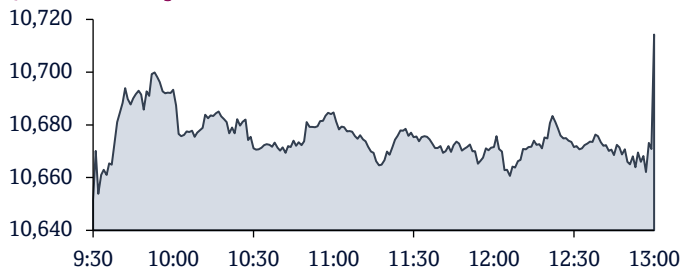


QSE Intra-Day Movement



Qatar Commentary

The QE Index rose 0.6% to close at 10,714.3. Gains were led by the Industrials and Consumer Goods & Services indices, gaining 1.3% and 0.7%, respectively. Top gainers were Qatari Investors Group and Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co., rising 3.2% and 3.1%, respectively. Among the top losers, QLM Life & Medical Insurance Co. fell 4.6%, while Doha Insurance Group was down 3.1%.

GCC Commentary

Saudi Arabia: The TASI Index gained 0.7% to close at 11,031.3. Gains were led by the Utilities and Materials indices, rising 6.8% and 0.8%, respectively. Al Jouf Cement Co rose and ACWA Power Co both rose 10.0%.

Dubai: The DFM Index fell 0.5% to close at 5,902.2. Losses were led by the Utilities and Consumer Staples indices, falling 1.3% and 0.9% respectively. Unikai Foods and National General Insurance Company both were down 3.8%.

Abu Dhabi: The ADX General Index fell 0.4% to close at 9,839.7. The Consumer Discretionary and Health Care indices declined 1.5% each. Hily Holding and E7 Group both declined 5.0%.

Kuwait: The Kuwait All Share Index fell marginally to close at 8,904.5. The Industrials and Banks indices declined 0.2% each. Commercial Facilities Co declined 5.5%, while Kuwait National Cinema Co was down 5.0%.

Oman: The MSM 30 Index gained 0.2% to close at 8,350.5. However, all indices ended flat or in red. Al Maha Ceramics Company rose 3.5%, while Muscat Gases Company was up 3.4%.

Bahrain: The BHB Index fell 0.7% to close at 1,941.7. Aluminum Bahrain declined 4.9%, while APM Terminals Bahrain was down 1.6%.

Market Indicators	07 May 26	06 May 26	%Chg.
Value Traded (QR mn)	569.8	487.0	17.0
Exch. Market Cap. (QR mn)	641,341.0	637,384.9	0.6
Volume (mn)	260.9	189.9	37.4
Number of Transactions	34,650	26,609	30.2
Companies Traded	53	53	0.0
Market Breadth	36:14	45:5	-

Market Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	YTD%	TTM P/E
Total Return	26,476.28	0.6	2.2	2.9	12.2
All Share Index	4,169.54	0.5	2.2	2.7	12.0
Banks	5,281.82	0.4	2.8	0.7	10.4
Industrials	4,436.07	1.3	3.4	7.2	16.1
Transportation	5,462.91	0.5	2.0	(0.1)	13.1
Real Estate	1,477.84	0.3	1.7	(3.4)	24.1
Insurance	2,812.99	(1.4)	(2.4)	12.5	10.7
Telecoms	2,463.10	0.3	(1.3)	10.5	11.7
Consumer Goods and Services	8,403.12	0.7	1.1	0.9	17.8
Al Rayan Islamic Index	5,361.39	0.7	1.8	4.8	14.7

GCC Top Gainers##	Exchange	Close#	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Acwa Power Co.	Saudi Arabia	182.1	10.0	1,539.1	0.2
Elm Co	Saudi Arabia	657.5	9.9	210.5	(12.1)
Power & Water Utility Co for J	Saudi Arabia	38.48	3.5	1,310.1	4.6
Co. for Cooperative Ins.	Saudi Arabia	141.80	3.4	563.0	21.2
Rabigh Refining & Petro.	Saudi Arabia	14.00	3.4	8,368.5	104.7

GCC Top Losers##	Exchange	Close#	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Aluminum Bahrain	Bahrain	0.78	(4.9)	276.6	(29.4)
Presight AI Holding PLC	Abu Dhabi	3.67	(4.7)	5,595.6	11.9
Americana Restaurants Internat	Abu Dhabi	1.88	(3.1)	3,568.0	16.0
Saudi Aramco Base Oil Co	Saudi Arabia	118.6	(2.8)	260.8	23.3
Jabal Omar Dev. Co.	Saudi Arabia	14.89	(2.5)	11,039.8	0.7

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%
Qatari Investors Group	1.465	3.2	3,577.5	(0.3)
Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co.	1.707	3.1	23,862.3	6.7
Meeza QSTP	3.314	1.8	951.0	(2.5)
Baladna	1.350	1.8	60,565.8	5.6
Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding	1.187	1.8	8,491.8	8.6

QSE Top Volume Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Baladna	1.350	1.8	60,565.8	5.6
Mazaya Qatar Real Estate Dev.	0.576	1.1	25,609.3	0.5
Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co.	1.707	3.1	23,862.3	6.7
Salam International Inv. Ltd.	0.795	0.6	19,734.1	9.5
Ezdan Holding Group	0.900	1.7	18,682.9	(14.9)

QSE Top Losers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
QLM Life & Medical Insurance Co.	2.280	(4.6)	6.7	(8.8)
Doha Insurance Group	2.898	(3.1)	685.7	12.9
Qatar General Ins. & Reins. Co.	1.526	(2.1)	14.5	(1.4)
Qatar Insurance Company	2.251	(1.3)	1,323.7	10.3
Dlala Brokerage & Inv. Holding Co.	1.175	(1.3)	928.5	20.0

QSE Top Value Trades	Close*	1D%	Val. '000	YTD%
Baladna	1.350	1.8	81,880.9	5.6
Estithmar Holding	4.270	1.2	43,907.6	27.1
Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co.	1.707	3.1	40,333.1	6.7
Industries Qatar	12.50	1.6	38,600.1	4.8
QNB Group	18.20	0.6	31,639.4	(2.5)

Regional Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	MTD%	YTD%	Exch. Val. Traded (\$ mn)	Exchange Mkt. Cap. (\$ mn)	P/E**	P/B**	Dividend Yield
Qatar*	10,714.25	0.6	2.2	2.2	(0.4)	156.5	173,162.1	12.2	1.4	4.7
Dubai^	5,902.21	(0.5)	(0.5)	2.4	(2.4)	155.5	262,359.9	9.5	1.7	5.4
Abu Dhabi^	9,839.74	(0.4)	(0.4)	0.6	(1.5)	279.1	751,553.5	18.8	2.4	2.5
Saudi Arabia	11,031.32	0.7	(1.4)	(1.4)	5.2	1,783.4	2,638,608.6	17.8	2.2	3.6
Kuwait	8,904.52	(0.0)	0.5	0.5	(0.0)	413.2	172,953.1	17.4	1.8	3.8
Oman	8,350.53	0.2	(0.2)	(0.2)	42.3	180.4	57,497.8	16.6	1.8	3.7
Bahrain	1,941.69	(0.7)	(1.5)	(1.5)	(6.0)	7.8	19,863.7	16.9	1.3	4.6

