

18th ANNUAL



**Canadian sponsorship  
landscape study**

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Special Thanks: SMCC Education Committee



# 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 IMI logo consists of the letters 'IMI' in a tall, white, serif font.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## RESPONDENTS & "SHARERS"



L'étude sur l'industrie de la  
commandite au Canada

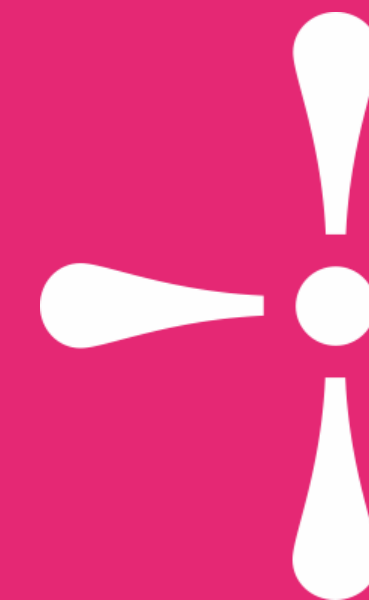
A big thank you to all who completed and/or  
shared the study.



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



Canadian sponsorship  
landscape study



SPONSORSHIP  
MARKETING  
COUNCIL CANADA



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# CONTENTS

## 18TH ANNUAL CSLS

- RESULTS (2023 Calendar Year)
- ANALYSIS (2006–2023)
- INDUSTRY (TRENDS, SIZE & FUTURE)

## SPECIAL TOPICS (17<sup>TH</sup> & 18<sup>TH</sup> COMBINED)

### QUALITATIVE DEEP DIVE

- The Future of Sponsorship
- Talent & Sponsorship
- New Graduates & Sponsorship
- The Pain Points of Sponsorship



# CSLS HISTORY

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 & SMCC

2021



SponsorshipX Clubhouse & SMCC

2022



SPX Montreal & SMCC

2023



SPX Grey Cup & SMCC

2024



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 (50% reduction) during the pandemic.

**2023**

Activation Growth

Activation reaches an all-time high, matching rights fees investment.



# RESULTS

18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL



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# THE STORY OF 2023

Sponsorship is back but better and smarter. Of course, brands are changing how they spend.



# SUMMARY

1. Activation spend and ratio best ever.
2. We are back post-Pandemic.
3. Brands are changing how they spend on sponsorship.
4. Properties are pitching in.
5. Agencies are active and under competitive pressure.
6. ROI, Satisfaction & Evaluation still remain problematic.



**Canadian sponsorship  
landscape study**



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**1. The Study**  
Background



**2. The Sample**  
Stakeholders



**3. Industry Data**  
Size & Scope



**4. Results #1**  
Strategy



**5. Results #2**  
The Deal



**6. Results #3**  
Activation



**7. Results #4**  
Servicing



**8. Results #5**  
Evaluation



**9. Results #6**  
Property Reinvestment



**10. Summary**  
Deep Dives &  
Conclusion



RESULTS

# THE STUDY

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01

Background

RESULTS

# THE SAMPLE

---

02

Respondents

# 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

RESULTS

Respondents

# INDUSTRY DATA

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03

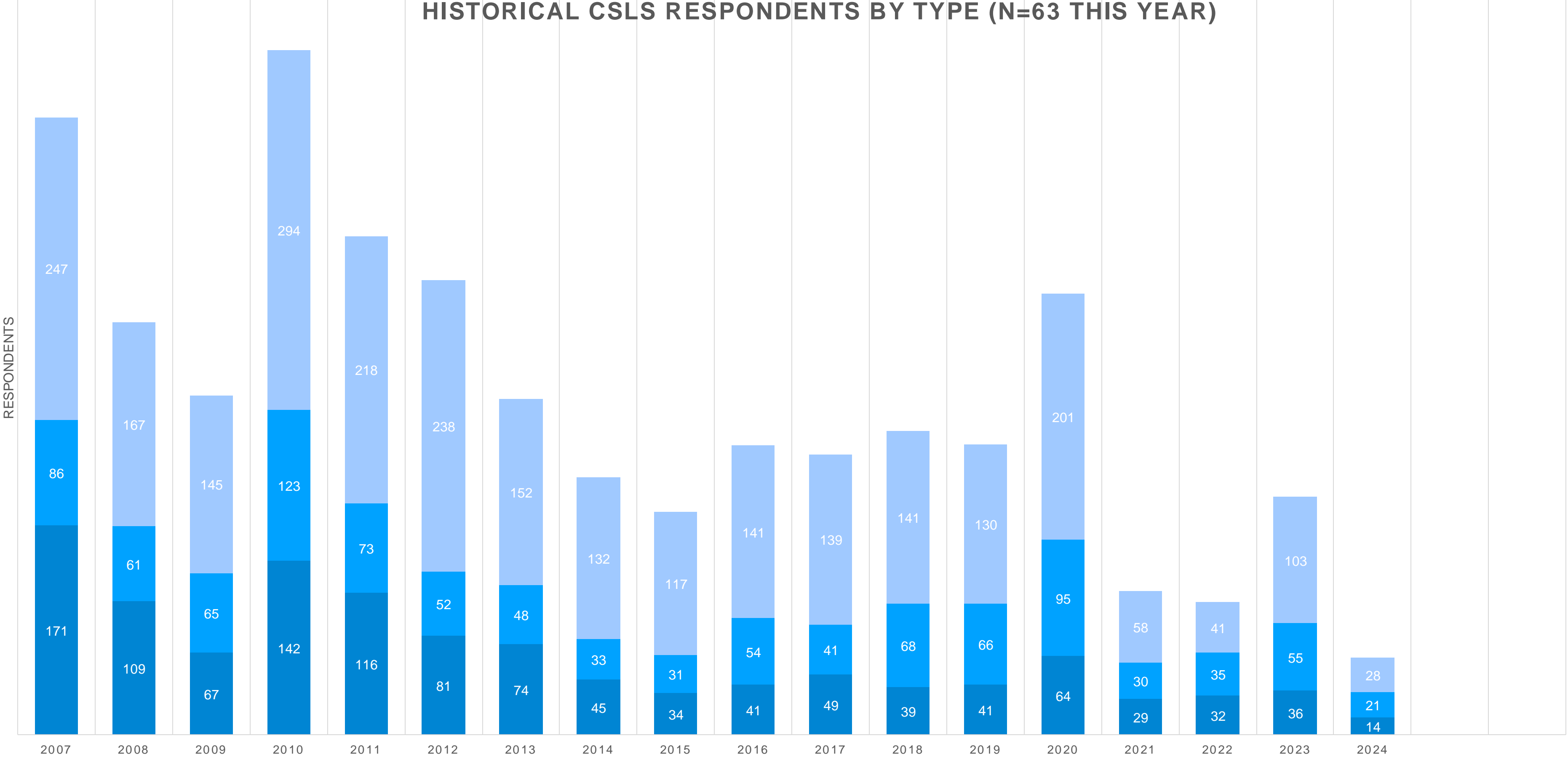
Size & Scope



# THE SAMPLE RESPONDENTS

■ Sponsors ■ Agencies ■ Properties

HISTORICAL CSLS RESPONDENTS BY TYPE (N=63 THIS YEAR)



## DATA

**4,917**  
Total Respondents

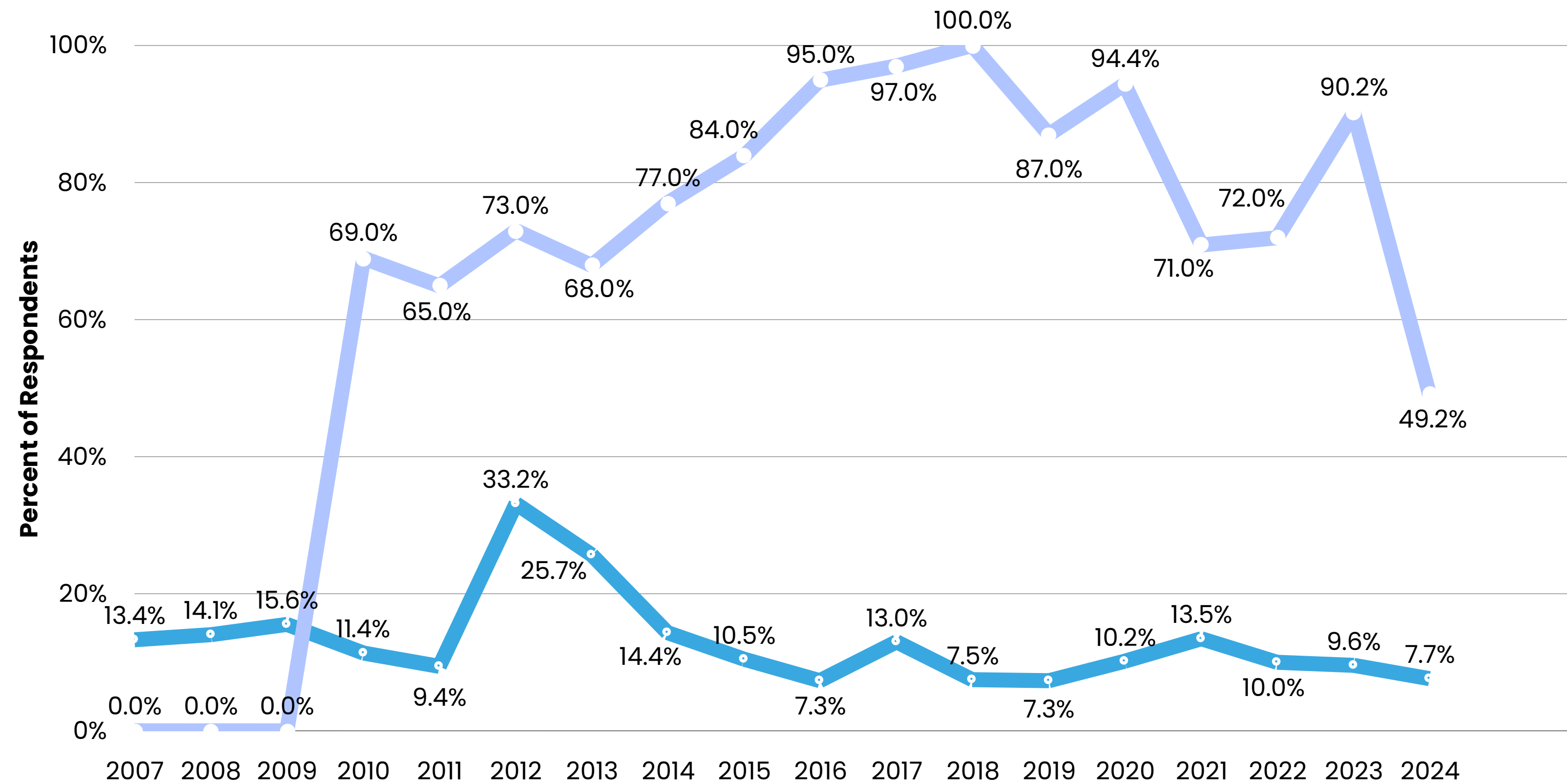
## NOTES

- After going online in 2010, the number of respondents continually declined until a survey redesign in 2016 led to a recent high in 2020.
- Due to a variety of reasons, recruitment was limited this year and response rates low.
- Analysis combines 2023 and 2024.

# THE SAMPLE

## SURVEY PARTICULARS

Historical Language & Method Types



Legend:

Top Line: % Online

Bottom Line: % French

### DATA



# 18 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 the years since.
- Tough year in 2024, required direct reach outs.



