

Global Benchmarking Series, 2022

Contact Center Outsourcing

March 2022

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01 Introduction

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Preface

We appreciate the overwhelming response that we have received to the first two reports of our 'Global Benchmarking Series, 2022'. Keeping up with our promise to touch upon different aspects of importance to CX practitioners we now bring the third of the series to you which focuses on 'Contact Center Outsourcing'.

This report highlights the strategy, manpower aspects and technologies that organizations that outsource and BPOs focus on. The report attempts to provide a holistic view of all the areas of information that can be of interest to outsourced set-ups in delivery of exceptional customer experiences. The report also includes information on organizations' plans around their offshore operations and most common offshore destinations.

We hope that the report will support you in your outsourcing decisions and will provide greater clarity on some of the areas where you look forward to making 'insights-based decisions'.

Thank you for patronizing our work and we assure you an insightful 2022 for delivering best-in-class customer care operations.

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Key Findings

The Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) Industry

- Improving service journeys, Performance data and New technology are the strategic objectives that BPOs view as top 3 focus areas for next 24 months
- Improving customer experience, difficulty in recruiting staff and training/ agent development emerge as the top challenges faced by Business Process **Outsourcing Providers (BPOs)**

Outsourcing Strategy

Introduction

- The top reason for organizations to outsource operations is cost reduction, followed by flexibility to ramp up or down
- 46% of respondents state their organizations outsource some of their operations. Of these, 64% state that outsourced operations are completely onshore
 - 'Inbound calls' is the most commonly outsourced channel as stated by respondents from organizations and BPOs
 - 'Accounts Enquiries / Billing Issues' are seen as most common transactions supported through onshore operations, while it is 'Technical Support' in case of offshore operations
- Only 46% of the organizations that outsource were very satisfied or satisfied with their BPOs. Frequency of reviews impacts satisfaction organizations that have with monthly reviews with their BPOs are 1.3x more satisfied
- While Per FTE is the most used commercial model when outsourcing, 15% of respondents state their organizations use more than one pricing model when outsourcing some of their operation

Technology Adoption among BPOs

- While around 70% of respondents state that their organizations currently use call recording and telephony systems, adoption is lower for Speech Analytics/Natural Language Processing/ Speech Analysis and Customer Service Mobile Apps
- With regards to Quality Assurance programs, 25% of respondents state their organizations use only a manual tool. 56% state their organizations use a combination of manual and quality-specific software solution
- For Workforce Management, 85% of respondents state their organizations use a tool and 38% state there are plans to refresh/change/upgrade the WFM tool/software

People Management

- 64% of respondents from BPOs state that frontline staff attrition is up to 40% in a year
- While 75% of respondents state that average absenteeism over the last 12 months has been up to 10 days, 13% state that the absenteeism has been higher than 20 days for their organizations
- 71% of the respondents representing BPOs stated their organizations have Work at Home (WAH) employees with a high proportion of respondents stating they allowed frontline staff to WAH. Connectivity issues and employee engagement are top challenges in managing WAH employees



02

The Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) Industry An Overview

Objectives Challenges to be Addressed The Global Business Process Outsourcing Industry Key BPOs

Key Objectives of BPOs

Which of the following strategic objectives are you focused on over the next 24 months? (Select all that apply)

Improving service journeys	61%
Performance data	57%
New technology	56%
Customer feedback	55%
Employee experience	52%
Cost related data	48%
New channels	43%
Service journey design	41%
Expected/forecast transaction volumes	37%
Customer data	35%



Top objectives for BPOs include:

- 1. Improving service journeys
- 2. Performance data
- 3. New technology

Objectives where BPOs have least focus over the next 24 months:

- Customer data
- Expected/forecast transaction volumes

Key Challenges Faced by BPOs

Which of the following challenges is your organization facing in service delivery? (Select all that apply)



The Global Business Process Outsourcing Industry

Spends on BPO (US\$ Bn)



The global BPO industry is estimated to grow at a CAGR of 5.4% between 2019 and 2023

The growth is going to be fueled by cost reduction through labor arbitrage and organizations preferring to focus on core competencies



Source: Deloitte Whitepaper - Outsourcing and Shared Services 2019-2023

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Key BPOs – by Revenue (USD)



Teleperformance, Concentrix and Conduent are three of the largest BPOs, contributing more than 50% of the combined total revenues of the ten key BPOs.

Has one or more sites/programs accredited to the COPC Performance Improvement Criteria or currently pursuing accreditation. t Center Technologies | People

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Appendix Responder

Key BPOs Growth Rates – Revenue and Net Income



Please refer to Appendix (Slide 46 for further details on the financial reports referred to)

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Respondent Pro

Other BPOs with capabilities across geographies and languages (1/2)

In alphabetical order.....

