



CFA Institute Member Survey: XBRL

December 2011

Contents

Executive Summary	3
<i>XBRL Related Questions</i>	3
<i>General Financial Analysis Questions</i>	4
<i>About the Survey</i>	4
Results	6
<i>XBRL Related Questions</i>	6
Awareness of XBRL.....	6
XBRL Usage by Source (of those aware of XBRL).....	8
XBRL Expected Benefits (of those aware of XBRL).....	9
XBRL Extensions (of those aware of XBRL).....	10
Audits of XBRL Data (of those aware of XBRL).....	11
XBRL Comparability (of those aware of XBRL).....	12
XBRL Data Set Importance.....	13
Importance of XBRL Data Set.....	14
Number of countries for which XBRL information is accessed.....	15
<i>General Financial Analysis Questions</i>	16
How members obtain companies’ financial data/information for use in evaluation & analysis.....	16
Importance of source documents to analysis and evaluation.....	17
Methodology	20
<i>Questionnaire Development</i>	20
<i>Sampling</i>	20
<i>Distribution</i>	20
<i>Analysis and Reporting</i>	20
<i>Response Rate and Demographics</i>	21
Appendix:	24
Appendix A: Open Ended Responses.....	24

Executive Summary

XBRL Related Questions

Awareness of XBRL rises once again with the results of our 2011 survey with 47 percent of respondents with some level of XBRL awareness; 38 percent are aware of XBRL but not up-to-date on its usage in financial reporting, and 9 percent are aware of it and of plans for its usage in financial reporting. This overall awareness compares to 45 percent in 2009 and 41 percent in 2007. Awareness is significantly lower among members in Asia Pacific and EMEA than it is among those in the Americas. In EMEA, 34 percent are aware of XBRL and in Asia Pacific, 35 percent are aware. Conversely, in the Americas, 47 percent are aware of XBRL. In aggregate, and within regions, awareness is significantly lower among new CFA charterholders (those who have had their charter less than two years) and non-charterholder members (28 percent and 43 percent are aware, respectively) than among more tenured charterholders (59 percent of those with the CFA for 2-10 years are aware, up 10 percentage points from 2009 and 66 percent of those with the CFA for more than 10 years are aware, the same as in 2009). With regard to occupations, academics have the highest awareness (66 percent aware), followed by credit analysts (54 percent aware), portfolio managers (53 percent aware), research analysts (47 percent aware), investment banking analysts (36 percent aware), and financial advisors (36 percent aware).

45 percent think that individually tagging all reported information for a company allows the user to determine the importance of the item to a fair valuation of the company. 34 percent of respondents think that individually tagging will make it easier for the data aggregators to integrate the information into their normalized databases.

82 percent said it is important to have tagged information available for all companies across a meaningful set of annual and interim periods and 75 percent of respondents said it is important to have tagged information available for all sections of annual reports across a meaningful set of periods.

The majority of respondents indicated that they would prefer improved resources to import and/or analyze information available from third party vendors or regulators for free. A significantly higher proportion of respondents in EMEA compared to APAC and AMER indicated high importance to improved resources to import and/or analyze information available from third party vendors or the regulator for a price.

As in 2007 and 2009, respondents indicate the use of XBRL tagged interactive data will have the largest effect or improvement on uploading company data into financial analysis models, accessing companies data regarding the level of timeliness and making comparisons between companies and/or industries. Unlike in 2007 and 2009 those obtaining most or all of their information from 3rd party data providers do not indicate a higher effect/improvement than those manually extracting most or all of their data from source documents.

60 percent think that companies should have limited ability to create new tags in order to reflect unique business activities or transactions not defined by the current XBRL taxonomy (tags are predefined according to current financial reporting standards), down from 67 percent in 2009 and 28 percent think

companies should not be able to create new tags (only current XBRL taxonomy or list of tags should be used and tags are predefined according to current financial reporting standards).

48 percent of those aware of XBRL think incorporation of the XBRL report into the standard financial statement audit as to the appropriateness of XBRL tagging of reported amounts in accordance with the GAAP defined tags is necessary, increasing from 41 percent in 2009. 19 percent think a separate audit by an independent auditor is necessary (down from 27 percent in 2009).

General Financial Analysis Questions

Similar to 2007 and 2009, the majority of respondents obtain companies' financial data/information used in their evaluation and analysis either mostly from 3rd party data providers with some limited amount of data extracted manually from source documents (34 percent) or mostly extracted manually from source documents with limited data obtained from 3rd party data providers (36 percent). 18 percent indicate they manually extract all the data/information from source documents, down slightly from 21 percent in 2009. Regionally 52 percent in AMER (up 6 percentage points from 2009) obtain most or all of the data/information used in their evaluation & analysis of companies' performance & evaluation from 3rd party data providers, compared to only 41 percent in APAC (up 9 percentage points from 2009) and 30 percent in EMEA (down 4 percentage points from 2009).

Annual reports, interim reports, and quarterly earnings releases are rated as the most important source documents in members' analysis and evaluation of companies' financial condition and performance, the same as 2007 and 2009. The importance of each of the following source documents is significantly higher among respondents who indicate most or all of their data/information used in analysis & evaluation is manually extracted from source documents than among those who get most or all of their information from 3rd party data providers: interim reports, annual reports, special events reports, periodic supplements/fact books, and prospectus/registration statements for initial public offerings

About the Survey

The purpose of this poll was to obtain CFA Institute member feedback on issues relating to eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL) tagged data.

The objectives of this survey were:

- To obtain CFA Institute member feedback on issues relating to XBRL tagged data— to ensure a broad view of the "end user" of financial reports and other disclosures,
- To gain inputs on key areas involving the development and implementation of XBRL tagged data for financial reporting to the capital markets, and to know the factors that are important to members in accessing and analyzing companies' financial data.
- To compare results from December 2011 survey with the XBRL surveys conducted in June 2007 and November 2009 to measure current awareness levels and determine whether usage levels of XBRL data have changed from previous years.



An e-mail invitation with a link to a web-based survey was sent to 3,000 members on 28 November with a full distribution to approximately 14,000 members on 29 November and a reminder was sent on 6 December 2011. The survey closed on midnight (PST) on 16 December 2011. The survey questionnaire consisted of eleven questions, all of which were similar to the 2007 and 2009 XBRL member survey with three additional questions. 527 valid responses were received, for an overall response rate of 3.2%. The margin of error (based on the sampling frame population) is $\pm 4.25\%$ at the 95 percent confidence level. Margin of error will vary by question, as the number of respondents varies by question.

