

# Marmore First Take

## Nasdaq Dubai launches equity index futures

UAE looking at the derivatives market  
to attract more liquidity

March 2018

# Highlights

- Nasdaq Dubai launched their first index based futures contracts, linked to Dubai Financial Market's General Index (DFMGI) and Abu Dhabi's main share index (ADI). The move is aimed to increase capital inflows to the markets by presenting investors with more opportunities to hedge their risks.
- The creation of index based futures revolves around Nasdaq Dubai's strategy to deepen its derivatives market as they look at other indices outside the UAE to launch similar products in the future. The move to create index based futures follows the launch of single stock futures, introduced earlier in September 2016.
- The index based futures contracts will allow investors to gain exposure to a basket of prominent companies listed on the DFM and the ADX. The list includes major companies such as Emaar Properties, Dubai Islamic Bank, Dubai Investments, First Abu Dhabi Bank, Eshraq Properties and Etisalat among several others.
- Despite the modest trading volumes of the single-stock futures, Nasdaq Dubai remains optimistic about the about investors' response to the index based futures, citing the increase in number of single-stock futures to 17 from 7 and the number of brokerages involved in the trade to 9 from 4 witnessed during launch.
- The launch of index based futures comes at a time when the UAE equity markets have been trying to broaden their product range in an attempt to tackle the problem of low liquidity. Earlier in 2017, Dubai and Abu Dhabi launched regulated short-selling services in a limited form as part of efforts to attract more liquidity.
- Barring Kuwait, other GCC nations have been reluctant to introduce equity based derivatives on the grounds that they could destabilize the markets. However, the uncertainties in oil prices have reduced the liquidity of the markets, triggering the regional bourses to look at derivatives to stimulate investments. Tadawul, the largest exchange in the region has also hinted that they would introduce stock futures and options in 2020.
- Nasdaq Dubai also added that they would be creating futures based on regional MSCI equity indices under a licence agreement announced earlier during Oct 2017. Their expansion of the derivative markets is expected to help increase liquidity, attract international investments and provide a framework for hedging.

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# Research Library

## Capital Market Research

- Most Valuable Companies in GCC
- GCC High Margin Industries
- GCC Sovereign Debt Issuances
- Berkshire Hathaway (2015)
- Apple: 5 Questions (Bilingual) (2015)
- Kuwait's new Law on Preference Shares (2015)
- Mother of All IPOs: National Commercial Bank (Bilingual) (2015)
- Kuwait Investment Sector (2012)

## Economic Research

- SME Startup Stories in GCC
- Bitcoin to Blockchain
- Financing Options in GCC
- Are GCC Businesses Leveraging Social Media
- The What of VAT
- FINTECH in GCC
- Kuwait Projects: KWD 10bn Awarded
- Kuwait Economic Themes
- Qatar Economic Themes
- Saudi Economic Themes
- UAE Economic Themes
- Emerging Markets (MSCI) – Threat of a Debt Crisis
- GCC Liquidity Fall
- Is China Stalling?
- Crowdfunding in the GCC: A New Source of Funding?
- Geopolitical and Macroeconomic Implications of the Iranian Nuclear Deal for GCC (Bilingual)
- Kuwait – Dealing with Construction Permits
- Negative Interest Rates
- Central Bank Shocks: What next? (Bilingual)
- Fiscal Breakeven Oil Price (Bilingual)
- Kuwait Electricity Tariff Hikes (Bilingual)
- Swiss Franc (Bilingual) (2015)
- Rising Fuel Prices in Kuwait (Bilingual) (2015)
- GCC Research Knowledge Gap (2014)
- Cloud Computing (2014)
- GCC Free Trade Zones (2014)
- Disruptive Technology: Bitcoins(2014)
- The Internet of Things ! Big Data (2014)
- Kuwait SME's (2014)
- FIFA World Cup 2022: Qatar (2013)

