Qatar ports post robust performance in December

By Gareth V. Vidal

The general manager of Qatar Ports, Saad bin Abdulrahman bin Salem Al-Kuwari, has announced that the country's main ports have shown robust performance in December, with a total of 5.3 million standard cubic meters (SCM) of cargo handled. This represents a 16% increase compared to the same period last year.

The announcement comes as part of the wider economic recovery efforts in Qatar, where the country has been focusing on diversifying its economy and expanding its infrastructure. Qatar Ports plays a crucial role in this strategy, serving as a gateway to the Middle East and beyond.

"The robust performance in December is a testament to the resilience and determination of our team at Qatar Ports," said Al-Kuwari. "We are proud to see our ports handle such a significant volume of cargo, which is a reflection of the ongoing growth and development in Qatar and the region.

"This performance also highlights the importance of our ports in supporting Qatar's efforts to become a hub for international trade and commerce. We will continue to work hard to maintain and improve our services, ensuring that we remain at the forefront of global trade.

Mohamed Nasser al-Hajiri appointed board member, general manager of QEWC

Mohamed Nasser al-Hajiri, the chief executive officer and general manager of QEWC, has been appointed as a board member of the company. His appointment has been hailed as a significant milestone for the company and the wider business community in Qatar.

Al-Hajiri’s appointment comes as part of the ongoing efforts to strengthen QEWC’s leadership and governance. The company is a key player in the local and regional market, with a focus on providing high-quality services to its customers.

"We are delighted to welcome Mohamed Nasser al-Hajiri to our board," said the company’s chairperson. "His expertise and experience will be invaluable in guiding QEWC through the next phase of its growth and development.

"Under his leadership, we are confident that QEWC will continue to excel, delivering value to our customers and contributing to the economic progress of Qatar.

Al-Kuwari receives US EXIM bank delegation

Al-Kuwari has received a delegation from the US Export-Import Bank (EXIM), led by President and Chairman of the Board of Directors, Dr. Rita Cutler. The delegation was in Qatar to explore opportunities for collaboration and to discuss ways to support business growth in the region.

"We are pleased to welcome the EXIM delegation to Qatar," said Al-Kuwari. "The relationship between Qatar and the US is very strong, and we see great potential for collaboration on projects that would benefit both our countries.

"Through this dialogue, we hope to identify areas where EXIM can support Qatar’s businesses and help drive economic development. We are open to exploring various opportunities and finding ways to work together.

EXIM has more than 28 years of experience in the broad energy sector, and has held many positions, including chief financial officer and chief executive officer. The company provides trade finance and insurance to small and medium-sized exporters to help them sell their products in the global market.

Iraq picks Chinese firm for $2bn oil prepayment deal

Hemsworth

Hemsworth

Hemsworth

Hemsworth

On a day that saw the company's shares jump by 41%, the announcement has been greeted with enthusiasm by analysts and investors alike. The deal is seen as a significant milestone for the company, which has been struggling with declining revenues in recent years.

"This is a major win for Hemsworth," said an analyst. "The company has been looking for a major breakthrough, and this deal is exactly what it needed. The prospects are very bright, and we expect to see strong growth in the coming years.

"The deal will help to fund the company's expansion plans, and we believe it will bring in new customers and increase market share. We are very optimistic about the future of Hemsworth.

The deal is expected to close in the next few months, and the company will provide regular updates on progress. Hemsworth's management team has been praised for its strategic vision and commitment to growth, and investors are looking forward to seeing the results of this new partnership.
**Business**

**Opec+ emerges from chaos of 2020 to face a delicate balancing act**

As one of the most turbulent years in recent memory comes to an end, a new outlook on the global oil market is emerging. The Opec+ group, which includes Opec and non-Opec producers, is gearing up for a meeting on Wednesday. The group has faced a year of severe challenges, including the pandemic, market uncertainty, and the need to adjust its production levels. The meeting will be held in a virtual format and will likely be the first major gathering of oil ministers in 2021. The group's decision on production levels will have significant implications for the global oil market and the global economy.

**Libyans start using new unified exchange rate**

Libya’s government has announced that it will use a new, unified exchange rate for all transactions. The new rate will apply to all official transactions, including salaries, government programs, and international transactions. The government has been working on this new rate for several months and has consulted with various stakeholders to ensure its stability and reliability.

**‘Oman expects its public debt to top $56bn by end-2021’**

Oman’s public debt is expected to top $56bn by the end of 2021, according to recent estimates. The government has been under pressure to reduce its debt ratio, which is currently at around 40% of GDP. The government has been dealing with a severe economic downturn due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has impacted oil prices and government revenues. Oman has been reducing its spending and increasing its borrowing to meet its financial obligations. The government has been working with international organizations to secure funding and support.

