



COUNTRY PROFILE QATAR

Arab Business Legislative Frameworks Qatar Profile

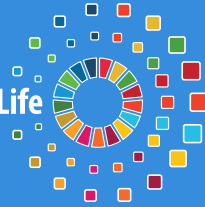


Shared Prosperity Dignified Life





Shared Prosperity **Dignified Life**



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Committed to the 2030 Agenda, ESCWA's passionate team produces innovative knowledge, fosters regional consensus and delivers transformational policy advice. Together, we work for a sustainable future for all.



Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Arab Business Legislative Frameworks

Qatar Profile



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Country Profile

QATAR



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Summary



The State of Qatar gained independence in 1971 and is a hereditary constitutional monarchy. Qatar's legal system is heavily shaped by the Wahhabi interpretation of sharia law, but it also incorporates civil law and international law.

Competition



- Qatar established **LAW NO. 19 OF 2006** on **Competition Protection and Anti-Monopolistic Practices**;
- Qatar is a **REGIONAL LEADER** in terms of the components within its competition legislation that matches **international standards**;
- Qatar still **HESITATES TO LIBERALIZE** key **regulated sectors**, such as **natural resources, the media** and the **security sector**.

Foreign Direct Investment



- Qatar first passed **LAW NO. 13 OF 2000** on **Foreign Capital Investment**. Of late, Qatar passed **Law No. 1 of 2019** that **regulates non-Qatari capital investment**;
- Yet, Qatar **STILL LAGS BEHIND** regionally in terms of **matching international standards of banking regulations**;
- **KEY REGULATED SECTORS** remain **off-limit to FDI**.



Anti-Corruption



- Qatar lays out **ROBUST DEFINITIONS OF CORRUPTION AND INTEGRITY** during public procurement in the following laws: **Qatari Penal Code of 2004**; **Civil Service Law No. 1 of 2001**; **Public Procurement Law No. 26 of 2005**; and **Emiri Decree No. 84 of 2007**. These laws **cover corruption-related definitions** and prohibited acts, and **clearly define the monitoring bodies** responsible for **enforcement**;
- Importantly, **QATAR'S PUBLIC PROCUREMENT LAW** includes an **administrative review of procurement** and stipulates that the **state audit must be involved** in the **procurement process**;
- Qatar has incorporated the **UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION against Corruption** into its **national legislation** through **Decree No. 71 of 2007**.

Consumer Protection



- Qatar established **LAW NO. 8 OF 2008** on **consumer protection**;
- Thanks to that legislation, Qatar has **STRONG INSTITUTIONAL AND ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES** to **support consumer protection** and provides **“very strong” measures** to **enable consumers to obtain redress**;
- **JOINING THE REST OF THE GCC COUNTRIES**, Qatar has **limited or no exemptions** within **consumer protection legislation**, thus ensuring its capability to **enforce the legislation appropriately** and consistently.

Main Headings

● Very Strong
 ● Strong
 ● Developed
 ● Moderate
 ● Basic
 ● Weak
 ● Very Weak

COMPETITION

● **DEVELOPED**

Anti-Trust and Competition Laws	● Strong
Anti-Dominance and Monopolisation Laws	● Strong
Cartels and Anti-Competitive Agreements	● Strong
Competition Enforcement Practices	● Developed
International Trade Agreements	● Basic
Liberalisation and Competition Intervention in Regulated Sectors	● Very Weak
Merger Regulatory Regime	● Developed
Labor Protection	● Developed




FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI)

● **MODERATE**

Banking Regulations	● Developed
Macroeconomic Policies	● Moderate
Investment Regulatory Framework	● Strong
Incentivisation Schemes	● Basic
Bi-lateral Treaties	● Weak



ANTI-CORRUPTION		DEVELOPED
Anti-Corruption and Integrity in Public Sector	Moderate	
Anti-Bribery and Whistle Blow Laws	Developed	
Budgeting and Public Expenditures	Very Strong	
Digital Government	Moderate	
Open Government and Transparency	Strong	
Public Procurement Standards	Strong	

CONSUMER PROTECTION		MODERATE
Physical Safety Regulations	Moderate	
Protection of Consumers' Economic Interests	Strong	
Measures Enabling Consumers to Obtain Redress	Very Strong	
Promotion of Sustainable Consumption	Weak	

Sub-categories

● Very Strong
 ● Strong
 ● Developed
 ● Moderate
 ● Basic
 ● Weak
 ● Very Weak

COMPETITION

Laws/Decrees (i.e. national legislations/regulations)	● Strong	
Definitions (i.e. legal definitions within legislation/treaties)	● Very Strong	
Institutions (i.e. bodies/authorities)	● Strong	
International Agreements (regional/international conventions, treaties, trade agreements)	● Strong	
Enforcement (i.e. positive or negative, such as incentives, subsidizes, sanctions, fines, prison sentences)	● Very Strong	
Exemptions	● Very Weak	
Accessibility/Transparency	● Basic	

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI)

Laws/Decrees (i.e. national legislations/regulations)	● Moderate	
Definitions (i.e. legal definitions within legislation/treaties)	● Basic	
Institutions (i.e. bodies/authorities)	● Strong	
International Agreements (regional/international conventions, treaties, trade agreements)	● Developed	
Enforcement (i.e. positive or negative, such as incentives, subsidizes, sanctions, fines, prison sentences)	● Strong	
Exemptions	● Very Weak	
Accessibility/Transparency	● Moderate	

ANTI-CORRUPTION

Laws/Decrees (i.e. national legislations/regulations)	● Very Strong
Definitions (i.e. legal definitions within legislation/treaties)	● Developed
Institutions (i.e. bodies/authorities)	● Developed
International Agreements (regional/international conventions, treaties, trade agreements)	● Very Weak
Enforcement (i.e. positive or negative, such as incentives, subsidizes, sanctions, fines, prison sentences)	● Very Strong
Exemptions	● Basic
Accessibility/Transparency	● Moderate



CONSUMER PROTECTION

Laws/Decrees (i.e. national legislations/regulations)	● Moderate
Definitions (i.e. legal definitions within legislation/treaties)	● Developed
Institutions (i.e. bodies/authorities)	● Strong
International Agreements (regional/international conventions, treaties, trade agreements)	● Very Weak
Enforcement (i.e. positive or negative, such as incentives, subsidizes, sanctions, fines, prison sentences)	● Moderate
Exemptions	● Very Strong
Accessibility/Transparency	● Developed