24-7 InTouch Headquartered at Winnipeg, Canada 20,000 employees 25 centers, 9 countries 30+ languages supported	Alorica Headquartered at Irvine, United States 100,000 employees 130 centers, 14 countries 30 languages supported	Capita Headquartered at London, United Kingdom 61,000 employees 31 centres, 5 countries 30 languages supported
Firstsource Headquartered at Mumbai, India 27,000 employees 39 centres, 4 countries	Genpact Headquartered at New York City, United States 100,000 employees 90+ centres, 21 countries 30 languages supported	Hinduja Global Solutions Limited Headquartered at Bengaluru, India 40,000 employees 59 centres, 7 countries
IGT Solutions Headquartered at Gurgaon, India 18,000 employees 23 centres, 10 countries 25 languages supported	Probe BPO Headquartered at Melbourne, Australia 17,000 employees 30 centres, 4 countries	Qualfon Headquartered at Highland Park, United States 16,000 employees 27 centres, 6 countries

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Other BPOs with capabilities across geographies and languages (2/2)

In alphabetical order.....

Sitel	Startek	Sutherland Global Services
Headquartered at Miami, United States	Headquartered at Greenwood Village, United States	Headquartered at Pittsford, United States
160,000 employees	40,000+ employees	38,000 employees
160+ centers, 40 countries	46 centres, 13 countries	58 centres, 15 countries
50 languages supported	36 languages supported	21 languages supported
TaskUs	TDCX	Transcom
Headquartered at New Braunfels, United States	Headquartered at Singapore, Singapore	Headquartered at Stockholm, Sweden
40,100 employees	14,000 employees	30,000 employees
23 centres, 10 countries	26 centres, 12 countries	70 centres, 26 countries
40+ languages supported	40+ languages supported	33 languages supported
VXI Global Solutions Headquartered at Los Angeles, United States 35,000+ employees 42 centres, 8 countries	Webhelp Headquartered at Paris, France 75,000 employees 200+ centres, 55 countries 80 languages supported	WNS Headquartered at Mumbai, India 49,610 employees 55 centres, 12 countries



03

Outsourcing Strategy

Strategy Outsourced Operations Future Why outsource?

Outsourcing Strategy

Which of the following best describes your operations?



46% of respondents stated **their organizations outsource** some of their contact center operations – of these 64% stated that they have only onshore operations

Outsourced Operations – Reasons for Outsourcing

Rank the following in order of importance in terms of why your organization outsources?





BPOs' View on 'Why Clients Outsource?'

Rank the following in order of importance in terms of why you think your clients outsource their customer care operations? (BPO VIEW)

Rank the following in order of importance in terms of why your organization outsources? (CLIENT VIEW)



'Cost reduction' and 'flexibility to ramp up or down' are the top reasons stated by both the BPOs and the users of outsourcing services

What Operations are Outsourced Onshore?

Channels outsourced onshore

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(@)

72%

60%

60%

50%

40%

40%

Inbound Calls

Outbound calls

Backoffice processing

Social Media



60%

of respondents stated their organizations have onshore operations related to 'Accounts Enquiries / Billing Issues'

Transactions outsourced onshore

What Operations are Outsourced Offshore?

Channels outsourced offshore

Transactions outsourced offshore



Channels and Transactions Commonly Supported by BPOs

Channels supported

90%	
Inbound calls	
77%	
Outbound calls	
76%	
Webchat	
70%	
Emails	
58%	
Backoffice processing	
47%	
Social Media	
8%	
Others*	
	90% of the respondents representir

Transaction Types supported

76%			
Technical support			
72%			
Accounts inquiries / b	oilling issues		
68%			
Complaints / product	returns		
67%			
Presales / sales enqu	iries		
41%			
Shipping issues		I	
24%			
Debt recovery			
11%			
Others**			
provide support in ir	hound cal	S	WC-ZU

90% of the respondents representing BPOs stated they provide support in inbound calls

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Most common types of transactions supported include 'Technical Support' and 'Accounts Inquiries / Billing Issues'

* Others include Messengers (WhatsApp), SMS, Mail etc.) ** Others include Order Management, Surveys, Insurance Claims, After Sales, Dispute Management etc.

6%

Outsourced Operations – Plans for Onshore and Offshore Operation

proportion of our operation



51% of the respondents stated their organizations intend to expand the proportion of their outsourced onshore operations

53% of the respondents stated their organizations intend to expand the proportion of their outsourced offshore operations

5%

Outsourced Operations – Managing BPOs | Satisfaction and Formal Reviews



Only **46%** of respondents from organizations that outsource stated they were satisfied (TTB%) with their BPOs. We observed that organizations which have **frequent (monthly) formal business** reviews with their BPOs, were **1.3x more satisfied**

TTB% - Very satisfied % + Satisfied %

BPOs' view on Formal Reviews with Clients

How often do your clients perform formal business reviews with you? (Select all that apply) (BPO VIEW)

How often do you perform formal business reviews with your outsourcer? (Select all that apply) (CLIENT VIEW)



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Using Vendor Management Organizations (VMOs) for Outsourcing

Do you have a formal Vendor Management Organization (VMO) in your company to engage with outsourcers?





A VMO is an organizational unit or group of individuals, typically within the client enterprise, responsible for managing at least a portion of the enterprise's programs with BPOs/OSPs

Organizations with a formal VMO are **1.2x more likely to be satisfied** with their BPO providers

Commercial Models Used While Outsourcing





Do you also use a 'risk/reward' component as part of the commercial pricing model that you use?



A similar proportion of respondents stated they also use / do not use 'risk/reward' model in combination with commercial models used to outsource

Organizations with a VMO are 2x more likely to use a 'risk/reward' model in combination with other commercial models

* Others includes models such as minimum cost per month, cost per additional ticket etc.

04

Technology Adoption among BPOs

Solutions for Contacts Centers Technology Adoption Lifecycle Adoption of technology for:

- Quality Assurance
- Workforce Management

Solutions for Contacts Centers – Current Adoption and Plans for Future Usage for BPOs

Please describe your level of technology adoption for:

- Currently using with NO plan to refresh/change/upgrade
- Planning to implement in next 18 months
- Unsure/unaware of plans

Currently using with AND planning to refresh/change/upgrade

Currently have no plans regarding this technology



A larger proportion of respondents stated their organizations plan to implement **CRM (22%)** in the next 18 months, closely followed by **Speech Analytics/Natural Language Processing/ Speech Analysis (20%)**

The 'Technology Adoption Lifecycle'



The 'technology adoption lifecycle' demonstrates the market growth for a technology by sorting its adopters into five categories. It is based on *"Diffusion of Innovation (DOI) Theory"*, developed by E.M. Rogers in 1962.

The Chasm

In the technology adoption lifecycle, there's often a large gap between early adopters and the early majority. This gap is known as the 'chasm'.

The reason it's so difficult to cross the chasm is that there's a huge difference between the needs of the early adopters, and the needs of the early majority. 'Crossing the Chasm' is often about meeting the needs of the 'early majority' (pragmatists).

Solutions for Contacts Centers – Current Adoption Levels among BPOs



Which systems or tools do you use to conduct your Quality **Assurance Program?**

Adoption of Technology for Quality Assurance (QA) Programs among BPOs

56% 19% 25% software and software



of respondents stated their organizations use only a manual tool for their QA programs



Adoption of Technology for Workforce Management among BPOs



05

People Management

Full Time Employees (FTEs) Spans and Layers Attrition Absenteeism Work at Home Employee Engagement

FTE Headcount



Spans and Layers

Ratio of frontline staff to other roles

Typically, a 100 seat outsourced contact center has:





To put it in different words, typically for every 100-frontline staff in an outsourced contact center, there are 12.5 staff members in overhead roles

It is important to note that there is a variation in the ratios. For example, some centers run at 1 TL to 10 frontline staff while another one runs at 1 TL to 50 frontline staff

Attrition – Frontline Staff

On average, what proportion (%) of full-time frontline staff leave each year and need to be replaced (i.e., what is your full-time staffing turnover)?





Attrition rates – median

There is a major disconnect between what executives from BPOs state as their attrition rates for frontline staff vs attrition rates per COPC Benchmarks

Only 11% of the respondents stated their frontline attrition was more than 80% against a median of 87% agent attrition per COPC Benchmarks

* Based on aggregation of results and findings from COPC Inc's certification programs across regions.

Attrition – Trends (Frontline Staff)

Over the last 12 months the attrition for the frontline staff has:





45% of the executives representing BPOs stated their organizations have witnessed an increase in attrition for the frontline staff
Attrition – Team Leaders (Supervisors)



On average, what proportion (%) of Team Leaders leave each year and

need to be replaced (i.e., what is your Team Leader turnover)?





Again, there is a major disconnect between what executives from BPOs state as their attrition rates for Team Leaders / Supervisors vs attrition rates per COPC Benchmarks

None of the respondents stated their Team Leader / Supervisor attrition was more than 60% against a median of 70% per COPC Benchmarks

* Based on aggregation of results and findings from COPC Inc's certification programs across regions.

