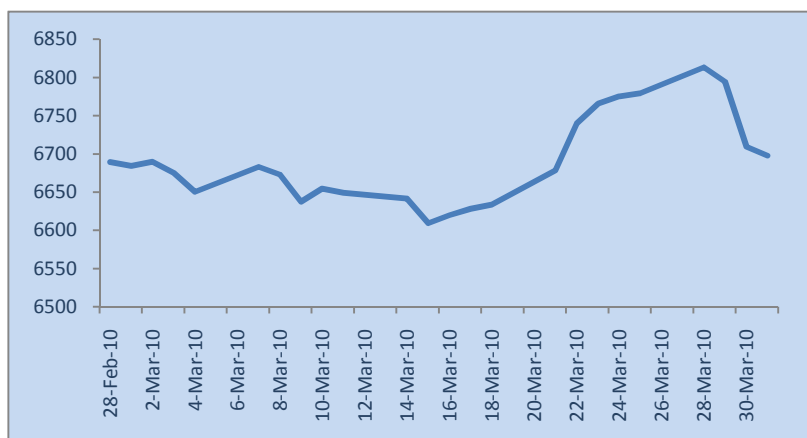


April 8, 2010

Index–Mar 2010	Closing as on			
	31 Mar 10	28 Feb 10	MTD (%)	YTD (%)
MSM30	6,697.5	6,689.3	0.12%	5.2%
Banks and Inv	9,608.0	9,566.5	0.43%	2.5%
Services and Ins	2,653.8	2,684.2	-1.13%	-1.8%
Industry	7,462.3	7,479.0	-0.22%	0.2%

Source: MSM, GBCM Research

MSM 30 Index – March 2010



Source: MSM, GBCM Research

MSM Trading Activity - Total Turnover RO 114.024 million			
Fig. In RO	Buy	Sell	Net Buy / (Sell)
Omanis	82,995,515	89,058,912	(6,063,398)
GCC	15,305,492	12,612,999	2,692,492
Arabs	3,199,291	2,292,391	906,900
Others	12,523,884	10,059,879	2,464,005

Source: MSM, GBCM Research

Consolidation of Markets seen...

During March 2010, the market was trading range bound and consolidation was seen during the first half of the month. The market momentum gained during the latter half backed by improved investor participation. For the third consecutive month, the markets closed on a positive note with an increase of 0.12% during Mar 2010. For Q1FY2010, the benchmark index ended on a positive note (5.2% gains) owing to the signs of improved economy, strengthening oil prices and the expectations of improved corporate performance for the current fiscal year.

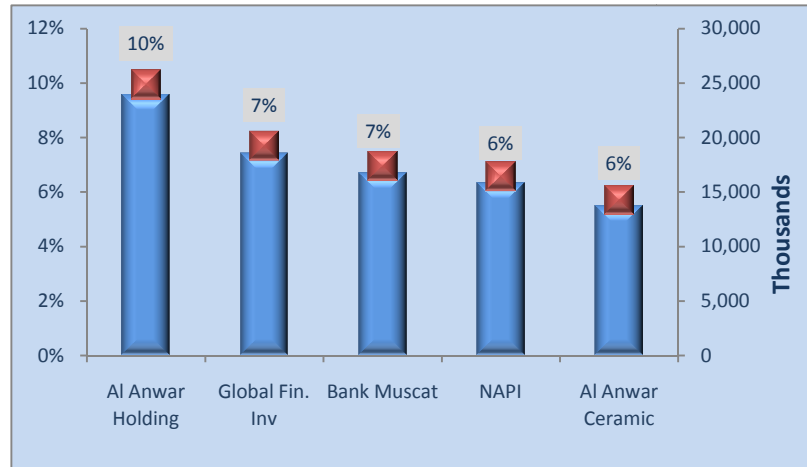
During the month, the market witnessed the FY09 dividend adjustments which in turn lead to the fall in markets during the closing of the markets. On a sectoral basis, Banking & Inv. Index and Industry index closed on a positive note. While the Services & Insurance Index closed on a negative note mainly due to the dividend adjustment of Index heavyweight, Omantel. Commodity counters continued to have a strong run during the month with Jazeera Steel increasing by 17% on the back of increasing steel prices.

