

MASHREQ GLOBAL DIGEST

Oman

September 7 – September 13



This edition of Market Digest highlights Oman’s macro trends, financial and tech updates, and key deals, providing a snapshot of the country’s economic momentum.

Macroeconomic News

OBG Highlights Oman 2025 Progress

Oxford Business Group released its Report: Oman 2025, a 250-page study showcasing the country's progress in translating Oman Vision 2040 into action. The report underlines diversification away from oil through renewables, green hydrogen, and industrial growth, while emphasizing digital transformation, fintech, and e-commerce as new growth drivers. It also highlights efforts to attract FDI, expand special economic zones, and support SMEs, alongside sustainability goals such as net-zero by 2050. The report positions Oman as a resilient, competitive economy and a regional hub for green and digital industries.

Reference: [Zawya](#)



Oman’s Trade Surplus Declines in H1 2025

Oman’s trade surplus fell 34% year-on-year to 3.1 billion rials in the first half of 2025, driven by a 16% drop in oil and gas exports, which offset gains in non-oil exports that rose 9.1% to 3.26 billion rials. Imports increased 5.1% to 8.4 billion rials, narrowing the surplus. The UAE remained Oman’s top non-oil trade partner, leading in exports, re-exports, and imports, while other major partners included Saudi Arabia, India, Iran, China, and Kuwait.

Reference: [Muscat Daily](#)



Oman Secures \$500M GCC Power Grid Deal

Oman has signed a \$500 million financing deal between the GCC Interconnection Authority and Sohar International Bank to fund a cross-border electricity project, including a 400 kV double-circuit line linking the UAE’s Al-Silaa station with a new station in Oman, two transmission stations in Ibri and Al-Baynunah, and a dynamic compensator to boost stability and add up to 1.6 GW of capacity. The project aims to enhance regional energy security, reduce costs, and enable wider renewable integration, while aligning with Oman Vision 2040 and strengthening opportunities for energy trade across the Gulf.

Reference: [Arab News](#)



Oman’s Golden Residency Boosts Investment Appeal

Oman’s newly launched Golden Residency Program offers renewable 10-year visas for foreign investors and their families, with no limit on dependents. The initiative is designed to attract global talent and skilled professionals, fueling private-sector growth, job creation, and knowledge transfer in line with Vision 2040. By strengthening the business environment, boosting real estate, and accelerating economic diversification, the program positions Oman as a secure and competitive hub for long-term investment and innovation.

Reference: [Oman Observer](#)



Oman’s Industrial Sector Records Exceptional Growth

Oman’s industrial sector delivered exceptional results in Q2 2025, with listed companies’ combined net profits soaring over 476%. The sharp rebound highlights the sector’s resilience and its role as a key driver of economic diversification under Industrial Strategy 2040. Officials noted that strong performances in basic industries, consumer goods, and energy boosted overall momentum, while innovation, new export markets, and government incentives are helping the sector navigate external challenges and strengthen its competitiveness both locally and internationally.

Reference: [Muscat Daily](#)

Financial/Tech News

Oman Launches \$250M AI Economic Zone

Oman is creating the Gulf’s first special economic zone dedicated to artificial intelligence with a \$250 million investment in Muscat’s Seeb area. The 100,000 sqm zone will be developed by local firm Afouq in partnership with Egypt’s Prime Group, under the supervision of OPAZ and with technical guidance from the Ministry of Transport, Communications and IT. The hub aims to attract AI startups from across the GCC, offering investment channels, project financing, and product marketing support, as part of Oman’s broader push to diversify its economy.

Reference: [AGBI](#)



Comex 2025 to Accelerate Oman’s Digital Transformation

Oman’s Comex 2025 exhibition will play a key role in advancing the National Digital Economy Programme and Vision 2040, with a focus on AI, quantum computing, and cybersecurity. The event will host over 300 local and international companies, alongside forums, hackathons, and training workshops. Deals worth 200 million riyals were signed at Comex 2024, highlighting its role in attracting investment and positioning Oman’s digital economy to reach around 10% of GDP by 2040.

Reference: [Zawya](#)

Rise every day

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Oman Issues \$233M in Treasury Bills to Manage Liquidity

Oman's Central Bank issued \$233 million in treasury bills this week as part of its routine operations to manage short-term liquidity, split between 91-day and 182-day maturities. Yields averaged around 4.1%, with a repo rate set at 5%. The move supports liquidity in the domestic financial system, provides banks with secure investment instruments, and serves as a benchmark for short-term interest rates. Meanwhile, Oman's public debt declined 2.08% year-on-year to 14.1 billion rials in Q2 2025, reflecting fiscal discipline and stronger non-oil revenues.

