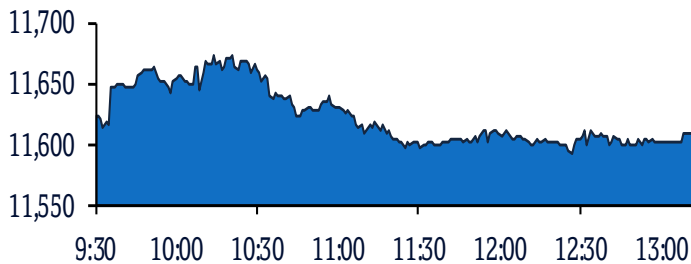


## QSE Intra-Day Movement



## Qatar Commentary

The QE Index declined 0.1% to close at 11,610.1. Losses were led by the Insurance and Transportation indices, falling 0.9% each. Top losers were Qatar Gas Transport Company Ltd. and Qatar Insurance Company, falling 1.5% and 1.4%, respectively. Among the top gainers, Mannai Corporation gained 1.7%, while Qatar Fuel Company was up 1.4%.

## GCC Commentary

**Saudi Arabia:** The TASI Index fell 1.0% to close at 10,991.8. Losses were led by the Banks and Software & Services indices, falling 2.0% each. Banque Saudi Fransi declined 4.5%, while Chubb Arabia Cooperative Insurance was down 4.1%.

**Dubai:** The DFM Index gained 0.1% to close at 3,196.9. The Telecommunication index rose 5.1%, while the Banks index gained 0.5%. Al Salam Bank and Al Ramz Corporation Investment and Development were up 15.0% each.

**Abu Dhabi:** The ADX General Index fell 0.3% to close at 8,954.0. The Telecommunication index declined 3.2%, while the Consumer Staples index fell 0.8%. Axa Green Crescent Insurance declined 9.9%, while Aram Group was down 9.0%.

**Kuwait:** The Kuwait All Share Index gained marginally to close at 7,044.8. The Energy index rose 2.6%, while the Basic Materials index gained 2.3%. Energy House Holding Co. rose 18.6%, while Alkout Industrial Projects Co. was up 10.0%.

**Oman:** The MSM 30 Index gained 0.8% to close at 4,011.9. Gains were led by the Financial and Industrial indices, rising 0.7% and 0.4%, respectively. Al Sharqiya Investment Holding Co. rose 4.7%, while Bank Nizwa was up 2.1%.

**Bahrain:** The BHB Index gained 0.3% to close at 1,775.9. The Consumer Discretionary index rose 1.2%, while the Financials index gained 0.4%. Albaraka Banking Group rose 10.0%, while Inovent Co. was up 1.3%.

Market Indicators	08 Dec 21	07 Dec 21	%Chg.
Value Traded (QR mn)	359.9	398.2	(9.6)
Exch. Market Cap. (QR mn)	667,263.9	667,334.0	(0.0)
Volume (mn)	95.4	143.1	(33.3)
Number of Transactions	12,973	10,169	27.6
Companies Traded	46	45	2.2
Market Breadth	14:26	24:19	-

Market Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	YTD%	TTM P/E
Total Return	22,982.96	(0.1)	0.1	14.6	16.2
All Share Index	3,676.34	(0.0)	(0.2)	14.9	161.3
Banks	4,942.91	0.1	(0.4)	16.4	15.3
Industrials	3,995.57	(0.2)	0.4	29.0	16.5
Transportation	3,557.24	(0.9)	0.7	7.9	17.7
Real Estate	1,795.03	(0.7)	(0.6)	(6.9)	15.4
Insurance	2,610.15	(0.9)	0.3	8.9	15.6
Telecoms	1,030.32	0.2	(0.1)	1.9	N/A
Consumer	8,104.38	0.7	(0.6)	(0.5)	21.6
Al Rayan Islamic Index	4,756.06	(0.2)	0.1	11.4	18.7

GCC Top Gainers##	Exchange	Close#	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Qurain Petrochemical Ind.	Kuwait	0.36	4.7	1,248.5	6.2
Arabian Centres Co	Saudi Arabia	21.18	4.4	3,936.9	(15.4)
Gulf Bank	Kuwait	0.27	3.1	39,583.0	21.5
Emirates NBD	Dubai	13.75	2.2	2,825.5	33.5
Bank Nizwa	Oman	0.10	2.1	463.9	0.4

GCC Top Losers##	Exchange	Close#	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Banque Saudi Fransi	Saudi Arabia	41.25	(4.5)	277.2	30.5
Emirates Telecom. Group	Abu Dhabi	35.30	(3.3)	9,179.4	112.9
Saudi Kayan Petrochem.	Saudi Arabia	17.28	(3.1)	5,598.2	20.8
Saudi British Bank	Saudi Arabia	29.00	(3.0)	657.6	17.3
Rabigh Refining & Petro.	Saudi Arabia	21.76	(2.5)	10,233.3	57.5

