

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	3,402.36	0.5	7.4	21.3	20.5	3.3	2.8	1.81%
MSCI Emerging Markets Index	1,045.71	(0.3)	2.1	15.2	15.0	1.6	1.7	2.65%
MSCI FM FRONTIER MARKETS	530.84	(0.2)	4.7	11.5	12.8	1.6	1.8	3.73%

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	516.54	(1.1)	(2.7)	10.4	14.4	1.5	1.7	4.35%
Muscat Stock Exchange MSX 30 Index	4,689.42	0.2	3.9		11.5	0.9	0.8	5.61%
Tadawul All Share Index	12,705.42	0.7	6.2	22.9	22.1	2.7	2.3	3.03%
Dubai Financial Market General Index	4,244.15	(0.1)	4.5	8.4	12.1	1.3	1.0	5.35%
FTSE ADX GENERAL INDEX	9,237.26	(0.0)	(3.6)	20.1	20.9	2.8	2.1	2.13%
Qatar Exchange Index	9,910.16	1.0	(8.5)	11.4	12.6	1.3	1.5	4.81%
Bahrain Bourse All Share Index	2,020.90	(0.0)	2.5	7.8	11.7	0.7	0.9	8.35%
Boursa Kuwait All Share Price Return Index	7,195.53	(1.0)	5.5	16.2	20.2	1.5	1.5	3.28%

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	537.07	(0.5)	1.5	16.8	16.8	1.7	1.7	2.70%
Nikkei 225	39,517.81	1.3	18.1	27.8	25.3	2.2	1.9	1.54%
S&P/ASX 200	7,788.00	0.2	2.6	19.7	19.0	2.3	2.2	3.75%
Hang Seng Index	16,894.29	1.0	(0.9)	9.4	11.2	1.0	1.1	4.19%
NSE Nifty 50 Index	22,513.70	(0.0)	3.6	23.3	24.7	3.8	3.4	1.24%

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	169.80	(0.8)	5.7	14.9	16.4	2.1	1.9	3.12%
MSCI Emerging Markets Europe Index	127.56	1.2	8.7	7.0	7.0	1.2	1.0	3.50%
FTSE 100 Index	7,911.16	(0.8)	2.3	12.1	14.2	1.8	1.7	3.91%
Deutsche Boerse AG German Stock Index DAX	18,175.04	(1.2)	8.5	15.2	15.7	1.7	1.6	2.91%
CAC 40 Index	8,061.31	(1.1)	6.9	14.3	16.7	2.0	1.7	2.80%

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	5,158.59	1.1	8.7	25.0	22.7	4.6	3.9	1.42%
S&P 500 INDEX	5,204.34	1.1	9.1	24.9	22.5	4.8	4.1	1.37%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	38,904.04	0.8	3.2	22.3	19.9	4.9	4.5	1.86%
NASDAQ Composite Index	16,248.52	1.2	8.2	38.7	36.7	6.3	5.6	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	601.9	0.5	12.4	-27%	164%
Gold Spot \$/Oz	2,347.5	0.8	13.8	0%	123%
BRENT CRUDE FUTR Jun24	89.8	-1.6	17.1	-3%	100%
Generic 1st'OQA' Future	91.4	0.3	19.7	-27%	395%
LME COPPER 3MO (\$)	9,329.5	-0.3	9.0	-13%	115%
SILVER SPOT \$/OZ	27.9	1.7	17.4	-4%	133%

SPOT Currencies Indices	Last price	% Chg. 1 Day	% chg. YTD	% chg from 10 year high	% chg from 10 year Low
DOLLAR INDEX SPOT	104.3	-0.02	2.90	-9%	32%
Euro Spot	1.0837	0.00	-1.83	-22%	13%
British Pound Spot	1.2633	-0.04	-0.77	-26%	18%
Swiss Franc Spot	0.9031	-0.14	-6.83	-12%	8%
China Renminbi Spot	7.2332	0.00	-1.84	-2%	18%
Japanese Yen Spot	151.8	-0.09	-7.06	0%	52%
Australian Dollar Spot	0.6578	-0.02	-3.44	-31%	15%
USD-OMR X-RATE	0.3848	0.06	0.00	0%	0%
AED-USD X-RATE	0.2723	0.00	-0.01	0%	0%
USD-EGP X-RATE	47.5558	-0.38	-35.04	-5%	582%
USD-TRY X-RATE	32.0466	-0.41	-7.86	-1%	1449%

GCC Government Bond Yields	Maturity date	YTM, %
Oman	01/08/2029	5.55
Abu Dhabi	16/04/2030	4.78
Qatar	16/04/2030	4.64
Saudi Arabia	22/10/2030	5.06
Kuwait	20/03/2027	4.67
Bahrain	14/05/2030	6.59

