

# Bahrain Water Report Q4 2014

<https://marketpublishers.com/r/B5A6C790652EN.html>

Date: August 2014

Pages: 48

Price: US\$ 1,295.00 (Single User License)

ID: B5A6C790652EN

## Abstracts

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BMI View: Bahrain's water sector is continuing its gradual program of reform and is increasingly open to foreign direct investment. However, we would emphasise that this process is tentative. The country's water infrastructure remains in need of extensive expansion and modernisation, and this is likely to remain a priority for the Bahrain authorities. With water extraction expected to increase throughout our five-year forecast period to 2018 and mains water consumption also expected to increase, Bahrain will need to respond to ensure it can keep up with rising demand.

In the wake of 2013's election of reformist-inclined Crown Prince Salman Bin Hamad al-Khalifa, to the post of deputy prime minister could serve to drive the privatisation of the water sector, which has been on the agenda in Bahrain for several years. This privatisation takes place in the context of an improvement of the overall investment climate in Bahrain, with domestic economic conditions gradually showing signs of improvement after little growth in the last two years. The country's Electricity and Water ministry is actively seeking bilateral partnerships with countries including France and the UAE as part of the wider strategy to improve the quantity and quality of its water supplies over the longer term. If these meetings develop into full-blown partnerships we anticipate a possible upswing in joint ventures in Bahrain's water sector (particularly water infrastructure) between French, Bahrain and UAE companies.

## Contents

BMI Industry View

SWOT

Water SWOT

Political

Economic

Business Environment

Industry Forecast

Bahrain Water Forecast

Water Extraction

Table: Bahrain Water Extraction, 2011-2018

Water Consumption

Table: Bahrain Water Consumption 2011-2018

Table: Bahrain Water Losses, 2011-2018

Industry Risk/Reward Ratings

Bahrain Risk/Reward Ratings

Table: Middle East & Africa Water Risk and Reward Ratings

Rewards

Risks

Market Overview

Water Supply And Consumption

Table: Water Production Facilities

Agricultural And Industrial Water Consumption

Distribution

Treatment And Sanitation

Regulations And Tariffs

Industry Trends And Developments

Key Projects, Industry Trends And Developments

Table: Bahrain Water Infrastructure Projects

Competitive Landscape

Government Authorities

Foreign Companies

Global Industry Overview

Latin America's Power Sector Will Be Largest Water Consumer

Exports and Solar Power Will Reduce MENA Power Sector Water Consumption

SSA Power Companies Face Water Consumption Crackdown Over Longer Term

Public Opinion and Political Manoeuvring Will Increase Water Costs for Power

Companies in Western Europe

Desire for Independence Will Insulate CEE Power Companies For Now

Shale Boom Will Reduce US Power Company Water Needs

Demographic Forecast

Table: Bahrain's Population By Age Group, 1990-2020 ('000)

Table: Bahrain's Population By Age Group, 1990-2020 (% of total)

Table: Bahrain's Key Population Ratios, 1990-2020

Table: Bahrain's Rural And Urban Population, 1990-2020

Methodology

Industry Forecast Methodology

Sources

Risk/Reward Ratings Methodology

Table: Water Risk/Reward Rating Indicators

Table: Weighting of Indicators

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