

2026 IT Industry Trends

Throughout 2025, the [IT industry](#) faced various economic and geopolitical uncertainties. However, despite these challenges, the industry continued to expand, driven by rapid advancements in AI, increased demand for cybersecurity, and growing investment in sustainable technologies.

Moving into 2026, while we expect to see expansion continue, many of these industry uncertainties remain unresolved: global supply chain disruptions continue to place pressures on technology production, while advances in technology and increasing threats to data security see no signs of slowing down.

In such an unpredictable and risky landscape, businesses today are forced to adapt quickly to evolving pressures, and staffing a strong IT team will better position companies to face these challenges.

Below, we outline the different rising trends as we enter 2026 and [staffing techniques](#) companies can use to prepare their IT team.

2026 IT TRENDS

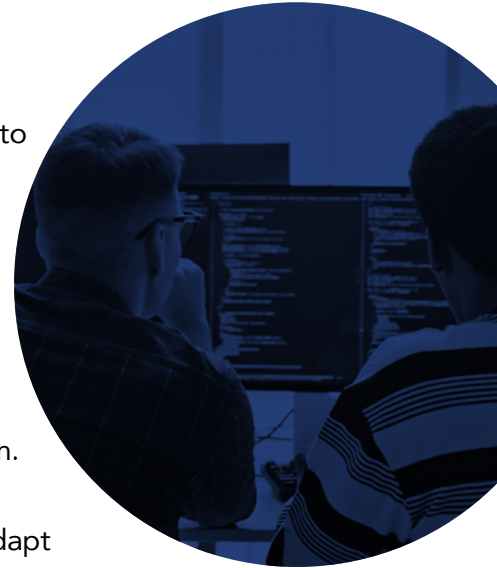
RESILIENT SUPPLY CHAIN SOURCING

Supply chain disruptions have always been a concern for businesses, particularly in the technology sector, where production depends heavily on intertwined global sourcing networks. However, with the current AI boom, demand for the materials needed for AI technology has been rising, and supply chains have been struggling to maintain the necessary production to match this demand.

Throughout 2025, [AI chip shortages](#) disrupted supply chain flows and threatened to increase electronics prices. These shortages have extended beyond just AI components, as manufacturers shift production away from standard memory chips to try and meet AI chip demands. As a result, these supply chain issues have spread and are affecting all areas of tech.

We expect these chip shortages to continue to raise problems for technology companies in the coming year. As we approach 2026, [AI hardware demand is only increasing](#) and has the potential to stress supply chains further. Organizations should shift their focus from reacting to supply chain disruptions toward [proactively redesigning supply chains](#) to avoid these interferences.

Additionally, the United States' [CHIPS Act](#) is working to boost domestic chip production and research. The act includes a 25% federal income tax credit for qualified investments in facilities that manufacture semiconductors or semiconductor manufacturing equipment in the U.S. The U.S. government also agreed in





late 2025 to invest [\\$150 million in a lithography startup](#) as an award under the CHIPS Act. These methods should help alleviate some of the supply chain pressures, but organizations can still take further steps to strengthen their resilience against uncertainties.

When preparing for 2026, a diversified and reliable supply chain for tech materials becomes necessary. As such, businesses should look to strategically redesign supply chains by diversifying suppliers and [investments in visibility tools](#).

EXPANDING AI APPLICATIONS

In the past, AI was largely seen within [assistive tools that help complete tasks](#). These applications helped improve individual productivity and worked alongside business' operations, as opposed to being directly embedded within, meaning human oversight was necessary. However, this started to change in recent years, with AI taking on a more autonomous role within organizations.

Unsurprisingly, [AI was a major driver in the tech industry throughout 2025](#). Generative AI (GenAI) in particular continues to boost business productivity and efficiency, with a current market value of [approximately \\$45 billion](#). A key shift during has been the rise of Native AI development programs, which offer applications with built-in AI capabilities, enabling improved workflow automation for businesses.

AI has also expanded beyond software and is now being used to power robots, drones, and smart machines. Finally, one of the most significant developments in 2025 has been the rise of agentic AI, with research indicating that by the end of 2026, [40% of enterprise applications](#) will include task-specific AI agents.

Entering 2026, AI use cases will continue to expand, shifting from work assistant applications to deeper integration across [business systems](#). Unlike previous years, these agents are beginning to operate independently within workflows and are no longer solely assisting with tasks.

With use cases like text, code and data generation, and enhanced customer experience, AI is turning into a necessary tool for success. This marks a fundamental shift in the use of AI, allowing increased automation across departments. As AI becomes more advanced and systems become more autonomous and interconnected, businesses will design operations around AI capabilities, instead of incorporating AI into existing workflows.

For businesses looking to make the most out of AI, the [right talent can make all the difference](#). Anyone working in the IT realm today needs AI literacy in order to stay ahead. After all, since AI agents automate routine work, it reduces the need for low-skill employees, and instead, organizations will increasingly prioritize higher-skill roles, such as AI engineers and data scientists. Additionally, model trainers and risk and compliance analysts are needed to ensure the AI is running optimally, while individuals who can manage and repair AI-powered machines will be in high demand as physical AI applications continue to rise.



