The Preparedness Paradox

How Organizations Are Cutting the Very Investments They Need to Survive the Future

2025 Analysis

Skills and Workforce Development Contradictions

Organizations publicly declare workforce development as essential while simultaneously gutting the very programs and people needed to build future capabilities, creating a widening gap between skills rhetoric and investment reality.

Contradiction #1: Microsoft's Massive AI-Driven Workforce Reduction

Microsoft cut **15,000+ jobs in 2025**, primarily in gaming and cloud divisions, with **40% affecting developers**—the exact talent needed for AI transformation. Despite posting **$70.1 billion in Q1 2025 revenue** (13% increase), the company eliminated technical roles to create "flatter team structures" while simultaneously claiming urgent need for AI engineering talent.

15K+

Jobs Cut

In 2025 alone

40%

Developers

AI talent eliminated

Contradiction #2: Intel's Unprecedented Talent Hemorrhage

Intel laid off **15,000-19,000 employees** (15% of workforce) throughout 2024, implementing a **$10 billion cost cut** while reducing capital expenditures by 20%. The company continued Oregon layoffs of **529 positions in July 2025** and plans to cut **15-20% of Intel Foundry division workers** starting July 2025—precisely when semiconductor expertise is most critical for U.S. competitiveness.

Contradiction #3: Accenture's Retraining Contradiction

Training Investment

550,000 employees trained in generative AI basics

Mass Layoffs

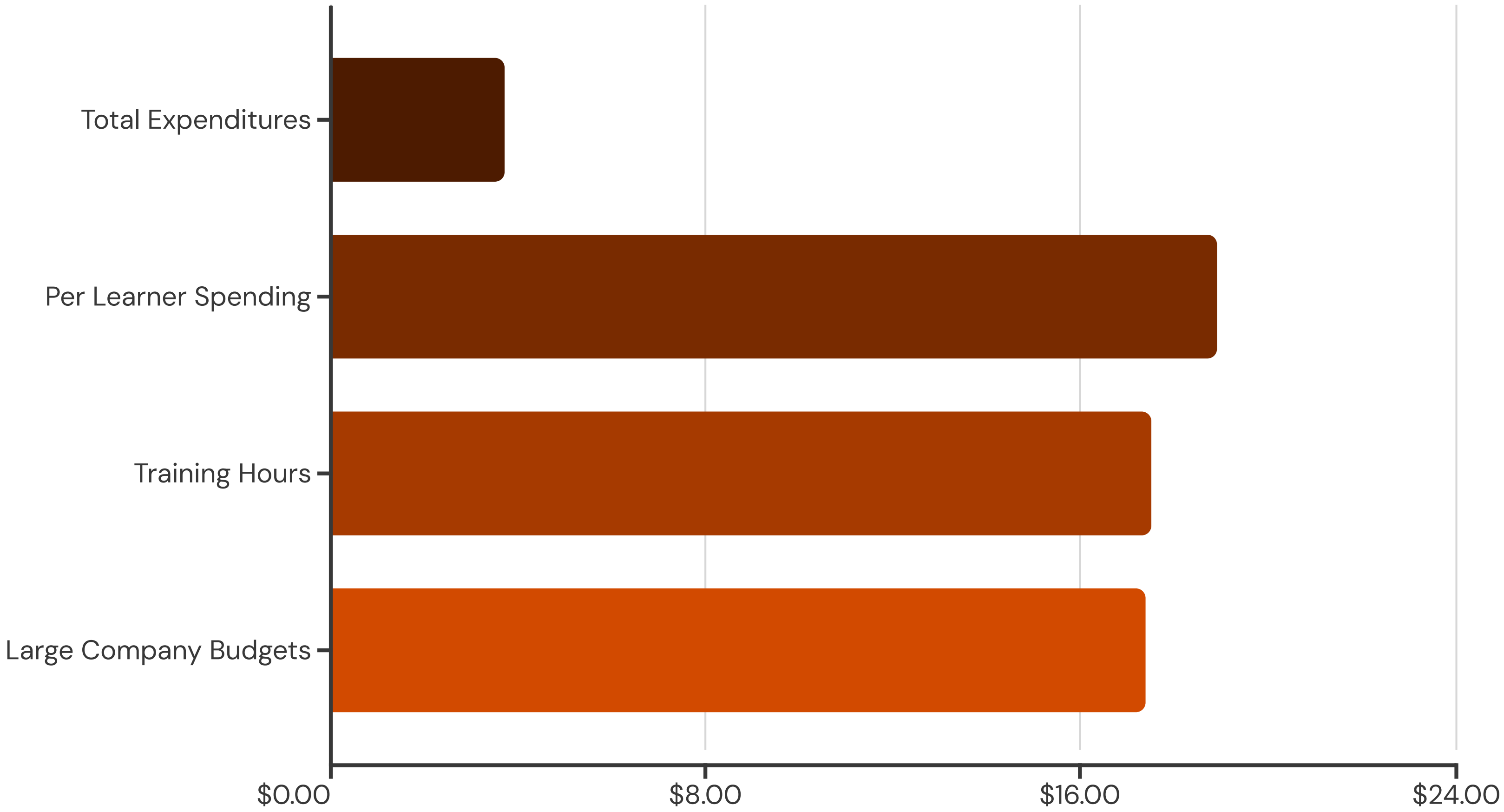
$865M business optimization program with workforce cuts

Cost Savings

Over $1 billion saved from reorganization

CEO Julie Sweet admitted to "exiting on a compressed timeline those for whom retraining is not a viable route," revealing that proclaimed commitment to workforce development applies selectively.

Contradiction #4: Training Budget Collapse Amid Skills Crisis



U.S. training expenditures **decreased 3.7% to $98 billion** in 2024. Average spending per learner dropped **18.9% from $954 to $774**. This occurred as **80% of employees lack skills for current AND future roles** according to Gartner research.

Contradiction #5: Federal Research and Development Decimation

Department of Education

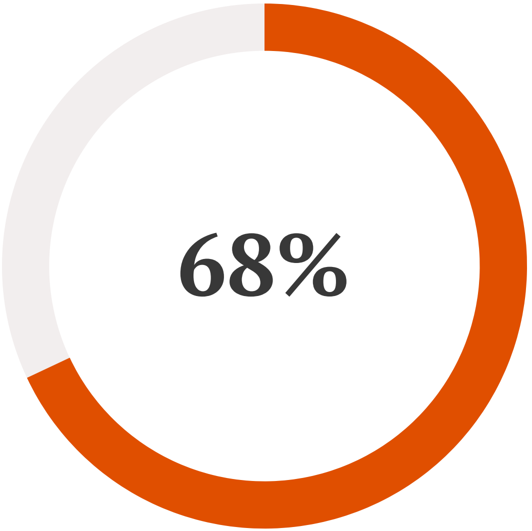
Institute of Education Sciences faces proposed cuts of **two-thirds from $793.1 million to $261.3 million**.

National Science Foundation

Faces a **57% cut from $9 billion to $3.9 billion**, with NSF scholarships/fellowships cut **65%** and postdoctoral fellowships slashed **91.4% to $5.6 million**.

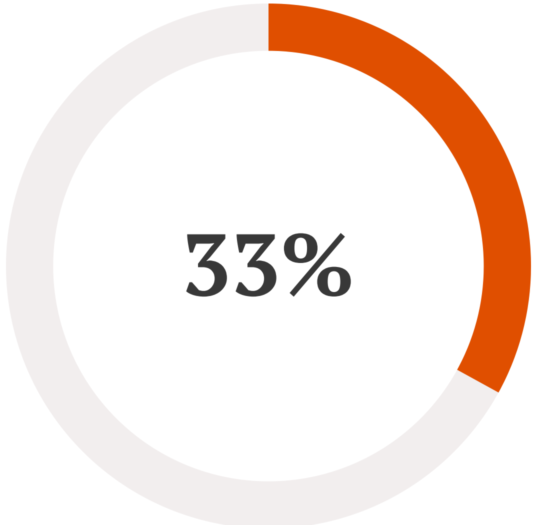
These cuts undermine the pipeline of research talent precisely when technological competition intensifies.

