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MENA WEEKLY MONITOR

AUGUST 9 TILL AUGUST 15, 2026
WEEK 33

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Economy

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MENA equity markets traded sideways (-0.1%) this week as investors digested mixed corporate financial results. Regional risk appetite faced headwinds from a diplomatic stalemate between the US and Iran, yet a rebound in oil prices helped put a floor under the equity sell-off. In contrast, activity in MENA fixed income markets was mostly tilted to the upside this week, mainly fueled by soft US economic data in July, as a drop in US retail sales for the first time in nine months and a subdued US inflation report tempered expectations for US Federal Reserve interest rate hikes.

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MENA MARKETS: AUGUST 9 TO AUGUST 15, 2026

Stock market weekly trend	↓	Bond market weekly trend	↑
Weekly stock price performance	-0.1%	Average weekly bond price change	+0.14 pt
Stock market year-to-date trend	↑	Bond market year-to-date trend	↓
YTD stock price performance	+1.4%	Average yearly bond price change	-2.90 pts

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ECONOMY

BMI SAYS MIDDLE EASTERN TOURISM FACES SIGNIFICANT 2026 SHOCK AS REGIONAL CONFLICT CHOKES OFF LONG-HAUL TRAVEL

In a new report by BMI on the region, they say they expect Middle Eastern tourist arrivals to contract sharply in 2026, as renewed US-Iran escalation, attacks on shipping in the Strait of Hormuz and stepped-up hostilities along the Israel-Lebanon border reintroduce acute security-risk perceptions and choke off the long-haul leisure and business travel that had been recovering from earlier shocks.

In the GCC, they have revised total arrivals down to 64.07mn, a 22.8% contraction on 2025, with Kuwait (-35.0% y-o-y), Qatar (-31.4%) and Bahrain (-30.0%) the hardest hit. Oman (-10.1% y-o-y) and Saudi Arabia (-14.6%) will be most resilient, but will still not come out unscathed.

In the Levant, they see arrivals falling to 8.1mn, a 7.8% y-o-y contraction and still well below the 10.98mn recorded in 2019, with Jordan (-2.1% y-o-y) proving relatively resilient, while Israel (-13.5%) and Lebanon (-23.3%) bear the sharpest disruption.

BMI says risks across both sub-regions sit firmly to the downside, contingent on a sustained de-escalation that the current trajectory does not yet support.

In detail, tourism across the Middle East is on course for a significant contraction in 2026, as an intensifying regional conflict environment weighs heavily on inbound travel demand as per BMI. The renewed escalation between the US and Iran, direct attacks on commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz and stepped-up hostilities along the Israel-Lebanon border have collectively reintroduced acute security-risk perceptions across the region, choking off the long-haul leisure and business flows that had been recovering only gradually from earlier shocks.

The shift is near-universal. Having posted growth across almost all our Middle Eastern markets in 2025, all nine markets they cover are now set to contract in 2026, with the steepest declines in Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain. BMI assesses the impact across two subregions: the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Levant (spanning Israel, Jordan and Lebanon). The common thread across both is the sensitivity of discretionary, long-haul travel to visible escalation, which has consistently proven quicker to retreat and slower to return than near-market travel underpinned by regional cultural, family and business ties.

Their forecasts do embed a marked rebound in 2027, with double-digit growth expected across most markets as arrivals recover from a low 2026 base, though this recovery is contingent on a sustained de-escalation that the current trajectory does not yet support as per BMI.

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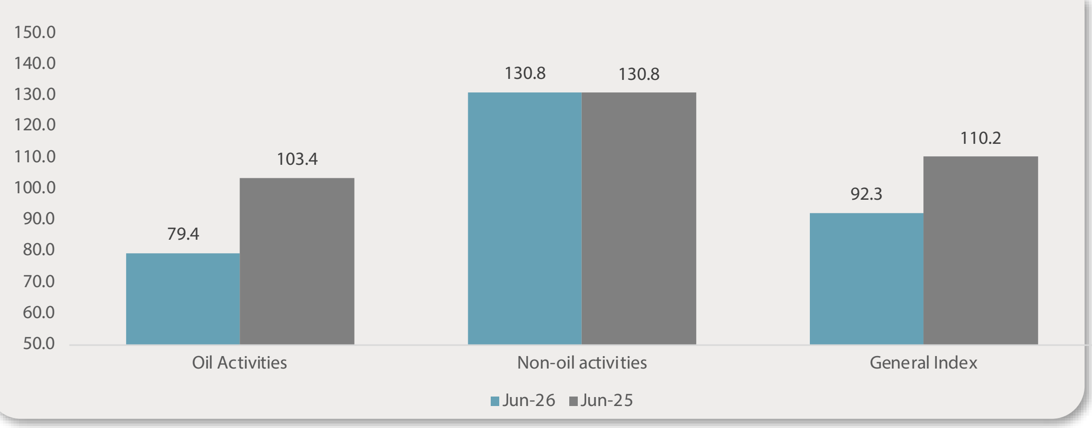
SAUDI ARABIA'S IPI DECREASES BY 16.3% YEAR-ON-YEAR IN JUNE

