

UAE: Downside risks to 2018 growth forecast due to lower oil production estimates



Highlights

- We have revised our oil market forecasts and now anticipate that Brent crude futures will record an average of USD 69/b in 2018.
 A potential move to as high as USD 80/b appears possible in the current climate.
- Prices should begin to taper off slightly by the end of the year even with a relatively wide market deficit as we think the risk of a broader slowdown in global growth will become more apparent by the end of 2018, weighing on commodity prices.
- UAE's non-oil private sector growth increased slightly in April, with PMI reaching 55.1 (54.8 in March). However, strong output and new order growth has not translated into faster employment growth.

Oil prices revised higher 9.5 9.0 p/q um 8.0 20 10 7.5 Ω2 03Q4 Q1 Ω2 03Q1 2016 2017 2018 ■ UAE oil output (LHS) Brent oil (RHS)

Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research

UAE bank loan and deposit growth 12 10 8 Wy/y Loans and Advances Total Bank Deposits



UAE PMI: Export orders recovered in April Headline PMI (rhs) Employment New Export Orders Headline PMI (rhs) Employment New Export Orders Jan-16 Apr-16 Jul-16 Oct-16 Jan-17 Apr-17 Jul-17 Oct-17 Jan-18 Apr-18

Source : Haver Analytics, Emirates NBD Research Source : Markit, Emirates NBD Research

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UAE's trading partners, 2017



Highlights

- In terms of trading partners, Asia (developing & advanced) topped the list with 40.4% of the total trade volume amounting to USD 197.1bn in 2017.
- EU followed with USD 50.8bn (10.4% of total trade), GCC with USD 36.9bn (7.6%) and North America with USD 25bn (5.1%).
- In 2017, the countries with the highest y/y trade growth were Turkey, Iran and UK. Since this can be misleading as total trade volumes might be insignificant for some countries, we have included those with an already significant trade balance in USD billion in order to identify potential markets.







Source: Bloomberg, UAE Central Bank, Emirates NBD Research

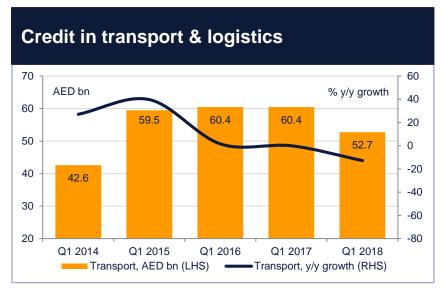
UAE credit growth by economic activity, Q1 2018



Highlights

- Appetite for business credit in the UAE as a whole increased moderately in Q1 2018, with a decrease in demand reported in Abu Dhabi, according to the latest credit sentiment survey by UAE Central Bank.
- Demand for personal loans decreased in Q1. Consistent with previous quarters in terms of credit availability, more than 90% of survey results cited that the credit standard were unchanged across all the categories.
- In terms of outlook, demand for business loans is expected to increase further in Q2 2018 while demand for personal loans in aggregate is expected to remain weak for the same quarter.



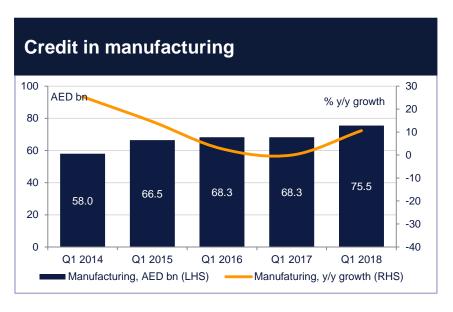


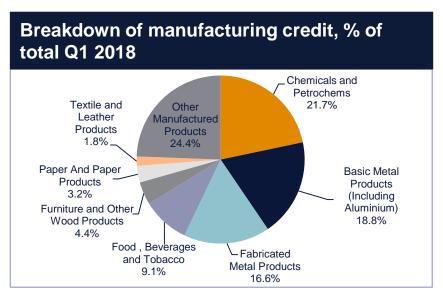


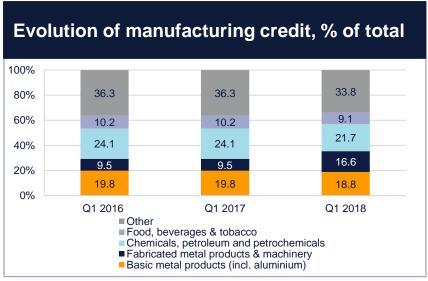
Source: Bloomberg, UAE Central Bank, Emirates NBD Research

