

The economic benefits of open foundation models

Research note prepared by Mandala



March 2024

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This study estimates the core economic benefits of open foundation models for businesses in the US economy. This considers profit uplift, operational efficiencies and cost savings in rent reductions for US businesses having access to open foundation models versus closed foundation models.

To inform the US National Telecommunications and Information Administration consultation on “Dual Use Foundation Artificial Intelligence Models With Widely Available Model Weights”, this study estimates the benefits of a ‘diverse’ generative AI ecosystem, where both open and closed foundation models exist and are available to access, against the counterfactual of a ‘restricted’ ecosystem where only closed foundation models are available.

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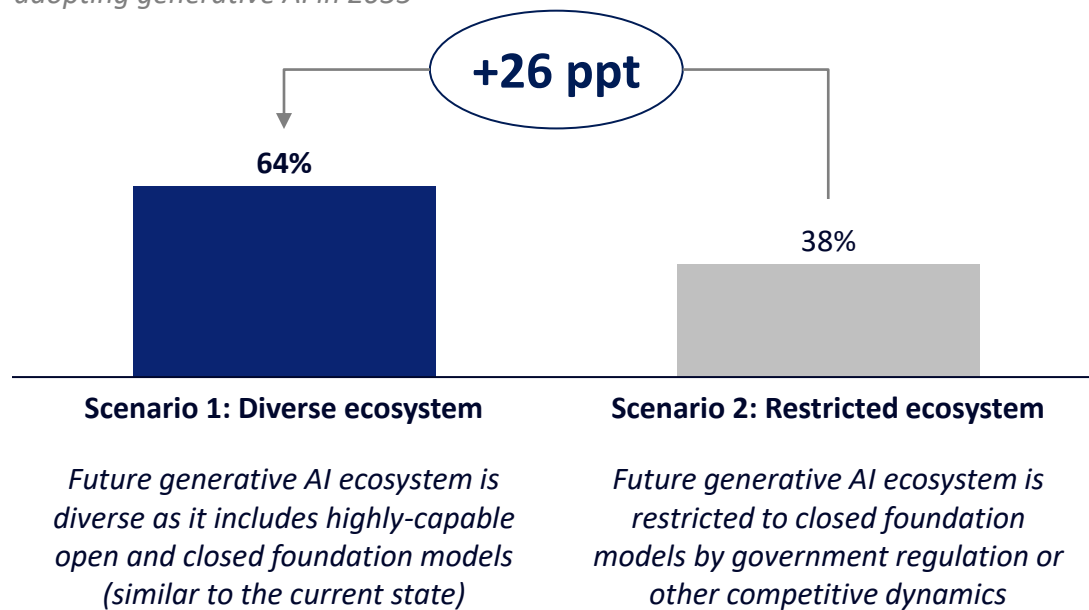
Note: All dollar figures are real (2024) US dollars unless indicated otherwise.

Open foundation models could support faster adoption of generative AI amongst US businesses and provide an additional \$1.5 trillion in benefits for them in 2035

Access to open foundation models in a diverse ecosystem could support faster adoption of generative AI by businesses

The transparency, competition and innovation supported by open foundation models could accelerate the adoption of generative AI by US businesses in 2035

% of US businesses adopting generative AI in 2035



Note: Benefits are in real terms.
Source: Mandala analysis.

The additional benefits of open foundation models for US businesses in 2035



\$1.5 trillion

in additional benefits for US businesses in 2035 from wider adoption of useful AI technology in a diverse ecosystem versus a restrictive ecosystem



\$0.2 trillion
additional **uplift in profit** from new goods and services



\$0.9 trillion
cost savings from **efficiencies** on current operating costs



\$0.4 trillion
cost savings from **rent reduction** on closed foundation models

1 **Context:** Open foundation models are a significant and growing part of a diverse generative AI ecosystem

2 **Approach:** To estimate the benefits of open foundation models we modeled the adoption of generative AI across two scenarios

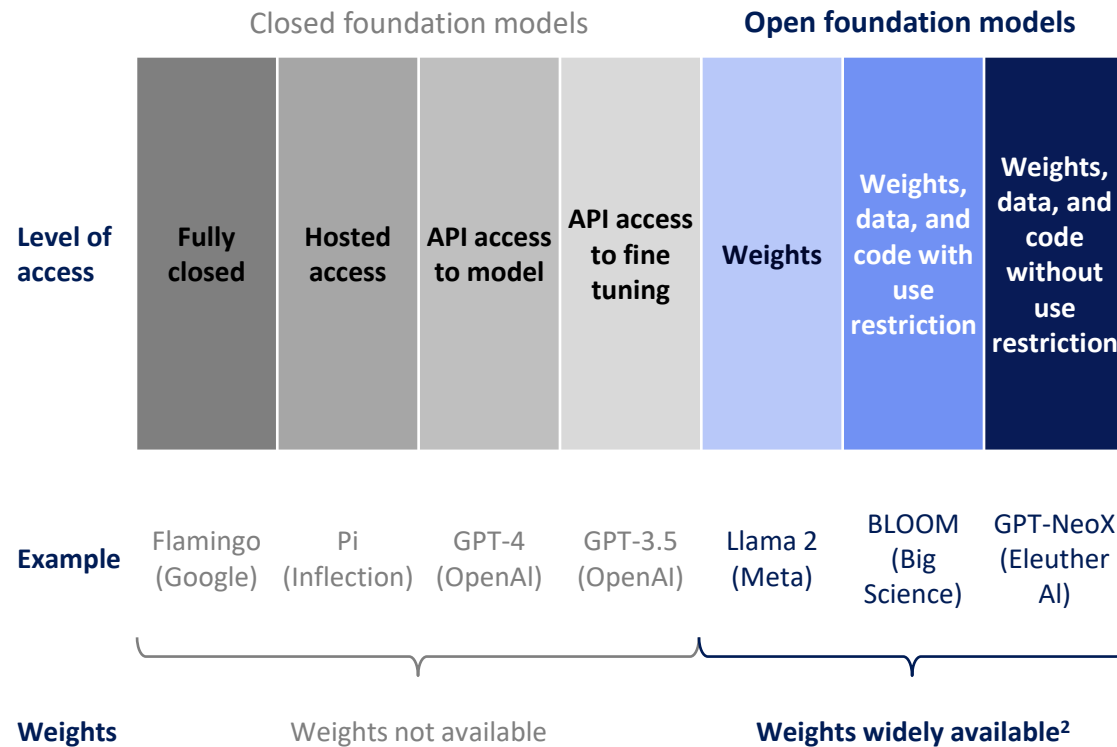
3 **Key findings:** A diverse generative AI ecosystem that drives wider adoption could provide \$1.5T of additional business benefits in 2035



Open models allow developers to access, deploy, and modify the model...

