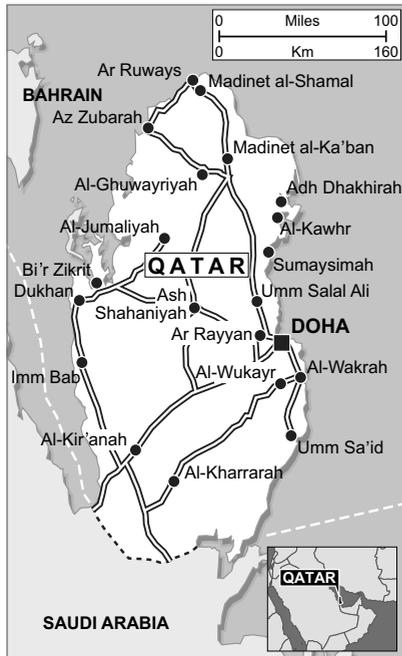


Qatar



This correspondent in 1972 had the pleasure – if such it can be described – of spending a week as the rather reluctant guest of the al Thani family. Comfort was not a problem – accommodation had been arranged at the Gulf Hotel, then Qatar’s most luxurious. Transport was also on hand, in the form of a rather battered Peugeot. Everything, so it seemed, had been planned to perfection; what had not gone to plan was the small matter of the assassination of Khalid III the ruler of the emirate of Sharjah at the hands of the Sharjah’s former ruler Sheikh Saqr. The links between Sharjah and Qatar were somewhat tenuous and indeed the *coup* was shortlived. But none the less, brotherly sympathy dictated that there was a three day national mourning period. Appointments cancelled: alcohol only available from room 501. Knock three times, and show your room key.

Young Kings for Old... by abdication

Not that Qatar itself has been free from *coups d'état*. In February 1972, the Heir Apparent, Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al Thani deposed his cousin, one Ahmed bin

Ali al Thani and assumed power. Key members of the Al Thani family supported this move, which took place without violence or signs of political unrest. In June 1995, the Deputy Emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa, deposed his father Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad in a bloodless *coup*. An unsuccessful counter-*coup* was staged in 1996. The Emir and his father subsequently became reconciled. In June 2013 the 33 year old Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani assumed power as emir after his father abdicated. Sheikh Tamim was educated in the UK, first at the liberal Sherborne School in Dorset, which counts numerous well known names among its graduates. He passed his A level examinations in 1997. Leaving for the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, from which he graduated in 1998. Although he had acquired a relatively high public profile, not too much was known about the new ruler’s political sympathies. According to the Beirut *Daily Star* he was believed to be closer to the Muslim Brotherhood than many in the current leadership and could pursue more socially conservative policies. The rise of such a young ruler to such a powerful position was unparalleled in the Gulf. A number of Qatar’s close allies, notably the US, the UK, France and Germany, had been briefed on the new leadership. Most surmised that there would be little immediate effect, especially since the new leader’s mother, Mozah bint Nasser al Missned, appeared to be a key element in framing Qatar’s politics. The al Thani family continued to dominate the government, a key factor which looks unlikely to change.

His time at Sherborne possibly accounts for his passionate interest in sport. Seven years before assuming power, in 2006, readers of Cairo’s respected daily, *al Ahram* voted him ‘the best sport personality in the Arab world’. This was shortly after he had successfully chaired the organising committee of the 15th Asian Games in Doha, the first to be attended by all the member countries. Sheikh Tamim had also headed up Doha’s unsuccessful bid for the 2020 Olympic Games and is also head of the Qatar 2022 Supreme Committee, which is in charge of

KEY FACTS

Official name: Dawlat Qatar (State of Qatar)

Head of State: Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani (since 24 Jun 2013)

Head of government: Prime Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassem bin Jaber al Thani (appointed Apr 2007)

Area: 11,437 square km

Population: 1.84 million (2012)* (1,699,435; 2010, census figure)

Capital: Doha

Official language: Arabic

Currency: Rial (QR) = 100 dirhams

Exchange rate: QR3.64 per US\$ (fixed)

GDP per capita: US\$99,731 (2012)*

GDP real growth: 6.58% (2012)*

GDP: US\$183.38 billion (2012)*

Inflation: 1.86% (2012)*

Oil production: 1.97 million bpd (2012)

Natural gas production: 157.00 billion cum (2012)

Balance of trade: US\$102.18 billion (2012)*

Annual FDI: -US\$86.76 million (2011)

* estimated figure

preparing the emirate to host the 2022 Fifa World Cup.

Development frenzy – diplomatic ironies

Qatar's seemingly frenetic internal development strategy, alongside its cultural diplomacy spearheaded by the al Jazeera broadcasting network, would appear to be aimed at strengthening its security and defence. Qatar's size – or lack of it – makes it inevitably vulnerable. By international standards its army is minute; however, Qatar's defences are massively buttressed by the fact that it is home to two US military bases. Failing to perceive any underlying irony, Sunni Qatar has supported the Arab Spring and financed some Muslim Brotherhood movements and other Islamic groups, even funding and supporting the Mali Salafists. Writing in the *New York Times*, the commentator Anthony Shadid observed that 'for all the contradictions in its policies – and there are many – Qatar is advancing a decisive shift in Arab politics that many in the West have yet to embrace: a Middle East dominated by mainstream Islamist parties brought to power in a region that is more democratic, more conservative and more tumultuous.' In his article, Mr Shadid quoted Talal Atrissi, a Lebanese political analyst and commentator: 'Qatar is a country without ideology, they know that the Islamists are the new power in the Arab world. This alliance will lay the foundation for a base of influence across the region.'

Qatar's diplomatic efforts have seen it succeed in the selection of its choice as the

Arab League Secretary General, Egyptian Nabil Elaraby. Those present at Arab League meetings have reported on less than subtle moves by the Qatari prime minister and foreign affairs minister, Hamad bin Jasssem bin Jaber al Thani to win the Russians over from their hardline support of the al Assad régime in Syria and their steadfast resort to the veto in the UN Security Council. One Arab diplomat was quoted: 'The Arab League has been hijacked by the Princes of Qatar.'

Qatar lead efforts to provide rebel fighters with more heavy weapons in attempts to turn the tide in the Syrian civil war. Again there is some irony in the situation, since it was Qatar that had initially helped Syria break out of its international isolation. For Qatari Prince Hamad overcoming the al Assad regime in Syria has become something of a mission. However, Qatar's often insensitive support for some Syrian opposition groups may turn out to be something of an embarrassment. Given the chaotic politico-religious mosaic that is Syria, Qatar's often indiscriminate supply of weapons and cash may leave it with a lot of egg on its face. Qatar's former public relations image as 'a friend to all the world's countries' had, by 2013, been replaced by the image of 'Qatar at war.'