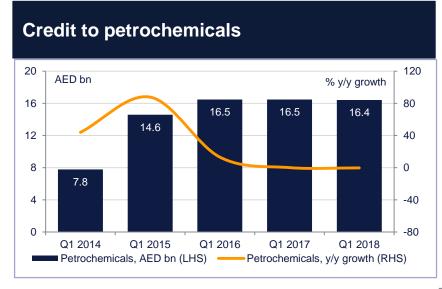
UAE: Credit growth in manufacturing Q1 2018











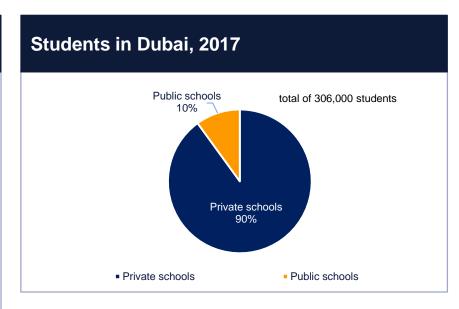
Source: Bloomberg, UAE Central Bank, Emirates NBD Research

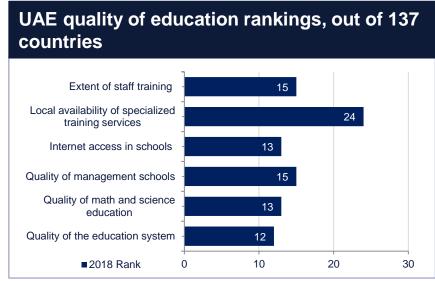
UAE education strategy on track



Highlights

- Federal government expenditure is expected to increase in 2018 to AED 51.4bn, out of which 17.1% or AED 10.4bn will be directed to the education sector. Under UAE vision 2021, educational programs are to be focused on improving education infrastructure by equipping all schools, universities and colleges with smart systems.
- Dubai's private education market remains one of the most attractive and fastest growing markets globally with AED 6.8bn of tuition revenues (academic year 2016/17). During the academic year 2016/17, a total of 260 schools existed in Dubai providing education to 306,000 students out of which 273,600 (90%) were enrolled in private schools.
- Over the next few years, the number of private schools in Dubai and Abu Dhabi are projected to grow in anticipation of significantly higher enrollment figures. UAE Ministry of Education expects 400,000 students in Dubai by 2020, and 283,800 in Abu Dhabi by 2021.
- Overall, UAE was ranked 42nd among 188 countries in the 2017
 Human Development Index (HDI). Separately, in the 2017-2018
 Global Competitiveness Report, UAE was ranked as 12th and
 16th based on the parameters of quality of higher education and
 training, and primary education, respectively.
- The quality of education is indicative of the existence of renowned schools and colleges in the country. The gradual expansion of the smart learning program, launched five years ago, has enabled the country to rank 13th in terms of providing internet access at its schools.





Overall business activity growth in Dubai's non-oil private sector increased at a slower rate in April



Highlights

- The headline Dubai Economy Tracker Index (DET) fell to 53.9 in April from 55.3 in March and from a 2018-high of 56.0 in January. Both output (57.1) and new work (58.0) increased sharply last month but at a slower rate than in previous months.
- The employment index signaled a marginal increase in jobs last month, with the index at 50.3, up from 49.7 in March.
- The input cost index rose to 54.3, the highest reading since January, when VAT pushed the index up to 59.2. Selling prices were largely unchanged however, with the output price index only just above the neutral level despite the much higher input price inflation.

Emirates NBD Dubai economy tracker Employment Dubai Economy Tracker Index Prices Charged Jan-16 Apr-16 Jul-16 Oct-16 Jan-17 Apr-17 Jul-17 Oct-17 Jan-18 Apr-18

ENBD Dubai economy tracker sector indices



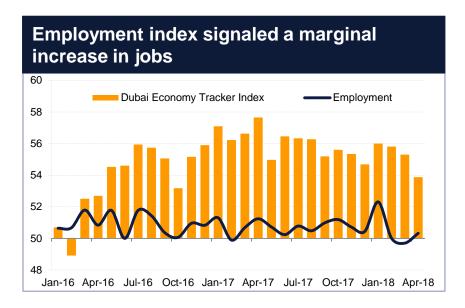
ENBD Dubai economy tracker sector indices: selling prices

