

MENA WEEKLY MONITOR



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MENA equity markets traded between gains and losses (-0.1%) this week. The heavyweight Saudi Exchange slid into the red, mainly pressured by an oil price slump amid weak Chinese factory activity and on speculation that OPEC+ would agree in its next meeting on another supply surge in June, in addition to some lower-than-expected financial results. Some other regional equities traced an upward trajectory, mainly tracking global equity strength amid relatively eased US-China trade tensions, and driven by some upbeat corporate earnings. In parallel, activity in MENA fixed income markets remained tilted to the upside this week, mainly tracking US Treasuries move after a widely followed measure of Texas manufacturing activity plunged to its worst reading since May 2020, fueling concerns about a US economic slowdown.

MENA MARKETS: April 27 - May 03, 2025

Stock market weekly trend	↓	Bond market weekly trend	↑
Weekly stock price performance	-0.1%	Average weekly bond price change	+0.18 pt
Stock market year-to-date trend	↑	Bond market year-to-date trend	↑
YTD stock price performance	+0.1%	Average yearly bond price change	+1.04 pt

ECONOMY

GCC CONTRACTS DECLINE IN Q1 DRIVEN BY SLUMP IN SAUDI CONTRACT AWARDS

The total value of contracts awarded in the GCC declined after three of the five member countries recorded y-o-y declines in project awards during Q1-2025 as per a new report by Kamco Invest. Total value of contracts awarded in the GCC fell by 26.8% y-o-y in Q1-2025, totaling US\$ 52.4 Bn—the lowest figure in the past eight quarters—compared to US\$ 71.5 Bn in Q1-2024. This downturn was primarily attributable to a sharp contraction in Saudi Arabia's project awards, despite resilient performance from the UAE, which saw a moderate y-o-y growth. The Power and Construction sectors were the main contributors to the decline in Qatar, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia during Q1-2025. However, despite the significant y-o-y drop in Q1-2025, GCC project awards are projected to align with 2024 levels. MEED Projects estimates that approximately US\$ 235 Bn worth of contracts are currently tendered or under bid evaluation across the GCC, with Saudi Arabia accounting for nearly two-thirds of this pipeline.

On a quarterly basis, Saudi Arabia's total contract awards plummeted by 49.9% y-o-y in Q1-2025 to US\$ 17.0 Bn, down from US\$ 33.9 Bn in Q1-2024. In contrast, Kuwait's aggregate project awards surged by 197.6% y-o-y in Q1-2025, reaching US\$ 1.4 Bn versus US\$ 459.0 Mn in Q1-2024. Meanwhile, the UAE posted an 11.7% y-o-y increase in contract awards during Q1-2025, totaling US\$ 26.1 Bn, up from US\$ 23.4 Bn in Q1-2024. In terms of sector performance, six of the eight key GCC industries experienced y-o-y declines in contract awards during Q1-2025. The GCC Construction sector saw a 50.4% y-o-y drop, with awards falling to US\$ 12.1 Bn in Q1-2025 from US\$ 24.3 Bn in Q1-2024, followed by the Oil Sector, which recorded a 54.6% y-o-y decline to US\$ 5.6 Bn (down from US\$ 12.3 Bn in Q1-2024). Despite anticipated lower oil prices which is projected to offset revenues this year, Saudi Aramco plans to sustain capital expenditures and remains committed to projects expanding high-value petrochemical production.

The Saudi significant contraction positioned the Kingdom's contribution to overall GCC project awards at 32.4% for Q1-2025, marking a notable decrease from its 47.4% share during Q1-2024. The pronounced reduction in contract awards primarily reflects ongoing challenges within Saudi Arabia's oil sector, which has faced persistent headwinds throughout the reporting period. The Kingdom's economic growth during the first quarter of 2025 was further constrained by moderated oil production levels and continued pricing pressures in global energy markets. However, economic analysts maintain an optimistic outlook for the non-oil sector's performance throughout 2025, anticipating it will substantially compensate for the current economic deceleration.

In sector-specific terms, the Construction sector retained its position as the highest-value segment despite experiencing a considerable 41.7% y-o-y contraction, with awarded projects totaling US\$ 5.5 Bn compared to US\$ 9.5 Bn in the corresponding period of 2024. Contrasting this downward trend, another key sector demonstrated resilience with a 26.7% y-o-y improvement, reaching US\$ 3.1 Bn in Q1-2025 versus US\$ 2.5 Bn during the same quarter of the previous year. Saudi Arabia's Power Sector currently maintains an exceptionally active project pipeline valued at over US\$ 90 Bn under execution, establishing 2025 as potentially the most productive year in the sector's history. According to detailed analysis from MEED Projects, approximately two-thirds of these active projects involve conventional and renewable power generation facilities, while the remaining third consists of transmission and distribution infrastructure projects. The Gas Sector experienced particularly severe contraction, with aggregate contract awards plummeting 72.6% y-o-y to US\$ 1.9 Bn from US\$ 6.8 Bn in Q1-2024.

