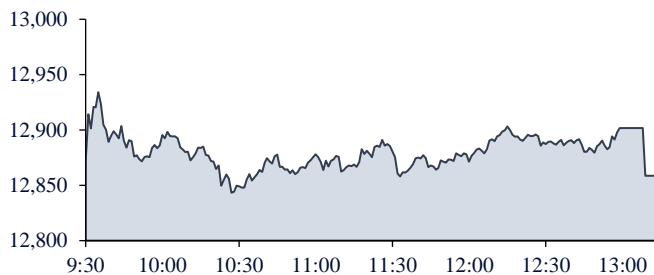


QSE Intra-Day Movement



Qatar Commentary

The QE Index declined 0.1% to close at 12,858.6. Losses were led by the Real Estate and Consumer Goods & Services indices, falling 0.6% and 0.4%, respectively. Top losers were Qatar Industrial Manufacturing Co. and Qatar Islamic Bank, falling 1.9% and 1.4%, respectively. Among the top gainers, Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Co. gained 3.1%, while Gulf Warehousing Company was up 2.6%.

GCC Commentary

Saudi Arabia: The TASI Index gained 2.3% to close at 12,588.9. Gains were led by the Media & Entertainment and Food & Beverages indices, rising 6.3% and 3.8%, respectively. Riyadh Bank rose 8.3%, while Saudi Research and Media Group was up 7.0%.

Dubai: The DFM Index fell marginally to close at 3,258.0. The Consumer Staples and Discretionary index declined 2.1%, while the Real Estate & Construction index fell 0.8%. AL Salam Sudan declined 8.4%, while Chimera S&P UAE Shariah ETF was down 4.4%.

Abu Dhabi: The ADX General Index gained 1.0% to close at 9,519.1. The Industrials index rose 2.8%, while the HealthCare index gained 1.4%. Abu Dhabi National Co. for Building Materials rose 13.6%, while Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank was up 5.3%.

Kuwait: The Kuwait All Share Index gained 0.6% to close at 7,583.7. The Technology index rose 8.7%, while the Real Estate index gained 2.3%. ALSafat Investment Company rose 20.2%, while Palms Agro Production Co. was up 7.2%.

Oman: The MSM 30 Index gained marginally to close at 4,121.6. The Financial index gained 0.4%, while the other indices ended flat or in red. Takaful Oman rose 10.0%, while Al Omaniya Financial Services was up 9.9%.

Bahrain: The BHB Index fell 0.1% to close at 1,888.9. The Industrials and Materials indices declined marginally. APM Terminals Bahrain declined 1.6%, while Bahrain National holding Co. was down 1.2%.

Market Indicators	25 May 22	24 May 22	%Chg.
Value Traded (QR mn)	613.6	517.9	18.5
Exch. Market Cap. (QR mn)	721,781.9	719,838.3	0.3
Volume (mn)	114.8	111.3	3.2
Number of Transactions	20,859	17,934	16.3
Companies Traded	44	45	(2.2)
Market Breadth	14:27	15:25	-

Market Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	YTD%	TTM P/E
Total Return	26,338.54	(0.1)	1.0	14.4	15.9
All Share Index	4,119.55	0.1	0.9	11.4	162.7
Banks	5,565.55	0.2	1.8	12.2	17.2
Industrials	4,698.30	0.0	(0.3)	16.8	13.5
Transportation	3,921.74	0.5	1.7	10.2	13.7
Real Estate	1,795.53	(0.6)	1.0	3.2	18.9
Insurance	2,689.27	0.1	(1.1)	(1.4)	17.1
Telecoms	1,108.49	0.8	(0.9)	4.8	34.0
Consumer	8,646.68	(0.4)	(0.9)	5.2	24.2
Al Rayan Islamic Index	5,260.70	(0.5)	0.2	11.5	13.3

GCC Top Gainers**	Exchange	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Riyadh Bank	Saudi Arabia	37.40	8.2	2,123.1	38.0
Bank Al Bilad	Saudi Arabia	49.15	6.8	2,113.4	41.4
Saudi Electricity Co.	Saudi Arabia	25.45	6.2	4,132.5	6.1
Almarai Co.	Saudi Arabia	52.00	6.0	664.3	6.7
Alinma Bank	Saudi Arabia	38.05	5.4	11,016.7	58.8

GCC Top Losers**	Exchange	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Jabal Omar Dev. Co.	Saudi Arabia	26.40	(1.9)	1,284.7	3.9
Ooredoo Oman	Oman	0.32	(1.8)	304.6	(15.8)
Ahli United Bank	Bahrain	0.88	(1.8)	333.5	4.0
Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank	Abu Dhabi	9.20	(1.5)	3,490.1	7.9
Emaar Properties	Dubai	5.44	(1.4)	23,040.6	11.2

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%
Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Co.	4.02	3.1	2,596.0	11.6
Gulf Warehousing Company	4.40	2.6	3,030.1	(3.0)
QNB Group	21.00	1.7	9,052.5	4.0
Al Meera Consumer Goods Co.	18.29	1.3	67.9	(6.7)
Ooredoo	7.25	1.3	2,844.7	3.3

QSE Top Volume Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Masraf Al Rayan	4.78	(1.1)	15,361.2	3.0
Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co.	1.97	(1.4)	14,136.9	9.6
QNB Group	21.00	1.7	9,052.5	4.0
Baladna	1.67	(0.5)	7,775.3	15.6
Salam International Inv. Ltd.	0.96	(0.5)	6,694.8	16.6

QSE Top Losers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Qatar Industrial Manufacturing Co	3.01	(1.9)	130.6	(1.9)
Qatar Islamic Bank	24.65	(1.4)	4,004.2	34.5
Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co.	1.97	(1.4)	14,136.9	9.6
United Development Company	1.43	(1.3)	737.7	(7.4)
Dlala Brokerage & Inv. Holding Co.	1.63	(1.2)	254.1	32.1

QSE Top Value Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
QNB Group	21.00	1.7	190,252.0	4.0
Qatar Islamic Bank	24.65	(1.4)	99,303.4	34.5
Masraf Al Rayan	4.78	(1.1)	73,570.2	3.0
Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co.	1.97	(1.4)	28,089.4	9.6
The Commercial Bank	7.00	(0.1)	21,741.0	3.7

Regional Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	MTD%	YTD%	Exch. Val. Traded (\$ mn)	Exchange Mkt. Cap. (\$ mn)	P/E**	P/B**	Dividend Yield
Qatar*	12,858.58	(0.1)	1.0	(5.4)	10.6	168.06	197,190.8	15.9	1.8	3.4
Dubai	3,258.04	(0.0)	(3.9)	(12.4)	1.9	82.22	146,744.8	13.4	1.1	3.2
Abu Dhabi	9,519.07	1.0	(2.9)	(5.2)	12.6	426.57	491,844.2	21.3	2.7	2.1
Saudi Arabia	12,588.89	2.3	1.3	(8.3)	11.6	2,303.31	3,248,739.3	22.5	2.6	2.2
Kuwait	7,583.72	0.6	(3.1)	(9.3)	7.7	281.42	143,832.0	18.4	1.8	2.8
Oman	4,121.56	0.0	(0.8)	(0.9)	(0.2)	9.22	19,346.2	11.8	0.8	5.0
Bahrain	1,888.92	(0.1)	(1.7)	(8.1)	5.1	5.19	30,352.4	7.2	0.9	5.9

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 0.1% to close at 12,858.6. The Real Estate and Consumer Goods & Services indices led the losses. The index fell on the back of selling pressure from Qatari, GCC and Arab shareholders despite buying support from foreign shareholders.
- Qatar Industrial Manufacturing Co. and Qatar Islamic Bank were the top losers, falling 1.9% and 1.4%, respectively. Among the top gainers, Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Co. gained 3.1%, while Gulf Warehousing Company was up 2.6%.
- Volume of shares traded on Wednesday rose by 3.2% to 114.8mn from 111.3mn on Tuesday. However, as compared to the 30-day moving average of 216.2mn, volume for the day was 46.9% lower. Masraf Al Rayan and Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co. were the most active stocks, contributing 13.4% and 12.3% to the total volume, respectively.