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%
Mannai Corporation	4.76	1.7	20.3	58.6
Qatar Fuel Company	18.00	1.4	451.4	(3.6)
Dlala Brokerage & Inv. Holding Co.	1.41	0.9	2,680.6	(21.4)
QNB Group	19.99	0.8	2,916.4	12.1
Qatar Electricity & Water Co.	16.64	0.4	295.3	(6.8)

QSE Top Volume Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Investment Holding Group	1.33	(0.7)	11,935.0	121.9
Salam International Inv. Ltd.	0.89	(0.2)	9,016.3	37.0
Masraf Al Rayan	4.87	0.0	8,722.5	7.5
Gulf International Services	1.84	(0.7)	6,841.5	7.2
Qatar Aluminium Manufacturing	1.86	(0.3)	6,644.2	92.5

QSE Top Losers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Qatar Gas Transport Company	3.30	(1.5)	2,339.4	3.8
Qatar Insurance Company	2.55	(1.4)	387.8	8.0
Qatar Islamic Bank	17.90	(1.3)	2,223.2	4.6
Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding	2.17	(1.1)	6,511.0	6.0
Qatar National Cement Company	5.10	(1.0)	0.5	22.9

QSE Top Value Trades	Close*	1D%	Val. '000	YTD%
QNB Group	19.99	0.8	58,053.6	12.1
Masraf Al Rayan	4.87	0.0	42,503.8	7.5
Qatar Islamic Bank	17.90	(1.3)	40,017.4	4.6
Industries Qatar	15.00	(0.1)	26,734.5	38.0
The Commercial Bank	6.60	0.0	20,770.3	50.0

Source: Bloomberg (\* in QR)

Regional Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	MTD%	YTD%	Exch. Val. Traded (\$ mn)	Exchange Mkt. Cap. (\$ mn)	P/E**	P/B**	Dividend Yield
Qatar*	11,610.13	(0.1)	0.1	2.0	11.3	99.10	181,829.4	16.2	1.7	2.6
Dubai	3,196.92	0.1	4.0	4.0	28.3	184.98	111,843.7	21.0	1.1	2.4
Abu Dhabi	8,953.96	(0.3)	4.8	4.8	77.5	582.72	434,443.3	24.4	2.7	2.5
Saudi Arabia	10,991.80	(1.0)	1.0	2.1	26.5	2,551.48	2,605,368.6	24.3	2.3	2.3
Kuwait	7,044.83	0.0	1.6	3.8	27.0	262.12	135,432.8	21.0	1.6	2.0
Oman	4,011.94	0.8	0.4	0.3	9.7	3.04	18,806.6	11.4	0.8	3.9
Bahrain	1,775.92	0.3	0.8	2.7	19.2	3.85	28,413.3	9.9	0.9	3.5

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

## Qatar Market Commentary

- The QE Index declined 0.1% to close at 11,610.1. The Insurance and Transportation indices led the losses. The index fell on the back of selling pressure from GCC, Arab and foreign shareholders despite buying support from Qatari shareholders.
- Qatar Gas Transport Company Ltd. and Qatar Insurance Company were the top losers, falling 1.5% and 1.4%, respectively. Among the top gainers, Mannai Corporation gained 1.7%, while Qatar Fuel Company was up 1.4%.
- Volume of shares traded on Wednesday fell by 33.3% to 95.4mn from 143.1mn on Tuesday. Further, as compared to the 30-day moving average of 148.2mn, volume for the day was 35.6% lower. Investment Holding Group and Salam International Inv. Ltd. were the most active stocks, contributing 12.5% and 9.5% to the total volume, respectively.

Overall Activity	Buy %*	Sell %*	Net (QR)
Qatari Individuals	27.20%	26.14%	3,835,328.4
Qatari Institutions	30.96%	22.77%	29,489,003.3
<b>Qatari</b>	<b>58.17%</b>	<b>48.91%</b>	<b>33,324,331.7</b>
GCC Individuals	0.30%	0.23%	283,663.2
GCC Institutions	1.68%	2.29%	(2,196,912.6)
<b>GCC</b>	<b>1.98%</b>	<b>2.51%</b>	<b>(1,913,249.3)</b>
Arab Individuals	6.30%	6.42%	(432,963.7)
Arab Institutions	0.00%	0.00%	–
<b>Arab</b>	<b>6.30%</b>	<b>6.42%</b>	<b>(432,963.7)</b>
Foreigners Individuals	3.00%	2.23%	2,778,743.0
Foreigners Institutions	30.55%	39.93%	(33,756,861.7)
<b>Foreigners</b>	<b>33.55%</b>	<b>42.16%</b>	<b>(30,978,118.7)</b>

