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Technology, AI, and Regulation: What Americans Think

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Key takeaways

- 1** Most American adults (64%) believe that society does not have enough control over the adoption and use of technology. This majority holds regardless of educational attainment level or political affiliation.
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- 2** Most Americans see computers, smartphones, television, and the automobile as beneficial for society, but see AI and social media as more harmful than beneficial. Members of older generations (Generation X, Boomers, Silent) are generally more positive about these technologies than members of younger generations (Generation Z, Millennials). People without a bachelor's degree are more likely than people with a bachelor's degree or higher to see AI as mostly or entirely harmful, and Republicans see AI as more beneficial and less harmful than independents and Democrats do. A higher proportion of people in the Far West, and Mid-Atlantic see AI as harmful than people in other parts of the US.
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- 3** 62% of Americans have little or no trust in companies to develop and use AI responsibly. Trust is highest in the Southeast and lowest in the Mid-Atlantic. 58% of employed Americans have at least a moderate amount of trust in their employer to do so and employer trust is greater in many fields with high potential AI exposure than it is in many fields with low potential AI exposure.
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- 4** 37% of employed Americans are somewhat or very concerned that they could lose their job because of AI, and 72% of Americans are somewhat or very concerned that AI could lead to high unemployment for others. Women, Democrats, and members of younger generations (Millennials / Generation Z), and people in careers with higher theoretical / observed AI coverage have elevated levels of concern. Concern is highest in the Mid-Atlantic and lowest in the Southeast and Central Plains.
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- 5** 62% of Americans are somewhat or very concerned that AI could be used to control the people, 44% are somewhat or very concerned that AI could turn against humans, and 49% are somewhat or very concerned that AI could make life less meaningful.
-

- 6** Among employed Americans, 44% would blame technology companies for not being more responsible with AI if they lost their job due to AI. Smaller percentages would blame politicians for not regulating AI better (39%), blame their employer (34%), blame themselves for not being better prepared for the future (30%), or blame no one (23%). The highest proportion who would blame technology companies is in the Central Plains, and the highest proportion who would blame politicians is in the Northeast.
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7

Most employed Americans (81%) are somewhat or very willing to switch to a new type of work if AI makes jobs in their field less available. Women, Baby Boomers / members of the Silent Generation, and members of Generation Z are less willing to switch than men, Millennials, and members of Generation X. The percentage of people who are somewhat or very willing to switch is highest in the Interior West and lowest in the Northeast and Upland South.

8

64% of Americans think that there is too little regulation of AI by the government, but the majority (75%) have little or no trust in the government's ability to do so. The Interior West has the highest proportion of people who think there should be more government regulation of AI, and the Southeast and Upland South have the lowest proportion. A higher percentage of people in the Southeast have a lot or a great deal of trust in the government to regulate AI than in other parts of the US. A large majority of Americans (79%) think that state governments should be allowed to regulate AI. Support of state regulation of AI is particularly strong in the Northeast and Southeast and is weakest in the Midwest.

9

54% of Americans would be much more likely or somewhat more likely to support a political candidate who proposes slowing or pausing AI development so that its social or economic impact could be evaluated. The highest proportions of people who would support a political candidate who proposes this are found in the Mid-Atlantic and the Far West. Only 16% of Americans would be somewhat or much less likely to support a candidate who proposes slowing or pausing AI development.

10

Most Americans (64%) strongly or somewhat support implementing an AI token tax to support people who lose their jobs due to AI pay bills and get training for new jobs. The proportion of people who support this tax is highest in the Interior West. A smaller percentage (49%) would support a token tax if the proceeds were distributed to all Americans regardless of whether they lost their job due to AI. Support for a tax to be used in this way is strongest in the Mid-Atlantic and Upland South.

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Americans of all generations and across all demographic groups examined think the best year to be alive for themselves and for the average American was in the past rather than in the future. People who identify as being part of the Make America Great Again movement were more likely to select years before 1970 than the average American, but the majority of MAGA identifiers selected dates after 1970 and a wide range of years were given. The percentage of people who think the best year for themselves to be alive will be in the future is highest in the Central Plains and lowest in the Southeast, Northeast, and Midwest.

12

Only 25% of Americans think that technological advances like AI will make obtaining a college education somewhat or much more important, compared to 44% who think it will make getting a college degree somewhat or much less important. The percentage of people who think technological advances will make obtaining a college education somewhat or much less important is highest in the Central Plains and lowest in the Southeast.

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Study overview

Technology, especially artificial intelligence, is a topic that is currently of high public interest and concern: YouTube videos discussing technology and AI policy frequently receive over a million views, and AI and technology policy are the subject of hundreds of news articles every month. This report details a national survey assessing public opinion on technology with an emphasis on AI. The survey attempts to answer key questions related to how people feel about technology and AI and the concerns that they have, how people would react to AI-related job loss, what actions people think the government should take regarding technology and AI, and factors related to understanding how people will react to future technological development.

The survey was completed by 1005 adult (age 18+) participants between February 22 and March 1, 2026. It was conducted online and participants were identified through a commercial survey panel provider service. Survey weights were constructed to adjust the sample to be representative of the US adult population across four demographic dimensions: Age, race / ethnicity, educational attainment, and census region.

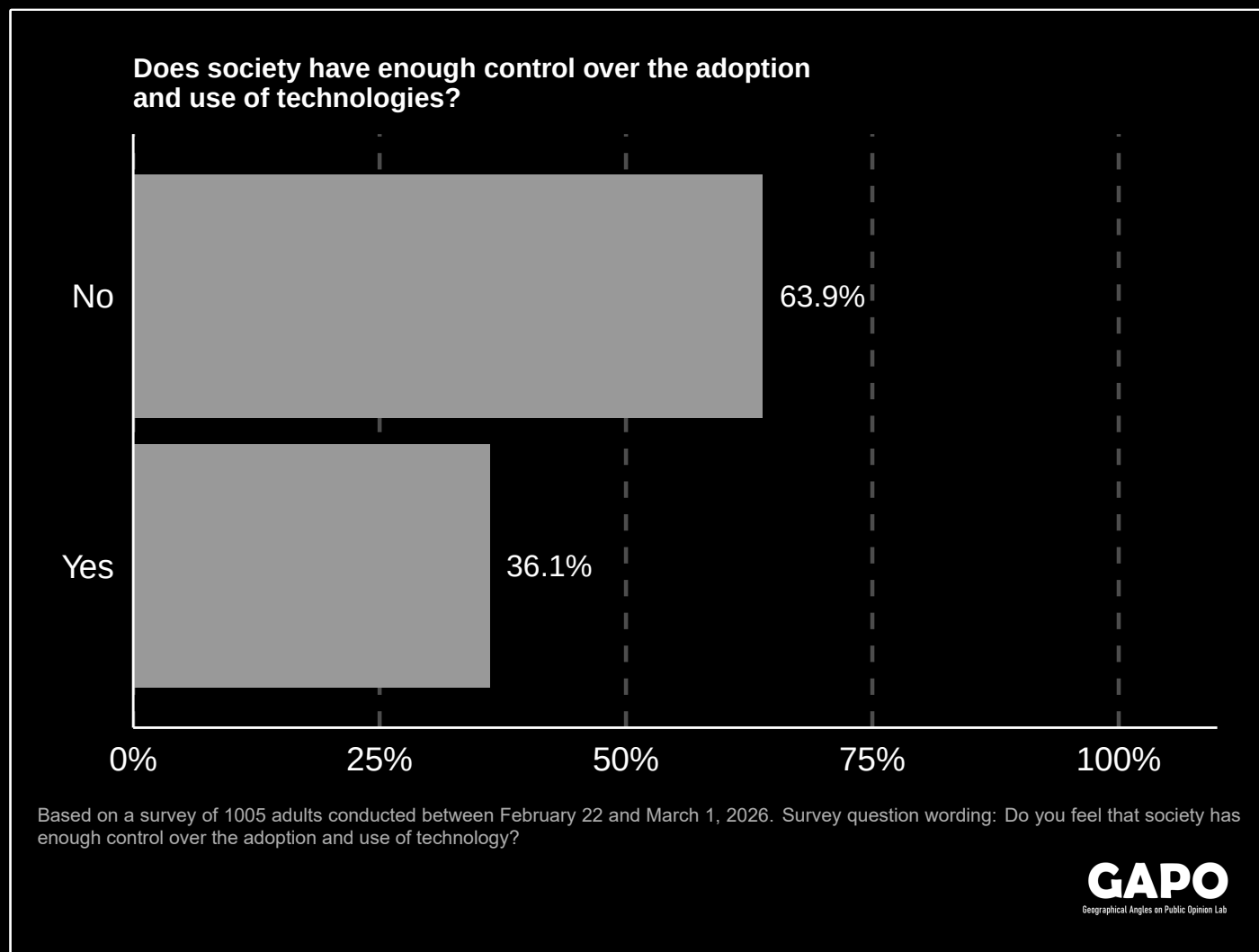
For the maps in the report, eight contiguous (with the exceptions of Alaska and Hawaii) regions were created considering economic, social, and political factors. These regions are:

- Far West: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington
- Interior West: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming
- Central Plains: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas
- Midwest: Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin
- Southeast: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi
- Mid-Atlantic: Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Washington, DC.
- Upland South: Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia
- Northeast: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont

Additional details of the methodology used can be found in the Methodology section.

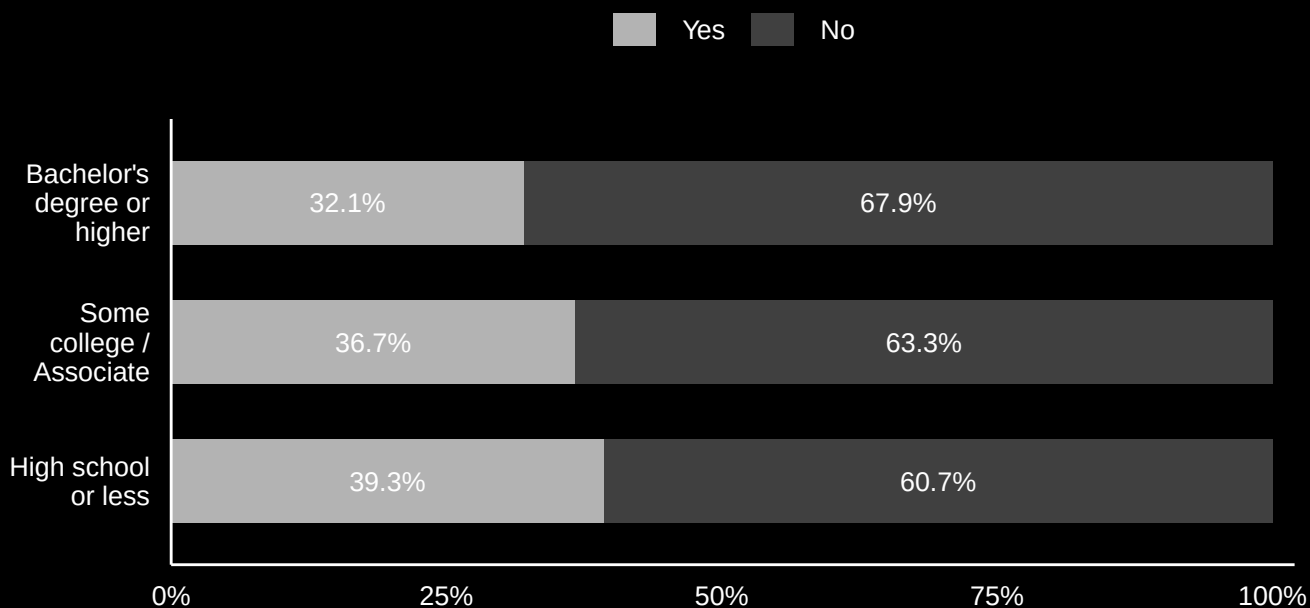
Does society have enough control over the adoption and use of technologies?

64% of Americans believe that society does not have enough control over the adoption and use of technology. People with less formal education are slightly more likely to agree that society has enough control than people with more formal education but in no cases does the level of agreement exceed 40%. There are partisan differences: 46% of Republicans agree that society has enough control compared to 35% of Independents and 26% of Democrats.

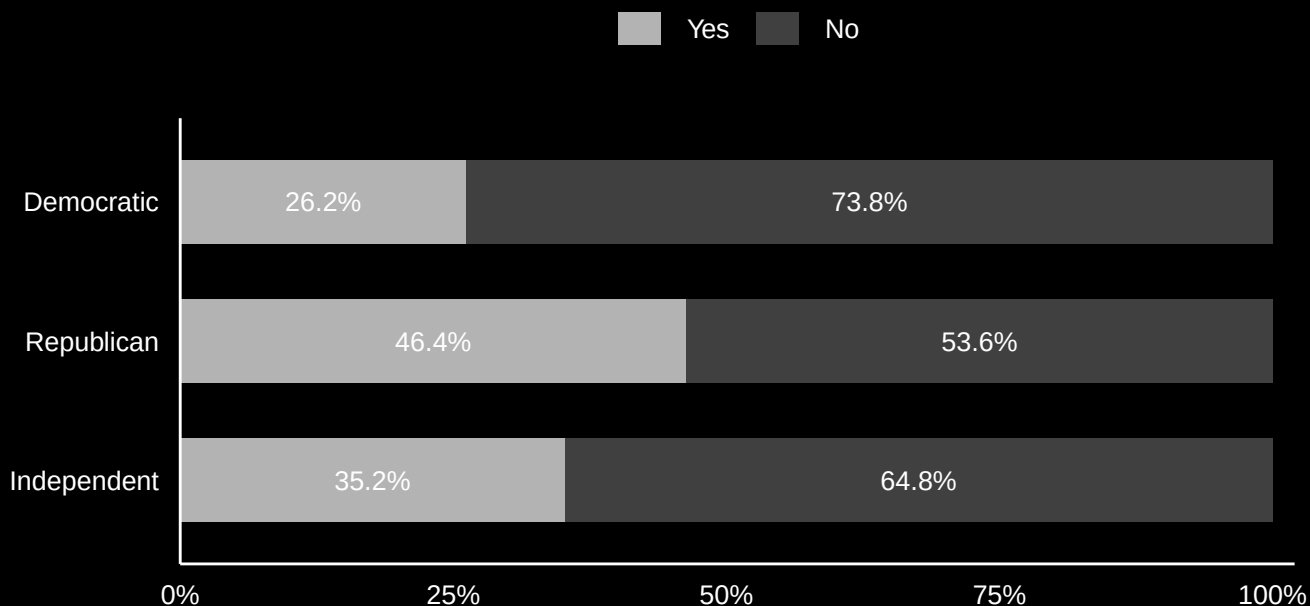


Does society have enough control over the adoption and use of technologies?

Response by educational attainment



Response by political party



Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026.

Survey question wording: Do you feel that society has enough control over the adoption and use of technology?

How do Americans view individual technologies?

The average American sees computers, smartphones, television, and the automobile as more beneficial than harmful, but sees social media and AI as more harmful than beneficial.

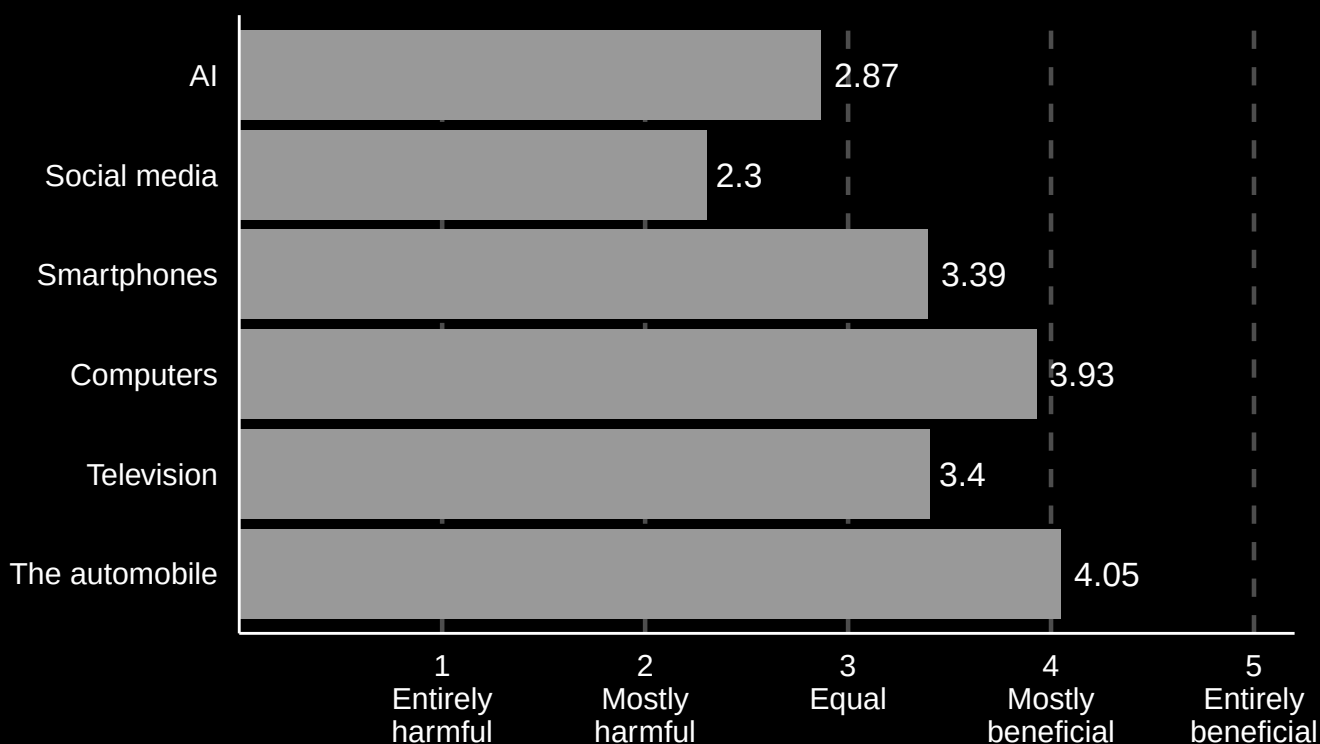
Regarding AI, people with less formal education (some college / associate's degree, high school or less) are more likely to see it as mostly or entirely harmful than those with a bachelor's degree or higher. Republicans see AI as more beneficial and less harmful than independents and Democrats do.

Members of older generations (Generation X, Baby Boomers, Silent Generation) generally view the technologies more favorably than members of younger generations (Generation Z, Millennials).

Geographically, a higher proportion of people in the Far West, and Mid-Atlantic see AI as harmful than people in other areas. AI is seen as beneficial by the greatest percentage of people in the Central Plains and the Southeast. Higher percentages of people see social media as harmful in the Mid-Atlantic, the Central Plains, and the Far West than in other parts of the US.

Do people view individual technologies as beneficial or harmful to society?

Mean sentiment by technology



Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026.

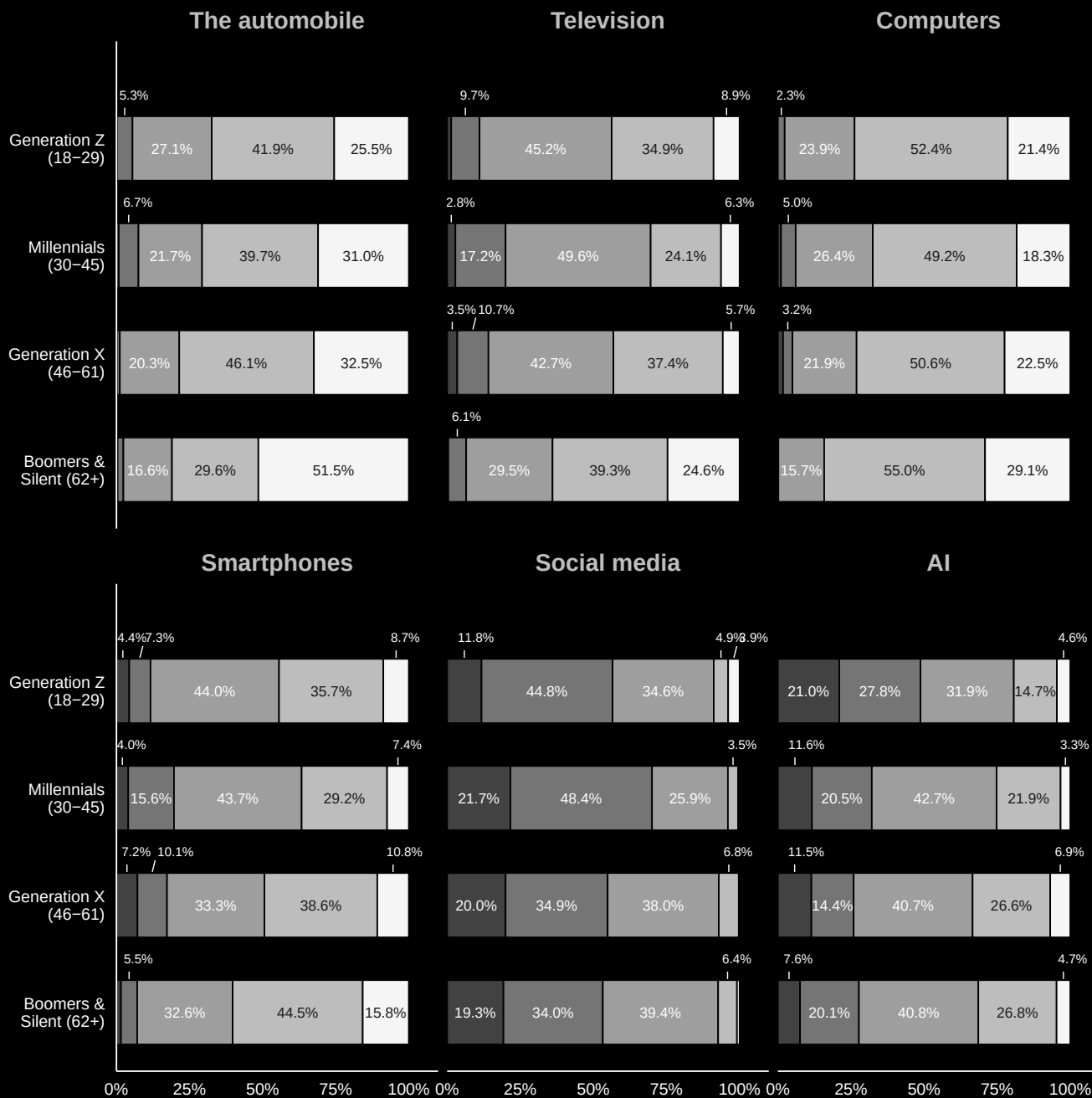
Survey question wording: Are the following technologies more harmful or more beneficial to our society?

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Perceptions of technologies by generation

% of respondents

Entirely harmful Mostly harmful Equally harmful and beneficial Mostly beneficial Entirely beneficial



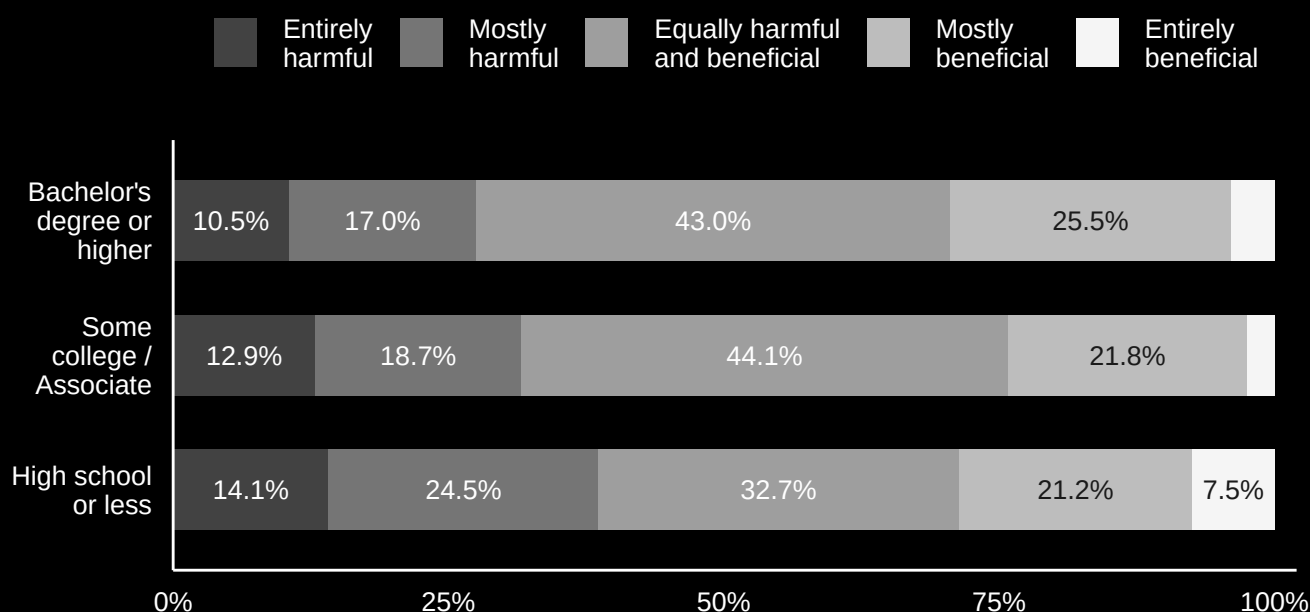
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026.

