EXTRACT

SOURCE

Market Trends

MARKE

The Nordics Consulting Market in 2025

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.

India

Geography model

Countries covered

Albania Algeria China Angola Colombia Argentina Côte d'Ivoire Croatia Austria Cyprus Bahrain Czech Republic Iraq Belarus Denmark Belgium Egypt Ethiopia Bosnia Brazil Finland Bulgaria Cameroon Germany Ghana Canada

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

Pakistan Papua New Guinea Philippines Spain Portugal Sudan Oatar Romania Russia Rwanda Saudi Arabia Serbia Singapore Turkey

Ukraine Zambia

Sector model



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

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1	В	Primary resources	4	В	Automotive
1	С	Utilities	4	С	Construction
2	А	Banking	4	D	Consumer elec
2	В	Capital markets	4	Е	Consumer pacl
2	С	Insurance	4	F	Industrial prod
2	D	Investment and wealth	5	А	Pharma
		management	6	А	Defence
2	Е	Private equity	6	В	Education
3	А	Healthcare	6	С	Not-for-profit
			6	D	Public sector
			7	А	Retail

А	Aerospace	8	А	Busine
В	Automotive	8	В	Leisure
С	Construction	8	С	Logisti
D	Consumer electronics	8	D	Real es
Е	Consumer packaged goods	8	Е	Transp
F	Industrial products	9	А	High-te
А	Pharma	9	В	Media
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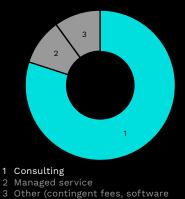
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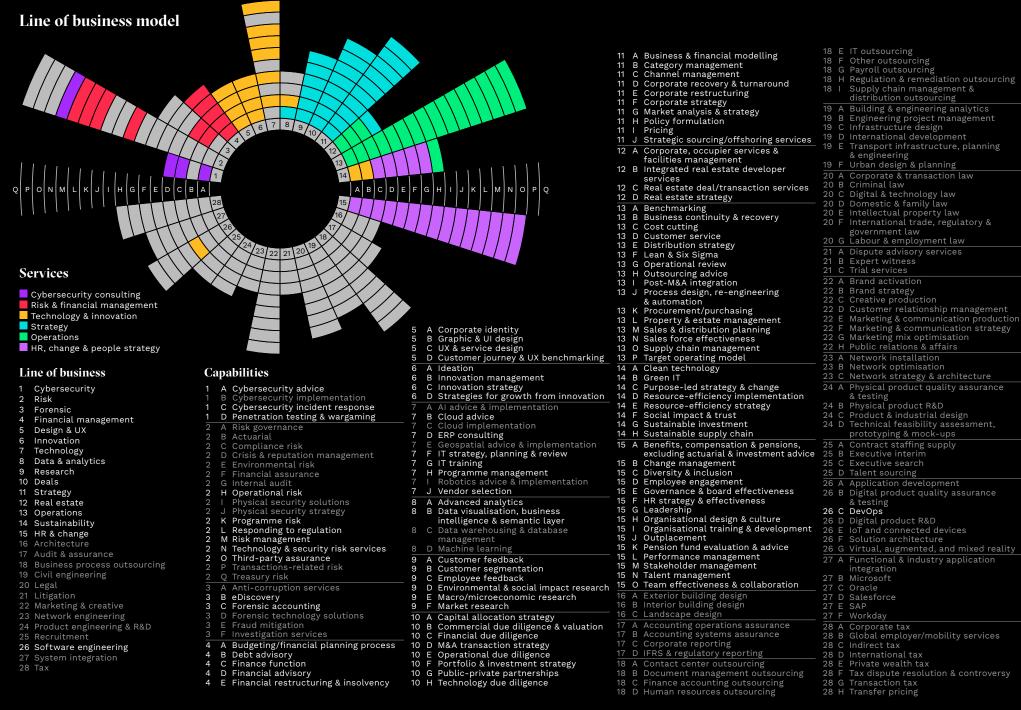
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The revenue-earning model



licensing, associate networks)



