

Qatar's Digital Frontier: Mapping the Future of Skills

invest
Qatar

Deloitte.

Prepared by Investment Promotion Agency Qatar (Invest Qatar) in collaboration with Deloitte



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FOREWORD



Global digital transformation in an era of digital connectivity – has revolutionised economies, businesses and societies. Automation and technological advancements are improving efficiency, enhancing innovation and reshaping the employment landscape. To stay competitive and foster sustainable growth, economies target the development of the workforce alongside digital transformation trends. Digital skills are essential in today's dynamic landscape – serving as the cornerstone for individuals to participate meaningfully in the modern workforce and contribute to economic growth – thereby fostering a society that is well-equipped to address the challenges and opportunities of the digital age.

Qatar is undergoing a profound transformation driven by technology – catalysing economic diversification and positioning the region as a hub for digital innovation. In parallel, the nation is making substantial strides in ambitious upskilling programs and partnerships to equip its workforce with the digital skills needed for the evolving job market. Qatar's digital transformation journey is a testament to the nation's commitment to innovation and progress outlined by its National Vision 2030 (QNV 2030). Qatar has harnessed the power of technology to drive economic growth and enhance the quality of life by developing digital infrastructure and enabling ecosystems. The country's proactive commitment to digital transformation, technological advancement and the development of a knowledge-economy offers attractive market opportunities for foreign investors.

Investment Promotion Agency Qatar (Invest Qatar) remains committed to expanding its strategic collaborations with international companies, enabling them to deepen their presence in Qatar, access lucrative opportunities across various sectors and contribute to economic diversification. Invest Qatar and Deloitte are pleased to present this report on the critical digital trends underlining the demand for digital skills. As a critical part of the report, a survey was conducted to assess Qatar's digital skills within the context of the evolving technological landscape. This report also highlights a compelling narrative on investment opportunities arising from the dynamic landscape of the digital economy and the growing demand for digital skills, paving the way for foreign investors to capitalise on the transformative potential of Digitalisation.

This report delves into the need for nurturing digital skills which are the foundation of the workforce under digital transformation. Digital skills empower the workforce to navigate through an evolving job market by improving employability and productivity. These skills bridge the gap between industry demands and available skills which are key to unlocking opportunities and staying competitive. This study provides valuable insights to businesses and policymakers into the digital jobs and skills landscape and relevant opportunities to develop the future workforce of Qatar.

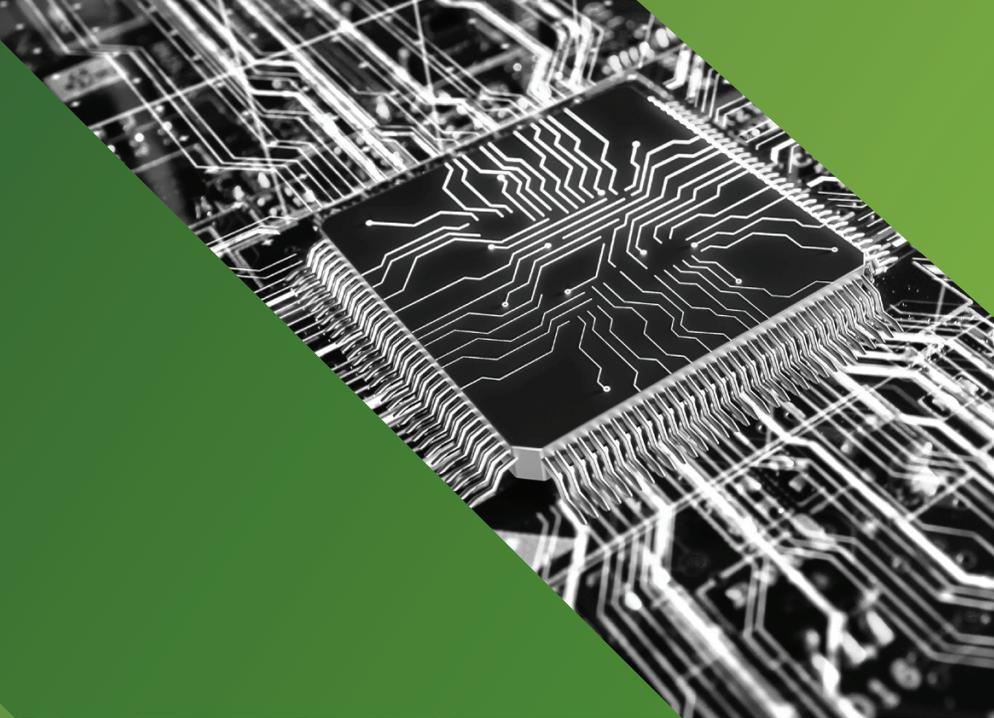


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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- ▼ The success of the digital economy is rooted in the rapid integration of emerging technologies across multiple sectors, which is supported by proactive government initiatives to modernise IT infrastructure to boost economic gains and enhance efficiency.
- ▼ The rapid expansion and integration of advanced technologies have transformed the labour market, resulting in an increase in demand for digital competencies that will have a significant impact on the current and future workforce.
- ▼ Qatar is decisively driving its digital transformation by investing in critical areas such as cloud infrastructure, data centres, cybersecurity and the use of emerging technologies. This strategic focus positions the country as a regional digital and innovation leader.
- ▼ According to the digital skills landscape survey conducted by Invest Qatar in collaboration with Deloitte, businesses in Qatar are optimistic about digital transformation. Businesses expect that Digitalisation will boost innovation, improve operational efficiency, data-driven decision-making and support market expansion.
- ▼ The integration of technological trends, specifically big data analytics, AI and cloud computing, is anticipated to play a pivotal role in the growth strategies of enterprises in Qatar.
- ▼ The demand for digital skills in Qatar is expected to increase, particularly in cybersecurity, cloud computing and software development. This surge is driven by improved productivity and efficiency as a result of the widespread adoption of emerging technologies and automation.



