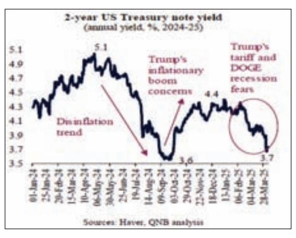


QNB COMMENTARY | Page 8

Fed may cut rates further in 2025 amid above target inflation

Sunday, April 13, 2025
Shawwal 15, 1446 AH

GULF TIMES
BUSINESS

MARKET VOLATILITY : Page 2

Mideast bankers count on IPO boom to resume after trade turmoil

Qatari crude averages $77.23 per barrel in Q1

■ As Qatar has set an oil price of $60 per barrel in preparing 2025 budget, a surplus seems to have been generated in view of estimated average price for Qatari crude in Q1

By Pratap John
Business Editor

Qatari crude price (Dukhan and Marine combined) averaged $77.23 per barrel in the first quarter of this year, according to agency estimates.

Bloomberg estimates that Qatari crude (Dukhan and Marine combined) averaged $80.20 per barrel in January, $76.61 in February and $74.88 in March.

Dukhan and Marine crude both averaged $80.20 in January, while Dukhan averaged $76.53 and Marine $76.68 in February.

In March, Dukhan averaged $74.81 and Marine $74.96 per barrel, according to Bloomberg estimates.

Given that Qatar has set an oil price of $60 per barrel in preparing the 2025 budget, a surplus seems to have been generated in view of the estimated average price for Qatari crude ($77.23 per barrel) in the first quarter of this year.

Qatar has already announced that if the budget for the current fiscal generates a surplus, it will be used to repay debt, strengthen Qatar's foreign exchange reserves and also channelled into the country's sovereign wealth fund.

The budget for fiscal 2025, however, expects total revenues of QR197bn and an expenditure of QR210.2bn with an anticipated deficit of QR13.2bn.

Qatar continues to adopt a conservative approach in estimating oil and gas revenues, with an average oil price of $60 per barrel for the current fiscal.

This approach aims to enhance financial flexibility and ensure spending stability, according to the Ministry of Finance.

Qatar's highly-rated economy has shown itself to be resilient following the FIFA World Cup in 2022. Caution over fluctuating oil price, reduction of national debt, and promoting private sector employment are among the priorities.

The budget underscores the effectiveness of sound economic policies and strategies adopted by Qatar, particularly in achieving economic diversification in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.

It aligns with the Third National Development Strategy, focusing on economic diversification and building a knowledge- and innovation-based economy.

The budget clearly reflects the wise leadership's commitment to further strengthening the national economy and fostering sustainable development.

The country also enjoys very high sovereign ratings. Moody's credit rating for Qatar stands at Aa2, S&P Global (AA) and Fitch Ratings (AA).

An oil refinery on the outskirts of Doha (file). Qatar continues to adopt a conservative approach in estimating oil and gas revenues, with an average oil price of $60 per barrel for the current fiscal. This approach aims to enhance financial flexibility and ensure spending stability, according to the Ministry of Finance.

Middle East bankers count on IPO boom to resume after global trade turmoil

Bloomberg
Dubai

The Middle East, a bright spot for new share sales for four years, faces a significant challenge from the recent volatility in equity markets and a slump in oil prices. Even so, bankers are hopeful that deal flows will resume in coming weeks.

Unlike a raft of companies in Europe and the US, Middle Eastern firms planning to go public later this quarter haven't yet postponed plans, according to bankers working on the deals. The region is relatively insulated from US tariffs and many of the businesses considering listing are heavily tied to fast expanding local economies, they said.

EFG Hermes, which arranged the most IPOs in the Middle East last year, still expects to bring six to seven more deals to market in 2025 — primarily in Saudi Arabia, in addition to a potential deal in Kuwait, a senior banker said. JPMorgan Chase & Co also hasn't yet seen significant changes to its regional pipeline for this year, or to more preliminary discussions with companies looking to list in 2026 or 2027.

"We're still on track," said Mostafa Gad, global head of investment banking at EFG. None of Gad's deals have been postponed or cancelled, and internal preparation for new share sales continues.

Those comments come against a backdrop of lingering risks — markets remain volatile and concerns about global growth abound. Global assets from stocks to bonds have seen sharp swings in recent days as US President Donald Trump imposed sweeping global tariffs and then went on to pause most of them.

The oil-exporting Gulf could take an economic hit with crude oil prices plunging below $65 a barrel after a surprise Opec+ production hike and concerns that the tariffs could spur a global slowdown.

A Saudi investor monitors stocks at the Saudi Stock Exchange, or Tadawul, in the capital Riyadh (file). EFG Hermes, which arranged the most IPOs in the Middle East last year, still expects to bring six to seven more deals to market in 2025 — primarily in Saudi Arabia, in addition to a potential deal in Kuwait.

"If we see bigger pressure below the $60 mark, then you start seeing some alarms," Gad said. "Then you'll wait and see how the governments want to react. They will either be very cautious about the deficits and start cutting spending or they say, look it's temporary, let's live with a bigger deficit for a little bit of time and then figure it out."

In Abu Dhabi, flagship carrier Etihad Airways PJSC has been lining up an IPO since last year. Meanwhile, Dubai Holding LLC, a vehicle controlled by the emirate's ruler, had been weighing a listing of a residential real estate portfolio as early as this month, according to people familiar with the matter. Executives at both firms continue to monitor markets and no decision has been made on the timing of the deals, people familiar with the matter said.

Representatives for Etihad and Dubai Holding declined to comment.

JPMorgan's head of equity capital markets for Central Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa, Gokul Mani, said his Middle Eastern pipeline hasn't been affected.

"Transactions that might have been looking to launch this week or next week will probably get delayed to a couple weeks further out, but that's to be expected given global volatility and disruptions to supply chains," Mani said.

Still, investors are growing more discerning, and he expects mainly higher quality companies will be able to get their deals done.

A smattering of Saudi Arabian companies had their IPO plans greenlit by the regulator just before the Eid holidays last month, including low-cost carrier Flynas, gym chain operator Sports Club Co, hospital operator Specialized Medical Co, Al Majed Real Estate Company and Marketing Home Group Co. Tech firm Ejada Systems and packaging firm United Carton Industries Co also have regulatory approvals to list.

Even so, talk of new listings may be too premature for some investors as they focus on navigating the turmoil and finding opportunities. "I think it's a bit too early to say as volatility is still very high on all the financial parameters that affect any valuation," said Christian Ghandour, senior portfolio manager at Al Dhabi Capital.

Qatar Chamber Chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim al-Thani.

Qatar Chamber participates in Arab-French Chamber meetings

Qatar Chamber participated in the board of directors meeting and executive office meeting of the Arab-French Chamber of Commerce held recently in Paris.

Qatar Chamber Chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim al-Thani represented the chamber at the meetings, which focused on commercial relations between Arab countries and France and ways to strengthen these ties, as well as the role of the private sector in expanding trade exchanges between both sides.

In a statement, Sheikh Khalifa lauded the strong trade relations between the Arab countries and France, emphasising the crucial role played by Qatar Chamber and the Arab chambers as members of the Arab French Chamber of Commerce. He highlighted their efforts in enhancing trade and economic cooperation, as well as their ongoing coordination on various economic and trade issues, which significantly contribute to strengthening the trade relations between the Arab countries and France.