Among the most significant contracts awarded during the quarter, Siemens Energy secured a US\$ 1.6 Bn agreement to supply combined-cycle gas turbine units for the Rumah 2 and Nairiyah 2 independent power projects. These advanced facilities, each designed with 1,800 megawatts generation capacity, will replace aging oil-fired power stations and are projected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by up to 60% compared to traditional oil-based generation methods. Another noteworthy development was the awarding of a US\$ 301 million construction contract for the second phase of the Avenues Riyadh project, an expansive mixed-use development covering approximately 390,000 square meters with total built-up area reaching 1,870,000 square meters. These major projects underscore Saudi Arabia's continued commitment to infrastructure development and energy transition despite current market challenges.

SAUDI ARABIA RECORDS IN MARCH YEAR-ON-YEAR CPI INFLATION OF 2%

According to data from the Saudi General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT), the country has registered a year-on-year inflation in prices of 2.3% in March 2025, up marginally by 0.3 percentage points against the month prior. This inflation was mostly due to increases in the prices of Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels, Food & Beverages and Miscellaneous Goods & Services. The inflation was partially offset by deflations in the prices of Transport and Furnishings & Household Equipment in March. This CPI General Index inflation stands as the highest recorded in the country since July 2023.

In details, year-on-year inflations were noted in the prices of Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels (with a weight of 25.5%) and Food & Beverages (with a weight of 18.8%) of 6.9% and 2.0% respectively during March 2025 against the same month of the year prior. Year-on-year price inflations during the period were also noted in Miscellaneous Personal Goods & Services (weight of 12.6%), Restaurants & Hotels (with a weight of 5.6%) and Recreation & Culture (weight of 3.1%) of 3.9%, 1.3% and 0.3% respectively. The prices of Education (with a weight of 2.9%) and Tobacco (weight of 0.6%) also recorded year-on-year inflations between March 2024 and March 2025 of 1.1% and 0.1% respectively, as per data from GASTAT.

On the other hand, year-on-year deflations were noted in the prices of Transport (with a weight of 13.0%), Furnishings & Household Equipment (with a weight of 6.7%) and Communications (weight of 5.6%), of 0.8%, 2.6% and 1.4% respectively in March 2025 against prices in March 2024. Prices of Clothing & Footwear (weight of 4.2%) reported a year-on-year decrease of 0.8% during the aforementioned period. Additionally, prices of Health (weight of 1.4%) recorded year-on-year decreases of 0.2% in March 2025 against figures from March 2024.

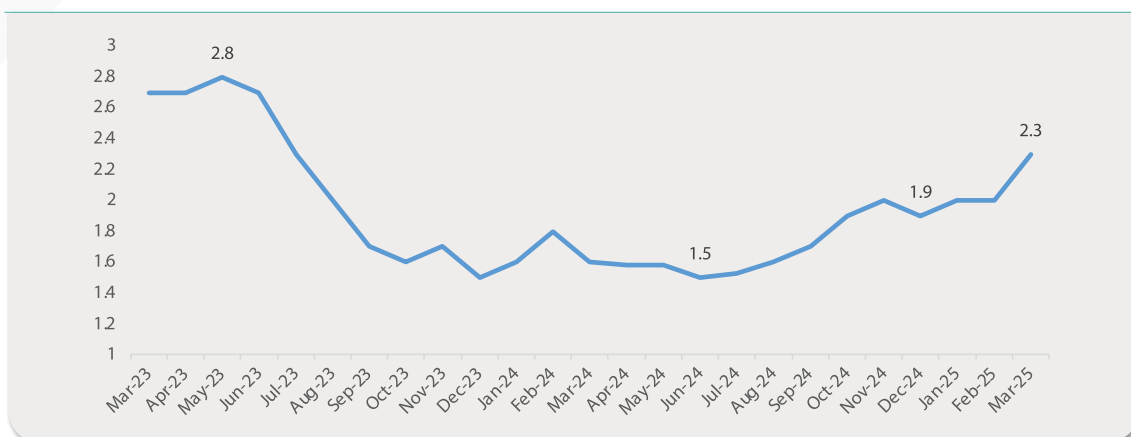
Looking at price fluctuations within various cities in the Kingdom, Riyadh, Makkah and Jazan registered year-on-year inflations above the general index in Saudi Arabia of 4.0%, 3.8% and 3.0% respectively in March, as per data from GASTAT.

The city of Medina recorded a year-on-year inflation of 2.3% between March 2024 and March 2025, in line with the country's general index inflation.

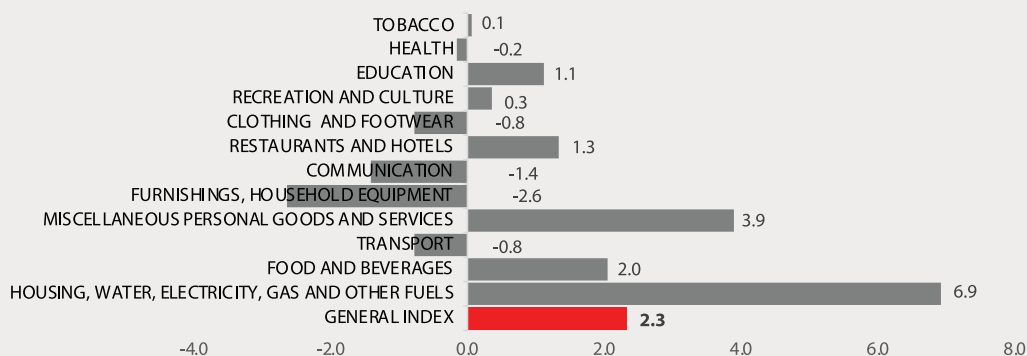
Additionally, the cities of Jeddah, Damman, Taif, Abha, Buraydah, Tabuk, Njran, Baha, Skaka rand Arar ecorded year-on-year CPI inflations below the national average with inflation rates of 0.4%, 2.2%, 1.6%, 0.1%, 0.8%, 0.8%, 2.1%, 0.6%, 1.0% and 0.4% respectively between March 2024 and March 2025.