Source: Bloomberg, Qatar Stock Exchange, Tadawul, Muscat Securities Market and Dubai Financial Market (** TTM; * Value traded (\$ mn) do not include special trades if any, ^ Data as of May 08, 2026)

Qatar Market Commentary

- The QE Index rose 0.6% to close at 10,714.3. The Industrials and Consumer Goods & Services indices led the gains. The index rose on the back of buying support from Qatari and GCC shareholders despite selling pressure from Arab and Foreign shareholders.
- Qatari Investors Group and Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co. were the top gainers, rising 3.2% and 3.1%, respectively. Among the top losers, QLM Life & Medical Insurance Co. fell 4.6%, while Doha Insurance Group was down 3.1%.
- Volume of shares traded on Thursday rose by 37.4% to 260.9mn from 189.9mn on Wednesday. Further, as compared to the 30-day moving average of 185mn, volume for the day was 41.1% higher. Baladna and Mazaya Qatar Real Estate Dev. were the most active stocks, contributing 23.2% and 9.8% to the total volume, respectively.

Overall Activity	Buy%*	Sell%*	Net (QR)
Qatari Individuals	36.65%	38.92%	(12,934,431.61)
Qatari Institutions	30.82%	25.93%	27,840,820.69
Qatari	67.47%	64.85%	14,906,389.08
GCC Individuals	0.46%	0.40%	346,555.68
GCC Institutions	4.32%	1.80%	14,333,078.99
GCC	4.78%	2.20%	14,679,634.66
Arab Individuals	8.78%	10.33%	(8,811,768.11)
Arab Institutions	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Arab	8.78%	10.33%	(8,811,768.11)
Foreigners Individuals	1.88%	2.38%	(2,891,765.09)
Foreigners Institutions	17.10%	20.24%	(17,882,490.54)
Foreigners	18.98%	22.62%	(20,774,255.63)

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
05/07	US	U.S. Census Bureau	Construction Spending MoM	Feb	-0.20%	0.10%	-1.90%
05/07	US	U.S. Census Bureau	Construction Spending MoM	Mar	0.60%	0.30%	--
05/07	US	U.S. Department of Energy	EIA Natural Gas Storage Change	1-May	63	72	--
05/07	US	Federal Reserve	Consumer Credit	Mar	\$24.855b	\$13.720b	\$8.845b
05/08	US	Bureau of Labor Statistics	Unemployment Rate	Apr	4.30%	4.30%	--
05/08	US	Bureau of Labor Statistics	Labor Force Participation Rate	Apr	61.80%	61.90%	--
05/08	US	Bureau of Labor Statistics	Underemployment Rate	Apr	8.20%	8.00%	--

Earnings Calendar

Tickers	Company Name	Date of reporting 1Q2026 results	No. of days remaining	Status
QGM	Qatari German Co. for Medical Devices	12-May-26	2	Due

Qatar

- Mazaya Real Estate Development announces the acquisition of land in Al Sailya area** - Mazaya Real Estate Development (Q.P.S.C.) announces the acquisition of land in Al Sailya area, with a total transaction value of Seventy-Three million (73,000,000) Qatari Riyals. The Company's management is currently working on the designs for the project planned to be developed on the plot. (QSE)
- Mazaya Real Estate Development announces the acquisition of land in Fox Hills area** - Mazaya Real Estate Development (Q.P.S.C.) announces the acquisition of land in Fox Hills area, Lusail City, with a total transaction value of Twelve million Nine Hundred Forty-Five Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Seven (12,945,987) Qatari Riyals. The Company's management is currently working on the designs for the project planned to be developed on the land. (QSE)
- Qatari German Co. for Medical Devices: Postponed its AGM and EGM to 10/05/2026 due to lack of quorum** - Qatari German Co. for Medical Devices announced that due to non-legal quorum for the AGM and EGM on 07/05/2026, therefore, it has been decided to postpone the meeting to 10/05/2026& 05:00 PM& at the company head quarter and virtually through modern means of telecommunication electronically. (QSE)
- Qatar April Foreign Reserves Rise to QAR262.03bn** - Qatar's foreign reserves rose to QAR262.03b in April from QAR261.97b in March, according to the Qatar Central Bank. Gold reserves rose to QAR 61.3b from 60.8b in March. (Bloomberg)
- Qatar's listed banks should sustain quality growth: KPMG** - Doha's listed banks will have to sustain quality growth while managing margin and efficiency metrics, given the regional and global geopolitical environment, according to KPMG in Qatar. "Qatar's listed banks began

2026 on a stable footing, with resilient balance sheets and strong capital adequacy and coverage ratios," Omar Mahmood, Partner, Head of Financial Services, KPMG in Qatar, said in an analysis note. There are nine (including Shariah-compliant) listed banks -- QNB, Qatar Islamic Bank, Commercial Bank, Doha Bank, Ahlibank Qatar, QIIB, AlRayan Bank, Lesha Bank and Dukhan Bank. The listed banks' total assets were valued at QR2.4tn at the end of first quarter (Q1) of 2026, broadly in line with the levels in December 2025. The banks' return on assets was marginally down to 1.4% during Q1-2026 compared to 1.5% the previous year period. While profitability moderated amid higher provisioning, he said cost pressures, and the advent of global minimum tax, asset quality indicators held steady; supporting positive market sentiment reflected by higher share prices. Profit after tax was down 1.7% year-on-year to QR7.5bn during Q1-2026; while credit provisions increased by 2.7% year-on-year to QR2.9bn during Q1-2026. The sector contributed 58.78% of the total net profits of the (Qatar Stock Exchange) listed companies in Q1-2026 against 57.8% the corresponding period of 2024. The banks' return on equity declined to 12.2% during January-March 2026 compared to 13.3% the corresponding period of 2025. The banks' non-performing loans ratio stood at 3.2% during Q1-2026, broadly in line with the levels in December 31, 2025, it said, adding Stage 3 financing assets coverage ratio was 81.4%, rising by 0.3% against that in December 31, 2025 levels. The listed banks' efficiency (cost-to-income) ratio increased to 27% during January-March 2026 compared to 26.1% the previous year period. The banks' capital adequacy ratio increased to 20.2% in the first three months of this year against 19.6% at the end of December 2025, significantly higher than the minimum requirements set by the Qatar Central Bank (QCB). "Going forward the focus will remain on sustaining quality growth while managing margin and efficiency metrics, as the sector navigates an evolving regional and global geopolitical environment from a position of strength," Mahmood said. In view of the economic disruptions due to the

Iran war, the QCB had announced a package of pre-emptive support measures, including unlimited Qatari riyal repo facilities, a new term repo with maturities of up to three months, a reduction in the reserve requirement on deposits from 4.5% to 3.5%, and the option for banks to offer temporary payment deferrals of up to three months for the affected borrowers. (Gulf Times)

