

What Motivates GCC Retail Investors to Invest in Listed Companies

BRUNSWICK INSIGHT

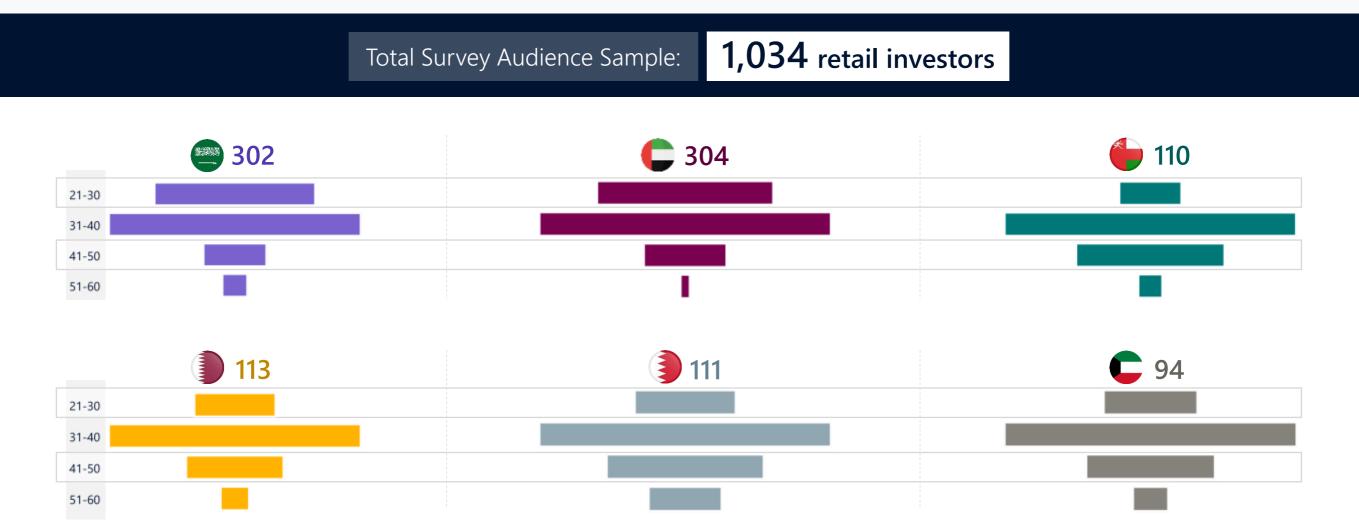


BRUNSWICK

Introduction

Our GCC-based retail investor audience

We conducted perception research among GCC retail investors interested in equities to better understand their investment behavior. We asked what influences their investment decisions, which sources they trust and the type of content they find most engaging. We surveyed a total of 1034 retail investors across the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and Oman, between November and December 2021.



BRUNSWICK

Insights & Strategic Advisory

Insights & Strategic Advisory

Majority of GCC retail investors are expected to **increase their investments by at least 10%** year-on-year and maintain a **diversified portfolio**.

The local equity market is the preferred asset class and appetite for local IPO's is particularly high in Saudi Arabia (49%), Qatar (47%), and the UAE (45%)

Listed companies should have a proactive communication plan in place to engage with this audience through media channels and brokerages.

To reach the retail investor, proactive engagement plans that communicate company activities to investors are necessary for a company to build its reputation among this key audience group.

Companies should measure the change in **key stakeholder perceptions** to fully understand what influences investment decisions.

- In the UAE, visibility of a company in the media and business community, and the perceptions of its investors (Bahrain and Kuwait also) are fundamental to its reputation.
- In Saudi and Qatar investors place emphasis on a company's response to a crisis and its articulation of its vision as crucial to its reputation.
- Perception of policymakers towards a company are especially important to Saudi and Omani investors.

Investors want to hear directly from companies on their financial performance, before consulting with financial advisors.

It's imperative for companies to communicate their growth strategy, impact on the economy and tell their sustainability and innovation stories, as these elements influence investment decisions.

Leveraging the management team and positioning a CEO through thought leadership can amplify a company's brand equity and garner interest among retail investors.

Investors expect companies to engage with them on multiple channels, starting with high quality, engaging content on their websites and company-owned social media handles.

Video content, in both English and Arabic, made available on **YouTube** is most salient with retail investors across all markets.

Companies should **leverage social media platforms** to increase visibility, and effectively communicate pertinent information that empowers retail investors to make informed investment decisions.

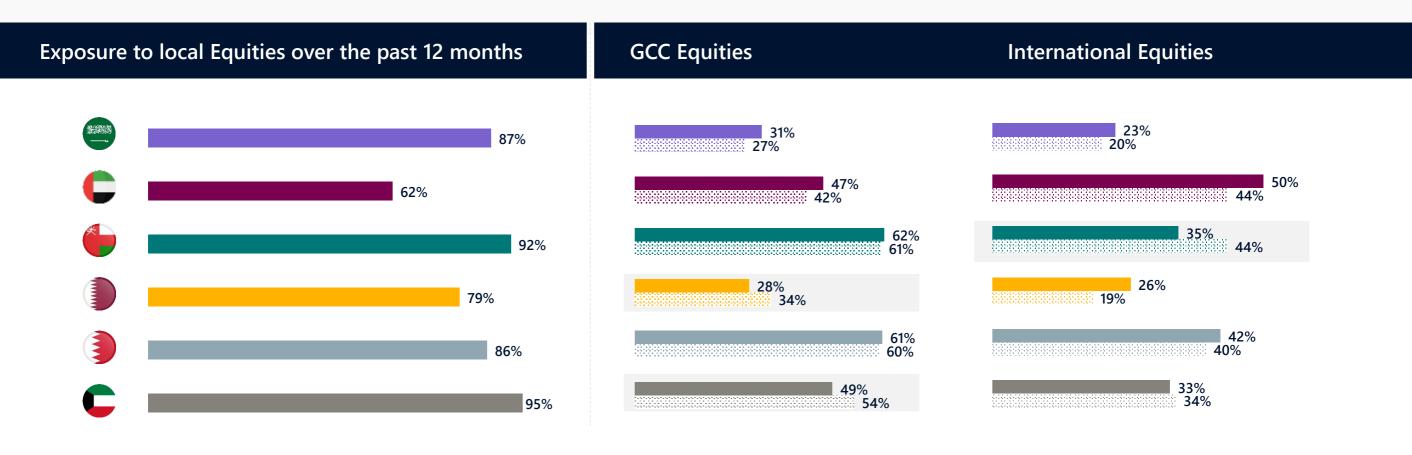
BRUNSWICK

Investment Behavior and Outlook

© BRUNSWICK GROUP 2022 6

All investors are interested in local equity markets, though interest in regional and international varies among GCC markets.

Across our sample, Kuwait, Oman and Saudi Arabia retail investors had the highest exposure to their local equity markets, while the UAE had the lowest. Oman and Bahrain investors are most interested in GCC equities and UAE investors are most interested in international equities.

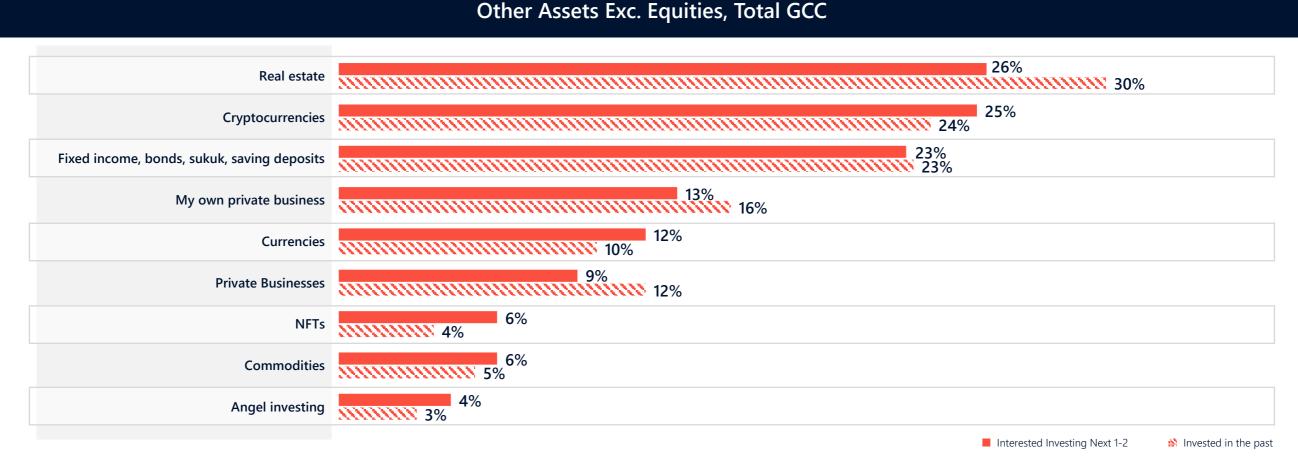


■ Interested Investing Next 1-2 Invested in the past

Q1: Which of the following asset classes or types of investment are you, or have you invested in the past year? Please select all that apply. Q2: Over the next 1-2 years, which of the below asset classes or types of investment do you prefer investing in? Please select all that apply. Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait

Property, fixed income and cryptocurrencies make up a significant portion of investment portfolios

GCC investors will continue to have a diversified portfolio, with a quarter of investors saying they intend to invest in real estate and cryptocurrencies over the next 1-2 years.

