



# KPMG real estate and infrastructure monthly pulse

10 July 2018

Dear all,

We are pleased to share the latest issue of the **KPMG real estate and infrastructure monthly pulse** with you. This edition summarizes news articles about the sector in Qatar in June, helping you to stay connected with new and ongoing developments.

## Real estate

- Qatar's real estate sector expects to see more growth, especially in the beginning of next year, due to various factors, including government support and legislative changes on the ownership of properties by foreign investors, which is likely to encourage further investments in this sector. [Read more](#)
- With US\$35 billion investments in real estate, Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) is ranked fifth in the world after Abu Dhabi (UAE), Netherlands, Germany and France. QIA's real estate investments include a stake in Empire State Realty Trust, the owners of the Empire State Building and a number of skyscrapers in London, such as The Shard and Canary Wharf. [Read more](#)
- Barwa Real Estate Company (BRES) announced that its shareholders have approved increasing the business' non-Qatari ownership limit to 49 percent instead of 25 percent during an extraordinary general assembly (EGA). The assembly also agreed on adjusting the company's articles of association in accordance with the amendments of foreign ownership percentage. [Read more](#)
- Aggregate credit to the real estate sector disbursed by GCC banks in the first quarter of 2018 grew by 3.2 percent quarter-on-quarter (Q-o-Q) to reach US\$193.2 billion. Qatari banks were the largest contributors in Q1-18, as US\$3.36 billion of incremental credit was disbursed Q-o-Q, followed by Saudi Arabian banks (US\$1.47 billion). [Read more](#)

## Infrastructure

For any enquiries, please contact:



**Venkatesh Krishnaswamy**  
Partner, Deal Advisory  
KPMG in Qatar  
D: +974 4457 6451  
M: +974 5554 1024  
T : +974 4457 6444  
[kvenkatesh@kpmg.com](mailto:kvenkatesh@kpmg.com)



**Anurag Gupta**  
Director, Deal Advisory  
KPMG in Qatar  
D: +974 4457 6438  
M: +974 3354 4317  
T : +974 4457 6444  
[aagupta@kpmg.com](mailto:aagupta@kpmg.com)

- Over the past year, Qatar Rail has achieved its best progress rate ever since the inception of the project, reaching 85 percent by the end of May 2018 and achieving the highest progress rate of almost 30 percent since May 2017. The Lusail Tram project progress currently stands at 77 percent. [Read more](#)

### Hospitality and tourism

- The new Vichy Célestins Spa Resort Retaj Salwa in Qatar has officially opened its doors to guests. Located near Aqua Park Qatar on Salwa Road, the resort spans a record 211,000sqm - the largest therapeutic tourism project in Qatar. The resort comprises of 168 units divided into 78 rooms and suites and 90 villas, each of which consists of one to three rooms. [Read more](#)
- Qatar-based Retaj Hotels & Hospitality Group has signed an agreement with Turkish Nivo Group to manage and operate Retaj Suites and Residences, formerly known as, Nivo Atakoy Suites & Residences. With this, Retaj has become the first Arab company to operate a hotel in the Atakoy area, located approximately 5km from the Ataturk airport. [Read more](#)
- Thailand-based hotel developer, Dusit International, has announced plans to open at least 10 new properties over the next 12 months across Qatar, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam. The openings will increase the number of Dusit-branded properties in operation to 37. [Read more](#)
- Katara Hospitality, a leading global hospitality brand based in Qatar, has introduced an exclusive offer this summer with discounts up to 40 percent for Qatar nationals and residents, starting from June 15 to August 31, 2018. [Read more](#)

### Retail and entertainment

- The fifth edition of Qatar Summer Festival (QSF) is underway from June 14 to August 31. Held under the theme 'Colour your summer', the festival invites residents and visitors to enjoy a colorful array of entertainment options and hot summer deals. QSF also announced the launch of the all-new QSF Summer Pass mobile application. The free app will offer a 'comprehensive guide for all the events and offers under QSF's umbrella'. [Read more](#)
- A wide range of Qatari concepts in the food and beverage (F&B) sector are making waves at the Summer Entertainment City (SEC), which runs for 11 weeks inside the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre. Around 80 percent of the F&B stalls, from cafes to burger joints, operating at the SEC's food court are new brands conceptualized by Qatari entrepreneurs. [Read more](#)
- Angry Birds World, a new amusement park based on the hit game franchise, is now partially open at Doha Festival City. The brand new indoor section of the park is available to visitors and includes 17,000sqm of rides and attractions. [Read more](#)
- Indian Supermarket, a pioneer in the retail business for more than 48 years in Qatar, started a new chain of hypermarkets

under the brand name Retail Mart and opened its seventh store in Madinat Khalifa North, to cope with the ever-growing demand for fresh foods and excellent products within a rapidly expanding Qatar. [Read more](#)

- Mall of Qatar has announced the launch of Qatar's 'first ever' mall gift card. The Mall of Qatar Gift Card is a prepaid card, powered by Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB), available in selected denominations from QAR100 to QAR5,000. [Read more](#)
- Mohamed Hamad Al Mana Group has entered into an agreement with Alghanim Industries for the sub-franchise rights of Wendy's restaurants in Qatar. The first branch of the famous American chain opened at the Andalus Petrol Station on C-Ring Road. [Read more](#)

### Sports

- Barwa Real Estate Group has awarded Al Bader Construction and Steel Works with the construction of the QAR105 million Al Khor Sports Facilities expansion project, which is expected to be completed within 18 months. The facility will be constructed on a 69,757sqm plot, including an 8,000sqm hypermarket and a 300sqm multipurpose hall. [Read more](#)

### Education

- The construction of Doha College's new campus at Al Wajbah was officially inaugurated in June. The new 90,000sqm campus will offer a six-form Primary School and a 10-form Secondary School, in addition to retaining a four-form Primary School at its West Bay location. The new campus is due to open its doors in September 2020, the year of the 40th anniversary of Doha College. [Read more](#)

### Economy

- Fitch Ratings has revised Qatar's outlook to stable from negative and affirmed its long-term foreign-currency issuer default rating (IDR) at 'AA-'. The report said the stable outlook showed that Qatar has successfully managed the fall-out from the ongoing blockade of Qatar by Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and UAE, which began in June 2017. [Read more](#)
- Solid profitability, robust capital base, lower bad loans and adequate provisioning helped Qatar's banking sector to withstand severe macroeconomic shocks, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Liquidity has been generally comfortable—with a liquid asset to total asset ratio of 27.3 percent—though bank reserves have declined since 2015. [Read more](#)

Source: *The Peninsula, Gulf Times, Zawya, Qatar Tribune, Trade Arabia*

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