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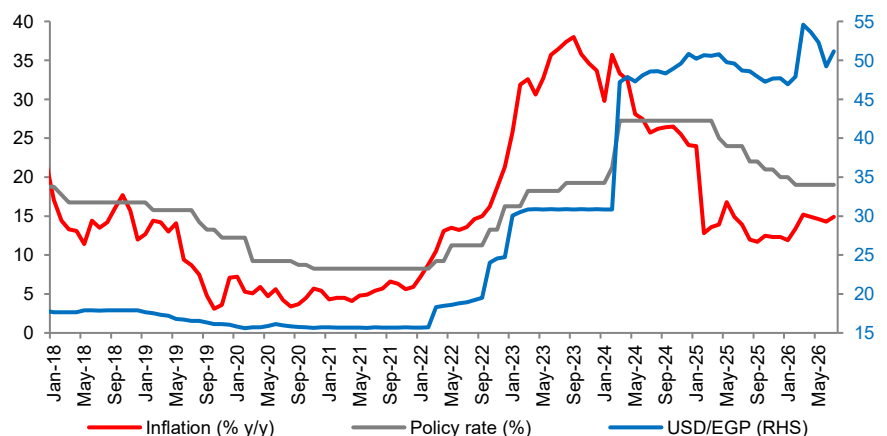
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COMMODITIES / ENERGY

Oil heads for strong weekly gain as US intensifies pressure on Iran. Oil headed with Brent trading near USD94/b and WTI below USD87/b, as the US prepared sweeping measures aimed at further isolating Iran's economy. The US is expected to detail the package next week, potentially targeting not only Iran but also countries and institutions that continue doing business with Iran, raising particular uncertainty around China, the largest buyer of Iranian crude. The measures come alongside the US naval blockade of Iranian ports, which Iran's central bank governor said has virtually halted the country's oil exports. Tensions over the Strait of Hormuz also remain elevated, with the US and Iran continuing to dispute control of the waterway and further vessel attacks reported this week. Supply pressures are being compounded by Ukrainian strikes on Russian refineries and ports, contributing to severe tightness in global diesel markets and record refining margins.

Gold heads for third weekly gain on debt concerns. Gold was on track for a third consecutive weekly gain, trading around USD4,530/oz, supported by concerns over rising US government debt and borrowing costs. The US Treasury's unexpected expansion of long-dated debt buybacks initially pushed Treasury yields and the dollar lower, boosting gold, while Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent signalled that further buybacks and a new fiscal initiative could follow. Gold has now gained around 11% in August, also benefiting from renewed safe-haven demand and dip-buying after its earlier war-driven selloff. However, the rebound in oil prices poses a headwind by keeping US inflation risks elevated and preserving the possibility of further Fed rate hikes. Going forward, US Treasury yields and fiscal policy, the Fed's rate outlook, and energy-driven inflation stemming from the US-Iran conflict will remain the key drivers.

EGYPT HOLDS RATES AS INFLATION PRESSURE RE-EMERGE

Source: Bloomberg, CBE, MUFG Research

MIDDLE EAST – CREDIT TRADING

End of day comment – 20 August 2026. We have said a number of times this month that inertia is low but today it felt a bit higher (or maybe EM is just slow). Even as rates gave back the Bessent bounce from yesterday the push for the market to add risk (or at least bid up bonds) continued leaving cash prices indicated higher than unchanged spreads would imply. While the intent to hold prices faded into the afternoon, we think it shows two things: 1) the market, still, is more scared of the rally than the sell off and 2) our spreads can lag and, if rates retrace sell offs quickly, our cash prices may not reflect those short-term moves. After a slew of bonds available to buy at the short end yesterday the short end of the KSA curve recovered 0.05-0.10c and 5bps or so which fed into ARAMCO and PIFKSA as well. There was local buying of mid curve PIFKSA pushing that part of the curve 4-5bps tighter independent of KSA or ARAMCO curves. Sukuk AT1s continue to be well bid regardless of the macro or rates back drop. (Source: Matthew Dunker, Credit Trader)

