

PRE-MARKET REPORT

12 August 2021

HEADLINES

MARKET INDICATORS

GCC CORPORATE NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & DISCLOSURES

- MSCI says Saudi Arabia's constituents unchanged in quarterly index review
- BinDawood Holding Co. announces an update on the Lawsuit filed against one of its Subsidiaries
- Abdullah A. M. Al-Khodari Sons Company Announcement the issuance of the Commercial Court in Dammam decision to end the financial restructuring procedure of the company and the opening of the liquidation procedure
- Tabuk Cement net income up 250% YoY but down 73% QoQ in 2Q21
- Al Yamamah Steel net income up considerably YoY and 8.4% QoQ in 2Q21
- Al Khorayef Water income declines on both YoY and QoQ basis in 2Q21
- SPIMACO net income up both YoY & QoQ in 2Q21
- Abo Moati for Bookstores reports growth on both YoY and QoQ basis in 2Q21
- Saudi Printing & Packaging reports loss in 2Q21
- Bahrain's Bank ABC buys 99.5% of Blom Bank Egypt
- National Bank of Bahrain net income up 9% YoY in 1H21
- Emaar Development records 46% higher profits in H1-21
- Emaar Properties' net profits down 8% in H1-21
- Aldar Properties net income up 35% YoY in 1H21
- Tabreed profit up 4% YoY in 1H21
- Qatar Islamic Insurance Group board recommends amendment for up to 100% foreign investors' ownership
- Qatar First Bank reports profit of QAR 40.9mn in 1H21 compared to loss last year
- Qatar Baladna net income up 3% YoY in 1H21
- Al Meera Consumer Goods net income down 7% YoY in 1H21
- Mazaya Qatar net income down 30% YoY in 1H21
- Jazeera Airways (JAZEERA KK) 2Q Loss 6.5m Dinars; Est. Loss 5.01m

FINANCIAL RESULTS EXPECTED:

- Agility (AGLTY KK), GFH (GFH BI), Alafco (ALAFCO KK)

ECONOMIC, GENERAL & COMMODITIES NEWS

- Bidding opens for three Omani oil blocks
- OQ exits its investment in Portugese Redes Energeticas Nacionais (REN)
- Saudi's GACA move to allow use of full seating in domestic flights
- Saudi Arabia issues record number of foreign investor licenses
- Qatar's hospitality sector sees increase in occupancy of hotels
- Mubadala, BlackRock form partnership across private equity funds
- Dubai's Emirates to restore flight capacity to 29 cities
- UAE retail sector improves as consumers return to shops: Majid Al Futtaim CEO
- NMC's first-half revenue improves on cost efficiencies amid financial restructuring
- U.S. stock futures mixed as market shrugs off inflation report
- China's tech giants generate billions for investors — but small businesses are being squeezed
- Global investors bet on China's rental property amid shifting political winds
- Asian shares fall as Delta fears eclipse Wall Street uptick
- EIA Lowers Oil Production Expectations For 2022

CHART / TABLE OF THE DAY

- Value of traded property in Oman went up by 30.4% in 6M/2021 to OMR 1,370.7mn compared to OMR 1,050mn in 6M/2020

MARKET INDICATORS

Market Indices	Current Close	Change	D/D	YTD	Price to Earnings	Price to Book	Div Yield
	Index	Point	%	%	(x)	(x)	%
MSCI GCC Index	701.4	1.79	0.26%	23.11%	20.32	2.20	2.5%
Muscat Stock Exchange	4,005.9	5.82	0.15%	9.49%	12.67	0.80	3.9%
Saudi Stock Exchange	11,325.1	25.23	0.22%	30.33%	27.60	2.49	2.2%
Kuwait Stock Exchange	6,611.8	15.27	0.23%	19.22%	34.57	1.65	1.8%
Qatar Exchange	10,916.1	3.09	0.03%	4.60%	16.62	1.59	2.7%
Bahrain Stock Exchange	1,622.9	4.98	0.31%	8.94%	11.38	0.81	3.4%
Dubai Financial Market	2,814.6	-2.04	-0.07%	12.95%	20.72	0.97	2.8%
Abu Dhabi Exchange	7,594.4	35.61	0.47%	50.52%	23.03	2.17	3.0%
Palestine Stock Exchange	575.0	1.30	0.23%	22.02%	18.79	1.36	2.2%
Tunis Se Index	7,282.4	-27.20	-0.37%	5.77%	24.64	2.39	2.2%
EGX 30 Index	10,884.5	30.67	0.28%	0.36%	10.68	1.54	1.5%
Amman General Index	2,014.7	23.14	1.16%	21.57%	23.36	0.85	3.5%

