

Dev Barometer

A quarterly look inside the minds of developers and their CTOs.

Q3 - 2026

The survey was conducted in August 2026 among 705 developers across 60+ countries and 41 enterprise CTOs at Fortune 500 and mid-market organizations. Since 2025, the Dev Barometer has surveyed 5,200+ engineers across 75+ countries. This edition is the first to pair developer responses with CTO data. BairesDev is an expert software partner, combining AI for speed with top 1% engineers for precision. Our engineers extend client teams inside their existing stacks, or take projects end to end, including production AI systems: agents, assistants, and data platforms.

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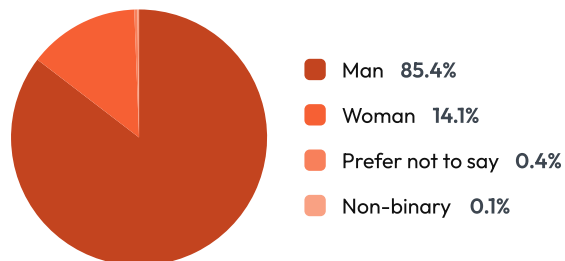
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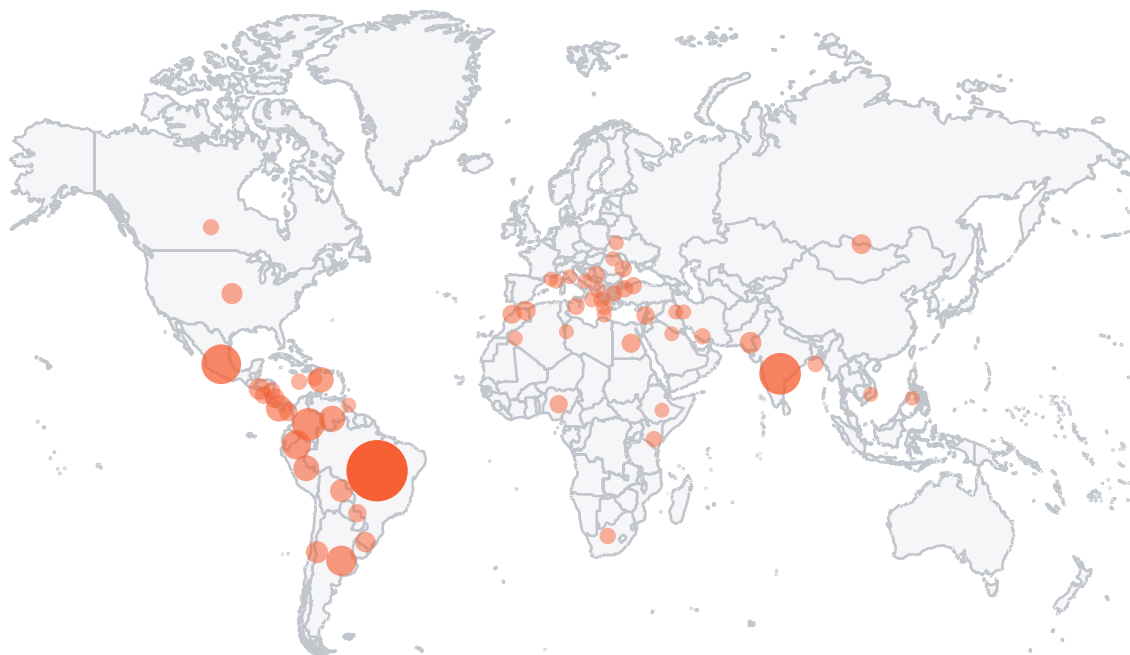
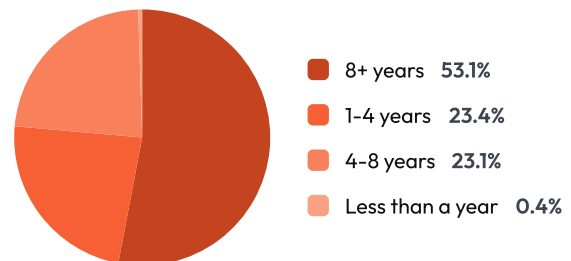
Demographics & Respondent Profile

Total Respondents – 705 developers and 41 CTOs

Gender



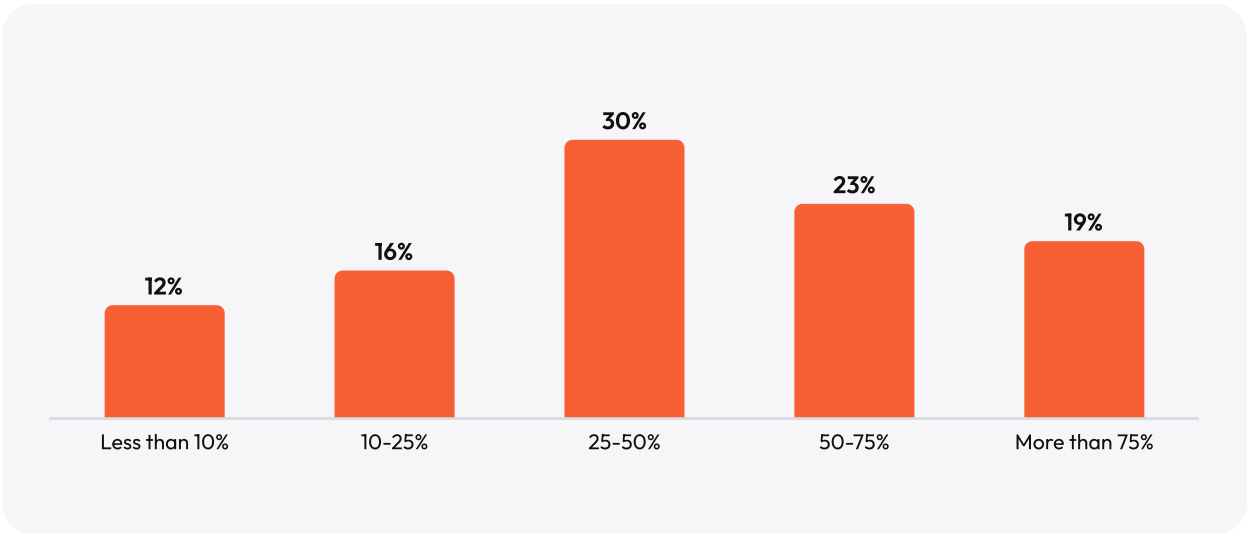
Years of Professional Experience



Argentina	Chile	Germany	Jamaica	Pakistan	South Africa
Armenia	Colombia	Greece	Kenya	Panama	Spain
Azerbaijan	Costa Rica	Guatemala	Latvia	Paraguay	Trinidad and Tobago
Bangladesh	Czech Republic	Haiti	Luxembourg	Peru	Tunisia
Belarus	Dominican Republic	Honduras	Mexico	Philippines	Turkey
Belgium	Ecuador	Hungary	Moldova	Poland	Ukraine
Bolivia	Egypt	India	Morocco	Portugal	United States
Bosnia and Herzegovina	El Salvador	Iran	Nicaragua	Romania	Uruguay
Brazil	Ethiopia	Iraq	Nigeria	Russia	Venezuela
Canada	Finland	Italy	North Macedonia	Serbia	Vietnam