...which has played a key role in growing developer activity in generative AI

Exhibit 1: Definition of an open foundation model¹

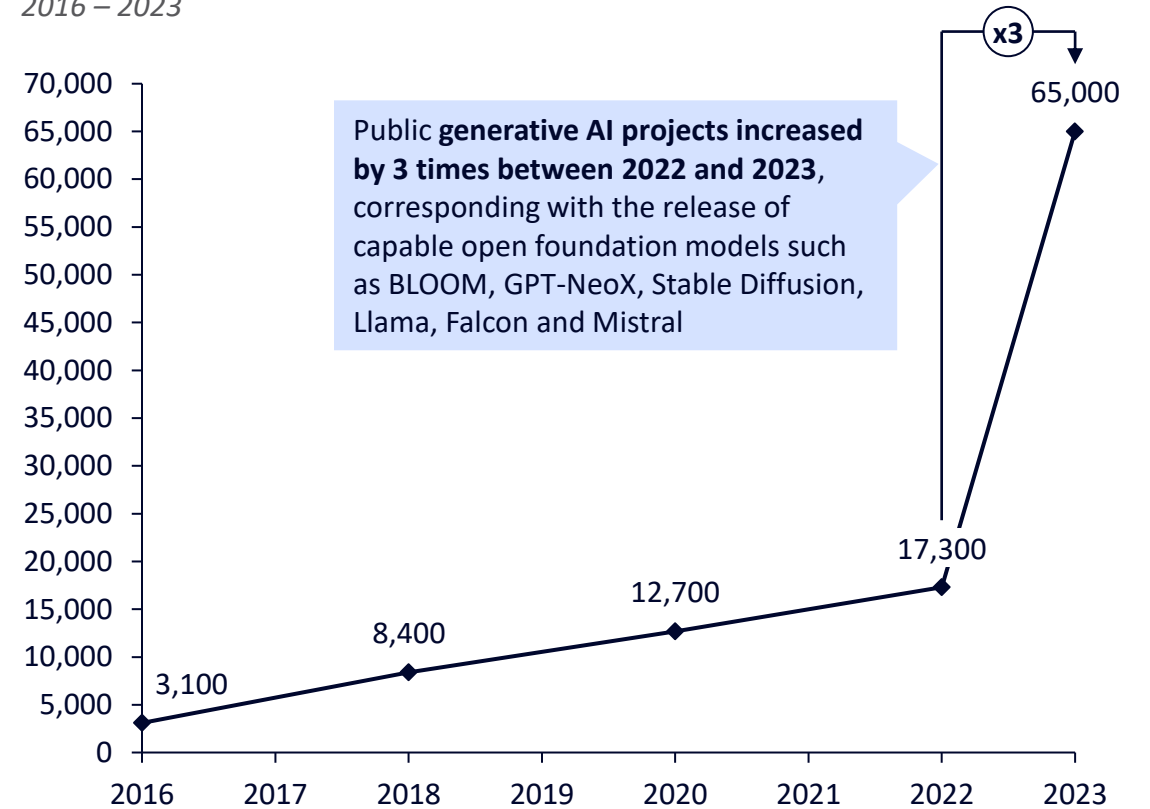


¹ Diagram is from Stanford University Institute on Human Centred AI (HAI) (2023) *Governing Open Foundation Models*. HAI adapted the diagram from I. Solaimain (2023) *The Gradient of Generative AI Release: Methods and Considerations*

² Weights are a type of parameter that informs how a model interprets different inputs to produce output.

Exhibit 2: Number of public generative AI projects on GitHub

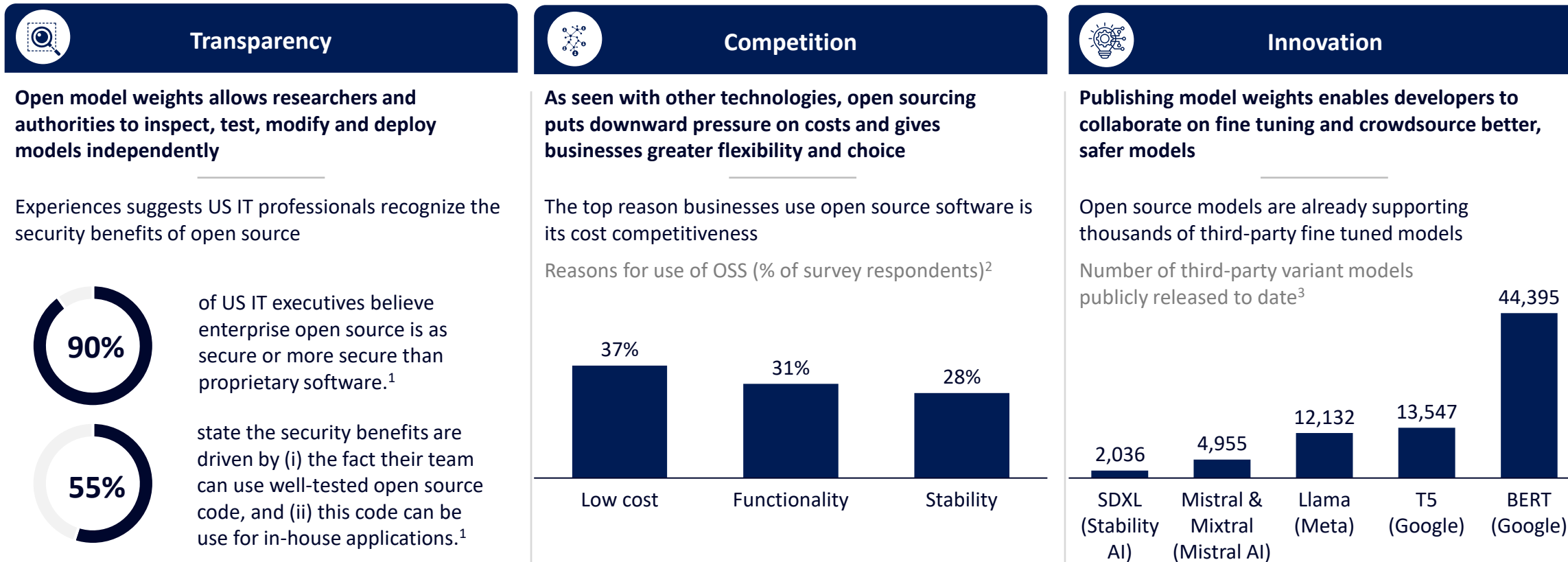
2016 – 2023



Source: GitHub (2023) *The State of the Octoverse*; CBInsights (2023) *The generative AI divide Open-source vs Closed source LLMS*; GitHub (2023) *Innovation Graph Data by topic for 2023*; Mandala analysis.

Open foundation models support transparency, competition and innovation, and are likely to drive higher adoption of generative AI across the US economy

Exhibit 3: Open foundation models, like other open source technologies, drive three key outcomes



The characteristics of open foundation models are likely to drive higher adoption of generative AI across the US economy. To estimate the economic benefits of open foundation models in the US we have considered two scenarios: a diverse vs restricted generative AI ecosystem.

¹ Red Hat (2022) *The State of Enterprise Open Source: A Red Hat report*.

² Open Logic (2024) *State of Open Source Report*. Original response labels for 'Low Cost', 'Functionality' and 'Stability' were 'No License Cost, Overall Cost Reduction', 'Functionality Available to Improve Development Velocity' and 'Stable Technology with Community Long-Term Support' respectively.

³ Stability AI analysis. These are approximate totals: models may be over- or underrepresented due to inconsistencies in naming conventions and model disclosure

1 **Context:** Open foundation models are a significant and growing part of a diverse generative AI ecosystem

2 **Approach:** To estimate the benefits of open foundation models we modeled the adoption of generative AI across two scenarios

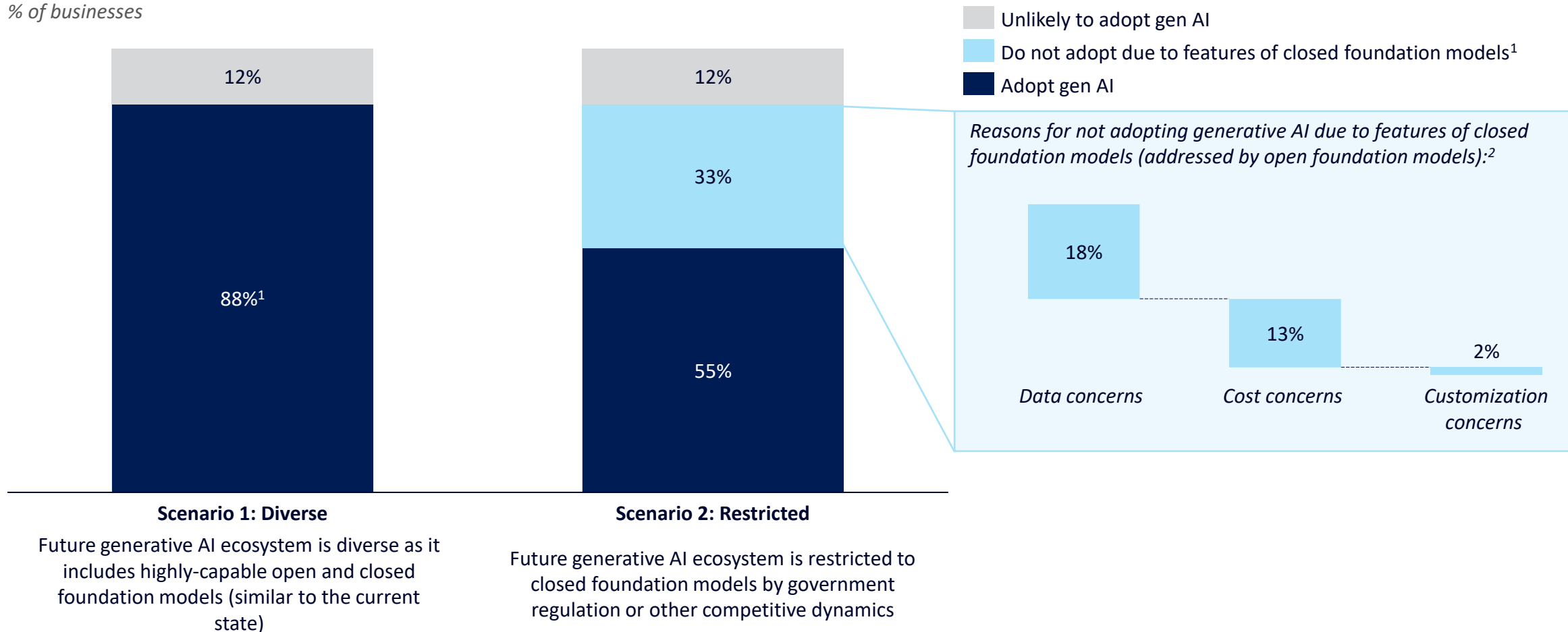
3 **Key findings:** A diverse generative AI ecosystem that drives wider adoption could provide \$1.5T of additional business benefits in 2035



