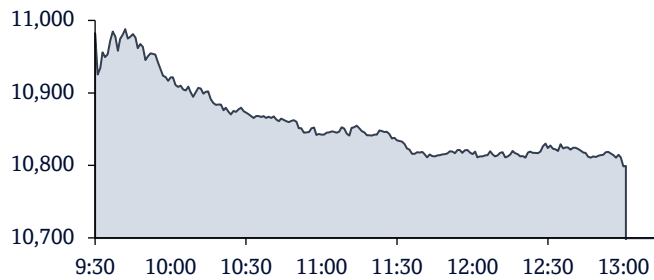


QSE Intra-Day Movement



Qatar Commentary

The QE Index declined 1.7% to close at 10799. Losses were led by the Transportation and Banks & Financial Services indices, falling 1.9% each. Top losers were Qatar Islamic Bank and QLM Life & Medical Insurance Co., falling 6.2% and 4.3%, respectively. Among the top gainers, Mekdam Holding Group and Qatar Islamic Insurance Company were up 0.6% each.

GCC Commentary

Saudi Arabia: The TASI Index fell 0.9% to close at 11,375.8. Losses were led by the Utilities and Banks indices, falling 2.5% and 1.7%, respectively. Al-Baha Investment and Development Co. declined 5.6%, while Nahdi Medical Co. was down 5.3%.

Dubai: The DFM Index gained 0.8% to close at 4,083.2. The Industrials index rose 1.9%, while the Real Estate index gained 1.5%. Gulf Navigation Holding rose 8.3%, while Ekttitab Holding Company was up 4.8%.

Abu Dhabi: The ADX General Index gained marginally to close at 9,786.4. The Health Care index rose 6.5%, while the Energy index gained 1.0%. Burjeel Holdings rose 8.8%, while Adnoc Logistics & Services was up 3.6%.

Kuwait: The Kuwait All Share Index fell 0.6% to close at 7,145.1. The Utilities index declined 3.0%, while the Basic Materials index fell 1.4%. Future Kid Entertainment and Real Estate Co. declined 8.3%, while Senergy Holding Company was down 4.9%.

Oman: The MSM 30 Index fell 0.3% to close at 4,783.4. Losses were led by the Services and Industrial indices, falling 0.7% and 0.4%, respectively. Shell Oman Marketing declined 9.5%, while ASaffa Foods was down 8.0%.

Bahrain: The BHB Index fell 0.3% to close at 1,982.4. The Communications Services Index declined 0.7%, while the Financials Index fell 0.4%. Kuwait Finance House declined 5.0%, while GFH Financial Group was down 3.6%.

QSE Top Gainers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Mekdam Holding Group	4.960	0.6	58.9	(13.9)
Qatar Islamic Insurance Company	8.700	0.6	28.9	0.0

QSE Top Volume Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Mazaya Qatar Real Estate Dev.	0.827	(0.6)	15,703.1	18.8
Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co.	1.354	(1.1)	14,693.2	(10.9)
Qatar Gas Transport Company Ltd.	3.985	(3.4)	10,058.4	8.8
Masraf Al Rayan	2.500	(0.7)	9,660.2	(21.2)
Gulf International Services	2.072	(1.0)	8,075.0	42.0

Regional Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	MTD%	YTD%	Exch. Val. Traded (\$ mn)	Exchange Mkt. Cap. (\$ mn)	P/E**	P/B**	Dividend Yield
Qatar*	10,798.98	(1.7)	(0.9)	(1.5)	1.1	107.76	174,271.0	13.0	1.5	4.6
Dubai*	4,083.18	0.8	0.8	0.6	22.4	93.97	187,643.0	9.3	1.3	4.3
Abu Dhabi*	9,786.42	0.0	0.0	(0.0)	(4.2)	312.64	741,172.2	32.5	3.0	1.7
Saudi Arabia	11,375.78	(0.9)	(4.0)	(2.7)	8.6	1,531.22	2,900,877.2	17.8	2.2	3.2
Kuwait	7,145.07	(0.6)	(1.6)	(1.5)	(2.0)	145.61	148,559.3	17.6	1.5	3.7
Oman	4,783.36	(0.3)	0.1	0.2	(1.5)	7.00	23,162.1	13.1	0.9	4.5
Bahrain	1,982.42	(0.3)	(0.5)	(0.5)	4.6	2.87	56,483.5	7.0	0.7	7.6

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 August 4, 2023)

Market Indicators	03 Aug 23	02 Aug 23	%Chg.
Value Traded (QR mn)	390.3	438.9	(11.1)
Exch. Market Cap. (QR mn)	637,421.2	644,533.3	(1.1)
Volume (mn)	122.4	199.3	(38.6)
Number of Transactions	16,386	14,906	9.9
Companies Traded	48	48	0.0
Market Breadth	2:40	21:22	-

Market Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	YTD%	TTM P/E
Total Return	23,176.13	(1.7)	(0.9)	5.9	13.0
All Share Index	3,636.31	(1.4)	(0.7)	6.5	14.2
Banks	4,515.12	(1.9)	(0.7)	2.9	14.3
Industrials	4,170.70	(0.6)	1.1	10.3	14.0
Transportation	4,709.19	(1.9)	(4.3)	8.6	13.4
Real Estate	1,614.95	(1.5)	(1.7)	3.5	12.8
Insurance	2,352.48	(1.5)	(1.5)	7.6	178.7
Telecoms	1,701.53	(0.2)	(0.7)	29.1	13.3
Consumer Goods and Services	7,856.08	(1.0)	(0.5)	(0.7)	22.6
Al Rayan Islamic Index	4,754.31	(1.7)	(0.9)	3.5	8.9

GCC Top Gainers**	Exchange	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Arabian Contracting Services	Saudi Arabia	185.60	3.9	736.7	64.8
Emirates NBD	Dubai	17.00	3.0	1,158.6	30.8
Q Holding	Abu Dhabi	2.88	2.9	39,995.1	(28.0)
Emaar Properties	Dubai	7.07	2.0	8,366.8	20.6
Salik Company	Dubai	3.16	1.3	378.8	27.4

GCC Top Losers**	Exchange	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Qatar Islamic Bank	Qatar	19.70	(6.2)	2,171.0	6.1
Nahdi Medical Co	Saudi Arabia	161.60	(5.3)	1,026.6	(3.3)
Saudi British Bank	Saudi Arabia	34.80	(3.7)	4,507.8	(10.7)
Qatar Gas Transport Co. Ltd	Qatar	3.999	(3.4)	10,058.4	8.8
Savola Group	Saudi Arabia	41.15	(3.2)	431.2	49.9

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

QSE Top Losers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Qatar Islamic Bank	19.70	(6.2)	2,171.0	6.1
QLM Life & Medical Insurance Co.	2.842	(4.3)	56.4	(40.8)
Qatar Gas Transport Company Ltd.	3.985	(3.4)	10,058.4	8.8
Qatar Oman Investment Company	0.867	(3.1)	7,755.7	57.6
Qatar International Islamic Bank	10.02	(3.1)	643.8	(3.7)

QSE Top Value Trades	Close*	1D%	Val. '000	YTD%
QNB Group	17.00	0.0	57,734.2	(5.6)
Qatar Islamic Bank	19.70	(6.2)	43,664.2	6.1
Qatar Gas Transport Company Ltd.	3.985	(3.4)	40,341.0	8.8
Industries Qatar	13.68	(0.1)	34,333.9	6.8
Masraf Al Rayan	2.500	(0.7)	24,212.5	(21.2)

Qatar Market Commentary

- The QE Index declined 1.7% to close at 10,799.0. The Transportation and Banks & Financial Services indices led the losses. The index fell on the back of selling pressure from foreign shareholders despite buying support from Qatari, GCC, and Arab shareholders.
- Qatar Islamic Bank and QLM Life & Medical Insurance Co. were the top losers, falling 6.2% and 4.3%, respectively. Among the top gainers, Mekdam Holding Group and Qatar Islamic Insurance Company were up 0.6% each.
- Volume of shares traded on Thursday fell by 38.6% to 122.4mn from 199.4mn on Wednesday. Further, as compared to the 30-day moving average of 177mn, volume for the day was 30.8% lower. Mazaya Qatar Real Estate Dev. and Qatar Aluminium Manufacturing Co. were the most active stocks, contributing 12.8% and 12% to the total volume, respectively.