Saudi Arabia's Industrial Production Index registered 92.3 in June 2026, down from 110.2 registered in the same month of the year prior, showing a year-on-year decrease of 16.3%. This decrease was mainly supported by a decline in oil activity IPI, as per data from the Saudi General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT).

In detail, Saudi Arabia's Oil activity IPI (with a weight of 75.0%) registered 79.4 in June 2026, showing a year-on-year decrease of 23.2% against 103.4 registered in June 2025. This decrease was driven by a decline in the Extraction of crude petroleum and natural gas activity (weight of 61.4% of the total) by 27.0% year-on-year, while the Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products activity (weight of 13.5% of the total) recorded a year-on-year decrease of 6.0% during the period. Concurrently, Saudi Arabia's Non-oil activity IPI (weight of 25.0%) registered 130.8 in June 2026, remaining unchanged year-on-year against the same month of the year prior, as per data from GASTAT.

SAUDI ARABIA GENERAL IPI AND IPI BY ACTIVITY TYPE



Source: GASTAT, Bank Audi Group's Research Department

QATAR RECORDS YEAR-ON-YEAR CPI INFLATION OF 2.2% IN JUNE

According to data from Qatar's National Planning Council (NPC), the country has registered a year-on-year inflation in prices of 2.2% in June 2026 against prices in June 2025.

In detail, Food & Beverages (weight of 13.5%), Housing, Water, Electricity and Other Fuel (weight of 21.2%), Education (weight of 5.8%), Furniture & Household Equipment (weight of 7.9%), and Restaurants & Hotels (weight of 6.6%) recorded year-on-year inflations of 12.7%, 2.7%, 2.1%, 0.7%, and 0.2%, respectively, between June 2025 and June 2026. Miscellaneous Goods & Services (weight of 5.7%), Clothing & Footwear (weight of 5.6%), and Communication (weight of 5.2%) recorded year-on-year inflations of 9.0%, 5.0%, and 0.3%, respectively, between June 2025 and June 2026. Concurrently, the price of Tobacco (weight of 0.3%) recorded a year-on-year stagnation in price during the period.

On the other hand, prices of Recreation & Culture (weight of 11.1%), Transport (weight of 14.6%), and Health (weight of 2.7%) recorded year-on-year deflations of 7.0%, 0.9%, and 0.1%, respectively, during the period.

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QATAR'S YEAR-ON-YEAR CPI VARIATION IN JUNE

	CPI variation y-o-y	Weight
General Index	**2.2%**	**100.0%**
Housing, Water, Electricity and other Fuel	2.7%	21.2%
Transport	-0.9%	14.6%
Food & Beverages	12.7%	13.5%
Recreation & Culture	-7.0%	11.1%
Furniture & Household Equipment	0.7%	7.9%
Restaurant & Hotels	0.2%	6.6%
Education	2.1%	5.8%
Miscellaneous goods & Services	9.0%	5.7%
Clothing & Footwear	5.0%	5.6%
Communication	0.3%	5.2%
Health	-0.1%	2.7%
Tobacco	0.0%	0.3%

Sources: Qatar's PSA, Bank Audi's Group Research Department

EGYPT'S NON-OIL PRIVATE SECTOR REMAINS IN CONTRACTION DESPITE IMPROVED BUSINESS CONFIDENCE IN JULY

Egypt's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose to 46.8 in July 2026, up from a 41-month low of 46.0 in June, remaining below the neutral 50.0 threshold and signaling a deterioration in non-oil private sector business conditions for the seventh consecutive month, according to S&P Global's Egypt PMI data. Business activity and new orders continued to decline amid weak market conditions, subdued customer spending, shipping delays and a shortage of new projects, although the pace of output contraction eased to a four-month low.

New business declined for the seventh consecutive month, prompting firms to further reduce output, employment and purchasing activity. Employment decreased only marginally, while backlogs of work rose at the second-fastest pace in nearly three years amid workforce and raw material constraints. Purchasing activity recorded its sharpest contraction since September 2023, contributing to the first decline in inventories in five months. Meanwhile, supply-chain conditions improved for the first time since March, as delivery times shortened marginally following an easing in regional disruptions.

