

CIO

State of the CIO

Insight into the CIO role and the technology and business initiatives for the upcoming year



Purpose and methodology

CIO's 25th annual State of the CIO survey was conducted with the objective of understanding how the role of the CIO continues to evolve in today's business climate and to help define the CIO agenda for 2026. This definitive benchmarking survey outlines the tech and business initiatives IT leaders expect to focus on in the coming year, where they expect to be more involved.

Total respondents: 911

Heads of IT: 662

Audience base

CIO Audience

Job titles

**respondents have multiple roles*

C-Level 78%

Director/Manager 30%

President, Owner, Partner 9%

EVP/SVP/VP 6%

Company sizes (employees)

1,000+ 57%

100-999 23%

Less than 100 19%

Regions

North America 36%

EMEA 20%

APAC 42%

LATAM 1%

Other 2%

Represented industries

High Tech 21%

Manufacturing 15%

Financial Services 14%

Services 8%

Retail, Wholesale and Distribution 6%

Telecommunications & Utilities 6%

Government and Nonprofits 5%

Healthcare 5%

Education 5%

Advertising 5%

Transportation 3%

Travel and Leisure 2%

Other 6%

LOB: 249

Function

Marketing 9%

Finance/Accounting 40%

Admin/Corp. Mgmt. 12%

Human Resources 12%

Engineering/R&D 9%

Sales 10%

Operations 8%

Contents

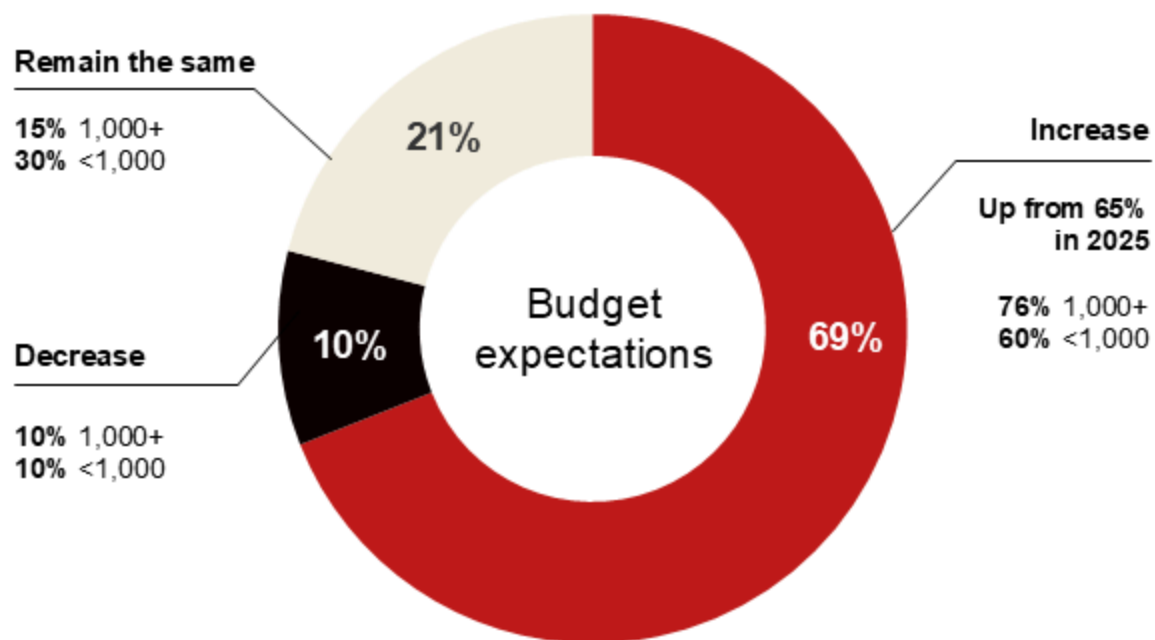
1. Insight into the technology landscape
2. Status of the CIO
3. CIO role expansion and priorities
4. Business and tech initiatives

