GCC MARKETS MONITOR

Markets, Performance, Country Reviews & Valuation

September 2026

A monthly review of the GCC equity markets covering Saudi Arabia, the UAE (Abu Dhabi & Dubai), Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman, designed to show what moved markets, how performance and valuation compare across countries, and what it means for GCC investors.

HEADLINES: WHAT MOVED GCC MARKETS

1 Stabilizing regional conditions supported a broad GCC rally

- MSCI GCC Index gained 3.9%, the biggest monthly gain in seven months, breaking a three month losing streak
- Stabilizing Middle East geopolitics and a healthy global earnings season supported sentiment
- Saudi Arabia (5.1%) and Oman (4.5%) led; Qatar (-1.1%) and Bahrain (-1.0%) were the only decliners

2 Oil stayed volatile but ended the month higher

- Brent slid below $80/bbl early on peace talks, then regained $90/bbl on renewed tensions
- Brent briefly moved above $94/bbl mid-month as Strait of Hormuz tensions intensified
- WTI closed August at $85.76, up from $84.67 in July

3 Global backdrop was constructive but yields stayed high

- MSCI World Index gained 2.6%; the S&P 500 touched a record high mid-month before easing
- Fed Chair comments on a possible September rate hike coincided with global bond yields reaching their highest since 2008

4 Trading activity picked up across most exchanges

- Qatar volumes surged 44.2%, and value traded jumped 60.9% month-on-month
- Bahrain value traded rose 53.5%; Saudi Arabia value traded rose 29.3% to SAR 112.0bn

01 MARKETS OVERVIEW & MAIN DRIVERS

GCC equity markets staged a broad recovery in August 2026, with the MSCI GCC Index gaining 3.9%, its biggest monthly advance in seven months — and ending a three-month losing streak. The rally was underpinned by a stabilizing geopolitical situation in the Middle East and a broad-based gain in global equities following a healthy earnings season. Regional trading activity also strengthened, with most exchanges recording higher volumes and value traded than in July.

Performance across the GCC's seven benchmark markets was uneven but mostly positive. Saudi Arabia was the standout performer, gaining 5.1%, its best month since January 2026, with sentiment supported by elevated oil prices, stabilizing regional conditions and the Q2 earnings season. Oman followed with a 4.5% gain, extending a remarkable year in which the MSX 30 Index is now up 29.6% year-to-date, the best YTD performance in the GCC. Kuwait's All Share Index added 1.6%, with mid- and small-cap segments outperforming the large-cap Premier Market. Abu Dhabi (0.9%) and Dubai (0.7%) posted more modest gains. Qatar (-1.1%) and Bahrain (-1.0%) were the region's only decliners, both weighed down by ongoing geopolitical uncertainty around the Strait of Hormuz.

Global markets provided a supportive backdrop. The MSCI World Index rose 2.6% in August, and the S&P 500 touched a record high by mid-month before easing on profit-booking to close the month up 2.6%. However, comments from the Fed Chair on a possible interest-rate hike by September coincided with global bond yields reaching their highest levels since 2008, and equity markets pulled back into month-end. Oil prices stayed volatile throughout August: Brent crude slid below $80/bbl at the start of the month as peace talks progressed, then regained the $90/bbl level as intermittent attacks and Strait of Hormuz tensions resurfaced, briefly touching above $94/bbl mid-month, its highest level in months. WTI crude followed a similar pattern, closing August at $85.76/bbl, up from $84.67/bbl at the end of July.

02 GCC MARKET PERFORMANCE

The table below summarizes headline index levels and calendar-month August returns for the seven principal GCC benchmarks, one main index per country, based on Bloomberg data through August 31, 2026.

