CGI and BAFT Survey Results

November 2020
Introduction

The influx of new and innovative technologies has given rise to a variety of initiatives in banking and trade finance to support digital acceleration, collaboration, increasing compliance requirements, and process improvement to drive efficiencies. These initiatives are underpinned by technologies such as blockchain/DLT platforms, intelligent process automation, artificial intelligence, machine learning, natural language processing, and robotic process automation. Despite initial enthusiasm, implementations and resulting outcomes have been inconsistent since the first proofs of concept launched.

CGI and BAFT set out to better understand the current state of technological advancements in trade and how the pandemic has accelerated their importance and need. A survey of more than 200 BAFT members was conducted in the summer of 2020 and this report summarizes the results.
Survey participants

**RESPONDENT PROFILE**

- **Title**
  - Vice-President (31.1%)
  - Managing Director (10.2%)
  - Director (21.3%)
  - AVP (8.4%)
  - Other (15.6%)

- **Primary focus**
  - Trade operations (37.2%)
  - Trade sales (20.4%)
  - Marketing (2.2%)
  - Other (35.4%)
  - Technology (1.8%)
  - Project management (3.1%)

**BANK PROFILE**

- **Region**
  - North America (58.8%)
  - Western Europe (19.5%)
  - Latin America (5.4%)
  - Asia-Pacific (9.7%)
  - MENA (5.3%)
  - Africa (4%)
  - Central & Eastern Europe (2.2%)

- **Type**
  - Global (>1 trillion USD assets) (38.8%)
  - Super-regional (between 250 billion and 1 trillion USD assets) (28.1%)
  - Regional (<250 billion USD assets) (33.0%)

- **Client portfolio**
  - Multi-national and large corporations (52.2%)
  - Middle market/ mid-cap (23.7%)
  - Small to medium-size businesses (24.1%)
Bank’s volume across international trade portfolio

Volume breakdown by percentage across international trade portfolio

- Traditional trade (63.7%)
- Supply chain finance (19.8%)
- Structured trade and export finance (13.7%)
- No response (2.8%)

Challenges and investments

Top challenges in meeting business shifts

1. Regulatory, legal and compliance
2. Technology investment
3. COVID-19 pandemic
4. Capital allocation requirements
5. Competition

Top technology solution investments over the next five years

1. Intelligent process automation
2. Enhanced interoperability through APIs
3. Robotic process automation
4. Blockchain/distributed ledger technology

Expected percentage allocation in five years

- Traditional trade (51.5%)
- Supply chain finance (30.7%)
- Structured trade and export finance (17.8%)
Culture of innovation

Culture of innovation change over the past 12 months

- More innovative (71.3%)
- Stayed the same (26.7%)
- Less innovative (2%)

Greatest barriers to embracing innovation

- Budget (32.8%)
- Resource limitations (28.9%)
- Finding the right provider (13.2%)
- Resource limitations (13.4%)
- Company buy-in (8.3%)
- Budget (7.2%)

FinTech collaboration

Increasing demand from corporate clients to work with FinTechs

- Yes (40.9%)
- No (59.1%)

Importance of working with FinTechs

- Very important (34.9%)
- Somewhat important (52.0%)
- Not important (13.1%)

Types of FinTechs in demand

- Supply chain finance (e.g., PrimeRevenue) (29.3%)
- Trade asset exchange platforms (e.g., CCRM) (10.5%)
- Trade collaboration (e.g., PrimeRevenue) (14.2%)
- Blockchain/distributed ledger technology infrastructure (e.g., TradeLens) (12.5%)
- Blockchain/DLT platforms (e.g., Marco Polo, we.trade) (17.4%)
- Treasury management (e.g., Kyriba) (8.2%)
- S2B (e.g., Ariba) (5.9%)
- Other (write-in) (1.5%)

Satisfaction of performance and progress working with FinTechs

(5 is most satisfied, 1 is least satisfied)

- 5 (6.2%)
- 4 (27.2%)
- 3 (53.1%)
- 2 (9.3%)
- 1 (4.3%)
Participation in trade networks and national trade platforms (number of respondents)

- Trade Information Network: 36
- Marco Polo: 18
- we.trade: 16
- Contour: 15
- komgo: 12
- Other: 5

Awareness of national trade platforms

- I am not aware of national trade platforms: 65.2%
- National trade platform (Singapore): 17.9%
- eTradeConnect (Hong Kong): 16.4%
- Other: 0.5%

Has the COVID-19 pandemic advanced digitization initiatives?

- Yes: 83.5%
- No: 16.5%

Types of digitization initiatives accelerated

- Electronic document transfer and e-signatures: 37.4%
- Straight-through processing: 20.8%
- Electronic bills of lading: 13.2%
- Intelligent data capture: 13.2%
- Blockchain/distributed ledger technology: 9.8%
- Network/consortia participation: 3.9%
- Other: 1.7%
About BAFT
BAFT, the leading global financial services association for international transaction banking, helps bridge solutions across financial institutions, service providers and the regulatory community that promote sound financial practices enabling innovation, efficiency, and commercial growth. BAFT engages on a wide range of topics affecting transaction banking, including trade finance, payments, and compliance.
Learn more at baft.org.

About CGI
Founded in 1976, CGI is among the largest independent IT and business consulting services firms in the world. With 76,000 consultants and other professionals across the globe, CGI delivers an end-to-end portfolio of capabilities, from strategic IT and business consulting to systems integration, managed IT and business process services and intellectual property solutions. CGI works with clients through a local relationship model complemented by a global delivery network that helps clients digitally transform their organizations and accelerate results.
Learn more at cgi.com.