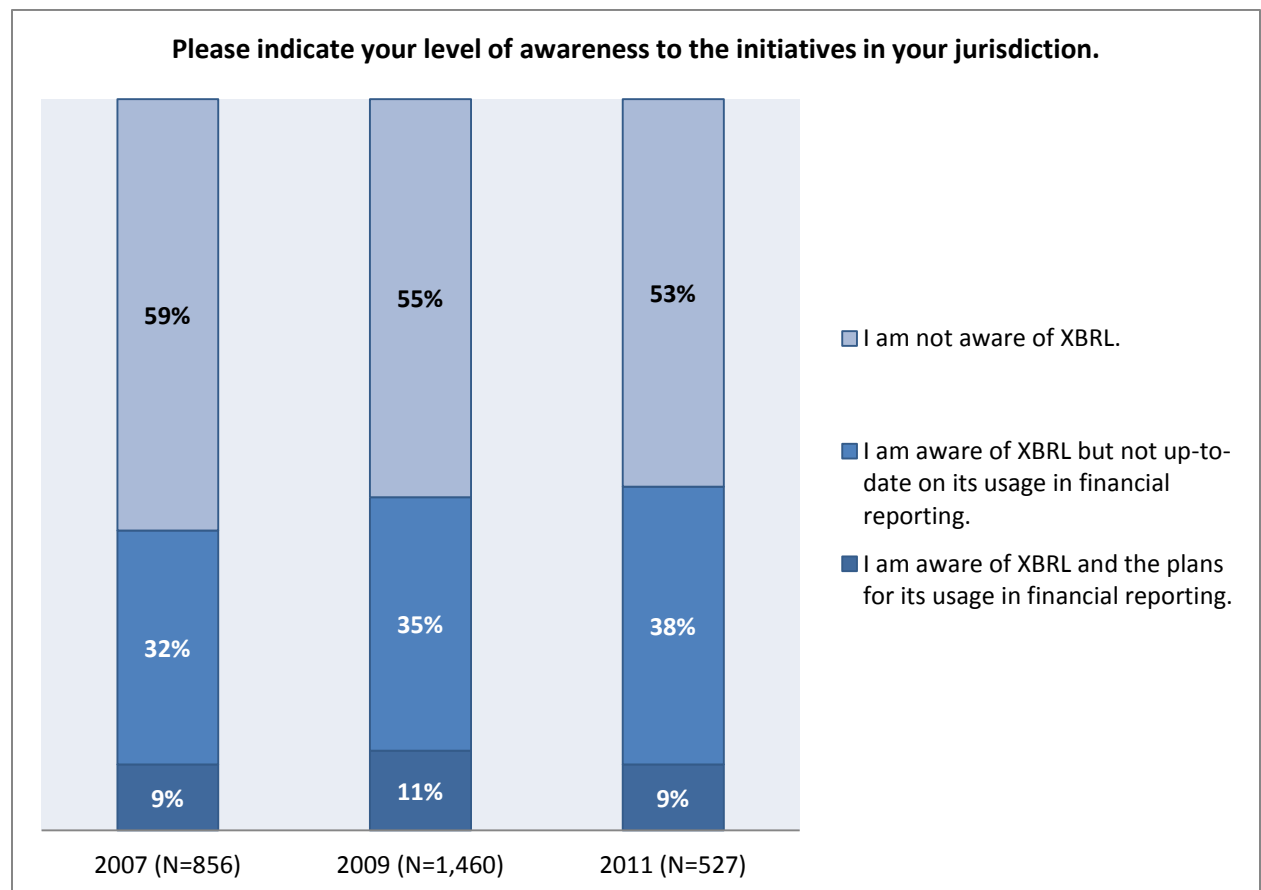
Note: Many questions gave participants the option to respond “no opinion”; these have been excluded from the calculations on those particular questions and noted throughout the report.

Results

XBRL Related Questions

Awareness of XBRL

Many countries' security regulators and standard setters are moving towards the utilization of eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL) as an alternative method for companies to prepare their financial reports. 53 percent of respondents are not aware of XBRL, down slightly from 55 percent in 2009. 38 percent are aware of XBRL but not up-to-date on its usage in financial reporting, and 9 percent are aware of it and of plans for its usage in financial reporting.



Awareness is significantly lower among members in Asia Pacific and EMEA than it is among those in the Americas. In EMEA, 34 percent are aware of XBRL, and in Asia Pacific, 35 percent are aware. Conversely, in the Americas, 47 percent are aware of XBRL.

Both in aggregate and within regions, awareness is significantly lower among new CFA charterholders (those who have had their charter less than two years) and non-charterholder members (28 percent and 43 percent are aware, respectively) than among more tenured charterholders (59 percent of those with

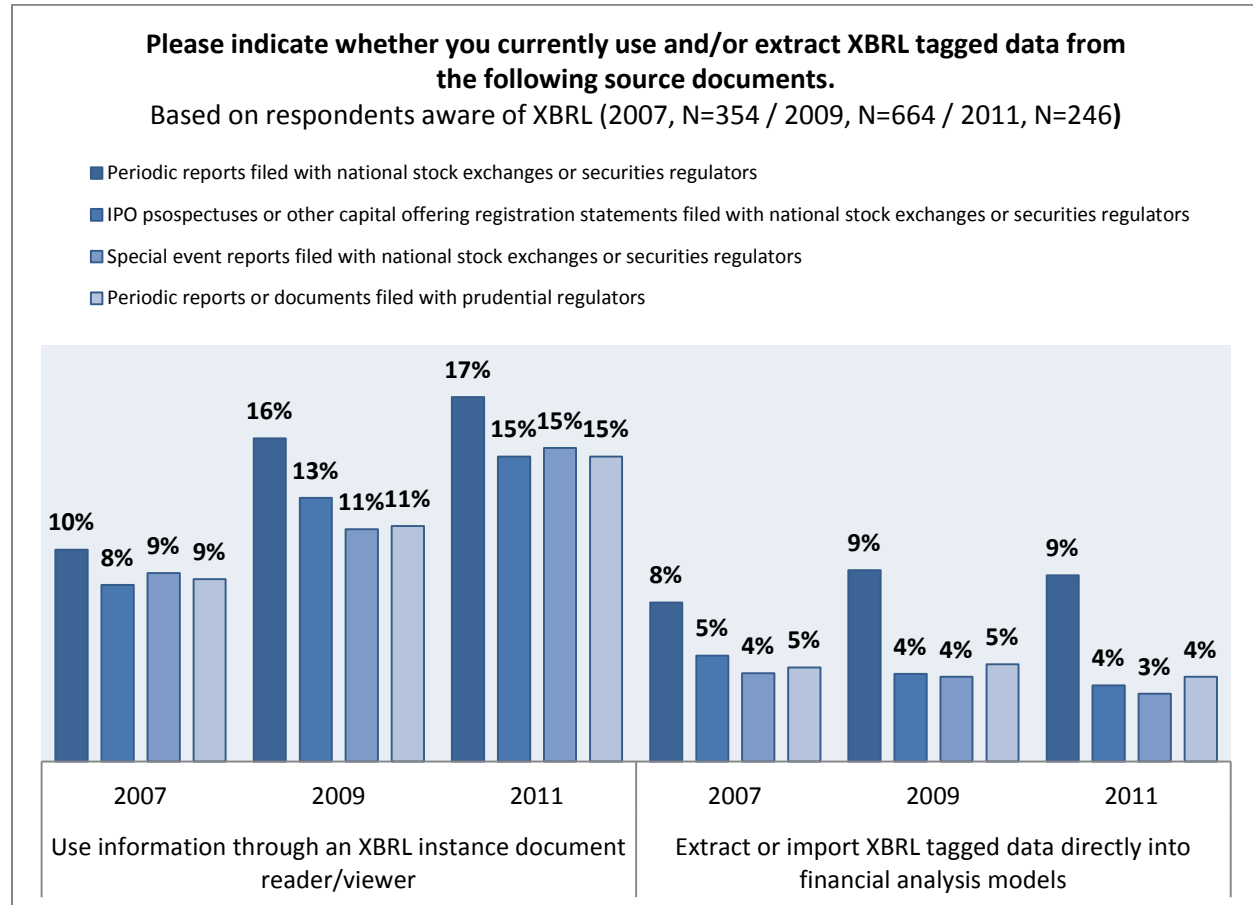


the CFA for 2-10 years are aware, up from 49 percent in 2009 and 66 percent of those with the CFA for more than 10 years are aware, the same as in 2009).

With regard to occupations, academics have the highest awareness (66 percent aware), followed by credit analysts (54 percent aware), portfolio managers (53 percent aware), research analysts (47 percent aware), investment banking analysts (36 percent aware), and financial advisor (36 percent aware).