AI Adoption in Everyday Work

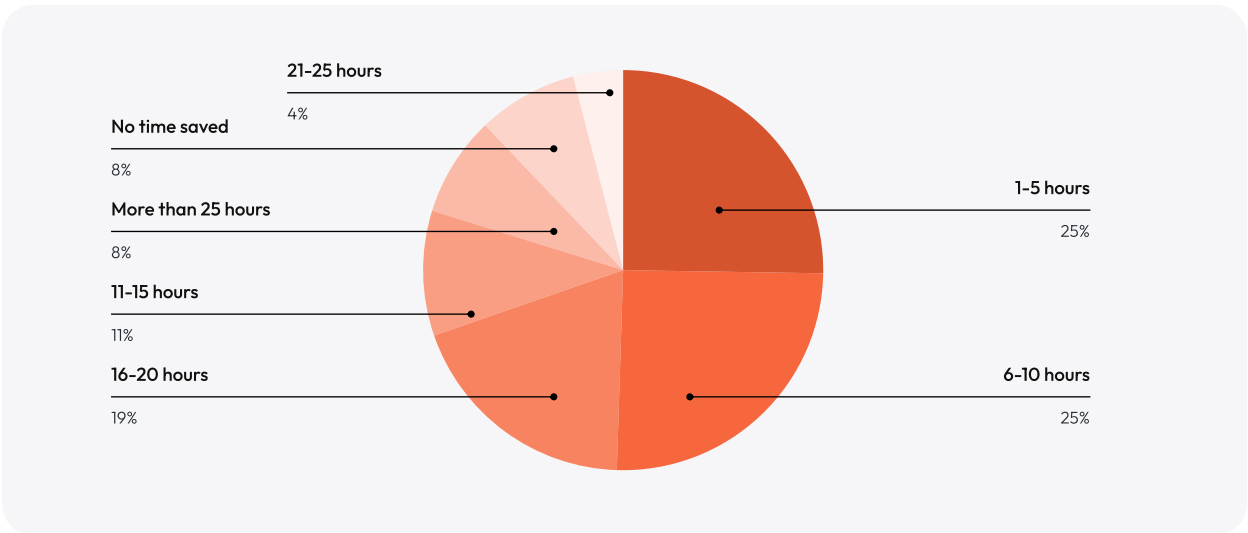
Approximately, what percentage of your code is now assisted by AI tools?



42% of developers report that at least half of their code is now assisted by AI tools.

Time Saved with AI Tools

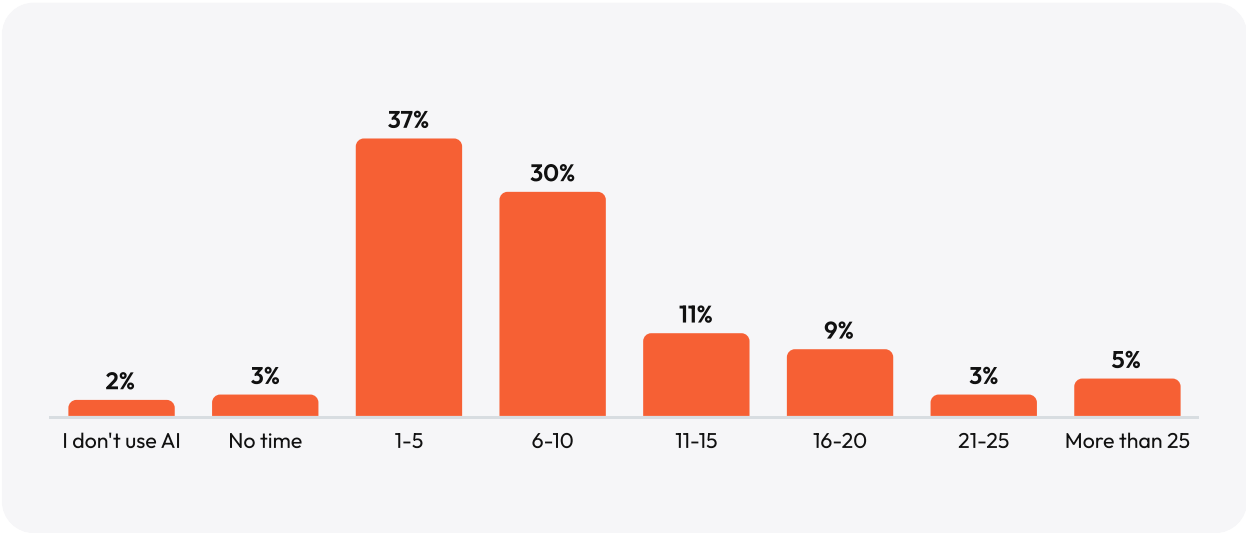
How many hours a week do you save by using AI tools to assist with coding?



On average, developers save 13 hours a week in coding by using AI tools.

Time Spent Learning AI and New Technologies

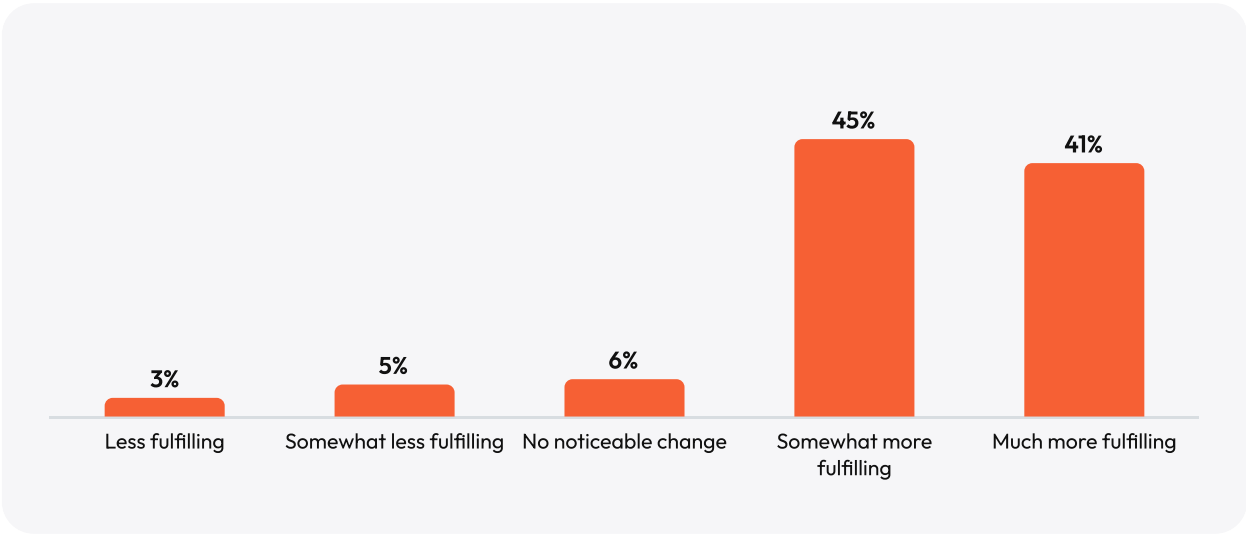
Approximately, how many hours per week do you spend learning how to use AI or new technologies?



Two thirds of developers spend up to 10 hours a week keeping up with AI or new technologies.

AI and the Experience of the Software Developer Role

How has AI changed your overall experience in your role?