Sheikh Khalifa also highlighted the distinguished relations between Qatar and France, noting that their trade exchange stood at QR5.6bn in 2024, describing France as "an important trade partner for Qatar".

He also pointed out that the Qatari private sector has a distinguished relationship with its French counterpart and that there are continuous meetings between the Qatari and French chambers, as well as through the Arab-French Chamber. He noted that these efforts contribute to developing cooperation and facilitating the establishment of business and investment exchange between both countries.

LEGAL PERSPECTIVE

Family companies need corporate governance

By Dr AbdelGadir Warsama Ghalib

Family companies have existed in Qatar and Gulf Countries for a long time and they've taken tremendous efforts to boost trade and deal with related corporate issues. Those companies mostly started from zero, when established by older generations, but the founders were great, and of exceptional determination that took the business to prominent future.

Some of such companies, are doing remarkable work, with good achievements from generation to generation. However, this legacy does not exist all through, due to the fact that many family companies disappear or totally diminish from the second or third generation.

There are many legal and corporate issues that could result in making certain obstacles in the pathway of family companies. However, some of the obstacles may arise for cultural or social reasons associated with the way of life in the region. This could happen in every part of the globe, and the Gulf is not an exception by all means.

Apart from the above instance, we believe that many family companies are lacking corporate governance rules. There is no clear segregation between the owners of the business and the business itself. They are all the same in one unit, and the natural entity is not severed from the juristic entity. This could be one of the setbacks facing family companies and lead to their diminishment.

Corporate governance rules are essential for any corporate activity, otherwise the process will be damaged and the whole system will reach a non-operating stage.

The founders of family companies are required to establish and put in action a set of clear-cut corporate governance rules that are to be observed and monitored by family members involved in the affairs of the company. The main concept emerging from the application of the corporate rules relates to a clear demarcation between the affairs of the company and the affairs of the family from another end. No mixture or blending at all between the two affairs should happen, and each family member must understand and adhere to this concept.

A built-in operational system within the family is required. This non-mixture includes, among other things, financial matters and related administrative affairs while marinating the juristic entity process. The company budget must always be different from the wallet budget and vice versa, etc.

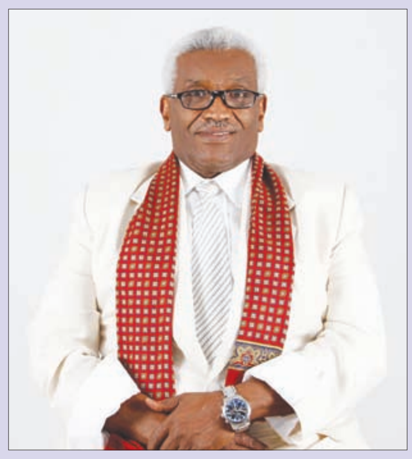
Also, family companies must have a clear strategy, proper planning, standard accounting practices, different managerial levels, including a Board and executive body. The role of each must be clear and in order, but they must support each other as observed in the checks-and-balances concept.

The head(s) of the company must excel in giving good examples to younger generations and must plant family ego, values and traditions, looking for a good future harvest or, otherwise, deep roots in the tree of the family will face strong winds for survival.

Nowadays, there is a legal requirement of injecting new ideas and brains by appointing good reliable independent outsiders in the Boards executives to play an independent and active role in the affairs of the company, future plans and all other affairs for a prosperous future.

Clear succession plans in family companies are required and should be carefully arranged, otherwise setbacks could happen and could lead to the end of the life of the company in a very short span. The succession policy is a difficult affair, however, it could cause a real headache and unnecessary havoc for the whole process and future prospects. The succession strategy in family companies will ultimately lead to trustful continuity among the present and future generations.

To achieve this goal, things must be put in action in consultation with advisors. Family companies could be very strong or, in the other extreme, could be very fragile. In both cases, special intensive care is needed to go through for existence. Following legal corporate methods and solid corporate governance rules will yield in healthy and long-life family companies that will serve family members and the community wherein they are existing.



■ *Dr AbdelGadir Warsama Ghalib is a legal counsel. E-mail: AWARSAMA@WARSAMALC.COM*

Turkiye 'spends $10bn in lira defence' over global tariff rout

Bloomberg
Istanbul

The market turmoil triggered by Donald Trump's tariff plans has probably cost Turkiye another $10bn in foreign-exchange reserves, adding to losses incurred last month amid a domestic political crisis.

Dollar sales by state banks to defend the lira cost between $10-11bn since last Friday, according to estimates by two bankers who oversee execution of foreign-exchange trades. The pressure on the currency eased slightly on Thursday after Trump announced a pause on tariffs, they said, asking not to be named because they weren't authorised to speak publicly.

That explains why the lira has been trading in a tight range around 38 per dollar despite intense volatility in many peer emerging-market currencies, with the monetary authority tightening its leash on the exchange rate in times of intensified volatility.

The central bank declined to comment.

Turkish officials have made a stable lira a cornerstone of their inflation-reduction program, which has made lira-denominated assets more attractive to local savers as well as foreign investors. The policy has been under strain since last month, when the detention and jailing of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu triggered panic selling of lira-denominated assets and led to an estimated $30bn loss in reserves.

With the latest global rout, Ibrahim Aksoy, HSBC Asset Management's chief economist in Istanbul, said that he calculates that the central bank's net reserves — adjusted for swaps — probably declined by around $41bn from March 19, the day of Imamoglu's detention, through Monday. Similarly, Morgan Stanley said in a report on Friday that it estimated a decline in the central bank's net FX position of about $43bn between March 19 and April 9, largely driven by foreign investors exiting the market.

Turkiye's gross FX reserves stood at $97bn the week of March 14, before Imamoglu's detention. They dropped to $77.8bn the week of April 4, according to official data compiled by Bloomberg.

"Foreign positioning has likely been reduced further this week in response to tariff-related global risk-off, meaning that locals' FX demand will be the key determinant for the reserves outlook," Morgan Stanley authors including economist Hande Kucuk said. The investment bank revised its forecasts to indicate a weaker lira by year-end, and recommended against carry trades until the global situation stabilises.

The central bank holds its next interest rate-setting meeting on April 17. While most analysts think it will keep rates on pause, some, including Goldman Sachs Group Inc economists, say the central bank could raise its main interest rate from 42.5% to backstop the currency and keep inflation in check.

Turkish officials have made a stable lira a cornerstone of their inflation-reduction program, which has made lira-denominated assets more attractive to local savers as well as foreign investors

Broadening asset volatility intensifies worries for tariff-tossed US stocks

Reuters
New York

Wild swings in global markets are poised to keep US stock investors on edge in the coming week, as a weakening dollar and a selloff in Treasuries compound extreme equity volatility that erupted after President Donald Trump launched his sweeping tariffs.

The S&P 500 was set for solid gains on the week after Trump pulled back on the heftiest tariffs on many countries, relieving Wall Street's worst-case scenario. Still, the benchmark index still was down about 13% from its February 19 all-time closing high.

Concerns about lasting economic damage remained as the US and China ratcheted up their trade battle and questions lingered over levies elsewhere as Trump only paused many of the most severe tariffs.

