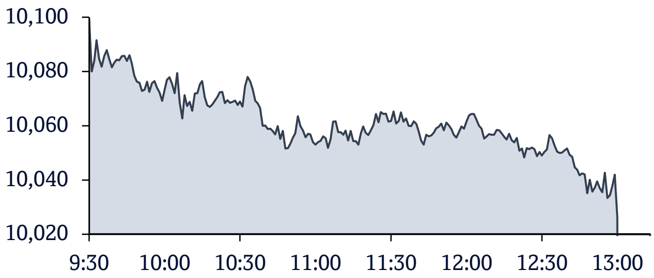
QSE Intra-Day Movement



Qatar Commentary

The QE Index declined 0.7% to close at 10,026.1. Losses were led by the Telecoms and Transportation indices, falling 1.8% and 1.7%, respectively. Top losers were Masraf Al Rayan and Al Faleh Educational Holding Co, falling 5.3% and 4.1%, respectively. Among the top gainers, Qatar Industrial Manufacturing gained 2.3%, while Mekdam Holding Group was up 1.9%.

GCC Commentary

Saudi Arabia: The TASI Index fell 0.6% to close at 12,585.5. Losses were led by the Transportation and Media and Entertainment indices, falling 4.1% and 3.1%, respectively. Alkhaleej Training and Education Co. declined 9.9%, while Riyad REIT Fund was down 7.9%.

Dubai: The DFM Index fell 0.8% to close at 4,246.2. The Financials index declined 1.3%, while the Utilities index fell 1.0%. BHM Capital Financial Services declined 10.0%, while Commercial Bank of Dubai was down 4.4%.

Abu Dhabi: The ADX General Index fell marginally to close at 9,318.5. The Consumer Staples index declined 1.3%, while the Real Estate index fell 0.9%. E7 Group declined 4.3%, while Al Yah Satellite Communication Co. was down 2.2%.

Kuwait: The Kuwait All Share Index gained 0.1% to close at 7,399.5. The Consumer Staples index rose 1.5%, while the Consumer Discretionary index gained 0.7%. Almadar Investment Co. rose 9.9%, while Kuwait Cement Company was up 6.8%.

Oman: The MSM 30 Index fell 0.6% to close at 4,755.5. The Industrials index declined 1.2%, while the other indices ended in green. Oman Cement declined 9.9%, while National Aluminum Products was down 7.3%.

Bahrain: The BHB Index fell marginally to close at 2,075.7. The Real Estate index declined 2.6%, while the Materials index fell 1.6%. Ithmaar Holding declined 8.3% while Seef Properties was down 3.3%.

Market Indicators	26 Mar 24	25 Mar 24	%Chg.
Value Traded (QR mn)	584.5	461.6	26.6
Exch. Market Cap. (QR mn)	576,797.9	579,030.6	(0.4)
Volume (mn)	177.3	136.2	30.2
Number of Transactions	14,988	16,344	(8.3)
Companies Traded	50	47	6.4
Market Breadth	15:32	42:3	–

Market Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	YTD%	TTM P/E
Total Return	22,409.4	(0.4)	(1.6)	(3.6)	10.8
All Share Index	3,476.1	(0.3)	(1.7)	(4.2)	10.9
Banks	4,198.7	(0.0)	(1.9)	(8.3)	10.5
Industrials	4,055.4	0.2	(1.4)	(1.5)	13.5
Transportation	5,023.6	(1.7)	(2.1)	17.2	20.8
Real Estate	1,535.6	(0.6)	(1.8)	2.3	12.7
Insurance	2,421.6	(0.6)	(1.8)	(8.0)	53.0
Telecoms	1,660.0	(1.8)	(1.5)	(2.7)	8.9
Consumer Goods and Services	7,222.0	(0.6)	(1.3)	(4.7)	180.7
Al Rayan Islamic Index	4,692.0	(0.5)	(1.2)	(1.5)	12.6

GCC Top Gainers##	Exchange	Close#	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Mouwasat Medical Services	Saudi Arabia	134.0	8.2	2,676.9	19.9
Makkah Construction & Development	Saudi Arabia	107.0	4.9	399.1	44.0
Knowledge Economic City Co	Saudi Arabia	18.54	3.5	4,746.4	32.2
National Bank of Bahrain	Bahrain	0.570	2.7	130.2	-4.2
Bupa Arabia for Cooperative Insurance	Saudi Arabia	247.0	1.8	62.0	15.8

GCC Top Losers##	Exchange	Close#	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Masraf Al Rayan	Qatar	2.380	(5.3)	19,214.4	-10.3
Saudi Research & Media Group	Saudi Arabia	302.8	(4.1)	68.2	76.7
Power & Water Utility Co	Saudi Arabia	72.00	(3.7)	526.0	11.1
Arabian Drilling Co	Saudi Arabia	169.8	(2.8)	275.8	-11.1
Dar Al Arkan Real Estate	Saudi Arabia	14.36	(2.6)	6,861.5	1.1

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%
Qatar Industrial Manufacturing	2.710	2.3	402.7	(9.6)
Mekdam Holding Group	4.960	1.9	437.0	(4.0)
United Development Co	1.120	1.5	33,986.8	5.2
National Leasing	0.680	0.7	1,166.6	(6.2)
Industries Qatar	11.98	0.7	2,738.1	(8.4)

QSE Top Losers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Masraf Al Rayan	2.380	(5.3)	19,214.4	(10.3)
Al Faleh Educational Holding C	0.730	(4.1)	615.0	(13.7)
Meeza QSTP LLC	3.200	(3.0)	1,815.2	11.5
Zad Holding Co	13.97	(3.0)	123.8	3.5
Widam Food Co	1.980	(3.0)	1,677.6	(16.3)

QSE Top Volume Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
United Development Co	1.120	1.5	33,986.8	5.2
Dukhan Bank	3.890	(0.3)	30,265.8	(2.1)
Masraf Al Rayan	2.380	(5.3)	19,214.4	(10.3)
Vodafone Qatar	1.750	0.2	12,449.0	(8.1)
QNB Group	14.30	0.6	8,887.5	(13.5)