World Markets	Country	Value	D/D	YTD
Europe				
FTSE 100	UK	7,220.1	0.83%	11.76%
DAX	Germany	15,826.1	0.35%	15.36%
CAC 40	France	6,858.0	0.55%	23.54%
United States				
DJIA	USA	35,485.0	0.62%	15.94%
S&P 500	USA	4,447.7	0.25%	18.41%
NASDAQ	USA	14,765.1	-0.16%	14.56%
Asia Pacific				
NIKKEI 225	Japan	28,080.1	0.03%	2.32%
HANG SENG	Hongkong	26,636.9	-0.09%	-2.18%
KSE 100 Index	Pakistan	47,377.4	0.00%	8.28%
NSE Nifty 50	India	16,318.1	0.22%	16.71%
SHANGHAI COMPOSITE	China	3,528.3	-0.12%	1.59%
SHANGHAI SHENZHEN CSI 300	China	4,984.5	-0.61%	-4.35%

Currency Cross Rates	Units/1 USD	YTD %
Australian Dollar (AUD)	1.357	4.42%
British Pound (GBP)	0.721	-1.50%
Canadian Dollar (CAD)	1.250	1.78%
Chinese Renm. (CNH)	6.478	0.39%
Egyptian Pound (EGP)	15.706	0.13%
Euro (EUR)	0.852	4.02%
Indian Rupee (INR)	74.281	-1.64%
Japanese Yen (JPY)	110.370	-6.45%
Swiss Franc (CHF)	0.921	-3.93%
Omani Rial (OMR)	0.385	0.00%
Pakistan Rupee (PKR)	163.593	-2.30%
Russian Ruble (RUB)	73.394	1.39%
Singapore Dollar (SGD)	1.357	-2.59%
Turkish Lira (TRY)	8.631	-13.80%

Commodity Prices	Price	D/D	YTD
	USD	%	%
Oil			
Brent Crude (per bbl)	71.5	0.08%	40.06%
WTI Crude (per bbl)	69.3	0.09%	42.83%
Oman Crude Oil (Last Closing)	70.8	0.38%	38.60%
OPEC (per bbl)	70.1	-0.75%	39.59%
Precious Metals			
Gold100 OZ (per oz)	1,752.0	0.02%	-7.71%
Silver (per oz)	23.5	-0.38%	-11.16%
Platinum (per oz)	1,020.4	-0.31%	-4.83%
Other Metals			
Copper, MT	9,512	-0.09%	22.48%
Aluminium, MT	2,586	0.43%	30.61%
Lead, MT	2,319	1.31%	16.27%
Zinc, MT	3,044	1.45%	10.63%

GCC 3m Interbank Rates	Current Rate %	YTD %
UAE	0.37	-27.4%
Saudi Arabia	0.79	-2.8%
Kuwait	1.50	4.3%
Oman	2.13	-20.4%
Qatar	0.94	-16.4%
Bahrain	1.58	-30.0%

GCC Latest 10-Yr Government Bond Yields		
	Maturity date	YTM, %
KUWAIT	20/03/2027	1.28
UAE	16/04/2030	1.91
QATAR	16/04/2030	2.00
SAUDI ARABIA	22/10/2030	2.24
OMAN	25/01/2031	5.09
BAHRAIN	30/09/2031	5.67

Midswaps	Price	YTM %
3 year	99.79	0.4
5 year	99.13	0.8
10 year	102.72	1.3
30 year	108.48	2.0

USD Libor	Rate (%)	YTD
1m	0.10	-32.9%
3m	0.12	-48.5%
6m	0.16	-39.4%
1 year	0.24	-29.9%

Source: Bloomberg

GCC CORPORATE NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & DISCLOSURES

INDEX REVIEW / SAUDI ARABIA

MSCI says Saudi Arabia's constituents unchanged in quarterly index review

- MSCI Inc, the provider of research-based indexes and analytics, announced the results of the August 2021 Quarterly Index Review for the MSCI Equity Indexes. The Saudi securities remained unchanged on the MSCI Saudi Arabia Standard and MSCI Saudi Arabia Small Cap Indexes, compared to its semi-annual index review (SAIR) last May.

