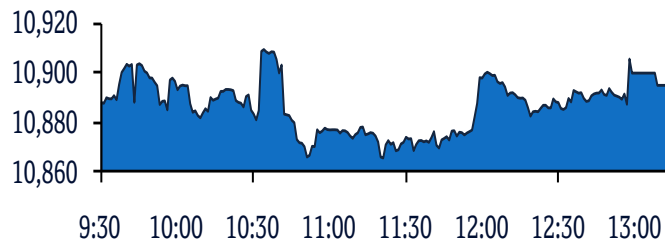


QSE Intra-Day Movement



Qatar Commentary

The QE Index declined marginally to close at 10,895.7. Losses were led by the Telecoms and Transportation indices, falling 0.9% and 0.4%, respectively. Top losers were Qatar Oman Investment Company and Qatari Investors Group, falling 3.2% and 3.0%, respectively. Among the top gainers, Salam International Investment Limited gained 8.2%, while Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Company was up 3.9%.

GCC Commentary

Saudi Arabia: The TASI Index fell 0.2% to close at 10,228.4. Losses were led by the Food and Utilities indices, falling 3.0% and 1.9%, respectively. Saudi Arabian Cooperative Ins. declined 6.8%, while Tabuk Agriculture Dev. Co. was down 5.3%.

Dubai: The DFM Index gained 0.5% to close at 2,663.9. The Telecommunication index rose 1.4%, while the Consumer Staples and Discretionary index gained 1.2%. Ektitab Holding Company rose 14.8%, while Emirates Refreshments was up 12.3%.

Abu Dhabi: The ADX General Index gained 0.6% to close at 6,152.1. The Investment & Financial Services index rose 3.1%, while the Telecom. index gained 0.8%. International Holding Co. rose 3.3%, while ADNOC Distribution was up 2.4%.

Kuwait: The Kuwait All Share Index gained 0.3% to close at 6,252.5. The Consumer Services and Insurance indices rose 1.5% each. The Securities House rose 22.8%, while Ektitab Holding Co. was up 21.0%.

Oman: The MSM 30 Index fell marginally to close at 3,810.0. The Industrial index declined 0.1%, while the other indices ended in green. SMN Power Holding declined 7.1%, while Oman & Emirates Investment Holding Co. was down 4.2%.

Bahrain: The BHB Index gained 0.5% to close at 1,521.8. The Industrial index rose 1.5%, while the Commercial Banks index gained 0.6%. INOVEST Company rose 14.5%, while Nass Corporation was up 2.2%.

Market Indicators	06 May 21	05 May 21	%Chg.
Value Traded (QR mn)	610.6	498.2	22.6
Exch. Market Cap. (QR mn)	632,023.0	631,394.1	0.1
Volume (mn)	400.1	265.9	50.5
Number of Transactions	11,465	8,788	30.5
Companies Traded	47	45	4.4
Market Breadth	24:20	19:22	-

Market Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	YTD%	TTM P/E
Total Return	21,568.74	(0.0)	(0.1)	7.5	18.5
All Share Index	3,444.86	0.1	(0.1)	7.7	19.2
Banks	4,494.05	0.0	(0.2)	5.8	15.7
Industrials	3,641.69	0.2	(0.2)	17.6	28.0
Transportation	3,476.19	(0.4)	(0.1)	5.4	23.2
Real Estate	1,926.47	0.0	1.2	(0.1)	18.3
Insurance	2,663.63	0.6	0.5	11.2	25.2
Telecoms	1,081.14	(0.9)	(0.6)	7.0	28.7
Consumer	8,326.24	0.4	(0.1)	2.3	29.6
Al Rayan Islamic Index	4,651.18	(0.1)	(0.2)	8.9	20.0

GCC Top Gainers**	Exchange	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Sahara Int. Petrochemical	Saudi Arabia	26.95	3.9	3,726.4	55.6
Saudi Kayan Petrochem.	Saudi Arabia	17.48	3.1	14,381.2	22.2
National Industrialization	Saudi Arabia	18.84	2.4	3,233.1	37.7
ADNOC Distribution	Abu Dhabi	4.74	2.4	30,272.0	26.4
Advanced Petrochem. Co.	Saudi Arabia	80.00	2.2	327.1	19.4

GCC Top Losers**	Exchange	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Saudi British Bank	Saudi Arabia	28.50	(2.9)	1,741.3	15.3
Saudi Electricity Co.	Saudi Arabia	23.66	(2.2)	6,330.9	11.1
Saudi Telecom Co.	Saudi Arabia	120.80	(1.8)	698.6	14.9
Bank Al Bilad	Saudi Arabia	35.80	(1.8)	858.1	26.3
Agility Public Wareh. Co.	Kuwait	1.08	(1.7)	8,687.2	59.5

Source: Bloomberg (# in Local Currency) (** GCC Top gainers/losers derived from the S&P GCC Composite Large Mid Cap Index)

QSE Top Gainers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Salam International Inv. Ltd.	0.94	8.2	191,684.4	43.9
Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Co.	3.96	3.9	3,340.3	108.9
Investment Holding Group	1.11	3.0	41,989.9	85.1
Aamal Company	0.99	2.3	26,099.5	16.1
Ahli Bank	3.70	2.1	8.5	7.3

QSE Top Volume Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Salam International Inv. Ltd.	0.94	8.2	191,684.4	43.9
Investment Holding Group	1.11	3.0	41,989.9	85.1
Aamal Company	0.99	2.3	26,099.5	16.1
Ezdan Holding Group	1.80	(0.2)	21,655.3	1.4
Qatar Oman Investment Company	1.02	(3.2)	20,732.7	15.0

QSE Top Losers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Qatar Oman Investment Co.	1.02	(3.2)	20,732.7	15.0
Qatari Investors Group	2.28	(3.0)	5,802.5	26.1
Qatar Industrial Manufacturing	2.88	(2.1)	280.7	(10.3)
Widam Food Company	4.78	(2.0)	717.0	(24.4)
Vodafone Qatar	1.75	(1.0)	669.4	30.9

