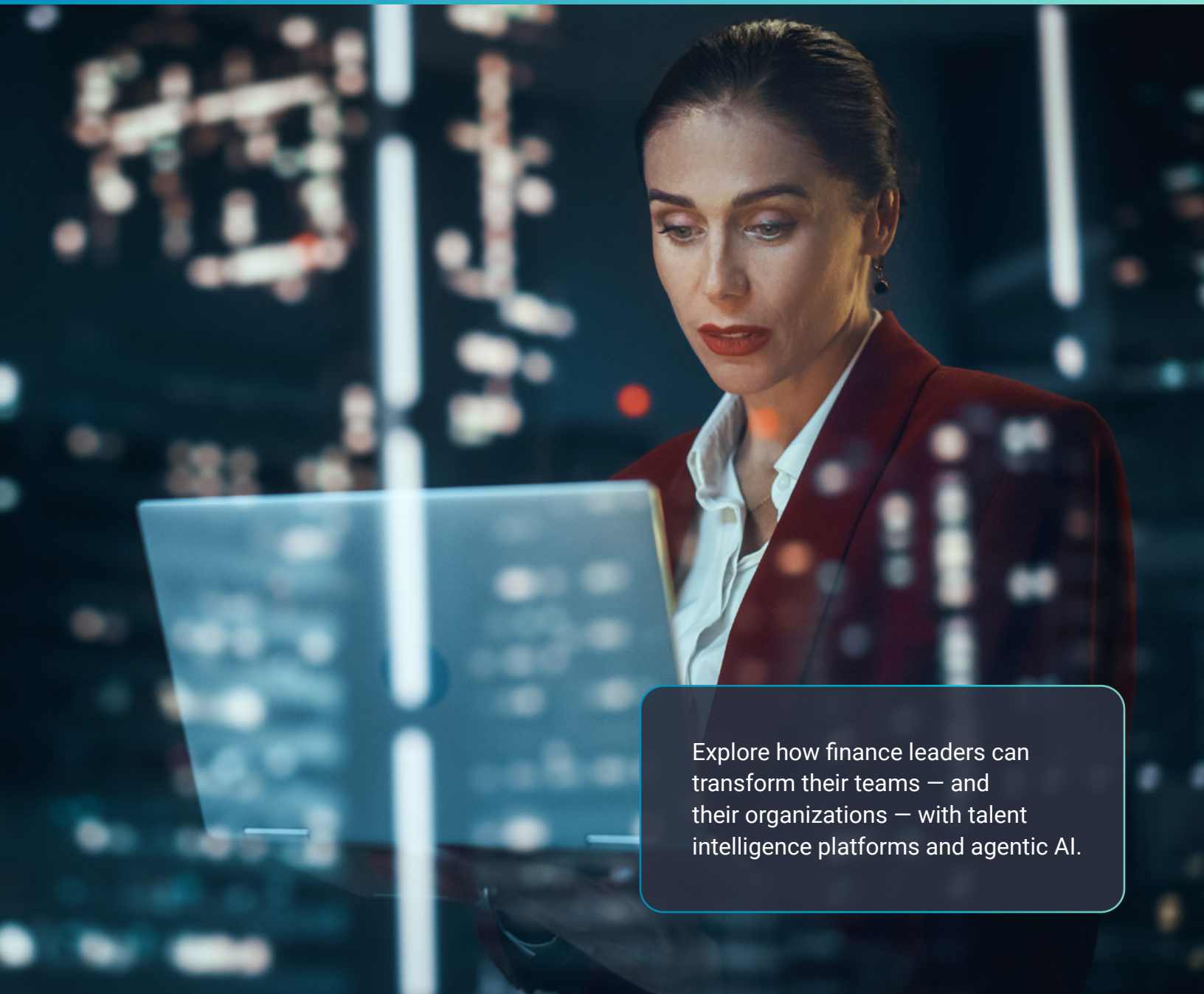


EXECUTIVE BRIEF

# The CFO's guide to agentic AI in HR

How CFOs are shaping the future of tech and talent with intelligent, autonomous AI.



Explore how finance leaders can transform their teams — and their organizations — with talent intelligence platforms and agentic AI.



