



# **Transforming our Region: Future Insights – ME Transact & IPO+ Updates 2025**



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## Welcome

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### **Stephen Anderson**

Chief Strategy & Technology Officer  
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## Economic Updates

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### **Richard Boxshall**

Global Economics Leader and ME Chief  
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## GCC IPO+ Watch

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## Transact 2025 Middle East mid-year report:

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### **Rand Shuqair**

Director, Corporate Finance  
PwC Middle East

# Welcome

## Stephen Anderson

Chief Strategy & Technology Officer  
PwC Middle East



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# Economic Updates

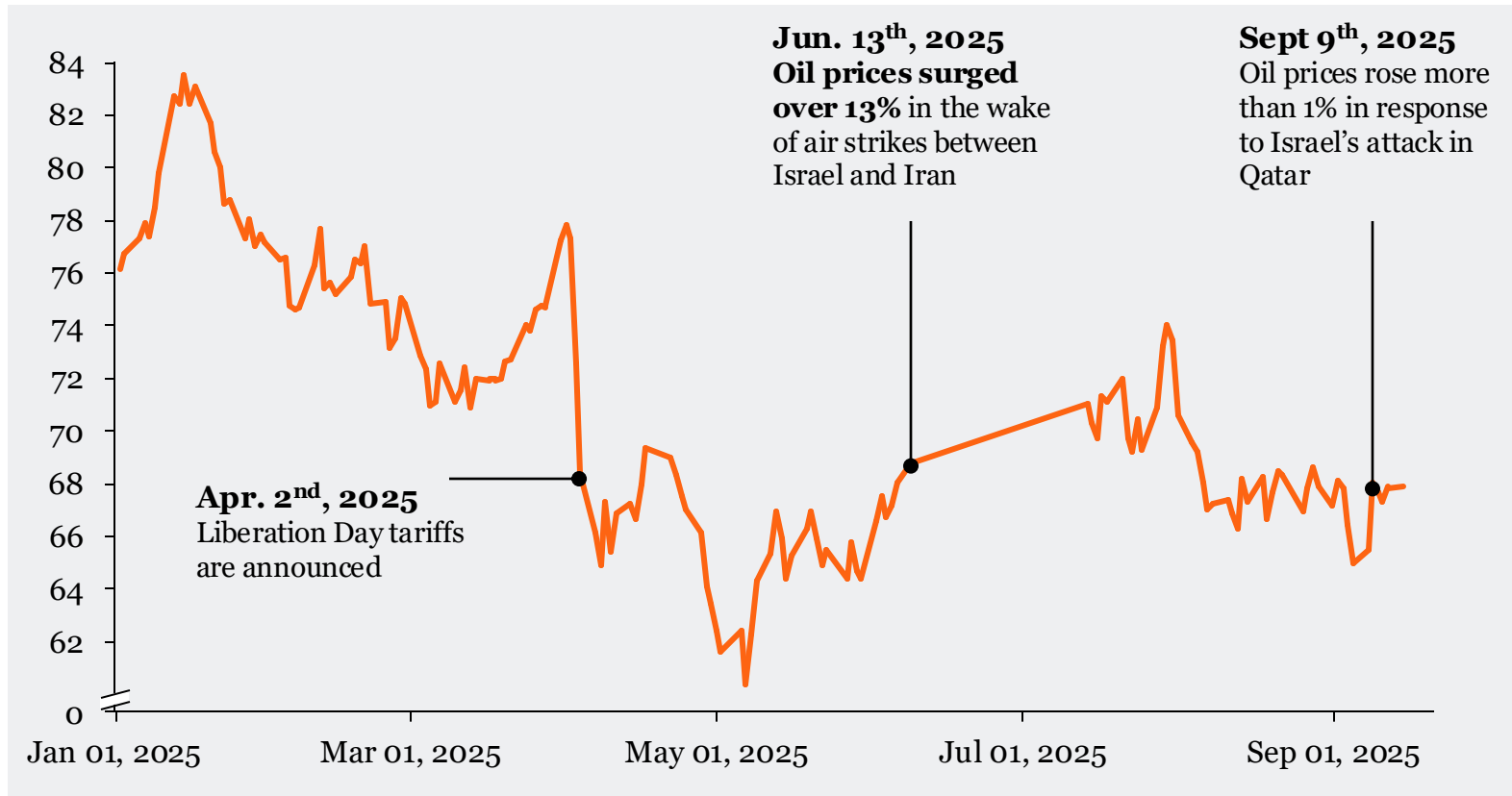
Richard Boxshall

Global Economics Leader and ME Chief Economist  
PwC Middle East

# Oil market performance

Despite short-lived geopolitical spikes, oil prices are set on a downward path as ample supply and weakening demand reshape the market outlook

## Brent crude oil (\$/barrel)



**Oil prices rose briefly following Israel's strike in Qatar, but soon declined** as concerns over ample supply and weakening demand outweighed expectations that the Fed's first interest rate cut of the year would spur greater consumption



