

Qatar

1. Industrial strategy (including objectives/goals)

- State Owned Enterprises play a very important role in Qatar's economy and dominate the leading economic sectors.
- Qatar's Third Qatar National Development Strategy (QNDS) 2024-2030 sets out its strategic approach to economic and industrial development. It lays great emphasis on economic growth and fiscal sustainability.
- The QNDS 2030, as part of its sustainable economic growth agenda, incorporates four key elements;
 - Strengthening of the country's energy sector.
 - Economic diversification through diversification clusters (these include IT and digital services cluster, manufacturing cluster, financial services cluster).
 - Development of a top business environment through investor friendly regulations, world-class government-to-business services, increased private sector access to funding, strengthening trade ecosystems and capabilities of local entities, and development of world class economic infrastructure.
 - Bolstering Qatar's innovation ecosystem by incentivizing private sector led innovation, promoting scientific research aligned with the country's economic plan and regulations that facilitate research and development.¹
- The country's National Vision 2030 articulates ambitious goals for economic diversification, encouraging the growth of sectors such as manufacturing, logistics, and knowledge-based industries.²
- The Qatari government has established the Qatar Free Zones Authority (QFZA) to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and facilitate the growth of specialized economic areas that support various industries, including chemicals, technology and manufacturing. It pursues partnerships with enterprises, provides top of the line infrastructure and serves as a one stop shop for companies.³
- The National Development Strategy keeps industrial growth a driving force for economic diversification in Qatar.

¹ Qatar National Development Strategy 2030' <https://www.psa.gov.qa/en/nds1/nds3/Documents/QNDS3_EN.pdf> accessed 21 September 2024

² 'Qatar National Vision 2030' (*Government Communications Office*) <<https://www.gco.gov.qa/en/about-qatar/national-vision2030/>> accessed 21 September 2024

³ 'Qatar Free Zones Authority' (*Qatar Free Zones Authority*) <<https://qfz.gov.qa/authority/>> accessed 21 September 2024

Qatar's industrial policy has the following key objectives:

- The objectives of QNDS 2030 include sustainable economic growth, fiscal sustainability, future ready workforce, cohesive society, high quality of life, environmental sustainability and government excellence.
- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry aims to create an appealing business landscape by offering high-quality services and formulating overarching policies aimed at fostering business growth, promoting investment, and enhancing national industries. This goal is achieved within a framework that ensures the advancement of intellectual property rights, safeguards consumer protection, supports competitive practices, and prevents monopolistic behavior.⁴

Qatar pursues the following objectives through its industrial strategy:

- Economic Diversification is a primary objective of Qatar's industrial policies. It aims to strengthen the energy sector and simultaneously reduce reliance on hydrocarbon revenues by promoting a technologically sophisticated diverse industrial sector that contributes to the growth of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).⁵ Qatar aims at promoting start-ups, new businesses, and small and medium enterprises (SMEs).⁶
- Industrial policies focus on creating employment opportunities for Qatari nationals and expatriate workers, particularly in high-value-added industries like manufacturing and services.⁷
- Qatar aims to increase its share of non-oil exports through initiatives to improve the competitiveness of local industries and explore new global markets. It aims to become a re-export hub in high-value products.⁸
- The industrial policies emphasize the adoption of technologically advanced practices to improve productivity and efficiency. This involves investing in research and development initiatives and encouraging collaboration between businesses, academic institutions, and research centers.⁹
- Qatar's industrial policies increasingly focus on creating a sustainable industrial base and environmentally friendly projects that align with global best practices. They aim to

⁴ 'Vision, Mission and Values – Ministry of Commerce and Industry' <<https://www.moci.gov.qa/en/about-the-ministry/vision-mission-and-values/>> accessed 22 September 2024.

⁵ Qatar National Vision 2030 (n 2).

⁶ 'Annual Report 2023_2024 | Initiatives | Qatar Development Bank' <https://www.qdb.qa/about/news/initiatives/national-report-2023_2024> accessed 22 September 2024

⁷ Qatar National Development Strategy 2030 (n 1).

⁸ *ibid.*

⁹ *ibid.*; see 'Qatar Science & Technology Park' <<https://qstp.org.qa/>> accessed 22 September 2024.

enhance environmental performance and promote social responsibility. This includes prioritizing clean technology and energy-efficient processes.¹⁰

2. Digital (Development) Strategy

Qatar Digital Agenda 2030

Qatar has developed the Qatar Digital Agenda, which has six strategic objectives and aims towards digital advancement and establishment of a leading digital economy:

- Development of cutting-edge digital infrastructure: Remain at the forefront of technology adoption to sustain world leading, secure and sustainable digital infrastructure.
- Booming Digital Economy: Drive digital adoption to accelerate growth and transform Qatar into a globally competitive, diversified and innovative digital economy.
- Thriving Digital Innovation: Bolster Qatar's digital innovation ecosystem of R&D and funding to develop innovative and thriving digital sector
- Seamless Digital Government: Lead as a top nation for establishing government e-services focused on excellent experience for citizens, residents, businesses and institutions
- Nurtured Digital Technologies: Foster accelerated development and adoption of cutting-edge technologies and best-in-class data foundations with timely and appropriate regulation
- Future Leading Digital Society: Empower Qatar's society to thrive in a globalized digital world to become the digital masters who can spread their learnings and achievements from Qatar across the world¹¹

3. Main Constitutional Provisions

Article 28 of the constitution highlights that the state is committed to ensuring the freedom of economic enterprise, grounded in social justice and balanced collaboration between private and public sectors. It aims to promote socio-economic growth, enhance production, improve public welfare, elevate living standards, and create job opportunities, all in compliance with legal provisions.¹²

¹⁰ 'Developing Diverse, Sustainable Economy... Qatar's Sustainability Efforts Get New Boost' <<https://www.qna.org.qa/en/News-Area/News/2024-05/29/0023-developing-diverse,-sustainable-economy-qatar's-sustainability-efforts-get-new-boost>> accessed 22 September 2024.