01.

THE RISE OF
THE DIGITAL
ECONOMY



THE DIGITAL ECONOMY IS POISED FOR RAPID EVOLUTION DRIVEN BY INVESTMENTS IN TECHNOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND HEIGHTENED EXPENDITURE IN IT RESOURCES...



Core Infrastructure

Robust core infrastructure facilitates seamless data exchange and ensures that businesses and individuals can access and utilise digital services

5G

- ▼ \$798 billion project 5G market value by 2023
- ▼ 22.3 million jobs created by 5G by 2035

Data Centres

- ▼ \$438.7 billion data centre revenue by 2028
- ▼ \$236 billion global IT spending on data centre systems by 2024

Internet Trend and Insights

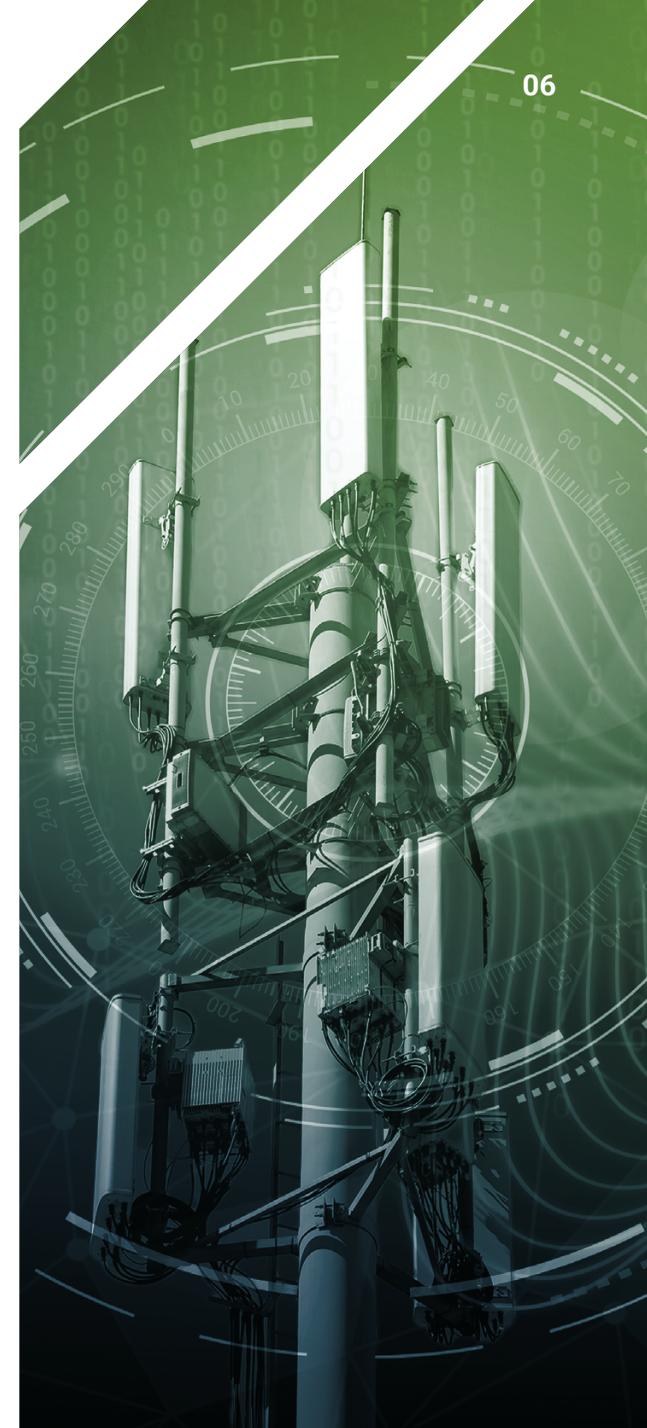
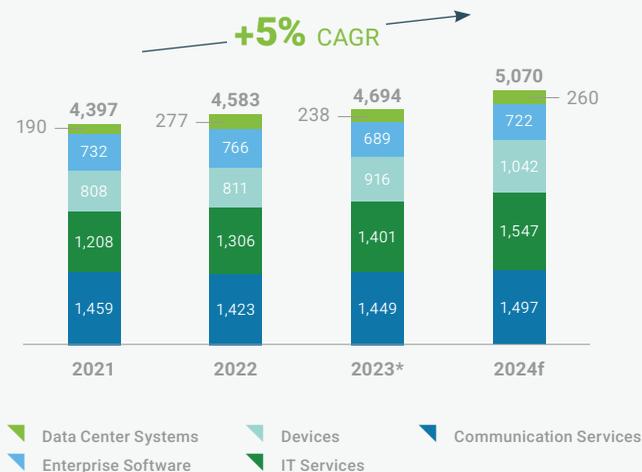
- ▼ 66% average global internet usage worldwide in 2023
- ▼ \$42.1 trillion global spending on internet ads in 2022



