



# Times like these

Financial Professionals chart a course from  
a pandemic market to profitable growth

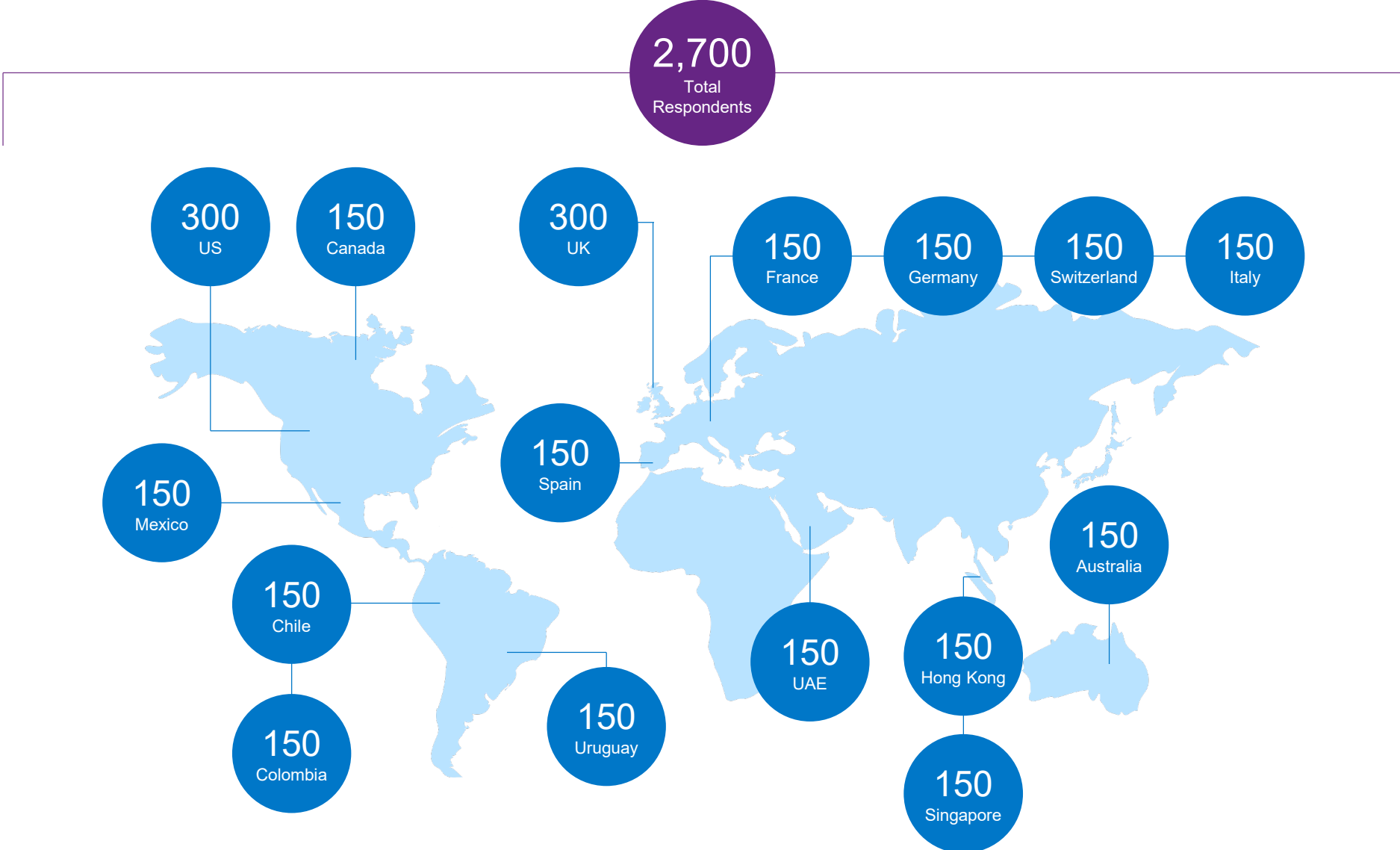
## 2020 Global Survey of Financial Professionals Executive Overview

Faced with the turmoil and uncertainty of the pandemic market, financial professionals across the globe are remarkably optimistic. Professionals find they project business growth of 2.5% in 2020 and 13.7% over the next three years. This despite anticipating that the S&P 500<sup>1</sup> will suffer a -7.0% loss and the MSCI World Index<sup>2</sup> will lose -7.3% when the year ends. As these professionals surveyed contemplate the reality of the biggest market drawdown since the Global Financial Crisis, they know the road to profitable long-term growth won't follow the status quo. Instead, the pandemic market will accelerate changes already shaping industry and demand that financial professionals up their game in three critical areas.

1. Client service: Demonstrating value and earning trust
2. Business planning: Expanding the opportunity set
3. Investment strategy: Finding greater efficiency

# About the survey

Natixis Investment Managers, Global Survey of Financial Professionals conducted by CoreData Research in March and April 2020. Survey included 2,700 financial professionals throughout 16 countries.



# 1. Client service: Demonstrating value and earning trust

Investors expect more than financial professionals say is realistic



- Three-quarters of professionals say investors forget that 12-year bull market was unprecedented.
- Eight in ten say the bull market made investors complacent about risk.
- One-third of financial professionals say they need to get better at managing client return expectations.

|                   | Investors <sup>1</sup> | Expectation Gap | Financial Professionals |
|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Argentina/Uruguay | 10.7%                  | 95%             | 5.5%                    |
| Australia         | 11.9%                  | 98%             | 6.0%                    |
| Canada            | 10.1%                  | 98%             | 5.1%                    |
| Chile             | 12.8%                  | 113%            | 6.0%                    |
| Colombia/Peru     | 14.0%                  | 164%            | 5.3%                    |
| France            | 9.5%                   | 102%            | 4.7%                    |
| Germany           | 9.1%                   | 86%             | 4.9%                    |
| Hong Kong         | 12.9%                  | 148%            | 5.2%                    |
| Italy             | 10.5%                  | 177%            | 3.8%                    |
| Mexico            | 13.5%                  | 194%            | 4.6%                    |
| Singapore         | 11.0%                  | 111%            | 5.2%                    |
| Spain             | 13.3%                  | 92%             | 6.9%                    |
| Switzerland       | 11.6%                  | 128%            | 5.1%                    |
| UK                | 10.8%                  | 136%            | 4.6%                    |
| US                | 10.9%                  | 62%             | 6.7%                    |



Clients and professionals aren't always on the same page. Our data shows that clients expect 11.7% returns above inflation. But professionals say 5.3% is more realistic. That's a 121% gap.

