McKinsey & Company

AI is eating the world (just not the P&L yet)

2025 | Agents and GenAl



2023: We estimated GenAI is poised to unlock trillions of dollars of value, with 80% coming from 4 functions



\$1.2 trillion
Sales and marketing

\$0.4 trillionCustomer operations

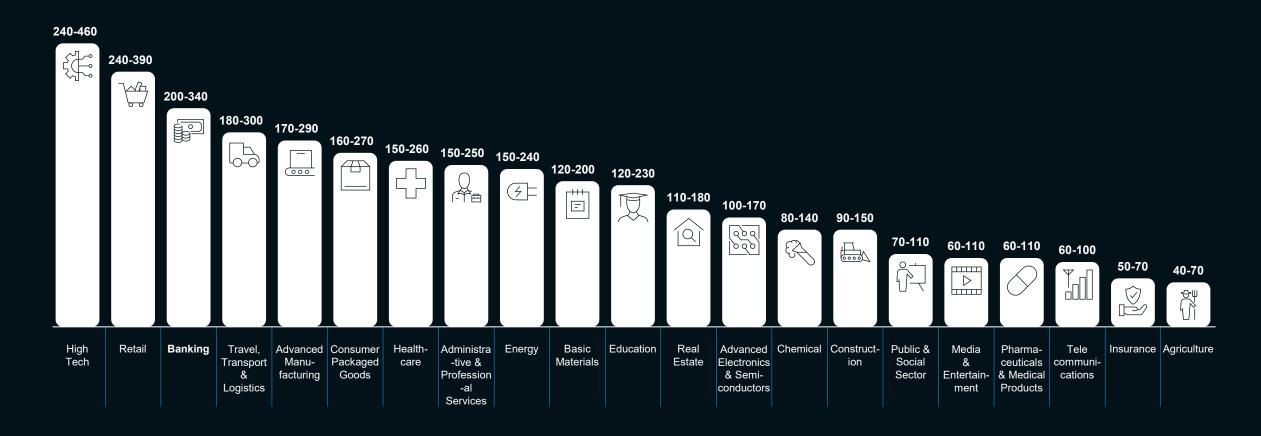
\$0.4 trillion
Product R&D

\$1.2 trillion
Software engineering



Not all sectors are impacted the same

Generative AI productivity impact by sector (Total, \$ billion)



GenAI/Agentic is already having a massive impact in our businesses – examples (1/6)

AI cuts time-to-hire by 30-50%, boosts qualified candidate pools by 55%

GenAl tools now screen resumes, analyze video interviews, and draft outreach dramatically reducing time-to-hire and cost-per-hire and making recruiters shift focus to final interviews











GenAI/Agentic is already having a massive impact in our businesses – examples (2/6)

From idea to online store in 48 Hours — AI powers Fast Fashion 2.0

Retailers integrate GenAl to co-create products with customers, generate live marketing content, and fulfill demand in real time — rewriting the rules of commerce









GenAI/Agentic is already having a massive impact in our businesses – examples (3/6)

Personalized Learning with GenAI tutors goes mainstream

Education platforms deploy GenAl to provide real-time, tailored learning

— closing achievement gaps and boosting outcomes in under-

resourced classrooms









GenAI/Agentic is already having a massive impact in our businesses – examples (4/6)

Drug Candidates Designed by AI in 18-24 **Months**

GenAl platforms craft novel molecules and accelerate preclinical design, cutting years off pipelines. AstraZeneca's partnership with Absci aims to shrink antibody discovery timelines to 18–24 months











GenAI/Agentic is already having a massive impact in our businesses – examples (5/6)

Marketers launch Thousands of personalized AI ads in seconds — engagement rises 25–60%

GenAl powers ultra-targeted ad and content campaigns, leading to 25–60% higher engagement and conversion













GenAI/Agentic is already having a massive impact in our businesses – examples (6/6)

Text-to-Video GenAI transforms filmmaking

GenAl turns anyone into a studio: creators use text prompts to generate entire scenes, soundtracks, and edits — democratizing storytelling like never before