**Lower oil prices are expected**, averaging \$59/b in Q4 2025 and about \$50/b in early 2026, driven by inventory builds as OPEC+ boosts production

**Source:** US Energy Information Administration

# KSA quarterly economic performance

Q2 growth shows KSA's diversification efforts are gaining traction, with non-oil resilience now matching oil's recovery as a driver of expansion

## KSA real GDP growth by sector (quarter, % y/y)



KSA's GDP grew 3.9% y/y in Q2 2025, with oil rebounding (+4.2%) and non-oil sectors holding firm at +3.9%, **reflecting balanced drivers of expansion**



**Sectoral growth was led by finance and utilities** (clubbed under minor sectors), highlighting structural momentum from financial deepening and new renewable capacity coming online

**Source:** Khaliji Economics

\*Minor sectors refer to social & personal services, agriculture, quarrying and utilities

# UAE quarterly economic performance

Non-oil strength kept UAE growth steady in Q2, yet the cooling in trade and transport reveals growing imbalances

## UAE real GDP growth by sector in Q2 (% y/y)



The UAE's GDP expanded by 3.9% y/y in Q2 2025, with non-oil activity growing strongly at 5.3%, **making it one of the GCC's fastest non-oil performers**



**Growth was driven by manufacturing and finance**, while trade & hospitality and transport slowed sharply

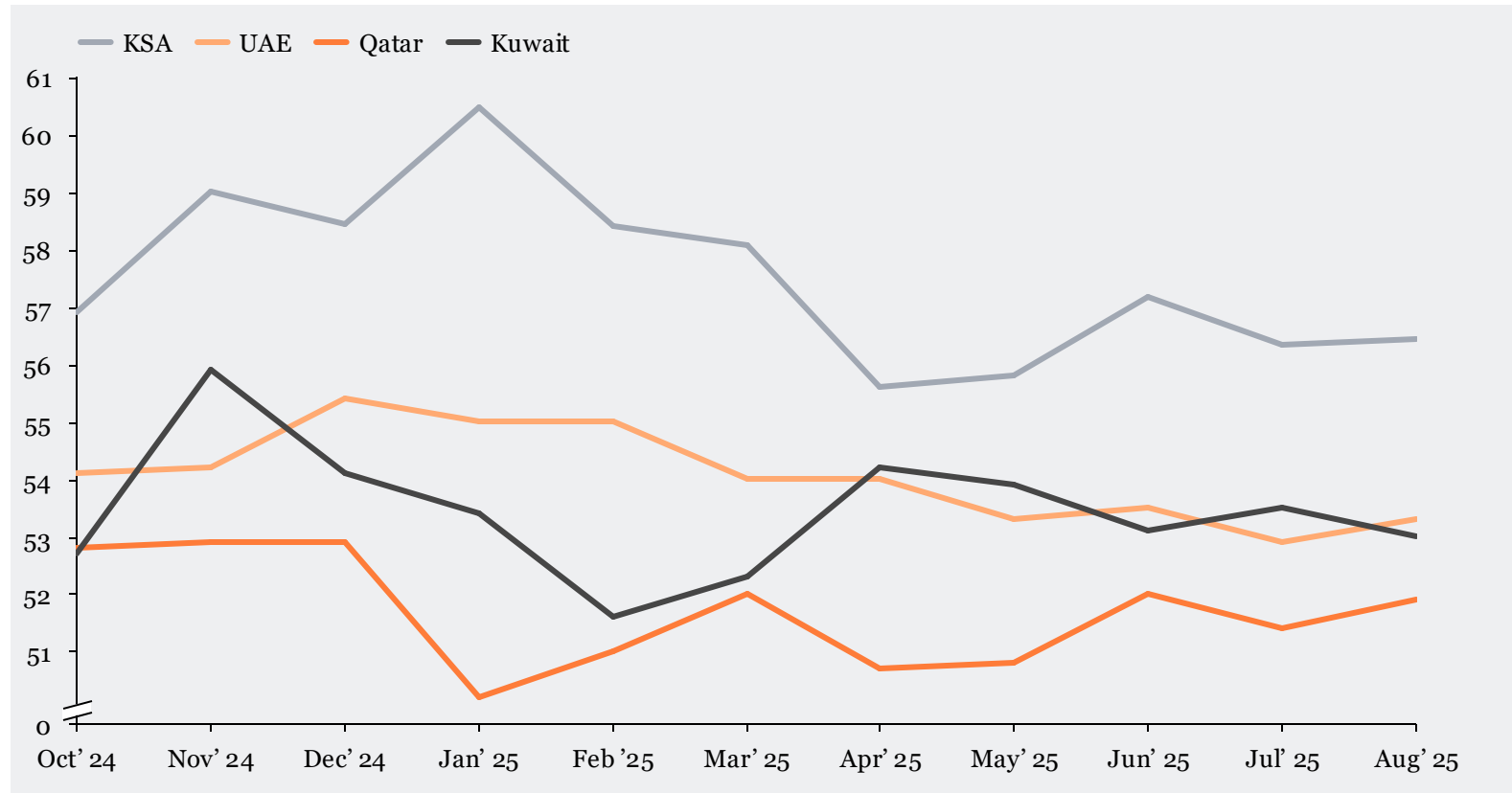
**Source:** FCSC/DSC/SCAD and Khalij Economics