Inflationary pressures moderated during July, with input costs rising at the slowest pace in six months amid lower oil prices and a weaker US dollar, while output price inflation eased to a four-month low. Despite continued weakness in current demand, business confidence strengthened markedly, with expectations for future output reaching their highest level since June 2022, reflecting improved optimism regarding customer demand and easing price pressures, although the outlook remained dependent on regional developments.

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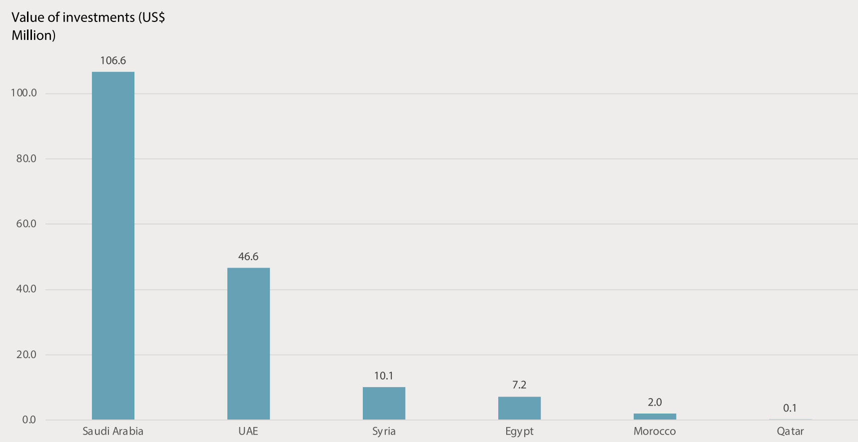
SURVEYS / REPORTS

MENA STARTUPS RAISE US$ 173 MILLION IN JULY 2026, AS PER WAMDA AND DIGITAL DIGEST

MENA startup funding rose modestly in July 2026, but the rebound was largely debt-driven, with equity investment remaining subdued, according to a report issued by Wamda and Digital Digest.

Startups across the Middle East and North Africa raised US$ 172.6 million across 45 deals during the first month of the second half of 2026, up 16% from June 2026, but still 78% below the amount recorded in July last year. The monthly increase therefore offers only a partial improvement. Debt accounted for 56% of total funding in July 2026, compared with 11.5% in June and just 2% in July 2025.

THE TOP FUNDED COUNTRIES IN MENA REGION IN JULY 2026



Sources: Wamda, Digital Digest, Bank Audi's Group Research Department

In details, Saudi Arabia reclaimed the top position in July after failing to lead the regional rankings throughout the first half of the year. Startups based in the kingdom raised US$ 106.6 million across 16 transactions, accounting for nearly 62% of the month's total funding. The UAE matched Saudi Arabia's deal count, with 16 transactions, but ranked second by value after attracting US$ 46.6 million.

Syria emerged as an unexpected third-place market, overtaking Egypt after three startups collectively secured US$ 10.1 million. Egypt, which frequently ranks among the region's three largest startup markets, raised US$ 7.2 million across eight deals. Morocco ranked fifth after one startup raised US$ 2.0 million, while Qatar recorded a single transaction worth an estimated US$ 100,000.

However, the country distribution remained highly concentrated. Saudi Arabia and the UAE together accounted for almost 89% of all capital raised during the month, leaving the rest of the region with just over US$ 19 million.

Concurrently, E-commerce returned to the top of the sector rankings in July, attracting 55% of total investment. The result, however, was driven by a limited number of sizeable transactions rather than broad-based activity across the sector. Government Technology (digital tools and software used by public sector agencies) ranked second following a US$ 15 million raised by Whiteshield. Super apps (digital ecosystems that integrate multiple services within a single mobile application) came third after two startups, one based in Syria and the other in Morocco, collectively raising US$ 12 million.

Despite falling out of the top three sectors by funding value, fintech remained the most active sector by deal count. The sector recorded nine transactions worth a combined US$ 10.9 million, highlighting continued investor appetite for fintech startups despite smaller cheque sizes. Property technology followed closely in terms of deal count, with eight deals that collectively raised US$ 11.9 million.

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The sector rankings underline the concentration of July's investment activity. A small number of transactions shaped the overall picture, while most other sectors attracted comparatively limited capital.

In terms of sectors, B2B startups maintained their lead over other business models, raising US$ 136 million across 33 transactions. They accounted for nearly 79% of all capital deployed during the month. Consumer-facing startups secured US$ 13.3 million across five deals, while companies serving both businesses and consumers raised US$ 23.3 million through seven transactions.

