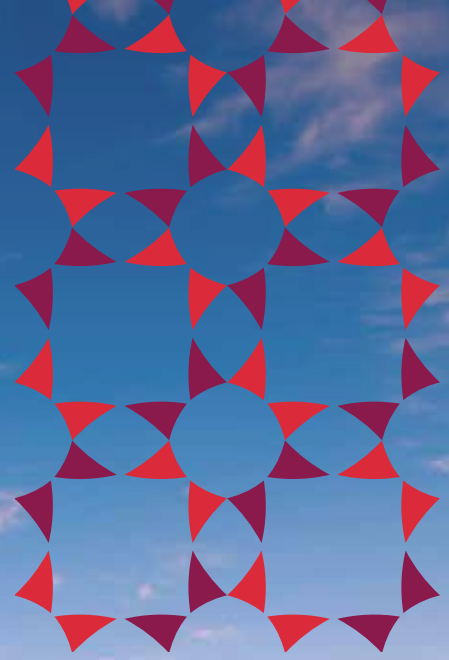




Overview of the Local Economy

Q1 - 2026





Report Content

1 Executive Summary

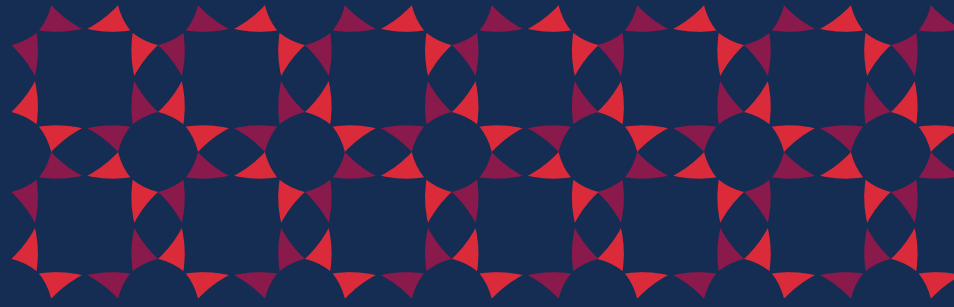
2 Trade Exchange

3 Local Economic Outlook

4 Bahrain's Ranking in Global Indices

5 Global Economic Outlook





1

Executive Summary

Introduction

The volume of trade exchange between Bahrain and GCC countries has increased in Q1 2026 compared to the same period in 2025. Trade increased by 11% from 2.14 billion USD in Q1 2025 to 2.34 billion USD in Q1 2026.

Fawri+ transaction has increased by 17%, while POS transaction has decreased by 7% in Q1 2026 compared to the same period in 2025. taking into consideration that Bahrain Ranks 6th Globally in the ICT Development Index 2026 and 20th Globally in the IMD World Competitiveness Ranking 2026.

The price of WTI oil price has increased by 48%, also the price of Brent oil increased by 41% in March 2026 YoY.

Key Indicators in Q1 2026

Trade Exchange

Bahrain's Top Import Partners

Country		Total Value of Imports (USD)
	China	588,987,004
	United Arab Emirates	437,552,499
	Saudi Arabia	247,664,728
	Australia	206,164,767
	India	187,874,919

Bahrain's Top Export Partners

Country		Total Value of Exports (USD)
	Saudi Arabia	857,386,926
	United Arab Emirates	515,013,820
	United States of America	175,643,873
	India	160,608,487
	Qatar	103,348,958

Source: Information and eGovernment Authority

Key Indicators in Q1 2026

Local Economic Outlook



POS Transactions

-7% YoY ▼



Fawri Transactions

+6% YoY ▲

Interest Rates on Business Loans Q1 2026

Sector	%
Construction & Real Estate	8.23%
Manufacturing	5.48%
Trade	6.89%
Other	6.43%