Overall Activity	Buy %*	Sell %*	Net (QR)
Qatari Individuals	31.44%	24.18%	28,321,460.36
Qatari Institutions	25.72%	23.37%	9,170,493.15
Qatari	57.16%	47.55%	37,491,953.51
GCC Individuals	0.96%	0.54%	1,628,523.20
GCC Institutions	7.80%	5.00%	10,919,584.13
GCC	8.76%	5.54%	12,548,107.34
Arab Individuals	10.81%	10.27%	2,120,823.32
Arab Institutions	0.00%	0.00%	-
Arab	10.81%	10.27%	2,120,823.32
Foreigners Individuals	2.56%	4.95%	(9,337,009.86)
Foreigners Institutions	20.72%	31.69%	(42,823,874.30)
Foreigners	23.28%	36.64%	(52,160,884.16)

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

Earnings Releases, Global Economic Data, and Earnings Calendar

Earnings Releases

Company	Market	Currency	Revenue (mn) 2Q2023	% Change YoY	Operating Profit (mn) 2Q2023	% Change YoY	Net Profit (mn) 2Q2023	% Change YoY
Emirates Central Cooling Systems Corporation	Dubai	AED	730.50	6.2%	276.6	8.9%	235.6	-5.8%
Unikai Foods	Dubai	AED	93.30	7.2%	10.7	122.9%	7.9	61.2%
Adnoc Gas	Abu Dhabi	AED	4059.20	N/A	1,331.9	N/A	983.6	N/A
Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. For Distribution	Abu Dhabi	AED	8131.70	-5.9%	665.0	-29.2%	562.2	-36.9%
Batic Investments and Logistics Co.	Saudi Arabia	SR	117.30	17.1%	3.5	N/A	0.4	N/A
Middle East Healthcare Co.	Saudi Arabia	SR	624.32	22.9%	68.9	217.5%	40.2	286.5%
Saudi Basic Industries Corp.*	Saudi Arabia	SR	37.17	-33.6%	1.4	-86.0%	1.2	-85.1%
Saudi Steel Pipe Co.	Saudi Arabia	SR	361.38	70.6%	74.3	300.3%	87.5	644.9%

(if any, * Data is in Billions)

Global Economic Data

Date	Market	Source	Indicator	Period	Actual	Consensus	Previous
03-08	US	Department of Labor	Initial Jobless Claims	Jul	227k	225k	221k
03-08	US	Department of Labor	Continuing Claims	Jul	1700k	1705k	1679k
03-08	US	Markit	S&P Global US Services PMI	Jul	52.30	52.40	52.40
03-08	US	Markit	S&P Global US Composite PMI	Jul	52.00	52.00	52.00
03-08	US	U.S. Census Bureau	Factory Orders	Jun	2.30%	2.30%	0.40%
04-08	US	Bureau of Labor Statistics	Change in Private Payrolls	Jul	172k	180k	128k
04-08	US	Bureau of Labor Statistics	Change in Manufact. Payrolls	Jul	-2k	5k	6k
04-08	US	Bureau of Labor Statistics	Unemployment Rate	Jul	3.50%	3.60%	3.60%
04-08	US	Bureau of Labor Statistics	Underemployment Rate	Jul	6.70%	NA	6.90%
03-08	UK	Markit	S&P Global/CIPS UK Services PMI	Jul	51.50	51.50	51.50
03-08	UK	Markit	S&P Global/CIPS UK Composite PMI	Jul	50.80	50.70	50.70
04-08	UK	ERROR	S&P Global/CIPS UK Construction PMI	Jul	51.70	48.00	48.90
03-08	EU	Markit	HCOB Eurozone Services PMI	Jul F	50.90	51.10	51.10
03-08	EU	Markit	HCOB Eurozone Composite PMI	Jul F	48.60	48.90	48.90
03-08	EU	Eurostat	PPI MoM	Jun	-0.40%	-0.30%	-1.90%
03-08	EU	Eurostat	PPI YoY	Jun	-3.40%	-3.20%	-1.60%
03-08	Germany	Markit	HCOB Germany Services PMI	Jul F	52.30	52.00	52.00
03-08	Germany	Markit	HCOB Germany Composite PMI	Jul F	48.50	48.30	48.30
03-08	Japan	Markit	Jibun Bank Japan PMI Composite	Jul F	52.20	NA	52.10
03-08	Japan	Markit	Jibun Bank Japan PMI Services	Jul F	53.80	NA	53.90
03-08	China	Markit	Caixin China PMI Composite	Jul	51.90	NA	52.50
03-08	China	Markit	Caixin China PMI Services	Jul	54.10	52.40	53.90

Earnings Calendar

Tickers	Company Name	Date of reporting HY2023 results	No. of days remaining	Status
BLDN	Baladna	06-Aug-23	0	Due
QNNS	Qatar Navigation (Milaha)	06-Aug-23	0	Due
DBIS	Dlala Brokerage & Investment Holding Company	07-Aug-23	1	Due
QEWS	Qatar Electricity & Water Company	07-Aug-23	1	Due
QIGD	Qatari Investors Group	08-Aug-23	2	Due
IQCD	Industries Qatar	08-Aug-23	2	Due
QISI	Qatar Islamic Insurance	08-Aug-23	2	Due
BEEMA	Damaan Islamic Insurance Company	08-Aug-23	2	Due
QFBQ	Lesha Bank	09-Aug-23	3	Due
MPHC	Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding Company	09-Aug-23	3	Due
SIIS	Salam International Investment Limited	09-Aug-23	3	Due
ERES	Ezdan Holding Group	10-Aug-23	4	Due
QAMC	Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Company	10-Aug-23	4	Due
QGMD	Qatari German Company for Medical Devices	10-Aug-23	4	Due
WDAM	Widam Food Company	13-Aug-23	7	Due
GISS	Gulf International Services	13-Aug-23	7	Due
QCFS	Qatar Cinema & Film Distribution Company	13-Aug-23	7	Due
MRDS	Mazaya Qatar Real Estate Development	13-Aug-23	7	Due
ZHCD	Zad Holding Company	14-Aug-23	8	Due
MCCS	Mannai Corporation	14-Aug-23	8	Due
DOHI	Doha Insurance	14-Aug-23	8	Due
QLMI	QLM Life & Medical Insurance Company	14-Aug-23	8	Due

Qatar

- **IGRD's net profit declines 2.3% YoY and 2.8% QoQ in 2Q2023, beating our estimate** - Estithmar Holding's (IGRD) net profit declined 2.3% YoY (-2.8% QoQ) to QR98.4mn in 2Q2023, beating our estimate of QR45.1mn (variation of +118.1%). The company's revenue came in at QR717.4mn in 2Q2023, which represents a decrease of 28.7% YoY (-6.4% QoQ). EPS amounted to QR0.029 in 2Q2023 as compared to QR0.034 in 2Q2022. (QNBFS, QSE)
- **Mazaya Real Estate Development: To disclose its Semi-Annual financial results on August 13** - Mazaya Real Estate Development to disclose its financial statement for the period ending 30th June 2023 on 13/08/2023. (QSE)
- **Damaan Islamic Insurance Company to hold its investors relation conference call on August 14 to discuss the financial results** - Damaan Islamic Insurance Company announces that the conference call with the Investors to discuss the financial results for the Semi-Annual 2023 will be held on 14/08/2023 at 01:30 PM, Doha Time. (QSE)
- **Qatar Sells QR1bn 182-day Bills at Yield 5.953%** - Qatar sold QR1bn (\$274.3mn) of bills due Feb. 1, 2024, on Aug. 3. The bills have a yield of 5.953% and settled Aug. 3.
- **Qatar Sells QR1bn 273-day Bills at Yield 6%** - Qatar sold QR1bn (\$274.3mn) of bills due May 2, 2024, on Aug. 3. The bills have a yield of 6% and settled Aug. 3.
- **Qatar Sells QR500mn 91-day Bills at Yield 5.895%** - Qatar sold QR500mn (\$137.15mn) of bills due Nov. 2 on Aug. 3. The bills have a yield of 5.895% and settled Aug. 3.
- **Qatar Sells QR500mn 28-day Bills at Yield 5.813%** - Qatar sold QR500mn (\$137.15mn) of bills due Aug. 31 on Aug. 3. The bills have a yield of 5.813% and settled Aug. 3.
- **QCB grants licenses to 'Buy Now, Pay Later' service providers** - Qatar Central Bank (QCB) has urged companies that are willing to operate the buy now, pay later (BNPL) system to submit applications in order to

receive the license from the bank. In a statement issued yesterday, QCB outlined that it will receive the applications for licenses in September, pointing out that all instructions pertaining to applications can be found on QCB's official website. The announcement comes to regularize the work of BNPL's service providers in Qatar, in conformity with the financial sector strategy and QCB's constant endeavor to regularize and upgrade the financial sector in the country. (Peninsula Qatar)

