Americans on AI — June 2026

Athena Insights surveyed 1,814 US adults from June 25-30, 2026, via NORC's AmeriSpeak Panel, a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the US household population.

This release includes the results of that survey as a whole-sample topline, then as crosstabs broken out by subgroup, followed by appendices covering the questionnaire, methodology, and unweighted sample composition.

Results are weighted to US population benchmarks; the full-sample margin of error is ±3.4 percentage points at 95% confidence, accounting for the design effect of weighting.

In general subgroup estimates carry wider margins of error than the full sample's; but the subgroups presented in this release are oversampled to give more and balanced precision than implied by their population shares.

Percentages are out of all respondents, with "Not sure" and "None" answers included, along with skipped and refused responses. The topline shows "No answer" only for questions where its share exceeds 2% on at least one item; elsewhere it is omitted from the table but stays in the base.

You can find the underlying data and live visuals for this and other surveys at americanson.ai.

Contents

Topline

These are the whole-sample results: for each question, the distribution table gives the share choosing each option, with "No answer" broken out only for questions where its share exceeds 2%.

Totals that group those options (e.g. total excited, total concerned) and the nets between them appear in the crosstabs that follow.

Affect

> *Thinking about AI's growing role in society, which of these options comes closest to how you feel, even if none are exactly right?*

Response distribution (weighted) — % of all respondents. "No answer" (2% or less) is not shown.

Response	%
Very excited	6 %
Somewhat excited	18 %
Somewhat concerned	37 %
Very concerned	28 %
None of these are close to how I feel	9 %

Agency

> *Again, thinking about AI, which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?*

Response distribution (weighted) — % of all respondents. "No answer" (2% or less) is not shown.

Response	%
People like me can shape how much AI is part of our lives	15 %
AI is coming into our lives whether we want it or not	70 %
Neither of these are close to how I feel	14 %

Community

Thinking about your local community, how much are you seeing each of the following changes because of AI?

Each label stands for a full item:

Label	Item
Saving time	People are saving time on everyday tasks
Pressured to do more	People are pressured to do more, faster
Losing connections	People are losing connections to others
Real vs. fake	People are struggling to tell what's real from what's fake
Better health care	People are getting better health care

Response distribution (weighted) — % of all respondents. "No answer" (2% or less) is not shown.

Item	Have seen	Starting to see	Expect to see soon	Don't expect to see	Not sure
Saving time	18 %	29 %	15 %	16 %	20 %
Pressured to do more	23 %	28 %	19 %	9 %	20 %
Losing connections	32 %	28 %	17 %	9 %	13 %
Real vs. fake	54 %	28 %	8 %	3 %	6 %
Better health care	5 %	12 %	20 %	35 %	26 %

Families

Thinking about families in America today, how is AI affecting each of the following?

Each label stands for a full item:

Label	Item
Jobs	Job security
Future	Outlook on the future
Children	Children's well-being
Finances	Household finances

Response distribution (weighted) — % of all respondents.

Item	Making it much better	Making it somewhat better	Making it somewhat worse	Making it much worse	Having no effect	No answer
Jobs	3 %	11 %	43 %	32 %	9 %	3 %
Future	4 %	29 %	34 %	20 %	9 %	4 %
Children	3 %	15 %	35 %	29 %	14 %	3 %
Finances	4 %	21 %	29 %	15 %	26 %	4 %

Government

When it comes to each of the following issues, is the government doing too much, too little, or about the right amount in response?

Each label stands for a full item:

Label	Item
Children	AI's effects on children and young people
Environment	AI's environmental footprint, including from data centers
Workers	AI's effects on workers and jobs
Competitiveness	AI's effect on American competitiveness

Response distribution (weighted) — % of all respondents. "No answer" (2% or less) is not shown.

