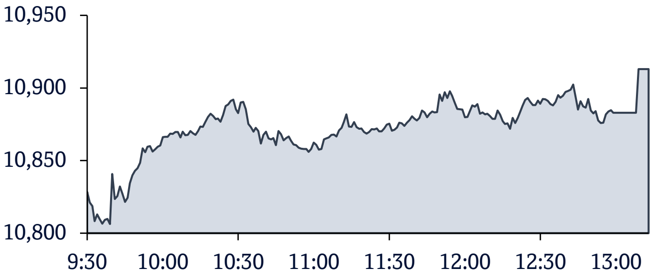
الداعم الرسمي لكأس العالم FIFA 2022™ في الشرق الأوسط وإفريقيا
Official Middle East and Africa Supporter of the FIFA World Cup 2022™

Daily Market Report

Wednesday, 04 January 2023

QSE Intra-Day Movement



Qatar Commentary

The QE Index rose 0.7% to close at 10,913.0. Gains were led by the Real Estate and Industrials indices, gaining 1.7% each. Top gainers were Inma Holding and Mannai Corporation, rising 4.6% and 4.3%, respectively. Among the top losers, Zad Holding Company fell 6.0%, while Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Co. was down 3.6%.

GCC Commentary

Saudi Arabia: The TASI Index gained 0.8% to close at 10,660.9. Gains were led by the Food & Staples Retailing and Diversified Financials indices, rising 1.5% and 1.3%, respectively. Wafrah for Industry and Development Co. rose 7.9%, while Qassim Cement Co. was up 6.1%.

Dubai: The DFM Index fell 0.1% to close at 3,328.7. The Communication Services index declined 1.1%, while the Financials index fell 0.3%. National General Insurance Co. declined 9.5%, while Dar Al Takaful was down 5.9%.

Abu Dhabi: The ADX General Index gained 0.3% to close at 10,264.2. The Utilities index rose 3.4%, while the Consumer Discretionary index gained 1.4%. National Corporation for Tourism & Hotels rose 7.5%, while Abu Dhabi National Energy Co. was up 3.4%.

Kuwait: The Kuwait All Share Index fell 0.4% to close at 7,134.2. The Energy index declined 1.9%, while the Consumer Discretionary index fell 1.0%. Sokouk Holding Co. declined 7.0%, while Alargan International Real Estate Co. was down 6.9%.

Oman: The MSM 30 Index gained 0.6% to close at 4,871.3. The Financial index gained 0.8%, while the other indices ended flat or in the red. United Finance Company rose 7.5%, while Muscat Gases Company was up 4.4%.

Bahrain: The BHB Index fell 0.1 to close at 1,887.0. The Communications Services index declined 0.5%, while the Financials index fell marginally. Kuwait Finance House declined 3.7%, while GFH Financial Group was down 2.0%.

Market Indicators	03 Jan 23	02 Jan 23	%Chg.
Value Traded (QR mn)	398.3	261.5	52.3
Exch. Market Cap. (QR mn)	619,700.7	616,685.8	0.5
Volume (mn)	115.4	76.2	51.4
Number of Transactions	15,212	9,871	54.1
Companies Traded	45	47	(4.3)
Market Breadth	27:18	30:15	–

Market Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	YTD%	TTM P/E
Total Return	22,353.36	0.7	2.2	2.2	12.2
All Share Index	3,515.61	0.5	3.4	3.4	129.4
Banks	4,532.53	0.5	3.8	3.8	13.8
Industrials	3,883.73	1.7	2.7	2.7	10.6
Transportation	4,312.40	0.7	(0.5)	(0.5)	13.7
Real Estate	1,592.43	1.7	2.1	2.1	16.9
Insurance	2,176.40	(1.0)	(0.5)	(0.5)	14.7
Telecoms	1,317.16	(2.3)	(0.1)	(0.1)	11.9
Consumer Goods and Services	7,988.29	(1.4)	0.9	0.9	22.2
Al Rayan Islamic Index	4,665.87	0.8	1.6	1.6	8.5

GCC Top Gainers##	Exchange	Close#	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Industries Qatar	Qatar	13.48	3.5	5,006.5	5.2
Dar Al Arkan Real Estate	Saudi Arabia	12.02	2.6	15,004.7	3.4
Fertiglobe PLC	Abu Dhabi	4.25	1.9	10,698.8	0.5
Barwa Real Estate Co.	Qatar	2.96	1.9	3,972.6	2.9
Arab National Bank	Saudi Arabia	33.20	1.8	113.6	3.6

GCC Top Losers##	Exchange	Close#	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Ooredoo	Qatar	9.15	(3.1)	2,739.1	(0.5)
Qatar Fuel Company	Qatar	18.20	(1.6)	899.5	1.4
Kuwait Finance House	Kuwait	0.79	(1.1)	25,910.0	(3.9)
Savola Group	Saudi Arabia	27.90	(1.1)	183.5	1.6
Kuwait Telecommunication	Kuwait	570	(0.9)	684.1	(2.6)

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%
Inma Holding	4.33	4.6	266.7	5.2
Mannai Corporation	7.91	4.3	358.8	4.2
Estithmar Holding	1.90	4.2	12,631.5	5.6
Industries Qatar	13.48	3.5	5,006.5	5.2
Qatar Islamic Bank	19.85	2.9	1,168.7	7.0

QSE Top Losers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Zad Holding Company	14.42	(6.0)	2.1	(1.2)
Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Co.	2.36	(3.6)	1,110.4	2.4
Ooredoo	9.15	(3.1)	2,739.1	(0.5)
Aamal Company	0.99	(1.8)	929.8	1.7
Qatar Fuel Company	18.20	(1.6)	899.5	1.4

QSE Top Volume Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Estithmar Holding	1.90	4.2	12,631.5	5.6
Masraf Al Rayan	3.26	1.7	10,916.9	2.9
Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co.	1.54	0.6	10,820.7	1.3
Gulf International Services	1.51	1.8	9,566.0	3.3
Ezdan Holding Group	1.01	1.1	9,524.1	1.0

QSE Top Value Trades	Close*	1D%	Val. '000	YTD%
Industries Qatar	13.48	3.5	66,578.7	5.2
QNB Group	18.21	(0.4)	59,460.0	1.2
Masraf Al Rayan	3.26	1.7	35,464.8	2.9
Ooredoo	9.15	(3.1)	25,750.1	(0.5)
Estithmar Holding	1.90	4.2	23,782.2	5.6

Regional Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	MTD%	YTD%	Exch. Val. Traded ($ mn)	Exchange Mkt. Cap. ($ mn)	P/E**	P/B**	Dividend Yield
Qatar*	10,913.00	0.7	2.2	2.2	2.2	109.08	168,806.5	12.2	1.4	4.2
Dubai	3,328.68	(0.1)	(0.0)	(0.2)	(0.2)	53.75	157,924.9	9.4	1.1	3.3
Abu Dhabi	10,264.16	0.3	0.2	0.8	0.8	319.71	690,274.9	18.2	2.9	2.0
Saudi Arabia	10,660.94	0.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1,034.29	2,648,170.5	16.1	2.1	2.7
Kuwait	7,134.16	(0.4)	(2.2)	(2.2)	(2.2)	152.08	150,355.0	19.5	1.6	2.9
Oman	4,871.30	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	6.67	22,358.2	13.9	1.0	3.8
Bahrain	1,886.98	(0.1)	(0.4)	(0.4)	(0.4)	2.60	66,035.9	5.2	0.7	5.6

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

Qatar Market Commentary

- The QE Index rose 0.7% to close at 10,913.0. The Real Estate and Industrials indices led the gains. The index rose on the back of buying support from non-Qatari shareholders despite selling pressure from Qatari shareholders.
- Inma Holding and Mannai Corporation were the top gainers, rising 4.6% and 4.3%, respectively. Among the top losers, Zad Holding Company fell 6.0%, while Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Co. was down 3.6%.
- Volume of shares traded on Tuesday rose by 51.4% to 115.4mn from 76.2mn on Monday. Further, as compared to the 30-day moving average of 103.5mn, volume for the day was 11.5% higher. Estithmar Holding and Masraf Al Rayan were the most active stocks, contributing 10.9% and 9.5% to the total volume, respectively.