\*Minor sectors refer to social & personal services, agriculture, quarrying and utilities

# Private sector growth

Even with slower PMI readings in some countries, the private sector in the GCC remains firmly in expansion mode, underscoring resilient growth momentum

## Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)



Source: S&P Global Purchasing Managers' Index



KSA's PMI ticked up to 56.4 on **stronger output and hiring**, with business optimism improving on steady project pipelines and a supportive policy backdrop



UAE PMI held at 53.3, with **growth slowing as new orders weakened and firms cut back on input purchases**



Qatar rose to 51.9 on **record job creation and stronger wages**, while Kuwait eased to 53.0 as softer demand tempered activity



# **GCC IPO+ Watch**

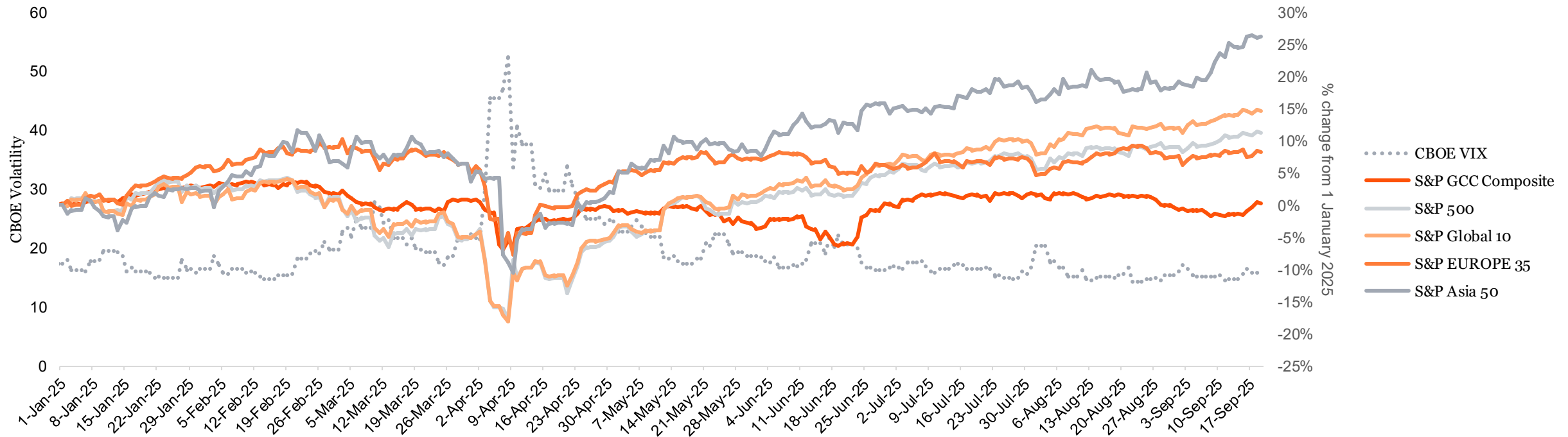
Muhammad Hassan

Middle East Capital Markets leader

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# GCC equity market performance 2025 YTD

Regional index performance 2025 YTD



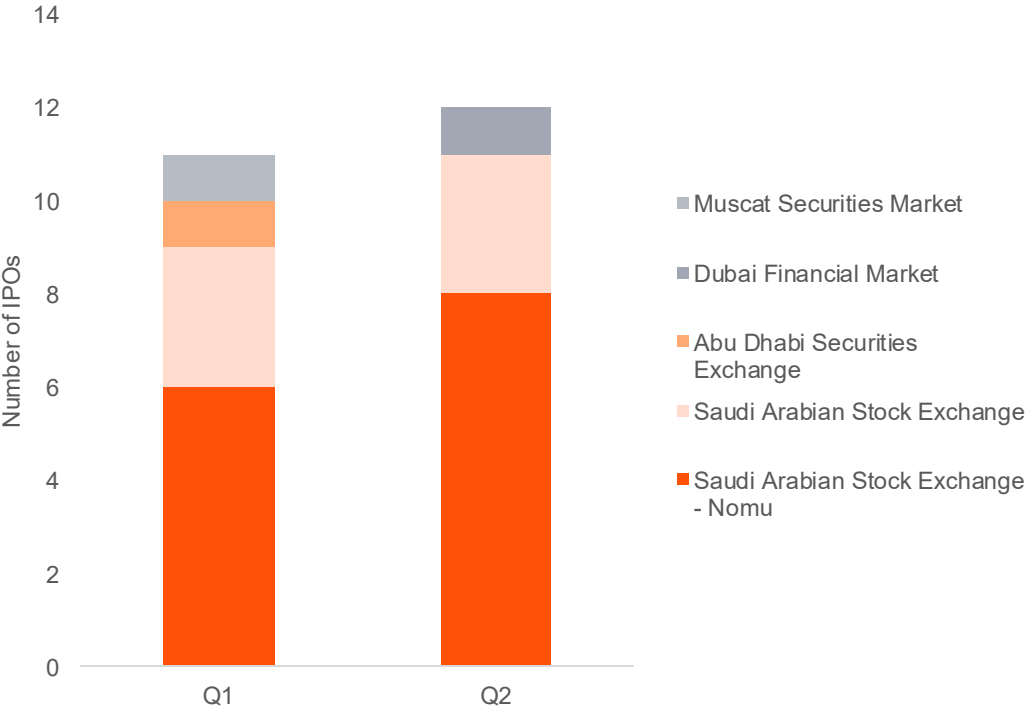
Volatility normalised post April 2025 tariff announcements

