

METHODOLOGY

UK's Leading Management Consultants 2026

in collaboration with  **FINANCIAL
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 **FINANCIAL
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**UK'S LEADING
CONSULTING
NETWORKS 2026**

 **FINANCIAL
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**UK'S LEADING
MANAGEMENT
CONSULTANTS 2026**

The ranking awards 170 unique consultancies in 16 client sectors and 15 functional areas.

Ranking's cornerstones



Relevance of Ranking

In today's complex and fast-evolving business landscape, companies often seek expert guidance to navigate challenges and seize opportunities. This ranking aims to help businesses identify trusted partners to address strategic issues and drive growth.

In highly competitive and dynamic client sectors, this ranking seeks to provide **transparency** and establish a benchmark for identifying **the leading consulting firms** to meet the specific needs of different industries and functional areas.



Executive Summary

- **Title of ranking:** UK's Leading Management Consultants 2026
- **Media partner:** The Financial Times
- **Edition:** 9th
- **Number of awarded firms:** 170 consulting firms and 10 networks
- **Methodology:** Expert and client surveys
- **Criteria used for determining inclusion:** For 16 client sectors and 15 functional areas, recommendations were gathered from consultants themselves and clients of consulting firms. The firms most frequently recommended in each sector were awarded with Gold, Silver or Bronze.

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

Data sources

Online surveys among consultants

Online surveys among clients



The collection of peer-to-peer recommendations is the first data source

Key facts expert survey



Invitations and registrations

- **Partners, Executives or Senior project managers** who work in management consultancies and who are located in the UK were eligible to participate.
- Surveying took place from **June 16 to August 15, 2025**.
 - More than 7,000 eligible consultants were invited to the survey.
 - Additionally, eligible consultants could register themselves on FT.com.
- The survey took approx. **5 minutes** to complete.
- Consultants could recommend other consultancies in any sector or service.
- Self-recommendations were deleted.



More than 7,000 eligible consultants received an invitation via e-mail to take part in the expert survey.



Eligible consultants were also able to register themselves on FT.com.

Clients of consultancies also had the opportunity to submit recommendations in two surveys

Key facts client survey



Registrations

- Surveying took place from **June 16 to August 15, 2025**.
- Clients that have used the service of management consultancies in the UK could register themselves on FT.com.
- Consultancies could send the participation link directly to their clients.
- The eligibility of clients that registered for the survey was checked after the completion of the survey.
- Across 16 sectors and 15 consulting services, clients were asked to recommend management consultancies.

Online access panel

- Surveying took place from **September 1 to September 13, 2025**.
- 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 were collected for 16 client sectors and 15 consulting services

Client sectors and functional areas



Client sectors

- Aerospace & defence
- Automotive
- Chemicals & pharmaceuticals
- Construction & infrastructure
- Consumer goods & retail
- Energy, utilities & environment
- Financial institutions & services
- Healthcare & life sciences
- Insurance
- Internet, media & entertainment
- IT, technology & telecommunications
- Oil & gas
- Other industrial & metals
- Private equity
- Public & social sector
- Travel, transportation & logistics



