

Decoding Digital Investment **Summer reads**

Retirement miscalculations: expectations vs reality

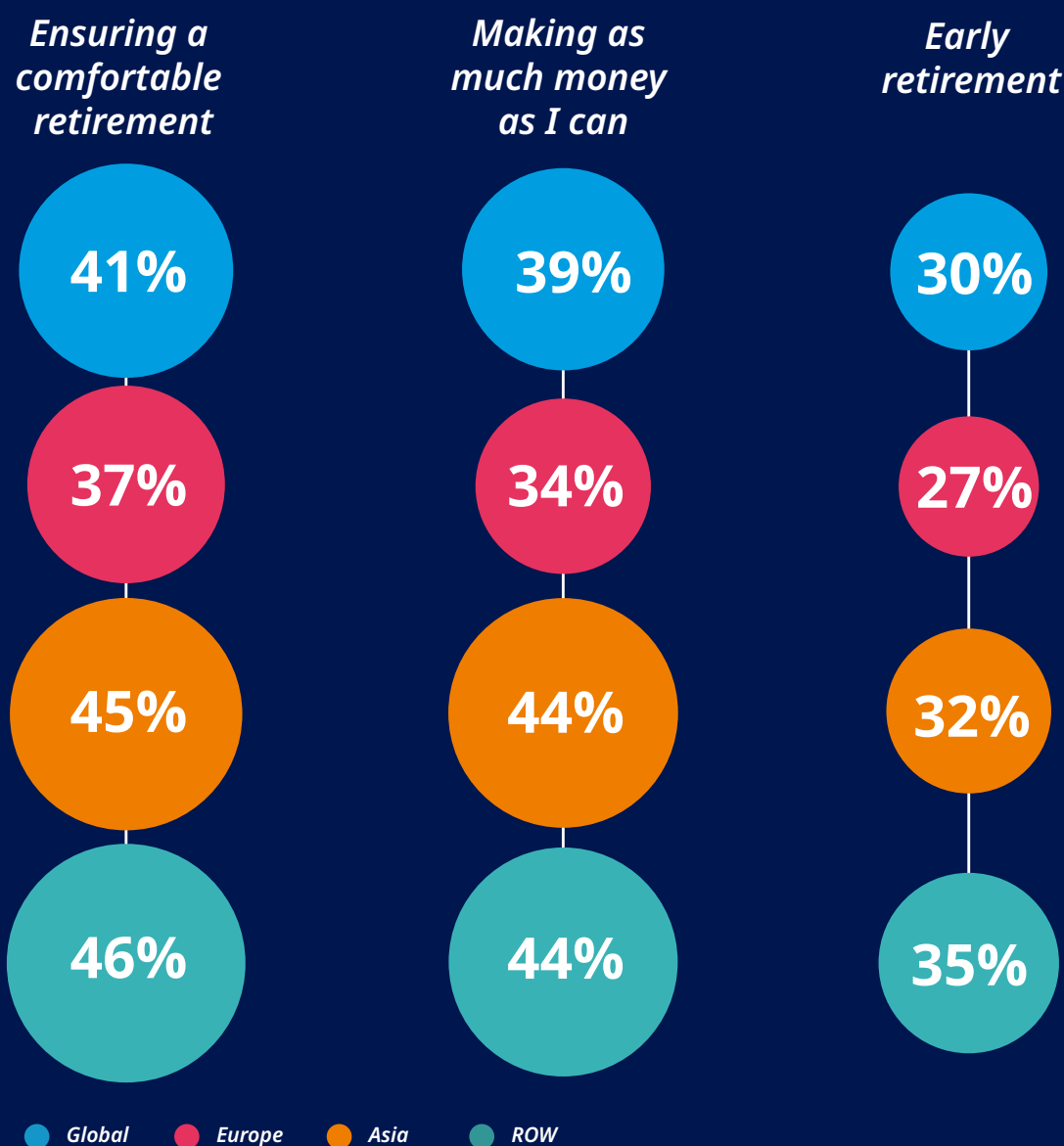


In the final of our “summer reads” series, we explore a growing disconnect between investor confidence and retirement goals. Drawing on insights from Amundi’s latest global research, we examine how digital habits, gaps in financial planning, and investment behaviours are shaping retirement outcomes - and what can be done to bring investors closer to their goals.

