

METHODOLOGY

# World's Best Management Consulting Firms 2025

in collaboration with **Forbes**

**statista**  June 2025



# The top list awards 227 unique consultancies in 13 client sectors and 15 functional areas.

Methodology summary



## Relevance of Top List

In today's complex and fast-evolving business landscape, companies often seek expert advice to navigate challenges and seize opportunities. The purpose of this top list is to help businesses find trusted partners to tackle strategic challenges and drive growth.

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



## Executive Summary

- **Title of top list:** World's Best Management Consulting Firms 2025
- **Media partner:** Forbes
- **Edition:** 4<sup>th</sup>
- **Number of awarded firms:** 227
- **Methodology:** Expert surveys (peer surveys among management consultants) and client surveys (among more than clients)
- **Criteria used for determining inclusion:** For 13 industries and 15 functional areas, recommendations were gathered from consultants themselves and clients of consulting firms.

# The methodology underlying the top list is based on a **four-step process**.

Methodology overview



# Statista's national consultancy top lists form one pillar of the worldwide list.

The first pillar of the top list: Country lists



- Statista has compiled several top lists of management consultancies around the world, with recent analyses conducted in the three major management consultancy markets: **the United States, Germany, and the United Kingdom.**



- The three national top lists form one pillar of the "World's Best Management Consulting Firms" top list. All three included top lists are based on a similar methodology and consider numerous recommendations from consultants and clients of consulting firms within the specific country.

# In addition, consultants and clients from different geographical regions were surveyed.

The second pillar of the top list: Global survey



- An extensive online survey was conducted among 5,100 consultants (partners and executives of management consulting firms) and 3,800 clients (executives)<sup>1)</sup> from different geographical regions worldwide. For the consulting markets US, Germany and UK no additional interviews were conducted.
- The survey was conducted from 7 April to 21 May 2025 using an online access panel.<sup>2)</sup> The survey covered 29 countries from all geographical regions. The table below shows the distribution of participants by region.

#### Breakdown per geographical region:

Asia	39.0%
Europe	15.9%
Africa	13.3%
Middle East	10.7%
North America	10.3%
South America	7.6%
Oceania	3.1%



- Across 13 industries and 15 functional areas, partners and executives were able to recommend management consultancies, excluding their own. Participants could enter their recommendation as a free-text entry supported by an auto-complete function.

# The national top lists and the global survey results have been standardized.

Standardization of country-specific ratings and survey results



To combine the results from the various sources (national top lists and global survey), Statista standardized the respective ratings.

- The three national top lists are based on two online surveys: one among peers (partners and executives of the consulting firms) and one among clients of the consulting firms.
- The results of both surveys formed a rating. In the US and the UK, a rating scheme with three categories (3 to 5 stars) was applied. An exception is the top list for Germany, which features two separate ratings: one for clients and one for peers. Inclusion in the worldwide top list was based on the average of both ratings.
- The threefold rating from the US and the UK top lists was maintained to create a top list based on the results of the global survey:
  - The top **10% consulting firms** (based on the total number of recommendations) among all companies in each industry and functional area received the highest rating (5 stars)
  - Consulting firms **below the top 10%**, but **still within the top 40%** (based on the total number of recommendations) among all companies in each industry and functional area received 4 stars
  - Consulting firms below the top 40%, that have received **at least the average number** of recommendations of all companies with at least one recommendation received 3 stars

# As the third step, Statista examined the **global representation of consultancies** and their **relevance** across sectors and functional areas.

Assessment of the relevance of consulting companies based on eligibility criteria