To estimate the economic benefits of open foundation models we have considered two scenarios: a diverse vs restricted generative AI ecosystem

Exhibit 4: Projected maximum US business adoption of foundation models by scenario

% of businesses

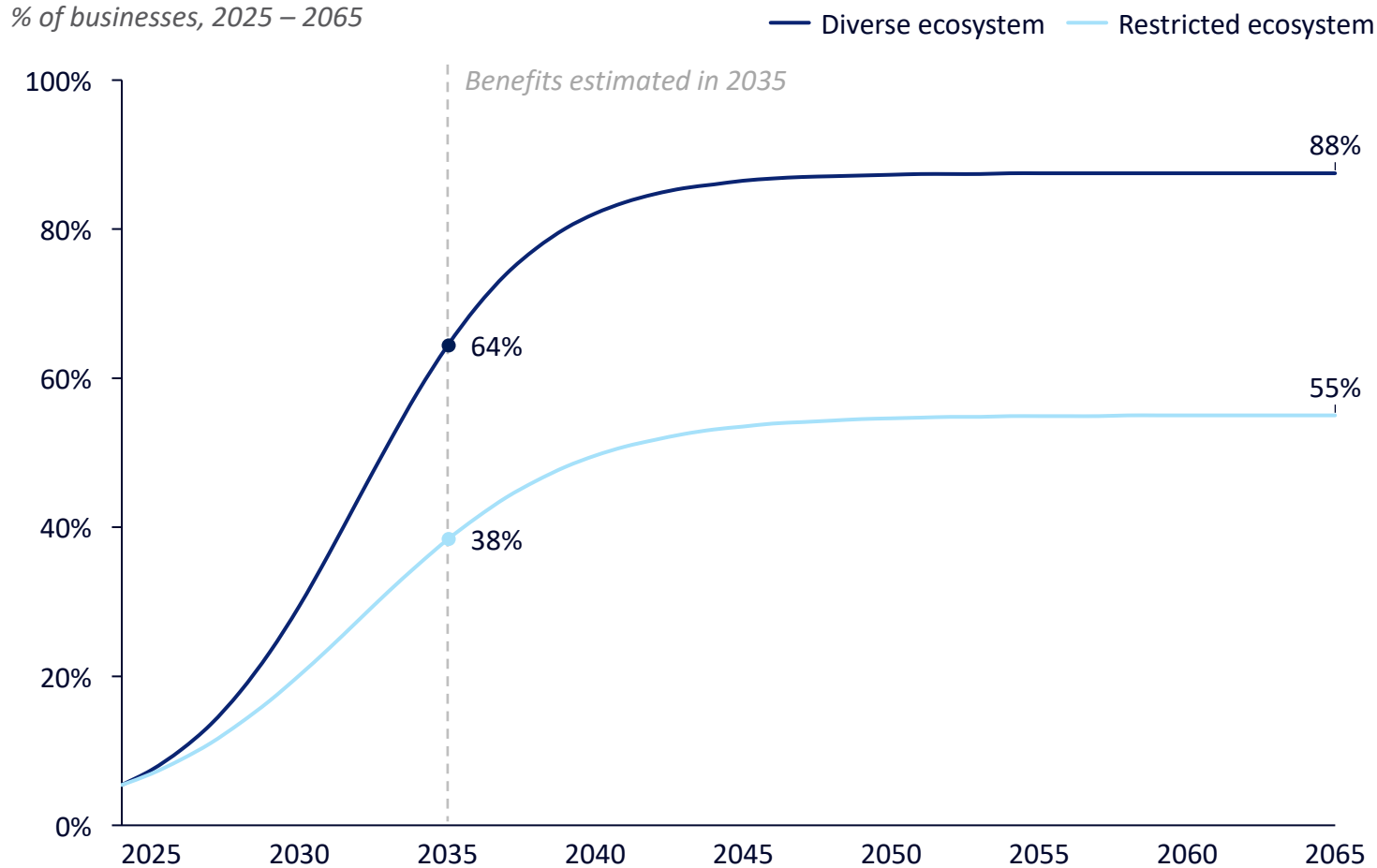


Note: Goldman Sachs (2023) *Upgrading our Longer-Run Global Growth Forecasts to Reflect impact of Generative AI*, estimate 'full adoption' of generative AI between 80-95% of businesses. We take the midpoint (87.5%) as our estimate, and validate against saturation rates of other technologies, including household internet usage, cloud usage and digitized information. This represents a conservative estimate of full adoption of generative AI.

¹ Predibase (2023) *Large Language Models in Production*.
Source: Mandala analysis.

We then modeled likely adoption curves for generative AI across the two scenarios

Exhibit 5: Projected maximum US business adoption of foundation models by scenario



- The availability of open foundation models (and resulting transparency, competition and innovation) may help to increase the speed and scale of adoption compared to the restricted generative AI ecosystem.
- This pattern can be modeled as an ‘S-Curve’:

$$P(t) = \frac{L}{1 + e^{-k(t-t_0)}}$$

Where:

- $P(t)$ is the predicted adoption rate at time t
- L is the maximum value
- k is the growth rate
- t_0 is the inflection point
- e is the natural based logarithm

- The variables were modeled by using Census Bureau data for current levels of generative AI adoption,¹ existing adoption studies,² and comparisons to adoption of the internet, cloud computing and other digital technologies. See appendix for details.

1 US Census Bureau (2024) *Business Trends and Outlook Survey* asks “In the last two weeks, did this business use Artificial Intelligence (AI) in producing goods or services? (Examples of AI: machine learning, natural language processing, virtual agents, voice recognition, etc).”

2 Goldman Sachs (2023) *Upgrading our Longer-Run Global Growth Forecasts to Reflect impact of Generative AI*.

Source: Mandala analysis.

1 **Context:** Open foundation models are a significant and growing part of a diverse generative AI ecosystem

2 **Approach:** To estimate the benefits of open foundation models we modeled the adoption of generative AI across two scenarios

3 **Key findings:** A diverse generative AI ecosystem that drives wider adoption could provide \$1.5T of additional business benefits in 2035

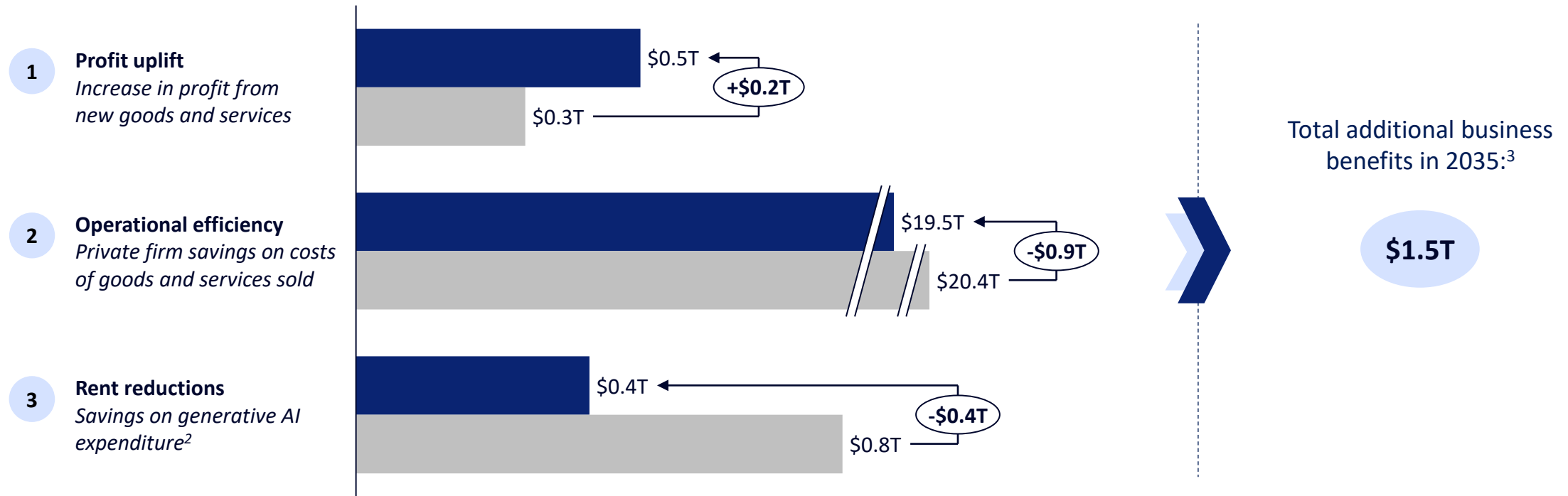


A diverse generative AI ecosystem, with higher adoption than a restricted ecosystem, could generate \$1.5 trillion in additional benefits for US businesses in 2035

Exhibit 6: Present value of additional economic benefits from a diverse generative AI ecosystem¹

Real \$US trillions, 2035

■ Diverse ecosystem ■ Restricted ecosystem



¹ Total economic benefits are gross benefits. Present values are estimated using a 2% discount rate, according to The White House (2024) *Valuing the Future: Revision to the Social Discount Rate Means Appropriately Assessing Benefits and Costs*. The inflation rate is assumed to be 2.5%, based on the 10-year average of the Bureau of Economic Analysis' GDP Price Deflator index.

