

Overview

Qatar, in keeping with its aim of strengthening its relationship with the United States, plays a pivotal role in the United States' largest economic market and state, California.

The relationship between the two extends beyond the financial sphere into the fields of arts, humanities, education, entertainment, and national security.

In 2016, HH the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani visited California and held several meetings in Los Angeles. While on his visit, he attended a reception ceremony hosted by the Mayor of Los Angeles, Eric Garcetti, at Getty House in Los Angeles, California. Talks during the reception ceremony dealt with areas of cooperation and means of promoting and developing them as to open wider horizons of ties in future.

Additionally, Eric Garcetti, the Mayor of Los Angeles in the U.S. State of California, visited Doha, November 13-17, 2016. The mayor and his accompanying delegation met with business, cultural, and government leaders to strengthen the growing partnership between the cities of L.A. and Doha.

California is the U.S.'s preeminent hub for innovation in Information Technology, Software, Life Sciences and Technological research, host to the world's leading universities. Qatar shares many of these same traits and hopes to expand the already existing relationship even further.

Qatar hosts the **Al-Udeid Airbase** which is the forward command for U.S. Central Command, and home to over 11,000 U.S. troops. Qatar is investing over **\$4 billion** to upgrade facilities at Al Udeid to benefit those US troops.

"I'm pleased to welcome Qatar Airways' new service between LAX and Doha This new international flight will add more than \$600 million to our economy, boost our growing tourism sector, and support thousands of new jobs for Angelenos. It's exciting to see LAX take yet another step forward as it continues to extend its reach across the globe."

Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles (January 12, 2016)

Military Partnership

The strategic location of Al Udeid in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility makes the base valuable to operations throughout Southeast and Southwest Asia, but the proximity to the African continent also makes Qatar ideal for logistics operations.

The Al-Udeid air base and surrounding military facilities currently host Airmen and aircraft from the **816th Expeditionary Air Squadron (EAS)**, the **332nd Air Expeditionary Wing (AEW)**, the **379th Air Expeditionary Wing (AEW)**, the **6th Air Refueling Squadron**, and the **412th Civil Engineer Group**, the **578th Brigade Engineer Battalion (California Army National Guard unit)** that come from a variety of bases across the continental United States to man the units. According to the units, several California bases are currently represented which include the **Travis Air Force Base**, the **Beale Air Force Base**, the **Edwards Air Force Base**, and the **Vandenberg Air Force Base**.



Additionally, recent defense purchases that have been approved by Congress for the sale of military equipment to Qatar have made a direct impact on the Californian economy.

Recent approved sales are the following:

- Qatar's purchase of F-15 fighter jets was recently approved by Congress in late 2018. Qatar expects six F-15 warplanes to be delivered to its air force by March 2021, part of the first batch of 36 it agreed to buy from the United States last year for **\$12 billion**.
 - Boeing estimates that the purchase will result in a **\$2 billion economic impact** on the state of California
 - The purchase will also sustain **15,000 jobs** in California, as well as support 184 local companies that are 1st and 2nd tier suppliers for the F-15 program.
- In July 2014, Qatar and the U.S. signed an agreement for the acquisition of Apache helicopters, associated equipment, and training for 70 pilots and 100 ground crewmembers. This was followed by the signing of a **\$667 million** contract in 2016 between the Qatari government and Boeing for the acquisition of **24 Apache armed aircraft**.
 
 - Boeing estimates that the Qatari purchase will result in a **\$160 million economic impact** on the state of California.
 - In California - the Apache purchase will also sustain **2,000 estimated jobs**, as well as support **99 local companies** that supply parts and components for the Apache helicopter program.
- Qatar has made significant investments in its domestic Air and Missile Defense capabilities (Patriot system & Early Warning Radar), as well as Rolling Airframe Missiles (RAM) with the Raytheon corporation. Following both State department and Congressional approval, the estimated impact of the purchase will have amounted to **\$12.2 billion**.
 
 - The total impact of the Qatari purchase will impact key suppliers from a total of twenty-two states. California, due to its robust defense manufacturing base and infrastructure, will have **played a strong role by being one of the key supplier states** for Raytheon.
 - The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics projected that with the completion of the project, a total of **54,000 jobs** were created and sustained over a five-year period.
- Qatari Signal Corps signed a **\$79 million** deal and a Memorandum of Understanding with Tapestry Solutions, a subsidiary of Boeing, for Enterprise Resource Planning. The system will support the Qatari Emiri Air Force logistics management. Tapestry Solutions is based in **San Diego**.
 

Investment Initiatives

On September 26, 2015, the **Qatar Investment Authority** (QIA) opened its office in New York to manage its ever-growing portfolio in the United States. Since then, QIA has pledged to invest **\$45 billion** in the United States between by 2020 (equal to 23% of Qatar's annual GDP).

The Qatar Investment Authority, Qatar's acquisitive sovereign wealth fund, is now setting up an office in San Francisco to manage its growing portfolio in the United States.

Since making this pledge in 2015, QIA has already invested over **\$20 billion**.