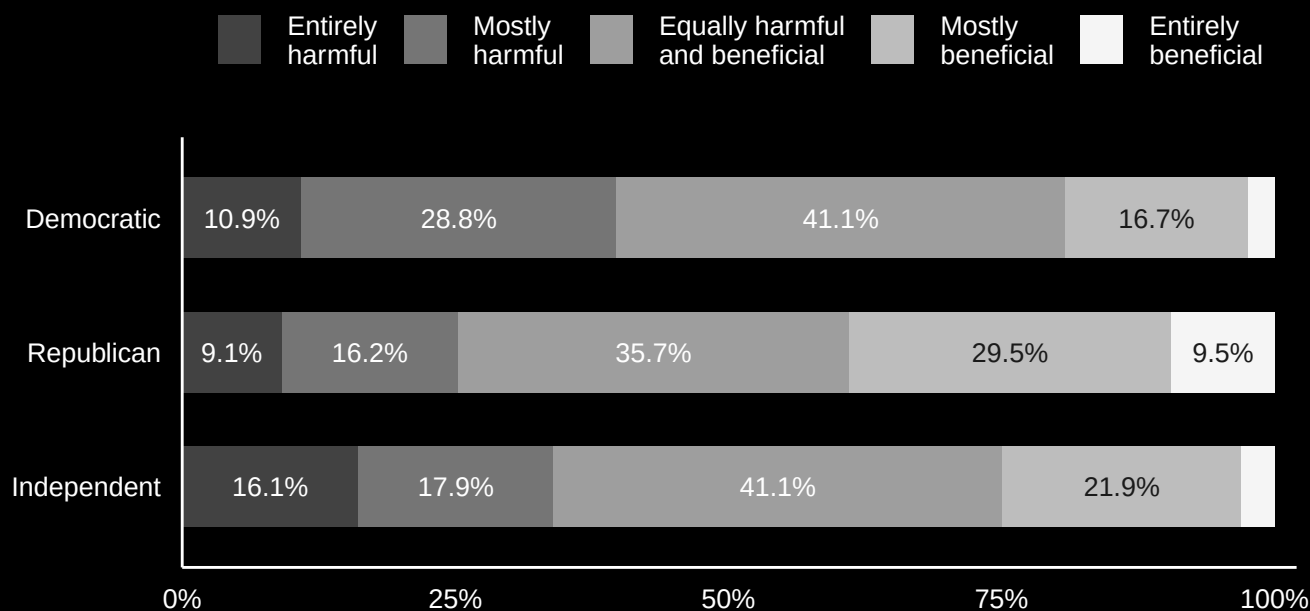
Survey question wording: Are the following technologies more harmful or more beneficial to our society?

How does perception of AI vary by educational attainment and political party?

Perceptions of AI by educational attainment



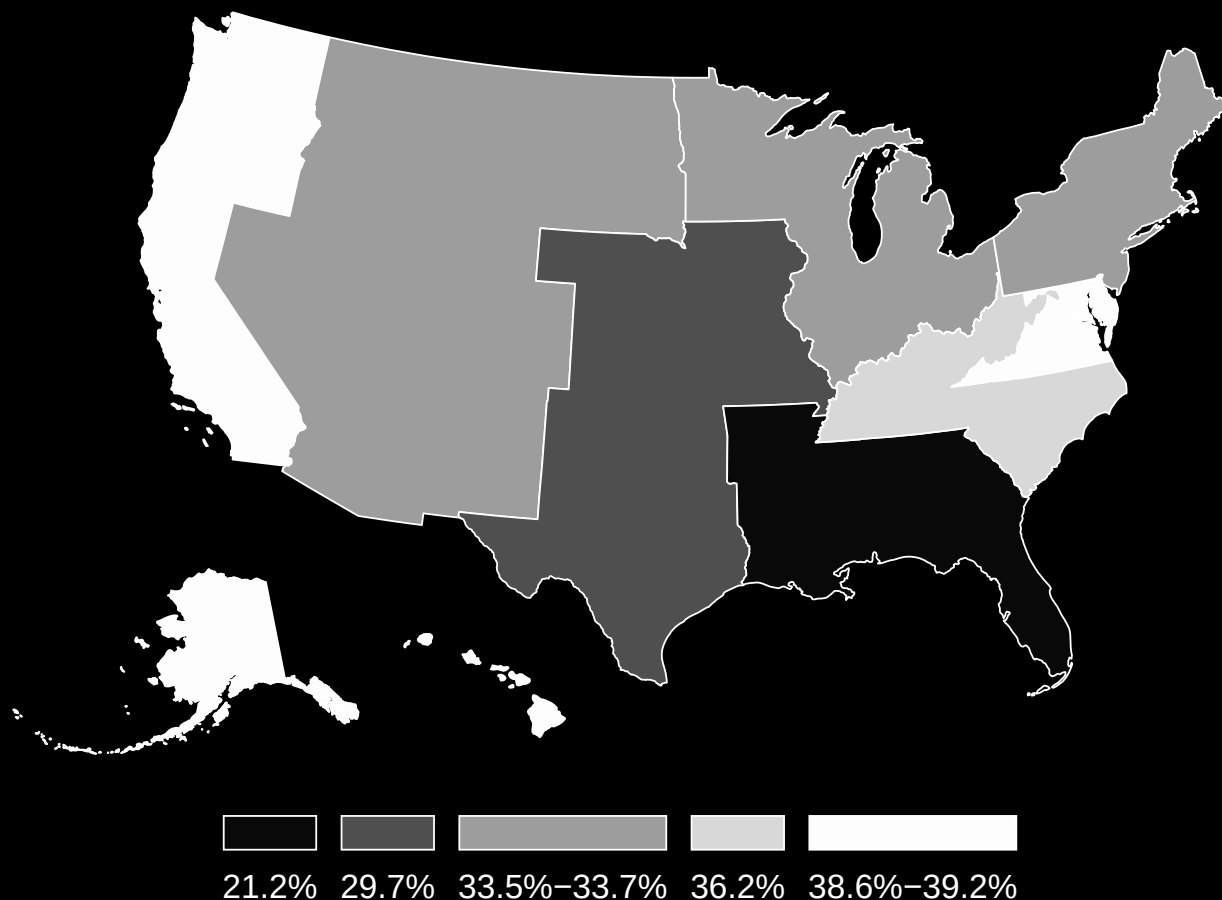
Perceptions of AI by political party



Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026.

Survey question wording: Are the following technologies more harmful or more beneficial to our society?

What percentage of people think AI is mostly or entirely harmful to our society?

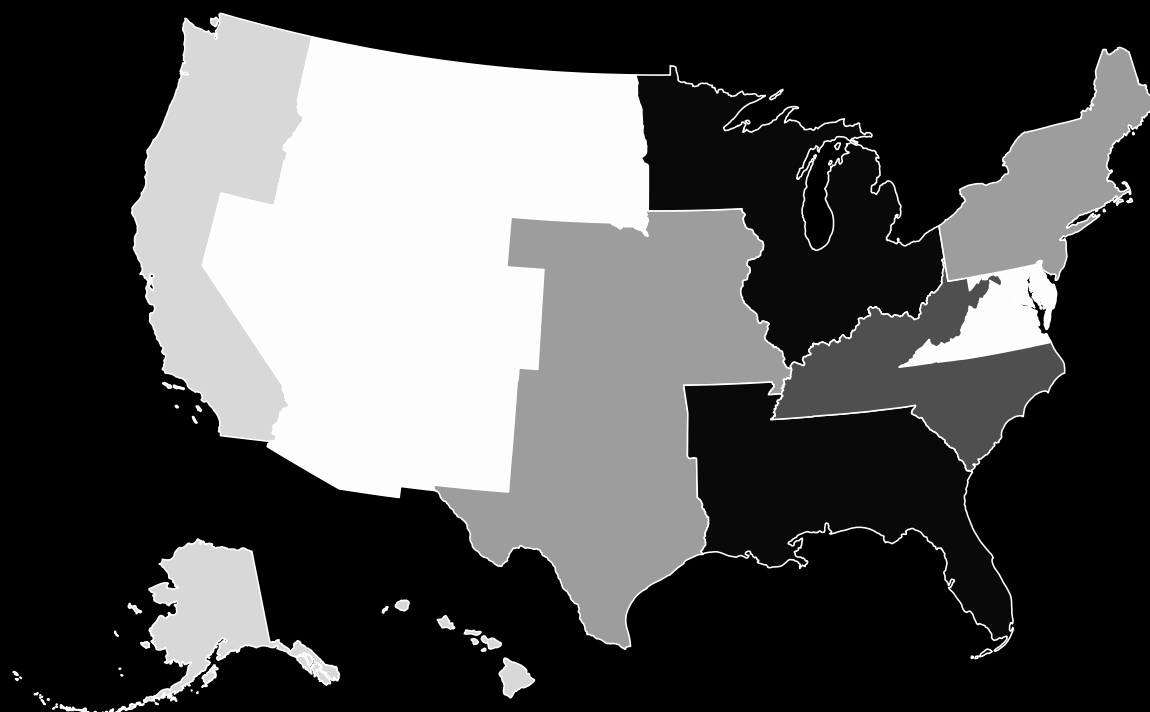


Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026.

Survey question wording: Are the following technologies more harmful or more beneficial to our society?

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What percentage of people think AI is entirely harmful to our society?



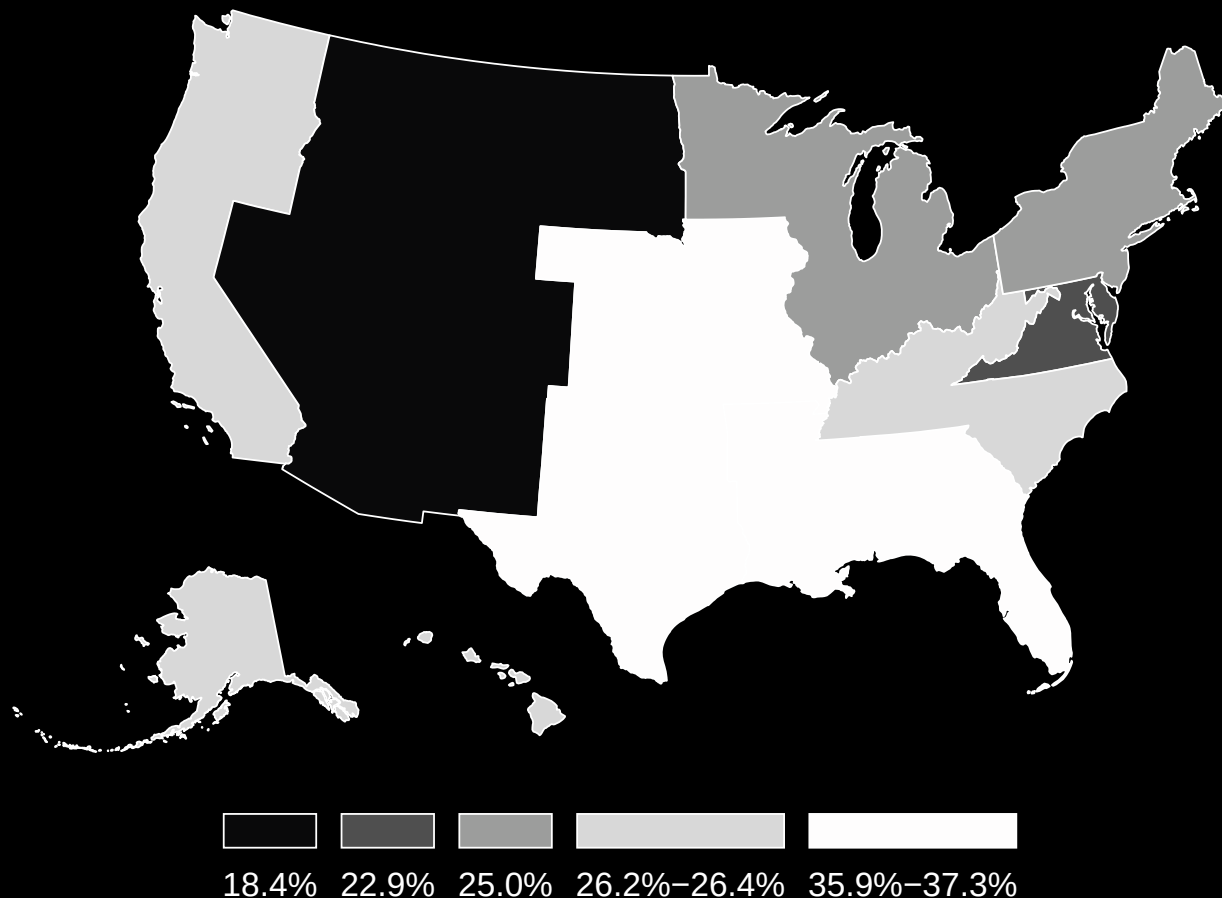
7.8%–9.4% 11.3% 12.7%–13.6% 15.7% 17.7%–19.0%

Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026.

Survey question wording: Are the following technologies more harmful or more beneficial to our society?

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What percentage of people think AI is mostly or entirely beneficial to our society?

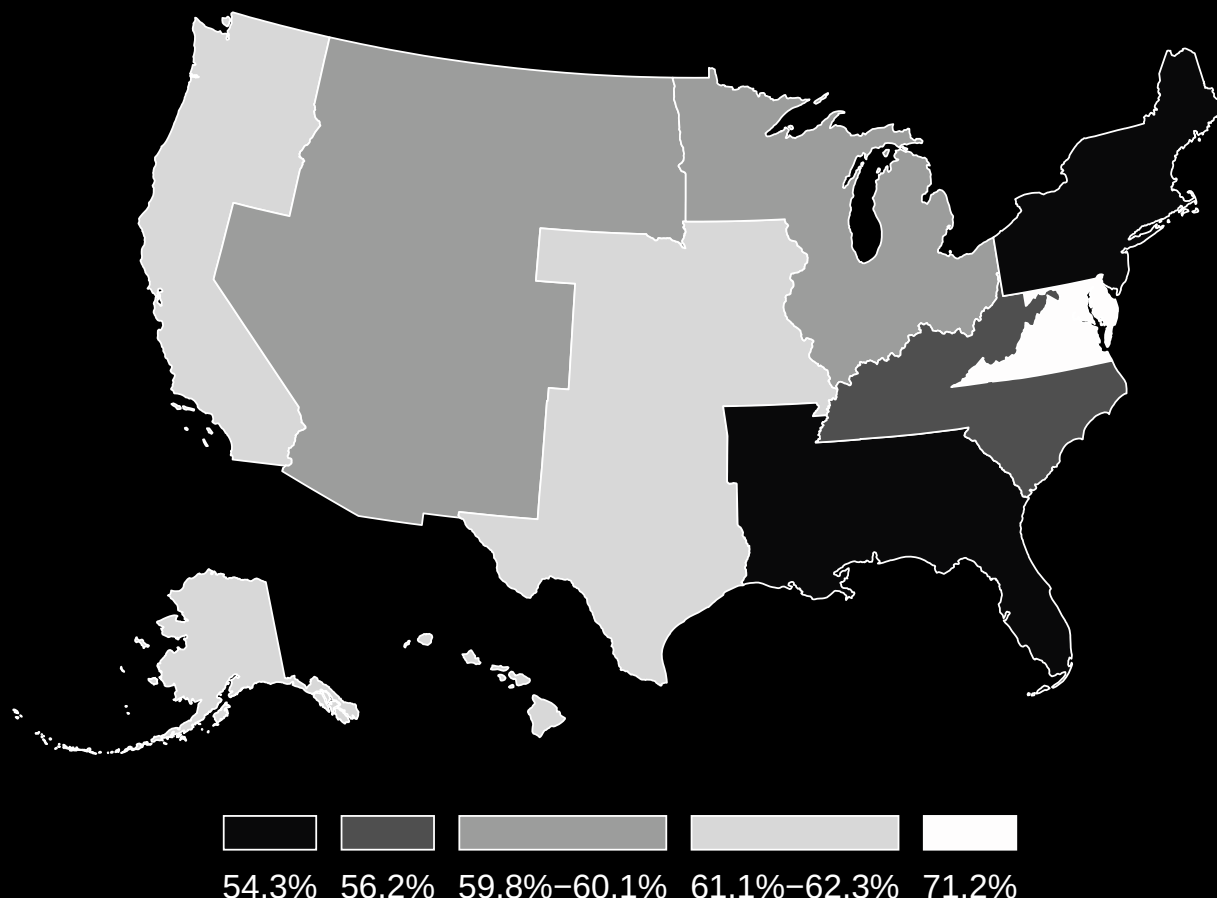


Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026.

Survey question wording: Are the following technologies more harmful or more beneficial to our society?

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What percentage of people think social media is mostly or entirely harmful to our society?



Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026.

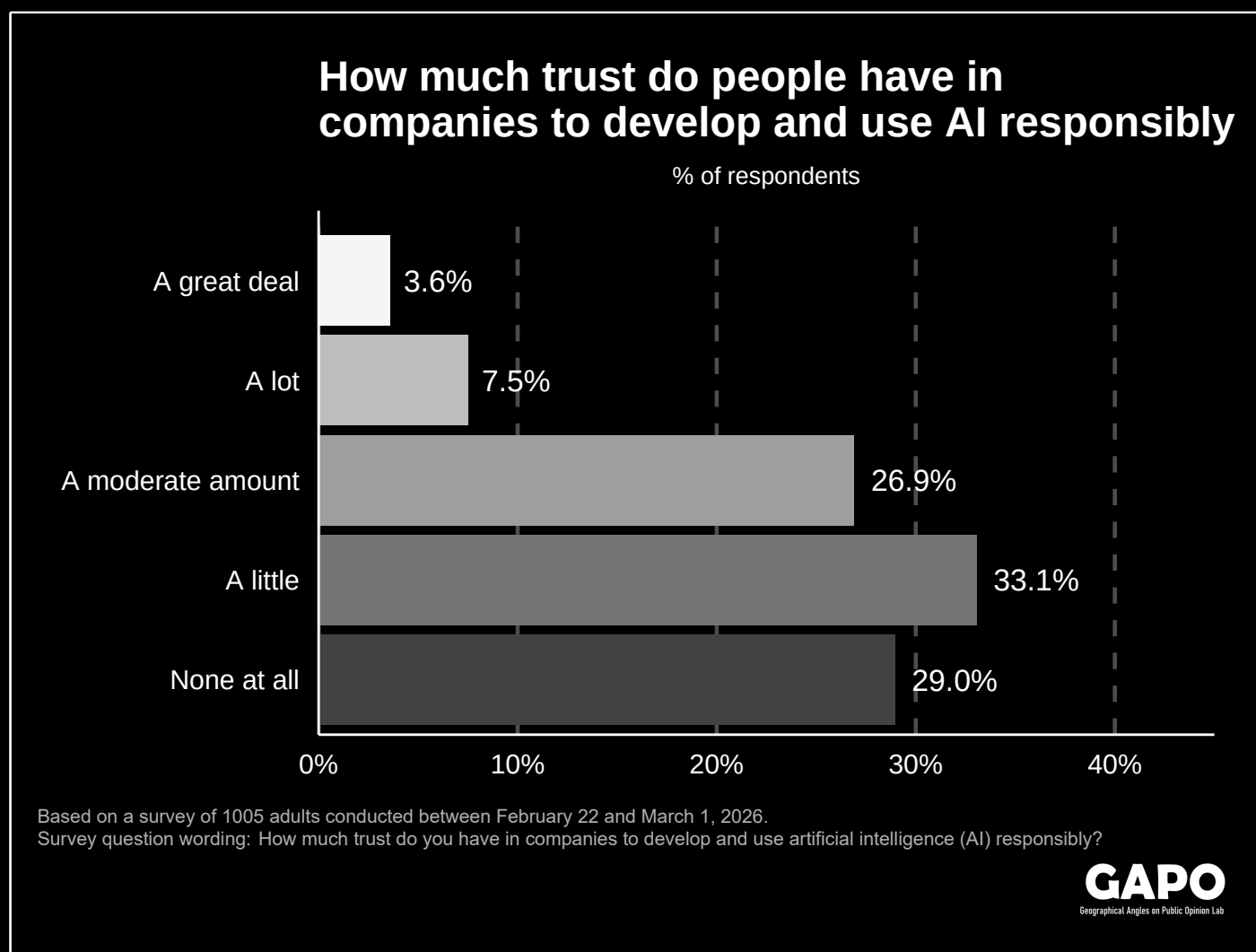
Survey question wording: Are the following technologies more harmful or more beneficial to our society?

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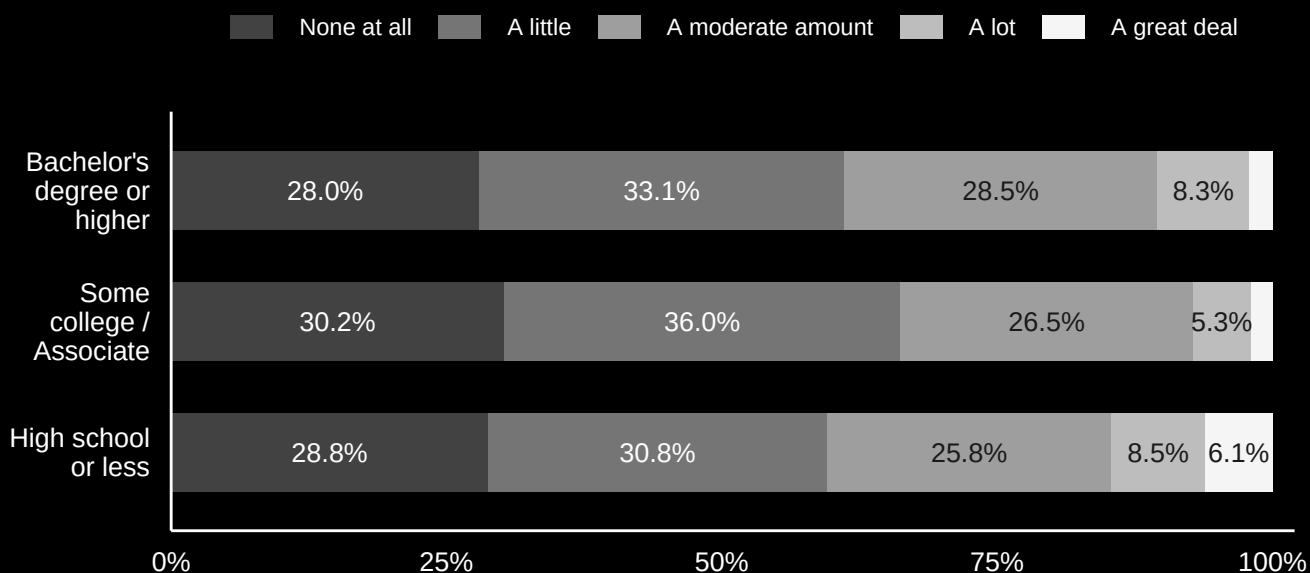
How much trust do Americans have in companies to develop and use AI?

A majority (62%) of Americans have no or only a little trust in companies to develop and use AI responsibly, and a majority of Americans feel that way regardless of their generation, educational attainment level or political leanings. However, Republicans have somewhat more trust in companies to develop and use AI responsibly than independents and Democrats do.

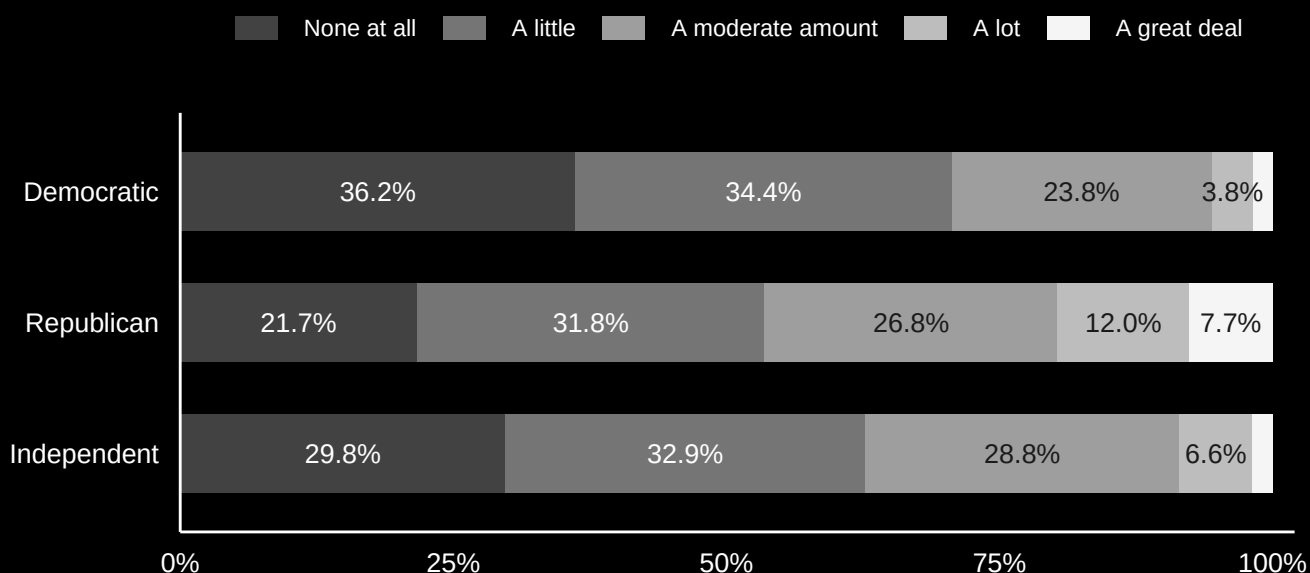
The Southeast has the greatest percentage of people who have a lot or a great deal of trust in companies to develop and use AI responsibly. The Mid-Atlantic has the smallest proportion of people who have a lot or a great deal of trust.