Contradiction #6: Return-to-Office Mandates Contradicting Productivity Data



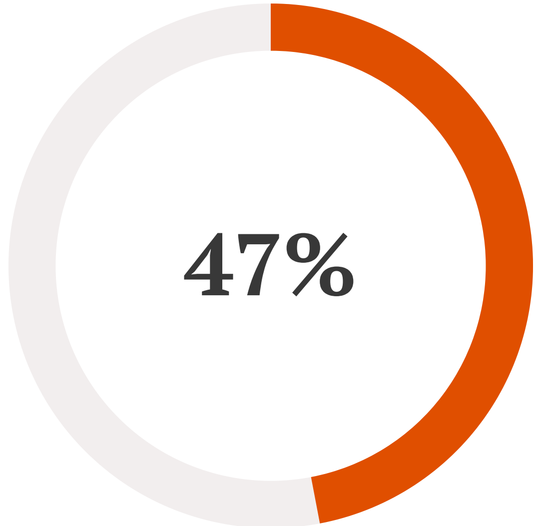
In-Person Workers

Doubled from 34% in 2023



Lower Resignation

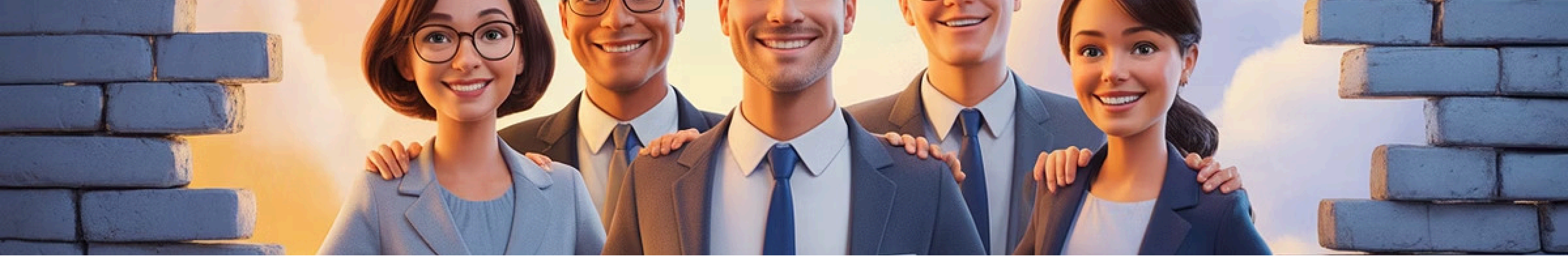
Hybrid workers less likely to quit



Termination Plans

Companies requiring 5-day schedules

McKinsey surveys of **8,426 employees** show no clear productivity winner between working models. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics found remote work "neither hindered nor helped" productivity, yet companies are forcing returns despite evidence.



Contradiction #7: DEI Program Elimination Despite Diversity Pledges

01

Budget Reductions

8% of companies reducing DEI budgets, 5% eliminated programs entirely in 2025

02

PR Purposes

56% of managers admit DEI initiatives were "primarily for public relations purposes"

03

Major Rollbacks

Walmart, McDonald's, Meta, Amazon, and Google all cut DEI programs

04

Fund Redirection

40% redirected DEI funds to AI/technology initiatives

Contradiction #8: Talent Shortage Claims During Mass Layoffs

The Paradox

Industries report **7.7 million open jobs versus 7.1 million unemployed workers**, with **750,000 unfilled manufacturing jobs** currently and **2.1 million projected unfilled by 2030**.

Yet **3,555+ companies announced mass layoffs** since January 2025, and tech job postings are **down 49%** for software engineers versus pre-pandemic levels.

Companies claim inability to find talent while conducting historic workforce reductions.

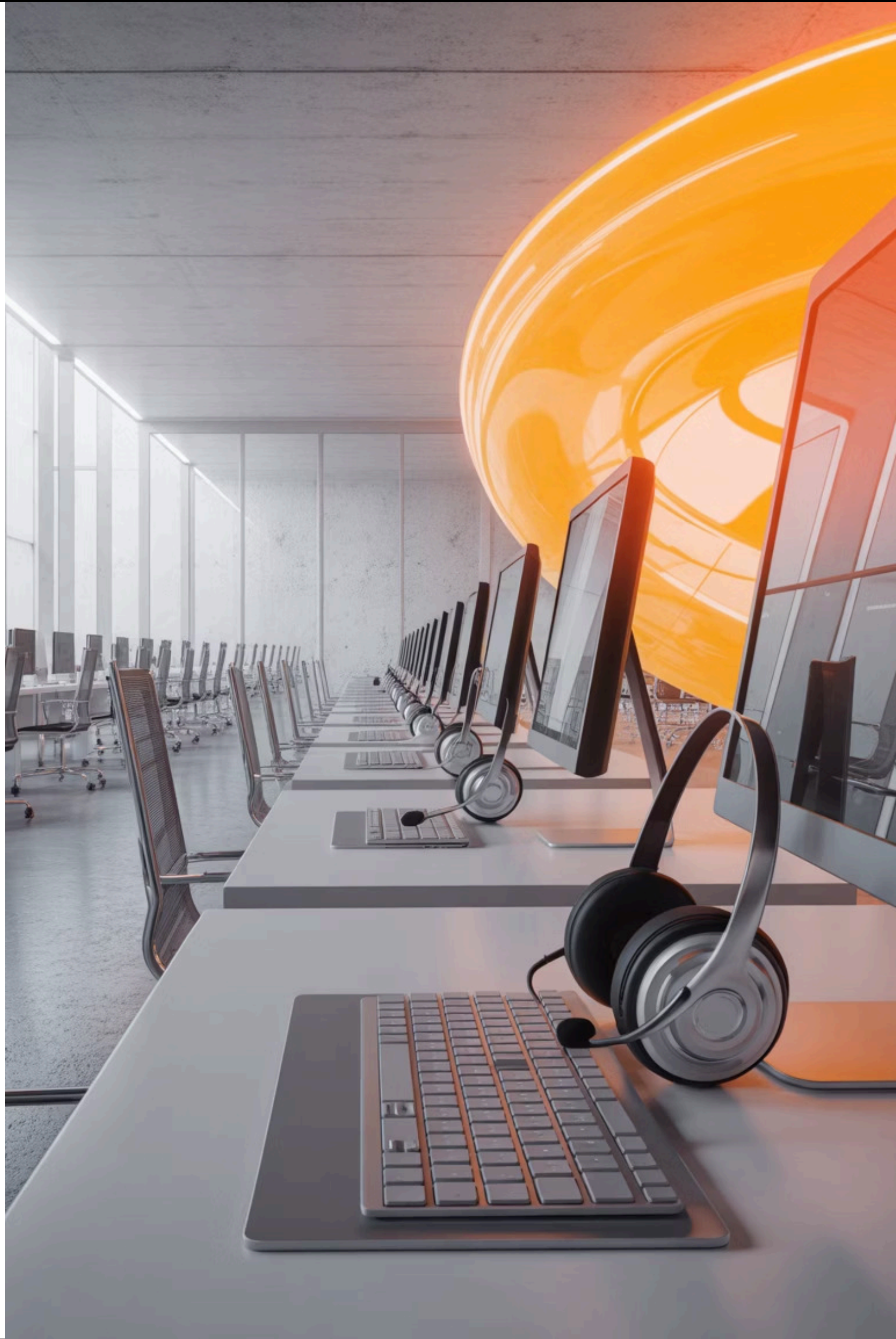
Contradiction #9: AI Talent War with Compensation Explosion

$450K	$900K	$10M+	130K
ML Engineer Salary	**Senior AI Researchers**	**Research Stars**	**Tech Workers Laid Off**
Tripled from $150K in 2020	Average compensation	Signing packages	Through July 2025

Companies claim AI talent scarcity justifies these costs while simultaneously laying off workers who could be retrained—revealing preference for external hiring over internal development.

Contradiction #10: Salesforce Customer Service Decimation

Salesforce cut **4,000 customer service jobs** (44% reduction from 9,000 to 5,000 staff) while CEO Marc Benioff claimed AI agents improve customer experience. The company reduced support headcount while promoting AI as enhancement, revealing that "AI augmentation" often means workforce elimination despite initial denials that mass layoffs would occur.



Technology Investment Contradictions

Organizations proclaim digital transformation as imperative while strategically delaying technology spending, cutting IT budgets, and failing to scale pilots despite having allocated funds—creating a dangerous gap between digital rhetoric and investment reality.

Contradiction #11: Digital Transformation Budget Pause

Plans vs. Reality

70% of companies have digital transformation plans, yet Gartner reports an "uncertainty pause" on net-new spending

Budget Stagnation

49% of 2024 IT budgets remained flat despite fully allocated funds

Execution Gap

Only 24% of enterprises expect to end 2025 ahead of plans despite 61% starting the year in better position

Contradiction #12: Cybersecurity Crisis with Budget Stagnation

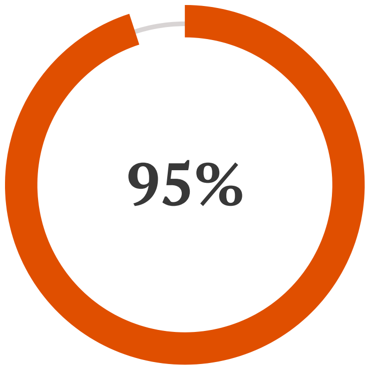
The Crisis

- Average data breach costs reached **$4.88 million** (10% increase)
- U.S. breach costs at **$9.36 million** (9% surge to all-time high)
- Breached accounts exploded to **5.5 billion in 2024 versus 730 million in 2023** (8x increase)
- Healthcare breaches exposed **276.7 million records** in 2024

The Response

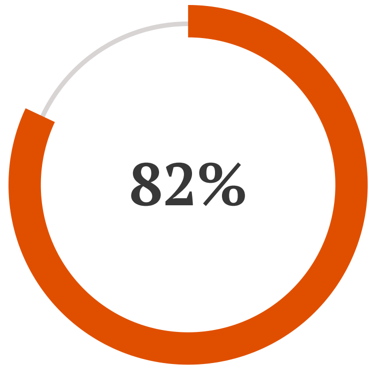
Despite this crisis, **security budget growth slowed to only 8%** in 2024 (down from 16-17% in 2021-2022), and **12% of CISOs faced budget reductions**.