Overall Activity	Buy %*	Sell %*	Net (QR)
Qatari Individuals	29.15%	28.74%	1,641,809.4
Qatari Institutions	26.44%	44.20%	(70,735,051.9)
Qatari	**55.60%**	**72.94%**	**(69,093,242.5)**
GCC Individuals	0.27%	0.18%	364,393.8
GCC Institutions	15.13%	4.93%	40,623,502.8
GCC	**15.40%**	**5.10%**	**40,987,896.6**
Arab Individuals	12.56%	9.85%	10,814,864.2
Arab Institutions	0.00%	0.00%	-
Arab	**12.56%**	**9.85%**	**10,814,864.2**
Foreigners Individuals	3.92%	2.68%	4,936,405.0
Foreigners Institutions	12.53%	9.43%	12,354,076.7
Foreigners	**16.45%**	**12.10%**	**17,290,481.7**

*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
03-01	US	Markit	S&P Global US Manufacturing PMI	Dec	46.2	46.2	46.2
03-01	US	U.S. Census Bureau	Construction Spending MoM	Nov	0.20%	-0.40%	-0.20%
03-01	UK	Markit	S&P Global/CIPS UK Manufacturing PMI	Dec	45.3	44.7	44.7
03-01	Germany	Deutsche Bundesbank	Unemployment Change (000's)	Dec	-13.0k	15.0k	15.0k
03-01	Germany	Deutsche Bundesbank	Unemployment Claims Rate SA	Dec	5.50%	5.60%	5.50%
03-01	Germany	German Federal Statistical Office	CPI MoM	Dec	-0.80%	-0.60%	-0.50%
03-01	Germany	German Federal Statistical Office	CPI YoY	Dec	8.60%	9.00%	10.00%
03-01	Germany	German Federal Statistical Office	CPI EU Harmonized MoM	Dec	-1.20%	-0.80%	0.00%
03-01	Germany	German Federal Statistical Office	CPI EU Harmonized YoY	Dec	9.60%	10.20%	11.30%
03-01	China	Markit	Caixin China PMI Mfg	Dec	49	49.1	49.4

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

Earnings Calendar

Tickers	Company Name	Date of reporting 4Q2022 results	No. of days remaining	Status
QNBK	QNB Group	11-Jan-23	7	Due
QIBK	Qatar Islamic Bank	16-Jan-23	12	Due
QFLS	Qatar Fuel Company	18-Jan-23	14	Due

Source: QSE

Qatar

- **Qatar Oil Shipments rebound in December -** Qatari oil shipments rebounded in December 2022 to the highest in three months aided by a sharp increase in exports to South Korea by 93.5% (Table 1). Total monthly crude and condensate exports rose last month to 27.58m bbl, or 889.8k b/d, compared with 853.9k b/d in November, according to ship-tracking data compiled by Bloomberg. Exports of crude dropped about 10% m/m to 586k b/d while Qatari condensate shipments, which originate from Ras Laffan, jumped by 49% m/m to 304k b/d. Exports to South Korea almost doubled m/m to the highest since October 2020. UAE-bound flows surged to the highest since May 2021, while exports to China climbed to a 3-month high. Shipments to India, Japan and other regions declined m/m. (Bloomberg)
- **Qatar Sells QR500mn 7-day Bills at Yield 5.005% -** Qatar sold QR500mn ($136.25mn) of bills due Jan. 10 on Jan. 3. The bills have a yield of 5.005% and settled Jan. 3. (Bloomberg)
- **Public disclosure of the misdemeanor court decision -** The Misdemeanor Court issued its decision in Case No. 7270/2022 filed by the Public Prosecution against Dlala Real Estate Company, one of the subsidiaries of

Table 1 : Qatar Oil Exports by Destination

(Barrels Per Day)			
Destinations	**Nov-22**	**Dec-22**	**% Change**
South Korea	122,222	236,559	93.5%
China	155,000	193,548	24.9%
Japan	233,333	118,280	-49.3%
UAE	43,333	104,839	141.9%
India	100,000	64,516	-35.5%
Singapore	66,667	64,516	-3.2%
Others	88,889	64,516	-27.4%
Thailand	44,444	43,011	-3.2%
Total	**853,888**	**889,785**	**4.2%**

Dlala Holding Company, acquitting the company of the charge attributed to it, and ordered the removal of the reasons for the violation. (QSE)

