

---

mashreq  المشرق

# QUARTERLY ENERGY NEWSLETTER

Q1, 2025



## A Message from Mashreq's Energy Sector Team

The success of our team is built on consistent knowledge exchange with our stakeholders, partners, and customers. We hope you find the insights inside valuable and useful.

Thank you for taking the time to read our Q1 2025 Newsletter. We wish you the best of health and wellbeing always.

**Disclaimer:** Mashreq Bank is required to act in accordance with the laws and regulations operating in various countries and regions around the world relating to international sanctions. Under these sanctions requirements, the bank is prohibited from engaging in certain transactions. These limitations include, but are not limited to, the acceptance of cheques presented for deposit that are drawn on sanctioned Financial Institutions and/or the acceptance of cheques presented for clearing by sanctioned Financial Institutions.

The materials and information contained in this newsletter are provided for general information only and should not be used as a basis for making decisions. Any advice or information received via this newsletter should not be relied upon without consulting primary or more accurate or more up-to-date sources of information or specific professional advice. You are recommended to obtain such professional advice where appropriate.



## Contents

### Mashreq In Review – Q1, 2025

#### 04 Mashreq Q1 News

Mashreq's 2024 profit rises 4% to \$2.5bn  
Mashreq expands into Oman with tailored corporate banking solutions

#### 05 Energy Markets Quarterly Review

#### 08 Energy Markets Survey

#### 10 Energy Markets Soundings

#### 12 Energy News Highlights

#### 14 Global Energy Outlook

#### 16 Mashreq In-Numbers

- Fueling Sustainable Growth through Strategic Energy Investments

#### 17 Mashreq Spotlight

- Mashreq Energy Executives attend The 8th Gulf Intelligence, Middle East Energy Summit 2025, London
- Mashreq Energy New Advert 2025 – Sustaining Energy, Shaping the Future



# Mashreq's 2024 profit rises 4% to \$2.5bn

**January 2025** - Net profit at Dubai-listed lender Mashreq reached AED9bn (\$2.5 bn) in 2024, a 4% year-on-year increase, as revenue and margins remained strong.

Revenue stood at AED13.4bn, rising 24% annually and maintaining a three-year compound annual growth rate of 32%. Net interest income grew by 9% year on year despite interest rate cuts last year, reflecting healthy margins amid strong and high-quality balance sheet growth.

Annual non-interest income jumped by 63% to AED5bn due to robust fee-generating activities and strong forex, derivatives, and commodities

performance. The lender recognised a one-off net gain of AED1.2bn from the partial sale of a subsidiary.

In September 2024, the bank sold a 65% stake in IDFAA Payments, more commonly known as NeoPay, in a deal worth \$38mn.

Loans rose 18% cyear on year, primarily funded by an increase in customer deposits, which increased to AED161bn. Current account savings account (Casa) represents 66 percent of total customer deposits.

Total assets increased 11% annually to AED267bn.

Source: Arabian Gulf Business Insight: <https://www.agbi.com/banking-finance/2025/01/dubai-lender-mashreqs-2024-profit-rises-4-to-2-5bn/>

## Global Oil Demand

The global oil demand growth forecast for 2025 remains unchanged at 1.4 mb/d. The OECD is projected to expand by about 0.1 mb/d, y-o-y, while the non-OECD is forecast to grow by about 1.3 mb/d. Robust oil demand growth is expected to continue in 2026. Global oil demand for 2026 is forecast to grow by 1.4 mb/d, y-o-y, unchanged from last month's assessment. The OECD is forecast to grow by about 0.1 mb/d, y-o-y, while demand in the non-OECD is forecast to increase by about 1.3 mb/d.

## World Oil Supply

Non-DoC liquids supply (i.e., liquids supply from countries not participating in the Declaration of Cooperation) is forecast to grow by 1.0 mb/d, y-o-y, in 2025, unchanged from last month's assessment. The main growth drivers are expected to be the US, Brazil, Canada, and Norway. Non-DoC liquids supply growth in 2026 also remains unchanged at 1.0 mb/d, mainly driven by the US, Brazil and Canada. Meanwhile, natural gas liquids (NGLs) and non-conventional liquids from countries participating in the DoC are forecast to grow by 0.1 mb/d, y-o-y, in 2025, to average 8.4 mb/d, followed by an increase of about 0.1 mb/d, y-o-y, in 2026, to average 8.5 mb/d. Crude oil production by the countries participating in the DoC increased by 363 tb/d in February, m-o-m, averaging about 41.01 mb/d, as reported by available secondary sources.