# THE SAMPLE

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02

Respondents

# INDUSTRY DATA

---

03

RESULTS

Size & Scope

# RESULTS #1

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04

Strategy

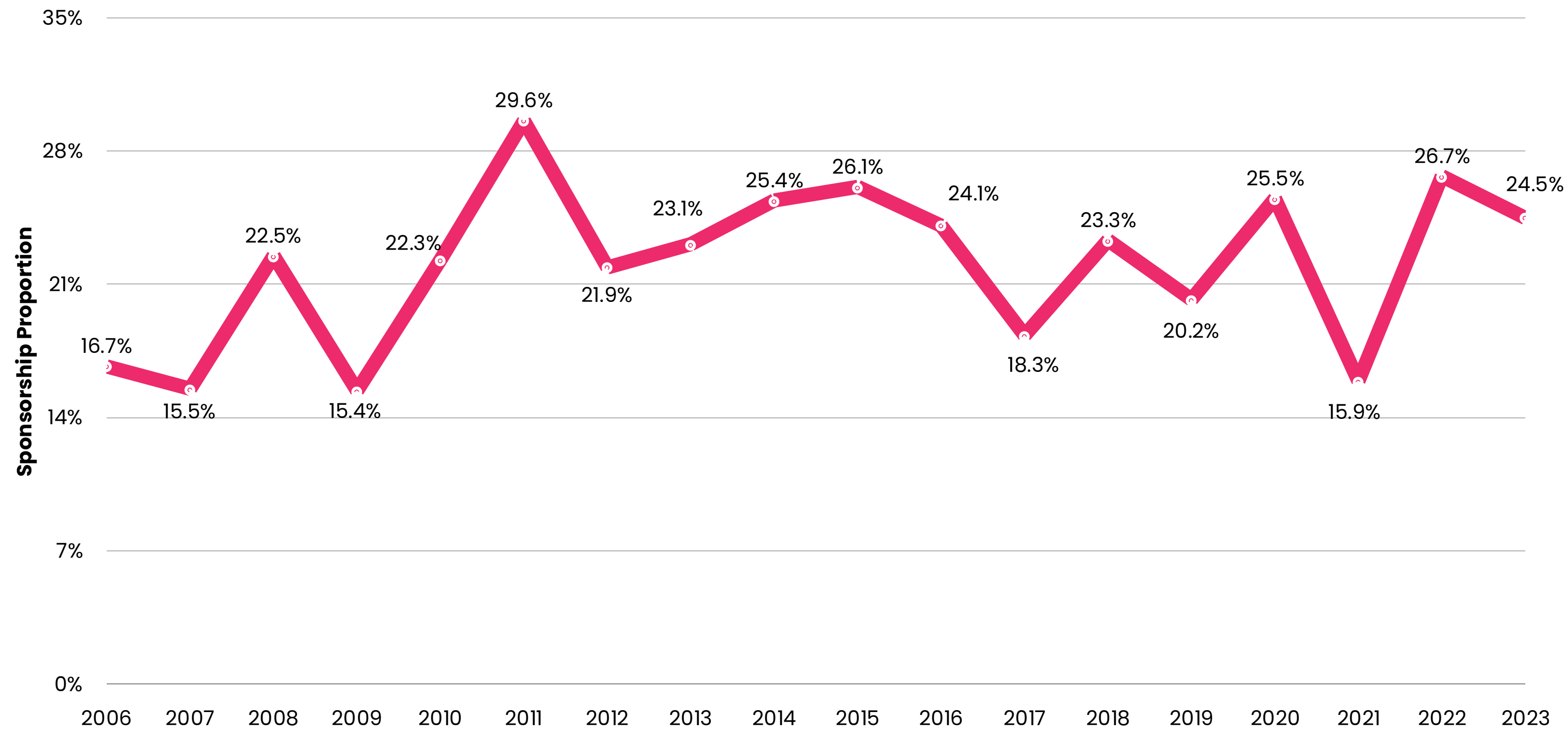




# INDUSTRY DATA

## PROPORTION OF MARCOM BUDGET

Sponsorship as a Percentage of Marketing Communications Budget



### DATA



**24.5%**

Approximately 1 in 4

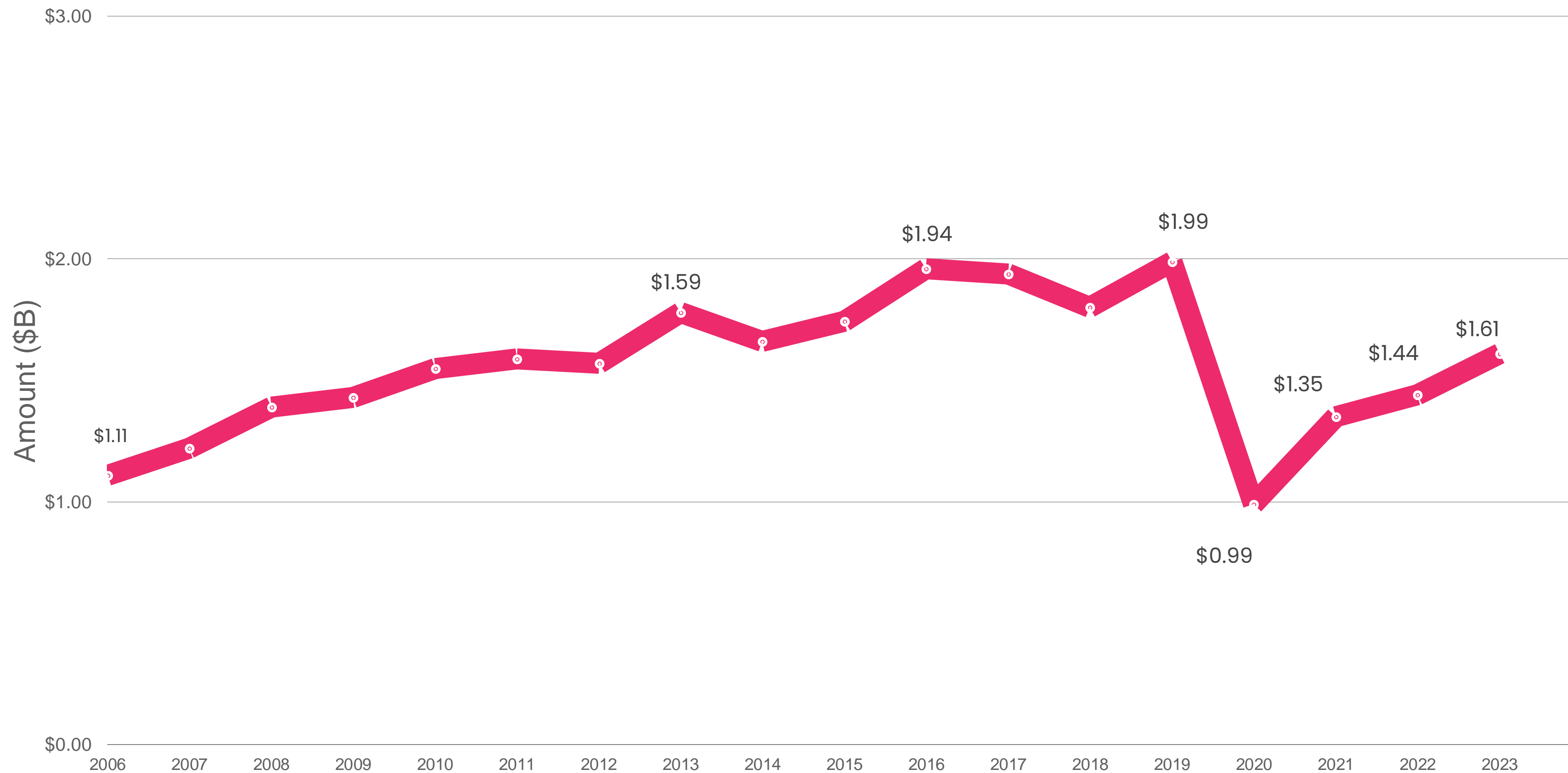
### NOTES

Following a return to 'normal', sponsorship among those organizations that use sponsorship, it represents about **1 in 4 of the MarCom \$'s** that they spend.

# INDUSTRY DATA

## BIG PICTURE: CANADIAN INDUSTRY SPEND

### Historical Canadian Sponsorship Industry Size: Rights Fees



### NOTES

The pandemic is behind us.

### DATA



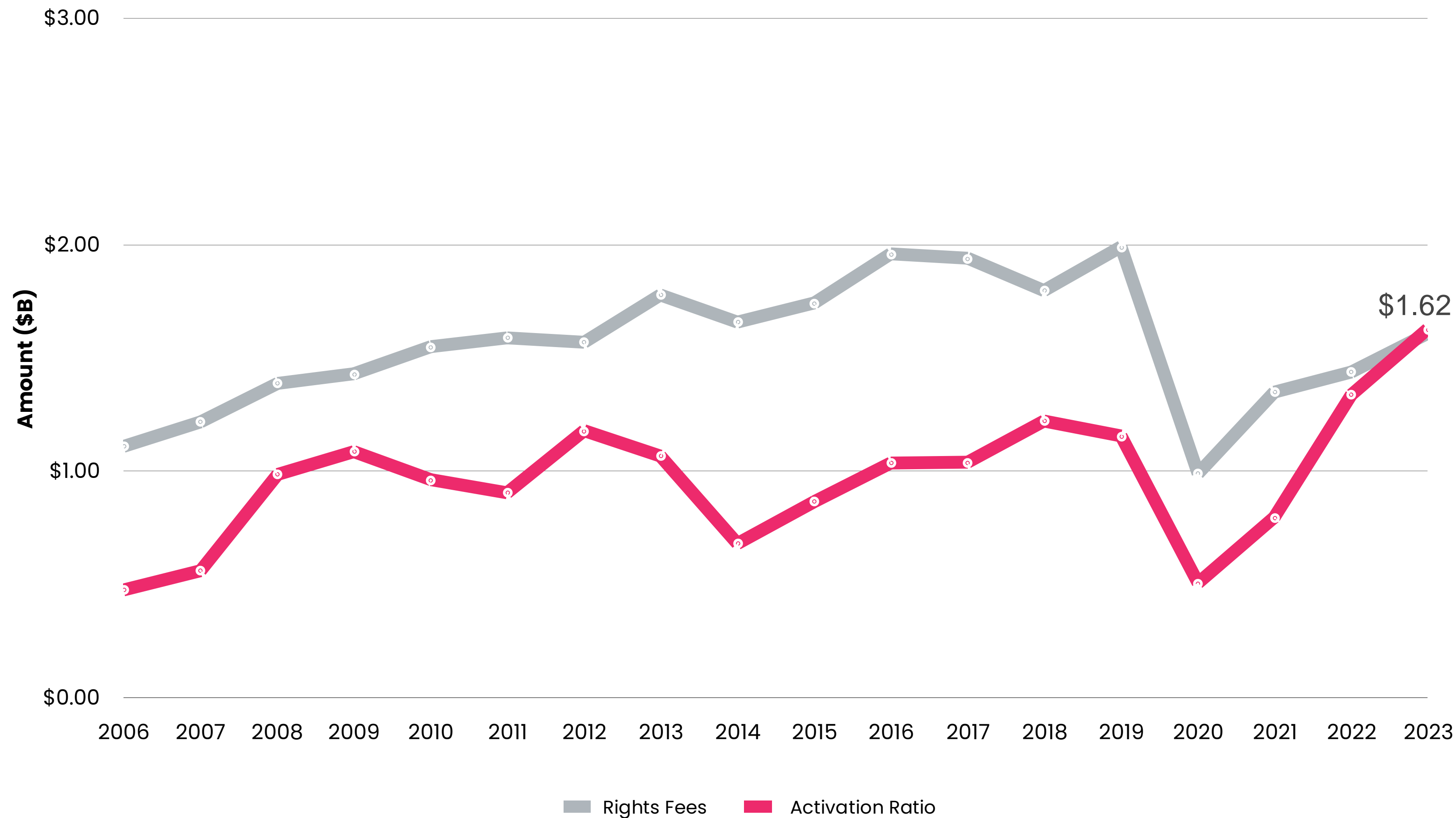
**\$1.61B**

2023 Rights Fee Spend

# INDUSTRY DATA

## CANADIAN INDUSTRY SIZE

Historical Canadian Sponsorship Industry Size: Activation



### DATA



**1.01**

Activation to Rights Fee in 2023

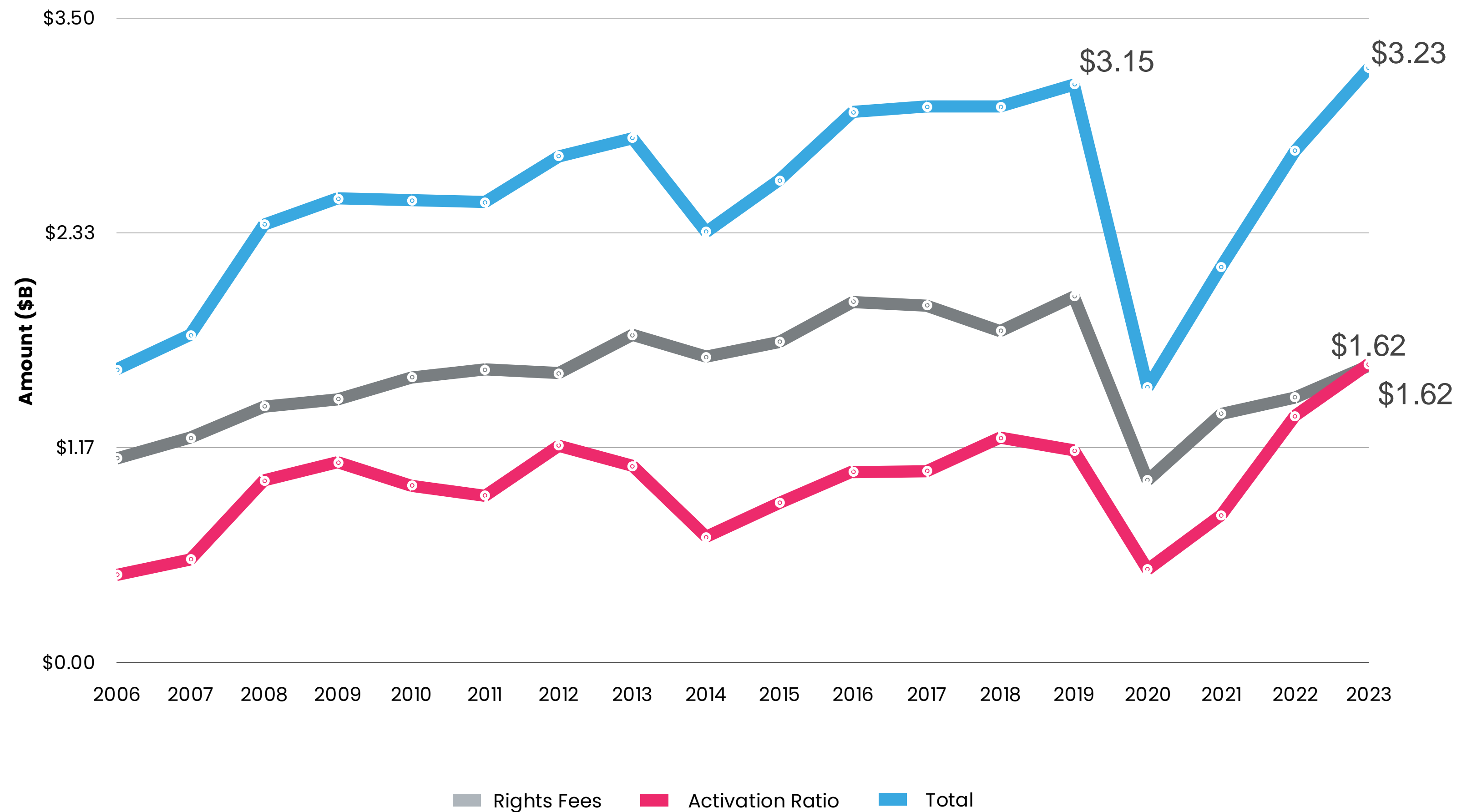
### KEY OBSERVATION

**Key Observation:** The best activation ratio we've seen in CSLS history.

# INDUSTRY DATA

## BIG PICTURE: CANADIAN INDUSTRY SPEND

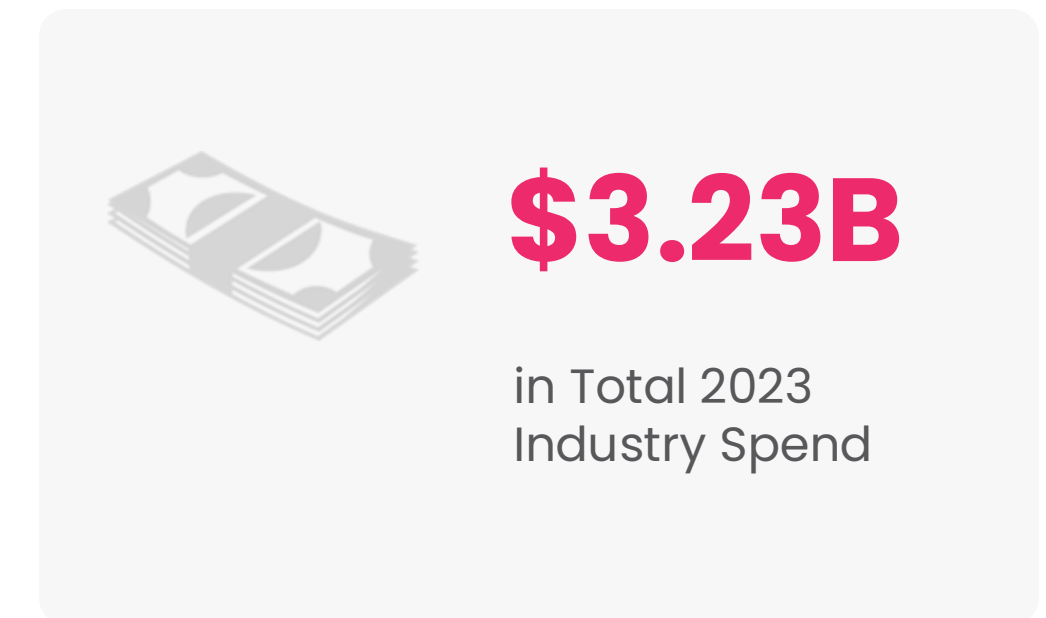
Historical Canadian Sponsorship Industry Size: Total



### INSIGHT

Brands who sponsor in Canada are allocating more of their investments – smartly – to activation – leading to an overall increase..

