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SOUTIEN

Weekly Briefing - Qatar

Top Headlines

[QIA participates in Anthropic's Series F fundraising of \\$13bn](#)

Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) invested in Anthropic, a leading AI safety and research company behind the Claude AI models, during its \$13bn Series F round valuing the firm at \$183bn. The investment underscores Anthropic's rapid growth and strong demand across enterprise and startup customers.

[QBA signs MoU with German NUMOV to promote investment](#)

The Qatari Businessmen Association (QBA) signed an MoU with Germany's NUMOV to strengthen trade, investment, and technical cooperation. The meeting highlighted existing Qatari-German partnerships, promising opportunities across sectors like technology, renewable energy, and infrastructure, and Qatar's strategic investments in major German companies.

[General Tax Authority extends deadline for Financial Penalty Exemption Initiative until Dec 31](#)

The General Tax Authority (GTA) has extended the 100% Financial Penalty Exemption Initiative until December 31, 2025, allowing taxpayers to regularize their status through the Dhareeba platform. The initiative has exempted over 7,000 taxpayers from QR 1.6 billion in penalties, boosted tax compliance, and supported diverse sectors of the national economy.

Sector Developments and Updates

Agriculture

[QIFF 2026: Qatar's biggest food festival returns; kiosk registration now open](#)

The 15th Qatar International Food Festival (QIFF) returns from January 14–24, 2026 at 974 Stadium, celebrating Qatar's vibrant culinary scene. Organized by Viat Qatar, the event features global flavors, live entertainment, chef showcases, and family-friendly activities. Thousands attend annually for food, fun, and cultural experiences.

[Programme on managing plant water requirements](#)

The Ministry of Municipality's Agricultural Affairs Department and the Agricultural Research Department, in co-operation with Mahaseel for Marketing and Agricultural Services, a subsidiary of Hassad Food Company, organised a guidance programme on 'Managing Plant Water Requirements: Principles of Irrigation Calculation and Determining Quantities'. The programme was held at the Agricultural Guidance Center affiliated with Hassad Food, with the participation of 34 agriculture engineers and local farm managers.

[Qatar Hosts Regional Consultations for Reviewing Draft Strategic Plan for Ensuring Food Security in OIC Member States](#)

Qatar's Ministry of Municipality hosted regional consultations to review the OIC's Draft Strategic Plan for Food Security (2026–2035), with participation from member states and global organizations. The discussions aimed to strengthen cooperation, boost sustainable agriculture, and develop joint food reserves and strategic commodity programs.

Education

[Qatar Charity Launches "Education 2026" Initiative to Support Children's Right to Learning Worldwide](#)

As the new academic year begins, Qatar Charity has announced the launch of the "Education 2025" initiative, aimed at expanding access to education for underprivileged children, particularly in communities affected by conflicts and natural disasters. The initiative underscores education as a fundamental human right and a cornerstone of the Sustainable Development Goals, with the ultimate vision of building a brighter future for generations across the globe.

[Qatar's students head to school campuses on Sunday, marking new academic year](#)

Students of the State of Qatar at all educational levels will be heading to their campuses on Sunday, marking the kickoff of the new academic year 2025-2026, following weeklong extensive preparations primed by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) to ensure a successful educational launch.

[Qatar Foundation introduces 'Juthoor - Early Education Center' for early childhood education](#)

Qatar Foundation has announced the rebranding of its early childhood services under the new identity 'Juthoor - Early Education Center', part of its Pre-University Education (PUE) division. The rebranding brings together the Early Education Center (EEC) and the Qatar Nanny Training Academy (QNTA) under one umbrella.

Health

[HBKU advancing future of medicine and public health](#)

Science has revealed that lifestyle, stress, toxins, and early experiences can influence gene expression, affecting long-term health. Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), part of Qatar Foundation, is pioneering research in this transformative field of epigenetics.

[Qatar strengthens healthcare system with prevention at core](#)

Qatar is strengthening its healthcare system with a focus on prevention, early detection, and healthy lifestyles. The Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) leads this effort, providing consultations, screenings, vaccinations, and guidance to promote long-term well-being.

[Military Medical City Hospital obtains Gold Initiative Certificate for Excellence in Patient Experience from AHF](#)

The Military Medical City Hospital (MMCH) received the Gold Initiative Certificate from the Arab Hospitals Federation for excellence in patient-centered care. This reflects Qatar Armed Forces Medical Services' commitment to high-quality, humane healthcare for service members and their families.

Travel, Culture, and Tourism

[Qatar Airways partners with Accenture to personalise air travel](#)

Qatar Airways and consultancy Accenture have partnered on AI Skyways, an ambitious initiative to implement Artificial Intelligence (AI) across its operations and keep the World's Best Airline ahead in the aviation game. AI Skyways will harness AI for real-time data analysis, enabling faster operational responses and delivering a more personalised passenger journey.

[Years of Culture Unveils Fall 2025 Line-Up Showcasing Argentina, Chile in Qatar](#)

In a statement, Years of Culture described the initiative as a celebration of stories, ideas, and traditions that bring people closer together, adding that the season will offer spaces where artists, families, and communities can connect, learn, and celebrate what makes each culture unique.