Trust in companies to develop and use AI responsibly by educational attainment



Trust in companies to develop and use AI responsibly by political party



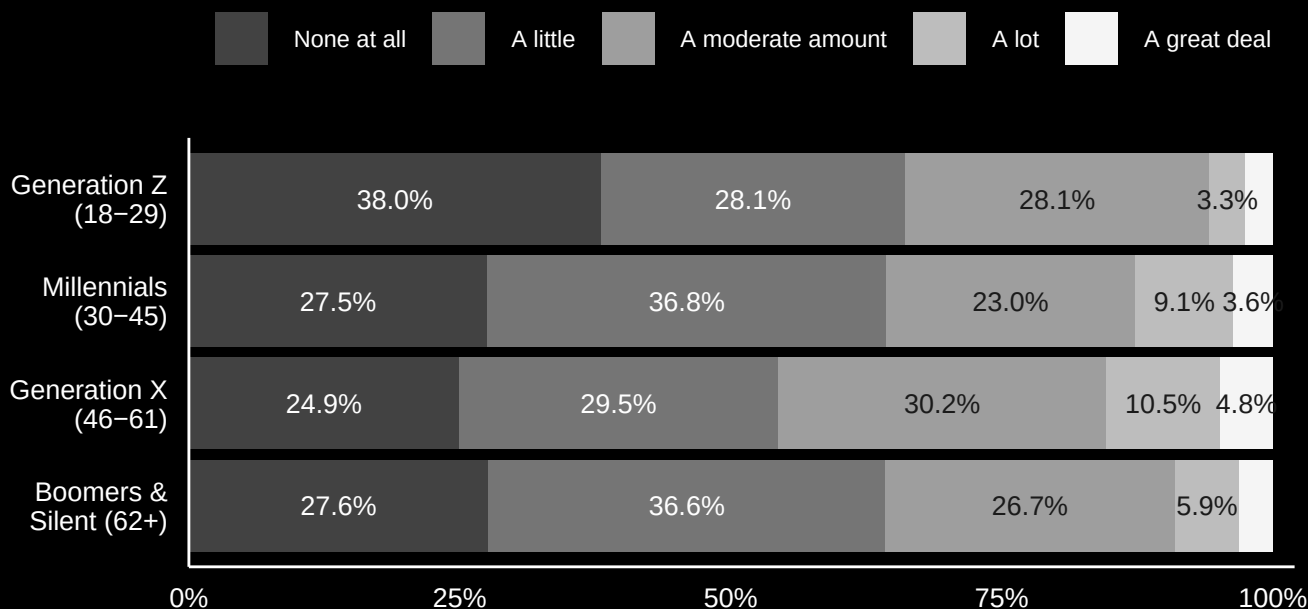
Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026.

Survey question wording: How much trust do you have in companies to develop and use artificial intelligence (AI) responsibly?

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Trust in companies to develop and use AI responsibly by generation

% of respondents

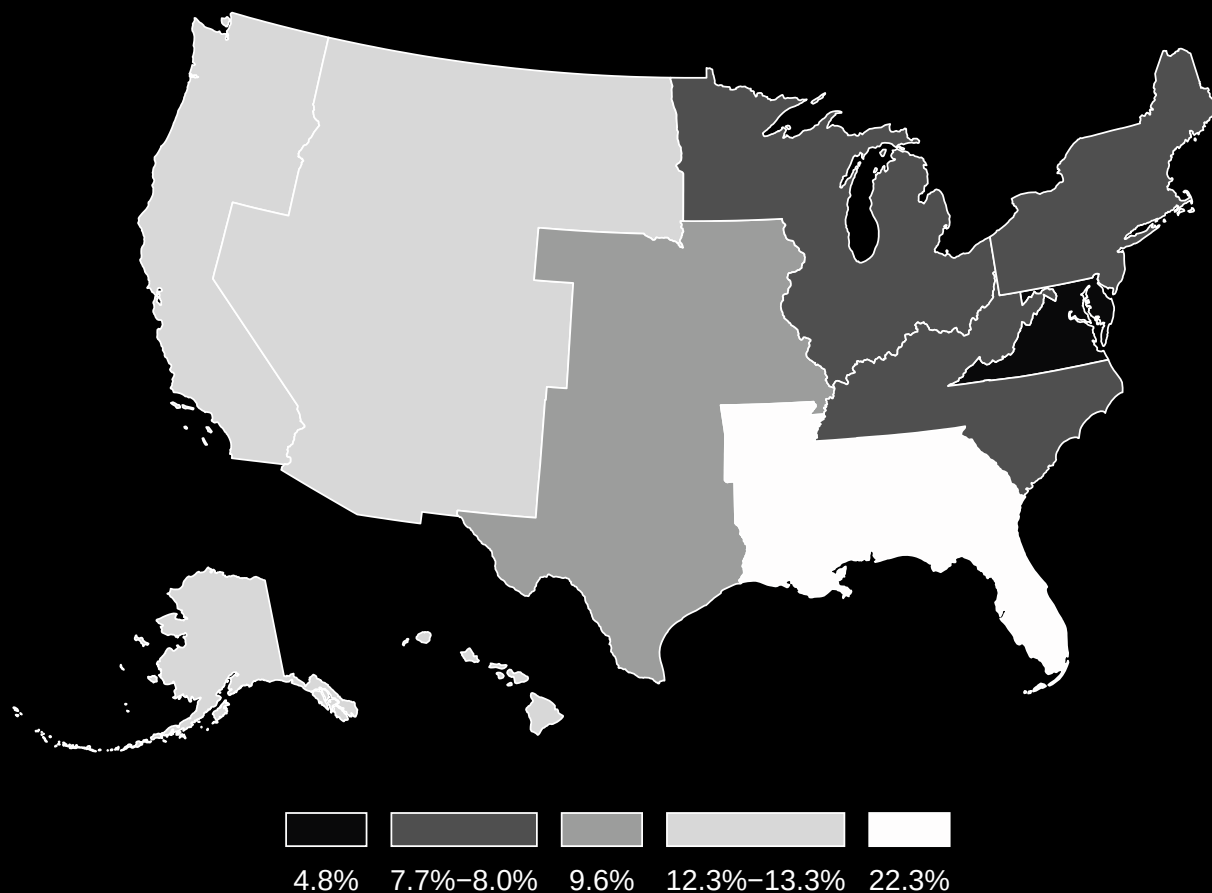


Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026.

Survey question wording: How much trust do you have in companies to develop and use artificial intelligence (AI) responsibly?

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What percentage of people have a lot or a great deal of trust in companies to develop and use AI responsibly?



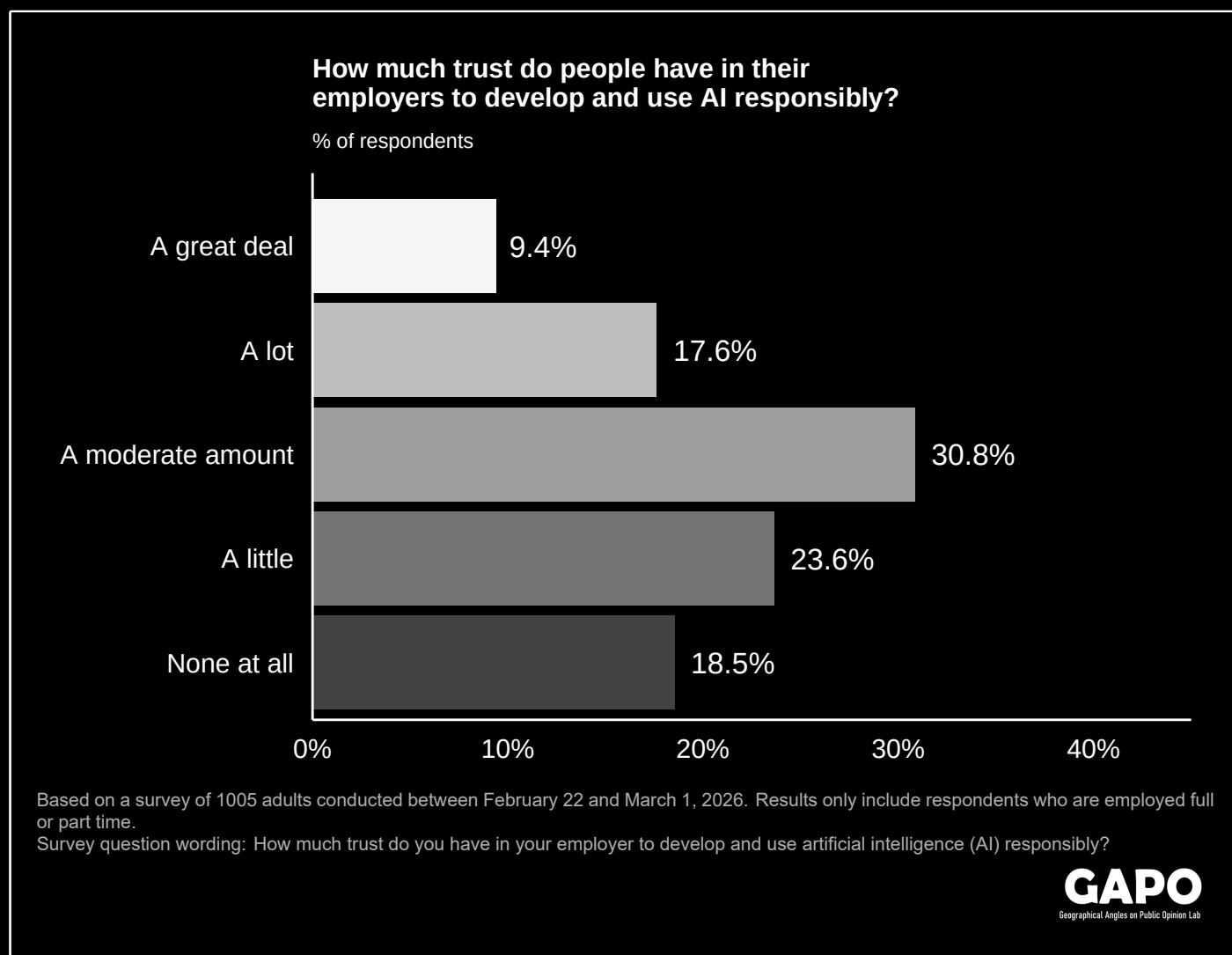
Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026.

Survey question wording: How much trust do you have in companies to develop and use artificial intelligence (AI) responsibly?

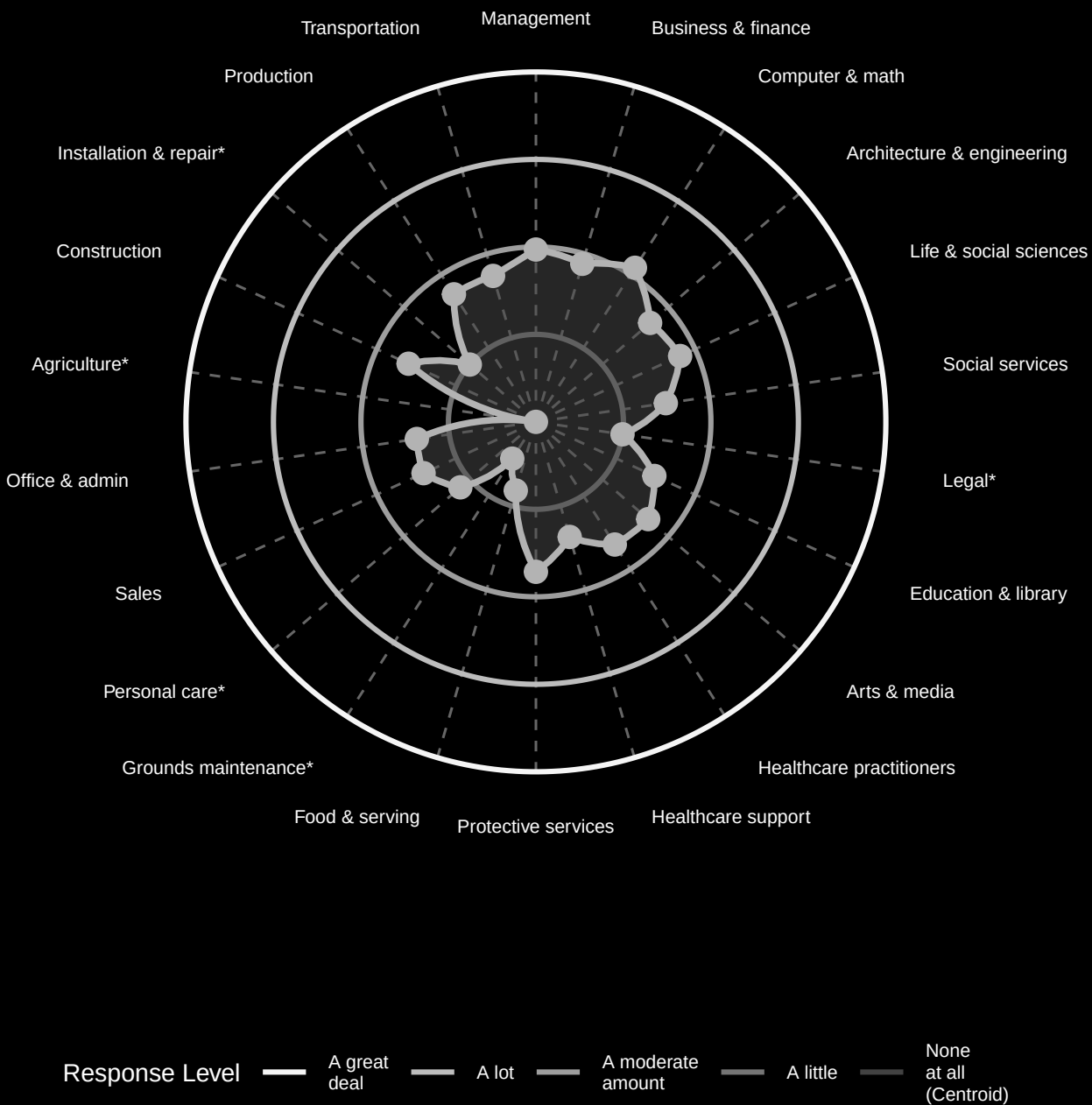
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How much trust do Americans have in their employers to develop and use AI responsibly?

Among those employed full or part-time, the majority have at least a moderate amount of trust in their employers to use AI responsibly. Notably, people employed in fields with high levels of AI exposure (Massenkoff and McCrory, 2026), including management, business and finance, architecture and engineering, and arts and media, reported higher levels of trust than people employed in many fields with less exposure such as personal care, ground maintenance, and food and serving.



How much trust do you have in your employer to develop and use AI responsibly?



* = Fewer than 10 respondents in this occupational category.

Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026. Results only include respondents who are employed full or part time.

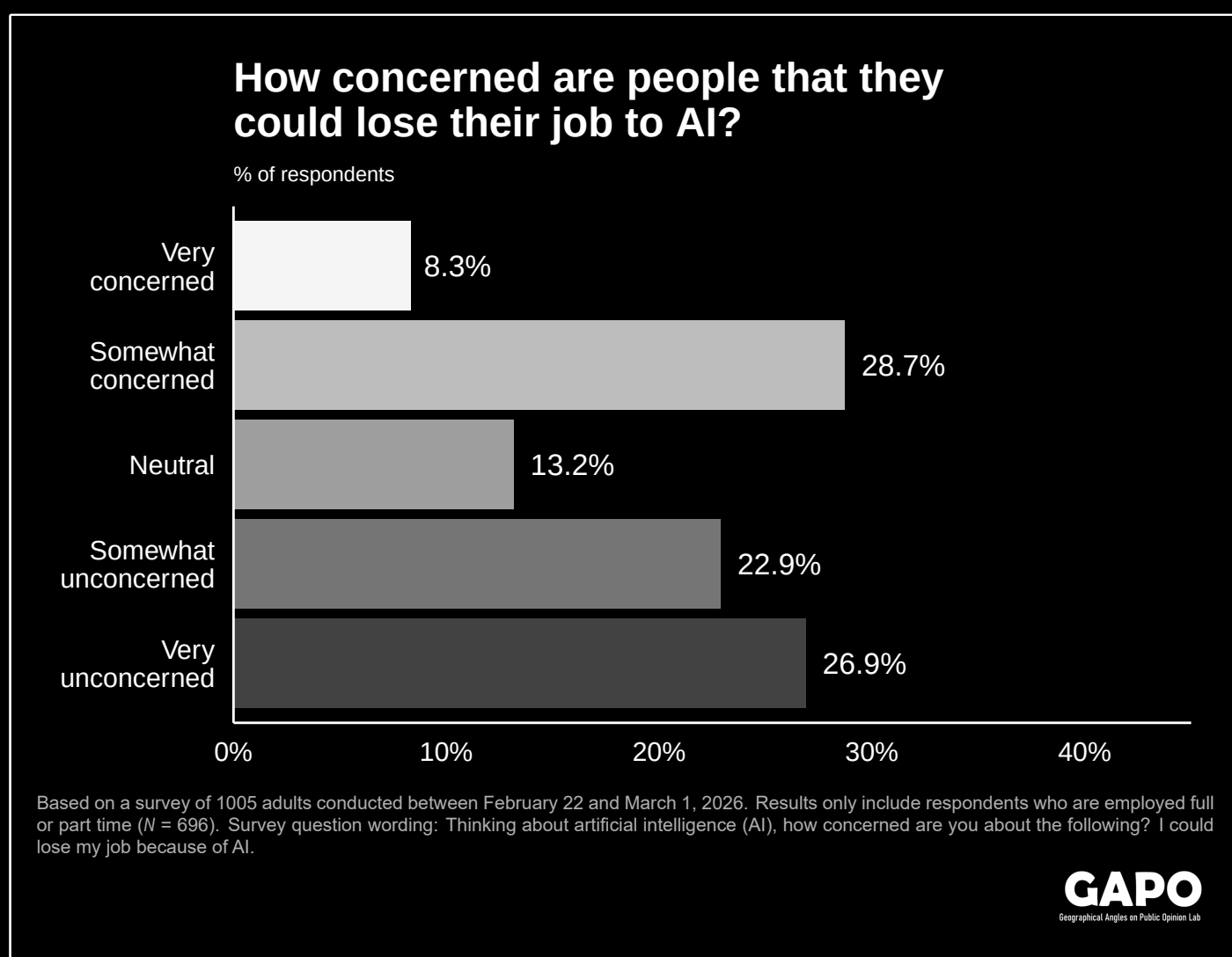
Survey question wording: How much trust do you have in your employer to develop and use artificial intelligence (AI) responsibly?

How concerned are Americans that they could lose their job because of AI?

37% of Americans are somewhat or very concerned that they could lose their job due to AI, compared to 50% who are somewhat or very unconcerned. Women, Democrats, people with a bachelor's degree or higher, and members of younger generations (Millennials and Generation Z) have elevated levels of concern.

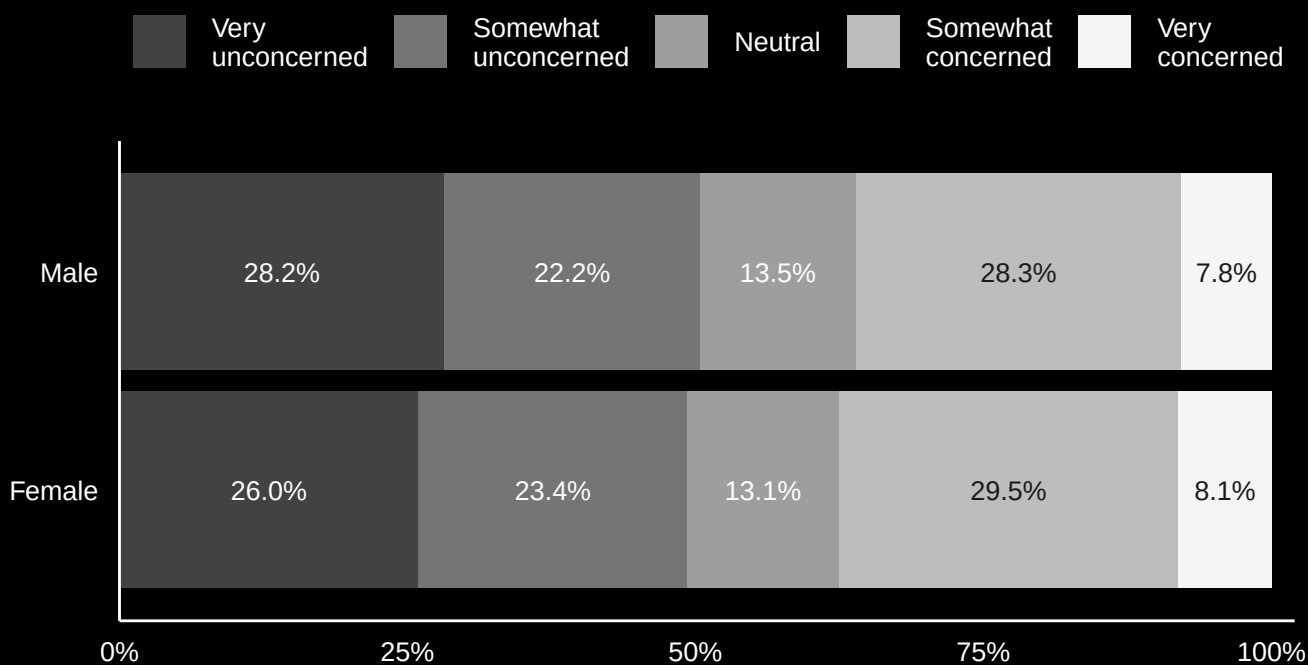
There are no consistent differences seen among people in careers with high theoretical and observed AI coverage (Massenkoff and McCrory, 2026) and people in careers with low theoretical and observed AI coverage.

The highest percentage of people who are very or somewhat concerned about losing their job to AI are in the Mid-Atlantic. The Southeast and Central Plains have the lowest percentages.



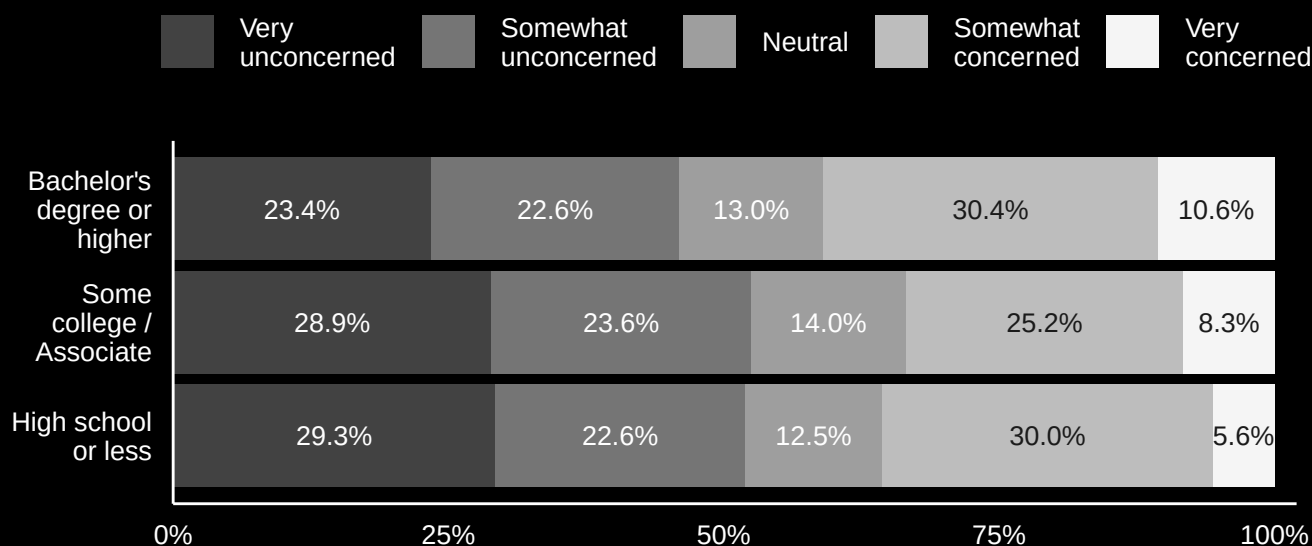
Level of AI-related job loss concern by gender

% of respondents

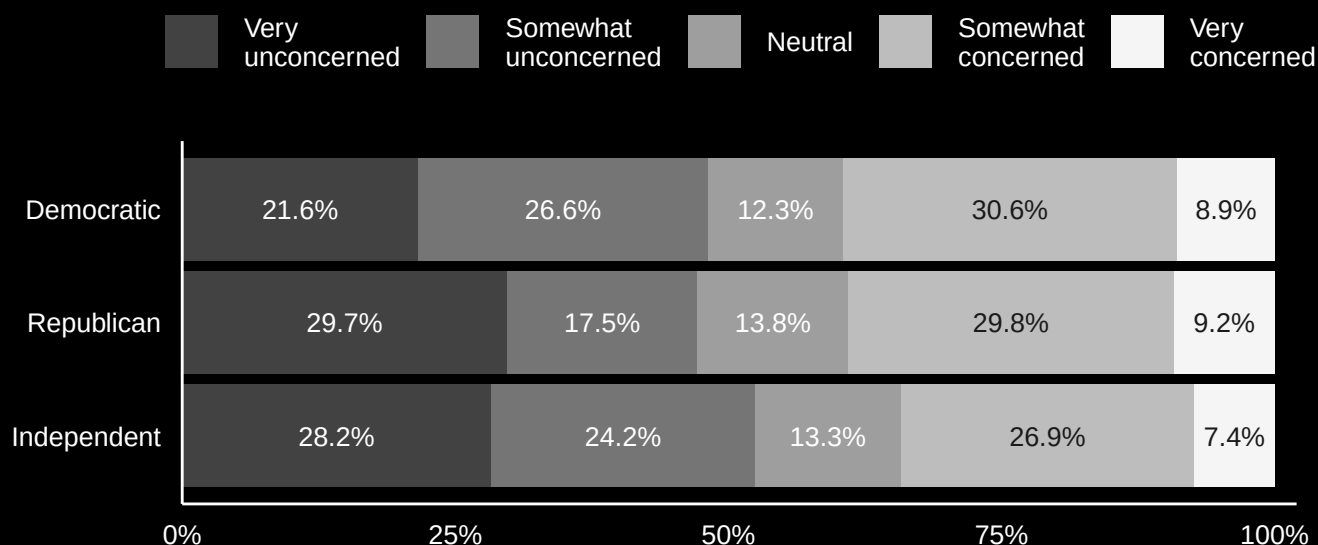


Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026. Results only include respondents who are employed full or part time ($N = 696$). Survey question wording: Thinking about artificial intelligence (AI), how concerned are you about the following? I could lose my job because of AI.