- **QSE witnesses best monthly returns in GCC during July** - GCC equity markets reported growth for the second consecutive month during July 2023 in line with the growth in most other global equity markets. The aggregate MSCI GCC index was up 3.3% during the month reflecting positive performance in all the GCC equity markets in July 2023. According to GCC markets monthly report by Kamco Invest, Qatar was the best performing market during the month registering a gain of 8.8% followed by Dubai and Kuwait benchmarks with monthly gains of 7% and 3.2% respectively. Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) witnessed the best monthly returns in the GCC during July 2023 with the QE 20 index gaining 8.8% during the month. Notably, these gains came after five consecutive months of declines this year. The Qatar All Share Index witnessed a gain of 8.4% during the month indicating investor interest across the market segments. With the gains in July 2023 the YTD-2023 growth for the QE 20 index reached 2.6% while the Qatar All Share Index registered a higher growth 6.7% at the end of July, 2023. The sector performance chart also reflected solid gains with all the sectors in the green. The industrials index topped during the month with a gain of 11.7% closely followed by banks and financials services and real estate indices with gains of 10.1% and 8.4% respectively. The report noted that the gains for industrial index was mainly led by the shares of Industries Qatar which was up 18.7% followed by 14% gain in shares of Gulf International Services. Most of the constituents in the banks and financial services sector witnessed gains with shares of Qatar Islamic Bank up by 19.4% followed by Doha Bank with a gain of 12.4%. In the real estate sector shares of Mazaya Real Estate Development gained 11.6% during the month. In first half (H1), 2023 earning releases, QNB reported net profit of QR7.6bn in the H1, 2023 up from QR7bn in H1, 2022, driven by higher net interest income. Qatar Islamic Bank (QIBK) posted a net profit of QR1.95bn for H1, 2023, representing a growth of 7.7% over the same period in 2022. The banks's

income from financing and investing activities registered a growth of 26.3% to reach QR4.75bn for the first half of 2023 compared to QR3.76bn for the same period of 2022. Similarly, the Commercial Bank of Qatar reported a net profit of QR1.55bn for H1, 2023 compared to a net profit of QR1.43bn in H1, 2022 up by 8.5%. The monthly stock performance chart was topped with Widam Food Company with a gain of 34.4% followed by the Qatar Oman for Investment and Qatar Islamic Bank with gains of 24.7% and 19.4% respectively. On the decliners side, Qatar General and Reinsurance topped with a decline of 12.3% followed by Zad Holding and Dlala Brokerage and Investment Holding with declines of 2.9% and 2.7% respectively, the report added. In terms of the trading activity, the report further stated that the total volume of shares traded during the month increased by 20.7% to 4.1bn shares. Value traded also increased by 7.5% to reach QR9.9bn during July, 2023. Mazaya Real Estate Development topped the monthly volume traded chart with 517.1mn traded shares followed by Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Company and Salam International Investment at 394.6mn shares and 287.1mn shares, respectively. On the value traded chart, Qatar National Bank topped with QR1.11bn worth of trades during the month followed by Industries Qatar and Masraf Al Rayan at QR683m and QR651.4m respectively. (Peninsula Qatar)

- Qatar: Contracts awarded surge 8.3 times to reach \$10.4bn in Q2** - Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) project awards surged 86% during the second quarter (Q2) of 2023 to reach \$49.7bn as compared to \$26.7bn in awards during Q2, 2022 underlining the determination of the GCC countries to execute and reach their diversification targets, according to a report by Kamco Invest. Citing the data gathered by MEED Projects, the report noted that the total value of contracts awarded in Qatar jumped 8.3 times year on year (y-o-y) to reach \$10.4bn as compared to \$1.1bn in second quarter of 2022. The growth in contract awards was mainly due to the performance of the country's gas sector, which represented nearly 97% of the total value of projects awarded during the quarter. Total values of gas sector projects awarded jumped nearly 16 times to reach \$10bn during Q2, 2023 up from \$600m in Q2, 2022, it added. Moreover, the steep growth of total value of projects awarded in the country was mainly due to one megaproject awarded by QatarEnergy. The state-owned energy company has awarded a \$10bn EPC (engineering, procurement and construction) contract for the North Field South (NFS) megaproject to a joint venture of Technip Energies and Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC). Qatar's North Field South (NFS) project is the second phase expansion of Qatar's North Field project which remains the world's largest single non-associated gas field and comprises of two LNG mega trains with a combined capacity of 16mn tonnes per annum. The EPC contract's scope is extensive and includes the construction of two LNG trains with estimated capacity of 8mn each. The project also includes the construction of carbon capture and sequestration facilities. The report further stated that the strong rise in the total value of project awards in the GCC is also a significant indicator of the health of the economies in the GCC region. The was the highest quarterly project awards value for over five years. Saudi Arabia alone accounted over 49.1% of the contracts awarded in the GCC region during Q2, 2023 while Saudi Arabia, UAE and Qatar combined represented 94.4% of the overall projects in the GCC. In terms of sector classification, it added, the gas sector witnessed the biggest increase in the value of projects awarded during the year recording \$10.3bn y-o-y increase in new contract awards to reach a total of \$11.9bn during Q2, 2023. According to MEED Projects, total GCC contracts that are in tender or most likely to be awarded this year are expected to surpass \$110bn in 2023 led by Saudi Arabia, Qatar and UAE project markets which are poised to witness significant growth each this year. Moreover, Kuwait and Oman are also expected to witness sharper increases in value of contract awards during 2023. (Peninsula Qatar)
- Qatar's GDP per capita seen at \$112,353 in 2027** - Qatar's GDP per capita has been revised to \$84,261 this year and \$112,353 in 2027 by researcher FocusEconomics. In its latest monthly update, FocusEconomics said Qatar's GDP per capita will scale up to \$87,241 next year, \$95,159 (2025) and \$102,868 (2026). The country's GDP, according to FocusEconomics, will be \$221bn this year, \$226bn (2024), \$244bn (2025), \$261bn (2026) and \$282bn (2027). GDP growth has been estimated to be 2.4% this year and in 2024, rising to 4.8% (2025), 4.4% (2026) and 4.3% (2027). Qatar's merchandise trade balance, FocusEconomics said, will be \$73.7bn this

year, \$71bn (2024), \$69.6bn (2025), \$72.8bn (2026) and \$80.2bn (2027). Current account balance will be \$37.3bn this year, \$34.1bn (2024), \$37.9bn (2025), \$35.4bn (2026) and \$37.4bn (2027). Fiscal balance (as a percentage of the country's GDP) will be 6.5% this year, 5.6% (2024), 5.2% (2025), 6.3% (2026) and 7.1% (2027). Public debt (as a percentage of Qatar's GDP) will be 45.3% this year, 43.8% (2024), 43.8% (2025), 41% (2026) and 38% (2027). Unemployment (as a percentage of the country's active population) has been estimated at a meagre 0.2% until 2027. According to FocusEconomics, the Qatari economy appears to have "performed well" so far this year. PMI data points to a "solid" expansion in the non-oil private sector in H1, aided by a booming tourism industry; visitor arrivals were up over 300% in annual terms in January-May and well above pre-pandemic levels. Moreover, energy output rose by close to 4% year on year through May. That said, higher interest rates and the end of the World Cup building boom weighed on the construction sector. In late June, Qatar signed a long-term gas supply deal with a Chinese state-controlled company, following an identical deal with a different Chinese state firm last November and a similar supply agreement with Bangladesh reached earlier in June. "This bodes well for long-term energy exports, and further energy contracts with Asian and European nations will likely be announced in the coming months," FocusEconomics noted. GDP growth is projected to roughly halve this year on a weaker construction sector and tighter monetary policy. However, improved relations with Arab neighbors, a lasting boost to tourism from the World Cup and ongoing energy sector investment—both in fossil fuels and renewables will provide support, the researcher noted. Higher-than-expected interest rates are a downside risk. FocusEconomics panelists see GDP expanding 2.4% in 2023, which is down by 0.1 percentage points from one month ago and expanding 2.4% in 2024. Qatar Central Bank hiked rates from 6.00% to 6.25% in late-July, following the Federal Reserve's same-sized hike. Panelists see inflation moderating on average this year from last on tighter monetary policy, the end of the World-Cup-related demand surge and lower commodity prices. Inflation fell to 2.5% in June from 2.6% in May. FocusEconomics panelists see consumer prices rising 2.9% on average in 2023, which is up by 0.1 percentage points from one month ago and rising 2.3% on average in 2024. (Gulf Times)

