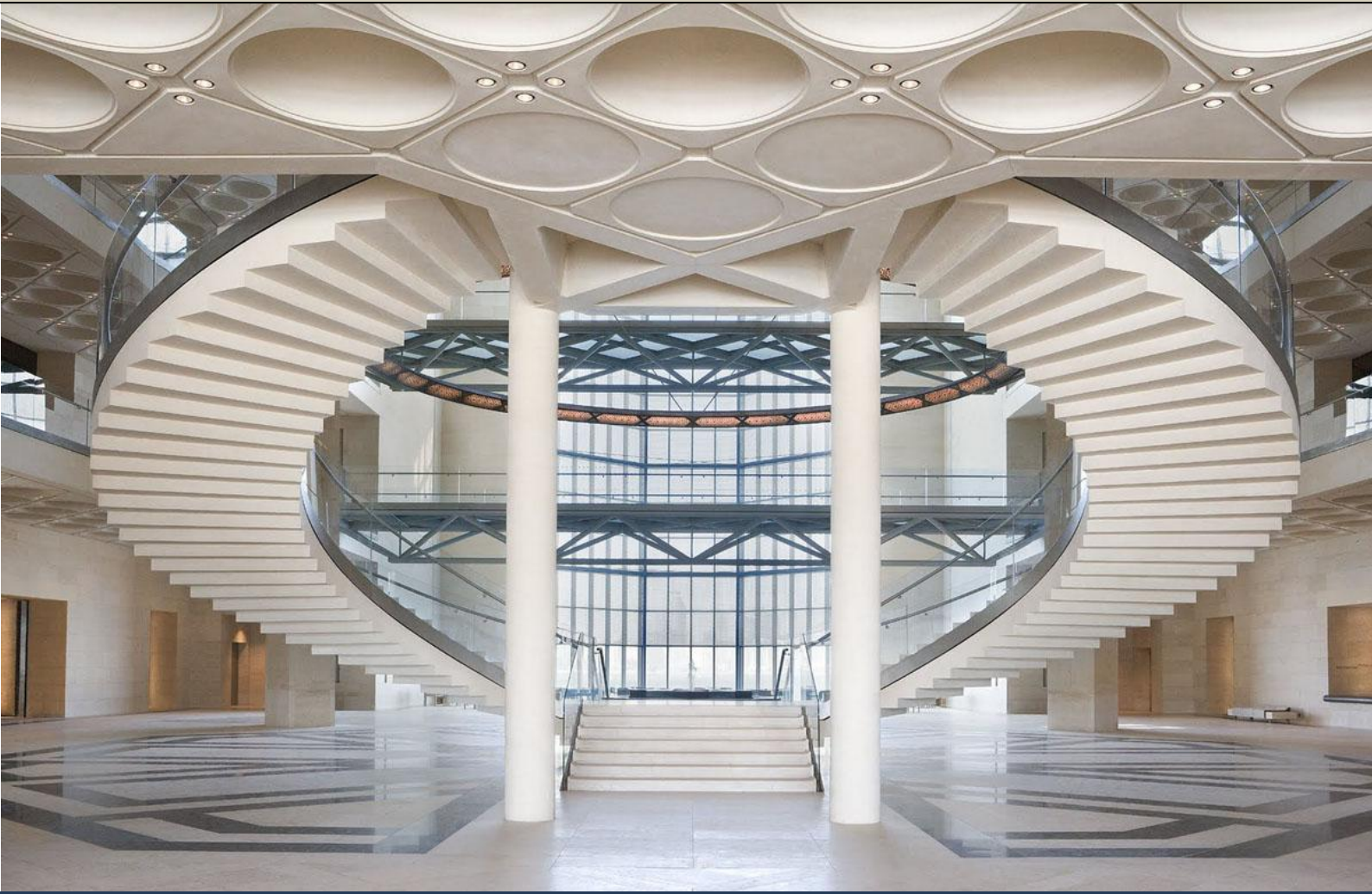




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QATAR BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND INTERIORS UPDATE

October 2014

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QATAR ECONOMIC UPDATE Q3 2014

Based on a review of the economy's performance in 2013, the Qatar Statistics Authority in its latest economic update released in September 2014, summarised that the Qatar economy grew by 6.5 percent in 2013, according to the latest economic update released by the Qatar Statistical Authority (QSA), driven largely by expansion in the non-hydrocarbon sector, specifically the finance and real estate sectors. Construction output sported a strong upward trend contributing nearly 1.5 percent to the nominal GDP growth in 2013 and growing absolutely by 13.6 percent over the previous year, fuelled by the large scale investments by the Qatari economy across its infrastructure and property sectors, as projects in preparation for the World Cup 2022 event gathered steam. The share of the construction sector in the country's nominal GDP is also likely to increase from 5.5 percent in 2014 to 6.2 percent in 2015 according to the IMF.

Though the hydrocarbon output has consciously witnessed a decline, fiscal, trade and current account balances remained robust with fiscal surplus at 12.6 percent of nominal GDP, higher than the previous year's 11.2 percent, as investment income increased steeply. Though trade and current account surpluses were a shade lower than 2012 with a marginal slowdown of merchandise exports and a strong pick up of imports and remittances. Inflation inched up to 3.1% in 2013 from just under 2% in 2012, largely owing to property rental inflation components, reflecting increases in residential rents, utilities and other housing-related services.

QSA concluded based on Qatar's performance in 2013 that the economy is likely to witness strong growth numbers in 2014 and 2015, led largely by the non-hydrocarbon sector, accelerated growth of investment spending and continued population growth with the steady influx of expatriate labour in the run up to the World Cup in 2022. While consumer price inflation is expected to pick up by the second half of 2014, as construction activity gathers steam, the low inflationary situation in the earlier half of the year and the benign global inflationary outlook are likely to compensate and keep the inflation numbers steady for 2014. Both balance of payments and fiscal surpluses are likely to remain robust over 2014 and 2015. QSA has however cautioned of weaker global oil prices and escalating domestic project costs in the construction sector that could narrow the surpluses in 2015.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the periodic assessment of the economic situation of Qatar, underlined its strong economic fundamentals and the fact that growth would be expected to continue at 6

percent in 2014, driven largely by the 10 percent growth in the non-hydrocarbon sector led primarily by construction, transport, communication and finance. The IMF has pointed out that while the growth of the economy fell from double digits in 2011, primarily on account of its self-imposed moratorium on expanding oil production to concentrate on its non-hydrocarbon growth and rest its hydrocarbon wells, the non-hydrocarbon sector now accounts for over half of the country's GDP, compensating for any downswings in oil and gas. It revised forecasts for the economy's real GDP growth upwards in its World Economic Report released in October 2014, to 6.5 percent for 2014 and 7.7 for 2015, the highest in the region.

The IMF report also pointed out how Qatar has risen steadily in terms of its natural gas capabilities to become the world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas by 2013, accounting for over one-third of the world's natural gas trade.

Qatar has been gradually gaining investor attention and confidence for the planned and well monitored way in which it is scaling up its investments in preparation to host the World Cup 2022 FIFA event, leveraging its large hydrocarbon reserves and its strong global trade position. The winning of the prestigious bid to host the World Cup 2022 FIFA football event has only helped the economy in moving toward its Vision with a greater focus in its investments in a careful and sustained manner.

The event has been shrouded in controversies beginning with whether the country would be able to control the spiralling prices with the sudden spurt in construction activity as it edges closer to the timelines for projects to be readied for the World Cup event, whether it would be able to accommodate the large influx of population including workers, tourists and investors as construction projects are scaled up as the country gears up to host the World Cup, to allegations on unfair treatment of labour and labour practices in the construction projects already underway.

The most recent controversy levelled constituted corruption charges in winning the bid to host the World Cup which led to a long drawn out investigation and a debate on whether Qatar would be stripped of the honour to host the event and that even if they were cleared if the event would be able to be hosted in the hot summer of Qatar where temperatures are unbearable. Qatar has so far firmly managed to brush aside these controversies, assuring investors and tourists that they would be able to host the event with the help of the latest technologies in cooling stadia and venues of the event and keep a tight rein on supply and prices to prevent spiralling inflation. They have strongly denied the charges of corruption as well and managed to stay on track with their plans for construction of stadia and necessary infrastructure to host the event. The country has already hosted a number of trial events along the way such as the Asian

Football Cup and Cup of Nations in January 2011 and 2012, the Match Racing International Regatta in April 2013, the annual World Powerboat championships and the Men's Handball World Championship to be hosted in 2015 among others to smooth out any unforeseen obstacles along the way.

