GCC IPOs: 2025 - The Year That Was…

GCC IPO volumes slide to four year low, proceeds down to five-year low...

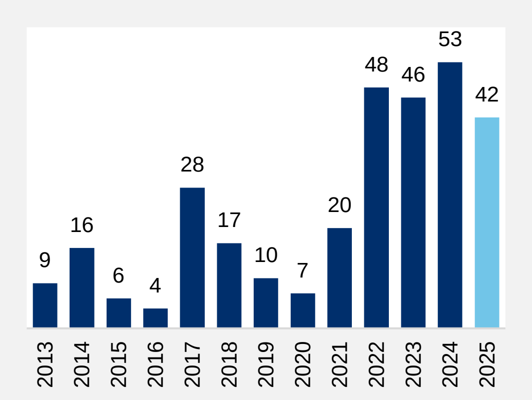
After witnessing healthy primary market activity in 2024, the GCC equity markets witnessed a sharp contraction in IPOs during 2025 mainly led by a slowdown in big-ticket offerings as well as a slide in TASI, especially during Q4-2025. GCC exchanges witnessed a total of 42 IPOs during 2025 which was the lowest in four years. At the country level, Saudi Arabia once again accounted for the biggest pie of offerings during the year followed by the UAE, although both these regions witnessed a y-o-y decline in the number of offerings. The decline also came after the GCC region lagged behind other global financial markets by registering one of the lowest comparable index gains during the year. The underperformance of the MSCI GCC index with a marginal gain of 1.6% in 2025 and TASI down by 12.8% during the year, reflected several factors including continued geopolitical issues in the region that added an additional risk premium for international investors, a sharp decline in oil prices that affected projects market awards during the year as well as shift in capital to other global markets that showed significantly higher gains led by a rally in AI-related stocks.

In terms of proceeds, GCC issuers raised USD 5.8 Bn during the year, the lowest in five years and a 54.8% decline as compared to proceeds of USD 12.9 Bn in 2024, based on data from Bloomberg and stock exchanges. The decline in proceeds reflected a fall in overall issuance numbers as well as a fall in USD 1 Bn plus IPOs during the year. Based on listing market cap, the total number of IPOs with a market cap of over USD 1 Bn fell from 14 IPOs in 2024 to merely 7 IPOs in 2025.

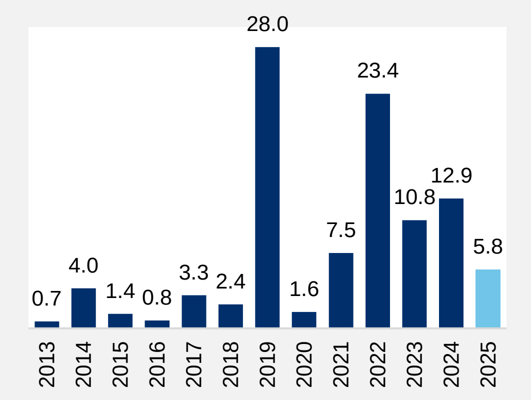
In terms of stock performance after the listing, bulk of the companies reported declines by the end of the year as against post listing gains for most IPOs in 2024. As per data as of end of year, 13 companies showed gain in share price since listing while 28 companies posted declines. The remaining one company got listed at the start of 2026. The performance of companies post listing was affected by the prevailing issues in the region in addition to concerns regarding steep valuations expected by the promoters prior to the listing. Gainers, on the other hand, reflected niche offerings in the region including in sectors like Energy, Software and Services, and Education with solid business fundamentals and future growth. Moreover, there were very few offerings during the year that were a part of the respective government's privatization efforts as compared to the previous year.

Meanwhile, the number of IPOs globally continued to see steady growth during 2025. As per data from LSEG, total IPOs reached 1,257 globally during 2025 as compared to 1,225 IPOs in 2024, registering a y-o-y volume growth of 2.6%. This was the second-lowest yearly IPO volume globally during 2025. However, total proceeds from these IPOs was a three-year high level and reached USD 146.1 Bn in 2025 as compared to USD 113.6 Bn in 2024, registering a growth of 28.6%. At the country level, US and China dominated in terms of share of total proceeds from IPOs in 2025. IPOs on US exchanges reached a four-year high level and increased by 44% during 2025 to reach USD 45.7 Bn accounting for almost a third of total global IPO proceeds. On the other hand, China-domiciled IPOs witnessed an even stronger growth with an increase of 77% during the year to reach USD 25.8 Bn and accounted for 17.7% of the total proceeds. The share of GCC IPOs in total global IPO proceeds stood at 3.9% in 2025 vs. 11.4% in 2024.