Credit Addition for Feb 2010 remained lower at RO 26.2 million as against addition of RO 110.3 million during Jan 2010, showing a marginal growth of 0.3%. Deposit addition for Feb 2010 stood at RO 102.7 million as compared to addition of RO 164.2 million during Jan 2010, reporting a growth of 1.1%

Market activity during March 2010: The investor participation continues to remain subdued during March 2010 with the total traded volume of 281.289 million. The total market turnover declined to RO 114.024 million as against RO 119.856 million in Feb 2010. The market participation saw Omanis emerged as net sellers for the month to an extent of RO 6.063 million. GCC and foreign Investors emerged as net buyers to an extent of RO 2.692 million and 2.464 million respectively, which shows the incremental flow of fresh funds from the regional and foreign investors to Omani markets.

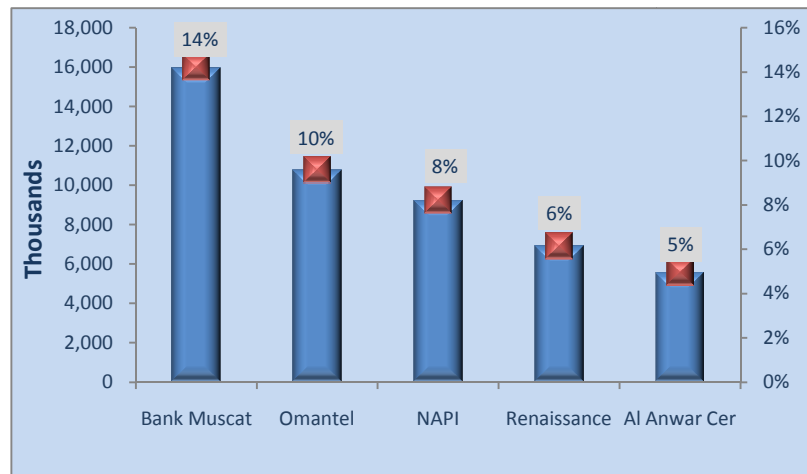
MSM- April 2010 Outlook: GBCM Research expects the market sentiments to improve during the current month (April 2010) mainly backed by the anticipation of positive corporate Q1FY2010 earnings. The start of Q1FY2010 earnings season could in turn have a say on the direction of the markets. Added to this, we expect the fresh fund allocation to come into the markets post announcement of Q1FY2010 numbers.