- Gabon's Wealth Fund and Qatari-backed Kasada sign hotel deal** - Gabon's Fonds Gabonais d'Investissements Stratégiques and the Kasada Group, backed by the Qatar Investment Authority and France's Accor Group, are partnering to develop hotels in the central African nation, according to a statement. A first hotel project is planned in the northern zone of the Baie des Rois, situated on Libreville's waterfront. Façade Maritime du Champ Triomphal, the FGIS subsidiary responsible for the Baie des Rois project, and Luxury Green Resorts are also party to the agreement. Kasada has a portfolio of 18 hotels in eight African countries. (Bloomberg)
- Argentina Obtains \$775mn Loan from Qatar to repay IMF** - Argentina is paying the International Monetary Fund with help from Qatar, the latest creative measure by the South American nation to honor its obligations with the IMF as foreign reserves stand near record lows amid a deepening economic crisis. Qatar is providing a loan equivalent to \$775mn in special drawing rights held with the Washington-based lender, Argentina's Economy Ministry said in a statement Friday. It will repay the Middle Eastern nation in August once the IMF board approves a \$7.5bn disbursement that was agreed by Buenos Aires with the Fund's staff last month. (Bloomberg)
- Qatar FinTech Hub to focus on emerging trends in 2023** - The Qatar FinTech Hub (QFTH) is working to create a positive impact on the country's economic development through the Qatar Central Bank's (QCB) National FinTech Strategy, a top official of Qatar Development Bank (QDB) has said. "Keeping in mind our role as a sector developer and the executor of the National FinTech Strategy orchestrated by the Qatar Central Bank (QCB), this year, we are focusing on new themes that target emerging trends and market demand, which are paytech, insurtech, buy now, pay later (BNPL), and collective debt-based crowdfunding," QDB CEO Abdulrahman Hesham al-Suwaidi stated earlier in an event. In a speech, al-Suwaidi summarized QFTH's ambition to enable the digital transformation of Qatar's financial services ecosystem, promote economic diversification and attract industry partners, and build financial services skillsets of the future. "One of the goals behind the Qatar FinTech

Hub program is to develop an ecosystem for the fintech industry to thrive in Qatar. As part of the same, we are honoured to be partnered with the likes of Qatar Central Bank, Qatar Financial Centre, Microsoft, Visa, MasterCard, Qatar Insurance Company, Meeza, and Blockchain Research Institute,” he said. Over the years, al-Suwaidi said QFTH has also made significant investments in the fintech portfolio, committing a total of “\$6.5mn,” out of which more than “\$4mn” inclusive of cash and in-kind value has already been dispersed. “Qatar FinTech Hub has created a legacy through our fintech innovation and solutions introduced in the prior waves of our incubation and acceleration program, focusing on thriving areas, such as payment solutions, emerging technologies, embedded finance, techfin, and next-generation banking,” al-Suwaidi explained. He emphasized that QFTH is committed to contributing to achieving economic impact by creating new jobs and diversifying the economic implementation of various strategic initiatives, such as localizing new fintech services and the adoption of emerging technologies. “We have always maintained that Qatar FinTech Hub attracts and sustains entrepreneurs that are ready to embrace the future with innovative and cutting-edge technology and fintech ideas. Now, more than ever, there is a need to embrace disruptive technologies with the adoption and expansion of Artificial Intelligence and other tools at our disposal to bring ideas to life and discover solutions to problems in the payment and finance domains. “As we prepare to embark on another impactful and rewarding journey with our next cohort of fintechns, we are looking forward to seeing positive technological disruption within the fintech sector through the active participation of our representatives. Qatar FinTech Hub remains committed to enabling your journey and providing you with the technical, financial, and regulatory support from your reception to maturity,” al-Suwaidi added. (Gulf Times)

- **Real estate trading volume exceeds QR175mn last week** - The volume of real estate trading in sales contracts at Department of Real Estate Registration at the Ministry of Justice during the period from July 23 to July 27, 2023, reached QR175,521,446. The weekly bulletin issued by the Department shows that the list of real estate properties traded for sale has included vacant lands, houses, residential buildings and a commercial residential building. Sales were concentrated in AL Rayyan, Doha, Al Khor, Al Dakhira, Al Daayen, Al Wakrah, Umm Slal and Al Shamal municipalities. The volume of real estate trading in sale contracts at the Real Estate Registration Department at the Ministry of Justice from July 16 to 20, 2023 reached QR418,731,129. (Peninsula Qatar)
- **Qatar Airways Holidays sold \$57.5mn packages during World Cup** - Qatar Airways Holidays (QRH), the leisure division of Qatar Airways, has achieved significant milestones in increasing package sales to Qatar, positioning it as the top-selling destination. According to the Qatar Airways Group annual report for the fiscal year 2022/2023, QRH focused on promoting destination Doha and its “Stopover packages,” which garnered attention from international travelers due to their excellent value for money. “As the airline looks at destination Doha as a key focus area, QRH has made monumental efforts to ramp up package sales to Qatar, making it the top selling destination. QRH’s Stopover packages have captured the attention of international travelers with their excellent value for money proposition.” Supporting QRH’s efforts, Discover Qatar, a destination management company and a partner of Qatar Tourism, set ambitious targets for the 2023/2024 period, aiming to double the number of travelers participating in its “Stopover program.” This commitment further solidifies Qatar’s position as the preferred choice for visitors seeking a stopover experience. Notably, more than 20,000 visitors enjoyed the coveted “Best Value Stopover in the World” offer, treating themselves to luxurious 4 or 5-star hotel stays for up to four nights. QRH played a crucial role during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, generating \$57.5m in gross sales through all-inclusive travel packages. The momentum continued with their portfolio of global sporting events, such as the Ultimate Fan Experience packages, which granted customers unique opportunities to meet top club players from Paris Saint-Germain and FC Bayern München. “As the nation hosted the Middle East’s first-ever FIFA World Cup, a global sporting event that received worldwide acclaim, QRH played a pivotal role in selling and delivering all-inclusive travel packages generating \$57.5mn in gross sales,” the report explained. Presently, QRH operates from approximately 50 points of sale across the

Middle East, Europe, Asia Pacific, and the Americas. It offers diverse holiday packages, hotels, tours, transfers, sporting event packages, and Doha Stopovers. Moreover, QRH’s exciting adventure in Qatar showcases thrilling activities, world-class dining, shopping, and traditional hospitality. Its business-to-business (B2B) service in Qatar has shown an upward trend since its launch in 2022. (Peninsula Qatar)

- **Hassad Food seeks collaboration to boost production** - Hassad Food is actively seeking collaboration with innovative indoor farming companies and high-performing startups (HPSUs) to enable the large-scale production of Romaine and Iceberg lettuce varieties. As part of the collaboration, Hassad Food will provide full access to essential resources such as power, water and required footprints. The QOI program has provided a unique opportunity for innovators to collaborate with leading organizations, industry experts, and mentors to develop and scale their ideas. The program previously launched 21 challenge calls in collaboration with various partners in Qatar, including GWC, Aspire, Baladna, Sidra, Ooredoo, Es’hailSat, Hassad Food, Kahramaa, Milaha, the Ministry of Environment and climate change, and the Ministry of Municipality. (Qatar Tribune)
- **Stiff competition seen in Qatar’s remittance market** - The advent of digital fund transfers has intensified the competition in Qatar’s exchange and remittance market, prompting service providers to offer incentives to remitters and send money quickly, efficiently, and cost-effectively, it is learnt. A manager of a popular exchange house in Doha told Gulf Times that many players in the industry are scrambling to keep up with these rapid changes, sparking fierce competition not only in Qatar but also in the entire region. “We now see how cutting-edge technology works and the widespread adoption of digital payment platforms leave us to reassess our strategies on how to attract more customers, especially the huge expatriate populations from India, Nepal, and the Philippines, and we want to serve them better as well,” he said. He noted that the demand for faster, more convenient, and secure money transfers has driven many individuals and businesses to embrace electronic payment methods over what could be described as “obsolete channels”. The manager pointed out that electronic money transfer offers an array of advantages such as real time settlements, transparent fees and exchange rates, and ease of use through mobile applications or web-based platforms. As a result, he said customers are settling towards these digital alternatives, which are putting pressure on traditional financial institutions to adapt or risk losing market share. To remain competitive, it is learnt that key players invested heavily in upgrading their digital infrastructure aimed at offering innovative and user-friendly money transfer solutions. Banks, for example, are offering faster money transfers (60 seconds) to partner banks in certain countries, in addition to giving rewards points or other promotions, to attract more customers. An employee of another renowned money exchange company echoed a similar view, noting that “as the landscape evolves, getting a fair share of the market these days remains challenging, but in a way, rewarding”. He said with a mere click or tap on their smartphones, individuals can now effortlessly check the prevailing exchange rates and swiftly find the best offers, no matter where they may be. According to the employee, customers frequently switch from one provider to another, driven by fluctuations in exchange rates. However, he noted that some individuals find comfort in sticking with the same service they have been using since the beginning. “In some cases, a number of customers prefer those which can send money quickly to their accounts or to their beneficiaries back home over higher exchange rates,” he said. Besides giving higher exchange rates and lowering their fees, some exchange and remittance houses are upgrading their offers to entice more customers such as launching new loyalty programs. (Gulf Times)

