

16th ANNUAL

# CSLS



CANADIAN SPONSORSHIP LANDSCAPE STUDY

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IMI

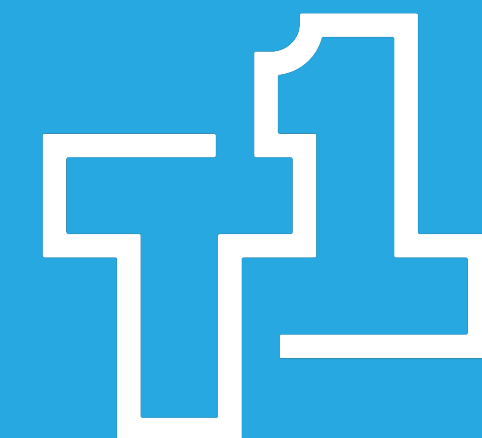
# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## CSLS PARTNERS

**IMI International's** unique brand of research and consulting focuses on ensuring clients maximize the financial outcome of their marketing expenditure.

**The Sponsorship Marketing Council of Canada** aims to help brand marketers, agency partners and sponsorship sales teams to drive advancement in the field of sponsorship marketing.

Born and raised in Toronto, **T1** takes a thinking first approach to everything we do. It's how we deliver bold ideas that build brands, empower people, deliver results, and help shape the future.

The logo for IMI International, consisting of the letters 'IMI' in a white, serif font.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS RESPONDENTS & “SHARERS”



A big thank you to all who completed and/or shared the study.

**PLUS**



We count on many organizations and individuals to help us to collect the data to help make our results stronger.



# Report Contents

## 16TH ANNUAL CSLS

**RESULTS (2021)**

**ANALYSIS (2006-2021)**

**INDUSTRY (TRENDS, SIZE & FUTURE)**

## SPECIAL TOPICS

### QUALITATIVE DEEP DIVE

- The Future of Sponsorship
- Sponsor Satisfaction & Modality
- Music as a Sponsorship Property
- The Pain Points of Sponsorship

2007



Toronto International Film Festival, Toronto

2008



World Hockey Championships, Halifax

2009



Quebec Winter Carnival, Quebec

2010



Paralympics, Vancouver

2011



Formula 1, Montreal

2012



Just for Laughs, Montreal

2013



MasterCard Memorial Cup, Saskatoon

2014



RBC Bluesfest, Ottawa

2015



FIFA Women's World Cup, Edmonton

2016



NBA All-Star, Toronto

2017



JUNOS, Ottawa

2018



T1 Speaker Series, Toronto

2019



SickKids Foundation, Toronto

2020



SponsorshipX Virtual Series

2021



SponsorshipX Clubhouse

2022



Montreal

And...



# CSLS LANDMARKS & BREAKTHROUGHS

**2007**

Activation Ratio: 0.43

First ever validation that activation in Canadian sponsorship was significantly behind other major countries of the world.

**2008–2010**

Recession Proof

As the 'Great Recession' hit many countries, including Canada, CSLS results showed sponsorship kept growing.

**2013**

Festivalization

CSLS authors coined the term "festivalization" as the festival category took similar proportion of sponsorship investment in Canada from 2011 to 2013.

**2014 & 2018**

Pro Sport Renaissances

The proportion of sponsorship spend dedicated to pro sport spikes in 2014 and again in 2018.

**2018**

\$3 Billion

Total sponsor spend (rights fees plus activation) exceeds \$3 billion for the first time. More than double the first year of CSLS.

**2021**

Not Pandemic Proof

Although sponsorship may have been resilient during the economic recession, it was impacted heavily during the pandemic.

# RESULTS

## 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

# The Story of 2021

Sponsorship was again suppressed in 2021, but, unlike in 2020, it is flush with positivity, change, and growth expected for 2022.



**1. The Study**  
Background

**3. Industry Data**  
Size & Scope

**5. Results #2**  
The Deal

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**9. Results #6**  
Property Reinvestment

**2. The Sample**  
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**4. Results #1**  
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**6. Results #3**  
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**8. Results #5**  
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**10. Summary**  
Deep Dives &  
Conclusion

# THE STUDY

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01

Background

# THE SAMPLE

---

RESULTS

02

Respondents

# INDUSTRY DATA

---

03

Size & Scope

# THE STUDY CSLS 101



## Origin

Need  
Share  
Bilingual  
Canadian



## Perspective

Spend  
Revenue  
Billing



## Process

Phone  
Online  
Attribution



## Analysis

Themes  
Comparative  
Modelling



## Design

Longitudinal  
Triangulation  
Deep Dives  
Trends

# THE STUDY

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01

Background

# THE SAMPLE

---

02

Respondents

# INDUSTRY DATA

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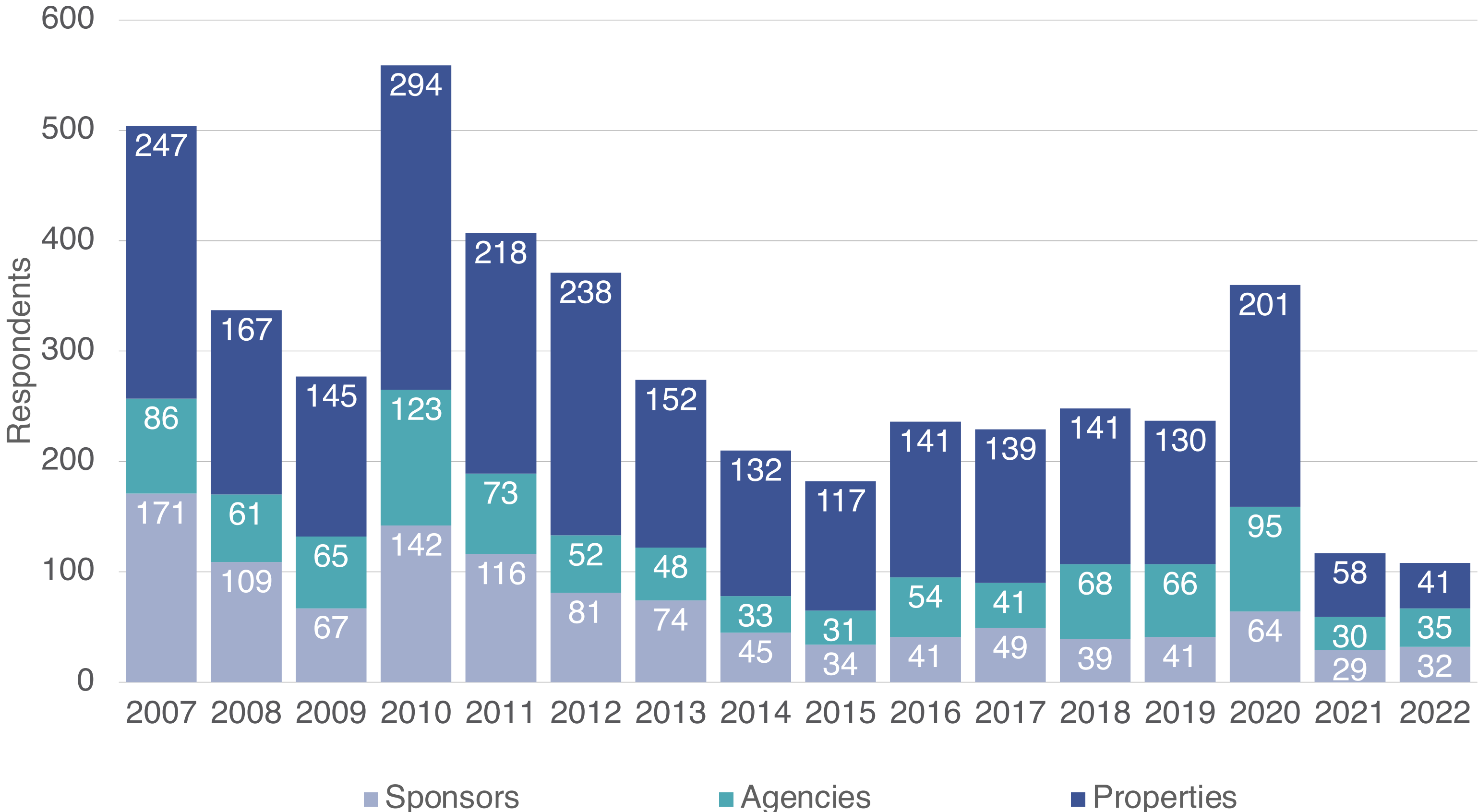
03

Size & Scope

RESULTS

# THE SAMPLE RESPONDENTS

Historical CSLS Respondents by Type (n=108 this year)



## DATA

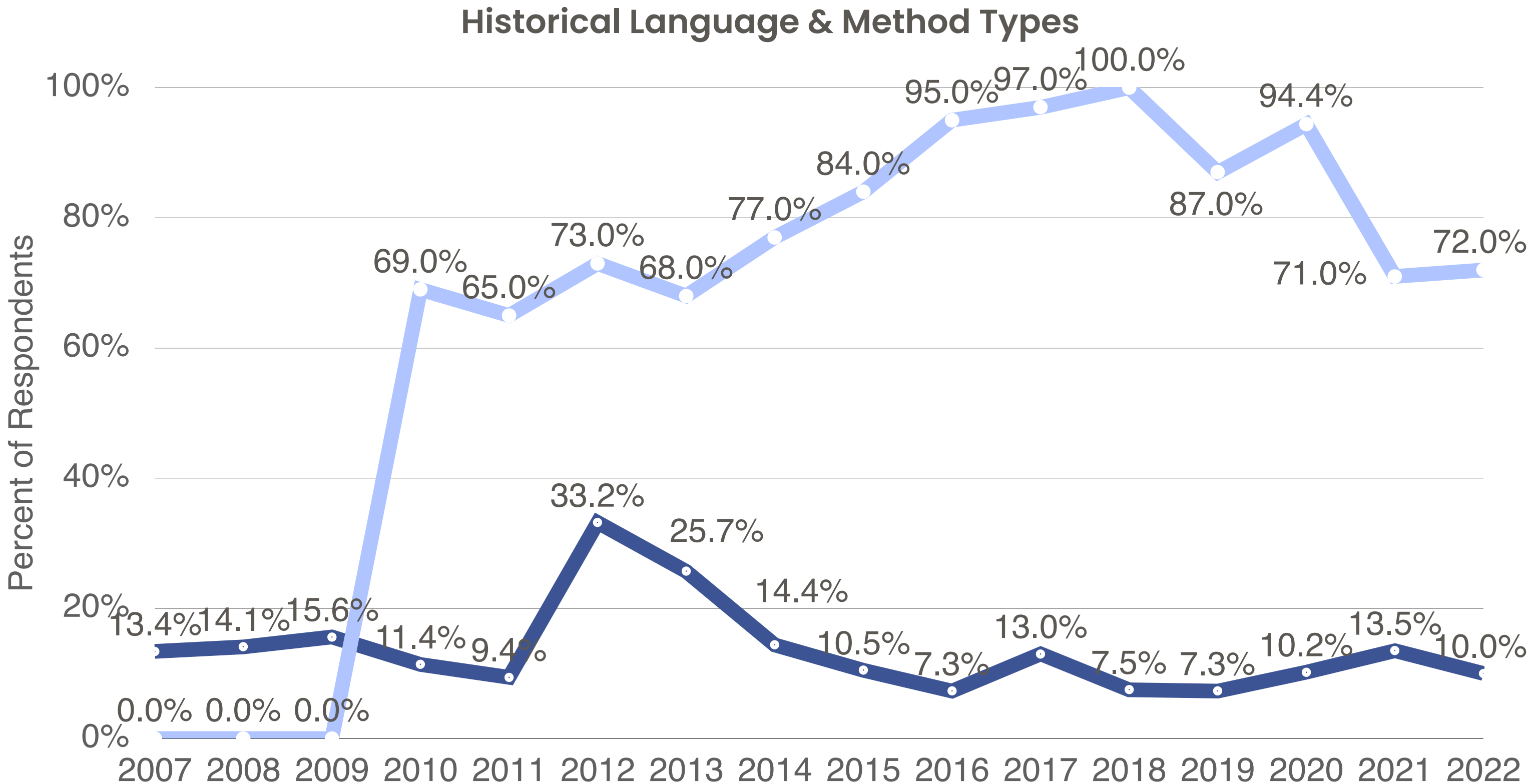


**4,660**  
Total Respondents

## NOTES

- After going online in 2010, the number of respondents continually declined until a survey redesign in 2016 led to a recent high in 2020.
- COVID-19 years of 2021 and 2022 are the lowest responses to date.