The city of Hail recorded a year-on-year stagnation in prices between March 2024 and March 2025. On the other hand, the city of Alhofof recorded a year-on-year decrease in prices overall in March 2025 against prices in March 2024 of 1.0%, as per data from GASTAT.

YEAR-ON-YEAR CPI INFLATION IN SAUDI ARABIA (%)



YEAR-ON-YEAR VARIATION IN CPI COMPONENTS IN SAUDI ARABIA IN MARCH (%)



Sources: GASTAT, Bank Audi Group Research Department

EGYPT RECORDS IN MARCH LOWEST YEAR-ON-YEAR CPI INFLATION SINCE JUNE 2022

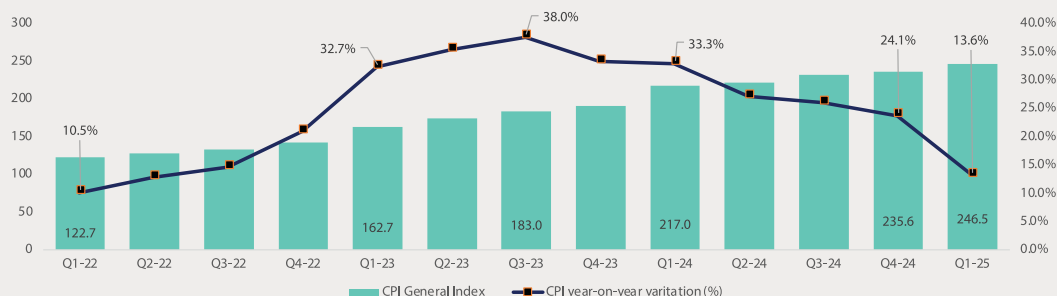
According to data from the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE), the country has registered a year-on-year inflation in prices of 13.6% in March 2025 against prices in March 2024. This inflation was caused by an inflation in the prices of all General Index components within the period.

In details, year-on-year inflations were recorded in the prices of Food & Beverages (weight of 32.7%) and Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels (weight of 19.5%) of 6.6% and 13.0% respectively during March 2025 against the same month of the year prior. Year-on-year price inflations during the period were also recorded in Medical Care (with a weight of 8.6%) and Transportation (with a weight of 6.7%) of 25.4% and 34.0% respectively during the period.

Additionally, the price of Education (weight of 5.5%), Hotels, Cafes & Restaurants (weight of 5.0%), Tobacco & Related Products (weight of 4.4%), Clothing & Footwear (weight of 4.4%) and Miscellaneous Goods & Services (weight of 4.4%) noted year-on-year inflations of 11.2%, 15.0%, 25.0%, 23.0% and 15.0% respectively during March 2025. The prices of Furnishings, Household Equipment & Maintenance (weight of 3.9%), Communications (weight of 2.8%) and Recreation & Culture (weight of 2.2%) also noted year-on-year inflations of 15.6%, 12.4% and 19.7% respectively during the period, as per data from CBE.

It is worth noting that this CPI General Index inflation of 13.6% year-on-year is the lowest inflation recorded since June 2022 where CPI General Index inflation recorded 13.2% year-on-year.

EVOLUTION OF EGYPT'S CPI GENERAL INDEX AND ITS Y-O-Y VARIATION (END-OF-PERIOD)



Sources: CBE, Bank Audi's Group Research Department

SURVEYS / REPORTS

UAE DOMINATES FORBES MIDDLE EAST REAL ESTATE LEADERS 2025 LIST

Forbes Middle East revealed its 2025 ranking of the region’s 100 Most Impactful Real Estate Leaders, spotlighting the developers and decision-makers transforming the region’s skylines. The list was compiled based on each leader’s years of experience, the value of completed and ongoing projects, company financials including total assets and revenues where available, and the size of land banks and number of units held.

The real estate industry in MENA experienced a remarkable year in 2024, characterized by robust growth, record-breaking transactions and increasing investor confidence. The region positioned itself as a driving force in the global property market, with Dubai leading the charge as one of the most dynamic and resilient real estate markets worldwide.

In 2024, Dubai’s real estate transaction value surged by 20%, reaching US\$ 207.2 billion. The Emirate also attracted 110,000 new investors to its real estate sector, achieving a 55% increase compared to 2023. Dubai’s residential real estate market also achieved unprecedented transaction volumes, recording a 47% year-on-year increase, according to Savills Middle East. The sector was primarily driven by strong investor confidence and growing demand for high-quality properties.

Meanwhile, Abu Dhabi experienced a 10.45% increase in real estate transaction value, totaling US\$ 26.2 billion, according to the Abu Dhabi Real Estate Centre. In parallel, residential transactions in Saudi Arabia across Riyadh, Jeddah and the Dammam Metropolitan Area reached US\$ 32 billion in 2024, a 50% increase compared to 2023, as reported by Deloitte.

