

press release

Standard Chartered survey finds investor sentiment around China at its most bullish as China investments enters a new era

10 July 2018, Hong Kong – Investor sentiment is now at its most bullish according to findings of the newly released 2018 Standard Chartered RMB Investors Forum Survey. Investors have stepped up their activity with 88% of respondents investing in China, up from 69% in 2017, and with 76% of them planning to grow their China investments, up from 69% in 2017.

A key finding from this year's survey is that investment into China is now fully globalised. North America emerged as one of the most positive regions with 88% of respondents investing in China and 87% looking to increase their participation. Singapore also scored highly with 91% currently investing and almost all expecting to increase their investments over the next 12 months.

Clarity on rules from regulators remains one of the priority issues, with 45% of respondents saying it is one of the most important investment factors. It is however now one of three concerns that rank fairly evenly along with funding flexibility (44%) and speed and simplicity of application and/or account opening (41%). The survey gives clear evidence that concerns move away from the rulebook and towards more practical considerations around operations and usability of the various investment channels.

Commenting on the survey findings, **Margaret Harwood-Jones, Global Head, Securities Services, Transaction Banking, Standard Chartered**, said, "The headline finding is that sentiment towards China has never been better and never have more people invested in China than today. More importantly, the results of our survey show that China access is moving into a new era, one where concern over regulation, gives way to more practical considerations. The decision about whether to invest in China is no longer a question of if, but when."

Illustrating the move towards practical considerations, findings from the survey showed that one of the reasons sentiment is so positive on investing in China is because of the simplicity, clarity and flexibility on the new access mechanisms such as Stock Connect and Bond Connect. Just over three quarters of respondents say that the new channels have the biggest influence on their decision to increase their China investment allocations. In addition, when considering future investments into China, 48% of investors plan to use Stock Connect and 23% expect to use Bond Connect.

Now in its third year, the Standard Chartered RMB Investors Forum Survey, conducted in March 2018, gathered responses from over 180 investors, regulators and custodians in Asia, Europe and North America, gauging their views on the issues impacting investors wanting to access China's onshore markets. Based on the survey results a series of roundtable discussions with key markets participants were also conducted in Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Korea, the US and the UK where investment professionals shared their insights.

Click [HERE](#) to download the full survey report.

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