# THE SAMPLE SURVEY PARTICULARS



## DATA



**16 YEARS**

Language & Method of Response

## NOTES

- French rates rose around conference in Montreal; lower since.
- Online at 100% for first time in 2018, but some offline in 2019, 2020 & 2021.

# THE SAMPLE

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02

Respondents

# INDUSTRY DATA

---

RESULTS

03

Size & Scope

# RESULTS #1

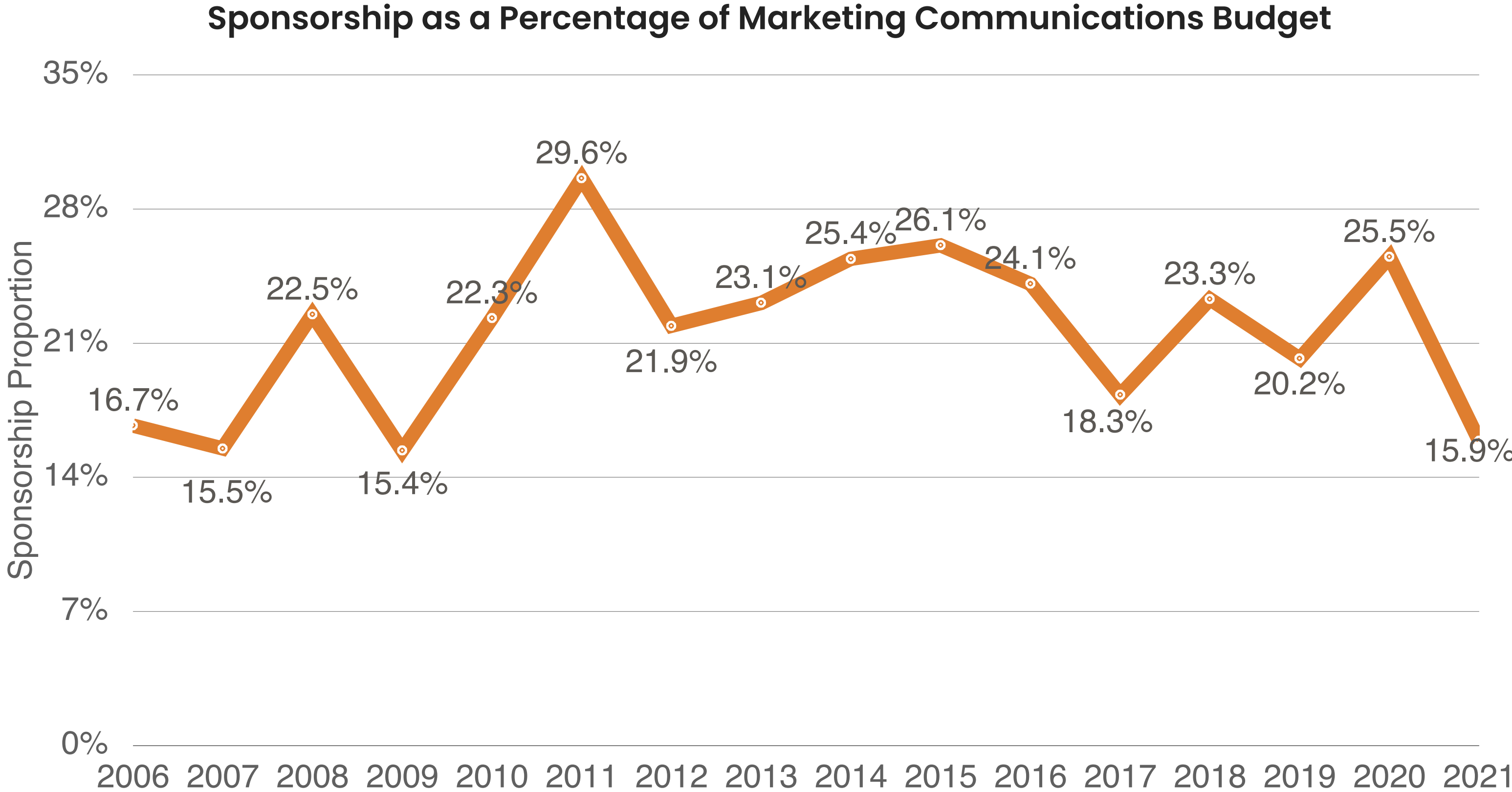
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04

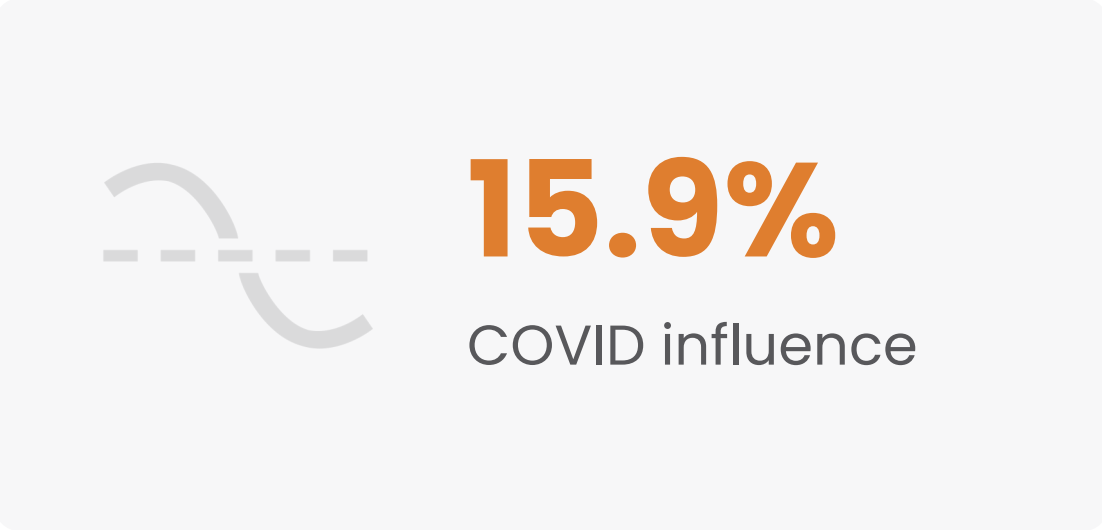
Strategy

# INDUSTRY DATA

## PROPORTION OF MARCOM BUDGET



### DATA



### NOTES

Among those Canadian brands that use sponsorship, about 1 in 6 MarCom \$'s are spent on sponsorship.

The 2020 data point is 'inflated' as marketing communications spending declined across the board.

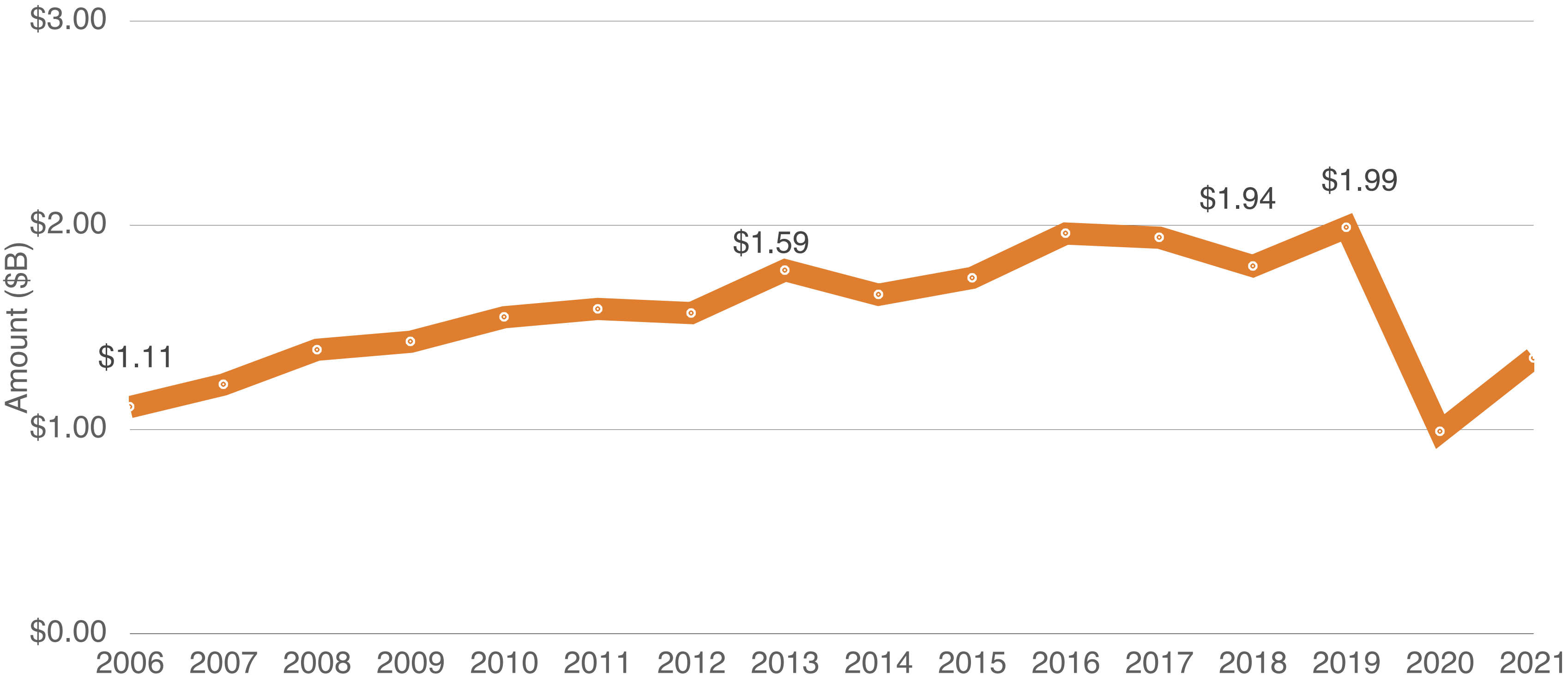
In 2021, marketing spend returned but sponsorship lagged in first half of the year, leading to lower reported percentage.



# INDUSTRY DATA

## BIG PICTURE: CANADIAN INDUSTRY SPEND

Historical Canadian Sponsorship Industry Size: Rights Fees



**DATA**



**\$1.35B**  
2021 Rights Fee Spend

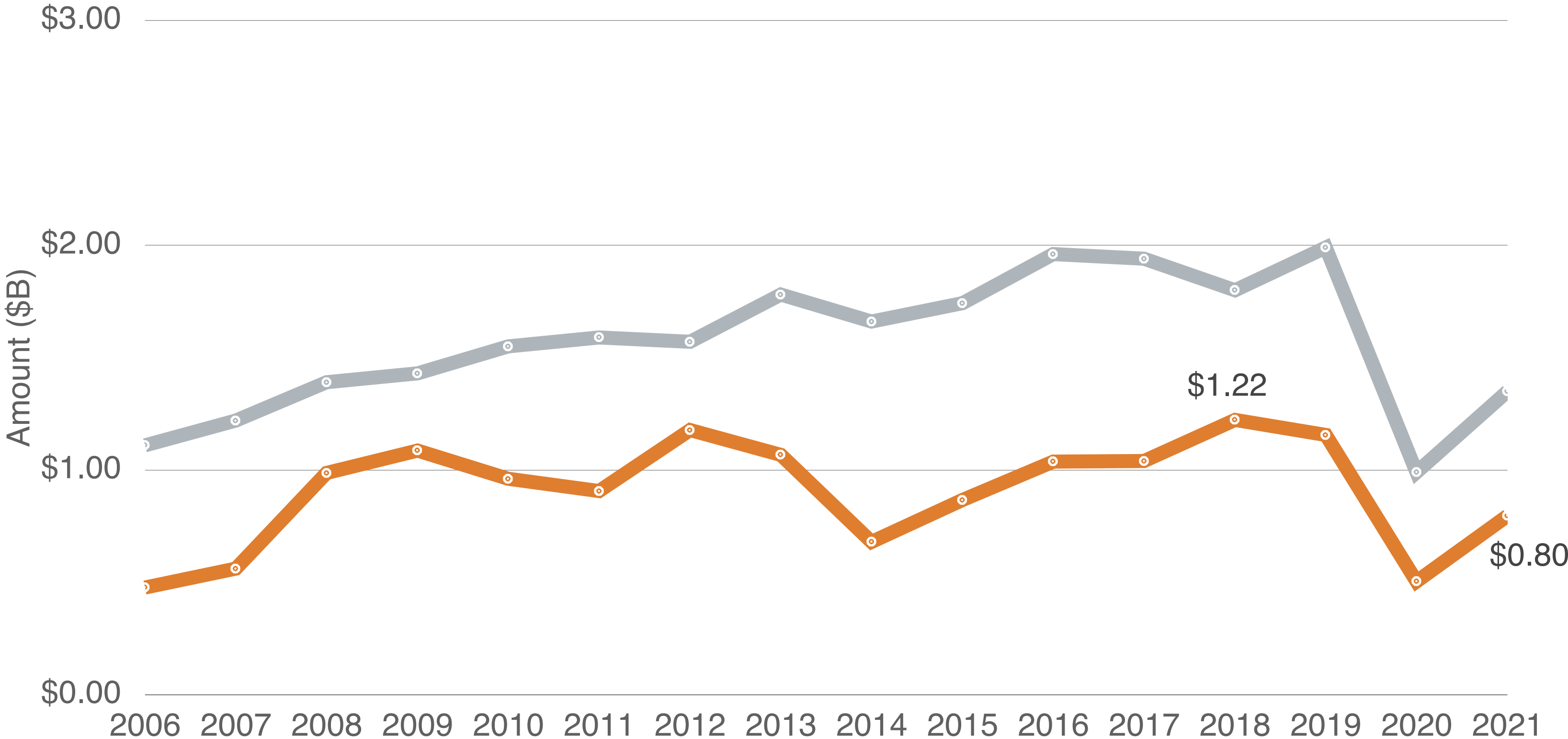
**NOTES**

A strong (136% of 2020) recovery following the worst recorded year in CSLS history.

