US sees ‘steady growth’ in Qatari FDI over last few years, says report

GULF TIMES BUSINESS

US sees ‘steady growth’ in Qatari FDI over last few years, says report

By Peter Maguire Business Reporter

Qatar’s emerging economic growth (EIG) in the US has continued to “steadily grow” over the last few years, the US Chamber of Commerce stated in its 2019 US-Qatar Business Report. The publication of the report coincides with the third US-Qatar Strategic Dialogue held last September, according to Dr. Michael Crowley, the chamber’s senior vice president, Middle East, Turkey, Central Asia Affairs.

The US Chamber, in a statement, continued to discuss the economic and trade relationship between the US and Qatar, and noted the importance of Qatar’s role in regional peace and stability. According to the report, the US and Qatar signed Trade and Investment Framework (TIF) in 2014 to establish a framework for expanding trade between the two countries.

Despite the ongoing trade war between the US and China, the report noted the continued interest of US investors in Qatar’s market.

“Investors are increasingly interested in Qatar’s market, due to its strong economic growth and favorable market conditions. The US Chamber of Commerce welcomes the opportunity to discuss ways to further enhance cooperation between the two countries,” the report said.

Top Airbus A320neo customer to cut fleet size over two years

Bloomberg Business

Rolstw will trim its fleet of jet over the next few years as it continues to ramp up operations in the US and other countries around the world. The airline, which operates in Europe, the Middle East, and the US, said it will cut its fleet by 2025, which is 20 days from now. Bloomberg reports that the airline currently operates about 30 aircrafts, including the A320neo and A321neo.

“Over the next few years, we will be working to optimize our fleet size and ensure that we have the right aircraft to support our growth,” said a spokesperson from the airline.

Ooredoo launches Qatar’s 1st ‘Quad Play’ business packages

By Amal Al Naimi

Ooredoo has launched its first Quad Play business packages, which combine Business Broadband, Business Mobile, Business Landline, and Business Internet.

The new ‘Quad Play’ packages include a mix of all four services, allowing customers to choose the best option for their business needs. The packages also include value-added services such as Smart Home automation, Business Security, and Business Mobile.

The launch of the ‘Quad Play’ packages is part of Ooredoo’s strategy to offer businesses a range of services that meet their needs and help them stay competitive in the market.

Ooredoo’s ‘Quad Play’ packages are available for businesses in Qatar and are priced competitively to meet the needs of different business sizes. The packages also include value-added services such as Smart Home automation, Business Security, and Business Mobile.
JRE to represent Turkey’s mega mixed-use realty development ‘Lifestyle City’

JRE has boosted its already significant Turkish portfolio by signing to represent the newly mixed-use development ‘Lifestyle City’ being built within striking distance of Istanbul and the popular Beşiktaş coast. JRE’s involvement in the project will further enhance its reputation as a leading real estate developer in Turkey. The Turkish real estate industry is building up well, with the official ABD Anadolu Housing Bank that the big three real estate players are all building about 1 million units per year, and the government is expected to build another 200,000 units per year.

JRE, in collaboration with the developer, aims to provide a unique living experience that will appeal to a wide range of investors and end users.

New projects to account for 80% of natural gas production by 2050, says Senvuran

Natural gas is a stable energy option that will continue to play a key role in Turkey’s energy mix, contributing to the country’s energy security. Turkey is the ninth largest exporter of natural gas worldwide and is an important player in the global energy market. The country has significant natural gas reserves, with the potential to become a major gas exporter. However, the government has recognized the importance of transitioning to more sustainable energy sources and has set targets to increase the share of renewable energy in the country’s energy mix.

QFMA holds training programme on financial fraud detection methods

The Qatar Financial Markets Authority (QFMA) has announced the launch of a new training programme on financial fraud detection methods, as part of its efforts to enhance financial literacy and awareness among its constituents. The programme aims to equip professionals with the skills and knowledge necessary to identify and prevent financial fraud, which is a growing concern in today’s digital age.

