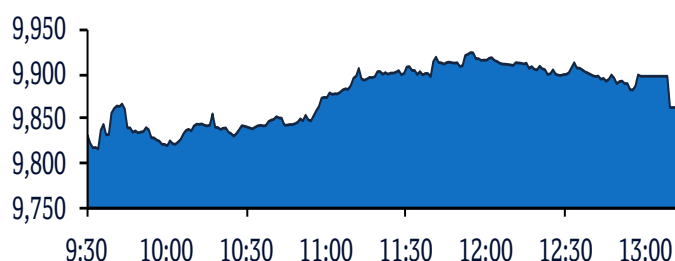


## QSE Intra-Day Movement



## Qatar Commentary

The QE Index rose 0.7% to close at 9,864.3. Gains were led by the Real Estate and Telecoms indices, gaining 5.8% and 2.6%, respectively. Top gainers were Ezdan Holding Group and Qatar Aluminium Manufacturing Company, rising 10.0% and 9.6%, respectively. Among the top losers, Qatar General Insurance & Reinsurance Company fell 10.0%, while Salam International Investment Limited was down 4.4%.

## GCC Commentary

**Saudi Arabia:** The TASI Index gained 1.3% to close at 8,480.7. Gains were led by the Retailing and Health Care Equip. & Svc indices, rising 4.5% and 3.1%, respectively. Chubb Arabia Cooperative Ins. and Metlife AIG ANB Coop. Ins. were up 10.0% each.

**Dubai:** The DFM Index fell 1.1% to close at 2,583.7. The Consumer Staples and Disc. index declined 4.3%, while the Investment & Financial Services index fell 3.3%. Arabtec Holding declined 7.0%, while Dar Al Takaful was down 6.0%.

**Abu Dhabi:** The ADX General Index fell 0.5% to close at 4,777.6. The Real Estate index declined 2.3%, while the Energy index fell 1.4%. Sharjah Group declined 9.5%, while Manazel Real Estate was down 5.2%.

**Kuwait:** The Kuwait Main Market Index fell 0.8% to close at 4,752.8. The Insurance index declined 3.4%, while the Industrials index fell 1.0%. Al-Massaleh Real Estate Company declined 10.0%, while Al Ahleia Insurance Company was down 9.6%.

**Oman:** The MSM 30 Index gained marginally to close at 3,828.2. Gains were led by the Industrial and Services indices, rising 0.2% and 0.1%, respectively. Muscat Finance rose 3.2%, while Al Anwar Ceramic Tiles was up 2.1%.

**Bahrain:** The BHB Index gained marginally to close at 1,408.7. The Industrial index rose 0.5%, while the Commercial Banks index gained 0.1%. Bahrain Ship Repairing & Engineering Company rose 3.9%, while Al Salam Bank- Bahrain was up 2.5%.

QSE Top Gainers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Ezdan Holding Group	8.72	10.0	3,892.9	(32.8)
Qatar Aluminium Manufacturing	10.30	9.6	4,034.0	(22.8)
Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding	25.14	9.4	3,391.6	67.3
Qatari German Co for Med. Devices	5.98	5.8	26.3	5.7
Mannai Corporation	42.86	4.5	0.3	(22.0)

QSE Top Volume Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Qatar Aluminium Manufacturing	10.30	9.6	4,034.0	(22.8)
Ezdan Holding Group	8.72	10.0	3,892.9	(32.8)
Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding	25.14	9.4	3,391.6	67.3
Qatar First Bank	4.33	(0.5)	2,999.6	6.1
Salam International Inv. Ltd.	4.31	(4.4)	2,610.8	(0.5)

Regional Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	MTD%	YTD%	Exch. Val. Traded (\$ mn)	Exchange Mkt. Cap. (\$ mn)	P/E**	P/B**	Dividend Yield
Qatar*	9,864.26	0.7	(1.6)	(4.9)	(4.2)	193.14	150,913.2	13.9	1.5	4.4
Dubai	2,583.74	(1.1)	(3.3)	(6.6)	2.1	44.39	93,953.1	11.1	1.0	5.2
Abu Dhabi	4,777.57	(0.5)	(5.4)	(9.1)	(2.8)	78.36	133,757.2	13.9	1.4	5.2
Saudi Arabia	8,480.70	1.3	(4.2)	(8.9)	8.4	1,524.52	528,345.4	19.4	1.9	3.5
Kuwait	4,752.84	(0.8)	(1.6)	(1.6)	0.3	98.86	32,842.9	14.3	0.9	3.9
Oman	3,828.21	0.0	(0.9)	(3.0)	(11.5)	4.10	16,800.6	8.0	0.7	7.2
Bahrain	1,408.66	0.0	(1.9)	(1.8)	5.3	1.76	21,820.5	9.8	0.9	5.4