QSE Top Value Trades	Close*	1D%	Val. '000	YTD%
QNB Group	14.30	0.6	127,316.1	(13.5)
Dukhan Bank	3.890	(0.3)	118,105.0	(2.1)
Masraf Al Rayan	2.380	(5.3)	46,026.9	(10.3)
United Development Co	1.120	1.5	38,178.3	5.2
Industries Qatar	11.98	0.7	32,727.3	(8.4)

Regional Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	MTD%	YTD%	Exch. Val. Traded ($ mn)	Exchange Mkt. Cap. ($ mn)	P/E**	P/B**	Dividend Yield
Qatar*	10,026.1	(0.7)	(1.8)	(4.3)	(7.4)	160.55	157,696.5	11.6	1.3	4.7
Dubai	4,246.2	(0.8)	(0.8)	(1.5)	4.6	137.13	198,692.1	8.3	1.3	5.2
Abu Dhabi	9,318.5	0.0	(0.0)	0.7	(2.7)	260.55	713,127.5	20.2	2.8	2.1
Saudi Arabia	12,585.5	(0.6)	(2.0)	(0.4)	5.2	2,651.45	2,928,230.3	22.2	2.7	2.9
Kuwait	7,399.5	0.1	(0.2)	(0.6)	8.5	94.94	156,590.1	15.4	1.7	3.1
Oman	4,755.5	(0.6)	(0.8)	4.4	5.4	8.41	24,089.4	13.2	1.0	5.2
Bahrain	2,075.8	0.0	1.2	3.5	5.3	1.60	62,331.2	8.0	0.8	7.5

*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 0.7% to close at 10,026.1. The Telecoms and Transportation indices led the losses. The index fell on the back of selling pressure from Arab and Qatari shareholders despite buying support from GCC and Foreign shareholders.
- Masraf Al Rayan and Al Faleh Educational Holding C were the top losers, falling 5.3% and 4.1%, respectively. Among the top gainers, Qatar Industrial Manufacturing gained 2.3%, while Mekdam Holding Group was up 1.9%.
- Volume of shares traded on Tuesday rose by 30.2% to 177.3mn from 136.2mn on Monday. Further, as compared to the 30-day moving average of 171.2mn, volume for the day was 3.6% higher. United Development Co and Dukhan Bank were the most active stocks, contributing 19.2% and 17.1% to the total volume, respectively.

Overall Activity	Buy%*	Sell%*	Net (QR)
Qatari Individuals	15.04%	40.71%	(150,010,628.05)
Qatari Institutions	61.78%	38.57%	135,640,383.26
Qatari	**76.82%**	**79.28%**	**(14,370,244.79)**
GCC Individuals	0.24%	0.17%	400,887.09
GCC Institutions	1.32%	0.89%	2,479,418.98
GCC	**1.56%**	**1.06%**	**2,880,306.07**
Arab Individuals	4.52%	5.26%	(4,304,907.97)
Arab Institutions	0.00%	0.00%	-
Arab	**4.52%**	**5.26%**	**(4,304,907.97)**
Foreigners Individuals	1.61%	0.84%	4,467,451.03
Foreigners Institutions	15.50%	13.56%	11,327,395.66
Foreigners	**17.11%**	**14.40%**	**15,794,846.68**

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

Global Economic Data and Earnings Calendar

Global Economic Data

Date	Market	Source	Indicator	Period	Actual	Consensus	Previous
03-26	US	Federal Housing Finance Agency	FHFA House Price Index MoM	Jan	-0.10%	0.30%	0.10%
03-26	US	Richmond Fed	Richmond Fed Manufact. Index	Mar	-11.00	-5.00	-5.00
03-26	Japan	Bank of Japan	PPI Services YoY	Feb	2.10%	2.10%	2.10%
03-26	Japan	Japan Machine Tool Builders' A	Machine Tool Orders YoY	Feb	-8.00%	NA	-8.00%

Earnings Calendar

Tickers	Company Name	Date of reporting AR2023/1Q2024 results	No. of days remaining	Status
QOIS	Qatar Oman Investment Co.	28-Mar-24	1	Due
MERS	Al Meera Consumer Goods Company	28-Mar-24	1	Due
ABQK	Ahli Bank	23-Apr-24	27	Due
QISI	Qatar Islamic Insurance	30-Apr-24	34	Due

