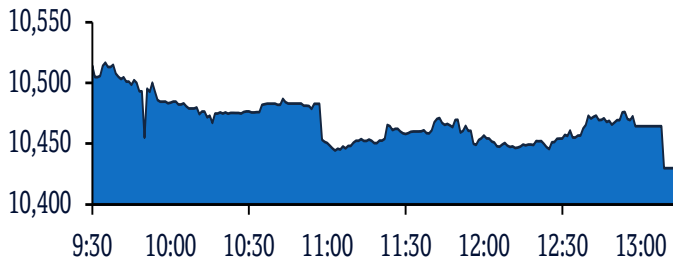


## QSE Intra-Day Movement



## Qatar Commentary

The QE Index declined 0.8% to close at 10,429.8. Losses were led by the Insurance and Banks & Financial Services indices, falling 1.4% and 1.2%, respectively. Top losers were Qatar General Insurance & Reinsurance Co. and Gulf Int. Services, falling 4.4% and 1.7%, respectively. Among the top gainers, Qatar Oman Investment Company gained 3.6%, while Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Company was up 1.4%.

## GCC Commentary

**Saudi Arabia:** The TASI Index gained marginally to close at 8,419.8. Gains were led by the Media & Entertainment and Consumer Services indices, rising 6.4% and 1.2%, respectively. Saudi Paper Man. rose 10.0%, while Sabb Takaful was up 9.9%.

**Dubai:** The DFM Index fell 0.2% to close at 2,777.4. The Insurance index declined 1.0%, while the Transportation index fell 0.5%. Mashreqbank declined 7.8%, while Arabtec Holding Co. was down 3.8%.

**Abu Dhabi:** The ADX General Index fell 0.6% to close at 5,083.4. The Banks index declined 0.9%, while the Real Estate index fell 0.4%. National Bank of Umm Al Qaiwain declined 9.5%, while Sudatel Telecom. Group Co. Ltd. was down 2.8%.

**Kuwait:** The Kuwait All Share Index fell marginally to close at 6,265.2. The Consumer Goods index declined 1.1%, while the Telecom. index fell 0.7%. Dar Al Thuraya Real Est. declined 15.2%, while Wethaq Takaful Ins. Co. was down 9.8%.

**Oman:** The MSM 30 Index gained marginally to close at 3,899.3. The Industrial index gained 0.2%, while the other indices ended flat or in red. Oman Refreshment rose 5.3%, while Renaissance Services was up 2.4%.

**Bahrain:** The BHB Index gained 0.1% to close at 1,600.2. The Commercial Banks index rose 0.2%, while the other indices ended flat or in red. Al-Salam Bank rose 1.0%, while Albaraka Banking Group was up 0.7%.

QSE Top Gainers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Qatar Oman Investment Company	0.67	3.6	4,424.9	25.1
Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Co.	2.11	1.4	723.3	145.6
Investment Holding Group	0.58	0.9	1,887.4	17.6
Qatari German Co for Med. Devices	0.59	0.9	1,472.3	3.9
Dlala Brokerage & Inv Hold Co.	0.61	0.5	745.0	(39.0)

QSE Top Volume Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Qatar First Bank	0.87	(0.7)	7,119.2	114.2
Qatar Oman Investment Company	0.67	3.6	4,424.9	25.1
United Development Company	1.49	0.0	4,165.2	1.0
Ezdan Holding Group	0.63	0.3	3,976.1	(51.2)
Baladna	1.00	0.0	3,441.5	0.0

Market Indicators	24 Dec 19	23 Dec 19	%Chg.
Value Traded (QR mn)	161.3	233.2	(30.8)
Exch. Market Cap. (QR mn)	582,051.4	587,525.4	(0.9)
Volume (mn)	56.8	61.3	(7.3)
Number of Transactions	4,349	7,835	(44.5)
Companies Traded	44	42	4.8
Market Breadth	7:28	25:13	-

Market Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	YTD%	TTMP/E
Total Return	19,191.75	(0.8)	0.9	5.8	15.1
All Share Index	3,098.16	(0.9)	1.1	0.6	15.6
Banks	4,201.33	(1.2)	1.4	9.7	14.6
Industrials	2,941.43	(0.6)	0.1	(8.5)	20.2
Transportation	2,608.51	0.2	1.0	26.7	14.0
Real Estate	1,568.61	0.0	2.6	(28.3)	11.8
Insurance	2,755.98	(1.4)	1.5	(8.4)	15.8
Telecoms	907.44	(0.6)	1.0	(8.1)	15.5
Consumer	8,612.08	(1.0)	(0.0)	27.5	19.1
Al Rayan Islamic Index	3,957.48	(0.6)	0.3	1.9	16.4

