



# Real estate monthly pulse

KPMG in Qatar

July 2019



Welcome to the July issue of KPMG in Qatar's Real Estate Monthly Pulse, which brings you the latest news highlights from the real estate and related sectors in Qatar. We hope you find this information valuable. If you may have any queries or would like to discuss the newsletter, business or the market, kindly contact us.

For any enquiries, please contact:

## Real estate

### [Real estate deal value jumped 100% to QAR2.99bn in April](#)

Qatar's real estate market witnessed a remarkable growth in the month of April 2019, with the total value of monthly transactions reaching at QAR2.99bn, registering a triple-digit growth of 100 percent (month-on-month) compared to QAR1.49bn reported in March 2019, according to the latest edition of the Qatar Monthly Statistics released by the Planning and Statistics Authority. When compared on year-on-year basis, the transaction value in April saw a fall of 8.8 percent against QAR3.28bn registered in the corresponding month last year (April 2018).

### [Qatar's real estate market sees more stable & robust growth](#)

Qatar's real estate market witnessed steady and consistent growth over the first quarter of 2019 compared to the same period last year, according to Qatar Central Bank's (QCB) Real Estate Price Index. The QCB's monthly index increased to 251.99 in March 2019 from 248.27 in February and 247.96 in January this year. When compared with the same month last year, the index has inched up 2.56 points against 249.43 in March 2018.

### [Just Real Estate adds Msheireb Downtown Doha project to its portfolio](#)

Just Real Estate (JRE) announced that it has added Msheireb Properties, a subsidiary of the Qatar Foundation and the developer of Msheireb Downtown Doha (MDD), to its portfolio.



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Through this tie-up, JRE will be responsible for the leasing and marketing of residential, retail and commercial premises at the city district with an on-site team.

### **UDC wins two accolades at Arabian Property Awards**

United Development Company (UDC) received the “Best Mixed-Use Development Award” for The Pearl-Qatar and the “Commercial High-Rise Development Award” for the UDC Tower during the Arabian Property Awards 2019-2020. UDC executive director, commercial, Abdulrahman al-Ibrahim received the two awards during a ceremony held recently at the Marriott Hotel Grosvenor Square in London.

## **Tourism and Hospitality**

### **Qatar’s hotels benefit from rising tourism**

Qatar’s hospitality sector is benefiting from a surge in tourists visiting the country. Hotels and resorts are doing brisk business as their occupancy ratio has risen significantly this year compared to last year, helped by a sharp increase in tourist inflow to the country. The first quarter has been busy for the sector as occupancy has increased during January, February, and March. The occupancy rate of hotels in Qatar jumped from 62 percent in March 2018 to 68 percent in March this year, according to the Planning and Statistics Authority data.

### **Budget hotels see highest revenue growth of 30%**

The average revenues of hotels across all categories witnessed solid growth (year-on-year) in April 2019, with the budget hotels recording the highest 30 percent. The average hotel revenue, measured by per available room, increased to QAR264 in April 2019 (year-to-date, YTD), up by 5.6 percent or QAR14, compared to QAR250 a year ago (April 2018), as per the latest available data released by the Planning and Statistics Authority.

### **IHG debuts Hotel Indigo in Qatar**

InterContinental Hotel Group (IHG®), one of the world's leading hotel groups, has signed a Management Agreement with Qatari holding company, Al Sraiya Hotels & Hospitality Group which is under Al Sraiya Holding Group, to debut its global upper-upscale boutique brand, Hotel Indigo, in Qatar. Hotel Indigo Doha at Lusail is due to open in 2023 and will feature 200 rooms.

### **Qatar welcomes more visitors with new authorization system**

Qatar is set to welcome even more visitors from around the world with the new electronic visitor authorization system, launched recently by Ministry of Interior and Qatar National Tourism Council (QNTC). The authorization system enables residents to invite family and relatives from around the world to visit Qatar during the ‘Summer in Qatar’ programme and obtain a free visa upon arrival after applying through the online portal. Online authorization

system streamlines application process with a 24-hour turnaround time.

#### [Cruise tourism to increase after Doha Port dredging](#)

The deepening of Doha Port and the addition of extra berthing will help in boosting tourism in the country as it will increase the number of cruise ships and tourists coming to the country. The Ministry of Transport and Communications said last week that it had completed the dredging works at Doha Port as part of its redevelopment project. Up to 3.5mn cubic meters of material in the approach channel has been cleared and extra berthing has been provided to accommodate more than one giant cruise ship, it added.

### **Retail**

#### [Newest LuLu Hypermarket high-end flagship concept store to debut at Doha Mall](#)

Doha Mall, managed and operated by Al Mana Malls, has announced that it will be home to the newest LuLu Hypermarket concept store as its first major anchor tenant. The celebrated retail chain boasts more than 35,000 high-quality goods within its 8,000sqm location, will open its doors to the public upon Doha Mall's 2020 opening.

#### [Getit Group opens retail outlet, fulfillment center in Qatar](#)

Following the launch our e-commerce webstore (getit.qa), with both iOS & Android Mobile Apps, Getit Group declared the inauguration of its first ever Qatari-based retail outlet and fulfillment center (GETIT MART) at GWC Busulba Warehousing Park.

#### [Daiso Japan opens sixth store in Qatar](#)

Daiso Japan, the renowned retail store known for its unique and practical value products, expanded its presence through Mall of Qatar with the opening of its sixth store in Qatar.

### **Healthcare**

#### [Al Emadi Hospital sets up new branch](#)

Dr Mohamed Abdulla Al Emadi Medical Group has started operations at its new branch, Al Emadi Hospital Clinic at North Gate Mall in the Azghawa area. During the first phase, the facility will offer outpatient clinics with accompanying medical services, and there will be 15 medical consultants serving across 15 different specialties. The new facility also offers integrated medical services such as laboratory and X-ray, pharmacy and nursing services.

## Industrial

### [QFZA to create new free zone in Msheireb Downtown](#)

Qatar Free Zones Authority (QFZA) is planning to create a new free zone in Msheireb Downtown Doha, which will be home to the upcoming Media City and top-class IT companies.

The Media City, being established under the Law No. 13 of 2019, aims at managing and developing media activity in Qatar, and enhancing its position as a venue for attracting international media, technology companies, research and training institutions in the media and digital media, in addition to supporting and promoting digital and technological media projects, achieving economic and professional integration.

Global IT giant Microsoft already has a cabinet approval for establishing a global data centre in Qatar called 'Azure Cloud Computing'.

### [Milaha deploys new Warehouse Management System in Qatar](#)

Infor, a global leader in business cloud software specialized by industry, announced that Qatari-based heavyweight, Milaha has successfully deployed Infor WMS to help digitize its supply chain and warehouse management operations. Milaha Maritime will pillar on Infor's WMS application across Milaha Logistics City to accommodate its service offerings, which include warehousing and distribution, freight forwarding in all modes, transportation, and stevedoring services.

*Sources: The Peninsula, Gulf Times, MENAFN, Hospitality net*

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