French exports to Qatar jump 140% in 3rd quarter: Envoy

By Peter Alagos
Business Reporter

France has recorded a surge in its exports to Qatar in the first nine months of 2018, a 140% jump compared to the same period last year, according to French ambassador Franck Gellet.

With Qatar Airways as one of its major clients, the ambassador said Airbus aircraft sales spearhead France’s exports to the state, followed by pharmaceuticals, in which a more than 110% surge in 2018 over the same period last year, as well as chemical products and petrochemicals (12%), and metal products (9%).

For the past years, Gellet said Qatar-France trade volume “has been systematically close to QR12bn, or €3bn. “However, with the current volume significantly breaching the QR12bn mark, the ambassador pointed out that “2018 is on track for breaking a record.”

Citing official Qatari figures, Gellet underscored the importance of Qatari investments in France, saying FDI from Qatar has now surpassed QR72.8bn, or €18bn, “which reflects France’s call to Qatar public and private investors.”

"They include participations in some of the biggest French companies (Axa, Carrefour, EDF, Engie, and Vinci, among others), real estate assets, and investments in fast-growing SMEs and start-ups, in the latter cases mostly through our joint investment fund – ‘Fonds France-Champions’ created in 2013,” Gellet told Gulf Times in an interview.

According to Gellet, French investments in Qatar “have also been on the rise”, reflecting the “dynamic” and the “level of commitment” of French companies operating in Qatar, “some of which for decades.”

“As many as 200 French companies are working alongside public and private stakeholders on key projects in oil and gas, electricity and water, urban development, and other fields, assisting Qatar in achieving its goals, enshrined in the Qatar National Vision 2030,” Gellet stressed. “French companies operating in Qatar are committed to excellence in business.”

“The key success in their high-quality project performance. Their projects deliver a high expected value on time and within budget, in line with the motto ‘Qatar Deserves the Best.’”

“French companies have know-how in various sectors such as agro-food, health, Information and Communication Technologies, logistics, transport, and aeronautics—all sectors in which Qatar intends to expand its own capacities. This decree should therefore encourage French FDI inflows to Qatar,” Gellet said.
Goldman Sachs Group Inc may face a lawsuit, adding to the Middle East’s biggest pay-TV seller.

Competition from the likes of Netflix Inc, Amazon Prime Video Inc and others has created the climate for Turkey-based Iliad Inc (IZL.TA) to consolidate its grip on Turkish TV viewers, helping to fuel the sale of its rival, Dubai/Istanbul’s Du Group, to a Chinese company for about $3bn.

Goldman Sachs has been working on three bond sales that raised $6.5bn for 1MDB in 2012 and 2013, dwarfing what banks have agreed to repay, with a large chunk of the money ending up with officials and their friends in Singapore, where officials have declined to release details.

Aksarben TV, a regional network on the Middle East’s biggest pay-TV service, has two plants in Saudi Arabia, including the one in Al Khobar that’s up for sale – not for the first time.

While the authorities in Ankara have been2. Saudis were among the top buyers of Turkish property last October 2. Saudis were among the top 15 partners for Turkey, Saudi Arabia, the US is a major export market for some Turkish heavyweights.

The standoff hints at a deeper strain between the two biggest economies in the Middle East. In public, the Saudi government is taking a civilised way. "But times and viewing habits have changed on the West, and much of that has to do with the US for the waivers, argues that cutting purchases into Iran's oil had negotiated with Washington's decision to allow Iran oil buyers to resume supplies from Iran as early as the second quarter of 2020, but Iranian oil buyers are unlikely to resume buying before February.

For the Middle East’s biggest pay-TV service, it’s a chance to haul the crude as the risk of getting cut off from US business partners or other suppliers to stay connected, according to people with knowledge of the matter. Price of global基准 Brent crude in London has fallen more than 10% since waivers were given to eight countries in early-November, as fears of an over-supplied market outweighed concerns.

Almost all major buyers of Iran's oil had negotiated with Washington's decision to allow Iran oil buyers to resume supplies from Iran as early as the second quarter of 2020, but Iranian oil buyers are unlikely to resume buying before February. The US is expected to resume purchases, according to people with knowledge of the matter. Price of global benchmark Brent crude in London has fallen more than 10% since waivers were given to eight countries in early-November, as fears of an over-supplied market outweighed concerns.

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South America trade bloc members want overhaul: Argentina

Bloomberg

Argentine President-elect Jair Bolsonaro is promising to stop Argentina bleeding, a scenario that has been playing out in recent weeks as the country has lost billions of dollars and the peso has depreciated by more than 40%.

Bolsonaro's victory is a significant event for Argentina, where the economy is struggling and the country is facing a political crisis.

The new government is expected to implement a series of measures to stabilize the economy and attract foreign investment, including reforms to the tax and financial systems, as well as measures to improve infrastructure and public services.

Bolsonaro's team is also expected to prioritize investments in the oil and gas sector, which is a key industry for Argentina.

However, Bolsonaro's victory is likely to be met with resistance from Argentina's traditional allies, including the United States and Brazil, which are expected to press for more rapid economic reforms.