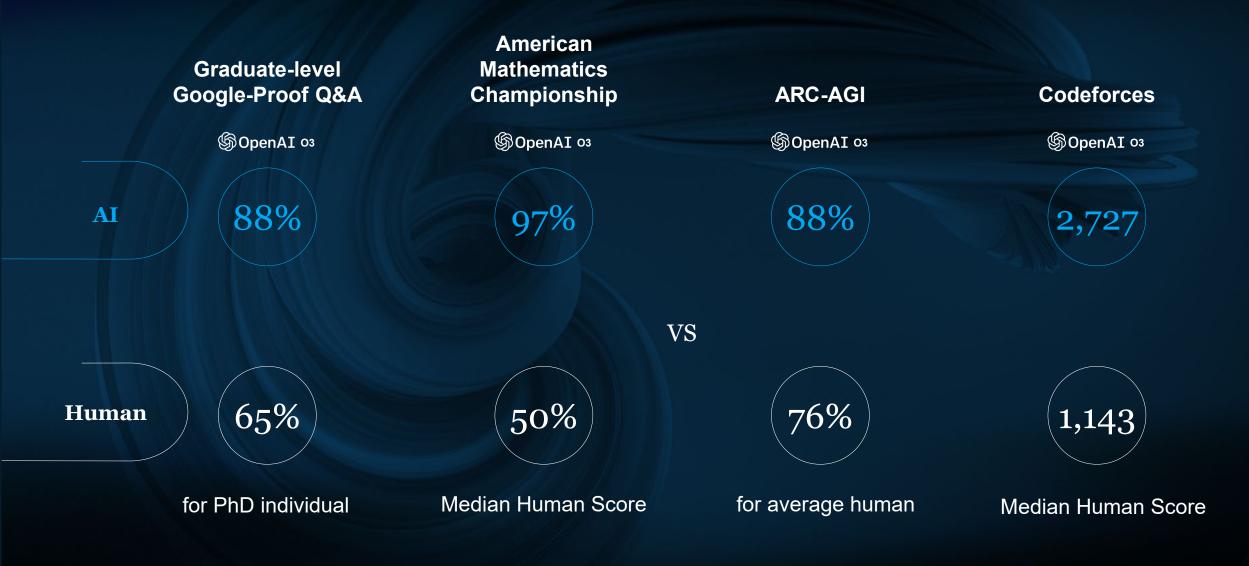




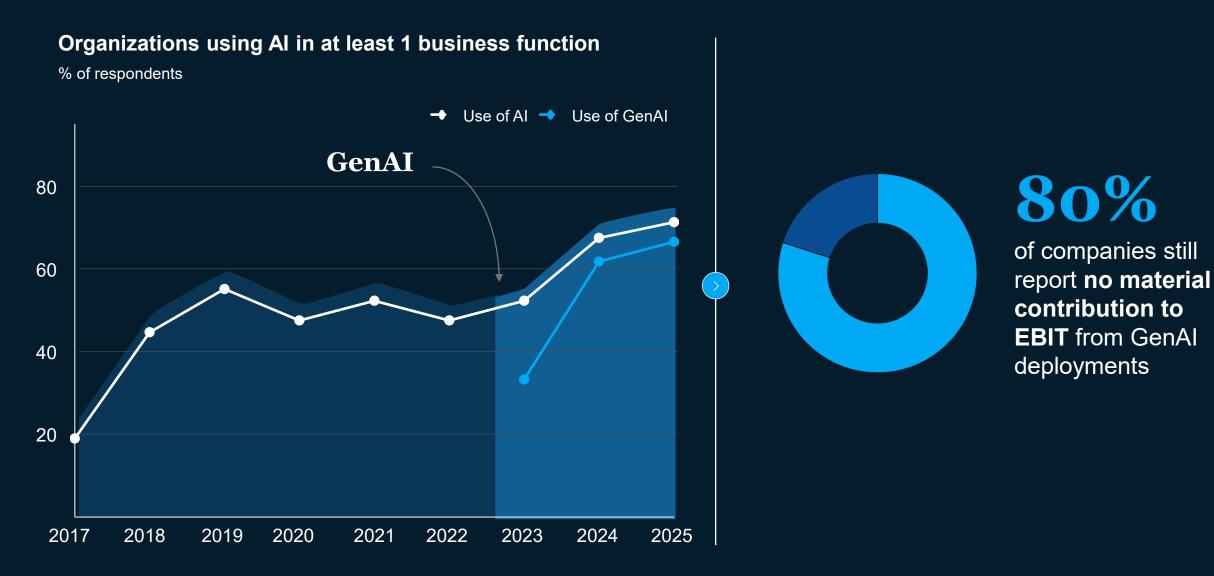
Pika 🗘 synthesia



AI is beating benchmarks and human on key tests



GenAI is everywhere... except in P&L



The limited P&L impact can be attributed to seven primary factors









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Technology

Technological limitations of 1st generation GenAl tools¹

Lack of mature, packaged solutions

AI Approach

Horizontal use cases

Fragmented initiatives

Siloed Al teams

People

Cultural apprehension

CHRO / CTIO need to team up

Data

Data accessibility and quality gaps

WHAT is NEXT?

Why should we believe next 3 years will be different?

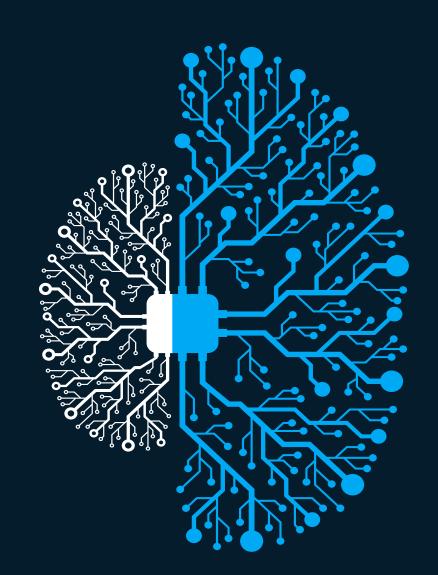
AI Agents: a future of more integration and workflow automation