Investors punished US assets in the wake of Trump's tariffs, with the dollar plunging against other major currencies and benchmark US Treasury yields, which move opposite to bond prices, surging.

The stock market is "very unsettled" as investors weigh how to price in any economic fallout from the changing tariff backdrop, said Mark Luschini, chief investment strategist at Janney Montgomery Scott.

The market is "kind of trapped by the level of uncertainty that lurks out there," Luschini said. "And therefore investors are largely unwilling to make big bets in one direction or another." A volatile week in stocks was highlighted by Wednesday's 9.5% jump for the S&P 500, the index's biggest one-day rise since October 2008 during the heart of the financial crisis.

Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Wild swings in global markets are poised to keep US stock investors on edge in the coming week, as a weakening dollar and a selloff in Treasuries compound extreme equity volatility that erupted after President Donald Trump launched his sweeping tariffs.

The Cboe Volatility index, an options-based measure of investor anxiety, stood at around 40, more than twice its historic median level.

Stock investors were warily watching moves across asset classes, in particular the dollar and Treasuries. An index that measures the dollar against a basket of currencies on Friday fell below 100 for the first time in nearly two years, while the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury was on pace for its biggest weekly jump in decades.

In many prior risk-off events, the dollar and Treasuries have acted as safe havens, but that has not been the case over the last week as stocks have tumbled, said Walter Todd, chief investment officer at Greenwood Capital in South Carolina.

"We are the reserve currency and the risk free asset of the world, and our markets are not acting as such," Todd said.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury on Friday topped 4.5%, which investors have cited as a level that could cause turbulence for stocks. Higher yields translate into higher borrowing costs for consumers and businesses, while potentially making bonds more competitive investments against stocks.

"Until Treasuries stabilise and start to behave normally, risk assets will struggle," Barclays analysts said in a note on Friday.

Quarterly US corporate results in the coming week provide another test for investors. Goldman Sachs, Johnson & Johnson and Netflix are among the major US companies set to report.

Bryant VanCronkhite, senior portfolio manager at Allspring Global Investments, said he would be looking for companies which can show confidence in their businesses despite the shifting tariff landscape.

"I'm looking for companies that have the competence and the desire to invest through this cycle," VanCronkhite said.

Data on US retail sales for March will shed light on the health of the consumer, but investors may discount the report to some extent because it covers a period before Trump's April 2 tariff announcement.

US trade war could divert Chinese goods to EU markets: Analysts

AFP
Paris

The trade wars initiated by US President Donald Trump could disrupt world trade in goods, meaning Europe could see its markets inundated with Chinese products, according to some analysts.

The European Union may have expressed some relief at Trump's decision on Wednesday to suspend his threat to slap swingeing customs duties on foreign goods entering the US.

But that 90-day moratorium does not apply to US imports from China, which leaves Europe with the question as to where the Asian giant will offload the stocks it previously sold to the US market. The 27-nation EU is among dozens of economies to which a baseline US tariff rate of 10% now applies.

By contrast, Chinese exports to the US face a 145-percent levy, which puts many of these products out of reach for less wealthy Americans. China might therefore seek to sell these goods in Europe — even if it means slashing prices.

That, some analysts say, would undermine European industries that are already struggling with Chinese competition.

"This shift could lead to new trade routes and more complex international supply chains," said Daniela Sabin Hathorn, senior market analyst at Capital.com

"Companies might begin rerouting Chinese goods... to avoid the US tariffs." French President Emmanuel Macron has already pointed to the risk.

On Thursday he said the EU had to take account of the indirect consequences of Trump's decisions. "The tariffs on China are huge... There's a potential risk that some of these products will be diverted, which will clearly affect our economies and unbalance certain sectors and markets," he warned.

On Friday, he urged the EU to protect itself from "flows from third countries".

The levy on Chinese goods would nonetheless "increase competitive pressure on European industry, particularly in sectors where margins are already very tight", pointed out Anais Voy-Gillis, a geographer specialising in industrial affairs.

The European steel sector "which is already in trouble" could be further "weakened", she said. She said European manufacturers of aluminium and solar panels — where China already dominates the world market — would also be exposed.

The French ministry of industry and energy told AFP chemicals and vehicle parts would be affected too.

Aurelien Saussay, a professor at the London School of Economics, suggested, however, that the "net effect will not necessarily be as massive as one might imagine".

Comparatively, he said, the Trump administration's head-on commercial war on China could "offer the EU an advantage over China for exporting to the United States". "There are therefore also compensatory effects." If there were a significant influx of Chinese products, Europe might in turn "react by introducing protectionist policies", said Saussay.

"That's why we've spent the past 80 years avoiding this kind of protectionist offensive," the economist said. "We quickly get into the logic of retaliation which then becomes very difficult to extricate yourself from."

European Commission head Ursula von der Leyen reacted on Tuesday by stressing "China's critical role in addressing possible trade diversion caused by tariffs, especially in sectors already affected by global overcapacity".

US economists brace for sharp slowdown despite Trump's pivot

Bloomberg
New York

Wall Street economists maintained their forecasts for a sharp slowdown in US economic growth and warned recession risk is still elevated despite the Trump administration's decision this week to delay major tariffs on a wide range of trading partners.

Morgan Stanley, BNP Paribas, RBC Capital Markets, Barclays Plc and UBS issued updated projections Thursday and Friday for gross domestic product ranging from -0.1-0.6% growth in 2025, and 0.5-1.5% growth in 2026. They forecast the unemployment rate would climb to almost 5% next year and pencilled in higher inflation in the coming quarters.

The lingering pessimism among economists contrasts somewhat with the signal from the stock market, which has rallied since President Donald Trump announced Wednesday that he was implementing a 90-day pause on previously announced "reciprocal" tariffs for countries other than China and raising the duty on Chinese imports to a whopping 145%.

After the back-and-forth on Wednesday, the average US tariff rate remains roughly the same, hovering at the highest in over a century, and is nearly 24 percentage points higher than when Trump took office, according to Bloomberg Economics.

"Will anything close to these tariffs and this uncertainty persist for long? If yes, then we would be forecasting a US recession," BMO Financial Group Chief Economist Douglas Porter wrote in a note. "At this point, we are still leaning to a series of quarters of sub-1% GDP growth."

For economists, a higher tariff on Chinese goods roughly offsets the suspension of planned duties on other countries in terms of its impact on the weighted average levy on all US imports, given China's outsize importance as one of America's biggest trading partners.

Bloomberg Economics estimates the effective average tariff on US imports was reduced only marginally to 26.25% as a result of Wednesday's announcement, from 26.85%.

"While China's high tariff rate will encourage a shift of imports away from China and toward lower-tariff trading partners, we think the current situation still implies significant stagflationary pressures within the US," Barclays economists said Friday in a note. "All told, we retain our outlook for activity, including our forecast that the US will experience a recession."

"President Donald Trump's tariff U-turn this week may not actually lessen the blow to the US nor worsen it for China. It has only a small positive impact on Europe's economy. The benefits will be felt most in the small open economies of Asia — if it's maintained beyond the 90 day pause," say Maeva Cousin and Eleonora Mavroeidi, economists at Bloomberg.

Even for those not predicting a downturn over the next 12 months, the risk remains uncomfortably high. Goldman Sachs economists peg it at 45%, versus 65% before Trump announced the pause.

