

# Taking the Pulse of AI in 2026

Amid the hype and uncertainty around AI, ISACA's annual AI Pulse Poll cuts through the noise. Based on real insights and experience from practitioners worldwide, the 2026 results show how organizations are actually using AI today, where progress is being made, and where real challenges remain in policy, skill building and risk management. For more statistics and analysis, visit [www.isaca.org/ai-pulse-poll](http://www.isaca.org/ai-pulse-poll).



## AI Use Is Now the Norm and Embedded Across the Enterprise

AI adoption has moved from experimentation to expectation.



**92%** of respondents believe employees **ARE USING AI** in their organization

Most common uses include **written content creation, increasing productivity, automation, and data analysis.**

## Shadow AI Remains a Big Concern

Use continues—even without clear permission.



**86%** say employees are using **GENERATIVE AI SPECIFICALLY**

### MOST COMMON USES ARE

- 69%** Creating written content
- 63%** Increasing productivity
- 54%** Automating repetitive tasks
- 52%** Analyzing large amounts of data
- 37%** Customer service (e.g., chat bots)



**80%** say they consider the **ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS** associated with using AI in their organization.

## Policies Are Improving But Still Lagging

Governance is not keeping pace with adoption. Progress is happening, but most organizations still lack the necessary guardrails.

**42%**

of organizations have a formal, comprehensive AI policy—up from 31% in 2025

**31%**

have a limited policy in place

**23%**

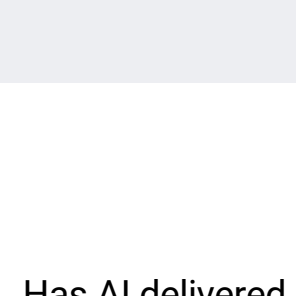
have no active policy

**5%**

are unsure

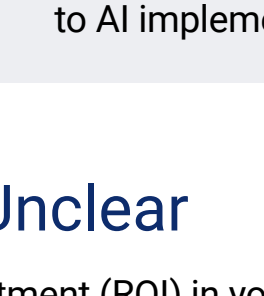
Does your organization **HAVE A DOCUMENTED PROCESS** for shutting down or overriding AI systems if things go wrong (e.g., bad actor or AI performing adversely)?

- 37%** I don't know
- 29%** No
- 17%** A process is being developed
- 10%** Yes, and it is tested regularly
- 7%** Yes, but it is not tested regularly



**59%**

do not know how long it would take to halt an AI system due to a **SECURITY INCIDENT.**

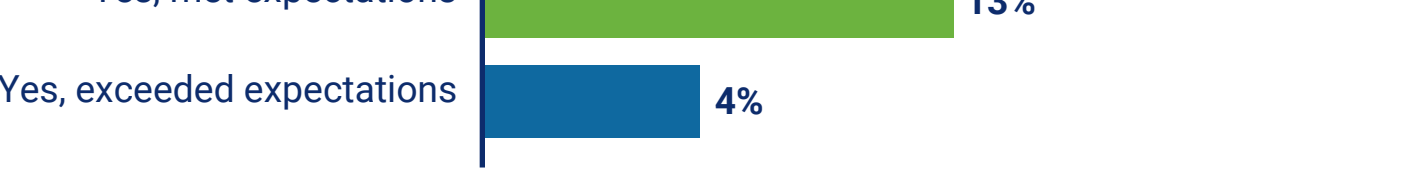


**ONLY 9%**

strongly agree that organizations are giving **SUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO ETHICAL STANDARDS** related to AI implementation.

## AI ROI Is Still Unclear

Has AI delivered a measurable return on investment (ROI) in your organization?



### AI LITERACY IS NO LONGER OPTIONAL



**75%**

say AI skills are **VERY OR EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** to their profession, up from 70% last year.

### DEMAND FOR AI SKILLS OUTPACES INVESTMENT IN TRAINING



**40%**

of organizations train **ALL EMPLOYEES** on AI, up from 28% in 2025.

## AI Risk Is Real, But Action Is Not

Risk recognition is rising slowly—far behind AI adoption speeds.



**47%**

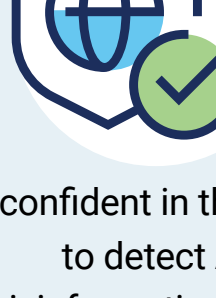
say AI risks are an **IMMEDIATE PRIORITY.**

### TOP AI RISKS

#### MOST CITED AI RISKS INCLUDE:

- 87%** Misinformation and disinformation
- 75%** Privacy violations
- 60%** Social engineering
- 59%** Loss of intellectual property
- 41%** Increasing skills gap

### DETECTION CAPABILITY IS IMPROVING BUT TRUST REMAINS FRAGILE.



**41%**

are confident in their **OWN ABILITY** to detect AI powered misinformation, up from 26% in 2025.



**ONLY 33%**

are confident in **THEIR ORGANIZATION'S** ability to detect AI-powered misinformation



**39%**

are **CONFIDENT** in their board's understanding of and action against AI risks

## AI Is Reshaping the Workforce

Roles are changing—and new ones are emerging.



**37%**

say their organization will **INCREASE AI RELATED JOBS** in the next 12 months, up from 30% in 2025.

### WORK LOADS AREN'T YET DECREASING DUE TO AI.

**7 IN 10** say job responsibilities have increased or have not changed in the last year



### AT A GLANCE:

## What's Changed Since Last Year

2025

2026

**31%**

Formal AI policies

**42%**



**70%**

AI skills seen as important

**75%**



**28%**

Training all employees

**40%**



**30%**

AI related job growth expected

**37%**



### BOTTOM LINE

AI adoption is accelerating faster than AI readiness.

Organizations are embracing AI, but gaps in policy, training, and risk management persist. Closing these gaps is essential to building trust, protecting value, and sustaining digital resilience.

EXPLORE THE FULL RESULTS: [www.isaca.org/ai-pulse-poll](http://www.isaca.org/ai-pulse-poll)