Contradiction #13: Data Analytics Investment Barriers



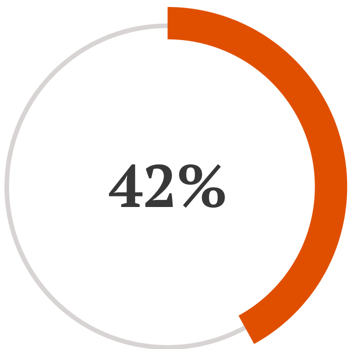
Plan to Enhance

Data-driven decision-making



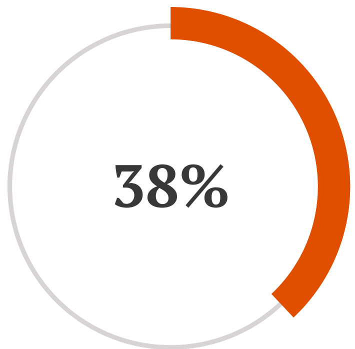
Plan to Increase

BI and analytics funding



ROI Obstacle

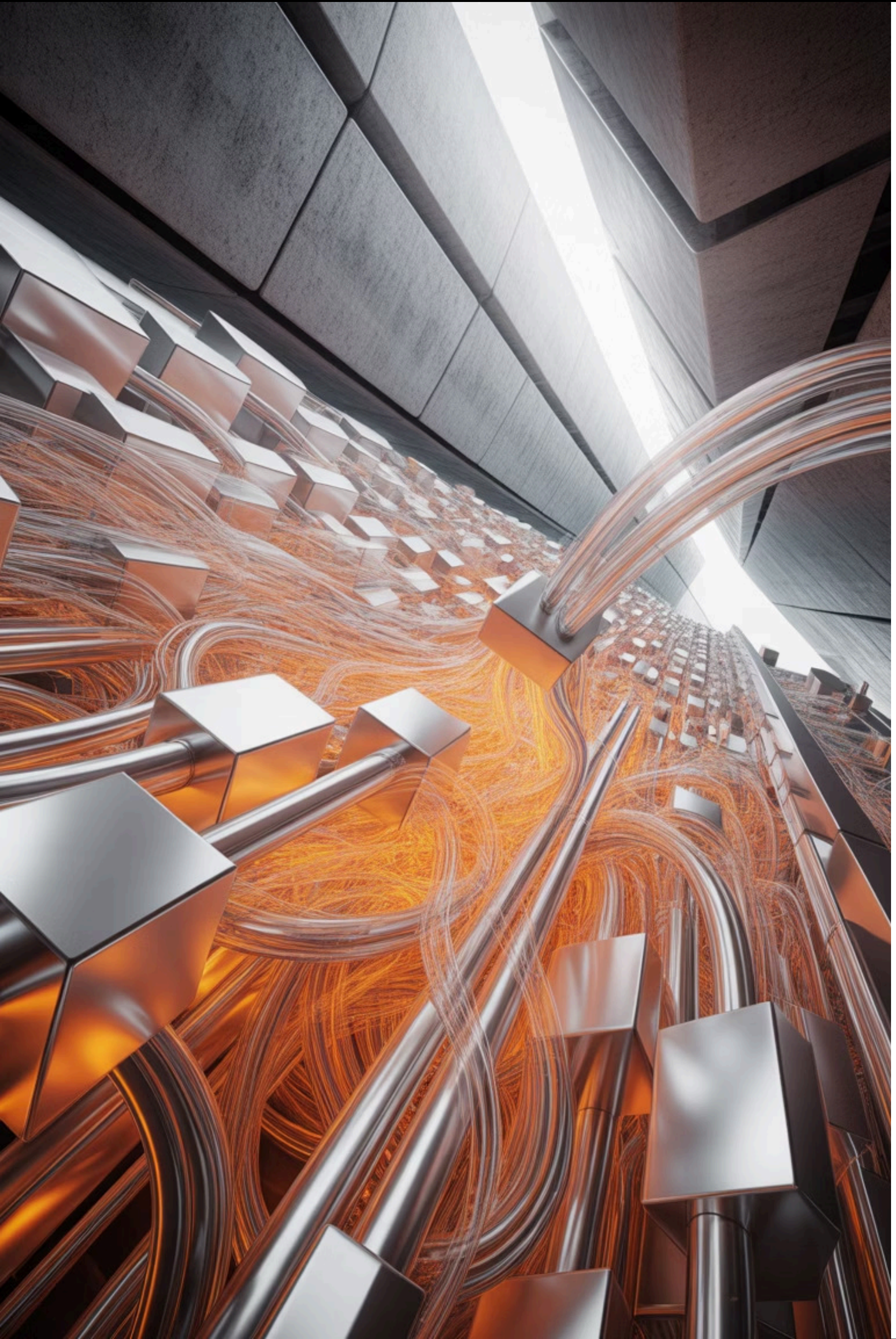
Cite proving ROI as major barrier



Budget Restrictions

Primary barrier to investment

McKinsey finds most companies "far from reaching the plateau of data productivity" despite recognizing data's strategic value—revealing gap between stated commitment and actual investment.



Contradiction #14: Cloud Cost Explosion Undermining Transformation

51% of IT spending is shifting to cloud infrastructure with **$723.4 billion in public cloud spending forecast** for 2025 (21.5% growth), yet Gartner reports organizations experiencing "explosion of cost rather than rationalized cost base" post-migration.

Only **41% report advanced FinOps practices**, forcing CIOs to focus on cost optimization rather than innovation—the opposite of cloud's promise.

Contradiction #15: AI Investment Hype with Execution Failure

Massive Investment

GenAI spending forecast at $644 billion for 2025 (76.4% increase)

Top Priority

47% of CIOs name AI as top priority

Execution Gap

Only 48% of digital initiatives meet/exceed business outcome targets

Gartner predicts "expectations CIOs have for GenAI capabilities will drop" as "reality of what can be accomplished will not meet today's lofty expectations."

Contradiction #16: Tech Sector Layoffs During Digital-First Era

95,000 tech workers were laid off in 2024 and **89,964 in early 2025** at companies claiming digital-first strategies. Major cuts include Tesla (14,000+), Cisco (10,000+), Microsoft (6,000), Meta (3,600), Dell (6,000), and HP (2,000 as part of 7,000 three-year plan).

These cuts target R&D, HR, engineering, and sustainability teams—the core functions driving digital transformation.

R&D and Innovation Contradictions

Despite proclaiming innovation as essential for competitiveness, companies across pharmaceuticals, technology, and automotive sectors are implementing massive R&D budget cuts and workforce reductions that directly undermine their ability to develop next-generation products.

Contradiction #17: Pharmaceutical R&D Collapse

1

Bristol-Myers Squibb (April 2024)

$1.5 billion in cost-cutting, two-thirds from R&D spending, 2,200 employees laid off (6% of workforce), 12 programs discontinued

2

Merck (2024)

R&D spending plummeted by almost $13 billion versus 2023

3

Bristol-Myers Squibb (February 2025)

Additional $2 billion in cuts announced through 2027

4

Pfizer (2024)

$4 billion in cost reduction despite industry spending $7.7 billion on terminated drug trials

Contradiction #18: Automotive R&D Intensity Reductions

German Automakers

Planning to reduce R&D intensity by an **average 35% between 2024-2027**, with some targeting reductions **exceeding 50%**.

