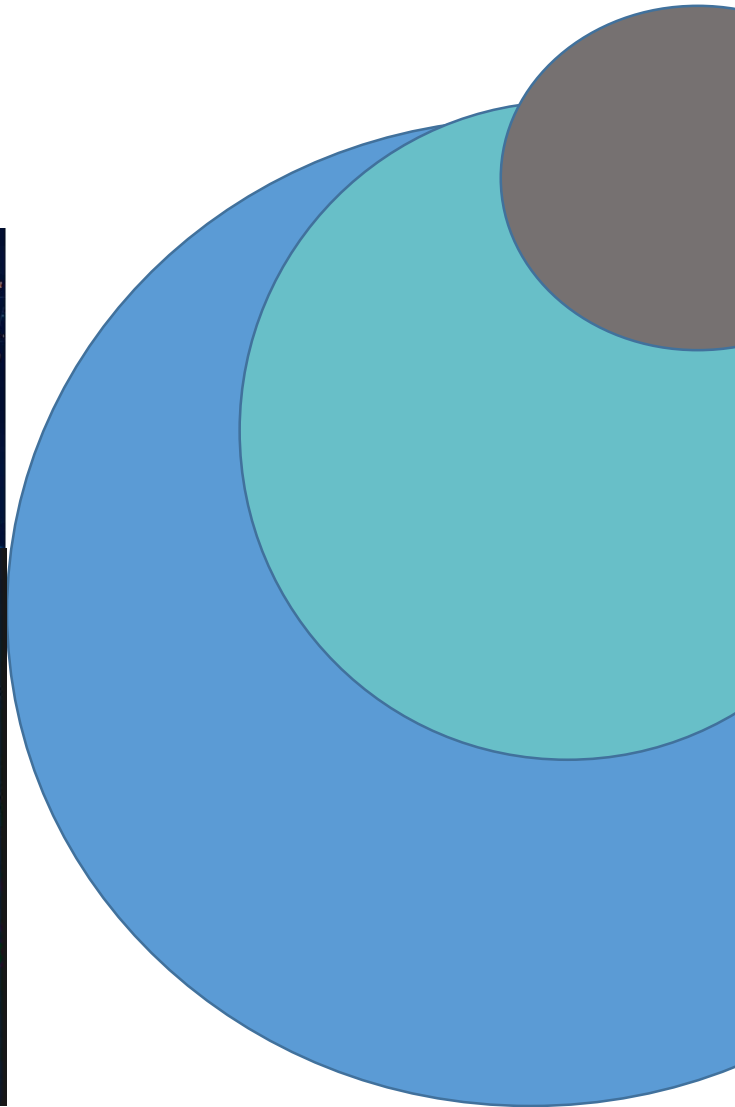


Financial Services Morning Report

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 T12M P/E	TTM P/B	5 Year Avg T12M P/B	
MSCI World Index	3,334.04	0.1	5.2	20.6	20.4	3.2	2.8	1.86%
MSCI Emerging Markets Index	1,028.31	(0.1)	0.4	15.4	14.9	1.6	1.6	2.60%
MSCI FM FRONTIER MARKETS	518.67	(0.0)	2.3	12.0	12.9	1.6	1.8	3.87%

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	533.23	(0.3)	0.4	10.7	14.5	1.5	1.7	3.76%
Muscat Stock Exchange MSX 30 Index	4,570.98	(0.2)	1.3		11.4	0.7	0.8	4.71%
Tadawul All Share Index	12,634.33	0.2	5.6	21.4	22.0	2.5	2.2	2.78%
Dubai Financial Market General Index	4,225.90	(0.1)	4.1	8.7	12.2	1.3	1.0	4.09%
FTSE ADX GENERAL INDEX	9,279.94	(0.4)	(3.1)	24.5	20.8	2.3	2.1	1.67%
Qatar Exchange Index	10,303.24	(0.6)	(4.9)	11.9	12.6	1.3	1.5	4.89%
Bahrain Bourse All Share Index	2,050.11	0.0	4.0	7.8	11.7	0.7	1.0	8.21%
Boursa Kuwait All Share Price Return Index	7,414.62	(0.1)	8.8	15.8	20.2	1.6	1.5	3.13%

