



# The Connected Financial Services Report

Insights and trends from over 6,000 global financial institution customers



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Welcome back, Taylor!

My Accounts

\$

[Open a New Account](#)

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My Finances

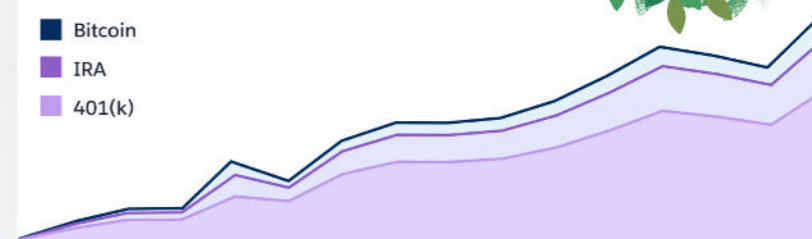


Renew your insurance policy



My Retirement

- Bitcoin
- IRA
- 401(k)



# What You'll Find in This Report

For the Connected Financial Services Report, Salesforce surveyed 6,058 financial service institution (FSI) customers worldwide to discover:

- Why customers switch financial services institutions
- What customers look for in a great digital experience
- Evolving sentiments on artificial intelligence, cryptocurrency, and consumer brands entering the financial space

Due to rounding, not all percentage totals in this report add up to 100%. All comparison calculations are from total numbers (not rounded numbers).

Data in this report is from a double-anonymous survey conducted from March 7, 2023, through April 12, 2023. Respondents represent 12 countries across five continents. All respondents are third-party panelists. For survey demographics, [see page 23](#).



**6,058 FSI customers surveyed worldwide**



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# Executive Summary

Amidst economic uncertainty, geopolitical volatility, and rising costs, customer relationships with financial institutions – such as banks, insurers, and wealth managers – are rapidly transforming.

Customers are looking to their financial institutions (FSIs) for guidance on navigating the current economic environment. They also want a frictionless hybrid experience, combining both digital and human interactions, proactive outreach, personalized treatment, and an empathetic human touch – and are receiving mixed results.

While macroeconomic volatility persists, technology, such as generative artificial intelligence, has captivated the world. This research looks at the strategies and challenges taking root amid trends such as the proliferation of customer data and the maturation of artificial intelligence.

## 01

### Customers Demand Personalized, Comprehensive Experiences

Customers are looking to their FSIs for support, advice, and guidance during these uncertain economic times. **Seventy-nine percent of customers don't feel their financial service provider helped them fully prepare for economic uncertainty.**

## 02

### Beyond Digital: The Importance of Human-to-Human Interaction

The majority of customers prefer non-digital interactions across all three financial sectors. **Over half would switch financial service providers if services felt impersonal.**

## 03

### Trust and Data Security Go Hand-in-Hand

Increased awareness of personal data security has made trust between providers and customers more crucial than ever. **The majority of customers would share data in exchange for better experiences.**

## 04

### Looking Ahead: Future of Finance

As non-traditional vendors and products become more common, people are more apt to explore (or even switch to) alternative products and providers. **Sixty-one percent of customers have either researched or plan to research cryptocurrency.**



# 1

# Customers Demand Personalized, Comprehensive Experiences



• New retirement account opened



Hi Amanda!  
Don't forget to add a beneficiary to your new account!



# The State of Customer Experience in Financial Services

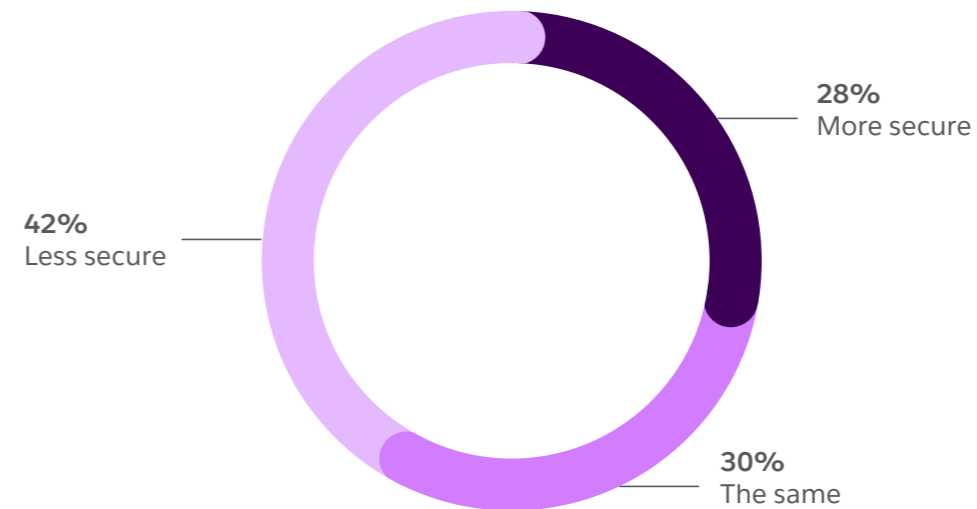
Rising costs of commodities, increasing interest rates, and turbulence in world events have shaken financial confidence. Increasing prices on everything from food to gas is raising the cost of daily living – and customers' financial anxiety, leaving people less financially secure than just one year ago.

**Only 16% of customers say current macroeconomic conditions and financial market events have not affected their financial strategy.**

Shake-ups and changes to daily living can be difficult to navigate – especially in uncertain economic times. At the same time, people are turning to their financial institutions for help and guidance, albeit with mixed results. While one in five customers report that their financial institution helped them significantly in preparing for today's economy, over a third say their financial institution did not help them at all.

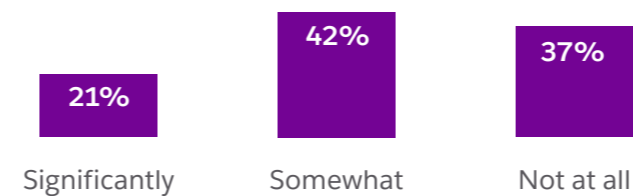
## Customers Are Feeling Less Financially Secure

Financial Security Compared to One Year Ago



## Customers Lack Desired Guidance From Their Financial Providers

Extent to Which Financial Institutions Prepared Customers for Economic Uncertainty



# Customers Switch Providers for Better Experiences

Customers want more from their financial institutions and are willing to switch providers to receive a better experience.

