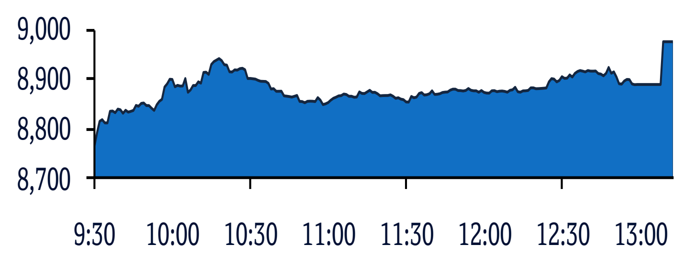
QSE Intra-Day Movement



Qatar Commentary

The QE Index rose 3.1% to close at 8,979.5. Gains were led by the Telecoms and Industrials indices, gaining 4.0% and 3.9%, respectively. Top gainers were Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Company and Gulf International Services, rising 10.0% each. Among the top losers, Qatar Cinema & Film Distribution Company fell 5.7%, while Zad Holding Company was down 0.7%.

GCC Commentary

Saudi Arabia: The TASI Index gained 1.8% to close at 6,986.4. Gains were led by the Telecom. Services and Food & Staples indices, rising 4.1% and 3.8%, respectively. Saudi Marketing Co rose 10.0%, while Mobile Telecommunications Co was up 9.8%.

Dubai: The DFM Index gained 5.5% to close at 1,785.5. The Banks index rose 7.5%, while the Real Estate & Construction index gained 5.9%. Emirates NBD rose 14.8%, while EMAAR Development was up 13.0%.

Abu Dhabi: The ADX General Index gained 5.5% to close at 3,928.2. The Banks index rose 8.8%, while the Telecommunication index gained 2.0%. Methaq Takaful Insurance Company rose 14.8%, while First Abu Dhabi Bank was up 12.0%.

Kuwait: The Kuwait All Share Index gained 0.1% to close at 4,723.3. The Technology index rose 10.0%, while the Consumer Goods index gained 2.7%. Automated Systems Company and Human Soft Holding Co. were up 10.0% each.

Oman: The MSM 30 Index fell 0.1% to close at 3,397.8. The Financial index declined 0.6%, while the other indices ended in green. Gulf Hotels Oman Company Limited declined 10.0%, while United Power Company was down 6.4%.

Bahrain: The BHB Index gained 0.2% to close at 1,313.3. The Commercial Banks index rose 0.8%, while the other indices ended flat or in red. Khaleeji Commercial Bank rose 5.3%, while Ahli United Bank was up 1.6%.

Market Indicators	07 Apr 20	06 Apr 20	%Chg.
Value Traded (QR mn)	333.6	290.0	15.0
Exch. Market Cap. (QR mn)	506,963.1	489,603.6	3.5
Volume (mn)	178.0	141.0	26.3
Number of Transactions	10,267	10,292	(0.2)
Companies Traded	47	45	4.4
Market Breadth	41:3	38:4	–

Market Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	YTD%	TTM P/E
Total Return	17,171.98	3.1	6.2	(10.5)	13.3
All Share Index	2,791.85	3.3	5.8	(9.9)	14.0
Banks	4,054.85	3.5	4.8	(3.9)	13.2
Industrials	2,334.09	3.9	9.5	(20.4)	16.3
Transportation	2,358.08	2.6	5.2	(7.7)	11.7
Real Estate	1,314.68	0.3	6.9	(16.0)	11.4
Insurance	2,151.49	2.9	5.0	(21.3)	36.0
Telecoms	831.30	4.0	7.5	(7.1)	13.7
Consumer	6,939.66	2.7	5.4	(19.7)	16.1
Al Rayan Islamic Index	3,421.94	2.6	7.2	(13.4)	14.8

GCC Top Gainers##	Exchange	Close#	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Emirates NBD	Dubai	7.53	14.8	2,149.6	(42.1)
First Abu Dhabi Bank	Abu Dhabi	11.20	12.0	2,814.6	(26.1)
Mesaieed Petro. Holding	Qatar	2.12	10.0	13,515.6	(15.5)
Etihad Etisalat Co.	Saudi Arabia	25.15	7.9	4,538.0	0.6
Savola Group	Saudi Arabia	40.80	7.8	2,147.2	18.8

GCC Top Losers##	Exchange	Close#	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Bank Nizwa	Oman	0.09	(5.6)	95.8	(10.5)
Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank	Abu Dhabi	3.33	(4.9)	2,829.1	(38.2)
Sohar International Bank	Oman	0.08	(3.6)	79.0	(24.2)
Alinma Bank	Saudi Arabia	22.02	(3.5)	34,266.0	(13.1)
National Shipping Co.	Saudi Arabia	33.85	(2.4)	1,843.2	(15.4)

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%
Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Co.	1.54	10.0	1,484.3	(23.0)
Gulf International Services	1.12	10.0	5,683.6	(34.8)
Qatari German Co for Med. Devices	0.50	10.0	7,832.6	(14.8)
Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding	2.12	10.0	13,515.6	(15.5)
Dlala Brokerage & Inv. Holding Co.	0.48	9.3	1,554.8	(20.8)

QSE Top Losers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Qatar Cinema & Film Distribution	2.30	(5.7)	60.6	4.7
Zad Holding Company	14.10	(0.7)	7.4	2.0
Qatar Industrial Manufacturing	2.53	(0.3)	32.3	(29.1)
Ahli Bank	3.14	0.0	1.2	(5.9)
Aamal Company	0.55	0.0	25,966.3	(32.0)

QSE Top Volume Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Ezdan Holding Group	0.53	1.5	31,285.3	(13.3)
Aamal Company	0.55	0.0	25,966.3	(32.0)
Qatar Aluminium Manufacturing	0.60	8.5	20,363.1	(23.0)
Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding	2.12	10.0	13,515.6	(15.5)
Qatar Gas Transport Company Ltd.	2.20	3.1	12,177.9	(8.2)

