

InvesTips

DIY investing vs Delegation



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Investing is crucial for building and preserving wealth, but approaches can vary



DIY investing

Managing your own portfolio without professional guidance

DIY investing offers lower cost and full control but requires time, expertise, and discipline to avoid emotional and timing mistakes



Delegation

Relying on financial experts to manage your investments

Delegated investing provides convenience and expert guidance but involves higher fees and less control, suiting those seeking structure and time efficiency



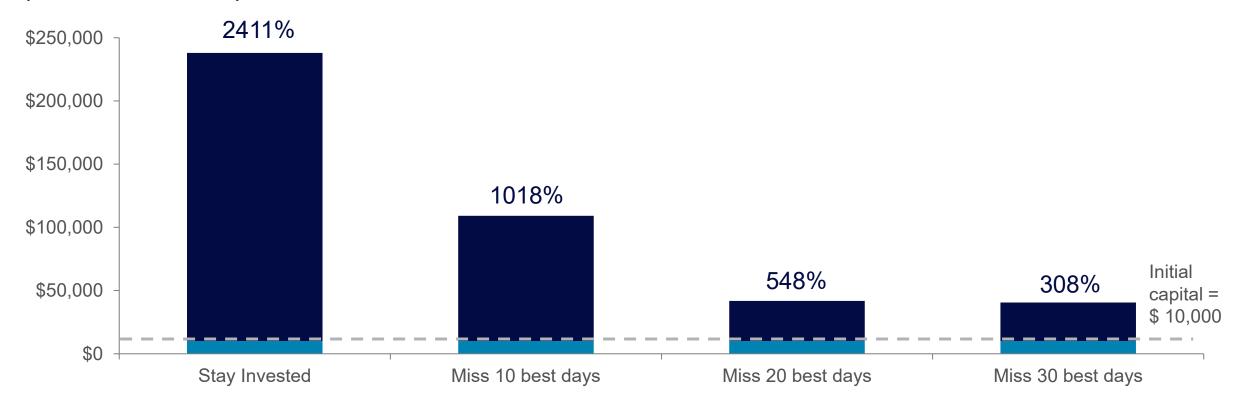
Why does this matter?

- The choice between these two approaches to investing speaks volume about one's personal priorities, time availability, and confidence in navigating financial risks.
- It is not just about comparing cost it's about aligning your investment approach with your broader financial vision. Choosing the optimal method can impacts risk control, returns and efficiency and focus
- Ultimately, the right choice supports and not hinders your longterm goals. It is about finding the balance between control and guidance, simplicity and sophistication, while making sure that the method serves the investor's evolving financial blueprint



Advantages of delegation: Better ability to stay invested; the cost of missing best days can be detrimental to long-term returns

Returns of a hypothetical USD 10,000 portfolio invested in S&P 500 – Total vs. leaving out the best 'up' days* (Jan 1988 – Jun 2025)



Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

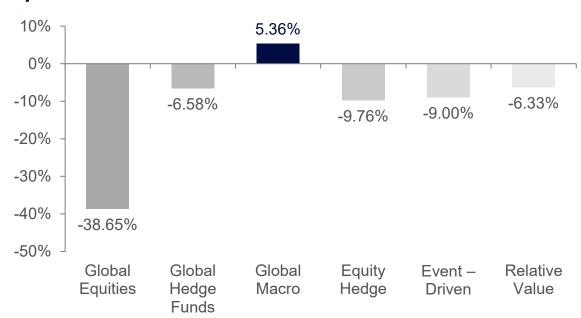
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Advantages of delegation: Greater assurance during periods of volatility and greater chances of outperformance

Hedge funds have outperformed global equities in 5 of the worst drawdowns since 1999*

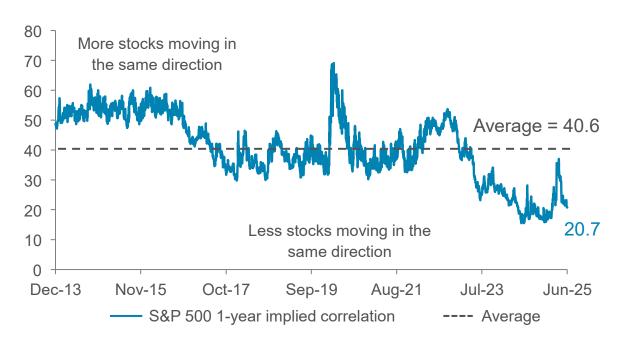
Average returns during the 5 worst drawdowns in global equities**



Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

More room for skilled managers to add value now that stocks are less correlated compared to the early 2010s

S&P 500 1-year implied correlation



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Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

Data as of 30 June 2025

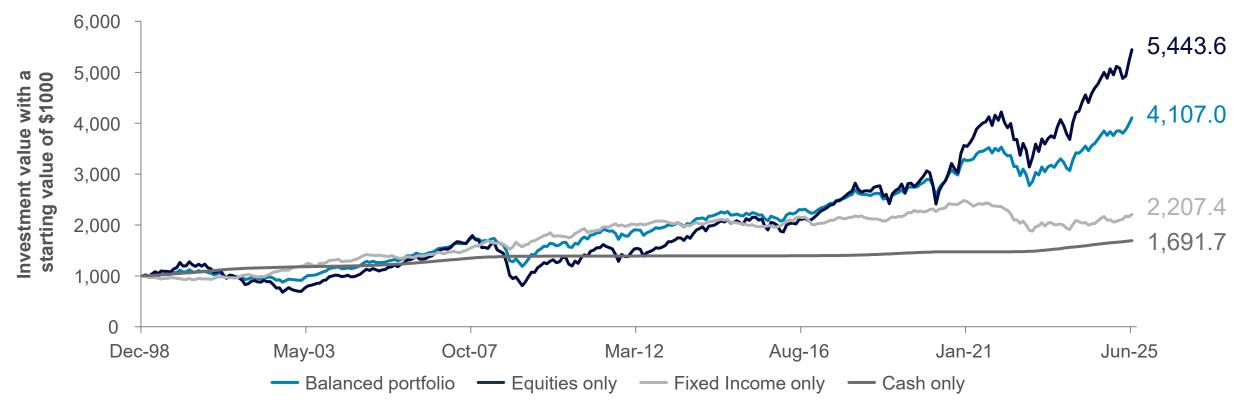


^{*}All hedge fund indices from HFRX. Drawdown periods: Nov 2021 - Oct 2022, Feb 2020 - March 2020, Jan 2018 - Dec 2018, Oct 2007 - Mar 2009, Mar 2000 to Oct 2002

^{**}Global equities represented by the MSCI ACWI index

Advantages of delegation: Professional portfolios are typically more diversified, helping you stay invested in tough times

Investment value of a balanced portfolio*, equity only, fixed income only and cash only portfolio since 1999



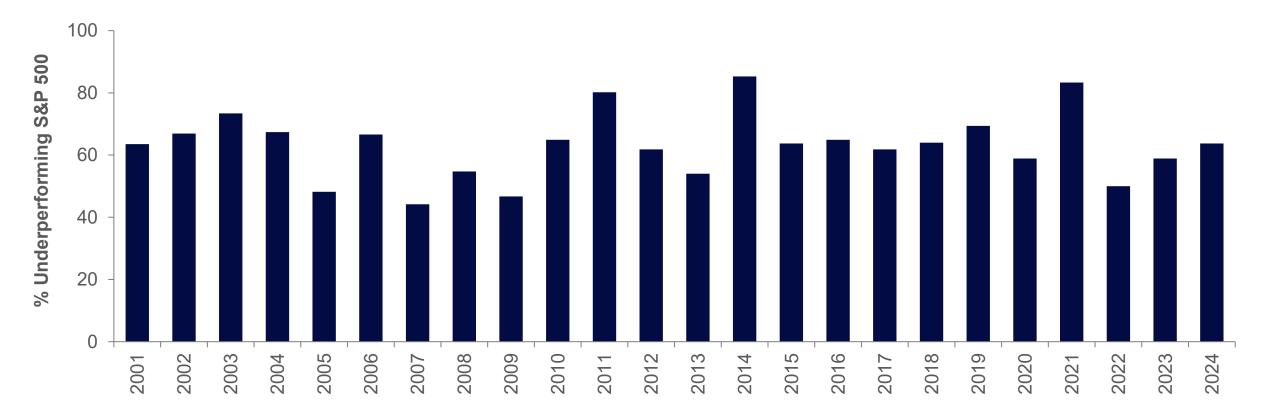
Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