Indicator	August 2026	Direction / Context
MSCI GCC Index	3.9% MTD	Biggest monthly gain in 7 months
Best-performing market	Saudi Arabia 5.1%	Best month since Jan-2026
Best YTD performer	Oman 29.6% YTD	Highest YTD return in the GCC
Weakest markets	Qatar -1.1%, Bahrain -1.0%	Only two GCC decliners in August
MSCI World Index	2.6% MTD	Broad-based global equity gain
Brent crude	Above $90/bbl intra-month	Volatile on Strait of Hormuz risk
WTI crude (month-end)	$85.76/bbl	Up from $84.67 at end of July
Global bond yields	Highest since 2008	On Fed rate-hike commentary

MARKET PERFORMANCE

Market / Index	Ccy	Closing	MTD %	YTD %
Saudi Arabia (TASI)	SAR	11,127.08	+5.1%	+6.1%
Abu Dhabi (ADX)	AED	10,007.44	+0.9%	+0.1%
Dubai (DFM)	AED	5,836.00	+0.7%	-3.5%
Qatar (QE)	QAR	9,806.85	-1.1%	-8.9%
Kuwait (All Share)	KWD	8,897.40	+1.6%	-0.1%
Bahrain (BHB, All Share)	BHD	1,935.96	-1.0%	-6.3%
Oman (MSX 30)	OMR	7,604.01	+4.5%	+29.6%

Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P. August performance represents the calendar-month change from the last available July 2026 trading close to August 31, 2026. YTD performance is through August 31, 2026.

Market Capitalization Trend

Total GCC market capitalization rose 1.1% during August to USD 4,046.9 billion, more than offsetting July's 0.2% decline. Regional value traded also rebounded sharply, reflecting the pickup in trading activity that accompanied the broad-based rally.

