

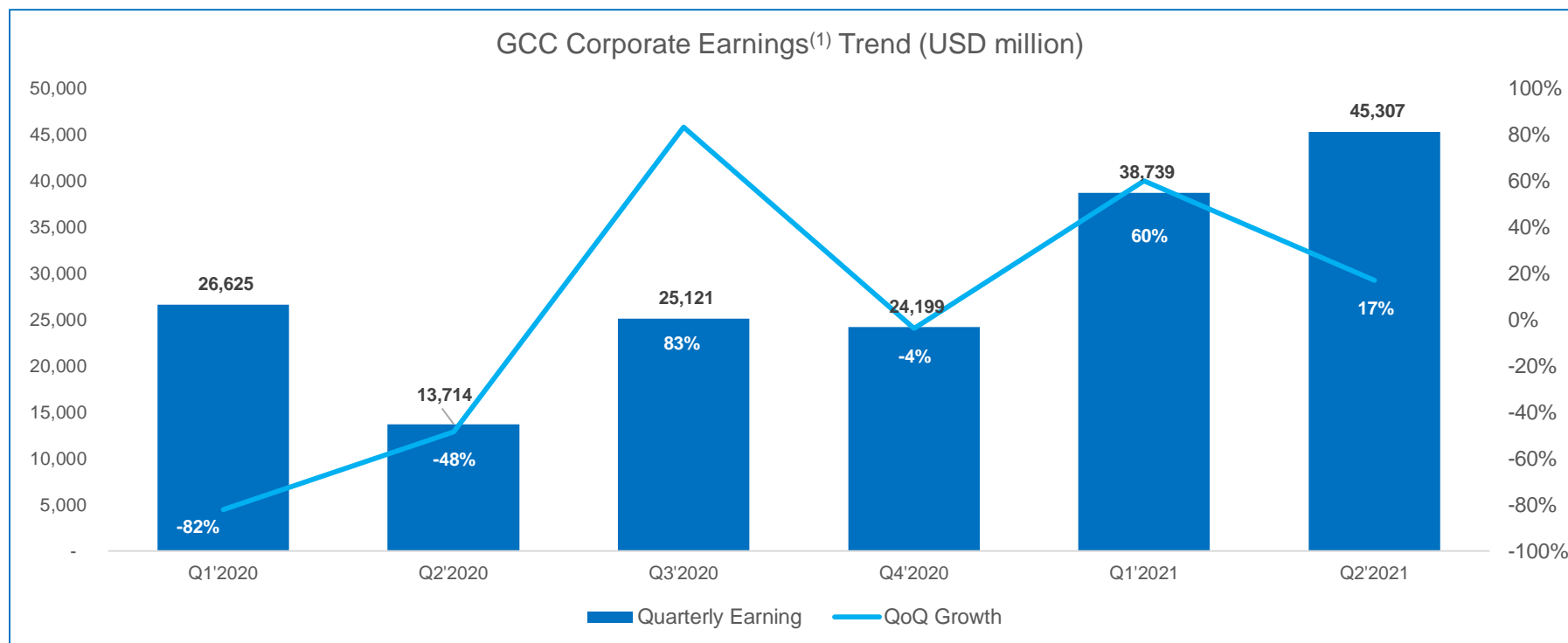
September 2021

GCC Corporate Earnings –

H1 2021

GCC corporate earnings pick momentum in H1 2021

Sep 2021



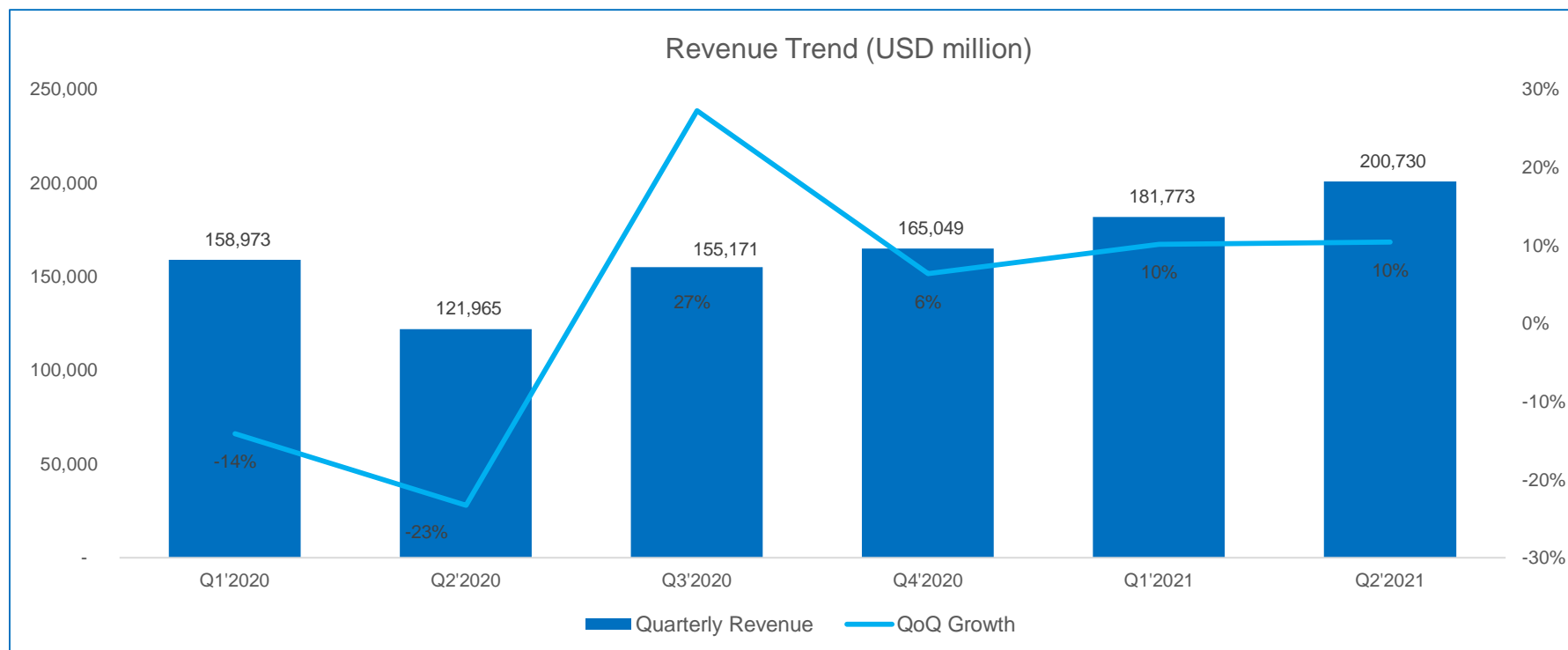
- GCC corporate earnings continue their recovery story, rising 17% in Q2'21 to touch \$45,307 million.
- The growth narrative slowed down a little in the fourth quarter of 2020, declining 4% quarter on quarter with a surge in covid cases around the world. But 2021 has set the optimism back on track, with earnings nearly doubling from \$24,199 million in Q4'2020 to \$45,306 in Q2'2021.
- It is interesting to note that one of the heavy weight sector contributing to total earnings growth was the Banking sector, that marked an increase of 47% respectively in H1 2021 vis-à-vis H1 of 2020, despite increasing in revenue by a sheer 6%. This rise in banking earnings is attributed to lowering provisions for bad loans that were recorded in the prior quarters due to higher expected credit losses.