International

- **Moody’s latest views on the US government: The last triple-A standing** - Moody’s remains the last of the three major credit rating agencies to maintain a top rating for the United States, after Fitch cut the sovereign rating earlier this week and Standard & Poor’s lowered it in 2011. Fitch’s downgrade of the United States to AA+ from AAA caused volatility in stock markets and highlighted some investor concerns over the country’s financial health, but many said the impact on US debt trading was minimal. After the downgrade, the US ranks lower than Australia, Canada

and some European countries, according to Fitch. A Moody's downgrade could exacerbate fiscal concerns, but investors are skeptical it would have a material impact on the US bond market, seen as a safe haven because of its depth and liquidity. Investors were also not particularly concerned that any potential, further downgrade, would lead to forced selling in rating-sensitive portfolios. "As long as US government debt is the risk free asset, it's unlikely a downgrade by Moody's would elicit a much different response than what occurred (or didn't occur) with Fitch," said Lawrence Gillum, chief fixed income strategist for LPL Financial. "After the S&P downgrade more than a decade ago, a lot of institutions changed their mandates to explicitly state 'government bonds' instead of a stated rating," said Ryan Detrick, chief market strategist with Carson Group. "So even if Moody's downgrades, it's not going to force sales from this perspective," he said. For the time being, however, there is no immediate concern. In a July update of its credit opinion on the sovereign rating, Moody's maintained its Aaa rating and stable outlook, which means likelihood of a new rating over the medium term is low. Moody's did not offer comment beyond referring Reuters to its latest credit opinion, which it said reflected its latest thinking on the US sovereign credit profile. Moody's said in July its triple-A rating of the sovereign reflected "exceptional economic strength." It also pointed to high governance strength, and the government's ability to fund itself thanks to the central role of the US dollar and US Treasuries in the global financial system. In Moody's view, these factors counterbalance "lower fiscal strength," which the agency expects will weaken. Moody's could change its outlook and, eventually, its rating if policymakers were unlikely to tackle growing fiscal challenges in the coming years by either increasing government revenues or reducing mandatory spending. A "deterioration in the quality of legislative and judicial institutions or monetary and macroeconomic policy effectiveness" could also weigh on the sovereign rating, it said. Moody's could change its outlook and, eventually, its rating if policymakers were unlikely to tackle growing fiscal challenges in the coming years by either increasing government revenues or reducing mandatory spending. A "deterioration in the quality of legislative and judicial institutions or monetary and macroeconomic policy effectiveness" could also weigh on the sovereign rating, it said. (Reuters)

- JPMorgan raises US economic growth estimate, no longer expects 2023 recession** - JPMorgan's chief economist said on Friday the bank is no longer forecasting a US recession this year and has raised its economic growth estimate as the economy expands at a "healthy pace." The firm increased its current-quarter real annualized GDP growth estimate to 2.5% from 0.5%, Michael Feroli wrote in a research note on Friday. "Given this growth, we doubt the economy will quickly lose enough momentum to slip into a mild contraction as early as next quarter, as we had previously projected," the economist wrote. And while recession risks are still elevated for next year, Feroli said he expects modest, sub-par growth. Earlier this week, strategists at Bank of America said they no longer forecast a 2024 recession for the US and increased their 2023 economic growth outlook for the country. JPMorgan's Feroli pointed to items such as the relatively quick resolution of the debt ceiling and regulators' implicit guarantee of bank depositors during the regional banking crisis earlier this year. Feroli said this "vastly reduced the odds of a different type of financial crisis risk, although leaving in place the chronic headwind of tighter bank credit." The economist also cited a pickup in labor supply and hints of improving supply-side performance in second-quarter productivity data, while equity markets are looking for "further productivity gains from greater use of artificial intelligence." Still, while a recession is no longer his base case, it could materialize if the Fed is not done hiking rates, Feroli cautioned. And he said it "probably wouldn't take much of an upside inflation surprise for the FOMC to deliver the extra rate hike that was signaled in the June dots, with perhaps even more to come." The US will report July consumer price data on August 10. (Reuters)
- US job growth slowing, but wage gains remain strong** - The US economy added fewer jobs than expected in July, but solid wage gains and a decline in the unemployment rate back to 3.5% pointed to continued tightness in labor market conditions. The Labor Department's employment report on Friday also showed job gains in May and June were revised lower, potentially suggesting demand for labor was slowing in the wake of the Federal Reserve's hefty interest rate hikes. But with 1.6 job openings for

every unemployed person in June, the moderation in hiring may also be the result of companies failing to find workers. The mixed report did not change growing perceptions among economists that the Fed could engineer a "soft landing" for the economy, though much would depend on the direction of inflation after annual increases in prices slowed sharply in June. "There are many signs that we're on the path to a 'soft landing,' but that path can also lead us to a sustained downturn if we miss the exit to a sustainable and strong labor market," said Nick Bunker, head of economic research at the Indeed Hiring Lab. "We haven't approached that fork in the road yet, but there is still a strong possibility that the labor market can rebalance without a recession." Nonfarm payrolls increased by 187,000 jobs last month, the Labor Department's survey of establishments showed. Data for June was revised lower to show 185,000 jobs added instead of the previously reported 209,000. The job growth in June was the slowest since December 2020. The economy created 49,000 fewer jobs in May and June than previously reported. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast a gain of 200,000 jobs. Payrolls growth has averaged 218,000 jobs per month over the past three months, a sharp slowdown from the average of 434,000 during the same period last year. (Reuters)

- Fed's Bowman: more US rate hikes likely will be needed** - The US Federal Reserve will likely need to raise interest rates further to bring down inflation, Governor Michelle Bowman said on Saturday. Bowman said she supported the Fed's quarter-point increase in interest rates last month, given still-high inflation, strong consumer spending, a rebound in the housing market and a labor market that is helping to feed higher prices. "I also expect that additional rate increases will likely be needed to get inflation on a path down to the FOMC's 2 percent target," she said in remarks prepared for delivery to the Kansas Bankers Association, referring to the Fed's rate-setting panel, the Federal Open Market Committee. Monetary policy is not on a "preset course," she also said, and data will drive future decisions. "We should remain willing to raise the federal funds rate at a future meeting if the incoming data indicate that progress on inflation has stalled." Bowman has frequently expressed views that are more hawkish than some of her colleagues. In forecasts published in June, most Fed policymakers expected to end the year with the Fed policy rate at 5.6%, one quarter-point hike above the setting established at the Fed's late-July meeting. Bowman's use of the plural "rate increases" in her remarks on Saturday indicates she thinks the Fed will need to go higher than that. After the most recent rate hike, Fed Chair Jerome Powell left the door open to another increase in September, but also signaled that cooler data could allow a pause. Bowman noted some progress on inflation, which by the widely followed consumer price index slowed to a 3% annual rate in June, down from 9% in the middle of last year. "The recent lower inflation reading was positive, but I will be looking for consistent evidence that inflation is on a meaningful path down toward our 2 percent goal as I consider further rate increases and how long the federal funds rate will need to remain at a restrictive level," she said. "I will also be watching for signs of slowing in consumer spending and signs that labor market conditions are loosening." The Labor Department's monthly job market report on Friday showed hiring slowed in June, but unemployment, at 3.5%, remains slow, and Bowman noted there are still many more available jobs than there are workers to fill those jobs. Banks also continue to increase lending to households and businesses, albeit at a slower pace than when interest rates were lower, with no sharp contraction of credit since the banking turmoil in March, she said. (Reuters)
- UK house-building falls again as rate hikes bite** - Britain's construction sector returned to growth in July but house builders suffered another sharp contraction due to higher interest rates and fears about the outlook for the economy, a survey showed on Friday. The S&P Global/CIPS construction Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) recovered to 51.7, its highest level since February and up from June's five-month low of 48.9. A sub-index measuring the house-building sector picked up to 43.0 from June's 39.6 - the lowest since Britain's economy was stuck in its first coronavirus lockdown in May 2020 - but still a long way below the 50.0 no-change level. The Bank of England (BoE) has raised borrowing costs steadily since December 2021 and took its benchmark interest rate to a 15-year high of 5.25% on Thursday. The PMI survey showed that, unlike

house building, civil engineering and commercial construction gathered speed in July. The rate of inflation for building materials was much softer than the average of the first half of 2023, pushed down by weaker demand and competition among suppliers. Business confidence in the sector edged up after dropping in June to its lowest since January. S&P's all-sector PMI, which includes services and manufacturing PMI data released earlier in the week, dropped to a six-month low of 50.9 from June's 52.5. Britain's economy looks set to grow only marginally over the next three years, according to the BoE's latest forecasts. Some economists think a recession is approaching. (Reuters)

