

The state of AML

Rising threats, smarter moves

Inside the push and pull of modern AML efforts

As money laundering methods become harder to trace and regulatory pressure intensifies, financial institutions (FI's) are feeling the strain.

But there's also momentum: AI, better data practices, and skilled teams are starting to make a measurable impact.

AI is reshaping risk & response

Criminals are **using AI** and digital tools **to hide their tracks** more effectively than ever.

Money laundering is becoming **harder** and more **expensive to detect**.

Money laundering is estimated to be

2-5%

of global **GDP**.¹

GenAI-enabled fraud is forecasted to exceed

€34B

annually by 2027.²

Financial institutions are fighting back by **investing** heavily in **technology**, including **AI**, to keep up.³

The cost of innovation

€34B

spent globally on tech resources in 2024.

Tech over talent?

Nearly

7 in 10

financial institutions focus budgets on technology,

while

3 in 10

prioritise staff.

Tech drivers for innovation

- Predictive modelling
- Real-time monitoring
- Explainable AI (XAI)
- GenAI

Compliance expectations are growing

As AML becomes more challenging, regulators are raising expectations for faster and more responsive compliance.

Global AML fines are on the rise ⁴



€23

billion levied **globally** in fines against financial institutions for AML/KYC sanctions violations since 2008.



€1,45

billion levied AML fines in **Europe** in the last 10 years across 84 separate fines.

€9,79

billion levied in 2015 alone, the most punitive year for fines.

€7,56

billion was the highest fine ever issued (levied by the US DoJ against a French Bank in 2015).

€76,55

million is the average global fine issued.

€765

million is the highest regional fine in 2018 against a Dutch bank.

€769

million levied in 2018: a record year for AML and sanctions fines – 3 times more than 2017.

€17,26

million regionally average AML fine issued in Europe.

People remain critical

AML expertise is strong, but ongoing investment in talent is key to staying ahead.

62%

of **AML** and **FinCrime** compliance spend is **human capital**.⁴

3 in 5

banks plan to increase investment in **hybrid AML operating models** by 2026.⁵

A clear shift towards:

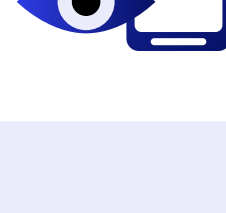
- Managed services
- Nearshoring
- Outsourcing
- Automation

10

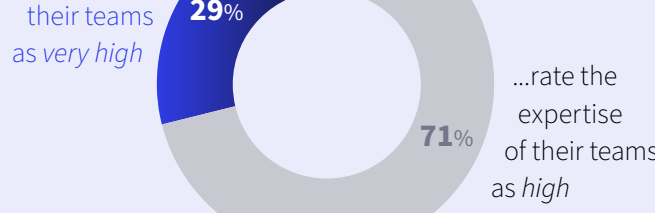
year growth in FinCrime fighting staff seems to have **stabilised**.

