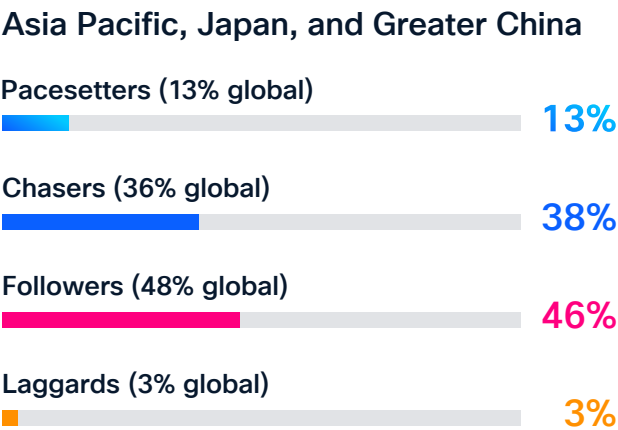


APJC

Readiness leads to value

Cisco AI Readiness Index 2025

For the third consecutive year, just 13% of organizations are fully prepared to capture AI’s value – the Pacesetters. Far from stagnation, the Pacesetters consistently outperform their peers by planning ahead, investing early, and embedding AI into the core of how they operate.



What does that mean for value? Pacesetters are 4x more likely to move AI pilots into production, and 50% more likely to report measurable value from AI.

So with 83% of organizations across APJC feeling the urgency to deliver a return on AI rise in the last 6 months, **weak foundations are a risk to value.**

Follow the Pacesetters. They know how to translate readiness into action and value

Most chase value – Pacesetters capture it

All companies across APJC vs. Pacesetters		
Have a clear process to measure AI impact	34%	95%
Have finalizes use cases and moved from pilot to production	20%	77%
Are confident they can monetize their use cases	34%	70%

AI is paying off – and Pacesetters are pulling ahead

Report profitability and revenue gains	65%	90%
Expect revenue growth within a year	55%	79%
Expect cost savings within the next 2–3 years	50%	47%

AI value goes further: smarter work, better experiences, new possibilities.

Team productivity and efficiency gains	68%	92%
Customer experience improvements	68%	90%
Creating new processes, capabilities, and launching new products and services	66%	90%

While 25% across APJC rank AI as a top budget priority, value without clear metrics and scalable infrastructure is fragile. **By building readiness first, Pacesetters turn investment into measurable success.**

AI agents can give us more if we build for more.

Ambition is high. 84% of companies plan to deploy AI agents within the next year. Pacesetters are moving even faster, 96% plan to deploy, and over half expect agents to be working alongside teams within 12 months.

But AI agents are also a stress test. Agents can expose weak foundations. Only 16% of companies say their networks are flexible, just a quarter feel able to secure them, and barely 34% have workforce plans in place. Among Pacesetters, those numbers flip – showing it takes readiness and ambition to turn agents into advantage.

The top AI agents companies plan to deploy in the market:

Currently deployed

42% Autonomous Software Engineering Agents

Planned to deploy in the next 12 months

46% Personal and Professional Productivity Agents

Planned to deploy in the next 2-3 years

31% Industrial and Robotics Control Agents

AI infrastructure debt is the real risk to value.

AI Infrastructure Debt is the technical debt of the AI era – the shortcuts, gaps, and hidden fixes that quietly build up as companies rush to deploy AI. Left unchecked, it becomes the silent bottleneck to value: slowing innovation, inflating costs, and eroding returns. The longer it’s ignored, the harder – and costlier – it can be to fix.

Some early warning signs are already visible:

Rising costs



54% rank high compute costs as a challenge.

75% concerned about AI salaries outpacing budgets.

Recurring delays



58% say AI deployments are limited in scale and speed.

60% held back by slow decision-making and lack of agility.

Emerging threats



28% are fully equipped to detect or prevent AI-specific threats.

39% understand the new cyber risks AI brings.

Resource strain



Only 26% have robust GPUs.

Only 22% have optimal latency and throughput for AI workloads.

Aging infrastructure



32% admit their infrastructure is dated and needs an upgrade.

62% struggle to centralize their in-house data for easy AI access.

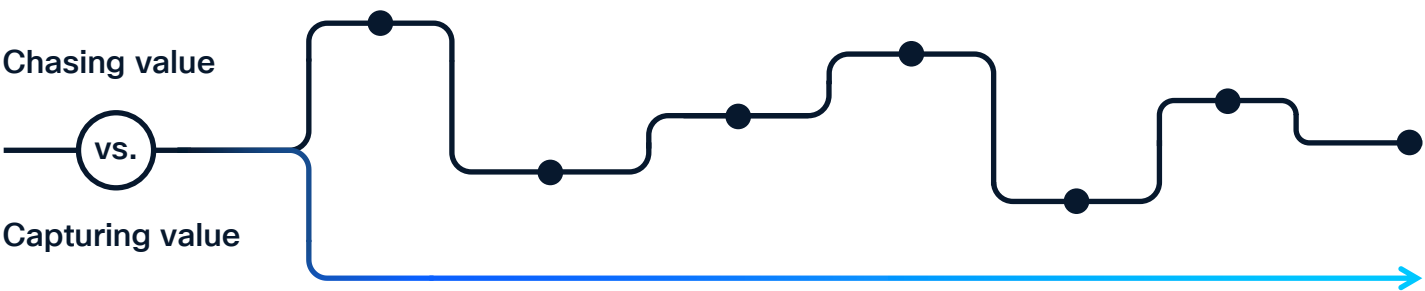
Mounting workload



42% expect workloads to rise by 30%+ within a year.

30% say their IT infrastructure can't scale for rising workloads.

Readiness requires action. Readiness drives value.



Chasing value

vs.

Capturing value

Follow the Pacesetters.

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