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	528.76	0.1	(0.0)	16.6	16.7	1.6	1.7	2.70%
Nikkei 225	39,098.68	2.2	16.8	27.9	25.0	2.2	1.8	1.61%
S&P/ASX 200	7,643.59	0.4	0.7	16.8	19.1	2.2	2.1	3.94%
Hang Seng Index	16,725.86	(0.1)	(1.9)	8.8	11.3	0.9	1.1	4.14%
NSE Nifty 50 Index	22,212.70	(0.0)	2.2	23.0	24.7	3.2	3.0	1.26%

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	166.91	0.4	3.9	14.2	16.6	1.9	1.8	3.19%
MSCI Emerging Markets Europe Index	126.62	0.5	7.9	6.5	7.0	1.4	1.0	3.43%
FTSE 100 Index	7,706.28	0.3	(0.3)	10.4	14.3	1.7	1.6	3.98%
Deutsche Boerse AG German Stock Index DAX	17,419.33	0.3	4.0	15.1	15.9	1.5	1.6	3.10%
CAC 40 Index	7,966.68	0.7	5.6	14.1	18.0	2.0	1.6	2.82%

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	5,041.28	0.0	6.3	24.2	22.5	4.4	3.9	1.45%
S&P 500 INDEX	5,088.80	0.0	6.7	24.2	22.3	4.6	4.0	1.40%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	39,131.53	0.2	3.8	22.3	19.8	4.9	4.5	1.88%
NASDAQ Composite Index	15,996.82	(0.3)	6.6	42.1	36.6	6.4	5.5	0.73%

Commodities	Last price	% Chg, 1 Day	% chg, YTD	% chg from 10 year high	% chg from 10 year Low
S&P GSCI Index Spot	550.9	-1.5	2.9	-33%	141%
Gold Spot \$/Oz	2,035.4	0.5	-1.3	-2%	94%
BRENT CRUDE FUTR Apr24	81.6	-2.5	6.1	-13%	84%
Generic 1st'OQA' Future	80.6	-2.8	5.6	-36%	337%
LME COPPER 3MO (\$)	8,567.5	-0.2	0.1	-20%	98%
SILVER SPOT \$/OZ	23.0	0.9	-3.6	-21%	92%

SPOT Currencies Indices	Last price	% Chg, 1 Day	% chg, YTD	% chg from 10 year high	% chg from 10 year Low
DOLLAR INDEX SPOT	103.9	-0.02	2.57	-9%	31%
Euro Spot	1.0821	-0.02	-1.97	-22%	13%
British Pound Spot	1.2672	0.09	-0.46	-26%	19%
Swiss Franc Spot	0.8809	-0.08	-4.48	-14%	5%
China Renminbi Spot	7.1964	-0.03	-1.34	-2%	18%
Japanese Yen Spot	150.5	0.01	-6.29	-1%	51%
Australian Dollar Spot	0.6562	0.08	-3.67	-31%	14%
USD-OMR X-RATE	0.3850	-0.06	-0.06	0%	0%
AED-USD X-RATE	0.2723	0.00	0.00	0%	0%
USD-EGP X-RATE	30.8965	0.00	-0.01	0%	345%
USD-TRY X-RATE	30.9166	-0.34	-4.49	0%	1395%

GCC Government Bond Yields	Maturity date	YTM, %
Oman	01/08/2029	5.72
Abu Dhabi	16/04/2030	4.70
Qatar	16/04/2030	4.54
Saudi Arabia	22/10/2030	5.07
Kuwait	20/03/2027	4.51
Bahrain	14/05/2030	6.73

Bond Indices	Close	D/D	YTD
	Index	%	%
S&P MENA Sukuk TR Index	136.86	0.0%	-0.7%
S&P MENA Bond TR Index	135.11	0.1%	-2.5%
S&P MENA Bond & Sukuk TR Index	135.23	0.1%	-2.1%

3m Interbank Rates		
	Current Rate %	As on 31 Dec 2021
GLOBAL		
US	5.33	0.09
UK	-	-
EURO	3.95	(0.57)
GCC		
Oman	6.02	2.13
Saudi Arabia	6.25	0.91
Kuwait	4.31	1.50
UAE	5.34	0.36
Qatar	6.00	1.13
Bahrain	6.38	1.52

