








# U Capital Morning Brief

3 January 2018

GCC Market Indices	Current Close	Previous Close	Change	D/D	MTD	YTD
	Index	Index	Point	%	%	%
U-Capital Oman 20 Index	971.61	974.29	-2.68	-0.28%	-0.28%	-0.28%
U-Capital GCC 50 Index	1,142.69	1,142.46	0.23	0.02%	-0.17%	-0.17%
U-Capital MENA 200 Index	993.57	992.92	0.65	0.07%	-0.15%	-0.15%
MSCI GCC Countries Index	479.32	478.76	0.56	0.12%	-0.09%	-0.09%
 Muscat Securities Market	5,093.69	5,082.23	11.46	0.23%	-0.11%	-0.11%
 Saudi Stock Exchange	7,171.74	7,194.15	(22.41)	-0.31%	-0.76%	-0.76%
 Kuwait Stock Exchange	6,312.52	6,408.01	(95.49)	-1.49%	-1.49%	-1.49%
 Qatar Exchange	8,620.26	8,523.38	96.88	1.14%	1.14%	1.14%
 Bahrain Stock Exchange	1,322.04	1,331.71	(9.68)	-0.73%	-0.73%	-0.73%
 Dubai Financial Market	3,411.17	3,370.07	41.10	1.22%	1.22%	1.22%
 Abu Dhabi Sec. Exchange	4,441.99	4,398.44	43.55	0.99%	0.99%	0.99%

Source: Bloomberg

World Markets*	Country	Value	Change	D/D	Commodity Prices*	Price	Change	D/D
<b>Europe</b>					USD			
FTSE 100	United Kingdom	7,648.1	(39.67)	(0.52)	Brent Crude (per bbl) <i>Updated</i>	66.54	(0.03)	(0.05)
DAX	Germany	12,871.4	(46.25)	(0.36)	WTI Crude (per bbl) <i>Updated</i>	60.38	0.01	0.02
CAC 40	France	5,288.6	(23.96)	(0.45)	Oman Crude Oil (Last Closing)	64.30	(0.20)	(0.31)
<b>United States</b>					USD			
DJIA	USA	24,824.0	104.79	0.42	Gold 100 OZ (per oz)	1,313.81	(3.70)	(0.28)
S&P 500	USA	2,695.8	22.20	0.83	Silver (per oz)	17.08	(0.10)	(0.60)
NASDAQ	USA	7,006.9	103.51	1.50	Platinum (per oz)	943.20	(1.37)	(0.15)
<b>Asia Pacific</b>					USD			
NIKKEI 225	Japan	22,764.9	(19.04)	(0.08)	Copper, MT	7,205.00	(42.00)	(0.58)
HANG SENG	Hongkong	30,615.8	100.44	0.33	Aluminium, MT	2,264.50	(3.50)	(0.15)
<b>Selected Middle East</b>					USD			
Tunis Se Index	Tunis	6,203.3	(78.56)	(1.25)	Lead, MT	2,570.00	82.50	3.32
EGX 30 Index	Egypt	15,023.8	4.62	0.03	Zinc, MT	3,349.00	30.00	0.90
Blom Stock Index	Lebanon	1,145.6	(2.96)	(0.26)	Nickel, MT	12,620.00	(140.00)	(1.10)

Source: Bloomberg, U Capital- at 8:30AM Muscat time

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## Cross Rate for Major Currencies\*

Currency	Code	USD/1 Unit	Units/1 USD
Euro	EUR	1.205	0.830
British Pound	GBP	1.360	0.735
Japanese Yen	JPY	0.009	112.320
Chinese Renminbi	CNH	0.154	6.504
Indian Rupee	INR	0.016	63.525
Russian Ruble	RUB	0.017	57.626
Canadian Dollar	CAD	0.799	1.252
Australian Dollar	AUD	0.781	1.280

Source: Bloomberg Note: all prices/indices are updated till 8:30 AM Muscat time.\* markets are closed on Saturday and Sunday

## OMAN ECONOMIC & CORPORATE NEWS

### BankDhofar signs financing deal with SSDC

Reinforcing its position as one of the leading banks in Oman and as a vital contributor to the growth of the national economy, BankDhofar signed an agreement with the Salalah Sanitary Drainage Services Company (SSDC) to finance the expansion of its Raysut treatment plant. The finance agreement was signed at the Salalah Sanitary Drainage Services Company's headquarters in the Governorate of Dhofar.