S&P GCC Composite index level with start of the year - **reflective of mixed index performance across the GCC**

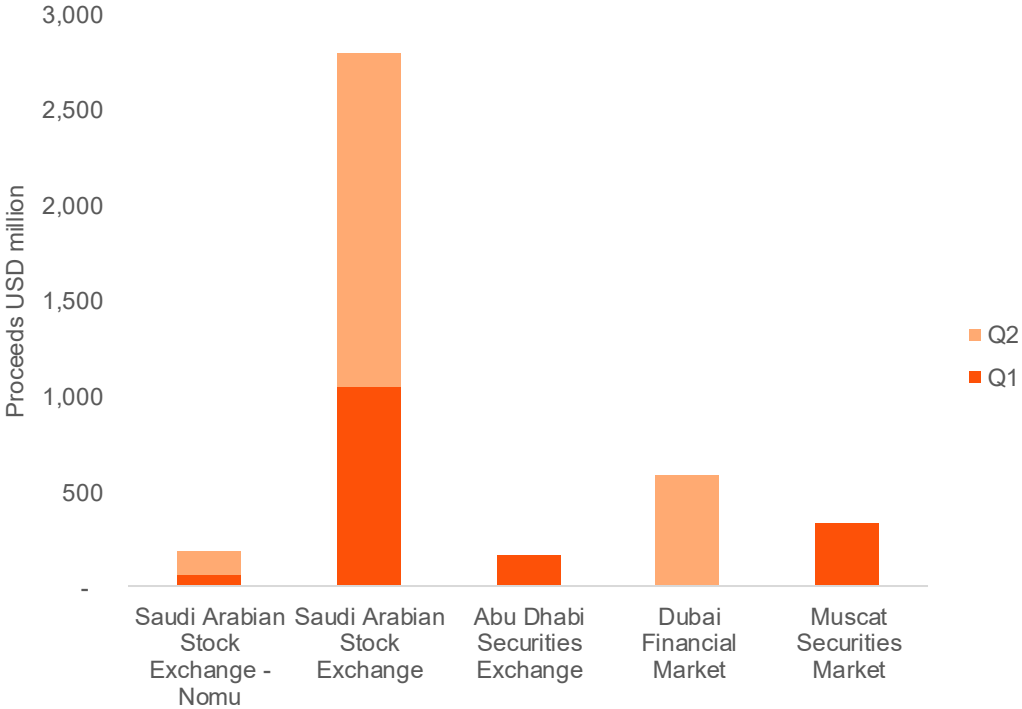
All other regional indices trading higher than 1 Jan – **S&P 500 standout index with +25% gains**

# GCC IPO trends H1 2025

H1 2025 GCC IPO volumes by quarter



H1 2025 GCC IPO proceeds by exchange



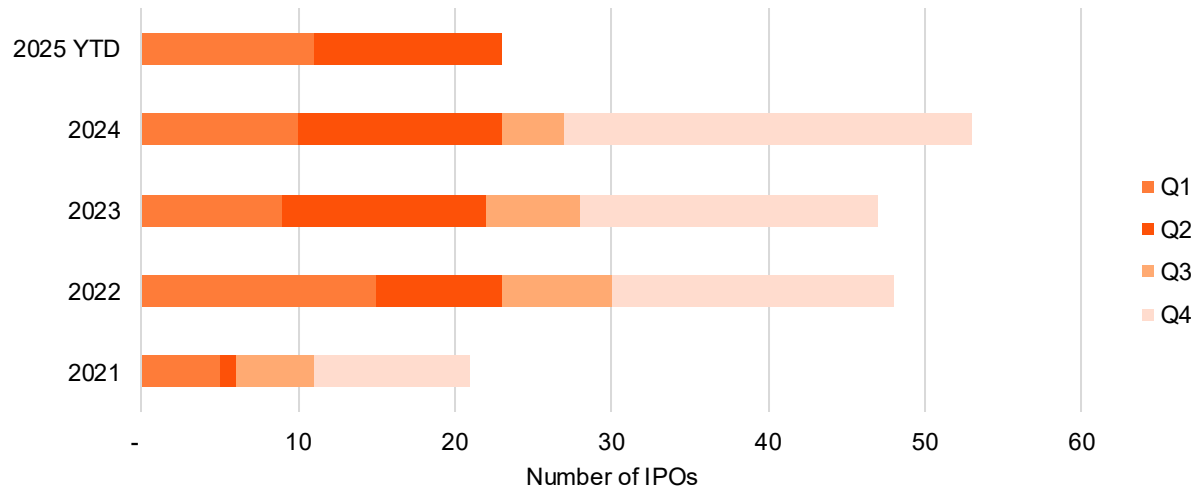
20 KSA IPOs in H1 2025– of which 14 were Nomu listings

