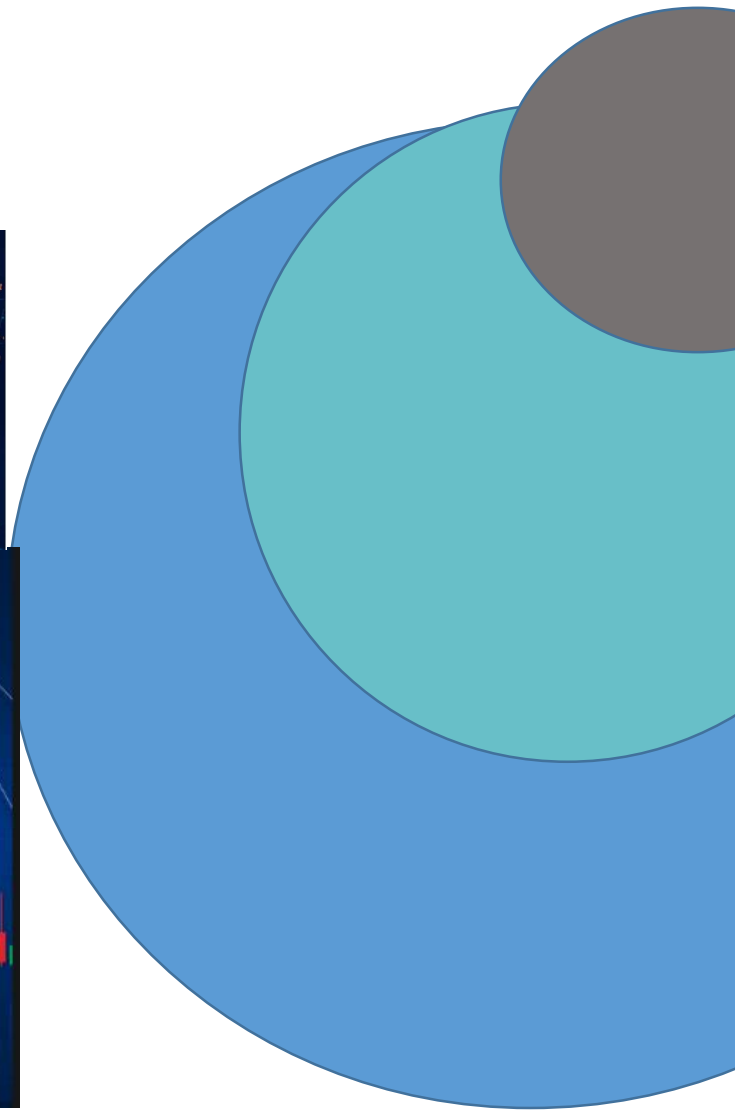




Financial Services Morning Report

Digital News





Indicator	Price Momentum			T12M Price to Earnings		T12M Price to Book		Dividend Yield %
	Last price	% Chg, 1 Day	% chg, YTD	Last	5 Year Avg TTM P/E	TTM P/B	5 Year Avg TTM P/B	
MSCI World Index	2,976.31	(0.4)	14.4	19.2	20.1	3.0	2.7	2.06%
MSCI Emerging Markets Index	1,008.42	0.5	5.4	13.2	14.8	1.6	1.6	2.93%
MSCI FM FRONTIER MARKETS	517.81	(0.3)	9.6	9.8	13.1	1.7	1.8	4.04%

GCC	Price Momentum			T12M Price to Earnings		T12M Price to Book		Dividend Yield %
	Last price	% Chg, 1 Day	% chg, YTD	Last	5 Year Avg TTM P/E	TTM P/B	5 Year Avg TTM P/B	
MSCI GCC Countries ex Saudi Arabia Index	548.23	(0.1)	(1.8)	12.8	14.7	1.7	1.7	3.52%
Muscat Stock Exchange MSX 30 Index	4,773.99	0.3	(1.7)		10.9	0.9	0.8	4.56%
Tadawul All Share Index	11,286.21	0.4	7.7	17.9	21.7	2.2	2.1	3.23%
Dubai Financial Market General Index	4,070.54	(0.2)	22.0	9.3	12.3	1.3	1.0	4.35%
FTSE ADX GENERAL INDEX	9,953.19	(0.4)	(2.5)	33.1	19.1	3.1	2.0	1.69%
Qatar Exchange Index	10,716.45	-	0.3	13.4	13.0	1.4	1.5	4.61%
Bahrain Bourse All Share Index	1,974.43	(0.1)	4.2	8.0	11.9	0.7	1.0	7.68%
Boursa Kuwait All Share Price Return Index	7,182.35	(0.1)	(1.5)	17.7	20.3	1.5	1.5	3.68%

