

Qatar 2022 World Cup: Gains And Hazards

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Abstract:

Qatar 2022 created a lot of debate from day one after the name of Qatar was revealed in the FIFA final ceremony in 2010. During the 13 years since that date, we can find thousands of pieces of literature from books, articles, blogs, newspapers, and media. There are thousands of stories, publications, and coverages of all types, good or bad, for Qatar's reputation. All cover that topic, so to write an article in that area is challenging in terms of what new I can present in that area.

This paper will present Qatari women's experiences during these 13 years as witnesses, and as a researcher, I will present a full and comprehensive review of this effect from different lenses and perspectives to try to discover the reality for Qatar as host for this tremendous tournament.

I will discuss the economic, infrastructure, and social sides of this mega event as follows: The compound for the economic evaluation is: GDP, inflation rate, tourism, retail benefits, foreign investments, green and sustainably oriented perspectives, government purchases, and unemployment rate. Along with Infrastructure outlook: metro, hotels, roads, bridges, etc. in Addition to give review for social level: worker; women; society; media coverage; sport; culture; media.

Qualitative methodology is used with a descriptive approach, which is suitable to give an overview of all aspects and parts.

The results show that Qatar 2022 has achieved the expected benefits for Qatar in terms of economic, infrastructure, and social features. And get some bad effects from the media side, which can be overcome.

Keywords: Qatar 2022 – FIFA world cup – Sustainability.

Introduction

Qatar 2022 gets so much attention that no other world cup gets the same. It let everyone search for different sides: historical, financially, socially, culturally, politically, etc.

The World Cup was a Summer Olympics event every four years. However, in the 1920s, the sport was headed toward professionalism, which was against the Olympic spirit. Given this, FIFA began preparations to hold a World Cup. The inaugural edition was announced on May 26, 1928. Uruguay hosted the 1930 World Cup opener.

Since then, the competition has taken place every four years (except during the Second World War). Even with only a few national teams, unofficial competitions like the FIFA World Cup were contested in the late 1800s. The Sir Thomas Lipton Trophy was a second unofficial "world cup" before 1930. 1909 and 1911 saw it. The Summer Olympics football competitions also determined the finest national teams before 1930. However, the Olympic tournaments were only open to amateur teams; therefore, the World Cup was the first "real deal" competition.²

Qatar 2022 was not the first big event to be hosted by Qatar; if we go back from 2000 until now, we can see a lot of big events that were successfully hosted by Qatar, such as the 2000 AFC Asian Cup, the 2004 Men's Handball World Championship, the 2006 Asian Games, the Qatar Masters Since 1998, and the MotoGP World Championship since 2004. Qatar Total Open: The Qatar Total Open is a women's tennis tournament held annually in Doha since 2001. AFC Asian Cup 2011, Men's Handball World Championship 2015, IAAF World Athletics Championships 2019, and finally the 2022 FIFA World Cup There are a lot of upcoming international sports events in Qatar after the World Cup. Qatar also look forward to hosting the 2023 FINA World Championships, the 2023 AFC Asian Cup, etc.

His Excellency Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, Secretary General of the Qatar Olympic Committee, March 2019 said clearly: "Sport one of the important factors in the pillars of sustainable development of the country."³ Sport is one of the important factors in the pillars of sustainable development of the country. Qatar not only welcomes international athletes but also develops its own sporting talent, with Qatari athletes competing at the highest levels of international sport.

Qatar has invested much to provide world-class sports training and medical facilities to athletes. Aspire Academy's strategic goals and student-athlete

² <https://www.footballhistory.org/world-cup/index.html>

³ <https://www.gco.gov.qa/en/focus/sport/>

development process relate to Qatar's National Vision 2030. Aspire Dome is IAAF-accredited. International football teams like Manchester United, Everton FC, and others practice at Aspire in the winter.

Qatar has top-notch sports medicine facilities. Aspetar Qatar Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Hospital is the first specialized sports hospital in the Middle East and Gulf region, accredited by FIFA as a sports medicine center of excellence for treating injuries related to sports in a state-of-the-art facility. Aspetar has treated many world-renowned athletes.⁴

The main arguments in this article are to discuss the benefits and disadvantages that came to Qatar from day 1 after the announcement in 2010. The paper will discuss the economic side first, then the infrastructure, and lastly the social impact of this mega event before, during, and after.

Literature Review

A lot of literature discussed the topics of the world cup effect from different boundary. Such as in briefly:

Al-Emadi et al.,⁵ 2016, made a survey to see local Qatari citizen and noncitizen opinion of making the world cup inside Qatar, the result for 2163 interviews, were showing the support for Qatari and resident to that step.

Al-Dosari,⁶ 2020, the result for evaluating the effect of World cup in Qatar's tourism showing positive effect and positive correlation between the two side.

Thesis by Mirele Matsouka De Aragao, 2015, see that Brazil and South Africa spent a lot on specialist sports infrastructure and event operations, yet the World Cup failed to generate enough revenue. According to Peeters, Matheson, and Szymanski (2014), international big events usually do this. Mirele concludes that: In general, one can say the World Cup can bring benefits to a developing country, especially in terms of speeding investments and project management know-how for the government.⁷

⁴ <https://www.gco.gov.qa/en/focus/sport/>

⁵ Al-Emadi, K., Kaplanidou, A., Diop, M., Sagas, K. T. L. and Mustafa, S. A.-A. (2016). 2022 Qatar World Cup: Impact Perceptions among Qatar Residents. *Journal of Travel Research*: 1-17.