In the past year alone, 25% of customers switched banks, and over a third switched their insurers and wealth managers. Across all three of these financial sectors, the top reason customers give for switching is a desire for a better digital experience.

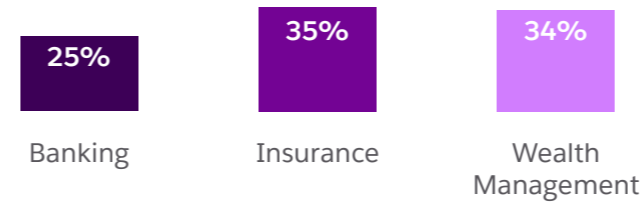
While not as big a factor as digital experience, physical location also compels some customers to switch providers – particularly within wealth management.

Other factors for switching include customer service and a desire for better integration across financial products.

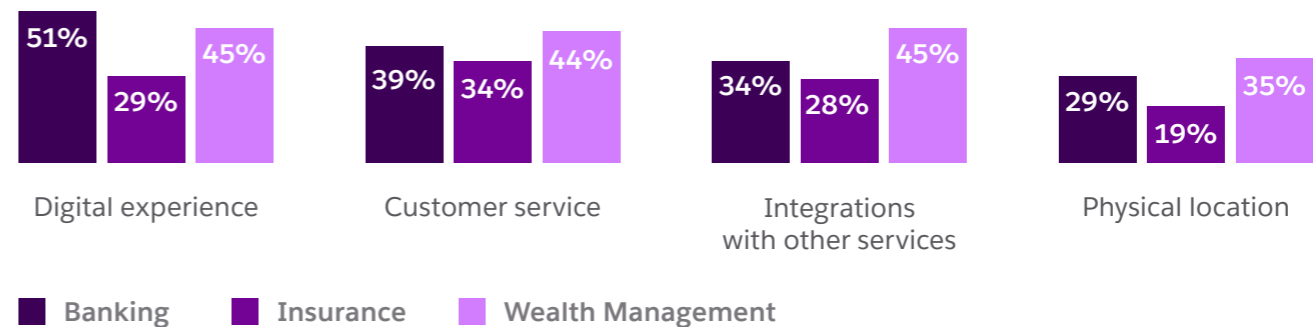
Notably, the insurance sector is an outlier in that one in four customers who switched insurance providers say price was the only reason for the change.

## Digital Experience Is a Leading Reason for Switching Providers

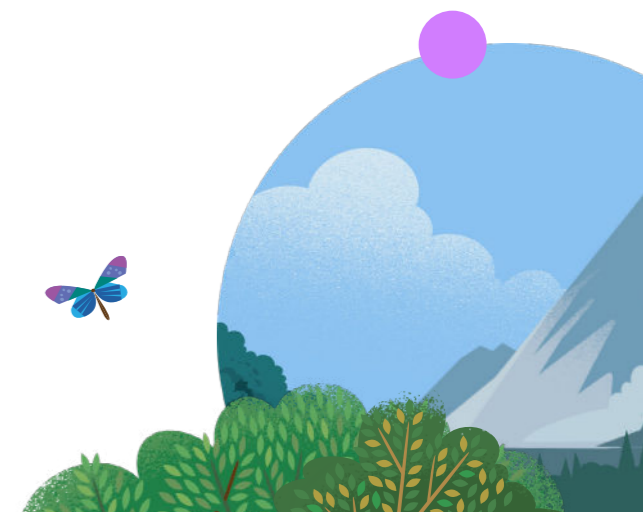
Customers Who Switched the Following Providers in the Past Year



Reasons for Switching the Following FSIs



Base: Customers who switched providers in the past year



# Customers Want More From Digital Financial Experiences

A great digital experience isn't just nice to have, it's a necessity. At present, customers indicate that when it comes to the digital experience offered by their FSIs, there's room for improvement.

By a sizable margin, poorly integrated non-intelligent chatbots are the most commonly reported area of digital friction. This suggests that, as chatbots are rapidly adopted industry-wide, some implementations fall short of satisfying customer needs.

Other commonly encountered challenges include difficulty finding information online, inconsistent customer service, and impersonal services that make customers feel as if they're treated like a number rather than a unique individual.

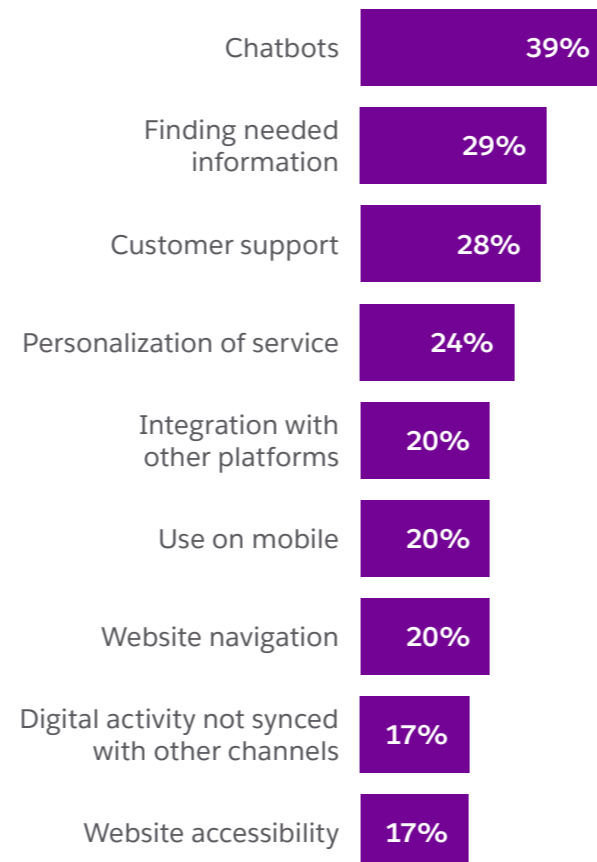
## When It Comes to FSI Digital Experience, There Is Room for Improvement

