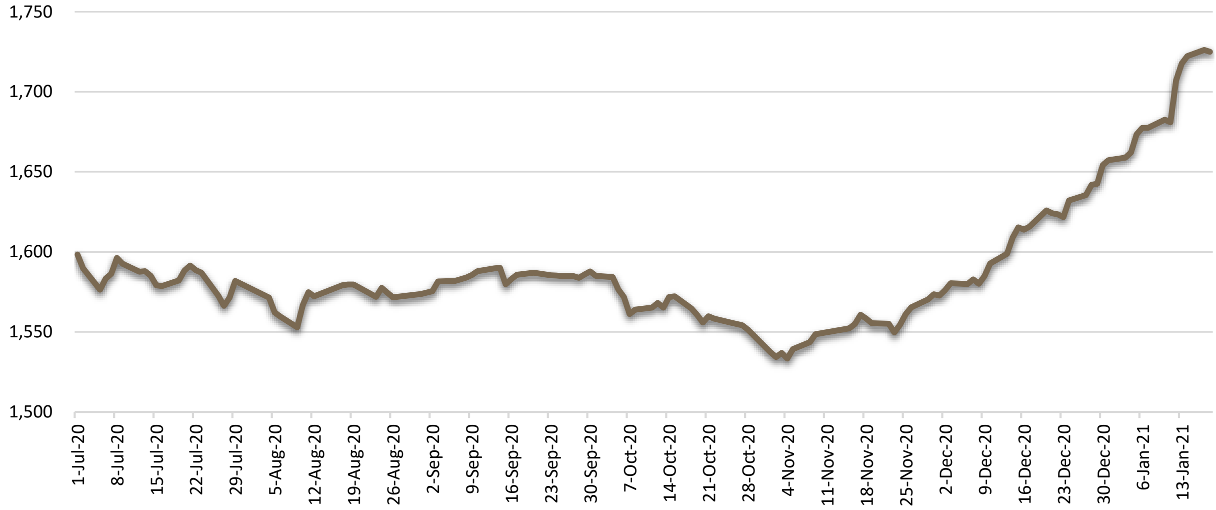
Amman Stock Exchange 18-Jan-21

		Close	% Change	Year-to-Date (YTD)	Daily Volume (shares)	Daily Turnover (JOD)
AMMAN GENERAL INDEX		1,725.05	-0.06%	4.09%	6,680,957	6,287,278

Index Perfomance Graph



Best Performing Companies

	% Change
INT'L CARDS CO.	7.69%
ISRA EDUE	4.83%
NAT CHLORINE	4.63%
ZARQA EDUC	4.61%
NATIONAL STEEL	4.35%

Worst Performing Companies

	% Change
ALENTKAEYA COMPANY	-4.29%
ALMANARA INSURANCE	-4.55%
JOR INT INSUR CO	-4.65%
DIMENSIONS	-4.76%
CENTURY INV.GRP	-4.76%

Top Traded Companies by Volume (Shares)

INT'L CARDS CO.	718,240
INJAZ	666,868
UNION LAND DEV	541,283
FIRST INSURANCE	484,231
AD-DULAYL PARK	445,268

Top Traded Companies by Value (JOD)

INJAZ	1,074,874
UNION LAND DEV	1,037,644
UNION INV	480,270
JOR PHOSPHATE MN	416,459
ARAB BANK	333,563

Macroeconomic & Corporate News

Jordan Finance Minister says 2.5% growth in 2021 depends on continued economic activity during pandemic

A rebound in Jordan's economic growth to a forecast 2.5% in 2021 depends on continued economic activity during the coronavirus pandemic, the country's finance minister said on Sunday. Growth contracted by 3% in 2020, hit by lockdowns, border closures and a sharp fall in tourism during the pandemic, but the government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) both predict a bounce of similar magnitude this year. "This forecast depends on the assumption of continued economic activity without imposing any lockdowns, if the contrary happens, this growth estimate will not be achieved," Mohammad Al Ississ told deputies during a budget speech in parliament.

The country's public finances and balance of payments have been strained by the collapse of tourism and lower remittances from workers overseas, with unemployment soaring to a record 22% due to bankruptcies and layoffs. But the gradual reopening of most of Jordan's key business and manufacturing activities since last summer helped its economy temper earlier IMF estimates of a severe 5% contraction in 2020. "The economic cost of the pandemic is huge. It had a deep negative impact on our economy that posted a contraction for the first time in decades," Al Ississ said. He added that the main goal of this year's 9.9 billion dinar ($14 billion) state budget was to maintain fiscal prudence to help ensure financial stability.

Jordan, Saudi Arabia discuss ties, region

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal Bin Farhan on Saturday held talks that tackled focused on advancing bilateral ties and the latest regional developments. The two top diplomats highlighted the ongoing efforts towards furthering cooperation in various fields, voicing the two kingdoms' determination to strengthen bilateral ties, according to a Foreign Ministry statement. Talks also went over the preparations for the formation of a joint committee to develop practical steps to advance economic cooperation.

* Source: Jordan Times, Zawya