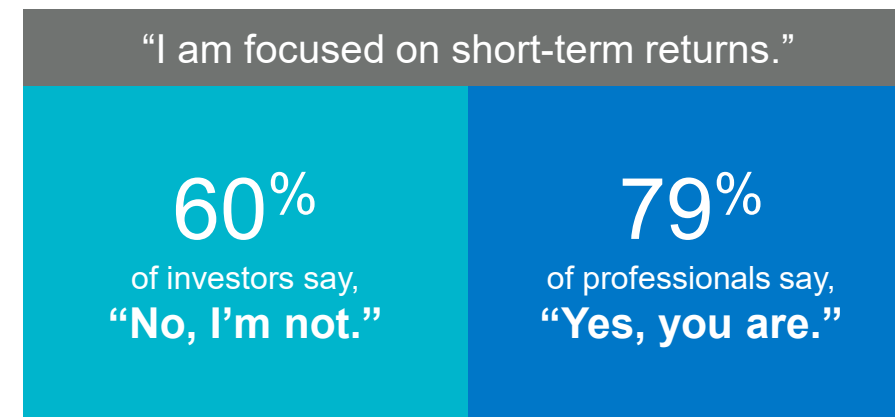
<sup>1</sup> Natixis Investment Managers, Global Survey of Individual Investors conducted by CoreData Research, February-March 2019. Survey included 9,100 investors from 25 countries.

# 1. Client service: Demonstrating value and earning trust

## Shoring up emotions and assets

- Two-thirds (67%) say investors were unprepared for a market downturn.
- Almost six in ten (57%) say investors don't understand the risks of the current market.
- Three-quarters (76%) say investors don't recognize risk until it's already realized.

### Professionals see the blind spots investors miss



As the first step to growth, financial professionals will need to shore up current AUM by helping clients overcome emotional reactions to the pandemic market. Their ability to help clients navigate market turbulence will be a success factor for many.

# 1. Client service: Demonstrating value and earning trust

Key skills needed for growth

Top 5 skills professionals feel they must improve on



When asked what would help them achieve growth goals, few financial professionals think they will win on investment selection and portfolio construction alone. Most think improved communication and client service skills will have the biggest impact.

# 1. Client service: Demonstrating value and earning trust

Communication critical to success and client retention

Keys to nurturing new and existing client relationships



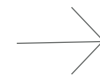
Regular communication



54%



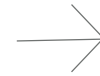
Get to know clients on a personal level



50%



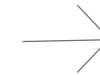
Proactive outreach during market turbulence / notable market events



43%



Regular review of financial plan



41%



Build relationships with clients' families



35%



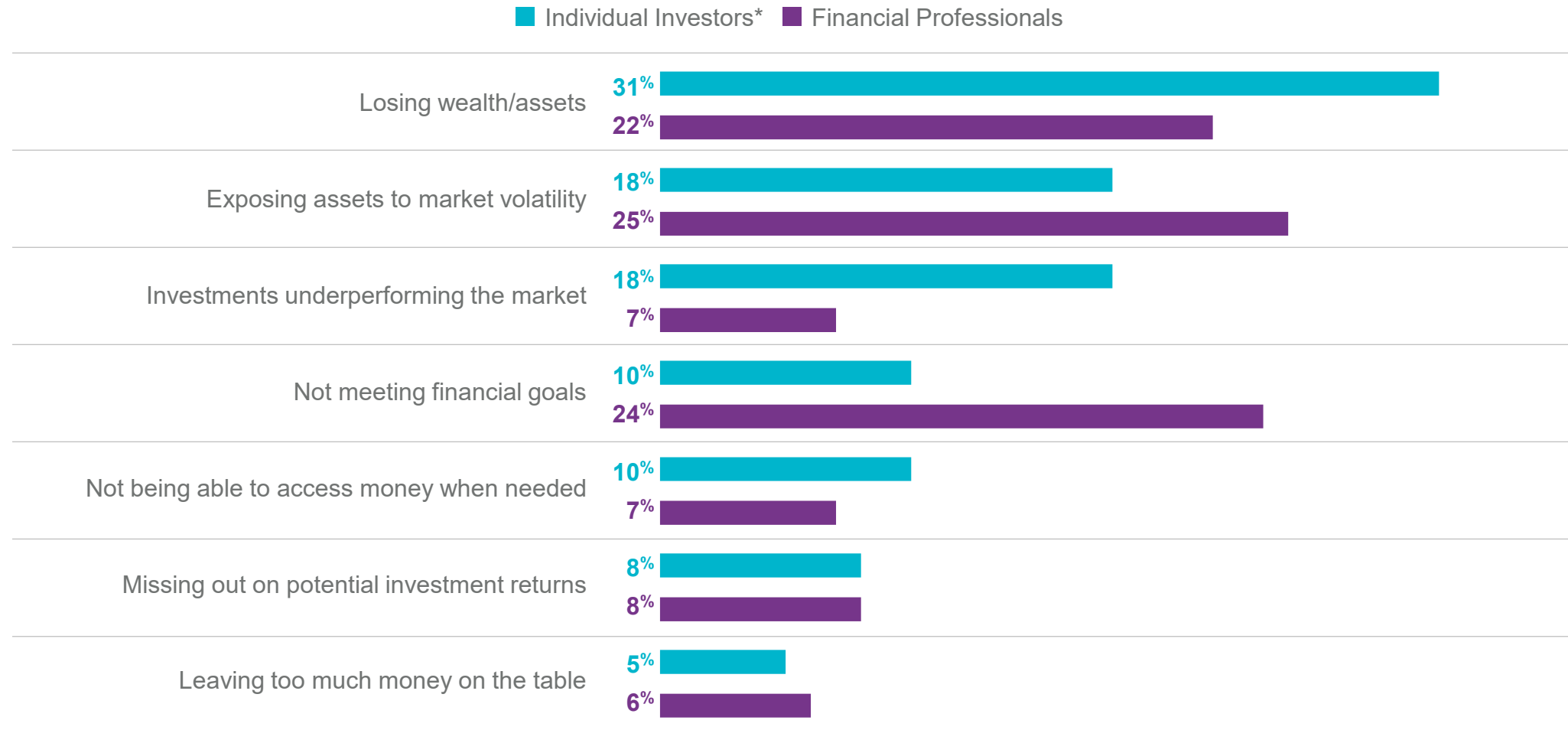
When asked what it takes to successfully grow client relationships, financial professionals put communications at the top of the list. Faced with current market uncertainties, they'll have ample opportunity to build and solidify relationships.



# 1. Client service: Demonstrating value and earning trust

Effective communication begins with clarity

Clients and professionals aren't always on the same page about risk



One way to enhance communication is to ensure financial professionals are on the same page as clients about the fundamentals. Risk is a primary example.

\*Natixis Investment Managers, Global Survey of Individual Investors conducted by CoreData Research, August 2018. Survey included 9,100 investors from 25 countries.