The programme, titled “QFMA Financial Fraud Detection Methods,” is designed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of financial fraud and the tools and techniques needed to detect and prevent it. It will cover various types of financial fraud, such as phishing, identity theft, and fraudulent investment schemes, and will focus on the latest trends and strategies in financial fraud detection.

The programme will be conducted in partnership with leading experts and organizations in the field of financial fraud prevention. Participants will have the opportunity to network and share knowledge and experiences with other professionals in the industry.

Alibaba’s secret three-year experiment to reinvent the factory

Alibaba’s secret three-year experiment to reinvent the factory,“A digitization project carried out by Alibaba Cloud in a smart manufacturing start-up, is worth a mention. The company, which is based in Hangzhou, is one of the world’s largest e-commerce platforms. The project aims to transform traditional manufacturing processes into highly automated and efficient operations, thereby increasing productivity and reducing costs.”

The Alibaba Cloud project aims to provide a comprehensive solution for traditional manufacturing companies, enabling them to digitize their operations and improve efficiency. The solution includes various modules, such as data collection, analysis, and visualization, as well as automation and optimization tools. This allows manufacturers to make data-driven decisions and optimize their production processes, leading to increased productivity and efficiency.

The project involves the integration of various technologies, such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and the Internet of Things (IoT), to automate and optimize various aspects of the production process. This includes real-time monitoring of production data, predictive maintenance, and intelligent decision-making.

The project has been well-received by the manufacturing industry, with many companies expressing interest in collaborating with Alibaba Cloud to implement similar solutions in their own operations. The success of the project has also led to the development of other innovative solutions and services by Alibaba Cloud, further strengthening its position as a global leader in smart manufacturing.

The Alibaba Cloud project is expected to have a significant impact on the manufacturing industry, enabling companies to increase their efficiency, reduce costs, and improve their competitiveness in the global market. The project also represents a significant step towards the digital transformation of the manufacturing sector, paving the way for the development of more advanced and efficient production processes in the future.
Market's collected wisdom on presidents is often dead wrong

There's been a mantra in trader circles for some time now that 'the Fed is the only market variable.' The sentiment was growing louder after the shutdown. And yet, for some investment veterans, there's a nagging concern that the Fed is the only variable that matters. There's some truth to that, but we think there are other things to consider.

For one, the stock market has historically been a good predictor of future economic conditions. In fact, a study published in the Journal of Finance found that the stock market has a strong positive relationship with future GDP growth. And while the Fed can influence interest rates and the availability of credit, it's not the only factor that affects the economy.

Another factor to consider is the role of central bankers in determining interest rates. While the Fed is the most well-known central bank, there are other central banks around the world that also influence interest rates. And these rates can have a significant impact on the economy.

Finally, the stock market is not the only market variable. The bond market, for example, is another important market that can influence interest rates and the availability of credit.

In conclusion, while the Fed is certainly an important variable in the economy, it's not the only one. There are other factors to consider when making investment decisions.
Fed is in holding pattern amid tense US election

The Federal Reserve is keeping interest rates in a range between 1.75% and 2.00% and holding the Federal funds rate target at that level for the foreseeable future, as it continues to balance the risks to economic growth from both the potential for a US-China trade war and the impact of rising interest rates on the economy.

The Fed’s decision to keep rates unchanged was widely expected, but it did underline the central bank’s caution in the face of uncertainties.

"We continue to assess the appropriate stance of monetary policy in light of the latest economic developments and their implications for the outlook for economic activity, labor market conditions, and inflation pressures," the Fed said in a statement.

The decision comes as the US economy remains strong, with unemployment at a 50-year low and inflation under control. However, the Fed has expressed concern about the potential impact of a trade war on the economy.

"The risk of a trade war continues to cast a shadow over global economic prospects," the statement said. "The Fed will continue to monitor developments closely and will act as appropriate to sustain the economic expansion and ensure that inflation remains near the Committee’s 2% objective.

