

Global Economic Development

- US GDP in Q1 2018 grew 2.3% qoq vs 2.9% in Q4 2017.
- US annual inflation reached 2.4% in March from 2.2% in February.
- US trade deficit in March dropped by USD 7.8bn to USD 68bn.
- US existing-home sales in March increased by 1.1% mom (-1.2% yoy).
- US Initial claims for unemployment benefits fell 24,000 to 209,000, the lowest level since Dec 6 1969.
- ECB Governing Council left interest rates untouched and confirmed its plan to buy EUR 30bn-worth of bonds until next September.
- EU industrial production fell unexpectedly by -0.8% mom in February.
- EU economic sentiment index remained stable at 112.7 in April.
- UK GDP grew by 0.1% qoq (1.4% yoy) in Q1 2018 vs 0.4% in Q4 2017, the weakest pace since Q4 2012.
- UK trade deficit plunged to GBP 0.96bn in February vs GBP 2.95bn in January.
- Japan Manufacturing PMI rose to 53.3 in April from a final 53.1 in March.
- Japan remained firmly on the sideline confirming both its policy rate and its QE program.
- Taiwan's GDP expanded 3% yoy in Q1 2018 from 3.3% in Q4 2017.
- China's inflation fell -1.1% mom (2.1% yoy) in March.
- China's trade deficit was USD 5bn in March vs a USD 23.6bn surplus a year earlier.
- India's inflation rose 4.3% yoy in March vs 4.4% in February.
- Singapore's GDP expanded 1.4% qoq in Q1 down from 2.1% in Q4.
- All OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers including Russia are committed to supply cuts until the end of the year.

Local & Regional Economic Development

- Palestine PPI & CPI decreased by 1.44% & 0.12% respectively during March 2018.
- Palestine Exports increased by 15.6% a USD 95.8 Million & imports decreased 6.6% a USD 435.4 Million mom in February.
- Palestine WPI decrease by 1.44% (122.52) qoq in Q1 2018, over Q4 2017.
- Palestine IPI reached 100.34 during February 2018 with a decrease of 1.03% mom.
- Egypt's non-oil exports increased by 15% yoy to USD 6.324bn in Q1 2018.
- Egypt ranked 167th (out of 190) in the PwC's Paying Taxes 2018 report.
- Egypt's foreign currency reserves increased to USD 42.611bn at end of March.
- Amendments to Jordan's Income Tax Law are expected to be endorsed by the Cabinet in the first half of May.
- Visitors from the GCC to Jordan increased by 43% yoy to 261,644 in Q1 this year.
- Inflation in Saudi Arabia edged down to 2.8% yoy in March (February: 2.9%)
- Saudi Arabia sold SAR 5bn (USD 1.33bn) of domestic Sukuk in its sixth monthly offer.
- Saudi Arabia aims to create 1.2 million jobs by 2022 by focusing on the retail sector.
- Saudi Arabia's sovereign credit rating was affirmed at A1 by Moody's.
- UAE Bank lending grew by 2.1% yoy in March.
- UAE central bank withdrew AED 6bn of surplus liquidity from the market during March.
- UAE inflation eased to 3.4% yoy in March (February: 4.5%).
- Dubai welcomed a record 4.7mn international overnight tourist in the January-March period.
- Qatar raised USD12bn in its first dollar bond sale in two years.
- Qatar Central Securities Depository amended the foreign ownership percentage (to 49% from 25%).
- Oman's fiscal deficit for the first nine months of 2017 declined -47.5% to around OMR 3bn.
- The central bank of Bahrain issued a BHD 300mn government development bond through the primary market.
- The IMF has cautioned Lebanon's central bank not to repeat the financial engineering process.