GenAI

Single-task oriented







AI agents



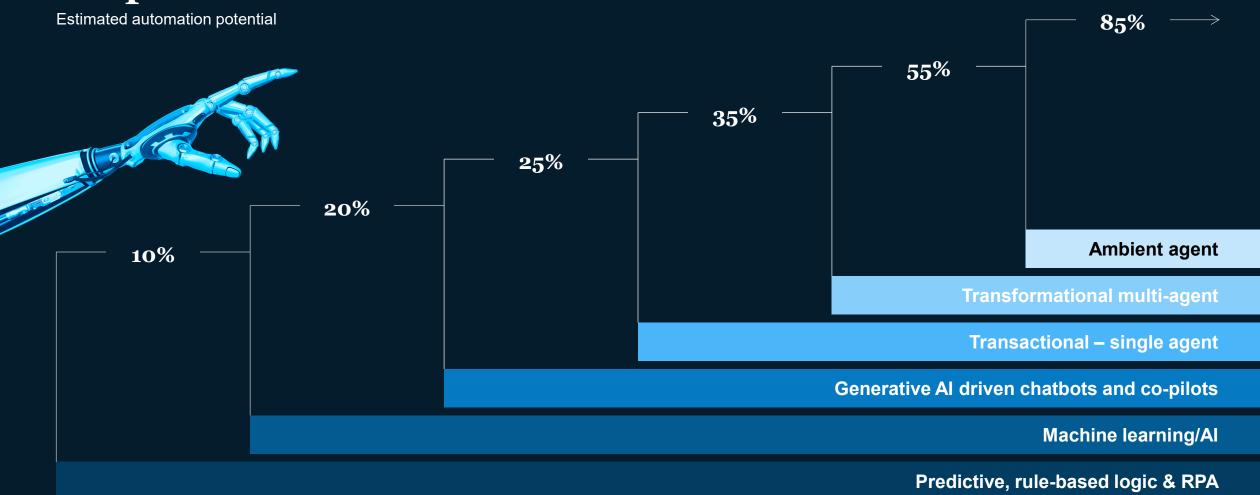
Workflow oriented



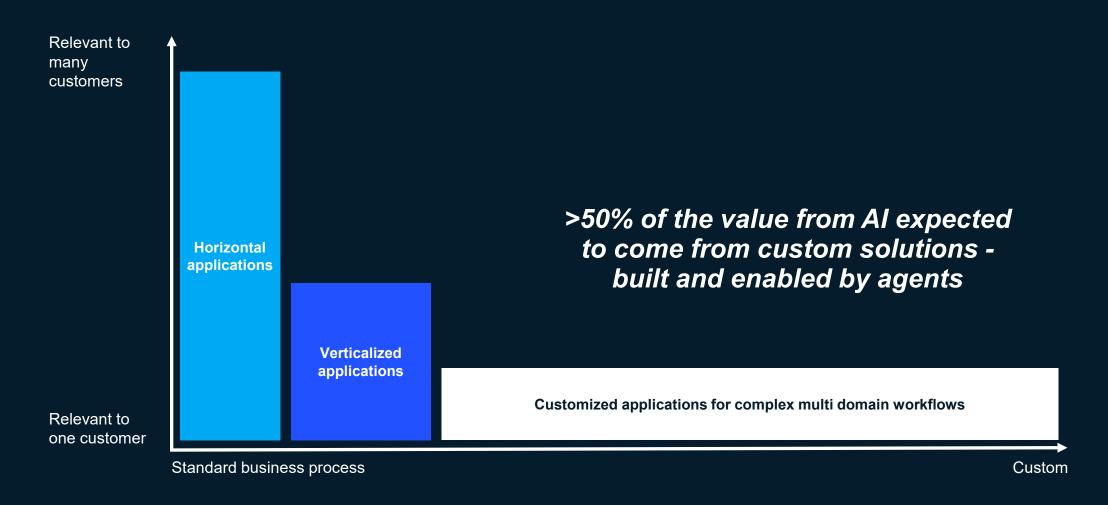


Proactive