Customers Completely Satisfied with the Following Providers' Digital Experience



## Customers Want More Personalization and Less Friction

Customers Who Find the Following Challenging at Their FSI





## A Great Digital Experience Is a Necessity

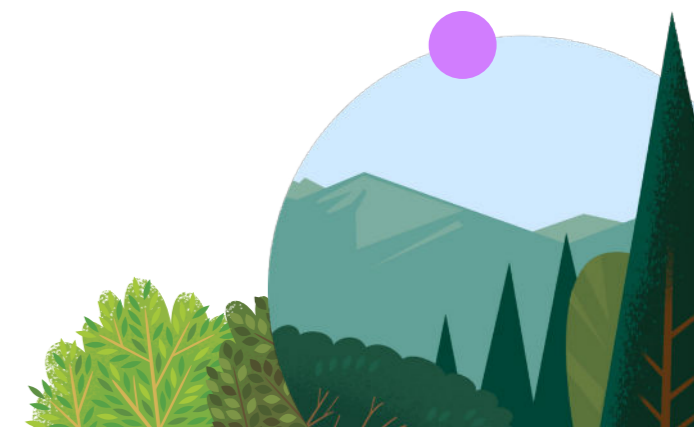
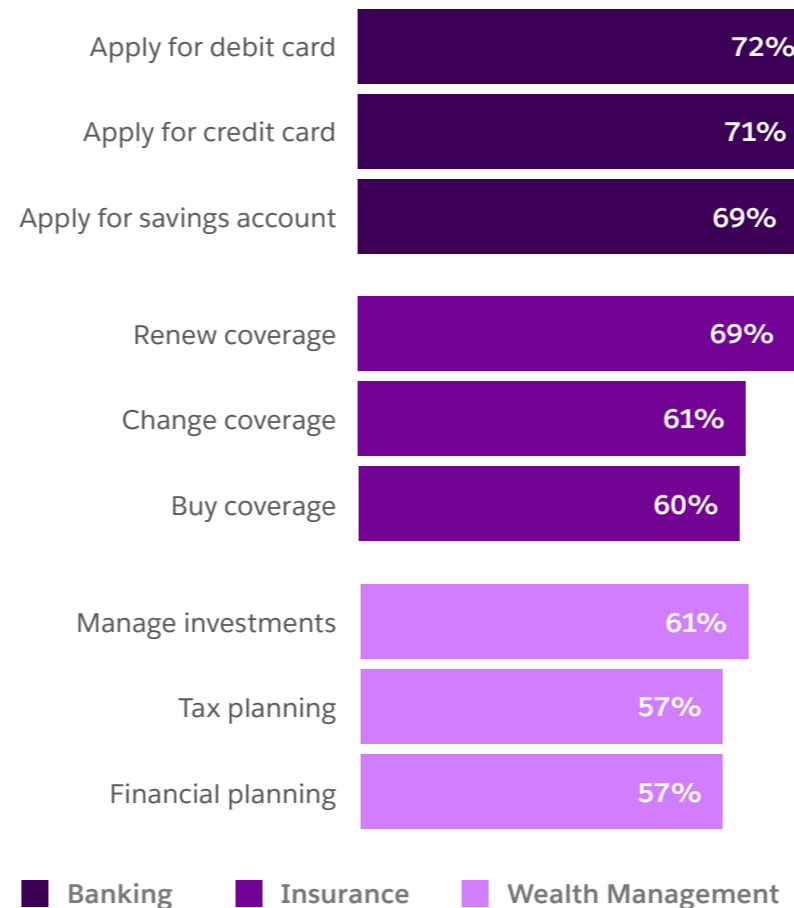
Customers want and expect to be able to manage a large portion of their financial lives online, especially when it comes to more routine tasks.

The majority of banking customers want to apply for credit and debit cards and open accounts online. Similarly, insurance customers said they prefer to buy, renew, and change coverage or file claims digitally. And even wealth management clients say they prefer to access routine investment management services and conduct tax and financial planning mostly or completely digitally.

**71% of customers want their financial services provider to have a clear digital process for opening an account.**

### Customers Want to Manage Their Financial Lives Online

Customers Who Prefer to Do the Following Digitally



# 2

## Beyond Digital: The Importance of Human-to-Human Interaction



 Case Number [#321568](#)

