QNB FINANCIAL SERVICES

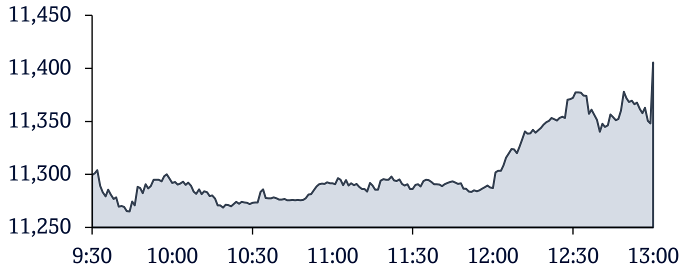
Daily Market Report

Wednesday, 27 August 2025

الخدمات المالية

Financial Services

QSE Intra-Day Movement



Qatar Commentary

The QE Index rose 1.0% to close at 11,405.5. Gains were led by the Banks & Financial Services and Consumer Goods & Services indices, gaining 1.7% and 1.5%, respectively. Top gainers were Meeza QSTP and QNB Group, rising 9.9% and 3.5%, respectively. Among the top losers, QLM Life & Medical Insurance Co. fell 2.4%, while Ooredoo was down 2.1%.

GCC Commentary

Saudi Arabia: The TASI Index fell 0.2% to close at 10,874.7. Losses were led by the Utilities and Food & Beverages indices, falling 3.0% and 0.9%, respectively. Halwani Bros. Co. declined 5.6%, while ACWA Power was down 3.9%.

Dubai The DFM index fell 0.5% to close at 6,103.1. The Consumer Discretionary index declined 1.5%, while the Financials index was down 1.0%. NAEEM Holding declined 8.3% while AMANAT Holdings was down 5.2%.

Abu Dhabi: The ADX General Index fell 0.4% to close at 10,167.0. The Real Estate index declined 1.6%, while the Consumer Staples index fell 0.8%. E7 Group PJSC Warrants declined 9.8%, while Al Wathba National Insurance Co. was down 9.3%.

Kuwait: The Kuwait All Share Index fell 0.7% to close at 8,579.7. The Consumer Services index declined 4.4%, while the Basic Materials index fell 3.3%. Real Estate Trade Centers Company declined 15.1%, while Al-Kout Industrial Projects Co. was down 9.7%.

Oman: The MSM 30 Index gained 0.1% to close at 5,014.4. The Financial index gained 0.2%, while the other indices ended flat or in red. Muscat Gases Company rose 5.6%, while Dhofar Generating Company was up 2.9%.

Bahrain: The BHB Index fell 0.3% to close at 1,929.8. Aluminum Bahrain and GFH Financial Group both were down 1.3% each.

Market Indicators	26 Aug 25	25 Aug 25	%Chg.
Value Traded (QR mn)	949.5	311.2	205.1
Exch. Market Cap. (QR mn)	679,786.2	671,728.3	1.2
Volume (mn)	238.7	121.8	95.9
Number of Transactions	34,915	13,997	149.4
Companies Traded	52	52	0.0
Market Breadth	24:26	14:34	–

Market Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	YTD%	TTM P/E
Total Return	27,271.18	1.0	0.6	13.1	12.8
All Share Index	4,274.61	1.1	0.5	13.2	12.3
Banks	5,494.70	1.7	0.6	16.0	11.2
Industrials	4,555.75	1.2	1.4	7.3	16.4
Transportation	5,840.39	(0.2)	(0.3)	13.1	13.0
Real Estate	1,665.96	0.4	0.7	3.1	16.3
Insurance	2,419.11	(0.2)	(0.7)	3.0	10.0
Telecoms	2,208.07	(1.6)	(1.9)	22.8	12.4
Consumer Goods and Services	8,560.54	1.5	1.2	11.7	20.7
Al Rayan Islamic Index	5,416.51	0.6	0.5	11.2	14.5

GCC Top Gainers##	Exchange	Close#	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Saudi Research & Media Gr	Saudi Arabia	181.80	8.3	276.7	(33.9)
Saudi Logistics	Saudi Arabia	180.00	5.9	153.4	(28.7)
Dr. Soliman Abdel	Saudi Arabia	41.50	5.5	1,262.6	(38.1)
MBC Group	Saudi Arabia	30.98	5.0	1,760.2	(40.8)
Makkah Const. & Dev. Co.	Saudi Arabia	78.60	3.9	834.4	(19.2)

GCC Top Losers##	Exchange	Close#	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Acwa Power Co.	Saudi Arabia	216.90	(3.9)	761.8	(45.5)
Saudi Industrial Inv. Group	Saudi Arabia	18.38	(2.8)	29,730.8	6.5
Talabat	Dubai	1.15	(2.5)	85,660.8	(17.9)
National Shipping Co.	Saudi Arabia	22.01	(2.4)	1,682.3	5.2
Bank Al Bilad	Saudi Arabia	26.40	(2.1)	2,427.0	(18.9)

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%
Meeza QSTP	3.537	9.9	4,217.9	8.0
QNB Group	19.49	3.5	10,990.0	12.7
Qatar Fuel Company	15.25	2.4	1,909.4	1.7
Industries Qatar	13.16	2.0	3,811.9	(0.8)
Qatar Islamic Bank	25.15	1.6	5,156.7	17.7

