

Artificial Intelligence and Big Data in the Financial Services Industry

A Regional Perspective and Strategies for Talent Development October 2021



HKIMR Applied Research

What is the adoption status of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Big Data (BD) technologies in the regional financial services industry?

How do market participants view their adoption of AI/BD technologies?

What is the outlook of the demand and supply of AI/BD talent in the region?

How to foster AI/BD talent development in Hong Kong for a healthy growth of its financial services industry?

Our survey suggests that **71% of the respondents** across financial sectors in the region have either adopted or planned to adopt AI/BD technologies in the next 12 months. Market participants see clear benefits from AI/BD adoption, but **they also highlight that the shortage of talent** is one of the key challenges **now and in the next 5 years**.

Our survey and research findings show that professionals with both finance and AI/BD skills will be in demand over the next 2 years, with 85% of AI/BD professionals currently employed in nonfinancial sectors. In addition, all financial centres in the region experienced net inflows of AI/BD talent during the past year.

Strategies to **narrow the** existing talent gap and support talent recruitment are key to developing a critical mass of professionals that can support further AI/BD adoption in Hong Kong's financial services industry.

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