

Monthly Insights

A round-up of our key research insights and forecasts in April 2021

Regional Economics

<u>GCC update:</u> The IMF upgrades growth forecasts for 2021 on a more optimistic oil sector outlook and vaccine rollouts, while Saudi Arabia announces a new investment plan.

<u>e-commerce</u>: <u>Only warming up</u> The e-commerce sector in the MENA region (and much of the world) has been one of the clear success stories of the pandemic, as Covid-19 only accelerated a shift that was already taking place.

<u>Dubai property: Q1 turnaround?</u> The Dubai property market performed well in Q1 2021, with residential rents largely up, and villa sales prices showing their first yearly increase since 2014 when oil prices fell. This has been driven by increased working and schooling from home, as well as greater affordability as mortgage loan-to-value caps have been increased.

<u>Lebanon outlook</u>: With no end in sight to Lebanon's multiple crises, and an ongoing deterioration in many indicators, we have revised our real GDP growth outlook for 2021 from a weak expansion to another sizeable economic contraction at -4.7%

Global Economics

<u>Headline employment gains obscure residual underlying challenges</u>: While headline labour market data indicates an improving jobs market in developed markets, there remain residual underlying challenges.

<u>US macro scorecard - February</u>: A round-up of the most widely followed monthly macro data points from the US, compared to expectations and the previous month's results.

<u>Surge in Covid-19 cases weighing on India outlook</u>: The outlook for India's economy this fiscal year (April-March) has become more clouded in recent weeks amidst a surge in Covid-19 cases and renewed restrictions on activity.

Markets

EM bonds get reprieve amid lower UST yieds. However, for emerging market bonds to carry on with rallying we don't believe they can rely on the current bear market rally in USTs indefinitely. Country-level risks, largely related to a worsening Covid-19 case load in many emerging markets, will weigh on growth.

Euro gets a boost from vaccine rollouts. The Euro has managed to stage a recovery in recent weeks with EURUSD now trading within sight of the 1.20 level last reached in early March. But we believe that the disparities in the respective recoveries from the pandemic, and very different growth outlooks, mean that there remains downside risk for the single currency.

One year on from negative oil prices. It's been one full year since WTI futures recorded a negative closing price for the first time ever, closing at USD -37.63/b. Since then oil prices have recovered dramatically. WTI prices have added more than USD 100/b by mid-April 2021 to trade between USD 60-70/b while Brent futures, which didn't go negative in April 2020, have still managed to gain almost USD 50/b from their lows.

Metals markets rising on recovery and stimulus plans. Combined with persistent demand in markets like China and India, an American government spending heavily on infrastructure sets up a compelling medium-term outlook for industrial metals.



Key Economic Forecasts – Global

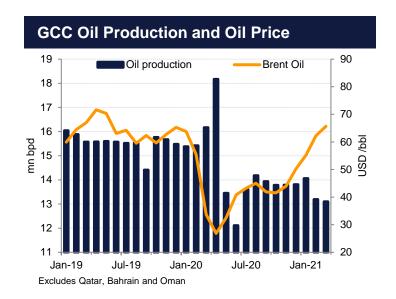
US	2018	2019	2020	2021f	2022f
Real GDP %	3.0	3.2	-3.5	6.0	5.0
Current A/C % GDP	-2.2	-2.2	-2.7	-3.5	-3.3
Budget Balance % GDP	-4.2	-4.7	-15.6	-14.3	-7.0
CPI %	2.5	1.8	1.2	2.3	2.0
Eurozone					
Real GDP %	1.9	1.3	-6.6	3.8	4.0
Current A/C % GDP	2.9	2.3	2.0	2.3	2.3
Budget Balance % GDP	-0.5	-0.6	-9.5	-6.4	-3.8
CPI %	1.8	1.2	0.3	1.4	1.2
UK					
Real GDP %	1.2	1.5	-10.1	4.5	5.5
Current A/C% GDP	-3.7	-3.1	-2.6	-3.7	-3.6
Budget Balance % GDP	-2.1	-2.1	-12.3	-10.0	-5.5
CPI %	2.5	1.8	0.9	1.5	1.9
Japan					
Real GDP %	0.6	0.3	-4.8	2.5	2.1
Current A/C % GDP	3.5	3.7	3.2	3.3	3.3
Budget Balance % GDP	-2.3	-2.6	-10.5	-8.0	-5.3
CPI %	1.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.4
China					
Real GDP %	6.7	6.0	2.3	8.4	5.5
Current A/C % GDP	0.2	1.0	1.5	1.4	1.1
Budget Balance %GDP	-4.1	-4.9	-6.2	-5.6	-4.3
CPI%	2.1	2.9	2.5	1.6	2.3
India*					
Real GDP%	6.8	6.5	4.0	-7.5	10.4
Current A/C% GDP	-1.5	-2.4	-1.0	1.1	-0.7
Budget Balance % GDP	-3.6	-4.4	-4.6	-9.5	-6.8
CPI %	4.0	3.7	6.6	6.3	4.5