Information Technology

IT advancements enable data analytics, artificial intelligence and automation, further accelerating digitalisation of industries

IT Worldwide Spending by Segment, 2019-2024, in USD\$ Billion



WIDESPREAD DIGITALISATION AND THE ADOPTION OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES RESHAPES INDUSTRIES; ENHANCING CONNECTIVITY AND UNLOCKING NEW AVENUES FOR INNOVATION AND GROWTH



Sector Digitalisation

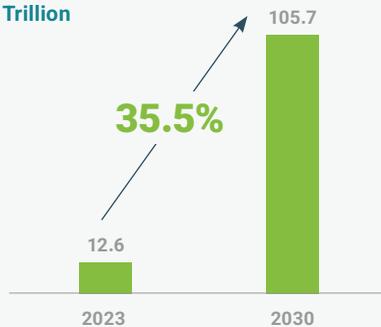
The Digitalisation of sectors enables organisations to streamline operations, enhance customer experiences and access data for decision-making

Digital Revolution in Finance

- ▼ \$449 billion FinTech Market Size by 2028
- ▼ 7.17 billion FinTech Users by 2027

E-commerce: Retail in the Digital Age

Market Size, in US\$ Trillion
(2023-2030)



Emerging Technologies

Emerging technologies have the potential to transform business models, create new revenue streams and drive economic prosperity

Artificial Intelligence

\$2 trillion AI Market Size by 2030

Internet of Things

\$3.3 trillion IoT Market Size by 2030

Blockchain

\$469 billion Market Size by 2030

AR/VR

\$200 billion Market Size by 2030

Cloud Computing

\$2.4 trillion Market Size by 2030

INCREASED ADOPTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND ENHANCED DIGITAL ACCESS ARE EXPECTED TO IMPACT THE LABOUR MARKET

Global Investments in 2022

Evolution of AI

\$104bn

Investments in applied AI

Digitalisation for the Future

\$62bn

Investments in Web3

Cloud and Computing

\$84bn

Investments in Cloud and Edge Computing

Innovation and Advancement in Engineering

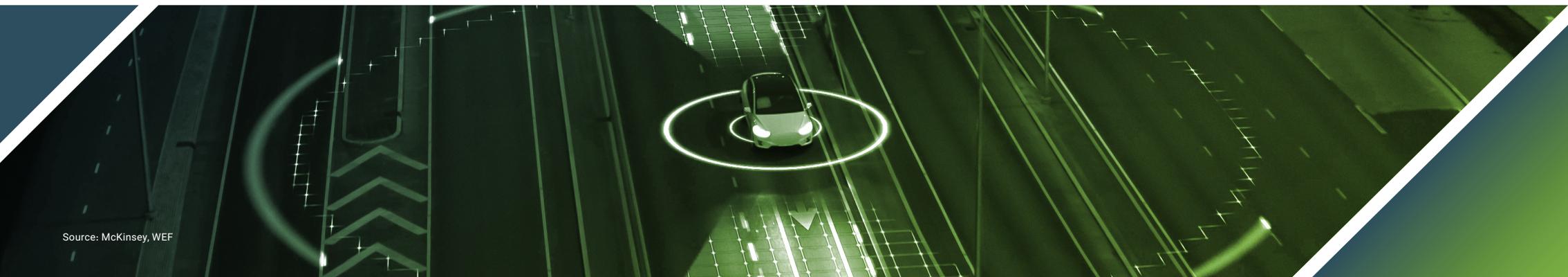
\$194bn

Investments in Mobility Technologies

Sustainability, Efficiency and CleanTech

\$86bn

Investments in climate technologies beyond electrification and renewables



ADVANCEMENTS IN DIGITALISATION ARE DRIVING INNOVATION AND RESHAPING INDUSTRIES – TRANSFORMING JOB ROLES THROUGH AUTOMATION AND DATA-DRIVEN DECISION-MAKING

Increase in Job Postings (2021-2022)

+44%

Generative AI related job roles

Rising investments are driving enhancements in AI capabilities causing a rising growth in demand for digital skills and talent

+40%

Web3 job roles

Web3 and next generation software development is attracting large investments and creating demand for skills in underlying technologies like blockchain

+12%

Computing related job roles

Edge computing is expected to witness a double-digit growth globally over the next five years causing an increase in demand for computing and engineering skills

+15%

Mobility technologies related job roles

Autonomous driving technologies is expected to generate \$400bn in revenue by 2035, driving the automotive-software talent pool to expand

+8%

Climate technologies related job roles

Climate technologies like carbon capture, utilisation, storage (CCUS), carbon removals and technologies to track net-zero progress are rising in importance and driving job growth

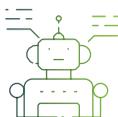


ADVANCEMENTS IN DIGITALISATION ARE DRIVING INNOVATION, RESHAPING INDUSTRIES AND TRANSFORMING JOB ROLES

In the ever-evolving economic landscape, the rapid rise of digital skills has become a driving force, fostering innovation, bridging disparities and propelling industries into an interconnected, technology-driven future

Employment Impact of Digitalisation

Digitalisation has both disrupted and enriched the employment landscape by creating new job opportunities transforming operations, enhancing efficiency and fostering innovation.



