

Workforce Development

Arizona's workforce, funding, and opportunities

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Chair: AZ Tech Council AI Ecosystem Committee

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AI Layoff Narrative

54K

2025

Only ~5% of total cuts:
Nearly 5× year-over-year increase

165K

2026 YTD

~23% of all announced
U.S. reductions Jan-Jun

31%

June 2026 Share

AI was the leading stated reason
for four consecutive months

The Counterfactual Test

Is this a direct replacement of jobs or an accelerant due to AI?

Stronger AI Causality If...

- Strong demand and healthy profitability
- No major portfolio closures or obvious overhiring
- Documented AI productivity gains
- Specific automated tasks identified

AI as Accelerant If...

- Falling revenue or deteriorating margins
- Pandemic-era headcount expansion
- Underperforming acquisitions or product closures
- Investor pressure or duplicated management



Workforce Development Boards

\$2.9B

2024-2026

Federal Funding for
WIOA programs

\$12.5M

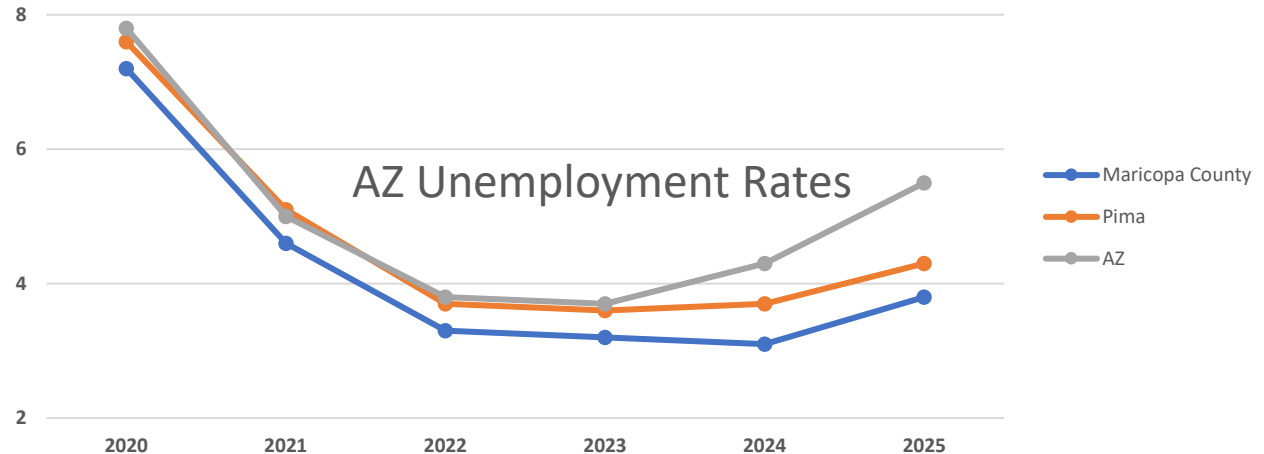
Maricopa County

WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker,
and Youth programs

\$ 375K

2026 Walmart: CFA

Private / Corporate grants
are trending



Trends



8,500 = \$1.4B New Business



2026: 3x Entry Level Positions



Slop Grenades



The U.S. leads across the AI ecosystem, but leadership is uneven

Capability	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5
Capability Base					
Talent: AI talent production & research output	CHN	USA	IND	UK	FRA
Frontier-AI Talent Pipeline	CHN	USA	UK	IND	FRA
Research & Innovation	USA: 79	CHN: 37	IND: 22	KOR: 17	UK: 17
Global Compute Infrastructure: Data Centers	USA: 57%	CHN: 15%	IRL: 4%	SNG: 3%	JPN/DEU: 2%
Frontier Model Development	USA: 50	CHN: 47	UK	FRA	CAN
Industrial and market scale					
Semiconductor & Hardware: Global Chip Output	TWN	USA	KOR	NLD	JPN
Private Investment & Funding	USA: \$286B	CHN: \$12B	UK: \$5B	FRA: \$4B	IND: \$3B
Commercial Adoption (>80%) (US: 18%)	IND	CHN	NGA	UAE	SAU
Population Adoption (US: 31%)	UAE: 70%	SGP: 63%	NOR: 49%	IRL: 48%	FRA: 48%
Government & Global Influence					
Government Readiness	USA	FRA	SGP	KOR	UK
Responsible AI / Ethics & Governance	NOR	ITL	IRL	FRA	NLD
Geopolitical Positioning: Alliances & Export Leverage	USA	CHN	TWN	NLD	JPN



THE TAKEAWAY

The U.S. leads by breadth.

