

MASHREQ GLOBAL DIGEST

Qatar

June 21 – June 27



This edition of the Market Digest highlights Qatar's latest macroeconomic and financial developments, alongside recent deals and key trends influencing the country's economic outlook.

Macroeconomic News

Qatar Cuts Public Debt to 40% of GDP by End-2025

Qatar strengthens its economic resilience through prudent fiscal management, economic diversification, and strategic investment, reinforcing its position as a regional trade and investment hub. Public debt declined to around 40% of GDP by the end of 2025, down from 45% in 2023, while the banking sector remains well-capitalized, with over 70% of deposits sourced from the public and private sectors. Continued investment in logistics, manufacturing, tourism, digital transformation, and clean energy is supporting sustainable growth and enhancing the economy's resilience to global challenges.

Reference: [AlSharq](#)



Qatar's CPI Falls 0.51% in May on Lower Transport Costs

Qatar's Consumer Price Index (CPI) fell 0.51% month-on-month to 110.05 points in May, driven mainly by a 3.85% decline in transport costs, alongside lower recreation (-1.32%) and restaurant and hotel prices (-0.92%). These declines were partly offset by higher food and beverage prices (+1.84%) and housing and utilities (+0.32%). Excluding housing and utility-related costs, the CPI declined 0.69%, indicating broader easing in underlying price pressures despite modest increases in some essential spending categories.

Reference: [Economy Middle East](#)



Qatar Approves Major Labor Law Reforms to Boost Investments

Qatar has introduced sweeping amendments to its labor law aimed at improving labor market efficiency, enhancing business competitiveness, and attracting investment in line with Qatar National Vision 2030. Key reforms include legal frameworks for part-time and freelance work, faster digital labor dispute resolution, stronger wage protection, tighter regulation of recruitment agencies, mandatory joint employer-employee committees for companies with 100+ employees, and professional certification requirements for selected occupations. The reforms are expected to increase labor market flexibility, strengthen regulatory oversight, and improve the business environment.

Reference: [Qatar National News](#)



Qatar Property Price Index Hits Record High in May

Qatar's property price index reached a record 244.56 in May, rising 8.7% year-on-year and 1.28% month-on-month, supported by strong real estate transactions and mortgage activity. Total property sales exceeded QAR 1.73 billion across 420 deals, while registered mortgages surpassed QAR 11 billion. Meanwhile, Qatar's residential housing stock grew to 405,700 units in Q1 2026, up 0.28%, reflecting a balanced market where expanding supply continues to meet robust demand and support sustainable growth.

Reference: [Arab News](#), [Alaraby](#)



Qatar to Restore LNG Production Within Weeks

Qatar's Prime Minister announced that the country expects to resume normal liquefied natural gas (LNG) production within a few weeks after output was suspended following attacks linked to the Iran conflict. He also emphasized that establishing a direct U.S.-Iran hotline is essential for reopening the Strait of Hormuz, highlighting ongoing geopolitical risks to global energy markets. The resumption of Qatar's LNG exports is expected to improve global gas supply and support energy market stability.

Reference: [Reuters](#)



Qatar Raises Education Voucher Income Limit to QAR 35,000

Qatar has increased the maximum monthly family income eligible for its education voucher programme to QAR 35,000 (\$9,615) from QAR 25,000, expanding access to subsidized private education for more Qatari families. The program provides over 9,000 seats, including around 2,400 voucher-funded places, with participating schools covering any tuition fees exceeding the QAR 28,000 voucher value as part of the government's education support initiative. The move supports greater access to private education and strengthens human capital development.

Reference: [Arabian Business](#)

Financial/Tech News

QIA Invests €432M in RWE Capital Raise, Lifts Stake to 9.87%

Qatar Investment Authority will invest €432 million as a cornerstone investor in German utility RWE's nearly €4 billion equity capital raise, increasing its stake from 9.27% to 9.87%. RWE will use the proceeds to acquire a 35% indirect stake in Amprion, raising its total stake to 55%. The deal is important because it strengthens QIA's exposure to Europe's energy transition and electricity grid infrastructure, with Amprion operating an 11,000 km network serving around 29 million people in Germany.

Reference: [Zawya](#)



Rise every day

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Qatar Launches Digital Transformation Scholarship Program

Qatar has launched a Digital Transformation Program under its 2026/27 Government Scholarship Plan to develop national talent in priority fields including artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, cloud computing, and digital analytics. The initiative aligns education with labor market needs by offering scholarships, internships, guaranteed employment, and career development, supporting Qatar's long-term digital economy and workforce strategy.