Sources: OPEC Oil Market Report, March 2025



	JAN 2025	FEB 2025	CHANGE (JAN/FEB 2025)	YEAR-ON-YEAR (Y-O-Y)	
				2024	2025
<b>WTI</b>	\$75.10/bi	\$71.21/bi	-3.89%	\$75.20/bi	\$73.25/bi
<b>BRENT</b>	\$78.35/bi	\$74.95/bi	-3.40%	\$80.40/bi	\$76.73/bi
<b>DME OMAN</b>	\$80.22/bi	\$77.28/bi	-2.94%	\$79.93/bi	\$78.82/bi
<b>SPREAD</b>					
<b>Brent-WTI</b>	\$3.25/bi	\$3.74/bi	0.49%	\$5.20/bi	\$3.48/bi

Sources: OPEC Oil Market Report, March 2025

# Mashreq expands into Oman with tailored corporate banking solutions


  
المشرق  
mashreq  
Now in Oman


**January 2025** - Mashreq, one of the leading financial institutions in the Middle East and North Africa region, has announced its entry into Oman, aiming to strengthen its position with a range of personalised financial services tailored to the sultanate's evolving corporate and public sectors.

This strategic move, which was unveiled at a press conference at the National Museum in Muscat on Monday, underscores Mashreq's commitment to contributing to Oman's Vision 2040, with ambitions to drive economic diversification and enhance Oman's standing in the global financial landscape.

Mashreq's entry into Oman will introduce a comprehensive suite of banking services, including treasury, global transaction banking, and sustainable finance. Through its innovative approach and robust operational structure, the bank aims to unlock value in critical sectors such as tourism, logistics, manufacturing, and renewable energy, in line with Oman's economic objectives.

According to Ahmed Abdelaal, Group CEO of Mashreq, Oman's strategic location and dynamic economic landscape make it essential to Mashreq's international growth ambitions. He said, "Our goal is to support Oman's economic objectives through tailored financial solutions that not only enhance regional integration but also reinforce Oman's influence in the global financial ecosystem. Our commitment is to high-growth markets, leveraging trade, investment, and corporate banking opportunities while delivering an exceptional client experience based on convenience, accessibility, and ESG-driven initiatives."

Speaking at the press conference, Tarek el Nahas, Group Head of International Banking at Mashreq, said the bank's entry into the sultanate aligns perfectly with Oman's Vision 2040 and reflects their commitment to unlocking unprecedented value through corporate banking, sustainable finance, and digital innovation.

"Mashreq is deeply committed to pushing the boundaries of innovation within Oman's financial ecosystem. We are driven by the opportunity to contribute to key sectors, including tourism, logistics, manufacturing, and renewable energy. Innovation is at the heart of our mission. From digital onboarding to AI-driven analytics, Mashreq

is dedicated to introducing cutting-edge solutions that redefine banking in Oman," he said.

Nahas added, "Our expansive international footprint grants our clients access to some of the most strategically vital markets in the region. By combining global reach with deep local expertise, we navigate regulatory landscapes with agility, offering solutions that drive financial efficiency and resilience. This approach empowers clients to optimise their cross-border operations, capturing opportunities essential to long-term success in today's competitive market."

Through advanced technology, Mashreq aims to support the next generation's entrepreneurial spirit, drive smart city development, and contribute to a competitive, knowledge-driven economy in Oman, Nahas said, adding, "Here in Oman, we envision a future where businesses can thrive, entrepreneurs can innovate, and financial resilience is accessible to all."

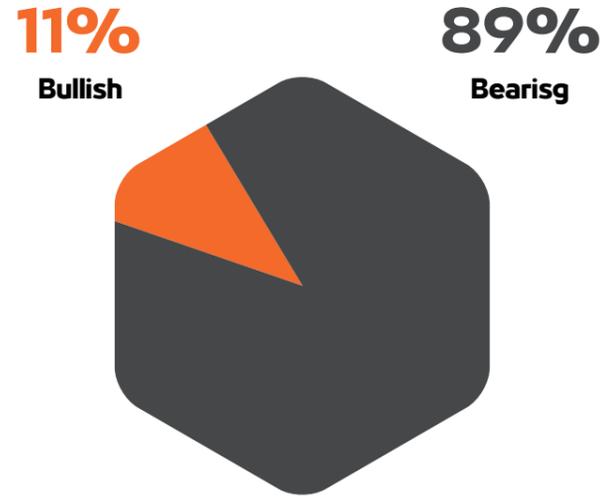
AlSalt Mohammed alKharusi, Mashreq's Country Head for Oman, noted that the banking sector in Oman is poised for growth in 2025, supported by strong fundamentals, digital transformation, and a governmental focus on economic diversification and stability, as part of the ambitious national growth strategies of Vision 2040.

"We are inspired by this progress and see it as an opportunity to empower Omani businesses and government entities with cutting-edge financial solutions that drive economic value and long-term impact. By leveraging advanced digital platforms, artificial intelligence, and fintech collaboration, Mashreq will redefine banking experiences in Oman, ensuring they are not only efficient but also tailored to our clients' aspirations," Kharusi said.

