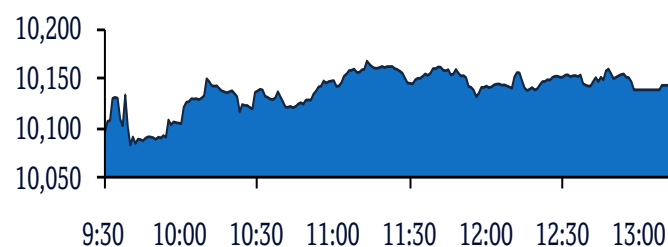


## QSE Intra-Day Movement



## Qatar Commentary

The QE Index rose 0.3% to close at 10,146.0. Gains were led by the Transportation and Consumer Goods & Services indices, gaining 2.0% and 1.2%, respectively. Top gainers were QLM Life & Medical Insurance Company and Investment Holding Group, rising 10.0% and 5.4%, respectively. Among the top losers, Barwa Real Estate Co. fell 4.3%, while Qatar General Insurance & Reinsurance Co. was down 4.0%.

## GCC Commentary

**Saudi Arabia:** The TASI Index fell 0.5% to close at 9,145.0. Losses were led by the Software & Services and Pharma, Biotech & Life Science indices, falling 2.4% and 1.1%, respectively. Saudi Cable Company declined 3.4%, while Arab Sea Information Systems was down 3.2%.

**Dubai:** The DFM Index gained 1.0% to close at 2,551.5. The Investment & Financial Services index rose 3.4%, while the Real Estate & Construction index gained 2.0%. Dubai Refreshment Company rose 13.6%, while Al Ramz Corporation Investment and Development was up 7.5%.

**Abu Dhabi:** The ADX General Index gained 0.6% to close at 5,663.6. The Services index gained 5.6%, while the Telecommunication index rose 2.2%. Al Dhafra Insurance Co. rose 14.9%, while Abu Dhabi Aviation Co. was up 14.8%.

**Kuwait:** Market was closed on February 28, 2021.

**Oman:** The MSM 30 Index gained 0.3% to close at 3,612.4. Gains were led by the Financial and Industrial indices, rising 0.4% and 0.2%, respectively. Arabia Falcon Insurance Company rose 10.0%, while United Finance was up 5.1%.

**Bahrain:** The BHB Index gained 0.1% to close at 1,466.4. The Insurance index rose 1.8%, while the Services index gained 1.2%. APM Terminals Bahrain rose 10.0%, while Bahrain National Holding was up 7.3%.

QSE Top Gainers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
QLM Life & Medical Insurance Co.	4.72	10.0	502.6	49.8
Investment Holding Group	0.63	5.4	87,020.0	4.7
Ahli Bank	3.99	3.6	44.6	15.8
Qatar Oman Investment Company	0.89	3.4	2,909.2	0.2
Qatar National Cement Company	4.24	3.2	422.1	2.2

QSE Top Volume Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Investment Holding Group	0.63	5.4	87,020.0	4.7
Qatar Aluminium Manufacturing	1.10	1.6	29,458.2	14.0
Salam International Inv. Ltd.	0.60	2.7	14,719.7	(7.5)
Aamal Company	0.92	1.4	13,163.5	8.0
Ezdan Holding Group	1.57	1.2	8,872.8	(11.6)

Market Indicators	28 Feb 21	25 Feb 21	%Chg.
Value Traded (QR mn)	315.5	795.4	(60.3)
Exch. Market Cap. (QR mn)	588,144.2	587,885.9	0.0
Volume (mn)	210.8	306.8	(31.3)
Number of Transactions	8,527	17,859	(52.3)
Companies Traded	47	47	0.0
Market Breadth	32:12	38:9	-

Market Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	YTD%	TTMP/E
Total Return	19,639.13	0.3	0.3	(2.1)	18.7
All Share Index	3,145.67	0.0	0.0	(1.7)	19.4
Banks	4,118.63	(0.4)	(0.4)	(3.0)	14.8
Industrials	3,158.30	0.5	0.5	2.0	31.8
Transportation	3,470.09	2.0	2.0	5.2	23.4
Real Estate	1,762.86	(0.6)	(0.6)	(8.6)	17.1
Insurance	2,411.71	(0.7)	(0.7)	0.7	N.A.
Telecoms	1,057.35	0.2	0.2	4.6	24.7
Consumer	7,704.37	1.2	1.2	(5.4)	25.5
Al Rayan Islamic Index	4,178.10	0.5	0.5	(2.1)	19.3

GCC Top Gainers**	Exchange	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Banque Saudi Fransi	Saudi Arabia	28.80	3.2	432.8	(8.9)
Ominvest	Oman	0.34	3.1	26.5	(0.6)
Qatar Gas Transport Co.	Qatar	3.39	2.7	1,123.4	6.6
Emaar Properties	Dubai	3.58	2.6	20,044.5	1.4
Emirates Telecom. Group	Abu Dhabi	20.34	2.2	4,640.2	20.4

