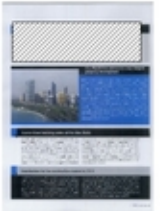


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Figures show construction in GCC still going strong

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Despite the global economic crisis, there are signs of optimism as 3,398 civil building projects worth US\$1.35 trillion are currently still active in the Gulf region, according to Dubai-based Proleads. The UAE saw the most growth with 853 civil building projects underway across four sectors: commercial and retail, education and healthcare, leisure and entertainment, and residential. The projects are valued at US\$661,443. Also in the region, Saudi Arabia has 847 active projects valued

at US\$417,859 billion, while Kuwait is moving forward with 160 projects worth US\$142,759 billion. In Qatar, 186 projects valued at US\$48,215bn are on track, and Bahrain currently has 232 active projects worth US\$40,258 billion. Oman's 116 projects are valued at US\$38,512 billion. While a significant portion of the region's major projects have been canceled or placed on hold, market analysis shows that nearly 75 per cent of all announced projects in the region are still progressing.