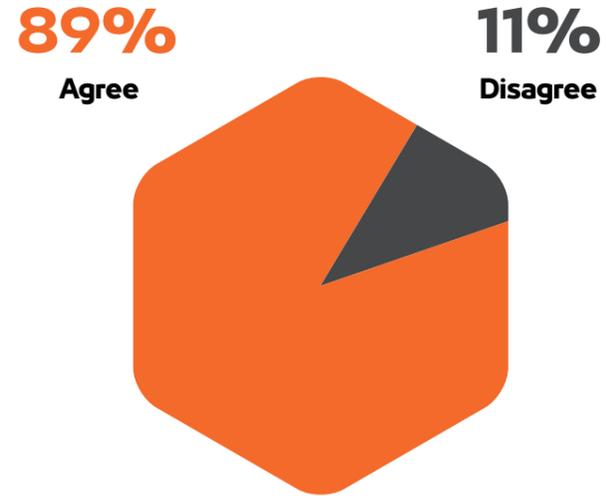
Kharusi further said that Mashreq's expansion into Oman reinforces the bank's dedication to being a strategic partner in Oman's economic development.

"Our focus is on fostering a resilient generation of entrepreneurial talent and supporting the growth of a dynamic, knowledge-driven economy. We are fully committed to supporting Oman's national priorities, advancing growth, and contributing to a sustainable, prosperous future for generations to come," he added.

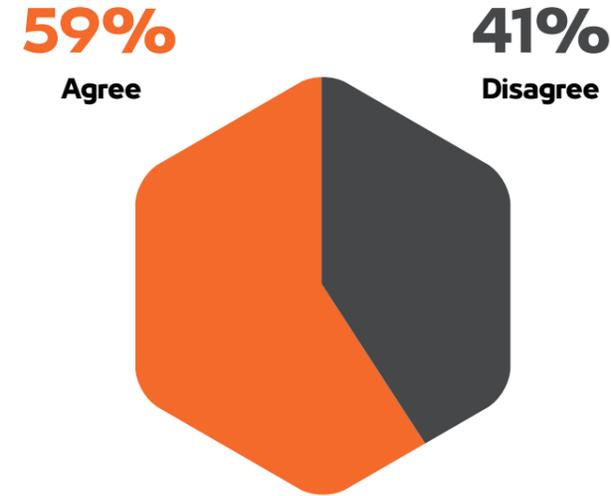
Will a US orchestrated Ceasefire in Ukraine be Bullish or Bearish for oil prices?



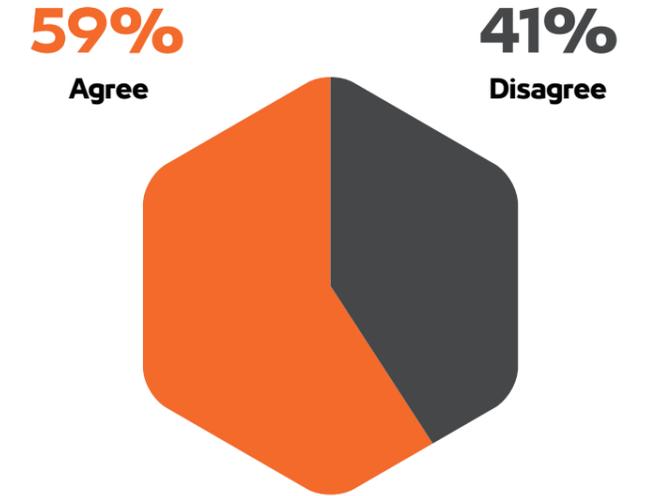
OPEC+ is likely to continue with supply increases beyond April as long as oil markets remain in backwardation?



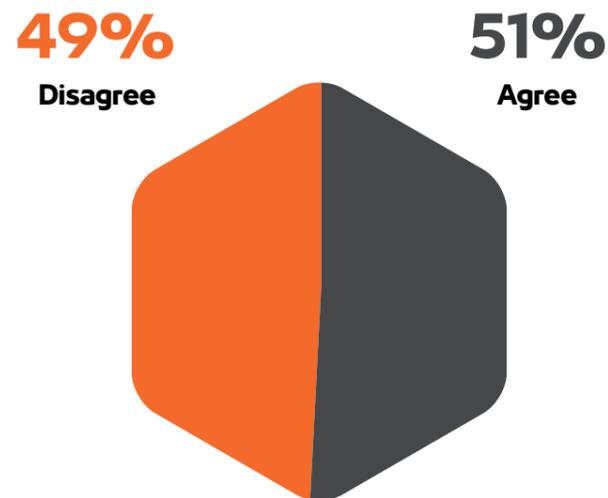
If oil prices drop and hold below \$70 for most of March, OPEC+ may have no choice but to reinstate its production cuts?