GCC Top Losers**	Exchange	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Barwa Real Estate Co.	Qatar	3.10	(4.3)	1,587.8	(8.9)
Saudi Basic Ind. Corp.	Saudi Arabia	103.40	(3.0)	2,500.7	2.0
National Petrochemical	Saudi Arabia	37.80	(2.3)	135.9	13.7
Rabigh Refining & Petro.	Saudi Arabia	14.26	(2.2)	2,913.8	3.2
Yanbu National Petro. Co.	Saudi Arabia	69.90	(2.0)	255.6	9.4

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%
Barwa Real Estate Company	3.10	(4.3)	1,587.8	(8.9)
Qatar General Ins. & Reins. Co.	2.40	(4.0)	50.7	(9.7)
QNB Group	16.98	(1.6)	2,606.8	(4.8)
Qatar Islamic Insurance Company	7.08	(1.3)	279.7	2.6
Qatari German Co for Med. Dev.	3.06	(1.2)	2,064.1	36.9

QSE Top Value Trades	Close*	1D%	Val. '000	YTD%
Investment Holding Group	0.63	5.4	53,377.7	4.7
QNB Group	16.98	(1.6)	44,382.5	(4.8)
Qatar Aluminium Manufacturing	1.10	1.6	32,276.3	14.0
Ezdan Holding Group	1.57	1.2	14,225.8	(11.6)
Masraf Al Rayan	4.40	1.5	12,664.8	(2.9)

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*	10,145.99	0.3	0.3	(3.1)	(2.8)	85.13	159,093.0	18.7	1.4	3.7
Dubai	2,551.54	1.0	1.0	(3.9)	2.4	42.20	95,022.1	20.9	0.9	3.8
Abu Dhabi	5,663.62	0.6	0.6	1.3	12.3	231.18	216,042.8	22.7	1.5	4.3
Saudi Arabia	9,144.99	(0.5)	(0.5)	5.1	5.2	3,156.80	2,430,615.2	35.7	2.2	2.3
Kuwait#	5,649.16	(0.1)	(0.7)	(2.3)	1.9	257.77	106,286.9	50.3	1.4	3.4
Oman	3,612.38	0.3	0.3	(1.1)	(1.3)	1.88	16,453.4	11.3	0.7	7.6
Bahrain	1,466.43	0.1	0.1	0.3	(1.6)	3.83	22,406.1	30.9	0.9	4.6

Source: Bloomberg, Qatar Stock Exchange, Tadawul, Muscat Securities Market and Dubai Financial Market (\*\* TTM; \* Value traded (\$ mn) do not include special trades, if any; #Data as of February 24, 2021)

## Qatar Market Commentary

- The QE Index rose 0.3% to close at 10,146.0. The Transportation and Consumer Goods & Services indices led the gains. The index rose on the back of buying support from Foreign shareholders despite selling pressure from Qatari, GCC and Arab shareholders.
- QLM Life & Medical Insurance Company and Investment Holding Group were the top gainers, rising 10.0% and 5.4%, respectively. Among the top losers, Barwa Real Estate Company fell 4.3%, while Qatar General Insurance & Reinsurance Company was down 4.0%.
- Volume of shares traded on Sunday fell by 31.3% to 210.8mn from 306.8mn on Thursday. However, as compared to the 30-day moving average of 174.6mn, volume for the day was 20.7% higher. Investment Holding Group and Qatar Aluminium Manufacturing Company were the most active stocks, contributing 41.3% and 14.0% to the total volume, respectively.

Overall Activity	Buy %*	Sell %*	Net (QR)
Qatari Individuals	44.17%	52.10%	(25,029,539.0)
Qatari Institutions	18.87%	15.00%	12,217,771.7
<b>Qatari</b>	<b>63.04%</b>	<b>67.10%</b>	<b>(12,811,767.3)</b>
GCC Individuals	0.83%	1.13%	(946,486.5)
GCC Institutions	1.52%	1.68%	(499,508.2)
<b>GCC</b>	<b>2.35%</b>	<b>2.80%</b>	<b>(1,445,994.7)</b>
Arab Individuals	12.25%	15.80%	(11,217,383.4)
Arab Institutions	0.03%	0.01%	77,669.2
<b>Arab</b>	<b>12.28%</b>	<b>15.81%</b>	<b>(11,139,714.2)</b>
Foreigners Individuals	7.18%	4.74%	7,700,210.6
Foreigners Institutions	15.16%	9.55%	17,697,265.6
<b>Foreigners</b>	<b>22.34%</b>	<b>14.29%</b>	<b>25,397,476.2</b>