GCC IPO volumes - 2013 to 2025



GCC IPO proceeds (USD Bn) - 2013 to 2025



Source: Kamco Invest Research, Bloomberg, GCC stock exchanges

Junaid Ansari

Head of Investment Strategy & Research

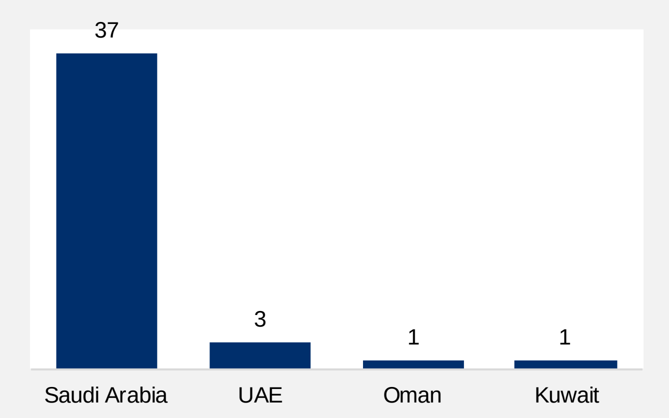
+(965) 2233 6912

jansari@kamcoinvest.com

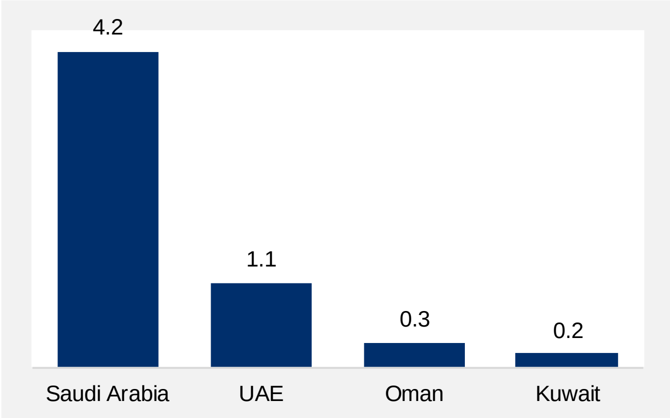
Saudi Exchange dominates both IPO proceeds and deals in 2025

Saudi Arabia continued its leadership position in terms of volume of GCC IPO in 2025, as 37 out of the 42 GCC IPOs debuted on either the Nomu or the Main Market. However, IPOs in Saudi Arabia declined y-o-y from 42 deals in 2024. Within Saudi Arabia, the Nomu – Parallel market dominated the number of issuances with 24 deals (vs. 28 deals in 2024), as compared to 13 deals for the Main Market (vs. 14 Main Market IPOs in 2024). However, both the market segments registered a y-o-y decline in volumes during 2025 as compared to 2024. In terms of IPO proceeds, Saudi Arabia overtook UAE in 2025 with total IPO proceeds of USD 4.2 Bn during the year a marginal increase from USD 4.1 Bn in 2024 and the increase came despite a decline in total number of IPOs in the Kingdom. The UAE was next with total IPO proceeds of USD 1.1 Bn in 2025 vs. USD 4.1 Bn in 2024. The volume of IPOs in the UAE also declined from 7 IPOs in 2024 to merely 3 IPOs in 2025.

