



DEWALT®

APRIL 2026

AI REPORT

DEWALT® AI IN THE TRADES

GLOBAL RESEARCH ON
AI ADOPTION ACROSS
CONSTRUCTION

RESEARCH OVERVIEW



DEWALT® surveyed construction professionals across six countries to better understand how the industry is thinking about AI - where it's likely to appear first on jobsites, the value it could deliver for jobsite productivity, workflow efficiency, and construction operations as adoption grows, and what needs to be in place for it to scale responsibly.

The survey also examines how workers are currently learning about AI and which types of training they see as most helpful for an AI-enabled jobsite.



**CONSTRUCTION
PROFESSIONALS**
N = 3,409

Skilled tradespeople and decision-makers across residential, commercial, and industrial construction who are familiar with AI use in construction



**COUNTRIES
SURVEYED**

Brazil
Canada
France
Mexico
United Kingdom
United States

KEY FINDINGS

Construction professionals see AI as becoming a standard industry capability and a practical tool for supporting how work gets done. Optimism about its role in the field is high, but wider adoption will depend on trust, reliability, and oversight. Currently, adoption in construction remains uneven, with most professionals testing AI rather than using it daily, primarily in operations, planning, and estimating. Training will be key to scaling safe, consistent use in the field.

1

AI IS THE NEXT STANDARD

Construction professionals expect AI to move from novel to normal quickly, with a clear belief that AI will soon become a baseline capability.

2

AI OPTIMISM WITH GUARDRAILS

Sentiment towards AI is overwhelmingly positive and emotionally confident, but that confidence is not blind. A meaningful share still have concerns, especially around reliability, security, training, and proof of value.

3

THE AI ADOPTION GAP

Early adoption is pragmatic. Most people are researching, piloting, or testing AI and far fewer say it's part of their day-to-day work. Future intent suggests the next phase is conversion - from tests to full implementation.

4

WORKSITE REALITY USE-CASES

The strongest use-case momentum is practical: AI is being used in planning and design, site operations and monitoring, estimating and procurement, and compliance where incremental efficiency or risk-reduction gains can be measured.

5

TRAINING AS THE UNLOCK

AI is expected to deliver a portfolio of benefits, but training is the clearest lever for wide-scale adoption, building the confidence and skills needed so AI becomes usable, safe, and consistent across roles.

1

AI IS BECOMING STANDARD PRACTICE IN CONSTRUCTION

EXPLORING AI TRANSFORMATION IN CONSTRUCTION

AI in construction is often discussed in extremes: either the industry is seen as largely insulated from AI because the work is so hands-on, or AI is viewed as something that could significantly change how the industry operates. The findings suggest a more practical middle ground. AI is clearly entering construction, and momentum is building, but it is not primarily being understood as a force of disruption. Instead, construction professionals largely describe AI as a tool that supports how work gets done: strengthening planning, coordination, monitoring, and documentation.

That shift is already changing the conversation. AI can't be ignored, and the question is no longer whether it belongs on jobsites, it's how it can be implemented responsibly and effectively. What comes next depends on clear conditions for scale: trust in outputs, safeguards for appropriate use, and training that makes AI job-ready in real-world, high-stakes environments.



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90%

OF CONSTRUCTION PROFESSIONALS BELIEVE AI WILL BE INDISPENSABLE ON JOBSITES WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

AI ADOPTION IN CONSTRUCTION IS ACCELERATING

CONSTRUCTION PROFESSIONALS SEE AI MOVING RAPIDLY FROM
EXPERIMENTATION TO EVERYDAY USE



Across the global construction workforce, AI is increasingly viewed as a practical tool rather than an emerging technology. Most professionals say adoption will accelerate in the near term. Many expect the industry to reach a tipping point over the next several years, shifting from testing and experimentation to more consistent, everyday use across jobsites and teams.

Study results suggest that the conversation is shifting from **whether** AI belongs in construction to **how** it can be implemented responsibly and effectively. As adoption grows, the focus will likely move toward training, integration with existing workflows, and ensuring that AI tools support safety, quality, and productivity on the jobsite.

AI TOPS THE LIST OF CONSTRUCTION'S NEXT BIG SHIFTS

AI IS HERE, AND MOMENTUM IS BUILDING

When professionals look ahead at what will transform construction, AI rises above other technology shifts. This matters because perceived importance is one of the strongest signals of where attention, experimentation, and investment will concentrate next.