Retirement is the goal - but few have a plan

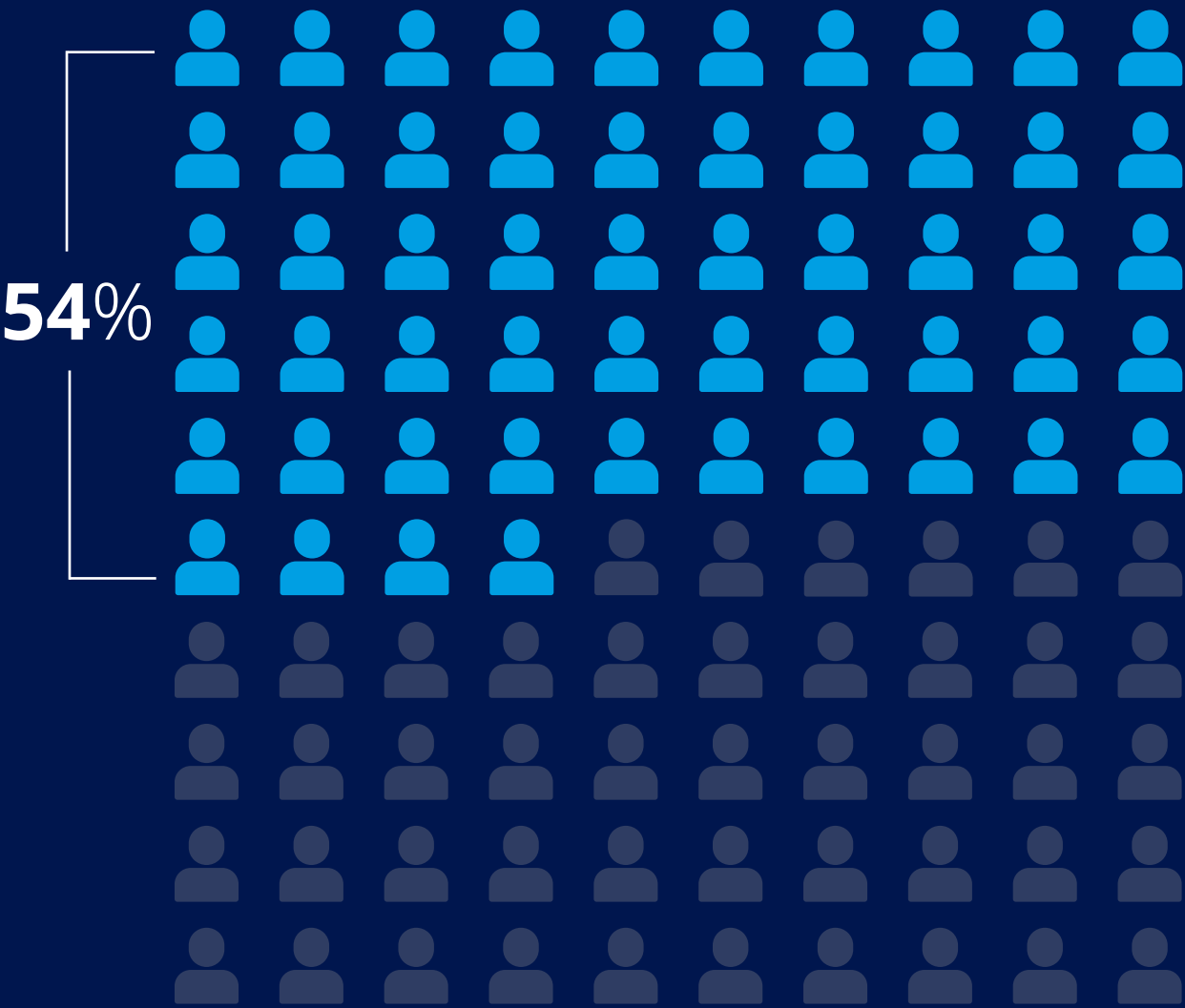
Across the world, achieving a comfortable retirement remains the number one reason people invest. Yet despite this shared ambition, many investors are significantly underprepared for the financial realities of life after work.