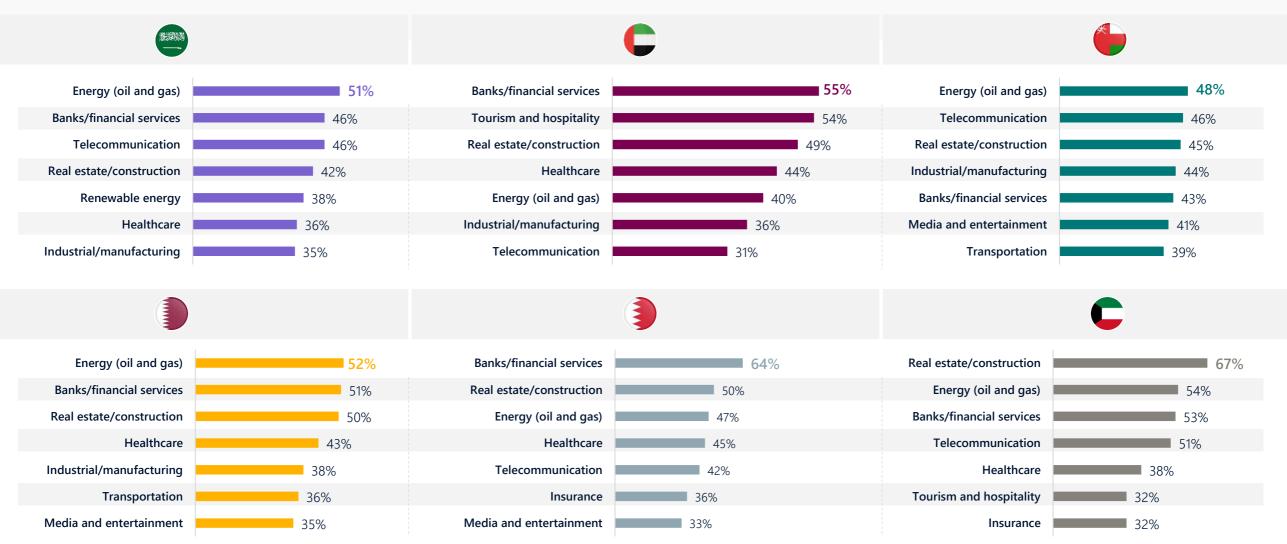


Q1: Which of the following asset classes or types of investment are you, or have you invested in the past year? Please select all that apply.

Q2: Over the next 1-2 years, which of the below asset classes or types of investment do you prefer investing in? Please select all that apply. Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait

Banks among top 3 beneficiaries of economic growth

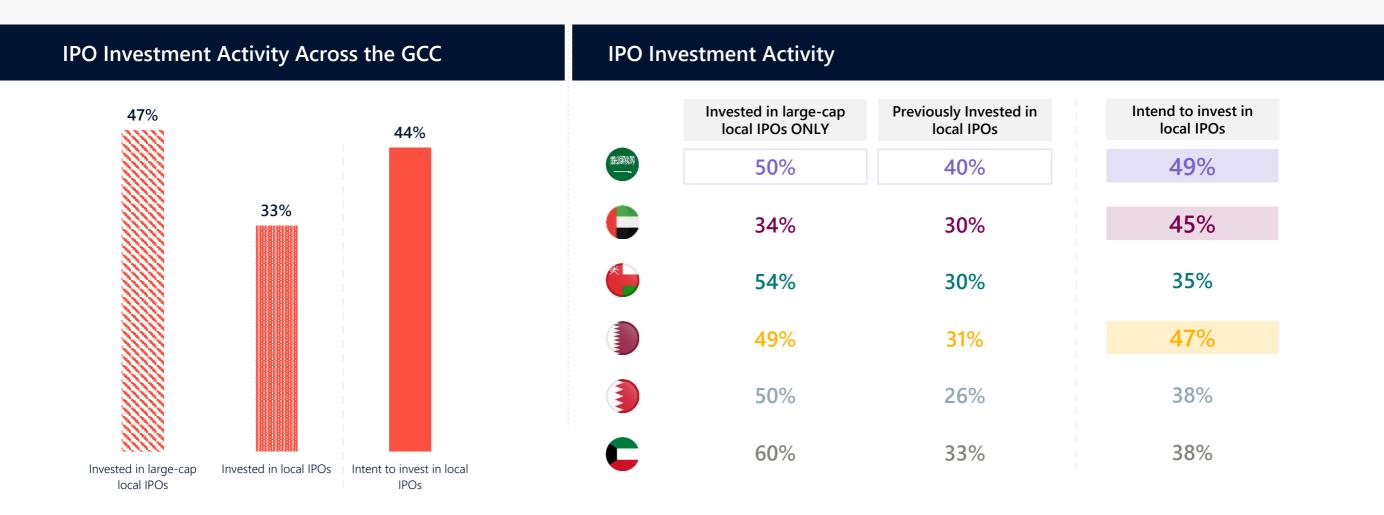
More than half of investors believe that the energy sector is poised to benefit from economic growth over the next 2-5 years. The Real Estate sector is also featured among the top 5 positioned to drive growth.



Q: What are the **top 5** sectors that you would expect to benefit **THE MOST** as a result of economic growth in your country of residence the next 2-5 years? Please select **5 sectors**. Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait

Strong appetite to invest in local IPOs over the next 1-2 years

Nearly half of Saudi and Qatari investors plan on investing in local IPO's, largely in line with previous behavior. UAE investors have stronger appetite towards upcoming local IPO's, with 45% intending on investing versus only 30% previously invested in local IPO's.



Q: Please select up to **two** statements that best describe your past and intended attitude towards investing in future IPOs in your country of residence. Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait

Majority of investors set to increase investments

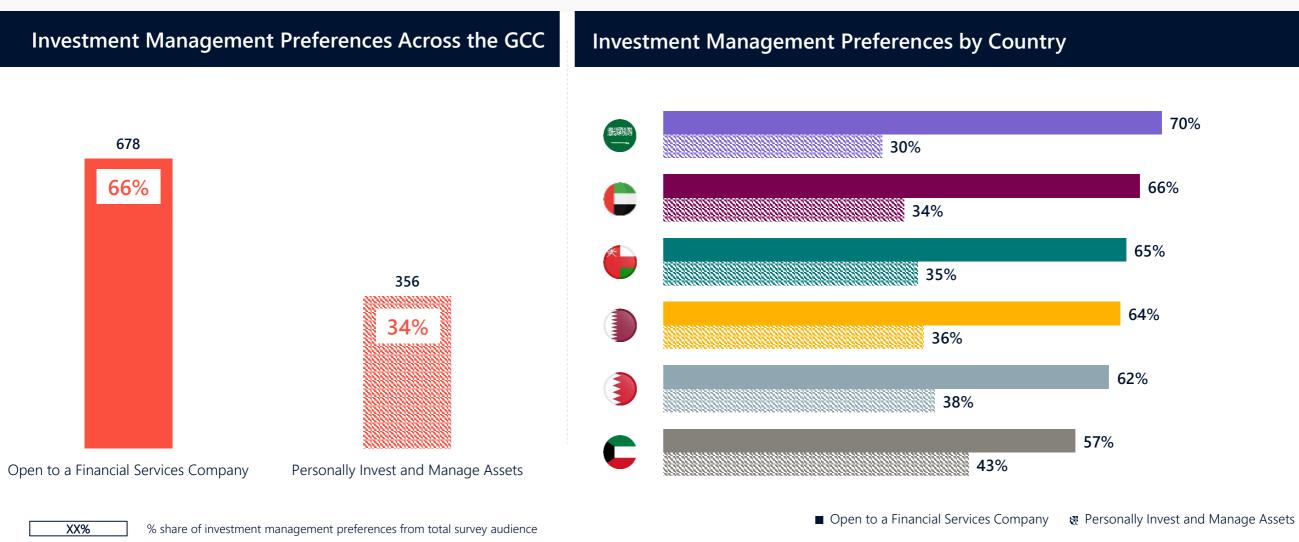
Nearly half of Saudi investors expect to increase their investments by up to 30% over the next 1-2 years, while a fifth of UAE investors intend to grow their investments by over 30% over the same period.

Expected increase/decrease of investment in the next 1-2 years

| ·器·提制3的 | 13% 48% 27% 11% | Will increase by 31% or more Will increase between 11%-30% Will increase up to 10% Will keep investment principal the same | 15% 36% 35% 9% | |
|---------|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| | 20% 33% 38% 8% | Will increase by 31% or moreWill increase between 11%-30%Will increase up to 10%Will keep investment principal the same | 8% 25% 32% 25% | |
| | 12% 26% 45% 13% | Will increase by 31% or more Will increase between 11%-30% Will increase up to 10% Will keep investment principal the same | 3% 19% 44% 29% | C |

66% of investors are considering a financial services company to manage their assets

Two-thirds of Saudi and UAE investors are considering a financial services company to manage at least a portion of their assets, while more than 40% of Kuwaiti investors are comfortable managing their own assets.



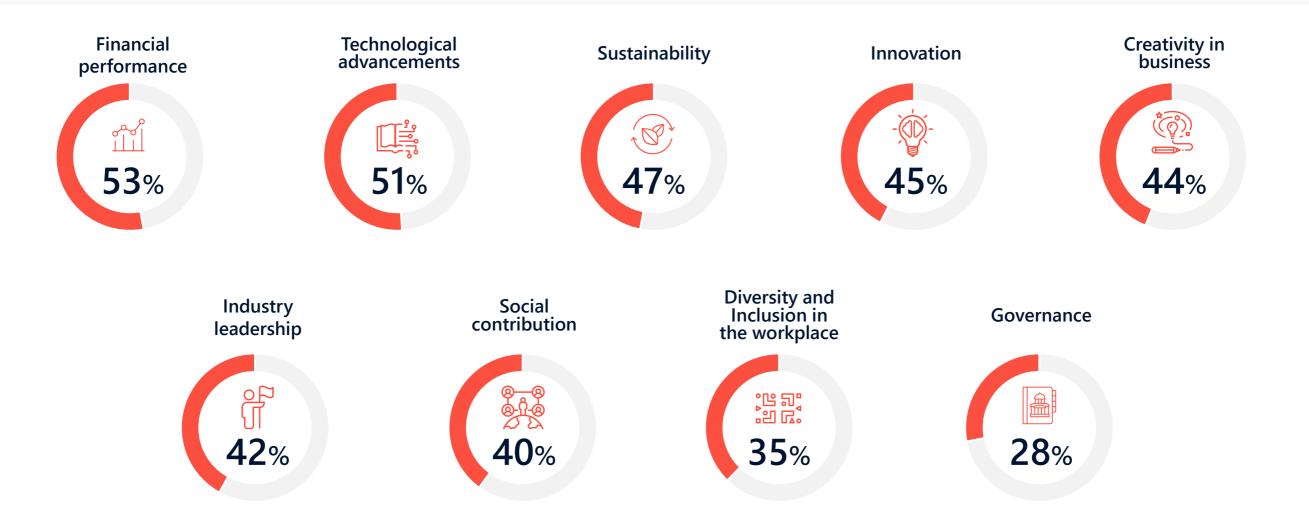
Q: Please select the statement that best describes the way you would manage your planned investments. Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait

BRUNSWICK

What Influences Investment Decisions?

Financial performance and technology are top-of-mind

When considering an investment opportunity, investors are interested in learning about a company's financial track record and the degree to which a company is keeping up with technological advancements. A company's sustainability story and its innovation are other areas investors place emphasis on.