86% of developers find their experience as a software developer more fulfilling.

AI Guidelines and Retention

Has the absence of clear AI guidelines affected your willingness to stay at your current job?



49% of developers say the absence of clear AI guidelines hasn't affected their willingness to stay in their current job.

Job Offer Deal-breakers When Considering a New Role

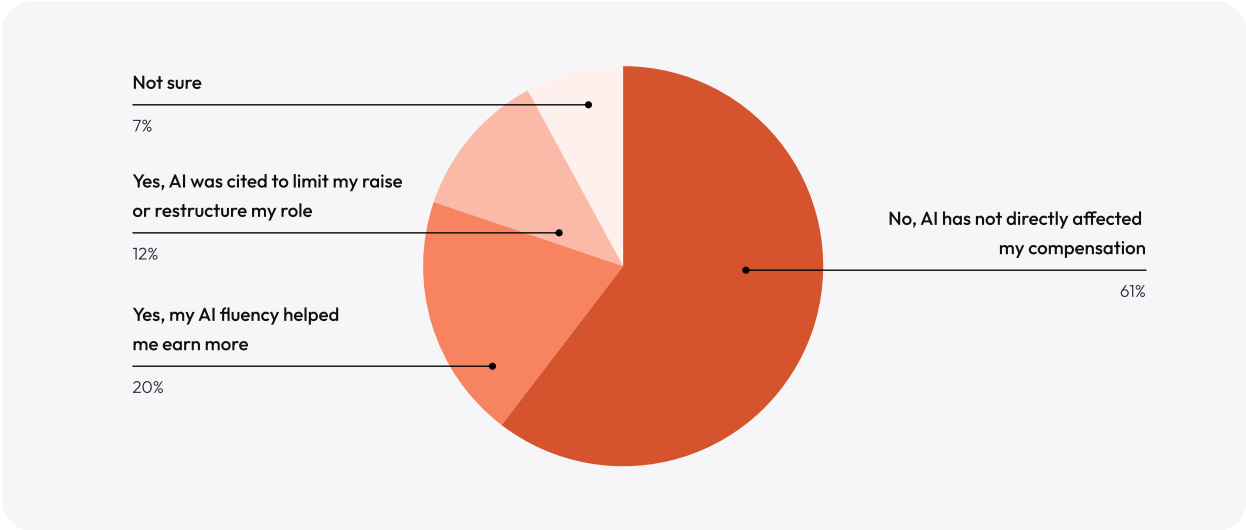
Which single factor would most likely cause you to turn down an otherwise attractive offer?



35% of developers would turn down an attractive offer over a toxic or overwork culture, followed by 23% over micromanagement or lack of autonomy.

Compensation and AI Skills

Has your compensation changed in the past 12 months as a direct result of AI-related skills or AI-driven changes to your role?

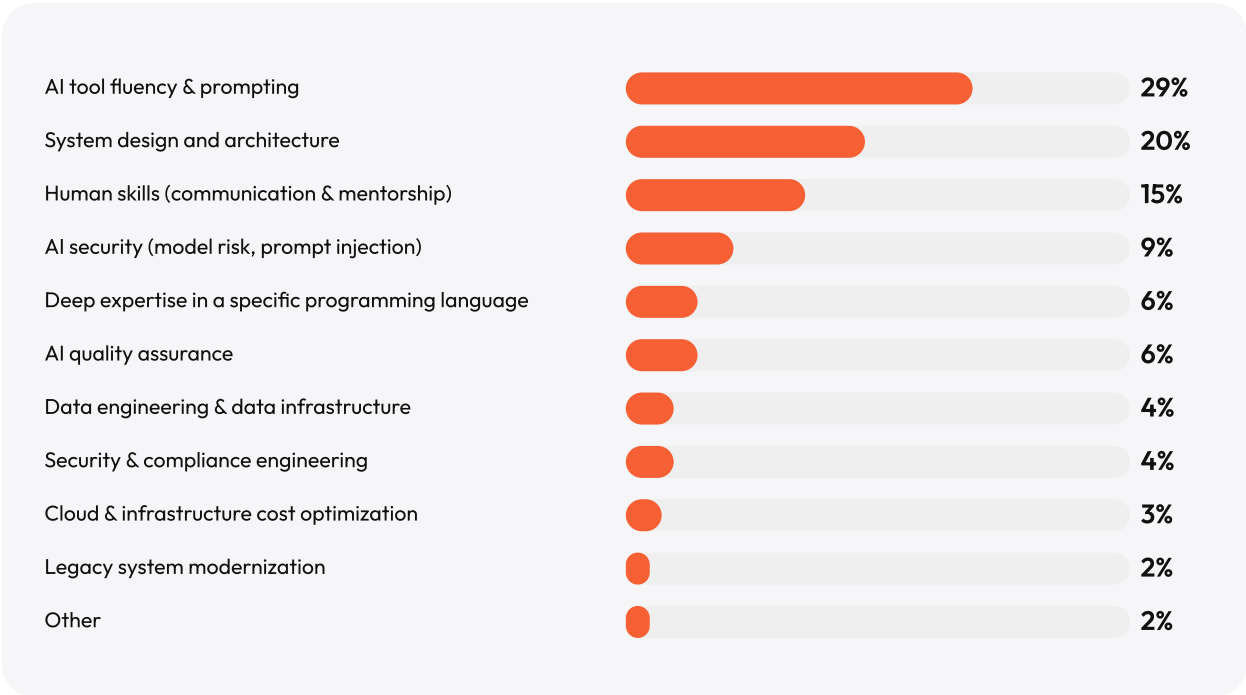


Only 20% of developers say their AI fluency or ability to work with AI tools helped them earn more.

