



AI Quarterly Pulse Survey Q3 2026

September 2026



Investment and strategy

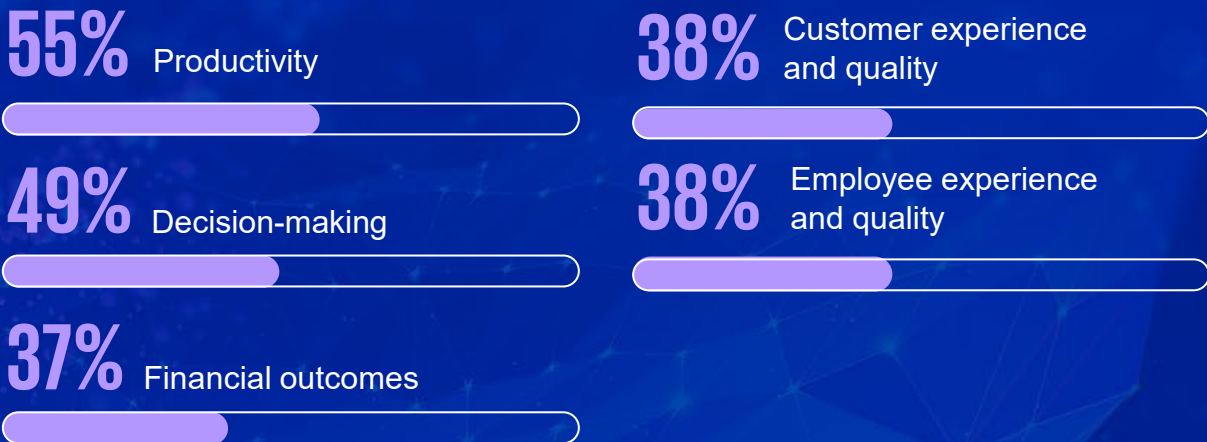


CEOs are actively owning AI as a strategic business priority, with clear accountability for AI-related outcomes across the organization:

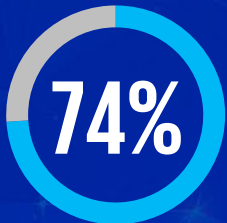
67% ▶ 74%
quarter-over-quarter

Nearly 6 in 10 leaders (58%) report measurable business value from their AI initiatives.

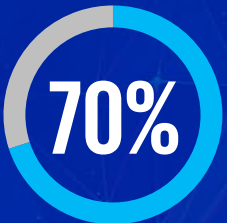
Where value is being reported:



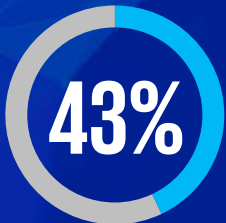
As AI moves deeper into day-to-day operations, organizations are also becoming more disciplined in how they manage AI usage.



include cost reviews in AI approval processes



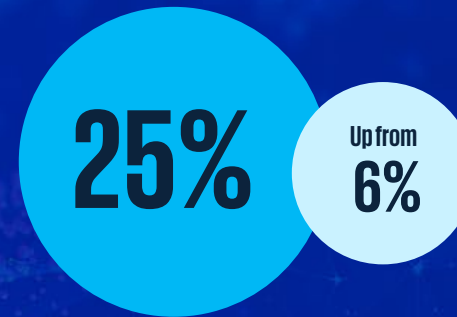
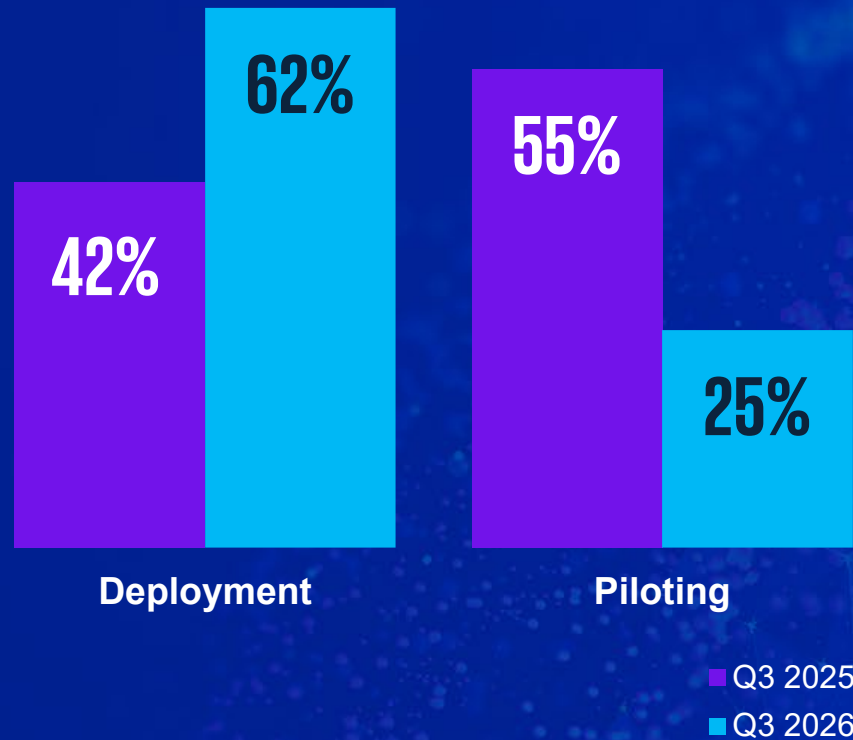
use AI monitoring dashboards