^{*} Balanced portfolio represented by 52.5% Equities, 37.5% Fixed Income, 5% Gold, 5% cash Data as of 30 June 2025



Risks to Delegation: Funds managed professionally do not always outperform broad based benchmarks and ETFs

Percentage of large-cap domestic equity funds underperforming the S&P 500 each year



Source: SPIVA U.S Scorecard, Standard Chartered

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Risk to delegation – Fees can have a significant impact on returns; 1% in fees over 30 years can reduce investment growth from 10.1x to 7.6x

The compounding effect of fees on returns over different time horizons

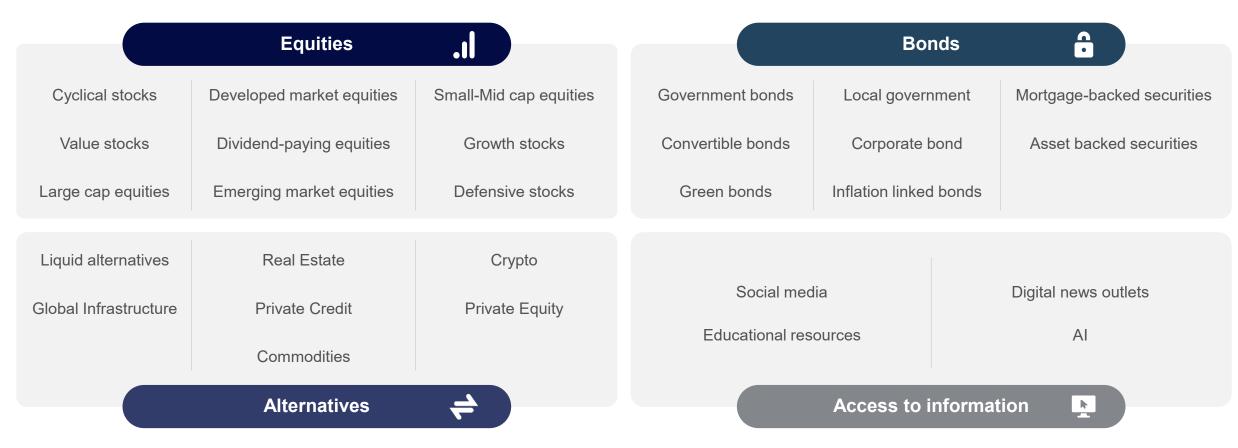
Year of compounding

	1Y	5Y	10Y	20Y	30Y	50Y	80Y
2	1.0x	1.1x	1.2x	1.5x	1.8x	2.7x	4.9x
3	1.0x	1.2x	1.3x	1.8x	2.4x	4.4x	10.6x
4	1.0x	1.2x	1.5x	2.2x	3.2x	7.1x	23.0x
5	1.1x	1.3x	1.6x	2.7x	4.3x	11.5x	49.6x
6	1.1x	1.3x	1.8x	3.2x	5.7x	18.4x	105.8x
7	1.1x	1.4x	2.0x	3.9x	7.6x	29.5x	224.2x
8	1.1x	1.5x	2.2x	4.7x	10.1x	46.9x	472.0x
9	1.1x	1.5x	2.4x	5.6x	13.3x	74.4x	986.6x
10	1.1x	1.6x	2.6x	6.7x	17.4x	117.4x	2048.4x
11	1.1x	1.7x	2.8x	8.1x	22.9x	184.6x	4225.1x
12	1.1x	1.8x	3.1x	9.6x	30.0x	289.0x	8658.5x
13	1.1x	1.8x	3.4x	11.5x	39.1x	450.7x	17630.9x
14	1.1x	1.9x	3.7x	13.7x	51.0x	700.2x	35677.0x

Source: Standard Chartered



Advantages of DIY Investing: Greater ability to curate portfolios as information availability and range of implementation options grows