Bahrain's Ranking on Global Indices



6th Globally

ICT Development Index 2026

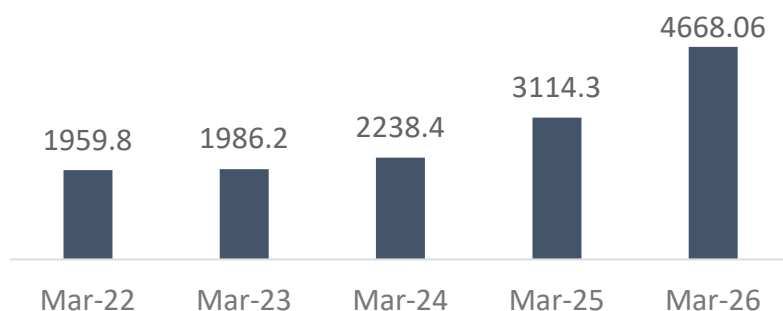


20th Globally

IMD World Competitiveness Ranking
2026

Global Economic Outlook

138% increase in gold price over 5-year period

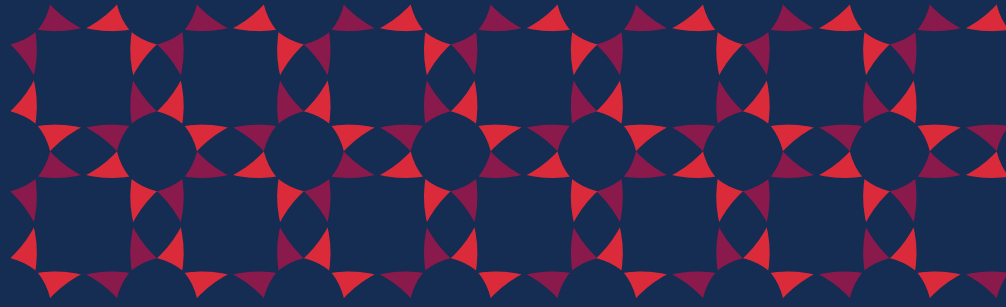


Oil Type	Price – March 2026
WTI	\$102.88
Brent	\$103.97

WTI and Brent Oil Price
Change in March 2026

48% and 41%
YoY

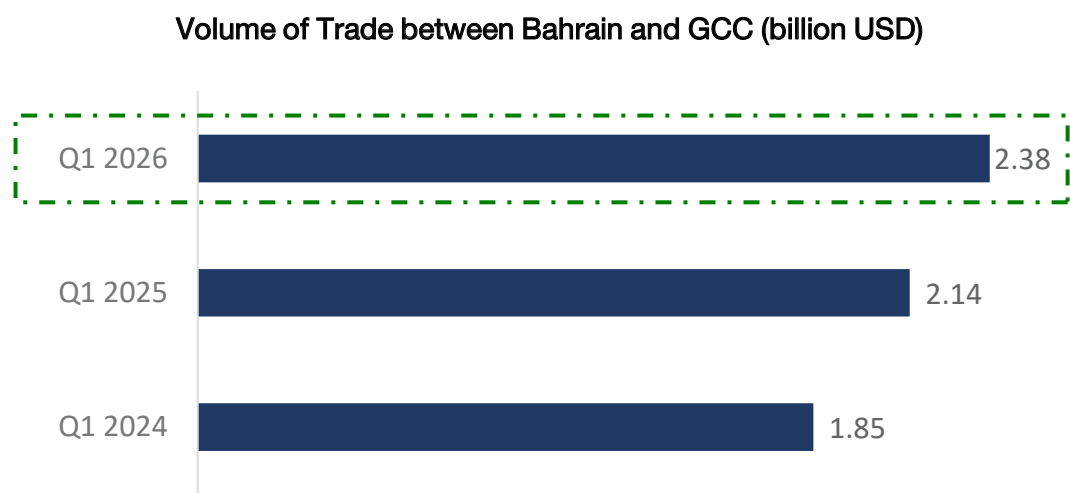
Source: Information and eGovernment Authority, CBB, Bloomberg



2

Trade Exchange

11% Increase in volume of trade between Bahrain and GCC countries in Q1 2026 YoY

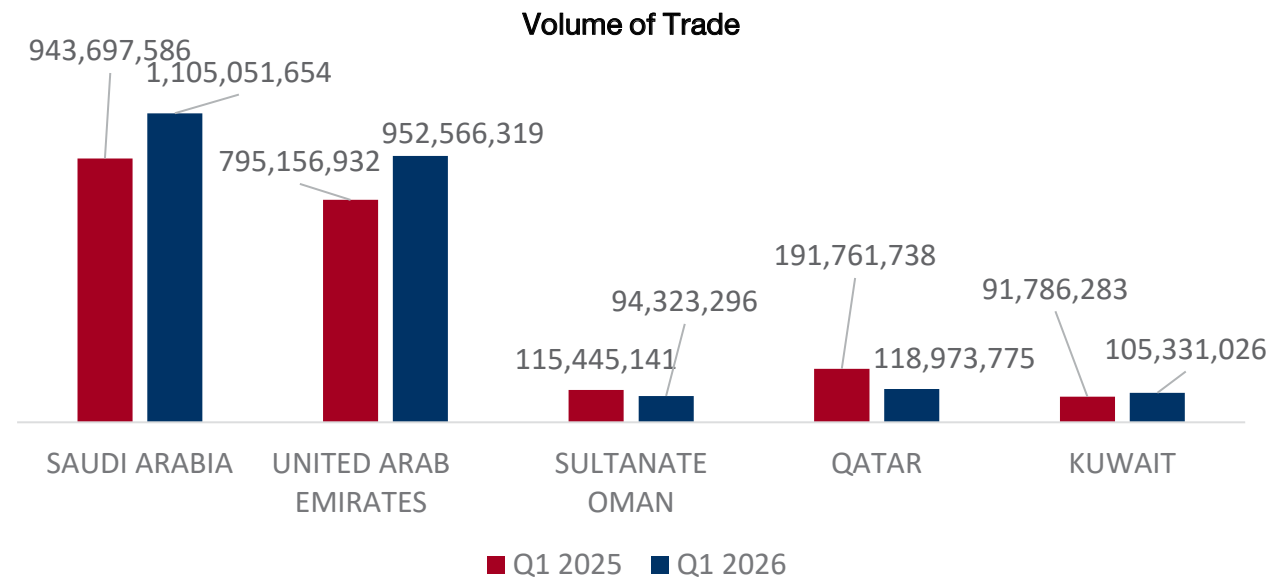


Q1 2024	Q1 2025	Q1 2026	% Change from 2025 to 2026
2,383,601,715	2,137,847,680	2,376,246,069	11%

The volume of trade exchange between Bahrain and GCC countries has increased in Q1 2026 compared to the same period in 2025. Trade increased by 11% from 2.14 billion USD in Q1 2025 to 2.38 billion USD in Q1 2026.