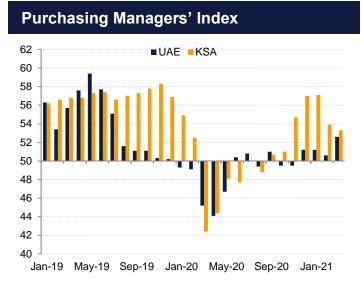
Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research

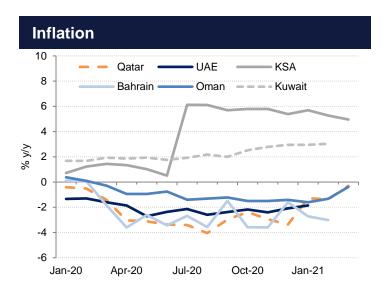
*For India the data refers to fiscal year (April – March)

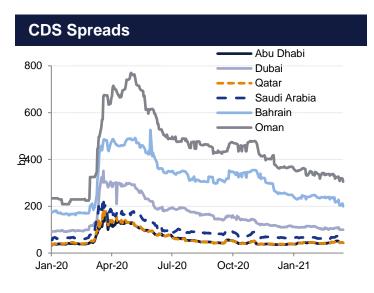


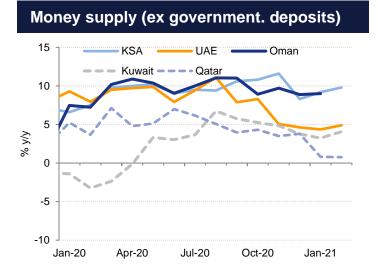
GCC in Pictures

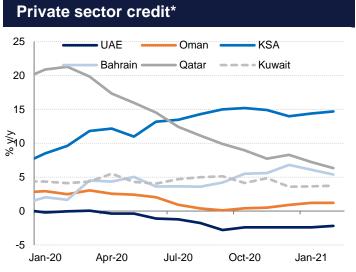












Source: Haver Analytics, Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research

*Qatar data is bank loan growth to private sector, not total private sector credit.