Overall Activity	Buy %*	Sell %*	Net (QR)
Qatari Individuals	20.30%	21.67%	(8,403,889.4)
Qatari Institutions	15.58%	30.81%	(93,456,245.6)
Qatari	35.88%	52.48%	(101,860,135.1)
GCC Individuals	0.38%	0.79%	(2,475,946.1)
GCC Institutions	1.46%	3.82%	(14,440,165.0)
GCC	1.85%	4.60%	(16,916,111.1)
Arab Individuals	6.93%	8.10%	(7,148,552.7)
Arab Institutions	0.00%	0.00%	-
Arab	6.93%	8.10%	(7,148,552.7)
Foreigners Individuals	1.68%	2.23%	(3,393,857.3)
Foreigners Institutions	53.67%	32.59%	129,318,656.3
Foreigners	55.34%	34.82%	125,924,798.9

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

Global Economic Data

Global Economic Data

Date	Market	Source	Indicator	Period	Actual	Consensus	Previous
05/25	Germany	GfK AG	GfK Consumer Confidence	Jun	-26	-25.5	-26.5
05/25	Germany	German Federal Statistical Office	Private Consumption QoQ	1Q	-0.10%	0.20%	-1.80%
05/25	Germany	German Federal Statistical Office	Government Spending QoQ	1Q	0.10%	1.00%	1.00%
05/25	Germany	German Federal Statistical Office	Capital Investment QoQ	1Q	2.70%	1.50%	0.50%
05/25	Germany	German Federal Statistical Office	GDP SA QoQ	1Q F	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%
05/25	Germany	German Federal Statistical Office	GDP NSA YoY	1Q F	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%
05/25	Germany	German Federal Statistical Office	GDP WDA YoY	1Q F	3.80%	3.70%	3.70%
05/25	France	INSEE National Statistics Office	Consumer Confidence	May	86	89	87
05/25	Japan	Economic and Social Research I	Leading Index CI	Mar F	100.8	N/A	101
05/25	Japan	Economic and Social Research I	Coincident Index	Mar F	97.5	N/A	97

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

Qatar

- Baladna reached 10% share ownership in Juhayna Food Industries (Egypt)** - Baladna Company announced its purchase on May 24, 2022 - 1,400,000 shares (Gross Transaction value of EGP 12,390,000, equivalent to QR 2,480,854) of Juhayna Food Industries (Company listed on Egyptian Stock Exchange) on 24th May 2022 and accordingly we have reached 10.138% stake equivalent to 95,442,802 shares in Juhayna. Below mentioned the summary of Investment as of 24 May 2022. 1) No. of Shares purchased to date: 95,442,802 Shares. 2) Total Investment to date EGP 635,047,187.87 (Equivalent to QAR 138,699,099). We would also like to point out that the purchase was made through a series of transactions, the first of which was on 13 July 2021 and on 6 March 2022 Baladna reached a 5% stake in Juhayna's capital. After that, Baladna Company continued its share purchase, thus raising its share in the Juhayna Company's capital to reach on 24 May 2022 to 95,442,802 shares, which is equivalent to 10.138% of Juhayna's total capital. Baladna is a market leader in the Qatar dairy market and has shown resilient growth over the last 3 years. According to the developed strategy the company wants to continue its growth path within Qatar and to expand to other countries outside Qatar into F&B market. This is by taking into consideration both green field and brown field projects to enhance the shareholder value. Investment decisions are based on very detailed analysis of the market. Egypt market with population more than 100mn is large and promising F&B market. Being the market leader, Juhayna company is expected to be most beneficial from the market growth with strong distribution network. Juhayna Food Industries, A leading Egypt-based manufacturer specialized in the production, processing and packaging of dairy, juice, and cooking products. Since its founding in 1983, it has secured a frontrunner position in the dairy and juice industries in Egypt and has expanded its presence in the Middle East, a feat made possible through its firm commitment to delivering a wide range of high-quality, healthy, and safe products that have become trusted household names. (QSE)
- Salam International Board of directors meeting on 14 June 2022** - Salam International has announced that its Board of Directors will be holding a

meeting on 14 June 2022 to discuss and follow up on the implementation of previous decisions. (QSE)

- Qatar's energy sector plays crucial role in meeting UK's LNG demand** - Qatar's energy sector plays an important role in meeting the demands of the United Kingdom for Liquefied Natural Gas. The Qatari sector provides the UK with 20% of its demand. The number is likely to increase to between 70% and 80% between 2024 and 2030 as the UK government looks to diversify its natural gas resources. The strategic bilateral ties between Qatar and the UK are reflected on the ground in a number of projects and agreements that include the energy sector. South Hook LNG terminal, launched more than 12 years ago, is the cornerstone of that partnership and a true example of a win-win situation. Minister of State for Energy Affairs HE Saad bin Sherida Al Kaabi stressed in a celebration of South Hooks 10-year anniversary that the UK was a highly important market for Qatari LNG, citing the attractive business environment and stable regulation. He added that investment in the energy field bolsters the longstanding bilateral ties between the two nations. (Peninsula Qatar)
- Hamad Port ranks world's third most efficient gateway on Container Port Performance Index** - Hamad Port has ranked the third most efficient gateway in the world on the World Bank and S&P Global Market Intelligence's 370-member Container Port Performance Index for 2021. The index considered the number of hours a ship spent at a port during each loading and unloading task throughout 2021, the year that saw unprecedented traffic at all seaports worldwide and a disrupted supply chain globally. The analysis in its second edition highlighted the resilience and strength of the ports in the Middle East, which dominated several top rankings, and their strong performance amid the repercussions of the coronavirus pandemic. Noteworthy, Hamad Port in 2021 received some 1750 vessels, handled over 1.54mn TEUs, over 1.3mn tons of bulk cargo and nearly 267200 tons of general cargo, in addition to receiving 45500 heads of livestock, and more than 72200 units of vehicles and equipment. The index said several ports in the Middle East and East Asia dominated the ranking. (Peninsula Qatar)