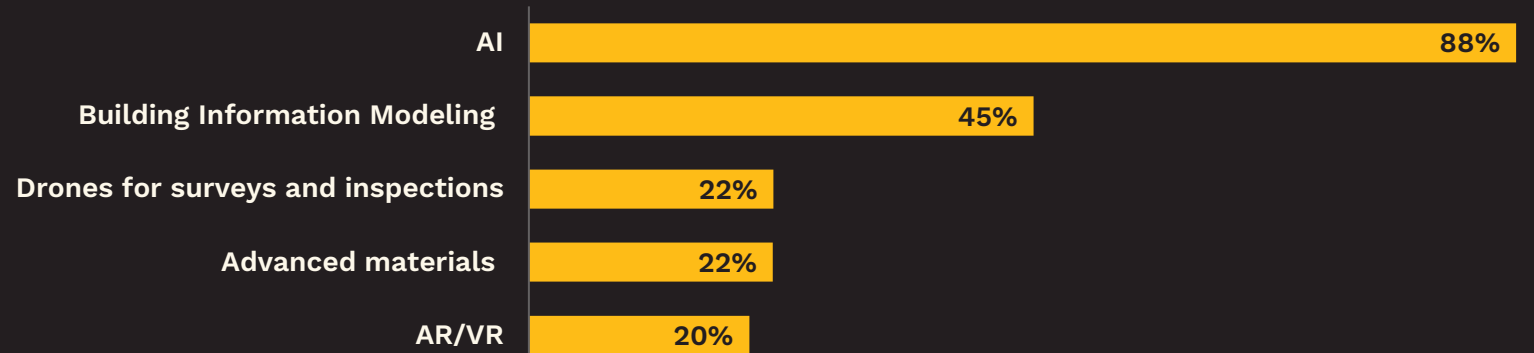


88%

EXPECT AI TO BE THE MOST TRANSFORMATIVE

TOP 5

EXPECTED TRANSFORMATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES IN CONSTRUCTION





2

AI OPTIMISM WITH GUARDRAILS

**PROFESSIONALS WELCOME AI IN
CONSTRUCTION, BUT WANT OVERSIGHT**

Construction professionals are broadly positive about AI's role in the construction industry. At the same time, enthusiasm is paired with clear expectations and practical caution. Many construction professionals say adoption will depend on clear guardrails, particularly around reliability, cost, data quality, and maintaining human oversight in decision-making.

This balance reflects the realities of a high-stakes industry where safety, accuracy, and accountability are critical. As AI adoption grows, the pace of implementation will likely depend not just on innovation, but on how effectively these concerns are addressed in real jobsite conditions.

91%

**FEEL POSITIVE ABOUT AI
USE IN CONSTRUCTION**

A POSITIVE BASELINE FOR AI

PROFESSIONALS FEEL OPTIMISTIC ABOUT AI'S ROLE IN CONSTRUCTION

AI enters construction with a strong positive baseline. Over 9 in 10 professionals say they feel positive about AI use in the industry, reinforcing that interest is widespread and momentum is real, and the emotional profile is anchored in confidence and excitement, well ahead of uncertainty.

This positive baseline creates runway for adoption, but the next phase will be shaped by whether AI can earn trust in real-world conditions.

AI SENTIMENT

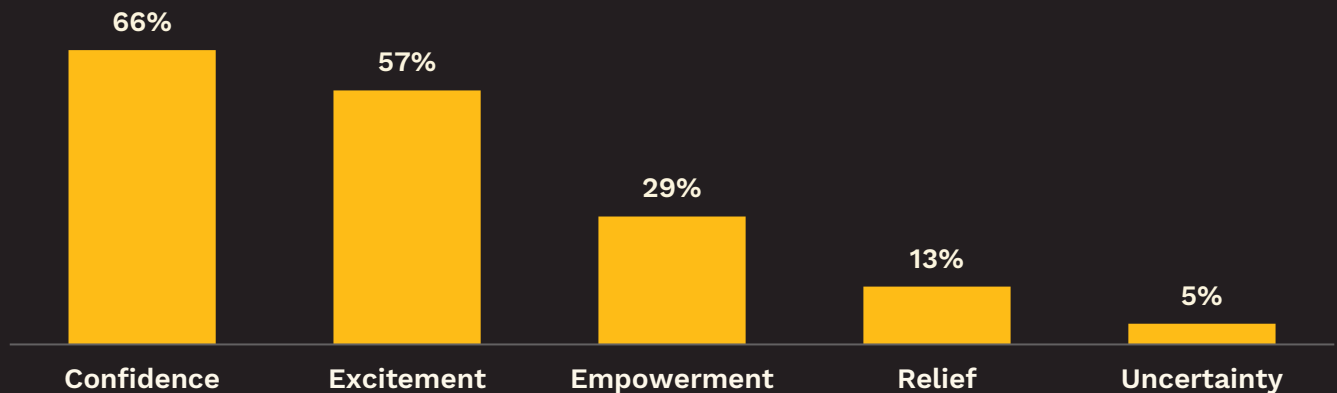
OVER
9 IN 10

FEEL POSITIVE ABOUT AI
USE IN CONSTRUCTION



Top-2 box: "Very positive" / "Somewhat positive" (91%)