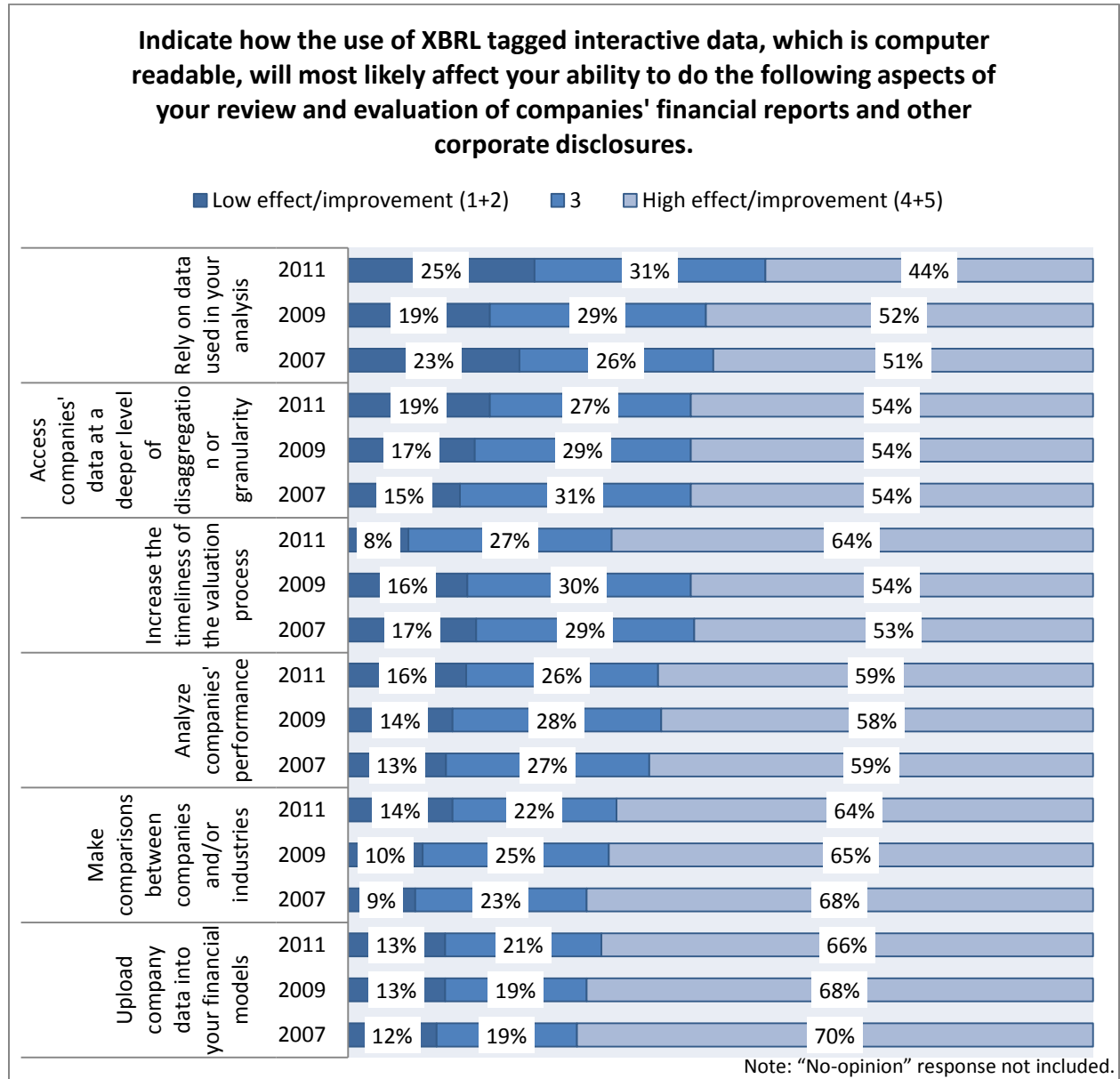
XBRL Usage by Source (of those aware of XBRL)

Of those aware of XBRL, the use of XBRL tagged information remains limited according to the survey results. Using information through an XBRL instance document reader/viewer is slightly higher than it was in 2009, and extracting/importing data is consistent with 2007 and 2009 findings.



XBRL Expected Benefits (of those aware of XBRL)

As in 2007 and 2009, respondents indicate the use of XBRL tagged interactive data will have the largest effect or improvement on uploading company data into financial analysis models, accessing companies data regarding the level of timeliness and making comparisons between companies and/or industries.

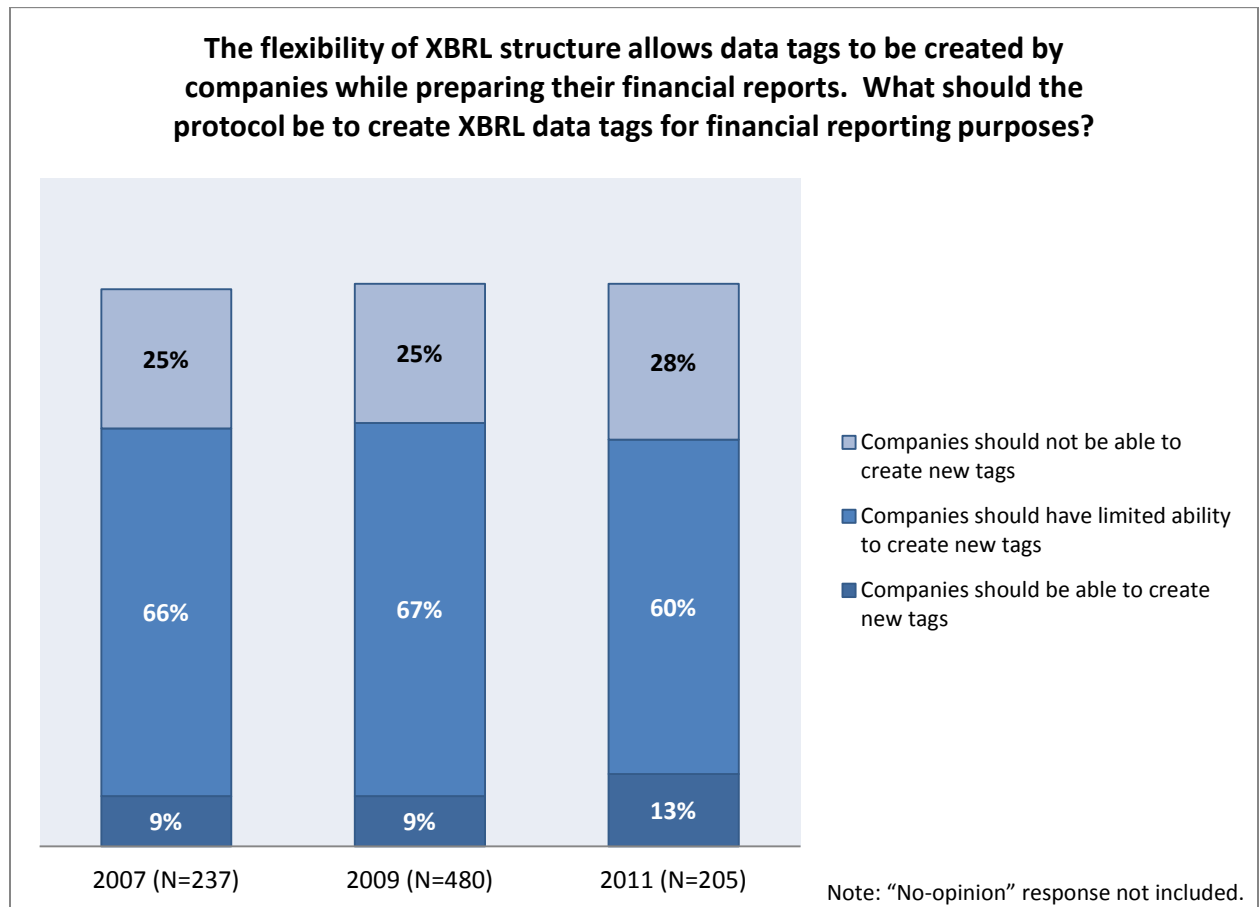


Scale: 1 (No effect/improvement) to 5 (Significant effect/improvement); no opinion

Those obtaining most or all of their information from 3rd party data providers do not indicate a higher effect/improvement than do those manually extracting most or all of their data from source documents.

