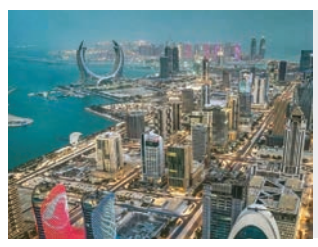
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AQARAT DATA | Page 4

Qatar weekly real estate sales value surges to QR1.5bn in 101 contracts

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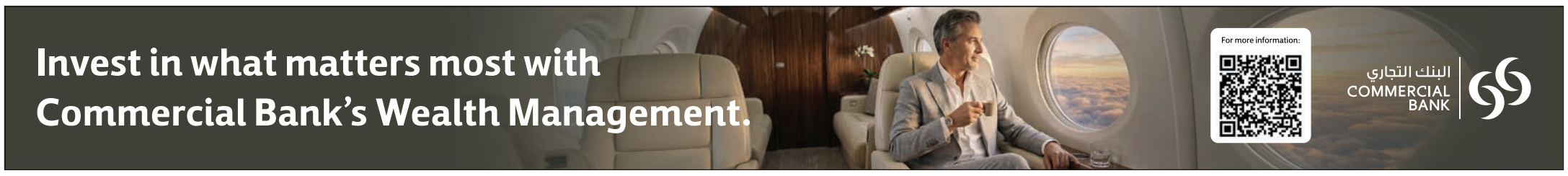
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GULF TIMES
BUSINESS



EXPORTS DISRUPTIONS : Page 3

Opec+ keeps output targets steady for December ahead of tougher call for 2027





Qatari Diar CEO Sheikh Hamad bin Talal al-Thani gestures during the panel discussion, while Qetaifan Projects chairman and managing director Sheikh Nasser bin Abdul Rahman al-Thani and Barwa Real Estate Group CEO Ahmad Mohammed al-Tayeb, look on. **PICTURE:** Thajudheen

Destination developments seen to drive surrounding real estate values in Qatar

By Peter Alagos
Business Editor

Integrated destination development is emerging as a primary catalyst for property value appreciation across Qatar, elevating adjacent residential markets and attracting foreign capital into major urban hubs, according to a panel of experts.

Speaking at the recently held Qatar Real Estate Forum 2026, Qetaifan Projects chairman and managing director Sheikh Nasser bin Abdul Rahman al-Thani explained that building integrated destinations provides a stronger economic ripple effect than standalone housing.

"This actually incentivised us to establish and develop destinations rather than focus on just residential buildings. When we create destinations, whether tourist attractions, such as Meryal Waterpark, or investor hubs and other projects that attract investment, we naturally add value to the surrounding areas," Sheikh Nasser stated.

Sheikh Nasser pointed out that Qetaifan Projects began by identifying specific tourism and lifestyle needs to complete its island master plan.

He said, "We began working with Qetaifan Projects around a clear vision: to create a distinctive city destination that would attract tourists. We studied what the project needed to bring that vision to life, selected the hotels, residences, retail spaces, and facilities, and then began developing Qetaifan with a focused approach. The project itself began attracting investors and increased the market value of the surrounding areas, including the towers around Qetaifan."

He noted that the rapid completion of surrounding areas prompted a strategic shift towards establishing attractions first before introducing residential space.

Sheikh Nasser emphasised that Qetaifan Island North serves as a complementary asset to Qatari Diar's flagship Lusail City project.

"We believe our project complements Qatari Diar's vision for Lusail as an attractive tourist destination. We look forward to contributing to future major projects and enhancing destinations through entertainment, education, sports, and other types of attractive destinations," he emphasised.

Sheikh Nasser added: "Qetaifan Projects has completed construction and brought Qetaifan Island into operation. We are also working on future projects, both locally and internationally. These projects are centred on attractions, after which we can assess the requirements."