TOP EMOTIONS TOWARDS AI

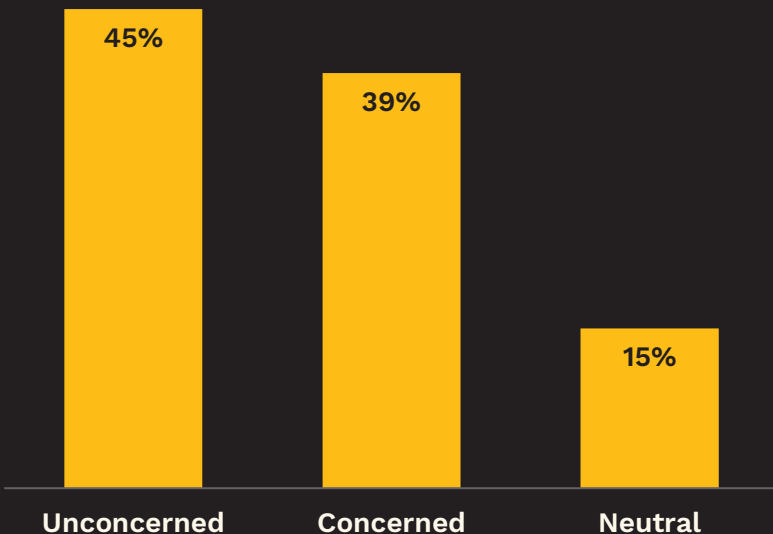


Not shown ($\leq 3\%$ each): skeptical (3%), worried (3%), overwhelmed (3%), indifference (2%), distrust (2%)

CONDITIONS FOR RESPONSIBLE AI ADOPTION

Survey results show that wide adoption will depend on addressing a set of practical considerations. Across the study, 39% of respondents say they have concerns about adopting AI in their work, while nearly half say they are not currently concerned. Among those with reservations, the issues raised are largely operational: reliability of AI outputs, training and skill gaps, the complexity of implementation, and questions about return on investment. In an industry where safety, precision, and accountability are critical, these factors shape how quickly new technologies move from experimentation to everyday use on the jobsite.

CONCERN WITH ADOPTING AI AT WORK



TOP CONCERNS BY ROLE

TRADESPEOPLE

23%

LACK OF TRAINING & SKILL GAPS

23%

ACCURACY OR TRUST ISSUES / RELIABILITY CONCERNS

20%

PRIVACY, DATA SECURITY, & INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RISKS

DECISION-MAKERS

24%

ACCURACY OR TRUST ISSUES / RELIABILITY CONCERNS

22%

COMPLEXITY OF IMPLEMENTATION & INTEGRATION

21%

UNCLEAR RETURN ON INVESTMENT (ROI)

3

THE AI ADOPTION GAP IN CONSTRUCTION

EXPLORING AI IMPLEMENTATION & USAGE

The industry's mindset is ahead of its habits. Many professionals are already exploring and testing AI tools, but far fewer say AI has become routine in day-to-day work.

This is a normal adoption moment: belief is high, experimentation is active, and the next phase is conversion, moving from pilots and testing into consistent implementation. The pace of that shift will define what "AI in the trades" looks like over the next year.

