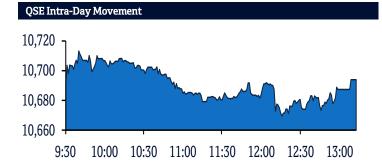


# **Daily Market Report**

Wednesday, 22 January 2020



## **Qatar Commentary**

The QE Index rose marginally to close at 10,694.4. Gains were led by the Real Estate and Banks & Financial Services indices, gaining 0.4% and 0.2%, respectively. Top gainers were Qatar First Bank and Qatari Investors Group, rising 7.0% and 2.7%, respectively. Among the top losers, Al Khalij Commercial Bank fell 3.6%, while Mannai Corporation was down 2.4%.

#### **GCC Commentary**

**Saudi Arabia:** The TASI Index fell 0.3% to close at 8,445.3. Losses were led by the Utilities and Transportation indices, falling 0.7% each. Saudi Industrial Services Co. declined 4.0%, while Al Hassan Ghazi Ibrahim Shaker Co. was down 3.4%.

**Dubai:** The DFM Index gained 0.1% to close at 2,854.9. The Consumer Staples and Discretionary index rose 1.5%, while the Services index gained 0.8%. Tabreed rose 2.0%, while Al Salam Group Holding was up 1.9%.

**Abu Dhabi:** The ADX General Index fell 0.6% to close at 5,184.5. The Banks index declined 1.0%, while the Real Estate index fell 0.8%. Arkan Building Materials Company declined 8.6%, while United Arab Bank was down 2.5%.

**Kuwait:** The Kuwait All Share Index fell 0.2% to close at 6,371.4. The Industrials and Insurance indices declined 0.7% each. United Projects for Aviation Services Company declined 10.0%, while Arkan Al Kuwait Real Estate Co. was down 7.3%.

**Oman:** The MSM 30 Index fell 0.4% to close at 4,060.0. The Financial index fell 0.3%, while the Services index declined marginally. Phoenix Power Company declined 2.9%, while Sohar International Bank was down 2.6%.

**Bahrain:** The BHB Index gained 0.1% to close at 1,643.6. The Insurance index rose 2.1%, while the Industrial index gained 0.7%. BBK rose 1.0%, while APM Terminals Bahrain was up 0.8%.

QSE Top Gainers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Qatar First Bank	0.90	7.0	29,539.5	10.0
Qatari Investors Group	1.93	2.7	697.0	7.8
Qatar General Ins. & Reins. Co.	2.75	2.2	4.0	11.8
Qatar Oman Investment Company	0.60	2.2	5,954.8	(10.8)
Ezdan Holding Group	0.65	2.2	33,903.0	6.2
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QSE Top Volume Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Ezdan Holding Group	0.65	2.2	33,903.0	6.2
Qatar First Bank	0.90	7.0	29,539.5	10.0
Masraf Al Rayan	4.15	1.5	20,697.0	4.8
Al Khalij Commercial Bank	1.32	(3.6)	14,315.5	0.8
Qatar Oman Investment Company	0.60	2.2	5,954.8	(10.8)

Market Indicators	21 Jan 20	20 Jan 20	%Chg.
Value Traded (QR mn)	272.6	272.5	0.0
Exch. Market Cap. (QR mn)	594,315.3	594,004.2	0.1
Volume (mn)	140.9	120.1	17.3
Number of Transactions	4,869	5,761	(15.5)
Companies Traded	46	45	2.2
Market Breadth	20:16	19:21	-

Close	1D%	WTD%	YTD%	TTM P/E
19,678.52	0.0	(0.0)	2.6	15.7
3,171.61	0.0	0.0	2.3	16.2
4,369.50	0.2	0.1	3.5	15.6
2,930.34	(0.1)	(0.6)	(0.1)	20.1
2,584.55	0.1	0.6	1.1	13.5
1,616.45	0.4	1.5	3.3	12.1
2,798.89	(0.6)	0.1	2.4	16.0
905.33	(0.3)	0.1	1.2	15.4
8,677.06	(0.4)	(0.6)	0.4	19.2
4,018.12	0.0	0.1	1.7	16.7
	19,678.52 3,171.61 4,369.50 2,930.34 2,584.55 1,616.45 2,798.89 905.33 8,677.06	19,678.52 0.0 3,171.61 0.0 4,369.50 0.2 2,930.34 (0.1) 2,584.55 0.1 1,616.45 0.4 2,798.89 (0.6) 905.33 (0.3) 8,677.06 (0.4)	19,678.52     0.0     (0.0)       3,171.61     0.0     0.0       4,369.50     0.2     0.1       2,930.34     (0.1)     (0.6)       2,584.55     0.1     0.6       1,616.45     0.4     1.5       2,798.89     (0.6)     0.1       905.33     (0.3)     0.1       8,677.06     (0.4)     (0.6)	19,678.52     0.0     (0.0)     2.6       3,171.61     0.0     0.0     2.3       4,369.50     0.2     0.1     3.5       2,930.34     (0.1)     (0.6)     (0.1)       2,584.55     0.1     0.6     1.1       1,616.45     0.4     1.5     3.3       2,798.89     (0.6)     0.1     2.4       905.33     (0.3)     0.1     1.2       8,677.06     (0.4)     (0.6)     0.4