The happy rich

Of Qatar's population of some 1.8 million, less than 15 per cent are actually Qataris. For this quarter of a million souls, life – at least in terms of material prosperity – is good. Qataris can legitimately

claim to be the richest people on earth. Even the official annual gross domestic product (GDP) per capita figure of around US\$99,000 fails to do justice to the substantial 'fringe benefits' enjoyed by the average Qatari. Inevitably, the 'punching above its weight' metaphor is repeatedly and rather predictably, applied to Qatar's strenuous efforts to gain a place at the world's strategic table. Thus, Qatar's disproportionate role in the deposition of Libya's Colonel Qaddafi was held by many (Sunni) Arab observers as marking something of an influential 'arrival' on the stage. That this arrival could only be explained in material terms, by the Gulf state's ability to fund the military aircraft, weapons, technical support and teams of advisers mattered little. The Qatari contribution to the fall of Qaddafi was significant not only because it turned out to be pivotal, but also because that support appeared, worryingly, to be directed towards assisting the more Islamist elements of the uprising. Some observers claim that Qatar has a wider Islamist agenda. But its growing influence can be directly attributed to one single factor – the world's largest gas reserves combined with a policy-making machine vested in an absolute monarchy represented by one man, Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

It is not just in military terms that Qatar has been making its international presence felt. Spearheading the campaign is the Al Jazeera satellite broadcasting service which, for the most part, succeeds in presenting a balanced, but not Anglo-Saxon-centric, picture of world events. Sadly, the heavy hand of Sunni loyalty has forced the broadcaster to ignore events nearer to home, notably the military support given to the ruling (but minority) Sunni regime in Bahrain. If there exists an editorial bias within Al Jazeera it is towards, rather than against, radical Islam. Qatar's tacit support for groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah sits somewhat strangely alongside images of the country's rulers rubbing shoulders with European aristocracy on the race-courses of England and France.

The economy

In its January 2013 assessment of the Qatari economy the International Monetary Fund (IMF) notes that the economy has continued to benefit from high oil and natural gas prices and production, with expansionary government spending and an accommodative monetary stance providing additional stimulus. The government has shifted its focus to economic

KEY INDICATORS

Qatar

	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	*1.00	*1.20	1.70	*1.77	*1.84
Gross domestic product (GDP)	US\$bn	102.30	83.90	129.50	173.80	*183.38
GDP per capita	US\$	79,409	59,545	74,901	98,329	*99,731
GDP real growth	%	17.7	12.0	16.6	18.8	*6.6
Inflation	%	15.0	-4.9	-2.4	2.0	*1.9
Oil output	'000 bpd	1,378.0	1,345.0	1,569.0	1,723.0	1,966.0
Natural gas output	bn cum	76.6	89.3	116.7	146.8	157.0
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	71,193.0	52,171.0	76,415.0	114,298.6	*132,967.9
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	34,848.0	34,260.0	45,687.0	26,925.9	*30,787.2
Balance of trade	US\$m	36,345.0	17,911.0	30,728.0	87,372.7	*102,180.7
Current account	US\$m	33,138.0	12,997.0	24,728.0	51,977.9	*54,155.0
Total reserves minust gold	US\$m	9,649.5	18,369.7	30,620.8	23,136.5	*32,521.0
Foreign exchange	US\$m	9,553.0	17,868.9	30,111.6	22,583.4	*31,956.5
Exchange rate	per US\$	3.64	3.64	3.64	3.64	3.64

* estimated figure

diversification and growth in non-hydrocarbon sectors through targeted infrastructure investments. Growth rates were stabilising in 2012, mainly due to a slowdown in hydrocarbon sector growth, as the self-imposed moratorium on increasing liquefied natural gas (LNG) capacity took effect. (See Energy below) The non-hydrocarbon sector was projected to grow at an annual 9 per cent in 2012, driven by the construction, transport and communications, trade and hotels and services sectors. For the second year in a row, average CPI inflation was expected to average around 2 per cent in 2012, mainly due to depressed rents.

The banking system remains highly capitalised and profitable. The capital adequacy ratio of commercial banks rose from 16.1 per cent in 2010 to 21.1 per cent in June 2012, while non-performing loans declined from 2.0 to 1.7 per cent over the same period and the return on assets recorded 2.5 per cent in June 2012.

The economic outlook remains strong with robust non-hydrocarbon growth and inflation rising only gradually over the medium term. The main downside risks are lower hydrocarbon prices, tightening of external financing conditions and potential disruption in transportation of LNG due to increased geopolitical tensions. Growth in the non-hydrocarbon sectors will range between 9 and 10 per cent over the medium term, while the hydrocarbon sector is projected to grow between -1.1 per cent and 3.5 per cent over the medium term. As infrastructure-related construction activities pick up and as the demand-supply situation in the real estate market converges and also as the expatriate population increases, Qatari inflation is expected to gradually increase from 3 per cent in 2013 to 5 per cent by 2016. Fiscal and external surpluses are projected to taper down significantly, due to flat LNG production and a declining trend both in crude oil production and in exports and also due to higher fiscal expenditure.

Energy

According to the Qatar Statistics Authority, the oil and gas sector accounted for 58 per cent of Qatar's 2011 GDP. Qatar's growing production of hydrocarbons, paired with an increase in prices, contributed to a 36 per cent increase in GDP in 2011 compared to the previous year. In addition, Qatar relies entirely on oil and natural gas for its primary energy consumption. Although the transportation sector continues to contribute significantly to growth in oil demand, all electricity capacity in Qatar is gas-fired.

According to the *Oil & Gas Journal* (OGJ), in January, 2013, Qatar had 25.4 billion barrels of proven oil reserves, and was ranked 13th in the world. Production was 1.97 million bpd in 2012. According to official Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) data, Qatar was the 10th largest total liquids exporter among the 12 Opec members in 2011. The onshore Dukhan field, located along the west coast of the peninsula, is the country's oldest producing oil field, although it has been surpassed in production by the offshore Al Shaheen field. While the government's energy policy is focused on gas production and exports, Qatar is taking measures to extend the life of its oil fields through enhanced oil recovery (EOR) techniques. State-owned Qatar Petroleum (QP) controls all aspects of Qatar's upstream and downstream oil sector. While QP owns and operates the onshore Dukhan field and the offshore Maydan Mahzam and Bul Hanine fields, the remaining offshore fields are operated by international oil companies via production sharing agreements (PSAs). In an effort to increase production and reserves and mitigate gas-related capital expenditures, QP has offered more favourable terms for PSAs in recent years.

Danish company Maersk's offshore field Al Shaheen is an important source for future production growth. Although the field averaged just under 300,000bpd of production in 2009, Maersk completed an expansion project in 2010 that increased its production capacity to 525,000bpd.

Qatar has three primary export terminals: Mesaieed, Halul Island and Ras Laffan. Ras Laffan is used primarily for the export of liquefied natural gas (see Natural Gas section). The vast majority of Qatar's oil exports are sent to Asian economies. Japan is the single largest importer, although South Korea is also an important export market.

Natural gas

According to the OGJ, Qatar's proven natural gas reserves stood at approximately 890 trillion cubic feet (tcf) as of 1 January 2013. Qatar holds 13 per cent of total world natural gas reserves which is the third-largest total in the world behind Russia and Iran. The majority of Qatar's natural gas is located in the immense offshore North Field, which spans an area roughly equivalent to Qatar itself. The North Field is actually a part of the world's largest non-associated natural gas field that sits in both Qatar's and Iran's

maritime territories and is the main source of Qatari natural gas production. Iran's South Pars field holds an additional 450tcf of recoverable natural gas reserves. Qatar produces condensate and natural gas liquids (NGL) alongside its natural gas production. In 2011, EIA estimates that condensate and NGL production exceeded one million bpd, surpassing crude oil production. Analysts estimate that condensate production alone will overtake crude by 2015.

