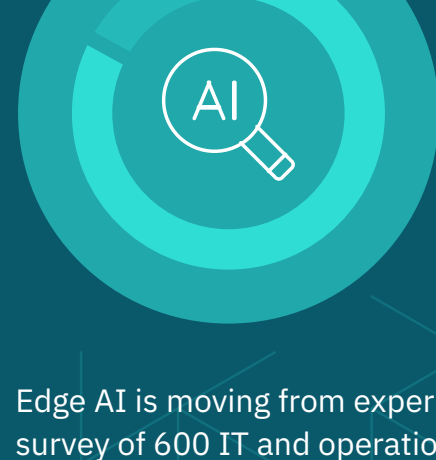


Edge AI Moves into Mainstream



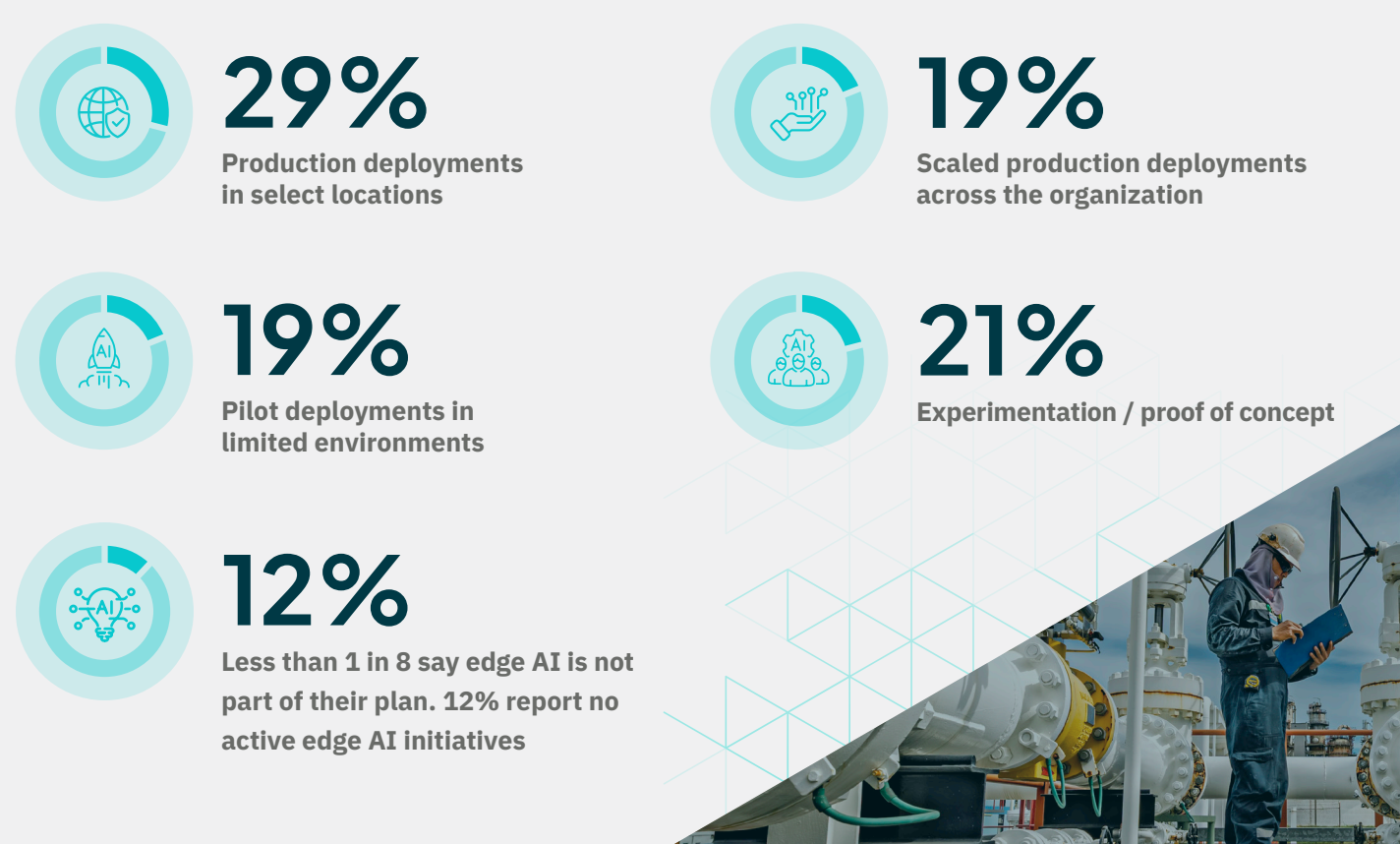
83% said edge AI is important to their organization's core strategy