CIO

Insight into the technology landscape



Technology budgets are growing



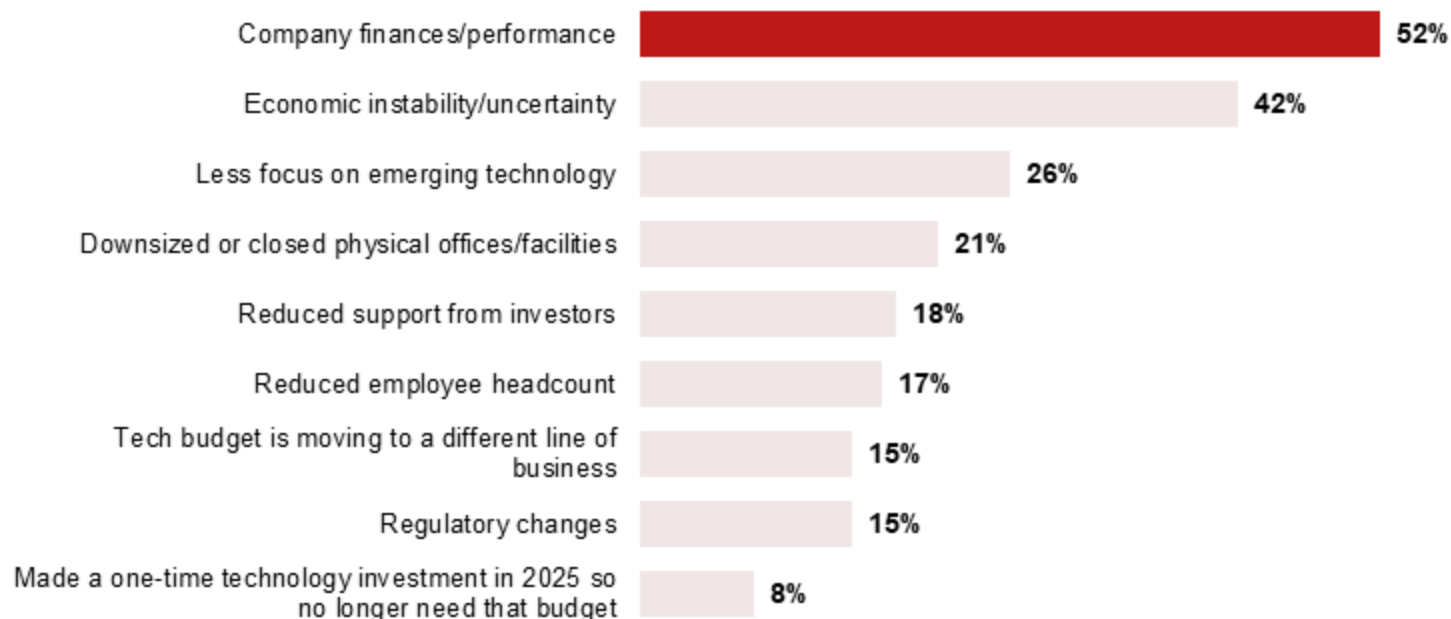
Q: Do you expect your organization's overall IT budget to increase, decrease or remain the same in 2026?