GCC Top Gainers##	Exchange	Close#	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Ahli Bank	Oman	0.14	2.3	230.0	3.8
Jabal Omar Dev. Co.	Saudi Arabia	26.75	1.7	1,556.3	(1.5)
Etihad Etisalat Co.	Saudi Arabia	27.80	1.6	2,928.8	11.2
Masraf Al Rayan	Qatar	4.15	1.5	20,697.0	4.8
DP World	Dubai	14.24	1.4	121.9	8.7

GCC Top Losers##	Exchange	Close#	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Sohar International Bank	Oman	0.11	(2.6)	201.5	0.9
Saudi Arabian Mining Co.	Saudi Arabia	45.45	(1.9)	337.3	2.4
Bank Muscat	Oman	0.45	(1.7)	539.2	3.7
Bank Dhofar	Oman	0.12	(1.7)	2,685.2	(4.1)
National Shipping Co.	Saudi Arabia	37.70	(1.4)	1,886.2	(5.8)

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%
Al Khalij Commercial Bank	1.32	(3.6)	14,315.5	0.8
Mannai Corporation	3.24	(2.4)	530.5	5.2
Vodafone Qatar	1.25	(1.6)	1,953.8	7.8
Qatar Insurance Company	3.20	(1.2)	137.8	1.3
<b>Gulf International Services</b>	1.65	(1.2)	1,578.0	(4.1)

QSE Top Value Trades	Close*	1D%	Val. '000	YTD%
Masraf Al Rayan	4.15	1.5	86,650.9	4.8
Qatar First Bank	0.90	7.0	26,497.0	10.0
Ezdan Holding Group	0.65	2.2	22,080.1	6.2
QNB Group	20.89	(0.0)	21,004.3	1.5
Al Khalij Commercial Bank	1.32	(3.6)	18,978.4	0.8
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*	10,694.36	0.0	(0.0)	2.6	2.6	74.48	162,188.6	15.5	1.6	4.0
Dubai	2,854.92	0.1	0.9	3.3	3.3	30.31	104,720.4	11.3	1.0	4.1
Abu Dhabi	5,184.53	(0.6)	0.1	2.1	2.1	32.35	145,705.7	15.9	1.5	4.8
Saudi Arabia	8,445.33	(0.3)	(0.2)	0.7	0.7	975.18	2,369,294.3	22.8	1.9	3.2
Kuwait	6,371.38	(0.2)	0.3	1.4	1.4	147.92	119,247.1	15.7	1.5	3.4
Oman	4,059.97	(0.4)	(0.0)	2.0	2.0	8.51	17,435.8	7.2	0.7	7.4
Bahrain	1,643.59	0.1	0.2	2.1	2.1	3.52	25,767.7	13.1	1.0	4.7

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 marginally to close at 10,694.4. The Real Estate and Banks & Financial Services indices led the gains. The index rose on the back of buying support from Qatari shareholders despite selling pressure from GCC and non-Qatari shareholders.
- Qatar First Bank and Qatari Investors Group were the top gainers, rising 7.0% and 2.7%, respectively. Among the top losers, Al Khalij Commercial Bank fell 3.6%, while Mannai Corporation was down 2.4%.
- Volume of shares traded on Tuesday rose by 17.3% to 140.9mn from 120.1mn on Monday. Further, as compared to the 30-day moving average of 76.6mn, volume for the day was 83.9% higher. Ezdan Holding Group and Qatar First Bank were the most active stocks, contributing 24.1% and 21.0% to the total volume, respectively.