Top 3 reasons why people choose to invest



Amundi's 2025 global investor study reveals a significant gap between aspiration and action; while 41% of investors cite a comfortable retirement as their top investment goal, over half (54%) admit they do not have a well-developed long-term financial plan. This figure rises to 66% among digital-only investors and 74% among those who have never accessed professional financial advice.

% of investors that do not have a well-developed long-term financial plan



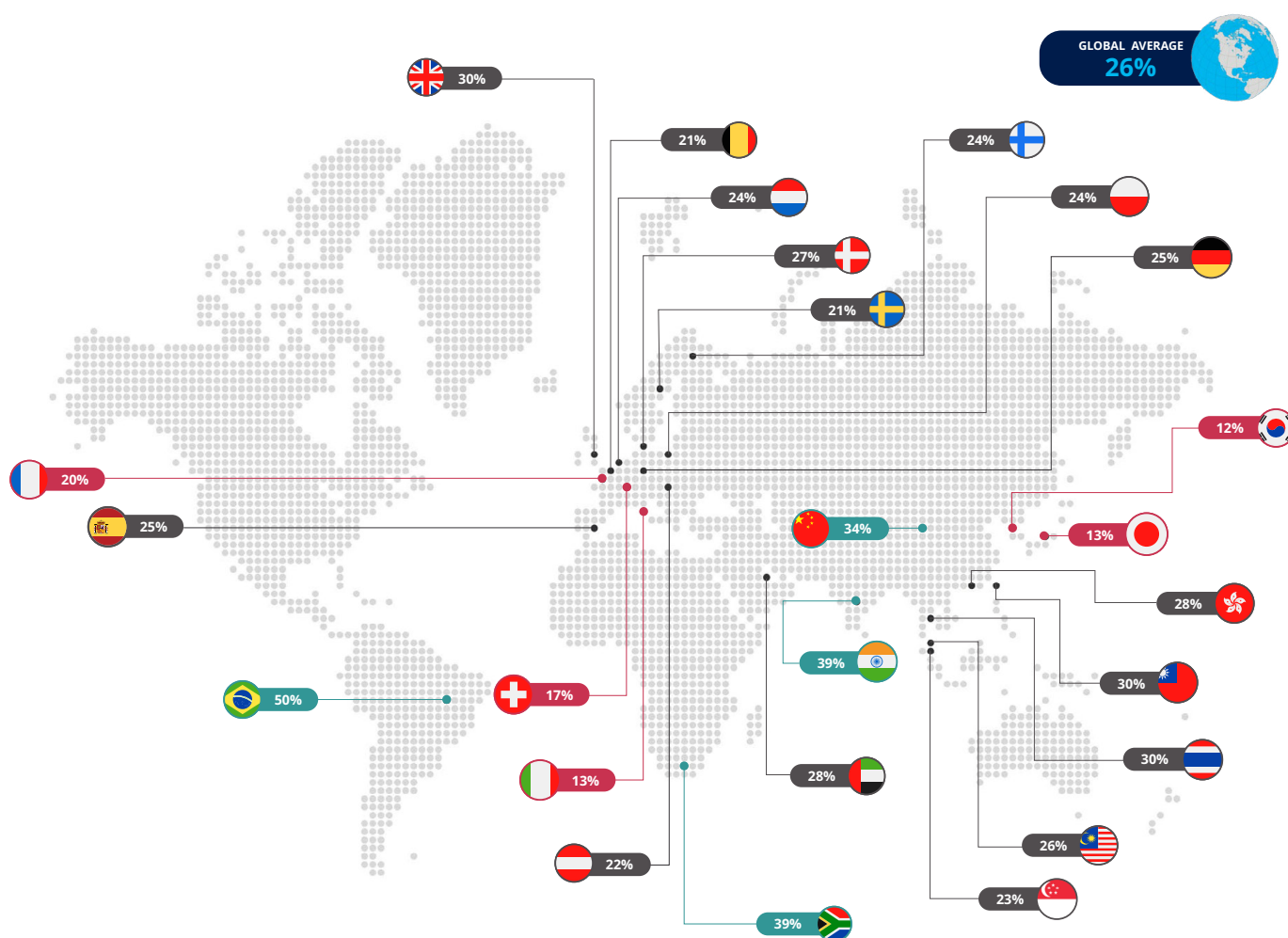
The result? **Just 30% of investors say they are “very confident” about achieving their goal to retire comfortably.** This rises to 44% amongst investors with a well-developed plan, but falls drastically to 11% when we spoke to those without a plan, demonstrating the positive correlation between having a plan and confidence in achieving goals.