QSE Top Value Trades	Close*	1D%	Val. '000	YTD%
QNB Group	18.90	4.8	41,175.4	(8.2)
Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding	2.12	10.0	27,859.3	(15.5)
Qatar Gas Transport Co. Ltd.	2.20	3.1	26,605.9	(8.2)
Masraf Al Rayan	3.80	1.2	18,125.9	(4.1)
Industries Qatar	7.34	2.4	16,832.8	(28.6)

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*	8,979.49	3.1	6.2	9.4	(13.9)	91.24	138,350.2	13.3	1.3	4.5
Dubai	1,785.45	5.5	3.6	0.8	(35.4)	91.69	73,313.9	6.6	0.6	7.0
Abu Dhabi	3,928.23	5.5	4.5	5.2	(22.6)	48.04	111,704.8	11.0	1.1	6.3
Saudi Arabia	6,986.40	1.8	3.5	7.4	(16.7)	1,420.79	2,142,215.7	19.9	1.6	3.8
Kuwait	4,723.25	0.1	0.4	(2.1)	(24.8)	136.15	86,148.9	11.6	1.1	4.7
Oman	3,397.82	(0.1)	0.4	(1.5)	(14.7)	1.87	14,830.8	6.9	0.6	8.2
Bahrain	1,313.33	0.2	(1.2)	(2.8)	(18.4)	1.73	20,192.1	9.4	0.8	6.0

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

Qatar Market Commentary

- The QE Index rose 3.1% to close at 8,979.5. The Telecoms and Industrials indices led the gains. The index rose on the back of buying support from GCC and non-Qatari shareholders despite selling pressure from Qatari shareholders.
- Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Company and Gulf International Services were the top gainers, rising 10.0% each. Among the top losers, Qatar Cinema & Film Distribution Company fell 5.7%, while Zad Holding Company was down 0.7%.
- Volume of shares traded on Monday rose by 26.3% to 178.0mn from 141.0mn on Sunday. Further, as compared to the 30-day moving average of 127.6mn, volume for the day was 39.5% higher. Ezdan Holding Group and Aamal Company were the most active stocks, contributing 17.6% and 14.6% to the total volume, respectively.

Overall Activity	Buy %*	Sell %*	Net (QR)
Qatari Individuals	34.00%	45.59%	(38,645,513.23)
Qatari Institutions	14.69%	20.71%	(20,098,198.44)
Qatari	**48.69%**	**66.30%**	**(58,743,711.67)**
GCC Individuals	1.81%	2.25%	(1,458,275.14)
GCC Institutions	2.57%	1.17%	4,661,984.43
GCC	**4.38%**	**3.42%**	**3,203,709.29**
Non-Qatari Individuals	13.99%	15.23%	(4,142,788.78)
Non-Qatari Institutions	32.95%	15.06%	59,682,791.15
Non-Qatari	**46.94%**	**30.29%**	**55,540,002.38**

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

Global Economic Data and Earnings Calendar

Global Economic Data

Date	Market	Source	Indicator	Period	Actual	Consensus	Previous
04/07	Germany	Deutsche Bundesbank	Industrial Production SA MoM	Feb	0.3%	-0.8%	3.2%
04/07	Germany	Bundesministerium fur Wirtscha	Industrial Production WDA YoY	Feb	-1.2%	-3.0%	-0.9%
04/07	France	Ministry of the Economy, France	Trade Balance	Feb	-5,224mn	-5,050mn	-5,974mn
04/07	France	Banque De France	Current Account Balance	Feb	-3.8bn	–	-3.1bn
04/07	China	National Bureau of Statistics	Foreign Reserves	Mar	$3,060.63bn	$3,097.50bn	$3,106.72bn

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

Earnings Calendar

Tickers	Company Name	Date of reporting 1Q2020 results	No. of days remaining	Status
QNBK	QNB Group	12-Apr-20	4	Due
QIBK	Qatar Islamic Bank	15-Apr-20	7	Due
KCBK	Al Khalij Commercial Bank	15-Apr-20	7	Due
QFLS	Qatar Fuel Company	15-Apr-20	7	Due
IHGS	Islamic Holding Group	19-Apr-20	11	Due
QIGD	Qatari Investors Group	19-Apr-20	11	Due
QEWS	Qatar Electricity & Water Company	19-Apr-20	11	Due
QGTS	Qatar Gas Transport Company Limited (Nakilat)	20-Apr-20	12	Due
ERES	Ezdan Holding Group	20-Apr-20	12	Due
ABQK	Ahli Bank	20-Apr-20	12	Due
CBQK	The Commercial Bank	21-Apr-20	13	Due
QIMD	Qatar Industrial Manufacturing Company	22-Apr-20	14	Due
MCCS	Mannai Corporation	22-Apr-20	14	Due
VFQS	Vodafone Qatar	22-Apr-20	14	Due
QIIK	Qatar International Islamic Bank	22-Apr-20	14	Due
DOHI	Doha Insurance Group	22-Apr-20	14	Due
MCGS	Medicare Group	22-Apr-20	14	Due
UDCD	United Development Company	22-Apr-20	14	Due
DHBK	Doha Bank	22-Apr-20	14	Due
NLCS	Alijarah Holding	23-Apr-20	15	Due
MARK	Masraf Al Rayan	23-Apr-20	15	Due
QCFS	Qatar Cinema & Film Distribution Company	26-Apr-20	18	Due
GWCS	Gulf Warehousing Company	28-Apr-20	20	Due
ORDS	Ooredoo	29-Apr-20	21	Due