Overall Activity	Buy %*	Sell %*	Net (QR)
Qatari Individuals	26.90%	42.62%	(42,866,774.70)
Qatari Institutions	45.80%	25.56%	55,170,408.72
Qatari	72.70%	68.18%	12,303,634.02
GCC Individuals	0.78%	0.94%	(448,886.64)
GCC Institutions	0.48%	0.33%	398,175.84
GCC	1.26%	1.27%	(50,710.80)
Non-Qatari Individuals	12.21%	13.42%	(3,293,426.40)
Non-Qatari Institutions	13.83%	17.12%	(8,959,496.82)
Non-Qatari	26.04%	30.54%	(12,252,923.22)

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
01/21	UK	UK Office for National Statistics	Jobless Claims Change	Dec	14.9k	_	14.9k
01/21	Japan	Bank of Japan	BOJ CPI Current Forecast	1Q2020	0.6%	-	0.7%
01/21	Japan	Bank of Japan	BOJ GDP Current Forecast	1Q2020	0.8%	_	0.6%

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 4Q2019 results	No. of days remaining	Status
MRDS	Mazaya Qatar Real Estate Development	22-Jan-20	0	Due
DHBK	Doha Bank	26-Jan-20	4	Due
QIIK	Qatar International Islamic Bank	28-Jan-20	6	Due
QFLS	Qatar Fuel Company	29-Jan-20	7	Due
CBQK	The Commercial Bank	29-Jan-20	7	Due
IHGS	Islamic Holding Group	29-Jan-20	7	Due
NLCS	Alijarah Holding	30-Jan-20	8	Due
QIGD	Qatari Investors Group	2-Feb-20	11	Due
QATI	Qatar Insurance Company	2-Feb-20	11	Due
VFQS	Vodafone Qatar	3-Feb-20	12	Due
MCGS	Medicare Group	4-Feb-20	13	Due
UDCD	United Development Company	5-Feb-20	14	Due
IQCD	Industries Qatar	5-Feb-20	14	Due
QIMD	Qatar Industrial Manufacturing Company	5-Feb-20	14	Due
DOHI	Doha Insurance Group	12-Feb-20	21	Due
ORDS	Ooredoo	13-Feb-20	22	Due

Source: QSE

#### News

## Qatar

- QIBK announces successful execution of \$650mn Formosa Sukuk issuance Qatar Islamic Bank (QIBK) announced successful execution of Formosa Sukuk issuance under its \$4bn Trust Certificate Issuance Program, dual listed on the Taipei and Irish Stock Exchanges. Under this program, a \$650mn tranche was issued with a maturity of five years. The issuance was part of QIBK's strategy to diversify funding from new markets. This is the first ever Reg S Sukuk issue to be listed on the Taipei stock exchange and attracted strong interest from investors globally especially Asia, and was arranged by Standard Chartered Bank (Taiwan) Limited. This success confirms the trust of international investors in Qatar's economy, QIBK's strategy and the strength of its financial position. (QSE)
- Ashghal signs contracts for citizens' sub-division infrastructure projects worth QR4bn - Ten contracts with a total value of around QR4bn were signed for infrastructure development projects of citizens' sub-divisions by the Public Works Authority (Ashghal). The proposed project will serve more than 8,400 land plots across 10 areas in the north, south and west of the country and planned to be started during the first quarter of this year. All the contracts have been given to Oatari companies. The Ashghal's President signed the new contracts with the representatives of the awarded companies. The areas concerned include Al Ebb, Leabaib, Jeryan Nejaima, Al Duhail South, Umm Lekhba, Al Mearad and Al Meshaf South. Upon completion, the projects will provide advanced infrastructure including 223 kilo meters of roads, 325 kilo meters of pedestrian and bicycle paths, more than 20,000 parking lots, about 192 kilo meters of sewage networks, 305 kilo meters of storm water and groundwater drainage networks and 142 kilo meters of treated sewage effluent (TSE) networks. (Gulf-Times.com)
- · PSA: Qatar maintains its leadership position in the list of countries with lowest unemployment rate globally - Oatar maintains its leadership position in the list of countries with lowest unemployment rate globally, according to a new data released by the Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA). As per the data, unemployment rate in Qatar remained stable at 0.1% during 3Q2019. The average unemployment in the European Union stood at 12%, while it is 8% for the countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). On the other hand, the number of economically active population increased in 3Q2019 by about 6,000 individuals, or 0.3% as compared to 2Q2019. The number of economically active Qatari residents increased during the third quarter by about 187 individuals or 0.2% over the second quarter. The number of non-Qatari individuals increased 0.3% in third quarter. PSA manpower survey showed that the number of participants in the workforce increased from 2,051,619 during the second quarter to 2,057,219 workers during the third quarter. The number of job seekers, according to the definition of the International Labor Organization, reached 2,205 during the third quarter. (Qatar Tribune)
- Societe Generale: Fast-paced growth of Qatari economy expected to continue this year - Fast-paced growth of the Qatari economy is expected to continue this year with