Qatar

- **CBQK Finance $750mn 5Y Reg S T+125 -** Deal priced. $750m 5Y Reg S Fixed (March 28, 2029) at T+125, IPT T+150 area, reoffer price 99.456 to yield 5.501%, Benchmark: T 4.25% 02/28/29, Books around $1.8bn (excluding JLM interest): Leads, Coupon: 5.375%, semi-annual, 30/360. Issuer: CBQ Finance Ltd (COMQAT), Guarantor: Commercial Bank. Exp. Ratings: A3/A- (Moody's/Fitch). Format: Reg S CAT2, registered, senior unsecured. Settlement: March 28, 2024. Denoms: 200k x 1k. ISIN: XS2654057970. Bookrunners: BofA, ENBD, HSBC, MASHRQ, MUFG, StanChart (B&D). Marketing: https://www.netroadshow.com | entry code: CBQ24. FTT: 8am London (March 28). Target Market: Eligible counterparties and professional clients only (all distribution channels). (Bloomberg)
- **Estithmar Holding announces that its subsidiary "Watermaster" rebranded to "Elegancia Water Solutions W.L.L." -** Estithmar Holding proudly announces the rebranding of its subsidiary, "Watermaster," to "Elegancia Water Solutions W.L.L." This strategic rebranding is an extension of the company's rich legacy of excellence in providing water solutions and features, as well as its commitment to innovation and delivering unmatched services across three specialized divisions: wellness and pools, water features, and water management. Offering services under the Contracting and Industries sector at Estithmar Holding, Elegancia Water Solutions W.L.L new identity is aligned with Estithmar Holding strategy and core values, as well as is in line with the company's ambitious business expansion plans in the region and beyond. (QSE)
- **Doha Insurance Group: The AGM Endorses items on its agenda -** Doha Insurance Group announces the results of the AGM. The meeting was held on 26/03/2024 and the following resolution were approved: 1) Hearing the report of the Board of Directors on the Group's activities, financial position during the financial year ending 31 December 2023 and the Group's business plan for 2024. 2) Hearing and approving the External Auditors report on the Group's balance sheet and the accounts for the financial year ending 31 December 2023. 3) Discussing and approving the Group's balance sheet and profit and loss statement for the financial year ending 31 December 2023. 4) Approving the proposal of the Board of Directors to distribute to shareholders cash dividends of 17.5% from the share par value i.e. Q.R. 0.175 (seventeen Dirham and half (for each share. 5) Releasing the members of the Board of Directors from any liabilities and approving their remunerations for the financial year ending 31 December 2023 for Q.R 5,530,000mn. 6) Discussing and approving the Group's Corporate Governance Report for 2023. 7) Appointing the Group's External Auditor KPMG for the financial year 2024 and determining their fees for Q.R 1,086,000. 8) Electing new members of the board of directors for a period of three years (2024-2026) as per the following list: 1) Al Sakhama Trading & Contracting – Represented by Mr. Ahmad Yousef H A Kamal (Non-Independent) 48,957,423. 2) Al Hermas Investments – Represented by Mr. Mohamed Tayeb Abbas A K Al-Emadi (Non-Independent) 36,883,575. 3) Jasim Trading Co. – Represented by Sh. Jassim Mohamed K.H. Al-Thani (Non-Independent) 34,220,728. 4) Sh. Nawaf Nasser Bin Khaled Al-Thani (Non-Independent) 32,662,722. 5) Arab Engineering Constructions Co. – Represented by Sh. Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Mohammed Al-Thani (Non-Independent) 31,432,770. 6) Armed Forces Investment Portfolio – Represented by Major General Essa Ali E M Al-Kubaisi (Non-Independent) 29,748,823. 7) Mr. Adel Ali Bin Ali Al Muslemani – Independent 29,679,028. 8) Halul Real Estate Investment Company (W.L.L.) Represented by Mr. Victor Nazeem Rida-Agha (Non-Independent) 27,350,391. 9) Mr. Hussam Abdul Salam Mohammed Abu Essa (Independent) 27,063,964. (QSE)
- **Qatar International Islamic Bank: Postponed its AGM and EGM to March 31 due to lack of quorum -** Qatar International Islamic Bank announced that due to non-legal quorum for the AGM and EGM on 26/03/2024, therefore, it has been decided to postpone the meeting to 31/03/2024& 10:00 PM& Zoom Application. (QSE)