In a note Wednesday following the announcement, JPMorgan Chase & Co. Chief US Economist Michael Feroli said the bank would be revisiting its forecasts, indicating "the prospect of a recession is a closer call" though "a contraction in real activity later this year is more likely than not." On Friday, Federal Reserve Bank of New York President John Williams said he now expects "real GDP growth will slow considerably from last year's pace, likely to somewhat below 1%."

The unemployment rate is set to climb to somewhere between 4.5% and 5% over the next year — from 4.2% in March — and inflation will rise to 3.5% or 4%, versus February's 2.5% rate, Williams said. Those numbers suggest his projections are in line with the latest consensus estimates among Wall Street forecasters.

Financial markets have remained volatile since Trump's Wednesday announcement. The S&P 500 finished the week up 7.6% from Tuesday's closing low, though it remained 12.7% below the record high reached in February.

"The magnitude and scale of what is unfolding appears underappreciated in our view," UBS Chief US Economist Jonathan Pingle said on Friday in a note.

"US goods imports in 2024 were $3.2tn, larger than the economy of France and just smaller than the UK," Pingle said. "Even after this week's announcements the US appears willing to raise taxes on that amount — the size of large developed market economy — eightfold."

The Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) Index went down by 137.86 points or 1.4% during the week to close at 10,095.09. Market capitalisation declined 1.3% to QR593.1bn from QR600.7bn at the end of the previous trading week. Of the 53 traded companies, 22 ended the week higher, 30 ended lower and one remained unchanged. Widam Food Company (WDAM) was the worst performing stock for the week, going down 6.4%. Meanwhile, Estithmar Holding (IGRD) was the best performing stock for the week, going up 6.2%.

Industries Qatar (IQCD), QNB Group (QNBK) and Qatar Islamic Bank (QIBK) were the main contributors to the weekly index decline. IQCD and QNBK removed 50.60 and 33.84 points from the index, respectively. QIBK subtracted another 12.91 points from the index.

Traded value during the week jumped 85.7% to reach QR2,939.5mn from QR1,583.1mn in the prior trading week. QNB Group (QNBK) was the top value traded stock during the week with total traded value of QR250.1mn.

Traded volume shot up 113.0% to 1,251.8mn shares compared with 587.8mn shares in the prior trading week. The number of transactions soared 138.5% to 170,448 vs 71,475 in the prior week. Qatar Aluminium Manufacturing Company (QAMC) was the top volume traded stock during the week with total traded volume of 178.4mn shares.

Foreign institutions remained bearish, ending the week with net selling of QR45.9mn vs net selling of QR145.1mn in the prior week. Qatari institutions remained positive with net buying of QR8.1mn vs net buying of QR160.6mn in the week before. Foreign retail investors ended the week with net selling of QR8.0mn vs net selling of QR4.0mn in the prior week. Qatari retail investors recorded net buying of QR45.8mn vs net selling of QR11.5mn. Global foreign institutions are net sellers of Qatari equities by $342.1mn YTD, while GCC institutions are also net shorts by $78.6mn.

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QNB FINANCIAL SERVICES

Weekly Market Report

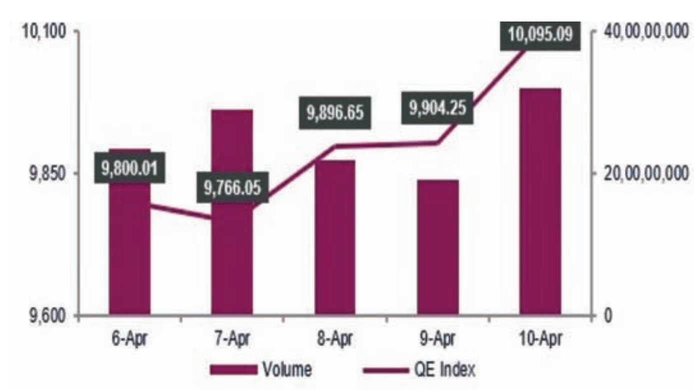
Market Indicators	Week ended. April 10, 2025	Week ended. March 27, 2025	Chg. %
Value Traded (QR mn)	2,939.5	1,583.1	85.7
Exch. Market Cap. (QR mn)	593,130.7	600,704.0	(1.3)
Volume (mn)	1,251.8	587.8	113.0
Number of Transactions	170,448	71,475	138.5
Companies Traded	53	53	0.0
Market Breadth	22:30	10:43	-

Source: Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE)

Market Indices	Close	WTD%	MTD%	YTD%
Total Return	23,815.28	(1.3)	(1.3)	(1.2)
ALL Share Index	3,714.70	(1.2)	(1.2)	(1.6)
Banks and Financial Services	4,534.50	(1.3)	(1.3)	(4.3)
Industrials	4,168.40	(2.5)	(2.5)	(1.8)
Transportation	5,583.02	(0.9)	(0.9)	8.1
Real Estate	1,574.71	0.0	0.0	(2.6)
Insurance	2,274.98	2.5	2.5	(3.1)
Telecoms	1,978.52	0.8	0.8	10.0
Consumer Goods & Services	7,771.76	(0.4)	(0.4)	1.4
Al Rayan Islamic Index	4,843.62	(1.1)	(1.1)	(0.5)

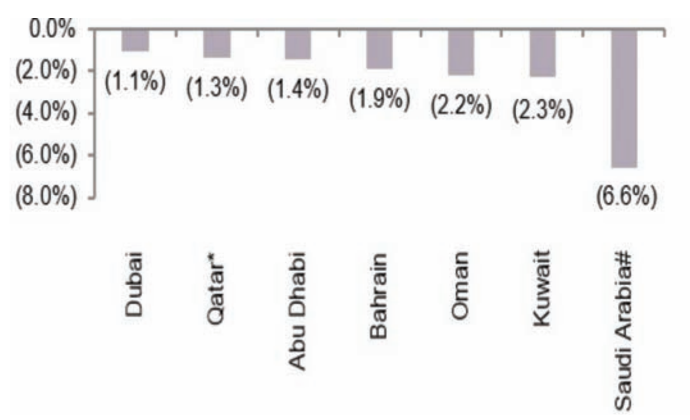
Source: Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE)

QSE Index and Volume



Source: Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE)

Weekly Index Performance



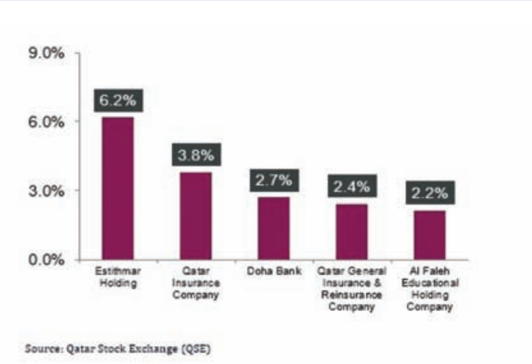
Source: Bloomberg

Regional Indices	Close	WTD%	MTD%	YTD%	Weekly Exchange Traded Value ($ mn)	Exchange Mkt. Cap. ($ mn)	TTM P/E**	P/B**	Dividend Yield
Qatar*	10,095.09	(1.3)	(1.3)	(4.5)	806.92	162,695.7	11.0	1.2	5.0
Dubai	4,974.07	(1.1)	(2.4)	(3.6)	984.53	234,688.6	8.8	1.4	5.8
Abu Dhabi	9,124.85	(1.4)	(2.6)	(3.1)	1,752.69	702,169.2	20.0	2.4	2.4
Saudi Arabia#	11,096.65	(6.6)	(7.7)	(7.8)	10,612.33	2,479,441.8	17.2	2.1	4.0
Kuwait	7,819.91	(2.3)	(3.1)	6.2	1,682.29	161,593.2	17.5	1.8	3.1
Oman	4,270.39	(2.2)	(2.2)	(6.7)	77.96	31,143.4	9.4	0.8	6.4
Bahrain	1,901.77	(1.9)	(2.5)	(4.2)	14.34	19,609.4	14.1	1.3	9.7