Edge AI is moving from experimentation into core enterprise infrastructure. In ZEDED A's 2026 survey of 600 IT and operational/business leaders across the U.S. and Germany, 83% said edge AI is important to their organization's core strategy. As deployments expand across production use cases, organizations are also shifting funding, measuring success more rigorously, and exploring autonomous systems at the edge.

Edge AI Shifts from Pilots to Production

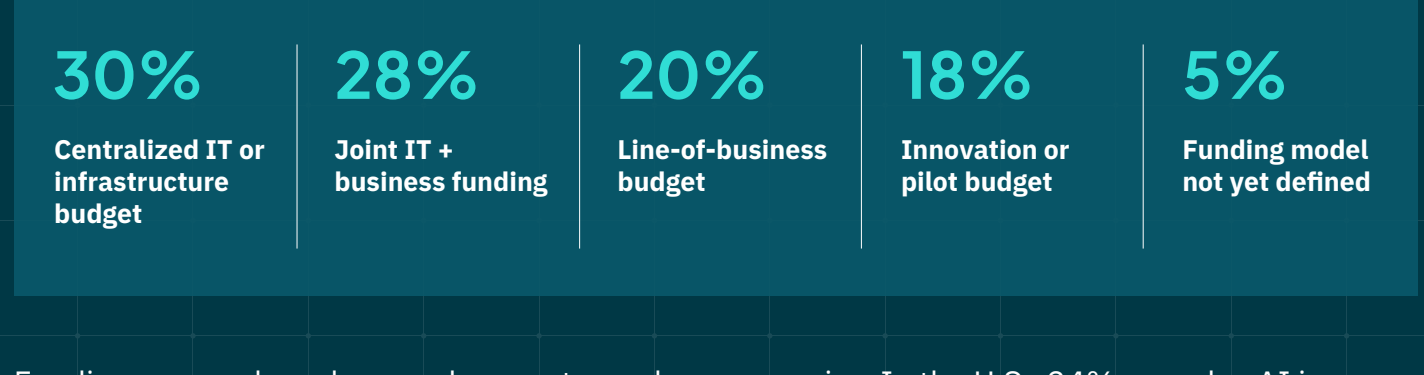
Edge AI is rapidly becoming a key part of organizational strategy. The survey shows that organizations are no longer just testing edge AI; many are already deploying it in production across multiple use cases. While some initiatives are still in pilot or planned stages, edge AI has clearly moved into operational use.

