

QATAR

Political structure

Official name:

State of Qatar

Form of state:

Emirate

Legal system:

The new constitution, which came into effect in June 2005, provides for a fully independent judiciary that should be answerable to 'no power but the law'. Judges may not be dismissed 'except in cases to be defined by law'

Legislature:

Qatar's current advisory council was established in 1972, and is wholly appointed. It can issue advice on policy matters, but has no formal legislative role.

Under the 2005 constitution, a two-thirds elected, 45 member parliament will be formed which will have the power to draw up laws and question ministers. However the parliamentary election has been repeatedly delayed

Executive:

Cabinet, headed by the prime minister, who is appointed by the emir. In April 2007 the first deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, Hamad bin Jassem bin Jabr al Thani replaced Abdullah bin Khalifa al Thani as prime minister

Head of state:

Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani

Main political parties:

Political parties are not permitted

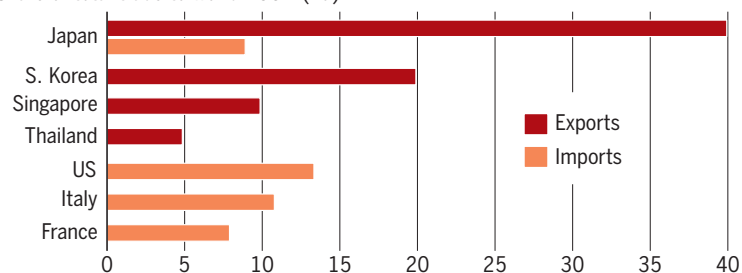
Economic summary

	2007	2008*	2009*
Total GDP (QR bn)	266.7	425.3	524.5
Total GDP (\$bn)	73.3	116.9	144.1
Real GDP growth (annual % change)	15.9	16.8	21.4
GDP per head (\$, PPP)	85,638	86,670	96,275
Inflation (annual change in CPI**)	13.8	15.0	13.0
Oil production ('000 barrels/day)	798	855	850
Oil export (\$bn)	19	25	16
Industrial production (annual % change)	11.0	18.2	25.5
Services production (annual % change)	7.0	6.0	3.0
Money supply, M1 (annual % change)	26.9	62.1	24.9
Foreign exchange reserves (\$bn)	9.8	10.8	13.1
Unemployment (%)	0.7	0.6	0.5
Budget balance (% of GDP)	8.0	10.9	2.3
Current account balance (\$bn)	21.4	50.1	51.3
Merchandise exports (\$bn)	42.0	59.0	56.7
Merchandise imports (\$bn)	19.6	25.0	29.3
Trade balance (\$bn)	22.4	34.1	27.4

* EIU forecasts ** EU harmonised

Main trading partners

Share of total trade to world 2007 (%)



Area	11,521 sq km
Language:	Arabic; English widely used
Currency:	Qatari riyal (QR)
Exchange rate:	
2007 average	\$1=QR3.640
2008 latest	\$1=QR3.642
Population (2008, IMF estimate)	1,098,000
Capital	Doha
Population of Doha (Dec 2004, official census)	339,847

Sovereign credit rating

Standard & Poor's	AA-	Moody's	Aa2
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Sources: EIU; IMF; Thomson Datastream