### DATA



### NOTES

Highest total spend, but must consider inflation and note change in how spending is happening.



# INDUSTRY DATA

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03

Size & Scope

# RESULTS #1

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RESULTS

04

Strategy

# RESULTS #2

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05

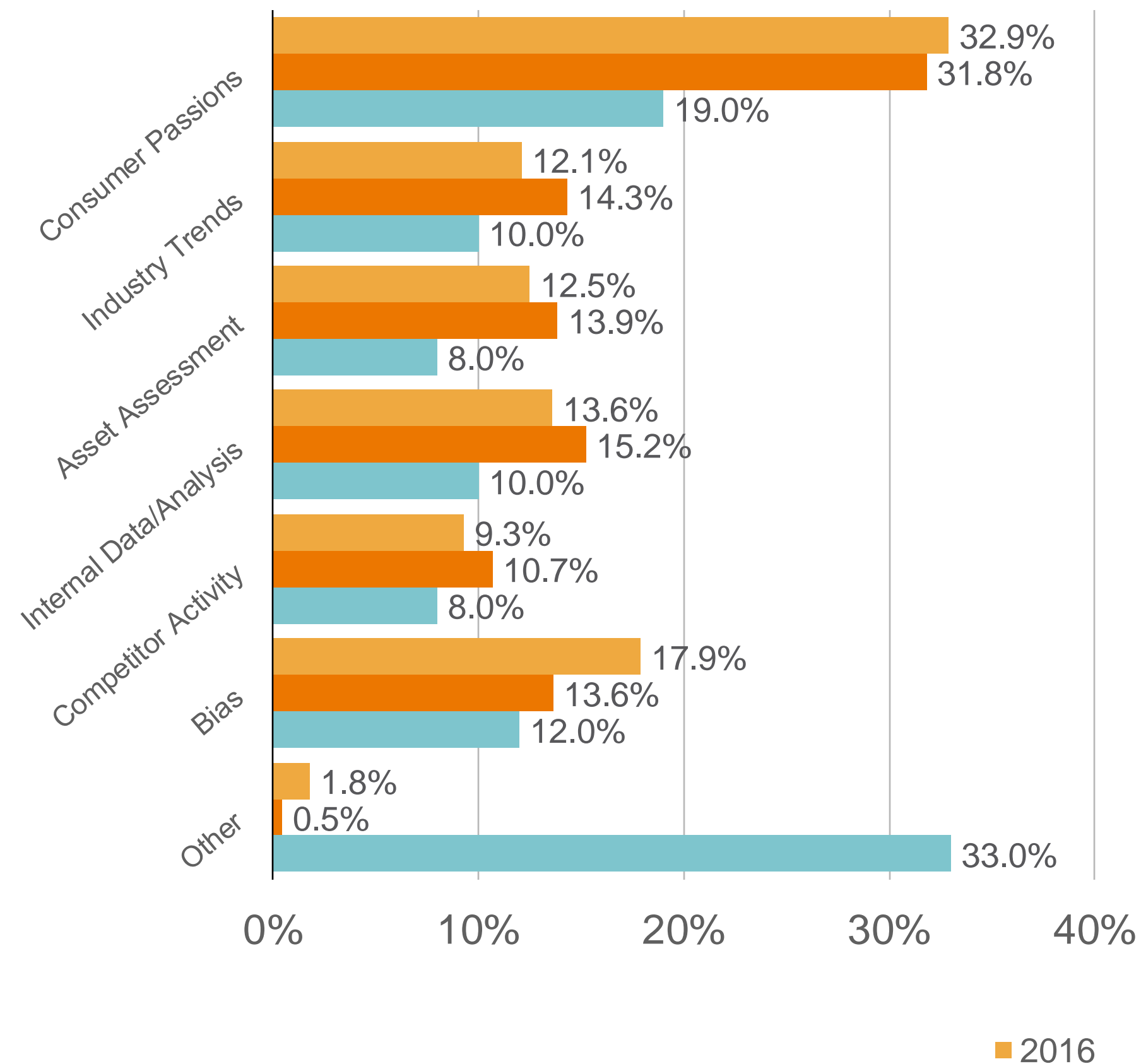
The deal



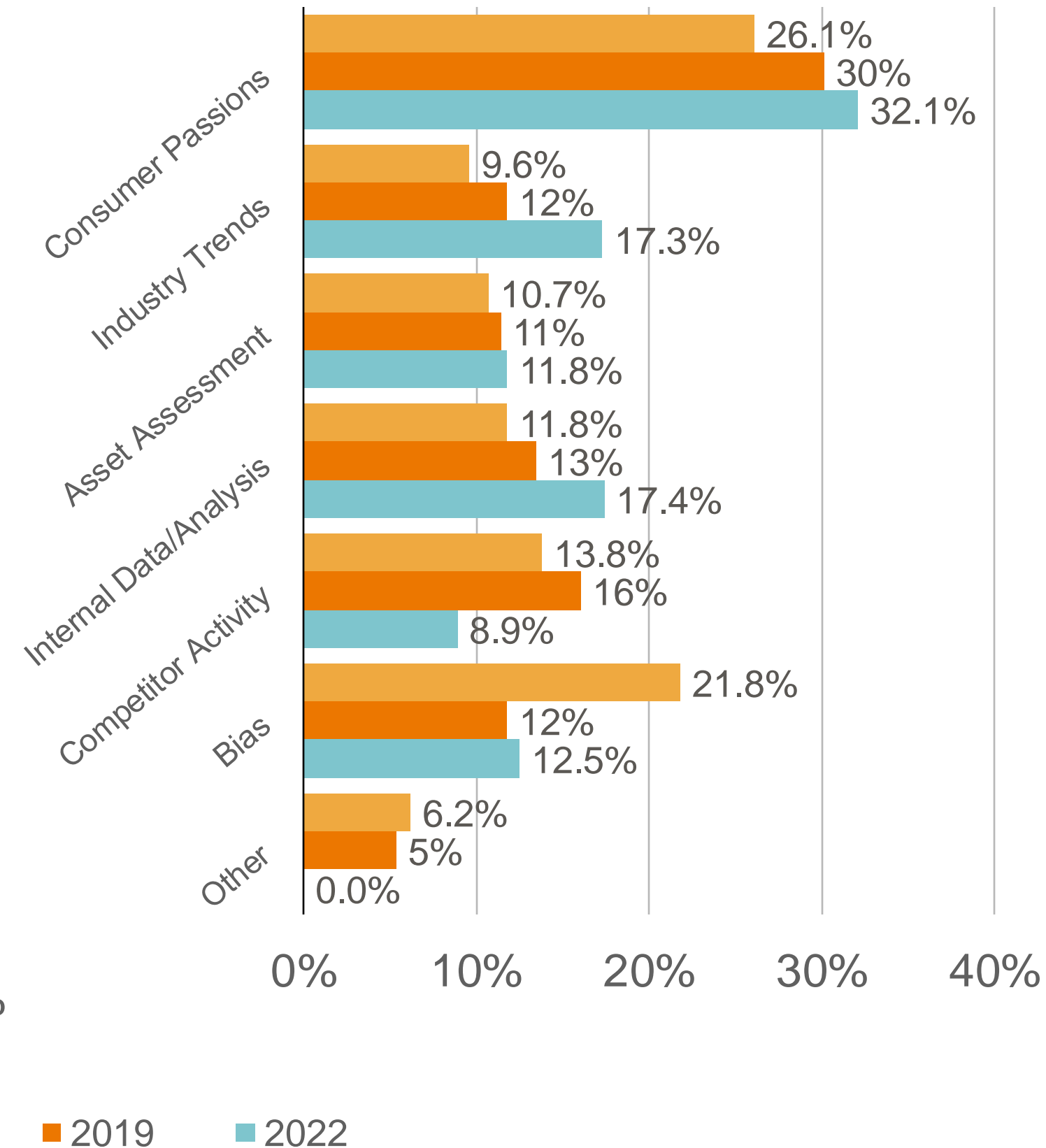
# RESULTS #1: STRATEGY

## SPONSOR DECISION MAKING (2016, 2019, 2022)

Criteria in Decision-Making: Sponsors



Criteria in Decision-Making: Agencies on Sponsors Behalf



### INSIGHT

The use of "data" (trends, asset assessment, internal data) is part of 46% of decisions according to agencies' sponsor clients.

### MAJOR SHIFT



- Lots of uncertainty by sponsors.
- Different view from their agencies.

### NOTES ON 2022

Sponsors uncertain about decisions, but focused on the 'right' criteria.

Others (for sponsors) include: aligning with business core values, client interests, internal criteria, and executive input.

Agencies emphasize consumer passions.

2023 = small sample.

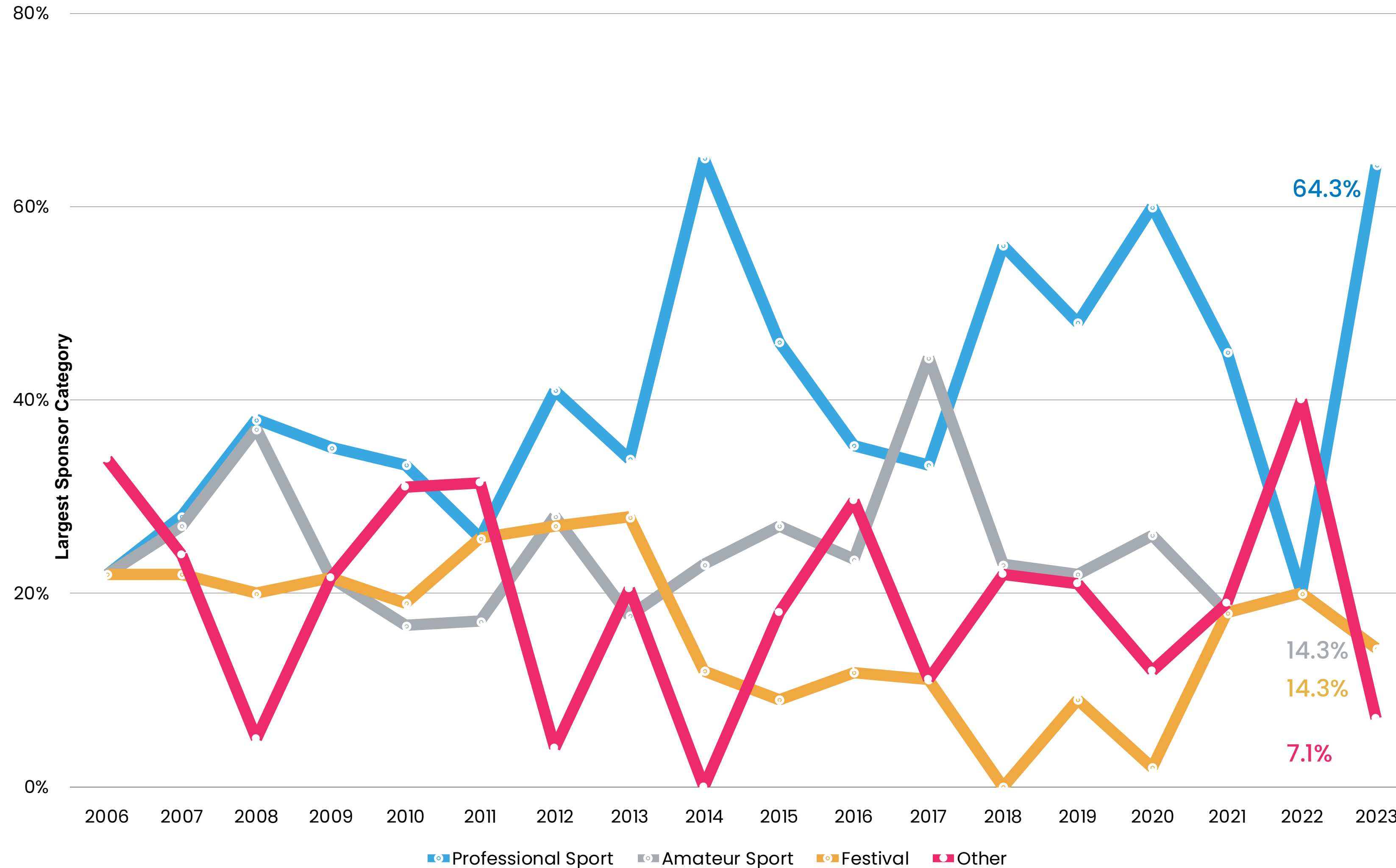
# RESULTS #1: STRATEGY

## LARGEST SPONSORSHIP CATEGORY



**64.3%**  
Pro Sport

Historical Sponsorship Investment by Property Type



### PRO SPORT

2023 Data.

Return to pro sport being dominant followed by amateur sport and festivals.