GCC Top Gainers**	Exchange	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Rabigh Refining & Petro.	Saudi Arabia	21.48	3.2	5,102.8	12.6
Mabane Co.	Kuwait	0.92	2.8	1,084.3	60.0
Arab National Bank	Saudi Arabia	28.75	2.5	691.3	35.2
National Shipping Co.	Saudi Arabia	38.85	2.2	1,233.3	16.3
Savola Group	Saudi Arabia	32.60	2.2	829.5	21.6

GCC Top Losers**	Exchange	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Ominvest	Oman	0.33	(2.9)	53.0	(4.8)
Samba Financial Group	Saudi Arabia	34.20	(2.1)	721.3	8.9
Oman Telecom. Co.	Oman	0.59	(1.7)	22.2	(25.1)
QNB Group	Qatar	20.55	(1.6)	745.4	5.4
Mesaieed Petro. Holding	Qatar	2.52	(1.6)	1,403.2	67.7

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 General Ins. & Reins. Co.	2.41	(4.4)	0.0	(46.3)
Gulf International Services	1.72	(1.7)	974.2	1.2
QNB Group	20.55	(1.6)	745.4	5.4
Mannai Corporation	3.07	(1.6)	219.3	(44.1)
Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding	2.52	(1.6)	1,403.2	67.7

QSE Top Value Trades	Close*	1D%	Val. '000	YTD%
Qatar International Islamic Bank	9.60	(0.3)	21,892.7	45.2
QNB Group	20.55	(1.6)	15,431.2	5.4
Qatar Islamic Bank	15.36	(1.2)	14,643.3	1.1
Masraf Al Rayan	3.98	(0.5)	10,640.2	(4.5)
The Commercial Bank	4.47	(0.7)	10,566.5	13.5

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*	10,429.82	(0.8)	0.9	2.8	1.3	44.02	159,889.5	15.1	1.5	4.1
Dubai	2,777.44	(0.2)	0.3	3.7	9.8	37.55	102,624.5	11.0	1.0	4.2
Abu Dhabi	5,083.39	(0.6)	(0.2)	1.0	3.4	22.75	142,135.5	15.7	1.4	4.9
Saudi Arabia	8,419.84	0.0	1.5	7.1	7.6	1,323.30	2,417,499.3	19.0	1.6	3.6
Kuwait	6,265.21	(0.0)	1.1	5.7	23.3	110.74	117,366.0	15.4	1.5	3.4
Oman	3,899.29	0.0	(0.4)	(4.1)	(9.8)	6.06	16,895.3	7.4	0.7	7.7
Bahrain	1,600.17	0.1	1.0	4.8	19.7	2.41	25,038.5	12.9	1.0	4.9

## Qatar Market Commentary

- The QE Index declined 0.8% to close at 10,429.8. The Insurance and Banks & Financial Services indices led the losses. The index fell on the back of selling pressure from non-Qatari shareholders despite buying support from Qatari and GCC shareholders.
- Qatar General Insurance & Reinsurance Company and Gulf International Services were the top losers, falling 4.4% and 1.7%, respectively. Among the top gainers, Qatar Oman Investment Company gained 3.6%, while Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Company was up 1.4%.
- Volume of shares traded on Tuesday fell by 7.3% to 56.8mn from 61.3mn on Monday. Further, as compared to the 30-day moving average of 78.7mn, volume for the day was 27.8% lower. Qatar First Bank and Qatar Oman Investment Company were the most active stocks, contributing 12.5% and 7.8% to the total volume, respectively.

Overall Activity	Buy %*	Sell %*	Net (QR)
Qatari Individuals	23.51%	32.66%	(14,751,549.46)
Qatari Institutions	29.42%	12.86%	26,727,849.21
<b>Qatari</b>	<b>52.93%</b>	<b>45.52%</b>	<b>11,976,299.75</b>
GCC Individuals	0.70%	0.40%	484,125.82
GCC Institutions	11.24%	6.51%	7,624,697.36
<b>GCC</b>	<b>11.94%</b>	<b>6.91%</b>	<b>8,108,823.19</b>
Non-Qatari Individuals	13.38%	11.79%	2,563,502.18
Non-Qatari Institutions	21.74%	35.78%	(22,648,625.12)
<b>Non-Qatari</b>	<b>35.12%</b>	<b>47.57%</b>	<b>(20,085,122.93)</b>

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

## Ratings

Company	Agency	Market	Type*	Old Rating	New Rating	Rating Change	Outlook	Outlook Change
GFH Financial Group	S&P	Bahrain	LT-FIC/ LT-LIC	–	B/B	–	Stable	–

Source: News reports, Bloomberg (\* LT – Long Term, ST – Short Term, FIC – Foreign Issuer Credit, LIC – Local Issuer Credit)

