

METHODOLOGY

# America's Best Management Consulting Firms 2026

in collaboration with **Forbes**

**statista**  February 2026



# The ranking awards 183 unique consultancies in 16 client sectors and 17 functional areas.

Ranking's cornerstones



## Relevance of Ranking

In today's complex and fast-evolving business landscape, companies often seek expert advice to navigate challenges and seize opportunities. This ranking wants to help businesses find trusted partners to tackle strategic challenges and drive growth.

In a highly competitive and dynamic client sectors, this ranking strives to offer **transparency** and set a benchmark for **identifying the top consulting firms** for the specific needs of different client sectors and functional areas.



## Executive Summary

- **Title of ranking:** America's Best Management Consulting Firms 2026
- **Media partner:** Forbes
- **Edition:** 11<sup>th</sup>
- **Number of awarded firms:** 183
- **Methodology:** Expert surveys (peer surveys among 1,050 management consultants) and client surveys (among more than 1,250 clients)
- **Criteria used for determining inclusion:** For 16 client sectors and 17 functional areas, recommendations were gathered from consultants themselves and clients of consulting firms. The firms most frequently recommended in each sector were awarded with 5 stars, 4 stars or 3 stars.

# To find the best management consultancies, Statista collected the recommendations of peers and clients via online surveys

Data sources

## Online surveys among experts

## Online surveys among clients



<sup>1</sup> A link to the self-registration form was available on forbes.com and on request.  
<sup>2</sup> An online access panel is a sample group set up by a survey company and available for custom-built surveys. People register and agree to take part in online surveys.

# Two surveys were conducted among consultants who act as experts in the study

Key facts expert survey



## Invitations and registrations

- Surveying took place from 24 October 2025 to 4 February 2026
- More than 10,000 partners or executives were invited to the survey
- Additionally, partners or executives could register themselves on forbes.com. The eligibility of consultants that registered for the survey was checked after the completion of the survey
- Across 16 client sectors and 17 functional areas partners and executives could recommend other management consulting firms
- Participants could enter their recommendation as a free-text entry supported by an auto-complete function
- Self-recommendations were deleted

## Online access panel

- Additional participants were invited via an online access panel
- Surveying took place from 19 December 2025 to 4 February 2026
- Participants were presented with a unique shortlist per client sector or functional area based on last years results and the recommendations collected from the expert survey
- Free-text entries were also possible
- Self-recommendations were deleted

In total, 1,050 consultants provided recommendations in peer-to-peer surveys.

# Clients of management consulting firms also had the opportunity to submit recommendations in two surveys

Key facts client survey

## Client survey

### Registrations

- Surveying took place from 12 November 2025 to 4 February 2026
- Clients that have used the service of management consulting firms could register themselves on forbes.com
- Consulting firms could send the registration link directly to their clients
- The eligibility of clients that registered for the survey was checked after the completion of the survey
- Across 16 client sectors and 17 functional areas, clients were asked to recommend management consultancies.

### Online access panel

- Surveying took place from 9 January to 17 January 2026
- Requirement: participants must have worked with management consultancies in the last 4 years
- Participants were asked to state in which client sectors and functional areas they have collaborated with a management consultancy
- Participants were presented with a unique shortlist per client sector or functional area based on last years results and the recommendations collected from the expert survey
- Free-text entries were also possible

Recommendations from more than 1,250 clients were collected in both client surveys.

# Recommendations were collected for 16 client sectors and 17 functional areas

Client sectors and functional areas



## Client sectors

- Aerospace & Defense
- Automotive
- Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals
- Construction & Infrastructure
- Consumer Goods & Retail
- Energy & Environment
- Financial Institutions
- Health Care & Life Sciences
- Insurance
- Internet, Media & Entertainment
- IT, Technology & Telecommunications
- Metals & Mining
- Oil & Gas
- Other Industrial Goods & Services
- Public Sector, Non-Profit & Education
- Travel, Transport & Logistics