The Skills That Moved Pay

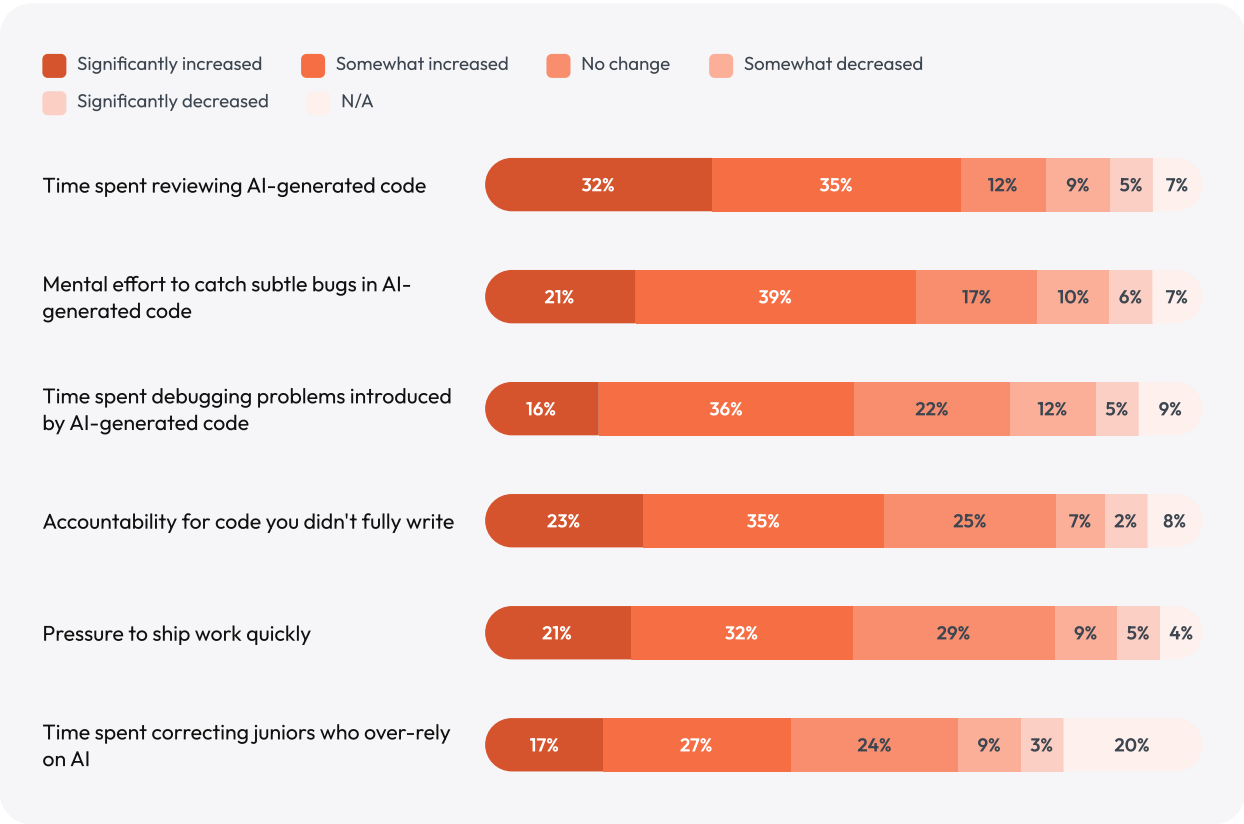
Which capability or skill most directly contributed to that change?

Base: the 141 developers whose AI fluency increased their compensation.



How the Work Has Changed in Twelve Months

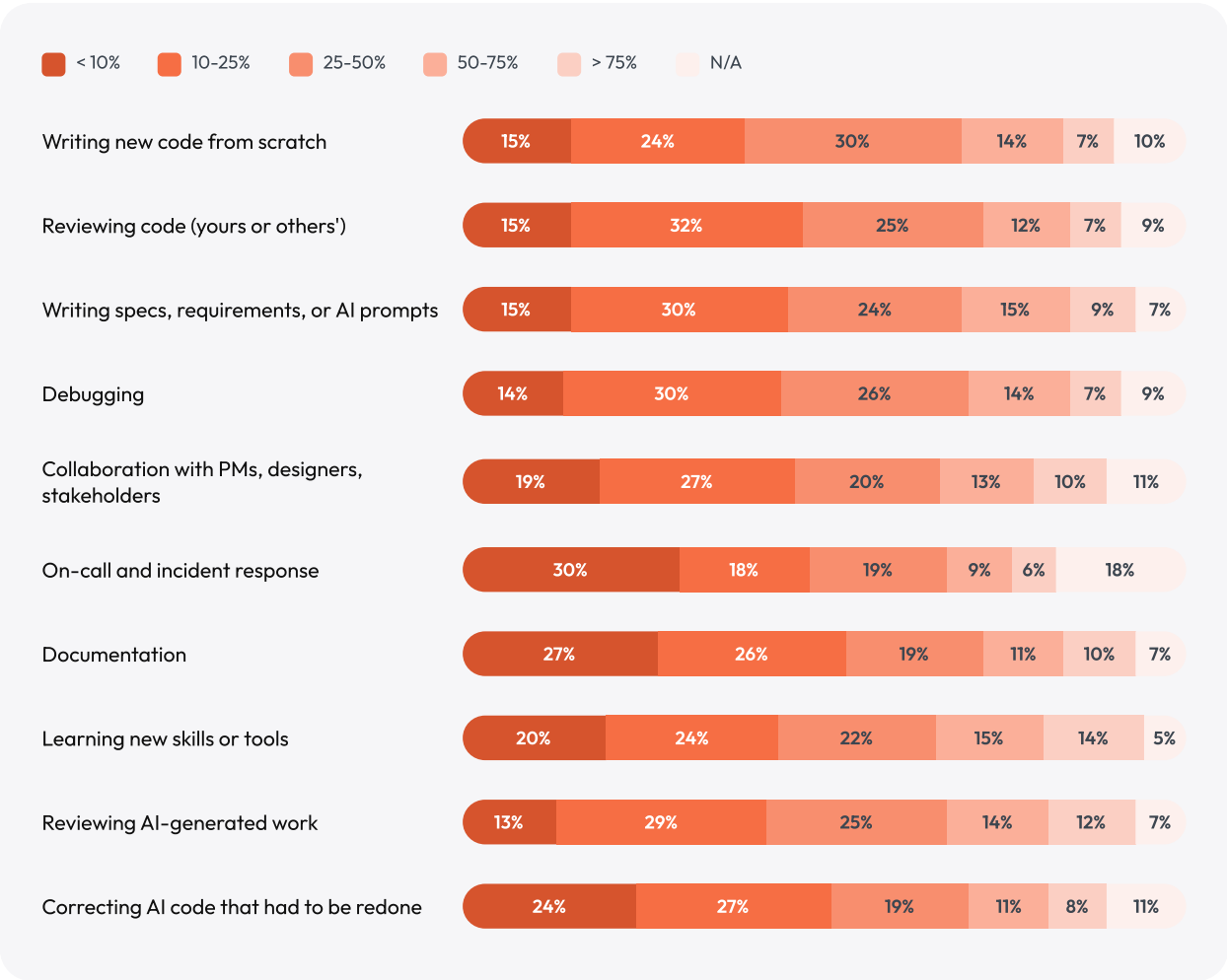
Compared to 12 months ago, how has each of the following changed in your day-to-day work?



Reviewing AI-generated code saw the sharpest change of all: 67% of developers now spend more time on it than they did a year ago.