- Reuters poll: Japan's economy to pick up in second quarter despite slowing global demand** - Japan's economy likely grew an annualized 3.1% in April-June to mark a third straight quarter of expansion, according to a Reuters poll, helped by resilience in exports despite slowing global demand. The increase would follow an annualized 2.7% in the first quarter. On a quarter-on-quarter basis, the economy probably expanded 0.8%. "The data will show Japan's economy is recovering moderately with consumption and capital expenditure maintaining momentum," said Shinichiro Kobayashi, an economist at Mitsubishi UFJ Research & Consulting. The data would be welcomed by the Bank of Japan which wants a slow but steady phase-out of its massive stimulus program and took steps last week to allow long-term interest rates to rise more. External demand likely added 0.9% point to gross domestic product growth in April-June, after shaving off 0.3% point in the first three months of this year, the poll showed. Capital expenditure is expected to have risen 0.4% after a 1.4% increase and the poll called for private consumption to have edged up 0.1%, slowing from a 0.5% gain. "Consumption has been recovering, mainly for services industries as the economy has re-opened. But the recovery may have run its course as rising inflation weighs on real income," said Ryutaro Kono, chief Japan economist at BNP Paribas. The government will release the preliminary second-quarter GDP data on 8:50 a.m. Tokyo time on Aug. 15. (Reuters)

Regional

- Saudi extends cut of 1mn barrels of oil a day till Sept-end** - Saudi Arabia said Thursday it will extend its unilateral production cut of 1mn barrels of oil a day through the end of September in its effort to boost flagging energy prices. The Saudi reduction, which began in July, comes as the other OPEC+ producers have agreed to extend earlier production cuts through next year. The kingdom announced the extension in a statement on the state-run Saudi Press Agency, quoting an anonymous official in the kingdom's Energy Ministry. The official added that the cut "can be extended or deepened" if the need arises. "This additional voluntary cut comes to reinforce the precautionary efforts made by OPEC+ countries with the aim of supporting the stability and balance of oil markets," the official said. The move was widely expected by analysts. Meanwhile, benchmark Brent crude traded at over \$80 a barrel on Thursday. A series of production cuts over the past year has failed to substantially boost prices amid weakened demand from China and tighter monetary policy aimed at combatting inflation. Brent has largely hovered between \$75 and \$85 a barrel since last October. The Saudis are particularly keen to boost oil prices in order to fund Vision 2030, an ambitious plan to overhaul the kingdom's economy, reduce its dependence on oil and create jobs for a young population. The plans include several massive infrastructure projects, including the construction of a futuristic \$500bn city called Neom. Higher prices would also help Russian President Vladimir Putin fund his war on Ukraine, as Western countries have used a price cap to try to cut into Moscow's revenues. Western sanctions mean Moscow is forced to sell its oil at a discount to countries like China and India. Its estimated export revenue fell by \$1.4bn to \$13.3bn in May, down 36% from a year ago, the International Energy Agency said in a report in June. US sees price cap on Russian oil working despite upturn in prices The United States remains confident that the Group of Seven's price cap on Russian oil is working to squeeze Moscow's revenues and stabilize energy markets despite a recent upturn in prices, a senior U.S. Treasury official said Thursday. In remarks prepared for a London conference, Acting Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy Eric Van Nostrand hailed the price cap as a successful part of the multilateral sanctions regime imposed on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine and said Washington and its partners were working to thwart any evasion. "Our approach has struck the heart of the
- Kremlin's most important cash cow.** Before the war, oil revenues constituted about a third of the total Russian budget, but in 2023 that number has fallen to just 25%," he said in the prepared remarks. The G-7, the European Union and Australia imposed the \$60 per barrel cap last December on sea-borne exports of Russian crude in retaliation for Russia's war on Ukraine. It bans Western companies from providing services such as transportation, insurance and financing for the oil sold above the cap. Van Nostrand said Russian data showed federal government oil revenues were nearly 50% lower in the first half of 2023 than a year earlier, and Russian oil was trading at "a significant discount" to Brent oil. Russian officials had also complained about the impact of the price cap, he said, and the Kremlin has been forced to consider raising taxes on oil exporters to boost revenues, which could weaken the long-term outlook for its oil industry. Van Nostrand said the average reported price for Russian Urals had hovered around \$60, the level of the price cap, despite widespread expectations that the price would rise in the second half of 2023, and despite recent price increases. Russia's Finance Ministry this week said Urals crude oil blend traded at \$64.37 per barrel on average in July, up from \$55.28 per barrel in June. Global oil prices have marched above \$80 per barrel in recent weeks after Saudi Arabia said it would cut output in July, on top of wider cuts announced by fellow countries in the OPEC+ production group announced in April. Earlier this year, China pledged to take measures to revive economic growth, which has also increased predictions for higher prices in coming months, as has underinvestment by U.S. oil producers earlier in the year. Van Nostrand said the cap was continuing to limit Russian revenues while giving "non-coalition buyers additional leverage to negotiate prices down." Any investments the Russian government made into the so-called shadow fleet used to transport oil, or into its own insurance companies in order to sell above the price cap, was draining funds available to support the war in Ukraine, he said. Russian oil traded outside of the G-7 nexus was still sold at a sizeable discount to Brent oil, and shipping capacity limited how much business Russia could do outside the G-7, he said. "Lower-income countries have been beneficiaries of this stability as they continue to import discounted Russian oil that the G-7 no longer takes or benefit from generally lower global oil prices," Van Nostrand said. Still, Van Nostrand said Washington understood that markets could change rapidly, and Russia would keep trying to evade the price cap. "We remain vigilant in monitoring oil markets and the whole coalition remains focused on enforcing our sanctions," he said. (Qatar Tribune)
- Saudi Arabia's Q2 budget deficit at \$1.41bn** - Saudi Arabia posted a budget deficit of 5.3bn (\$1.41bn) riyals in the second quarter of 2023, the finance ministry said on Thursday, as lower oil revenue weighed. The world's top oil exporter recorded a budget surplus of almost \$30bn in 2022, beating its own estimates, as higher oil prices boosted government revenues by 31%. But data released on Thursday showed that the budget deficit has extended to 8.2bn riyals year to date in 2023, raising the possibility of a tilt into a full-year deficit in 2023 after last year's surplus. Total revenues in the second quarter stood at 314.8bn riyals, down 15% from the prior year period, while spending was up 9% over the same period last year, at just over 320bn riyals, the finance ministry said in its quarterly budget performance report. The Saudi economy grew 8.7% last year as high oil prices boosted revenue and led to the kingdom's first budget surplus in almost 10 years, and the government has forecast a second, albeit narrower, surplus this year. However, there has been a significant drop in revenue from oil exports this year as lower prices and production cuts weigh. Oil revenues in the second quarter dropped 28% year on year, to 179.7bn riyals and made up 57% of total revenue. In contrast, non-oil revenue was up 13% in the quarter. The world's top oil exporter will extend a voluntary oil output cut of 1mn barrels per day for another month to include September, the state news agency SPA said, also on Thursday, to provide additional support to the oil market. (Zawya)
- Saudi Arabia, EU hold second high-level political dialogue in Brussels** - The second high-level political dialogue between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the European Union (EU) was held in Brussels under the chairmanship of head of Policy Planning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Dr. Rayed Krimly and Deputy Secretary-General of the European External Action Service (EEAS) Enrique Mora. The two sides discussed ways to strengthen relations between Saudi Arabia and the EU,

as well as common challenges and regional and international developments of common concern. The second high-level political dialogue was attended by Saudi Ambassador to the European Union Haifa AlJedea and Counselor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr. Manal Radwan. (Zawya)