Confidence in retiring comfortably is low

While confidence in short-term financial goals is generally high, only 26% of investors feel on course to achieve the income they'll need in retirement – and while this differs across geographies, it remains a minority in every country in our study.

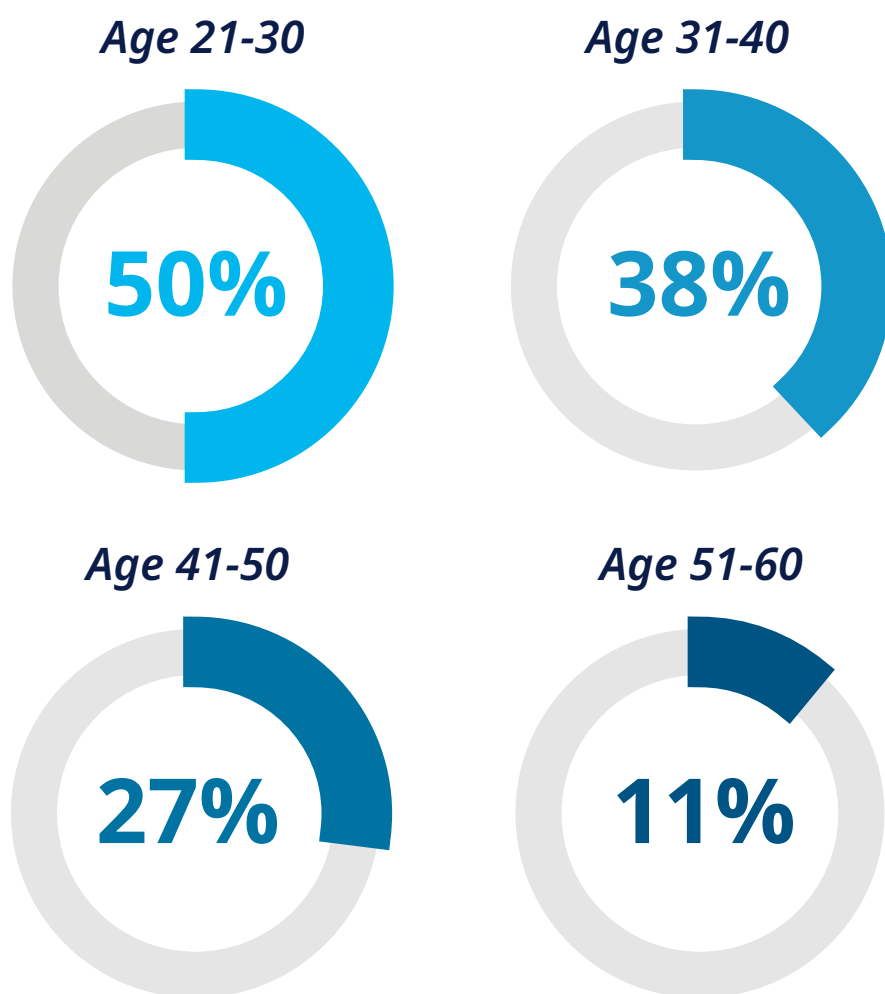
% of investors feeling on course to achieve or exceed the income they will need in retirement



