

Monday, 16 September 2024

QSE Intra-Day Movement



Qatar Commentary

The QE Index rose 0.6% to close at 10,459.1. Gains were led by the Telecoms and Industrials indices, gaining 1.6% and 0.5%, respectively. Top gainers were Doha Bank and Dlala Brokerage & Inv. Holding Co., rising 3.5% and 2.6%, respectively. Among the top losers, Al Faleh Educational Holding Co and Vodafone Qatar were down 0.6% each.

GCC Commentary

Saudi Arabia: The TASI Index gained 0.5% to close at 11,900.3. Gains were led by the Utilities and Diversified Financials indices, rising 1.7% and 1.1%, respectively. Saudi Fisheries Co. rose 9.9%, while Amlak International Finance Co. was up 7.6%.

Dubai: The market was closed on September 15, 2024.

Abu Dhabi: The market was closed on September 15, 2024.

Kuwait: The market was closed on September 15, 2024.

Oman: The market was closed on September 15, 2024.

Bahrain: The market was closed on September 15, 2024.

Market Indicators	15 Sep 24	12 Sep 24	%Chg.
Value Traded (QR mn)	340.1	513.5	(33.8)
Exch. Market Cap. (QR mn)	604,635.5	602,001.6	0.4
Volume (mn)	144.6	168.3	(14.1)
Number of Transactions	10,780	17,363	(37.9)
Companies Traded	51	51	0.0
Market Breadth	35:11	39:7	-

Market Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	YTD%	TTM P/E
Total Return	23,852.13	0.6	0.6	2.6	11.5
All Share Index	3,718.42	0.5	0.5	2.4	12.0
Banks	4,583.41	0.4	0.4	0.1	9.8
Industrials	4,246.31	0.5	0.5	3.2	16.1
Transportation	5,432.80	0.2	0.2	26.8	13.9
Real Estate	1,554.30	0.5	0.5	3.5	23.6
Insurance	2,360.98	0.3	0.3	(10.3)	167.0
Telecoms	1,750.87	1.6	1.6	2.7	11.4
Consumer Goods and Services	7,676.08	0.3	0.3	1.3	17.5
Al Rayan Islamic Index	4,856.54	0.8	0.8	1.9	14.6

GCC Top Gainers**	Exchange	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Mouwasat Medical Services	Saudi Arabia	102.60	2.4	1,001.5	(8.2)
Ooredoo	Qatar	11.16	2.3	533.4	(2.1)
Acwa Power Co.	Saudi Arabia	394.20	2.2	50.3	53.7
Masraf Al Rayan	Qatar	2.45	2.0	21,386.1	(7.7)
Etihad Etisalat Co.	Saudi Arabia	51.00	1.8	703.9	4.0

Exchange	Close ^e	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Saudi Arabia	286.00	(1.2)	55.5	47.1
Saudi Arabia	24.10	(1.1)	1,403.3	7.6
Saudi Arabia	18.46	(1.0)	1,132.8	(2.7)
Saudi Arabia	110.20	(0.9)	666.4	(20.3)
Saudi Arabia	112.80	(0.9)	269.5	(40.9)
	Saudi Arabia Saudi Arabia Saudi Arabia Saudi Arabia Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia286.00Saudi Arabia24.10Saudi Arabia18.46Saudi Arabia110.20Saudi Arabia112.80	Saudi Arabia286.00(1.2)Saudi Arabia24.10(1.1)Saudi Arabia18.46(1.0)Saudi Arabia110.20(0.9)Saudi Arabia112.80(0.9)	Saudi Arabia 286.00 (1.2) 55.5 Saudi Arabia 24.10 (1.1) 1,403.3 Saudi Arabia 18.46 (1.0) 1,132.8 Saudi Arabia 110.20 (0.9) 666.4

Source: Bloomberg (# in Local Currency) (## GCC Top gainers/ losers derived from the S&P GCC Composite Large Mid Cap Index)

QSE Top Gainers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Doha Bank	1.760	3.5	13,520.5	(3.8)
Dlala Brokerage & Inv. Holding Co.	1.229	2.6	994.3	(6.9)
Ooredoo	11.16	2.3	533.4	(2.1)
Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Co.	2.391	2.2	3,130.2	(19.5)
Masraf Al Rayan	2.450	2.0	21,386.1	(7.7)