QSE Top Value Trades	Close*	1D%	Val. '000	YTD%
Salam International Inv. Ltd.	0.94	8.2	176,788.2	43.9
QNB Group	17.99	0.4	56,196.2	0.9
Investment Holding Group	1.11	3.0	46,308.3	85.1
Ezdan Holding Group	1.80	(0.2)	39,039.3	1.4
Aamal Company	0.99	2.3	26,003.4	16.1

Source: Bloomberg (* in QR)

Regional Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	MTD%	YTD%	Exch. Val. Traded (\$ mn)	Exchange Mkt. Cap. (\$ mn)	P/E**	P/B**	Dividend Yield
Qatar*	10,895.72	(0.0)	(0.1)	(0.1)	4.4	165.68	169,761.4	18.5	1.6	2.7
Dubai	2,663.93	0.5	2.2	2.2	6.9	28.25	100,862.7	20.5	0.9	3.1
Abu Dhabi	6,152.09	0.6	1.7	1.7	21.9	363.22	244,228.2	21.7	1.7	4.2
Saudi Arabia	10,228.35	(0.2)	(1.8)	(1.8)	17.7	1,794.07	2,570,458.0	30.6	2.3	1.9
Kuwait	6,252.48	0.3	2.3	2.3	12.7	372.61	118,562.5	46.1	1.6	2.2
Oman	3,810.02	(0.0)	1.3	1.3	4.1	5.30	17,200.3	11.5	0.7	4.7
Bahrain	1,521.77	0.5	2.5	2.5	2.1	2.75	23,391.1	31.7	1.0	2.2

Source: Bloomberg, Qatar Stock Exchange, Tadawul, Muscat Securities Market and Dubai Financial Market (** TTM; * Value traded (\$ mn) do not include special trades, if any)

Qatar Market Commentary

- The QE Index declined marginally to close at 10,895.7. The Telecoms and Transportation indices led the losses. The index fell on the back of selling pressure from Qatari shareholders despite buying support from GCC, Arab and Foreign shareholders.
- Qatar Oman Investment Company and Qatari Investors Group were the top losers, falling 3.2% and 3.0%, respectively. Among the top gainers, Salam International Investment Limited gained 8.2%, while Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Company was up 3.9%.
- Volume of shares traded on Thursday rose by 50.5% to 400.1mn from 265.9mn on Wednesday. Further, as compared to the 30-day moving average of 296.3mn, volume for the day was 35.1% higher. Salam International Investment Limited and Investment Holding Group were the most active stocks, contributing 47.9% and 10.5% to the total volume, respectively.

Overall Activity	Buy %*	Sell %*	Net (QR)
Qatari Individuals	52.57%	53.51%	(5,758,046.3)
Qatari Institutions	11.72%	14.27%	(15,578,052.0)
Qatari	64.28%	67.78%	(21,336,098.3)
GCC Individuals	0.84%	0.52%	1,963,640.0
GCC Institutions	0.78%	0.35%	2,603,669.1
GCC	1.62%	0.87%	4,567,309.0
Arab Individuals	16.76%	16.08%	4,137,770.8
Arab Institutions	–	–	–
Arab	16.76%	16.08%	4,137,770.8
Foreigners Individuals	5.28%	5.80%	(3,161,918.1)
Foreigners Institutions	12.05%	9.46%	15,792,936.5
Foreigners	17.33%	15.27%	12,631,018.4

Source: Qatar Stock Exchange (*as a % of traded value)

Ratings, Earnings Releases, Global Economic Data and Earnings Calendar

Ratings Updates

Company	Agency	Market	Type*	Old Rating	New Rating	Rating Change	Outlook	Outlook Change
National Bank of Kuwait	Capital Intelligence	Kuwait	ST-F/LT-F	A1+/AA-	A1/A+	↓	Stable	↑

Source: News reports, Bloomberg (* LT – Long Term, ST – Short Term, F – Foreign)

Earnings Releases

Company	Market	Currency	Revenue (mn) 1Q2021	% Change YoY	Operating Profit (mn) 1Q2021	% Change YoY	Net Profit (mn) 1Q2021	% Change YoY
Al-Etihad Coop. Insurance Co.	Saudi Arabia	SR	185.6	21.2%	–	–	5.6	18.6%
Seera Group Holding	Saudi Arabia	SR	186.0	-53.1%	(111.0)	N/A	(131.0)	N/A
Mobile Telecommunications Company Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia	SR	1,938.0	-5.0%	158.0	-55.7%	41.0	-61.0%
Al Yamamah Steel Industries	Saudi Arabia	SR	453.0	-23.6%	79.5	51.7%	60.0	87.2%
Al Jouf Cement Co.	Saudi Arabia	SR	67.9	15.4%	26.3	50.1%	19.4	27.6%
Saudi Arabian Coop. Insurance	Saudi Arabia	SR	357.0	6.7%	–	–	5.0	N/A
Al Rajhi Company for Cooperative Insurance	Saudi Arabia	SR	739.6	-6.1%	–	–	3.8	4.3%
Abdullah Al Othaim Markets Co.	Saudi Arabia	SR	2,097.2	-11.9%	66.3	-40.1%	57.7	-42.1%
Arabian Cement Co.	Saudi Arabia	SR	321.5	57.1%	78.3	37.4%	67.0	48.6%

Source: Company data, DFM, ADX, MSM, TASI, BHB.

Global Economic Data

Date	Market	Source	Indicator	Period	Actual	Consensus	Previous
05/06	US	Department of Labor	Initial Jobless Claims	01-May	498k	538k	590k
05/06	US	Department of Labor	Continuing Claims	24-Apr	3,690k	3,620k	3,653k
05/06	UK	Markit	Markit/CIPS UK Services PMI	Apr	61.0	60.1	60.1
05/06	UK	Markit	Markit/CIPS UK Composite PMI	Apr	60.7	60.0	60.0
05/07	UK	Markit	Markit/CIPS UK Construction PMI	Apr	61.6	62.1	61.7
05/06	Germany	Markit	Markit Germany Construction PMI	Apr	46.2	-	47.5
05/07	France	INSEE National Statistics Office	Industrial Production MoM	Mar	0.8%	2.0%	-4.8%
05/07	France	INSEE National Statistics Office	Industrial Production YoY	Mar	13.7%	15.2%	-6.6%
05/07	France	INSEE National Statistics Office	Manufacturing Production MoM	Mar	0.4%	1.3%	-4.8%
05/07	France	INSEE National Statistics Office	Manufacturing Production YoY	Mar	15.7%	16.9%	-7.1%
05/07	Japan	Markit	Jibun Bank Japan PMI Services	Apr	49.5	-	48.3
05/07	Japan	Markit	Jibun Bank Japan PMI Composite	Apr	51.0	-	50.2
05/07	China	Markit	Caixin China PMI Composite	Apr	54.7	-	53.1
05/07	China	Markit	Caixin China PMI Services	Apr	56.3	54.2	54.3

