



PERCEPTIONS OF CONSULTING IN FINANCIAL SERVICES

*Assesses the reputation of consulting firms,
as seen by clients*

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The five most mentioned firms in the financial services sector—IBM, Accenture, Deloitte, McKinsey and KPMG—dominate mindshare to a greater extent than the top five in any other industry.

Willis Towers Watson tops the quality ranking ahead of IBM and Accenture. The firm's success here seems to be part of a broader story about positive feelings among financial services clients towards people-related consulting firms and services. Our conclusion is that this is likely to be related to the industry's digital transformation story, and specifically that people may now appear, to many clients, to be the most significant roadblock to their digital plans.

There's a people-related firm at the top of the value ranking, too, albeit a different one: Korn Ferry Hay Group. But among the real stars from a value perspective are the two brands in the PwC stable: Strategy & and PwC itself. Among direct clients—who have the most tangible evidence about value on which to base their opinion—these two, and particularly Strategy &, really stand out from the crowd.

Our report also finds evidence that:

- American financial services clients seem to be much happier than their counterparts elsewhere with the quality of service they're receiving from consulting firms. We conclude that cultural assimilation sits at the heart of this, and that, outside the US, industry knowledge is likely to be a useful way of achieving that assimilation.
- At a time when so much emphasis is being placed on the specialism of consultants—largely as a result of clients who feel they have so much capability internally—there's a strong case for consulting firms in the financial services industry to demonstrate the breadth of their capabilities. Allied to what we know about the concentration of mindshare around a small number of firms, what we start to build is a picture of financial services clients wanting to work with a small number of very big firms that can do everything.

METHODOLOGY

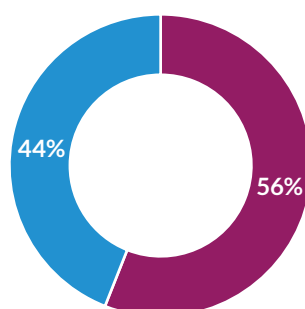
Who did we talk to?

We have 1,434 responses from our survey of executives, directors, and senior managers in the financial services industry in November and December 2016, all of whom have been responsible for buying substantial volumes of consulting services in the previous year. They represent a wide range of business functions, and 90% work in organisations that generate more than \$500m in revenue.

This report also includes qualitative research from interviews carried out in 2016 and 2017 with senior buyers of consulting in financial services to bring aspects of our findings to life.

Figure 1

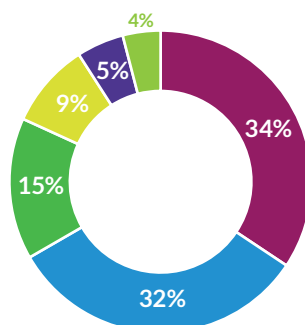
Respondents by level of responsibility



- Director/C-level
- Senior manager

Figure 2

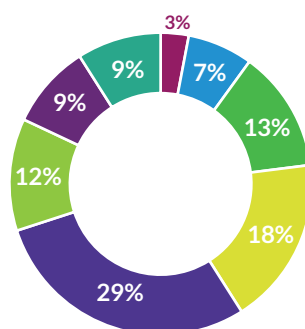
Respondents by function



- IT
- Finance & risk
- Strategy
- General management
- Operations
- Human resources

Figure 3

Respondents by organisation's revenue



- Less than \$100m
- \$101m - \$500m
- \$501m - \$750m
- \$751m - \$1bn
- \$1.1bn - \$3bn
- \$3.1bn - \$5bn
- \$5.1bn - \$10bn
- \$10bn +

What did we ask them?

Each respondent was asked to tell us about three consulting firms and was presented with a list of 18-20 of the leading consulting firms in their country or region. We focus respondents on the world's leading consulting firms to ensure we have sufficient responses to carry out a detailed analysis.

We asked each respondent to share their views on each of the three firms selected, focusing on the following areas:

- **Quality:** Their perception of the quality of service provided by each firm in ten different consulting services.
- **Value:** Their view of how much value each firm added in relation to the fees paid for its services.
- **Recommendations:** Whether they have recommended, or would recommend, any of these firms to a colleague or peer.
- **Attributes:** How they rate each firm and the individuals from it across a range of attributes, and what they think the most important attributes of each firm are.

Which firms are included in this report?

Firm	Did we ask about this firm in this market?	Data included in market average scores?	Detailed profile available?
Accenture	✓	✓	✓
Aon Hewitt	✓	✓	✓
A.T. Kearney	✓	✓	✓
Bain & Company	✓	✓	✓
BearingPoint	✓	✓	✗
The Boston Consulting Group	✓	✓	✓
Capgemini Consulting	✓	✓	✓
Deloitte	✓	✓	✓
EY	✓	✓	✓
IBM Global Business Services	✓	✓	✓
Korn Ferry Hay Group	✓	✓	✗
KPMG	✓	✓	✓
L.E.K.	✓	✓	✗
McKinsey & Company	✓	✓	✓
Oliver Wyman	✓	✓	✓
PA Consulting	✓	✓	✗
PwC	✓	✓	✓
Roland Berger	✓	✓	✓
Strategy&	✓	✓	✓
Willis Towers Watson	✓	✓	✓

How we rank firms in this report

In this report, we reveal the top-ranked firms in four areas: mindshare, quality, value, and most recommended firm. We look at the top-ranked firms overall, but where we can, we also split the data to look at perceptions in each consulting service, by client type, by industry, and by function (that is, looking at how views of respondents in different industries and different business functions vary). In breaking down the data to this level our sample sizes can become quite small, so where it isn't big enough for us to be confident making a ranking, we've declined to do so.

Mindshare: We base our rankings on the numbers of respondents talking about each firm, relative to each other. To calculate that, we awarded a score of 100 to the most-mentioned firm, and work out how many times each other firm was mentioned in relation to it.

Quality: We base our rating on the sum of the proportion of people who describe quality as either "high" or "very high". Where that produces an equal result between two firms, we take into account the share who have described quality as "very high" to determine the order in which they are ranked.

Value: We base our rating on the sum of the proportion of people who say that the value a firm delivers is greater (to any extent) than the fees it charges. Where that produces an equal result between two firms, we take into account the extent to which value is seen to be greater than fees (respondents had the choice of saying it was twice, five times, or ten times greater than fees) to determine the order in which they are ranked.

Most recommended: We base our ranking on the proportion of people who say they have recommended a firm. Where that produces an equal result between two or more firms, those firms simply tie.

Advertising these findings:

Firms like to use these findings in their own marketing and KPIs. Source's marketing licence allows you to publicise your ranking in advertising, editorials, presentations to external clients, below your email signature, and on your corporate website. The licence also allows you to use the Source "badge" within these. The badge is given to those firms that have been rated number one, two, or three by clients in a given sector/region for mindshare, quality and value.

Both the licence and the badge are valid for 24 months, and for more information, please contact [Ella-Sian Jolley](#), or [click here](#).



HOW TO USE THIS CLIENT PERCEPTION STUDY

It's very important to be clear about what our Client Perception Studies are, and are not:

What they're not are exhaustive studies of clients' opinions about specific firms that remain statistically robust when filtered to provide detailed data about views at a very granular level of the market. So if, for instance, you want statistically robust data about what clients in the pharma sector in Germany think about McKinsey's operational improvement capabilities, you won't find it in these reports. We do profile individual firms in our reports to the extent we can—indeed this remains one of the most popular parts of the reports with readers—and we do, separately, provide Brand Perceptions Summaries of the world's leading consulting firms, but our Client Perception Studies are not designed to replace the sort of in-depth client research that many firms carry out (and often ask us to carry out for them).

What they are designed to do is provide a snapshot of views within a particular consulting market at a point in time. What they lack in detail about individual firms they make up for in three important ways:

- **A multi-firm view.** Our reports enable consulting firms to see how they stack up against their competitors in the minds of clients.
- **A view from prospects, not just existing clients.** We include the views of people who aren't current active clients of the firm they're telling us about, enabling us to understand what we tend to think of as a firm's brand pipeline, and to compare the views of prospects and active clients. In doing this last, we're able to assess the extent to which clients' expectation of a firm are met in reality, and how well a firm's marketing and delivery capabilities are aligned.
- **Independence and expertise.** The trouble with conducting your own client research is that clients are often reluctant to express negative views about firms (and people) with whom they've worked closely. They have no such concerns when they're telling us. Added to which, we're able to bring the expertise we've gained over years of analysing the consulting market to bear, helping to interpret the results within the context of the wider market and the strategic priorities of consulting firms.

It's important to remember that this is a study of client perceptions; a summarised view of what we're hearing from the market. It's not Source's view, nor is it a comment on market share or a recommendation to clients about which firms to buy from. The audience of these reports is very much the firms featured in them, and those interested in the strength of the competition in any given market.

The difference between direct and indirect clients

We talk about two types of clients in this report: direct and indirect.

Direct clients are clients who either have very recent experience of working with the firm they chose to tell us about or are working with it now.

Indirect clients are clients who feel qualified to share an opinion about a firm but aren't among their direct clients. They may have had exposure to the work the firm has done elsewhere in their organisation or have simply formed an impression based on reading a firm's thought leadership or being exposed to its marketing in some other form. In simple terms, indirect clients are prospects.

The differences between the opinions of these two types of clients tell us a lot about the differences between expectation (indirect clients) and reality (direct clients). But it also tells us something about the differences between a firm's marketing and what it actually delivers.

Discover more online

The data contained and referred to within this report is also available online, where it can be sorted and filtered according to your preferences. In fact, some of the charts contained in the report link directly through to the online database. Note that wherever you see a quick code next to the title of a chart, that code can be entered into the search function of the database to reproduce exactly the same chart.

How to access the data

To access the data, you can go to the page where you downloaded this report and click on the “Explore the underlying data” button.



Alternatively, you can visit our website [here](#) and log in using the same credentials you use to download the report.

You'll be taken to a landing page (Fig. 5) which will highlight the data you have access to with a green tick.

Figure 4

Client Perception Portal landing page

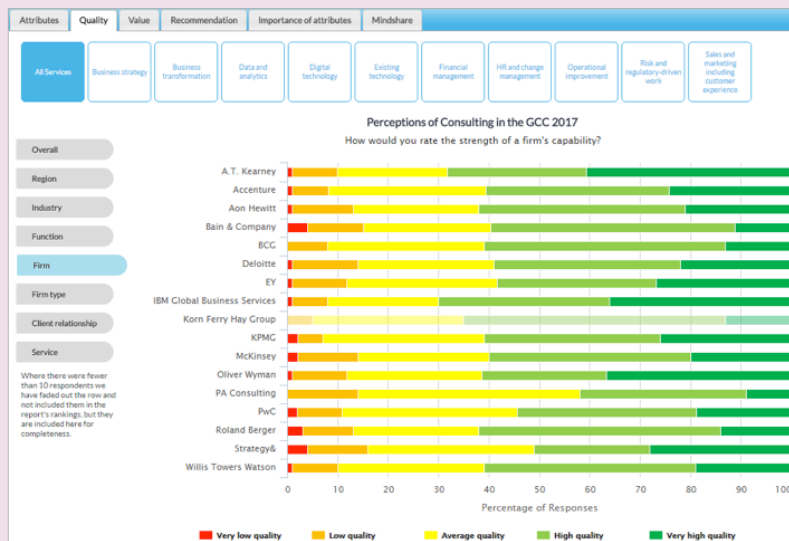
Client Perceptions Programme			
2017 > Home			
Welcome to the online version of our Client Perception Programme, the most detailed survey of its kind about the management consulting market. This is where you'll find information about what clients (senior end users of consulting services) think about the price, value and quality of the services delivered by many of the world's leading consulting firms.			
Please use the data within it as much as you like internally, but refer to our marketing licence policy if you want to use it externally, or contact Ella-Sian Jolley			
	Included in your licence	Published	
Industry Perceptions Programme 2017			
Energy & Resources CPS		April 2017	Load
Financial Services CPS		May 2017	Load
Healthcare CPS		August 2017	Load
TMT CPS		August 2017	Load
Client Perceptions Programme 2017			
GCC CPS		February 2017	Load
US CPS		March 2017	Load
UK CPS		March 2017	Load
Nordics CPS		May 2017	Load
Trends in procurement		June 2017	Load

What can I do with the data?

From here, you will be able to filter all the data in this report on each of the key areas: mindshare, quality, value, recommendations, attributes and importance of attributes.

Figure 5

An example of how you can filter our data (please note, dummy data used here)



When you log on, you'll notice that in some areas there's data that's in a faded grey colour. This is where we have data, but it's not a big enough sample to include in a ranking in this report. Nonetheless, we share it online in case you do want to see what, for example, indirect operations clients in the public sector (or a similarly complex split) think of a particular firm. If you have any questions about any of the data, please contact info@sourceglobalresearch.com.

Definitions of industries and services

Industries



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, 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.



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 computer related 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



Financial management

Includes finance function and budgeting/financial planning process.



