

Performance Attribution:

What's Wanted, What's Used, and What's Not

Alex Serman, CIPM

Date: June 19, 2025





Alex Serman, CIPM

Managing Director,
First Rate Wealth and Institutional



Agenda

- What is Performance Attribution
- Common Attribution Models
- Key Takeaways
- Poll: Which Attribution Methods is Your Firm Using?
- Poll: How is Your Firm Evolving?
- Poll: What Enhancements Are You Exploring?



"Investment performance attribution is a method used to analyze and explain the factors contributing to a portfolio's performance relative to a benchmark. It identifies the sources of excess returns, often referred to as "alpha," by examining the impact of various investment decisions made by the portfolio manager. Performance attribution builds upon performance measurement to elucidate how returns were achieved. It leverages both returns and attribution analyses to infer the quality of the investment process.

CFA Institute Research and Policy CenterInvestopedia+1CFA Institute Research and Policy Center+1

What is Performance Attribution?



Identifies sources of excess return (alpha)



Evaluates the quality of investment decisions



Supports transparency and accountability



Informs future investment strategies



Types of Performance Attribution

Brinson-Fachler

Factor-Based

Fixed-Income

Currency

Transaction-Based

Allocation + Selection + Interaction

Attribution to style/risk factors

Interest rate, credit spread, yield curve

Isolates exchange rate impact on returns

Incorporates trading activity



Types of Performance Attribution

Asset-Level

Contribution by individual holdings

Ex-Ante

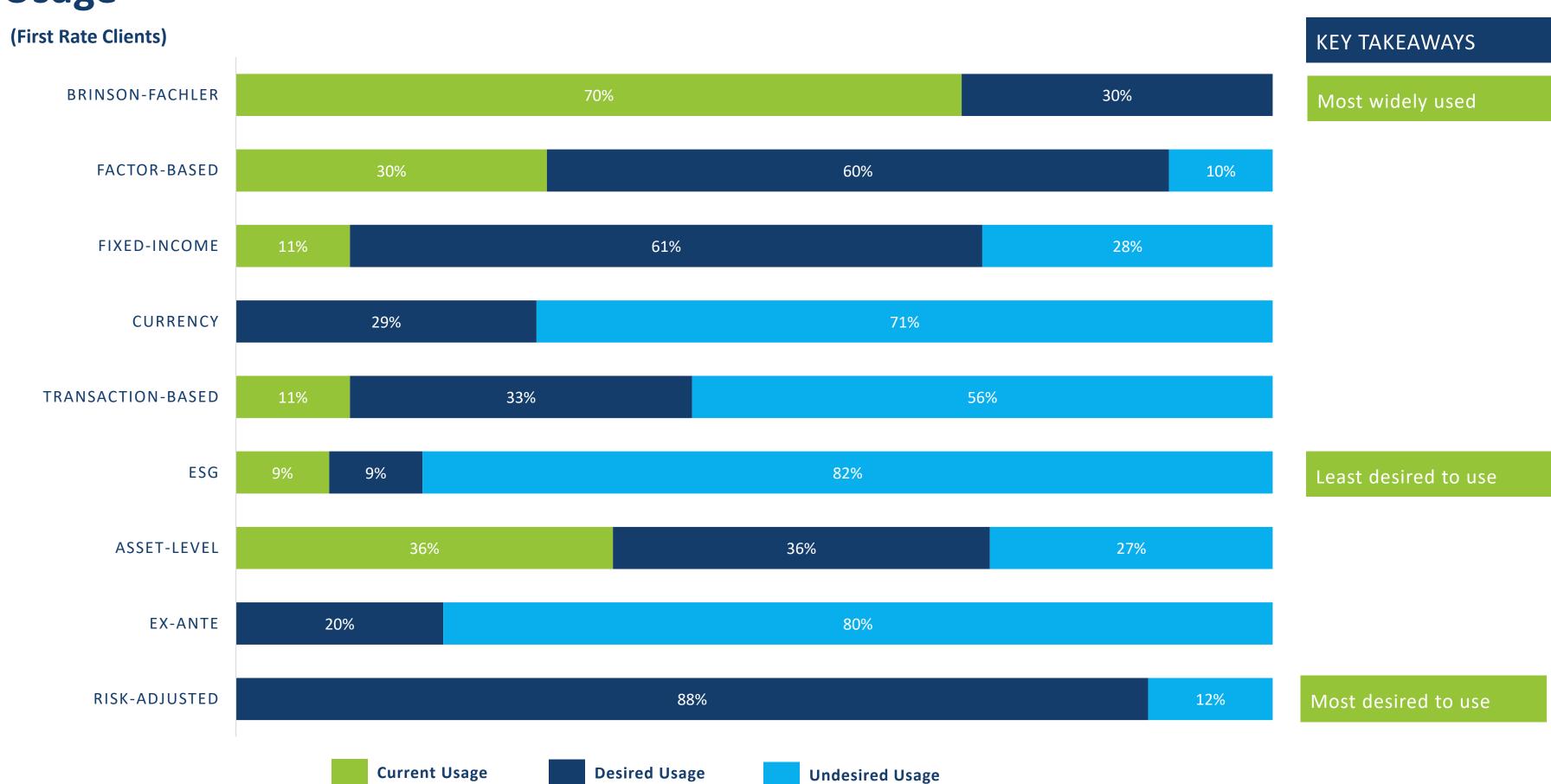
Forward-looking, forecast-based

Risk-Adjusted

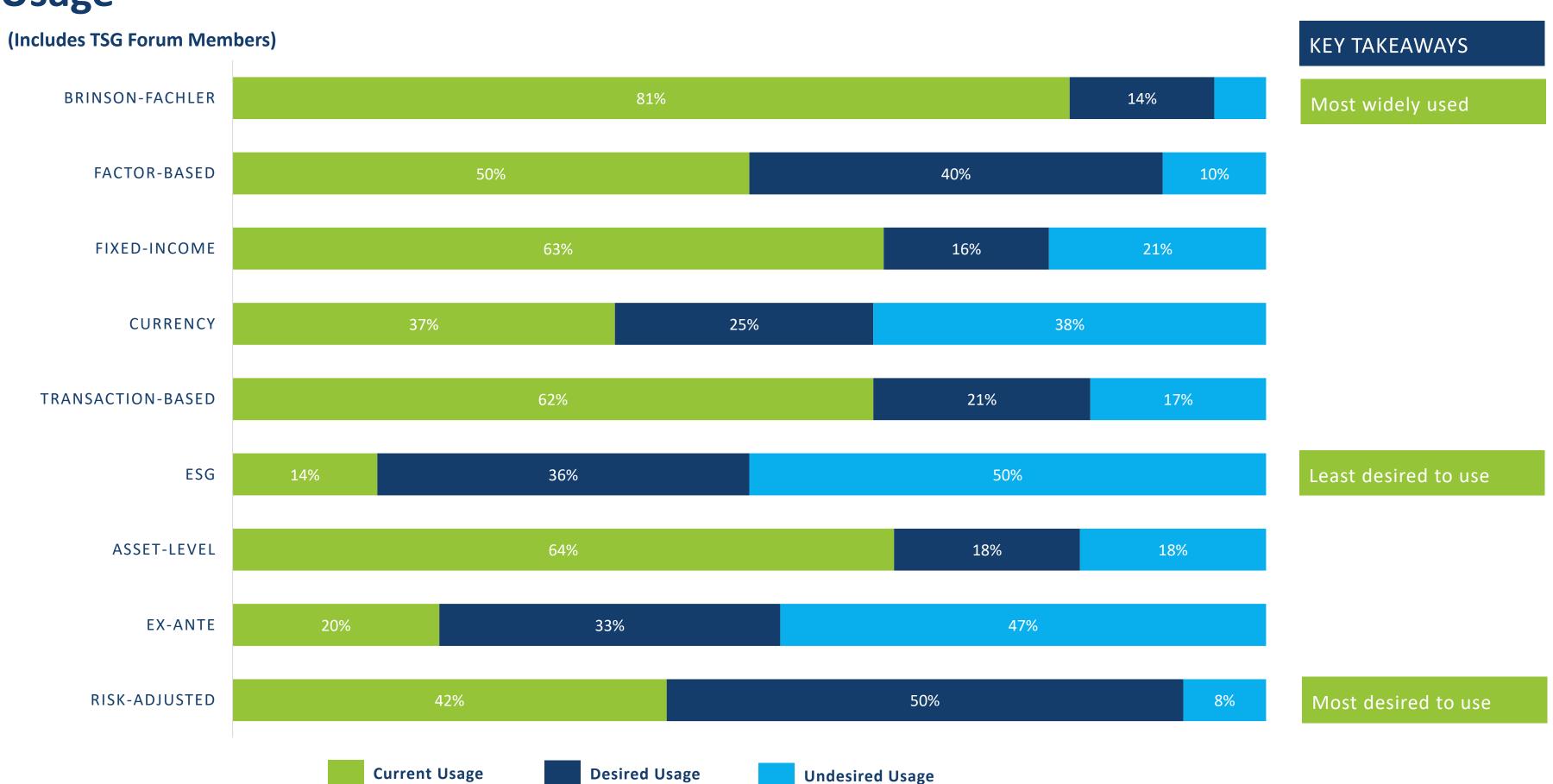
Return attribution accounting for risk

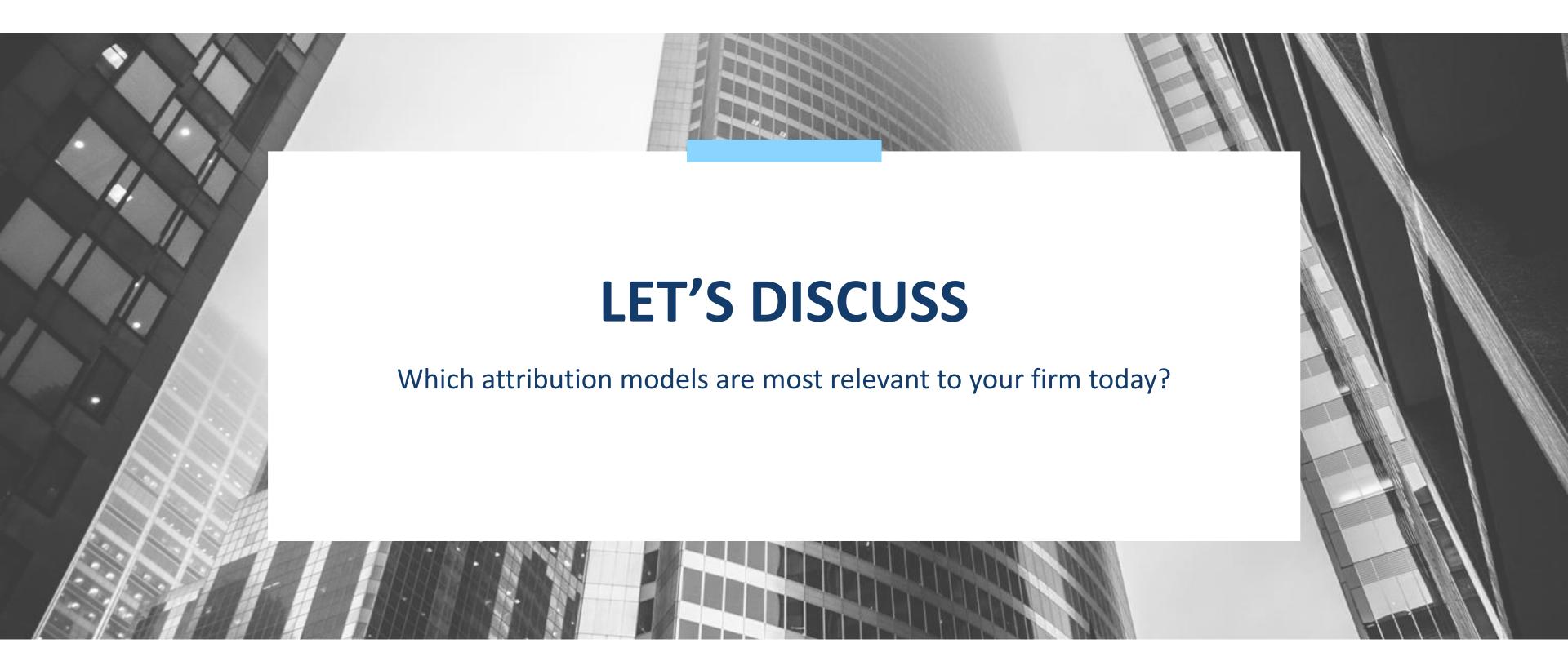


Present Statistics of Current Usage, Desired Usage, and Undesired Usage



Present Statistics of Current Usage, Desired Usage, and Undesired Usage







What type(s) of performance attribution is your firm currently using, would want to use, or would not want to use?

0 surveys completed

0 surveys underway

What type(s) of performance attribution is your firm currently using?

Brinson-Fachler Attribution **Factor-Based Attribution** Fixed Income (Van Breukelen or Campisi) Attribution Currency (Karnosky-Singer) Attribution Transaction-Based Attribution **ESG Attribution Asset-Level Attribution** Ex-Ante Attribution Risk-Adjusted Attribution SEE MORE 🗸

What type(s) of performance attribution is your firm interested in using?

Brinson-Fachler Attribution **Factor-Based Attribution** Fixed Income (Van Breukelen or Campisi) Attribution Currency (Karnosky-Singer) Attribution Transaction-Based Attribution **ESG Attribution Asset-Level Attribution** Ex-Ante Attribution Risk-Adjusted Attribution SEE MORE 🗸

What type(s) of performance attribution is your firm NOT interested in using?

