Economic Update

NBK Economic Research Department I 14 November 2021

Kuwait Projects

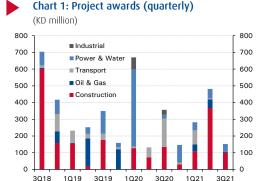
Kuwait project activity dips in 3Q21 amid delays and supply chain constraints

- **Project activity declined significantly in the third quarter of 2021**. The total value of awarded projects fell to KD152 million (-68% q/q; -57% y/y), according to MEED projects. (Chart 1.) This brings the total value of projects awarded in 2021 to a cumulative KD916 million so far. With the fourth quarter underway already, the full-year figure is likely to fall a long way short of the KD2.4 billion earlier projected by MEED. (Chart 2.) The decline is due to delays in government tendering and approvals amid cutbacks in capital spending as well as pandemic-linked supply chain constraints that have led to increases in the cost of materials and labor.
- Construction sector awards came in considerably weaker than in the previous quarter (-72% q/q). It was, though, the strongest performing sector, both in 3Q21 with KD102 million worth of projects awarded and in the year so far with 63% of all projects falling in this sector. (Chart 3.) KOC and KERP's Excavation Transportation & Remediation Project: Zone-3, worth KD75 million, was the largest project awarded during the quarter, followed by PAHW's Al-Mutlaa City: Soil Works contract, worth KD26 million. Several project awards are expected in 4Q21, including the PAHW's Public Buildings at South Abdullah Al-Mubarak: Blocks 1-6 (KD 96 million) and a portion of the Sabah Al-Ahmed Township project (KD75 million).
- The power and water sectors also witnessed a slowdown in project activity in 3Q21, with awards falling 17% q/q to KD47 million. Two contracts under the PAHW's Extension & Maintenance of Medium & Low Tension Cable Networks project were awarded. The fourth quarter of the year should see KD431 million worth of projects awarded, including several contracts related to the MEW's Fresh Water Pipeline project (KD105 million) and smaller scale projects in the power sector worth around KD258 million.
- No projects were awarded in the transport sector in 3Q21. This is the second consecutive quarter of minimal activity, following 2Q21's outturn of KD5 million. Looking ahead, KD452 million of transportation awards, including two parts of MPW's Northern Regional Road (KD189 million) and the Crossroads for New Passenger Terminal 2 (KD120 million) are expected by the end of 2021.
- Activity in the oil and gas sectors also slowed significantly. Total awards declined by 93% q/q to KD4 million, which was essentially KOC's Installation of Flow Lines for Producer Wells project. Kuwait's oil and gas sector has KD308 million in awards planned for 4Q21, including KOC's JPF 4 & 5 Production Facilities (KD294 million) and several smaller scale oil projects. However, given recent trends, we could see this project pushed back into early 2022.
- Lastly, Kuwait's chemical sector, which has been quiet for the past few years, should finally see some movement, with the contracts expected for the Al-Zour Petrochemical Complex (KD2.85 billion) by Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC). This is not likely before early 2022, though.
- MEED Projects sees KD1.5 billion worth of projects awards coming through in 4Q21. (Chart 4.) For 2021 as a whole, however, project activity is likely to be softer than initially expected.

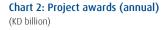


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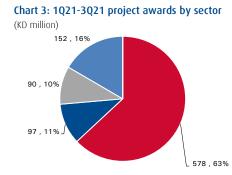


Source: MEED Projects, as of 24-October



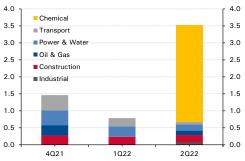


Source: MEED Projects; *as of 24-Oct and including planned projects



Construction
Oil & Gas = Transport
Power & Water
Industrial
Source: MEED projects, as of 24-October

Chart 4: Planned projects (KD billion)



Source: MEED projects, as of 24-Oct, *excludes awarded projects



Table 1: Projects awarded in 3Q21

Project Name	Sector	Value (KD million)	Award Date
KOC - KERP: South Kuwait Excavation Transportation & Remediation Project: Zone-3	Construction	75	3021
PAHW - Al Mutlaa City: Soil Works	Construction	26	3021
PAHW - Extension & Maintenance of Medium and Low Tension cable network (N6,N7,N8)	Power	24	3021
PAHW - Extension & Maintenance of Medium & Low Tension cable network (N9,N10,N11)	Power	23	3021
KOC - Installation of Flowlines for Producer Wells In North Kuwait	Oil	3.6	3021

Source: MEED projects, as of October 24

Table 2: Major project awards planned in 4Q21

Project Name	Sector	Value (KD million)	Expected Award
KOC - JPF 4 & 5 Off-Plot Works & Production Facilities: Production Facilities	Gas	294	4021
MPW - Crossroads for New Passenger Terminal 2 at Maqwa Road	Transport	120	4021
MPW - Northern Regional Road from Crossroad No.82 To Crossroad No.58	Transport	99	4021
MPW - Northern Regional Road from Crossroad 58 to Salmi Border Check Post	Transport	90	4Q21
PAHW - Sabah Al Ahmed Township : Residential, Commercial Center & Kids Club (S1)	Construction	75	4Q21
PAHW - South Abdullah Al-Mubarak : Public Buildings at Block 1,4,5, and 6	Construction	60	4Q21
KOC - Installation of Flowlines for Producer Wells in Umm Niqa	Oil	45	4Q21
MEW - Upgrade & Development of Doha Western Power Station	Power	45	4Q21
MEW - Fresh Water Pipeline from the Abdullah Water Distribution Complex	Water	45	4021
MPW - Kuwait Airport Expansion: New Passenger Terminal 2: Air-side Works	Transport	42	4Q21

Source: MEED projects, as of 24-October

Notes: Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP); Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA); Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC); Kuwait Oil Company (KOC); Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI); Kuwait University (KU); Ministry of Public Works (MPW); Ministry of Health (MOH); Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW); Petroleum Industries Company (PIC) Kuwait Environmental Remediation Program (KERP); Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW); Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC).



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