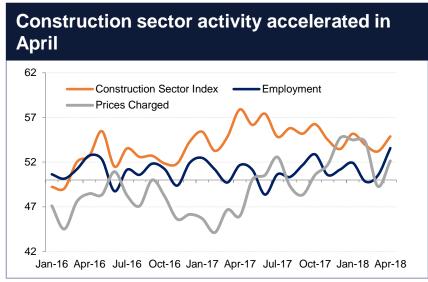


Source : Markit, Emirates NBD Research

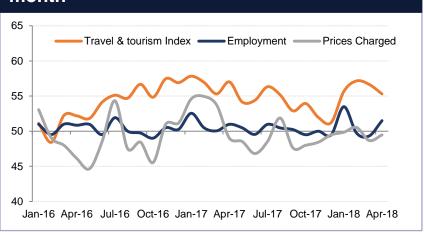
Travel & tourism remained the strongest performer (55.3), followed by construction (54.9) and wholesale & retail (53.5)



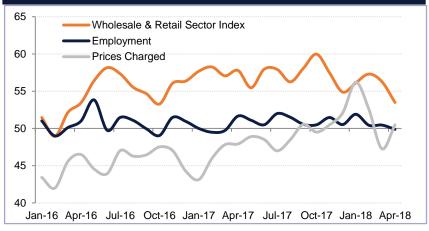








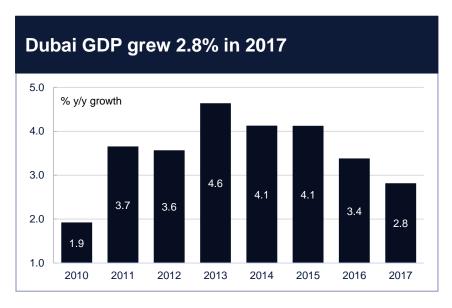
Wholesale & retail trade sector momentum slowed in April

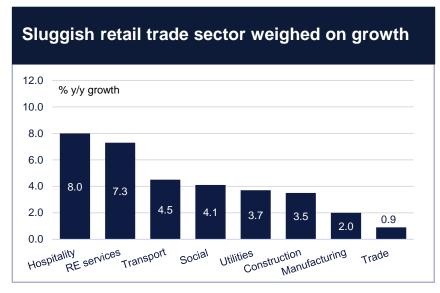


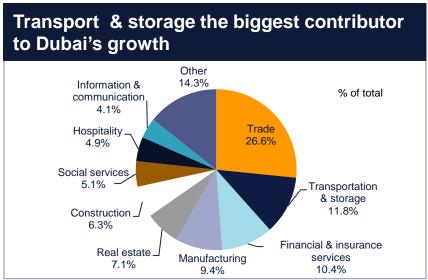
Source: Markit, Emirates NBD Research

Dubai economic update 2017







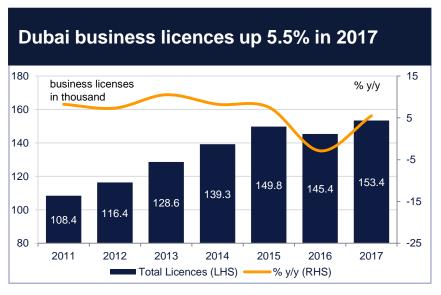


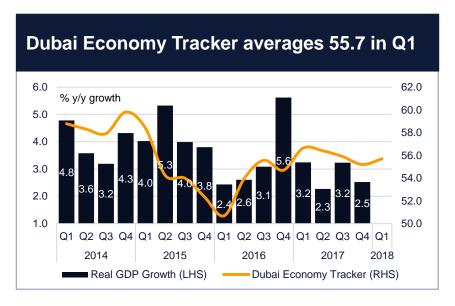


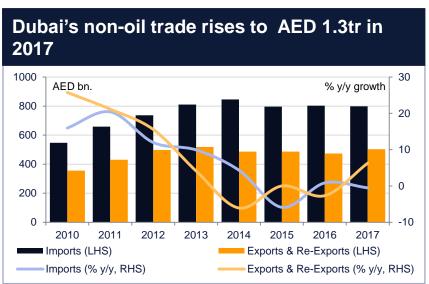
Source: Dubai Statistics, Emirates NBD Research