- acceleration from the country's non-hydrocarbon sector, French multinational investment bank and financial services company Societe Generale has said in its latest update. According to Societe Generale, Qatar's economy is expected to grow at 2.6% in 2020, in light of the country hosting the 2022 World Cup, which should support investments and activity in the construction, tourism, and transportation sectors. Qatar is the world's leading exporter of LNG and holds the third largest gas reserves in the world (estimated at 16% of the global total), it said. Like other Gulf countries, Qatar has been hit by a global decline in oil prices since 2014. However, the economic results have been better than that of its neighbors, due to successful economic diversification, namely via the development of largescale projects. After falling to a deficit of 5.5% in 2016, Qatar's surplus of the budget balance stood at an estimated 4.8% in 2018, backed by restrained government spending and higher energy prices (hydrocarbon exports still account for nearly 50% of the government's total revenues). For 2019, the International Monetary Fund has forecast a surplus of 6.6%. The country's debt-to-GDP ratio grew in recent years, up to 53.4% in 2018, but is expected to moderate to 44.8% by 2020. (Gulf-Times.com)
- Qatar's CAA signs agreement with European Aviation Safety
  Agency Qatar's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) signed an
  agreement with the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)
  on the collection and exchange of information on civil aviation
  safety in accordance with the EU Ramp Inspection Program.
  Under the agreement, the CAA is joining the EU Ramp
  Inspection Program. The agreement also boosts cooperation
  and exchange of information between CAA and EASA, in
  addition to possible exchange of the program database between
  the two sides. (Gulf-Times.com)
- Qatar, FIFA present joint World Cup 2022 Sustainability Strategy Developing human capital, safeguarding workers' rights and delivering innovative environmental solutions are among the commitments outlined in the first-ever joint FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Sustainability Strategy presented by Qatar and FIFA. The issues and initiatives that form the framework of the strategy, which was published on Tuesday, were identified with the help of a thorough and continuous consultation process with local and international stakeholders, and thematic experts through surveys, workshops, meetings and the circulation of drafts, the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) and FIFA said in a statement. Further, the development process for the strategy also included a full human rights salience assessment, a first for a mega-sporting event. (Gulf-Times.com)
- CRA invites public comments on Qatar Spectrum Outlook The
  Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) has published a
  public consultation on Qatar Spectrum Outlook aimed at
  providing an opportunity for interested parties and
  stakeholders to send their views and comments on the draft
  document 'Qatar Spectrum Outlook 2022' by February 20, 2020.
  The Qatar Spectrum Outlook 2022 aims to provide stakeholders
  with an overview of CRA's overall approach and planned
  activities related to meeting the expected spectrum demand for
  commercial mobile services, satellite services, broadcasting
  service and program making and special events applications

over the next three years. In the document, CRA presented its spectrum management priorities through its three-year spectrum outlook for the period 2020-2022. The outlook is expected to cover the prioritization of spectrum work in the short-term and to be updated and published after the approval from competent authorities reflecting consideration of submissions from interested parties and stakeholders. The document outlines CRA's plans to address issues related to access to spectrum and enabling new technologies, and to make resources available to support telecommunications services and applications that are expected to require new or additional spectrum in the coming years, especially during the hosting of the 2022 FIFA World Cup. (Qatar Tribune)

## International

- UK jobs boom returns as Bank of England considers rate cut British job growth was the strongest in nearly a year in the three months to November, according to data that could weaken the case for an interest rate cut by the Bank of England next week. Tuesday's reading showed the number of people in employment rose by 208,000 to 32.90mn, the biggest increase since the three months to January 2019 and much stronger than the median forecast in a Reuters poll for a rise of 110,000. The Office for National Statistics said the strong jobs growth reflected a particularly weak three-month period to August when jobs fell, but the data also showed the employment rate hit a record high of 76.3% and jobs growth was driven by hiring as well as self-employment. (Reuters)
- Trade truce lifts German investor morale to highest since 2015 -A truce in the US-China trade dispute has left German investors at their most optimistic since mid-2015, a leading survey showed, but its compiler cautioned that the growth outlook for Europe's dominant economy remains subdued. Economic sentiment among investors rose to 26.7 in January from 10.7 in December, according to Tuesday's ZEW research institute survey - its highest reading since July 2015 and well above a forecast of 15.0. ZEW's President, Achim Wambach said the better mood was mainly due to last week's Phase 1 trade agreement between Washington and Beijing. Their 18-month conflict had dampened global growth and increased business uncertainty. "This gives rise to the hope that the trade dispute's negative effects on the German economy will be less pronounced than previously thought," Wambach said. (Reuters)
- Germany likely to lose the most from trade diverted by US-Sino deal The trade deal struck by the US and China will divert trade away from European exporters, experts said on Tuesday, and Germany is likely to be affected the most. Washington and Beijing last week reached a truce in their 18-month trade war, which slowed global economic growth and increased business uncertainty. The initial agreement calls for China to buy more US goods and services. The Phase 1 agreement will redirect global trade flows and cut demand for European goods worth nearly \$11bn, Gabriel Felbermayr, President of the Kiel Institute for the World Economy, said. The European Union is now checking to see whether the agreement complies with the rules of the World Trade Organization. "Among the EU countries, Germany is particularly affected, and among the sectors,