2 UAE IPOs and 1 in Oman in H1 2025

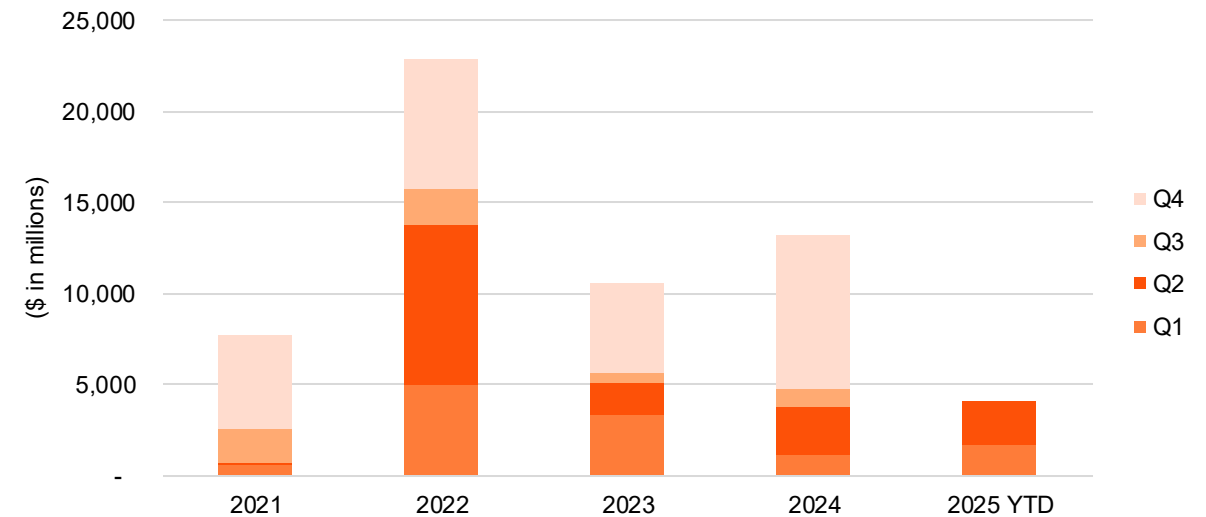
73% of all GCC IPO proceeds raised in KSA in H1 2025

# GCC IPO trends 2021 – H1 2025

GCC IPO volume by quarter



GCC IPO proceeds by quarter



H1 2025 GCC IPO volumes ahead of 2023 & 2024

Nomu listings represent 61% of all GCC IPO volumes (H1 2025)

- 2024 full year: 51%
- 2023 full year: 62%

H1 2025 GCC IPO proceeds in-line with 2024, marginally lower than 2023

“All eyes will be on Q4”

