Global Equities under Pressure amid War and Inflation Concerns

BLOMINVEST BANK

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Contact Information

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	27/03/2026	20/03/2026	% Change
BLOM Stock Index	1,800.20	1,830.51	-1.66%
Average Traded Volume	6,834	11,222	-39.10%
Average Traded Value	438,185	421,129	4.05%
Market Cap	18,450,491,852	18,761,147,002	

The **BLOM Stock Index (BSI)** compiled by BLOM Invest Bank daily decreased by 1.66% to 1,800.20 points by March 27th 2026.

On the Beirut Stock Exchange (BSE), the real estate sector dominated trading; accounting for 92.52% of the exchange's total trading value, while the remaining were grasped by the banking sector (7.48%). The most noteworthy trades throughout the mentioned period included:

	27/03/2026	20/03/2026	% Change
Solidere A	75.4	76.5	-1.44%
Solidere B	72	75	-4.00%
Byblos (C)	0.69	0.7	-1.43%

	30/01/2026	23/01/2026	% Change
BLOM Preferred Shares Index	19.35	19.35	0.00%

As for the BLOM Preferred Shares Index (BPSI), it stabilized at 19.35 points.

US Stocks

Index	Currency	27/03/2026	20/03/2026	% Change
S&P 500	USD	6,477.16	6,506.48	-0.45%
Dow Jones	USD	45,960.11	45,577.47	0.84%
NASDAQ Comp	USD	21,408.08	21,647.61	-1.11%

*prices are as of the time of writing this report

US equities ended the week on a mixed but overall weaker note, with the Nasdaq declining notably and the S&P 500 edging lower, while the Dow Jones managed a modest gain. The divergence reflects sectoral rotation away from growth and technology stocks toward more defensive segments, as markets reacted to rising Treasury yields and elevated energy prices. Throughout the week, sentiment was heavily influenced by geopolitical developments in the Middle East, which fueled stagflation concerns by pushing oil prices higher and increasing inflation expectations. Technology and AI-related stocks were particularly pressured by tighter financial conditions and reduced risk appetite, while occasional rebounds were supported by temporary optimism after the extension of US-Iran negotiations. Overall, markets remained highly sensitive to shifts in geopolitical headlines and their implications for inflation and monetary policy.

European Stocks

Index	Currency	27/03/2026	20/03/2026	% Change
DAX	EUR	22,323.09	22,380.19	-0.26%
FTSE 100	GBP	9,919.97	9,918.33	0.02%
CAC 40	EUR	7,707.49	7,665.62	0.55%
STOXX600	EUR	574.64	573.28	0.24%

*prices are as of the time of writing this report

European equities showed mixed but relatively resilient performance over the week, with the CAC 40 and STOXX 600 posting gains, while the DAX slightly declined and the FTSE 100 remained broadly flat. This performance reflects a market caught between persistent geopolitical uncertainty and intermittent optimism surrounding US-Iran negotiations. Early-week gains were driven by hopes of de-escalation, which eased oil prices and inflation expectations, supporting risk sentiment across the region. However, as the week progressed, renewed tensions, rising energy prices, and hawkish ECB rhetoric weighed on markets, particularly on rate-sensitive sectors such as financials and industrials. The divergence across indices highlights how investors balanced improving diplomatic signals with growing stagflation concerns, as higher energy costs continued to pressure economic outlooks across Europe.

Asian Stocks

Index	Currency	27/03/2026	20/03/2026	% Change
NIKKEI	JPY	53,373.07	53,372.53	0.00%
Hang Seng	HKD	24,951.88	25,277.32	-1.29%
Shanghai Comp	CNY	3,913.72	3,957.05	-1.09%

*prices are as of the time of writing this report

Asian markets largely trended downward over the week, with the Hang Seng and Shanghai Composite posting notable losses, while the Nikkei remained broadly unchanged, reflecting underlying volatility. The decline was primarily driven by heightened geopolitical uncertainty and global risk aversion, as escalating Middle East tensions and rising oil prices weighed on investor sentiment across the region. Hong Kong equities were particularly affected by foreign outflows and sensitivity to global liquidity conditions, despite some support from China optimism and expectations of policy easing. Meanwhile, Chinese markets showed resilience at times due to strong industrial profit growth, but gains were limited by external risks and uncertainty surrounding US-China relations. In Japan, markets fluctuated between gains and losses, with oil price dynamics and global sentiment shifts playing a key role, particularly given Japan's exposure to energy imports. Overall, the region reflected a balance between domestic support factors and external geopolitical pressures, resulting in a weaker weekly performance.

Global Stocks

Index	Currency	27/03/2026	20/03/2026	% Change
MSCI Emerging Market	USD	1,448.41	1,463.33	-1.02%

*prices are as of the time of writing this report

The MSCI Emerging Market index fell by 1.02% to reach 1,448.41 by March 27th 2026.

Arab Stocks

Index	Currency	27/03/2026	20/03/2026	% Change
S&P Pan Arab	USD	1,002.80	994.69	0.82%
EGX30 - Egypt	EGP	47,001.89	47,611.96	-1.28%
Saudi Stock Exchange	SAR	11,090.33	10,946.26	1.32%
Qatar Stock Exchange	QAR	10,160.33	10,292.16	-1.28%
Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange	AED	9,605.71	9,571.05	0.36%
Dubai Financial Market	AED	5,529.20	5,550.24	-0.38%

*prices are as of the time of writing this report

Arab equity markets showed a mixed but fragile performance, despite the S&P Pan Arab index rising by 0.82%, as ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East continued to weigh heavily on investor sentiment. While Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi posted gains, these were largely supported by surging oil prices linked to the conflict, which tend to benefit oil-exporting economies. However, this upside was offset by declines in Egypt, Qatar, and Dubai, reflecting heightened uncertainty, risk aversion, and concerns over prolonged instability in the region. The war has increased fears of disruptions to trade routes, energy flows, and overall economic activity, leading investors to remain cautious despite the oil-driven support. Overall, the region’s performance underscores a war-driven divergence, where gains in oil-backed markets mask broader underlying weakness and volatility.

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