

CIOs and AI fears: What concerns do CIOs have about AI?

While speculation surrounds the future of AI, the genuine fears of CIOs are not well understood. How concerned are they about AI threats to jobs and society?

Thumbs Up A majority of respondent CIOs expect AI to have a positive impact on humanity during their lifetimes

Recycling While a majority of CIO respondents are generally concerned about AI eliminating jobs, their level of concern is mostly mild

Data collection: Jul 30 - Sep 9, 2023

AI While the potential loss of control over AI systems is a concern, half of respondent CIOs say they're only slightly worried about that possibility

Warning While most respondent CIOs endorse global AI risk mitigation, few worry about AI as an existential threat to humanity

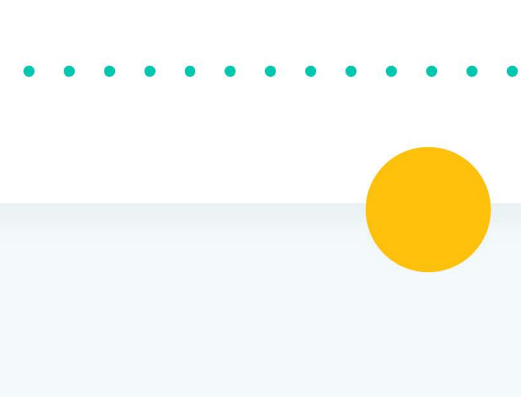
Respondents: 114 CIOs or IT leaders who identified as having a title equivalent to CIO

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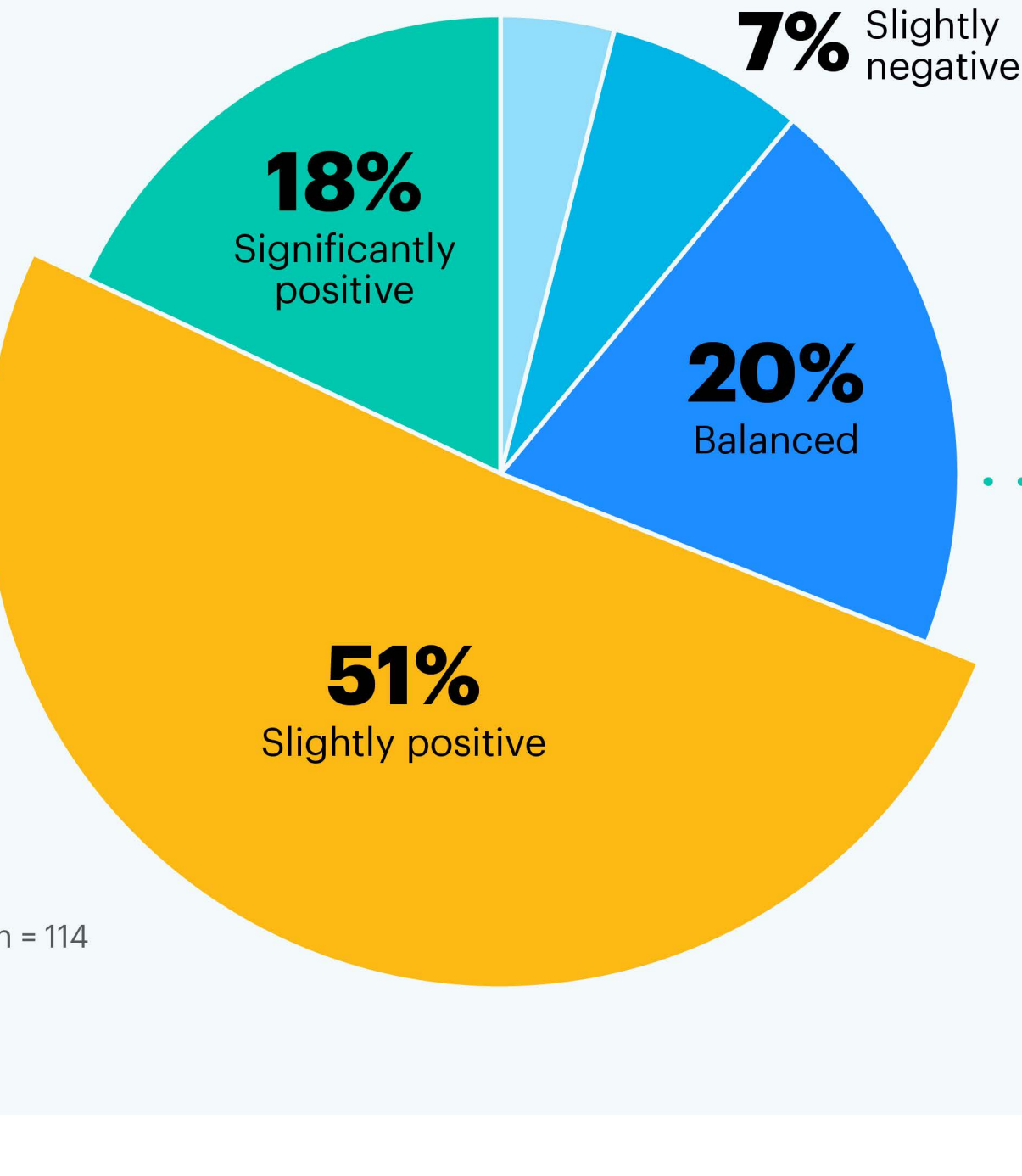
Surveys are designed by Gartner Peer Community editors and appear on the Gartner Peer Community platform. Once the respondent threshold is met, survey results are summarized in a One-Minute Insight.