QSE Top Losers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
QLM Life & Medical Insurance Co.	2.270	(2.4)	174.2	9.9
Ooredoo	12.91	(2.1)	3,426.6	11.8
The Commercial Bank	4.750	(2.0)	9,286.3	9.2
Doha Bank	2.590	(1.5)	7,332.0	30.1
Gulf International Services	3.253	(1.4)	7,944.6	(2.3)

QSE Top Volume Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Baladna	1.590	0.0	63,563.8	27.1
Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding	1.367	0.4	18,539.4	(8.6)
Masraf Al Rayan	2.450	0.7	16,734.7	(0.5)
Ezdan Holding Group	1.206	0.1	14,407.8	14.2
QNB Group	19.49	3.5	10,990.0	12.7

QSE Top Value Trades	Close*	1D%	Val. '000	YTD%
QNB Group	19.49	3.5	213,508.3	12.7
Qatar Islamic Bank	25.15	1.6	129,188.4	17.7
Baladna	1.590	0.0	100,124.6	27.1
Industries Qatar	13.16	2.0	49,945.2	(0.8)
Ooredoo	12.91	(2.1)	44,459.1	11.8

Regional Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	MTD%	YTD%	Exch. Val. Traded ($ mn)	Exchange Mkt. Cap. ($ mn)	P/E**	P/B**	Dividend Yield
Qatar*	11,405.50	1.0	0.6	1.3	7.9	260.63	186,397.4	12.8	1.4	4.4
Dubai	6,103.12	(0.5)	(0.4)	(0.9)	18.3	336.73	284,810.7	10.5	1.7	4.9
Abu Dhabi	10,167.02	(0.4)	(0.3)	(2.0)	7.9	670.07	784,760.4	21.3	2.6	2.2
Saudi Arabia	10,874.74	(0.2)	0.1	(0.4)	(9.7)	1,950.58	2,378,186.8	16.6	2.0	4.3
Kuwait	8,579.72	(0.7)	(1.0)	(0.4)	16.5	504.27	167,544.5	16.9	1.8	3.1
Oman	5,014.39	0.1	1.1	4.9	9.6	50.73	29,849.0	8.8	1.0	5.7
Bahrain	1,929.76	(0.3)	(0.1)	(1.3)	(2.8)	2.0	18,380.1	13.1	1.4	9.9

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

Qatar Market Commentary

- The QE Index rose 1.0% to close at 11,405.5. The Banks & Financial Services and Consumer Goods & Services indices led the gains. The index rose on the back of buying support from GCC shareholders despite selling pressure from Qatari, Arab and Foreign shareholders.
- Meeza QSTP and QNB Group were the top gainers, rising 9.9% and 3.5%, respectively. Among the top losers, QLM Life & Medical Insurance Co. fell 2.4%, while Ooredoo was down 2.1%.
- Volume of shares traded on Tuesday rose by 95.9% to 238.7mn from 121.8mn on Monday. Further, as compared to the 30-day moving average of 187.0mn, volume for the day was 27.6% higher. Baladna and Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding were the most active stocks, contributing 26.6% and 7.8% to the total volume, respectively.

Overall Activity	Buy%*	Sell%*	Net (QR)
Qatari Individuals	19.58%	24.41%	(45,840,551.59)
Qatari Institutions	12.23%	14.60%	(22,511,365.45)
Qatari	**31.81%**	**39.01%**	**(68,351,917.03)**
GCC Individuals	0.31%	0.36%	(522,812.22)
GCC Institutions	20.37%	1.36%	180,484,569.63
GCC	**20.68%**	**1.72%**	**179,961,757.41**
Arab Individuals	5.00%	5.21%	(1,983,846.10)
Arab Institutions	0.00%	0.06%	(556,632.98)
Arab	**5.00%**	**5.27%**	**(2,540,479.08)**
Foreigners Individuals	1.70%	2.04%	(3,242,420.16)
Foreigners Institutions	40.81%	51.96%	(105,826,941.14)
Foreigners	**42.51%**	**54.00%**	**(109,069,361.30)**

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

Global Economic Data

Global Economic Data

Date	Market	Source	Indicator	Period	Actual	Consensus	Previous
08-26	Japan	Bank of Japan	PPI Services YoY	Jul	2.90%	3.20%	NA