# **Transact 2025 MiddleEast mid-year report**

Rand Shuqair

Director, Corporate Finance, PwC Middle East



## 2025 mid-year M&A theme



Intra-regional deals accelerate despite global M&A slowdown

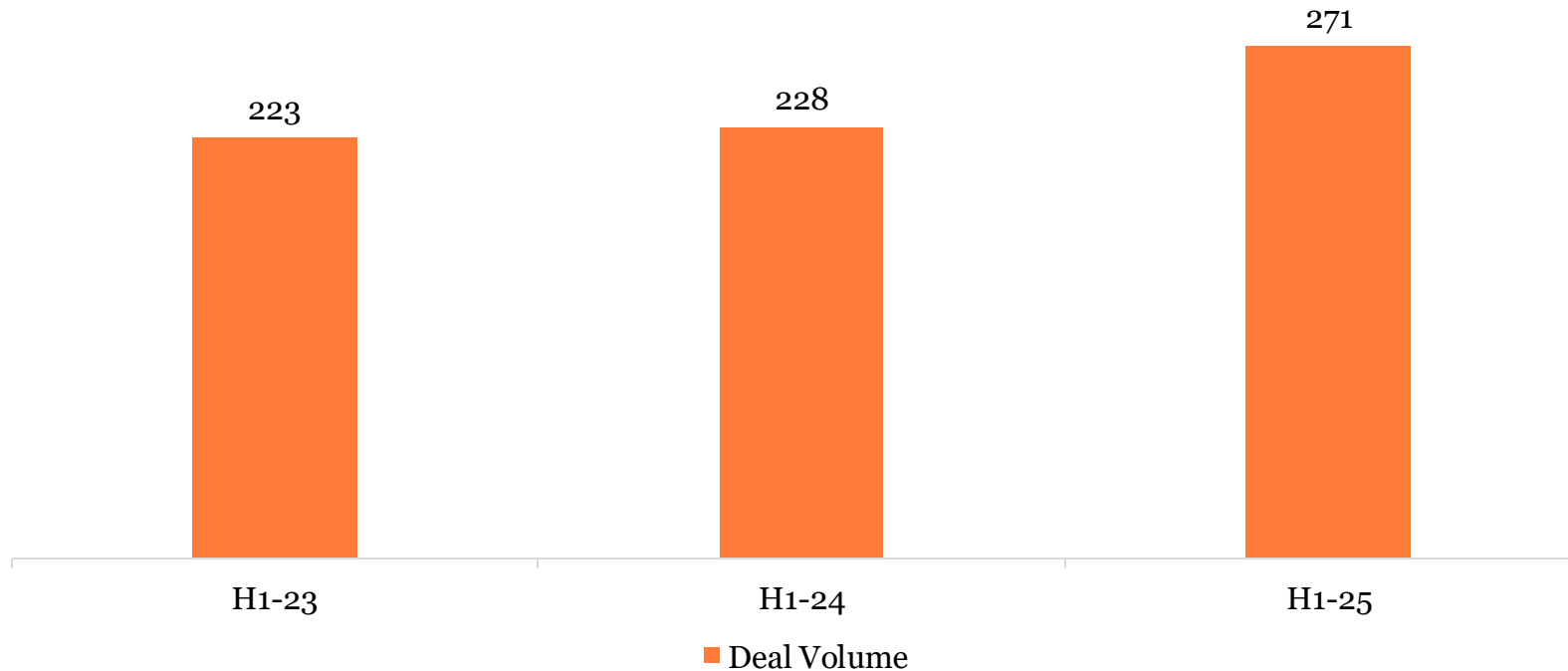


AI infrastructure and digital sovereignty drive strategic deals



Mid-market M&A gains as buyers prioritise targeted growth

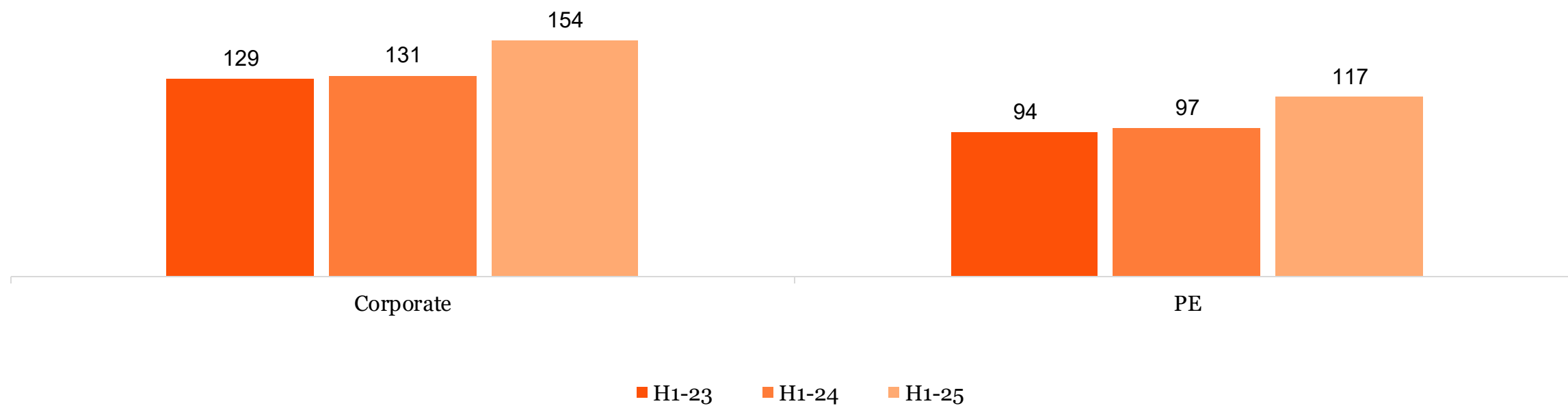
## Figure 1: Middle East Total Deal Volume (H1-2023 to H1-2025)



Despite a 9% drop in global M&A, Middle East deals rose 19% to 271 in H1 2025, led by the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt. Growth was fuelled by a wave of mid-market deals targeting high-impact sectors - from AI and digital infrastructure to green energy, advanced healthcare and industrial transformation