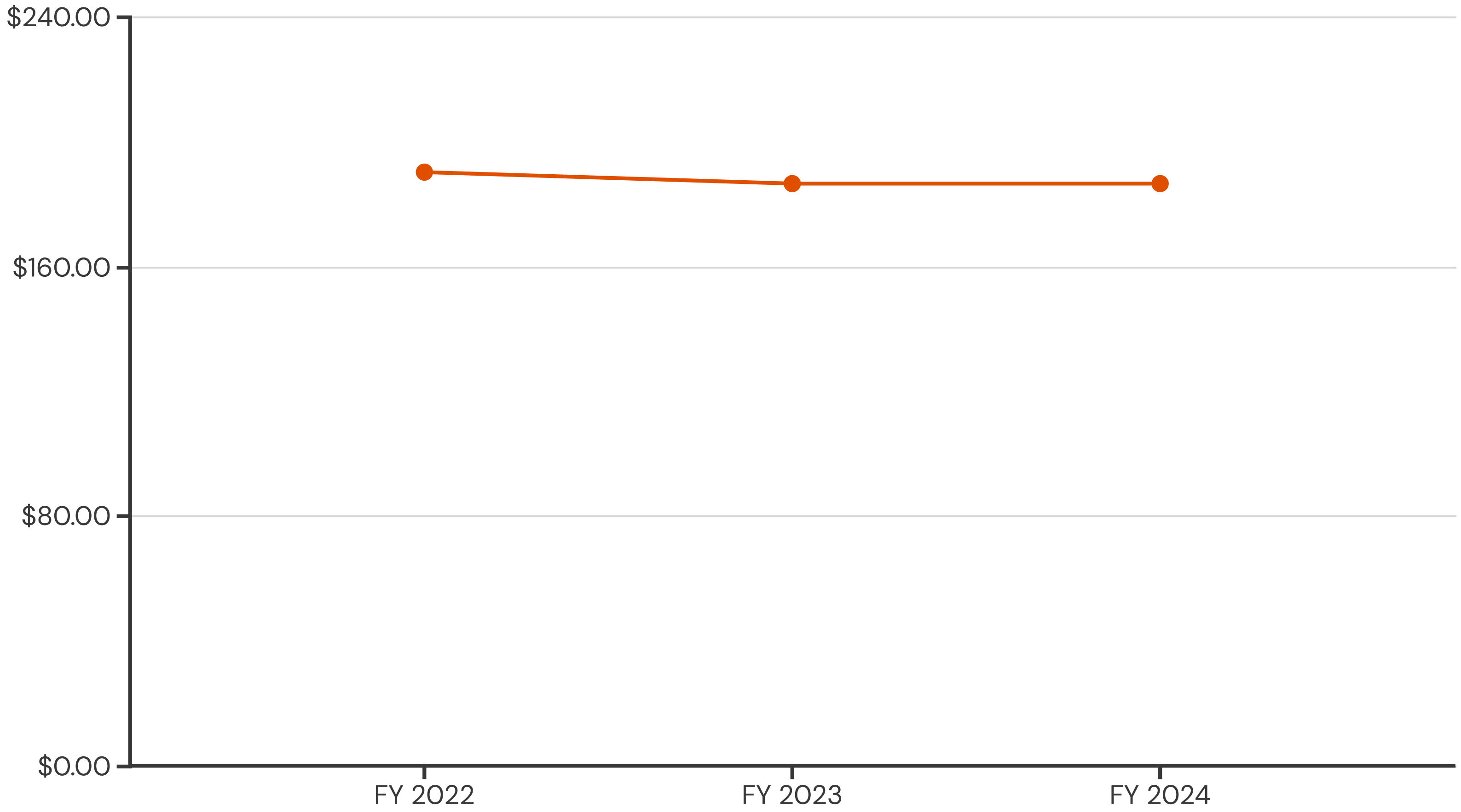
Traditional OEMs spend **48-54 months** developing new models.

Chinese Competition

Chinese insurgent OEMs complete development in **24-30 months** at costs representing only **27% of top 5 German OEMs' average**.

This R&D retreat occurs precisely when competitive pressure demands acceleration.

Contradiction #19: Federal R&D Funding Stagnation



Federal R&D obligations declined from **$190.5 billion in FY 2022 to $186.4 billion in FY 2023**, with FY 2024 estimates remaining flat. Federal R&D funding grew at only **1% annual CAGR (2013–2023)** in constant dollars while business R&D funding grew at **6% annual CAGR**—creating widening gap in fundamental research support.

Contradiction #20: Continental Supplier R&D Ratio Reduction

Continental, a major Tier 1 automotive supplier, is reducing R&D ratio from **12% (2023) to under 10% medium-term**, targeting **9% by 2028**, affecting **1,750 jobs worldwide** including 380 at Elektrobit.

This occurs as automotive industry faces unprecedented technological transformation requiring increased development investment in electrification, autonomy, and connectivity.

Manufacturing and Industry 4.0 Contradictions

Manufacturing organizations recognize automation as critical for competitiveness yet are delaying essential Industry 4.0 investments, canceling factory upgrades, and postponing smart manufacturing projects due to tariff uncertainty and short-term cost pressures.

Contradiction #21: Manufacturing Automation Recovery Collapse

Worst Year in Recent Memory

Motion control revenues down 7% globally, low voltage motor drives down 5%

Revenue Projections Collapsed

ISM manufacturing revenue growth from 4.2% to 0.1% (97% reduction)

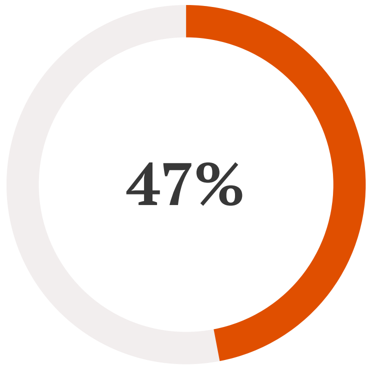
Capital Expenditures Drop

Projected to drop 1.3% in 2025 versus earlier projection of 5.2% increase

Raw Material Costs Skyrocket

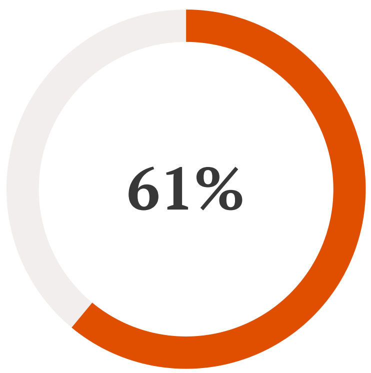
Projected to increase 7.5% due to tariffs

Contradiction #22: Tariff-Induced Investment Paralysis



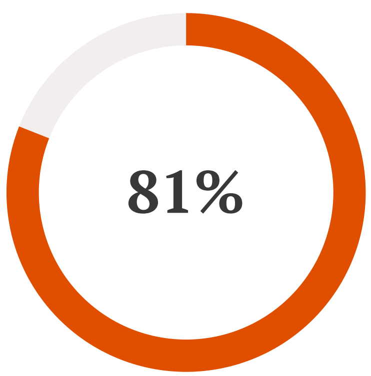
Cost Doubling

Companies say reshoring would more than double costs



Relocation Preference

Say relocating to lower-tariff countries more cost-effective



Automation Choice

Would use automation over human workers if reshoring

Despite automation preference, tariff uncertainty caused widespread project delays. The Economic Policy Uncertainty index increased **72 points in January-February 2025**, freezing critical automation investments.

Contradiction #23: Clean Energy Manufacturing Project Cancellations

16 clean energy and EV manufacturing projects worth $8 billion were canceled in Q1 2025, growing to **$15.5 billion by May 2025** with **12,000 potential jobs lost**.

AESC's $1.6 billion South Carolina EV battery plant

Paused indefinitely

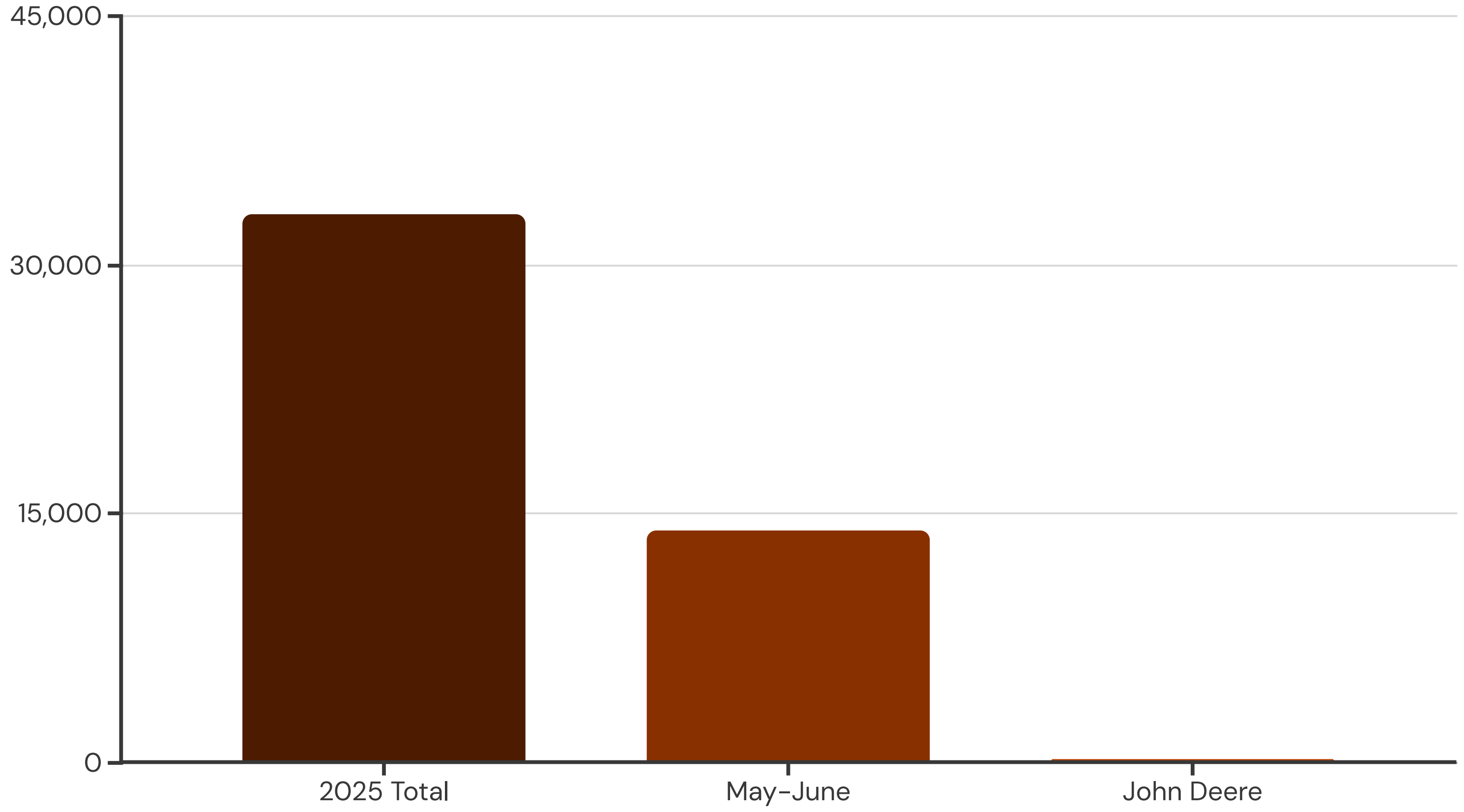
Bosch's $200 million hydrogen fuel cell facility