# INDUSTRY DATA

## CANADIAN INDUSTRY SIZE

Historical Canadian Sponsorship Industry Size: Activation



### DATA



**0.59**

Activation to Rights Fee Ratio in 2021

### KEY OBSERVATIONS

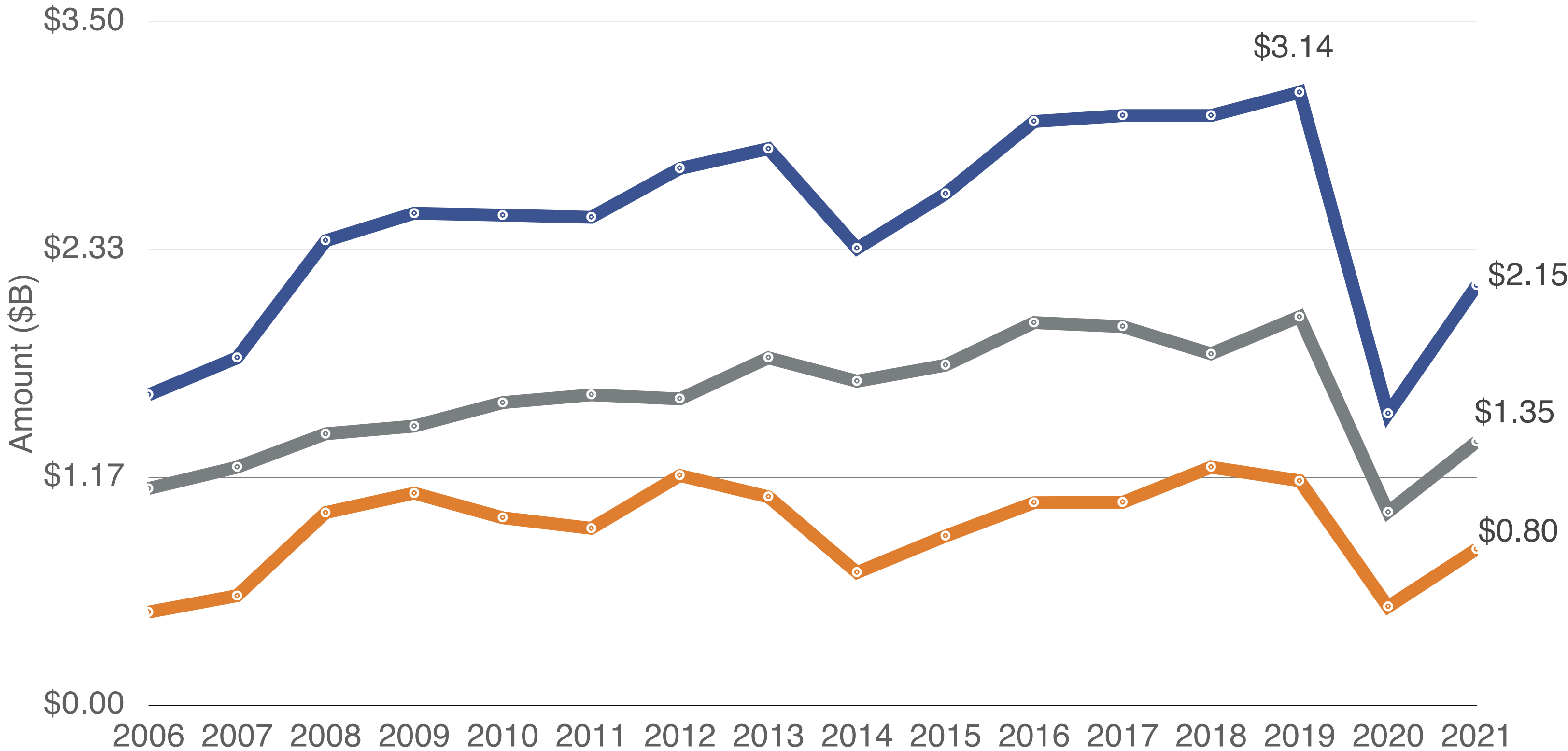
Good recovery in activation ratio was observed in 2021.

Approximately \$800M estimated total spend on activation.

# INDUSTRY DATA

## BIG PICTURE: CANADIAN INDUSTRY SPEND

Historical Canadian Sponsorship Industry Size: Total



**DATA**

**\$2.15B**  
in Total 2021 Industry Spend

**NOTES**

More than a 25% recovery from 2020.

Still down approximately 30% from the peak in 2019 of \$3.14B.

# INDUSTRY DATA

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03

Size & Scope

# RESULTS #1

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RESULTS

04

Strategy

# RESULTS #2

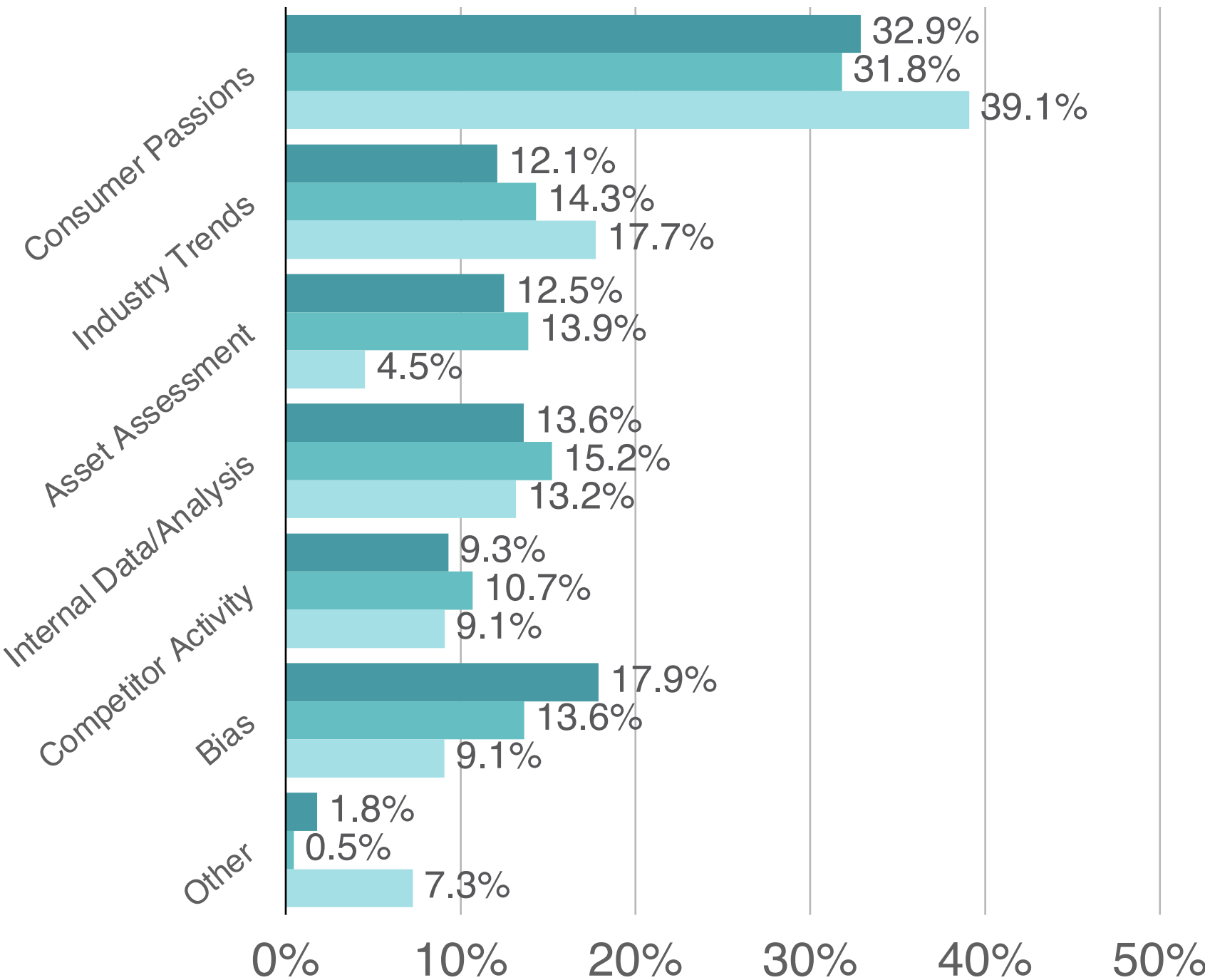
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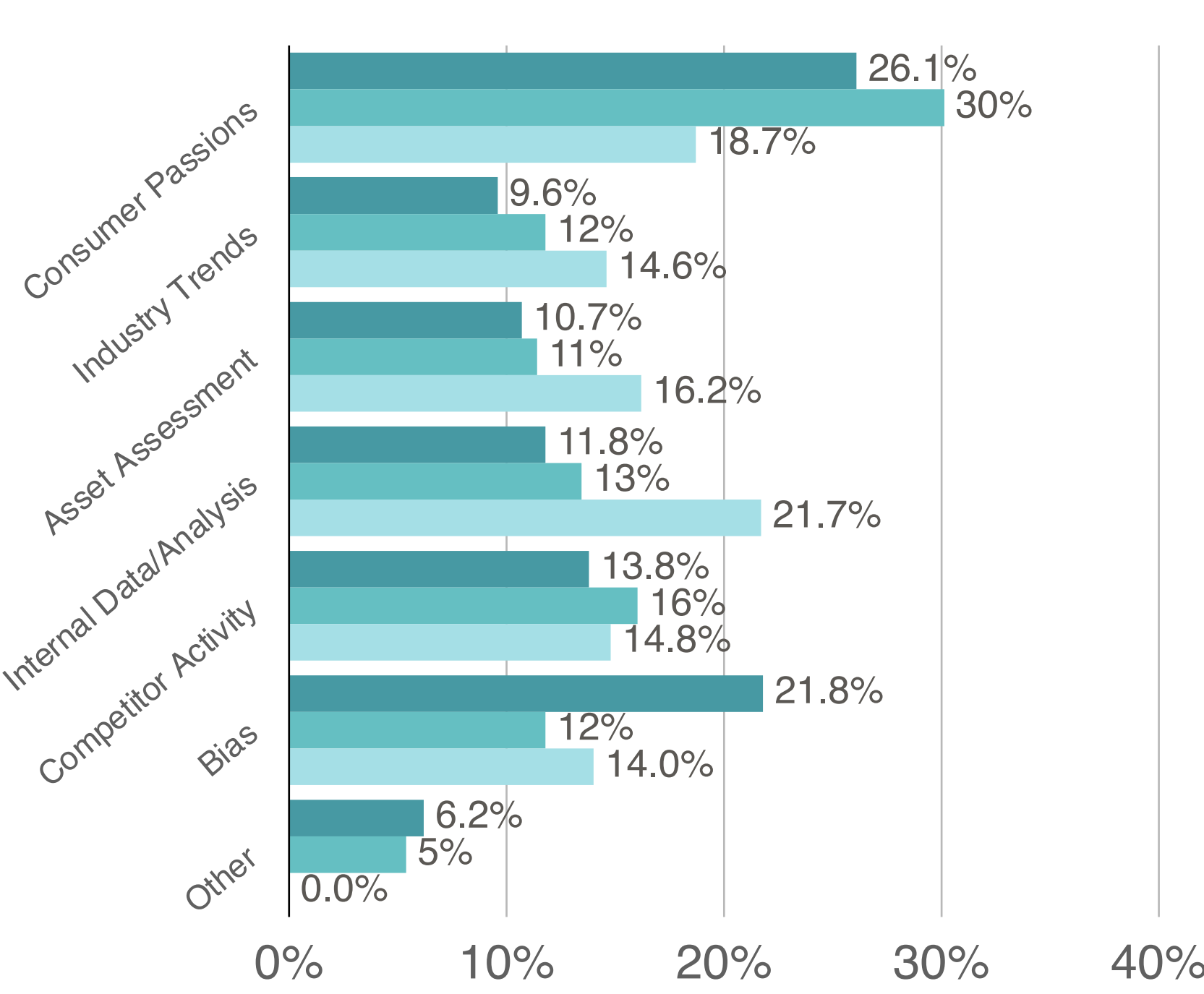
The deal

# RESULTS #1: STRATEGY SPONSOR DECISION MAKING (2016, 2019, 2021)

Criteria in Decision-Making:  
Sponsors



Criteria in Decision-Making:  
Agencies on Sponsors Behalf



■ 2016 ■ 2019 ■ 2021

**DATA**

**MAJORITY**  
of decisions are about the "right factors"

**NOTES ON 2021**

Evidence of a disconnect between sponsors and agencies that was not there in 2016 and 2019.



