Service delivery models are always evolving. World’s largest companies are transforming to leverage global, multifunctional, and hybrid working models with tightening economic conditions. These organizations are prioritizing areas across work, workforce, and workplace to be successful. Apart from expanding the traditional functional scope, they are accelerating digital capabilities like automation, analytics, and reporting to become more customer-centric. These GBS organizations are also promoting the social responsibility & diversity agenda and supporting a range of ESG processes.

GBS organizations are taking the drivers’ seat in delivering transformational capabilities to the organization and are becoming more closely aligned to the C-suite. Overall, what’s clear is that shared services centers (SSCs) and GBS models are becoming more agile, digital, and cost efficient, as they seek to provide a better customer and employee experience.
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Deloitte’s 2023 Global Shared Services Survey received ~500 responses across 6 industries and 12 sectors

**About the Survey**

Survey had responses from leaders in **40 countries**, with top SSC locations across ~**57 different countries**

Survey included leaders based not only in **parent organizations**, but also in their **SSC organizations**

**14%** of the respondents represented companies that had an **annual revenue of over $50B**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Consumer</strong></td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail &amp; Consumer Products, <strong>21%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automotive, Transportation, Logistics &amp; Services, <strong>10%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Energy, Resources &amp; Industrials</strong></td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry Products, <strong>19%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil, Gas and Power, <strong>6%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Technology, Media &amp; Telecom</strong></td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology, <strong>17%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telecom &amp; Media, <strong>4%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Life Sciences &amp; Health Care</strong></td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Sciences, <strong>6%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care, <strong>4%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Financial Services</strong></td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banking, <strong>3%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance, <strong>3%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Management &amp; Real Estate, <strong>3%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Government &amp; Public Services</strong></td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government, incl. higher education, <strong>4%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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KEY FINDINGS

Key themes for this year’s survey

**GBS continues to focus on cost reduction as a priority**

1. GBS organizations are focused on **cost reduction** as the #1 objective, as they look to combat changing global economic dynamics.
2. Organizations are refining their SSC footprint by moving more work to **cost-efficient locations**.
3. **Tight labor markets and cost pressures** are primary factors impacting the footprint strategies of GBS organizations.

**GBS continues to adopt key enablers to drive value**

1. **Automation, single instance ERP, and workflow tool** are being heavily adopted across GBS.
2. There is an increased interest in **global standard processes, centralized analytics and self-service** for the next 1-3 years.
3. GBS have **increasingly adopted E2E process ownership model** as they mature (> 3 years).

**GBS is playing a key role in ESG**

1. GBS is playing a **key role in ESG**, with ~50% of GBS organizations reporting ESG as a focus area.
2. **Promoting social responsibility & diversity** is the top ESG focus area for GBS. ~60% of these organizations are also supporting a broad range of ESG goals such as ESG reporting.

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**Objectives achieved**

1. Cost reduction
2. Standardization and efficiency of processes
3. Developing capabilities

---

**Capabilities implemented**

1. Automation
2. Single instance ERP
3. Workflow tool

---

**Role in implementing ESG**

- **67%** Promote social responsibility & diversity
- **59%** Support ESG processes

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Key themes for this year’s survey

GBS is getting more closely aligned to the C-suite

- Mature GBS organizations (>7 years) are reporting primarily into a GBS leader\(^1\)
- A third of newer GBS organizations (1-3 years) are reporting into a CXO
- CFOs are the most common leaders for GBS out of the C-Suite

GBS providing value as business partners

- GBS organizations are shifting from transaction-processing back-offices to business partners through a hyper-focus on customer and user experience, not just on efficiency
- Over 50% GBS organizations have deployed capabilities of automation, reporting & analytics, process excellence, E2E process ownership & business continuity planning

GBS is building agile and resilient talent models

- GBS is expanding work-from home, accelerating digital agenda and implementing flexible work hours to retain talent in challenging environments
- Well-being opportunities, upskilling, and market-based compensation are key retention strategies employed by GBS organizations

---

39%  Head of GBS
36%  Respective Functional Leader
25%  CXOs

Customer experience & user centric design

- 31%  Have implemented
- 37%  Planning to implement

52%  Moving to hybrid work models
44%  Flexible work hours

\(^1\)Head of GBS may be reporting directly into the C-suite
Geography & Organization
How has your GBS footprint changed over last 3 years? What are the preferred locations for SSCs?