ONLY

25%

FEEL **VERY PREPARED**
TO WORK WITH AI IN
THEIR ROLE

BELIEF IS HIGH, HABIT IS NOT

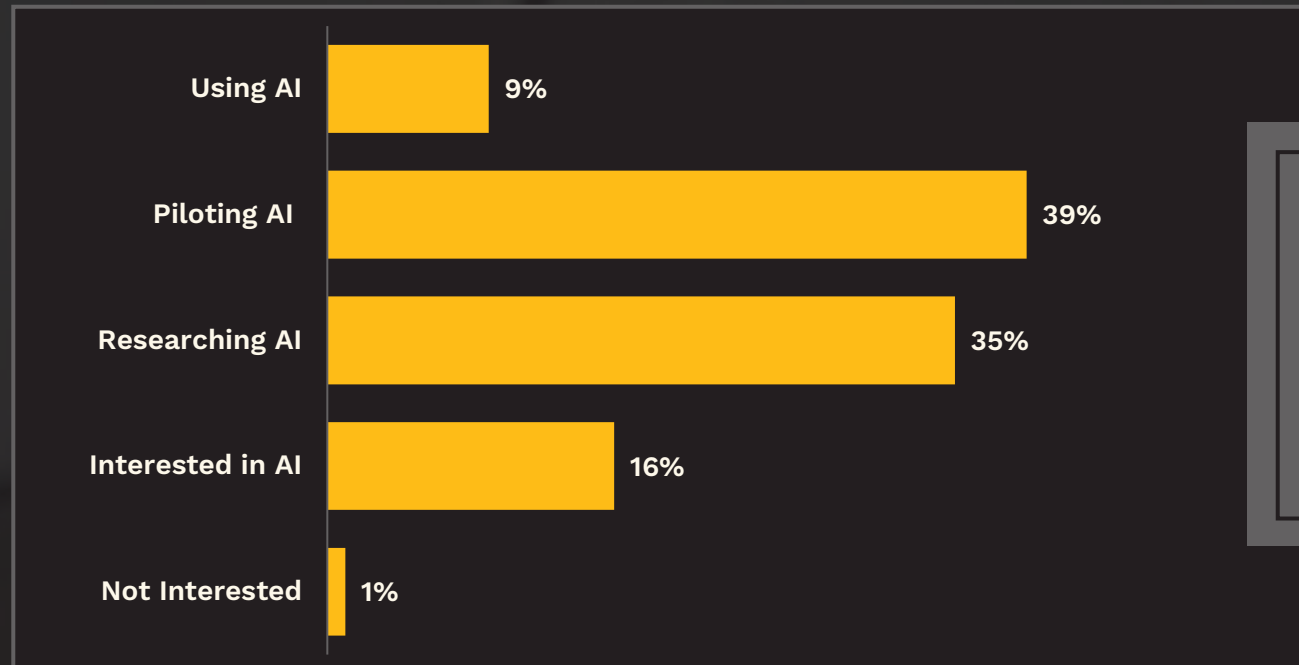
THE INDUSTRY IS READY FOR AI – BUT NOT FULLY EQUIPPED TO USE IT

Most construction professionals are already engaging with AI, researching, piloting, or testing tools, but far fewer say it's part of their day-to-day work. **This is the adoption gap:** belief is widespread, experimentation is active, and the next phase is turning early use into consistent implementation.

52%

ARE VERY SATISFIED WITH AI SOLUTION OPTIONS

CURRENT USE OF AI



ONLY
9%
ARE USING AI IN THEIR DAY-TO-DAY WORK

“

“We’re not asking if it’s coming anymore. We’re figuring out how to use it.”

DECISION-MAKER

INTENT SIGNALS THE NEXT PHASE

MOMENTUM IS BUILDING TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION

Future intent suggests the next phase for AI is conversion from testing to implementation. A sizable share plans to implement AI in 2026, while a majority is actively considering it.

This “considering” group is the hinge: their adoption will be shaped by practical readiness: training, workflow fit, security, and proof of value.

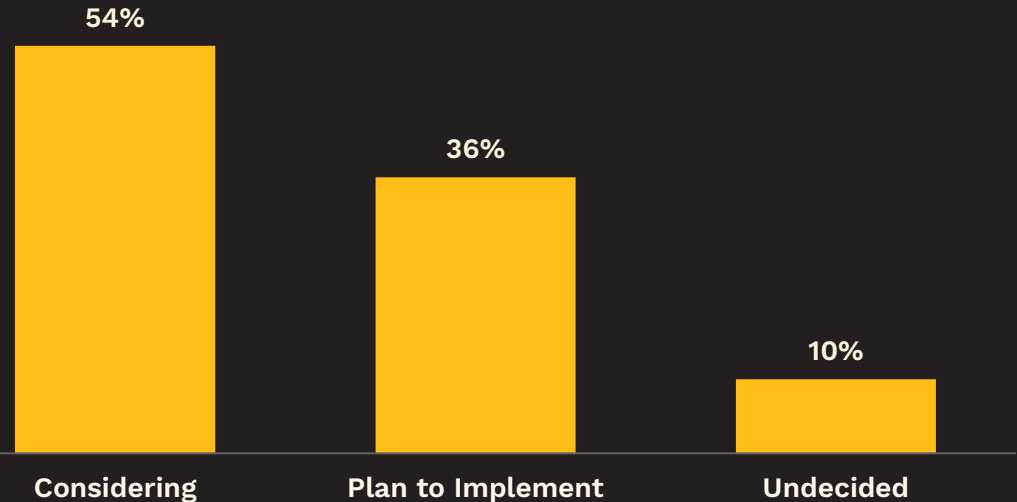


“

We’re trying to evolve and learn [AI] because this is the future. It is what it is.”