MSCI Saudi Arabia Index – Leading Companies Index	MSCI Saudi Arabia - Small Cap Index
Saudi Aramco	Aldreess
Al Rajhi	Leejam
SABIC	Al Akaria
stc	eXtra
Riyad Bank	Seera
Saudi Electricity	Al Rajhi Takaful
Advanced	SRMG
Alinma Bank	Petrochem
Almarai	Zain KSA
Bank Aljazira	Alhokair
Bank Albilad	Arabian Cement
BSF	ARDCO
Bupa Arabia	Aseer
Tawuniya	City Cement
Dar Al-Arkan	Dallah
Emaar EC	Dur
Mobily	Eastern Cement
Jarir	Herfy
SNB	Najran Cement
Tasnee	NADEC
Petro Rabigh	Care
SABIC Agri-Nutrients	Northern Cement
Maaden	Saudi Ceramic
SABB	Saudi Chemical
Saudi Cement	SADAFCO
SIIG	SPIMACO
Saudi Kayan	SAPTCO
Savola	Southern Cement
Yansab	MEAHCO
ANB	GASCO
Al Othaim	SACO
Sulaiman Al Habib	Yamama Cement
Petrochem	Yanbu Cement
Mouwasat	Qassim Cement
	Budget Saudi
	Maharah
	SGS
	Jadwa REIT
	Alujain
	Halwani
	Alasmak
	Amlak International
	Al Jouf Agricultural
	MIS
	SARCO
	Catering
	Riyadh Cement

SAUDI ARABIA

BinDawood Holding Co. announces an update on the Lawsuit filed against one of its Subsidiaries

- Wherein the Plaintiff (Arab Dallah Co.) filed an appeal against the verdict issued by the Court of first instance; whereby the initial verdict was overturned by the Court of Appeal with commentary on the ruling in regards to examining the legal capacity of the defendant and to examine the merits of the claim. As such the Case now will be reopened by the initial Court to adjudicate on these comments.
- Previous Announcement: Addendum announcement from BinDawood Holding Co. in regards to dismissal of patent infringement case brought against its subsidiary (Danube Co. for Foodstuffs & Commodities)

Abdullah A. M. Al-Khodari Sons Company Announcement the issuance of the Commercial Court in Dammam decision to end the financial restructuring procedure of the company and the opening of the liquidation procedure

- Abdullah A. M. Al-Khodari Sons Company announces the receipt of the decision of the first Chamber of the Commercial Court in Dammam today dated 03/1/1443 corresponding to 11/8/2021 issued on 2/1/1443 corresponding to 10/8/2021 to end the financial restructuring procedure of the company and the opening of the liquidation procedure and the appointment of Mr. Bader Hatem Al-Tamimi as a liquidator in light of the voting of the creditors dated 25/12/1442 corresponding to 4/8/2021 rejected the financial restructuring proposal .
- Whereas Article 217 of the bankruptcy law, in its paragraphs (B) and(C), provides that : "any interested person may object before the court of appeal the judgment or decision of the court if the subject matter of the judgment or decision is any of the following:
- Commencement or rejection of Commencement of a liquidation procedure, small debtor's liquidation procedures or administrative liquidation procedure.
- Termination or non-termination of any bankruptcy procedures

Saudi Corporate Results

SAR MN	2Q21	2Q20	%CHANGE	1Q21	% CHANGE
TABUK CEMENT	1.89	0.54	249.999	7.05	-73.2
AL YAMAMAH STEEL	65.1	0.932	6,880.6	60.02	8.4
ALKHORAYEF WATER	21.7	26.2	-17.0	26.9	-19.5
SPIMACO	29.18	25.89	12.70	24.46	19.30
SPPC	-15.35	1.49	-	-13.56	13.2

Tabuk Cement net income up 250% YoY but down 73% QoQ in 2Q21

- The reason for the increase in net profit during the current quarter compared to the same quarter of the previous year , despite the increase in selling and general expenses and Zakat expense is due to:
 - Decrease in cost of sales and production for the current quarter.
 - Decrease in depreciation expenses for the current quarter as a result of a change in the accounting estimate , which is the useful lives of machinery and equipment .
 - Decreased in financial cost for the current quarter .
 - Unrealized profits of SAR 339 thousands riyal were recorded .

Al Yamamah Steel net income up considerably YoY and 8.4% QoQ in 2Q21

- The main reason for the increase in net profit by 6,881.98% is attributed mainly to the increase in the selling prices of products in the construction sector by 54.81%, which is higher than the 17.43%, the rate of the increase in the cost of sales (as raw materials in favor to cost). In spite of the decrease in the sold quantities of construction products by 33% which has led to decrease in the cost of selling and distribution expenses by SAR 1.44 Million and a rate of 15.51% due to the decrease in the shipping expenses. In addition to the decrease in financial charges by SAR 2.15 Million, a rate of 40.71% due to decrease in the loans balances and the interest rates.