According to the EIA, to an even greater extent than in the oil sector, QP plays a dominant role in Qatar's natural gas sector, leading upstream and downstream projects. Qatar's focus on natural gas development tends to be integrated large-scale projects linked to LNG exports or downstream industries that use natural gas as a feedstock. Therefore, foreign company involvement has favoured international oil companies with the technology and expertise in integrated mega-projects, including ExxonMobil, Shell and Total. However, QP has maintained a majority share in most of its gas projects – in particular, the dominant companies in Qatar's LNG sector: Qatargas Operating Company Limited (Qatargas) and Ras Laffan Company Limited (RasGas). The LNG companies handle all upstream to downstream natural gas transportation themselves, while the Qatar Gas Transport Company (Nakilat) is responsible for shipping Qatari LNG.

Qatar continues to expand natural gas production for the expressed purpose of exporting. In 2011, EIA estimates that Qatar produced nearly 5,200 billion cubic feet (bcf) of natural gas, more than three times the amount it produced in 2000. The EIA estimates Qatar's natural gas consumption in 2011 was approximately 690bcf, leaving the remainder for exports destined primarily for Asia. Although the increase in natural gas production fuels the growing natural gas requirements of domestic industry and its gas-to-liquids (GTL) projects, the bulk of this increase goes towards LNG exports.

Qatar is the world's leading LNG exporter. In 2011, Qatar exported nearly 3,600bcf of LNG. The UK, Japan, India and South Korea were the primary destinations for Qatar's LNG exports. Asia was the principal import hub, accounting for 48 per cent of Qatar's LNG in 2011.

Although Qatar only began exporting LNG in 1997, heavy government emphasis on this sector – both in terms of generating investments and attracting foreign investors – contributed to the rapid

development of Qatar's LNG capacity. Qatar's LNG sector is dominated by Qatargas Operating Company Limited (Qatargas), which operates four major LNG ventures (Qatargas I-IV) and Ras Laffan Company Limited (RasGas), which operates three major LNG ventures (RasGas I-III). RasGas is 70 per cent owned by QP and 30 per cent-owned by ExxonMobil, while the Qatargas consortium includes QP, Total, ExxonMobil, Mitsui, Marubeni, ConocoPhillips and Shell. Each venture has an individual ownership structure, although QP owns at least 65 per cent of all the above ventures.

Qatari government officials have noted that they do not anticipate building any more LNG facilities in the near-term future and that any additional capacity increases will be the result of improvements in the existing facilities. Although the most recent train additions were originally designed with US markets as the primary target, the global recession and low US natural gas prices due to the shale gas boom have caused Qatar to pursue contract options with other countries – particularly China and India.

Risk assessment

Politics	Fair
Economy	Good (for Qataris)
Regional stability	Fair

COUNTRY PROFILE

Historical profile

632 Advent of Islam.

1700s Mining and pearl fishing settlements were established along the coast.

1868 Qatar's first Al Thani Emir, Sheikh Mohammed bin Thani, signed a treaty with Britain.

1871–1916 A treaty with the Turks allowed them to place a garrison in Doha. After Turkey entered the First World War on the side of Germany, the Turkish forces were expelled by the British.

1916 Qatar became a British protectorate with Sheikh Abdullah bin Jassim al Thani as ruler.

1930 The collapse of the pearl trade devastated the economy.

1939 Oil was discovered, but the Second World War delayed exploitation.

1949 Qatar began exporting oil.

1950s Qatar's infrastructure was modernised and extended, using oil revenues.

1968 Britain announced its intention to withdraw from the Gulf by 1971.

1971 Qatar became independent. Land disputes with Bahrain ensued.

1972 Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al Thani became Emir after deposing his uncle.

1980s and 1990s Qatar had territorial disputes with Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

1981 The political and economic union, the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (CCASG) (known as Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC)) was formed by Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

1990 After Iraq invaded Kuwait, Qatar allowed foreign forces into the country and Qatari troops took part in the liberation of Kuwait.

1995 In a bloodless coup, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani, replaced his father Sheikh Khalifa.

1996 Qatar began exporting liquefied natural gas. Based in Qatar and funded by the Emir, the pan-Arab Al Jazeera satellite TV station was launched.

1999 A democratisation programme began when male citizens over the age of 18 were allowed to vote in municipal council elections. Only half the 40,000 eligible to vote actually registered.

2000 The Emir's cousin and 32 others were jailed for life for planning a coup, in 1996, which was foiled.

2001 The International Court of Justice settled a land dispute between Qatar and Bahrain, awarding Zubarah town and the shallows surrounding the islet of Fasht el Dibal to Qatar. A border dispute with Saudi Arabia was also settled. WTO trade talks, held in Doha, called for the US, EU and Japan to open their markets and remove agricultural export subsidies.

2002 The Al Udeid air base was redeveloped in preparation for the Iraq War when it became the HQ for the US Central Command.

2003 A referendum approved a new constitution, which guarantees equal rights and a 45-member parliament. The Emir named his younger son, Prince Tamim, as crown prince, replacing his elder son Prince Jassim.

2004 The exiled former Chechen president, Zelimkhan Yanderbiyev, was assassinated in Doha; two Russian agents were convicted of the murder. Around six thousand members of the Al Ghfran clan, a sub-set of one of Qatar's largest tribes, had their citizenship revoked on the grounds that they held dual nationality with Saudi Arabia.

2005 A suicide bombing in Doha injured 12 and killed one Briton; it was the first major terrorist attack in Qatar. The new constitution was implemented. Work began on building the world's largest liquefied natural gas plant, with joint US-Qatar investment of US\$14 billion.

2007 Sheikh Abdullah bin Khalifa resigned as prime minister and was replaced by Sheikh Hamad bin Jassem.

2008 A common market was created by Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE, the six wealthiest Gulf states. Citizens of these countries are now allowed to travel between and live in any of the six states, where they may find employment, buy properties and businesses and use the educational and health facilities freely. Qatar, Iran and Russia formed a technical committee to lead an Opec-style, international exporting organisation for natural gas.

2009 Qatar (the only Arab Gulf state with trade agreements) cut trade ties with Israel following Israel's offensive in Palestine.

2010 Elections for the legislative assembly were postponed when the Emir extended its term in office until 2013. The Gulf's second largest stock exchange, by market value, in Qatar, set up a new trading system, in a bid to become the primary bourse among Gulf states. Electronic trading went live using the NYSE Euronext's universal trading platform (UTP) technology.

2011 In February the Qatar Red Crescent (QRC) was one of the first humanitarian organisations to provide food aid to Somalia during its episode of famine. As part of the *National Development strategy 2011–2016*, expatriates may be offered permanent residency if they meet 'pre-determined criteria'. The policy was aimed at attracting and retaining Qatar's high skilled workforce. The policy also reviewed and revised the current sponsorship system, in which employers had full control over residence and the work undertaken, as well as permission of entry and exit. Qatar played a leading role in providing support for Libya's rebels, with funds and projects such as setting up Libya TV, to counter pro-Gadafi propaganda. It has helped market Libya's oil and is well placed to assist in further development of Libya's natural gas reserves.