- especially aircraft and vehicle manufacturing," Felbermayr said. (Reuters)
- · BoJ raises growth forecast, signals status quo on policy outlook - The Bank of Japan (BoJ) nudged up its economic growth forecasts on Tuesday and was cautiously optimistic about the global outlook, though it said ongoing risks meant it was far to soon to consider scaling down its massive stimulus program. The central bank signaled an expected domestic boost from a government fiscal spending package and Governor Haruhiko Kuroda, citing the US-China Phase 1 trade deal, said overseas risks have subsided somewhat. At a two-day rate review that ended on Tuesday, the BoJ kept its short-term interest rate target at -0.1% and a pledge to guide 10-year government bond yields around 0%. It maintained guidance that commits to keeping rates at current low levels, or even to cut them, until risks keeping it from achieving its 2% inflation goal subside. In a quarterly review, the BoJ also revised up its growth projection for the fiscal year beginning April 2020 to 0.9% from 0.7%, helped by the government's fiscal package, and hiked its estimate for 2021. BoJ's Governor, Kuroda said Japan's \$122bn fiscal package and receding overseas risks, such as a temporary truce in the US-China trade war, would underpin growth. He was also upbeat on the outlook for capital expenditure and private consumption, saying the hit to households from last October's sales tax hike would be temporary. (Reuters)

### Regional

- GCC IPO activity to remain strong in 2020 GCC IPO markets in 2020 could see healthy activity, given that corporates who were waiting for state-owned enterprises to provide leadership in primary equity markets could enter the market. However, secondary equity markets would continue to be key for valuation in our view, along with stable geopolitics in the backdrop of impending US elections and a resolution to Brexit, according to KAMCO Research. Government initiatives and regulatory reforms like easing foreign strategic ownership limits of 49% would be welcome for both primary and secondary markets, as seen in 2019. Initiatives and policies that support and encourage SMEs and family business to take the IPO route would also aid primary equity markets and investors to tap into entities with a wide variety of business models and product offerings. Apart from privatized state-owned issuances, other corporates witnessed lower IPO issuances, despite most GCC secondary markets witnessing gains in 2019. IPO ambitions for these corporates were potentially deferred for higher investor participation in future, given that most of primary market liquidity was taken up by the IPOs of the aforementioned state -owned enterprises. Country level participation in the GCC was lower in 2019 than in 2018, when all countries saw representation in IPO activity. Qatar and Oman were the other participants in the region with Qatar's IPO of dairy company - Baladna, and Oman witnessing the IPO of Musandam Power (\$23.1mn), as per Bloomberg. (Peninsula Qatar)
- Saudi Arabia starts selling triple-tranche dollar bonds Saudi Arabia has launched the sale of US dollar denominated bonds with maturities of seven, 12 and 35 years, a document showed, tapping international investors as part of plans to raise \$32bn worth of debt this year. Riyadh has been borrowing extensively

over the past few years, locally and internationally, as it seeks new financing channels in an era of lower oil prices. The new debt sale, which is due to close later, will be of benchmark size, meaning each tranche is expected to be at least \$500mn, a document issued by one of the banks leading the deal showed. The Kingdom is offering initial price guidance of around 110 basis points (bps) over US Treasuries for the seven-year paper, the document showed, 135 bps over the benchmark for the 12-year tranche, and 180 bps over for the 35-year - its longest ever international debt tranche. (Zawya)

- Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister welcomes Russia's Novak reappointment Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister, Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman said he welcomes the reappointment of Alexander Novak as Russia's Energy Minister adding it was important for Saudi Arabia and Russian cooperation within the OPEC+ group. "I'm so happy his term was extended," he told Reuters after meeting the Head of Russian Direct Investment Fund, Kirill Dmitriev on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos. Dmitriev was also one of the key architects of Russia's deal to join OPEC's production cuts in 2017. Saudi Arabia's energy minister also added that he understood that noone in Russia was contemplating quitting the so-called OPEC+ deal in March. He said at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos that it was important for OPEC+ to meet in March to review its current deal. (Reuters)
- Saudi Aramco IPO proceeds to fund Saudi Arabian industry, including defense Saudi Arabia will pump the proceeds from last month's listing of oil giant Saudi Aramco into the local economy over several years, including building up the domestic defense industry amid tensions with Iran, its Finance Minister, Mohammed Al-Jadaan said. "We in Saudi have to focus on the economy and reform, we firmly believe the disputes can only be resolved by dialogue," he said. (Reuters)
- Saudi Arabia's oil exports down 10.47% in November Saudi Arabia's crude oil exports declined during last November by 10.47% YoY however, registered the highest level in 2019. The Kingdom's crude exports amounted to 7.37mn bpd last November, compared with 8.2mn bpd in the same period a year earlier, according to the Joint Organisations Data Initiative (JODI). On a monthly basis, Saudi oil exports increased in November by 4.5%, compared with its level in October at 7.06mn bpd. It is worth noting that Saudi production decreased in November by 3.2% YoY to 9.89mn bpd, in line with the OPEC-led output cuts. (Zawya)
- Saudi Arabia's December CPI up 0.2%, first yearly increase in 2019 Saudi Arabia's consumer price index (CPI) rose 0.2% in December from a year earlier, government data showed, reversing a deflationary trend that lasted most of 2019. The increase was fueled by rises in the price of food and beverages, restaurants, hotels and education, according to data from the General Authority for Statistics. The CPI rose 0.1% in December from November, the data showed. (Zawya)
- STC's CEO sees potential for Middle East and Africa expansion Saudi Telecom Co. (STC), the Kingdom's largest phone operator, sees potential for expansion in the Middle East and parts of Africa, Chief Executive Officer, Nasser Sulaiman Al Nasser said. STC, which has already raised \$1.25bn in an offering of Sukuk, or Islamic bonds, would be able to tap the same source again to

- fund any expansion, Al Nasser said. He also said that "our strategy is when we see a viable target that will actually add value and bring the right return, we will not shy to expand. I believe that the region and part of Africa has the potential. Any plans by authorities to grant Mobile Virtual Network Operator licenses to foreign companies will be an opportunity to sell them our assets and network set-up, so there is potential to partner with them," he said. (Bloomberg)
- Saudi Solidarity and Aljazira Takaful ink new merger MoU Solidarity Saudi Takaful Company and Aljazira Takaful Taawuni Company have signed an amended non-binding memorandum of understanding (MoU) to evaluate a potential merger between the two firms. Accordingly, the two companies will conduct inspections on the technical, financial, legal, and actuarial aspects of the merger deal terms and conditions. Aljazira and Solidarity agreed that evaluation will be based on the equity book value and the adjusted equity book value as of December 31, 2019, according to a statement to the Saudi Stock Exchange (Tadawul). The new agreement is valid until the end of September 2020. (Zawya)
- SAGIA inks \$164mn factory MoU with China's Shen Gong The Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA) announced signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with China's Shen Gong New Materials to establish an intelligent electronic manufacturing facility. The factory will be carried out through three phases, SAGIA revealed. In the first phase of the factory, investments will reach \$164mn. It is worth noting that the new manufacturing facility will produce plastics and lighting materials. (Zawya)
- Hilton plans to open 50 more luxury hotels in Saudi Arabia, hire **7,500 workers** – Hilton is all set to quadruple its luxury hotel portfolio in Saudi Arabia by opening more than 50 additional hotels in the Kingdom in the next five years. In a statement sent to Zawva, the company said that it intends to hire an additional 7,500 workers throughout the same period, tripling its current workforce of 2,500. The global hospitality company, which has a portfolio of 6,000 properties worldwide, made the announcement amid reports that Saudi Arabia is embarking on a multi-billion-dollar infrastructure bonanza to diversify its economy and ramp up the tourism industry. Hilton operates 14 properties, including five of its industry-leading brands in Saudi Arabia - Waldorf Astoria, Conrad, Hilton Hotels & Resorts, DoubleTree by Hilton and Hilton Garden Inn. Just last year, the company opened two new hotels and signed into its pipeline at least nine more, including one property that carries the Embassy Suites by Hilton brand, three locations under the DoubleTree by Hilton name and one Waldorf Astoria. Hilton's Vice President for development in the Middle East and Africa, Carlos Khneisser said that Saudi Arabia is "an incredibly exciting and dynamic market. We are fully committed to supporting the government's approach to opening the country to tourism and its Vision 2030." According to Deloitte, hotels in Riyadh saw a 5% increase in average occupancy levels during the first half of 2019 compared to the same period in 2018. However, the hoteliers incurred a 6% decline in revenue per available room (RevPAR) due to increasing room supply and competition. (Zawva)