XBRL Extensions (of those aware of XBRL)

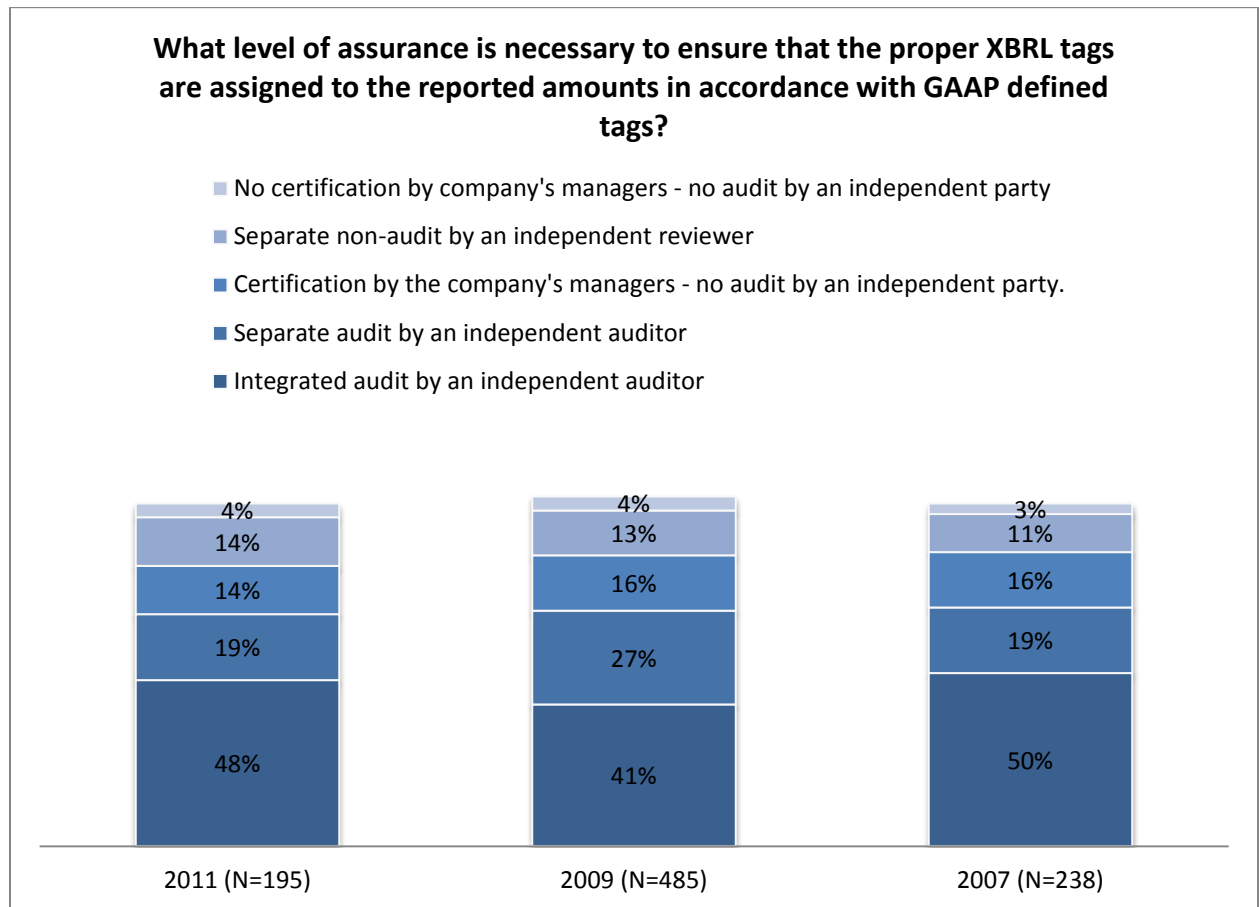
60 percent think that companies should have limited ability to create new tags in order to reflect unique business activities or transactions not defined by the current XBRL taxonomy (tags are predefined according to current financial reporting standards), down from 67 percent in 2009. 28 percent think companies should not be able to create new tags (only current XBRL taxonomy or list of tags should be used and tags are predefined according to current financial reporting standards).



Member responses were more consistent in the 2011 survey in the limited ability to create new tags than in the 2009 results. However, their opinions on whether or not custom tags should be allowed remains varied. In AMER, APAC and EMEA the majority (60, 60, and 59 percent, respectively) think companies should have limited ability to create new tags in order to reflect unique business activities or transactions not defined by the current XBRL taxonomy. In EMEA, 32 percent think companies should not be able to create new tags (compared to 28 percent and 20 percent in AMER and APAC, respectively) and 20 percent respondents in the APAC think they should be able to create new tags (compared to only 13 percent in AMER and 9 percent in EMEA).

Audits of XBRL Data (of those aware of XBRL)

48 percent of those aware of XBRL think incorporation of the XBRL report into the standard financial statement audit as to the appropriateness of XBRL tagging of reported amounts in accordance with the GAAP defined tags is necessary, increasing from 41 percent in 2009. 19 percent think a separate audit by an independent auditor is necessary; there was a decrease from 2009 when 27 percent respondents indicated that a separate audit by an independent auditor was necessary



Note: "No-opinion" response not included.

Note: For respondent clarity wording for response from 2009/2007 survey was changed from Integrated audit and/or review by an independent auditor/reviewer as to the appropriateness of XBRL tagging of reported amounts; this assurance would be included in the overall audit and/or review of company's financial reports and disclosures filed with regulatory bodies, e.g., stock exchanges or securities regulators.

