maritime borders with Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates in the Persian Gulf.

Emir: Sheikh Tamim ibn Hamad Al Thani

Prime Minister: Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani

Capital: Doha

Other notable cities: Al Wakrah

Gov Type: Constitutional Emirate/Absolute Monarchy

Population: 2.55 million

Colonial History: Ottoman Empire (1874-1914), Former British Protectorate (1916), Independence gained 1971

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

The State of Qatar is about 11,586 sq km in total area, which is almost twice the size of the state of Delaware, but slightly smaller than Connecticut, and has 563 km of coastline.

The climate is arid, with mild, pleasant winters and very hot and humid summers. The state mostly consists of flat and barren desert.

Natural resources include petroleum, fish, and natural gas. Land use is divided between agricultural land (5.6%), forest (0%) and other uses (94.4%).

There are natural hazards such as haze, dust storms and common sandstorms.

It is important to note that Qatar has a very strategic location in the central Persian Gulf because of its close proximity to major petroleum deposits.

Economy and Politics

DEMOGRAPHICS

Noun: Qatari(s)

Adjective: Qatari

Ethnic Groups: 88.4% non-Qatari, 11.6% Qatari

Languages: Arabic (Official), English (common second language)

Religions: 65.2% Muslim, 13.7% Christian, 15.9% Hindu, 3.8% Buddhist, <0.1% Folk Religion, <0.1% Jewish, <1% Other, <1% unaffiliated

Literacy: 93.5% (Male 92.4%, Female 94.7%)

Qatar has a large migrant worker population, skewing the demographics of the country with a male population significantly larger than its female, with more than 4 men to every woman between the ages of 15-64. Qatar has also come under scrutiny for its treatment of its immigrant workers, which has been called inhumane and in violation of human rights.

ECONOMY AND GDP

Qatar's economy is described as a high-income, oil-and-gas-based Middle Eastern economy. The government currently has a strategy for economic development, better business conditions to grow investment and employment, infrastructure investments, an Islamic finance leader, and growth in citizenship-based labor force growth.

Real GDP (Purchasing Power Parity): \$260.235 billion (2022), \$249.725 billion (2021), \$245.727 billion (2020)

Real GDP Growth Rate: 4.21% (2022), 1.63% (2021), -3.56% (2020)

Real GDP Per Capita: \$96,600 (2022)

GDP (Official Exchange Rate): \$326.258 billion (2022)

Inflation Rate (Consumer Prices): 5% (2022), 2.3% (2021), -2.54% (2020)

GDP - Composition: 0.2% Agriculture (2017), 50.3% Industry (2017), 49.5% Services (2017)

Unemployment Rate: 0.13% (2022), 0.14% (2021), 0.14% (2020)

Youth Unemployment: 1.1% (2021)

MAIN POLITICAL CONTENTIONS

Despite Qatar's close relations with Western powers such as the United States and the United Kingdom, the country also maintains good relations with Western adversaries such as Iran, Hamas, the Muslim Brotherhood, and extremist elements in Syria, with Islamists like the Muslim Brotherhood only excommunicated in 2021.

Qatar has had strained relations with Saudi Arabia after a 2014 meeting where Qatar denied to denounce the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist organization, leading the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain to recall ambassadors to Qatar. These relations were not helped when Qatar supported uprisings during the Arab Spring three years prior, clashing with Saudi Arabia and the UAE. This is not the first time that Saudi Arabia cut diplomatic ties with Qatar. The first time was in 2002, after reservations on Al Jazeera's content and the ambassador was not reinstated until 2008, and on 5 June 2017, Saudi Arabia cut diplomatic relations with Qatar.

Qatar is known for its mediation in between conflict, with examples of mediation between Chad and Sudan, the US and Iran, Venezuela and the US, and Russia and Ukraine. Qatar's international aid program sends a significant amount of resources to Libya, Sudan, as well as to nearly 100 countries across the globe.

Qatar: A Timeline

