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demand access to experienced professionals with hard-to-find, specialized skills and helps facilitate knowledge transfer and staff development.

Oct. 30, 2018

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CFOs also cited the benefits of working with financial consultants or project professionals

- #1** Access to experienced professionals with hard-to-find skills
- #2** Access to experienced professionals on demand
- #3** Tapping specialized expertise
- #4** Facilitating knowledge transfer, professional development for staff
- #5** Support for special projects

Source: Robert Half Management Resources survey of more than 1,100 CFOs in the United States; multiple responses permitted

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Consultants play a key role in the labor model for the digital age. A new survey shows that 50 percent of CFOs plan to bring in these professionals for business systems and performance improvement initiatives over the next 12 months. Additional areas requiring consultants include finance and accounting (39 percent) and taxation (37 percent).

View a [larger version of the infographic](#) showing in-demand areas for consultants and the benefits of working with these professionals.

Interim professionals deliver a number of benefits to companies, CFOs reported in

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| Business systems and performance improvement | 50% |
| Finance and accounting | 39% |
| Taxation | 37% |
| Risk, governance and compliance | 36% |
| Finance optimization | 36% |

CFOs were also asked about the business benefits of working with financial consultants or project professionals. Their responses:*

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Access to experienced professionals with hard-to-find skills | 46% |
| Access to experienced professionals on demand | 43% |
| Tapping specialized expertise | 42% |
| Facilitating knowledge transfer and professional development for full-time staff | 40% |
| Support for special projects | 39% |
| Alleviating the burden on full-time employees | 35% |
| Addressing workload spikes | 28% |

**Multiple responses were permitted.*

“Digital transformation initiatives are driving demand for business systems and financial consultants,” said Tim Hird, executive director of Robert Half Management Resources. “Finance functions are expanding their responsibilities, yet often lack the

staff to tackle new work and unexpected events. In response, finance leaders turn to

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Robert Half Management Resources highlights finance and accounting consulting options available to companies:

- **Project and interim professionals** — Consultants cover essential roles and support key projects. They are instrumental in moving initiatives forward when companies are confronted with personnel gaps.
- **Consultant teams** — Larger initiatives, such as a system implementation or transitioning to the new lease accounting standard, require a broader range of resources and expertise. A team of interim professionals can support a strategic initiative or assist with the work of core staff dedicated to the project.
- **Long-term and recurring consultants** — Companies work with professionals for cyclical and regularly occurring needs, such as year-end close. This promotes staff continuity and operational stability on longer-term projects.
- **Managed services** — **Managed business services providers** assist with major and one-off initiatives and oversee entire functions. They analyze operations, identify needs and deliver specialized staffing resources.

Accounting

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