- IP applications by young innovators surge in Qatar** – The number of intellectual property (IP) applications filed by young entrepreneurs and inventors at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) has surged over the past year amid a booming entrepreneurship ecosystem and the rising number of young innovators in the Qatari market, according to an official. Speaking to The Peninsula on the sidelines of the World Intellectual Property Day Ceremony organized by the MoCI, Amna Jaber Al Kuwari, Director of Intellectual Property Protection at MoCI said the IP applications by young people in Qatar have even exceeded the expectations at the Ministry. “We see a lot of numbers. The new generation is into business, and they are exceeding our expectation on a daily basis. They are contributing to the economy through their small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurial projects. And we encourage them to protect their rights by registering in each and every aspect of intellectual property, whether it is a trademark, trade secret, patent, or copyright. We would like them to be protected, and it is also part of contributing to the country’s Global Innovation Index (GI),” said Al Kuwari. Speaking about IP applications filed in Qatar last year, she said the number of orders for introduction to trademark protection stood at 1,422, while the number of applications submitted by foreigners to register a trademark was 7,983. Also in 2021, as many as 262 applications were filed for copy-right protection in Qatar, while there were 91 domestic and foreign patent applications which have been recorded in the country. (Peninsula Qatar)
- Dukhan Bank launches first-of-its-kind feature for private banking customers** – Dukhan Bank has unveiled a new digital feature for private banking customers, which is the first-of-its-kind among Qatari banks. Dukhan Bank Investment Tracking is an exceptional self-service feature to assist customers to view their investment portfolios at ease and comfort, at the same time providing real-time reporting and analysis on portfolio performance. Commenting on the new Investment Tracking feature, Chaouki Daher, Dukhan Bank’s GM - Head of Private Banking stated: “We are delighted to launch the Investment Tracking service on our Mobile Banking App which strengthens our range of next generation of digital services. Investment Tracking has been tailored exclusively to meet the needs of modern investors and provides financial news, up-to-date market data and analysis via our award-winning mobile banking app”. (Peninsula Qatar)
- Commercial Bank ‘Exclusive Innovation Partner’ of Euromoney Qatar Conference 2022** – Commercial Bank, the most innovative digital bank in Qatar, announced that it has become the Exclusive Innovation Partner of the Euromoney Qatar Conference 2022, taking place at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel on May 29th, 2022 under the patronage of HE Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani, Qatar’s Prime Minister and Minister of Interior. Co-hosted with Qatar Central Bank, this high-level gathering of financiers and investors returns to Doha to chart the latest developments in Qatar’s economic story. In a keynote interview at the conference, Joseph Abraham, Group CEO of Commercial Bank will explore Qatar’s economic prospects for 2022, how important is ESG to the Bank and to its customers along with the future of Commercial Bank in the context of digitization. Dr. Leonie Lethbridge, EGM, Chief Operating Officer of Commercial Bank, will speak during a panel on the future of banking and the evolution of the Qatari banking sector toward digitization. (Peninsula Qatar)
- Qatar to invest more than \$500mn in Indonesia’s ‘10 New Balis’ tourism project** – Indonesia and Qatar have committed to strengthen the countries’ economic ties, with the latter agreeing to invest more than \$500mn in Indonesia’s ‘10 New Balis’ tourism project. Trade between Indonesia and Qatar has increased in the past few years to reach \$687mn in 2020. Coordinating Economic Minister Airlangga Hartarto met with Qatari Finance Minister Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari over the deal on Tuesday on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland. The two ministers reportedly had a positive and productive discussion about the relationship between their countries and their commitment to strengthen economic ties. (Bloomberg)
- CESCO takes part in Milipol Qatar 2022** – Consolidated Engineering Systems Company (CESCO), a subsidiary of Investment Holding Group, is participating in the 14th edition of the Inter-national Event for Homeland Security & Civil Defence (Milipol Qatar 2022). CESCO is a market leader in fire alarm, firefighting, audio visual solutions, and ELV systems. The company is committed to delivering high quality products and services through its partnership with global renowned suppliers. With its distinctive models and presentations showcasing CESCO’s services and solutions, the company’s stand has attracted many visitors during Milipol Qatar 2022. Commenting on this participation, Henrik Christiansen, Group Chief Executive Officer of Investment Holding Group said: “CESCO is pleased to participate in Milipol Qatar 2022, and we believe in the importance of this exhibition to meet Qatar’s demand in the sectors of homeland security and civil defense. The exhibition also is a great opportunity for exhibitors and local and

international experts to exchange experiences and discuss new business opportunities.” (Peninsula Qatar)

- Mol signs over QR71.5mn contracts on second day of Milipol Qatar 2022** – On the second day of Milipol Qatar 2022 at Doha Exhibition and Convention Center in Doha, the event’s organizing committee announced signing of five deals worth QR71,501,924 with various Qatari and international companies taking part in the 14th edition of the Milipol Qatar. Announcing the deals, Brigadier Saud Rashid Al Shafi, director-general of the Logistics Department of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and member of the Milipol Qatar Committee, said that the Ministry of Interior has signed a QR25,413,000 contract with Abdullah Abdulghani & Bros. Co. W.L.L and Saleh Al Hamad Al Mana Company for an amount of QR9,360,000 for importing different kinds of vehicles for the benefit of various departments of the ministry. The ministry also signed a contract worth QR1,267,500 with Eshhar Security Services for importing of the mobile radars, and a QR21,617,624 contract with Nokia Solutions and Networks for designing, importing, fixing, updating and improving the main servers. Another contract was signed with Ares Shipyard for a total amount of QR13,843,800 for importation of three speed boats for the Ministry of Interior. (Qatar Tribune)
- QA to operate three daily flights from Abu Dhabi** – Qatar Airways has announced an increase in flights from Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates, operating triple daily flights from the Emirate to Doha, commencing on July 10. The additional flights will provide passengers with more flexibility and better connectivity to Qatar Airways’ extensive global network. With this increase in its services, the airline will operate 21 weekly flights from Abu Dhabi, and a total of 56 flights from Qatar Airways’ three gateways in UAE; Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi. (Peninsula Qatar)
- Qatar to host major events on hospitality, real estate and air transport in June** – The country is set to host major events for the month of June, from human capital management, music, construction technology and building materials exhibition, hospitality, air transport summit, to sports tournaments, the public will enjoy jam-packed events and forums. On June 1, the second edition Qatar HR Conference 2022 will be held virtually from 9am to 5pm. Carrying the theme “Excellence in Human Capital Management,” it will feature a one-day virtual conference and exhibition. The event will bring together key executives from the HR, recruitment, education, and training sectors to share insights and invaluable business experience with other industries and businesses to help them navigate uncertainties and be more agile. There will be three sessions covering four topics each. Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra (QPO) will have a concert entitled The Best of Franz Liszt on June 3 at Katara Cultural Village, Opera House. QPO said: “The concert will feature Piano Concerto No. 1, a piece so magnificent that it took Liszt over 25 years to complete, as well as Les Préludes, the best known of Liszt’s symphonic poems. This concert is for piano enthusiasts as Liszt was considered the greatest piano virtuoso of his time. János Balázs will perform solo piano and Alastair Willis will conduct.” Happening on from June 6 to 9 are Hospitality Qatar 2022 and Project Qatar 2022, both will be held at Doha Exhibition and Convention Center (DECC). Hospitality Qatar 2022 is considered as the country’s exclusive and longest-running Inter-national Hospitality and HORECA (hotels, restaurants, and cafes) Trade Show. The event has earned its place as a must-visit event, aiming at the latest developments and prospects in the sector. Project Qatar 2022 is the country’s only business exhibition specialized in construction and all related industries. The event promises fast market penetration into the country’s lucrative construction market, and the opportunity to generate new business leads with companies of all sizes. From June 9 to 10, Future Retail Destinations Qatar Forum 2022 on its first year is set to take place at Sheraton Grand Doha Resort & Convention Hotel. This is a platform to showcase and position Qatar as an inspirational and unique shopping and entertainment destination in the region. The forum which will be an annual event is set to address the retail habits of the nation, raising awareness of the retail developments in the country, highlighting success and fostering growth of the retail industry to fulfil the Qatar National Vision 2030. (Peninsula Qatar)