⁶ Al-Dosari, K. (2020). Assessing the Impacts of Mega Sporting Events on Tourism: A Case of the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar. *IOSR Journal of Business and Management (IOSR-JBM)*, 22(8): 23-33.

⁷ Matsouka De Aragao, Mirele, "Economic Impacts of the FIFA World Cup in Developing Countries" (2015). Honors Theses. 2609, page: 18. https://efaidnbmnnnibpajpcglclefindmkaj/https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3609&context=honors_theses

Hayajneh, Abdelnaser,.et. al, 2017, conclude that: Qatar is dedicated to building sustainable and environmentally friendly World Cup infrastructure. Many signs support this commitment. He then go through tall eight Qatar 2022 stadiums and demonstrates their sustainability.⁸

Chadwick, Simon.et.al (editors),⁹2022, *The Business of The FIFA World Cup*, the book explores the World Cup's history and geopolitical environment, including bidding and hosting decisions. It covers governance, corruption, security, media, and the tournament's technological operations, from planning and finance to marketing and fan involvement.

Chankuna, Dittachai,¹⁰ 2022, *Socio-Economic Impacts of FIFA World Cup Qatar2022: A Study in Chon Buri Sports City Residents*, Chon Buri is an eastern province of Thailand, this city is the first example for non-host city perception to mega event. Chon Buri Sports City inhabitants perceived fewer negative impacts than residents of non-host cities.

Economic evaluation for world cup 2022

The evaluation will cover these areas:

GDP – inflation rate – Tourism – retails benefits – foreign investments – green and sustainably perspectives – government purchases – unemployment rate.

GDP

GDP measures economic size and performance. The economy is often gauged by real GDP growth. The basic understanding of real GDP growth is that the economy is performing well.

GDP for world cup hosted Countries 2010-2022

⁸ Hayajneh, Abdelnaser,.et. al, 2017, *Football and Sustainability in the Desert, Qatar 2022 Green World Cup's Stadiums: Legal Perspective*, *European Journal of Social Sciences* ISSN 1450-2267 Vol. 55 No 4 December, 2017, pp.475-493.

⁹ Chadwick, Simon.et.al (editors), 2022, *The Business Of The FIFA World Cup*, Routledge, <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003121794> ,

¹⁰ Chankuna, Dittachai, 2022, *Socio-Economic Impacts of FIFA World Cup Qatar2022: A Study in Chon Buri Sports City Residents*, Research square, <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-2372928/v1>, page 15

The Host Country	GDP growth before hosting		GDP growth during the hosting					GDP growth after hosting	
	South Africa 2010	2008	2009	2010					2011
3.2		(1.5)	3.0					3.2	2.4
Brazil 2014	2012	2013	2014					2015	2016
	1.9	3.0	0.5					(3.5)	(3.3)
Russia 2018	2016	2017	2018					2019	2020
	0.2	1.8	2.8					2.2	(2.7)
Qatar 2022	2020	2021	2022					2023*	2024*
			Q1	Q2	Q3*	Q4*	2022*		
	(3.6)	1.6	3.6	6.3	9.8	15.3	8.7	9	5

Source: Source: World and National Data (2022), World Bank Open Data (2022), and The State of Qatar Planning and Statistics Authority (2022).¹¹

As we can see from the table up are a positive impact on GDP growth was found (in varying

degrees) for South Africa, Russia, and Qatar.¹² The main factor is the Qatari GDP will show a noticeable rise. The increases in GDP of Qatar means that there will be increases in productions, incomes, and expenditures.

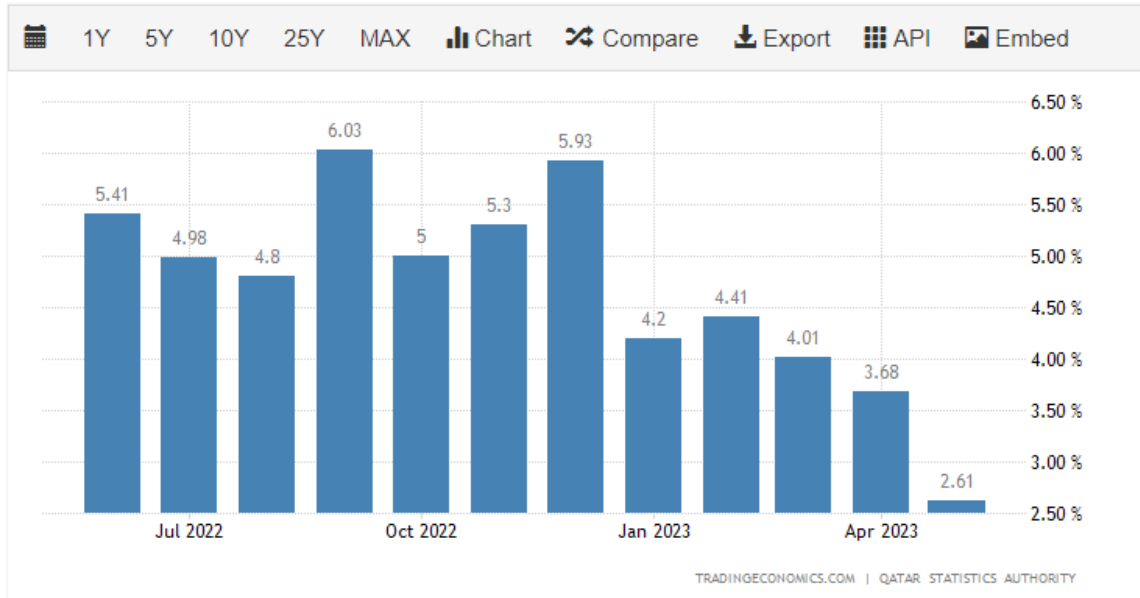
According to World Bank reports: Investments in hosting the FIFA World Cup are expected to boost the economy by 3% over the medium term. Consumption, investment, government purchases, and net exports will rise as the hosting country produces more and boosts GDP. Many tourists will attend this event, raising consumption. Tourists spend more as their numbers rise, so their spending on goods and services will increase. In addition, investments in Qatar will increase.¹³