QSE Top Volume Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co.	1.265	1.8	21,421.9	(9.6)
Masraf Al Rayan	2.450	2.0	21,386.1	(7.7)
Doha Bank	1.760	3.5	13,520.5	(3.8)
Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding	1.641	0.2	8,598.1	(8.2)
Baladna	1.363	0.5	7,861.6	11.4

QSE Top Losers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Al Faleh Educational Holding Co	0.821	(0.6)	3,435.4	(3.1)
Vodafone Qatar	1.826	(0.6)	1,958.7	(4.2)
Qatar Oman Investment Company	0.745	(0.5)	1,990.4	(21.7)
Ahli Bank	3.725	(0.4)	90.3	2.8
ONB Group	16.40	(0.4)	2,443.5	(0.8)

QSE Top Value Trades	Close*	1D%	Val. '000	YTD%
Masraf Al Rayan	2.450	2.0	52,364.8	(7.7)
QNB Group	16.40	(0.4)	40,173.4	(0.8)
Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co.	1.265	1.8	27,027.3	(9.6)
Doha Bank	1.760	3.5	23,505.4	(3.8)
Gulf International Services	3.350	1.1	17,250.2	21.4

Regional Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	MTD%	YTD%	Exch. Val. Traded (\$ mn)	Exchange Mkt. Cap. (\$ mn)	P/E**	P/B**	Dividend Yield
Qatar*	10,459.05	0.6	0.6	2.5	(3.4)	93.4	165,791.1	11.6	1.3	4.1
Dubai	4,380.49	0.4	0.4	1.3	7.9	53.89	200,415.8	8.5	1.3	5.5
Abu Dhabi	9,350.32	0.5	0.5	0.7	(2.4)	1,482.95	701,934.2	17.0	2.6	2.1
Saudi Arabia	11,900.30	0.5	0.5	(2.0)	(0.6)	1,103.4	2,658,102.5	19.7	2.4	3.6
Kuwait	7,158.56	0.2	(0.4)	(0.3)	5.0	170.54	153,154.2	19.0	1.7	3.3
Oman	4,745.56	0.4	(0.3)	(0.0)	5.1	8.40	24,126.7	12.2	0.9	5.3
Bahrain	1,952.36	(0.1)	0.3	(0.3)	(1.0)	7.23	20,151.0	7.7	0.7	8.9

Source: Bloomberg, Qatar Stock Exchange, Tadawul, Muscat Securities Market and Dubai Financial Market (** TTM; * Value traded (\$ mn) do not include special trades if any)



Monday, 16 September 2024

Qatar Market Commentary

- The QE Index rose 0.6% to close at 10,459.1. The Telecoms and Industrials indices led the gains. The index rose on the back of buying support from GCC and Foreign shareholders despite selling pressure from Qatari and Arab shareholders.
- Doha Bank and Dlala Brokerage & Inv. Holding Co. were the top gainers, rising 3.5% and 2.6%, respectively. Among the top losers, Al Faleh Educational Holding Co and Vodafone Qatar were down 0.6% each.
- Volume of shares traded on Sunday fell by 14.1% to 144.6mn from 168.3mn on Thursday. However, as compared to the 30-day moving average of 123.8mn, volume for the day was 16.8% higher. Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co. and Masraf Al Rayan were the most active stocks, contributing 14.8% and 14.8% to the total volume, respectively.

Overall Activity	Buy%*	Sell%*	Net (QR)
Qatari Individuals	34.11%	44.88%	(36,618,639.88)
Qatari Institutions	34.42%	28.80%	19,100,520.14
Qatari	68.52%	73.68%	(17,518,119.75)
GCC Individuals	1.14%	0.38%	2,597,261.92
GCC Institutions	3.73%	3.49%	811,962.90
GCC	4.87%	3.87%	3,409,224.82
Arab Individuals	11.21%	11.66%	(1,535,626.52)
Arab Institutions	0.00%	0.05%	(160,448.00)
Arab	11.21%	11.71%	(1,696,074.52)
Foreigners Individuals	3.84%	3.74%	323,310.30
Foreigners Institutions	11.56%	7.00%	15,481,659.15
Foreigners	15.40%	10.75%	15,804,969.44

Source: Qatar Stock Exchange (*as a% of traded value)