- Saudi: Additional support to Citizen Account Program beneficiaries extended for two months** - Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman has issued orders to extend the period to benefit from additional assistance granted to beneficiaries of the Citizen Account Program for two more months. Accordingly, registration for the program shall be kept open until September 2023. The royal order is in line with the recommendation of Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman, who is also chairman of the Council of Economic and Development Affairs (CEDA). The Citizen Account Program was created to protect Saudi households from the impact of global price hikes. A royal directive was issued in July 2022 to allocate additional financial support to the beneficiaries of the Citizen Account Program until the end of the fiscal year 2022. Later, this period was extended and the registration for the program was kept open until July 2023 as per the royal directives issued in January and April 2023, the Saudi Press Agency reported. (Zawya)
- Slowdown in new work orders impacted Saudi's non-oil business growth in July** - Saudi Arabia's non-oil private sector maintained its strong performance in July thanks to favorable local economic conditions. However, overall growth has lost momentum since June, reflecting the slowest rise in new work orders over the last seven months. At 57.7 in July, the Riyadh Bank Saudi Arabia Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) was down from 59.6 in June and the lowest since December 2022. The latest reading was slightly above the long-run survey average (56.9) and signaled strong underlying business conditions, despite the slowdown since June. The rise in new work was the slowest for the seven months, according to the PMI data. Naif Al-Ghaith PhD, Chief Economist at Riyadh Bank, said: "In terms of prices, inflationary pressures eased from June, with cost burdens rising at the softest pace since October 2022." "This, combined with increased competition, resulted in a reduction in output charges for the first time in nearly two-and-a-half years," he added. The fastest rates of output expansion were reported by manufacturing and construction companies. The PMI survey respondents were upbeat on long-term business expansion plans and subsequent efforts to boost operating capacity in July. This resulted in a rise in employment numbers for the sixteenth month in a row, although the pace of hiring was the joint weakest since November 2022. Meanwhile, business expectations for the next 12 months remained upbeat in July. "Although the degree of optimism eased from June, businesses remained optimistic on new project spending by the government that will allow for further business expansion plans," Al-Ghaith said. (Zawya)
- Paraguay president meets with Saudi minister of investment** - Paraguay's President Mario Abdo Benítez received on Thursday Saudi Arabia's Minister of Investment Khalid Al-Falih. During the meeting, Al-Falih conveyed greetings from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman and Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman to the Paraguayan president, government, and people. The discussions centered around Saudi-Paraguayan relations, exploring avenues of cooperation, and ways to enhance collaboration in investment and other areas. Al-Falih also participated in a roundtable meeting with representatives from the private sectors of both countries. The meeting aimed to strengthen bilateral cooperation and foster economic ventures between Saudi Arabia and Paraguay. Bilateral relations, areas of joint investment, and cooperation in various fields were reviewed during the meeting. The participants discussed ways to enhance these collaborations in light of the promising opportunities that currently exist in both countries. Furthermore, Al-Falih held a meeting with Paraguayan Minister of Industry and Commerce Luis Alberto Castiglioni to discuss methods of enhancing investment and economic cooperation, as well as other matters of mutual concern. (Zawya)
- UAE's non-oil sector growth slips in July, but remains firmly in expansion mode** - Business activity in the UAE's non-oil sector continued to expand last month as output levels rose but the level of activity slipped from its June heights. The seasonally adjusted S&P Global UAE Purchasing

Managers' Index dropped to 56 in July, from 56.9 in June, but remained firmly above the 50 mark, which signals growth in activity. Higher output was accompanied by higher sales, but at a weaker pace as some businesses reported competitive pressures, the report said. "The latest PMI data pointed to a slight recalibration of the strength of the UAE non-oil economy in July, as new business growth slowed from its four-year high in June and the output expansion subsequently lessened," said David Owen, Senior Economist at S&P Global Market Intelligence. The rise in new orders impelled firms to expand hiring leading to a moderate rise in employment. Despite this, backlogs of work rose due to demand pressure, project hold-ups and delays in client payments and shipments. Firms also reported an improvement in supplier delivery times and an easing of cost pressures in July, as the rate of overall input price inflation softened to a three-month low. Looking ahead, firms were upbeat about output expectations due to improving economic conditions, greater marketing and sales pipelines. (Zawya)

- Ethiad Rail, Oman sign logistics deal with Jindal to reduce carbon footprint** - Oman and Ethiad Rail Company (OERC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jindal Shadeed Iron & Steel (Jindal), a leading integrated steel producer in the GCC, to establish a sustainable end-to-end transport logistics solution between Jindal's steel complex at Sohar Port and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), via the UAE-Oman Rail Network. As part of OERC's commitment to providing efficient and cost-effective logistics solutions for major global players across different sectors, the MoU will allow Jindal to annually transport up to 4mn tonnes of raw materials and finished products from its steel complex at Sohar Port to the UAE's thriving markets. Under the terms of the agreement, OERC will leverage its state-of-the-art rail network to support Jindal in optimizing operational integration through facilitated loading and unloading processes while guaranteeing rolling stock and facilities' requirements of iron ore and steel. Commenting on the agreement, Mohammed bin Zahran Al Mahrouqi, Deputy CEO of OERC, said, "Our partnership with Jindal Shadeed Group reinforces Oman and Ethiad Rail Company's commitment to improving logistics services to meet the future needs and expectations of our customers by providing comprehensive solutions and stimulating the growth of various industrial sectors within Oman and the UAE. Furthermore, the MoU will enable Jindal to enhance its supply chain efficiency, benefiting from the UAE-Oman Rail Network's fast, cost-effective, and sustainable services." For his part, Harsha Shetty, CEO of Jindal, said, "This is an important milestone for our company as we look forward to further expanding the reach of our high-quality, industry-leading products in the region and beyond. Our ability to seamlessly transport nearly 4mn tonnes of raw material will greatly help us in our operations, supporting our ambition to reduce our carbon footprint." "We are very proud of our partnership with this national strategic project that will bring enormous economic and social returns to both the Sultanate of Oman and the UAE, whilst also emphasizing the region's competitive advantage as a logistics hub," he added. Through this collaboration, Jindal will not only streamline its transportation and logistics operations but also further advance its sustainability objectives and strengthen its green value chain. OERC will ensure an environmentally friendly transportation and logistics solution through the Oman-UAE Rail Network, thus contributing to the reduction of CO2 emissions in Oman and the UAE, in line with their national goals of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. OERC has recently entered several commercial and investment partnerships with major international players in various industrial sectors to provide innovative logistics solutions and facilities, opening new corridors for economic cooperation, and unlocking promising opportunities for sustainable economic growth in Oman, the UAE, and the wider region. (Zawya)
- Dubai: Common law to re-boost free zones' appeal after relaxation of FDI law for onshore firm** - Common law will create an environment of a level playing field for all the free zones in Dubai and also re-boost their attractiveness after being impacted by the relaxation of foreign direct investment law for onshore companies, say lawyers and tax experts. Last week, Dubai Media Office said the government is actively exploring applying common law within its free zones to enhance the city's business environment and boost its economic appeal and efficiency. The initiative supports the economic objectives outlined in the Dubai Economic Agenda

D33. A key goal of the Dubai Economic Agenda (D33) is to double the size of Dubai's economy over the next decade and to consolidate its position among the top three global cities. Dubai Economic Agenda D33 includes 100 transformational projects. The UAE allowed 100% foreign ownership of companies in the mainland, which previously was allowed in the free zones. This was one of the major incentives for foreign companies to set up operations in the free zones. (Zawya)

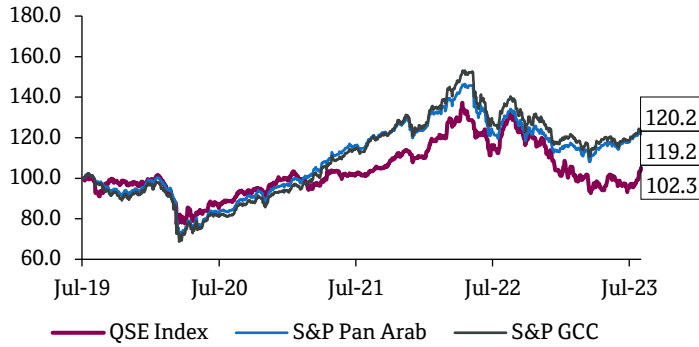
- **Ma'an strengthens its position as ideal partner for Abu Dhabi businesses**

- The Authority of Social Contribution - Ma'an, unveils a refined Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) model, further enabling businesses across Abu Dhabi to utilize the authority's initiatives and programs as a channel to maximize CSR budgets and actively give back to the local community. The Authority of Social Contribution - Ma'an provides an unparalleled opportunity for corporates across Abu Dhabi to simplify and achieve their social goals associated with their responsibility contribution and Sustainability Development Goals (SDG)s, allowing more budget and time to be dedicated directly to the social programs, which increases the social impact made by the corporation. Ma'an's key role is to facilitate these projects and deploy funds as necessary to ensure a successful outcome. 100% of the contributions received by Ma'an go towards the social programs and initiatives as agreed by the contributor, disclosing the impact to involved beneficiaries. More than 700,000 individuals in Abu Dhabi have benefited from Ma'an's programs and initiatives, which demonstrates its widespread social impact on the emirate. Focused on addressing critical social priorities across sectors including health, education, environment, social and infrastructure, Ma'an serves the evolving needs of the community and promotes social responsibility both among individuals and corporations. Corporates can choose from a range of 30 programs and initiatives, tailored to benefit a key social priority in Abu Dhabi "Corporates can play a critical role in maximizing the breadth of our impact by channeling their CSR budgets to support social priorities that are in line with their organizational values. It is imperative for them to understand their role in the collective and the effect their actions can have on the development of an active and socially inclusive society," said Salama Al Ameemi, Director General of Ma'an. "Ensuring the success of our programs and bringing long-term positive impact to communities also requires deployment of resources, which is why partnerships are at the heart of the work we do. Every individual effort can make an important contribution to amplify the development of an engaged and collaborative community." Additionally, Ma'an lays strong emphasis on recognizing and showcasing corporates and individuals for their CSR contributions. This year, the authority launched the Abu Dhabi Social Responsibility Label, a government recognition that acknowledges the key role played by the corporate contributors in supporting social priorities in Abu Dhabi. Corporates can choose from a range of 30 programs and initiatives, tailored to benefit a key social priority in Abu Dhabi, including: Social: These projects aim at creating an inclusive and cohesive society in Abu Dhabi, building integrated communities, and ensuring a decent standard of living for all community members. Health: Initiatives including facilitating therapeutic, preventive & rehabilitative care to ensure the required healthcare for all community members by stimulating growth in medical services and equipment is provided. Education: Programs are designed to provide distinctive and appropriate opportunities for all learners to access education services and support developing the education sector in Abu Dhabi, in addition to promoting a culture of creativity, sustainability and excellence Environment: Support protecting the environment through innovative and impact-oriented environmental projects, in collaboration with success partners and the community. Infrastructure: These initiatives help in creating an ideal living environment for Abu Dhabi citizen and residents with all facilities and services aiming to provide a high quality of life. In order to efficiently facilitate the process of accepting and directing the contributions received, Ma'an has launched an application that will allow public and private sector and individuals to assign their contributions to a program of initiative of their choice without paying any administrative fees to the Authority. Committed to actualizing its programs with trust and transparency, Ma'an issues an impact report annually on its website that highlights all the programs and initiatives launched in the year and underlines the significant impact it has made on the beneficiaries as well as its continued efforts to empower the growth and development of the