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

## Earnings Releases, Global Economic Data and Earnings Calendar

### Earnings Releases

Company	Market	Currency	Revenue (mn) 4Q2020	% Change YoY	Operating Profit (mn) 4Q2020	% Change YoY	Net Profit (mn) 4Q2020	% Change YoY
City Cement Co.*	Saudi Arabia	SR	572.3	7.7%	220.0	12.8%	220.5	16.0%
National Shipping Company of Saudi Arabia*	Saudi Arabia	SR	8,393.0	27.8%	1,865.9	52.6%	1,571.1	153.1%
Sumou Real Estate Co.*	Saudi Arabia	SR	97.2	-46.0%	80.0	-4.2%	71.4	2.3%

Source: Company data, DFM, ADX, MSM, TASI, BHB. (\*Financial for FY2020)

### Global Economic Data

Date	Market	Source	Indicator	Period	Actual	Consensus	Previous
02/28	China	China Federation of Logistics & Purchasing	Non-manufacturing PMI	Feb	51.4	52	52.4
02/28	China	China Federation of Logistics & Purchasing	Manufacturing PMI	Feb	50.6	51	51.3
02/28	China	China Federation of Logistics & Purchasing	Composite PMI	Feb	51.6	-	52.8

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 4Q2020 results	No. of days remaining	Status
AKHI	Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Company	3-Mar-21	2	Due
WDAM	Widam Food Company	3-Mar-21	2	Due
MPHC	Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding Company	4-Mar-21	3	Due
QGMD	Qatari German Company for Medical Devices	4-Mar-21	3	Due
ZHCD	Zad Holding Company	6-Mar-21	5	Due
DBIS	Dlala Brokerage & Investment Holding Company	8-Mar-21	7	Due
IGRD	Investment Holding Group	15-Mar-21	14	Due

Source: QSE

**Qatar**

- **QGRI's bottom line rises 18.8% QoQ in 4Q2020** – Qatar General Insurance & Reinsurance Company (QGRI) reported net profit of QR56.6mn in 4Q2020 as compared to net loss of QR476.1mn in 4Q2019 and net profit of QR47.7mn in 3Q2020 (+18.8% QoQ). The company's net earned premiums came in at QR29.6mn in 4Q2020, which represents a decrease of 23.8% YoY (-25.3% QoQ). In FY2020, the company reported a net profit of QR130.9mn as compared to a net loss of QR468.0mn in FY2019. In FY2020, net impairment reversal on financial assets stood at QR1.6mn as compared to net impairment loss on financial assets of QR95.1mn in FY2019. The earnings per share amounted to QR0.150 in FY2020 as compared to loss per share of QR0.535 in FY2019. The board has recommended non-distribution of dividends for this year. (QSE)
- **QISI's bottom line rises 34.0% YoY and 8.4% QoQ in 4Q2020** – Qatar Islamic Insurance Group's (QISI) net profit rose 34.0% YoY (+8.4% QoQ) to QR17.3mn in 4Q2020. In FY2020, QISI recorded net profit of QR75.7mn as compared to QR72.7mn in FY2019. EPS amounted to QR0.50 in FY2020 as compared to QR0.48 in FY2019. The board recommended distribution of Cash Dividends of 32.5 % from the share par value i.e. QR0.325 for each share for the year 2020. In the meeting of the Board of Directors, Chairman, Sheikh Abdullah bin Thani Al Thani said the “realized growth in the surplus” reached 504% achieving a total of QR73.47mn in 2020 compared to QR12.17mn in 2019. He said QISI achieved 76% growth rate in 2020 surplus, amounting to QR149.204mn compared to QR84.849mn for the same period in 2019. Sheikh Abdullah said based on the recommendation of the Shariah Supervisory Board, QISI's board of directors has recommended to distribute an insurance surplus (at 15%) for all policyholders who were participating in the Group's Takaful operations. He praised the tangible efforts made by the senior management and the executive team for achieving these positive results, explaining that the total underwritten contributions (premiums) until December 31, 2020 reached QR400.639mn compared to QR405.428mn in 2019. (QSE, Company website, Gulf-Times.com)
- **UDCD signs QR500mn accord with CBQK** – United Development Company (UDCD) announced it has signed agreement of general corporate banking facilities for QR500mn with The Commercial Bank (CBQK). (QSE)
- **CBQK changing the method of holding the AGM** - In reference to the Board of Directors (the Board) of The Commercial Bank invitation to the Shareholders' Ordinary General Meeting published in the newspaper on the 17th of February 2021, kindly note that in compliance with the instructions issued by the Ministry of Health to limit the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Ordinary General Meeting will be held virtually using the Zoom application on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the Agenda of the meeting as below. In case the quorum of the above meeting is not met, the second meeting shall be held on 23 March 2021, at the same time.(QSE)
- **DHBK to hold its AGM on March 15** – The board of directors of Doha Bank (DHBK) will hold the Ordinary and Extra Ordinary General Assembly Meetings (AGM and EGM) of the shareholders, which will be held at 04:30 pm on March 15, 2021 in Head Office Tower – West Bay – floor no. (1). However, if the quorum required is not attained, a second meeting will be held on March 23, 2021 at the same time and venue to look in – (1) Hearing the report of the Board of Directors on the Bank's activities and its financial position for the financial year ended on December 31, 2020 and discussing the Bank's future plan. (2) To discuss and endorse the Board of Directors' report on Corporate Governance for the year 2020. (3) Hearing the External Auditors' report on the balance sheet and the accounts presented by the Board of Directors for the financial year ended on December 31, 2020 and also hearing their reports on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and Compliance with Qatar Financial Markets Authority governance code for listed companies. (4) To discuss and endorse the balance sheet and the profit & loss account for the financial year ended on December 31, 2020 and the Board of Directors' recommendation to distribute cash dividends to shareholders for QR0.075 per share. (5) Discharging the Board of Directors from the responsibility for the year 2020 and determining their remuneration. (6) Appointing the External Auditor for the financial year 2021 and determining their audit fees. (7) Approving extension of the period for issuance of bonds under the bank's EMTN program that was previously approved in AGM dated March 07, 2018 with the same components and parameters as follows: (a) In varying amounts which would, in aggregate, not exceed the EMTN program valuing US\$2bn. (b) That no single deal would exceed US\$1.0bn. (c) In various major currencies including US Dollar, Australian Dollar, Yen, Swiss Francs, and Sterling Pound. (d) To varying maturities not exceeding 30 years. (e) Be issued either by an SPV guaranteed by Doha Bank or through Doha Bank directly. (f) Total outstanding/due Debt Notes “Bonds” of the bank should not exceed at any time the Bank's capital and reserves. (g) To authorize the Board of Directors of Doha Bank and those authorized by the Board to take all necessary actions to execute these issuances within the program after obtaining the approval of Qatar Central Bank, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and any other competent authorities. (h) Delegation from ordinary AGM of shareholders would be valid for 3 years starting from the date of convention of the General Assembly meeting of the bank in March 2021. (QSE)
- **QATI to hold its AGM virtually on March 9** – The Ordinary General Assembly Meeting of the Qatar Insurance Company (QATI) will be held virtually on March 9, 2021, at 4:30 pm (through Zoom application), QATI announced. Shareholders can go to the company's headquarters in Dafna, starting from 2:30 pm on the day of the meeting for registration (either self or proxy) and obtain the link to participate in the meeting remotely. Before the day of the meeting, a shareholder can send a copy of the QID card, shareholder's (Nin) number at the Qatar Stock Exchange and mobile number. In case the shareholder is representing another shareholder, in addition to the above