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

Market Indicators	15 May 19	14 May 19	%Chg.
Value Traded (QR mn)	456.3	628.6	(27.4)
Exch. Market Cap. (QR mn)	549,374.5	543,224.0	1.1
Volume (mn)	24.7	23.9	3.5
Number of Transactions	9,847	13,310	(26.0)
Companies Traded	45	43	4.7
Market Breadth	30:12	23:17	-

Market Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	YTD%	TTM P/E
Total Return	18,151.07	0.7	(1.6)	0.0	13.9
All Share Index	2,962.45	1.2	(2.4)	(3.8)	14.1
Banks	3,728.99	0.2	(3.3)	(2.7)	13.0
Industrials	3,136.64	1.3	1.2	(2.4)	15.8
Transportation	2,355.43	0.5	(3.3)	14.4	12.6
Real Estate	1,670.68	5.8	(5.9)	(23.6)	14.0
Insurance	3,048.80	0.6	(3.9)	1.3	17.6
Telecoms	888.81	2.6	(3.2)	(10.0)	18.2
Consumer	8,037.01	0.1	1.7	19.0	15.7
Al Rayan Islamic Index	3,885.34	1.2	(0.2)	0.0	13.3

GCC Top Gainers**	Exchange	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Mouwasat Med. Services	Saudi Arabia	83.90	4.9	196.9	4.2
Jarir Marketing Co.	Saudi Arabia	172.80	4.3	408.1	13.7
Sahara Petrochemical Co.	Saudi Arabia	17.26	4.0	2,516.7	14.2
Dar Al Arkan Real Estate	Saudi Arabia	9.35	3.5	14,118.1	3.7
Emaar Economic City	Saudi Arabia	9.16	2.9	4,364.8	15.8

GCC Top Losers**	Exchange	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
GFH Financial Group	Dubai	0.87	(3.9)	8,384.4	(3.5)
Comm. Bank of Kuwait	Kuwait	0.51	(3.6)	39.5	12.4
Dubai Investments	Dubai	1.22	(3.2)	3,577.9	(3.2)
DAMAC Properties	Dubai	0.90	(2.9)	7,587.5	(40.2)
Savola Group	Saudi Arabia	31.10	(2.8)	1,765.0	16.0

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.	37.35	(10.0)	0.0	(16.8)
Salam International Inv. Ltd.	4.31	(4.4)	2,610.8	(0.5)
Zad Holding Company	121.11	(2.9)	0.3	16.5
Qatar Oman Investment Co.	5.64	(2.6)	2.4	5.6
Industries Qatar	110.50	(1.0)	243.2	(17.3)

QSE Top Value Trades	Close*	1D%	Val. '000	YTD%
Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding	25.14	9.4	83,824.0	67.3
QNB Group	176.00	0.0	64,934.0	(9.7)
Qatar Fuel Company	216.00	(0.2)	55,802.7	30.1
Qatar Aluminium Manufacturing	10.30	9.6	40,614.5	(22.8)
Ezdan Holding Group	8.72	10.0	32,998.4	(32.8)

Source: Bloomberg (\* in QR)

## Qatar Market Commentary

- The QE Index rose 0.7% to close at 9,864.3. The Real Estate and Telecoms 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.
- Ezdan Holding Group and Qatar Aluminium Manufacturing Company were the top gainers, rising 10.0% and 9.6%, respectively. Among the top losers, Qatar General Insurance & Reinsurance Company fell 10.0%, while Salam International Investment Limited was down 4.4%.
- Volume of shares traded on Wednesday rose by 3.5% to 24.7mn from 23.9mn on Tuesday. Further, as compared to the 30-day moving average of 13.2mn, volume for the day was 87.8% higher. Qatar Aluminium Manufacturing Company and Ezdan Holding Group were the most active stocks, contributing 16.3% and 15.7% to the total volume, respectively.