(1) Earnings represent Net Income before Extraordinary items

Source: Refinitiv;

Revenue growth stabilizing with strong sector-wide performance

Sep 2021



- Although GCC corporate earnings witnessed a slump in Q4'2020, the top line revenue has been increasing since Q3'2020. The corporate revenue for Q2'21 stands at \$200,730 million marking a 10% increase from the prior quarter and a 22% increase year to date.
- The heaviest sector weights in terms of total revenue growth were the Energy and the Banking sector, that marked an increase of 65% and 6% respectively in H1 2021 vis-à-vis H1 of 2020.
- Growth of 65% in the energy sector is partly attributable to the rising oil demand and the oil price, the price of IPE Brent rose nearly 78% between the end of H1 in 2020 to the end of H1 in 2021. Another heavy weight sector is the Basic Materials sector that grew by 46% during the same time.

Source: Refinitiv;

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia leading GCC earnings growth

Sep 2021

Country (USD millions)	H1 2019	H1 2020	H1 2021	H1 2021 (YoY)	H1 2021 vs H1 2019
Saudi Arabia	57,350	27,149	63,099	132%	10%
UAE	11,061	7,009	10,271	47%	-7%
Qatar	5,381	4,340	5,801	34%	8%
Kuwait	3,263	507	2,773	447%	-15%
Bahrain	1,023	529	1,191	125%	16%
Oman	942	804	911	13%	-3%
GCC	79,020	40,339	84,046	108%	6%

- Total corporate earnings within GCC marked a 108% growth in H1 2021, as compared to H1 2020. The high growth rate originates from the low base effect with dampened earnings of Q2 2020, caused by worldwide lockdowns. The biggest contributors to the growth in the region have been Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Even UAE marked a 46.5% increase in the same period. Although when compared to H1 2019, only Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bahrain show positive growth in earnings.
- This growth can be attributed to the oil price increase, that touched multi-year lows in 2020. Although it was not just the oil price recovery, responsible for this 108% increase in the region. From efficient vaccination drives to policy changes, the GCC governments have bolstered foreign investments into the region in times of oil price uncertainty.
- The GCC governments have made investor friendly transformations in the legal and regulatory framework governing foreign investments. In a bid to increase the ease of doing business, UAE has allowed full foreign ownership of the onshore companies without the need for an Emirati shareholder or agent.
- Foreign investment in Saudi Arabia's stock market increased by more than 150 percent by the end of Q2 2021, compared to late 2018. Banking, basic materials, energy and communications attracted the most foreign investment.

Source: Refinitiv;

GCC Earnings record more than 100% growth in H1 2021

Sep 2021

Sector (USD millions)	H1 2019	H1 2020	H1 2021	H1 2021 (YoY)	H1 2021 vs H1 2019
Energy	47,817	23,623	46,431	97%	-3%
Banks	18,287	11,485	16,728	46%	-9%
Basic Materials	1,974	-1,191	6,753	NM	242%
Telecommunications	3,976	3,786	3,452	-9%	-13%
Utilities	224	-374	3,214	NM	1338%
Financial Services	1,203	570	2,296	303%	91%
Consumer Staples	1,179	729	1,820	150%	54%
Real Estate	2,555	922	1,735	88%	-32%
Construction	628	315	713	126%	13%
Healthcare	163	300	437	46%	168%
Industrials	337	228	371	63%	10%
Technology	60	-14	90	NM	51%
Consumer Discretionary	617	-39	6	NM	-99%
Total	79,020	40,339	84,046	108%	6%

- All sectors, with telecom being an exception, recorded strong recovery in H1 2021 as compared to H1 2020. Amongst the sectors, Construction and Consumer staples recorded growth of more than 100% in H1 2021 compared to H1 2020.
- But it was the Financial services sector that led the way, with a growth of 300% along with Basic Materials sector, that rose from a loss of \$1,191 million in H1 of 2020 to a staggering earning of \$6,753 million in H1 of 2021. This strong revival can be attributed to the increasing profitability margins due to increasing crude prices. SABIC's profit jumped 57 percent to a 10-year high as over the first half, sales prices were 48% higher, despite marginal decrease in volume.
- Utilities sector rose from a loss of USD 374 million in H1 2020 to a profit of USD 3,214 million in H1 2021, partly on the back of regulatory changes coming to benefit the private sector. This includes Saudi Arabia incorporating the Regulatory Asset Based (RAB) pricing framework, which no longer requires companies to share the revenue generated due to increase in tariffs with the government and also exempts from paying government fee, that improves the company's earnings and cash flow considerably.