Item	Way too much	Somewhat too much	About the right amount	Somewhat too little	Way too little	Not sure
Children	13 %	13 %	13 %	18 %	28 %	13 %
Environment	12 %	13 %	13 %	14 %	31 %	15 %
Workers	10 %	14 %	16 %	19 %	25 %	14 %
Competitiveness	9 %	11 %	22 %	16 %	16 %	24 %

Futures

Thinking about the next 20 years, how likely is each of the following to happen?

Each label stands for a full item:

Label	Item
Superintelligence	AI becoming smarter than humans at most tasks
Loss-of-control	AI systems behaving in ways their developers did not intend
Breakthroughs	AI making major scientific and medical breakthroughs
WMDs	AI being used to create weapons of mass destruction

Response distribution (weighted) — % of all respondents. "No answer" (2% or less) is not shown.

Item	Already happening	Likely to happen	Unlikely to happen	Not at all likely to happen	Not sure
Superintelligence	27 %	44 %	12 %	6 %	10 %
Loss-of-control	28 %	49 %	9 %	2 %	11 %
Breakthroughs	18 %	49 %	13 %	5 %	13 %
WMDs	18 %	53 %	11 %	3 %	14 %

Crosstabs

Here we are reporting totals and nets for response options, shown for the whole sample and then broken out by sex, party, age, and race / ethnicity (the *banner*).

- A total is a combination of response options which indicate a common lean, for example: the total excited includes "very excited" and "somewhat excited" responses.
- A net is the gap, in percentage points, between the two leans of a question, for example: the total concerned minus the total excited.

In general subgroup estimates carry wider margins of error than the full sample's; but the subgroups presented in this release are oversampled to give more and balanced precision than implied by their population shares.

One table per banner dimension (Total repeated as the first column). The base row is each subgroup's full size; columns with n<100 are omitted.

Affect

> *Thinking about AI's growing role in society, which of these options comes closest to how you feel, even if none are exactly right?*

Each total combines multiple responses:

Total	Responses
TOTAL excited	"Very excited" or "Somewhat excited"
TOTAL concerned	"Somewhat concerned" or "Very concerned"

Cells (weighted): totals (%) and net (percentage points).

By Sex

Metric	Total	Female	Male
Base (n)	1814	967	847
TOTAL excited	24 %	19 %	30 %
TOTAL concerned	66 %	72 %	59 %
None of these	9 %	9 %	9 %
No answer	1 %	1 %	2 %
NET concerned	41 pp	53 pp	29 pp

By Party

Metric	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Base (n)	1814	916	519	371
TOTAL excited	24 %	24 %	28 %	20 %
TOTAL concerned	66 %	66 %	65 %	65 %
None of these	9 %	9 %	6 %	14 %
No answer	1 %	1 %	1 %	2 %
NET concerned	41 pp	42 pp	37 pp	45 pp

By Age

Metric	Total	18–34	35–49	50–64	65+
Base (n)	1814	411	458	478	467
TOTAL excited	24 %	24 %	30 %	25 %	18 %
TOTAL concerned	66 %	64 %	61 %	64 %	74 %
None of these	9 %	11 %	8 %	10 %	8 %
No answer	1 %	1 %	1 %	1 %	<1 %
NET concerned	41 pp	40 pp	31 pp	39 pp	56 pp

By Ethnicity

Metric	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/PI
Base (n)	1814	693	479	488	112
TOTAL excited	24 %	22 %	31 %	23 %	35 %
TOTAL concerned	66 %	69 %	55 %	69 %	51 %
None of these	9 %	8 %	13 %	7 %	12 %
No answer	1 %	1 %	1 %	<1 %	2 %
NET concerned	41 pp	46 pp	24 pp	45 pp	16 pp

Agency

Again, thinking about AI, which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

Cells (weighted): totals (%) and net (percentage points).