Overall Activity	Buy %*	Sell %*	Net (QR)
Qatari Individuals	40.90%	44.16%	(14,878,669.33)
Qatari Institutions	18.07%	9.05%	41,150,737.42
<b>Qatari</b>	<b>58.97%</b>	<b>53.21%</b>	<b>26,272,068.09</b>
GCC Individuals	0.99%	0.94%	224,884.46
GCC Institutions	0.72%	0.84%	(563,071.20)
<b>GCC</b>	<b>1.71%</b>	<b>1.78%</b>	<b>(338,186.74)</b>
Non-Qatari Individuals	10.90%	11.45%	(2,504,839.74)
Non-Qatari Institutions	28.41%	33.55%	(23,429,041.61)
<b>Non-Qatari</b>	<b>39.31%</b>	<b>45.00%</b>	<b>(25,933,881.35)</b>

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

## Earnings Releases and Global Economic Data

### Earnings Releases

Company	Market	Currency	Revenue (mn) 1Q2019	% Change YoY	Operating Profit (mn) 1Q2019	% Change YoY	Net Profit (mn) 1Q2019	% Change YoY
Emirates Refreshments	Dubai	AED	8.9	-20.4%	-3.5	N/A	-3.4	N/A
Dar Al Takaful	Dubai	AED	88.5	25.6%	-	-	2.1	-30.6%
Unikai Foods	Dubai	AED	66.3	-9.2%	-3.8	N/A	-5.1	N/A
DAMAC Properties	Dubai	AED	896.4	-52.6%	42.1	-91.5%	31.1	-93.6%
Gulf General Investments Co.	Dubai	AED	116.2	1.2%	-	-	-34.7	N/A
Al-Sagr National Insurance Company	Dubai	AED	103.8	-2.9%	-	-	6.4	-35.0%
Arabtec Holding	Dubai	AED	2,027.3	-16.2%	-	-	31.8	-50.0%
Emaar Properties	Dubai	AED	5,893.9	-0.6%	-	-	1,741.7	7.2%
Emaar Development	Dubai	AED	3,340.6	2.3%	-	-	751.0	-8.3%
Ras Al Khaimah Poultry & Feeding Co.	Abu Dhabi	AED	8.4	-8.5%	-	-	0.3	-92.3%
Al Ain Ahlia Insurance Company	Abu Dhabi	AED	346.2	-49.4%	-	-	14.6	-3.2%
Gulf Medical Projects Company	Abu Dhabi	AED	141.7	13.8%	-	-	12.1	-32.1%
Union Insurance Company	Abu Dhabi	AED	244.2	8.8%	-	-	10.5	152.5%
Al Fujairah National Insurance Co.	Abu Dhabi	AED	67.2	10.6%	-	-	12.8	35.1%
Al Buhaira National Insurance Co.	Abu Dhabi	AED	203.4	65.7%	-	-	19.1	2.6%
National Marine Dredging Company	Abu Dhabi	AED	324.3	-2.6%	-	-	17.5	23.7%
Al Fujairah National Insurance Co.	Abu Dhabi	AED	67.2	10.6%	-	-	12.8	35.1%
Al Buhaira National Insurance Co.	Abu Dhabi	AED	203.4	65.7%	-	-	19.1	2.6%
Sharjah Insurance Company	Abu Dhabi	AED	11.1	-7.6%	-	-	4.2	-48.8%
Ektettab Holding Co.#	Kuwait	KD	39.2	257.6%	82.2	N/A	-41.8	N/A
Agility Public Warehousing Company	Kuwait	KD	378.8	1.9%	-	-	20.3	7.3%
Al Salam Group Holding	Kuwait	KD	1.3	-16.0%	-0.1	N/A	-0.1	N/A
AAN Digital Services Holding Co.	Kuwait	KD	8.7	-49.2%	-	-	-0.3	N/A
National International Holding Co.	Kuwait	KD	1.1	13.4%	-	-	0.5	11.1%

Source: Company data, DFM, ADX, MSM, TASI, BHB. (\*Values in '000)

### Global Economic Data

Date	Market	Source	Indicator	Period	Actual	Consensus	Previous
05/15	US	Mortgage Bankers Association	MBA Mortgage Applications	10-May	-0.6%	-	2.7%
05/15	US	Federal Reserve	Industrial Production MoM	April	-0.5%	0.0%	0.2%
05/15	US	Federal Reserve	Manufacturing (SIC) Production	April	-0.5%	0.0%	0.0%
05/15	EU	Eurostat	GDP SA QoQ	1Q2019	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
05/15	EU	Eurostat	GDP SA YoY	1Q2019	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%
05/15	Germany	German Federal Statistical Office	GDP SA QoQ	1Q2019	0.4%	0.4%	0.0%
05/15	Germany	German Federal Statistical Office	GDP NSA YoY	1Q2019	0.6%	0.7%	0.9%
05/15	Germany	German Federal Statistical Office	GDP WDA YoY	1Q2019	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%