2012 On 12 August, a US\$406.4 million contract was agreed for engineering services to build a metro in Doha, in preparation for its hosting of the 2022 football (soccer) World Cup. On 25 September, in a speech to the UN General Assembly (UNGA), the Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani said that Arab countries should intervene in Syria, to provide national, humanitarian, political and military leadership, in the face of UN inaction and to stop the bloodshed. He suggested that bypassing the UNGA would enable a peaceful transition of power in Syria, while criticising the UNGA for failing 'to reach an effective position'. On 20 November, the annual World Innovation Summit for Education (Wise) was held in Doha, to discuss the Educate a Child project (to provide basic education to around 61 million children in Africa, Asia and the

Middle East). Attendees included a mix of politicians, business leaders, head of NGOs, academics and social activists. 2013 On 24 June the Emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, handed power to Crown Prince Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. Sheikh Hamad had named Sheikh Tamin as his heir in 2003. In August Greg Dyke, the newly installed chairman of the English Football Association, said that it would be 'impossible' to hold the 2022 Football World Cup in summer. Qatar's World Cup organising committee has said it would be prepared to move the event to winter. Hassan al-Thawadi, head of the Qatar 2022 World Cup, said that any call to move the games to another country would be rejected.

Political structure

Constitution

A new, written constitution came into effect on 8 June 2005. It provides for the hereditary rule of the al Thani family. A new unicameral, legislative authority was inaugurated.

Independence date

3 September 1971

Form of state

Constitutional Emirate

The executive

Executive power is vested in the Emir, who is the Head of State. He appoints a prime minister and ministers. He also appoints 15 members of the Majlis al Shura. The Emir is the supreme commander of the armed and security forces.

National legislature

In 2009, the unicameral Majlis al Shura (Consultative Assembly) had 35 appointed members who, as an Advisory Council, was consulted by the Emir. From 2010, 30 members of the Consultative Assembly will be directly elected by universal suffrage (aged over 18 years); 15 members will be appointed by the Emir. The Assembly will be responsible for approving the budget (but not drafting it), reviewing the performance of ministers and drafting and voting on proposed legislation; all legislation must be endorsed by the executive authority.

Legal system

Two former court systems – civil and *Sharia* (Islamic law) – were merged under a higher court, the Court of Cassation, established for appeals, under a new judiciary law issued in 2003.

Last elections

None

Next elections

The first legislative elections was scheduled for 2013.

Political parties

Ruling party

Political parties are not permitted.

Population

1.84 million (2012)* (1,699,435; 2010, census figure)

The indigenous Qatari population is characterised by its youth (about 50 per cent under the age of 15) and high birth rate. Approximately 80 per cent of the population live in or around Doha.

Last census: 21 April 2010: 1,699,435

Population density: 51 inhabitants per sq km. Urban population 96 per cent (2010 Unicef).

Annual growth rate: 6.6 per cent, 1990–2010 (Unicef).

Ethnic make-up

Arab (40 per cent), Pakistani (18 per cent), Indian (18 per cent), Iranian (10 per cent), others (14 per cent).

Expatriates comprise about 80 per cent of the total population. Some foreign nationals have been resident in Qatar for many years and come largely from the Indian sub-continent, other Arab countries and south-east Asia. The number of non-national children is high, indicating a trend among non-nationals to settle in the country.

Religions

Islam is the state religion. Most Qataris (95 per cent) are Sunni Muslims of the strict Wahhabi sect, known as *muwahhidun* (unitarians); they shun the veneration of saints and shrines. The small Hindu and Christian communities do not have formal places of worship.

Education

Primary education begins at aged six and lasts until aged 12. From aged 12 to 15 students attend a preparatory school and if they pass their promotional examination go forward to secondary school. There are three different types of secondary schools: academic, commercial and technical, and each offer three-year courses. However, girls are only allowed to attend the academic secondary schools.

In 2004, Qatar announced that it would spend US\$900 million on a huge new medical teaching hospital to be built on the outskirts of Doha; it is expected to be completed by 2008. An endowment of US\$8 billion will also be provided to carry out research. The hospital's teaching programme will be run in partnership with the US Cornell University, and have US\$200 million per annum to spend on research, initially concentrating on women's health and paediatric medicine. The emphasis on research is a new direction for medical facilities in the region.

Literacy rate: 83 per cent, adult rate (2003)

Compulsory years: None.

Health

All residents have access to free medical services.

Life expectancy: 76 years, 2004 (WHO 2006)

Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate: 2.3 births per woman, 2010 (Unicef)

Birth rate/Death rate: 16 births per 1,000 population; 4.4 deaths per 1,000 population (2003).

Child (under 5 years) mortality rate (per 1,000): 7 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012)

Head of population per physician: 2.22 physicians per 1,000 people, 2001 (WHO 2006)

Welfare

The state provides generous welfare services for indigenous Qataris.

Main cities

Doha (capital, estimated population 437,639 in 2012), ar Rayyan (430,726), Umm Salal (47,314), al Wakrah (34,482), Khor (33,600), as Dahirah (26,054).

Languages spoken

English is widely spoken in business circles. Correspondence with government organisations is normally conducted in Arabic.

Official language/s

Arabic

Media

Press

The government formally lifted censorship of the media in 1995 and since then government interference has remained limited although censorship is implicit and self-censorship by editors common.

Dailies: The main daily newspapers in Arabic are *al Sharq (The East)* (www.al-sharq.com), *al Raya (The Banner)* (www.raya.com), *al Watan (The Homeland)* (www.al-watan.com) and the regional publication *al Arab* (www.alarabonline.org) of political matters.

In English, *Qatar Post* (www.qatarpost.com), *Qatar Journal* (www.qatarjournal.com) and *The Peninsula* (www.thepeninsulaqatar.com) is the leading English newspaper. A regional publication is *The Gulf Times* (www.gulf-times.com).

Weeklies: The *Gulf Times* is published in English.

Periodicals: In Arabic, the monthly *al Sehad Magazine* publishes items on health. In English, *This is Qatar* is a tourist magazine, *Qatar Falcon* (<http://www.qatar-falcon.com>) is a lifestyle publication aimed at male readers, while *Zawya* (www.zawya.com) is an online business magazine, with news and features.

Broadcasting

Isreal began a boycott of al Jazeera on 12 March 2008 in reaction to what it

claimed was al Jazeera's bias when it reported on the conflict in Gaza – Israeli action in bombing the territory was not matched by reports of missiles fired on the city of Ashkelon.

Radio: Radio broadcasts are in Arabic, with other services in English, French and Urdu also available. The government run, Qatar Broadcasting Service broadcasts nationally. A few local radio stations also broadcast in FM and AM.

Television: Although privately funded, al Jazeera (www.aljazeera.com) has grown in size and reputation from a regional TV Channel, to an international broadcaster with an English language service that was launched in 2006 and video streaming supplied over the Internet. The state television runs three channels, including one for the Koran channel and two others in Arabic and English channel. Cable satellite TV is also available throughout Qatar and offers some 20 channels.