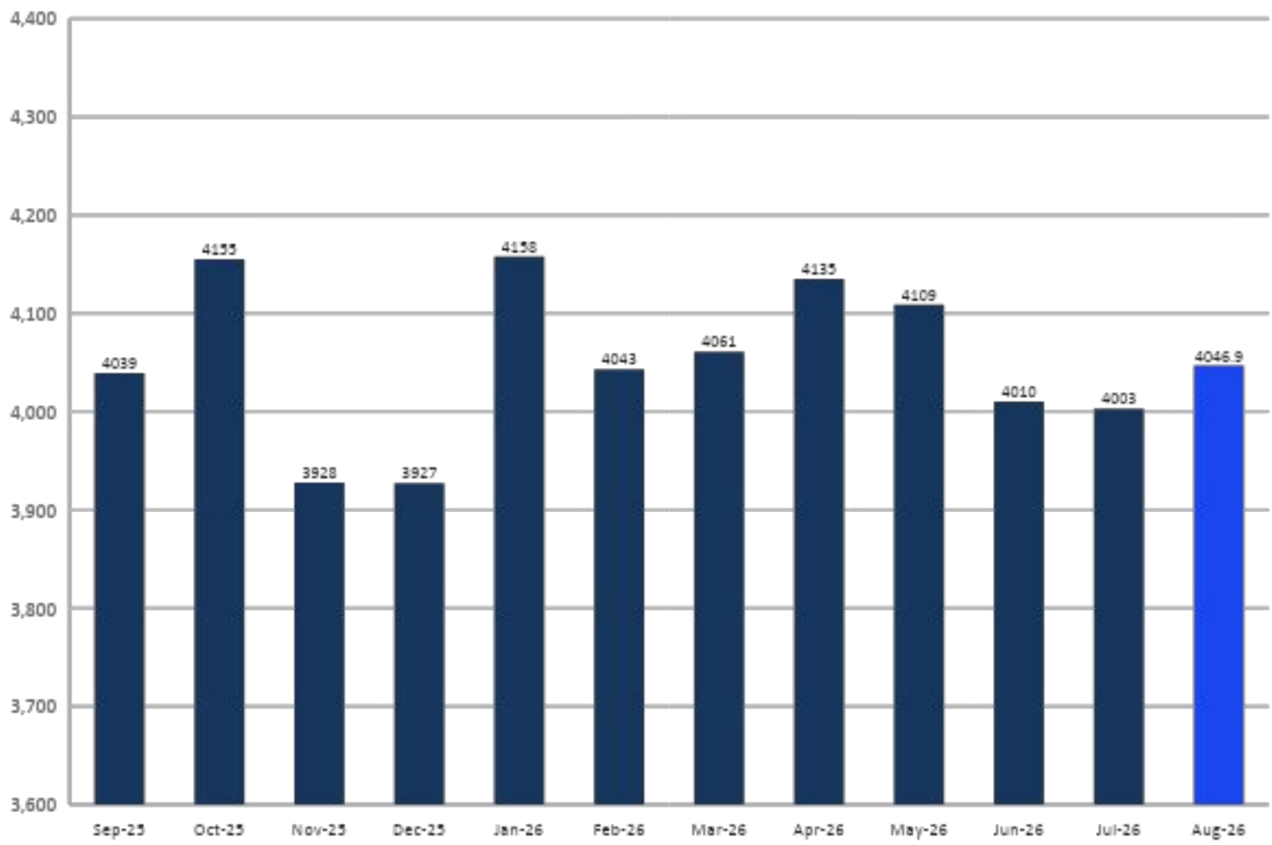


Chart 1: Total GCC market capitalization, September 2025 – August 2026 (USD billion). Latest month (Aug-26) highlighted. Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P.

03 COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY REVIEW

Kuwait: Boursa Kuwait

The Boursa Kuwait All Share Index gained 1.6% to close at 8,897.4 points, with mid- and small-cap segments outperforming the large-cap Premier Market.

Within Kuwait's broader market, mid- and small-cap segments outperformed the large-cap Premier Market. Banking was mixed: NBK gained 1.9% while KFH declined 1.9%. Trading activity strengthened, with volume up 4.2% to 6.6bn shares and value traded up 11.0% to KWD 1.8bn; Kuwait Finance House topped the value-traded chart at KWD 152.4mn.

All Share Index	8,897.4 (1.6% MTD, -0.1% YTD)
Market Cap	KWD 53,671mn
Value Traded	KWD 1.78bn (11.0% MoM)
P/E (TTM) / Div. Yield	18.94x / 3.79%
Top industry	Technology 127.8%

Monthly Stock Movers

Top Gainers	%	Top Decliners	%
Automated Systems Co.	127.8%	Tijara Real Estate & Investment	-32.4 %
Livestock Transport & Trading	53.7%	Future Kid Entertainment Co.	-12.0 %
Kuwait Hotels Co.	53.5%	Kuwait Foundry Co.	-9.2%

Saudi Arabia: Tadawul (TASI)

TASI recorded the biggest monthly return in the GCC, gaining 5.1% to close at 11,127.1 points after four consecutive months of declines.

The index breached the psychological 11,000 mark and reached an intra-month high of 11,259.9 on August 26, its highest level in four months. Performance was supported by stabilizing regional geopolitics, elevated oil prices tied to Strait of Hormuz tensions, and the Q2 earnings season; the gain lifted TASI's YTD return to 6.1%, the second-best in the GCC. Gains were broad-based, with 15 of 21 sub-indices higher. In contrast, Saudi Aramco shares fell 1.2% despite a late-month recovery in crude prices. Trading activity strengthened markedly: value traded rose 29.3% to SAR 112.0bn and volume rose 23.9% to 5.7bn shares.

TASI	11,127.1 (5.1% MTD, 6.1% YTD)
Market Cap	SAR 9,556.7bn
Value Traded	SAR 112.0bn (29.3% MoM)
P/E (TTM) / Div. Yield	16.44x / 3.46%
Top industry	Financial Services 9.0%

Monthly Stock Movers

Top Gainers	%	Top Decliners	%
Cenomi Retail (AFG International)	43.1%	Arabian Contracting Services	-23.0%
Wataniya Insurance	33.5%	Methanol Chemicals Co.	-15.7%
Allied Cooperative Insurance	31.7%	Tabuk Agricultural Development	-12.1%

03 COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY REVIEW

Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX)

The FTSE ADX General Index advanced 0.9% to 10,007.4 points, its third consecutive monthly gain.

Six of the ten industry indices posted gains. Among the major industries, Real Estate rose 3.5%, and Telecom gained 5.3%, while Health Care was the standout performer, advancing 14.2% on a 17.7% surge in PureHealth. During the month, ADQ made a conditional cash offer of AED 6.25/share for the remaining 24.58% of Abu Dhabi Ports that it does not already own. The UAE's Q1-2026 GDP expanded 3% y-o-y to AED 485bn, with non-oil GDP up 4.8% y-o-y and now representing 79.4% of the economy.