Source: Bloomberg (s.a. = seasonally adjusted; n.s.a. = non-seasonally adjusted; w.d.a. = working day adjusted)

Earnings Calendar

Tickers	Company Name	Date of reporting 1Q2021 results	No. of days remaining	Status
QGRI	Qatar General Insurance & Reinsurance Company	11-May-21	2	Due

Source: QSE

News

Qatar

- S&P provides ‘full alignment opinion’ on QNB Group’s Green, Social, Sustainability Bond Framework** – S&P Global Ratings (S&P) has said that QNB Group’s “Green, Social, and Sustainability Bond Framework” is fully aligned with the four components of the Green Bond Principles (GBP) and the four components of the Social Bond Principles (SBP), collectively referred to the Sustainability Bond Guidelines. The Framework Alignment Opinion report is available at QNB Group’s Green, Social, and Sustainability Bond Framework. “The full alignment assessment reflects the bank’s commitment to sustainable development, leveraging its capabilities to finance projects that can create a tangible impact where they operate,” said Michael Puli, primary contact at S&P. The Green, Social, and Sustainability Bond Framework outlines QNB Group’s process for project evaluation and selection, providing details about how the bank’s Green, Social and Sustainability Bond Committee approves and oversees the eligible project portfolio. Puli said, “In terms of management of proceeds, the issuer commits to track the net proceeds and to remove from the portfolio any loan that ceases to fulfill the eligibility criteria. QNB Group intends to report the allocation of proceeds and the impact of the eligible categories based on relevant key performance indicators.” QNB Group released its first sustainability report in 2018, established its Green, Social, and Sustainability Bond Framework in February 2020, and issued its first green bond on September 22, 2020. It has since updated its framework to expand the use of proceeds (both exclusions list and eligibility criteria) to address issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic. QNB Group’s total verified eligible green portfolio is valued at over \$1bn (less than 1% of its total loan portfolio), with projects located in the UK receiving the most funding. “We expect the green and social loan portfolio to increase as a

proportion of QNB Group’s lending, given sustainability is a key pillar to its strategy,” S&P stated. (Gulf-Times.com)

- CBQK issues international bonds (XS2341197536) with a 2% coupon for \$700.0mn maturing in 2026** – The Commercial Bank (CBQK) issued international bonds (XS2341197536) with a 2% for \$700.0mn maturing in 2026. The Depository is Clearstream Banking S.A. and Euroclear Bank while the bookrunners are BofA Securities, Citigroup, Mizuho Financial Group, Standard Chartered Bank, SMBC Nikko Capital. (Bloomberg)
- Indonesia: Ooredoo and Hutchinson extends the merger talks to June** – The memorandum of understanding (MoU) of Qatar’ Ooredoo and Hong Kong-based CK Hutchinson Holding Ltd., on the potential merger of the Indonesian units has been extended to June 30 from earlier April 30, 2021, said the management of PT Indosat Ooredoo Tbk. “There has been no decision regarding the MoU and there has been no significant impact on the company,” said the President Director and CEO of Indosat, Ahmad Al Neama, in a public expose. Previously, both global telecom companies have signed an exclusive and non-binding MoU in connection with a potential merger between Indosat and Hutchison 3 Indonesia (Tri). Currently, the parent through Ooredoo Asia Pte. Ltd., controls 65% of Indosat’s shares and Hutchison Asia Telecommunication, which operates in Indonesia, Vietnam and Sri Lanka, control the shares of Tri. (Bloomberg)
- MoPH announces new quarantine exemption criteria for individuals vaccinated in GCC countries** – The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has announced quarantine exemption criteria for GCC citizens, their families and household employees arriving in Qatar and who have received COVID-19 vaccination in one of the GCC countries. The new criteria, which came into effect on May 7, will apply provided the vaccines received by these individuals outside Qatar are

included on the list of vaccines approved by the MoPH in Qatar. (Gulf-Times.com)