Qatar

- **GTA updates timings for 100% penalty waiver applications -** With the deadline for the 100% financial penalty exemption initiative drawing closer, the General Tax Authority (GTA) has announced revised reception hours at its headquarters to accommodate the growing response from taxpayers. The updated schedule is aimed at simplifying procedures, easing access to services, and promoting voluntary compliance. According to the GTA, applications for the initiative will continue to be received at the GTA Tower during extended hours over the course of this week. Services will be available on Wednesday and Thursday from 8 am to 12 pm in the morning and again from 4 pm to 8 pm in the evening. On Friday, applications will be accepted between 4 pm and 8 pm, while on Saturday services will run from 9 am until 4 pm. Beginning Sunday, August 31, 2025, the authority will operate on a two-shift system, with morning hours from 8 am to 12 pm and evening hours from 4 pm to 8 pm. These extended timings are intended to ensure that as many taxpayers as possible are able to benefit from the initiative before the deadline expires. Alongside in-person services, the GTA has also emphasized the availability of digital access. Taxpayers are able to submit their applications for the exemption through the Dhareeba platform until August 31, 2025. The platform also provides continuous support and guidance on matters related to filing tax returns and meeting compliance requirements. The 100% financial penalty exemption initiative is one of the Authority's flagship programs, designed to encourage taxpayers to regularize their tax status by granting them a complete exemption from penalties. These penalties typically arise from delays in registration, late submission of tax returns, or overdue payments. The initiative allows taxpayers to address past non-compliance without the burden of financial penalties, provided they meet the established terms and conditions. By updating its service hours and offering both digital and in-person support, the GTA has reiterated its commitment to transparency and efficiency in delivering tax services. The Authority has called on all taxpayers to take advantage of this limited-time opportunity, stressing that the initiative not only facilitates compliance but also supports the overall business environment in Qatar. Ultimately, the program reflects the GTA's broader strategy of fostering a culture of voluntary compliance while contributing to sustainable economic development in the country. (Qatar Tribune)
- **Qatar gears up for busy September with surge in events line-up -** As August draws to a close, Qatar is set to host cultural, industrial, and professional development events in September, offering diverse opportunities for learning, networking, and innovation. At the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA)'s Education Centre, the final session of the Kufic Intermediate Workshop will be held Wednesday. This specialized course, led by Hussein Ammar Ahmed, provides participants with hands-on experience in reproducing the distinctive Kufic calligraphy style, known for its bold, geometric letterforms that often resonate with modern aesthetics. Building upon its earlier August 13 and 20 sessions, the workshop has catered to intermediate learners, offering a deeper dive into the script's nuances and vocabulary, ideal for those who have previously engaged with beginner calligraphy courses. The Qatar National Library (QNL) celebrates the conclusion of its month-long Summer Camp also Wednesday. Launched on July 1, the camp delivered a stimulating environment for children and teens, fostering creativity, learning, and fun designed to spark imagination and inspire young minds. The industrial and entertainment sectors are set to take center stage in the early days of September. From September 2-4, the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC) will host the Print Pack Sign Show (PPSS). Dubbed as Qatar's flagship platform for the printing, packaging, signage, and labelling industries, organizers said PPSS promises to be a comprehensive showcase of leading technologies and innovative materials, uniting key industry players. Also from September 2-4, the Qatar Event Show (QES) will bring together more than 50 exhibitors and over 2,000 delegates at DECC, highlighting the nation's dynamic events and entertainment industry. This premier B2B exhibition is set to bring together the best of the events and MICE sector, offering a rich program of a world-class exhibition, insightful conferences, interactive workshops, and vital networking opportunities. Artistic exploration continues on September 3 at Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art with the Action Model Drawing Workshop. Following highly successful previous dates in May, June, and July, this workshop offers participants an engaging experience that combines observation and action, allowing them to discover the dynamic world of contemporary artistry. Future sessions are already scheduled for October 1 and November 26. Musical enthusiasts are anticipating the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra's (QPO) opening concert of its 2025/26 season on September 4 at the Qatar National Convention Centre. Led by conductor Elias Grandy, the evening will be a tribute to the works of Robert Schumann. The program is set to feature the Genoveva Overture, Piano Concerto in A minor performed by internationally acclaimed pianist Zee Zee, and Schumann's Symphony No. 2 in C major, a piece celebrated for its emotional depth and triumphant spirit. From September 9-10, the JW Marriott Marquis City Center Doha will host the 2nd annual "Digital Talent Ecosystem Dialogue", a gathering aligned with Qatar National Vision 2030 that will convene C-Suite and HR leaders from various sectors, including government, academia, and industry. According to the organizers, this dialogue aims to foster collaboration for building a robust digital talent ecosystem, exploring digital transformation trends, workforce development strategies, artificial intelligence use cases, and innovative HR practices. Discussions will be spearheaded by

representatives from key entities such as the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Qatar Financial Centre, Kahramaa, Snoonu Qatar, Hamad Medical Corporation, and Aspetar, providing actionable insights for shaping Qatar's digital future. The month will close with a strong emphasis on sports and healthcare as the Ladies Sports Hall at Aspire Zone hosts the fifth annual Seashore Phoenix Games, a competition dedicated to functional fitness, from September 25-29. The Men's Competition is scheduled for September 25-27, followed by the Women's Competition, a private event, from September 28-29. The games will feature various categories, including Individual RX (Men and Women), Teams of 3 (Men), Masters Men 40+, and Team of 2 (Women), including a Rookie category. Concluding September and extending into early October, the DECC will host the Qatar Medicare from September 30-October 2, under the patronage of the Ministry of Public Health. This year the event is expanding with the launch of the Beauty and WellCare Show. (Gulf Times)