Source: Refinitiv;

Energy & Banking sectors amplify GCC revenue growth

Sep 2021

Sectors by Revenue (USD million)	H1 2020	H1 2021	YoY change
Energy	115,973	191,179	65%
Banks ⁽²⁾	41,904	44,468	6%
Basic Materials	24,850	36,354	46%
Telecommunications	31,716	32,713	3%
Utilities	10,379	16,350	58%
Financial Services	12,003	14,304	19%
Consumer Staples	12,676	13,010	3%
Real Estate	7,968	10,248	29%
Construction	7,570	7,451	-2%
Consumer Discretionary	5,248	5,070	-3%
Industrials	5,265	4,906	-7%
Healthcare	3,016	3,603	19%
Technology	2,371	2,847	20%
Aggregate	280,937	382,503	36%

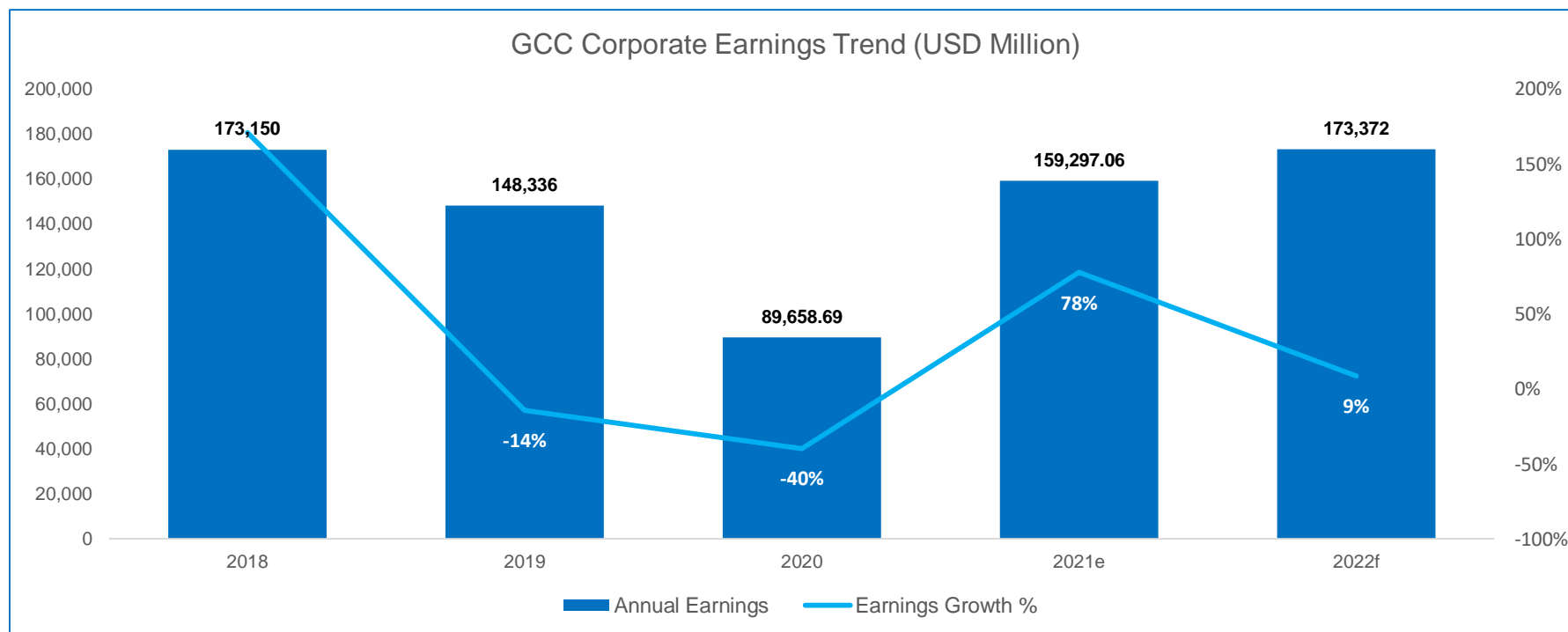
- Most of the sectors showed positive growth in revenue in H1 of 2021 as compared to H1 of 2020. Consumer discretionary, Industrials and Construction sector are the three sectors that witnessed a slight decrease in H1 2021 vis-à-vis H1 of 2020.
- It is interesting to note the trend in the construction sector, that in terms of bottom-line earnings grew 126% in H1 2021 vis-à-vis H1 of 2020, but actually shrunk in terms of top-line revenue, although the decrease was modest at 1.2%, indicating effective expense management.
- Basic materials, Energy and Utility sectors witnessed the maximum growth in revenue, with Energy and Utility sectors growing more than 50% in revenue in H1 2021 as compared to H1 2020.
- Total GCC corporate revenue in H1 2021 touched \$382,503 million in 2021, marking a 36% jump relative to H1 2020.