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

## Global Economic Data

Date	Market	Source	Indicator	Period	Actual	Consensus	Previous
05/15	France	INSEE National Statistics Office	CPI MoM	April	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%
05/15	France	INSEE National Statistics Office	CPI YoY	April	1.3%	1.2%	1.2%

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

## Stock Split Dates for Listed Qatari Companies

Day / Date	Company Symbols			Sector
	1	2	3	
Sunday 09/06/2019	CBQK	QFBQ		Banking and Financial Services
Monday 10/06/2019	KCBK	DBIS	QOIS	
Tuesday 11/06/2019	QIHK	NLCS		
Wednesday 12/06/2019	QNBK	ABQK	IHGS	
Thursday 13/06/2019	QIBK	DHBK		
Sunday 16/06/2019	MARK			
Monday 17/06/2019	MERS	MCCS		Consumer Goods & Services
Tuesday 18/06/2019	WDAM	ZHCD	QGMD	
Wednesday 19/06/2019	QFLS	MCGS		
Thursday 20/06/2019	SIIS	QCFS		
Sunday 23/06/2019	MPHC	IGRD		Industrial
Monday 24/06/2019	QIGD	AHCS	QNCD	
Tuesday 25/06/2019	IQCD	QIMD		
Wednesday 26/06/2019	QEWS	GISS		
Thursday 27/06/2019	QISI	QATI		Insurance
Sunday 30/06/2019	DOHI	QGRI	AKHI	
Monday 01/07/2019	BRES	ERES		Real Estate
Tuesday 02/07/2019	UDCD	MRDS		
Wednesday 03/07/2019	VFQS	ORDS		Telecoms
Thursday 04/07/2019	QGTS	GWCS	QNNS	Transport/Logistics
Sunday 07/07/2019	QETF	QATR	QAMC	ETFs and QAMCO

Source: QSE

## News

### Qatar

- MSCI inclusion of three QSE companies to boost liquidity, fund inflows** – Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) on stated global index compiler MSCI's decision to include three listed companies in its indices will not only enhance liquidity in the market but also open the door to global portfolios. In its recent review, which will take effect on May 28, MSCI added WOQOD, Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding Company and Qatar Aluminium Manufacturing Company. Qatar Stock Exchange's CEO, Rashid bin Ali Al-Mansoori described this announcement as a positive step and added that, "We are proud of the performance of Qatari listed companies as evidenced by the inclusion of various Qatari companies in the MSCI EM index. This development would enhance liquidity in the market and contribute to the flow of medium-and long-term foreign investments." Al-Mansoori hoped that this development will open the door to the flow of investments of global portfolios to invest in the shares of Qatari companies, especially in view of the fact that these foreign investment portfolios seek to invest in the Qatari market, which is characterized for being safe and stable investment environment. (QSE, Gulf-Times.com)

- QNB Group opens new branch in Musheireb Metro Station** – QNB Group announced the opening of its new branch in the Musheireb Metro Station, thus being the first bank to open a branch in the new station. The opening of the new branch is testament of QNB Group's keenness to provide its customers with easy access to leading banking services anywhere in Qatar or through its international network. The new branch is the latest addition to the Group's network of local branches, which cover all parts of Qatar and continue to expand to all emerging regions in the country. (Qatar Tribune)
- Ooredoo announces date to pay principal and interest to bondholders** – Ooredoo announced that Ooredoo International Finance Limited (OIFL), its wholly-owned subsidiary, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the notes and the final terms, will pay its Global Medium Term Note (GMTN) holders' the principal and interest payment on June 10, 2019. (QSE)
- Ooredoo Group again in 'world's top 50 telecoms brands' list** – Ooredoo Group has again been listed in the 'Telecoms 300 2019 report' as one of the top 50 telecommunications brands in the world, with a brand value of some \$3.779bn. Qatar-based telecommunications provider jumped to 41st in the Top 50 rankings, from 43rd last year, reporting a growth of 12% in

brand value. Also, Ooredoo Group maintained its Brand Rating status of 'AA+', with a Brand Strength Index (BSI) of 77.4, up from 74.7 the previous year. Industry valuation and strategy consultancy Brand Finance produces the rankings list each year according to valuations of telecommunications companies worldwide. (Gulf-Times.com)