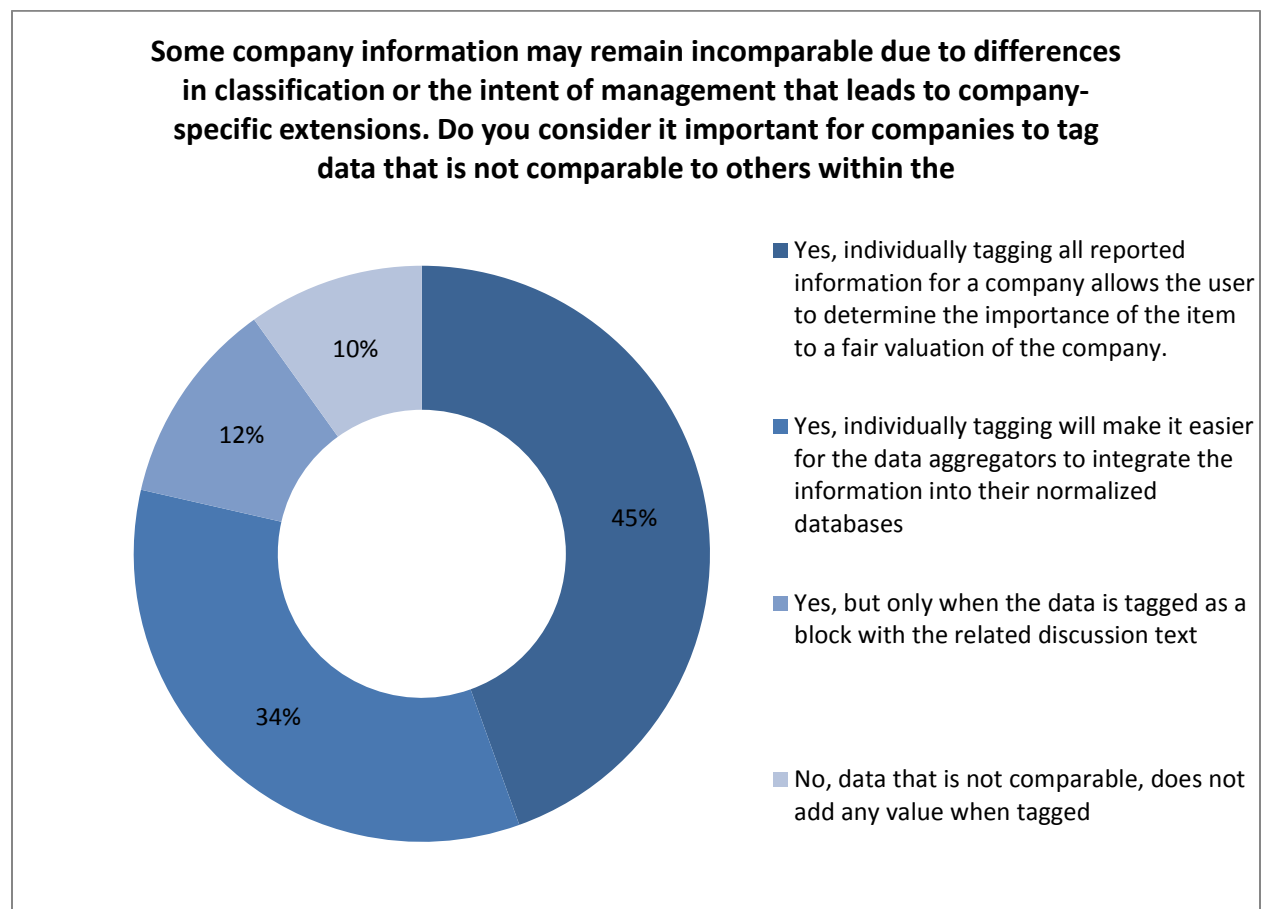
TO

Incorporation of the XBRL report into the standard financial statement audit as to the appropriateness of XBRL tagging of reported amounts.

XBRL Comparability (of those aware of XBRL)

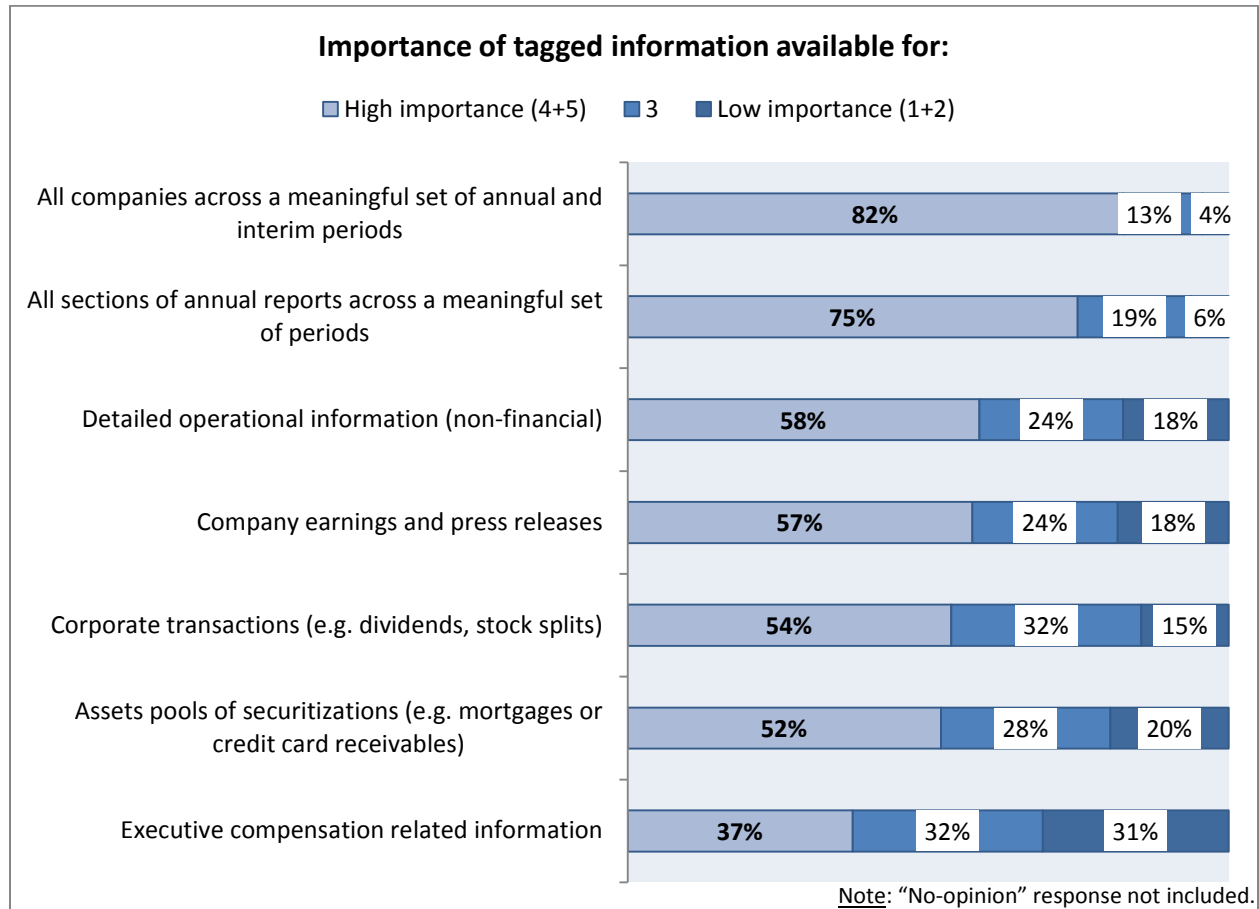
45 percent think that individually tagging all reported information for a company allows the user to determine the importance of the item to a fair valuation of the company. 34 percent respondents think that individually tagging will make it easier for the data aggregators to integrate the information into their normalized databases.

A significantly higher proportion of members in APAC (23 percent) than in AMER (8 percent) think that it is important for companies to tag data with a block tag that includes the related discussion text to enhance comparability.



XBRL Data Set Importance

The majority of respondents (82 percent) feel that it is important to have tagged information available for all companies across a meaningful set of annual and interim periods. 75 percent think it is important that tagged information is available for all sections of annual reports across a meaningful set of periods. Tagged information for executive compensation was considered of lowest importance.