Inflation Rate

¹¹Mustafa, Omer Allagabo Omer, 2023, FIFA World Cup 2022: Does it push the Economic Growth of Qatar and Argentina toward Better? Preliminary Review, Noble International Journal of Economics and Financial Research ISSN(e): 2519-9730 ISSN(p): 2523-0565 Vol. 07, No. 04, pp: 71-76, 2022 Published by Noble Academic Publisher URL: www.napublisher.org, page 73

¹² Previous reference, page 75

¹³ <https://www.grin.com/document/509470>



Source¹⁴: www.tradingeconomics.com

Qatar's inflation surged 5.93 percent year-on-year in December 2022 largely because of a rise in the prices of recreation and culture, according to data from the Planning and Statistics Authority... However, the level is below global levels, which averaged at 8.3 percent in 2022.¹⁵

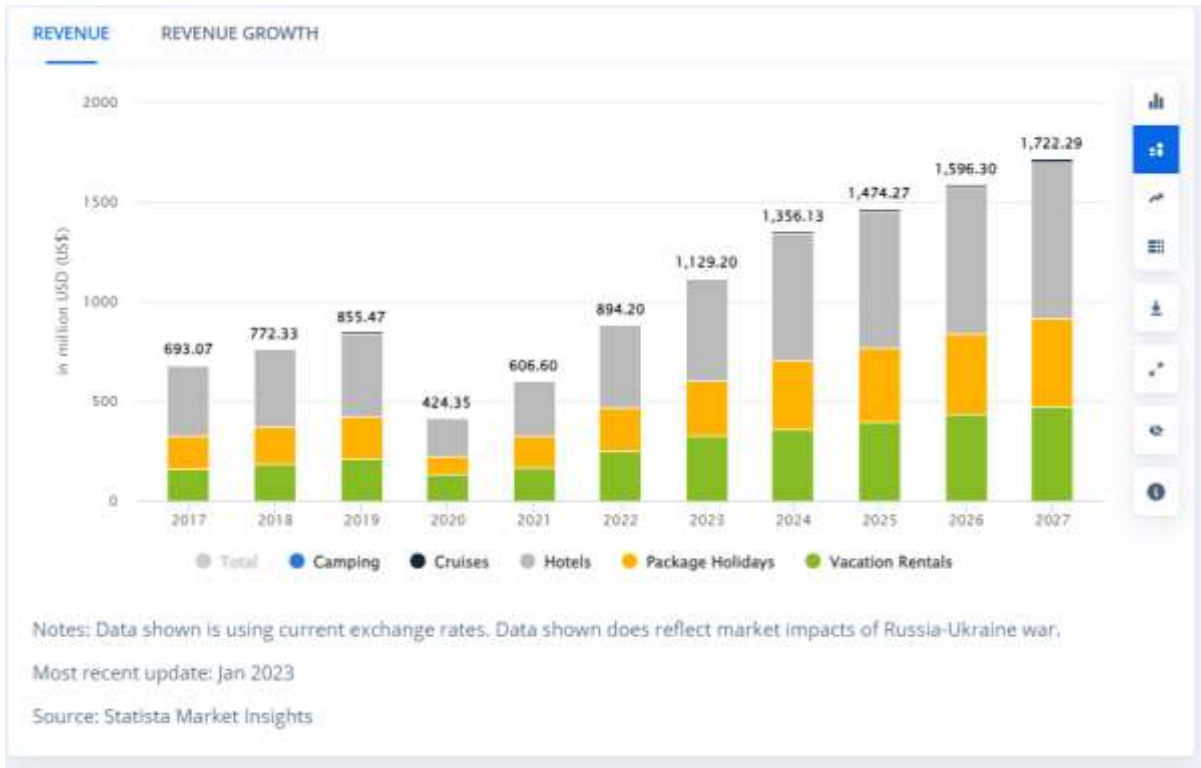
Tourism

As we can see from below charts that the revenue from tourism rapidly growing starting from 2021 and forward. Revenue is expected to show an annual growth rate (CAGR 2023-2027) of 11.13%, resulting in a projected market volume of US\$1,722.00m by 2027.¹⁶

¹⁴ [https://tradingeconomics.com/qatar/inflation-cpi#:~:text=Qatar%20Inflation%20Rate%20Eases%20to,1.7%25%20rise%20in%20April\).](https://tradingeconomics.com/qatar/inflation-cpi#:~:text=Qatar%20Inflation%20Rate%20Eases%20to,1.7%25%20rise%20in%20April).)