Where the Working Week Actually Goes

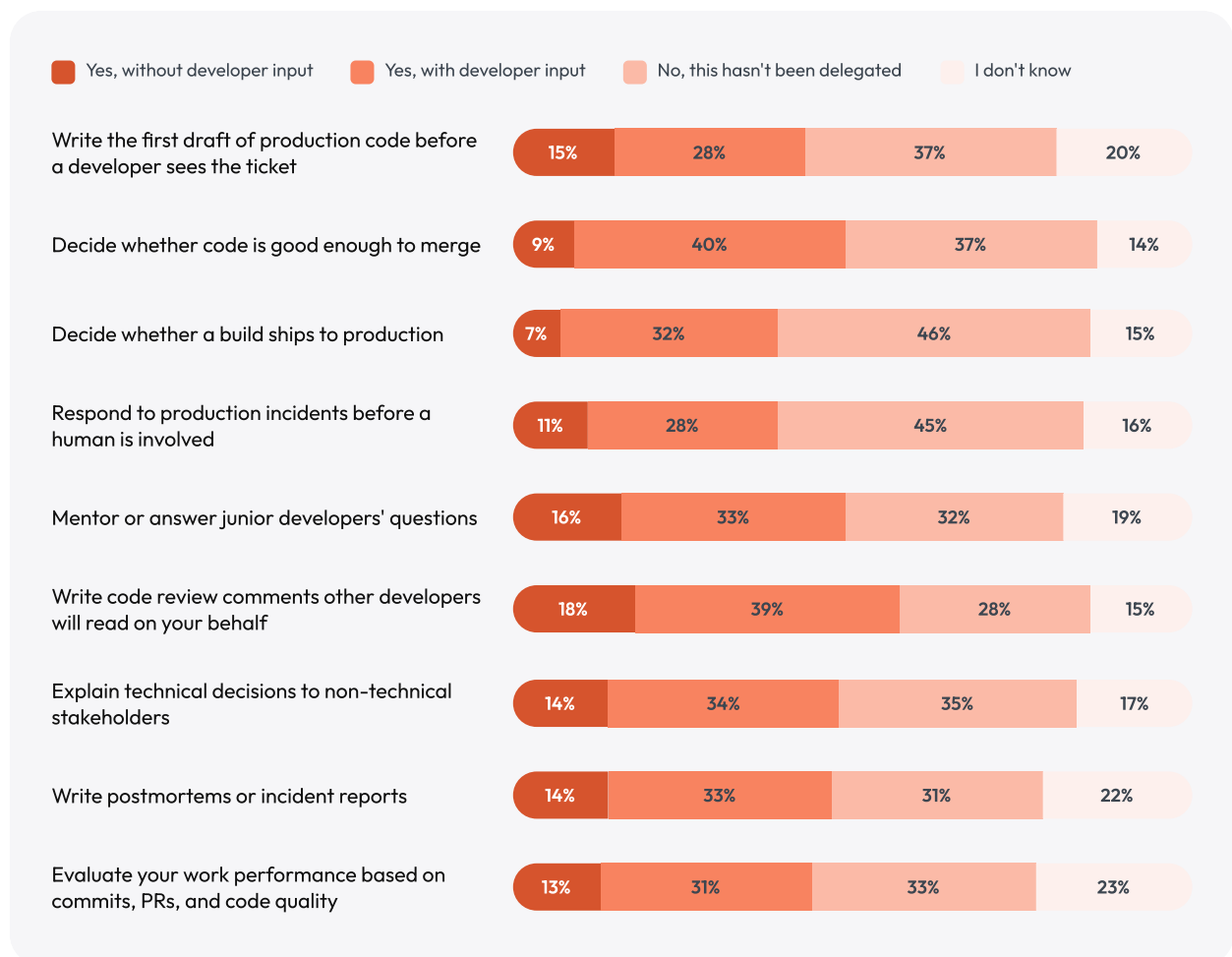
Thinking about your typical working week in the past month, roughly what share of your time do you spend on each of the following?



Writing new code is no longer the majority of the job. Only about 1 in 5 developers spend more than half their week writing new code from scratch.

What Has Already Been Delegated to AI

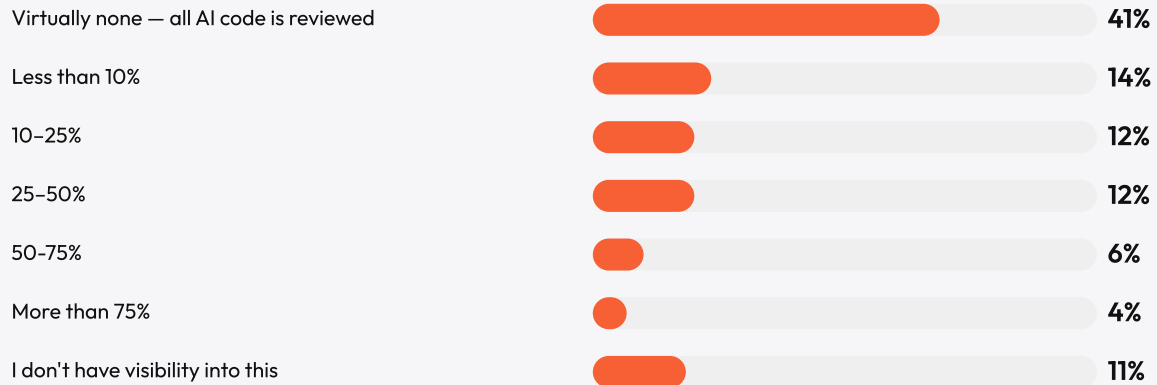
What has your project or company already delegated to AI without developer input?



40% of developers say AI already decides whether code is good enough to merge, with developer input, and 18% say AI writes code review comments other developers read on their behalf.

AI Code Reaching Production Without Review

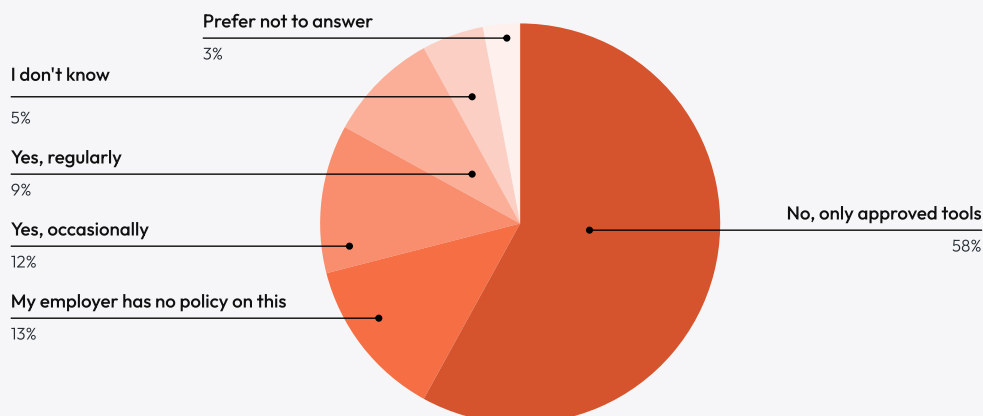
Thinking about AI-generated code in your current project, roughly what share reaches production without a specific human review of that code?



41% of developers report that all AI-generated code is reviewed before it ships.

Use of Unapproved AI Tools

Do you use AI coding tools at work that your employer has not officially approved or is unaware of?

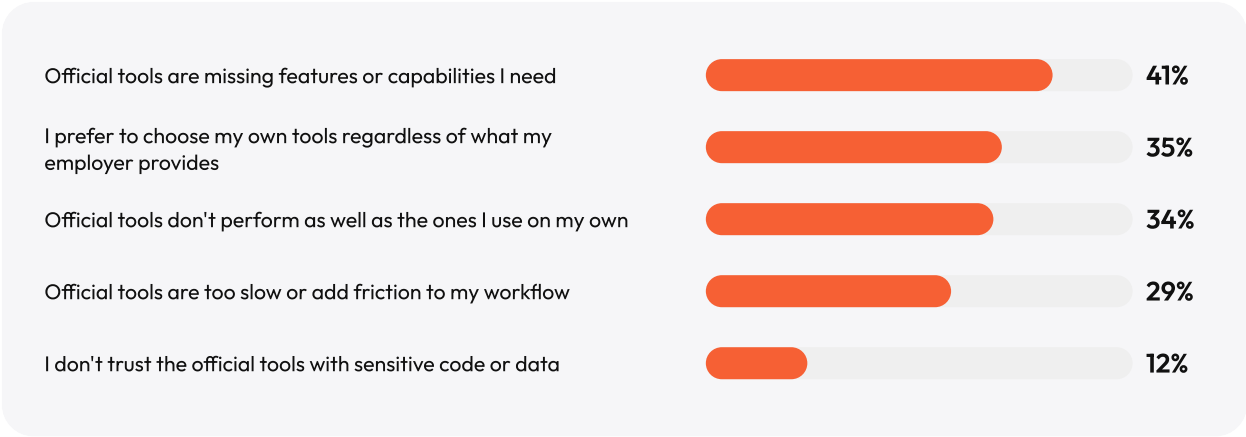


58% of developers say they only use approved tools, while 21% use AI tools their employer has not approved.