Most important factors in investment decision making

Collectively, across the GCC, more than 60% of investors ranked all the aspects of a company's profile as Very Important. Saudi investors placed greater emphasis on a company's growth strategy than their peers, while UAE and Bahrain investors gave more importance to sustainability initiatives.

Very important aspects when considering investing in a listed company*

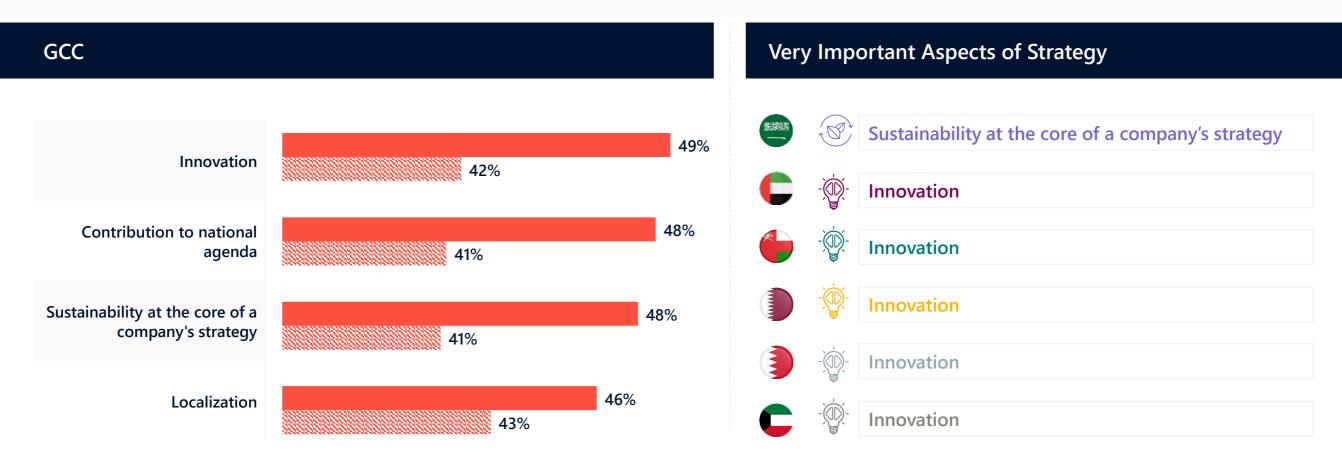


* Ranking of 8-10, on a scale of 1-to-10

Q: On a scale of 1-to-10, with 1 being not important at all and 10 being extremely important, how important are each of the below aspects to you when considering an investment opportunity in a listed company? Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait

Degree of a company's innovation is critical to investors

Listed companies are expected to showcase their innovation and demonstrate their contribution to national agendas across the GCC. Saudi investors believe that a company's strategy should prioritise sustainability over innovation.

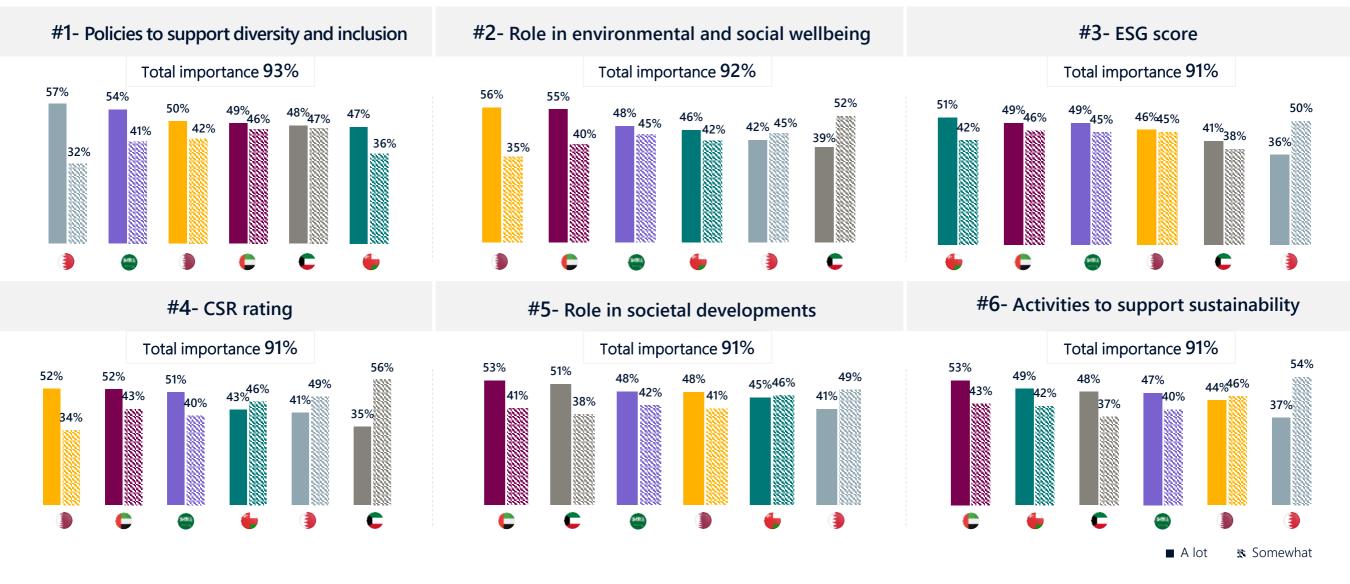


Very important Somewhat important

Q: How important are the below aspects of a company's strategy/business model when considering an investment in a listed company? Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait

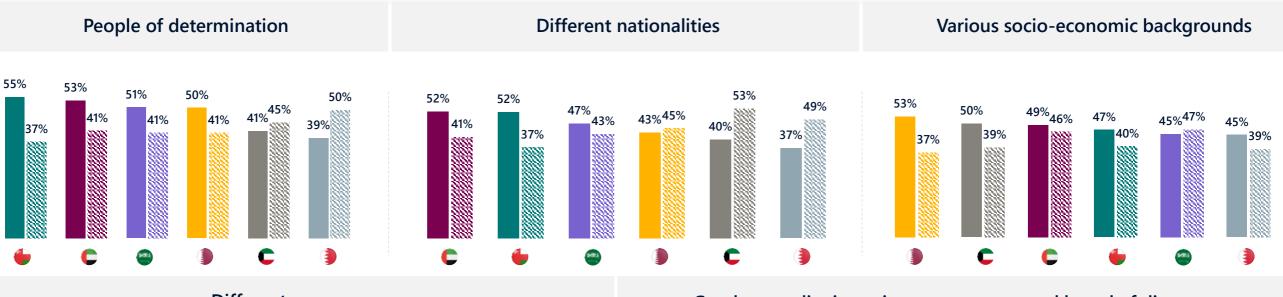
ESG activities significantly influence investment decisions

All ESG activities are deemed important, however, some activities are given greater weight when deciding on an investment opportunity. UAE investors stress on a company's role in environmental wellbeing and social developments, while Saudi investors consider DEI and CSR ratings.



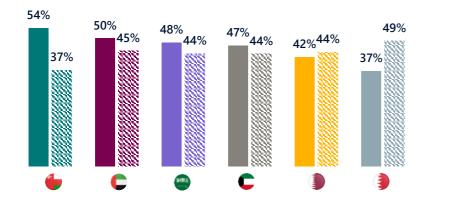
Q: When thinking of a listed company's ESG and sustainability initiatives, how important are each of these topics to you when making an investment decision? Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait

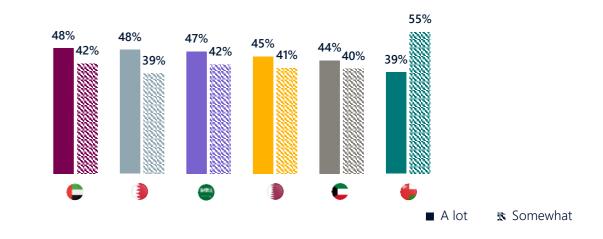
A truly diverse company workplace is increasingly valuable to investors



Different age groups

Gender equality in senior management and board of directors



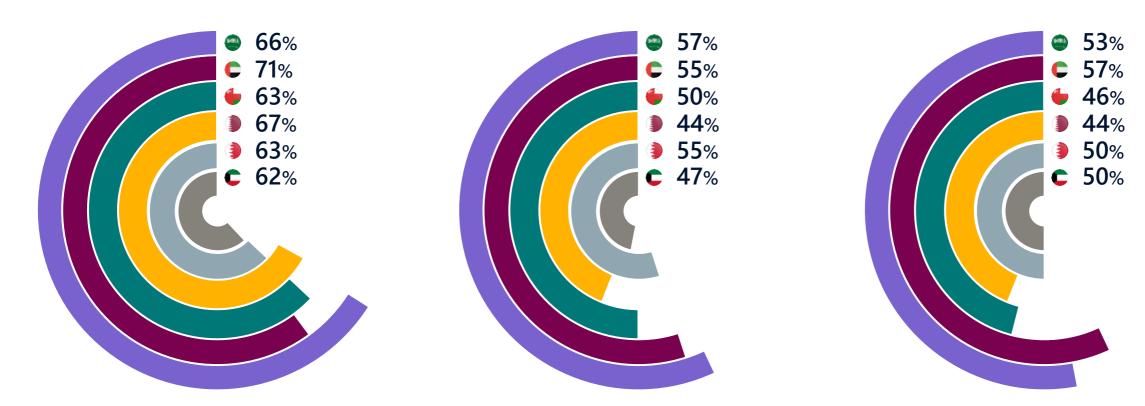


Investors are more inclined to invest in a company that has a local presence and a prominent voice in the market

Company communicates its views on trending economic, business, societal, and environmental topics on traditional and social media channels