The gap reflects investors' continued preference for business-focused models, which are often perceived as offering clearer revenue visibility and more predictable customer economics during uncertain market conditions.

All in all, July's figures point to a market that improved slightly in headline terms but remained dependent on debt and a narrow group of transactions. Saudi Arabia's return to the top and the rise of e-commerce reshaped the monthly rankings, yet the absence of mega deals and late-stage rounds shows that investors are still exercising caution.

The second half of 2026 has therefore begun with higher funding than in June but not yet with a meaningful recovery in equity investment. Whether the improvement gains momentum will depend on the return of larger rounds and a broader distribution of capital across countries, sectors and founder

FITCH AFFIRMS KUWAIT AT "AA-" WITH "STABLE" OUTLOOK

Fitch Ratings affirmed Kuwait's Long-Term Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs) at "AA-" with a "stable" outlook. Kuwait's "AA-" rating is supported by its exceptionally strong fiscal and external balance sheets, with sovereign net foreign assets relative to GDP the highest among all Fitch-rated sovereigns. However, the rating is constrained by weaker governance than peers, heavy dependence on oil and a costly welfare system and large public sector, which could be a source of long-term fiscal pressure, despite spending rationalization efforts.

The collapse of a ceasefire in mid-July 2026, following an interim deal signed in mid-June, means the US-Iran conflict would remain a source of risk for Kuwait's creditworthiness. Kuwait has continued to be affected by attacks from Iran, which have damaged strategic infrastructure and disrupted transit conditions. Even if a renewed ceasefire is agreed, there is a high risk that the geopolitical situation would remain unstable and a further escalation remains possible, but Fitch believes that the implications for sovereign risk will remain manageable given the sovereign's large buffers.

Additionally, the conflict would continue to affect Kuwait's ability to export oil, given its dependence on the Strait of Hormuz. Fitch expects some degree of normalization in the near term, but uncertainty is high and severe disruptions remain possible. Production declined by 70% to 0.78 million b/d in March-May 2026 with a recovery to 1.65 million b/d in June and about 2 million b/d in July. Fitch expects Kuwait's crude oil production to average 2 million b/d in the fiscal year ending March 2027 (FY26), before recovering in FY27. Some oil facilities have been damaged, but Fitch believes Kuwait has the capacity to restore production quickly once transit conditions normalize.

The credit rating agency expects the Iran war to weigh on economic activity mainly driven by the decline in oil production. Non-oil GDP would also weaken but remain in positive territory, supported by public infrastructure spending, public sector employment and the central bank's support for the banking sector. Fitch expects inflation to rise marginally in 2026 before easing in 2027.

Under the government's reporting convention, which excludes Fitch's estimate of Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) investment interest income, Fitch expects the deficit to widen by 4pp to about 19% of GDP in FY26 as the war weighs on revenue and the government maintains its infrastructure drive, although capex execution would be weaker than budgeted amid heightened security risks. Current spending is sticky, mainly salaries and subsidies, which were 81% of spending and 40% of GDP in FY25. Fitch expects subsidy reform to slow as support for consumers rises, despite the budget assumption that subsidies will fall 0.6 pp to 8.2% of projected FY26 GDP.

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CORPORATE NEWS

ACWA COMPLETES WORK ON US$ 8.5 BILLION GREEN HYDROGEN PROJECT AT NEOM

Saudi utility giant ACWA Power announced that its consortium with US group Air Products completed construction work on the mega green hydrogen project at Oxagon located within Saudi Arabia’s mega futuristic city NEOM, and commercial operations are set to begin next year.

The US$ 8.5 billion facility is currently in the commissioning stage.

The consortium, NEOM Green Hydrogen Company (NGHC), is a joint venture between ACWA Power, Air Products and NEOM, the developer of Saudi Arabia's mega futuristic city.

When fully operational, it would be the world’s largest green hydrogen plant producing up to 600 tons of carbon-free hydrogen, converted into green ammonia for global export, providing a practical blueprint for green hydrogen at scale.

ADNOC GAS AWARDS US$ 8.2 BILLION EPC CONTRACTS FOR HABSHAN COMPLEX PROJECT

Abu Dhabi National Oil Company announced that one of its key units, ADNOC Gas awarded Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contracts worth US$ 8.2 billion for the next phase of its Rich Gas Development (RGD) project at the Habshan complex in the UAE capital.