- **Qatar's investment in quantum computing could redefine Gulf's tech landscape -** Qatar is rapidly positioning itself as a rising hub in the global quantum computing race, leveraging billion-dollar partnerships, government-backed initiatives, and university-driven research programs to accelerate adoption of one of the most disruptive technologies of the century. The McKinsey 'Year of Quantum 2025' report estimates the sector generated up to $750mn (QR2.7bn) in revenue last year, with projections surpassing $1bn (QR3.64bn) in 2025. Qatar's sovereign wealth arm, the Qatar Investment Authority, has also invested in quantum startups such as Alice & Bob, underscoring the country's broader strategy to tap into the nascent yet swiftly growing market. Speaking to The Peninsula, Ahmed Barshid, a Doha-based technology strategist, said, "Qatar is signaling that it does not want to be a latecomer to the quantum era. By tying its economic diversification strategy to quantum computing, the country is putting itself in the same conversation as the United States, China, and the European Union when it comes to next-generation computing." This year alone, the UK and US-domiciled quantum company, Quantinuum, signed a number of deals with Qatari enterprises, including a Sibn, 10-year joint venture with Al Rabban Capital. The partnership aligns with the findings of the MIT Quantum Index Report 2025, which noted that global momentum for quantum technologies is moving "from concept to reality." The data highlighted that countries investing early in infrastructure, research, and talent are most likely to secure a competitive advantage in the decades ahead. On the other hand, the government has been quick to amplify the private sector push. In May, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), through its TASMU Innovation Lab, hosted Qatar's first national quantum computing workshop. Officials stated that the program would introduce practical use cases across energy. logistics, and healthcare, and all other sectors that are critical to Qatar's long-term resilience beyond hydrocarbons. The momentum is further reinforced by a strategic partnership between Invest Qatar and Quantinuum during the Qatar Economic Forum this year. The collaboration aims to accelerate the growth of a regional quantum ecosystem by hosting workshops, technical seminars, and collaborative R&D programs in Doha. The initiative also provides internships and training opportunities for students, positioning local talent at the heart of Qatar's quantum journey. Officials say this partnership is designed to ensure that the technology is not only imported but also cultivated and sustained through homegrown expertise. Meanwhile, Hamad Bin Khalifa University's Qatar Center for Quantum Computing (QC2) inked a memorandum of understanding with Quantinuum earlier this summer. The deal allows researchers to access cutting-edge hardware remotely and to test algorithms in quantum chemistry, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity. Barshid said, "This is not just about labs and theory anymore. Qatar's students and researchers are now hands-on with the same systems that banks and pharmaceutical companies in New York or London are experimenting with. That's a huge leap for capacity-building." However, experts caution that while challenges remain. commercial applications are limited, and competition for talent is fierce. "In many ways, this is the same playbook Qatar used in LNG. Invest heavily partner globally, and use that advantage to become indispensable," the tech analyst added. As quantum computing edges closer to real-world impact, industry leaders point out that the country is determined to ensure it is not merely a consumer of technology but a regional pioneer shaping its future. (Peninsula Qatar)

International

- **Bessent says US tariff revenue could be well over $500bn a year -** U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said on Tuesday that customs duty revenues from President Donald Trump's tariffs may top $500bn a year, with a substantial jump from July to August and likely a bigger jump in September. Bessent told a White House Cabinet meeting that his prior estimate of a $300bn annual tariff collection rate was too low. "We had a substantial jump from July to August, and I think we're going to see a bigger jump from August to September," Bessent said. "So, I think we could be on our way well over half a trillion, maybe towards a trillion-dollar number. This administration, your administration, has made a meaningful dent in the budget deficit." Tariff revenue would offset the deficit increases triggered by the Republicans' tax-cut and spending bill passed this year. CBO estimated this bill would widen the deficit by $3.4tn over the next decade. Trump's tariffs drove July U.S. customs duty collections up by nearly $21bn from the $7bn collected in July 2024 and about even with the $20bn increase registered in June. Significant increases in tariff rates for nearly all trading partners kicked in on August 7. The U.S. Treasury reported on Monday that as of August 22, the government had collected $29.6bn in combined customs and excise taxes so far during August, matching its total for the whole month of July. As of July 22, that combined figure stood at $7.8bn, but customs duty collections can vary from day to day. Bessent also noted that the Congressional Budget Office's upwardly revised estimate last week of federal revenue from Trump's tariffs, forecasting that it could reduce federal deficits by $4tn over 10 years. "And I would expect that that number could go up from here," Bessent added. The latest CBO estimate marks an increase from June when it forecast that revenue from new tariffs would reduce deficits by $3tn over 10 years. (Reuters)
- **Dollar weak as investors fret about Fed independence -** The dollar struggled to gain ground on Wednesday as renewed investor worries about the Federal Reserve's independence undermined the currency following U.S. President Donald Trump's latest attempt to extend his power over the central bank. Trump had on Monday said he would fire Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook over alleged improprieties in obtaining mortgage loans, though Cook's lawyer later said the governor will file a lawsuit to prevent her ouster, kicking off what could be a protracted legal fight. The dollar weakened on the developments as Trump's push to gain more influence over U.S. institutions and the path of monetary policy further eroded investors' trust in the greenback's dominance. Currency moves in Asia on Wednesday were largely subdued, though the dollar struggled to recoup its losses against its peers and last bought 147.52 yen. The euro steadied at $1.1638, while sterling was similarly little changed at $1.3478. Against a basket of currencies, the dollar edged marginally higher to 98.27, after falling 0.24% in the previous session. "It's the latest salvo in the Fed wars and shows how increasingly politicized the central bank is becoming," said Neil Wilson, UK investor strategist at Saxo, referring to Trump's attempt to fire Cook. "It's going to be virtually impossible for the next chair to do anything other than Trump's bidding. This should be negative for the dollar. The question for markets right now is about the September meeting but be in no doubt that we are witnessing a regime shift like we have not seen in decades." Also weighing on the dollar were expectations of faster and deeper U.S. rate cuts, particularly if Cook - should she be removed from her position - gets replaced by someone dovish. Trump has repeatedly called for the Fed to lower interest rates and has threatened to fire Fed Chair Jerome Powell, although he recently backed down from that. Cook's departure would allow Trump to pick a majority of the Fed's seven-member board, including two incumbents and the pending nomination of White House economist Stephen Miran. "Trump has essentially usurped the Fed's forward guidance function for the time being and telling markets lower rates are coming, which is being manifest in a steeper yield curve," said Jamie Cox, managing partner for Harris Financial Group. The two-year U.S. Treasury yield, which typically reflects near-term rate expectations, bottomed at 3.6540% on Wednesday, its lowest since May 1, as traders ramped up bets of imminent Fed cuts. Yields on the longer end of the curve

