CXO

connect · engage · innovate

Intelligence Report

What are America's CXOs actually prioritizing, struggling with, & betting their budgets on?

Respondents :

US based CIOs, CISOs, CFOs & Sr leaders from Mid & Enterprise Organizations who attended CIOMeet, CISOMeet, and CFOMeet events From January 2026 to March 2026

connect · engage · innovate

Key Findings

AI LEADERSHIP

65%

AI & Automation their single highest enterprise systems priority

AGENTIC AI

91%

Rate back-office agentic AI as a medium or high priority over the next 18 months

AI HURDLES

73%

Cite governance, compliance & risk as their #1 barrier to scaling AI across their org

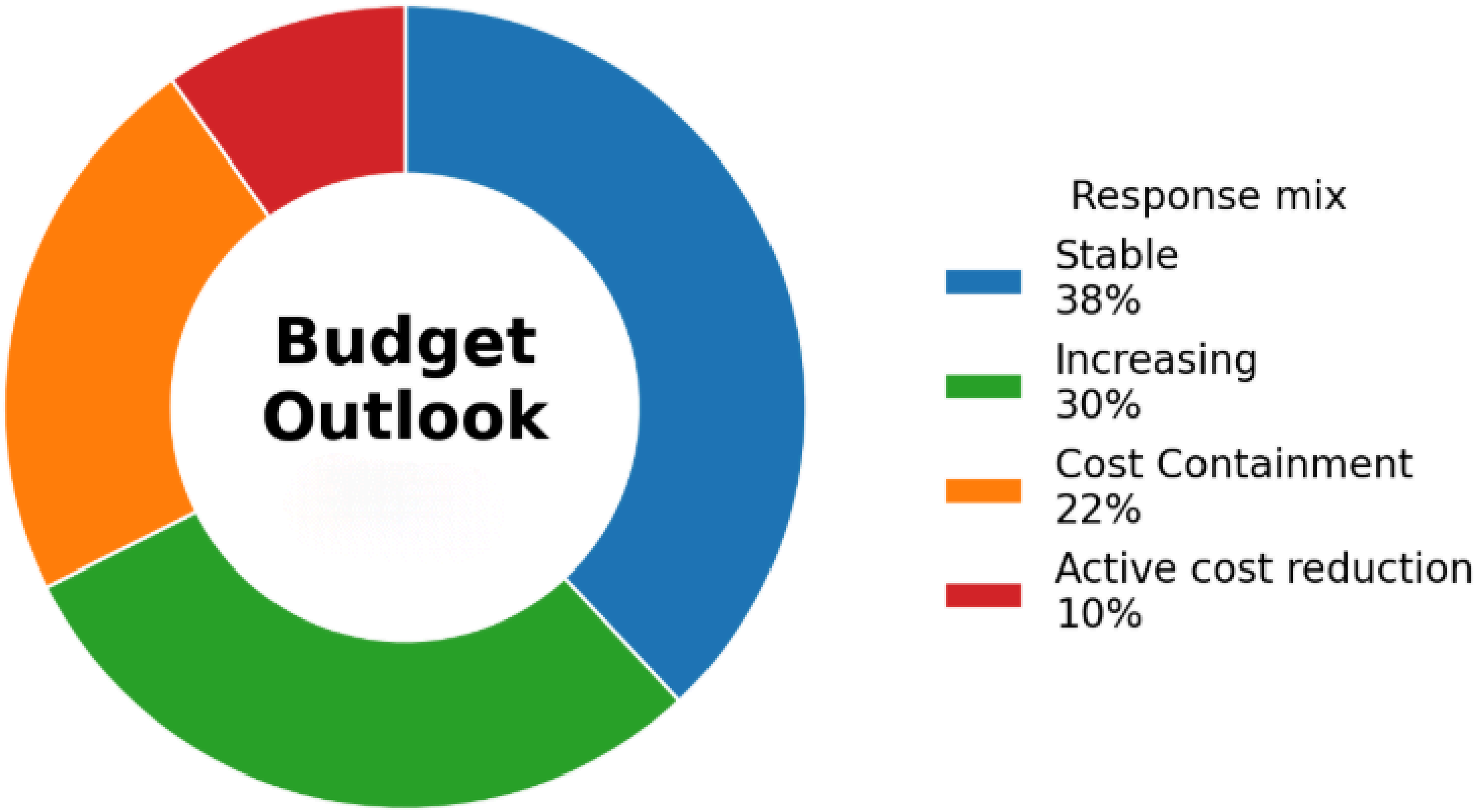
BUDGET OUTLOOK

68%

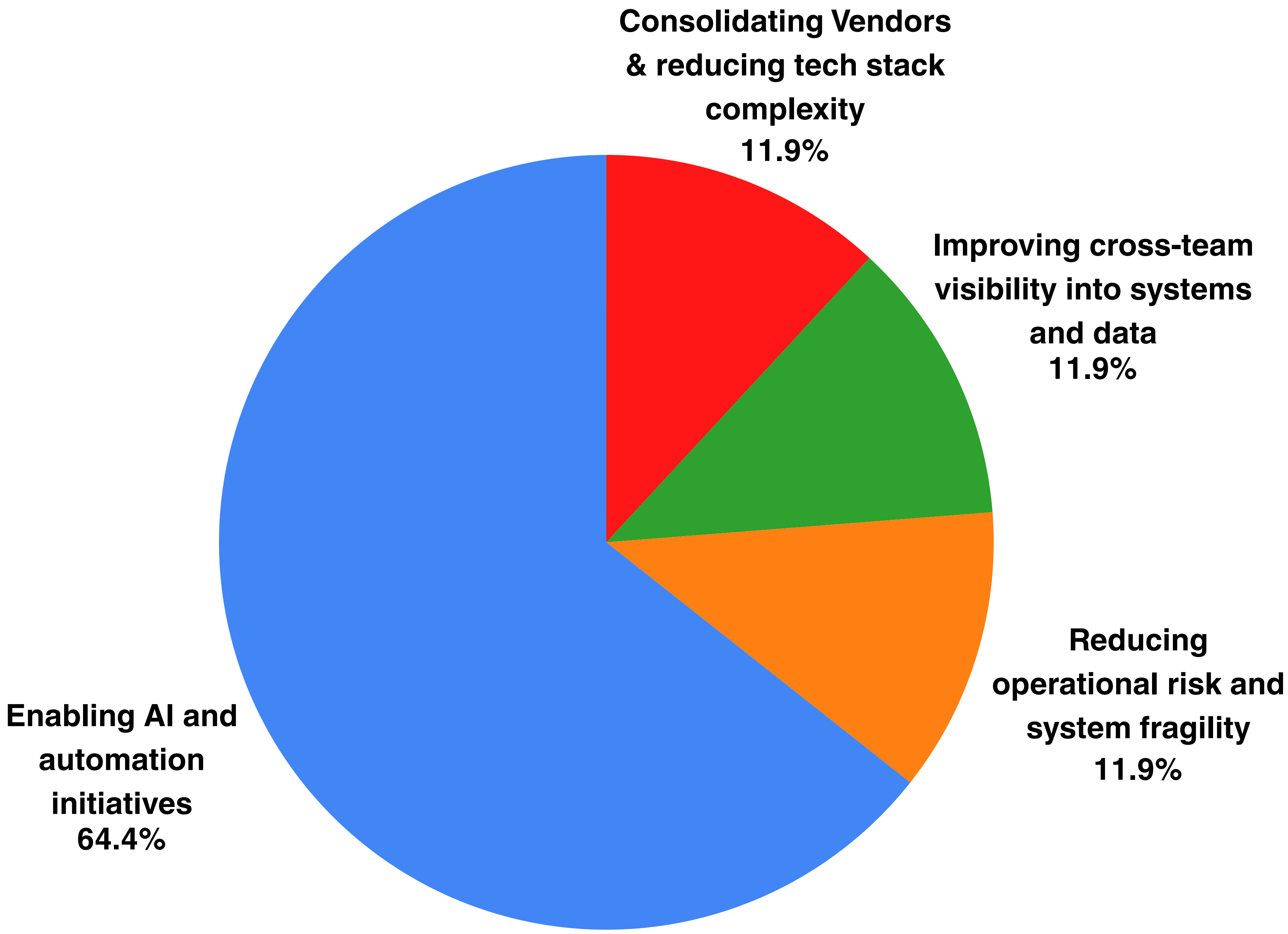
Report stable or increasing IT budgets heading into the next 12 months

Where the Money flows

68% of CIOs maintain stable or growing budgets. A signal of resilience despite macro pressures.