Al Khorayef Water income declines on both YoY and QoQ basis in 2Q21

- The reason for the decrease is due to the following:
- Charging of Zakat fees for the current quarter for the first time with an amount of 2.09 million riyal as previously zakat declaration was issued on consolidated basis at the parent company level, where the parent company pledged to Capital

Market Authority (CMA) that any charges related to zakat will be borne by the parent company, and accordingly no zakat related fees were charged for the previous periods, in addition to the increase in the general and administrative expenses.

SPIMACO net income up both YoY & QoQ in 2Q21

- Gross profit increased by SAR 16.35 million (11%) resulted from decline in the cost of sales due to improvement in capacity utilization of the manufacturing facilities during current quarter. Operating profit also increased by SAR 10 million (46%) which is mainly attributable to the increase of the gross profit and the reversal of provision for credit losses. Net profit increased by SAR 3.28 million (13%) which is due to the cumulative impact of increase in operating profit and the reduction in zakat expenses during current quarter.
- Sales revenue decreased by SAR 129 million (-28%) mainly due to change in demand being cyclical impact. However, gross profit increased by SAR 22 million (15%) resulted from decline in the cost of sales due to consistent improvement in capacity utilization from quarter to quarter and improvement in the sales mix with more profitable products. Operating profit also increased by SAR 5.5 million (22%) mainly due to the increase in other income by 6.4 million which also resulted in increase in net profit by SAR 4.7 million (19%).

Abo Moati for Bookstores reports growth on both YoY and QoQ basis in 2Q21

- Net profit increased in the current quarter due to increase in sales by 25.50% compared to the same quarter of the previous year as a result of the return of normal commercial activities in the current quarter In addition to an increase in rental income and decrease in operating and financing expenses during the current quarter compared to same quarter last year.
- Net profit increased by 130% despite the decrease in sales by 31.62% from the previous quarter due to decrease in operating expenses in the current quarter compared to the previous quarter due to the presence of some exceptional expenses in the previous quarter.

Saudi Printing & Packaging reports loss in 2Q21

- Saudi Printing & Packaging reports loss of SAR 15.4mn in 2Q21.
- The main reason for the increase in the net loss is the decrease in the gross profit resulting from the increase in the cost of raw materials.

BAHRAIN

Bahrain's Bank ABC buys 99.5% of Blom Bank Egypt

- Bahrain's Arab Banking Corporation has acquired a 99.5 per cent stake in Blom Bank Egypt in a mandatory tender offer.
- Bank ABC bought 298.62 million of Blom Bank Egypt's 300 million shares for \$424.05 million, the Egyptian Exchange said on Monday.
- The Gulf lender had offered to acquire the local branch of the Lebanese lender for 22.33 Egyptian pounds (\$1.42) per share, valuing the business at \$427m.
- The deal was announced in January and approved by Egypt's Financial Regulatory Authority last month.

Bahrain Corporate Results

BHD MN	1H20	1H21	%CHANGE
NATIONAL BANK OF BAHRAIN	13.7	14.9	9%

National Bank of Bahrain net income up 9% YoY in 1H21

- National Bank of Bahrain B.S.C. (NBB) has reported a 8.8% increase in its net profit attributable to equity shareholders to BHD 14.9 million (USD 39.5 million) for the second quarter ended 30 June 2021, compared to BHD 13.7 million (USD 36.3 million) in the same period of 2020.
- The increase in net profit is predominantly due to higher net interest income due to higher loan volumes and following the active repricing of the Group's balance sheet in line with recent interest rate trends, higher cross-sell FX activities and increased realised gains following the effective and active management of the investment securities book.

UAE

UAE Corporate Results

AED MN	1H20	1H21	%CHANGE
EMAAR DEVELOPMENT	1,036	1,512	46%
EMAAR PROPERTIES	1,698	1,560	-8%
ALDAR PROPERTIES	783.5	1,062	35%
TABREED	224.3	233.5	4%

Emaar Development records 46% higher profits in H1-21

- The net profits of Emaar Development jumped by 46% to AED 1.512 billion in the January-June period of 2021, compared to AED 1.036 billion in the year-ago period.
- The company's revenues hiked by 61% to AED 7.755 billion in the first half (H1) of 2021 from AED 4.818 billion in the corresponding period of 2020, according to a press release on Wednesday.
- In the second quarter (Q2) of 2021, the company's net profits increased by 89% to AED 731 million, against AED 387 million in the same quarter of 2020.
- Emaar has a sales backlog of AED 27.577 billion, which will be registered in the future as revenues for the business.
- It is noteworthy to mention that in the first quarter (Q1) of 2021, the company's net profits increased by 20% year-on-year (YoY) to AED 781 million, compared to AED 649 million.