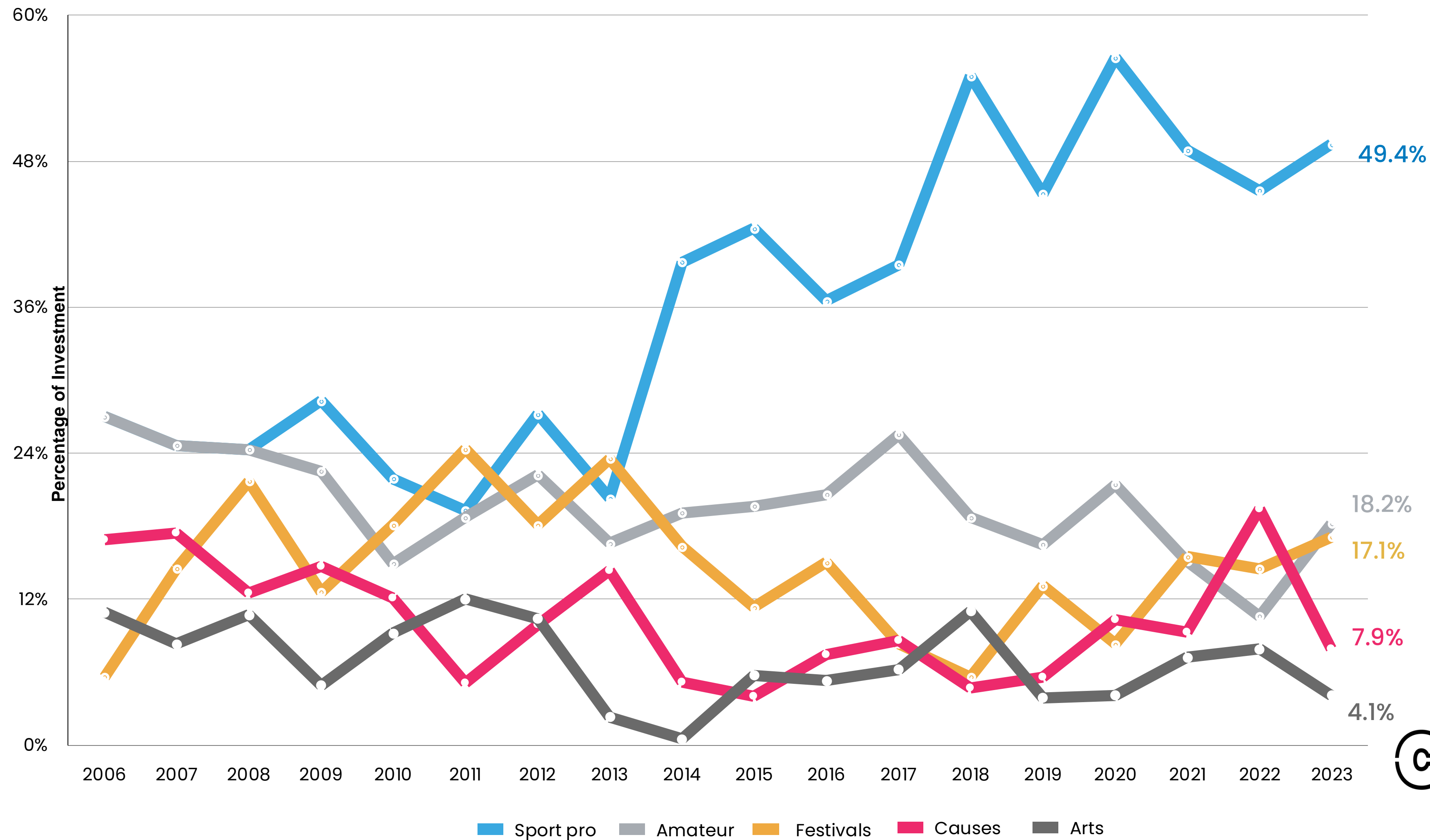
• Due to low Sample Size in 2023, combined with 2022 data



# RESULTS #1: STRATEGY

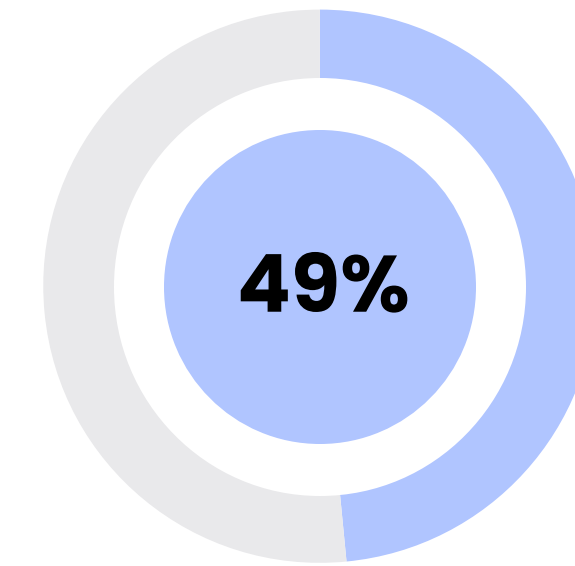
## PROPERTY MIX

Historical Sponsorship Investment by Property Type



### INSIGHT

- Cause increase due to change in spending or change in definition?



**DATA**  
Of Investment is in Pro Sport

### NOTES

- Others of interest – all <1%
  - Education
  - Entertainment, Tours & Attractions
  - Media
  - Municipality
- Due to low Sample Size in 2023, combined with 2022 data





# RESULTS #1: STRATEGY

## SPONSOR INVESTMENT: PROPERTY REACH BY SPEND

### INSIGHTS

International reach includes Canadian properties with a global reach.

Possible that sponsorships are increasingly being managed at a global level?

### 2022+2023 DATA | 2021 DATA

“Similar mix, except for a move towards more sponsorships with an international reach”



**16.1%** | **4.6%**  
International



**16.4%** | **19.3%**  
National



**3.1%** | **5.6%**  
Multi-Provincial



**35.4%** | **33.0%**  
Provincial



**11.2%** | **18.1%**  
Regional



**17.1%** | **19.4%**  
Local

### NOTES

1. Gender primary targets: Men (5.8%), Women (9.1%), No Specific Gender (85.1%)
2. Type of Property: For-Profit (35.1%), Not-For-Profit (64.9%)



# RESULTS #1: STRATEGY

## MISALIGNED VIEWS ON THE FUTURE ON SPEND, REVENUE, BILLINGS

DECREASE 

**14.9%**

Sponsor

**5.9%**

Property

**0.0%**

Agency

STAY THE SAME 

**42.9%**

Sponsor

**28.8%**

Property

**43.9%**

Agency

INCREASE 

**42.2%**

Sponsor

**65.3%**

Property

**56.1%**

Agency

**PROPERTY AND AGENCY RESULTS ARE MUCH MORE POSITIVE THAN SPONSORS**

**Estimated increase in spend, revenue, billings:**

- Sponsors +0%
- Properties +14%
- Agencies +16%

2022 + 2023 Data



# RESULTS #1

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04

Strategy

# RESULTS #2

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05

The deal

# RESULTS #3

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06

Activation

RESULTS



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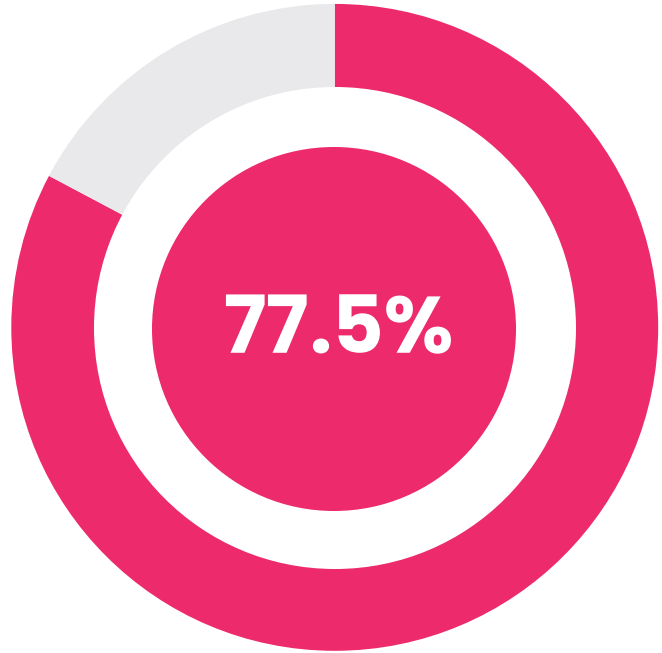
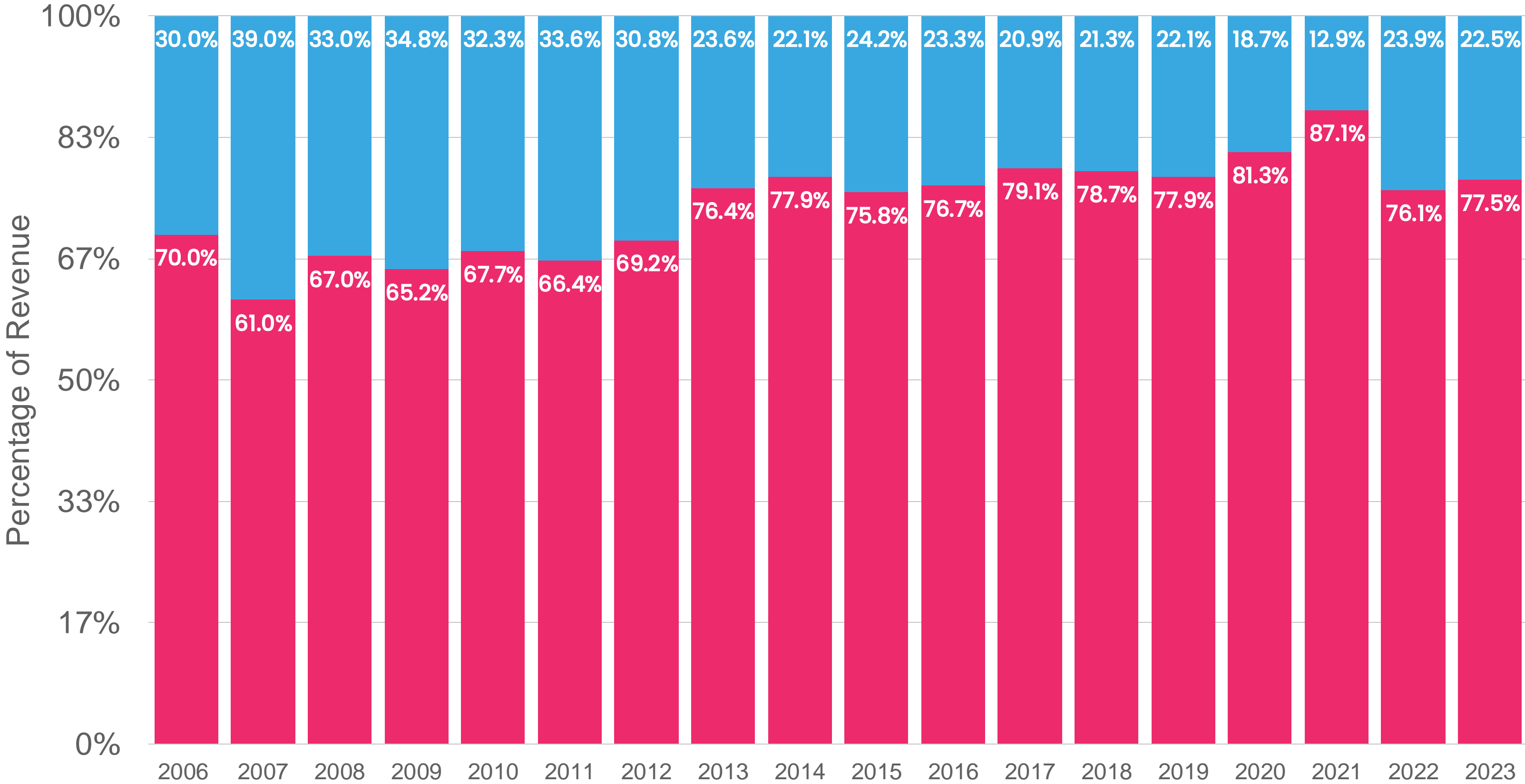
# RESULTS #2: THE DEAL

## CASH OR VIK

### INSIGHT

VIK increasingly driven by the increase in opportunities related to the increased desire for live experiences.

Historical Cash vs. VIK Mix for Properties



### DATA

Ratio for cash over VIK

### NOTES

Brands focusing more on VIK investments in 2022 and 2023 over previous years.

# RESULTS #2: THE DEAL

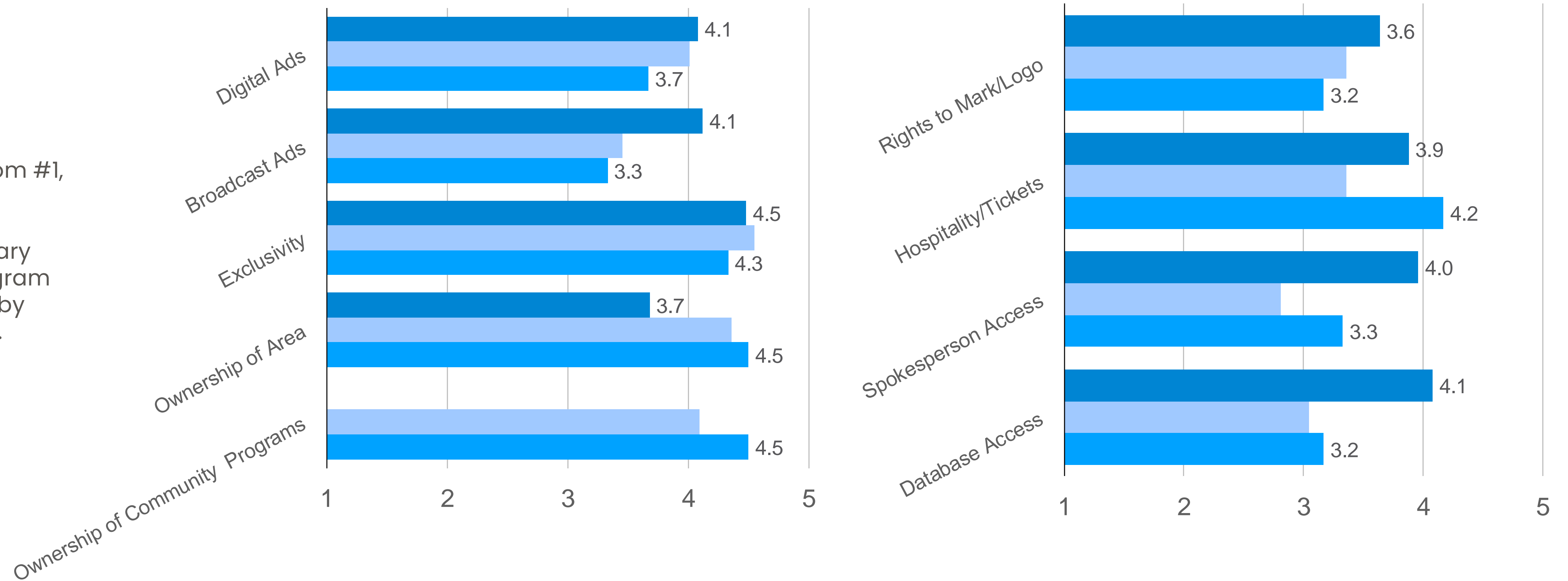
## VALUABLE BENEFITS

Most Valuable Benefits Identified by Sponsors

### DATA & NOTE

Compared to 2019 (pre-COVID)

- Exclusivity dropped from #1, but remained strong.
- Ownership of proprietary area/community program top benefits, followed by hospitality and tickets.
- 2023 data limited.



■ 2019 ■ 2021 ■ 2022



# RESULTS #2: THE DEAL

## PROPERTY LARGEST SPONSOR & AGENCY LARGEST CLIENT (2022 + 2023 DATA)

Largest Sponsor

Avg : \$1.15M

Range: \$5k to \$6.5M

Largest Client

Avg : \$925k

Range: \$95k to \$4.2M



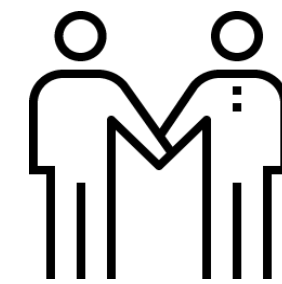
**25.6%**

Retail



**12.8%**

Gambling/Betting



For **62.5%** of agencies, it was a sponsor client.