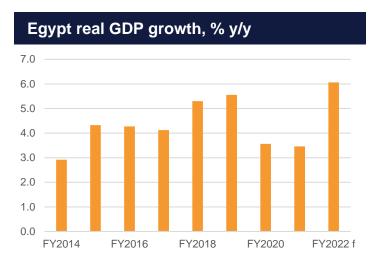
Key Economic Forecasts - GCC

United Arab Emirates	2018	2019	2020e	2021f	2022f
Nominal GDP \$bn	422.5	421.4	360.3	402.9	427.8
Real GDP %	1.2	1.7	-6.9	1.4	4.3
Current A/C % GDP	9.6	7.0	1.6	6.4	8.4
Budget Balance % GDP	5.8	5.5	-4.1	0.2	2.4
CPI %	3.1	-1.9	-2.1	1.5	2.0
Saudi Arabia					
Nominal GDP \$bn	786.5	793.0	700.1	797.9	862.4
Real GDP %	2.4	0.3	-4.1	0.7	6.7
Current A/C % GDP	9.2	4.8	-1.6	4.4	0.5
Budget Balance % GDP	-5.9	-4.5	-11.3	-1.4	4.4
CPI %	2.5	-1.2	3.4	2.6	2.0
Qatar					
Nominal GDP \$bn	183.3	175.8	138.5	182.1	195.8
Real GDP %	1.2	0.8	-3.7	2.5	4.3
Current A/C % GDP	9.1	2.4	-2.6	2.4	5.6
Budget Balance % GDP	2.3	1.0	-11.0	1.4	2.1
CPI %	0.1	-0.9	-2.6	1.5	3.5
Kuwait					
Nominal GDP \$bn	140.6	134.8	107.5	127.2	137.9
Real GDP %	1.2	0.4	-7.4	0.1	7.1
Current A/C% GDP	14.1	16.4	-6.9	8.0	13.0
Budget Balance % GDP	-3.0	-13.8	-29.4	-14.6	-11.6
CPI %	0.6	1.1	2.1	1.5	1.5
Oman					
Nominal GDP \$bn	79.7	76.2	64.3	75.5	79.4
Real GDP %	0.9	-0.8	-5.1	3.2	3.4
Current A/C % GDP	-5.4	-5.4	-20.7	-6.5	-1.2
Budget Balance % GDP	-8.6	-8.9	-17.1	-6.1	-5.3
CPI %	0.9	0.1	-0.9	1.0	1.0
Bahrain					
Nominal GDP \$bn	37.7	38.5	34.5	39.0	40.9
Real GDP %	1.7	2.0	-5.8	3.3	2.9
Current A/C % GDP	-6.5	-2.1	-9.4	-4.3	-4.2
Budget Balance % GDP	-6.3	-4.7	-12.2	-6.4	-4.7
CPI %	2.1	1.0	-2.3	1.0	1.5
GCC (Nominal GDP weighted avg)					
Nominal GDP \$bn	520	526	467	527	564
Real GDP %	1.8	0.7	-5.1	1.2	5.6
Current A/C % GDP	16.5	11.3	-1.3	9.1	11.0
Budget Balance % GDP	-1.9	-2.3	-11.1	-2.1	1.7
CPI %	2.4	-0.5	0.9	2.3	2.4

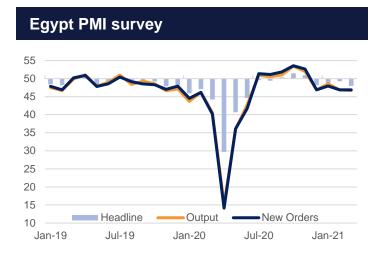
Source: Haver Analytics, National sources, Emirates NBD Research



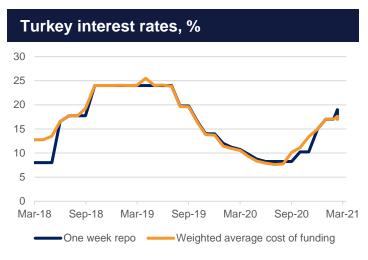
MENA in Pictures



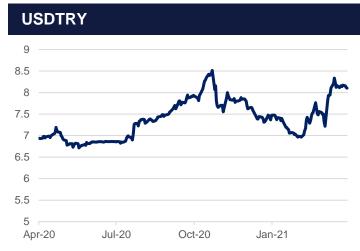
Source: Haver Analytics, Emirates NBD Research



Source: IHS Markit, Emirates NBD Research



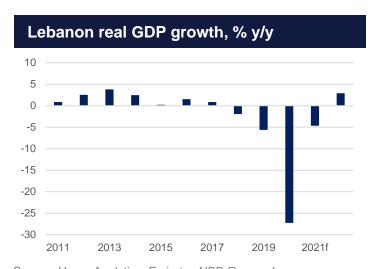
Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research



Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research



Source: Haver Analytics, Emirates NBD Research



Source: Haver Analytics, Emirates NBD Research



Key Economic Forecasts – Non-GCC Oil Importers

Egypt*	2018	2019	2020e	2021f	2022f
Nominal GDP \$bn	241.5	291.7	342.9	375.6	407.0
Real GDP %	5.3	5.6	3.8	3.2	6.1
Current A/C % GDP	-2.5	-3.7	-3.9	-3.2	-2.9
Budget Balance % GDP	-9.8	-8.6	-8.8	-9.9	-8.2
CPI %	14.4	9.4	5.1	5.9	6.8
Jordan	332.4	225.8	241.6	299.2	368.4
Nominal GDP \$bn	42.9	44.5	43.7	46.5	49.3
Real GDP %	1.9	2.0	-1.5	2.2	4.0
Current A/C % GDP	-6.9	-2.1	-8.0	-6.2	-6.1
Budget Balance % GDP	-2.6	-3.7	-7.0	-6.7	-6.6
CPI %	4.5	0.3	0.4	0.8	1.8
Lebanon					
Nominal GDP \$bn	53.1	54.1	42.5	46.5	50.4
Real GDP %	-1.9	-5.6	-27.3	-4.7	2.9
Current A/C % GDP	-25.2	-21.3	-16.9	-12.7	-9.8
Budget Balance % GDP	-11.4	-10.9	-16.1	-12.4	-8.1
CPI %	6.1	10.1	84.3	55.0	22.5
Morocco					
Nominal GDP \$bn	118.1	119.7	113.5	128.5	132.1
Real GDP %	3.1	2.5	-7.1	4.9	3.6
Current A/C % GDP	-5.3	-3.7	-1.5	-4.2	-2.8
Budget Balance % GDP	-3.7	-4.0	-7.6	-7.0	-6.6
CPI %	1.8	0.3	0.7	0.8	0.8
Tunisia					
Nominal GDP \$bn	39.9	40.1	36.6	39.0	29.2
Real GDP %	2.7	1.0	-8.7	4.5	4.0
Current A/C % GDP	-11.2	-8.5	-7.3	-6.8	-5.8
Budget Balance % GDP	-4.8	-3.5	-7.2	-6.8	-3.2
CPI %	7.4	6.7	5.6	4.5	4.5
Oil Importers (GDP weighted avg)					
Nominal GDP \$bn	158.4	192.5	234.0	256.9	282.8
Real GDP %	3.5	3.2	-1.8	3.0	5.1
Current A/C % GDP	-6.6	-5.6	-4.9	-4.5	-3.8
Budget Balance % GDP	-7.5	-7.1	-8.9	-9.1	-7.5
CPI %	9.1	6.5	9.7	8.0	6.3

Source: Haver Analytics, National sources, Emirates NBD Research

^{*}Egypt data refers to fiscal year (July-June)



Key Economic Forecasts – Non-GCC Oil Exporters

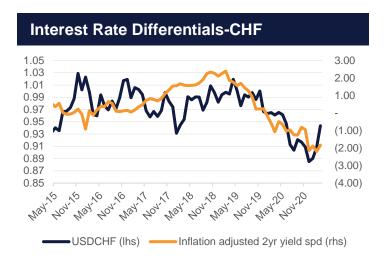
Algeria	2018	2019	2020e	2021f	2022f
Nominal GDP \$bn	175.4	171.1	146.9	146.0	145.5
Real GDP %	1.2	0.1	-8.2	4.4	3.2
Current A/C % GDP	-10.4	-8.6	-12.1	-11.5	-6.6
Budget Balance % GDP	-8.6	-9.1	-13.1	-11.5	-9.4
CPI %	3.5	2.3	2.0	2.9	3.9
Iran					
Nominal GDP \$bn	468.6	585.2	703.7	816.5	949.7
Real GDP %	-3.5	-1.9	-7.8	1.1	3.5
Current A/C % GDP	3.4	-0.2	-2.0	-2.0	-1.0
Budget Balance % GDP	-4.0	-3.8	-6.1	-5.4	-5.0
CPI %	21.0	38.7	27.5	20.0	17.5
Iraq					
Nominal GDP \$bn	167.2	168.2	235.8	253.4	274.6
Real GDP %	0.9	4.4	-12.5	3.1	4.4
Current A/C% GDP	20.6	9.4	8.2	6.1	14.0
Budget Balance % GDP	8.2	-1.9	-15.6	-21.9	-4.7
CPI %	0.4	-0.2	0.5	4.0	2.0
Libya					
Nominal GDP \$bn	34.4	36.4	17.3	7.2	8.4
Real GDP %	16.9	7.9	-43.8	22.3	17.0
Current A/C% GDP	-4.6	-6.3	-38.6	-8.5	4.3
Budget Balance % GDP	-15.7	-29.4	-30.7	-22.7	-18.9
CPI %	13.6	-2.2	7.0	5.0	5.5
Oil Exporters (GDP weighted avg)					
Nominal GDP \$bn	330.5	417.7	514.0	609.1	724.1
Real GDP %	-0.5	0.1	-7.9	1.5	2.5
Current A/C % GDP	3.5	-1.1	-1.7	-1.3	0.9
Budget Balance % GDP	-3.8	-4.9	-8.8	-9.4	-5.9
CPI %	13.6	24.5	17.8	14.2	12.7



