EXTRACT

SOURCE

Market Trends

MARKET

The GCC Consulting Market in 2024

Report

What's included in this report

Our reports offer a wealth of market sizing, growth, and forecast data alongside engaging, in-depth analysis of the trends that matter. Using our highly flexible, multidimensional model we provide firms with robust, trusted data to make informed decisions about strategic investments and plan for the future.

Geography model

Chile

Colombia

Croatia

Cyprus

Denmark

Egypt

Ethiopia Finland

France

Ghana

Germany

Côte d'Ivoire

Czech Republic Iraq

India

Israel

Japan

Kenya

Countries covered

Albania
Algeria
Angola
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Bahrain
Belarus
Belgium
Bosnia
Brazil
Bulgaria
Cameroon
Canada
Callaua

Greece Libya Hong Kong Luxembourg Hungary Malaysia Mexico Indonesia Myanmar Ireland Netherlands New Zealand Nigeria North Macedonia Kuwait Norway Lebanon Oman

Pakistan Slovakia Papua New Slovenia Guinea South Africa South Korea Philippines Spain Sri Lanka Portugal Sudan Oatar Sweden Romania Switzerland Russia Rwanda Tanzania Saudi Arabia Thailand Serbia Singapore Turkey

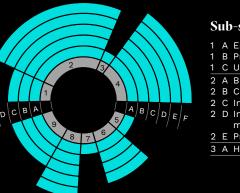
UAE

Ukraine United Kingdom United States Venezuela Zambia

Sector model

Sectors

- 1 Energy & resources
- 2 Financial services
- 3 Healthcare
- 4 Manufacturing
- 5 Pharma & biotech
- 6 Public sector 7 Retail
- 8 Services
- 9 Technology, media
- & telecoms



Sub-sectors

A	Energy	4	А	Aerospace
В	Primary resources	4	В	Automotive
С	Utilities	4	С	Construction
A	Banking	4	D	Consumer electro
В	Capital markets	4	Е	Consumer packag
С	Insurance	4	F	Industrial product
D	Investment and wealth	5	А	Pharma
	management	6	А	Defence
Е	Private equity	6	В	Education
A	Healthcare	6	С	Not-for-profit
		6	D	Public sector
		7	A	Retail

space	8	А	Business s
motive	8	В	Leisure
truction	8	С	Logistics
umer electronics	8	D	Real estat
umer packaged goods	8	Ε	Transporta
strial products	0	^	

A High-tech

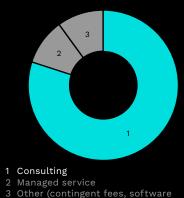
9 B Media

9 C Telecoms

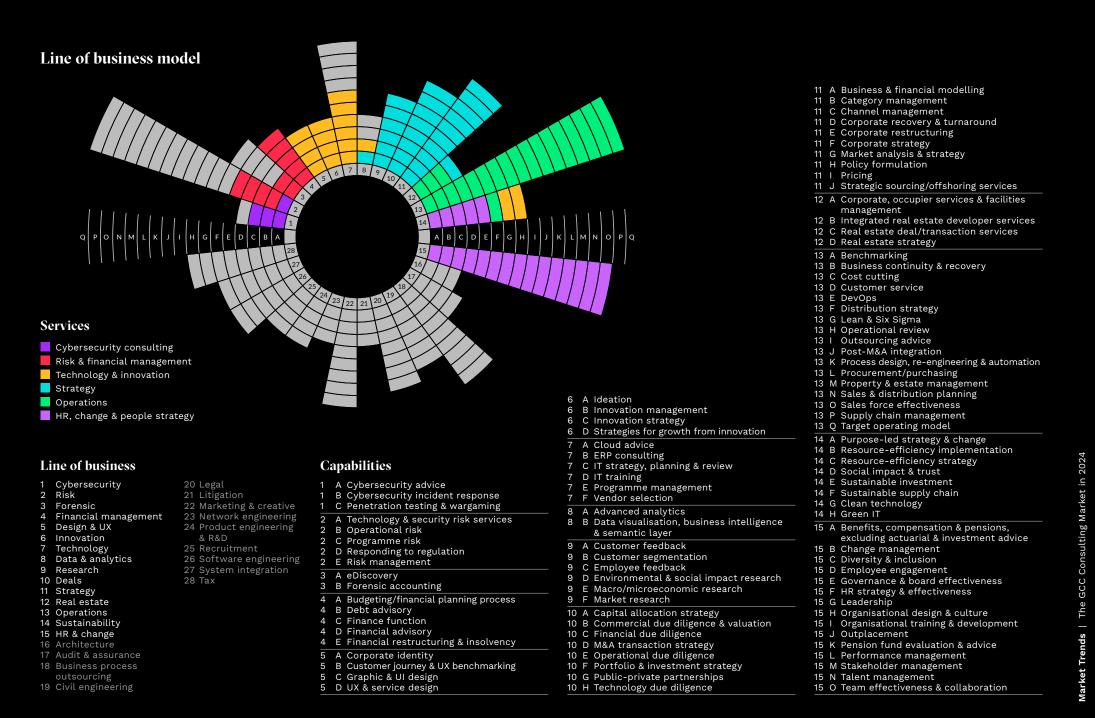
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ation