By Sex

Metric	Total	Female	Male
Base (n)	1814	967	847
TOTAL can shape	15 %	12 %	17 %
TOTAL inevitable	70 %	73 %	67 %
Neither of these	14 %	13 %	14 %
No answer	2 %	2 %	2 %
NET inevitable	55 pp	61 pp	49 pp

By Party

Metric	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Base (n)	1814	916	519	371
TOTAL can shape	15 %	16 %	15 %	13 %
TOTAL inevitable	70 %	70 %	74 %	64 %
Neither of these	14 %	14 %	10 %	21 %
No answer	2 %	1 %	2 %	3 %
NET inevitable	55 pp	54 pp	59 pp	51 pp

By Age

Metric	Total	18–34	35–49	50–64	65+
Base (n)	1814	411	458	478	467
TOTAL can shape	15 %	20 %	19 %	11 %	7 %
TOTAL inevitable	70 %	58 %	66 %	75 %	83 %
Neither of these	14 %	19 %	14 %	13 %	9 %
No answer	2 %	3 %	1 %	2 %	1 %
NET inevitable	55 pp	37 pp	47 pp	64 pp	77 pp

By Ethnicity

Metric	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/PI
Base (n)	1814	693	479	488	112
TOTAL can shape	15 %	12 %	17 %	22 %	12 %
TOTAL inevitable	70 %	72 %	64 %	62 %	80 %
Neither of these	14 %	14 %	17 %	15 %	6 %
No answer	2 %	2 %	2 %	1 %	2 %
NET inevitable	55 pp	60 pp	47 pp	39 pp	69 pp

Community

Thinking about your local community, how much are you seeing each of the following changes because of AI?

Each label stands for a full item:

Label	Item
Saving time	People are saving time on everyday tasks
Pressured to do more	People are pressured to do more, faster
Losing connections	People are losing connections to others
Real vs. fake	People are struggling to tell what's real from what's fake
Better health care	People are getting better health care

Each total combines multiple responses:

Total	Responses
TOTAL realized	"Have seen" or "Starting to see"
TOTAL not yet	"Expect to see soon" or "Don't expect to see"

Cells (weighted): totals (%) and net (percentage points).

By Sex

Item	Metric	Total	Female	Male
Base (n)		1814	967	847
Saving time	TOTAL realized	47 %	43 %	52 %
	TOTAL not yet	31 %	31 %	31 %
	NET realized	16 pp	12 pp	21 pp
Pressured to do more	TOTAL realized	51 %	52 %	50 %
	TOTAL not yet	28 %	27 %	29 %
	NET realized	23 pp	25 pp	22 pp
Losing connections	TOTAL realized	59 %	63 %	56 %
	TOTAL not yet	26 %	23 %	30 %
	NET realized	33 pp	40 pp	26 pp
Real vs. fake	TOTAL realized	82 %	85 %	78 %
	TOTAL not yet	11 %	10 %	13 %
	NET realized	70 pp	75 pp	66 pp
Better health care	TOTAL realized	17 %	15 %	19 %
	TOTAL not yet	56 %	55 %	57 %
	NET realized	−39 pp	−40 pp	−38 pp

By Party

Item	Metric	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Base (n)		1814	916	519	371
Saving time	TOTAL realized	47 %	51 %	48 %	41 %
	TOTAL not yet	31 %	29 %	32 %	33 %
	NET realized	16 pp	21 pp	17 pp	8 pp
Pressured to do more	TOTAL realized	51 %	54 %	47 %	54 %
	TOTAL not yet	28 %	27 %	32 %	24 %
	NET realized	23 pp	27 pp	16 pp	30 pp
Losing connections	TOTAL realized	59 %	61 %	60 %	57 %
	TOTAL not yet	26 %	26 %	28 %	25 %
	NET realized	33 pp	34 pp	32 pp	32 pp
Real vs. fake	TOTAL realized	82 %	85 %	83 %	74 %
	TOTAL not yet	11 %	8 %	12 %	15 %
	NET realized	70 pp	77 pp	71 pp	60 pp
Better health care	TOTAL realized	17 %	14 %	20 %	18 %
	TOTAL not yet	56 %	58 %	54 %	55 %
	NET realized	−39 pp	−44 pp	−34 pp	−37 pp