CIO Priorities in 12 to 24 months



connect · engage · innovate

Where CFOs are investmeting Next

100% of CFOs are investing in data, analytics, and AI over the next 12 months

60% are pairing AI investments with finance operating model and talent transformation

Only 20% are prioritizing traditional areas like forecasting, risk, or cost optimization

CXO
connect · engage · innovate

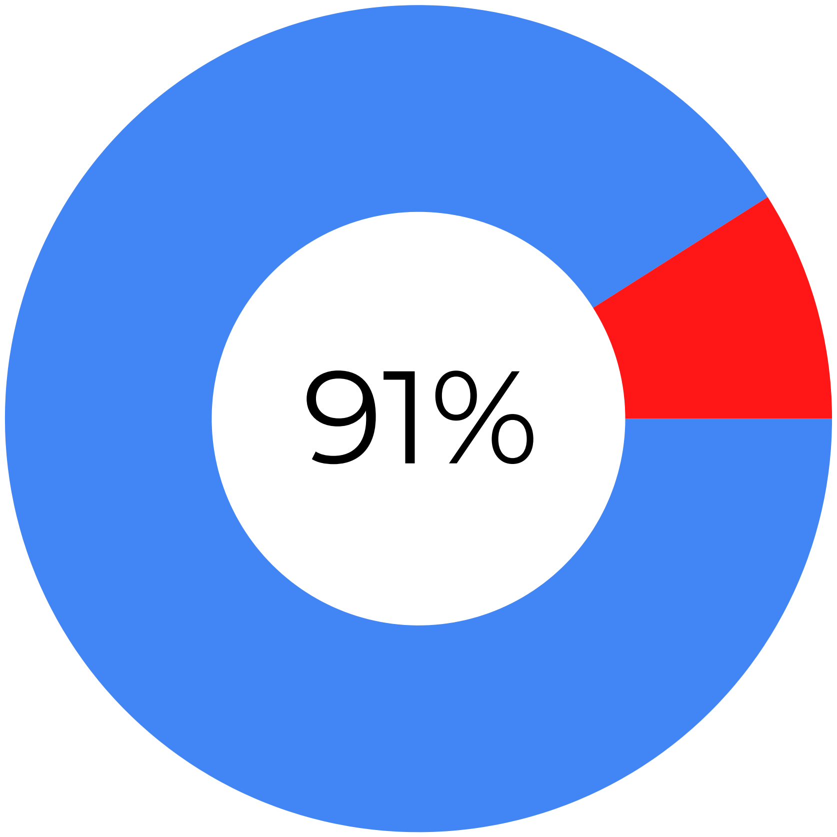
Automation is quickly becoming a core budget priority

83% of CFOs allocating at least 5% of their IT spend to automation initiatives

The data suggests most organizations are in the scaling phase, while a growing segment is going all-in to drive transformation.

CIOs are prioritizing AI, but most are still navigating the messy middle between pilots and enterprise-wide impact