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

## Global Economic Data

### Global Economic Data

Date	Market	Source	Indicator	Period	Actual	Consensus	Previous
08-12	US	Mortgage Bankers Association	MBA Mortgage Applications	03-Dec	2.00%	--	-7.20%
08-12	Japan	Economic and Social Research I	GDP SA QoQ	3Q	-0.90%	-0.80%	-0.80%
08-12	Japan	Economic and Social Research I	GDP Annualized SA QoQ	3Q	-3.60%	-3.10%	-3.00%
08-12	Japan	Economic and Social Research I	GDP Nominal SA QoQ	3Q	-1.00%	-0.60%	-0.60%
08-12	Japan	Economic and Social Research I	GDP Deflator YoY	3Q	-1.20%	-1.10%	-1.10%
08-12	Japan	Economic and Social Research I	GDP Private Consumption QoQ	3Q	-1.30%	-1.10%	-1.10%
08-12	Japan	Economic and Social Research I	GDP Business Spending QoQ	3Q	-2.30%	-3.90%	-3.80%

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

## Qatar

- Moody's upgrades and withdraws KCBK's ratings** – Moody's Investors Service ("Moody's") has today upgraded the long-term bank deposit ratings of Al Khalij Commercial Bank (al khaliji) (KCBK) to A1 from A3. The ratings were placed on review for possible upgrade on 28 April 2021. At the same time, Moody's has affirmed the Baseline Credit Assessment (BCA) and Adjusted BCA of AKCB at ba1. The outlook on KCBK's deposit ratings is stable. Subsequent to the action, Moody's also said that it will withdraw the ratings of KCBK. Rating action follows the completion of the merger between Masraf Al Rayan (MARK) (MARK, issuer rating: A1 stable, BCA: baa2) and KCBK on 30 November 2021, where Masraf was the surviving entity absorbing all the assets and liabilities of AKCB, which ceased to exist. KCBK was one of the smaller banks in Qatar with total assets of QR58.5bn (\$16.1bn) as of September 2021. MARK was the fourth-largest bank with total assets of QR124.8bn (\$34.3bn) as of September 2021. We estimate that the combined entity will be the third-largest bank in Qatar, with market share in assets of 10% as of year-end 2020. (Bloomberg, Moody's)
- QatarEnergy announces long-term LNG supply agreement with China's S&T International** – QatarEnergy announced Wednesday that its LNG producing affiliate, Qatar Liquefied Gas Company (2), entered into a long-term Sale and Purchase Agreement (SPA) with S&T International Natural Gas Trading Company (S&T) for the supply of 1mn tons per year of LNG to China over a 15-year period starting in late 2022. Commenting on this occasion, HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi, also the President and CEO of QatarEnergy said, "We are pleased to welcome S&T into our family of long-term LNG customers and we are excited to work with them to help fulfil their long-term LNG requirements. This agreement marks further expansion of our customer base in the People's Republic of China, which can count on Qatar as a trusted and reliable energy partner." The minister expressed his thanks to Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa al-Thani, CEO, Qatargas, and the working teams from both sides for the successful conclusion of this new agreement. LNG deliveries under the SPA will utilize Qatar's fleet of conventional, Q-Flex and Q-Max LNG vessels allowing S&T to receive the LNG quantities primarily at the Tangshan LNG Receiving Terminal. (Gulf-Times.com)
- Cabinet approves draft resolution to form panel on setting maximum prices, profit rates** – The Cabinet has approved a draft resolution of the Minister of Commerce and Industry to amend some provisions of the Minister of Business and Trade Resolution No 169 of 2011, to form a committee to set the maximum prices and profit rates, Qatar News Agency reports. This came at the Cabinet's regular meeting held at the Amiri Diwan Wednesday, which was chaired by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al-Thani. (Gulf-Times.com)
- Amir: Qatar-Saudi ties based on solid foundations** – Amir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia H R H Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud chaired yesterday the sixth meeting of the Qatari-Saudi Joint Coordination Council, at the Amiri Diwan. At the outset of the meeting, HH the Amir welcomed HRH the Crown Prince in his country and among his family and brothers, expressing his happiness and delight with this important visit for the historical ties between the two countries. His Highness stressed that this visit will deepen the strong and historical ties, especially in light of the circumstances that the region faces, and wished continued success and progress for the two brotherly countries and peoples. For his part, HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud expressed his thanks to HH the Amir and to the State of Qatar, expressing his happiness to be in Doha, the warm welcome, and to work with the Qatari working group, saying he hopes the sixth meeting would achieve a qualitative leap in bilateral relations in all fields. (Peninsula Qatar)
- Qatar announces extension to currency swap deal with Turkey** – Qatari foreign ministry makes a statement on its website, announcing an extension to the currency swap agreement between the central banks of the two countries after its expiry. The original agreement was signed for three years in August 2018. (Bloomberg)
- SIIS announces board of directors meeting results** – Salam International (SIIS) announced the results of its Board of Directors' meeting held on December 08, 2021 and approved the follow up on the implementation of the previous Board resolutions, in addition to the evaluation of the ongoing projects, and the execution of the plans of the subsidiaries and business units. (QSE)
- VFQS hits 8.1Gbps on 5G mmWave Trial** – Vodafone Qatar (VFQS) has announced its latest milestone in the development of its world-class GigaNet 5G network, with the completion of Qatar's first successful trial on the millimeter wave (mmWave) spectrum. The trial achieved system capabilities of 8.1 Gbps on downlink (DL) and 734 Mbps on uplink (UL), by using new and advanced 5G features and delivered over the mmWave Spectrum. Vodafone Qatar has been trialing the use of millimeter wave (mmWave) technology to boost network capacity and speeds, with the aim of unlocking new functionality for both consumers and businesses. Users will benefit from faster upload and download speeds, and the technology will also open the door for new experiences. Vodafone's trial took place at a specific site and delivered impressive throughput results compared to current standards. For consumers, this means higher-quality video and multimedia content can be delivered faster via increased capacity and bandwidth. For businesses, 5G mmWave promises to transform performance and user experience beyond what is currently possible with existing network capabilities, including across mobile broadband, fixed wireless and industrial applications such as the Internet of Things (IoT) and Augmented Reality (AR). (Bloomberg)
- Tekfen unit gets est. \$400mn Qatar North Field EPC contract** – Tekfen Construction and Installation gets letter of award from Chiyoda Technip JV for general works for offsite 2 of Qatar's North Field East Onshore Project EPC-1 Package, according to public filing. Final contract amount expected above \$400mn, to be announced when contract is signed by February 10, Planned duration 53 months. (Bloomberg)
- AZF signs agreement with Dukhan Bank** – Aspire Zone Foundation (AZF) has signed a collaboration agreement with Dukhan Bank, paving the way for a new partnership at The Torch Hotel, The agreement signed by CEO, Aspire Zone Foundation Mohammed Khalifa Al Suwaidi and CEO of Dukhan Bank, Khalid Yousef Al Subeai. This cooperation includes developing the relationship between the two parties by identifying and developing exceptional opportunities and services, and financing strategic international projects. Dukhan Bank will also provide exclusive banking opportunities and services to employees of Aspire Zone Foundation. (Peninsula Qatar)

- **Bill Gates commends Qatar on support to global development** – Bill Gates, Co-founder of Microsoft and Co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, has commended Qatar's efforts to support development projects globally, particularly through the Lives and Livelihoods Fund (LLF) created in 2016, Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) has said in a statement. (Gulf-Times.com)
- **ExxonMobil looking to expand its 50-plus-year partnership with Qatar** – ExxonMobil, one of the largest publicly traded international energy companies, uses technology and innovation to help meet the world's growing energy needs. ExxonMobil holds an industry-leading inventory of resources, is one of the largest refiners and marketers of petroleum products, and its chemical company is one of the largest in the world. In an exclusive interview with Gulf Times Editor-in-Chief, Faisal Abdulhameed Al-Mudahka, ExxonMobil Qatar president and general manager Dominic Genetti spoke about ExxonMobil's operations and activities in Qatar and its contribution to the Qatar National Vision 2030 – the country's roadmap to continued advancement. (Gulf-Times.com)
- **Petrotec opens QR180mn service center in Ras Laffan** – Petroleum Technology (Petrotec), a 100 percent Qatari-owned company and one of the largest providers of products and services to Qatar's energy sector, yesterday inaugurated its state-of-the-art service and technology center valued at QR180m in Ras Laffan's west support services area. The opening ceremony of the facility was attended by major players in the oil and gas industry including the Vice-President of Industrial Cities at QatarEnergy Abdulaziz Al Muftah, Head of Tawteen at QatarEnergy Abdulaziz Al Ansari, and Head of Ras Laffan Industrial City (RLIC) at QatarEnergy Mohamed Al Sada, as well as officials and staff of Petrotec. The facility will cater to the needs of the energy and utility sectors in terms of specialized maintenance, repair and overhauling services (MRO), and rental equipment. (Peninsula Qatar)
- **MoCI issues report on special licenses for November 2021** – The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) issued its monthly report on special licenses for November 2021, with the number of licenses granted for sale at reduced prices (discounts) amounting to 195 licenses. The report indicated that the number of offer licenses including promotions, special offers, prize draw, and clear and win, amounted to 608 licenses, 45 licenses for companies on goods in malls and retail outlets, and 534 licenses for special offers including new prices, buy one and get the other for free, and buy one and get the other at half the price last November. The report indicated that the licenses for the prize draw granted last November was 28, in addition to one clear and win license. (Qatar Tribune)
- **Qatar's real estate trading volume during November 21 to 28 surpasses QR530mn** – The total value of real estate transactions in the sales contracts registered with the Real Estate Registration Department of the Ministry of Justice from November 28 to December 02, reached QR 530,470,755. The types of real estate traded included vacant lands, houses, residential buildings, multi-purpose buildings, multi-use vacant lands, and a residential compound. Most of the trading took place in the municipalities of Al Rayyan, Doha, Al Da'ayen, Umm Salal, Al Wakrah, Al Khor, Al Shamal, Al Dhakhira, and Al Shahaniya. The volume of real estate circulation during the period from, reached QR 532,994,671. (Bloomberg)
- **Building permits rise by 17% to 802 in November** – The number of building permits issued in November by municipalities in Qatar has increased by 17% to 802, compared to the previous month, data released by the Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA) show. The PSA in cooperation with the Ministry of Municipality released the 83rd issue of the monthly Statistics