## The AI opportunity

The race for reinvention is on.

Over the next three years, [92% of organizations](#) plan to increase their AI investments — and for good reason. McKinsey estimates that gen AI could contribute up to \$4.4 trillion to global GDP by 2030.

As a result, today's CFOs are under enormous pressure, and a shrinking timeline, to turn AI's potential into value. But when [70% of transformations fail](#), the margin for error is slim.

CFOs must invest in the right AI solutions, a daunting task with so much market noise, use cases, and forms of AI. In this brief, we explore how talent intelligence platforms with integrated agentic AI can help you build an agile workforce, empower HR to do more with less, and secure a competitive advantage for tomorrow.



## From generative to agentic AI

Generative AI has captured the attention of nearly every business. The proof is in the profits. According to a [new study](#) from IDC and Microsoft, organizations investing in AI see an average of \$3.7 for every dollar invested, with the top 5% of leaders in AI adoption seeing even higher return around \$10 for every dollar invested.

In just a few years, gen AI has transformed how we work, including how we make content, write code, and automate tasks. Now, the next leap for enterprises is here — a shift from reactive, prompted tools to independent, intelligent agents that boost productivity, reduce costs, and drive competitive advantage.

The future of gen AI is agentic AI.

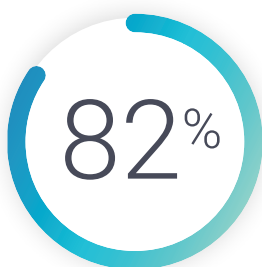
With the rise of [AI agents](#) — digital workers that can “reason, plan, and act” — organizations can now scale their workforces as needed, and adoption is already well underway. According to Microsoft [research](#), 81% of leaders expect AI agents to be deeply integrated into their company's AI strategies in the next year and a half. And [KPMG](#) reports that over half of organizations are exploring AI agents, and 65% are piloting AI agents.

But with high-speed, high-stakes transformations, there's always risk.

Many AI projects fail because organizations [lack the right skills](#). Another reason they fail, according to [Deloitte](#), is unrealistic business use cases. The result?

Many leaders sink considerable time and capital into buying and implementing new technologies, only to change direction later or realize they have invested in redundant technologies.

For CFOs to make the most of their AI investments and build a workforce ready for anything, they *must* invest strategically.



**of leaders say they're confident that they'll use digital labor to expand workforce capacity in the next 12–18 months.**

– [“2025: The Year the Frontier Firm Is Born,”](#) Microsoft

## The cost of getting agentic AI wrong

Before investing in agentic AI, it's critical to vet vendors and ask questions to ensure you're purchasing a true agent. Failure to differentiate between true agentic AI and false agents could lead to:



Systems that require constant oversight and reconfiguration.



Escalating costs from inefficiencies, redundant work, and continuous patching.



Losing trust from systems that overpromise and underdeliver.



Security and compliance gaps from mishandled sensitive data.



Falling behind as competitors deploy adaptive, self-improving systems.



## The role of talent intelligence

Talent intelligence platforms are dynamic, always-on platforms that use deep-learning, generative, and agentic AI to distill billions of global data points, helping your HR team and organization make better, faster, and more strategic talent decisions.

Why does that matter in the context of AI?

Because in the [next five years](#), 70% of worker's core skills will change. According to the World Economic Forum's (WEF) "[Future of Jobs Report 2025](#)," the need for upskilling and reskilling is so significant that "if the world's workforce was made up of 100 people, 59 would need training by 2030."

Your finance team and your organization need the best talent with the right skills to realize — and maximize — AI's value.

### With talent intelligence platforms, you can:



**Identify, hire, and upskill talent** with the skills needed today — and the potential to learn the ones you'll need tomorrow.



**Inform data-driven succession planning** based on merit, skills, and potential.



**Make informed hiring decisions** based on real-time data and an expanded talent pool — not just keywords — while improving the candidate experience.