have meanwhile risen on concerns that forced easing of monetary conditions in the near term will lead to a resurgence in inflation. The 30-year yield was last a touch higher at 4.9234%. In other currencies, the Australian dollar last bought $0.6495, while the New Zealand dollar eased 0.07% to $0.5856. (Reuters)

- **German industry sheds almost 250,000 jobs in worsening downturn, study shows -** The downturn in German industry is picking up speed, with almost a quarter of a million jobs lost in the sector since 2019, according to an EY study released on Tuesday. German industrial firms generated revenue of over 533bn euros ($623.98bn) in the second quarter of 2025, down 2.1% year on year, EY found, citing official statistics office data. This followed a 0.2% decline in the first quarter. The number of people employed in German industry also declined by 2.1% in the second quarter, to 5.43mn. Compared to six years ago, the workforce contracted by 4.3%, with some 245,500 jobs lost since 2019, EY said. The sharpest fall in jobs was seen in car manufacturing, down 6.7% in the second quarter. In absolute terms, that amounted to around 51,500 jobs lost in a year Germany's carmakers are battling with stiff competition from Asia, a costly transition to electric vehicles and high U.S. import tariffs, with Volkswagen, Mercedes and supplier Continental tab among the companies cutting jobs. While the United States remains the most important foreign market for German industrial goods, exports to the country slumped by 10% in the second quarter, the data showed. Exports to China were down 14%. (Reuters)
- **China's industrial profits extend decline in July -** China's industrial profits fell for a third consecutive month in July, as businesses struggled in the face of subdued demand and persistent factory-gate deflation despite policy measures to help shore up the economic recovery. Exports beat expectations last month but a slew of underwhelming indicators have kept pressure on Beijing to roll out more stimulus. The government has introduced measures to bolster domestic consumption and curb price wars, but these efforts have yet to produce significant results amid ongoing deflationary pressures and a prolonged housing downturn. Profits at China's industrial firms fell 1.5% in July from a year earlier, following a 4.3% slump in June, while a 1.8% profit drop in the first half eased slightly to a 1.7% slide in the January-July period, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) data showed on Wednesday. Beijing has ramped up infrastructure spending and consumer subsidies, alongside steady monetary easing, though weak business and consumer confidence has dragged on demand and the broader economy. China's July bank loans unexpectedly contracted for the first time in 20 years. State-owned firms reported a 7.5% fall in profits in the first seven months. Private-sector firms saw profits increase 1.8% while foreign firms recorded a 1.8% rise, the data showed. Industrial profit figures cover firms with annual revenue of at least 20mn yuan ($2.80mn) from their main operations. (Reuters)