Presence in locally organised events and conferences

Strong voice in international events and conferences



BRUNSWICK

Whose opinions and which activities impact reputation

© BRUNSWICK GROUP 2022 20

Saudi Arabia

Perceptions of government and a company's response to a crisis is critical





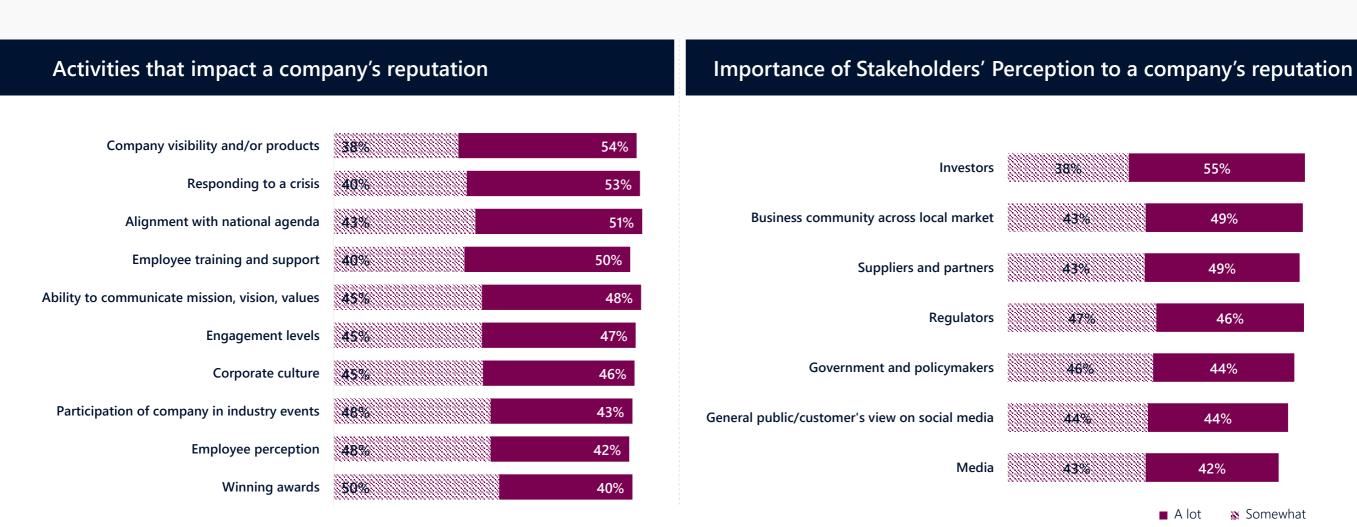
A lot 🛛 🔉 Somewhat

Q: How much do you think each of the below activities impact a listed company's reputation? Q: How important are the perceptions of the below audiences when determining if a company has a good reputation? Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait

United Arab Emirates



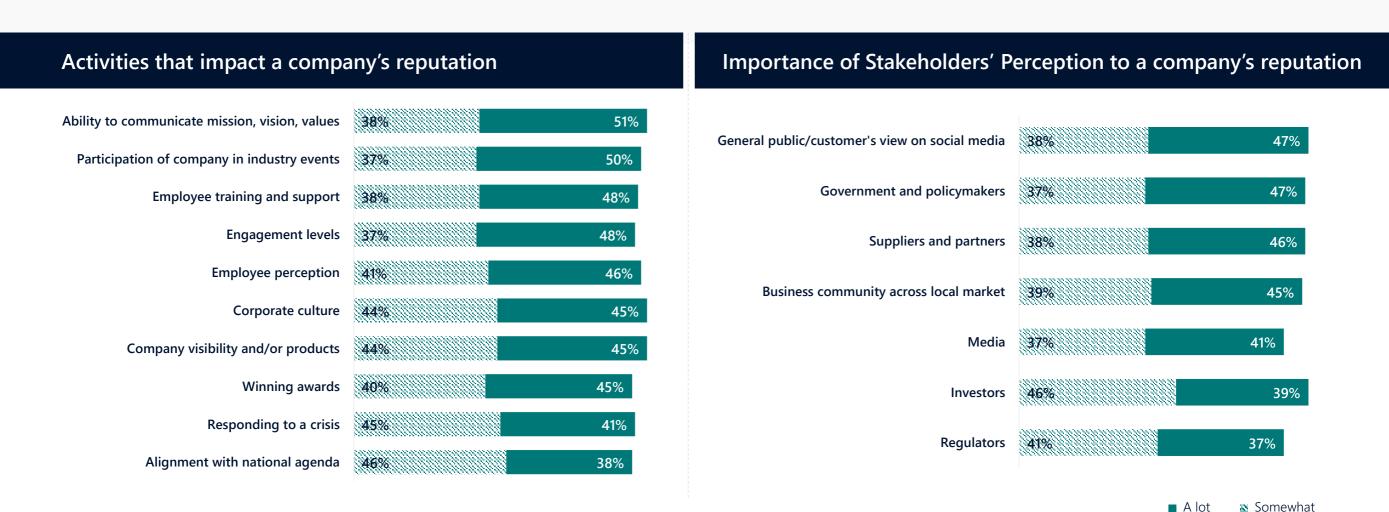
A company's visibility and investors' perceptions influence reputation the most



Q: How important are the perceptions of the below audiences when determining if a company has a good reputation?Q: How much do you think each of the below activities impact a listed company's reputation?Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait



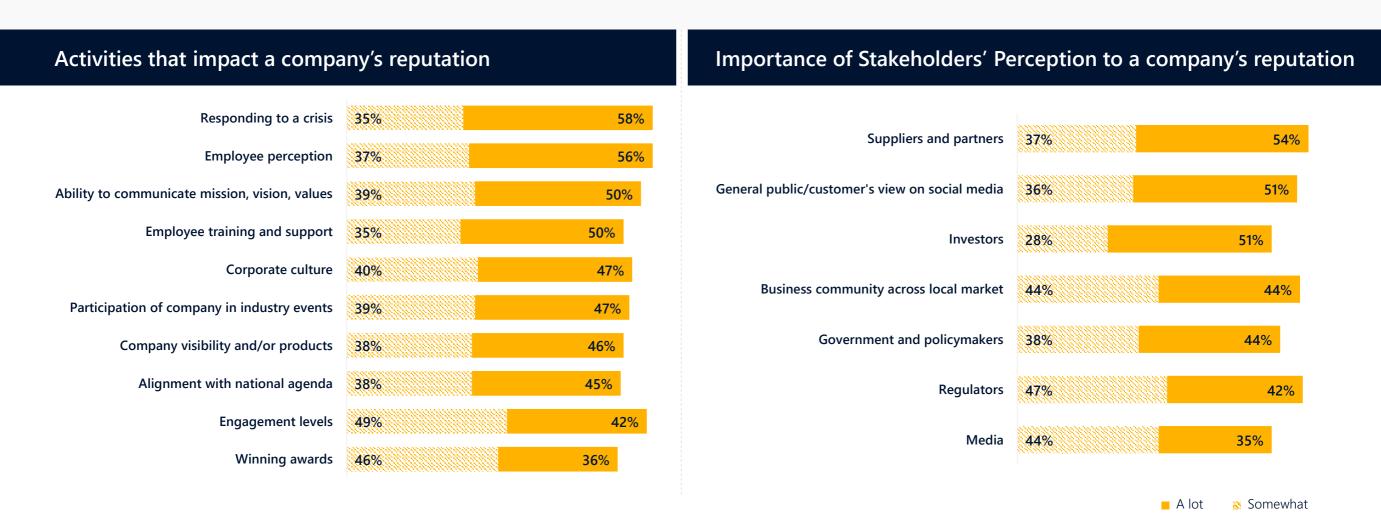
A company's articulation of its vision and the perceptions of the general public impact reputation the most



Q: How important are the perceptions of the below audiences when determining if a company has a good reputation?Q: How much do you think each of the below activities impact a listed company's reputation?Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait



Perceptions of business partners and a company's response to a crisis are most critical to a company's reputation

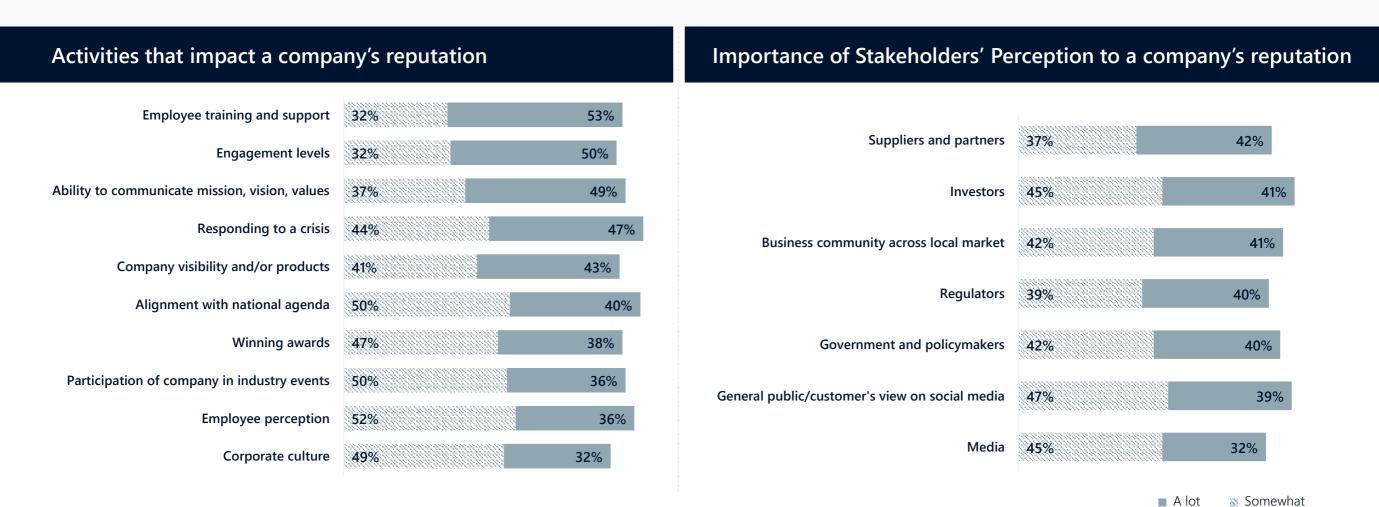


Q: How important are the perceptions of the below audiences when determining if a company has a good reputation? Q: How much do you think each of the below activities impact a listed company's reputation?

Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait



A company's talent development programme and the views of its business partners have the greatest impact on reputation



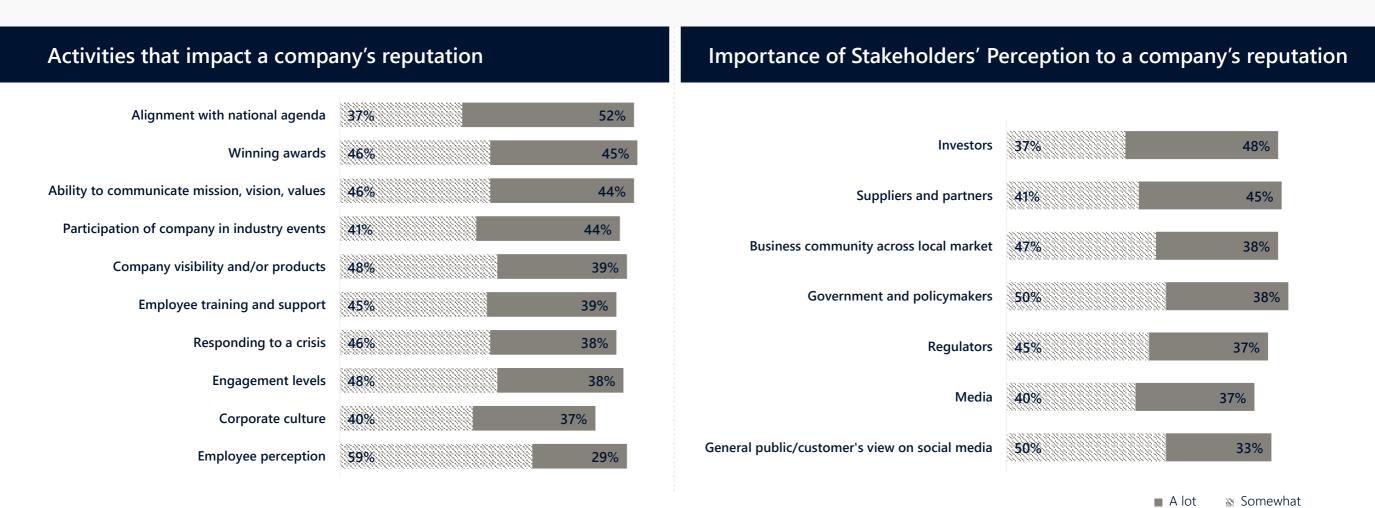
Q: How important are the perceptions of the below audiences when determining if a company has a good reputation? Q: How much do you think each of the below activities impact a listed company's reputation?

Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait

Kuwait



A company's alignment to Kuwait's national agenda and the perceptions of its investors are fundamental to its reputation



Q: How important are the perceptions of the below audiences when determining if a company has a good reputation?

Q: How much do you think each of the below activities impact a listed company's reputation?

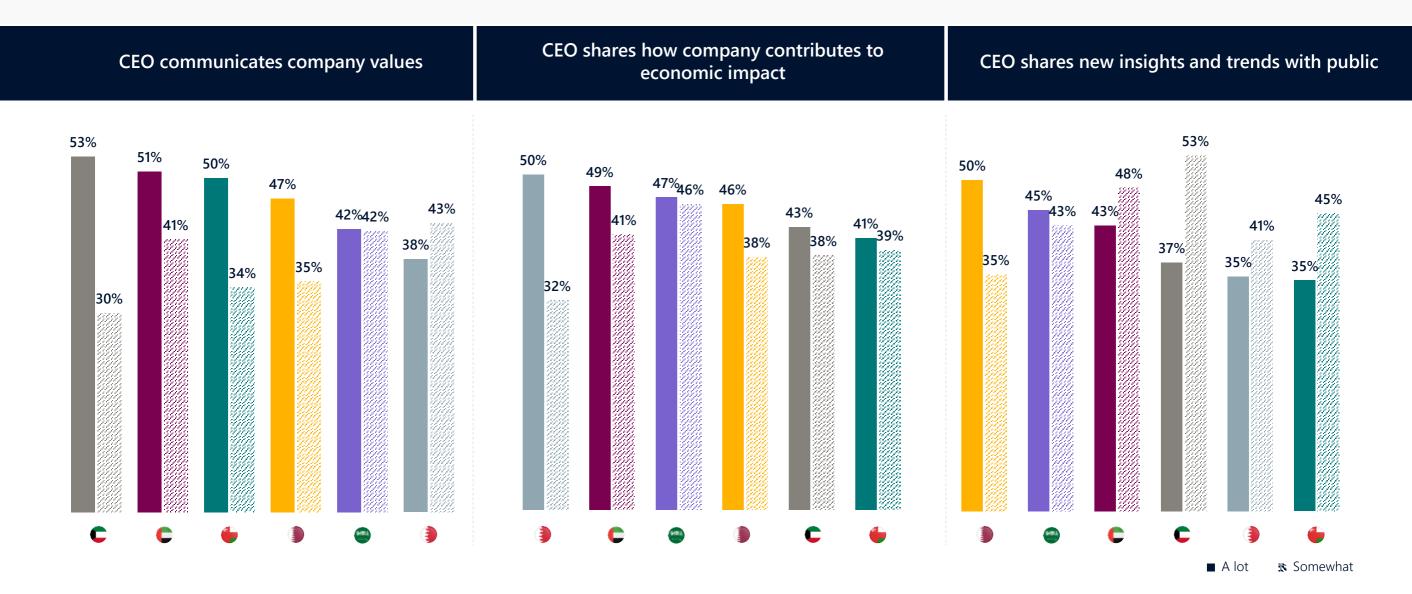
Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait

The visibility of the senior management team's positively impacts reputation



Q: How important are the below management team initiatives in building a listed company's reputation? Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait

CEO communication really amplifies brand equity



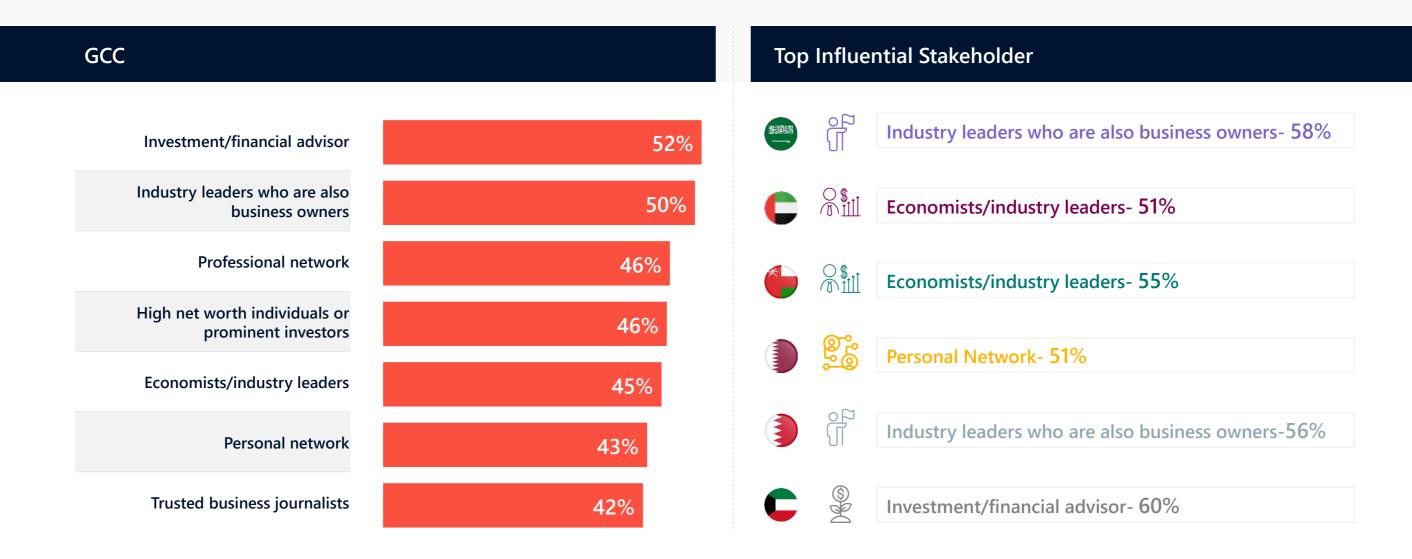
Q: How important are the below management team initiatives in building a listed company's reputation? Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait

BRUNSWICK

Who influences investment decisions?

© BRUNSWICK GROUP 2022 29

Financial advisors and industry experts influence investment decisions

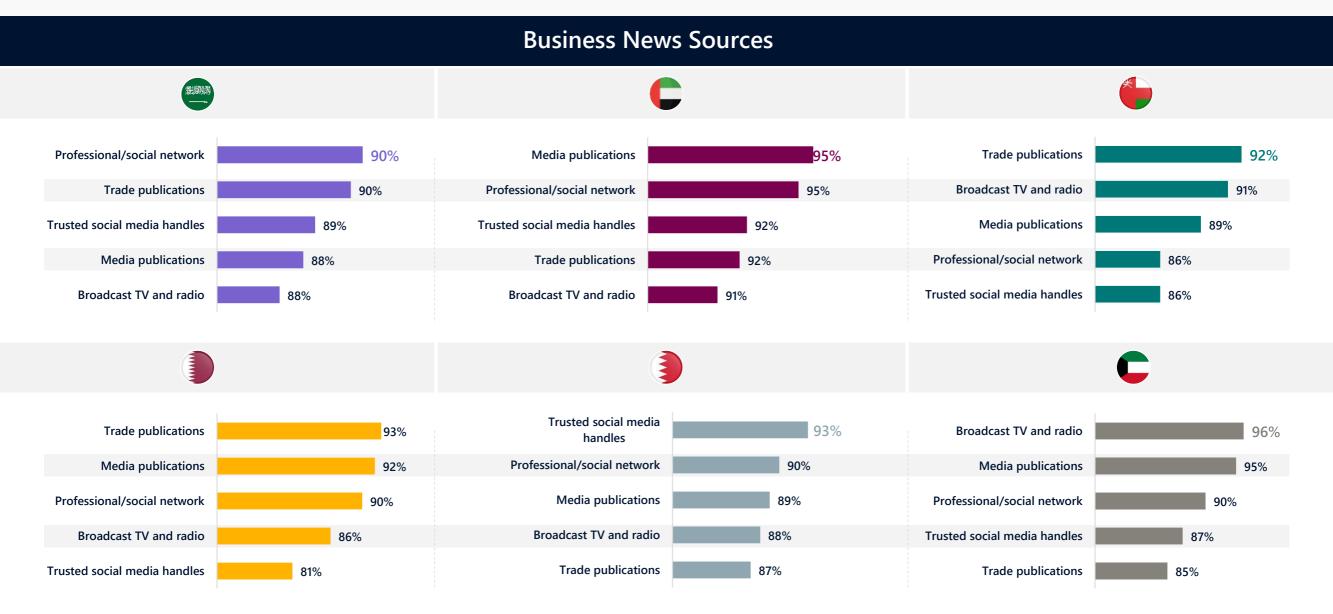


Q: What type of individuals from the below influence you to look into an investment opportunity? Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait

BRUNSWICK

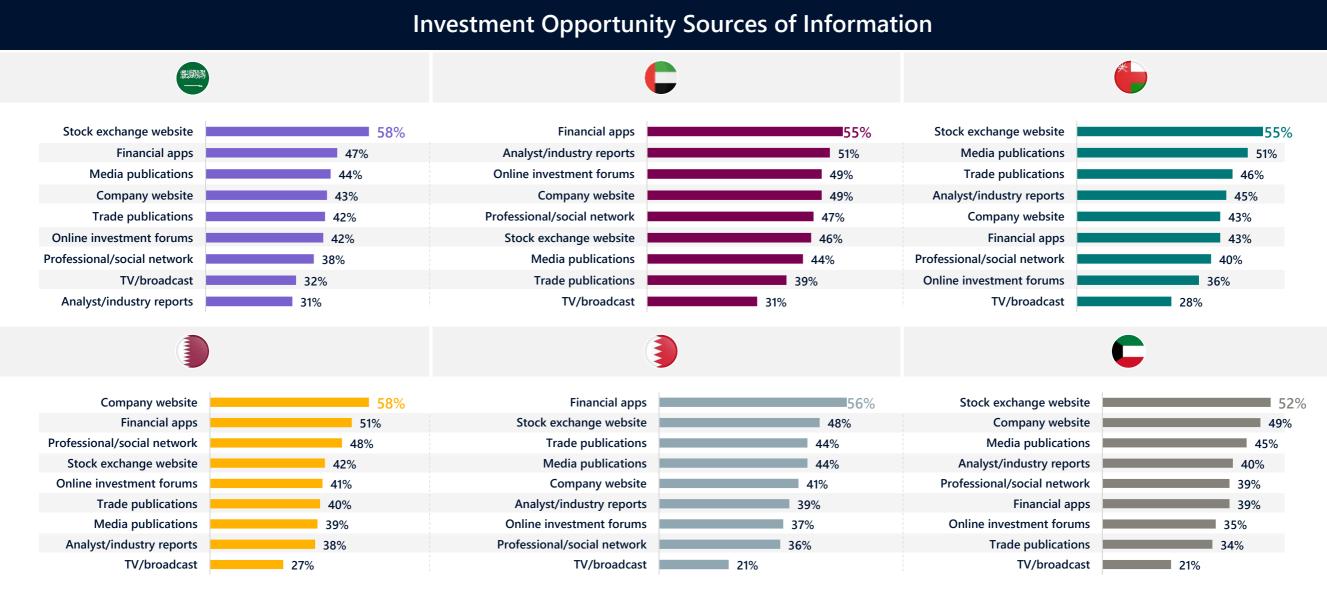
Where and how do investors get their information?

Business and financial news publications are the most consulted source of information



Q: When catching up on business news, which of the below sources do you rely on the most? Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait

Stock exchange websites and financial news apps are most trusted when exploring an investment opportunity in a listed company



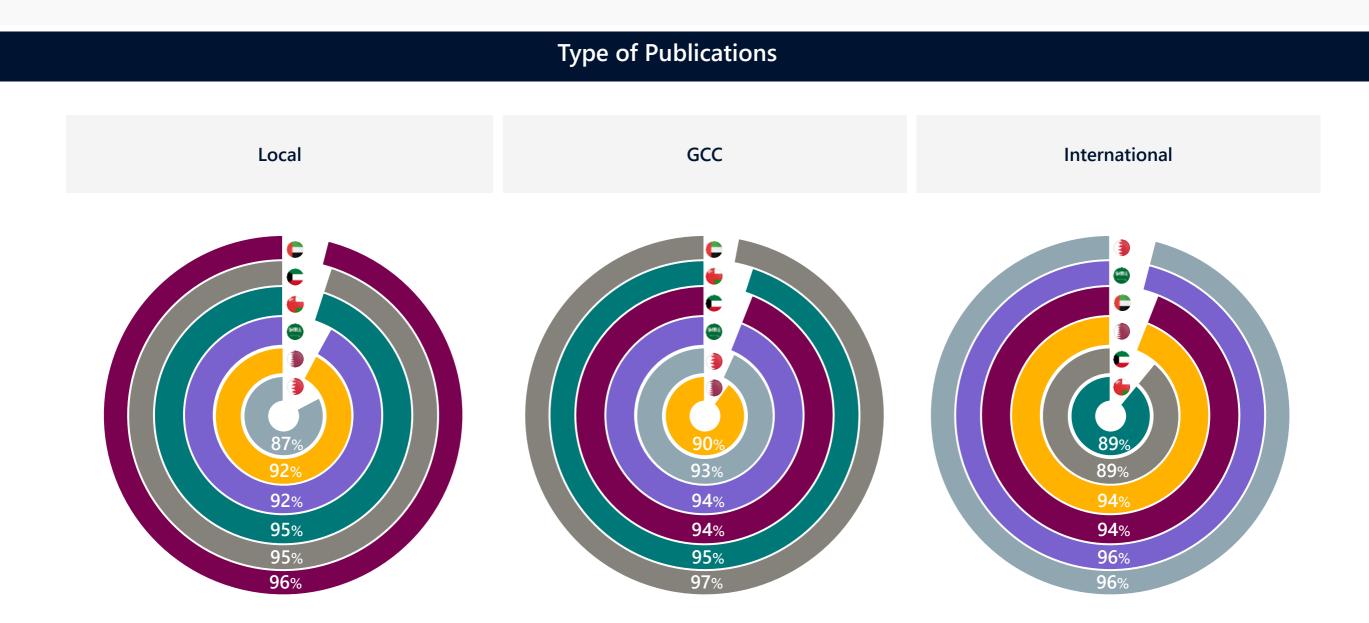
Q: When looking up an investment opportunity, from where do you source your news? Please select all that apply. Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait

Company-owned content is always tapped into when researching investment opportunities



Q: When researching an investment opportunity in which order would you/do you consult the below sources of information? Please move the below items according to your research order. Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait

Investors consult local, regional and international publications equally



Top 3 publications consulted are local news publications in KSA, UAE & Qatar

Top 3 Media Publications consulted for business news, in order of share for country sample

| | | C | | | |
|--|-----|--|-----|--|--|
| | | | | | |
| Al Jazirah (Saudi Arabia) | 32% | Khaleej Times | 42% | Gulf Times | |
| Al Riyadh | 26% | Gulf News | 39% | Qatar Tribune | |
| Arab News | 26% | Gulf Business | 23% | Qatar Chronicle | |
| Saudi Journal of Economics and Finance | 22% | Financial Times | 22% | Bloomberg | |
| Al Eqtisadiah | 20% | Bloomberg | 20% | Al Watan | |
| Financial Times | 16% | Emirates 24/7 | 16% | Al Sharq | |
| Bloomberg | 15% | The New York Times | 15% | Financial Times | |
| Al Riyadh Post | 14% | The National | 13% | | |
| The New York Times | 12% | The Economist | 12% | The Peninsula | |
| Al Sharq Al Awsat | 12% | Al Ettihad | 10% | The Economist | |
| Okaz | 11% | Arabian Business | 10% | The New York Times | |
| Wall Street Journal – business section | 10% | Oil & Gas Middle East | 10% | Al Arab | |
| The Economist | 10% | Wall Street Journal – business section | 10% | Wall Street Journal – business section | |
| Maaal | 9% | Future Studies | 7% | | |
| Sabq | 9% | Reuters | 7% | Al Raya | |
| Asharq | 9% | CEO Middle East | 6% | Washington Post | |
| Al Youm | 9% | Washington Post | 6% | Lusail | |
| Aswaq.net | 8% | Business Voice | 6% | The Associated Press | |
| Mubasher | 7% | Campaign Middle East | 5% | Reuters | |
| Reuters | 7% | The Associated Press | 5% | | |
| | 6% | Construction Week | 5% | | |
| Argaam | | Asharq | 5% | | |
| Washington Post | 5% | Bayan | 4% | | |
| The Associated Press | 5% | WAM | 3% | | |

Q: What are the **top 3** media publications from the below list that you rely on the most when researching information on a listed company? Please **select 3** media publications. Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait

42% 30% 27% 24% 22% 20% 19% 18% 17% 16% 15% 13% **9%** 9% 7% 7% 5%

Local news publications, Bloomberg, and The Economist most relied on in Oman, Bahrain & Kuwait

| | ONA POLICE | | • • • | C 1 |
|-----|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| lon | 3 Media Publications co | nsulted for husiness new | vs in order of share | for country sample |
| | 5 Micala i abilcations co | | vs, in oraci or share | ion country sumple |

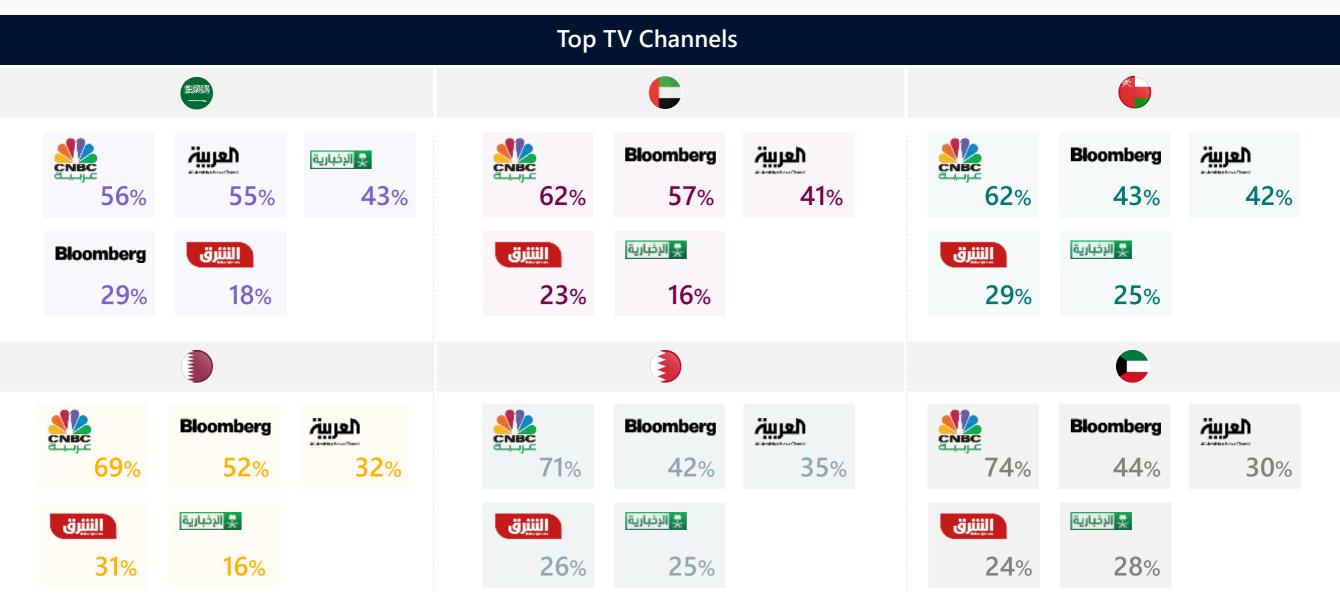
| Times of Oman | 30% |
|--|-----|
| The Economist | 25% |
| Bloomberg | 24% |
| Al-Watan | 21% |
| Oman Tribune | 21% |
| Financial Times | 21% |
| Oman Daily | 19% |
| Muscat Daily | 19% |
| Oman Observer | 17% |
| Shabiba | 15% |
| Wall Street Journal – business section | 12% |
| Al-roya | 11% |
| The Associated Press | 11% |
| Reuters | 10% |
| Washington Post | 10% |
| The New York Times | 10% |
| Muwatin | 9% |
| The Week | 8% |
| Azamn | 6% |
| | |