Canceled

Freyr/T1 Energy's $2.5 billion Georgia battery plant

Canceled

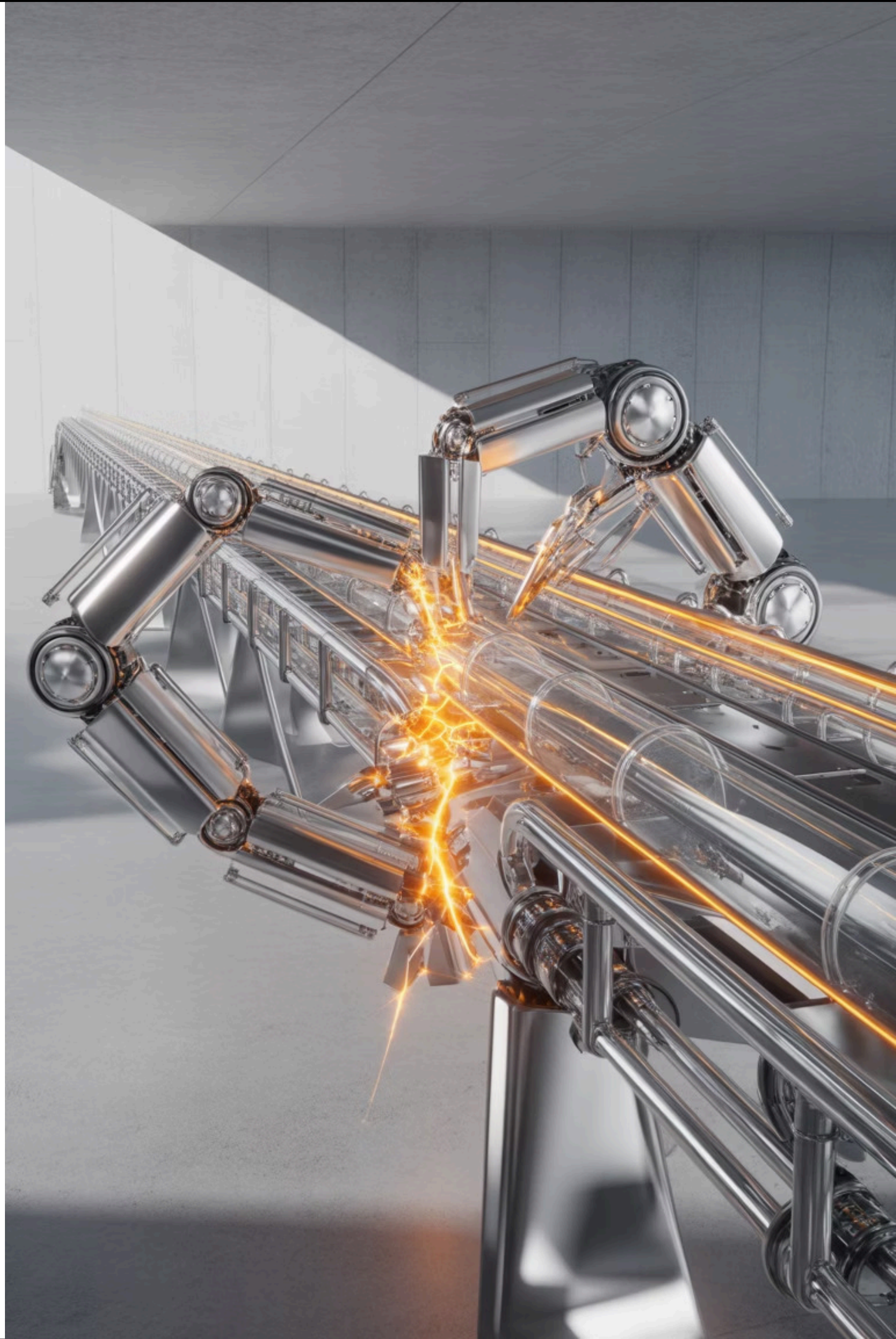
Contradiction #24: Manufacturing Employment Decline Despite Reshoring Rhetoric



Manufacturing employment **sank by 33,000 jobs** in 2025 (through August). Factory hiring in May 2025 reached **weakest levels since 2016** (below even Covid-19 pace). John Deere cited tariffs in announcing **$300 million** in tariff-related costs.

Supply Chain Contradictions

After painful pandemic lessons about supply chain fragility, organizations are actively unwinding resilience investments, reducing supplier diversity, cutting inventory buffers, and reverting to cost-focused strategies that recreate previous vulnerabilities.



Contradiction #25: Supply Chain Resilience Investment Pullback

90% Experienced Challenges

McKinsey's 2024 survey shows overwhelming supply chain disruption

Taking Foot Off Gas

Companies reducing resilience investments after initial pandemic response

Digitization Leveling Off

Supply chain digitization investment plateauing after rapid 2020-2023 growth

Lost Seat at Table

Only 25% have formal processes to discuss supply chain issues at board level (down from nearly 50% in 2023)

Contradiction #26: Multi-Sourcing Strategy Reversals

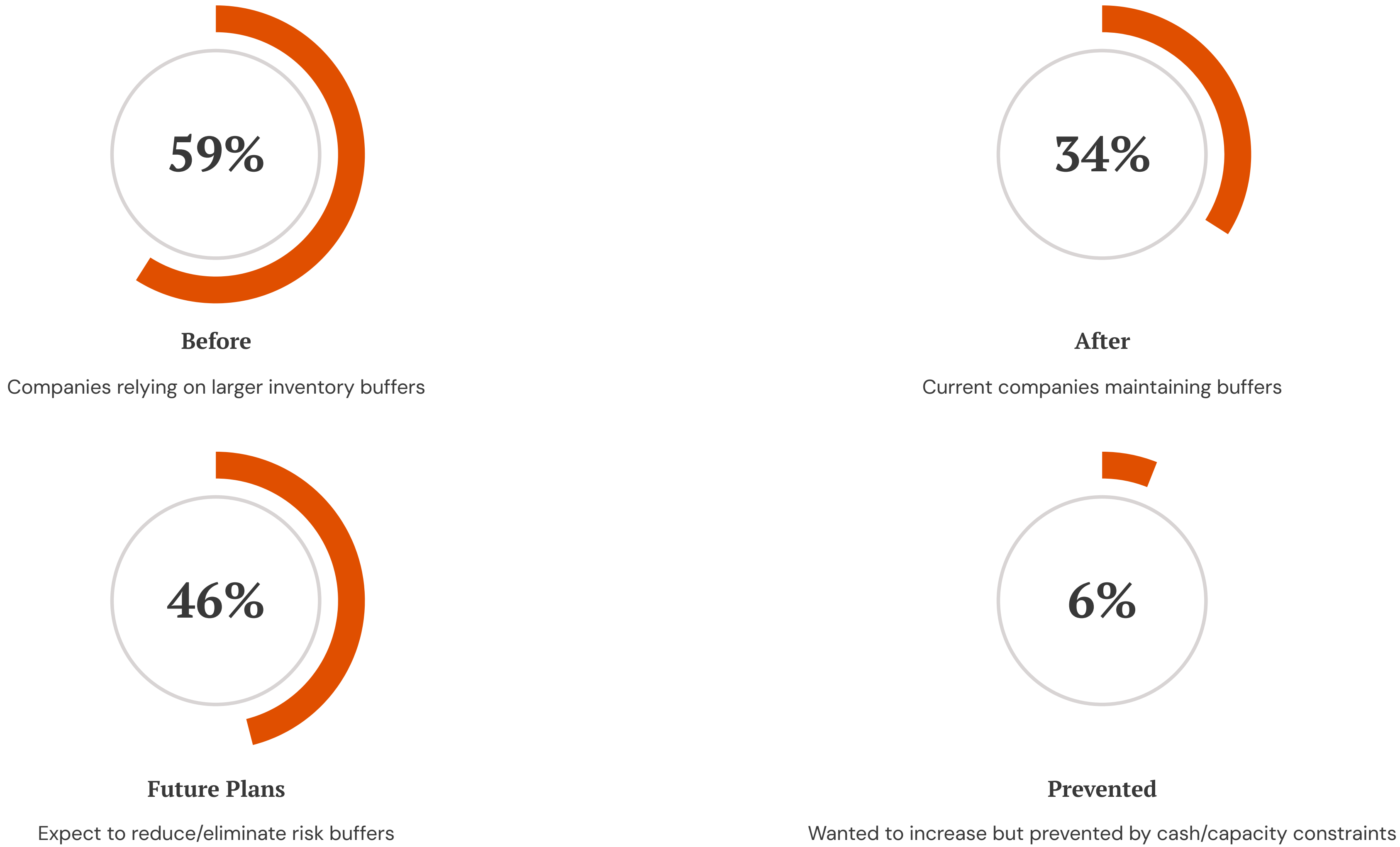
The Retreat

Multi-sourcing declined **below 2019 levels** after 13% pandemic increase. The number of suppliers-per-buyer among top 500 U.S. importers fell below pre-pandemic levels in Q3 2023.