**Julie Miller**

 Wealth Management Customer

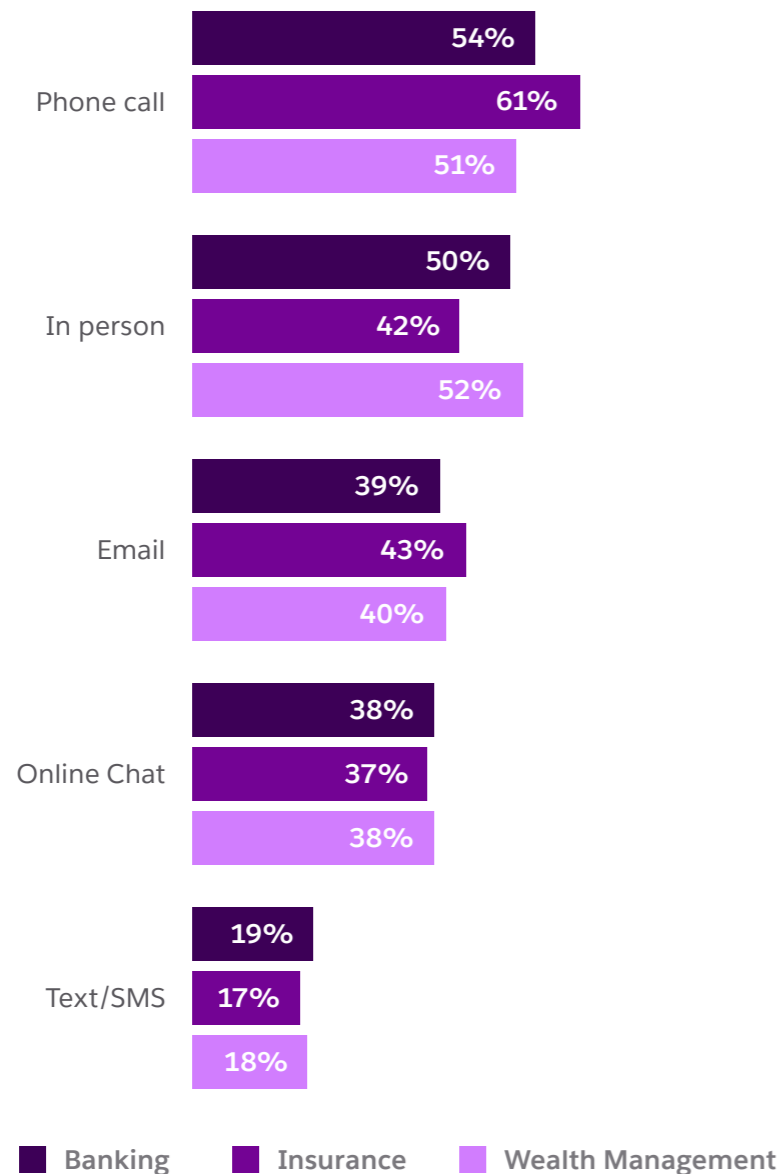
Member since 2019



# Customers Expect a Connected, Multichannel Experience

## Customers Crave Human Interactions From Their Financial Providers

How Customers Prefer to Communicate with Their Financial Providers



Base: Channel ranked as customers' #1 or #2 preference.

Customers interact with their financial service providers across a variety of channels – some digital, some not.

Despite (or perhaps in reaction to) an increasingly digital world, people still crave human, often face-to-face, interaction. The majority of customers prefer non-digital interactions (over digital ones) across all three financial sectors. Banking and wealth management customers prefer to interact in person or by phone, and insurance customers largely prefer to interact by phone.

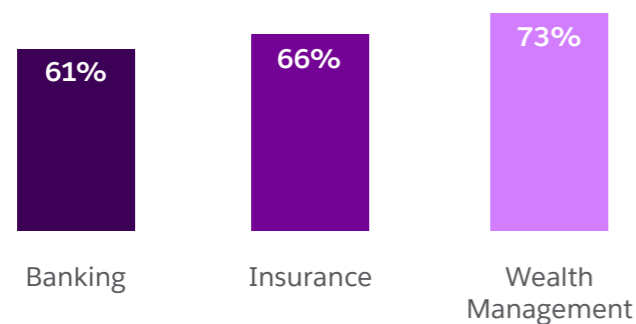
These preferences suggest a need to feel seen, known, and taken care of. Financial transactions can be complicated, making trust intrinsic to relationships between customers and financial providers. In-person and voice-based communications may help people feel they're getting more "whole-person" individualized service.



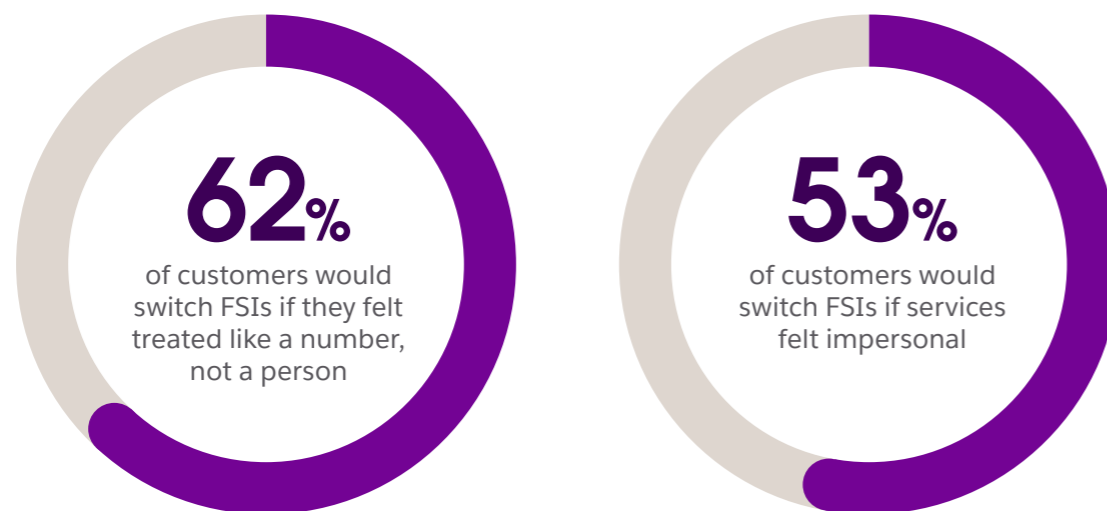
# Personalization Is a Must-Have for Many Customers

## People Want FSIs to Speak to Their Individual Life Circumstances

Customers Who Want Personalized Recommendations From the Following



Customers Who Say the Following



Financial services customers want the companies they do business with to know who they are and what they need. For example, customers purchasing a home want to know their provider is working to get them the best mortgage pre-approval rate. New homeowners may be interested in their insurers' umbrella policies, while wealth management clients want help planning for life events like college and retirement based on their unique circumstances.

**73% of customers expect companies to understand their unique needs and expectations — up from 66% in 2020.<sup>1</sup>**

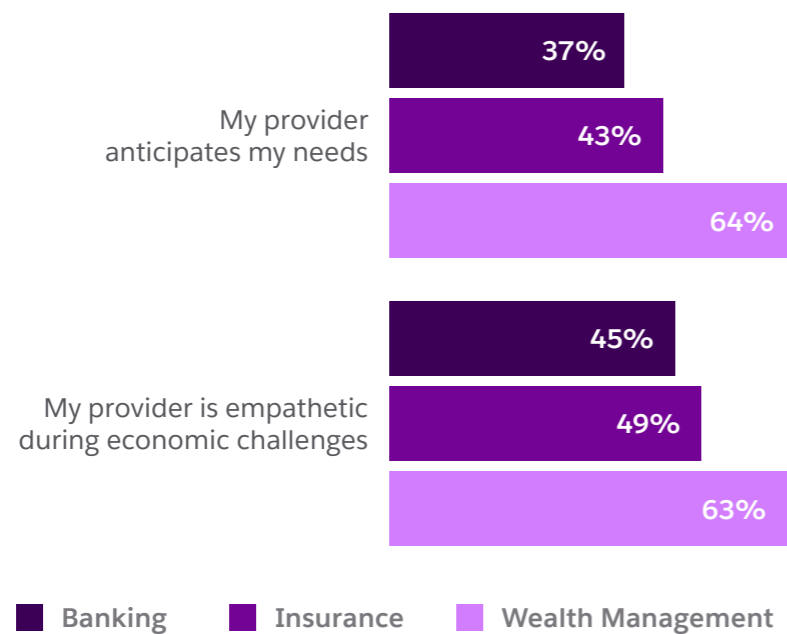
The cost of not providing personalized service is steep, with more than half of customers saying they would switch providers if services were not personalized.