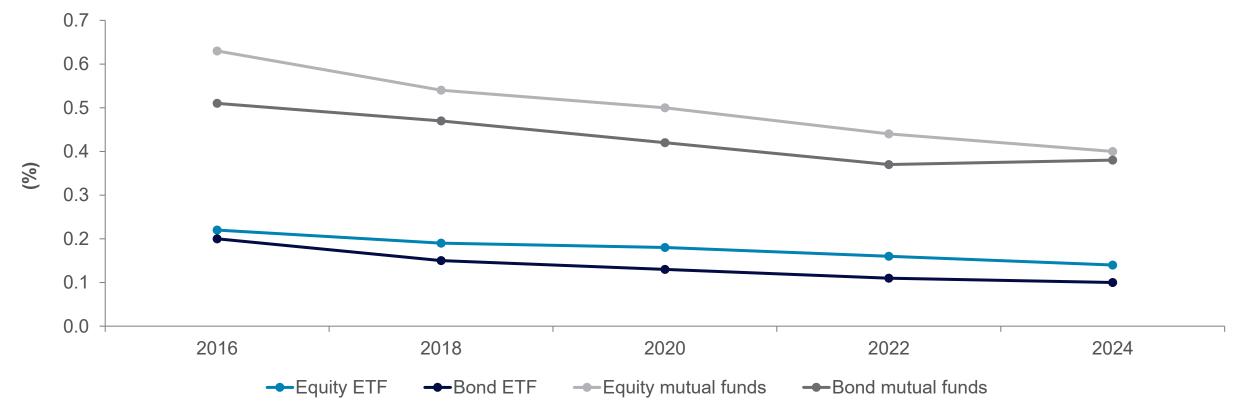


Source: Standard Chartered



Advantages to DIY investing: A proliferation of ETFs offer more options to build diversified portfolios at lower costs

Average expense ratios of ETFs and mutual funds*

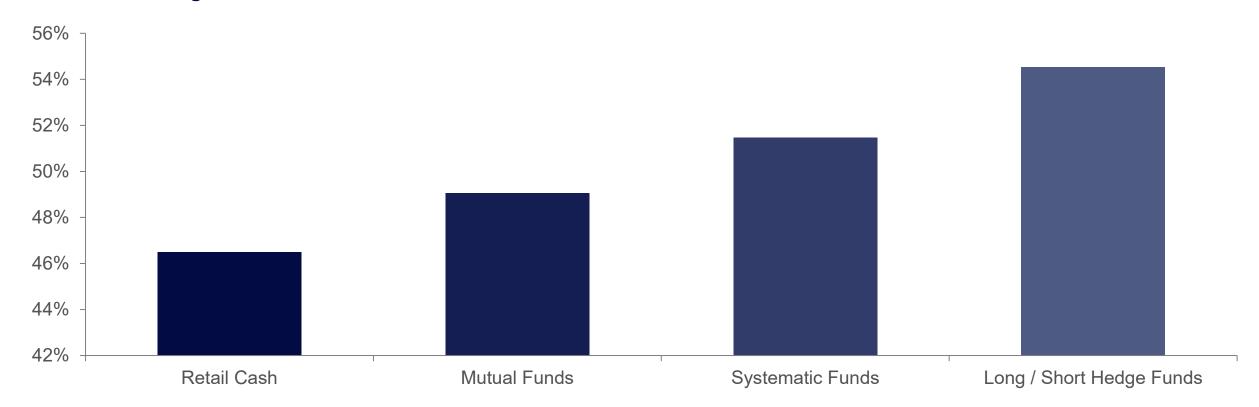


Source: ICI Research (Trends in the Expenses and Fees of Funds), Standard Chartered *Asset-weighted average expense ratios



Risks of DIY investing: Greater susceptibility to behavioral errors; data shows professional investors make better decisions

Hit rate of investor by type, defined as the number of times positions were correctly decreased / increased ahead of market losses / gains