## Industry Research

- Private Equity: GCC
- Brokerage: UAE, Saudi
- Asset Management: UAE, Saudi
- Banking: Kuwait, Saudi, UAE, Qatar
- Contracting: Saudi, UAE, Kuwait
- Education: GCC, Saudi, UAE
- Investment Banking: GCC, UAE
- Healthcare: UAE, GCC, Saudi
- Insurance: GCC, Saudi
- Petrochemicals: GCC, Kuwait Petrochemicals, Saudi
- Retail: Kuwait Luxury Retail, UAE Luxury Retail, GCC Luxury Retail, Saudi Retail, GCC Retail, GCC Online Retail
- Wealth Management: UAE Wealth Management, GCC Wealth Management
- Media: UAE Media, UAE Social Media, GCC Social Media, GCC Media
- Other Industries: GCC Institutional Investors SWF, Saudi Remittance Industry, Saudi Mortgage, GCC Family Business, Saudi Hospitality, GCC Islamic Finance, Offsets in the GCC, GCC Hospitality, GCC Islamic Finance, Metals and Mining, When GCC Women Invest

## Infrastructure Research

- Power: Kuwait, UAE, Qatar, Egypt, Saudi
- Water: Saudi, Kuwait, Qatar
- Ports: Saudi, Kuwait, UAE, Qatar, Oman
- ICT: UAE, Qatar, Saudi, Kuwait
- Aviation: Qatar, Kuwait, GCC Aviation: Full Service Carriers (FSC), GCC Aviation: Low Cost Carriers, UAE, Saudi
- Roads and Railways: Saudi, Qatar
- Real Estate: Qatar Residential Real Estate, Saudi Residential Real Estate, UAE Residential Real Estate, GCC Office Real Estate, Saudi Office Real Estate, GCC Affordable Housing, Kuwait Real Estate (Bilingual) (2015)

## Policy Research

- An Innovation driven Economic Diversification Strategy for Kuwait (KFAS)
- Kuwait – Starting Business
- Kuwait Reforms (series): Education (2015)
- Oil & Gas Markets and the Emergence of New Resources (2014)
- GCC Countries & Asia: Bolstering Energy Ties (2014)
- GCC Energy Strategies: The Way Forward (2014)
- Blueprint for Public Sector Good Governance in Kuwait (2013)
- Kuwait: Private Labor Market (2013)
- Kuwait: Alternatives for Power Generation (2013)
- Kuwait: Sustainable Power Strategy (2012)
- Tools to Strengthen & Support Kuwait's Private Sector (2012)

## Regulatory Research

- Kuwait's BOT law (2014)
- Land Reforms in Kuwait (2014)
- Kuwait's PPP Law (Bilingual) (2013)
- Bankruptcy Law in the GCC (2013)

## Company Reports

- KSA
  - Al Rajhi Bank
  - Almarai Group
  - Company for Cooperative Insurance (Tawuniya)
  - Jarir Marketing Co.
  - National Commercial Bank Riyadh Bank
  - SABIC
  - Samba Financial Group
  - Saudi Arabian Fertilizer Co.
  - Saudi Arabian Mining Company
  - Saudi British Bank
  - Saudi Cement Company
- Saudi Electricity Co
- Saudi Telecom
- Savola Group
- TASNEE National Industrialization Company
- The National Shipping Co. of Saudi Arabia (BAHRI)
- Qatar
  - Barwa Real Estate Co QSC
  - Commercial Bank of Qatar
  - Ooredoo
  - Qatar Electricity and Water Co
  - Qatar Insurance Co
  - Qatar National Bank

- UAE
  - Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank
  - Abu Dhabi National Hotels Co
  - Air Arabia
  - Aldar Properties PJSC
  - Arab National Bank
  - Arabtec Holding Company




Aramex  
Dubai Islamic Banking  
EMAAR Properties  
Emirates NBD  
Emirates Telecom  
First Gulf Bank  
National Bank of Abu Dhabi




## Periodic Reports

- Daily Morning Brief
- Daily Fixed Income
- Kuwait Daily
- Monthly Market Review
- International Market Update
- GCC M&A Report
- GCC Bonds and Sukuk Market
- GCC Corporate Earnings
- GCC WACC
- GCC Stock & Debt Market Outlook
- GCC Regulatory Digest

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