## News

### Qatar

- Doha Bank opens the door for candidacy to the board of directors** – Doha Bank's board of directors announced the opening of the candidacy for the membership of the board of directors. The tenure for the board of directors is for the next three years i.e. from 2020 to 2022 to occupy six seats for non-independents, and the number of three seats for independents, as of December 24, 2019 corresponding to January 5, 2020. (QSE)
- World Bank projects Qatari economy to grow by 3.2% in 2021** – GCC governments have made substantial progress in implementing structural reforms, the foundation stone for a policy environment conducive to diversified economies. Countries across the GCC have progressively reformed their domestic business and foreign investment environments, the World Bank noted in its new "Gulf economic update". The World Bank noted that Qatar's economy is projected to grow by a modest 0.5% in 2019 before accelerating to 1.5% in 2020 and 3.2% in 2021. The Barzan Gas Project will boost production by 2bn cubic feet per day to a total of 11bn cubic feet per day a modest but significant addition to Qatar's total gas production, which reached 176bn cubic feet per day in 2018. According to World Bank, Qatar is the only GCC country expected to post fiscal surpluses for all years of the forecasted (three years) period. Qatar's surplus is forecast to rise from 1.3% of GDP in 2019 to 2.8% in 2021. The country was also able to record a fiscal surplus in 2018, which was underpinned by expenditure restraint. Qatar implemented the excise tax on tobacco, energy drinks, and carbonated drinks in 2019. Combined with sustained expenditure control, these revenue measures should enable the

government to achieve the fiscal surpluses forecast for the period. The \$10.3bn project is designed to extract gas from Qatar's massive North Field via both onshore and offshore facilities. According to World Bank, the new production will go toward meeting the country's rising power requirements, including for desalination plants, Hamad International Airport and the Hamad Port. In addition to gas, the plant will produce about 6,000 barrels per day of plant condensate, 7,500 barrels per day of butane, 10,500 barrels per day of propane, 22,000 barrels a day of field condensate, and 34,000 barrels per day of ethane to be used as a feedstock for Qatar's growing petrochemical industry. The World Bank report also noted that the construction of facilities associated with Qatar's hosting of the FIFA World Cup in 2022 is winding down. The contracting process for \$200bn worth of infrastructure, which had been expanding at a rate of 18% per year since the end of 2012, shrank for the first time during the first quarter of 2019, contracting by 1.2% YoY. However, service activity is picking up in Qatar, as the event nears. (Peninsula Qatar)

- QFC report sees substantial growth opportunities for Takaful in Qatar** – Takaful, or Islamic insurance, which has less than 1% penetration, could make further inroads into Qatar, and there is also a need for stricter Re-Takaful controls, according to the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC). "The Takaful sector is yet to benefit from a more robust regulatory framework, particularly for family Takaful given its low penetration," a report prepared by the QFC in association with Refinitiv stated. Highlighting that Takaful has gained little traction in the country, the report indicated a substantial growth opportunities, if the government makes it more of a priority and there is greater public awareness. The report stated Takaful contributions in Qatar are mainly

sourced from property and liability coverage for corporate, with substantial opportunities in the personal lines (family Takaful), particularly medical Takaful. Like Malaysia, QFC stated, Qatar could enforce the legal separation of general and life Takaful businesses, allowing an appropriate grace period. Such a move would encourage local Takaful firms to focus greater attention on family Takaful lines, which would boost the segment's long-term growth. Qatari Takaful assets were estimated at \$1.09bn, or 7% of the overall insurance sector's total assets during the first half 1H2019. Takaful assets saw a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5% since 2015 against total insurance asset CAGR of 11%. (Gulf-Times.com)

- **EIU: Qatar will be able to maintain current account surplus in year 2020-21** – Qatar will be able to maintain its current account surplus in 2020-21, Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has stated and noted Qatar Investment Authority's (QIA, the sovereign wealth fund) assets provide strong support for the currency peg to the US dollar. Qatar's ample foreign reserves and the assets of the QIA, which were worth \$335bn in July, were taken into account by EIU to give the country 'BBB' sovereign rating. It stated Qatar's banking sector is supported by a strong regulatory framework and solid capital and liquidity indicators. Commercial banks have been increasing liquidity from abroad in the form of a number of debt issues, and cash injections from the QIA have further bolstered their liquidity, EIU noted and rated the country's banking sector risk at 'BB'. Terming Qatar's sound financial system as supportive, EIU stated the country's high stock of public debt, however, weighs on the outlook. EIU stated Qatar's real economic growth will remain stable throughout most of the long-term forecast period. However, economic diversification investment projects will sustain robust growth until 2030, before slowing thereafter. (Gulf-Times.com)
- **The Commercial Bank celebrates launch of second CB Leasing and Finance Fund** – The Commercial Bank invited their VIP customers to celebrate the launch of the second CB Leasing and Finance Fund Ltd., at Marsa Malaz Kempinski. CB Leasing and Finance Fund II Ltd seeks to achieve its investment objective of distributing income to investors monthly, by investing in equipment leasing and related transactions and asset backed and structured finance transactions. The fund will open the door for The Commercial Bank customers to benefit from services and products that are new to the market in Qatar. Amit Sah, EGM and Head of Retail Banking said, "Qatar continues to have a sizeable opportunity for wealth management and the fund will enable us to offer our customers choice, which is an essential part of a well-planned and managed portfolio. This Fund will provide Commercial Bank customers the opportunity to invest in a diversified portfolio, including leasing, as part of our wealth management strategy." The offering of this fund to The Commercial Bank customers will give them access to an appealing combination of various investment solutions and contribute to meeting their diverse financial needs. (Qatar Tribune)
- **Sharq Crossing construction set to start in third quarter of 2020** – Construction of the Sharq Crossing, one of the most important infrastructure projects in Qatar, is scheduled to start in the third quarter of 2020, according to the Public Works Authority (Ashghal). The Sharq Crossing, linking Ras Bu Abboud Street