Asia	Price Momentum			T12M Price to Earnings		T12M Price to Book		Dividend Yield %
	Last price	% Chg, 1 Day	% chg, YTD	Last	5 Year Avg TTM P/E	TTM P/B	5 Year Avg TTM P/B	
MSCI AC Asia Pacific Excluding Japan Index	521.90	0.5	3.2	14.8	16.6	1.6	1.7	2.96%
Nikkei 225	32,438.67	0.7	24.3	25.4	23.8	1.9	1.8	1.89%
S&P/ASX 200	7,349.20	0.2	4.4	15.0	19.1	2.2	2.1	4.45%
Hang Seng Index	19,097.85	(0.8)	(3.5)	9.9	11.5	1.0	1.1	3.78%
NSE Nifty 50 Index	19,535.30	(0.5)	7.9	22.3	24.8	3.0	3.0	1.43%

Europe	Price Momentum			T12M Price to Earnings		T12M Price to Book		Dividend Yield %
	Last price	% Chg, 1 Day	% chg, YTD	Last	5 Year Avg TTM P/E	TTM P/B	5 Year Avg TTM P/B	
MSCI Europe Index	154.61	0.4	8.5	13.3	16.6	1.9	1.7	3.47%
MSCI Emerging Markets Europe Index	111.92	0.9	19.5	5.2	7.0	1.2	0.9	3.82%
FTSE 100 Index	7,587.30	0.8	1.8	10.5	14.7	1.6	1.6	4.15%
Deutsche Boerse AG German Stock Index DAX	15,852.58	0.5	13.9	13.0	15.8	1.4	1.6	3.67%
CAC 40 Index	7,322.04	0.7	13.1	12.6	17.0	1.8	1.6	3.19%

America's	Price Momentum			T12M Price to Earnings		T12M Price to Book		Dividend Yield %
	Last price	% Chg, 1 Day	% chg, YTD	Last	5 Year Avg TTM P/E	TTM P/B	5 Year Avg TTM P/B	
MSCI North America Index	4,428.48	(0.7)	16.2	22.2	22.2	4.1	3.8	1.60%
S&P 500 INDEX	4,467.71	(0.7)	16.4	21.8	22.0	4.2	3.9	1.55%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	35,123.36	(0.5)	6.0	21.0	19.3	4.6	4.4	2.03%
NASDAQ Composite Index	13,722.02	(1.2)	31.1	38.5	35.2	5.3	5.3	0.79%

Commodities	Last price	% Chg, 1 Day	% chg, YTD	% chg from 10 year high	% chg from 10 year Low
S&P GSCI Index Spot	597.7	1.2	-2.0	-27%	162%
Gold Spot \$/Oz	1,918.4	0.2	5.2	-7%	83%
BRENT CRUDE FUTR Oct23	87.7	0.1	6.2	-13%	103%
Generic 1st'OQA' Future	89.1	1.3	12.8	-29%	382%
LME COPPER 3MO (\$)	8,397.5	0.6	0.3	-21%	94%
SILVER SPOT \$/OZ	22.7	0.2	-5.2	-22%	89%

SPOT Currencies Indices	Last price	% Chg, 1 Day	% chg, YTD	% chg from 10 year high	% chg from 10 year Low
DOLLAR INDEX SPOT	102.5	-0.04	-1.03	-10%	30%
Euro Spot	1.0984	0.09	2.61	-21%	14%
British Pound Spot	1.2721	0.02	5.28	-26%	19%
Swiss Franc Spot	0.8766	0.08	5.46	-15%	4%
China Renminbi Spot	7.2116	-0.01	-4.34	-1%	19%
Japanese Yen Spot	144.0	-0.18	-8.94	-4%	49%
Australian Dollar Spot	0.6543	0.23	-3.96	-33%	14%
USD-OMR X-RATE	0.3848	0.00	0.00	0%	5%
AED-USD X-RATE	0.2723	0.00	0.01	0%	0%
USD-EGP X-RATE	30.8476	0.14	-19.89	0%	361%
USD-TRY X-RATE	27.0356	-0.09	-30.80	0%	1305%

GCC Government Bond Yields	Maturity date	YTM, %
Oman	01/08/2029	5.83
Abu Dhabi	16/04/2030	4.46
Qatar	16/04/2030	4.46
Saudi Arabia	22/10/2030	4.78
Kuwait	20/03/2027	4.68
Bahrain	14/05/2030	6.81

Bond Indices	Close	D/D	YTD
	Index	%	%
S&P MENA Sukuk TR Index	133.65	0.0%	2.2%
S&P MENA Bond TR Index	133.15	0.1%	1.1%
S&P MENA Bond & Sukuk TR Index	133.02	0.1%	1.3%