of Building Permits and Building Completion certificates issued by all municipalities in the country. According to their geographical distribution, the municipality of Al Rayyan topped the list of municipalities with 206 building permits issued (26% of total issued permits), while the municipality of Al Da'ayen came in second place with 171 permits (21%), followed by the municipalities of Al Wakrah with 151 permits (19%), and Al Doha with 131 permits (16%). The rest of the municipalities were: Umm Salal with 79 permits (10%), Al Khor with 33 permits (4%), Al Sheehaniya with 16 permits (2%), and Al Shamal with 15 permits (2%). (Peninsula Qatar)

- **GTA: Simplified tax return eases filing procedures** – The General Tax Authority (GTA) affirmed the need for home-based projects and small and medium-sized companies owned by Qatari citizens and GCC citizens residing in Qatar to file a simplified "tax return" themselves through Dhareeba e-portal. In an exclusive statement to Qatar News Agency, head of GTA's Taxpayer Support Department Nasser Radi said that General Tax Authority has announced earlier the beginning of the implementation of "simplified tax return form", which must be filed by companies and permanent establishments that were exempted from tax, owned by Qatari citizens and those from GCC residing in Qatar, and whose capital is less than QR1mn, and its annual revenues are less than QR5mn, adding that it is mandatory for all companies. (Gulf-Times.com)

#### International

- **Japan downgrades Q3 GDP on deeper hit to consumer spending** – Japan's economy shrank slightly faster than initially reported in the third quarter, as a sharp rise in local COVID-19 cases hit private consumption and a global chip supply shortage hurt corporate sentiment. The deeper contraction is a setback for policymakers hoping easing supply shortages and loosened pandemic curbs would support a recovery in the world's third-largest economy this quarter. Japan's economy declined an annualized 3.6% in July-September, revised Cabinet Office data showed Wednesday, worse than the preliminary reading of a 3.0% contraction. The data, which was worse than economists' median forecast for a 3.1% drop, equals a real QoQ contraction of 0.9% from the prior quarter, versus a preliminary 0.8% drop. "This confirms that economic conditions were stagnating in the July-September quarter," said Atsushi Takeda, chief economist at Itochu Economic Research Institute. "Growth turned negative due to the resurgence of the coronavirus." The faster decline was mainly due to a larger fall in private consumption, which makes up more than half of gross domestic product, and shrank 1.3% from the previous three months, worse than the initial estimate of a 1.1% drop. Consumption fell as bad weather kept shoppers at home and a global chip shortage hit sales of cars and electronics due to production snags, a government official said. Durable goods spending posted its biggest drop since 1994 when comparable data first became available, the official said, slumping 16.3% QoQ and pulling down household consumption by 0.7 percentage points. The data showed public investment dropped 2.0% versus the initial estimate of a 1.5% decline, while capital spending saw a smaller fall, shrinking 2.3% from the prior quarter, compared with a 3.8% preliminary drop. The net contribution of exports to the GDP change was zero, offset by imports. Meanwhile, domestic demand pulled GDP down by 0.9 percentage point, matching a preliminary contribution. The GDP downgrade, which took into account a change in the way seasonal adjustments were calculated, comes after data on Tuesday showed household spending fell for a third straight month in October. (Reuters)
- **China's factory gate inflation slows in November** – China's factory-gate inflation slowed in November, driven by a government crackdown on runaway commodity prices and an

easing power crunch, amid Beijing's efforts to bolster the faltering economy. The increase in the producer price index was slower than a 13.5% gain in October but faster than the 12.4% rise expected in a Reuters poll of analysts. China's economy, which staged an impressive rebound from last year's pandemic slump, has lost momentum in recent months as it grapples with surging prices, a slowing manufacturing sector, debt problems in the property market and persistent COVID-19 outbreaks. The People's Bank of China on Monday announced a cut to the amount of cash that banks must hold in reserve, its second such move this year, to bolster slowing growth. Factory-gate inflation has sped up since May this year due to soaring commodity prices, piling pressures on downstream businesses to pass on their costs to consumers. Authorities have rolled out a series of interventions in recent months, including setting an immediate ex-mine price target and ordering rapid production to cool red-hot prices, measures that have proven effective in easing a power shortage expected this winter. The consumer price index (CPI) rose 2.3% year-on-year, the National Bureau of Statistics said in a separate statement, slower than expectations for a 2.5% rise but picking up from 1.5% in October. (Reuters)