In 2026, success stemming from AI will not only depend on adoption, but also on [aligning talent strategies](#) to fit this new, autonomous landscape.

QUANTUM COMPUTING

In recent years, quantum computing was still heavily in the research stage, with a focus on overcoming fundamental challenges like developing quantum bit stability and advancing hardware. Commercial applications were limited, and most activities were restricted to research projects. While quantum computing's potential has been widely recognized for many years, the actual business application was considered long-term.

On [June 7, 2024](#), The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) designated 2025 the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology (IYQ) as a way to foster international partnerships and invest in the expansion of this technology, and throughout 2025, quantum computing research began to move into experimentation.

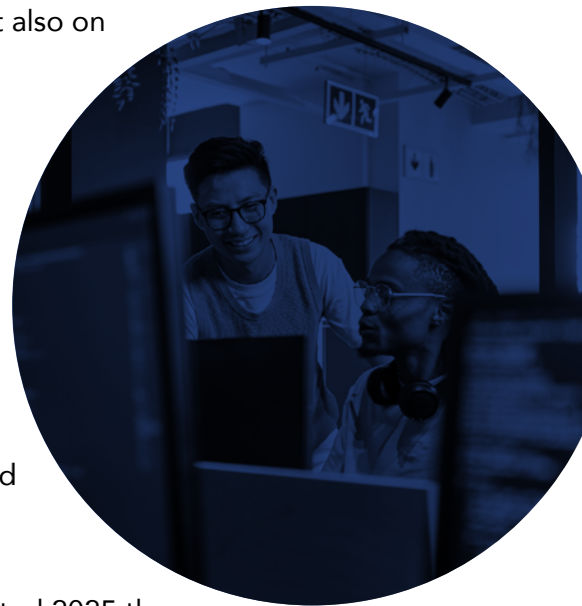
[Cloud-based quantum services \(QaaS\)](#) further lowered barriers to entry and allowed businesses to explore quantum use cases without purchasing specialized hardware. As a result, more organizations have started to evaluate pilot programs for future adoption of quantum technology.

Entering 2026, quantum computing is expected to transition into the [early stages of commercialization](#). In fact, the quantum computing market is projected to [reach \\$4.24 billion by 2030](#), and offerings for QaaS will continue to increase.

As quantum computing expands into the commercial sector, it offers a wide range of use cases across industries:

- **Financial Services:** Improved financial modeling and risk management
- **Pharma and Biotech:** Faster drug discovery through molecular and chemical reaction simulations
- **Logistics and Supply Chain:** Optimizing complex operations and supply chain efficiency
- **Cybersecurity:** Quantum cryptography can safeguard sensitive data

To support these applications, however, companies will need to build internal expertise. Hiring talent familiar with quantum-safe encryption and quantum algorithms, for instance, will help prepare organizations for the implementation of these systems. While quantum computing isn't yet mainstream in 2026, investing in this talent early will build foundational knowledge and better position businesses to adopt and scale quantum computing technology as the industry and its use cases grow.



DATA SECURITY

[Cybersecurity](#) threats have been constantly evolving over the years. Malware, phishing, and data breaches have created a need for companies to build strong network defenses and staff IT teams that are equipped with the necessary skills to [support and enhance these defenses](#).

In 2025, AI changed the cybersecurity landscape by allowing cybercriminals to automate phishing attacks, mimic human behavior, generate malware, and quickly identify vulnerabilities in cyber systems. These advances in cyberattacks will continue into 2026.

As AI capabilities rise, cybercriminals will continue to have new avenues to increase the scale of their attacks. However, while cybercriminals can leverage AI to harness these attacks, businesses can leverage AI to strengthen and protect their systems.

[AI-powered security tools](#) allow for automated threat detection and continuous monitoring for threats, while quantum-safe encryption can help defend business' data against cyberattacks. Additionally, AI-enabled automation allows staff to focus more on threat modeling to identify and address system threats and further safeguard systems against cyberattacks. Many businesses are hiring threat analysts, AI-enabled cyber security engineers, and quantum safe cryptography experts to manage these tools and better prepare their cybersecurity systems.

In 2026, cyberattacks are going to continue to advance, and companies that fail to evolve and invest in improving their data security may face severe vulnerabilities in the years to come. The rapid expansion of AI-driven threats means [cybersecurity](#) needs to evolve continuously alongside emerging technologies.

LOOKING AHEAD

As organizations move into 2026, the technology landscape is defined by accelerating innovation and heightened risks. Supply chains are transitioning from reactive solutions to long-term resilience strategies, while AI is becoming a foundational component of business functions instead of an optional enhancement. Quantum computing is entering the early stages of commercialization, and cyber threats are increasing in sophistication from AI-enabled attacks.

These shifts make IT staffing more critical than ever. Companies need teams with AI literacy and the ability to adapt to emerging technologies. Organizations that invest in forward-looking IT talent will be better prepared to handle uncertainty, maintain security, and scale their businesses in 2026.

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