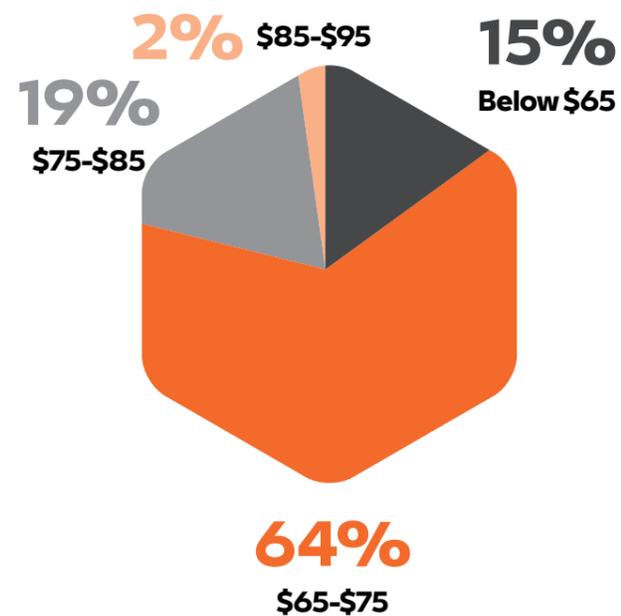
Softer sanctions on Russia, Harsher sanctions on Iran - won't impact oil flows in any significant way?



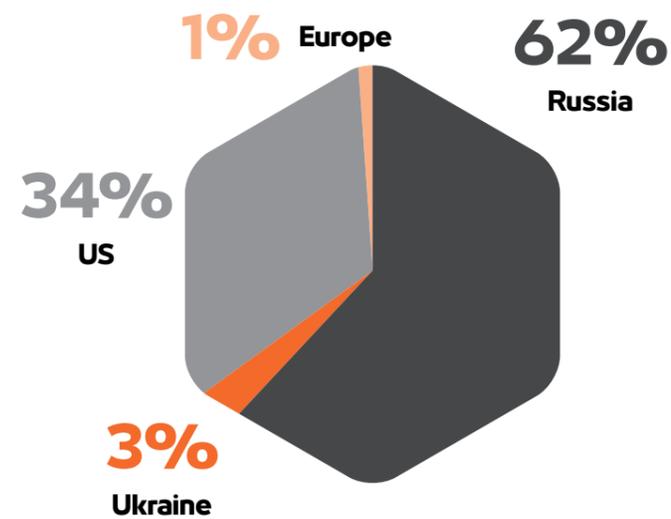
China's National People's Congress will finally deliver bazooka stimulus this week to lift consumer consumption and energy demand?



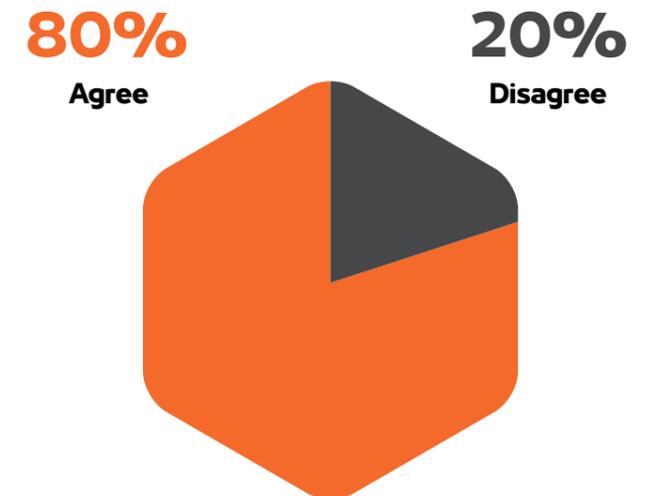
Where do you think Dated Brent will be on December 31st, 2025?



Who will be the biggest winner from the spoils of War in Ukraine?



New US Sanctions on Iranian Oil Will Resolve OPEC+ Dilemma on Easing Cuts in April?



## Energy Markets Soundings



### MARKET BALANCES

“Chinese crude imports so far in 2025 are down almost 500,000 b/d year-on-year. On the supply side - the US, Canada, Guyana, Brazil - are all proceeding with expected increases in production; we would need to see WTI drop to \$60 or below for US output to be impacted. And now the already bleak picture for 2025 balances is being compounded by Trump tariff policies.”

**Vandana Hari, Founder & CEO, Vanda Insights**

*Source: Fujairah New Silk Road Weekly Newsletter, Vol. 223 – March 13, 2025*



### OPEC+ VOLUMES

“Despite a bearish market, there’s evidence for OPEC+ to continue with the gradual release of barrels. It’s the uncertainty over tariffs and the impact of that on business planning that’s going to paralyze the industry. That’s the biggest problem that’s weighing on sentiment and demand.”

**Paul Hickin, Chief Economist & Editor-in-Chief, Petroleum Economist**

*Source: Fujairah New Silk Road Weekly Newsletter, Vol. 223 – March 13, 2025*

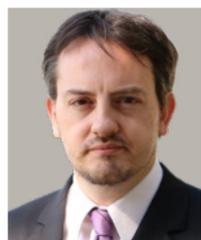


### EU MONETARY POLICY

“The ECB expects rates to stay above 2%. This marks a significant shift in rate differentials, as reflected in the 10-year rate spread between Germany and the US, which has dropped from 215 basis points in February to around 150 today - a dramatic sea change not seen since German reunification in 1990.”