**How has your GBS footprint changed in the last 3 years?**

- 34% Expanded current centers
- 22% Increased outsourcing
- 17% Opened new centers
- 14% Increased virtual environment
- 9% Moved services onshore
- 4% No change in GBS footprint in the last 3 years

**What are the most preferred SSC locations?**

1. **India**
2. **Poland**
3. **USA**
4. **Mexico**
5. **Malaysia**
6. **Costa Rica**
7. **China**
8. **Philippines**
9. **Spain**
10. **Portugal**

- **Top 3 Locations:** India, Poland, and Mexico
- **New Entrant:** Malaysia
- **Countries with Big Increases:** Bulgaria, Ireland, Mexico, Malaysia, and Poland

**Remote and hybrid work is here to stay - 17% of GBS organizations are continuing to invest in enabling virtual work environment, compared to 14% in 2021.**

- **60%** of organizations have increased the scope of their existing SSCs or the extent of outsourcing instead of changing GBS footprint.

- Fewer organizations (4%) are looking to back-shore their services now than in 2021 (20%).
How are organizations refining their SSC footprint?

Are you considering refining your SSC (Shared Services Center) footprint in the next three years?

- **76%** of respondents plan to refine their SSC footprint.
- **24%** do not plan to refine their SSC footprint.

**Yes, planning on refining footprint**

- **55%** plan to reorganize their existing portfolio.
- **51%** plan to pursue lower costs via new locations.
- **27%** plan to access talent via new locations.
- **20%** plan to pursue other reasons.

**Not planning on refining footprint**

~70% of organizations planning to reorganize their portfolio have already diversified delivery locations and are looking to modernize their capabilities.

Majority of the respondents stated moving to a new location to pursue lower costs (51%) and gain better access to talent pool (27%).
Strategy & Scope
What is the maturity, scope and reporting structure of your GBS organization?

**How many functions does your shared services organization perform?**

- 1-2 Functions: 6%
- 3-4 Functions: 34%
- 5-7 Functions: 34%
- 8-10 Functions: 1%
- >10 Functions: 1%

**Who do resources within your GBS organization report to?**

- Head of GBS: 1%
- Respective Functional Leaders: 6%
- CFO: 39%
- COO: 36%
- CIO: 1%

**How long ago did your organization begin leveraging shared services and/or outsourcing?**

- 1-3 years: 21%
- 4-6 years: 22%
- 7-10 years: 22%
- >10 years: 35%

- **40%** of organizations who had begun leveraging GBS over 7 years ago are primarily being led by a dedicated GBS Leader (increased from 21% in 2021)
- **Over one-third** of organizations which have begun their GBS journey in the last 1-3 years are employing a **CXO-led reporting model** in their SSCs
- Among C-Suite, **CFO** is becoming the most popular role to lead GBS organizations, with **over 80%** of CFO led GBS organizations having a multi-functional scope
- **62%** of SSCs with only **1-2 functions** in their scope are relying on on-shore shared service centers and/or outsourcing service providers
- As GBS organizations move towards a **multi-functional scope**, adoption of off-shore SSCs increases from **13% to 33%**
Preferred service delivery model by maturity of GBS organizations

- Adoption of off-shore/near-shore SSCs increases while on-shore SSCs witness a reduction as organizations mature in their GBS journey
- Center of Excellence models are leveraged early by organizations and consistently through their GBS journey
### Global Business Services (2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Technology</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procurement</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customer Service</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supply Chain/ Manufacturing</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Estate/ Facilities</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales &amp; Marketing</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering/R&amp;D*</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Option not available in 2021 Survey

**The traditional big three GBS functions**—Finance, HR, and IT—are still the most predominant across all industries.

**Deployment of interaction-heavy functions** such as Engineering and R&D continues to receive attention, indicating that GBS is transitioning from “labor arbitrage back-office center” to a “strategic partner and central business organization”.

**Functions requiring increased presence near client/corporate such as procurement, supply chain and tax are also receiving higher traction in GBS.**
Among key functions, what are the top processes performed via SSCs?