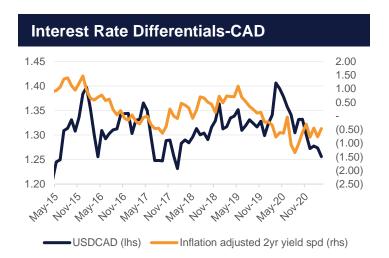
FX-Major Currency Pairs & Real Interest Rates



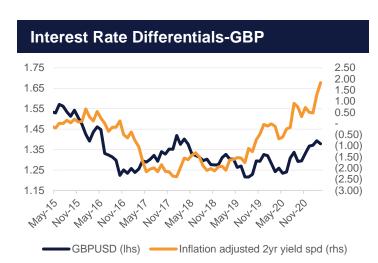
Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research



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Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research



FX Forecasts

	FX Forecasts - Major						Forwards	
	Last	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	3m	6m	12m
EUR/USD	1.2033	1.17	1.17	1.18	1.20	1.2040	1.2080	1.2133
USD/JPY	107.96	110.00	110.00	108.00	108.00	107.93	107.76	107.46
USD/CHF	0.9165	0.95	0.95	0.93	0.93	0.9158	0.9119	0.9069
GBP/USD	1.3928	1.38	1.39	1.40	1.40	1.3929	1.3935	1.3946
AUD/USD	0.7742	0.78	0.78	0.80	0.80	0.7743	0.7747	0.7750
NZD/USD	0.7190	0.73	0.74	0.75	0.75	0.7189	0.7185	0.7178
USD/CAD	1.2509	1.24	1.23	1.23	1.22	1.2509	1.2507	1.2506
EUR/GBP	0.8639	0.85	0.84	0.84	0.86	0.8644	0.8669	0.8700
EUR/JPY	129.91	128.70	128.70	127.44	129.60	129.96	130.18	130.39
EUR/CHF	1.1028	1.11	1.11	1.10	1.12	1.1026	1.1016	1.1004
	FX For	ecasts - Eme	rging			Forwards		
	Last	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	3m	6m	12m
USD/SAR	3.7502	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.7510	3.7516	3.7527
USD/AED	3.6730	3.67	3.67	3.67	3.67	3.6730	3.6731	3.6739
USD/KWD	0.3012	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.3020	0.3028	0.3041
USD/OMR	0.3850	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.3854	0.3856	0.3867
USD/BHD	0.3770	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.3774	0.3778	0.3783
USD/QAR	3.6880	3.64	3.64	3.64	3.64	3.7036	3.7053	3.7029
USD/EGP	15.6717	15.60	15.50	15.60	15.70	16.0350	16.4300	17.2350
USD/INR	75.0325	75.00	74.00	73.50	73.00	76.0600	76.9700	78.7200
USD/CNY	6.4873	6.50	6.40	6.35	6.30	6.5304	6.5783	6.6613
USD/SGD	1.3277	1.31	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.3280	1.3282	1.3285
	FX Forecasts - MENA							
	Last	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22			
USD/MAD	8.9214	9.0644	8.7000	8.7000	8.8000			
USD/TND	2.7542	2.7985	2.7000	2.8000	2.8000			

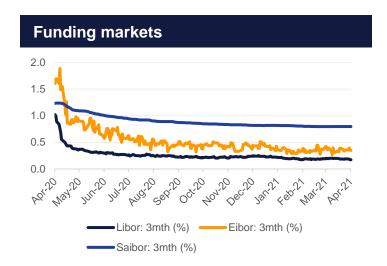
Data as of 22 April 2021 Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research



Financial markets













Source: Bloomberg, Emriates NBD Research. Note: rebased 1yr equity market performance.



