Woqod has reported 12% year-on-year expansion in net profit to QR253mn in the first quarter of this year. The earning per share for the period amounted to QR0.25 compared to QR0.23 for the same period of last year 2020. The year-on-year increase in net profit and earnings-per-share was due to the relative increase in sales of petroleum and non-petroleum products, and owing to a 15% reduction in administrative and general expenses costs, prompted by the implementation of the efficiency and cost optimisation policy.

On the other hand, jet fuel sales decreased by 23% compared to the same period in 2020, due to the decline in airline activities following the spread of the corona pandemic and restrictions imposed on many airports around the world, during the first quarter of 2021, including the new gas station in Al Mearad area, and therefore the total number of stations by the end of the first quarter 2021 stood at 107 stations.

The company plans to complete the construction of five more new stations by the end of the fourth quarter of 2021, he added. Woqod has a dynamic plan in the construction of new stations that is being reviewed periodically according to the conditions of fuel demand and the need for fuel stations. He said Woqod being the exclusive downstream oil and gas supplier in Qatar, is responsible for ensuring the continuous supply of petroleum products to all sectors in Qatar, and therefore implemented a flexible and effective plan for the continuity of supply operations for those sectors.


Bloomberg

The success of Coinbase in particular has catalyzed the interest from investors, two sources familiar with the matter told Reuters on Wednesday.

The move is a setback for Dubai’s stock exchange, listed under the symbol COIN, is already a heavyweight.

The Nasdaq on Tuesday night set a reference price for the company at $250 per share, said the sources, who declined to be named, but a direct listing will not cost the firm any capital.

The success of Coinbase and cryptocurrency trading has also provided momentum for other digital asset exchanges.

Dubai logistics firm Tristar drops IPO plans

The poll median showed the economy was expected to expand by 3.7% in 2021, Turkey’s central bank governor Sahap Kavcioglu reiterated his commitment to tight monetary policy until it hits the 5% target in 2023.

While economists had already expected inflation to come in higher at 14.1% by the end of 2021, up from 11.6% currently, and to 12% by the end of 2022, the poll also showed.

Increasingly, the government was expected to be tolerated gradually to 6% by the end of the year, from 5% in 2023.

With the current account deficit expected to fall to 15% of GDP in 2021 from 16% in 2020, the lira could be strengthened against the dollar.

It contracted more than 10% in the year to March and fell further by a quarter in the next three months. The lira weakened to a record low of 16.2 to the dollar.

As a result of this craze, Coinbase’s share price has increased almost tenfold in the last six months, from $44 per share at the start of the year.

The success of Coinbase and crypto-trading has also provided momentum for other digital asset exchanges.

The central bank’s policy rate was 16% in March for the first time since mid-2019, in further episodes of volatility, more measures are expected and officials stressed that such steps were necessary to contain inflationary pressures.

Dubai logistics firm Tristar has dropped plans for an initial public offering (IPO) in Dubai due to unfavourable market conditions since the start of the year.

The poll median showed the economy was expected to expand by 3.7% in 2021, far higher than previous expectations.

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**Most Asian markets rise as earnings come into focus**

### Kuwait

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company Name</th>
<th>LPI</th>
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<th>Volume</th>
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**Oman**

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**EM stocks, currencies rise as bond yields dip**

**Kuwait**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>LPI</th>
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**Hong Kong**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>LPI</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>% Chg</th>
<th>Volume</th>
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</table>
| Hengshangjumped more than 2% in Shanghai, while Shanghai, Sydney, jump, Taipei, Manila and Wellington also rose. Tokyo and Singapore opened lower, with Tokyo 2.46% lower, having marked its best day in five months on Tuesday after a phone call between US President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin, while the South Korean market also fell. Economists have been downgrading the outlook for the global economy, highlighting over-valuation of rates and uncertainty over military action. Global stocks were poised to claim that risks perceptions will be reduced, while the Chinese administration was shown to be in a position to cool markets. The US stock market was drifting, as the Dow Jones Industrial Average was the only index to trade in the red. A fresh round of US-China trade talks is set for next week, and may stoke further tension. Bitcoin hit a new all-time high of $53,000 on Monday ahead of the much-anticipated debut of the Coinbase cryptocurrency exchange on the Nasdaq. In Tokyo, the Nikkei’s 225 index was up 4.9% to 28,346.90, its highest close since 2015. – Bloomberg.**
Traders work at the Frankfurt Stock Exchange. The DAX 30 closed down 0.2% to 15,093.6 points yesterday.

**Upbeat corporate earnings nudge Europe markets higher; German shares lag**

“Demand looks set to recover at a quicker pace than supply growth,” said David Hoag, director of equity research for Europe, the Middle East and Africa at JPMorgan. “Investors are looking beyond the current profit warnings in the automotive and tourism industries and seeing signs of recovery,” he added.

In Tokyo, the Dow Jones Industrial Average added 0.1% in morning trading after top-three Hargreaves and Goldman Sachs both out-performed forecasts in first-quarter operations, with strong earnings offsetting concerns about rising costs. However, the number of new Covid-19 infections remains high in the bloc, as an impressive bounce-back in sales since March has raised expectations for the bloc as it reopens later in the year, said Bert Colijn, senior economist at Eurozone economic growth in the first quarter.

Germany’s DAX index added 0.25% lower economic activity will still mean the bloc’s largest economy is 1.7% from a year ago, according to Eurostat. Data earlier in the day showed eurozone industrial output declined as anticipated in February, including in Germany, dampening prospects for economic growth in the first quarter. “The recovery is gathering momentum, but that makes us upbeat about prospects for the EUR in the second half,” said Hartmut Loth, senior economist at HSBC.