The revenue-earning model



licensing, associate networks)

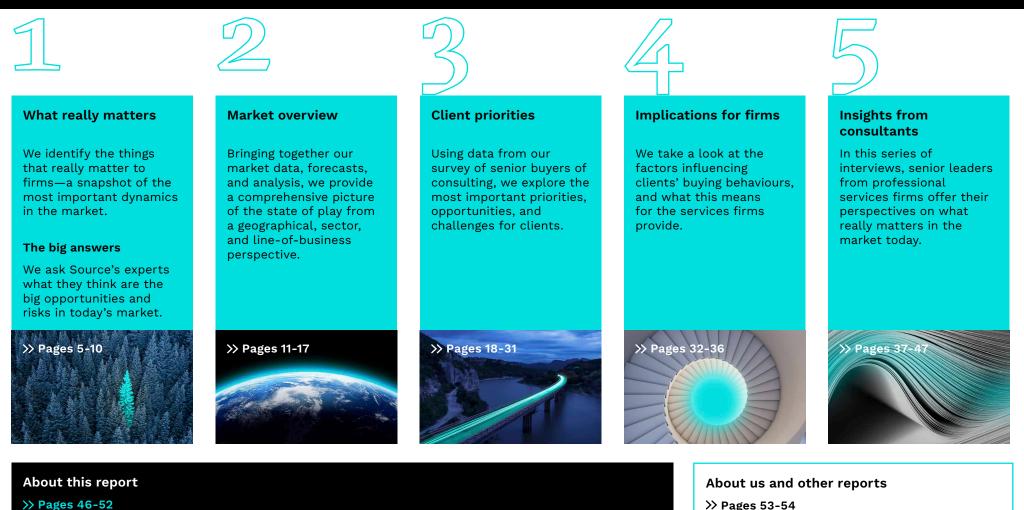


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SOURCE

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Underpinned by our MegaModel, our reports deliver an independent and objective understanding of the markets that matter most; including everything from key trends and growth opportunities to the latest views of consulting leaders and a detailed analysis of the buyer's voice.



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Rami Nazer, PwC

What really matters

Three things for a firm to act on6	5
The big answers on the GCC consulting market)

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Three things for a firm to act on

1

The GCC consulting market is showing no sign of a slowdown, with 13.2% growth in 2023.



The consulting market within the GCC experienced sustained doubledigit growth of 13.2% in 2023

The consulting market within the GCC experienced sustained doubledigit growth of 13.2% in 2023.

What's driving this strong performance? Unlike the rest of the major global economic centres, the GCC has not been significantly impacted by the gloomy macroeconomic situation, leaving clients with heavy purses and lots to do. Investment from the public sector remains strong as vast megaprojects reach the implementation stage, while companies in the region are looking to expand into the new growth areas created by diversification initiatives.

As the sheer scale and complexity of work associated with megaprojects and diversification continues to burden clients, they are now increasingly focused on productivity improvements in all parts of their business whether that is through upskilling their workforce or updating their technological infrastructure.

Although talent shortages have eased in the past year, clients are still keen to get the very best expertise for their business, and external support will be essential if they are to find these all-important efficiencies.