# RESULTS #1: STRATEGY

## CATEGORY OF BRAND'S LARGEST SINGLE SPONSOR



**45%**  
Pro Sport



**18%**  
Amateur Sport



**9%**  
Arts



**9%**  
Entertainment,  
Tours & Attractions



**18%**  
Festivals

**Average Size of Largest Annual Deal:** \$908,000  
**Range:** \$125k to \$10M

### KEY DATA POINT



**45%** of brands told us that their largest sponsor was in pro sport.

### NOTES

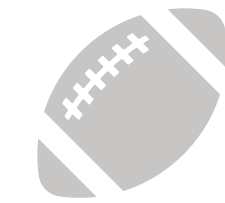
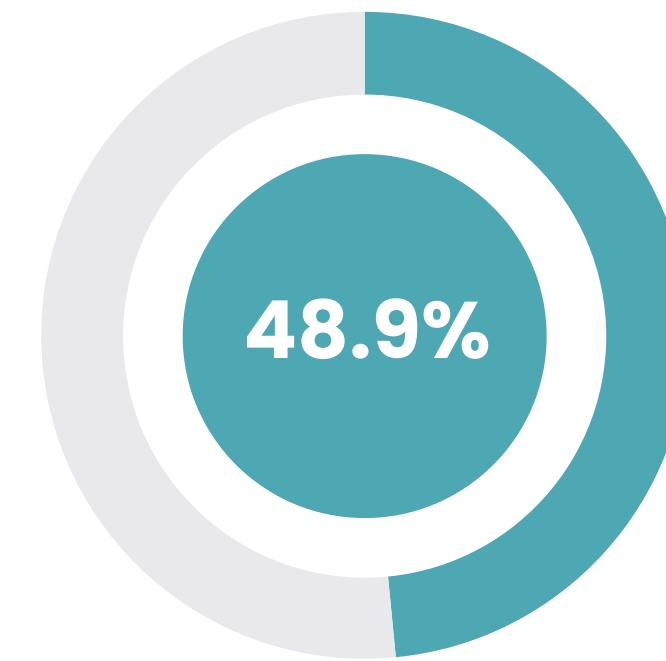
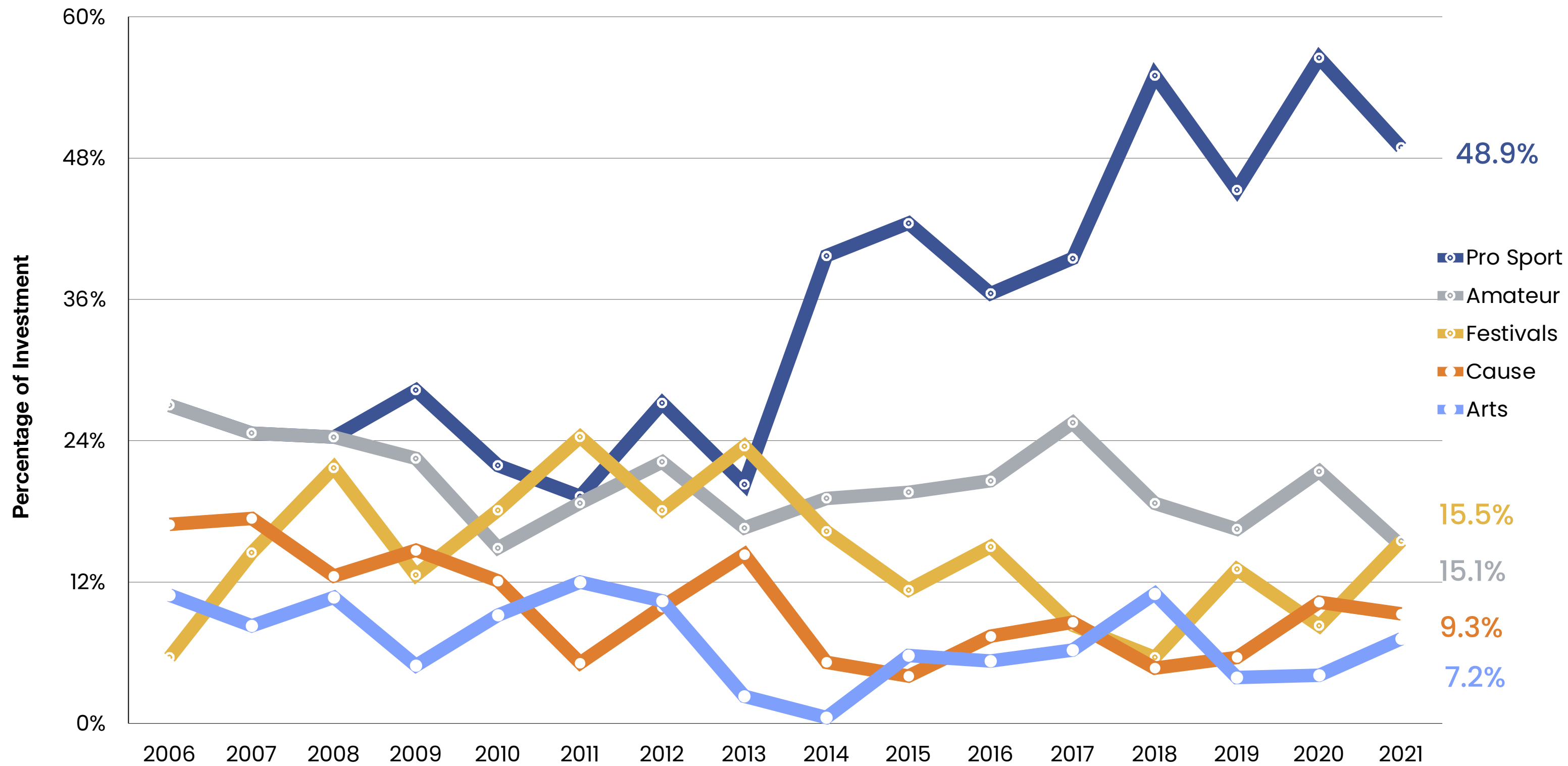
Professional sports also included "naming rights".

Bounce back for arts and festivals over 2020.

# RESULTS #1: STRATEGY

## MIX OF BRAND SPEND ON RIGHTS FEES BY PROPERTY

Historical Sponsorship Investment by Property Type



**DATA**  
Investment in Pro Sport

### NOTES

- Others of interest
  - Education - 2.7%
  - Entertainment, Tours & Attractions <1%
  - Media <1%
  - Municipality <1%

# RESULTS #1: STRATEGY

## SPONSOR INVESTMENT: PROPERTY REACH BY SPEND

### 2021 DATA | 2020 DATA

“Return to a more Balanced portfolio in 2021 after a provincial focus in 2020”



**10.9%** | **4.6%**  
International



**25.1%** | **19.3%**  
National



**12.8%** | **5.6%**  
Multi-Provincial



**20.7%** | **33.0%**  
Provincial



**20.3%** | **18.1%**  
Regional



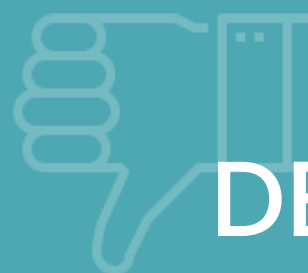
**10.2%** | **19.4%**  
Local

**NOTES**

- 1. Gender targets: Men (16.1%), Women (16.1%), No Specific Gender (67.7%)
- 2. Type of Property: For-Profit (55.9%), Not-For-Profit (44.1%)



# RESULTS #1: STRATEGY ALIGNED VIEWS ON THE FUTURE



## DECREASE

**6.3%**

Sponsor

**4.7%**

Property

**0%**

Agency



## STAY THE SAME

**43.8%**

Sponsor

**42.9%**

Property

**41.7%**

Agency



## INCREASE

**50%**

Sponsor

**52.4%**

Property

**58.3%**

Agency

### PROPERTY DATA VERSUS 2019 RESULTS

More optimistic for 2022 versus 2019 (pre-COVID year) when 38% expected an increase and 43% expected a decrease.

Estimated increase in spend, revenue, billings:

- Sponsors +9% (spend)
- Properties +11% (revenues)
- Agencies +10% (billings)

# RESULTS #2

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05

The deal

# RESULTS #3

---

06

Activation

# RESULTS #4

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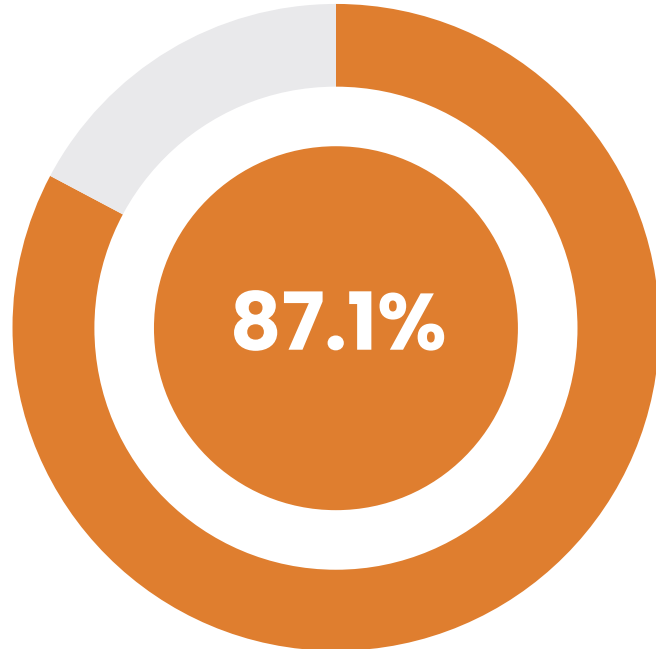
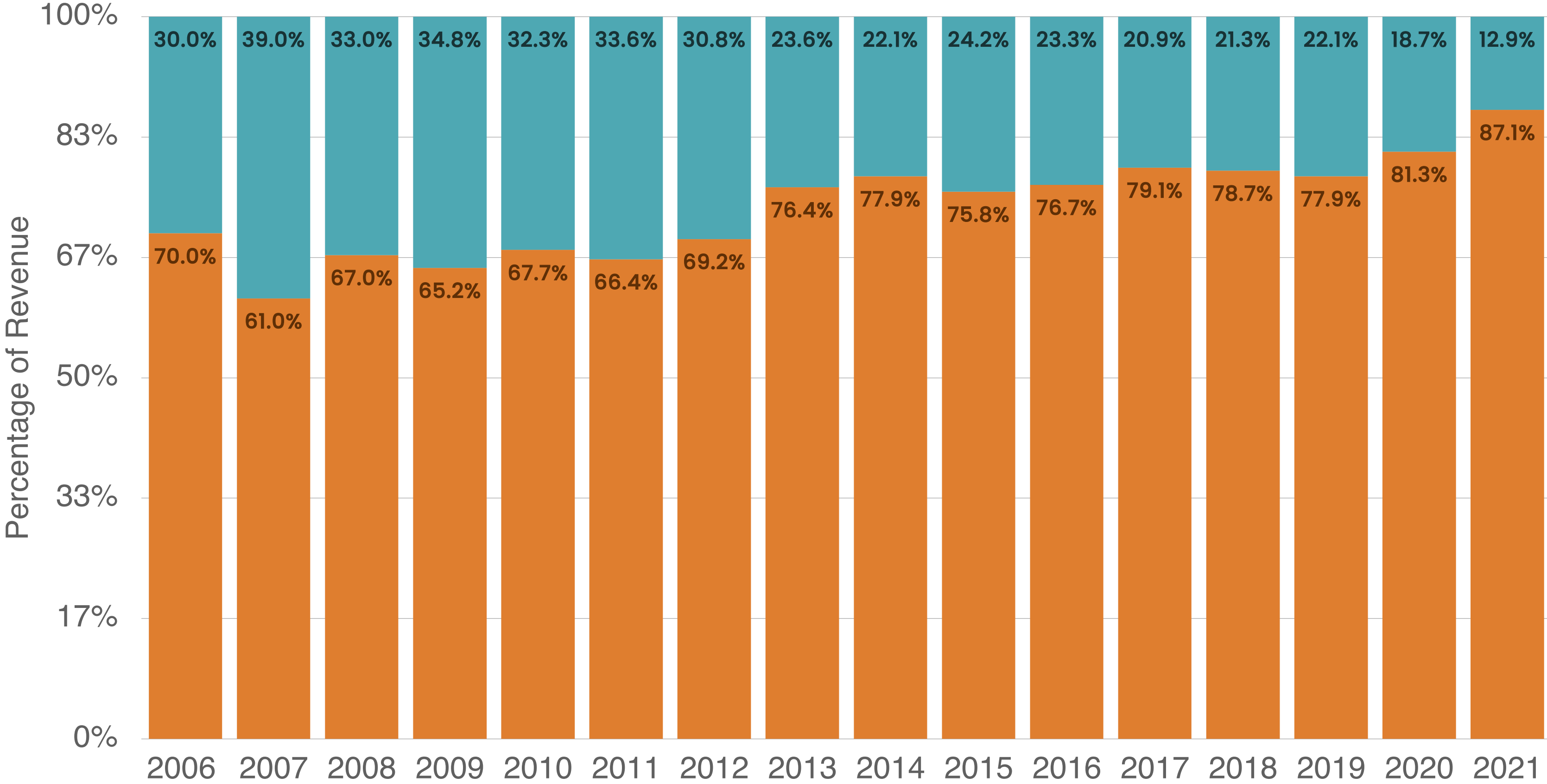
07