Regional

- **Report: GCC needs up to $25bn in recycled plastics infrastructure by 2045 -** GCC will need to invest an estimated $12bn to $25bn in recycling infrastructure by 2045 to position itself as a circular plastics hub, according to industry assessments. A new report from KAPSARC and Strategy& Middle East, part of the PwC network, finds that the Gulf Co-operation Council could play a critical role in closing the global gap in recycled plastics — with demand projected to outstrip supply by up to 35mn tonnes by 2030. Although demand for recycled plastics is rising by 8% annually — outpacing the 2% annual growth in virgin plastics — supply continues to lag behind. Despite growing momentum, less than 70% of global demand for recycled materials is being met. The shortfall is expected to reach 35mn tonnes by 2030. Today, GCC countries generate around 10mn tonnes of plastic waste annually but only 10% is recycled, reused or recovered. This ratio is on par with the global average, yet behind leaders like China and other OECD countries. In Saudi Arabia, the plastics and chemical sectors contribute 6%–9% of GDP, underscoring the region's economic exposure to global shifts in plastics demand and the opportunity to lead in circularity. Devesh Katiyar, Partner, at Strategy& Middle East, said, "With global mechanical recycling still under 10% and pressure mounting from ESG mandates, carbon regulations, and shifting consumer preferences, there is a growing mismatch between supply and demand. "Unless addressed, this imbalance could delay climate progress and reinforce reliance on virgin plastics. The GCC is uniquely positioned to bridge this gap by leveraging its petrochemical strengths for circular solutions." Globally, chemical recycling — especially pyrolysis — is gaining momentum, but its commercial viability depends on feedstock availability, energy prices, and plant efficiency. Modelling by KAPSARC and Strategy& shows that chemical recycling plants in the GCC that are embedded in petrochemical clusters can break even at plastic waste feedstock prices of $240 to $280 per metric tonne. Even at higher prices of $450 to $500 per tonne, profitability is still achievable, provided recycled plastics continue to command a market premium over virgin materials. Jayanth Mantri, Principal, at Strategy& Middle East, commented, "The economics of chemical recycling are compelling for the GCC, especially when integrated into existing systems and supported by the region's competitive energy costs. Unlike traditional petrochemicals, chemical recycling is knowledge-intensive and offers potentially higher economic multipliers and innovation-driven growth." Low-cost energy and existing infrastructure make the GCC well-positioned to lead. According to the report, success requires progress on three fronts: feedstock access, regulatory certainty, as well as innovation and consumer awareness. To ensure stable feedstock supply and global market access, the GCC must establish formal plastic waste trade corridors with Asia, Africa, and Europe. This includes upgrading ports, customs systems, and cross-border traceability infrastructure in line with international standards — securing inbound waste streams and enabling outbound exports of certified recycled resins. To reduce reliance on foreign policy shifts, the region must also accelerate domestic regulatory reform. Key priorities include extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes, recycled content mandates, pricing reform for virgin polymers, and harmonized quality and safety standards across the GCC. Scaling circularity will also depend on investment in chemical recycling, smart sorting systems, and blockchain traceability tools. Government co-funding can support R&D in partnership with industry, while consumer incentives and awareness campaigns will help drive demand and improve waste segregation. The report also calls for blended financing to help build a modern circular plastics ecosystem, noting that GCC nations should leverage sovereign wealth funds, PPPs, and de-risking mechanisms to mobilize capital and attract global players. (Gulf Times)
- **FDI in GCC as a strategic penetration mechanism -** For more than half a century, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) economies have thrived on a legacy where hydrocarbons fueled state-building and the creation of modern infrastructure. This foundation is a source of immense strength, but the global economic landscape has fundamentally changed. Today, capital is more cautious, supply chains are being re-wired, technology is advancing at unprecedented speed and climate commitments are reshaping industries from the ground up. In this new environment, foreign direct investment (FDI) is not an optional extra; it's an essential tool for the GCC's future. FDI must be seen as a strategic penetration mechanism — an accelerator that quickly and credibly embeds Gulf firms, talent and technologies within global value chains. The global investment stage itself is also shifting. According to the UNCTAD 2024 World Investment Report, global FDI reached about $1.3tn in 2023. However, once flows through conduit economies are stripped out, the report shows a significant tightening in capital availability, highlighting the need for clarity, stable rules and well-defined, investable projects. This reality makes the GCC's position critical and the region is already making meaningful, though uneven, progress. The evidence from across the GCC clearly shows this momentum. The UAE has firmly established itself as a regional heavyweight, attracting a remarkable $45.6bn in FDI in 2024, a 49% year-on-year increase. Its total inward stock reached $270.6bn. Reforms like 100% onshore foreign ownership prove the depth of its appeal, as reported by the UNCTAD 2024 World Investment Report and the UAE FDI Portal. Saudi Arabia recorded $22.8bn in 2023 and $15.7bn in 2024, a substantial result in a year of global economic weakness. The Kingdom also secured strategic deals, such as the $11bn Aramco–BlackRock gas infrastructure project. Its ambitious Regional Headquarters (RHQ) program shows an assertive approach to anchoring investors, according to the UNCTAD 2024 World Investment Report and the KSA Ministry of Investment. Oman has emerged as a significant outperformer. According to the UNCTAD 2024 World Investment Report and Oman Hydrom 2025 Auction Data, its FDI nearly doubled to $8.7bn in