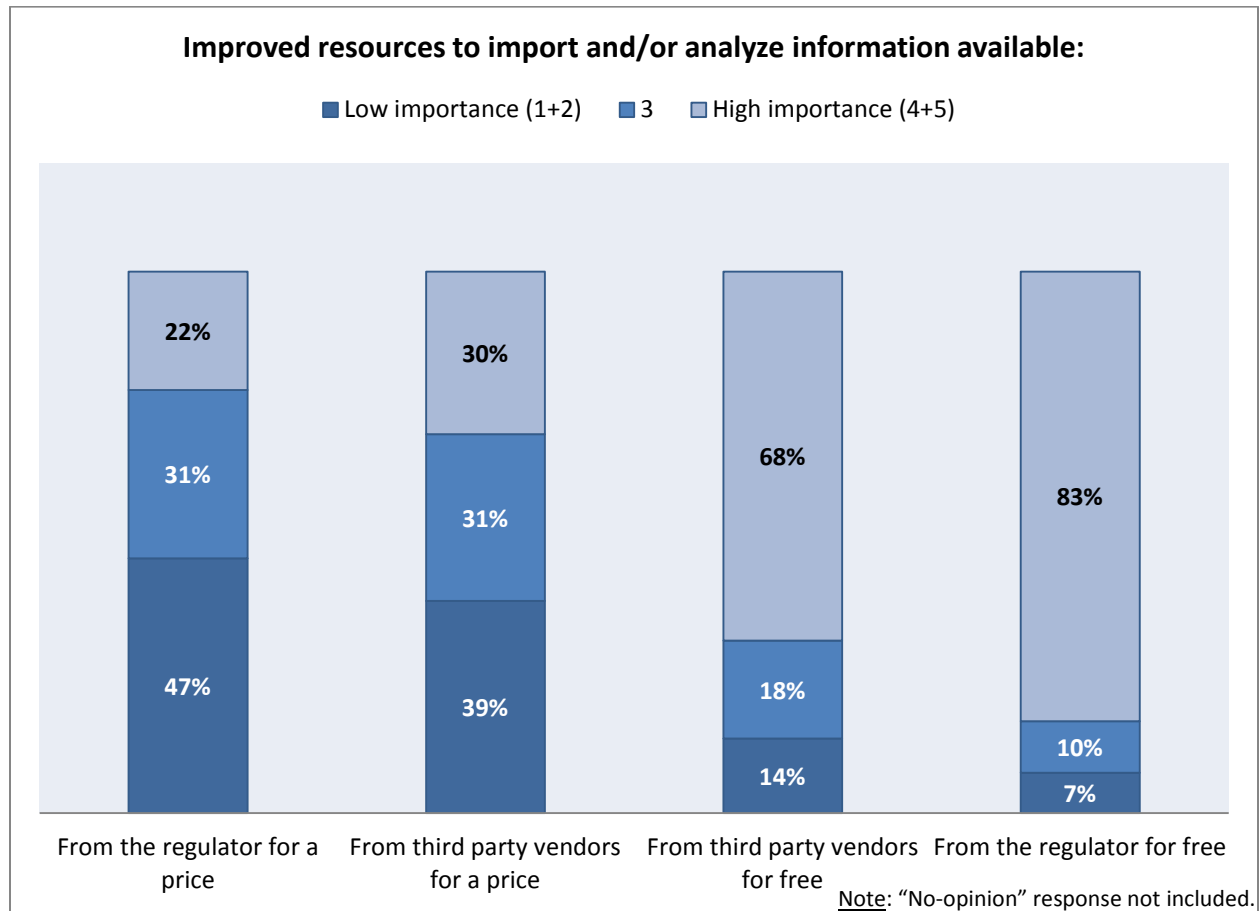


Scale: 1 (Not important) to 5 (Very important); no opinion

Fewer respondents in AMER (50 percent) think it's important to have tagged information on corporate transactions than APAC (74 percent) and EMEA (66 percent).

Only 44 percent respondents in EMEA feel it is important to have tagged information on company earnings and press releases as compared to APAC (64 percent) and AMER (60 percent).

Importance of XBRL Data Set



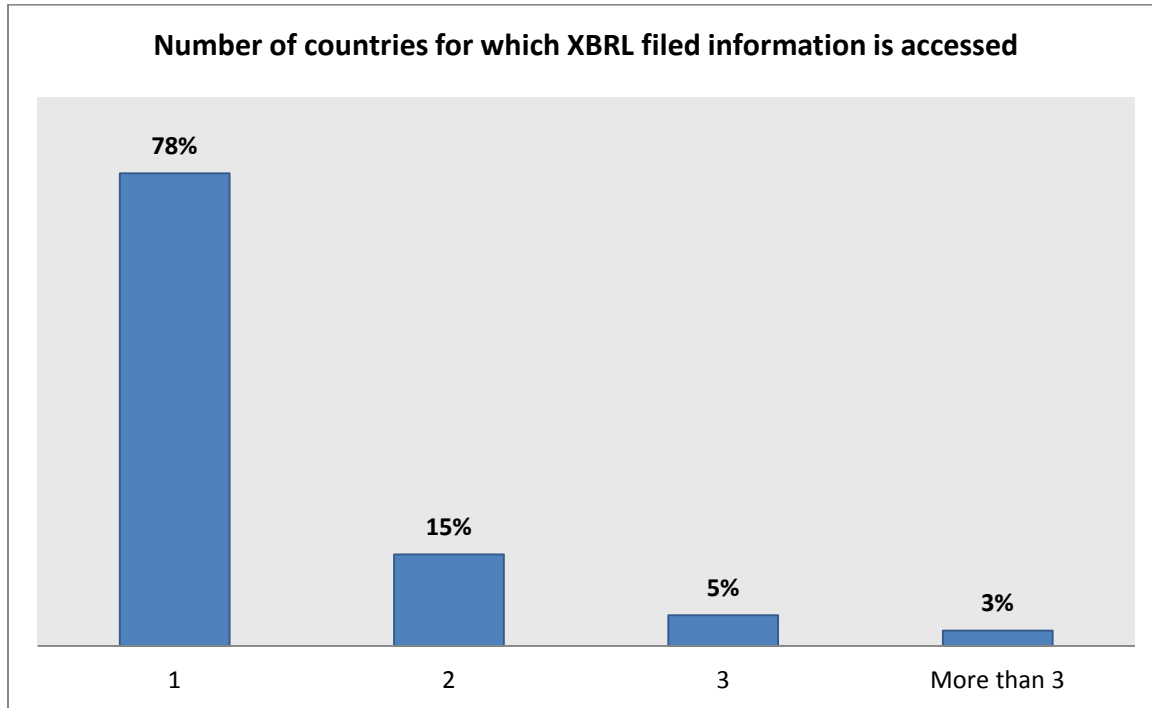
Scale: 1 (Not important) to 5 (Very important); no opinion

The majority of respondents said it is important to have improved resources to import and/or analyze information from third party vendors or regulators for free.

A significantly higher proportion of respondents in EMEA (56 percent) compared to APAC (24 percent and) and AMER (26 percent) indicated high importance to improved resources to import and/or analyze information available from third party vendors for a price.

A significantly higher proportion of respondents in EMEA (44 percent) compared to APAC (19 percent) and AMER (18 percent) indicated high importance to improved resources to import and/or analyze information available from the regulator for a price.

Number of countries for which XBRL information is accessed



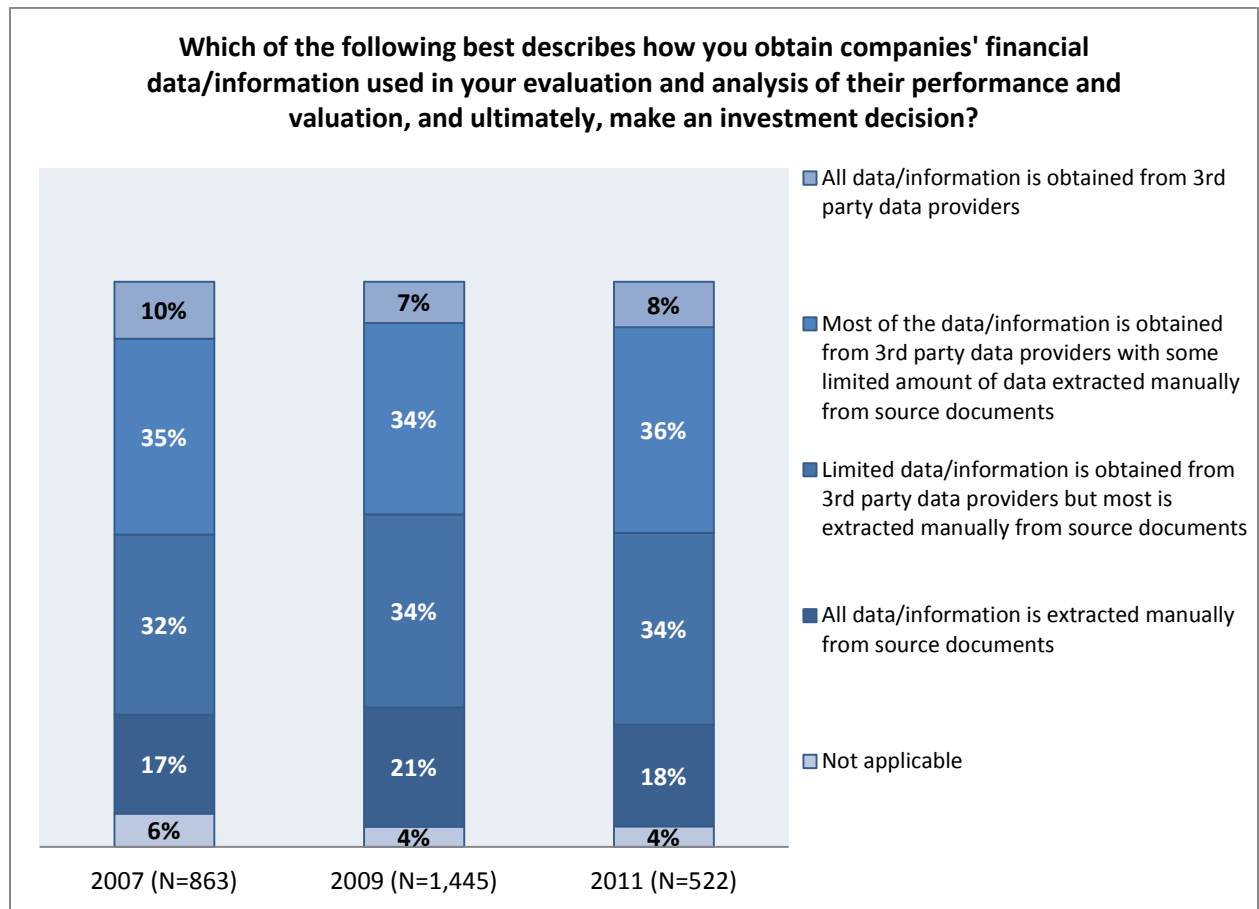
78 percent of respondents only access XBRL filed information from one country.