Servicing

RESULTS

# RESULTS #2: THE DEAL CASH OR VIK

Historical Cash vs. VIK Mix for Properties



**DATA**  
Ratio for cash over VIK

**NOTES**

COVID led to a drop in VIK relative to cash to the lowest recorded ratio in 16 years of CSLS.

# RESULTS #2: THE DEAL VALUABLE BENEFITS

Most Valuable Benefits Identified by Sponsors

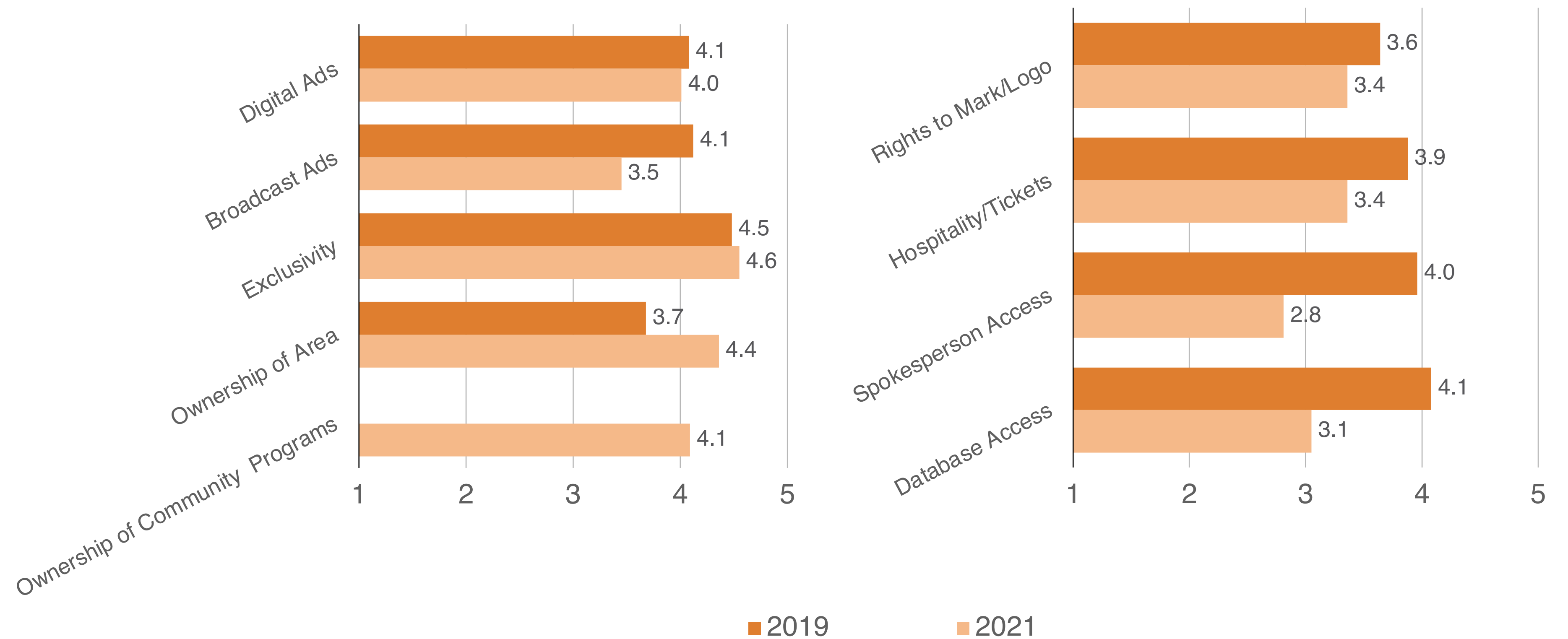
## DATA

Compared to 2019 (pre-COVID)

- Exclusivity remained #1, but some major changes in other areas observed.
- Ownership of proprietary area/community program up, all others down.

## NOTE

Ownership of community programs new this year.



# RESULTS #2

05

Strategy

# RESULTS #3

06

Activation

# RESULTS #4

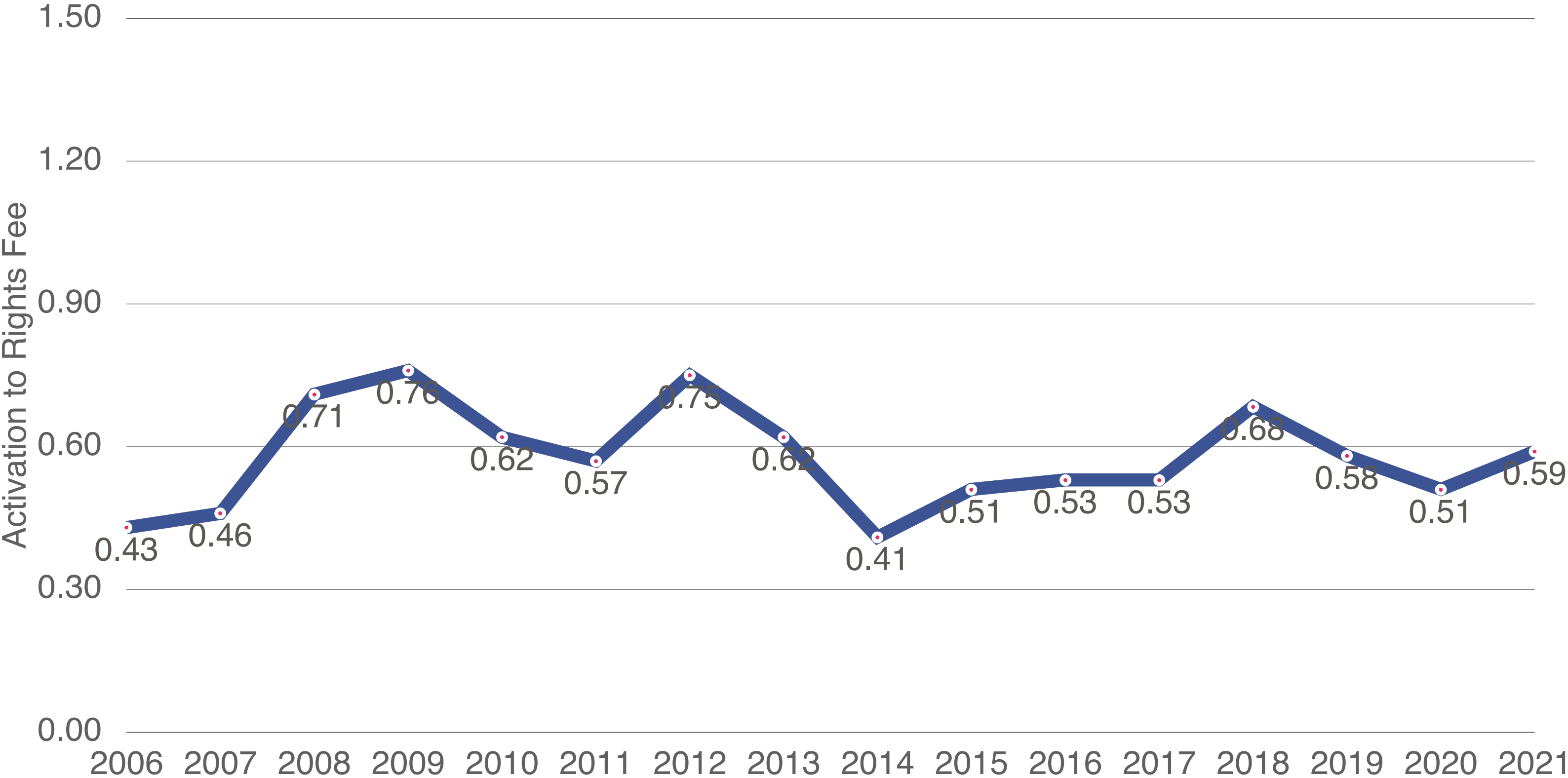
07

Servicing

RESULTS

# RESULTS #3: ACTIVATION RATIO

Historical Activation Ratio: Canada



## DATA



**0.59**  
Activation to Rights Fee in Canada

Range by respondent: 0.02 to 5.81



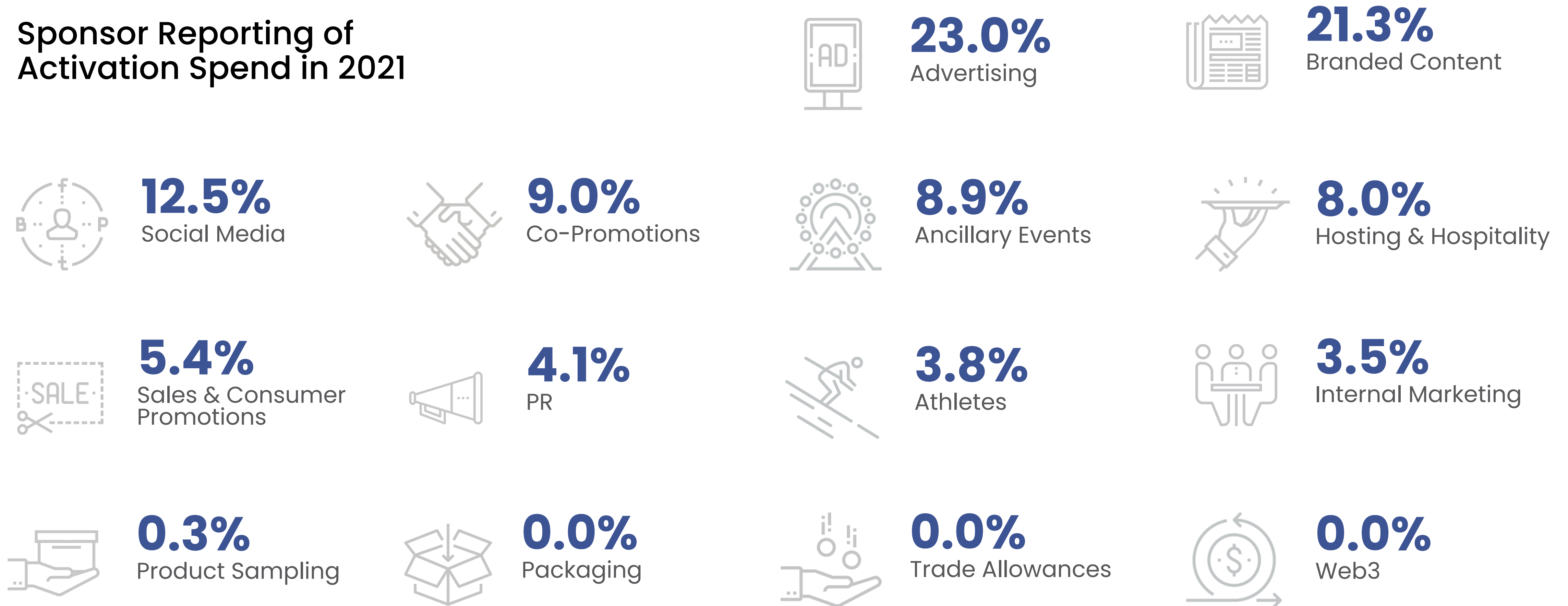
IEG measured US activation rates until 2020, typically more than a 2:1 ratio.