Level of AI-related job loss concern by educational attainment

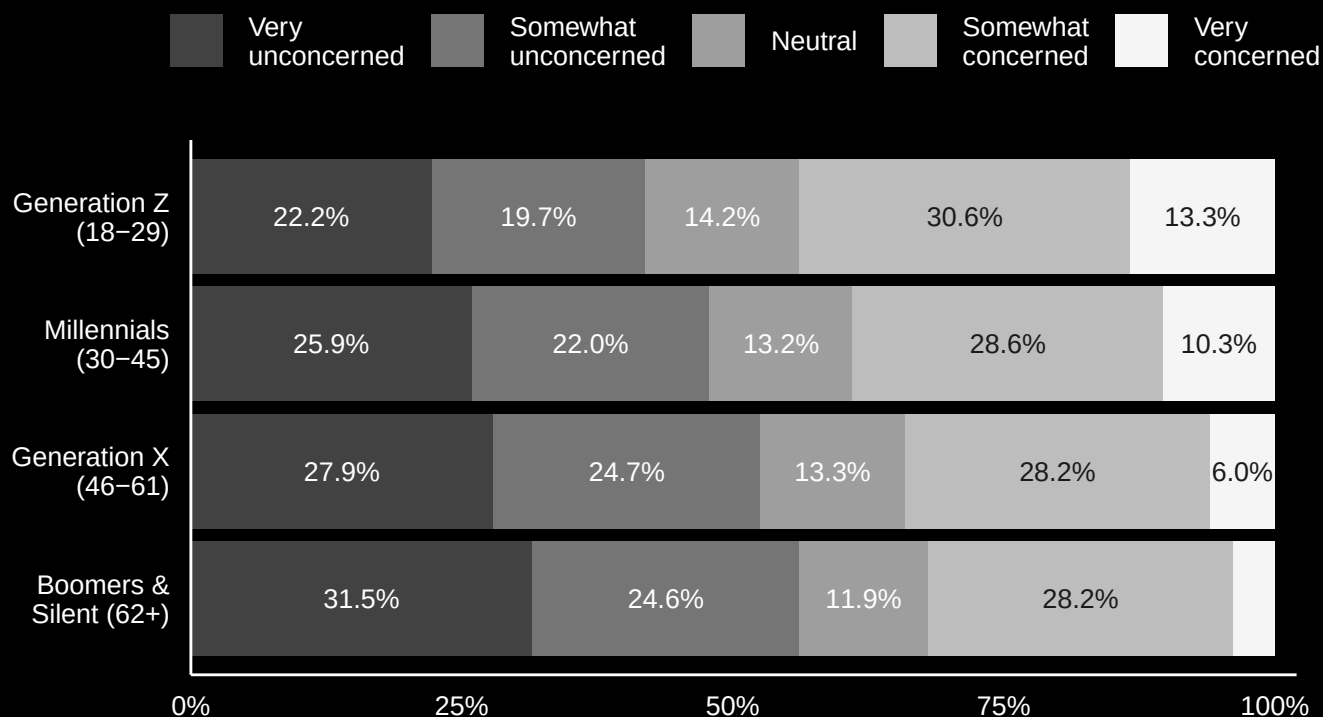


Level of AI-related job loss concern by political party



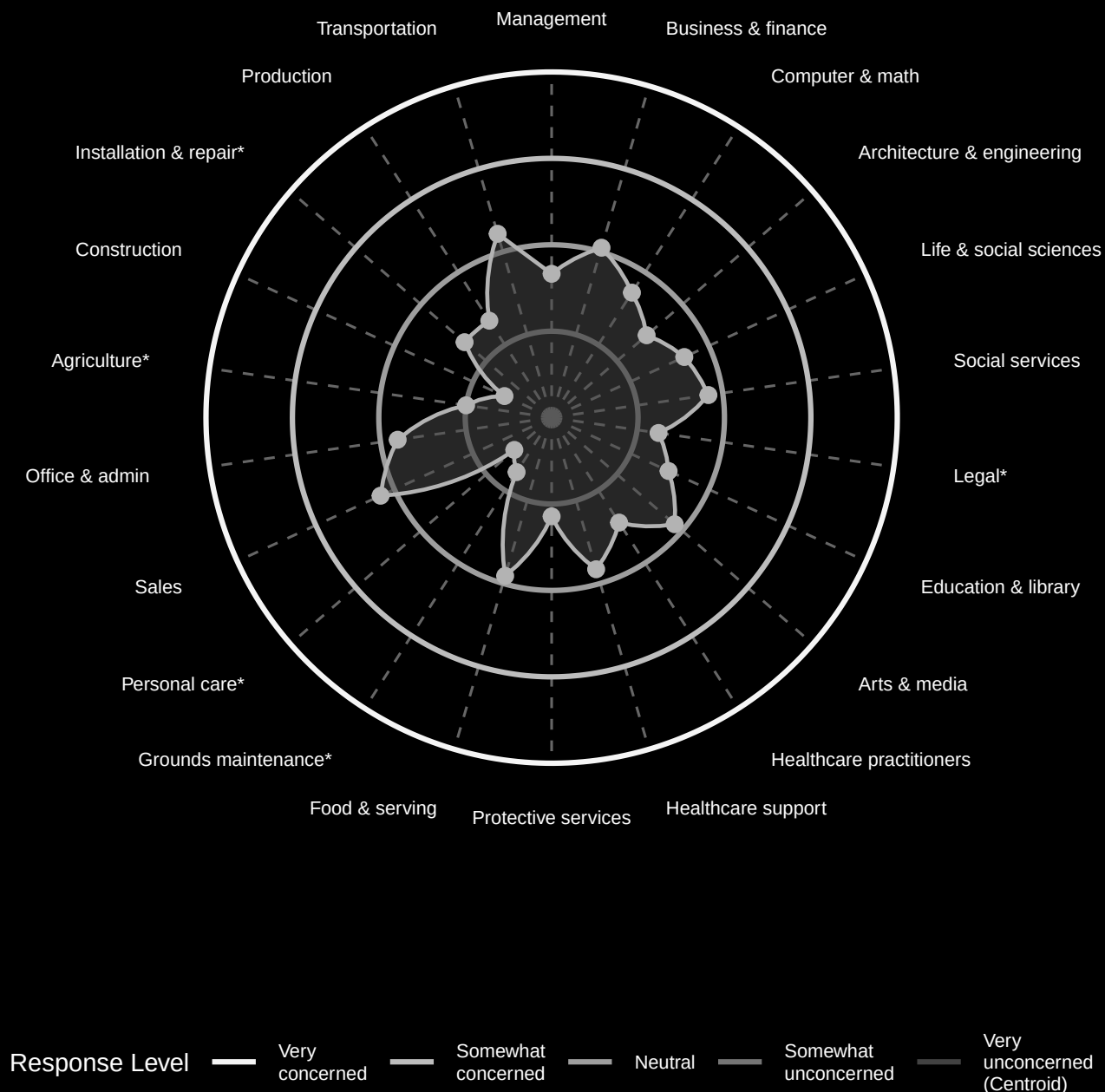
Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026. Results only include respondents who are employed full or part time ($N = 696$). Survey question wording: Thinking about artificial intelligence (AI), how concerned are you about the following? I could lose my job because of AI.

Level of AI-related job loss concern by generation



Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026. Results only include respondents who are employed full or part time ($N = 696$). Survey question wording: Thinking about artificial intelligence (AI), how concerned are you about the following? I could lose my job because of AI.

Thinking about artificial intelligence (AI), how concerned are you about the following:
I could lose my job because of AI

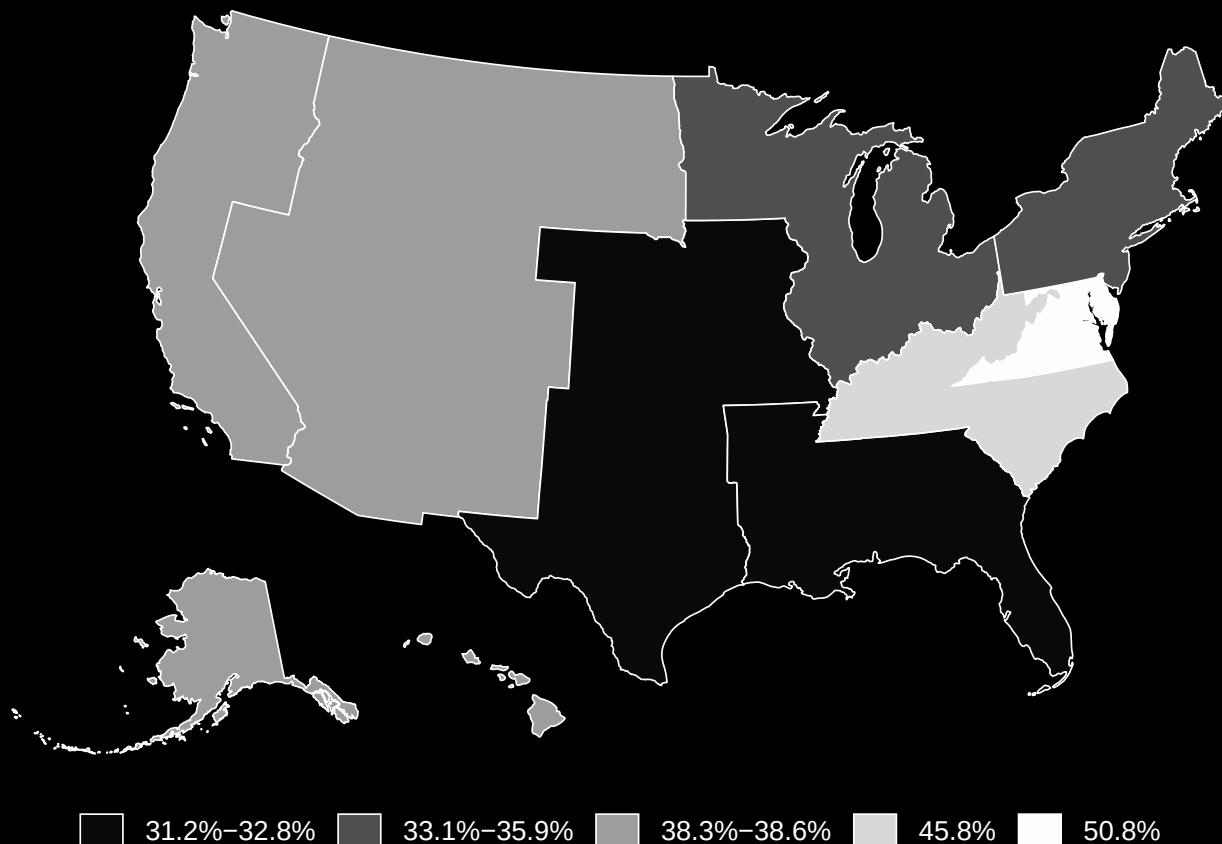


* = 10 or fewer respondents in this occupational category.

Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026. Results only include respondents who are employed full or part time ($N = 696$).

Survey question wording: Thinking about artificial intelligence (AI), how concerned are you about the following? I could lose my job because of AI.

What percentage of employed people are somewhat or very concerned about losing their job to AI?



Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026. Results only include respondents who are employed full or part time ($N = 696$).

Survey question wording: Thinking about artificial intelligence (AI), how concerned are you about the following? I could lose my job because of AI.

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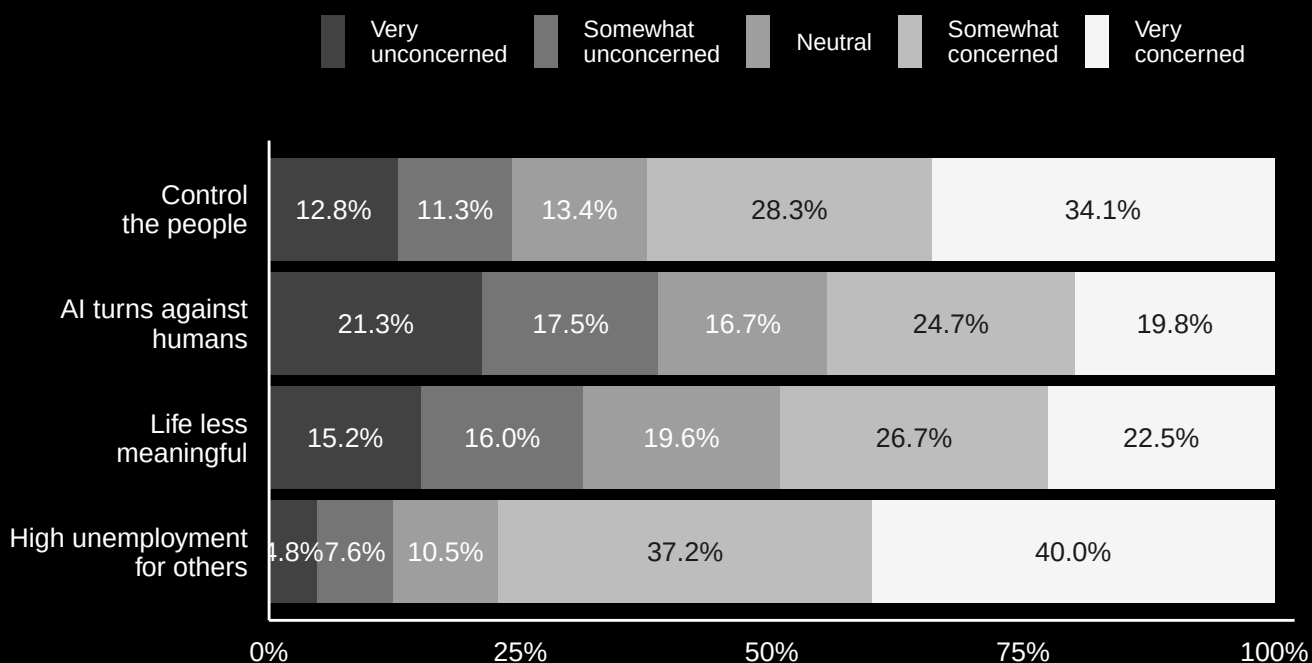
What other concerns do Americans have about AI?

Survey respondents were asked about their level of concern that: 1) AI could lead to high unemployment for others; 2) that AI could make life less meaningful; 3) that an AI system could turn against humans and harm us; and 4) AI could be used to control the people.

The responses show that these are areas of concern for many people, and the percentage of people reporting being somewhat or very concerned is greater than the percentage of people who are somewhat or very unconcerned for all four factors. The greatest concern (77.2% somewhat or very concerned) is that AI may lead to high unemployment for others. It is notable that this percentage is much greater than the 37.0% of employed people who are somewhat or very concerned about losing their own jobs.

Other AI-related concerns

% of respondents



Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026.

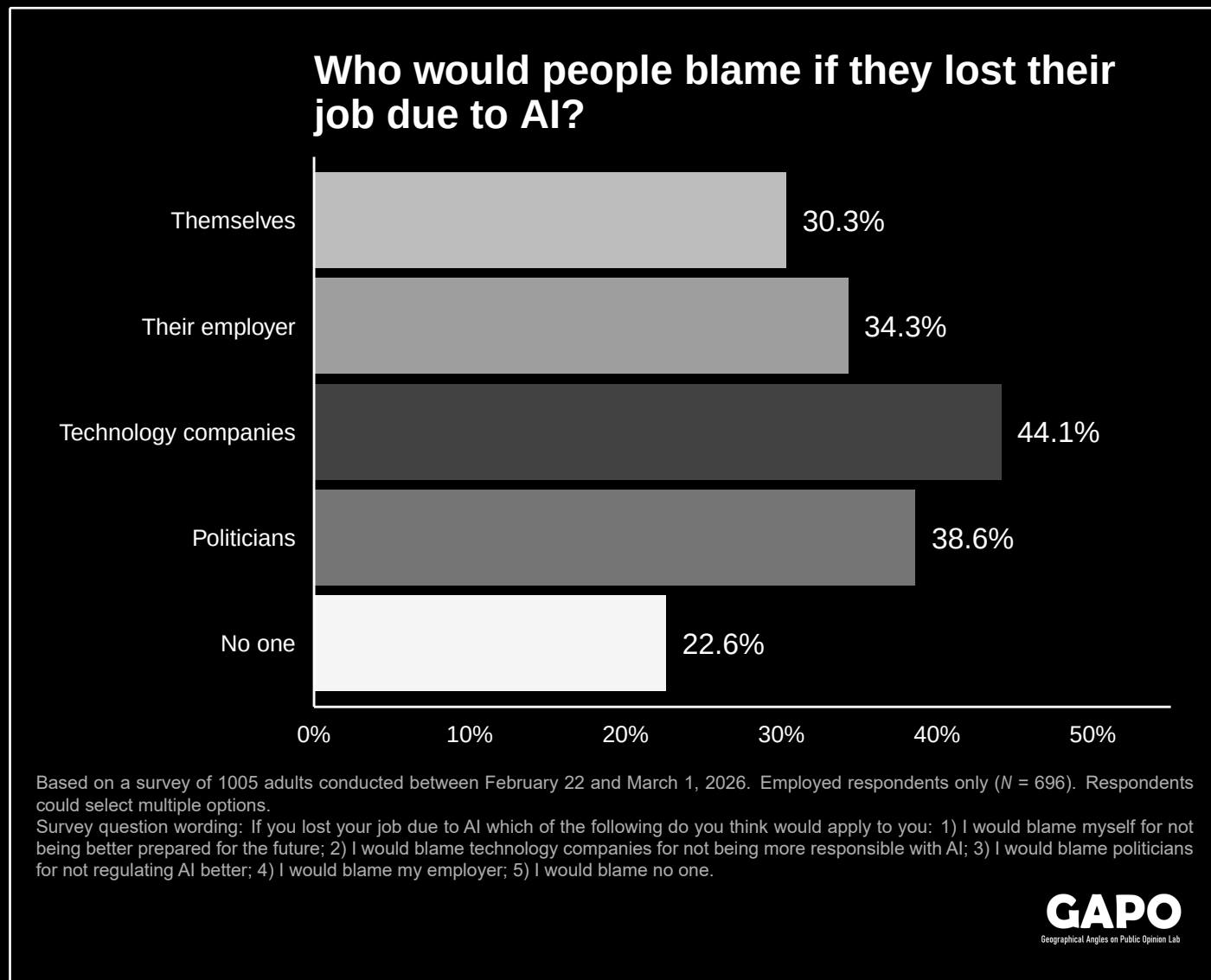
Survey question wording: How concerned are you about the following: 1) AI could lead to high unemployment for others; 2) that AI could make life less meaningful; 3) that an AI system could turn against humans and harm us; and 4) AI could be used to control the people.

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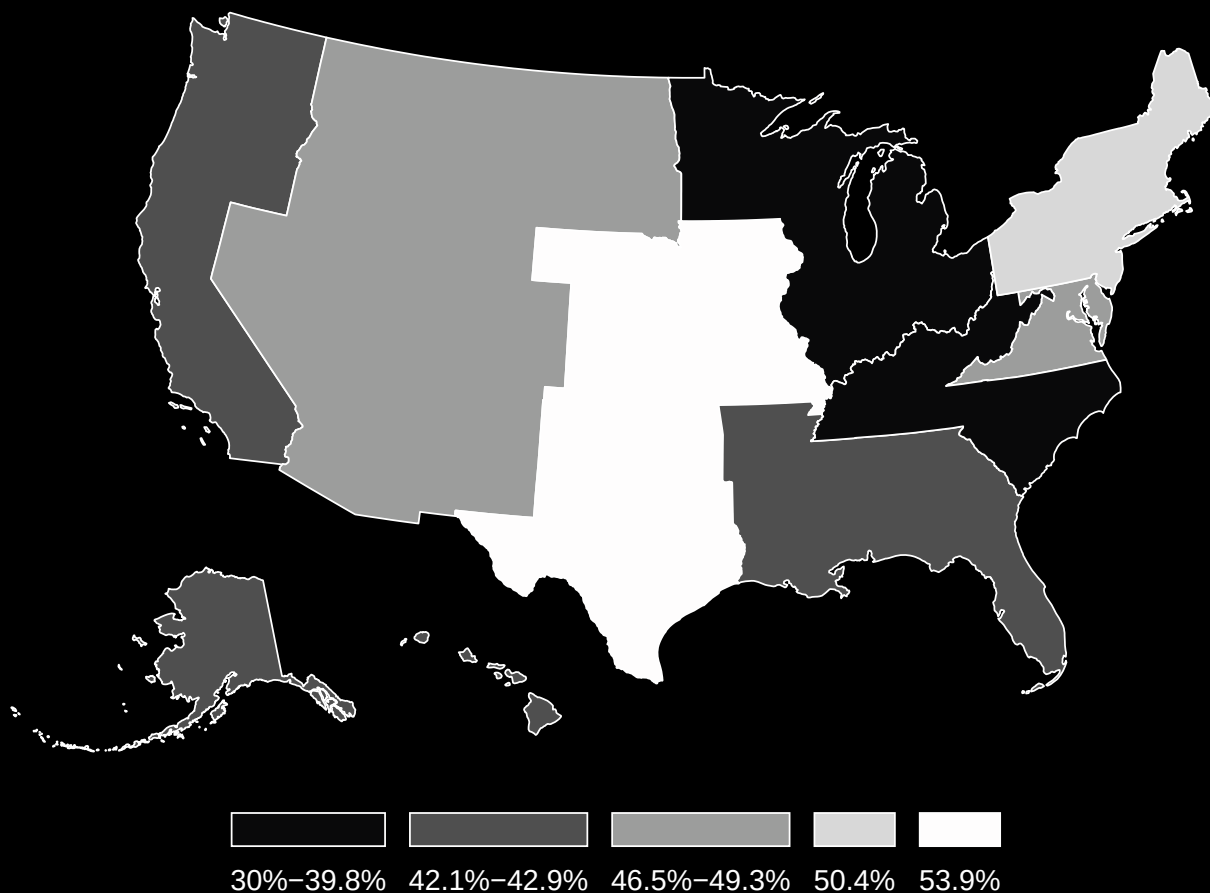
If Americans lose their job due to AI, who will get the blame?

If Americans were to lose their job due to AI, many of them would place the blame externally, including on technology companies for not being more responsible with AI (44.1%), politicians for not regulating AI better (38.6%), or their employer (34.3%). A smaller percentage (30.3%) would place the blame internally by faulting themselves for not being better prepared for the future. Less than a quarter of Americans (22.6%) would blame no one if they lost their job due to AI.

There are geographical differences in who Americans would blame if they lost their job to AI. The highest proportion who would blame technology companies is in the Central Plains, and the highest proportion who would blame politicians is in the Northeast.



What percentage of employed people would blame technology companies if they lost their job due to AI?