² Cost savings from rent reductions are mutually exclusive from the operational efficiency cost savings.

³ This is the annual benefit in 2035, which equates to 4% of US GDP. OECD (2024) *Real GDP long term forecast* projects real GDP in the US will be \$38T in 2035, adjusted to 2024 value terms.

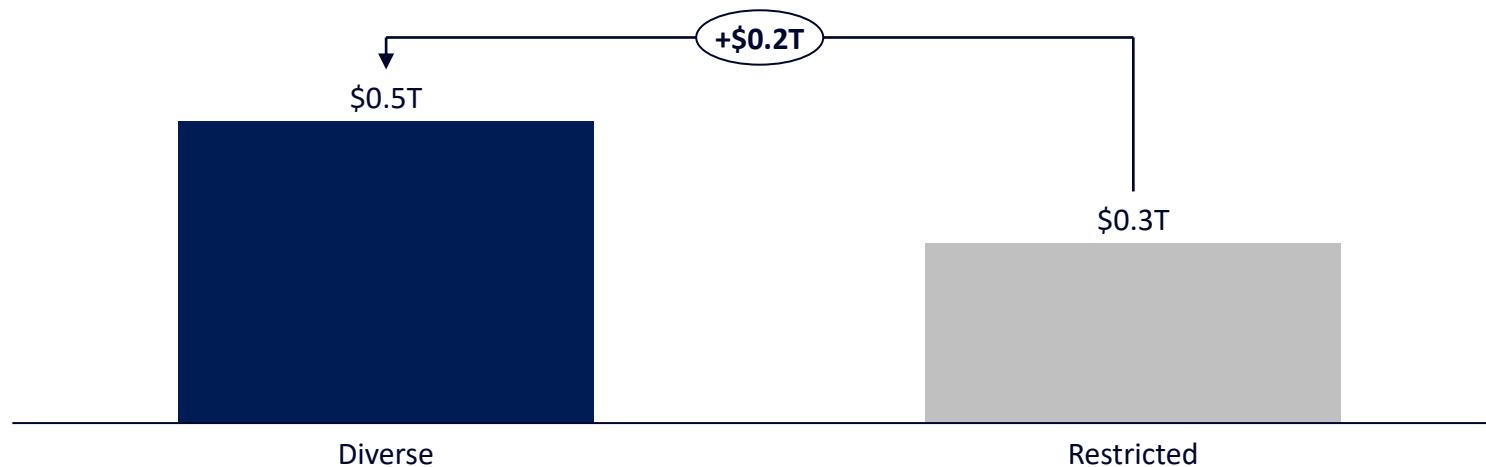
Sources: McKinsey (2023) *The state of AI in 2023—Generative AI's breakout year*; Harvard Business School (2024) *Value of Open Source Software*. Bureau of Economic Analysis (2023) *Components of Value Added by Industry and Gross Output by Industry*; US Census Bureau (2023) *The Number of Firms and Establishments, Employment, and Annual Payroll by State, Industry, and Enterprise Employment Size*; Mandala analysis.

Profit uplift: US businesses could generate an additional \$0.2T profit in 2035 in a diverse generative AI ecosystem compared to a restricted ecosystem

Exhibit 7: Present value of profit uplift by scenario

Real \$US trillions, 2035

- Generative AI enables businesses to create new and more goods and services, which drive additional sources of profit
- Therefore, in a diverse ecosystem, more businesses adopt generative AI and create more of these goods and services
- As a result, **US businesses could generate an additional \$0.2 trillion in profit** in 2035 alone



Key assumptions

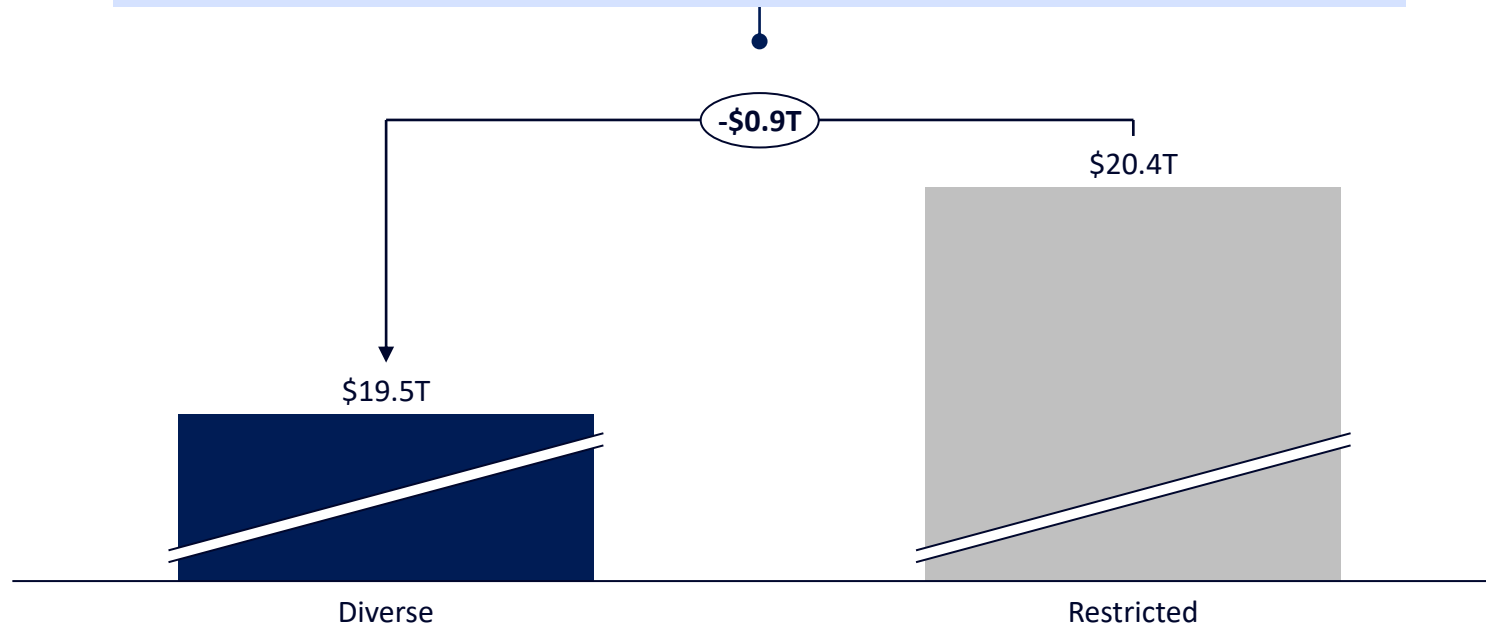
- In both scenarios, we assume a business increases its revenue by 4.8% after adopting generative AI. This is a weighted average of the revenue uplifts from AI adoption found in McKinsey (2023).
- In both scenarios, we assume gross profit margin per business is 28.2%, based on economy wide data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (2023).
- As shown in Exhibit 5, more businesses adopt generative AI in the diverse scenario compared to the restricted scenario. Therefore, more businesses realize profit gains in the diverse scenario compared to the restricted scenario.
- Business revenue is equal to private industries gross output (sales or revenue): Bureau of Economic Analysis (2023).