The hosting of the World Cup is being viewed as a stepping stone to the long standing vision of the country outlined in its National Vision 2030 to put Qatar on the World map as a leading destination for tourists and investors alike on a sustainable platform which is environmentally sound and improves the standards of living of the Qatari citizens at large. While the current focus is on building up the necessary infrastructure including roads, rail and metro works, ports and airports, the spill over effects of the build-up have thrown open enough opportunities for the building construction sector and in turn the Interiors and Fit outs markets, to enjoy a long and sustainable growth path up to the World Cup and beyond.

The country having already invested US\$ 125 billion across sectors as a part of the plan to put Qatar on the World map for tourists and investors alike, successive budgets have invested further amounts toward upgrading infrastructure such as building of the Qatar Metro, the international airport building and expansion, investments across the hospitality, commercial and retail sectors also the construction of venues and stadia to host the events of the World Cup. The 2014 budget for Qatar has been proclaimed as the largest in its history with expenditure of US\$ 62 billion.

Moreover, from the 2014 budget, the focus has gradually shifted to encouraging private investment with clear mandates to the government departments to not compete with private businesses while bidding for projects, including key projects. The government also plans to translate its overall strategy into clear cut departmental plans to be implemented by its ministries and departments with clear financial budgets and goals from 2014 onward.

Continuing its infrastructure push into 2014 with a US\$ 20.5 billion allocation for infrastructure (up to 40 percent of the budget) and announcing yet another record budget of US\$ 62 billion, to beat its previous largest budget in Qatar history of US\$ 57.8 billion of 2013, the new regime upheld its commitment to its National Vision and hosting of the World Cup FIFA 2022 event. However as budgetary spending increases at a tremendous pace surpluses are likely to shrink further in 2015 though analysts expect the economy to continue to post a 9 percent budgetary surplus despite its ambitious expansionary plans.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) however indicated that Qatar had scaled down a number of its mega projects to enable it to not overspend and fan concerns of inflation and high borrowing. Government

spending had already increased by 33 percent in 2013 to compensate for the earlier slow pace of projects in the run up to the World Cup. Analysts expect that 15 percent of its projects are likely to be rescheduled for coming years and also exceed the budgeted spends. According to the Ministry of Finance however, now that the schedules are in pace, the expansionary pace is likely to be maintained till 2017 when spending would be eased, in order to finance its big infrastructure build up.

Earlier financing issues delayed the project plans that are likely to be resolved now with financing using traditional bonds or sukuk floated in local currency every quarter rather than increasing further external debt. Qatar has also actively invested its oil surpluses abroad in international assets in anticipation of its appreciation in the long term. A greater role for the private sector has begun to be sought in 2014 and likely to gain pace in 2015 as the scale and number of projects increase.

The outlay for education too has been increased by 15 percent over 2013, as the country moves toward a knowledge based economy with education sector accounting for nearly 3.5 percent of the country's GDP. This includes plans for new schools in Doha and other parts of Qatar totalling 85 schools of which 29 are already under construction, apart from pre-school infrastructure such as 21 kindergartens, 15 of which are already under construction and likely to be completed over a period of 18 months.

Healthcare is the other focus areas with an increase in allocation of 13 percent over the previous year, which is likely to be utilized toward raising infrastructure across large hospital projects like Sidra and Al Wakra Hospitals and a few specialized hospitals for women and children.

Work is likely to begin on seven of the eight stadiums scheduled for the World Cup at Lusail, Al Wakrah, Al Khor, Al Rayyan, New Airport, the Khalifa Stadium and the Qatar Foundation Stadium. Transportation is also a cornerstone of the infrastructure upgrade budgeted in 2014, including allocations for the completion of the Hamad International Airport, the New Doha Port, rail, metro and road projects already planned for.

Utilities such as electricity, water, and sewerage networks will also be expanded to keep pace with the urban development across the country as a part of the spending programme under the 2014 budget. New hotels and recreation complexes are also being built to house the players, tourists and visitors to the grand event are all likely to pick up pace between 2013 and 2015 edging to conclusion by 2017, when the country plans to host trial events in a run up to the World Cup.

As the country gears to host the World Cup in 2022, projects and contracts awarded at a moderate pace through 2011 and 2012 have picked up pace in 2013 and likely to grow faster over 2014. Contracts worth

US\$ 7.1 billion were awarded across construction sectors in 2011 and reached US\$ 8.5 billion in 2012, growing rapidly thereafter to US\$ 12.2 billion in 2013 and expected to reach US 13.5 billion in 2014, with the residential, commercial and retail segments contributing to the largest shares in 2014.

Though the pace of development has been frantic, the government has also taken the time and effort to ensure that developmental milestones are achieved without a check on the final goal and the cost-benefit involved and realistic timelines to achieve the desired development in time to host the World Cup.

As an increasingly attractive economy attracting the attention of investors regionally and worldwide, Qatar sports one of the lowest unemployment rates in the world. Focused policies and stable economic climate have made it an ideal destination for foreign investors and given the required spurt to its construction industry. Its expansionary investment plans have been financed partly through external borrowings and partly from its still existent hydrocarbon surplus. The Qatar government had also taken a reality check in 2012, slowing down the pace of contracts awarded and the pace at which projects were being completed, though 2013 the momentum has been resumed and investments with efforts have been doubled to quell any doubts on the projects achieving the deadlines in the race to the finish to host the World Cup in 2022.

In June 2013, when there has also been a smooth change of leadership from the reigning Emir Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani who had overthrown his father in a coup in 1995 and had put Qatar on the World map with his ambitious developmental plans. The Emir handed over the reins to his son Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, who was the earlier Chairman of the Qatar Investment Authority, the country's primary sovereign wealth fund that has recently been strategically investing across the globe across key markets as also headed the failed bid to host the Summer Olympics in 2020. The change of reins is not likely to bring any significant changes to the policy and developmental plans of Qatar and rather emphasize its smooth continuity of power and policy as a positive signal for investors in the growing economy. In the subsequent round up of the economic developments since the change of leadership summarized by the Ministry of Planning and Statistics at the end of 2013, it has been witnessed that the non-oil sector continues its strong upward trend led by the construction sector in particular, with increase in inflation gradually though not at an uncontrolled pace.

The following table presents the update of key economic indicators as of December 2013 by the Ministry of Developmental Planning and Statistics.

Table 1: Qatar Macroeconomic Update 2014-15

MACROECONOMIC UPDATE DECEMBER 2013 2014 2015

Real GDP Growth (%)	6.3	7.8
Nominal GDP Growth (%)	6.8	6.6
Consumer price Inflation (%)	3	3.4
Fiscal surplus (% of nominal GDP)	9.3	5.5
Current account surplus (% of nominal GDP)	25.1	19.5

Source: Estimates from the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics (MDP&S),
Extracted from Qatar Statistical Authority (QSA): Qatar Economic Outlook 2014-15, September 2014

Table 2: Qatar Macroeconomic Indicators, 2013 (E)

MACRO ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2013
(All values in US\$ Billion unless specified)	
Budget FY 2014-15	
Revenues	62
Expenditures	57.86
Surplus (% of GDP)	7.3%
DEMOGRAPHY	
Population (As of October 2013)	2,024,707
Population Growth Rate	4.19%
Urban Population	98.8%
Share of Construction in GDP (2015 estimate)	7.7%
Unemployment Rate	0.5%

Source: Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics, Qatar September 2014
and CIA: The World Fact Book 2013–Middle East: Qatar

In 2013, and early 2014, there was a phase, when analysts were sceptic whether timelines on Qatar projects in readiness for the World Cup 2022 event could be met. However, with the steady picking up of pace of construction projects from 2014 and a gaining focus on infrastructure projects that are the cornerstone to growth, Qatar resumed its earlier enthusiasm of 2011 when it grew at double digit rates.



However, the growth now is more cautious and well mapped out to spread over the future years in the run up to the World Cup in 2022. The Qatar budget too has continued to make large allocations toward development of social and physical infrastructure. Supported by the heavy influx of population to man projects and private investment across the key building sectors, Qatar is likely to push ahead on its National Vision 2030 developmental agenda at an accelerated pace over 2014 and 2015.

Mega projects that are planned to change the landscape of Qatar and attract tourists, sportspersons and investors from across the world include the newly opened state of art Hamad International Airport built at a cost of US\$ 16 billion to replace the old Doha International airport, the US\$ 5.5 billion deep-water seaport, allocation of US\$ 20 billion towards construction of roadways and highways and the biggest of them being the construction of 12 Eco-friendly stadia at an estimated cost of over US\$ 32 billion, of which work on seven has been flagged off in 2014. While some of the stadia are to be built from scratch, others are to be refurbished, the first of the stadia is likely to be ready by 2015. To prepare the country for the main event, the Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) had also made a bid to host the Qatar Summer Olympics in 2020 that it lost recently. It has also laid down a trial run programme for hosting a number of events at the international, regional and national levels including 58 championships of which 36 will be international championships, 4 regional championships, 6 GCC Championships, 1 Arab Championship and 11 local championships.