(2) Bank Revenue – Represents the sum of Net Interest Income and Non-interest income

Source: Refinitiv;

Looking ahead with optimism

Sep 2021



- The total corporate earnings for GCC economies in 2020 was \$89,659 million. The earnings just for H1 of 2021 stand at \$84,046 million.
- According to our estimates, GCC corporate earnings for the full year 2021 is set to record a growth of 77.7% following a 40% slump in 2020 due to COVID-19. The corporate earnings is expected to reach pre-pandemic high of over USD 173 billion in 2022.
- Governments of the oil rich GCC region in their bid to diversify the economy, have implemented various policies and reforms to enhance the role of the private sector. These long-term reforms can also be expected to yield results in a couple of years. Marquee global events like Dubai Auto Expo 2020 and the FIFA world-cup planned in the region, amplify the positive outlook for the GCC economy.
- Despite positive outlook for both oil price and private sector, the risk of slow vaccination rollout, delta variant and new restrictions by the states in response to it, looms large on the GCC recovery.

Source: Refinitiv;

Business Verticals



CUSTOMIZED RESEARCH

Our customized research department caters to unique requirements of the clients



CONSULTING SERVICES

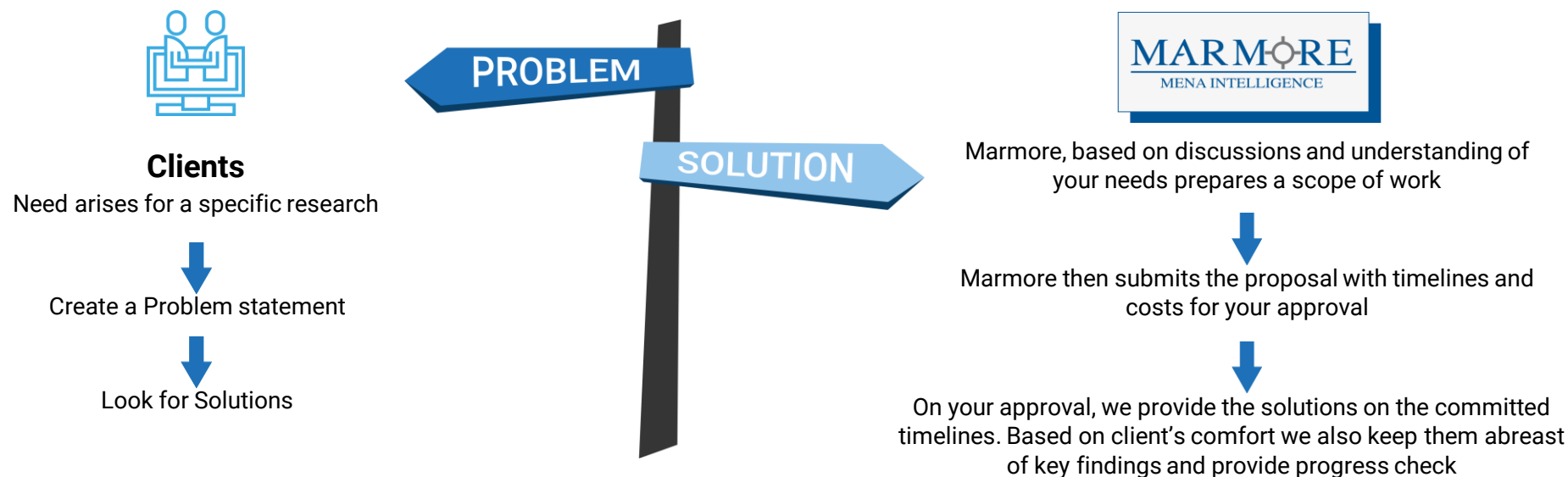
Our GCC focus enables us to provide bespoke consulting services based on clients requirements