documents required, a copy of the proxy issued by shareholder being represented should be also submitted. In case of a corporate shareholder, a copy of the proxy form along with a copy of the commercial registration of the company, the shareholder's (Nin) number and the QID card of the delegate along with his mobile number should be submitted. All these documents are to be submitted to agm-feb21@qic.com.qa. QATI will contact the shareholder and share the registration link so they can register at the specified time (2:30 pm on the day of the meeting) and then obtain the link to participate in the meeting (which starts at 4:30 pm) remotely. (Qatar Tribune)

- **QFMA issues regulations for buying incentive shares for listed firms** – Qatar Financial Market Authority (QFMA) has issued special controls related to the purchase of listed joint-stock companies for their shares, in order to implement and support their employee incentive programs, according to specific conditions and procedures. According to the new controls, there are several procedures and requirements that the incentive shares program must include, including that the number of shares should not exceed 7% of the total paid-up capital with the loss of the right to vote, and the share of one person should not exceed 10% of the incoming shares in the program. It also includes determining the categories of beneficiaries of the incentive program, provided that these categories do not include members of the company's board of directors, and determining the dates set for the distribution of shares, in addition to the other controls and requirements detailed in the new legislation. QFMA Chief Executive Officer Nasser Ahmed Al Shaibi said that the issuance of these controls comes within the framework of the permanent work of the Authority to review and update all legislation regulating the capital market sector, and to meet the needs of dealers in the Qatari financial markets, considering the best practices in this vital sector. Shaibi added that the Authority is working through a comprehensive plan for modernization and development aimed at creating a balance between the regulatory requirements of the financial markets and the ease of entering those markets and benefiting from the services they provide, in addition to increasing the confidence of investors and dealers in the regulatory and supervisory environment of the capital market in the state. He also indicated that the Authority is keen to follow up the implementation of the legislations issued by it, measure its impact and permanently seek the opinions of those concerned with it. (Qatar Tribune)
- **ERES to disclose its annual financial results on March 15** – Ezdan Holding Group (ERES) will disclose its financial statement for the period ending December 31, 2020 on March 15, 2021. (QSE)
- **BLDN to disclose its annual financial results on March 17** – Baladna (BLDN) will disclose its financial statement for the period ending December 31, 2020 on March 17, 2021. (QSE)
- **BLDN to hold its investors relation conference call on March 24** – Baladna (BLDN) announced that the conference call with the Investors to discuss the financial results for the Annual 2020 will be held on March 24, 2021 at 12:00 pm, Doha Time. (QSE)
- **QIIK to hold its AGM on March 17** – Qatar International Islamic Bank (QIIK) announced that the General Assembly Meeting (AGM) will be held on March 17, 2021, over Zoom online Conference at 04:30 pm. In case of not completing the legal quorum, the second meeting will be held on March 21, 2021,