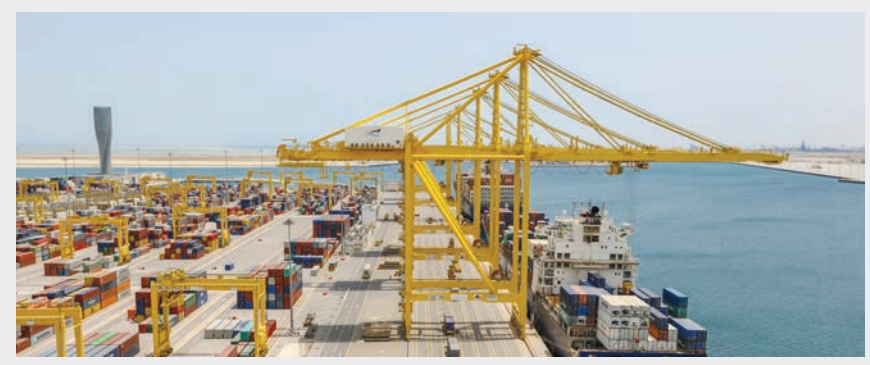
Qatari Diar CEO Sheikh Hamad bin Talal al-Thani stressed that smart infrastructure and master-planned destinations generate sustained interest from foreign investors.

It is a highly smart and sustainable infrastructure that served as the launchpad for many development companies in Lusail as they expanded internationally. It has also attracted investment through our long-standing relationships with foreign developers, built on the reliability and trustworthiness of Qatar and Qatari Diar.

"In 2026, foreign investors accounted for 40% of our sales by value. In Simaisma, they contracted 72% of the project," Sheikh Hamad noted.

He noted that Lusail City has acted as a primary platform for local real estate and construction companies to scale operations regionally and internationally.

Mwani Qatar handles over 59,000 containers



Mwani Qatar handled more than 59,000 standard units (TEUs) in October, an increase of 9% compared with September 2026, reports QNA. In a post on the social media platform X on Sunday, Mwani Qatar said its ports received 249 vessels in October 2026, marking a 56% increase from the previous month. The volume of bulk cargo handled rose 211% to more than 53 tonnes, while general cargo throughput increased 64% to more than 66,000 tonnes over the same period.

GWC highlights energy logistics capabilities at ADIPEC 2026

Gulf Warehousing Company (GWC Group) is showcasing its energy logistics and marine capabilities at ADIPEC 2026, highlighting how its established operations in Qatar connect with its wider regional network to support complex onshore and offshore energy requirements.
Running until November 5 at ADNEC Centre Abu Dhabi, ADIPEC brings together energy industry leaders, companies and partners from around the world. Exhibiting in the Maritime & Logistics Zone, GWC is highlighting its integrated services across Qatar and the UAE, supported by growing capabilities across the region.
Operating from strategic supply bases in Ras Laffan and Mesaieed in Qatar and across major ports, anchorages, and shipyards in the UAE, GWC Energy Services provides integrated logistics support across the oil and gas value chain.
Its capabilities span freight forwarding, customs clearance, warehousing, project cargo and last-mile delivery, alongside specialised marine services including port agency, vessel husbandry and crew changes. Bringing these services together simplifies coordination across multiple operational requirements, helping customers manage the movement of critical equipment and materials while maintaining demanding project schedules.
Supported by 24/7 operations and stringent quality, health and safety standards, GWC Energy Services serves both ongoing energy operations and large-scale projects requiring specialised handling, reliable execution and close coordination across multiple service providers.
GWC Energy's UAE operations recorded 60% year-on-year growth in gross revenue during the first nine months of 2026, reflecting the growing scale of its energy logistics business in the market. GWC continues to strengthen its specialised capabilities in the UAE as part of its wider regional energy logistics offering.



GWC Group CEO Matthew Kearns.

Matthew Kearns, GWC Group CEO, said: "The strength of our network lies in how our assets, expertise and operations work together to keep energy supply chains moving. In a sector where operational continuity is critical, and project requirements are increasingly complex, interoperability makes the difference.
"By connecting our specialised energy and marine capabilities in Qatar and the UAE with our wider regional network, we can give customers greater flexibility, stronger coordination and the ability to respond to changing demands."
GWC's operational presence across Qatar, the UAE, Oman and Saudi Arabia provides customers with access to a broader network of logistics infrastructure, transport capabilities and operational expertise.

