

Systemic Risk Barometer Survey

2026 RISK FORECAST

ABOUT THE SURVEY: First launched in 2013, the DTCC Systemic Risk Barometer Survey serves as an annual pulse check to monitor existing and emerging risks that may impact the safety, resilience and stability of the global financial system. It is designed to help promote transparency on systemic risk issues across the financial services industry. In addition, this survey is a key component of DTCC's thought leadership initiatives and helps inform its engagement with clients and other stakeholders concerning emerging systemic threats.

KEY FINDINGS

GEOPOLITICAL RISKS AND TRADE TENSIONS WAS CITED AS THE OVERALL TOP RISK

- 78% of respondents included this risk in their top 5, with 35% citing it as the number one risk impacting the global financial system in 2026.
- This is the fourth consecutive year respondents cited Geopolitical Risks as the overall top risk.

CYBER RISK WAS AGAIN IDENTIFIED AS THE SECOND MOST FREQUENTLY CITED OF THE TOP 5 RISKS

- Cyber Risk was cited by 63% of respondents as a top 5 risk, a slight decrease from 69% in last year's survey.

U.S. ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN, MARKET VOLATILITY / SUDDEN DISLOCATION IN FINANCIAL MARKETS, AND U.S. MONETARY / FISCAL POLICY UNCERTAINTY WERE ALSO IDENTIFIED WITHIN THE TOP 5 RISKS

EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE WAS THE LARGEST PERCENTAGE DECLINER FOR THIS YEAR'S SURVEY

- This risk was cited by 14% of respondents as a top 5 risk, a decrease from 30% in last year's survey.

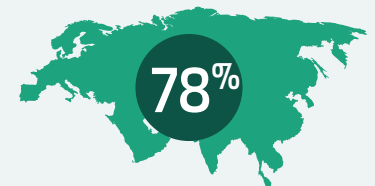
TWO MOST SIGNIFICANT RISKS OF A.I. ADOPTION IDENTIFIED AS CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITIES AND A.I.-GENERATED MISINFORMATION

- Cybersecurity and data protection vulnerabilities was most commonly identified as a top risk of the industry's growing reliance on A.I.

53% OF RESPONDENTS CONSIDER THE PROBABILITY OF A HIGH-IMPACT SYSTEMIC EVENT IN THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM IN 2026 TO BE HIGH OR VERY HIGH

- This represents a slight decrease from 55% in last year's survey.

DTCC



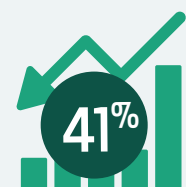
GEOPOLITICAL RISKS AND TRADE TENSIONS

IDENTIFIED BY 78%
OF RESPONDENTS
AS A TOP 5 RISK



CYBER RISK

63% OF
RESPONDENTS
RANKED CYBER RISK
AS A TOP 5 RISK



U.S. ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN

IDENTIFIED BY 41% OF
RESPONDENTS AS
A TOP 5 RISK

PERSPECTIVES ON RISK

DTCC EXECUTIVES PROVIDE THEIR THOUGHTS ON THE TOP RISKS FACING THE FINANCIAL SERVICES INDUSTRY

ALI WOLPERT

DTCC Head of Global
Government Relations, on:

GEOPOLITICAL RISKS AND TRADE TENSIONS



"Geopolitical risks and trade tensions have once again emerged as the top concern for the financial industry, underscoring the persistent uncertainty and deep interconnectedness of global markets. Survey respondents highlighted escalating international conflicts and unpredictable policy shifts as key drivers of geopolitical risk. To navigate this environment, risk managers must prioritize scenario planning, enhance cross-border collaboration, and maintain agility to adapt to rapidly evolving geopolitical developments."

LAURA DEANER

DTCC Chief
Information Security Officer, on:

CYBERSECURITY RISKS



"Cybersecurity has evolved beyond a risk management concern, it is a core business priority for every financial institution, as increasingly sophisticated threats and emerging challenges like quantum computing and digital interconnectedness continue to raise the stakes. To stay ahead, organizations must strengthen cyber resilience, invest in advanced detection and response capabilities, and foster a unified approach to security across the enterprise and the industry through partnerships like FS-ISAC."