Source: QSE

News

Qatar

- **IHGS to disclose its 1Q2020 financial statements on April 19 –** Islamic Holding Group (IHGS) announced its intent to disclose its 1Q2020 financial statements results on April 19, 2020. (QSE)
- **QEWS prepones the date to disclose its 1Q2020 financial statements to April 19 –** Qatar Electricity and Water Company (QEWS) announced that the date of disclosure of its 1Q2020 financial statements will be changed to April 19, 2020 instead of April 21, 2020, due to the circumstances related to the current health conditions. (QSE)
- **QGTS to hold its Investors Relation conference call on April 21 –** Qatar Gas Transport Company (QGTS) will hold a conference on Investor Relations by telephone to discuss the financial results of 1Q2020, on April 21, 2020 at 13:30pm Doha time. (QSE)
- **MCCS to disclose its 1Q2020 financial statements on April 22 –** Mannai Corporation (MCCS) announced its intent to disclose its 1Q2020 financial statements results on April 22, 2020. (QSE)
- **QIMD to disclose its 1Q2020 financial statements on April 22 –** Qatar Industrial Manufacturing Company (QIMD) announced its intent to disclose its 1Q2020 financial statements results on April 22, 2020. (QSE)
- **QCFS to disclose its 1Q2020 financial statements on April 26 –** Qatar Cinema & Film Distribution Company (QCFS) announced its intent to disclose its 1Q2020 financial statements results on April 26, 2020. (QSE)
- **GWCS to disclose its 1Q2020 financial statements on April 28 –** Gulf Warehousing Company (GWCS) announced its intent to disclose its 1Q2020 financial statements results on April 28, 2020. (QSE)
- **GISS to hold 2019 AGM electronically on April 12 –** Gulf International Services (GISS) has announced a new date to hold its Ordinary General Assembly meeting (AGM) electronically through a conference call on April 12, 2020. In light of the precautionary and preventive measures taken by the Crisis Management Committee, including prohibition of conducting any activities and gatherings so as to avoid the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), and the specific approval received from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, it has been decided to hold the AGM of GISS via conference call, the company stated. The quorum of the meeting will be met with the physical attendance of the parent shareholder (i.e. Qatar Petroleum (QP)) to conduct the proceedings of the meeting and the other shareholders can attend the meeting by joining the conference call remotely, the statement noted. (Qatar Tribune)
- **Qatar issues $10bn bonds in international debt markets –** Qatar has issued $10bn in bonds in tranches of 5, 10, and 30 years yesterday, thus becoming the first sovereign from the GCC region to successfully return to the international debt markets. The State of Qatar (Aa3/AA-/AA-) has thus reopened the capital markets for the region, post the recent global disruptions. Qatar priced $10bn triple tranche offering (144A/Regulation S bonds), split across $2bn in the 5-year, $3bn in the 10-year and $5bn in the 30-year tenor sector. The transaction generated an aggregate order book peaking at approximately $45bn, attracting strong interest globally, with many investors from Asia, Europe, the US as well as the Middle East and North African region. The new 2025, 2030 and 2050 bonds launched at a final spread of 300 basis points (bps) and 305 bps, respectively, over the underlying five, and 10-year US Treasury notes, and a final yield of 4.40% on the new 30-year maturity. In 2018, Qatar became the first sovereign in the world to issue Formosa bonds listed on the Taipei stock exchange and the new 2050 bonds are expected to be dual listed on both the Luxembourg and Taipei stock exchanges. According to Reuters, Qatar hired Barclays, Credit Agricole, Deutsche Bank, JPMorgan, QNB Capital, Standard Chartered, and UBS to arrange the debt sale. (Gulf-Times.com)
- **Qatar Petroleum to postpone start of production from new gas facilities until 2025 –** HE Minister of State for Energy Affairs Saad bin Sherida Al Kaabi, the President and CEO of Qatar Petroleum (QP), said that QP will postpone the start of production from its new gas facilities until 2025 following a delay in the bidding process. In an interview with Reuters, HE Al Kaabi underlined that Qatar Petroleum is pressing ahead with foreign as well as domestic expansion despite the global market turmoil caused by the coronavirus pandemic. He stated that QP is not scaling back a plan to build six new LNG production facilities, though commercial bids from contractors and the start of output will be delayed. He said that the company had been expecting to receive final bids from contractors for the first phase - the North Field East project, which will involve the construction of four trains - this month. However, that was delayed as firms asked for more time to submit bids due to the global lockdown linked to coronavirus. That will delay the award of the final main contracts, which cover major onshore engineering, procurement and construction, to the fourth quarter of this year, HE Al Kaabi noted, saying, "We are going to be starting first LNG (production) in 2025, so the delay is for three to six months." HE Al Kaabi said that selecting partners goes hand in hand with finalizing the contractor bids, and will also happen before the end of the year, adding that QP has shortlisted six international oil firms for up to a 30% stake in the project's first phase. He noted that there would be no delay in the second phase, which is known as the North Field South project and will boost Qatars LNG production capacity to 126 mtpa by 2027 through the construction of two more trains, or reduction in its scope. "We have zero projects that are being cancelled for the development of the North Field"' HE stressed. With global commodities prices coming down, HE Al Kaabi added that he expects commercial bids to come in at a lower rate. Meanwhile, HE Al Kaabi stressed, "We are moving full steam ahead with the North Field expansion. There is absolutely no hesitation on that. I think the world still needs this gas with the cancellation of a lot of projects and companies reducing capital expenditure left and right due to the situation." Al Kaabi said in the video interview that QP is still going to expand externally, and has always focused on upstream assets and is still interested in going ahead

abroad. In this context, he underlined that the Golden Pass project was on schedule. “The Golden Pass is proceeding that’s our major expansion outside Qatar regarding our LNG portfolio. We don’t have a project that is on the table that we are taking off the table. We are always looking for opportunities,” he added. Qatar Petroleum is majority owner of the Golden Pass LNG terminal in Texas with 70%, with Exxon holding a 30% stake. QP and Exxon made a final investment decision to build the project in February and expect the project to begin production in 2024. HE Al Kaabi said the company was looking at opportunities to reduce its operating costs and capital expenditure, but that would not impact the major projects it is working on. “QP is in a very good position financially. We have reduced our debt tremendously over the past years. We can weather the storm very easily,” he said. (Gulf-Times.com)