International

- IIF cuts 2022 global GDP growth estimate in half, flows to EM to drop 42%** – The Institute of International Finance slashed its 2022 growth outlook for global output in half, citing the economic effects of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, China’s response to a COVID-19 wave and tighter monetary policy in the United States. The IIF also expects capital flows to emerging markets to shrink by 42% from last year. Based on its new estimates, the global banking trade group said recession risk had risen as true growth was expected to flat-line. “Weakness is broad-based and leaves little margin for error,” IIF economists wrote in a report. “Global recession risk is elevated. In this context, we expect non-resident flows to emerging markets to slow



significantly." The IIF cut its forecast for global GDP growth to 2.3% from 4.6%, with the G3 - the US, the Euro area and Japan - growing at a 1.9% rate this year. They expect China's growth to decelerate to 3.5% from 5.1% in the previous estimate. "The Omicron wave in China is more disruptive than we anticipated and will take a substantial toll on growth and capital flows," the IIF said. Growth in the euro area was previously cut to 1% from 3%, mostly on the effects of the invasion of Ukraine. "Importantly, because the statistical carryover from 2021 into this year is 1.9 percentage points, this is a recession forecast that anticipates falling GDP in the second half of the year." Growth in Latin America is forecast slightly faster at 2% on the back of high commodity prices, while the IIF expects "a certain degree of resilience" from Middle East and North African oil exporters. Capital flows to emerging markets are expected to slow "significantly," according to the report, with non-resident flows dropping to \$972bn from \$1.68tn last year. The figure drops to \$645bn when China is left out, down from \$1.0tn. (Reuters)

- CBO sees sharp reduction in FY 2022 deficit, but slowing economy to boost debt** - The US budget deficit will shrink dramatically to \$1.036tn for fiscal 2022 from \$2.775tn last year as a strong recovery prompts a surge in revenues and lower outlays, but slowing growth will start to reverse the trend, the Congressional Budget Office said on Wednesday. Releasing new economic and baseline budget forecasts, the CBO said its now expects the fiscal 2022 deficit to be \$118bn lower than an estimate made last July. The government's fiscal year starts Oct. 1 and runs through Sept. 30. The non-partisan fiscal referee agency forecast US real GDP growth at a solid 3.1% for calendar 2022, driven by strong consumer spending, down from a sharp 5.5% rebound in 2021. But CBO said that US economic momentum would slow as the Federal Reserve hikes interest rates to control inflation, and forecast 2.2% growth for 2023 and 1.5% for 2024. The CBO forecasts that inflation would remain elevated during 2022, in line with the strongest pace in 40 years, with the consumer price index increasing at 6.1% and the personal consumption expenditures index increasing at 4.0%, due to continued supply constraints in the face of high demand and a tight labor market. While it projected that the fiscal 2023 deficit will shrink slightly to \$984bn, deficits will rise in subsequent years, averaging about \$1.6tn annually between 2023 and 2032. The deficit for the fiscal 2022-2031 decade has increased by about \$2.4tn since the July forecast, to about \$14.5tn, largely due to legislative changes that boost spending, including the \$1.2tn Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and fiscal 2022 appropriations. The CBO's deficit projections do not include the supplemental \$40bn aid package for Ukraine, which was passed last week after the agency locked its budget and economic assumptions for the latest forecasts. read more It will be included in a subsequent budget review. The increases in future deficits are also driven by forecasts of higher interest expenses on the federal debt, which rise to \$1.2tn, or 3.3% of GDP by 2032 from \$399bn, or 1.6% of GDP, in fiscal 2022, according to the CBO projections. CBO Director Philip Swagel told reporters that the projections are a sign that the "flow burden" from interest payments "is rising pretty steadily and meaningfully over the 10 year budget window." The agency predicts that US public debt will increase from 98% of GDP this year with an average interest rate of 1.9% to 110% of GDP by 2032 with an average rate of 3.1%. (Reuters)
- US core capital goods orders growth slows in April; shipments increase** - New orders for US-made capital goods increased less than expected in April, suggesting businesses could be slowing their pace of spending on equipment as they confront growing headwinds from rising interest rates and tightening financial conditions. The mixed report from the Commerce Department on Wednesday followed on the heels of May regional factory surveys last week showing manufacturers expecting moderate growth in capital spending over the next six months. The Federal Reserve has adopted an aggressive monetary policy stance to cool demand and tame inflation, sparking a stock market sell-off and boosting US Treasury yields and the dollar. "Rate-sensitive business equipment investment growth is beginning to slow," said Michael Pearce, a senior US economist at Capital Economics in New York. "That is consistent with our view that economic activity is bending rather than breaking under the impact of higher rates." Orders for non-defense capital goods excluding aircraft, a closely watched proxy for business spending plans, rose 0.3% last month. These so-called core capital goods orders advanced 1.1% in March. They were up 10.0% on a year-on-year basis. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast core capital goods orders gaining 0.5%. The data are not adjusted for inflation, which also contributed to the gains in orders last month. "When production inputs are more expensive, maintaining existing investment levels and replacing depreciating capital makes a business spend more dollars, even if the investment does not really expand capacity," said Will Compennolle, a senior economist at FHN Financial in New York. Core capital goods orders were held back by modest decreases in bookings for fabricated metal products as well as electrical equipment, appliances and components. There were solid increases in orders for machinery and primary metals. But orders for computers and electronic products barely rose. Orders for durable goods, items ranging from toasters

to aircraft that are meant to last three years or more, rose 0.4% after increasing 0.6% in March. They were supported by a 0.6% rebound in orders for transportation equipment, which followed a 0.3% decline in March. Motor vehicle orders slipped 0.2% after surging 4.8% in March. Orders for the volatile civilian aircraft category rose 4.3%. Shipments of durable goods edged up 0.1% last month after accelerating 1.4% in March. Unfilled durable goods orders rose 0.5%, matching March's gain. Shipments of core capital goods increased 0.8% last month after climbing 0.2% in March. Core capital goods shipments are used to calculate equipment spending in the gross domestic product measurement. (Reuters)

- Tenreiro: Bank of England faces fine balance when setting rates** - The Bank of England will face a tricky balancing act when it considers future interest rate rises, because of the hit to people's disposable income being dealt by surging inflation, BoE policymaker Silvana Tenreiro said on Wednesday. The BoE's mandate required it to look at the likely level of inflation two to three years ahead, and avoid actions that would cause inflation to significantly undershoot its target, she said in a panel discussion hosted by Milan's Bocconi University. "Looking ahead, we do face a very fine balance ... because aggregate demand will be depressed," Tenreiro said. "Workers now will find themselves in a very difficult situation. They will face very stark choices and their real incomes will suffer," she added. Earlier on Wednesday, the BoE's chief economist, Huw Pill, said he thought more interest rate rises would be needed but that the central bank needed to guard against the current economic slowdown turning into a deep recession. The BoE has faced criticism, including from one of its former governors, Mervyn King, for failing to act sooner to curb inflation, which hit a 40-year high of 9.0% in April. Even if the BoE had known the shock was coming, the action needed to keep inflation close to 2% in the short term would have pushed unemployment unacceptably high and weighed down too much on inflation further out, she added. The BoE has raised rates four times since December, including this month when they rose to 1%. Financial markets expect the BoE to raise rates to 2% or 2.25% by the end of the year, and to 2.5% by mid 2023. (Reuters)
- German economy dodges recession as war, pandemic weigh** - The German economy grew slightly in the first quarter from the previous one, data showed, with higher investments offset by the twin impacts of war in Ukraine and COVID-19 that experts predicted would weigh more heavily in the three months to June. Europe's largest economy grew an adjusted 0.2% quarter on quarter and 3.8% on the year, the Federal Statistics Office said on Wednesday. A Reuters poll had forecast 0.2% and 3.7%, respectively. The reading meant that Germany skirted a recession, often defined as two quarters in a row of quarter-on-quarter contraction, after gross domestic product (GDP) fell by 0.3% at the end of 2021. While household and government spending remained mostly at the same level as in the previous quarter and exports were down at the start of the year, investments grew. Construction investments, boosted by mild weather, were up 4.6% from the previous quarter, despite price increases, and machinery and equipment investments rose 2.5%. However, there is no upswing in sight either, and Sebastian Dullien, director of the Macroeconomic Policy Institute (IMK), predicted the effect of the war and pandemic-linked restrictions in China - Germany's biggest trading partner last year, according to official data - would be much greater in the second quarter. ING economist Carsten Brzeski said he was sticking with his baseline scenario of a slight GDP contraction in the second quarter after Wednesday's reading. "The build-up of inventories and weak consumption in the first quarter, as well as very weak consumer confidence, clearly dampen the optimism that traditional leading indicators are currently conveying," he said. A consumer sentiment index by the GfK institute inched up slightly heading into June from an all-time low in May, with household spending burdened by inflation. The government forecasts economic growth of 2.2% in 2022. (Reuters)
- Japan to urge moving ahead with 'green' GDP indicator** - Japan plans to call for moving ahead with a new "green" gross domestic product (GDP) indicator that will reflect the country's progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, a draft of its annual economic policy outline seen by Reuters showed. The government will make a mention of moving forward with the safe restart of nuclear power plants, the draft of the long-term policy outline showed. Tokyo has pledged to cut carbon emissions by 46% in 2030 compared to 2013 levels, for which it needs to make a massive push into decarbonisation. The policy outline will call for expanding production of electric car batteries and building more charging stations, as well as setting up more hydrogen stations. The government seeks to meet a goal of having electric vehicles account for all new car sales by 2035, the draft showed. The government's policy outline will be the first to be compiled under Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, and serve as a basis for future economic policy-making. It is expected to be finalized upon cabinet approval early next month. Kishida last week laid out a plan to issue an estimated 20tn Yen (\$157bn)