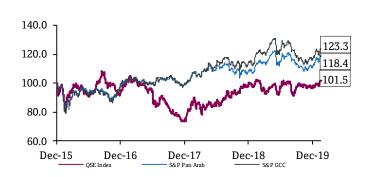
- Dubai registers 16.7mn tourists in 2019, Chinese visitors rise -The number of foreign overnight visitors to Dubai increased 5.1% to 16.7mn in 2019, helped by a rise in Chinese visitors even as tourists from top source market India fell, the government said. Tourism is an important contributor to state revenue in Dubai, which will host the EXPO 2020 world fair from October and has targeted 20mn tourists by this year. Dubai, which has spent large amounts developing its tourism sector and lacks the oil wealth of some of its neighbors, had seen growth in visitor numbers slow to less than 1% in 2018. Almost 2mn Indians visited Dubai last year, a statement from Dubai's government media office said, compared to more than 2mn in 2018. Specific numbers for both years were not disclosed. The number of Chinese visitors rose 15.5% to 989,000. Dubai's top six source markets for 2019 were India, Saudi Arabia, the UK, Oman, China and Russia which together accounted for more than 7mn visitors. Dubai is targeting more than 23mn visitors by 2025. (Reuters)
- DP World CEO very bullish on Africa growth The CEO of Dubai-based port operator DP World, Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem said that he sees growth opportunities in Africa. In an interview with Bloomberg TV at Davos, he said: "I am very bullish about Africa, which shows good signs overall. Look at Egypt, for example. With good policies, with sound policies, there is growth and that mirrors our expansion. We are expanding double the capacity of our port in Sokhna in Egypt." DP World has opened a dry port in Rwanda and expects it to become a hub for cargo that will come from Dar-es-Salaam and Momabsa, he said. (Zawya)
- Dubai's DP World takes 44% stake in Swissterminal Holding Dubai state controlled port operator DP World has taken a 44% stake in Swiss container terminal operator Swissterminal Holding AG, the Dubai government said. The Mayer family, who founded the business, will remain a majority shareholder, the statement said. Financial terms were not disclosed. (Zawya)
- SHUAA Capital's unit in pact to manage portfolio of about \$400mn SHUAA Capital said one of its offshore subsidiaries finalized an agreement to manage an investment portfolios of assets valued about \$400mn. The Dubai-based investment bank expects transaction to generate various fees however, did not provide details of the portfolio. With the deal, assets under management of SHUAA Capital and subsidiaries are at \$13.4bn. (Bloomberg)
- Kuwait's December consumer prices rise 1.5% YoY and 0.17% MoM Central Statistical Bureau in Kuwait City published Kuwait's consumer price indices which showed that consumer prices rose 1.5% YoY and 0.17% MoM in December. Food and beverages price index rose 1.76% YoY. (Bloomberg)
- Kuwait central bank issues bonds; oversubscribed 12.125 times

   The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) on Tuesday issued bonds and related tawarruq at a value of KD240mn, with a 2.750% rate of return. The issuance was oversubscribed by 12.125 times and registered an overall subscription demand worth KD2.91bn, according to data published by the CBK. The bonds carry a tenor of three months and will be due on April 21, 2020. Bonds and related tawarruq are local bonds offered by the CBK to banks

- working in the Kuwaiti banking sector to regulate the market's liquidity. (Zawya)
- Dow Chemical's Kuwait JV picks banks for dollar bond offering

