

Only 120 miles of water lie between Qatar and Iran, and both countries share the South Pars/North Dome gas field, the largest natural gas field in the world. Iran and Qatar historically have had a cooperative relationship by necessity.

Qatar took the extraordinary measure of severing diplomatic ties with Iran in response to the 2016 mob attack on the Saudi Embassy in Tehran.

In 2017 Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain and Egypt imposed an illegal blockade on Qatar. This shut off once vital trade routes through the Saudi-Qatar land border, access to Dubai and other UAE ports for shipped goods, and closed vast amounts of airspaces around Qatar, which resulted in Qatar only being able to use two air corridors and previously underused trade routes to be supplied with food, medicine, and other such goods.

Due to the fact those countries forced Qatar to rely upon Iranian airspace for commercial and civilian flights, and other key transport links, Qatar returned its ambassador to Tehran following the imposition of the illegal blockade. Qatar has also been forced to import more basic necessities from Iran than it had traded prior to the blockade. "Iran was one of the countries which quickly stepped in to ensure Qatari supermarket shelves remained well stocked," according to Al Jazeera.



Airspace surrounding Qatar

At the same time, Qatar has expanded the air freight volume at Hamad International Airport, inaugurated Hamad Port – one of the largest transport hubs in the Arabian Gulf, and hastened plans to increase domestic food production.

While much has been discussed about Iran and Qatar, including from the blockading countries, little of the discussion relies on facts.

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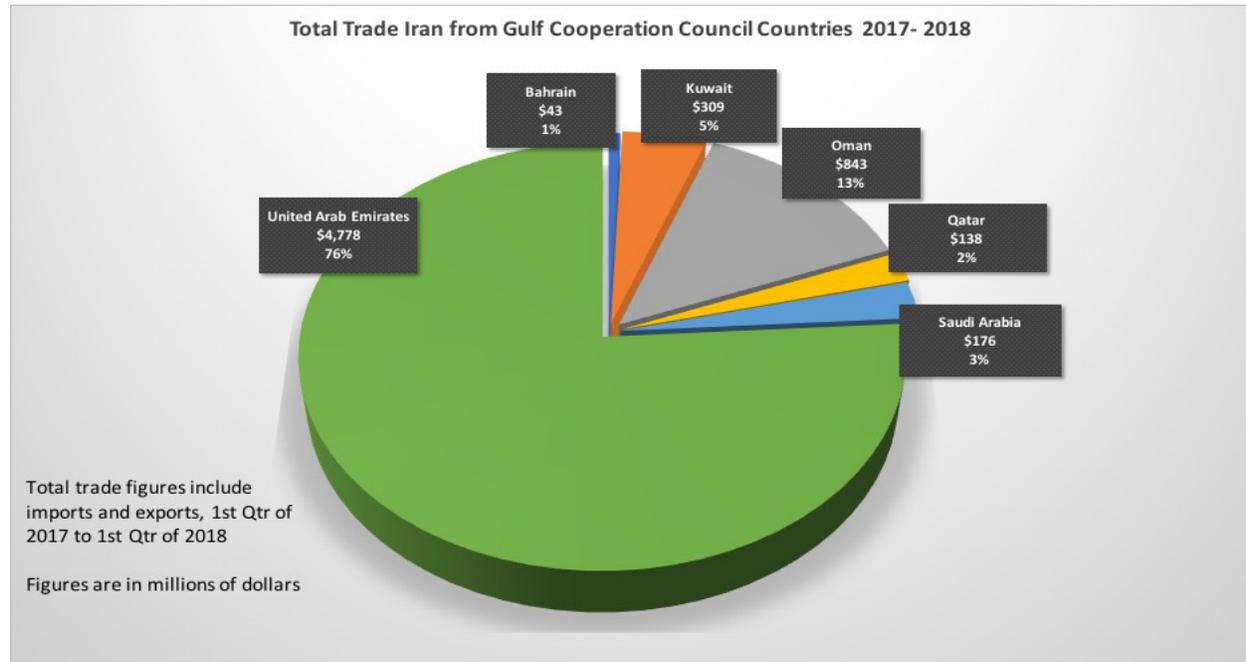
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Iran and Qatar have a modest trade relationship, and while the trade has garnered media attention, in the context of the rest of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Qatar's trade volume with Iran is not extraordinary. In 2017, Qatar's trade with Iran comprised less than one percent of the UAE's trade with Iran.

According to the International Monetary Fund's Direction of Trade Statistics, Qatar-Iran trade in 2017 comprised \$4.53 million in exports to Iran and \$77.35 million in imports from Iran. By contrast, the United Arab Emirates imported \$1.75 billion from Iran and exported \$20 billion to Iran.



Below are tables of each GCC country's trade volume with Iran in 2016-2017.

Exports to Iran per Quarter

Country	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018
Bahrain	\$4.96 million	\$5.48 million	\$5.38 million	\$6.27 million	\$5.27 million
Kuwait	\$21.11 million	\$23.3 million	\$22.89 million	\$26.65 million	\$22.42 million
Oman	\$30.5 million	\$45.9 million	\$45.11 million	\$52.52 million	\$44.17 million
Qatar	\$460,000	\$3.43 million	\$320,000	\$320,000	\$320,000
Saudi Arabia*	\$35.29 million				
United Arab Emirates	\$4.49 billion	\$4.96 billion	\$4.88 billion	\$5.68 billion	\$4.78 billion

Imports Iran per Quarter

Country	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018
Bahrain	\$2.66 million	\$3.14 million	\$2.88 million	\$3.11 million	\$3.74 million
Kuwait	\$44.63 million	\$43.28 million	\$39.63 million	\$24.55 million	\$40.85 million
Oman	\$68.85 million	\$89.08 million	\$133.2 million	\$181.69 million	\$152.3 million
Qatar	\$8.59 million	\$8.86 million	\$20.6 million	\$39.3 million	\$55.99 million
Saudi Arabia*	\$170,000				
United Arab Emirates	\$317.34 million	\$368.98 million	\$471.97 million	\$591.77 million	\$548.88 million

*Saudi Arabia's trade with Iran has likely been imputed and is not necessarily precisely calculated per quarter. The Direction of Trade Statistics data could not be verified by the Saudi national authorities.