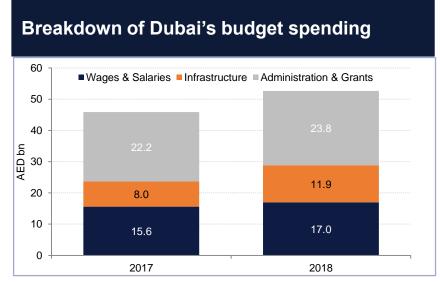
Dubai issues 19,877 new business licences in 2017









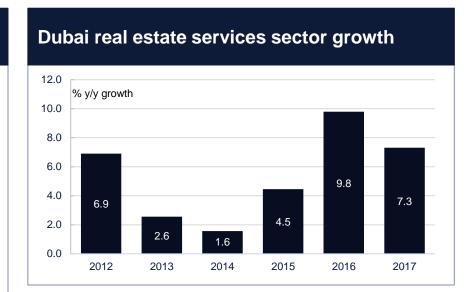


Dubai's real estate sector



Highlights

- Residential real estate prices accelerated their decline in Q1 2018, albeit on low volumes. The composite Phidar Advisory price index (80% freehold apartments and 20% freehold villas in selected communities) declined -7.0% y/y in March. The average decline in Q1 2018 was -7.2% y/y compared with -5.4% y/y in Q4 2017. Since the Q2 2014 peak, prices of properties in the sampled freehold communities have declined -30%.
- However, apartments (-6.2% y/y in Q1) fared better than villas (-11.3% y/y) and lower priced units fared better than the more expensive properties. Gross residential rents declined -9.0% y/y for apartments, putting some pressure on yields, while villa rents declined -10.1% y/y in Q1 2018.
- Given the more upbeat outlook for the GCC economies, oil prices, VAT exception for residential transactions as well as better global growth prospects, we expect the downside for residential real estate to be limited this year. Phidar Advisory expects residential real estate prices to recover modestly in 2019 and rise further in 2020-2021.
- The value of real estate investments reached USD 29.1bn in 2017, up by 17.3% compare with the -32.6% decline in 2016, according to Dubai Land Department (DLD). Dubai's property market attracted investors from all continents with UAE nationals topping the list at USD 6.9bn or 23.6% of the total. India ranked second (USD 4.2bn), followed by Saudi Arabia (USD 1.9bn), UK (USD 1.6bn), and Pakistan (USD 1.4bn). Other top investors in Dubai's real estate include citizens from China, Jordan, Egypt, and Canada.

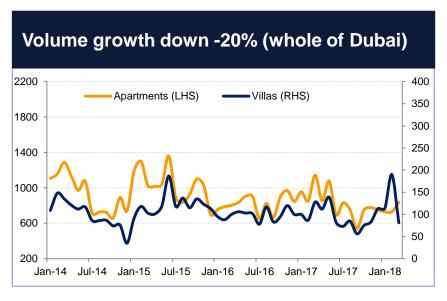




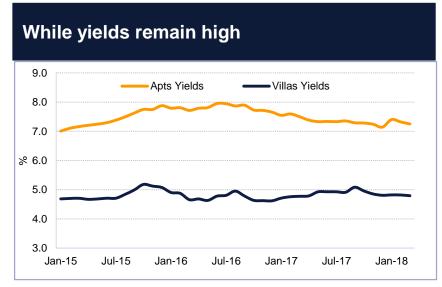
Residential real estate prices accelerated their decline in Q1 2018











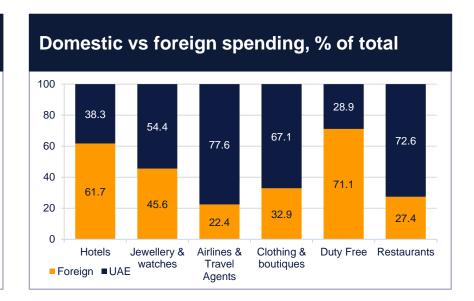
Source: Phidar Advisory, Emirates NBD Research