ADX General Index	10,007.4 (0.9% MTD, 0.1% YTD)
Market Cap	AED 2,860.3bn
Value Traded	AED 22.2bn (1.3% MoM)
P/E (TTM) / Div. Yield	17.17x / 2.49%
Top industry	Health Care 14.2%

Monthly Stock Movers

Top Gainers	%	Top Decliners	%
Sharjah Cement & Industrial Development	32.1%	Al Khaleej Investment Co.	-12.9%
Abu Dhabi Ports	23.9%	Oman & Emirates Investment Holding	-12.6%
Fujairah Cement Industries	23.6%	Al Buhaira National Insurance	-8.2%

Dubai Financial Market (DFM)

The DFM General Index returned to growth with a 0.7% gain to 5,836.0 points, following a 2.7% decline in July.

Five of the eight industry indices posted gains. Materials (10.9%, National Cement Company) and Consumer Discretionary (9.9%, on a 14.3% jump in Talabat Holding) led. Communication Services (-6.6%) was the weakest industry, with a decline in Emirates Integrated Telecom. Dubai's real estate sector reported strong 1H-2026 activity, with 104 projects worth more than AED 111bn completed versus 75 projects in 1H-2025, and new residential units up 36% y-o-y to 24,537.

DFM General Index	5,836.0 (0.7% MTD, -3.5% YTD)
Market Cap	AED 939.8bn
Value Traded	AED 12.2bn (10.0% MoM)
P/E (TTM) / Div. Yield	9.02x / 5.41%
Top industry	Materials 10.9%

Monthly Stock Movers

Top Gainers	%	Top Decliners	%
Islamic Arab Insurance Co. (Salama)	41.6%	Dubai Refreshments Company	-10.7%
Mashreq Bank	28.4%	Union Properties	-10.5%
Agility	18.4%	Al Salam Bank Sudan	-9.3%

03 COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY REVIEW

Qatar Exchange (QE)

The QE 20 Index declined 1.1% to 9,806.9 points, the third consecutive monthly decline and the weakest YTD performance in the GCC at -8.9%.

The index climbed early in the month to 10,181.8 on foreign institutional buying before easing on ongoing U.S.-Iran tensions and Strait of Hormuz uncertainty. Transportation (5.1%) and Insurance (1.8%) were the only meaningful industry gainers, while Consumer Goods & Services (-7.2%) and Industrials (-4.2%) led the market lower. Trading activity improved sharply despite the price decline: volume rose 44.2% to 3.2bn shares and value traded rose 60.9% to QAR 8.5bn.

QE 20 Index	9,806.9 (-1.1% MTD, -8.9% YTD)
Market Cap	QAR 589.3bn
Value Traded	QAR 8.5bn (60.9% MoM)
P/E (TTM) / Div. Yield	11.77x / 4.22%
Top industry	Transportation 5.1%

Monthly Stock Movers

Top Gainers	%	Top Decliners	%
Damaan Islamic Insurance Co.	16.2%	Qatar Fuel QSC	-13.3%
Qatar General Insurance & Reinsurance	12.1%	Doha Bank QPSC	-9.2%
Alijarah Holding Co.	7.2%	QLM Life & Medical Insurance	-8.6%

Bahrain: Bahrain Bourse

The Bahrain All Share Index declined 1.0% to 1,936.0 points, its second consecutive monthly drop after a 4.2% decline in July.

Six of the seven industry indices fell, led by Materials (-6.0%, Aluminium Bahrain) and Industrials (-4.4%). Financials was the sole gaining sector (0.4%), lifted by a 7.8% rise in Al Salam Bank-Bahrain following the announcement of a USD 50mn Line of Finance facility with the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector. Bahrain's Q1-2026 GDP contracted 3.8% y-o-y on Strait of Hormuz-related disruption to the energy sector, though non-oil activity grew 2.2% y-o-y.