National news agency: Qatar News Agency

Economy

The economy is dominated by the production of, and revenue from, Qatar's hydrocarbon sector. Oil and gas reserves were 24.7 billion barrels of oil and 25 trillion cubic metres (cum) of natural gas at the end of 2011. Between them they provide over 60 per cent of GDP. Production of oil was 1.7 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2011; production of natural gas was 146.8 billion cum per annum (a 25.8 per cent increase on the 2010 production level). Qatar has the world's third largest deposits of natural gas and is the world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG) – 102.6 billion cum in 2011 (up from 75.75 billion cum in 2010). Japan, India and South Korea each imported over 10 billion cum of Qatar LNG in 2011; Qatar also exported 17.3 billion cum by gas pipeline to the UAE.

Qatar was not affected by the global economic crisis in 2008 as its banks are tightly regulated and well capitalised. Since 2004, GDP growth has remained in the mid-teens, with only one dip below 10 per cent, in 2005, due to a fall in global oil prices. GDP growth in 2007 was 18.0 per cent, falling to 17.7 per cent in 2008, despite the expansion of hydrocarbon production and a strong performance in manufacturing, construction and financial services. As global trade slumped GDP growth also fell, to 12.0 per cent in 2009 before rebounding to 16.6 per cent in 2010 and higher still to an estimated 18.8 per cent in 2011.

Inflation remained high, peaking at 15.0 per cent in 2008 due to high prices for imported food and housing rents. Per capita income reached a record US\$79,409

in 2008, making Qatar one of the world's wealthiest populations, before falling to US\$59,545 in 2009 and recovering in 2010 to US\$74,901.

Hydrocarbons account for over 50 per cent of the economy, financial services around 10 per cent, construction 8 per cent, trade, restaurants and hotels 7 per cent, transport and communications 5 per cent and manufacturing 5 per cent. To improve the country's long-term prospects, the government has introduced incentives to encourage diversification towards the non-oil sector, in particular light industry. It has also relaxed its restrictive policies on foreign investment and encouraged stronger private investment. Although key personnel involved in all projects must be Qatari, the foreign investment law allows 100 per cent foreign equity in most commercial sectors, including agriculture, manufacturing, healthcare, education, tourism, power and water plants and mining.

Contracts to build the US\$11 billion New Doha International Airport (NDIA) were signed in 2004; final completion date is 2015. This large investment has been an impetus for growth and will assist the country's diversification strategy by encouraging tourism.

As part of the *National Development strategy 2011–2016*, expatriates may be offered permanent residency if they meet 'pre-determined criteria'. The policy is aimed at attracting and retaining Qatar's skilled workforce. The policy will also review and revise the sponsorship system in operation in 2011, in which employers have full control over residence and the work undertaken as well as permission for entry and exit.

On 25 June 2012, Qatar applied for a licence to invest in China's capital market. The investment of US\$5 billion is five times greater than the quota allowed under China's Qualified Foreign Institutional Investor (QFII) programme. Within days, China announced that it was searching for ways to ease the entry rules for foreign investors. Some of the intended investment comes from China's purchase of Qatar's liquefied natural gas (LNG).

External trade

In 2005 the Greater Arab Free Trade Area (Gafsa) was ratified by 17 members, including Qatar, creating an Arab economic bloc. A customs union was established whereby tariffs within Gafsa will be reduced by a percentage each year, until none remain.

Qatar is the world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and operates the biggest processing facility, which can process over 30 billion cubic metres (cum) of natural gas. It has other heavy

industrial processing sites producing fertilisers and petrochemicals and a steel plant.

Imports

Principal imports are machinery and vehicles, manufactured goods and building materials, foodstuffs and live animals, (virtually everything – except concrete and steel bars – has to be imported).

Main sources: US (12.8 per cent of total in 2011), UAE (12.4 per cent), Saudi Arabia (9.3 per cent).

Exports

Exports are dominated by LNG, crude oil, petroleum products, fertilisers and steel.

Main destinations: Japan (26.5 per cent of total in 2011), South Korea (18.3 per cent), India (8.1 per cent).

Agriculture

The agricultural sector only contributed 0.2 per cent to GDP; it employs 1 per cent of the workforce, nevertheless the country is 70 per cent self-sufficient in summer vegetables and 40 per cent in winter vegetables; 25 per cent in dairy produce and 10 per cent in cereals. Other crops include fruit, dates, fodder crops and cereals.

All agricultural land in Qatar is owned by the government, which is keen to support and encourage agricultural production. However, this is limited by the scarcity of water and the unfavourable terrain. A new industrial project began in Ras Laffan, providing desalinated water as part of a plan for further irrigation. Only about 8,000 hectares of the estimated 65,000 hectares of cultivable land (5.7 per cent of the total land area) is farmed.

Major emphasis is placed on educating the population in agricultural techniques, experimenting with new methods of cultivation and developing better marketing structures.

One project considered vital to long-term productivity is experimental cultivation of crops on sand using solar energy and sea water.

Fish catches meet 70 per cent of demand. Fish stocks have declined as a result of water pollution.

Industry and manufacturing

The industrial sector contributes 7.6 per cent of GDP; it employs around 25 per cent of the working population. Non-oil, heavy industry, often developed as state-owned joint ventures, received the bulk of government investment in industry and now contributes about 9 per cent of national revenues. The government offers incentives to encourage private sector development of light industry. Industries include the production of intermediate building materials (cement, concrete, moulded aluminium, marble tiles and paving stone), food processing, freezing

and packaging, paper products, batteries, paint, plastics, detergents, lubricants, household utensils and furniture. The government has pledged to spend US\$110 million in industrial plant development, most of which is concentrated in the industrial city of Mesaieed.

Tourism

Qatar has begun to market itself as a hub for the business traveller. In 2011, Doha was voted as the world's leading business travel destination, with dedicated meetings, incentives, conference and exhibitions (MICE) venues. In April 2012 Qatar had the largest number of hotel rooms of any Gulf Co-operation Council state (7,340 rooms). Qatar is also planning to build 77 new hotels and 42 hotel apartments to expand its accommodation portfolio in advance of the FIFA World Cup football competition in 2022.

Although the tourist industry has grown, following capital investment that reached a high of 7.5 per cent of GDP (US\$724 million) in 2005, by 2011 such investment had fallen to 2.7 per cent (US\$1.3 billion) of total investment. The contribution to GDP of travel and tourism fell from 8 per cent (US\$4.9 billion) in 2006 to 3.2 per cent (US\$5.8 billion) in 2011. The industry provided employment for 8 per cent of the workforce (52,400 jobs) in 2006, which fell to 2.9 per cent (36,300 jobs) in 2011.

The new luxury Lagoon shopping mall was opened in February 2012, with 160 retail units and 22 restaurants, it will enhance the facilities in the up-market West Bay district of Doha.

Environment

Among the proposals to meet the country's water shortage are the construction of a 700km pipeline from the Karun River in northern Iran to Qatar, as well as the development of more desalination plants.