Source: [Times of Oman](#)

### RO 100m boost from amended income tax law

Amendments to the Oman Income Tax Law, key provisions of which have come into force this year, will generate an additional RO 100 million in revenues to the government in 2018, according to a well-known tax expert. Alkesh Joshi, Partner (Business Tax Advisory Services) at multinational professional services firm EY Oman, said the revenue spike will help offset reductions in customs duty and other non-oil earnings recorded in the 2018 State Budget unveiled here on Monday.

Source: [Oman Observer](#)

### Credit Oman Board discusses investment status

The Board of Directors of the Export Credit Guarantee Agency of Oman (Credit Oman) held a meeting on Monday at its headquarters headed by Said bin Saleh al Kiyoumi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), and Chairman of Credit Oman. During the meeting, they approved the minutes of the previous meeting and the financial performance for Credit Oman for the period ending September 2017.

Source: [Oman Observer](#)

### Ministry says public response to subsidized fuel scheme good

The Ministry of Oil and Gas (MOG) has said that the government's scheme to provide fuel to citizens, earning less than RO600, at subsidized rates has received good response. Speaking to Muscat Daily, H E Eng Salim bin Nasser al Aufi, Undersecretary in MOG said that more than 100,000 people have already registered on the National Subsidy System website. The government had announced earlier this month that those earning below RO600 will get 200lt of M91 fuel at 180bz or less from January.

Source: [Muscat Daily](#)

## MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC & CORPORATE NEWS

### Jafza welcomes first photovoltaic solar panel plant

Global trade enabler DP World's Jebel Ali Free Zone (Jafza) has welcomed Maysun Solar, the first photovoltaic panel producer to set up a manufacturing facility in the region's leading free zone. Maysun Solar currently manufactures 5,000 solar panels per month with the capacity to generate 40 megawatts of electricity. The establishment of the facility follows DP World's ongoing solar energy project in Jafza and the Mina Rashid Port involving the installation of 88,000 roof-top solar panels as part of its efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

Source: [Times of Oman](#)

### Asset diversification to help Derayah REIT hedge against volatility

Derayah REIT's geographical diversification of assets will likely reduce overall risk and improve returns on the portfolio, Derayah Financial Corporation CEO Mohammed Al Shammasi told Argaam. Subscription to Derayah REIT's initial public offering (IPO) started last Wednesday and will extend to Sunday, January 7, 2018.

Source: [Argaam](#)

### Amlak completes its first property project in Mirdif

Amlak Finance on Tuesday announced the completion of its first fully-owned residential project in Mirdif. The project consists of 54 villas and was scheduled for handover during December 2017. "We are pleased to announce the completion of the Amlak's first fully-owned residential development project in Mirdif. This project is a testament towards our forward thinking approach and further strengthens our leadership position in the market.

Source: [Khaleej Times](#)

### Emirates Healthcare Group, Egypt's Alameda ink new deal

Egypt's Alameda Healthcare Group on Tuesday announced a partnership with Emirates Healthcare Group, a subsidiary of the Abu Dhabi-based investment group KBBO. "Our expansion in Egypt comes from our strong belief in the development and prosperity of the Egyptian market, and the progress that Egypt is making in all areas as a nation," said Khalifa Bin Butti, KBBO Group's chairman.

Source: [Mubasher](#)

### 15 UAE-listed firms hike capital by \$1.5bn in 2017

UAE-listed companies increased their capital by AED 5.5 billion (\$1.5 billion) in 2017 through a variety of methods, such as rights offerings in Arabtec Holding and Dar Al Takaful, or through bonus shares as with Dubai Investments. Other companies raised their capital through private placement and sukuk issuance, among them were Tabreed and Drake and Scull International (DSI).