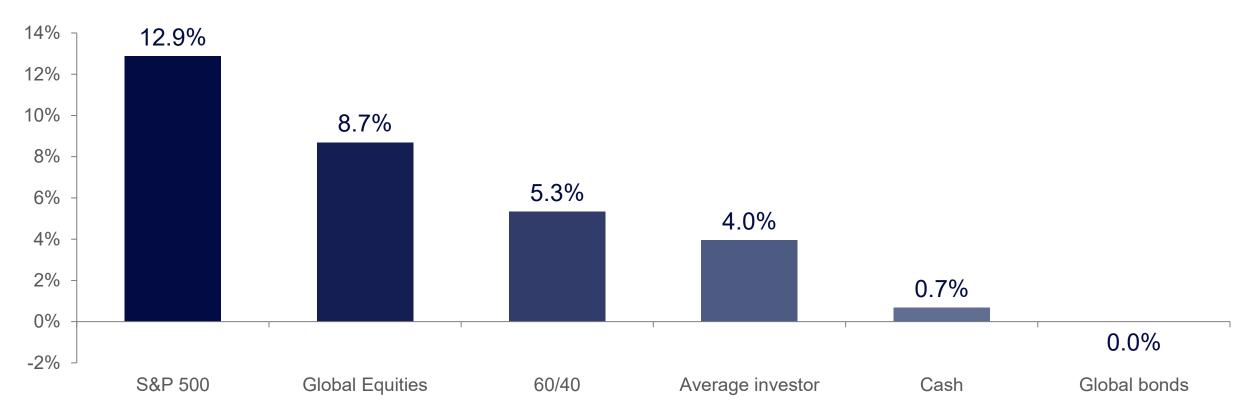


Source: VandaXasset, Bloomberg, Standard Chartered



Drawback of DIY investing: Over the long-term, individual investors have struggled to outperform a diversified 60/40 portfolio due to poor timing and emotional decisions

Annualized returns of asset classes and investors (2012 to 2022)



Source: Bloomberg, Dalbar, Standard Chartered

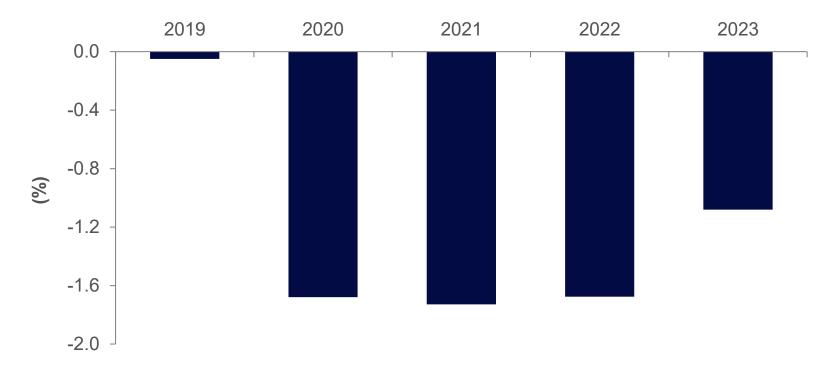
^{*}The Average Investor returns is based on a universe of funds that invest in a mix of equity and debt securities



Drawback of DIY investing: On average, investors earn 1.1% less per year than their funds' total returns over the 10-year period ending December 2024

- Allocation funds often automated and diversified showed the smallest gap, while Sector equity funds showed the largest gap, suggesting hands-off strategies may help investors stay the course
- More volatile funds tend to have larger return gaps. Investors often reacted to market swings, hurting long-term performance
- Regular, consistent investing helped reduce returns gap, reinforcing the value of disciplined investing habits

Difference in average investor return and average fund's return (10y annualized ending in year shown)