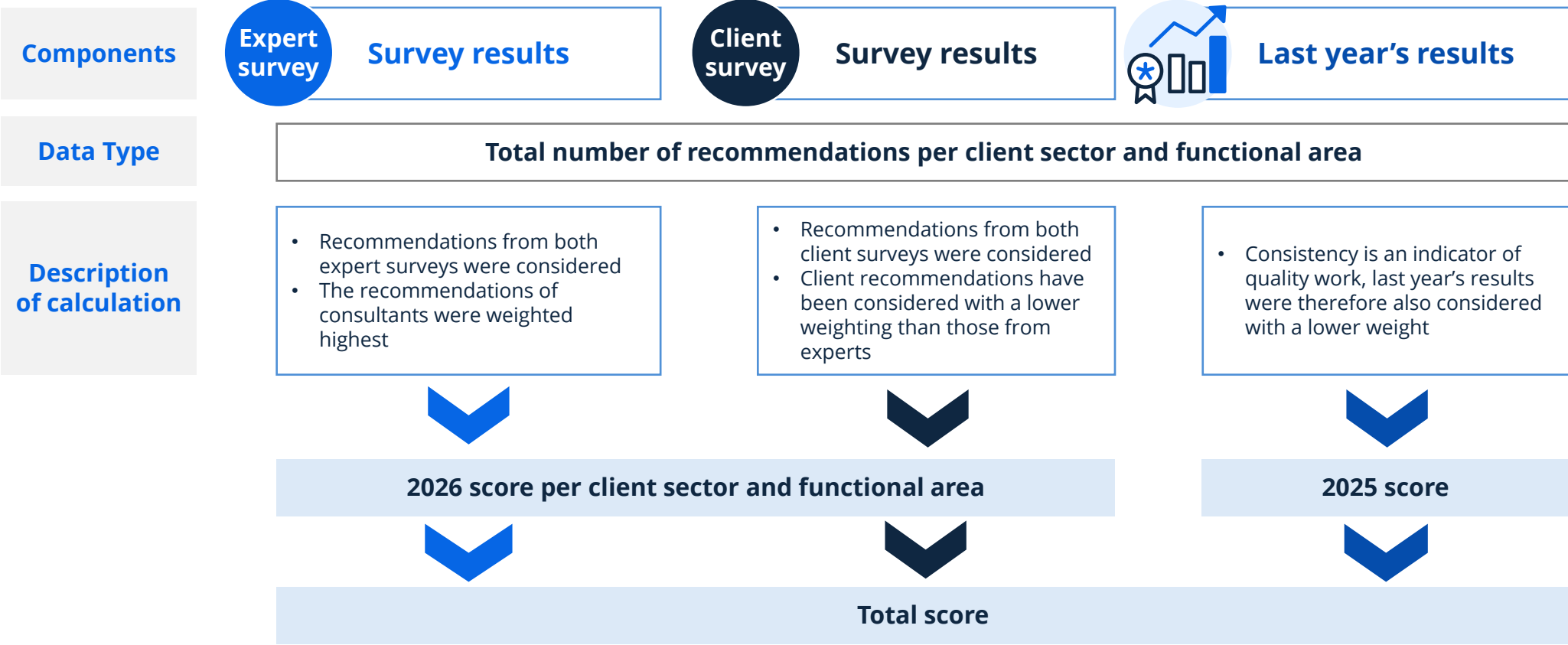
## Functional areas

- Artificial Intelligence
- Data Analytics & Big Data
- Digital Transformation
- Finance & Risk Management
- Human Resource Consulting & Coaching
- Innovation, Growth & New Business Models
- IT-Strategy & Implementation
- Leadership Advisory
- Legal & Litigation
- Marketing, Brand & Pricing
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Operations
- Organization
- Sales & CRM
- Strategy
- Supply Chain Management
- Sustainability

The survey encouraged experts and clients to give recommendation for management consultancies in different client sectors and functional areas. In each of the 16 client sectors and 17 functional areas the most recommended management consulting firms were identified and awarded.

# For each category, recommendations of clients and experts were combined to create a final score

## Scoring Model



# In each category, recommended consultancies were divided into three classes

Star rating

## 5-star rating

The **top 10% consulting firms** (based on the total number of recommendations) among all awarded companies in each client sector and functional area received a 5-star rating



## 4-star rating

Consulting firms **outside the top 10%**, but still **within the top 40%** (based on the total number of recommendations) among all awarded companies in each client sector and functional area received a 4-star rating



## 3-star rating

Consulting firms outside the top 40%, that have received **at least the average number** of recommendations of all companies with at least one recommendation received a 3-star rating



# Legal disclaimer for the ranking America's Best Management Consulting Firms 2026

## Disclaimer

The rankings are comprised exclusively of consulting firms that are eligible regarding the scope described in this document. A mention in the ranking is a positive recognition based on expert and client recommendations at the time. The ranking is the result of an elaborate process which, due to the interval of data-collection and analysis, is a reflection of the last calendar year. Furthermore, events after 02/07/2026 and/or involving individuals affiliated with the firms were not included in the metrics. As such, the results of this ranking should not be used as the sole source of information for future deliberations. The information provided in this ranking should be considered in conjunction with other available information about consulting firms. The quality of consulting firms that are not included in the rankings is not disputed.