using Zoom Online Conference at 04:30 pm. The agenda includes (1) To discuss the bank financial statements and statements of income for the year ended December 31, 2020 and approve. (2) To discuss and approve the Board of Directors' recommendation to distribute 32.5% of the bank capital as cash dividends (QR 0.325 per share). (3) To discuss the recommendation by the board of directors to issue Sukuk qualified as Tier 2 capital up to US\$1.0bn; and after obtaining the necessary approvals from the supervisory authorities providing that, the conditions and size of the issuance will be subject to a study of the bank's needs and market conditions. (4) To discuss the board of directors recommendation to extend last year General Assembly approval of the US\$ 2.0bn Sukuk program (which was already approved in 2019 AGM) and delegate the bank board of directors' to decide the size of each issuance, terms and conditions, issuance currency after getting all necessary approvals from supervisory authorities ;and the Sukuk should not exceed the bank's capital and reserves (Issued \$700mn through out 2019), among others (QSE)

- **Qatar lists third largest IPO of MENA region during 2020** – The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region saw nine IPOs raise proceeds of \$1.86bn, a fall of 40% in total issuances and 94% in total proceeds when compared with 2019, according to the EY MENA IPO Eye 4Q2020 report. Out of the nine issuances, six were in the real estate sector, of which two were real estate investment trusts (REITs), with the remaining in the health care, consumer staples and insurance sectors, the report said. In Qatar, QLM Life and Medical Insurance Company (QLMI) raised \$179.6mn and was the first IPO on the QSE since the fourth quarter of 2019. QLMI became the third-largest IPO of the MENA region in 2020. Despite a subdued annual picture, IPO activity rebounded in the fourth quarter of 2020 after a quiet second quarter and one IPO in the third quarter, with four IPOs in the MENA region raising \$925mn in total. Although the number of IPOs decreased by 33% and proceeds were down 97% compared with the same quarter in 2019, the fourth quarter did have the highest proceeds of 2020. Globally, IPO numbers continued to pick up with 1,363 IPOs taking place in 2020, a 19% rise when compared with the previous year. Additionally, proceeds increased by 29% from 2019, rising to \$268bn, the highest proceeds since 2010's record of \$290.2bn raised via 1,361 IPOs. (Qatar Tribune)
- **Ooredoo Money is available to Aamali mobile users now** – Ooredoo Qatar, the nation's leading telecommunications company, has announced major service improvements to its Aamali plans, enabling Aamali Mobile postpaid customers to activate Ooredoo Money. Ooredoo Money enables customers to set up a mobile wallet service capable of making local and international money transfers, online, personal and salary payments, and deposits and withdrawals. This successful consumer service has now been extended to Aamalian business line users. Subject to linking their mobile service to QID, Ooredoo business customers will now be able to activate Ooredoo Money alongside other related services. Not only will Aamali customers be able to activate and enjoy Ooredoo Money, but they can use their own number to access mobile money – no additional SIM is needed to start using this convenient new service. (Qatar Tribune)