By Age

Item	Metric	Total	18–34	35–49	50–64	65+
Base (n)		1814	411	458	478	467
Saving time	TOTAL realized	47 %	52 %	55 %	44 %	38 %
	TOTAL not yet	31 %	33 %	24 %	29 %	38 %
	NET realized	16 pp	19 pp	31 pp	15 pp	0 pp
Pressured to do more	TOTAL realized	51 %	64 %	44 %	52 %	43 %
	TOTAL not yet	28 %	23 %	34 %	24 %	31 %
	NET realized	23 pp	41 pp	10 pp	28 pp	12 pp
Losing connections	TOTAL realized	59 %	59 %	61 %	61 %	57 %
	TOTAL not yet	26 %	29 %	24 %	25 %	27 %
	NET realized	33 pp	29 pp	37 pp	36 pp	30 pp
Real vs. fake	TOTAL realized	82 %	76 %	85 %	85 %	83 %
	TOTAL not yet	11 %	17 %	6 %	10 %	10 %
	NET realized	70 pp	58 pp	78 pp	75 pp	72 pp
Better health care	TOTAL realized	17 %	18 %	12 %	15 %	23 %
	TOTAL not yet	56 %	63 %	55 %	57 %	47 %
	NET realized	−39 pp	−45 pp	−43 pp	−41 pp	−24 pp

By Ethnicity

Item	Metric	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/PI
Base (n)		1814	693	479	488	112
Saving time	TOTAL realized	47 %	45 %	47 %	47 %	67 %
	TOTAL not yet	31 %	32 %	27 %	34 %	20 %
	NET realized	16 pp	13 pp	20 pp	13 pp	47 pp
Pressured to do more	TOTAL realized	51 %	50 %	53 %	50 %	57 %
	TOTAL not yet	28 %	28 %	25 %	31 %	29 %
	NET realized	23 pp	22 pp	28 pp	19 pp	29 pp
Losing connections	TOTAL realized	59 %	61 %	61 %	55 %	58 %
	TOTAL not yet	26 %	26 %	18 %	30 %	30 %
	NET realized	33 pp	35 pp	43 pp	25 pp	27 pp
Real vs. fake	TOTAL realized	82 %	84 %	75 %	81 %	75 %
	TOTAL not yet	11 %	9 %	13 %	12 %	18 %
	NET realized	70 pp	74 pp	62 pp	68 pp	57 pp
Better health care	TOTAL realized	17 %	15 %	26 %	19 %	20 %
	TOTAL not yet	56 %	59 %	46 %	52 %	54 %
	NET realized	−39 pp	−44 pp	−20 pp	−34 pp	−34 pp

Families

Thinking about families in America today, how is AI affecting each of the following?

Each label stands for a full item:

Label	Item
Jobs	Job security
Future	Outlook on the future
Children	Children's well-being
Finances	Household finances

Each total combines multiple responses:

Total	Responses
TOTAL better	"Making it much better" or "Making it somewhat better"
TOTAL worse	"Making it somewhat worse" or "Making it much worse"

Cells (weighted): totals (%) and net (percentage points).

By Sex

Item	Metric	Total	Female	Male
Base (n)		1814	967	847
Jobs	TOTAL better	14 %	11 %	17 %
	TOTAL worse	74 %	78 %	71 %
	NET worse	61 pp	67 pp	54 pp
Future	TOTAL better	33 %	27 %	40 %
	TOTAL worse	54 %	61 %	47 %
	NET worse	21 pp	34 pp	7 pp
Children	TOTAL better	18 %	13 %	24 %
	TOTAL worse	65 %	71 %	57 %
	NET worse	46 pp	58 pp	34 pp
Finances	TOTAL better	25 %	22 %	29 %
	TOTAL worse	45 %	49 %	40 %
	NET worse	19 pp	27 pp	11 pp