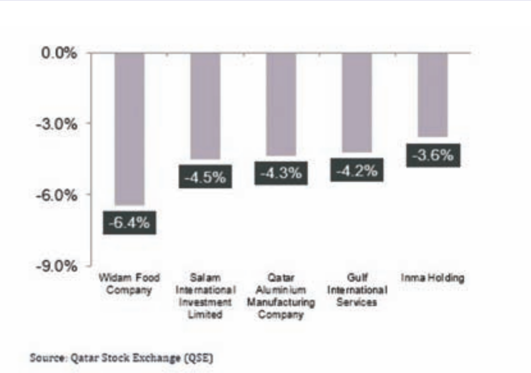
Source: Bloomberg

Qatar Stock Exchange

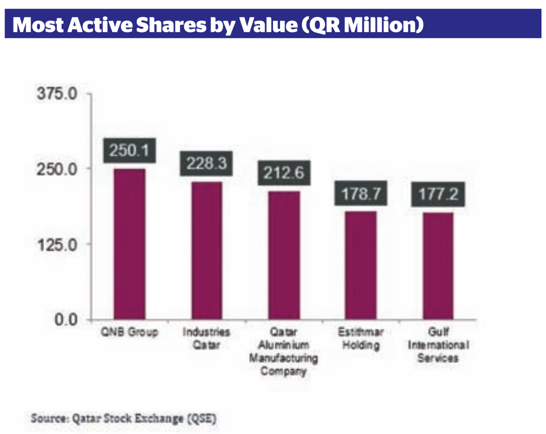
Top Five Gainers



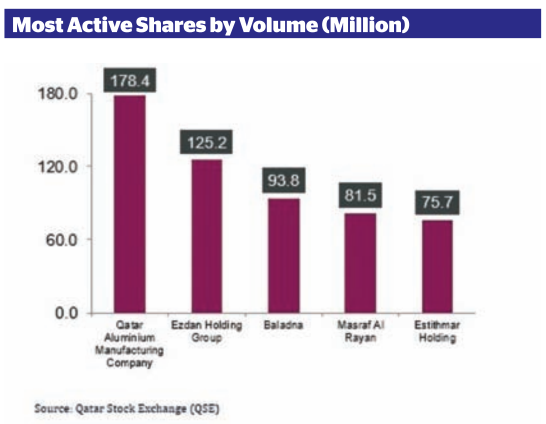
Top Five Decliners



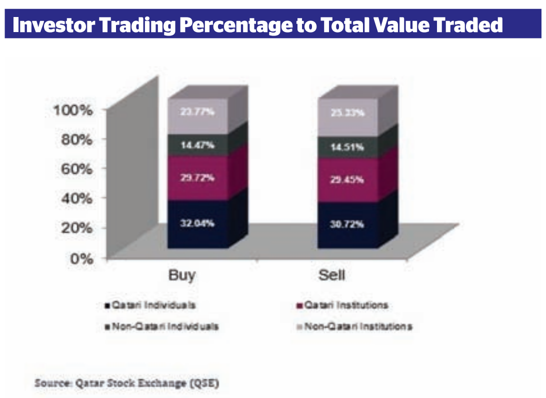
Most Active Shares by Value (QR Million)



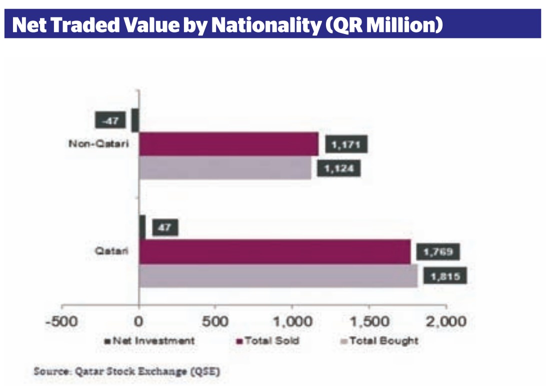
Most Active Shares by Volume (Million)



Investor Trading Percentage to Total Value Traded



Net Traded Value by Nationality (QR Million)