Bond Indices	Close	D/D	YTD
	Index	%	%
S&P MENA Sukuk TR Index	137.62	-0.1%	-0.2%
S&P MENA Bond TR Index	135.58	-0.4%	-2.2%
S&P MENA Bond & Sukuk TR Index	135.78	-0.3%	-1.7%

3m Interbank Rates	Current Rate %	As on 31 Dec 2021
GLOBAL		
US	5.29	0.09
UK	-	-
EURO	3.89	(0.57)
GCC		
Oman	5.71	2.13
Saudi Arabia	6.20	0.91
Kuwait	4.31	1.50
UAE	5.24	0.36
Qatar	6.00	1.13
Bahrain	6.35	1.52

Source: FSC

Oman Economic and Corporate News

Oman Arab Bank's credit rating upgraded to 'BB+' with stable outlook

Oman Arab Bank (OAB) announced that the international credit rating agency, Capital Intelligence Rating (CI), has raised its Long-Term Foreign Currency Rating (LT FCR) from “BB” to “BB+” and the Bank Standalone Rating (BSR) from “bb” to “bb+”, revising its outlook from positive to stable. These changes follow the recent upgrade of Oman's sovereign rating from “BB” to “BB+” and the one notch increase in the Operating Environment Risk Anchor (OPERA). In addition, OAB's Short-Term Foreign Currency (ST FCR) Rating of “B”, Core Financial Strength (CFS) rating of “bbb-” and Extraordinary Support Level (ESL) rating of Moderate have all been affirmed.

[Source: Times of Oman](#)

Oman to raise RO75mn via development bonds

Oman's government plans to raise at least another RO75mn through this year's second issuance of government development bonds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO), on behalf of the Ministry of Finance, announced the 70th issue of the government development bonds. The size of the new development bonds issue stands at RO75mn with an option to exceed the announced amount (greenshoe option), with a maturity period of two years, as per the CBO's statement. The issue will be open for subscription from April 14 to April 21, 2024, while the auction will be held on April 23, 2024. The settlement date for the issue will be on April 25, 2024. The bonds will carry an annual coupon rate of 4.85%. Interest on the new bonds will be paid semiannually on October 25 and April 25 every year until the maturity date on April 25, 2026.

[Source: Muscat Daily](#)

Investors seen restructuring their portfolios on Muscat Stock Exchange

At the beginning of trading in the second quarter of this year, investors in the Muscat Stock Exchange rebuilt their investment portfolios, after the end of the annual regular general assemblies season, which approved the distribution of profits recommended by the boards of directors. The week's trading showed investors' focus on a number of leading stocks listed in the financial sector, such as Oinvest, Bank Muscat, National Bank of Oman, Bank Dhofar, and Oman Arab Bank, in addition to the shares of energy companies, Al Jazira Services, Al Sharqiya Investment, Holding, and Al Anwar Ceramic Tiles. During the week's trading, investors sought to strengthen their investment portfolios while awaiting the preliminary results for the first quarter of this year. Investors in the Muscat Stock Exchange also expressed interest in Al Anwar Investments, whose financial year ended last March, looking forward to the company announcing its initial financial results in the coming days.

[Source: Times of Oman](#)

Oman's debt capital market contracts on govt prepayments

Oman's debt capital market (DCM) contracted by 7% year-on-year, to \$44bn outstanding, in 2023 as the government prepaid more of its debt using the budget surplus from higher oil prices, Fitch Ratings said. In contrast, the share of sukuk in the outstanding debt capital market mix grew to 21.1% in 2023 from 18% in 2022, Fitch noted in a report. According to Fitch's estimates, sukuk issuance in Oman surged by 231% year-on-year in 2023, to \$1.2bn, while bond issuance fell by 56% year-on-year to \$4.8bn. Fitch rated around \$7.5bn of outstanding Omani sukuk – all at 'BB+' in the first quarter of 2024, issued by the sovereign (67%) and by corporates (33%). In September 2023, Fitch upgraded Oman's sovereign rating to 'BB+' with a stable outlook.

[Source: Muscat Daily](#)

Middle east Economic and Corporate News

Saudi: 50% traffic fine reduction applies to citizens, residents, and visitors

The General Directorate of Traffic's official spokesperson, Col. Mansour Al-Shakrah, announced that the decision to reduce traffic fines by 50% applies to citizens, residents, and visitors alike, emphasizing the importance of adhering to safety regulations to minimize violations and enhance road safety. In a statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), he detailed that the reduction covers all violations committed before the date of 9 / 10 / 1445 AH, equivalent to 18 / 4 / 2024. To benefit from this reduction, all accumulated traffic fines must be settled within 6 months starting from 18 / 4 / 2024 to 18 / 10 / 2024. Col. Al-Shakrah clarified that the discount allows for the payment of fines either in one lump sum or separately for each violation. He also pointed out that Article 75 of the Traffic Law will be applied to violations committed from 18 / 4 / 2024 onwards, offering a 25% reduction on single violations according to the new announcement.