**Qatar Fuel قطر للوقود**

The Tender Committee invites Tender Submission for the following Services:

- **Fuel Supply Contract**
- **Main Contractor**
- **Electrical Installation**
- **Civil Works**
- **Mechanical Installation**

**Oil outlook for 2021 hit by new Covid-19 strain**

The oil outlook for 2021 has been hit by the new Covid-19 strain, which has caused significant disruptions to the global economy. Oil prices have been volatile and have been affected by the pandemic. The oil market has been impacted by the demand for fuel, which has declined due to lockdowns and restrictions. The oil market has also been impacted by the supply of oil, which has increased due to the pandemic. The oil market is expected to recover in the second half of 2021, but the impact of the pandemic will continue to be felt. The oil market will be closely monitored in the coming months.
India plans spending boost to counter Covid impact

Bloomberg

India is set to ease from being a recipient of vast foreign aid to a donor, as its lockdowns took a toll on its economy and9m

China oil majors may face US delisting after telcos cut

Bloomberg

China's oil majors may be in the crosshairs of American regulators. The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) last week warned that China Mobile Ltd., China Telecom Corp. and China Unicom Ltd. must comply with US anti-corruption laws or risk being delisted from the exchange. The NYSE's action is just the latest in a series of moves by the US government to tighten its grip on Chinese companies and to increase scrutiny of China's growing economic power. The US has been increasingly concerned about the influence of China on the world stage, and its actions are seen as part of a broader effort to contain China's economic rise. The warning made by the NYSE is a significant threat to China's oil majors, which are major players in the global oil market. If delisted, these companies could face financial penalties and other regulatory challenges. The NYSE's action is likely to be viewed as a sign of growing US concern about China's influence on the global economy.

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India is set to ease from being a recipient of vast foreign aid to a donor, as its lockdowns took a toll on its economy and the US is expected to be the largest recipient of foreign aid this year. The US is expected to make contributions to several international organizations, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the United Nations. The US government has been active in providing financial assistance to countries affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, and it is expected to continue to do so in the coming year.

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Thailand economic conditions tipped to worsen as virus spreads

Bloomberg

Thailand is set to impose new restrictions on businesses and gatherings in the worst-affected provinces from Monday to Friday. The move comes as the country continues to battle a new wave of infections, with daily cases reaching record levels. The latest restrictions are aimed at controlling the spread of the virus and preventing further outbreaks. The government has also announced plans to boost the economy through measures such as increased spending on infrastructure projects and financial support for businesses. The new measures are expected to have a significant impact on the country's economic outlook, with concerns growing about the potential for a second wave of infections.

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Valuation caution returns as emerging markets face 2021 reality

Rony: If you own a year or more have started with price losses in emerging markets looking as diversified within the fundamental hold the asset class. This will be about as good as we get for emerging markets from bonds and currencies. The relative strength index (RSI) which measures potential equities gains in the above. It’s targeting a market in emerging markets for a new high this year. The currency that trades in the Shanghai/Technologies debt, at 2.6% to 2.0% million, not really the thing in this. The best example though that central banks in emerging markets are a core. They are reasonable yields and really pumping liquidity programs as a key for support. A shock of Q4 and Q1, this year, has been relatively minor compared to the previous year. Emerging market economies will first average a three-quarter hike of 2.7% according to Bloomberg’s data, or 0.4% in today’s closing. The major ones are back to their pre-pandemic levels and a few central banks remaining even. The emerging market yields on bonds are still at 2019’s highest level in 10 years while currency edged closer to 2016’s levels. Things are tightening with a bit of a cushion still in place in many countries. China’s strategy a shock in the region going in early 2020, with hopes that financial runs could be reversed and major central banks reducing yields.

Investing in emerging markets still remains a challenge. The risks are high but the potential rewards are significant. It’s important to have a diversified portfolio and to consider the risks associated with each investment. It’s also important to keep an eye on macroeconomic indicators and to stay informed about political events that could affect the market. Overall, investing in emerging markets can be a good strategy for those looking for potential high returns, but it’s important to do your research and to understand the risks involved.

QATAR

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DOHA

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LATEST MARKET CLOSING FIGURES

- Doha Bank: 32.00 (Up 0.90)
- Emirates NBD: 12.00 (Up 0.60)
- Dubai Bank: 18.00 (Up 1.00)
- National Bank of Dubai: 25.00 (Up 2.00)
Treasury market's bets on 2021 reflation face January reckoning

By Elizabeth Stan and Natalie DeWolf (Bloomberg)

January is shaping up to be a pivotal month for U.S. inflation and the status of low interest rates in the wake of the $1 trillion stimulus package. The Treasury market is closely watching as the U.S. economy recovers from the pandemic recession and central banks consider the potential for higher inflation.

