



KPMG real estate and infrastructure monthly pulse

7 August 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 July, helping you to stay connected with new and ongoing developments.

Real estate

- Real estate transactions between June 24 to June 28, stood at QAR470 million. Most trading took place in Doha, Umm Salal, Al Rayyan, Al Daayen, Al Shamal, Al Khor, Al Thakhira and Al Shahaniya. [Read more](#)
- United Development Company (UDC) announced another milestone in the development of Al Mutahidah Towers, with the construction of a bridge connecting the two towers on the 12th floor, at a height of 60m. [Read more](#)

Tourism and hospitality

- Qatar's hospitality sector has made great strides in the past 5 years. Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics (MDPS) data shows that the number of hotel rooms has grown by around 64 percent from 13,577 in 2013 to 22,288 in 2017, while the number of hotels has grown by around 30 percent, from 83 in 2013 to 108 in 2017. [Read more](#)
- Hamad International Airport served 7.8 million passengers in the second quarter of 2018, with June being particularly busy, with year-on-year growth of 12.56 percent in passenger figures and 8.9 percent in aircraft movements. [Read more](#)
- Qatar Airways won four prestigious awards at the 2018 Skytrax World Airline Awards. The airline was once again chosen as the 'World's Best Business Class' at this year's awards ceremony in London. [Read more](#)
- There was a big fall in the country's population at the end of July, apparently owing to a large number of expatriates travelling on vacation. As per the figures released by the MDPS, the population has reduced to 2.58 million from 2.73 million, as recorded in May. [Read more](#)

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- Qatar is now the full owner of one of New York's most iconic buildings, the Plaza Hotel, which it purchased for around US\$600 million. [Read more](#)
- Katara Hospitality and AccorHotels, have created an investment fund with a targeted investment capacity of more than US\$1 billion dedicated to hospitality in various sub-Saharan African countries. [Read more](#)
- Qatar is fast emerging as a popular tourist destination for cruise passengers. More than 66,200 cruise passengers came to Qatar during the first 6 months of current year, according to figures released by Mwan Qatar. [Read more](#)

Retail

- The Private Engineering Office (PEO) opened the Gold Souq at Souq Najada. The souq brings together 50 shops under one roof to present a wide variety of gold jewelry and cater to all tastes. [Read more](#)
- Doha Festival City has officially launched 'Kids Club', a unique new membership program specifically for children. Mini members will now get their own exclusive offers, attractive deals and access to thrilling events every month. [Read more](#)
- Trimoo, an entertainment company represented by Talal bin Mohammed Trading (TBMT) in Qatar – has officially announced Ooredoo as the exclusive telecommunications partner for its cluster of high-thrill entertainment parks, set to launch at Doha Festival City. [Read more](#)
- Qatar Summer Festival, which kicked off during Eid al-Fitr, achieved most of its goals of supporting internal tourism, encouraging the Qatari private sector and supporting different tourism sector partners through stimulating retail sales, and increasing hotel occupancy rates and restaurant reservations. [Read more](#)

Healthcare

- The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) announced that it has completed construction of the Qatar University (QU) Health Centre and started the process of its handover to the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH). This is in-line with the government's plans to develop the country's health sector. [Read more](#)
- Sidra Medicine, a member of Qatar Foundation, has opened its Children's Emergency Department (CED), which marks another major milestone in the ramp-up of the institution and firmly establishes Sidra Medicine as a key player in Qatar's integrated healthcare system. [Read more](#)

Education

- To encourage the private sector's participation in Qatar's economic development projects, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education signed six contracts with schools for the leasing and allocation of government-owned land. Together, these schools will provide more than 8,000 school places. [Read more](#)

Sports

- The Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SC) is working towards obtaining the Global Sustainability Assessment System Certification (GSAS) for all stadiums being built to host 2022 FIFA World Cup matches. To achieve

this, stadium designers and builders are incorporating the most environmentally friendly practices and materials. [Read more](#)

- Barwa Real Estate Group has awarded the expansion project of Al Khor Sports Facilities to contractor, Al Bader Construction and Steel Works, at a value of QAR105 million. [Read more](#)

Infrastructure

- Six animal farm complexes across Qatar are set to receive electricity connections from Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa). The new service will cover farm complexes in Al Khrairb, Al Simsimah, Al Wakrah, Al Khor, Al Sheehaniya and Abu Nakhlah and will cost QAR250 million. [Read more](#)
- The Lusail Expressway won the sixth annual Global Best Project Engineering News-Record 2018 award. The judges picked a diverse set of 22 projects, hailing from 14 different countries across six continents. [Read more](#)
- The number of public parks in Qatar has doubled over the past 5 years to accommodate the growing number of visitors and the growing population. According to a report by the Ministry of Municipality and Environment, the total number of parks in the country has reached 94. [Read more](#)
- The National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ) has begun moving parts of its expansive collection to the new museum building on the Doha Corniche, as it enters the final stages before opening. [Read more](#)

Economic activity

- Qatar's quarterly GDP at current prices in Q1 2018 is estimated at QAR160.44 billion, showing an increase of 7 percent compared to the revised estimate of QAR149.93 billion in same quarter last year of 2017. [Read more](#)
- Moody's Investors Service (Moody's) has changed the outlook on Qatar's long-term issuer ratings to stable from negative and affirmed the long-term issuer and foreign-currency senior unsecured debt ratings at Aa3. [Read more](#)
- Qatar's trade surplus increased by QAR5.5 billion or 44.5 percent to reach QAR18 billion year-on-year (y-o-y) in June 2018, and a 21 percent growth or QAR3.1 billion month-on-month (m-o-m). [Read more](#)
- The Ministry of Economy and Commerce issued the business process report for June 2018, highlighting that 1,043 new companies have been registered. The number of new major business records reached 791, while the number of new sub-registries reached 252 records. [Read more](#)
- According to MDPS and QCB, foreign investments in Qatar amounted to QAR 676.4 billion at the end of the Q1 2018. Liabilities to non-residents (inward investment) increased in Q1 by 4 percent or QAR28.4 billion from QAR 648 billion as recorded at Q4 2017. [Read more](#)
- Qatar has been ranked 22nd out of 137 countries in the 2018 Global Entrepreneurship Index, showing that the country has created an environment that is conducive for entrepreneurs. [Read more](#)

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