Operational efficiency: US businesses could save an additional \$0.9T in operational efficiencies in 2035 in a diverse generative AI ecosystem

Exhibit 8: Present value of total private industry costs by scenario

Real \$US trillions, 2035

- Generative AI enables businesses to automate and streamline business processes, producing the same goods and services with fewer inputs
- Therefore, in a diverse ecosystem, more businesses are adopting generative AI and generating operational efficiencies
- As a result, **US businesses could realize an additional \$0.9 trillion in efficiency gains** in 2035 compared to a restricted ecosystem



Key assumptions

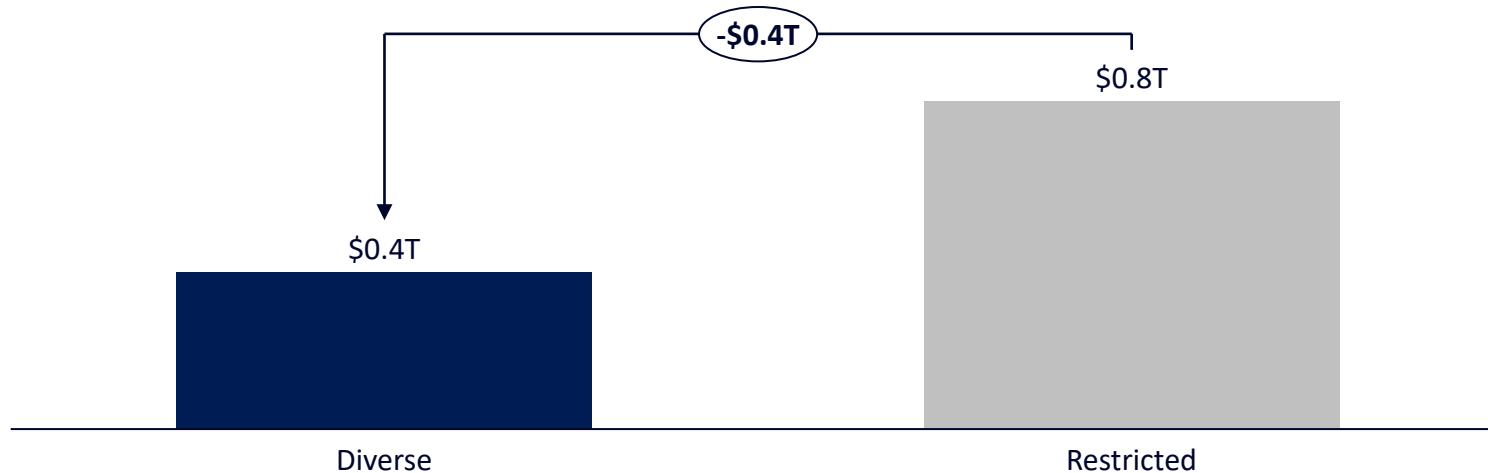
- In both scenarios, we assume businesses decrease operating costs by 8.7% after adopting generative AI. This is a weighted average of cost savings from AI adoption found in McKinsey (2023).
- As shown in Exhibit 5, more businesses adopt generative AI in the diverse scenario compared to the restricted scenario. Therefore, more businesses realize efficiency gains in the diverse scenario compared to the restricted scenario.
- Business costs are equal to private industries gross output (sales or revenue) minus private industries gross operating surplus: Bureau of Economic Analysis (2023).

Rent reductions: US businesses could save \$0.4T on expenditure for closed foundation models in 2035 in a diverse generative AI ecosystem

Exhibit 9: Present value of generative AI product expenditure by scenario

Real \$US trillions, 2035

- Open foundation models and related products cost less to use than closed foundation models
- Therefore, the presence of cheaper generative AI products (open foundation models) in the market will drive competition and decrease overall costs
- As a result, **US businesses could save \$0.4T** on expenditure for generative AI in 2035 compared to a restricted ecosystem



Key assumptions

- In both scenarios, we assume individual business expenditure on IT grows to 7% of revenue by 2035 (growing from 6% in 2025): Deloitte (2023).
- In both scenarios we assume individual business expenditure on generative AI will grow to 15% of their IT budget by 2035 (growing from 5% in 2025): Bloomberg Intelligence (2023).
- Finally, studies indicate business spend on generative AI could be 3.5 times higher if open foundation models did not exist (based on estimated spend on software if open source software did not exist): Harvard Business School (2024).
- See appendix for the full methodology.

4 Appendix



A Methodology



B References



We first estimated the max adoption of generative AI by US businesses across the two scenarios

Full adoption of generative AI will be reached when the market is at maximum saturation.

In the diverse scenario, it is estimated that full adoption will be reached with 88% of businesses using generative AI to produce goods and services.

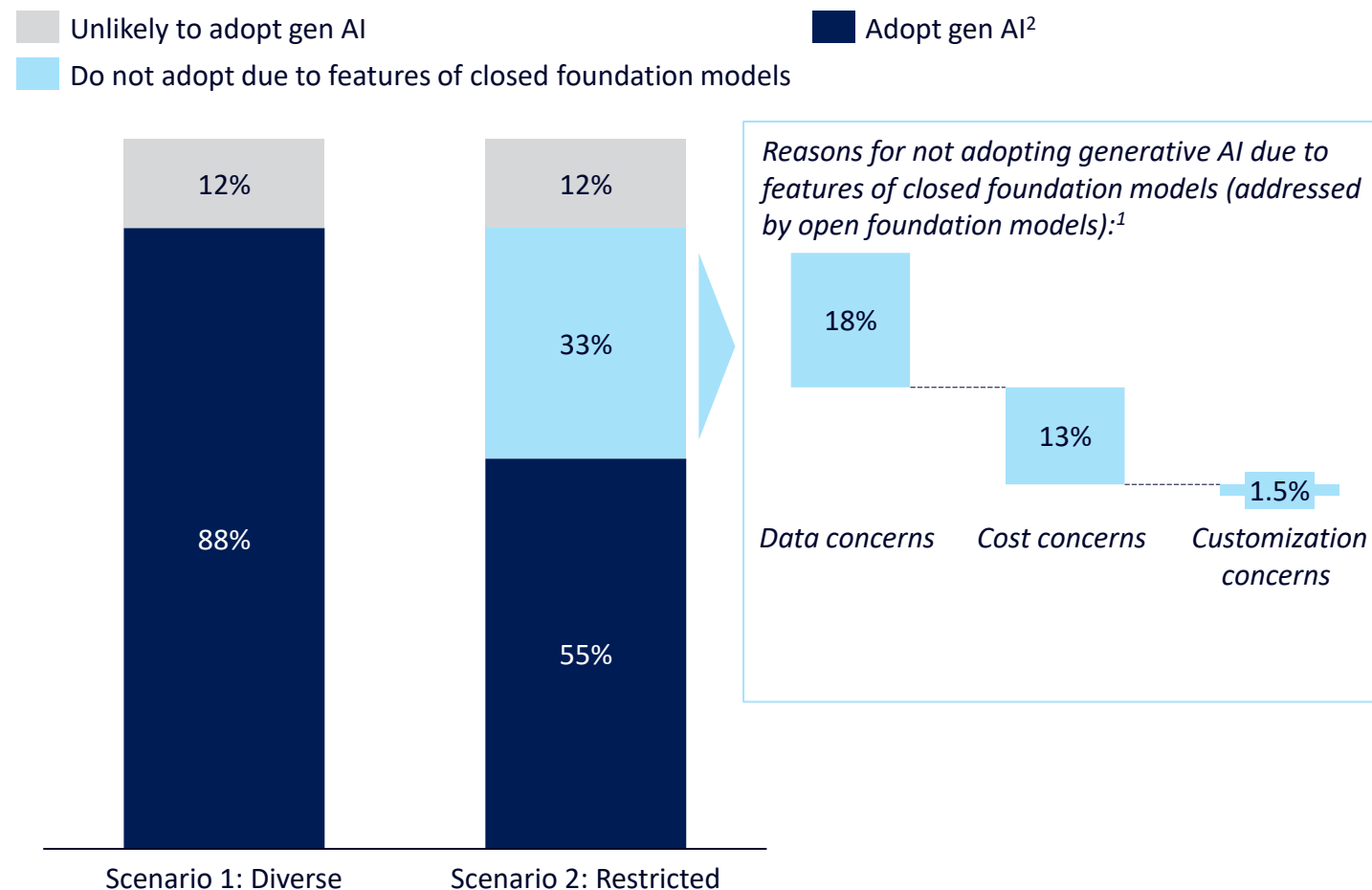
This estimate is the midpoint of Goldman Sachs' estimate of full generative AI adoption at 80% to 95% of businesses.¹ This estimate has been validated against the saturation rate of other technologies, including household internet usage, cloud usage and digitized information.

In the restricted scenario, fewer businesses will adopt generative AI given the unavailability of open foundation models, and the features of closed foundation models. It is estimated that full adoption in the restricted scenario is 55% of businesses.

This accounts for current rates of businesses that report not using generative AI due to data security concerns (36%), cost concerns (13%) and customization (3%)² and assumes that these proportions will decrease over time (to 18%, 13% and 1.5% respectively), as closed foundation model developers address some of these concerns e.g. OpenAI's finetuning options.

At full adoption, 33% of businesses are unlikely to adopt generative AI in the 'restricted' scenario.

Exhibit A1: Projected maximum US business adoption of foundation models by scenario
 % of businesses



¹ Goldman Sachs (2023) *Upgrading our Longer-Run Global Growth Forecasts to Reflect impact of Generative AI*, estimate 'full adoption', or the saturation level, of generative AI is between 80-95% of businesses adopting generative AI. We take the midpoint (87.5%) as our estimate, and validate against the saturation rate of other technologies, including household internet usage, cloud usage and digitized information

² Predibase (2023) *Large Language Models in Production*.
 Source: Mandala analysis.