Emaar Properties' net profits down 8% in H1-21

- The net profits of Emaar Properties decreased by 8% to AED 1.56 billion during the first half (H1) of 2021, compared to AED 1.698 billion in the corresponding half of 2020.
- The company's revenues jumped by 52% to AED 12.5 billion in the first six months of 2021 from AED 8.22 billion in the year-ago period, according to a press release on Wednesday.
- In the second quarter (Q2) of 2021, the company's net profits declined by 17% to AED 903 million, against AED 1.089 billion in the same quarter of 2020.

Aldar Properties net income up 35% YoY in 1H21

- The net profits attributable to the owners of Aldar Properties hiked by 35% to AED 1.062 billion in the January-June period of 2021, compared to AED 783.46 million in the same period of 2020, as per the company's interim consolidated financials for the six-month period ended 30 June 2021.
- The company generated revenues of AED 4.232 billion in the first half (H1) of 2021, up 12% from AED 3.763 billion in the year-ago period.
- In the second quarter (Q2) of 2021, the company reported net profits of AED 520.078 million, up from AED 483.363 million in the same quarter of 2020.

Tabreed profit up 4% YoY in 1H21

- The net profits attributable to the equity holders of National Central Cooling Company (Tabreed) increased by 4% to AED 233.499 million during the first half (H1) of 2021 from AED 224.298 million in the same period of 2020, as per the consolidated interim financials for the six-month period ended 30 June 2021.
- The company's revenues rose by 22% to AED 869.002 million in H1-21, compared to AED 710.015 million in the year-ago period.
- The earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortisation (EBITDA) amounted to AED 517.6 million in H1-21, up 25% from AED 415.4 million during the corresponding period of 2020.

QATAR

Qatar Islamic Insurance Group board recommends amendment for up to 100% foreign investors' ownership

- The Board of Directors of Qatar Islamic Insurance Group (QIIG) recommended amending the Article of Association section No. (6) to allow foreign investors' ownership to be 100% of the group capital instead of 49%.
- This was announced on the company website and on the Qatar Stock Exchange social media sites.
- The statement further announced that the amendment will be subject to approval from related regulatory authorities and will be presented to the Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting for approval in a date that will be further announced.

Qatar Corporate Results

QAR MN	1H20	1H21	%CHANGE
QATAR FIRST BANK	-207.6	40.9	-
BALADNA	83.9	86.4	3%
AL MEERA CONSUMER	107.2	100.2	-7%
MAZAYA QATAR	6.65	4.63	-30%

Qatar First Bank reports profit of QAR 40.9mn in 1H21 compared to loss last year

- Qatar First Bank (QFC) discloses the interim financial statement for the six-month period ending 30th June, 2021. The financial statements revealed a Net Profit of QR 40,999,000 in comparison to Net Loss QR 207,656,000 for the same period of the previous year.
- The Earnings per share (EPS) amounted to QR 0.059 as of 30th June, 2021 versus loss per share QR 0.297 for the same period in 2020.

Qatar Baladna net income up 3% YoY in 1H21

- Baladna discloses the interim financial statement for the six-month period ending 30th June, 2021. The financial statements revealed a Net Profit of QR 86,379,534 in comparison to Net Profit QR 83,890,557 for the same period of the previous year.
- The Earnings per share (EPS) amounted to QR 0.045 as of 30th June, 2021 versus Earnings per share (EPS) QR 0.046 for the same period in 2020.

Al Meera Consumer Goods net income down 7% YoY in 1H21

- Al Meera Consumer Goods Company discloses the interim financial statement for the six-month period ending 30th June, 2021. The financial statements revealed a Net Profit of QR 100,117,165 in comparison to Net Profit QR 107,172,868 for the same period of the previous year.
- The Earnings per share (EPS) amounted to QR .50 as of 30th June, 2021 versus Earnings per share (EPS) QR .54 for the same period in 2020.

Mazaya Qatar net income down 30% YoY in 1H21

- Mazaya Qatar Real Estate Development discloses the interim financial statement for the six-month period ending 30th June, 2021. The financial statements revealed a Net Profit of QR 4,635,353 in comparison to Net Profit QR 6,658,916 for the same period of the previous year.
- The Earnings per share (EPS) amounted to QR 0.004 as of 30th June, 2021 versus Earnings per share (EPS) QR 0.006 for the same period in 2020.