**Marc Ostwald, Chief Economist & Global Strategist, ADM Investor Services International**

*Source: Fujairah New Silk Road Weekly Newsletter, Vol. 223 – March 13, 2025*



### OPEC+ VOLUMES

“The ideal oil price target has been shifting - previously at \$90, then \$80, and now it seems it’s \$70. It’s challenging to believe OPEC+ will reintroduce 2.2 million b/d over the next year and a half without adjustments. The market’s response will likely dictate future movements, with further pauses or a dribble of additional volumes likely.”

**Robin Mills, CEO, Qamar Energy**

*Source: Fujairah New Silk Road Weekly Newsletter, Vol. 223 – March 13, 2025*



### OIL PRICE DIRECTION

“We’re approaching a long-term support level that’s been in place for at least two to three years. If WTI breaks below the \$63.50-\$64 level, things could get ugly. Not because traders will suddenly panic and sell, but because long-term investors in oil rely on charts. People who are long will start closing their positions, no matter what.”

**Omar Najia, Head of Trading (Derivatives), BB Energy**

*Source: Fujairah New Silk Road Weekly Newsletter, Vol. 223 – March 13, 2025*



### RUSSIAN OIL

“Indian refiners have learned how to process Russian crude and export petroleum products globally. The continuation of this relationship will largely depend on economic factors. If Russia continues to offer competitive prices, which Saudi Arabia often chooses not to match, then Russian oil will likely remain one of the top three suppliers to India.”

**Narendra Taneja, India’s Leading Energy Expert**

*Source: Fujairah New Silk Road Weekly Newsletter, Vol. 223 – March 13, 2025*



### TARIFF UNCERTAINTY

“We might be entering a world of economic sanctions and tariffs on energy, in pursuit of non-energy-related goals, such as controls on drugs and migration. This only adds to the uncertainty of the whole environment right now, and I think it will take a while for things to clarify.”

**Dr. Aldo Flores-Quiroga, Former Deputy Secretary, Mexico’s Ministry of Energy & Non-Resident Fellow, Baker Institute**

*Source: Fujairah New Silk Road Weekly Newsletter, Vol. 223 – March 13, 2025*

# Energy News Highlights

## S&P Global MIDDLE EAST EYES GLOBAL ROLE IN GREEN HYDROGEN TRADE

January 13, 2025 – The region has 67 low-carbon or renewable hydrogen and ammonia projects in development with combined production capacity of 9mn mt/year, of which 1.4mn mt/year is in advanced development, S&P Global Commodity Insights data shows.

<https://www.spglobal.com/commodity-insights/en/news-research/blog/energy-transition/011325-middle-east-eyes-global-role-in-green-hydrogen-trade>

## MEP CESI AND SEC SUBSIDIARY SIGN MOU TO ADVANCE SAUDI ENERGY PROJECTS

January 29, 2025 – CESI, a technical consulting and engineering company headquartered in Italy, has strengthened its presence in Saudi by signing a MOU with the Saudi Electricity Project Development Company (PDC), a subsidiary of the Saudi Electricity Company (SEC).

<https://www.mepmiddleeast.com/projects/cesi-and-sec-sign-mou-for-saudi-projects>

## THE ARABIAN STORIES 'DUQM NOW' FORUM SHOWCASES INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN OMAN'S RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR

February 8, 2025 – Participants at the 'Duqm Now' forum confirmed that there are numerous investment opportunities in the renewable energy sector for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) operating in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD).

<https://www.thearabianstories.com/2025/02/08/duqm-now-forum-showcases-investment-opportunities-in-omans-renewable-energy-sector/>

## OMAN DAILY OBSERVER OMAN'S POWER AND MINERALS SECTORS DRIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

February 8, 2025 – MUSCAT: Oman is making significant strides in its electricity and minerals sectors with strategic projects aimed at boosting sustainability, energy efficiency, and economic diversification in line with Oman Vision 2040. These initiatives not only strengthen the country's infrastructure but also create jobs and enhance resource utilisation while reducing environmental impact.

<https://www.omanobserver.om/article/1165990/business/energy/omans-power-and-minerals-sectors-drive-economic-growth>

## MIDDLE EAST ECONOMY TAQA REVENUES GROW 6.7 PERCENT TO \$15BN IN 2024, NET INCOME HITS \$1.93BN

February 13, 2025 – Abu Dhabi National Energy Company (TAQA) reported today its earnings for 2024, posting a remarkable financial performance underpinned by robust operations across its utilities business and bolstered by contributions from TAQA Water Solutions.

<https://economymiddleeast.com/news/taqa-revenues-grow-15-billion-2024-net-income-hits-1-93-billion/>

## WOOD MACKENZIE ENERGY TRANSITION OUTLOOK: MIDDLE EAST

February 15, 2025 – The Middle East's energy transition journey will be a challenging one. The region produces around a third of the world's oil supply. Fossil fuels generate much of its wealth, with hydrocarbon revenues for the largest producers accounting for between 30 and 60% of GDP for its largest producers and more than 80% of exports.