- **QIBK accepts applications for National Response Guarantees Program to support private sector –** Qatar Islamic Bank (QIBK) has announced the implementation of its COVID-19 National Response Guarantees Program, which follows the Amiri Decree that supports the economic and financial sectors in Qatar. The Government of Qatar has allocated guarantees to local banks, amounting to QR3bn to help mitigate COVID-19 impact on the country’s private sector. The program will relieve some of the most critical short-term payments that local businesses will struggle with, in the next three months, such as staff salaries and rentals. The program, administrated by Qatar Development Bank, is a 100% guaranteed scheme brought to the private sector by the Government of Qatar to finance staff payroll as per the Wage Protection System registry (WPS) for a period of up to three months, April to June 2020, paid on a monthly pro-rata basis. In addition, the guarantee will cover rental amounts for factories, business outlets, warehouses and labor accommodations for the same period paid on a monthly pro-rata basis. QIBK Group’s CEO, Bassel Gamal said, “At QIBK, we have been proactive and fully supportive of the measures implemented by the Government, the Qatar Central Bank and Qatar Development Bank to help local businesses impacted by the Covid-19 crisis. Maintaining business continuity and keeping the local economy afloat is a commitment that both the Government and Qatar Islamic Bank have undertaken.” “The preventative measures put in place to protect public health and stop the spread of the virus are having a significant impact on businesses, making it difficult for companies to meet critical short-term payments. With the National Response Guarantees Program in place, private companies will be able to relieve some of the pressing payments that they will face in the next three months, namely staff payrolls and rents.” (Gulf-Times.com)
- **QFBQ holds its AGM to discuss performance, future initiatives –** Qatar First Bank (QFBQ) held its annual general meeting (AGM) to discuss the bank’s performance and future initiatives after releasing its financials for the year that ended on December 31, 2019. The AGM was held at the QFBQ Lounge premises in Doha, adhering to all the precautionary measures to ensure the safety of participants. The meeting, presided over by Chairman Sheikh Faisal bin Thani Al-Thani, discussed and approved the bank’s audited financial results and the performance of the 2019 full year of operation. Sheikh Faisal said, “2019 arguably was the most enunciated year for QFBQ. Key decisions were taken throughout the year where we witnessed a turnaround performance with three profitable quarters. This is a direct manifest that QFBQ’s new strategy map has started generating affirmative results.” (Gulf-Times.com)
- **QCB’s foreign reserves rise to QR201.3bn by the end of March –** Qatar Central Bank’s (QCB) data, released yesterday, indicated a significant increase in international reserves and foreign currency liquidity at the Central Bank. The data showed QCB’s international reserves rose to the level of QR201.3bn by the end of March 2020, Al Byraq Center for Economic and Financial Studies noted in its weekly analysis. The QCB’s official reserves rose by QR90mn ($24.7mn) to about QR147.14bnn ($40.40bn) in March 2020, compared to the previous month. Total international reserves, with liquidity in foreign currency at the bank at the end of March from the previous month, increased by about QR90mn (about $24.7mn) to reach about QR201.3bn ($55.2bn), thus increasing by about QR63.6bn, or 46.2% of what it was at the end of March 2018, and increased by 9.7% compared to the end of March 2019. Further details also showed that the official reserves, which increased during the month of March 2020 to the level of QR147.14bn, was as a result of the rise in bonds and treasury bills at the Qatar Central Bank by about QR6.2bn, to reach QR88.1bn, and the rise in gold stocks by about QR0.2bn to QR8bn, and a decrease in balances with foreign banks by about QR6.2bn to QR49.2bn, in addition to the stability of SDR deposits with the share of the State of Qatar in the cash fund, at the level of QR1.88bn. When compared on annual basis with March 2019, the international reserves and liquidity of the bank witnessed an increase of about QR17.8bn, or 9.7% to QR201.3bn at the end of March 2020. (Peninsula Qatar)
- **Virus interrupts upward momentum of Qatari non-energy private sector –** Qatar’s non-energy private sector business faced disruption in March as restrictions on travel and business activities were abruptly put in place in view of the global coronavirus outbreak, according to the Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) survey of the Qatar Financial Center (QFC). The headline PMI, which tracks real-time business metrics, declined for only the third time in eight months to its lowest level since August 2019. “The accelerating global coronavirus outbreak interrupted the recent upward momentum of the Qatari non-energy private sector economy in March, according to the latest PMI data,” QFC Authority’s Managing Director (Business Development), Sheikha Alanoud bint Hamad Al Thani said. The Qatar PMI indices are compiled from survey responses from a panel of about 400 private sector companies. The panel covers the manufacturing, construction, wholesale, retail and services sectors, and reflects the structure of the non-energy economy according to official national accounts data. As elsewhere in the world, the PMI indicators for output, new orders and purchasing all dropped sharply from their February levels and the 12-month outlook for total activity moderated further, reflecting great uncertainty surrounding the global economic impact of the pandemic. More positively, employment in the Qatari non-energy private sector economy rose for the second month running, with the manufacturing and wholesale and retail sectors boosting job creation. Driven by the onset of the novel coronavirus, the PMI fell to 46.6 in March from 49.3 in February, the lowest reading since August 2019 and below the three-year long-run trend level of 49.8. Data for January and February were signaling the strongest quarterly performance since the 1Q2019,

but the weak March figure resulting from the virus-related disruption brought the 1Q2019 PMI average down to 48.2, little-changed from 48.3 in 4Q2019 but still higher than 3Q2019 (46.9). At the sub-sector level, manufacturing posted the strongest overall performance in March, and services the weakest. This is in line with reports that key sections of the economy, including industrial facilities in Ras Laffan, have been able to continue production as usual. Services, however, have been directly affected by government-mandated shutdowns that are in the interest of maintaining public health. Whereas PMI readings fell due to slower current and future orders, several underlying improvements couched the fall in the headline figure. While the aggregate picture suggests slowing activity, there were also several promising signs for Qatar's private sector. (Gulf-Times.com)