DECISION-MAKER

2026 PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTATION



Not shown: Will not implement (0%)

AI'S PACE IS UNEVEN ACROSS MARKETS

AI is coming fast, but the pace of adoption looks different by market. The UK and Canada lead on both excitement and near-term intent, suggesting they're closest to the deployment phase. The U.S. and Mexico sit in the middle, with solid excitement but more mixed implementation plans. France and Brazil trail on both measures, indicating more runway before broad implementation.



EXCITEMENT TOWARDS AI

67%

UNITED KINGDOM

62%

CANADA

58%

UNITED STATES

48%

MEXICO

33%

BRAZIL

25%

FRANCE

PLANS TO IMPLEMENT AI IN 2026

55%

UNITED KINGDOM

46%

CANADA

39%

MEXICO

34%

UNITED STATES

30%

FRANCE

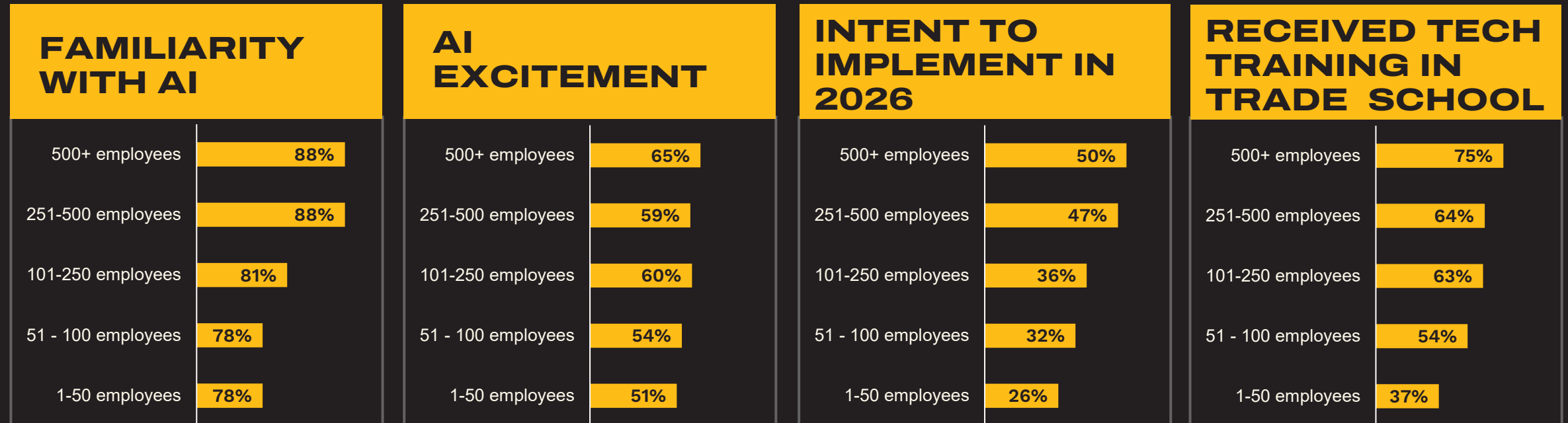
27%

BRAZIL

Regional breakouts are directional; interpret with care due to smaller base sizes outside the U.S. and Canada

AI READINESS SCALES WITH COMPANY SIZE

AI enthusiasm is broad across company sizes, but the pathway to implementation looks different. Smaller companies are highly positive and actively considering adoption, yet larger organizations report higher familiarity, stronger excitement, and markedly higher intent to implement in 2026. The gap isn't whether AI matters, it's whether companies feel equipped to operationalize it. Company size is effectively a proxy for infrastructure: training access, internal enablement, and readiness to integrate AI into everyday workflows.



4

WORKSITE REALITY USE-CASES

EXPLORING THE CURRENT ROLE OF AI IN CONSTRUCTION

Despite strong expectations for AI's future role in construction, day-to-day use remains limited today. Approximately 1 in 10 construction professionals say they are currently using AI in their daily work, highlighting the gap between industry momentum and on-the-ground implementation.