Chamber participates in 'B57+ Summit' in Istanbul

Qatar Chamber board member Dr Mohamed bin Jawhar al-Mohamed has underscored the role of the two-day 'B57+ Business Leaders' Summit', citing its importance in enhancing communication among business communities in Islamic countries.
Al-Mohamed said the summit, which concluded yesterday in Istanbul, is also significant in opening new avenues for trade and investment cooperation.
The summit took place on the sidelines of the '42nd Ministerial Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation' (COMCEC), featuring the participation of senior officials, decision-makers, business leaders, investors, and representatives of chambers of commerce from across OIC member states.
Al-Mohamed noted that the summit provided valuable opportunities to exchange expertise, explore investment potential, and build strategic partnerships that serve the shared interests of the private sector.
The summit focused on strengthening economic and trade cooperation among OIC member states, expanding joint investment opportunities, and promoting partnerships between private sector institutions to support sustainable economic development and foster greater integration across Islamic markets.
He noted that fostering cooperation among chambers of commerce and private sector institutions in Islamic countries is essential to boosting intra-OIC trade and increasing mutual investments.
Al-Mohamed also emphasised the need to intensify efforts to eliminate trade and investment barriers and refine cooperation mechanisms among companies, thereby enhancing the competitiveness of Islamic economies and their capacity to address global economic challenges.
Organised by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development (ICCD) in cooperation with the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkiye (TOBB) and COMCEC, the summit was held under the theme: 'Towards Strategic Integration: Mobilising the Potential of OIC Countries for a Prosperous Future of the Global South'.
The event brought together business leaders, decision-makers, private sector representatives, investors, financial institutions, chambers of commerce, and economic organisations from around the world to strengthen economic ties and explore new prospects for trade, investment, and cross-border cooperation.
Discussions addressed capital mobilisation, expanding cross-border investments, boosting intra-OIC trade, developing public-private partnerships, and exploring promising opportunities in innovation, technology, and entrepreneurship.



Qatar Chamber board member Dr Mohamed bin Jawhar al-Mohamed (left) represented Qatar during the two-day 'B57+ Business Leaders' Summit' held in Istanbul.

Shareholders approve Dandy's conversion into Qatari public shareholding company

Shareholders of Dandy Ltd have approved its conversion and incorporation into a Qatari public shareholding company, marking a key milestone towards its listing on the Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE).
The approvals, held during the company's Constitutive General Assembly, complete the constitutive stage of Dandy's transition to a public shareholding company.
The company will now proceed, in coordination with the relevant authorities, with the remaining steps to complete its conversion, including the issuance of its updated commercial registration, and its listing on the main market of the QSE.
Further information, including the anticipated listing date, will be announced once the necessary approvals have been obtained.
Excess subscription amounts, if any, will be refunded through the receiving banks no later than November 3.
The meeting also witnessed the confirmation of the first board of directors, as appointed by the founders in accordance with the company's Articles of Association, for a five-year term commencing from the date of conversion.
The board comprises Sheikh Mansoor Mohamed J M al-Thani (representing Albasateen Co for Real-estates), chairman; Sheikh Jabor Mohd H A al-Thani, vice-chairman; Sheikh Thamer Mohamed J M al-Thani (representing Seven Brothers Holding Co), managing director; and directors Amjad Mohammed R A Abo (representing Future Investment); Mohammed Ziada Taha Abdelrazig (representing Horizon Investment Co); Nasser Ahmed M al-Meer; and Sameer Saeed A F al-Amoudi.

Christine Lagarde: Outsider who led ECB her way

Reuters
Frankfurt

Christine Lagarde's decision to step down early as European Central Bank president ends an eventful seven years at an institution she was never expected to lead.

The former French finance minister and head of the International Monetary Fund arrived in Frankfurt in 2019 as the first ECB chief with no formal economics training or central banking experience — prompting some market participants to label her a "credibility risk."

In fact, she knew so little about the institution that Lagarde, 70, later said she had accepted the job thinking the presidency was a five-year mandate, rather than eight.

Yet after a tenure dominated by a pandemic, two energy shocks and the worst inflation spike in the euro zone's history, Lagarde leaves with a record that defied the sceptics.

"Her seven years at the ECB have been, on the whole, pretty good," said Willem Buiter, an economist and former Bank of England official, noting that the ECB managed to bring inflation back down faster than peers in Britain and the US.

Her exit, however, threatens to be as political as her arrival.

By walking away before her eight-year term ends, Lagarde gives European Union leaders a chance to pick her successor before a French election next spring that opinion polls suggest far-right candidate Marine Le Pen will win, replacing President Emmanuel Macron.

For an institution that fiercely guards its independence from political meddling, the timing has drawn sharp criticism from central bank watchers. "This is debasing the institution and just following the purely political calculus of the French president," said Paul De Grauwe, a professor at the London School of Economics.

Lagarde and Macron have not addressed such criticism directly.