- **QGRI to disclose its 1Q2021 financial results on May 11** – Pursuant to Qatar General Insurance & Reinsurance Company (QGRI) disclosure on April 29, 2021 to postpone the date of the Board of Directors' meeting to discuss the first quarter Financial Statements of the year 2021. The Board of Directors meeting will be held on May 11, 2021 at 9:00 pm to discuss the 1Q2021 Financial Statements. (QSE)
- **IGRD to hold its AGM on May 31** – Investment Holding Group (IGRD) announced that its Ordinary General Assembly meeting (AGM) will be held virtually through a conference call on May 31, 2021 at 4:30 pm. In the event a quorum is not met, a second meeting will be held, virtually through a conference call, on June 2, 2021 at 4:30 pm. The AGM's agenda is as follows: (1) Electing Four Independent members for the Board of Directors. To express interest in attending the meeting, the respective shareholders are requested to attend in person to the Company's main offices – located in Qatar Tower, West Bay, Doha, Floor #17 - to register and vote to elect the Independent members. Following that, a link to participate in the meeting virtually through the conference call will be sent electronically to those who attended and voted in person. Please note that the registration process will start two hours before the meeting i.e. at 2:30 pm. Kindly note that the voting will be on the basis of secret ballot and cumulative voting, in accordance with article #29 of the company's articles of association, article #35 of the Corporate Governance Code No. 5 of 2016 and article #96 of the Commercial Companies Law. Attendees are able to discuss the agenda, address questions to the Board of Directors by sending their questions or comments in the chat box or raising their hand, during the meeting. Shareholders may review the personal information of candidates, their education and professional experience from their resumes, by contacting the Nominations and Remunerations Committee's Secretary at 44681810 or s.daakour@ihgqatar.com, before the date set for the Company's AGM. (QSE)
- **List of candidates for membership of IGRD board of directors** – Reference to the board of directors resolution - with reference number 47/2021 - dated May 5, 2021, regarding the invitation to the Ordinary General Assembly to elect four Independent members for the board of directors, below is the list of candidates for membership of Investment Holding Group (IGRD) board of directors, in accordance with article #5 of the Corporate Governance Code for Companies and Legal Entities Listed on the Main Market issued by Qatar Financial Markets Authority (QFMA) pursuant to Resolution No. 5 of 2016. (1) Samir Abu Lughod (2) Bothaina Al Ansari (3) Sheikh Nasser bin Ali bin Saud Al-Thani (4) Nasser Jeham Al-Kuwari (5) Hamad Abdulla Al-Emadi (6) Omer Abdulaziz Al-Marwani. The shareholders may review the personal information of candidates, their education and professional experience from their resumes, by contacting the Nominations and Remunerations Committee's Secretary at 44681810 or s.daakour@ihgqatar.com before the date set for the Company's General Assembly meeting. The voting will be on the basis of secret ballot and cumulative voting, in accordance with article #29 of the company's articles of association, article #35 of the Corporate Governance Code No. 5 of 2016 and article #96 of the Commercial Companies Law. (QSE)
- **MERS acquires two properties for new community malls in Lusail** – Al Meera Consumer Goods Company (MERS) has announced its acquisition of two properties from Qatari Diar where the retailer has set sights to launch Al Meera Lifestyle Community Malls. The properties, located in Lusail's Fox Hills District and North Residential Villas District, will serve the surrounding neighborhoods and visitors to Lusail, adding to MERS' extensive network of 59 branches across Qatar. This move comes in line with Al MERS' ambitious expansion strategy, which aims to bring the retailer's exceptional services to localities around the country, the company has said in a statement. (Gulf-Times.com)
- **Qatar's foreign reserves rises MoM to QR205bn in March** – Qatar Central Bank has published Qatar's foreign reserves for March on website. International reserves and foreign currency liquidity rose to QR205bn from 204.9bn in February. M2 money supply fell 0.8% YoY; and rose 2.4% MoM in March. M1 money supply rose 10.5% from year ago; fell 1.6% MoM. (Bloomberg)
- **Apicorp: Qatar among top MENA countries with 5-year gas investments of \$75bn up to 2025** – Committed gas investments in the Middle East and North Africa (Mena) region for the period 2021-2025 are expected to total \$75bn, Arab Petroleum Investments Corporation (Apicorp) said. Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq are the "top three Mena countries in terms of committed gas investments", the multilateral development financial institution said in its 'Mena Energy Investment Outlook 2021-2025.' Committed gas investments in Mena for the period 2021-2025 (\$7bn) are \$9.5bn less than the previous outlook, Apicorp said. The decline is attributed to the completion of several megaprojects in 2020 and countries being more cautious to new project commitments in an era of gas overcapacity. Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq are the top three Mena countries in terms of committed gas investments. This is on account of Qatar's North Field East megaproject, Saudi Arabia's gas-to-power drive and the massive Jafurah unconventional gas development – which is poised to make the kingdom a global blue hydrogen exporter – and Iraq's gas-to-power projects and determination to cut flaring and greenhouse gas emissions. Planned investments meanwhile held relatively steady at \$133bn for 2021-2025, signaling the region's appetite for resuming its natural gas capacity build-up – particularly the ambitious unconventional gas developments in Saudi Arabia, UAE, Oman, and Algeria – once macro conditions improve. (Gulf-Times.com)
- **Qatar witnesses QR378mn real estate deals in one week** – The volume of real estate transactions in sales contracts registered with the Real Estate Registration Department at the Ministry of Justice during the period from April 25 to April 29 reached QR378.555mn. The weekly bulletin issued by the administration stated that the list of real estate traded for sale included vacant lands, residences, a residential building, a residential complex, a multi-use space land and a mixed-use building. Sales operations were concentrated in the municipalities of Al Daayen, Doha, Al Rayyan, Al Wakra, Umm Salal, Al Khor, Al Dhakhira and Al Shamal. The volume of real estate transaction during the period from April 18 to April 22

amounted to QR421.779mn. The sector has witnessed continuing active trading movement during the recent period, especially with the issuance of new laws and decisions related to real estate brokerage, real estate registration, ownership and use of the aspects of laws attracting domestic and foreign capital. (Qatar Tribune)

- **Qatar offers Deodorized Field, Low Sulfur Condensate** – Qatar Petroleum for the Sale of Petroleum Products Company Limited (QPSPP) is offering 500k-1mn barrels of Deodorized Field Condensate and Low Sulfur Condensate for July loading from Ras Laffan, according to a tender document. Bids due 12:30pm local time on May 18, to be valid until 5pm the next day (Bloomberg)
- **Qatar's reuse of treated wastewater for irrigation of green spaces sees 44.6% increase in March** – Qatar has witnessed a robust MoM expansion in the use of treated wastewater in the irrigation of green spaces in March 2021, according to the Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA). Qatar's treated wastewater stood at 21.42mn cubic meters out of 21.43mn cubic meter of wastewater received in March this year, the PSA said. The treated wastewater saw an 11.5% MoM growth but witnessed 11.3% YoY decline in the review period. The treated wastewater reused for irrigation of green spaces witnessed a 28.5% MoM growth to 7.78mn cubic meters, which accounted for more than 36% of the total treated wastewater compared to 31% the previous month. On yearly, the reuse of treated wastewater for irrigation of green spaces saw a 44.6% increase in March 2021. (Gulf-Times.com)

