



Qatar and Oklahoma: Historic Ties



OKLAHOMA

QATAR-U.S. RELATIONSHIP AT A GLANCE

Qatar and the United States work together closely on national security and economic activities. Qatar plays a major role in diplomacy, mediating peace talks, and negotiating hostage releases in collaboration with the United States.

Qatar was the first Middle Eastern nation to join the U.S. Visa Waiver Program, improving travel and cultural exchanges. The U.S. named Qatar a “major non-NATO ally” in 2022, enhancing defense cooperation.

Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar hosts nearly 11,000 American troops and is a vital military hub in the region for the United States. The U.S. also supplies Qatar with advanced military equipment.

More than 850 American companies operate in Qatar. Qatar Airways links the United States to destinations around the globe. As a leading liquified natural gas exporter, Qatar contributes to American energy security and invests in American projects. After hosting the successful 2022 FIFA World Cup, Qatar has partnered with the United States, Canada, and Mexico to offer advice on security, transportation, and logistical operations for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Qatar invests in many industries across the U.S., including several leading companies that create jobs in Oklahoma.

ENERGY

Companies with deep Oklahoma roots are major partners in Qatar’s oil and gas industry. ConocoPhillips is a key stakeholder in Qatar’s world-leading liquified natural gas (LNG) industry. Phillips66 is partnered with Qatar in multi-billion-dollar downstream projects. Exceleerate Energy is among the largest suppliers of Qatar’s LNG to global customers, handling approximately 10% of Qatar’s LNG exports.

AVIATION

Oklahoma is an important partner to Qatar in aviation. Boeing has provided more than \$100 billion in commercial airplanes to Qatar Airways, which were built in part by the company’s more than 80 suppliers in the state.

DEFENSE

Oklahoma is a vital part of Qatar’s deep defense relationship with the United States. B-52s built in Oklahoma have conducted countless missions from Al Udeid Air Base. Dozens of Oklahoma companies have contributed to the more than \$38 billion in defense goods Qatar has purchased from the U.S.

BY THE NUMBERS

Oklahoma-Qatar Trade

\$13.3M

\$408K

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Education City – American Universities in Qatar

Congressional hearings on antisemitism in 2024 included statements that inaccurately accused Qatar of influencing some of the protests on college campuses in the U.S.

- Qatar has not and will not support organizations that support antisemitism.
- Avril Haines, the Director of National Intelligence, when asked if there was any evidence that Qatar played a role in antisemitic protests on college campuses, said simply that there was none. The question and answer occurred during the Worldwide Threat Hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee on May 2, 2024.
- Qatar, in fact, does not influence anything that happens on university campuses in the U.S.
- Six prominent American universities operate branch campuses in Qatar: Cornell University (Weill Cornell Medical College), Texas A&M University, Carnegie Mellon University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Georgetown University, and Northwestern University.
- These excellent institutions – now in their third decade of operation in Qatar – award degrees to Qatari women and men, and to other students who wish to study in Qatar.
- The universities operate in Qatar with total independence. Their academic degree programs in Qatar are entirely governed by the administrators of their home campuses.
- The universities' academic freedom is guaranteed by contract between the universities and the funding provider, the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development.
- Contrary to some media reports, Qatar is not the largest foreign donor to U.S. universities.
- As the U.S. Department of Education has reported, Qatar pays about \$500 million annually to the six U.S. universities.
- These payments are not donations. The money covers the operating and administrative costs of the branch campuses of American universities in Qatar. This includes faculty salaries and other expenses incurred in Qatar, not in the U.S.
- The universities' achievements are manifold and are a source of pride in Qatar. At Qatar's campus of Texas A&M, for example, the Class of 2024 included 73 women engineers out of 144 graduates, a majority.