<sup>1</sup>[State of the Connected Customer, Salesforce, 2022](#)

# Financial Experiences Sometimes Lack a Sense of Caring

## People Crave Empathetic, Human Interactions

Customers Who Say the Following



People's need for attention and care seems to increase in uncertain economic times. Beyond personalized products and services, people want empathetic interactions. They crave a human touch that cannot always be replaced by digital channels. Ultimately, they want to feel like their financial providers care about them.

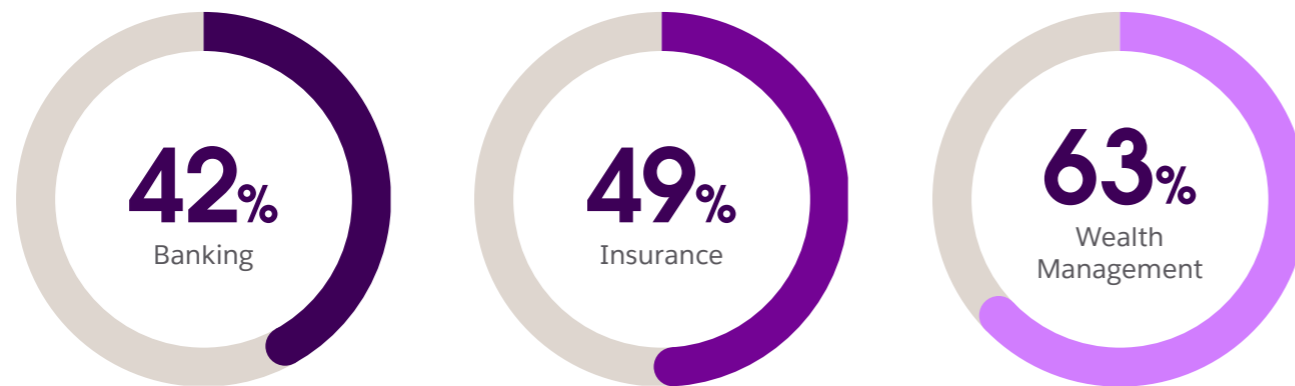
Perhaps unsurprisingly, customers feel more empathy and care from wealth managers – who work in what's traditionally thought of as a relationship-driven sector. They feel less satisfied with banking and insurance providers in these areas. This suggests that banking and insurance providers who find a way to balance their digital offerings with a more human dimension may gain a competitive edge.



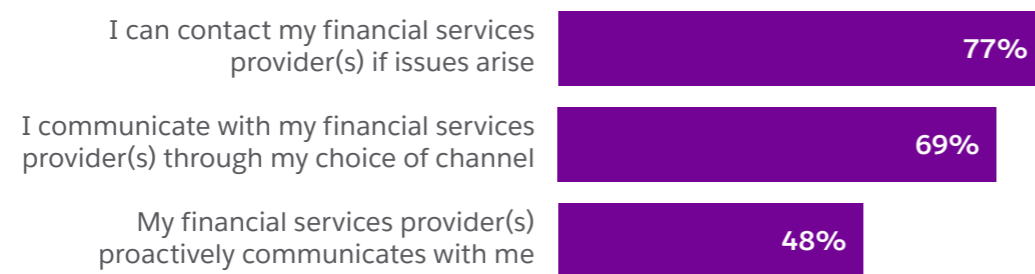
# Proactive Communication Is Rarer Than Desired

## FSIs Fall Short on Proactive Outreach

Customers Who Say This Provider Reaches Out During Challenging Times

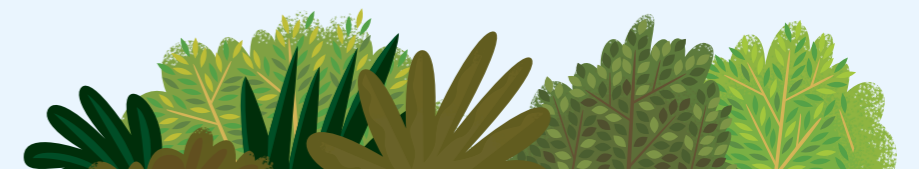


Customers Who Say the Following



Customers want proactive and timely communication with personalized services and relevant offers. In the case where an issue arises, it is essential that they are able to easily get in touch with their financial services providers. Fortunately, the majority of customers agree that they can contact their providers when issues arise and that they can do so on their channel of choice.

When significant life events or financial hardships occur, passive communication from financial services providers may not be enough. Instead, proactive communication can send the message that providers know them and have their back. While two thirds of wealth management customers agree that they receive proactive outreach, the majority of banking and insurance customers say they do not.



# 3

## Trust and Data Security Go Hand-in-Hand



## Personalization Desired Despite Complex Feelings About AI

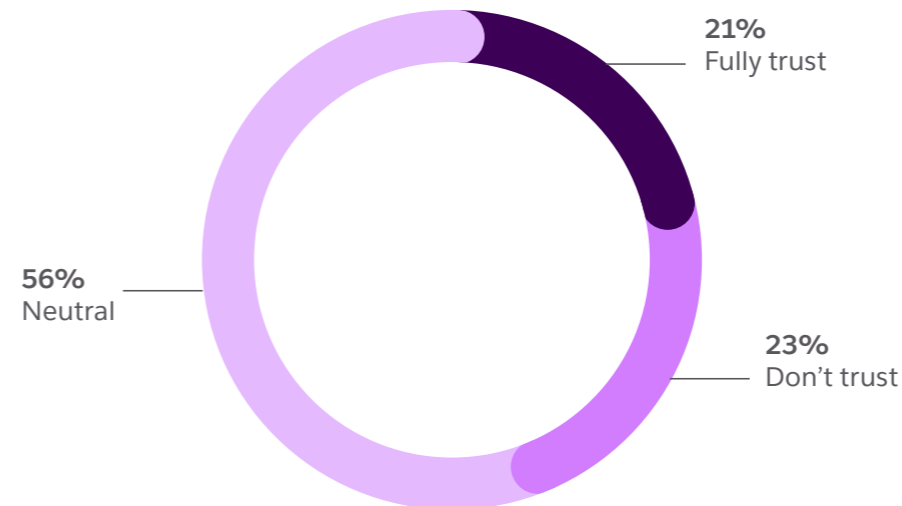
There is a push-pull between customers' expectations that FSIs provide proactive, personalized service and their comfort level with some aspects of artificial intelligence (AI).

