

## Global Equity Markets Fluctuate Amid US-Iran Developments and AI Optimism



**BLOMINVEST  
BANK**

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	<b>22/05/2026</b>	<b>15/05/2026</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>BLOM Stock Index</b>	1,747.98	1,752.88	-0.28%
<b>Average Traded Volume</b>	7,313	20,036	-63.50%
<b>Average Traded Value</b>	156,167	299,233	-47.81%
<b>Market Cap</b>	17,915,342,365	17,965,508,480	

The **BLOM Stock Index (BSI)** compiled by BLOM Invest Bank daily decreased by 0.28% to 1,747.98 points by May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2026.

On the Beirut Stock Exchange (BSE), the real estate sector dominated trading; accounting for 76.44% of the exchange's total trading value, while the remaining were grasped by the banking sector (23.56%). The most noteworthy trades throughout the mentioned period included:

	<b>22/05/2026</b>	<b>15/05/2026</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>Solidere A</b>	70.65	70	0.93%
<b>Solidere B</b>	71	70	1.43%
<b>Audi Listed</b>	1.73	1.89	-8.47%
<b>BLOM Listed</b>	6.6	7	-5.71%

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

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

### US Stocks

Index	Currency	22/05/2026	15/05/2026	% Change
<b>S&amp;P 500</b>	USD	7,445.72	7,408.50	0.50%
<b>Dow Jones</b>	USD	50,285.66	49,526.17	1.53%
<b>NASDAQ Comp</b>	USD	26,293.10	26,225.14	0.26%

\*prices are as of the time of writing this report

US equities ended the week higher, with the Dow Jones recording the strongest gain at 1.53%, while the S&P 500 and Nasdaq rose by 0.50% and 0.26%, respectively. Markets were largely driven by developments surrounding the US-Iran conflict, as hopes for a diplomatic agreement pushed oil prices lower and eased inflation concerns, helping the Dow reach fresh record highs. Meanwhile, elevated Treasury yields and fears that higher energy prices could prolong inflationary pressures continued to weigh on investor sentiment, particularly in the technology sector. Nvidia remained a key market focus, with its earnings and guidance fueling volatility across AI-related stocks despite stronger than expected results, while mixed corporate earnings and warnings from firms such as Walmart and Intuit also contributed to cautious trading conditions.

### European Stocks

Index	Currency	22/05/2026	15/05/2026	% Change
<b>DAX</b>	EUR	24,783.52	23,950.57	3.48%
<b>FTSE 100</b>	GBP	10,489.06	10,195.37	2.88%
<b>CAC 40</b>	EUR	8,125.16	7,952.55	2.17%
<b>STOXX600</b>	EUR	624.50	606.92	2.90%

\*prices are as of the time of writing this report

European equities posted solid weekly gains, with the DAX rising by 3.48%, the STOXX 600 by 2.90%, the FTSE 100 by 2.88%, and the CAC 40 by 2.17%, as optimism surrounding a potential US-Iran agreement improved investor sentiment. Hopes that negotiations could reopen the Strait of Hormuz has helped ease concerns over energy supply disruptions and inflationary pressures, supporting gains in financial, industrial, and AI-related technology shares such as SAP, Infineon, and STMicroelectronics. However, markets remained volatile as uncertainty surrounding Iran's uranium position persisted, while weaker PMI data from

Germany, France, and the broader Eurozone pointed to slowing private sector activity and rising cost pressures linked to the Middle East conflict.

### Asian Stocks

Index	Currency	22/05/2026	15/05/2026	% Change
<b>NIKKEI</b>	JPY	63,339.07	61,409.29	3.14%
<b>Hang Seng</b>	HKD	25,606.03	25,962.73	-1.37%
<b>Shanghai Comp</b>	CNY	4,112.90	4,135.39	-0.54%

\*prices are as of the time of writing this report

Asian markets delivered mixed performances during the week, with Japan’s Nikkei surging by 3.14%, while Hong Kong’s Hang Seng declined by 1.37% and China’s Shanghai Composite slipped by 0.54%. Japanese equities outperformed on renewed optimism surrounding artificial intelligence demand and expectations that a potential US-Iran agreement could reduce pressure on oil prices, benefiting Japan’s import-dependent economy. Stronger Japanese GDP and export data also supported sentiment, while AI and semiconductor related shares advanced sharply. In contrast, Chinese and Hong Kong equities remained pressured by uncertainty surrounding US-Iran negotiations, weaker Chinese economic indicators, and profit-taking in technology shares following earlier AI-driven rallies.

### Global Stocks

Index	Currency	22/05/2026	15/05/2026	% Change
<b>MSCI Emerging Market</b>	USD	1,675.52	1,668.17	0.44%

\*prices are as of the time of writing this report

The MSCI Emerging Market index rose by 0.44% to reach 1,675.52 by May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2026.

### Arab Stocks

Index	Currency	22/05/2026	15/05/2026	% Change
<b>S&amp;P Pan Arab</b>	USD	1,002.64	1,006.63	-0.40%
<b>EGX30 - Egypt</b>	EGP	52,090.96	53,154.84	-2.00%
<b>Saudi Stock Exchange</b>	SAR	11,027.54	10,995.44	0.29%
<b>Qatar Stock Exchange</b>	QAR	10,379.69	10,493.27	-1.08%
<b>Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange</b>	AED	9,643.07	9,677.72	-0.36%
<b>Dubai Financial Market</b>	AED	5,662.59	5,708.78	-0.81%

\*prices are as of the time of writing this report

Arab stock markets recorded mixed performances during the week, with the S&P Pan Arab Index declining slightly by 0.40% as regional markets remained sensitive to ongoing geopolitical tensions and fluctuations in oil prices linked to the US-Iran conflict. Egypt's EGX30 posted the sharpest decline, falling by 2.00%, likely reflecting investor caution amid broader regional uncertainty and inflationary pressures. Gulf markets were relatively more resilient, supported by stable energy revenues and expectations that diplomatic progress between Washington and Tehran could eventually ease pressure on regional trade and oil flows. The Saudi Stock Exchange was the only major regional market to register gains, rising by 0.29%, supported by stronger investor confidence and relatively stable market conditions. Meanwhile, the Qatar Stock Exchange, Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange, and Dubai Financial Market all recorded moderate losses as investors remained cautious over the potential economic implications of prolonged regional tensions and volatile energy markets.

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