



QATAR



INTRODUCTION

Ruled by the Al Thani family since the mid-1800s, Qatar within the last 60 years transformed itself from a poor British protectorate noted mainly for pearling into an independent state with significant oil and natural gas revenues. Leadership changes in 1995 ushered in wide-sweeping political and media reforms, unprecedented economic investment, and a growing Qatari regional leadership role.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

Amir TAMIM bin Hamad Al Thani

Head of Government

Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh KHALID ibn Khalifa ibn Abdul Aziz Al Thani

Government Type

absolute monarchy

Capital

Doha

Legislature

unicameral Advisory Council or Majlis al-Shura (45 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 11,586 sq km
Land: 11,586 sq km
Water: 0 sq km

Climate

arid; mild, pleasant winters; very hot, humid summers

Natural Resources

petroleum, fish, natural gas

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

high-income, oil-and-gas-based Middle Eastern economy; better regional integration after 2021 terrorism resolution; infrastructure investments ahead of 2022 World Cup; Islamic finance leader; citizenship-based labor force growth

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$245.7 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$85,300 (2020 est.)

Industries - liquefied natural gas, crude oil production and refining, ammonia, fertilizer, petrochemicals, steel reinforcing bars, cement, commercial ship repair

Agricultural products - tomatoes, dates, camel milk, sheep milk, goat milk, pumpkins/gourds, mutton, poultry, milk, eggplants

Exports \$70.93 billion (2020 est.)

natural gas, crude petroleum, refined petroleum, ethylene polymers, fertilizers (2019)

partners: Japan 17%, South Korea 16%, India 14%, China 13%, Singapore 7% (2019)

Imports \$59.06 billion (2020 est.)

aircraft, gas turbines, cars, jewelry, iron piping (2019)

partners: US 15%, France 13%, UK 9%, China 9%, Germany 5%, Italy 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

2.5 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

1.23% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

non-Qatari 88.4%,
Qatari 11.6% (2015 est.)

Language

Arabic (official), English commonly used as a second language

Religion

Muslim 65.2%, Christian 13.7%, Hindu 15.9%, Buddhist 3.8%, folk religion <0.1%, Jewish <0.1%, other <1%, unaffiliated <1% (2020 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 99.3% of total population (2021)

rate of urbanization: 1.66% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

