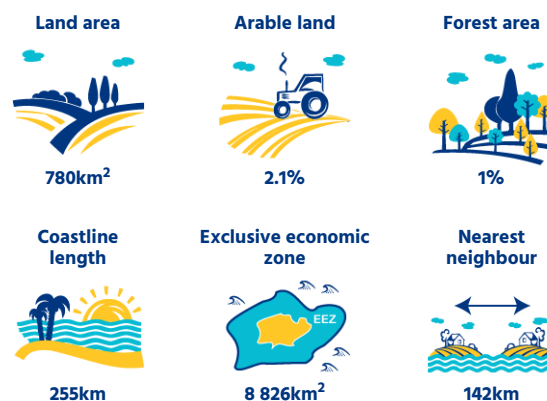


Bahrain

- > **Capital:** Manama (26°13' N, 50°35' E)
- > **International airport(s):** Bahrain International Airport (BAH)
- > **Official language(s):** Arabic
- > **Currency:** Bahraini dinar
- > **Time:** UTC +3
- > **Region:** Atlantic and Indian Ocean



GEOGRAPHY

Bahrain, in Arabic "two seas", is situated in the southwestern coast of the Persian Gulf about 24 km off the east coast of Saudi Arabia and 28 km from Qatar. It is an archipelago consisting of 33 natural islands and numerous islets, shoals, and artificial islands. The islands' total land area is about 780 km², which is slightly larger than Singapore and the Maldives, making it the third-smallest country in Asia. Bahrain is low-lying, with the highest point, Jebel Dukhan in the centre of Bahrain island, at 137 meters above sea level. Bahrain island is the largest island and accounts for about 85 per cent of the area. It is connected to adjacent islands and the mainland of Saudi Arabia by bridges and causeways. Located in one of the world's richest petroleum regions, the country itself is the smallest Gulf oil producer. In 2018, Bahrain announced the discovery of an offshore oil field off Bahrain's west coast, estimated to contain 80 billion barrels of shale oil.

CLIMATE

Bahrain's climate is arid and is characterized by extremely hot summers and relatively mild winters. Average monthly temperatures range from 14 to 41 °C and are fairly uniform throughout the archipelago. There are two distinct seasons: a winter season from November to April, and a summer season from May to October (World Bank, 2020). The annual average rainfall is small (about 80 mm) and irregular, falling almost entirely in the winter months (World Bank, 2020). There are no rivers or permanent streams on the islands. Groundwater is the only natural source available for freshwater supply. Sandstorms are frequent, affecting all aspects of human activity and aggravating desertification. Despite the dry climate, about two hundred species of desert plants grow in the country. The only major tree growing in Bahrain is the Tree of Life (Shajarat-al-Hayat), 400 years old and 9.75 m high Prosopis cineraria tree, located 2 km from Jebel Dukhan.

ECONOMY

The oil and gas industry dominates Bahraini economy. In 2019, it accounted for 17.8 per cent of the country's GDP. The country's largest non-oil sectors are the financial corporations sector contributing 16.5 per cent to GDP, and manufacturing sector contributing 14.5 per cent to GDP (Bahrain Ministry of Finance and National Economy, 2020). Bahrain hosts the world's largest aluminium shelter outside China, Alba, which is the dominant force in the country's manufacturing sector. The largest export partners are Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America. (UNCTAD, 2021).

Service sector employed roughly 64 per cent of total employed in the country in 2019, and these jobs were predominantly occupied by women (91 per cent of women were employed by the sector) (ILO, 2020a). Tourist arrivals averaged 11 million per year for the period 2015-2019, reaching a peak of 12 million in 2018. Tourism expenditure contributed 10 per cent of GDP in 2019 (UNWTO, 2021). Bahrain is classified as a high income economy (World Bank, 2021) and reached US\$23 504 per capita in 2019 (UNCTAD, 2021).

According to the (FAO, 2020), only 2 per cent of the territory is classified as arable land. Limited arable area, high temperatures, scarcity of water resources and loss of agricultural lands due to salinization result in a low development of agriculture. The main crops are alfalfa for animal fodder, but dates, figs, mangos, pomegranates, melons, papayas are also grown. Agriculture accounts for only 1 per cent of total employment (ILO, 2020a).

CULTURE

In ancient times, Bahrain was part of Dilmun, a mercantile civilization, which dominated trade routes along the Persian Gulf from the fourth millennium Before Christ through to the ninth century BC. The country declared itself a constitutional monarchy in 2002.