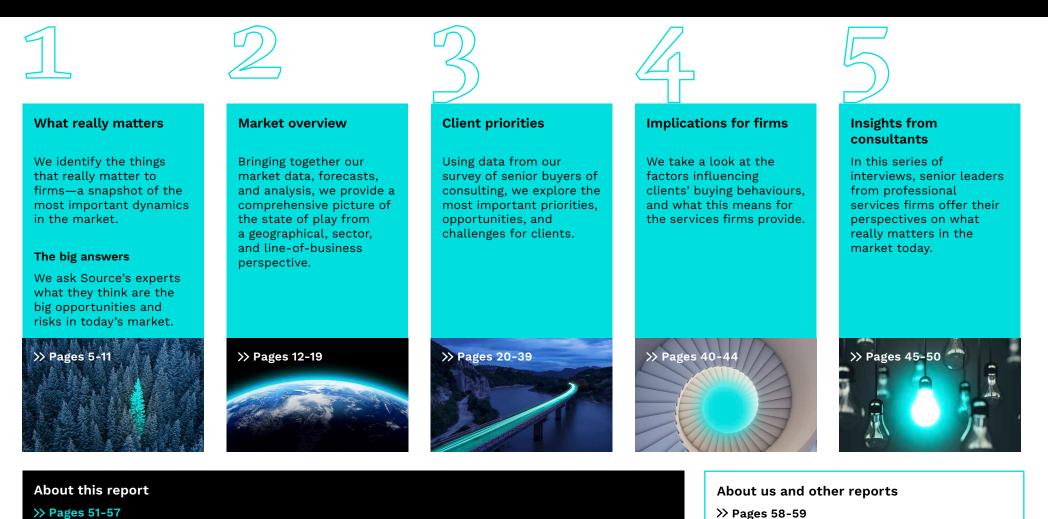


The Nordics Consulting Market in 2025

Market Trends

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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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"We are seeing larger transformation projects. That is a signal that the trend is turning, because what happens with most clients is that when a downturn starts, they cut staff and try to do a lot themselves."

Pontus Fulke, Centigo

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Clients are cautious about generative AI, but see real potential in machine learning.

31%

of clients in the Nordics still feel that the risks of generative AI outweigh the benefits Clients, ambitious about what technology can do for their organisations, are investing heavily in digital transformation and emerging technologies. However, where clients in the US invested extensively in generative AI, clients in the Nordics remain decidedly unconvinced.

A wait-and-see attitude to GenAI reigns in this market. It is not that clients don't see potential in generative AI, but they don't seem to feel that, in its current iteration, it is enough of an asset to garner extensive investment, and they are cautious about the potential risks it could bring in.

Instead, clients are investing in other new and emerging technologies. They are not averse to AI in general, with extensive investment and excitement around the proven productivity gains from automation and machine learning. They are also excited by the potential posed by 5G connectivity and robotics, both of which serve to further their aims for increased speed and efficiency.

Firms must take this reticence around generative AI into account. Though clients will be impressed by firms with a handle on new technology, they will be much more likely to respond to those with expertise in more desirable areas.





"In general, the Denmark and Sweden markets performed well—especially Denmark, which was driven by growth in the pharmaceutical sector. The Sweden market was more challenging."

Thomas Rosenlund, Valcon

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"There is still significant interest around GenAI, but this is more around implementation and concrete initiatives than it was a year ago. We also still see more work on general data and platform management, which enables AI work."

Thomas Rosenlund, Valcon

Client priorities

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What really matters

Client priorities SOURCE

Clients are rushing to fix staff shortages and technology gaps to stay ahead of the competition

Clients' assessment of the barriers to achieving their corporate goals reflects an important force driving investment in the Nordics market: speed. While the worsening economic environment is a top-two barrier for around an eighth of clients (12%), clients are more concerned about the need to keep up with their competitors and improve their technology (each selected by 29% of respondents).

The latter barrier is one that, as we see throughout this report, clients are likely to invest heavily to overcome. Better technology is likely to address several other obstacles, too—the need for speed, but also clients' productivity issues, which are a barrier for just under a fifth of clients (18%). However, the push for fast transformation will not just focus on revamped technology. Clients are clearly looking at how to get the most out of their workforce and will be committing resources to the re-examination of internal hybrid arrangements to ensure that they are getting the most out of their talent.

Clients also understand that they need to plug the gaps left by staff shortages, which affect nearly half of clients (47%), particularly in key functions like technology. They know that they must move quickly to access the right talent to equip them for the evolving business environment.

If they cannot hire these positions internally, it offers an opportunity for consulting firms to provide external expertise, which could be a major driver of professional services work in the region.



What do you see as the two most significant barriers to achieving your corporate goals?



Figure 11



Which of these factors specifically affecting the Nordics region do you think will impact your business performance over the next 12 months?