TIMOTHY CUDDIHY

DTCC Group Chief Risk Officer, on: **TOP SYSTEMIC RISKS**

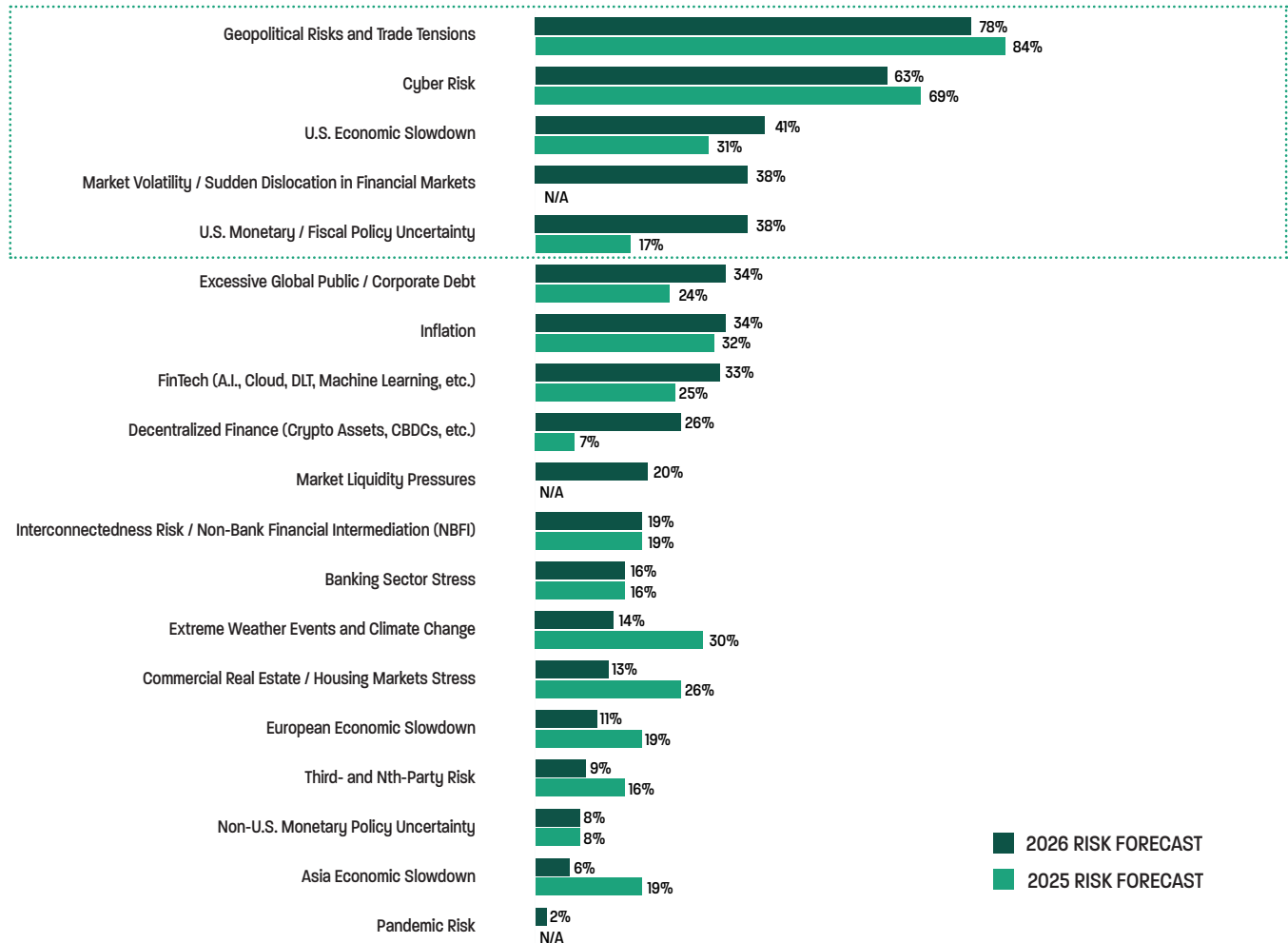


"Our latest survey shows the financial industry is grappling with an increasingly complex web of systemic risks—from persistent geopolitical tensions and cyber threats to mounting concerns over excessive debt, market volatility, and regulatory uncertainty. In this environment, risk leaders must adopt a holistic, forward-looking approach: rigorously stress-testing their organizations, strengthening resilience across all risk domains, and fostering collaboration both within the industry and across global markets."

TOP 5 RISKS IDENTIFIED

When asked to identify the top 5 systemic risks to the global financial system in 2026, most respondents cited Geopolitical Risks and Trade Tensions, Cyber Risk, U.S. Economic Slowdown, Market Volatility / Sudden Dislocation in Financial Markets, and U.S. Monetary / Fiscal Policy Uncertainty. The graph compares results for the 2026 Risk Forecast (in green) with results for the 2025 Risk Forecast (in mint).*

RISK TO GLOBAL ECONOMY



* Market Volatility / Sudden Dislocation in Financial Markets, Market Liquidity Pressures, and Pandemic Risk were added as risk categories in the 2026 Risk Forecast.

REGIONAL DIFFERENCES

Based on the feedback received, we identified some noteworthy regional differences.

North American respondents are more concerned with U.S. Economic Slowdown, Inflation, and U.S. Monetary / Fiscal Policy Uncertainty.