THE MIDDLE EAST’S MOST IMPACTFUL REAL ESTATE LEADERS 2025

Rank	Company	Country
1	DAMAC Properties	UAE
2	Emaar Properties	UAE
3	Aldar Properties	UAE
4	Talaat Moustafa Group Holding (TMG Holding)	Egypt
5	Dubai Holding Real Estate	UAE
6	Wasl Group	UAE
7	Qatari Diar Real Estate Investment Company	Qatar
8	Binghatti Developers	UAE
9	Sobha Group	UAE
10	Danube Properties	UAE
11	Al-Futtaim Real Estate	UAE
12	ROSHN Group	Saudi Arabia
13	Majid Al Futtaim Properties	UAE
14	Azizi Developments	UAE
15	National Housing Company (NHC)	Saudi Arabia

Sources: Forbes, Bank Audi’s Group Research Department

Across the broader MENA region, several key trends emerged in 2024. Megaprojects and new urban hubs in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE transformed the region's real estate landscape. Egypt also signed an investment partnership agreement worth US\$ 35 billion with the UAE's ADQ-led consortium to construct a US\$ 24 billion city, Ras Al-Hikma, on Egypt's North Coast.

In details, the UAE dominated the ranking with 42 leaders of companies headquartered in the country, followed by Saudi Arabia with 21 entries and Egypt with 16.

Claiming the top spot is DAMAC Properties. In February 2025, DAMAC announced the pricing and settlement of its US\$ 750 million senior unsecured three-and-a-half-year Reg S Sukuk (its largest to date). The founder's net worth has doubled over the past year, rising from US\$ 5.1 billion in March 2024 to US\$ 10.2 billion as of March 2025.

MOODY'S AFFIRMS UAE'S RATINGS AT "AA2" AND WITH "STABLE" OUTLOOK

Moody's (Moody's Investors Service) affirmed the "Aa2" long-term local and foreign currency issuer ratings of the Government of the UAE and maintained the "stable" outlook.

The affirmation reflects Moody's expectation that the debt burden of the federal government would remain very low, supported by its long-standing adherence to a balanced budget policy and its limited spending needs due to fiscal decentralization. Although the UAE is exposed to longer term carbon transition risks and persistent regional geopolitical tensions, effective policymaking mitigates these challenges, including by advancing economic diversification.

The affirmation also takes into account Moody's expectation of continued strong support from the government of Abu Dhabi, which plays a pivotal role in the UAE federation. Moody's expects the UAE's credit profile to continue to benefit from Abu Dhabi's very strong balance sheet, which supports the sovereign's capacity to absorb shocks.

The "stable" outlook reflects the balance of risks at the "Aa2" level. The efforts by the federal government to expand non-hydrocarbon revenue streams, promote the development of nonhydrocarbon sectors and improve attractiveness of the UAE for foreign investment and talent, raises the prospect that the government's indirect exposure to oil price fluctuations and longer term carbon transition risks would significantly decline, strengthening the overall credit profile. This potential upside is balanced by downside credit risks embedded in the UAE's exposure to regional geopolitical tensions that could disrupt the economy's strong diversification momentum and weigh on its longer-term growth prospects.

The UAE's local and foreign currency country ceilings remain unchanged at "Aaa". The two-notch gap between the local currency ceiling and the sovereign rating reflects the country's effective and forward-looking institutions and very strong external accounts position, which takes the ceiling to the maximum level of "Aaa". The zero-notch gap between the foreign currency and local currency ceilings reflects extremely low transfer and convertibility risks given the central bank's ample foreign exchange reserves and the credit rating agency's view that Abu Dhabi's vast government financial assets invested in foreign currencies could be used to support the exchange rate if needed. The UAE's constitution provides that certain governmental responsibilities, notably currency and banking, should be discharged at the federal level.

CORPORATE NEWS

HILTON EXPANDS EGYPT PORTFOLIO WITH TWO NEW HOTELS IN CAIRO'S NEW ADMINISTRATIVE CAPITAL

US-based Hilton, one of the leading global hospitality company, announced the signing of two new properties in Cairo's New Administrative Capital, Hilton Cairo New Capital Downtown and Hilton Garden Inn Cairo New Capital Downtown, in partnership with Panax Company, part of Selim Holding Group, as indicated in a company statement.

Hilton Cairo New Capital Downtown would feature 100 guest rooms and suites. The hotel would also boast a 1,000 square meters ballroom along with seven multifunctional meeting rooms, providing flexible spaces for conferences, corporate gatherings and social functions.

In parallel, Hilton Garden Inn Cairo New Capital Downtown would offer 180 guest rooms in the center of the New Administrative Capital.

Expected to open in 2028, this latest signing reinforces Hilton's continued growth strategy in Egypt where the global hospitality company aims to triple its presence and exceed 40 trading properties across the country in the coming years.

CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE OPENS SAUDI HQ

US-based Christie's International Real Estate, an international network of independently owned luxury real estate firms, announced the opening of its new headquarters in Saudi Arabia, in partnership with one of the country leading real estate technology firms, Wasalt, as revealed in a company statement.

A subsidiary of Quara Holding Group, a Saudi investment firm with interests in real estate development, finance, advisory services and technology, Wasalt provides AI-driven property search, client-agent matchmaking, auctions and other real estate services on a single platform.

Christie's International Real Estate Saudi Arabia would aim to serve the country's growing luxury property market.