Job Displacement by Automation



New Job Creations



Entrepreneurship & Innovation



Productivity Improvement

By 2027, new jobs will emerge and others will be displaced by a shift in the division of labour between humans and machines

25%

of today's jobs will change

69mn

new jobs will be created

Top 5 fastest growing jobs

AI and ML Specialists

Sustainability Specialists

Business Intelligence Analysts

Information Security Analysts

Fintech Engineers

Top 5 skills on the rise between 2023-27



Creative thinking



Analytical thinking



Technological literacy



Resilience, flexibility & agility



Curiosity & learning

■ Cognitive skills
■ Technology skills
■ Self-efficacy

The influence of digital skills extends far beyond the boundaries of the ICT sector, influencing other industries through improved efficiency

Top industries for increasing technological skill requirements, 2023-2027



Financial Services and Management



Energy Technologies and Utilities



Other Services sectors including employment, wellbeing and care services

THE MIDDLE EAST REGION IS WITNESSING A PROACTIVE DRIVE TOWARDS ADOPTING EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES ENCOMPASSING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION EFFORTS AIMED AT ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The region is actively adopting digital transformation with high internet penetration, improved e-government services, growing public cloud spending and robust growth in ICT spending

\$184bn



IT spending in the MENA Region by 2024

Achieving Cyber Resilience

\$28.7bn

The Middle East cyber security market by 2025

Increasing ICT Spending

\$175bn

Spending on IT in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) in 2023

Cloud-first Strategy Driving Digitalisation

\$2.5bn

Public cloud market in GCC by 2024

E-government Initiatives Enabling People-Centric Digital Services

100%

According to UN E-Government Development Index 2022, all GCC countries have a high degree of development of e-government services at the national level

Expansion of Emerging Tech in the Region

\$320bn

The absolute contribution of AI to MENA's GDP by 2030



QATAR IS PRIORITISING DIGITAL INNOVATION AND TRANSFORMATION TO MODERNISE ITS ECONOMY, FOSTER SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND HARNESS TECHNOLOGY FOR LONG-TERM GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS

Qatar is rapidly adopting digital transformation trends to modernise various sectors and drive efficiency, innovation and economic growth

9.2%



Projected CAGR of the ICT spending in Qatar (2020-2024)

Achieving
Cyber Resilience

12.6%

Projected growth (CAGR, 2022-2026) of Qatar's cybersecurity market is poised for rapid growth

Increased
ICT Spending

6.3bn

ICT spending in Qatar by 2027

Cloud-first Strategy
Driving Digitalisation

26.3%

Expected growth of the cloud computing market size in Qatar is expected to reach \$303m by 2026 (2022-2026)

E-government Initiatives
Enabling People-Centric
Digital Services

+1.5k

Qatar's e-government portal Hukoomi offers more than 1500 online services to make information and services more accessible

Expansion of Emerging
Tech in Qatar

\$1.7bn

The total government investment in the TASMU Smart Qatar, which consists of 40% IoT use cases

02.

**QATAR'S ECOSYSTEM
FOR DIGITAL
TRANSFORMATION
AND SKILLS**



QATAR'S DEDICATION TO DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION BOASTS ADVANCED INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUPPORT PROGRAMMES, FACILITATING SMOOTH INTEGRATION ACROSS DIVERSE SECTORS



Qatar's government enables the nation's digital transformation journey through several targeted strategies and initiatives dedicated to realising a digital economy through conducive ecosystem for innovation in technologies such as FinTech, Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity and Cloud



The importance of developing digital skills through reskilling and upskilling is crucial and must occur in parallel to digital transformation – to tap into the potential offered by advanced technologies



Qatar has placed strategically elevated the importance of cultivating digital skills implementing several initiatives across academia, research hubs and industrial partnerships to equip its workforce with the expertise needed to navigate the evolving technological landscape



Demand for digital skills in Qatar is expected to rise through the creation of new jobs due to the rise in Digitalisation and adoption of merging technologies



QATAR NATIONAL VISION 2030 COUPLED WITH WELL-CRAFTED DIGITAL STRATEGIES ARE SET TO BE THE DRIVING FORCE FOR GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION

by fostering innovation, diversifying the economy and enhancing the nation's global competitiveness

Qatar National Vision 2030



Human Development



Social Development



Environmental Development



Economic Development



QATAR'S COMMITMENT TO DIGITAL SKILLS IS EVIDENT THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS THAT BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN ACADEMIA AND INDUSTRY NEEDS,

fostering a synergistic environment for technological innovation

Qatar | Digital Skills Development Ecosystem Non-exhaustive



Significant government investments in digital skills development, especially in the areas of upskilling public workers, young population and population segments at risk of digital exclusion



Home to esteemed local and international schools and universities, preparing the future digital workforce and showcasing the nation's commitment to educational excellence in the evolving digital landscape



Enhanced research and innovation capacity through the adoption of cutting-edge technologies and enabling institutions including TASMU Accelerator, Digital Incubation Centre (DIC) and Smart Factory



Diverse technology players supporting Qatar's digital ambition, offering specialised programs to significantly enhance digital skills learning and empower the nation's technological advancement

Qatar | Education and Workforce



2,100,963
Workforce



2,039
STEM Graduates*



44,501
Graduates



26,859
Secondary School Students

Percentage of people with ICT Skills in Qatar (Skill Level)