U.S. ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN



INFLATION



U.S. MONETARY / FISCAL POLICY UNCERTAINTY



Respondents outside of North America are more concerned with Excessive Global Public / Corporate Debt, Extreme Weather Events and Climate Change, and European Economic Slowdown.

EXCESSIVE GLOBAL PUBLIC / CORPORATE DEBT



EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE



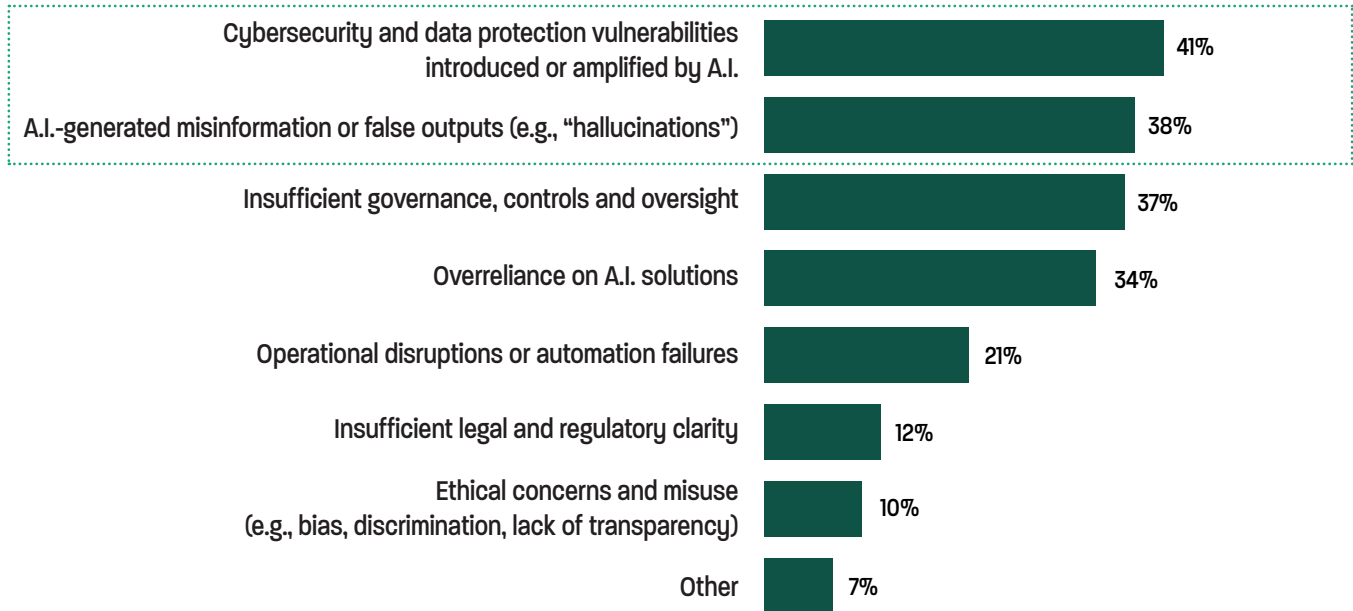
EUROPEAN ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN



● North American Respondents ● Respondents outside of North America

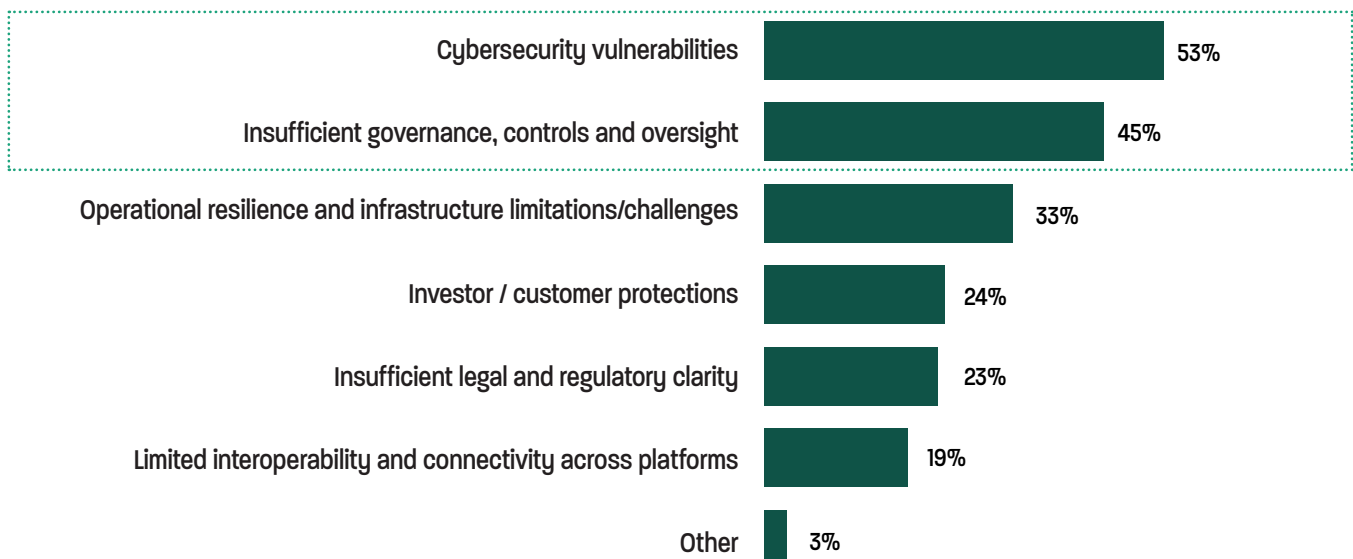
RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INDUSTRY'S GROWING RELIANCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SOLUTIONS