Edge AI Deployment Demonstrates Significant Activity Across Various Stages



How Edge AI Initiatives Are Funded

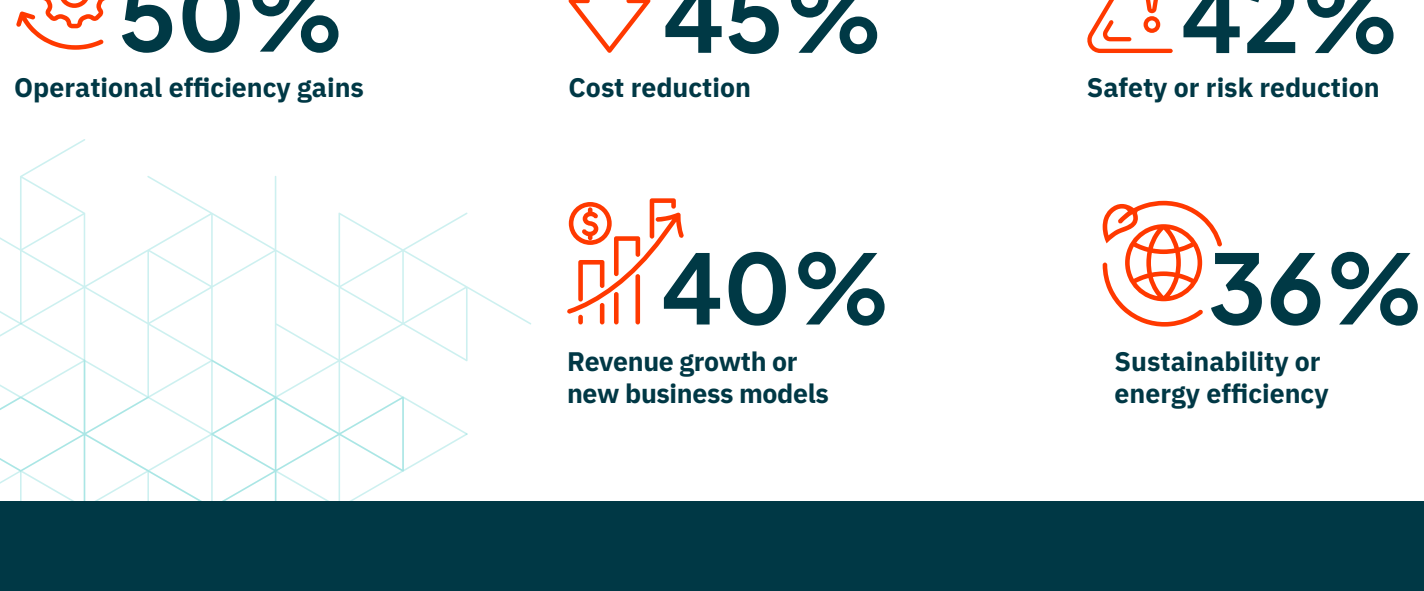
Funding for edge AI initiatives most commonly comes from core technology budgets, though shared ownership models are also common



Funding approaches also vary by country and company size. In the U.S., 34% say edge AI is primarily funded or expected to be funded through joint IT + business funding, compared with 25% in Germany. Among companies with 250-500 employees, 39% say initiatives are funded through centralized IT or infrastructure budgets, compared with just 9% at companies with 1-9 employees.