Company Name	Price April 10	% Change Weekly	% Change YTD	Market Cap. QR Million	TTM P/E	P/B	Div. Yield
Qatar National Bank	15.74	(2.24)	(8.96)	145,381	9.2	1.6	4.4
Qatar Islamic Bank	20.40	(0.83)	(4.49)	48,204	11.0	1.8	3.9
Commercial Bank of Qatar	4.22	0.84	(3.10)	17,059	6.0	0.8	7.1
Doha Bank	1.97	2.71	(0.90)	6,117	7.5	0.6	5.1
Al Ahli Bank	3.40	0.29	(1.45)	8,674	10.2	1.2	7.4
Qatar International Islamic Bank	10.25	0.49	(5.96)	15,515	13.5	2.1	4.9
Al Rayan Bank	2.20	(2.04)	(10.52)	20,497	14.0	0.9	4.5
Lesha Bank	1.27	1.28	(6.28)	1,421	11.1	1.1	3.9
National Leasing	0.70	(1.97)	(10.77)	344	20.1	0.5	5.0
Dlala Holding	1.02	0.49	(11.40)	194	N/A	1.0	N/A
Qatar & Oman Investment	0.63	(3.38)	(10.54)	198	N/A	1.2	N/A
Islamic Holding Group	3.42	(3.58)	(9.64)	194	15.2	1.2	2.0
Dukhan Bank	3.47	(1.78)	(6.12)	18,157	14.2	1.4	4.6
Banking and Financial Services				**281,956**			
Zad Holding	14.91	0.95	5.22	4,285	20.9	3.1	4.4
Qatar German Co. for Medical Devices	1.31	(1.94)	(4.16)	152	N/A	N/A	N/A
Salam International Investment	0.62	(4.50)	(6.67)	704	13.7	0.4	6.5
Baladna	1.18	0.94	(5.53)	2,247	12.9	1.0	5.6
Medicare Group	4.48	(0.86)	(1.47)	1,262	13.4	1.3	4.9
Qatar Cinema & Film Distribution	2.41	0.00	0.33	151	36.2	1.1	2.9
Qatar Fuel	14.72	(0.88)	(1.87)	14,635	13.9	1.6	6.8
Widam Food	2.09	(6.42)	(11.24)	375	N/A	3.8	N/A
Mannai Corp.	3.40	(3.13)	(6.54)	1,551	N/A	1.7	7.4
Al Meera Consumer Goods	15.30	1.39	5.37	3,152	17.1	1.9	5.6
Mekdam Holding Group	2.84	(1.05)	(6.41)	539	12.4	2.0	N/A
Meeza QSTP	2.99	0.81	(8.76)	1,939	32.1	2.7	2.7
Al Faleh Education Holding	0.71	2.16	2.16	170	13.7	0.6	2.6
Al Mahhar Holding	2.30	(2.42)	(6.16)	476	N/A	1.4	4.3
Consumer Goods and Services				**31,639**			
Qatar Industrial Manufacturing	2.51	0.08	(0.24)	1,190	7.7	0.6	5.2
Qatar National Cement	3.48	(0.66)	(13.36)	2,276	14.2	0.7	7.8
Industries Qatar	12.44	(3.49)	(6.25)	75,262	16.8	2.0	5.9
Qatari Investors Group	1.44	(2.70)	(6.37)	1,790	10.8	0.6	9.0
Qatar Electricity and Water	14.76	(0.81)	(5.99)	16,236	11.5	1.1	5.3
Aamal	0.87	(0.80)	2.22	5,500	12.7	0.7	6.9
Gulf International Services	2.94	(4.23)	(11.54)	5,471	7.7	1.3	5.8
Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding	1.39	(3.48)	(7.16)	17,438	24.5	1.1	4.1
Estithmar Holding	2.49	6.18	46.94	9,324	23.0	1.8	N/A
Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing	1.21	(4.35)	(0.17)	6,752	11.0	1.0	6.6
Industrials				**141,239**			
Qatar Insurance	1.91	3.81	(10.13)	6,232	9.3	1.0	5.2
QLM Life & Medical Insurance	1.92	0.74	(7.26)	670	10.1	1.0	5.2
Doha Insurance	2.44	1.67	(2.48)	1,219	6.4	0.9	7.2
Qatar General Insurance & Reinsurance	1.09	2.45	(5.55)	953	30.6	0.3	N/A
Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance	2.28	(0.22)	(4.56)	582	7.7	0.9	6.6
Qatar Islamic Insurance	8.31	(0.57)	(4.20)	1,247	8.7	2.2	6.0
Damaan Islamic Insurance Company	3.85	0.79	(2.63)	770	9.1	1.4	5.2
Insurance				**11,673**			
United Development	1.03	0.19	(8.37)	3,644	13.8	0.3	5.3
Barwa Real Estate	2.64	(0.19)	(6.89)	10,253	8.3	0.5	6.8
Ezdan Real Estate	0.98	(0.10)	(7.67)	25,862	307.4	0.8	N/A
Mazaya Qatar Real Estate Development	0.57	1.41	(1.71)	574	N/A	0.6	N/A
Real Estate				**40,333**			
Ooredoo	11.86	0.51	2.68	37,990	11.1	1.3	5.5
Vodafone Qatar	2.00	1.78	9.29	8,454	14.1	1.7	6.0
Telecoms				**46,444**			
Qatar Navigation (Milaha)	10.80	(1.73)	(1.73)	12,271	11.0	0.7	3.7
Gulf Warehousing	3.04	(1.90)	(9.79)	178	10.4	0.7	3.3
Qatar Gas Transport (Nakilat)	4.65	(0.32)	12.08	25,762	15.7	1.9	3.0
Transportation				**38,211**			
Qatar Exchange				**593,131**			

Technical analysis of the QSE index

The QSE Index closed down by 1.35% from last week on lower volumes for the week; it closed at 10,095.1 points. Despite volatility throughout the week, nothing has changed in our thesis. The Index remains inside the broader flat price-range and moving in no specific direction for the past two years. The Index is close to our resistance around the 10,850 points. The weekly resistance level remains around the 10,850 points level and the support at 10,000 points.

Definitions of key terms used in technical analysis

RSI (Relative Strength Index) indicator – RSI is a momentum oscillator that measures the speed and change of price movements. The RSI oscillates between 0 to 100. The index is deemed to be overbought once the RSI approaches the 70 level, indicating that a correction is likely. On the other hand, if the RSI approaches 30, it is an indication that the index may be getting oversold and therefore likely to bounce back.

MACD (Moving Average Convergence Divergence) indicator – The indicator consists of the MACD line and a signal line. The divergence or the convergence of the MACD line with the signal line indicates the strength in the momentum during the uptrend or downtrend, as the case may be. When the MACD crosses the signal line from below and trades above it, it gives a positive indication. The reverse is the situation for a bearish trend.

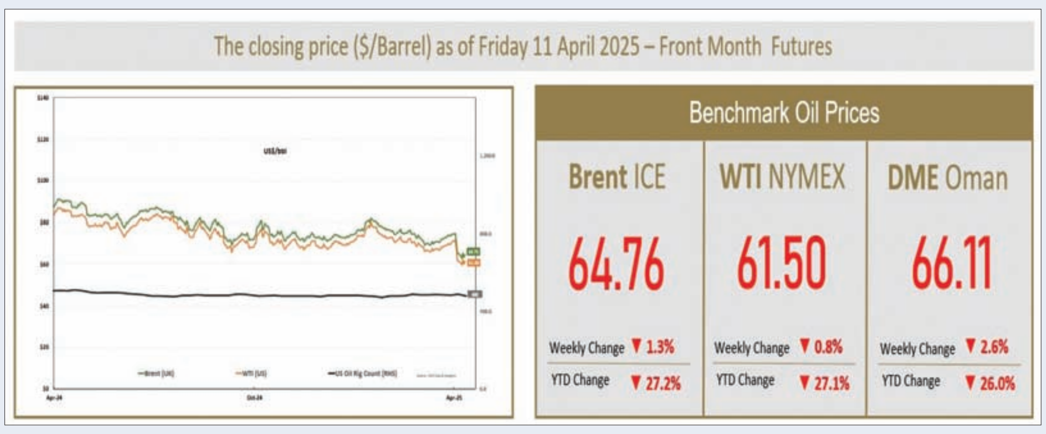
Candlestick chart – A candlestick chart is a price chart that displays the high, low, open, and close for a security. The 'body' of the chart is portion between the open and close price, while the high and low intraday movements form the 'shadow'. The candlestick may represent any time frame. We use a one-day candlestick chart (every candlestick represents one trading day) in our analysis.

