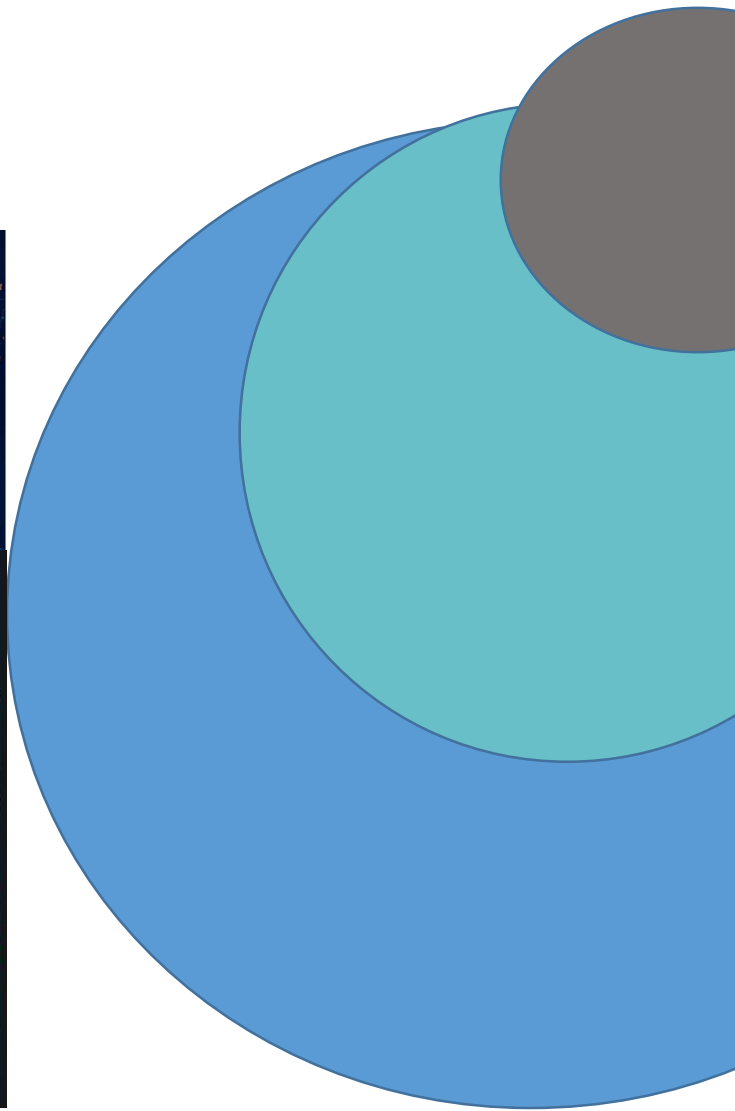


Financial Services Morning Report

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	3,537.98	1.4	(4.6)	20.4	21.1	3.3	3.1	1.91%
MSCI Emerging Markets Index	1,096.05	2.1	1.9	14.6	15.2	1.8	1.7	2.81%
MSCI FM FRONTIER MARKETS	560.35	0.3	5.2	-	11.7	0.9	1.6	4.55%

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	576.18	1.2	1.2	10.5	13.9	1.6	1.7	4.72%
Muscat Stock Exchange MSX 30 Index	4,289.79	(0.0)	(6.3)		12.5	0.8	0.8	6.43%
Tadawul All Share Index	11,681.11	0.8	(3.0)	18.2	22.2	2.2	2.4	3.91%
Dubai Financial Market General Index	5,205.34	1.4	0.9	9.3	11.3	1.5	1.1	5.56%
FTSE ADX GENERAL INDEX	9,324.13	0.7	(1.0)	20.5	21.9	2.4	2.4	2.39%
Qatar Exchange Index	10,237.11	1.0	(3.2)	11.2	14.1	1.2	1.5	4.90%
Bahrain Bourse All Share Index	1,887.53	(0.3)	(5.0)	14.0	11.3	1.3	0.9	9.79%
Boursa Kuwait All Share Price Return Index	7,896.24	0.6	7.2	17.7	21.0	1.8	1.6	3.04%

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	571.14	2.2	0.3	15.5	17.1	1.8	1.7	2.76%
Nikkei 225	35,162.37	0.8	(11.9)	17.3	25.5	1.8	1.9	2.05%
S&P/ASX 200	7,969.30	0.6	(2.3)	19.8	19.4	2.2	2.2	3.70%
Hang Seng Index	21,778.29	(1.3)	8.6	11.2	11.0	1.3	1.1	4.08%
NSE Nifty 50 Index	24,277.90	(0.2)	2.7	22.7	24.0	3.6	3.3	1.28%

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	172.91	1.8	1.8	14.2	16.3	2.0	2.0	3.34%
MSCI Emerging Markets Europe Index	143.92	1.5	21.6	10.5	7.3	1.3	1.0	3.39%
FTSE 100 Index	8,403.18	0.9	2.8	12.4	14.1	1.9	1.7	3.78%
Deutsche Boerse AG German Stock Index DAX	21,961.97	3.1	10.3	17.6	15.6	1.8	1.7	2.60%
CAC 40	7,482.36	2.1	1.4	15.0	16.2	1.8	1.8	3.20%

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	5,343.23	1.6	(8.3)	22.7	24.0	4.4	4.2	1.47%
S&P 500 INDEX	5,375.86	1.7	(8.6)	23.0	23.5	4.6	4.4	1.42%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	39,606.57	1.1	(6.9)	20.8	21.4	5.1	4.8	1.81%
NASDAQ Composite Index	16,708.05	2.5	(13.5)	31.2	37.6	6.0	6.0	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	532.8	-1.0	-3.1	-35%		133%	
Gold Spot \$/Oz	3,329.1	1.2	26.8	-3%		217%	
BRENT CRUDE FUTR Jun25	66.2	0.2	-10.0	-21%		43%	
Generic 1st'OQA' Future	67.5	-2.1	-11.2	-46%		266%	
LME COPPER 3MO (\$)	9,382.5	0.1	7.0	-14%		117%	
SILVER SPOT \$/OZ	33.3	-0.8	15.2	-4%		178%	

SPOT Currencies Indices	Last price	% Chg, 1 Day	% chg, YTD	% chg from 10 year high		% chg from 10 year Low	
DOLLAR INDEX SPOT	99.7	-0.17	-8.12	-13%		13%	
Euro Spot	1.1341	0.22	9.53	-9%		18%	
British Pound Spot	1.3271	0.13	6.03	-16%		24%	
Swiss Franc Spot	0.8288	0.22	9.48	-20%		2%	
China Renminbi Spot	7.3009	-0.19	-0.02	-1%		18%	
Japanese Yen Spot	142.9	0.41	10.04	-12%		43%	
Australian Dollar Spot	0.6358	-0.03	2.75	-22%		11%	
USD-OMR X-RATE	0.3850	0.01	-0.01	0%		0%	
AED-USD X-RATE	0.2723	0.00	0.00	0%		0%	
USD-EGP X-RATE	50.9559	0.16	-0.22	-1%		572%	
USD-TRY X-RATE	38.2831	0.06	-7.65	0%		1386%	

GCC Government Bond Yields		
	Maturity date	YTM, %
Oman	01/08/2029	5.32
Abu Dhabi	16/04/2030	4.25
Qatar	16/04/2030	4.39
Saudi Arabia	22/10/2030	4.82
Kuwait	20/03/2027	4.46
Bahrain	14/05/2030	6.47

Bond Indices			
	Close	D/D	YTD
	Index	%	%
S&P MENA Sukuk TR Index	146.44	0.3%	2.4%
S&P MENA Bond TR Index	142.54	0.8%	2.3%
S&P MENA Bond & Sukuk TR Index	143.24	0.6%	2.4%

3m Interbank Rates		
	Current Rate %	As on 31 Dec 2021
GLOBAL		
US	4.28	0.09
UK	-	-
EURO	2.19	(0.57)
GCC		
Oman	4.70	2.13
Saudi Arabia	5.38	0.91
Kuwait	4.00	1.50
UAE	4.26	0.36
Qatar	4.65	1.13
Bahrain	5.63	1.52

Oman Economic and Corporate News

SNF's Salalah plant to produce high-performance anionic polymers

SNF, a specialty chemical company and an expert in water chemistry, announced the official inauguration of its new Regional SNF Technology Centre (RSTC) in Oman, marking a significant milestone in its commitment to innovation and excellence in the Gulf region. The inauguration ceremony, held on Wednesday, brought together key stakeholders, government representatives, industry leaders, and SNF executives to celebrate the opening of this state-of-the-art facility. Addressing a press meet at the launch of RSTC Oman, the R&D hub for the entire Gulf region, Jimmy Nesbitt, SNF Middle East Manager, said: "We are hopeful of beginning polymer production at our plant in Salalah in Oman. We have ambitious plans in the Sultanate and are investing \$250 million in various projects. The opening of RSTC will boost SNF's involvement in Oman."