For **37.5%** of agencies, it was a property client.

**50%**

of largest agency clients were from the financial services sector. Retail next at 25%.



**22.9%**

Finance



**9.9%**

Manufacturing



**16.2%**

Services

### INSIGHT

Rise of gambling/betting.



# RESULTS #2

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05

The deal

# RESULTS #3

---

06

Activation

# RESULTS #4

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07

Servicing

RESULTS



# RESULTS #3: ACTIVATION

## THE RATIO

### INSIGHT

Continued increases in activation since the pandemic.

### DATA

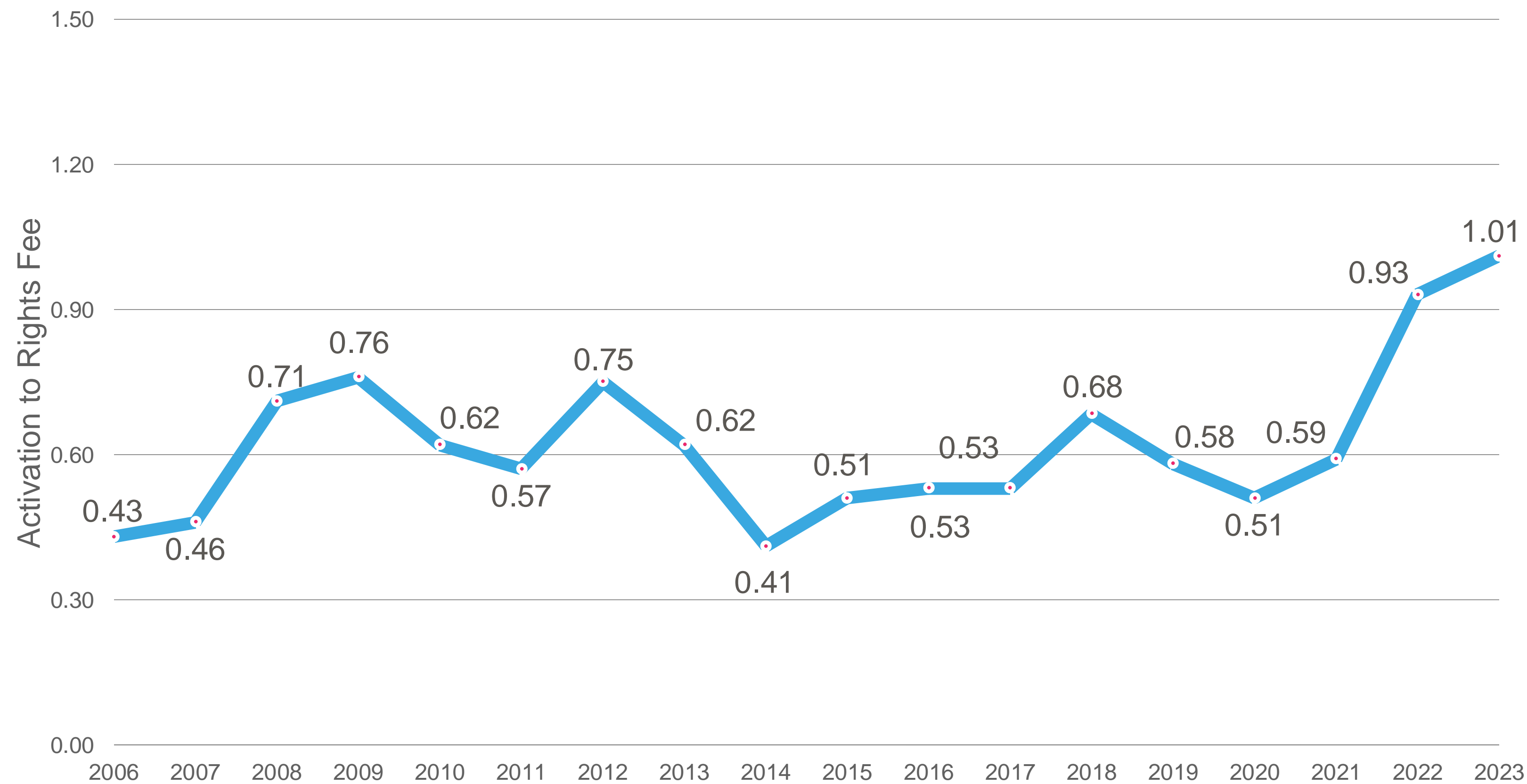


**1.01**

Activation to Rights Fee in Canada

Highest ever recorded in 2023.

Historical Activation Ratio: Canada



### NOTES ON 2022 and 2023

Very exciting results as the return to sponsorship could be characterized by a more sophisticated use of investment by brands.



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

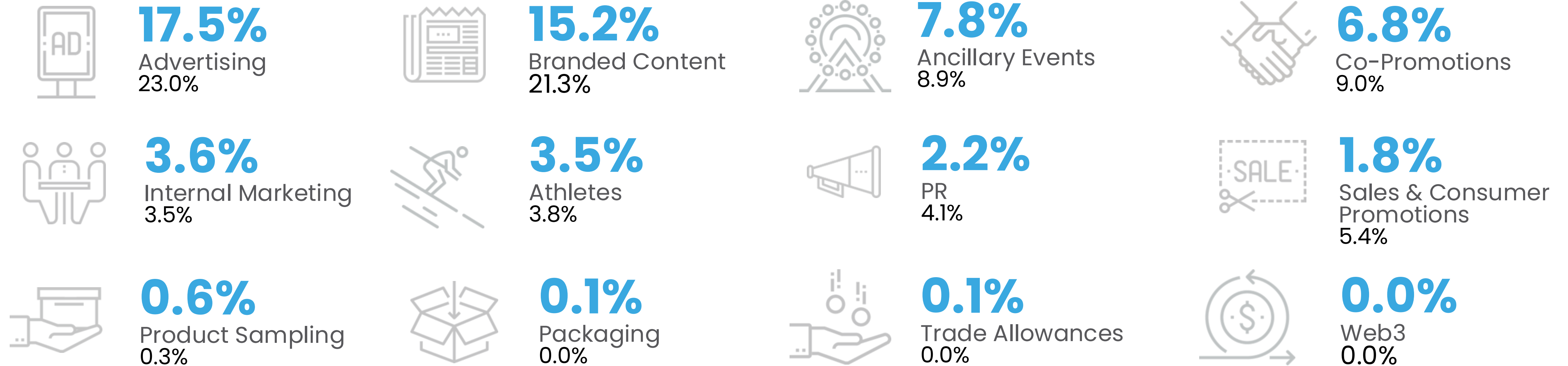




# RESULTS #3: ACTIVATION

## MIX OF INVESTMENT

Sponsor Reporting of Activation Spend in 2022/2023\*  
(2021 noted for each)



### BIG CHANGE

Hosting & Hospitality is back  
Web3 zero

\*Low sample size for 2023



# RESULTS #3: ACTIVATION

## MIX OF INVESTMENT

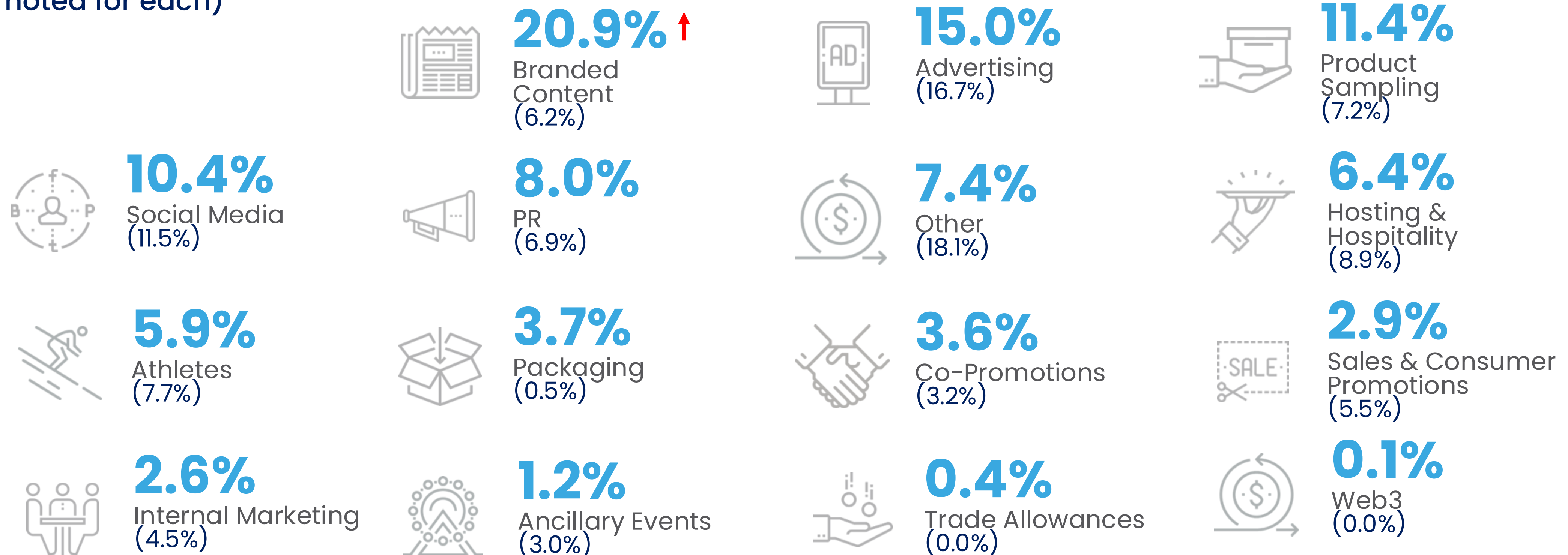
### OBSERVATION (SAME AS LAST YEAR)

Drastic difference from sponsor mix; evidence that agency role changes activation.

### INSIGHT

Branded Content is Back

Agency List of Sponsor Client Activation Spend in 2022/2023\* (2021 noted for each)



\*Low sample size for 2023


# RESULTS #3: ACTIVATION

## DRIVERS OF ROI – SPONSOR VS. PROPERTY VIEW

### SPONSOR ROI RANKING

-  **#1**  
Branded Content (25%)
-  **#2**  
Social Media (19%)
-  **#3**  
Hosting/Hospitality (19%)
-  **#4**  
Advertising (12%)
-  **#5**  
Public Relations (12%)

### PROPERTY ROI RANKING

-  **#1**  
Branded Content (26%)
-  **#2**  
Sales Promotion (17%)
-  **#3**  
Co-Promotions (14%)
-  **#4**  
Advertising (14%)
-  **#5**  
Social Media (12%)

### ROI RANKING



### COMMON #1

- Common on branded content, but differ on others considerably
- For sponsors, hosting/hospitality provides a platform for generating leads/driving sales.
- For both, branded content and social media are easier to measure.

2022 Data

# RESULTS #3: ACTIVATION

## SPONSOR: INVESTMENT VS. ROI ALIGNED

Statistical significance between the assets that sponsors choose to invest in and those that they view as most impactful drivers of ROI.

### CORRELATION



**$r = .828$**

Correlation between Sponsor Spend and Sponsor view of ROI by activation tactic.

Significant at the  $p < .001$  level

### CROSS TABULATION



**Linear Association = 9.604**

Linear-by-Linear Association between Sponsor Spend and Sponsor view of ROI by activation tactic.

Significant at the  $p < .005$  level

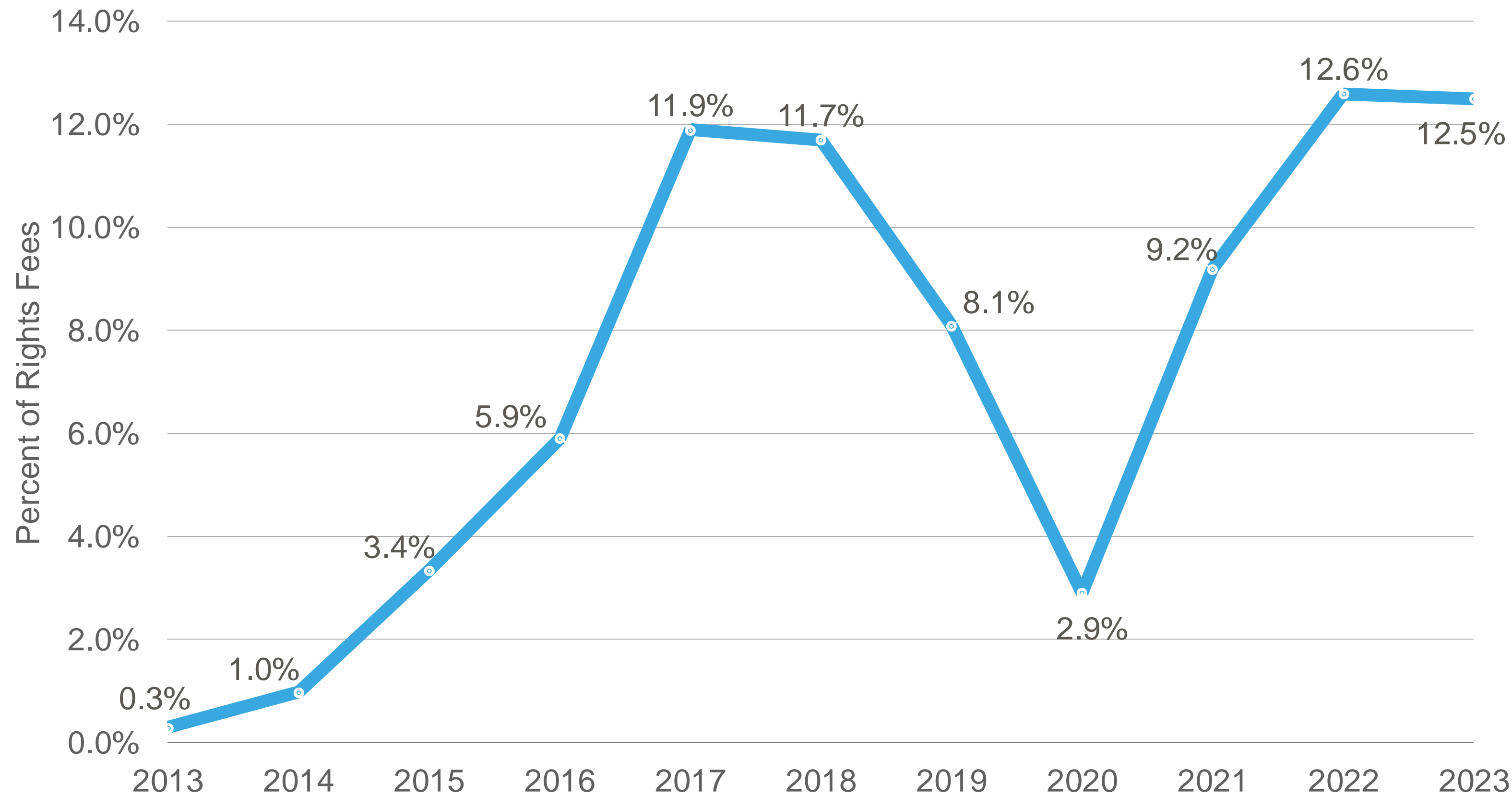
### INSIGHT

Sponsors are spending where they think ROI is possible

# RESULTS #3: ACTIVATION

## PROPERTY ACTIVATION

Property Reinvestment of Rights Fees in Activation



### INSIGHT

This increased reinvestment, in 2022 and 2023, plus the reduced number of respondents reporting no reinvestment, and increased activation ratio, has been a shift in how brands and properties understand activation -> a good thing for the industry.