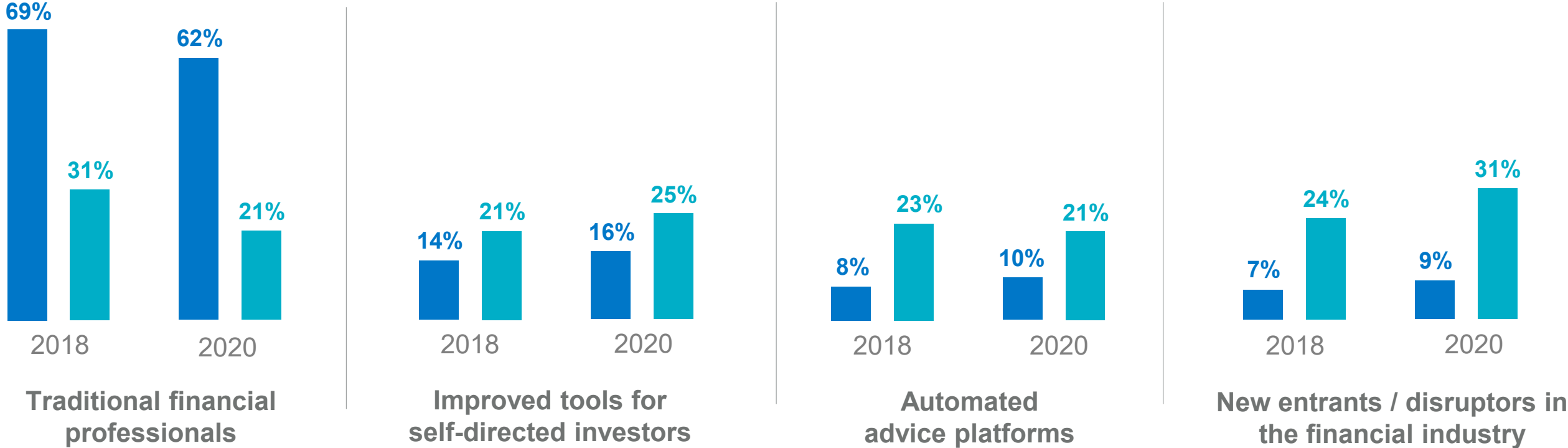
# 2. Business planning: Expanding the opportunity set

Digital competition expected to accelerate

## Biggest competition now and in five years

Results comparison from 2018\* and 2020 surveys

■ Competition now ■ Competition in 5 years



Only 17% think financial professionals lose clients to disruptors today. But when they look to the future, they're most concerned with questions like: "What happens if Amazon, or Apple, or Google decides to get into the financial advice business?"

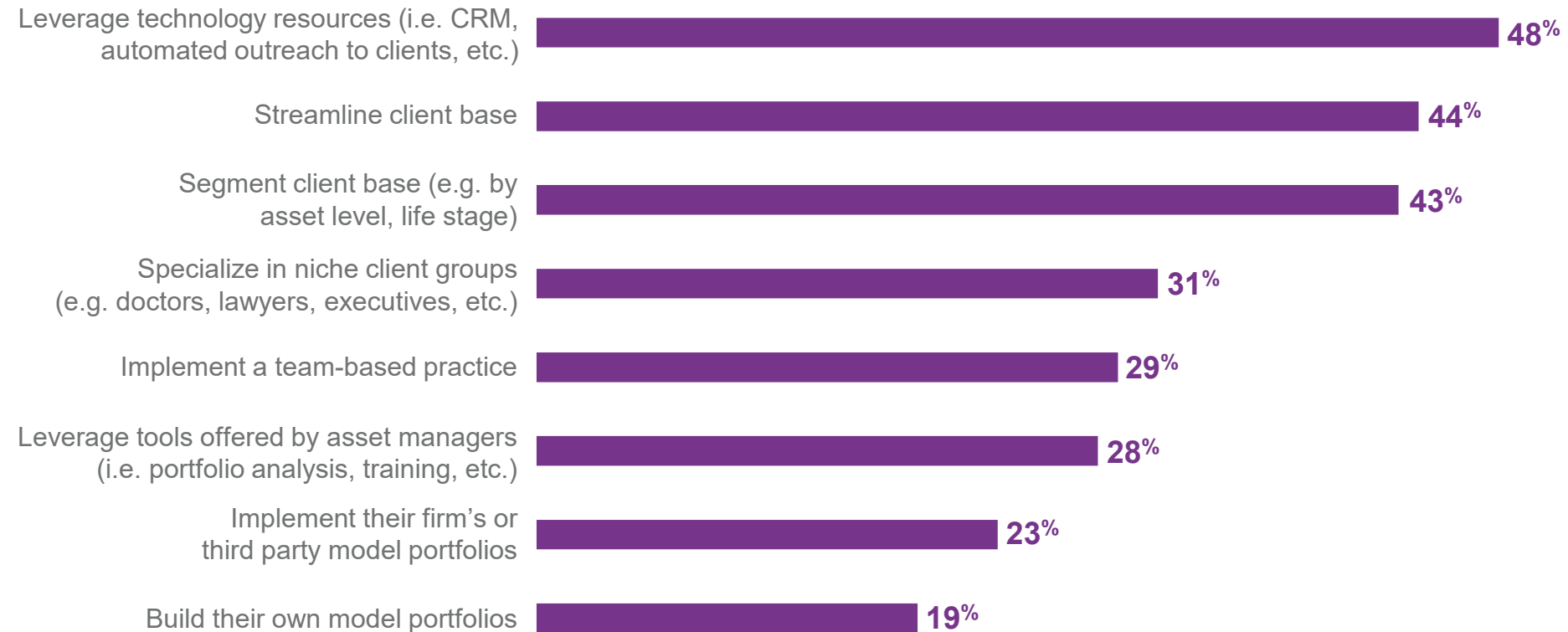
\*Natixis Investment Managers, Global Survey of Financial Professionals conducted by CoreData Research in March 2018. Survey included 2,775 financial professionals in 16 countries.



