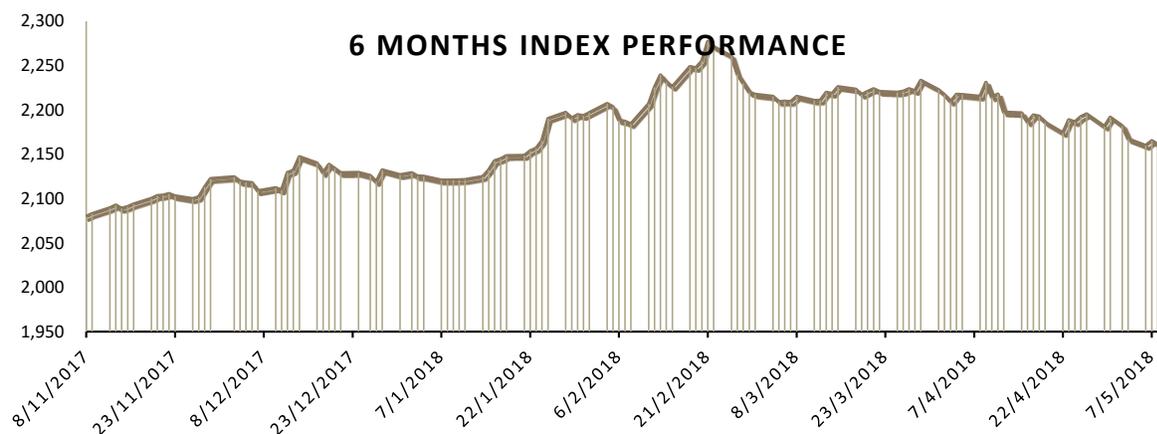


	Close	% Change	Year-to-Date (YTD)	Daily Volume (shares)	Daily Turnover (JOD)
<b>AMMAN SE GENERAL INDEX</b>	<b>2,078.36</b>	<b>-0.69%</b>	<b>-2.28%</b>	<b>1,405,486</b>	<b>2,037,111</b>



**Best Performing Companies**

	% Change
LAFARGE JORDAN CEMENT	4.39
ZARA INVESTMENTS	3.85
AL SANABEL INTERNATIONAL CO	3.08
AL SANABEL INTERNATIONAL CO	3.08
ARAB ORIENT INSURANCE CO	2.65

**Worst Performing Companies**

	% Change
AL-TAJAMOUAT FOR TOURISTIC P	(2.50)
AFAQ HOLDING FOR INVESTMENT	(2.68)
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	(2.70)
AFAQ FOR ENERGY CO PLC	(2.91)
UNION TOBACCO & CIGARETTE	(3.23)

**Top Traded Companies by Volume (Shares)**

RUM TOURIST TRANSPORTATION C	184,714
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	165,350
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	104,510
ARAB EAST INVESTMENT	59,550
PROFESSIONAL FOR REAL ESTAT	48,598

**Top Traded Companies by Value (JOD)**

JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	333,978
ARAB BANK PLC	307,357
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	236,451
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	133,828
RUM TOURIST TRANSPORTATION C	131,291

## Macroeconomic & Corporate News

### Unemployment rises to 18.4% in first quarter of 2018

The unemployment rate in the first quarter of 2018 stood at 18.4 per cent, up by 0.2 per cent when compared to the first quarter of 2017, the Department of Statistics (DoS) announced on Sunday. Unemployment among males in the January-March period of this year stood at 16 per cent, while among females it was 27.8 per cent, according to a statement from DoS. Taking gender into consideration, data show that the rate among males rose by 2.1 per cent, while it decreased among females by 5.2 per cent during the first quarter of 2018, compared to the same quarter of 2017. Statistics on jobless people show that unemployment rate was high among holders of university degrees (unemployed individuals who hold a bachelor's degree or higher divided by the work force for the same academic qualification), standing at 24.1 per cent.

Data showed that 54.6 per cent of unemployed people hold a high school certificate and higher, DoS said, adding that the percentage of jobless males who hold a bachelor's degree and higher stood at 26 per cent, compared to 77.1 among females who hold a bachelor's degree and higher. The governorate with the highest unemployment rate in the first quarter of 2018 was Maan with 21.9 per cent, while Karak registered the lowest rate with 15.9 per cent. On the other hand, the employed people who are 15 years and older constitute 29.8 per cent, DoS pointed out, adding that 59.7 per cent of working males are in the age group of 20-39 years, while working females in the same age group amounted to 63.9 per cent.

### Moody's says new tax law vital for Jordan's credit rating

Jordan's income tax draft law will enable the Kingdom achieve a "positive credit rating" and enhance ongoing fiscal reforms in Jordan, according to a report by credit ratings agency Moody's. The report, a copy of which was obtained by the Jordan Times on Sunday, indicated that the bill would help reduce public debt, as it would increase revenues by JD300 million, or about 4 per cent of 2017 revenues and around 1 per cent of the gross domestic product. "The bill would help enhance fiscal stability and reduce the financial deficit to 1.9 per cent of the total GDP by 2019," the report indicated. The draft law, the agency indicated, would help contain tax evasion, which reaches around 80 per cent in some sectors. According to the agency, Jordan's current credit rating is B1 (stable). It commended the establishment of a financial investigations unit as stipulated by the law, and the stiffening of penalties that will help curb tax evasion by both individuals and corporations. The credit agency highlighted that Jordan is home to 1.4 million Syrian refugees, representing some 20 per cent of the population of Jordan, and that the rise in population resulted in increased government expenditure on social services amidst a decline in foreign grants. The bill, it said, would help reduce the ratio of public debt to GDP to 82.2 per cent by 2021, from 95.3 per cent at the end of 2017.

### Royal Jordanian launches direct, scheduled Amman-Copenhagen flights

As of Sunday, Royal Jordanian (RJ) is flying three times a week directly to Denmark's capital, Copenhagen. The new route will give RJ a "strong presence in the Scandinavian market and enhance tourism from the Nordic countries to Jordan", an RJ press release said on Sunday. The new destination is part of RJ's turnaround plan that includes, among others, continuous assessment of the route network in order to enhance traffic to Jordan and improve connectivity via the base, Amman. The new route, launched after having conducted a feasibility study, is expected to attract more tourists to Jordan, facilitate travel for businessmen, and enhance trade between Jordan and the Scandinavian market, according to RJ. Copenhagen Airport is the largest in the Nordic countries and the busiest for international travel; it serves many cities in the Scandinavian Peninsula, particularly southern Sweden. A delegation of representatives from Royal Jordanian, Jordan Tourism Board and Jordanian travel agents were on the inaugural flight to Copenhagen, according to the statement.

\* Source: Bloomberg, Jordan Times, Zawya

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