International

- **FAO: World food price index climbs in April, highest since mid-2014** – World food prices increased for a 11th consecutive month in April, hitting their highest level since May 2014, with sugar leading a rise in all the main indices, the United Nations food agency said. The Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) food price index, which measures monthly changes for a basket of cereals, oilseeds, dairy products, meat and sugar, averaged 120.9 points last month versus a revised 118.9 in March. The March figure was previously given as 118.5. The Rome-based FAO also said in a statement that new forecasts pointed to growth in both world wheat and maize output in the coming season. FAO's cereal price index rose 1.2% in April month-on-month and 26% year-on-year. Worries about crop conditions in Argentina, Brazil and the US pushed maize prices up 5.7% last month, while wheat prices held largely steady. By contrast, international rice prices slipped, FAO said. FAO's vegetable oil price index rose 1.8% on the month, pushed higher by rising soy, rapeseed and palm oil quotations, which offset lower sunflower oil values. Dairy prices rose 1.2%, with butter, skim milk powder and cheese all lifted by good demand from Asia, while the meat index climbed 1.7%. FAO said both bovine and ovine meat quotations rose, supported by "solid demand" from East Asia. After a sharp drop in March, sugar prices rebounded in April, posting a 3.9% increase on the month and an almost 60% surge on the year. The monthly increase was prompted by strong buying amid concerns over tighter supplies in 2020/21, due to a slow harvest in Brazil and frost damage in France, FAO said. FAO raised its forecast for global cereal production in 2020 by 1.7mn tons to 2.767bn tons, 2.1% up on

2019 levels. The UN agency also provided its first outlook for wheat in the 2021/22 season, forecasting production at 778.8mn tons, up 0.5% on the 2020 estimate, lifted by an anticipated 6% increase in output in the European Union. FAO also said that early prospects for global coarse grains production in 2021 pointed to a likely third consecutive year of growth, mostly related to maize. (Reuters)

- **G20 commits to 'full financing' of WHO scheme to buy COVID vaccines, drugs** – Leaders of G20 nations are to commit for the first time to fully fund a World Health Organization scheme to distribute COVID-19 vaccines and drugs to poorer nations, the draft conclusions of a summit show, in a move that would unblock nearly \$20bn. The document, subject to changes before a global health summit to be held in Rome on May 21, also says that leaders of the world's 20 largest economies are committed to urgent action this year to boost manufacturing capacity for anti-COVID technologies, but omits mention of vaccine patent waivers. According to the draft, leaders will for the first time express an explicit commitment "to fair and full financing of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) strategy", which is the WHO's scheme to make COVID-19 vaccines, drugs and tests available to everybody in the world. The scheme was launched in April 2020 and is still vastly underfunded. Of the over \$34bn it has been seeking to develop, procure and distribute anti-COVID vaccine and drugs across the world it is still missing \$19bn. In previous statements, G20 leaders said they would address global financing needs but refrained from making any firm financial commitment. On Wednesday, foreign affairs ministers of the G7 group of the most industrialized nations, which are all members of the G20, reiterated their will to give financial support to the scheme but stopped short of saying they would fully meet its financial needs. (Reuters)
- **US weekly jobless claims drop below 500,000; layoffs lowest since 2000** – The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits fell below 500,000 last week for the first since the COVID-19 pandemic started more than a year ago, signaling the labor market recovery had entered a new phase amid a booming economy. That was reinforced by other data on Thursday showing US-based employers in April announced the fewest job cuts in nearly 21 years. The reports added to other upbeat employment data in suggesting that the economy enjoyed another blockbuster month of job growth in April. But the labor market is not out of the woods yet, with about 16.2mn people still collecting unemployment checks. "Although unemployment remains elevated, the labor market is rapidly recovering," said Gus Faucher, Chief economist at PNC Financial in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits tumbled 92,000 to a seasonally adjusted 498,000 for the week ended May 1, the Labor Department said. That was the lowest since mid-March 2020, when mandatory shutdowns of nonessential businesses were enforced to slow the first wave of COVID-19 infections. (Reuters)
- **US hiring takes big step back as businesses scramble for workers, raw materials** – US job growth unexpectedly slowed in April, likely curbed by shortages of workers and raw materials as rapidly improving public health and massive government aid

fueled an economic boom. The Labor Department's closely watched employment report on Friday, which showed a plunge in temporary help jobs - a harbinger for future hiring - as well as decreases in manufacturing, retail and courier services employment, sparked a heated debate about the generosity of unemployment benefits. The enhanced jobless benefits, including a government-funded \$300 weekly supplement, pay more than most minimum wage jobs. The benefits were extended until early September as part of a \$1.9tn COVID-19 pandemic relief package approved in March. Montana and South Carolina are ending government-funded pandemic unemployment benefits for residents next month. Economists say some workers could still be fearful of returning to work even as all adult Americans are now eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccinations. Others also cited problems with child care as in-person classes remain limited in many school districts. Labor and input shortages have been well documented by business surveys. Nonfarm payrolls increased by only 266,000 jobs last month. Data for March was revised down to show 770,000 jobs added instead of 916,000 as previously reported. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast payrolls would advance by 978,000 jobs. That left employment 8.2mn jobs below its peak in February 2020. The US Chamber of Commerce urged the government to scrap the weekly unemployment subsidy, but the White House dismissed complaints the generous unemployment checks were causing worker shortages. (Reuters)

- **Tough US jobs report shows Biden's rocky road to full economic recovery** – President Joe Biden reacted on Friday to a disappointing April jobs report by saying the US economy has a “long way to go” before recovering from its pandemic slump, and he urged Washington to do more to help the American people. US job growth unexpectedly slowed last month, likely restrained by shortages of workers and raw materials. Nonfarm payrolls increased by only 266,000 jobs, well below the nearly 1mn jobs economists expected and a sharp contrast to steady increases in growth from January to March. Biden and his team have said his \$1.9tn pandemic relief package, the Democratic president's first major legislative accomplishment, is helping to bring the economy back from its pandemic plummet, and they are pushing for another \$4tn in new investments. Stock indexes still climbed to record highs despite the news, as fewer investors feared the Federal Reserve would reduce its massive stimulus program anytime soon, and bet Biden's investment plans would succeed. The jobs report highlighted an intractable political divide in Washington over government spending. Republicans and business groups blasted generous unemployment benefits in the relief package, contending they were stopping lower-wage Americans from going back to work. Critics object to the high price tag of Biden's plans and warn they could bring inflation. Biden said he did not believe government benefits were hindering a return to work, and his economists backed him up. (Reuters)
- **Fed's super-easy policy likely to stick after weak jobs report** – The 266,000 jobs that US firms added in April were "nowhere near" what was expected, a Federal Reserve official said Friday, and added little to the "substantial further progress" officials want to see before considering changes to monetary policy. "I hoped to see a stronger report today," Richmond Federal