Applying AI & Automation



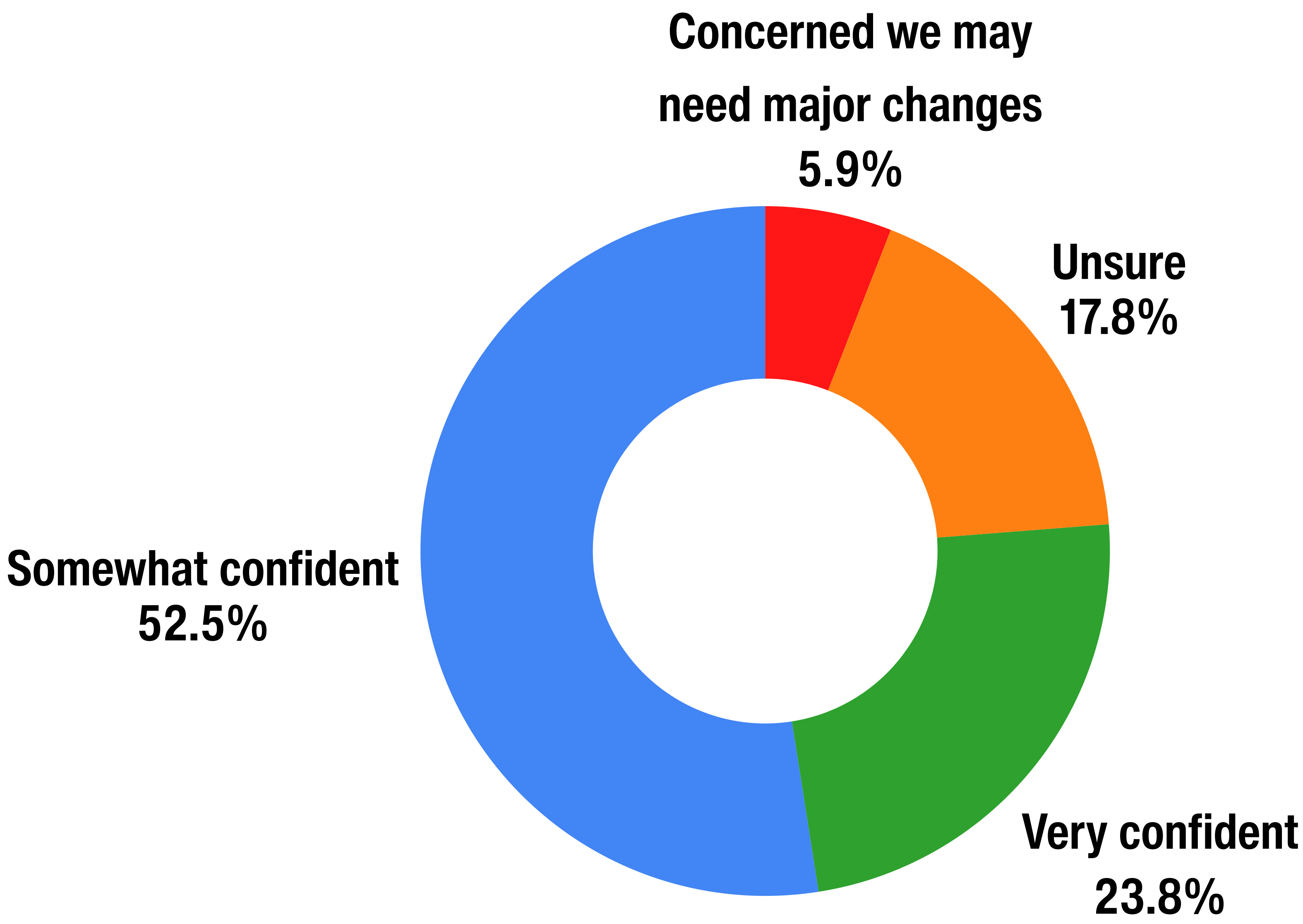
- Mid to High Priority: Adpating Agentic AI across back office (IT, HR, Finance) in next 18 months
- Low Priority

connect · engage · innovate

Current Automation Maturity Level

- 83% of organizations have NOT achieved enterprise-wide automation
- 1 in 3 organizations are still in the earliest stages of automation adoption
- Only 17% have fully integrated, enterprise-wide automation in place

Confidence that current systems architecture will support the next phase of AI



CXO

connect · engage · innovate

Biggest Barrier to scaling Automation

For years, budget was viewed as the main barrier to automation. That's changing.