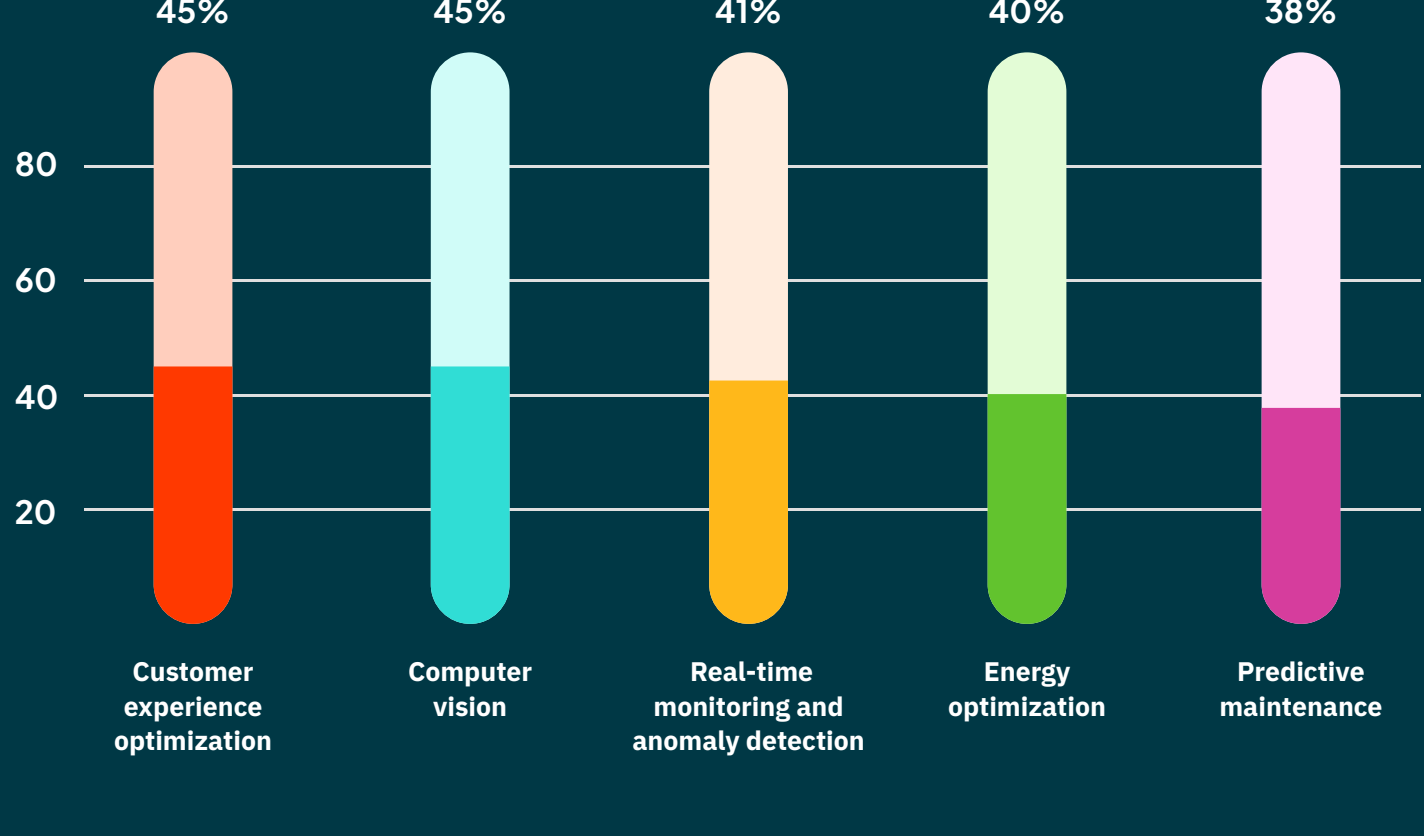
How Organizations Measure Success

Organizations are increasingly judging edge AI by business outcomes, not just technical progress



Customer Experience and Operational Use Cases Lead

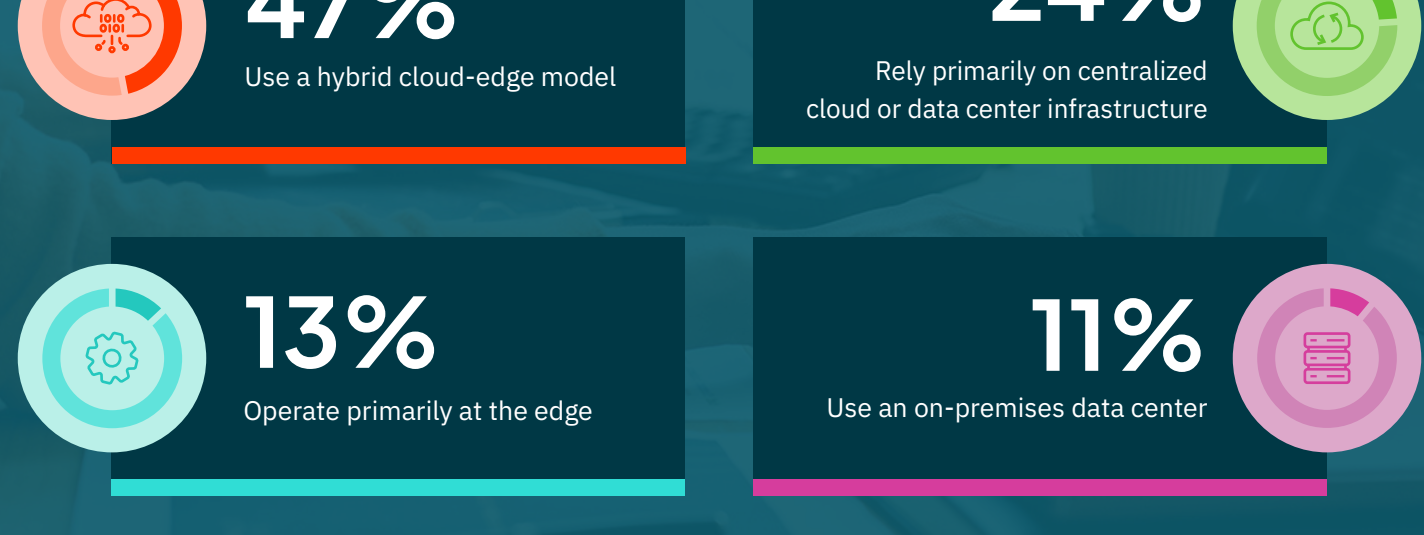
Edge AI is being deployed across both customer-facing and operational use cases