The results of this summary are representative of the respondents that participated in the survey. It is not market representative.



Majority positive about AI's long-term impact

In your lifetime, do you personally believe AI will ultimately have a greater positive or negative influence on humanity?



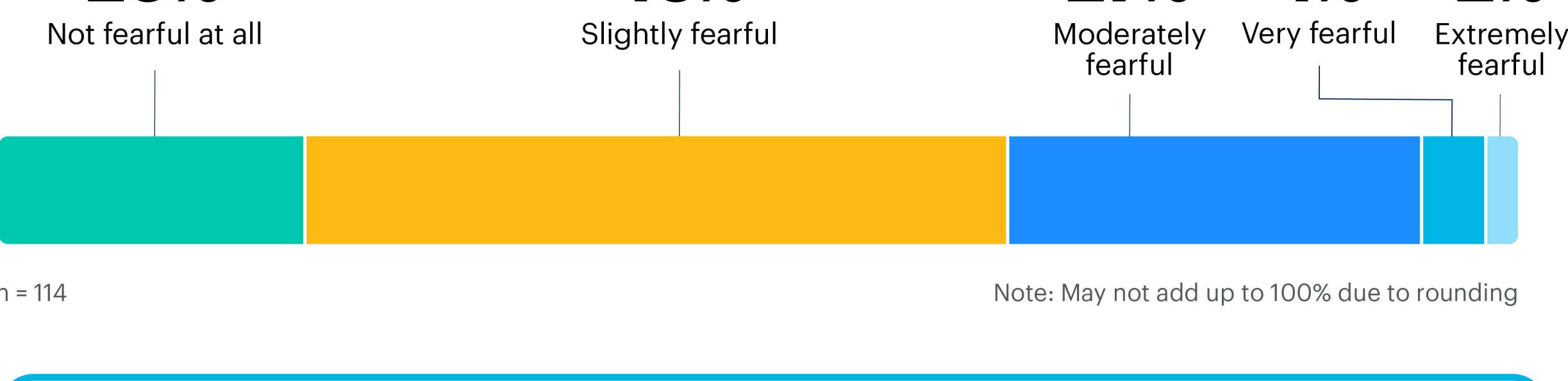
"AI has amazing potential for good, as long as we sensibly regulate to control misuse."

C-suite, professional services industry, 1,000 - 5,000 employees

Question: Do you have any final thoughts to share on the future implications of AI?

The majority of respondents (79%) have some fear that AI will disrupt the global workforce in their lifetime. However, concerns are tempered — most describe their fear as slight (46%) or moderate (27%).

In your lifetime, to what extent do you personally fear that AI will ultimately disrupt the global workforce by eliminating jobs and creating unemployment?