We then modeled likely adoption curves for generative AI across the two scenarios

Adoption curves for generative AI scenarios illustrate how businesses are expected to reach full adoption over time.

The availability of open foundation models (and the resulting transparency, competition and innovation) will increase the speed and scale of generative AI adoption compared to the restricted generative AI ecosystem. This pattern can be modeled as an ‘S-Curve’ with the following equation:

$$P(t) = \frac{L}{1 + e^{-k(t-t_0)}}$$

Where:

- $P(t)$ is the predicted adoption rate at time t
- L is the maximum value
- k is the growth rate
- t_0 is the inflection point
- e is the natural based logarithm

Diverse scenario adoption curve

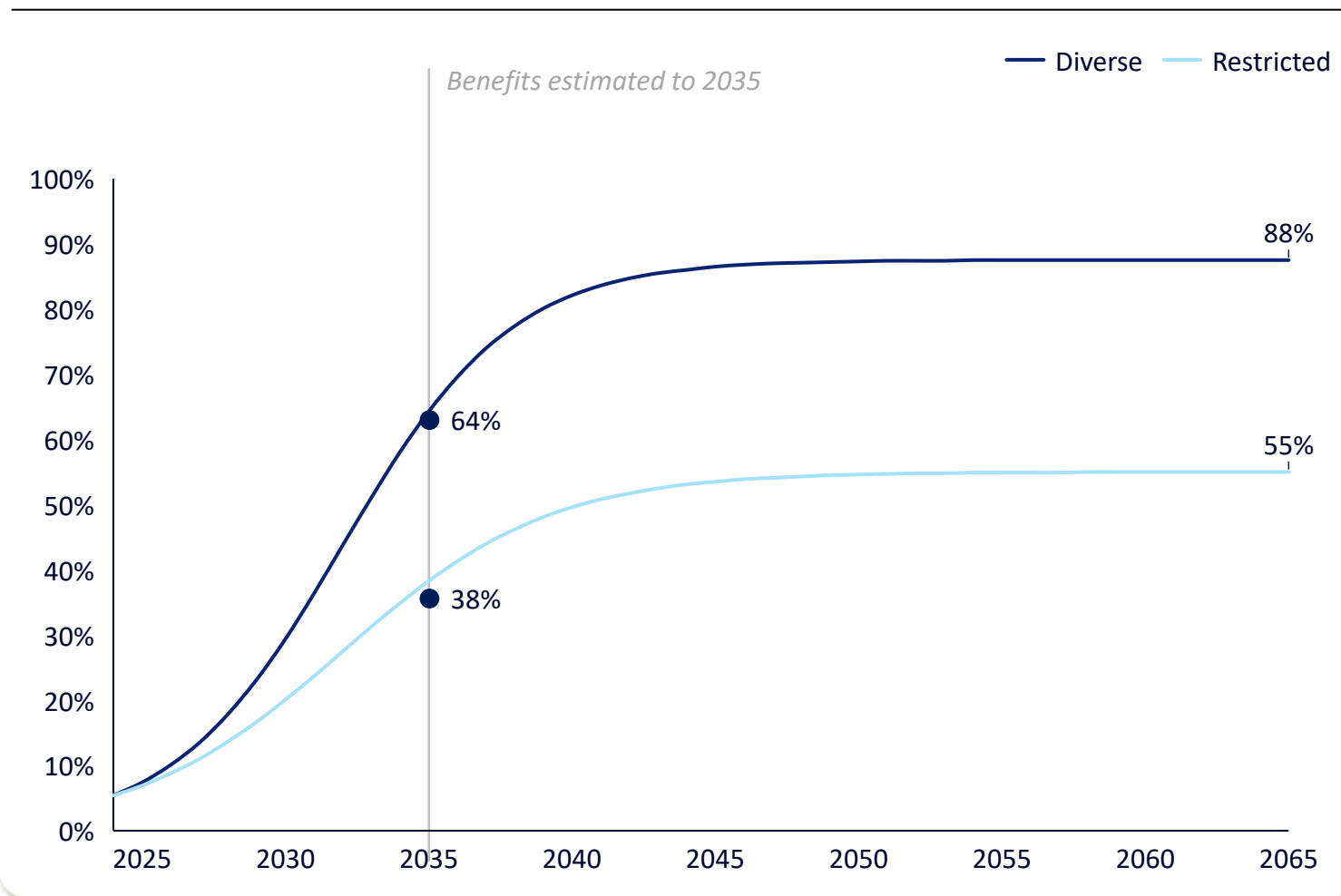
Input	Value	Source
L	87.5%	See previous slide
$P(2024)$	5.4%	US Census, Business trends and outlook survey ¹
t_0	2032	Goldman Sachs (2023) ²
k	0.34	Solve using equation

Restricted scenario adoption curve

Input	Value	Source
L	55.0%	See previous slide
$P(2024)$	5.4%	US Census, Business trends and outlook survey ¹
t_0	2032	Goldman Sachs (2023) ²
k	0.28	Solve using equation

Exhibit A2: Business adoption of foundation models by scenario

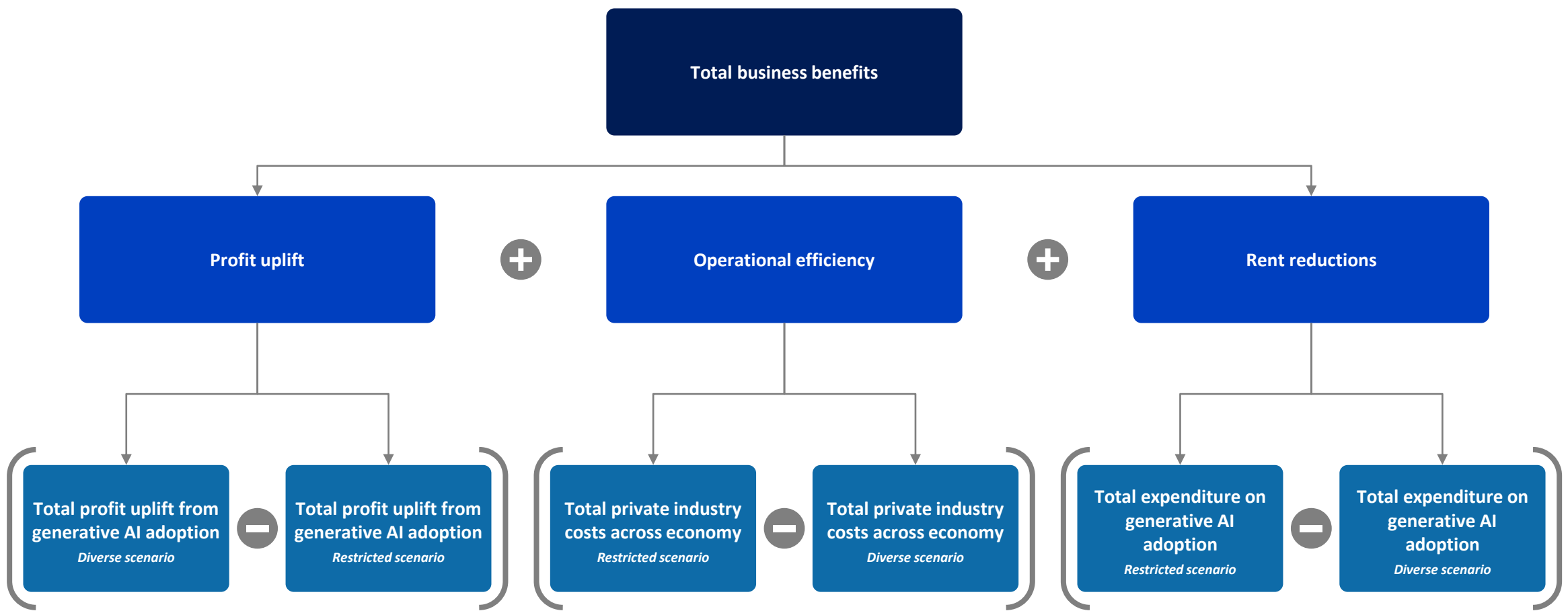
% of businesses, 2025 – 2065



1. US Census Bureau (2024) *Business Trends and Outlook Survey* asks “In the last two weeks, did this business use Artificial Intelligence (AI) in producing goods or services? (Examples of AI: machine learning, natural language processing, virtual agents, voice recognition, etc)
 2. Goldman Sachs (2023) *Upgrading our Longer-Run Global Growth Forecasts to Reflect impact of Generative AI*;
 Source: Mandala analysis.