Source: PwC Analysis based on LSEG data

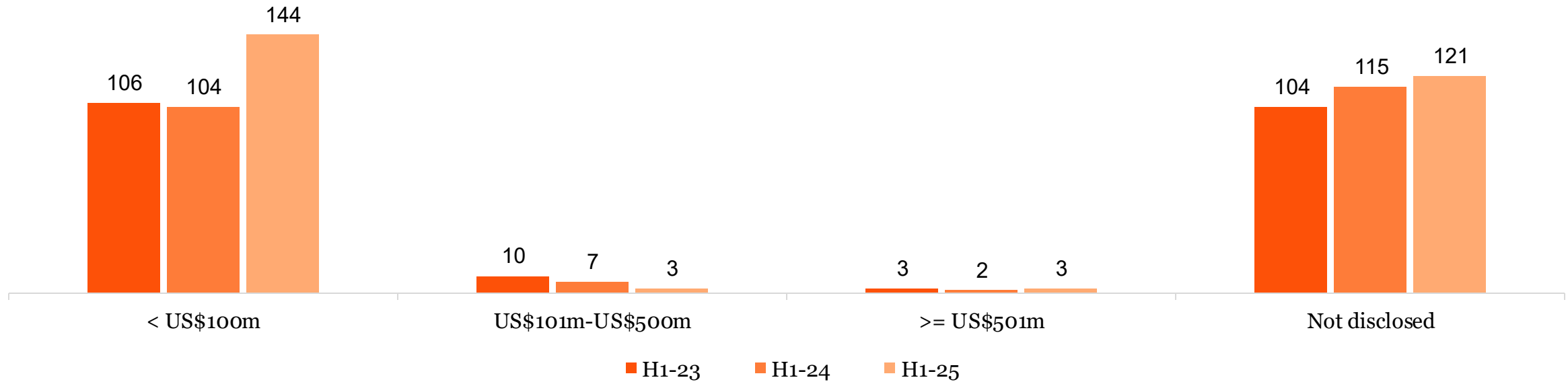
**Figure 2: Middle East Deal Volume by Transaction Type  
(H1-2023 to H1-2025)**