The gap is narrowing in selected strategic capabilities.

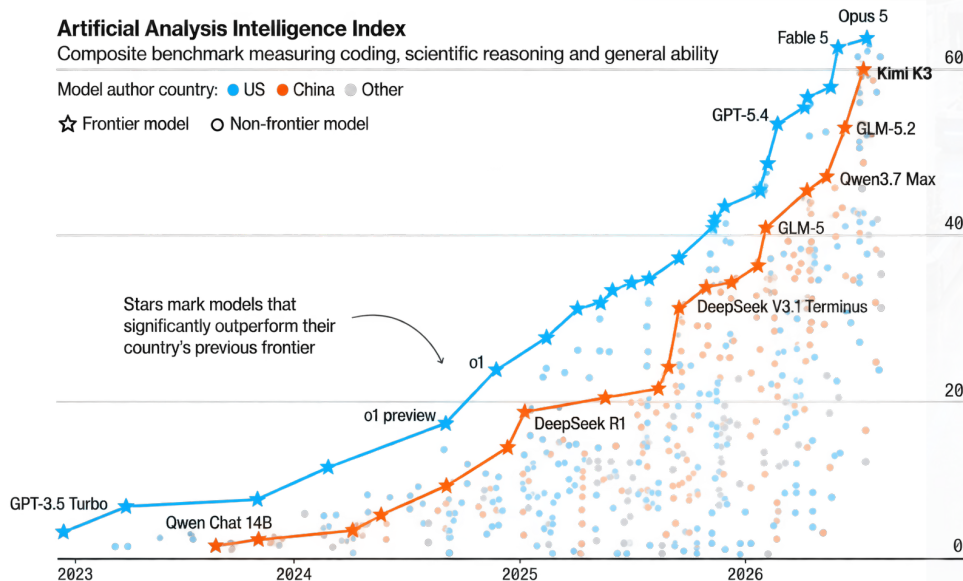
China vs USA

Artificial Analysis Intelligence Index

Composite benchmark measuring coding, scientific reasoning and general ability

Model author country: ● US ● China ● Other

☆ Frontier model ○ Non-frontier model

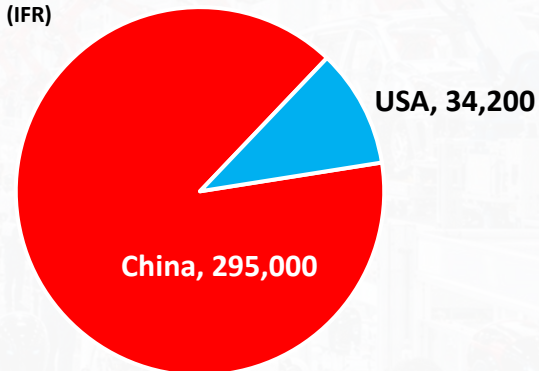


Bloomberg.com 8/19/2026

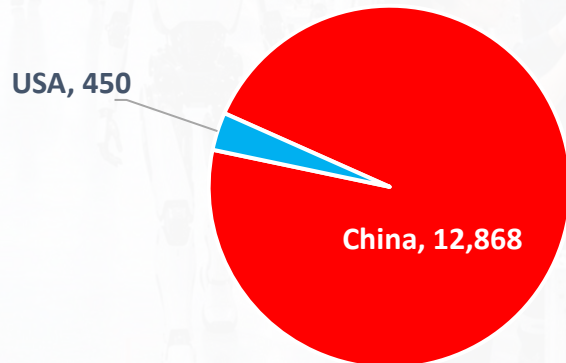
Industrial Robot Installations (2024)

International Federation of Robotics (IFR)
Sept 2025 Report

China	295,000
Japan	44,500
United States	34,200



Humanoid robots sold/shipped (2025)



Why This Matters for Arizona



AI Is Accelerating

Faster than any technology in history. The organizations that lead with strategy, knowledge, and best practices now, will define the next decade.



The Race Is Global

The U.S. is competing with China, the EU, and emerging markets. Arizona has the ability to be a national leader based on decisions we make around education, workforce development, and policy.



Labor Is Evolving

AI is redesigning the workforce: creating new and enhancing existing roles, eliminating others, and reshaping corporate structures.