In particular, customers feel ambivalent about financial service chatbots powered by generative AI – a newer form of artificial intelligence that generates original content, including text, image, and audio.

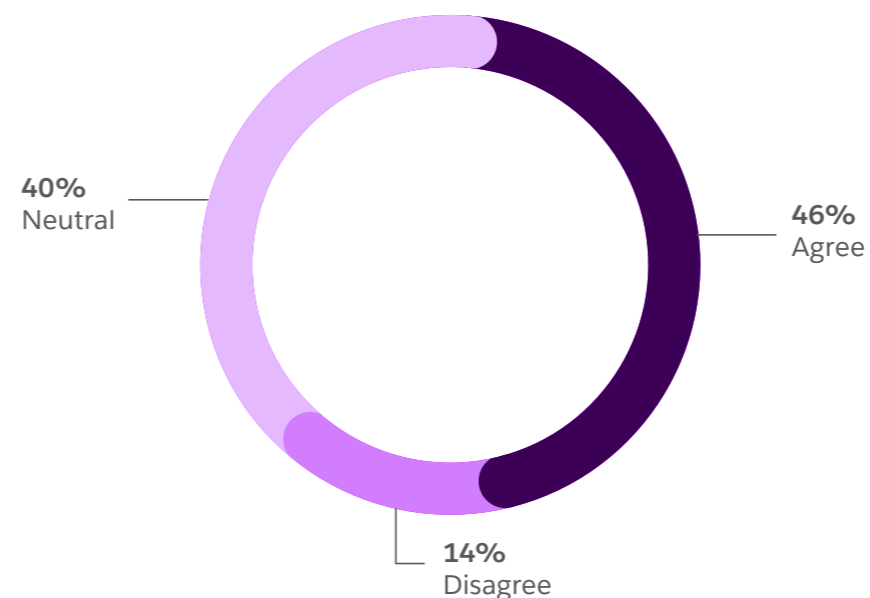
A lack of familiarity could underlie some of the doubt. Forty percent of customers neither agree nor disagree that AI will speed up financial transactions – suggesting uncertainty around what the technology may entail. And, among customers who do have an opinion, a much larger share are optimistic about AI's time-saving potential.

### The Majority of Customers Are Unsure They Trust AI

Trust in Generative AI Chatbots in Financial Services



Anticipate That AI Will Speed Up Financial Transactions





## In an Era of Cyber Threats, Trust Is More Important Than Ever

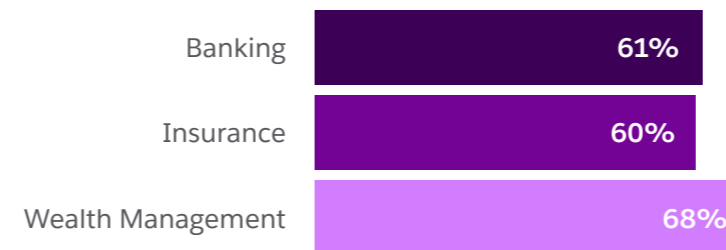
Increased awareness of personal data security has made trust between providers and customers more crucial than ever.

Overall, the majority of customers say they have full trust in their providers. However, while overall trust is high, trust around data and data security is more measured. Less than half of customers say they clearly understand how their data is used and/or protected.

This lack of clarity is significant, especially in light of the fact that 78% of customers say they would switch financial service providers if they felt their data was mishandled.

## The Majority of Customers Fully Trust Their Financial Service Providers

Customers Who Fully Trust the Following Providers



## Despite High Overall Trust, Trust Around Data Security Is Lukewarm

Customers Who Say the Following



## Clear Parameters Increase Comfort With Data Sharing

Data is necessary to help financial services providers personalize experiences, and fortunately, most customers are open to sharing it.

**55% of customers are satisfied with how FSIs use their data to provide relevant services — up from 45% in 2022.**

Notably, however, customers want a clear and easy-to-understand explanation and a general sense of control over what is shared, how FSIs will use it, and who has access to it.

They also want the flexibility to change their minds and opt out (even after previously opting in).

## Customers Value Transparency About How Data Is Used

Customers Who Say the Following Is Important



## Customers More Willing to Share Data If They Get Something in Return

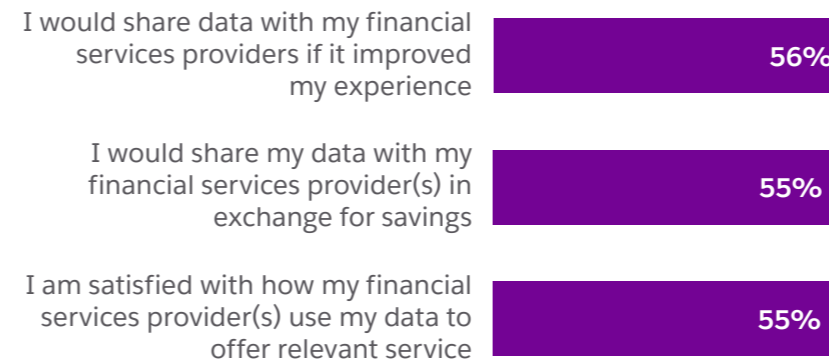
Customers want providers to treat their data with care – and use it to create more fulfilling, personalized, and relevant experiences and offers.

More than half would share data in exchange for a better overall experience or savings like rate reductions or discounts. And, one in four would be willing to share things like location and movement data in exchange for more personalized service.

However, despite some demonstrated comfort with data-sharing, one-third of customers are still reticent to share any personal information at all.