- **Qatar's hospitality sector retains top spot in the Middle East** – Qatar's hospitality sector continues to win accolades, ranked best in the Middle East for a second consecutive year, according to the Guest Experience in the Middle East Report, released by hospitality and travel data providers Olery. The report analyzed over 12mn online guest reviews in the past 12 months (April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019) from popular online booking sites. Qatar's score increased from 84.3 last year to 85.4. The development of new attractions, such as the recently opened National Museum of Qatar, was credited with helping maintain the hospitality sector's momentum. The report measured overall guest satisfaction by considering different aspects of their tourist accommodation experience, including service, location, cleanliness, room quality, and value for money. In Qatar, service, cleanliness and location received ratings of 9.0, above the global benchmark in each of these categories. Qatar's hospitality sector also scored higher in rooms (8.9), food (8.8) and facilities (8.4). (Gulf-Times.com)
- **QFC: Fintech to help Qatar become Islamic finance hub** – Fintech can enable Islamic finance to attract more customers, increase efficiency, reduce costs and offer a wider range of products, helping the sector become more competitive against conventional finance, according to the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC). The Islamic banking and finance industry currently reaches about 100mn customers worldwide while the potential market is six times that, Ahmed Hafez, Head of Refinitiv Qatar, told 'Qatar-UK Fintech Roundtable', organized by the QFC in partnership with Qatar Development Bank (QDB) and Refinitiv, in London. "This gap can also be tapped through Fintech. Qatar, through the QFC, is well positioned to make use of these opportunities developing the country into a regional Fintech hub," he said. Islamic finance has taken great strides this century, with Shari'ah-compliant financial assets forecast to total \$3.8tn by 2022 up from \$2.2tn in 2016, with around 1,400 Islamic financial institutions now operating across 80 countries, according to a Refinitiv report. (Gulf-Times.com)
- **A step closer to Qatar's 2022 dream as Al Wakrah Stadium opens tonight** – Al Wakrah Stadium - one of the eight venues for the 2022 FIFA World Cup - will be officially opened tonight with hosting of the Amir Cup final. Al Wakrah Stadium is the second 2022 FIFA World Cup venue being delivered by the Supreme Committee of Delivery and Legacy (SC) after the opening of iconic Khlaifa International Stadium in 2017. The opening of the landmark Al Wakrah Stadium today is step-by-step realization of Qatar's dream of hosting a historic mega football event in Qatar in 2022. (Peninsula Qatar)
- **Al Khaleej Takaful appoints Mr. Abdullah Ali al-Assiri, as CEO** - Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Company announces its Board of Directors' decision and the approval of Qatar Central Bank to appoint Mr. Abdullah Ali Al-Assiri, as Chief Executive Officer Starting after Eid Al Fitr holiday. Mr. Abdullah Ali Al-Assiri, is a

qualified National and will be dedicated to support the company's growth and development plans (QSE)

#### **International**

- **Weak US retail sales, industrial output highlight slowing economy** – The US retail sales unexpectedly fell in April as households cut back on purchases of motor vehicles and a range of other goods, pointing to a slowdown in economic growth after a temporary boost from exports and inventories in the first quarter. The moderation in economic activity was underscored by other data showing a drop in industrial production last month as manufacturers, especially in the automotive sector, worked off stockpiles of unsold merchandise. Following the weak reports, the Atlanta Federal Reserve cut its second-quarter GDP growth estimate to a 1.1% annualized rate from a 1.6% pace. The economy grew at a 3.2% rate in the January-March period. The Commerce Department stated retail sales slipped 0.2% last month after surging 1.7% in March, which was the largest increase since September 2017. Economists polled by Reuters had forecasted retail sales gaining 0.2% in April. Retail sales in April increased 3.1% from a year ago. In a separate report, the Federal Reserve stated industrial production fell 0.5% in April after rising 0.2% in March. The third drop in production this year was led by manufacturing. Output at factories declined 0.5% as motor vehicles and parts production tumbled 2.6%. Manufacturing production was unchanged in March. (Reuters)
- **Trump expected to delay auto tariffs decision by up to six months** – The US President, Donald Trump is expected to delay a decision on imposing tariffs on imported cars and parts by up to six months, three Trump administration officials told Reuters, avoiding opening yet another front in his global trade battles. A formal announcement is expected by Saturday, the due date for Trump to make a decision on recommendations by the Commerce Department to protect the US auto industry from imports on national security grounds, the officials said. (Reuters)
- **US blacklists China's Huawei as trade dispute clouds global outlook** – The Trump administration hit Chinese telecoms giant Huawei with severe sanctions, adding another incendiary element to the US-China trade dispute just as Treasury Secretary, Steven Mnuchin said he would visit China soon for more talks. The Commerce Department stated it was adding Huawei Technologies Co Ltd and 70 affiliates to its 'Entity List' - a move that bans the company from acquiring components and technology from US firms without government approval. Commerce Secretary, Wilbur Ross said in a statement that President Donald Trump backed the decision to prevent American technology from being used by foreign owned entities in ways that potentially undermine US national security or foreign policy interests. (Reuters)
- **Eurozone's economy accelerates in first-quarter as Germany rebounds** – The Eurozone economy accelerated QoQ in the first three months of the year, the EU's statistics office confirmed, thanks to a rebound in the biggest economy Germany and the end of a technical recession in Italy. Eurostat stated the economy of the 19 countries sharing the Euro expanded by 0.4% QoQ in the January-March period, the same as its initial estimate, after 0.2% growth in the last three months of 2018.



