Global Equities Mixed as Rate Hikes, Oil Volatility and Middle East Tensions Shape Markets

BLOM BANK SAL

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	18/09/2026	11/09/2026	% Change
BLOM Stock Index	1,733.56	1,719.89	0.80%
Average Traded Volume	35,324	67,636	-47.77%
Average Traded Value	1,185,751	996,530	18.99%
Market Cap	17,767,507,808	17,627,359,528	

The **BLOM Stock Index (BSI)** compiled by BLOM Bank daily increased by 0.80% to 1,733.56 points by September 18th 2026.

On the Beirut Stock Exchange (BSE), the real estate sector dominated trading; accounting for 95.50% of the exchange's total trading value, while the remaining were grasped by the banking sector (2.71%) and the industrial sector (1.79%). The most noteworthy trades throughout the mentioned period included:

	18/09/2026	11/09/2026	% Change
Solidere A	72	70	2.86%
Solidere B	72	72	0.00%
SOCIETE DES CIMENTS LIBANAIS	49.45	50	-1.10%
Audi Listed	1.64	1.96	-16.33%
BLOM Listed	7.97	7.25	9.93%
Audi (GDR)	1.7	1.83	-7.10%

	18/09/2026	11/09/2026	% Change
BLOM Preferred Shares Index	21.01	21.01	0.00%

As for the BLOM Preferred Shares Index (BPSI), it stabilized at 21.01 points.

US Stocks

Index	Currency	18/09/2026	11/09/2026	% Change
S&P 500	USD	7,637.76	7,656.98	-0.25%
Dow Jones	USD	51,778.04	52,573.29	-1.51%
NASDAQ Comp	USD	26,418.30	26,333.04	0.32%

*prices are as of the time of writing this report

US equities finished mixed following considerable volatility in technology shares, oil prices and Treasury yields. The Dow Jones declined 1.51%, while the S&P 500 slipped 0.25% and the Nasdaq gained 0.32%. Early losses were driven by concerns over the pace of AI development and a sharp rise in crude prices, which intensified inflation fears and briefly pushed the 10-year Treasury yield above 5%. The Federal Reserve’s 25-basis-point rate hike and indication of further tightening also pressured equities. However, falling oil prices and Treasury yields later improved risk sentiment and triggered a strong rebound in semiconductor and technology shares, helping the Nasdaq finish the week in positive territory.

European Stocks

Index	Currency	18/09/2026	11/09/2026	% Change
Deutsche Boerse DAX Index	EUR	25,560.34	25,568.56	-0.03%
UK's FTSE 100 Index	GBP	10,739.15	10,650.44	0.83%
France's CAC 40 Index	EUR	8,130.86	8,179.77	-0.60%
STOXX Europe 600 Index	EUR	640.12	639.10	0.16%

*prices are as of the time of writing this report

European equities ended the week mixed as early pressure from surging energy prices, elevated bond yields and tighter monetary policy expectations was partly reversed by falling oil prices later in the week. The STOXX 600 edged up 0.16%, while the FTSE 100 outperformed with a 0.83% gain, supported by energy and defensive stocks and the Bank of England’s decision to hold rates at 3.75%. In contrast, France’s CAC 40 fell 0.60%, weighed by higher inflation, earlier energy price pressures and weakness in luxury shares amid softer Chinese demand. Germany’s DAX slightly decreased by 0.03%, as the late recovery in autos and industrials largely offset earlier losses. Sentiment improved toward Friday as progress in restoring Saudi Arabia's East-West pipeline pushed oil prices and bond yields lower, easing inflation concerns.

Asian Stocks

Index	Currency	18/09/2026	11/09/2026	% Change
Japan's Nikkei 225 Index	JPY	65,018.95	64,011.34	1.57%
Honk Kong's Hang Seng Index	HKD	24,750.78	24,805.63	-0.22%
China's Shanghai SE Composite Index	CNY	3,911.87	3,888.11	0.61%

*prices are as of the time of writing this report

Asian markets were similarly mixed, led by a 1.57% rise in Japan's Nikkei 225, while China's Shanghai Composite gained 0.61% and Hong Kong's Hang Seng slipped 0.22%. Japanese equities recovered from early energy and AI-related pressure as oil prices eased, exports remained supported by demand for AI-related chips and technology shares rebounded, despite the Bank of Japan raising rates to 1.25%. Chinese stocks overcame weak domestic economic indicators as progress in US-China trade discussions and gains in AI-related shares improved sentiment. Hong Kong remained slightly lower as the Federal Reserve's rate hike prompted the Hong Kong Monetary Authority to raise its base rate, weighing particularly on property shares, although lower oil prices and softer US yields helped limit losses later in the week.

Global Stocks

Index	Currency	18/09/2026	11/09/2026	% Change
MSCI Emerging Market	USD	1,687.94	1,721.53	-1.95%

*prices are as of the time of writing this report

The MSCI Emerging Market index fell by 1.95% to reach 1,687.94 by September 18th 2026.

Arab Stocks

Index	Currency	18/09/2026	11/09/2026	% Change
S&P Pan Arab	USD	1,009.79	1,022.78	-1.27%
EGX30 - Egypt	EGP	55,498.72	56,280.17	-1.39%
KSA's Tadawul Index	SAR	10,777.94	11,007.27	-2.08%
Qatar Exchange General Index	QAR	9,659.01	9,824.49	-1.68%
Abu Dhabi's FTSE Index	AED	10,129.48	10,112.58	0.17%
Dubai's DFM Index	AED	5,972.35	5,941.23	0.52%

*prices are as of the time of writing this report

Arab stock markets were mostly lower over the week, with the S&P Pan Arab Composite declining 1.27%, reflecting pressure across several major regional exchanges. Saudi Arabia’s Tadawul recorded the steepest decline, falling 2.08%, while Qatar and Egypt dropped 1.68% and 1.39%, respectively. The weakness was consistent with heightened regional uncertainty and volatility in energy markets during the week, particularly following disruptions to Saudi oil infrastructure and concerns surrounding Middle East supply routes. Higher global bond yields and tighter monetary conditions following the Federal Reserve’s rate hike also weighed on sentiment. In contrast, UAE markets proved more resilient, with Dubai gaining 0.52% and Abu Dhabi edging up 0.17%, allowing them to outperform the broader Arab market despite the challenging regional backdrop.

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