Trade turnover of most brokerage firms on QSE rises substantially in Jan

By Fathiyah Yousif

The Gulf Times

Trade turnover of most brokerage firms on QSE rose substantially last month with Qatar Financial Market Authority (QFMA) data showing a 194% increase compared to January 2021.

QFMA's latest round of brokerage firms' financial statements revealed that most trading activities fell within the third quarter of 2021.

The data showed that most brokerage firms had a substantial increase in their trading activities, with the total turnover of trading activities increasing from QR1.8 billion in January 2021 to QR3.6 billion in January 2022.

The data also showed that the total trading volume for most brokerage firms increased from 1.1 billion shares in January 2021 to 2.2 billion shares in January 2022.

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Traders map out day when central banks finally raise rates

Bloomberg

London

After standing shoulder-to-shoulder for a year or more, the world’s central banks have finally reached a critical juncture in their monetary policy response to the pandemic. The era of ultra-low interest rates and quantitative easing may be coming to an end, with the world’s major economies expected to raise rates in the coming months.

Developments in policy are likely to be closely watched by traders, who have been buying equities and selling bonds as they anticipate higher interest rates. Traders are bracing for a market that could be volatile.

The first key decision will be the timing of the first rate hike. The market is already pricing in increases from the Federal Reserve in May, the Bank of England in June, and the European Central Bank in July.

The timing of the first rate increase will depend on a number of factors, including the pace of economic recovery, inflation, and the overall state of the global economy.

In addition to interest rates, central banks are also expected to gradually withdraw their quantitative easing programs, which have supported the economy during the pandemic.

The end of quantitative easing will also have implications for the bond market, where yields are expected to rise as the supply of bonds decreases.

Overall, the market is bracing for a period of higher volatility and increased uncertainty as central banks navigate the transition to a new monetary policy regime.

London’s top investors warn on post-Brexit easing of IPO rules

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Sainsbury’s is among the biggest users of UK capital markets, with a weighting of one of the most critical elements of the UK’s capital market rules.

The department is urging caution on behalf of investors, saying that the UK market is not an easy place to raise capital.

The report is the latest in a series of warnings from authorities about the potential risks of raising capital in the UK.

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HSBC to target wealth management in its latest strategic shift

Markets drop in Asia, but bitcoin surges

As a result, the economic news was dominated by the US stock markets, where Netflix shares fell, but Amazon shares rose. The Nordstrom stock also rose, but Goldman Sachs shares fell. The Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) was down 307.98, or 1.16%, to 26,093.77, as of 10:04 a.m. Eastern Time, while the S&P 500 Index was down 1.09% to 3,175.5. The Nasdaq Composite Index was down 1.2% to 10,827.1.

Sensors rise: rupee strengthens

The rupee strengthened against the US dollar on Tuesday, gaining 0.05% to 73.69. The rupee is currently trading at 73.69 against the US dollar, compared to 73.71 on Monday. The rupee has strengthened against the dollar in recent weeks, reflecting improved market sentiment and stronger inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI).

Central bank's estimated $7bn support buoy India bonds

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has estimated that the central bank may have supported the Indian rupee by as much as $7 billion in the past few weeks, following a series of measures taken to stabilize the rupee and the Indian economy.

EM stocks hover at record highs

EM stock markets were on track to record highs on Tuesday, following strong gains in the previous session. The MSCI Emerging Markets Index was up 0.7% to 1,430.4, as of 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time, while the iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF (EME) was up 0.7% to $47.4.

ESG Core rises in Europe's first sustainable SPAC listing

ESG Core, a European sustainable investment firm, has completed its first sustainable SPAC listing in Europe. The company listed its $500 million SPAC on the London Stock Exchange (LSE) on Tuesday, following a successful fundraising round that raised $500 million.

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The hot macro trade of 2021 is going bust


Bloomberg

Rosnen returns to profit, signalling 2020 dividend payments

Rosneft returned to profit, signalling a return to dividends in 2020 after a quarter of 2019 with a $2.5 billion operating loss. The company’s foreign currency revenue fell by 38%, but its sales dropped by just 24%, according to the Russian state-controlled energy giant.

Bloomberg

Investors vie for windfall from rejected Covid insurance claims

Insurance companies have been rejected or paid less than half of the claims they received in response to the coronavirus pandemic, according to a new report by the Consumer Federation of America.

Bloomberg

Coleman leads $23bn payday for 15 hedge fund earners

Investment in the once-mighty industry has been hit by the pandemic, leading to an exodus of top managers and a decline in profits.

Bloomberg

Norway's $1.2bn ransomware payment 'no bargain', report suggests

A report by the Norwegian government's National Research Centre for Public Policy suggests that the country's ransomware payment of $1.2bn to hackers in 2020 was not worth the money.