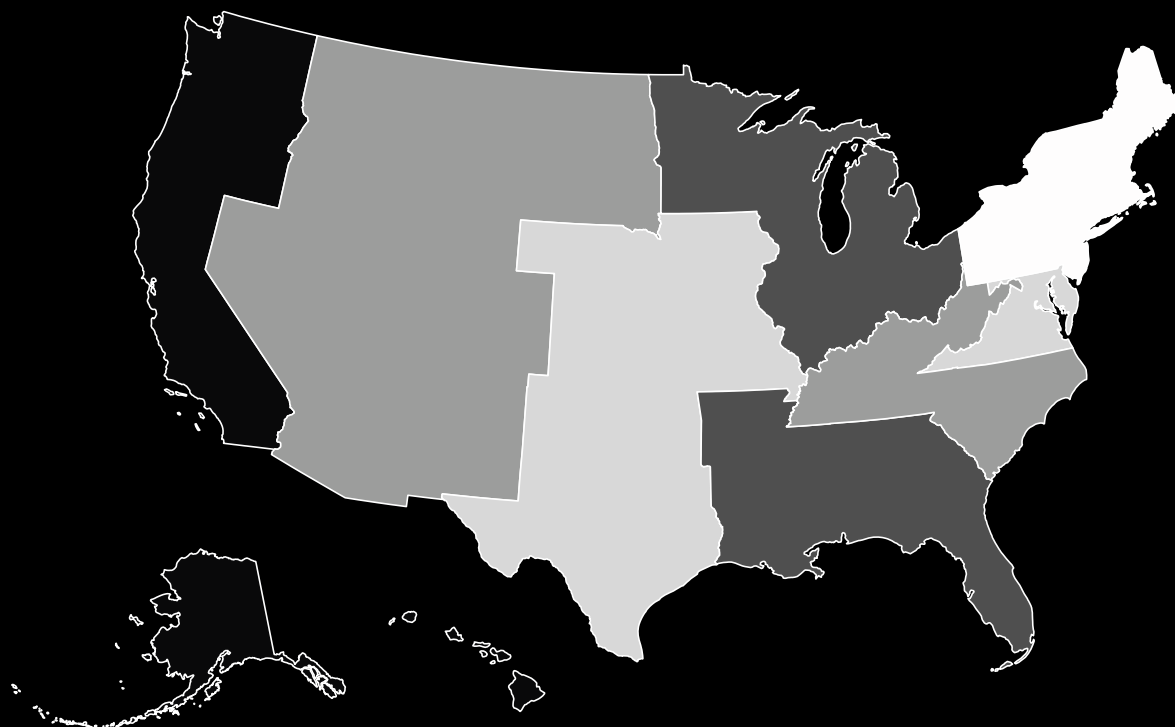


Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026. Employed respondents only ($N = 696$). Respondents could select multiple options.

Survey question wording: If you lost your job due to AI which of the following do you think would apply to you: I would blame technology companies for not being more responsible with AI

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What percentage of employed people would blame politicians if they lost their job due to AI?



33.4% 33.9% 35.0%–36.3% 38.3%–48.3% 50.4%

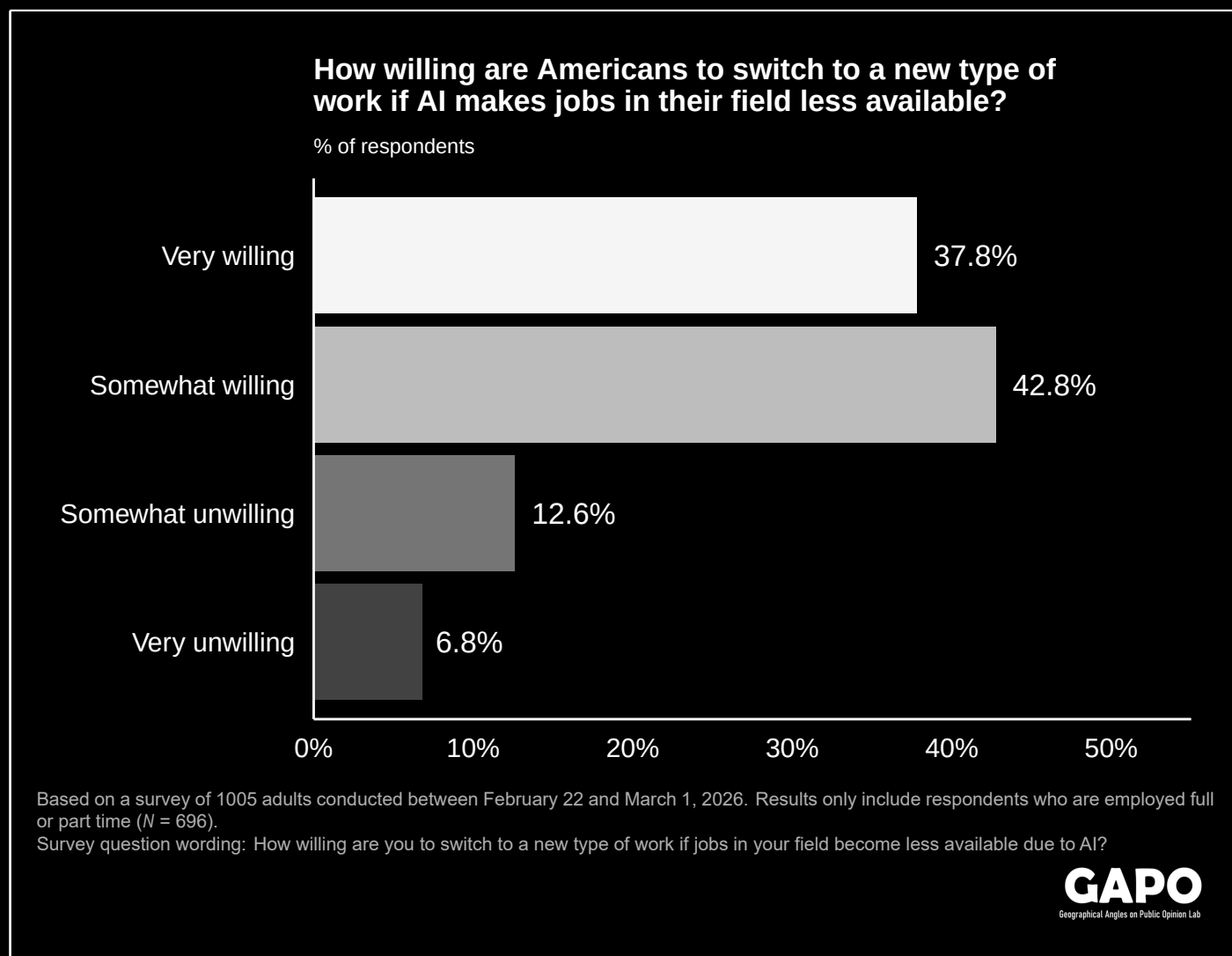
Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026. Employed respondents only ($N = 696$). Respondents could select multiple options.

Survey question wording: If you lost your job due to AI which of the following do you think would apply to you: I would blame politicians for not regulating AI better

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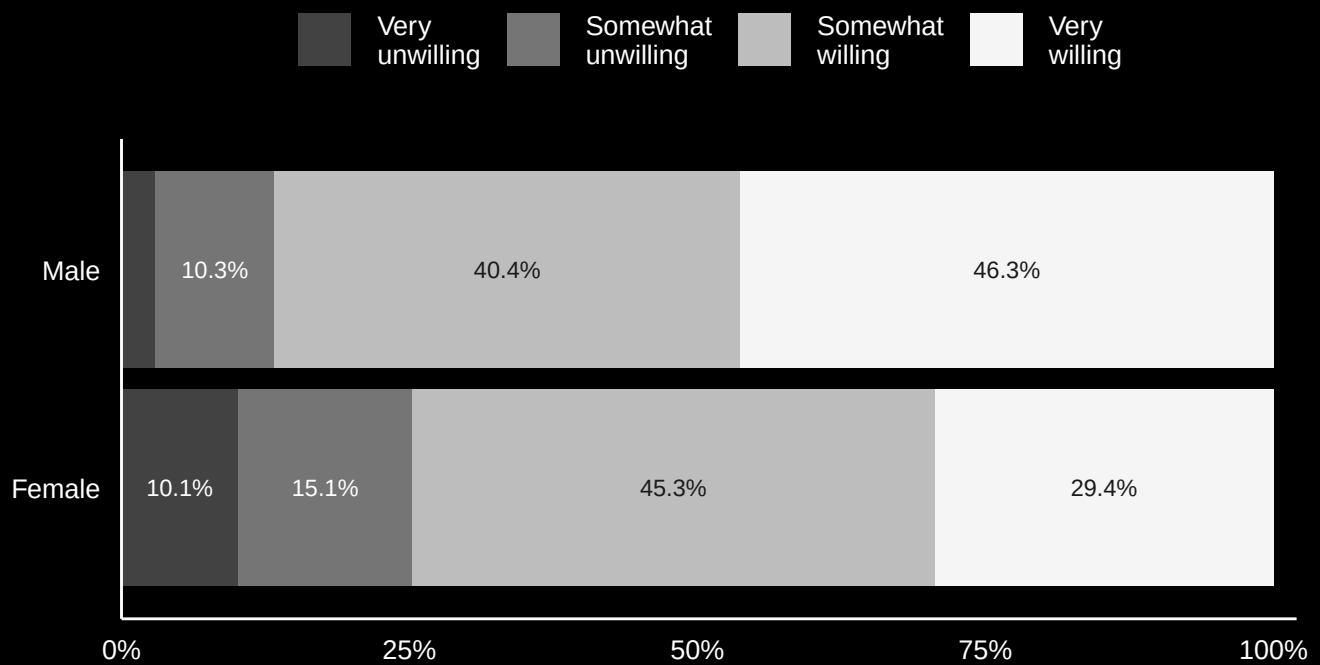
How willing are Americans to switch to a new type of work if AI makes jobs in their field less available?

Most employed Americans (80.6%) are somewhat or very willing to switch to a new type of work if AI makes jobs in their field less available. Women, Baby Boomers / members of the Silent Generation, and members of Generation Z are less willing to switch than men, Millennials, and members of Generation X. The percentage of people who are somewhat or very willing to switch is highest in the Interior West and lowest in the Northeast and Upland South. Political affiliation and educational attainment level have little impact on willingness to switch to new types of work, and there is no consistent relationship between the respondents' willingness to switch to a new type of work and the theoretical / observed coverage of AI (Massenkoff and McCrory, 2026) in their occupation.



Willingness to switch to a new type of work due to AI

% of respondents

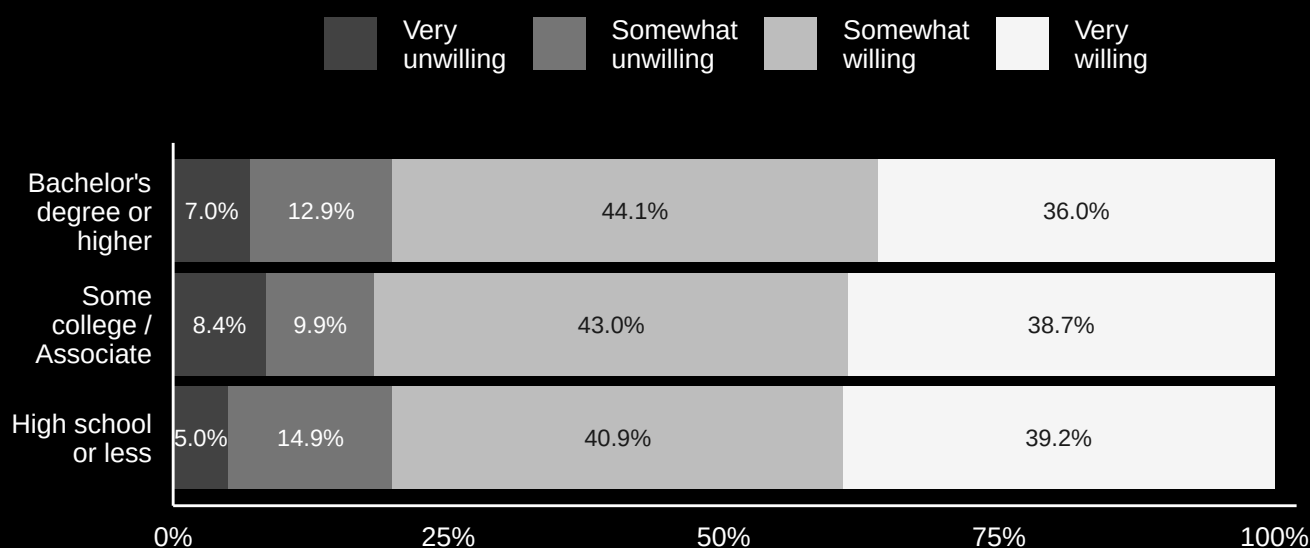


Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026. Results only include respondents who are employed full or part time ($N = 696$).

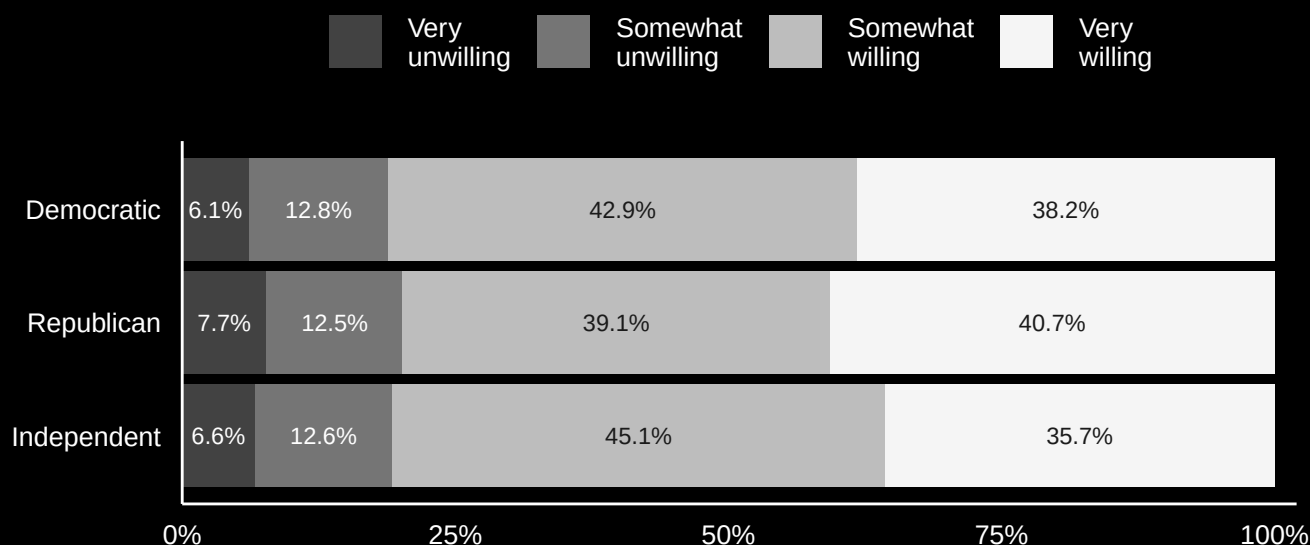
Survey question wording: How willing are you to switch to a new type of work if jobs in your field become less available due to AI?

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Willingness to switch to a new type of work due to AI by educational attainment



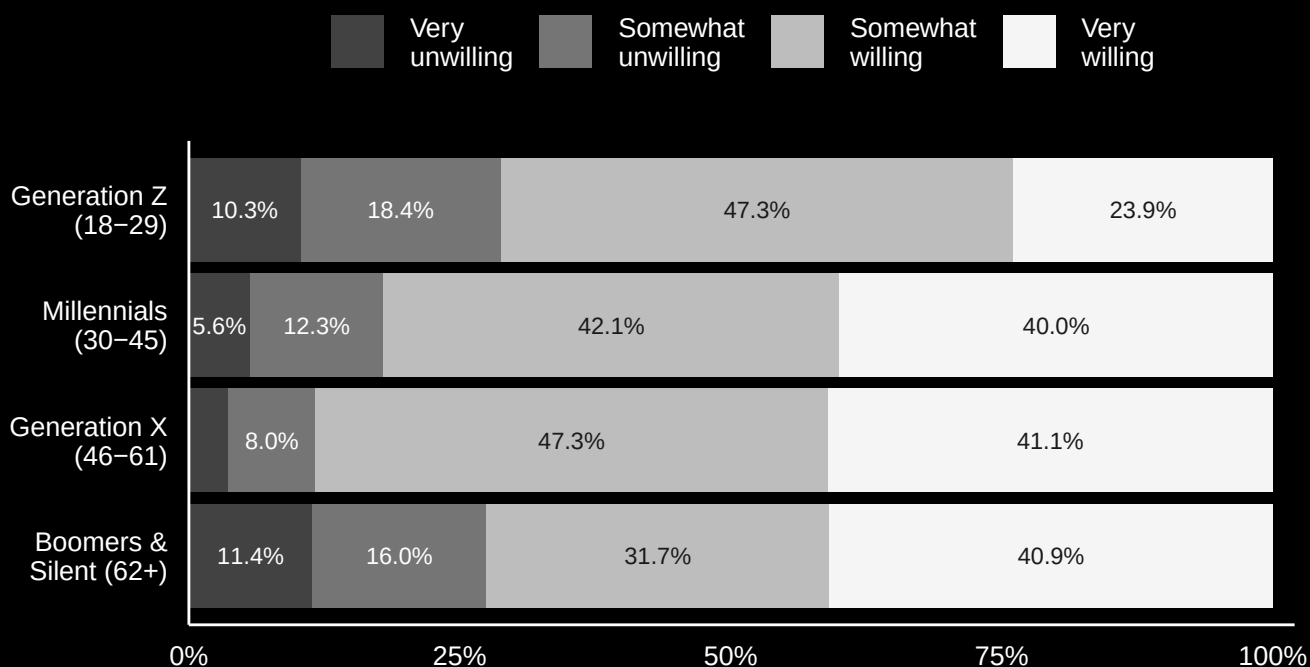
Willingness to switch to a new type of work due to AI by political affiliation



Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026. Results only include respondents who are employed full or part time ($N = 696$).

Survey question wording: How willing are you to switch to a new type of work if jobs in your field become less available due to AI?

Willingness to switch to a new type of work due to AI by generation

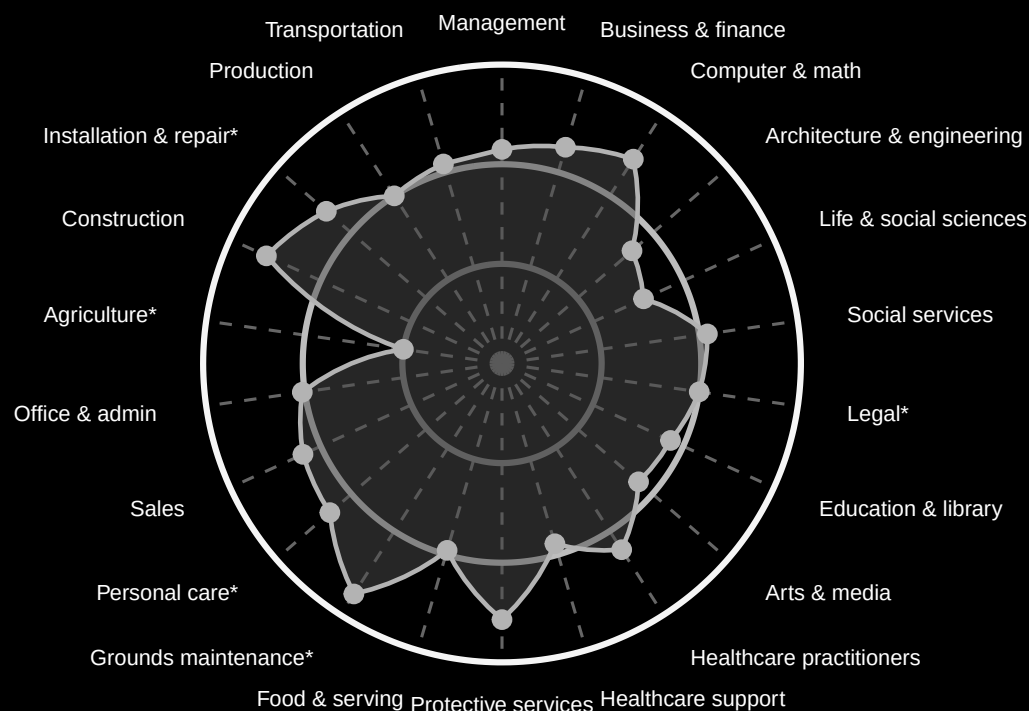


Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026. Results only include respondents who are employed full or part time ($N = 696$).

Survey question wording: How willing are you to switch to a new type of work if jobs in your field become less available due to AI?

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How willing are you to switch to a new type of work if jobs in your field become less available due to AI?



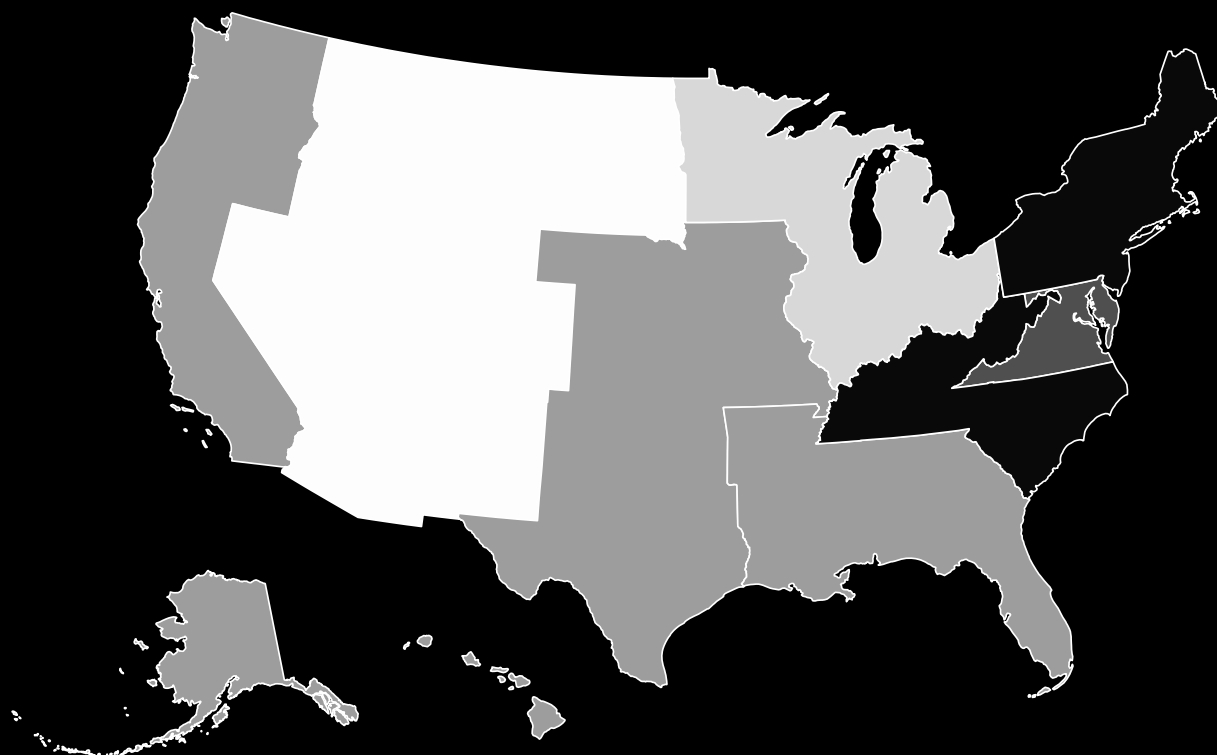
Response Level — Very willing — Somewhat willing — Somewhat unwilling — Very unwilling (Centroid)

* = 10 or fewer respondents in this occupational category.

Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026. Results only include respondents who are employed full or part time ($N = 696$).

Survey question wording: How willing are you to switch to a new type of work if jobs in your field become less available due to AI?

What percentage of employed people are somewhat or very willing to switch to a new type of work due to AI?



71.0%–72.8% 76.9% 80.0%–85.7% 87.8% 90.6%

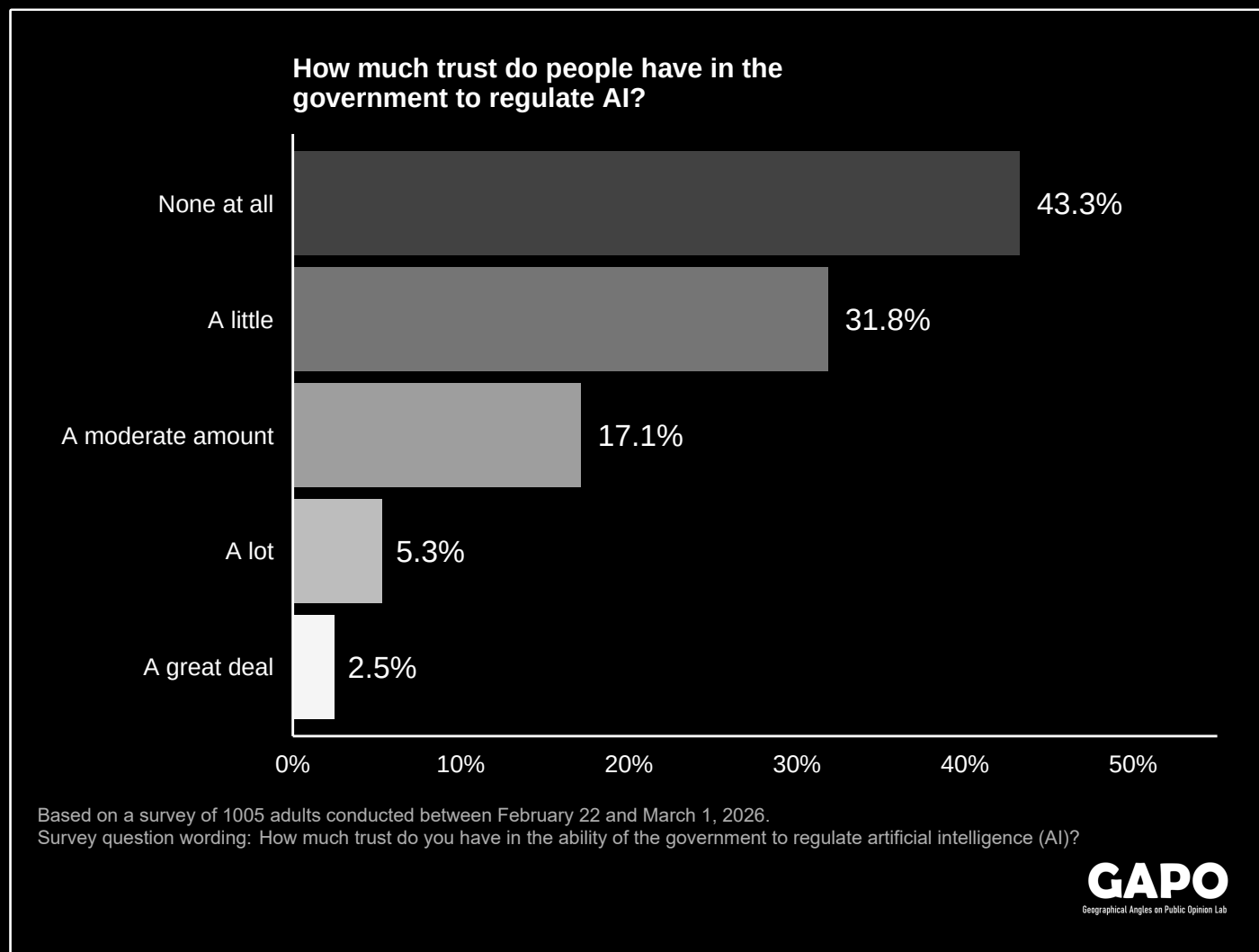
Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026. Results only include respondents who are employed full or part time ($N = 696$).