- International
- **ILO: Layoffs, closures to wipe out 6.7% of working hours worldwide in second quarter –** Workplace disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic are expected to wipe out labor equivalent to the effort of 195 million full-time workers, or 6.7% of hours clocked worldwide, in the second quarter of this year, the International Labour Organization (ILO) said on Tuesday. More than four out of five workers globally are affected by full or partial closures, it said in a report. The UN agency welcomed fiscal and monetary measures applied so far but urged countries to take steps to keep people connected to jobs they are no longer able to do, so fewer will end up unemployed. "What we do now in terms of maintaining that relationship between workers and their enterprises to keep them on the labor market, that will pay dividends when it comes to the trajectory and the gradient of recovery hopefully in the latter part of this year," ILO director-general Guy Ryder told a news conference. Workers in the informal sector - who account for 61% of the global workforce or 2bn people - will need income support just to survive and feed their families, if their day jobs disappear, he said. "These are people who generally do not have access to the normal social protections that might go with a formal employment status," Ryder said. Ryder said India's lockdown has put millions of migrant workers in a quandary. He listed initiatives such as partial unemployment, technical unemployment and short working time measures that keep workers tied to their jobs. The Asia-Pacific region accounts for labor equivalent to 125mn workers lost in the second quarter, although Chinese companies have resumed after a long lockdown, the report said. The ILO did not project precisely how many workers would be made jobless by the crisis, though it said it would be "significantly higher" than the 25mn it forecast just last month. At the start of this year, 190mn workers were unemployed around the world. (Reuters)
- **Mnuchin: Trump administration seeks $250bn more in aid for small US businesses –** The Trump administration on Tuesday asked Congress for an additional $250bn in emergency economic aid for small U.S. businesses reeling from the coronavirus pandemic, as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell pushed for passage as soon as Thursday. In a posting on Twitter, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said he had consulted with congressional leaders on the need for the second round of funding. If approved by Congress, the aid would add to the $349bn in forgivable loans to small businesses enacted on March 27 as part of a $2.3tn economic stimulus in response to the virus outbreak. Shortly before Mnuchin's announcement, McConnell, a Republican, said in a statement: "It is quickly becoming clear that Congress will need to provide more funding or this crucial program may run dry." He added that he would work with Mnuchin and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer on the initiative with the goal of winning Senate approval on Thursday. It was not immediately clear whether the top two Democrats in Congress, Schumer and House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, would embrace this timetable as they have been pushing for a broader set of measures that would comprise a fourth coronavirus-response bill since early March. Quick Senate action would highlight the alarm over the crisis for small enterprises that have been shuttered because of the coronavirus outbreak. (Reuters)
- **US job openings fall; coronavirus shutdowns seen causing further declines –** US job openings fell in February, suggesting the labor market was losing momentum even before stringent measures to control the novel coronavirus outbreak shuttered businesses, throwing millions out of work. That was underscored by another report on Tuesday showing a sharp decline in the share of small businesses planning to increase employment in March. The reports came in the wake of data last week showing the economy shed 701,000 jobs in March. The unemployment rate shot up 0.9 percentage point, the most since January 1975, to 4.4% in March. With 10mn people filing for unemployment benefits in the last two weeks of March and millions more expected to have submitted claims last week, economists are expecting payrolls to sink by at least a record 20mn in April and the jobless rate to top 10%. Job openings, a measure of labor demand, decreased 130,000 to 6.9mn, the Labor Department said in its monthly Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey, or JOLTS. Vacancies peaked at 7.5mn in January 2019. The job openings rate slipped to 4.3% in February from 4.4% in January. The decline in job openings was led by real estate and rental and leasing, and information industries. But there were 927,000 vacancies in the leisure and hospitality industry, with 783,000 of them at hotels, bars and restaurants. Retailers had 727,000 job openings in February. None of these vacancies likely exist now, with entire industries virtually closed. Hiring was little changed at 5.9mn in February, keeping the hiring rate at 3.9% for a third straight month. JOLTS data in the coming months will be closely watched for clues on the impact of the coronavirus shutdowns on hiring. (Reuters)
- **Kudlow: US economy will eventually reopen but with big changes –** The Trump administration is aiming to reopen the US economy when the nation's top health experts give the go-ahead, but Americans' lives will be drastically different, White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said on Tuesday. Even when people in the US return to work and school, they will likely have to stay home when they have signs of sickness, face more widespread and ongoing testing and submit to routine temperature taking, he told Politico in an interview. "We are aware that things are going to be different," he said. "That's going to be a new feature of American life. And I don't know how quickly that gets up and going, but it's going to be very, very important because we obviously want to prevent any recurrences." It remains unclear when the country, which

remains largely shuttered amid the ongoing outbreak that has crushed the economy, will resume more normal operations as a number of states approach their potential peak number of cases amid federal guidelines to isolate until the end of April. Health officials have called on Americans to brace for a tough week as the death toll rises, but on Tuesday said there were optimistic signs ahead that mitigation efforts were helping to contain the highly contagious and potentially lethal virus. (Reuters)

