

Bearbull Private Banking Investment Strategies Kuwait KWD

Bearbull exclusivity since 2016

October 2023

The downward trend extends through October

NEGATIVE PERFORMANCES FOR THE THREE BEARBULL KUWAIT PRIVATE BANKING INVESTMENT STRATEGIES IN OCTOBER

Bearbull Kuwait Pension Strategy	« Low risk »	Oct	- 2.45%	Year-to-Date	- 2.36%
Bearbull Kuwait Pension Strategy	« Medium risk »	Oct	- 2.85%	Year-to-Date	- 1.25%
Bearbull Kuwait Pension Strategy	« Dynamic risk »	Oct	- 3.24%	Year-to-Date	- 0.14%

Comments (performances in KWD)

The downward trend continued into October, with all three Bearbull Kuwait private banking investment strategies posting negative performances. The low-risk strategy fell by -1.96%, while the moderate-risk approach followed a similar path, dropping by -2.85%. The dynamic-risk strategy also fell by -3.24%, posting the worst performance of the month. Since the start of the year, all three strategies have fallen below the neutral performance mark in October, and have now accumulated losses of -2.36%, -1.25%, and -0.14%. Bond markets continued their downward trend in October. The domestic segment fell by -2.15%, while the decline was slightly less strong in the international segment (-1.20%). Since January, the two asset classes have accumulated losses of -3.72% and -3.38%, respectively. Equity markets ended another difficult month. Both international and Kuwaiti markets once again posted negative performances in October (-2.90% and -4.56% respectively). Since the beginning of the year, however, the international equities are still in the green (+7.88%) while the domestic class is in the red (-10.70%). Real estate markets continued to bear the brunt of upward pressure on interest rates, falling both in Kuwait and internationally (-1.98% and -4.83% respectively). Since January, both asset classes have accumulated losses (-2.74% and -9.70%). The private equity segment was the worst performer this month, collapsing by -7.87%. The asset class remains at the top of the YTD rankings, with a cumulative +11.66% positive performance since January. Hedge funds are no exception, too, continuing their slight negative trend, losing -0.82% in October. Since the beginning of the year, however, the asset class remains positive, with a total gain of +1.19%. Commodities are also down, following a month of record volatility (-4.18%). Since January, the asset class is still in the green (+2.76%).

Financial market developments (performances in KWD)

The month of October did not spare the financial markets, already hard hit by the acceleration of interest rate rises in September. The latest move, which took US ten-year Treasury yields above the 5% threshold in just a few weeks, had no serious macro-economic underpinnings. The uptrend had already been in place since April and soared primarily as a result of the Fed's persistent reminder that rates would remain higher for longer to keep inflation under control. And yet, in our view, the economic surprises kept pointing to disappointment in terms of future economic performance, as also underlined by leading indicators and trends in the job market. The solid Q3 GDP published at the very end of the month did not reinforce the rate hike and will certainly mark the inflection point for US growth. Against this backdrop, overly influenced by the Fed's hawkish rhetoric, markets have yet to appreciate the growing cyclical risks posed by restrictive monetary policy, resolute quantitative tightening, and the Treasury's high financing requirements, which have skewed the balance between supply and demand for government bonds to date. We believe that investment demand should pick up with the realization that the slowdown is well and truly underway. In our view, the rate hike cycle is over, and a downward adjustment of yield curves is now our preferred scenario. The month of October saw virtually all asset classes record negative results, except precious metals, which benefited from this period of uncertainty. Since the beginning of the year, rising interest rates have largely penalized bond markets (-3.3%) and securitized real estate (-9.7%), while equity markets are still up +7.8%. Fed policy increases the risk of recession. Rates are set to fall in Q2 2024, an expectation that will support a better stock market climate in the months ahead.

PERFORMANCES BY ASSET CLASS

OCTOBER

- 0.82%	Hedge Funds
- 1.20%	International Bonds
- 1.98%	Kuwaiti Real Estate
- 2.15%	Kuwaiti Sukuk
- 2.90%	International Equities
- 4.18%	Commodities
- 4.56%	Kuwaiti Equities
- 4.83%	International Real Estate
- 7.87%	Private Equity

YTD

+ 11.66%	Private Equity
+ 7.88%	International Equities
+ 2.76%	Commodities
+ 1.19%	Hedge Funds
- 2.74%	Kuwaiti Real Estate
- 3.38%	International Bonds
- 3.72%	Kuwaiti Sukuk
- 9.70%	International Real Estate
- 10.70%	Kuwaiti Equities



COMMENTS BY ASSET CLASSES

Bonds

Another difficult month for bond markets, still under pressure from the Fed. Ten-year Treasury yields once again jumped by almost 50 bps in the United States and Australia. The situation is closer to a reversal in Canada, while the eurozone and the UK are relatively stable. The Fed's rigid stance is a cause for concern, but it is also increasing the risk of a more pronounced economic slowdown than recently estimated. The rise in real yields resulting from these developments reinforces the likelihood of a recession. Against this backdrop, all national indices are undergoing a marked correction, but risk scores are now lower across the board.

Equities

Equity markets are once again being penalized by the acceleration of rising interest rates. Price corrections are nevertheless moderate, but they follow on from declines already recorded in previous weeks, bringing three-month consolidations to levels already significant enough to constitute probable support points. Valuation levels are falling in tandem with share prices. Quantitative and technical factors are improving, while we believe that the risks of further rate hikes are now increasingly remote. Scores are falling in virtually all regions. They are particularly low in Switzerland and the USA, which are benefiting from the greater amplitude of the decline. After having been a source of uncertainty, the interest rate factor should now contribute to lowering risk levels for equity markets.