## 2. Business planning: Expanding the opportunity set

### The tech opportunity for financial professionals

#### Technology at the forefront of strategies for efficient growth

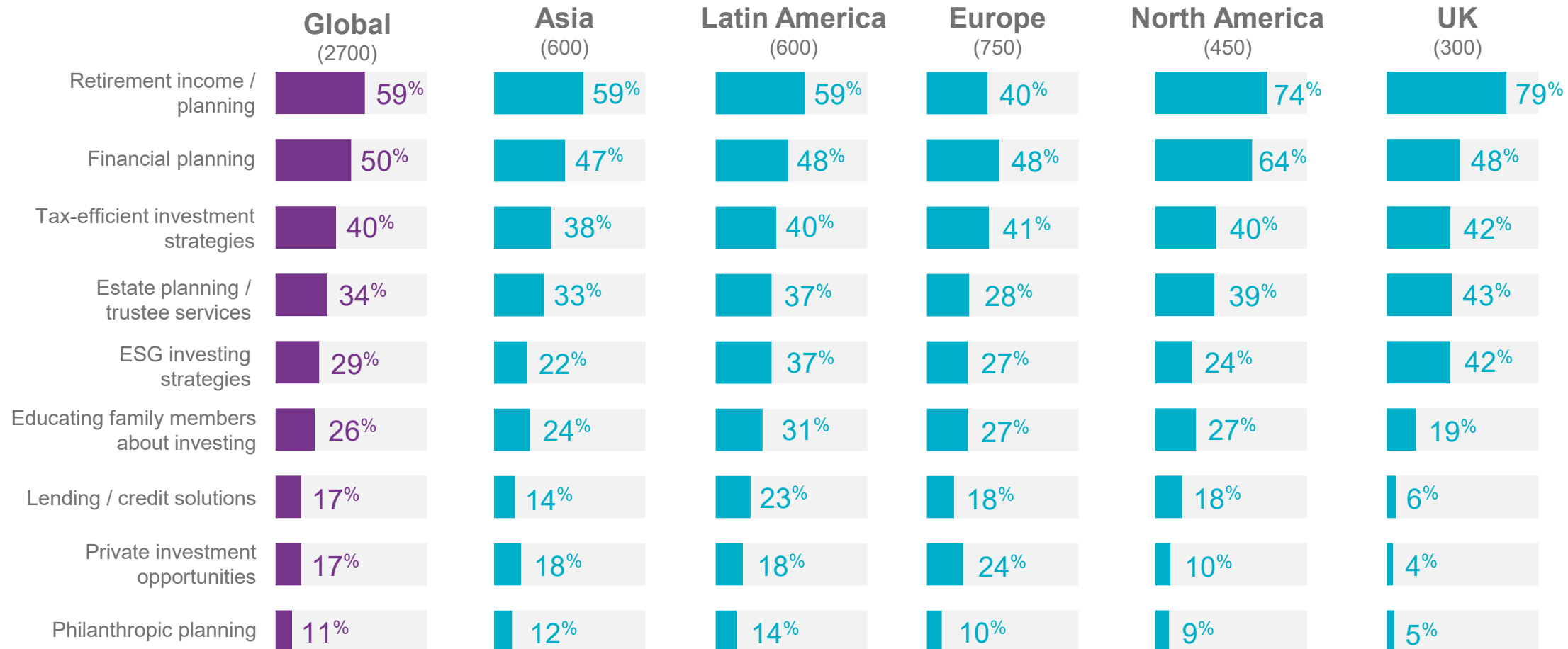


Financial professionals are not going to sit back and let technology take business away. Many also see it as a powerful business resource.

## 2. Business planning: Expanding the opportunity set

Services are critical opportunities to differentiate

What have clients been demanding more of in the past year?

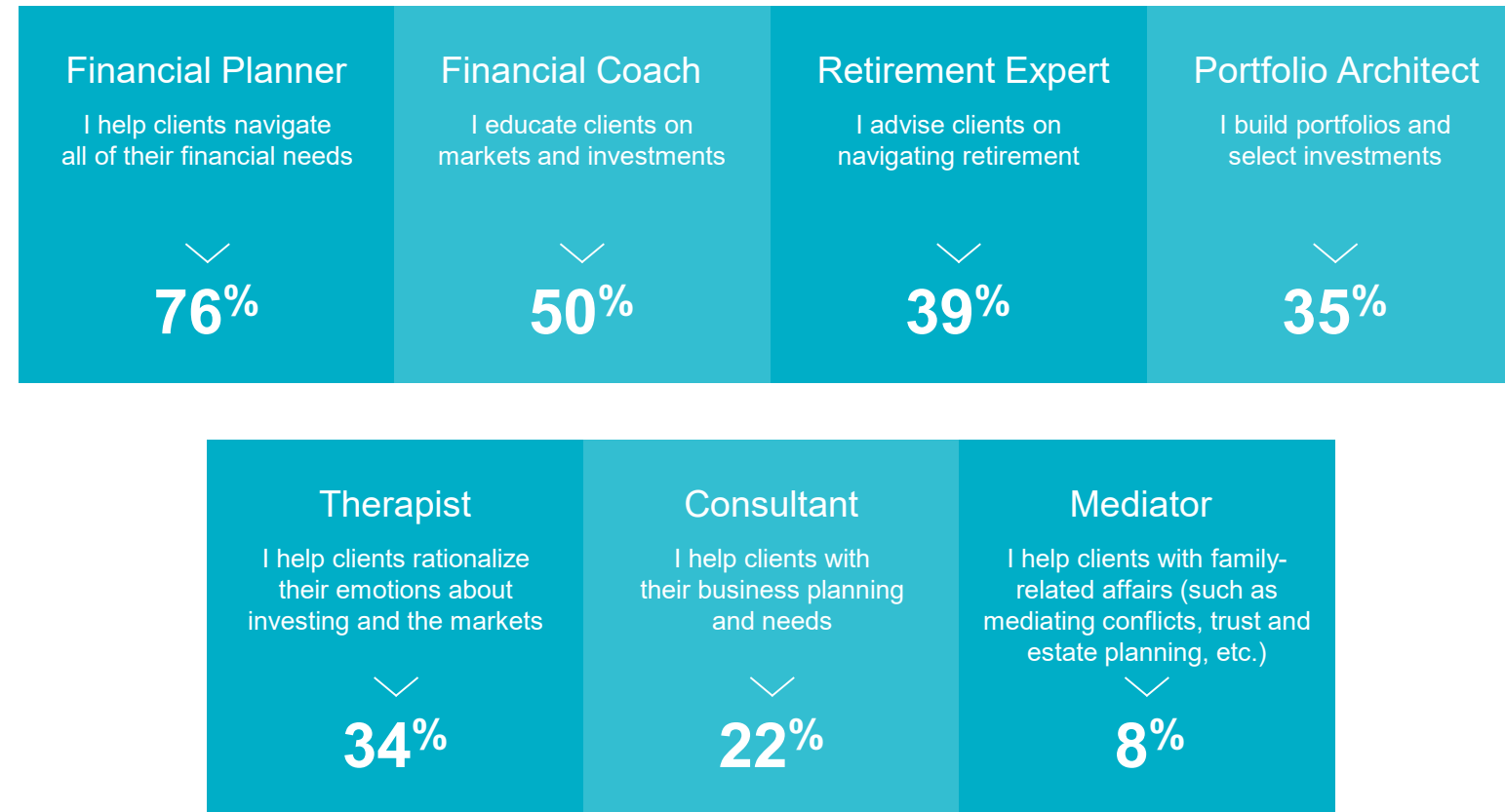


Traditionally, many professionals have succeeded by positioning themselves as experts in investment selection and portfolio construction. Today, clients are demanding a wider array of services, leading many professionals to reframe their value proposition.

## 2. Business planning: Expanding the opportunity set

An expanding role for financial professionals

### Roles financial professionals play to clients



Most frequently, financial professionals describe their role as a financial planner. That means they take on a broader set of responsibilities, help clients establish goals and integrate services such as tax planning, estate planning, philanthropic planning and college funding planning.