GCC IPO deal numbers by listing country-2025



GCC IPO deal proceeds (USD Bn)-2025



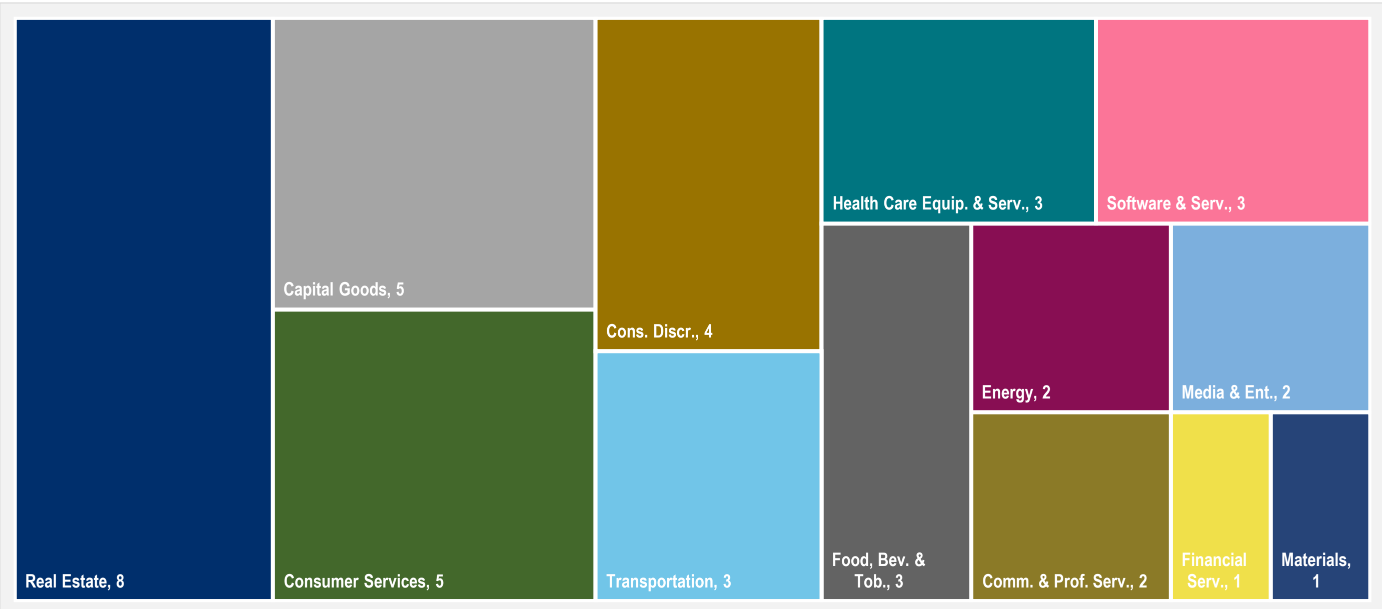
Source: Kamco Invest Research, Bloomberg, GCC stock exchanges,

Meanwhile, Oman's efforts on privatization moderated during 2025 with only one IPO during the year as compared to the IPO of two state-owned firms in 2024 on the Muscat Exchange. The listing of Oman's state-owned logistics firm Asyad Shipping resulted in aggregate proceeds of USD 332.8 Mn.

Size of IPOs in the GCC in 2025

In terms of size of the IPOs, the average proceeds per IPO in the GCC in the main market (excluding Nomu Parallel Market) stood at USD 306 Mn in 2025 as compared to an average of USD 505 Mn in 2024. In addition, there was only one IPO in the GCC during the year that raised over USD 1 Bn that included the IPO of Flynas that raised USD 1.1 Bn as compared to three IPOs in 2024 with over USD 1 Bn in proceeds.

GCC IPO deals by sector - 2025



Source: Kamco Invest Research, Bloomberg, GCC stock exchanges

The average listing size (market-cap) of the IPOs during 2025 in the main market remained almost in line with 2024 levels at USD 2.1 Bn. The average listing market-cap for the three IPOs on the UAE exchanges (Alpha data, Dubai Residential REIT and Alec Holdings) stood at USD 2.3 Bn, a sharp decline from USD 3.8 Bn in 2024. On the other hand, the average market-cap for Main Market IPOs in Saudi Arabia stood saw a sharp increase from USD 1.2 Bn in 2024 to USD 2.2 Bn in 2025. Companies in Saudi Arabia's Nomu parallel market raised USD 341 Mn during the year with an average IPO proceeds of USD 14.0 Mn and average listing size of USD 158 Mn. This was significantly higher than total proceeds of USD 292 Mn in 2024 with an average IPO proceeds of USD 10 Mn and an average listing market cap of USD 70.8 Mn.

In terms of demand for the IPO, the large local investor base has resulted in strong demand for the regional IPOs. Saudi Arabia dominated with eight out of the top ten IPOs orders were for IPOs in the Kingdom. The IPO of Saudi Arabia's Umm Al Qura for Development & Construction Co. (Masar) garnered the biggest orders during the year. Shares of the company was oversubscribed by 241x with orders worth USD 126 Bn. Flynas and Derayah Financial were next with IPO orders of USD 109 Bn and USD 58.4 Bn with oversubscriptions of 100x and 146x, respectively. The two IPOs in Dubai (Dubai Residential REIT and Alec Holdings) received total IPO orders of USD 15.0 Bn and 8.1 Bn with oversubscriptions of 25.6x and 21x, respectively.