By Party

Item	Metric	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Base (n)		1814	916	519	371
Jobs	TOTAL better	14 %	11 %	17 %	14 %
	TOTAL worse	74 %	80 %	72 %	69 %
	NET worse	61 pp	69 pp	55 pp	55 pp
Future	TOTAL better	33 %	32 %	37 %	29 %
	TOTAL worse	54 %	56 %	50 %	56 %
	NET worse	21 pp	24 pp	13 pp	27 pp
Children	TOTAL better	18 %	15 %	22 %	19 %
	TOTAL worse	65 %	69 %	62 %	60 %
	NET worse	46 pp	55 pp	41 pp	41 pp
Finances	TOTAL better	25 %	22 %	30 %	25 %
	TOTAL worse	45 %	49 %	36 %	50 %
	NET worse	19 pp	28 pp	6 pp	24 pp

By Age

Item	Metric	Total	18–34	35–49	50–64	65+
Base (n)		1814	411	458	478	467
Jobs	TOTAL better	14 %	19 %	12 %	11 %	12 %
	TOTAL worse	74 %	71 %	73 %	80 %	75 %
	NET worse	61 pp	52 pp	61 pp	69 pp	62 pp
Future	TOTAL better	33 %	32 %	30 %	29 %	42 %
	TOTAL worse	54 %	59 %	52 %	59 %	46 %
	NET worse	21 pp	28 pp	22 pp	30 pp	4 pp
Children	TOTAL better	18 %	18 %	19 %	15 %	21 %
	TOTAL worse	65 %	70 %	59 %	71 %	57 %
	NET worse	46 pp	52 pp	40 pp	56 pp	36 pp
Finances	TOTAL better	25 %	29 %	24 %	23 %	24 %
	TOTAL worse	45 %	45 %	41 %	50 %	43 %
	NET worse	19 pp	15 pp	16 pp	28 pp	19 pp

By Ethnicity

Item	Metric	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/PI
Base (n)		1814	693	479	488	112
Jobs	TOTAL better	14 %	8 %	28 %	23 %	13 %
	TOTAL worse	74 %	78 %	61 %	68 %	78 %
	NET worse	61 pp	70 pp	32 pp	45 pp	65 pp
Future	TOTAL better	33 %	30 %	41 %	33 %	48 %
	TOTAL worse	54 %	56 %	48 %	56 %	40 %
	NET worse	21 pp	26 pp	8 pp	23 pp	−8 pp
Children	TOTAL better	18 %	14 %	31 %	22 %	23 %
	TOTAL worse	65 %	66 %	54 %	65 %	58 %
	NET worse	46 pp	52 pp	24 pp	43 pp	35 pp
Finances	TOTAL better	25 %	22 %	31 %	28 %	36 %
	TOTAL worse	45 %	44 %	46 %	47 %	37 %
	NET worse	19 pp	21 pp	15 pp	19 pp	1 pp

Government

When it comes to each of the following issues, is the government doing too much, too little, or about the right amount in response?

Each label stands for a full item:

Label	Item
Children	AI's effects on children and young people
Environment	AI's environmental footprint, including from data centers
Workers	AI's effects on workers and jobs
Competitiveness	AI's effect on American competitiveness

Each total combines multiple responses:

Total	Responses
TOTAL too much	"Way too much" or "Somewhat too much"
TOTAL too little	"Somewhat too little" or "Way too little"

Cells (weighted): totals (%) and net (percentage points).

By Sex

Item	Metric	Total	Female	Male
Base (n)		1814	967	847
Children	TOTAL too much	26 %	29 %	23 %
	TOTAL too little	47 %	49 %	44 %
	NET too little	20 pp	20 pp	21 pp
Environment	TOTAL too much	25 %	25 %	25 %
	TOTAL too little	46 %	47 %	44 %
	NET too little	21 pp	23 pp	19 pp
Workers	TOTAL too much	24 %	25 %	23 %
	TOTAL too little	44 %	46 %	41 %
	NET too little	20 pp	22 pp	18 pp
Competitiveness	TOTAL too much	20 %	20 %	20 %
	TOTAL too little	32 %	36 %	28 %
	NET too little	12 pp	16 pp	7 pp