KUWAIT

Jazeera Airways (JAZEERA KK) 2Q Loss 6.5m Dinars; Est. Loss 5.01m

- The airline registered a net loss of KD6.5 million for Q2, driven by lower yields as scheduled operations started to return in comparison to Q2 2020 and higher costs due to increase operations and higher fuel prices. Yield decreased from Q2 2020 to the average level of KD68.3.
- Jazeera Airways has reported on its financial and operational performance for the second quarter of the year, announcing a 137.7% increase in number of passengers flown with a higher load factor of 51.3% and an operating revenue of KD7.4 million.

ECONOMIC & GENERAL NEWS

OMAN

Bidding opens for three Omani oil blocks

International bidding has commenced for three hydrocarbon blocks offered by the Ministry of Energy and Minerals as part of the Oman Licensing Round 2021. The roughly four-month-long competitive process kicked off on August 8, 2021, for two onshore blocks – 38 and 66 – as well as a newly created offshore swathe, dubbed Block 23, located just east of Masirah Island off the Sultanate’s east coast. “The blocks on offer are all located in the prolific hydrocarbon provinces and were previously held by operators who were obliged to relinquish these blocks due to statutory licence relinquishment requirements, except Block 23 which will be offered for the first time,” said the Ministry in introductory remarks.

[Source](#)

OQ exits its investment in Portuguese Redes Energeticas Nacionais (REN)

OQ, Oman’s leading global integrated energy company has announced that Mazoon BV, a wholly owned subsidiary of OQ, has sold its 12% stake in Portuguese Utility Company, Redes Energeticas Nacionais (REN), through an over-the-counter transaction at the end of last month. The investment was made in 2012, as OQ aimed to expand and diversify its growing investment portfolio locally and internationally. REN is a high-voltage transmission grid operator and natural gas transportation company with operations in several countries.

[Source](#)

MSX Gains 5 Points

Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) general index (30) today lost (5.8) points, comprising a rise by (0.145%) to close at (4005.92) points, compared to the last session, which stood at (4000.10) points. The trading value today stood at (RO 2,004,533), comprising a drop by (16.1%), compared to the last session, which stood at (RO 2,388,076). The report released by MSX pointed out that the market value went up by (0.091%) to reach about (RO 21.61) billion. The report added that the value of shares bought by non-Omani investors reached (RO 189,000), comprising (9.45%). The value of shares sold by non-Omani investors reached (RO 641,000), comprising (31.97%). The net non-Omani investment decreased by (22.52%) to (RO 451,000).

[Source](#)

MIDDLE EAST

Saudi's GACA move to allow use of full seating in domestic flights

The General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) has confirmed that it is exploring the prospect of allowing the use of full passenger seating capacity on board of domestic flights. This is in coordination with the Ministry of Health and in response to the request made by some national air carriers. The authority said that the new procedures would come into force from Sept. 1. The GACA stated that the return to using the normal seating capacity before the outbreak of COVID-19 would be based on certain conditions. These include immunization of all passengers with two doses of vaccine.

[Source](#)

Saudi Arabia issues record number of foreign investor licenses

Saudi Arabia has seen a big demand for foreign investor licenses in Q1 2021 since its records began in 2005, the Ministry of Investment of Saudi Arabia (MISA) said in a report. The issuance of 478 new licenses breaks the previous record, set as recently as Q4 2020, and marks a 2.6 percent quarterly increase and a 36.2 percent annual increase relative to the same quarter of last year, the report said. The first quarter of 2021 also recorded the fourth consecutive increase in the number of new foreign investment projects since the peak of the pandemic in Q2 2020. Khalid Al Falih, Minister of Investment of Saudi Arabia, said: "Despite common global challenges, more and more investors are starting businesses in the Kingdom, FDI inflow into Saudi Arabia is at its highest level since 2016 when Vision 2030 was launched.

[Source](#)

Qatar’s hospitality sector sees increase in occupancy of hotels

Qatar’s hospitality sector is witnessing a strong rebound with hotels seeing an increase in occupancy rates. Hotels have begun to see a rise in number of guests with gradual easing of COVID-19 related restrictions. The total supply of hotel keys in Qatar reached 28,300 by the start of 2021, which represented an annual increase of 1,200 keys. There are approximately 20,000 hotel keys under construction and expected to be completed by mid-2022, said Cushman and Wakefield Qatar (CWQ) in its second quarter report ‘Qatar’s Real Estate Market Review’.

[Source](#)

Mubadala, BlackRock form partnership across private equity funds

A consortium led by BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, has invested in assets managed by Abu Dhabi state fund Mubadala and in a private equity fund, Mubadala said on Wednesday. BlackRock's Secondaries and Liquidity Solutions group and a consortium of global institutional investors invested in a portfolio of assets managed by Mubadala Capital, Mubadala Capital, the asset management subsidiary of Mubadala Investment Company. The consortium also made a \$400 million commitment to Mubadala Capital's third private equity fund which recently held its final close at \$1.6 billion, Mubadala said in a statement.