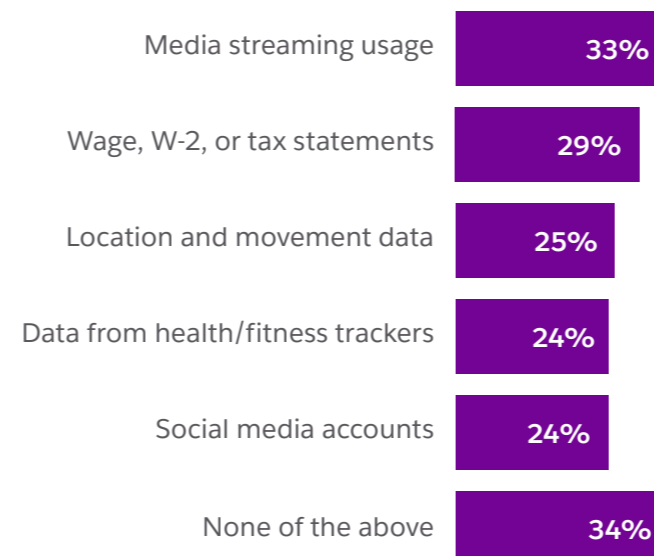
### Majority Are Comfortable Sharing Data in Exchange for Better Experiences...

Customers Who Agree with the Following



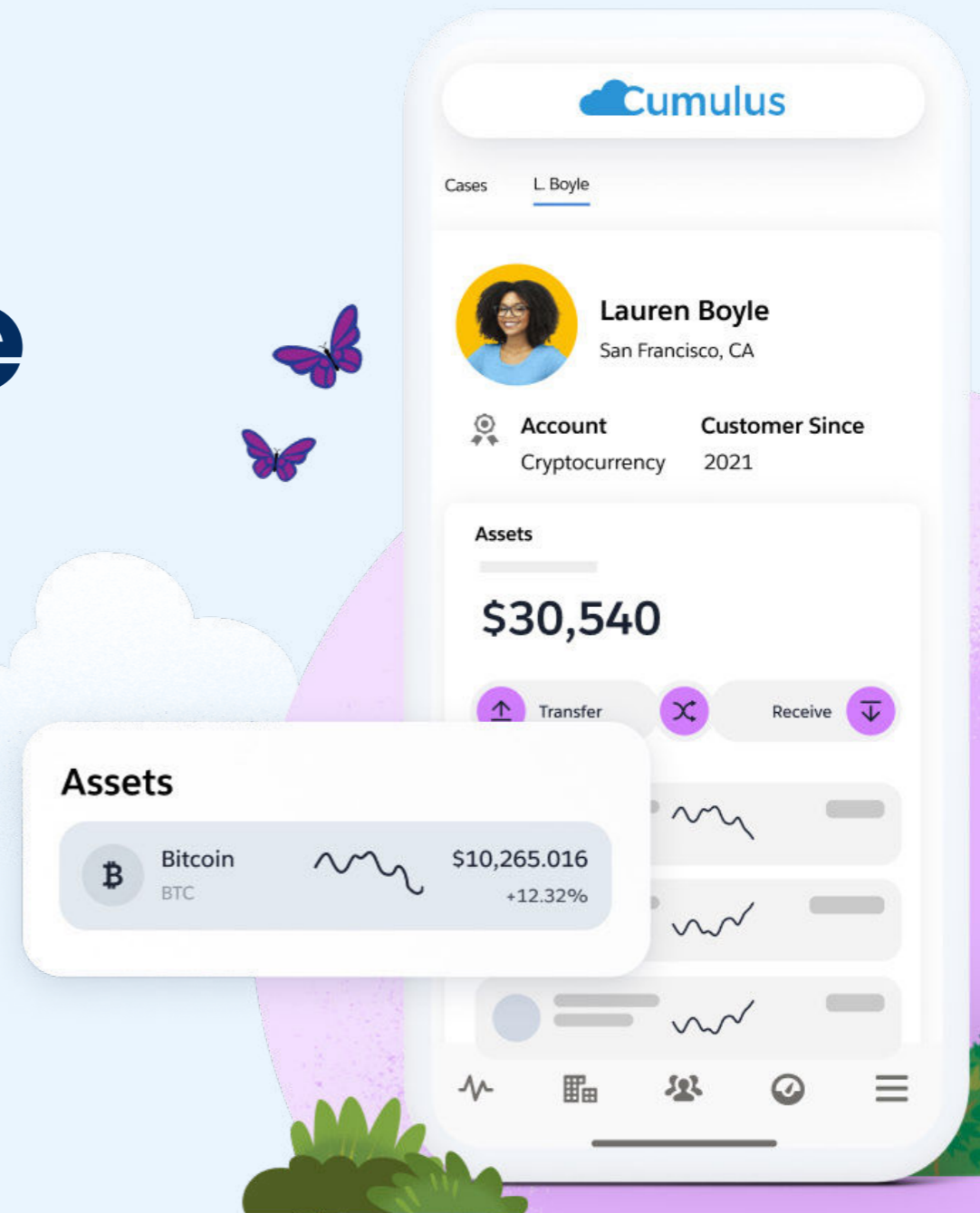
### ... With Many Willing to Share Highly Personal Information

Customers Willing to Share the Following with Their FSI for a More Personalized Experience



# 4

## Looking Ahead: Future of Finance



# SPOTLIGHT: Consumer Finance in the United States

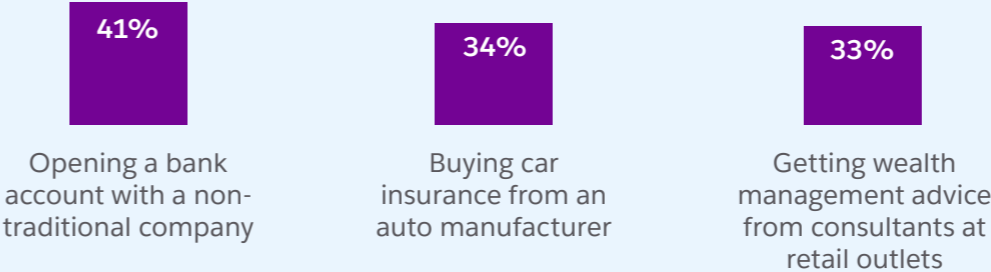
Consumer brands like Apple, Walmart, and Starbucks have expanded their offerings to include financial products – shaking up the field with easier setup, better integration across services, and a more intuitive app and website experience. Curious customers are taking note.