Survey question wording: How willing are you to switch to a new type of work if jobs in your field become less available due to AI?

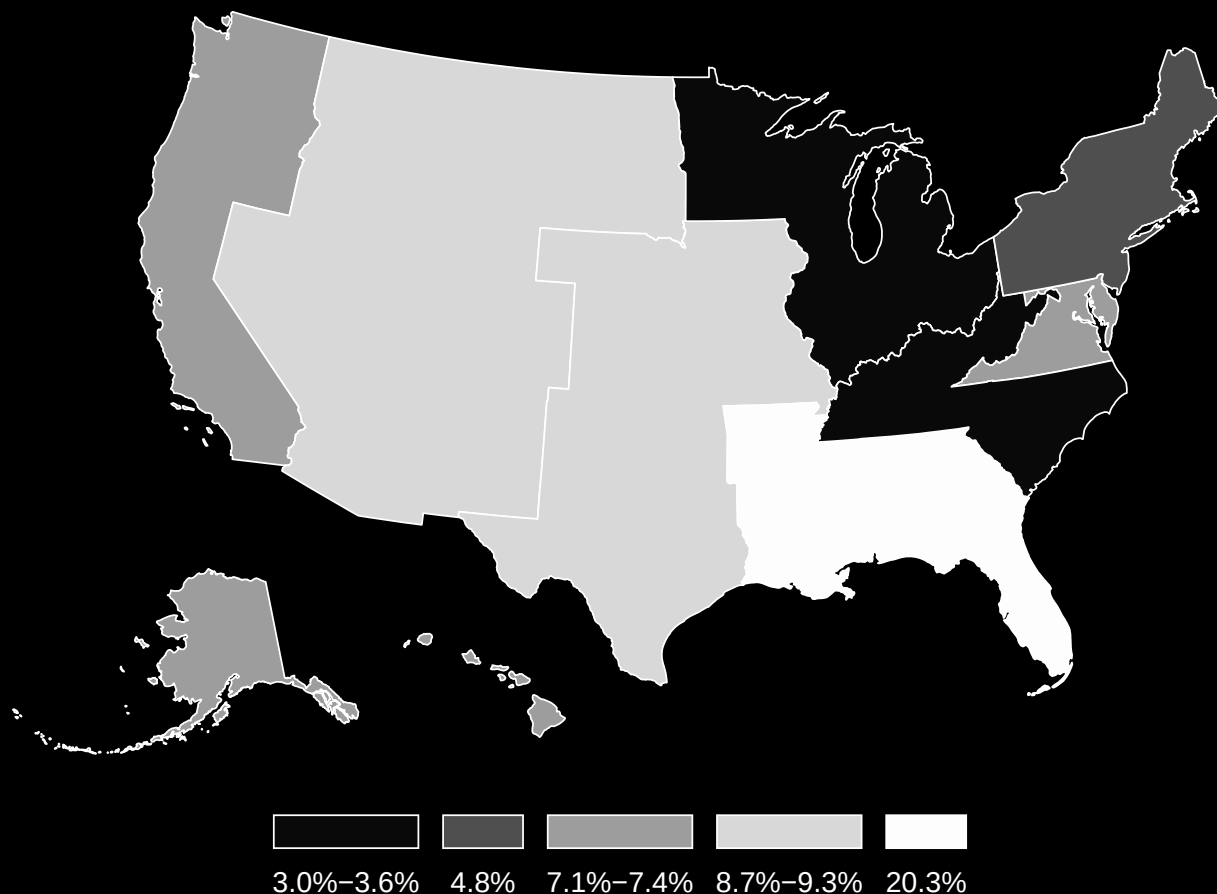
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How much trust do people have in the government to regulate AI?

Americans on average have little trust in the government to regulate AI, and 75.1% of respondents have either no trust (43.3%) or little trust (31.8%) in the government to do so. Only 7.8% of Americans have a lot (5.3%) or a great deal (2.5%) of trust in the government to regulate AI. A higher percentage of people in the Southeast have a lot or a great deal of trust in the government to regulate AI than in other parts of the country.



What percentage of people have a lot or a great deal of trust in the government to regulate AI?



Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026.

Survey question wording: How much trust do you have in the ability of the government to regulate artificial intelligence (AI)?

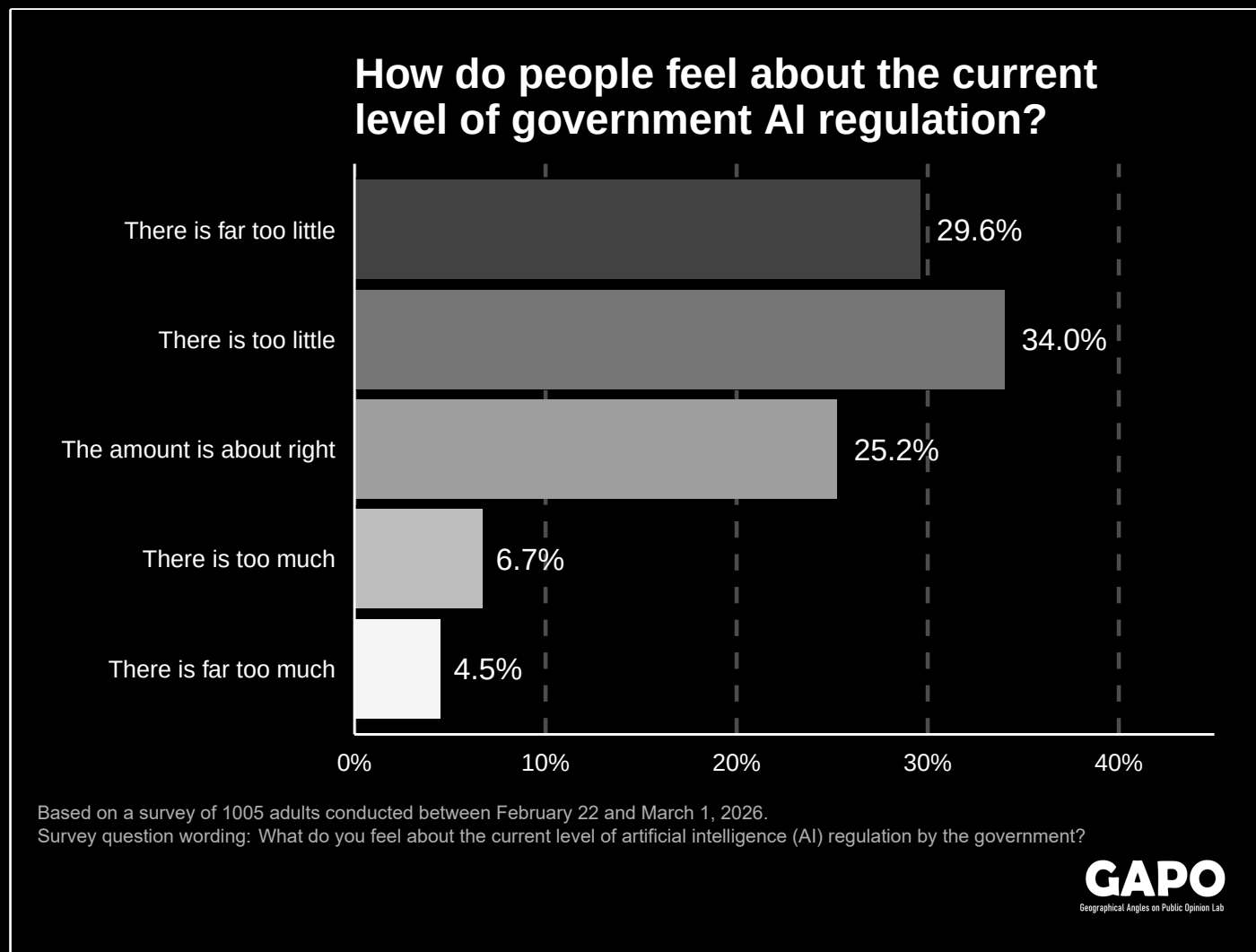
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How do people feel about the current level of government AI regulation?

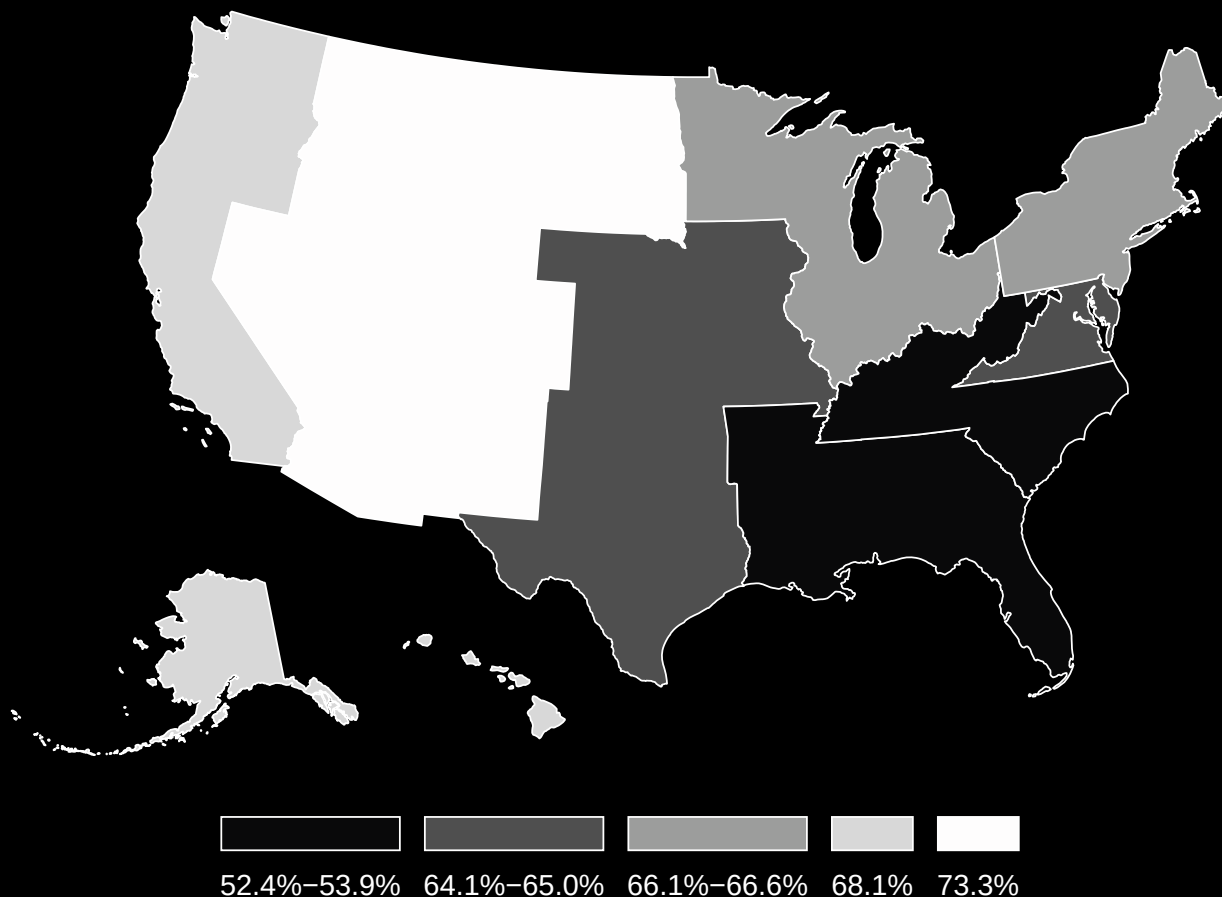
The majority of Americans (63.6%) think that there is too little or far too little government AI regulation, compared to 25.2% who think the amount is about right and 11.2% who think there is too much or far too much regulation.

It is interesting to note this high percentage despite the low levels of confidence in the government to regulate AI (p. 39).

Geographically, the highest percentage of people who think there should be more government regulation of AI are in the Interior West and the lowest percentages are found in the Southeast and Upland South.



What percentage of people feel there should be more government regulation of AI?



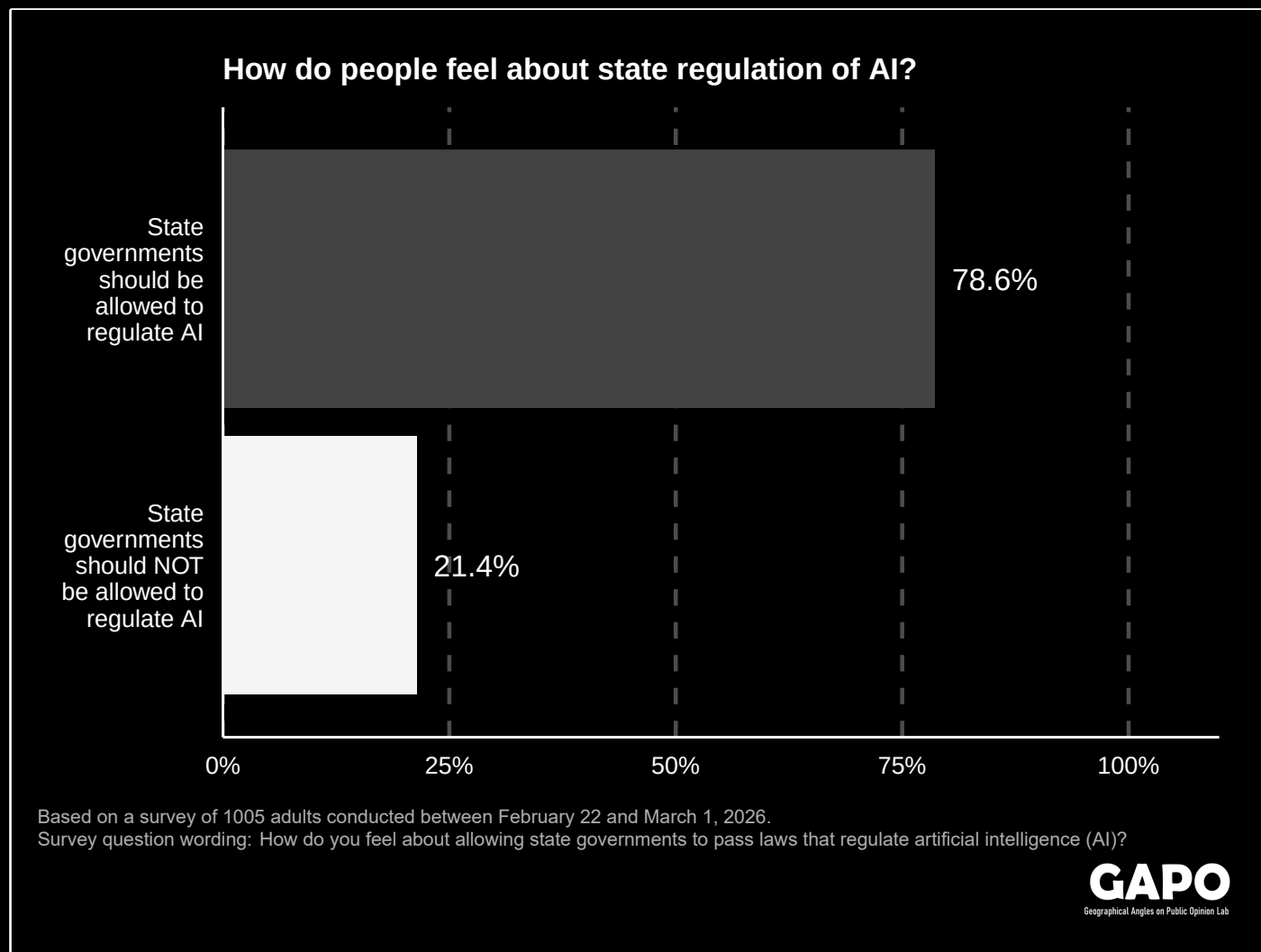
Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026.

Survey question wording: What do you feel about the current level of artificial intelligence (AI) regulation by the government?

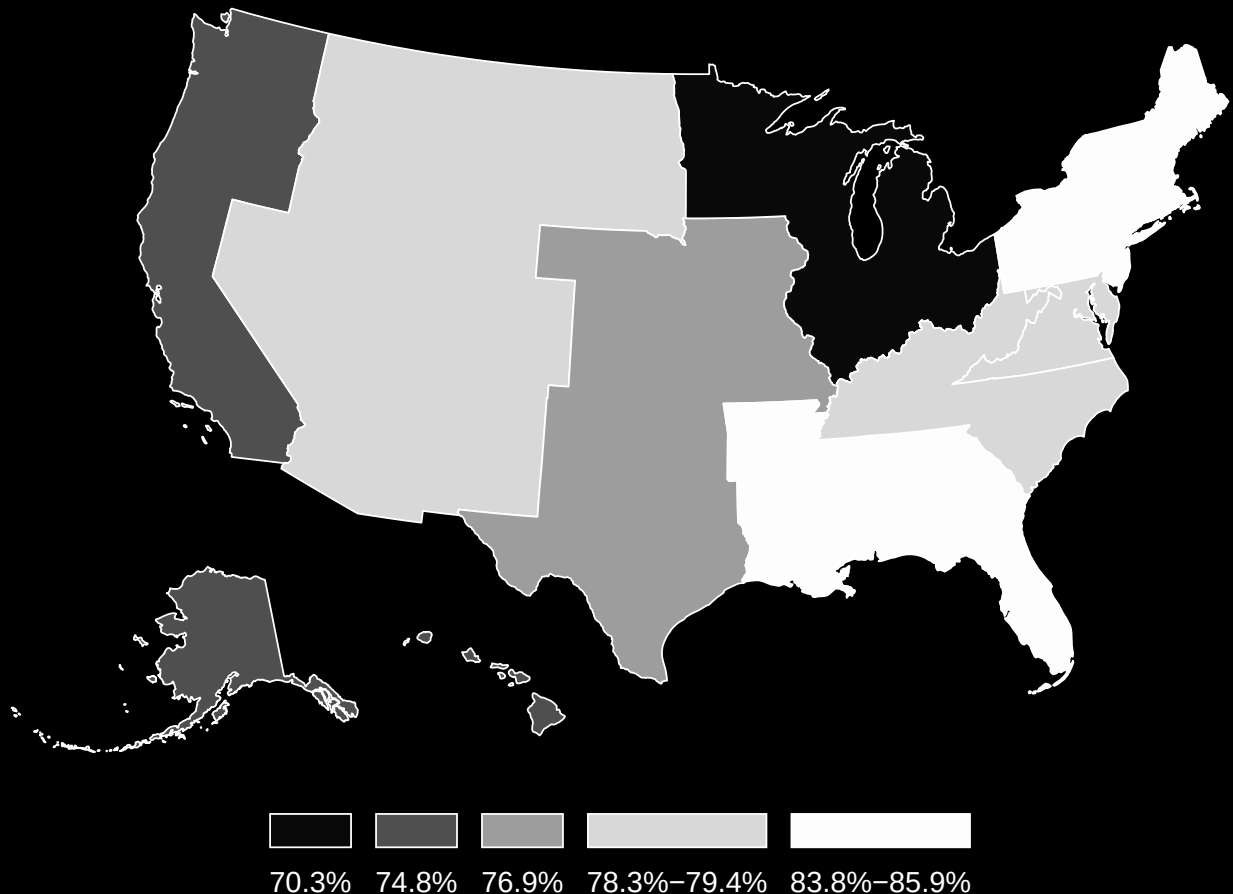
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How do people feel about state regulation of AI?

The majority of Americans (78.6%) think that states should be allowed to pass laws to regulate AI. Support is particularly strong in the Northeast and Southeast, and is weakest in the Midwest.



What percentage of people think state governments should be allowed to regulate AI?



Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026.

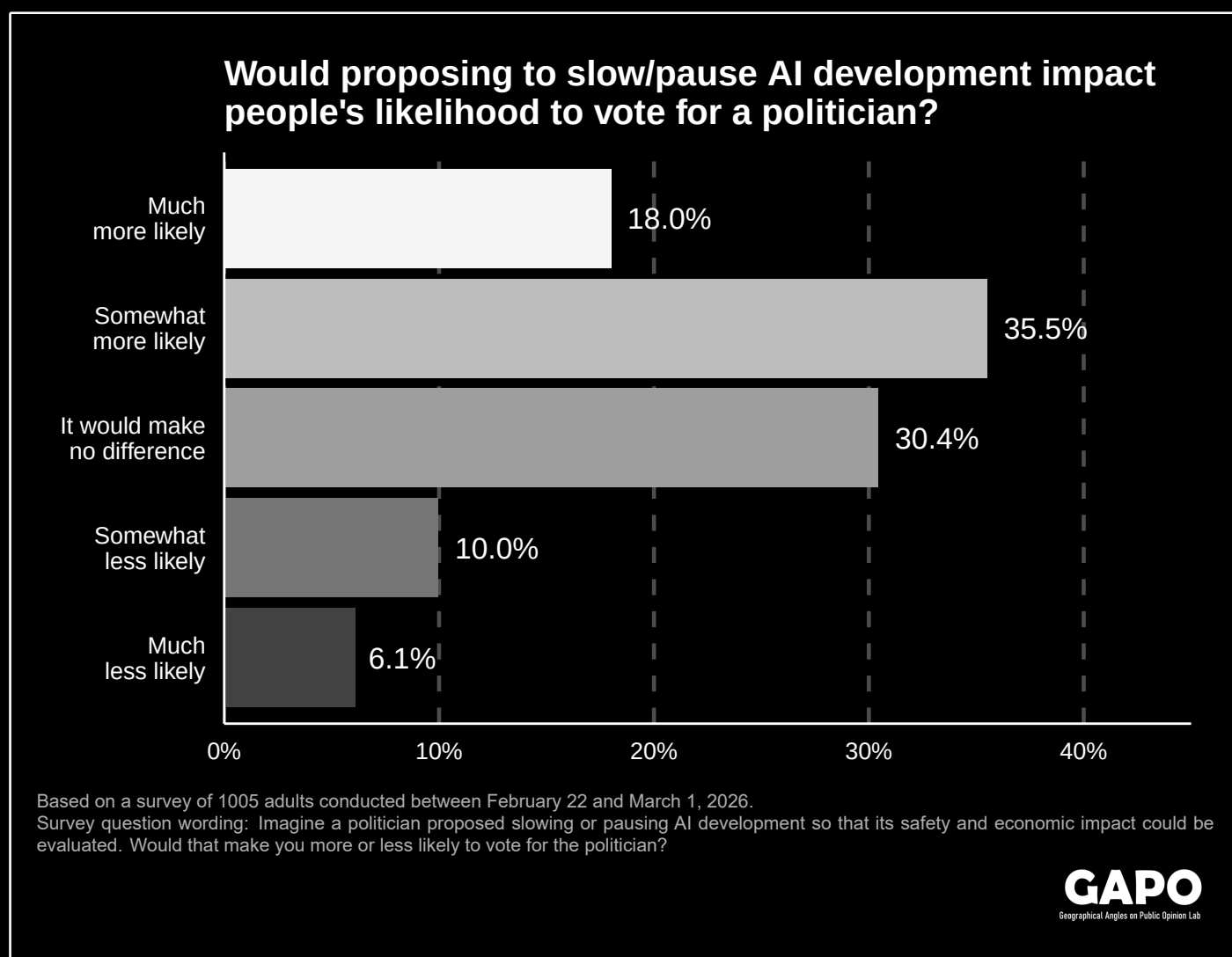
Survey question wording: How do you feel about allowing state governments to pass laws that regulate artificial intelligence (AI)?

