

IMAS 2021 Investment Managers' Outlook Survey



About

The annual survey aims to better understand the biggest challenges and developments, and forecast the most prominent trends in the investment management industry from the viewpoint of top investment professionals. It identifies key macroeconomics indicators, dominant investment strategies and growth drivers for fund managers in the year ahead. This year's survey gathered respondents from 58 members who comprised mostly c-level executives of fund management firms based in Singapore.

Cautious optimism in economic outlook

50%

of our survey respondents expect an acceleration in growth in Europe, Japan and the United States.



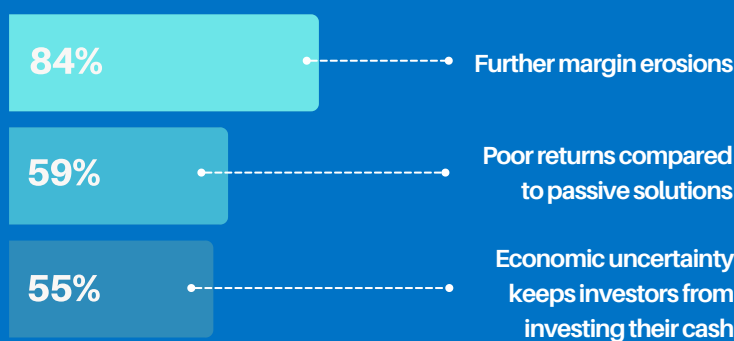
Expectations for 2021

Weakening US Dollar
66% Expect the USD to weaken by more than 5% vs SGD

"The expectation of a weakening US dollar against the Singapore dollar is consistent with the consensus bearish views of global investors towards the US currency. The accommodative stance of the US Federal Reserve to keep policy rates close to zero and large US government deficits, coupled with the more robust Asian recovery and the stronger CNY will continue to put downward pressure on the US dollar."

-Rajeev De Mello,
Chairman of IMAS Development Committee

Threats to growth

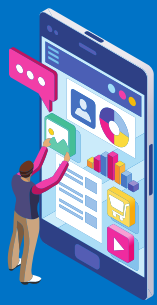


Split opinion on China's growth

41% predict a slow growth;
40% predict a strong growth



Developments with most business impact



1. New distribution channels and technologies 34%



2. Building and retaining talent pools 28%



3. Increasing regulatory obligations 28%

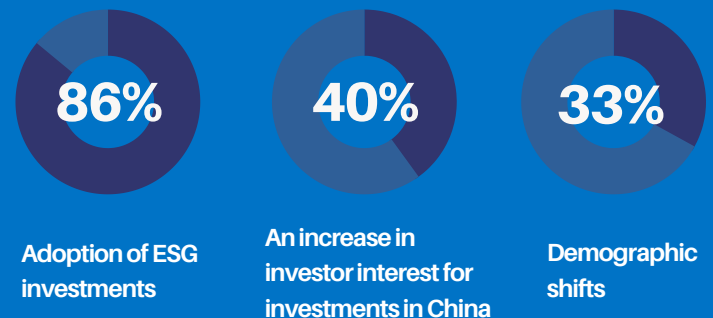


4. Rise of alternative investments 28%

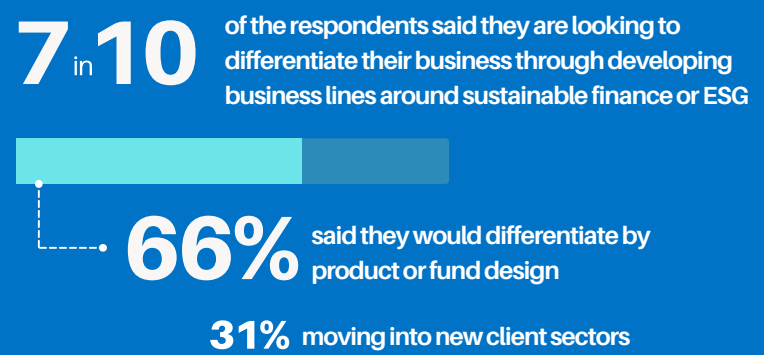
Strategies



Opportunities



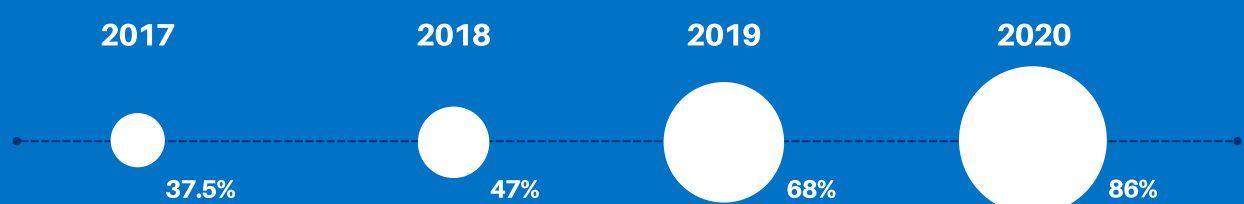
Differentiators



Significant rise of investor interest in ESG investment

In the last couple of years, fund managers experienced a significant rise of investor interest in Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) investments. A significant 86% of survey respondents highlighted ESG investing as a key growth driver, up from 68% in the previous year.

ESG investments continue to spur investor interest and is expected to be a significant driver over the next three years



Investors across the globe are increasingly moving towards sustainable investments and this trend is also evident in Singapore as fund managers here have started to incorporate ESG and sustainability considerations in their investing processes.

- Susan Soh, Chairman of IMAS

