Banks in Qatar report strongest credit extension growth in GCC: Kamco Invest

By Southport FM Network
Business Reporter:

The financial sector of Qatar has experienced robust growth in credit extension within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), according to a recent report by Kamco Invest. The report highlights the dynamic growth in the GCC banking sector and the challenges faced by lenders in navigating the region's economic landscape.

The report notes that Qatar’s banking sector has continued to grow, with credit extension recording a 24% increase year-over-year. This growth is attributed to the positive economic environment and the strong demand for credit among Qatar’s businesses.

The report also highlights the role of Kamco Invest in the GCC banking sector. The firm has been instrumental in driving innovation and transparency in the industry, helping to promote competitiveness and sustainability.

"Kamco Invest has always been a leader in driving innovation in the GCC banking sector," said a representative of the firm. "We are committed to helping our clients achieve their financial goals and to promoting sustainable growth in the region."

The report concludes with a call to action for regulators and industry leaders to continue supporting the growth of the GCC banking sector and to promote a transparent and competitive environment for all stakeholders.

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Cybersecurity workforce gap is on pace to hit 1.8m by 2022, says expert

By Professor Robert Eubank

The cybersecurity workforce gap is expected to hit 1.8 million by 2022, according to a new report by Cyber Security Ventures. The report, titled "The Global Cybersecurity Workforce Report: Who Will Win the Cybersecurity Talent Race?", was released in association with the National Cybersecurity Institute.

The report highlights the growing demand for cybersecurity professionals as businesses continue to face rising threats from cyber attacks and data breaches.

"The cybersecurity workforce gap is growing at an alarming rate," said Professor Robert Eubank, lead author of the report. "We expect the gap to reach 1.8 million by 2022, which is a significant increase from the 0.5 million gap projected in 2018. This gap is causing significant strain on organizations and is hindering their ability to protect against cyber threats."

The report calls for urgent action to address the cybersecurity workforce gap and recommends investment in education and training programs to help fill the gap.

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GLOBAL MIRAGE: Page 3

A $27bn challenge looms as clock ticks on yen Libor shift

By Ben Hynes

What President Joe Biden should have learned from the recent US$27 billion investment programme that will provide $64 billion to help developing countries reduce greenhouse gas emissions is that China is driving the critical infrastructure investments needed to get the world off fossil fuels.

While the initiative for Biden's administration may be welcome, it risks being outpaced by China's already formidable investments in new forms of digital infrastructure.

"China is driving the critical infrastructure investments needed to get the world off fossil fuels," said a rising Chinese economist who wishes to remain anonymous.

Biden's administration has promised to invest $64 billion in five years to help develop the world's clean energy infrastructure.

"China's plan is already focused on reducing global fossil fuel demand, which will eventually lead to significant cuts in global emissions," said the economist.

In the coming years, China's investment in new forms of digital infrastructure will be key to reducing global emissions, according to the economist.

"China is already investing more in new forms of digital infrastructure than the US and the European Union combined, and is likely to surpass the US and EU in the coming years," said the economist.

The economist added that China's investment in new forms of digital infrastructure is already leading to significant cuts in global emissions.

"China's investment in new forms of digital infrastructure is already leading to significant cuts in global emissions, and will continue to do so in the coming years," said the economist.
Reserve Bank of Australia wins policy reprieve, faces fiscal risk

Banking

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A $27th challenge looms as clock ticks on yen Libor shift

BUSINESS

The bull market roulette wheel just keeps landing on winners

With just two months until yen Libor

 norms are abolished in Japan, and

 the 27-year reign of the yen Libor,

 its 58th percentile (yen Libor)

 benchmark, is about to come to an end,

 reports Business Insider. The Bank of

 Japan and the Financial Services Agency

 say they will issue a new benchmark

 after the 27th. But what will that

 benchmark be and when will it come

 online?

 Bitcoin volatility decline paves way for banks, says JPMorgan

 "Bitcoin volatility has declined and

 that could encourage institutions

 like JPMorgan to move into Bitcoin

 and other cryptocurrencies," strategists

 at JPMorgan said. "This is because

 the US, which accounts for about

 40% of Bitcoin's value, has imposed

 stringent rules on Bitcoin and

 financial institutions (banks) to

 keep it from being used for

 illegal purposes. This has

 made it easier for banks to

 enter the Bitcoin market, as

 they are now able to

 comply with regulations.

 In addition, the

 declining volatility of

 Bitcoin has made it

 easier for banks to

 offer products and

 services related to

 Bitcoin, such as

 loans and

 insurance.

 The bullish outlook for

 Bitcoin and other

 cryptocurrencies is

 expected to

 continue for

 several years,

 which

 could

 benefit

 JPMorgan.

 The move could be

 a major step forward for

 banks, as

 it opens up

 new

 opportunities for

 investors.
Russia economy rebounds from pandemic-induced recession in fourth quarter

Biggest US junk bonds are outperforming just about everything

Blanket-listing craze is shifting fortunes on Wall Street

Deutsche Bank bond drives $1.1bn in fees to diverse shops

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US bond traders gird for more pain after biggest loss since 1980

Bloomberg

Everyone’s excited about the prospect for a sharp economic recovery as businesses and consumers struggle to make ends meet. And of course, that means a lot of volatility in the markets, as the Federal Reserve is expected to hike interest rates sooner than expected. But the real question is: what’s next? For bond traders, the key is to prepare for the worst-case scenario.

In the first quarter, the market was in a frenzy of selling as rates rose, but the Fed is expected to slow its pace of hikes in the second quarter. However, with inflation still high, some bond traders are now looking ahead to what could happen if the Fed continues to hike rates.

Meanwhile, the yield curve is becoming steeper, which could signal that the Fed is preparing to raise rates further. This could put pressure on long-term bond prices.

Traders and investors are now looking ahead to what could happen if the Fed continues to hike rates.

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*Information contained herein is believed to be reliable and has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable. The sources and completeness cannot be guaranteed. This document is not an offer or solicitation for a purchase or sale of any of the financial instruments mentioned.*

*Gulf Times and Doha Bank plc are not responsible for any loss or liability for actions based on this data.*
Bloomberg QuickTake Q&A

Why the world is short of computer chips, and why it matters

By Barbara Hsu, Ethan Chai and Isac Lin

ICs are everywhere, and everywhere they go, they are in short supply. The problems started with widespread production delays that started with the exodus of companies from Taiwan late last year but have now been exacerbated by a rush of orders in Japan, a region that relied on outside suppliers for the US state of Texas and a worsening drought in Taiwan this summer.

The shortage has displaced some production line at automobile factories in the United States, Europe and Asia. Modern chipmaking requires more than 1,000 steps and requires complex intellectual property (IP) and tools and equipment around the world. But the Semiconductor Industry Association, representing companies including Intel and Qualcomm, said it was challenging for chipmakers when a single region has more than 40% market share. But many companies are now moving to China, which has a smaller market share and is more insulated from the drought issue.

The manufacturing of the most advanced chips is concentrated in Asia, with 40% of the world’s chip production capacity in Taiwan. In the US, chipmakers are producing less than 10% of their capacity and they have been struggling with equipment and materials shortages. In Europe, chipmakers are dealing with a similar issue.

In Japan, the chipmaking industry is suffering from a lack of supplies. The chipmaker Renesas Electronics said it will still be hard to meet increasing demand for semiconductors in Japan, which is facing a shortage of 10% of its production capacity.

The chip shortage is hitting companies across industries. In the automotive industry, manufacturers are facing delays in production. On the smartphone and consumer electronics side, the shortage is affecting products such as smartwatches and fitness trackers.

In the world of finance, the chip shortage is affecting payments and financial services. In the industrial sector, the shortage is impacting goods such as agricultural equipment and medical devices.

In the world of sports, the chip shortage is affecting equipment and accessories. In the world of entertainment, the shortage is affecting video game consoles and entertainment equipment.

The chip shortage is also affecting the world of energy. In the semiconductor industry, the chip shortage is affecting energy applications such as solar panel inverters and wind turbine components.

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Germany to propose Beijing port construction with 'strings attached': Sources

The robots are coming to small businesses - and for business owners

Germany's energy drive critical over expenses, risks

Mortgage rate increase hits lenders as refinancing surge fizzes

Germany's energy transition has proved so expensive and unpalatable the idea of constructing new nuclear power stations has been raised in government circles to encourage private investment. Berlin is looking at subsidies of €400 per installed kilowatt-hour for energy-intensive industries to encourage them to move to nuclear power.

The move comes as Germany and other European countries continue to phase out nuclear energy following the 2011 Fukushima disaster in Japan.

The government is also expected to announce plans to introduce a new system of subsidies for energy-intensive industries, which will be discussed at the cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

The plan could include a cap on the amount of energy that can be produced by nuclear power stations, as well as incentives for companies to switch to alternative sources of energy.

The government is also considering introducing a new system of subsidies for energy-intensive industries, which will be discussed at the cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

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The government is also considering introducing a new system of subsidies for energy-intensive industries, which will be discussed at the cabinet meeting on Tuesday.
Inevitable fragments of a carbon-neutral natural: Neutral gas coupled with CCUS, renewables and hydrogen

By José Manuel Guinart

As global climate change and increasing energy security concerns mount, nations around the world are exploring new ways to break free from reliance on fossil fuels. Hydrogen, in particular, has emerged as a promising solution due to its abundance, low toxicity, and high energy density. The European Union has set a goal of achieving hydrogen production at costs competitive with gas by 2030, aiming to become a global hub for hydrogen production and distribution. To support this transition, the EU has allocated €100 billion to finance hydrogen projects, with €60 billion dedicated to green hydrogen sources, such as electrolysis of water powered by renewable energy. This approach is crucial because hydrogen can be used in a variety of sectors, from transportation and power generation to industrial processes.

In the United States, the Department of Energy is leading efforts to develop hydrogen production technologies, with a focus on electrolysis of water driven by solar and wind power. The U.S. government has set a goal of producing 5 gigawatts of electrolytic water by 2025, with the potential to ramp up to 50 gigawatts by 2030. This ambitious goal is supported by significant investments, with the Department of Energy investing over $10 billion in hydrogen-related projects.

However, the transition to hydrogen is not without challenges. The current infrastructure for hydrogen distribution and storage is limited, and the cost of electrolysis remains a significant barrier. Nevertheless, advancements in technology and policy support are pushing the industry forward, with the potential to transform the energy landscape in the coming decades.