[Source](#)

Dubai's Emirates to restore flight capacity to 29 cities

Dubai's Emirates Airline will restore its capacity to 270 flights across 29 cities in response to a spike in travel demand. As of today, the airline will operate three daily flights to London Heathrow using A380 aircraft, increasing capacity through August and September to six daily flights by mid-October, the airline said. Two daily flights to Manchester and 10 flights per week to Birmingham will also be restored by October, the company said. Other destinations that will see increased capacity include Houston, Boston and San Francisco. The airline also said it had optimised schedules to create the best connection options across major cities, such as Johannesburg, Cape Town and Lusaka, as well as Karachi and Islamabad.

[Source](#)

UAE retail sector improves as consumers return to shops: Majid Al Futtaim CEO

The UAE's retail sector continued its recovery from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic during the second quarter of 2021, with consumer spending on the rise amid cautious optimism, the CEO of Dubai's Majid Al Futtaim (MAF), which develops shopping malls across the Middle East, said on Wednesday. "We continue to see positive trends across the UAE retail economy, and in some sectors significant progress in returning to pre-pandemic levels. We see this cautious optimism strongly driven by the robust vaccination measures," said Alain Bejjani, said.

[Source](#)

NMC's first-half revenue improves on cost efficiencies amid financial restructuring

NMC Health, the UAE's biggest healthcare group, said its first-half revenue beat expectations despite coronavirus-induced headwinds, as costs and operational efficiencies amid the ongoing financial restructuring improved performance. Gross revenue for the first six months of this year for the group's UAE and Oman business was \$611 million, 10 per cent more than the company's projection in its business plan for the period, NMC said on Wednesday. First-half earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation, or Ebitda, were \$103.9m, 50 per cent more than the budgeted \$69.3m for the period.

[Source](#)

INTERNATIONAL

U.S. stock futures mixed as market shrugs off inflation report

U.S. stock futures were mixed early Thursday after the market shrugged off the July inflation report and the Dow Jones Industrial Average and S&P 500 hit records. Dow futures rose 15 points. S&P 500 futures were flat, and Nasdaq 100 futures declined marginally. In the regular trading session, the Dow gained 0.6% to reach 35,484.97 and close at a new record. The S&P 500 rose 0.2% to an all-time high of 4,447.70. The Nasdaq Composite traded about 0.1% lower to 14,765.13. The Labor Department reported that the consumer-price index rose 5.4% from a year earlier, for the month of July, and 0.5% from the previous month.

[Source](#)

China's tech giants generate billions for investors — but small businesses are being squeezed

Investors in Chinese companies were caught off guard this summer by Beijing's actions against homegrown tech giants, including comments about overseas-listed shares. One of the surprises was a mandate in late July that Chinese education businesses should restructure and remove investment from foreigners. A separate order earlier last month called for app stores to remove Chinese ride-hailing app Didi — just days after its massive IPO in New York. Didi shares have dropped more than 30% since the listing. The KraneShares CSI China Internet ETF (KWEB), whose top holdings include U.S.-listed stocks Alibaba and JD.com, has fallen 29% over the last 60 trading days.

[Source](#)

Global investors bet on China's rental property amid shifting political winds

Beijing's regulatory firestorm is hitting large swathes of China's economy, but global investors including Blackstone and Warburg Pincus are ramping up bets on Chinese rental properties, judging the political wind is blowing in their favour. China has cracked down on private tutoring, brought monopolistic tech giants to their knees, and stepped up curbs on home buying. But Beijing is wooing capital to help provide rental housing and is attracting plenty of institutional interest.

[Source](#)

Asian shares fall as Delta fears eclipse Wall Street uptick

Asian shares failed to follow a strong close on Wall Street with fears about the spread of the Delta variant of the coronavirus weighing on sentiment even as tame U.S. inflation eased fears the Federal Reserve would rush to reduce its economic support. That data also caused dollar to retreat against most major currencies and U.S. Treasury yields to edge down overnight though both were steadier in Asian hours. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan dropped 0.25% in early trading, dragged by a 0.24% decline in Chinese bluchips. The Hong Kong benchmark fell 0.2% while Australian shares were largely flat and Japan's Nikkei rose 0.35%.