Why Developers Reach for Unapproved Tools

What are the main reasons? Select all that apply.

Base: the 150 developers who use unapproved AI tools.

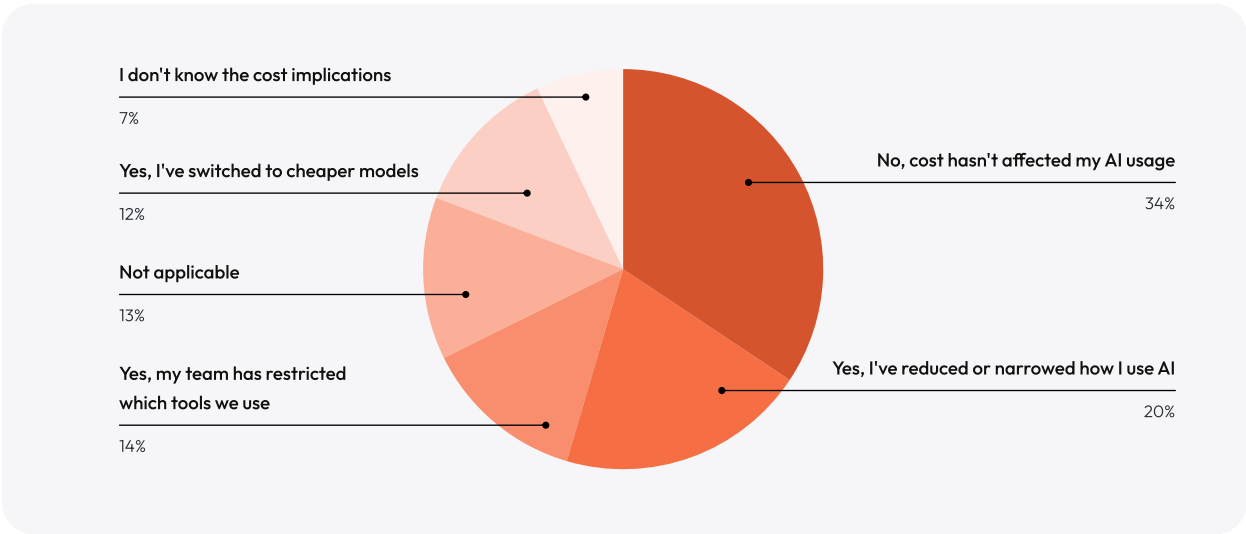


Top 3 Reasons for Going Outside the Approved Toolset:



The Cost of AI Usage

Has the cost of AI tokens or usage limits influenced how you use AI in your work over the past 12 months?

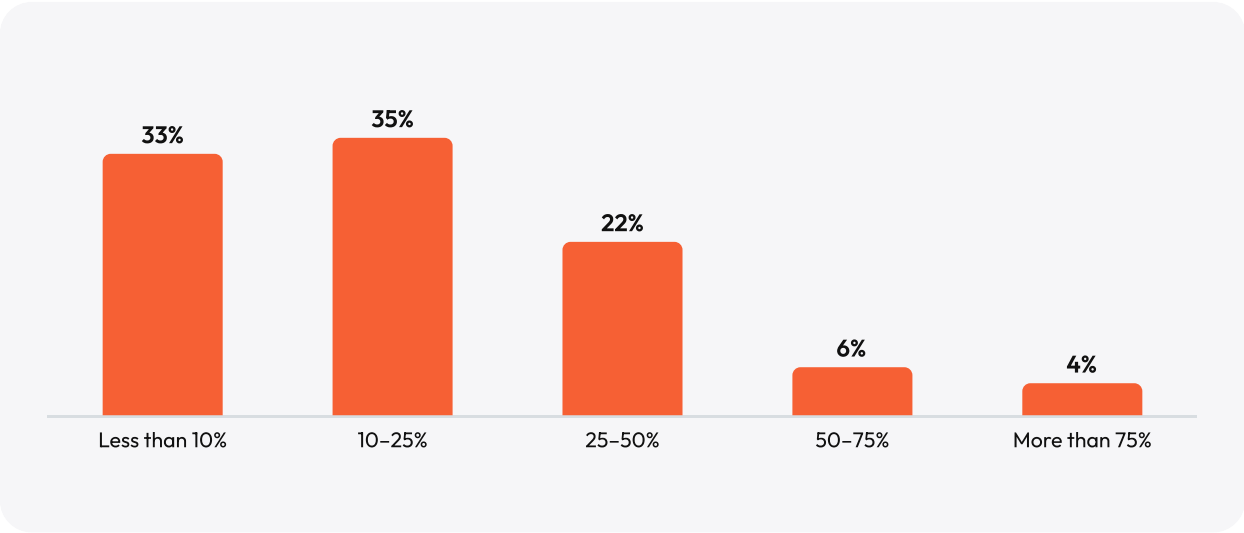


34% of developers say cost hasn't affected their AI usage, while 20% have reduced or narrowed how they use AI.

How Much AI Usage Was Cut

By roughly what percentage has your AI usage decreased?

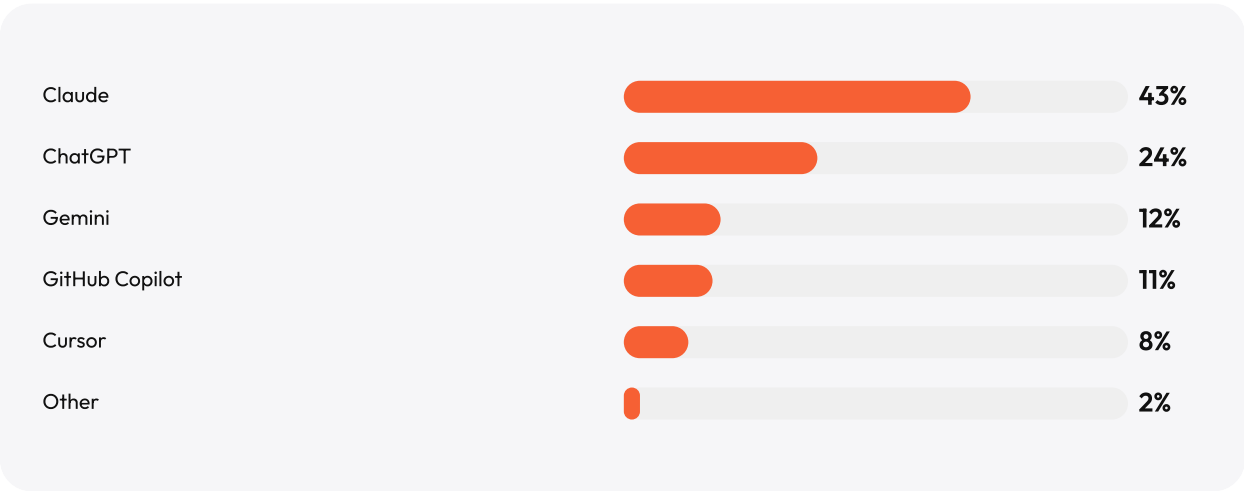
Base: the 143 developers who reduced their usage.