By Party

Item	Metric	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Base (n)		1814	916	519	371
Children	TOTAL too much	26 %	23 %	31 %	25 %
	TOTAL too little	47 %	54 %	42 %	41 %
	NET too little	20 pp	31 pp	12 pp	16 pp
Environment	TOTAL too much	25 %	22 %	27 %	27 %
	TOTAL too little	46 %	57 %	38 %	39 %
	NET too little	21 pp	35 pp	11 pp	13 pp
Workers	TOTAL too much	24 %	21 %	27 %	25 %
	TOTAL too little	44 %	56 %	35 %	39 %
	NET too little	20 pp	35 pp	8 pp	14 pp
Competitiveness	TOTAL too much	20 %	19 %	22 %	19 %
	TOTAL too little	32 %	39 %	28 %	27 %
	NET too little	12 pp	20 pp	5 pp	8 pp

By Age

Item	Metric	Total	18–34	35–49	50–64	65+
Base (n)		1814	411	458	478	467
Children	TOTAL too much	26 %	31 %	21 %	31 %	21 %
	TOTAL too little	47 %	41 %	42 %	51 %	53 %
	NET too little	20 pp	10 pp	21 pp	20 pp	32 pp
Environment	TOTAL too much	25 %	26 %	24 %	26 %	23 %
	TOTAL too little	46 %	44 %	43 %	47 %	49 %
	NET too little	21 pp	19 pp	19 pp	20 pp	25 pp
Workers	TOTAL too much	24 %	26 %	22 %	27 %	22 %
	TOTAL too little	44 %	42 %	42 %	44 %	47 %
	NET too little	20 pp	17 pp	20 pp	17 pp	25 pp
Competitiveness	TOTAL too much	20 %	21 %	22 %	22 %	17 %
	TOTAL too little	32 %	31 %	28 %	34 %	35 %
	NET too little	12 pp	10 pp	7 pp	13 pp	19 pp

By Ethnicity

Item	Metric	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/PI
Base (n)		1814	693	479	488	112
Children	TOTAL too much	26 %	23 %	34 %	30 %	26 %
	TOTAL too little	47 %	52 %	34 %	39 %	45 %
	NET too little	20 pp	29 pp	0 pp	9 pp	18 pp
Environment	TOTAL too much	25 %	22 %	32 %	29 %	23 %
	TOTAL too little	46 %	51 %	32 %	38 %	45 %
	NET too little	21 pp	29 pp	0 pp	9 pp	23 pp
Workers	TOTAL too much	24 %	21 %	35 %	29 %	19 %
	TOTAL too little	44 %	48 %	34 %	38 %	46 %
	NET too little	20 pp	27 pp	−1 pp	9 pp	27 pp
Competitiveness	TOTAL too much	20 %	17 %	31 %	25 %	19 %
	TOTAL too little	32 %	34 %	27 %	27 %	28 %
	NET too little	12 pp	17 pp	−4 pp	1 pp	9 pp

Futures

Thinking about the next 20 years, how likely is each of the following to happen?

Each label stands for a full item:

Label	Item
Superintelligence	AI becoming smarter than humans at most tasks
Loss-of-control	AI systems behaving in ways their developers did not intend
Breakthroughs	AI making major scientific and medical breakthroughs
WMDs	AI being used to create weapons of mass destruction

Each total combines multiple responses:

Total	Responses
TOTAL likely	"Already happening" or "Likely to happen"
TOTAL unlikely	"Unlikely to happen" or "Not at all likely to happen"

Cells (weighted): totals (%) and net (percentage points).