3m Interbank Rates	Current Rate %	As on 31 Dec 2021
GLOBAL		
US	5.37	0.09
UK	-	-
EURO	3.77	(0.57)
GCC		
Oman	5.90	2.13
Saudi Arabia	6.08	0.91
Kuwait	4.31	1.50
UAE	5.39	0.36
Qatar	6.13	1.13
Bahrain	6.65	1.52

Source: FSC



Oman Economic and Corporate News

Asset quality of Oman's banking sector strong

Asset quality of Oman's banking sector remains strong after the implementation of exit strategy from loan deferment scheme, the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) said in its latest Financial Stability Report (FSB) 2023. "In response to the exit strategy from the loan deferment scheme outlined by the CBO, banks effectively managed the deferred loans by implementing mechanisms for restructuring/rescheduling options for the affected borrowers." "As of December 2022, a substantial portion of loans, amounting to OMR2 billion (38 percent), have been regularised," the report further added. Additionally, OMR3.2 billion (60 percent) have undergone or are currently undergoing the restructuring process, while a minor percentage of 2.2 percent (OMR117.8 million) has been downgraded to Stage 3 or non-performing loans (NPLs). At the end of 2022, the stock of gross NPLs amounted to OMR1.3 billion (2021: OMR1.2 billion) or 4.4 percent (2021: 4.2 percent) of the banks' gross loans. The asset quality of the Islamic banking financing portfolio also remained strong with a non-performance financing (NPF) ratio of 2.1 percent at the end of December 2022, which is among the lowest in the region.

[Source: Times of Oman](#)

Oman Air, SalamAir sign MoU to boost cooperation in air transport

Oman Air and SalamAir today concluded a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to enhance various aspects of cooperation, develop and implement a joint commercial strategy in the field of air transport. The MoU was signed by Captain Nasser Al Salmi, Acting CEO of Oman Air, and Captain Mohammed Ahmed, CEO of SalamAir. The MoU provides for cooperation between the two airlines' networks to enhance operational efficiency and improve passenger service, besides consolidating ties in the areas of destination planning, flight schedules, inventory management, air fleet management, revenue and sales management. Eng. Said Hamoud Al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Oman Air, affirmed that the MoU will secure the complementary role of the two companies in making Muscat Airport more attractive through the integration of operations aimed at increasing the number of destinations reached by Oman Air and SalamAir. In a statement to reporters, the minister said that the MoU would also bolster passenger traffic at Muscat Airport and boost the market share of Oman Air and SalamAir to and from Oman. The MoU is the first step in Oman Air's recovery plan announced by the government, he added.

[Source: Times of Oman](#)

Consistent growth in Oman's Islamic banking

The Islamic Banking Entities (IBEs) in Oman have witnessed consistent and rapid growth since their introduction in 2012, according to the Central Bank of Oman's latest Financial Stability Report 2023. "As of December, 2022, the growth is evident in the increase of total assets, which rose by 8.7 percent, reaching OMR6.4 billion, while conventional banks experienced a decline by 0.6 percent in total assets," the report further said. "The expansion of IBEs' total assets is primarily driven by financing activities, with financing and investments both increasing by 12.2 percent and 12.8 percent, reaching OMR5.4 billion and OMR5.8 million, respectively." "On the liabilities side, total deposits exhibited a similar pattern, recording a growth of 10.9 percent to reach OMR4.9 billion. To meet the funding demand and support the growing asset base, borrowings witnessed an increase of 14.6 percent, reaching OMR2.8 million," the FSR further said. IBEs play a vital role as intermediaries. The robust growth in financing has resulted in a slight increase in the financing-to-deposit ratio, reaching 111.4 percent at the end of December 2022, compared to 110.1 percent in the previous year. The sector's solvency remains robust, with the Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) rising to 16.42 percent as of December 2022, compared to 16.91 percent a year earlier, surpassing the regulatory requirement of 12.25 percent.

[Source: Times of Oman](#)



Middle east Economic and Corporate News

GCC sovereign wealth funds grow to \$4tn

Sovereign wealth funds (SWFs) of the GCC countries are currently managing nearly \$4tn in assets, combining all SWFs from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, and Bahrain. The total assets managed by GCC SWFs have grown by an average of 20% in the last couple of years to reach a high of around \$4tn today, according to a report from S&P Global Market Intelligence, which cited global SWF statistics. GCC SWFs account for about 37% of the global SWF assets under management and are roughly equivalent in size to all counterparts in Asia, Latin America, and Sub-Saharan Africa combined, as per the S&P Global Market Intelligence report, which was carried by Zawya on Wednesday. Five out of the ten largest SWFs worldwide are located in the GCC region. Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, Kuwait Investment Authority, Qatar Investment Authority, and Investment Corporation of Dubai jointly hold assets under management estimated at \$3.3tn, as per Global SWF. 'The sovereign wealth funds of GCC countries have greatly benefited from the recent energy revenue windfall in the region, allowing them to expand their global presence and diversify their investments across different sectors,' said S&P Global Market Intelligence in its report.