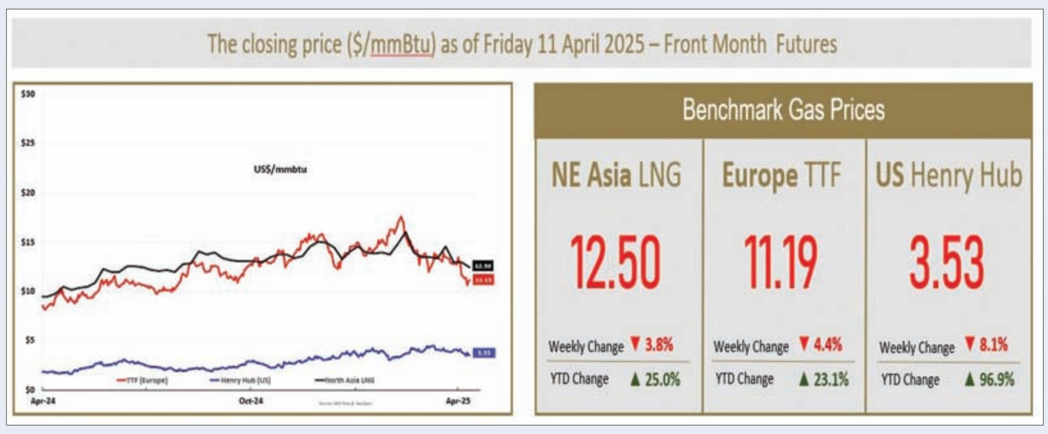
WEEKLY ENERGY MARKET REVIEW

Brent, WTI prices climb on possible Iran crude restriction

www.abhafoundation.org

China's Great Hall of the People. Asian LNG prices are under pressure amid weak seasonal demand, high inventories and recession concerns tied to elevated US-China trade tensions. *Picture supplied by the Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah International Foundation for Energy and Sustainable Development.*





Oil

Brent and West Texas Intermediate crude climbed more than $1 on Friday after US Energy Secretary Chris Wright said the United States could end Iran's oil exports as part of an effort to bring the Islamic Republic to terms over its nuclear programme.

Brent crude futures settled at $64.76 a barrel, up $1.43, or 2.26%. US West Texas Intermediate crude finished at $61.50 a barrel, up $1.43 or 2.38%. Wright's comments provided upward momentum for oil prices, following volatile price swings last week as US President Donald Trump's new tariff regime forced traders to reassess the geopolitical risks facing the crude market.

China announced on Friday it will impose a 125% tariff on US goods starting on Saturday, up from the previously announced 84%, after Trump raised tariffs against China to 145% on Thursday. Trump last week paused heavy tariffs against dozens of other trading partners, but a prolonged dispute between the world's two biggest economies is likely to reduce global trade volumes and disrupt trading routes, weighing on global economic growth and reducing demand for oil.

Although the implementation of some tariffs, excluding those on China, was delayed by 90 days, the market damage had already been inflicted, leaving prices struggling to regain stability, analysts said. The US Energy Information Administration on Thursday lowered its global economic growth forecasts and warned that tariffs could weigh heavily on oil prices. It reduced its US and global oil demand forecasts for this year and next year.

Gas

Asian spot liquefied natural gas (LNG) prices slid to an over eight-month low last week, weighed by weak demand, high stocks and concerns of a global recession triggered by US President Trump's implementation of worldwide tariffs. The average LNG price for May delivery into north-east Asia was at $12.50 per million British thermal units (mmBtu), the lowest level since late July, industry sources estimated. Asian LNG prices are under pressure amid weak seasonal demand, high inventories and recession concerns tied to elevated US-China trade tensions, analysts said.

While the 90-day tariff pause by the US has sparked optimism, it is limited, and the continuation of tariffs on Chinese goods keeps market sentiment cautious. LNG importers in China, the world's top buyer of the fuel, are re-selling US-sourced cargoes as the tit-for-tat tariffs drive up import costs. China's halt in US LNG imports is likely to continue, while muted gas demand growth will curb incremental LNG demand. In Europe, demand has still held strong relative to Asian demand during the price fall last week, with the west African inter-basin arbitrage holding closed as Angola LNG sold a spot cargo to France instead of Asia. Meanwhile, the US front month arbitrage to north-east Asia via the Cape of Good Hope briefly reached breakeven levels on Monday amid the US tariff announcements, before closing out and pointing to Europe again.

This article was supplied by the Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah International Foundation for Energy and Sustainable Development.

Qatar Chamber discusses co-operation with International Women's Union

Ibtihaj al-Ahmadani, board member of Qatar Chamber and chairperson of the Qatari Businesswomen Forum, handing over a token of recognition to International Women's Union president Alfiya Amirova, in the presence of Noura al-Awlan, director of the chamber's Research and Studies Department, and other dignitaries.

Qatar Chamber recently hosted a delegation from the International Women's Union led by its president, Alfiya Amirova. The delegation was received by Ibtihaj al-Ahmadani, board member of Qatar Chamber and chairperson of the Qatari Businesswomen Forum, in the presence of Noura al-Awlan, director of the chamber's Research and Studies Department.

The meeting discussed avenues for enhancing cooperation across several key sectors, including tourism and medical tourism, as well as support for women entrepreneurs. The two sides also explored the possibility of launching a joint online platform for networking and training, and the establishment of a joint trade and business centre to strengthen bilateral partnerships.

Al-Ahmadani affirmed that Qatar Chamber welcomes the delegation of the International Women's Union and supports efforts to promote co-operation between Qatari and Russian businesswomen, noting that there are numerous opportunities for collaboration across various sectors. She added that the chamber looks forward to establishing fruitful partnerships with the Union that will contribute to empowering businesswomen and enhancing their capabilities both locally and internationally.

Al-Ahmadani emphasised that women's economic empowerment is one of the key drivers of sustainable development, expressing pride in the remarkable achievements of Qatari women in diverse fields — achievements made possible by the strong support of Qatar's wise leadership.

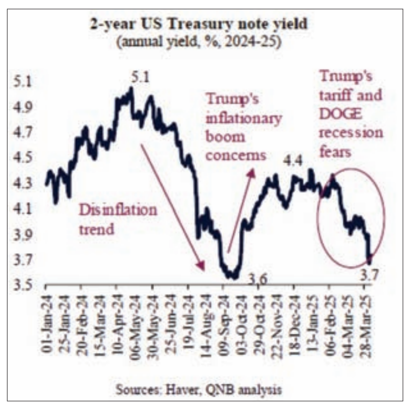
She also pointed to the possibility of organising a forum for Qatari and Russian businesswomen in Qatar to explore aspects of cooperation and partnership and investment opportunities available in both countries.

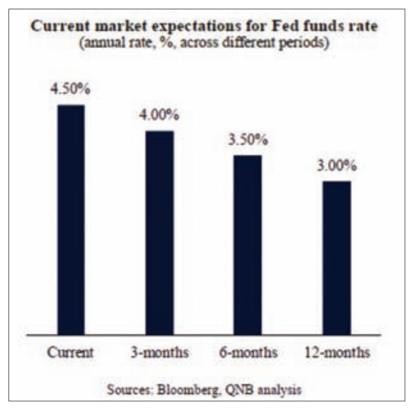
Meanwhile, Amirova underscored her country's interest in exporting Russian halal products from food and agricultural products to Qatar, stressing the union's interest in developing and strengthening co-operation relations with Qatari businesswomen in all fields, especially in the sectors of tourism, food security and trade. She also referred to the possibility of launching a Qatari centre in Moscow to introduce Qatari products in Russia. Amirova invited Qatari businesswomen to participate in the 'With Women's Hands' festival, which will be held from November 18 and 19 this year in Moscow and will showcase products produced by women and for women.

Amirova also reviewed the possibility of creating an electronic platform to exchange information and experiences between businesswomen from the two countries and identify investment opportunities available in both countries.

It is noteworthy that the Moscow-based International Women's Union is dedicated to supporting women entrepreneurs in small and medium sized enterprises. The union promotes communication, experience exchange, and business idea development while expanding business networks.

Fed may cut interest rates further in 2025, says QNB





Despite above target inflation and potential short-term inflation pressures coming from the imposition of tariffs, the US Federal Reserve (Fed) is expected to further cut rates in 2025, according to QNB.