## International

- **UK's Sunak says public finances won't be fixed overnight** – British Finance Minister Rishi Sunak said on Sunday he would not rush to fix the public finances as he readied a budget plan which will pile more borrowing on top of almost 300bn Pounds (\$418bn) of COVID-19 spending and tax cuts. Sunak, who is due to deliver his budget to parliament on Wednesday, promised to help the UK economy through a gradual lifting of lockdown measures that will last at least until late June. But he also said he would “level with people” about how Britain’s 2.1tn-Pound debt pile would carry on growing without action. “This is not something that’s going to happen overnight. Given the scale of the shock we’ve experienced, the scale of the damage, this is going to take time to fix,” Sunak told Sky News on Sunday. “But it’s important ... to also have strong public finances over time.” Sunak declined to comment on specific tax moves - including a widely reported plan to raise corporation tax - ahead of his budget speech. He also would not say if he would stick to his Conservative Party’s promises made in 2019 - before the pandemic - not to raise the rates of income tax, value-added tax or national insurance contributions, the biggest sources of tax revenue. (Reuters)
- **UK's Sunak says vaccine passport idea might help the economy** – British Finance Minister Rishi Sunak said the idea of giving people vaccine passports or certificates to allow them to enter venues or events might be a way to help the country and its economy recover from the coronavirus pandemic. “Obviously it is a complicated but potentially very relevant question for helping us reopen those parts of our country like mass events,” Sunak told BBC television on Sunday. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said last week that the government would hold a review to consider the scientific, moral, philosophical and ethical questions about using vaccine certificates for people who have received a coronavirus shot, which could help entertainment and hospitality venues reopen. (Reuters)
- **Tech demand drives Asia's factory revival, China's slowdown puts dampener** – Solid demand for technology goods drove extended growth in Asia’s factories in February, but a slowdown in China underscored the challenges facing the region as it seeks a sustainable recovery from the shattering COVID-19 pandemic blow. The vaccine rollouts globally and pick-up in demand provided optimism for a vast number of businesses that had grappled for months with a cash-flow crunch and falling profits. In Japan, manufacturing activity expanded at the fastest pace in over two years while South Korea’s exports rose for a fourth straight month in February, suggesting the region’s export-reliant economies were benefiting from robust global trade. On the flip side, China’s factory activity grew at the slowest pace in nine months in February, hit by a domestic flare-up of COVID-19 and soft demand from countries under renewed lock-down measures. China’s was the first major economy to lead the recovery from the COVID-19 shock, so any signs of prolonged cooling in Asia’s engine of growth will likely be a cause for concern. With the global rebound still in early days, however, analysts say the outlook was brightening as companies increased output to restock inventory on hopes vaccine rollouts will normalize economic activity. (Reuters)
- **PMI: Japan's factory activity grows at fastest pace in two years as output, orders rise** – Japan’s factory activity expanded at the fastest pace in over two years in February, a private-sector survey showed on Monday, as strong orders led to the first output rise since the start of the coronavirus pandemic. The final au Jibun Bank Japan Manufacturing Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI) jumped to a seasonally adjusted 51.4 in February from the prior month’s 49.8 reading. The rise in the headline figure, which compared to a preliminary 50.6 reading, marked the fastest expansion since December 2018. That meant manufacturing activity was well above the 50.0 threshold that separates contraction from expansion thanks to strong improvements in output and orders. Overall, new orders rose at the fastest pace since October 2018, while output grew for the first time since December 2018 after which the economy was hit by the U.S.-China trade war and the COVID-19 crisis. The PMI survey was in line with January output and fourth-quarter gross domestic product data released last month that showed Japan’s manufacturing sector has managed to weather emergency coronavirus measures at home, mainly thanks to robust overseas demand for tech components. It also showed, however, that producers are facing a jump in input prices, which rose at their fastest pace since February 2019, pressuring their profit margins. Future output, which shows firms’ growth expectations for the year ahead, were at its highest since July 2017 as hopes of an end to the pandemic thanks to the rising distribution of vaccines boosted confidence. (Reuters)
- **Caixin PMI: China's factory activity growth slips to 9-month low** – China’s factory activity expanded at the slowest pace in nine months in February as weak overseas demand and coronavirus flare-ups weighed on output, adding pressure on the country’s labor market, a business survey showed on Monday. The slowdown in the manufacturing sector underscores the fragility of the ongoing economic recovery in China, although domestic COVID-19 cases have since been stamped out and analysts expect a strong rebound in full-year growth. February also saw the Lunar New Year holidays, when many workers return to their hometowns, although this year saw far fewer trips amid coronavirus fears. The Caixin/Markit Manufacturing Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI) fell to 50.9 last month, the lowest level since last May. Analysts polled by Reuters had expected the index to remain unchanged from January’s reading of 51.5. The 50-mark separates growth from contraction on a monthly basis. A sub-index for production fell to 51.9, the slowest pace of expansion since April last year, while another sub-index for new orders fell to 51.0, the lowest since May. Export orders shrank for the second month. Factories laid off workers for the third month, and at a faster pace, with Wang noting “companies were not in a hurry to fill vacancies.” An index of confidence in the year ahead rose however to 63.0, the highest since October. Input and output prices continued to rise albeit at a slower pace. (Reuters)
- **Official PMI: China's factory activity expands at a slower pace in February, misses expectations** – China’s factory activity expanded in February at a slower pace than a month earlier, hitting the lowest level since last May and missing market expectations after brief COVID-19-related disruptions earlier in the year. The official manufacturing Purchasing Manager’s Index (PMI) fell to 50.6 from 51.3 in January, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed on Sunday,