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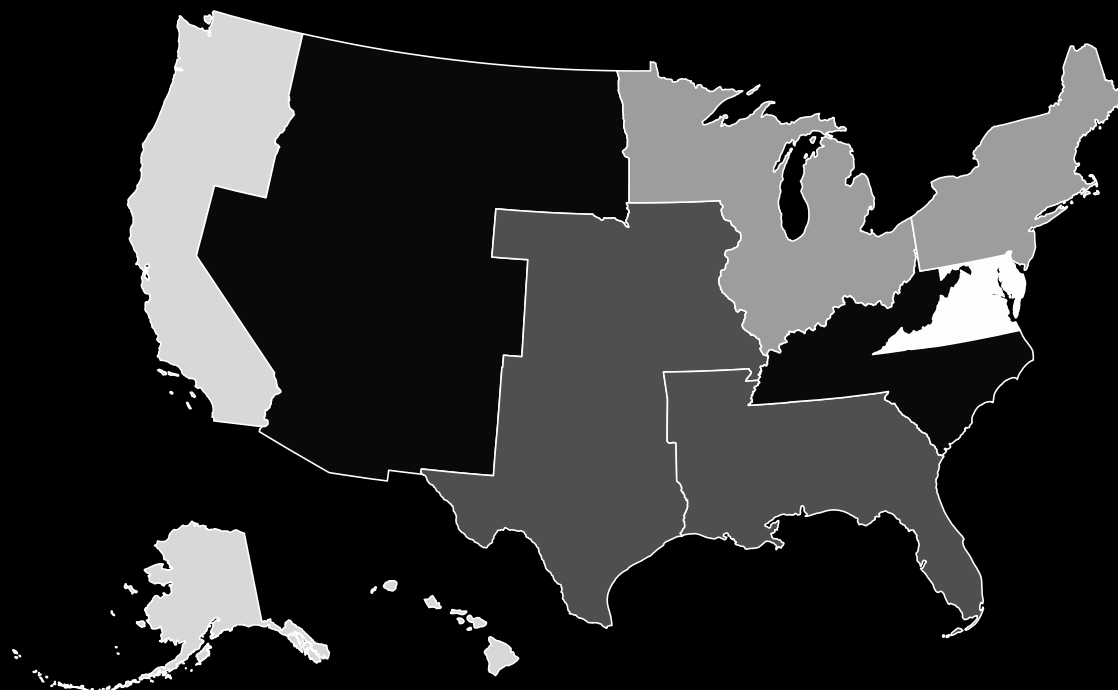
Would proposing to slow / pause AI development impact people's likelihood to vote for a politician?

The survey respondents were asked whether a politician's proposing slowing or pausing AI development so that its social and economic impact could be evaluated would impact the likelihood that they would vote for them. 53.5% of respondents indicated that it would make them somewhat or much more likely to vote for the politician. Only 16.1% indicated that it would make them somewhat or much less likely to vote for them.

The largest percentages of people would be somewhat or much more likely to vote for a politician who proposed slowing or pausing AI development are in the Mid-Atlantic and the Far West. The Mid-Atlantic has the highest percentage of people who are much more likely to vote for the politician. The Southeast has the highest percentage who would be somewhat or much less likely to vote for the politician.



If a politician proposed slowing / pausing AI development, what percentage of people would be somewhat or much more likely to vote for them?



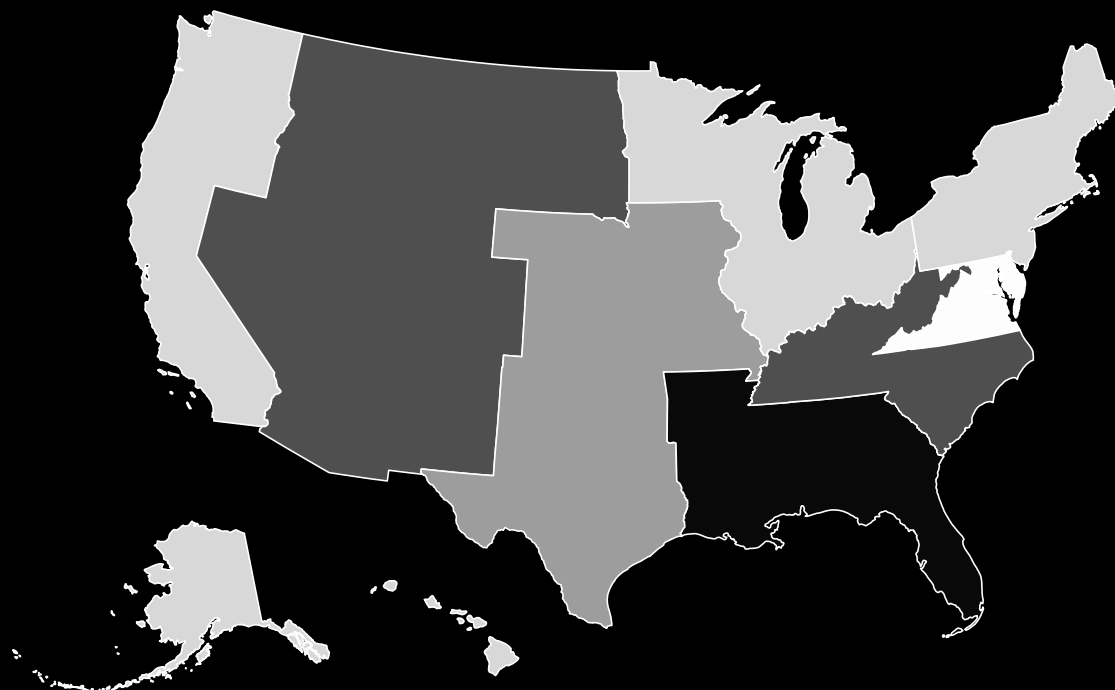
43.9%–45.6% 46.6%–54.0% 55.2%–57.2% 59.8% 61.0%

Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026.

Survey question wording: Imagine a politician proposed slowing or pausing AI development so that its safety and economic impact could be evaluated. Would that make you more or less likely to vote for the politician?

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If a politician proposed slowing / pausing AI development, what percentage of people would be much more likely to vote for them?



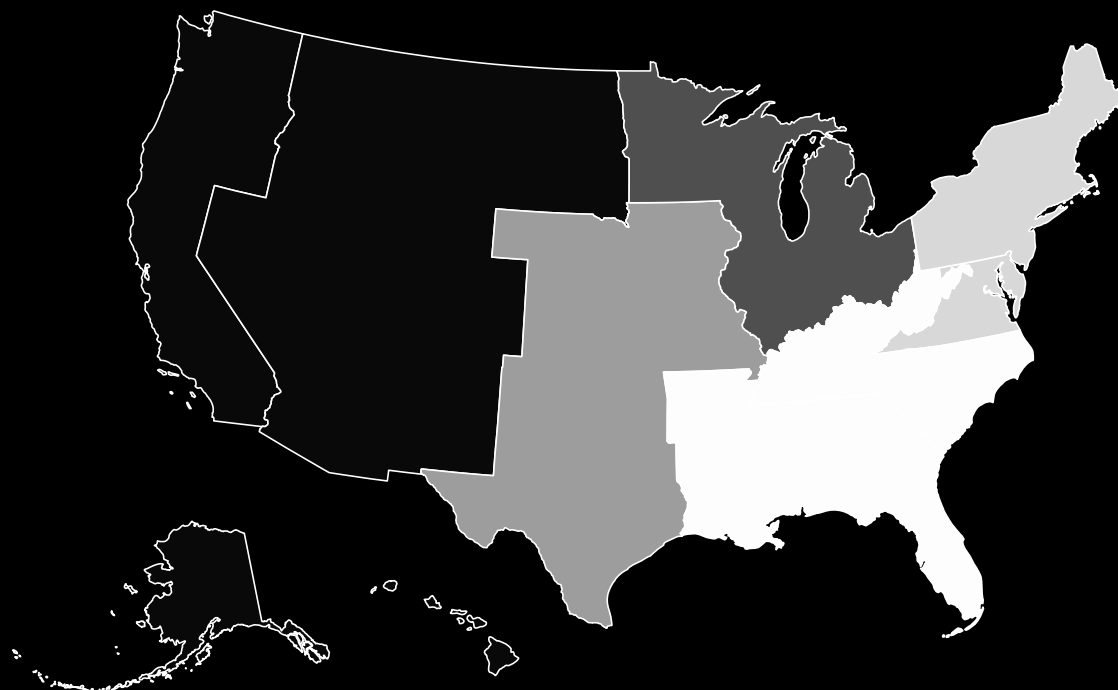
10.5% 14.0% 15.0% 19.7%–22.6% 25.1%

Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026.

Survey question wording: Imagine a politician proposed slowing or pausing AI development so that its safety and economic impact could be evaluated. Would that make you more or less likely to vote for the politician?

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If a politician proposed slowing / pausing AI development, what percentage of people would be somewhat or much less likely to vote for them?



12.2%–12.3% 14.2% 14.9% 16.0%–16.8% 20.5%–21.4%

Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026.

Survey question wording: Imagine a politician proposed slowing or pausing AI development so that its safety and economic impact could be evaluated. Would that make you more or less likely to vote for the politician?

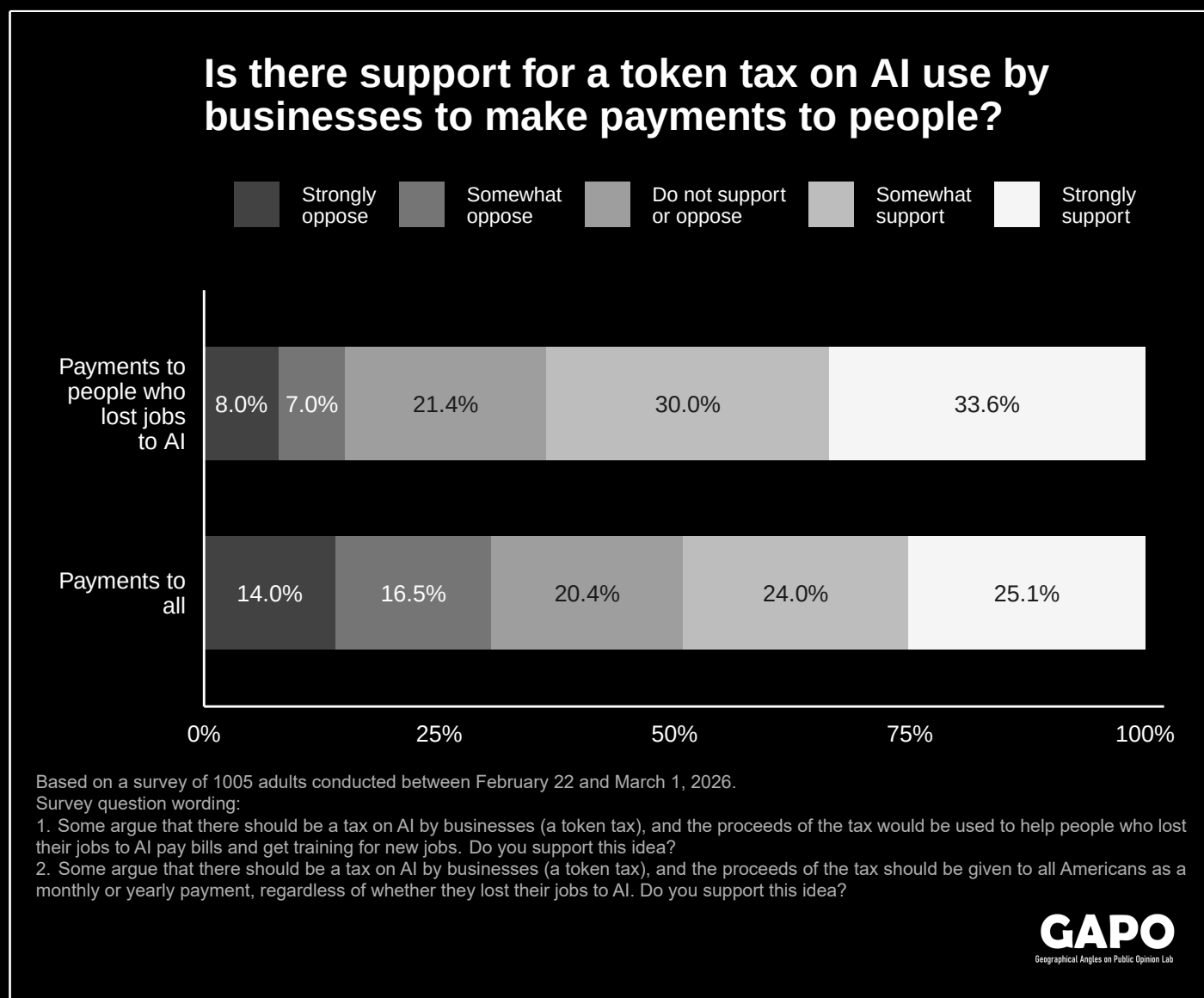
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Is there support for a token tax on AI use by businesses to make payments to people?

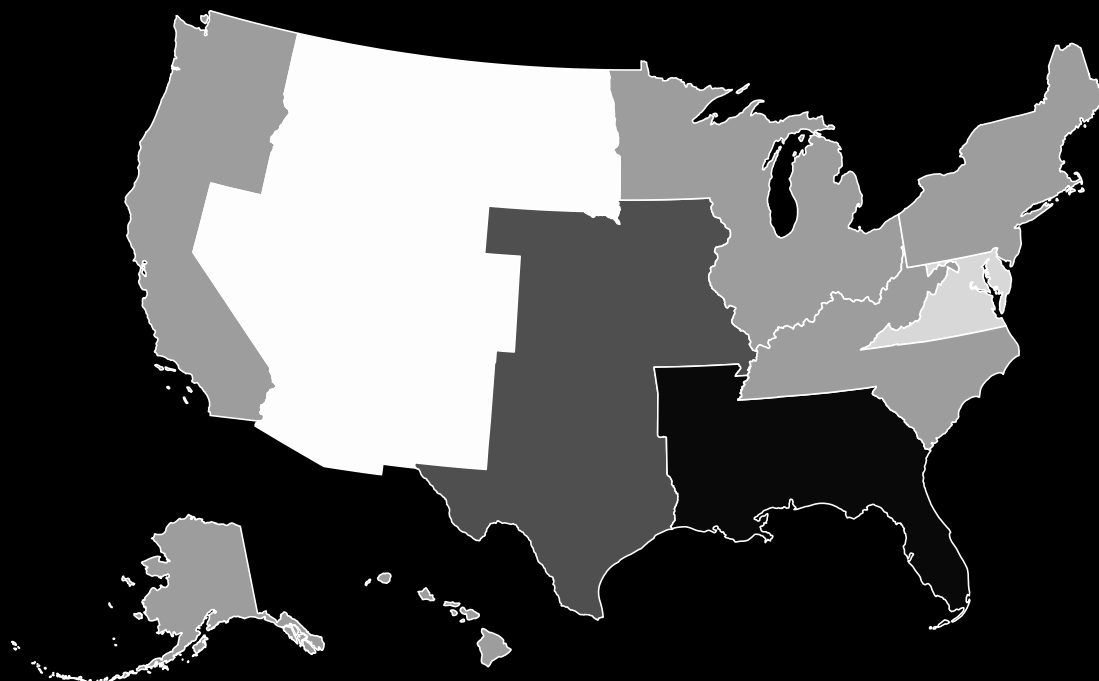
The survey asked respondents whether there should be a tax on AI use by businesses (a token tax). Nearly two thirds of respondents (63.6%) somewhat or strongly support the tax if the proceeds are given to people who lost their jobs to AI to help them pay bills and get training for new jobs, and only 15.0% somewhat or strongly oppose the idea.

The tax receives less support if the proceeds are used to make payments to everyone, regardless of whether they lost their job to AI. 49.1% somewhat or strongly support a tax used in this way while 30.5% are somewhat or strongly opposed to it.

The percentage of respondents who strongly or somewhat support a token tax to benefit people who lost their job to AI is highest in the Interior West. By contrast, the percentage of respondents who strongly or somewhat support a token tax to support all Americans is highest in the Mid-Atlantic and the Upland South.



What percentage of people support an AI token tax on businesses to support people who lost their jobs to AI?



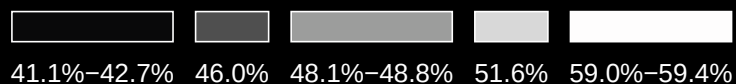
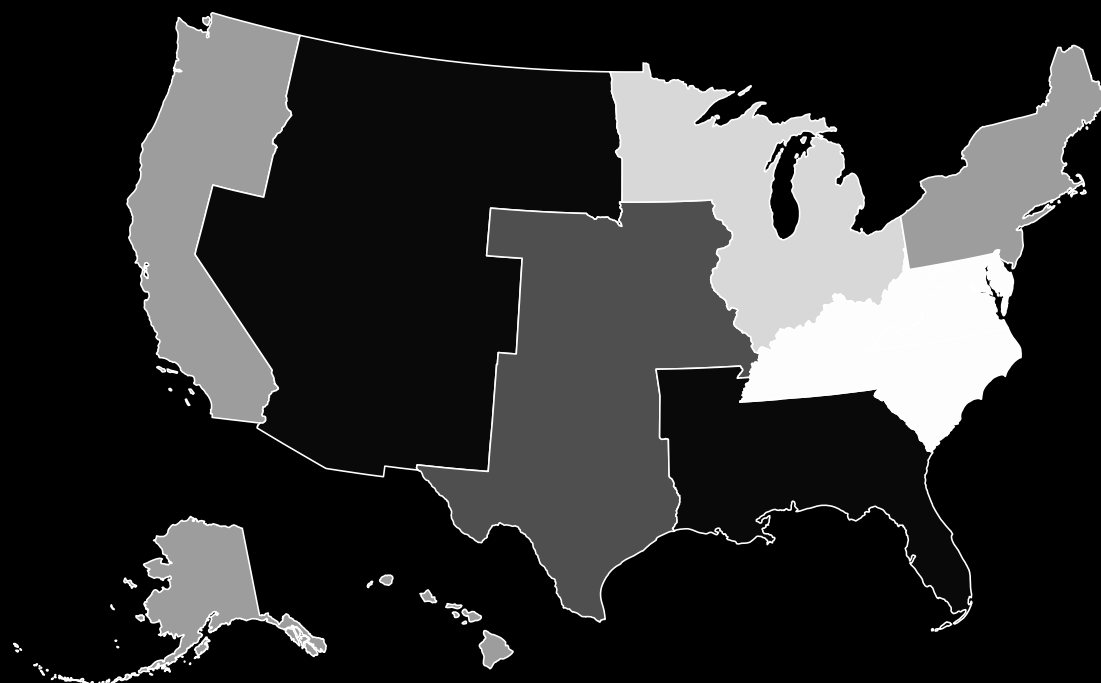
59.3% 62.2%–62.9% 64.1%–64.5% 66.1% 68.4%

Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026.

Survey question wording: Some argue that there should be a tax on AI by businesses (a token tax), and the proceeds of the tax would be used to help people who lost their jobs to AI pay bills and get training for new jobs. Do you support this idea?

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What percentage of people support an AI token tax on businesses to make payments to all Americans?



Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026.

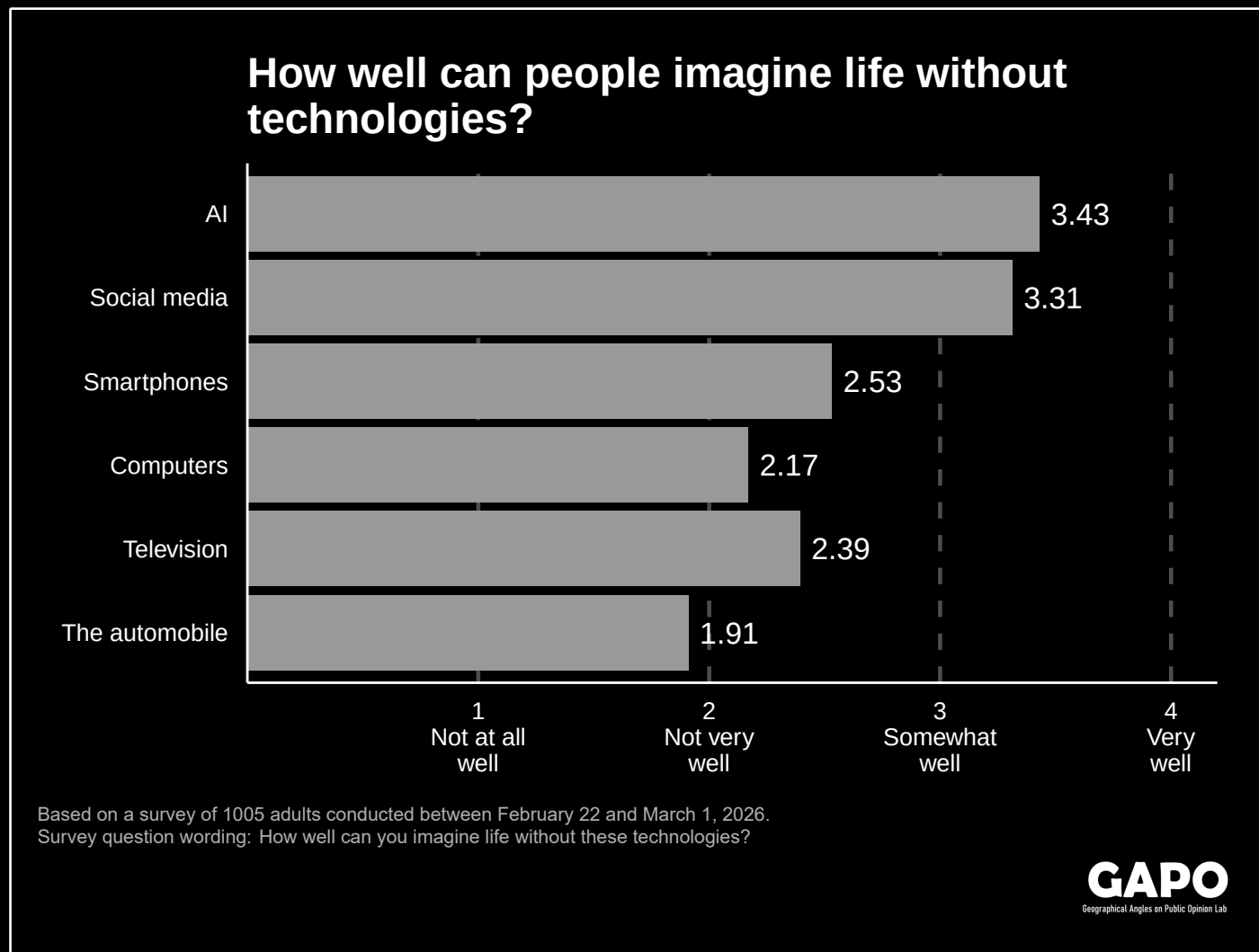
Survey question wording: Some argue that there should be a tax on AI by businesses (a token tax), and the proceeds of the tax should be given to all Americans as a monthly or yearly payment, regardless of whether they lost their jobs to AI. Do you support this idea?

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How well can people imagine life without technologies?

Americans on average report higher abilities to imagine life without social media and AI than without the automobile, television, computers, or smartphones. Some generational differences appear in the data: Younger generations are able to imagine life without social media, smartphones, and computers less well than older generations, and older generations are less able to imagine life without the automobile and television than younger generations. There is no clear generational trend for AI.

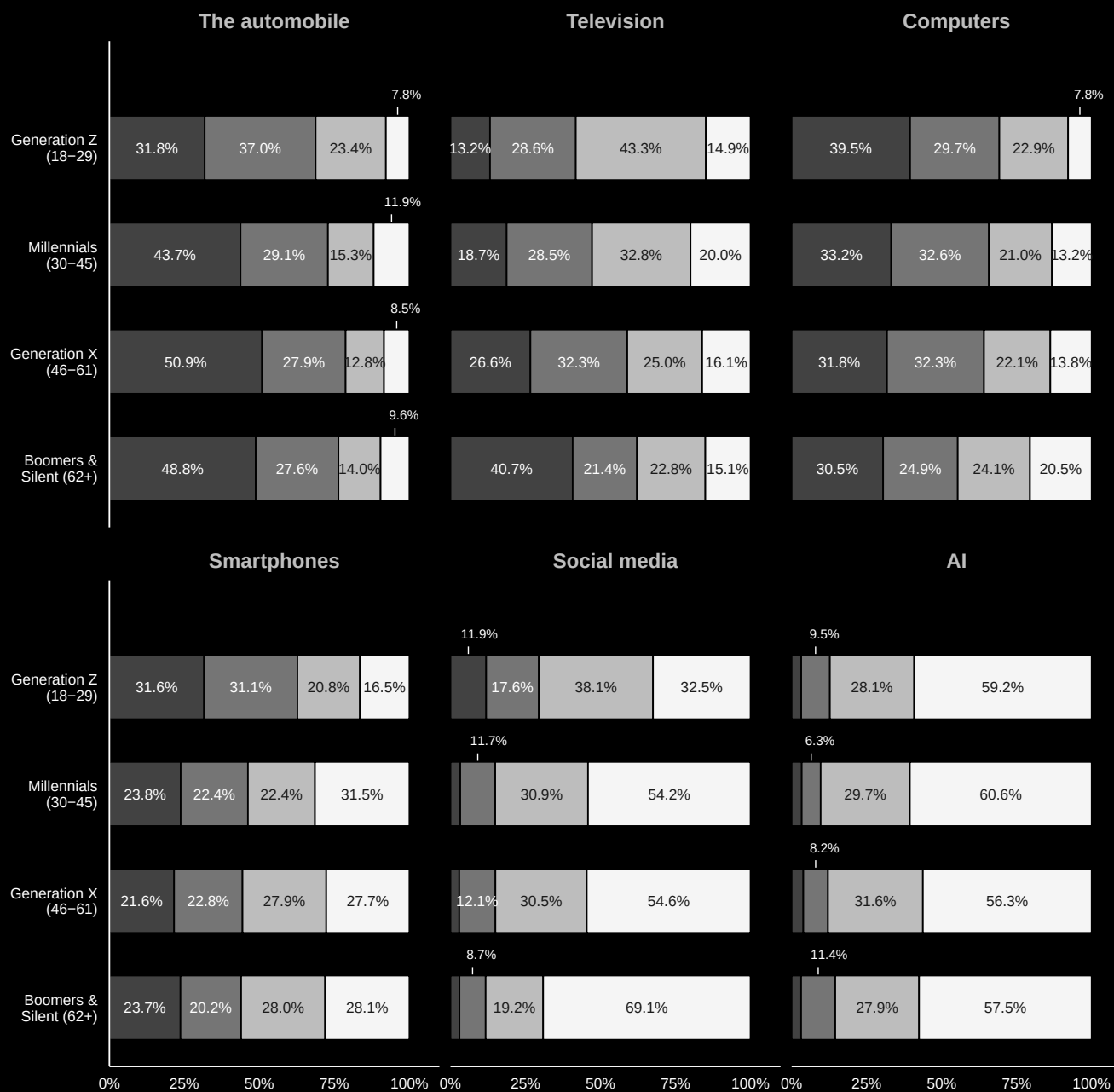
The ability to imagine life without technologies may be important from a regulatory perspective since it may be difficult for the public to properly assess whether or not a technology is beneficial for society without the ability to imagine life without it.