Oman Economic and Corporate News

OMR2.5 million breakwater project in Musandam Governorate nearly complete

Construction work continues on the OMR2.5 million breakwater project in the villages of Ghamdha and Al Jeri in the Wilayat of Bukha in Musandam Governorate. The project's completion rate has reached 80 percent. Khalifa bin Ali Al Shehhi, Director of the Fisheries Wealth Department at the General Directorate of Agriculture , Fisheries and Water Resources in Musandam Governorate, said: "The project to construct breakwaters in the villages of Ghamdha and Al Jeri aims to address the accumulation of sand as a result of water currents and protect boats from high waves. The project also helps in fish landing operations, providing a suitable and attractive environment for fishermen to practice their profession." Al Shehhi explained that the project consists of main breakwaters, secondary breakwaters, sheds, warehouses, boat slips, a small boat docking area, and other service facilities that contribute to providing basic services to the fisheries sector in the two regions.

[Source: Times of Oman](#)

Mashreq announces appointment of Alsalt Mohammed al Kharusi as Country Head of Oman

Mashreq, one of the leading financial institutions in the MENA region, which is currently working on the formation of its branch in Oman, has announced the appointment of Alsalt Mohammed Al Kharusi as the Country Head of Oman. In his new role, Al Kharusi will be responsible for leading Mashreq Bank's strategy and operations in Oman, optimizing the bank's performance, and ensuring compliance with local and international standards. Bringing more than two decades of extensive experience in corporate and institutional banking to Mashreq, Al Kharusi will focus on enhancing client experiences, driving digital transformation, and fostering a culture of excellence and innovation.

[Source: Muscat Daily](#)

Information Ministry's pavilion at Muscat Book Fair energetic in showcasing media roles

The Ministry of Information's pavilion at Muscat International Book Fair is actively engaged in enlightening visitors about the roles and tasks carried out by the Ministry in serving the media sector. The pavilion operates through four main sections. They are Oman News Agency section (ONA), the Directorate General of Publications and Artistic Works section, the Directorate General of Electronic Media section (which comprises Ayn platform and media portal) and the Nizwa Magazine section. ONA section exhibits the agency's photographic archiving that narrates the story of development in the Sultanate of Oman. The section comprises interactive screens and picture panels that incarnate the progress experienced by the Sultanate of Oman, day by day, over the prosperous years of its transition. The Publications and Artistic Works section presents the Ministry's publications, as well as publications supported by the Ministry of Information. The section also includes the Ministry's latest publications.

[Source: Times of Oman](#)

Omantel, Huawei join hands to build Sultanate's National Cloud

Omantel, the leading provider of integrated telecommunication services in the sultanate, has reiterated its leadership in cloud by forging a strategic partnership with Huawei, a global player in the cloud area, to build National Cloud. Huawei was selected on the basis of its track record in launching similar projects globally, Omantel said in a press statement on Wednesday. The alliance propels Omantel into a prominent position in the cloud arena, setting the stage for unparalleled advancements and achievements. It will empower Omantel to provide latest technology, global experience, data security and local data hosting to the entire nation, which includes government entities, state owned companies, financial sector, energy sector and SMEs, enabling them to accelerate digital transformation and thus support Oman's Digital Economy drive.

[Source: Muscat Daily](#)

Middle east Economic and Corporate News

UAE removed from Financial Action Task Force 'grey list'

The UAE has been removed from a financial crime watchdog's list of countries. The Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) said the UAE, along with Barbados, Gibraltar and Uganda, has shown "significant progress" in addressing "deficiencies" in its efforts to combat illicit money flows. "These countries will no longer be subject to the FATF's increased monitoring process," the watchdog said in a statement on Friday. The watchdog made the announcement after holding three days of discussions on key money laundering, terrorism financing and proliferation financing issues at its headquarters in Paris. In 2022, the watchdog placed the UAE on its so-called "grey list" over concerns it has not done enough to clamp down on illicit financial activities. The UAE was among the jurisdictions placed under "increased monitoring" but were actively working with the FATF to strengthen their regimes.