- **US oil state senators to talk crude markets with Saudi officials Saturday –** Republican US senators who have introduced a bill that would remove US defense systems and troops in Saudi Arabia unless it cuts oil output will hold a call with the kingdom's officials on Saturday, a source familiar with the planning said on Tuesday. Senators Kevin Cramer and Dan Sullivan will hold a call with the officials two days after a scheduled OPEC+ meeting in which Saudi Arabia and Russia are expected to agree an output cut. The two countries have been pumping oil flat out beginning last month in a race for market share. The senators' bill would remove U.S. troops, Patriot missiles and THAAD defense systems from the kingdom and put them elsewhere in the Middle East unless it cuts oil output. The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks, said stabilization of global oil markets would be discussed but had no more details. Senators Kevin Cramer and Dan Sullivan will hold a call with the officials two days after a scheduled OPEC+ meeting in which Saudi Arabia and Russia are expected to agree an output cut. The two countries have been pumping oil flat out beginning last month in a race for market share. The senators' bill would remove US troops, Patriot missiles and THAAD defense systems from the kingdom and put them elsewhere in the Middle East unless it cuts oil output. The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks, said stabilization of global oil markets would be discussed but had no more details. (Reuters)
- **US job openings fall in February, hiring steady –** US job openings fell in February, suggesting the labor market was losing momentum even before stringent measures to control the coronavirus outbreak shuttered businesses, throwing millions out of work. Job openings, a measure of labor demand, decreased 130,000 to 6.9mn, the Labor Department said on Tuesday in its monthly Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey, or JOLTS. Vacancies peaked at 7.5mn in January 2019. The job openings rate slipped to 4.3% in February from 4.4% in January. Hiring was little changed at 5.9mn in February. The hiring rate held at 3.9% in February. The report came in the wake of data last week showing the economy shed 701,000 jobs in March. The unemployment rate shot up 0.9 percentage point, the most since January 1975, to 4.4% in March. With 10mn people filing for unemployment benefits in the last two weeks of March and millions more expected to have submitted claims last week, economists are expecting payrolls to sink by at least a record 20mn in April and the jobless rate to top 10%. (Reuters)
- **EU ministers hope to agree to half a trillion Euro coronavirus rescue –** Eurozone finance ministers hope to agree on Tuesday on half a trillion euros worth of economic aid to finance recovery from the coronavirus, a discussion that has sown divisions as the bloc struggles with the outbreak. If they do agree, the joint EU and national government responses could add up to the biggest fiscal support program in the world, surpassing that of the US, Reuters calculations showed. However, there is no deal is in sight on issuing joint debt, something hardest-hit Spain and Italy have demanded but were denied by the more fiscally conservative Germany and the Netherlands. The ministers will agree on three economic safety nets - for workers, for businesses and for governments, the chairman of the ministers Mario Centeno said in a video statement. (Reuters)
- **German industry output up 0.3% in February - before corona impact –** German industry output rose by 0.3% in February, surpassing economists' expectations, but the figures reflect the period shortly before the coronavirus pandemic started to majorly affect Europe's largest economy. Figures released by the Statistics Office showed a 1.8% increase in the production of German consumer goods but a 0.3% decline in capital goods. A Reuters poll had put expectations for the overall figure at a 0.9% drop. The January output reading was revised to an increase of 3.2% from a previously reported 3.0% rise.With factories and other businesses mostly shut for weeks due to the coronavirus, most economists expect the German economy to shrink this year. The BDI industry association said on Monday it saw the economy contracting by 3-6% this year if economic activity was disrupted for a maximum of six weeks. (Reuters)
- **Germany's Ifo: Industrial output expectations post biggest fall since 1991 –** German industrial output will likely tumble in the coming three months, the Ifo institute said on Tuesday as its index for production expectations saw its biggest drop since the survey was first conducted in 1991. Ifo said that the index dropped to -20.8 points in March from 2.0 and Ifo economist Klaus Wohlrabe said: "We are assuming that this development is still somewhat underestimated, as most of the answers were received by mid-March." (Reuters)
- **ECB makes it easier for banks to tap credit amid coronavirus crisis –** The European Central Bank (ECB) will make it easier for banks to borrow cash at rock bottom rates during the coronavirus crisis, it said on Tuesday, as it eased collateral requirements even at the cost of taking on greater risk. With much of Europe in lockdown to fight the pandemic, the 19 country Eurozone is heading for a deep recession, raising fears that banks stop lending and push otherwise viable firms into insolvency. In a series of measures unveiled after an unscheduled Governing Council meeting, the ECB said it would ease collateral requirements, making it easier for banks to use its funding operations, which banks tapped for hundreds of billions of euros in March. "The measures collectively support the provision of bank lending especially by easing the conditions at which credit claims are accepted as collateral," the ECB said in a statement. "The (ECB) is increasing its risk tolerance to support the provision of credit via its refinancing operations, particularly by lowering collateral valuation haircuts for all assets consistently," it added. The measure will stay in place during the current pandemic and will be reviewed before the end of the year, the ECB said. (Reuters)
- **Japan's machinery orders rise unexpectedly but darker days seen ahead –** Japan's machinery orders unexpectedly rose in February, suggesting business investment remained resilient even as companies braced for a major jolt to demand from the coronavirus pandemic. Core machinery orders, a highly volatile

data series regarded as an indicator of capital spending in the coming six to nine months, rose 2.3% in February from the previous month, data showed on Wednesday. The rise followed a 2.9% gain in January and was better than a 2.7% decline predicted by economists in a Reuters poll. However, many analysts expect the gain to be fleeting as the global economy slips into recession due to the worsening coronavirus pandemic, which has already triggered financial market turmoil and ravaged business confidence. The world's third-largest economy is expected to already have fallen into a recession - two straight quarters of contraction - in the March quarter following a decline in the final quarter of last year. Analysts expect the hit to consumption from the coronavirus to worsen in coming months after Prime Minister Shinzo Abe declared a state of emergency on Tuesday that is seen paralyzing activity in major cities. (Reuters)