The Pressure

S&P Global data shows gross operating profit margins falling to **10.4% of sales in 2024 from 10.7% in 2022**, with capital expenditures expected to **exceed gross operating profits by 5%**—forcing abandonment of diversification strategies.

Contradiction #27: Inventory Buffer Elimination



Finished goods inventory fell for **8 of first 9 months in 2023**—prioritizing cash flow over resilience.

Contradiction #28: Deep-Tier Supply Chain Visibility Decline

Share of companies with good visibility into deeper supply chain levels **fell 7 percentage points** in McKinsey's survey—the second consecutive annual decline. While **60% have comprehensive visibility of tier-one suppliers** (up from 50%), major disruptions typically start deep in supply chains where visibility is deteriorating.

Only **9% say supply chains are currently compliant** with EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive.

Sustainability and Climate Contradictions

Organizations are systematically abandoning climate commitments, scaling back renewable investments, and increasing fossil fuel financing despite acknowledging climate risks—revealing that sustainability pledges were largely performative when economic pressure intensified.

Contradiction #29: Tractor Supply Complete Climate Commitment Abandonment

Company Profile

$14 billion agriculture/livestock retailer

DEI Elimination

Eliminated ALL jobs focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion

Climate Goals Withdrawn

Withdrew ALL carbon-emissions goals despite prior commitment to net zero by 2040

This represents complete abandonment of ESG strategy after building it into company identity.

Contradiction #30: Unilever Major Sustainability Pledge Reductions

- **Virgin Plastics Target**

  Reduced from 50% reduction by 2025 to 30% by 2026 (difference: 100,000+ tons of fresh plastic annually)

- **Diverse Business Spending**

  Eliminated pledge to spend €2.1 billion ($2.1 billion) annually on diverse businesses

- **Disability Hiring**

  Dropped 5% workforce disability hiring commitment

- **Food Waste**

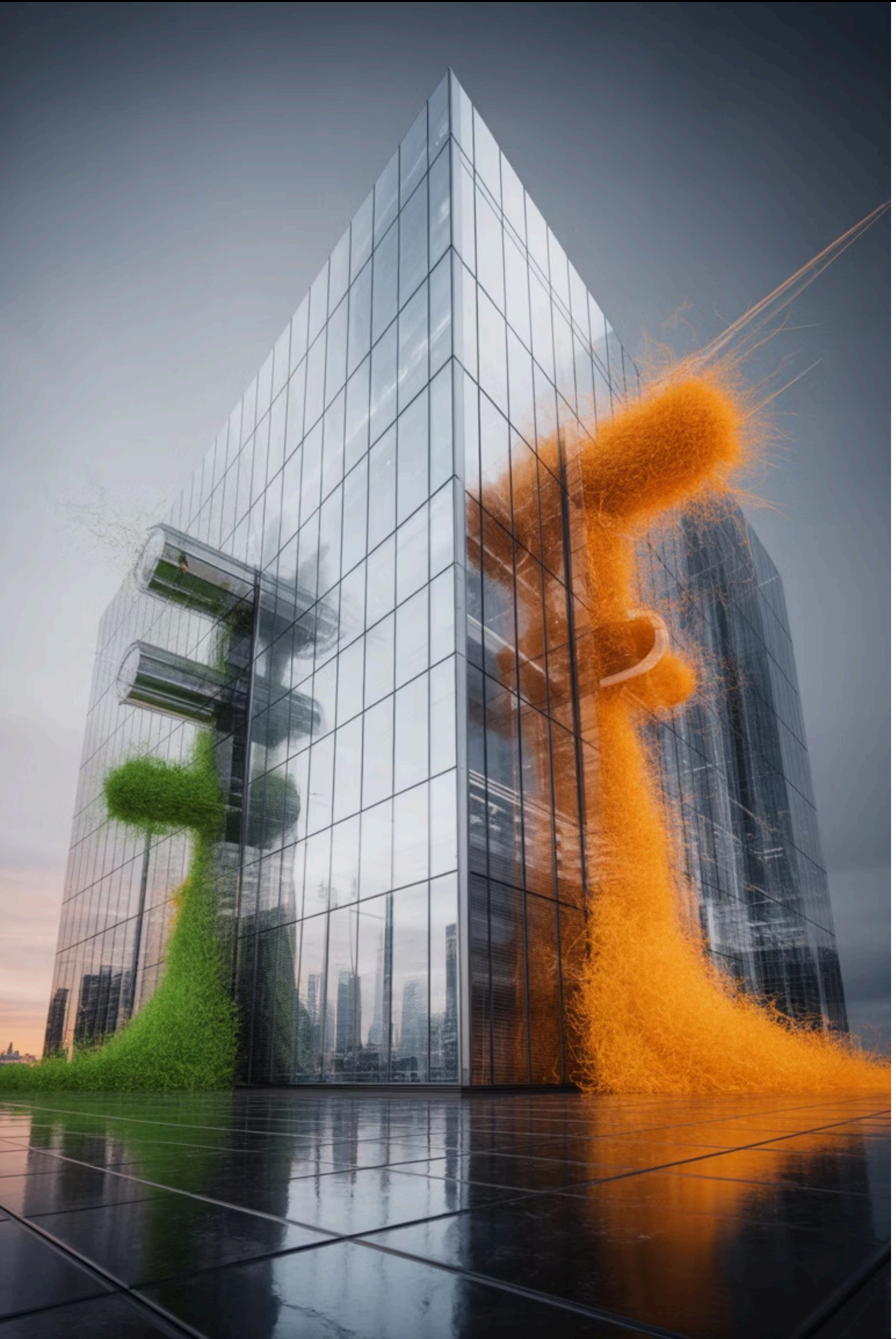
  Abandoned 50% food waste reduction target

- **Biodegradable Ingredients**

  Eliminated 100% biodegradable ingredients by 2030 goal

- **Living Wage**

  Scaled back from paying ALL suppliers living wage to only HALF of procurement spend by 2026



Contradiction #31: Major Banks Exit Net-Zero Banking Alliance

JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Citigroup, Wells Fargo, Morgan Stanley, and Goldman Sachs all left the Net-Zero Banking Alliance in 2024-2025. The Alliance represented **$74 trillion in assets at peak** (40% of global banking assets).

All six major U.S. banks departed while simultaneously **increasing fossil fuel financing to $869 billion in 2024** (3-year high). **45 of 65 covered banks increased year-over-year fossil fuel financing**.

Contradiction #32: Wells Fargo Net-Zero Target Elimination

Wells Fargo

Wells Fargo **eliminated its goal to achieve net-zero emissions** across its portfolio by 2050 in February 2025.

Bank of America

Bank of America simultaneously walked back commitments not to finance Arctic drilling and coal projects.

This represents explicit abandonment of previously publicized climate pledges in response to political and economic pressures.

Contradiction #33: UBS 10-Year Net-Zero Delay

UBS pushed back net-zero GHG emissions target from **2025 to 2035** (10-year delay) in its 2024 Sustainability Report, attributing the shift to Credit Suisse acquisition.

The bank altered language from "ambition to achieve net-zero" to "economy aims to transition"—distancing itself from direct responsibility while benefiting from previous sustainability marketing.