Commodities

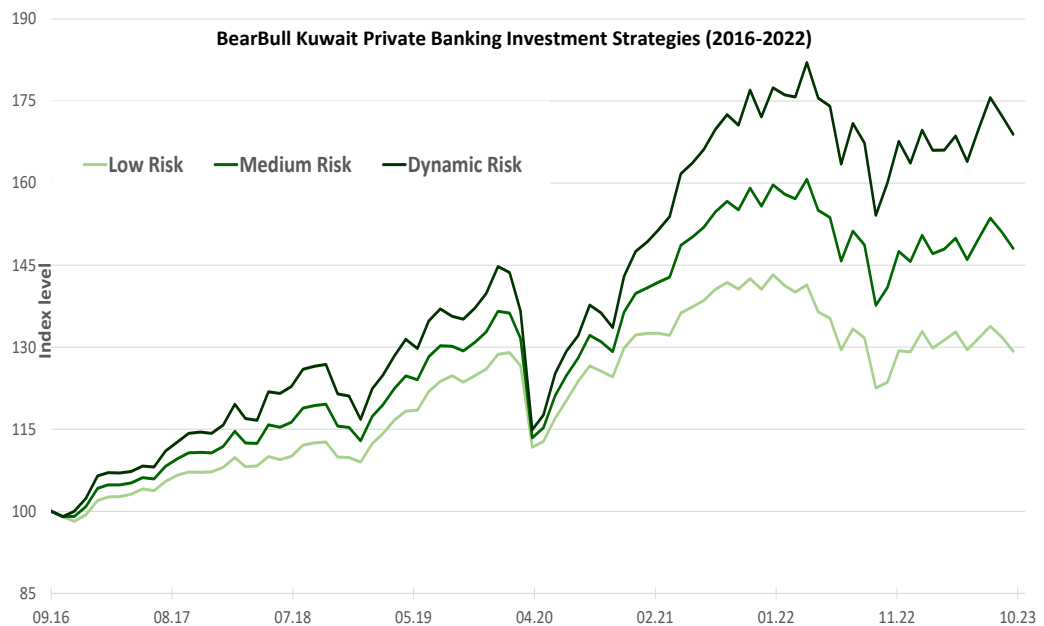
In October, the energy market was marked by a spike in volatility. At the beginning of the month, crude oil prices fell sharply, dragged down by a very pessimistic macroeconomic outlook. Then, as soon as the conflict between Israel and Hamas began, crude oil prices rose sharply, supported by growing uncertainty in the Middle East. Current crude supplies are unchanged, but there could be long-term consequences. At the end of the month, the announcement that the United States and Venezuela would negotiate a new agreement in the run-up to new elections finally eased the pressure on the oil market.

Real Estate

Securitized real estate is still being unfairly penalized by what we believe are overestimated risks of tighter credit conditions and higher financing costs.

BearBull Kuwait Private Banking Investment Strategies – Performances in KWD										
	3 last months			YTD	Current year				Annualized Perf.	
	August 2023	September 2023	October 2023	current year	1st quarter	2nd quarter	3rd quarter	4th quarter	2022	2016 to this day
Bearbull Kuwaiti PB "low risk" (65% fixed income)	-1.48%	-1.96%	-2.45%	-2.36%	1.67%	0.25%	-1.80%		-9.85%	3.45%
Bearbull Kuwaiti PB "medium risk" (45% fixed income)	-1.68%	-1.97%	-2.85%	-1.25%	1.56%	1.27%	-1.17%		-8.78%	5.46%
Bearbull Kuwaiti PB "dynamic risk" (25% fixed income)	-1.89%	-1.98%	-3.24%	-0.14%	1.45%	2.30%	-0.55%		-7.76%	7.45%
Sub-indices										
Kuwaiti Sukuk	-0.68%	-1.15%	-2.15%	-3.72%	1.65%	-1.29%	-1.94%		-11.62%	0.14%
International Bonds	-1.37%	-2.92%	-1.20%	-3.38%	3.01%	-1.53%	-3.59%		-16.25%	-1.74%
Kuwaiti Equities	-3.96%	-1.50%	-4.56%	-10.70%	-3.49%	-0.87%	-2.20%		11.25%	13.92%
International Equities	-2.39%	-4.31%	-2.90%	7.88%	7.73%	6.83%	-3.46%		-18.14%	9.09%
Kuwaiti Real Estate	-2.81%	-3.24%	-1.98%	-2.74%	-10.58%	13.97%	-2.64%		-7.48%	14.46%
International Real Estate	-3.70%	-5.80%	-4.83%	-9.70%	0.51%	0.04%	-5.64%		-24.24%	-1.15%
Commodities	0.60%	4.12%	-4.18%	2.76%	-4.94%	-2.73%	15.99%		25.99%	6.84%
Hedge Funds	0.33%	-0.10%	-0.82%	1.19%	-0.01%	0.64%	1.39%		-4.40%	2.24%
Private Equity	-1.57%	-0.84%	-7.87%	11.66%	6.92%	8.46%	4.52%		-31.09%	10.91%

Sources : BearBull Global Investments Group Limited, Bloomberg



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The systematic diversified strategies of the Bearbull Kuwait Private Banking Investment Strategies have produced annualized returns of +3.45% (Low risk) to +7.45% (Dynamic risk) since 2016.

The composition of our strategies is available upon request