have implemented usage or token budgets

AI agent deployment and trends

AI agents are **increasingly** moving out of the pilot phase and into the enterprise.
Multi-agent deployment is **up four-fold**.



Those actively developing or implementing multi-agent systems climbed to 25%, compared to only 6% last quarter.



Data readiness and access is the top barrier to AI agent deployment.

Workforce

Organizations are formalizing how employees work with AI agents. Efforts to create guidelines, protocols, and AI collaboration skills among employee populations are up sharply.

Developing role-specific guidelines for effective AI agent collaboration and delegation is up year-over-year.

21% to 55%

65%

AI agents will prompt the integration of AI collaboration skills into existing workflows and therefore role requirements.

AI agents will prompt organizations to redefine promotion criteria to prioritize AI literacy and effective agent delegation.

24%

The share of organizations reporting significant workforce adoption increased to

44%

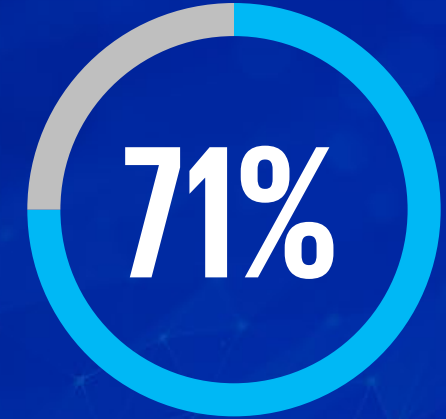
up from

23%

last quarter and

10%

a year ago.

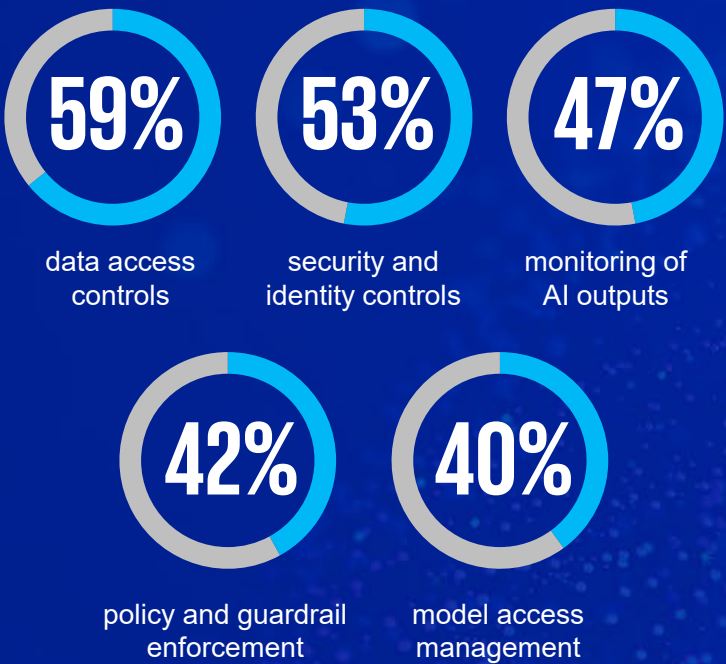


of leaders say that those who make strong and effective use of AI are outperforming others, compared to 47% last quarter.

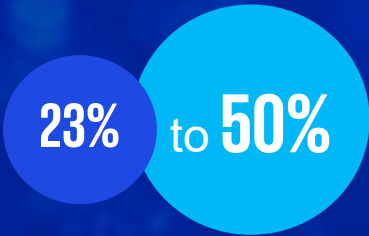
Governance and data

As AI agents scale, organizations are drawing sharper lines around autonomy, focusing on trusted data and clearer boundaries for autonomous decisions.

What's included in organizations' AI harness layer:



Half are establishing clear protocols for when and how to use AI agents, up year-over-year.



73% agree their organization has the capabilities and governance to manage AI risks at scale, up from 57% last quarter.

Organizations are anticipating increasing their data & analytics budgets in the next 12 months:



Organizations looking at AI agents as augmented support for employees and providing training to our workforce is up since Q3 last year.

Identification of high-risk use cases where autonomous agent decision-making is not allowed is up since Q3 last year:





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