- Cloud kitchens drive Qatar delivery boom** - Qatar's food delivery sector is expanding at a pace that is reshaping how restaurants operate, with cloud kitchens increasingly seen as a lower-risk, cost-efficient alternative to traditional brick-and-mortar establishments. According to industry players, the cloud kitchen model is particularly well-suited to capture this growth, given its lower capital requirements and operational flexibility compared with conventional dining formats. "Cloud kitchens are uniquely positioned to accelerate growth in a high-demand market like Qatar," Awais Malik, general manager for Kitchens at MENA-based food delivery platform Talabat, told Gulf Times in an exclusive interview. Unlike traditional brick-and-mortar restaurants that require substantial upfront investment and are heavily impacted by rising real estate costs, Malik explained that cloud kitchens offer a more agile, asset-light model. "These kitchens act as localized distribution hubs, reducing delivery distances and improving speed, contributing to delivery time improvements of up to 13% regionally versus brick and mortar," he pointed out. The cloud kitchen model also carries implications for small and medium-sized enterprises, where high rental costs have long been a barrier to entry. Malik said the "asset-light" model "is a game-changer for SMEs." He emphasized that by significantly reducing upfront investment and ongoing overhead costs, cloud kitchens make it easier for entrepreneurs to enter the market and scale sustainably. "At talabat Kitchens, partners benefit from significantly lower rental costs as a share of revenue, typically saving up to half compared to traditional dine-in locations. This more efficient cost structure enables stronger returns while supporting expansion into both prime and underserved areas." In line with this, Malik said talabat's new kitchen in Wukair will serve as a launchpad for multiple well-loved and successful GCC brands entering and expanding within the market, helping bring greater variety and choice to customers in the area. "More importantly, the model removes the need for costly fit-outs and large teams, enabling SMEs to focus on what matters most: product quality, brand building, and customer experience. As a result, startups are better positioned to survive, grow, and contribute to a more dynamic and competitive F&B landscape," he further explained. The sector received a further boost in July 2025, when the Ministry of Commerce and Industry established clear procedures and guidelines for obtaining commercial licenses for cloud kitchens – a move, according to Malik, "has strengthened investor confidence and consumer trust." "Clear regulatory frameworks from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry mark a significant milestone for the sector, giving investors the clarity needed for long-term planning," Malik emphasized. (Gulf Times)
- Minister of Commerce and Industry meets with business leaders to address private sector challenges** - Minister of Commerce and Industry H E Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal Al Thani held a meeting yesterday with private sector representatives from Qatar Chamber and the Qatari Businessmen Association. The meeting forms part of the Ministry's ongoing engagement with the business community to discuss key challenges facing the private sector, review proposed solutions, and follow up on initiatives and projects aimed at enhancing Qatar's business environment. During the meeting, the Minister reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to strengthening its partnership with the private sector and empowering it as a key driver of economic growth. He noted that such meetings serve as a direct platform for dialogue with business representatives, enabling the Ministry to better understand market challenges and benefit from private sector insights in developing relevant policies and procedures. Discussions also covered current economic and trade developments and their impact on private sector companies and institutions, in addition to measures aimed at mitigating potential effects and supporting business continuity. The meeting further addressed initiatives focused on improving the business environment, including streamlining procedures, modernizing regulatory and legislative frameworks, and facilitating commercial activities in line with the country's economic growth objectives. (Peninsula Qatar)
- 93% of MoM services completed electronically in 2025** - Ministry of Municipality has unveiled its 2025 annual report, highlighting major achievements in digital transformation, sustainability, urban development, and food security as part of efforts to advance the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030. The report showcased a year of accelerated progress across municipal services, environmental initiatives, and smart governance projects, with the ministry emphasizing innovation and sustainability as key pillars of its strategy. Among the most notable milestones was the launch of 172 electronic services through the ministry's website and 127 services via the "Oun" mobile application, with total requests submitted across digital platforms surpassing 618,990 during 2025. The ministry also reported that 93% of all transactions were completed electronically, while customer satisfaction with digital services reached 86.4%. The ministry said it achieved significant advances in digital transformation aimed at delivering more proactive municipal services and improving customer experience through smart technologies. A landmark development during the year was the introduction of Qatar's AI-powered building permit system, launched. According to the report, the platform made Qatar the first country in the world to implement a fully integrated electronic building permit system capable of issuing permits within 120 minutes. Minister of Municipality H E Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah Al Attiyah described the project as a strategic leap in government service efficiency and quality, noting that it reflects the ministry's broader efforts to adopt advanced technologies in support of urban development. The report also highlighted the ministry's continued partnership with the private sector through outsourcing projects related to waste collection, transportation, sorting, incineration, and public cleaning services across several areas. Agricultural partnerships were also expanded to strengthen local production and support food security goals. In the environmental sector, the ministry announced the successful completion of the first phase of the Doha anti-desertification project, which focused on expanding vegetation cover in urban areas. The ministry further reported achieving 100% completion of plans aimed at increasing organic farming areas, supporting farm owners, enhancing agricultural production databases, and improving production quality and marketing mechanisms. Waste management initiatives also recorded progress, with Doha achieving an 85% waste separation rate at source under the city's source-separation program. The ministry launched the "Himmah" electronic system in January 2025 as an integrated platform for managing strategies and projects, monitoring initiatives, and measuring institutional performance. Another milestone was the publication of Qatar's first comprehensive government sustainability report documenting environmental practices, agricultural development, and digital transformation efforts. The report was described as a key reference tracking the country's progress toward building more sustainable cities, enhancing food security, accelerating digital transformation, and improving community wellbeing. The ministry added that smart city initiatives continued to expand through the adoption of artificial intelligence and Internet of Things technologies to improve operational efficiency and deliver higher-quality government services. (Peninsula Qatar)
- Qatar's economic resilience attracts global investor interest** - Qatar is increasingly positioning itself as a preferred investment destination with its strong financial foundations and economic strategy, drawing attention from international investors and industry leaders, according to experts. "Capital is becoming more selective," Andrew Scott, a Doha-based Investment strategist, told The Peninsula. "Investors are prioritizing markets that demonstrate not just growth potential, but resilience against external shocks." He added, "In times of disruption, countries with strong balance sheets and clear strategic direction naturally rise to the top of investor considerations." Another expert, Irina Duisimbekova, highlighted Qatar's unique combination of economic stability and long-term vision as key drivers of its appeal. "For me, it comes down to a combination of strength and vision," Duisimbekova said. "Qatar has exceptional financial fundamentals, strong reserves, low debt, and consistent revenues from its energy sector. This creates a solid safety net that very few countries can match." Qatar's economic resilience is largely supported by its vast natural gas reserves and its status as a leading global exporter of liquefied natural gas, which ensures steady revenue flows even during periods of global volatility. These resources have enabled the

country to maintain fiscal discipline while continuing to invest in critical sectors. Duisimbekova emphasized that the country's attractiveness extends beyond its resource wealth. "What truly differentiates Qatar is its ability to think long-term while acting quickly," the industry leader said. "The country is investing heavily in diversification, infrastructure, and human capital, while continuously improving its regulatory environment." In recent years, Qatar has implemented reforms aimed at strengthening its business ecosystem, including measures to attract foreign direct investment and encourage private sector participation. Meanwhile, major infrastructure projects and investments in innovation and education are helping to lay the groundwork for a more diversified economy. "As an investor, you feel that you are entering a market that is not only secure today, but also preparing itself for the next decade," Duisimbekova noted, underscoring the importance of policy consistency and strategic planning in attracting long-term capital. She stressed that this confidence is already translating into tangible expansion decisions. "That is exactly why groups like ours continue to expand here, and why we see increasing interest from international partners looking to establish a presence in Qatar," Duisimbekova added. Analysts say that as geopolitical tensions continue to reshape global trade and investment patterns, countries like Qatar, combining fiscal strength with proactive reform, are likely to remain at the forefront of investor interest. (Peninsula Qatar)