| Gulf Daily News | 37% |
|--|-------------|
| Financial Times | 36% |
| The New York Times | 28% |
| Bloomberg | 24% |
| The Economist | 24% |
| The Associated Press | 20% |
| Akhbar Al Khaleej | 19 % |
| Washington Post | 16% |
| Al Ayam | 15% |
| Wall Street Journal – business section | 14% |
| Al Watan | 14% |
| Daily Tribune | 14% |
| Al Waqt | 11% |
| Al Wasat | 11% |
| Reuters | 9 % |
| Al Bilad | 7% |

| Kuwait Times | 44% |
|--|-------------|
| Bloomberg | 23% |
| The Economist | 23% |
| Al-Qabas | 19 % |
| Financial Times | 19 % |
| The New York Times | 19 % |
| Arab Times | 18% |
| Al Kuwaiteya | 17% |
| Wall Street Journal – business section | 16% |
| Al Rai | 15% |
| Al-Anbaa | 12% |
| Al-Jarida | 12% |
| Al-Wasat | 11% |
| Washington Post | 11% |
| Al-Shahed | 10% |
| The Associated Press | 9 % |
| Al-Seyassah | 7% |
| Annahar | 7% |
| Al-Sabah | 6% |
| Reuters | 2% |
| | |

Q: What are the **top 3** media publications from the below list that you rely on the most when researching information on a listed company? Please **select 3** media publications. Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait

CNBC Arabiya and Bloomberg most popular TV channels for business news

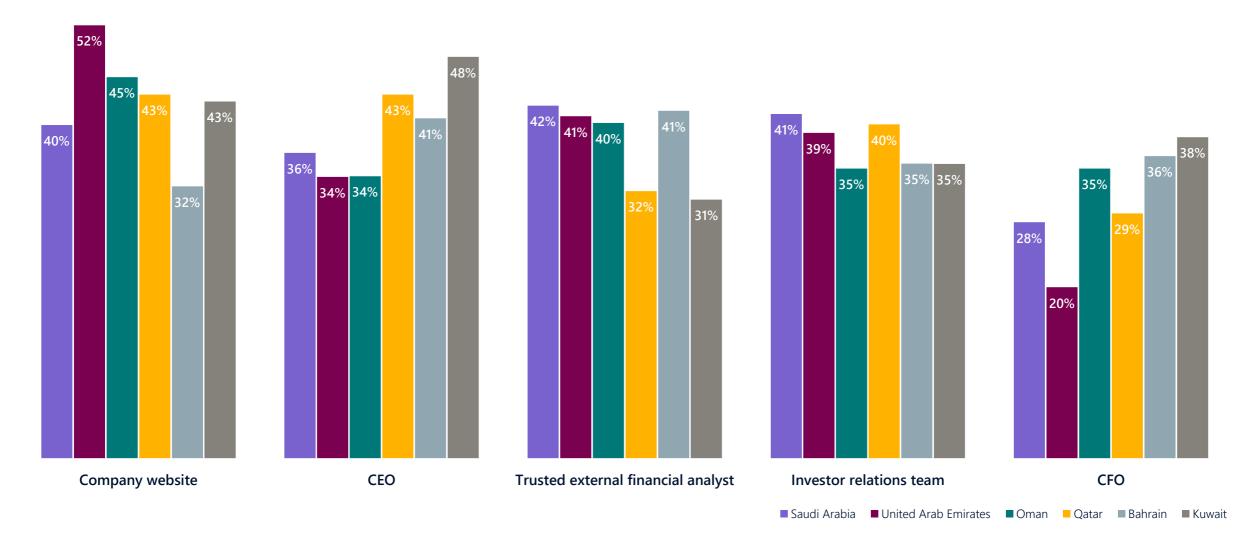


Q: What are the **top 2** TV channels from the below list that you rely on the most for investment news? Please **select 2** TV channels. Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait

BRUNSWICK

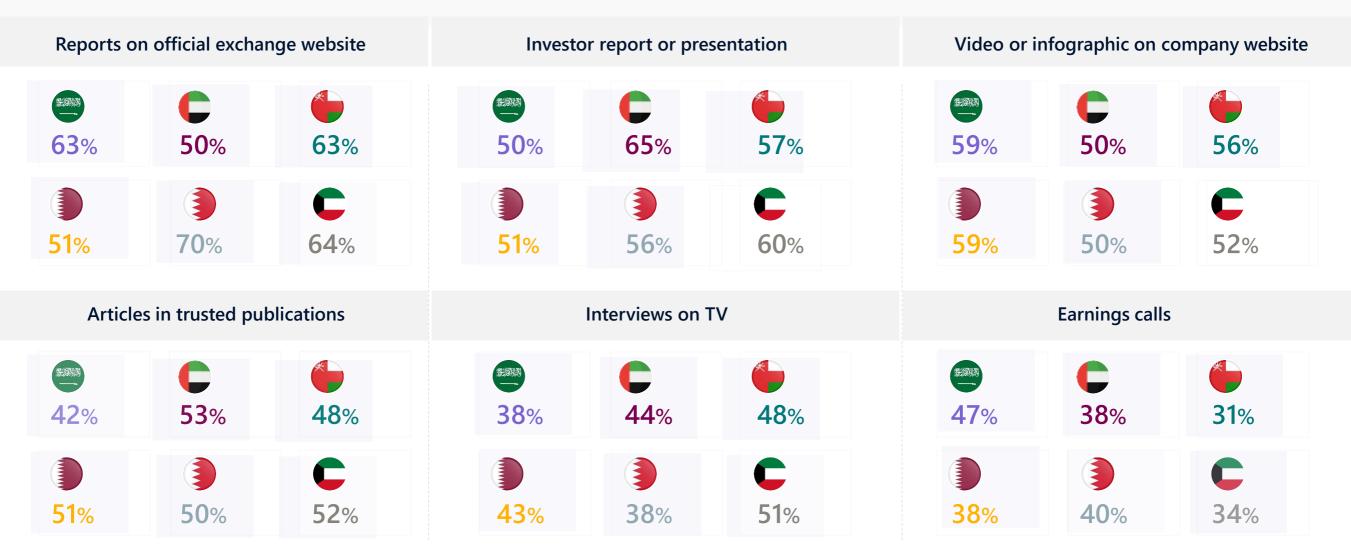
How can companies comunicate effectively on different topics ?

Investors want to hear from companies and third party advice is critical



Q: From whom would you like to hear regarding a listed company's financial performance? Please select up to **two**. Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait

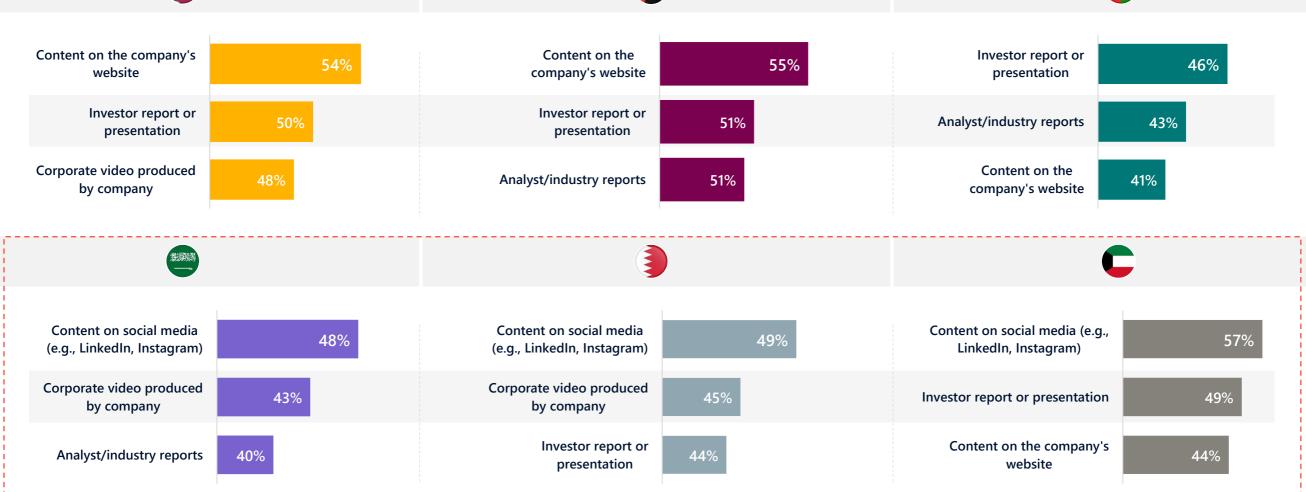
Investors want more communication and visual content



Q: How would you like to be informed about a listed company's financial performance? Please select all that apply. Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait

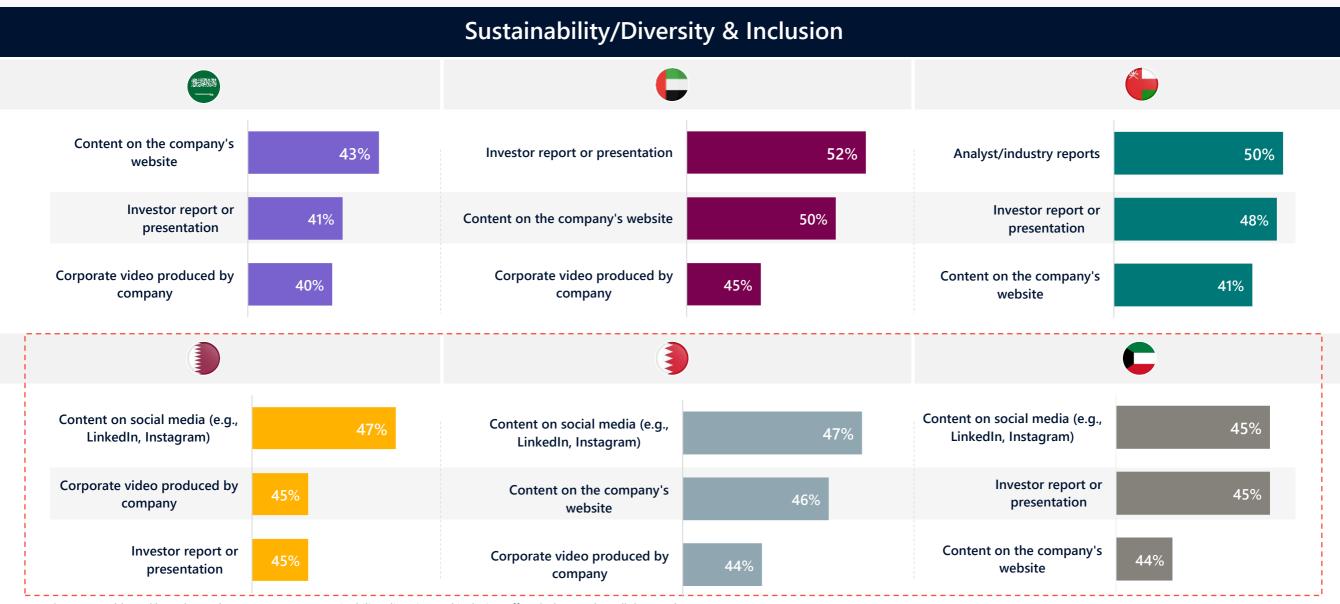
Social media content is growing in importance for information on a company's strategy

Preferred content for learning about a company's strategy or business Model



Q: How would you like to learn about a company's strategy, business model, and management team? Please select all that apply. Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait

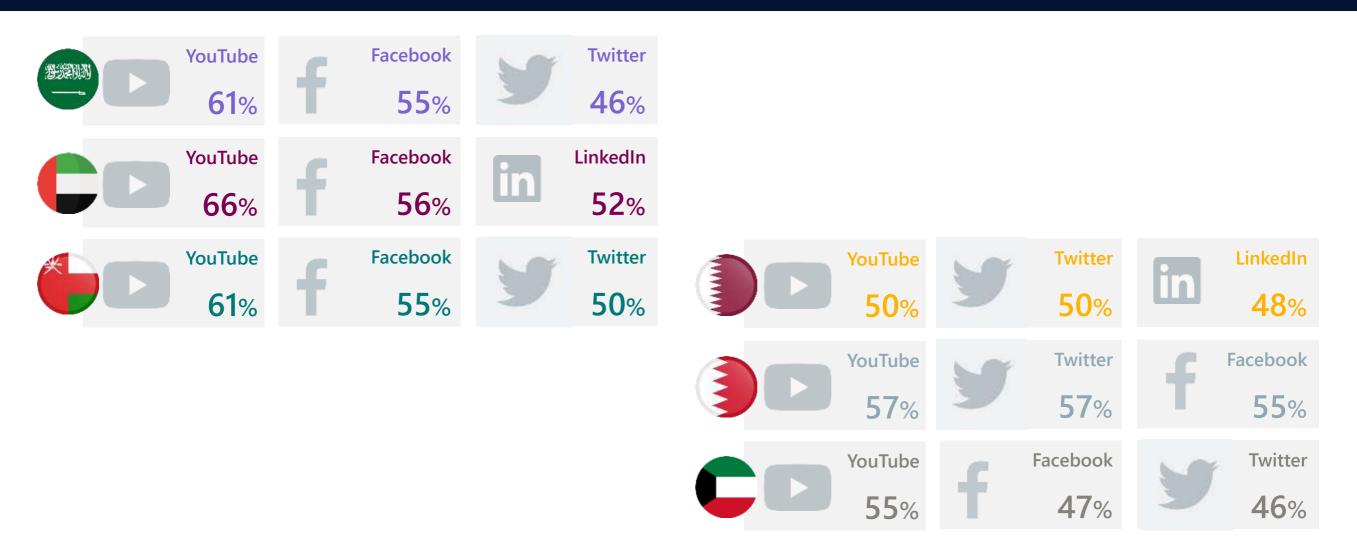
Increasing interest in social media content to tell the sustainability and DEI story



Q: How would you like to learn about a company's sustainability, diversity, and inclusion efforts? Please select all that apply. Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait

Company-owned YouTube content is the preferred social media handle





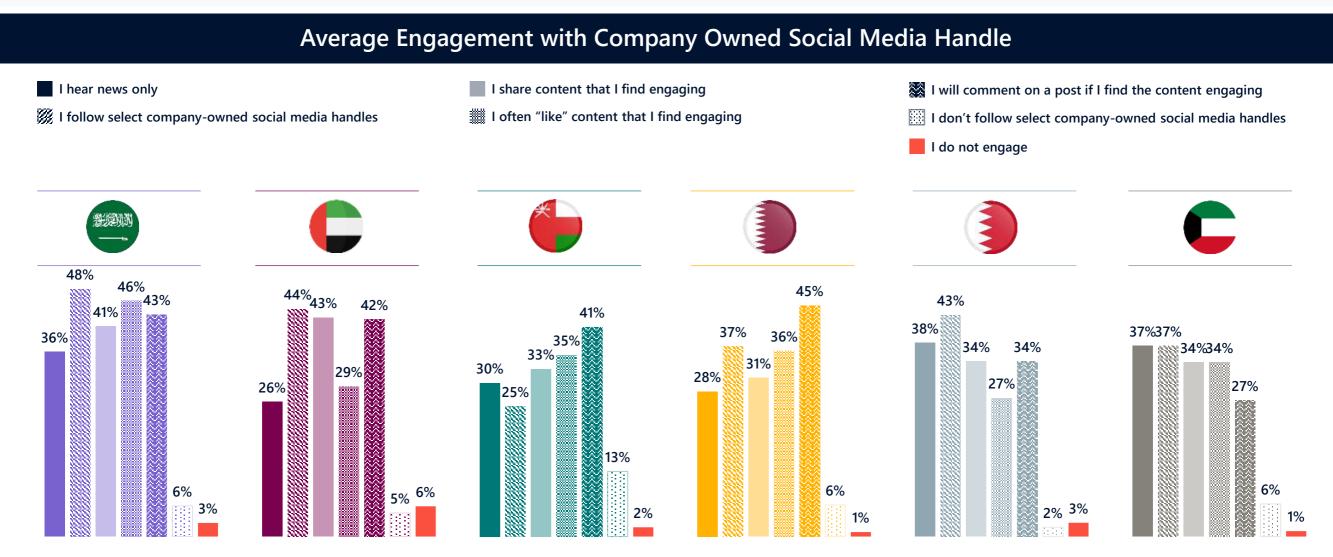
Q: Which of the below would you/do you prefer using to get information on a listed company. Please select all that apply. Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait

High quality content, consistency, and reshared content by trusted accounts define an engaged social media account

Description of an Engaged Social Media Handle



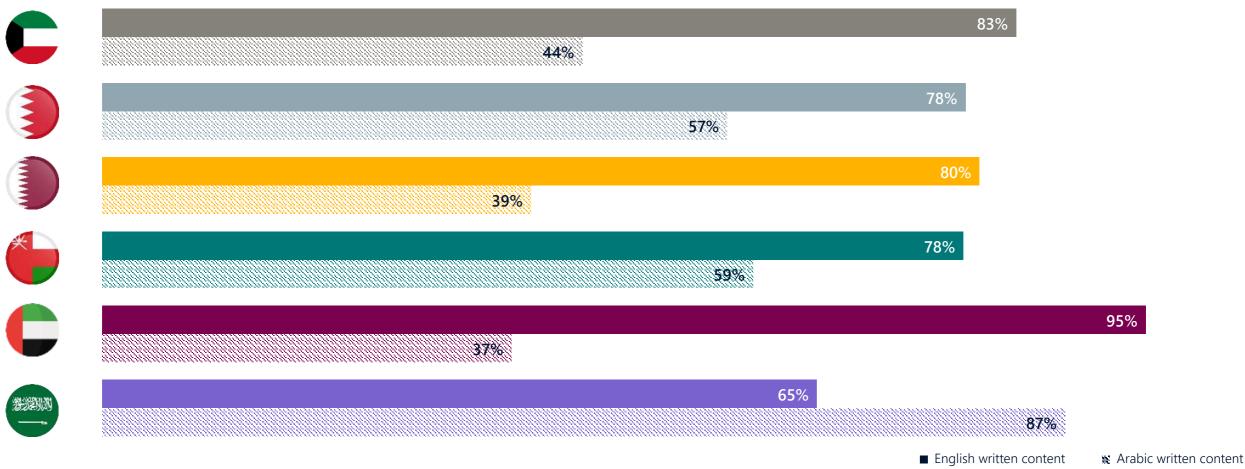
A third of investors read content only, while 40% will comment on engaging content



Q: How would you describe your average engagement with a company-owned social media handle? Please select all that apply. Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait

English is the language of preference, except for Saudi Arabia

Written Content Preference



Q: What are your language preferences when reading content about a listed local company? Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait

Video content should include audio and subtitles

Video Content Preference

Across GCC Markets

AR **ENG** ENG AR AR ENG 50% 43% 52% 39% English video with English video with Arabic video with Arabic video with **English subtitles Arabic subtitles English subtitles** Arabic subtitles

Methodology: Online survey of 1034 retail investors in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait

Thank You

Ranya Afifi Director, Head of Insight Gulf Brunswick Group <u>rafifi@brunswickgroup.com</u>

BRUNSWICK INSIGHT

One firm. Globally.

BRUNSWICK

Abu Dhabi Beijing Berlin Brussels Chicago Dallas Dubai Frankfurt Hong Kong Johannesburg Lisbon London Madrid Milan Mumbai Munich New York Paris San Francisco Sao Paulo Shanghai Singapore Stockholm Sydney Tokyo Vienna Washington, D.C.

www.brunswickgroup.com



Brunswick Group

Brunswick Group

in

@brunswickgroupllp

f



@BrunswickGroup