[Source: Zawya](#)

Top UAE banks to see stable profits in 2024, says Moody's

Net profits of the UAE's four largest banks are likely to remain at the current robust levels in 2024 as interest rate cuts are not expected to be implemented before H2, Moody's said in a new report. The rating agency also expects mid-single-digit credit growth to partially offset a drop in interest income derived from the existing loan book. For 2024, the higher revenue and stable provisioning charges will be balanced by increasing operating costs and a new corporate tax which will dent net earnings, Moody's said. In 2023, the four largest banks – First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB), Emirates NBD Bank (ENBD) Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (ADCB) and Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB) - which together accounted for around 74% of total UAE banking assets as of December 2023, reported a combined net profit of \$14.3 billion, up from \$9.6 billion in 2022.

[Source: Zawya](#)

International Economic and Corporate News

China central bank to set up \$70bln tech re-lending programme

China's central bank will set up a 500 billion yuan (\$70 billion) re-lending programme to support the country's science and technology sectors, according to a statement released on Sunday. The programme will offer loans via 21 banks to small and midsize technology companies at an interest rate of 1.75%. The one-year loans can be extended twice, for up to a year each time, the statement said. China's policymakers look to boost liquidity and increase confidence in the world's second-biggest economy amid headwinds from a property crisis and frictions with major trading partners. (\$1 = 7.2330 Chinese yuan renminbi)

[Source: Zawya](#)

Asian stocks mixed; Nikkei rebounds, China falls on property woes

Asian stocks were a mixed bag on Monday as Japanese markets rebounded from sharp losses seen last week, while Chinese stocks fell amid renewed concerns over the country's property market. Broader Asian markets moved in a tight range as sentiment still remained fragile in the face of waning confidence over early U.S. interest rate cuts. U.S. stock futures rose marginally in Asian trade, with focus turning to upcoming consumer price index data and the minutes of the Federal Reserve's March meeting. Waning expectations of early U.S. interest rate cuts had battered global stock markets last week. Blowout payrolls data on Friday also showed persistent strength in the U.S. labor market. Nikkei 225 rebounds from steep weekly losses Japanese stocks were the best performers for the day, with the Nikkei 225 surging 1.6%, while the broader TOPIX added 1.2%.

[Source: Investing](#)

Oil and Metal News

Oil prices have edged close to \$90 but no evidence of tighter oil supplies – Julius Baer

Oil prices have edged closer to \$90 per barrel due to rising supply fears, but fundamentals do not show evidence of tighter oil supplies, according to Julius Baer analysis. Geopolitical events, including the recent attack on the Iranian Embassy in Syria or by Ukraine on Russia's oil infrastructure, keep general uncertainty and fear levels elevated, the bank said in a daily update. Despite all these reasons to see a tightening oil market, there has not been evidence of it so far. Brent Crude closed at \$89.35 on Wednesday, according to LSEG data, but while demand is largely stagnant in the western world and China, oil production growth in the Americas should compensate consumption growth in Southeast Asia in 2024, the Swiss bank said.

[Source: Zawya](#)

The Gold Market Knows It's a New Macro, but Dead Men Walking Do Not (yet)

Another payrolls report, another beat of expectations. Let's pluck one graphic and illustrate a phenomenon I've been watching unfold for several months in a row; that of unabated government hiring this election year. The USS Good Ship Lollipop sails along, supported by its vast services economy and construction (a product of the services industries, not a productive industry itself, unlike for example, manufacturing) as well as a continued trend of brisk government hiring this election year. I am not going to play politics (I am dispirited by both major parties) but as usual, I am going to lay out facts so that we can properly manage the situation from an investment perspective.

[Source: Investing](#)

Disclaimer

This report prepared by Financial Services Co. SAOG (FSC), and provided for information purposes only. Under no circumstances is to be used or considered as an offer to sell or solicitation of any offer to buy. While all reasonable care has been taken to ensure that the information contained therein is not untrue or misleading at the time of publication, we make no representation as to its accuracy or completeness and it should not be relied upon as such, and the FSC accepts no responsibility whatsoever for any direct or indirect consequential loss arising from any use of this report or its contents. All opinions and estimates included in this document constitute FSC judgment as of the date of production of this report, and are subject to change without notice. This report may not be reproduced, distributed or published by any recipient for any purpose.