Top reasons tech budgets will increase



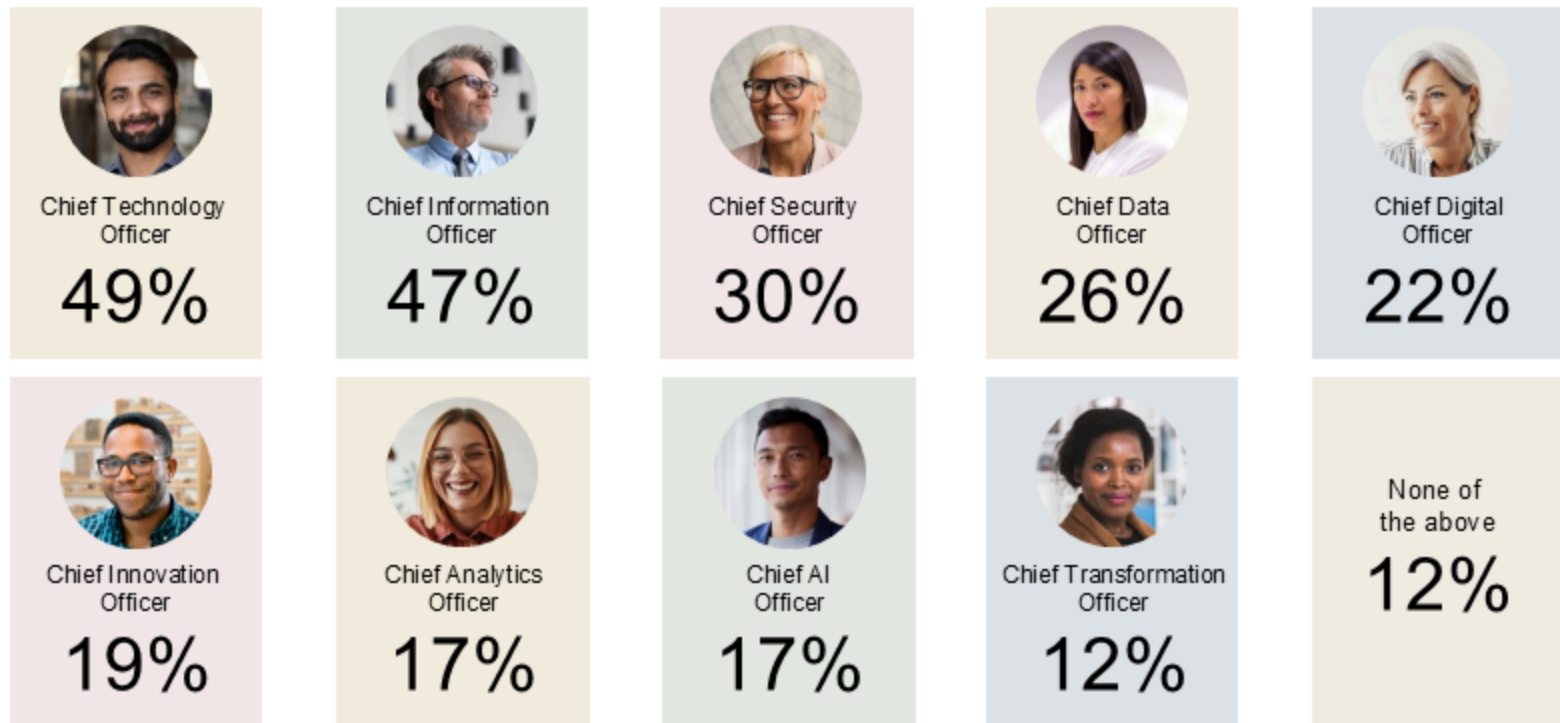
Q: You indicated your budget will INCREASE in 2026. Please select the top three reasons for this budget shift.

Reasons for tech budget cuts



Q: You indicated your budget will DECREASE in 2026. Please select the top three reasons for this budget shift.

Existing roles at organizations



Q. Which of these roles exist at your organization?

Who c-level roles are reporting into

	Chief Technology Officer	Chief Information Officer	Chief Innovation Officer	Chief Digital Officer	Chief Data Officer	Chief Security Officer	Chief Analytics Officer	Chief AI Officer	Chief Transformation Officer
Board of Directors	21%	14%	20%	17%	14%	15%	22%	14%	17%
CEO	45%	50%	38%	31%	35%	36%	32%	34%	43%
CFO or top Finance executive	8%	14%	16%	17%	16%	12%	15%	8%	10%
CIO or Top IT executive	23%	17%	22%	27%	30%	29%	27%	41%	22%
Other LOB executive	2%	4%	3%	8%	3%	5%	4%	2%	6%

Q: To whom do these individuals report at the next level:

Where does the tech budget for these roles live?

	Chief Technology Officer	Chief Information Officer	Chief Innovation Officer	Chief Digital Officer	Chief Data Officer	Chief Security Officer	Chief Analytics Officer	Chief AI Officer	Chief Transformation Officer
Part of overall IT budget	54%	62%	50%	60%	64%	63%	59%	52%	47%
Separate technology budget	44%	36%	50%	38%	33%	34%	38%	46%	52%

Q: How is the technology budget for these roles handled: