الخدمات المالية
FINANCIAL SERVICES

MSX market moves in the positive direction

Date: 29/05/2025

MSX summary	Current Wk	Previous Wk	Change points	W/W %
MSX 30	4,561.04	4,497.48	63.56	1.41
Volume (In 000)	310,731.10			
Value traded (In RO 000)	50,197.95			
Industry Index	6,565.17	6,200.11	365.06	5.89
Services Index	1,625.07	1,588.62	36.45	2.29
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,941.95	7,908.34	33.61	0.42
MSX Shariah Index	445.60	427.21	18.39	4.30
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,166.89	1,166.89	0.00	0.00
MSX TR INDEX	6,741.89	6,647.94	93.95	1.41
No. of Transactions	8,938			

Effective 1 July 2025, Stephen Thomas will step down as CEO after 37 years with his company, transitioning to an advisory role as CEO Emeritus. Andrew Dawson, with extensive international experience in Integrated Facilities Management from senior roles at Sodexo and CBRE across Asia-Pacific, will succeed him. This leadership change suggests continuity and the potential for regional growth under seasoned new management, a positive signal for investors.

In a significant fleet expansion aligned with its five-year strategic plan, Asyad Shipping Company SAOG has completed the acquisition of two Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs) from Landbridge Universal Limited for USD 206 million. With planned investments totaling between OMR 885 million and OMR 1.04 billion, the company is finalizing delivery dates, reflecting strong capital deployment and growth strategy, reinforcing investor confidence following its disclosure on 30 April 2025.

Albatinah Development & Investment Holding Company SAOG experienced a quorum shortfall during its scheduled Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) on 22 May 2025, leading to a rescheduled EGM on 25 May 2025. At this meeting, shareholders approved a capital restructuring plan aimed at reducing accumulated losses. The company will utilize its entire special reserve of OMR 24,541 and transfer OMR 219,480 from its legal reserve, lowering accumulated losses from OMR 1.72 million to OMR 817,049, which fully depletes the legal reserve. This decisive step signals a concerted effort to strengthen the company's financial health, important for stakeholders monitoring balance sheet improvements.

In a solemn disclosure, Oman United Insurance Company SAOG announced the passing of its Chairman, Sayyid Salim bin Nassir bin Khalfan Al-Busaidi. The company confirmed a vacancy on its Board of Directors, with a temporary appointment forthcoming until the next Ordinary General Meeting. This change in leadership is important for investors assessing corporate governance continuity.

Top Gainers	Price	Chg	Chg
Companies	RO	RO	%
OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	2.400	0.340	16.50
OMAN CHROMITE	3.983	0.483	13.80
GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	0.066	0.008	13.79
ALMAHA CERAMICS	0.306	0.037	13.75
OOREDOO	0.210	0.023	12.30

Top Losers	Price	Chg	Chg
Companies	RO	RO	%
RAYSUT CEMENT	0.107	(0.004)	(3.60)
FINANCIAL CORPORATION	0.030	(0.001)	(3.23)
CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	0.083	(0.002)	(2.35)
BARKA DESALINATION	0.125	(0.003)	(2.34)
BARKA WATER AND POWER	0.220	(0.005)	(2.22)

Top Co. - Value	Price	Value	Mkt.Share
Companies	RO	in RO 000	
OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	0.118	8,485.78	16.90%
SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	0.141	7,893.37	15.72%
OQ GAS NETWORKS	0.148	6,053.72	12.06%
OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	0.298	5,858.70	11.67%
BANK MUSCAT	0.274	5,586.58	11.13%

Top Co. - Volume	Price	Volume	Mkt.Share
Companies	RO	in 000	
OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	0.118	73,729.74	23.73%
SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	0.141	56,041.23	18.04%
OQ GAS NETWORKS	0.148	41,539.91	13.37%
BANK DHOFAR	0.147	23,424.83	7.54%
BANK MUSCAT	0.274	20,425.87	6.57%

Market Capitalization (In Billion)	
OMR	USD
27.93	72.05

No. of Companies		
Increased	Decreased	unchanged
44	17	29

Legal victories also shaped the market narrative: National Aluminium Products Company SAOG (NAPCO) received a favorable Appeal Court verdict dated 20 May 2025 in its case against Credit Oman SAOC, obliging Credit Oman to pay OMR 369,523.730. The receipt of this verdict on 25 May underscores effective legal risk management and cash flow implications.

United Finance Company SAOG (UFC) secured Financial Services Authority approval on 27 May 2025 for a private placement of non-convertible, senior, unsecured redeemable bonds priced at OMR 1 each, with an initial issuance up to OMR 10 million and a Greenshoe option extending to OMR 15 million. Ahli Bank SAOG acts as Issue Manager and Collection Bank, while Al Busaidy, Mansoor Jamal & Co. serves as Legal Advisor. The bonds will be listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange, providing UFC with additional capital to fund growth initiatives and signaling confidence in the company's creditworthiness.

Supporting its expansion strategy, UFC inaugurated a new branch in Al Maabelah, Muscat, on 19 May 2025 under the patronage of H.E. Sheikh Ahmed Al Shihi, Wali of Al Seeb. Positioned strategically within a key automotive and commercial hub, the branch will offer asset finance, working capital, and tailored automotive sector services, enhancing UFC's market reach and customer experience, aligned with its broader operational transformation.