45%



Basic Skills

30%



Standard Skills

5%



Advanced Skills

THE DIGITAL SKILLS LANDSCAPE NEEDS TO EVOLVE TO UNLOCK THE FULL POTENTIAL OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES AND REALISE THE IMPACT OF INVESTMENTS MADE IN DIGITALISATION ACROSS VARIOUS SECTORS

Key technological changes are expected for 16 identified economic sectors covering the entire economy of Qatar, with the resulting annual productivity growth rate totaling ~25% by 2030

Sector	Key Technologies	Yearly productivity growth rate (2020-2030)
 Environment	Process automation; Data-driven optimisation; IoT	3.8%
 Hotel and catering	Digital sales; Automated workflows; Big data and AI	2.7%
 Public administration	Online self-servicing; Automated workflows	2.7%
 ICT and media	SaaS; Remote servicing; Robotisation of tasks	2.3%
 Domestic services	Robots and cobots; Robotic process automation	2.3%
 Other services	Robotisation of tasks; Digital sales/service channels	2.2%
 Manufacturing	Automation of processes; Wearables; VR	1.8%
 Retail and wholesale	E-commerce; Big data and AI; Digitalisation logistics	1.7%
 Financial services	Digital sales; Process automation; Big data and AI	1.7%
 Business services	Digital sales and service channels; Automated workflows; Process automation; AI	1.5%
 Healthcare	Big data and AI; Data-sharing platforms; IoT	1.5%
 Construction	Building information modelling; Robots and cobots	1.5%
 Sports and culture	Content Digitalisation; Digital sports platforms; VR	1.4%
 Education	Digital learning methods; VR; Robotisation	1.2%
 Transportation & logistics	Big data and AI; Warehouse automation and predictive logistics	0.8%
 Energy	VR and drones; Digital interfaces; Predictive maintenance; Robotisation of services	0.7%

Increase in total productivity until 2030 by

25%

due to digital technologies such as robotisation and automation, big data and AI making their way into the workforce

MORE THAN 40% OF THE WORKFORCE WILL REQUIRE RESKILLING BY 2030 DUE THE EVOLUTION OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES ACROSS VARIOUS INDUSTRIES

In Qatar, digital skillsets with the highest demand for upskilling include integration of robots and VR/AR, usage of collaborative platforms, data science and cybersecurity

Industry/Technology	Number of workers to be reskilled or upskilled by 2030
Collaboration with robots, cobots and VR/AR	330 K
Use of administrative software and collaborative platforms	160 K
Basics of data science	100 K
Cybersecurity and data protection	61 K
Building information modelling and project management	52 K
Automated and digital government	38 K
Digital teaching tools and online platforms	33 K
Possibilities of digital platforms	31 K
Data-based diagnostics	28 K
Hardware engineering for smart and connected devices	27 K
Connectivity and industrial IoT	25 K
Machine to machine communication	24 K
Digital platform administration	14 K
Data architecture, functional analysis and data science analysis	13 K
Automation, track and trace, and process digitalisation	9 K
Digital marketing	8 K

█ Cross-sectoral
 █ Sector-specific

>40%
of workforce require deep reskilling and must develop completely new digital skills because the nature of their jobs is changing drastically

10%
identified a risk of vacancies not being able to be filled if not addressed through the right up-/re-skilling initiatives

5%
increase of overall workforce demand until 2030, signaling that Digitalisation will not uproot net jobs but rather create new ones

03. MAPPING QATAR'S DIGITAL SKILLS LANDSCAPE



A JOINT SURVEY CONDUCTED BY INVEST QATAR IN COLLABORATION WITH DELOITTE REVEALS KEY OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH AND THE FUTURE OF DIGITAL SKILLS IN QATAR

Assessing the digital skills landscape in Qatar provides various crucial benefits



Evolution of Industries: Understanding the impact of Digitalisation and the rising adoption of emerging technologies on innovation, efficiency and decisions-making for enterprises



Trends in adoption of emerging technologies: Studying the key trends in the adoption of emerging technologies as part of enterprise growth strategies to foster innovation and drive sustainable growth for enterprises in a dynamic business landscape



Workforce Development: Assessing the influence of digital transformation on the workforce to reveal necessary digital competencies required for technological advancements and industry needs



Future Outlook: Evaluating the future demand for digital skills is critical for individuals, educational institutions, businesses and governments to proactively navigate the evolving digital landscape, foster innovation and contribute to economic growth and competitiveness



THE SURVEY REVEALED THAT DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IS IMPACTING ENTERPRISES AND TRANSFORMING JOB ROLES



Objective

- Understanding investors' perceptions of Digitalisation and its impact on the digital skills landscape
- Identifying emerging trends and the demand for digital skills
- Exploring the areas of improvement and potential for growth in digital skills