- **India's Central bank leaves rates on hold amid Omicron risks** – The Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy committee (MPC) kept its key lending rate steady at record lows on Wednesday, as expected, with policymakers looking to gauge the impact of the Omicron coronavirus variant on the economic recovery. The committee held the lending rate, or the repo rate, at 4%. The reverse repo rate, or the key borrowing rate, was also maintained at 3.35%. All 50 economists polled by Reuters had expected no change in the repo rate and did not expect a change before the second half of 2022. (Reuters)
- **Brazil central bank makes 150 bps interest rate hike, signals another** – Brazil's central bank on Wednesday raised interest rates by 150 basis points and signaled another such hike in February, waging one of the world's most aggressive battles with inflation even as Latin America's largest economy has tipped into recession. The bank's rate-setting committee, known as Copom, decided unanimously to raise its benchmark interest rate to 9.25%, as forecast by all 31 economists in a Reuters poll. Policymakers have hiked the rate seven times this year, from 2.0% in January. That makes Brazil's current tightening cycle the most aggressive among major economies, as the central bank confronts 12-month inflation in double digits and President Jair Bolsonaro's vows to boost welfare spending in an election year. While acknowledging weaker-than-expected economic activity and uncertainty about the Omicron coronavirus variant, Copom put a harder edge on its policy statement, vowing to hike rates "significantly" into restrictive territory. "The Committee will persist in its strategy until (consolidating) the disinflation process and the expectation anchoring around its targets," wrote Copom in the statement. Marco Caruso, chief economist at Banco Original, called it a "very tough" statement, suggesting "higher rates for longer." Some economists have warned that looser fiscal policy has backfired on the government by forcing the central bank, whose formal autonomy was written into law this year, to hike rates sharply. Higher borrowing costs contributed to a slight economic contraction in the second and third quarters. A weaker currency, severe drought and higher fuel prices helped to push consumer prices 10.7% higher in the 12 months to mid-November. That is the hottest inflation among G20 countries except for Argentina, which has left interest rates unchanged in 2021, and Turkey, which has shocked markets by slashing rates after raising them early this year. (Reuters)
- **Russian annual inflation rises to 8.4% in November, highest since early 2016** – Russia's consumer price index (CPI) rose

8.4% in November on a year-on-year basis, reaching its highest level since early 2016 and adding pressure on the central bank to raise interest rates again, data showed on Wednesday. In the week to December 6, annual inflation slowed to 8.28%, the economy ministry said after the data release from the statistics service Rosstat. The Bank of Russia is widely expected to raise its key interest rate from 7.50% at its next board meeting on December 17 as inflation, its main area of responsibility, surpassed its 4% target more than a year ago and shows little signs of slowing. Spurred by a weak rouble and globally rising prices, inflation is on the rise despite six rate hikes so far this year. Russian President Vladimir Putin called for pre-emptive measures to fight inflation, which dents living standards. Central Bank Governor Elvira Nabiullina told the Reuters Next conference last week it would be a harmful policy mistake to underestimate inflation risks, saying the central bank was planning to consider raising rates by up to 100 basis points on December 17. The YoY increase in the November CPI was above the rise of 8.1% expected by analysts in a Reuters poll. Inflation was at 9.8% in January of 2016. MoM inflation was at 0.96% in November, down from 1.11% in October, data showed. (Reuters)

### Regional

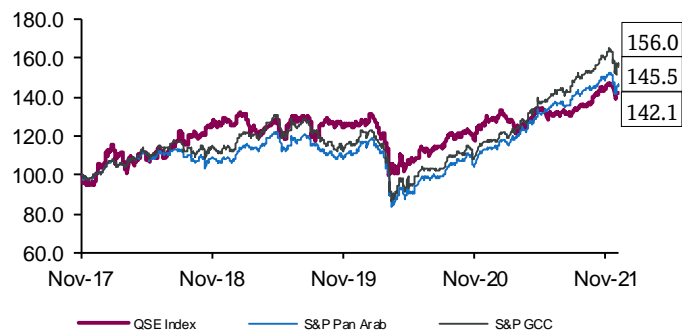
- **Hilton to open 60 new hotels, create 10,000 jobs in Saudi Arabia** – Hospitality giant Hilton has announced that it will open an additional 60 new hotels and create more than 10,000 new jobs in Saudi Arabia as part of its 600% expansion plan in the kingdom. The company intends to expand its portfolio in the Gulf state to more than 75 properties, as well as introduce new hotel brands, a statement said on Wednesday. Hilton currently operates 15 hotels in Saudi Arabia and has another 46 properties under development. "This expansion will also support new tourism hotspots in the kingdom helping deliver the goal of 100mn visitors by 2030 and boosting tourism's contribution to GDP to 10%," the statement said. The announcement comes after a meeting between Saudi Arabia's Minister of Tourism Ahmed Al Khateeb and Hilton President and CEO Chris Nassetta in Riyadh. (Zawya)
- **Saudi bourse has 50 IPO applications for 2022, considers SPAC listings** – Saudi Arabia's stock exchange has 50 applications from companies for IPOs next year and is considering whether to allow blank-check companies, known as SPACs, to list, the Saudi Tadawul Group chief executive said on Wednesday. A SPAC, or special purpose acquisition company, raises money to acquire a private firm with the purpose of taking it public and allowing the target to list more quickly on an exchange rather than via a traditional IPO. Khalid al-Hussan, the CEO of bourse owner and operator Tadawul, said the exchange was discussing business models and assessing appetite for SPACs in the kingdom, but added that no legal framework had been proposed as yet. (Zawya)
- **Saudi PIF aims to invest SR18.7bn in Oman** – Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund is planning to invest SR18.7bn in Oman, according to a statement from the two countries. The plan was announced after the visit of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to his Middle East neighbor. There are no details yet as to what industries or companies the money will be invested in. The announcement comes after the two countries signed 13 memoranda of understanding, reportedly worth more than \$30bn and covering a number of sectors. The agreements were signed by Omani companies fully owned by the sultanate's investment authority, the Saudi Press Agency and Omani state TV reported on Monday. (Zawya)
- **Cooper Fitch: Majority of Saudi firms plan to hire, pay staff bonuses in 2022** – Hiring activity in Saudi Arabia will increase in the next 12 months, with the majority (68%) of businesses in