15-17%

of FTE spend will be redirected to **tech spend**.⁴

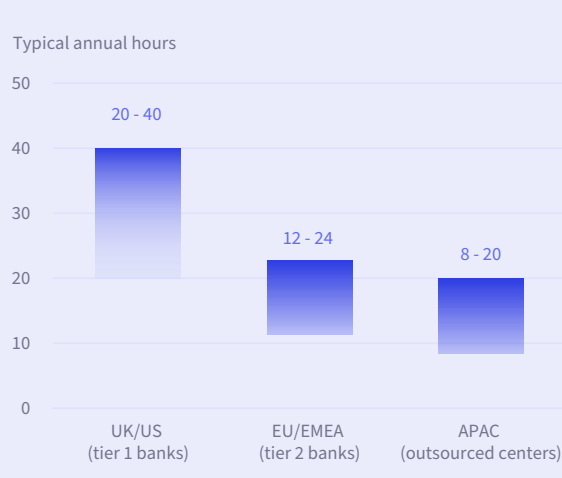


Skills of AML and KYC teams are strong ¹

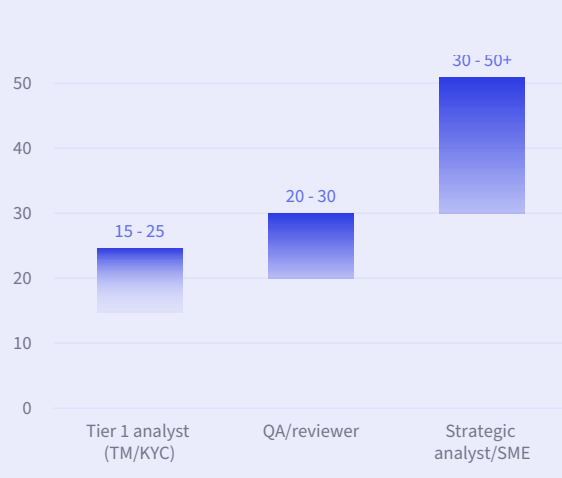


Annual training spend per analyst ⁵

CHALLENGES RESOURCE & TALENT MANAGEMENT PER REGION



CHALLENGES RESOURCE & TALENT MANAGEMENT PER ROLE TYPE



Data quality matters, but don't wait

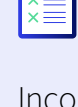
High-quality data unlocks the **full potential of AI**, driving better compliance outcomes. **Poor data** can **limit performance**, but it shouldn't stop you from starting as manual processes suffer from the same flaws.

With AI, even imperfect data can deliver smarter, faster decisions.

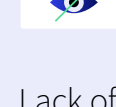
Key challenges



Fragmented sources



Inconsistent quality



Lack of unified views

Concerns from the field ⁵

45%

of EMEA FI's say **data quality** is the **main barrier** to adopting new AML tech.

20-30%

of **transaction monitoring alerts** are estimated to be **invalid or false positives** due to flawed data.

Why data quality matters

While **AI** can deliver value even with imperfect data, the **quality of your inputs** determines the scale of your gains. **Better data** doesn't just improve results, it **accelerates** them **exponentially**.

BETTER DATA DRIVES EXPONENTIAL GAINS WITH AI
Even with imperfect data, AI outperforms manual processes.

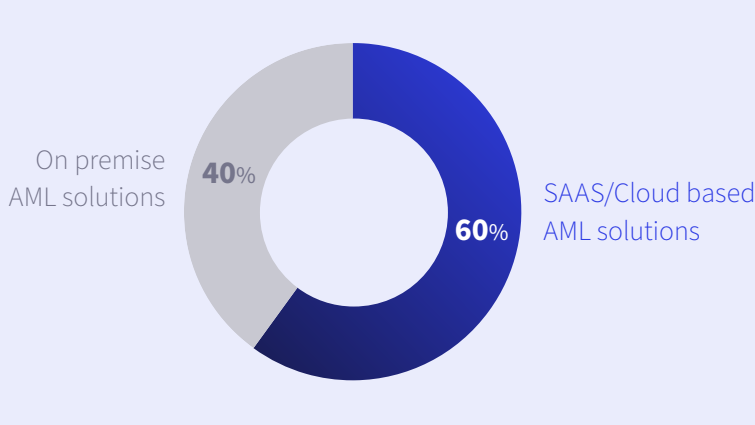


Indicative representation to illustrate the idea, not actual data.

Cloud adoption accelerates

Legacy rule-based tools create many false positives, increasing costs and workload. **Modern solutions** help cut false alarms and boost efficiency.

Cloud dominates AML tech globally ⁶



What's driving the shift:

- AI/ML integration
- Real-time analytics
- Elastic scalability
- Easier regulatory updates

Discover these and many more valuable AML insights in the whitepaper **Trusted AI in AML: a blueprint for success**.

discai.com/whitepaper



About Discai

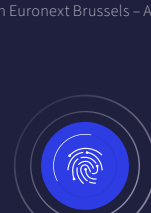
As a part of KBC Group, a leading European financial institution, Discai delivers trusted AI solutions to fight financial crime. Backed by KBC's deep expertise in banking, compliance and data science, Discai combines technological innovation with regulatory rigour.

Its flagship AML KYT solution, developed in-house and successfully implemented within KBC entities, enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of AML processes. Discai's unique blend of domain knowledge and technological excellence empowers financial institutions to tackle the evolving financial crime landscape with confidence, while staying aligned with complex regulatory requirements.

References

- ¹ Global Data estimates 2025, BOE, BIS, SNP, D&B all 2025, LNRS, Oxford Economics 2024, Chartis estimates.
- ² Chartis Research: Thomson Reuters (2025), Deloitte (2024), JRC (2025).
- ³ Chartis research: Data from LexisNexis Risk Solutions 2025, Oxford Economics 2024, D&B 2023, The Banker 2024.
- ⁴ Fenargo (2024), Global Fines infographic.
- ⁵ Chartis Research 2025: 1LoF Financial Crime Leadership network.
- ⁶ FATF (2021), LexisNexis Risk Solutions (2025)

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