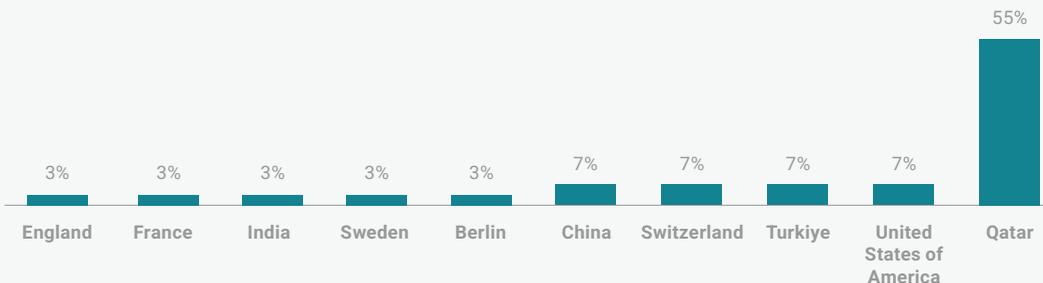


Coverage

- 30 entities across 8+ sectors with different organisation sizes
- Focused on digital and IT representatives from enterprises to capture relevant experiences and expectations

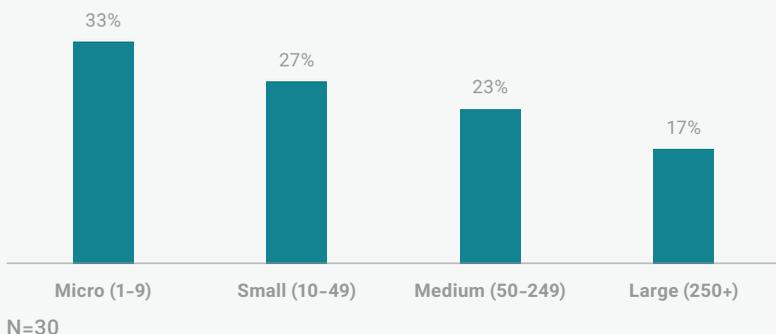
Sample distribution by geography

In which country is your headquarters (HQ) located?



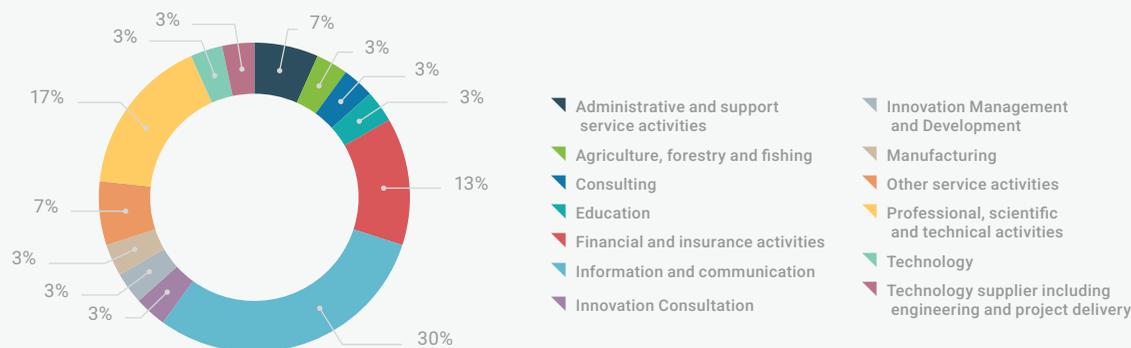
Sample distribution by size of business

How many full-time employees did your company have in Qatar as of June 2023?



Sample distribution by sector

What is the main sector of activity of your company?



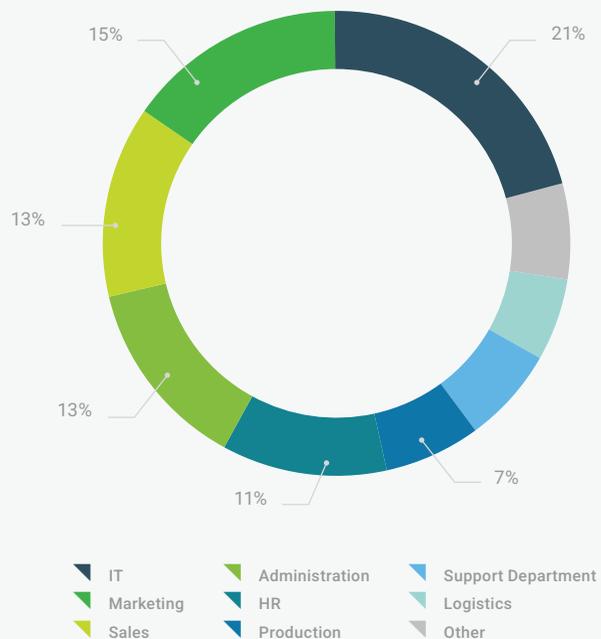
IN QATAR, DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IS DRIVING INNOVATION, ENHANCING EFFICIENCY, IMPROVING OPERATIONS AND BOOSTING COMPETITIVENESS

Digitalisation efforts in enterprises extend beyond the IT department with marketing, sales and administration emerging as prominent areas for digital transformation

Digital transformation is expected to benefit organisations through enhancing innovation, improving operational efficiency, data-driven decision-making, market expansion and revenue generation

Mapping Digitalisation within Organisations in Qatar

Q: "Where does digitalisation take place within your organisation?" (% of respondents)



Digital transformation benefits

Q: "How do you foresee digital transformation benefiting your organisation?" (% of respondents)



50%

Drive innovation



43%

Improve internal operational efficiencies



40%

Provide additional route-to-market



37%

Provide additional revenue streams



30%

Provide robust data, enhancing the ability to personalise marketing and improve business decisions