- Qatar Chamber eyes EMs to expand private sector reach: Sheikh Khalifa** - Qatar Chamber is expanding its economic partnerships across Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas while deepening ties within the GCC and the Arab region, as part of a broader push to widen opportunities for the Qatari private sector, its chairman, Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim al-Thani, has said. In the latest edition of *Al Moutaqqa*, the chamber's economic magazine, Sheikh Khalifa stated that Qatar Chamber continues to uphold its strategic role in empowering and advancing the private sector, enabling it to assume a leading position characterized by resilience, innovation, and global competitiveness. He stated that the chamber has sustained efforts to facilitate access to emerging opportunities and expand engagement across regional and international markets, contributing to the establishment of effective economic partnerships that reinforce stability and open new horizons for sustainable growth. Sheikh Khalifa stated that the advancement of such partnerships remains a strategic priority, given their vital role in broadening opportunities for the private sector and fostering a more integrated and resilient economic framework capable of addressing evolving global challenges. He stated that the expansion reflects the chamber's commitment to promoting investment flows and facilitating the exchange of expertise, describing regional and international cooperation as "a fundamental pillar of sustainable development." Sheikh Khalifa stated that Qatar Chamber continues its efforts to enhance the business environment, support national industries, and institutionalize the principles of transparency and efficiency, thereby strengthening the competitiveness of the private sector and reinforcing its role as a key driver of national economic growth. He stated that particular importance is being placed on engaging with emerging markets (EMs) and economies undergoing reconstruction, citing promising opportunities in investment, knowledge transfer, and the development of strategic partnerships. Sheikh Khalifa stated that the chamber is committed to supporting Qatari companies in accessing these markets and establishing long-term partnerships that contribute to "mutual and sustainable development." On the halal economy, he stated that the Halal Forum held earlier this year in Mecca represents a platform of strategic significance, bringing together decisionmakers and investors to explore avenues for advancing the Islamic economy and strengthening value chains within halal industries. He stated that the forum opens promising prospects for the Qatari private sector to benefit from the sector's sustained global growth. On technology, Sheikh Khalifa stated that investment in advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence, has become an essential enabler in strengthening institutional performance and empowering national enterprises to compete effectively at the global level. He stated that Qatar Chamber continues to promote digital transformation and foster innovation as part of its broader agenda for the private sector. Sheikh Khalifa stated that the chamber reaffirms its commitment to sustainability and social responsibility, with the aim of achieving "comprehensive and enduring

development." He stated that the coming phase calls for sustained efforts grounded in the spirit of partnership and the strengthening of regional and international cooperation, in alignment with the State of Qatar's development aspirations. (Gulf Times)

- Ooredoo, beIN renew ties** - Ooredoo has extended its partnership with beIN MEDIA GROUP (beIN), to ensure customers across the country continue to enjoy access to the world-class sports and entertainment content, including the 2026 FIFA World Cup in USA, Canada and Mexico. The agreement was signed by Ooredoo Qatar CEO Sheikh Ali bin Jabor bin Mohammad alThani and beIN MENA CEO Mohammad Abdulaziz al-Subaie. Sheikh Ali said, "Sports and entertainment bring people together, across borders, languages, and generations. By combining advanced connectivity with world-class sports and entertainment, we are creating a seamless digital experience that evolves with our customers' expectations." Al-Subaie added: "Our renewed partnership with Ooredoo reflects a shared vision to deliver unparalleled access to premium sports and entertainment experiences." (Gulf Times)
- Qatar launches new research vessel to strengthen marine environmental monitoring** - The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change has launched a new vessel dedicated to monitoring and scientific research, marking a significant step in enhancing Qatar's marine environmental monitoring system. The vessel is part of the ministry's broader efforts to upgrade field operation tools and improve the efficiency of studies and programs focused on the quality of the marine environment across the country. Equipped to carry out a wide range of tasks, the boat will collect marine samples and conduct preliminary analyses, while also monitoring environmental phenomena such as red tides and fish mortality incidents. In addition, the vessel will support various marine environmental initiatives and provide rapid response capabilities during emergency situations within the state's exclusive economic zone. (Qatar Tribune)
- Tech, speed and squeeze: CEP market in transition** - Qatar's courier, express and parcel (CEP) market is being reshaped from a traditional domestic delivery business into a technology-driven supply chain ecosystem — even as Middle East disruptions and the price-locked nature of e-commerce squeeze margins from both ends. Changing consumer expectations, the e-commerce boom, the rollout of digital addressing in place of PO Boxes, and accelerated infrastructure build-out are the four pillars driving this shift in a country that sits within an eight-hour flight of 70% of the world's population. The market, slated to further evolve towards a hyper-fast, tech-enabled delivery ecosystem, is seeing greater integration of CEP providers and third-party logistics firms, as the sector becomes sophisticated with growth visible in temperature-controlled logistics like the pharma and food sectors. Qatar has promising potential for expansion of cold-chain logistics for vaccines, biologics and perishable goods, and CEP providers that invest in specialized infrastructure and compliance capabilities can capture premium margins in these niche areas. Drone delivery, autonomous vehicles and digitized supply chains are going to be the future of this vital high-volume low-margin sector, where international shipments are expected to outpace domestic expansion. According to Mordor Intelligence, Qatar's CEP market size is expected to grow from \$145.28mn in 2025 to \$154.98mn in 2026 and is forecast to reach \$213.62mn by 2031, at 6.68% compound annual growth rate over 2026-31. Macro drivers are Qatar National Vision 2030's diversification agenda, the surge in online retail, and the strategic location of Doha's logistics zones. Artificial Intelligence (AI), data analytics and green logistics are gaining importance in the sector, where express and parcel delivery constitutes the bulk. The market, whose margins are on the squeeze especially in view of the present disruptions, has become increasingly business-to-consumer (B2C)-driven (58% in 2025), not just traditional B2B logistics. "CEP contracts (especially e-commerce) are often price-locked or highly competitive, limiting cost pass-through," an industry source said, implying margin erosion, especially for the domestic delivery, which accounted for about 64% of the market share. According to StateGlobe, as much as 68% of e-commerce orders are delivered within the same day, with average turnaround of three hours for e-commerce deliveries, boosting customer satisfaction. Highlighting that the main driver is the increasing smartphone penetration and improved logistics infrastructure enabling faster delivery services, it said rapid adoption of technology and increased