All Share Index	1,936.0 (-1.0% MTD, -6.3% YTD)
Market Cap	BHD 26,539mn
Value Traded	BHD 14.8mn (53.5% MoM)
P/E (TTM) / Div. Yield	15.35x / 4.29%
Top industry	Financials 0.4%

Monthly Stock Movers

Top Gainers	%	Top Decliners	%
Al Salam Bank-Bahrain	7.8%	Aluminum Bahrain	-6.0%
Bahrain National Holding	2.6%	APM Terminals Bahrain	-5.4%
Seef Properties	2.5%	National Hotels Co.	-3.8%

03 COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY REVIEW

Qatar Exchange (QE)

The QE 20 Index declined 1.1% to 9,806.9 points, the third consecutive monthly decline and the weakest YTD performance in the GCC at -8.9%.

The index climbed early in the month to 10,181.8 on foreign institutional buying before easing on ongoing U.S.-Iran tensions and Strait of Hormuz uncertainty. Transportation (5.1%) and Insurance (1.8%) were the only meaningful industry gainers, while Consumer Goods & Services (-7.2%) and Industrials (-4.2%) led the market lower. Trading activity improved sharply despite the price decline: volume rose 44.2% to 3.2bn shares and value traded rose 60.9% to QAR 8.5bn.

QE 20 Index	9,806.9 (-1.1% MTD, -8.9% YTD)
Market Cap	QAR 589.3bn
Value Traded	QAR 8.5bn (60.9% MoM)
P/E (TTM) / Div. Yield	11.77x / 4.22%
Top industry	Transportation 5.1%

Monthly Stock Movers

Top Gainers	%	Top Decliners	%
Damaan Islamic Insurance Co.	16.2%	Qatar Fuel QSC	-13.3%
Qatar General Insurance & Reinsurance	12.1%	Doha Bank QPSC	-9.2%
Alijarah Holding Co.	7.2%	QLM Life & Medical Insurance	-8.6%

Bahrain: Bahrain Bourse

The Bahrain All Share Index declined 1.0% to 1,936.0 points, its second consecutive monthly drop after a 4.2% decline in July.

Six of the seven industry indices fell, led by Materials (-6.0%, Aluminium Bahrain) and Industrials (-4.4%). Financials was the sole gaining sector (0.4%), lifted by a 7.8% rise in Al Salam Bank-Bahrain following the announcement of a USD 50mn Line of Finance facility with the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector. Bahrain's Q1-2026 GDP contracted 3.8% y-o-y on Strait of Hormuz-related disruption to the energy sector, though non-oil activity grew 2.2% y-o-y.

All Share Index	1,936.0 (-1.0% MTD, -6.3% YTD)
Market Cap	BHD 26,539mn
Value Traded	BHD 14.8mn (53.5% MoM)
P/E (TTM) / Div. Yield	15.35x / 4.29%
Top industry	Financials 0.4%

Monthly Stock Movers

Top Gainers	%	Top Decliners	%
Al Salam Bank-Bahrain	7.8%	Aluminum Bahrain	-6.0%
Bahrain National Holding	2.6%	APM Terminals Bahrain	-5.4%
Seef Properties	2.5%	National Hotels Co.	-3.8%

03 COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY REVIEW

Oman: Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX)

The MSX 30 Index rebounded 4.5% to 7,604.0 points, lifting its YTD return to 29.6%, the highest among all GCC markets.

All three sub-indices advanced: Services (5.9%), Financial (3.6%) and Industrial (1.6%). Al Batinah Development & Investment Holding led individual gainers (23.3%), while National Aluminium Products Co. fell 50% on the decliners' side. Oman's public revenues rose 13% y-o-y to approximately OMR 6.6bn (USD 17.2bn) by end-Q2-2026, mainly on higher oil revenues.