Source: Information and e-Government Authority

20% increase in the volume of trade between Bahrain and United Arab Emirates in Q1 2026



Country	Q1 2024	Q1 2025	Q1 2026	% Change from 2025 to 2026
SAUDI ARABIA	1,162,004,605	943,697,586	1,105,051,654	17%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	912,148,337	795,156,932	952,566,319	20%
SULTANATE OMAN	135,937,553	115,445,141	94,323,296	-18%
QATAR	72,501,326	191,761,738	118,973,775	-38%
KUWAIT	101,009,893	91,786,283	105,331,026	15%

Source: Information and e-Government Authority

26% increase in the volume of trade between Bahrain and UAE in Q2 2025

▲
17%



Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia had the highest volume of trade exchange with Bahrain in Q1 2026. The volume of trade between KSA and Bahrain was 944 million USD in Q1 2025 and increased by 17% to 1.105 billion USD in Q1 2026.

▲
20%



United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates had the second-highest volume of trade exchange with Bahrain among GCC countries in Q1 2026. The volume of trade between the two countries has increased by 20% from 795 million USD in Q1 2025 to 953 million USD in Q1 2026.

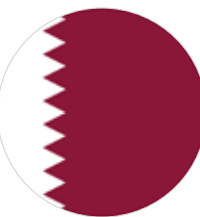
▼
-18%



Oman

Trade between Bahrain and Oman decreased by 18% from 115 million USD in Q1 2025 to 94 million USD in Q1 2026.

▼
-38%



Qatar

Trade levels between Qatar and Bahrain have decreased by 38%, from 192 million USD in Q1 2025 to 119 million USD in Q1 2026.

▲
15%



Kuwait

Trade between Bahrain and Kuwait has increased as well by 11% from 92 million USD in Q1 2025 to 105 million USD in Q1 2026.

Source: Information and e-Government Authority

Bahrain's Top Import Partners in Q1 2026

Country	Total Value of Imports in Q1 2026 (USD)	Top Imported Commodity	Commodity Value (USD)	% of Total Imports from the Country
China	588,987,004	Smartphones	47,527,988	8%
United Arab Emirates	437,552,499	Gold Ingots	132,675,264	30%
Saudi Arabia	247,664,728	Other Aluminum Oxide	16,547,150	7%
Australia	206,164,767	Other Aluminum Oxide	175,480,415	85%
India	187,874,919	Unwrought Aluminium, Not Alloyed	16,393,914	9%

China maintains its position to be Bahrain's top import partner in Q1 2026

China was the top largest import partner with an imports value of 589 million USD in Q1 2026. The top imported commodity was smartphones, valued at 48 million USD and constituting 8% of total imports from China.

UAE was the second top import market with total import amount of 438 million USD. The top imported commodity Gold Ingots, valued at 133 million USD and accounting for 30% of total imports from UAE.

Saudi Arabia came the third Bahrain's top import partner with a total import value of 248 million USD. The top imported commodity was Other Aluminum Oxide, with a total value of 17 million USD. This commodity accounts for 7% of total imports from KSA.

Australia was Bahrain's fourth import partner in Q1 2026, with the total value of imports reaching 206 million USD. The top imported Other Aluminum Oxide, valued at 175 million USD, and it accounts for 85% of total imports.

India was Bahrain's fifth import market, with a total import amount of 188 million USD. The top commodity imported was Unwrought Aluminium, Not Alloyed at 16 million USD and it accounts for 9% of imports from India.

Source: Information and e-Government Authority

Bahrain's Top Export Partners in Q1 2026

Country	Total Value of Exports in Q1 2026 (USD)	Top Exported Commodity	Commodity Value (USD)	% of Total Exports from the Country
Saudi Arabia	857,386,926	Unwrought Aluminum Alloys	175,490,484	20%
United Arab Emirates	515,013,820	Agglomerated Iron and Ores and Concentrates	90,608,373	18%
United States of America	175,643,873	Unwrought Aluminum Alloys	71,562,797	41%
India	160,608,487	Urea, Whether or not in Aqueous Solution	74,747,229	47%
Qatar	103,348,958	Agglomerated Iron and Ores and Concentrates	74,789,242	72%

Saudi Arabia maintains its position as Bahrain's top export partner in Q1 2026

Saudi Arabia has maintained its position as the largest export market for Bahraini commodities in Q1 2026, with the total value of exports reaching 857 million USD. The top exported commodity was Unwrought Aluminum Alloys at 175 million USD, accounting for 20% of total exports to Saudi Arabia.