"There are certain sectors in the region that we see having huge potential [for 2024]. These include retail and consumer goods, manufacturing, innovation, defence and security, cyber."

Pedro Oliveira, Oliver Wyman

Client priorities

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What are clients' top needs and priorities?

Despite not being immune to macroeconomic headwinds, clients in the GCC remain positive about their prospects

- At the start of 2024, clients in the GCC continue to be optimistic about the overall economic environment within the region. The level of positivity compared to their European counterparts is stark, with 19% of respondents saying the economic climate has significantly improved over the last 12 months, compared to just 6% in the UK and 4% in France.
- Member states are showing no sign of a slowdown in channelling investment funds into largescale transformation projects and economic diversification initiatives—one of the main reasons why rising interest rates and borrowing costs are not having as devastating an impact on clients in the GCC as in other developed economies. This all points to the ambitions of GCC clients, and their overall need for external consulting support, remaining strong.
- However, we are hearing in our interviews with senior executives that clients are aware that the wider problems in the global economy could impact them in the future, with rising inflation threatening their key global trading partners. High oil prices, although positive for many clients in the region in the short term, are also a problem as they endanger the diversification efforts essential to future prosperity.

Figure 7

How has the overall economic environment in which your organisation operates changed compared to this time last year?

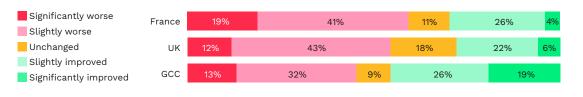


Figure 8

How much of an impact are these factors having on your organisation? Rank from biggest negative impact (1) to least negative impact (10)

High/rising inflation	13%		15%		12%	6%	10%		10%	9%	1	1%	6%	8%		
High/rising energy costs	12%	1	3%	139	%	8%	11% 5%		<mark>5%</mark> 10%		9% 9		%	9%		
Impact of climate change	11%	8%	7%	109	%	13%	14%			11%	7%	99	6	9%		
Macroeconomic uncertainty	11%	5%	10%	13	3%	11%		15%	15%		15%		8%	1:	2%	7%
Political instability/aggression	11%	10%	6 7%	1(0%	10%	6%	<mark>6%</mark> 16			13%	9	%	9%		
International trade tensions	10%	7%	14%		9%	13	%	% 12%		7%	139	%	8%	7%		
Adoption of AI	9%	11%	109	6	11%	7% 1		%	7%	8%	1	6%		11%		
Falling consumer demand	8%	9%	10%		15% 5%		11%	þ	139	%	9%	8%		11%		
Rising interest rates/borrowing costs	9%	9%	7%	9%	11	% 7	%	9%	12	2%	139	%	15	%		
Supply chain challenges	7%	11%	10%	9	9%	9%	11%		9%	9%	1	0%	14	1%		
All	10%	10%	10%	6	10%	10%	6 1	0%	10	%	10%	10	%	10%		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10					

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The urgency of tech investment is driven by clients not wanting to be left behind by their rivals

- Among clients in the GCC, we are now seeing both an increased sense of urgency in technology investment, as well as a boost in the size of funds they are willing to commit to any project that has a digital element to it. Fifty-three percent of clients expect to invest significantly in digital technology within the next 18 months, compared to 40% who said they had done the same in the last year.
- The fact that every company and member state in the GCC is keen to be seen as the market leader in all things technology means that investment is primarily driven by the need to have the edge over the competition. As clients look to outcompete rivals, consultants that demonstrate specialist expertise will be well-placed to help.

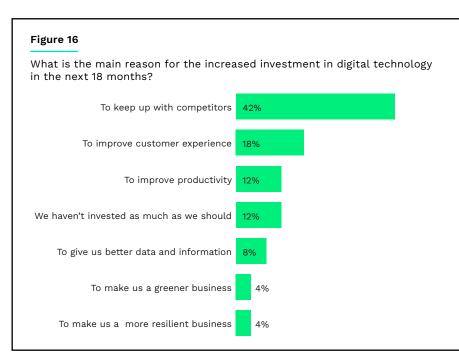


Figure 15 How has your organisation's investment in digital technology changed in the last year, and how is it likely to change in the next 18 months? How has your organisation's How do you expect your organisation's investment in digital technology to investment in digital technology change in the next 18 months? changed in the last year? 53% 54% 45% 40% 4% 3% 1% Will considerably increase Somewhat increased Significantly increased Will somewhat increase Stayed the same Will stay the same Somewhat decreased Significantly decreased

Insights from consultants About this report



"There is fierce competition between KSA and the UAE when it comes to attracting businesses."

