



# Interim Report

Second quarter 2022

Thomas Berge, Interim CEO  
Morten Edvardsen, Interim CFO

A large, solid blue circle with a thin orange border, containing the text "Q2" in a large, white, serif font.

# Q2

# LINK facts and figures

**2000**

FOUNDING YEAR

**#1**

MESSAGING PLAYER IN EUROPE

**>14 bn**

MESSAGES SENT IN 2021\*

**30**

OFFICES GLOBALLY

**19**

COUNTRIES IN OUR GROUP

**~48 k**

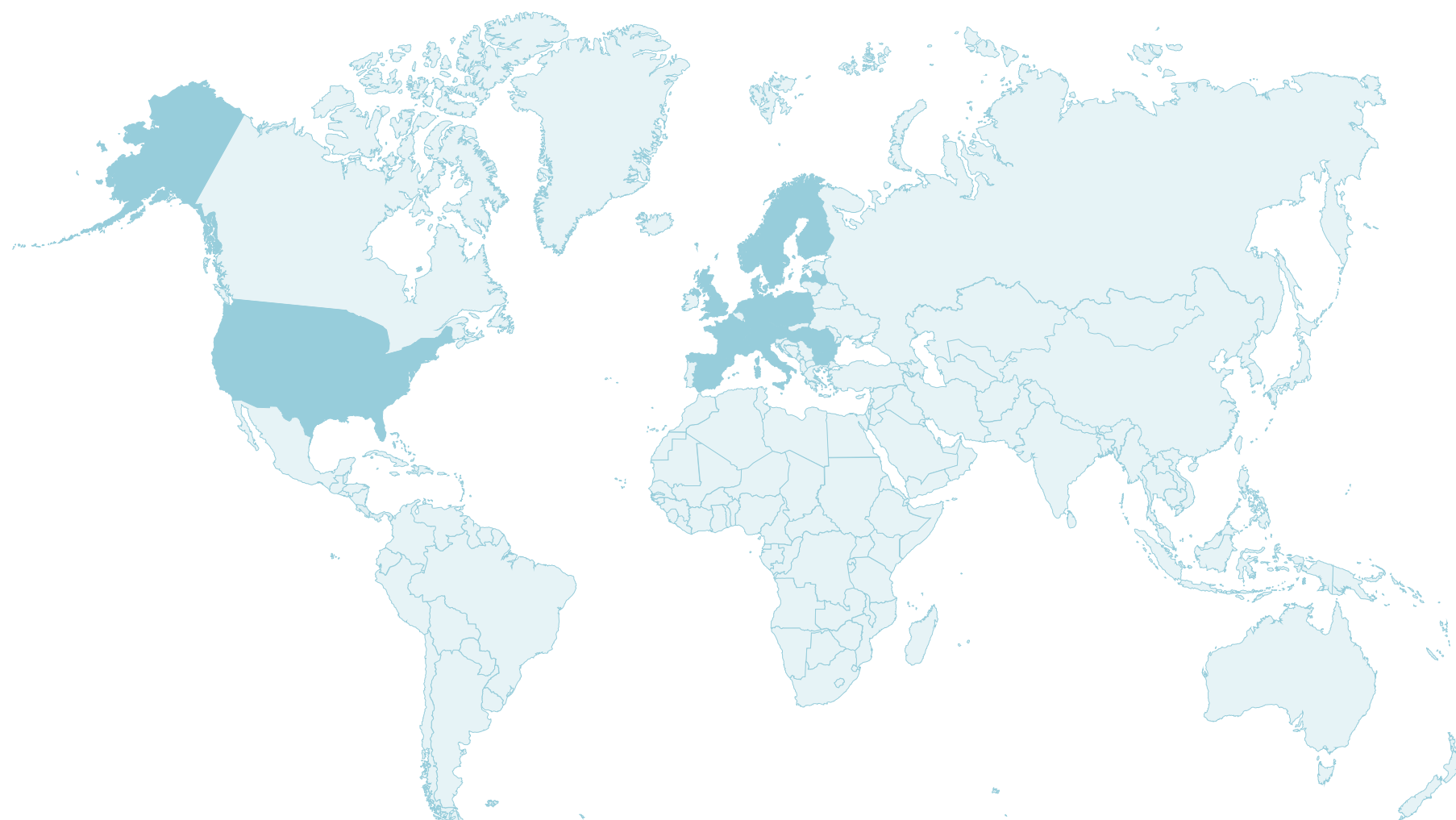
HAPPY CLIENTS WORLDWIDE\*

**4.8 bn**

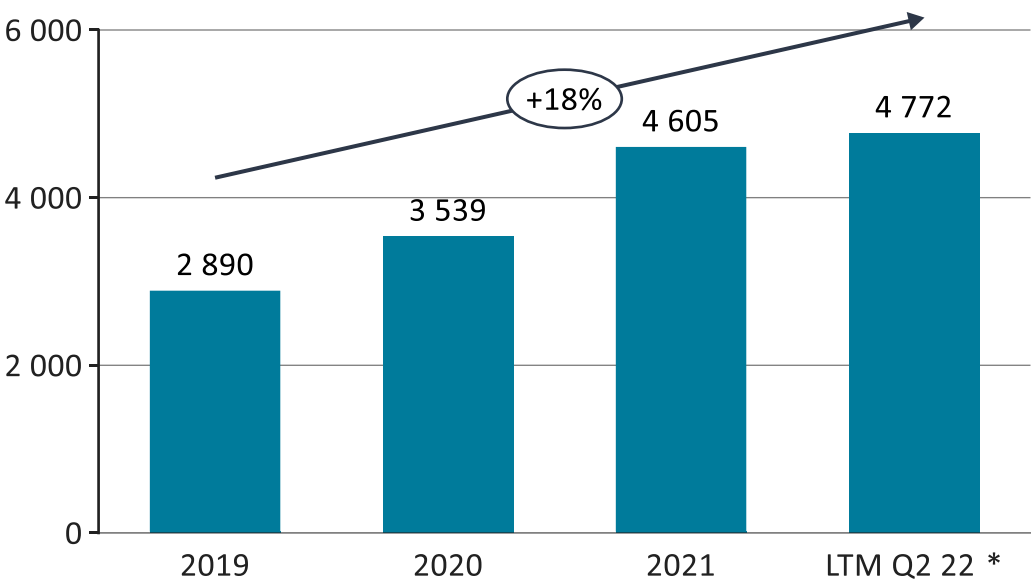
NOK LTM revenue Q2 22\*

**603 m**

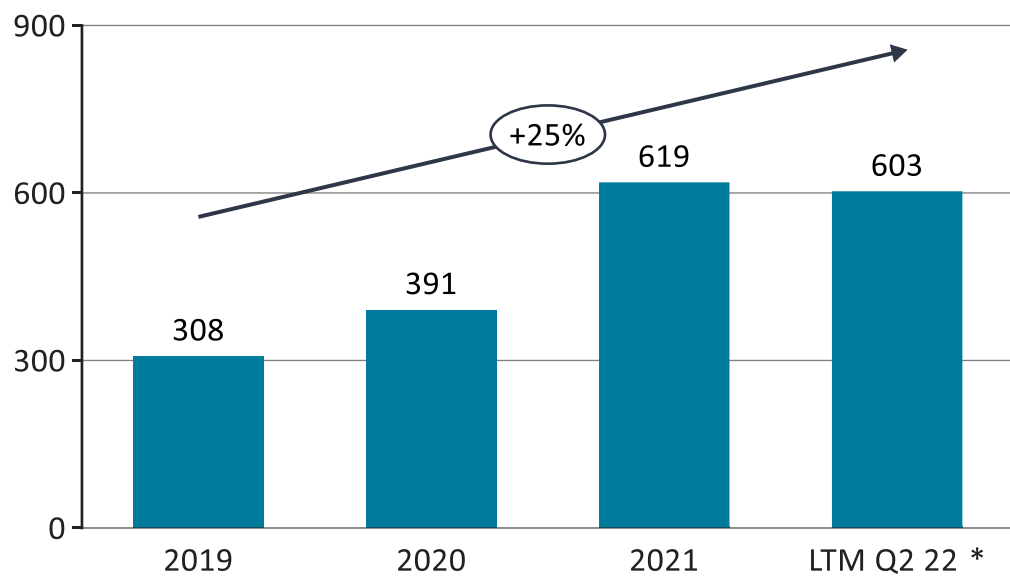
NOK LTM adj. EBITDA Q2 22\*



Revenue NOKm



Adjusted EBITDA NOKm



# Implications of challenging macro environment

Macroeconomic uncertainty impacts the digital messaging industry differently depending on use case

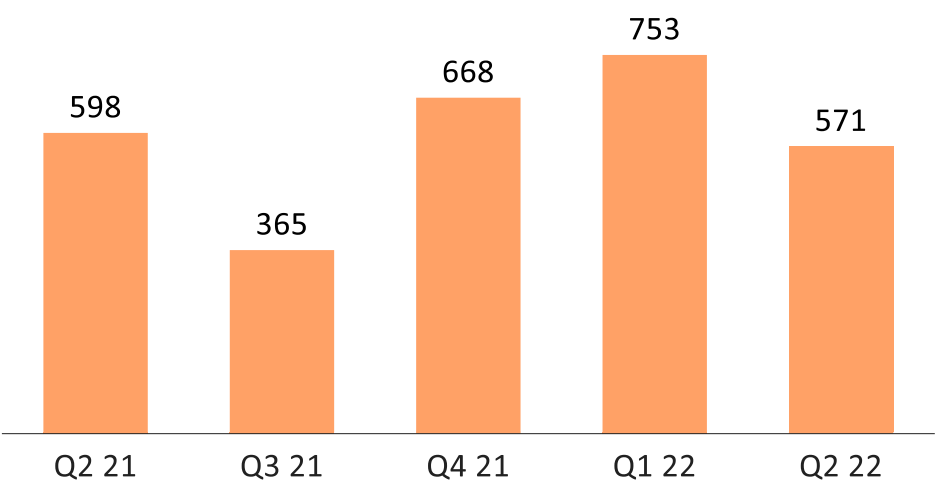
- Headwind for retail volumes related to digital marketing which fluctuate with consumer confidence
- Sustained growth for essential notifications use cases
- New growth opportunities for efficient customer care solutions

LINK well positioned for continued growth, albeit at lower level in challenging macro environment

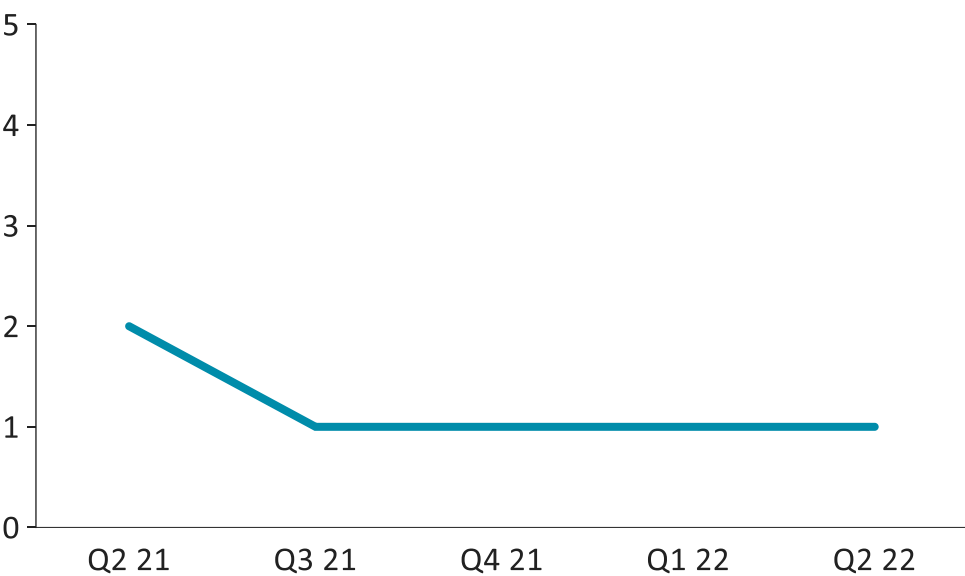
- Retail sector has lowered spend on marketing activities resulting in reduced messaging volumes
- New client wins are however holding up at normal levels
- Churn remains stable at a very low level