internet penetration have made online shopping a convenient choice for Qatar's residents. Investments in Hamad Port, air cargo facilities and road networks have enhanced efficiency and reduced transit times, it said, projecting Qatar's online retail market to reach \$5.2bn this year. Strong fundamentals and trade connectivity help the market achieve steady medium-term growth, although the Iran conflict has slowed the pace of CEP sector growth given its GDP elasticity. Qatar's strategic investments in logistics infrastructure — such as Hamad Port and Hamad International Airport — are strengthening its role as a regional hub linking Asia, Europe and Africa. This is boosting both international courier flows and transit shipments. Qatar Airways Cargo's partnership with Cainiao links Doha to China's fulfilment labs; and Ras Bufontas Free Zone's cross-docking platforms let integrators recast Doha as a trans-shipment node for the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) and African markets. Smart warehouse technologies are being adopted to handle increasing shipment volumes efficiently, improving speed and reducing operational costs for Qatar, which has seen improved re-exports volumes. Gulf Warehousing Company became the first logistics entity in Qatar to implement vision-picking technology, leading the way toward a more efficient, accurate and safe future for logistics. Qatar's logistics sector underwent transformation with WareOne, the country's "first Airbnb for warehouses", introducing a 'pay as you use' concept, cutting storage costs by as much as 30%, especially for small businesses. The present disruptions caused by the Iran conflict have led to an increased cost-per-parcel, while heightened competition and the price-elastic nature of e-commerce have put pressure on pricing. The combined force translates as a squeeze in margins in the sector, which already faces complex customs, duties and compliance requirements, thus increasing handling cost and delays, as well as rerouting and longer transit chains, raising cost per shipment. As per the inferred data, the sector's margin is typically less than 10% of earnings before interest and taxes in stable periods. Economic growth, digital consumption and trade integration combine to create a market where every unit of GDP growth generates multiple units of logistics demand, but the future of Qatar's CEP market depends on innovation, sustainability and the ability of providers to meet the rising expectations for speed, reliability and transparency. (Gulf Times)

- Qatar takes proactive measures to empower private sector** - The State of Qatar is pressing ahead with major reforms and support measures to strengthen the private sector and enhance the country's business environment in response to ongoing regional and global economic challenges. The country is implementing qualitative steps toward modernization and economic development through streamlined procedures, updated regulatory and legislative frameworks, and easier mechanisms for conducting commercial activities in line with the requirements of economic growth, according to a report aired by Qatar TV. Qatar has adopted a series of proactive measures and support mechanisms designed to empower the private sector and ensure business continuity. The initiatives are intended to improve corporate resilience and help companies navigate operational and financial challenges while maintaining market stability and investor confidence. The measures focus heavily on liquidity support and financial relief for businesses, as well as specialized consultancy services to improve operational efficiency, analyze costs, and reduce expenditures. The report also noted that programs offered by Invest Qatar include support for companies' local expenses through national incentive schemes, in addition to commercial rent exemptions and deferments. These steps are expected to help businesses adapt to changing economic conditions without affecting the sustainability of their operations. On the operational and administrative front, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry currently provides more than 500 integrated digital services to facilitate business activities. The ministry also operates a 24-hour operations center dedicated to monitoring price stability, protecting consumers, and resolving disputes. According to the report, the investment community remains in continuous communication with Invest Qatar through weekly meetings and a round-the-clock hotline that offers logistical and advisory support to investors and companies. To further enhance the business climate, the state is continuing efforts to improve economic legislation and simplify commercial procedures in line with the objectives of the Third National Development Strategy 2024-2030. The strategy is based on strengthening partnerships between the public and private sectors and activating laws

regulating foreign investment to create a more flexible and transparent investment environment. (Peninsula Qatar)

International

- US economy posts second straight month of strong job gains, but strains remain** - U.S. employment increased more than expected in April, pointing to labor market stability and reinforcing expectations the Federal Reserve would keep interest rates unchanged for some time as the war with Iran fans inflation. Despite the second straight month of strong job growth reported by the Labor Department on Friday, strains remained and economists warned the labor market was not out of the woods yet. The number of people working part-time for economic reasons increased by the most in 14 months and there were also more multiple job holders. Household employment decreased for a fourth consecutive month but was offset by a continued contraction in the labor force, keeping the unemployment rate unchanged at 4.3% after rounding. The jobless rate is calculated from the household survey. "Labor demand and supply remain in an uneasy balance, however, and labor market conditions could weaken again swiftly as financial pressures from rising prices weigh on household purchasing power," said Scott Anderson, chief U.S. economist at BMO Capital Markets. "There is nothing in this report to move the Fed off the sidelines on future rate cuts." Nonfarm payrolls increased by 115,000 jobs last month after an upwardly revised 185,000 advance in March, the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics said. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast payrolls rising by 62,000 jobs after a previously reported 178,000 rebound in March. Estimates ranged from a loss of 15,000 jobs to a gain of 150,000 positions. The back-to-back rise shown in the survey of establishments offered hope payrolls were settling down following volatility since mid-2025, partly attributed by economists to an adjustment to the birth-and-death model, which the government uses to estimate how many jobs were gained or lost because of companies opening or closing in a given month. Weather, strikes and government job cuts as well as big changes to the labor force amid an immigration crackdown by President Donald Trump's administration also added to the wild swings, economists said. They recommended looking at the three-month moving average of payrolls, which was 48,000 in April. That was down from a monthly average of 72,000 during the same period last year. (Reuters)
- China April exports rebound strongly after sluggish March, trade surplus widens** - China's export growth gathered pace in April as factories raced to meet a wave of overseas orders from buyers seeking to stockpile components amid fears the Iran war could push global input costs even higher. Exports expanded 14.1% from a year earlier in U.S. dollar value terms, customs data showed on Saturday, outpacing the 2.5% gain in March and a 7.9% rise tipped by economists. Chinese exporters have so far weathered the fallout from the Middle East conflict, buoyed by overseas buyers scrambling to secure supplies, but economists warn that the longer the war drags on and energy prices rise, the greater the risk that external demand fades away -- leaving sluggish domestic consumption unable to plug the gap. New export orders rose to their highest level in two years, separate factory activity data for April shown last month. Imports notched another strong month in April, climbing 25.3% versus 27.8% in March. Economists had forecasted growth of 15.2%. That boosted China's trade surplus last month to \$84.8bn, from \$51.13bn in March. Momentum was solid in the first quarter, with China's GDP growth hitting 5% year-on-year, the top of the government's full-year target range and lessening the need for immediate stimulus. But even China, long criticized by trading partners for subsidy-backed, cut-price manufacturing, is not insulated from the hit to buyers' purchasing power as fuel and transport costs rise. The factory data published last month showed input prices remained elevated, particularly for refined goods and petroleum, coal and chemicals. Unemployment rates also edged higher and retail sales - a gauge of consumption - continued to underperform industrial output. U.S. President Donald Trump is expected to visit China next week for a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, a trip that could yield gains on farm trade and airplane parts but is unlikely to soften deep strategic rifts, especially over Taiwan. (Reuters)