Third Sector. Over the past three years, Ma'an has raised nearly AED 517mn from various institutions and individuals, ensuring long-term positive impact across the multicultural society of Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, and the Al Dhafra regions. As more companies realize the impact of social progress on organizational success, Ma'an's human-centered approach to transform the Abu Dhabi community into a cohesive, sustainable, and productive society has gained vital momentum. Last year, the value of financial allocations provided by Ma'an to social institutions, projects, and entrepreneurs exceeded AED 78.1mn. (Zawya)

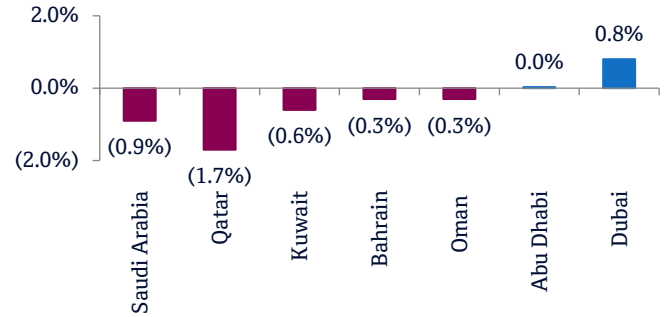
- **Emiratis represent 74% of FANR's workforce** - The Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) provides long-term career opportunities for Emirati employees by focusing on recruitment, knowledge transfer, and training and development programs. In 2022, Emiratis represented 74% of FANR's 248 employees. FANR continues to attract talented Emiratis to meet its business needs, recruiting an additional 22 Emiratis during the review period, according to FANR 2022 Annual Report. FANR also understands the crucial role that women play in carrying out its mandate. Accordingly, FANR has assigned two Emirati Champions to enable Gender Balance and Equality in line with government direction. Women make up over 45% of FANR's overall workforce and hold leadership positions in key areas of the organization, such as the Nuclear Safety, Radiation Safety, Finance, and Education and Training. Females represent 44% of the authority's leadership. It is FANR belief that Emirati women can make a significant contribution to the nuclear industry, as 39% of the authority's technical employees at present are women. Additionally, there are female FANR employees who have completed postgraduate studies in nuclear science. FANR is committed to creating an inclusive and equitable work environment for all employees and dedicated to providing opportunities for women to advance their careers and make meaningful contributions to the authority and the nuclear industry in the UAE. By fostering a culture of diversity and inclusion, FANR is confident of achieving its goals and fulfilling its mandate as a regulatory body. "We continue to place paramount importance on building Emirati capability in the nuclear regulatory sector, believing this is foundational to ensuring its sustainability. We also maintained our developmental efforts such as our internship and development programs and invested in our existing and potential leaders to prepare them for the future. I am proud that Emiratis at FANR constitute over 74% of our total workforce with women representing over 44% of FANR employees, said Christer Viktorsson FANR Director General. (Zawya)
- **Kuwait, Saudi Arabia reaffirm right to share divided zone's wealth** - The State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reiterated Wednesday that they have full right to own all natural resources of the Divided Zone, including Al-Durra oilfield. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have the exclusive and sovereign right to utilize the wealth in this zone, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a press release, citing a joint statement by both countries. The statement reiterated the call for Iran to engage in negotiations with both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as one negotiating party over the eastern borders of the Divided Zone, pursuant to the rules of the international law and the principles of neighborliness. (Zawya)

Rebased Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Daily Index Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Asset/Currency Performance	Close (\$)	1D%	WTD%	YTD%
Gold/Ounce	1,942.91	0.5	(0.8)	6.5
Silver/Ounce	23.63	0.3	(2.9)	(1.3)
Crude Oil (Brent)/Barrel (FM Future)	86.24	1.3	1.5	0.4
Crude Oil (WTI)/Barrel (FM Future)	82.82	1.6	2.8	3.2
Natural Gas (Henry Hub)/MMBtu	2.53	2.0	0.0	(28.1)
LPG Propane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	74.50	1.5	2.3	5.3
LPG Butane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	64.10	1.6	3.7	(36.8)
Euro	1.10	0.5	(0.1)	2.8
Yen	141.76	(0.6)	0.4	8.1
GBP	1.27	0.3	(0.8)	5.5
CHF	1.15	0.2	(0.3)	6.0
AUD	0.66	0.3	(1.2)	(3.6)
USD Index	102.02	(0.5)	0.4	(1.5)
RUB	169.1	0.0	0.0	58.9
BRL	0.21	0.8	(3.0)	8.4

Source: Bloomberg

Global Indices Performance	Close	1D%*	WTD%*	YTD%*
MSCI World Index	2,986.54	(0.1)	(2.3)	14.7
DJ Industrial	35,065.62	(0.4)	(1.1)	5.8
S&P 500	4,478.03	(0.5)	(2.3)	16.6
NASDAQ 100	13,909.24	(0.4)	(2.8)	32.9
STOXX 600	459.28	1.0	(2.4)	11.4
DAX	15,951.86	1.1	(3.1)	18.0
FTSE 100	7,564.37	1.0	(2.4)	7.3
CAC 40	7,315.07	1.5	(2.1)	16.4
Nikkei	32,192.75	0.6	(2.4)	14.0
MSCI EM	1,018.02	0.2	(2.4)	6.4
SHANGHAI SE Composite	3,288.08	0.2	0.0	2.4
HANG SENG	19,539.46	0.6	(2.1)	(1.3)
BSE SENSEX	65,721.25	0.9	(1.2)	8.1
Bovespa	119,507.68	(0.4)	(3.1)	18.6
RTS	1,015.74	(2.9)	(1.7)	4.7

Source: Bloomberg (*\$ adjusted returns if any, Data as of August 4, 2023)

Contacts

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

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

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

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

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

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

Disclaimer and Copyright Notice: This publication has been prepared by QNB Financial Services Co. W.L.L. ("QNBFS") a wholly-owned subsidiary of Qatar National Bank (Q.P.S.C.). QNBFS is regulated by the Qatar Financial Markets Authority and the Qatar Exchange. Qatar National Bank (Q.P.S.C.) is regulated by the Qatar Central Bank. This publication expresses the views and opinions of QNBFS at a given time only. It is not an offer, promotion or recommendation to buy or sell securities or other investments, nor is it intended to constitute legal, tax, accounting, or financial advice. QNBFS accepts no liability whatsoever for any direct or indirect losses arising from use of this report. Any investment decision should depend on the individual circumstances of the investor and be based on specifically engaged investment advice. We therefore strongly advise potential investors to seek independent professional advice before making any investment decision. Although the information in this report has been obtained from sources that QNBFS believes to be reliable, we have not independently verified such information and it may not be accurate or complete. QNBFS does not make any representations or warranties as to the accuracy and completeness of the information it may contain, and declines any liability in that respect. For reports dealing with Technical Analysis, expressed opinions and/or recommendations may be different or contrary to the opinions/recommendations of QNBFS Fundamental Research as a result of depending solely on the historical technical data (price and volume). QNBFS reserves the right to amend the views and opinions expressed in this publication at any time. It may also express viewpoints or make investment decisions that differ significantly from, or even contradict, the views and opinions included in this report. This report may not be reproduced in whole or in part without permission from QNBFS.

COPYRIGHT: No part of this document may be reproduced without the explicit written permission of QNBFS.