Lagarde has said she would not be a candidate for the French presidency but would advocate for pro-European values in her home country "in whichever capacity" she deemed most efficient.

Throughout her career, Lagarde has stood apart from more technocratic colleagues through a mix of charm, consensus-building and folksy pragmatism.

Favouring plain-speaking homilies over dense economic theory, the then-IMF chief famously declared that "everything is better with butter" when discussing growth and told governments to "fix the roof while the sun is shining". Unorthodoxy was a hallmark of Lagarde's career, and the subject of her upcoming autobiography "Lady First".

A former corporate lawyer who spent years in Chicago, she entered French politics in 2005 as an outsider. Early missteps earned her the domestic moniker "Madame Lagaffe," but she soon became one of then-President Nicolas Sarkozy's sharpest operators, steering French banks through the 2008 crash.

She led the IMF through Europe's debt crisis, navigating a messy Greek rescue that imposed harsh austerity, and sparked outrage in Athens when she bluntly urged suffering citizens to "pay their taxes".

Her appetite for high-stakes bets showed again in 2018 with a record $57bn lifeline for Argentina to back then-President Mauricio Macri. The gamble unravelled, failing to halt a currency collapse or avert a deep recession, and left the IMF bound to its most troubled debtor.

Her occasional unfamiliarity with the nuances of central banking still peeked through.

In March 2020, as the pandemic rattled sovereign debt markets, Lagarde told a press conference the ECB was "not here to close spreads" between Italian and German borrowing costs. The comment triggered an immediate selloff in bond markets and forced her to swiftly walk it back.

Under Lagarde's watch, the ECB swiftly rolled out emergency bond-buying that stabilised markets as COVID-19 spread. It launched its fastest series of interest-rate hikes to bring inflation under control following Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, although it later acknowledged it had been slow to recognise the full impact of spiking energy prices.



Christine Lagarde's decision to step down early as European Central Bank president ends an eventful seven years at an institution she was never expected to lead

QSE listed companies report nine-month net profit of QR35bn



The net profits of companies listed on the main market of Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) for the first nine months of 2026 reached QR35bn compared to QR41bn for the same period last year, reflecting a decrease of 14.71%, reports QNA. A statement posted on Sunday on the QSE website said all companies listed on the main market (except Al Faleh Educational Holding and Qatari German Co for Medical Devices) have disclosed their financial results for the period. It added that the fiscal year for Al Faleh Holding ends on August 31 of each year, while the disclosure of Qatar German Medical Devices Company's results for the third quarter of 2026 has been postponed until November 10.

Opec+ keeps December output targets steady ahead of tougher call for 2027

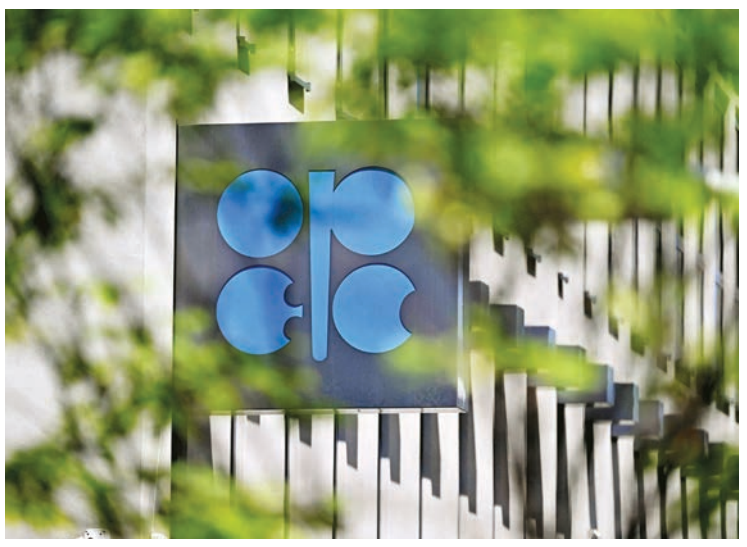
Reuters
London/Moscow

Opec+ oil-producing countries kept December production targets steady on Sunday, confirming expectations that more policy adjustments will not occur until next year, as the group continues to struggle with export disruptions from the Iran war.

Seven core Opec+ members — Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, Kuwait, Algeria, Kazakhstan and Oman — made the decision in an online meeting on Sunday, Opec said in a statement. While Gulf members have been boosting exports that have been disrupted for months by the conflict, most are still pumping well below their targets.