Bahrain was one of the first areas to convert to Islam, in 628, four years before the death of the prophet Muhammad. Bahrainis are predominantly Muslims, both Sunni and Shia Muslims, the latter being the majority. (Britannica, 2021). Music is an important part of the island culture. *Fidjeri* songs once sung by pearl divers are still very popular. Cloth weaving, pottery, and basket weaving are traditional handicrafts

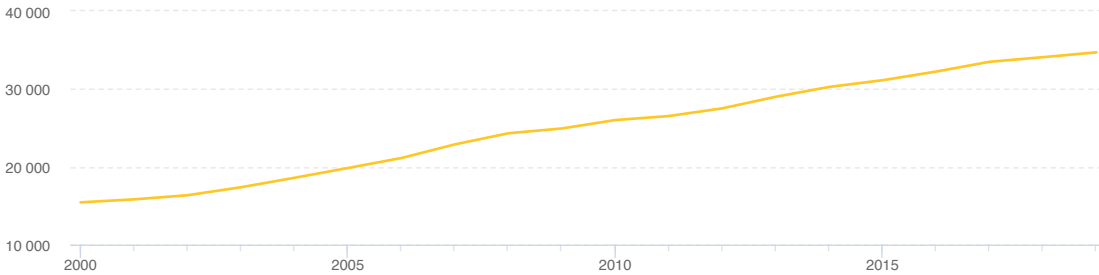
Local sports, such as horse and camel racing, are well-liked throughout the country. Wealthier Bahrainis practice falconry and gazelle and hare hunting. The most popular modern sport is soccer. In 1984, the country competed in the Summer [Olympic Games](#) for the first time. Bahrain hosted the First Formula One Grand Prix to be held in the Middle East, in 2004.

Bahrain's traditional food includes fish, shrimp, meat, rice, and dates. Among popular traditional dishes are *Machbous*, fish or meat served with rice, and *muhammar*, sweet brown rice with sugar or dates. Arab Coffee, or Qahwah, often flavored with cardamom and saffron, is the national drink.

ECONOMIC TRENDS

Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions



**GDP per capita
2019**



US\$23 504

**Productive Capacity Index
2018**



39.0

**Economic and environmental vulnerability index
2019**



28

**Consumer Price Index growth
2019**



1.8%

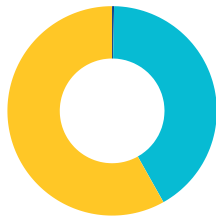
Unemployment rate



**Total 1.2%
Female 3.9%, Male 0.5%**

Main economic sectors, 2019

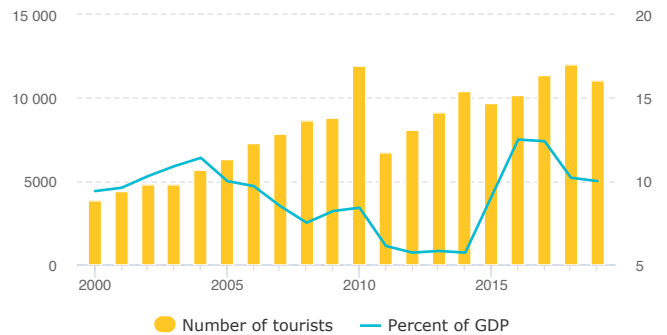
Percentage of GDP



- Services
- Industry
- Agriculture, hunting, forestry, fishing

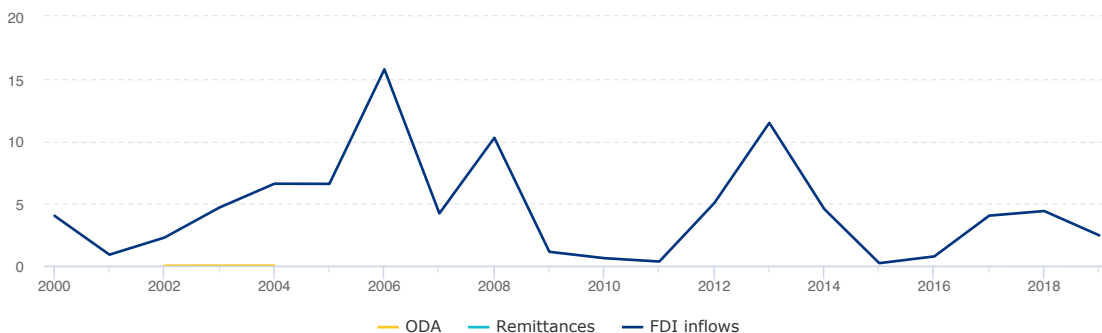
Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