YoY, the Eurozone grew by 1.2% in the first quarter, also as previously estimated, the same rate as at the end of last year. The quarterly acceleration was mainly thanks to Germany, which rebounded to 0.4% growth from zero growth in the previous three months. Italy also helped as it rallied from a technical recession of two consecutive quarters, when its economy contracted each time by 0.1%. It expanded by 0.2% in the first quarter of 2019. (Reuters)

- **German economy grew 0.4% in the first quarter, helped by domestic demand** – The German economy got off to a solid start in 2019 returning to growth in the first quarter, helped by higher household spending and booming construction, preliminary data showed. GDP in Europe's largest economy expanded by 0.4% QoQ, the Federal Statistics Office stated. This was in line with analysts' expectations. Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, the economy grew by 0.7% from January to March, calendar-adjusted data showed. This was also in line with the forecast. (Reuters)
- **China's retail sales growth slumps to 16-year low as trade war risks rise** – China reported surprisingly weaker growth in retail sales and industrial output for April, adding pressure on Beijing to roll out more stimulus as the trade war with the US escalates. Clothing sales fell for the first time since 2009, suggesting Chinese consumers were growing more worried about the economy even before a US tariff hike on Friday heightened stress on the country's struggling exporters. Overall retail sales in April rose 7.2% from a year earlier, the slowest pace since May 2003, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed. That undershot March's 8.7% and forecasts of 8.6%. The data suggested consumers were now beginning to cut back spending on everyday products such as personal care and cosmetics, while continuing to shun more expensive items such as cars. (Reuters)
- **China's April new home prices rise 0.6% MoM and 10.7% YoY** – China's new home prices in April rose 0.6% from a month earlier, unchanged from the pace of growth in March, Reuters calculated from National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) data published. From a year earlier, average new home prices in China's 70 major cities increased 10.7% in April, up from 10.6% growth a month earlier. China's property market has seen a recent resurgence as some local governments loosened restrictions on home purchases to boost economic activity, while Beijing's call for banks to ramp up lending and lower interest rates has also lifted investor confidence. (Reuters)
- **India's trade deficit widens to \$15.33bn in April from a year ago** – India's trade deficit widened to \$15.33bn in April from a year ago, the trade ministry stated. Trade deficit was \$13.72bn in April 2018. Merchandise exports remained almost flat at \$26.07bn in April compared with a year earlier, while imports were up 4.5% at \$41.40bn, data showed. (Reuters)

## Regional

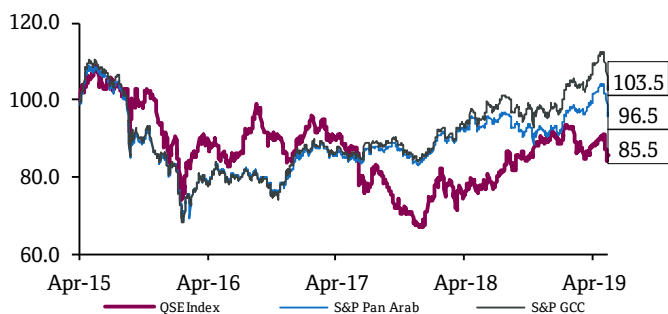
- **OPEC+ to grapple with Iran crisis as ministers meet in Jeddah** – When OPEC and its allies gather in the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah, their conversation will be dominated by a member of the group, Iran. As US President, Donald Trump squeezes oil exports from Iran with sanctions, the discussions among other producers such as Saudi Arabia and Russia will likely focus on whether they need to fill a resulting supply gap. Their talks take

place amid flaring political tensions in the Middle East. "It's a critical issue," Head of commodities research at Citigroup Inc, Ed Morse said. "This is a very tight physical market which is confronting significant losses of supply, and seeing signs of potential disruption in the Persian Gulf," he added. (Bloomberg)