To estimate the business benefits of OFMs, we modeled the impact across two scenarios: a diverse generative AI ecosystem vs a restricted ecosystem

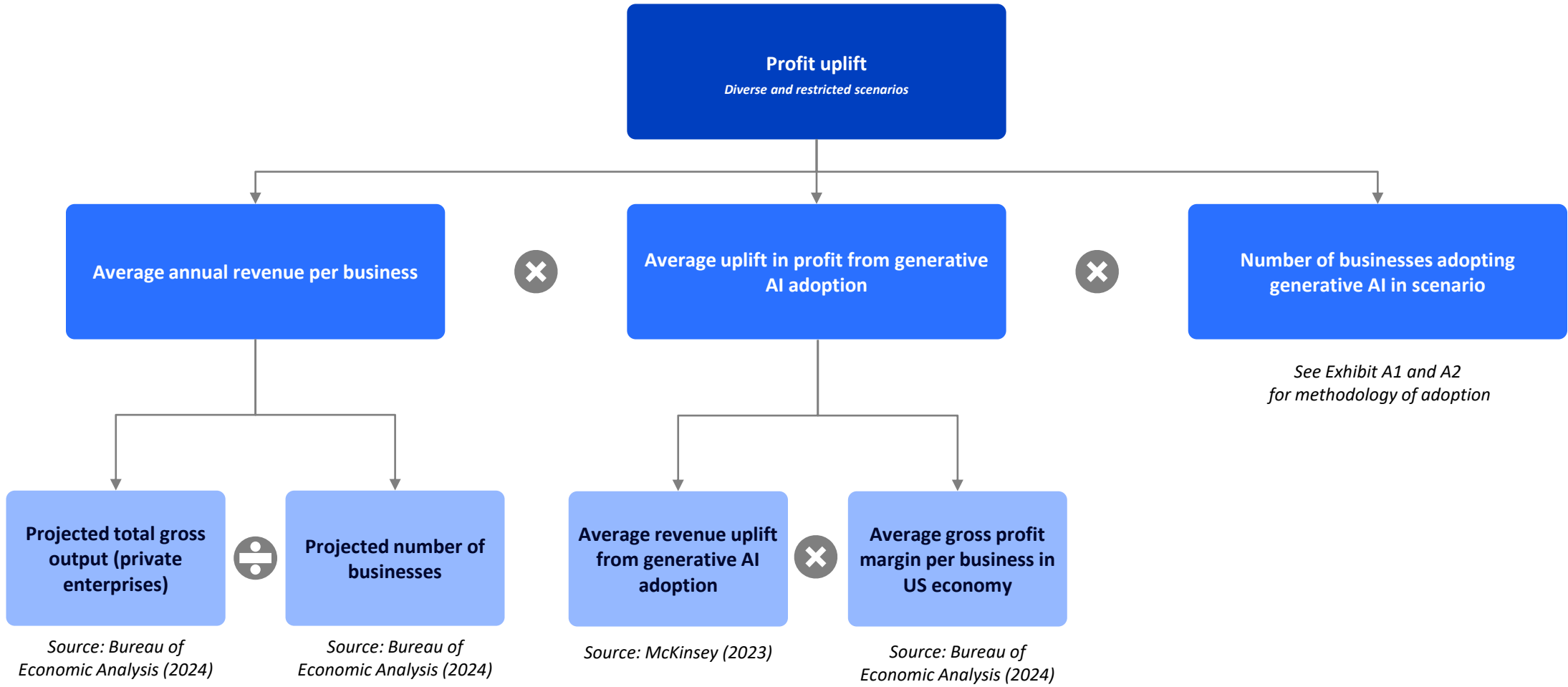
Exhibit A3: Method for quantifying the benefits of open foundation models to businesses



Source: Mandala analysis.

Method for calculating profit uplift

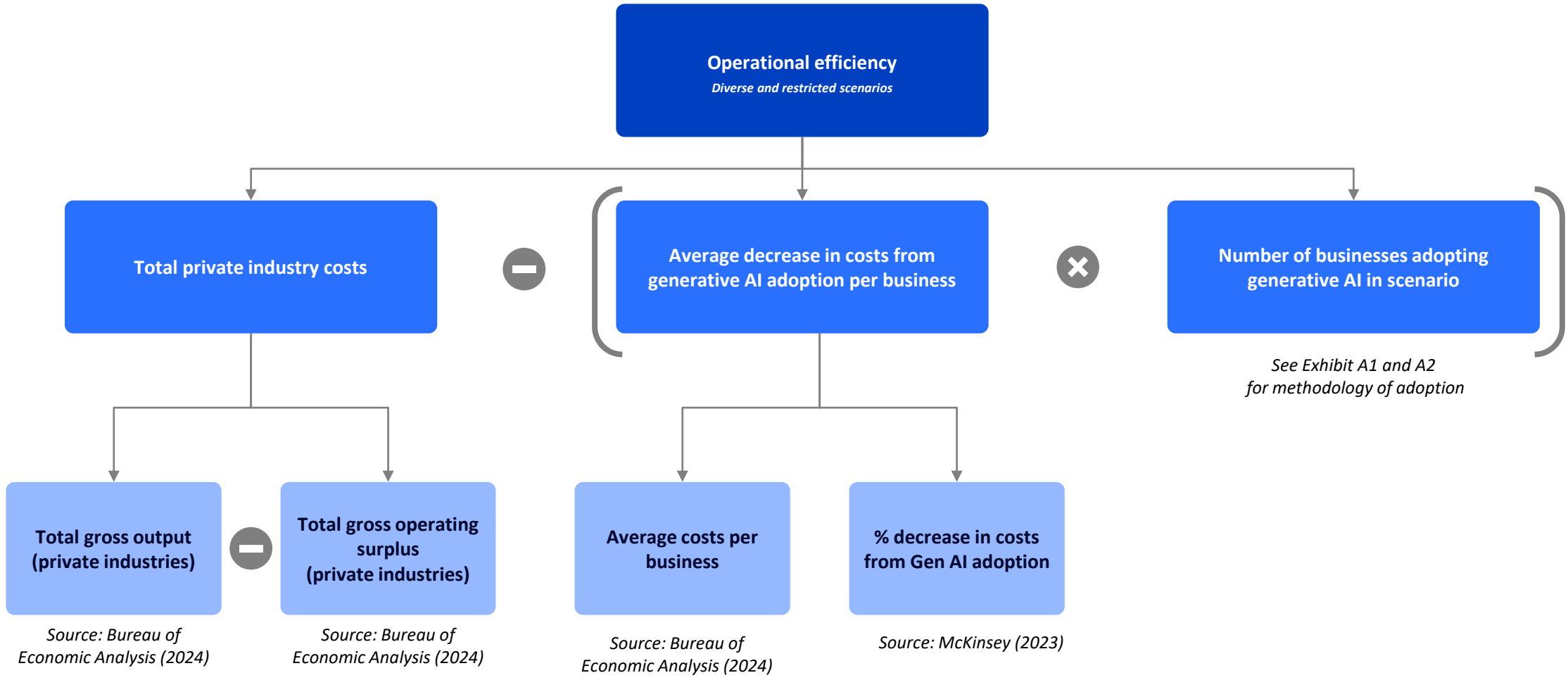
Exhibit A4: Methodology to derive revenue uplift benefits



Source: Mandala analysis.