¹¹ Digital Agenda 3030' (*Ministry of Communication and Information Technology | Government of Qatar*) <https://www.mcit.gov.qa/sites/default/files/digital_agenda_2030_report_design_eng.pdf> accessed 21 September 2024.

¹² 'The Constitution' (*Government Communications Office*) <<https://www.gco.gov.qa/en/about-qatar/the-constitution/>> accessed 22 September 2024.

4. Main Regulatory Provisions and Policy Developments:

- Cybercrime Prevention Law (Law No. 14 of 2014)
- Penal Code (No. 11) 2004
- Decree Law No. 34 of 2006 Promulgating the Telecommunications Law
- Law No. 13 of 2016 Concerning Privacy and Protection of Personal Data
- Decree Law No. 16 of 2010 Promulgating the Electronic Transactions and Commerce Law
- Law No. 13 of 2000 and its amendments: Qatar's investment law regulating the investment of non-Qatari capital in economic activities.
- Law No. (1) of 2019 On Regulating Non-Qatari Capital Investment in the Economic Activity
- Law No. (34) of 2005 amended by Legislative Decree No. (21) of 2017 establishing Qatar new free zones.

Qatar joined the World Economic Forum to establish a Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Network – The Primary focus is sustainable development and economic competitiveness in line with Qatar National Vision.¹³

Recent policy developments in Qatar reflect a commitment to enhancing the industrial and digital landscape:

- The National Cybersecurity Strategy 2024-2030: This strategy aims to enhance the nation's cybersecurity infrastructure and preparedness against cyber threats, allow safe use of emerging and sustainable technologies and support digital economic growth.¹⁴
- The National Development Strategy 2024-2030: This plan outlines strategic initiatives to promote industrial growth and economic diversification.¹⁵
- Qatar Digital Agenda 2030: The agenda aims towards digital advancement and establishing a leading digital economy.

¹³ 'Qatar Joins Fourth Industrial Revolution Network' <<https://www.qna.org.qa/en/News-Area/News/2024-01/18/0062-qatar-joins-fourth-industrial-revolution-network>> accessed 30 September 2024

¹⁴ 'The National Cyber Security Strategy 2024-2030 Is Launched' (*Government Communications Office*) <<https://www.gco.gov.qa/en/top-news/the-national-cyber-security-strategy-2024-2030-is-launched/>> accessed 22 September 2024.

¹⁵ Qatar National Development Strategy 2030 (n 1).

- Qatar National Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2021: This policy emphasizes joint cooperation from stakeholders in all sectors to combat climate change and ensure long term sustainability of Qatar's key economic drivers.¹⁶
- Qatar National Broadband Plan 2013: The plan encourages the growth of the broadband market by outlining the necessary guidelines and actions the country should implement over the next decade to fully capitalize on the benefits of broadband technology.¹⁷
- National Artificial Intelligence Strategy Qatar¹⁸

5. (Regional) Economic Treaties to Which the State is a Signatory

Qatar is a signatory to several regional economic treaties including the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)-Singapore and EFTA - Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).¹⁹ It has signed multiple bilateral investment treaties (BITs) with countries such as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland etc.²⁰

6. Plurilaterals

Qatar engages in various plurilateral trade agreements and is a supporter of regional integration. These include the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Pan-Arab Free Trade Area (PAFTA).²¹

7. Proceedings Initiated Against the State, or by It, Before International Forums

DS526 - Qatar Against UAE (measures relating to trade in goods and services and trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights)

DS528 – Qatar Against Saudi Arabia (measures related to trade in goods and services and trade related aspects of intellectual property rights)

¹⁶ Qatar National Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2021' (*Ministry of Environment and Climate Change | Government of Qatar*) <<https://cdn-website-prod.azureedge.net/static/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/environmental-climate-change-strategy-book-en.pdf>> accessed 21 September 2024; see National Action Plan for Climate Change 2030.

¹⁷ 'Ministry of Information and Communications Technology Launches Qatar National Broadband Plan | Ministry of Transport' <<https://www.mot.gov.qa/en/news/ministry-information-and-communications-technology-launches-qatar-national-broadband-plan>> accessed 22 September 2024.

¹⁸ National Artificial Intelligence Strategy Qatar <https://www.mcit.gov.qa/sites/default/files/national_artificial_intelligence_strategy_for_qatar_0.pdf>

¹⁹ 'WTO | Regional Trade Agreements' <<http://rtais.wto.org/UI/PublicMaintainRTAHome.aspx>> accessed 21 September 2024.

²⁰ International Trade Administration, 'Qatar - Trade Agreements' (23 November 2022) <<https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/qatar-trade-agreements>> accessed 22 September 2024.

²¹ 'WTO | Regional Trade Agreements' <<http://rtais.wto.org/UI/PublicMaintainRTAHome.aspx>> accessed 20 September 2024.

*DS567 - Qatar Against Saudi Arabia (measures concerning the protection of intellectual property rights)*²²

Amna Zaman (Last Updated 13 December 2024)

²² 'WTO | Dispute Settlement - Map of Disputes between WTO Members'
<https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/dispu_maps_e.htm?country_selected=PAK&sense=e> accessed 21 September 2024.