- **Qatar Insurance Group appoints new CEO for subsidiary (KQIC) -** The Qatar Insurance Group announced the appointment of Abdallah Abdulatif Al Ahmad as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of its subsidiary Kuwait Qatar Insurance Company (KQIC) .Abdallah brings 11 years of experience, having worked previously as Head of Facultative Acceptance for Property & Political Violence covering Middle East, Asia, Africa, The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Central and East Europe (CEE) region with Kuwait Re, as well as the Head of the Insurance Sector Development Committee at the Kuwait Insurance Federation for a period of three years. Commenting on the latest appointment, Qatar Insurance Group CEO, Salem Al Mannai said, "on behalf of the Board, I would like to welcome Abdallah to Qatar Insurance Group. Abdallah's previous experiences in the Kuwait insurance market, coupled with the right set of skills uniquely position him to lead KQIC through its next phase of strategic growth and to drive increased value for its shareholders". (Peninsula Qatar)
- **Ooredoo announces date to pay Interest to Bondholders -** Ooredoo announces that Ooredoo International Finance Limited (OIFL), its wholly owned subsidiary, pursuant to the Terms and Conditions of the Notes and the Final Terms, will pay its Global Medium-Term Note (GMTN) holders' interest payment on 31 January 2023. $500,000,000 @ 4.50%. Guaranteed Notes due 31 January 2043. (ISIN Code: 144 A- US74735K2C55, Reg S – XS0881740384) (the "Notes") Issued by Ooredoo International Finance Limited (the "Issuer") The Issuer a wholly owned subsidiary of Ooredoo Q.P.S.C hereby gives notice that pursuant to the Terms and Conditions of the Notes and the Final Terms, it will pay Noteholders $11,250,000.00 on the Interest Payment Date falling due on 31 January 2023. $500,000,000 @ 3.875%. Guaranteed Notes due 31 January 2028. (ISIN Code: 144 A-US74735K2B72, Reg S – XS0880134258) (the "Notes" Issued by Ooredoo International Finance Limited (the "Issuer") The Issuer a wholly owned subsidiary of Ooredoo Q.P.S.C hereby gives notice that pursuant to the Terms and Conditions of the Notes and the Final Terms, it will pay Noteholders $9,687,500.00 on the Interest Payment Date falling due on 31 January 2023. Terms defined in this Notice shall have the meaning given to them in the Terms and Conditions of the Notes and the Final Terms. This Notice is given by Ooredoo International Finance Limited. (QSE)
- **Hamad Port fast becomes vibrant regional trade hub -** The new figures released by Mwani Qatar yesterday indicate growing transshipment activity at Hamad Port as 30% of total containers in 2022 were transshipped. "During the year of 2022, Mwani Qatar continued its efforts to transform Qatar into a vibrant regional trade hub by strengthening the role of Hamad Port as a pivotal gateway for transshipment in the region," Mwani Qatar said in a tweet yesterday. The three ports (Hamad Port, Ruwais Port, Doha Port) handled 1,435,252 containers, 1,596,826 tonnes of general cargo, 516,839 tonnes of building materials, 79,401 vehicles, 205,608 heads of livestock while 3,031 ships called at these ports, according to the latest data. "A total of 4,28,021 TEUs (containers) were transshipped through the Hamad Port in 2022, representing 30% of the total containers handled during the year," the Mwani Qatar tweeted. Earlier in a report, Mwani Qatar had said that Qatar's share in overall Middle East trade is expected to significantly increase with the robust technological infrastructure supporting Hamad Port's second container terminal (CT2). The Mwani Annual Report 2021 had further revealed the company's ports achieved a container throughput of 1.57mn TEUs, 9% higher than the 1.44mn TEUs moved in 2020, with an increasing of 36% in the transshipments to reach 5,62,539 TEUs in the end of 2021. Hamad Port's strategic geographical location offers opportunities to create cargo movement towards the upper Gulf, supporting countries such as Kuwait and Iraq, and south towards Oman. In support of ongoing efforts to attract other shipping lines to the port, Hamad Port being positioned as a transshipment hub for the upper Gulf and Oman, QTerminals said on its website. Hamad Port has led from the front in boosting Qatar maritime sector as it occupied the lion's share in the overall port traffic. In another remarkable development, Hamad Port in 2021 became the first 5G-enabled seaport in the Middle East, after the completion of the 5G roll-out for Phase 1 at the port's Container Terminal 2 by Ooredoo. From January to September 2022, the ports received 2,176 ships. The handling of vehicles (RORO units) totaled 59,539 units through the three ports during the same period. The containers, building materials, and livestock handling stood at 1,061,078 TEUs, 352,560 tonnes, and 127,316 heads respectively. In August 2019, Hamad Port had been ranked among world's top 120 container ports. Hamad Port had been placed at number 114 in top 120 container ports ranking of 2018. The capacity of Hamad Port will reach 7.5mn TEUs annually on completion of all construction phases. (Peninsula Qatar)
- **Qatar Budget prioritizes spending on vital sectors -** The Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) hailed the 2023 Budget of Qatar which has provided a clear direction on which the State would traverse during the current year to achieve economic excellence. Director General of KOTRA in Doha Hanseung Kim said the 2023 Budget of Qatar has prioritized spending on vital sectors of the economy which would help accelerated economic development of the country in the new year. "I appreciated the steps proposed in the 2023 budget of Qatar. The budget is very promising. In this budget, the government has prioritized its spending for the education and healthcare systems. This would help the overall development of the country with a long-term positive impact," Kim said. He added, "It is the role of KOTRA to cater to the rising needs of Qatar by providing best-in-class products and services from Korea. We will look at all possibilities to ensure that the best technology and services are made available to Qatar." A noteworthy feature of the budget 2023 according to industry experts is the allocation for health and education sectors which has been increased for the current year in line with the state's continued focus on the two sectors. The measures to develop a number of new schools and improve school facilities in addition to a number of new and existing hospitals and healthcare centers were commended by sector officials. Spending on healthcare in the 2023 budget is estimated at QR21.1bn compared to QR20bn in 2022 which is 11% of the total budget while spending on education sector has been estimated at QR18bn compared to QR17.8bn in 2022 or 9% of the total budget. (Peninsula Qatar)
- **Qatar's PPI rises by 5.22% Y-o-Y in November 2022 -** The general Producer Price Index (PPI) of the industrial sector of the State of Qatar for November 2022 registered an estimated 143.57 points, showing an increase of 5.22% when compared to the PPI of November 2021. On M-o-M basis, the PPI of November showed a decrease of 3.03% when compared to October 2022.The PPI main four industry sectors include mining (weight: 82.46%), manufacturing (weight: 15.85%), electricity (weight: 1.15%), and water (weight: 0.52%). According to the data issued by the Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA) yesterday, the PPI of November 2022 for the Mining and Quarrying sector showed a decrease by 3.58% when compared with PPI of October 2022, primarily due to the price decrease on "Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas" by 3.58%. No change in "Other Mining and Quarrying" have been registered. When compared November 2021, the PPI of Mining of November 2022 showed an increase of 7.72%. In the manufacturing sector, a decrease of 0.04% has been recorded in November 2022, when compared with the previous months manufacturing index (October 2022). The prices decrease is seen in "Basic Metals" by 6.27%, followed by "Rubber and Plastics Products" by 0.89%, and "Cement & Other Non-Metallic Mineral Products" by 0.26%. The increasing prices are noticed in "Refined Petroleum Products" by 2.59%, followed by "Food Products" by 1.31%, and "Chemicals and Chemical Products" by 0.36%. No change has been noticed in "Beverages", "Printing and Reproduction of Recorded Media" in November 2022.Comparing with the index of counterpart in the previous year (November 2021), the Manufacturing PPI of November 2022 showed a decrease of 7.42%. The major groups which explain this price decrease are: "Chemicals and Chemical Products" by 14.13%, followed by "Printing and Reproduction of Recorded Media" by 3.49%, "Basic Metals" by 2.77%, and "Beverages" by 0.84%. However, the increasing prices are noticed "Rubber and Plastics Products" by 20.76%, followed by "Refined Petroleum Products" by 7.54%, "Cement & Other Non-Metallic Mineral Products" by 4.80%, and "Food Products" by 4.45%. In the Electricity, Gas, Steam, and Air Conditioning Supply, the PPI showed an increase of 5.52% compared to October 2022. When compared the PPI of November to the PPI of November 2021, showed an increase of 1.47%. (Peninsula Qatar)