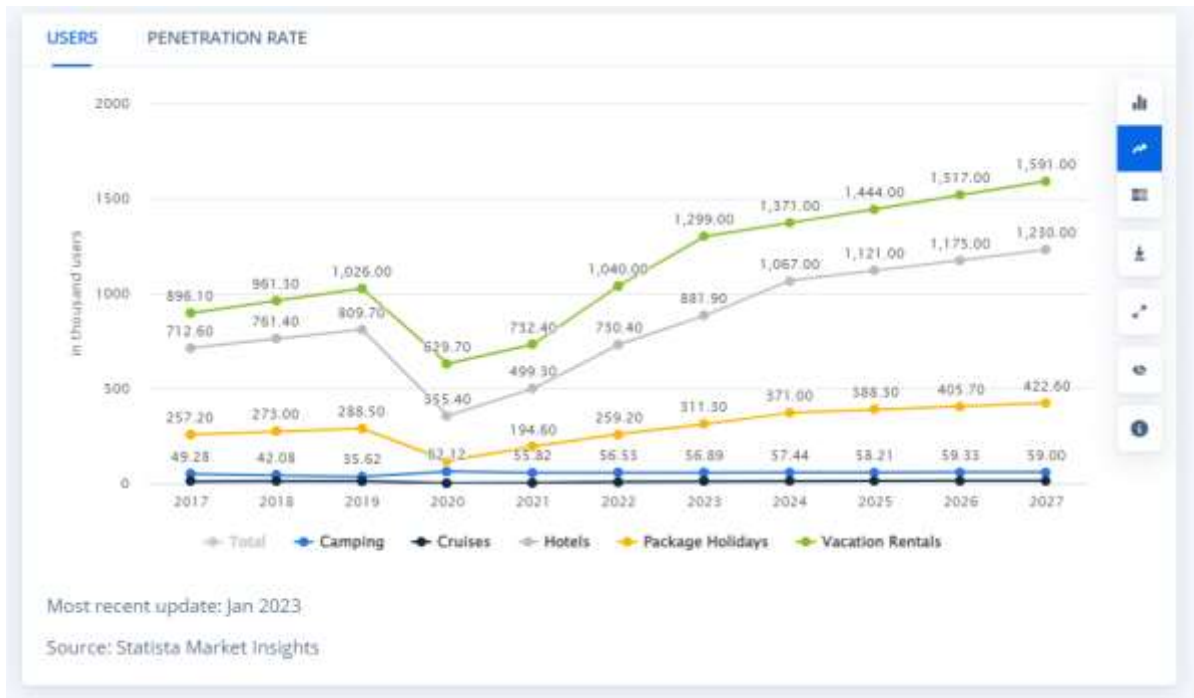
¹⁵ <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2233341/business-economy>

¹⁶ <https://www.statista.com/outlook/mmo/travel-tourism/qatar>



Source: <https://www.statista.com/outlook/mmo/travel-tourism/qatar>

Most of users are using hotels and vacation rentals as show in the below figure.



Source: Source: <https://www.statista.com/outlook/mmo/travel-tourism/qatar>

Retails Benefits:

It is anticipated that the 2022 World Cup will be quite profitable for Qatar's retail sector. According to recent projections of the impact of the tournament compiled by Fitch Solutions, the industry can anticipate a windfall of \$1.2 billion in the fourth quarter because of the event.¹⁷ Hotels, restaurants, and apparel associated with the World Cup are the main winners.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

Qatar is one of the world's top FDI destinations per capita. In 2021, only Singapore, Ireland, and the UAE had more inward greenfield FDI per million people. Qatar has hosted 43 international enterprises since 2019. Qatar receives 25% of its FDI from the US. UK and UAE sources are also popular. US corporations invested roughly five times more in 2021–22 than in 2019–20. Between 2019 and 2022, foreign corporations built Qatari hotels for the World Cup. The country's investment portfolio is diversified. Foreign investments have come from 23 areas, and tech-related investments, notably computer programming, have increased quickly.¹⁸

Qatar is one of the leading FDI destinations in per capita terms

FDI projects per million people, 2021

	Country	Projects
1	Singapore 	64.0
2	Ireland 	63.3
3	UAE 	59.0
4	Qatar 	40.1
5	Finland 	35.1

¹⁷ https://www.agbi.com/analysis/world-cup-economic-impact-forecast/?gad=1&gclid=EAlalQobChMijlWO2enO_wlVydtCh2KAgw7EAMYASAAEgLkvPD_BwE

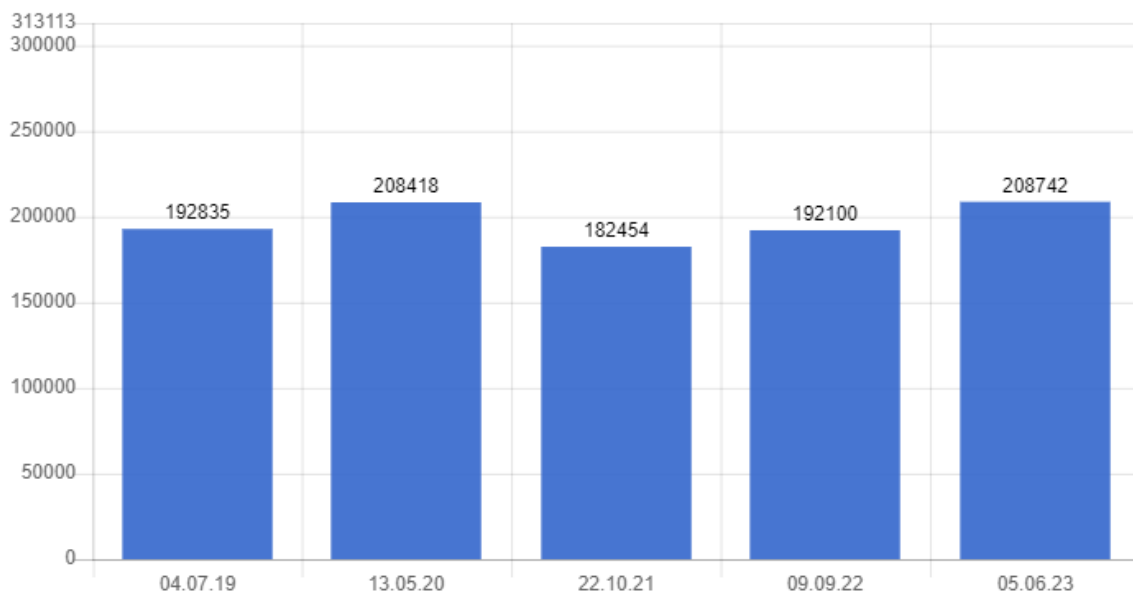
¹⁸ <https://www.investmentmonitor.ai/features/world-cup-foreign-investment-fdi-qatar-2022/>