ONLY

9%

**USE AI IN THEIR
DAY-TO-DAY**

AI'S EARLY FOOTPRINT

JOBSITE WORKFLOWS COME FIRST

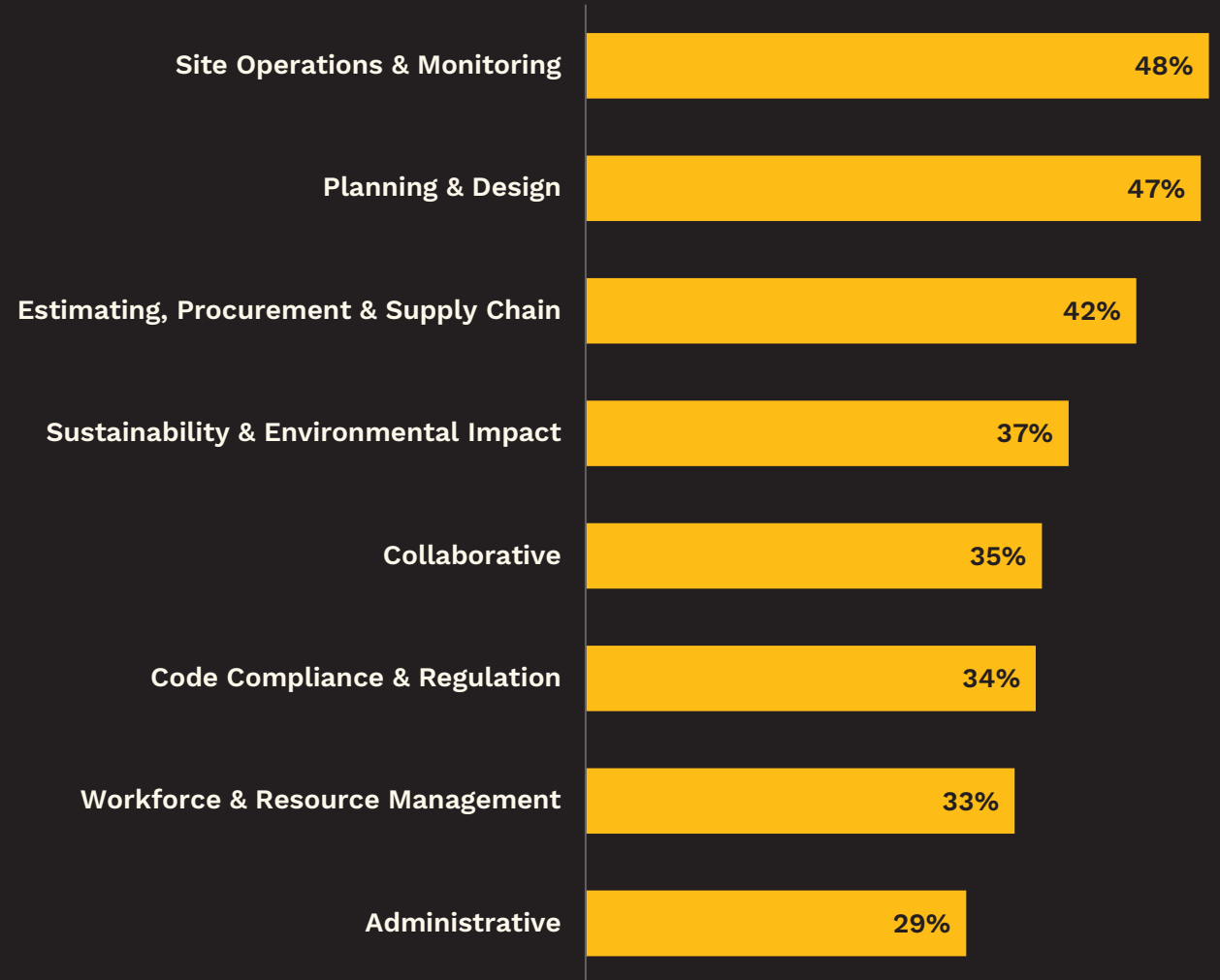
Professionals most often report exploring AI in site operations and monitoring (48%), planning and design (47%), and estimating and procurement (42%), areas where data analysis, forecasting, and documentation can improve project coordination and decision-making.



“We’re using it for estimating and to check requirements, anything that saves time without cutting corners.”