Retail volumes expected to recover and normalize again when consumer confidence improves

New agreements signed in quarter



Customer churn %



# LINK enhances focus on current growth and cash generation

LINK recalibrates more resources to current market growth opportunities

- Prioritizes mature products and selected CPaaS solutions with proven market demand
  - Advanced CPaaS solutions have low market adoption and longer revenue lead times as clients need to adapt their value chains
  - Previous overinvestments in building market adoption have lowered traction on near-term growth execution

LINK to ensure continued strong FCF generation through execution on

- OPEX reductions - aligning costs to near-term growth expectations
- CAPEX reductions - product development already ahead of market adoption
- Consolidation of acquired assets to extract costs and revenue synergies

Large upselling potential for more advanced products as market adoption rates gain momentum

- Technological advances last 3 years been more rapid than customer penetration

# Second quarter report 2022 highlights



Revenue grew 12% to NOK 1,177 million in Q2 22. High Q2 21 comparables reduced organic growth to 4%

- Underlying organic growth at 11%, below previous quarters as certain retail clients in specific markets are reducing spend in a response to a more uncertain macro environment



Gross profit increased 18% to NOK 317 million in the quarter

- Organic gross profit declined 1% due to high comparables and customer mix effects



Adjusted EBITDA growth of 8% to NOK 129 million

- Organic adjusted EBITDA decreased reflecting lower gross profit and OPEX increases
- OPEX increased by NOK 10 million related to GTM investments initiated since H2 2020



Strong cash flow from operations in excess of NOK 200 million in Q2 22

- Free cash flow (FCF) of NOK 100 million after capex and interest payments



LINK signed 571 new agreements in the second quarter of the year (new and expanding)

- Good momentum in new customer wins with strong potential for future growth
- Longer ramp up times for new contracts in adoption of more advanced CPaaS solutions

# Revised forward-looking statement

## 2022

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FY organic revenue growth of 8 - 12%

- Previous 14 -17% range for 2022 reduced due to slower than expected growth in H1 22 and increased macroeconomic uncertainty
- Net retention rate expected to be 3-4 percentage points lower than organic revenue growth reflecting historical contribution from new client wins
- OPEX increases related to GTM initiatives to be reverted by cost reductions
- Continued strong cash generation to support deleveraging

## 2025 (2024)

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Pro forma revenue NOK 10 billion

- Growth contribution from accretive acquisitions
- 20% long-term organic growth in mature CPaaS market
- Pro forma adjusted EBITDA margin 15-17% with scalability

# Large growth potential from new contract wins

LINK has made significant go-to-market (GTM) investments

- Enhancing LINK's competitive advantage in adoption of advanced CPaaS solutions
  - Adoption lead times and scalability however vary by solutions

Salesforce resources shifted to mature products and market ready CPaaS solutions

- Customers more focused on well established offerings in current macro environment
- LINK's advanced CPaaS portfolio developed and ready to meet evolving customer demand

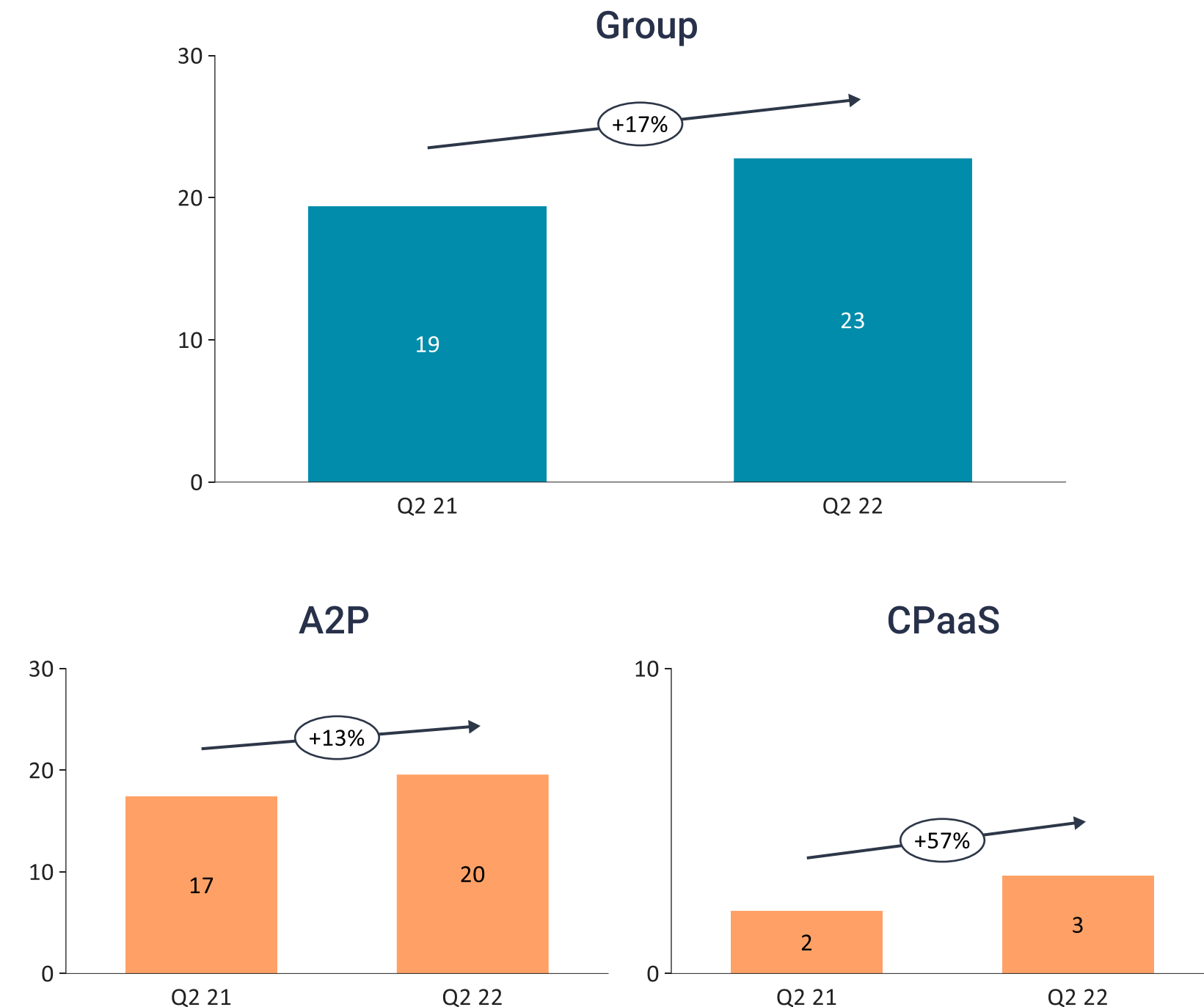
New customer wins continue to support group growth

- Expected annualized best estimate gross profit growth of 17%
- Contracts will be implemented gradually, and historical data indicates 75% of gross profit will be recorded in the P&L after the first 12 months for market ready products

LINK's opportunity pipeline shows large potential for mature products

- A2P SMS remain essential for mission critical messaging with an open rate at 98%
- WhatsApp emerging as an attractive channel within customer care
- Xenioo chatbot easy to implement with immediate cost savings for customers

Annualized gross profit contribution\* from new agreements signed (NOKm)



# Traction on customer care use cases

## Acacium – UK's largest healthcare solutions provider

- Offer a range of specialist staff recruitment services via multiple brands
  - Pre-applicant chatbot screening to avoid unsuitable candidates applying
- Weight Management Service for NHS
  - SMS chatbot for patients to update their weight monthly



## Turva – Finnish insurance company

- Proactive customer service through WhatsApp, SMS and IVR
- Significant potential for conversational messaging



## Global logistics customer

- Advancing customer interactions through chatbots, WhatsApp and live agents
- Pilot in South American country for seamless integration of 1,000 customer advisors





# LINK's Xenioo chatbot in popular demand

## Marionnaud – Multi-brand European beauty retailer

- Adopting Xenioo combined with WhatsApp as channel for customer chats
  - Seamless chatbot integration with live agents at central or store level
- Proven use case for improved customer satisfaction and reduced costs

## Italian banking group

- Customer support improved through Xenioo combined with live agents
  - Increased customer satisfaction and cost efficiencies
- Marketing of essential banking services

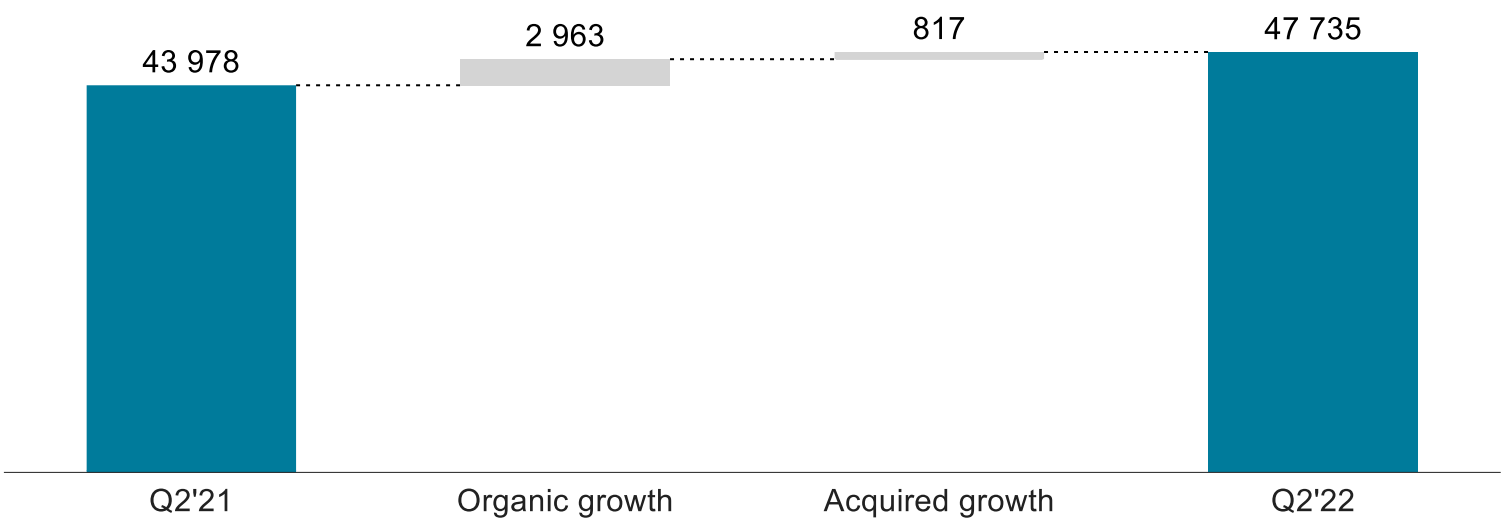
## Batfast – Multi-sports entertainment

- Virtual reality baseball, cricket and tennis in restaurants / bars
- Applies Xenioo to answer FAQ's and for quick technology support on sites
  - Both usage and customer satisfaction have increased since adoption



