

Arab Bank MENA Fund

Performance Report 29.11.18

A fund of the Arab Bank MENA Fund Company B.S.C. (Closed)

NAV PER SHARE

\$8.11

OBJECTIVES OF THE FUND

The Arab Bank MENA Fund is an open ended mutual fund that offers investors the opportunity to invest in the capital markets of the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA), with a particular focus on listed equities. The Fund aims to achieve an annual average net return in the range of 10% to 15% over a full investment cycle. The Fund aims to carry a lower volatility than that of the market, by dynamically rotating across asset classes, geographies and sectors, depending on market conditions.

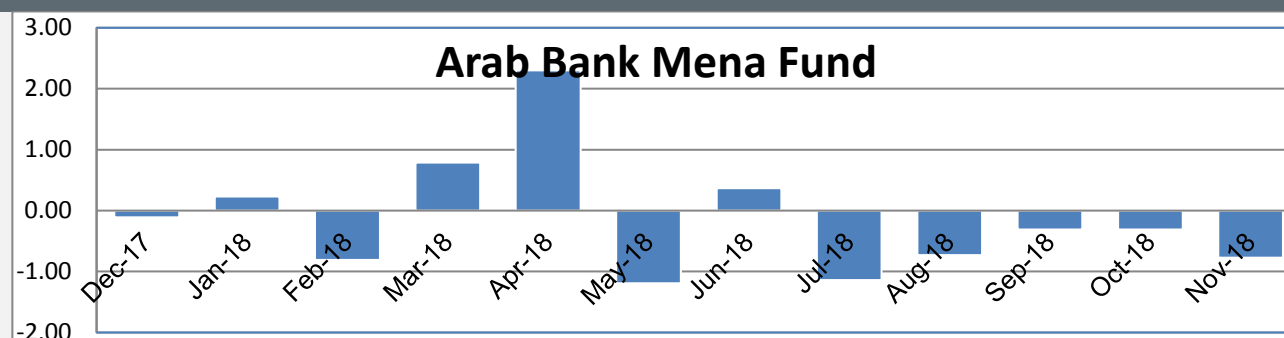
KEY FEATURES

Domicile	Kingdom of Bahrain	Valuation point	Monthly, last business day of the month
Reference currency	USD	Minimum subscription	USD 25,000 & USD 1,000 thereafter
Fund assets	USD 16,659,485	Dealing frequency	Monthly, 5 business days prior to month end
Launch date	October 2005	Fund manager	Al Arabi Investment Group Co (AB Invest)
Administrator	Gulf Clearing Company	BBG code	ARABMNA BI Equity

MONTHLY PERFORMANCE (%)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y.T.D.
Arab Bank MENA Fund													
2018	0.23	-0.81	0.79	2.30	-1.19	0.37	-1.14	-0.73	-0.31	-0.31	-0.77		-1.62
2017	1.01	0.32	1.39	0.78	-1.70	0.97	0.22	-1.03	0.65	-0.57	-3.49	-0.11	-1.65
2016	-10.85	6.29	1.49	2.17	-1.11	-0.06	1.35	-0.90	-1.29	-1.26	5.06	2.19	2.05
2015	1.74	3.12	-3.83	4.81	-0.54	0.08	-0.16	-9.07	-0.68	-3.22	-1.61	-0.40	-9.99
2014	3.24	2.98	0.84	1.76	2.55	-4.42	6.30	2.72	0.40	-5.45	-6.04	-2.75	1.28
2013	3.57	-0.75	1.02	1.87	1.48	-1.64	3.02	-1.21	1.19	1.24	1.99	1.60	14.09

MONTHLY RETURN OVER THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS



RETURN PERCENTAGES

1 month	-0.77%	3 months	-1.38%	Since inception	-18.85%
6 months	-2.86%	12 months	-1.73%		

PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

	The Fund
Annualised return	-1.6%
Annualised volatility	13.8%
Sharpe ratio	NM
Maximum month	13.7%
Minimum month	-23.5%
% Positive months	54.4%
Worst 12 months	-70.2%
Best 12 months	110.9%

