

Compilation of Gross Domestic Product data in Qatar

Concepts and definitions

The estimates of national accounts of Qatar are broadly based on the concepts and classifications of the System of National Accounts 1993.

Scope

The national accounts cover in principle the economic activities of all Qatari residents according to the definitions of the 1993 SNA.

Estimates are limited to data by economic activity at current and constant prices, and expenditure at current and constant prices. Accounts for the whole economy, following the 1993 SNA framework, show transactions on income and outlay, and capital finance.

The four consolidated accounts for the nation, down to the capital account, and other detailed tables including GDP by specially defined sectors (Government services, Public and mixed ownership enterprises, Banks, and Other private enterprises) are compiled and published.

National accounts cover the whole territory of Qatar, including its territorial waters. Informal activities in the construction sector are included to the extent that they can be estimated. Apart from this, no adjustments are made for the non-observed and/or illegal activities.

Industrial activities are classified and estimates published according to the ISIC Rev.3, except for government non-market activities.

There are no breakdowns by purpose for government consumption expenditures and private consumption expenditures and no classification by type of assets is made for fixed capital formation.

In Qatar, the institutional sectors comprise government services, public and mixed ownership enterprises, banks, and other private enterprises.

Output and value added are valued at producer's prices, and domestic uses are valued at purchaser's prices. Imports are valued c.i.f. and exports are valued f.o.b. GDP by production approach is based mainly on annual surveys undertaken by QSA.

The surveys cover most market economic activities. The statistical frames of these surveys are based on the Establishment Census conducted in 2004 and 2008.

Gross output and intermediate consumption for government services and data for government consumption expenditures are based on information from the government

budget and extra-budgetary activities. Exports and imports of goods and services are based on foreign trade and balance of payment statistics. Fixed capital formation is based on a mixture of sources, whereas private consumption tends to be a residual, even though changes in inventories and other categories may also be adjusted in the balancing of the expenditure side to fit the production side.

The sources for final expenditures are government finance statistics for government consumption expenditures, foreign trade and balance of payment statistics for imports and exports of goods and services, results from the surveys for changes in inventories, and for fixed capital formation a mixture of annual survey information, construction output statistics (and supplementary estimates), government expenditures for fixed capital formation and information from accounts and reports for enterprises in the oil and gas activity.

There are no current source data available for estimates of household consumption expenditures; the most recent HBS was conducted for 2006/2007.

Source data definitions, scope, classifications, valuation, and time of recording

A comprehensive range of annual surveys cover practically all activities of the market economy with the exception of agriculture and fishing. The questionnaires were redesigned and introduced from reporting year 2001 with a view to both simplifying the data collection and at the same time tailoring the basic data to the needs of the national accounts. The questions are marked with the relevant 1993 SNA codes, covering the unit's activity from production to financial transactions and balance sheets, also including employment and wages by categories of employed.

All establishments with 10 persons employed or more (for construction 50 or more) are included in the survey, whereas sampling based on a somewhat simpler questionnaire is applied for smaller establishments. With only minor adjustments the survey results are fed directly into the national accounts, as they are already in national accounts formats.

For each major activity, corresponding to the different sets of questionnaires, the results are published in a separate publication (in total about 10 publications) with activity details down to four-digit ISIC codes. Depending on activity, the release takes place 8-10 months after the reference year. However, the data are available to the national accounts compilers as soon as they are processed, i.e. usually earlier than 6 months after the reference year. The survey results undergo only minor adjustments before being entered in the national accounts as they are already in national accounts formats. All data sources for the production side estimates are exclusively based on either survey results or data originating from government, and implicit or explicit additions for non-observed or illegal economic activity are not made. The only exception is the calculations for construction, which include special estimates for informal construction and repair activity. Domestic services are estimated by the number of employees in households and an estimate of average pay.

Value added by industrial activity is calculated as gross output less intermediate consumption. From GDP by expenditure category, estimates are made for government final consumption, gross capital formation, and exports less imports. Private final consumption and/or changes in inventories are largely calculated residually.

Other statistical procedures

For agriculture, livestock, fishing, CPI is used to estimate the value added at constant prices. Mining and quarrying are extrapolated using the volume index number of oil production to estimate the value added at constant prices. Manufacturing is deflated using the index number of industrial production. Building and construction are deflated by the price index number of some building materials and the index number of residential and nonresidential building production.

With respect to transport and telecommunication, different methods are used. Constant price value added of sea transport is computed by deflating current price value added by the relevant CPI. Other components are extrapolated using some volume indicators such as the number of passengers and number of tons, the number of telephone calls, etc.

For general government services, value added is extrapolated using the weighted index number of employees. The final consumption expenditure of government is deflated by total CPI. Wholesale and retail trade, hotels and restaurants, community, social and personal services are deflated by the overall CPI. Banks and insurance companies and other financial intermediaries' services are deflated by the overall CPI. Imputed rent is deflated by the relevant CPI. Electricity, gas, and water are extrapolated using the volume index number of the quantity of production and the intermediate consumption is deflated using the price indicator of the important items of the inputs.

Government final consumption expenditure and private final consumption expenditure are estimated at constant prices using the overall CPI as a deflator. In the fixed capital formation machinery and equipment are deflated by the import index number; building and construction are extrapolated using the volume indicator calculated from production and building and construction are deflated by the production index of the building activity. Exports and imports are estimated at constant prices using the volume index number of oil exports, and the price index number of imports, respectively. Changes in inventories are deflated using overall CPI.

Constant price data are compiled with 2001 as the base year.