Volume Gainers for the Month



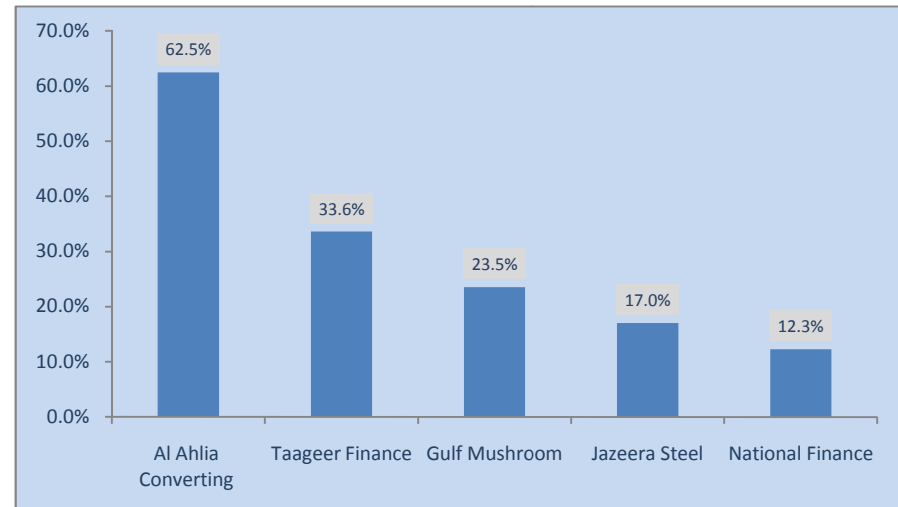
Source: MSM, GBCM Research

Value Gainers for the Month



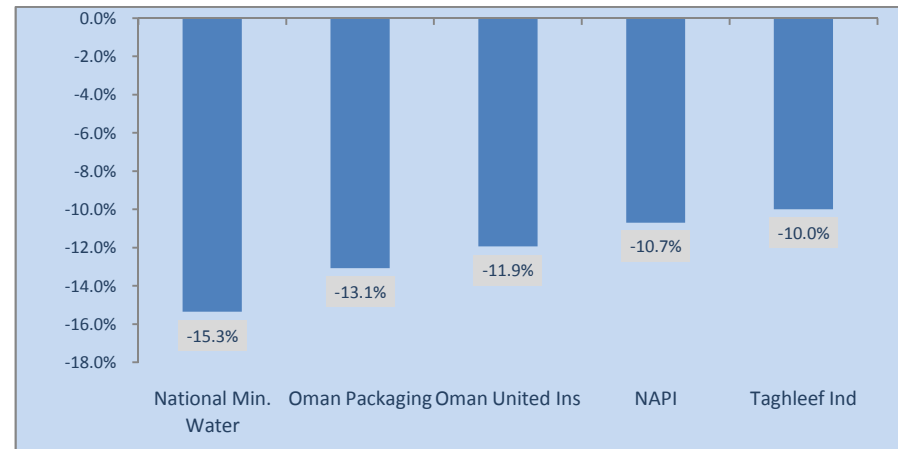
Source: MSM, GBCM Research

Gainers for the Month

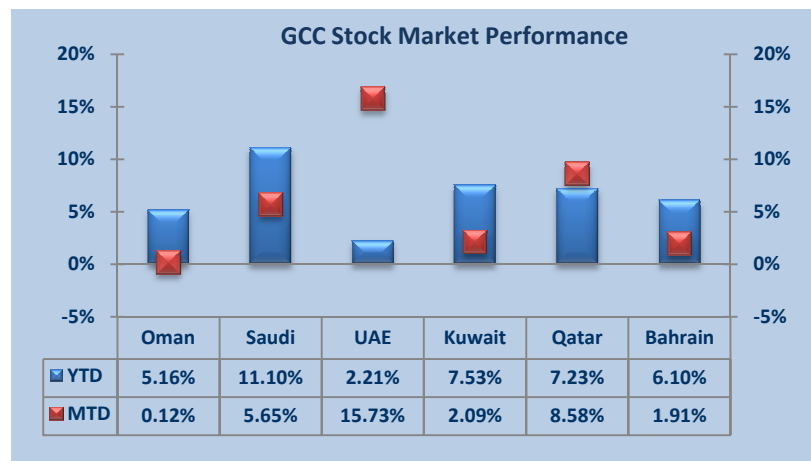


Source: MSM, GBCM Research

Losers for the Month



Source: MSM, GBCM Research



Source: Zawya, GBCM Research

Global Markets – Mar 2010

	End of Mar 10	End of Feb 10	MTD (%)
Americas			
S&P 500	1169.43	1104.49	5.9%
Dow Jones	10856.6	10325.26	5.1%
Nasdaq	2397.96	2238.26	7.1%
Europe			
FTSE 100	5679.64	5354.52	6.1%
CAC 40	3974.01	3708.8	7.2%
DAX	6153.55	5598.46	9.9%
Asia Pacific			
Nikkei	11089.94	10126.03	9.5%
Hang Seng	21239.3	20608.7	3.1%
Sensex	17527.8	16429.55	6.7%
Shanghai	3109.1	3051.94	1.9%

Source: Bloomberg, GBCM Research

GCC Markets – Stellar Quarterly Performance

Till date the performance during the month of March 2010 was exceptional as all the regional markets closed the month in green. UAE's DFM Index lead the race as bulls geared up their sleeve and bounced back smartly backed by Dubai World's restructuring announcement. The positive momentum in the UAE markets spilled over the regional peers which were rightly utilized by the Saudi and Qatar markets. While Kuwait and Bahrain saw a moderate upward rally, Oman was subdued due to dividend adjustments during the month.

Performance wise Saudi was leading the race in the region with 11.1% gain for the quarter followed by Kuwait and Qatar with a gain of 7.53% and 7.23% respectively. Bahrain, Oman and UAE markets also reported a gain of 6.1%, 5.16% and 2.21% respectively.

Markets buoyed by Global recovery sentiments

Global markets Indices witnessed a rally during the month of March aided by Greece bailout and positive economic data. S&P 500, Dow Jones and NASDAQ were significantly up by 5.9%, 5.1% and 7.1% respectively. While FTSE, CAC and DAX were moved considerably up by 6.1%, 7.2% and 9.9% respectively

The global markets at the beginning of the quarter made a moderate start but soon the news of Greece getting busted due to sovereign default gripped the markets across the globe. With EU intervening in bailing out the Greece coupled with positive economic data released by developed market such as US, EU helped the global equity markets to reclaim the gains at the end of the quarter.