MSX 30 Index	7,604.0 (4.5% MTD, 29.6% YTD)
Market Cap	OMR 21,844mn
Value Traded	OMR 0.98bn (6.1% MoM)
P/E (TTM) / Div. Yield	13.91x / 3.96%
Top industry	Services 5.9%

Monthly Stock Movers

Top Gainers	%	Top Decliners	%
Al Batinah Development & Investment Holding	23.3%	National Aluminium Products Co.	-50.0%
Abraj Energy Services	16.5%	Salalah Mills Co.	-10.6%
Oman Chromite Co.	15.2%	Salalah Port Services Co.	-9.8%

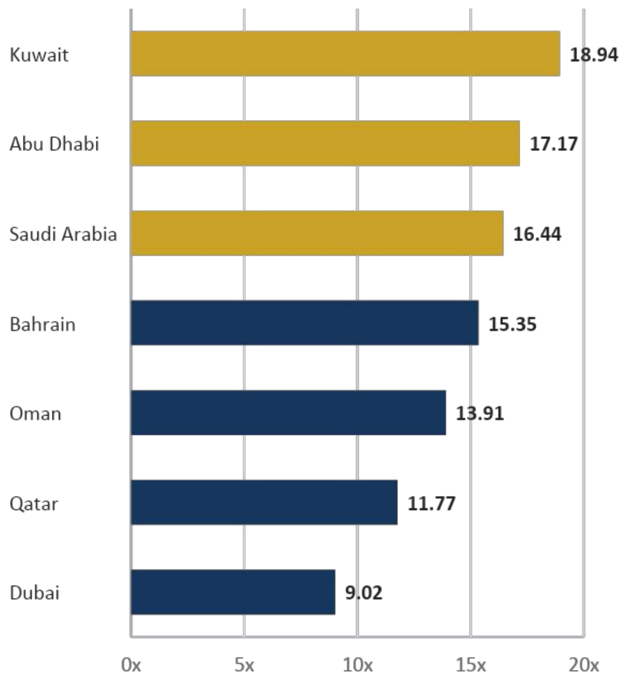
04 VALUATION

At the end of August, GCC valuations remained widely dispersed, with a spread of nearly 10 turns of P/E between the region's cheapest and most expensive markets. Kuwait's Premier Market (blue-chip benchmark) traded at the richest multiple in the group at 18.94x trailing earnings, while Dubai remained the region's value market at 9.02x, also offering the highest dividend yield at 5.41%.

Market / Index	P/E (TTM)	Div. Yield	vs. GCC avg P/E
Dubai (DFM)	9.02x	5.41%	-6.6x cheaper
Qatar (QE)	11.77x	4.22%	-3.8x cheaper
Oman (MSX 30)	13.91x	3.96%	-1.7x cheaper
Bahrain (BHB)	15.35x	4.29%	-0.3x cheaper
Saudi Arabia (TASI)	16.44x	3.46%	+0.8x richer
Abu Dhabi (ADX)	17.17x	2.49%	+1.6x richer
Kuwait (Premier Market)*	18.94x	3.79%	+3.3x richer

**Kuwait valuation multiples are calculated on the Premier Market Index, Bloomberg's tracked blue-chip benchmark for Kuwait; performance in Section 02 uses the broader All Share Index. Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P. Trailing P/E and trailing 12-month gross dividend yield, as of August 31, 2026. GCC average P/E of 15.6x is the market-cap-weighted average across the seven benchmarks.*

Chart 3: GCC valuation by trailing P/E, Aug 31, 2026. Navy = below GCC avg (15.6x); gold = above avg.



Dubai and Qatar screened cheapest

Dubai traded at 9.02x trailing earnings, the lowest multiple in the GCC, alongside the highest dividend yield in the region at 5.41%. Qatar was the second-cheapest market at 11.77x, though its YTD share-price decline of -9.6% has been a headwind for total returns even as the multiple has compressed.

Kuwait and Abu Dhabi carried the richest multiples

Kuwait's Premier Market traded at 18.94x trailing earnings, the highest in the region, followed by Abu Dhabi at 17.17x. Both markets also carried below-average dividend yields (3.79% and 2.49% respectively), leaving investors paying a premium without a matching income cushion relative to peers.