TOP TEN HOLDINGS

	Country	%
Dubai Islamic Bank	UAE	11.13%
Siniora Food Industries	Jordan	10.32%
Emaar Properties	UAE	8.46%
Saudi Airlines Catering	KSA	7.37%
Ooredoo	Oman	6.64%
Aramex	UAE	5.41%
SAMBA Financial Services	KSA	5.20%
Arab Bank	Jordan	3.30%
Palestine Telecommunications	Palestine	2.93%
Dallah Health Care Holding	KSA	2.90%

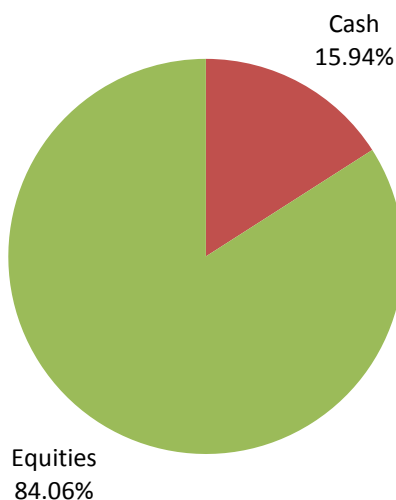


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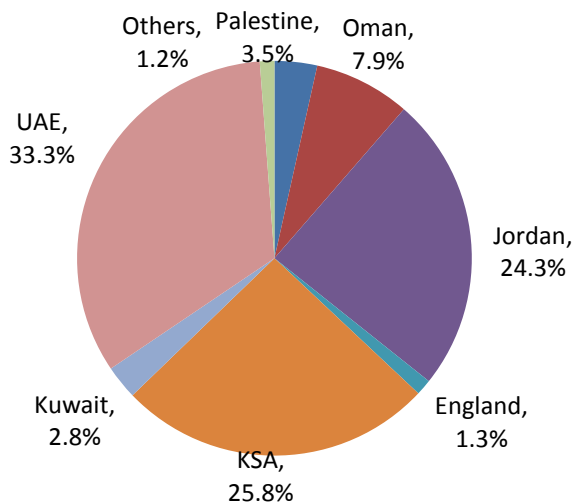
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ASSET ALLOCATION



GEOGRAPHIC ALLOCATION (EQUITIES)



COMMENTARY

MENA markets experienced widespread decline in November. Both the S&P Pan Arab Investable Index and the Dow Jones MENA Index retreated for the month but remained in the black year-to-date. The S&P Pan Arab Investable Index lost 0.42% (YTD+2.37%) and the Dow Jones MENA Index dropped 1.57% (YTD +5.59%). Islamic markets fared similarly with the Dow Jones Islamic Market MENA Index shedding 1.95% (YTD +3.46%). The Arab Bank MENA Fund lost 0.77% (YTD -1.62%) while the IIAB Islamic MENA Fund gained 0.15% (YTD -5.80%). In turn, the AB MENA Feeder Fund lost 0.82% (YTD -2.09%) and the IIAB MENA Feeder Fund gained 0.10% (YTD -6.46%).

In regional indices, the Jordanian ASE General Index was the worst performer for the month as it shed 4.88% (YTD -12.40%), and with a comparably poor performance, Dubai's DFM Index dropped 4.16% (YTD -20.81). Furthermore, the Abu Dhabi Index lost -2.69% (YTD +8.45%), the Saudi Arabian TASI shed 2.58% (YTD +6.60%), and the Omani Index slipped 0.25% (YTD -13.48%). However, the Kuwaiti Premier Market Index gained 1.60% (11.8% since its introduction in April) and was the best performing index in the region. Among other advancing indices in the GCC is the Bahraini Index, which rose by 1.07% (YTD -0.22%) and the Qatari Index, which edged up by 0.62% (YTD +21.60%). In Egypt, the EGX30 gained 0.52% (YTD -11.32%).

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in its Autumn regional economic outlook report that growth in the GCC should reach 2.4% this year and 3% in 2019 as state investment projects increase. The IMF says Gulf economies are recovering but remain vulnerable to oil price volatility. The report encourages governments to maintain restraint on spending, diversify revenues away from oil, and allow greater space for the private sector to flourish (through privatization and public-private-partnerships).