On the industrial front, Construction Materials Industries S.A.O.G. reported the successful commissioning of a new hydrated lime plant on 25 May 2025, with a production capacity of 15 tons per hour, marking an important milestone for the company's manufacturing capabilities and signaling potential revenue growth.

Regulatory and geopolitical developments also carry significant implications for Oman's market. On 29 May 2025, Oman implemented anti-dumping duties on ceramic and porcelain tile imports from China and India, aimed at protecting domestic manufacturers from unfair competition. This move could encourage local investment and support growth in the manufacturing sector, important for diversifying the economy beyond hydrocarbons.

In diplomacy, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and the Iranian President jointly signed several agreements and memoranda covering trade, investment protection, legal cooperation, transport, and health. These accords are expected to deepen bilateral economic ties, opening new avenues for Omani businesses in cross-border commerce and investment. Additionally, Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik's meetings with the Crown Prince of Dubai reinforced bilateral cooperation, particularly in defense, underscoring regional stability — a key factor for sustained investor confidence.

Enhancing international connectivity, China announced a one-year visa-free policy for Omani citizens starting 9 June 2025, likely to stimulate tourism, trade, and business travel. This policy benefits sectors such as retail, hospitality, and logistics, bolstering economic engagement and cross-border partnerships.

Energy market stability was reinforced as OPEC+ agreed to maintain current oil production levels through December 2026 and committed to a new mechanism for assessing 2027 production baselines. This decision supports oil price stability, crucial for Oman's hydrocarbon-dependent economy and market predictability.

Despite a 7% decline in public revenues to OMR 2.635 billion in Q1 2025—driven by lower oil and gas income—Oman increased development spending and reduced public debt to OMR 14.3 billion. The government also settled over OMR 300 million in private sector arrears, demonstrating fiscal discipline and a commitment to economic stability, which reassures investors monitoring the macroeconomic environment.

Between May 22 and May 31, 2025, key developments in the oil, gas, and metals sectors shaped the economic outlook and investor sentiment in both the U.S. and China. In the U.S., West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil futures fell to $61.20 per barrel by the close of the New York trading session on May 31. This drop followed OPEC+'s decision to raise production targets and pressure from the U.S. administration on Saudi Arabia to boost supply. Lower oil prices raised concerns about profitability across the U.S. shale sector, prompting reduced drilling activity. Natural gas prices also declined during the period, with the Henry Hub June contract settling at $3.204 per MMBtu. U.S. rig counts dropped to their lowest since 2021, reflecting weak market conditions.

In China, oil demand remained flat with signs of peaking, due in part to the rising adoption of electric vehicles, a sluggish property sector, and a shift to LNG-powered trucks. However, natural gas consumption was forecast to grow 6.5% in 2025, supported by lower pipeline prices and post-pandemic economic recovery. In the metals market, iron ore prices remained firm above $90 per ton, underpinned by stronger-than-expected global steel demand and ongoing supply constraints, despite a reduction in Chinese imports.

These market movements influenced investor outlooks and contributed to volatility in related asset classes on global exchanges.

Between 22 and 31 May 2025, both the U.S. and Chinese economies experienced impactful developments. In the U.S., President Trump’s 30 May announcement to double tariffs on imported steel and extend tariffs on aluminum, coupled with tensions over rare-earth materials, injected uncertainty into trade relations. Nonetheless, U.S. stock indexes posted strong gains in May, with the S&P 500 and Nasdaq rising 6.2% and 9.6% respectively, buoyed by easing trade tensions and robust corporate earnings. Legal challenges to tariffs contributed to volatility but did not overshadow market strength.

China’s economy showed resilience with 5.4% GDP growth in Q1 2025, led by manufacturing and high-tech sectors. The May 20 enactment of the Private Sector Promotion Law aimed to ease business restrictions and promote competition, complemented by a RMB 500 billion facility for institutional stock purchases and banks’ approval to fund share buybacks. These measures aim to stabilize capital markets and support private sector vitality amid global uncertainty.

In metals markets, May saw notable volatility. Gold prices, after hitting a record high of $3,411.40 per ounce on 6 May, declined 0.5% in the month to $3,288.90 by end-May, marking its worst monthly performance since December but still up 25.1% year-to-date, outperforming the S&P 500’s 0.5% gain. The decline corresponded with easing U.S.-China trade tensions and a stronger U.S. dollar, though analysts expect gold to rebound following consolidation. Silver underperformed relative to gold due to its industrial demand sensitivities amid trade disruptions but remains supported by global supply deficits, potentially poised for gains if trade conditions improve. Base metals like copper, aluminum, and zinc declined about 10% in May, reflecting trade tariff concerns. The S&P GSCI Industrial Metals Index tracked this downturn, while the S&P Metals & Mining Select Industry Index showed short-term gains, closing at 3,060.1 on 29 May, up 2.73% from the previous day. Investor caution persists, given the risk of economic slowdowns affecting metals demand, though supply-demand dynamics and geopolitics remain influential.

Financial Services (FSC) - Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman - Building no. 1480 - Way no. 3518Tel: +968 24817205 - Fax: +968 24817205 –
Email: research@fscoman.net - Website: www.fscoman.net