Adoption also extends to autonomous systems and robotics, video analytics, and edge data filtering and preprocessing, showing that edge AI is already supporting a broad range of real-world applications.

Hybrid Architectures Drive AI to the Edge

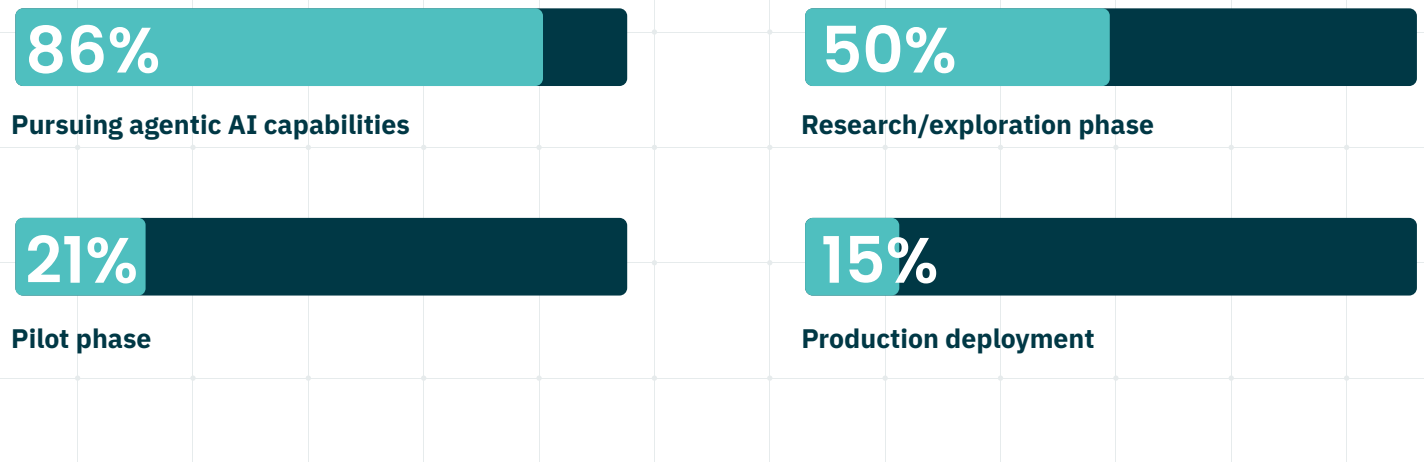
Organizations are increasingly distributing AI workloads across cloud and edge environments to support real-time operations



Inference is moving closer to where data is generated, supporting faster response times, lower latency, and more effective real-time decision-making.

Agentic AI Emerges as the Next Phase of Edge Intelligence

Enterprises are already looking beyond reactive AI toward autonomous, goal-driven systems



Security, Integration, and Complexity Remain Key Challenges

As deployments scale, organizations continue to face practical barriers



Methodology

Survey conducted by Censuswide between February 20 and February 26, 2026. Sample: 600 IT leadership and operational/business leadership respondents across the U.S. and Germany, including CIOs, CTOs, heads of IT, infrastructure, digital transformation, operations, manufacturing, supply chain, and related roles.