Contradiction #34: Institutional Investors' Massive Fossil Fuel Holdings

$4.3T

Total Holdings

In fossil fuel company bonds and shares

$444B

Vanguard

In coal, oil, and gas assets

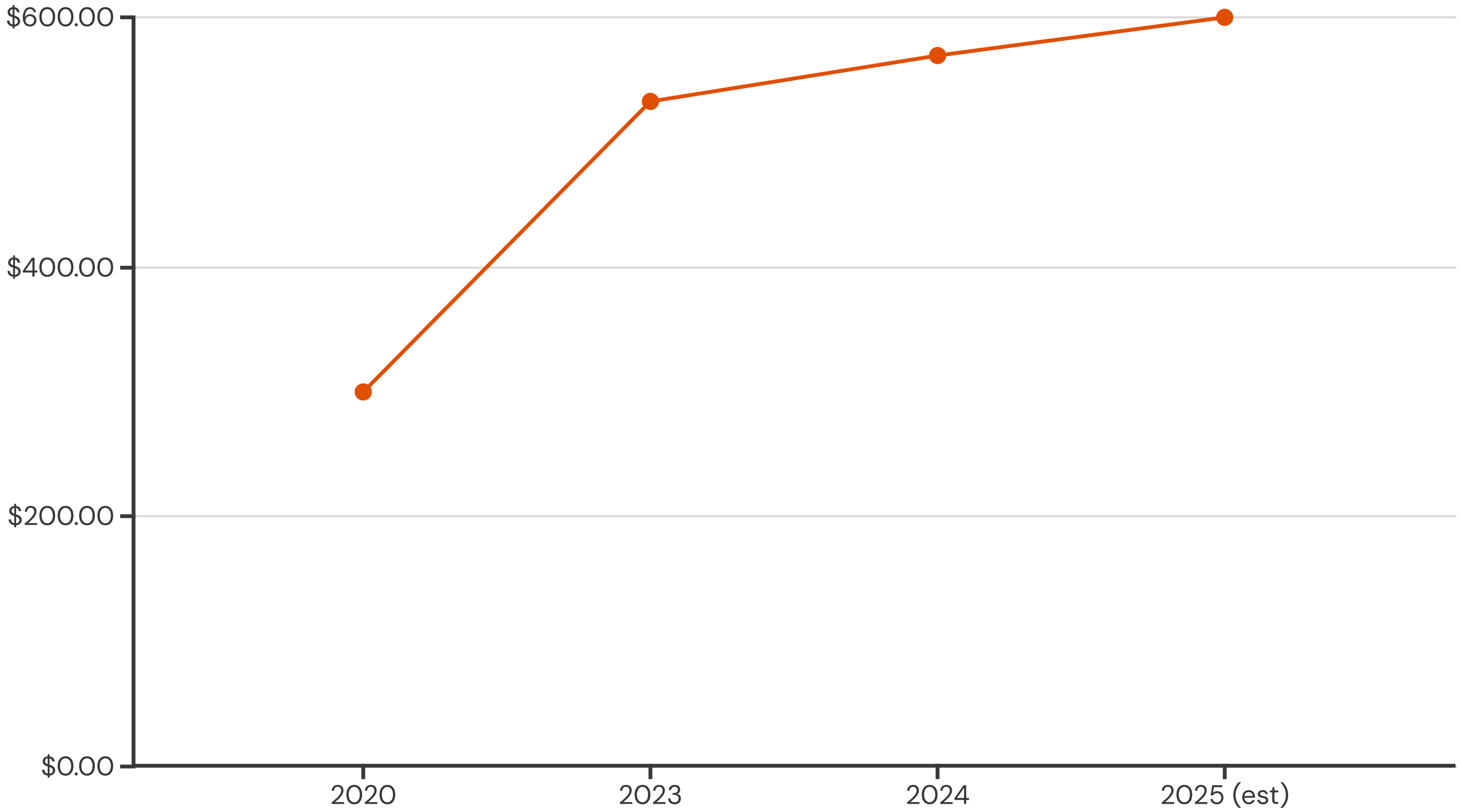
$3.1T

U.S. Investors

72% of global total

Institutional investors hold **$4.3 trillion in bonds and shares of fossil fuel companies** as of May 2024—revealing that ESG funds and climate commitments coexist with unprecedented fossil fuel investment levels.

Contradiction #35: Oil and Gas Industry Investment Expansion



$570 billion in upstream investment in 2024 (7% increase from 2023), expected to surpass **$600 billion for first time in decade**. Clean energy investment by oil and gas companies totaled only **$30 billion in 2023 (4% of industry's overall capital spending)**—a ratio of **$25 spent on fossil fuels for every $1 on clean energy**.

Contradiction #36: BP Dramatic Renewable Investment Cuts

BP's 2025-2027 plan shows **$10.5 billion/year in oil/gas** versus **$0.8 billion/year in "low carbon energy"**—representing an **80% cut** from previous plan of **$4 billion/year** in low carbon to 2030.

The company reversed its 2023 commitment, now planning to **increase oil/gas production to 2.3-2.5 million barrels/day by 2030** (previously planned to reduce). Clean energy represents only **12% of capital expenditure** (lowest among major oil companies).

Contradiction #37: ExxonMobil Zero Renewable Investment

Oil and Gas Investment

$26.7 billion in 2024

Renewable Power Investment

$0 in 2024

Shareholder Distributions

$37.0 billion in 2024

Production Increase

From 4.2 million barrels/day (2027 target) to 5.4 million barrels/day by 2030—53% above IEA Net Zero Emissions scenario

Contradiction #38: Five Major Oil Companies $3.1 Trillion Fossil Fuel Spending

$3.1 Trillion

BP, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Shell, and TotalEnergies forecast **$3.1 trillion spending on oil and gas extraction from 2024-2050**—one-third MORE than these companies spent over the past 25 years ($2 trillion).

01

$15 Million Every Hour

From 2024 to 2030

02

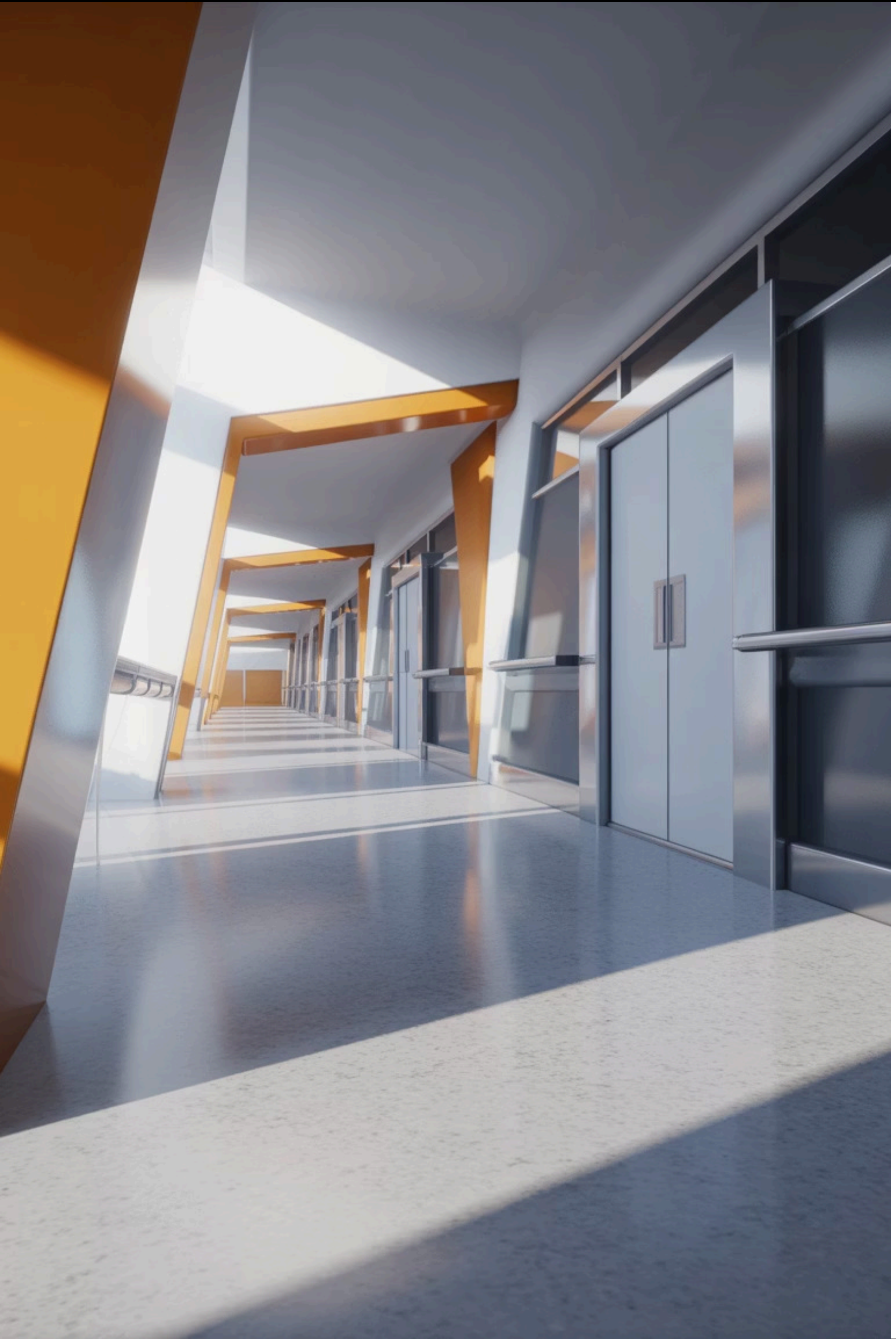
47 Billion Tonnes CO2

Will emit by 2050

03

1/8 of Remaining Carbon Budget

For 1.5°C target



Healthcare Contradictions

Healthcare systems face critical access challenges and preparedness needs yet are implementing widespread hospital closures, massive federal budget cuts, workforce reductions, and technology service eliminations—undermining the foundation of healthcare delivery.