# Large and stable customer base secures recurring revenue

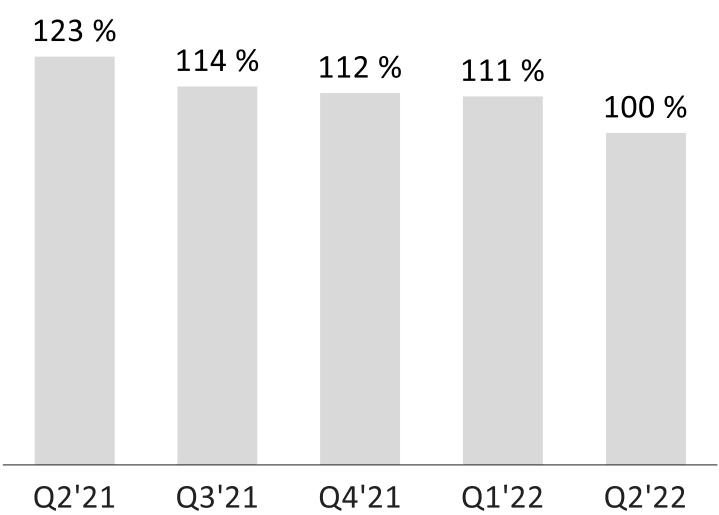
## Customer accounts



47,700 active customer accounts

- 3,000 new customer accounts signed last 12 months
- Customer churn at 1% secure recurring revenue

## Group pro forma NRR\* in fixed currency



Group pro forma NRR of 100% in Q2 22 in fixed currency

- High Q2 21 comparables reduced growth from existing clients in the current quarter
- Long lead time for advanced products mainly sold to existing clients
- Certain retail clients reduced spending in Q2 22 with increased macro uncertainty

New customers added another 3-4% to Q2 22 organic revenue growth

- Contribution from new wins in line with previous quarters

# Versatile business model with diverse use cases and geographical diversification

Most of LINK's revenue driven by stable growth notification use cases

- Reminders, alerts, updates, mission critical communication
  - Linked to essential activities – healthcare, utilities and critical supplies

LINK less exposed to more volatile mobile marketing use cases

- Marketing activity moves more with consumer confidence
  - Effect expected to be less than during Covid lockdowns even in a recession
  - More cautious consumers, but shops remain open

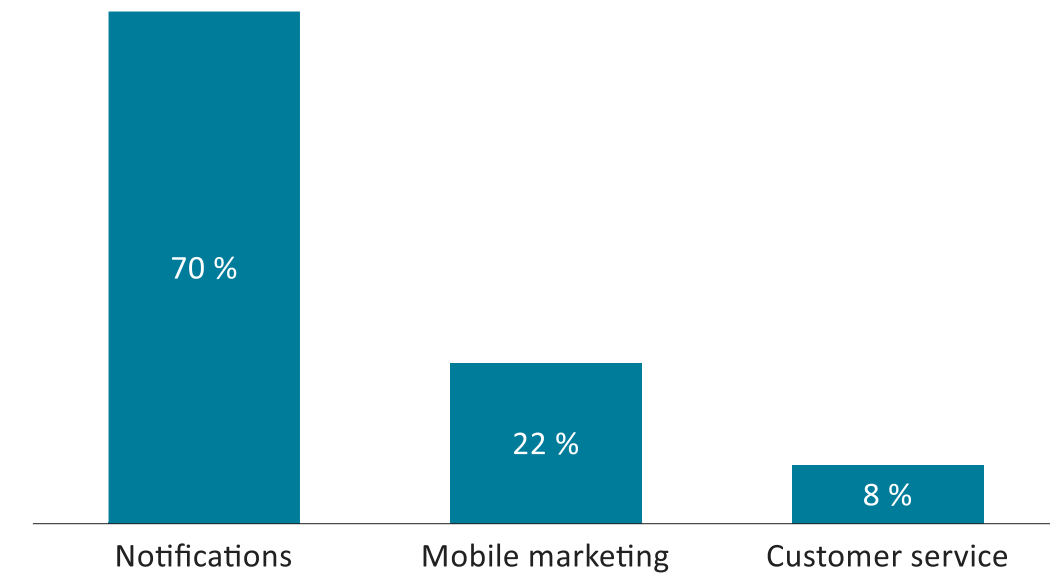
Customer service use cases could be counter cyclical

- Large cost saving potential in customer care through chatbots and digital messaging

LINK has close to 50,000 customers globally

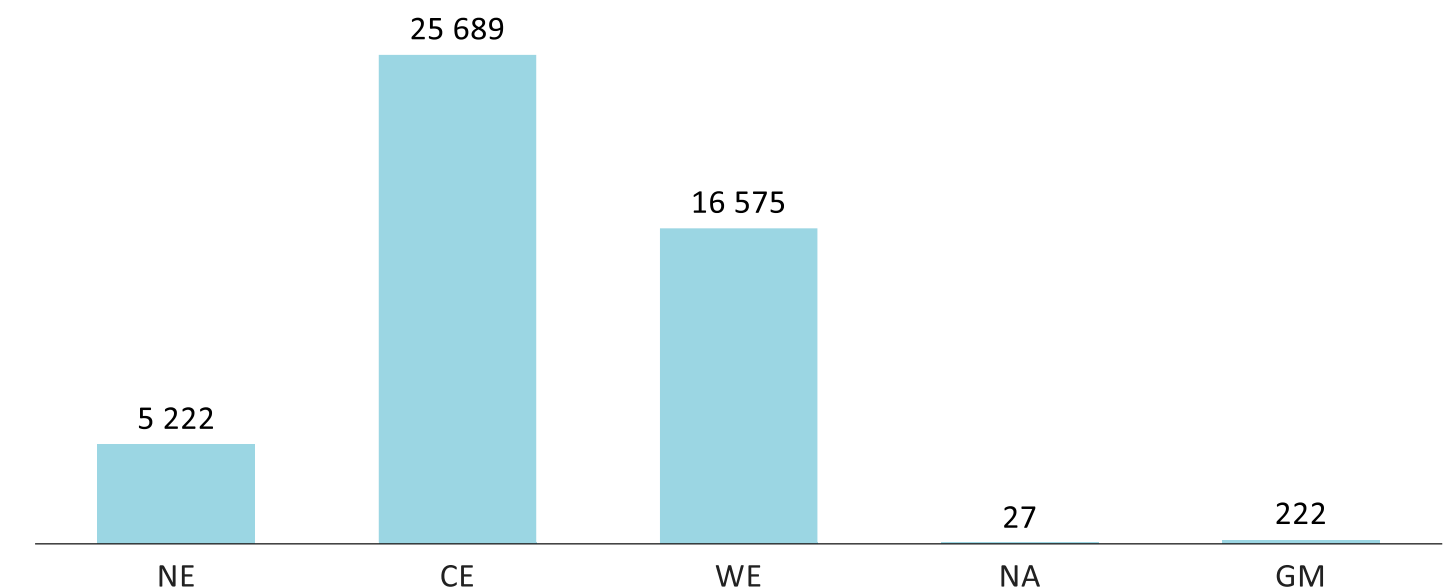
- Continuous cross-selling opportunities through sharing of best practises
  - Between regions and customer use cases

Revenue by use case\*



\* Estimated from industry classification of customer data

Customers by region



# Regional variations in customer type and strength of economies support growth

## Northern Europe

- The Nordic countries have strong economies and high social safety nets
  - Even during the pandemic mobile marketing use cases proved more resilient

## Central Europe

- Mostly notifications business related to logistics and banks
  - Retail activity in Poland and Germany exposed due to geopolitics

## Western Europe

- Weaker economies with less consumer protection in a downturn
  - Uncertainty for retail businesses in France, Italy and Spain

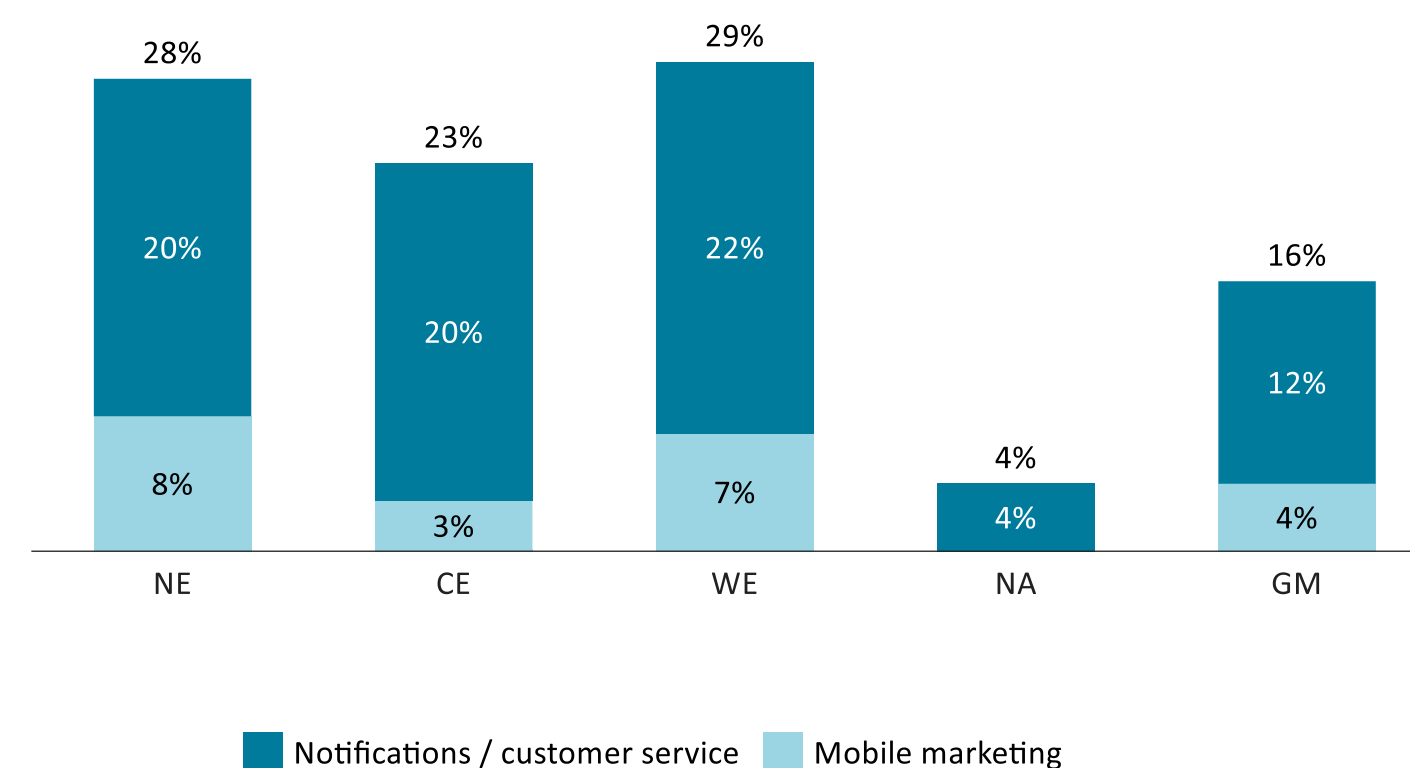
## North America

- Use cases related to mission critical communication independent of economic activity

