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Building the future:

Shaping Singapore's AI Era

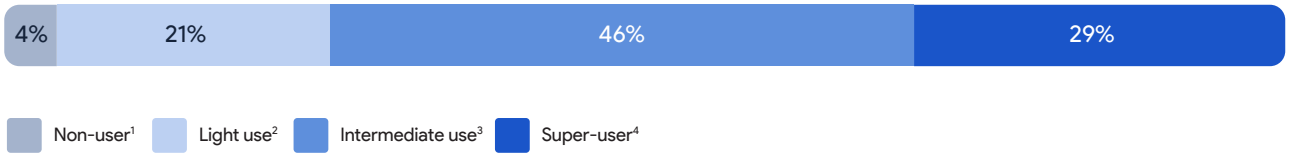
AI is moving from ambition to everyday impact — and the benefits grow with how people use it.

Singapore has one of the highest levels of AI adoption globally. Equally as important as frequency of usage is the **sophistication** of how AI is being used — with the most confident users seeing the biggest benefits.

AI use, by sophistication

Behavioural segmentation · share of all adults · Singapore, March 2026

29% of Singaporeans are **Super Users** — vs 12% in the US



4.3 hrs/wk

Time saved at work by the average Super User — vs **2.1 hrs** for light users. The most common time saving for Super Users is **1–2 hrs a day**.

5x

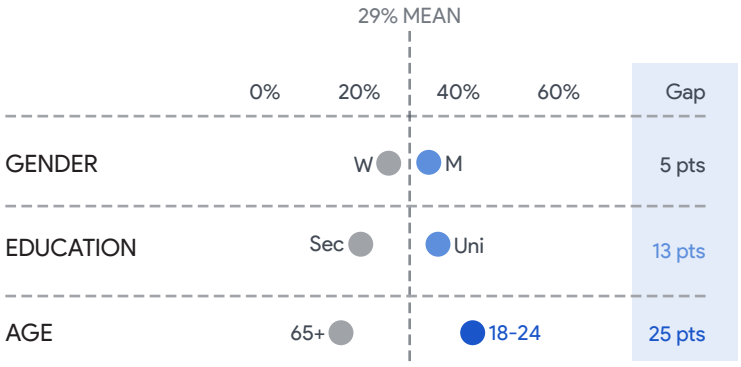
More personal AI use cases **adopted regularly by Super Users vs light users** (11 vs 2, of 26 potential use cases asked).

+80 pts

Super User – non-user gap in **net optimism** about career impact of AI. No other variable predicts AI optimism so strongly.

Who is a super user?

% of each subgroup classified as Super · Singapore mean = 29% (dashed line)



Age is the largest individual divide (+25pt spread, 18–24s vs 65+), **but education (+13pt)** matters more than gender. Confidence tracks the same fault line: **23%** of workers still don't feel confident using AI — rising to **41%** among those 55+ even as **29%** of all workers say AI skills will be essential within 5 years.

Sophistication beats intensity

"Knowing what techniques to use matters about **2× as much** as how often you use AI."

Sophistication beats intensity. A high-sophistication / low intensity user out-performs a high-intensity / low- sophistication one on every measured benefit. Direct training implication: teaching specific advanced practices is far more effective than encouraging more frequent use.

SME catch-up

S$20bn

If SMEs adopted AI at the same rate as large enterprises, they could unlock **S$20 bn (US$16 bn)** in additional value by 2035 — equivalent to adding **110,000 extra workers** to the economy.

SME adoption today: 14.5% · Non-SMES: 62.5% (IMDA, SGDE 2025)

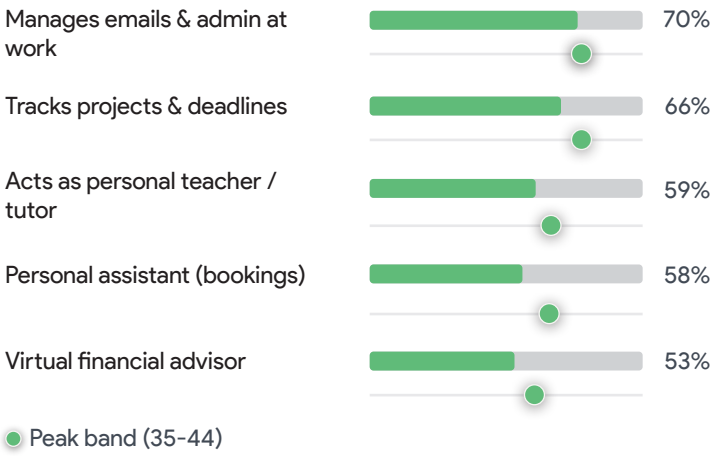
1 Non-user. Uses AI less than monthly. Often hasn't started at all.
2 Light. Uses AI, but the repertoire is essentially "ask a question, get an answer". Has likely uploaded a file once (~61%) and may have brainstormed (~19%), but doesn't iterate, doesn't save prompts, and doesn't compare tools.
3 Intermediate. A genuine step-change. Roughly half the segment is now brainstorming, including examples in prompts, comparing outputs across tools, and asking AI to critique itself. The mode is still single-purpose use, but the toolkit is much broader.
4 Super. Looks qualitatively different. ~80%+ are meta-prompting, including examples, comparing tools and self-critiquing outputs. Around two-thirds delegate whole tasks, automate daily routines, and have paid access. Their relationship with AI is a working partnership, not a search-engine substitute.