### Finance
- Accounts Payable: 95%
- Accounts Receivable: 88%
- Fixed Asset Accounting: 81%

### Human Resources
- Payroll: 79%
- HR Analytics & Reporting: 57%
- Recruiting & Staffing Administration: 57%

### Information Technology
- IT Service Desk: 70%
- App Maintenance & Support: 56%
- Security and Controls: 47%

### Procurement
- PO Creation & Change Processing: 80%
- Supplier Master Data Management: 63%
- Approval Processing: 63%

- Organizations that leverage SSCs also outsource work to deliver parts of the process
- Accounts payable, accounts receivable, and fixed asset accounting remain top Finance processes carried out within SSCs, in line with the trends seen previously
- 67% of organizations are providing decision support (FP&A) via SSCs, indicating an uptick since 2017 which is also being seen in majority of the finance processes
- Delivery of payroll, and recruiting & staffing administration through SSCs has increased compared to 2017
- IT service desk continues to remain the top IT process performed via SSC
- Supplier master data management is seeing increased traction for delivery via SSCs
Which of the objectives have you achieved from your GBS organization?

Objectives identified in 2021 | Objectives achieved by 2023

- Cost reduction is the top objective achieved from GBS organizations, and companies continue to focus on it.
- Standardization & efficiency of processes, developing capabilities follow closely and have remained immediate & tangible objectives for a GBS organization.
- Organizations are using GBS as a tool to reduce operational risk by implementing BCP plans and diversifying their service delivery models.
- In the fight for talent, GBS is providing a strong capability in accessing large and diverse talent pools.
Enabling Technology & ESG
What are the key enablers employed by GBS organizations?

### Key Enablers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2021 Ranking</th>
<th>2023 Ranking</th>
<th>Focus Areas in next 1-3 Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Automation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single instance ERP</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Management /Workflow tool</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centralized analytics reporting (insights) &amp; Performance Dashboards</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global standard processes</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self service (quick search, transactions, report access etc.)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cloud</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instilling a culture of innovation in the workforce</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data lake</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agile</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Improvement in rank**
- **Reduction in rank**
- **No change in rank**

- Over the years, **automation** has remained the most desirable digital enabler for GBS organizations & is expected to be a key focus area in next 1-3 years
- **Centralized analytics reporting & performance dashboards** has jumped sharply from ninth position in 2021 to fourth position in 2023; 29% of respondents whose focus area is automation already have centralized analytics reporting & performance dashboards as an enabler
- Companies are evolving in their digital journey through **persona-based performance dashboards** linked to leadership goals and objectives
- **Global standard processes and self-service capabilities** are seeing increased traction as top focus areas for companies in the next 1-3 years, in line with trends seen in the last few years
- While **cloud capability has become table stakes for many organizations**, GBS are increasingly leveraging cloud as an enabler for their tools and capabilities such as, but not limited to, automation, ERP, workflow tool and analytics
What are the savings and challenges of automation implementation?

**What level (%) of savings have been achieved through automation?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Savings Level</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt;40% savings</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-40% savings</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-20% savings</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;10% savings</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Who owns the Automation capability within your organization?

- IT: 38%
- Finance: 30%
- Fragmented across business units/functions: 18%
- Shared services or COE: 8%
- Operations: 3%
- Others: 3%

What are the key challenges you’ve faced while implementing automation and you wish you had known before?

- Process and technical complexity: 51% (2023), 43% (2021)
- Siloed automations: 43% (2023), 41% (2021)
- Lack of talent: 40% (2023), 23% (2021)
- Defining ownership and accountability: 33% (2023), 30% (2021)
- Scattergun (unorganized) approach to automation: 33% (2023), 28% (2021)

- For respondents who achieved <10% savings from automation, their biggest challenges were siloed automations followed by process and technical complexity.
- 41% of respondents who have achieved >20% savings through automation have also employed single instance ERP.
- Most respondents (68%) stated that automation capabilities are owned either by IT or SSCs; 18% state that automation ownership is fragmented across business units.
- Talent shortage is seen as an implementation barrier by 40% of GBS organizations, increased from 23% in 2021.
Has Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) been a focus area for your GBS organization?