This comes on the back of a weakening economy and the need to move the monetary policy stance from the current restrictive territory (4.5% Fed funds rate) to accommodative (below 4% Fed funds rate), in order to prevent a sharper economic deceleration or even a recession, QNB said in an economic commentary. Over the last several years, the US Federal Reserve (Fed) was at the forefront of most macro and investment discussions, given the importance of interest rates and quantitative policies for growth, liquidity and inflation.

However, in recent months, a plethora of new policies by the Trump administration has completely changed the terms of debate and focus of attention. This movement was underpinned by concerns about a potential inflationary economic overheating if Trump were to enact the expansionary policies suggested during his campaign, QNB said.

However, once the administration started, as tariff discussions and DOGE became the main priorities for the government, the balance of risks to the US macro outlook reversed rapidly from economic overheating to a possible recession. Investor and consumer sentiment deteriorated with major equity indexes breaching the 10% correction territory for the first time in years while retail sales showed further weakness alongside plummeting consumer confidence metrics.

A forecasting model by the Atlanta Federal Reserve currently points to a contraction of 2.8% in Q1-2025 US GDP, a sharp move from a 2.3% expansion in the previous quarter.

But the Fed still needs to operate under this elevated level of uncertainty, and monetary policy choices could be key to mitigate some of the impacts from uncertainty or potential negative shocks coming from the political front. It is not an easy task for the Fed to operate under this environment. As a reference, medium-term policy rates have swung significantly, expressing a rather fleeting market consensus about the timing and even direction of Fed fund rates over the next few quarters.

Yields for 2-year Treasury notes, which had collapsed in Q2-Q3, 2024 on the back of rapid disinflation and expectations for aggressive monetary policy easing, surged during Q4 last year, as Trump took the lead in the US election with a pro-growth platform. Since February 2025, as aggressive trade measures and DOGE policies negatively affected investor and consumer sentiment, yields were driven down.

Investors are currently expecting the Fed to resume the rate cutting cycle that started in September 2024, with four more 25 basis points (bps) in cuts to the Fed funds rate "priced in" by the end of 2025 and further rate cuts in 2026. In QNB's view, prevailing market expectations seem to be aligned with the macro environment, suggesting enough space for the Fed to provide further policy accommodation.

Two main factors support the bank's view.

First, Fed officials continue to communicate their own expectation of further rate cuts this year. The March 2025 Fed "dot plot," which shows the projected target range for policy rates from each of the 19 Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting participant, is not far off from the prevailing market position for the next few quarters.

This is supported by the view from most Fed officials that the economy is gradually decelerating, with inflation normalising, and that any potential impact on inflation from tariffs are likely to be transitory and "looked through." Second, the combination of economic weakness and negative policy shocks to consumer sentiment suggests that further policy rates are not only possible but also perhaps even necessary.

QNB noted there is a healthy supply of labour for job openings available, whereas industrial activity is running below its long-term trend. The labour market, which reached maximum tightness in early 2023 with the unemployment rate much below equilibrium at 3.4%, fully adjusted and is now at a normalised level with the unemployment rate at 4.5% in February 2025. These conditions support additional rate cuts to accommodative levels over the coming quarters, i.e., policy rates that are below the estimated neutral threshold of around 4%, QNB said.

Mannai InfoTech recognised as '2025 Google Cloud Country Partner of the Year for the Middle East'

The award celebrates Mannai InfoTech's outstanding success in driving large-scale digital transformation initiatives, leveraging Google Cloud's cutting-edge capabilities, including artificial intelligence and generative AI.

Mannai InfoTech, an ICT division of Mannai Trading Company, is honoured to announce its recognition as the '2025 Google Cloud Country Partner of the Year for the Middle East'. The accolade underscores Mannai's pivotal role in accelerating Qatar's digital transformation and shaping the future of cloud technology across the region.

The award celebrates Mannai InfoTech's outstanding success in driving large-scale digital transformation initiatives, leveraging Google Cloud's cutting-edge capabilities, including artificial intelligence (AI) and generative AI. By integrating these breakthrough technologies, Mannai has redefined customer experiences and delivered measurable impact, empowering businesses to stay ahead in an increasingly competitive digital economy.

In 2024, Mannai InfoTech's Google Cloud business witnessed remarkable growth, fuelled by its strategic focus on AI-driven solutions and the expansion of its Google Cloud team to address the surging demand for next-generation technologies. This sustained investment has solidified Mannai's position as a leading force in AI-powered innovation in Qatar, reinforcing its commitment to helping enterprises harness the full potential of cloud transformation.

Mannai InfoTech's impact is particularly evident in its contributions to national-level projects, where it has played a key role in deploying Google Cloud's enterprise-grade solutions for major public sector entities. By implementing secure landing zones, streamlining cloud adoption, and fortifying digital infrastructure, Mannai has been instrumental in enhancing scalability, operational efficiency, and technological modernisation across government sectors.

"Google Cloud's partner awards recognise partners who have created outsized value for customers through the delivery of innovative solutions and a high level of expertise. We're proud to announce Mannai InfoTech as a 2025 Google Cloud Partner Award winner and celebrate their impact on enabling customer success over the past year," said Kevin Ichhpurani, president, Global Partner Ecosystem, Google Cloud.

Mannai InfoTech senior vice president Binu M R said: "This recognition marks the beginning of a new era for Mannai InfoTech. Our goal is to help enterprises embrace AI, cloud, and generative innovations that accelerate digital transformation at scale. As we continue to expand our operations, we are poised to extend our expertise beyond Qatar into strategic markets across the EMEA region. By doing so, we are ensuring that Qatar remains at the forefront of the global AI revolution while setting new benchmarks in cloud-driven business excellence."

Mannai InfoTech senior director for Digital Technology and AI Aibi Abraham added: "This award reaffirms our unwavering commitment to digital transformation and our ability to drive real change.

Our partnership with Google Cloud empowers organisations to unlock the full power of AI and Generative AI—reshaping industries and redefining business success. This award reflects our vision to not only meet but exceed market expectations, helping enterprises scale, innovate, and lead in the digital-first world."

In collaboration with Google Cloud, Mannai InfoTech is transforming Qatar's labour market ecosystem. Partnering with the country's esteemed Ministry of Labour, Mannai has successfully launched a large-scale, AI-powered employment platform, connecting job seekers, enterprises, and the Ministry through a unified digital framework. By harnessing the intelligent matching capabilities of AI, the platform optimises talent placement, helping Qatar's workforce development align with the nation's Vision 2030.

Beyond the labour market, Mannai InfoTech has embarked on transformative initiatives in the healthcare sector, reshaping patient care, provider efficiency, and payer ecosystems. In the public sector, the collaboration has driven groundbreaking cloud and Generative AI advancements, empowering government ministries to elevate service delivery and create lasting value. These strategic initiatives are fully aligned with Qatar's leadership vision, reinforcing the country's standing as a leader in digital innovation and AI-driven transformation.

Aligned with Qatar's forward-thinking vision for a multi-cloud strategy, Mannai InfoTech leverages its strong partnerships with Google Cloud and other cloud providers to drive transformative change. This alignment is at the core of Mannai's mission to deliver tangible value to customers by helping them embrace best-in-class technologies.