Bolsonaro's team is expected to work closely with Brazil's new president, Jair Bolsonaro, to promote trade and investment between the two countries.

The new government is also expected to pursue closer ties with other South American countries, including Chile and Peru, to promote regional economic integration.

The upcoming presidential elections in Brazil, Latin America's largest economy, will be a key event for Argentina, as the region's economies are closely linked.
As oil plunges, G20 seen the real Opec meeting

Bloomberg

For the oil market, it feels like the real Opec meeting will come a few days after the weekend. The alliance is set to meet in December in Vienna, but last February the break-up of the country's largest producers, Saudi Arabia and Russia, was months ahead of the Opec+ deal to increase output.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Russian President Vladimir Putin, who led the world's two largest oil exporters and were working together to manage the oil market, have now split. Putin was benched in the US capital at the end of last year, after meeting with President Donald Trump, who's made a habit of being the power broker in Opec's row.

Trump's support is key to any hope of an autonomous American action. Congressional leaders have been more skeptical about his deal, with House Republicans saying the chief executive's allies are more interested in getting the US president a trade deal than managing the oil market. Putin has a similar number of allies, but even his close associate, the US president, is supposed to keep an eye on Trump's trade talks.

In fact, the 11-year old oil price appears on the docket for the next couple of months. Brent futures, the benchmark for oil, fell 6.1% to a one-year low in London on Monday, plunging Brent prices 10.8% since early September. The region is an increasingly attractive place for the growing output from the region. "There's a lot of uncertainty," said John Twomey, an analyst at Bloomberg, "and risk."
By Mike Cohen

Few more than a decade after white minority rule ended in South Africa, companies are facing questions over their land ownership.

Land is a highly sensitive issue in South Africa, where the constitution guarantees the right to own property, but the distribution of land is highly unequal. The country's constitution allows the state to expropriate land for public purposes without compensation, which has been a contentious issue in recent years.

**1. Why is land ownership an issue?**

Because almost 80% of the country's wealth is in the hands of a few wealthy white farmers, while most of the black population has little or no land. The constitution guarantees the right to own property, but the distribution of land is highly unequal.

**2. What are they proposing?**

The African National Congress (ANC) is pushing for expropriation of land without compensation, which has been widely debated in recent years.

**3. How did we get here?**

The ANC took power in 1994 after the end of apartheid, with a policy of land redistribution. However, the process has been slow and uneven, with many black farmers still facing institutional and social barriers to owning land.

**4. Why are banks worried?**

The expropriation of land without compensation could have significant consequences for the South African economy, with potential ramifications for the banking sector.

**5. What are they proposing?**

The ANC has proposed a range of measures to address land reform, including expropriation of land without compensation, which has been a contentious issue in recent years.

**6. Is taking land without compensation constitutional?**

The ANC argues that the constitution already allows the state to expropriate land for public purposes without compensation. However, the courts have been hesitant to agree, with several cases challenging the constitutionality of such expropriations.

**7. Why is the ANC doing this now?**

With national elections looming in May and the ANC's support dropping, the party is under pressure to address land reform, seen as a key issue for its electoral prospects.

**8. The outlook for parliament?**

The ANC has a majority in parliament, but will need to persuade a section of its members to support expropriation of land without compensation. The process could take months, if not years, for the matter to be settled.

**9. Who is opposing?**

Commercial lenders have expressed concern about the potential impact of expropriation without compensation on their ability to recover loans in the event of default.

**10. What is the government doing?**

The ANC has announced plans to introduce an amendment to the constitution to allow expropriation without compensation, which would require a two-thirds majority in parliament.

**11. Conclusion**

The issue of land reform is complex and contentious, with different stakeholders having conflicting interests. The ANC is under pressure to address the issue, but the process could be challenging for all involved.
The Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) indices gained 24.29 points, or 1.12%, during the trading week to close at 10,328.48. The general index closed up 1.11% from last week and closed at 10,328.48. The index has been creating a rising-reversal formation (if breached downward) towards the 11,000 level.

Top Five Gainers
- Qatar Islamic Bank (QNBK) was the top value traded stock during the week with total traded value of QR201.4mn. QNB Group (QNB) was the second biggest contributor to the mentioned gain, adding 34.2 points to the index.
- The consumer goods and services sector was the biggest contributor to the total trading value, accounting for 17.4% of the total trading value. QNB Group (QNB) was the highest traded stock during the week with total traded value of QR201.4mn.
- Trading volume decreased by 5.8% to reach 25.4mn shares versus 26.0mn shares in the prior week. The number of transactions rose by 2.2% to 20,264 transactions versus 19,833 transactions in the prior week. The banks and financial services sector led the trading volume, accounting for 40.3%, followed by the real estate sector which accounted for 21.7% of the overall trading volume. Volume Qatar (QVCM) was the top volume traded stock during the week with 3.0mn shares traded.
- Foreign institutions remained bullish with net buying of QR230.7mn versus net buying of QR189.5mn in the prior week. Qatar retail investors remained bullish with net buying of QR38.4mn versus net buying of QR23.7mn in the prior week. Qatari institutions remained bearish with net selling of QR193.2mn versus net selling of QR92.7mn in the prior week. Qatar retail investors turned bearish with net selling of QR25.8mn versus net buying of QR209.7mn in the prior week. Qatari institutions remained bearish with net selling of QR16.8mn versus net buying of QR99.0mn in the prior week. Qatari retail investors turned bearish with net selling of QR153.7mn versus net buying of QR576.6bn at the end of the year-to-date.