External financial resources

Percentage of GDP



**Public debt as %
of GDP**

2018



94.7%

MARITIME TRANSPORT

Fleet size

Number of ships

Ship type	2011	2019
Total fleet	1 407	1 407
Oil tankers	264	266
Bulk carriers	311	333
General cargo	161	77
Container ships	52	49
Other types of ships	619	682

Port performance

Ranked by 2019 data within SIDS group

Indicators	2019	SIDS Ranking
Number of port calls	1 748	11
Median time in port (days)	2	4
Average age of vessels	15	21
Average size (GT) of vessels	38 587	6

Container port throughput

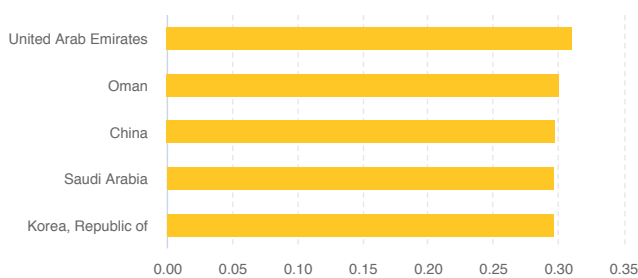
2019



408 402 TEU

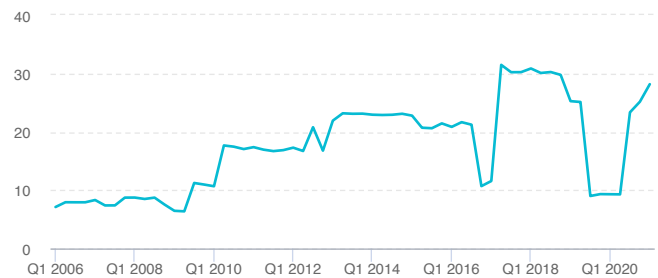
Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners



Liner shipping connectivity index

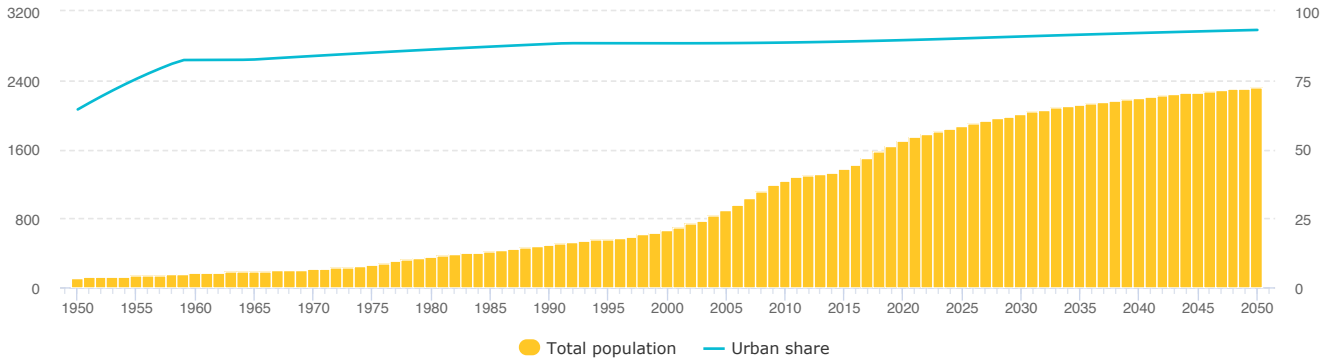
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



POPULATION

Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)
Human development index	2018	0.8
Human assets index	2020	95
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)
Gender inequality index	2019	0.2

Life expectancy at birth

2019



77 years

Population density

2019



2 104 persons per km²

Dependency ratio

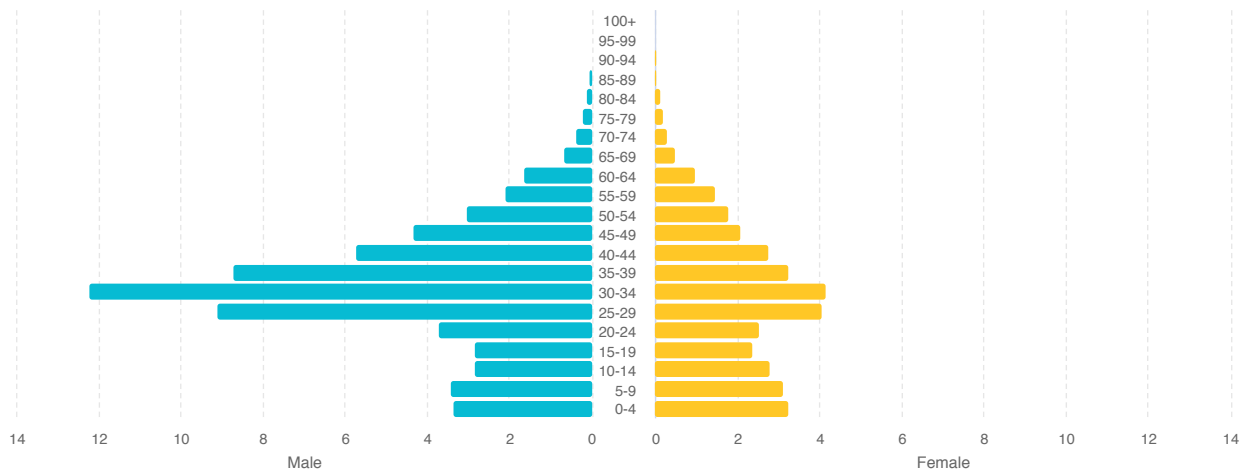
2019



Child: 23.7
Old-age: 3.2

Age structure by gender, 2019

Percentage of total population



INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Merchandise and services trade

US dollars in millions

Indicators	2005	2010	2015	2019	2019 (% of GDP)
Merchandise exports	10 242	14 971	16 540	18 120	47
Merchandise imports	9 393	12 260	12 408	13 256	34.4
Services exports	3 155	4 233	9 113	11 578	30
Services imports	1 416	1 905	6 592	8 083	21

Trade openness
Goods and services
2019



71% of GDP

Export concentration index
2019



0.29

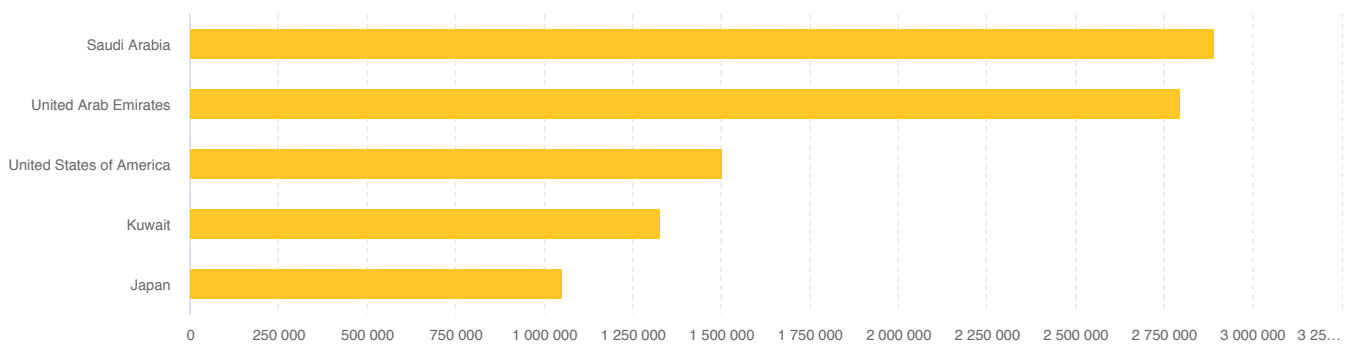
Food import dependency
Average
2015-2019



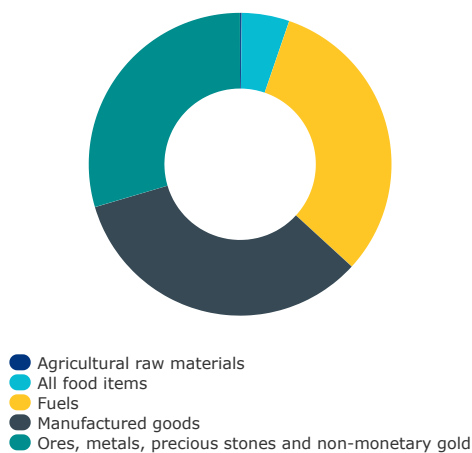
2.14

Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars



Merchandise exports by product group, 2019

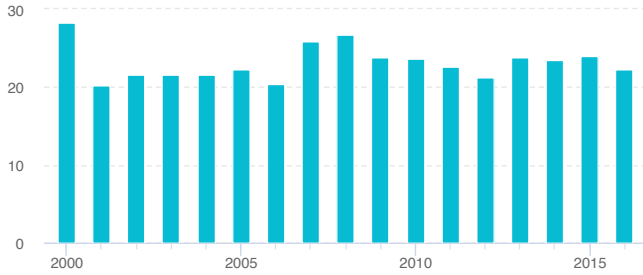


Services exports by category, 2019

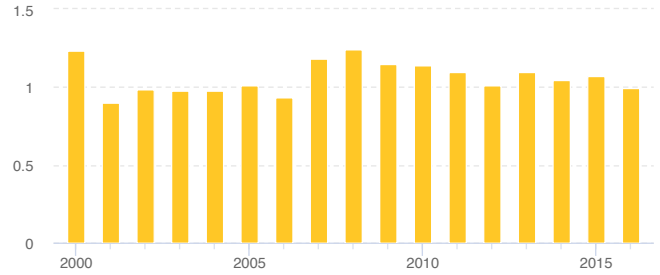
No data available

ENVIRONMENT

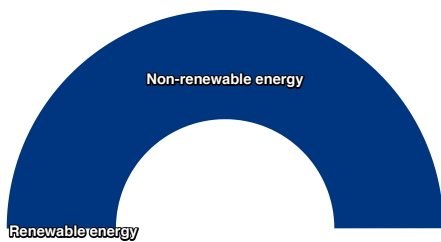
CO₂ emissions per capita
Kg per capita



CO₂ emissions per GDP
Kg per 2010 US\$ of GDP



Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017
Percentage of total energy consumption



Material footprint per capita
2016



Terrestrial protected area
2018



Marine protected area
2018



Disasters indicators

Data not available

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

Trade in ICT goods
2018



Exports: 0.4%
Imports: 4.2%

Trade in ICT services
2018



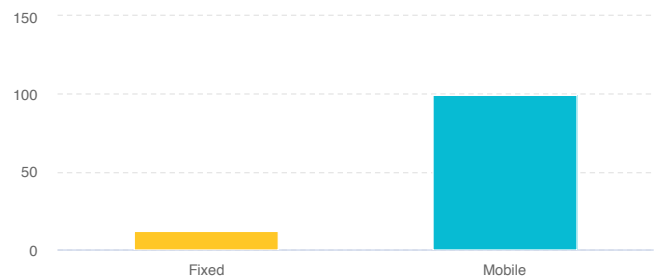
Exports: 7.4%
Imports: 1.3%

Share of internet users
2018



99%

Fixed broadband vs Mobile broadband subscriptions
Number of subscriptions per 100 people



Sources

Source of data: UNCTAD (2021) except indicators listed below.

- Adult literacy rate: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021)
- Arable land: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.ARBL.ZS>
- CO₂ emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO₂ emissions per GDP: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.KD.GD>
- Distance to nearest neighbour: [NO_PRINTED_FORM] (Package “cshapes,” 2016) <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/index.html>
- Economic losses due to disasters: United Nations (2021) https://www.sdg.org/datasets/e3adb2406c2e452b81c3654e276fc5ca_0
- Exclusive economic zone: Sea Around Us (2016) <http://www.seararoundus.org/>
- Fixed broadband/mobile subscriptions: ITU (2019). World telecommunication/ICT indicators database. Available at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/publications/wtid.aspx> (accessed 28 May 2020).
- Forest area: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.FRST.ZS>
- Gender inequality index: UNDP (2020). Gender inequality index (GII), <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii>
- Human assets index: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021) <http://data.uis.unesco.org/>
- Human development index: UNDP (2021) <http://hdr.undp.org/en/data#>
- Life expectancy at birth: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.IN>
- Marine protected area: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/ER.MRN.PTMR.ZS>
- Material footprint: UNEP (2021) https://environmentlive.unep.org/indicator/index/12_2_1
- Number of people affected by disasters: United Nations (2021) https://www.sdg.org/datasets/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990_0
- ODA: OECD (2021) <https://stats.oecd.org>
- Percentage of population in low elevated coastal zones: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.POP.EL5M.ZS>
- Poverty headcount ratio: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.DDAY>
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- Terrestrial protected area: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/ER.LND.PTLD.ZS>
- Tourism: UNWTO (2020) Compendium of Tourism Statistics dataset [Electronic], UNWTO, Madrid, data updated on 21/09/2020.
- Unemployment rate, total/female/male: ILO (2020b) https://www.ilo.org/shinyapps/bulkexplorer2/?lang=en&segment=indicator&id=SDG_0852_SEX_AGE_RT_A
- World risk index: Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020): <https://weltrisikobericht.de/download/1386/>

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