Reference: [Arab News](#)

Oman's Listed Companies Outperform GCC Peers in Q2

Net profits of Oman's listed companies surged 22% year-on-year to \$1 billion in Q2 2025, driven mainly by banking, utilities, and telecoms, with ten of fourteen sectors recording growth. In contrast, aggregate profits across GCC-listed companies fell 8.7% to \$56.7 billion due to weaker oil and petrochemical prices. Oman stood out alongside Abu Dhabi as one of the few markets to post double-digit earnings growth, highlighting the strength of its non-oil sectors and financial stability.

Reference: [Muscat Daily](#)

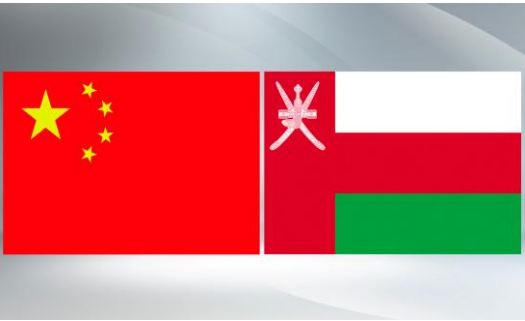


Deals

Oman Eyes New Investment Platforms with China

Oman's sovereign wealth fund (OIA) is preparing to roll out two new investment platforms. The first will be a Central Asia-focused fund with a major Chinese firm as a limited partner, aimed at linking China, Oman, and Central Asia. The second is described as a larger sovereign investment platform under development, though financial details and sector focus have not yet been disclosed. These initiatives build on OIA's existing three China-linked funds worth nearly \$700 million and its \$2 billion investments in Greater China in 2024, reinforcing Oman's role as a bridge for cross-border capital flows.

Reference: [Zawya](#)



Oman Expands Global Partnerships

Oman advanced its international engagement through multiple initiatives: hosting a business forum with Estonia on economic and investment cooperation, signing an MoU with Kazakhstan on financial regulation and fintech, launching a two-year Joint Programme for Capital Market Development Cooperation with Malaysia, ratifying a Preferential Trade Agreement with Iran, and signing an MoU with Invest Hong Kong at the Belt and Road Summit to strengthen bilateral economic and investment ties. A high-level Austrian trade delegation also visited Muscat to explore cooperation in mining, digitalization, education, transport, and tourism through meetings with key ministries and institutions. In parallel, Oman signed a copper localization MoU with Green Tech Mining and Nuhas Oman to boost In-Country Value (ICV) and reduce reliance on imports. Additionally, UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed met Sultan Haitham bin Tariq in Salalah to reinforce historic ties and GCC cooperation. Collectively, these moves align with Vision 2040 goals to diversify the economy and expand global partnerships.

Reference: [Muscat Daily](#), [Muscat Daily](#), [Muscat Daily](#), [Muscat Daily](#), [Muscat Daily](#), [Muscat Daily](#), [Zawya](#), [Zawya](#)

Markets

Market Dashboard

- The Nasdaq closed at a record high of 22,141.10 on Friday, gaining 2% over the week, while the S&P 500 rose 1.6% to 6,584.29 and the Dow advanced nearly 1% to 45,834.22. The rally was fueled by tech stocks, including Tesla's 7.4% jump and Microsoft's 1.8% gain, alongside renewed AI optimism after Oracle's upbeat forecast. Investors are now focused on the Federal Reserve meeting next week, where a 25bps rate cut is widely expected.
- Bitcoin ended the week near \$116,000, gaining around 5% as strong ETF inflows (\$2.34 billion over five sessions) and renewed institutional demand supported sentiment. Traders see consolidation around \$116k–\$118k as a base before potential October upside, with liquidity from ETFs reinforcing the rally.
- Gold held close to its all-time high of \$3,643/oz, gaining 1.6% for the week on expectations that the Federal Reserve will deliver its first rate cut of 2025 next week. Weaker U.S. labor data and rising ETF inflows supported the rally, with analysts at UBS projecting prices could reach \$3,900/oz by mid-2026. Silver also climbed to a 14-year high of \$42.26/oz, while platinum and palladium posted weekly gains, underscoring strong momentum across precious metals.
- Brent crude settled at \$66.99/bbl and WTI at \$62.69/bbl after a Ukrainian drone strike disrupted loadings at Russia's Primorsk port. Gains, however, were capped by weak U.S. economic data and demand worries. The IEA expects global supply to rise this year due to OPEC+ output increases, while OPEC maintained strong demand forecasts. Analysts noted the trend remains bearish, with U.S. jobs revisions and inflation concerns weighing on sentiment.
- The U.S. dollar index edged down over the week, marking its second straight weekly decline. Losses were driven by weak labor market data, softer consumer sentiment, and expectations that the Federal Reserve will begin cutting rates next week.

Indicators	5-Sep-25	12-Sep-25	% Change
S&P 500	6,481.50	6,584.29	1.59%
Bitcoin	110,650.98	116,101.58	4.93%
Gold	3,586.81	3,643.13	1.57%
Crude Oil	65.50	66.99	2.27%
EUR/USD	1.1657	1.1732	0.64%

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