Hydrocarbons

Proven oil reserves were 24.7 billion barrels in 2011 with production at 1.7 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2010. The hydrocarbons sector contributes around 60 per cent to GDP. The largest oil field is onshore at Dukhan, along the west coast, which produces around half of Qatar's total oil output. There are six other oil fields and if the country's production levels remained constant reserves would last until 2070. The state-run Qatar Petroleum (QP) has overall control of all aspects of the industry, not only holding the rights to all petroleum resources but also including operational exploration, production, refining, transport and storage of hydrocarbons. QP entered into a number of production sharing agreements (PSAs) with companies such as ExxonMobil,

Chevron, Total and BP Amoco after the oil sector was opened up to foreign investment. However no onshore discoveries of oil have been made since the 1990s and only the offshore Al Shaheen field, operated by the Danish-based Maersk Oil and Gas, is being developed. The largest percentage of crude oil is exported to Japan. On 26 May 2011, PetroChina received its first LNG train of 145,000cum from Qatar at its new terminal at Rudong in Jiangsu Province.

There are three export terminals; two primarily for the export of oil and the other, at the Ras Laffan Industrial City, is mainly for the export of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Proven natural gas reserves were 25 trillion cubic metres in 2011, with production at 146.8 billion cubic metres (cum). Qatar has the third largest reserves of natural gas (behind Russia and Iran), possessing around 15 per cent of the world's reserves, concentrated largely in the massive North Field, off the north-east coast, which is the largest known non-associated gas field in the world. There is a natural gas pipeline to the United Arab Emirates and Oman as part of the Dolphin Project to connect to these countries natural gas networks.

Qatar is the world's largest exporter of LNG with exports of 146.8 billion cum in 2011. The world's largest plant converting natural gas to liquid (GTL) began production in Ras Laffan Industrial City, in June 2011; at full production (in 2012) it will process 45.3 million cum of natural gas into 120,000 barrels of condensate LPG and ethane per day and 140,000 barrels of GTL products.

Any coal imported is commercially insignificant.

Energy

Total installed generation capacity was 3,500MW in 2007. Natural gas is the source of energy for all public power plants and provides 79 per cent of all electricity generation, the remainder is provided by oil.

As a result of steadily rising demand, the government has embarked on a process of restructuring the electricity sector with an emphasis on attracting foreign investment through independent power projects (IPPs). Nevertheless, the partially state-owned General Electricity and Water Corporation (QEWC, known as Kahramaa) keeps control of transmission and distribution activities, while retaining a monopoly as sole purchaser of all generated electricity.

The Ras Abu Fontas power station has been re-furbished with an increased generating capacity of 1,030MW. An additional 2,567MW generating capacity will

be added by 2010 with the completion of two new power stations. A Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) project to link the six member states (Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and the United Arab Emirates) to an integrated power-grid began in 2005. The first phase of the GCC power grid was completed in July 2009 at a cost of US\$1,095 million, linking Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar through 800km of transmission lines. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia will each receive an extra 1,200MW of power capacity and later, the UAE will receive 900MW, Qatar 750MW, Bahrain 600MW and Oman 400MW. In the first phase, a 400kV overhead line links Kuwait's Al Zour power station with Doha, and a 400kV submarine line to Saudi Arabia with Bahrain. The second phase will link the UAE with Oman. The resulting two mega-grids will be joined in the final phase.

Financial markets

A regional financial services centre provides Qatar-based projects with financing, bond insurance and asset management to financial institutions which allows them to enter the liquefied natural gas (LNG) markets. A regulator was appointed to oversee the operations.

The Qatar Exchange announced on 17 January 2012 that the technical and regulatory infrastructure necessary to launch trading in small and medium enterprises (SMEs), the QE Venture Market, was ready and was inviting companies to participate.

Stock exchange

Doha Securities Market (DSM)

Banking and insurance

The banking sector consists of 15 commercial banks, including seven locally owned banks. There are 12 insurance companies, the majority of which are foreign-owned; the largest is the locally-owned Qatar Insurance Company. An agreement was reached between Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar to establish the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) Monetary Council to be established (originally in 2009), marking plans to set up a regional central bank, to be based in Riyadh (Saudi Arabia). The GCC Monetary Council will oversee the introduction of a monetary union, due to be in operation by 2013.

In February 2011, the Central Bank of Qatar ordered all non-Islamic lenders to stop offering Islamic banking services or to restructure them into conventional loans or sell them to Islamic financial operators by the end of 2011. The move was seen to benefit purely Islamic operators in Qatar, at the expense of foreign (non-Islamic) banks and financial institutions. However, within a week, the chief

executive of the Doha Bank declared that while no Islamic accounts would be closed no new business would be undertaken and indicated a relaxation in the original direction.

In April 2012 the Qatar National Bank announced that it had purchased a 49 per cent stake in a private in Libya, the Bank of Commerce and Development.

Central bank

The Qatar Central Bank (QCB)

Main financial centre

Doha

Time

GMT plus three hours

Geography

Qatar occupies a peninsula, projecting northwards from the Arabian mainland, on the west coast of the Gulf. It is bordered, to the south by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The archipelago of Bahrain lies to the north-west. On the opposite side of the Gulf lies Iran. The terrain consists primarily of sand dunes laid over flat rocky areas or salt flats, with some limestone outcrops, particularly in the west around Dukhan and in the north around Fuwairit.

Hemisphere

Northern

Climate

Desert climate with extremely hot and humid summers, when temperatures can reach 44 degrees Celsius from July–September, and mild winters with occasional rainfall.

Entry requirements

Passports

Required by all.

Visa

Required by all; except nationals of neighbouring countries.

For all others, requirements are subject to change and it is advisable to contact an embassy of Qatar for up-to-date information. Business and tourist visas (valid for 21 days) may be obtained on arrival. However, obtaining a visa in advance will save time.

A new visa system (similar to the European Schengen agreement) allowing multiply entry for foreigners to the six Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries was introduced in November.

Prohibited entry

Holders of passports issued by Israel.

Currency advice/regulations

There are no exchange restrictions. Israeli currency is prohibited.

Customs

Personal effects are duty-free. Certain goods (firearms, ammunition, drugs and alcohol) may only be imported under licence.

Import of pork and pork products, cultured pearls, and obscene or seditious literature is forbidden.

Importers must register with the Controller of Companies and appear on the Chamber of Commerce's register of importers. All foodstuffs must be labelled in Arabic.

Prohibited imports

Alcohol, even for personal consumption.

Health (for visitors)

Mandatory precautions

Vaccination certificate against yellow fever if travelling from infected area.

Advisable precautions

Inoculations and boosters should be current for tetanus, polio, typhoid and hepatitis A. There may be a need for vaccinations for tuberculosis, diphtheria and hepatitis B. In border areas with Saudi Arabia rabies is considered high risk and therefore any animal or bat bites should be assessed carefully.

A supply of any regular medicines required should be taken, with their prescription details; medical insurance, which includes emergency evacuation, is recommended.

Hotels

There is a large selection of first-class hotels. Tax of 15 per cent is added to the bill.

Credit cards

Major credit cards are accepted.