The awards include a US$ 3.9 billion Phase 2 contract to Wison Engineering, a key provider of EPC services and integrated technology solutions for the energy and chemical industries based in Shanghai, China, and a US$ 4.3 billion Phase 3 contract to Tecnimont, a Maire Company and a global contractor for highly complex plants for the natural resources transformation industry located in Italy.

These contracts build on Phase 1, which is expanding key processing units to increase throughput and improve operational efficiency, across multiple gas assets.

The Phase 2 would add a new natural gas processing train at the Habshan facility, expanding ADNOC Gas' natural gas processing capacity, enhancing operational flexibility and supporting the UAE's expanding downstream and petrochemical sectors, while Phase 3 would boost the Natural Gas Liquids (NGL) fractionation train at Ruwais, thus increasing the recovery of higher-value liquids from rich natural gas for export, strengthening its global customer portfolio.

CEER LOCALIZATION DEALS TO BRING US$ 2.4 BILLION BENEFITS AND CREATE 2,600 JOBS IN SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi-based Local Content and Government Procurement Authority (LCGPA) signed two agreements to localize the industry and transfer knowledge for Electric Vehicles (EV) with CEER, the first Saudi EV brand, in exchange for inclusion on the mandatory list of national products, as mentioned in a company statement.

The two agreements aim to localize the manufacturing of sedan and SUV electric vehicles, as part of CEER's efforts to launch the first Saudi electric vehicle to be designed, engineered and manufactured entirely within the country. The two agreements are expected to achieve an economic impact on GDP of approximately SR 9.2 billion (US$ 2.4 billion) over the next decade, and to create more than 2,600 jobs.

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Through the localization of engineering, manufacturing and knowledge transfer, CEER is building the foundations of an automotive industry in Saudi Arabia, while strengthening local supply chains and creating new opportunities for Saudi talent, as CEER aims, by 2034, to provide close to 30,000 jobs (6,500 direct and 23,500 indirect), with Saudi nationals filling 80% of direct jobs, in addition to achieving an economic impact on GDP estimated at approximately SR 30 billion, as well as reaching a 45% of local content in CEER's products.

Inclusion on the mandatory list of national products would also help direct government spending toward listed products, in addition to empowering local manufacturers and national talent, strengthening advanced industrial capabilities in the Kingdom, and raising the competitiveness of the industrial sector, contributing to the objectives of Saudi Vision 2030.

ADNOC L&S ACCELERATES FLEET EXPANSION WITH US$ 1.3 BILLION ACQUISITION OF 11 VESSELS

ADNOC Logistics & Services announced the acquisition of five modern Very Large Gas Carriers (VLGCs) and six Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs) for a combined investment of approximately US$ 1.3 billion (AED 4.8 billion).

The investment would rapidly expand ADNOC L&S' gas and crude oil shipping capacity and support ADNOC Group's integrated value chain and continued growth in production, trading and export volumes, the company said.

The transactions provide near-term operational and earnings potential while increasing the scale, flexibility and resilience of the company's shipping platform.

MANNAI INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OPENS REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN RIYADH TO SUPPORT SAUDI VISION 2030

Mannai Information Technology Saudi Arabia (MIT KSA), part of Qatar-based Mannai Corporation QPSC, opened its new Regional Headquarters (RHQ) in Riyadh, marking a significant investment in Saudi Arabia's digital economy and a new phase in the company's long-term commitment to expanding its footprint in the country.

The Riyadh headquarters would serve as a central platform for strengthening customer partnerships, accelerating local delivery capabilities and expanding the company's footprint across key sectors in the Kingdom. As Saudi Arabia builds on its position as the region's largest digital talent cluster, the office would also play a critical role in nurturing local talent company.

The company is also prioritizing engagement across government, smart cities, banking and financial services, energy and utilities, healthcare, education, transportation and logistics and enterprise and critical infrastructure sectors.

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CAPITAL MARKETS

EQUITY MARKETS: MENA EQUITIES TRADING SIDEWAYS THIS WEEK

MENA equity markets traded sideways this week as investors digested mixed corporate financial results. Regional risk appetite faced headwinds from a diplomatic stalemate between the US and Iran, yet a rebound in oil prices helped put a floor under the equity sell-off. This was reflected by a slight retreat in the S&P Pan Arab Composite index of 0.1% week-on-week.

The heavyweight Saudi Exchange, which accounts for roughly 60% of the total regional market capitalization, swung between gains and losses this week as market players digested mixed bag of corporate earnings. Market sentiment was caught between geopolitical tensions and rising oil prices; while fading hopes for a US-Iran diplomatic breakthrough weighed on equities, the downside was capped by a strong rally in energy markets, where Brent crude prices surged to US$ 88.52 per barrel on Friday, up from US$ 83.55 per barrel at the end of the previous week. This was reflected by a tiny rise in the S&P Pan Arab Composite index of 0.1%.