Brinson-Fachler Attribution **Factor-Based Attribution** Fixed Income (Van Breukelen or Campisi) Attribution Currency (Karnosky-Singer) Attribution Transaction-Based Attribution **ESG Attribution Asset-Level Attribution** Ex-Ante Attribution Risk-Adjusted Attribution SEE MORE 🗸



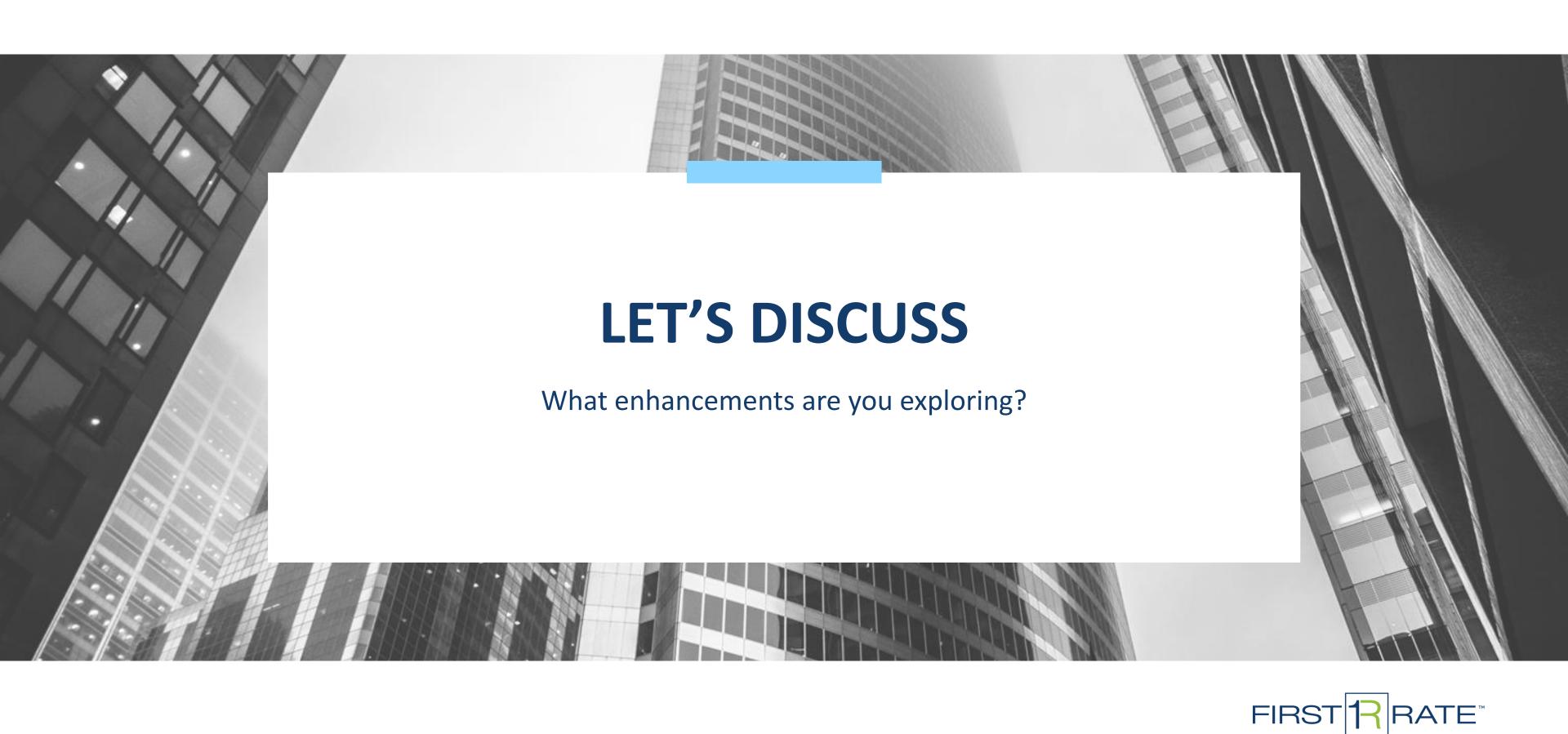


How is your firm evolving its attribution reporting to meet modern expectations?

Incorporating AI or NLG to enhance client reporting Clients are demanding more insights and transparency Internal teams are making better decisions from enhanced attribution Still using traditional models, but exploring upgrades Other

How is your firm evolving its attribution reporting to meet modern expectations?

Incorporating AI or NLG to enhance client reporting	0%
	0 70
Clients are demanding more insights and transparency	0%
	0 70
Internal teams are making better decisions from enhanced attribution	00%
	0%
Still using traditional models, but exploring upgrades	
	0%
Other	
	0%



What enhancements are you exploring (or interested in) for attribution reporting?

AI-driven attribution models Natural Language Generation (NLG) for reports Interactive, visual dashboards Integration with broader performance and risk insights Other (comment below)

What enhancements are you exploring (or interested in) for attribution reporting?

Al-driven attribution models	
	0%
Natural Language Generation (NLG) for reports	
	0%
Interactive, visual dashboards	
	0%
Integration with broader performance and risk insights	
	0%
Other (comment below)	
	0%