Source: PwC Analysis based on LSEG data

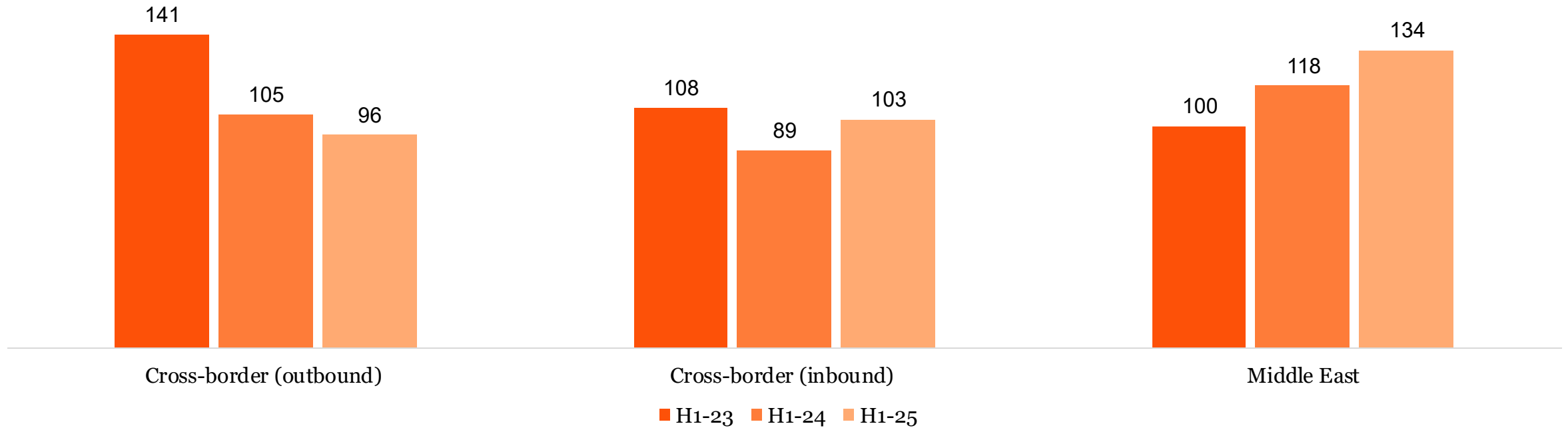


# Figure 3: Number of Deals Breakdown by Values (H1-2023 to H1-2025)



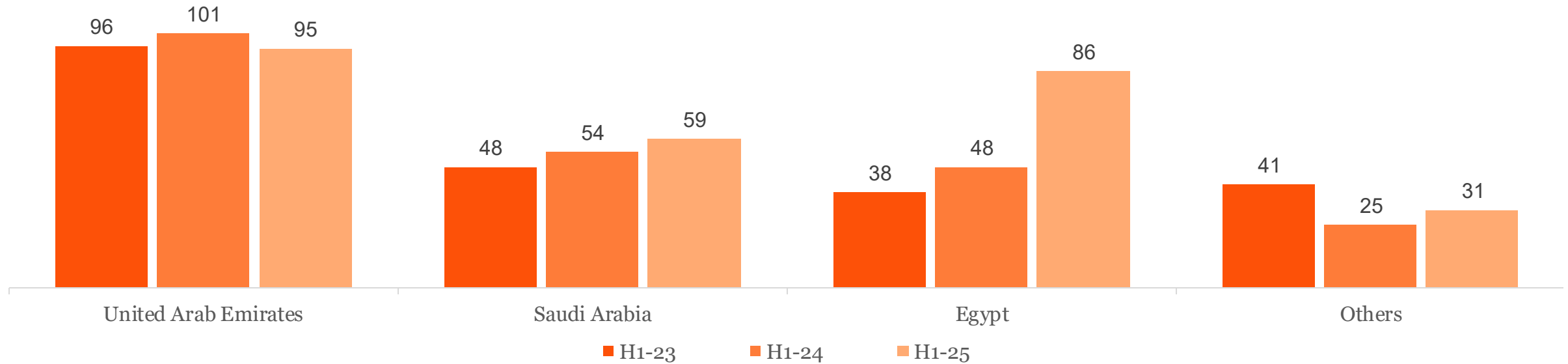
Source: PwC Analysis based on LSEG data

## Figure 4: Cross Border Deal Volume (H1-2023 to H1-2025)



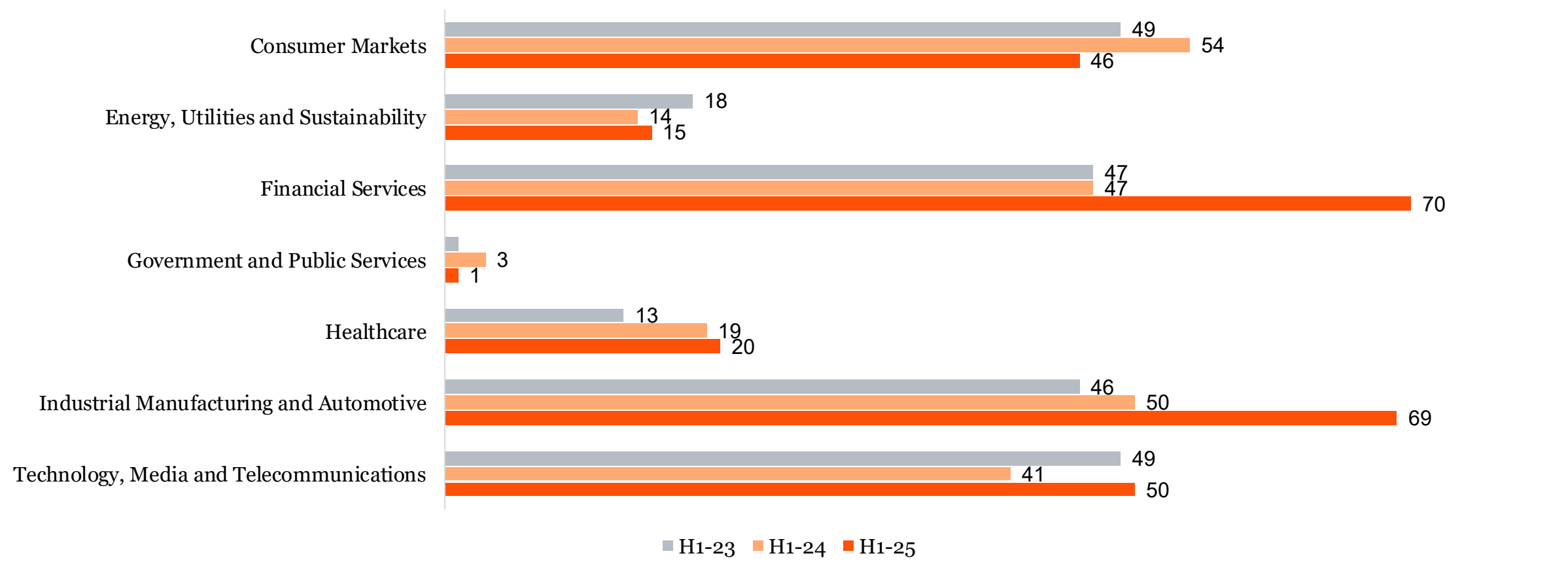
Source: PwC Analysis based on LSEG data

## Figure 5: Middle East Deal Volume by Country (H1-2023 to H1-2025)



Source: PwC Analysis based on LSEG data

**Figure 6: Middle East Deal Volumes by Sector (H1-2023 to H1-2025)**



Source: PwC Analysis based on LSEG data

Q&A

Thank you