

Investors' sentiment to be driven by corporate earnings

3Q 2018 IR CALENDAR	DATE
GS CEEMEA Financials Symposium, LON	3-4 SEPT
HSBC GEMs 1x1 Conference, LON	3-6 SEPT
DB GEMs 1x1 Conference, NYC	5-6 SEPT
EFG Hermes 1x1 Conference, LON	10-13 SEPT
GS CEEMEA 1x1 Conference, LON	12-13 SEPT
Arqaam Investor Conference, DXB	24-25 SEPT

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT . . .

Regional markets, which continued to be largely driven by corporate earnings, ended mixed last week. Qatar (+3.9%) posted solid gains, surpassing its highest level in 14 months, led by Qatar National Bank and Qatar Islamic Bank. Dubai (+0.9%) rose on the back of gains in Dubai Islamic Bank and Emaar Properties. However, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain clocked identical losses (-1.4%, each) and Abu Dhabi (-0.7%) slipped. Oman (-0.2%) and Kuwait (-0.1%) fell marginally. The US markets rose, as investors rewarded strong corporate earnings, preferring to overlook the below-expected July monthly jobs data and rising US-China trade tensions. NASDAQ (+1.0%) rose, as Apple crossed market capitalization of \$1tn; S&P 500 (+0.8%) and Dow (+0.0%) clocked their fifth weekly gain. European markets edged down; DAX (-1.9%), Stoxx 600 (-0.7%), CAC40 (-0.6%), and FTSE 100 (-0.5%) ended in the red.

Q2 RESULTS	PROFIT (mn)	Y-O-Y%
Al Rajhi Bank	2,569	17.74%
QIMD	QAR 57.5	+8.4%
SABIC	SAR 6,700	+80.6%
Emaar Malls	AED 554	+14.9%
Aramex	AED 122	+25.8%

BRENT FUTURES PRICE



ASSET CLASS MONITOR	WTD ↓	YTD
S&P 500	0.76%	6.24%
US Treasury Yields	0.50%	44.60%
MSCI GCC	0.19%	15.55%
MSCI World	-0.23%	1.27%
FTSE 100	-0.55%	-0.37%
Gold	-0.76%	-6.75%
Oil (Brent)	-1.45%	9.48%
MSCI EM	-1.74%	-7.35%
Aluminum	-1.90%	-10.13%

The week ahead

Regional markets

Regional markets continue to be primarily driven by corporate earnings, amid increasing noise from the US-China trade rift. Resumption of oil shipments by Saudi Arabia through the Red Sea may add to pressure on oil prices, which fell moderately last week amid demand concerns. Industries Qatar and Al Meera Consumer Goods will report 2Q18 earnings this week.

Global markets

The week begins with the UK's retail sales and Japan's overall household spending data on Monday. On Tuesday, Germany's industrial production and trade balance figures will be published. On Wednesday, China's trade balance and Japan's machinery orders data will be in focus. On Thursday, China's consumer inflation, Japan's 2Q18 GDP (prelim) and the European Central Bank's economic bulletin will be released. The US' consumer inflation, the UK's 2Q18 GDP (prelim.) and Canada's unemployment rate will round off the week on Friday.

You may be asked about

From September, Nasdaq Dubai will launch equity futures trading of 12 Saudi Arabian listed stocks with market capitalization of SAR859bn (~43% of the Saudi Arabian stock exchange), as it expands its offerings beyond UAE stocks. The single stock futures, to be traded on the bourse in Saudi Riyals, should stimulate investors' interest in Saudi Arabia's capital market. The companies are Saudi Basic Industries Corporation, Al Rajhi Bank, Alinma Bank, Almarai Co., Dar Al Arkan Real Estate Development Co., Etihad Etisalat, Rabigh Refining & Petrochemical Co., Saudi Arabian Mining Co., Saudi Cement Co., Saudi Electricity Co., Saudi Kayan Petrochemical Co. and Altayyar Travel Group.

Note to management

It is sobering to note that IR Magazine celebrates its 30th anniversary this year; and yet when Oliver Schutzmann arrived in the Gulf in 2006, there was no such thing as an IR professional. Some CEOs and CFOs communicated with investors, most of them did not. Some markets required transparency, others were - and still are - quite relaxed on the subject.

Asked to share his thoughts on the industry - past, present and future - for the 30th anniversary issue of IR Magazine, three key themes emerged:

- The erosion of trust and the tarnishing of truth are the most damaging elements that have occurred in the last 20 years.
- There is a technology arms race - and investors are winning it. Unless issuers raise their game, they will become market bystanders, instead of being participants.
- Regulation should be embraced as a change agent, not cursed as a burden, because regulation's endgame places investors at the heart of the industry.