By Sex

Item	Metric	Total	Female	Male
Base (n)		1814	967	847
Superintelligence	TOTAL likely	71 %	71 %	70 %
	TOTAL unlikely	18 %	17 %	19 %
	NET likely	53 pp	54 pp	51 pp
Loss-of-control	TOTAL likely	77 %	78 %	75 %
	TOTAL unlikely	11 %	9 %	13 %
	NET likely	66 pp	68 pp	63 pp
Breakthroughs	TOTAL likely	67 %	64 %	71 %
	TOTAL unlikely	18 %	19 %	16 %
	NET likely	50 pp	45 pp	54 pp
WMDs	TOTAL likely	71 %	71 %	71 %
	TOTAL unlikely	14 %	11 %	16 %
	NET likely	57 pp	60 pp	55 pp

By Party

Item	Metric	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Base (n)		1814	916	519	371
Superintelligence	TOTAL likely	71 %	72 %	73 %	66 %
	TOTAL unlikely	18 %	17 %	17 %	22 %
	NET likely	53 pp	54 pp	56 pp	44 pp
Loss-of-control	TOTAL likely	77 %	79 %	78 %	70 %
	TOTAL unlikely	11 %	11 %	11 %	12 %
	NET likely	66 pp	69 pp	67 pp	58 pp
Breakthroughs	TOTAL likely	67 %	69 %	71 %	59 %
	TOTAL unlikely	18 %	16 %	18 %	20 %
	NET likely	50 pp	53 pp	53 pp	39 pp
WMDs	TOTAL likely	71 %	73 %	72 %	68 %
	TOTAL unlikely	14 %	12 %	15 %	14 %
	NET likely	57 pp	61 pp	57 pp	53 pp

By Age

Item	Metric	Total	18–34	35–49	50–64	65+
Base (n)		1814	411	458	478	467
Superintelligence	TOTAL likely	71 %	67 %	69 %	73 %	74 %
	TOTAL unlikely	18 %	20 %	18 %	17 %	17 %
	NET likely	53 pp	47 pp	51 pp	56 pp	57 pp
Loss-of-control	TOTAL likely	77 %	70 %	71 %	81 %	85 %
	TOTAL unlikely	11 %	17 %	13 %	7 %	6 %
	NET likely	66 pp	53 pp	58 pp	75 pp	80 pp
Breakthroughs	TOTAL likely	67 %	58 %	62 %	75 %	76 %
	TOTAL unlikely	18 %	28 %	17 %	11 %	12 %
	NET likely	50 pp	31 pp	45 pp	64 pp	63 pp
WMDs	TOTAL likely	71 %	65 %	63 %	78 %	79 %
	TOTAL unlikely	14 %	18 %	16 %	9 %	9 %
	NET likely	57 pp	47 pp	47 pp	69 pp	70 pp

By Ethnicity

Item	Metric	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/PI
Base (n)		1814	693	479	488	112
Superintelligence	TOTAL likely	71 %	73 %	61 %	67 %	70 %
	TOTAL unlikely	18 %	17 %	22 %	19 %	19 %
	NET likely	53 pp	56 pp	39 pp	48 pp	51 pp
Loss-of-control	TOTAL likely	77 %	80 %	67 %	70 %	77 %
	TOTAL unlikely	11 %	9 %	13 %	15 %	14 %
	NET likely	66 pp	72 pp	54 pp	54 pp	62 pp
Breakthroughs	TOTAL likely	67 %	71 %	63 %	57 %	73 %
	TOTAL unlikely	18 %	16 %	17 %	22 %	13 %
	NET likely	50 pp	55 pp	46 pp	36 pp	61 pp
WMDs	TOTAL likely	71 %	73 %	63 %	69 %	72 %
	TOTAL unlikely	14 %	12 %	17 %	15 %	14 %
	NET likely	57 pp	61 pp	47 pp	54 pp	58 pp

Appendix — Questionnaire

Reconstructed verbatim from the NORC codebook: item wording, question prompts, and response options.