[Source: Zawya](#)

Amazon pays\$1.9mln to over 700 workers in Saudi over unlawful fees

E-commerce giant Amazon has paid \$1.9 million to more than 700 workers in Saudi Arabia as a reimbursement for unlawful recruitment fees, among other violations. The compensation was released after investigations found irregularities related to the employment of workers contracted by third-party vendors to support Amazon's operations in the kingdom, the company said in a statement. In October last year, rights group Amnesty International published a report about the plight of employees deployed in Amazon warehouses in Saudi Arabia. It claimed that the workers were deceived by recruitment agents and labour supply companies, cheated of their earnings, housed in "appalling" conditions and were prevented from finding alternative jobs or leaving the country. "Many were highly likely victims of human trafficking," the group said.

[Source: Zawya](#)

International Economic and Corporate News

US energy data agency to temporarily suspend bitcoin miner survey after lawsuit

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on Friday agreed to temporarily suspend its emergency survey of energy use by cryptocurrency miners following a lawsuit by bitcoin miner Riot Platforms and an industry group. The DOE's statistical arm, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), will halt its mandatory survey for a month and sequester the data it had already received after it began collecting information from bitcoin miners on Feb. 5, the agency said in a Friday notice to a Texas federal court. Riot Platforms and the Texas Blockchain Council had sued the Biden administration in that court on Thursday seeking to block the survey, which they said could harm businesses by forcing them to divulge confidential and sensitive information. The EIA had said the information is needed to assess concerns that cryptocurrency miners' increased use of electricity, spurred by high bitcoin prices, could pose an imminent threat to energy grid reliability.

[Source: Zawya](#)

Analysis-What's at stake for Trump, Haley in South Carolina's primary

Donald Trump wants to make South Carolina the end of the road for Nikki Haley in their battle for the Republican nomination. Haley aims to survive and take their fight into the multistate Super Tuesday contest in March. Opinion polls show the former U.S. president with a clear advantage in South Carolina ahead of the state's primary on Saturday, despite the fact that Haley served as its governor for six years. While Haley's presidential bid is looking increasingly quixotic, her campaign insists it will press forward regardless of the result. Here's a look at the stakes for each of the candidates as they vie to be the one to challenge President Joe Biden, a Democrat, in the November election: Simply put, Trump wants the Republican race to end so he can turn his full attention to taking on Biden.

[Source: Investing](#)

Oil and Metal News

Gold prices to surge 6% in 2024 over strong central bank buying – Goldman Sachs

Gold prices are likely to climb this year on the back of strong demand from central banks and retail consumers in the emerging markets, according to Goldman Sachs Research. The precious metal could climb around 6% in the next 12 months to \$2,175 a troy ounce, Nicholas Snowdon, Head of Metals in Commodities Research, and Lavinia Forcellese, an analyst, wrote in the report. They said that prices could trade in a range in the near term amid uncertainty about the US Federal Reserve's policy on interest rates. Gold was trading at \$2,036.19 an ounce as of Friday, GMT +01:00 . Central bank purchases have recently intensified amid rising geopolitical tensions. Between 2022 and 2023, central banks purchased an average of 1,060 tonnes of gold, compared with 509 tonnes bought between 2016 and 2019. "We expect central bank purchases will remain strong on the back of reserve diversification by [emerging market] countries and elevated geopolitical tensions," the analysts wrote. (Writing by Cleofe Maceda; editing by Seban Scaria)

[Source: Zawya](#)

Oil ends lower, posts weekly decline as US rate cut hopes dim

Oil prices fell nearly 3% lower on Friday and posted a weekly decline after a U.S. central bank policymaker indicated interest rate cuts could be delayed by at least two more months. Brent crude futures settled down \$2.05, or 2.5%, at \$81.62 a barrel, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude futures (WTI) were down \$2.12, or 2.7%, to \$76.49. For the week, Brent declined about 2% and WTI fell more than 3%. However, indications of healthy fuel demand and supply concerns could revive prices in the coming days. Federal Reserve policymakers should delay U.S. interest rate cuts by at least another couple of months, Fed Governor Christopher Waller said on Thursday, which could slow economic growth and curb oil demand. The Fed has held its policy rate steady in a 5.25% to 5.5% range since last July. Minutes of its meeting last month show most central bankers were worried about moving too quickly to ease policy. "The entire energy complex is reacting, because if inflation begins to come back it will slow demand for energy products," said Tim Snyder, economist at Matador Economics.

[Source: Investing](#)

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