**Create personalized learning pathways** for employees complementary to the organization's goals.

Talent intelligence platforms without agentic AI can tell you who to hire, but they can't help your HR team *run* the hiring process. With a talent intelligence platform embedded with agentic AI, you can reap all the benefits of traditional platforms while deploying autonomous agents that help:

- **Schedule interviews** based on hiring managers' and recruiters' preferences.
- **Conduct interviews** at the candidate's convenience, and give recruiters an agent that is always available.
- **Write, adjust, and send communications** based on real-time candidate engagement (or lack of engagement).
- **Learn and adapt** through every interaction.

## Benefits of agentic AI and talent intelligence for CFOs


### 1 Source highly skilled talent

One of the most impactful ways gen AI has saved organizations money is by reducing head count, but AI is now poised to create more jobs than it's replacing. According to the WEF, there will be approximately 170 million new jobs by 2030 — the equivalent of 14% of today's global workforce.

What's driving this job boom?

While AI can automate an impressive [40-60% of repetitive work](#), saving your organization a lot of money and time, only a fraction of complex tasks can be automated.

Analytical thinking remains the most prized skill among employers, according to the WEF, with 70% of companies considering it absolutely critical in 2025. In tandem with the rising need for flexible thinking is the growing need for the ability to *work alongside AI*.



**"Six in 10 workers already think of AI as a co-worker."**

— ["Stagility: Creating stability for workers for organizations to move at speed,"](#) Deloitte

In fact, organizations are nearly [six times more likely](#) to see significant ROI from AI when their employees work alongside these tools. While head count cuts eventually hit a breaking point, productivity gains from AI are virtually limitless. To succeed, your workforce needs highly adaptable, AI-literate employees who can quickly learn new skills.

Talent intelligence platforms can help you create a more adaptable workforce by sourcing this highly skilled talent. These platforms instantly uncover the skills that are rising or falling in the industry, which skills your team needs, and the candidates with the highest potential to meet those needs.

Armed with those insights, your team can partner with HR to build, buy, or borrow talent — in other words, upskill, hire, or contract out work with the skills that will drive long-term success across your entire organization, striking the right balance between digital and human workers.

### Top 10 fastest growing skills by 2030

- |   |                                      |    |                                 |
|---|--------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|
| 1 | AI and big data                      | 6  | Curiosity and lifelong learning |
| 2 | Networks and cybersecurity           | 7  | Leadership and social influence |
| 3 | Technological literacy               | 8  | Talent management               |
| 4 | Creative thinking                    | 9  | Analytical thinking             |
| 5 | Resilience, flexibility, and agility | 10 | Environmental stewardship       |

Source: [World Economic Forum | Future of Jobs Report 2025](#)