- **Qatar Islamic Insurance: To disclose its Quarter 1 financial results on April 30 -** Qatar Islamic Insurance discloses its financial statement for the period ending 31st March 2024 on 30/04/2024. (QSE)
- **Qatar Islamic Insurance holds its investors relation conference call on May 02 to discuss the financial results -** Qatar Islamic Insurance announces that the conference call with the Investors to discuss the financial results for the Quarter 1 2024 will be held on 02/05/2024 at 12:30 PM, Doha Time. (QSE)
- **Dlala Brokerage and Investment Holding Co.: To Hold its AGM and EGM on April 22 for 2023 -** Dlala Brokerage and Investment Holding Co. announces that the General Assembly Meeting AGM and EGM will be held on 22/04/2024, Pullman Hotel West Bay and 04:00 PM. In case of not completing the legal quorum, the second meeting will be held on 29/04/2024, Pullman Hotel West Bay and 04:00 PM. Agenda of the Ordinary General Assembly Meeting for Dlala Holding: 1. Hearing the report of the Board of Directors on the company's activities and its financial position during the fiscal year ending on 31/12/2023 and the company's future plan and approving them. 2. Hearing and approving the report of the company auditors for the financial year ending on 31/12/2023. 3. Discussing and approving the company's balance sheet and profit and loss account for the fiscal year ending 31/12/2023 4. Considering the Board of Directors' proposal regarding the carryover of profits for the financial year ending on 31/12/2023 5. To discuss and endorse the Board of Directors' report on Corporate Governance for the year 2023. 6. Hearing the auditor's report on compliance with the laws and regulations of the Qatar Financial Markets Authority and other relevant legislation, including the corporate governance system for companies and legal entities listed on the main market, and on internal control controls over financial reports and approving them. 7. Consider discharging the members of the Board of Directors from liability for the financial year ending 31/12/2023. 8. Appointing the External Auditor for the financial year 2024and determining their audit fees. The Agenda of Extra Ordinary General Meeting (EGM) 1. Considering the recommendation of the Board of Directors to amend the Articles of Association of the Company by adding a clause that allows, based on a decision of the Board of Directors, to make quarterly or semi-annual distributions under the account of profits to shareholders in the fiscal year in which the distribution is made, in accordance with the decision of the Board of Directors of the Qatar Financial Markets Authority No. 7. For the year 2023 regarding the controls for distributing profits to listed joint-stock companies, based on the financial results achieved in these periods and the condition of obtaining prior approval from the Qatar Central Bank before making the distribution. 2. Approval to amend the Article (41) of Article of Association to add the following text "the Board of Directors may take a specific amount as a remuneration in case the company didn't make profit, in this case AGM approved is required and ministry shall put a ceiling to this amount". This is as per QFMA circular dated 11/06/2023 and after approval from all regulatory parties. 3. authorizing the Chairman of the Board of Directors to make any amendments to the Articles of Association in accordance with the decision of the extraordinary general assembly and sign the amended Articles of Association before the official authorities. (QSE)
- **Qatar Tourism to develop Hayya Card, streamline procedures -** Qatar Tourism Chairman, H E Saad bin Ali bin Saad Al Kharji said that Qatar Tourism focuses on developing plans and strategies that streamline procedures and regulations, aiming to solve all obstacles facing the sector and align its development with the state's overall progress. He noted that the Qatari tourism sector has witnessed significant development in recent years. He emphasised that it is one of the main pillars of the state's strategy for economic diversification under the Qatar National Vision 2030. He further said that numerous plans are underway to develop the Hayya Card in a sophisticated and appropriate manner. It can be recalled that the Hayya card was introduced during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, allowing people from across the world to visit and enter the State of Qatar, and has been extended February this year. Speaking at a meeting organised by the Qatar Chamber (QC), in the presence of QC Chairman, Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim Al Thani, and QC First Vice-Chairman Mohamed bin Twar Al Kuwari, Board Member and Chairman of the Tourism Committee, H E Sheikh Hamad bin Ahmed Al Thani, and representatives from companies operating in the tourism sector, Al Kharji stressed the importance of supporting and empowering the private sector to drive this vital sector forward. Meanwhile, in his remarks, Sheikh Khalifa noted that the meeting is part of the ongoing cooperation between the two entities to address issues relevant to the private sector and discuss the significant challenges encountered by business owners and investors in the sector. He also stressed the Chamber's keenness to enhance cooperation with relevant bodies in order to address the most important challenges and find appropriate solutions. He thanked Al Kharji for accepting the Chamber's invitation to meet with businessmen and investors in the tourism sector. Meanwhile, Al Kuwari noted that the private sector faces numerous challenges, emphasising the importance of addressing the demands of the private sector to ensure that the tourism sector fulfills its intended role in the state's development. In his remarks, Al Thani underscored the meeting's significance in addressing the sector's issues and challenges, and finding suitable solutions for them. He thanked the Qatar Tourism's Chairman for accepting the Chamber's invitation to discuss the concerns and demands of the tourism sector with business owners. He emphasised the pivotal role of Qatar Tourism in supporting and promoting tourism in Qatar, as well as facilitating the private sector's participation in the sector's development. Moreover, he also noted that the Chamber's Tourism Committee would follow up on the outcomes of this meeting as part of its role to enhance collaboration with tourism companies, and understand the most important challenges they face, stressing that it acts as a linkage between the government and the private sector. During the meeting, both sides agreed to designate two direct focal points between them: one for the hotel sector and the other for the travel office sector. It also was agreed to hold regular meetings with representatives of tourism companies to identify challenges they face and benefit from the private sector experiences in the tourism sector. The meeting addressed the most prominent challenges facing the tourism sector, as well as the viewpoints and proposals of businessmen for its development. In response to questions from businessmen, Al Kharji said that said that the proposals submitted by the Qatar Chamber will be identified, considered, and answered as soon as possible. He also emphasised the significant role of the private sector in implementing the country's strategic tourism plan, which considers tourism as a vital component of the local economy. (Peninsula Qatar)
- **Allianz Trade: Qatar's vital role in LNG market, commitment to diverse sectors foster economic stability, growth -** Qatar's vital role in the global LNG market and commitment to diverse sectors, including sports and tourism, is fostering economic stability and growth, Allianz Trade has said in an economic update. The trade credit insurer noted that the North Field East LNG expansion project will be a major economic driver, first through "significant investment spending" until the (expected) completion date (2026) and then by fast-expanding liquefied natural gas output. As the first phase of the North Field East gas development project begins, the country's budget surplus will increase by 2026. With a strong fiscal outlook, public debt is expected to decrease from 45% of GDP at the end of 2023 to 33% by the end of 2028. Qatar's low inflation, along with "progressive monetary relaxation", will also help to maintain private spending, while the government's "emphasis on economic diversification will drive stable development" in non-energy sectors. According to Allianz Trade, "Qatar has one of the highest levels of GDP per capita in the world", yet the economy relies significantly on hydrocarbon exports. GDP growth is expected to accelerate to 3% in 2024, Allianz Trade said. Investment in the energy sector, including renewables and fossil fuels, as well as a stronger tourism industry and better partnerships with neighboring countries, will drive momentum. External liquidity will remain "unproblematic" in the next two years. Qatar has recorded large, sometimes huge, annual current account surpluses for more than two decades, with the exception of 2016 and 2020, when global oil and gas prices were particularly low. These surpluses have contributed to the buildup of the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), the sovereign wealth fund, which is currently estimated at approximately $480bn. The combined international reserves of the central bank and the QIA represent over two times the annual GDP and cover more than 80 months of imports, Allianz Trade said. The economic acceleration reflects the government's willingness to move forward with a variety of new infrastructure projects worth slightly less than $19.2bn. The Public Works

Authority (Ashghal) will play a key role, as the projects cover many sectors and provide potential for private sector engagement. "We also expect the tourism industry to sustain its recent vibrancy – visitor arrivals more than doubled year on year in the first nine months of 2023, reaching 2.9mn. Qatar hosted the World Aquatics Championships in February. "Qatar has confirmed its ambitions as a worldwide athletic powerhouse and has also expressed interest in bidding for the summer Olympic Games in 2036," Allianz Trade noted. (Gulf Times)