Qatar

- QE Index, QE Al Rayan Islamic Index and QE All Share Index constituents' updates, effective 1st of October 2024 – (1) QE Index: Baladna will replace Estithmar Holding in the QE Index. (2) QE Al Rayan Islamic Index: Medicare Group and Meeza will be added to the QE Al Rayan Islamic Index whereas Qatari Investors Group will be removed from the Index. (3) QE All Share Index & Sectors: Al Faleh Educational Holding will join QE All Share Index and Consumer Goods and Services Index. (QSE)
- Commercial Bank receives 'A' rating in MSCI ESG assessment -Commercial Bank has received 'A' rating in its recent MSCI ESG ratings assessment. MSCI is a leading research and data provider measuring companies' performance on the grounds on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors. MSCI ESG ratings aim to measure a company's resilience to long-term ESG risks. Commercial Bank's 'A' rating represents an upgrade from its previous rating of BBB and puts it among the leading banks in Qatar for ESG ratings. Commercial Bank Group CEO Joseph Abraham stated: "Sustainability as a concept and practice is a core part of Commercial Bank's approach through its commitment to the Qatar National Vision 2030, and more recently through its Corporate Sustainability Strategy and active support for Qatar's National Environment and Climate Change Strategy." Antonio Gamez Munoz, executive general manager and chief risk officer and chairman of Bank's Sustainability Committee, stated, "MSCI's ESG ratings upgrade recognizes Commercial Bank's real and practical actions that we have made to improve our ESG practices across the Bank. "We are committed to a resilient and sustainable financial future in line with the State's goals and we will continue to enhance our ESG practices further in accordance with the latest and best international standards and practices." (Gulf Times)
- Saipem awarded offshore Qatar contract worth about \$4bn Saipem SpA was awarded an offshore Engineering, Procurement and Construction contract by QatarEnergy LNG worth about \$4bn. The contract is aimed at sustaining the production of the North Field offshore natural gas reservoir in Qatar, the company said in a statement. Saipem's scope of work encompasses the engineering, procurement, fabrication and installation of six platforms as well as approximately 100 km (62 miles) of corrosion resistance alloy rigid subsea pipelines, 100 km of subsea composite cables, 150 km of fiber optic cables and several other subsea facilities, the company said. Saipem is seeking to widen its reach in the Middle East under Chief Executive Officer Alessandro Puliti, appointed in 2022, after the company announced a profit warning earlier that year. (Bloomberg)
- Fitch: Real GDP to accelerate by 1.8% in 2024 Qatar's economy is poised for a significant leap in the coming months leading up to 2025. Fitch Solutions, a global research and analytical platform recently reported that in 2024 the country's real GDP is expected to witness a boost of 1.8% as compared to 4.2% in 2022 and 1.2% in 2023. Market experts have outlined that the key drivers impacting the economy are non-oil sectors across the

country. "This is a bit less optimistic than our previous forecast of 2.2% as well as the consensus forecast of 2.1%; the hydrocarbon sector performed worse than we had expected in H1 2024," the report said. However, in the coming year, industry experts expect that the sector will further thrive by 2.2%, due to a pickup in hydrocarbon output in addition to a bolstered rebound in the non-oil realm sustained by easing monetary conditions and expanded government backing. The report further highlights that although the real GDP saw a slowdown in real GDP growth last year, Qatar's expected 1.8% growth in 2024 marks a downward revision from 2.2%, due to weaker-than-expected growth in 2023 and a contraction in mining activity in the first half of 2024. It said: "We believe the weak performance in mining production reflects falling hydrocarbon output, which accounts for around 37% of total GDP. While we expect an improvement in the second half of 2024, the hydrocarbon sector will only grow by around 0.5% this year." (Peninsula Qatar)