Opec+ comprises the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies including Russia. Only the seven members — plus the United Arab Emirates until it quit Opec in May — have been involved in monthly output decisions in recent years. All members of the 21-country group are due to meet on November 29, when analysts expect it will decide 2027 quotas.

"Today's decision was the easy one," said Jorge Leon, an analyst at Rystad.



The Opec logo is seen at its headquarters in Vienna. Opec+ oil-producing countries kept December production targets steady on Sunday, confirming expectations that more policy adjustments will not occur until next year, as the group continues to struggle with export disruptions from the Iran war.

"The much more important test comes at the November 29 ministerial meeting, when Opec+ will decide its 2027 production framework."

Oil prices jumped more than 2% on Friday, with Brent crude settling at almost $118 a barrel, the highest since April, as traders braced for a potential escalation in the Iran war after the US midterm elections.

The International Energy Agency and other forecasters have warned of excess supply in 2027 should Gulf flows return to normal.

"Opec+ faces an extremely difficult call for 2027," Leon added. "The group has to plan around huge uncertainty over the US-Iran war, the pace of recovery through the Strait of Hormuz, and the size of the surplus that could emerge once disrupted barrels return."

The seven members have been boosting output targets for much of 2026 and in September completed the phased rollback of a 1.65mn-barrel-per-day supply cut first agreed in 2023. At earlier meetings, they kept the targets steady for October and November.

Opec+ still has one more layer of production cuts of about 2mn bpd covering most members through the end of 2026.

The group needs to complete a review of members' production capacity during the fourth quarter before setting the 2027 baselines that will determine future quotas and shape plans to unwind those cuts, sources have said.

The Iran war has disrupted projects to expand capacity across the Middle East, throwing estimates of future production potential into uncertainty, Reuters reported in October. As a result, the review is now expected to be completed by mid-November.

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Qatar Chamber discusses fostering trade relations with Honduras

Qatar Chamber first vice-chairman Mohamed bin Towar al-Kuwari held a meeting with Karim Qubain, president of Honduras' Cortés Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIC), yesterday at the chamber's Lusail headquarters.
The meeting discussed ways to strengthen trade and economic relations between Qatar and Honduras, explore investment opportunities available in both countries, and identify areas of cooperation between their respective private sectors. Al-Kuwari lauded the close economic and trade ties between the two countries, noting that Qatari investors are interested in exploring investment opportunities in Honduras.
He stressed the importance of signing a memorandum of understanding between the two chambers to enhance cooperation, facilitate communication between business communities, and encourage the exchange of trade delegations to explore potential business and investment opportunities. Qubain expressed Honduras's interest in strengthening cooperation with Qatar, highlighting the country's promising opportunities in several sectors, particularly mining, agriculture, and tourism, as well as its natural resources and attractive tourist destinations. He invited the Qatar Chamber and Qatari businesspeople to visit Honduras and explore the available investment opportunities, stressing the importance of signing a memorandum of understanding between the two chambers to establish a framework for cooperation and promote partnerships between companies in both countries.
Qubain also highlighted the incentives offered by Honduras to foreign investors, including tax exemptions and measures to facilitate business establishment, noting the potential for exporting high-quality Honduran products to the Qatari market.


Qatar Chamber first vice-chairman Mohamed bin Towar al-Kuwari welcomed Karim Qubain, president of Honduras' Cortés Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIC), during a meeting held yesterday in Lusail.

'6th World Conference on International Arbitration' slated for November 3

The '6th World Conference on International Arbitration' will kick off tomorrow (November 3) at the Fairmont Doha, the Qatar International Centre for Conciliation and Arbitration (QICCA) has announced.
Organised by QICCA, the two-day conference is held under the patronage of the Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani.
The opening session will be attended by the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, HE Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi, and Qatar Chamber chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim al-Thani, who is also chairman of QICCA, alongside officials, experts, and specialists in arbitration and dispute resolution from Qatar and around the world.
Held under the theme 'Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration in a Changing World: From Judicial Oversight to Artificial Intelligence', the conference coincides with the 20th anniversary of QICCA's establishment in 2006.
The event will feature eight panel sessions bringing together leading experts and specialists in arbitration and dispute resolution. Discussions will address key topics, including the evolving role of courts in overseeing arbitration proceedings, the future of arbitration and mediation amid global changes, and the practical application of artificial intelligence and modern technologies in dispute resolution.
The sessions will also examine the legal and practical challenges facing arbitration centres and arbitrators, as well as the best international practices.
The conference programme will continue for a third day at QICCA's headquarters at Qatar Chamber, featuring broad participation from law students and researchers from Qatar University and Lusail University.
The conference aims to facilitate the exchange of expertise and insights, address key challenges and opportunities facing the arbitration sector, and explore the future of dispute resolution mechanisms in light of rapid legal and technological developments.