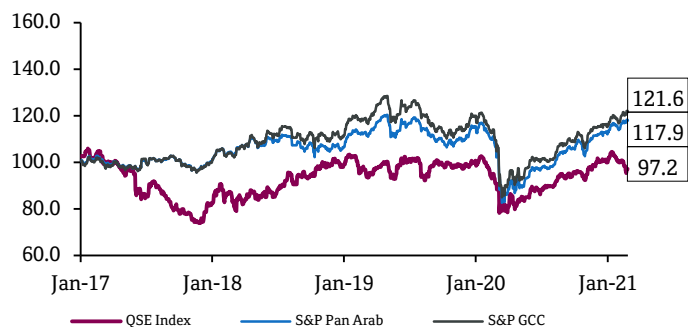
remaining above the 50-point mark that separates growth from contraction. Analysts had expected it to decline to 51.1. Chinese factory activity normally goes dormant during the Lunar New Year break as workers return to their home towns. This year, the government appealed to workers to remain local to curb the spread of COVID-19. Generally, China's economic recovery has been gathering pace due to robust exports, pent-up demand and government stimulus. The official PMI, which largely focuses on big and state-owned firms, showed the sub-index for new export orders was 48.8 in February compared with 50.2 in January, slipping back into contraction after months boosted by overseas demand. A sub-index for activity among small firms stood at 48.3 in February versus 49.4 a month earlier. Smaller firms were more affected by the seasonal effects of the Lunar New Year, said Zhao Qinghe, an official with the NBS in comments released with the data. A sub-index for employment in the official PMI stood at 48.1 in February, down from January's 48.4 as firms laid off more workers and at a faster pace. China's factory gate prices rose on year in January for the first time in a year, as months of strong manufacturing growth pushed raw material costs higher. China eked out 2.3% economic growth last year. This year, the government may avoid setting a growth target for fear of provincial economies feeling pressured to take on more debt, policy sources previously told Reuters. China will reinforce policy support for foreign trade and ensure the smooth operation of supply chains, its new commerce minister said earlier this week. In the services sector, activity expanded for the 11th consecutive month but at the slowest pace in a year. (Reuters)

### Regional

- **Saudi Arabia official reserves drop to lowest since October** – Official reserve assets of Saudi Arabia fell SR13.2bn, or 0.8%, from the previous month to SR1.69tn in January, according to Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency figures. Reserves was down 10% from the same period last year, Gold remained unchanged YoY at SR1.62bn, Foreign currency reserves were down 2.4% MoM, 16% YoY to SR532.2bn. Special Drawing Rights (SDR) remained unchanged MoM, up 0.8% YoY to SR31.5bn, IMF reserve position remained unchanged MoM, up 46% YoY to SR13.7bn. (Bloomberg)
- **Saudi Aramco seeks one-year extension on \$10bn loan** – Saudi Aramco has asked banks to extend by a year a \$10bn loan it raised last May, sources said, suggesting that rebounding crude prices are not pushing the oil giant to reduce debt for the time being. The sources confirmed a report by Loan Pricing Corporation, a fixed-income news provider owned by Refinitiv. It is at the banks' discretion whether to extend the loan, but lenders will likely agree in order to maintain a good relationship with Aramco in the hope of receiving future business, LPC said citing a banker. One of the sources, who confirmed the report, echoed that, saying: "It's Aramco. Why not?" LPC cited a banker as saying it was possible Aramco would try to push down pricing by arguing that market conditions have improved since May, when oil prices were much lower and there was much uncertainty about the pandemic. The loan started at 50 basis points over LIBOR, a rate that steps up as more money is drawn from the facility, one of the sources told Reuters. Sources told Reuters last year that Aramco would use the loan to back its acquisition of a 70% stake in Saudi Basic Industries Corp (SABIC) from Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, a deal worth almost \$70bn. LPC had previously reported, citing a banker, that the loan would be repaid with the proceeds from a bond sale by the fourth quarter of 2020. That did not happen, even though Aramco raised \$8bn in a multi-tranche bond deal in November. Saudi Aramco's profits plummeted last year, but it stuck to a promised \$75bn annual dividend, most of which goes to the Saudi government. HSBC said this month that Aramco's prospects look more positive and promising for 2021, hinting at declining net debt and a possible dividend hike. (Reuters)
- **Saudi Aramco raises Propane price by 3% MoM to \$625/ton in March** – Saudi Aramco set LPG contract prices for March-loading cargoes to Asian customers, a company official said. The March propane price is set at \$625/ton, up from \$605/ton a month earlier, March butane price has been set at \$595/ton, up from \$585/ton a month earlier. (Bloomberg)
- **Methanol Chemicals extends tenure of SR475mn loan** – Methanol Chemicals has signed an agreement to extend the tenure of a SR475mn loan with a consortium of Gulf International Bank, Saudi British Bank, Riyad Bank and Samba Financial Group. Extends repayment period of outstanding loan to 2028 from 2022. (Bloomberg)
- **Tabreed CEO hints at imminent acquisitions, says firm has growth mandate** – District cooling company Tabreed has a "mandate for growth" in 2021 but in a responsible, financially disciplined manner, according to its CEO. The Abu Dhabi-based company, which has launched a series of research and development projects to coincide with the "UAE Innovation Month", also hinted strongly that acquisition announcements are imminent. Asked at a press conference whether the company would acquire district cooling facilities from Nakheel and Dubai Airport, Tabreed, CEO, Bader Al Lamki said that "growth is the mandate". "We will continue to pursue that, but we can't be specific for obvious reasons," Al Lamki said. "I want to stress that this is a responsible growth, a growth with financial discipline. We are a publicly listed company, but we are also a rated company. We are proud that our ratings have been reaffirmed by Moody's and Fitch in terms of our strong financial credentials." (Zawya)
- **Abu Dhabi de facto ruler cements control over oil firm ADNOC** – Abu Dhabi's de facto ruler, Crown Prince, Mohammed Bin Zayed, has cemented his control over the Emirate's state energy company by becoming chairman of a newly-established board of directors. The Crown Prince also appointed one of his sons, Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed, as chairman of a smaller six-member executive board at Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. (ADNOC). (Bloomberg)
- **ADCB acquires \$308mln mortgage portfolio** – Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (ADCB) has acquired a multi-million-dollar mortgage portfolio from Abu Dhabi Finance (ADF) as part of its diversification strategy. The bank said on Sunday that it has signed an agreement covering approximately 1,000 mortgages with a gross book value of \$308mn. About 76% of the portfolio are residential mortgages and 24% are commercial mortgages. All the mortgages are conventional, with just under half collateralized by real estate in Abu Dhabi, and the remainder distributed across Dubai and other emirates in the UAE. (Zawya)