Source: <https://www.investmentmonitor.ai/features/world-cup-foreign-investment-fdi-qatar-2022/>

Government Purchases

Qatar invested a significant amount of money within the country to fulfill all the requirements for the World Cup, including everything from infrastructure to the organization of opening and closing ceremonies to the training of volunteers, etc. This led to an increase in the amount of money that the government spent between 2010 and 2023.

The figure show Qatar government`s spending from 2019 to 2023,



Source: <https://take-profit.org/en/statistics/fiscal-expenditure/qatar/>

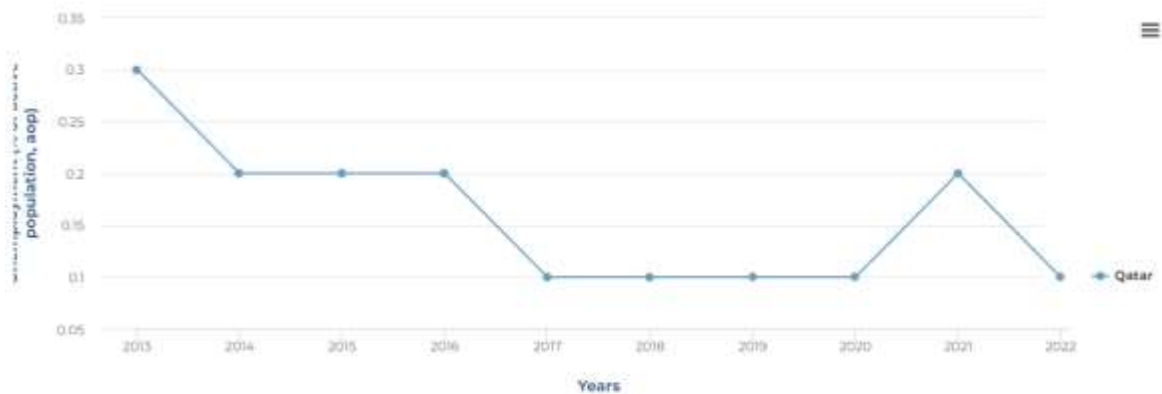
The World Cup is the most prestigious association football tournament in the world, so, all of the countries that hosted the World Cup injected a significant amount of money in their own nations in order to meet the requirements for the tournament. The chart below, shows the hosts spending on world cup from 1990 - 2022:

Hosting Nation	Cost of Hosting	Winners	Year
Italy	\$4 billion	Germany	1990
USA	\$500 million	Brazil	1994
France	\$2.33 billion	France	1998
Korea & Japan	\$7 billion	Brazil	2002
Germany	\$4.6 billion	Italy	2006
South Africa	\$3.6 billion	Spain	2010
Brazil	\$15 billion	Germany	2014
Russia	\$11.6 billion	France	2018
Qatar	\$220 billion	TBA	2022

source: <https://www.totalsportal.com/money/cost-hosting-fifa-world-cup/>

Unemployment Rate:

Unemployment is one of the most significant issues affecting any economy. Clearly, the unemployment rate is affected by the business cycle, as it rises during recessions and falls during expansions. According to Trading Economics, the average unemployment rate in Qatar between 2001 and 2019 was 0.93 percent. The unemployment rate in Qatar peaked in the fourth quarter of 2010 and reached its lowest point in the first quarter of 2017.



This chart displays Unemployment Rate for Qatar from 2013 to 2022.

Source: <https://www.focus-economics.com/country-indicator/qatar/unemployment/>

The highest unemployment rate during 2020, is because of Covid 19, then we can see significant decline after that to receive very low point in 2022.

Volunteer efforts during the 2022 World Cup have helped many young people acquire experience that will make it easier for them to find employment. The volunteers have "contributed to a host of functional areas, including spectator services, media operations, health and safety, security, and many others."¹⁹ All this experience from market-leading expertise should have a significant impact on the youth's chance to enter the job market.

Green and Sustainably Economy

On official Qatar 2022 website state clearly that: "Our goal is to offset all greenhouse gas emissions, while advancing low-carbon solutions in Qatar and the region. A carbon-neutral tournament is delivered through a four-step process: awareness, measurement, reduction, and offsetting. We are progressing rapidly in all areas Renewable energy solutions are planned for wherever possible; solar-powered lighting has already been installed at parking lots and precinct perimeters. Solar-powered air quality monitoring is being tested at training sites. The Gulf Organization for Research & Development (GORD) is researching how cooling systems can be powered by solar panels."²⁰

The eco-friendly stadium represents progress toward Qatar's goal of hosting the first carbon-neutral World Cup. The completion of those green construction projects supports our belief that Qatar will pursue sustainable initiatives in the lead-up to the 2022 World Cup and is consistent with the government's long-term goals.²¹

Why green building matter?