## Global Messaging

- Low margin wholesale volumes with limited impact on gross profit

Revenue by segment and customer type\* %



\* Segment reporting and estimated from industry classification of customer data

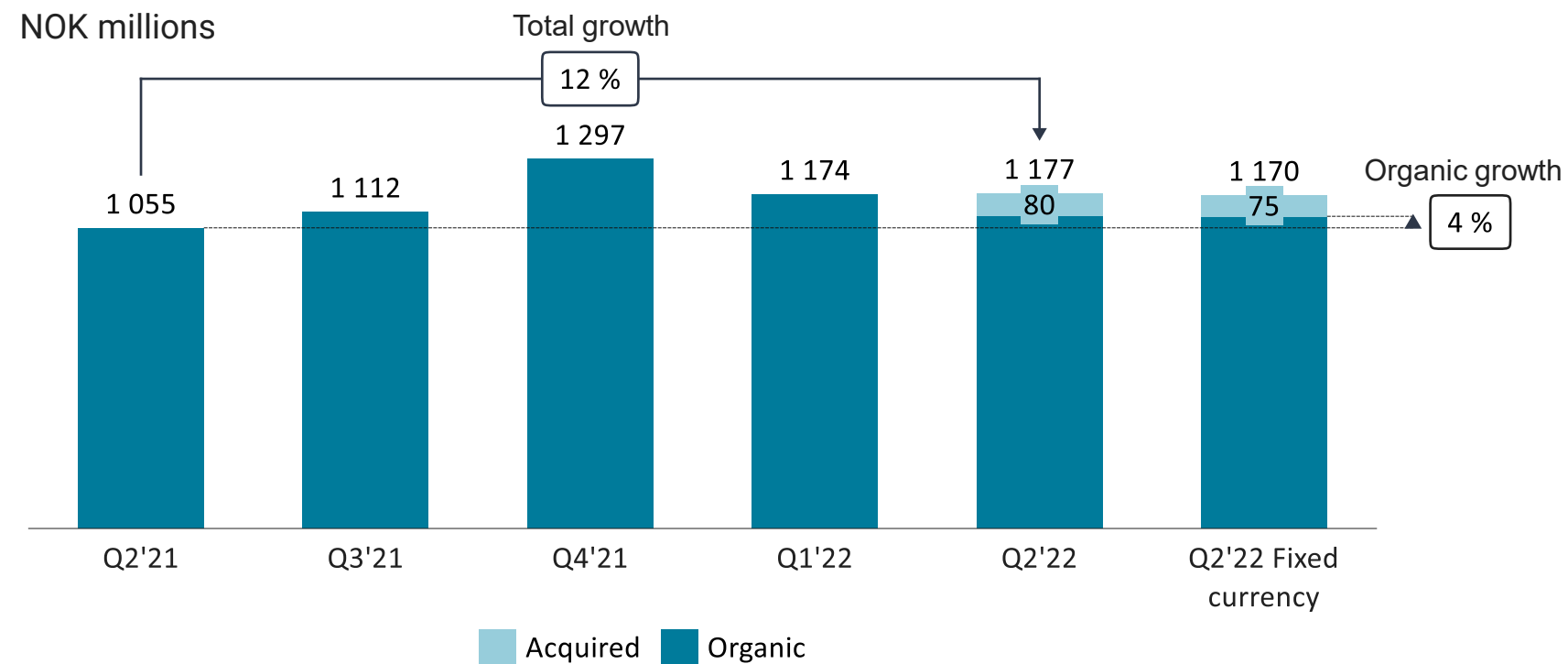


# Financial Review

Second quarter 2022

# Reported revenue grew 12% to NOK 1,177 million

## Total reported revenue



Reported revenue growth of 12% including effect from acquired entities

Organic revenue growth of 4% in fixed currency

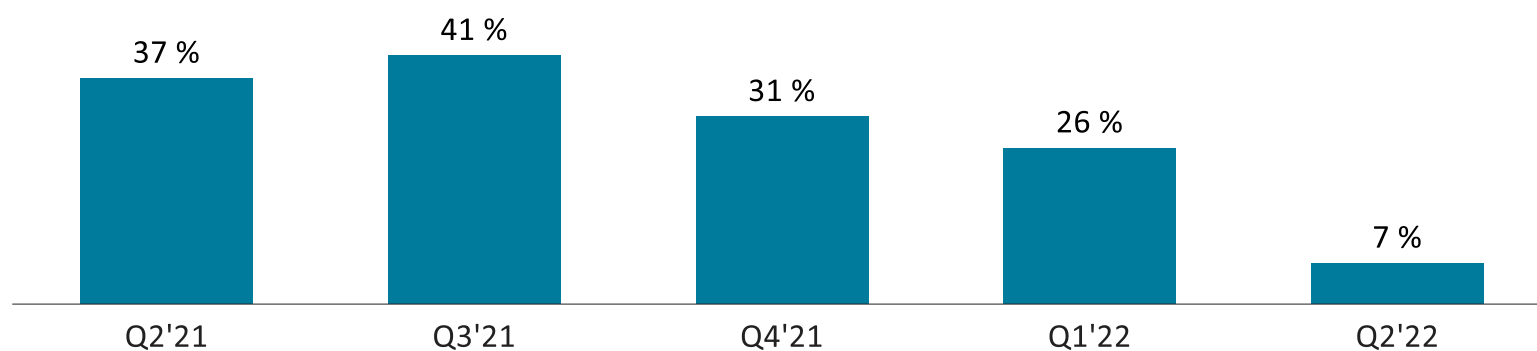
- Underlying organic growth of 11% when adjusting for high Q2 21 comparables

Softer market in Q2 22 with increased macroeconomic uncertainty

Several factors led to high comparables in Q2 last year

- Reopening of shops after lockdowns in Q1 21
- Pent-up demand due to lockdowns in Q1 21
- High Covid related traffic regarding testing and vaccination in certain markets

## Reported volume growth YoY (%)

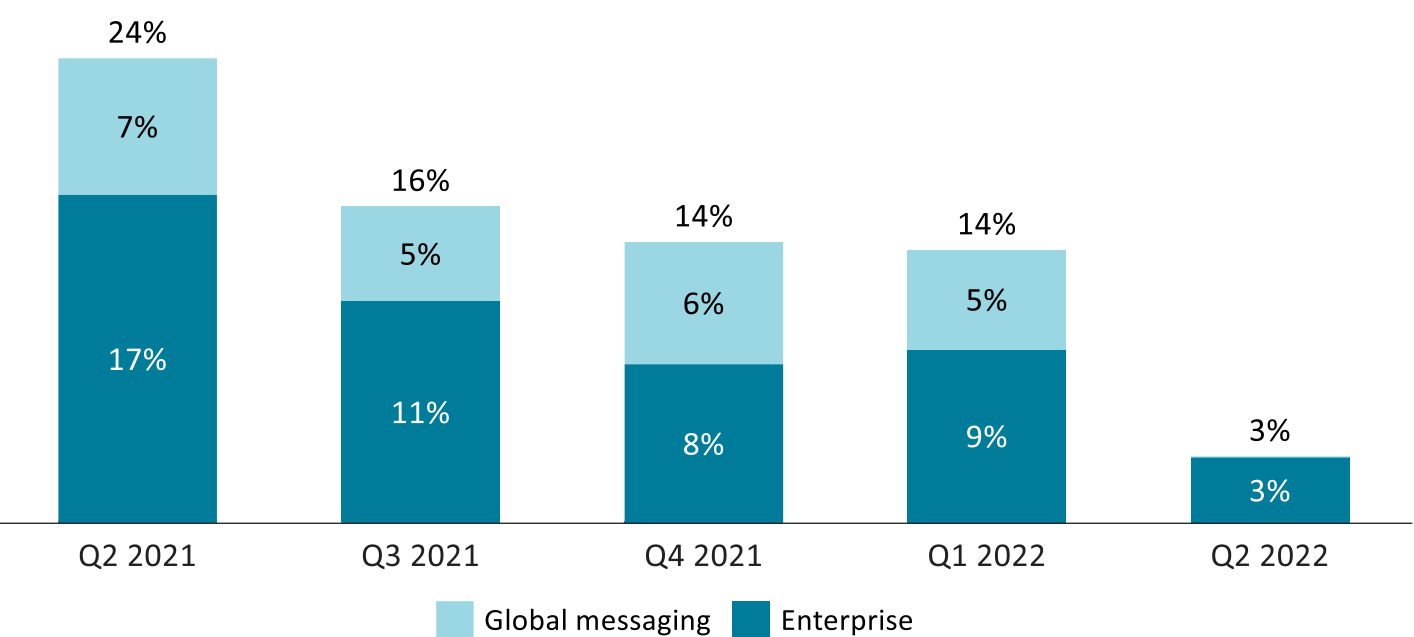


Reported volume growth for Q2 22 at 7% including effect from acquired entities

- Previous quarters more impacted by M&A consolidation effects
- Lower contribution from the Global Messaging segment reduced total volume growth

# Pro forma organic revenue growth quarterly low with high comparables

Pro forma organic revenue growth and contribution (fixed curr)



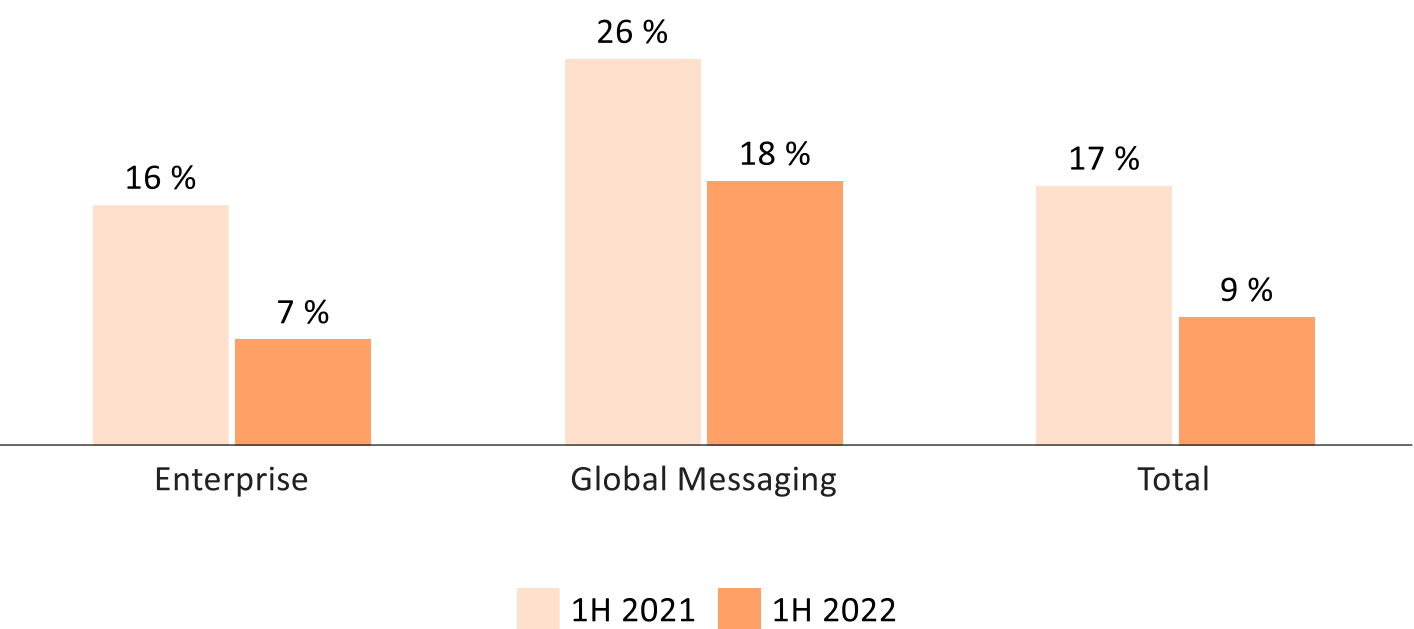
Pro forma organic revenue growth of 3% in Q2 22

- High Q2 21 comparables – Underlying pro forma organic growth 10%
- Challenging markets in parts of Central Europe related to geopolitics
- Lower retail spend in France, Italy and Spain reflecting increased macro uncertainty
- Churn of high volume low margin client in the Nordics reduced growth by 1 percentage point

Global Messaging wholesale revenue remained stable YoY

- Compared to 59% growth in Q2 last year

Pro forma organic revenue growth (fixed curr)