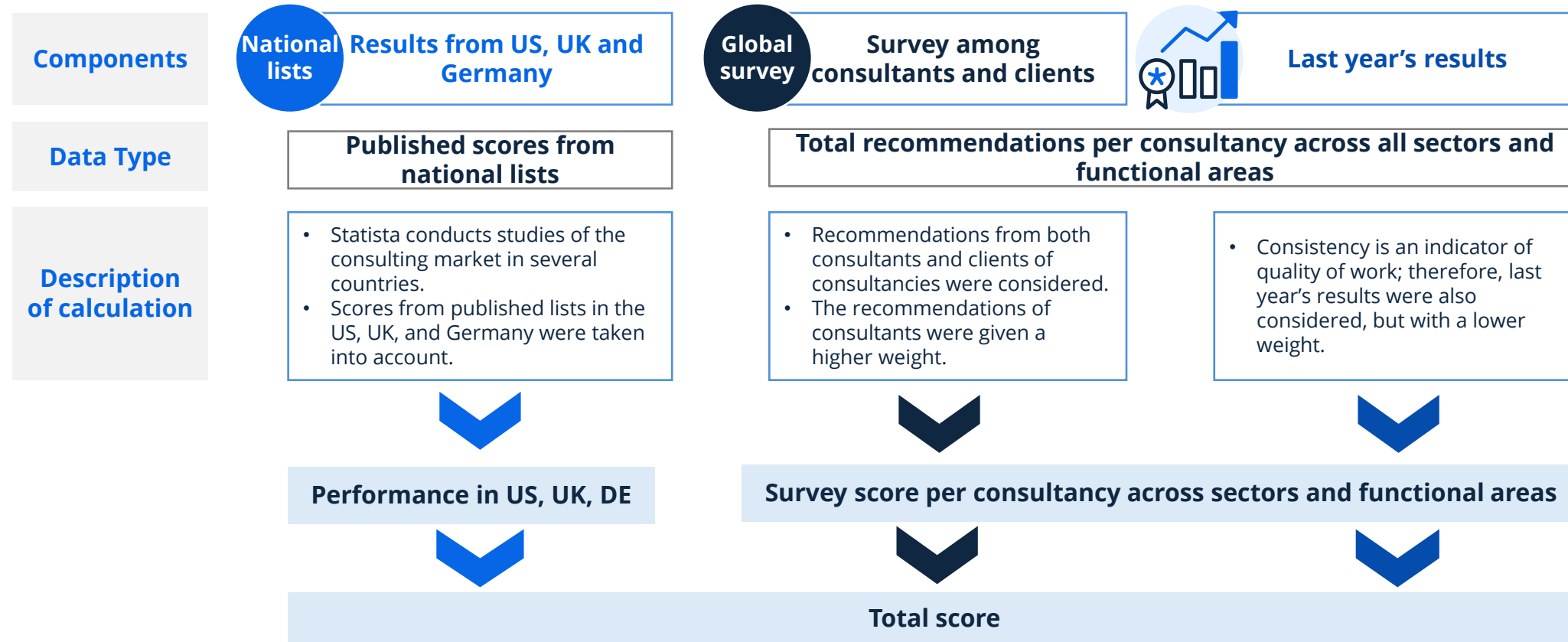


- Within the relevance assessment, Statista has examined whether the management consultancies evaluated operate globally or at least on a multinational level. To be eligible for the "World's Best Management Consulting Firms", the consulting firm had to operate offices in a minimum of three of the following geographical regions:
  - Africa
  - Asia
  - Australia and Oceania
  - Europe
  - Middle East
  - North America
  - South America
- Furthermore, the relevance of each consulting firm was evaluated according to its consulting activities within the respective industries and functional areas. Only firms with proven activity in a given field were included.



The performance of consultancies was determined by their positions in national top lists and results from global survey data.

### Scoring Model

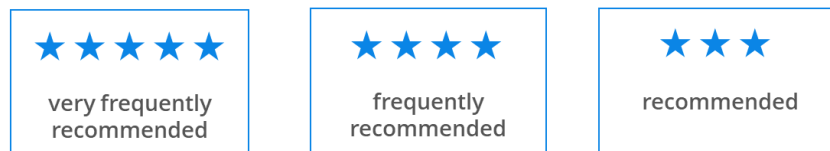


# The star rating recognizes the consultancies' worldwide performance in each industry and functional area.

Creation of final star rating



- The overall performance of each management consulting firm in each industry and functional area was analyzed from two perspectives: the performance of the firm in the three national top lists and the international recognition reflected in the number of recommendations received in the global survey.
- For the classification into the different star-classes, the following logic was applied: First, a score was calculated based on the stars obtained in the four lists (national lists + global survey). These scores were divided into three star-classes based on percentiles. Consultancies in the 90th percentile (**top 10%**) received **5 stars**, those in the 60th-90th percentile (**top 40%** excluding the top 10%) received **4 stars**, and all others received **3 stars**.



- In each of the 13 industries and 15 functional areas, the most recommended management consulting firms worldwide were identified. In total 227 unique management consulting<sup>1)</sup> firms were awarded as one of the “World’s Best Management Consulting Firms 2025”.

# 28 industries and functional areas were included in the “World’s Best Management Consultancies” top list.

## Standardization of industries and functional areas

- 13 industries and 15 functional consulting areas were included in the “World’s Best Management Consulting Firms” top list (see tables on the right).
- Due to slight differences in the industry and functional area classifications across the three national lists, a standardization process was necessary. For instance, in Germany, “Infrastructure and Public Sector” were grouped together, while in other countries the public sector was included under the social sector. In these cases, Statista manually allocated consulting firms to the most appropriate sector in the global top list.

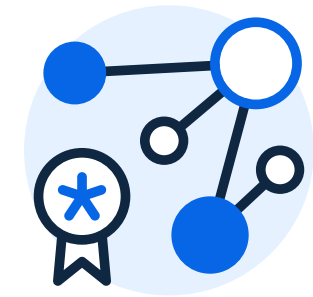
 Industries
Aerospace & Defense
Automotive
Banks, Insurances & Financial Service
Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals
Construction & Infrastructure
Consumer Goods & Retail
Energy, Utilities & Environment
Healthcare & Life Sciences
Industrial Goods & Services
Internet, E-Commerce, Media & Entertainment
IT, Technology & Telecommunications
Public & Social Sector
Travel, Transportation & Logistics

 Functional Areas
Artificial Intelligence
Data Analytics & Big Data
Digital Transformation
Finance, Risk & Compliance
HR & Coaching
Innovation, Growth & New Business Mode
IT - Strategy & IT- Implementation
Marketing, Brand & Pricing
M&A
Operations Management
Organization & Change Management
Procurement & Supply Chain Management
Sales & CRM
Strategy
Sustainability

# For the **third time**, a list of the **World's 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.
- In the national and global surveys, 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 indicate whether they had already worked with the named networks and to give recommendations for the different networks. Recommendations from respondents who had worked with a consultant network before were attributed a higher weight.
- The results from the country top lists<sup>1</sup> were combined with those from the global survey to create a three-point scale. The same methodology as previously described for the consulting firms was applied.
- As a result, the nine best-rated consultant networks were awarded.




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# Legal disclaimer for the list World's Best Management Consulting Firms 2025

## 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 06/27/2025 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.