Saudi Arabia and Oman sat near the middle

TASI traded at 16.44x, modestly above the GCC average of 15.6x, alongside a 3.46% dividend yield. Oman's MSX 30, the region's best performer year-to-date, traded at 13.91x, a more moderate multiple that leaves room for further re-rating if the market's fundamental momentum continues into September.

05 OUTLOOK: WHAT TO WATCH IN SEPTEMBER

Strait of Hormuz remains the central swing factor

GCC markets enter September on firmer footing after August's broad-based rally, but several factors bear watching. The Strait of Hormuz remains the region's central geopolitical swing factor: continued de-escalation would likely support further gains in Saudi Arabia and the UAE, while renewed tensions could quickly reverse the improvement in market sentiment seen across the region in August.

Qatar and Bahrain remain key watchpoints

Qatar and Bahrain will be worth monitoring closely after continued weakness in recent months. Qatar's -8.9% YTD return is now the weakest in the GCC, and further geopolitical uncertainty or increased gas-price volatility could extend that trend.

Global rate expectations matter

The pace of global rate expectations will also matter for GCC markets, most of which maintain currency pegs to the U.S. dollar. The Fed Chair's August commentary on a possible September rate hike coincided with global bond yields reaching their highest levels since 2008; a sustained rise in U.S. rates would tighten regional financial conditions and could pressure rate-sensitive sectors such as Real Estate and Utilities across the GCC, much as it has in U.S. markets.

Oman's exceptional 2026 run

Finally, Oman's exceptional 2026 run, now up 29.6% YTD, more than four times the next-best GCC market, will be a key theme to track. September earnings and government revenue updates will help clarify whether Oman's rally reflects durable fundamental improvement or has begun to outpace it. Oil-price direction will remain an important swing factor for regional sentiment and fiscal positions, given the volatility seen in Brent and WTI through August.

Overall, August was shaped by stabilizing regional geopolitics, a resilient global equity backdrop, and broad-based GCC market participation, with valuations that now vary meaningfully by country. September's direction will likely hinge on whether that geopolitical stability holds.

SOURCES & METHODOLOGY

This report uses the seven principal GCC benchmark indices as the primary framework for analyzing country performance, one main index per market (Kuwait is shown on the All Share Index for performance and on the Premier Market Index for valuation, its Bloomberg-tracked blue-chip benchmark).

Market performance, index levels, market capitalization, value traded, trailing P/E and trailing 12-month gross dividend yield are sourced from Bloomberg Finance L.P. August performance represents the calendar-month change from the last available July 2026 trading close to August 31, 2026. YTD performance is through August 31, 2026.

Oil-price references (Brent and WTI) and the total GCC market-capitalization trend also draw on Bloomberg Finance L.P. data via the supplied workbook. Country-level narrative detail — including stock movers, corporate developments and macroeconomic releases — draws on GCC stock exchange disclosures and public company filings.

Figures were cross-checked across the available datasets where applicable. Differences between sources reflect their different observation dates and methodologies.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION & DISCLOSURES

This material has been prepared by Nukoud Research for informational and educational purposes only. It is not investment research prepared under any specific regulatory regime, investment advice, a personal recommendation, an offer or solicitation to buy or sell any security, fund, index exposure or financial instrument, or a recommendation to adopt any investment strategy. It does not take into account any reader's investment objectives, financial circumstances, tax status, risk tolerance or investment horizon.

Investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal. Equity markets and individual securities fluctuate in value and may be affected by regional geopolitical developments, oil-price volatility, currency-peg dynamics and other factors specific to GCC markets. Past performance is not a reliable indicator or guarantee of future results. Forward-looking statements, estimates and outlook commentary are point-in-time views and are inherently uncertain.

References to third-party firms, indices, exchanges, research providers and trademarks (including Bloomberg Finance L.P.) are for identification and analytical purposes only and do not imply sponsorship, endorsement, affiliation or approval of Nukoud Research or this report.

This report may discuss GCC-domiciled markets and securities from the perspective of regional and international investors. Availability, suitability, withholding tax, reporting obligations and other legal or regulatory consequences can vary according to investor status, domicile, account structure and jurisdiction. Nothing in this report constitutes tax, legal, accounting or regulatory advice.