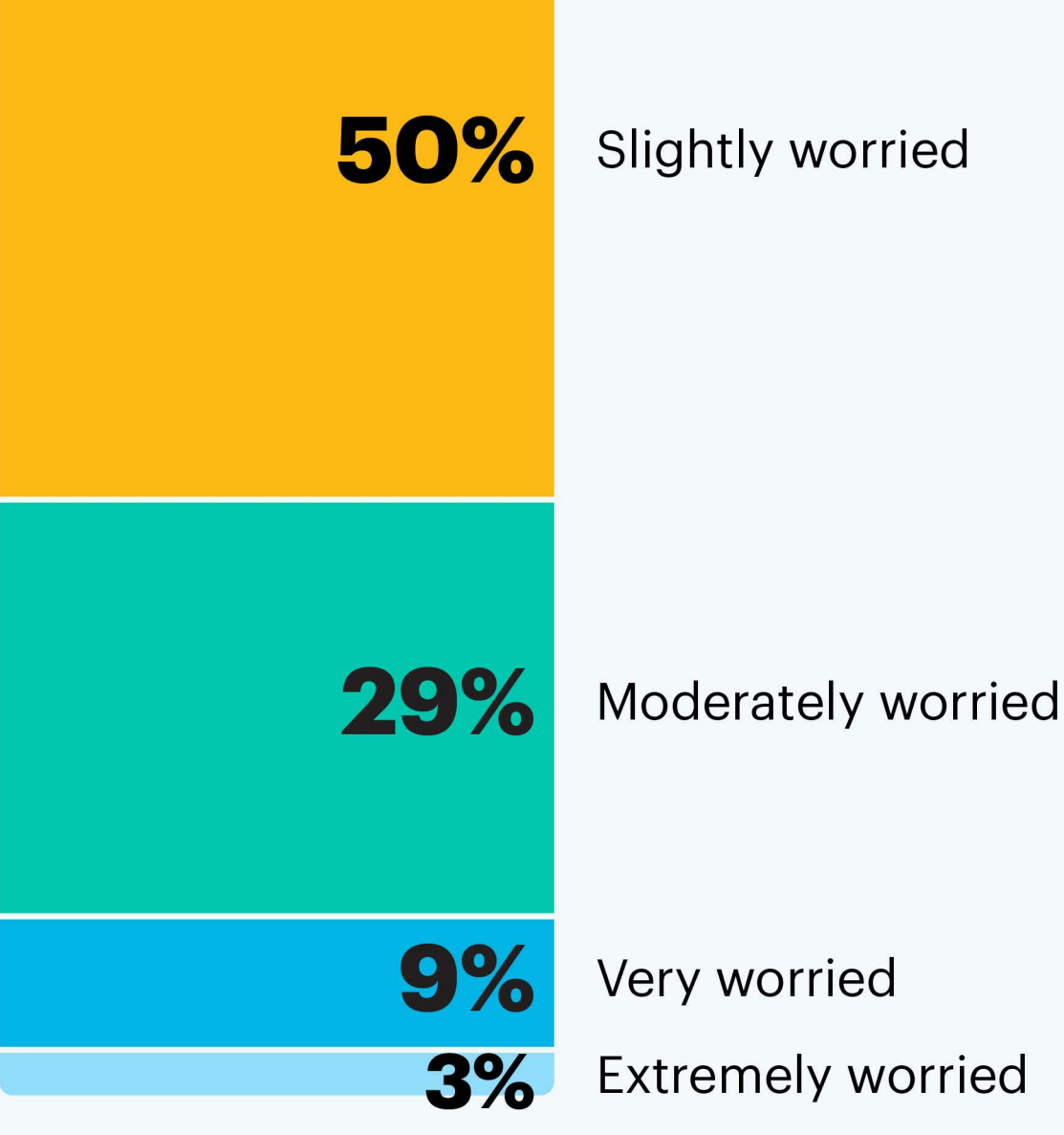


"[My biggest fear is] not enough time for (the) workforce to adjust to new skill sets as old jobs disappear and mass extinction of current jobs takes place."

C-suite, manufacturing industry, 1,000 - 5,000 employees

Question: What is your biggest personal fear about the future implications of AI?

Losing control of AI is a mostly mild concern



The majority (90%) of CIO respondents expressed some concern about the potential of losing control over increasingly advanced AI systems, with 50% expressing only slight worry.

In your lifetime, how worried are you about the potential loss of control over AI systems as they become more advanced?