Bloomberg

Russian giant Rosneft in talks to consider full acquisition of UK's Rockhopper Capital

The Russian company has said it is in talks with the UK's Rockhopper Capital to acquire all of its assets, but has not made a formal offer.

Bloomberg
European stock markets still buoyant as shine comes off bitcoin rally

Analysts reported that the earnings season has got into full swing in the US and Europe, with the numbers coming in better than expected so far. The European Central Bank (ECB) is expected to raise interest rates slightly next week, which could support the Eurozone economy. The US Federal Reserve (Fed) is expected to raise rates by 50 basis points, which could boost sentiment in the US. The bitcoin market has been volatile, with prices fluctuating widely. The US dollar has strengthened against other major currencies, which could affect the performance of the bitcoin market. The market is still buoyant, with bullish sentiment dominating. The digital currency has been gaining traction as a hedge against inflation.
ECB officials consider climate leap for corporate bond programme

The Bank of France governor has said his country needs a plan for emerging climate risks in the financial market, as part of a broader European Union effort to tackle the issue.

European Central Bank policymakers are seeking to develop climate criteria for their corporate bond buying programme, which could form part of a wider strategy to integrate climate considerations into financial markets.

The ECB is considering tightening its criteria for corporate bonds, in particular to ensure that issuers have a clear strategy for reducing their carbon footprint. The bank has also been working on developing a climate classification system to help investors assess the climate risk of bonds.

This could be a major step forward in integrating climate considerations into financial markets, as the ECB is one of the largest issuers of green bonds.

The move could also help to address concerns about the risk of climate change to the global economy.

The ECB is currently considering developing a climate classification system to help investors assess the climate risk of bonds, and it is also looking at ways to integrate climate considerations into its corporate bond buying programme.

Some officials are concerned that the bank should be doing more to ensure that its investments are not complicit in climate change, and that it is being clear about the implications of its investments.

The move could also have wider implications for the broader European Union effort to tackle climate change, as the ECB is one of the largest issuers of green bonds.

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Billionaire steel-making clan faces key test in quest to cut debt

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Microsoft backs search engines for news

Goldman Sachs buys 60% stake to settle US mortgage case

EU weighs deal with TSMC, Samsung for semiconductor facilities

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UK economy shrinks record 9.9% in 2020 on pandemic ‘shock’

Bloomberg

By Matthew Waterfield

In one of the costliest economic shocks in living memory, the British economy contracted by a record 9.9% in 2020 as the pandemic and lockdowns saw household spending collapse, with home and car purchases cratering and consumer confidence at near record lows.

The Office for National Statistics reported that GDP shrank by 0.5% in the final quarter of the year, pushing the annual figure for 2020 into the negatives for the first time in 316 years.

The unprecedented economic disruption in the UK in 2020 saw household spending fall by 12.5% and the services sector in particular, which accounts for more than half of the economy, contract by 11.5%.

“Given the unprecedented nature of the pandemic and lockdowns, the data for the fourth quarter reflect continuing economic disruption,” the ONS said.

The data also showed that construction activity fell by 2.4% in the quarter, with retail sales down by 9.6% and the hospitality sector Contracting by 5.7%.

The report comes as the government introduces new restrictions in England to combat the spread of the virus, with non-essential businesses such as restaurants, bars and pubs set to close from Thursday.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said he wants to keep the economy open during the winter, but the latest data suggests that the lockdowns are having a significant impact.

The ONS data also showed that the housing market continued to be hit by the pandemic, with sales volumes falling by 8.9% in the quarter and house prices falling by 1.8%.

The pandemic has inflicted a severe blow to the global economy, with the International Monetary Fund estimating that the world economy will shrink by 4.4% this year.

UK economy shrinks record 9.9% in 2020 on pandemic ‘shock’

Meng Wanghao

Huawei CFO Meng seeks HSBC records amid US extradition fight

Bloomberg

By Matthew Waterfield

China’s Huawei Technologies Co. said it sought HSBC Holdings Plc records from 2018 and 2019 after the U.S. Justice Department requested the financial records as part of its investigation into the company.

Meng Wanzhou, the chief financial officer of Huawei, has been fighting extradition charges in Canada since her arrest in December 2018.

In a letter to HSBC, Huawei demanded “the production and dissemination to Huawei of any and all documents that Huawei believes to be in your possession, custody, or control,” according to its notice.

The move comes after Meng was arrested in Canada in December 2018, and it is the first time Huawei has formally requested business records from HSBC.

Meng is facing charges of fraud and theft of trade secrets in the U.S., and the request for HSBC records is the latest in a series of legal battles between Huawei and the U.S. government.

HSBC said it was reviewing the request and that it would comply with the legal process.

The request comes amid growing tension between the two countries over technology and trade, with the Trump administration applying pressure on companies to avoid doing business with Huawei.

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