Misjudging when and how much

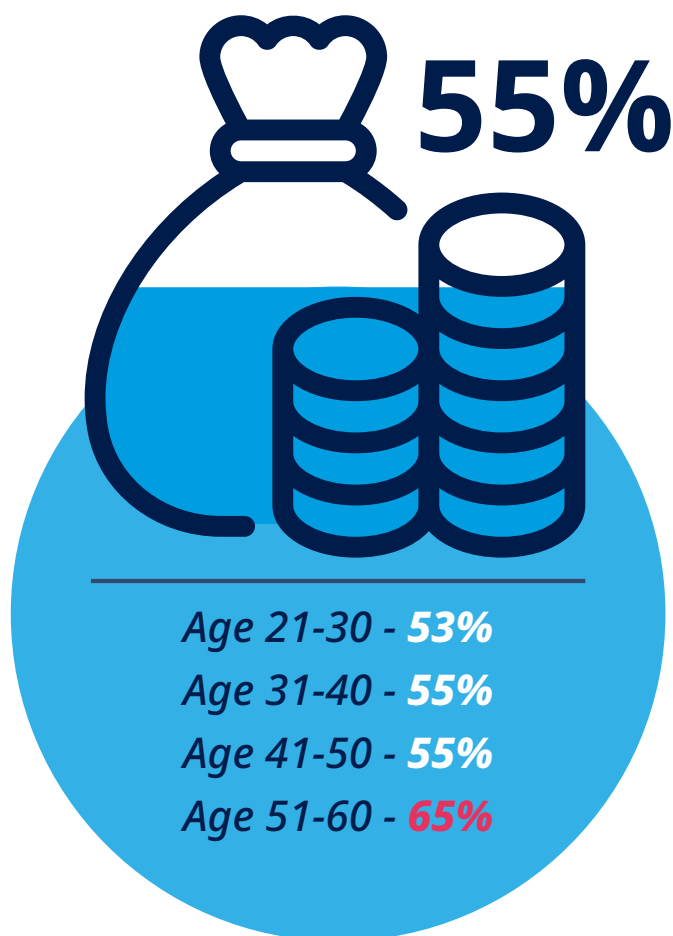
Despite the low levels of confidence in achieving what is needed for retirement, more than one-in-three investors globally (36%) expect to retire before the age of 60 - even against the backdrop of rising retirement ages in many countries. Younger investors are particularly optimistic, with half of those aged 21–30 planning to retire before 60.

% of investors expecting to retire before the age of 60



At the same time, some investors are significantly underestimating how much income they will need in retirement. On average, investors expect to need 55% of their current income to live comfortably. Amongst the youngest investors in our study (those aged 21-30), the expectation is even lower, with this group expecting to need only 53% in retirement – another sign of the widespread misunderstanding of retirement costs among younger investors.

Mean average expected % of current household income that investors expect to need to ensure a financially comfortable retirement