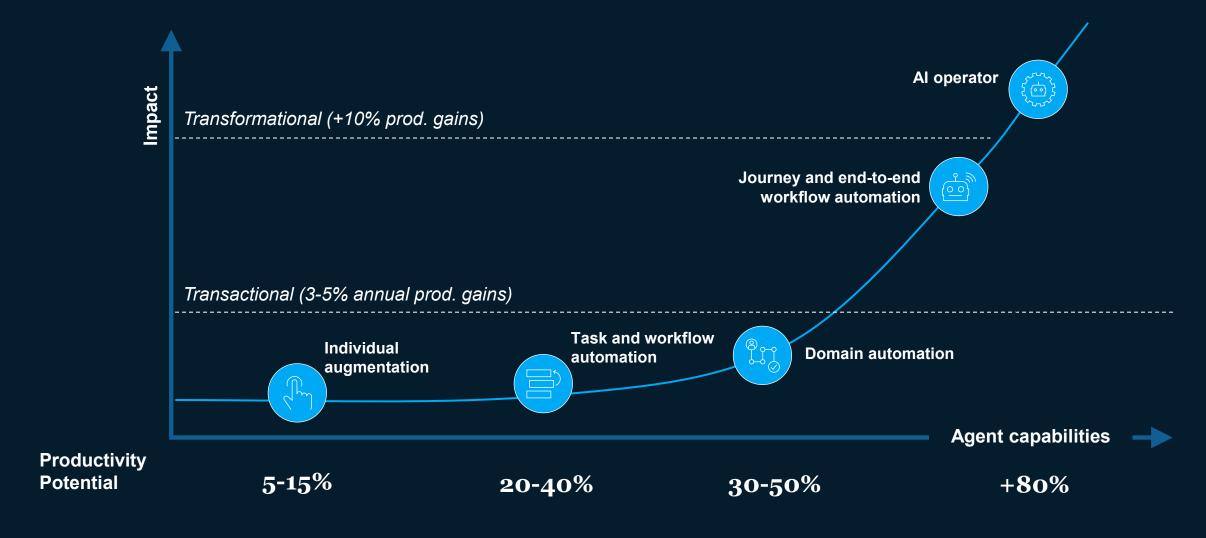
AI Agents elevate the potential of GenAI with domain expertise and capabilities to execute complex workflows in adaptive contexts