Recent Investments

- Marriott International has finalized the sale of The St. Regis San Francisco hotel to the QIA for a reported **\$175 million**.
- Miramax, one of Hollywood's best-known independent film and television labels, was acquired by the **belN Media Group**, a sports and media company headed by the Qatari executive Nasser Al-Khelaifi for **\$660 million**.
- In 2014, QIA invested **\$100 million** in Uber Technologies Inc.
- Qatar Investment Authority and hedge fund Elliott Management Corp took private together Santa Clara based networking software company Gigamon Inc for **\$1.6 billion**.
- Douglas Emmett, Inc., a real estate investment trust (REIT) in a joint venture with Qatar Investment Authority, announced the acquisition of 9665 Wilshire Boulevard, a 171,000 square foot Class "A" office property in **Beverly Hills** for **\$177 million**.

The same consolidated joint venture also acquired **1299 Ocean Avenue, Santa Monica** and **429 Santa Monica Boulevard, Santa Monica** in April 2017.



Qatar Airways



In April 2018, Qatar Airways took a minority stake in leading U.S. private aviation company JetSuite and its sibling company, JetSuiteX. The Qatar Airways investment will enable faster expansion of the JetSuite fleet and its ability to reach new destinations, including the potential to bring the semi-private model to additional U.S. regions.

Additionally, Qatar Airways has now scheduled daily flights between Los Angeles and Doha.

- As a result, Southern California is now linked to over 160 destinations worldwide.
- The daily flights are equipped with Qatar Airways' flagship Business Class (the Q-Suite) as of 2019.
- 21 local full time jobs have been created that support passenger sales, cargo logistics, and airport operations in Los Angeles.
- Los Angeles Mayor, Eric Garcetti, projected that the introduction of Qatar Airways in Los Angeles would amount to a \$600 million economic impact to the local Los Angeles and Southern California economy.



Cultural Exchange

FIFA World Cup

With Qatar hosting the 2022 World Cup, which will bring over \$10 billion worth of business to U.S. firms, there will be a close handover from 2022 in Qatar to 2026 in the United States and California.

It is highly likely that the Rose Bowl in Pasadena LA and Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara SF will host games in the 2026 FIFA soccer World Cup. The Rose Bowl is anticipated to host the final of the competition.



The Al Thani Collection Comes to San Francisco

(Nov. 3, 2018 – Feb. 24, 2019)

The Al Thani Collection is part of The Al Thani Collection Foundation, a non-profit organization whose mission is to advance and promote art and culture. This objective is principally delivered through public art initiatives including sponsorships, museum projects, the staging of exhibitions and academic publications.

Assembled by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Abdullah Al Thani, The Al Thani Collection is an encyclopaedic holding of more than 6,000 works of art spanning from the ancient world to the present day. The collection includes antiquities, paintings, medieval manuscripts and ancient and historic artefacts, as well as a renowned holding of Indian and Indian-inspired gems and jewellery.



Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco – “Contemporary Muslim Fashions”

(Sept. 22, 2018 – Jan. 6, 2019)

“Contemporary Muslim Fashions” is the first major museum exhibition to explore the complex and diverse nature of Muslim dress codes worldwide. Organized by the **Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco**, this pioneering exhibition examines how Muslim women—those who cover and those who do not—have become arbiters of style within and beyond their communities and, in so doing, have drawn attention to the variations and nuances of their daily lives.

Qatari fashion designers like **Wadha Al-Hajri**, **Fahad bin Mohammed** (known as “Fahad Signature”), and **Mariam Al Remaihi**, in addition to Qatari jewelry designers such as **Papillon Jewelry** have all contributed with unique designs that reflected both Qatari identity and Muslim modest-wear.

The exhibition’s “grand finale” is dedicated to Qatar’s, Queen Mother, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bin Nasser Al-Misnad, with four distinctive outfits from her personal collection.

Educational Initiatives through Qatar Foundation International (QFI)

QFI focuses on student-centered learning environments that foster a deeper understanding of the Arab world through the teaching of Arabic and about the region’s societies and cultures. The organization partners with primary and secondary schools, universities, multilateral entities, and other philanthropic organizations to ensure that their programs advance students’ acquisition of global competency and 21st-century skills.

QFI in California: The Greater Southern California Arabic Language Teacher Council (Occidental College):

In addition to funding youth programs, QFI works to support collaboration and innovation among Arabic-language educators. The Greater Southern California Arabic Language Teacher Council—made up of local K–12 teachers—shares resources and ideas and assists schools looking to start Arabic programs. QFI is proud to have supported the council since Spring 2012.



In 2018-2019, QFI supported teacher professional development opportunities for educators from the following public-school districts:

Los Angeles, California
Sacramento, California
San Diego, California

San Francisco, California
San Marcos, California
Ukiah, California

QFI Supported K-12 Arabic Programs in California:

Bell High School
Elizabeth Learning Center
Hamilton High School

Granada Hills Charter High School
Arabic Honor Society Chapter: Anaheim, CA
Arabic Honor Society Chapter: Bell, CA

ISKME/Big Ideas Fest:

QFI is a sponsor of the Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education's (ISKME) annual conference, Big Ideas Fest, in Half Moon Bay, California. Big Ideas Fest is a unique three-day immersion into collaboration and design with a focus on modeling cutting-edge thinking in K-20 education.