the kingdom looking to increase their headcounts in 2022, a new survey by recruitment experts Cooper Fitch revealed on Wednesday. The number of employers with hiring plans for 2022 is higher than this year and the greatest demand for additional staff will be within major government restructuring projects, as well as developing sectors such as entertainment, culture, heritage and destination. (Zawya)

- **Aseer obtains short-term Murabaha financing** – Aseer Trading, Tourism, and Manufacturing Company (Aseer) has obtained a short-term revolving Murabaha financing worth SR20mn from Saudi Investment Bank (SAIB). The financing will enable the company to repay an existing short-term Murabaha financing worth SR140mn with one of the local banks and the remaining SR60mn to enhance the company's cash flow position, according to a bourse filing on Wednesday. (Zawya)
- **SABIC CEO: Chemical prices to hold current levels through 1H** – “For the first half of 2022, in my view, I think the prices in the current market will remain the same,” CEO of SABIC, Yousef Al Benyan, said Wednesday at a conference. The chemicals industry's main concern “is just the re-occurrence of the variants of Covid-19 and its potential implications, in addition to the supply chain constraints. These are really important issues that we have to address.” Responding to a question on whether he thought Saudi Arabia might follow the move by the UAE to change its weekend, and how they'll deal with the difference in the working week, Al Benyan said that the Gulf Cooperation Council “would like to make sure this is really connected with the global economy and this will enhance the productivity.” (Bloomberg)
- **Report: UAE stock exchanges will follow switch to Monday-Friday week** – Stock exchanges in the UAE will start operating Monday-to-Friday after the Emirates' decision to shift its working week, according to a Bloomberg report. Instead of the current Sunday-to-Thursday working week, the UAE plans to shift its weekend to Saturday and Sunday from January 1, a move that is expected to align it with global markets and boost the local economy by stimulating more capital flows as well as promoting employee productivity and wellbeing. (Zawya)
- **Dubai regulator fines Emirates REIT fund manager AED771,225 for 'misleading statements'** – The Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA) has slammed a penalty of AED771,225 on Equitativa and accepted an Enforceable Undertaking from the real estate fund manager. Equitativa is both the fund manager and the reporting entity of NASDAQ listed fund, Emirates REIT (EREIT). The DFSA found that on two occasions in 2018, Equitativa made misleading statements regarding one of EREIT's eleven assets, a school in Dubai Investment Park, in breach of Article 56(2) of the Collective Investment Law 2010, a statement from the regulator said. (Zawya)
- **Dubai's Aramex pauses MNG buyout talks after change in ownership** – Aramex paused talks to acquire Turkish delivery company MNG Kargo after a change in the share ownership of the Dubai-based logistics firm, according to people familiar with the matter. The discussions were paused after Geopost bought a 24.9% stake in Aramex in October, the people said, asking not to be identified because the discussions are private. Geopost already has a partnership with Yurtici Kargo, a competitor to MNG in the Turkish market. The proposed deal to buy MNG, valued reportedly at as much as \$500mn, may still be possible, one of the people said. Aramex, which didn't immediately respond to a request for comment, said on December 5 that it would discuss recent updates on the potential acquisition of MNG Kargo in its board meeting on Thursday. MNG Kargo declined to comment. (Bloomberg)