and the West Bay area, is considered a strategic hub for the main roads in the country. It is to consist of bridges spanning a total length of 12 kilometers above sea level and connecting to each other through an underwater tunnel of 1 kilometer. The underwater tunnel, to be built under the navigation channel, will ensure smooth passage of ships over it. Once the project is complete, motorists from Ras Bu Abboud will be able to reach the West Bay in about seven minutes. Sharq Crossing will also serve many vital areas, including the 2022 FIFA World Cup stadiums, such as the Ras Bu Abboud stadium and Lusail stadium. Ashghal invited local contractors to the meeting on the launch of the Sharq Crossing project with the aim of forming alliances with international companies with regard to the implementation. (Gulf-Times.com)

- **Major sporting events prove a windfall for hospitality sector** – Qatar's hospitality industry got a further boost with the country's hosting of major sporting events this year, including the recently-held FIFA Club World Cup 2019, a number of hotel executives in Doha have said. This year, Qatar hosted three major international sporting events: The 2019 IAAF World Athletics Championships, held from September 27 to October 6; the ANOC World Beach Games, held from October 12 to 16; and the FIFA Club World Cup, held from December 11 to 21. (Gulf-Times.com)

#### International

- **Trump says he and Xi will sign China trade deal** – The US President, Donald Trump said he and Chinese President, Xi Jinping will have a signing ceremony to sign the first phase of the US-China trade deal agreed to this month. The US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said that representatives from both countries would sign the Phase 1 trade deal agreement in the first week of January. Beijing has not yet confirmed specific components of the deal that were released by US officials. A spokesman for China's Commerce Ministry said last week the details would be made public after the official signing. (Reuters)
- **China to take measures to support jobs amid economic slowdown** – China will step up support for employment to cope with rising pressure on job security due to internal and external challenges, the cabinet stated on Tuesday, as the world's second-largest economy slows. Simultaneous downturns in the services and manufacturing industries pose a major problem for authorities seeking to keep a lid on unemployment and prevent social unrest as economic growth decelerates to near three-decade lows. The government will attach equal importance to creating new jobs and safeguarding existing jobs, and make more effort to head off risks of unemployment, it stated. China will step up financial support for private and small firms, including implementing targeted reserve requirement cuts and encouraging banks to boost long-term loans to small firms in the manufacturing sector, the cabinet stated. The government will also expand investment appropriately and stabilize foreign trade to boost employment, it stated. (Reuters)
- **China signals stepping up its economic support** – Chinese Premier Li Keqiang signaled plans to free up more cash for the country's banking system in a bid to boost lending to small businesses as leaders look to kick-start the world's number two economy. Li flagged a fresh cut to the amount of cash lenders must keep in reserve, according to state news agency Xinhua, in

the latest move to ramp up stuttering growth. The comments from Li came as he visited a bank in Chengdu a day before Tuesday's trilateral summit with the leaders of South Korea and Japan in the southwestern city. Li said he was very concerned about the financing of small and micro businesses and the government will increase support for small and medium sized banks that directly serve these businesses, Xinhua reported. The government will further study measures such as reducing the reserve requirement ratio and ways to reduce financing costs and interest rates to significantly ease the financing difficulty and high cost. It has been a tough year for China's economy, which is expanding at its weakest rate for three decades as it is buffeted by a long-running trade war with the US as well as a slowdown in global demand for its goods. However, recent data has pointed to a mild improvement in some areas of the economy, while a mini trade deal with the US that will see the rolling back of some tariffs should ease some of the pressure on growth. (Peninsula Qatar)