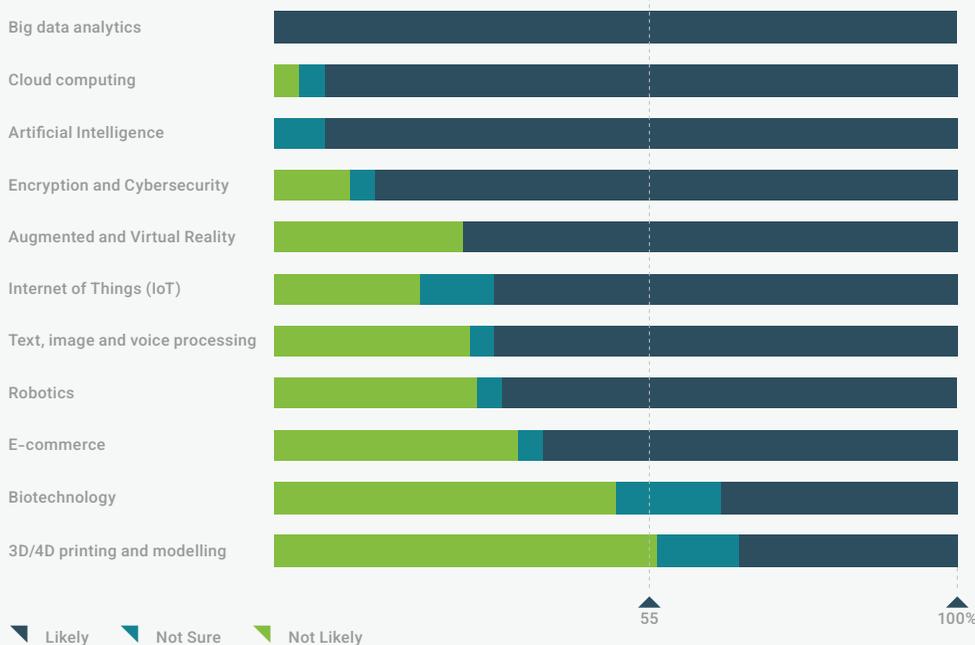
DIGITALISATION AND AUTOMATION ARE TRANSFORMING THE LABOUR MARKET IN QATAR BY RESHAPING JOB ROLES AND INCREASING DEMAND FOR DIGITAL SKILLS

Emerging technologies are expected to play a critical role in the growth strategies of enterprises – led by big data analytics, AI and cloud computing

Enterprises expect automation and emerging technologies to enhance the productivity and efficiency of the workforce

Technological trends and adoption – a key driver of enterprise growth strategies

Q: "How likely will your company to adopt the stated technology within the next five years as part of its growth strategy?" (% of respondents)



Top five impacts of automation on the workforce

Q: "How will automation and technology impact your workforce?" (% of respondents)



DIGITAL JOBS AND SKILL-SETS ARE BEING PRIORITISED BY ORGANISATIONS ESPECIALLY IN CYBERSECURITY, CLOUD COMPUTING AND SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT SKILLS

Emerging technologies are expected to play a critical role in the growth strategies of enterprises – led by big data analytics, AI and cloud computing

Demand for digital skills across all levels of employment

Q: "Please select the digital job family that is most relevant for your organisation across all employee groups (senior, mid-level and junior levels)"

Top digital skills currently in demand (2023)



Top digital skills in demand in the future (2023-2028)



04.

**QATAR'S ROADMAP
FOR ENABLING DIGITAL
TRANSFORMATION**



DIGITAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IS A CORNERSTONE FOR ENABLING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION –

providing the foundation to effectively harness evolving technologies foster innovation and navigate the dynamic digital landscape

Enhancing nation-wide digital skills development involves a strategic and collaborative process



Stakeholder Engagement: Collective efforts of key stakeholders including government entities, educational institutions, industries and relevant organisations is crucial to ensure diverse expertise and effective digital skills development.



Academic-Business Cooperation on Digital (ABCD) partnerships: Collaboration with businesses is crucial to understand current and future digital skill needs and foster alignment with education and training programs.



Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Programs: Align curriculum with industry needs, develop specialised educational programs and certifications that address specific digital skill gaps and implement training programs for current professionals to upskill in relevant digital competencies.



THE EXISTING TALENT POOL FOR DIGITAL SKILLS CAN BE IMPROVED BY ENHANCING THE CAPACITY OF THE WORKFORCE, WHILE EASING THE PROCESSES OF ACQUIRING TALENT

Policies promoting the development and attraction of professionals with specific digital skills are critical for digital transformation, innovation and economic growth.

Top areas for improvement in the Qatar's existing digital talent landscape**



Talent Availability

Improve talent availability to meet the requirements of business and ease hiring practices with regards to the dynamic and evolving digital landscape



Talent Development: Capacity Building and Upskilling

Enhance training, increase awareness and upskill talent pool to match trends in emerging digital technologies and skillsets



Talent Retention

Create and develop a conducive environment that fosters professional growth and a high quality of life to retain talent

Enterprises indicate that aligning the skills with the demands of the job market is crucial to efficiently allocate resources and to boost employment*.

Top digital skills with potential for growth in Qatar's digital talent landscape***



Cybersecurity



Data Science



Cloud Computing



Blockchain



Software Development and Implementation



User Experience Design (UX/UI)

* In Qatar, to what extent do graduates with a bachelor's degree possess the skills needed by your business?