A glance on individual stocks shows that Yansab's share price surged by 3.9% week-on-week to SR 31.06. Sipchem's share price went up by 0.9% to SR 13.12. Advanced Petrochemical Company's share price jumped by 5.1% to SR 24.00. Concurrently, Seera Group's share price increased by 1.3% to SR 20.26. Seera Group announced 2026 second quarter net profits of SR 80 million compared to net profits of SR 3 million a year earlier. United International Transport's share price expanded by 2.2% to SR 28.28. United International Transport posted 2026 second quarter net profits of SR 93 million against net profits of SR 86 million during the corresponding period of the previous year, beating average analysts' estimate. Citi raised its recommendation on United International Transportation's stock to "Buy" from "Neutral", with a price target of SR 40, which implies a 43% increase from last price.

Also, Middle East Paper's share price climbed by 8.5% over the week to SR 18.74. Middle East Paper posted 2026 second quarter net profits of SR 15 million compared to net profits of SR 5 million a year earlier. Southern Cement's share price increased by 1.6% to SR 19.06. Southern Cement announced 2026 second quarter net profits of SR 24 million versus net profits of SR 3 million during the same period of last year, beating average analysts' estimate. Jarir's share price nudged up by 0.4% to SR 17.18. Jarir announced a 19% year-on-year expansion in its 2026 second quarter net profits to reach SR 236 million.

In contrast, ACWA Power's share price shed 4.4% week-on-week to SR 184.50. ACWA Power reported 2026 second quarter net profits of SR 308 million against net profits of SR 482 million a year earlier. Al-Dawaa Medical Services Company's share price plunged by 5.9% to SR 38.24. Al-Dawaa Medical Services

EQUITY MARKETS INDICATORS (AUGUST 9 TO AUGUST 15, 2026)

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	155.0	-0.4%	-10.1%	2.5	26.8%	0.1	17,511.6	0.7%	-	0.46
Jordan	643.4	0.4%	12.1%	77.7	-37.1%	18.7	39,335.5	10.3%	12.0	2.20
Egypt	452.6	-0.7%	24.0%	1,781.7	12.8%	13,640.8	80,811.8	114.6%	9.7	2.50
Saudi Arabia	471.1	0.1%	2.3%	7,544.8	-9.3%	938.2	2,558,363.1	15.3%	16.2	3.59
Qatar	148.7	-0.9%	-6.8%	602.4	6.0%	646.6	166,051.3	18.9%	12.9	1.49
UAE	174.5	-0.4%	0.9%	2,395.2	-7.2%	2,798.8	1,048,195.0	11.9%	15.1	3.02
Oman	173.4	1.4%	24.4%	781.7	-0.4%	686.7	55,982.1	72.6%	13.5	2.12
Bahrain	181.6	0.4%	-3.1%	9.3	2.2%	6.1	18,516.8	2.6%	10.5	1.45
Kuwait	91.5	0.1%	-3.1%	1,313.9	-1.0%	1,032.3	168,620.4	40.5%	19.4	2.13
Morocco	423.2	-0.2%	-0.5%	99.7	35.0%	5.2	118,180.7	4.4%	16.9	3.17
Tunisia	130.7	-1.9%	39.7%	11.8	-29.8%	5.6	16,201.1	3.8%	16.9	2.56
Arab Markets	**1,011.6**	**-0.1%**	**1.4%**	**14,620.7**	**-4.9%**	**19,779.2**	**4,287,769.3**	**17.7%**	**15.7**	**3.22**

Values in US$ million; volumes in millions
** markets cap-weighted averages*
Sources: S&P, Bloomberg, Bank Audi'sGroup Research Departement.

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Company reported a 65% year-on-year contraction in its 2026 second quarter net profits to reach SR 30 million. BinDawood Holding's share price closed 2.8% lower at SR 4.52. BinDawood Holding reported 2026 second quarter net profits of SR 50 million, down by 4% year-on-year. Red Sea International's share price went down by 4.7% to SR 23.07. Red Sea International reported a net loss of SR 16.9 million in the second quarter of 2026 against a net loss of SR 1.3 million a year earlier.

The Qatar Stock Exchange slid into the red this week, with the S&P Qatar price index contracting by 0.9%, primarily triggered by an escalation in US-Iran tensions, where Iran repeated its demands for war reparations, prompting the US President to retaliate with sweeping new requirements. This political deadlock dampened market optimism for a swift diplomatic deal that would reopen the vital Strait of Hormuz. Adding to the downward pressure, the market was further weighed down by a series of downbeat corporate earnings. 28 out of 54 traded stocks posted price falls, while 23 stocks recorded price gains and three stocks saw no price change week-on-week.