- **India's November oil import growth fastest in seven months** – India's oil imports in November grew at their fastest pace in seven months, while diesel exports soared the most in about two years, indicating higher refinery runs amid falling local demand for gasoil due to a slowing economy. India's November oil imports rose 12.7% to 19.17mn tons (about 4.7mn barrels per day), the biggest YoY increase since April, preliminary data from the oil ministry's Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) showed. India's oil demand has been subdued for most of the year mainly due to a slowdown in economy and refinery unit shutting for maintenance and fuel upgrades. India's economy grew at its slowest pace in six years in the July-September quarter. India has lowered its fuel demand growth estimates for the current fiscal year to a six-year low of 1.3%. Local sales of diesel are expected to grow 0.9%, the lowest rate in five years. Refined fuel exports rose by 16.4% in November, the PPAC data showed, with diesel exports soaring by about 41% to register their biggest annual jump since January 2018. Import of refined products rose 45.4% in November from a year earlier to 3.29mn tons mainly because of an increase in cooking gas and fuel oil imports, the data showed. (Reuters)
- **IMF: India needs fiscal-consolidation path to cut debt** – India needs to consolidate its finances by curbing expenditure and boosting taxes to trim its debt, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) stated. "A credible medium-term fiscal consolidation path driven by subsidy-spending rationalization and tax-base enhancing measures is needed to reduce debt, free up financial resources for private investment, and reduce the interest bill," the Washington-based fund stated in a staff report following its latest regular review of the economy, known as an article IV consultation. The IMF, which estimates India's economy will expand 6.1% in the year through March, is set to reduce the prediction amid continuing weakness signaled by a decrease in rural consumption and lower business sentiment, Chief Economist Gita Gopinath said. The central bank recently cut its full-year GDP expansion forecast to 5% from 6.1%, after quarterly growth slowed to a six-year low. Last month, Moody's Investors Service reduced the nation's credit-assessment outlook to negative, citing issues ranging from a worsening shadow banking crunch and a prolonged slowdown in the economy to rising public debt. The ratings company is projecting

a budget deficit of 3.7% of GDP in the year through March, a breach of the government's 3.3% target. (Peninsula Qatar)

### Regional

- **ICAEW: Middle East economies expected to recover in 2020** – The Middle East economy is expected to recover at an estimated 2.1% in 2020. Overall improvement in the Middle East will be primarily driven by an uptick in the region's two largest economies, Iran and Saudi Arabia, following a dire 2019, according to ICAEW's latest Economic Update. However, the accountancy and finance body stated that the Middle East GDP growth declined modestly in 2019 by 0.5%, down from an estimated growth of 0.7% in 2018. In the GCC, oil remains the dominant driver of growth. Consequently, low-trending prices and ongoing output caps pose a challenge for GCC countries that are heavily reliant on hydrocarbon receipts to balance their budgets. 'Economic Update: Middle East Q4 2019', produced in partnership by ICAEW and Oxford Economics, stated the downward revision to Middle East GDP growth is a result of the Iranian economy contracting by about 9.3% in 2019, due to tough US sanctions which weighed heavily on aggregate headline growth. Besides, Saudi Arabia's economy is seeing minimal growth of around 0.1% cent, weighed down by the renewed oil production cuts by OPEC. According to the report, the ongoing weakness of the global economy will keep a lid on oil prices, maintaining a key headwind for GCC commodity-dependent economies. (Zawya)
- **KAMCO Research: GCC real estate deals rebound in last nine months** – Real estate sale transactions in the GCC (excluding Bahrain) rebounded in 9M2019, as total value transacted improved by 15% to \$68.8bn, compared with \$59.7bn in 9M2018, according to KAMCO Research, a division of Kuwait-based non-banking financial firm KAMCO. The number of transactions also rose by 25% over the same period to 429,410 transactions in 9M2019. However, KAMCO Research estimates suggest that the higher transactions came at the cost of lower achieved prices, as the average value per transaction in the GCC declined by 8% to around \$160,200 in 9M2019 from around \$174,000 per transaction in 9M2018. On the lending side, aggregate credit to the real estate sector disbursed by GCC banks at the end of 3Q2019 was down marginally by 0.7% QoQ to \$204.1bn. The report has found that supply-side dynamics are still key for prices and rents. The GCC residential real estate market will require a combination of lower upcoming supply and lower prices for transactions to sustain the growth rates witnessed over 9M2019 into the medium term. (Zawya)
- **Kuwait and Saudi Arabia sign agreements on dividing Neutral Zone containing joint oilfields** – Kuwait and Saudi Arabia on Tuesday signed an agreement and a memorandum of understanding on dividing the Neutral Zone between the two countries which contains jointly operated oilfields, Kuwait's state-run news agency (KUNA) stated. There were no additional details on the agreement, which resolves a more than five-year dispute between the two OPEC member countries and will lead to the resumption of oil output from their jointly-operated fields. Kuwait's Oil Minister hailed the agreement, and the consequent resumption of oil production from the Saudi-Kuwaiti Divided Zone. The two countries halted output from their jointly run Khafji and Wafra oilfields more than five years ago, cutting some