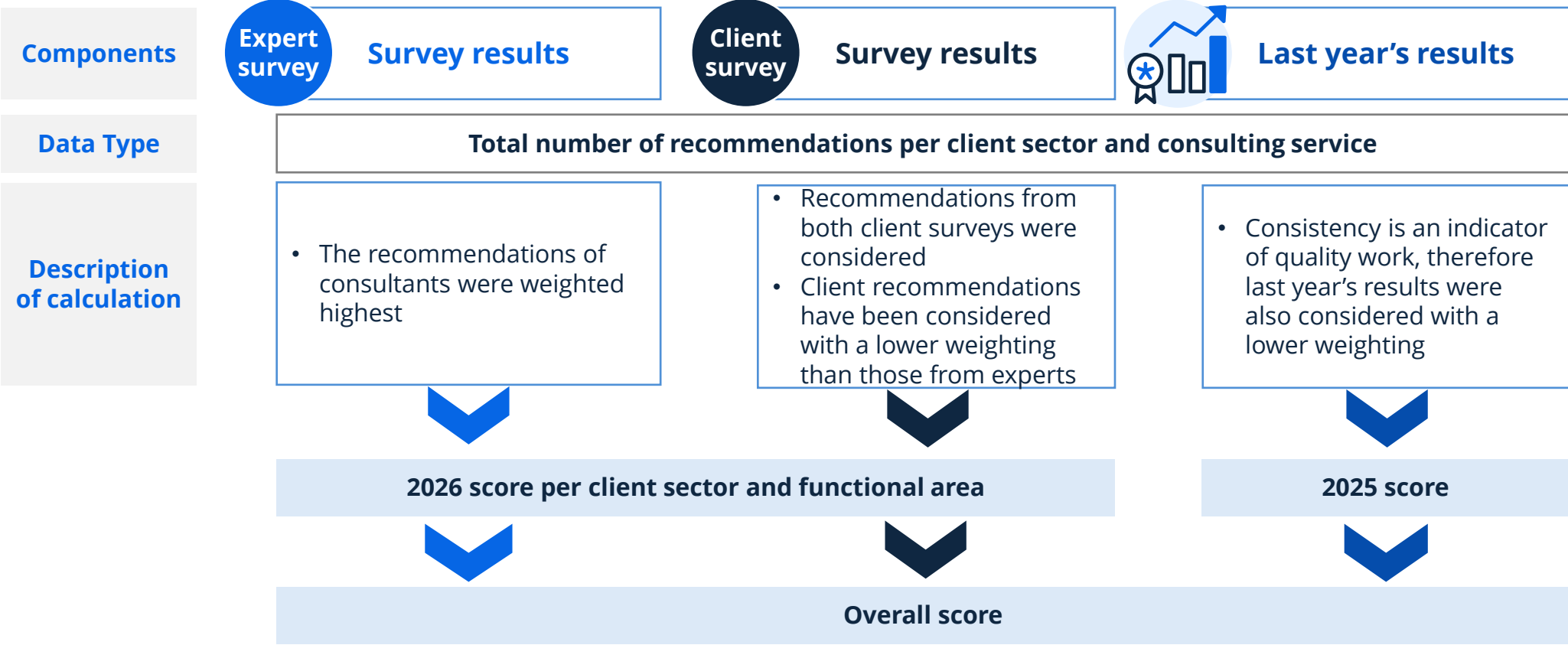
Consulting services

- Artificial intelligence
- Data analytics & big data
- Digital transformation
- Finance, risk & compliance
- Innovation, growth & new business models
- IT — implementation
- IT — strategy
- Marketing, brand & pricing
- Mergers & acquisitions
- Operations, procurement & supply chain
- Organization & change
- People & performance
- Sales & CRM
- Strategy
- Sustainability & energy transition

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 15 consulting services 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



Presentation of results: Recommended consultancies were divided into three classes

Rating



The **top 10% consulting firms / networks** (based on the total number of recommendations) among all awarded companies in each sector and consulting service received a **Gold-rating**.



Consulting firms / networks **outside the top 10%**, but still **within the top 40%** (based on the total number of recommendations) among all awarded companies in each sector consulting service received a **Silver-rating**.



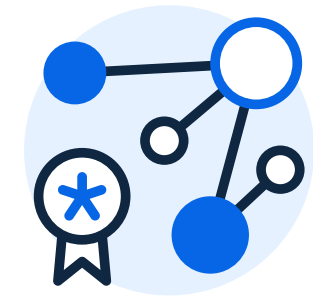
Consulting firms / networks outside the top 40%, that have received **at least the average number** of recommendations of all companies with at least one recommendation received a **Bronze-rating**.

Within the three rating-classes, consultancies / networks were sorted alphabetically.

Additionally, a list of the **best consulting networks** has been created following the same methodology

Definition and creation of list of awarded consulting networks

- A consulting network is characterized as an online platform that facilitates the registration of independent management consultants. It provides companies and consultancies with the ability to choose and engage qualified consultants based on their specific areas of expertise.
- Participants were interviewed as clients (i.e., senior executives of companies and partners and project managers of consulting firms) of the consulting networks.
- The survey participants were first asked to select the consulting networks they were familiar with. In addition, they were free to name other networks in addition to the ones listed. The respondents were then asked to give recommendations for the different networks.
- As a result, the ten best-rated consultant networks were awarded and rated with Gold, Silver or Bronze.




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Legal disclaimer for the list UK's Leading Management Consultants 2026

Disclaimer

The lists are comprised exclusively of consulting firms that are eligible regarding the scope described in this document. A mention in the list is a positive recognition based on both expert and client recommendations at the time. The list 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 10/07/2025 and/or involving individuals affiliated with the firms were not included in the metrics. As such, the results of this list should not be used as the sole source of information for future deliberations. The information provided in this list should be considered in conjunction with other available information about consulting firms. The quality of consulting firms that are not included in the lists is not disputed.