Using agentic AI to address Singapore's most pressing challenges.

In 2026, agentic AI is helping support across an increasing range of occupations. That won't just help boost the economy — it will also support Singapore in meeting challenges from teacher workload to the pressures of an ageing population.

"I'd be interested in trying an AI agent that..."

Total adults · with each age band's % shown as a dot · March 2026



Over 50% of Singaporeans express interest in trying an AI agent. **35–44-year-olds — the career-and-family band — are the peak adopters across every role;** the 65+ tail drops most for personal-life agents but stays high (65%) on the work assistant.

Reducing regulatory friction

A productivity dividend worth **S$1.5 bn a year** — without firms hiring a single new compliance officer.

Agentic AI tools integrated into business workflows could reduce compliance processing times in Singapore by **30%**, automating governed compliance workflows so firms can meet rising standards with less operational drag.

Saving teachers time

5hrs/wk

per teacher freed up via AI lesson planning & personalised feedback.

A healthier, longer-lived Singapore

+1.3yrs

Healthy life expectancy

+1.3 extra healthy years for Singaporeans who opt-in to share data with personalised AI health agents — closing 12% of the healthy-life gap and saving an estimated S$320m/yr in care costs. **That's more than twice the healthy-life gain that even blockbuster preventive drugs like statins or GLP-1s are estimated to deliver.**

Earlier detection

25% of chronic disease cases (diabetes, cardiovascular disease) shifted to earlier-stage detection via AI risk stratification — **saving S$240m/yr downstream.**

Ageing workforce

>25% of Singapore's projected ageing-population labour shortfall **could be offset by AI-driven productivity gains.**

Elder care at home

68% of families would feel more secure if elderly relatives used AI-powered devices that **detect falls or irregularities and alert caregivers instantly.**

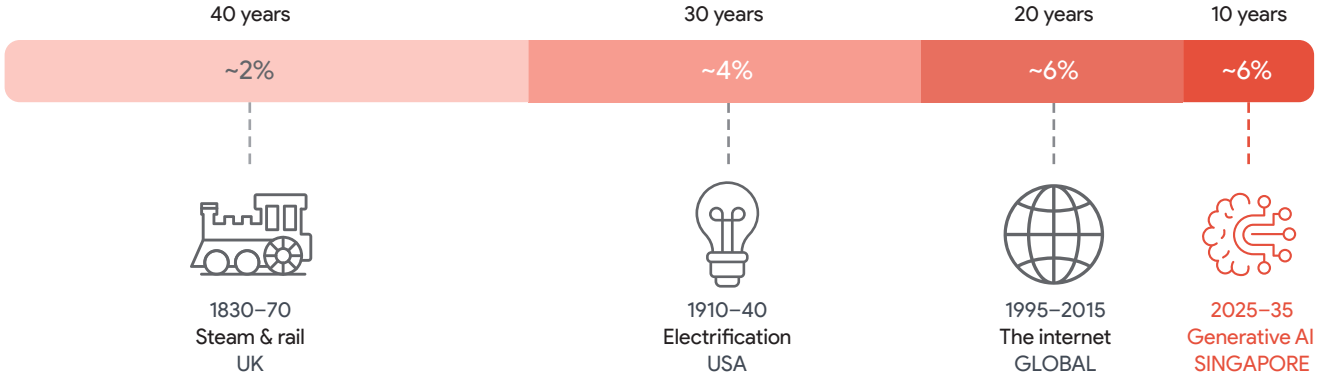
AI won't just save time — it will accelerate the way Singapore innovates.

If all AI did was save time, it would still be one of the most significant inventions in decades. But beyond this, it will also help accelerate wider innovation: speeding up the work of scientists, researchers, entrepreneurs, and start-ups, which could create an additional **S$3.3 billion** in economic value through faster R&D by 2040.

Decade-scale GDP uplift - % of contemporaneous GDP

AI's plausible decade-scale impact rivals the largest general-purpose technologies of the last two centuries.

Impact per specified time period on UK, US, Global and SG GDP respectively.



AI will accelerate innovation in multiple ways

01

Boosting scientists & researchers

Hypotheses ranked & tested

2x

AI helps Singapore's R&D base generate and rank **twice as many plausible ideas each year** —increasing the chance of breakthrough discovery in materials, biotech and engineering.

02

Accelerating drug discovery

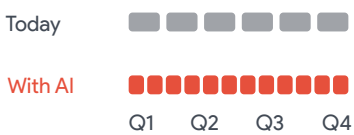
Compression of dev cycle

6.1 yrs

Faster development of targeted treatments — a **~45%** compression of the typical drug-development cycle. Globally, **360 new AI-discovered treatments** could reach market by 2040, saving up to **590k lives a year**.

03

Compressing the build cycle



Start-up feature velocity

2x

AI-assisted product development could let Singaporean start-ups release new features twice as fast as today — and deliver **9.5× ROI** on AI investment in professional & business services, among the highest in APAC.

Source: Survey of 1,023 online adults based in Singapore in March 2026. All results are weighted using Iterative Proportional Fitting, or 'Raking'. The results are weighted by interlocking age and gender, education level, and region to nationally representative proportions. A full modelling methodology can be accessed here and our disclaimer here.