[Source: Times of Oman](#)

Oman Airports posts strong financial and operational growth for 2024

Oman Airports – the entity responsible for managing and operating the sultanate's civil airports and providing integrated airport operations and infrastructure management – on Wednesday announced strong financial and operational performance for 2024. This comes on the back of an extensive transformation strategy aimed at modernising infrastructure, enhancing the passenger experience, and bolstering financial resilience. In mid-2024, Oman Airports launched a comprehensive transformation strategy to improve efficiency and customer experience through the adoption of cutting-edge digital technologies. This included self-service baggage drop systems, advanced crowd management solutions, a centralised digital dashboard, and system upgrades across its airports. Speaking at a joint annual press conference held by Oman Airports and Oman Air at the InterContinental Hotel in Muscat.

[Source: Muscat Daily](#)

Salalah Port welcomes eco-friendly container ships

Salalah Port has received five modern dual-fuel methanol-powered container vessels from Maersk's fleet, marking a significant milestone in the port's infrastructure development and readiness to accommodate the latest environmentally friendly ships. The arrival of these advanced vessels demonstrates Salalah Port's adaptability to rapid transformations in the maritime industry, particularly regarding environmental standards and emission reductions. This event also highlights the ongoing partnership between the port and Maersk, underscoring Salalah Port's pivotal role in supporting sustainable supply chains at regional and global levels. The port continues to strengthen its position as an advanced logistics hub that meets modern environmental sustainability requirements. Notably, Salalah Port was designed to be sustainable and scalable for future growth, aligning with developments in maritime trade and the integration of technology in operational processes.

[Source: Times of Oman](#)

Karwa Motors eyes expansion in EVs, new export markets

Karwa Motors is exploring opportunities to expand into the electric vehicle (EV) segment and green hydrogen applications in transportation, in collaboration with its international partners, according to the company's CEO. In an interview featured in the latest edition of Duqm Economist, a quarterly publication by the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ), Dr Ibrahim bin Ali al Balushi, CEO of Karwa Motors, revealed that the company is moving ahead with ambitious strategic plans for the next five years. These plans aim to strengthen Karwa's presence in existing markets and facilitate expansion into new ones across the region. Dr Balushi highlighted that the company is actively exploring EV and green hydrogen applications opportunities through partnerships with international collaborators. "The demand for electric buses has increased in recent years, and we anticipate further growth as Oman continues to implement its Oman Vision 2040 strategy," he said. "We are ready to expand in this sector, provided there is substantial market demand."

[Source: Muscat Daily](#)

Middle east Economic and Corporate News

Dubai's du announces \$544mln hyperscale data center deal with Microsoft

The Emirates Integrated Telecommunications Company PJSC (du) on Tuesday announced a 2 billion dirhams (\$544.54 million) hyperscale data center deal with Microsoft. The hyperscale data center, to be built and operated at a cost of around 2 billion dirhams, will have Microsoft as the main tenant and its capacity will be delivered in tranches, du said in a statement. Hyperscale centers are large facilities that are mainly used to provide data storage and cloud computing services to businesses at scale. The deal, made during Dubai AI Week, "represents a pivotal leap in our strategic goal to revolutionise the digital ecosystem of the UAE", Fahad Al Hassawi, CEO of du, said. Currently, du operates five data centers across the United Arab Emirates, which has been heavily investing to become a global hub for AI outside of the US. (\$1 = 3.6728 UAE dirham) (Reporting by Elwely Elwelly, Writing by Menna Alaa El-Din; Editing by Tomasz Janowski and Shailesh Kuber)

[Source: Zawya](#)