Source: [Mubasher](#)

### Reports on revenue expected from Saudi VAT incorrect, says official

The reported figures on expected total revenues to generated from value-added tax (VAT) in Saudi Arabia are incorrect, Hamoud Al Harbi, director of the VAT project at General Authority for Zakat and Tax's (GAZT), told Argam. "GAZT is an executive agency that implements rules and regulations, while policy makers are the ones who have the numbers," he was quoted as saying.

Source: [Argam](#)

### Qatar's population rises to 2.64m in 2017

Qatar's population increased 1.9% year-on-year in December 2017, the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics announced on Tuesday. The Qatari population rose to 2.64 million people by the end of 2017, the lowest level since September 2017, from 2.59 million people in December 2016. Men represent 1.98 million people, while women were 655,650 in December, according to the data.

Source: [Mubasher](#)

### Gulf Navigation to raise \$122m through IPO

Gulf Navigation Holding will hike its capital by Dh448.33 million through an initial public offering (IPO) to increase its paid-up share capital to Dh1 billion in the first quarter of 2018. The paid-up capital will be spread over one billion shares at a par value of Dh1 per share. The capital increase will also support the company's expansion plans as it intends to double its fleet size to 20 vessels by 2020.

Source: [Zawya](#)

### Egypt repaid around \$30 bln in foreign debt in 2017 - state news agency quoting cbank source

Egypt repaid around \$30 billion dollars in foreign debt in 2017 and expects to pay off more than \$12 billion of its debts in 2018, state news agency MENA said on Tuesday citing a source in the central bank. The debt stood at \$79 billion at the end of the 2016/17 fiscal year. Egypt's foreign reserves were \$36.723 billion at the end of November, having climbed steadily since it secured a \$12 billion, three-year, International Monetary Fund loan last year as it tries to lure back foreign investors and revive its ailing economy.

Source: [Reuters](#)

## INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC & CORPORATE NEWS

### London bourse raises \$20b from 106 IPOs in 2017

The London Stock Exchange (LSE) raised 15 billion pounds (\$20.28 billion) from 106 initial public offerings (IPOs) in 2017, a 63 per cent increase compared to last year and the highest level for three years. Money raised from the exchange's listings was up 164 per cent compared to 5.7 billion pounds in 2016, the LSE said in a statement on Friday.

Source: [Times of Oman](#)

### Asia shares eye all-time top amid global growth cheer

Asian stocks struck a decade peak on Wednesday as risk appetites were whetted by a bevy of upbeat manufacturing surveys that confirmed a synchronized upturn in world growth was well under way.

Source: [Reuters](#)

## COMMODITIES NEWS

### Moody's sees oil prices at \$40-\$60 per barrel this year

Moody's Investors Service said on Tuesday it expects oil prices in the range of \$40 to \$60 per barrel in 2018, with abundant supplies of U.S. natural gas constraining prices, even while demand goes up. "Prices will likely remain range-bound, and possibly volatile, on a combination of increasing U.S. shale production, reduced but still significant global supplies, and potential non-compliance with agreed production cuts - especially if demand growth is more tepid," Moody's said.

Source: [Zawya](#)

### Oil prices close to mid-2015 highs, but doubts over further rises loom

Oil prices were stable on Wednesday, not far off mid-2015 highs reached the previous session, as strong demand and ongoing efforts led by OPEC and Russia to curb production tightened the market. U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures <CLC1> were at \$60.40 a barrel at 0141 GMT, up 3 cents from their last close, and not far off the \$60.74 June 2015 high reached the previous day.

Source: [Today Online](#)

### Gold hits 3-1/2-month highs before dipping on dollar recovery

Gold prices edged down on Wednesday after hitting a 3-1/2-month high, as the dollar recovered from its lows and technical indicators pointed to a short-term correction. Spot gold fell 0.4 percent to \$1,312

Source: [Forex TV](#)