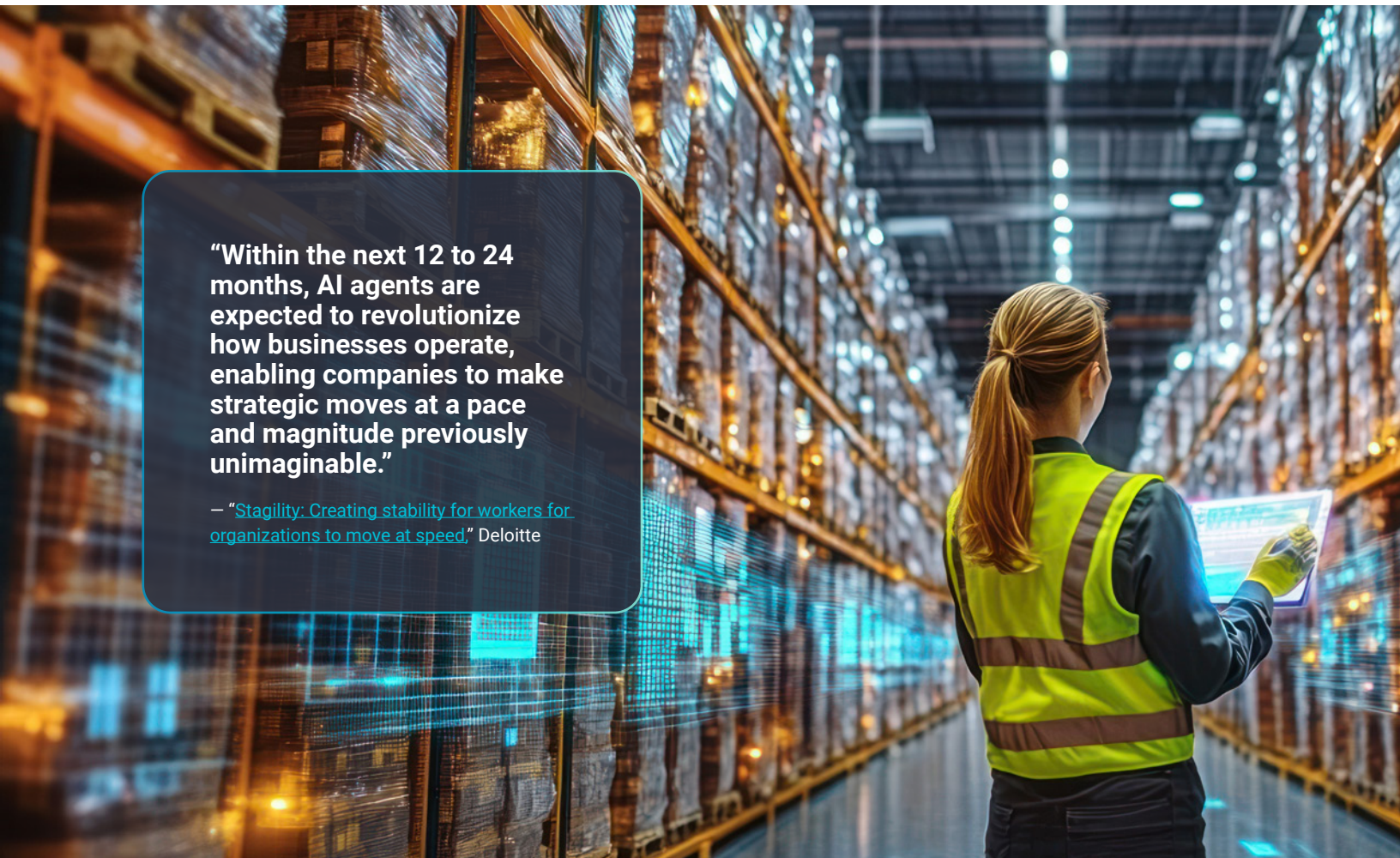


## 2 Empower HR to do more, faster and smarter

The most immediate benefit of these platforms will be for your HR team, the masterminds behind every hire. Unfortunately, false agentic AI applications are rampant. These are tools that rely on predefined workflows and single-shot prompts and run the risk of draining your budget while not delivering what your organization truly needs.

On the other hand, developing your own agentic AI requires significant investment and coordination, including developing complex systems that reconcile dozens of specialized processes and evolve as they work.

Talent intelligence platforms with embedded agentic AI deliver the promise of AI right out of the box — which is good news for your HR team, as they're the ones who need to urgently find skilled talent.

A woman with blonde hair in a ponytail, wearing a high-visibility yellow safety vest over a dark long-sleeved shirt, stands in a large warehouse aisle. She is holding a tablet computer and looking at the screen. The warehouse has high ceilings and rows of shelving units filled with boxes. The lighting is industrial, with some blue and yellow tones. A quote is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**“Within the next 12 to 24 months, AI agents are expected to revolutionize how businesses operate, enabling companies to make strategic moves at a pace and magnitude previously unimaginable.”**

— [“Stagility: Creating stability for workers for organizations to move at speed,”](#) Deloitte



Here’s an easy chart to compare the fundamental differences between true agentic AI and false agents.

	Rule-based systems	Traditional automation	Agentic AI
Decision-making	Follows rules as written. No ability to adjust.	Follows a set list of steps. Can’t skip, reorder, or choose a better path if something changes.	Continuously reasons through shifting inputs and goals.
Adaptability	None.	Limited to known scenarios.	Dynamically adjusts paths mid-task, reflects on outcomes, and redirects without manual intervention.
Product & data usage	Runs tools in a fixed way — no matter the task or outcome.	Sends the same request to a tool every time — can’t adapt to what’s needed at the moment.	Selects, orchestrates, and switches tools autonomously based on task evolution.
Memory	Doesn’t learn from past interactions — treats each input in isolation.	Doesn’t remember past interactions — treats each input in isolation.	Works in context, tracking past actions, decisions, and preferences.
Proactiveness	Only acts with direction and needs a specific input to start a task.	Watches for preset moments then responds, but can’t anticipate needs or prep ahead.	Monitors, identifies gaps, and takes initiative, even across long-running tasks.
Transparency	Decisions and actions are baked into code that doesn’t change.	Exact steps are clear, but there is no explanation or reasoning behind the steps	Provides clear, easy-to-read reasoning behind decisions.