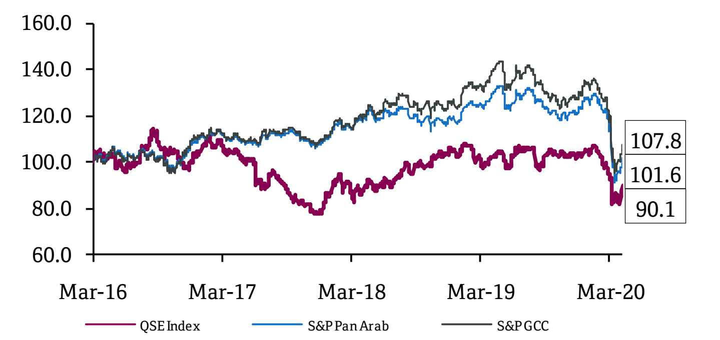
- **BoJ to scale back some operations amid coronavirus pandemic –** The Bank of Japan (BoJ) said on Wednesday it would scale back some operations following the government's decision to declare a state of emergency amid the coronavirus pandemic. The central bank will continue operations crucial to social infrastructure such as issuing bank notes, making monetary policy decisions and ensuring smooth settlement of funds. However, it will scale back non-urgent operations such as long-term research and studies for academic papers. It will continue to release key economic indicators as usual, the BoJ said. "The BoJ will scale back some of its operations in line with the government's request to avoid outings," it said in a statement. "But we will continue operations deemed necessary as a central bank, under close coordination with the central and local governments, as well as with financial institutions." Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Tuesday declared a state of emergency to fight coronavirus infections in major population centers including Tokyo, giving authorities more power to press people to stay at home and businesses to close. The BoJ holds a quarterly meeting of its regional branch managers on Thursday via tele-conference. Its next monetary policy meeting will be held on April 27-28. (Reuters)
- **Japan to compile extra budget to fund coronavirus stimulus –** Japan will compile a supplementary budget worth 16.8057tn Yen ($154.45bn) to help fund stimulus spending to combat its coronavirus outbreak, according to a draft of the spending plan obtained by Reuters. The government will issue the same amount of additional government bonds to fund the extra budget, with a construction bond issuance at 2.3290tn Yen and deficit-covering bonds at 14.4767tn Yen, the draft showed. It is rare for the government to compile an extra budget at the beginning of the new fiscal year in April, highlighting the urgency of the outbreak. The budget is due to be approved by the cabinet later on Tuesday. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has pledged to roll out a 108tn Yen ($990bn) stimulus package, equal to 20% the size of the economy, vowing to take "all steps" to battle the deepening fallout from the coronavirus pandemic. (Reuters)
- **Chinese refiners try out cheap, exotic oil from Europe –** Bargain-hunting Chinese buyers have snapped up very cheap and sometimes obscure crude oil grades, mostly from Europe, where the impact of lockdowns to halt the new coronavirus has devastated demand. Chinese purchases of Brent-linked grades jumped in April, including North Sea, Russian and Caspian oil, eight traders said. "If there is a buyer in Europe now, it is China," a Mediterranean oil trader said on condition of anonymity. However, the buying of physical cargoes has eased as expectations of a deal to tackle a global oversupply at talks between OPEC and its allies later this week changed the structure of the oil futures curve. The Brent discount to Dubai narrowed to $1.35 per barrel from nearly $5 per barrel a week ago, making arbitrage shipments to Asia less attractive. North Sea grades purchased included Balder, Flotta and Chestnut crude, while Guyana's Liza crude was sold into China for the first time, the trade sources told Reuters. Balder and Chestnut are not commonly seen in the spot market. (Reuters)

Regional

- **AM Best: GCC insurers may see slowdown in investment portfolios –** The domestic insurers in the GCC may see considerable slowdown in their investment portfolios, hence no longer be able to achieve top-line premium growth at levels experienced over the past 10 years, according to AM Best, a global insurance rating agency. The projection comes in the wake of lower oil prices and the prospect of a Covid-19-driven global recession as investment is expected to slow considerably, AM Best stated in its latest report. Just as the effect of the sudden drop in oil prices and the Covid-19 outbreak on oil-rich emerging economies is likely to vary, the impact on the domestic insurance companies operating in these markets is also likely to vary depending on their asset quality and the lines of business written. AM Best believes those insurers with more robust risk management frameworks are likely to be more resilient. In general, risk carriers in oil-rich emerging economies have seen notable growth in gross premium revenues over the last few decades, stemming from an increase in insurable risks. The GCC insurance markets would feel the effect of lower oil prices and pandemic-driven reduction in economic activity on both underwriting and assets, it stated, adding lower oil prices would impact the fiscal spending plans of governments in the region, which is likely to translate into reductions in infrastructure spending. "A substantial proportion of underwriting in the GCC is linked to government-backed infrastructure projects that governments incept, notably property and engineering contracts," the rating agency said. Domestic insurers in the GCC often only have profiles and balance sheets that support them taking a small net share on large property and engineering risks. Nevertheless, they have benefited from strong inward commissions from regional and global reinsurers that bear the majority of these risks, it said, noting that profitability in the sector over the last five years has been buoyed by these commissions. (Gulf-Times.com)
- **Oxford Economics: Average GCC currency would have depreciated 14% since Jan on floating basis –** An average GCC currency would have depreciated 14%, "had they been floating" from the start of 2020, Oxford Economics stated citing its model of currency vulnerabilities. Oxford Economics derived at these estimates by benchmarking against year-to-end March currency performance of oil producers with freely floating exchange rates. Their currencies have depreciated by an average of 13% so far this year, despite their average FX vulnerabilities being lower than pegged oil currencies, it stated. (Gulf-Times.com)