### DATA



**12.5%**

Reinvested by  
Properties in Activation

### NOTES (from 2022 data)

**Only 11%** of respondents reported no reinvestment in activation in 2022 (down from 33% in 2021). Limited sample in 2023.

### Most Common Tactics (all similar volume) in 2022

- #1 - Branded Content
- #2 - Social Media
- #3 - Advertising
- #4 - Branded Content



# RESULTS #3: ACTIVATION

## AGENCY VIEW ON SPONSOR ACTIVATION PRIORITIES

In your experience developing sponsorship strategies with your clients, what are the three most common activation objectives that sponsors seek?

\*Percentages indicate the proportion of total responses provided captured by each theme.

### INSIGHT

42.1% directly related to sales (sampling, ROI/intent/sales, brand consideration).

**21.1%**

Sampling, Trial, & Lead Generation

**15.8%**

Awareness & Brand Recognition

**15.8%**

Brand Engagement

**10.5%**

ROI, Purchase Intent & Sales

**10.5%**

Increasing Brand Consideration

**7.9%**

Hybrid Creative Activations

**5.3%**

Hosting & Hospitality

**2.6%**

Social Media

**2.6%**

PR

**2.6%**

Leveraging Talent in Brand Campaigns

**2.6%**

Corporate Social Responsibility

**2.6%**

Strategic Alignment

# RESULTS #3

06

Activation

# RESULTS #4

07

Servicing

# RESULTS #5

08

Evaluation

RESULTS

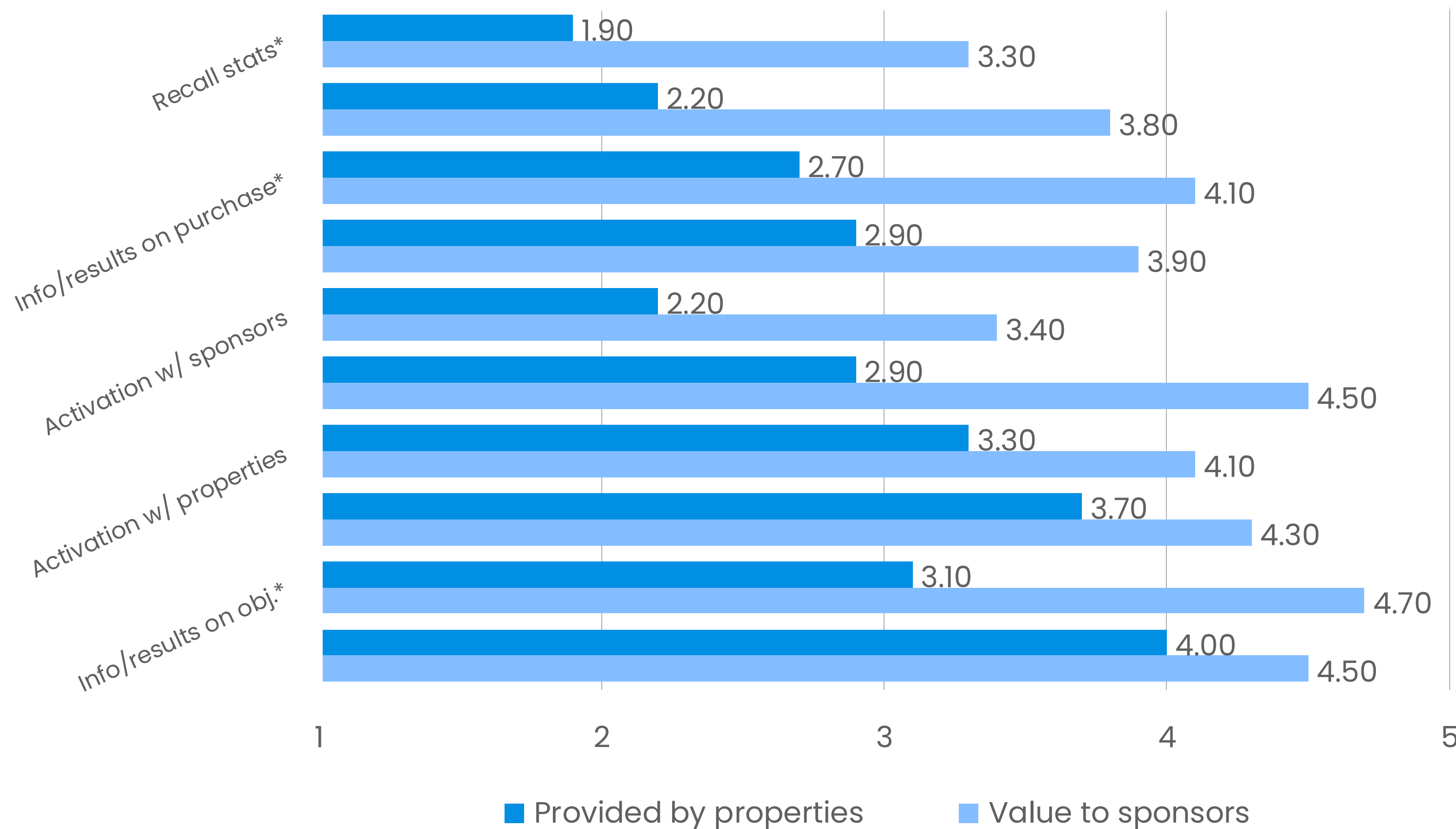


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# SERVICING

## SPONSOR PERSPECTIVE – 2021, 2022, 2023 DATA COMBINED\*

Services to Sponsors: Viewed by Sponsors



### DATA

**10 of 10**  
are Statistically Significant Differences (\*)

### NOTE

- The servicing issue remains in Canadian sponsorship.
- This has been consistent for 18 years, with a few exceptions.

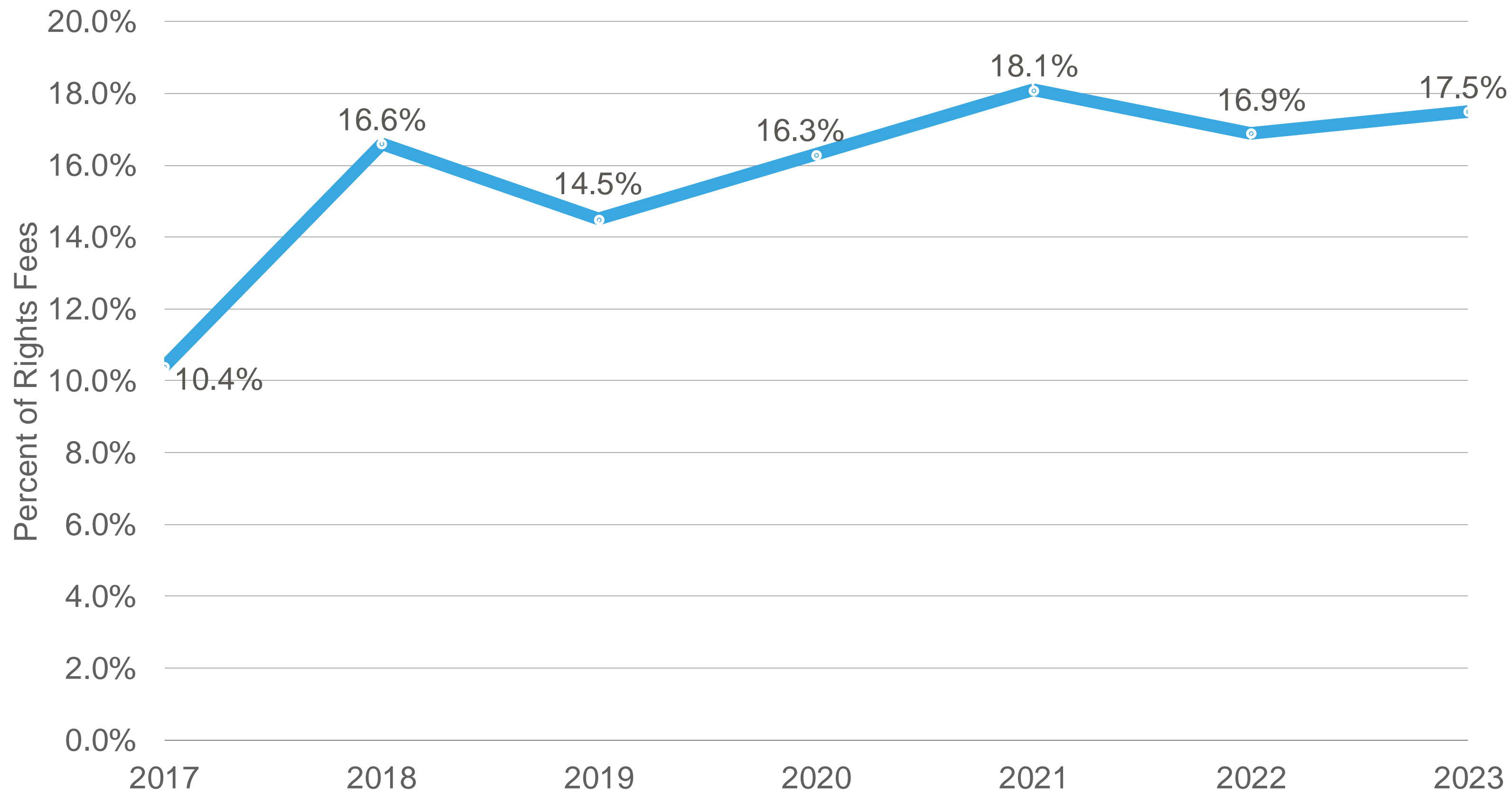
\*Low sample size for 2022 and 2023



# SERVICING

## PROPERTIES INVESTMENT EXPANDS FROM PRE-COVID

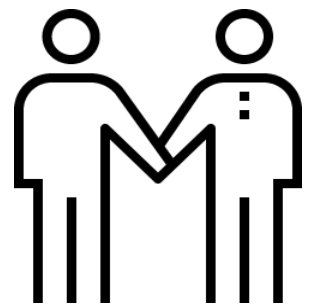
Property Reinvestment in Servicing



### Servicing

% of sponsorship revenue that is allocated to servicing

**100%**



of property respondents reported investing in servicing.

Very positive finding.

# RESULTS #4

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Servicing

07

# RESULTS #5

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Evaluation

08

# DISCUSSION

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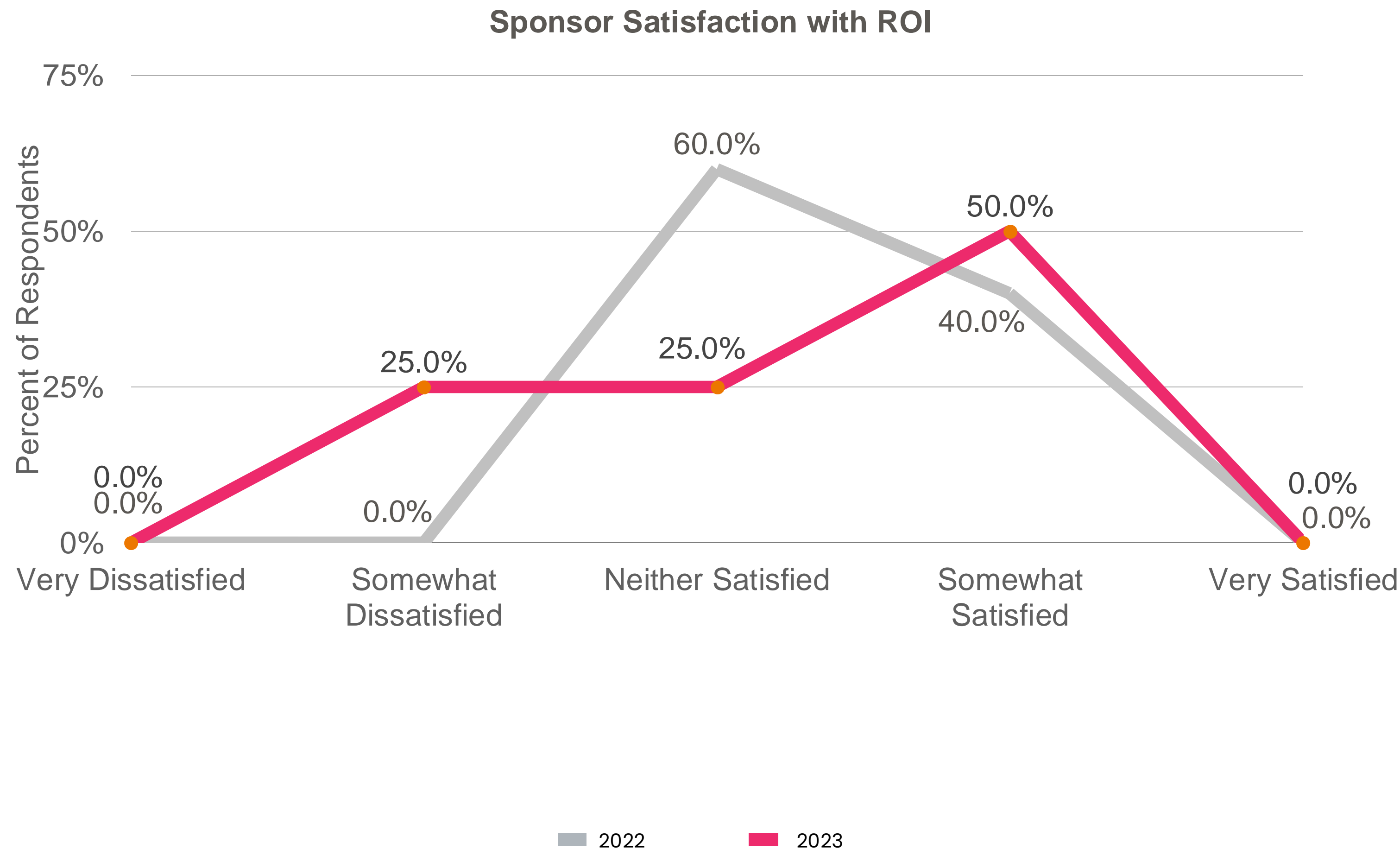
So what?