worth of "green transition" bonds to help finance investment to achieve a carbon-neutral society. The Japanese premier said the country would need at least 150tn Yen in combined private- and public-investment in the next decade to achieve a carbon-neutral society. (Reuters)

- Japan's corporate service prices rise at fastest pace in over 2 years** – An index measuring prices Japanese firms charge each other for services rose in April at the fastest annual pace in more than two years, data showed on Thursday, a sign that inflationary pressure is building broadly across the economy. The services producer price index rose 1.7% in April from a year earlier, accelerating from a 1.3% gain in March and marking the fastest annual pace of gain since February 2022, Bank of Japan (BOJ) data showed. The rise was driven mostly by surging overseas freight costs, but hotel, advertisement and rental fees also increased as more companies in the service industry began passing on their higher costs to customers. The outlook for service prices will be among key factors the BOJ will scrutinize in deciding how soon it may follow other central banks in raising ultra-low interest rates. BOJ Governor Haruhiko Kuroda has justified keeping rates low by pointing to Japan's modest wage and service price growth, arguing the recent cost-push inflation will prove temporary unless accompanied by solid domestic demand. "In Japan, wages have risen, but the rate of increase has remained moderate," Kuroda said in a speech on Wednesday. "A common challenge for each country is to determine the magnitude and persistence of the inflationary pressure. In doing so, it will be important to capture the relationship between three prices, namely, the price of goods and services, wages, and commodity prices," he said. (Reuters)

Regional

- 15 regional IPOs raise \$4bn in Q1 of 2022** – The MENA region saw a 400% y-o-y increase in the number of companies listing with 15 IPOs raising proceeds of \$4 bn - an increase of 1,242% in value when compared to the same period in 2021, according to the EY MENA IPO Eye Q1 2022 report. The figure of 15 listings compares to three IPOs in first quarter of 2021, showing that activity in Middle East and North Africa (Mena) looks very promising with a strong start to the year, despite uncertainties that are affecting the global initial public offering (IPO) outlook. In contrast, global IPO volumes during first quarter (Q1) of 2022 fell 37%, with proceeds down by 51% year-on-year. Strong IPO pipelines in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are expected to result in another record-setting year for Mena IPO markets. Saudi Arabia dominated listings activity in Q1 2022 with six IPOs on Tadawul's Main Market and seven IPOs on the Nomu-Parallel Market, for a total of 13 IPOs raising \$ 3.9bn in proceeds. The NOMU market offers lighter listing requirements, serving as an alternative platform for companies to go public, with investments restricted to qualified investors. Within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the number of listings and their total value far exceeded that of previous years. In Q1 2020 the market saw only three listings with a combined value of \$801mn, while Q1 2021 also saw three listings, with a combined value of \$295mn. In 2022, there were 14 total listings across the GCC during Q1, which raised approximately \$3.9bn in proceeds. (Bloomberg)
- GCC Secretary General meets with the Chairman of the Economic Development Board of Singapore** – Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Dr Nayef Falah M. Al Hajraf met with Chairman of the Economic Development Board of the Republic of Singapore, Dr Beh Swan Jin, on the sidelines of his participation in the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. During the meeting, both officials discussed a number of common issues between the GCC and Singapore and ways to develop cooperation among both sides in light of the free trade agreement signed between them. They also reviewed strengthening trade relations between the GCC and Singapore and seizing available opportunities. Moreover, they discussed the activities of the current edition of the World Economic Forum. (Bloomberg)
- Saudi Arabia's non-oil exports jump 29% to \$21bn in Q1 2022** – Saudi Arabia's non-oil exports grew nearly 29% year-on-year in the first quarter of 2022 to hit 77.8bn Riyals (\$21bn), data issued by the Saudi General Authority for Statistics on Wednesday showed. Overall, exports increased by 72% year-on-year to 359bn Riyals, due mainly to higher oil exports, which soared 90%, or 133.6bn Riyals, in the same period. The share of oil exports in total exports rose to 78.3% from 71.8% in the year-ago period. Compared to the previous quarter (Q4 2021), total exports rose 12%. Meanwhile, imports to the kingdom increased 12.5% to 156.8 bn Riyals giving a trade surplus of 202bn Riyals. Saudi Arabia has been enjoying the benefits of elevated oil prices since the Ukraine-Russia conflict led to a commodities price rise. The International Monetary Fund has said that the size of the kingdom's economy could exceed \$1tn for the first time this year. (Zawya)
- Saudi Arabia, WEF sign two MoU to enhance cooperation** – The delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia participating in the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) "Davos 2022" met with the founder and CEO of the Forum, Klaus Schwab, and the President of WEF, Borge Brende in Davos. During the meeting, opportunities to strengthen the partnership between the Kingdom and the Forum were reviewed in a way that supports the Kingdom's economic transformation process and maximizes the its contribution to promoting global economic growth. In this context, His Excellency the Minister of Economy and Planning, Mr. Faisal bin Fadhel Alibrahim, and Brende signed two memoranda of understanding (MoUs), the first of which aims to enhance the existing partnership opportunities between the Kingdom and the Forum, explore and identify future opportunities that deepen the relationship to support the transformation of the Kingdom, and advance the global agenda to be in line with the main objectives of the Forum. The MoU comes in the context of the Kingdom's endeavor, represented by the Ministry of Economy and Planning, to transform its economy as outlined in "Saudi Vision 2030", as well as restore global economic balance after the pandemic. The agreement also serves the Forum's goal of improving the global economy by engaging business, political, academic, and other community leaders in shaping global and regional plans for economic development. Alibrahim also signed the second MoU on behalf of the Minister of Health with the President of WEF with the aim of promoting wise healthcare and activating cooperation frameworks between the public and private sectors and specialists within this field. This second agreement will result in the Kingdom joining the Global Alliance for Banking on Values (GABV) in Healthcare of the Forum, contributing to enhancing community awareness in this field, and benefiting from the Forum's experiences and insights in formulating a strategy to improve wise healthcare at the global level. (Zawya)
- Census 2022: Over 4mn Saudis, expats take part through self-enumeration** – The General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT) revealed that more than four million citizens and expatriates have so far participated in the Saudi Census 2022 by choosing self-enumeration, since the start of the actual headcount and data collection on May 10. Muhammad Al-Dakhini, spokesman of the authority, emphasized that participation in the census is mandatory. He stated that registration and filling up their data electronically in the self-enumeration system will come to a close by the end of Wednesday, May 25 and participation in the census through enumerators' visits to households will be the only way available after this date. Saudis and expatriates can fill out the census form via the self-enumeration link: survey.saudiencensus.sa/en. The citizens and residents can fill out the data electronically without the need to wait for the enumerator's visit. They can fill out the form at any place and time that they find suitable during the specified period. They can fill in part of the data and complete the rest at a later time. There are several other languages available on the website that helps non-native speakers of Arabic. The steps to participate in the self-enumeration start by visiting the Saudi Census 2022's portal, then clicking on the "self-enumeration" icon, after then, persons must log in through the Unified National Access Platform or via the GASTAT's portal. Citizens and residents could also fill in their data through self-enumeration stations located in various shopping centers, as it helps individuals and heads of families to fill out the census form with the help of the census employee. (Zawya)
- Saudi Arabia: 90% of goods witness price rise in April** – Around 89.8% of commodities in Saudi Arabia have witnessed an increase in their prices during the month of April 2022 compared to the same month in 2021, according to a report of the Consumer Protection Association (CPA). The CPA said that it had monitored the price increase during the process of comparing the prices of various goods and products in the month of April 2022 with their prices during the same month last year. It explained that it conducted a follow-up process for the prices of about 89 food commodities, as it was found that the prices of 80 food commodities had witnessed an increase out of the 89 commodities. This is equivalent to 89.8% of commodities whose prices increased compared to 2021 for the same period, and that in accordance with the average commodity prices report issued by the General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT). (Zawya)
- Minister of Finance: Saudi Arabia will 'ultimately' consider cutting VAT** – Saudi Arabia will "ultimately" consider cutting the rate of value-added tax (VAT), which was increased to 15% from 5% in 2020, Minister of Finance Mohammed Al-Jadaan said on Tuesday. The VAT rate was tripled then to shore up finances hit by low oil prices, as the COVID-19 pandemic hit global demand. Speaking to Reuters on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Al-Jadaan said: "We will ultimately consider cutting the VAT but at the moment we are still replenishing the reserves." "Saudi Arabia's policy on fiscal sustainability would ensure that reserves do not fall below a certain percentage level of the country's gross domestic product (GDP)." He revealed that the Kingdom is at final stages of designing its fiscal sustainability policy.