- **Real estate revitalizes economy in 2022 -** Qatar's economy witnessed a positive epitome last year with the surge of foreign investments and projects tied up with the real estate industry. The market showed a significant boost with enhanced infrastructures and alluring locations that attracted investors across the globe in all four quarters. During Q1 2022, the Ministry of Justice revealed that the real estate transactions amounted to QR4.9bn in the first three months. Implementing several investments and business projects by partnering with international firms, a total of 1,251 transactions took place with an average size of QR3.9mn deal in the real estate market. A total worth of QR1.5bn was signed for the real estate projects in March while January and February recorded deals worth QR1.74bn and QR1.66bn respectively. As expected, the rise in potential investments and surge of the realty industry market grew significantly with the excellently concluded FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. Increased projects in the State of Qatar have made the economy even more robust and arduous. The momentum was gained by numerous activities and trade partnerships held in the region appeasing the countries and organizations towards strong relationships in the years ahead. One of the many events held in Qatar was the 'Build Your House Exhibition 2022', which highlighted the progress of the real estate market during the year and the rising projects and activities in the sector. The three-day event spotlighted trade deals signed for QR453m and was witnessed by more than 10,000 visitors. Several industry experts and guests from many universities, and private and government firms took part by presenting seminars and conferences. Just like in previous years, the successful event accentuated the reputation of investing in Qatar and the benefits derived from involving in real estate-related projects. Such events are carried out to support its citizens, residents, and global investors to tie up with government firms in executing investments in real estate. The industry-related talks were enlightening and informed benefiting Qatar's realty sector with the participation of numerous individuals, potential investors, and entrepreneurs as the economy regained positive momentum post-COVID. Anticipating to post preeminent growth in the real estate industry, the demand continued to rise each month while the mega sporting event inched closer. Many experts in the market sighed hope for tremendous growth in line with the tournament and upcoming events that will be hosted by Qatar. According to a report given to The Peninsula by the MD properties, the investments and projects have begun escalating and during the World Cup, the demand will reach its peak. On the other hand, due to the sporting event, leasing activities and rents skyrocketed. Data curated by the Ministry of Justice also stated that during April, real estate trading deals went over QR2bn for 330 realty properties with 31% in Doha's Municipality area. (Peninsula Qatar)
- **From Balloon fest to AFC Asian Cup, exciting events happening in 2023 -** While most of the residents are still in hangover of World Cup fiesta, fret not, 2023 Qatar calendar has a lot to offer, hosting local and international events from sports, fashion, food, music, and more. Qatar Calendar, Qatar Tourism's official portal for all exciting events said that: "2023 is the year of exciting events in Qatar, so get your festive hats on!" "We have an action-packed calendar, we have about 300 days of events in 2023 — it's a full calendar," Qatar Tourism Chief Operating Officer, Berthold Trenkel said earlier. Among the highlights of events according to Qatar Calendar are Qatar Balloon Festival, Katara International Arabian Horse Festival, Doha Jewelry and Watches Exhibition, AFC Asian Cup, Expo 2023 Doha, Geneva International Motor Show Qatar, Formula 1 Qatar Grand Prix, Grand Prix of Qatar, Shop Qatar, Qatar Live and Qatar International Food Festival. (Peninsula Qatar)
- **'80% of waste from World Cup Qatar 2022 has been recycled' -** 80% of waste collected from stadiums during the FIFA World Cup has been recycled, said Sustainability Executive Director at the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) Engineer Bodour Al Meer. Eng Meer said that 54% of the waste has been converted into compost, 22% into plastic, 14% into paper and cardboard, 8% into glass and two% into metals and electronics. The climate change issues and the optimal utilization of natural resources are among the top priorities of the Sustainability Department at the SC which set a comprehensive strategy to encourage transition to circular economy stemming from the expansion of recycling processes and supporting them on a wide scale locally, she added. She stressed the importance of sustainability of national resources and utilizing them in a thoughtful and responsible manner, specially that there are many recycling-based national industries that witness an accelerating growth followed by the circular economy which seeks to halt the constant wastage of resources and strives to utilize and develop them to serve Qatar and achieve its national vision, alongside the UN sustainability goals. She described the launch of an industrial coalition last December as one of the crucial pillars of the legacy projects associated with the tournament which focuses mainly on plastic recycling, offers drastic solutions for the treatment of plastic waste and reduces the pollution arising from it, in addition to reducing landfill carbon emissions. Commenting on the tournament's waste, Eng Meer said SC gave waste management a priority from the outset prior to embarking upon the construction of stadiums, pointing out that the main focus was on recycling the construction waste which posed a big challenge for them, and consequently prolonged meetings were held with the contractors to further explain the importance of recycling and its economic value for Qatar, including the promised financial saving from the process. There was a success in recycling 70-80% of the tournament construction waste, in addition to utilizing 90% of the waste from the former Ahmed bin Ali Stadium in the new construction operation of the stadium, Meer said. She added that during the preparation for the tournament, the focus was shifted from construction phase to operation, where new objective was pursued to convert 100% of waste generated from landfills into various new materials and elevate the recycling percentage. Accordingly, detailed reports were produced and offered electronically in order for all operators in the construction sector to review and utilize them in the future, she said. Regarding the concept of zero emissions, Eng Meer estimated the carbon footprint of the tournament with 3.6mn tonnes, of which 1.5mn units were secured through the Global Carbon Council (GCC) that was established by a contribution from the SC, while FIFA had contributed with securing 300,000 units, and the remaining part was secured via Al Kharsaah Solar Power Plant. "However, for the sake of having a successful project, professional consultants were hired by FIFA in the field of carbon to calculate the estimated carbon units based on the global criteria and guidelines of determining the carbon offsetting value," she said. "Pertaining to the plans and projects, a sustainability strategy was set to encourage the optimal utilization of natural resources and included the implementation of the best and sustainable global football tournament ever, which left a major legacy for Qatar, including the launch of 'Wave of Unity' coalition to enhance the environmental legacy of the tournament in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change to achieve Qatar National Vision 2030, the UN sustainable development goals, determining the 12th goal 'Consumption & sustainable production' and moving the Qatari circular economy forward," Eng Meer added. (Qatar Tribune)
- **World Bank: Remittances to India from Qatar, four other GCC countries drop between 2016-2021 -** The share of remittances to India from five GCC countries including Qatar has dropped to 28% between 2016 and 2021 (from 54% earlier) according to a World Bank report. India's remittance receipts are on track to reach $100bn in 2022, a report by Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (Knomad), a World Bank initiative, has shown. Between 2016-17 and 2020-21, the share of remittances from the US, UK, and Singapore increased from 26% to over 36%, while the share from the five GCC countries (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Oman, and Qatar) dropped from 54% to 28%, it said. The year 2022 will have been a memorable one for India as its remittance flows soar to $100bn from $89.4bn in 2021, growing at 12% compared to 7.5% in 2021. Several longer- and short-term trends that were obscured by the pandemic were catalytic in spurring remittance flows to India. First, remittances have benefited from a gradual structural shift in Indian migrants' key destinations from largely low-skilled, informally employment in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to a dominant share of high-skilled jobs in high-income countries such as the US, the UK, and East Asia (Singapore, Japan, Australia, New Zealand). With a share of 23% of total remittances, the US surpassed the UAE as the top source country in 2020-21. About 20% of India's emigrants are in the US and the UK. According to the US Census, of the approximately 5mn Indians in the US in 2019, about 57% had lived in the nation for more than 10 years. During this time, many earned graduate degrees that groomed

them to move rapidly into the highest income-earner category. The Indian diaspora in the US is highly skilled. In 2019, 43% of Indian-born residents of the US had a graduate degree, compared to only 13% of US-born residents. Only 15% of Indian-born residents aged 25 and older had no more than a high school degree, compared to 39% of US-born residents in that age group. Meanwhile, 82% of all Indians in the US (compared to 72% of all Asians) and 77% of foreign-born Indians were proficient in English. Higher education mapped on to high-income levels with direct implications for remittance flows. In 2019, the median household income for Indians in the US was nearly $120,000 compared to about $70,000 for all Americans. The structural shift in qualifications and destinations has accelerated growth in remittances tied to high salaried jobs, especially in services, the World Bank report showed. During the pandemic, Indian migrants in high-income countries worked from home and benefited from large fiscal stimulus packages. Post-pandemic, wage hikes and record-high employment conditions supported remittance growth in the face of high inflation. Second, the economic conditions in the GCC (30% share of India's remittances) also played out in India's favor. The majority of the GCC's Indian migrants are blue-collar workers who returned home during the pandemic. Vaccinations and the resumption of travel helped more migrants to resume work in 2022 than in 2021. GCC's price support policies kept inflation low in 2022, and higher oil prices increased demand for labor, enabling Indian migrants to increase remittances and counter the impact of India's record-high inflation on the real incomes of their families. Third, Indian migrants may have taken advantage of the depreciation of the Indian rupee vis-à-vis the dollar (10% between January and September 2022) and increased remittance flows, World Bank noted. (Gulf Times)

- **'Modern infrastructure to push growth in Qatar's tourism sector' -** Qatar's modern and world class infrastructure, such as hospitality-related facilities that opened in time for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, would play a key role in the growth and development of the country's tourism sector. According to Palma Libotte, president of the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Qatar, one of the "strong points" of Qatar's tourism sector is that the country boasts of many new and modern hotels that offer "very competitive rates" both for leisure and corporate tourism. The recently concluded World Cup opened many opportunities for destination management companies (DMCs) and tour agencies in Qatar to showcase the country's best tourism gems. Libotte noted that stakeholders and key players in Qatar's tourism and hospitality sector stand to gain from current weather conditions that allow more tourists to visit a variety of scenic outdoor locations across the country. While the revelry brought by the World Cup is over, Libotte noted that there are still many reasons for tourists to visit the country and enjoy Qatar's long tourism season for "eight fabulous months" from October to May. "Now is a great time to enjoy the desert and the northern areas of Qatar, such as Al Zubarah Fort and the nearby abandoned Al Jumail Fishing Village, the mangroves of Purple Island, and the recently installed 'Shadows Travelling on the Sea of the Day' by Olafur Eliasson. "From a product perspective and having worked in many fields of the tourism sector through Doha-based Italian DMC, QTours, I can say that the country's main competitive advantage with Dubai is that the traditions and culture in Qatar are still strongly perceived by tourists, and this contrast with ultramodern infrastructure makes it a really appealing destination," Libotte emphasized. During the World Cup, Libotte noted that desert tours were the "main draw" and the "most sold" packages, as well as the Dhow cruise. "Everyone wanted to ride the camels and the quad bikes, as well as enjoy the spectacular view that Khor Al Udaid offers. Many tourists loved the food and highly admired Qatar's safe environment. She also lauded how the staff of the Doha Metro handled passengers, which helped made Souq Waqif, Lusail Boulevard, and Katara – the Cultural Village very accessible to tourists. "The program of concerts and the series of activities in the fan zones encouraged people to go out every day; it was like a never-ending festival with an incredible energy and atmosphere," Libotte explained. (Gulf Times)