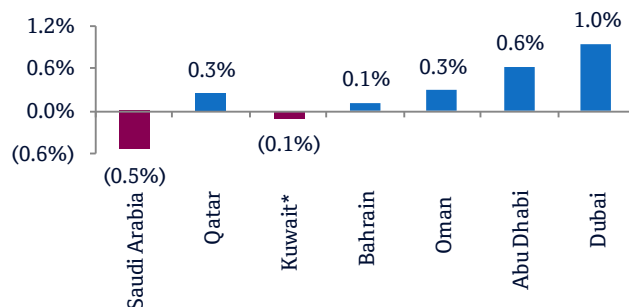
- **Oman transfers stake in biggest oil block to new energy firm –**  
Oman's government is transferring its stake in one of the Middle East's largest oil blocks to a newly-established energy firm as the cash-strapped sultanate looks to use the asset to raise debt. State-owned Energy Development Oman will hold the country's 60% stake in Block 6, according to a royal decree published on Sunday. The stake is being moved from another government company, Petroleum Development Oman. (Bloomberg)

## Rebased Performance



Source: Bloomberg

## Daily Index Performance



Source: Bloomberg (\*Data as of February 24, 2021)

Asset/Currency Performance	Close (\$)	1D%	WTD%	YTD%
Gold/Ounce	1,734.04	(2.1)	(2.8)	(8.7)
Silver/Ounce	26.67	(2.8)	(2.3)	1.0
Crude Oil (Brent)/Barrel (FM Future)	66.13	(1.1)	5.1	27.7
Crude Oil (WTI)/Barrel (FM Future)	61.50	(3.2)	3.8	26.8
Natural Gas (Henry Hub)/MMBtu	2.63	(5.1)	(46.3)	10.0
LPG Propane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	95.00	(1.0)	(3.4)	26.2
LPG Butane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	102.00	2.1	5.7	46.8
Euro	1.21	(0.8)	(0.4)	(1.2)
Yen	106.57	0.3	1.1	3.2
GBP	1.39	(0.6)	(0.6)	1.9
CHF	1.10	(0.4)	(1.3)	(2.6)
AUD	0.77	(2.1)	(2.1)	0.2
USD Index	90.88	0.8	0.6	1.0
RUB	74.62	(0.2)	0.7	0.3
BRL	0.18	(1.2)	(3.9)	(7.2)

Source: Bloomberg

Global Indices Performance	Close	1D%*	WTD%*	YTD%*
MSCI World Index	2,726.91	(1.2)	(2.8)	1.4
DJ Industrial	30,932.37	(1.5)	(1.8)	1.1
S&P 500	3,811.15	(0.5)	(2.4)	1.5
NASDAQ 100	13,192.34	0.6	(4.9)	2.4
STOXX 600	404.99	(2.7)	(2.8)	0.3
DAX	13,786.29	(1.8)	(1.9)	(1.2)
FTSE 100	6,483.43	(3.4)	(2.7)	2.5
CAC 40	5,703.22	(2.5)	(1.6)	1.5
Nikkei	28,966.01	(4.3)	(4.6)	2.2
MSCI EM	1,339.26	(3.2)	(6.3)	3.7
SHANGHAI SE Composite	3,509.08	(2.4)	(5.3)	1.9
HANG SENG	28,980.21	(3.7)	(5.5)	6.4
BSE SENSEX	49,099.99	(5.2)	(5.2)	1.7
Bovespa	110,035.20	(3.1)	(10.1)	(14.3)
RTS	1,411.93	(2.7)	(4.1)	1.8

Source: Bloomberg (\*\$ adjusted returns)

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