Palestine Key Economic Indicators

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Population ('000)	4,421	4,550	4,682	4,867	4,950
Real GDP Change	2.2	-0.2	3.4	4.1	3.2
Real Per Capita GDP Change	-0.8	-3.1	0.4	1.2	0.1
Inflation Rate	1.72	1.73	1.43	-0.22	0.21
Unemployment rate	23.4	26.9	25.9	26.9	27.40

- **Profits of listed companies on the Palestine Exchange reached USD 291mn in 2017.** Final results of 2017 shows that net profit amounted to USD 291,059,174 a growth of 2% in comparison to 2016. Results also show that the thirty Nine companies achieved profits of USD 319,142,508, a growth of 8%, while the net loss of the other five companies was USD 28,083,333 an increase of 178% in comparison to 2016. Four companies failed to disclose their annual results. 88% of listed companies were able to disclose within the set deadline, 89% were profitable in 2017.

Corporate News

- Trust Insurance Company (PEX: TRUST) stock dividends of 50% were distributed to shareholders raising the company subscribed shares to 15 million.
- Palestine Islamic Bank (PEX: ISBK) stock dividends of 7.246% were distributed to shareholders raising the bank subscribed shares to 74 million.
- National Cartoon Industry (PEX: NCI) to have a new GM, Mr. Awad Abu Ullaya.
- National Insurance Company (PEX: NIC) stock dividends of 25% were distributed to shareholders raising the company subscribed shares to 15 million.
- Al Quds Bank (PEX: QUDS) stock dividends of 10% were distributed to shareholders raising the bank capital to USD 75,213,600.
- Arab Palestinian investment Co.(PEX: APIC) acquired 6.2% stake in MadfootCom in Jordan, In a deal worth USD 2.3 million.

Trading Summary

Details	Value	Month Change	YTD
Index close (points)	538.02	-4.87%	-6.36%
Trading value (US\$)	30,783,868	-71.10%	201,113,712
Trading volume	14,483,498	-70.41%	98,791,914
No. of transactions	3,215	-14.18%	14,648
Market Cap. (US\$)	3,731,103,556	-4.12%	3,731,103,556

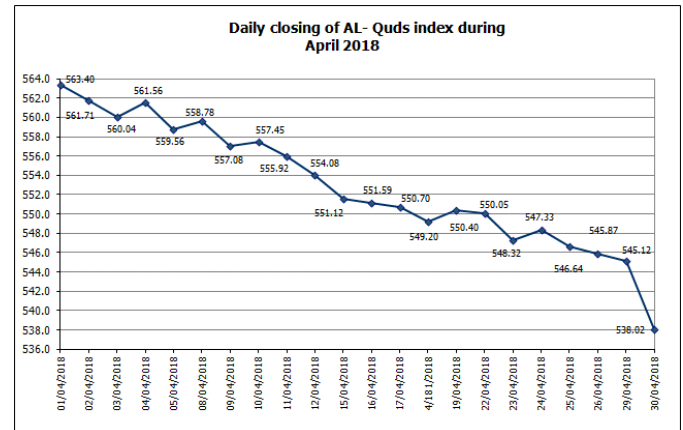
Key Indicators

No. of listed Companies	48
Subscribed Shares	1,833,012,443
Annual Turnover Ratio	17.36 %
Price earnings ratio (P/E)	12.82
Daily average value turnover (US\$)	1,399,267
Daily average Volume turnover	658,341

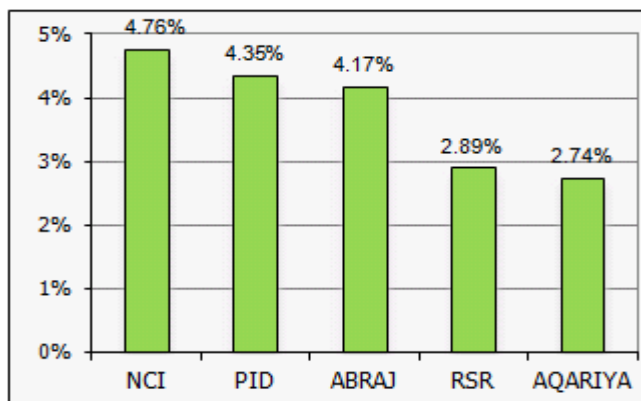
PEX Indices

Index (Base Value =100)	Points	Change
Al-Quds	538.02	-4.87%
General	297.66	-4.07%
Banking & Financial Serv.	157.91	-4.72%
Industry	100.01	-1.79%
Insurance	74.27	-3.65%
Investment	29.08	-3.58%
Services	40.30	-4.52%