UAE: Card spending up 11% in Jan-Apr 2018

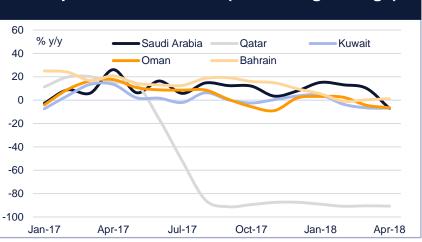


Top 10 foreign spenders in the UAE

	y/y increase (%)	Jan-Apr 2018 Rank	Jan-Apr 2017 Rank
United States	7.1	1	1
Saudi Arabia	4.6	2	2
United Kingdom	27.4	3	3
Russia	44.8	4	4
China	4.3	5	6
Germany	3.2	6	8
Kuwait	3.0	7	7
India	2.9	8	9
France	2.6	9	11
Switzerland	2.2	10	10



GCC spenders in the UAE (3M moving average)





Source: Network International, Emirates NBD Research

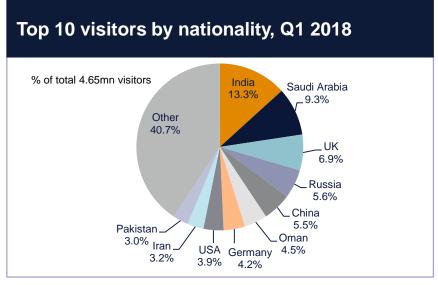
The number of tourists coming to Dubai reached 4.65mn in Q1 2018



Highlights

- The travel and tourism sector index of Dubai's Economy Tracker (DET) declined to a four-month low of 55.3 in April 2018, on the back of softer output and new work growth. Encouragingly, employment increased modestly on average after two months of decline in the sector. Firms absorbed higher input costs, as selling prices declined marginally for the second month in a row.
- Overall, businesses in the travel & tourism sector were slightly more optimistic about their prospects in the coming year than they were in February and March.
- The number of tourists coming to Dubai and staying in hotels including holiday rentals and on-board cruise ships for at least one night reached 4.65mn in Q1 2018, up by 1.8% compared with the same period last year. Western Europe was the lead tourist source for Q1 2018, accounting for 23.0% of the total figure, followed by the GCC (17.0%) and South Asia (17.0%).
- In terms of country specific volumes, India remained Dubai's top source market with 617,000 tourists, an increase of 6.7% y/y. Saudi Arabia ranked second with 434,000 tourists (-1.4% y/y) followed by UK with 323,000 tourists (-7.7%), Russia with 259,000 tourists (105.6% y/y) and China with 258,000 tourists (12.2% y/y).





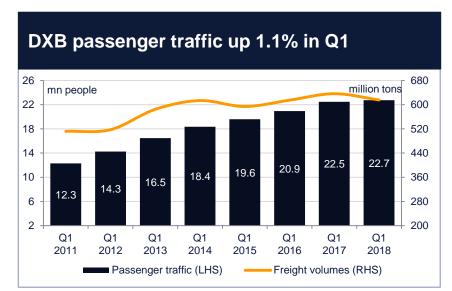
Dubai's travel & tourism sector (cont.)



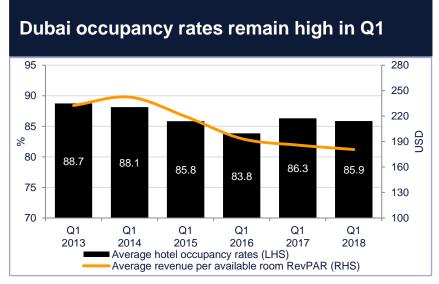
Highlights

- Passenger traffic at the Dubai International Airport (DXB) rose to 22.7mn in Q1 2018, up 1.1% y/y. Cargo volume was down -3.2% y/y over the same period.
- Dubai's hotel occupancy averaged 85.9% in Q1 2018 slightly down from 86.3% the same period a year ago. Revenue per available room (RevPAR) has broadly stabilized y/y in 2017, following two years of double digit decline.
- The supply of hotel rooms in Dubai increased by 5.0% y/y in March 2018 to 100,232 rooms. The Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (DTCM) is targeting 140,000 to 160,000 hotel rooms by the end of the decade.

Abu Dhabi International Airport (AUH) passenger traffic 250 mn people thousand tons 6 200 150 4 6.2 3 6.0 100 5.5 2 2.8 50 1 Q1 Q1 Q1 Q1 Q1 Q1 Q1 Q1 2012 2013 2014 2016 2017 2018 2011 2015 Passenger traffic (LHS) Freight volumes (RHS)



Source: Dubai Airports, Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research



Source: STR Global, Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research

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