The brokerage would create a brick-and-mortar complement to its existing online business with a specific focus on luxury residential sales. Agents and clients would also benefit from national and international exposure through Christie's International Real Estate's global, invitation-only network, which has more than 100 luxury brokerage firms in nearly 50 countries and territories.

BAIN & COMPANY STRENGTHENS MIDDLE EAST PRESENCE WITH DOHA OFFICE EXPANSION

US-based Bain & Company, one of the leading global management consultancy, announced the expansion of its Doha office marking a continued investment in developing talent and deepening client relationships.

Bain & Company has supported clients in Qatar for more than 20 years, advising on strategic initiatives across both the public and private sectors. Over the years, the firm built a strong foundation of long-term partnerships in the Qatari market and developed a local team committed to delivering lasting impact. As Qatar continues to diversify its economy and advance its national vision, Bain's growing presence in Doha reflects its ongoing commitment to being part of the forward-looking trajectory.

The expanded office remains in Bain & Company's prime West Bay location in Doha, where the local team would continue to operate in a newly designed space that doubles the office footprint and blends cutting-edge functionality, thus increasing proximity to key clients and partners.

MAWANI SIGNS DEAL TO SET UP VEHICLES LOGISTICS PARK AT DAMMAM PORT

The Saudi Ports Authority (Mawani) signed an agreement with Alissa Universal Motors, a subsidiary of Abdullatif Alissa Group Holding, to establish a logistics park at King Abdulaziz Port in Dammam, as mentioned in a company statement.

The project involves an investment of up to US\$ 79.97 million (SR 300 million) and would cover an area of 382,000 square meters. The park would be dedicated to the import and re-export of vehicles and spare parts.

The logistics park would include a 7,000-sq-m warehouse for spare parts storage and a logistics area capable of accommodating more than 13,000 vehicles and trucks.

This initiative would enhance the competitive advantage and regional standing of King Abdulaziz Port as a logistics hub, provide specialized logistics services, increase private sector contributions to economic development and promote economic diversification.

INTELCIA INAUGURATES NEW REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN EGYPT

France-based Intelcia, one of the global leader in outsourcing services, inaugurated its new regional headquarters in Egypt, located in Ivory Business Park in Sheikh Zayed City, part of Giza Governorate, west of Cairo, as revealed in a company statement.

This new regional hub reinforces Intelcia's strong commitment to Egypt, contributing to the country's socio-economic development. It also represents a strategic investment in creating sustainable employment, providing career development opportunities and fostering local talent.

Intelcia currently operates two sites in Cairo and Alexandria, and would open two more sites in both cities by 2026. These efforts align with the Group's vision to expand its services across diverse markets, leveraging Egypt's unique geographic location, along with its abundant talent pool and strong capabilities.

With this opening, Intelcia would generate 1,300 new direct jobs and aims to double its workforce in Egypt to 4,000 employees by 2026.

MASTERCARD AND TAMKEEN TO LAUNCH NEW SME INITIATIVE IN BAHRAIN

The Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth and Bahrain's Labour Fund (Tamkeen) announced a strategic partnership to explore projects that promote financial and digital readiness for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Bahrain, as mentioned in a company statement.

The partnership would bring the center's flagship small business program, Mastercard Strive, to Bahrain so SMEs can operate more efficiently through financial and digital tools, said a statement.

A first of its kind, the partnership aims to create a scalable model of collaboration between Bahrain and the center to drive inclusive economic growth in the country, empower local small businesses and entrepreneurs and strengthen the country's private sector as a key driver of national development.

This partnership marks a significant step in the region, as Bahrain would house the first Mastercard Strive Project in the Middle East. Through the partnership, both organizations would enhance the robust network and ecosystem of resources to drive impactful change and support for SMEs, while helping foster and create financial and digital resilience and economic opportunity in the region.

CAPITAL MARKETS

EQUITY MARKETS: MIXED PRICE MOVEMENTS IN MENA EQUITIES, WITH UPBEAT CORPORATE EARNINGS OFFSET BY OIL PRICE SLUMP

MENA equity markets traded between gains and losses this week. The heavyweight Saudi Exchange slid into the red, mainly pressured by an oil price slump amid weak Chinese factory activity and on speculation that OPEC+ would agree in its next meeting on another supply surge in June, in addition to some lower-than-expected financial results. Some other regional equities traced an upward trajectory, mainly tracking global equity strength (+3.0%) amid relatively eased US-China trade tensions, and driven by some upbeat corporate earnings. This was reflected by a shy retreat in the S&P Pan Arab Composite index of 0.1% week-on-week.

The Saudi Exchange, whose market capitalization represents more than 60% of the total regional market capitalization, nosedived this week, as reflected by a 1.9% drop in the S&P Saudi index, mainly pressured by a 6.9% fall in Brent oil prices to reach US\$ 61.29 per barrel on Friday, after China's factory activity contracted at the fastest pace in 16 months in April 2025, rising concerns about global oil demand, and as recent reports showed that Saudi Arabia is prepared to endure a long period of weaker prices, implying they intend to maintain higher production levels. This compounded with some lower-than-forecast first quarter financial results.