MIDDLE EAST – MACRO / MARKETS

Egypt holds rates as inflation pressure re-emerge. The Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) kept policy rates unchanged for a fourth consecutive meeting on August 20, holding the overnight deposit and lending rates at 19% and 20%, respectively, as renewed inflation pressures outweighed the case for further easing. Inflation accelerated to 14.9% y/y in July from 14.3% y/y in June, amid administered-price increases including higher electricity tariffs. The CBE has consequently raised its 2026 average inflation forecast to 16–17%, although subdued monthly inflation suggests the recent pickup partly reflects base effects and one-off price adjustments rather than a broad acceleration in underlying pressures. Meanwhile, Egypt's external position continues to strengthen, supported by record reserves of USD56.3bn, strong remittance inflows and a firmer pound, giving policymakers room to maintain relatively high real interest rates without further tightening. Looking ahead, the timing of renewed monetary easing will depend primarily on inflation resuming its downward trend, alongside continued currency stability and reserve accumulation, with rate cuts increasingly likely to be delayed until late 2026 or early 2027.

Morocco slips into deflation as food and fuel prices fall. Morocco's inflation rate fell to -0.6% y/y in July, reversing June's 0.3% increase, as a 3.7% decline in food prices more than offset a 1.9% rise in non-food costs. Consumer prices also dropped 1.0% m/m, led by cheaper vegetables, fish, fruit and meat, alongside a 4.9% fall in fuel prices as earlier energy-cost pressures unwound. Core inflation also edged into negative territory, indicating that disinflation has broadened beyond volatile food and energy components. Morocco consequently stands out from much of the region, where inflation remains positive or elevated, supported by favourable domestic food supply and relatively limited exposure to Gulf-related energy and shipping disruptions. The benign inflation backdrop gives Bank Al-Maghrib, which has kept its policy rate at 2.25%, significant flexibility to maintain an accommodative stance. The outlook for food and energy prices will remain key determinants of future monetary policy decisions.

CALENDAR – DATA / EVENTS / MEETINGS

	Country	Date and time	Indicator/Event	Period	Consensus	Previous	Market Moving*
	QA	8/19/2026-8/22/2026	CPI YoY	Jul	--	2.21%	!!
	UE	8/20/2026-8/26/2026	Dubai CPI YoY	Jul	--	5.66%	!

Source: Bloomberg, MUFG Research; * Bloomberg Relevance Score between "!", "!!" and "!!!"

MARKET INDICATORS

Stock markets	Index	Chg, %	
		Daily	YTD
Regional			
MSCI GCC	749	0.05	1.91
Bahrain	1,944	-0.07	-5.94
Kuwait	10,632	0.31	22.37
Oman	7,523	-0.31	28.23
Qatar	9,683	-0.92	-10.03
Saudi Arabia	10,954	0.26	4.42
Dubai	5,840	-0.04	-3.43
Abu Dhabi	10,076	0.69	0.83
Egypt	54,737	0.41	30.86
Israel	4,156	-0.29	14.44
Turkey	14,397	-0.43	27.84
Jordan	200	-0.05	9.19

International			
MSCI World	4,947	-0.57	11.67
MSCI EM	1,700	1.89	21.05
CSI 300	4,611	0.39	-0.41
DAX	25,983	-0.42	6.09
DJIA	52,759	-1.32	9.77
EURO STOXX 50	6,422	-0.35	10.89
FTSE 100 Index	10,748	0.04	8.22
Nikkei 225	65,951	-0.40	31.01
S&P 500	7,641	-0.87	11.62

3m interbank rates	%	Chg, bp	
		Daily	YTD
Bahrain	5.16	0.00	3.54
Kuwait	3.56	0.00	0.00
UAE	3.82	-2.21	10.00
Qatar	4.12	2.94	3.59
Saudi Arabia	4.77	-0.86	-1.85
Turkey	16.01	0.00	0.00
SOFR	3.74	0.19	2.42