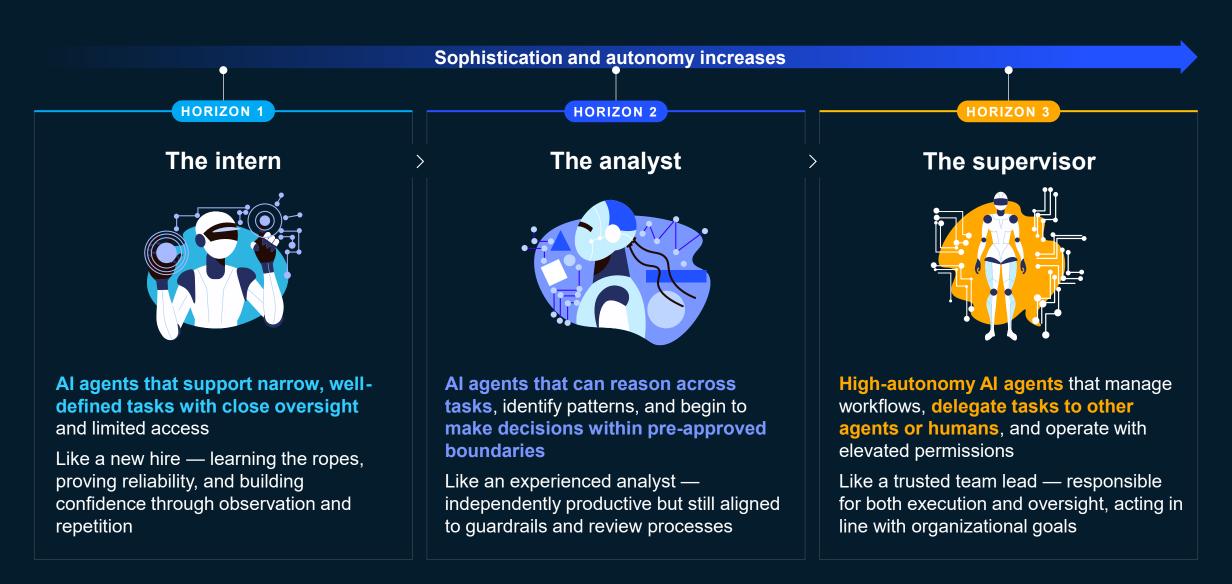
Agentic AI will attack the complex, multi-domain workflows that software can not



Impact potential will only increase as agents become more holistic



AI Agents will evolve from 'interns' to experienced 'peers' alongside Human



Challenges to be solved to scale Agentic



Hallucination and data risks



Human-agent collaboration



Custom & off-the-shelf agents blend



Autonomy control

Hallucinations are a feature, not a bug-Sam Altman, CEO Open Al



Staying agile amid fastevolving tech



Sprawl containment

"Rewiring" organizations is likely the way to scale AI

1 COO





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Hybrid workforce

Acculturate the workforce to work alongside agents

Technology

Adapt tech stack to orchestrate a high number of off-the-shelf and custom-built agents

Governance & Risk management

Deploy robust frameworks to control agent autonomy and prevent sprawl

Data

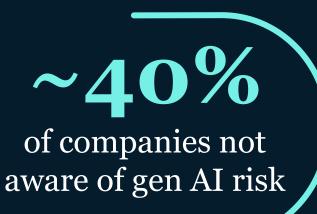
Accelerate data productization to ensure agents can access, understand, and use the data they need in real time

Radical org. and workflow redesign

Adopt new approaches to reconfigure workflows (e.g., Lean + Tech)

Risk should not be under-estimated

NON-EXHAUSTIVE





Justice and fairness



Regulatory compliance and Al governance



Interpretability



Human oversight and accountability



Performance



Environmental impact



Talent



Humanitarian and social



Market forces

Source: McKinsey State of Al 2024 McKinsey & Company

Closing thoughts

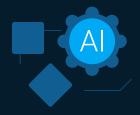




P&L likely to come more often next 3 years (Dawn of Agentic AI)



Workforce will become hybrid, changing all our jobs, organizations, processes



Not just a tech transformation (Role of the CHRO) with disruptive potential



Agent Mesh frameworks, orchestration and risk management are a critical to succeed

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Thank you?