Method for calculating operational efficiency

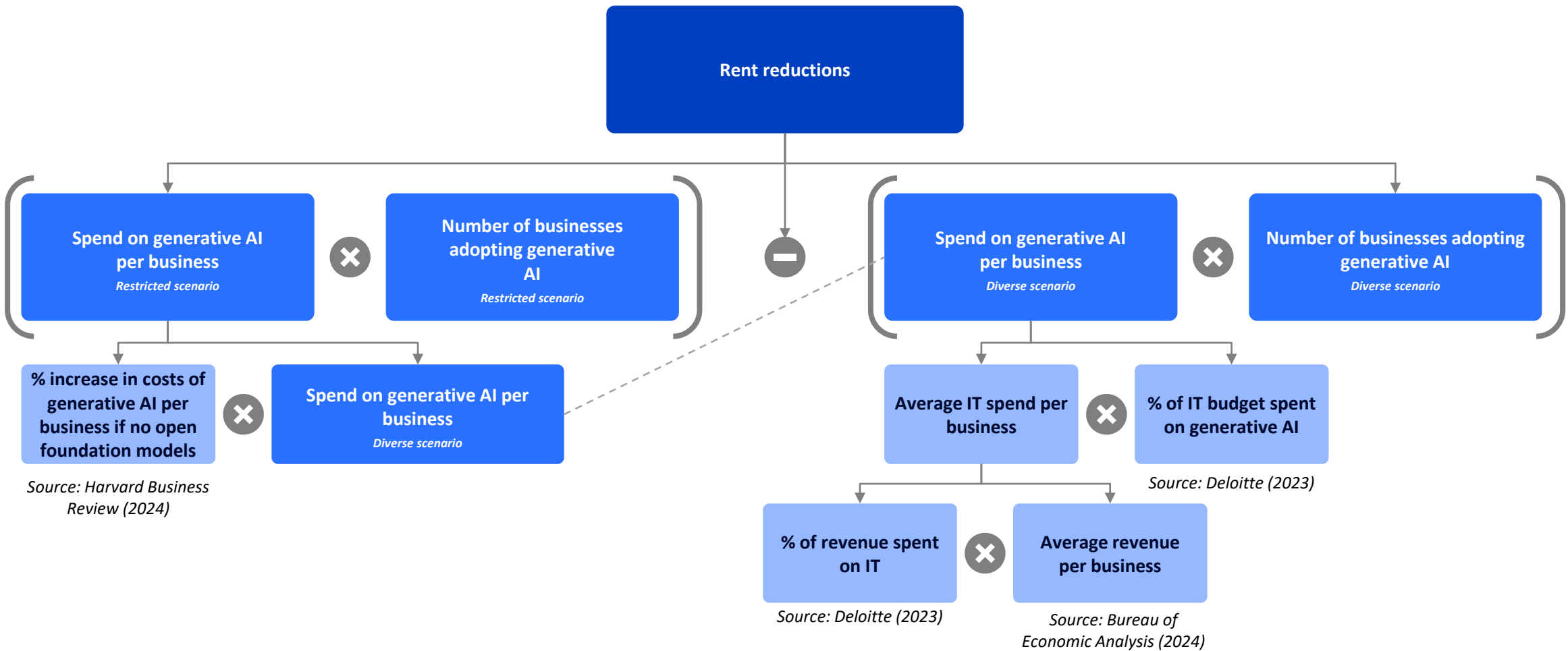
Exhibit A5: Methodology to derive operational efficiency benefits



Source: Mandala analysis.

Method for calculating rent reductions

Exhibit A6: Methodology to derive operational efficiency benefits



Modelling assumptions (I/IV)

Exhibit A7: Modelling assumptions

Category	Assumption	Value	Source	Notes
General	Discount rate	2%	The White House (2024) <i>Valuing the Future: Revision of the Social Discount Rate Means Appropriately Assessing Benefits and Costs</i>	
	Inflation rate	2.5%	Bureau of Economic Analysis (2024) <i>GDP Price Deflator</i>	CAGR from 2013-2022 (last 10 years of data)
	Annual growth rate of the number of businesses in base case, 2025-2035	1%	US Census Bureau (2024) <i>Statistics of U.S. businesses</i>	CAGR from 2012-2021 (last 10 years of data)
Adoption	Number of businesses using generative AI to produce goods and services currently	5.40%	US Census Bureau (2024) <i>Business Trends and Outlook Survey</i>	US Census Bureau (2024) <i>Business Trends and Outlook Survey</i> asks “In the last two weeks, did this business use Artificial Intelligence (AI) in producing goods or services? (Examples of AI: machine learning, natural language processing, virtual agents, voice recognition, etc)
	Years along adoption curve in 2024	6 years	Calculation	Assume the starting point of the adoption curve off LLMs in 2018, in line with the release of BERT and developments in transformers
	Midpoint of adoption	2032	Goldman Sachs (2023) <i>Upgrading our Longer-Run Global Growth Forecasts to Reflect impact of Generative AI</i>	
	Maximum value of business adoption in diversified scenario	87.5%	Goldman Sachs (2023) <i>Upgrading our Longer-Run Global Growth Forecasts to Reflect impact of Generative AI</i>	Goldman Sachs estimate ‘full adoption’, or the saturation level, of generative AI is between 80-95% of businesses adopting generative AI. We take the midpoint (87.5%) as our estimate, and validate against the saturation rate of other technologies, including household internet usage, cloud usage and digitized information

Modelling assumptions (II/IV)

Exhibit A8: Modelling assumptions

Category	Assumption	Value	Source	Notes
Adoption	Maximum value of business adoption in restricted scenario	55.5%	Calculation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Max adoption in restricted scenario = Max adoption in diverse scenario – % businesses that do not adopt due to concerns with closed foundation models % of businesses that do not adopt due to concerns with foundation models = % of businesses with data security concerns + % of businesses with cost concerns + % of businesses with customisation concerns 	In the restricted scenario, there is a proportion of businesses who do not adopt generative AI due to concerns with closed foundation models (and who otherwise would adopt if open foundation models were available). To estimate this proportion, we use survey results reported in Predibase (2023) <i>Language Models in Production</i> , about businesses’ concerns with commercial large language models. See rows below.
	% of businesses with data concerns about closed foundation models in 2035	18%	Predibase (2023) <i>Language Models in Production</i>	Predibase (2023) reports 36% of survey respondents do not large language models from commercial vendors, due to concerns with data security. By 2035, we assume this proportion reduces to 18%, as vendors address data concerns with improvements to foundation models. This assumption is guided by improvements in cloud computing and improved attitudes towards cloud security.
	% of businesses with cost concerns about closed foundation models in 2035	13%	Predibase (2023) <i>Language Models in Production</i>	Predibase (2023) reports 13% of survey respondents do not large language models from commercial vendors, due to concerns with cost. By 2035, we assume this proportion remains constant at 13%. This is because the cost of adopting foundation models from commercial vendors in the restricted scenario is likely to remain a barrier to entry, as modeled in our ‘rent reduction’ modelling.
	% of businesses with customisation concerns about closed foundation models in 2035	1.5%	Predibase (2023) <i>Language Models in Production</i>	Predibase (2023) reports 3% of survey respondents do not large language models from commercial vendors, due to concerns with not being able to customize models to a sufficient level. By 2035, we assume this proportion reduces to 1.5%, as vendors address such with improvements to foundation models.

Source: Mandala analysis.

Modelling assumptions (III/IV)

Exhibit A9: Modelling assumptions

Category	Assumption	Value	Source	Notes
Profit uplift	Annual growth rate of total output (private industries), 2025-2035	6%	Bureau of Economic Analysis(2024) <i>Gross Output by Industry</i>	CAGR from 2018-2022 (last 5 years of data of available)
	Average increase in business revenue per business from adopting generative AI (percentage points)	4.8%	McKinsey (2023) <i>The state of AI in 2023—Generative AI's breakout year</i>	Weighted average revenue increase of businesses using generative AI, across industries
	Average Gross Profit Margin of US Firms	28.2%	Bureau of Economic Analysis (2024) <i>Components of Value Added by Industry</i> Bureau of Economic Analysis (2024) <i>Intermediate Inputs by Industry</i>	Average of last 5 years
Operational efficiency	Annual growth rate of operating surplus (private industries), 2025-2035	6%	Bureau of Economic Analysis (2024) <i>Components of Value Added by Industry</i>	CAGR from 2018-2022 (last 5 years of data of available) Gross operating surplus was used to calculated total businesses costs in economy, with the following equation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total costs (private industries) = Total output (private industries) – Gross operating surplus (private industries)
	Average decrease in business costs per business from adopting generative AI (percentage points)	8.7%	McKinsey (2023) <i>The state of AI in 2023—Generative AI's breakout year</i>	Weighted average cost decrease of businesses using generative AI, across industries

Modelling assumptions (IV/IV)

Exhibit A10: Modelling assumptions

Category	Assumption	Value	Source	Notes
Rent reductions	Increase in spend on generative AI if open foundation models did not exist	3.5 times diverse scenario	Harvard Business School (2024) <i>Value of Open Source Software</i>	Estimated spend on software if open source software did not exist
	Business spend on generative AI (percent of IT budget)	3-15% per year, increasing	Bloomberg Intelligence (2023) <i>Generative AI to Become a \$1.3 Trillion Market by 2032</i>	Estimated spend per year In both scenarios we assume individual business expenditure on generative AI will grow to 15% of their IT budget by 2035 (growing from 5% in 2025)
	Business IT budget (percent of revenue)	6-7% per year, increasing	Deloitte (2023) <i>Global Technology Leadership Study</i>	Estimated spend per year In both scenarios, we assume individual business expenditure on IT grows to 7% of revenue by 2035 (growing from 6% in 2025)
	Business IT budget, growth rate	2%	Deloitte (2023) <i>Global Technology Leadership Study</i>	CAGR calculated on IT spend per year from 2016-2023

4

Appendix



A

Methodology



B

References

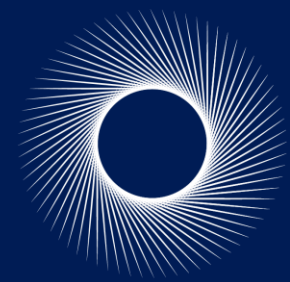


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