Source: Morningstar Mind the Gap 2024, Standard Chartered



Main drawbacks and risks of DIY investing

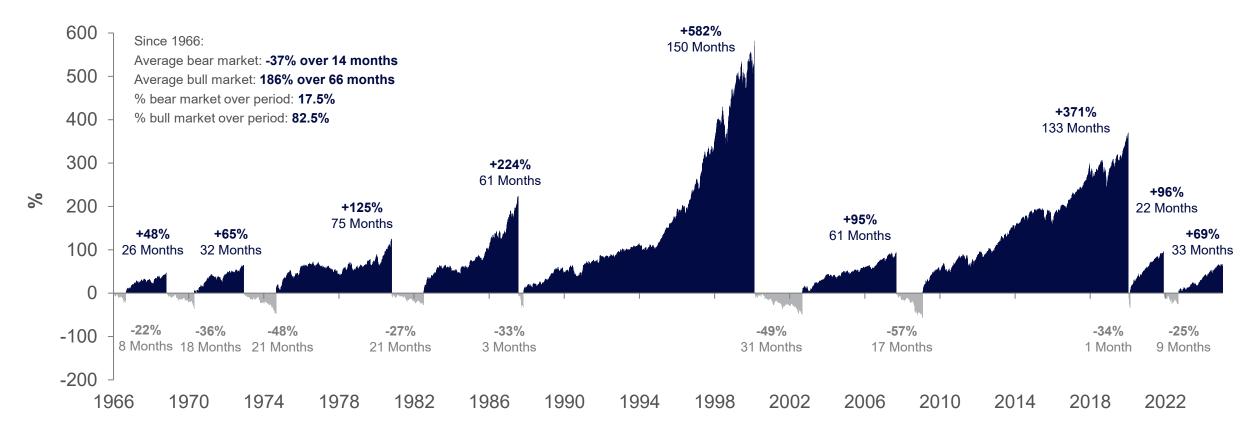
Drawbacks	Why it matters	Typical consequences
Time commitment	Building, monitoring and rebalancing a portfolio takes times – especially in volatile markets.	Fatigue, missed allocation opportunities, and reactive decisions.
Knowledge gaps	Portfolio construction, factor exposures, and risk management are complex disciplines.	Sub-optimal asset mix, unexpected outcomes, concentration risks.
Behavioral bias	Loss aversion, overconfidence, herding, and recency bias often lead DIY investors to buy high/sell low.	Performance that lags typical benchmarks by 1-3 ppt per year (Dalbar & Morningstar studies).
Emotional stress	Large drawdowns can trigger panic selling or paralysis.	Locking in losses or failing to deploy cash during recoveries.
Limited access	Private equity, private credit, institutional share classes and potential restrictions on IPO allocations.	Reduced diversifications and potential returns gap vs professional portfolios.
Platform & data costs	Zero-commission brokers still earn through spreads, payment-for-order-flow, margin and data subscription.	Hidden costs erode net returns.
Accountability vacuum	No Independent voice challenging your assumptions or coaching you through downturn.	Strategy drift, delayed course correction, or failing to stick to plan.

Source: Standard Chartered



Time in the market – How you invest matters less than whether you invest consistently

S&P 500 returns during bull and bear markets since 1966



Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

Data as of 30 June 2025



Both approaches have their place, but data shows most individual investors would benefit from delegation of investments





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Both approaches have their place

- DIY: Provides control and lower fees, but requires skill, time and emotional discipline
- Delegation: Offers convenience and guidance, but comes with higher fees and less control

What your choice should reflect

- How much time and energy you can commit
- Your confidence and skill in making investment decisions
- Life stage, goals, and complexity of finances
- How you handle risk and market volatility

"Its not about timing the market – its about time in the market"

- Consistent investing beats trying to create the perfect strategy
- For most investors, delegation offers the best chances of staying the course and thus reaping the benefits of compounding long-term

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Source: Standard Chartered



Choose between DIY and delegated approaches after considering the pro's and con's for your own situation

Criteria	DIY	Delegated
Cost	Usually lower, with fewer trading fees and more transparency.	Usually higher, though management/advisory fees can be outweighed by long-term performance gains
Investing experience	Involves making decisions related to timing, selection and rebalancing.	Fewer decisions involved in a more streamlined experience.
Access	Access to higher cost retail share classes and more limited asset classes.	Access to low-cost institutional share classes and a wider range of alternative strategies not widely available to retail investors.
Control	More control for those who enjoy analysing markets.	Less control in return for time savings and delegation of decision making to market professionals.
Time commitment	Requires consistent monitoring and rebalancing.	Requires considerably less time in terms of ongoing monitoring, reduces decision fatigue.
Expertise needed	Moderate to High.	Low to Moderate.
Behavorial Discipline & emotional biases	Need to guard against emotional decisions, such as panic selling in a downtown.	Less susceptibility to behavioral errors where behavioral nudges or rebalancing are built in.
Customization	Fully customizable.	Highly customizable.

Source: Standard Chartered

August 2025



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