Green buildings offer several economic and financial benefits that are relevant to a range of individuals or groups of people, including cost savings on utility bills for tenants or households (through energy and water efficiency), lower construction costs and higher property values for building developers, increased occupancy rates or operating costs for building owners, and job creation. It has been established that green building has benefits that extend beyond economics and the environment, and those benefits include beneficial social implications. The health and wellness of

¹⁹ <https://www.gulf-times.com/story/712361/Experiencing-Qatar-s-World-Cup-22-as-valued-volunteer>

²⁰ <https://www.qatar2022.qa/en/sustainability>

²¹ <https://country.eiu.com/article.aspx?articleid=1481541331&Country=Qatar&topic=Economy&subtopic=Forecast&subsubtopic=External+sector>

people who work in green offices (well-ventilated offices) or who live in green houses is likely to improve in a number of ways as a result of these benefits.”²²

Infrastructure review

In addition to constructing stadiums with the sole purpose of hosting matches during the World Cup, Qatar has been investing in and will continue to invest in the modernization of its infrastructure. The objective is to develop it into a transportation hub that serves a sizable chunk of the rest of the world. The construction of airports, as well as the expansion of urban networks, the improvement of motorways, and the establishment of new cities, are all among the highest objectives. Infrastructure developments connected to the World Cup are now estimated to be worth \$300 billion (or €257 billion), as stated in a report published by Bloomberg, the company that oversaw the organization of the Qatar Economic Forum held this past summer.²³

The 2022 World Cup will help the construction sector even after the champions return home. Recent construction sites, powered by long-term planning for Qatar's development, will continue to affect the large-scale construction industry. Qatar's construction market will be worth \$76.98 billion (€66 billion) by 2026, growing 10.54% annually, according to Mordor Intelligence, an international consultancy group. "Construction activity in the country remains resilient, as government spending has continued on projects," the report states. Over the predicted period, construction projects will be funded by the government's goal of diversifying the economy away from oil. Over the next five years, the National Vision Plan 2030—an investment plan centered on creating large-scale works to modernize cities and support their sustainable growth—will drive the economy and development. The World Bank's Gulf Economic Update predicts 3% GDP growth in 2021, 4.1% in 2022, and 4.5% in 2023 for Qatar.²⁴

“While around \$10 billion (€8.5 billion) has been earmarked for infrastructures specifically for the World Cup, the rest of the funds have been allocated to modernizing infrastructure, from subways to roads and airports.

²² <https://www.egyptgbc.org/why-green-building>

²³ <https://www.webuildvalue.com/en/global-economy-sustainability/qatar-world-cup-infrastructure.html>

²⁴ Previous reference – with editing from the researcher

Development of these new works, guided by the principles of sustainability and urban regeneration, will help establish Qatar as one of the region's most modern countries."²⁵

Stadiums after the world cups²⁶:

All stadiums have a strategy. Al Janoub Stadium: After the World Cup, the 44,325-seat stadium will be downsized to 20,000 and dedicated to international sports projects. The park and neighborhood will benefit the community for years. Lusail Stadium: Qatar's dedication to sustainable development will turn the 80,000-capacity stadium into a unique community hub of schools, residences, stores, cafes, and health facilities after the World Cup. 974 Stadium: After the tournament, this stadium will be demolished and given to an African development country. A waterfront development with community facilities will replace it. Education City Stadium: After the World Cup, the 44,667-capacity stadium will be downsized to 20,000 and used for the Qatar Foundation and public amenities. Al Bayt Stadium: After the World Cup, Al Khor Sports Club will move into this 32,000-seat stadium. Khalifa International Stadium: maintain. Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium: After the tournament, the 45,032-seat stadium's upper tier and roughly 20,000 seats will be donated to foreign football development projects. Althummah Stadium: 44,400 seats will be reduced to 20,000 after the competition. To help underdeveloped nations build sports infrastructure, Qatar's World Cup stadiums will deconstruct 170,000 seats.

Social Changes in Qatar from 2010 to 2022

worker

Being from Qatar, I've seen a lot of progress made in terms of worker rights. The government of Qatar did everything in its power to protect workers' rights by revising the law to better meet their needs: Cancellation of the khafalah system, setting the minimum pay at 1,800 QR, the right to readily change sponsors, a ban on working during the hottest hours of the day during the summer, and the requirement that employers draw up official contracts or face a fine of 50,000 QR., etc.

The ministries of Labor, Municipal, and Trade in Qatar conducted stringent inspections of employer compliance with the standards, which resulted in a working environment that was significantly more secure and reliable for the employees.

