

STANDARD  
& POOR'S

# Standard & Poor's Capabilities in the GCC



Standard & Poor's is a world leading provider of financial market intelligence to investors, issuers and intermediaries across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Indeed, with over 15 years' experience in the region, and our regional office in Dubai's financial centre, we offer a broad range of local and global capabilities that include:

- Credit ratings on sovereigns, local and regional governments, financial institutions, insurance companies, corporate and infrastructure entities as well as sukuk
- A wide range of Shariah-compliant regional and global indices
- Fund Management Ratings
- Fixed Income Risk Management Services providing timely data, analytics and research to fixed income professionals.

Standard & Poor's can help expedite the development of Gulf capital markets by providing objective and highly-accurate analytical opinions that greatly increase transparency and comparability across asset classes.

## Key Achievements in the GCC

- Voted 'BEST RATING AGENCY 2008' International Takaful Awards 2008
- Voted 'BEST ISLAMIC RATING AGENCY 2007' by the readers of Islamic Finance News
- Wide coverage of Islamic Finance with rated sukuk representing \$20 billion in global issuance
- An unparalleled line-up of nearly 30 Shariah indices, including S&P 500 Shariah, S&P BMI Global Shariah and S&P Emerging Markets Shariah
- A quarterly newsletter, GCC Outlook – bringing up-to-date news to your desk
- A dedicated website, [www.gcc.standardandpoors.com](http://www.gcc.standardandpoors.com) – providing timely news & information that greatly increase transparency and comparability across asset classes.

# Standard & Poor's Products & Services throughout the GCC

## Standard & Poor's Ratings Services

- A global leading credit rating agency
- Over 100 issuer credit ratings and 20 GCC sukuk issues rated
- 25% growth in GCC ratings on average since 2005
- Wide coverage of Islamic Finance



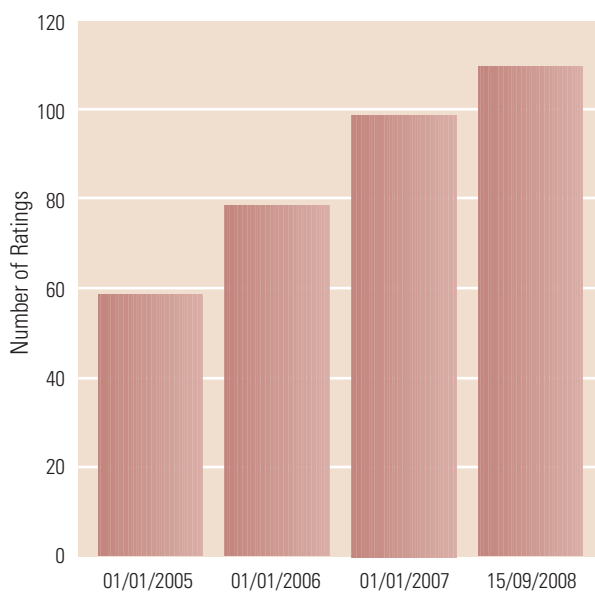
Standard & Poor's is one of the largest global providers of credit ratings in the Gulf, having rated 109\* public issuers and over 20\* sukuk issues across the six Gulf States. Our ratings – providing an independent opinion on the ability and willingness of an obligor to repay its debt in full and on time – are increasingly used as a tool to support improving transparency, benchmarking, internal management objectives and an additional information tool for investors in and outside the region. Our ratings apply both to bond issuance and bank debt.

The demand for Standard & Poor's objective ratings services in the Gulf states has been escalating at an impressive rate with entities from various sectors seeking new issuer and debt ratings.

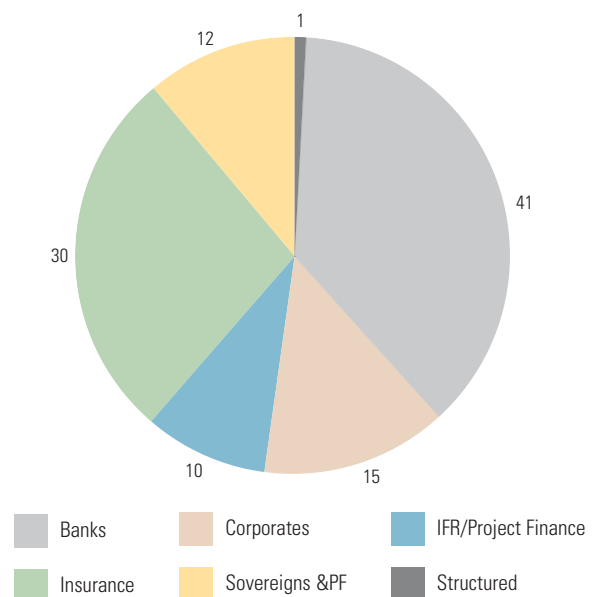
Moreover, as the regional financial markets evolve, especially in Islamic Finance, Standard & Poor's is able to provide a more independent view of the credit risk associated with a growing array of transactions. We have similarly taken a leading role in Islamic finance – developing our analytical framework to evaluate innovative Islamic issuers and instruments such as Sukuk and Takaful. We now rate 20 sukuk issues or programs originated in the GCC – representing over \$20 billion in global issuance – and 12 Islamic financial institutions (both banks and takaful companies).