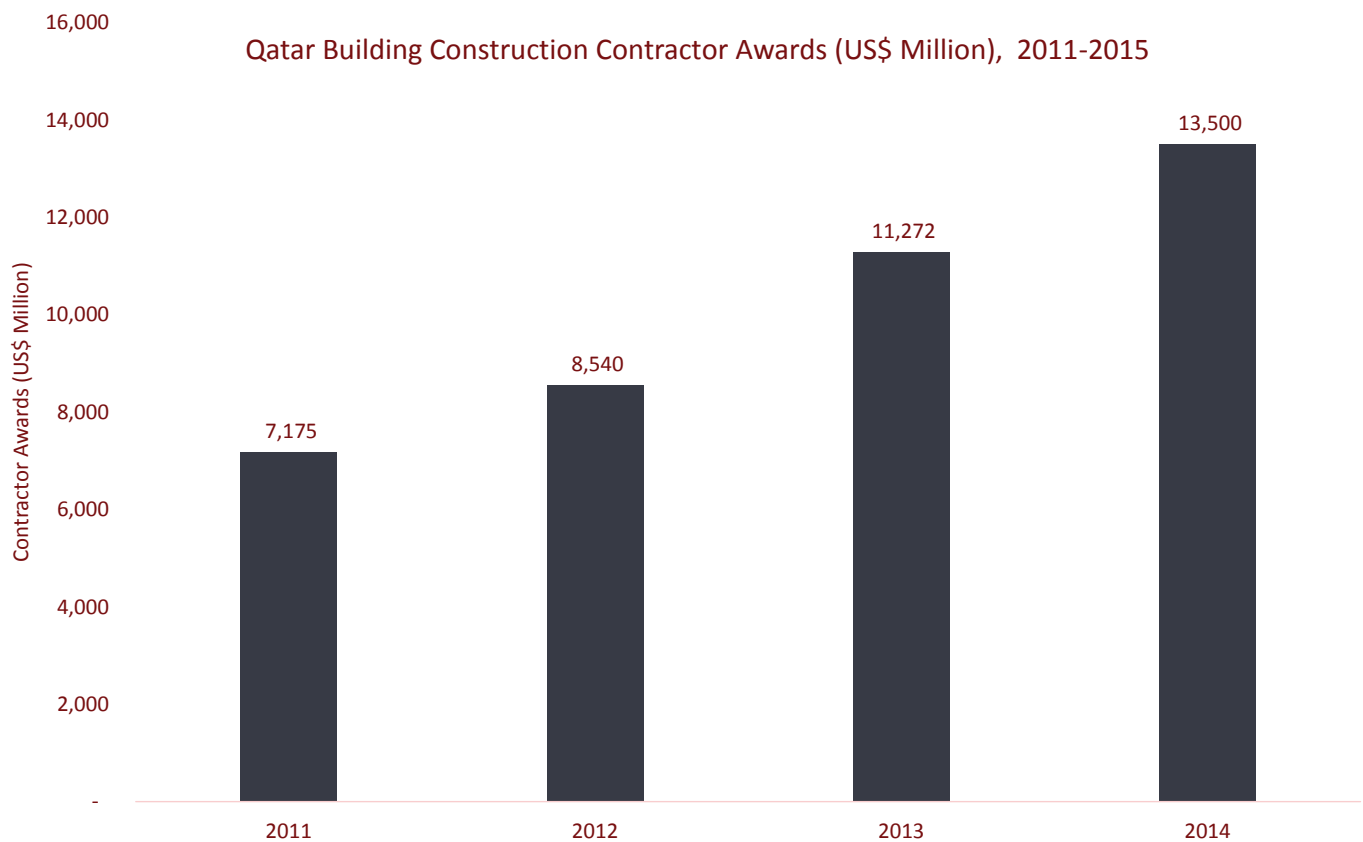
Keeping in mind sustainability while ensuring inflation is not fuelled by the hectic pace of economic activity across the economy, while carefully regulating supply of construction materials where there is likely to be a shortage of cost side inflationary threat, the Qatar government has carefully planned its growth aided by pioneering and environmentally sound technologies to host the World Cup 2022 in the peak summer months of 2022 despite scepticism by global critics.

The State of Qatar has also undergone a legal and regulatory overhaul to accommodate foreign investment and know-how by easing procedures and bringing regulations on par with international standards to attract investment and know-how easily, further fuelling growth across the economy and its construction industry.

QATAR BUILDING CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

The following figure shows the trends in major contracts in the Qatar real estate market over the period 2011 to 2014.

Figure 1: Qatar Building Construction Contractor Awards (US\$ Million), 2011-2014



Source: Ventures Onsite MENA Projects Database www.venturesonsite.com

Though oversupply continues to prevail in the commercial and retail segments by and large, owing to the steady increase in supply across these segments, as construction activity picked up pace and work on stadia, infrastructure has brought in a large influx of population, that is likely to close the gap. In the commercial sector for example, there continues to be a growing demand for Grade A office spaces and a shortage of small sized office space, as more companies begin to establish offices in the capital. The retail sector continues to be spurred by the growing affluent population base and the large pay hikes offered to government employees as a part of the budget allocations for 2014-15. The investments in infrastructure, especially development of the railway network, roads and highways, the new airport and the ports upgrade are all likely to play their role in boosting real estate demand in the State over the next few years. The record budget and its heavy allocation toward development of social infrastructure, especially, education and healthcare are also likely to spur growth across these segments of the real estate market.

As the race toward completion edges closer to the World Cup, a number of projects that are nearing completion across various segments of the building construction market are likely to pose a growing opportunity for the interiors and fit outs market in the country.

However, Qatar has also been plagued by controversies and challenges in the construction sector that are gradually being addressed in this sector before its full potential is realized. Contractors have faced their shares of payments being delayed and delays in projects from the slow pace of government functioning and the labour practices adopted have come under fire from international human rights organizations as well. The country has hastily framed guidelines for labour regulation and employment to counter these charges. The local developers have also felt the adverse impact of the strong influx of foreign investors continuing to bag most real estate development contracts based on their expertise and international skills that are required to conform to standards to host the World Cup event which has apparently left large real estate developers locally struggling with financial constraints and seeking bailouts from the government, which too has been addressed with the 2014-15 budgets trying to balance the public and private sector needs in an equitable manner, by preventing competition between the government and the private sector in the award of projects and encouraging domestic talent wherever possible.

Moreover, the incentives for expatriates to reside in Qatar as against more attractive tourist destinations such as the UAE, such as theme parks, race tracks and other such tourist attractions are limited as yet , making the country further lose out to competition and investment. Costs of construction have also witnessed a steady upward trend as construction demand shoots up as the timelines for the World Cup edge closer. There has however, been a strong revival of positive enthusiasm among developers and contractors in 2014 after a clear review of past progress has been made by the government on the projects in 2013, and taking stock of existing activity and the future tasks, that has translated into a strong pipeline of contracts being awarded across segments of the building construction market that is likely to set the trend for the next few years.

