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Middle East Daily

02 September 2026

MUFG Bank, Ltd. and
Securities plc

MUFG

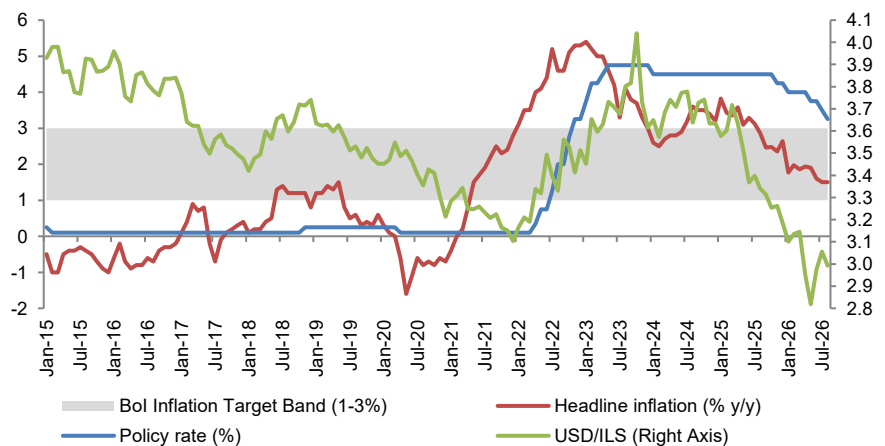
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COMMODITIES / ENERGY

Oil surges as renewed US-Iran fighting heightens Hormuz risk. Oil extended gains for a third session, with Brent trading around USD 96/b after surging 4.6% on Tuesday and WTI near USD 91/b, as renewed US-Iran hostilities intensified concerns over energy flows through the Strait of Hormuz. The US conducted a second day of strikes on Iran, while Iran retaliated against Jordan, Bahrain and Kuwait, raising the risk of a sustained escalation. Despite the strikes, crude continues to move through Hormuz, with US officials estimating flows averaged around 8mb/d, alongside another 4–5mb/d bypassing the strait through pipelines. However, this remains well below normal pre-war flows, while threats to shipping remain elevated. Oil is now more than 30% higher since the conflict began in February, with refined-product markets facing even greater tightness.

Gold extends decline as inflation and rate hike risks intensify. Gold fell for a third consecutive session, trading around USD 4,305/oz as rising energy prices and hawkish Fed expectations pushed bond yields and the dollar higher. Renewed US-Iran strikes have driven oil prices sharply higher, intensifying concerns that energy costs could keep inflation elevated and require further monetary tightening. Markets now price an almost 70% probability of a Fed rate hike in September, alongside at least two increases by March 2027, following Fed Chair Kevin Warsh's hawkish inflation message. Meanwhile, the 30-year US Treasury yield climbed above 5.28%, reversing the decline triggered by the Treasury's expanded bond-buyback programme last month and highlighting persistent concerns over US debt and inflation. Geopolitical uncertainty may provide some safe-haven support, but higher energy-driven inflation and rising Treasury yields are likely to remain significant headwinds for gold.

BOI CUTS RATES AS INFLATION PRESSURES REMAIN SUBDUED



Source: Bloomberg, Bol, MUFG Research

MIDDLE EAST – CREDIT TRADING

End of day comment – 01 September 2026. After the UK holiday we were greeted by a much higher UST yield curve. The market was repricing GCC bonds lower and it took the first hour to find some clearing levels. From there it was a pretty orderly day. Flows were skewed to better selling, both ETFs and RM were net reducing risk. Looking at levels, pre-Warsh and today's close we are anywhere from unch/+3bp in long end bond spreads and anywhere from unch/-3bp in belly bonds. That broadly reflects the flattening bias of the UST curve since Jackson Hole with yields in cash bonds since then 7/10bp wider. Primary markets are starting to see some life. KSA set T+70bp in 5y and T+80bp in 10y for their dual tranche sukuk bonds pricing later today. Smaller deals were also announced by KIB and ANB (At1). Macro markets are on the retreat as rates vol, and more expected DM IG supply keeps risk sentiment weak. Whilst primary markets will open up, new issues will most likely. (Source: *Domonik Roth, Credit Trader*)