[Source](#)

COMMODITIES

EIA Lowers Oil Production Expectations For 2022

U.S. crude oil production this year will average 11.1 million bpd and will rise to 11.8 million bpd in 2022, the Energy Information Administration said in its latest Short-Term Energy Outlook - down from its previous forecast. The agency added that the most recent monthly data on production, from May, showed a daily average of 11.2 million, which the agency expects to remain relatively unchanged until about October when it would start rising. The rise would continue through 2022, according to the EIA. The U.S. rig count has been on the rise lately, hitting 491 in the first week of August, up by 244 rigs from the same period last year. However, it was much lower than the active rig count in early August 2019, which stood at 790.

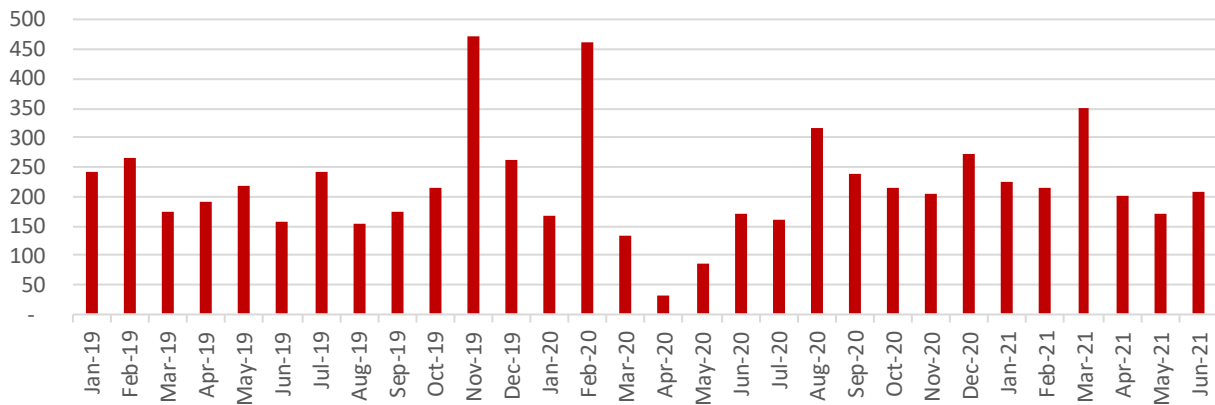
[Source](#)

CHART / TABLE OF THE DAY

Value of traded property in Oman went up by 30.4% in 6M/2021 to OMR 1,370.7mn compared to OMR 1,050mn in 6M/2020

- Value of traded property in Oman went up by 30.4% in 6M/2021 to OMR 1,370.7mn compared to OMR 1,050mn in 6M/2020
- Traded value of mortgage contracts during the same period went up by 16.3% to OMR 757.7mn compared to OMR 651.7mn in same period last year.
- Traded value of sale contracts rose by 70% to OMR 602mn compared to OMR 354mn in 6M/2020.
- Number of properties issued during 6M/2021 also rose by 68% to 129.149K compared to 76.818 in 6M/2020.

Traded Value of Property in Oman (OMR mn)



Source: NCSI



Ubar Capital SAOC (U Capital)
Ominvest Business Centre

Building no. 95
Way no. 501
Airport Heights
Tel: +968 2494 9000
Fax: +968 2494 9099
Email: research@u-capital.net
Website: www.u-capital.net

Name	Role	Email	Phone Number
Abdul Aziz Al Saadi	Chief Executive Officer	abdulaziz.alsaadi@u-capital.net	00968-2494-9001
Yasmin Abdullah	Chief Operating Officer	y.abdullah@u-capital.net	00968-2494-9020
Rohit Chaudhary	Acting Chief Investment Officer	rohit@u-capital.net	00968-2494-9058
Mohammed Al Rahbi	Head of Asset Management	m.alrahbi@u-capital.net	00968-2494-9028
Talal Balushi	Head of Brokerage	talal@u-capital.net	00968-2494-9051
Hettish Karmani	Head of Research	h.karmani@u-capital.net	00968-2494-9034
Madabusi Sundarajan	Head of Corporate Finance	m.sundararajan@u-capital.net	00968-2494-9006
Abhishek Mathur	Head of Wealth Management	a.mathur@u-capital.net	00968-2494-9026

Disclaimer: This report has been prepared by Ubar Capital (U Capital) Research, and is provided for information purposes only. Under no circumstances is it to be used or considered as an offer to sell or solicitation of any offer to buy. While all reasonable care has been taken to ensure that the information contained therein is not untrue or misleading at the time of publication, we make no representation as to its accuracy or completeness and it should not be relied upon as such. The company accepts no responsibility whatsoever for any direct or indirect consequential loss arising from any use of this report or its contents. All opinions and estimates included in this document constitute U Capital Research team's judgment as at the date of production of this report, and are subject to change without notice. This report may not be reproduced, distributed or published by any recipient for any other purpose.