## 2. Business planning: Expanding the opportunity set

### The prospecting challenge

#### Personal trust and reputation important when prospecting

##### Most effective

- 85%** Referrals from my current clients and contacts
- 46%** Referrals from other professionals (e.g. lawyers, accountants)
- 39%** Establishing relationships across family generations
- 24%** Events and experiences (e.g. client seminars, dinners)

##### Least effective

- 11%** Email marketing
- 10%** Affinity groups (i.e. private social clubs, hobby clubs, etc.)
- 7%** Social media engagement (e.g. LinkedIn, Facebook)
- 6%** Advertisements and sponsorships

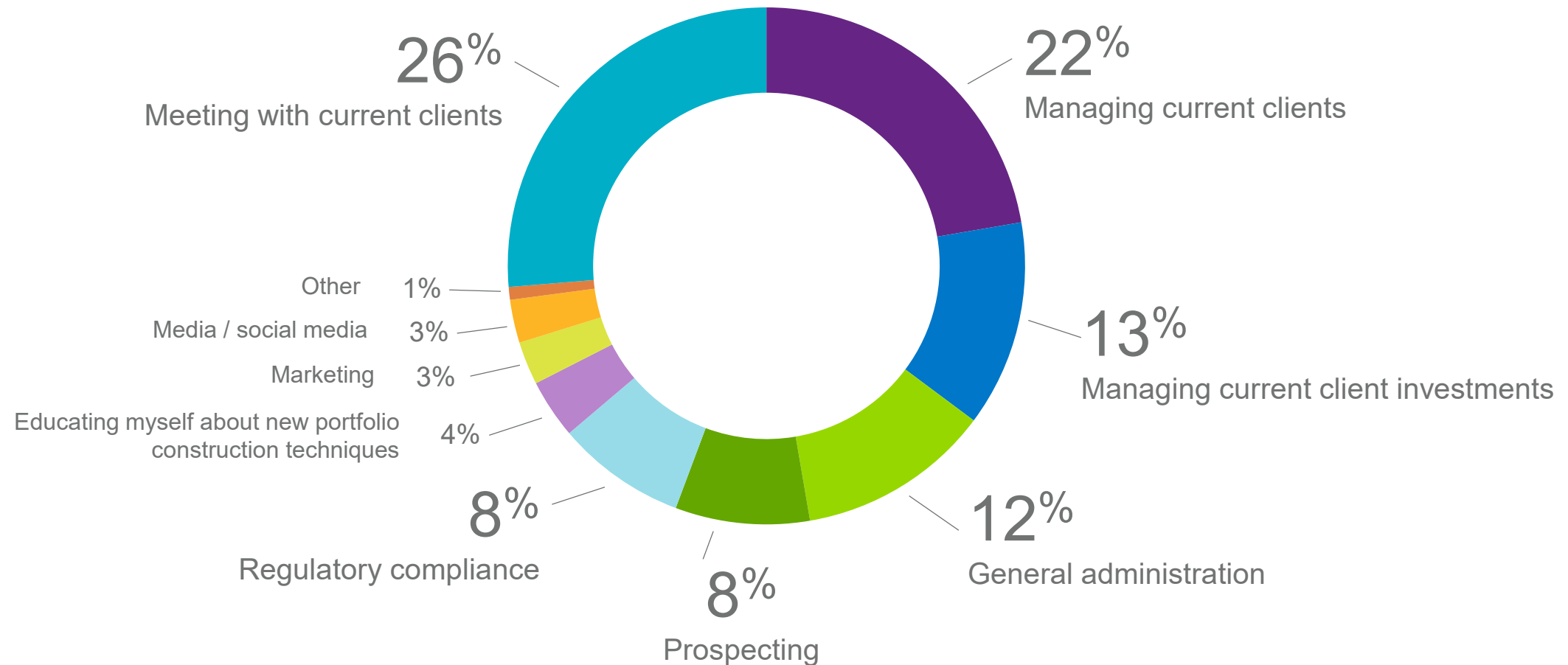


With two-thirds of financial professionals reporting that growth depends on winning new clients, the stakes have been raised on prospecting efforts.

## 2. Business planning: Expanding the opportunity set

### Finding the time to find new clients

The average week for a financial professional

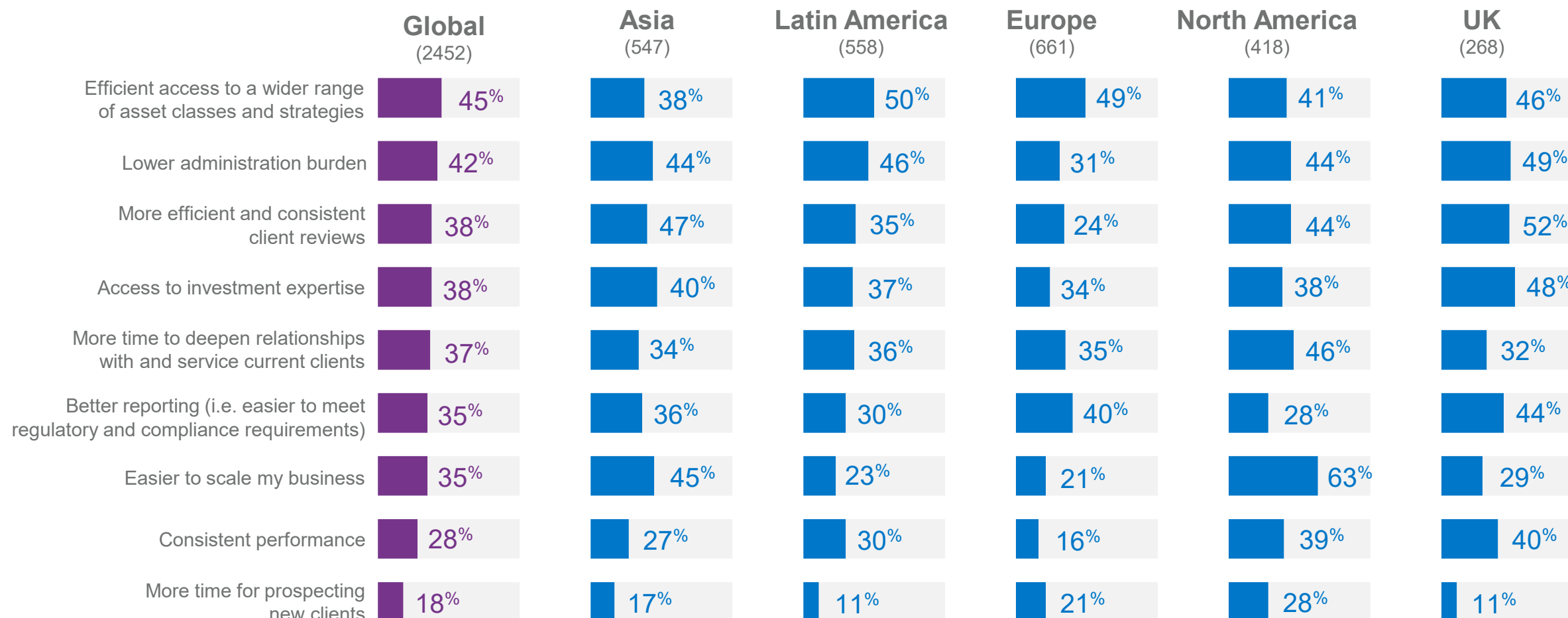


Financial professionals only spend 8% of their work week (about 30 minutes a day), on prospecting activities. They spend even less time on marketing (3%). If advisors are going to achieve their high growth expectations by bringing new clients and new assets, they will need to find efficiencies in other areas of their practice.