How well can people imagine life without technologies?

% of respondents

■ Not at all well ■ Not very well ■ Somewhat well ■ Very well



Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026.
Survey question wording: How well can you imagine life without these technologies?

What year do people think would be the best year to be alive?

When asked to name the year in the past or future when it would be best for themselves and for the average American to be alive, the most common answer was a year in the 1980s for themselves and in the 1990s for the average American. It is notable that relatively few people selected dates in the future for themselves or for the average American. This could have implications for the public's support of new technologies since the majority of Americans think the best years were in the past when fewer technologies existed.

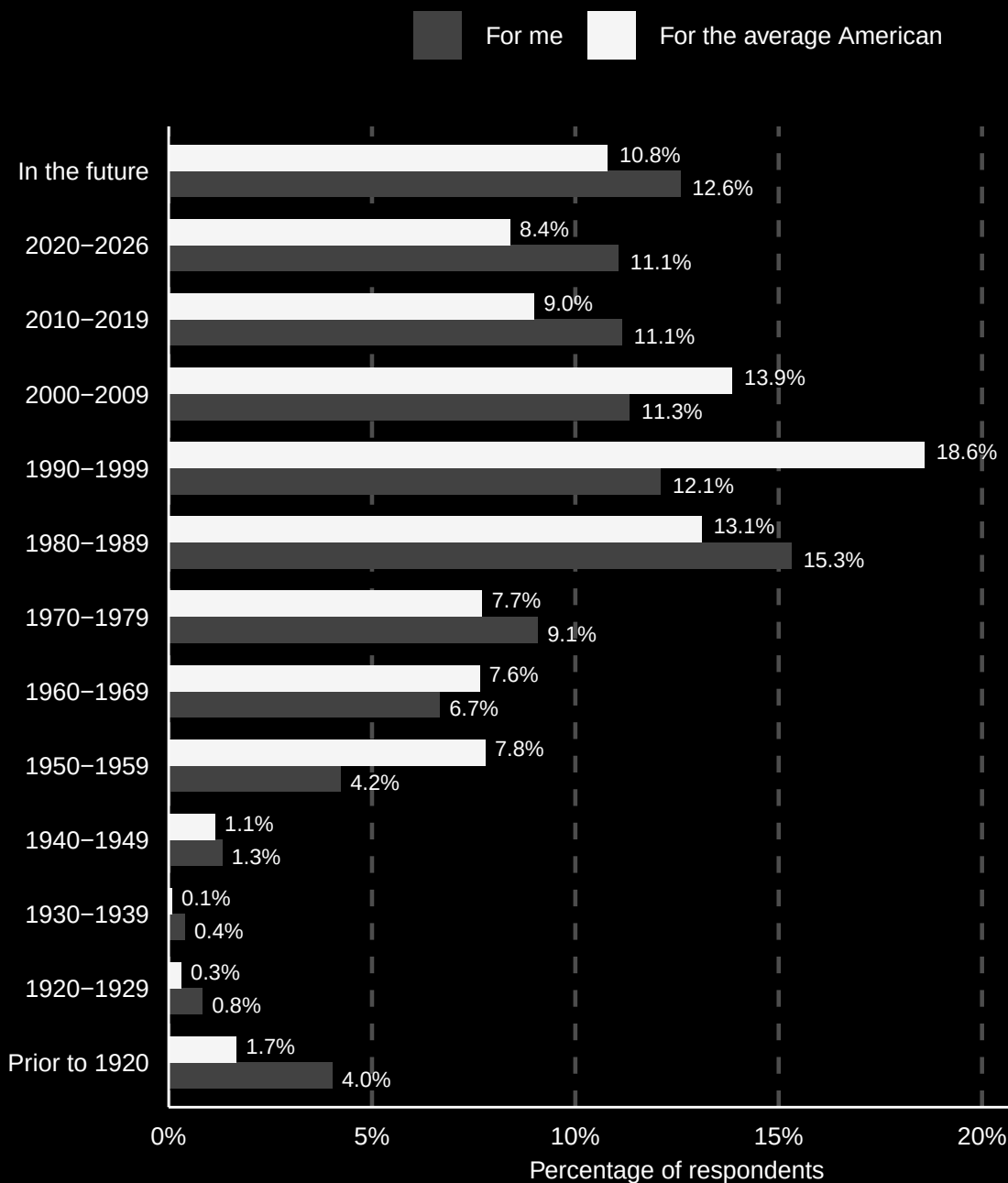
Generationally, data spikes are seen in the years that coincide with when the respondents were teenagers and young adults.

Among Americans who self-identify as being part of the Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement, the percentage of respondents who selected years prior to 1970 for themselves and for the average American was higher than Americans as a whole. Although the majority of people who self-identified as being part of the MAGA movement selected dates after 1970 as being the best for themselves and for the average American, a wide variety of years were given.

The distribution of people who think the best year for themselves will be in the future varies spatially, with higher percentages of people in the Central Plains and Far West entering dates in the future. A comparatively lower percentage of people in the Northeast, Southeast, and Midwest selected years in the future.

What year do people think would be the best to be alive?

(Respondents could enter any year in the past or future)



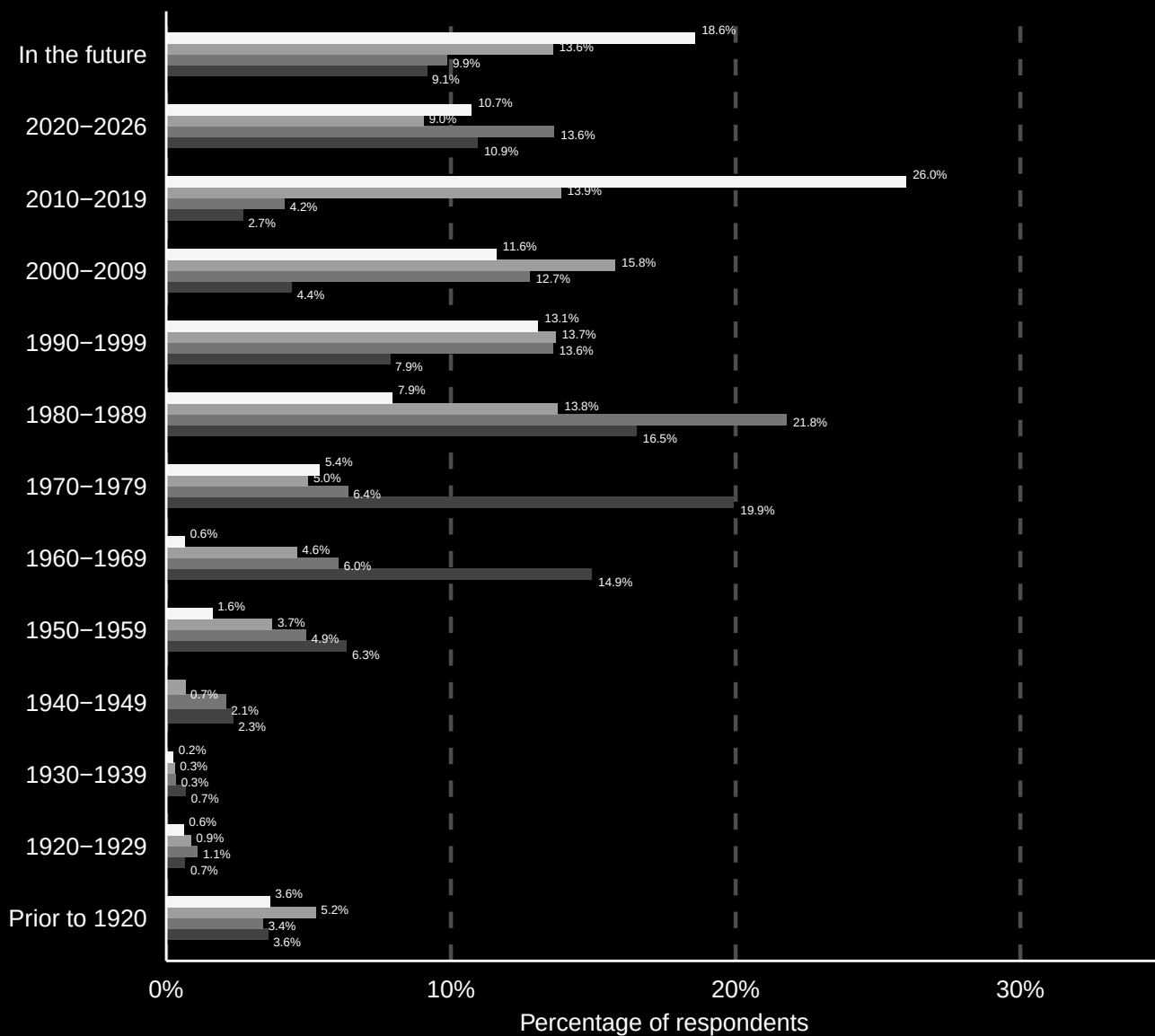
Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026.

Survey question wording: Imagine you could choose to live at any point in time. What year do you think would be the best year for (you personally / the average American) to be alive? You can enter any year in the past or future.

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The best year to be alive by generation

(Respondents could enter any year in the past or future)



Generation Z (18-29)
 Millennials (30-45)
 Generation X (46-61)
 Boomers & Silent (62+)

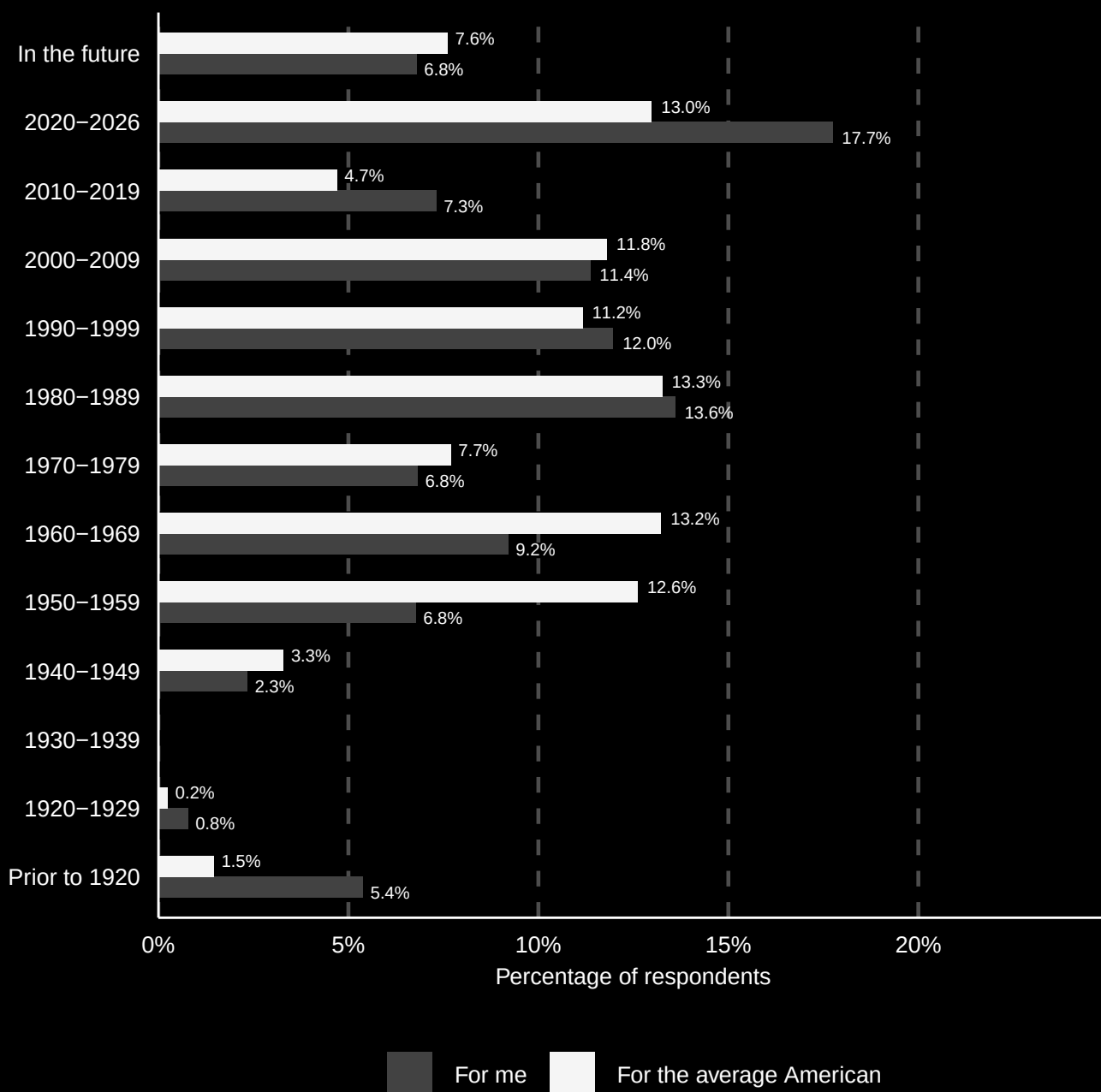
Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026.

Survey question wording: Imagine you could choose to live at any point in time. What year do you think would be the best year for you personally to be alive? You can enter any year in the past or future.

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The best year to be alive (self-identified MAGA)

(Respondents could enter any year in the past or future)



Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026.

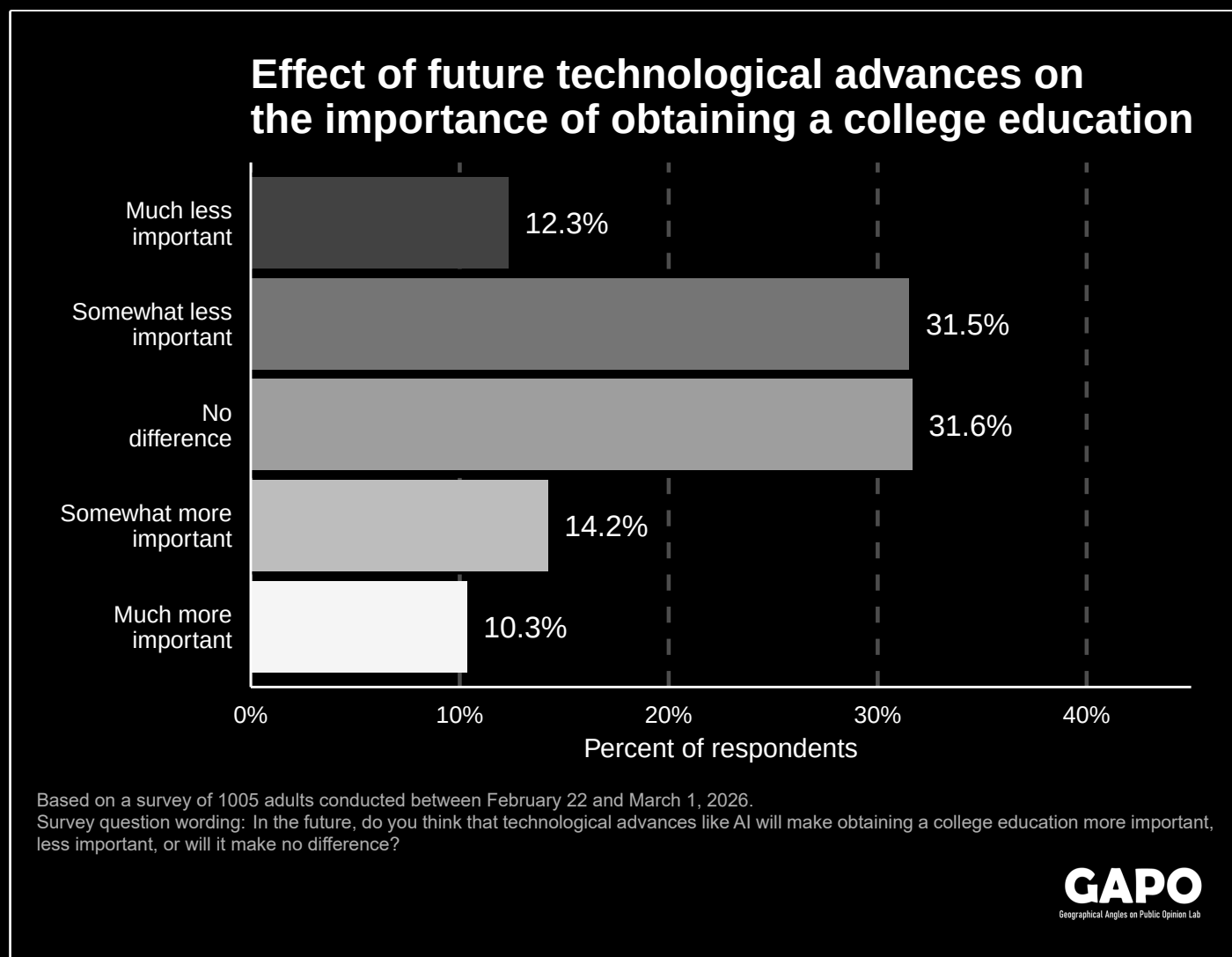
Survey question wording: Imagine you could choose to live at any point in time. What year do you think would be the best year for (you personally / the average American) to be alive? You can enter any year in the past or future.

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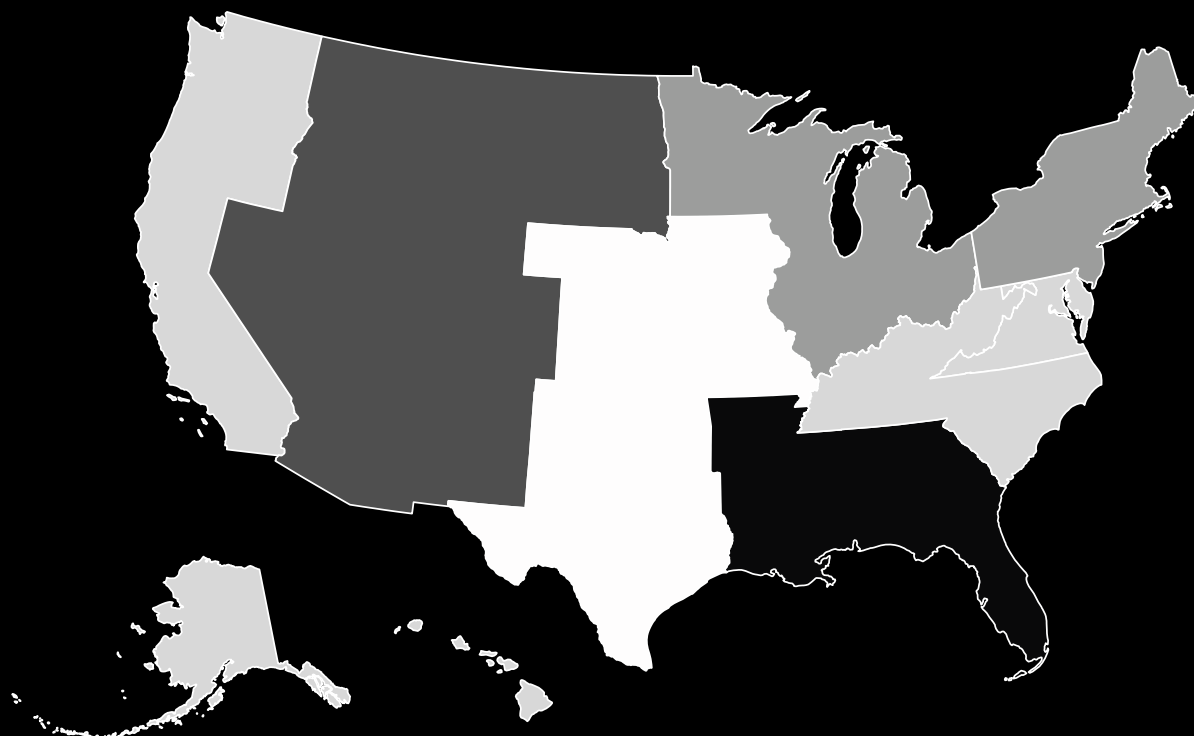
What impact will future technological advances have on the importance of obtaining a college degree?

A greater percentage of Americans think that future technological advances such as AI will make obtaining a college education somewhat or much less important (43.8%) than will make obtaining a college education somewhat more or much more important (24.5%).

The percentage who think technological advances will make obtaining a college degree somewhat or much less important is highest in the Central Plains and lowest in the Southeast.



What percentage of people think future technological advances will make getting a college degree less important?



35.0% 39.3% 41.6%–42.6% 45.8%–47.9% 55.1%

Based on a survey of 1005 adults conducted between February 22 and March 1, 2026.

Survey question wording: In the future, do you think that technological advances like AI will make obtaining a college education more important, less important, or will it make no difference?

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Methodology

The survey was completed by 1005 adult (age 18+) participants between February 22 and March 1, 2026. It was conducted online and participants were identified through a commercial survey panel provider service. Survey weights were constructed to adjust the sample to be representative of the US adult population across four demographic dimensions: Age, race / ethnicity, educational attainment, and census region. The weights ranged from 0.3 to 7.9, with a mean of 1 and a standard deviation of 0.8.

The margin of error (for a 95% confidence interval) for a sample percentage p based on the entire sample is approximately 4.1%. It is calculated using the following formula (Kish, 1965):

$$\hat{p} \pm 100 * \sqrt{\frac{1 + CV^2}{n}}$$

Here, CV is the coefficient of variation of the sample weights, calculated as the standard deviation of the weights over the mean of the weights. This margin of error can be interpreted as the sample estimate should differ from the true value by the margin of error or less in 95% of all samples. The margin of error does not reflect other sources of bias, such as selection bias or response bias, and will be higher in cases where subsets of the sample population are examined.

Panel composition

Note: Responses were weighted prior to analyses to adjust the sample to be representative of the US adult population across four demographic dimensions: Age, race / ethnicity, educational attainment, and census region.

Respondents

- 1005

Gender

- Female: 508
- Male: 486
- Other, prefer not to say, or did not respond: 10

Race (could select multiple)

- American Indian / Alaskan Native: 29
- Asian: 90
- Black / African American: 145
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: 5
- White: 736
- Some other race: 62
- Prefer not to say: 6

Hispanic or Latino origin

- Yes: 121
- No: 873
- Prefer not to say / did not respond: 11

Educational attainment

- Less than high school: 14
- High school diploma or equivalent: 130
- Some college but no degree: 198
- Associate's degree or equivalent: 114
- Bachelor's degree: 358
- Master's degree, Ph. D., or other advanced degree: 190

Employment status (could select multiple)

- Employed full or part time: 696
- Not employed, seeking work: 110
- Not employed, not seeking work: 60
- Retired: 107
- Full or part time student: 69

Political identity

- Democrat: 297
- Republican: 278
- Independent: 429
- Did not respond: 1

Self-identified MAGA

- Yes: 184
- No: 819
- Did not respond: 2

Geographic region

- Far West: 166 (Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington)
- Interior West: 79 (Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming)
- Central Plains: 128 (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas)
- Midwest: 151 (Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin)
- Southeast: 136 (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi)

- Mid-Atlantic: 60 (Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Washington, DC)
- Upland South: 110 (Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia)
- Northeast: 175 (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont)

Generation

- Generation Z (18 – 29): 225
- Millennials (30 – 45): 293
- Generation X (46 – 61): 312
- Boomers and Silent Generation (62+): 175

References

Kish, L. (1965). Survey Sampling. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Massenkoff, M., & McCrory, P. (2026). Labor market impacts of AI: A new measure and early evidence. Anthropic Research, 5.