International

- **US construction spending rebounds in November -** US construction spending unexpectedly rebounded in November, lifted by gains in nonresidential structures, but single-family homebuilding continued to be hammered by higher mortgage rates. The Commerce Department said on Tuesday that construction spending climbed 0.2% in November after falling 0.2% in October. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast construction spending would decrease 0.4%. Construction spending increased 8.5% on a year-on-year basis in November. Spending on private construction projects advanced 0.3% after declining 0.7% in October. Investment in private non-residential structures like gas and oil well drilling jumped 1.7%. But outlays on residential construction fell 0.5%, with spending on single-family housing projects plunging 2.9%. Outlays on multi-family housing projects increased 2.4%, benefiting from strong demand for rental housing. The Federal Reserve's battle to tame inflation with the fastest interest rate-hiking cycle since the 1980s is strangling the housing market, with homebuilding and sales collapsing. The average 30-year fixed mortgage rate, which breached 7% in October for the first time since 2002, has resumed its upward trend after briefly pulling back in late 2022, data from mortgage finance agency Freddie Mac showed. The rate averaged 6.42% last week, up from 6.27% in the prior week. It averaged 3.11% during the same period in 2021. Residential investment has contracted for six straight quarters, the longest such stretch since the housing market collapse in 2006. In November, spending on public construction projects dipped 0.1% after increasing 1.6% in October. Investment in state and local government construction projects declined 0.7%, while federal government construction spending surged 7.2%. (Reuters)
- **UK factories face tough 2023 after December weakness -** British manufacturers are starting 2023 on the back foot, after they reported one of their sharpest falls in activity since the 2008-09 recession last month, reflecting a sharp fall in new orders and ongoing job cuts. The S&P Global/CIPS UK manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) sank to 45.3 in December from 46.5 in November, its lowest since May 2009 apart from two months at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Tuesday's reading was stronger than an initial estimate of 44.7 released last month, but well below the 47.8 reported in the equivalent euro zone survey on Monday. "Output contracted at one of the quickest rates during the past 14 years, as new order inflows weakened," S&P director Rob Dobson said. "The decline in new business was worryingly steep, as weak domestic demand was accompanied by a further marked drop in new orders from overseas." The figures broadly chime with a gloomy outlook issued last month by trade association Make UK, who forecast output in the sector would fall 3.2% in 2023. The latest official data shows factory output in October was 4.6% lower than a year before. "These results are the latest in a series of weak indicators ... which suggest that GDP likely fell again in Q4 2022. Furthermore, with the squeeze on household and corporate finances set to continue, the situation is unlikely to improve in the near future," said Martin Beck, chief economic advisor to the EY ITEM Club. Government budget forecasters predicted in November that the British economy as a whole would shrink 1.4% this year as businesses and households continue to face high inflation. Separately, chief financial officers at major British companies reckon that higher interest rates mean now is the worst time for companies to borrow since the financial crisis 14 years ago, according to a quarterly survey from Deloitte. Manufacturers in the monthly PMI survey were slightly more upbeat about the year ahead. Expectations of future output rose to a five-month high as supply chain difficulties became less acute and inflation pressures fell to the lowest since late 2020. But factories still cut jobs by the most since October 2020, as orders fell from both domestic customers and clients in China, the United States, mainland Europe and Ireland. "The main driver of lost export contracts was weak global economic conditions, while there was also mention of Brexit-related issues, such as shipping delays and higher costs, leading some EU clients to source products elsewhere," survey compiler S&P Global said. (Reuters)
- **German EU-harmonized consumer prices up 9.6% Y-O-Y in December -** German consumer prices, harmonized to compare with other European Union countries, rose by 9.6% on the year in December, preliminary data from the Federal Statistics Office showed on Tuesday. Compared with

November, prices decreased by 1.2%, it added. Analysts had expected harmonized data to fall 0.5% on the previous month and increase 10.7% on an annual basis. (Reuters)

- **German unemployment falls in December -** German unemployment fell in December, Labor Office figures showed on Tuesday, with the labor market overall being only moderately affected by the war in Ukraine last year. The Federal Labor Office said the number of people out of work decreased by 13,000 in seasonally adjusted terms to 2.52mn. Analysts polled by Reuters had expected that figure to rise by 15,000. The seasonally adjusted jobless rate remained stable at 5.5%. "In the past year, the consequences of the Russian war against Ukraine - price increases, uncertainties, but also the migration of refugees - have left their mark. But in view of the extent of the burdens, however, these have been moderate," said Labor Office head Andrea Nahles. (Reuters)
- **IFO: Material shortages ease further for German manufacturers -** Material shortages eased further in Germany's manufacturing sector towards the end of the year, according to a survey by the Ifo economic institute published on Tuesday. In December, 50.7% of the companies surveyed reported problems, down from 59.3% in November, the third consecutive fall, the survey showed. "Shortages appear to be easing in many industries," which would shore up the economy in the months ahead, Klaus Wohlrabe, Ifo's head of surveys, said. "However, depending on the development of the corona situation in China, there may be setbacks in the bottlenecks again," he added. In almost all manufacturing industries, the number of companies experiencing material shortages fell, though some of the figures were still well above their long-term average, the survey showed. Manufacturers of machinery and equipment and the automotive industry were still the hardest hit. (Reuters)
- **Private Survey: China's holiday home sales rise 27.1% Y-O-Y -** Chinese new-home sales rose more than 20% year-on-year over the three-day New Year holiday starting from Dec. 31, due to promotions, support policies taking effect and the gradual release of pent-up demand after high COVID-19 cases. Among 22 cities selected by the China Index Academy, the average daily floor area of homes sold rose 27.1% from last year's holiday season. "Home buyers' visits to housing showrooms increased in some cities," said the academy. "Pent-up demand due to the impact of the epidemic in December was released during the New Year's holiday after the infection passed its peak in some cities." The firm also said major cities such as Beijing and Shanghai saw a rise in sales compared with last year's New Year holiday, but sentiment remained at low level in most small cities. Compared with last year's holiday season, home sales rose 80% in Beijing, 74% in Shanghai and 131.5% in Guangzhou. China's property market crisis worsened in 2022, with official data showing home prices, sales and investment all falling in recent months, putting more pressure on the faltering economy. Policymakers have ramped up support for the industry in a bid to relieve a long-running liquidity squeeze that has hit developers and delayed completion of many housing projects, further undermining buyers' confidence. The moves included lifting a ban on fundraising via equity offerings for listed property firms. New-home prices in the 100 Chinese cities monitored by the firm fell 0.02% year-on-year in 2022, the first decline since 2015, the real estate research firm said. Home transactions fell nearly 40% year-on-year in 2022, the lowest since 2015. "For 2023, home sales likely grow slightly under optimistic expectations, while under pessimistic expectations, the market adjustment trend may continue with new housing construction starts and investment still facing downward pressure," the firm said. (Reuters)
- **PMI: Japan Dec factory activity posts sharpest fall in more than 2 years -** Japanese factory activity fell in December at the sharpest pace in 26 months, a business survey showed on Wednesday, with companies seeing further declines amid a global economic slowdown. The au Jibun Bank Japan manufacturing purchasing managers' index edged down to a seasonally adjusted 48.9 in December from November's final 49.0. Although slightly higher than the flash figure of 48.8, the reading was the weakest since October 2020 and marked the second month below the 50-line that separates contraction from expansion. "The downturn was largely centered around the current demand environment which is weak both internationally and domestically," said Laura Denman, economist at S&P Global Market Intelligence, which compiles the survey. Output and new orders extended their contraction for a sixth month in December, yet at slower paces than last month, the survey's subindexes showed. While the survey showed input price inflation was cooling to a 15-month low, indicating easing cost pressures, the rest of the results pointed to darker prospects for Japan Inc in early 2023. Manufacturers were expecting a further downturn in their business conditions, with the subindex of future output hitting the lowest since May, when China's COVID-19 lockdowns disrupted the supply chains for Japanese companies. "Forward looking indicators are increasingly painting a gloomier picture for Japan's manufacturing sector in the future," Denman said. The survey corroborates the weak factory output data released last week that showed contraction for a third month in November. (Reuters)