   Kuwait's Equate Petrochemical Co. hired banks for a potential dollar bond sale, according to sources. The joint venture (JV) between Dow Chemical Co. and the state-owned Petrochemical Industries Co. is working with banks including HSBC Holdings, Mitsubishi UFJ, JPMorgan Chase & Co. and NBK Capital, the sources said. Equate, which has the third-lowest investment grade at S&P Global Ratings, may sell the bonds in the first quarter, the sources added. The sale could raise at least \$1bn, sources added. (Bloomberg)
- Oman sells OMR65mn 91-day bills at yield 1.836%; bid-cover at 1.26x Oman sold OMR65mn of 91 day bills due on April 22, 2020 on January 20, 2020. Investors offered to buy 1.26 times the amount of securities sold. The bills were sold at a price of 99.54, having a yield of 1.836% and will settle on January 22, 2020. (Bloomberg)
- Fitch Ratings rates Mumtalakat's \$500mn Senior Unsecured Sukuk at 'BB-' Fitch Ratings has assigned Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company's (Mumtalakat; 'BB-'/Stable/'B') \$500mn senior unsecured Sukuk certificates due on January 21, 2027 a 'BB-' rating. The certificates are issued through Mumtalakat Sukuk Holding Company (MSHC) under Mumtalakat Sukuk Trust Certificate Issuance Programme. The rating is in line with Mumtalakat's Long-Term Issuer Default Rating (IDR) and senior unsecured rating. MSHC is the issuer of the certificates and trustee. MSHC is an exempted company with limited liability incorporated in the Cayman Islands, which has been established for the sole purpose of issuing the certificates, and is owned by Mumtalakat. Fitch understands that the proceeds will be used for general corporate purposes. (Zawya)
- Bahrain's GFH to raise \$300mn with Sukuk Bahrain-based GFH Financial Group is set to raise \$300mn with five-year Sukuk, or Islamic bonds, a document showed. The investment group started marketing the notes with an initial yield guidance of around 7%. The sale received over \$650mn in demand, the document showed. The issuer is rated 'B' by S&P and Fitch. (Zawya)
- Bahrain sells BHD100mn 364-day bills; bid-cover at 1.96x Bahrain sold BHD100mn of 364 day bills due on January 21, 2021. Investors offered to buy 1.96 times the amount of securities sold. The bills were sold at a price of 97.436, having a yield of 2.6% and will settle on January 23, 2020. (Bloomberg)

#### **Rebased Performance**

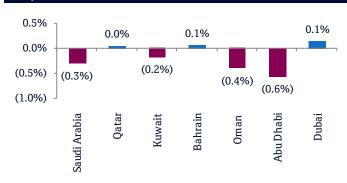


Source: Bloomberg

Asset/Currency Performance	Close (\$)	1D%	WTD%	YTD%
Gold/Ounce	1,558.17	(0.2)	0.1	2.7
Silver/Ounce	17.79	(1.6)	(1.4)	(0.4)
Crude Oil (Brent)/Barrel (FM Future)	64.59	(0.9)	(0.4)	(2.1)
Crude Oil (WTI)/Barrel (FM Future)	58.34	(0.3)	(0.3)	(4.5)
Natural Gas (Henry Hub)/MMBtu	1.98	(3.9)	(3.9)	(5.3)
LPG Propane (Arab Gulf)/Ton#	42.25	0.0	0.0	2.4
LPG Butane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	71.50	3.6	3.6	9.2
Euro	1.11	(0.1)	(0.1)	(1.2)
Yen	109.87	(0.3)	(0.2)	1.2
GBP	1.31	0.3	0.3	(1.6)
CHF	1.03	(0.0)	(0.1)	(0.1)
AUD	0.68	(0.4)	(0.5)	(2.5)
USD Index	97.53	(0.1)	(0.1)	1.2
RUB	61.89	0.6	0.5	(0.2)
BRL	0.24	(0.5)	(1.2)	(4.6)

Source: Bloomberg ("Market was closed on January 21, 2020)

#### Daily Index Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Global Indices Performance	Close	1D%*	WTD%*	YTD%*
MSCI World Index	2,409.29	(0.2)	(0.3)	2.2
DJ Industrial	29,196.04	(0.5)	(0.5)	2.3
S&P 500	3,320.79	(0.3)	(0.3)	2.8
NASDAQ 100	9,370.81	(0.2)	(0.2)	4.4
STOXX 600	423.38	(0.1)	(0.3)	0.6
DAX	13,555.87	0.1	0.2	1.2
FTSE 100	7,610.70	(0.2)	(0.7)	(0.7)
CAC 40	6,045.99	(0.5)	(0.9)	(0.1)
Nikkei	23,864.56	(0.7)	(0.5)	(0.1)
MSCI EM	1,126.85	(1.6)	(1.7)	1.1
SHANGHAI SE Composite	3,052.14	(1.8)	(1.1)	1.1
HANG SENG	27,985.33	(2.8)	(3.7)	(0.5)
BSE SENSEX	41,323.81	(0.7)	(1.6)	0.2
Bovespa	117,026.00	(1.8)	(1.7)	(3.2)
RTS	1,634.32	(0.7)	(0.2)	5.5

Source: Bloomberg (\*\$ adjusted returns)

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