Reference: [Qatar News Agency](#)



QIA Backs \$380M Funding Round for Dutch Chip Startup

Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) participated in Nearfield Instruments' \$380 million Series D funding round, which valued the Dutch semiconductor equipment startup at \$1.6 billion. The investment will support product innovation, global expansion, increased production capacity, and research collaborations with leading chipmakers. The deal reflects QIA's continued focus on strategic technology investments, following recent commitments to satellite technology, green transition projects, and digital innovation.

Reference: [AGBI](#)



Qatar Digital Payment Transactions Jump 42% to QAR 95.8B

Qatar's digital payment systems recorded strong growth in May 2026, with the value of transactions rising 42% year-on-year to QAR 95.8 billion, while the number of transactions increased 32% to 81.06 million. Card payments accounted for the largest share of activity, and bank account transfers grew 58% in value, reflecting increasing adoption of digital banking and fintech services across the country.

Reference: [Mshireb](#)

Deals/Projects

Qatar Expands Hamad Port Food Hub

Qatar is advancing a major food logistics project at Hamad Port, featuring a 575-meter dedicated berth and integrated facilities including a rice mill, oil refinery, storage and packaging warehouses, and advanced cargo-handling systems. The project will streamline the import, processing, storage, and distribution of food commodities, strengthening food security and supply chain efficiency. It also incorporates a recycling facility that converts food-processing by-products into animal feed, supporting Qatar's sustainability objectives.

Reference: [Zawya](#)

Qatar, China Central Bank Governors Discuss Financial Cooperation

Qatar Central Bank Governor Sheikh Bandar bin Mohammed bin Saoud Al-Thani met with People's Bank of China Governor Pan Gongsheng on the sidelines of the 96th Annual Meeting of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) in Basel. The two officials discussed bilateral cooperation in banking and finance and explored ways to strengthen financial ties between Qatar and China. While no specific agreements were announced, the meeting reflects Qatar's continued efforts to deepen international financial cooperation.

Reference: [The Peninsula Qatar](#)

Markets

Market Dashboard

- U.S. equities ended the week lower as a sharp selloff in AI-related semiconductor stocks weighed on investor sentiment. The Nasdaq led losses, falling 4.7%, while the S&P 500 declined 1.95%. The PHLX Semiconductor Index dropped 7.9%, its worst weekly performance since early April, amid concerns over AI investment profitability and expectations that the Federal Reserve may keep interest rates higher for longer.
- Bitcoin traded around \$60,000 after briefly falling below the \$60,000 level, pressured by persistent ETF outflows, a stronger U.S. dollar, and expectations of tighter U.S. monetary policy. U.S. spot Bitcoin ETFs recorded a seventh consecutive day of net outflows, with \$445 million withdrawn on Friday, bringing total monthly outflows to approximately \$4.06 billion. Despite the recent weakness, institutional accumulation by large investors and continued adoption trends suggest the cryptocurrency's long-term fundamentals remain intact.
- Gold rebounded on Friday as the U.S. dollar weakened, but remained on track for a fourth consecutive weekly decline, with spot gold down 1.71% for the week. Investor sentiment remained pressured by expectations of tighter U.S. monetary policy, although the probability of a September Federal Reserve rate hike eased to 59% from 64% following inflation data. Higher interest rate expectations continued to weigh on demand for the non-yielding precious metal.
- Crude oil prices posted steep weekly losses as increased tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz eased concerns over supply disruptions. Brent crude fell 9% for the week to \$72.60 per barrel, while WTI declined 9.6% to \$69.23. The recovery in oil flows, together with the resumption of Saudi Aramco's oil loadings at Ras Tanura, reinforced expectations of improving global supply despite ongoing geopolitical tensions in the region.
- The U.S. dollar posted its second consecutive weekly gain, supported by expectations that the Federal Reserve will keep interest rates higher for longer. Although the dollar eased late in the week on softer inflation data and lower oil prices, markets continued to price in one additional 25-basis-point Fed rate hike this year.

Indicators	19-Jun-26	26-Jun-26	% Change
S&P 500	7,500.58	7,354.02	-1.95%
Bitcoin	63,540.84	60,016.43	-5.55%
Gold	4,160.26	4,089.26	-1.71%
Crude Oil	79.85	72.60	-9.08%
EUR/USD	1.1459	1.1390	-0.60%