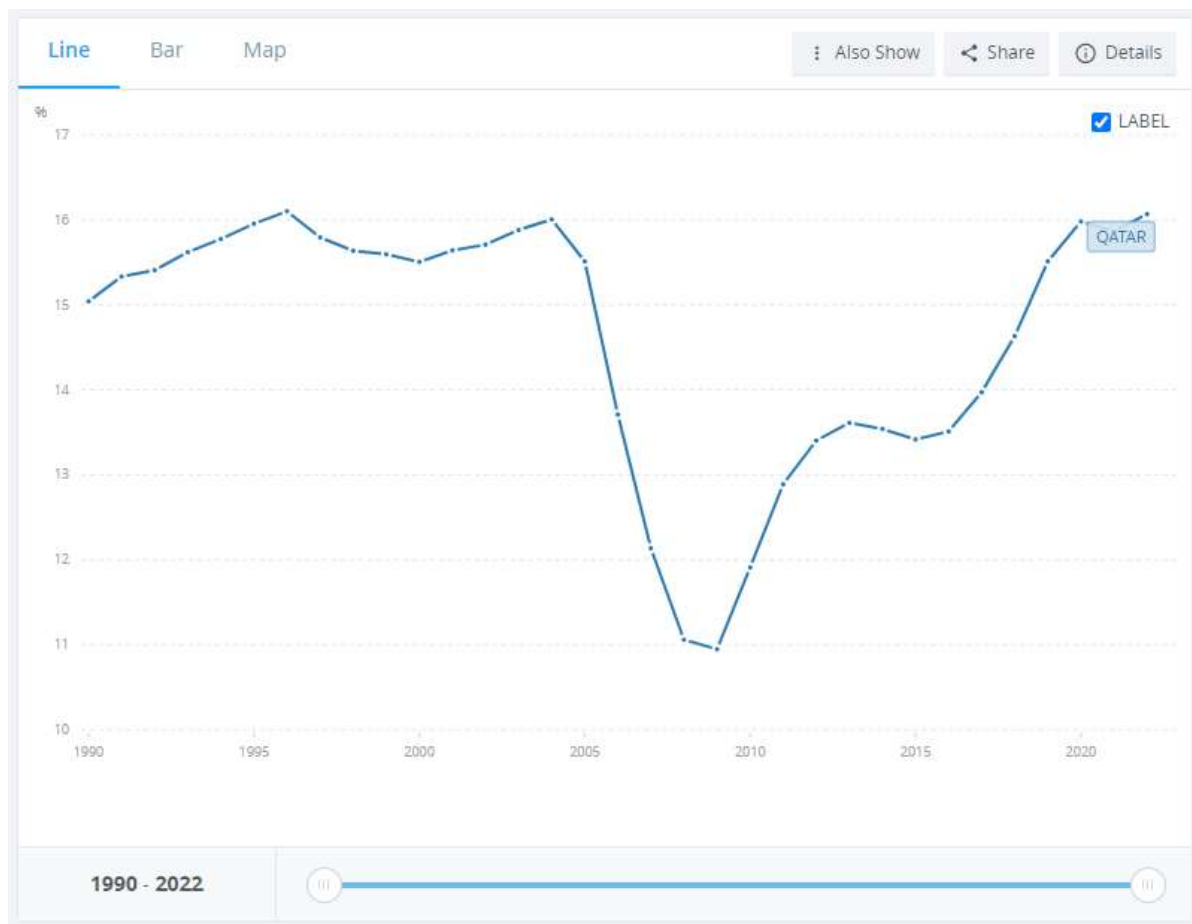
²⁵ Previous reference

²⁶ <https://www.iloveqatar.net/qatar2022/news/what-will-happen-world-cup-stadiums-after-tournament>

women

Shariah law ensures that I am a woman with all the rights to which I am entitled. I did not experience any form of bias or prejudice because of my gender. Shikha Moza bent Nassar is credited with accelerating the growth of Qatari women and opening up a variety of opportunities for them. There was no connection between the World Cup and this advocacy for women's rights. It has already begun before it, and it will carry on after it.

women labor force in the Qatar market: Qatar have good percentages of women labor in market 16.1 % for 2022 which is good percentage if we compare to UAE 18.3% -Oman 16.9% -Bahrain 21.8% - Kuwait 25%. The figure shows the rapidly growth of women in labor force,²⁷