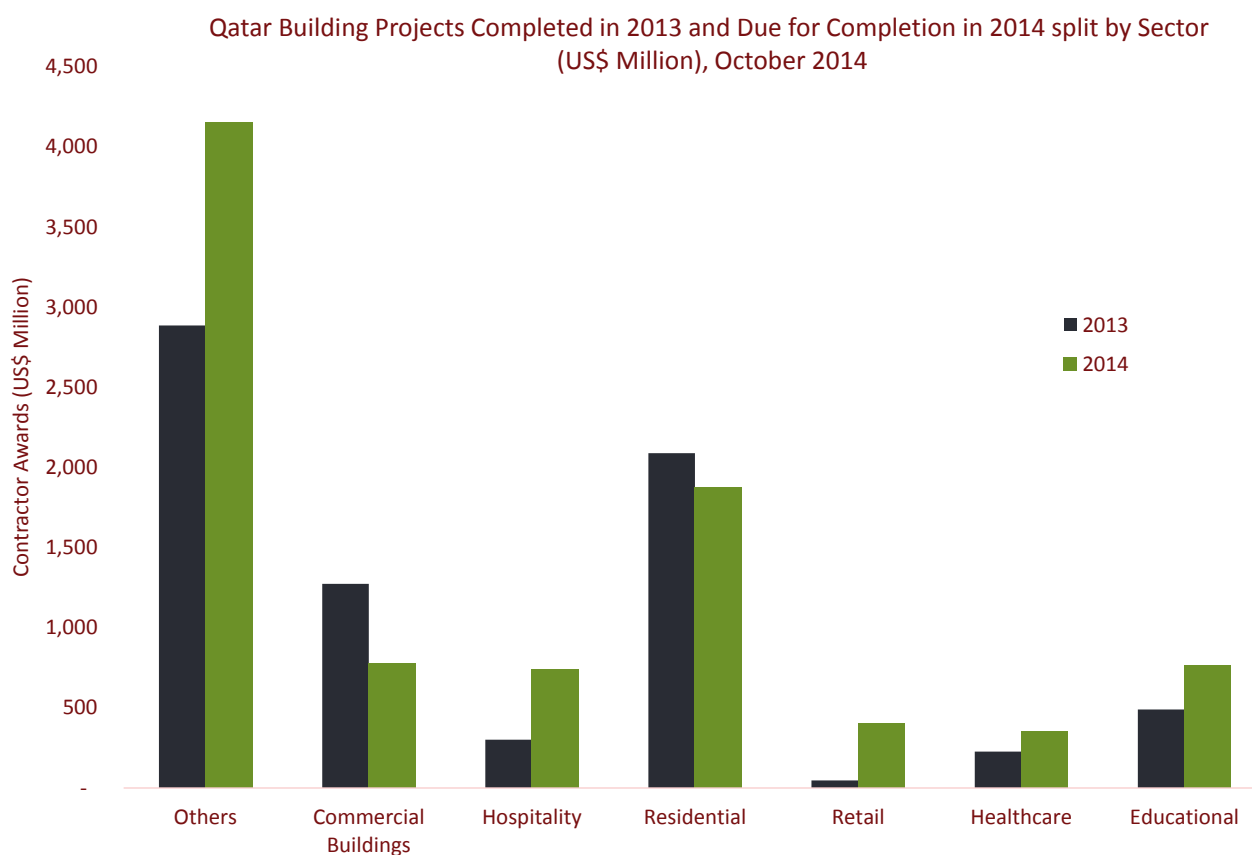
QATAR BUILDING SEGMENTS OVERVIEW

The residential, educational, commercial, healthcare, hospitality and retail segments of the Qatar buildings market provide growing opportunities for the investors across the region and worldwide as one of the top destinations for investment as the country gears up for the World Cup 2022 event amidst its long term vision to make Qatar a diversified and sustainable economy for the betterment of its citizens. While some

projects have received renewed focus in the 2014 budget such as healthcare and education, others have received a fair share of attention both from the government and the private sector with enthusiasm through 2013 and beyond such as commercial, residential, leisure, sports and recreation amid other segments that require attention to attract and sustain interest in Qatar after the major infrastructure has been laid down. Strong influx of population has contributed to burgeoning demand across the residential, commercial and retail sectors further fuelling this trend.

The following figure represents the contractor awards across the key segments of the Qatar buildings market in 2013 and 2014.

Figure 2: Qatar Building Project Completions (US\$ Million), 2013-2014



Source: Ventures Onsite MENA Projects Database www.venturesonsite.com

Building construction markets have been witnessing a steady upward trend as real estate demand continues to be buoyant. According to a real estate report by Colliers, occupancies in the commercial segment hovered at 75 percent while supply of office space at the end of 2013 stood at 2.5 million square meters of Grade A office space, likely to be met by a total demand of 2.2 million square meters by the end of 2014. Residential rents and prices after a steady decline between 2008 and 2012, began increasing in

2013 and grew by 4 percent in 2014 as demand gradually begins to pick up, easing of regulations on foreign ownership, residency permits and investment in real estate in selective regions, contributing to this trend.

Residential areas of Doha were traditionally concentrated around city's centre, though C, D and E ring roads gradually gained popularity with the West Bay becoming the most sought after location due to its proximity to the work area and its luxurious suburbs. Occupancies are hovering at around 85 percent for the residential segment, though gated communities enjoy higher occupancies of over 97 percent in Doha. Prices have risen by an average of 4 percent in 2014 after a period of consistent decline between 2008 and 2012. The key drivers to demand are the reducing size of household in recent years and the growing population that continue to keep demand buoyant in the residential segment where supply in 2013 was estimated at over 122,000 units of which nearly three fourths are apartments rather than villas. The residential supply is likely to be augmented by another 22,000 units by 2018, according to a recent estimate by property firm Colliers International in October 2014. Demand in this segment stays well ahead of supply, posing vast opportunities for the residential segment building construction sector at 177,000 units as of 2013, growing at over 13 percent annually. An additional 2,300 units are estimated to come online in 2014, translating into a growing market for interiors and fit outs across this segment over 2015 and beyond.

Demand for high quality villas in the residential segment too has witnessed a boost as a result of the growing per capita incomes of the population and the rising standards of living. With a greater number of international companies and contractors from world over establishing offices in the country in the run up to the World Cup, residential segment has remained grossly undersupplied in recent years. As more expatriates enter the market to contribute to the race for completion of construction projects for the World Cup demand for residential units is likely to steadily grow to reach 242,000 units by 2017 based on government projections and given the current supply pipeline of projects, supply might reach only 138, 235 units by 2017. Of these currently, there is an acute shortage of one bedroom and studio apartments as most of the residential properties available are two or three bedroom ones. Moreover, opportunities to reduce the gap in supply are limited by the amount of freehold zones where foreigners can invest in property to just three designated zones in Doha in contrast to cities like Dubai which have more freehold property zones attracting investors from around the world. Some developers such as the Ezdan Holding Group have also entered the affordable housing market segment with projects to build ten new residential complexes - nine of which will be to the south of Doha in Al Wakrah and one in the North of Doha, containing over 5000 two and three bedroom affordable apartments each.

A unique feature of Qatar commercial real estate is that unlike other GCC countries where the commercial areas are spread out across the country, office space is concentrated in Doha, its capital, predominantly around West Bay/Diplomatic District area, its commercial business district (CBD) area. Though Doha commercial office market has no dearth of office space, there is currently a shortage of quality Grade A office locations as per international standards that is soon likely to be corrected given the current pipeline of projects as of 2014. Supply of office space is estimated by Colliers International at 2.8 million square meters as of 2014 growing at 6 percent annually, while demand is estimated at 2.2 million square meters by the end of 2014 growing at an annual rate of 10 percent and likely to reach 3.4 million square meters by 2018 as the country nears the timelines to the hosting of the World Cup in 2022. While oversupply prevails and it takes longer to rent out the newer office buildings, there is tremendous demand for smaller office space which is as yet undersupplied.

With the path being cleared for the hosting of the World Cup 2022 event and implementation of the key goals of the National Vision 2030, under which the quality and standards of living of the people of Qatar is sought to be upgraded through massive investments across infrastructure and energy sectors, the spill over effect on real estate is bound to provide the required fuel for growth in the largest segment of the Qatar construction market in 2013 and 2014. Population has been growing at the rate of 12 percent in 2013 and annual visitors' growth is at 9 percent that have translated into a spurt in demand across the real estate sectors in 2014. Value of real estate transactions recorded a robust increase by 35 percent between the third quarter of 2013 and the end of the first quarter of 2014. These factors are likely to translate into ample opportunities for the interiors and fit outs industry over the next few years,

Retail segment is already benefitting from the large pay hikes handed over to public sector employees both in 2012 and 2013, as can be witnessed from the largest shares of the Qatar budgets. Till date the Qatar retail market in Qatar continues to be undersupplied dominated by the four big malls available namely the Villaggio Mall, Lagoona, Landmark and City Centre comprising 60 percent of its supply and commanding high lease rates. The retail Gross Leasable Area (GLA) supply at the end of 2013 is estimated to reach 629,000 square metres as of 2014, according to estimates by Colliers International with over 900,000 square meters of GLA likely to be added over the next five years as the Ezdan, Markhiya, Gulf Mall, Medina Centrale on the Pearl Qatar and Barwa Commercial Avenue nearing completion. 2014 is likely to witness additional retail space of around 216,000 square meters coming online. There are apparently long waiting lists for a number of malls in Qatar and though there is a large pipeline of projects amounting to around 10 malls that may turn the situation around to one of oversupply in the by 2017, depending on their rates of

completion and entry into the market though currently the market remains undersupplied. Colliers estimates demand for retail space as of 2014 to be capable of absorbing 700,000 square meters of supply, increasing at an annual rate of 10 percent while supply is growing by around 16 percent.

The largest of these projects include the US\$ 820 million Mall of Qatar, slated for completion by 2015 and expected to attract close to 20 million visitors within its first year of operation. The area on and around Al Shamal Road is yet another retail development that is expected to add nearly 550,000 square metres to the retail GLA of Qatar. There is also likely to be a perceptible shift in the location of the future malls from the north and north western side of the city where most malls are currently located toward Lusail which are witnessing the future developments.