"According to that policy, our reserves shall not fall below a certain percentage level of GDP. That figure would be in the double digits." Al-Jadaan said excess money can go toward the Public Investment Fund (PIF), the country's \$600bn sovereign wealth fund, and the National Development Fund (NDF). "In the last five years, we have spent SR1tn from reserves and we are still replenishing them," he said. (Zawya)

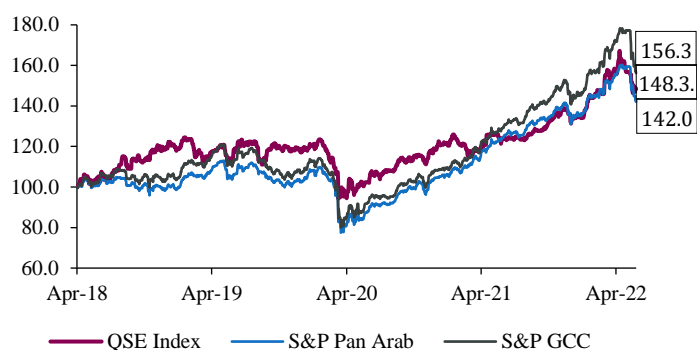
- Minister: Saudi EV plant likely to be one of three in kingdom** – An electric vehicle (EV) assembly plant to be built in Saudi Arabia is likely to be one of three in the kingdom, investment minister Khalid Al-Falih said on Wednesday. United States-based EV maker Lucid Motors, which is more than 60% owned by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, plans to build its first overseas production factory in Saudi Arabia later this year. The plant is expected eventually to produce up to 150,000 vehicles a year. Falih, speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, gave no details on the other potential plants. (Reuters)
- Saudi Aramco shows interest in buying Valvoline's commercial unit** – Oil giant Saudi Aramco (2222.SE) has approached motor oil and lubricant maker Valvoline Inc to buy its segment that caters to commercial customers, sources familiar with the matter told Reuters on Wednesday. Valvoline, which is valued at \$5.4bn as of Tuesday's closing price, had last year decided to separate its retail services and global products division, following a strategic review. Revenue from Valvoline's global products unit accounted for about 59% of its overall sales in 2021. The division also sells some "Do-It-Yourself" products to consumers. The company said no decision has been taken even as it continues to work on the separation process. Aramco did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Shares of Valvoline, which have lost 20% of their value so far this year, rose 11.2% at \$33.07 after the Wall Street Journal first reported that Aramco had approached the Lexington, Kentucky-based company with a takeover deal. Valvoline is also the world's top supplier of battery fluids to electric vehicle makers and makes as well as supplies oil and lubricants used in commercial vehicles and industrial equipment. The deal talks between the two companies are in an early stage and there were no guarantees the two sides would reach an agreement, the Journal report said. (Reuters)
- Two Saudi, Omani giant firms sign comprehensive investment deal** – Oman's Bahwan International Group (BIG) and Saudi Arabia's Ajlan & Brothers Holding Group (Ability) signed a cooperation agreement to establish joint investments in both countries; by announcing a new era of partnerships for key sectors in line with the visions of Saudi 2030 and the Sultanate's 2040. Both giants privately owned groups met in Muscat on May 24, 2022, to sign economic, commercial, and technical cooperation agreements for various projects with common interests in the fields of manufacturing lithium-ion batteries for electric cars, energy storage, renewable energy, health care, and food security initiatives in both countries, and investments Common inside and outside the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al-Ajlan, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Ajlan & Brothers Group, and His Excellency Eng. Ali Al-Hazmi, the Group CEO, and the company's senior management team are visiting Muscat for three days to discuss and sign a cooperation agreement with Bahwan International Group. The agreement was signed by Sheikh Ahmed Suhail Bahwan, Chairman of Bahwan International Group, along with Sheikh Saad Suhail Bahwan, Sheikhha Amal Suhail Bahwan, Sheikh Abdullah Ahmed Bahwan, and senior officials of the group, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al-Ajlan, Vice Chairman of Ajlan & Brothers Group. (Bloomberg)
- Pakistan, Saudi Arabia express resolve to boost trade ties** – Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud on Wednesday expressed the resolve to deepen mutual cooperation in all fields including economy, trade and investment as well as at multilateral fora. In a meeting held on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, the two foreign ministers reviewed various aspects of bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest. Minister of State Hina Rabbani Khar and Minister of Climate Change Sherry Rehman were also present during the meeting. (Bloomberg)
- UAE Government signs sustainable global strategic partnership agreement with World Economic Forum** – The UAE government and the World Economic Forum (Davos 2022) have announced the signing of a sustainable global strategic partnership agreement that ushers in a new era of continuous, fruitful bilateral cooperation over the past two decades. The agreement aims to boost the exploration of future opportunities, while augmenting integration and cooperation in supporting global efforts to achieve mutual objectives and develop comprehensive future plans and strategies. The UAE-WEF Sustainable Global Strategic Partnership was unveiled during a high-level meeting between Mohammad bin Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs, and Prof. Klaus Schwab, WEF Founder and President, on the sidelines of the WEF Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland. More than 2,000 government officials, decision makers, scholars, scientists, and elite leaders from the private sector and academia attend the annual meeting. The focus of the annual meeting is to create new visions and ideas that enhance readiness across governments and the private sector. (Zawya)
- UAE non-oil foreign trade close to over \$136bn in Q1 2022** – The UAE's non-oil foreign trade in the first quarter (Q1) of 2022 was close to AED500bn for the first time in the country's history, totaling AED499.7bn, a growth of 20.5% compared to AED414.6bn recorded in the same period of 2021, according to the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre. This figure is also up 26.3% compared to the same period in 2019. The center's data highlighted China's leadership in the list of top 10 countries trading with the UAE in Q1 2022, valued at AED57bn, followed by India with AED46.2bn, and Saudi Arabia with AED32.5bn. Gold topped the list of leading commodities included in the UAE's non-oil foreign trade, with a value of AED84.4bn and accounting for 17% of the country's total non-oil foreign trade, followed by diamonds with a value of AED40bn, telephone and communication devices with a value of AED37bn, mineral oils with a value of AED24.6bn, ornaments and jewelry with a value of AED21bn, and cars with a value of AED19.5bn. (Zawya)
- UAE-India start-up corridor aims to raise 10 unicorns by 2025** – A new initiative called 'India-UAE start-up corridor,' seeks to target a minimum of 50 validated start-ups based in India and the UAE with a mission to foster 10 of them into unicorns by 2025. FICCI Lead, a technology and business incubator of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), and the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) have inked an agreement to launch the start-up corridor. The objective of the initiative is to enhance and expand the start-up ecosystem between the UAE and India. It will further the vision of the leadership of both countries under the recently signed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), according to a statement from FICCI Lead. The MoU between FICCI Lead and DIFC is subsequent to an agreement that was signed between FICCI LEAD, Indian Angel Network (IAN), Turbostart, India and MCA Management Consultants, UAE, on January 26 this year at Expo 2020 Dubai, wherein a venture capital fund of \$150mn was announced. "Around 10 technology-led innovative start-ups from various sectors, including financial services, education and logistics, have been shortlisted for the inauguration of the India-UAE Start-Up Corridor in Dubai. This initiative would create an ecosystem to embolden the engagement between start-ups, investors, incubators, corporations, and entrepreneurs to scale their business and strengthen their position in the global market," said the statement. (Zawya)
- Abu Dhabi Department of Energy releases policy for electric vehicle charging infrastructure** – Abu Dhabi has taken a significant step forward in creating the framework to meet the country's Net-Zero by 2050 strategic initiative with the release of the regulatory policy for electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the emirate. Announced Wednesday by the Abu Dhabi Department of Energy (DoE), the policy sets out the stipulations and criteria for establishing a network of electric vehicle charging stations across the UAE capital. Included are the principles for ownership, installation, and management of Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE), the electricity supply to EVSE, and the pricing mechanism to end customers. Aiming to support the transition of the UAE and Abu Dhabi to achieving carbon neutrality within the next three decades, and in line with Abu Dhabi's development vision, the policy anticipates a progressive increase in the use of electric vehicles on Abu Dhabi's roads in the coming years. (Zawya)
- Dubai's commercial transport sector records 37% growth during Q1 2022** – The Commercial Transport activities sector in Dubai has reported a significant growth of 37% during the first quarter of 2022 extending from the same period of last year. These results reflect the cohesion and strength of the business movement in the commercial transport sector, which plays a vital and prominent role by contributing to facilitating the movement of people and goods, positively affecting the advancement of economic development and the domestic product of the Emirate of Dubai. The authority constantly seeks to consolidate and strengthen relations with companies operating in the commercial transport sector to address all the challenges they face in the course of their daily work, in addition to developing joint initiatives and projects that would develop and strengthen the commercial transport sector, and facilitate business and activities in the Emirate of Dubai. (Zawya)
- UAE: Nearly 10,000 new homes will be handed to citizens by end of 2022** – Thousands of new homes are being built across the country for Emiratis and will be handed over to the beneficiaries by the end of 2022, said a UAE minister. On Tuesday, Suhail bin Muhammad Faraj Al Mazrouei, the Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, told members of the Federal National Council (FNC) that the ministry is constructing 9,500 new homes for the families of