A glance on individual stocks shows that petrochemicals giant Saudi Aramco's share price shed 2.3% over the week to SR 25.20. Petro Rabigh's share price dropped by 1.4% to SR 7.10. SABIC's share price decreased by 1.1% to SR 61.30. Sipchem's share price plunged by 5.6% to SR 18.78. Advanced Petrochemical Company's share price declined by 3.5% to SR 30.00. Saudi Kayan Petrochemical Company's share price plummeted by 5.1% to SR 5.77. Saudi Kayan Petrochemical Company reported a widening net loss of SR 776 million in the first quarter of 2025 against a net loss of SR 572 million a year earlier.

Concomitantly, Bank Albilad's share price went down by 3.6% week-on-week to SR 28.35. Bank Albilad reported an 8.9% year-on-year rise in its 2025 first quarter net profits to reach SR 700 million, yet still missing average analysts' estimate. Bank Al Jazira's share price dropped by 3.5% to SR 13.12. Bank Al-Jazira reported 2025 first quarter net profits of SR 361 million, up by 20% year-on-year, yet still missing average analysts' estimate. Solutions' share price plummeted by 9.4% to SR 282.00. Solutions reported 2025 first quarter net profits of SR 361 million, up by 2.3% year-on-year, yet still missing average analysts' estimate. Abdullah Al Othaim Markets's share price dropped by 3.5% to SR 8.88. Al Rajhi Capital cut its recommendation on Abdullah Al Othaim Markets' stock to "Underweight" from "Neutral", with a price target of SR 7.75, which implies a 13% decrease from last price.

EQUITY MARKETS INDICATORS (APRIL 27 - MAY 03, 2025)

Market	Price Index	week-on-week	Year-to-Date	Trading Value	week-on-week	Volume Traded	Market Capitalization	Turnover ratio	P/E*	P/BV*
Lebanon	183.4	-0.4%	-19.3%	3.2	247.6%	0.3	20,726.3	0.8%	-	0.55
Jordan	393.8	0.0%	0.8%	26.8	-22.1%	9.8	24,951.9	5.6%	9.2	1.22
Egypt	259.8	2.0%	7.4%	227.6	73.3%	4,664.9	45,770.3	25.9%	8.0	2.19
Saudi Arabia	502.5	-1.9%	-3.3%	6,725.4	15.0%	1,139.6	2,526,986.8	13.8%	15.8	3.80
Qatar	171.3	2.0%	-1.1%	487.4	-11.2%	783.0	168,999.2	15.0%	12.9	1.57
UAE	155.8	2.9%	2.3%	3,545.2	30.7%	4,048.1	1,045,695.9	17.6%	12.2	2.22
Oman	245.8	2.0%	-3.2%	47.6	64.6%	117.8	30,828.5	8.0%	9.7	0.94
Bahrain	227.3	1.1%	-1.6%	4.1	-15.5%	4.7	18,059.1	1.2%	10.5	1.27
Kuwait	147.7	1.2%	9.5%	1,430.0	-1.8%	2,036.9	151,583.6	49.1%	18.6	2.09
Morocco	397.6	1.1%	29.4%	150.2	-56.9%	5.5	98,419.0	7.9%	17.4	2.73
Tunisia	78.5	0.1%	18.6%	15.6	-43.9%	5.0	9,718.4	8.4%	12.7	2.19
Arab Markets	994.0	-0.1%	0.1%	12,663.2	13.6%	12,815.4	4,141,739.0	15.9%	14.6	3.14

Values in US\$ million; volumes in millions

* markets cap-weighted averages

Sources: S&P, Bloomberg, Bank Audi's Group Research Department.

In contrast, the UAE equity markets extended their upward streak this week, as reflected by a 2.9% expansion in the S&P UAE index, mainly tracking global equity price gains after China said it is evaluating trade talks with the US, boosting optimism that tariff tensions would tamp down, and driven by some robust financial results. In Abu Dhabi, ADCB's share price surged by 6.1% to AED 11.78. ADCB reported 2025 first quarter net profits of AED 2.4 billion, up by 14% year-on-year. First Abu Dhabi Bank's share price skyrocketed by 9.4% to AED 15.20. First Abu Dhabi Bank announced 2025 first quarter net profits of AED 5.1 billion, up by 23% year-on-year. ADIB's share price jumped by 4.8% to AED 18.48. Citi raised its recommendation on ADIB's stock to "Buy" from "Neutral", with a price target of AED 21.30, which implies a 21% increase from last price. Also, Dana Gas's share price rose by 0.7% to AED 0.738. AlphaMena raised its recommendation on Dana Gas's stock to "Add" from "Reduce", with a price target of AED 0.86, which implies a 17% increase from last price. Aldar Properties' share price went up by 0.5% to AED 8.24. Aldar Properties reported 2025 first quarter net profits of AED 1.6 billion, up by 25% year-on-year. Etisalat's share price closed 1.3% higher at AED 17.42. Etisalat reported 2025 first quarter net profits of AED 5.4 billion against net profits of AED 2.3 billion in the corresponding period of the previous year. Borouge's share price went up by 1.6% to AED 2.61. Borouge reported 2025 first quarter net profits of US\$ 278.8 million, up by 3% year-on-year.

In Dubai, Dubai Islamic Bank's share price rose by 1.3% week-on-week to AED 7.55. Dubai Islamic Bank posted an 8% year-on-year expansion in its 2025 first quarter net profits to reach AED 1.8 billion. Emirates NBD's share price increased by 2.7% to AED 20.70. Dubai Financial Market's share price surged by 5.1% to AED 1.43. Dubai Financial Market reported 2025 first quarter net profits of AED 127 million versus net profits of AED 90 million a year earlier. Emaar Properties' share price rose by 3.5% to AED 13.40. Emaar Development's share price climbed by 8.5% to AED 13.45.