Regional

- **Gulf sovereign wealth funds 'set to shine more than ever' in 2023 -** Gulf sovereign wealth funds are expected to become more active and play an even bigger role in global markets this year as they receive large capital injections derived from higher oil revenue, an annual industry report has revealed. Of the top 10 most active sovereign investors in 2022, five were from the Gulf region, according to industry specialist Global SWF. Singapore's GIC led the top 10 list of state-owned investors, with $40.3bn invested in 2022, 17% more than in 2021. It was followed by the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority and Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund. Also in the top 10 were Abu Dhabi's Mubadala Investment Company and holding company ADQ, followed by the Qatar Investment Authority. "We are expecting to see an increasing activity and role of Gulf SWFs in the global markets," said Diego Lopez, founder and managing director of Global SWF. "Middle Eastern SWFs are readier than ever to shine." Overseas, they more than doubled their investments in western economies, including the US and Europe, to $51.6bn in 2022, from $21.8bn in 2021. In 2023 and beyond, Middle Eastern sovereign investors will probably continue to be "very active" in Europe and North America, where there will be many opportunities to buy listed equities or direct stakes, to pursue co-investments or buy into private equity firms, and to find distressed portfolios, the report said. Globally, state-owned fund activity was strong in 2022 as more capital was invested, albeit through fewer deals, than was in 2021. State-owned investors poured $261.1bn in 747 deals in 2022, compared with $229.9bn from 890 transactions during 2021, the report showed. This means sovereign wealth funds invested 38% more year on year, with $152.5bn in 427 transactions, while public pension funds invested 9% less, with $108.6bn in 320 deals. (Qatar Tribune)
- **UAE drives GCC real estate deals' surge to $143.1bn -** Driven by the buoyant UAE property sector, real estate sale transactions across the GCC over January-October 2022 reached $143.1bn, eclipsing the full-year figure of $136.9bn in 2021 as all sub-segments performed better year-on-year. Dubai and Abu Dhabi combined contributed to over 48% of the aggregate value transacted, while Saudi added 35.6% to the region's transactions. The higher transaction activity in the region was driven by an 81% surge in value transacted in Dubai year-on-year over the period, supported by solid demand and price gains witnessed by luxury residential properties and healthy revenues in the affordable segment, according to Kuwait-based Kamco Invest. The total value of the region was nearly 21% higher year-on-year compared to the corresponding period from January to October 2021. The report stated that the number of transactions in the GCC declined by six% over a 10-month period to 511,239 deals despite a jump of over 61% witnessed in Dubai, as other markets such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Kuwait saw the lower activity as compared to the same period in 2021. The average value per transaction achieved for markets such as Saudi Arabia (+35.5%) and Dubai (+12.2%) was significantly higher, pointing toward end-user solid demand and investment appetite. All real estate sub-segments in the GCC have performed better in 2022 than in 2021, with residential and quality industrial warehouses witnessing reasonable price and rental increases. In the office segment, supply continues to be tailored towards newer sources of demand such as robotics, IT, and healthcare as these sectors drive faster take-up of such spaces, said the report. Within the retail real estate market, mall space developers are focusing on the benefits of cross-shopping relationships and its impact on footfalls and consumer spending, when planning and choosing retailer mix. The strong net

operating income (NOI) performance across sub-segments combined with the twin risks of further interest rate hikes and a prolonged period of high rates could potentially have pushed real estate assets in certain geographies into a late-stage expansion phase, the report said. Value transacted in Saudi Arabia and Dubai combined reached $107.8bn over January-October 2022 and could potentially reach close to full-year figures of the entire GCC from 2021. Saudi's residential sector's demand will continue to be driven by Vision 2030's target of increasing home ownership to 70% by end of the decade, and as of mid-2022, the Saudi Real Estate Refinance Company estimates home ownership to have reached above 60%. However rising interest rates resulted in lower offtake of mortgages, as the number of mortgages over January-October 2022 declined almost 17% y-o-y. Office supply tailored towards newer sources of demand such as robotics, IT and healthcare will continue to see faster take-up of such spaces. Investor sentiment gained momentum in 2022 and resulted in opportunistic buying in select GCC markets and residential product types, similar to trends witnessed in 2021. As a result, prices rose y-o-y across markets such as Dubai (+9.0%) and Jeddah (+20%) at the end of Q3-2022, according to JLL. (Bloomberg)