Regional

- Global tech leaders unite in Riyadh to shape future of Blockchain** - The Global Blockchain Show is making its comeback to Riyadh following a successful event in Abu Dhabi. The global event will take place on June 29 and 30 and will draw attendance of industry stalwarts and thought leaders across the Web3 industry. It will provide an innovative platform where cutting-edge technologies will collide with the worlds of business and finance. The Global Blockchain Show convened by VAP Group in association with Times of Blockchain is anticipated to have 10,000+ delegates and 100+ speakers, also including 100+ exhibitors and 200+ media representatives. The event gives delegates an opportunity to learn about the latest tools and platforms in blockchain through keynote talks, panels, and workshops on blockchain technology. Speakers who have previously spoken at the event include a prestigious list of international leaders and blockchain innovators. Justin Sun, Ambassador and former Permanent Representative of Grenada to the WTO, Founder of TRON, HTX, and Liberland, and Yat Siu, Co-Founder and Executive Chairman of Animoca Brands, have all taken to the podium. Then there is Ahmed Bin Sulayem, who is the Executive Chairman and CEO of the Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC), and also John Lilic, who is the CEO of Hilbert Group. Speakers included Dr. Marwan Alzarouni, CEO of Dubai Blockchain Center & CEO of AI at Dubai Economy & Tourism; and Jason Allegrante, Chief Legal & Compliance Officer at Fireblocks. Rachel Conlan, CMO at Binance; Sunny Lu, CEO of VeChain; Abdulla Al Dhaheeri, CEO at Abu Dhabi Blockchain Center; and investor Murad Mahmudov have also contributed to this successful event. The agenda of this year's event includes two days of lively lectures, expert-led talks, and networking opportunities to explore blockchain, Web3, and other emerging systems in the field as they are changing. People from among the elites, thinkers, and pioneers in their respective industries will get to know all voices and people who are shaping tomorrow's digital economy. (Zawya)
- Italy's UniCredit agrees to sell parts of Russian bank to Gulf investor** - Italy's UniCredit (CRDL.MI), said on Thursday it had struck a non-binding deal to sell parts of its Russian bank to a "well-established private investor" in the United Arab Emirates and would only retain its payments business in Russia. Opposed to selling its operations at a loss after the Ukraine war broke out, UniCredit has been shrinking its Russian business under orders from the European Central Bank and following a clash with the Italian government over accusations that the bank's interests in Russia posed a threat to national security. The Kremlin, which needs to approve transactions such as the one UniCredit is proposing, said it would review it once it receives an application, while pointing out it would be a complex decision. Thursday's surprise announcement follows UniCredit's launch this week of a hostile buyout offer for Germany's Commerzbank (CBKG.DE). In May 2025, three UAE companies approached Italy's Treasury with a proposal to buy UniCredit Russia. The move led nowhere. Inweasta, one of the firms, on Thursday said in an emailed response to Reuters that "it actively monitors investment and advisory opportunities" across its core markets, including Russia, but only comments on closed transactions. UniCredit Russia currently ranks 23rd in the country by net assets, according to Veles Capital analyst Sergey Zhitelev. It was Russia's 12th-largest bank four years ago. "Business continuity is expected to be maintained during the transition period," Zhitelev said. **NO IMPACT SEEN ON SHAREHOLDER REWARDS** The planned partial sale of the business entails an income hit of between 3bn euros and 3.3bn euros, which the bank said would not affect shareholder reward plans, UniCredit said. The Russian operations contributed 800mn euros (\$941mn) to UniCredit's net profit in 2025, a figure CEO Andrea Orcel said it would halve this year and fall further to around 100mn euros by 2028. In terms of its capital ratios, the overall impact of the disposal will be an improvement of about 35 basis points. UniCredit said it expected to close the deal in the first half of 2027, subject to securing relevant authorizations. (Reuters)
- Ajman sees 460 industrial establishments during Q1 2026** - Mohammed Al Janahi, Executive Director of the Member Support Services Sector at Ajman Chamber, affirmed that the number of industrial establishments registered in the emirate reached 460 during the first quarter of 2026, reflecting sustained industrial growth and investor confidence in Ajman's business environment. He said the industrial sector in Ajman continues to witness strong momentum and diversity, supported by promising investment opportunities, advanced infrastructure, the emirate's strategic location, and investment-friendly measures, alongside the Chamber's efforts to support industrial establishments and enhance their competitiveness. Separately, the Ajman Chamber concluded its participation in the Make in the Emirates platform within the Ajman Government Pavilion, where it held a series of bilateral meetings with government and private sector entities and investors to explore cooperation opportunities and strengthen strategic partnerships. The meetings also focused on promoting Ajman's industrial capabilities and highlighting promising investment opportunities in the emirate's industrial sector. Al Janahi noted that the Chamber was keen to engage directly with decision-makers, business leaders and investors throughout the event to promote key industrial sectors in Ajman, including food industries, health products, agricultural products, and refining, chemicals and petrochemicals. He added that these efforts contribute to attracting investments, supporting industrial expansion and opening new opportunities in external markets. Jameela Al Nuaimi, Director of Member Relations and Support, said the Ajman Chamber seeks to diversify its participation in international exhibitions and platforms alongside private sector members to promote their products and services, strengthen their regional and global presence, and establish strategic partnerships that support business growth and enhance competitiveness. She added that the Make in the Emirates platform provided an interactive environment bringing together manufacturers, investors and entrepreneurs from around the world, facilitating the exchange of expertise and showcasing successful industrial experiences. Al Nuaimi said the platform also offered opportunities to explore the latest trends in advanced industries and modern technologies, helping expand commercial and industrial networks and strengthen cooperation opportunities for private sector establishments. (Zawya)
- CBUAE support package to enhance financial institutions' resilience reaches \$1.69bn** - The Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE) today announced the key outcomes of the comprehensive proactive support package aimed at enhancing the resilience of financial institutions. The CBUAE said the total value of facilities benefiting from the package reached AED6.2bn, including loan deferments, interest relief and fee waivers. It noted that the number of beneficiaries reached 65,379, including 60,559 individuals, 4,335 small and medium-sized enterprises, and 485 corporates. The central bank added that priority sectors benefiting from the package included the hospitality sector with 173 companies, the transport sector with 361 companies, and the entertainment sector with 134 companies. The CBUAE affirmed the continued growth of the banking sector during the period from 1st March, 2026 to 1st May, 2026, with assets rising by 2.1%, loans by 3.2% and deposits by 1.9%, while the monetary base cover ratio reached 115.3%. It confirmed that affected establishments may continue communicating with banks during the specified period. The CBUAE explained that the support mechanisms available to affected establishments include deferment of repayment instalments for up to six months without classification as default, suspension of interest and fees on affected facilities, in addition to the continuation of credit financing for priority economic sectors. It added that eligibility criteria stipulate that establishments affected by economic disruptions are eligible to benefit from deferred instalments, with the hospitality, transport and other affected sectors receiving priority in implementation. Eligible entities include corporates, small and medium-sized enterprises, and individuals, while no minimum loan size is required to benefit from the support package. (Zawya)
- Dubai Holding selects 15 scale-ups for circular economy program** - Dubai Holding has announced the selection of 15 scale-ups from more than 1,400 submissions representing 93 countries to participate in the second edition of its global impact accelerator, "Innovate For Tomorrow". The flagship program, delivered in partnership with TECOM Group PJSC's start-up and entrepreneurship incubator, in5, and in collaboration with BOLT, invited innovators from around the world to reimagine how resources are consumed, produced and regenerated to support the transition towards a more circular and sustainable future. The accelerator focuses on advancing circular economy innovation across Dubai Holding's key business areas through three sub-themes: food loss and waste, resource recovery and regeneration, and digital innovation for sustainability. The