The United Arab Emirates was Bahrain's second largest export partner, with a total value of exports of 515 million USD. The top exported commodity was Agglomerated Iron and Ores and Concentrates at 91 million USD, accounting for 18% of exports.

The United States was Bahrain's third largest export partner with the total value of exports reaching 176 million USD. The top exported commodity was Unwrought Aluminum Alloys at 72 million USD, accounting for 41% of exports to the US.

Total exports to India amounted to 161 million USD. The top exported commodity was Urea, whether or not in Aqueous Solution at 75 million USD, which constitutes 47% of total exports to India.

Qatar was Bahrain's fifth largest export partner in Q1 2026, with the total value of exports reaching 103 million USD. The top exported commodity was Agglomerated Iron and Ores and Concentrates at 75 million USD, and it accounts for 72% of total exports.

Source: Information and e-Government Authority

Bahrain's Top Traded Commodities in Q1 2026

Top Imports in Bahrain

Commodity	Import Value (USD)
OTHER ALUMINIUM OXIDE	192,388,951
GOLD INGOTS	150,244,667
NON-AGGLOMERATED IRON ORES AND CONCENTRATES	144,805,397
PARTS FOR AIRCRAFT ENGINES	128,976,586
JEWELLERY OF GOLD	74,411,643

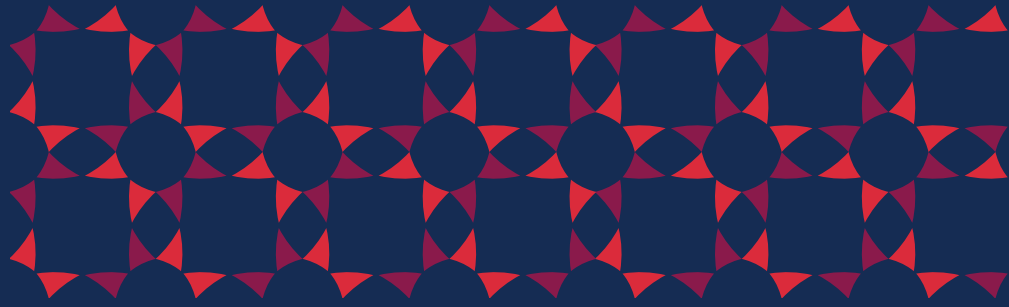
The top imported commodity in Q1 2026 was OTHER ALUMINIUM OXIDE with the total value of imports reaching 192 million USD. This is followed by GOLD INGOTS and NON-AGGLOMERATED IRON ORES AND CONCENTRATES, with the total value of imports reaching 150 million USD and 145 million USD, respectively.

Top Exports from Bahrain

Commodity	Export Value (USD)
UNWROUGHT ALUMINIUM ALLOYS	648,771,807
AGGLOMERATED IRON ORES AND CONCENTRATES	344,002,353
ALUMINIUM WIRE, NOT ALLOYED, OVER 7 MM THICK	177,055,232
PROCESSED CHEESE, NOT GRATED OR POWDERED	105,410,205
BRIDGES AND BRIDGE-SECTIONS	103,908,708

The top exported commodity in Q1 2026 was Unwrought Aluminium Alloys, with the total value of exports reaching 649 million USD. The second and third top exported commodities were Agglomerated Iron Ores and Concentrates and Aluminum Wire, Not Alloyed, Over 7 Mm Thick with the total value of exports reaching 344 million USD and 177 million USD, respectively.

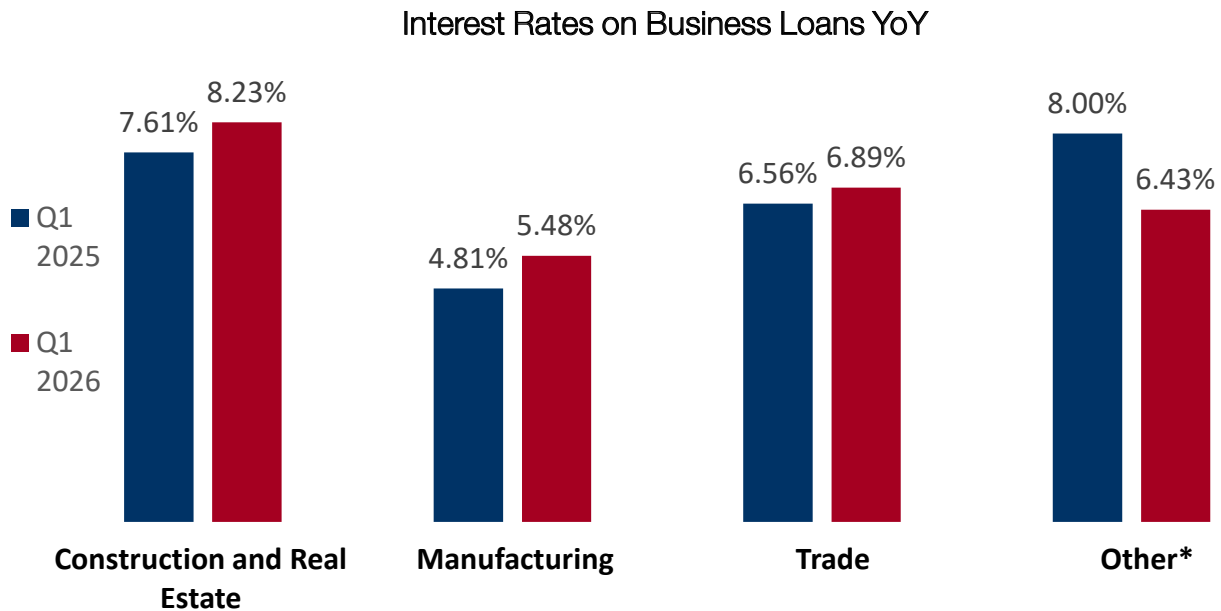
Source: Information and e-Government Authority