<https://www.woodmac.com/market-insights/topics/energy-transition-outlook/eto-middle-east/middle-east-economy>

## ABU DHABI'S MASDAR, TOTAL ENERGIES, EPOINTZERO ESTABLISH FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION TO DRIVE CLEAN ENERGY ACCESS IN AFRICA, ASIA

February 18, 2025 – Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company PJSC (Masdar), recognized as the UAE's leader in clean energy, along with TotalEnergies and EPointZero—the decarbonization division of 2PointZero, a transformative global investment platform—have formalized a Framework for Action (FFA) agreement aimed at enhancing clean energy access in emerging markets and developing economies across Africa and Asia.

<https://economymiddleeast.com/news/abu-dhabi-masdar-totalenergies-epointzero-establish-framework-for-action-to-drive-clean-energy/>

## MIDDLE EAST ECONOMY SAUDI ARAMCO TO ACQUIRE 25% STAKE IN UNIOIL PETROLEUM PHILIPPINES

February 19, 2025 – Saudi Aramco announced on Wednesday that it has reached an agreement to acquire a 25 percent stake in Unioil Petroleum Philippines, signifying its entry into the Philippine retail market.

<https://economymiddleeast.com/news/saudi-aramco-to-acquire-25-percent-stake-in-unioil-petroleum-philippines/>



## ARABIAN GULF BUSINESS INSIGHTS JPMORGAN EXPECTS NO SPECIAL ARAMCO DIVIDEND IN 2025

February 23, 2025 – Saudi Aramco is forecast to have no performance-linked dividend this year after a more balanced 2024 cash cycle followed earlier bumper results that backed the special payout, JPMorgan said in a research note.

<https://www.agbi.com/oil-and-gas/2025/02/jpmorgan-expects-no-special-aramco-dividend-in-2025/>

## ARABIAN GULF BUSINESS INSIGHTS ACWA PLANNING 15GW WIND AND SOLAR PROJECTS

February 24, 2025 – Acwa Power expects to announce new solar and wind power projects before the end of April as part of its contract to provide 70% of Saudi Arabia's renewable energy needs. The projects will have a combined generating capacity of 15 gigawatts (GW), Acwa's chief investment and development officer Thomas Brostrom told AGBI. That is enough electricity to power more than 11mn homes.

<https://www.agbi.com/renewable-energy/2025/02/acwa-planning-15gw-wind-and-solar-projects/>

## ZAWYA WOOD LAUNCHES MIDDLE EAST ENERGY TRANSITION CENTRE

March 12, 2025 – Wood, a global leader in consulting and engineering, announces the launch of a highly specialist centre for technical, strategic and economic energy transition solutions in Abu Dhabi. The 'energy transition hub' directly serves clients in the Middle East region, bringing together the advisory and technical expertise required to deliver energy diversification and net zero goals.

<https://www.zawya.com/en/press-release/companies-news/wood-launches-middle-east-energy-transition-centre-w40no6ye>



## ZAWYA SIG LAUNCHES 2-MEGAWATT SOLAR POWER PLANT IN SAUDI ARABIA PARTNERING WITH YELLOW DOOR ENERGY

March 12, 2025 – SIG and Yellow Door Energy officially launched SIG's 2-megawatt solar project in Riyadh. The project, under the patronage of Saudi Authority for Industrial Cities and Technology Zones ("MODON"), emphasizes the importance of greening industrial cities and supporting the MODON Green Initiative.

<https://www.zawya.com/en/press-release/companies-news/sig-launches-2-megawatt-solar-power-plant-in-saudi-arabia-partnering-with-yellow-door-energy-wszm0z4o>



## ZAWYA BANK NXT ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH TOMORROW SOLAR TO FINANCE SOLAR ENERGY UNITS

March 13, 2025 – Bank NXT, a leading provider of integrated retail and corporate banking solutions in Egypt, has announced the signing of a cooperation protocol with Tomorrow Solar, a company specializing in solar energy, to finance the establishment of solar power stations for the bank's residential sector customers. This partnership aligns with the bank's commitment to supporting the transition to renewable energy and promoting environmental sustainability, which is in line with Egypt's Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

<https://www.zawya.com/en/press-release/companies-news/bank-nxt-announces-partnership-with-tomorrow-solar-to-finance-solar-energy-units-ryjnc792>

# Global Energy Outlook



**Sara Akbar, Chairperson & CEO, OILSERV, Kuwait & Non-Executive Director, Petrofac**

## Gulf States Keen to See the US and Iran Avoid Escalation

For the Gulf states, avoiding escalation between Iran and the US is paramount. A full-scale conflict, particularly one that involves military strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities, would pose a direct existential threat to the region. Two significant geopolitical factors will shape global energy markets in the coming months. First, if Russia manages to reintegrate into the global energy trade, particularly through gas supplies to Europe, it could disrupt existing supply chains and impact OPEC+ decisions. Second, Iran and the U.S. are engaged in indirect negotiations, mediated by Russia, to ease tensions over Iran's nuclear program. If these talks lead to an agreement, Iran could increase oil exports, altering global oil supply dynamics.