500,000 barrels per day or 0.5% of global oil supply. Oil output in the Neutral Zone, which dates back to 1920s treaties establishing regional borders, is divided equally between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. (Zawya)

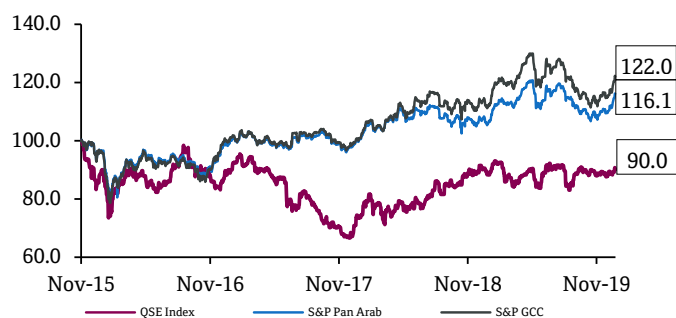
- **Chevron expects full oil output from Saudi-Kuwaiti field within 12 months** – The US oil major Chevron stated on Tuesday it expects Saudi-Kuwaiti Neutral Zone’s Wafra oilfield to return to full production within 12 months. “We welcome the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the governments of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Kuwait which will lead to a restart of production and operations in the Wafra Joint Operations,” Chevron stated. Saudi Arabian Chevron, on behalf of Saudi Arabia, jointly operates the Wafra field with the Kuwait Gulf Oil Company. The Wafra field has been shut in since May 2015. (Reuters)
- **KUNA: Shared fields oil output will not increase international oil supplies** – Any increase in the oil output from the neutral zones between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait will not impact Kuwait’s commitment with OPEC+ deal, state-run KUNA reported, citing Oil Minister, Khaled Al-Fadhel. (Bloomberg)
- **Saudi Ports Authority signs major contracts with DP World, Red Sea Gateway** – Mawani, the Saudi Ports Authority, has signed concession contracts with global port operator DP World and regional port operator the Red Sea Gateway Terminal (RSGT) to develop and operate container terminals and use Jeddah Islamic Port as a regional hub for transshipment. Mawani stated that the Build, Operate, and Transfer (BOT) contracts are valued at around SR9bn. Mawani’s Chairman, Saleh bin Nasser Al-Jasser said, “The agreements between Mawani and DP World and RSGT are part of the Ministry of Transport’s and Mawani’s strategic plan to transform Saudi Arabia into a vibrant trading hub in the region.” He said the contracts also fulfill Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s vision in utilizing the Kingdom’s geographical location as a midpoint connecting the three continents and a global trade hub through which nearly one-third of international trade travels. (Zawya)
- **Emaar Properties says may raise funds against Burj Khalifa viewing decks, not selling them** – Dubai’s Emaar Properties stated on Tuesday it was considering raising capital against cash flows generated by the observation decks on its Burj Khalifa skyscraper, but was not looking at selling them. Reuters reported on Monday, citing sources, that Emaar Properties was planning to sell the ‘At The Top’ observation decks on the world’s tallest building and had hired Standard Chartered to advise on the process. Emaar Properties would like to confirm that it is not selling the ‘At The Top’ business and is currently considering a structured transaction wherein financing is being raised against cash flows of ‘At The Top’, Emaar Properties stated on Tuesday. (Reuters)
- **Dubai sees high level of optimism and brighter outlook as CCI scores rise in 3Q2019** – As efforts by the government to accelerate economic activity have led to significant outcomes, consumers in Dubai remain confident over their personal finances and job prospects in the coming months, as indicated by the quarterly consumer confidence survey of Dubai Economy. The Consumer Confidence Index (CCI) score in Dubai for the July-August-September 2019 period was at 137, indicating a high level of optimism and a brighter outlook. The quarterly

consumer confidence survey is part of providing businesses and investors with a reference on the overall consumer sentiment by analyzing data on the dimensions of economic activity critical to competitive and sustainable business growth in Dubai and the UAE. The survey showed that 84% of Emiratis were optimistic about their jobs in the third quarter, while among expatriates, 13% saw the situation as excellent and 56% termed it good. Job prospects for the next 12 months were excellent for 52% Emiratis and 32% expats, and 43% of the expats termed the good. Though consumer perceptions on the overall economic situation showed a marginal decline, 77% of the respondents in the survey were positive about their current personal financial situation and the percentage will rise to 78% for the next 12 months. Over the next 12 months, 84% of Emiratis see their personal finances improving and 37% particularly look forward to excellent progress. Among expatriates, 30% look forward to excellent personal finances in the next year, while 47% see them as good. (Zawya)