Public holidays (national)

Fixed dates

27 Jun (Accession of the Emir), 3 Sep (Independence Day), 31 Dec (banks only).

Variable dates

Eid al Adha (five days), Islamic New Year, Eid al Fitr (four days),

Islamic year 1435 (5 Nov 2013–24

Oct 2014):: The Islamic year has 354 or 355 days, with the result that Muslim feasts advance by 10–12 days against the Gregorian calendar each year. Dates of the Muslim feasts vary according to sightings of the new moon, so cannot be forecast exactly.

Working hours

Friday is the official weekend holiday. During Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting during daylight hours, most officials work 0900–1300.

Banking

Sat–Wed: 0730–1330.

Business

Sat–Thu: 0800–1200, 1600–1900.

Government

Sat–Thu: 0700–1400.

Shops

Sat–Thu: 0830–1230, 1630–2030; Fri: most shops are closed, although some supermarkets are open.

Telecommunications

Mobile/cell phones

There is a 900/1800 GSM service available throughout the country.

Electricity supply

220/240V AC, with three-pin flat plug fittings most common.

Weights and measures

Metric system; other weights are still in use, however.

Social customs/useful tips

Correspondence and technical literature is acceptable in English.

At business meetings it is not uncommon for several people to be present. While in negotiations be careful about committing yourself orally. In a traditional Muslim Sharia Court, oral evidence carries far more weight than written. You should also be aware that you will be held to the letter of any agreement.

Keep contracts as simple as possible; the main part should be couched in easily translated terms with detailed ramifications of the deal relegated to annexes.

Amendments should be avoided as they are considered dishonourable. Increasingly, be prepared to consider contracts under local law – with the provision of neutral (ie Swiss, Dutch) arbitration.

In public places, women should dress modestly.

Refrain from taking photographs without permission.

Pork should not be eaten in the presence of Muslims. It is polite to avoid eating, drinking or smoking in front of Muslims, during daylight hours in the month of Ramadan (when such consumption in public is illegal).

The purchase of alcohol is restricted to expatriate residents with a special liquor permit (not available to Muslims) and its consumption is confined to their private homes. Alcohol is a particularly sensitive subject in Qatar and the utmost discretion must be shown at all times by those permitted to consume it.

Getting there

Air

National airline: Qatar Airways

International airport/s: Doha International (DOH), 8km from city, with restaurant, bank, hotel reservations, shops, car hire.

A taxi from the airport to the city centre takes about 15 minutes. The larger hotels will send transport to the airport to collect their guests.

Airport tax: None

Surface

Road: Tarmac roads link all towns and villages in Qatar with Saudi Arabia. It is also possible to enter by good roads from the UAE.

Main port/s: Passenger services through Mina Salman, Mina Manama and Mina Muharraq, with ferries to Iran and Bahrain.

Getting about

National transport

Road: There are more than 1,000km of good roads (some dual carriageway), with a ring road system around Doha.

The Trans-Arabian Highway which links Doha with Saudi Arabia provides a continuous land connection between Qatar and Europe. Another highway which was built in conjunction with the UAE, links Qatar with the Gulf countries' network.

Buses: Doha's public bus service provides transport to and from the neighbouring towns. There is no public transport within the city.

City transport

Taxis: Taxis are orange and white and have black-on-yellow number plates, with metered fares.

Two-tier (day and night) fare system applies within the Doha city limits. They can be hired on a time basis, with a set hourly rate.

Some hotels offer a courtesy pick-up service; others offer the service but charge. A limousine can be booked through the hotel.

Car hire

If hiring for more than seven days, it is necessary to obtain a 30-day local licence – international or foreign licences are not acceptable. For this, a foreign or international licence, a letter from a local sponsor and passport must be produced within a week of arrival, and a test on road signs may be required. Third-party insurance is compulsory.

Speed limits are 60kph in cities and 100kph on highways. Traffic drives on the right.

Air-conditioned cars are available for hire, with a driver, and can be delivered to the airport or hotel.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The addresses listed below are a selection only. While World of Information makes every endeavour to check these addresses, we cannot guarantee that changes have not been made, especially to telephone numbers and area codes. We would welcome any corrections.

Telephone area codes

The international dialling code (IDD) for Qatar is +974, followed by subscriber's number.

Useful telephone numbers

Emergency (all services): 999
International operator: 150
Directory enquiries: 180
International enquiries: 190

Telegram service: 130
Speaking clock (English): 140
Ship to shore: 864-444

Chambers of Commerce

Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, PO Box 402, Doha, (tel: 455-9111; fax: 466-1693; email: infor@qcci.org; internet: www.qcci.org).

Banking

Al Ahli Bank of Qatar, PO Box 2309, Doha (tel: 4326-611; fax: 4444-652).

Al Mashriq, PO Box 173, Doha (tel: 4413-213; fax: 4413-880).

Arab Bank Ltd., PO Box 172, Doha (tel: 4437-979; fax: 4410-774).

Bank Saderat Iran, PO Box 2256, Doha (tel: 4414-646; fax: 4428-077).

Banque Paribas, PO Box 2636, Doha (tel: 4433-844; fax: 4410-861).

Bank Sederat Iran, PO Box 2256, Doha (tel: 4414-646; fax: 4430-121).

Bank of Oman Ltd., PO Box 173, Doha (tel: 4413-213; fax: 4413-800).

Commercial Bank of Qatar Ltd, PO Box 3232, Doha (tel: 4490-222; fax: 4438-182).

Doha Bank, PO Box 3818, Doha (tel: 4456-660; fax: 4416-631).

Grindlays Qatar Bank, PO Box 2001, Doha (tel: 4425-466; fax: 4428-077).

HSBC Bank of the Middle East, PO Box 57, 810 Abdulla bin Jassim Street, Doha (tel: 4438-2100; fax: 4416-353).

Qatar Industrial Development Bank, PO Box 22789, Doha (tel: 4421-600; fax: 4416-631).

Qatar International Islamic Bank, PO Box 664, Doha (tel: 4409-409; fax: 4444-101).

Qatar Islamic Bank, PO Box 559, Doha (tel: 4438-000; fax: 4412-700).

Qatar National Bank, PO Box 1000, Doha (tel: 4407-407; fax: 4413-753; e-mail: webmaster@qatarbank.com).

Standard Chartered Bank, PO Box 29, Doha (tel: 4414-252; fax: 4413-739).

United Bank Ltd, PO Box 242, Doha (tel: 4438-666; fax: 4424-600).

Central bank

Qatar Central Bank, Corniche Street; PO Box 1234, Doha (tel: 445-6456; email: webmaster@qcb.gov.qa; internet: www.qcb.gov.qa).

Stock exchange

Doha Securities Market (DSM), www2.dsm.com.qa

Travel information

Doha International Airport information (tel: 4438-111).

Gulf Air, PO Box 138, Manama, Bahrain (tel: (+973) 322-200; fax: (+973) 440-466).

Qatar Airways, Almana Tower, PO Box 22550, Doha (tel: 4430-707; fax: 4352-433).

Qatar National Hotels Co, PO Box 2977, Doha (tel: 4426-414; fax: 4431-223).