UAE citizens through the Sheikh Zayed Housing Program. "The ministry has developed a long-term housing strategy that extends to 2040, using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to predict housing needs and available land in the various emirates in the country," said Al Mazrouei. He added, "After communicating with thousands of beneficiaries of the Sheikh Zayed Housing Program and listening to their various observations regarding housing design; the ministry finished identifying 100 housing design models, from which beneficiaries can choose any of them according to what suits their needs." The minister pointed out that the percentage of UAE citizens owning housing at the state level will reach 86.3% by the end of 2021, which is one of the highest rates globally. (Zawya)

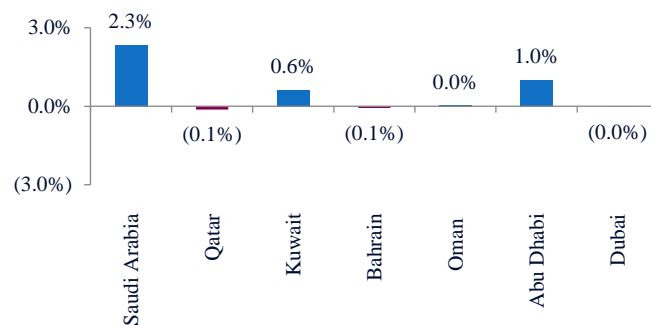
- Gradual improvement in real estate transactional activity in Bahrain** – Bahrain's real estate transactional activity shows gradual improvement since the start of the year, according to CBRE. In its latest report on the kingdom titled, Bahrain Real Estate Market Review Q1 2022, the commercial real estate services and investment firm says the recovery was mainly due to the lifting of pandemic restrictions. There was a 19.26% increase in the number of real estate transactions during the period from January to March 2022 when compared with the same period last year, says the report citing data from the Survey and Land Registration Bureau (SLRB). Highlighting the significantly higher property transactions during Q1-2022 as against the same period in 2021 and 2020, the report however notes that the figures still sit substantially below their 2019 totals, with 10pc fewer transactions seen in the quarter. Looking at Bahrain's office sector figures, visitation to workplaces exceeded its pre-pandemic baseline and climbed to 4.8% in March. Average rental rates across Grade A and B space remained stable in Q1 2022, as compared with Q4 2021, at BD5.25 per sqm per month, although transactional activity in the sector has been muted through the start of the year. (Zawya)
- Bahrain's Tamkeen signs deal with AIAC** – Tamkeen has signed a new strategic co-operation agreement with the American Industrial Acquisition Corporation (AIAC). A specialist in company turnaround, mergers and acquisitions, and improving non-performing enterprises, AIAC also enables enterprises that are performing below their full potential. AIAC brings decades of turnaround expertise and will provide advisory support as part of Tamkeen's recently launched 'Business Turnaround' program. Its aim to empower enterprises to transform their business models in response to major organizational, market, technology and financial challenges and opportunities. 'Business Turnaround' is among 16 program, launched by Tamkeen as part of an organization-wide strategic transformation plan which focuses on creating greater impact for the national economy in response to market needs. Husain Rajab, chief executive of Tamkeen emphasized the organization's commitment to empowering enterprises in Bahrain and helping them become key contributors to the national economy. He said: "The effect of supporting productivity and sustainability of private sector enterprises will generate positive impact for the national economy, further driving the national priorities outlined in the government's economic recovery plan." The American Industrial Acquisition Corporation boasts over two decades of experience in turning around enterprises and enabling them to survive and thrive. They are practitioners experienced in evaluating underperforming businesses and developing strategies tailored to their needs to enhancing productivity and success. (Zawya)
- Oman Data Park and Vodafone sign strategic partnership agreement** – Oman Data Park (ODP), the Sultanate's first managed cyber security and cloud services provider, and the Omani Future Telecommunication Company - Vodafone - signed a strategic partnership agreement under which ODP will provide Cloud Services, Colocation Services, Managed Security Services and Managed Infrastructure services to Vodafone in the Sultanate. The signed agreement reflects the future vision of the two parties on the importance of enabling technology to serve national economy in line with Oman vision 2040, which stresses on the need to provide technical solutions that contribute to localize the technology in the Sultanate, keep pace with the requirements of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and to create wider horizons for utilizing the modern technologies in various fields of business. The inking of the agreement also reflects the confidence of international companies such as Vodafone in the local companies and their capabilities to provide technical solutions that help to save time, reduce operational costs and speeding up the work process. (Zawya)
- Finance ministry: Oman's external funding needs for 2022 already met** – Oman's finance ministry said its external funding requirements for the year have already been met, according to a presentation for investors reviewed by Reuters. "Oman may strategically undertake domestic funding exercise(s) to develop its yield curve," the ministry said. (Zawya)
- Multi-sectoral panel to draft hydrogen-centric energy policy in Oman** – A broad roadmap has been chalked out for the development of a new energy