The hospitality segment of the building construction market too is likely to be benefitted from the inflow of international hotel chains in a bid to provide accommodation of various ranges to house the players, tourists and visitors to the World Cup 2022 event. Qatar has a mandate to add 45,000 hotel rooms to its existing supply of 20,000 keys as a part of the FIFA minimum lodging supply requirements for the country to host the World Cup in 2022. The hotels sector in Doha alone has witnessed a massive spurt in growth to the tune of 19 percent annually between 2010 and 2013, accounting for nearly three quarters of the room supply of Qatar. The demand fuelling growth in this sector comprises primarily corporate and MICE tourism. With the hosting of the World Cup 2022 event, the country is expected to receive nearly 3.5 million international tourists for the event with total passenger movements at the airports estimated to grow at an annual rate of 6.3% through 2022.

While concerns of oversupply linger regarding the period following the World Cup, Qatar is currently hosting a number of events of a regional and international nature to keep the hospitality sector thriving and demand from this segment healthy and growing for the next few years, and the key performance indicators in the hospitality segment thus continued to improve in 2013 with lodging recording an increase in occupancy rates to 70 percent, a growth of 13.2 percent over 2012, and Average Daily Rate (ADR)s greater than 12.4 percent over the same period in 2012 . Moreover, Qatar's hotels performed better than its regional peers and Qatar hospitality recorded a healthy increase in occupancies in the final quarters of 2013 and first three quarters of 2014, while others in the region witnessed a slump amid the global financial slowdown that has caused sluggishness in tourist and investor activity in other parts of the GCC.



QATAR INTERIORS AND FIT-OUTS MARKET

After a temporary lull in early 2013 to take stock of the developmental progress made by the country toward achieving its National Vision 2030 as well as its preparedness to host the World Cup 2022 football event, the construction industry in Qatar has witnessed a year of steady growth with the government awarding a slew of projects across the physical and social infrastructure sectors, including a massive upgrade and expansion to its airport, ports, roads and highways, its rail and metro systems, educational and healthcare infrastructure. The government announced a record budget of US\$ 62 billion of spending for the years 2014-15 under the new leadership since 2013 not minding a shrinking surplus, to gear up Qatar for the event, while aiming to achieve its long term goal of diversification and upgrade.

With the growing slant on private sector participation, Qatar has become the second largest destination in the GCC after Saudi Arabia for investors and tourists alike. The resultant benefits for the building construction industry and its segments are likely to translate into large opportunities for the Qatar Interiors and Fit outs market encompassing internal wood works, soft and hard furnishings, lightings, partitions, flooring, kitchens, bathroom fittings etc constitutes approximately 10 to 20 percent of the average construction project value.

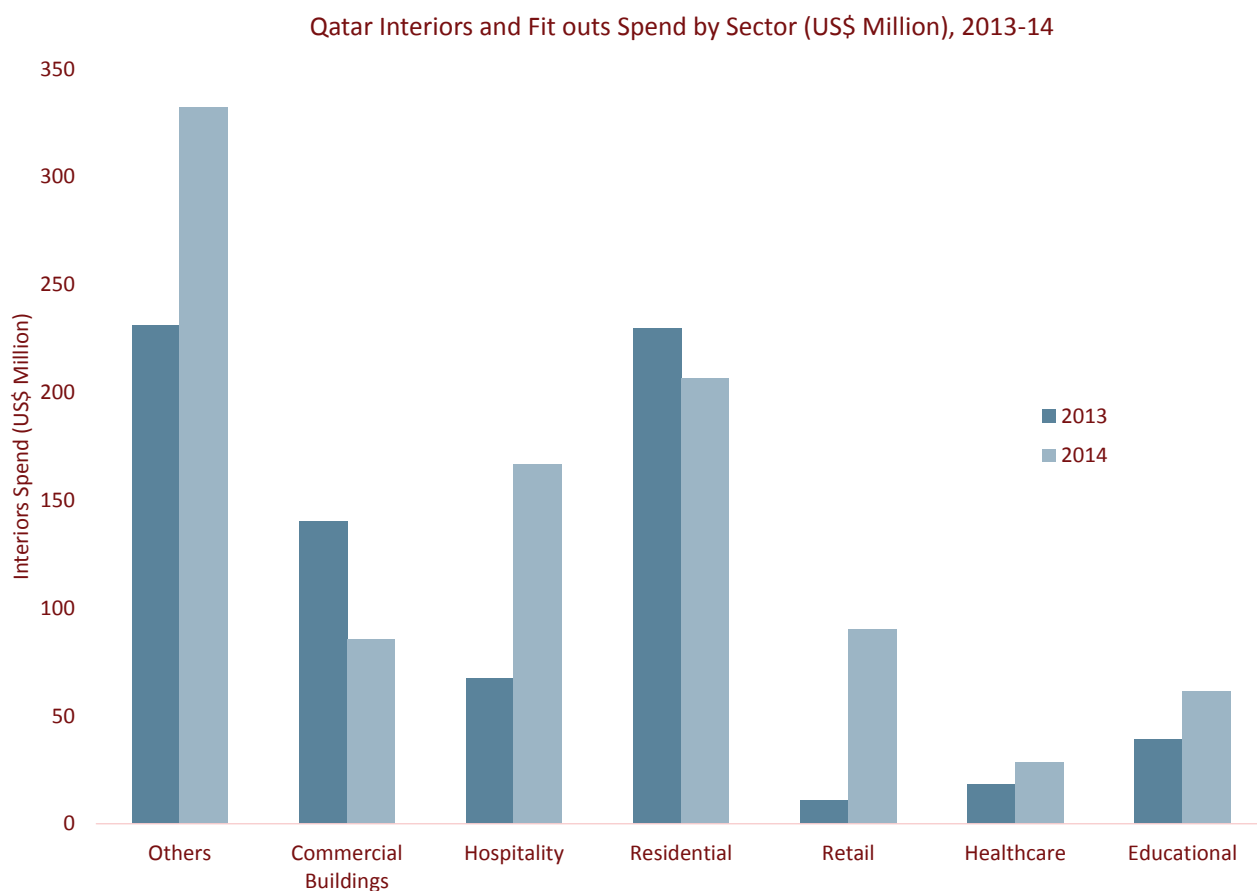
Though the market is as yet at a nascent stage, as the required infrastructure in terms of transportation, stadia and sports facilities, hotels, residential and commercial developments and backend support in terms of education and healthcare are gradually brought in place, the market is likely to present ample opportunity for growth across segments in the run up to the World Cup 2022 and beyond, with much of the action being lined up for the next few years.

The current size of the interiors and fit outs market is estimated at US\$ 0.51 billion based on projects completed in 2013 as of October 2014 likely to grow to US\$ 0.64 billion in 2014, led by extraordinary growth across the retail and hospitality segments spurred by the massive influx of population, increased economic activity and affluence of the world's richest population in Qatar in the run up to the World Cup 2022 event including expatriate workers, tourists and investors. The strong emphasis of the 2013 and 2014 budgets on healthcare and education, have led to a renewed spurt across these segments as well at a healthy pace as witnessed the largest growth in the number of projects lined up for completion as of

October 2014. However, while the residential sector continues to hold the largest share of project completions spurred by strong demand to house the large influx of population, the residential and commercial segments have witnessed lower levels of project completions in 2014 as focus of the government has shifted to infrastructure, education and healthcare segments.

The following figure represents the Interiors and Fit out spend across the key building segments in 2013 and 2014.

Figure 3: Qatar Interiors and Fit-outs Spend (US\$ Million), 2013-2014



Source: Ventures Onsite MENA Projects Database www.venturesonsite.com

Despite rising concerns of escalating costs of construction, budgetary spend continued unabated at an unparalleled pace in 2013 and 2014, sporting the tenth successive surplus in the history of Qatar budget. Public investment in the State accounted has averaged a regional high of 30 percent annually during the last five years, promising a lucrative line up of projects backed by definitive funding in coming years. Private investment spend through Public Private Partnerships (PPP) s are also likely to accentuate the upward trend in construction activity across sectors. Economic growth as a result has remained the highest in the region that is likely to translate into a thriving market for interiors and fit outs in the long run providing