09

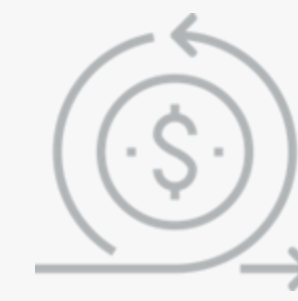
RESULTS

# RESULTS #5: EVALUATION

## PROPERTY VIEW OF SPONSORSHIP ROI



### DATA



**3.6** (out of 5) Sponsor Mean (combined results for 2022 & 2023)

### NOTE

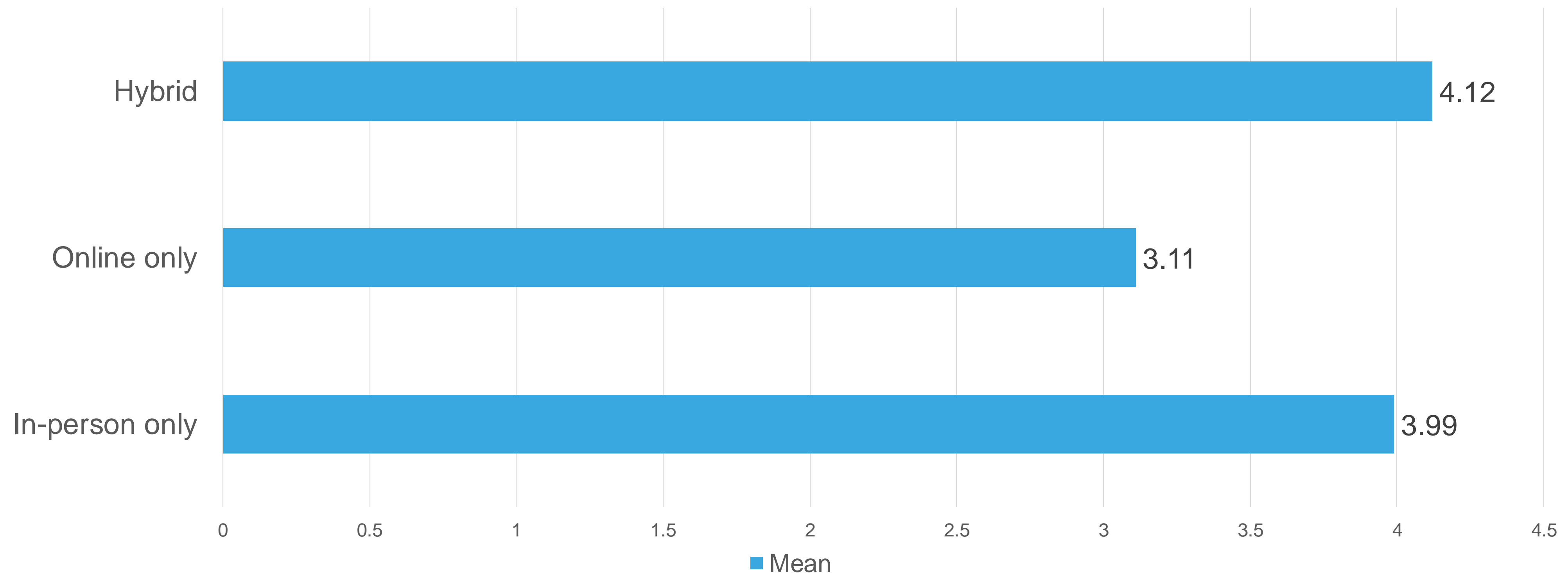
Sponsor result on ROI improved over 2021 (3.5) and 2020 (2.8)\*

Very moderate response, none at extremes

# RESULTS #5: EVALUATION

## PROPERTY VIEW OF SPONSOR'S PERCEPTION OF ROI

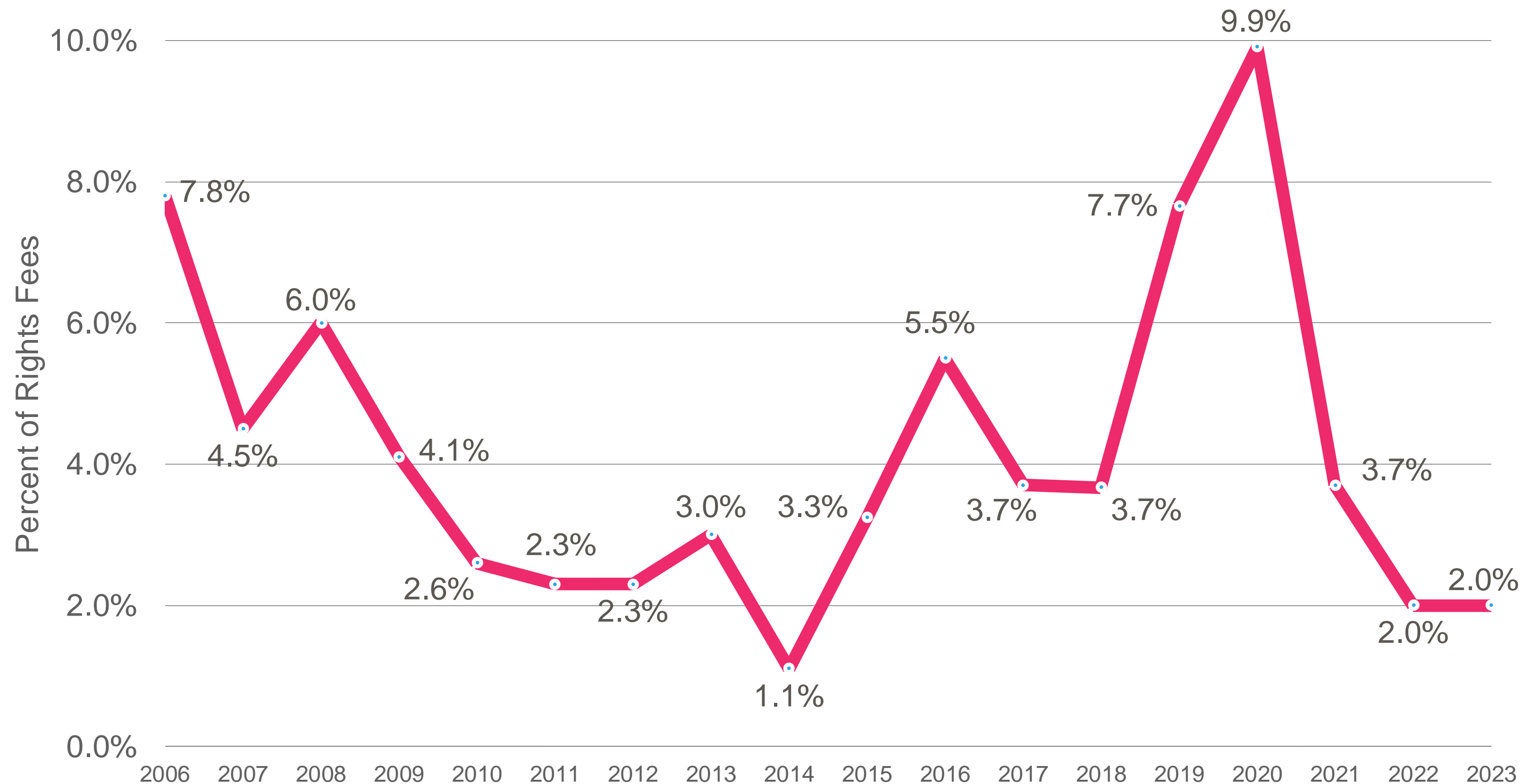
Sponsor Perceptions of ROI via Activation Modality



# RESULTS #5: EVALUATION

## EVALUATION INVESTMENT BY SPONSORS

Historical Evaluation Spend

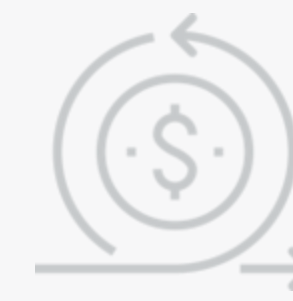


*Pre-evaluation: 10.6% 3.6% 12.6% 8.5% 9.7% 15.1% 9.5% 16.0%*

### INSIGHTS

- Despite being a major concern in sponsorship, investment drops here.
- Is evaluation becoming more efficient?
- Or, are sponsors delegating evaluation work to their agencies?

### DATA



**2.0%**  
of Rights Fee Spent on evaluation (note this is average by sponsor, not weighted for sponsor size)

### NOTE

- Return to 2009 to 2015 levels.
- **25%** reported spending nothing on evaluation in 2022 and 2023.
- Pre-Sponsorship evaluation spend rose to 16.0% (highest to date) in 2022 and 2023.



# RESULTS #5: EVALUATION

## PROPERTY EVALUATION

### INSIGHT

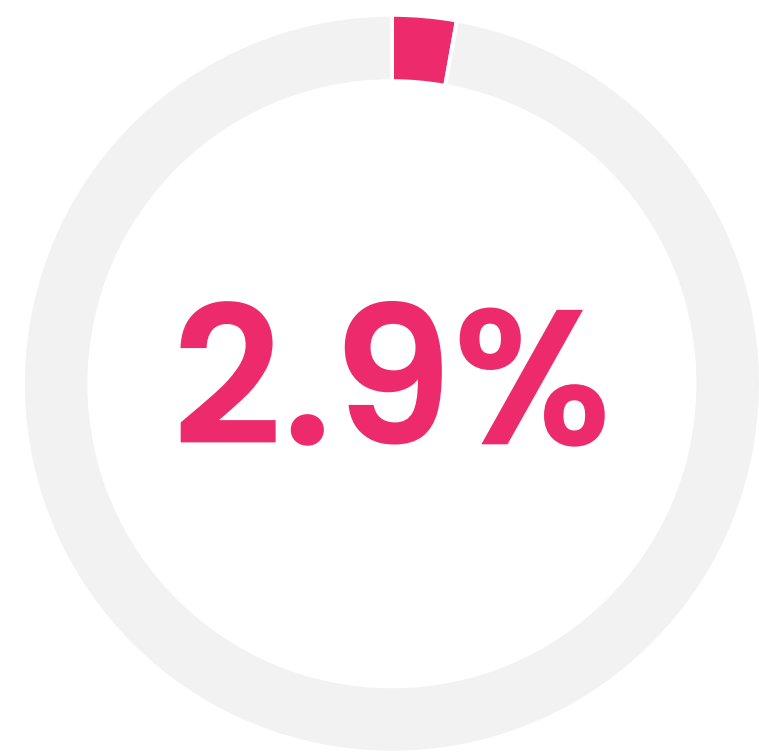
- Results lead us to ask who is accountable for evaluation? Have brands delegated to agencies, thereby leaving properties to focus more?
- Properties have access to important data sources for evaluation (e.g., audiences, unique content).



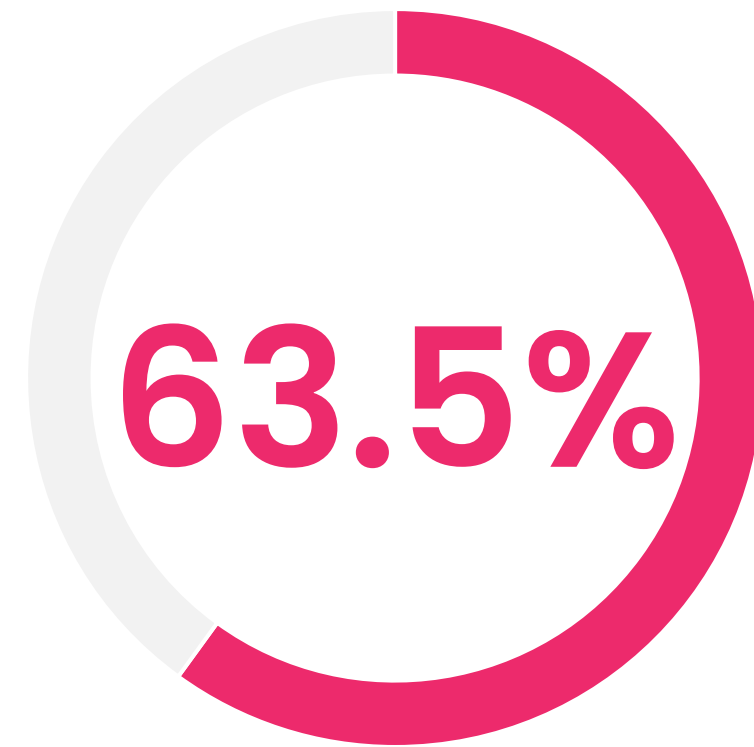
### EVALUATION INVESTMENT



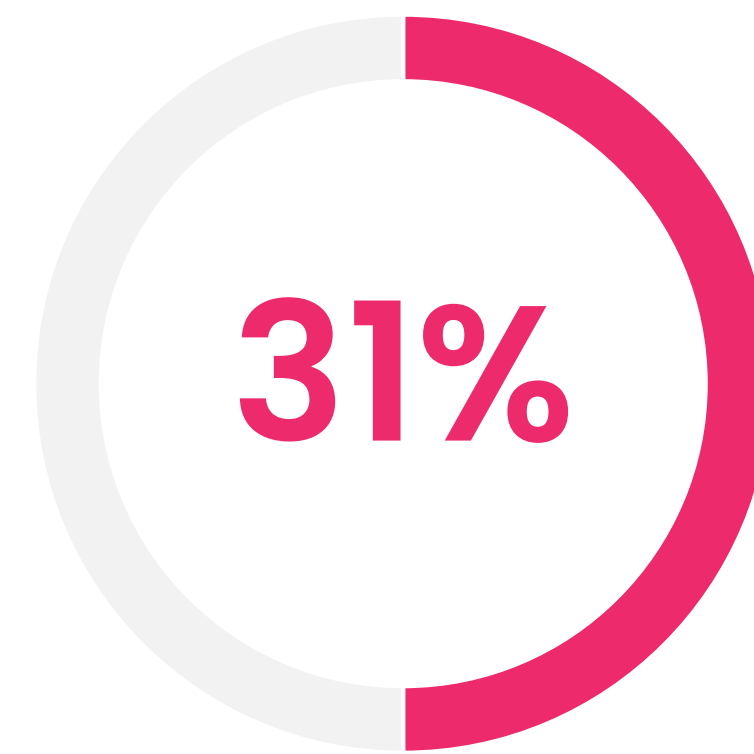
### TRENDING



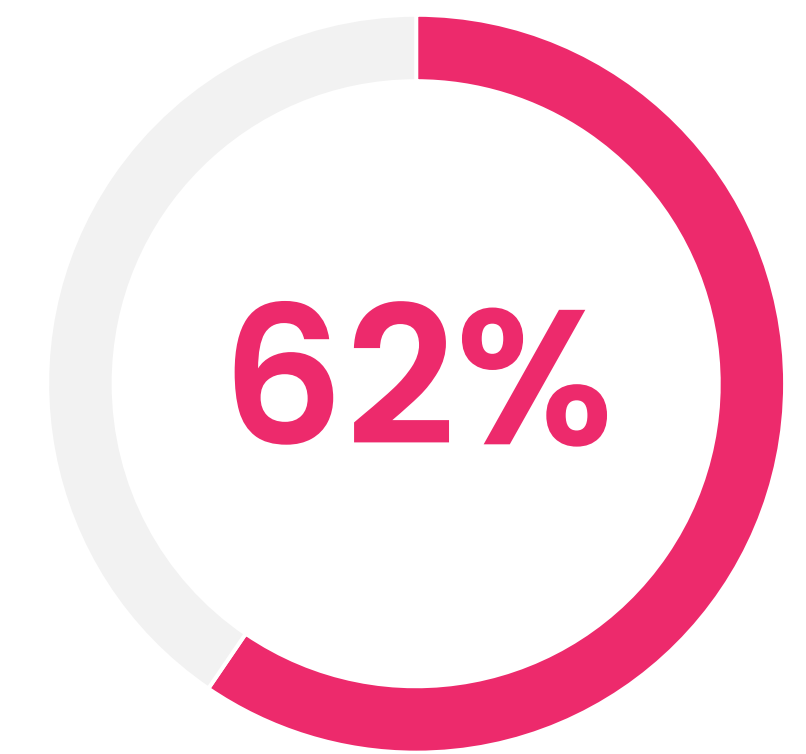
Proportion (on average) of sponsorship revenues invested in sponsorship evaluation  
\*2021 result: 2.9% (no change)