Saudi Arabia's NEOM to appoint acting CEO to permanent role, sources say

Saudi Arabia is to officially appoint Aiman al-Mudaifer as the chief executive of NEOM, the \$500 billion mega-project at the heart of the kingdom's drive to diversify away from oil, two sources familiar with the matter said on Tuesday. Mudaifer has been NEOM's acting CEO since November, succeeding Nadhmi al-Nasr, the long-time former chief of the Red Sea urban and industrial development project that is nearly the size of Belgium. Saudi Arabia's wealth fund PIF was not immediately available for comment. The kingdom, the world's top oil exporter, has been facing mounting pressure to cut spending or raise debt after a plunge in crude prices, complicating plans to fund its expensive agenda to wean its economy off hydrocarbons dependence. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, known as MbS, has been pouring hundreds of billions of dollars into development projects via the PIF, with NEOM being central to his Vision 2030 plan to create new engines of economic growth beyond oil.

[Source: Zawya](#)

International Economic and Corporate News

Musk, facing criticism and falling Tesla sales, to cut back DOGE work

Tesla CEO Elon Musk said on Tuesday he would cut back significantly the time he devotes to the Trump administration from next month and spend more time running his many companies. The move comes as Musk's involvement in the so-called Department of Government Efficiency - where he has led efforts to cut federal jobs - has become a political lightning rod, fueling unrelenting protests and vandalism at Tesla showrooms. Investors have raised concerns about Musk spending too little time managing Tesla, where sales have nosedived. "The large slog of work necessary to get the DOGE team in place and working with the government to get the financial house in order is mostly done," Musk told analysts on a conference call. But he said he still intended to spend some 40% of his time on DOGE.

[Source: Zawya](#)

Asia stocks surge as Trump talks lower trade tariffs; China lags

Most Asian stocks rose sharply on Wednesday, tracking an overnight rally on Wall Street after U.S. President Donald Trump flagged an eventual lowering in steep trade tariffs against China. But mainland Chinese stocks were little enthused by his comments, and traded sideways on Wednesday. Hong Kong stocks, however, rallied with their Asian peers. Regional markets took a positive lead-in from Wall Street after Trump's comments. The President also downplayed his recent tirade against Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, granting markets more relief. U.S. stock index futures rose in Asian trade, with S&P 500 Futures rising 1.4%. Hong Kong, Japan, lead Asia stock gains on Trump comments Hong Kong's Hang Seng index and Japan's Nikkei 225 were among the top performers in Asia on Wednesday, rising between 1.7% and 2%.

[Source: Investing](#)

Oil and Metal News

Oil prices extend gains on fresh Iran sanctions, big drop in US crude inventories

Oil prices extended gains in Asian trading on Wednesday as the U.S. imposed fresh sanctions on Iran amid ongoing nuclear talks, while investors assessed a weekly report showing a large decline in U.S. crude stockpiles. Market sentiment was further bolstered by U.S. President Donald Trump stepping back from earlier threats to dismiss Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell and expressing confidence in the country's trade relations. As of 21:07 ET (01:07 GMT), Brent Oil Futures expiring in June rose 1% to \$68.12 per barrel, while West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures also advanced 1% to \$63.58 per barrel. Both contracts settled nearly 2% higher on Tuesday. US sanctions Iran's LPG magnate amid nuclear talks. The U.S. Department of the Treasury on Tuesday imposed new sanctions targeting Seyed Asadoollah Emamjomeh, a prominent Iranian businessman in the liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) sector, along with his associated corporate network.

[Source: Investing](#)

Gold falls as Trump backs down from threat to fire Fed chief

Gold prices fell on Wednesday as U.S. President Donald Trump retracted his threats to dismiss Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell and expressed optimism for a trade deal with China, denting bullion's safe-haven appeal. Spot gold fell 0.7% to \$3,357.11 an ounce by 0256 GMT. U.S. gold futures fell 1.5% to \$3,366.80. The hint of U.S.-China negotiations and Trump backing down his threat to remove Powell "caused the sell off in gold price to hit a kind of a very extreme oversold level in the short term perspective here," said Kelvin Wong, senior market analyst, Asia Pacific at OANDA. U.S. stocks and the dollar rebounded after Trump on Tuesday withdrew his threats to fire Powell after days of intensifying criticism of the central bank chief for not cutting interest rates. A stronger dollar makes gold more expensive for overseas buyers. Trump also expressed optimism that a trade deal with China could "substantially" reduce tariffs on Chinese goods, hinting that the final deal will not "be anywhere near" current tariff rates.

[Source: Zawya](#)

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