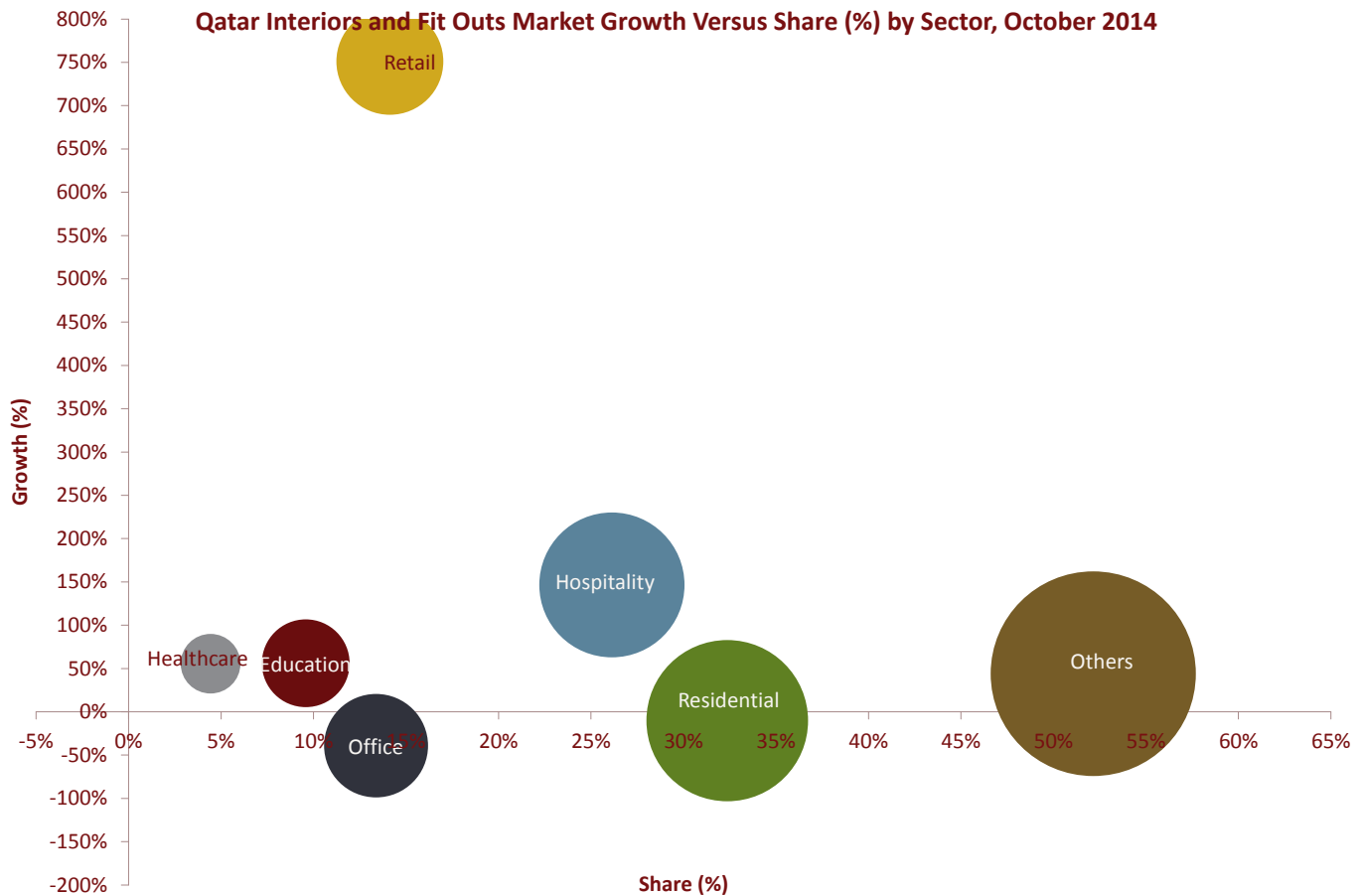
opportunities across Qatar's commercial, residential, hospitality, retail, education and healthcare sectors, with fresh projects as well as refurbishments fuelling growth over the next few years.

As the construction industry grew at 13.6 percent in 2013, and continued to do so in the early quarters of 2014, the building construction sector benefited the most with projects picking up pace, with the most activity likely to be witnessed across the retail and hospitality segments, as a direct impact of the vast influx in the run up to the World Cup 2022 alongside the added attraction of the world's richest population base in terms of per capita income. The large pipeline of retail projects due by the end of 2013 and 2014 as also those lined up for completion up to 2017, are further likely to boost activity across the retail segment of the interiors and fit outs market as well strongly, with supportive sectors such as recreation, leisure and tourism providing the required fillip to the incoming passenger traffic that is likely to enter the newly opened state of art Hamad International airport in the next few years.

The residential segment is likely to continue to hold the largest share of completed projects in 2014 as greater accommodation is sought by the expatriates entering the country as a part of the workforce in various capacities toward World Cup oriented projects.

Whereas required infrastructure in the healthcare and education space was invested in bulk over 2011 to 2012, the focus on these segments have received fresh impetus in 2013 and 2014 budgets to help completion of mega hospital and education projects and realize the vision of a knowledge based economy faster. The above trends can be summarized into the following growth share matrix of the building construction industry and its key segments over the periods 2013 and 2014 as below:

Figure 4: Qatar Building Segments, Growth-Share Analysis (%), 2014



Source: Ventures Onsite MENA Projects Database www.venturesonsite.com

Heightened investor and tourist interest as Qatar gets closer to hosting the prestigious World Cup 2022 Football event have led to rising occupancies in the latter half of 2014 up to 75 percent across the hospitality segment and increased footfalls across the retail segment. Qatar has a robust pipeline of hotel and retail projects to cater to the buoyant market demand across these segment in 2014, with a number of international brands setting shop in the capital. The opening of the new Hamad International Airport along with a number of companies establishing offices in the capital city of Doha and the additional push provided by the successive budgets of 2013 and 2014, announcing a host of projects and salary hikes for government employees, the retail segment has zoomed up to the top in terms of both growth and size, followed by the hospitality segment in terms of project completions in 2014.

A healthy growth has also been witnessed across the social infrastructure segments of education and healthcare where the focus of the 2013 and 2014 budgets were centred. With the heavy influx of workers and tourists into the country, the residential sector is also gearing up and along with the commercial segment is all set to forge ahead in 2014 with a large share of projects nearing completion.



Altogether, the focus is on accommodating comfortably the large influx of visitors and tourists for the World Cup 2022 event as well as tapping the domestic population with the world's largest disposable incomes in the next few years. These developments are likely to translate into massive opportunities for the interiors and fit outs market across segments.

The following is the list of top building projects in Qatar that have been completed up to October 2014 and those that are due for completion by the end of 2014.

Table 3: Top Qatar Building Projects Completed up to Q3 2014 by Value (US\$ Million)

PROJECT NAME	CLIENT	CONSULTANT	CONTRACTOR	VALUE (US\$ MILLION)	PROJECT TYPE
NDIA - Extension to the Main Terminal Building	NDIA Steering Committee	-	Sky Oryx JV	907	Airport
NDIA - Passenger Terminal Complex	NDIA Steering Committee	-	Sky Oryx JV	807	Airport
NDIA - Concourse C Superstructure Package	NDIA Steering Committee	-	Sky Oryx JV	700	Airport
School of Islamic Studies in Education City	Qatar Foundation for Education Science & Community Development	-	Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC)	210	Educational Facilities
Gulf Mall at Gharafa	Sheikh Nasser Bin Abdulla Al Thani / Business Trading Company	Arab Engineering Bureau (AEB)	Al Alia Trading & Contracting / International Decor & Contracting Company	200	Shopping Centre
Multi-Purpose Sports Hall and QFF Offices in Duhail	Government	-	Redco Construction - Almana	745	Sports Facilities



PROJECT NAME	CLIENT	CONSULTANT	CONTRACTOR	VALUE (US\$ MILLION)	PROJECT TYPE
The Piazza	Damac Properties, Dubai / Qatari Diar Real Estate Investment Company (QDREIC)	Erga International	Draieh Contracting	534	Residential
Staff & Crew Accommodation Complex	Qatar Airways	Arab Engineering Bureau (AEB) / GHD Global	Redco International	400	Residential
Al Wakra Mall	Ezdan Holding	Dara Engineering Consultants	Ezdan Holding	330	Shopping Centre
Bin Samikh Tower Hotel	Tanmiyat Real Estate Company	Arab Consulting Engineers (ACE)	Harinsa Qatar	315	Hotel
Police Training Institute in Doha	Ministry of Interior, Qatar	SMEC International	HassanESCO For Trading & Contracting	250	Educational Facilities
IIB Tower in Dafna	Qatar International Islamic Bank (QIIB)	Dara Engineering Consultants	HBK Contracting	246	Commercial Buildings
NDIA - Airline Operation Facilities	NDIA Steering Committee	-	Al Jaber Trading & Contracting (JTC)	230	Airport
Residential Tower in Porto Arabia - Plot No: 09A	Regency Group	KEO International Consultants / Callison Architecture, USA	Construction & Reconstruction Engineering Company (CRC)	200	Residential
4 Schools - Pack 3 Stage 7B	Public Works Authority (Ashghal)	CEG International	Al Jaber Trading & Contracting (JTC)	190	Educational Facilities
Qatar Foundation Research & Development Complex - Phase 1	Qatar Foundation for Education Science & Community Development	-	Redco Construction - Almana	175	Educational Facilities
Al Majid Residential Tower	Mr. Ahmad Mahdi Ali Al Majid	Arab Engineering Bureau (AEB)	Al Seal Trading & Contracting	150	Residential Buildings
3 Schools in Doha - Group 7A Pack 1	Public Works Authority (Ashghal)	-	International Trading & Contracting (ITC)	141	Educational Facilities