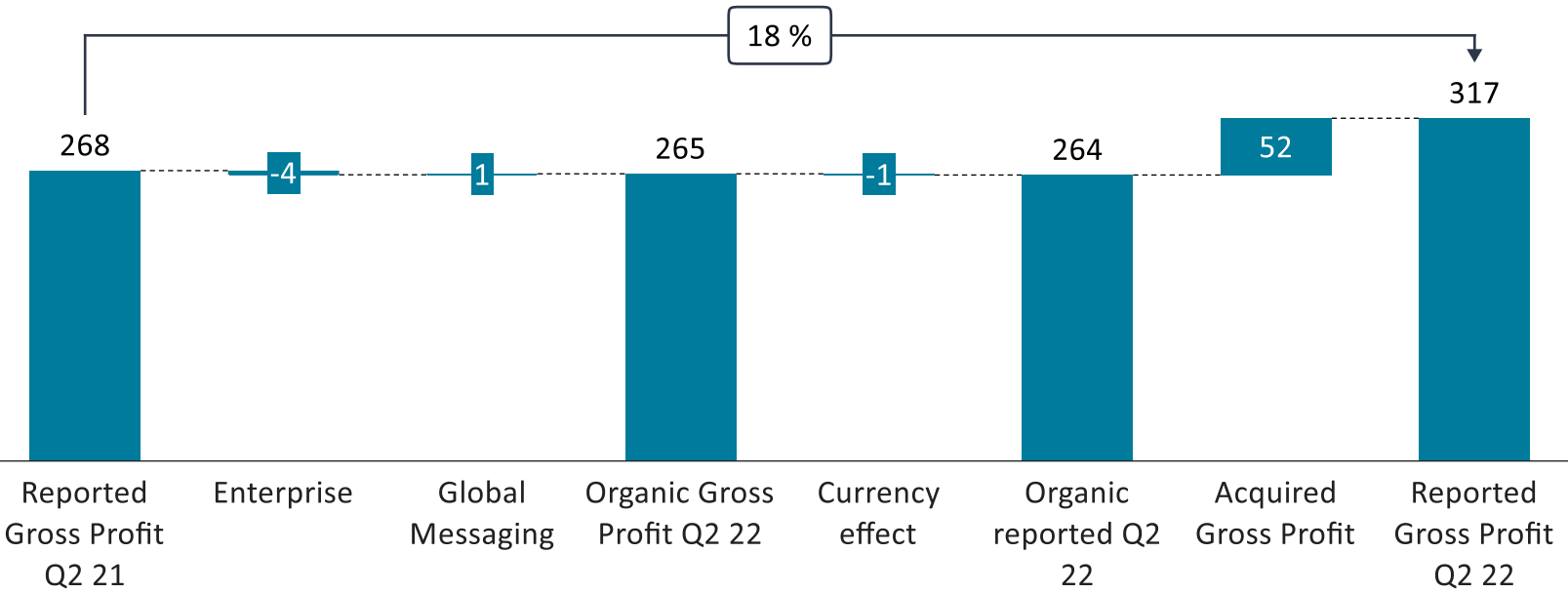
H1 22 pro forma organic revenue growth of 9%

- Underlying pro forma organic revenue growth 12% adjusted for high H1 21 comparables
- H1 last year saw high volumes related to Covid testing and vaccination

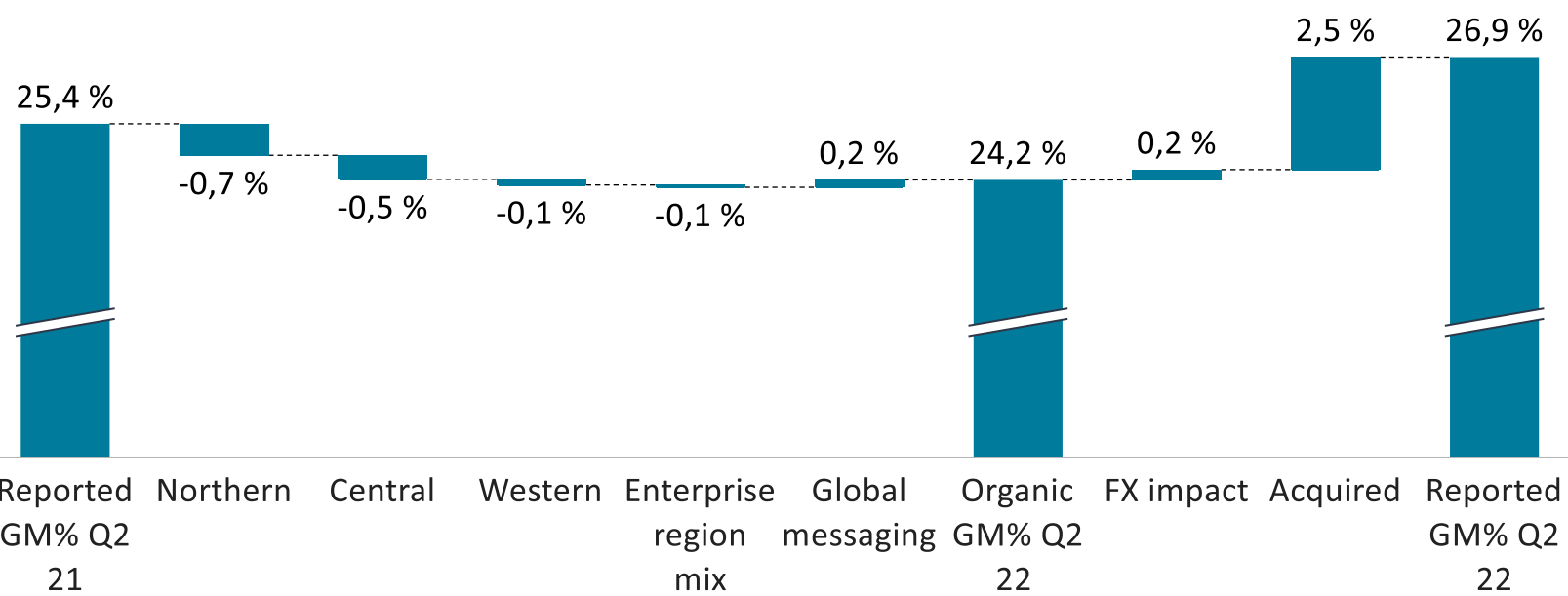
# Reported gross profit increased by 18% to NOK 317 million

## Reported gross profit

NOK millions / percentage



## Gross profit margin (%)



Organic gross profit declined 1% in fixed currency

- Underlying organic growth of 5% adjusted for high Q2 21 comparables

Contribution from consolidated acquired entities amounted to NOK 52 million

Enterprise segment margin diluted by 1.4 percentage points (pp)

- Explaining deviation between organic revenue growth and organic gross profit growth

Northern Europe -0.7pp

- Pass-through price increases due to higher COGS -0.3pp
- Stronger growth for low margin clients in Sweden and Norway -0.4pp

Central Europe -0.5pp

- Large volume growth for Global IT company diluting margin by -0.3pp
- Impact from reduced high margin volume in Austria -0.2pp

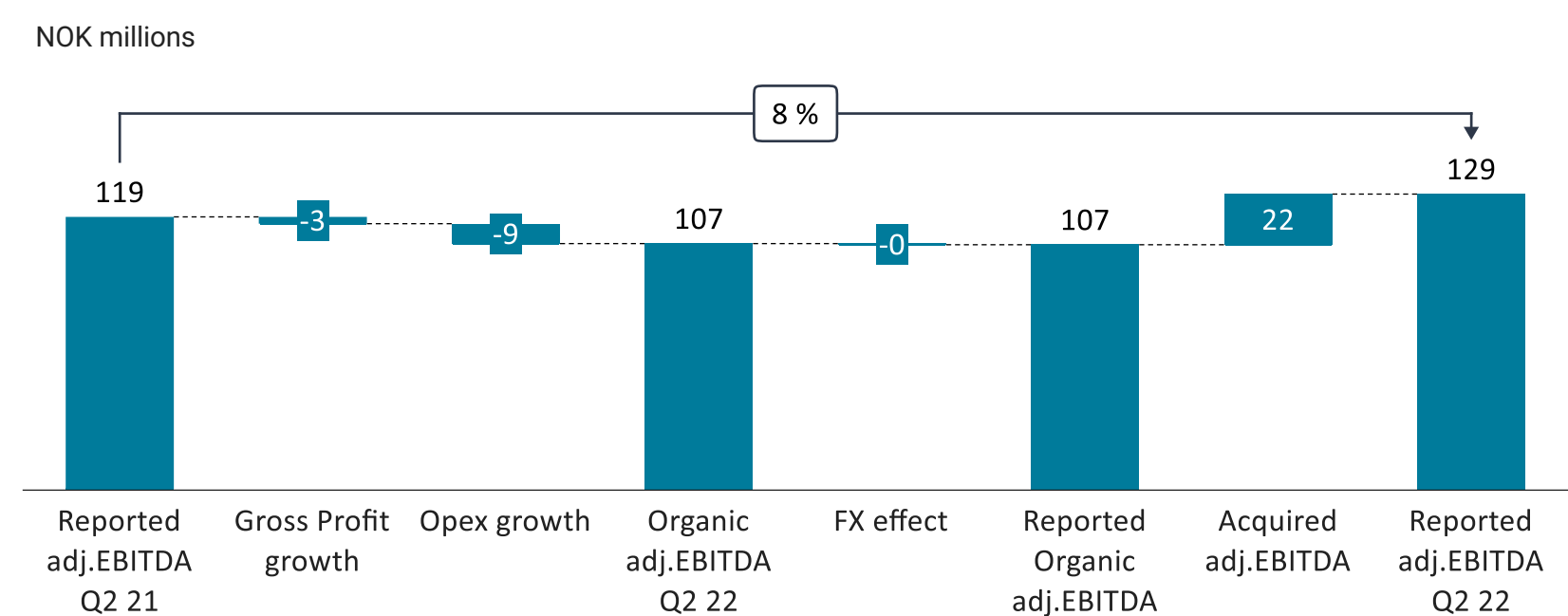
Western Europe saw a relatively stable margin development -0.1pp

Regional variations in volume mix -0.1pp



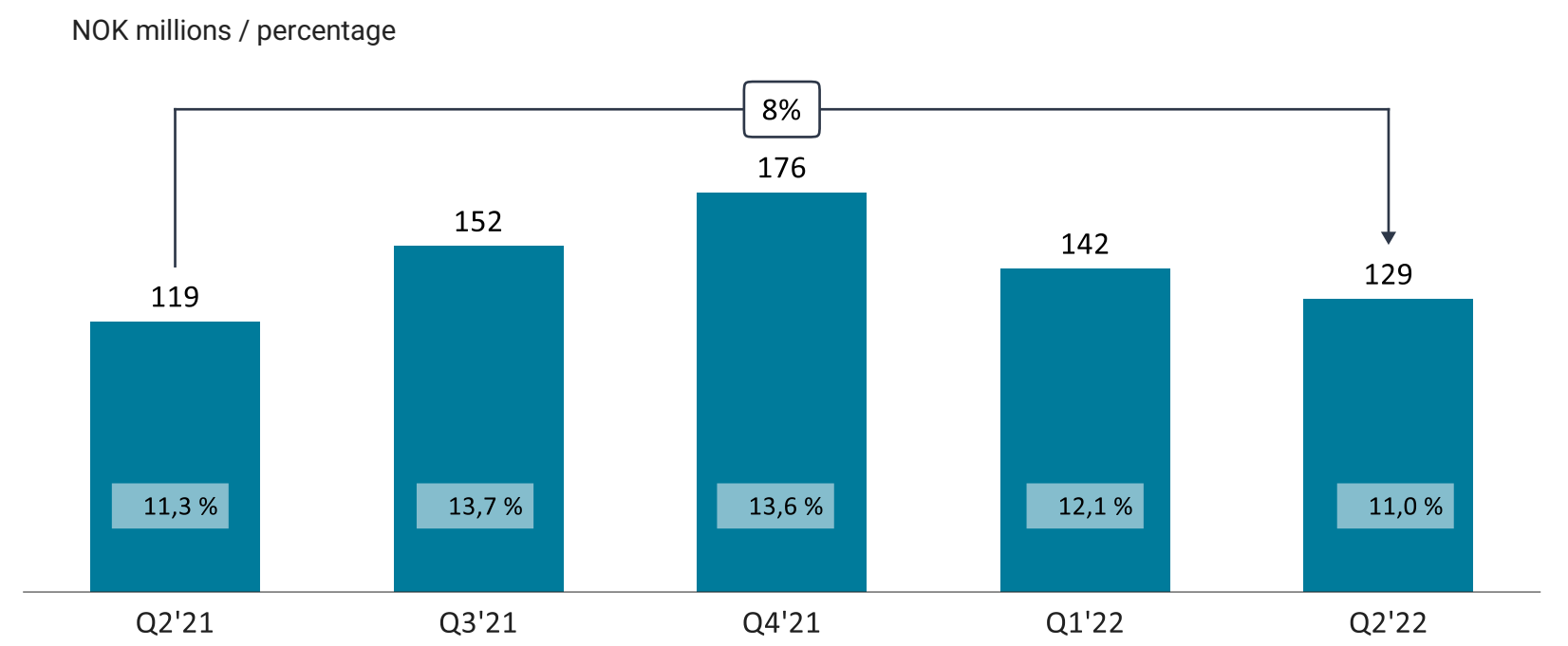
# Reported Adjusted EBITDA increased by 8% to NOK 129 million

