

February 2020

GCC Regulatory Review – 2019



Research Highlights:

An annual publication that tracks some of the major regulatory reforms/policy actions in 2019 across the GCC countries.



About Marmore



Organizational Background

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

Marmore 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*)

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.marmoremena.com

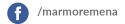
Experience/Qualifications

Marmore is the only regional firm providing niche research based on strong analytics in areas that are less researched. Marmore provides full range of financial market, sector specific and economic and policy researches, as well. The different types of researches are availed based on the client's requirements. It is notable that Marmore research reports have regularly been used by various renowned institutions to better understand the MENA region.

Marmore's strengths can be summarized as follows:

- » Consistent track record of quality, in-depth research offerings;
- » Skilled team with extensive experience in advanced quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques;
- » Deep understanding of MENA market and access to wide-ranging database
- » Delivers high quality, client specific, insightful research reports; highlighting key client issues and uncovering key answers/opportunities for the clients.











enquiry@e-marmore.com





Table of Contents

Executive Summary

Overview

CHAPTER 1

UAE

CHAPTER 2

Kuwait

CHAPTER 3

Saudi Arabia

CHAPTER 4

Oman

CHAPTER 5

Bahrain

CHAPTER 5

Qatar

Appendix

Executive Summary

With economic diversification as a key part of the reforms agenda, the GCC countries have employed a number of policy tools to foster diversification. To cater the economic development, the GCC countries are providing the necessary structure and institutionalizing environment. For industry observers, it appears that the GCC countries have taken a strategic approach in identifying and developing regulations that support innovation, creativity and stimulating economic development and growth. The regulatory environment in the region is profoundly changing to reflect the sectoral development and the absolute principles of the respective countries' vision programs.

The regulatory developments of 2019 span multiple sectors, and the key theme appears to be responding coherently to the needs of businesses and to adapt to the changing domestic and global economic circumstances. A number of legislation/policies in 2019 aims to revive the financial services and business sector to support economic development and diversification of revenue resources. This has made a worthwhile impact on improving the GCC countries' ease of doing business. The business reforms/ policies aims to provide transparent, predictable framework ensuring fair competition and integrity in the market. Regulatory reforms have also focused on promoting and expanding growth driven by the private sector. For a sustainable growth, the countries have identified the need to enhance the governance principles. The governments have undertaken major reforms across industries and sectors of all sizes to increase transparency, emphasise entrepreneurship, and make the region more attractive in international trade. The 2019 regulatory developments have also predominantly focused on designing regulations that encourage investment and increase investors' confidence in the economy. In essence, the GCC countries have embarked on a series of policy reforms that reinforce the countries' commitment to improve the efficiency and competiveness of sectors in line with their long-term development plans outlined in vision policies.

To buy the full report, please Click Here



OR email us at enquiry@e-marmore.com

Would prefer talking to us? Call us at +965 2224 8280

Authors

M.R. Raghu CFA, FRM, <u>FCMA</u>

Head of Research +965 2224 8280 rmandagolathur@markaz.com

Sudhakaran Jampala

Manager - Policy

+965 2224 8000 Ext: 4613 SJampala@markaz.com

Brinda Vijayakumar

Policy Analyst

+965 2224 8000 Ext: 4630 BVijayakumar@markaz.com

Disclaimer

This report has been prepared and issued by Marmore MENA Intelligence Ltd (Marmore), a fully owned research subsidiary of Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" K.P.S.C. Marmore is a private limited company registered with the Registrar of Companies in India

This Report is owned by Marmore and is privileged and proprietary and is subject to copyrights. Sale of any copies of this Report is strictly prohibited. This Report cannot be quoted without the prio written consent of Marmore. Any user after obtaining Marmore's permission to use this Report must clearly mention the source as "Marmore." The Report is intended to be circulated for general information only and should not to be construed as an offer to buy or sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy or sell any financial instruments or to participate in any particular trading strategy in any jurisdiction

The information and statistical data herein have been obtained from sources we believe to be reliable, but no representation or warranty, expressed or implied, is made that such information and data is accurate or complete, and therefore should not be relied upon as such. Opinions, interpretations, estimates, and projections in this report constitute the current judgment of the author as of the date of this Report. They do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Markaz or Marmore or other identified parties and are subject to change without prior notice. Neither Marmore nor Markaz have an obligation to update, modify, or amend this report or to otherwise notify a reader thereof in the event that any matter stated herein, or any opinion, projection, forecast, or estimate set forth herein, changes or subsequently becomes inaccurate, or if research on the subject company is withdrawn.

This Report may not consider the specific investment objectives, financial situation, and the particular needs of any specific person who may receive this report. Investors are urged to seek financial advice regarding the appropriateness of investing in any security or investment strategy discussed or recommended in this report and to understand that statements regarding future prospects may not be realized. Investors should note that income from such securities, if any, may fluctuate and that each security's price or value may rise or fall. Investors should be able and willing to accept a total or partial loss of their investment. Accordingly investors may receive back less than originally invested. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future performance.

Markaz may seek to do business, including investment banking deals, with companies covered in its research reports. Markaz may have interests in the areas covered in this research report. Markaz managed entities, its clients, or its employees may have from time to time long or short positions in any security, derivative or other types of assets referred to in this research report. As a

This report may provide the addresses of or contain hyperlinks to websites. Except to the extent to which the report refers to website material of Markaz and Marmore, Markaz has not reviewed the linked site and takes no responsibility for the content contained therein. Such address or hyperlink (including addresses or hyperlinks to Markaz's or Marmore's own website material) is provided solely for your convenience and information, and the content of the linked site does not in any way form part of this document. Accessing such website or following such link through this report or Markaz's or Marmore's website shall be at your own risk.

For further information, please contact 'Markaz' at P.O. Box 23444, Safat 13095, Kuwait, Email: enquiry@e-marmore.com; Tel: 00965 22248280; Fax: 00965 22495741.