[Qatar Reads, culture ministry partner to enhance reading culture in Qatar](#)

The event primarily intends to enlarge the scope of accessibility to reading materials, knowledge culture, and love of reading among a wide swath of community members, in alignment with the nation's vision to propagate cultural awareness and support education in conjunction with the launch of the new academic year.

Transport and Logistics

[HIA issues travel tips for "smooth arrival" at airport](#)

Hamad International Airport ensured a smooth return for travelers as summer holidays ended and schools resumed. Arriving passengers are advised to use parking facilities for pick-ups, while transportation options include taxis, Uber, and Badgro from the designated zone opposite the Arrivals Hall.

[Unified traffic violation system across GCC nears completion](#)

The project to link traffic violations across Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries is 95% complete, said the GCC Secretary General HE Jassem Mohamed Albusaidi. In a recent interview with Kuwaiti newspaper Al Qabas, the Secretary General stated that once implemented it will enable real-time and immediate exchange of traffic violation data among GCC countries. He added that work is also underway to add priority services to meet the needs of citizens and residents of the member states.

[Qoredoo and Qatar Airways sign MoU to establish Qatar as regional AI, Cloud and Cybersecurity Innovation Hub](#)

Qoredoo and Qatar Airways signed a landmark MoU to advance AI, Cloud, and Cybersecurity in Qatar, building on 15 years of partnership. The collaboration will establish a national AI hub with cutting-edge infrastructure, tools, and secure data frameworks to drive digital transformation regionally.

Information and Communications Technology

[Qoredoo and Qatar Airways Forge Strategic Alliance to Drive AI and Cloud Innovation](#)

The signing of the landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) reaffirms a partnership that has spanned 15 years of co-innovation. The latest collaboration aims to leverage the combined expertise of the two industry leaders to drive innovation and accelerate digital transformation at national and regional levels.

[Qatar strengthens ICT with strategic support for innovators](#)

Through partnerships with leading local and international organisations, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) is enabling innovators to scale their businesses, access funding, and bring creative solutions to the Qatari market, driving the nation's digital transformation and advancing the goals of Digital Agenda 2030.

[Qatar Participates in GSR-25](#)

The State of Qatar participated in the Global Symposium for Regulators 2025 (GSR-25), which was organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in collaboration with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and hosted by the Saudi Communications, Space and Technology Commission from Aug. 31 to Sep. 3, 2025.

Emerging Technology

[Automation, sustainability drive industrial equipment market](#)

Qatar's industrial equipment sector is entering a new growth phase, powered by rising demand for automation and sustainable technologies. As industries embrace IoT-enabled machinery, energy-efficient systems, and eco-friendly solutions, the market is opening fresh opportunities for global and local suppliers alike. Analysts highlight that these shifts not only align with QNV 2030 but also position the country as a leader in adopting advanced, future-ready industrial practices across construction, logistics, and manufacturing.

[GCC hosts digital ads strategies course](#)

The Government Communication Office (GCO) is hosting a 'Digital Advertising Strategies' course from Aug. 31–Sept. 4 for government and semi-government entities. In partnership with global platforms like Meta, LinkedIn, TikTok, Google, and Amazon, the program aims to boost national competencies and strengthen institutional communication teams.

[Qatar Chamber highlights importance of Arab AI initiative in enhancing economic co-operation](#)

A Qatar Chamber delegation, led by Chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim al-Thani, took part in the First Arab Forum on Artificial Intelligence in Egypt. Sheikh Khalifa highlighted the Arab AI Initiative, endorsed in May 2025, as a key step to unify Arab efforts in leveraging technology to boost economies and global competitiveness.

Energy and Industrial

[French-Qatari giants to drill 'promising' desalwater prospect off Congo](#)

The Nzombo exploration permit was awarded to TotalEnergies as operator and 50% interest holder, together with its partners QatarEnergy (35%) and SNPC (15%). The license is situated close to the Moho production facilities operated by TotalEnergies' Congolese subsidiary. Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi, Qatar's Minister of State for Energy Affairs and the President and CEO of QatarEnergy, expressed his satisfaction with being awarded what he says is a promising offshore block.

[Oil prices fall with expected low demand, upcoming supply boost](#)

Oil prices fell on Friday as traders looked toward weaker demand in the U.S., the world's largest oil market, and a boost in supply this autumn from OPEC and its allies. Brent crude futures for October delivery, which expired on Friday, settled at \$68.12 a barrel, down 50 cents. West Texas Intermediate crude futures settled at \$64.01, down 59 cents. The market was in part shifting its focus toward next week's OPEC+ meeting.

[Egypt's PM says \\$7.5bn Qatari investment package being activated](#)

Speakings at the Cabinet's weekly meeting, Madbouly said he had discussed strengthening bilateral relations, particularly in economic and trade cooperation, with Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani. He highlighted that the activation of the investment package reflects Qatar's commitment to supporting its economic partnership with Egypt.