Technology and people investment go hand in hand

Clients feel strongly that they need to update their technology. Eighty-two percent of clients feel that they must update their technology as soon as possible in order to survive, meaning that they are as bullish about this need in 2025 as they have ever been.

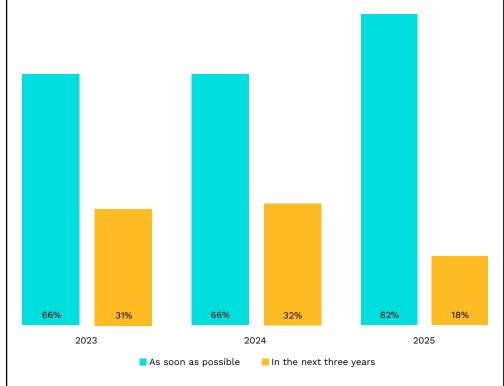
This reflects both the need to outperform the competition by moving at pace, and, more generally, the ambitious appetite for technology investment in a kinder business environment.

Investment looks set to centre on data & analytics, with clients keen to build up strong data foundations and, due to the increasingly digital nature of their assets, protect them with investment in cybersecurity services.

Work on emerging technologies centres around machine learning, 5G, and robotics. 5G reflects the desire to work at increased speed, while investments into robotics and machine learning can further clients' desire for increased efficiency and productivity through the automation of key services.

Figure 20

In your opinion, does your organisation need to update its technology within the next three years?



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Clients are engaging with firms to help them adapt their businesses and explore emerging technologies

Emerging technology has been the focus of much client investment over the past 12 months, with over half of clients (52%) saying they used a consulting firm in this area. It was the most selected area in every country apart from Finland, where it ranked third, behind business strategy and technology implementation.

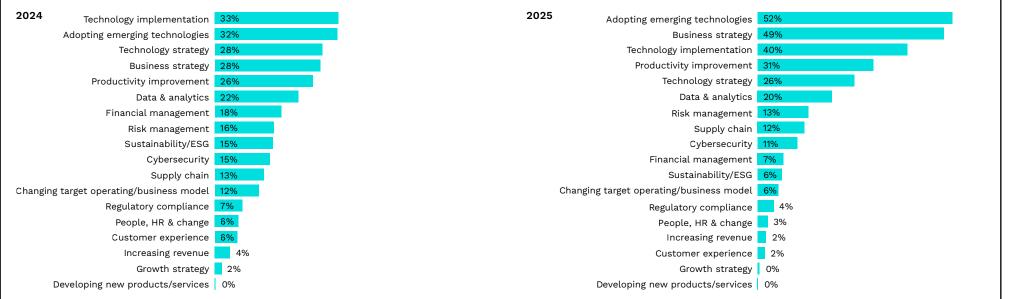
Those firms with established expertise in emerging technologies look set to majorly benefit from the skills gap in the Nordics market, as they will likely be brought in to quickly implement the transformative technologies that clients are seeking to adapt their businesses towards.

Outside of this, consulting work is still largely technology and strategy focused. The renewed focus on growth has resulted in an uptick in strategy consulting, something that is reflected in the forecast of 6% growth across 2025. Twenty-eight percent of clients in last year's report said they had used it in the previous 12 months, with this number now shooting up to 49% in 2025. Meanwhile, as clients rush to improve the output of their technology capability, there has also been a corresponding leap in technology implementation work. The proportion of clients that said they had commissioned technology implementation projects in the last year was seven percentage points higher than in 2023.

However, the pivot to growth that we are seeing among clients means that there is still a healthy appetite for projects around productivity improvement and wider growth strategy, many of which will include technology, but may not exclusively have a technology focus.

Figure 32

When you used a firm in the last year, what services did you use them for?





"Clients have been more conscious of the kind of projects they initiate, and clearer on what they want to get out of them. This is positive, as securing strong ownership to initiated projects creates the basis for project success."

Petter Vold, PwC

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"Large corporates haven't fully embraced AI from a practical perspective yet. While there are some noticeable use cases in finance, sales, and production, it hasn't gained full momentum."

Christian Liljeström, KPMG

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"It is challenging to draw a trend currently due to the evolving geopolitical situation, but it is clear our clients have large transformation agendas focused on value creation."