- **QFCRA proposes new operational risk and resilience requirements for authorized firms -** The Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority (QFCRA) is proposing new ORR (operational risk and resilience) requirements for the authorized firms as part of efforts to address the growing level and complexity of operational risks facing them. The proposals support the QFCRA's commitment to maintaining high international regulatory standards for financial services, and the continued development of the QFC as a leading financial and business center in the Middle East, said a QFCRA consultation paper. Financial service firms face increasingly complex and interconnected operational risks that have heightened firms' vulnerabilities and exposure to disruption. Drivers include growing dependence on information technology (accelerated by Covid-19), more complex supply chains and increasing threats from malicious and sophisticated cyber-attacks. While there are currently rules in CTRL (Governance and Controlled Functions Rules 2020) addressing aspects of ORR, these are – aside from the operational risk rules applying to QFC banks – generally high-level or exist as standalone requirements, rather than as integral components of ORR and the broader RMF (risk management framework) of a firm. The objectives of the proposals are to provide a baseline set of ORR requirements for all authorized firms; ensure a more holistic approach to ORR by requiring firms to integrate ORR into their risk management, control, and governance frameworks; and bring the QFCRA rules into broad alignment with evolving international practice. The proposed rules are principles based and supported by guidance to enable authorized firms to take a proportionate, flexible and pragmatic approach. The key proposals for operational risk management are that an authorized firm must identify, assess, and manage operational risks that may result from inadequate or failed internal processes or systems, the inactions or actions of people or external drivers or events; include change management processes into their operational risk framework to address new products, activities, systems, markets and locations that can expose the firm to different and heightened operational risks; and integrate its operational risk framework into its RMF, including governance arrangements for the oversight of operational risk; appropriate monitoring, analysis and reporting of operational risks and escalation processes for operational incidents and events; and internal controls that are designed and operating effectively for the management of operational risks. Operational resilience is the ability of a firm to deliver critical operations through a disruption event. It includes the ability of a firm to prevent, adapt to, respond to, recover from, and learn from disruption. As operational resilience is a relatively new and evolving area of regulation, the QFCRA is proposing to take a proportionate, risk based and outcomes-focused approach and avoid the new requirements becoming a compliance exercise. Authorized firms will be required to identify their critical operations (which could be a service, product or function). An operation is critical if its disruption is likely to have a significant impact on the firm, its customers or the financial system. Highlighting that an authorized firm will be required to develop and implement response and recovery plans to manage incidents that could disrupt its critical operations; the consultation paper said it is proposed that an authorized firm must ensure its approach to operational resilience is aligned with operational risk management and governance frameworks. Firms should ensure governance committees include responsibility for critical operations and operational resilience. Firms must also consider operational resilience in their outsourcing arrangements, ICT (information, communication and technology) and information security policies and procedures, and BCP (business continuity plan). While ICT and information security risks fall within the scope of operational risk and are subject to the risk management and operational risk frameworks, the dependence of financial services on ICT has reached such a critical level that it requires a more focused approach by firms and regulators, the paper said. (Gulf Times)

- **Qatar Chamber chairman lauds NDS3; underscores PPPs in key areas -** Qatar Chamber chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim al-Thani has underscored the importance of strengthening public-private partnerships (PPPs) in key areas, such as petrochemicals, tourism, and education, in light of the Third National Development Strategy (NDS3) 2024-2030. In the latest issue of Al Moltaqa, the chamber's monthly economic magazine, Sheikh Khalifa stated that the launch of NDS3 reflects the country's commitment to achieving Qatar National Vision 2030. The national vision was launched in 2008 with ambitious goals aimed at transforming Qatar into a developed nation capable of achieving sustainable development, he pointed out. Sheikh Khalifa said, "The Third National Development Strategy 2024-2030 represents the final stage in realizing the objectives outlined in this ambitious vision, which focuses on four key pillars: human development, social development, economic development, and environmental sustainability. "The strategy assures the state's interest in empowering the private sector and enhancing its role in driving economic growth. It underscores the development of the government's role to enable the private sector to lead and drive economic growth." According to Sheikh Khalifa, the NDS3 aims at creating highly productive, specialized, and competitive economic groupings, which includes adopting rapid reforms in the business environment. He said the strategy also encourages the active participation of leading national companies, foremost among which is the Qatar Investment Authority, to support the development of economic diversification groupings and quality innovations led mainly by businesses. Sheikh Khalifa said, "Undoubtedly, the Wise Leadership provides significant and sustained support for the private sector as a genuine partner in the country's overall development of the national economy. Therefore, the state's incentives to support the private sector are essential drivers of its development and its role in the development process." Highlighting the private sector's progress, Sheikh Khalifa noted: "In recent years, the private sector has demonstrated its capabilities and efficiency, achieving remarkable progress in industrial and agricultural projects. These projects have successfully enhanced the provision of strategic commodity needs and supported the flow of goods and products to the Qatari market. "Additionally, providing more incentives for private sector enterprises in the industrial sector is fundamental. In fact, the development of the state's infrastructure provides an environment conducive to the private sector's progress and growth. This stimulates the private sector to forge new partnerships and alliances with global technology transfer companies and implement projects that add value to the national economy." Sheikh Khalifa added: 'In this context, Qatar Chamber is committed to effectively engaging with relevant official and private authorities. It strives to provide all necessary facilities to private companies and institutions, aiming to create a pro-business environment. This consequently enables the private sector to pursue its active role in the development process and be an integral part of achieving the goals outlined in the Third National Development Strategy 2024-2030." (Gulf Times)

- **Qatar's industrial sector sees robust growth in 2023 -** Qatar's industrial sector witnessed robust growth as the number of registered and operating factories in the country reached 957 in last year. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) recently revealed the statistics for the factories registered and operating in Qatar during 2023, indicating that the number of factories totaled 957, while the requests to increase capacity and modify production data for factories reached 467. In a post on the Ministry's X platform related to the industry sector, it noted that in last year the number of industrial project licenses requests reached 60, factories in the industrial register totaled 40, requests for customs exemption for factories was 287. While domestic manufactured products reached 1,639 and there were 23 inspection campaigns on factories in 2023. Qatar's manufacturing sector is a major driving force in the country's economic diversification backed by Qatar National Vision 2030 which aims to develop an economy that is less dependent on hydrocarbons. With Qatar's high-caliber talent pool, unparalleled market access and connectivity, and the state-of-the-art free zones, Qatar is emerging as a global manufacturing destination. Last year, the ninth edition of the 'Made in Qatar' exhibition highlighted the country's substantial contribution in promoting local products and shed light on new industries introduced to the Qatari market. The four-day exhibition saw participation of 450 companies and factories. This significant participation reflects the keen interest of local companies in promoting their products in the local market with the aim to achieve the desired self-sufficiency and reduce dependence on imports. The diverse industries participating in the exhibition spanned six sectors, including petrochemicals, furniture, foodstuffs, SMEs, services, and various others. The exhibition provided an opportunity to become acquainted with the latest products and services in the industry sector. (Peninsula Qatar)