A full list of countries that respondents indicated they access filed information from is included in the open ended comments, [Please see \(Appendix A\)](#).

General Financial Analysis Questions

How members obtain companies' financial data/information for use in evaluation & analysis

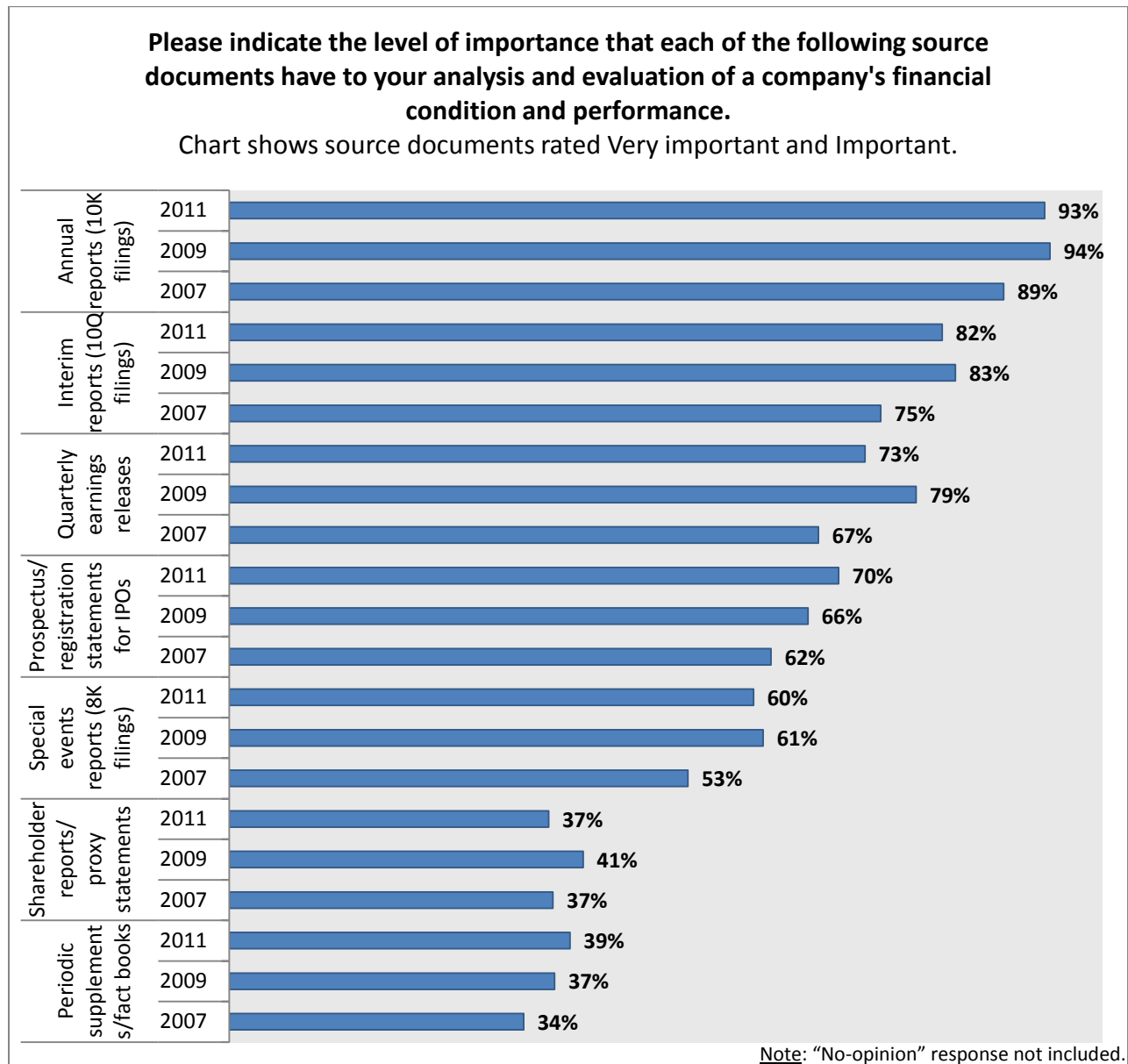
Similar to 2007 and 2009, the majority of respondents obtain companies' financial data/information used in their evaluation and analysis either mostly from 3rd party data providers with some limited amount of data extracted manually from source documents (34 percent) or mostly extracted manually from source documents with limited data obtained from 3rd party data providers (36 percent). 18 percent indicate they manually extract all the data/information from source documents, down slightly from 21 percent in 2009.



52 percent in AMER (up 6 percentage points from 2009) obtain most or all of the data/information used in their evaluation & analysis of companies' performance & evaluation from 3rd party data providers, compared to only 41 percent in APAC (up 9 percentage points from 2009) and 30 percent in EMEA (down 4 percentage points from 2009).

Importance of source documents to analysis and evaluation

Annual reports, interim reports, and quarterly earnings releases are rated as the most important source documents in members' analysis and evaluation of companies' financial condition and performance, same as they were in 2007 and 2009. Of least importance are periodic supplements/factbooks (39 percent rated important and 27 percent unimportant) and shareholder reports/proxy statements (37 percent rated important and 32 percent rated unimportant).