You can read the full interview [HERE](#)

REGIONAL CALENDAR

07.08.2018	KSA Quarterly Inflation Report	-
09.08.2018	KSA Weekly Money Supply Data	-

GLOBAL CALENDAR

06.08.2018	UK Retail Sales Data	-
07.08.2018	RBA Interest Rate Decision	Germany Trade Balance Data
08.08.2018	China Trade Balance Data	RBNZ Interest Rate Decision
09.08.2018	China Consumer Inflation Data	US Initial Jobless Claims Data
10.08.2018	US Consumer Inflation Data	UK 2Q18 GDP (prelim.) Data

Food for thought

IR & BEYOND

IR Magazine / Iridium	IR30: Q&A with Oliver Schutzmann of Iridium Advisors	Link
Nasdaq Dubai	12 Saudi Companies Named For Single Stock Equity Futures	Link
Institutional Investor	The Biggest Investors in Real Estate	Link
Oliver Wyman	What Does a Transition Away from LIBOR Mean?	Link
Deloitte	Journey to CFO: Lessons for the next generation	Link

EARNINGS CALENDAR	Market	Est/ Conf	Date
Gulf International Services	Qatar	C	5 Aug
Medicare Group	Qatar	C	6 Aug
Investment Holding Group	Qatar	C	6 Aug
Al Meera Consumer Goods	Qatar	C	7 Aug
Industries Qatar	Qatar	C	8 Aug

COMMODITIES	WTD ↓	YTD
Natural Gas	1.10%	-3.39%
Oil (WTI)	-0.29%	13.36%
Gold	-0.76%	-6.75%
Oil (Brent)	-1.45%	9.48%

About Iridium

Iridium is the GCC region's leading IR specialist.

We advance the science and practice of investor relations to help organizations and leaders protect downside, close gaps and unlock future potential.

We hope you enjoy IR Brief. We are always here to help you advance your IR activities. Please don't hesitate to let us know if we can be of assistance in any way.

For more information contact:

Iridium Advisors DMCC
Pamela Chahine, Director
+971 56 663 4021
ir@iridium.ae
www.iridium.ae

GLOBAL AGENDA

Iran Sanctions	First phase of US economic sanctions on Iran are scheduled to take effect
US	Releases consumer inflation data
BoJ	Releases a summary of opinions from its July 30-31 meeting
China	Releases trade balance and consumer inflation data
RBA	Announces monetary policy statement
UK	Publishes 2Q18 GDP (prelim.), retail sales and production data
Japan	Announces 2Q18 GDP (prelim.) data
RBNZ	Announces interest rate decision
Germany	Publishes industrial production and trade balance data
Earning Releases	HSBC, SoftBank, Disney, Adidas, Glencore, Prudential

MOST READ REGIONAL SECTOR HEADLINES

Banks	Qatari banks' total assets grow by QAR54.3bn in June
Energy	OPEC's oil output hits 2018 peak in July, but outages weigh
Financials	Gulf Finance House fully settles \$200mn Sukuk
Telecom	Vodafone Qatar successfully conducts 5G first tests
Healthcare	Middle East Healthcare signs Islamic Financing agreement with Alinma Bank
Materials	SABIC's CEO says Saudi Aramco acquisition talks are only with PIF
Real Estate	Saudi Arabia's Real Estate Price Index drops by 1.5% y-o-y in 2Q18
Consumer Staples	Al Othaim sold 16.7% its of Humansoft stake
Consumer Discretionary	Lazurde expects to finalize purchase of Izdiad by this month
REIT	CMA announces the approval of the capital increase of Taleem REIT Fund

MOST READ REGIONAL COMPANY HEADLINES

Qatar First Bank	Qatar First Bank sells 20% stake in Memorial Health Group
STC	STC inks \$1.8bn contract to broadcast Saudi soccer games
ADIB	ADIB plans to raise \$1bn from rights issue and Sukuk sale
KUFPEC	Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Co. taps banks for \$1.1bn loan
FAB	First Abu Dhabi Bank issues \$100mn FRN due 2020
Etisalat	Etisalat group completes sale of 28% stake in Thuraya
Buruj	Moody's upgrades Buruj Insurance's outlook to positive
Saudi Aramco	Saudi Aramco awards \$300mn housing contract to Turkey's Kolin
GASCO	GASCO saw higher expenses in H1 on rising labor costs: CEO
Kuwait Finance House	Kuwait Finance House finalizing asset sales for 3Q, 4Q: CEO

REGIONAL MARKETS	Last Close	YTD %	QTD %	MTD %	M-Cap (bn)	P/E (ttm)
Saudi Arabia	8,253.5	14.2%	-0.7%	-0.5%	\$529.2	17.8x
ADX	4,811.4	9.4%	5.5%	-1.0%	\$130.3	12.6x
DFM	2,973.9	-11.8%	5.4%	0.6%	\$80.3	9.4x
Nasdaq Dubai	3,268.3	-0.6%	5.3%	-0.3%	NP	NP
Qatar	9,981.2	17.1%	10.6%	1.6%	\$118.3	15.1x
Bahrain	1,349.2	1.3%	2.9%	-0.7%	\$20.7	8.5x
Oman	4,326.7	-15.2%	-5.4%	-0.2%	\$13.0	8.8x

DISCLAIMER: The information provided in this newsletter is for information purposes only and should not be construed in any way as business, financial or investment advice nor as a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold any particular security. Iridium Advisors believes the information in this newsletter to be accurate, but does not verify its accuracy, timeliness, completeness for any particular purpose and/or non-infringement. Iridium Advisors does not bear any responsibility whatsoever to provide any updates, corrections or changes to the information in this document, nor will it accept liability for any damages or losses in connection with the use of this document.