- **Dubai’s hotels gear up for high occupancy on New Year’s Eve** – Despite the high supply of new rooms and a drop in occupancy rates during summer, Dubai’s hotel industry expects that the New Year celebrations across the city, which attract tourists worldwide, will give the industry a much-needed fillip. Hoteliers stated they are expecting occupancy levels to soar over the next several days. Dubai is ranked the fourth most-visited city in the world by Mastercard Global Destination Cities Index, attracting 15.93mn international overnight visitors in 2018, just behind Bangkok, Paris and London. Dubai welcomed at least 12.08mn international visitors during the first nine months of the year, an increase of 4.3% compared to the same period in 2018, according to the figures released by the Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing. (Zawya)
- **Dubai Crude for March to be priced at \$0.25 per barrel below Oman** – Dubai has set its official differential to Oman futures for March at a discount of \$0.25 per barrel, the Dubai Department of Petroleum Affairs stated on Tuesday. The differential will be applied to the average of daily settlements for the front month March Oman contract at the end of January to set Dubai’s official selling price (OSP) for March-loading crude. (Zawya)
- **Dana Gas says received one-off \$42mn dividend from Pearl in Iraqi-Kurdistan** – Dana Gas stated on Tuesday it has received a one-off \$42mn dividend payment from Iraqi Kurdistan-focused energy company Pearl Petroleum. “The payment follows the release of an additional \$120mn out of the \$400mn that was paid by the Kurdistan Regional Government to the consortium under a settlement agreement reached in August 2017 and that was held in a Pearl Petroleum bank account pending financing for the expansion of the Khor Mor field,” the company stated. (Zawya)
- **Dubai logistics firm Tristar signs \$24mn deal with BP** – The UAE-based Tristar, a subsidiary of Dubai-listed Agility Public Warehousing Company (Agility), has signed \$24mn contract with BP to provide LNG shipping service. “The above revenue will be reflected on the company’s financials as and when the job is performed,” Agility stated. The contract is for duration of four years, the firm stated. Earlier in October this year, Tristar’s CEO said that the firm’s growth strategy focuses on both organic and inorganic growth ahead of its planned IPO. (Zawya)

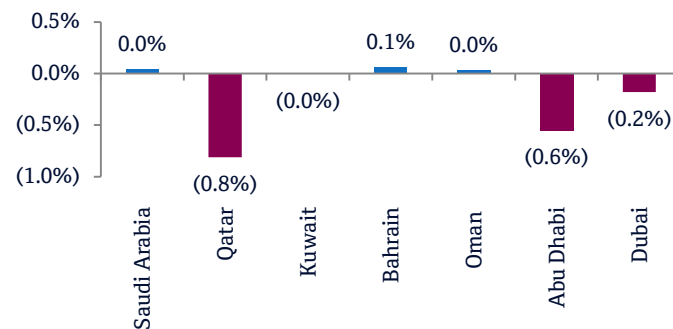
- **Emirates Airline's long-serving boss to hand over the controls next year** – Tim Clark will retire as the President of Emirates Airline at the end of June 2020 after more than three decades at the state-controlled business that has helped to transform Dubai into one of the world's major travel crossroads. Emirates Airline's Chairman, Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al-Maktoum said on Tuesday in an internal memo to staff that Clark would stay on as an adviser to the company. (Reuters)
- **ADNOC's Ruwais facility to undergo maintenance early 2020, no impact expected** – ADNOC's Ruwais facility to undergo maintenance early 2020, no impact expected – ADNOC's Ruwais facility will undergo routine maintenance in early 2020, the company stated. "We do not expect any impact upon the supply of our products globally," a spokesperson for ADNOC said. (Zawya)
- **Kuwait's KPC to introduce new pricing mechanism for its crude oil** – Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) stated on Tuesday it was modifying its Asia crude oil pricing marker. The change for the pricing mechanism of its Kuwait crude oil bound for the east of Suez will take effect from February 1, the company stated. KPC's marker was the average of Platts Dubai and Platts Oman assessments. The new marker will replace Platts Oman with Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME) Oman while maintaining the Platts Dubai component. (Reuters)
- **KFH gets approval to buy, sell or dispose up to 10% of its treasury shares** – The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) has issued their approval regarding Kuwait Finance House's (KFH) right to purchase or sale or dispose of 10% maximum of KFH's treasury shares for a period of six months, starting from December 22, 2019. (Bloomberg)
- **Bahrain sells BHD100mn 364-day bills at a yield of 2.61%** – Bahrain sold BHD100mn of bills due December 24, 2020. The bills were sold at a price of 97.429, have a yield of 2.61% and will settle on December 26. (Bloomberg)
- **Bahrain Airport signs major concession agreements with Duty Free** – Transportation & Telecommunications Minister and Bahrain Airport Company's (BAC) Chairman, Kamal Ahmed and Bahrain Duty Free Company's (BDFC) Chairman, Farouk Almoayyed have signed two key concession agreements. The first agreement is for the core duty free category, while the second is for the development and operation of airside specialty retail in the new passenger terminal building's duty-free area. With this, BDFC will be responsible for managing and operating retail points of sale at the duty-free area and its facilities at BIA. In addition to core categories, the new duty free area will house 30 leading brands entering Bahrain for the first time, and offering a wide variety of products. (Zawya)
- **Bahrain's VAT deadline extended** – The government has extended the deadline for Value Added Tax (VAT) registration till Thursday. The earlier deadline was last Friday. Business software provider Tally Solutions has stated that the extension will give companies that are yet to register some more time to comply with the law. The new VAT registration deadline will cover businesses whose annual supply value exceeds BHD37,500 in the previous 12 months or will exceed BHD37,500 in the next 12 months. (Zawya)