Moody's Credit Rating Agency: Qatari banks mitigate risks of unexpected shocks - Moody's Credit Rating Agency has praised the resilience of Qatari banks, highlighting their robust growth, asset quality, and substantial capacity to navigate various challenges. According to Moody's recent report, Qatari banks have demonstrated impressive liquidity coverage ratios and successfully attracted significant financial inflows through diverse deposits. The report notes that, during the recent period, Qatari banks have been primarily funded by customer deposits, which accounted for approximately 52% of total assets as of June 2024. Moody's specifically pointed out the substantial level of deposits from government and government-owned entities, which represented around 36% of total deposits as of June 2024. Moody's commended Qatari banks for their successful efforts in expanding and attracting deposits from the domestic private sector while also drawing in foreign and international deposits. The agency also highlighted the ongoing expansion in the credit sector, which is in line with the country's economic growth trajectory. In particular, Moody's observed that credit extended to the private sector is projected to see notable growth this year, reflecting the sustained momentum in implementing large-scale projects within the country. Moody's forecasts that private-sector credit growth will be around 3%-4%. Moreover, Moody's emphasized the reduced credit risks faced by Qatari banks. The agency noted that Qatari banks have effectively mitigated the risks associated with unexpected economic shocks due to their loan portfolios and credit exposures and their ability to manage associated challenges. A significant portion of credit is directed towards the public sector, which significantly reduces the risk of credit defaults. The report also underscores the pivotal role of prudential regulations issued by OCB and aimed at curbing Oatari banks' overreliance on foreign funding. These regulatory frameworks have reinforced financial stability and helped decrease foreign liabilities to 33% of total liabilities as of the end of June 2024, down from a peak of approximately 39% as of year-end 2021. Additionally, banks have successfully diversified their foreign liabilities across various maturities and geographies. Moody's also anticipates that Qatari banks will shift toward a longer-term funding



Monday, 16 September 2024

structure in a lower interest rate environment. As of the end of March 2024, Qatari banks' stocks of liquid assets stood at around 24.7% of total assets, providing a sound buffer against potential market fluctuations and risks and supporting their growth trajectory. (Gulf Times)

- Qatar's CPI sees 1.15% gain in August The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for August 2024 reached 107.47 points, marking a 0.34% increase from July 2024. On a year-on-year (Y-o-Y) basis, the CPI increased by 1.15% compared to August 2023, according to the National Planning Council's press release. Monthly changes in the CPI components showed mixed trends. Five groups recorded increases: "Communication" saw the largest rise at 9.23%, followed by "Food and Beverages" (1.29%), "Miscellaneous Goods and Services" (0.77%), "Transport" (0.28%), and "Restaurants and Hotels" (0.27%). On the other hand, four groups experienced decreases, including "Clothing and Footwear" which dropped by 1.59%, "Recreation and Culture" by 1.24%, "Housing, Water, Electricity, and other Fuel" by 0.72%, and "Furniture and Household Equipment" by 0.14%. "Tobacco," "Health," and "Education" remained unchanged from July 2024. In the Yo-Y comparison between August 2023 and August 2024, six groups contributed to the 1.15% overall CPI increase. "Recreation and Culture" rose significantly by 10.65%, followed by "Miscellaneous Goods and Services" at 5.3%, "Communication" at 3.51%, "Restaurants and Hotels" at 2.54%, "Education" at 1.77%, and "Transport" at 1.02%. In contrast, some groups experienced decreases, such as "Housing, Water, Electricity, and other Fuel" (-3.74%), "Health" (-1.63%), "Furniture and Household Equipment" (-1.58%), "Clothing and Footwear" (-1.22%), and "Food and Beverages" (-0.88%). "Tobacco" remained unchanged. Excluding "Housing, Water, Electricity, and other Fuel," the CPI for August 2024 was 111.52 points, an increase of 0.58% from July 2024 and 2.31% from August 2023. The steady increase in Qatar's CPI reflects the ongoing economic adjustments across various sectors, with notable price rises in communication, recreation, and services. (Qatar Tribune)
- Realty sector sees growth in mortgage transactions The volume of mortgage transactions registered during August of this year reached 86 transactions with a total amount of QR1.671bn. Doha Municipality registered the highest number of mortgage transactions with 36 (equivalent to 41.9%) of the total number of mort-gaged properties, followed by Al Rayyan Municipality with 25 trans-actions (equivalent to 29.1%). Then Al Dhaayen Municipality with nine transactions (equivalent to 10.5%) of the total number of mortgaged properties, according to data by Ministry of Justice. Regarding the value of mortgages in August 2024, Doha Municipality came first with amount of QR1.418bn while Al Shamal Municipality registered the lowest value which reached QR2.160m. Considering the indicator of movement of mortgage transactions by studying the ratio of the number of mortgaged properties to the ratio of their financial value, it is found that the ratio of the number of mortgage transactions in all transactions in all municipalities that witnessed mortgage transactions, except for Doha Municipality. It was found that the amounts of mortgage transactions achieved a higher rate compared to the number of mortgage transactions. A quick glance and tracking the movement and volume of mortgage transactions that were processed during August 2024 it was found that Doha Municipality has registered nine mortgaged properties while Al Rayyan Municipality has registered one property of the top ten mortgaged properties. The volume of mortgage transactions for the top ten properties reached 86% of the total value of the whole mortgage transactions that were processed during August 2024. While the volume of mortgage transactions achieved during second quarter (Q2) of this year reached 376 transactions with a total amount of QR15.479bn showing a rise of 24.8% compared to the same period in last year. Doha Municipality registered the highest number of transactions with 133 (equivalent to 35.4%) of the total number of mortgaged properties, followed by Al Rayyan Municipality with 97 transactions (equivalent to 25.8%). Then Umm Slal Municipality with 90 transactions (equivalent to 23.9%) of the total number of mortgaged properties. Meanwhile, during August of this year the trading movement in the residential units witnessed a decrease in trading volume compared to same month last year where the number of deals reached 48 for the residential units with a total value of QR84.101m.The trading volume revealed the value of top 10 properties for August which registered six properties in Doha Municipality, two properties in Al Rayyan, and one