With $1.9 trillion in stimulus already on the books, the market is bracing for a potential surge in inflation. The 10-year Treasury yield has risen above 1% for the first time since March 2020, and the Federal Reserve has signaled it will tolerate higher inflation for some time.

The market is divided on whether the Fed will keep interest rates near zero for an extended period, given the prospects for strong economic growth and higher inflation.


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Fiat Chrysler and PSA set to get shareholders' green light for merger

By Tanya Faly (Bloomberg)

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV and PSA Group are set to win shareholders' approval on plans to merge, according to two people with knowledge of the matter.

The combined company will be the fourth-largest carmaker in the world, with sales of about 8 million vehicles in 2019.

In a letter to shareholders, Renault said it would review its strategy after the merger,


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US corporate bond sales line up amid high-stakes vote

By Coen Macri and Tim Arabhi (Bloomberg)

Corporate bond sales are set for another busy week ahead of a key vote on whether or not to raise the spending limit.

Many issuers and investors will be watching closely as the U.S. government faces a potential default if it doesn’t raise its debt limit by the end of the month.

The vote on Capitol Hill will determine whether the Treasury Department can continue to pay its bills and meet its obligations.


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Dazzling valuations, ICO craze kick boxes on bubble watch

By Bhattacharya Nihal and Daniel Pappas (Bloomberg)

The IPO market is hot, as has been the case for much of the past year. But that doesn’t mean investors should be complacent.

The current valuation of many IPOs is based on unrealistic assumptions about future growth and profitability. Investors should carefully consider the risks and rewards before investing.

The near-record fundraising from young companies is a good sign for the economy, but it also raises concerns about the sustainability of the current market conditions.


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Qatar bourse ends on a flat note, but sentiment remains bullish

By Sudhin T. Fernando

The Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) ended its session on a flat note on Monday, posting a gain of QR2.1 billion in total trading volume.

Domestic institutions and local retail investors were active buyers in the market, with QR12.6 billion and QR10.3 billion, respectively, being traded, compared to QR8.1 billion and QR5.3 billion on Sunday. Foreign institutional investors were net sellers on Monday, with QR5.5 billion being traded, compared to QR3.3 billion on Sunday.

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The market had closed marginally lower, although trades in blue-chip stocks such as Qatar Petroleum, Qatar Airways and Qatar Insurance were relatively high.

Al Khalidji board to approve and disclose year-end 2020 financial results

Al Khalidji Commercial Bank (or Al Khalidji) has announced that its board of directors will meet on January 20 to approve and disclose its year-end 2020 results.

Total number of registered vehicles during November 2020 stood at 5,069, says PSA

The total number of registered vehicles in Qatar during November 2020 stood at 5,069, according to statistics released by the Qatar Traffic Department.

MoTC wraps up ‘New Technologies & Digital Transformation forum’

The Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC) has wrapped up its virtual forum on “New Technologies and Digital Transformation,” organized last week by MoTC’s National Centre for Digital Transformation (NCDT) and in cooperation with the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (MoICT) in cooperation with the National Centre for Digital Transformation (NCDT).

NCDT said that the forum was designed to discuss the future of digital transformation, 5G, and AI applications in Qatar and highlighted the role of the forum in expanding the discussion on digital transformation.

The forum, which attracted some 250 attendees, highlighted the role of new technologies, particularly AI, in shaping the digital transformation. It also discussed AI’s potential in various sectors, including healthcare, finance, and transportation.

The forum was attended by government officials, business leaders, and experts from various industries.

Impact of digital technology on various sectors

The impact of digital technology on various sectors was also discussed, with experts highlighting the potential of AI in transforming industries and improving efficiency, productivity, and competitiveness.

The forum also included discussions on the role of public-private partnerships in driving digital transformation and the importance of strong leadership in achieving successful digital transformation projects.

Business continuity and cybersecurity amongst risks of 2021

By Abdeen Al Subaie

The year 2020 undeniably was defined by the global pandemic. This had huge economic implications that forced companies to adapt quickly to a new reality and adjust their strategies to navigate the challenges it posed.

One of the main challenges faced by organizations was the need to ensure business continuity and cybersecurity, as remote work and remote access became more prevalent.

Business continuity and cybersecurity are two key areas that have emerged as priorities for many organizations in 2020. With remote work becoming the norm, there was a need to ensure that business processes were not interrupted, and cybersecurity remained a priority.

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