MIDDLE EAST – MACRO / MARKETS

Bank of Israel cuts rates again as inflation pressures remain subdued. The Bank of Israel (BoI) cut its policy rate by 25bps to 3.25%, moving another step toward neutral despite lingering geopolitical and fiscal uncertainty. The decision reflected continued moderation in inflation, which has remained below the 2% midpoint of the target range, alongside signs that underlying economic activity is softer than the strong headline Q2 GDP rebound suggests. The BOI estimates the output gap has narrowed to -0.8% from -4.6%, while easing housing inflation and tentative signs of improving labour supply also support further normalization. However, uncertainty around the 2026 defence budget, fiscal adjustment and the October 27 election warrants caution, particularly as higher energy prices could revive inflation pressures. Looking ahead, we think one additional 25bp cut appears possible by year-end, taking the policy rate to 3%, although higher fiscal spending could delay further easing while sustained geopolitical de-escalation could allow faster rate cuts.

Turkey's manufacturing downturn eases in August. Turkey's manufacturing PMI rose to 48.1 in August from 47.7 in July, reaching a three-month high but remaining below the 50 threshold and extending the sector's contraction for a 29th consecutive month. Output and new orders continued to decline amid subdued demand and uncertainty stemming from the Middle East conflict, although the pace of deterioration moderated. Export orders also weakened, while conflict-related supply-chain disruptions lengthened delivery times and manufacturers continued to reduce employment and purchasing activity. The subdued manufacturing backdrop is consistent with broader signs of slowing economic momentum, with Q2 GDP growth easing to 2.3% y/y and strengthens the case for further monetary easing from the Central Bank of Turkey (CBRT)'s current 37% policy rate. Going forward, the pace of CBRT easing, a sustained recovery in new orders and any de-escalation of regional tensions will be key to determining whether manufacturing can return to expansion later this year.

CALENDAR – DATA / EVENTS / MEETINGS

	Country	Date and time	Indicator/Event	Period	Consensus	Previous	Market Moving*
	TU	9/03/2026 11:00	CPI YoY	Aug	31.60%	31.75%	!!!
	TU	9/03/2026 11:00	PPI YoY	Aug	--	27.83%	!!

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

MARKET INDICATORS

Stock markets	Index	Chg, %	
		Daily	YTD
Regional			
MSCI GCC	755	-0.39	2.83
Bahrain	1,941	0.24	-6.09
Kuwait	11,003	0.04	26.63
Oman	7,611	0.09	29.73
Qatar	9,853	0.47	-8.45
Saudi Arabia	11,101	-0.24	5.82
Dubai	5,834	-0.03	-3.52
Abu Dhabi	9,974	-0.33	-0.18
Egypt	55,431	1.03	32.52
Israel	4,148	0.22	14.22
Turkey	14,229	-0.73	26.35
Jordan	201	0.39	9.84

International			
MSCI World	4,933	-0.70	11.34
MSCI EM	1,727	0.47	23.00
CSI 300	4,550	-1.34	-1.73
DAX	25,970	-1.10	6.04
DJIA	52,767	-0.79	9.79
EURO STOXX 50	6,369	-0.80	9.97
FTSE 100 Index	10,789	-0.32	8.64
Nikkei 225	64,256	-2.96	27.64
S&P 500	7,631	-0.71	11.48

3m interbank rates	%	Chg, bp	
		Daily	YTD
Bahrain	5.15	0.00	3.39
Kuwait	3.56	0.00	0.00
UAE	3.99	3.52	14.73
Qatar	4.10	0.00	3.14
Saudi Arabia	4.90	1.27	0.81
Turkey	16.01	0.00	0.00
SOFR	3.80	1.16	4.09