National tourist organisation offices

Qatar Tourism Authority, P.O. Box 24624, Doha (tel: 441-1555; fax: 437-2993; email: info@experienceqatar.com; internet: <http://experienceqatar.com>)

Ministries

Ministry of Amiri Diwan Affairs, PO Box 923, Doha (tel: 4468-333; fax: 4412-617).

Ministry of Communications and Transport, PO Box 3416, Doha (tel: 4464-000; fax: 4413-886).

Ministry of Defence, PO Box 37, Doha (tel: 4604-111; fax: 4608-366).

Ministry of Education, PO Box 80, Doha (tel: 4333-444; fax: 4413-954).

Ministry of Electricity and Water, Department of Electricity, PO Box 41, Doha (tel: 4326-622; fax: 4426-608).

Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs, PO Box 232, Doha (tel: 4452-222).

Ministry of Finance, PO Box 83, Doha (tel: 446-1444; fax: 441-3617).

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PO Box 250, Doha (tel: 4334-334; fax: 4442-777).

Ministry of Information and Culture, PO Box 1836, Doha (tel: 4831-333; fax: 4831-518).

Ministry of Interior, PO Box 920, Doha (tel: 4430-000; fax: 44330-168); Passport and Immigration Division, PO Box 122, Doha (tel: 4443-300); Police Headquarters, PO Box 920, Doha (tel: 4330-000); Police Traffic Division, PO Box 8989, Doha (tel: 4868-000; fax: 4872-624); Residence Permits, PO Box 122, Doha (tel: 4325-588); Visa Section, PO Box 122, Doha (tel: 4328-129).

Ministry of Justice, PO Box 2377, Doha (tel: 4435-777; fax: 4832-868).

Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Housing, PO Box 201, Doha (tel: 4321-955; fax: 4432-929).

Ministry of Municipal and Agricultural Affairs, PO Box 2727, Doha (tel: 4336-336; fax: 4430-239).

Ministry of Public Health, PO Box 42, Doha (tel: 4441-555; fax: 4429-565).

National Oil Distribution Company (NODCO), PO Box 50033, Mesaieed (tel: 4776-555; fax: 4771-232).

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Other useful addresses

Broadcasting and Television Corporation, PO Box 1836, Doha (tel: 4831-333; fax: 4831-518).

Central Tenders Committee, PO Box 1968, Doha (tel: 4413-089; fax: 4439-360).

Department of Civil Aviation, PO Box 3000, Doha (tel: 4426-262; fax: 4429-070).

Department of Commercial Affairs, PO Box 22355, Doha (tel: 4432-103; fax: 4431-412).

Department of Customs, PO Box 81, Doha (tel: 4457-457; fax: 4414-959).

Department of Economic Affairs, PO Box 1968, Doha (tel: 4416-234; fax: 4415-731).

Department of Environmental Affairs, PO Box 7634, Doha (tel: 4320-825; fax: 4415-246).

Department of Financial Affairs, PO Box 83, Doha (tel: 4461-444; fax: 4413-617).

Department of Industrial Development, PO Box 2599, Doha (tel: 4832-121; fax: 4832-024).

Department of Museum and Antiquities, PO Box 2777, Doha (tel: 4438-123).

Department of Post, PO Box 713, Doha (tel: 4835-555; fax: 4837-777).

Department of Safety, Quality and Environment, PO Box 47, Doha (tel: 4402-538; fax: 4402-207).

Department of Water, PO Box 162, Doha (tel: 4494-444).

Doha Securities Market, PO Box 22114, Doha (tel: 4328-025; fax: 4326-497).

Exhibitions Department, PO Box 1968, Doha (tel: 4834-450; fax: 4834-480).

Exploration and Development of New Ventures Department, PO Box 3212, Doha (tel: 4491-288; fax: 4831-850).

Government House, PO Box 83, Doha (tel: 4461-444).

HH the Emir's Doha Palace, PO Box 923 (tel: 4415-888).

Information and Computer Services Department, PO Box 47, Doha (tel: 4402-240; fax: 4413-629).

Al Jazeera Satellite Channel, PO Box 23123, Doha (tel: 4890-890; fax: 4885-333).

Legal Affairs and Contracts Department, PO Box 3212, Doha (tel: 4491-467; fax: 4831-752).

Materials Department, PO Box 47, Doha (tel: 4332-222; fax: 4343-458).

Petroleum Engineering Department, PO Box 47, Doha (tel: 4402-440; fax: 4402-215).

Pharmaceuticals and Medicines Control Department, PO Box 1919, Doha (tel: 4447-828; fax: 4425-399).

Qatar Broadcasting Services, PO Box 3939, Doha (tel: 4894-4444; fax: 4894-202).

Qatari Business Association, PO Box 24475, Doha (435-3120; fax: 435-3834).

Qatar Clean Energy Company (QACENCO), PO Box 22074, Doha (tel: 4415-556; fax: 4415-640).

Qatar Embassy (USA), 4200 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20016 (tel: (+1-202) 274-1603; fax: (+1-202) 237-0061; email: washington@mofa.gov.qa).

Qatar Fertiliser Company (QAFCO), PO Box 50001, Doha (tel: 4770-252; fax: 4771-655).

Qatar Fuel Additives Company (QAFAC), PO Box 22700, Doha (tel: 4433-700; fax: 4433-766).

Qatar General Petroleum Corporation, Headquarters: PO Box 3212, Doha (tel: 4491-491; fax: 4836-999; internet: www.qgpc.com.qa); Oil and Gas Operations: PO Box 47, Doha (tel: 4402-000).

Qatar Liquefied Gas Company (QATARGAS), PO Box 22666, Doha (tel: 4739-400; fax: 4739-423).

Qatar National Cement Company, PO Box 1333, Doha (tel: 4350-800).

Qatar Petrochemical Company (QAPCO), PO Box 756, Doha (tel: 4321-105; fax: 4324-700).

Qatar Public Telecommunications Corp, PO Box 217, Doha (tel: 4400-333; fax: 4413-904).

Qatar Steel Company Ltd, PO Box 50090, Doha (tel: 4770-011; fax: 4771-424).

Qatar Television, PO Box 1944, Doha (tel: 4894-444; fax: 4438-316).

Ras Laffan Liquefied Natural Gas Company, PO Box 2400, Doha (tel: 4859-400; fax: 4833-855).

State Audit Bureau, PO Box 2466, Doha (tel: 4441-000; fax: 4412-101).

Qatar Financial Centre, PO Box 23245, Doha (tel: 4945-508; fax: 4830-928; email: info@qfc.com.qa, website: www.qfc.com.qa).

Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority, PO Box 22989, Doha (tel: 4945-433; fax: 4835-031; email: info@qfcra.com.qa, website: www.qfcra.com.qa).

National news agency: Qatar News Agency

PO Box 3299, Doha (tel: 445-0319; email: info@qnaol.com; internet: www.qnaol.com).

Internet sites

Arab net: www.arab.net/welcome.html

Arabia on line: www.arabia.com

Gulf business explorer: www.igulf.com/main.htm

Qatar Investment Promotion Department: www.investinqatar.com.qa

Qatar website: www.dib-qatar.com

Qatar yellow pages: www.qatar-yellowpages.com