Aqarat: Real estate sales value rises to QR1.5bn

QNA
Doha

The latest data from the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (Aqarat) showed mixed trends in Qatar's real estate market over the past week.
According to the authority, the total value of real estate sale contracts during the 44th week of 2026, from October 25 to 31, reached QR1.5bn, up 70.3% week on week and 48.8% year on year. The transactions involved 101 contracts, down 24.1% week on week and 22.3% year on year.
By property type, apartment buildings accounted for QR535.2mn, or 35.3% of total sales, followed by other property types at QR525.1mn (34.6%), villas at QR330.1mn (21.7%) and residential complexes at QR127.6mn (8.4%).
Doha Municipality led sales transactions with QR1.136bn, accounting for 78.8% of the total, followed by Al Daayen Municipality with QR235mn (16.3%) and Al Rayyan Municipality with QR70mn (4.9%). Regarding mortgage activity, the authority reported 11 mortgage contracts during the week, with a combined value of QR234.2mn. The total value fell 85.3% week on week and 29.8% year on year, while the number of contracts declined 68.6% week on week and 50% year on year.
By property type, vacant land accounted for QR206mn, or 88% of the total mortgage value, followed by villas at QR18mn (7.7%) and apartment buildings at QR10mn (4.3%).
Al Rayyan Municipality ranked first in mortgage value, with QR187mn, or 84.6% of the total, followed by Doha Municipality with QR22mn (10%) and Al Wakrah Municipality with QR12mn (5.4%).
In the rental market, Aqarat reported 489 registered lease contracts with a total value of QR3.79mn. The value declined 46.3% week on week and 92% year on year, while the number of contracts fell 45.6% week on week and 88.6% year on year. By property type, villas accounted for QR1.61mn, or 42.5% of the total rental value, followed by apartments at QR1.59mn (42%), commercial showrooms at QR480,000 (12.7%) and other property types at QR110,000 (2.9%).
Doha Municipality ranked first in rental value with QR1.67mn, or 49.4% of the total, followed by Al Rayyan Municipality with QR1.18mn (34.9%) and Al Wakrah Municipality with QR530,000 (15.7%).



According to the latest data from the Real Estate Regulatory Authority, the total value of real estate sale contracts during the 44th week of 2026, from October 25 to 31, reached QR1.5bn, up 70.3% week on week and 48.8% year on year