## What is OPEC+ North Star?

We are in a world of disorder, with no historical precedent for managing such volatility. OPEC+ is taking a cautious approach by controlling supply to maintain price stability, targeting \$70 per barrel as a key threshold. The strategy is not just about price but also about keeping the group united. Some members, such as Nigeria and Iraq, have been

exceeding their quotas, which puts additional pressure on OPEC+ to adjust production plans. Meanwhile, external factors—such as rising supply from Venezuela and Mexico—are adding complexity. Trump's push for lower oil prices further complicates OPEC+'s position, forcing them to act carefully.

## Kuwait's Energy Expansion and Domestic Policy Shifts

Kuwait is making significant strides in its energy sector with the discovery of major offshore oil fields, a first for the country. This development could expand production capacity over time, enhancing Kuwait's role in global oil markets. However, alongside these energy advancements, Kuwait is also undergoing a controversial citizenship review, affecting thousands of residents. The government argues this process is necessary to correct irregularities in past citizenship grants, but the move has sparked widespread debate. Many households have been impacted, raising concerns about social stability. While Kuwait seeks to modernize its economy, such policy shifts create both opportunities and challenges.

Source: Fujairah New Silk Road Weekly Newsletter, Vol. 223 – March 13, 2025



**Maleeha Bengali, Founder, MB Commodity Corner**

## OPEC chose a very inopportune time to release this extrabalance

They should have released all this oil when the economy was strong to create better demand and when the Fed had battled inflation and prices were holding higher. Having said that, the market isn't too worried about the 135,000 b/d increase in April in the immediate sense – it's more about the intention to continue to release oil over the next two years.

## Why aren't financial investors buying oil at these lower prices?

One of the key things they're looking for has been Chinese stimulus demand. That hasn't happened for eight or nine months, so they're still waiting. If we start seeing the lower dollar which we have right now, the big question is whether China will start printing yuan to help boost their economy, and whether that would then change oil demand. China's not the oil economy it was 10 years ago, so even if they do introduce liquidity, it's not going to boost manufacturing investments, but rather consumer confidence. In addition, if

you look at the entire spectrum of financial assets to invest in, there's so much more value in other commodities, so why would you want to buy oil unless you see a massive pickup in demand that sees a market in deficit?

## Any risk of US recession from Trump tariff policy?

The sell-off in equities has been mainly in the tech sector. There's a massive amount of money concentrated in just seven or eight stocks, so this is just a massive portfolio rotation, taking money out of technology and into markets like China and Europe. If this were truly a recession, everything would be sold off.

## What is Trump's monetary policy end game?

He wants to lower bond yields because everything is realized on the back end of the bond market – consumer behavior, mortgages, housing, SMEs. He's focused on getting that yield down to about 4.2% and pushing fiscal expenditure and so needs to get the deficit under control.

Source: Fujairah New Silk Road Weekly Newsletter, Vol. 223 – March 13, 2025



**Henning Gloystein, Head of Energy, Climate & Resources, Eurasia Group**

The market was modestly surprised, but not shocked by OPEC+ plans to proceed adding barrels in April. The issue here is that the group has been losing market share to other producers, especially the US, and yet it hasn't achieved the high oil prices it hoped for by withholding supplies. At some point, a change was needed. As the forward curve remains in backwardation, we believe this is the moment they've decided to gradually reintroduce barrels without causing too much disruption. This approach is likely to continue over the next few months, but they're not opening the floodgates.

## Is there a geopolitical dimension to the OPEC+ decision?

It's quite clear that the Saudis were waiting to understand President Trump's policies better before making any moves. They had discussions with Trump, both in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere, about his stance on Iran, his domestic production policies in the US, and his approach to Russia and Ukraine.

## Very tumultuous times for the Western Alliance?

The rift is very deep, perhaps not irreversibly so, but it's hard to see an easy resolution where the US, Europe, and Ukraine can simply realign. Much trust has been broken but there's still a chance for improvement from where we stand now, despite the significant challenges. The suspension of US military aid to Ukraine announced today likely affects the supply of ammunition, mostly sent from the US to Poland and then to Ukraine. If it's immediate, it could impact the situation, although military analysts believe Ukraine is wellstocked with weapons and ammunition for the spring. Their biggest challenge is manpower. Still, a full suspension of US military aid would be a significant issue. An equally large concern perhaps would be if Starlink communications, vital for Ukrainian operations and managed by Elon Musk, were also suspended.