Reported adjusted EBITDA



- Organic adjusted EBITDA declined 10%
- Adjusted EBITDA impacted by lower gross profit due to high comparables
  - Higher OPEX of NOK 10 million related to GTM investments initiated since H2 2020
  - Provision for French Telco tax claim received for 2019 of NOK 4 million
    - LINK strongly dispute the claim, ongoing legal evaluation
    - Potential exposure of NOK 13 million for period since 2019

Reported adjusted EBITDA / adjusted EBITDA margin



- Adjusted EBITDA of NOK 129 million was lower than in previous quarters
- Decline from Q1 22 due to higher OPEX and lower gross profit
  - Reduction from Q3 and Q4 last year in addition reflected seasonality

# P&L second quarter 2022

NOK in millions	Q2 2022	Q2 2021	YTD 2022	YTD 2021	Full Year 2021
Total operating revenues	1 177	1 055	2 351	2 001	4 410
Direct cost of services rendered	(861)	(787)	(1 713)	(1 486)	(3 210)
<b>Gross profit</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>1200</b>
Operating expenses	(188)	(149)	(367)	(287)	(644)
<b>Adjusted EBITDA</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>557</b>
Non-recurring costs	(28)	(81)	(56)	(137)	(252)
<b>EBITDA</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>305</b>
Depreciation and amortization	(102)	(69)	(202)	(136)	(338)
<b>Operating profit (loss)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>(45)</b>	<b>(33)</b>
<b>Net financials</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>(22)</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>(74)</b>	<b>(14)</b>
<b>Profit (loss) before income tax</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>(53)</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>(119)</b>	<b>(48)</b>
Income tax	(26)	(1)	(34)	16	(30)
<b>Profit (loss) for the period</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>(54)</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>(103)</b>	<b>(78)</b>

Revenue of NOK 1,177 million, an increase of 12% YoY

Gross profit of NOK 317 million, an increase of 18% YoY

Adjusted EBITDA of NOK 129 million, an increase of 8% YoY

Non-recurring costs of NOK 28 million

- Share option cost NOK 7 million
- M&A related costs NOK 10 million
- Restructuring costs NOK 11 million

Depreciation and amortization of NOK 102 million

- Depreciation of intangible assets of NOK 18 million from internal R&D
- Depreciation of acquired excess values of NOK 77 million deriving from PPA's
- Remaining related to depreciation of leasing arrangements and fixed assets

Net financial items positive NOK 65 million

- Net currency exchange gain of NOK 102 million with no cash effect
- Net interest expense of NOK 41 million related to outstanding EUR bond
- Other financial income of NOK 5 million from holdback settlement

# Strong balance sheet

NOK in millions	Q2 2022	Q2 2021	Year 2021
Non-current assets	9 143	8 767	8 792
Trade and other receivables	938	816	905
Cash and cash equivalents	902	808	844
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>10 983</b>	<b>10 391</b>	<b>10 540</b>
<b>Equity</b>	<b>5 362</b>	<b>5 050</b>	<b>5 090</b>
Deferred tax liabilities	591	549	557
Long-term borrowings	3 837	3 769	3 696
Other long-term liabilities	60	67	64
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>4 488</b>	<b>4 385</b>	<b>4 317</b>
Trade and other payables	1 079	905	1 063
Other short-term liabilities	53	51	71
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>1 133</b>	<b>956</b>	<b>1 134</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>5 621</b>	<b>5 341</b>	<b>5 451</b>
<b>Total liabilities and equity</b>	<b>10 983</b>	<b>10 391</b>	<b>10 540</b>

Non current assets increased mainly due to currency effects

- Marginal additions related to Purchase Price Allocations (PPA)

Cash on balance sheet NOK 902 million

Equity NOK 5,362 million and equity percentage 49%

Receivables and payables increased

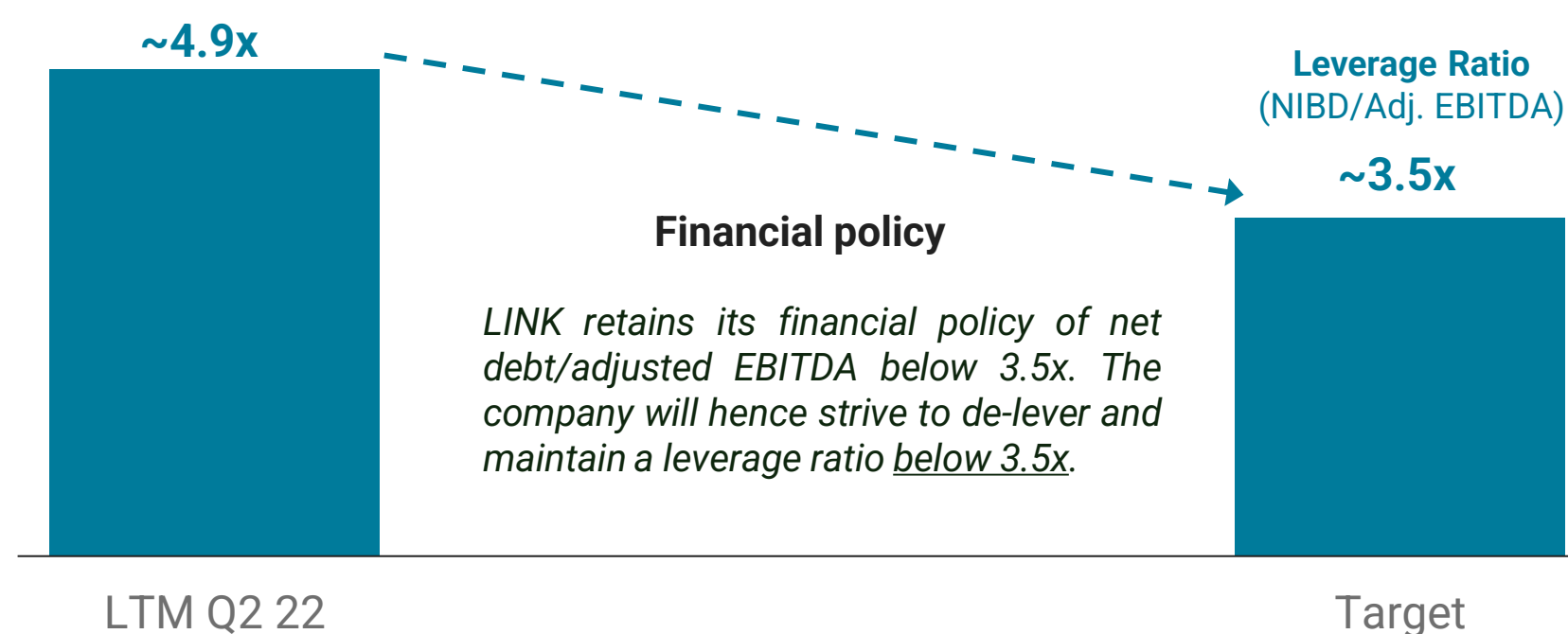
- Reflecting organic development
- Negative working capital as Payables > Receivables

Net interest bearing debt NOK 2,947 million

# LINK generates FCF in excess of NOK 200 million annually

## Reported free cash flow

NOK '000	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	LTM Q2 2022
<b>Adj.EBITDA</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>600</b>
Change working capital	(81)	113	(98)	91	26
Taxes paid	(8)	(28)	(13)	(6)	(55)
Non-recurring costs M&A	(17)	(30)	(14)	(21)	(81)
Payable Social cost on Share options	-	(6)	-	-	(6)
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>484</b>
Add back non-recurring costs M&A	17	30	14	21	81
<b>Adj. cash flow from operations</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>566</b>
Capex	(30)	(58)	(50)	(45)	(183)
Interest	(1)	(71)	(3)	(69)	(143)
<b>Cash flow after capex and interest</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>(21)</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>240</b>



Adjusted LTM cash flow from operations NOK 566 million

- Reported cash flow from operations include M&A related expenses
- Free cash flow generated after capex and interest of NOK 240 million

Working capital (WC) varies significantly between quarters

- Stable WC on LTM basis despite revenue growth
- WC is net negative and a funding source for organic growth

High cash conversion LTM

- 94% at adjusted cash flow from operations to adjusted EBITDA
- 40% at free cash flow after interest and capex to adjusted EBITDA

