

# MIDDLE EAST

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# Saudi Arabia

**Population**  
32.28 million

**Capital**  
Riyadh

**Official Language**  
Arabic

**Currency**  
Saudi riyal (SR)



Ease of Doing Business Ranking  
**92 / 190**

**GDP Growth (ANNUAL %)**

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1.67	-0.73	1.8	2.1	2.3



## Killer Facts

- With an oil based economy, Saudi Arabia is the largest free economic market in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA); its economy accounts for 25% of the Arab world’s GDP
- The Saudi government is pursuing a strategy of economic diversification and reform following the launch of the six “economic cities” initiative which is planned to be completed by 2020
- Key member of the Gulf Cooperation Council
- With 50% of Saudis under 25 years old the Saudi population is one of the fastest growing in the world
- UK’s largest trading partner in the Middle East
- Saudi Arabia will invest US\$100 billion in 16 new reactors over the next 20 years
- Railways, urban transport and airports projects are going to be implemented
- Did you know that importing a standard container of goods into Saudi Arabia requires **5 docs, 17 days, £697?**



**SECTOR OPPORTUNITIES**

**Transport**

**Education**

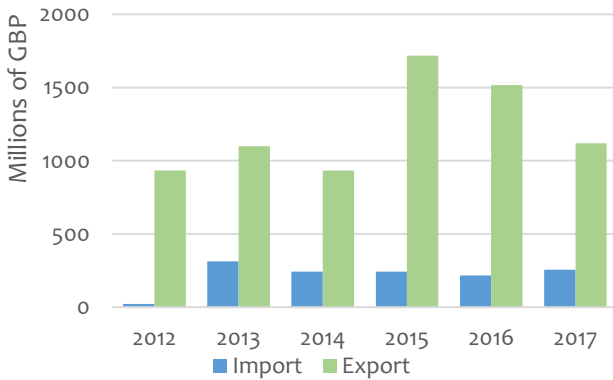
**Nuclear**

**Healthcare**

**Oil & gas**



**Trade Statistics North West England - Saudi Arabia (2012-2017)**



	IMPORT (%)	EXPORT (%)
All sectors	1084.0%	20.1%
Food, beverages & animals	-75.3%	36.5%
Crude materials & lubricants	1260.6%	-80.9%
Chemicals & related products	-54.9%	-43.5%
Manufactured goods	1223.5%	10.8%
Machinery & transport equipment	1253.1%	44.1%
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	36882.3%	97.1%
Commodities not classified	n.a.	-67%



**Internet penetration**  
(% of total population)

**71.3%**



**Social media penetration**  
(% of internet users)

**29%**



**Mobile subscriptions**  
(per 100 people)

**148**



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**Exporting country guide**  
*Department for International Trade*

Country profile:



# Qatar

**Population**  
2.57 million

**Capital**  
Doha

**Official Language**  
Arabic

**Currency**  
Riyal (QAR)



Ease of Doing  
Business Ranking  
**83 / 190**

**GDP Growth (ANNUAL %)**

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
2.23	1.64	2.8	3.2	2.8



## Killer Facts

- Third largest economy in the Gulf Cooperation Council, after Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates
- Modern, fast-growing, diversifying economy with one of the highest GDP per head in the world
- UK's third largest export market in the Middle East
- Demand for services is growing as the economy develops and increasing numbers of firms choose to invest in Qatar
- Qatar will be the first Arab state to host the World Cup in 2022
- Qatar plans to invest up to US\$220 billion in infrastructure over the next 7 years
- Significant oil and gas reserves, estimated to be 60 and 160 years respectively
- The GCC currently has free trade agreements with the Greater Arab Free Trade Area, the European Free Trade Area (EFTA) and Singapore. Negotiations are continuing with other countries such as India and the European Union (EU)
- Did you know that importing a standard container of goods into Qatar requires **7 docs, 17 days, £1033?**