PUBLISHED RESEARCH

We provide GCC focused research on demand or subscription

Customized Research Offerings – You ask we Deliver



MARMORE CREDENTIALS

Case 1:

Problem: A leading Venture Capital firm wanted to establish itself as a thought leader in the VC space in Saudi Arabia for which it needed a customized research on Venture Capital industry

Solution: Marmore prepared a very comprehensive report for the client and also supported in popularizing the report on Digital platforms

Impact: The client received very positive response for the report and would be engaging with Marmore for more reports subsequently

Case 2:

Problem: A leading Kuwaiti Bank, set up its economic research desk, for which it needed support for creating very insightful reports in the Economic domain.

Solution: Once the topic was finalized and approved by the client Marmore prepared a very insightful report in the committed timeline.

Impact: The report was very well received by stakeholders. Marmore's effort in the creation of the first report resulted in subsequent report awards by the client. Marmore got into a long term agreement with the client to provide research support on a continuous basis.

Consulting - GCC region imposes a unique set of challenges



The GCC governments are increasingly recognizing that the global outlook and economy are swiftly changing, and this poses



Demographic challenges



Shift in economic powers



Energy markets

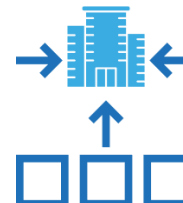


Investment



Employment opportunities

Refer our Report on [Consulting](#)



Unique challenges companies face in GCC



Challenges faced by foreign consultants

- ✓ Understand the Cultural fit
- ✓ In-depth regional awareness and capacity to provide real time solutions
- ✓ Ability to validate and overcome the information gap
- ✓ Ability to deal with data paucity



Challenges faced by local companies

- ✓ Ability to analyze the big picture and find opportunities
- ✓ Ability to connect findings with global developments

Consulting - We only win when our clients win

We at Marmore thrive on overcoming all the challenges and create value for our clients



Our breadth of coverage and deep dive research capabilities enables us to be preferred partners



Our experienced team is adept in data validation



We conduct channel checks to authenticate information



Having our Parent in Kuwait, we are well verse with cultural aspects of the region and attune our findings in accordance



We have the ability to come up with a solution which actually works for the region

Why partner with us?