Full year effect from acquisitions to increase cash generation in 2022

Reported LTM Q2 22 leverage at 4.9x

- Strong FCF to reduce leverage over time

LINK's EUR 370 million fixed coupon bond matures in December 2025

- Fixed interest rate at 3.375% secured for more than 3 years



Q&A

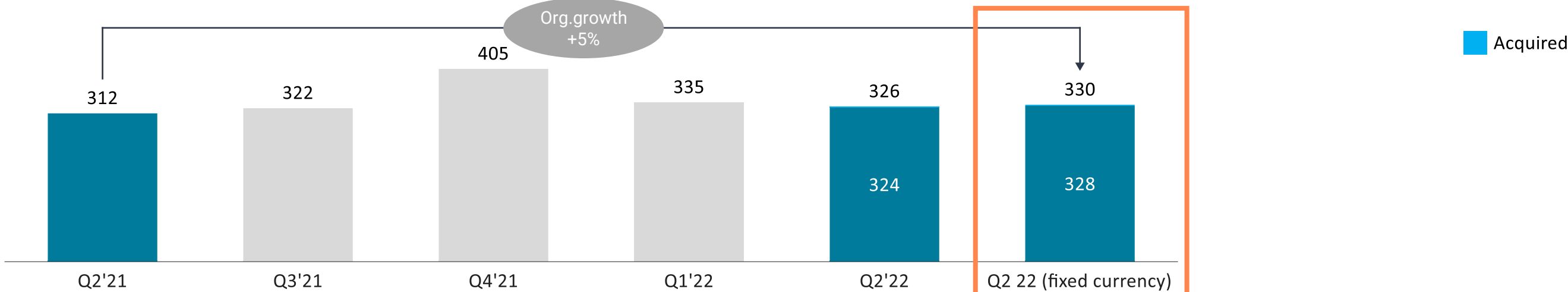


# Appendix

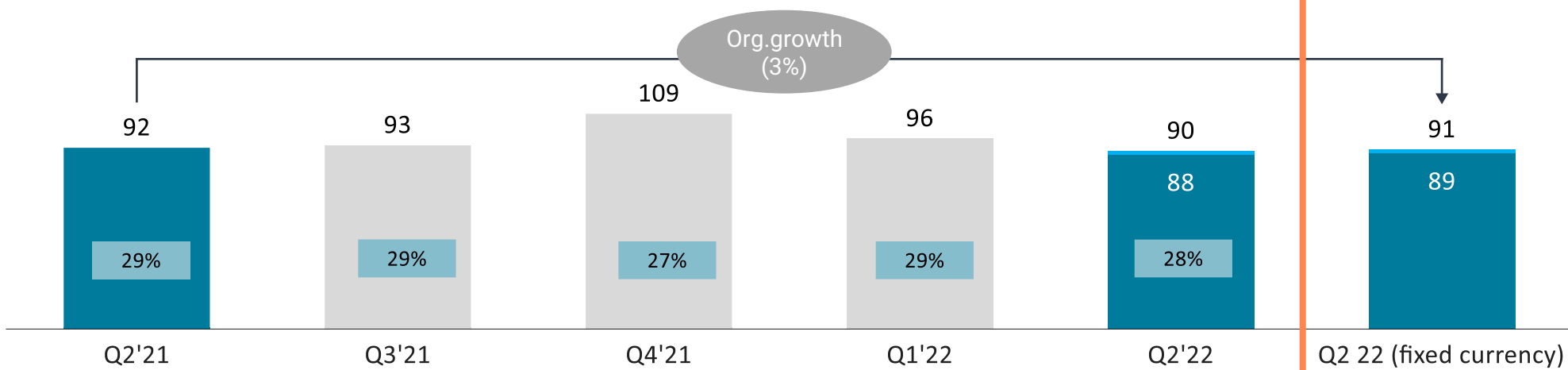
## Segment information

# Northern Europe

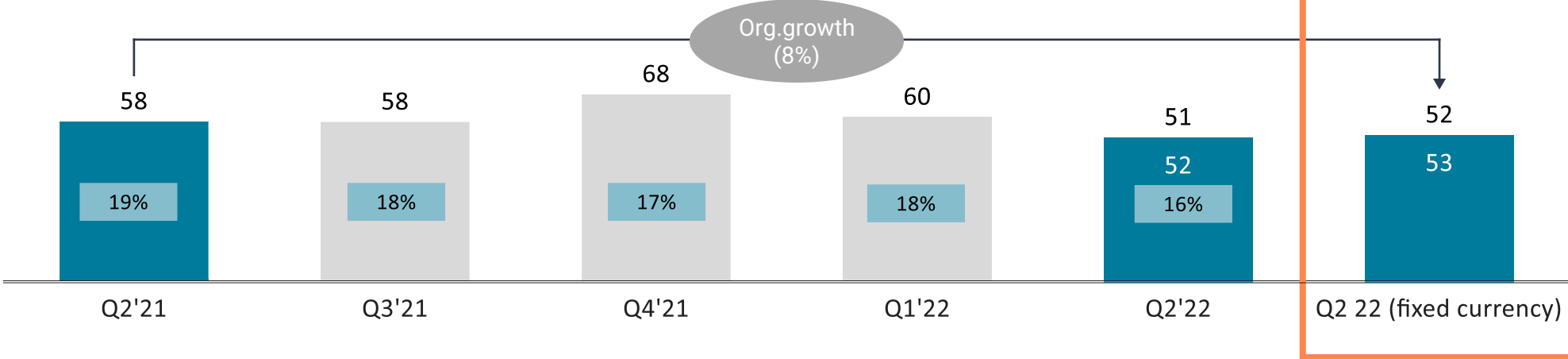
Revenue (NOKm)



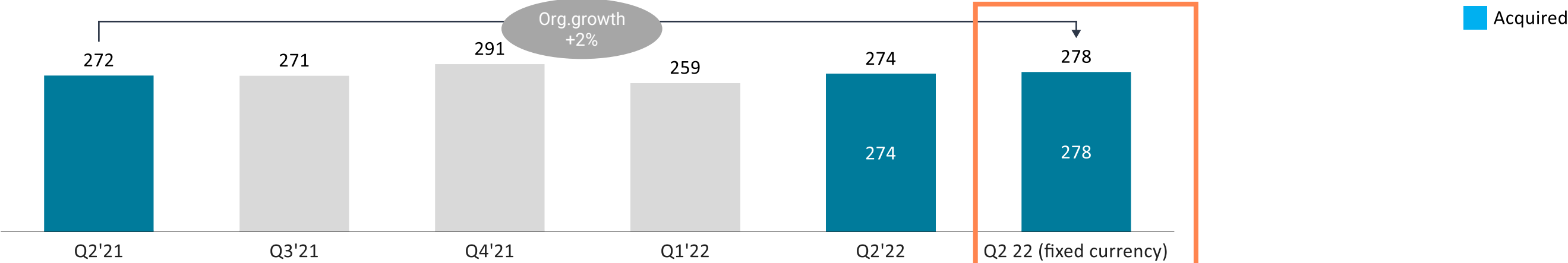
Gross Profit (NOKm / %)



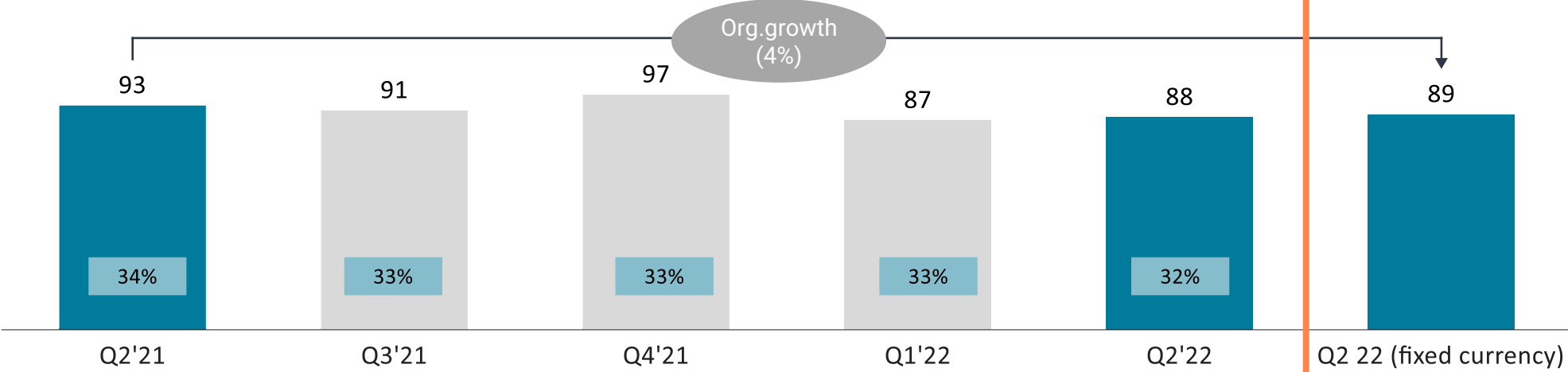
Adjusted EBITDA before group cost (NOKm / %)



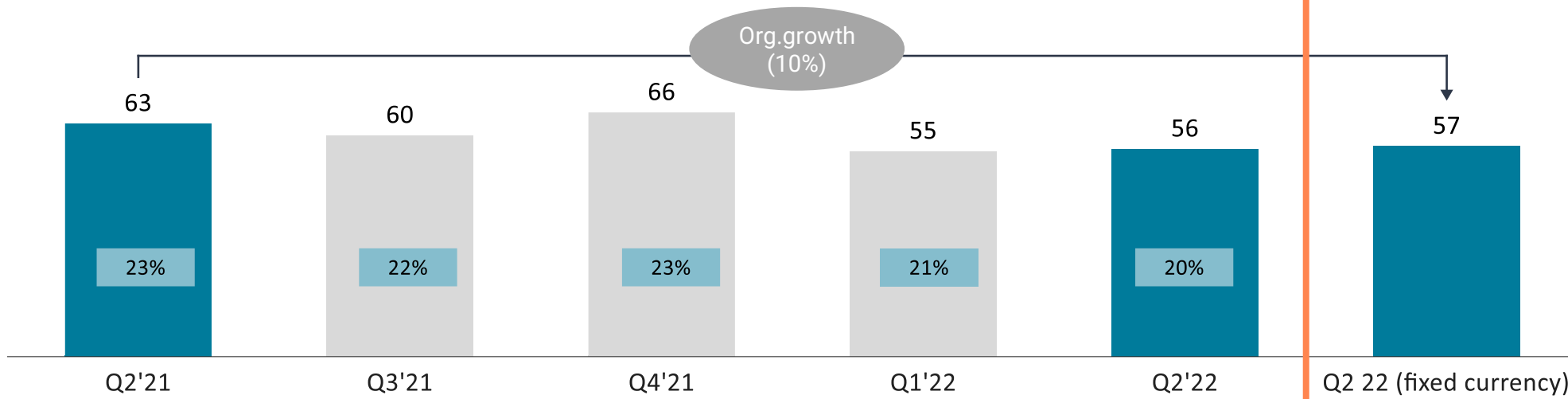
Revenue (NOKm)



Gross Profit (NOKm / %)

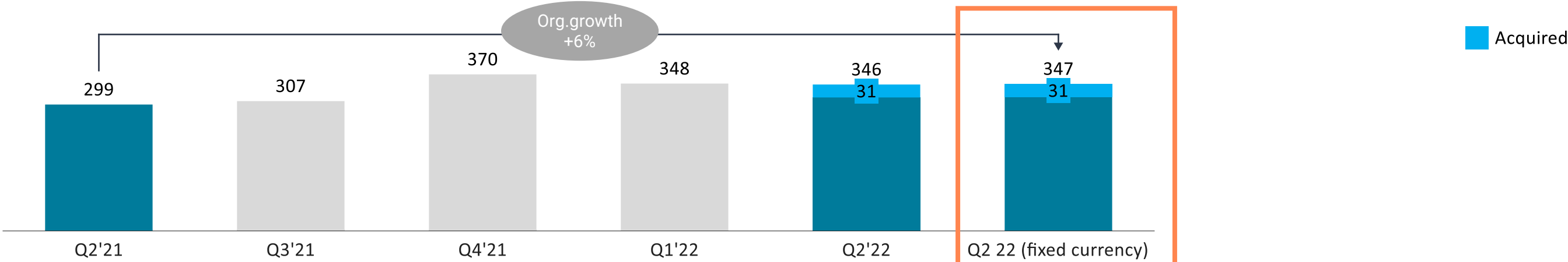


Adjusted EBITDA before group cost (NOKm / %)

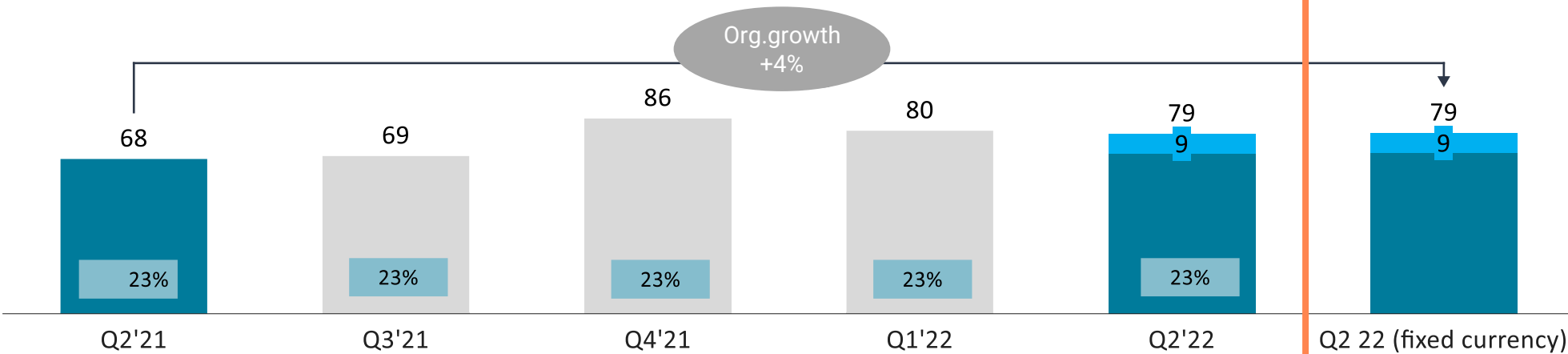




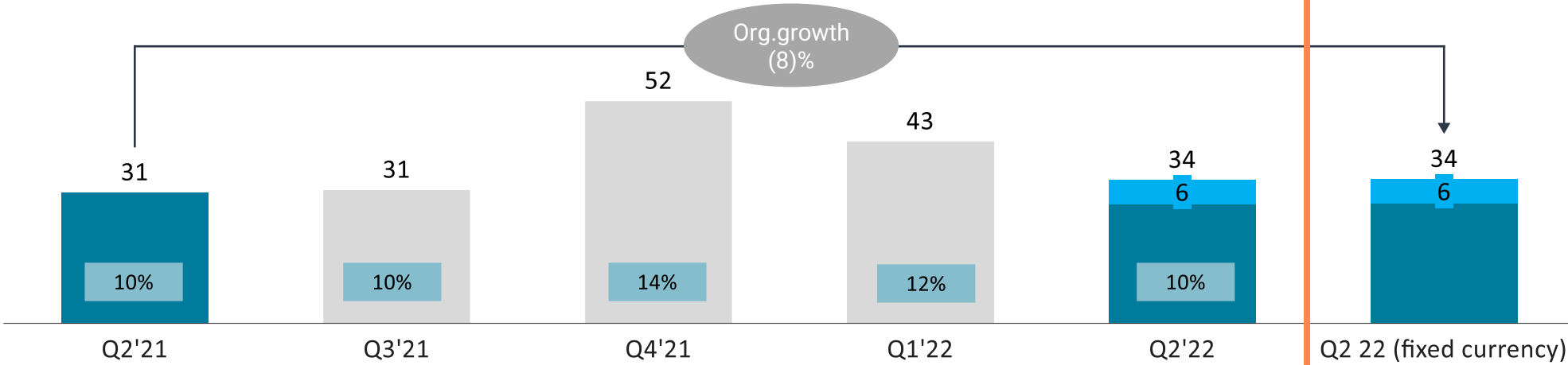
Revenue (NOKm)