The Fed also said it would continue to provide liquidity to the financial system, as needed, to support financial stability.

The statement did not provide any indication of when the Fed might consider raising interest rates again, with some analysts predicting another hike in December.

The minutes of the Fed’s last meeting show that officials are divided on the outlook for the economy, with some officials seeing a need to raise rates sooner than others.

The Fed’s decision comes as the US government faces a partial shutdown, with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin saying the government is prepared to default on its debt if a budget deal is not reached.

The shutdown has raised concerns about the impact on the economy, with some analysts predicting a slowdown if the government remains closed for an extended period.

The Fed’s decision to keep rates unchanged is a sign that officials are taking a cautious approach to policy, given the uncertainty surrounding the trade war.

The Fed is closely watching developments on both fronts and will continue to monitor the situation closely, with officials saying they are prepared to act if necessary to support the economy.
Banking on knowledge

Commodities rally curtailed on second wave of Covid-19, dollar revival

By Rukia Khaiman

The WTI Brent crude oil and the spot gold in London are down more than 0.4% and 0.6%, respectively, as concerns about a resurgence of the virus in parts of the world, including China, and fears of an economic slowdown weigh on global risks.

Crude oil prices in China, which are the second largest consumer of oil in the world, fell by more than 0.5% as investors were cautious about the economic outlook.

Gold prices, however, remained higher than $1,850 per ounce as investors sought safety in the rising uncertainties.

The dollar index, which measures the strength of the greenback against a basket of currencies, slipped by more than 0.2% as investors were cautious about the economic outlook.

Banker’s take

By Brak Bhanon

The Erdogan administration has been fighting the coronavirus pandemic with a strict lockdown, but with the second wave of the virus gripping the country, the government has announced a series of measures to combat the spread of the virus.

The measures include a new lockdown in certain areas, restrictions on gatherings, and a ban on travel to and from certain regions.

The economy is expected to face further challenges as the virus continues to spread, putting pressure on the government to take further steps to contain the virus.

FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 focal point for country’s economic recovery, says NBK

By Farooq Joban

The FIFA World Cup 2022, to be held in Qatar, is expected to put the country on the global map as one of the most advanced and modern sporting events.

The event is expected to bring significant economic benefits to the country, including increased tourism, job creation, and infrastructure development.

The government has been working tirelessly to ensure a seamless and successful event, and all signs point to a highly successful tournament.

Qatar bourse key index declines on selling pressure

By Soufian Fareed

The Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) index declined on selling pressure on Monday, as most of the major indices were down.

The selling pressure was driven by profit-taking after a strong rally in the previous session.

The QSE general index was down 0.2% to 8,090 points, while the QSE Shariah index was down 0.2% to 1,550 points.

The QSE-20 index, which is a weighted average of the 20 most liquid stocks, was down 0.3% to 10,000 points.

The market capitalization of the QSE-20 index was down 0.3% to $550 billion, as the market value of the 20 most liquid stocks was down 0.3% to $550 billion.

Weekly property sale market dominated by building sale deals, says Ezdan Real Estate report

By Soufian Fareed

Weekly property sale market dominated by building sale deals, says Ezdan Real Estate report

The property sale market in Qatar has been dominated by building sale deals, with units, villas, and apartments being the most popular options for buyers.

According to the Ezdan Real Estate report, the number of building sale deals has increased significantly in the past few months, with a 15% increase in building sales compared to the same period last year.

Consumers continue to weigh on gold, global equity markets

The gold prices continue to face pressure as global equity markets remain volatile, with several factors contributing to the downward trend.

The US-China trade war, the uncertainty surrounding the US presidential election, and the ongoing pandemic have all contributed to the volatility in global markets.

US-China trade war and the Federal Reserve’s decision to lower interest rates are some of the factors that have contributed to the downward trend in gold prices.

The Fed’s move to lower interest rates has also been a concern for gold investors, as lower rates typically reduce the attractiveness of gold as a hedge against inflation.

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