- **Top-notch infrastructure to benefit healthcare industry -** The healthcare sector is expected to increase at a mid-single-digit rate over the medium term supported by the world-class infrastructures built by the government. Analysts in the country predict robust growth in the market, with ongoing developments witnessed across Qatar in 2024. The health expenditure, however, is anticipated to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.2% by 2028, according to data by Fitch Solutions. This is backed by the government's prioritizing of the sector over the medium term. Amidst lower expectations for oil revenues in 2024, the Qatari government's overall spending budget surged by 1% to reach $55.1bn (QR200.9bn) this year. Within this, healthcare allocations account for 11% of the total budget, a percentage consistent with last year's allocation for the sector. Increased allocations over the last two years largely fall in line with the healthcare goals within Qatar's National Vision 2030 plan, which seeks to enhance access to care, drive R&D, and carry out the industry's digital transformation. The report stated "Public expenditure will continue to dominate, however, the government's ongoing push for privatization will see private spending outpace public expenditure. We expect this dynamic to continue as the government seeks to gradually reduce expenses and costs of the healthcare sector in the state over the medium term." This year, the government also focuses primarily on the infrastructures to host numerous events and mega platforms in the forthcoming years. Furthering Qatar's healthcare infrastructure development plans involves augmenting investment into Qatar's Medical City, a medical complex situated in the capital city Doha, and managed by the Hamad Medical Corporation, Qatar's principal public healthcare provider. Several hospitals and specialty centers are located within the Medical City and it also represents a primary component of Qatar's vision to become a world-class in the field of medicine and medical research in the Middle East and across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) area. The report remarked that an increasing focus on specialty secondary and tertiary care will also witness a portion of the 2024 budget earmarked for the enhancement of Qatar's National Cancer Hospital and the establishment of a psychiatric hospital, which specializes in the mental health area. (Peninsula Qatar)

International

- **Fed posts record loss of $114.3bn in 2023 -** The Federal Reserve said on Tuesday that it officially saw a net negative income of $114.3bn in 2023, a record loss tied to expenses related to managing the US central bank's short-term interest rate target. The loss last year follows $58.8bn in net income in 2022, the Fed said. The numbers released were an audited tally following preliminary numbers reported earlier this year. The Fed has stressed repeatedly that net negative income does not impede its ability to operate or conduct monetary policy. By law, the Fed hands over any profits after covering operational expenses to the Treasury. The Fed earns income from services it provides the financial system and from interest income on securities it owns. It has earned significant profits over recent years amid very low rates and large levels of bond holdings. The Fed's move to aggressively boost the federal funds rate starting in the spring of 2022 has upended central bank finances. To cool inflation pressures, the Fed lifted the target from near zero levels to its current 5.25% to 5.5% range. The Fed maintains that target by paying banks, money funds and other financial firms to park cash at the central bank, and that is meant paying out substantially more in interest. The Fed's audited interest expenses for banks' reserve balances hit $176.8bn last year, up $116.4bn from 2022's level, while interest payouts from its reverse repo facility was $104.3bn last year, from $41.9bn the prior year. Meanwhile, the income the Fed earned from bonds it owns was at $163.8bn last year, little changed from 2022. The Fed can create money to fund its operations when dealing with operating losses which means it faces no obstacles to operate. It captures its loss in an accounting device called a deferred asset. The official level of the deferred asset stood at $133.3bn at the close of 2023. As of March 20, it had risen to $157.8bn and it is unclear how much larger it will get. Meanwhile, the income the Fed earned from bonds it owns was at $163.8bn last year, little changed from 2022. The Fed can create money to fund its operations when dealing with operating losses which means it faces no obstacles to operate. It captures its loss in an accounting device called a deferred asset. The official level of the deferred asset stood at $133.3bn at the close of 2023. As of March 20, it had risen to $157.8bn and it is unclear how much larger it will get. (Reuters)

- **BoE's Mann says markets are pricing in too many rate cuts -** Bank of England policymaker Catherine Mann, who last week dropped her call for increases in borrowing costs, said on Tuesday she thought markets were betting on too many interest rate cuts by the British central bank. "I think they're pricing in too many cuts, that would be my personal view," Mann told Bloomberg TV, referring to financial markets which are almost fully predicting three quarter-point reductions in rates by the BoE this year. "I think that there has been a substantial easing even since the vote last week, and I think that perhaps markets are a bit too complacent about how long they think the BoE overall, the MPC, will hold rates." Last week she joined the majority of the Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC) members who kept Bank Rate at 5.25%, its highest since 2008. She had previously voted for an increase to 5.5%. Mann said she changed her mind due to consumers turning more reluctant to pay higher prices, especially for services such as hospitality and travel, and because firms were cutting hours of workers at a time when the government's cuts to social security rates would add to the number of workers in the labor market. Mann said pricing in financial markets was helping the BoE do its work for it. "In some sense, I don't have to cut because the market already is, in terms of the implications of you know the market curve and mortgage rates, for example," she said. "Those are the rates that are faced by borrowers. Bank Rate is not the rates that borrowers face." (Reuters)

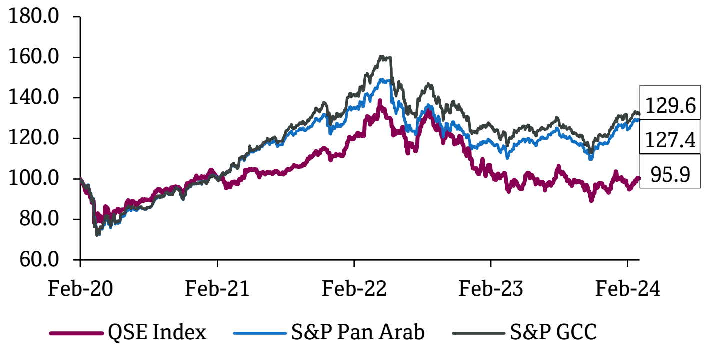
- **China's industrial profits rise 10.2% in Jan-Feb -** China's industrial firms posted higher profits in the opening months of the year, official data showed on Wednesday, suggesting an economic recovery was gaining momentum despite persistent sluggishness in the property sector. Profits at China's industrial firms jumped 10.2% in the first two months from the same period last year, following a 2.3% profit decline for the whole of 2023, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) data showed. (Reuters)