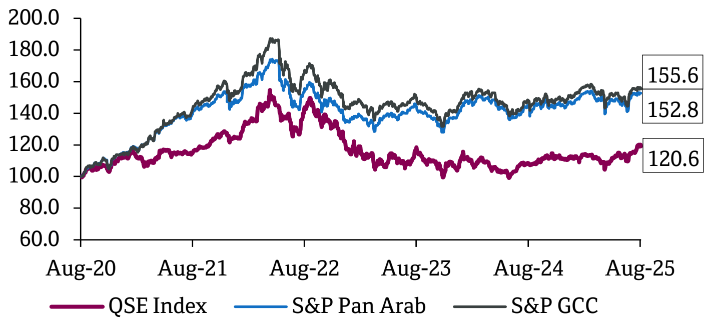
2024, with its inward stock rising to $64.8bn. This growth is driven by logistics, downstream energy and pioneering green hydrogen auctions under its national entity, Hydrom. In 2025, Oman further consolidated this position as a regional greenfield FDI powerhouse, recording a record-breaking 4,402% year-on-year surge in greenfield FDI CAPEX during January–May 2025, with project counts rising by 36%. This strong performance was fueled by major investments in renewables, ICT, real estate and new economic zones. Bahrain saw normalized inflows of $2.5bn in 2024 after a record-breaking 2023, with its inward stock growing to $45.9bn, thanks to its Golden License initiative, as per the Bahrain EDB 2024 Report. The GCC's economic growth is expected to accelerate in 2025–2026, driven by easing OPEC production cuts and non-oil sector expansion Kuwait remains a laggard, attracting only $0.6bn in 2024, but its Vision 2035 and Public-Private Partnership (PPP) frameworks offer significant room for acceleration, as noted by the UNCTAD 2024 World Investment Report. Meanwhile, Qatar, after a negative inflow of —$474mn in 2023, is focused on overhauling its legal infrastructure to build a stronger foundation for investor confidence, according to the Qatar Ministry of Commerce 2024. Together, these figures show a clear picture: the UAE is a magnet for diversified capital, Saudi Arabia is leveraging its scale and ambition, Oman is directing investment into future industries, Bahrain is using regulatory agility to attract niche projects, Qatar is fixing its institutional plumbing and Kuwait's significant potential is waiting to be unlocked. What makes FDI a true penetration strategy is its multiplier effect, which goes far beyond just bringing in money. FDI brings in capabilities that traditional financing simply can't. It imports operational know-how, global technology and international standards, speeding up the adoption of best practices in advanced manufacturing, logistics, artificial intelligence (AI) and renewable energy. It also provides crucial market access, plugging Gulf firms directly into international supply chains and creating new export opportunities. What's more, FDI creates a powerful confidence effect, as major investors attract local co-investment, strengthen the ecosystem of local suppliers and increase demand for local services, from industrial maintenance to professional skills development. The GCC's economic growth is expected to accelerate in 2025–2026, driven by easing OPEC+ production cuts and non-oil sector expansion, according to the World Bank Gulf Economic Update 2025 and the IMF Regional Outlook 2025. This provides a prime opportunity to attract global investment, but investors require faster permitting, predictable regulations and transparent project structures. Each GCC nation is sharpening its competitive edge. The UAE excels with diverse projects in fintech, logistics and manufacturing. Saudi Arabia, while unmatched in scale with its mega-projects, must ensure consistent and transparent execution. Oman is making a strong case for energy transition through projects like its hydrogen auctions, while Bahrain's Golden License effectively attracts niche projects. Qatar is overhauling its legal system to boost investor confidence, and Kuwait's potential awaits activation through faster Public-Private Partnership (PPP) frameworks. Going forward, the region must leverage individual strengths while aligning on policies, such as a common green-finance taxonomy, to remain globally competitive. Ultimately, the GCC's economic legacy has been defined by state-led modernization, but the future requires a complementary engine: embedded private and foreign capital. This capital brings not only funds but also markets, know-how, and resilience. The competition for FDI is fierce and investors will naturally be drawn to places that can guarantee speed, predictability and reliable execution. FDI should not be mistaken as a replacement for domestic businesses; instead, it's a force multiplier that makes them stronger. When used strategically, it will allow the Gulf to enter global value chains in areas like renewable energy hardware, specialty metals, advanced logistics, AI infrastructure and premium tourism. By doing this, the GCC can turn today's global challenges into tomorrow's competitive advantage. This is not just an option; it's an economic necessity for our time and one that will define the region's role in the world economy for decades to come. (Zawya)

- **Saudi minister: Limited liability companies record 133% growth -** Minister of Commerce Dr. Majed Al-Qasabi said that there has been a significant growth of 133% in the rate of limited liability companies in Saudi Arabia, with a total of 462,000 commercial registrations of such companies. He also noted that the commercial registrations of joint-stock companies recorded a growth of 48% reaching more than 4,300. The minister made the remarks while addressing a meeting of businessmen, businesswomen, entrepreneurs, and investors during his visit to the southern Asir region. Al-Qasabi said that the Asir region has more than 90,000 commercial registrations and these make up 5.2% of the total commercial registrations that reached 1.7mn. He said that the total number of commercial registrations for businesses in the Kingdom recorded a growth of 9% over the last five years reaching 1.2mn. During the meeting, Al-Qasabi expressed his happiness to visit the Asir region and meet with the business community. "We are experiencing an unprecedented transformation thanks to the Kingdom's Vision 2030 and its inspiring leader, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman," he said. Referring to the vast potential of the Asir region, he said: "Asir is a magical, attractive landscape that needs to be marketed so people can appreciate its beauty and breathtaking nature. It combines the sea, the Tihama plain, the mountains, the desert, and all the natural elements that attract tourism." He shed light on the promising sectors that have registered growth in Asir, most notably logistics services, freight and unloading services, light transportation, and the operation of storage facilities, among others. Al-Qasabi emphasized that e-commerce is witnessing significant growth, reaching 29% of total consumer retail payments. More than 87mn shipments were recorded in 2024, while 60% of internet users in the Kingdom made online purchases in 2023. (Zawya)
- **Abu Dhabi's Lunate to take minority stake in Brevan Howard -** Abu Dhabi alternative investment manager Lunate is acquiring a minority stake in hedge fund Brevan Howard, the two companies said on Tuesday, the latest high-profile investment by Abu Dhabi in a global asset manager. The two firms said in a statement they would set up an investment platform based in Abu Dhabi, offering new funds, with an initial commitment of $2bn by Lunate, with more capital to be raised from local and international investors "over time". They did not provide further details on the size or value of the stake in Brevan Howard. A source with knowledge of the matter, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that negotiations took from six months to a year. Lunate, which manages $110bn of assets, is part of a business empire steered by Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) national security adviser and brother of UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The deal marks Lunate's strategic expansion into hedge funds and it is the latest investment in asset management by Abu Dhabi, which has become a magnet for the industry in recent years on the back of an influx of millionaires and the presence of some of the world's biggest sovereign wealth funds. (Reuters)
- **Oman: Abraj secures $220mn Oxy contract extensions for four drilling rigs -** Abraj Energy Services, the largest oil and gas field services company in Oman, announced the award of contract extensions for four of its drilling rigs by Occidental Oman (Oxy), with a total value exceeding RO85mn. The contract extensions cover an additional five-year period, running until August 2030, Abraj said in a disclosure submitted to the Muscat Stock Exchange. "It comes as a result of Abraj's outstanding operational performance and its firm commitment to the highest standards of operations, health, safety and environment, "the company stated. Abraj added that the long-term extensions highlight the strengthening of its strategic partnership with Occidental Oman. "It represents an important step towards reinforcing the company's financial sustainability through revenue visibility and continued growth in the energy services sector in Oman." The company reaffirmed its commitment to delivering specialized and integrated solutions in well engineering and energy services, in support of Oman's aspirations to further develop the energy sector and strengthen its position as a leading service provider in this vital field. Abraj specializes in providing services for oil and gas wells, during and after well construction. "From building a wider service portfolio, Abraj now focuses on strategic top-tier services coupled with strong operational efficiency to maximize financial returns and achieve sustainable growth. Abraj continues to benefit from the strength of long-term contracts in generating sufficient cash flow for expansion," the company said in its financial report for the first half of 2025. Abraj's revenue for the six months ended June 30, 2025, decreased by 6.4% year-on-year, from RO77.9mn to RO72.9mn, mainly due to rigs being stacked. In its financial report, the company said efforts are ongoing to re-deploy these rigs back into operation. The company's net profit for the same period fell by 12.6%,