When asked to identify the two most significant risks arising from the financial industry's growing reliance on artificial intelligence (A.I.) solutions, most respondents cited Cybersecurity and data protection vulnerabilities introduced or amplified by A.I. and A.I.-generated misinformation or false outputs (e.g., "hallucinations").



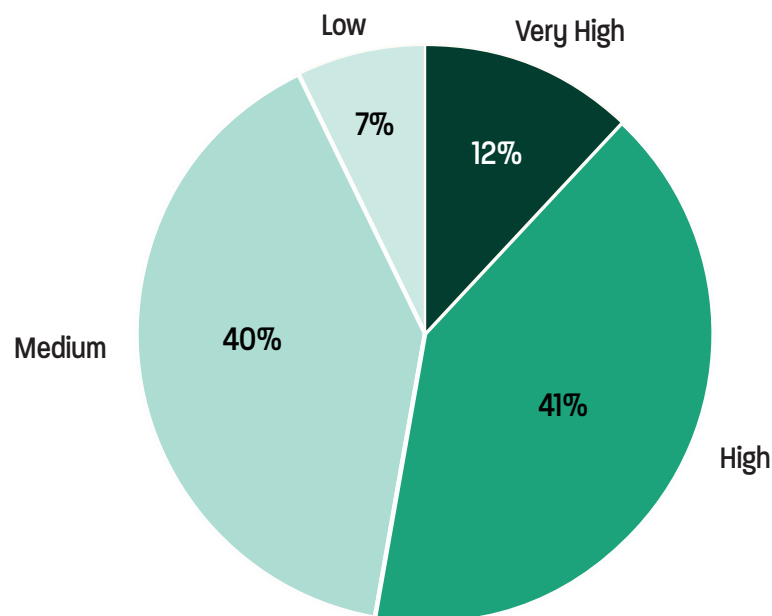
RISKS TO INCREASING DEPLOYMENT OF DIGITAL ASSETS ACROSS FINANCIAL MARKET INFRASTRUCTURES

When asked to identify the two most significant risks to the increasing deployment of digital assets across financial market infrastructures, most respondents cited Cybersecurity vulnerabilities and Insufficient governance, controls and oversight.



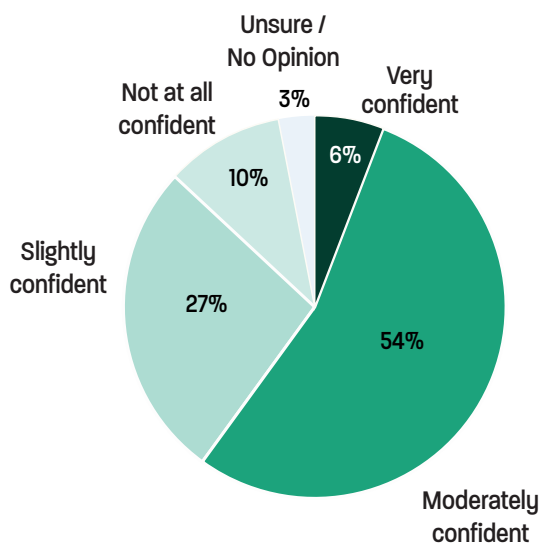
PROBABILITY OF HIGH-IMPACT SYSTEMIC EVENT IN 2026

When asked to identify the probability of a high-impact systemic event in the global financial system in 2026, greater than 90% of respondents cited the probability as Medium, High or Very High.



CONFIDENCE IN GLOBAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM'S RESILIENCE TO A HIGH-IMPACT SYSTEMIC EVENT IN 2026

Most respondents identified a Very or Moderate level of confidence in the global financial system's resilience to a high-impact systemic event in 2026.



CONFIDENCE IN ORGANIZATION'S CAPABILITIES TO RESPOND TO A HIGH-IMPACT SYSTEMIC EVENT IN 2026

Greater than 70% of respondents indicated a Very or Moderate level of confidence in their organization's capabilities to respond to a high-impact systemic event in 2026.