SECTOR  
OPPORTUNITIES

**Transport**



**Energy**



**Healthcare**

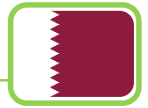


**Education**

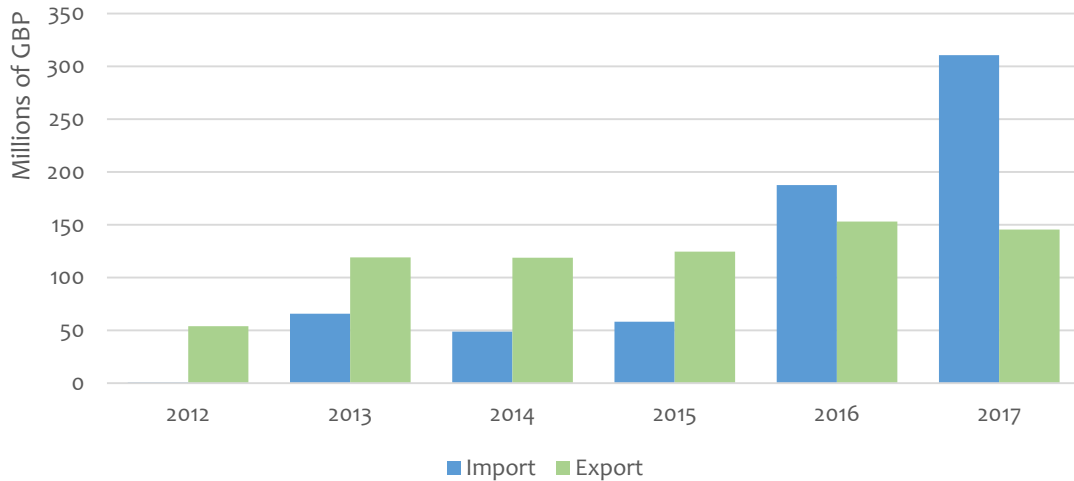


**Defence & security**





**Trade Statistics North West England - Qatar (2012-2017)**



**Internet penetration**  
(% of total population)

**99%**



**Social media penetration**  
(% of internet users)

**99%**



**Mobile subscriptions**  
(per 100 people)

**142**



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# Kuwait

**Population**  
4.05 million

**Capital**  
Kuwait City

**Official Language**  
Arabic

**Currency**  
Kuwaiti dinar (KWD)



Ease of Doing  
Business Ranking  
**96 / 190**

**GDP Growth (ANNUAL %)**

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
3.55	-2.85	1.9	3.5	3



## Killer Facts

- Fifth richest country in the world measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per head
- Predominantly oil based economy, accounting for 6% of the world's proven oil reserves, nearly half of Kuwait's GDP and 95% of export revenues and government income
- One of the founding member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- One of UK's largest and most important trading partners
- Kuwaiti dinar is highest-valued currency unit in the world
- Growing diversification within the Kuwaiti economy
- Moderate business costs and free trade zone
- Stable regime and strategic location in close proximity to other Gulf markets
- Member of the World Trade Organization (WTO)
- A European Union (EU)-GCC cooperation agreement was signed in 1988



SECTOR  
OPPORTUNITIES

**Transport**



**Infrastructure**



**Healthcare**



**Oil & gas**

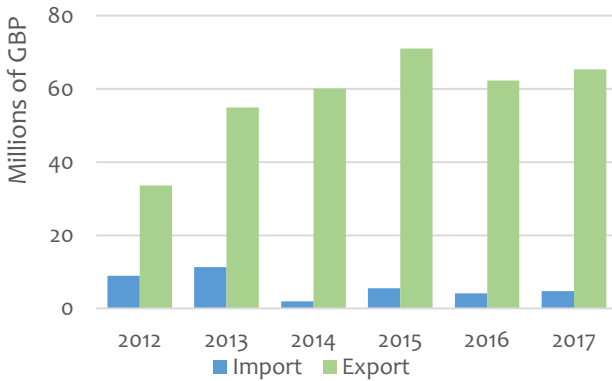


**Defence & security**





**Trade Statistics North West England - Kuwait (2012-2017)**



	IMPORT (%)	EXPORT (%)
All sectors	-47.1%	94.5%
Food, beverages & animals	n.a.	158.8%
Crude materials & lubricants	5192.6%	17860.5%
Chemicals & related products	n.a.	27.4%
Manufactured goods	n.a.	177.6%
Machinery & transport equipment	51.6%	74.5%
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	351.5%	23.2%
Commodities not classified	n.a.	n.a.



**Internet penetration**  
(% of total population)

**79.9%**



**Social media penetration**  
(% of internet users)

**88%**



**Mobile subscriptions**  
(per 100 people)

**133**



**Read more detailed information**



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