[Source:Muscat Daily](#)

Dubai property transactions up 44% in H1, says report

The number of property transactions during the first half grew 44% to 57,700 units - with 46,100 apartments and 11,600 villas sold - amid strong activity in the off-plan segment, according to property expert Savills. The bulk of the off-plan transactions were observed for apartments, whilst villa and townhouses were preferred in the ready category, it stated. The increase in off-plan transactions indicates buyer preference to delay committing to high lending rates in the current economic environment. It is also reflective of an increase in new project launches that have jumped to 27,900 units during H1 2023, compared to 24,900 units in all of 2022, it stated. The bulk of the off-plan transactions were observed for apartments. whilst villa and townhouse developments were preferred in the ready category. A total of 67% of villa and townhouse transactions during H1 were for ready units. Damac Hills 2, Al Furjan, and Dubai Hills Estate have been popular locations for ready villa units, it added. Swapnil Pillai, Associate Director, Middle East Research at Savills, pointed out that historically, the summer months in the UAE have been known to be slow as many residents travel during the school break.

[Source:Zawya](#)

Saudi Maaden gets top Moody's, Fitch credit ratings

Saudi Arabian Mining Company (Ma'aden) said it has been assigned a Long-Term Issuer Rating of Baa1 with a "Stable" outlook by Moody's and a Long-Term Issuer Default Rating of BBB+ with a "Stable" outlook by Fitch. The investment grade ratings reflect Ma'aden's diversified multi-commodity business model, with global leadership in phosphate production, the Middle East's largest integrated aluminum value chain, and a scalable Base Metals and New Minerals business. These ratings confirm Ma'aden's sustainable, leading low-cost base and robust financial profile, as local and international investment opportunities are assessed, said the company in a statement. They also follow recent credit rating upgrades for Saudi Arabia, in line with the positive momentum generated by significant reforms as stipulated in the Saudi Vision 2030, it added. On the key achievement, Ma'aden CEO Robert Wilt said: "These investment grade ratings come as we undertake a major transformation program to strengthen the business and meet our long-term growth targets."

[Source:Zawya](#)



International Economic and Corporate News

Asia markets mixed ahead of U.S. inflation data

Asia-Pacific markets were mixed as investors braced for July consumer price index data out from the U.S. on Thursday. Expectations from economists polled by Reuters are the inflation rate will come in at 3.3%, slightly higher from the 3% seen in June. Japan's Nikkei 225 climbed marginally and the Topix was up 0.19%. The country saw its July wholesale inflation rate — which measures the price companies charge each other for goods and services — slow to 3.6%, down from a revised figure of 4.3% in June. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 traded just above the flatline, with South Korea's Kospi was down 0.35% and the Kosdaq lost 0.48%. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index dropped 0.67%, while mainland Chinese indexes rebounded and were all higher. The Shanghai Composite was 0.14% higher and the Shenzhen Composite was just above the flatline.

[Source: CNBC](#)

Asian stocks dip on new U.S.-China fears, pre-CPI caution

U.S. government outlined new restrictions on technology investments in China, while anticipation of a key U.S. inflation reading also kept sentiment subdued. A mixed batch of earnings reports released this week also dampened spirits, as weak quarterly prints from Sony Corp (TYO:6758) and SoftBank Group Corp. (TYO:9984) pointed to a persistent technology downturn. But this was somewhat offset by strong automaker and bank earnings from Japan and Australia. Focus was now squarely on U.S. consumer price index data due later in the day, with markets turning risk averse on fears of a potentially stronger reading for July. China's Shanghai Shenzhen CSI 300 and Shanghai Composite indexes fell slightly on Thursday after three straight days of losses, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell 0.6%. U.S. President Joe Biden on Wednesday signed an executive order that will block some new investment in Chinese technologies such as semiconductors and other tech-related sectors.

[Source: Investing](#)

Oil and Metal News

Oil prices edge lower from 2023 highs, U.S. inflation awaited

Oil prices fell slightly on Thursday, retreating from multi-month highs as traders turned cautious ahead of key U.S. inflation data due later in the day, while concerns over sluggish Chinese demand also remained in play. Strength in the dollar, ahead of Thursday's consumer price index reading, was the biggest hurdle to the oil price rally, as markets bet on a slight uptick in U.S. inflation. But crude prices still traded near their highest levels for the year, as data showed that U.S. fuel demand remained robust. Brent oil futures fell 0.2% to \$87.39 a barrel, while West Texas Intermediate crude futures fell 0.2% to \$84.25 a barrel by 21:11 ET (01:11 GMT). Brent hit a six-month high on Wednesday, while WTI touched its strongest level since November 2022.

[Source: Investing](#)

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