The largest area of financing in the GCC is *Project Finance*, where we provide Credit Assessments, which provide sponsors and financiers with a credit view of a project that is under development or construction.

**Ratings growth in the GCC 2005-2008**



**Rating Distribution in the GCC**



\* as of 15 September 2008

## Standard & Poor's Fund Services

- 2,200 funds rated worldwide
- Numerous funds rated from the largest GCC managers
- Transparency brought to manager and fund selection
- [www.funds.standardandpoors.com](http://www.funds.standardandpoors.com)



Appetite for qualitative, forward-looking research into the growing number of investment funds in the GCC is considerable. Indeed, Standard & Poor's has seen demand escalate for its fund management ratings service from managers based in the region. Having rated over 2,200 funds worldwide, Standard & Poor's is able to employ its significant expertise to rate numerous domestic funds – including those managed by EFG-Hermes, Mashreqbank,

Bank Muscat and Securities & Investment Company BSC. Accordingly, asset managers, investors and advisors in the Gulf are able to use our fund management ratings to help guide their manager and fund selection – bringing them the ability to compare and contrast leading Gulf-based equity and Islamic funds with one another, as well as with new funds being marketed to the region by the world's leading asset managers.

## Standard & Poor's Index Services

- A complete GCC and international set of conventional and Shariah indices
- Close to 6,000 global stocks screened for Shariah compliance
- [www.shariah.standardandpoors.com](http://www.shariah.standardandpoors.com)



Standard & Poor's Indices were the first to focus on the Gulf region with the launch of the S&P/IFCG Saudi Arabia in 1997. Historical Index data for each GCC market is available from 2003. Each index covers an aggregate market capitalization of over 80% of all exchange-listed shares. In 2007, we became the first global index provider to launch Shariah-compliant indices for the Gulf and Pan Arab markets. In 2008, Standard & Poor's was again the first international provider to announce 7-day index calculations for the GCC markets.

Standard & Poor's strives to offer global investing opportunities to the Islamic investor and proposes an expanding line-up of benchmark and investable Shariah indices, which are segregated into three distinct categories:

- S&P Benchmark Shariah includes broad based, comprehensive indices that capture as much of a country or region's market capitalization that is institutionally available and investible. Currently, with a compliant pool of almost 6,000 companies from 52 countries, S&P has the broadest offering among all competing index providers in terms of number of Shariah-compliant securities.

- S&P Investible Indices replicate the format made famous by the S&P 500, with a specific number of securities selected for their large free float market capitalization and liquidity. These include the S&P 500 Shariah, S&P Europe 350 Shariah, and the S&P Japan 500 Shariah as well as numerous others for Asia and the emerging markets.
- S&P Sector and Strategy Indices are recognized as a leader in indices that address particular themes for specialized sectors. These include among others the S&P Property & REIT, S&P BRIC and S&P Infrastructure Shariah indices, as well as the S&P GCC 40 index for pan-regional structured product opportunities.

Every S&P Shariah index is compliant in accordance with the strictest standards of Middle East norms, enabling Islamic investors to develop their investment allocations by country, region, size, style and sector. Asset management firms are increasingly benefiting from Standard & Poor's broad conventional and Shariah datasets to create new investment products serving the region's investor community.

## Standard & Poor's Fixed Income Risk Management Services

- Unique insight into Standard & Poor's methodology
- Direct access to key analysts
- Innovative computer-based tools providing 24-hour access to information



Standard & Poor's Fixed Income Risk Management Services provides you with timely data, analytics and research such as ratings information, evaluated pricing, identifiers, Credit Risk Services, Leveraged Commentary & Data as well as IMAKE data. Through our products, market participants are able to better ascertain the vital credit, company, index, funds, reference and pricing data offered to support financial models, as well as company and industry analysis.

### RatingsDirect

Gain 24-hour access to our global credit ratings, research and risk analysis. This real-time product also enables its users to look back over 18 years of ratings history – with the database covering nearly 9 million ratings and 350,000 reports from over 96 countries. For rated issuers, RatingsDirect provides a

personalized website, entitled “My Credit Profile”, specifically designed to help you and your organization be fully informed about the rating process and expand knowledge of your industry.

### Compustat® Xpressfeed

Obtain daily information on the vast global securities market, with fundamental and market data on 65,000 global securities brought direct via FTP delivery to your server, in either XML or ASCII.

### Capital IQ

Draw deep market insights, generate better ideas, leverage relationships, and simplify workflow. Capital IQ offers comprehensive information on over 42,000 public companies, 518,000 private companies, 9,500 private capital firms, 230,000 transactions, and 881,000 professionals worldwide.

## Regional News & Information

- [www.gcc.standardandpoors.com](http://www.gcc.standardandpoors.com) – up-to-date news & information
- *GCC Outlook* – quarterly newsletter



With critical information on the services Standard & Poor's provides to the Gulf region, along with news of forthcoming conferences and presentations, our website is universally available on [www.gcc.standardandpoors.com](http://www.gcc.standardandpoors.com). Moreover, important credit risk research and rating criteria for the GCC states are also accessible.

For news of our activity across the GCC, Standard & Poor's provides a quarterly newsletter – *GCC Outlook* – summarising all the key ratings actions, research developments and trends impacting the GCC financial community, as well as new Standard & Poor's product offerings in an easily digestible eight-page format.





## Key Contacts in the GCC

Rating-specific enquiries should be directed to relevant analysts.

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