property each in Umm Salal and Al Dhaayen Municipality. (Peninsula Qatar)

International

BoE rate cut helps boost UK housing market but concerns remain, Rightmove says - Britain's housing market recovered momentum in September, as the Bank of England's first interest rate cut in more than three years and greater political certainty after July 4's election boosted activity, property website Rightmove said on Monday. Rightmove said average asking prices for homes increased by 0.8% after a sharp 1.5% drop in August. September's rise was double the average for the time of year in the series and the biggest for the month since 2016. Compared with a year earlier, asking prices were 1.2% higher at 370,759 pounds (\$487,140). Tim Bannister, Rightmove's director of property science, said the housing market was invigorated by a new government and the first rate cut from the BoE since 2020. But Rightmove said there were "still uncertainties ahead, including the timing of a second Bank Rate cut, and which segments of the market could be affected by announcements in October's Autumn Statement." The BoE is expected to hold interest rate at 5% on Sept. 19 - although markets last week saw a 30% chance of an early cut and cooling wage growth is likely to keep the central bank on track to cut at least once more by the end of the year. Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Labor government has promised to reform Britain's planning system and has set mandatory targets to speed up housebuilding, but the shortage of home supply is likely to remain a factor driving prices for the medium term. Britain's finance minister Rachel Reeves is set to deliver her first annual budget on Oct. 30. Rightmove's monthly survey also showed the number of sales agreed between buyers and sellers rose 27% from a vear ago as buyer demand improved on the back of lower borrowing costs. The average five-year fixed mortgage rate last week was 4.67%, Rightmove said, down from 6.11% in July 2023. Other measures of Britain's housing sector have also shown improvement in sentiment after a recent fall in interest rates. A closely-watched Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors report last week showed a sharp jump in sales expectations in the coming months. (Reuters)

Regional

- Saudi Arabia's inflation rate inches up to 1.6% in August Saudi Arabia's annual inflation rate inched up to 1.6% in August, from 1.5% in July, government data showed on Sunday, driven by an increase in housing rents and food prices. Housing rents rose by 10.7% in August, weighing on the overall rise in prices of housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels by 8.9%, according to the General Authority for Statistics. The inflation rate had held steady at 1.5% in June and July, underpinned mostly by apartment rents. In August data showed that food and beverage prices rose 0.9%, a bigger increase than in recent months, driven by a 4.6% rise in vegetable prices. Prices in the restaurants and hotels category, as well as the education sector, also rose, while prices in the transport subcategory fell by 3.4% and those in the furnishing and home equipment sector declined 3.5%. On a month-on-month basis, prices increased 0.1% in August. Inflation has remained relatively low in Saudi Arabia this year compared with global levels. In its latest country report, the International Monetary Fund forecast Saudi inflation will average 1.9% in 2024 and 2% in 2025. (Reuters)
- Saudi Arabia's Fourth Milling Co sets IPO price range, to raise at least \$216mn The price range for Saudi Arabia's Fourth Milling Company's upcoming initial public offering (IPO) has been set at between 5 riyals and 5.3 riyals a share, according to a stock exchange filing on Sunday. That would allow the company to raise between 810mn riyals (\$215.84mn) and 858.6mn riyals (\$228.80mn) depending on the price. The company said this month it planned to list a 30% stake, comprising 162mn shares, on the Saudi bourse, adding to a string of listings in the Gulf country. The bookbuilding period for the IPO will run from Sept. 15 to Sept. 19, said the statement from Riyad Capital, the company's financial adviser and lead manager. (Reuters)
- Alcoa to sell its 25.1% stake in Ma'aden joint venture for \$1.1bn US aluminum maker Alcoa (AA.N), opens new tab said on Sunday that it would sell a 25.1% stake in its Ma'aden joint venture to Saudi Arabian