Asian Markets – Closed on a mixed note for the quarter

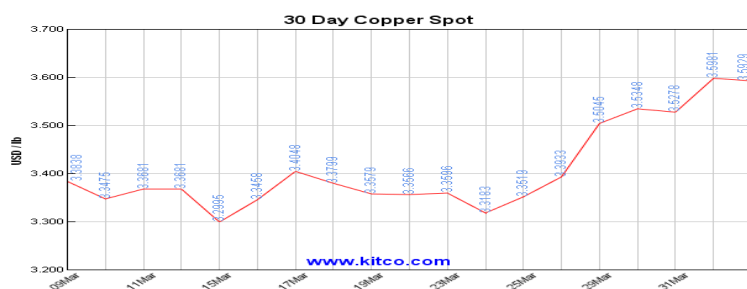
The Indian Markets ended the month of March on a strong note by gaining 6.7% and marginally by 0.5% for the quarter. The surge was on the back of positive budget, better than expected IIP data for the month of Jan and S&P's upgrade of India's ratings. While the Shanghai Composite Index and Hang Seng Index closed the month by gaining 1.9% and 3.1% respectively but they were under water for the quarter with a loss of 6.7% and 3.0% respectively.

Commodities Performance

	End of Mar 10	End of Feb 10	MTD (% Chg)
Crude			
NYMEX Crude	83.76	80.01	4.7%
ICE Brent Crude	82.7	77.97	6.1%
Crude Oil, Oman	80.69	77.43	4.2%
Metals			
Gold Spot	1113.25	1117.6	-0.4%
Silver Spot	17.475	16.475	6.1%
LME Aluminium-Spot	2293.5	2102	9.1%
LME Copper-Spot	7759.25	7166.5	8.3%

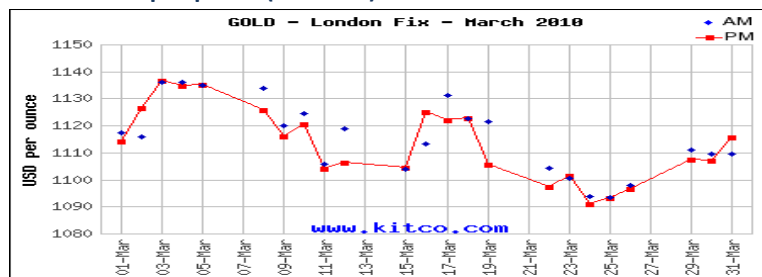
Source: Bloomberg, GBCM Research

Chart: Copper Spot prices (1 Month)



Source: KITCO, GBCM Research

Chart: Gold Spot prices (1 Month)



Source: KITCO, GBCM Research

Commodities rallied during the month

Crude Oil

Crude oil price closed above \$83 a barrel on signs that global economic growth is accelerating, bolstering optimism that the fuel consumption would increase this year. For the month, the crude prices increased by 4.7%. In London, May Brent crude closed at above \$82.7/bbl. For Q1FY09, the crude prices were hovering within the range of \$70-\$80/bbl.

Copper

Copper closed at \$7,759/tonne for the month climbing by 8.3% to its highest in almost three months, as the weaker dollar attracted non-U.S. investors and another fall in London Metal Exchange (LME) inventories pointed to improving demand. The metal hit a session high of \$7,790/ton, its highest since Jan. 7. Copper stocks fell 1,400 tonnes to 515,525 tonnes, their lowest level since early January 10, after falling throughout March. Stocks hit a 6-1/2 year high of 555,075 tonnes in mid-February.

Gold

The trading sessions were choppy and the gold futures ended flat during the month. Investors wary about Greece's ability to resolve its fiscal problems could still turn to gold as a safe haven but further rallies in the dollar could cap gains. Despite IMF announcement of its plans to begin to sell a remaining 191.3 tons of gold on the open market saw a limited impact on the gold prices. However, the Gold prices increased by 3.4% for the month.

Gold futures gained 1.7% in the three months ended March 31, a sixth quarterly increase. At the same time, gold continues to be an choice for hedging, given the worries concerning the debt crisis of Greece, as well as surging oil prices, which have come to an 18-month high, analysts said.



Maximising Your Assets

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