Regional

- **OPEC+ unlikely to change output policy before June meeting -** OPEC+ is unlikely to make any oil output policy changes until a full ministerial gathering in June, three OPEC+ sources told Reuters ahead of next week's gathering of ministers that is not expected to make any policy recommendations. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies led by Russia, known as OPEC+, will hold an online joint ministerial monitoring committee meeting (JMMC) on April 3 to review the market and members' implementation of output cuts. The sources, who asked not to be named because they were not authorized to speak publicly, said they did not expect action until June and the April meeting could be swift and straightforward. OPEC and the Saudi Energy Ministry did not respond immediately to emailed requests for comment. Already, OPEC+ members led by Saudi Arabia and Russia early this month agreed to extend voluntary output cuts of 2.2mn barrels per day (bpd) to the end of the second quarter to support the market. So far this year, international oil prices have been strong, with Brent holding above $86 a barrel on Tuesday, up from lows just above $70 hit late last year. This year's strength has resulted from concerns in the market of supply disruption because of war in the Middle East and attacks on Russian energy infrastructure, though economic uncertainty and increased supplies from beyond OPEC+ have limited further rises. When the voluntary curbs expire at the end of June, the total cuts by OPEC+ are set to decline to 3.66mn bpd as agreed in earlier steps starting in 2022. The JMMC brings together leading OPEC+ countries including Saudi Arabia, Russia and the United Arab Emirates. The panel usually meets every two months and can make recommendations to change policy that can then be discussed and ratified in a full ministerial meeting including all members. (Reuters)

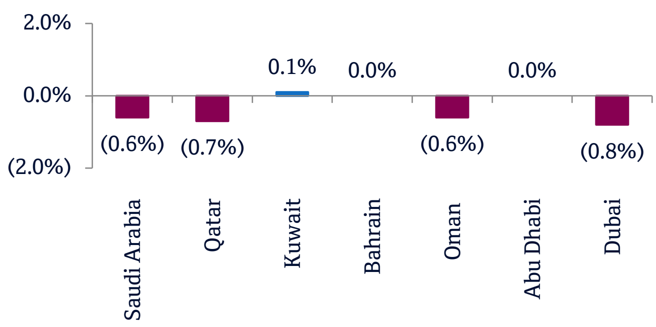
- **GCC embraces make-to-order manufacturing -** Make-to-Order has emerged as the perfect paradigm for customized climate conscious manufacturing at a time when the GCC custom-manufacturing market is growing exponentially and is poised to reach almost $1.3tn by 2030. In the wake of COP28, it seems appropriate that we focus on the concept of customization, where the customer gets precisely what they want, with no compromises, and the manufacturer is able to reduce waste by not expending materials, energy, and labor on that which is not required, writes Vibhu Kapoor, Regional Vice President - Middle East, Africa & India, Epicor. By one estimate, the GCC custom-manufacturing market had reached a value of $898bn by 2022 and is expected to grow at a compound annual rate of 4.6% between 2023 and 2030. This is very good news for Gulf nations that have sought to diversify their economies. Programs such as Saudi Arabia's National Industrial Strategy (NIS) and the UAE's Operation 300bn will benefit greatly from custom manufacturing. (Zawya)
- **Saudi Arabia's non-oil exports rise by 0.8% in January 2024 -** Saudi Arabia's non-oil exports (including re-exports) increased by 0.8% compared to January 2023, while non-oil exports (excluding re-exports) decreased by 11.5% as re-exports rose by 42.6% in the same period. The Saudi General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT) reported yesterday that overall merchandise exports decreased by 10.3% in January 2024, compared to January 2023. These decreases originated mainly from oil exports, which fell by 13.5% in the same period. The share of oil exports in total exports decreased from 77.6% in January 2023 to 74.8% in January 2024. Merchandise imports decreased by 1.4% in January 2024. Regarding the merchandise trade balance, the surplus decreased by 26.3% compared to January 2023. (Peninsula Qatar)
- **Second phase of Saudization of consulting service professions by 40% comes into force -** The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development announced that the second phase of the Saudization of consulting services professions has come into force on Monday, March 25. The second phase covers 40% of professions related to consulting services, notably financial consulting, engineering and architectural consulting, health consulting, and senior management consulting. This move is part of the ministry's efforts aimed at providing more stimulating and productive job opportunities for male and female citizens in various regions of Saudi Arabia. The ministry revealed that major professions that come under Saudization of consulting services in the second phase include financial consulting specialist, business consulting specialist, cyber security consulting specialist, manager of project management, as well as project management engineer, and project management specialist. The ministry said that it will work to follow up and implement the second phase of Saudization of these professions so as to raise the level of participation of Saudis in the labor market, and that is in partnership with the Ministry of Finance, the Local Content and Government Procurement Authority, Expenditure and Project Efficiency Authority (EXPRO), and the Human Resources Development Fund (HADAF) in a manner consistent with the requirements of the sector and the labor market. The ministry, in partnership with other ministries and supervisory authorities, embarked on the Saudization journey with the aim of providing more stimulating and productive job opportunities for Saudis and raising the level of their participation in the labor market. This is in continuation of the ministry's efforts aimed at creating more jobs for young Saudi men and women in addition to providing them with a stimulating, productive, and stable work environment in various regions of the Kingdom. It also aims to raise the level of their participation in the labor market and enhance their contribution to the economic system. The ministry confirmed that it will provide a package of incentives to encourage the private sector establishments and help them employ Saudis. These include supporting the process of attracting and searching for suitable workers, supporting training and qualification as well as the recruitment process and career continuity, in addition to the priority of benefiting from all nationalization support programs available in the system, and support programs being implemented through the HADAF. The ministry issued a guide explaining the details of the decisions to localize professions and the mechanism for implementing them. It also stressed the need for establishments to comply with the Saudization regulations so as to avoid the statutory penalties that will be applied against the violators. (Zawya)
- **UAE jobs: Salary seen increasing faster than cost of living this year -** Salaries are projected to increase faster than the inflation rate hike in the UAE this year on the back of increased demand for talent and growth in the overall economy. According to global human capital consultancy Mercer, the average salary in the UAE is expected to increase 4% this year as compared to a 2.3% rise in inflation. The Mercer Middle East Total Remuneration Survey for 2024 revealed employees working in energy companies will see a slightly higher salary increase of 4.3% this year and staff in consumer goods firms will on average see a 4.1% hike. While life sciences and high-tech companies plan to hike salaries by around four%. In 2023, average salaries increased by 4.1% across all industries in the UAE. Andrew El Zein, principal for Careers in Mena region, said although there is stability, growth and excitement in the UAE job market, one of the big issues is the cost of living, mainly due to the rise in rents in the past couple of years. "Rents have increased drastically, and Rera (Real Estate Regulatory Authority) recently recalibrated its rent calculator. That has shown an increase in the rent that landlords can charge. So that is definitely going to be a concern and going to feel on the employees' pocket," he said. Rents in the UAE have been consistently on the rise after the pandemic due to the increased flow of foreign workers into the country. REGIONAL FIRMS POACHING UAE TALENT: Despite the rising costs, El Zein said, the UAE has a lot of potential and opportunities, especially in terms of in-demand jobs and hot skills. "The UAE is very attractive for people who want to work here as there are many local and multinational firms in the market. Companies in the UAE are facing increased competition within the country and from other countries in the region, trying to attract and poach the talent," he said. To retain talent, he said there is a lot of work and queries regarding different types of long-term and short-term incentives and other forms of retention plans to retain critical talent. Regarding Emiratization, he added that there is huge competition between private sector organizations to attract this workforce. "There is still a large untapped workforce in the Emirati women segment." 16% OF UAE FIRMS PLAN TO HIRE: The Mercer Middle East Total Remuneration Survey for 2024 revealed that 16.3% of UAE firms plan to increase their headcounts while 7.8% intend to cut the workforce this year. Around 75.9% of companies in the Emirates neither plan to add or reduce their workforce. The study, which covered the Middle East region, found that the entire GCC region will see salaries outpacing inflation this year while the wider region is struggling to keep pace with the oil-rich Gulf states. In addition, 3.8% of firms in the UAE expect an increase in turnover rate for 2024 and 11.4% see a decrease. (Zawya)
- **New incentive initiative for existing Al Reem Island businesses transitioning to ADGM -** Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) has announced a new incentive initiative crafted exclusively for established businesses situated on Al Reem Island, operating within the non-financial and retail sectors. This initiative is strategically designed to bolster support for these businesses during their transition from the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development (ADDED) to ADGM. Through this incentive initiative, qualifying businesses on Al Reem Island will be exempt from paying any fees for obtaining an ADGM commercial license until 31st October 2024. This proactive measure aims to streamline the transition process for these businesses, enabling them to continue to thrive without the added financial burden during this period. Hamad Sayah Al Mazrouei, CEO of ADGM Registration Authority, said that the initiative will help mitigate any potential disruptions that these businesses might encounter when moving from an ADDED license to an ADGM license, enabling them to operate within ADGM's jurisdiction, swiftly. ADGM encourages all businesses that fall under the non-financial and retail categories on Al Reem Island to take advantage of this opportunity. This initiative reflects ADGM's commitment to fostering a supportive and business-friendly environment in Abu Dhabi, contributing to the sustainable growth and development of the local economy. By providing these incentives, ADGM aims to reaffirm its role as a catalyst for business success and innovation in the region. (Zawya)