PROJECT NAME	CLIENT	CONSULTANT	CONTRACTOR	VALUE (US\$ MILLION)	PROJECT TYPE
Aspetar Orthopaedic Hospital Expansion	Aspire Zone	Halcrow Qatar	SEG Qatar	140	Hospital
Centralized Industrial Area at Halul Island	Qatar Petroleum (QP)	-	Oriental Enterprise	120	Mixed Use
Renovation of Radio & Television Complex	Public Works Authority (Ashghal)	EHA Consulting Engineers	TAG Engineering & Contracting	120	Commercial Buildings
Al Madaen Hotel (Sonesta Hotel)	Al Madaen Company	EHA Consulting Engineers	A'yaan Ash'sharq for Constructions / Hamton International	118	Hotel
Shooting Range Project	Qatar Olympic Committee	EHA Consulting Engineers	Marbu Contracting Company	110	Sports Facilities
Al Madaen Complex at Bin Mahmoud	Al Madaen Company	James Cubitt & Partners	Hamton International	106	Mixed Use
Scout Overland Camp at Al Mazrouaa	Public Works Authority (Ashghal) / Qatar Scouts & Guides Association	Diwan Architects (Diwan Al Emara), Qatar	Al Balagh Trading & Contracting Company, Qatar	100	Mixed Use
Residential Building in Al Sadd	Mr. Al Misnad	Design & Consult Bureau (DCB)	Al Khayarin Group	100	Residential
Al Farjaan Markets - Package 1	Qatar Development Bank	EGEC	Power Line Engineering	100	Commercial Buildings
Al Muftah Boys & Girls School	Mr. Abdul Rahman Al Muftah	South West Architecture (SWA)	Al Muftah Contracting	95	Educational Facilities
Residential Building at Bin Mahmoud	Al Fardan Real Estate	Arab Engineering Bureau (AEB)	Shannon Engineering	88	Residential

Source: Ventures Onsite MENA Projects Database www.venturesonsite.com/

Table 4: Top Qatar Building projects Due for Completion in 2014 by Value (US\$ Million)

PROJECT NAME	CLIENT	CONSULTANT	CONTRACTOR	ESTIMATED VALUE (US\$ MILLION)	PROJECT TYPE
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PROJECT NAME	CLIENT	CONSULTANT	CONTRACTOR	ESTIMATED VALUE (US\$ MILLION)	PROJECT TYPE
NDIA - North Node - Phase 3a	NDIA Steering Committee	-	Midmac Contracting / Six Construct	745	Airport
4 Hospitals at Hamad Bin Khalifa Medical City - Fit-out Package	Public Works Authority (Ashghal) / Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC)	KEO International Consultants / Fedcon	Hyundai Engineering & Construction Company	534	Hospital
Al Shamal Complex at Al Gharaffa	Ezdan Holding	Al Jazeera Engineering Consultants	Ezdan Holding	400	Mixed use
City Center Expansion Project	Al Faisal Holding Company / Al Rayan Tourism & Investment Company	Hellmuth, Obata + Kassabaum (HOK) Dar Al Handasah Consultants (Shair and Partners) / KEO International Consultants	Al Habtoor Leighton (HLG) Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC) / Teyseer Contracting	330	Hotel
Multi-Purpose Sports Hall at Lusail	Qatar Olympic Committee			315	Sports Facilities
NDIA - Passenger Terminal Lounges	NDIA Steering Committee	-	Permasteelisa Gartner Qatar LLC	250	Airport
NDIA-Emiri Terminal	NDIA Steering Committee	-	Construction Development Company (CDC) / Takenaka Corporation	246	Airport
Three Residential Towers in Viva Bahriya - Imperial Towers	United Development Company (UDC) / Durrat al Doha	Arab Engineering Bureau (AEB) / Meinhardt (Singapore) Pte Ltd.	American Qatari French Trading & Contracting (Afqco)	230	Residential
Qatar Foundation Headquarters Building	Qatar Foundation for Education Science & Community Dev.	Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) / ARUP	Midmac Contracting	200	Commercial Buildings



PROJECT NAME	CLIENT	CONSULTANT	CONTRACTOR	ESTIMATED VALUE (US\$ MILLION)	PROJECT TYPE
Twin Towers in West Bay	Sheikh Al Thani	Architectural Consulting Group (ACG)	Arabtec Construction	190	Mixed Use
Renovation of Sheraton Doha Resort & Convention Hotel	Katara Hospitality / Government	-	-	175	Hotel
Al Kheesa Gate Villas	Al Bandyar Real Estate	James Cubitt & Partners	Al Bandyar Engineering Trading & Contracting	150	Residential
Al Sadd Sports Club Multi-Purpose Hall	Qatar Olympic Committee	James Cubitt & Partners / KEO International Consultants	Aktor, Qatar	141	Sports Facilities
2 Residential Towers in the Porto Arabia District	The Land Investment & Real Estate Development / United Dev. Company (UDC)	KEO International Consultants / Callison Architecture	Simplex Infrastructure, Qatar	140	Residential
Westin Doha Hotel & Spa	Ghanem Al Thani Holding	KEO International Consultants	Ramco Trading & Contracting	120	Hotel
Northwestern College of Media & Communication at Education City	Qatar Foundation for Education Science & Community Dev.	Burns & McDonnell, USA	HBK Contracting / Renaissance Construction	120	Educational Facilities
NDIA-Passenger Terminal Complex Retail / F&B Concessions Fit-Out Works	NDIA Steering Committee	-	QIT-IMAR Trading & Contracting / ALEC	118	Airport
NDIA - Rental Car Facility & Midfield Tunnel Improvement	NDIA Steering Committee	-	Brookfield Multiplex	110	Airport



PROJECT NAME	CLIENT	CONSULTANT	CONTRACTOR	ESTIMATED VALUE (US\$ MILLION)	PROJECT TYPE
NDIA - Landscaping Works	NDIA Steering Committee	Hellmuth, Obata + Kassabaum (HOK) / Salfo	Al Nakheel Agriculture & Trading	106	Airport
Breeding Farm Project - Phase 1	Public Works Authority (Ashghal) / Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club	Qatari Engineer & Associates (QEA)	Redco Construction - Almana	100	Other - Buildings
Msheireb Downtown Doha - Heritage Quarters Phase 1A	Msheireb Properties	ARUP / John Mcaslan + Partners	Qatari Arabian Construction Company	100	Mixed Use

Source: Ventures Onsite MENA Projects Database www.venturesonsite.com/

FUTURE OUTLOOK FOR QATAR BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND INTERIORS MARKETS

Qatar has begun to step up its construction programme in 2014 after a brief review by a steering committee in 2013, cautiously scaling back 15 percent of its projects and rescheduling others to prevent cost and time overruns, while ensuring ensured debt levels did not become unmanageable. The country has adopted alongside a model that adopts a more supportive role for the government with the private sector to take up the agenda from where the government has laid the foundations, instead of competing with each other on projects. The country has begun in earnest to ready its infrastructure to host the World Cup 2022 FIFA football event, despite being steeped in controversies ranging from the threat of inflation from rising construction costs, to the ability to host the event in the peak summer seasons of temperatures over 40 degree Celsius and the latest allegations of unfair labour practices and corruption charges levelled against it in the process of bagging the honour to host the event. Firmly setting aside these threats, it has continued its heavy investment programme, with the 2014-15 placing a heavy slant on infrastructure both physical and social infrastructure sectors, including airports, ports, roads and highways and the railway system comprising metro and light rail transportation systems across Qatar, education and healthcare infrastructure.

As the country readies itself to receive 3.5 million visitors apart from putting the hydrocarbon rich economy on a path of sustained development on the lines of its National Vision 2030, it has managed to attract widespread investor interest from international hotel and retail brands flocking to the nation to set up offices and expand across the capital city of Doha and the surrounding venues of the stadia being constructed to host the events. Qatar has employed a strategy of carefully planned growth that closely monitors progress while sustaining funding primarily from expansionary budgetary spending and keeping external debt in tight control. The extensive plans for government spending have invested already across multiple sectors including buildings, infrastructure and energy as also social infrastructure such as healthcare and education in its initial years of 2011 to 2013, to achieve a balanced and sustainable growth path.

A smooth change of leadership in June 2013 ensured policy continuity and accelerated thrust on projects that had earlier slowed down due to reviews and monitoring delays. A fresh thrust has been received in 2014 with a record budget of US\$ 62 billion spend for 2014-15, toward the completion of key infrastructure projects including roadways, rail, metro, airports, ports and stadia as the country edges closer to the event.