# RESULTS #3: ACTIVATION MIX OF INVESTMENT

## NOTE

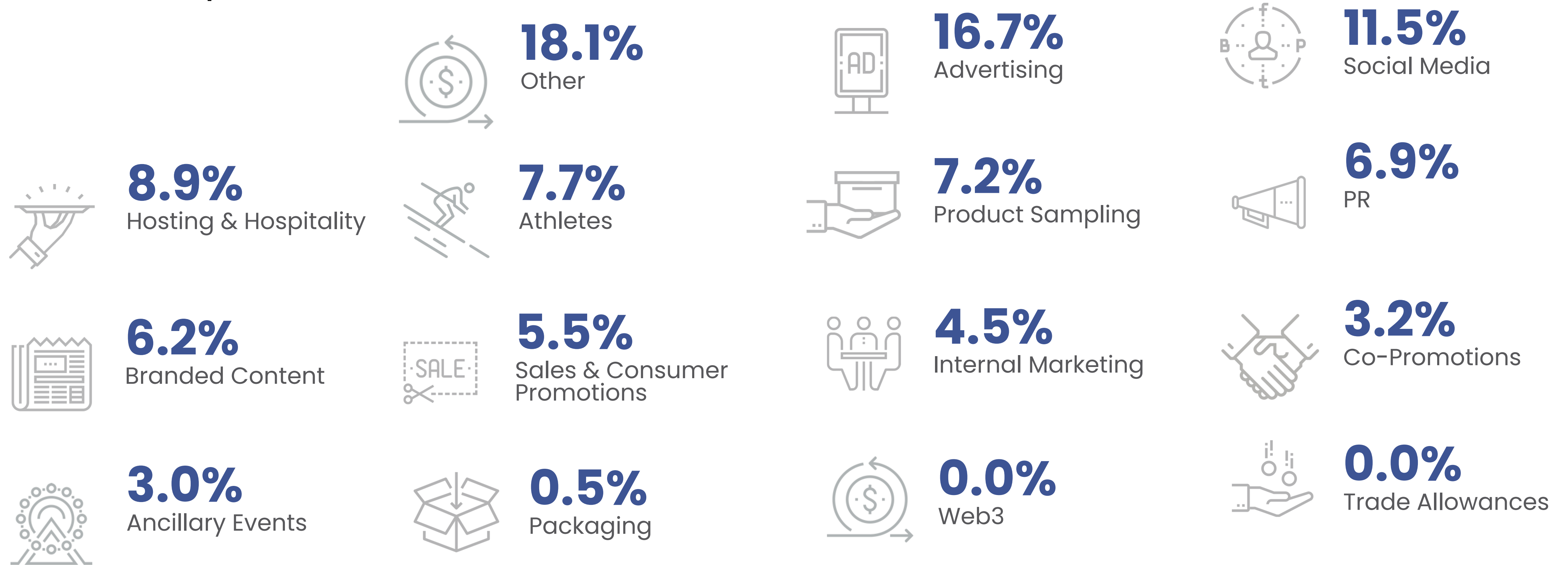
This slide reports on data provide by brands on how their rights fees are divided across activation tactics.

## Sponsor Reporting of Activation Spend in 2021



# RESULTS #3: ACTIVATION MIX OF INVESTMENT

## Agency List of Sponsor Client Activation Spend in 2021



### OBSERVATION

Drastic difference from sponsor mix (previous slide).

### IMPORTANT FINDING

80% of sample defined themselves as “sponsorship agencies”, highest to date. Agencies self-defining as “strategic marketing agency” were the next most common.



# RESULTS #3: ACTIVATION DRIVERS OF ROI – SPONSOR VS. PROPERTY VIEW

## SPONSOR ROI RANKING



**#1**

Advertising  
(22.2%)



**#2**

Co-Promotions  
(14.8%)



**#3**

Branded Content  
(14.8%)



**#4**

Hosting/Hospitality (11.1%)

## PROPERTY ROI RANKING



**#1**

Branded Content  
(25.9%)



**#2**

Hosting/Hospitality  
(20.7%)



**#3**

Co-Promotions  
(16.7%)



**#4**

Advertising  
(15.0%)

## NOTE

This slide reports on data provide by brands on how they rank their activation tactics in terms of what provides the best ROI.

## ROI RANKING

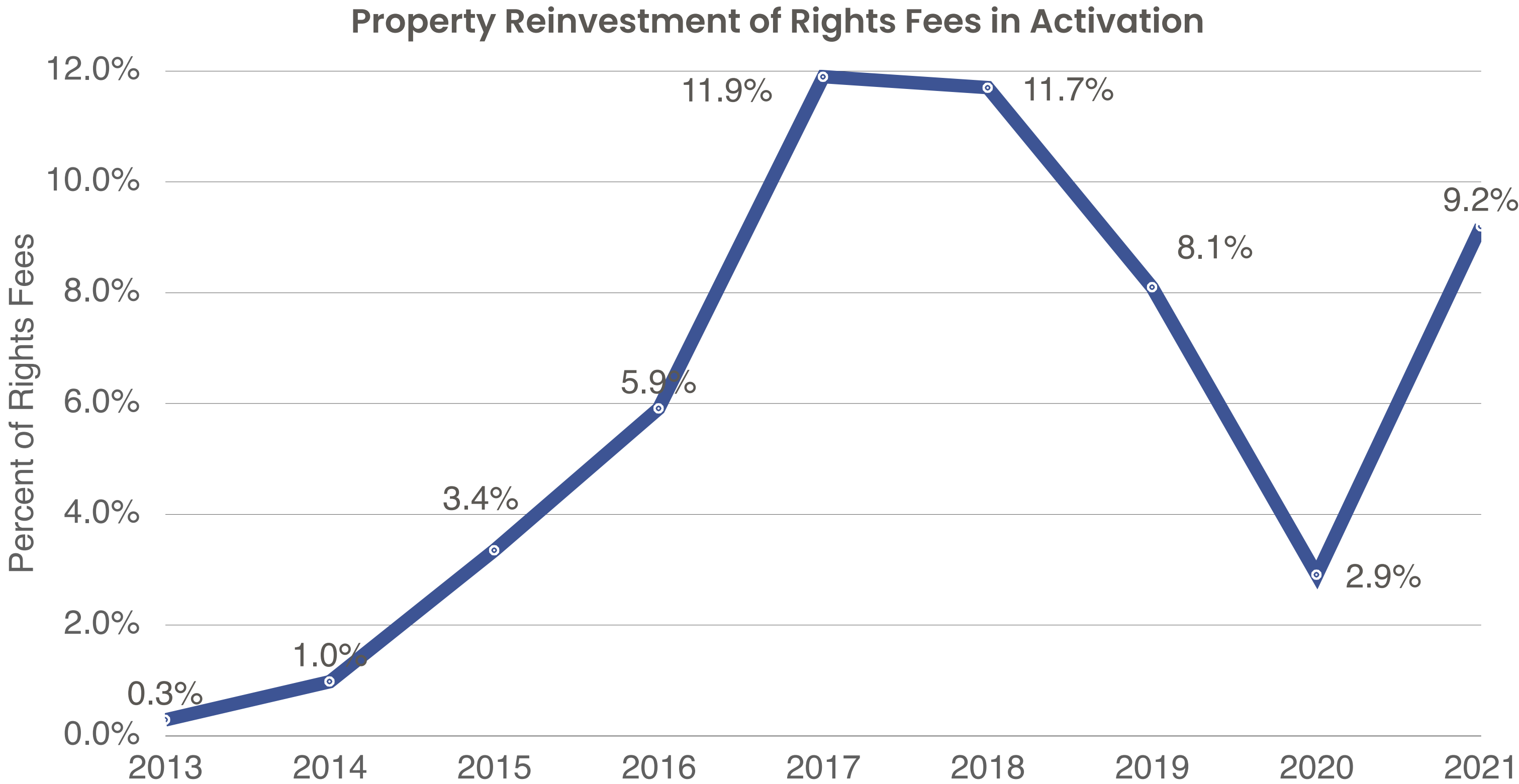


## Shifts

Common 4 in both groups but different order.

But, it is logical.

# RESULTS #3: ACTIVATION PROPERTY REINVESTMENT



### DATA

**9.2%**  
Proportion of rights fees reinvested by properties in activation

### MOST COMMON TACTICS

- #1 - Branded Content (26%)
- #2 - Hosting/Hospitality (21%)
- #3 - Co-Promotions (17%)
- #4 - Social Media (13%)
- #5 - Ancillary Events (8%)

### NOTES

33% of respondents reported no reinvestment in activation.

# RESULTS #2

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Strategy

05

# RESULTS #3

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Activation

06

# RESULTS #4

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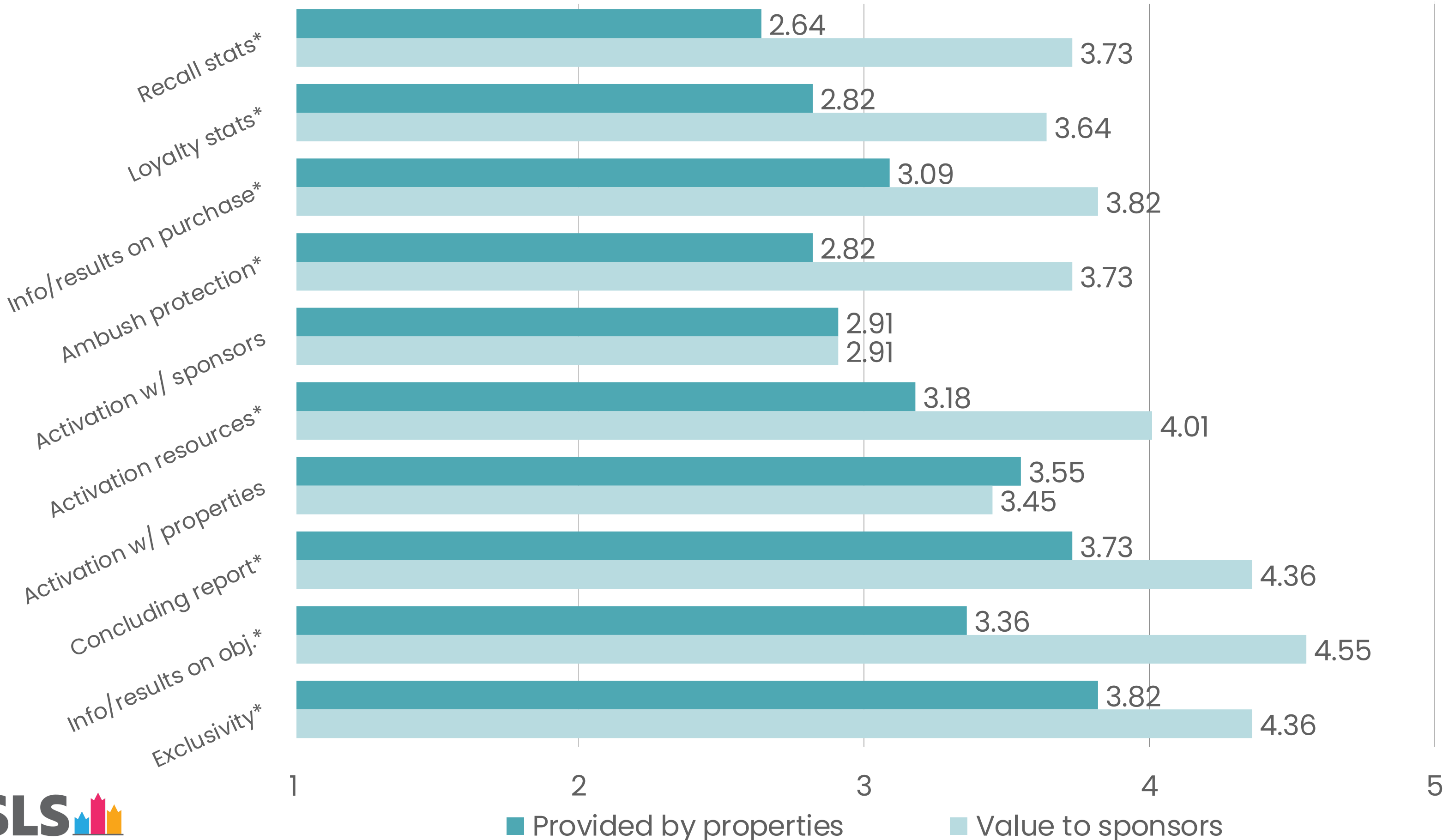
Servicing

07

RESULTS

# SERVICING SPONSOR PERSPECTIVE

Property Services to Sponsors:  
Contrasting Expectations with Performance by Sponsors



## DATA



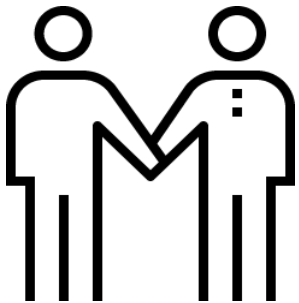
**8 of 10**

are statistically significant differences (\*)

## NOTE

- The servicing issue remains a major challenge in Canadian sponsorship.
- This has been consistent for 16 years, with only a few exceptions.