Contradiction #39: Accelerating Hospital Closure Crisis

2025 Pace

18 hospital closures reported through mid-2025, on pace to exceed 2024's **25 closures**. Historical data shows **193 rural hospitals closed 2005-2024**, with **30% of rural hospitals vulnerable to closure**.

Major Closures

- St. Luke's Des Peres Hospital (143-bed facility, August 2025)
- Crozer-Chester Medical Center (2,651 employees laid off, May 2025)
- Mount Sinai Beth Israel (April 2025)
- Ascension sold/closed nearly 30 hospitals after posting $4 billion in operating losses (2020-2023)

Contradiction #40: Severe Federal Health Budget Decimation

40%

NIH Cut

From $48B (2025) to $27.5B (2026)

53%

CDC Reduction

From $8.5B to $4.24B

55%

Emergency Preparedness

Public Health Emergency Preparedness down

26%

HHS Overall

Discretionary budget cut from $128.7B (2024) to $95.4B (2026)

HHS faces **8,000-10,000 employee layoffs**. Hospital Preparedness Program **eliminated entirely**.

Contradiction #41: Telehealth Flexibility Expiration

Medicare telehealth flexibilities **expired September 30, 2025** without permanent extension, threatening access for millions. At peak, telemedicine accounted for **42% of Medicare outpatient visits** during pandemic. Nearly **25% of U.S. adults over 65** had video visits during pandemic versus 5.4% before.

1. **Geographic Restrictions Returned**
2. **Home-Based Visits No Longer Reimbursed**
3. **Audio-Only Visits No Longer Covered**
4. **FQHCs/RHCs Lost Distant Site Provider Ability**

Contradiction #42: Healthcare Workforce Cuts Amid Shortage Crisis

CVS Health

2,900 employees laid off

Texas Children's Hospital

1,000 employees (5% of workforce)

Mass General Brigham

Hundreds planned for $250 million budget deficit

Memorial Sloan Kettering

420 jobs eliminated

Walmart

Closed all 51 care centers and virtual care division

Federal HHS

Target reduction from 92,620 employees (Sept 2024) to 62,000 = 30,620 reduction (33%)

Agriculture Contradictions

Precision agriculture technology delivers proven efficiency gains and increased yields yet remains drastically underadopted as rising farm debt, declining income, and prohibitive technology costs prevent investment precisely when farmers need efficiency improvements most.

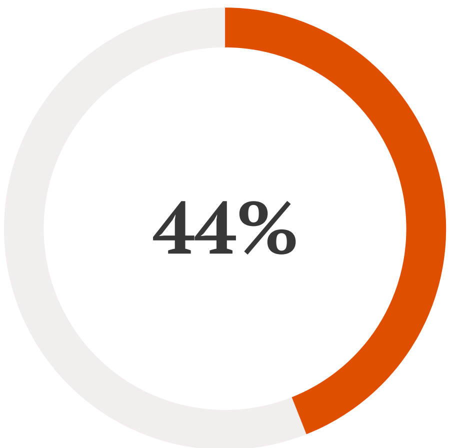
Contradiction #43: Record Farm Debt Preventing Technology Investment

Rising Debt

Total farm sector debt forecast at **$561.8 billion in 2025** (up 3.7% from 2024), increasing from **$503.7 billion (2021) to $561.8 billion (2025) = 11.5% increase**.

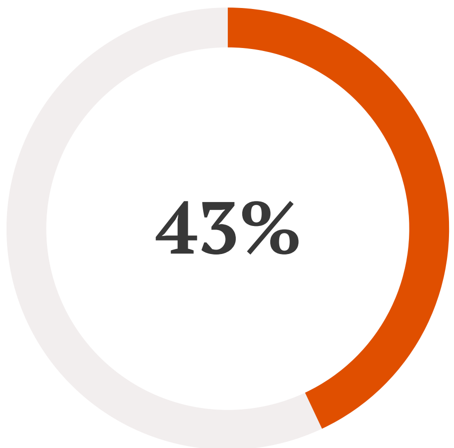
Declining Income

Net farm income declined **22.6% in just 2 years** from **$181.9 billion (2022 peak) to $140.7 billion (2024)**—a **$41.2 billion loss**.



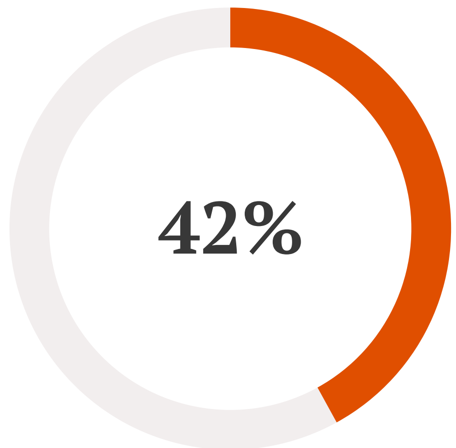
Soybean Operations

Down from 2022-2024



Wheat Operations

Down from 2022-2024



Corn Operations

Down from 2022-2024

Contradiction #44: Precision Agriculture Adoption Remains Drastically Low

Only **27% of U.S. farms use ANY precision agriculture practices** (2023 USDA data), with **85% of all U.S. farms** (small farms) NOT using precision technology.

U.S. Large Farms

70% use autosteering, 68% use yield monitors/maps, but only 15-40% use "some form" of precision tech overall

Western Europe

68% adoption even for small farms

Scotland

85% adoption rate

Denmark

80% adoption rate

Contradiction #45: High Technology Costs Create Adoption Barrier

Cost as Top Barrier

47% of farmers globally cite cost as top barrier to adoption, with 50% unwilling to pay for farm management software solutions

Private 5G Wireless Systems

~$55,000 upfront plus $6,000 annually

General Precision Equipment

$20,000 initial investment plus $1,000-$2,000 annual maintenance

Software Subscriptions

$2,000-$15,000 annually

Despite proven benefits of **15-30% yield increases** and **10-30% input cost reductions** with **2-5 year ROI**, upfront costs prevent adoption.

Construction Contradictions

Construction firms recognize digital tools and BIM as industry standards delivering proven efficiency gains, yet adoption remains shallow with traditional methods persisting—particularly among smaller firms facing cost pressures that digital tools could actually alleviate.

Contradiction #46: BIM Adoption Gap Despite Mandates

Adoption vs. Implementation

While BIM adoption surpassed **70% of global projects**, implementation depth varies dramatically with only **45% of turnover coming from BIM projects** among European BIM users (USP Research H2 2024).

Size Disparity

In the U.S., **100% of large architecture firms use BIM** but only **one-third of small architecture firms** use BIM for billable work.

Despite technology adoption averaging **6.2 technologies per construction business** (up 20%), full integration remains lacking with **67% investing in APS systems but only 10% completing deployments**.

Contradiction #47: Cost Efficiency Need Versus Digital Investment Delays

Construction input prices increased **1.4% (Feb 2024), 0.4% (March), 0.5% (April)**, remaining **2.3% higher than previous year**. BIM and digital tools proven to reduce costs, errors, and rework, yet upfront investment barriers prevent adoption particularly for small-to-mid-sized contractors on thin margins.

The global BIM market of **$10.1 billion in 2024** (projected **$29.6 billion by 2032**) shows technology availability, but economic/cost barriers rank highest among adoption obstacles.

Retail Contradictions

Retailers face explosive omnichannel market growth and strong consumer spending yet are closing physical stores at record rates while struggling to implement digital technologies that could improve efficiency and customer experience.

Contradiction #48: Massive Store Closures Despite Omnichannel Boom

15K

Store Closures

Predicted for 2025

334%

Year-Over-Year Increase

More than double 2024's 7,325 closures

$25B

Omnichannel Market

Expected by 2032 (14% CAGR)

Macy's

150 stores over 3 years, 66 in 2025

Kohl's

27 stores plus e-commerce fulfillment center

Party City

All 700 stores liquidated

Big Lots

Nearly 300 stores

Joann

All 800 stores

Contradiction #49: Strong Consumer Spending Amid Retail Financial Distress

Strong Metrics

- Holiday sales grew **4% in 2024 totaling $995 billion**
- Core retail sales up **5.4% year-over-year**
- Consumer sentiment at highest level since April 2024 (71.8 in November)
- Disposable income up **5.1% year-over-year** in October 2024

Distress Reality

Despite these strong metrics, 2024 saw highest store closures since pandemic (**7,325**) with multiple bankruptcies including Party City (2nd bankruptcy in 2 years), Big Lots, and American Freight.

Coresight CEO explains: "Retailers unable to adapt supply chains and implement technology to cut costs were significantly impacted."