For talent teams juggling complexity and high volume, true agentic AI goes deeper than automating clicks or sending reminders. It runs entire workflows, adapts as things change, and applies human-like judgment across thousands of moving parts.

This is more than offloading busywork. True agentic AI expands your HR team's *thinking powers*. That means handling not just tasks but decisions, adjustments, and reflection. Real agents lift both the manual and mental weight by spotting issues early, keeping processes healthy, and giving your team more space to focus on strategy.

False agents trap teams in endless patchwork: constantly rewriting prompts, overseeing brittle workflows, and manually correcting what the system failed to catch.

Global power management company Eaton used an AI-powered talent intelligence platform to [transform recruiting processes](#), as Deloitte reported. The company saw:

- **4x increase** in talent network size.
- **30-40% boost** in candidate velocity.
- **Double-digit improvements** across all recruiting metrics, including time to market, time to present, and time to offer.

Many other businesses are seeing [similar results](#) with talent intelligence platforms.



### 3 Sharpen your competitive edge

McKinsey reports that [virtually every](#) business (92%) plans to increase its AI investment over the next three years, but only 1% of leaders consider their company “mature” in its current deployment.

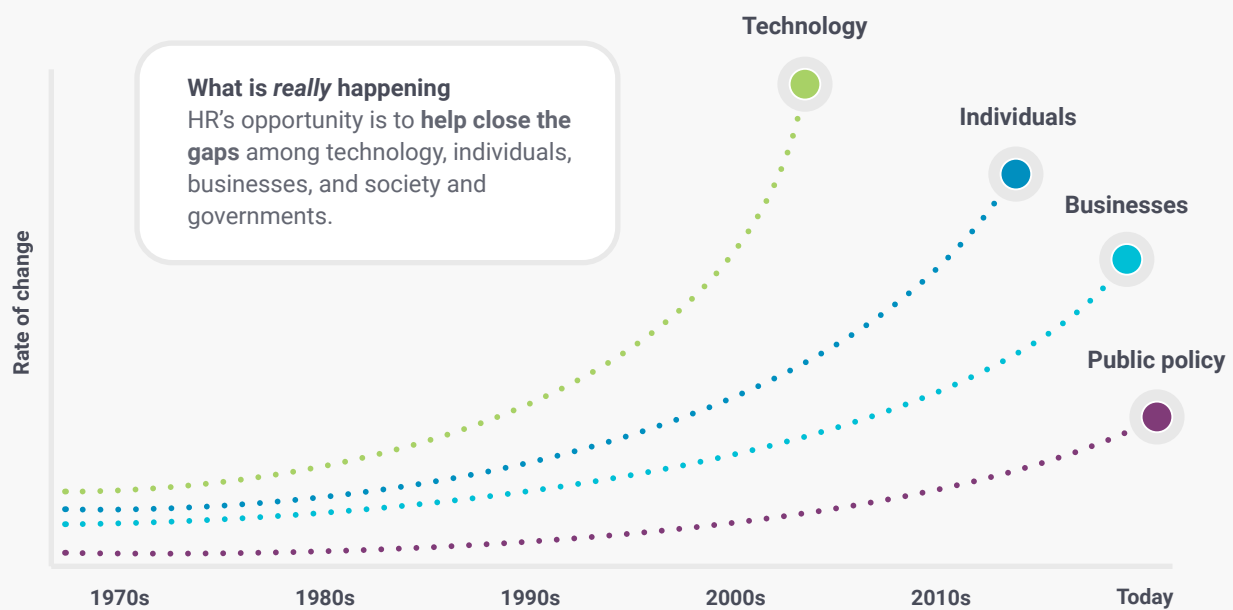
That means there’s a *huge* opportunity for early adopters.