Absenteeism – Frontline Staff

Per person, what is your average frontline unscheduled leave (absenteeism/UPL) over the last 12 months? (in number of days)



Over the last 12 months have the unscheduled leave (absenteeism/UPL) for the frontline staff:



idix Respondent Pro

Work at Home (WAH)



Who can work at home? (Select all that apply)



Work at Home (WAH) – Minimum Requirements and Challenges

What are your minimum requirements for WAH? (Select all that apply)



*Others include requirements around technologies for confidentiality and data handling, data security, independent and private working space.

What have been your biggest challenges in managing work from home employees? (Select all that apply)



38%

No

Work at Home (WAH) and Impact of COVID-19



Do you believe once things go back to 'normal', you will revert to your pre-**COVID-19 staffing model?**

There has been a big shift in the proportion of WAH frontline staff from pre-pandemic days to now – with only 5% of the respondents stating they have no WAH frontline staff, down from 41% during pre-pandemic times

Almost a third of the respondents also stated their organizations do not plan to revert to the pre-pandemic staffing models

Overall, I feel satisfied with my current job.

I am very likely to continue working with my current

dix Respondent Pro

Employee Engagement* – Satisfaction and Retention (Frontline Roles)



* Based on the Annual Employee Engagement Benchmarks for Contact Centers, 2021 by COPC Inc..

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Employee Engagement – Frequency of One-on-Ones (Frontline Roles)

How often do you receive a structured review of your performance compared to targets with your manager (e.g. a one-on-one)? – EMPLOYEE VIEW How often do frontline staff receive a structured review of their performance relative to their targets with their manager (e.g. a one-on-one)? – CORPORATE VIEW



Directionally, a lower proportion of frontline staff engaged in outsourced operations stated they receive a structured review of performance at least once a quarter vs executives stating they provide structured reviews once a quarter to frontline staff

'Employee Engagement Benchmarks' by COPC Inc., an annual employee engagement study, identifies a strong relationship between employee satisfaction and frequency of structured reviews – more regular the reviews, higher the employee satisfaction

06 **Key Offshoring Destinations**

Popular Offshoring Destinations



Access to language skills, lower costs (through labor arbitrage) and large labor pools are still the primary drivers for making decisions about offshore destinations.

India and Philippines were the most frequently stated offshore destinations, with 58% and 42% of the respondents highlighting these two countries.

07

COPC CX Standard for Contact Centers

Framework COPC Certified BPOs

COPC CX Standard for Contact Centers, Release 7.0 Framework



1.0 2.0 Leadership Processes and Planning 1.1 Setting Direction 1.2 Developing Business Plans **Processes Applicable to both Human** and Digital Assisted Channels 1.3 Setting Targets 2.1 Gathering and Analyzing Customer 1.4. Reviewing Business Information Performance 2.2 Defining Service Journeys and KCRPs 2.3 Analyzing and Managing Service Journeys **Human Assisted Channel Processes** 2.4 Forecasting and Capacity Planning 3.0 2.5 Scheduling and Real Time Management **Digital Assisted Channel Processes** People 2.6 Managing IT Services 3.1 Defining Jobs 3.2 Recruiting and Hiring 3.3 Training and Development 3.4 Verifying Skills and Knowledge 3.5 Monitoring and Coaching CSSs 4.0 3.6 Managing Staff Performance Performance 3.7 Managing Employee Experience and Feedback 3.8 Reducing Attrition and Absenteeism

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Support Processes

- 2.7 Managing Quality
- 2.8 Managing Corrective Action
- and Continuous Improvement 2.9 Minimizing Process Variation
- 2.10 Managing Knowledge and Content
- 2.11 Managing Vendors and Key Suppliers
- 2.12 Establishing Business Continuity Plans 2.13 Implementing and Controlling Changes
- 2.14 Ensuring Data Privacy and Compliance 2.15 Reporting and Data Integrity
- 2.16 Reviewing COPC CX Standard

OSP Processes

- 2.17 Managing OSP Sales Process
- 2.18 Responding to RFXs
- 2.19 On-boarding of Clients, Services and Programs
- 2.20 Closing Client Relationships
- 2.21 Managing Client Relationships
- 2.22 Providing Client Reports
- 2.23 Invoicing Clients
 - 4.1 Customer Experience Performance 4.2a (CSP) Overall Cost Performance 4.2b (OSP) Client Experience Performance 4.3 Human Assisted Channel Performance 4.4 Digital Assisted Channel Performance 4.5 Key Support Process Performance 4.6 Achieving Results

- The COPC CX Standard for Contact Centers is a comprehensive and integrated system for managing a customer-centric service operation with an emphasis on contact center applications.
- The COPC CX Standard for Contact Centers begins with the drivers of customer-focused performance management embodied in the leadership characteristics and activities described in Category 1.0 Leadership and Planning
- Taken together, Category 2.0 Processes and Category 3.0 People represent the organization's enablers: a skilled and motivated work force using well-designed technology and processes and managing these to optimal levels of performance.
- The goal of the system is a balanced composite of customer experience, quality, and cost/efficiency performance addressed in Category 4.0 Performance.