### 3. Investment strategy: Finding greater efficiency

#### The model of efficiency

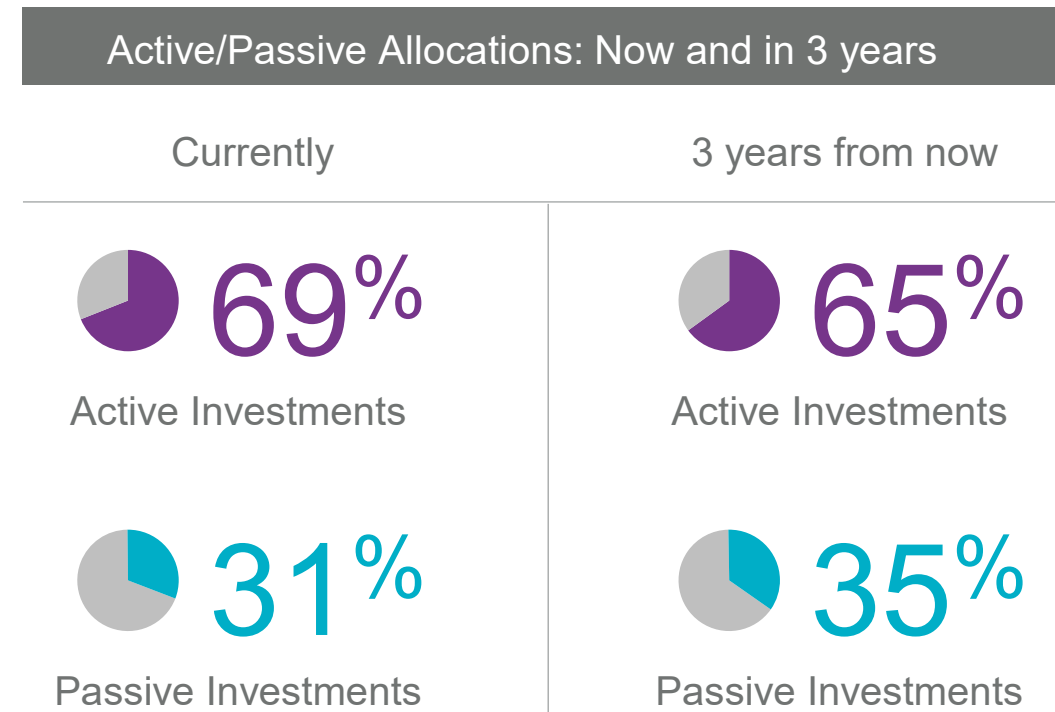
Motivations for implementing model portfolios vary by region



Advisors are looking for ways to make their investment process more efficient. In many cases, they are finding that shifting client assets to model portfolios gives them an advantage.

### 3. Investment strategy: Finding greater efficiency

Active management: The coaches' call



After the unprecedented 12-year bull market, volatility returned in earnest in early 2020. With volatility comes greater dispersion of returns, leading 8 in 10 financial professionals to say the market will favor active management.



### 3. Investment strategy: Finding greater efficiency

Volatile markets show the limitations of passive funds

**Financial professionals:**

**Investors:<sup>1</sup>**

**68%** say investors have a false sense of security about passive

**62%** think index funds are less risky

**72%** say investors were not aware of the risks of passive

**64%** believe index funds will protect them on the downside



Financial professionals suggest that investors may be learning tough lessons about the limitations of passive investments as a result of the pandemic downturn. With markets down substantially in 2020, investors may be feeling doubly surprised by losses on their first quarter statements.

<sup>1</sup> Natixis Investment Managers, Global Survey of Individual Investors conducted by CoreData Research, February-March 2019. Survey included 9,100 investors from 25 countries.

### 3. Investment strategy: Finding greater efficiency

#### Taking the alternative route

#### Financial professionals' most used alternatives by region

**Global** Real estate/REITs **38%** Real assets **35%** Infrastructure **34%**

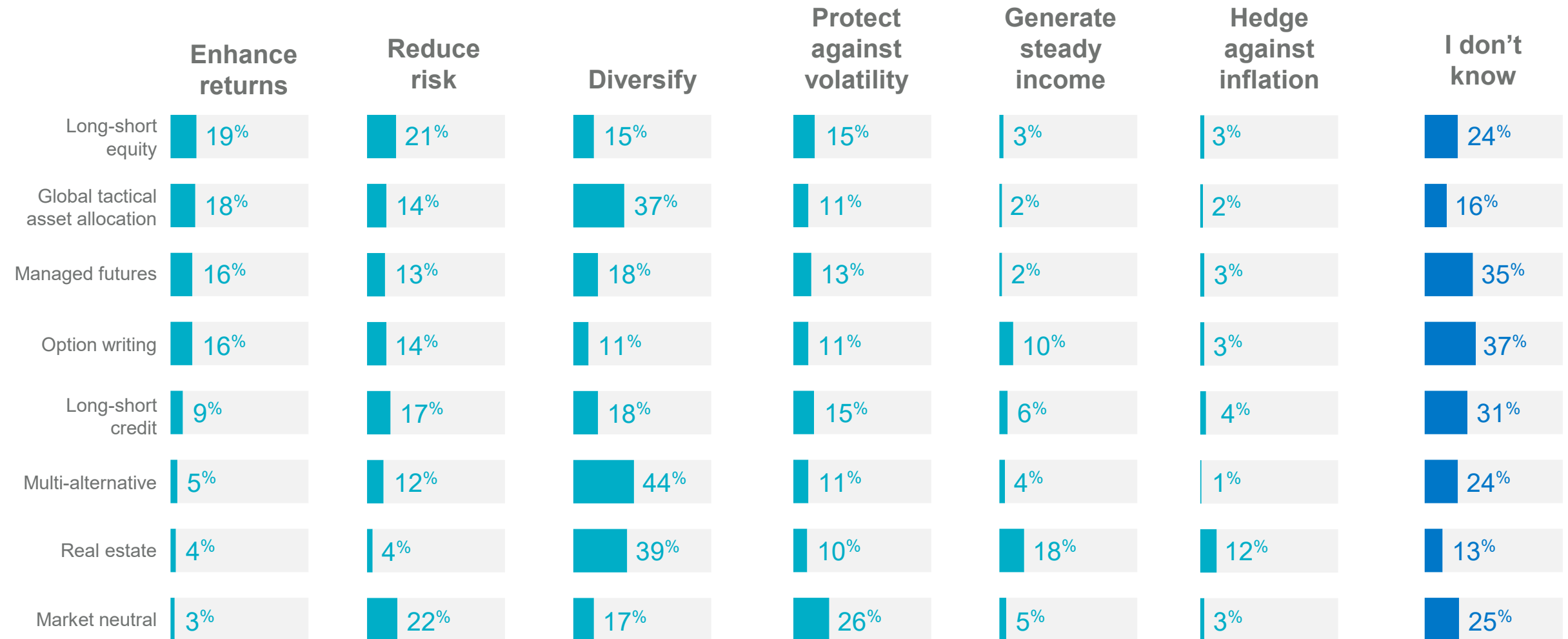
|                    |                                  |   |   |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Canada</b>      | Real estate/REITs <b>47%</b>     | Infrastructure <b>36%</b>                                 | Real assets <b>31%</b>                              |
| <b>US</b>          | Real estate/REITs <b>54%</b>     | Commodities <b>26%</b>                                    | Real assets <b>25%</b>                              |
| <b>Chile</b>       | Real assets <b>52%</b>           | Real estate/REITs <b>35%</b><br>Infrastructure <b>35%</b> | Commodities <b>31%</b>                              |
| <b>Colombia</b>    | Real assets <b>50%</b>           | Real estate/REITs <b>47%</b>                              | Infrastructure <b>39%</b>                           |
| <b>Mexico</b>      | Real assets <b>55%</b>           | Infrastructure <b>44%</b>                                 | Private equity <b>36%</b>                           |
| <b>Uruguay</b>     | Real assets <b>56%</b>           | Real estate/REITs <b>44%</b>                              | Infrastructure <b>42%</b>                           |
| <b>France</b>      | Real estate/REITs <b>51%</b>     | Real assets <b>45%</b>                                    | Infrastructure <b>40%</b>                           |
| <b>Germany</b>     | Real assets <b>61%</b>           | Real estate/REITs <b>50%</b>                              | Infrastructure <b>37%</b>                           |
| <b>Italy</b>       | Infrastructure <b>38%</b>        | Private equity <b>32%</b>                                 | Real assets <b>23%</b>                              |
| <b>Spain</b>       | Hedge fund strategies <b>42%</b> | Private equity <b>39%</b>                                 | Commodities <b>34%</b>                              |
| <b>Switzerland</b> | Private equity <b>55%</b>        | Hedge fund strategies <b>48%</b>                          | Real estate/REITs <b>29%</b>                        |
| <b>UAE</b>         | Real estate/REITs <b>37%</b>     | Real assets <b>30%</b>                                    | Commodities <b>29%</b>                              |
| <b>UK</b>          | Infrastructure <b>42%</b>        | Real estate/REITs <b>23%</b>                              | Commodities <b>21%</b>                              |
| <b>Australia</b>   | Infrastructure <b>63%</b>        | Real estate/REITs <b>40%</b>                              | Real assets <b>17%</b>                              |
| <b>Hong Kong</b>   | Real estate/REITs <b>39%</b>     | Real assets <b>31%</b>                                    | Hedge fund strategies <b>29%</b>                    |
| <b>Singapore</b>   | Real estate/REITs <b>44%</b>     | Real assets <b>42%</b>                                    | Private equity <b>29%</b><br>Commodities <b>29%</b> |