Rebased Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Daily Index Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Asset/Currency Performance	Close ($)	1D%	WTD%	YTD%
Gold/Ounce	2,174.8	(0.2)	0.4	5.4
Silver/Ounce	24.4	(0.4)	(1.3)	2.4
Crude Oil (Brent)/Barrel (FM Future)	85.6	(0.8)	0.2	11.1
Crude Oil (WTI)/Barrel (FM Future)	81.1	(0.7)	0.6	13.2
Natural Gas (Henry Hub)/MMBtu	1.5	(3.9)	0.7	(41.2)
LPG Propane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	84.0	(0.4)	0.6	20.0
LPG Butane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	84.5	(1.6)	(0.6)	(15.9)
Euro	1.1	(0.1)	0.1	(2.0)
Yen	151.8	(0.1)	(0.2)	(7.1)
GBP	1.3	(0.1)	0.1	(0.9)
CHF	1.1	(0.0)	0.7	7.4
AUD	0.7	(0.2)	0.1	(4.3)
USD Index	104.4	0.1	(0.0)	3.0
RUB	110.6	0.0	0.0	58.9
BRL	0.2	0.0	(0.4)	2.7

Source: Bloomberg

Global Indices Performance	Close	1D%*	WTD%*	YTD%*
MSCI World Index	3,420.2	(0.2)	(0.4)	7.7
DJ Industrial	39,282.3	(0.1)	(0.5)	4.2
S&P 500	5,203.6	(0.3)	(0.6)	9.1
NASDAQ 100	16,315.7	(0.4)	(0.7)	8.7
STOXX 600	511.1	0.2	0.3	6.7
DAX	18,384.4	0.7	1.0	9.8
FTSE 100	7,931.0	0.2	0.0	2.6
CAC 40	8,184.8	0.4	0.4	8.5
Nikkei	40,706.5	0.8	(0.4)	21.7
MSCI EM	1,036.1	(0.3)	0.1	1.6
SHANGHAI SE Composite	3,021.4	(0.3)	(0.9)	1.6
HANG SENG	16,427.0	(1.2)	(0.4)	(3.6)
BSE SENSEX	72,470.3	(0.5)	(0.5)	0.3
Bovespa	126,863.0	(0.1)	(0.1)	(5.5)
RTS	1,116.2	0.1	0.3	3.0

Source: Bloomberg ($ adjusted returns if any)*

Contacts

QNB Financial Services Co. W.L.L.
Contact Center: (+974) 4476 6666
info@qnbfs.com.qa
Doha, Qatar

Saugata Sarkar, CFA, CAIA
Head of Research
saugata.sarkar@qnbfs.com.qa

Shahan Keushgerian
Senior Research Analyst
shahan.keushgerian@qnbfs.com.qa

Phibion Makuwerere, CFA
Senior Research Analyst
phibion.makuwerere@qnbfs.com.qa

Roy Thomas
Senior Research Analyst
roy.thomas@qnbfs.com.qa

Dana Saif Al Sowaidi
Research Analyst
dana.alsowaidi@qnbfs.com.qa