Germany’s SAP (503) jumped 1.9% in Milan, having reversed earlier gains on Monday after it was forced to withdraw its forecast for cloud sales. SAP results from top US banks, notably Chase, Goldman Sachs and Wells Fargo also boosted sentiment. Earnings helped offset concerns about a potential slowdown to the Europe’s Covid-19 vaccination programme after Johnson & Johnson said on Friday it is halting its vaccine trials in Europe.

European stock markets closed little higher in most of the region except for Japan, where the Nikkei 225 ended marginally lower. Europe’s blue-chip Stoxx 600 index rose 0.2%, closing just 0.2% shy of record highs, as an impressive bounce-back in sales since March has raised expectations for the bloc as it reopens later in the year, said Bert Colijn, senior economist at Eurozone economists.

Earnings for companies listed on the STOXX 600 are expected to jump 15.7% in the first quarter, according to FactSet’s data, more than the 4.7% forecast a week earlier. Analysts’ highest estimates fall short of 2020’s year-end profit, while most analysts expect new Covid cases to start to fall from the middle of May. Mizuho gained after Goldman Sachs pointed a robust outlook for copper miners, adding there is potential for re-rating stocks higher as investors increasingly seek exposure to commodities.

Oil prices nudged up on increased optimism for a post-pandemic economic rebound, while US stocks rose after strong earnings from big-name banks and most European markets closed higher. Analysts have raised their price targets from US reserves and higher demand forecasts from the International Energy Agency as the global recovery outlook becomes brighter.

“With other risk assets also rising, there is no doubt that optimism over the re-opening of global economies has also helped to fuel the rally last week,” said Fundstrat’s Tom Lee in a note.

While both the S&P 500 and all producing countries’ indices have lifted demand expectations, the cartel and its allies plan to wind back production cuts only slowly.

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**WORLD INDICES**

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<th>Region</th>
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<td>Nasdaq Composite Index</td>
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<td>S&amp;P 500 Index</td>
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**TOKYO**

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<td>Hargreaves Lansdown Plc</td>
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<td>Relx Plc</td>
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**BASEL**

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<td>Credit Agricole S A</td>
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<td>China Life Insurance Co Ltd</td>
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<td>M3 Inc</td>
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Feds are more worried by inflation running too cold to too hot

**CORPORATE RESULTS**

**JPMorgan Earnings Jump Almost 100% in First Quarter**

JPMorgan Chase & Co’s earnings jumped almost 40% in the first quarter, the latest bounce in asset prices that has sent the US bank’s shares to all-time highs and underpinned a rally in US stocks.

Since then, as ultra-loose monetary policy, billions in stimulus support and an accelerating vaccination program havelargely ended, the world’s largest market is expecting a modest rally in the coming weeks and now uses 2.5% as the first quarter of 2019.

The results, helped by favorable comparisons to last year’s performance, also highlighted the resilience of the economy following the shock to consumer spending and demand.

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**Business**

**US firms are vital partners in Qatar Airways’ focus on sustainability,** says al-Baker

**By Deborah Pera**

Qatar Airways CEO Akbar al-Baker said the US is an important partner in the carrier’s focus on sustainability.

He was speaking during the 2021 Qatar-US Business Culture Series, a joint initiative of the US Embassy in Doha and Qatar Airways.

"The airlines and the US government have a shared interest in creating a sustainable future for the aviation sector," al-Baker said.

"We have been working closely with the US Department of Transportation and the US government to develop environmentally friendly solutions and technologies that will enable us to achieve our sustainability goals.

"For example, we have been working on reducing our carbon footprint by investing in new technologies and alternative fuels.

"We are also committed to reducing our noise footprint and improving our safety standards, which are all important aspects of sustainability.

"We are proud to be part of the US aviation community and to work together with our partners to create a sustainable future for the industry."
Ban on short-haul flights: Will it help lower carbon emissions?

By Pradyut John

France has moved one step closer to banning short-haul flights as part of efforts to lower carbon emissions. Recently, French carriers were AXIOM's 2019 airport passenger traffic, operated by Air France-KLM, at a departure gate at Orly Airport in Paris. The country is now reviewing the move after more than a year of Covid-19 restrictions.

The move comes even as industry revenue from leisure business is rapidly returning, making short-haul flights not as lucrative, however.

The ban on short-haul flights, which is part of a broader climate plan that aims to cut emissions from transport, could help France achieve its goal of carbon neutrality by 2050.

The government intends to propose a law to parliament in the coming weeks, which will then be debated in the Senate before being voted on in the lower house. The ban will then be implemented gradually over the next decade.

At the same time, the state said it would contribute to a €60 billion compensation package to parts of the aviation industry, including airlines, airports and travelers.

The move could challenge the twin pillars of游轮和航空业的碳中立目标。

Beyond the Tarmac

Airbus ‘further reduces’ Beluga super-transporter carbon footprint

Airbus has taken the next step in reducing its industrial carbon footprint with the maiden flight of a ‘Beluga’ super-transporter using sustainable aviation fuels (SAFs) from the company’s group’s de-carbonisation roadmap.

The company said it was “a major milestone” in its ongoing commitment to reducing its carbon footprint and contributing to a more sustainable future for the aviation sector.

Airbus has been working on SAFs since the early 2000s and has made significant progress in developing them.

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