3

Local Economic Outlook

Increase in Interest Rates on Business Loans in most Sectors in Q1 2026 YoY



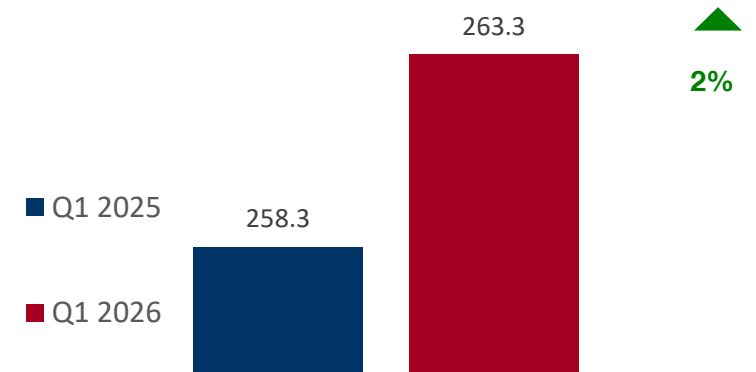
In the Construction and Real Estate sector, the interest rate increased from 7.61% in Q1 2025 to 8.23% in Q1 2026. Similarly, the Manufacturing and Trade sectors recorded increases from 4.81% to 5.48% and from 6.56% to 6.89% from Q1 2025 to Q1 2026, respectively. In contrast, interest rates in the Other sector fell from 8% in Q1 2025 to 6.43% in Q1 2026.

* Includes non-banks financial and other services.

Source: Central Bank of Bahrain

2% Increase in ATM withdrawal values in Q1 2026 compared to the same period in 2025

Value of ATM Withdrawals (Million BHD)

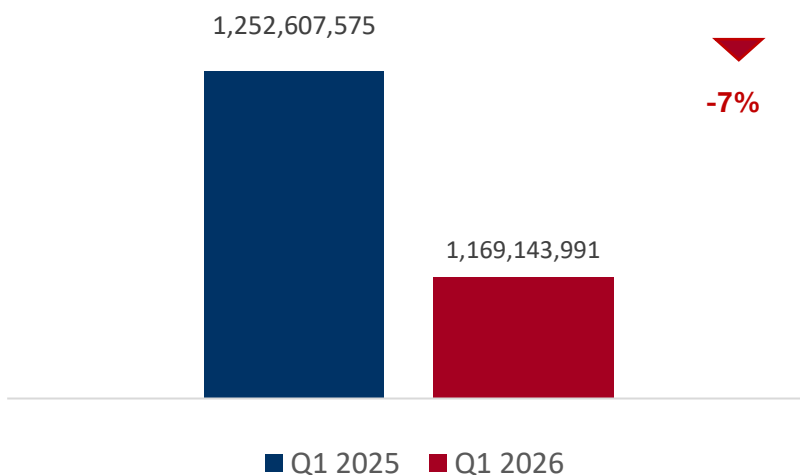


The value of ATM withdrawals increased by 2%, from 258 million BHD in Q1 2025 to 263 million BHD in Q1 2026.

Source: Central Bank of Bahrain

7% decrease in the value of POS transactions recorded in Q1 2026 compared to the same period in 2025

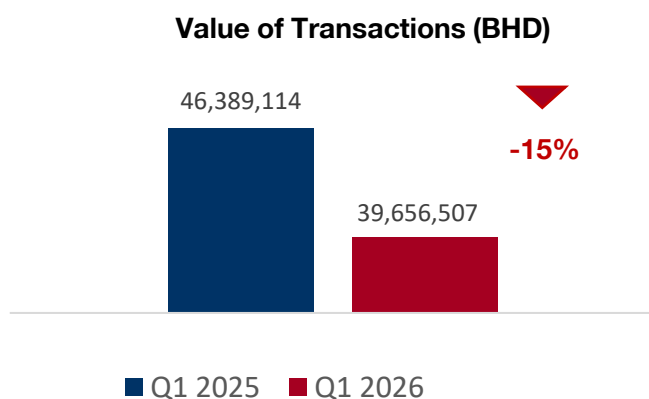
Value of POS Transactions (BHD)



The value of POS transactions decreased by 7%, from 1.25 billion BHD in Q1 2025 to 1.17 billion BHD in Q1 2026.