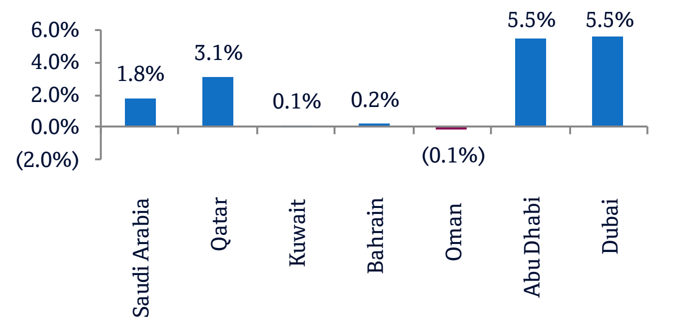
- **Size of OPEC+ oil cuts will depend on how much others cut –** Any final agreement for how much OPEC and its allies, a group know as OPEC+, will cut during their talks on Thursday would depend on the volumes that other producers such as the US, Canada and Brazil are willing to reduce, an OPEC source said. The source said that the baseline for the oil cuts has not yet been agreed on among the oil producers, after crude output of some members rose in April following the expiry of an OPEC+ pact on reducing output on March 31. (Reuters)
- **OPEC analysis shows 10mn bpd cut being considered –** The analysis prepared for OPEC members ahead of their April 9 meeting shows a 10mn bpd cut being considered, delegate said. OPEC research also considers no-cut option, the delegate added. Analysis shows global demand falling 11.9mn bpd in 2Q2020. (Bloomberg)
- **Saudi Binladin hires new CEO as it plans $15bn debt revamp –** Binladin International Holding Group appointed Khalid Al Gwaiz as CEO as Saudi Arabia's biggest construction company seeks to push ahead with its proposed $15bn debt restructuring. Al Gwaiz joined the company, formerly known as Saudi Binladin Group, in March, according to an internal announcement seen by Bloomberg. Binladin for decades has been Saudi Arabia's go-to developer for mega-projects such as airports and religious sites took a financial hit after one of its cranes at the Grand Mosque in Mecca collapsed in September 2015 and the government banned it from taking on any new projects. That ban was lifted in May 2016, and the government took a stake of about 36% in the company from the Binladin family in 2018 to settle allegations of corruption. The contractor's top management has been overhauled several times since then. Chairman Abdulaziz Al-Duailej joined in September, replacing Khalid Nahas who was in the role for about seven months. (Bloomberg)
- **Moody's: UAE's stimulus to help bank liquidity but may increase problem loans –** Ratings agency Moody's said on Tuesday that a $70bn UAE stimulus package will support bank liquidity and limit likely asset deterioration due to the coronavirus outbreak but will increase the potential for problem loans. The Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE) on Sunday boosted its stimulus to a total of $70bn from a previously announced $27bn to guarantee liquidity in the banking system. "Relaxing liquidity buffers will, over the next few months, support banks' liquidity and ease potential funding challenges, and if it results in increased lending to liquidity-constrained borrowers, will limit banks' asset quality deterioration," Moody's stated. "However, relaxing the liquidity buffer requirement and cash reserve requirement is likely to be unfavorable towards banks' unsecured creditors because it risks weakening the banks' resilience and reducing the likelihood of early regulatory intervention." The measures, which also introduce transitional arrangements for the accounting of unexpected credit losses, are equivalent to around 17% of the UAE's GDP and 16% of banks' domestic credit as of the end of February, Moody's stated. The transitional arrangements "will delay banks' creation of provisioning buffers to absorb potential future credit losses, a credit negative," Moody's stated, however, they would allow banks greater flexibility to lend to borrowers with temporary liquidity issues. The agency expected already deteriorating asset quality - due to slowing global trade, low oil prices, a strong currency and geopolitical tensions - to be exacerbated by the coronavirus outbreak. "Substantial ongoing restructuring of corporate debt will limit reported problem loans, but will increase potential problem-loan formation," the ratings agency stated, however, added that UAE banks benefited from strong solvency buffers. (Reuters)
- **Kuwait Finance Minister urges public finance reform with oil price low –** Kuwait's Finance Minister called for reforms in the Gulf oil producer's public finances, which have been hit by a plunge in crude prices, however, said its financial position was solid. The rating agency Fitch on Tuesday affirmed its 'AA' rating for Kuwait's sovereign debt, citing strong fiscal and external balance sheets. However, the government is finding resistance in parliament to a proposed debt law it needs in order to be able to borrow more and have additional tools at its disposal to finance the budget deficit. "Affirming Kuwait's sovereign rating reflects the country's credit strength and the solidity of its financial position, which is fully supported by the size of assets in the Reserve Fund for Future Generations," Finance Minister, Barak Ali Al-Shitan was quoted as saying. "But as other rating agencies are reviewing Kuwait's rating, including Moody's, there is a need to complete reforms of the public finances and boost the liquidity of the General Reserve Fund, especially with the sharp drop in oil prices." (Reuters)
- **Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait exposure to NMC Healthcare at $26.3mn –** Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) has exposure of $26.3mn to NMC Healthcare. ABK stated that currently, it is difficult to determine the financial impact of the exposure on the bank's financial statement. (Reuters, Zawya)

Rebased Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Daily Index Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Asset/Currency Performance	Close ($)	1D%	WTD%	YTD%
Gold/Ounce	1,647.72	(0.8)	1.7	8.6
Silver/Ounce	15.02	0.1	4.4	(15.9)
Crude Oil (Brent)/Barrel (FM Future)	31.87	(3.6)	(6.6)	(51.7)
Crude Oil (WTI)/Barrel (FM Future)	23.63	(9.4)	(16.6)	(61.3)
Natural Gas (Henry Hub)/MMBtu	1.76	7.3	17.3	(15.8)
LPG Propane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	28.25	(0.4)	(5.0)	(31.5)
LPG Butane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	28.38	(1.3)	(10.6)	(56.7)
Euro	1.09	0.9	0.8	(2.9)
Yen	108.76	(0.4)	0.2	0.1
GBP	1.23	0.8	0.5	(7.0)
CHF	1.03	0.9	0.8	(0.2)
AUD	0.62	1.3	2.9	(12.1)
USD Index	99.90	(0.8)	(0.7)	3.6
RUB	75.53	(0.6)	(1.3)	21.8
BRL	0.19	1.1	2.4	(23.1)

Source: Bloomberg

Global Indices Performance	Close	1D%*	WTD%*	YTD%*
MSCI World Index	1,895.04	0.7	6.7	(19.6)
DJ Industrial	22,653.86	(0.1)	7.6	(20.6)
S&P 500	2,659.41	(0.2)	6.9	(17.7)
NASDAQ 100	7,887.26	(0.3)	7.0	(12.1)
STOXX 600	326.61	2.8	6.7	(23.8)
DAX	10,356.70	3.7	9.8	(24.0)
FTSE 100	5,704.45	2.5	6.3	(29.6)
CAC 40	4,438.27	3.0	7.9	(28.0)
Nikkei	18,950.18	2.2	6.0	(19.9)
MSCI EM	878.15	2.8	5.6	(21.2)
SHANGHAI SE Composite	2,820.76	2.7	2.7	(8.6)
HANG SENG	24,253.29	2.1	4.4	(13.6)
BSE SENSEX	30,067.21	9.9	9.9	(31.4)
Bovespa	76,358.10	3.5	11.6	(49.3)
RTS	1,099.76	1.5	4.8	(29.0)

Source: Bloomberg (*$ adjusted returns)

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