Three-quarters (76%) of investment professionals report that they use alternative investments in client portfolios. On average, they rely most on real estate (38%), real assets (35%) and infrastructure strategies (34%).

### 3. Investment strategy: Finding greater efficiency

It's not just which alternative, but why they're implemented



■ % who said response listed was the best use for the respective alternative strategy  
 ■ % who did not know the best use for the respective alternative strategy  
 Columns may not add to 100% due to rounding



While 48% of financial professionals say alternatives are too complicated to explain to clients, 8 in 10 say that their peers also need more education on alts. It's no wonder that 68% say they would implement alternatives more if there were an easier way to do it.



# Rising to the times

1. **Client service: Demonstrating value and earning trust** – Professionals will need to evaluate and address the expectations of clients struggling with an uncertain world and risky investment landscape.
2. **Business planning: Expanding the opportunity set** – Professionals will look for expanded services and enhanced efficiencies that allow them to capture more clients and a great share of assets.
3. **Investment strategy: Finding greater efficiency** – Professionals will need to reevaluate both where and how they invest to thrive in a new market environment.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1 S&P 500® Index is a widely recognized measure of US stock market performance. It is an unmanaged index of 500 common stocks chosen for market size, liquidity, and industry group representation, among other factors. It also measures the performance of the large-cap segment of the US equities market.

2 MSCI World Index (Net) is an unmanaged index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed markets. It is comprised of common stocks of companies representative of the market structure of developed market countries in North America, Europe, and the Asia/Pacific Region. The index is calculated without dividends, with net or with gross dividends reinvested, in both U.S. dollars and local currencies. You cannot invest directly in an index. Indexes are not investments, do not incur fees and expenses and are not professionally managed.

This material is provided for informational purposes only and should not be construed as investment advice. The views and opinions expressed are as of April 20, 2020 and may change based on market and other conditions. There can be no assurance that developments will transpire as forecasted, and actual results may vary.

All investing involves risk, including the risk of loss. No investment strategy or risk management technique can guarantee return or eliminate risk in all market environments. Investment risk exists with equity, fixed income, and alternative investments. There is no assurance that any investment will meet its performance objectives or that losses will be avoided.

Commodity-related investments, including derivatives, may be affected by a number of factors including commodity prices, world events, import controls, and economic conditions and therefore may involve substantial risk of loss.

Diversification does not guarantee a profit or protect against a loss. There is no guarantee that a diversified portfolio will enhance overall returns or outperform a non-diversified portfolio. Asset allocation does not ensure a profit or protect against loss.

Asset allocation strategies do not guarantee a profit or protect against a loss.

The data shown represents the opinion of those surveyed, and may change based on market and other conditions. It should not be construed as investment advice.

Alternative investments involve unique risks that may be different from those associated with traditional investments, including illiquidity and the potential for amplified losses or gains. Investors should fully understand the risks associated with any investment prior to investing.

Real estate investing may be subject to risks including but not limited to declines in the value of real estate, risks related to general economic conditions, changes in the value of the underlying property owned by the trust, and defaults by borrowers.

Sustainable investing focuses on investments in companies that relate to certain sustainable development themes and demonstrate adherence to environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices; therefore the universe of investments may be limited and investors may not be able to take advantage of the same opportunities or market trends as investors that do not use such criteria. This could have a negative impact on an investor's overall performance depending on whether such investments are in or out of favor.

Volatility management techniques may result in periods of loss and underperformance, may limit the Fund's ability to participate in rising markets and may increase transaction costs.

This document may contain references to copyrights, indexes and trademarks that may not be registered in all jurisdictions. Third party registrations are the property of their respective owners and are not affiliated with Natixis Investment Managers or any of its related or affiliated companies (collectively "Natixis"). Such third party owners do not sponsor, endorse or participate in the provision of any Natixis services, funds or other financial products.

The index information contained herein is derived from third parties and is provided on an "as is" basis. The user of this information assumes the entire risk of use of this information. Each of the third party entities involved in compiling, computing or creating index information disclaims all warranties (including, without limitation, any warranties of originality, accuracy, completeness, timeliness, non-infringement, merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose) with respect to such information.

Outside the United States, this communication is for information only and is intended for investment service providers or other Professional Clients. This material must not be used with Retail Investors. This material may not be redistributed, published, or reproduced, in whole or in part. Although Natixis Investment Managers believes the information provided in this material to be reliable, including that from third party sources, it does not guarantee the accuracy, adequacy or completeness of such information.