- GBS is playing a critical role in driving ESG outcomes by supporting a variety of ESG processes and contributing to Net Zero aspirations
- ESG adoption is broadly industry-agnostic, with majority of the industry areas reporting 45-55% focus on ESG
What are the capabilities implemented or planned to be implemented in GBS organizations?

- Intelligent Automation, Reporting & Analytics, Process Excellence, End-to-End Process Ownership, Change Management, and Business Continuity Planning are now part of at least 50% of GBS organizations.

- Process Excellence & Continuous Improvement climbed to the top spot of focus areas for GBS organizations in 2023, partly attributed to organizations’ focus on developing RPA, automation and reporting capabilities since 2021.
What are the critical success factors in achieving End-to-End processes?

- **53%** of organizations have already implemented End-to-End processes, and **32% are planning to implement** in the next 3 years.
- **85%** of organizations have **clear definition of roles & accountability** as their top-most critical success factor.
- **Top-down mandate and empowering GPOs** to take ownership of E2E value chain are key success factors for **over 50%** of organizations.
How are you driving better customer experience?

Which of the following is the most challenging for your end users/customers when interacting with your GBS center?

- Lack of self-service capabilities: 27%
- Unable to resolve issues: 19%
- Long response times: 14%
- Lack of transparency on KPIs or customer dashboards: 13%
- Ineffective automation: 13%
- Long queue wait times for support: 8%
- Limited access channels: 7%
- None of the above: 7%

What steps is your organization currently taking to drive a better customer experience?

- Voice of the customer surveys: 63%
- Aligning service levels to goals: 51%
- Increased visibility/standards from service center to Business: 48%
- Joint management meetings: 45%
- Visits from leadership to address performance issues: 40%
- Additional investment in infrastructure/tools: 36%
- Increased access to channels: 23%
- Implement multi-pronged service management tools: 18%

- ~70% of GBS organizations have either implemented or are planning to implement customer experience and user-centric design as a capability.
- Organizations are proactively taking steps to drive a better customer experience through customer surveys, alignment of service levels to goals, and increased standards from SSC to business.
- GBS are facing high demand on self-service capability and are driving more visibility & transparency to improve customer experience.
TALENT STRATEGY

How do you manage talent within GBS?

What are the key initiatives that you are undertaking to attract and retain talent?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upskilling opportunities*</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-being opportunities</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market-adjusted compensation*</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative career paths/internal rotations</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of a strong culture</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rewards &amp; recognition</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusive and equitable working environment*</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital tool &amp; assets*</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment branding and market reputation*</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial support for continuing education</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What are key challenges you are facing with talent?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Career progression and opportunities</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High turnover</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased labor cost</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longer time to recruit/on board</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skillset gap</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hybrid/Remote working model</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GBS brand within the organization</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty to build a sense of community and connection</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* New addition after 2021 survey

Post-COVID trends in GBS suggest that organizations are reprioritizing their talent strategy to focus on well-being opportunities, upskilling talent, and market-based compensation over development of strong culture, which was the top choice for several years.

Building employment branding and education support have moved down in preference as compared to prior surveys.

Organizations facing career progression challenge are actively focusing on well being opportunities (46%) and job rotations (46%), whereas those having high turnover are using market adjusted compensation (58%) to attract and retain talent.

Organizations are leveraging well being opportunities (66%) and upskilling talent (63%) to retain talent.
How have organizations added agility and resilience to their business models?

**TALENT STRATEGY**

**What are the key factors that are impacting your GBS footprint strategy?**

- Talent availability: 64%
- Inflation & cost pressures: 60%
- Geo-Political situations: 24%
- GBS market saturation: 22%
- Govt. regulation: 13%

**How have organizations added agility and resilience to their business models?**

- Expanded work from home capabilities: 66%
- Digital agenda acceleration: 46%
- Flexible work hours: 44%
- Adjusted Business Continuity Plan: 34%
- Increased shared services/outsourcing: 31%
- Additional virtual practices: 30%
- Location agnostic recruiting: 26%
- Location diversification: 20%

- GBS organizations are **more resilient** to geo-political factors and government regulations, while **talent, inflation and cost pressures** are the biggest drivers of footprint strategy.
- GBS organizations are increasingly adopting multiple strategies to ensure preparedness of their talent in a hybrid model (including work from home, digital agenda acceleration, flexible work hours etc.)