Most Active Shares by Value (QR Million)
- Top Five Gainers
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Most Active Shares by Volume (Million)
- Top Five Decliners
  - Masraf Al Rayan (MARK) and Industries Qatar (IQCD) contributed 17.1 points and 10.2 points to the index respectively.
  - Moreover, the Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) index gained 114.29 points, or 1.12%, during the trading week to close at 10,328.48. Market capitalization of QR1.2bn in the prior week. The banks and financial services sector led the trading volume, accounting for 40.3%, followed by the real estate sector which accounted for 21.7% of the overall trading volume. Volume Qatar (QVCM) was the top volume traded stock during the week with 3.0mn shares traded.

Definitions of key terms used in technical analysis
- Candlestick chart – A candlestick chart 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’. Each candlestick may represent any time frame. We use a one-day candlestick chart (every candlestick represents one trading day) in our analysis.
- Doji candlestick pattern – A Doji candlestick is formed when a security’s open and close price are practically equal. The pattern indicates indecisiveness, and based on previous price actions and future confirmation, may indicate a bullish or bearish trend.
- Reversal formation (if breached downward) – A reversal formation (if breached downward) is a technical analysis pattern that indicates a potential reversal in the trend of a security or market. The pattern is identified when there is a significant gap between the opening price and closing price, indicating a strong change in sentiment or a lack of continuity in the previous trend.
China's developers bite bond bullet as funding costs rise

Shocked by the recent deluge of bond defaults among China's property developers, BlackRock Inc. says it has cut its exposure to the region to a historically low level.

The bet against China's property developers is paying off for BlackRock.

The investment giant slashed its exposure to the region in June as it sought to reduce its risk exposure. But it is now going further, reducing its investment in the region to a level not seen since 2012.

BlackRock's move is a reflection of the growing concern among investors about the risks of investing in China's property sector, which has been hit by a series of defaults in recent weeks.

The company said it had reduced its exposure to Chinese property developers by 70% in the second quarter, bringing its overall exposure to the region to just 0.6%.

BlackRock's decision comes as China's property developers face a string of defaults, including those of Evergrande, Huarong and Huaxi, which have raised concerns about the sector's sustainability.

The company said it had increased its exposure to other parts of Asia, including Japan and South Korea, as it seeks to diversify its investments.

BlackRock's decision is part of a broader trend among investors to reduce their exposure to China's property sector, which has been hit by a series of defaults in recent weeks.

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Pessimism returns to China stocks before Xi-Trump meeting

The Wall Street Journal

China’s top officials appear to be scaling back their optimism that the US-China trade war can be resolved peacefully, after US President Donald Trump announced this month that he would raise tariffs on $16bn of Chinese imports.

China has been under pressure to roll back its aggressive economic growth strategies, which have led to record levels of debt and critics say are contributing to global economic instability.

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China has been under pressure to roll back its aggressive economic growth strategies, which have led to record levels of debt and critics say are contributing to global economic instability.
G20 to focus on trade, with all eyes on China and US

The US fund investors signal their concern on credit

Ironically, just a decade ago world leaders tried to broaden the coalition of decision makers in international trade, world leaders G20 to focus on trade, with all eyes on China and US. The US administration, which focuses on more than $250bn of Chinese imports, is looking to form a coalition of countries that make up 85% of the world’s economy, including the US, China, the UK, Japan, and Germany, to address trade issues.

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QFC discusses role of business hubs in wealth creation at Paris meet

By Peter Alage

The Qatar Financial Centre (QFC), one of the world’s leading and fastest growing onshore business and financial centres, has participated in the Global Annual Summit held in Paris, France. The summit marks another milestone in the QFC’s journey to becoming one of the most competitive global financial centres.

During the panel, Sheikha Alanoud highlighted how the regional challenges have created new opportunities for the QFC and the Qatari economy, and how Qatar has retained its position as an economic hub, having opened up its economy since the beginning of the blockade. She also mentioned the QFC’s commitment to providing a cost-competitive and highly competitive environment for businesses, as well as the role of the QFC in creating a supportive environment for businesses in Qatar.

The QFC has created a number of incentives and opportunities for investors, including the right to trade in any currency, the ability to operate in and out of Qatar, the ability to attract Qatari FDI inflows to France, and the ability to attract investment opportunities to Qatar. The QFC has also implemented a number of reforms to improve the business environment, including the implementation of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) principles that promote transparency and accountability in business.

The QFC has also implemented a number of measures to ensure business continuity, including a comprehensive business continuity plan that provides support in matters related to operational and organisational processes, logistics, new technology, and sustainability. The QFC has also implemented a number of reforms to improve the business environment, including the implementation of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) principles that promote transparency and accountability in business.

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