Affect

> *Thinking about AI's growing role in society, which of these options comes closest to how you feel, even if none are exactly right?*

Response options

1. Very excited
2. Somewhat excited
3. Somewhat concerned
4. Very concerned
5. None of these are close to how I feel

Agency

> *Again, thinking about AI, which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?*

Response options

1. People like me can shape how much AI is part of our lives
2. AI is coming into our lives whether we want it or not
3. Neither of these are close to how I feel

Community

> *Thinking about your local community, how much are you seeing each of the following changes because of AI?*

Items

- People are saving time on everyday tasks
- People are pressured to do more, faster
- People are losing connections to others
- People are struggling to tell what's real from what's fake
- People are getting better health care

Response options

1. Have seen
2. Starting to see
3. Expect to see soon
4. Don't expect to see
5. Not sure

Families

Thinking about families in America today, how is AI affecting each of the following?

Items

- Job security
- Outlook on the future
- Children's well-being
- Household finances

Response options

1. Making it much better
2. Making it somewhat better
3. Making it somewhat worse
4. Making it much worse
5. Having no effect

Government

When it comes to each of the following issues, is the government doing too much, too little, or about the right amount in response?

Items

- AI's effects on children and young people
- AI's environmental footprint, including from data centers
- AI's effects on workers and jobs
- AI's effect on American competitiveness

Response options

1. Way too much
2. Somewhat too much
3. About the right amount
4. Somewhat too little
5. Way too little
6. Not sure

Futures

Thinking about the next 20 years, how likely is each of the following to happen?

Items

- AI becoming smarter than humans at most tasks
- AI systems behaving in ways their developers did not intend
- AI making major scientific and medical breakthroughs
- AI being used to create weapons of mass destruction

Response options

1. Already happening
2. Likely to happen
3. Unlikely to happen
4. Not at all likely to happen
5. Not sure

Appendix — Methodology

This is the first tracking wave of the **Americans on AI** survey, a project of Athena Insights.

Respondents were interviewed between June 25 and 30, 2026 as part of NORC's AmeriSpeak Omnibus. AmeriSpeak is a probability-based household panel recruited by address-based sampling from the NORC National Frame, designed to be representative of the US household population. Interviews were conducted online (96%) and by phone (4%), in English; 1,814 adults completed the module.

Results are weighted with NORC's study weights, which adjust the panel base weights for sample selection and nonresponse and rake to Current Population Survey benchmarks on age, sex, census division, race/ethnicity, and education, for a design effect of 2.12 and an effective sample size of 854. The subgroups reported in this release were oversampled by design: the weights restore population proportions, while the additional interviews improve the precision of those subgroup estimates. Standard errors are design-based (Taylor linearization over NORC's variance strata and units).

The full-sample margin of error is ±3.4 percentage points at 95% confidence. Margins of error for subgroup estimates are larger, though improved and balanced through the oversampling design. The achieved (unweighted) composition is disclosed in full (*Appendix — Sample composition*) per AAPOR disclosure standards.

For the questionnaire, item order within blocks was randomized and response options were rotated (forward/reverse), holding don't know answers last. The median completion time of about 3 minutes. Respondents who skipped an item on the web or declined to answer on the phone remain in the base for every percentage, shown as their own response category.

Results are reported as response distributions, totals, and nets. Every percentage is out of all respondents, with "Not sure" and "None" answers included along with the above "no answer responses". Totals combine related response options, and a net is the percentage-point gap between two totals.

Some results may have been withheld for future publication.

Appendix — Sample composition

Unweighted demographic composition of the achieved sample (n=1,814).

Several subgroups were oversampled by design, so their unweighted shares exceed their population shares; the report's figures are weighted to NORC's Current Population Survey benchmarks (see the methodology), which restores population proportions. **Party** is profiled by NORC, not a weighting dimension of this module's design.

Dimension	Group	n	%
Sex	Female	967	53
	Male	847	47
Party	Dem	916	50
	Rep	519	29
	Ind	371	20
	Unknown	8	0
Age	18–34	411	23
	35–49	458	25
	50–64	478	26
	65+	467	26
Ethnicity	White	693	38
	Black	479	26
	Hispanic	488	27
	Asian/PI	112	6
	Two or more	29	2
	Other	13	1