Scale: 1 (Not important) to 5 (Very important); no opinion

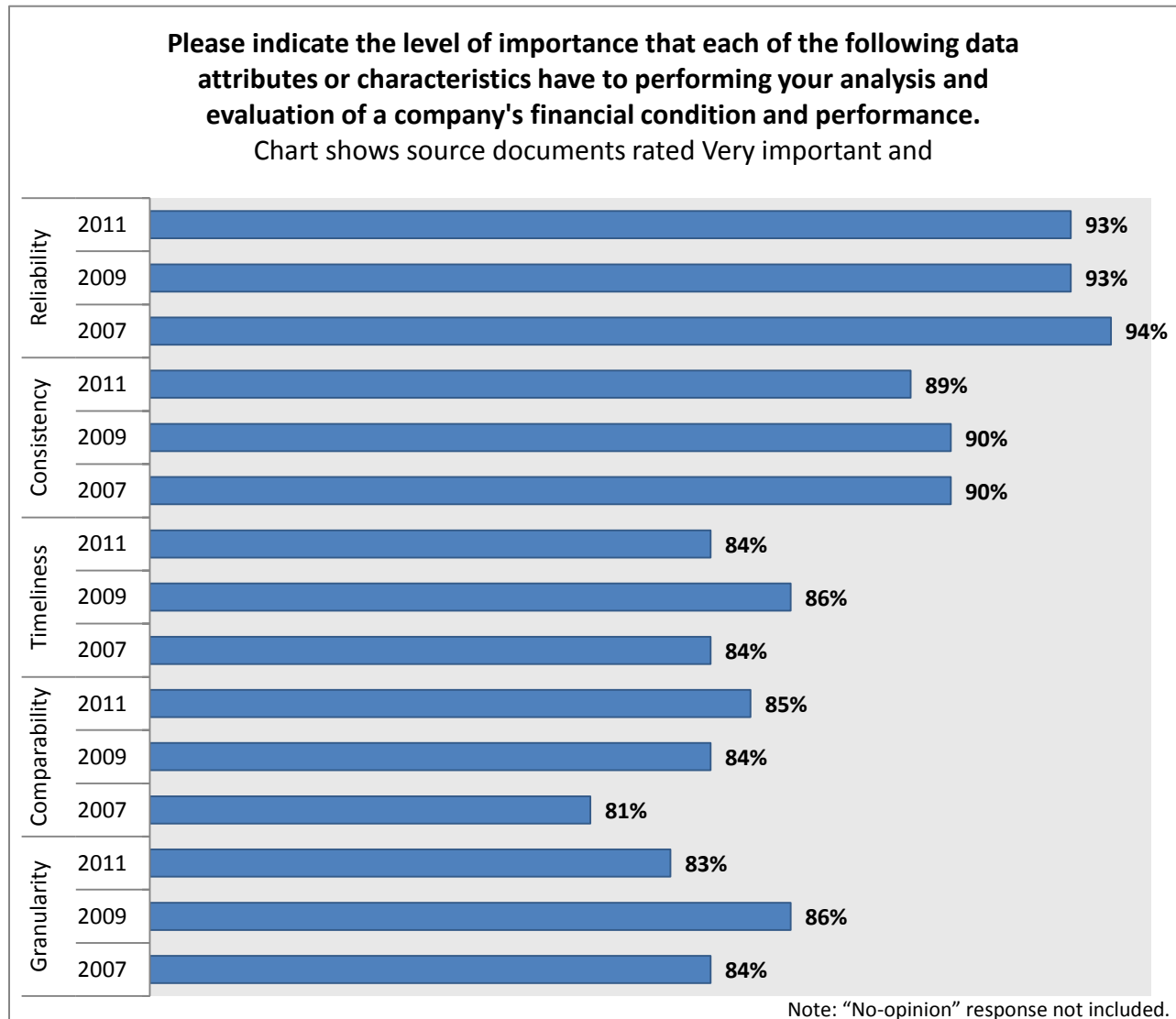
The importance of each of the following source documents is significantly higher among respondents who indicate most or all of their data/information used in analysis & evaluation is manually extracted from source documents than among those who get most or all of their information from 3rd party data



providers: interim reports, annual reports, special events reports, periodic supplements/fact books, and prospectus/registration statements for initial public offerings. The importance of source document prospectus/registration statements for initial public offerings is significantly high in APAC (83%) and EMEA (74%) compared to AMER (64%).

Importance of data attributes in performing analysis and evaluation

An overwhelming majority of members indicate reliability, consistency, granularity, timeliness, and comparability are all important data attributes or characteristics to have in performing analysis and evaluation of a company’s financial condition and performance. Reliability is most important, with 94 percent rating it important (top two box); comparability rates lowest in importance, although a majority 86 percent still rate this attribute as important.



Scale: 1 (Not important) to 5 (Very important); no opinion

Timeliness is rated to be more important by those in the Americas and Asia Pacific (89 percent and 87 percent, respectively) than by those in EMEA (76 percent rated as important). Granularity is more important to those extracting most or all of their data manually from source documents (93 percent important) than to those obtaining most of their data from 3rd party data providers (80 percent important). Comparability is rated more important by those in APAC (88%) and AMER (85%) than those in EMEA (71%).

Methodology

Questionnaire Development

The questionnaire was developed from the 2007 and 2009 XBRL survey. All repeated questions were kept exactly the same from the prior survey (except for one question) and three questions were added to the survey.

Sampling

For this survey, the target sampling frame consisted of members that are end users of financial reports. It was determined that the following occupations would be most likely to be “end users” or would have sufficient knowledge about XBRL and other disclosures to provide input: academics, credit analysts, financial advisors, investment banking analysts, portfolio managers, and research analysts. The total size of the sample frame is just over 49,000.

Based on sample sizes, all academics and credit analysts were invited to participate. A random sample of 1,951 financial advisors, 3,875 investment banking analysts, 4,914 portfolio managers and 4,895 research analysts were also included in the sample:

Occupation	Sample Size
Academic	872
Credit Analyst	432
Financial Advisor	1951
Investment Banking Analyst	3875
Portfolio Manager	4914
Research Analyst	4895
Total	16939

Distribution

An e-mail invitation with a link to a web-based survey was sent to 3,000 members of the above-defined sample of CFA Institute members on 28 November with the remaining emails being distributed on 29 November. A reminder to non-respondents was sent on 6 December 2011. The survey closed on midnight (PST) on 16 December 2011.

Analysis and Reporting

The following information was preloaded into the survey program in order to (1) provide demographical information about the respondents and (2) conduct statistical analysis on subgroups if necessary:

- Occupation
- Region (Americas, EMEA, Asia Pacific)
- Country
- CFA charterholder status (charterholder members vs. non-charterholder members)
- Years with the CFA charter (<2, 2-5, 6-10, 11-15, 16-20, >20, Not applicable)
- Assets managed (institutional, private, both, not applicable)
- Buy/sell side (buy side, sell side, both, neither)
- Primary investment practice (e.g., commodities, hedge funds, equities, etc.)

Response Rate and Demographics

16,939 members were invited to participate in the survey, and 16,259 e-mail invitations were successfully delivered. 527 valid responses were received, for a response rate of 3.2%. The margin of error (based on the sampling frame population) is $\pm 4.25\%$ at the 95 percent confidence level. Margin of error will vary by question, as the number of respondents varies by question.

Occupation	Invited	Responded	Response Rate
Academic	872	41	5%
Credit Analyst	432	26	6%
Financial Advisor	1951	56	3%
Investment Banking Analyst	3875	116	3%
Portfolio Manager	4914	131	3%
Research Analyst	4895	157	3%
Total	16939	527	

Region	Invited	Responded	Response Rate
Americas (AMER)	10828	302	3%
Asia Pacific (APAC)	2670	81	3%
Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA)	3440	144	4%
Not Available	1	0	0%
Total	16939	527	

Country	Invited	Responded	Response Rate
USA	8639	252	3%
Canada	1996	41	2%
United Kingdom	1317	30	2%
China	464	22	5%
Germany	316	19	6%
Switzerland	334	11	3%
India	161	10	6%
Australia	288	9	3%
Hong Kong	699	9	1%
South Africa	246	8	3%
Singapore	399	7	2%
United Arab Emirates	103	6	6%
All other	1977	103	5%
Total	16939	527	

CFA Charterholder Status	Invited	Responded	Response Rate
Charterholder	15616	468	3%
Non-Charterholder	1323	59	4%
Total	16939	527	

Years with Charter	Invited	Responded	Response Rate
Less than 2 years	2898	194	7%
2-5 years	4074	84	2%
6-10 years	4657	97	2%
11-15 years	2262	55	2%
16-20 years	851	16	2%
More than 20 years	874	22	3%
No Charter	1323	59	4%
Total	16939	527	

Asset Base	Invited	Responded	Response Rate
Institutional	5110	147	3%
Private	3644	107	3%
Both	1671	46	3%
N/A	6514	227	3%
Total	16939	527	

Buy/Sell Side	Invited	Responded	Response Rate
Buy Side	8785	271	3%
Buy Side / Sell Side	1231	51	4%
Neither	3495	112	3%
Sell Side	3406	93	3%
Not Provided	22	0	0%
Total	16939	527	

Primary Investment Practice	Invited	Responded	Response Rate
Commodities	124	6	5%
Derivatives	357	7	2%
Equities	7653	258	3%
Fixed Income	3070	84	3%
Foreign Currency	88	0	0%
Hedge Funds	393	11	3%
Indexed	143	3	2%
Other	784	28	4%
Private Equity	939	30	3%
Real Estate	357	17	5%
Structured Products	512	11	2%
Venture Capital	103	0	0%
Not Applicable	2359	72	3%
Not Provided	57	0	0%
Total	16939	527	



Appendix:

Appendix A: Open Ended Responses