A closer look at individual stocks shows that Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding Company's share price fell by 3.9% week-on-week to reach QR 1.083. Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding Company posted a net loss of QR 183 million in the first half of 2026 against net profits of QR 379 million a year earlier. Widam Food Company's share price shed 4.0% to QR 1.450. Widam Food Company posted a net loss of QR 57 million in the first half of 2026 against a net loss of QR 109 million in the same period of last year. Industries Qatar's share price closed 4.8% lower at QR 10.040. Industries Qatar reported net profits of QR 216 million in the first half of 2026 against net profits of QR 2 billion a year earlier. As to banking stocks, QNB's share price retreated by 1.7% week-on-week to close at QR 16.850. QIIB's share price edged down by 0.7% to QR 11.090. Lesha Bank's share price went down by 1.5% to QR 2.875. Al Ahli Bank's share price contracted by 4.0% to SR 4.012. Masraf Al Rayan's share price declined by 0.5% to QR 1.982.

Boursa Kuwait reported mixed price movements this week. While diminishing hopes for a US-Iran diplomatic resolution dragged Kuwaiti equities down, an increase in oil prices effectively limited the bourse's losses. This was reflected by a very shy rise in the S&P Kuwait price index of 0.1%. A closer look at individual stocks shows that Kuwait International Bank's share price decreased by 0.8% this week to reach KWf 254. Boubyan Bank's share price closed 0.5% lower at KWf 651. Kuwait Cement's share price retreated by 2.2% to KWf 406. Al-Kout Industrial Projects Company's share price plunged by 11.2% to KWf 761. Independent Petroleum's share price fell by 2.1% to KWf 662. Action Energy Company's share price went down by 1.5% to KWf 271.

In contrast, Commercial Bank of Kuwait's share price expanded by 1.8% week-on-week to KWf 517. Jazeera Airways' share price went up by 1.5% to KWf 1,786. Boubyan Petrochemical Company's share price surged by 4.4% to KWf 691. National Petroleum Services Company's share price increased by 1.4% to KWf 1,460. Soor Fuel Marketing's share price closed 1.7% higher at KWf 292. Heavy Engineering Industries and Shipbuilding's share price rose by 1.3% to KWf 636.

FIXED INCOME MARKETS: ACTIVITY IN MENA BOND MARKETS MOSTLY TILTED TO UPSIDE THIS WEEK AMID COOLING US ECONOMIC DATA

Activity in MENA fixed income markets was mostly tilted to the upside this week, mainly fueled by soft US economic data in July, as a drop in US retail sales for the first time in nine months and a subdued US inflation report tempered expectations for US Federal Reserve interest rate hikes.

In the Saudi credit space, sovereigns maturing in 2029, 2034 and 2050 recorded weekly price gains of up to 0.45 pt, while sovereigns maturing in 2060 registered price drops of 0.18 pt. Prices of Aramco'30, '34 and '50 expanded by 0.39 pt, 0.12 pt and 0.24 pt respectively. SEC'30 and '44 traded up by 0.30 pt and 0.53 pt respectively. STC'29 closed up by 0.05 pt. Prices of SABIC'28 increased by 0.23 pt. Amongst financials, prices of Al Rajhi Bank'29 expanded by 0.18 pt. Banque Saudi Fransi'29 was up by 0.16 pt. SNB'29 traded up by 0.05 pt.

In the Bahraini credit space, sovereigns maturing in 2030 and 2035 recorded price increases of 0.15 pt and 0.18 pt respectively. In the Qatari credit space, sovereigns maturing in 2028, 2029, 2040 and 2050 posted price declines of up to 0.19 pt, while sovereigns maturing in 2034 registered price gains of 0.05 pt week-on-week. Prices of Ooredoo'28, '31 and '43 contracted by 0.06 pt, 0.16 pt and 0.29 pt respectively.

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Amongst financials, Qatar International Islamic Bank'29 traded up by 0.08 pt. Prices of QNB'29 increased by 0.07 pt this week.

In the UAE credit space, sovereigns maturing in 2031 and 2041 registered price expansions of 0.37 pt and 0.41 pt respectively, while sovereigns maturing in 2052 saw price drops of 0.06 pt week-on-week. In the Dubai credit space, sovereigns maturing in 2030 posted price rises of 0.42 pt, while sovereigns maturing in 2050 reported price decreases of 0.13 pt this week. Prices of Majid Al Futtaim'29 went up by 0.14 pt. DP World'30 traded up by 0.05 pt, while DP World'49 was down by 0.05 pt. In the Sharjah credit space, sovereigns maturing in 2030 posted price rises of 0.19 pt week-on-week.