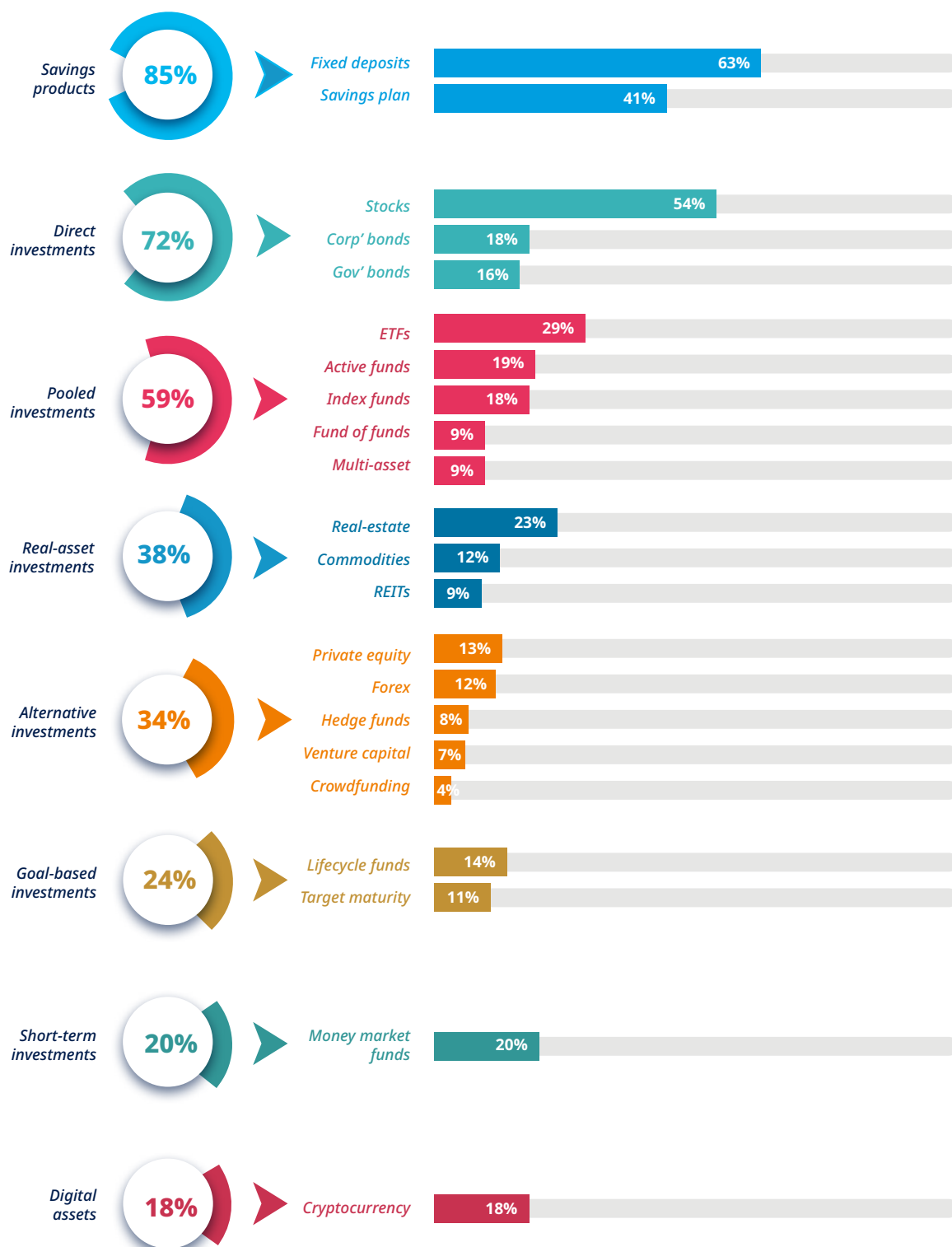
Investing for your retirement

The lack of confidence in achieving a sufficient retirement income may also be linked to another issue besides insufficient planning: a lack of importance being placed on investments as a tool to prepare for retirement.

While our research shows that investments like stocks, bonds and mutual funds are the most commonly cited single financial instrument that investors feel will play a role in them achieving a comfortable retirement, this still stands at only 48% - and notably lower among European investors (40%) than is the case in Asia (57%). But the reality is that relying on pensions or cash savings is increasingly unlikely to be enough to secure a comfortable retirement.

And when we look at portfolio construction, while 85% of investors hold savings products, fewer than 60% hold pooled investments such as mutual funds or ETFs. Ownership of real assets, alternatives, and goal-based investments is even lower. Less diversified portfolios may leave investors more vulnerable to inflation, market volatility, and longevity risk - especially if they are relying heavily on cash savings or state pensions.

Investment holdings by type - globally



The opportunity for advisers and providers

As we wrap up our summer series, one thing is certain: digital convenience must be matched with meaningful guidance, and financial education is more important than ever.

Investors who receive professional advice are three times more likely to have a well-developed long-term financial plan. And those with a financial plan are four times more likely to feel very confident about their retirement goals.

For advisers and providers, this presents a powerful opportunity. By integrating digital tools with human advice - especially around retirement planning - they can help investors turn confidence into clarity, and ambition into action. When it comes to retirement, the right blend of digital access, diversified portfolios, and personalised advice could make all the difference.



All data shared in this article is sourced from the Amundi Decoding Digital Investment research 2025 you can find more information about the research at about.amundi.com/embracing-new-digital-norm

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