

# Weekly Market Brief

August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## Highlights:

- Kuwait's rating at AA-, according to Fitch Ratings.
- The Fed is widely expected to announce a modest quarter-point cut in September.
- Gold prices have reached multiple highs this year.

## Kuwait & GCC Markets

Market	Index	WTD%	MTD%	YTD%
Kuwait	Premier Market	0.89	-1.24	4.34
	Main Market	0.36	-0.05	8.90
	All Share	0.80	-1.04	5.09
Saudi Arabia	Tadawul	2.35	0.70	2.20
Abu Dhabi	ADX	0.95	0.37	-2.13
Dubai	DFMGI	1.17	0.58	5.74
Qatar	QE index	-0.03	-0.31	-4.41
Bahrain	Bahrain All share	0.05	-1.60	-1.17
Oman	Muscat SM	-0.40	0.28	4.21



- Boursa Kuwait indices ended the week with a strong performance – the general market index rose by 0.80%, or 56.68 points, for the second week in a row, surpassing its loss at the beginning of the month by 2%. The Premier Market Index also achieved a larger percentage of close to 1%, from 0.95%, or 87.94 points.
- Kuwait's rating at AA-, according to Fitch Ratings -highlighted the robustness of Kuwait's banking sector, noting that banks in the country are well-capitalized, well-funded, and exhibit strong risk management practices. Fitch anticipates a modest credit growth of 3% to 4% in 2024, influenced by higher interest rates and limited real GDP growth.
- For the second week in a row, most of the GCC financial market indices continued to compensate for the losses of Black Monday at the beginning of the month and recorded positive returns. Saudi market index showed significant growth rising 2.35%. Its performance was supported by the rises in global markets and gold prices.

## Global Markets, Currencies & Commodities

Market	Index	WTD%	MTD%	YTD%
World	FTSE World	1.69	2.08	14.18
Emerging Market	FTSE EM	0.64	1.59	8.73
	S&P 500	1.45	2.03	18.13
US	Dow Jones	1.27	0.81	9.25
	Nasdaq	1.40	1.58	19.10
	VIX	7.16	-3.06	27.39
EU & UK	Euro Stoxx 600	1.31	-0.01	8.16
	FTSE 100	0.20	-0.48	7.69
Asia	Nikkei (JP)	0.79	-1.89	14.64
	Shanghai (CN)	-0.87	-2.87	-4.05
	Nifty (IN)	1.15	-0.51	14.23
MENA	Turkey BIST 100	-1.57	-9.12	29.42
	Egypt EGX 30	1.94	2.59	21.15

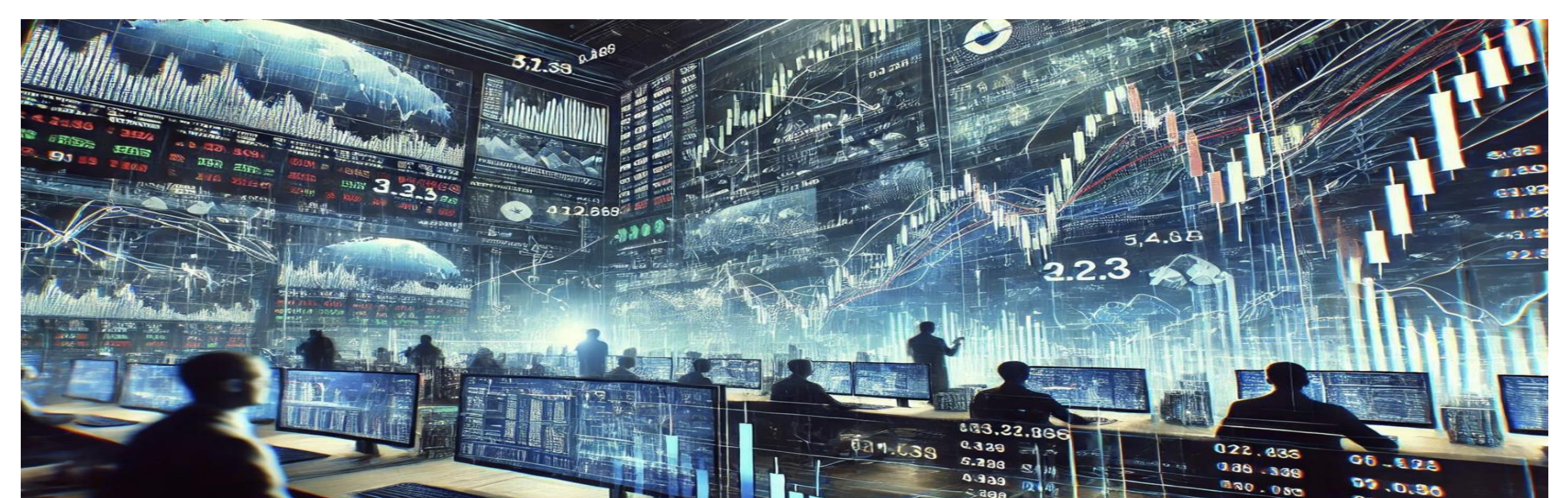
  

FX	Exchange Rate	WTD%	MTD%	YTD%
USD/KWD	0.3053	-0.17	-0.17	-0.63
EUR/USD	1.1192	1.48	3.42	1.40
GBP/USD	1.3213	2.07	2.73	3.78

Commodities	Price	WTD%	MTD%	YTD%
Oil (Brent USD/bbl)	79.020	-0.83	-0.95	2.57
Gold	2,511.20	1.02	5.02	21.39

- Powell did not indicate when rate cuts would begin or how large they might be, but the Fed is widely expected to announce a modest quarter-point cut in its benchmark rate when it meets in mid-September.
- World Bank raises \$6.5 billion in record-breaking bond issuance. The deal comprised two tranches -- a \$3 billion two-year bond maturing in August 2026 and a \$3.5 billion 10-year bond maturing in August 2034. This latest issuance attracted an impressive response from the global investment community, with over 300 applications totaling more than \$22.7 billion; marking the World Bank's largest application book to date.
- Gold prices have reached multiple highs this year with a new record of \$2,508.14 per ounce, with analysts expecting more to come as the next U.S. Federal Reserve meeting.



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**Note:** Prices are as of last closing day.