"Inability to first regulate it and then later inability to control it [is my biggest fear]."

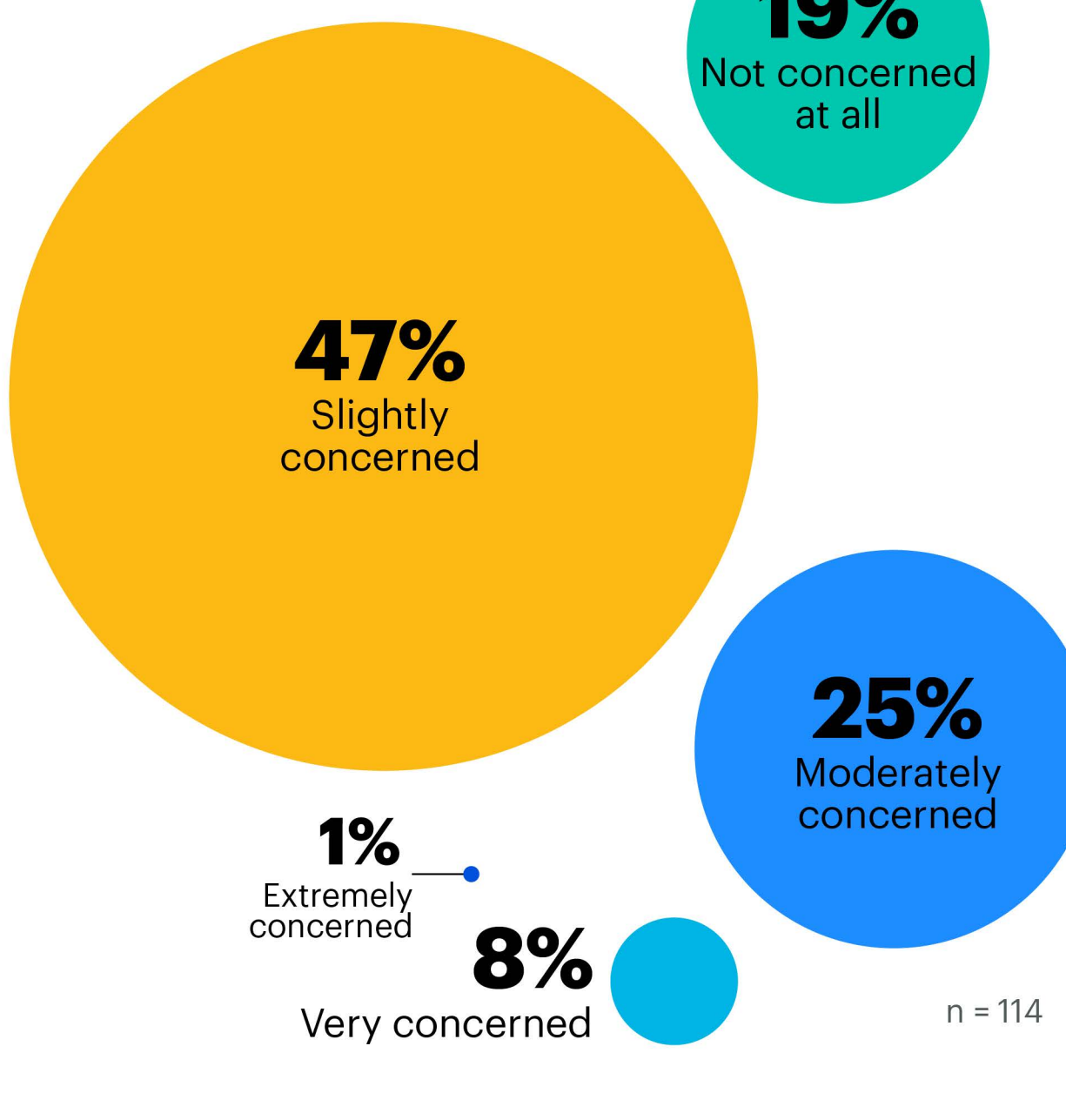
C-suite, educational services industry, 1,000 - 5,000 employees

Question: What is your biggest personal fear about the future implications of AI?