Source: Central Bank of Bahrain

15% decrease in the value of jewelry store transactions in Q1 2026 compared to the same period in 2025

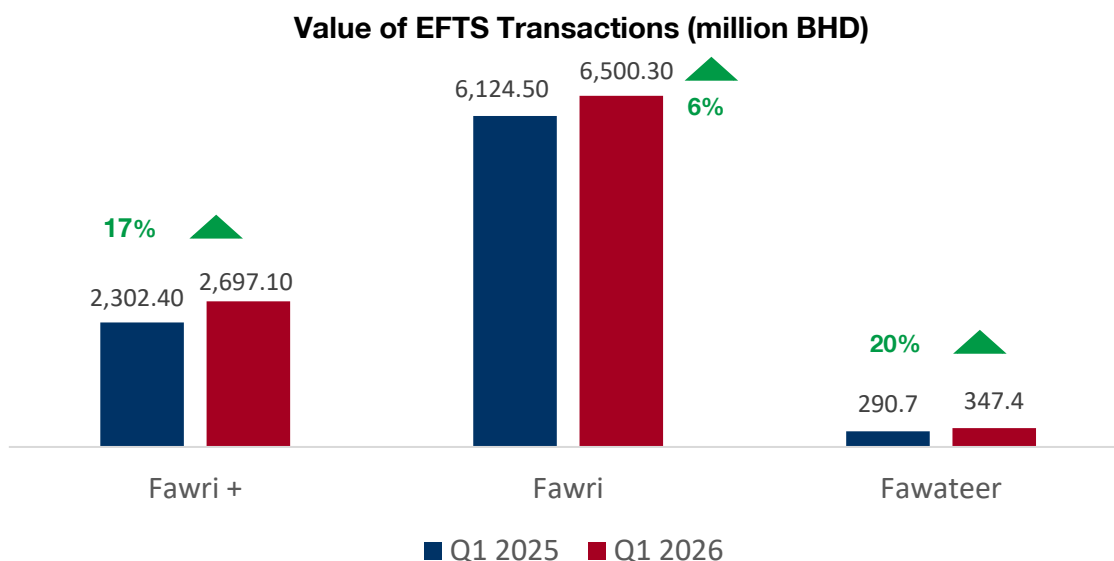


The value of transactions in the jewelry stores sector decreased by 15%, from 46.4 million BHD in Q1 2025, to 39.7 million BHD in Q1 2026.

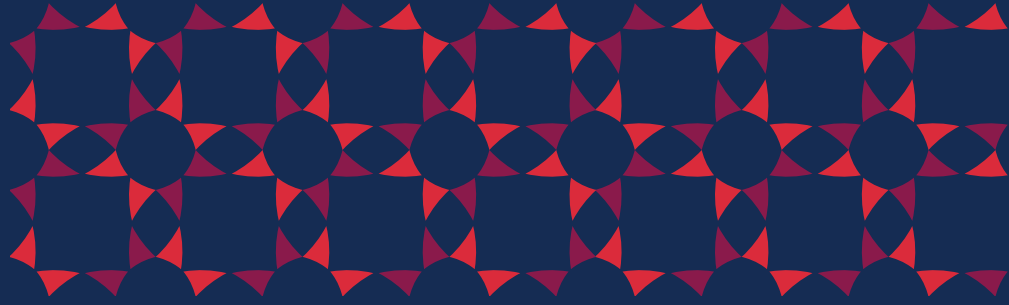
Source: Central Bank of Bahrain

17% increase in transfers via Fawri+ in Q1 2026 compared to the same period in 2025

The value of EFTS transactions through the Fawri+ system increased by 17% from 2.3 billion BHD in Q1 2025 to 2.7 billion BHD in Q1 2026 . The value of EFTS transactions through the Fawri system increased by 6% as well from 6.1 billion BHD in Q1 2025 to 6.5 billion BHD in Q1 2026 . Fawateer transactions increased by 20% from 290.7 million BHD in Q1 2025 to 347.4 million BHD in Q1 2026.



Source: Central Bank of Bahrain



4

Bahrain's Ranking in Global Indices

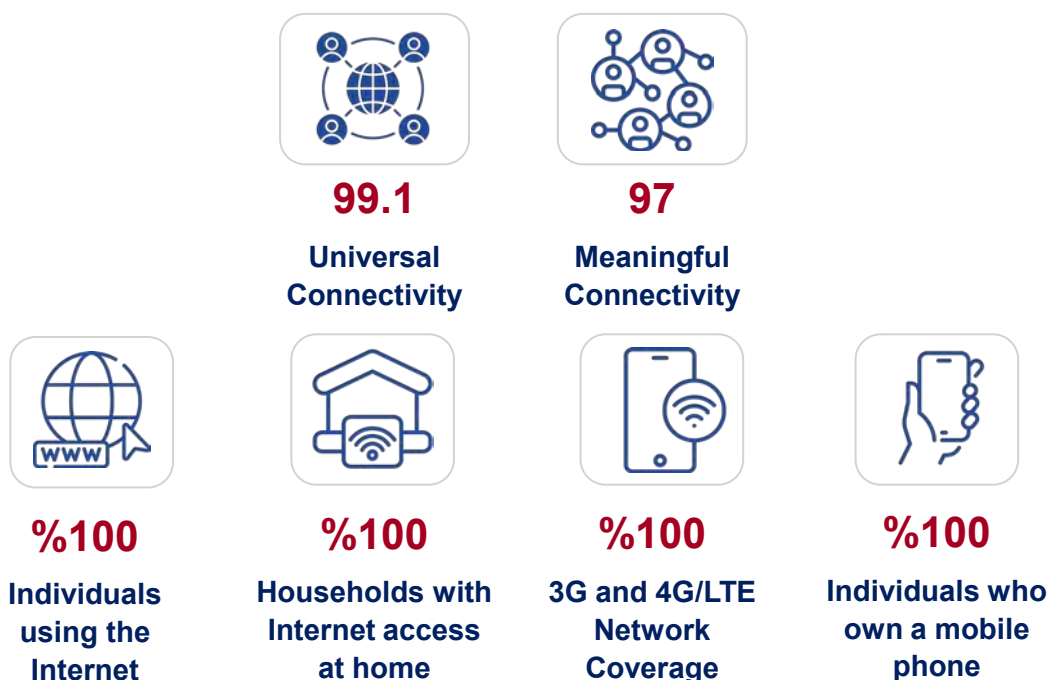
Bahrain Ranks 6th Globally in the ICT Development Index 2026

The Kingdom of Bahrain strengthened its position as a leading digital nation by ranking 6th globally among 159 economies in the 2026 ICT Development Index (IDI) issued by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Bahrain advanced three places compared to the previous year and achieved an overall score of 98%, reflecting the Kingdom's continued progress in digital transformation and advanced telecommunications infrastructure.

The ICT Development Index serves as a global benchmark for measuring countries' progress toward universal and meaningful connectivity. The index evaluates 159 economies through 10 key indicators grouped under two main pillars: Universal Connectivity and Meaningful Connectivity.

Bahrain delivered outstanding results across both pillars, scoring 99.1 points in Universal Connectivity and 97 points in Meaningful Connectivity. The Kingdom achieved the maximum score of 100 points in four core indicators: Individuals using the Internet (%), Households with Internet access at home (%), 3G and 4G/LTE Network Coverage, Individuals who own a mobile phone (%)

Bahrain's Top-Ranked Indicators in the IDI 2026



Source: ICT Development Index 2026

Bahrain Ranks 20th Globally in the IMD World Competitiveness Ranking 2026

The Kingdom of Bahrain has achieved a historic milestone by breaking into the world's top 20 most competitive economies in the 2026 IMD World Competitiveness Ranking (WCR 2026). Ranking 20th globally among 70 economies, Bahrain has advanced significantly from 30th place in 2022, reflecting sustained progress in its economic landscape.

The IMD World Competitiveness Ranking is a global benchmark that assesses 70 economies based on statistical data and executive survey results across four pillars: Economic Performance, Government Efficiency, Business Efficiency, and Infrastructure.

Bahrain demonstrated balanced competitiveness across all four pillars of the 2026 IMD World Competitiveness Ranking, with particularly strong results in Economic Performance (17th) and Business Efficiency (14th). The Kingdom's strongest performances were recorded in Prices (3rd), Tax Policy (5th), Attitudes and Values (7th), and International Trade, Business Legislation, and Labor Market (11th).

Bahrain's Globally Top-Ranked Indicators in the IMD WCR 2026



3rd

Prices



5th

Tax Policy



7th

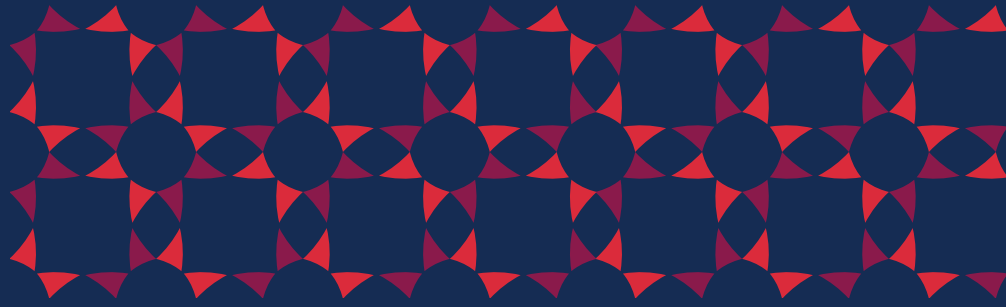
**Attitudes and
Values**



11th

- **International Trade**
- **Business Legislation**
- **Labor Market**

Source: IMD World Competitiveness Ranking 2026



5

Global Economic Outlook

48% increase in WTI oil price in March 2026 YoY

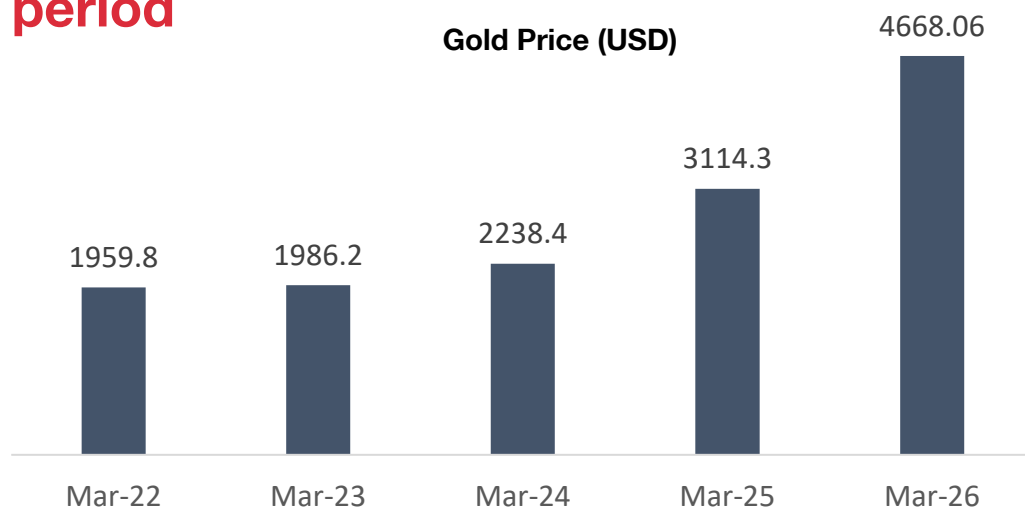
Oil Prices (USD per barrel)

Oil Type	March 2025	March 2026	Percentage Change
WTI	\$69.39	\$102.88	48% ▲
Brent	\$73.63	\$103.97	41% ▲

The price of a barrel of WTI crude oil has increased by 48% in March 2026 compared to March 2025. The price of a barrel of WTI crude oil has increased from \$69.39 per barrel in 2025 to \$102.88 per barrel in 2026. Also, the price of Brent crude oil has increased from \$73.63 per barrel in 2025 to \$103.97 per barrel in 2026.

Source: Bloomberg

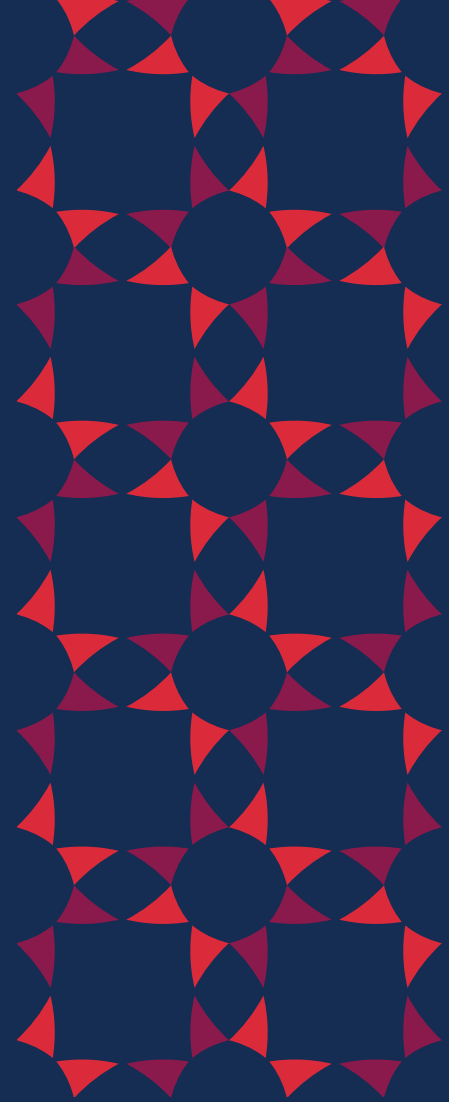
138% increase in gold price over 5-year period



The price of gold reached \$4668.06 USD in March 2026, an increase of 138.2% compared to \$ 1959.8 USD in March 2022.

Source: Bloomberg





Since its inception in 1939, the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) played a prominent role in shaping the national economy of Bahrain and creating a vigorous private sector.

It has kept abreast of the fast-paced economic and social developments, and consolidated its efforts to stimulate the growth and expansion of the private sector and empower its role in the economic development of the country alongside the public sector.

The confidence bestowed upon the chamber by the wise leadership reinforced its influence on economic decisions and streamlined its endeavor to create an attractive ecosystem that fosters the flourish of businesses. In addition, the growing base of its members contributed to reinstating its standing as the sole representative of the private sector and an advocate of its interest.