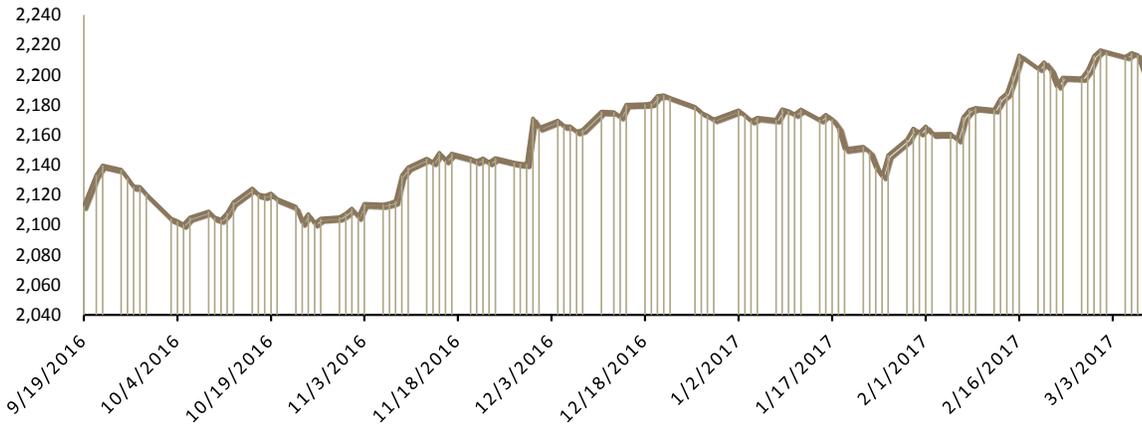


	Close	% Change	Year-to-Date (YTD)	Daily Volume (shares)
AMMAN SE GENERAL INDEX	2,237.26	0.51%	3.09%	5,852,610

6 MONTHS INDEX PERFORMANCE



Best/Worst Performing Companies

Best Performers	% Change	Worst Performers	% Change
ARAB POTASH/THE	7.47	ARAB EAST FOR REAL ESTATE IN	(2.92)
UNION TOBACCO & CIGARETTE	7.46	DEERA INVESTMENT & REAL ESTA	(3.23)
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	7.14	AL SANABEL INTERNATIONAL CO	(4.39)
JORDANIAN EXPATRIATES INV HL	6.67	ISRAA ISLAMIC FINANCIAL	(4.44)
UNION LAND DEVELOPMENT CORP	5.00	UNITED IRON & STEEL MANUFACT	(4.95)

Top Traded Companies by Value

	Value traded (JOD)
AL EQBAL CO FOR INVESTMENT P	2,400,211.00
ARAB BANK PLC	1,325,543.00
SPECIALIZED INVESTMENT COMPO	759,213.40
RUM TOURIST TRANSPORTATION C	568,080.30
UNION LAND DEVELOPMENT CORP	554,517.90

Top Traded Companies by Volume

	Volume traded (Shares)
FUTURE ARAB INVESTMENT CO	791,176
SPECIALIZED INVESTMENT COMPO	663,227
RUM TOURIST TRANSPORTATION C	637,971
AL-TAJAMOUAT FOR CATERING HS	531,348
UNION LAND DEVELOPMENT CORP	225,547

Macroeconomic & Corporate News

Interest rate hike triggers debate among economists

The Central Bank of Jordan's (CBJ) recent decision to increase the interest rate once again in less than one month has triggered a debate over its impact, with economists split between its possible negative effect on investment flow and maintaining monetary stability. Starting Sunday, March 19, the main interest rate and the interest on finance policy tools will be raised by 25 basis points, following a decision by the CBJ's open market operations committee. The decision was taken in line with the regional and international monetary markets' interest rates changes, to preserve the financial and monetary stability of the Kingdom including the stability of prices, the bank stated. While officials have said that raising the interest rate is meant to increase the attractiveness of deposits in dinar, economists retorted that it would increase the prices of products and services and negatively affect investments. "The hike in interest prices affects the borrowing and lending activities, resulting in higher prices of goods and services because the interest rate is a main factor that influences the cost of money," Ad-Dustour's economist Khaled Zubaidi told The Jordan Times on Saturday.

Jordan, Saudi Arabia to inaugurate business coordination council

In coincidence with the upcoming visit of Saudi King Salman Bin Abdulaziz to the country, Jordan Chamber of Commerce will inaugurate a permanent office of the Saudi-Jordanian business coordination council at the chamber's headquarters to further strengthen business relations between the two countries. In April 2016, in the Saudi capital city of Riyadh, His Majesty King Abdullah and the King of Saudi Arabia witnessed the signing of the minutes, stipulating the establishment of the council; a step deemed necessary to pave the way for further business cooperation.

US' OPIC invests further \$600 million in Jordan, \$1 billion in total

The US Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) has allocated around \$600 million to support development projects in Jordan, within the public-private partnership, the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation said on Thursday. The funding was announced during a meeting between Planning Minister Imad Fakhoury and the US agency's Managing Director Structured Finance Nancy Rivera to discuss projects funded by the agency in Jordan, which has invested around \$1 billion in the Kingdom. During the meeting, Fakhoury showcased priority development projects, including the Red Sea-Dead Sea Water Conveyance Project (Red-Dead), the Amman civil airport rehabilitation project and several projects to process solid waste and generate energy, in addition to renewable energy, green economy, transportation and water projects, a statement from the ministry said.

* Source: Bloomberg, Jordan Times, Zawya

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