Risk & regulatory

Includes responding to regulation, technology and security risk services, operational risk, financial risk, programme risk.



HR & change management

Includes HR strategy and effectiveness, benefits, compensation and pensions, change management, internal communications, organisational design and culture, stakeholder management, team effectiveness and collaboration, leadership and governance, performance management, talent management/training and development.



Operational improvement

Includes business continuity and recovery, knowledge management, Lean and Six Sigma, property and estate management, quality and performance management, supply chain management, cost cutting, innovation, M&A integration, managing quality, post-M&A integration, process design and re-engineering, procurement/purchasing, research and development, benchmarking, distribution strategy, environmental, sustainability and CSR, and operational review.



Strategy

Includes business and financial modelling, corporate re-structuring, corporate recovery and turnaround, corporate strategy, market analysis and strategy, market research, policy formulation, strategic sourcing/offshoring strategy, due diligence and valuation, infrastructure/asset financing and management, PFI, mergers and acquisitions, customer service, new product development, branding, marketing and channel management, customer relationship management, pricing, sales force effectiveness, category management, sales and distribution planning.



Technology

Includes ERP consulting, IT training, application of new technology, hardware/software selection, IT design and build, IT strategy, planning and review, IT testing and integration, management information and business intelligence, requirements definition, web and internet consulting, project and programme management (e.g., where consulting firm has been engaged to run a specific project that it is otherwise not involved in).

CONSULTING MARKET PROGRAMME

- A series of detailed reports that contain the most accurate view available about the consulting market in an extensive list of countries and regions. These explore key themes, provide market sizing data, growth forecasts, and deep analysis, all backed up by extensive quantitative and qualitative research amongst consulting firms and clients.
- As well as our country reports, we also produce a global view of four different industries. These reports contain industry analysis, market sizing data, and growth forecasts at a global level, as well as breakdowns by sub-sector, service, and geography.

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROGRAMME

- A series of reports that take a detailed look at the big trends in the global consulting industry, interpreting them in terms of what they mean for consulting firms and who is best placed to exploit them.

CLIENT PERCEPTION PROGRAMME

- A series of reports based on our huge client survey, that reveal what clients think about the leading consulting firms in a number of regions and industries. We rank the leading consulting firms in terms of clients' perceptions of things like quality and value.
- As part of this programme, we also publish brand perception summaries. These give an in-depth and unique view of the world's leading consulting firms. Available on request.

WHITE SPACE

- A series of reports that analyse the quality and effectiveness of thought leadership. These are included in all White Space subscriptions.

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You can either subscribe to a whole programme (the cheapest way of getting access to everything) or buy reports individually. All reports in our programmes come with a global licence, so once you've bought them you can use them anywhere in your firm.

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www.sourceglobalresearch.com

	CONSULTING MARKET PROGRAMME	STRATEGIC PLANNING PROGRAMME	CLIENT PERCEPTION PROGRAMME	WHITE SPACE
2017				
January				Hot topics in thought leadership
February	UK	Forecasts for 2017	GCC	Quality ratings of thought leadership for the second half of 2016
March	France GCC	Mega trend #1: Digital transformation	US UK	Analysis of recent thought leadership
April	Benelux Nordics		Energy & Resources	
May	US Canada	Mega trend #2: Cognitive computing, robotics, AI	Nordics Financial Services	Analysis of recent thought leadership
June	DACH Eastern Europe Russia		Trends in procurement	
July	Italy Spain Australia	Mega trend #3: Assets and productisation		Maximising the impact of thought leadership
August	India		Healthcare TMT Germany	
September	Africa Brazil Energy & Resources	Planning for growth in 2018	France	Quality ratings of thought leadership for the first half of 2017
October	Financial Services China Healthcare			
November	TMT	Mega trend #4: Brand and business models		

About Source

Source Global Research is a leading provider of information about the market for management consulting. Set up in 2007 with offices in London and Dubai, Source serves both consulting firms and their clients with expert analysis, research, and reporting. We draw not only on our extensive in-house experience but also on the breadth of our relationships with both suppliers and buyers. All of our work is underpinned by our core values of intelligence, integrity, efficiency, and transparency.

Source was founded by Fiona Czerniawska and Joy Burnford. Fiona is one of the world's leading experts on the consulting industry. She has written [numerous books](#) on the industry including: [The Intelligent Client](#) and *The Economist* books, [Business Consulting: A Guide to How it Works and How to Make it Work](#) and [Buying Professional Services](#).

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