In the Abu Dhabi credit space, sovereigns maturing in 2029, 2030 and 2034 saw weekly price expansions of up to 0.40 pt. Prices of Mubadala'28, '30,'34 and '50 expanded by up to 0.53 pt. Prices of Taqa'28, '30 and '36 rose by 0.19 pt, 0.21 pt and 0.13 pt respectively. ADNOC Murban'29 was up by 0.15 pt. Prices of Aldar Investment Properties'33 increased by 1.01 pt. Amongst financials, FAB'29 registered price rises of 0.08 pt, while FAB'35 was down by 0.12 pt. Prices of ADCB'27 and '29 went up by 0.07 pt and 0.13 pt respectively.

In the Kuwaiti credit space, KIPCO'27 traded down by 0.15 pt this week. In the Iraqi credit space, sovereigns maturing in 2028 posted weekly price increases of 0.09 pt. In the Omani credit space, sovereigns maturing in 2028, 2031 and 2051 saw price gains of 0.07 pt, 0.09 pt and 0.37 pt respectively this week. Omantel'28 traded down by 0.06 pt.

In the Egyptian credit space, sovereigns maturing in 2028, 2033, 2040 and 2050 posted price expansions of up to 0.65 pt, while sovereigns maturing in 2030 registered price contractions of 0.85 pt this week.

All in all, MENA fixed income markets reported mostly upward price movements this week, as a mild US inflation report and a surprise contraction in retail sales in July eased pressures on the US Federal Reserve to hike interest rates. US core CPI- which strips out volatile food and energy costs- cooled to an annual rate of 2.5% in July 2026, its lowest print since March 2021, and the US retail sales unexpectedly contracted by 0.6% month-on-month in July, the first drop since October 2025. These data prints prompted traders to fully price in the first interest rate hike in December 2026, while pushing the projected timeline for a second hike from March to June 2027, which currently carries a 51% implied probability.

MIDDLE EAST 5Y CDS SPREADS V/S INTL BENCHMARKS

in basis points	14-Aug-26	07-Aug-26	31-Dec-25	Week-on-week	Year-to-date
Abu Dhabi	33	34	27	-1	6
Dubai	63	60	46	3	17
Kuwait	54	54	47	0	7
Qatar	32	34	27	-2	5
Saudi Arabia	58	60	67	-2	-9
Bahrain	275	284	184	-9	91
Morocco	74	76	70	-2	4
Egypt	265	271	271	-6	-6
Iraq	234	246	207	-12	27
Middle East	121	134	105	-13	16
Emerging Markets	88	88	99	0	-11
Global	211	211	213	0	-2

Sources: Bloomberg, Bank Audi's Group Research Department

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SOVEREIGN RATINGS & FX RATES

SOVEREIGN RATINGS	Standard & Poor's	Moody's	Fitch
LEVANT			
Lebanon	SD/Stable/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-/Negative/B	Caa1/Negative	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/Stable/F1+
Kuwait	AA-/Stable/A-1+	A1/Stable	AA-/Stable/F1+
Bahrain	B/Stable/B	B2/Negative	B+/Negative/B
Oman	BBB-/Stable/B	Ba3/Stable	BBB-/Stable/B
Yemen	NR	NR	NR
NORTH AFRICA			
Algeria	NR	NR	NR
Morocco	BBB-/Stable/A-3	Ba1/Positive	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$)	14-Aug-26	07-Aug-26	31-Dec-25	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)	50.28	49.79	47.70	1.0%	5.4%
Iraqi Dinar (IQD)	1,310.00	1,310.00	1,310.00	0.0%	0.0%
GULF					
Saudi Riyal (SAR)	3.75	3.76	3.75	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%	0.0%
Omani Riyal (OMR)	0.38	0.38	0.39	0.0%	-0.1%
Yemeni Riyal (YER)	237.17	238.16	238.38	-0.4%	-0.5%
NORTH AFRICA					
Algerian Dinar (DZD)	132.73	132.92	129.41	-0.1%	2.6%
Moroccan Dirham (MAD)	9.29	9.31	9.11	-0.2%	1.9%
Tunisian Dinar (TND)	2.92	2.92	2.89	0.0%	1.0%
Libyan Dinar (LYD)	6.37	6.37	5.42	0.0%	17.6%
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'sGroup Research Departement.