Exchange rates	Rate	Chg, %	
		Daily	YTD
USD/BHD 1yr fwd	162.50	-4.83	-12.93
USD/KWD 1yr fwd	-138.19	-6.30	29.13
USD/OMR 1yr fwd	7.00	7.69	-53.33
USD/QAR 1yr fwd	4.61	62.90	-88.49
USD/SAR 1yr fwd	77.50	-1.66	-78.01
USD/AED 1yr fwd	-21.54	-5.54	42.62
USD/EGP 1yr fwd	20.73	0.05	-16.79
USD/TRY 1yr fwd	40.04	0.20	-10.27
USD/ILS 1yr fwd	-442.38	0.28	-215.09

Sovereign bonds	Yields, %	G-S*, bp	Chg, bp		Coup, %
		Daily	Daily	YTD	
Short-term bonds (1-2 years)					
Bahrain 2028	7.253	304.66	-0.04	1.78	7.000
Kuwait 2027	4.347	43.67	-0.01	0.01	3.500
Oman 2027	4.873	84.82	-0.05	0.34	6.750
Qatar 2028	4.606	47.51	0.04	0.62	4.500
KSA 2027	3.185	38.97	0.07	0.76	0.750
UAE 2027	4.372	35.71	0.01	0.41	3.125
Egypt 2027	5.762	175.45	0.01	-0.89	5.800
Turkey 2027	5.463	145.89	-0.02	0.23	8.600
Israel 2027	3.381	78.65	0.11	0.51	1.500
Jordan 2027	5.134	125.49	-0.01	-0.62	5.750

Medium-term bonds (3-5 years)					
Bahrain 2030	7.347	302.87	-0.03	1.50	7.375
Oman 2030	5.053	72.91	-0.04	0.75	4.875
Qatar 2030	4.879	55.53	0.02	0.79	9.750
KSA 2030	4.906	60.67	0.00	0.56	4.750
UAE 2030	4.682	36.87	0.00	0.75	3.125
Egypt 2030	7.341	299.31	0.05	-1.17	7.625
Turkey 2030	6.368	204.02	0.00	0.29	9.125
Israel 2030	5.138	81.10	0.01	0.36	2.750
Jordan 2030	5.728	140.04	0.04	-0.47	5.850

Long-term bonds (6+ years)					
Bahrain 2035	7.662	302.82	0.00	-0.09	7.750
Qatar 2035	4.974	34.79	0.00	-0.06	4.875
KSA 2035	5.257	69.33	0.01	-0.04	5.000
UAE 2034	4.983	40.35	0.00	-0.05	5.000
Turkey 2035	7.019	240.16	0.00	-0.04	6.500
Israel 2037	4.348	106.32	0.00	-0.02	2.375

International bonds (10 years)					
US Treasury	4.707	---	0.00	0.38	4.625
German Bund	3.258	---	0.00	0.50	3.000
UK Gilt	5.065	---	0.02	0.34	4.750
Japan Government Bond	2.874	---	0.03	1.27	2.700

Commodities	USD	Chg, %	
		Daily	YTD
Brent	93.34	-0.47	55.13
WTI	86.29	-0.62	51.52
Gold	4,532	0.33	4.91
Copper	14,037	-0.09	12.99
Aluminium	3,205	-0.70	6.99
EU natural gas	4,532	0.33	4.91
US natural gas	65.27	-0.05	141.45
Iron ore	95.50	0.20	-10.91
Coal	229.00	0.99	8.04
Commodities (BCOM)	720.01	0.69	23.12
Energy (BCOMEN)	446.77	1.21	44.41
Base metals (BCOMIN)	178.51	0.59	9.26
Precious metals (BCOMPR)	1,416.20	1.10	4.54
Agriculture (BCOMAG)	4,532	0.33	4.91

Source: Bloomberg, MUFG Research; * G-spread = interpolated bond spread to sovereign curve of matching currency

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