# SERVICING PROPERTIES INVESTMENT IN SERVICING EXPANDS FROM PRE-COVID



## Servicing

18.1% of sponsorship revenue is allocated to servicing

4.7%

of property respondents reported no investment in servicing. Very positive finding.

Past

Latest

2017  
10.4%

2018  
16.6%

2019  
14.5%

2021  
18.1%

# RESULTS #5

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08

Evaluation

# RESULTS #6

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09

Property Reinvestment in Sponsors

# SUMMARY

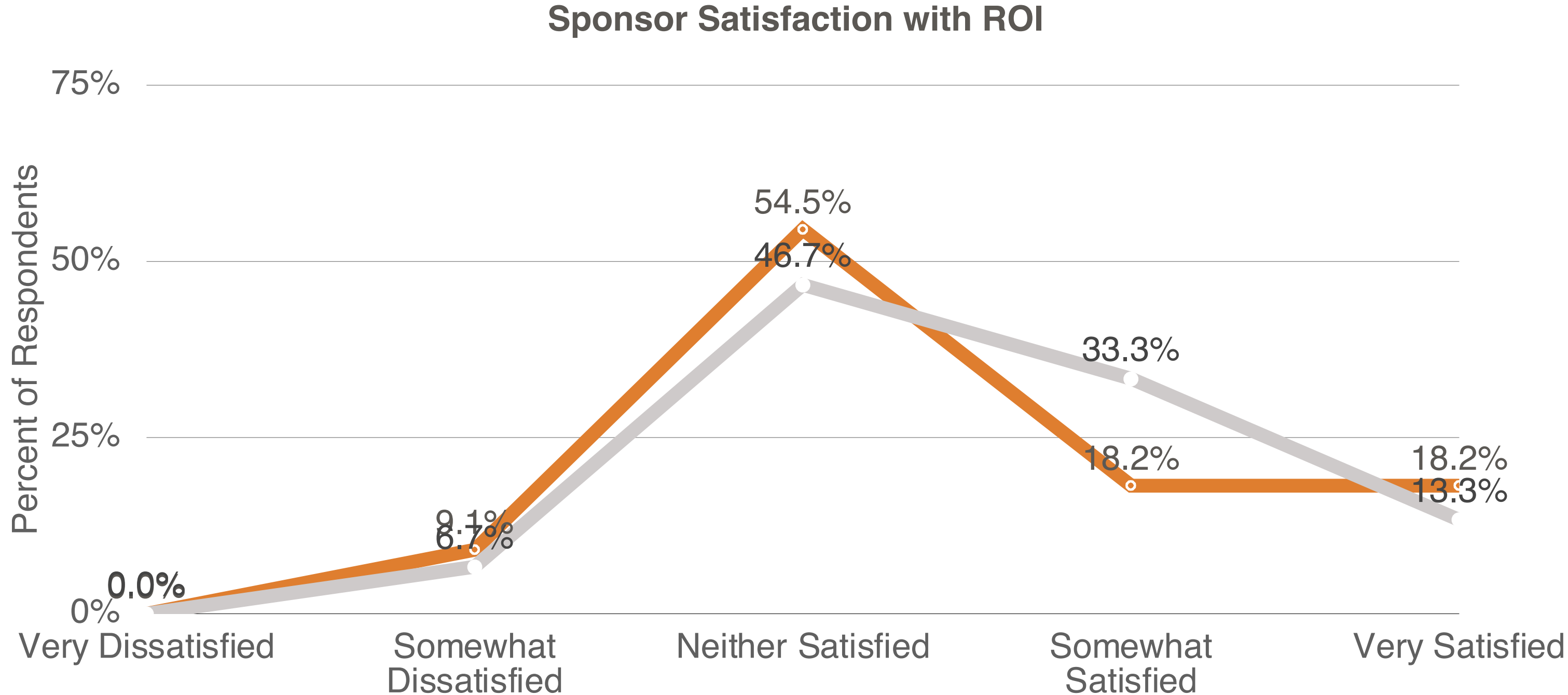
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Deep dives & conclusion

RESULTS

# RESULTS #5: EVALUATION SPONSOR AND PROPERTY VIEWS OF SPONSORSHIP ROI



■ Sponsor  
■ Property on Sponsor

**DATA**



**3.5** (out of 5) Sponsor Mean  
**3.6** (out of 5) Property Mean

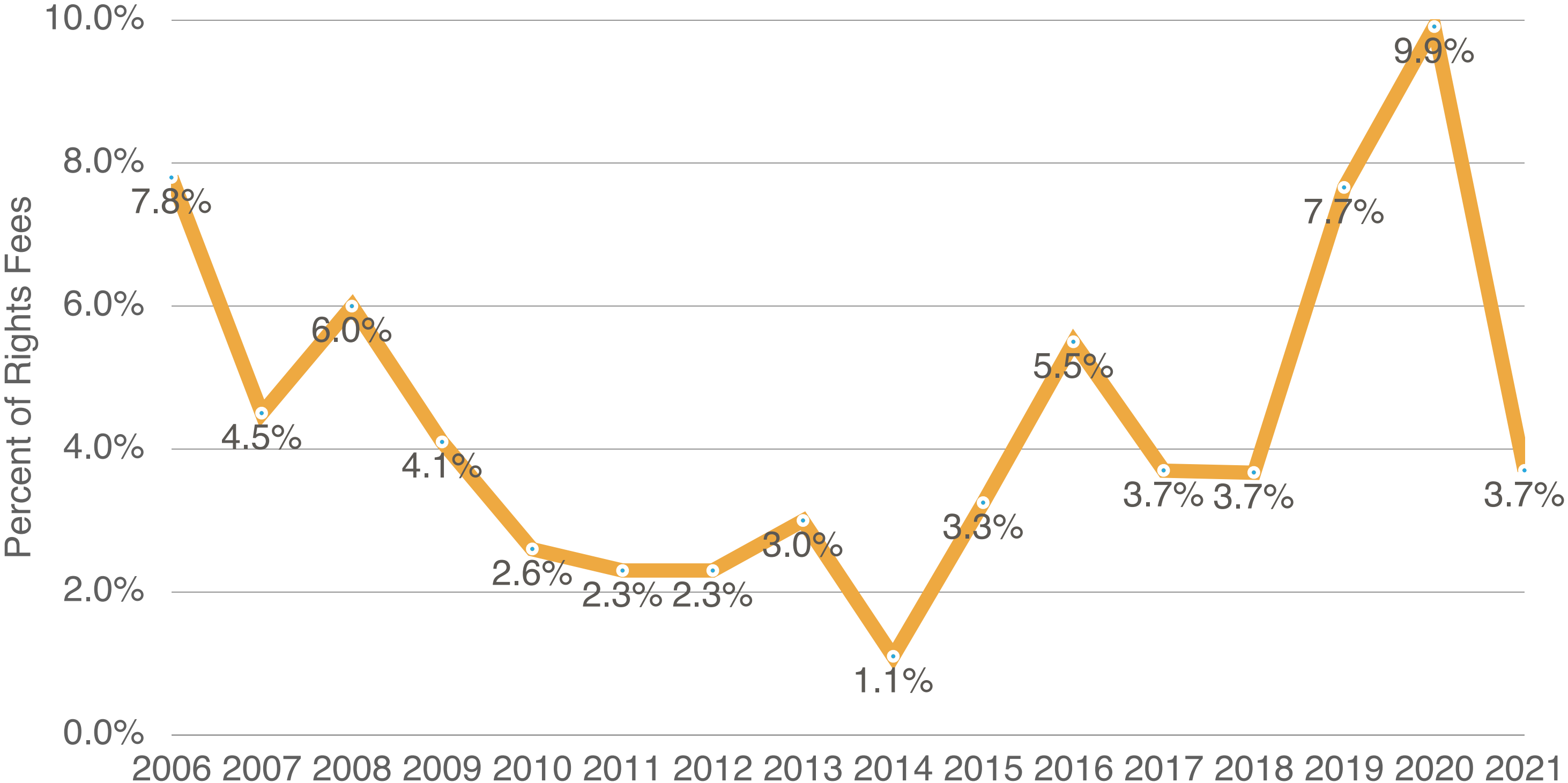
**NOTE**

- Sponsor result improved significantly over last year (2.8)\*
- Property result improved significantly over last year (3.1)\*

**OBSERVATION:** properties were asked to break down ROI on virtual properties (3.0) only versus properties with in-person components (3.8), revealing that ROI was higher for sponsorships with in-person components.

# RESULTS #5: EVALUATION EVALUATION INVESTMENT

Historical Evaluation Spend



**Pre-evaluation:** 10.6% 3.6% 12.6% 8.5% 9.7% 15.1% 9.5%

**DATA**



**3.7%**  
of rights fee spent by sponsors on evaluation (average by sponsor).

**NOTE**

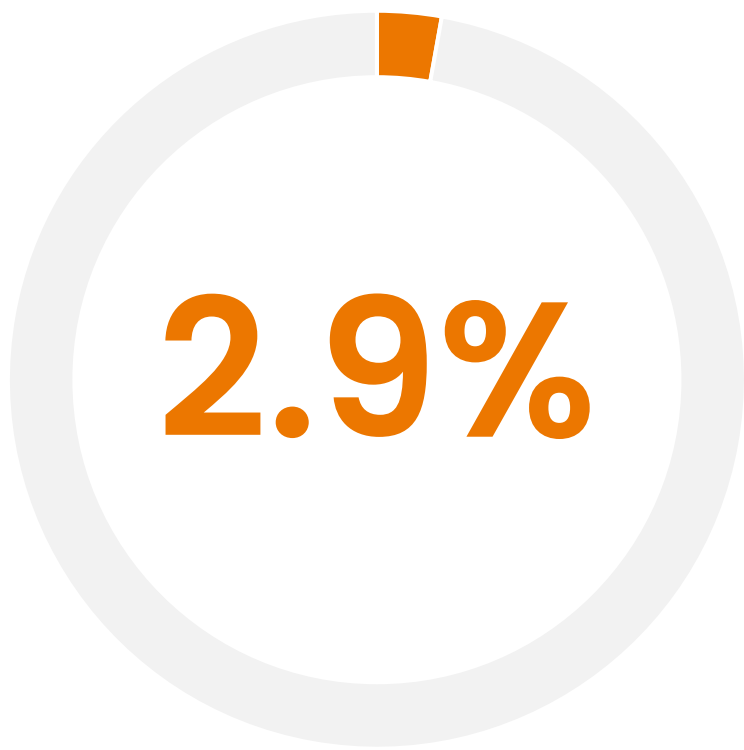
- Return to pre-COVID levels.
- 23% reported spending nothing on evaluation.
- Pre-Sponsorship evaluation spend was dropped back to 9.5%.