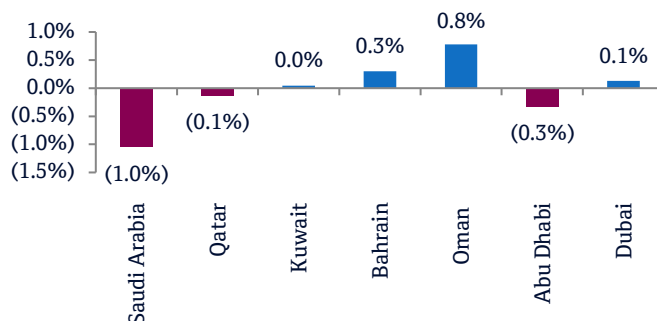
- **Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange announces new trading week for 2022** – The ADX announced on Wednesday that it will follow a new trading schedule next year in view of the UAE's decision to shift to a Saturday-Sunday weekend. Effective January 3, 2022, the local bourse will operate from Monday to Friday, with the trading hours still between 10am and 3pm, ADX said in a statement. “ADX is amending its trading week to Monday through Friday, effective 3 January 2022. Trading hours will remain unchanged, opening at 10:00am and closing at 3:00pm,” the statement said. “The exchange's new trading week follows the recent announcement made by the UAE government to adopt a four-and-a-half day working week.” The UAE announced on Tuesday that it will transition to a new working week next year, with Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday forming the new weekend. The move is expected to boost the local economy by stimulating more capital flows and promoting employee productivity and wellbeing. (Zawya)
- **Abu Dhabi wealth fund Mubadala buys 1.9% stake in Russia's Sibur** – Abu Dhabi wealth fund Mubadala buys 1.9% stake in Russia's Sibur. Mubadala Investment Co. says the stake purchase is its largest investment in Russia. The acquisition terms were agreed prior to Sibur's recent merger with Taif. Mubadala didn't disclose the terms in Wednesday's statement. (Bloomberg)
- **ADNOC, GE to develop de-carbonization roadmap in industry ops** – ADNOC and GE Gas Power sign joint cooperation initiative to develop a de-carbonization roadmap that includes reducing carbon emissions from gas turbines used to power ADNOC's downstream and industry operations. Initiative will explore using hydrogen and hydrogen-blended fuels for power generation, evaluating ammonia as a fuel to power. (Bloomberg)
- **Bahrain Parliament backs bill to double VAT** – A bill to increase the tax on goods and services cleared its biggest hurdle in a day of political drama yesterday, as 23 MPs voted in favor of doubling VAT from 5% to 10%. Fifteen rejected the government-drafted bill to amend the 2018 VAT law, while one abstained and one MP was absent. The debate and vote were held behind closed doors and continued after the normal closing time of 3pm with the session stretching for another hour. Parliament Speaker Fouzia Zainal cleared the chamber of all journalists before the debate began in earnest. The live broadcast on YouTube and radio was also suspended following a request by the required 10 MPs to hold the sensitive debate in private. (Zawya)

## Rebased Performance



Source: Bloomberg

## Daily Index Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Asset/Currency Performance	Close (\$)	1D%	WTD%	YTD%
Gold/Ounce	1,782.99	(0.1)	(0.0)	(6.1)
Silver/Ounce	22.43	(0.3)	(0.4)	(15.0)
Crude Oil (Brent)/Barrel (FM Future)	75.82	0.5	8.5	46.4
Crude Oil (WTI)/Barrel (FM Future)	72.36	0.4	9.2	49.1
Natural Gas (Henry Hub)/MMBtu	3.79	4.4	(0.5)	58.6
LPG Propane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	100.50	(0.7)	1.3	33.6
LPG Butane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	124.75	1.8	4.4	79.5
Euro	1.13	0.7	0.2	(7.1)
Yen	113.67	0.1	0.8	10.1
GBP	1.32	(0.3)	(0.2)	(3.4)
CHF	1.09	0.5	(0.3)	(3.9)
AUD	0.72	0.7	2.4	(6.8)
USD Index	95.89	(0.5)	(0.2)	6.6
RUB	73.60	(0.6)	(0.4)	(1.1)
BRL	0.18	1.5	2.1	(6.1)

Source: Bloomberg

Global Indices Performance	Close	1D%*	WTD%*	YTD%*
MSCI World Index	3,196.39	0.4	3.6	18.8
DJ Industrial	35,754.75	0.1	3.4	16.8
S&P 500	4,701.21	0.3	3.6	25.2
NASDAQ 100	15,786.99	0.6	4.7	22.5
STOXX 600	477.36	0.3	3.5	11.1
DAX	15,687.09	0.1	3.8	5.6
FTSE 100	7,337.05	0.0	3.0	10.1
CAC 40	7,014.57	0.2	4.0	17.3
Nikkei	28,860.62	1.5	2.2	(4.5)
MSCI EM	1,241.01	0.4	1.3	(3.9)
SHANGHAI SE Composite	3,637.57	1.5	1.3	7.8
HANG SENG	23,996.87	0.1	1.0	(12.4)
BSE SENSEX	58,649.68	1.8	1.4	19.0
Bovespa	108,095.50	2.1	5.0	(15.3)
RTS	1,612.73	(2.1)	(3.3)	16.2

Source: Bloomberg (\*\$ adjusted returns)

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