The Qatar Stock Exchange saw extended price gains this week, as reflected by a 2.0% increase in the S&P Qatar index, mainly tracking global equity strength after China said it is "currently assessing" proposals by the US to begin trade talks, and driven by some upbeat financial results. 23 out of 53 traded stocks posted price gains, while 29 stocks registered price falls, and one stock saw no price change week-on-week. A closer look at individual stocks shows that Qatar Gas Transport's share price rose by 1.0% to QR 4.648. Qatar Gas Transport reported 2025 first quarter net profits of QR 433 million against net profits of QR 420 million a year earlier, up by 3.2% year-on-year. Ooredoo's share price closed 0.8% higher to QR 12.980. Ooredoo reported 2025 first quarter net profits of QR 960 million against net profits of QR 913 million a year earlier. Gulf International Services' share price jumped by 4.7% to QR 3.140. Gulf International Services announced a 38% year-on-year expansion in its 2025 first quarter net profits to reach QR 222 million. Qatar Navigation's share price rose by 0.5% to QR 11.060. Qatar Navigation reported 2025 first quarter net profits of QR 374 million against net profits of QR 365 million in the corresponding period of the previous year. Vodafone Qatar's share price expanded by 2.2% to reach QR 2.340. Industries Qatar's share price edged up by 0.4% to QR 12.200.

FIXED INCOME MARKETS: ACTIVITY IN MENA BOND MARKETS TILTED TO UPSIDE, MAINLY TRACKING US TREASURIES MOVE

Activity in MENA fixed income markets remained tilted to the upside this week, mainly tracking US Treasuries move after a widely followed measure of Texas manufacturing activity plunged to its worst reading since May 2020, fueling concerns about a US economic slowdown.

In the Saudi credit space, sovereigns maturing in 2030, 2034 and 2050 recorded price rises of up to 0.53 pt. Prices of Aramco'30, '34 and '50 went up by 0.45 pt, 0.58 pt and 0.11 pt respectively. STC'29 closed up by 0.13 pt. SEC'30 and '44 traded up by 0.22 pt and 0.73 pt respectively. Prices of SABIC'28 expanded by 0.30 pt. Amongst financials, Prices of SNB'29 rose by 0.18 pt. Al Rajhi Bank'29 posted price increases of 0.43 pt. Banque Saudi Fransi'29 was up by 0.36 pt. Banque Saudi Fransi raised this week US\$ 650 million from the sale of a six-year non-call perpetual AT1 bond at a coupon rate of 6.375%.

In the Qatari credit space, sovereigns maturing in 2028, 2030, 2034, 2040 and 2050 saw price expansions of up to 0.64 pt week-on-week. Prices of Ooredoo'28, '31 and '43 increased by 0.23 pt, 0.28 pt and 0.31 pt respectively. Amongst financials, Qatar International Islamic Bank'29 traded up by 0.34 pt. Prices of QNB'29 rose by 0.38 pt. Doha Finance'29 was up by 0.24 pt.

In the UAE credit space, sovereigns maturing in 2031, 2033, 2041 and 2052 recorded price gains of up to 0.59 pt week-on-week. In the Dubai credit space, sovereigns maturing in 2030 and 2050 posted price rises of 0.16 pt and 0.15 pt respectively this week. Prices of Majid Al Futtaim'29 went up by 0.23 pt. DP World'30 was up by 0.28 pt. Amongst financials, prices of Emirates Islamic Bank'27 and '29 increased by 0.13 pt and 0.33 pt respectively. As to new issues, DP World raised US\$ 1.5 billion this week from the sale of a 10-year 144A Reg S Sukuk under its US\$ 7.5 billion Trust Certificate Issuance Program, at 145 basis points over US Treasuries, with a coupon rate of 5.5%. The order book size exceeded US\$ 3.3 billion.

In the Abu Dhabi credit space, sovereigns maturing in 2027, 2030, 2034 and 2050 saw weekly price gains of up to 0.56 pt. ADNOC Murban'29 was up by 0.47 pt. Prices of Mubadala'28, '30, '34, '41 and '50 expanded by up to 0.48 pt. Prices of Taqa'28, '30 and '36 rose by 0.11 pt, 0.28 pt and 0.60 pt respectively. Prices of Aldar Investment Properties'33 increased by 0.40 pt. Amongst financials, prices of ADCB'27 and '29 rose by 0.19 pt and 0.26 pt respectively. Prices of FAB'28, '29 and '35 expanded by 0.15 pt, 0.39 pt and 0.37 pt respectively. Regarding new issues, ADNOC Murban raised this week US\$ 1.5 billion from the sale of a 10-year Sukuk at 60 bps over US Treasuries. In the Sharjah credit space, sovereigns maturing in 2030 posted price increases of 0.34 pt week-on-week.

In the Kuwaiti credit space, prices of sovereigns maturing in 2027 rose by 0.21 pt week-on-week. KIPCO'27 traded up by 0.69 pt. In the Iraqi credit space, sovereigns maturing in 2028 posted weekly price gains of 0.34 pt. In the Omani credit space, sovereigns maturing in 2031 registered price gains of 0.39 pt, while sovereigns maturing in 2051 recorded price drops of 0.58 pt this week. Omantel'28 traded up by 0.11 pt.