- **Russia seen aiming to share output hike as OPEC+ meets** – Russia will join the OPEC+ talks this weekend having barely fulfilled its pledged production cuts, however keen to secure a share of any potential output increase. In recent months, Russia has indicated that it will welcome a return to production growth, analysts from Fitch Ratings Inc and IHS Markit Inc stated. That is back on the agenda after pledges by Saudi Arabia and other Gulf OPEC members to fill the supply gap created by tighter US sanctions on Iran. Russia "sees a place for its extra barrels in the market," Russia director for IHS Markit, Maksim Nechaev said. The country has the means to increase production by around 300,000 bpd within a short period of time "and this is probably the message that Russia will bring. (Gulf-Times.com)
- **IMF expects Saudi Arabia's budget deficit to hit 7% of GDP this year** – Higher public spending will push Saudi Arabia's budget deficit to 7% of GDP this year, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) stated. Its forecast is well above the government's forecast. The IMF's projection is based on an assumption that Saudi Arabian oil output will average 10.2mn bpd and oil prices will average \$65.5 a barrel in 2019, it stated. The Saudi Arabian government has forecast a budget deficit of 4.2% of GDP this year, compared to 4.6% in 2018. The IMF stated the introduction of a value-added tax has been very successful, however the Saudi Arabian government should consider raising the rate from 5%, which is low by global standards, in consultation with other Gulf governments. A reduction in the government wage bill, a more measured increase in capital spending, and the better targeting of social benefits will all yield fiscal savings, it stated. Director of the IMF's Middle East and Central Asia Department, Jihad Azour had told Reuters the budget deficit this year could be 7.9%, however also said that the estimate is likely to be revised after the IMF delegation's visit. "Higher government spending has supported growth and the implementation of reforms, but has increased medium-term fiscal vulnerabilities, despite the budget surplus in the first quarter, the team projects that the fiscal deficit will rise to 7% of GDP in 2019," the IMF stated. (Reuters)
- **Saudi Arabia's \$53bn non-oil stimulus may last beyond 2021** – Saudi Arabia's \$53bn lifeline to its non-oil economy may be in place for longer than planned as the Kingdom supports industries struggling to cope with reforms that pushed up costs and dampened demand. The program is earmarking SR36bn to boost private-sector growth this year, on top of the SR40bn already spent, according to Managing Director of the Private Sector Stimulus Office, Naif Al-Rasheed. The financing could continue beyond the original planned end date of 2021, according to him, who is in charge of allocating the money and monitoring its effectiveness. "The office has a long-term mandate to continuously support the private sector through economic cycles," he said. Until now, Saudi Arabia has not provided the breakdown of how it planned to deploy the stimulus. (Bloomberg)

