



Real estate monthly pulse

KPMG in Qatar

September 2019



Welcome to the latest issue of KPMG in Qatar's Real Estate Monthly Pulse, which brings you the news highlights from the real estate and related sectors in Qatar. We hope you find this information valuable. If you may have any queries or would like to discuss the newsletter, business or the market, kindly contact us.

Real Estate

— **[96 percent transactions for registration and documentation of real estate lease contracts made online](#)**

96 percent transactions for registration and documentation of real estate lease contracts were made online through the portal of the Ministry of Municipality and Environment (MME). Hamad Khalifa Al Khalifa, Assistant Under-Secretary for Common Services Affairs at MME, said in a statement that a qualitative leap was achieved in the development of two online services - registration and documentation of real estate lease contracts; and advertising licenses - through the services of automation project currently under implementation. He said that all transactions of the two services can be completed fully electronically without the need for applicant to visit in person the government service centres.

— **[51 percent increase in building permits issued in July](#)**

The Planning and Statistics Authority's recently released data shows 51 percent general increase in July 2019 in number of building permits issued when compared to June this year. According to PSA data on building permits issued during July 2019, Al Rayyan comes at the top of the municipalities where the number of building permits issued were 188, i.e. 27 percent of the total issued permits. While Doha municipality comes in second place with 151 permits, i.e. 22 percent, followed by Al Wakrah with 131 permits (19 percent), then Al Da'ayen with 85 permits, i.e. 12 percent.

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The rest of the municipalities are as follows: Umm Slal 58 permits (8 percent), Al Khor 39 permits (6 percent), Al Sheehaniya 31 permits (4 percent), and Al Shammal 15 permits (2 percent).

— [**Msheireb Properties wins prestigious Arabian Property Awards**](#)

Msheireb Properties was honored with two prestigious awards in the areas of development and architecture at The Arabian Property Awards 2019-2020.

The awards were granted in two categories: Best Sustainable Residential Development for Wadi 1 building and Best Architecture Multiple Residence for Townhomes and Apartments.

Tourism and hospitality

— [**Over one million visit Qatar in June**](#)

A large number of visitors from around the globe are visiting Qatar and their number crossed one million in June this year. According to recently released figures by the Planning and Statistics Authority, as many as 1,053,015 people visited Qatar in June 2019. The official statistics reveal that 113,302 visitors belong to GCC countries; 76,666 people from other Arab countries; 21,052 from other African countries; 408,071 from other countries of Asia including Oceania; 338,692 from Europe and 95,232 visitors came from Americas.

— [**Doha Marriott Hotel set for major facelift; to close for renovation from Sept 1**](#)

Doha's most iconic hotel, Doha Marriott Hotel, will undergo a full renovation, Katara Hospitality announced in a statement today. Opened in 1973 as the Gulf Hotel, this project will see for the first time a full property re-imagination since it opened its doors on the Doha Bay. This renovation is a key milestone for the hotel, known to be the first 5-star hotel in Doha, and is expected to be completed by end 2021 and will require the full closure of the hotel.

— [**NMoQ is one of the World's Greatest Places for 2019**](#)

The spectacular National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ) celebrates another feather in its cap having been declared by TIME Magazine as one of the World's Greatest Places for 2019. TIME has listed NMoQ on the "100 destinations to experience right now" which include museums, parks, restaurants and hotels. The list is divided into three categories namely greatest places "To Visit" which include 37 museums and parks, greatest places "To Stay" that comprises of 44 hotels, and greatest places "To Eat and Drink" which consist of 19 restaurants. NMoQ has been listed on the greatest places "To Visit" for 2019 along with Mori Building Digital Art Museum in Japan, Camp Adventure in Denmark, Central Library in Canada and Newseum in Washington, DC, among others.

Retail

— [**Al Meera announces signing of its new store at The Mall**](#)

Al Meera's upcoming branch at 'The Mall' is the latest addition to a number of store openings under its network. The Mall branch will mark Al Meera's 54th store in Qatar.

The company has also launched four additional branches — Al Khor, Aba Al Heran, Leabaib 1 and Azwagha — as well as two new convenient stores, 'MAAR' at the DECC (Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre) and Msheireb Metro stations in 2019.

— [Qatar's first-ever LEGO Festival opens at Doha Festival City](#)

Qatar's first-ever LEGO Festival opened at Doha Festival City attracting people of all ages who enjoyed fun activities while exploring their creativity and imagination. The varied themed zones at the festival, which runs until September 17, provided families and children activities that hone their cognitive and motor skills such as building objects using LEGO pieces.

— [Huge Central Market to open soon in Al Saliya](#)

The biggest Central Market will open soon for business in Al Saliya. The central market is built on a total area of 12,000 sqm, and includes three buildings, each one consisting two floors. The new facility have different sections for fish, poultry, fruits and vegetables and an abattoir for camels, cows and sheep under one roof. The market serves Al Rayan, Abu Hamour and Al Saliya. The abattoir is equipped with most modern machinery and it is built according to specifications required by modern standards.

Sources: *The Peninsula, Gulf Times*

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