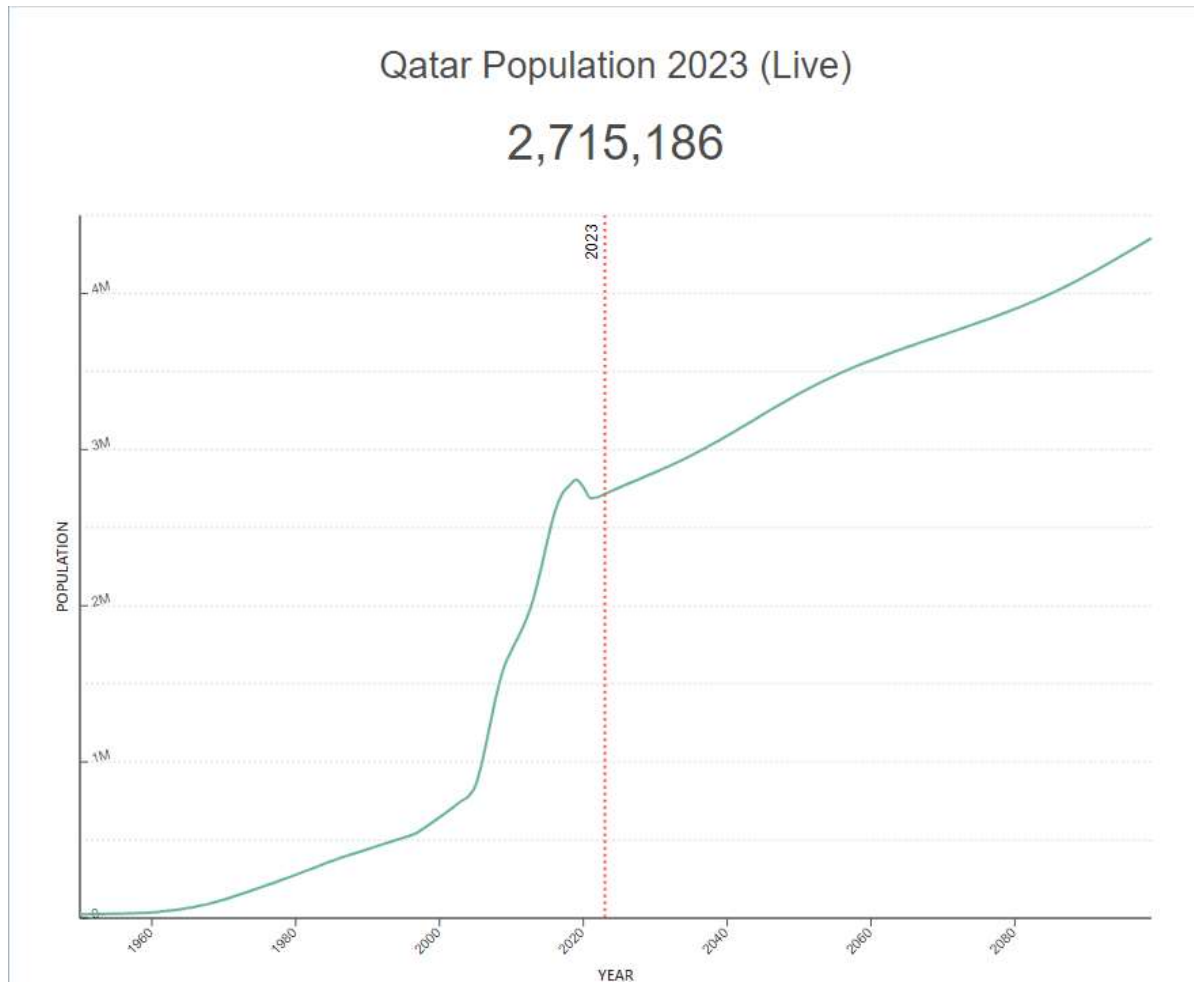
Source: World bank data²⁸

²⁷

<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.TOTL.FE.ZS?end=2022&locations=QA&start=1990&view=chart>

²⁸ Previous source

Society



Source: <https://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/qatar-population>

Qatar saw a spectacular growth rate of 7.5% between 2011 and 2012, and there is no indication that it will slow down anytime in the near future.

The society of Qatar went through a considerable amount of change between the years of 2010 and 2022: "Qatar has changed a lot in the past 12 years, and, culturally speaking, this has made a huge Impact."²⁹

However, these alterations do not signal that he is abandoning his Arabic and Muslim identities; rather, they represent an attempt to update the heritage that we share as Arabic nations and Muslims. As a result of this, the World Cup was staged in a manner that was respectful of our traditions and

²⁹ <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/11/28/middleeast/world-cup-catalyst-for-change-qatar-mime-intl/index.html>

values, and the people of Qatar were able to enjoy themselves to the best possible extent.

There are a few examples that illustrate this, including the following:

- 1- All Qatari stadiums reflect Arab and Islamic culture. Al-Bayt Stadium hosted the opening ceremony and match. This stadium was a large tent. Qatari and Gulf desert dwellers' tents inspired the stadium's name. Second: Qatari-themed Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium This stadium's exterior depicts desert waves, flora, and fauna. Third: Al-Janoub Stadium, Al-Wakra. To honor Al-Wakra's origins as a pearl-hunting center, the stadium's sails are from traditional Qatari boats. Fourth: Khalifa International Stadium, attached to the Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum, to exhibit the country's history, pride, and commitment to a bright future. Fifth: Arab-style Al-Thumama Stadium The stadium resembles an Arab cranium, as does the hat worn under the headband. It proves Arab civilization, history, and culture. Sixth: Education City Stadium, a modern Islamic model Lusail Stadium. This stadium resembles an Arab lighthouse, utensils, and other art from the region. Stadium 974 recalls Qatar's maritime and economic past.
- 2- Among the symbols of the World Cup, is the official billboard welcoming the guests, showing the headband that denotes the local culture accompanied by the word (Come on).³⁰
- 3- FIFA announced that no alcohol would be sold at stadiums. That gives more opportunity for women and children to attend the matches without any report of harassment or sexual assault.

American academic Dr Stewart Johannes said the Qatar 2022 edition of the tournament did not require many efforts to spread Arab and Islamic culture due to the smart planning and sound implementation carried out by Qatar.³¹

Media Coverage

The success of Qatar in hosting this big event brought joy to the hearts of many Arab and Muslim nations, as it did to mine. Since before the start of the competition, we have noticed some prejudice and bias coming from the media side, coming from certain countries and institutions.

Conclusion

³⁰ <https://islamonline.net/en/embracing-the-local-arab-and-islamic-culture-in-fifa-world-cup-qatar-2022/>

³¹ <https://www.qatar-tribune.com/article/40773/nation/qatar-has-created-a-cultural-revolution-through-world-cup>

The World Cup 2022 has both positive and negative aspects, just like any other human endeavor. However, all of us can attest to the fact that Qatar's status as the first Arab and Muslim nation to host the FIFA World Cup successfully during its 94-year history has left us feeling extremely joyful, proud, and ambitious for a greater role for Arab and Muslim nations on the international stage.

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