Healthcare and education, the social infrastructure sector have resumed importance in the recent budgets with greater investments toward building up of schools and hospitals already under construction and new ones planned for in the next few years. The period from 2014 to 2017 is likely to witness a frantic pace of activity across the building construction sector in the run up to the World Cup.

The regulatory environment too has been tweaked favourably to help this trend with gradual easing of controls and simplification of Qatar's legal and regulatory framework to attract foreign investment and know how. Though challenges abound in terms of quality and technological standard maintenance amid the tight timelines and the as yet complex Qatari laws under which foreign investors and companies need to function and the local Qatari population being among the minority and dependent on expatriate labour to meet its needs, as also the arid climatic conditions raising doubts on the country's capabilities to host the prestigious FIFA event, the abundance of government resources to harness the resources and meet shortfalls are likely to help tide over the obstacles and help Qatar achieve its goals, while proving to be an attractive market for investors worldwide in the long run.

While a moratorium on hydrocarbon projects till 2015 to take stock of its existing hydrocarbon resources has slowed down projects across the oil and gas sector, infrastructure and building construction have vastly benefited from the successive expansionary budgets with the latest one for 2014-15 of a record US\$ 62 billion that has made vast allocations across the infrastructure, education and healthcare sectors that are likely to translate directly and indirectly into greater activity across the building construction industry as a whole over the next few years. The National Strategy 2011-2016 has mapped out the road map for these investments and the hosting of the World Cup 2022 Football event has speeded up the process by ensuring timelines for these projects.

All sectors of the construction industry are likely to reap the benefits of this growth plan with over US\$ 220 billion worth of projects in the pipeline across various stages of planning to construction, with bulk of construction contracts for the World Cup being awarded across sectors in the period between 2013 and 2017, the crucial years to the build-up for hosting the World Cup in 2022. Building construction projects are



therefore likely to surge ahead in 2014 and beyond with a direct positive effect on the interiors and fit outs market in the country which is as yet at a nascent stage and likely to grow immensely in the future.

MARKET NEWS UPDATES

QATAR ANNOUNCES THAT CONSTRUCTION OF FIRST WORLD CUP STADIUM TO BEGIN IN 2015

Source: <https://www.venturesonsite.com/news/qatar-announces-that-construction-of-first-world-cup-stadium-to-begin-in-2015/>

The organizers of the Qatar FIFA World Cup 2022 has announced that the contract for the construction of the first of its tournament stadium will be awarded in 2015. In a statement released by the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC), it was stated that construction of the 40,000-seater Al Wakrah Stadium is “moving at a significant pace”, with enabling works currently being conducted and completion slated in 2018.

IMF BULLISH ON QATAR, CUTS ARAB GROWTH FORECAST

Source: <http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/business/qatar-business/303007/imf-bullish-on-qatar-cuts-arab-growth-forecast>

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has increased its economic growth projections for Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, but lowered those of Kuwait, whose economy contracted by 0.4 percent last year. In its semi-annual World Economic Outlook released yesterday, the IMF said the Middle East and North African (Mena) region would grow by 2.6 percent this year, compared with 3.2 percent forecast in April. The Fund lowered its economic growth forecasts for most Arab countries over unrest in the region but said growth would remain generally strong in the oil-rich Gulf States.

And even though the figure for next year is seen as higher, it was cut from 4.5 percent to 3.8 percent. “With increased strife in some countries in the region, the projected pickup in growth in 2014... is now projected to be weaker relative” to the April forecast, the IMF said. “Growth is expected to increase in 2015, assuming that security improves, allowing for a recovery in oil production, particularly in Libya,” it said.

QATAR RAIL APPOINTS DUTCH FIRM CHIEF ARCHITECT TO DESIGN METRO STATIONS

Source <https://www.venturesonsite.com/news/qatar-rail-appoints-dutch-firm-chief-architect-to-design-metro-stations/>



Qatar Rail has appointed Dutch architectural firm UNStudio as principal architect for the Qatar Integrated Railway Project (QIRP) that will see the firm design over 30 stations in first phase of the Doha Metro network.

NON-HYDROCARBON SECTOR CONTINUES TO DRIVE GROWTH: QNB

Source: <http://www.gulf-times.com/eco.-bus.%20news/256/details/387630/imf-upgrades-qatar-2014-growth-forecast-to-59%25>

Supporting Qatar's economic diversification, the non-hydrocarbon sector continued to drive the country's economic growth in second quarter of 2014 (Q2, 14). Rapid growth in the non-hydrocarbon sector (11.3 percent) was spurred by large investments in major infrastructure projects and by the fast growing population. On the other hand, the hydrocarbon sector declined 2.2 percent year-on-year as a result of lower crude oil production and temporary gas production shutdowns, a QNB Group analysis noted yesterday. Quoting the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics (MDPS) figures, the report said the country's real GDP growth accelerated to 5.7 percent in Q2 2014, from a revised 5.4 percent in the previous quarter.

AL MEERA ANNOUNCES THAT EIGHT MALLS IN QATAR ON SCHEDULE TO OPEN BY END OF THE YEAR

Source: http://www.tradearabia.com/news/RET_264835.html

Al Meera, a leading retail chain in Qatar, said work was on track for the opening of all the eight new malls in the country by the end of this year. The company officials announced this at the launch of its new branch in Legtaifiya. Of the eight, the first one to open will be the Jeryan Nejaima branch mall. Al Meera said the other malls are coming up at Al Wakra, Al Thumama, Al Wajba, Muaither, Al Azizia, Zakhira and Al Muraikh. In addition to all this, the retailer will also open a new store in the Gulf mall.

MERCURY MENA WINS QATAR HEALTH CENTRE CONTRACT

<http://www.constructionweekonline.com/article-30241-mercury-mena-wins-qatar-health-centre-contract/>

Mercury MENA, an engineering specialist solutions provider, has been awarded the Workers Hospital and Integrated Health Centre project in Mesaieed, Qatar. The project comprises of a 120-bed hospital, an integrated health centre, a mosque and a central utility plant.



QATAR TARGETS INFRASTRUCTURE, EDUCATION, HEALTH IN 'DIVERSE' BUDGET

Source: <http://www.arabianbusiness.com/qatar-targets-infrastructure-education-health-in-diverse-budget-543919.html#.U1HyrPmSzsG>

Qatar has flagged a greater focus on infrastructure, logistics, education and health in its 2014-15 budget as the LNG-rich state works to diversify its economy. Qatar has started introducing a medium-term budget framework (MTBF), which will help ensure government spending is shielded from revenue volatility and expenditure targets are not exceeded, while providing a platform for assessing the quality of spending.

QATAR CONSTRUCTION TO SOAR IN 2014

Source: <http://www.constructionweekonline.com/article-28829-qatar-construction-to-soar-in-2014/>

The country's real GDP (adjusted for inflation) is slated to grow 6.3% this year from 6.5% in 2013, and 7.8% in 2015, said the Qatar Economic Outlook (QEO) 2014-15. Key to that growth is Qatar's construction industry, with the pace of growth up on last year. "Construction activity is projected to expand by 14.1% in 2014, up from 13.6% in 2013, and may well accelerate a shade faster in 2015," said the report.

"The main driver is the government's heavy investment in economic infrastructure, particularly local roads, expressways, the Doha metro and rail, and drains and sanitation, at a pace that is likely to pick up over 2014 and 2015.



METHODOLOGY

1. All estimations made for contract awards and construction spend are based on the project schedule as of October 2014.
2. All projects announced and on drawing boards as entered in Ventures Onsite (www.venturesonsite.com) MENA Projects Database as of October 2014 are taken into consideration for compiling the charts.
3. Projects which have a project value less than US\$5 million are not taken into account for the calculations.

CODE OF ETHICS

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END OF REPORT



VENTURES ONSITE MENA PROJECTS DATABASE

Ventures MENA Projects Database provides detailed, reliable and current project information on more than 13,000 current / future projects in the Middle East and North African Countries (UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Yemen, Egypt, Libya, Algeria, Iran, Iraq, Tunisia, Sudan and Morocco) each over US\$ 2.5 million in the following industry sectors; Oil & Gas, Pipeline, Industrial, Buildings, Power & Water, Marine and Infrastructure & Sewerage.

Projects are identified from the concept or preliminary study stage, and followed through the various phases of the project. I.e. tender for the design consultancy, design, tender /contract award of consultant / main contractor through to commissioning.

Our projects information typically includes the project scope, overall project value, project schedule i.e. when tenders were issued/closed for consultancy/main contractor and schedule for appointment of consultant/main contractor etc. and key contacts like client/developer/architectural consultant/ main contractor at a later stage all with project manager names/contact details. MEP (Mechanical, Electrical and plumbing) contractor when appointed is also included for all building projects in the database.

For more details, please visit our website: www.venturesonsite.com

If you would like to subscribe to our MENA Projects Database or to know more on how the database can assist your organization, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our contact details are as follows:

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