Proportion (on average) of those dollars allocated to pre-sponsorship evaluation  
\*2021 result: 7.1%  
\*Positive Change



Spent zero on sponsorship evaluation  
\*2021 result: 50%



Spent zero on pre-sponsorship evaluation  
\*2021 result: 68%

# RESULTS #5: EVALUATION

## AGENCY VIEW OF EVALUATION PRACTICE OF SPONSOR CLIENTS



### TECHNIQUES AND MEASURES USED TO DEMONSTRATE ROI TO CLIENTS

COMMONLY MENTIONED TECHNIQUES & MEASURES		
Custom/sponsor's choice/property defined	Internal tracking of sales/KPI's	External tracking tools (media, PR, social)
Third party research (e.g., research agencies)	Impressions	Survey data
Post event reports/audits	Media rating points (MRP) results	Lead generation/new contacts
Demographics	Sponsorship recall (aided & unaided)	Social media impressions
Mentions in the press		

# RESULTS #5

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08

Evaluation

# RESULTS #6

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09

RESULTS

Property Reinvestment in Sponsors

# DISCUSSION

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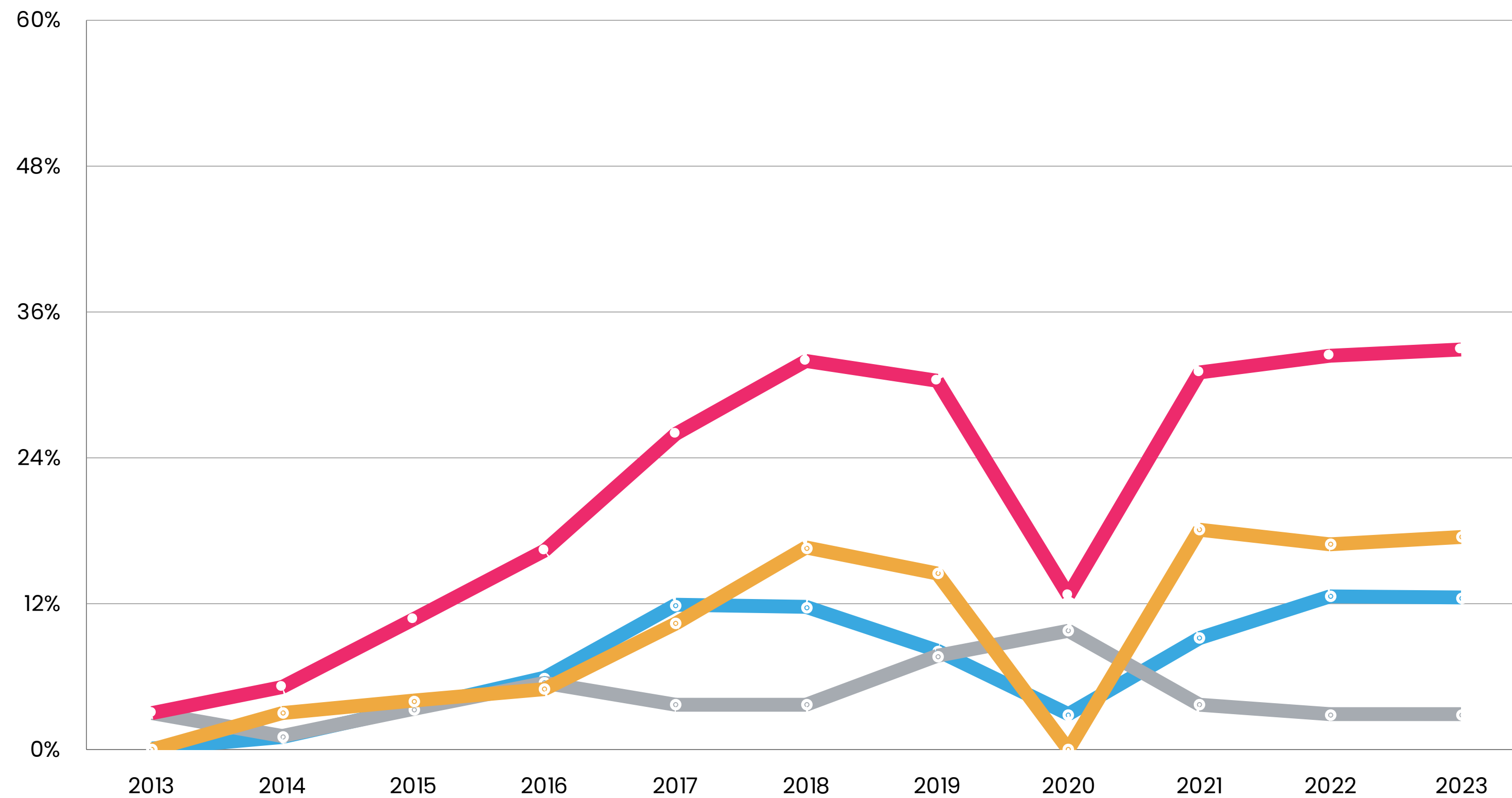
10

So what?



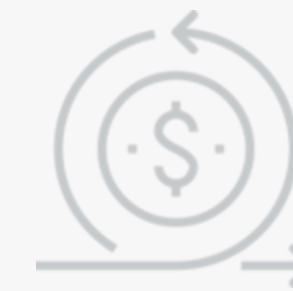
# RESULTS #6: PROPERTY REINVESTMENT

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



■ Activation ■ Evaluation ■ Servicing ■ Total

## DATA



**32.9%**

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

## NOTE

- Property reinvestment stabilizing at around 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of rights fees received.

# RESULTS #5

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08

Evaluation

# RESULTS #6

---

09

Property Reinvestment in Sponsors

DISCUSSION

# SUMMARY

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10

Deep dives & conclusion



IMI

# EVALUATION

## WHAT KEEPS US UP AT NIGHT?

TOP CONCERNS	Meeting Targets*	Demonstrating <small>SEP</small> ROI	Demonstrating <small>SEP</small> ROI	Other*	Demonstrating <small>SEP</small> ROI	Demonstrating <small>SEP</small> ROI	Meeting Targets** Evaluation/Measure	Fear about delivering value as ROI	Analytics/ Evaluation/ Measurement/ROI	Measurement	Measurement & Economic Uncertainty	Measurement
YEAR	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023

\*Demonstrating ROI #2  
\*\*Demonstrating ROI #3

### SPONSORS

- ROI/Measurement – “Demonstrating the value of sponsorship to senior leadership”
- Changing Market/Inflation/Rising Costs – “Ensuring that our portfolio provides the flexibility to adapt to, and help address constantly/rapidly evolving business needs.”
- Working with the right Properties – “Are there great organizations out there we’re not finding?”

### PROPERTIES

- Competition – “Increasing number of competitors seeking sponsorship dollars.”
- Measurement– “How to show our partners that it is worth renewing.”
- Clutter – “Increasingly too much clutter.”

### AGENCIES

- ROI/Measurement – “Measuring ROI outside of brand marketing such as revenue and impact meaningfully.”
- Internationalization – “International activations and delivery capabilities.”
- Turbulent environment – “Identifying shifts in strategies and relevant data to support decision making”



# DISCUSSION: SO WHAT?

## FUTURE OF SPONSORSHIP

What gives you hope about the future of sponsorship in Canada?

### SPONSORS

#### Recognized Value

"That people are finally seeing it as a valuable tool to promote a brand"

"Data proves that sponsorship marketing added to the marketing mix strategies works to build brand affinity and consideration."

"...from an upper funnel perspective, sponsorship works. We see considerably greater brand consideration from those who know we sponsor [sport] and even higher from those who have experienced one of our events"

### PROPERTIES

#### Purpose-Driven Partnerships

"Purpose-led partnerships are growing in popularity. Brands are recognizing the importance of social impact and making real difference in today's society given the need for change and equity, plus the public's awareness of issues and willingness to discuss"

"A trend towards alignment and partnerships and less of 'what do I get?'"

"Hoping for greater focus on values-based investments from sponsors vs. solely for profit motivated investments"

# DISCUSSION: SO WHAT?

## PAIN POINTS: AGENCY POV

What is the main pain point and/or business objective that sponsorship helps your sponsor clients meet?

### AWARENESS

"Brand awareness and interaction with audiences"

"Visibility and goodwill towards the community"

"Generating positive awareness and affiliation for our clients"

"Exposure to new audiences"

"Augmenter la notoriété de la marque : La commandite peut aider les entreprises à augmenter leur visibilité auprès de leur public cible en associant leur marque à des événements, des équipes ou des individus populaires"

(Increase the value of the brand: Sponsorships can help brands build their visibility in their target markets through events, teams and celebrities)

### REVENUE GENERATION

"Our clients are in the entertainment business and sponsorships bring in revenue, which helps keep pricing down"

"Financial support. Without sponsor dollars, the event quality drops. This in turn makes it harder to get sponsor dollars and a downward spiral begins"

# DISCUSSION: SO WHAT?

## SERVICE VALUE

What service do you provide to your sponsorship clients that they find most valuable?



### CUSTOM STRATEGY

"La stratégie de commandite : L'élaboration d'une stratégie de commandite personnalisée en fonction des objectifs et des besoins spécifiques de chaque client peut être extrêmement précieuse pour les clients."

(Sponsorship strategy: The development of a custom strategy based on objectives that is extremely precise is vital for our clients)



### CREATIVITY

"Creatively breaking through the clutter and getting noticed where properties have many or multiple brand partners"

"Unique ways to activate"



### MEASUREMENT

"Valuation and measurement"

"Evaluating sponsorship opportunities"

"Sponsorship audits post event"

"Asset valuations"

# DISCUSSION: SO WHAT?

## SERVICE VALUE

What is the most valuable skill or behaviour for a new grad or professional to have entering sponsorship in Canada?

### SPONSORS

#### Organizational & Dynamic

"Sponsorship is always juggling 15 balls at once and the ability to not drop one is essential"

"Being able to be an adaptable and dynamic thinker to have the ability to work on various platforms and projects"

### PROPERTIES

#### People Skills

"Ability to connect with people and foster professional relationships"

"Networking and relationship development"

"Ability to communicate in a variety of forms as each partner has a different preference"

"The understanding or ability to connect the companies brands with a potential sponsor to then create a meaningful partnership"

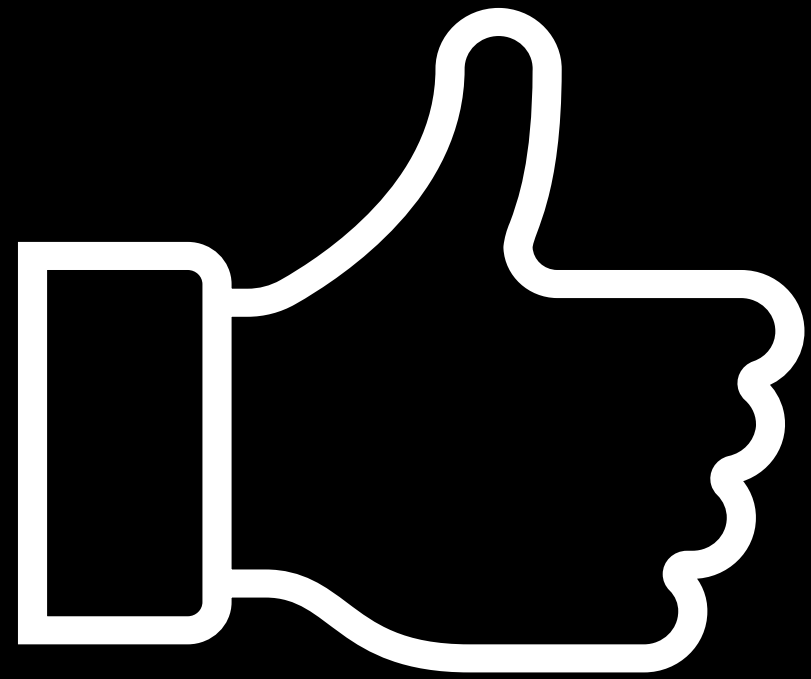
### AGENCIES

#### Strategic Mindset

"Willingness to take the time to cultivate a partnership"

"Thinking strategically on how the sponsorship best works for all parties"

"Ability to work with data to identify insights, feed into strategy"



In the words of a respondent: “I believe that all parties (brands, properties, agencies) are getting *smarter* in how they activate and drive value from sponsorship, which will continue to push the industry forward and ensure dollars flow into sponsorship versus other channels”

- Rights fees and activation equal.
- Activation growth driven by experiential activities characterized by high engagement and results-driven tactics. Most common are (i) hosting/hospitality, (ii) branded content, and (iii) sales promotions.
- Agency work is highly illustrative of a formalizing industry.
- Caution expressed for the future, given the economic climate.
- Measurement and servicing still two areas of concern and need of industry-wide attention.



18th ANNUAL



**Canadian sponsorship  
landscape study**

Questions or Comments?  
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