In terms of sectoral split, the Real Estate sector was leading with a total of 8 IPOs during the year with companies like Umm Al Qura for Development & Construction, Dar Al Majed Real Estate Company and Al Ramz Real Estate. The Transportation and Consumer Services sectors were next with 5 IPOs each Consumer Discretionary Distribution and Software & Services sectors with 4 and 3 IPOs, respectively. The overall sectoral participation from the region remained diverse with corporates with unique niche operating models coming to the primary market.

Asia Pacific was leading in terms of IPO proceeds in 2025

Data from EY's annual IPO report for 2025 showed that the IPO activity during the year was led by a growth in the Asia Pacific region that captured the largest share of global proceeds increasing by 106% supported by strong activity in Hong Kong and an improving pipeline in the Chinese mainland, despite the overall deal count staying flat. India maintained its global lead in listing volumes throughout 2025, reaching a historic peak of 367 IPOs that raised USD 22.9 Bn driven largely by a surge in SME activity and robust liquidity from domestic investors. In Europe, deal count declined by 20% to 105 IPOs compared to 131 IPOs in 2024 while proceeds declined 10% from 2024 to USD 17.3 Bn.

In terms of sectoral trend in IPOs during 2025, the Industrials sector remained the world's top-performing sector in terms of volume. However, the market's demand for AI and Tech showed no signs of cooling, with both sectors attracting top-tier interest with the TMT sector in the US contributing nearly 40% of its proceeds, while Industrials, Financial Services and Real Estate dominated in Europe.

Strong pipeline of IPOs in the GCC for 2026

GCC IPO Pipeline	Announced	Rumoured	Grand Total
Saudi Arabia	48	2	**50**
United Arab Emirates	15	2	**17**
Kuwait	2	1	**3**
Oman	1	1	**2**
Qatar	1	0	**1**
Total	**67**	**6**	**73**

Source: LSEG Workspace, Bloomberg, Kamco Invest Research.

The GCC region is once again poised to see an active IPO market in 2026 with a number of companies already in the pipeline. The list also includes companies that postponed their IPO plans due to lack of appropriate valuations in the GCC, especially after the region underperformed a globally market rally in 2025. Based on the status of IPO offering, there are around 73 IPOs already in the pipeline in the GCC, with a majority of the IPOs in the announced stage while a few remain in the rumoured stage. Saudi Arabia is expected to lead once again in terms of volume of IPOs in 2026 with he CEO of Saudi Exchange asserting that there are 40 companies that have already applied for IPO and the tally climbs to 100 if companies seeking financial advisors for IPO are also included.

At the global level, stabilizing macroeconomic conditions, easing inflation pressures and a number of companies linked to the AI-value chain are expected to tap the market in 2026. There is significant investor appetite for high-growth sectors, particularly those related to AI infrastructure and software, biotech, clean energy, and defense technologies. In addition, a number of private companies, many backed by private equity and venture capital, have been waiting for favorable market conditions and are now prepared to go public. Companies like OpenAI, SpaceX and Anthorpic are some of the large IPOs expected to hit the US market in 2026. This could also result in a disruption in other markets as these sizeable IPOs result in a significant shift in capital in favor of the US markets as well as cause mid to small companies to suffer as investors shift to more promising IPOs.

In the GCC, some of the prominent offerings in the pipeline include the PIF's Saudi Information Technology Co. Ejada Systems, also in the technology space is expected to reapply for an IPO after the earlier six-month window to list lapsed. Some of the more recent announcements include IPO of companies like AlKhorayef Petroleum (in which Saudi PIF has a stake), Sudair Pharmaceutical, Aldyar AlArabia Real Estate and Lean Technologies. There are a number of smaller companies in niche sectors like car rental, F&B, restaurant chains that are also in line for IPO mostly in the Nomu parallel market. The pipeline in the UAE includes several large offerings including Binghatti Holding, Dubai Investments Park Development, Arabian Construction and Majid Al Futtaim Holding in Dubai. In Abu Dhabi, prominent IPO candidates include larger names like Emirates Global Aluminum, Masdar and Etihad Airways. In Oman, there are at least two government owned companies that could IPO in 2026, including Oman India Fertilizer and Minerals Development Oman. Kuwait also boasts at least two companies that have already announced plans for an IPO and a third one is as per rumors.

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Kamco Investment Company - K.S.C. (Public)
Al-Shaheed Tower, Khalid Bin Al-Waleed Street- Sharq
P.O. BOX : 28873, Safat 13149, State of Kuwait
Tel: (+965) 2233 6600   Fax: (+965) 2249 2395
Email : research@kamcoinvest.com
Website : www.kamcoinvest.com