TRADESPERSON

AI USE BY WORKFLOW AREA



WHERE AI IS EXPECTED TO DELIVER

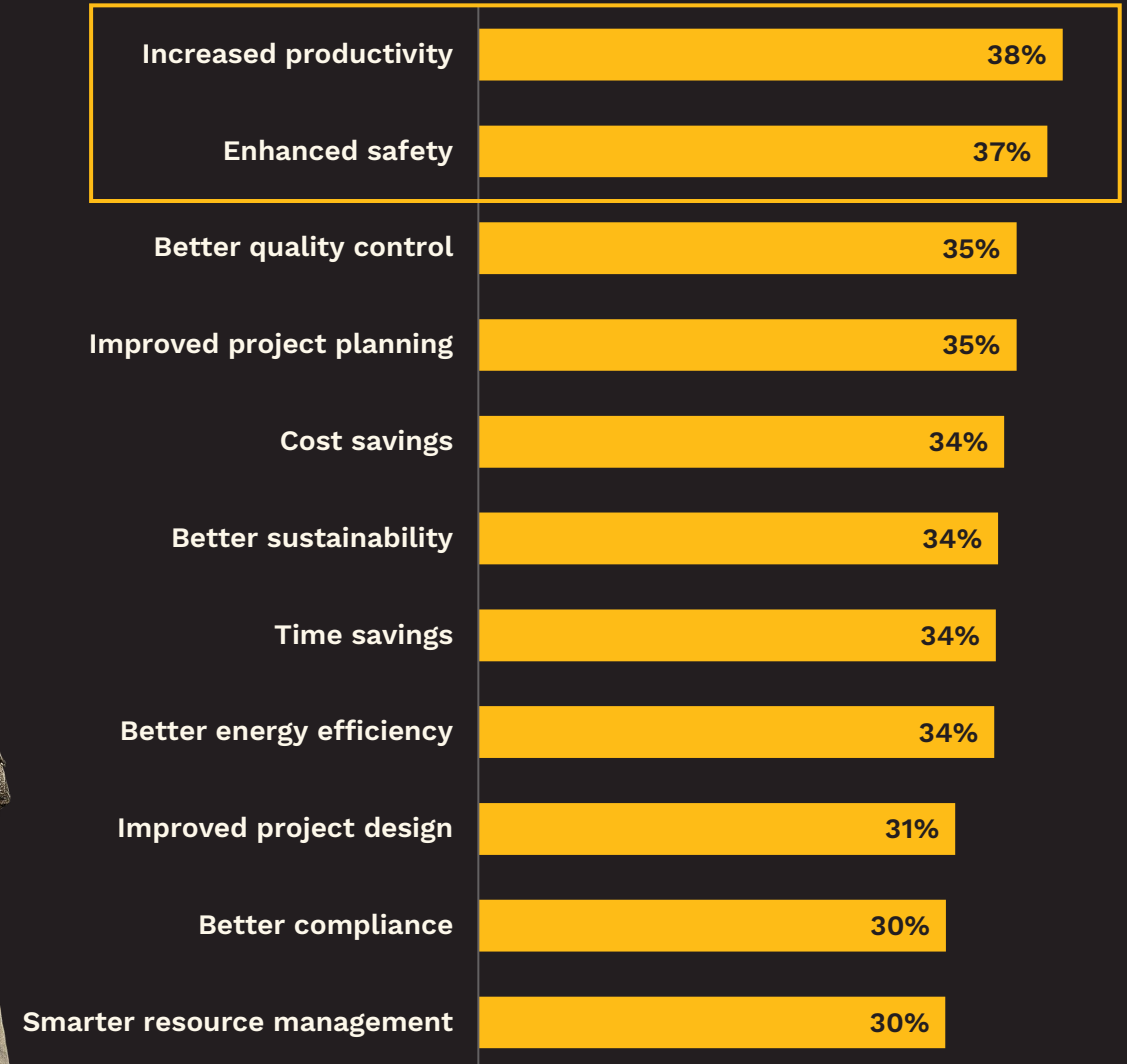
Construction professionals are evaluating whether AI will materially improve jobsite performance. Safety and productivity lead, suggesting AI will be judged by its ability to reduce risk and increase efficiency. But expectations extend across cost, planning, quality, and time, positioning AI as a support layer across the build process, where small gains add up.



We try to use robotics and AI-driven machinery tasks. It increases productivity and reduces human error.”

DECISION-MAKER

TOP BENEFITS OF AI IN CONSTRUCTION



5

AI TRAINING AS THE UNLOCK

AI TRAINING BELONGS IN THE CURRICULUM

AI momentum is already strong as most construction professionals see AI as jobsite-relevant and expect adoption to grow within the industry. The challenge now is turning that positive baseline into consistent, everyday implementation across roles. One of the clearest tensions in the survey findings is that, among tradespeople, lack of training and skill gaps emerge as a top concern when it comes to adopting AI.

That makes training one of the clearest priorities for broader integration. More than just building familiarity, it can clarify AI's role, build confidence in its use, and help make it practical in day-to-day workflows. The workforce is clear about what it needs: practical learning grounded in real scenarios, and accessible pathways that build AI skills across the full trade pipeline, so early experimentation becomes safe, effective, and integrated for everyday use.