Monday, 16 September 2024

mining company Ma'aden for \$1.1bn. The transaction includes approximately 86mn shares of Ma'aden and \$150mn in cash, Alcoa said in a statement, adding that it expects to close the deal in the first half of 2025. "The transaction simplifies our portfolio, enhances visibility in the value of our investment in Saudi Arabia and provides greater financial flexibility for Alcoa," Alcoa CEO William Oplinger said. Alcoa said it would hold its Ma'aden shares for a minimum of three years. After completing the transaction, Alcoa would own approximately 2% of Ma'aden's current shares outstanding. The joint venture was created in 2009, as a fully integrated mining complex in Saudi Arabia, Alcoa said, adding that Ma'aden owns the remaining 74.9% of the project. "We look forward to future opportunities to collaborate as we continue to build the mining sector into the third pillar of the Saudi economy," said Bob Wilt, Ma'aden's CEO. In July, Alcoa posted quarterly revenue of \$2.9bn, beating expectations of \$2.8bn. (Reuters)

- Saudi Aramco fosters closer collaboration with key Chinese partners -Saudi Aramco has announced agreements with major Chinese partners during the visit of a high-level Chinese delegation to Saudi Arabia. The delegation is led by Chinese Premier Li Changkang. The new agreements will enhance the company's continued contributions to China's long-term energy security and development. China's participation also supports Saudi Arabia's economic growth and consolidates cooperation in developing new technology. The agreements include preliminary documents on a development framework agreement with Rongsheng Petrochemical Co., Ltd. (Rongsheng), and a strategic cooperation agreement with Hengli Group Co., Ltd. "The signing of these agreements reflects our belief in the long-term mutual benefits that can arise from close cooperation between Saudi Aramco and our Chinese partners," said Mohammed Al-Qahtani, President of Refining, Chemicals and Marketing at Saudi Aramco. "China is important to our global growth strategy in the refining, chemicals and marketing sector, so we look forward to strengthening the relationship that extends over more than three decades to unlock new opportunities in this important market." He stated that this step reflects the joint determination to advance our relations in vital sectors to enhance our goals in refining, chemicals, and marketing, and contribute to the thriving energy and petrochemical sectors in both China and Saudi Arabia, in addition to helping develop future technical solutions. Aramco explained that the preliminary documents related to the framework agreement for development with Rongsheng Petrochemical Co., Ltd. (Rongsheng) relate to the possibility of joint development to expand the facilities of Saudi Aramco Jubail Refinery Company (SASREF). The company indicated that this comes following the signing of a framework agreement for cooperation between Saudi Aramco and Rongsheng in April 2024 regarding the establishment of a joint venture in SASREF, in addition to major investments in the petrochemical sector in Saudi Arabia and China. This transaction includes Rongsheng's potential acquisition of a 50% stake in SASREF, the development of SASREF's liquids-to-chemicals expansion project, and Saudi Aramco's potential acquisition of a 50% stake in Rongsheng's Zhongjin Petrochemical Complex (ZJPC), and the development of its expansion project (Zebra Project). Saudi Aramco said the agreement with Hengli Group Co., Ltd. advances discussions on Aramco's potential acquisition of a 10% stake in Hengli Petrochemical Co., Ltd., subject to necessary evaluations and approvals. This follows the signing of a memorandum of understanding in April 2024 regarding the proposed transaction. (Zawya)
- Abu Dhabi hotel occupancy reaches August high Helped by three events, Abu Dhabi posted its highest August hotel occupancy on record, according to preliminary data from CoStar, a leading provider of online real estate marketplaces, information, and analytics in the property markets. August 2024 (year-over-year% change): • Occupancy: 75.9% (+10.5%) • Average daily rate (ADR): AED434.30 (+8.0%) • Revenue per available room (RevPAR): AED329.80 (+19.3%) Abu Dhabi saw its highest daily occupancy level (83.7%) and RevPAR (AED368.16) on August 14 – the first night of the 2024 International Chess Festival. The market's highest ADR (AED455.49) was posted on UFC Fight Night (August 3). The 2024 Abu Dhabi International Hunting and Equestrian Exhibition started on August 31, pushing occupancy to 72.2%, and ADR and RevPAR to AED442.53 and AED319.39, respectively. (Zawya)