AI airline pricing sparks startup tools for traveller fare savings

Reuters
New York

US airlines are turning to artificial intelligence to help maximise revenue from airfares. Now startups are putting AI to work on the other side of the transaction, helping passengers automatically claw back savings when ticket prices fall.
Companies including JetBack, Junova and Refare monitor fares after customers have booked and seek refunds or flight credits when prices drop.
Their pitch is simple: Airlines have spent decades building sophisticated pricing systems, while travelers have largely been left to check the prices themselves.
The services are emerging as airlines face scrutiny over how they use AI in pricing. While AI's role in aviation continues to evolve, airlines are using the technology to monitor competitors' fares while testing applications aimed at optimising pricing and improving flight operations.
The use of AI has garnered questions from lawmakers over whether the technology could harm consumers if it is used to set individualised pricing based on consumer data and behaviour.
For travelers, the startups are exploiting a change that followed the Covid-19 pandemic, when many US airlines eliminated change fees on most non-refundable tickets as travelers grew hesitant to book travel amid testing requirements, quarantine rules and border closures.
That means a passenger who buys a ticket for $500 may be able to claim the difference if the fare later falls to $400, without additional charges, though airline policies vary.
"Airlines have spent decades investing in incredibly sophisticated pricing technology, while consumers are still expected to do the equivalent of refreshing a webpage and crossing their fingers," said Bryan Dubno, founder of JetBack, which says it has recovered $2.4mn in credits and refunds since launching in early 2025. "AI doesn't have to be a one-sided advantage."
Junova said that among 10,000 flights it monitored from September 2025 through July 2026, about 22% experienced at least one fare drop.
About 40% of those saw prices decline more than once, illustrating how rapidly fares can change after a passenger has booked.
Airfares fluctuate like stock market prices, said AJ Brustein, Junova's co-founder. "They go up and down, often up. But when it goes down, you have an opportunity to get that difference in price back."
Junova and Refare charge customers only when they recover money, taking 20% and 25%, respectively, of the savings, while JetBack charges $100 a year.
The business model, however, depends heavily on airlines continuing to accommodate fare drops without imposing large penalties. The Covid-19 crisis weakened a revenue stream for US air carriers, which collected $2.84bn in reservation cancellation or change fees in 2019.
Before the pandemic, change fees on many non-refundable tickets made recovering a modest fare decline impractical. The widespread elimination of those fees created an opening for companies that can continuously monitor prices and pursue credits on customers' behalf.
That opening could close. In early October, Alaska Airlines stopped honouring fare drops through customer service, instead directing travellers seeking to capture a lower fare to cancel and rebook under the applicable fare rules.
Alaska said it does not charge cancellation fees for its main and first-class fares. But its basic economy tickets are eligible for a credit of 50% of the ticket value when canceled at least 14 days prior to departure.
"We're fearful that we could be shut out if other airlines go that route," said Justin Dombrow, founder of Refare.

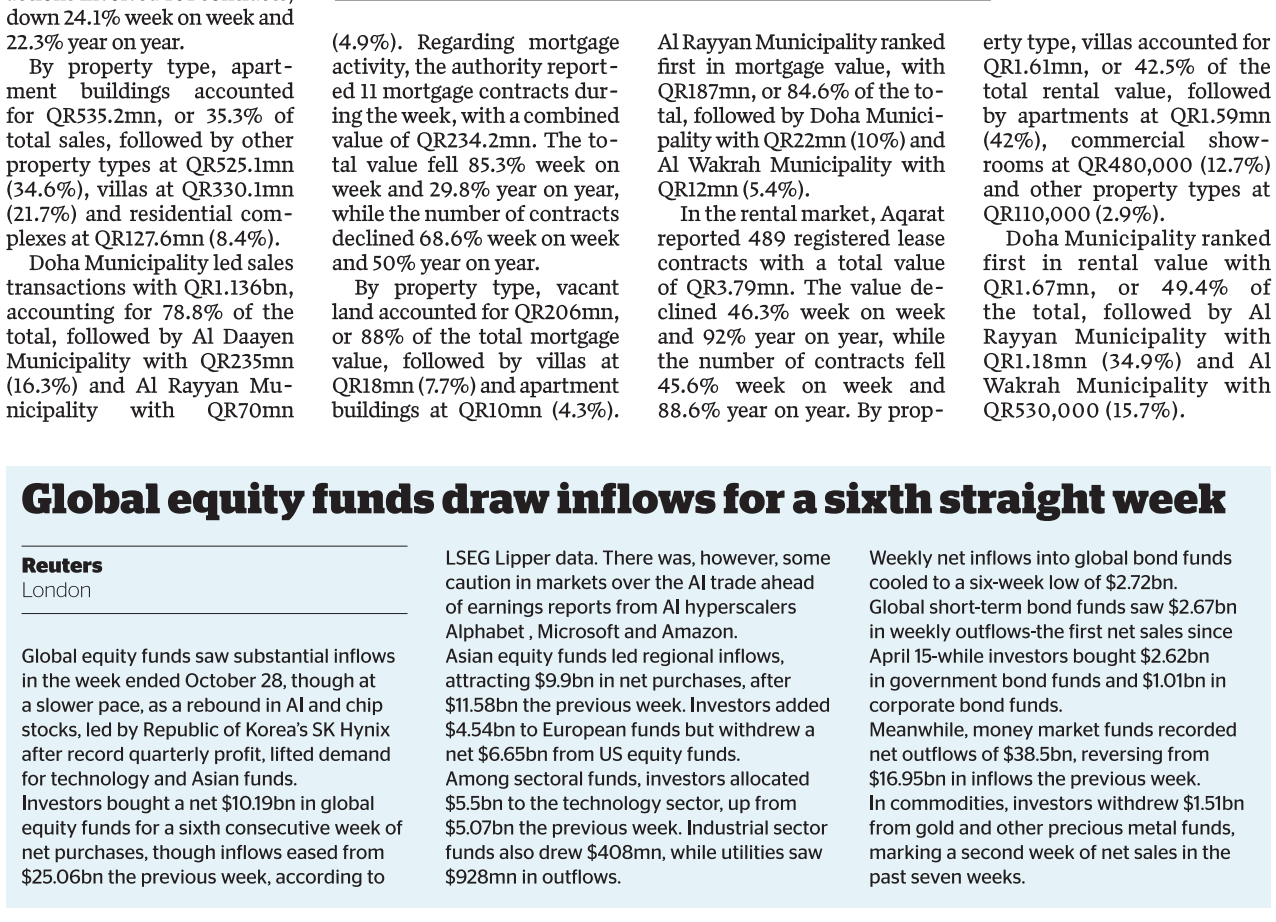


An Alaska Airlines aircraft flies past the tail of a United Airlines aircraft as it lands at Reagan National Airport in Arlington, Virginia, US. Alaska Airlines stopped honouring fare drops through customer service, instead directing travellers seeking to capture a lower fare to cancel and rebook under the applicable fare rules.

Global equity funds draw inflows for a sixth straight week

Reuters
London

Global equity funds saw substantial inflows in the week ended October 28, though at a slower pace, as a rebound in AI and chip stocks, led by Republic of Korea's SK Hynix after record quarterly profit, lifted demand for technology and Asian funds.
Investors bought a net $10.19bn in global equity funds for a sixth consecutive week of net purchases, though inflows eased from $25.06bn the previous week, according to LSEG Lipper data. There was, however, some caution in markets over the AI trade ahead of earnings reports from AI hyperscalers Alphabet , Microsoft and Amazon.
Asian equity funds led regional inflows, attracting $9.9bn in net purchases, after $11.58bn the previous week. Investors added $4.54bn to European funds but withdrew a net $6.65bn from US equity funds.
Among sectoral funds, investors allocated $5.5bn to the technology sector, up from $5.07bn the previous week. Industrial sector funds also drew $408mn, while utilities saw $928mn in outflows.
Weekly net inflows into global bond funds cooled to a six-week low of $2.72bn.
Global short-term bond funds saw $2.67bn in weekly outflows-the first net sales since April 15-while investors bought $2.62bn in government bond funds and $1.01bn in corporate bond funds.
Meanwhile, money market funds recorded net outflows of $38.5bn, reversing from $16.95bn in inflows the previous week.
In commodities, investors withdrew $1.51bn from gold and other precious metal funds, marking a second week of net sales in the past seven weeks.



Snap stands alone in social media trial

AFP
San Francisco

Meta reached a settlement in a landmark case over the alleged harms of social media, the plaintiffs' lawyers said, leaving Snap as the only defendant in a trial set to open in Los Angeles this week.
"We remain committed to improving safety for kids on social media apps and holding tech companies accountable, and we are pleased to have brought this matter to a just resolution on behalf of our client," Emily Jeffcott, a lawyer representing one of the young women suing both companies, said in a statement.
Jury selection began on Wednesday, and opening statements are scheduled for November 4.
The terms of the agreement are confidential, but sources close to Meta told AFP the company decided to settle for business reasons.
"Trials, dismissals and settlements are all common in the bellwether process, and this litigation is no exception," a Meta spokesperson said, referring to the series of test cases against the company being tried in Los Angeles.
If Snap does not settle, the trial will go ahead this week. Snap did not immediately respond to a request for comment.
TikTok and YouTube were also named as defendants in the case, but both had already reached settlements with the plaintiffs, known by their initials SJ and KDB, their lawyers said.
Meta had also previously settled with SJ.
A California state judge consolidated the two cases into a single trial.
Snap, which makes Snapchat, will defend itself against the claims of both SJ and KDB.
Lawyers for SJ and KDB will argue that their clients were exposed to "addictive and problematic" social media apps when they started using them at ages 13 and 15, respectively, according to court documents.
"We believe the evidence will support that we have put our community first, and that these allegations fundamentally misrepresent the plaintiffs' experiences on Snapchat and how our platform was designed," a Snap spokesperson said in a statement last week.
Thousands of lawsuits have been filed in recent years in local, state and federal courtrooms across the country with various claims about alleged harms to children and teenagers caused by social media companies.