program received submissions from several countries, including the UAE, India, the United Kingdom and South Africa. Applications underwent a rigorous evaluation process based on the relevance of the problem addressed, impact potential, innovation and differentiation, customer and market validation, scalability and suitability for the UAE market. The selected scale-ups are competing for a total prize pool and pilot funding worth AED850,000. The winning scale-up will secure pilot funding and an opportunity to implement a proof-of-concept project within Dubai Holding's diversified portfolio. The selected companies participated in a 12-week hybrid accelerator program held from January to April 2026, which included dedicated mentorship sessions, masterclasses and specialized workshops supervised by industry experts and representatives from Dubai Holding. The program aimed to strengthen business models, accelerate market entry and provide access to investor networks. The list of selected scale-ups includes companies from the UAE, Norway, India, Spain, Switzerland, Denmark, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom operating in the fields of environmental technology, recycling, sustainability and digital innovation. Dubai Holding said the program reflects its commitment to supporting sustainable development and advancing the UAE Circular Economy Policy 2031, the UAE Net Zero by 2050 strategic initiative and the UAE Centennial 2071 vision. The program is scheduled to conclude in June 2026 with a Demo Day event, during which the top five scale-ups will present their solutions before investors, partners and industry leaders. (Zawya)

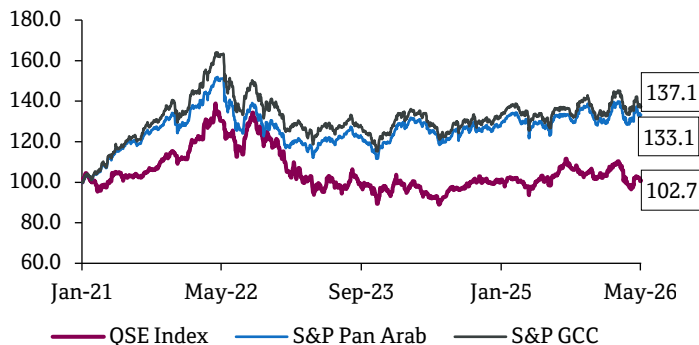
- 30 June deadline for achieving Emiratization targets for first half of 2026: MoHRE** - The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization (MoHRE) affirmed that 30th June 2026 is the deadline for private sector establishments with 50 or more employees to achieve their Emiratization targets for the first half of 2026. This means achieving a 1% growth in the Emiratization rate of their skilled jobs for the first six months of the year, in line with Emiratization decisions and policies, which call for an additional 1% growth in the Emiratization of skilled jobs for the second half of 2026 for these companies, bringing their overall Emiratization growth rate to 2% by the end of the year. Starting from 1st July 2026, financial contributions will be applied to establishments that have failed to achieve their required Emiratization rates for the first half of the year. The Ministry called on companies subject to Emiratization policies to ramp up their efforts and promptly achieve their requirements rather than wait until the final days before the deadline, urging them to make use of the Nafis platform to connect with job-seeking UAE citizens from various specializations. The Nafis program was extended until 2040, following the directives of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to enhance job stability for Emirati citizens. Updates to the program include increasing child allowance support and extending financial support periods. In a statement issued to the press, MoHRE praised the private sector's continued commitment to Emiratization policies and targets since their launch, which reflects the extent of private companies' compliance, their awareness of their national and social responsibilities, and their active contribution to supporting the national economy and empowering Emirati citizens in the labor market. Furthermore, the Ministry noted the efficiency of its inspection and monitoring systems, particularly with the latest upgrades to the system using AI tools, in flagging negative practices such as 'Fake Emiratization' schemes and attempts to circumvent Emiratization targets. It warned that legal action will be taken against violating companies, which includes lowering their rank in MoHRE's establishment classification system and implementing measures to oblige them to correct their status. The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization urged citizens to report any transgressions or cases that contradict Emiratization policies, either by contacting its Call Centre at 600590000, or through its smart application and website, which adhere to the highest standards of privacy and responsiveness. The Ministry affirmed its continued commitment to providing all forms of support for compliant companies, whether with the benefits available through the Nafis program, or by offering enhanced competitive advantages and benefits for companies that achieve exceptional results in their Emiratization efforts. Benefits include enrolling compliant companies as members in the Emiratization Partners Club, which, in turn, provides them access to financial discounts of up to 80% on MoHRE service fees, and enables them to enjoy priority status in the government procurement system, thereby enhancing their business

growth opportunities. Other pioneering advantages are also available to members, designed to enable them to benefit from the UAE labor market's rapid growth across various sectors. (Zawya)