Among developers who reduced or narrowed their AI usage, the largest group (35%) cut it by 10–25%.

Overall Tool Preference

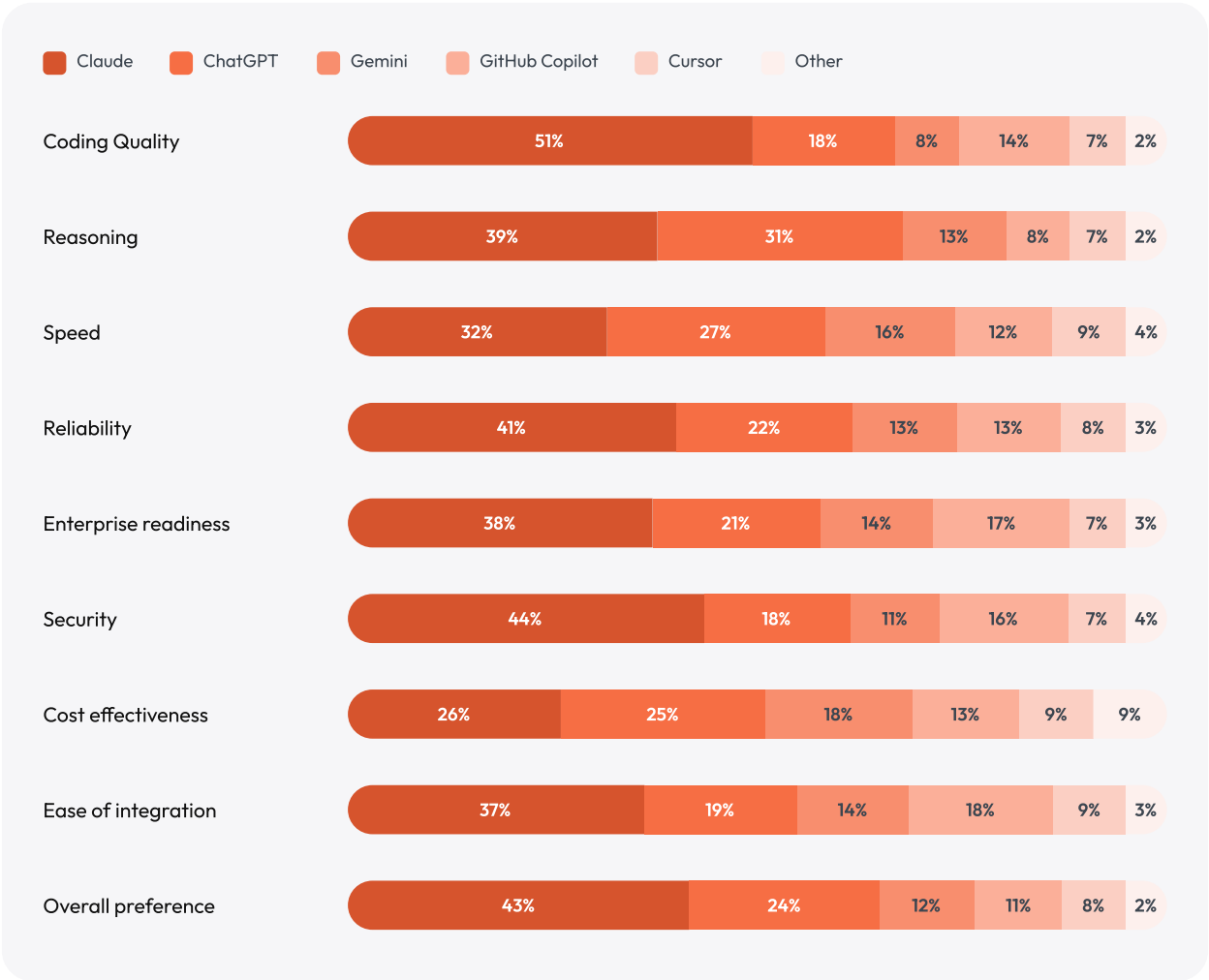
Select the AI tool you frequently use based on overall preference.



Claude is the overall winner when it comes to preference, followed by ChatGPT and Gemini.

The AI Tool of Choice, Attribute by Attribute

Select the AI tool you frequently use based on the following characteristics.
Choose one tool per row.



Claude leads on every attribute measured, with its widest margins on coding quality (51%) and security (44%), and its narrowest on cost effectiveness.

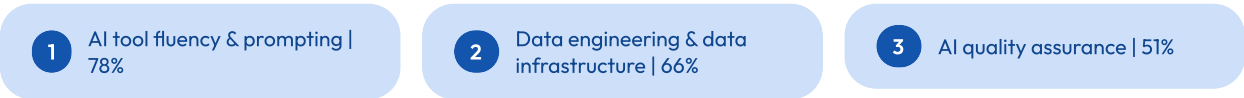
For the first time, the Dev Barometer put the same questions to the people on the other side of the review queue. Forty-one CTOs at Fortune 500 and mid-market organizations told us where they are investing, what they are worried about, and how much of their engineering budget AI has moved.

Where CTOs Are Investing

In the past 12 months, which of the following have you actively hired for, upskilled your team in or increased budget toward? Select all that apply.

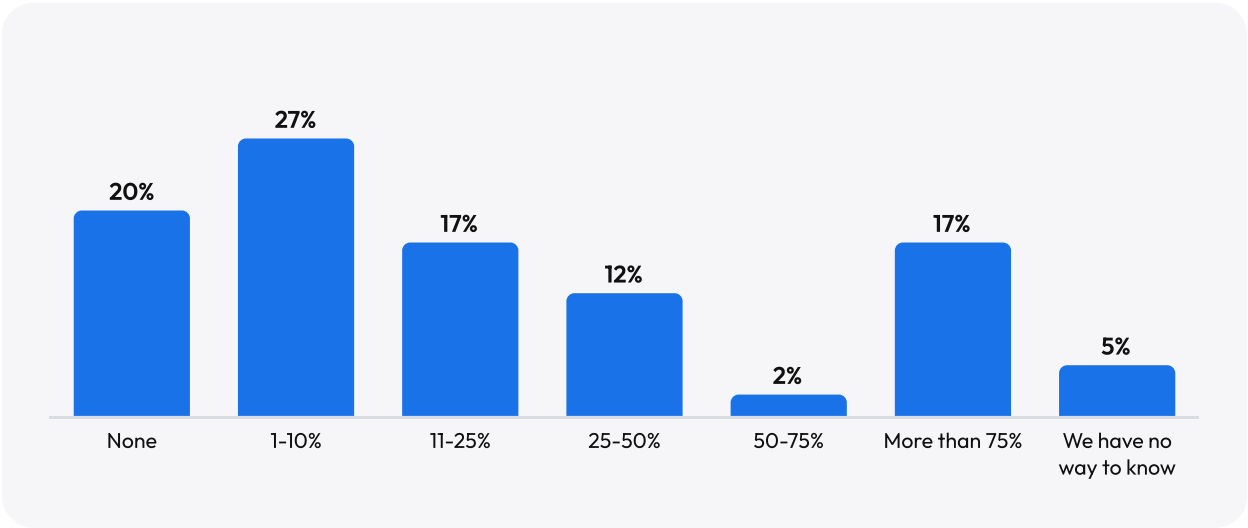


Top 3 Skills CTOs Are Investing In:



Unsanctioned AI Use, as CTOs See It

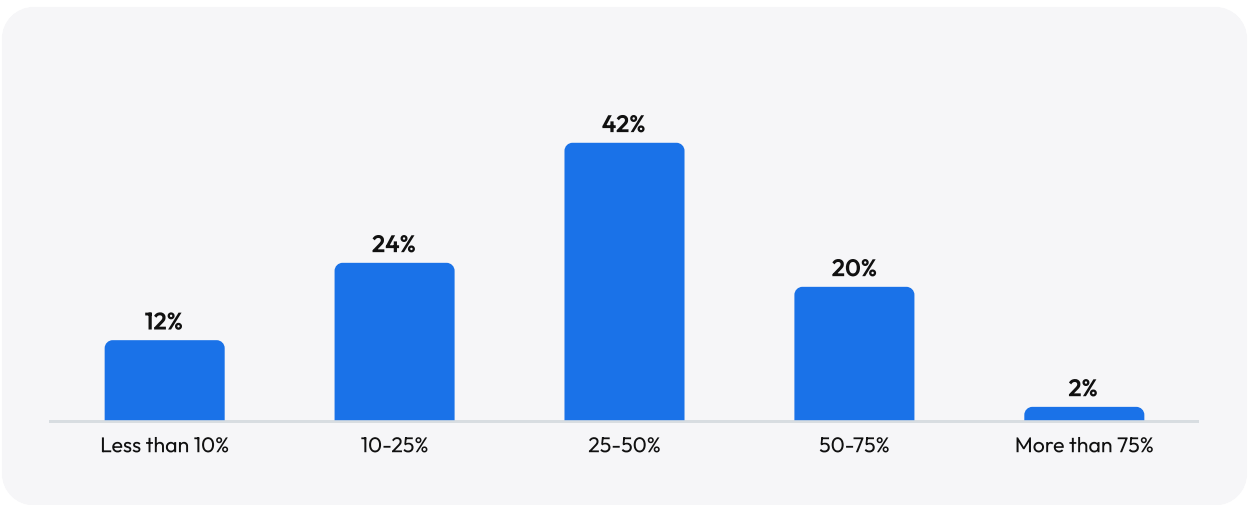
Approximately what share of your engineering team members use AI tools your company has not officially sanctioned?



47% of CTOs put unsanctioned AI use below one in ten of their engineers.

How Much of the Week Is New Code

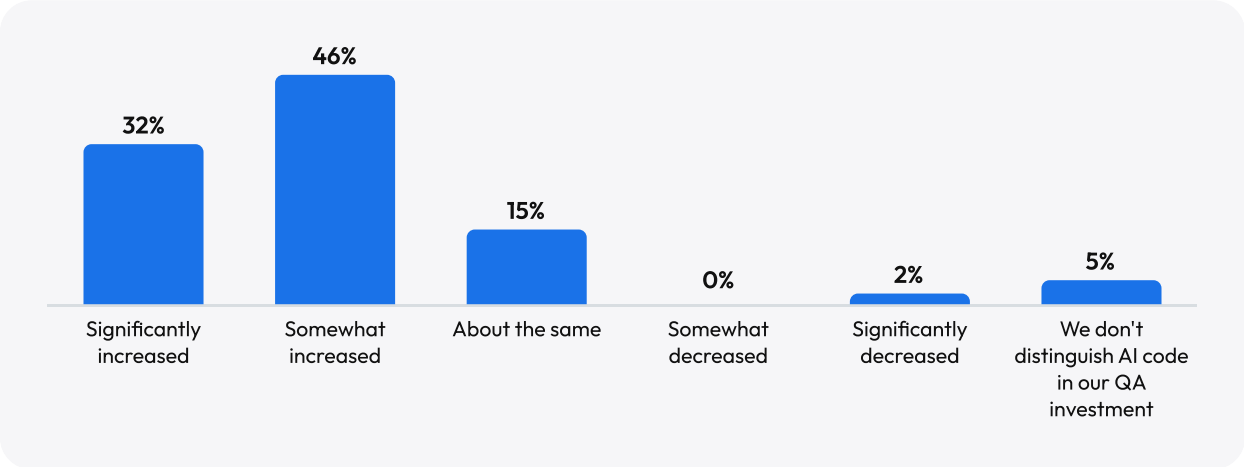
In a typical week, what share of a mid-level developer's time at your company do you believe is spent writing new code?



78% of CTOs say their developers spend less than half the week writing new code.

Investment in Review and Quality Assurance

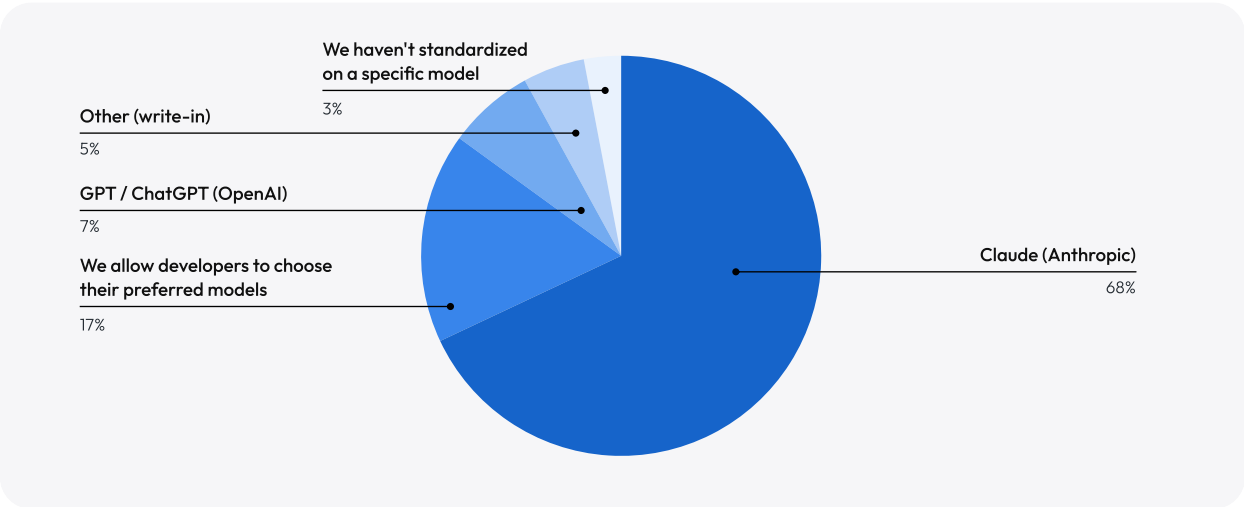
Compared to 12 months ago, has your organization increased or decreased its investment in code review, quality assurance or validation infrastructure to support AI-generated code?



78% of CTOs have increased their investment in review, QA or validation infrastructure for AI-generated code.

The Model Behind the Work

Which AI model does your organization primarily use for engineering work?



68% of CTOs say their organization primarily uses Claude for engineering work. Gemini, Llama, DeepSeek and Mistral each drew 0%.