policy, underpinned by an effective regulatory framework, to help drive the growth of a future hydrogen economy in the Sultanate of Oman, a key official disclosed here on Tuesday. Abdulaziz bin Said al Shidhani, who was recently appointed to head the newly established Directorate General of Renewable Energy and Hydrogen at the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, said the landmark exercise involves multiple government ministries and the energy sector stakeholders. Addressing a forum on 'Green Hydrogen Prospects', jointly organized by the Authority for Public Services Regulation (APSR) and the Sustainable Energy Research Centre (SERC) at Sultan Qaboos University, Al Shidhani said a high-level Steering Committee will shortly be set up under the auspices of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals to oversee the effort. Also collaborating in this endeavour are the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy, Oman Investment Authority (OIA), Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) and Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, he stated. (Zawya)

- Bahrain-British investment cooperation discussed** – Industry, Commerce and Tourism Minister Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani held a phone call with British Secretary of State for International Trade Anne-Marie Trevelyan and discussed bilateral investment cooperation and new opportunities to expand partnerships that serve the two countries, strategic and development strategies. Al Zayani affirmed the role of the UK as a major global partner, stressing steadily-growing economic ties and longstanding historic relations between Bahrain and Britain. He highlighted joint strategic visions which yielded key deals, particularly the free trade agreement between the GCC member states and Britain, which represents an historic turning point in trade and investment relations. The two sides discussed ways of boosting the volume of bilateral investments. Al Zayani stressed Bahrain's keenness on expanding cooperation across all fields, commending the role of the private sector in achieving common goals. (Bloomberg)
- Hike in prices of poultry, other commodities seen in Kuwait** – Despite the official denial of any increase in the prices of basic commodities on the ground, no one can avoid the wave of inflation that is getting higher every day, with the latest being poultry, which recorded a hike that was clearly reflected on consumers, reports Al-Rai daily. According to informed sources, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has not allowed any poultry company to increase its prices in cooperative societies and markets. It is committed so far to the decision to fix prices, which is the same position maintained by the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies (UCCS). The UCCS Director Abdulaziz Al-Sultan affirmed this fact during the meeting of the affiliated Economic Committee of the Council of Ministers that was held on Sunday, May 22. The sources explained that poultry companies are faced with the decision to fix prices by taking advantage of the set margin for prices, for which they used the minimum for reasons of competition. These companies resorted to returning to the maximum allowed in cooperative societies, and some canceled the offers and discounts that were available to compensate for the cost difference. This made the consumers feel the increase in prices. The daily's tour of the markets revealed that the rise in prices of chicken has become a concern among the public, as it has increased by 20%, and there are expectations that it will rise more in the coming months. In parallel with the increase in the price of chicken in the markets, the supply centers witnessed the provision of chicken weighing 1,200 grams, which is not very popular with citizens as they prefer to buy chicken of small sizes. In this regard, the sources indicated that poultry companies have officially asked the officials of the Ministry of Commerce to increase their prices, under the pretext of the high cost of breeding and production by more than 40% compared to the previous cost. (Zawya)
- Oil Ministry: Kuwait to start building world's largest petroleum research Centre** – Kuwait plans to start building the world's largest petroleum research Centre by the end of the year, the oil ministry said on Twitter on Wednesday. The Middle East Economic Digest said the project had stalled because of budget pressure, estimating its cost at \$120mn. The Centre, to be built in al-Ahmadi, south of Kuwait City, will have 28 laboratories. It will seek to develop improved production and refining techniques that can be used by the industry for different applications including the extraction of heavy crude and non-associated gas. (Reuters)

Rebased Performance


Source: Bloomberg

Daily Index Performance


Source: Bloomberg

Asset/Currency Performance	Close (\$)	1D%	WTD%	YTD%
Gold/Ounce	1,853.46	(0.7)	0.4	1.3
Silver/Ounce	21.99	(0.6)	1.0	(5.7)
Crude Oil (Brent)/Barrel (FM Future)	114.03	0.4	1.3	46.6
Crude Oil (WTI)/Barrel (FM Future)	110.33	0.5	(2.6)	46.7
Natural Gas (Henry Hub)/MMBtu	9.40	7.1	17.9	156.8
LPG Propane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	120.00	0.0	(0.6)	6.9
LPG Butane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	122.88	1.8	5.6	(11.8)
Euro	1.07	(0.5)	1.1	(6.1)
Yen	127.32	0.4	(0.4)	10.6
GBP	1.26	0.3	0.8	(7.1)
CHF	1.04	(0.1)	1.3	(5.2)
AUD	0.71	(0.2)	0.7	(2.4)
USD Index	102.06	0.2	(1.1)	6.7
RUB	118.69	0.0	0.0	58.9
BRL	0.21	(0.1)	1.1	15.4

Source: Bloomberg

Global Indices Performance	Close	1D%*	WTD%*	YTD%*
MSCI World Index	2,700.09	0.7	1.7	(16.5)
DJ Industrial	32,120.28	0.6	2.7	(11.6)
S&P 500	3,978.73	0.9	2.0	(16.5)
NASDAQ 100	11,434.74	1.5	0.7	(26.9)
STOXX 600	434.31	(0.1)	1.8	(16.7)
DAX	14,007.93	(0.1)	1.2	(17.0)
FTSE 100	7,522.75	0.5	2.3	(5.7)
CAC 40	6,298.64	0.0	1.2	(17.6)
Nikkei	26,677.80	(1.0)	(0.0)	(16.3)
MSCI EM	1,019.59	0.3	(1.5)	(17.2)
SHANGHAI SE Composite	3,107.46	0.6	(1.2)	(18.9)
HANG SENG	20,171.27	0.3	(2.7)	(14.4)
BSE SENSEX	53,749.26	(0.6)	(0.7)	(11.4)
Bovespa	110,579.81	(0.6)	2.3	20.9
RTS	1,239.07	(2.7)	(0.1)	(22.4)

Source: Bloomberg (*\$ adjusted returns)



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