CIOs minimally concerned about AI as existential threat

Most respondent CIOs expressed mild concern about AI as an existential threat, with 72% citing moderate or slight concern and 19% expressing no concern at all.

Considering the definition of an "existential threat" as one that could either annihilate Earth-originating intelligent life or permanently and significantly limit its potential, to what extent are you personally concerned about AI being an "existential threat to humanity?"



67% of CIO respondents either completely or somewhat agree that mitigating the risk of AI-caused extinction should be a global priority, while 20% disagree with this notion.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement from the Center for AI Safety: "Mitigating the risk of extinction from AI should be a global priority alongside other societal-scale risks such as pandemics and nuclear war."



"I anticipate AI will be weaponized in many ways for financial, and perhaps more importantly social and political agendas that will threaten freedom of speech and even thought."

C-suite, healthcare industry, 10,000+ employees

Question: What is your biggest personal fear about the future implications of AI?

"I think if AI remains unchecked and we don't build systems for regulating and monitoring, bad actors could utilize it for very devastating applications and mass manipulation."

C-suite, educational services industry, 5,000 - 10,000 employees

Question: What is your biggest personal fear about the future implications of AI?

In their own words...

"I hope we embrace this technology without FUD so we can understand, control, and make it reach its full potential."

- C-suite, healthcare industry, <1,000 employees

"My biggest concern is how dangerous actors and corrupt governments will use AI to their advantage."

- C-suite, construction industry, <1,000 employees

"We need to get ready as (a) society to handle non-human intelligence and their rights."

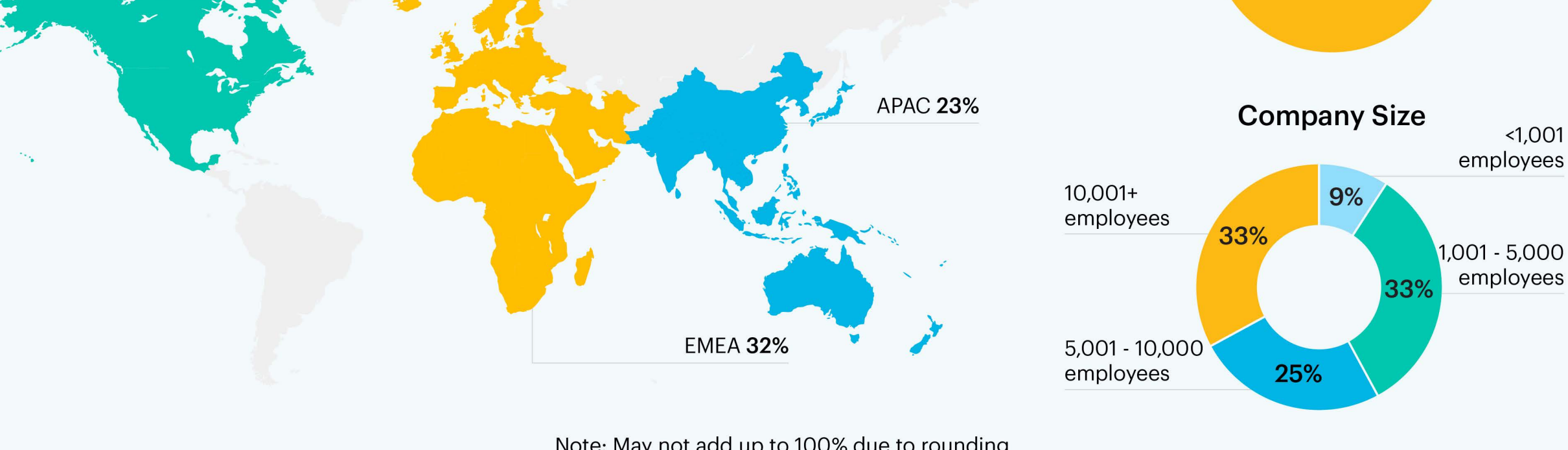
- C-suite, healthcare industry, 1,000 - 5,000 employees

"It is my belief that we will find the right balance between use of AI for good or evil."

- C-suite, educational services industry, 5,000 - 10,000 employees

Question: Do you have any final thoughts to share on the future implications of AI?

Respondent Breakdown



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Source: Gartner Peer Community, CIOs and AI fears: What personal concerns do CIOs have about AI? survey

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