Reserve president Thomas Barkin said in webcast comments to a West Virginia business group. Barkin said he thought the results were largely driven by labor supply issues and "frictional" barriers to employment such as mismatches between available workers and job skills, and workers still facing child care and other constraints read more . Many, he said, flush with savings and with enhanced unemployment benefits still available, have the "wherewithal" to wait to return to work and may be doing so . Still, it gives Fed policymakers little reason to do anything but keep the monetary policy tap wide open until the economy is on a clearer path back to full employment. The Fed in December said it would not consider changing its bond purchases until there had been "substantial further progress" in reaching its full employment and 2% inflation goals. Fed Chair Jerome Powell has said he wants to see a "string" of strong monthly job reports before opening debate on when and how fast to reduce the support provided to the economy through the coronavirus recession, including the bond purchases and the promise of near zero interest rates for years to come. Officials had cheered data showing more than 900,000 jobs added in March as the expected start of that procession, and analysts said they thought the Fed might begin debate this summer over when to trim the bond purchases as a first step toward shifting monetary policy from crisis mode. (Reuters)

- **US wholesale inventories rise solidly in March** – US wholesale inventories rose slightly less than initially estimated in March as sales surged amid robust demand. The Commerce Department said that wholesale inventories increased 1.3%, instead of 1.4% as estimated last month. Stocks at wholesalers gained 1.0% in February. The component of wholesale inventories that goes into the calculation of gross domestic product increased 1.3% in March. Wholesale inventories shot up 4.5% in March from a year earlier. Sales at wholesalers jumped 4.6% after being unchanged in February. Overall, business inventories were depleted in the first quarter amid a burst in domestic demand. The inventory drawdown subtracted 2.64 percentage points from GDP growth last quarter. Still, the economy grew at a robust 6.4% annualized rate in the March-January period after expanding at a 4.3% pace in the fourth quarter. At March's sales pace it would take wholesalers 1.22 months to clear shelves, down from 1.26 months in February. (Reuters)
- **Bank of England slows bond-buying, sees economy bouncing back more quickly** – The Bank of England (BoE) slowed the pace of its trillion dollar stimulus program and forecast a faster recovery for Britain from the coronavirus slump on Thursday, but stressed it was not tightening monetary policy. Governor Andrew Bailey said it was good news that the economy looked set for a stronger recovery than previously forecast, with less unemployment. But he also stressed there would still be a big shortfall against the economy's pre-pandemic path. "(Let's) not get carried away. It takes us back by the end of this year to the level of output that we had essentially at the end of 2019 pre-COVID," Bailey said at a news conference after the BoE's decision. "The expected completion point of the purchase program remained unchanged. This operational decision should not be interpreted as a change in the stance of monetary policy," the BoE said. So far, most central banks in rich

countries around the world have stressed they are in no hurry to scale back huge the amounts of support they have provided for their economies. The central bank said it would reduce the amount of bonds it buys each week to 3.4bn Pounds, down from a current pace of 4.4bn Pounds a week. (Reuters)

- **China posts rapid trade growth in April as recovery races ahead** – China extended its impressive trade performance in April, with exports unexpectedly accelerating and import growth hitting a decade high, in a boost to the world's second-largest economy. A brisk US economic recovery and stalled factory production in other countries hit by coronavirus have propped up demand for goods made in China, analysts say. Exports in dollar terms surged 32.3% from a year earlier to \$263.92 billion, China's General Administration of Customs said on Friday, beating analysts' forecast of 24.1% and the 30.6% growth reported in March. The numbers helped push the yuan and stocks in China and other Asian markets higher. Imports were also impressive, rising 43.1% from a year earlier, the fastest gain since January 2011 and picking up from the 38.1% growth in March. It was also slightly faster than the 42.5% rise tipped by the Reuters poll, bolstered by higher commodity prices. Indeed, import volumes for some products are starting to level off. China's iron ore imports fell 3.5% in April from a month earlier, while copper imports dropped 12.2% on the month. China's trade surplus of \$42.85bn was wider than a \$28.1bn surplus tipped in the Reuters poll. (Reuters)
- **China's April foreign exchange reserves rise to \$3.2tn** – China's foreign exchange reserves, the world's largest, increased in April from a month earlier, official data showed, as the US dollar weakened. Reserves rose by \$28.15bn to \$3.198tn, data from the central bank showed. Analysts polled by Reuters had expected the reserves to rise to \$3.2tn from \$3.17tn in March. The increase was due to the dollar's fall against other major currencies held in the reserves, and to rises in global asset prices, the foreign exchange regulator said in a statement. The yuan appreciated 1.2% against the dollar in April, while the US currency fell 2.1% against a basket of other major currencies. Strong foreign capital inflows to China also continued in April after the country posted record economic growth in the first three months of the year. China accounted for 95% of foreign net inflows to emerging market equities last month at \$13.5bn, though flows into Chinese debt eased, data from the Institute of International Finance showed. China held 62.64mn fine troy ounces of gold at the end of April, unchanged from a month earlier, the data showed. The value of its gold reserves rose to \$110.73bn at the end of April from \$109.18bn at the end of March. China posted a preliminary current account surplus of \$75.1bn in the first quarter, equivalent to 2% of GDP, the foreign exchange regulator said. It had a preliminary capital and financial account deficit of \$75.1bn in January-March, it said. (Reuters)

Regional

- **Malaysia secures investment commitment from Saudi Arabia and UAE** – Companies in Saudi Arabia committed to invest MYR200mn in Malaysia in the immediate term, according to a statement from Malaysia's Trade Ministry on Friday. Companies also committed to source Malaysian goods and services amounting to MYR833.5mn, to be realized in the

coming years. Emirate companies pledged to invest MYR2.16bn in Malaysia, and purchase Malaysian goods amounting to MYR470mn. Saudi Arabia reiterated it would increase imports of Malaysian palm oil. Saudi Arabia encouraged Malaysia to make it a Malaysian palm oil hub for the Middle East and North Africa region. This was all achieved during Malaysia's trade and investment mission to Saudi Arabia and UAE from April 26 to May 4. (Bloomberg)