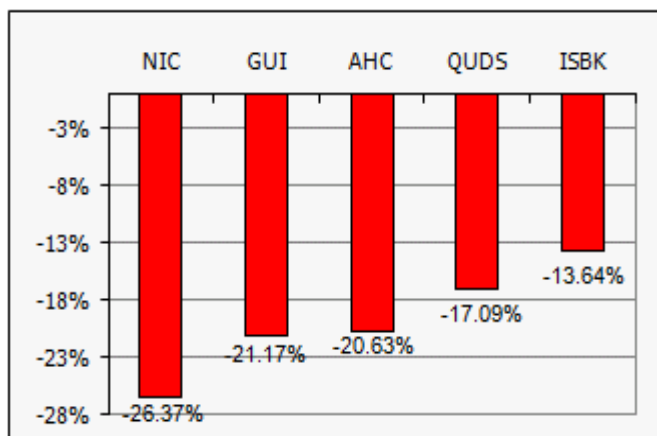
Al Quds Index



Top Gainers



Top Decliners



Arab Markets Indices

Country	Value	M. Change	Y-To-D
EGYPT	18,295.57	4.84%	21.82%
SAUDI	8,208.87	4.29%	13.60%
TUNIS	7,124.53	-0.25%	13.41%
SUDAN	4,585.52	0.03%	9.12%
QATAR	9,111.97	6.27%	6.91%
ABU DHABI	4,669.52	1.83%	6.16%
CASABLANCA	13,028.01	-0.26%	5.16%
IRAQ	607.01	-4.04%	4.56%
AMMAN	2,191.52	-1.87%	3.04%
DAMASCUS	5,989.00	-2.21%	0.10%
BEIRUT	1,129.01	-4.53%	-1.70%
BAHRAIN	1,257.88	-4.59%	-5.54%
PALESTINE	538.02	-4.87%	-6.36%
MUSCAT	4,729.05	-0.93%	-7.26%
DUBAI	3,065.96	-1.37%	-9.02%
KUWAIT	4,778.66	-27.96%	-25.43%

AI Quds Index Companies

Company	Ticker	Currency	M. Cap. USD' Million	Price EOM	Monthly Change %	YTD Change%	P/E
Arab Islamic Bank	AIB	US\$	120.00	1.6	0	(-9.09)	18.74
Ahliea Insurance Group	AIG	US\$	10.80	0.27	0	12.50	4.09
Arab Palestinian Investment	APIC	US\$	157.50	2.25	1.35	13.64	9.02
Bank Of Palestine	BOP	US\$	504.00	2.52	(-5.62)	(-4.91)	9.33
Golden Wheat Mills	GMC	JOD	16.93	0.8	(-5.88)	0.00	8.12
Palestine Islamic Bank	ISBK	US\$	140.60	1.9	(-13.64)	(-11.63)	9.68
Jerusalem Pharmaceutical	JPH	US\$	58.86	3.27	(-1.21)	0.31	9.55
Palestine Development & Investment	PADICO	US\$	325.00	1.3	(-8.45)	(-13.13)	65.47
Palestine Telecommunications	PALTEL	JOD	789.01	4.25	(-3.41)	(-7.21)	7.93
Palestine Electric	PEC	US\$	70.20	1.17	(-9.30)	(-10.00)	8.12
Palestine Real Estate Investment	PRICO	JOD	40.47	0.45	(-4.26)	(-10.00)	---
Quds Bank	QUDS	JOD	145.91	1.94	(-17.09)	(-8.49)	13.05
The National Bank	TNB	US\$	133.50	1.78	(-2.20)	(-3.26)	14.5
Union Construction and Investment	UCI	US\$	13.76	0.43	--	(-37.68)	20.23
Wataniya Palestine Mobile Telecommunications	WATANIYA	US\$	239.94	0.93	(-7.00)	(-10.58)	---

Palestine Exchange (PEX) undertakes all the reasonable efforts to ensure that data included in this newsletter was correct at the time of publication. However, PEX shall not be responsible or liable for decisions taken or system-related or other activity performed by any part based on this newsletter.