**In the EU (ex UK and France):** Provided by Natixis Investment Managers S.A. or one of its branch offices listed below. Natixis Investment Managers S.A. is a Luxembourg management company that is authorized by the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier and is incorporated under Luxembourg laws and registered under n. B 115843. Registered office of Natixis Investment Managers S.A.: 2, rue Jean Monnet, L-2180 Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Italy: Natixis Investment Managers S.A., Succursale Italiana (Bank of Italy Register of Italian Asset Management Companies no 23458.3). Registered office: Via Larga, 2 - 20122, Milan, Italy. Germany: Natixis Investment Managers S.A., Zweigniederlassung Deutschland (Registration number: HRB 88541). Registered office: Im Trutz Frankfurt 55, Westend Carrée, 7. Floor, Frankfurt am Main 60322, Germany. Netherlands: Natixis Investment Managers, Nederlands (Registration number 50774670). Registered office: Stadsplateau 7, 3521AZ Utrecht, the Netherlands. Sweden: Natixis Investment Managers, Nordics Filial (Registration number 516405-9601 - Swedish Companies Registration Office). Registered office: Kungsgatan 48 5tr, Stockholm 111 35, Sweden. Spain: Natixis Investment Managers, Sucursal en España. Serrano n°90, 6th Floor, 28006 Madrid, Spain.

**In France:** Provided by Natixis Investment Managers International – a portfolio management company authorized by the Autorité des Marchés Financiers (French Financial Markets Authority - AMF) under no. GP 90-009, and a public limited company (société anonyme) registered in the Paris Trade and Companies Register under no. 329 450 738. Registered office: 43 avenue Pierre Mendès France, 75013 Paris.

**In Switzerland:** Provided by Natixis Investment Managers, Switzerland Sàrl, Rue du Vieux Collège 10, 1204 Geneva, Switzerland or its representative office in Zurich, Schweizergasse 6, 8001 Zürich.

**In the British Isles**, this material is provided by Natixis Investment Managers UK Limited which is authorised and regulated by the UK Financial Conduct Authority (register no. 190258) - registered office: Natixis Investment Managers UK Limited, One Carter Lane, London, EC4V 5ER. When permitted, the distribution of this material is intended to be made to persons as described as follows: in the United Kingdom: this material is intended to be communicated to and/or directed at investment professionals and professional investors only; in Ireland: this material is intended to be communicated to and/or directed at professional investors only; in Guernsey: this material is intended to be communicated to and/or directed at only financial services providers which hold a license from the Guernsey Financial Services Commission; in Jersey: this material is intended to be communicated to and/or directed at professional investors only; in the Isle of Man: this material is intended to be communicated to and/or directed at only financial services providers which hold a license from the Isle of Man Financial Services Authority or insurers authorised under section 8 of the Insurance Act 2008.

**In the DIFC:** Distributed in and from the DIFC financial district to Professional Clients only by Natixis Investment Managers Middle East (DIFC Branch) which is regulated by the DFSA. Related financial products or services are only available to persons who have sufficient financial experience and understanding to participate in financial markets within the DIFC, and qualify as Professional Clients as defined by the DFSA. Registered office: Office 603 - Level 6, Currency House Tower 2, PO Box 118257, DIFC, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

**In Singapore:** Provided by Natixis Investment Managers Singapore (name registration no. 53102724D), a division of Ostrum Asset Management Asia Limited (company registration no. 199801044D). Registered address of Natixis Investment Managers Singapore: 5 Shenton Way, #22-05 UIC Building, Singapore 068808.

**In Taiwan:** Provided by Natixis Investment Managers Securities Investment Consulting (Taipei) Co., Ltd., a Securities Investment Consulting Enterprise regulated by the Financial Supervisory Commission of the R.O.C. Registered address: 34F., No. 68, Sec. 5, Zhongxiao East Road, Xinyi Dist., Taipei City 11065, Taiwan (R.O.C.), license number 2018 FSC SICE No. 024, Tel. +886 2 8789 2788.

**In Japan:** Provided by Natixis Investment Managers Japan Co.,Ltd., Registration No.: Director-General of the Kanto Local Financial Bureau (kinsho) No. 425. Content of Business: The Company conducts discretionary asset management business and investment advisory and agency business as a Financial Instruments Business Operator. Registered address: 1-4-5, Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo.

**In Hong Kong:** Provided by Natixis Investment Managers Hong Kong Limited to institutional/ corporate professional investors only.

**In Australia:** Provided by Natixis Investment Managers Australia Pty Limited (ABN 60 088 786 289) (AFSL No. 246830) and is intended for the general information of financial advisers and wholesale clients only.

**In New Zealand:** This document is intended for the general information of New Zealand wholesale investors only and does not constitute financial advice. This is not a regulated offer for the purposes of the Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013 (FMCA) and is only available to New Zealand investors who have certified that they meet the requirements in the FMCA for wholesale investors. Natixis Investment Managers Australia Pty Limited is not a registered financial service provider in New Zealand.

**In Latin America:** Provided by Natixis Investment Managers S.A.

**In Colombia:** Provided by Natixis Investment Managers S.A. Oficina de Representación (Colombia) to professional clients for informational purposes only as permitted under Decree 2555 of 2010. Any products, services or investments referred to herein are rendered exclusively outside of Colombia.

**In Mexico:** Provided by Natixis IM Mexico, S. de R.L. de C.V., which is not a regulated financial entity, securities intermediary, or an investment manager in terms of the Mexican Securities Market Law (Ley del Mercado de Valores) and is not registered with the Comisión Nacional Bancaria y de Valores (CNBV) or any other Mexican authority. Any products, services or investments referred to herein that require authorization or license are rendered exclusively outside of Mexico. While shares of certain ETFs may be listed in the Sistema Internacional de Cotizaciones (SIC), such listing does not represent a public offering of securities in Mexico, and therefore the accuracy of this information has not been confirmed by the CNBV. Natixis Investment Managers is an entity organized under the laws of France and is not authorized by or registered with the CNBV or any other Mexican authority. Any reference contained herein to “Investment Managers” is made to Natixis Investment Managers and/or any of its investment management subsidiaries, which are also not authorized by or registered with the CNBV or any other Mexican authority.

**In Uruguay:** Provided by Natixis Investment Managers Uruguay S.A., a duly registered investment advisor, authorized and supervised by the Central Bank of Uruguay. Office: San Lucar 1491, oficina 102B, Montevideo, Uruguay, CP 11500.

The above referenced entities are business development units of Natixis Investment Managers, the holding company of a diverse lineup of specialized investment management and distribution entities worldwide. The investment management subsidiaries of Natixis Investment Managers conduct any regulated activities only in and from the jurisdictions in which they are licensed or authorized. Their services and the products they manage are not available to all investors in all jurisdictions.

**In Canada:** This material is provided by Natixis Investment Managers Canada LP, 145 King Street West, Suite 1500, Toronto, ON M5H 1J8.

**In the United States:** Provided by Natixis Distribution, L.P., 888 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02199. Natixis Distribution, L.P. is a limited purpose broker-dealer and the distributor of various registered investment companies for which advisory services are provided by affiliates of Natixis Investment Managers.

Natixis Investment Managers includes all of the investment management and distribution entities affiliated with Natixis Distribution, L.P. and Natixis Investment Managers S.A. This material should not be considered a solicitation to buy or an offer to sell any product or service to any person in any jurisdiction where such activity would be unlawful.