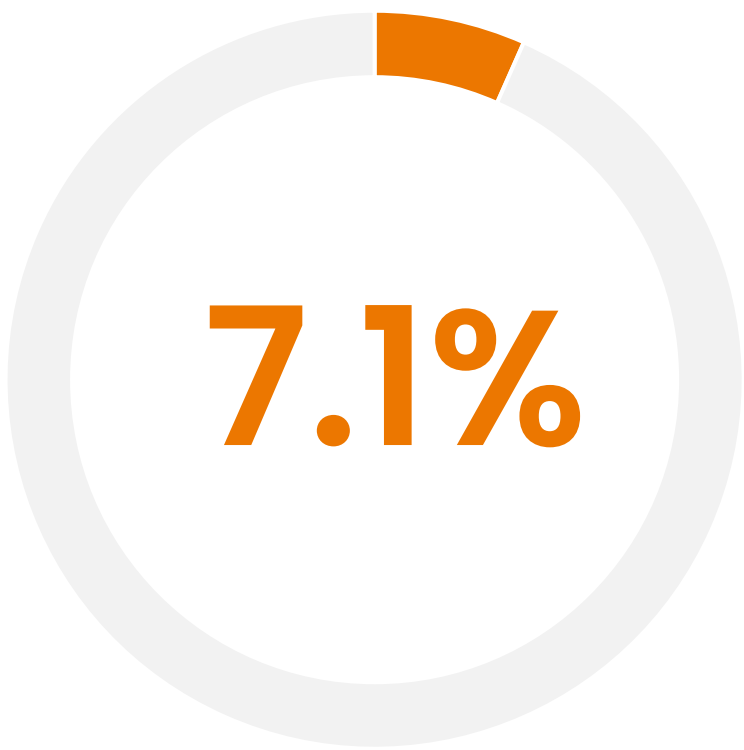
# RESULTS #5: EVALUATION PROPERTY EVALUATION



## BOUNCE BACK



Proportion (on average) of sponsorship revenues invested in sponsorship evaluation  
\*2020 result: 0%



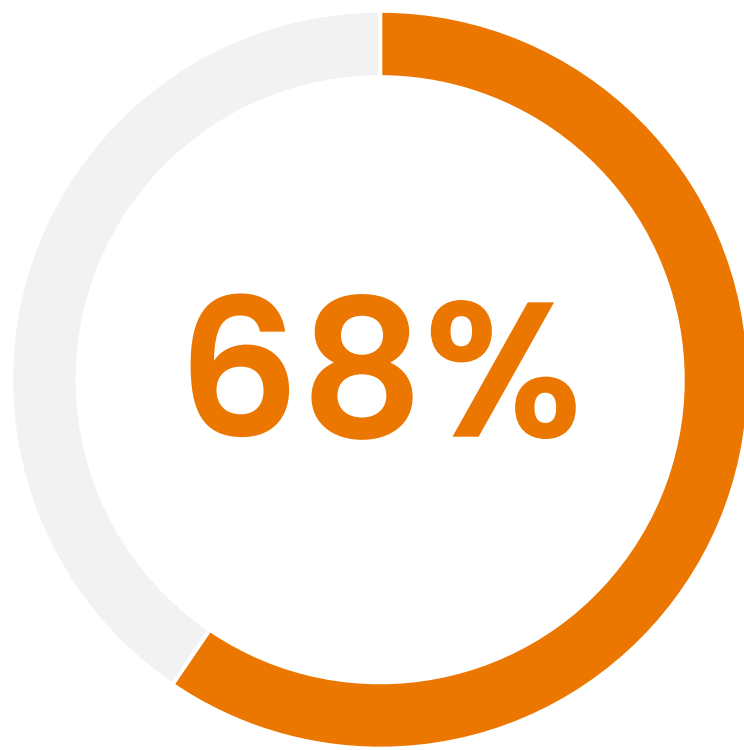
Proportion (on average) of those dollars allocated to pre-sponsorship evaluation  
\*2018 result: 0%



## LESS GOOD NEWS



Spent zero on sponsorship evaluation  
\*2018 result: 30.4%



Spent nothing on pre-sponsorship evaluation  
\*2018 result: 48.2%



The results noted on this page suggest that there is only a small proportion of properties who are investing in evaluation.

# RESULTS #5

08

Evaluation

# RESULTS #6

09

Property Reinvestment in Sponsors

# SUMMARY

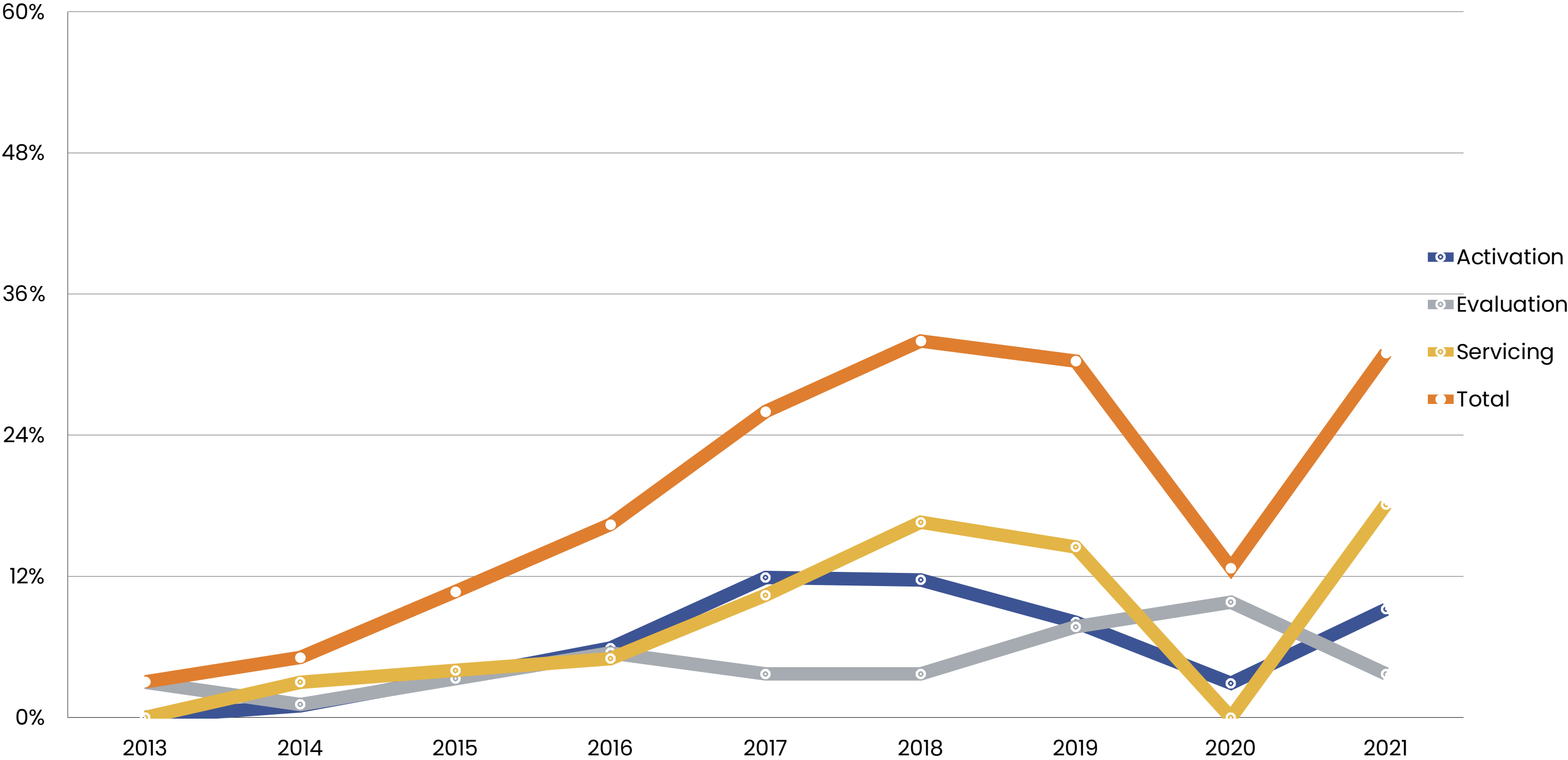
10

Deep dives & conclusion

RESULTS

# RESULTS #6: EVALUATION PROPERTY REINVESTMENT

Historical Re-investment in Activation, Evaluation and Servicing by Properties



**DATA**



**30.2%**

of rights fees received are being reinvested in the sponsorship, through a combination of activation, evaluation and servicing

**NOTE**

- Return to pre-COVID levels.

# RESULTS #5

08

Evaluation

# RESULTS #6

09

Property Reinvestment in Sponsors

DISCUSSION

# SUMMARY

10

Deep dives & conclusion

# DISCUSSION: SO WHAT? WHAT MAKES US LOSE SLEEP

Top Concern	Meeting Targets*	Demonstrating ROI	Demonstrating ROI	Other*	Demonstrating ROI	Demonstrating ROI	Meeting Targets** Evaluation/Measure	Fear about delivering value as ROI	Analytics/Evaluation Measurement/ROI	Measurement
Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021

## SPONSORS

- TOP THEME: Measurement, Evaluation and Tracking ROI

“Ability to demonstrate ROI when much of the value gained is intangible or qualitative.”

## PROPERTIES

- TOP THEME: Trouble securing sponsorship / not enough dollars available

“Will spending recover and ever return to post-pandemic levels?”

## AGENCIES

- TOP THEME: Ability to measure and showcase the value of sponsorship

“Showcasing the true value of the sponsorship property in a proposal.”

# DISCUSSION: SO WHAT? THE FUTURE OF SPONSORSHIP: TOP TWO THEMES PER STAKEHOLDER

## SPONSORS



### Innovation

"Continued investment and innovation in the sponsorship space - there is so much value, in terms of unique experiences and deep engagement, that only sponsorship can deliver."

### Cause and Purpose

"Brands have their ear to the ground more than ever when it comes to societal issues, and are beginning to use sponsorship dollars as a force for good."

## PROPERTIES



### Value

"Brands are seeing the value of sponsorship again now that the worst of the pandemic is behind us. People want experiences and they want to support the brands that bring them experiences."

### Return to Live

"Canadians want to get back in person and attending events [...] the sponsorship opportunities are endless."

## AGENCIES



### Impact

"Smart marketers are realizing the power of the medium and it's becoming a stronger part of the marketing mix."

### Talent

"Great people with creative ideas and passion for experiential marketing."

# DISCUSSION: SO WHAT? EMERGING TRENDS: TOP THEMES AND STAKEHOLDERS QUOTES

Sponsors, Properties and Agencies all cite both **the return to live and in-person events**, and the **inclusion of digital elements**, as emerging trends in sponsorship.

## SPONSORS



“Just being face-to-face again – how do we capitalize?”

“Everyone is eager to get back to in-person interaction that we have been missing for so long.”

## PROPERTIES



“Introducing digital experiences to in-person events to amplify reach and bring experiences to people at home and vice versa.”

## AGENCIES



“Technology-driven fan engagement – mix of analog and digital engagement to ensure maximum reach of fans.”

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### **NOTABLE MENTION**

All three groups cited the **integration of cause and purpose** as an additional trend to improve sponsorship

# DISCUSSION: SO WHAT?

## THE FUTURE OF MUSIC: TOP TWO THEMES OVERALL

Festivals and events were heavily impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, with significantly reduced capacity to operate. However, survey respondents shared a predominantly **bright perspective** on the future of music properties...

“As consumers continue to get more comfortable with the ‘return to live’, music properties will be a leader in the space.”

‘Living in the moment’ is something that can’t be replicated, and finding ways for brands to play a role in that experience will drive high-impact.”

“The future of music-related events is positive. People are anxious to return to in-person offerings, and this a great engagement opportunity for sponsors to leverage with attendees.”

### **Area of Concern**

“Whether sponsors will be interested in supporting small- and mid-sized events in addition to the marquee options?”



# DISCUSSION: SO WHAT? THE IMPACT OF COVID-19: TWO THEMES PER STAKEHOLDER

## SPONSORS



### Activations

"[COVID-19] significantly reduced ability to activate the way we used to"

### Budget

"Reduced budget for sponsorship opportunities – budget shifted to other higher priority marketing initiatives"

## PROPERTIES



### Lost Deals

"Many partners pulled out due to marketing and community spend being cut"

### New Faces

"Much more difficult to contact people now, and with high turnover in the industry means rebuilding relationships on both ends"

## AGENCIES



### Creativity

"Looked at other platforms to bring sponsorship programs to life"

### Virtual

"Shift to digital and online work to negate loss of live spectators"

# DISCUSSION: SO WHAT? PAIN POINTS SOLVED BY SPONSORSHIP: SPONSOR VIEW

**Sponsors** were asked what the main pain point or business objective that sponsorship helps their brand meet:

## **Brand Awareness**

"Our portfolio gives us strong media presence that helps reach huge swaths of the Canadian population."

"Increasing brand awareness while aligning with organizations whose values match ours."

## **Community Impact**

"Further align our support to the community and our corporate responsibility."

"Supporting our community and enhancing our corporate image."

## **Drive Business**

"Goal is to drive new consumers and incremental business."

"Positioning our firm as a thought/business leader by engaging with specific audiences to build relationships, start conversations that will lead to future work."

# CSLS

CANADIAN SPONSORSHIP LANDSCAPE STUDY

*Visit [www.sponsorshiplandscape.com](http://www.sponsorshiplandscape.com) for more info!*

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**Questions or Comments?**

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