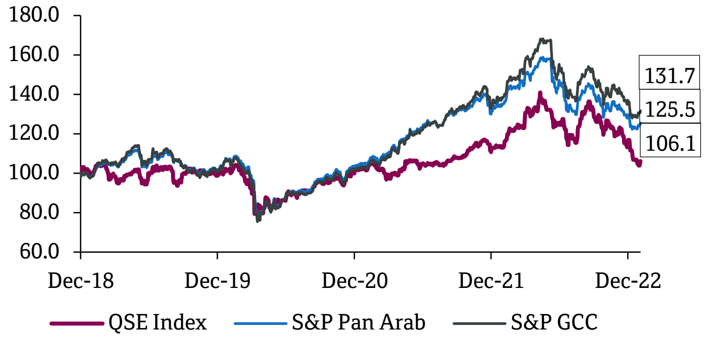
- **Saudi Arabia sees biggest jobs growth in almost 5 years -** Saudi Arabia saw the strongest increase in employment in almost five years as non-oil companies enjoyed a sharp expansion in business activity at the end of 2022, according to a survey of purchasing managers compiled by S&P The upturn in business activity fueled an increase in employment that was the strongest seen for nearly five years. The Riyad Bank Saudi PMI stood at 56.9 in December, well above the 50-mark separating growth from contraction. The gauge reached 58.5 in November, the highest reading in more than seven years. "Job creation in the non-oil sector has never been this strong in almost five years. This is attributed to the ongoing reforms that support the private sector under the Saudi Vision 2030. We see operating conditions remaining favorable in December, characterized by rapid growth in the non-oil activities and a robust labor market by the end of 2022, with both jobs and wages having far more momentum than previously thought," said Naif Al-Ghaith PhD, Chief Economist at Riyad Bank. "December data points to a continuous growth for the fourth quarter with optimism on the upcoming year. This made us comfortability project growth of non-oil GDP to exceed 4% in 2023." According the survey, the PMI upturn was the result of another strong increase in business activity, although the rate of growth eased from November's over seven-year high. "Firms mainly linked the rise in activity to higher sales and improving market demand. Concurrently, new order inflows rose sharply, with 30% of surveyed firms reporting growth compared to one month ago. While sales rose in all four monitored sectors, the upturn was strongest among service providers. Firms also reported a sharp increase in new orders from abroad, which panelists often attributed to higher demand from other GCC countries," the survey said. With sales growing, the survey said, Saudi Arabian firms expanded their employment numbers in December in order to boost operating efficiency. The rate of job creation was the fastest recorded in almost five years. The increase in staffing capacity helped companies to lower outstanding work for the seventh month running, although the rate of reduction was the softest since June. Prices charged by companies increased at the fastest rate in nine months in December, as firms saw a need to pass increased expenses onto clients. (Bloomberg)
- **PMI: Saudi non-oil growth will be 4% in 2023 -** Saudi Arabia will see non-oil growth of 4% in 2023 after 2022 ended with robust market demand and new business intakes during December. The kingdom's purchasing manager's index (PMI) dropped during the month from a seven-year high of 58.5 in November to 56.9 in December, but still remained far above the threshold of 50.0 which indicates business expansion in the non-oil sector. The kingdom's Riyad Bank report for the month showed that the country closed the year with the strongest rise in job numbers in five years, and the fastest rise in selling charges since March 2022, but purchasing growth slowed in the last month of the year. Naif Al-Ghaith, chief economist at Riyad Bank, said the private sector's strength could be attributed to ongoing reforms under Saudi's Vision 2030. "We see operating conditions remaining favorable in December, characterized by rapid growth in the non-oil activities and a robust labor market by the end of 2022, with both jobs and wages having far more momentum than previously thought," he said. "The increase in interest rates has been offset by the rapid growth which is expected to be near 9% for 2022. "This significant growth pushed prices even further in the service sector, pointing to an inflationary pressure caused by the demand side, especially in the service sector, that is shadowing the input cost." Prices, however, are expected to ease in the upcoming year with the anticipated drop in international prices caused by the high interest rate and recovered supply chains. "All in all, December data points to a continuous growth for the fourth quarter with optimism on the upcoming year. This made us comfortability project growth of non-oil GDP to exceed 4% in 2023." The report said the increase in business activity slowed from November's seven year high, but firms still saw higher sales and improving demand. New orders rose with 30% of companies surveyed saying they had seen growth compared to the previous month, and sales rose in all four monitored sectors, with the strongest growth among service providers. "Firms also reported a sharp increase in new orders from abroad, which panelists often attributed to higher demand from other GCC countries," the company said. Job numbers also grew at their fastest rate in five years to boost operating efficiencies, the report said. Despite the overall positive sentiment, businesses said there was a reduced appetite to build input stocks and that purchasing activity rose solidly, but to a much lesser extent than in November. Delivery times on inputs improved only modestly and weaker stockpiling efforts came amid a further increase in purchasing costs, which companies mainly linked to higher import fees and increased prices for inputs such as metals and electrical items. The overall rise in purchase costs was less marked than in November. Non-oil companies maintained a broadly positive view but the degree of optimism weakened to a seven-month low and remained much softer than the long-run trend. (Zawya)
- **Saudi: Over 4.1mn rail passengers transported in 2022 -** The Saudi Railway Company (SAR) announced that it has transported more than 4.1mn passengers during 2022, recording an increase of 100% compared to 2021, of whom, 1.35mn pilgrims were transported through the Al Mashaer train. SAR's announcement came while revealing its achievements during 2022, as it has shown in an infographic that the amount of goods and minerals that were transported reached about 24mn ton, recording an increase of 22%. This resulted in the removal of more than 1.8mn truck trips transporting goods. In regard of cadres' development, SAR said that the percentage of Saudization reached 87%, and the training hours for employees reached 103,467 hours, adding that they have qualified 32 Saudi women to pilot the train. During 2022, SAR launched the Al-Qurayyat station, the car transport service, in addition to the Jubail internal train network projects, as well as the railway project linking the north and east networks with the Jubail internal network. SAR also indicated that it had obtained several certificates and an award, which is the Information Security Management System certificate (ISO 27001), as well as the certificate of ISO/IEC 20000-1:2018 IT Service Management, in addition to the CIPD award for the best work environment. (Zawya)
- **UAE: Salary hike for Emirati graduates as companies race to achieve Emiratization target -** Racing to achieve Emiratization quotas, companies in the UAE have implemented some 'strong strategies' not only to hire top talent but also to retain current employees who are now getting multiple offers, experts have said. Companies with more than 50 employees must increase their Emiratization rate to two% by the end of 2022; otherwise, they will have to pay a fine of Dh6,000 per month for every citizen not hired. Recruitment and HR consultants say that there is excellent talent available in the market and candidates are receiving several offers. Samantha Wright, managing consultant for Emiratization at Michael Page, said companies are taking Emiratization seriously and have implemented some strong strategies. Many are closely looking into what roles UAE nationals can take up in their organizations. "Companies that are new to Emiratization and starting on their Emiratization journey, are mostly progressing with a bottom-up talent approach – hiring fresh graduates and those with up to two years of experience. Whereas organizations that have continued to develop their Emiratization strategy — and have either achieved or nearly achieved their quota — are hiring and looking to attract both entry-level and senior Emirati candidates, across a range of professional skills," said Wright. Vijay Gandhi, regional

director for Europe, Middle East, and Africa at Korn Ferry, said organizations are looking for both young fresh graduates and experienced Emirati talent. "Young talent from universities are well-positioned to attend the learning and development programs which are linked to the corporate academies," he said. Nazar Musa, CEO of PRO Partner Group, said that with the introduction of Emiratization, they're seeing an increasing number of enquiries, and clients are requesting feedback on appropriate staff quotas and clarification of their Emiratization requirements. "To fully meet the Emiratization requirements, firms must not only employ a certain percentage of Emirati employees but also ensure that all UAE national employees are hired into skilled jobs," said Musa. (Zawya)