But that’s only if organizations can align their leadership, talent, and technology. Accenture [found](#) that 87% of reinvention-ready companies — those most likely to realize AI’s value — possess “extensive collaboration” between their tech and business teams. While CFOs don’t need to code, they must intentionally orchestrate adoption and reinvention by aligning talent, tech, and culture around new ways of thinking and working.

On the flip side, there’s a massive opportunity cost to *waiting* too long to adopt and adapt. One study found that organizations with strong innovation can [better spot new opportunities and extract more value from their tech investments](#), but the same can’t be said for those lagging in adoption.

The world has its eyes on what AI — especially agentic AI — can help us achieve in business. CFOs who lead the way in adoption will outperform competitors for years to come.

#### The rate of adopters, individuals, society, businesses, and government agencies



Source: Deloitte University Press | [dupress.deloitte.com](http://dupress.deloitte.com)



## CFO's talent intelligence cheat sheet

Talent intelligence platforms can help your HR team source highly technical, AI-literate talent by instantly enhancing every stage of the talent life cycle, from hiring to reskilling. Even better, leading talent intelligence platforms can integrate with your existing HR infrastructure and deploy in as little as a few weeks, keeping total cost of ownership low and ROI high. The immediate benefit is better quality hires. The long-term benefit is an organization with agile skills and high-performing, engaged workers.

Agentic AI takes those benefits a step further by adapting to your HR team, offering generative insights and assistance, and augmenting complex processes. Reducing busywork and enhancing decision-making lets your HR team focus on building a more resilient, adaptable workforce ready for change.



### **Top concerns/strategic focus:**

- Driving long-term profitability and organizational health.
- Overcoming disruption and becoming more agile and resilient.
- Supporting talent acquisition and retention as it relates to organizational health and cost optimization.

### **Key challenges:**

- Achieving more with the same budget.
- Manage and stem the effects of rising costs and inflation.
- Help mitigate voluntary turnover and retain top talent.

### **Talent intelligence platforms help by:**

- Finding, attracting, and hiring high-performing talent with the technical skills needed for the future.
- Empowering strategic workforce planning to optimize for budget and skills.
- Offering built-in talent agents to help source the right talent, empower HR, and promote internal mobility.
- Increasing retention through personalized career pathways and development opportunities.

### **Questions to think about:**

- Do you feel your organization has the skills it needs to succeed over the next one to three years?
- How do you plan to use generative and agentic AI to reduce costs and improve productivity?
- Would you be open to using a proven and safe AI-powered solution to forecast and manage your workforce budget and expenses?
- In what ways would strategic, data-driven workforce planning help your organization become more productive and resilient?



## Build a modern workforce with talent intelligence and agentic AI

Agentic AI represents more than just the start of the next hype cycle. Its arrival is an inflection point where CFOs must decide how their organizations will work — and compete — over the next decade.

As a CFO, you're in a strategic position to shape this transformation and ensure that AI adoption doesn't stop at scripted, prompted tools but extends into systems that can act with judgment and learn over time.

At Eightfold, we're ready to help you lead that transformation. Our [Talent Intelligence Platform](#) combines your enterprise data, market trends, and real-time work signals to build a dynamic understanding of your workforce. By modeling skills, capabilities, aspirations, and the work people perform every day, our platform helps you anticipate talent needs, close skill gaps, and drive productivity.

The result: faster, smarter decisions across hiring, development, and planning — and a lasting talent advantage.

See how other [great organizations](#) are transforming their workforces with AI.

### About Eightfold AI

Eightfold Talent Intelligence is evolving into Talent Advantage — an end-to-end system that acts, not just analyzes. Eightfold AI engages with candidates from the moment of interest, screening, interviewing, and selecting top talent. Once hired, each employee's digital twin accelerates onboarding, amplifies productivity, and surfaces real-time insights from across the organization. With a unified platform for internal mobility and growth, CHROs can now lead a workforce that is engaged, adaptive, self-improving, and most importantly, productive. Our patented deep-learning and generative AI platform is available in more than 155 countries and 24 languages, enabling cutting-edge enterprises to transform their talent into a competitive advantage. For more information, visit [www.eightfold.ai](http://www.eightfold.ai).