## Rebased Performance



Source: Bloomberg

## Daily Index Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Asset/Currency Performance	Close (\$)	1D%	WTD%	YTD%
Gold/Ounce	1,499.41	0.9	1.4	16.9
Silver/Ounce	17.80	2.0	3.5	14.8
Crude Oil (Brent)/Barrel (FM Future)	67.20	1.2	1.6	24.9
Crude Oil (WTI)/Barrel (FM Future)	61.11	1.0	1.1	34.6
Natural Gas (Henry Hub)/MMBtu	2.11	(2.8)	(7.0)	(33.8)
LPG Propane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	47.00	(3.1)	(4.6)	(26.6)
LPG Butane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	68.00	(0.7)	1.5	(2.2)
Euro <sup>#</sup>	1.11	0.0	0.1	(3.3)
Yen	109.39	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.3)
GBP	1.29	0.1	(0.4)	1.5
CHF	1.02	0.2	0.3	0.1
AUD <sup>#</sup>	0.69	0.0	0.3	(1.8)
USD Index	97.65	(0.0)	(0.0)	1.5
RUB	61.96	(0.5)	(0.5)	(11.1)
BRL	0.24	(0.0)	0.4	(5.0)

Source: Bloomberg (\*Market was closed on December 24, 2019)

Global Indices Performance	Close	1D%*	WTD%*	YTD%*
MSCI World Index	2,351.84	0.0	0.1	24.8
DJ Industrial	28,515.45	(0.1)	0.2	22.2
S&P 500	3,223.38	(0.0)	0.1	28.6
NASDAQ 100	8,952.88	0.1	0.3	34.9
STOXX 600	418.86	0.1	0.3	20.1
DAX <sup>#</sup>	13,300.98	0.0	0.1	22.1
FTSE 100	7,632.24	0.4	0.2	15.4
CAC 40	6,029.55	(0.0)	0.3	23.4
Nikkei	23,830.58	0.0	0.2	20.2
MSCI EM	1,109.07	(0.2)	0.1	14.8
SHANGHAI SE Composite	2,982.68	0.7	(0.7)	17.5
HANG SENG	27,864.21	(0.2)	0.1	8.4
BSE SENSEX	41,461.26	(0.5)	(0.8)	12.4
Bovespa <sup>#</sup>	115,863.30	0.0	1.1	25.6
RTS	1,540.46	0.4	1.1	44.1

Source: Bloomberg (\*\$ adjusted returns, \*Market was closed on December 24, 2019)

## Contacts

### Saugata Sarkar, CFA, CAIA

Head of Research

Tel: (+974) 4476 6534

[saugata.sarkar@qnbfs.com.qa](mailto:saugata.sarkar@qnbfs.com.qa)

### Mehmet Aksoy, PhD

Senior Research Analyst

Tel: (+974) 4476 6589

[mehmet.aksoy@qnbfs.com.qa](mailto:mehmet.aksoy@qnbfs.com.qa)

### Shahan Keushgerian

Senior Research Analyst

Tel: (+974) 4476 6509

[shahan.keushgerian@qnbfs.com.qa](mailto:shahan.keushgerian@qnbfs.com.qa)

### QNB Financial Services Co. W.L.L.

Contact Center: (+974) 4476 6666

PO Box 24025

Doha, Qatar

### Zaid al-Nafoosi, CMT, CFTe

Senior Research Analyst

Tel: (+974) 4476 6535

[zaid.alnafoosi@qnbfs.com.qa](mailto:zaid.alnafoosi@qnbfs.com.qa)

**Disclaimer and Copyright Notice:** This publication has been prepared by QNB Financial Services Co. W.L.L. ("QNB FS") a wholly-owned subsidiary of Qatar National Bank (Q.P.S.C.). QNB FS 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 QNB FS 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. QNB FS 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 QNB FS believes to be reliable, we have not independently verified such information and it may not be accurate or complete. QNB FS 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 QNB FS Fundamental Research as a result of depending solely on the historical technical data (price and volume). QNB FS 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 QNB FS.

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