08 **Conclusion**

Conclusion

Today, shifting customer service to a third-party service provider is a common move by organizations. Almost half of the CX practitioners that we surveyed stated their organizations outsource the customer care operations. An organization's decision to outsource is driven by multiple factors, such as cost reduction, ability to ramp up or down quickly, technology capabilities of BPOs etc. Whatever may be the reason, outsourcing can be a highly flexible option making customer care strategy work more efficiently.

This report captures the views of both BPOs and organizations that outsource, with respect to the aspects mentioned above. It brings to light what organizations attach importance to when outsourcing customer care. It also shares corporate input on strategy, technologies and manpower structures that BPOs have in place to deliver on the expectations of their clients.

01

Cost reduction and flexibility in ramping up / down of operations are the most important drivers of outsourcing. Both organizations that outsource and BPOs have a clear consensus on these aspects. This is going to keep a constant pressure on the BPOs to offer capabilities which minimize costs while maximizing the quality of customer care delivery by working on the right combinations of cost, locations, languages and industries supported.

02

BPOs are high on adoption of technologies for contact centers. It includes high penetration of selfservice solutions such as chatbots. BPOs' technology capabilities is the third most stated reason by organizations to outsource – per the surveyed executives.

Organizations also appreciate the importance of enabling their BPO providers with the right platforms to deliver. This is confirmed by the fact that several executives representing BPOs stated their clients provided them with platforms for quality assurance purposes.

(Please refer to our report 'Technologies for Contact Centers' for more details)

03

Organizations are not going to discontinue with WAH anytime soon. 38% of the executives stated their organizations will not return to pre-COVID staffing models, while 34% are still not sure about it.

Organizations are building a complete ecosystem for WAH to work for contact center operations – be it allowing multiple roles that can work at home, having minimum requirements and policies in place for WAH staff, managing challenges posed by WAH etc.



09 Appendix

Appendix

Since organizations follow different timeframes as financial years, the following list provides details of the same

Organisation	Financial year cycle	Revenue/ Net income provided for	Currency reported in
Teleperformance	January to December	January to December 2021 (FY'21) January to December 2020 (FY'20)	Euro
Concentrix	December to November	December 2020 to November 2021 (FY'21) December 2019 to November 2020 (FY'20)	USD
Conduent	January to December	January to December 2021 (FY'21) January to December 2020 (FY'20)	USD
Transcosmos	April to March	April 2020 to March 2021 (FY'21) April 2019 to March 2020 (FY'20)	Yen
TTEC	January to December	January to December 2021 (FY'21) January to December 2020 (FY'20)	USD
Telus International	January to December	January to December 2021 (FY'21) January to December 2020 (FY'20)	USD
Sykes*	January to December	January to December 2020 (FY'20) January to December 2019 (FY'19)	USD
Majorel	January to December	January to December 2021 (FY'21) January to December 2020 (FY'20)	Euro
Atento	January to December	January to December 2020 (FY'20) January to December 2019 (FY'19)	USD
nfosys BPM	April to March	April 2020 to March 2021 (FY'21) April 2019 to March 2020 (FY'20)	Indian Rupees

*In 2021, Sitel Group completed the acquisition of Sykes Enterprises, Inc.

10 Respondent Profile

Respondent Profile – Corporate

Survey respondents included representatives from both in-house contact centers and BPOs



Contact Centers' locations for respondent organizations include:



Respondent Profile

Corporate Segment – Methodology



Who We Are

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Who We Are

COPC Inc. provides consulting, training, certification and research for operations that support the customer experience. The company created the COPC Standards, a collection of performance management systems for call center operations, customer experience management, vendor management, and procurement. Founded in 1996, COPC Inc. began by helping call centers improve their performance. Today, the company is an innovative global leader that empowers organizations to optimize operations for the delivery of a superior service journey. COPC Inc. is headquartered in Winter Park, FL, U.S. and with operations in Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia Pacific, Latin America, India and Japan.

To learn more about COPC Inc., visit <u>www.copc.com</u>.