from RO10.67mn in 2024 to RO9.327mn in the first half of 2025. Total expenses during the first half of 2025 declined by 5.4% year-on-year, from RO67.2mn to RO63.6mn, broadly in line with the drop in revenue. (Zawya)

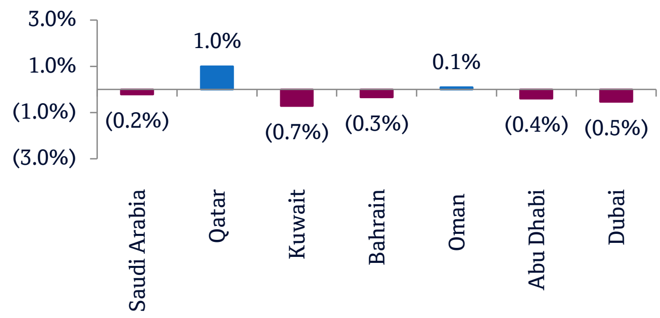
- **Oman: Six new projects in Sohar Industrial City -** Sohar Industrial City, an affiliate of the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates Madayn, has recently localized six projects with a total investment volume exceeding RO 27mn. These projects will be developed on an area spanning 162,000 sqm, representing oil, steel, food, marble, tile and wood industries. The investment agreement signed with the National Petrochemical and Investment Company involves establishing an oil industry project with an investment of RO 25mn on a land area of 125,000 sqm. Additionally, an agreement was signed with Sultan Al Shidi Engineering Projects for a specialized steel industry project worth RO 1mn on 3,843 sqm, along with another agreement with Iron Trading and Investment for a steel industry project valued at RO 600,000 on 8,760 sqm. (Zawya)

Rebased Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Daily Index Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Asset/Currency Performance	Close ($)	1D%	WTD%	YTD%
Gold/Ounce	3,393.57	0.8	0.6	29.3
Silver/Ounce	38.61	0.1	(0.7)	33.6
Crude Oil (Brent)/Barrel (FM Future)	67.22	(2.3)	(0.8)	(9.9)
Crude Oil (WTI)/Barrel (FM Future)	63.25	(2.4)	(0.6)	(11.8)
Natural Gas (Henry Hub)/MMBtu	2.82	2.2	1.8	(17.1)
LPG Propane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	69.00	(0.9)	0.1	(15.3)
LPG Butane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	80.40	(0.7)	(0.5)	(32.7)
Euro	1.16	0.2	(0.6)	12.4
Yen	147.40	(0.3)	0.3	(6.2)
GBP	1.35	0.2	(0.3)	7.7
CHF	1.24	0.3	(0.2)	12.9
AUD	0.65	0.2	0.1	5.0
USD Index	98.23	(0.2)	0.5	(9.5)
RUB	110.69	0.0	0.0	58.9
BRL	0.18	(0.4)	(0.1)	13.6

Source: Bloomberg

Global Indices Performance	Close	1D%*	WTD%*	YTD%*
MSCI World Index	4,177.26	0.1	(0.4)	12.7
DJ Industrial	45,418.07	0.3	(0.5)	6.8
S&P 500	6,465.94	0.4	(0.0)	9.9
NASDAQ 100	21,544.27	0.4	0.2	11.6
STOXX 600	554.20	(0.9)	(1.9)	22.9
DAX	24,152.87	(0.5)	(1.5)	36.0
FTSE 100	9,265.80	(0.9)	(0.9)	22.1
CAC 40	7,709.81	(1.7)	(3.9)	17.6
Nikkei	42,394.40	(0.8)	(1.0)	13.4
MSCI EM	1,274.21	(0.9)	0.6	18.5
SHANGHAI SE Composite	3,868.38	(0.4)	1.4	17.8
HANG SENG	25,524.92	(1.0)	1.0	26.8
BSE SENSEX	80,786.54	(1.2)	(1.0)	1.0
Bovespa	137,771.39	(0.9)	(0.5)	30.0
RTS	1,089.6	(1.7)	(1.7)	(4.7)

Source: Bloomberg ($ adjusted returns if any)*

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