

# Qatar

## Geography

Location: Middle East, peninsula bordering the Persian Gulf and Saudi Arabia

Area:

total area: 11,000 sq km

land area: 11,000 sq km

Land boundaries: total 60 km, Saudi Arabia 60 km

Coastline: 563 km

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone: 24 nm

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

territorial sea: 12 nm

Climate: desert; hot, dry; humid and sultry in summer

Terrain: mostly flat and barren desert covered with loose sand and gravel

Natural resources: petroleum, natural gas, fish

Land use:

arable land: 0%

permanent crops: 0%

meadows and pastures: 5%

forest and woodland: 0%

other: 95%

Environment:

current issues: limited natural fresh water resources are increasing dependence on large-scale desalination facilities

natural hazards: haze, dust storms, sandstorms common

Note: strategic location in central Persian Gulf near major petroleum deposits

# People

Population: 533,916 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 30% (female 81,443; male 80,591)

15-64 years: 68% (female 104,921; male 258,135)

65 years and over: 2% (female 2,941; male 5,885) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 2.74% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 22.72 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 3.59 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: 8.25 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 20.4 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 73.03 years

male: 70.45 years

female: 75.5 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 4.63 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Qatari(s)

adjective: Qatari

Ethnic divisions: Arab 40%, Pakistani 18%, Indian 18%, Iranian 10%, other 14%

Religions: Muslim 95%

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

Literacy:

total population: 76%

male: 77%

female: 72%

## Government

Names:

conventional long form: State of Qatar

conventional short form: Qatar

local long form: Dawlat Qatar

local short form: Qatar

Type: traditional monarchy

Capital: Doha

Independence: 3 September 1971 (from UK)

National holiday: Independence Day, 3 September (1971)

Suffrage: none

Flag: maroon with a broad white serrated band (nine white points)  
on the hoist side

## Economy

Overview: Oil is the backbone of the economy.

Industries: crude oil production and refining, fertilizers, petrochemicals, steel (rolls reinforcing bars for concrete construction), cement

Agriculture: farming and grazing on small scale, less than 2% of GDP; agricultural area is small and government-owned; commercial fishing increasing in importance; most food imported

Transportation

Railroads: 0 km

Highways:  
total: 1,190 km

Pipelines: crude oil 235 km; natural gas 400 km

Ports: Doha, Halul Island, Umm Sa'id

Airports:  
total: 6

Defence Forces

Branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, Public Security