- **Almarai Company sets five-year capital expenditure at \$1.9bn** – Almarai Company has set its five-year capital investment at \$1.9bn as the Saudi Arabian dairy-farm operator and food producer navigates persistent challenging economic conditions in the region. The board has approved the business plan for the 2020–2024 period, the company stated. "The focus is on efficiency and cost optimization measures will continue throughout the plan period to ensure continuous competitive advantage," it stated. The components of the investments include replacement of existing assets, adoption of green and cleaner energy footprint, improvement of production capacities and capabilities in farms and manufacturing facilities, distribution and transportation facilities and extension of geographical footprint and enhancement of innovation and product development capabilities. The investment program is planned to be financed mainly via operating cash flow. (Bloomberg)
- **Saudi Aramco resumes oil pumping via pipeline after drone attack** – Saudi Aramco has resumed crude oil pumping via its East-West pipeline after shutting it down temporarily for checks following an armed drone attack on two of its pumping stations, sources said. Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister, Khalid Al-Falih has said that the attack caused a fire on the No. 8 pumping station, leaving minor damage. Saudi Aramco stated that it had halted crude pumping via the pipeline, which transports Saudi Arabian oil from the Eastern Province to Yanbu port, as a precautionary measure, and that its oil and gas supplies have not been impacted. (Reuters)
- **DAMAC profit sinks 94% as Dubai property slumps** – Dubai Property developer DAMAC Properties reported a 94% drop in first-quarter net profit, its smallest since going public in 2015, hurt by Dubai's slumping property market. (Gulf-Times.com)
- **Majid Al Futtaim Holding plans more green Sukuk amid on-line push** – Majid Al Futtaim Holding, the Middle East operator of Carrefour stores, plans more green Islamic bond offerings and seeks to boost investments in on-line projects. The \$600mn green Sukuk, the first such debt from the region, attracted \$2.8bn in bids. "It's something people want and they believe in," CEO, Alain Bejjani said. When asked if the company planned more such offerings, he said "definitely." It will continue to invest in web businesses after acquiring all of Saudi Arabian on-line grocery-delivery company Wadi Group, he said. The investments will be either incrementally, in greenfield projects or in startups "that provide real solutions to real problems," he said. The push comes as an economic slowdown weighs on the Middle East's commercial hub. "The markets continue to face headwinds and this has been the case since 2017," he said. (Bloomberg)
- **SHUAA Capital's combination with Abu Dhabi Financial Group in final stages** – SHUAA Capital stated a potential combination with its shareholder Abu Dhabi Financial Group is progressing through final stages. The combined entity will continue to operate as a publicly-listed company after the transaction through a strategic investment structure, SHUAA Capital stated. Consolidation among financial institutions in the Gulf has been picking up following lower oil prices. Abu Dhabi Financial Group, which together with its controlled entities manages more than \$20bn in assets, is the owner of Shine Investments Commercial Projects. Shine holds 48.4% of SHUAA, whose Chairman, Jassim Alseddiqui is the Chief Executive Officer of Abu Dhabi Financial Group. (Bloomberg)
- **Warba Bank reported net income of KD3.82mn in 1Q2019** – Warba Bank has reported net income of KD3.82mn in 1Q2019 as compared to KD2.92mn in 1Q2018. Operating revenue came in at KD14.2mn in 1Q2019 as compared to KD10.9mn in 1Q2018. Operating profit came in at KD9.17mn in 1Q2019. The bank has attributed the 31% rise in profit due to the increase in financing portfolio and investment portfolio balance. (Bloomberg)
- **CMA suspends dividend tax for three years as of May 6** – Oman's capital market authority (CMA) stated that it has suspended a 10% tax on dividends for three years as of May 6 to boost foreign investments. The three years could be extended, CMA stated, quoting Managing Director, Sheikh Abdullah bin Salem Al-Salmi. (Reuters)

## Rebased Performance



Source: Bloomberg

## Daily Index Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Asset/Currency Performance	Close (\$)	1D%	WTD%	YTD%
Gold/Ounce	1,296.53	(0.0)	0.8	1.1
Silver/Ounce	14.80	0.1	0.2	(4.5)
Crude Oil (Brent)/Barrel (FM Future)	71.77	0.7	1.6	33.4
Crude Oil (WTI)/Barrel (FM Future)	62.02	0.4	0.6	36.6
Natural Gas (Henry Hub)/MMBtu	2.68	(1.1)	5.5	(15.9)
LPG Propane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	60.00	(3.6)	(3.6)	(6.3)
LPG Butane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	56.13	(4.5)	(5.3)	(19.2)
Euro	1.12	(0.0)	(0.3)	(2.3)
Yen	109.60	(0.0)	(0.3)	(0.1)
GBP	1.28	(0.5)	(1.2)	0.7
CHF#	0.99	0.0	0.3	(2.7)
AUD	0.69	(0.2)	(1.1)	(1.7)
USD Index	97.57	0.0	0.2	1.5
RUB	64.66	(0.5)	(0.7)	(7.3)
BRL	0.25	(0.7)	(1.1)	(3.0)

Source: Bloomberg (\*Market was closed on May 16, 2019)

Global Indices Performance	Close	1D%*	WTD%*	YTD%*
MSCI World Index	2,110.40	0.6	(0.7)	12.0
DJ Industrial	25,648.02	0.5	(1.1)	9.9
S&P 500	2,850.96	0.6	(1.1)	13.7
NASDAQ 100	7,822.15	1.1	(1.2)	17.9
STOXX 600	378.06	0.4	(0.0)	9.6
DAX	12,099.57	0.9	0.1	12.2
FTSE 100	7,296.95	0.4	0.0	9.5
CAC 40	5,374.26	0.6	0.6	11.2
Nikkei	21,188.56	0.8	(0.5)	6.8
MSCI EM	1,015.97	0.1	(1.7)	5.2
SHANGHAI SE Composite	2,938.68	1.9	(0.8)	17.9
HANG SENG	28,268.71	0.5	(1.0)	9.1
BSE SENSEX	37,114.88	(0.4)	(1.2)	2.1
Bovespa	91,623.44	(0.9)	(3.6)	1.2
RTS	1,247.02	0.4	2.7	16.7

Source: Bloomberg (\*\$ adjusted returns)

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