Source: Fujairah New Silk Road Weekly Newsletter, Vol. 222 – March 6, 2025



**Ali Al Riyami, Consultant & Former Director General of Marketing Ministry of Energy & Minerals, Oman**

## The decision by OPEC+ was unexpected

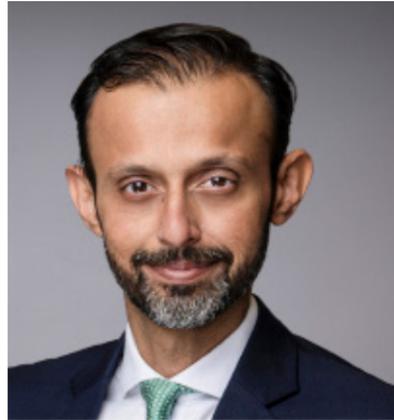
Nobody anticipated them proceeding with their plans to reintroduce volumes in April. The announcement drove prices down by about \$2.5/b. The fundamentals justifying that are lacking at the moment. There might have been strong internal pressures behind the decision, from countries like the UAE or Kazakhstan, which have been pushing for increased production due to their investments and capacity. Another possible factor could be pressure from the US administration to lower prices. OPEC+ might also be proactively responding to potential market tightness in the coming months, for example with regards to sanctioned Iranian oil exports. Nevertheless, the unwinding of the cuts had to start at some point and the reality is that these are relatively small monthly increments. The group will need to monitor any impact going forward amid a very uncertain global macroeconomic environment.

## What does the ADNOC-OMV deal indicate about future strategies of Gulf oil producers?

The future for the GCC region is not only to produce crude oil, but also to go down the energy molecules route. Countries like Oman, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the UAE, want to add value and petrochemical is one sector that gives the right returns. This transition to producing more specialized refined products won't happen overnight however – crude oil production volumes in the region are huge, but I could see Oman for example in the future, being a Singapore when it comes to petrochemicals and products.

Source: Fujairah New Silk Road Weekly Newsletter, Vol. 222 – March 6, 2025

## Fueling Sustainable Growth through Strategic Energy Investments



“Strategic investments and innovative partnerships in energy are essential to bridge this gap, powering growth while ensuring sustainability for the future.”

**Badar Chaudhry**  
Managing Director – Public Sector,  
Energy & Commodities, Mashreq

**56%**

of the world’s population resides in the Global South, yet it accounts for just 18% of global power capacity, presenting a vast opportunity for energy investments to drive growth and stability.



**\$90 billion** has been committed by Gulf countries to energy projects across Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and South Asia, aiming to integrate both traditional and renewable energy solutions for a secure, sustainable future.



“By combining cutting-edge technologies and strategic partnerships, the Gulf is positioned to drive energy security while supporting sustainable economic growth.”

**Badar Chaudhry**  
Managing Director – Public Sector, Energy & Commodities, Mashreq



## Mashreq Energy Executives attend The 8th GI London, Middle East Energy Summit 2025

February 2025 – Mashreq Executives, Farah Jassem, Assistant Vice President, Marketing & Communications and Sajjad Jafri, Senior Vice President, Energy attended The 8th GI London, Middle East Energy Summit. The Fujairah Oil Markets Workshop Breakfast, London, UK alongside senior national and international energy stakeholders.



Farah Jassem and Sajjad Jafri attend The International Energy Markets Leadership Roundtable, with 30+ attendees from ADNOC, Bahri, BGN, Bayegan DMCC, Center on Global Energy Policy, Columbia University, CME GROUP, Energy Intelligence, GulfSands Petroleum Plc, HC Group, Intercontinental Exchange –ICE, International Institute for Strategic Studies, Kpler, Ministry of Energy & Minerals, Oman, Omani British Business Council, OMV, PetroChina International London, Rystad Energy, S&P Global Commodity Insights, SOCAR, The Energy Council, Uniper, VAKT Global Ltd, VITOL, VORTEXA, VTTI.

# Global Energy Banking



## SUSTAINING ENERGY, SHAPING THE FUTURE.

For over half a century, Mashreq has been at the heart of the GCC's economic development. Our Energy Sector is dedicated to helping clients balance energy security, affordability, and sustainability as we navigate the evolving energy landscape together.

Whether you are in the oil and gas sector (upstream, midstream, downstream) or leading the charge towards renewable energy solutions, Mashreq is your trusted partner. We bring deep sector knowledge and financial expertise to corporates seeking to harness traditional and alternative energy sources such as solar, offshore wind, LNG, and hydrogen.

We are committed to supporting energy companies in the region as they move towards a cleaner, greener future, with a focus on energy security, environmental sustainability, and equitable energy access.

### What We Offer:

- Trade Finance & Working Capital Solutions
- Investment Banking & Capital Markets Expertise
- Renewable Energy Financing and Support
- Strategic Advisory for Energy Transition

Partner with Mashreq to create a more sustainable energy future.

Contact us: [Energy@mashreq.com](mailto:Energy@mashreq.com)

Learn more at: [www.mashreq.com](http://www.mashreq.com)