- **Dubai Municipality signs MoU for precious metal testing -** Dubai Municipality has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Dubai Gold and Jewelry Group, to provide precious metal testing services in the new Gold Souq. This is in line with Dubai government's guidelines to provide services in collaboration with the private sector that cater to the demands of customers and assist their investment activities across a range of economic sectors. Eng Alia Al Harmoodi, Acting CEO of the Environment, Health and Safety Agency at Dubai Municipality, and Muhammed Tawfiq Muhammed Taher Abdullah Al Muhtadi, General Manager of Dubai Gold and Jewelry Group were present at the signing of the MoU. (Zawya)
- **DEWA's $387mn hydroelectric plant on track for 2024 completion -** Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (Dewa) has announced that 58.4% work has been completed on its AED 1.42bn ($387mn) pumped-storage hydroelectric power plant, and is on track for completion in Q4 next year. A first of its kind facility in the Gulf region, the 250MW Hata Hydroelectric Power Plant will have a storage capacity of 1,500 megawatt-hours and a life span of up to 80 years, said Dewa in its statement. The Hydroelectric power plant will be an energy storage facility with a turnaround efficiency of 78.9% that utilizes the water stored in the upper dam, which is converted to kinetic energy during the flow of water through the 1.2-kilometre subterranean tunnel. This kinetic energy rotates the turbines and converts mechanical energy to electrical energy which is sent to Dewa's grid within 90 seconds in response to demand. To store energy, clean energy generated at the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park will be used to pump the water through this tunnel back to the upper dam by converting the electrical power to kinetic energy making the whole project 100% renewable, stated Dewa. Giving a project update, Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD & CEO said construction of the 72-m-long main Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) wall of the upper dam has been completed. Al Tayer was accompanied by Nasser Lootah, Executive Vice President of Generation; Mansoor Al Suwaidi, Vice President – Projects and Engineering (Generation); and Khalifa Al Badwawi, Project Manager, along with the project team, during his inspection tour of the power plant site. The concrete lining of the water tunnel, which is 1.2 km long and connects the two dams, stands fully completed, stated Al Tayer. Al Tayer's visit also included the inspection of the power generators site and the upper dam, where the water intake in the Hatta Dam connected to the power generators has been completed. He said the power plant was part of Dewa's efforts to achieve the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 and the Dubai Net Zero Carbon Emissions Strategy 2050 to provide 100% of the emirate's total power production capacity from clean energy sources by 2050. The project supports the comprehensive plan to develop Hatta and meet its social, economic, developmental and environmental needs, in addition to providing innovative job opportunities for citizens in Hatta, he added. (Zawya)
- **Etihad Cargo expands capacity offering to US -** Etihad Cargo, the cargo and logistics arm of Etihad Aviation Group, will further reinforce its commitment to the US market with the introduction of an additional three weekly flights to John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) from 24th April 2023. The additional flights will bring Etihad Cargo's total cargo capacity to over 600 tons out of the US per week. The flights will be operated with both Airbus A350 and Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft, two of the most efficient in the world, with significantly less fuel burn and CO2 emissions than previous-generation twin aisle aircraft. "The introduction of double-daily direct flights from our Abu Dhabi hub to New York comes in response to increased demand from customers, and Etihad Cargo will continue to explore opportunities to expand its global network and introduce the required capacity," said Martin Drew, Senior Vice President Global Sales & Cargo, Etihad Aviation Group. "The addition of more flights per day to New York combined with Etihad Cargo's services to other key US destinations and comprehensive road feeder service network will enable Etihad Cargo to fully support its customers in the transportation of their cargo to online and offline locations throughout this key market." Etihad Cargo currently operates 11 flights per week to John F. Kennedy International Airport, which will increase to 14 weekly flights, and daily flights to Chicago O'Hare International Airport and Dulles International Airport, Washington. Etihad Cargo also operates two dedicated Boeing 777 freighter flights per week to Chicago via Amsterdam, supported by an offline network. (Zawya)
- **Dubai's population crosses 3.55mn -** Dubai's population has officially crossed the 3.55mn mark at the end of 2022. Data from the Statistics Centre showed the emirate's population reaching 3,550,400 – an increase of 2.1% in 2022. The population stood at 3,478,300 at the end of 2021. Dubai crossed the 3.5mn population mark in April last year. After the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the population of the emirate dropped amidst a slowdown in economic activity and job cuts by companies. But the population steadily increased in 2021 and 2022 on the back of economic recovery and job creation in diverse sectors – mainly travel and tourism, hospitality, real estate, aviation and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) sectors. In addition, Expo 2020 also catapulted the emirate on the global map, thanks to the roaring success of the mega event, as well as city's expert handling of the pandemic, which mainly attracted professionals and high net-worth individuals to the country. According to the Dubai Statistics Centre's data, the emirate's population has increased by four% after 2020. Interestingly, the emirate's population jumps by over 1mn during the day, when workers and people residing in other emirates visit Dubai for business and tourism. Due to the population increase and increased economic activity, Dubai's GDP expanded by 4.6% in the first nine months of 2022 to Dh307.5bn, thanks to the diversification of the economy. (Zawya)
- **Aluminum Bahrain achieves production record in 2022 -** Aluminum Bahrain (Alba), one of the world's largest aluminum smelters, has set a new historic production record of 1,600,111 metric tonnes (MT) in 2022. The figure is an increase of 38,889 MT versus 1,561,222 MT in 2021 (+2.5% year-on-year), as announced by the company today (January 3). Commenting on this milestone, Alba's Chief Executive Officer Ali Al Baqali stated: "This all-time production record translates our motto 'opportunities don't happen, we create them by doing the best we can with what we have'. We also look forward to set new highs in the future driven by our in-house production creep. "I take the opportunity to express my gratitude to the Management team, our employees and contractors' personnel for making our 2022 objectives a reality by challenging themselves to do more safely and responsibly," he said. A special ceremony, attended by the executive management, directors, managers and employees from various departments, was held at Alba's Product Yard to mark this achievement. (Zawya)
- **Oman: Nizwa Industrial City investments surpass $1.22bn -** Investments in Oman's Nizwa Industrial City have surpassed OMR470mn ($1.22bn) and the workforce at the city has exceeded 6,000, of which 2,900 are national cadres, marking an Omanization rate of 42%. This was briefed to Sheikh Hilal bin Said Al Hajri, Governor of Al Dakhiliyah, accompanied by members of the Shura Council, representatives of the wilayats of Al Dakhiliyah Governorate, who visited Nizwa Industrial City to get familiarized with the key localized industrial, commercial and service projects in the industrial city. Receiving the delegation, Ahmed bin Salim Al Hajri, Director General of Nizwa Industrial City, gave a brief overview on the investment climate in the industrial city. The Governor was also briefed on the role played by Nizwa Industrial City in social responsibility aspects and the associated challenges. The meeting then discussed the significance of setting clear frameworks to promote the investment opportunities in Nizwa Industrial City and the governorate in general. The delegation then visited Masar Service Centre at Nizwa Industrial City, which offers an ideal and integrated platform for local and foreign

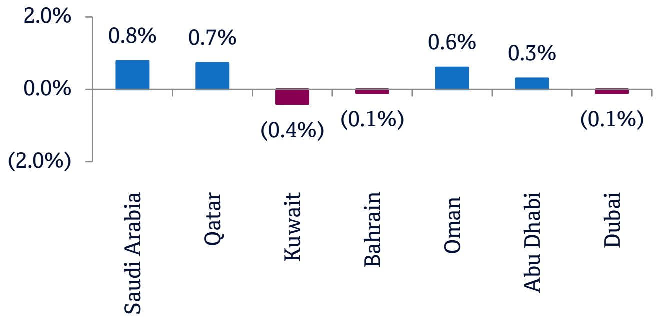
investors to benefit from a wide range of services delivered by several government bodies in addition to Sanad Service Centre. (Zawya)

Rebased Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Daily Index Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Asset/Currency Performance	Close ($)	1D%	WTD%	YTD%
Gold/Ounce	1,839.48	0.8	0.8	0.8
Silver/Ounce	24.01	0.2	0.2	0.2
Crude Oil (Brent)/Barrel (FM Future)	82.10	(4.4)	(4.4)	(4.4)
Crude Oil (WTI)/Barrel (FM Future)	76.93	(4.1)	(4.1)	(4.1)
Natural Gas (Henry Hub)/MMBtu	3.48	0.0	0.0	0.0
LPG Propane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	77.25	9.2	9.2	9.2
LPG Butane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	103.50	2.0	2.0	2.0
Euro	1.05	(1.1)	(1.5)	(1.5)
Yen	131.02	0.2	(0.1)	(0.1)
GBP	1.20	(0.6)	(1.0)	(1.0)
CHF	1.07	(1.1)	(1.2)	(1.2)
AUD	0.67	(1.1)	(1.3)	(1.3)
USD Index	104.52	1.0	1.0	1.0
RUB	118.69	0.0	0.0	58.9
BRL	0.18	(1.8)	(3.2)	(3.2)

Source: Bloomberg

Global Indices Performance	Close	1D%*	WTD%*	YTD%*
MSCI World Index	2,600.91	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.1)
DJ Industrial	33,136.37	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)
S&P 500	3,824.14	(0.4)	(0.4)	(0.4)
NASDAQ 100	10,386.98	(0.8)	(0.8)	(0.8)
STOXX 600	434.18	1.2	0.6	0.6
DAX	14,181.67	0.8	0.3	0.3
FTSE 100	7,554.09	1.3	0.3	0.3
CAC 40	6,623.89	0.4	0.7	0.7
Nikkei#	26,094.50	0.0	0.9	(20.3)
MSCI EM	962.57	0.7	0.6	0.6
SHANGHAI SE Composite	3,116.51	0.6	0.6	0.6
HANG SENG	20,145.29	1.7	1.7	1.7
BSE SENSEX	61,294.20	0.1	0.6	0.6
Bovespa	104,165.74	(3.5)	(7.7)	(7.7)
RTS#	963.08	(0.8)	(0.8)	(0.8)

Source: Bloomberg ($ adjusted returns, # Data as of December 30, 2022)*

Contacts

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

Saugata Sarkar, CFA, CAIA
Vice President - Research
saugata.sarkar@qnbfs.com.qa

Shahan Keushgerian
Assistant Vice President - Research
shahan.keushgerian@qnbfs.com.qa

Phibion Makuwerere, CFA
Assistant Vice President - Research
phibion.makuwerere@qnbfs.com.qa

Roy Thomas
Assistant Vice President - Research
roy.thomas@qnbfs.com.qa

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