A variety of disruptor companies, like Robinhood, Lemonade, and Rocket Mortgage, have also emerged. These companies offer “friendlier” versions of traditional financial products, prioritizing a robust digital experience that may include engaging social components.

Customers who switched to a non-traditional financial provider say they did so due to ease of use, curiosity, and improved integrations with other services they use.

## People Are Open to Non-Traditional Finance

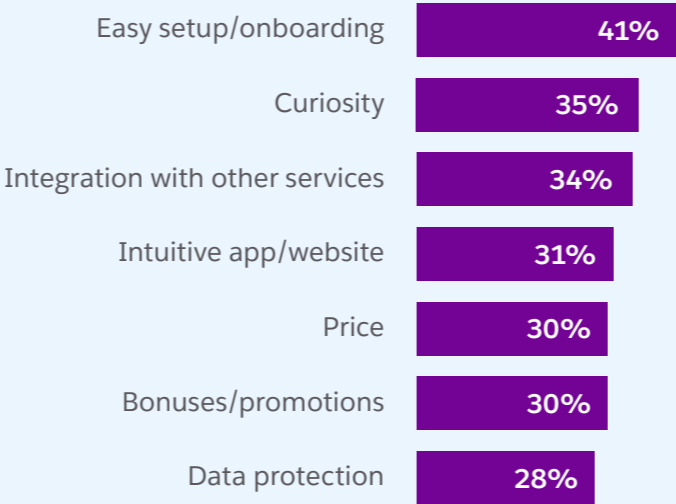
Customers Who Would Consider the Following



Customers Who Have Tried the Following Non-Traditional Financial Services



Reasons Customers Choose Non-Traditional Finance



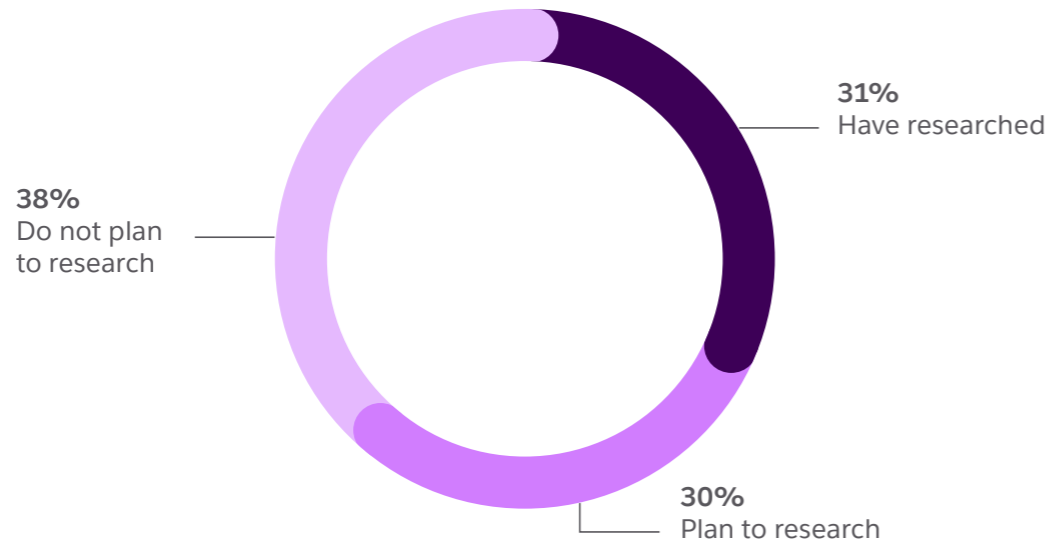
Base: U.S. customers



# Cryptocurrency Sparks Curiosity

## Cryptocurrency Piques Customer Curiosity

Customers Who Have Researched Cryptocurrency



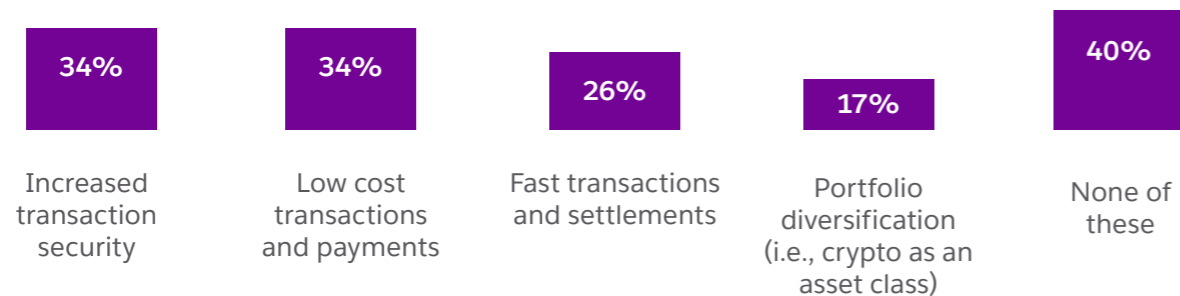
Even after the crash in cryptocurrency market, infamously called “the crypto-winter,” financial services customers are still curious about digital currency, with two-thirds saying they’ve either researched or plan to research it.

**Only 29% of customers want blockchain digital currency services from their FSIs.**

However, despite this curiosity, only a minority of customers appear ready to take the plunge, with 40% saying they are uncomfortable with cryptocurrency.

## Potential Upsides Stoke Curiosity for Some, but Not All

Factors That Would Increase Comfort with Cryptocurrency



# Survey Demographics



# Survey Demographics

## Country

Australia .....	8%
Brazil .....	8%
Canada .....	9%
France .....	9%
Germany .....	9%
Ireland .....	9%
Japan .....	8%
Mexico .....	8%
New Zealand .....	8%
Singapore .....	8%
United Kingdom .....	8%
United States .....	8%

## Generation

Boomers .....	20%
Gen X .....	25%
Millennials .....	43%
Gen Z .....	12%

## Gender

Male .....	43%
Female .....	57%
Other .....	<1%







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