Interest Rate Forecasts

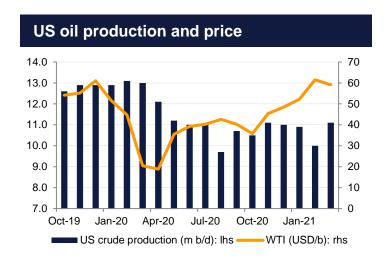
US Treasuries Forecasts									
	Last	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22				
UST 2y yield: %	0.15	0.10	0.13	0.15	0.20				
UST 10yr yield: %	1.53	1.35	1.40	1.60	1.70				
Interbank Rates Forecasts									
	Last	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22				
USD 3M LIBOR	0.17	0.20	0.25	0.30	0.35				
SOFR	0.01	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10				
AED 3M EIBOR	0.35	0.35	0.40	0.45	0.50				
	Centra	l Bank Policy Rate	Forecasts						
	Last	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22				
Fed Funds target rate	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25				
ECB (Deposit Rate)	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50				
BoE (Bank Rate)	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10				
BoJ (Policy Balance Rate)	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10				
SNB (Policy Rate)	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75				
RBA (Cash Target Rate)	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10				
RBI (Repo Rate)	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00				
SCB (Reverse Repo)	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50				
UAE (Repo Rate)	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60				
CBK (O/N Repo Rate)	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88				
CBB (O/N Deposit Rate)	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75				
CBO (O/N Repo Rate)	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50				
CBE (O/N Deposit Rate)	8.25	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75				

Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research

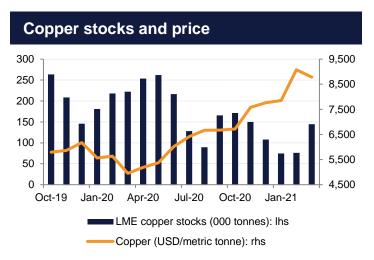
As of 22 April 2021



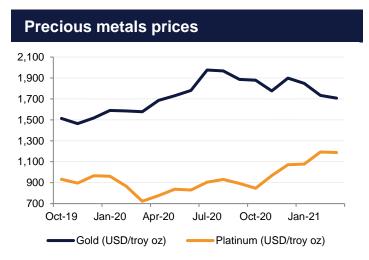
Major Commodities Markets



Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research



Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research



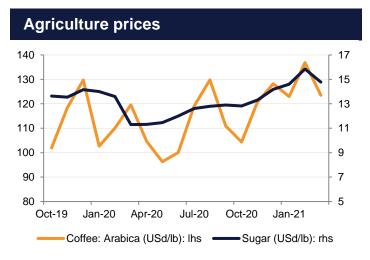
Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research

International oil production and price 35.0 30.0 25.0 20.0 15.0 10.0 Oct-19 Jan-20 Apr-20 Jul-20 Oct-20 Jan-21 Total OPEC production (m b/d): lhs Brent (USD/b): rhs

Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research



Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research



Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research



Commodity Forecasts

Energy Commodity Forecasts									
	Last	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	2021		
Brent: USD/b	65.01	70.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	67.83		
WTI: USD/b	61.04	65.00	65.00	65.00	65.00	65.00	63.29		
		Precious	Metals Fored	asts					
	Last	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	2021		
Gold: USD/troy oz	1,792.43	1,720.00	1,700.00	1,650.00	1,600.00	1,600.00	1,716.70		
Silver: USD/troy oz	26.48	24.00	23.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	23.31		
Platinum: USD/troy oz	1,214.82	1,175.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,250.00	1,250.00	1,184.16		
Palladium: USD/troy oz	2,871.44	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,750.00	2,750.00	2,600.00	2,539.49		
		Industria	l Metals Fored	asts					
	Last	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	2021		
Aluminium: USD/tonne	2,364.50	2,200.00	2,200.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,000.00	2,151.41		
Copper: USD/tonne	9,445.00	8,250.00	8,250.00	8,500.00	8,500.00	8,750.00	8,373.00		
Lead: USD/tonne	2,023.50	2,001.25	2,001.25	2,031.57	2,031.57	2,061.44	2,016.06		
Nickel: USD/tonne	16,199.00	16,500.00	16,500.00	17,000.00	17,250.00	17,250.00	16,901.43		
Tin: USD/tonne	26,939.00	24,000.00	22,000.00	22,000.00	21,000.00	20,000.00	22,940.34		
Zinc: USD/tonne	2,815.00	2,690.03	2,690.03	2,771.55	2,771.55	2,853.06	2,730.13		

Prices as of 22 April 2021. Note: prices are average of time period unless indicated otherwise.

Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research



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