Rafael Lemaitre, Sia Partners

Insights from consultants

Sanjeev Agarwal, CEO & Managing Director, Protiviti
Islam Al Bayaa, Head of Advisory, Middle East South Asia and Caspian (MESAC) Region and Arvind Singhi, KPMG and Head of Clients and Markets, Middle East South Asia and Caspian (MESAC) Region, KPMG39
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"The GCC countries have been continuously making substantial investments across strategy, technology, data science, creative design, and industry expertise with an inventive mindset."

Guarav Bedekar, Capgemini Invent Middle East

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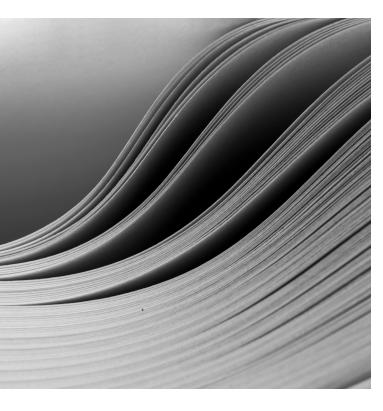
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Our approach to gathering data

The market for professional services is vast and highly dynamic, with deep roots spread out across the business world. The Source MegaModel helps you get to grips with the facts.

The MegaModel is the largest and most comprehensive database of its kind, anywhere in the world. It's used by the world's leading firms to identify where growth is coming from, which markets to invest in, and which sectors are driving demand.



Methodology—The MegaModel

MegaModel: Our Global Data Model

The quantitative market data in this report comes from our unique model of the global professional services market.

Rather than making high-level assumptions, this model has been built from the bottom up, sizing the market capability by capability—assessing how much work a firm earns delivering each professional capability within each sector and country. This results in a robust view of the size of the supplyside market, which can then be broken down to view the size of the market by country, sector, line of business, capabilities, and service.

Alongside this market segmentation, we also limit our market sizing and analysis to what we at Source call "big consulting"—work done by mid and largesized firms (those with more than 50 people). Please note that we don't track the long, thin tail of work done by contractors and very small firms, as most readers of this report would not seek or be able to compete in this part of the market. All of the data in the model is calibrated through extensive interviews with, and surveys of, professional services firms and their clients, allowing us to discuss broader trends in the market alongside detailed dimensions such as headcount. These interviews and surveys are supplemented with desk research, which allows us to assess the impact of wider macroeconomic trends on professional services. This, combined with our detailed modelling, results in a long-term view of the market that is able to support both historic and forecast data.

All figures given in this report are in US dollars.

US dollar to British pound US\$1 = £0.80

US dollar to euro US1 = 0.92

The data in this report is rounded to the nearest whole number or stated decimal place. As a result, totals may display small discrepancies.

Respondents by function

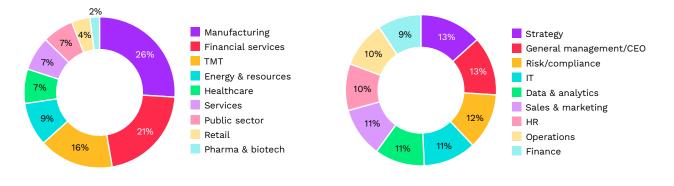


Who did we speak to

Client perspective

We carry out a client survey to help us build a rich picture of how different trends in the GCC are affecting clients' organisations and their use of consulting. Our survey focuses on trends in the GCC, providing detailed insights into the nuances of the market. For this, we surveyed 150 senior clients of consulting firms from across the GCC, all of whom work in organisations with more than 1,000 employees. This survey focuses on the following areas:

- How they expect to use consultants during 2024 and the first half of 2025
- Factors that affect the way clients work with consulting firms
- The ways consulting firms market themselves to clients and the impact this has on client decision making.