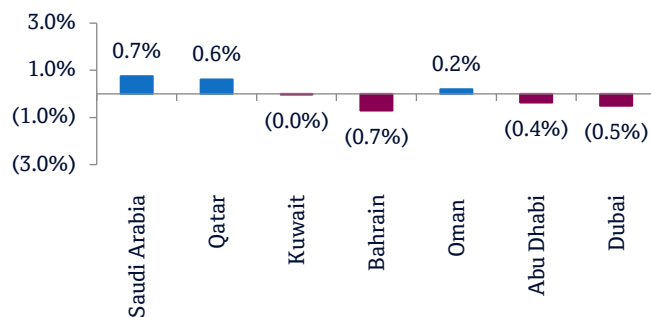
- World Bank sees stronger Oman economy on fiscal, non-oil gains** - Oman's economy is positioned for stronger growth in the coming years, supported by lower public debt, expanding non-oil activity and continued reforms under Oman Vision 2040, the World Bank Group said in Muscat. The assessment came during a session reviewing the World Bank's Gulf Economic Update, attended by senior officials and economic specialists. In opening remarks, Abdullah bin Salem Al Harthy, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, said Oman is pressing ahead with a broad economic strategy focused on diversification, fiscal sustainability and digital transformation. He said these priorities are central to strengthening economic resilience, supporting sustainable development and improving Oman's regional and international competitiveness. Al Harthy said the report comes at an important time, as geopolitical developments and changing global conditions are pushing Gulf economies to accelerate reforms and build more diversified growth models. He said Oman's cooperation with international financial institutions, including the World Bank Group, helps support national economic policies through research, technical expertise and global best practices. The Oman chapter of the report, he said, highlights the country's progress in fiscal discipline and sustainability, reflecting the government's efforts to improve public financial management and strengthen the resilience of the national economy. Al Harthy said the government is seeking to balance growth needs with long-term fiscal stability through prudent financial policies, more efficient public spending and higher non-oil revenues. Speaking to the Oman Observer, Wendy Werner, Country Manager for the World Bank Group for Oman, said the report places Oman's performance within wider Gulf and global economic trends. "Today's report covers Oman, but puts it in the context of the region and global economic trends," Werner said. She said the World Bank's work in Oman focuses on supporting macroeconomic and policy analysis, while helping the Sultanate advance the goals of Oman Vision 2040. "The objective of the World Bank Group here in Oman is to support the execution and deliberation of Vision 2040 and to help Oman's growth, particularly in the areas of diversification and sustainable growth," she said. Werner said the World Bank's growth projections for Oman are positive, with acceleration expected over the next few years. She cited the sustained reduction in public debt, recognized by international credit rating agencies, and stronger growth in non-oil sectors as key signs of improvement. "These are very positive indicators for resilient, credible and sustained higher growth," Werner said. (Zawya)
- Oman's economy to grow 2.4% in 2026: World Bank** - Ministry of Finance, hosted the World Bank Group to review the latest Gulf Economic Monitor report, focusing on the economic prospects of the GCC nations on Thursday. The meeting provided a platform to discuss regional and global economic developments, alongside recommendations for future growth. The report highlights that GCC economies have remained resilient despite global challenges, largely due to the rapid diversification of non-oil sectors, an expanded government revenue base, and increased investment in infrastructure projects. According to the report, GCC economic growth reached 3.2% in 2025 and is projected to rise to 4.5% in 2026. Inflation across the region is expected to remain stable at approximately 2.1%. Regarding Oman, the report notes positive fiscal results, with the national economy growing by 3.1% in 2025. This success is attributed to government measures aimed at improving financial performance and spending efficiency. Looking ahead to 2026, Oman's economy is expected to continue its positive trajectory with a 2.4% growth rate and a stable public debt level of 35% of the Gross Domestic Product. (Zawya)
- Oman: Listed firms' profits and non-oil exports drive economic diversification** - Oman's industrial sector continued to demonstrate strong momentum in the first quarter of 2026, supported by improved market conditions and rising demand across key sectors. Industrial companies listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange recorded a notable growth of 28.5% compared to the same period in 2025, reflecting enhanced operational efficiency and sector resilience. This growth was primarily driven by the strong performance of companies operating in the

food manufacturing and cement industries. These sectors benefited from increased demand, higher production volumes, and improved cost management strategies, enabling firms to strengthen their financial results. The positive performance also reflects the sector's ability to capitalize on ongoing infrastructure development, and the gradual stabilization of supply chains. However, performance across the industrial landscape remained uneven. Some companies in the metal and mining industries—particularly those involved in ceramic and tile production—reported a slight decline. This was largely attributed to rising input costs, including energy and raw materials, declining product prices in certain markets, and intensifying competition from imported goods. This divergence highlights the need for continued efforts to enhance productivity and competitiveness in more vulnerable industrial segments. On the external trade front, recent data released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information indicates that Oman's non-oil exports maintained a positive growth trajectory. By the end of February 2026, non-oil exports increased by 11.4%, reaching approximately RO 1.129bn, compared to RO 1.013bn during the same period in 2025. This expansion reflects a significant improvement in external demand, particularly for high-value industrial products. Metal products emerged as a key growth driver, supported by robust demand in regional and international markets. In addition, electrical machinery and equipment recorded remarkable growth, signaling the gradual shift of Oman's industrial base toward more technologically advanced and value-added activities. In terms of key trading partners, the United Arab Emirates remained the largest destination for Omani exports, registering a strong growth rate of 37.5%. This underscores the depth of economic integration between the two countries and the strength of their interconnected supply chains, supported by efficient logistics and trade facilitation. In addition, exports to the Saudi Arabia increased by 9.3%, reflecting continued expansion of Omani products in the Saudi market. This growth aligns with ongoing bilateral efforts to enhance economic cooperation and unlock new trade and investment opportunities for the private sector. Overall, these positive indicators highlight the growing strength and resilience of Oman's industrial sector, reinforcing its central role in advancing economic diversification. The sector continues to contribute to increasing the share of non-oil activities in GDP, boosting exports, and creating sustainable employment opportunities. Experts emphasize that sustaining this growth momentum will require accelerating the adoption of advanced manufacturing technologies, attracting investment into high-value industries, strengthening local supply chains, and enhancing the global competitiveness of Omani products. As Oman progresses toward its long-term economic goals, the industrial sector remains a key pillar in building a diversified, competitive, and sustainable economy—positioning the Sultanate as an emerging industrial and logistics hub in the region. (Zawya)

Rebased Performance



Daily Index Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Source: Bloomberg

Asset/Currency Performance	Close (\$)	1D%	WTD%	YTD%
Gold/Ounce	4,726.72	0.9	2.4	9.4
Silver/Ounce	80.71	2.9	7.1	12.6
Crude Oil (Brent)/Barrel (FM Future)	101.02	1.0	(6.6)	66.0
Crude Oil (WTI)/Barrel (FM Future)	95.39	0.6	(6.4)	66.1
Natural Gas (Henry Hub)/MMBtu	2.70	0.0	2.7	(32.3)
LPG Propane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	85.50	0.0	(3.1)	34.2
LPG Butane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	115.00	0.0	1.4	49.2
Euro	1.18	0.5	0.5	0.3
Yen	156.62	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.1)
GBP	1.36	0.5	0.3	1.1
CHF	1.29	0.5	0.7	2.1
AUD	0.72	0.5	0.6	8.6
USD Index	97.92	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.4)
RUB	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
BRL	0.20	0.6	1.2	12.3

Source: Bloomberg

Global Indices Performance	Close	1D%*	WTD%*	YTD%*
MSCI World Index	4,740.91	0.0	1.4	7.0
DJ Industrial	49,616.67	0.0	0.2	3.2
S&P 500	7,394.40	0.8	2.3	8.0
NASDAQ 100	26,203.34	1.5	4.3	12.7
STOXX 600	612.14	(0.6)	0.4	3.7
DAX	24,338.63	(1.2)	0.6	(0.5)
FTSE 100	10,233.07	(0.3)	(1.1)	4.3
CAC 40	8,112.57	(1.0)	0.4	(0.2)
Nikkei	62,713.65	(0.2)	5.5	24.3
MSCI EM	1,723.92	0.0	7.6	22.8
SHANGHAI SE Composite	4,179.95	0.0	2.1	8.2
HANG SENG	26,393.71	(0.8)	2.5	2.4
BSE SENSEX	77,328.19	(0.7)	1.1	(13.6)
Bovespa	184,591.22	1.3	0.2	28.3
RTS	1,089.60	(1.7)	(1.7)	(4.7)

Source: Bloomberg (*\$ adjusted returns if any)

Contacts

QNB Financial Services Co. W.L.L.
Contact Center: (+974) 4476 6666
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

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

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