Sports

[U-20 Gulf Cup, Qatar Seeks Victory Against Saudi Arabia in Final Group Stage Match on Wednesday](#)

The Qatari national team tied 2-2 with Kuwait in its opening match before losing 1-0 to Yemen in the second round. Spanish coach Emanuel Infante is hoping to steer his side back on track and secure the first victory to boost their chances of advancing to the semifinals. The young Qatari side needs a win tomorrow to reach four points, while also hoping the Kuwait-Yemen match ends in a draw

[Aspetar signs MoU with Iraq Football Association](#)

Aspetar, Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Hospital, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Iraq Football Association. Under this agreement, the Iraqi national team will receive continuous medical and scientific support over the next two years, gaining access to Aspetar's state-of-the-art medical facilities and advanced sports infrastructure.

[Sports ministry concludes summer activities with participation of 43,000](#)

The Ministry confirmed in a statement that the success of these activities was due to the combined efforts of partners from various governmental and private sectors, notably the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Municipality, Ministry of Social Development and Family, Qatar Sports for All Federation, National Cyber Security Agency, Education City, Qatar Museums, alongside numerous sports clubs, media channels, and other entities.

Updates in Regulations

[Qatar Cabinet approves draft resolution establishing National Center for Artificial Intelligence](#)

The Cabinet, chaired by HE Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, reviewed key draft laws and resolutions, including amendments to enhance the Qatar Financial Markets Authority, the establishment of a National Center for AI, and new regulations for district cooling services. It also approved cooperation agreements with Switzerland and Macau, and reviewed reports on education, values in society, and GCC–France economic partnerships.

[GAC outlines conditions for duty exemptions on personal belongings](#)

The General Authority of Customs (GAC) highlighted exemptions from customs duties for travelers, returning citizens, and people with special needs. Acting Head Asma Saf Al-Kharousi stressed GAC's role in balancing simplified procedures with safeguarding national security and the economy.

[HH the Amir Issues Amiri Decision Establishing Qatar Award for Localization in Private Sector](#)

HH the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani issued Amiri Decision No. 27 of 2025 establishing the Qatar Award for Localization in the Private Sector. The award will recognize companies meeting nationalization targets and honor outstanding Qatari talents, with a Board of Trustees under the Ministry of Labor overseeing its management and criteria.

News by Soutien Group

[QFC Records 64% Growth Of Company Registrations](#)

Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) reported a 64% year-on-year rise in company registrations in H1 2025, reaching 3,300 firms. Strategic reforms, reduced fees, and global promotional events boosted investor confidence and market entry.

[Saudi Arabia Launches Rail Infrastructure Projects](#)

Saudi Arabia is advancing its rail network with a new driverless monorail in Riyadh supporting the 10-minute city concept, the Northern Line extension to Zulfi, and Riyadh Metro surpassing 100M passengers, strengthening connectivity ahead of major global events.

[Oman And Uzbekistan Discuss Economic Cooperation](#)

Oman held talks with Uzbekistan to enhance cooperation in trade, investment, and strategic sectors while showcasing its competitive investment environment. In parallel, the India-Oman Network (ION) was launched to strengthen bilateral trade and investment ties.

Expertise at Soutien Group

[Market Entries & Business Localization](#)

We assist corporate, private, and international clients in forming, incorporating, and registering limited liability entities in onshore and offshore jurisdictions, including mainland, business centers, financial hubs, and free zones, with or without local partners. The process of formation, incorporation and registration is divided in three stages or phases. These are Pre-Licensing, Licensing, Post-Licensing and Administrative and compliance. Click [here](#) for more.

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[Partnerships & Sponsorships](#)

We have a network of partners, sponsors, and investors including members of the royal family, senior administration officials and key businessmen and -women who are interested in contribute to businesses and projects on a case-by-case basis depending on the requirements of the foreign investor and the interests of the local partners, sponsors, and investors. Click [here](#) for more.

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Frequently Asked Questions

[What is the purpose of AOA for the company in Qatar?](#)

The Articles of Association (AoA) serve as the legal document that defines the purpose, governance, and operational rules of a company. It outlines the roles and responsibilities of shareholders, directors, and other stakeholders while ensuring compliance with Qatari laws.

[What cultural considerations are important when setting up a business in Qatar?](#)

Respecting religious traditions, understanding local business practices, and fostering trust-based relationships are vital for successful business localization in Qatar.

[Are there Qatarization requirements for businesses in Qatar?](#)

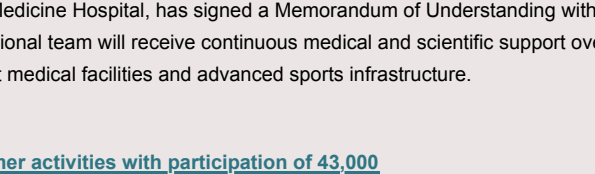
Yes, certain sectors require compliance with Qatarization policies, mandating the employment of a specific percentage of Qatari nationals.

[What does business localization in Qatar involve?](#)

Business localization in Qatar requires aligning your products, services, and operations with local market preferences, regulations, and cultural practices.

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