In the Bahraini credit space, sovereigns maturing in 2028, 2030, 2035 and 2051 recorded price contractions ranging between 0.33 pt and 2.76 pts. Bahrain raised this week US\$ 2.5 billion from the sale of a dual-tranche bond. The first tranche consists of US\$ 750 million 12-year bonds issued at a yield of 7.5% against an initial price guidance of 7.75%. The second tranche consists of US\$ 1.75 billion eight-year Sukuk issued at a yield of 6.25% against an initial price guidance of 6.625%.

In the Egyptian credit space, sovereigns maturing in 2030 and 2040 posted price increases of 0.45 pt and 1.06 pt respectively, while sovereigns maturing in 2033 and 2050 registered price declines of 1.15 pt and 1.34 pt respectively week-on-week.

All in all, regional bond markets continued to follow an upward streak this week, mainly tracking rises in US Treasuries as traders digested a fall in Dallas Fed Manufacturing Activity index for March 2025 to a post-pandemic low. This gave more signs of a US slowdown and affirmed traders' outlook for extensive US Federal Reserve interest rate cuts by year-end.

MIDDLE EAST 5Y CDS SPREADS V/S INTL BENCHMARKS

in basis points	02-May-25	25-Apr-25	31-Dec-24	Week-on-week	Year-to-date
Abu Dhabi	39	39	43	0	-4
Dubai	59	60	64	-1	-5
Kuwait	64	65	64	-1	0
Qatar	38	37	44	1	-6
Saudi Arabia	86	82	65	4	21
Bahrain	245	226	187	19	58
Morocco	128	125	94	3	34
Egypt	698	653	591	45	107
Iraq	427	397	301	30	126
Middle East	198	187	162	11	36
Emerging Markets	178	174	174	4	4
Global	272	270	277	2	-5

Sources: Bloomberg, Bank Audi's Group Research Department

SOVEREIGN RATINGS & FX RATES

SOVEREIGN RATINGS	Standard & Poor's	Moody's	Fitch
LEVANT			
Lebanon	SD/-/SD	C/Stable	RD/-/C
Syria	NR	NR	NR
Jordan	BB-/Stable/B	Ba3/Stable	BB-/Stable/B
Egypt	B-/Stable/B	Caa1/Positive	B/Stable/B
Iraq	B-/Stable/B	Caa1/Stable	B-/Stable/B
GULF			
Saudi Arabia	A+/Stable/A-1	Aa3/Stable	A+/Stable/F1+
United Arab Emirates	AA/Stable/A-1+*	Aa2/Stable	AA-/Stable/F1+
Qatar	AA/Stable/A-1+	Aa2/Stable	AA/Positive/F1+
Kuwait	A+/Stable/A-1+	A1/Stable	AA-/Stable/F1+
Bahrain	B+/Negative/B	B2/Stable	B+/Negative/B
Oman	BBB-/Stable/B	Ba1/Positive	BB+/Positive/B
Yemen	NR	NR	NR
NORTH AFRICA			
Algeria	NR	NR	NR
Morocco	BB+/Positive/A-3	Ba1/Stable	BB+/Stable/B
Tunisia	NR	Caa1/Stable	CCC+/C
Libya	NR	NR	NR
Sudan	NR	NR	NR
NR= Not Rated RWN= Rating Watch Negative RUR= Ratings Under Review * Emirate of Abu Dhabi Ratings			

FX RATES (per US\$)	02-May-25	25-Apr-25	31-Dec-24	Weekly change	Year-to-date
LEVANT					
Lebanese Pound (LBP)	89,500.00	89,500.00	89,500.00	0.0%	0.0%
Jordanian Dinar (JOD)	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.0%	0.0%
Egyptian Pound (EGP)	50.79	50.96	50.84	-0.3%	-0.1%
Iraqi Dinar (IQD)	1,310.00	1,310.00	1,310.00	0.0%	0.0%
GULF					
Saudi Riyal (SAR)	3.75	3.75	3.76	0.0%	-0.1%
UAE Dirham (AED)	3.67	3.67	3.67	0.0%	0.0%
Qatari Riyal (QAR)	3.64	3.64	3.64	0.0%	0.0%
Kuwaiti Dinar (KWD)	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.0%	0.0%
Bahraini Dinar (BHD)	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.0%	-0.1%
Omani Riyal (OMR)	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.0%	0.0%
Yemeni Riyal (YER)	244.75	245.08	249.57	-0.1%	-1.9%
NORTH AFRICA					
Algerian Dinar (DZD)	132.46	132.45	135.56	0.0%	-2.3%
Moroccan Dirham (MAD)	9.28	9.26	10.13	0.2%	-8.4%
Tunisian Dinar (TND)	2.99	2.99	3.19	-0.3%	-6.4%
Libyan Dinar (LYD)	5.46	5.47	4.91	-0.2%	11.0%
Sudanese Pound (SDG)	647.81	647.81	647.81	0.0%	0.0%

NR = Not Rated

RWN = Rating Watch Negative

RUR = Ratings Under Review

*Emirate of Abu Dhabi Ratings

Sources: S&P, Bloomberg, Bank Audi's Group Research Departement.

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