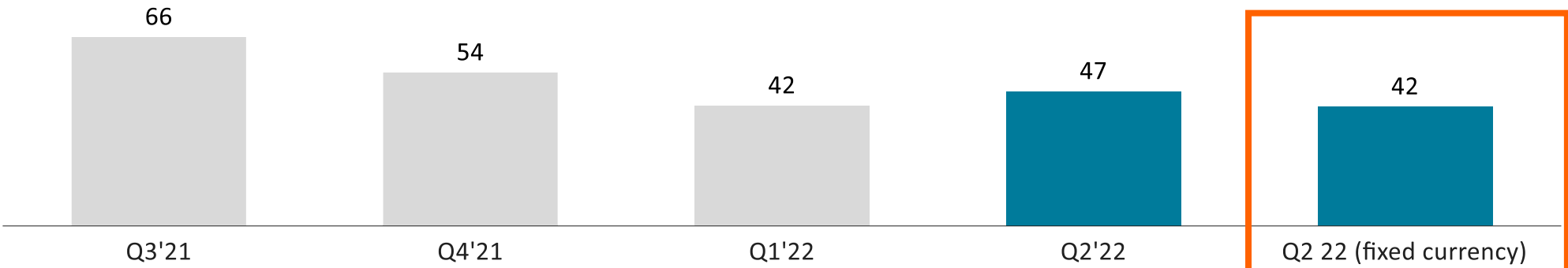
Gross Profit (NOKm / %)



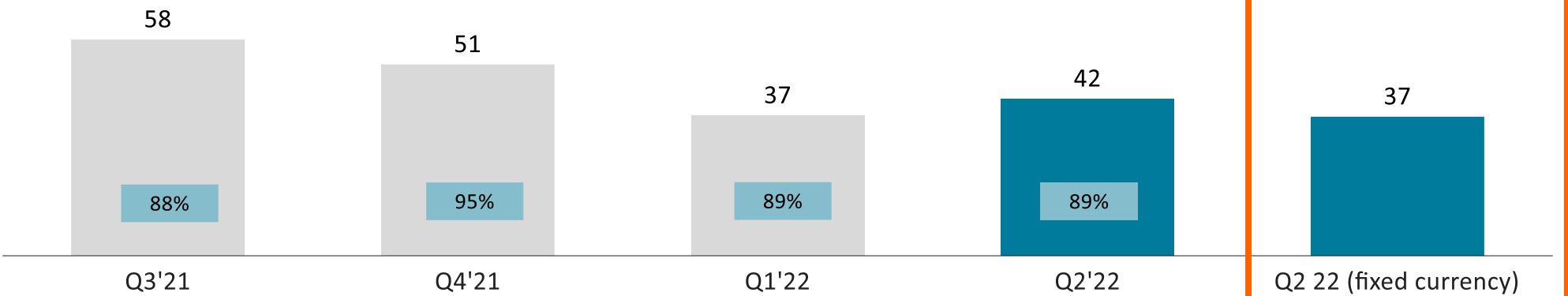
Adjusted EBITDA before group cost (NOKm / %)



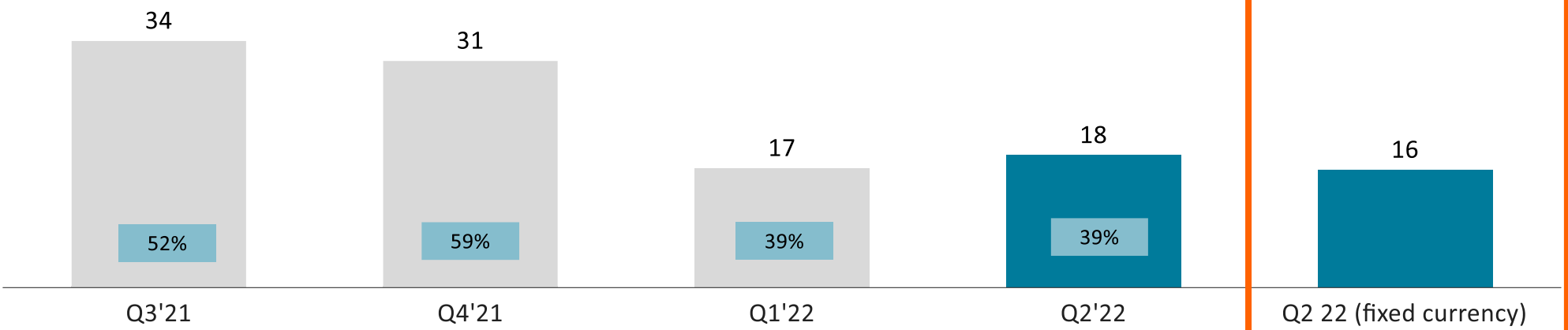
Revenue (NOKm)



Gross Profit (NOKm / %)

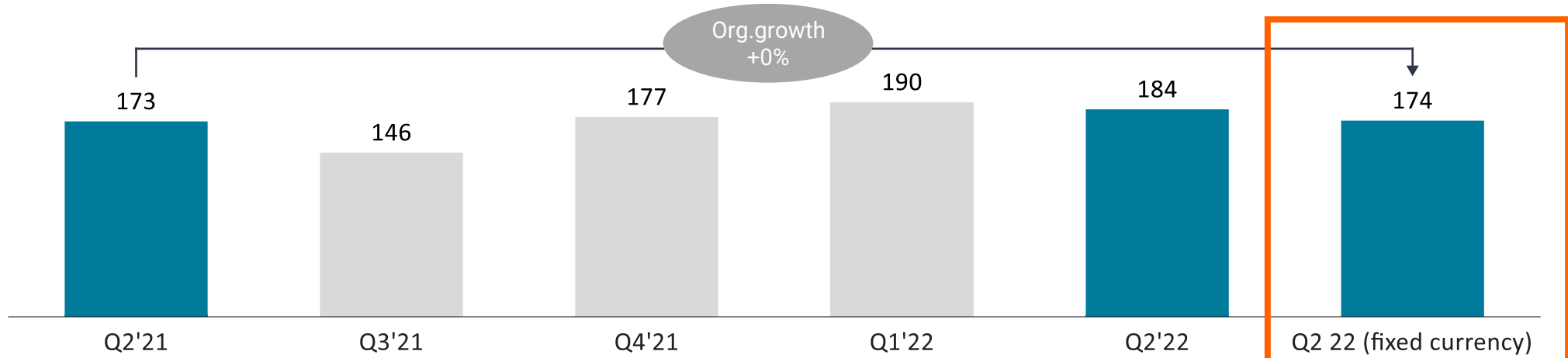


Adjusted EBITDA before group cost (NOKm / %)

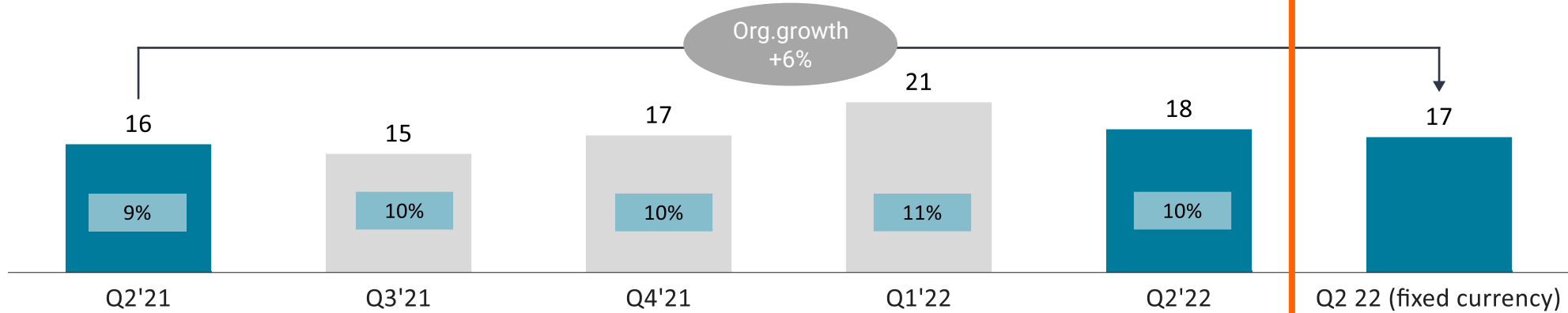


# Global Messaging

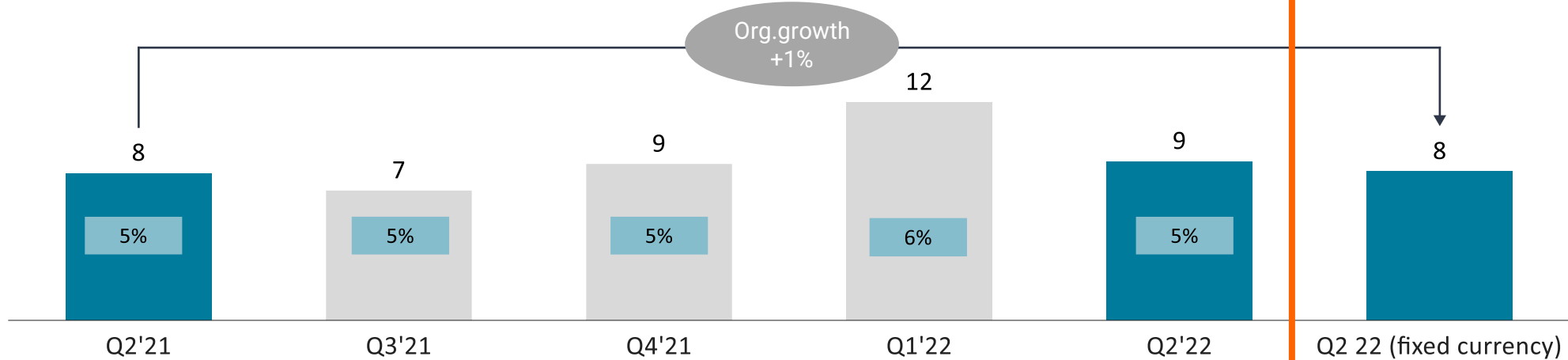
Revenue (NOKm)



Gross Profit (NOKm / %)



Adjusted EBITDA before group cost (NOKm / %)





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