MENA's Paymob raises \$22mn funding round - Paymob, MENA's leading financial services enabler, has secured a \$22mn Series B extension round, bringing the company's total Series B funding to \$72mn. The transaction was led by EBRD Venture Capital, Endeavor Catalyst, PayPal Ventures, BII, FMO, A15, Nclude and Helios Digital Ventures, according to a press release. The funding round follows Paymob's continued profitability in the Egyptian market after recording 6x revenue growth since the initial Series B funding in (Q2) of 2022. The Company remains focused on expanding its market lead in Egypt, while scaling operations in newer penetrated markets to reinforce its position as the leading payments provider in the region. Founded in 2015, Paymob was the first fintech company to receive the Central Bank of Egypt's (CBE) Payments Facilitator license in 2018. The company launched in the UAE in 2022 and received its Saudi Payments PTSP certification in May 2023. In December 2023, Paymob became the first international fintech company to receive Oman's PSP license. Islam Shawky, Co-founder and CEO of Paymob, commented: "This funding will help Paymob fully capitalize on the momentum in our established markets, as we accelerate our GCC roll-out." "We remain committed to creating a cutting-edge infrastructure enabling SMEs across the region to thrive in the digital economy and are proud of our continued impact," Shawky added. Bruno Lusic of EBRD Venture Capital, highlighted: "The payments landscape in Egypt and the broader MENA region is hugely exciting and is seeing rapid growth as economies transition to non-cash payment methods." (Zawya)



Monday, 16 September 2024

Rebased Performance

Daily Index Performance

Source: Bloomberg



Source: Bloomberg

Asset/Currency Performance	Close (\$)	1D%	WTD%	YTD%
Gold/Ounce	2,577.70	0.8	3.2	25.0
Silver/Ounce	30.72	2.8	10.0	29.1
Crude Oil (Brent)/Barrel (FM Future)	71.61	(0.5)	0.8	(7.0)
Crude Oil (WTI)/Barrel (FM Future)	68.65	(0.5)	1.4	(4.2)
Natural Gas (Henry Hub)/MMBtu	2.25	5.6	7.7	(12.8)
LPG Propane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	61.80	(1.6)	(6.4)	(11.7)
LPG Butane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	74.60	2.2	3.2	(25.8)
Euro	1.11	0.0	(0.1)	0.3
Yen	140.85	(0.7)	(1.0)	(0.1)
GBP	1.31	0.0	(0.0)	3.1
CHF	1.18	0.3	(0.7)	(0.9)
AUD	0.67	(0.3)	0.5	(1.6)
USD Index	101.11	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.2)
RUB	110.69	0.0	0.0	58.9
BRL	0.19	0.8	0.8	(10.0)
Source: Bloomberg				

Global Indices Performance Close 1D%* WTD%* YTD%* MSCI World Index 3,634.86 0.7 3.3 14.7 DJ Industrial 0.7 2.6 9.8 41,393.78 S&P 500 5,626.02 0.5 4.0 18.0 NASDAQ 100 17,683.98 0.7 6.0 17.8 STOXX 600 1.9 7.9 515.95 1.1 1.3 2.2 11.8 DAX 18,699.40 FTSE 100 8,273.09 1.2 0.7 10.1 CAC 40 7,465.25 0.8 1.6 (0.9) Nikkei 36,581.76 0.5 1.7 9.3 MSCI EM 1,082.30 0.6 0.7 5.7 SHANGHAI SE Composite 2,704.09 (0.1) (2.2) (9.0) HANG SENG 17,369.09 0.8 (0.5) 2.0 82,890.94 BSE SENSEX (0.1) 2.2 13.8 Bovespa 134,881.95 2.3 1.0 (12.0) RTS 1,151.93 (0.0) 0.0 6.3

Source: Bloomberg (*\$ adjusted returns if any)



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