Respondents by organisation size 31% CxO/Board-level management 37% 5,000+ employees Direct report into CxO/ 1,000-4,999 employees board-level management Head of department 65%

Respondents by seniority



Insights from consultants

Throughout the year, Source analysts remain plugged in to the global consulting market through our bespoke research and consulting projects, adding further depth to our understanding of the consulting industry.

In-depth desk research

We also conducted a thorough PEST analysis in the GCC that drills down into finer macroeconomic details on a holistic and sector-by-sector basis and allows us to fit our research into a wider macroeconomic picture.



Definitions of sectors and services

Sectors

Energy & resources

Energy

Includes the exploration and production of energy, including oil, gas, coal, and renewables.

Utilities

Includes the delivery of electricity, gas, water, sanitation, and other related services.

Primary resources

Includes agriculture, chemicals and chemical products, commodities, forestry, fishing, metals, mining, and plastics.

Financial services

Banking

Includes retail banking, commercial banking, and lending. **Insurance**

Includes general insurance (e.g., motor, home, pets, health—anything on an annual contract), life insurance, pension products, and retirement planning.

Private equity

Includes both consulting work for private equity firms and consulting work with private equity portfolio businesses.

Capital markets

Includes investment banking, trading of stocks and financial products, corporate finance, and broking.

Investment and wealth management

Includes private banking, high net-worth banking, investment management, trust funds, the management of pension funds, and asset management.

Manufacturing

Aerospace

Includes space research and technology, the manufacture of aircraft, aircraft parts, rockets and other space equipment, and tanks and ammunition.

Automotive

Includes the manufacture of motor vehicles, industrial vehicles, and vehicle supplies and parts.

Construction

Includes surveying, architectural, and engineering services, heavy construction, house building, and the building of infrastructure.

Consumer packaged goods

Includes the manufacture of clothes, foods, alcohol, tobacco, furniture, home furnishings, cleaning products, small arms, children's toys, and sports equipment.

Consumer and industrial electronics

Includes electrical components, household and industrial appliances, commercial and professional equipment.

Industrial products

Includes industrial machinery, steel and metal products, and plastic products.

Pharma & biotech

Includes research into and the production of drugs, biological products, medicinal chemicals, and life sciences.

Healthcare

Includes private and publicly-funded healthcare, hospitals, laboratories, and medical equipment.

Public sector

Government

Includes federal/national, state/regional, local government, emergency services, justice, social services, public transport, and conservation.

Education

Includes public and private schools, universities, and libraries. **Defence**

Includes national security and consulting around defence issues.

Not for profit

Includes non-commercial research organisations, religious, political and professional membership organisations, trusts, labour unions, and business associations.

Retail

Includes the selling of clothes, food, consumer goods, and automobiles.

Services

Logistics

Includes warehousing, storage, packing and crating, and distribution including cargo, freight, and haulage.

Business services

Includes services relating to law, accountancy, IT maintenance, security systems, advertising, employment agencies, and vehicle leasing.

Leisure

Includes museums, art galleries, theatre, golf courses, hotels, hospitality, travel agencies, restaurants, and bars.

Real estate

Includes estate agencies and operators of residential and commercial buildings.

Transportation

Includes private and people-related transportation, including airlines, airport management, train operators, rail infrastructure management, water transportation, courier services, and private bus services.

Technology, media & telecoms

Telecoms

Includes telephone, mobile, digital, and other communication services.

High-tech

Includes IT-related devices, computer and computerrelated devices, audio and video equipment, broadcasting and communication equipment.

Media

Includes radio, television, and digital broadcasting stations and services as well as printing and publishing of newspapers, periodicals, and books.

Services

We've taken the lines of business and capabilities from our taxonomy that broadly align with traditional definitions of consulting and divided them into services that include the following. Please note that for some lines of business, for example, forensics, we've taken a subset of the relevant capabilities and excluded others.

Cybersecurity consulting

Cybersecurity advice, Cybersecurity incident response, Penetration testing & wargaming, Technology & security risk services.