87%

SAY AI TRAINING SHOULD BE PART OF TRAINING CURRICULUM

AI TRAINING IS WIDELY EXPECTED IN TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Nearly 9 in 10 agree that AI training should be part of trade school or technical training curriculum, signaling a clear expectation that AI competence will become part of job readiness.

Yet a sizeable share did not receive technology training in trade school. The message is clear: the workforce believes AI belongs in the training pipeline and there is an opportunity to make that preparation more consistent and future-ready.

RECEIVED
TECH
TRAINING IN
TRADE
SCHOOL



56%
YES

40%
NO



I think trade schools need to treat AI like any other tool in the belt. Teach them to read the data and use the smart tools so they can handle the mix of manual work and tech we see on sites now.”

CONSTRUCTION PROFESSIONAL

AI TRAINING BELONGS IN TRADE SCHOOL

CLOSE TO

9 IN 10

SAY AI TRAINING SHOULD
BE PART OF TRADE SCHOOL
/ TRAINING CURRICULUM



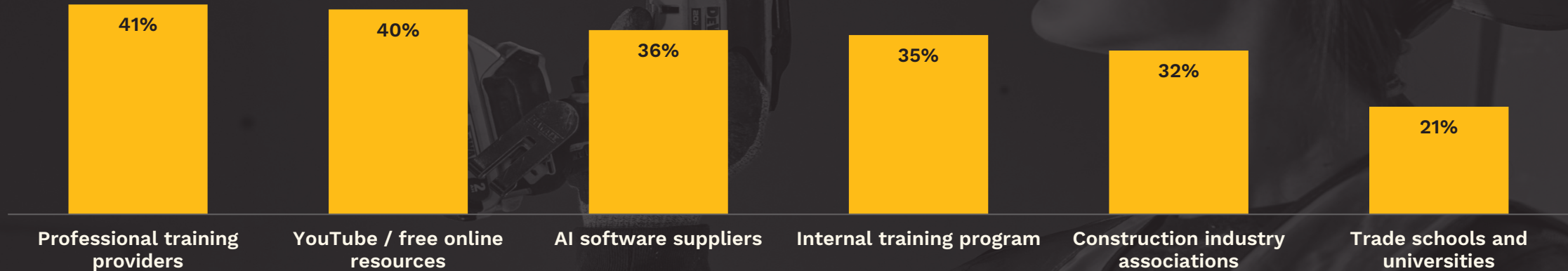
Top-2 box: “Strongly agree” / “Somewhat agree” (87%)

BUILDING AI SKILLS AT SCALE

HANDS-ON LEARNING WINS, BUT TODAY'S TRAINING PATHWAYS ARE SCATTERED

Training is already happening, but it isn't happening through one clear pathway. Respondents report learning AI through a mix of pathways, suggesting a fragmented ecosystem of AI upskilling. Looking ahead, preferences for hands-on learning rise above other formats. The signal is clear, people want practical, job-relevant training that builds confidence through real tasks and real-world application.

WHERE AI TRAINING HAPPENS MOST



TOP TRAINING PREFERENCES



60%
HANDS-ON TRAINING

47%
ONLINE COURSES

43%
VIDEO TUTORIALS

42%
IN-PERSON WORKSHOPS

CONCLUSION

**AI IS MOVING INTO CONSTRUCTION.
TRAINING IS WHAT TURNS MOMENTUM
INTO REAL INTEGRATION.**

Construction professionals are clear that AI is gaining ground in the industry. The research demonstrates strong momentum, broad optimism, and a growing belief that AI will deliver practical value across construction workflows. But it also shows that everyday adoption is still developing, with many workers still in the testing and learning phase.

That is why training emerges as the key takeaway. More than any other factor, it is what can help move AI from interest to integration by giving workers the confidence, context, and skills to use it effectively in real jobsite conditions.



DEWALT



DEWALT®

SURVEY METHODOLOGY



CONSTRUCTION PROFESSIONALS

Skilled tradespeople and decision-makers across residential, commercial, and industrial construction who are familiar with AI use in construction



COUNTRIES SURVEYED

- Brazil
- Canada
- France
- Mexico
- United Kingdom
- United States



TOTAL SURVEYED *n* = 3,409

- n* = 126
- n* = 462
- n* = 112
- n* = 110
- n* = 118
- n* = 2,481



ONLINE SURVEY FIELDING:

December 4 – 29, 2025



MARGIN OF ERROR

+/- 1.7% at the 95% confidence level

Note: Regional breakouts are directional; interpret with care due to smaller base sizes outside the U.S. and Canada