** What challenges do you face when searching for digital talent? What are your expectations with regards to the following in the next five years in Qatar?

*** Please select the digital job families where you experience candidate scarcity

THE COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN ADVANCING DIGITAL SKILLS WILL ENSURE DIGITAL SKILL DEVELOPMENT ACROSS ALL SECTORS

Non-exhaustive



QATAR'S DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION JOURNEY OFFERS SEVERAL AREAS FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A THRIVING DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM AND A FUTURE-READY WORKFORCE

Non-exhaustive



Innovation and Adoption of Emerging Technologies

Propel digital transformation through innovation and adoption of emerging technologies, concurrently fostering the upskilling of the digital workforce



Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

Contribute resources, expertise and innovation to enhance workforce development through knowledge and technology spillovers



Academic-Business Cooperation on Digital (ABCD) Partnerships

Facilitate synergies between educational institutions and businesses – supporting research and development funding, technology transfer programs, and internship and exchange programs



Innovation Hubs and Research Centres

Support the development of advanced digital technologies, enhancing specific skills and contributing to industry-relevant innovation



Start-ups and Scale-ups

Invest in digital-focused startups and scale-ups that are innovating in areas related to digital skills development, thereby supporting entrepreneurship and creating employment opportunities



Infrastructure Investment and Technology Integration

Invest in the development and modernisation of training facilities, laboratories, workshops for hands-on learning in technical and vocational fields and supporting the integration of cutting-edge technologies into TVET programs

QATAR PROVIDES A PROMISING ECOSYSTEM FOR DIGITALISATION WITH RAPID DIGITAL ADOPTION, ROBUST INFRASTRUCTURE, SKILLED TALENT AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Strong digital adoption

- ~100% internet penetration rate
- Ranked 4th in 5G adoption and Internet speed globally
- Digitally conducive ecosystem including Digital Centre of Excellence, Qatar Smart Program and Innovation Lab (TASMU)

Access to skilled talent

- Ranked 1st in the GCC region for talent impact
- Ranked 8th globally for brain gain
- Home to globally accredited universities (e.g., Carnegie Mellon Qatar, Texas A&M, HEC Paris Qatar, Qatar University)

Flourishing business climate for SMEs

- Ranked 1st in the GCC for entrepreneurial employee activity
- Ranked 4th globally in SME financing (indicating commitment to start-ups)
- QFTH's specialised programs, such as Hackathons (mentorship, training, financial support), Incubator programs (early-stage) and Accelerator programs (established players looking to expand)

Extensive R&D infrastructure

- Qatar RDI¹ Vision 2030 recognises digital technology as one of priority areas
- Renowned institutions and research centres supporting the growth and innovation within the sector
- Efficient legislation to protect IP and eliminate cross-border regulation issues
- Qatar under its third national strategy plans to increase gross expenditure on R&D (GERD) to 1.5% of GDP, with 60% contributed by businesses by 2030

Robust government support

- Qatar's national Vision and National ICT Plan 2015: Advancing the Digital Agenda lays down the improving connectivity, boosting capacity, fostering development
- Qatar has developed several initiatives and programs to connect job seekers with opportunities in both the public and private sectors through the national employment platforms – Kawader, as well as Jusoor.
- Several initiatives and platforms driving ICT adoption in Qatar – Digital Incubation Centre, Qatar Smart Program and Innovation Lab (TASMU) and Qatar Science and Technology Park (QSTP)



1. Research, Development, Innovation Ecosystem

Source: Institutions' websites

Qatar offers foreign investors **A VALUABLE AND COMPETITIVE BUSINESS CLIMATE, WITH A VARIETY OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE**



A stable and resilient economy

- ▼ 4th highest GDP per capita
- ▼ 8% Average annual GDP growth over the past 20 years
- ▼ Strong external and fiscal position, AA credit rating from S&P, Aa2 from Moody's and AA- from Fitch
- ▼ Growth backed by investment and diversification efforts through ambitious 2030 National Vision



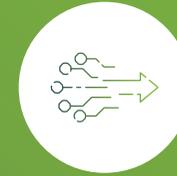
Pro-business climate

- ▼ Competitive regimes, in terms of regulation, procedures, taxation incentives, and immigration among others
- ▼ Conducive business environment, up to 100% foreign ownership, strong and efficient legal framework
- ▼ 2nd most competitive economy in the Arab World, as per Global Competitiveness Index



Vibrant knowledge ecosystem and rich culture

- ▼ Innovative and entrepreneurial, 1st in Arab world in Global Entrepreneurship Index
- ▼ World-leading digital infrastructure, 4th in 5G Leadership Index with 99% internet penetration
- ▼ Extensive International Investment agreements, with China, Germany, France and more
- ▼ ~19+ renowned research centres and 32 world-leading higher education institutions supporting growth and innovation



Seamless market access and connectivity

- ▼ \$8.5 trillion in combined GDP within 3000 km of Qatar
- ▼ Connected to over 180 international destinations by air and sea
- ▼ Hamad port, one of the largest green ports in the world, stretching over 28.5 sq. km

HOW INVEST QATAR CAN HELP YOU

The Investment Promotion Agency Qatar (Invest Qatar) works closely with you to understand your objectives, connect you with the right stakeholders and resources, and support you through the investment process to ensure your long-term success in Qatar.

Our Services



Information on the business & regulatory environment



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