HR, change & people strategy

Benefits, compensation & pensions, excluding actuarial & investment advice, Change management, Diversity & inclusion, Employee engagement, Governance & board effectiveness, HR strategy & effectiveness, Leadership, Organisational design & culture, Organisational training & development, Outplacement, Pension fund evaluation & advice, Performance management, Stakeholder management, Talent management, Team effectiveness & collaboration, Resource-efficiency strategy, Purpose-led strategy & change, Resource-efficiency implementation, Social impact & trust.

Operations

Benchmarking, Business continuity & recovery, Cost cutting, Customer service, DevOps, Distribution strategy, Lean & Six Sigma, Operational review, Outsourcing advice, Post-M&A integration, Process design, re-engineering & automation, Procurement/purchasing, Property & estate management, Sales & distribution planning, Sales force effectiveness, Supply chain management, Target operating model, Sustainable supply chain, Corporate, occupier services & facilities management, Integrated real estate developer services, Real estate deal/transaction services.

Risk & financial management

Operational risk, Programme risk, Responding to regulation, Risk management, Budgeting/financial planning process, Debt advisory, Finance function, Financial advisory, Financial restructuring & insolvency, eDiscovery, Forensic accounting.

Strategy

Capital allocation strategy, Commercial due diligence & valuation, Financial due diligence, M&A transaction strategy, Operational due diligence, Portfolio & investment strategy, Public-private partnerships, Technology due diligence, Business & financial modelling, Category management, Channel management, Corporate recovery & turnaround, Corporate restructuring, Corporate strategy, Market analysis & strategy, Policy formulation, Pricing, Strategic sourcing/ offshoring services, Real estate strategy, Environmental & social impact research, Macro/microeconomic research, Market research, Customer feedback, Customer segmentation, Employee feedback, Advanced analytics, Sustainable investment.

About this report

Technology & innovation

Ideation, Innovation management, Innovation strategy, Strategies for growth from innovation, Cloud advice, ERP consulting, IT strategy, planning & review, IT training, Programme management, Vendor selection, Clean technology, Green IT, Corporate identity, Graphic & UI design, UX & service design, Customer journey & UX benchmarking, Data visualisation, business intelligence & semantic layer.

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About this report

Contributors

We are extremely grateful to all the people we spoke to for making this report possible. On this page is a list of individuals who have contributed (excluding those consultants who wished to remain anonymous).

Name	Job title	Organisation
Sanjeev Agarwal	CEO & Managing Director	Protiviti
Islam Al Bayaa	Head of Advisory, Middle East South Asia and Caspian (MESAC) Region	КРМG
Nicholas Bahr	Global Director for Risk and Resilience	dss+
Guarav Bedekar	Managing Director	Capgemini Invent Middle East
Jonathan Holmes	Managing Director,Regional Chairman	EMEA, Korn Ferry
Rafael Lemaitre	Partner	Sia Partners
Rami Nazer	Partner – EMEA Government & Public Sector Leader	PwC
Pedro Oliveira	Managing Partner	Oliver Wyman
Arvind Singhi	Head of Clients and Markets, Middle East South Asia and Caspian (MESAC) Region	КРМС



Meet the expert

Dane Albertelli

Dane is a senior research analyst within the Market Trends team. He currently conducts research on global market trends within the professional services sector. He has also carried out bespoke mergers & acquisitions scans for clients hoping to enter the US IT services sector. He has written a number of specialised reports on the state of the professional services market in regions such as GCC and Australia.

Dane Albertelli

🛥 dane.albertelli@sourceglobalresearch.com



About us

We help professional services firms understand what really matters when facing decisions of vital importance.

The best decisions are based on evidence, objectivity, and a willingness to change. That's why, at Source, we tell you what you need to hear, rather than what you want to hear.

We draw upon our deep roots within the professional services sector to provide firms with a clear picture of their clients' worlds. Through comprehensive research and meticulous analysis, we pinpoint what truly matters and deliver actionable insights that help firms map out the right way forward.

We believe in thriving individually and succeeding together. And we would love to help your firm crack its latest conundrum.

Source Information Services Ltd 20 Little Britain | London | EC1A 7DH UK +44 (0) 20 3743 3934 US +1 800 767 8058 info@sourceglobalresearch.com www.sourceglobalresearch.com

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