- **Saudi public debt up 5.6% to SR901.4bn in 1Q2021** – Saudi public debt increased about 5.6% during the first quarter of this year nearly amounting to SR901.4bn, compared to the end of the fourth quarter of last year. This recorded the fastest growth rate since the second quarter of last year, which was caused by the pandemic repercussions, Al Eqtisadiyah reported. The debt grew by 24.6% compared to the same period in 2020, which amounted to SR723.46bn. About 57% of the debt comes from internal debt nearly amounting to SR513.74bn, while the external debt amounted to about SR387.63bn, Al Eqtisadiyah reported citing data of the Ministry of Finance. The volume of debt to GDP increased to 35.6% at the end of the first quarter of this year compared to the end of last year at 32.3%, based on the GDP at constant prices. (Zawya)
- **SAMA: Saudi insurance sector grew 2.3% in 2020** – The insurance sector in Saudi Arabia grew 2.3% in 2020 with total written premiums reaching SR38.78bn, according to the Saudi Central Bank (SAMA) 14th annual report on the Saudi insurance market, issued on Thursday. The report highlights the performance of the insurance sector in Saudi Arabia in 2020 and the sector's contribution to the Kingdom's gross domestic product (GDP). Energy and Accident & Liability insurance classes showed a notable increase in written premiums. The penetration ratio of the sector increased from 1.3% in 2019 to 1.5% in 2020. In terms of the underwriting performance, the overall loss ratio positively improved to reach 77.5%. Insurance net profit (after zakat & tax) for the sector increased by 61.1% compared to the previous year's corresponding figure, thereby improving the return-on-assets and return-on-equity ratios. The report noted also that the overall Saudization ratio increased from 74% in 2019 to 75% in 2020. These positive results came despite the difficult times the sector faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. (Zawya)
- **Saudi Arabia bans poultry from 11 Brazilian processing plants** – Saudi Arabia has banned imports from 11 Brazilian poultry plants with no warning or explanation, according to a joint statement from Brazil's agriculture and foreign ministries on Thursday. JBS, the world's largest meat company, confirmed that it was affected by the ban but declined to disclose how many plants had been targeted by the decision. The Saudi Food and Drug Authority said imports from seven JBS plants will be suspended as of May 23. BRF SA, Brazil's biggest chicken processor, said none of its units were affected. ABPA, an association representing poultry and pork processors in Brazil, regretted the decision from Brazil's long-time meat importer. It said it is supporting the Brazilian government's efforts to understand Saudi Arabia's "unilateral" decision. (Reuters)
- **DP World plans to develop road linking Ethiopia to Berbera** – DP World plans to develop the Ethiopian side of the road linking the country to Berbera into a trade and logistics corridor. The

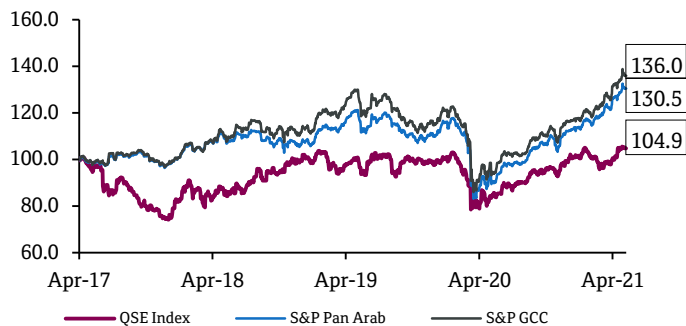
MoU proposes setting up JV logistics company. DP World and its partners may invest up to \$1bn over the next 10 years in developing the supply chain infrastructure along the corridor. (Bloomberg)

- **SHUAA Capital sells 20% stake in utility firm to Japanese investor** – UAE-based asset management firm SHUAA Capital has divested its 20 percent equity stake in Mirfa International Power and Water Company (MIPCO), to Japanese group Sojitz Corporation (Sojitz). The divestment is in line with the Group's planned exit strategy, SHUAA said. Utility giant MIPCO's shareholders also include the Abu Dhabi National Energy Group PJSC (TAQA) and Engie, the French low carbon energy and services group, both of which will remain shareholders (with 60% and 20% stakes respectively), SHUAA said. Commenting on the sale of its stake, Fawad Tariq Khan, MD, Head of Investment Banking at SHUAA Capital, said, "With its experience in international power, Sojitz represents an ideal partner for MIPCO going forward, bringing operational expertise as a strategic investor." SHUAA Capital is yet to reveal the value of the deal. MIPCO was set up in 2014 in Abu Dhabi and it operates a power generation and seawater desalination plant in the Al Dhafra region of the emirate, with a net power capacity of 1600MW and a net water capacity of 52.5 MIGD, contracted under the Power and Water Purchase Agreement (PWPA). Sojitz is a multinational trading and investment group, listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange, with assets of \$21bn across a number of sectors. It has 40 power projects in more than 14 countries globally. Standard Chartered Bank acted as financial adviser on the transaction for SHUAA, with Linklaters appointed as its legal advisor. (Zawya)
- **Mubadala posts record annual income and investment** – Abu Dhabi state investor Mubadala's total income rose nearly 36% to a record high last year, driven by growth in its public equities portfolio and funds, while it accelerated investment during the COVID-19 pandemic. "We navigated our portfolio through the dramatic macroeconomic decline of early 2020 and decided to accelerate the pace of our capital deployment, ending the year with record profit and growth," CEO, Khaldoon Al-Mubarak said. Mubadala Investment Co invested AED108bn of capital in 2020, the most ever in a single year. Investments included AED4.3bn in Reliance Industries-owned Jio, AED2.7bn in private equity investor Silver Lake and AED7.5bn through partnerships with CVC, Citadel, iSquared Capital and Apax Partners. Mubarak doubled down on growth sectors such as technology, life sciences and self-driving technology, while asset sales hit AED104bn as it exited from some of its mature assets. The monetisations included a deal worth AED16.7bn through the sale of its 39% stake in plastics maker Borealis to OMV. Mubadala posted total comprehensive income attributable to the owner of AED72bn, up from AED53bn a year earlier, it said in a statement. Comprehensive income includes net income and unrealized gains such as hedges on financial instruments or foreign currency transactions. Assets under management rose 4.8% to AED894bn. (Reuters)
- **Etisalat to raise EUR1bn with two-tranche bonds** – Abu Dhabi-based telecoms operator Etisalat is set to raise EUR1bn in dual-tranche bonds on Thursday, a document from one of the banks leading the deal showed. The company plans to raise

EUR500mn in seven-year notes and a further EUR500mn with a 12-year maturity, according to the document reviewed by Reuters. The seven-year notes were being marketed at about 85 basis points over mid-swaps, with the 12-year tranche at about 110 bps over. HSBC, BNP Paribas, First Abu Dhabi Bank and Societe Generale have been hired to arrange the transaction, which is expected to close later on Thursday. (Reuters)

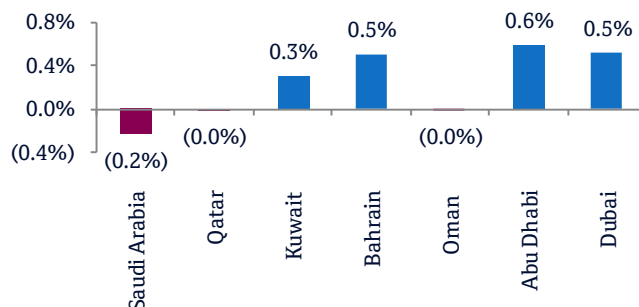
- **IHC to list three subsidiaries on Abu Dhabi's ADX Second Market in 2Q2021** – Three subsidiaries of Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX)-listed International Holding Company (IHC) will be listed on the exchange's Second Market commencing in 2Q2021. The listing will create an attractive opportunity for current and new investors to take part in the growth of the companies, as well as benefitting IHC as a result of increased profile raising and higher visibility from these companies. Emirates Stallion Group is one of IHC's subsidiaries and has a diversified portfolio of businesses across engineering and construction, development and management of real estate and public realms and associated services. Ever since its inception in 2006, ESG has grown rapidly becoming the region's only all-encompassing real estate partner. ESG is home to 5 fully owned subsidiaries, 90+ operational sites, 12 marketplace presence and 4 associates and joint ventures. The subsidiaries include Century Real Estate, Royal Development Company, Abu Dhabi Land General Contracting, Gulf Dunes Landscaping and Agricultural services and RAPM Architect Project Management. The company has assets of AED394mn as of the end of 2020 and over 1000 employees. One of the three companies to list is Al Seer Marine, a leading marine organization in the Arabian maritime region, with an all-encompassing portfolio of products and services. The company engages in multiple marine sectors such as high-tech boatbuilding, unmanned systems development and manufacturing, Al Seer Marine Training Institute (ASMTI) for product training, maintenance and support services, supply logistics, 24x7 yacht management and project management. Founded in 2002, Al Seer Marine has assets of AED717.8mn as at the end of 2020. (Zawya)
- **Kuwait Finance House reports net profit of KD50mn in 1Q2021** – Kuwait Finance House (KFH) reported net profit of KD50mn, an increase of 13% YoY. The operating revenue came in at KD203.4mn, a decrease of 7.6% YoY, Operating profit came in at KD127.6mn, a decrease of 8.2% YoY. The Bank cites decrease in provisions and impairment charges to the statement of income by 25.1%. (Bloomberg)
- **King Fahd Causeway reopening to give Bahrain \$2.9bn tourism boost** – The reopening of the King Fahd Causeway, which connects Bahrain to Saudi Arabia, will add up to \$2.9bn to Bahrain's economy this year, based on average tourism spending in 2019, according to the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Saudi Arabia has said it will reopen land, sea and air border crossings on May 17. Bahrain attracted nearly 11mn visitors in 2019, of which 9mn were tourists. Saudis account for 88% of Bahrain's visitors, the majority of whom come via the causeway. Although trade between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia has continued throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, tourism has been severely affected, Asharrq reported citing Executive Director of investments at the Economic Development Board, Ali Al-Midfa. (Zawya)

Rebased Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Daily Index Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Asset/Currency Performance	Close (\$)	1D%	WTD%	YTD%
Gold/Ounce	1,831.24	0.9	3.5	(3.5)
Silver/Ounce	27.45	0.5	5.9	4.0
Crude Oil (Brent)/Barrel (FM Future)	68.28	0.3	1.5	31.8
Crude Oil (WTI)/Barrel (FM Future)	64.90	0.3	2.1	33.8
Natural Gas (Henry Hub)/MMBtu	2.90	0.0	1.0	21.3
LPG Propane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	79.50	(0.8)	(2.5)	5.6
LPG Butane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	83.00	0.0	(1.5)	19.4
Euro	1.22	0.8	1.2	(0.4)
Yen	108.60	(0.4)	(0.6)	5.2
GBP	1.40	0.7	1.2	2.3
CHF	1.11	0.7	1.4	(1.8)
AUD	0.78	0.8	1.7	1.9
USD Index	90.23	(0.8)	(1.1)	0.3
RUB	73.79	(0.6)	(1.9)	(0.8)
BRL	0.19	0.7	3.8	(0.8)

Source: Bloomberg

Global Indices Performance	Close	1D%*	WTD%*	YTD%*
MSCI World Index	2,979.41	0.9	1.4	10.8
DJ Industrial	34,777.76	0.7	2.7	13.6
S&P 500	4,232.60	0.7	1.2	12.7
NASDAQ 100	13,752.24	0.9	(1.5)	6.7
STOXX 600	444.93	1.7	2.8	10.8
DAX	15,399.65	2.2	2.8	11.0
FTSE 100	7,129.71	1.4	3.4	13.0
CAC 40	6,385.51	1.3	2.9	14.3
Nikkei	29,357.82	0.5	2.5	1.6
MSCI EM	1,348.57	0.6	0.1	4.4
SHANGHAI SE Composite	3,418.87	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.1)
HANG SENG	28,610.65	(0.1)	(0.4)	4.9
BSE SENSEX	49,206.47	1.0	1.9	2.7
Bovespa	122,038.10	3.2	6.5	1.5
RTS	1,577.51	1.7	6.2	13.7

Source: Bloomberg (*\$ adjusted returns)

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