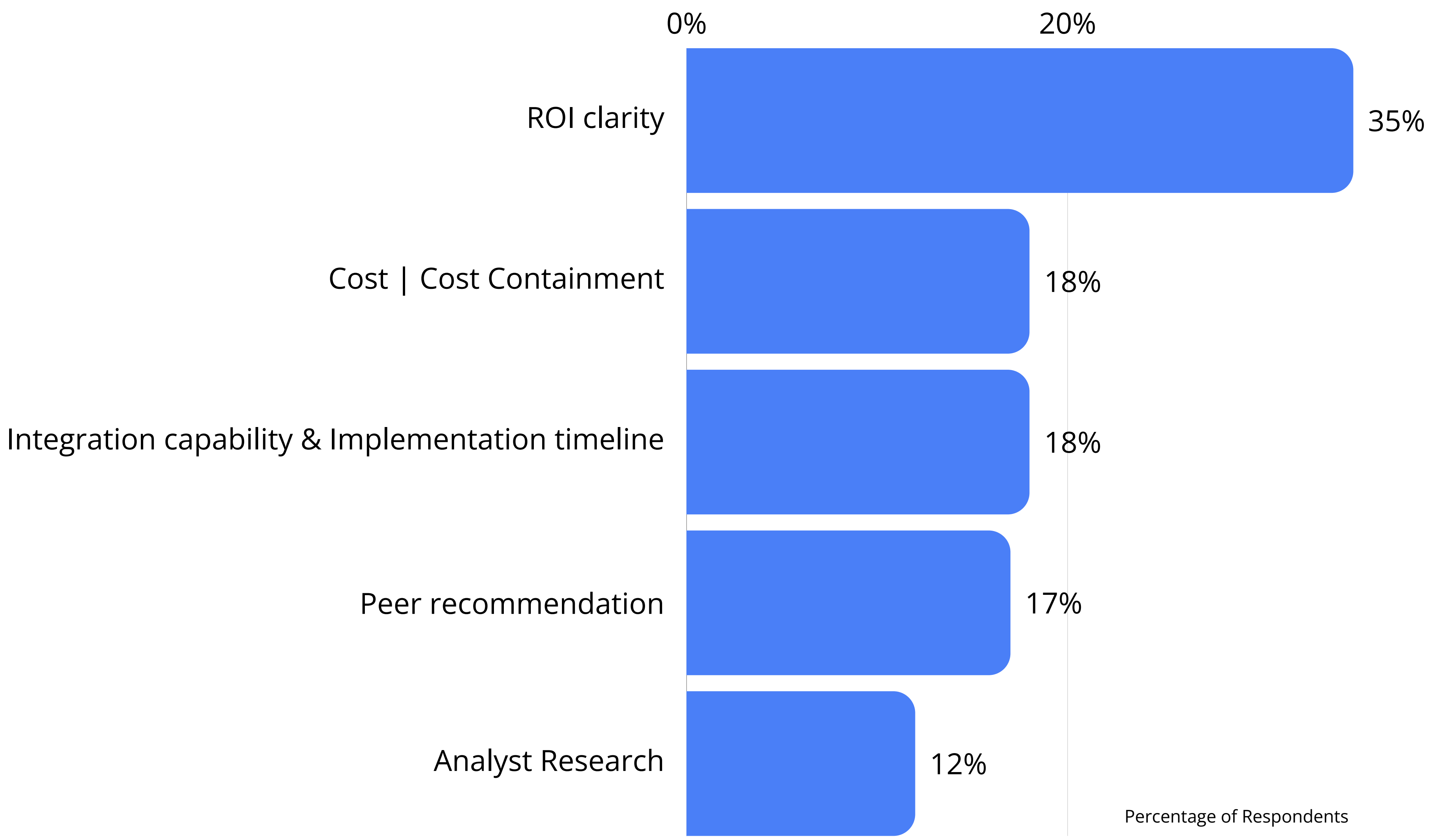
67% of organizations cite integration challenges as the biggest obstacle, while only 33% point to budget constraints.

Scaling automation isn't about buying more tools. It is about integrating & orchestrating the systems already in place effectively

73% CIOs responded governance, compliance & risk management as the #1 AI barrier

What Influences Vendor Selction?

ROI Clarity outranks - Prove your value or lose the deal



CXO
connect · engage · innovate

We will continue these conversations at the next event.
Join us

www.ciomeet.org

CIOMeet®
connect · engage · innovate

www.cisomeet.org

CISOMeet®
connect · engage · innovate

www.cfomeet.org

CFOMeet®
connect · engage · innovate

www.cfomeet.org

CTOMeet™
connect · engage · innovate

www.grcmeet.org

GRCMeet™
connect · engage · innovate

www.procurmeet.org

ProcurMeet™
connect · engage · innovate