Ann Hellenius, Capgemini Invent

About this report

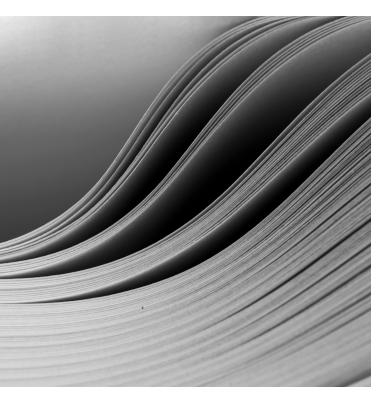
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Our approach to gathering data

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 supply-side 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 large-sized 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 euros.

US dollar to British pound US\$1 = £0.78

US dollar to euro US\$1 = €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

About this report

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 Nordics are affecting clients' organisations and their use of consulting. Our survey focuses on trends in the Nordics, providing detailed insights into the nuances of the market. For this, we surveyed 150 senior clients of consulting firms from across the Nordics, 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 2025 and the first half of 2026
- 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.

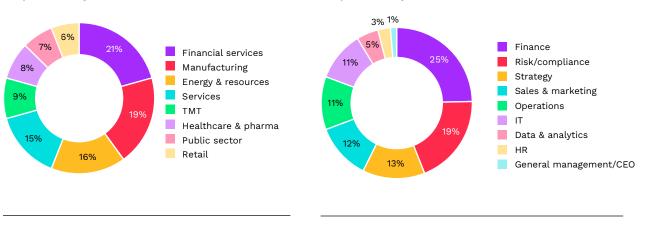


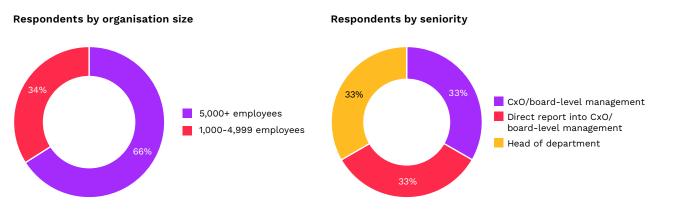
Throughout the year, Source analysts remain plugged in to the global consulting market through our bespoke research and consulting projects, adding further depth to our understanding of the consulting industry.

In-depth desk research

We also conducted a thorough PEST analysis in the Nordics 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 & life sciences

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**

verence

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.

Technology & innovation

Ideation, Innovation management, Innovation strategy, Strategies for growth from innovation, Cloud advice, ERP consulting, IT strategy, planning & review, IT training, Program 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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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).

Job title	Organisation	
Partner	Centigo	
EVP and Managing Director – Sweden, Denmark & Finland	Capgemini Invent	
Partner, Head of Management Consulting	KPMG	
Managing Partner	Valcon	
Partner	PwC Norway	
	Partner EVP and Managing Director – Sweden, Denmark & Finland Partner, Head of Management Consulting Managing Partner	

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About this report

SOURCE

Meet the expert

Joel Bradbury

Joel is a writer specialising in the analysis of emerging trends within the professional services market. He conducts in-depth research on consulting use globally and in specific geographies and sectors, on topics ranging from crisis response to trends within the nascent sustainability consulting market. His expertise lies in the identification of new ideas and forces shaping the industry, and how they are influencing behaviours within the consulting market.

Joel Bradbury

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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.

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Publication schedule for 2025

202	25	Market Trends Reports	Market Trends Briefings	Client Perceptions Studies	Emerging Trends Programme	White Space Reports	White Space Insights
Q1	January	Forecasts for 2025 UK US GCC France		UK US GCC France			Featured thought leadership (monthly) Quarterly webinar series
	February				ET1		
	March					Quality Ratings Report (QRR)	
Q2	April	Nordics — DACH Australia East Asia — South East Asia Africa	India South America	Germany Australia China Japan Retail Energy & Resources Financial Services Technology, Media & Telecoms	ET2		Featured thought leadership (monthly) Quarterly webinar series
	Мау						
	June				ET3	Client Perceptions of Thought Leadership	
Q3	July	Energy & Resources Financial Services Technology, Media & Telecoms	Healthcare & Pharma	Risk Tax			Featured thought leadership (monthly) Quarterly webinar series
	August				ET4		
	September	Sustainability				Thought Leadership Innovation	
Q4	October	Tax Risk Technology Planning for Growth in 2026	Public Sector	Audit Technology	ET5		Featured thought leadership (monthly) Quarterly webinar series
	November						
	December				ET6	Hot Topic Report	