Dealing with GCC region requires immense experience to understand the nuances and deliver:

Marmore's experienced and qualified Team is an asset to have



What differentiates us with others is the ability to provide solutions on a spectrum of topics like Industries, Economies, Policy and Technology - *We take pride in our breadth of research*



In a region with lack of appropriate data, ability to collaborate with relevant stakeholders is a key strength – *Our presence in Kuwait and connection with relevant stakeholders across GCC region gives us advantage over competition*



We believe in good actionable work and serve our clients to the best of our ability – *Our work speaks for our clients and our clients speak for us*

Consulting Experience:

Case Study 1: Study on Fintech Adoption in Kuwait (2019)



BACKGROUND

Advent of modern and disruptive technologies means that the world of finance and money is undergoing several momentous changes. This presents both opportunities and threats to the existing financial order. In this context, a quasi government institution in Kuwait engaged us to understand the state of FinTech adoption in Kuwait.



KEY CHALLENGES

Coordinating the interview schedules of over two dozen key personnel in Kuwait within a short span of time. Synthesizing the information collected into useful insights that could help in the development of FinTech related policy within the set deadline was a challenge.



MARMORE APPROACH

Marmore conducted extensive meetings and interviews ranging from government entities, corporate professionals, entrepreneurs and start-ups in Kuwait to understand the developments in FinTech space. In the Kuwait banking sector, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chief Information Officer (CIO), or equivalents, were personally met and discussions were held to gain insights into their strategies and their work related to FinTech.

By factor analysis, self-constructed indices and analytical efforts the collected data was used to identify the ability of FinTech to impact Kuwait bank profits



KEY PROJECT BENEFITS / SUCCESSES

Recommendations for Government agencies, private sector (banks and other financial institutions) and the FinTech sector to help cement Kuwait as a serious FinTech player were provided. The recommendations covers a mix of long- and short-time line actions that will help shape the Kuwaiti ecosystem in terms of skills or talent, critical investments and infrastructure that will help better balance risk and innovation

The report findings were also presented by Marmore to a wide member of distinguished audience at the FinTech Forum held in Kuwait.

Consulting Experience:

Case Study 2: To conduct a valuation study (2019)



BACKGROUND

An Egypt-based asset management company approached Marmore to conduct an independent valuation study on one of the largest Egyptian consumer utility companies in the energy sector. The project required us to value the company by also ascertaining the fair valuation of all the non-listed investments of the company.



KEY CHALLENGES

The energy sector company had investments in many private companies which were reported on a historical book value basis and didn't represent the fair value of these investments.

Diverse nature of these investments, cross ownerships and limited availability of data were key challenges in ascertaining their fair value.



MARMORE APPROACH

Marmore developed the valuation report by performing an in-depth financial analysis of the company while relying on the information provided by the client and publicly available data. Extensive research was carried to find out greater details for all the non-listed investment companies, and reasonable assumptions were taken to arrive at the fair value. A detailed valuation model was prepared with three scenarios. Two prominent methodologies in the form of discounted cash flow and trading comparable (using local and foreign peers) methods were used to conduct the sum of the parts valuation of the company.



KEY PROJECT BENEFITS / SUCCESSES

The valuation report provided actionable insights to the client and also helped them to understand the fair value of all the non-listed investments of the company.

Marmore received very encouraging feedback from the client, as our report was also presented to the board of the company for consideration to re-classify its investments as 'available for sale' using fair value approach instead of cost approach.



Client testimonial

Marmore services were very useful and their team have provided a timely and reliable service in a challenging task. We are definitely looking for more cooperation in the future



Consulting Experience:

Case Study 3: To develop market penetration strategy (2020)



BACKGROUND

One of the leading regional bank in the GCC region aspiring to expand its market beyond its home country required to develop market penetration strategies for a specific target market. Marmore was engaged by the Bank to conduct the study and provide optimum solutions.



KEY CHALLENGES

The Bank was looking to enter the market by establishing a digital presence in the target market. As the concept is still relatively new for the GCC region, we had to rely on trends and patterns that existed in the developed markets. The problem was confounded due to paucity of data in both regional and international markets.



MARMORE APPROACH

In order to build effective strategies we created a lot of case studies to better understand the pain points in entering the market with digital only presence and also prepared competitive landscape for GCC region. We evaluated the potential target market with the help of third party surveys and segmented the market into different categories. For each of the customer category, strategies were proposed in terms of preferred product, features that they must sport and relevant marketing activities to capture that segment. Marmore also helped the bank with a detailed financial break-even model for the proposed digital presence.