In the same report mentioned above, the IMF sees Saudi Arabia's economy growing at 2.2% this year (after shrinking 0.9% in 2017) and 2.4% next year. The recovery in oil prices has helped improve outlook, however, some uncertainty remains as to the economic impact of the murder of Journalist Jamal Khashoggi, which has so far raised questions about the kingdom's ability to attract foreign direct investment. Meanwhile, the UAE is expected to grow this year by 2.9%, up from 0.8% last year, and 3.7% in 2019.

The IMF also released its forecast for GDP growth in Qatar. It expects growth to reach 3.1% in 2019 after rising to 2.4% in 2018 (from 1.6% in 2017). The rise in growth rate can be attributed to higher energy prices and the country's efforts to attract new investors and trade partners to overcome the effect of the diplomatic and trade boycott launched by the Saudi-led group of four Arab countries in 2017. Bahrain's real GDP is projected to grow by 3.2% this year, down from 3.8% in 2017, according to the IMF.

Furthermore, a report by Fitch Solutions predicted that Oman's economic growth will accelerate to 3.1% in 2019, up from 2.6% this year, while inflation is expected to accelerate to an average of 2.8% in 2018, up from 1% this year. The sultanate plans to introduce 5% VAT in 2019 and the country's interest rate and inflation are expected to rise in a manner similar to that of the UAE and Saudi Arabia, both of which implemented VAT in January this year.

In Jordan, the parliament passed an IMF-backed tax law to reduce public debt. The law is accompanied by a number of austerity measures meant to ease a fiscal crunch and spur stagnant growth. The Prime Minister had earlier warned members of the parliament that the kingdom would pay a heavy price if they failed to approve the legislation, including higher interest rates on its substantial foreign debt. The bill still needs to go to the upper house or senate for approval before it is enacted as law, and, if approved, is expected to be effective early next year.



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In the commodities market, oil saw a drastic fall in price after OPEC's biggest producer Saudi Arabia expressed the need for oil producers to cut 1 million barrels a day, reversing a June decision to boost supply to contain a price rally. Brent Oil lost 22.21% (YTD -12.20%) and WTI Oil dropped 22.02% (YTD -15.71%) in November. By the last week of the month, Saudi Arabia was pumping as much as 11.2 million barrels a day, which is the highest since the kingdom first discovered oil 80 years ago. The country was responding to stronger-than-usual demand from clients anticipating a disruption in Iranian supplies by also using crude from domestic and overseas stockpiles to supplement supply.

In other parts of the world, markets had mixed performances. European indices fell once again following last month's decline; the FTSE 100 lost 2.07% (YTD -9.20%), the French CAC 40 Index shed 1.76% (YTD -5.81%), and the German DAX Index went down by 1.66% (YTD -12.85%). At the same time, U.S. indices generally outperformed those of European markets, with the S&P 500 rising by 1.79% (YTD +3.24%) and the Dow Jones Industrial Average Index advancing 1.68% (YTD +3.31%). In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng Index gained 6.11% to reverse some of the losses it made for the year (YTD -11.41%), the Shanghai Composite inched down by 0.56% (YTD -21.74%), and the Japanese Nikkei Index appreciated by 1.96% (YTD -1.82%).

In support of U.S. market performance was the outcome of the U.S. mid-term elections, which did not produce any surprises, where Democrats regained control of the House and Republicans retained their majority in the Senate. Additionally, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) kept interest rates unchanged at a range of 2.0% - 2.5% in its November statement, but signaled a possible hike in December.

We continue to tilt individual exposures towards overbeaten deep value positions, maintaining a fundamentally based approach, with a focus on expected dividend payouts in the next few months.

INVESTMENT METHODOLOGY AND EDGE

AB Invest is one of the most experienced and fastest growing MENA investment managers operating out of Jordan. AB Invest provides its clients with a number of MENA-focused investment solutions on conventional and Sharia-compliant bases. Our investment process is based on rigorous fundamental analysis with a view on delivering superior risk-adjusted returns, using a combination of top-down and bottom-up approaches. Our deep knowledge of the markets in which we invest allows us to deliver consistent returns while prudently managing risk.

DISCLAIMER

Whilst the information contained in this report is provided in good faith, no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made to its accuracy or completeness.

Arab Bank MENA Fund is a Fund created and sponsored by the Arab Bank MENA Fund Company B.S.C. (Closed) and is an open-ended investment Fund registered under the Laws of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

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Past performance should not be taken as a guide to the future. The value of investments can fall as well as rise.