Exchange rates	Rate	Chg, %	
		Daily	YTD
USD/BHD 1yr fwd	161.64	-0.53	-13.39
USD/KWD 1yr fwd	-136.65	-1.73	29.92
USD/OMR 1yr fwd	4.25	-15.00	-71.67
USD/QAR 1yr fwd	-2.20	-423.81	-105.49
USD/SAR 1yr fwd	71.01	-4.04	-79.85
USD/AED 1yr fwd	-27.32	-5.40	27.22
USD/EGP 1yr fwd	20.39	-1.67	-15.40
USD/TRY 1yr fwd	39.45	-0.49	-8.93
USD/ILS 1yr fwd	-520.00	0.00	-270.37

Sovereign bonds	Yields, %	G-S*, bp	Chg, bp	Coup, %	
		Daily	Daily	YTD	
Short-term bonds (1-2 years)					
Bahrain 2028	7.263	285.42	0.00	1.87	7.000
Kuwait 2027	4.407	36.30	0.00	0.13	3.500
Oman 2027	4.917	71.12	0.00	0.39	6.750
Qatar 2028	4.652	33.29	0.00	0.68	4.500
KSA 2027	3.208	35.99	0.01	0.77	0.750
UAE 2027	4.463	26.81	0.01	0.53	3.125
Egypt 2027	5.803	161.50	0.00	-0.74	5.800
Turkey 2027	5.639	145.50	0.00	0.45	8.600
Israel 2027	3.220	58.67	0.01	0.27	1.500
Jordan 2027	5.179	119.96	0.05	-0.55	5.750

Medium-term bonds (3-5 years)						
Bahrain 2030	7.355	285.45	0.00	1.63	7.375	
Oman 2030	5.058	55.36	0.01	0.77	4.875	
Qatar 2030	4.920	41.53	0.00	0.83	9.750	
KSA 2030	5.001	51.66	0.00	0.67	4.750	
UAE 2030	4.792	29.57	0.01	0.87	3.125	
Egypt 2030	7.268	274.50	-0.02	-0.76	7.625	
Turkey 2030	6.422	191.40	0.00	0.32	9.125	
Israel 2030	5.196	68.93	0.00	0.50	2.750	
Jordan 2030	5.768	126.10	0.00	-0.28	5.850	

Long-term bonds (6+ years)						
Bahrain 2035	7.662	291.35	0.00	-0.09	7.750	
Qatar 2035	5.017	27.44	0.00	-0.06	4.875	
KSA 2035	5.302	60.88	0.00	-0.04	5.000	
UAE 2034	5.071	36.53	0.01	-0.06	5.000	
Turkey 2035	7.099	236.32	0.00	-0.04	6.500	
Israel 2037	4.366	99.79	0.00	-0.02	2.375	

International bonds (10 years)						
US Treasury	4.807	---	0.01	0.54	4.625	
German Bund	3.343	---	0.00	0.56	3.000	
UK Gilt	5.225	---	0.16	0.43	4.875	
Japan Government Bond	3.009	---	0.01	1.39	2.700	

Commodities	USD	Chg, %	
		Daily	YTD
Brent	93.34	0.97	58.78
WTI	86.29	0.65	59.46
Gold	4,532	-0.41	-0.19
Copper	14,037	-0.14	14.90
Aluminium	3,205	1.20	9.53
EU natural gas	4,532	-0.41	-0.19
US natural gas	65.27	2.47	172.87
Iron ore	95.50	-1.51	-8.57
Coal	229.00	-1.06	31.63
Commodities (BCOM)	720.01	1.34	26.55
Energy (BCOMEN)	446.77	3.57	50.12
Base metals (BCOMIN)	178.51	-0.83	9.15
Precious metals (BCOMPR)	1,416.20	-2.00	0.29
Agriculture (BCOMAG)	4,532	-0.41	-0.19

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

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