KEY PROJECT BENEFITS / SUCCESSES

Marmore compiled all the findings in an effective manner and prepared a detailed report with multiple market penetration strategies for the client

The client has presented the findings to their Board to pursue the path with greater conviction

Select Client Testimonials

We were fortunate to work with Marmore on our project recently. The team was always professional, efficient and attentive to all our requests. They were prompt in addressing any concerns raised and we felt at ease approaching the team with our needs. We were pleased with the end result and would not hesitate to highly recommend Marmore for their business intelligence services.

Dr. Fatima Al Awadhi
Founder of Kuwait-based Aesthetic Clinic

Marmore team is very professional, from day one I saw that when they replied to my first email. We had our first project and they did a great work. Many changes have been done and they were very flexible with us. It will not be our last project for sure, thanks Marmore team.

Abdullah Molla
Head of Communication & Business Development, Riyadh Valley Company

Marmore has provided both timely and reliable services in the provision of market data. This service has proven valuable in supporting the research activities of Acreditus across all our client focus areas of credit, rating and Islamic finance advisory. I sincerely hope to continue to engage them on more advanced projects soon.

Khalid F Howladar
Managing Director and Founder of Acreditus

The experience of working with Marmore has been very positive. A precise understanding of our requirements and high quality deliverables were the key takeaways. The turnaround time for the tasks was excellent, without any delays and the tasks were handled in a professional manner.

Nigel Sillitoe
CEO, Insight Discovery - UAE

We have worked with Marmore in many occasions and are impressed with their in-depth research approach, quality analysis, and best of all, timely delivery. The team at Marmore also understands the regional business dynamics and provides exact, tailored solutions.

Ahmad Khamis
CEO, Bloovo.com

Marmore services were very useful and their team have provided a timely and reliable service in a challenging task. We are definitely looking for more cooperation in the future.

Mrs. Rana Adawi
Chairperson and Managing Director of Acumen Asset Management

About Marmore

Marmore MENA Intelligence is a fully-owned research subsidiary of Kuwait Financial Center 'Markaz'. Since 2006, Markaz Research has been at the forefront in disseminating thought-provoking, hard-data backed research reports. Marmore continues that legacy with a focused approach to providing actionable solutions for business leaders and policymakers.

Since its inception, Marmore has published over 700 research reports and covered more than 25 varied industries and infrastructure segments; all focused primarily on the GCC economies. (To view our Research Library, please [click here](#))

With over 30 policy and regulatory research studies published, Marmore has partnered with renowned regional think-tanks and opinion-leaders to publish some of these intellectually provoking policy research papers. These research studies aim to initiate dialogue and propose better solutions to existing economic conundrums. (To view our Policy & Regulatory research report, [click here](#))

Marmore provides research-based consulting solutions to help understand current market conditions, identify growth opportunities, assess supply/demand dynamics, and make informed business decisions.

Almost on a weekly basis, Marmore publishes thematic economic, industry, policy and capital market reports. Marmore has been recently conferred "Research Provider of the Year - 2018" award by Global Investor, a Euromoney Group company. To learn more, visit www.marmoremna.com

OUR JOURNEY SO FAR

- Over **700** reports/insights published
- Over **63** Client projects executed
- Frequent media citations and conference participation
- Active social media presence



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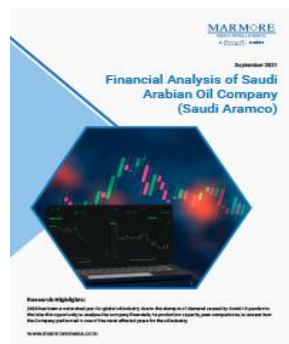
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**RESEARCH
PROVIDER
OF THE YEAR**





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