

## Backend API Technology Usage (2021–2025)

Technology	Companies (Prod Usage)	Industries / Use Cases	Geography	Notable Companies	Adoption Trend (2021–25)
<b>FastAPI</b>	~187 companies (StackShare) <sup>1</sup>	APIs and microservices; popular in e-commerce, fintech, healthcare, travel <sup>2</sup> ; ML/AI model serving <sup>3</sup>	Global (NA, Europe, Asia) <sup>4</sup>	Microsoft, Uber, Netflix <sup>3</sup>	Rapid growth: usage among Python devs rose 21%→29% (2021–23) <sup>3</sup> ; global adoption expanding <sup>4</sup>
<b>Express.js</b>	~2,065 companies <sup>5</sup>	Web APIs for social, finance, logistics, etc.; core of many Node apps	Global	Twitter, Accenture, Intuit <sup>5</sup>	Mature and widespread; Node.js backend staple. Dev usage ~23% (2022)→19.5% (2023) <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> (slightly declining share)
<b>Node.js</b>	~7,500 companies <sup>8</sup>	General backend (streaming, real-time, microservices) – used in media, ride-share, fintech <sup>8</sup>	Global	Netflix, Uber, PayPal, Twitter <sup>8</sup>	Dominant runtime: ~47% (2022)→43% (2023) of devs use it <sup>6</sup> <sup>9</sup> ; still top (≈41% in 2024) <sup>10</sup>
<b>NestJS</b>	~438 companies <sup>11</sup>	TypeScript-based server-side framework; enterprise and microservice APIs	Global	Kevin. (fintech), other startups <sup>11</sup>	Emerging: not listed in 2022 survey but ~5.8% of devs in 2023 <sup>7</sup> (≈6% in 2024 <sup>10</sup> ). Adoption climbing in recent years.

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<b>Firebase</b>	~3,206 companies <sup>12</sup>	Mobile/web real-time backends; used in gaming, chat, IoT, e-commerce apps	Global	Twitch, Instacart, LaunchDarkly <sup>13</sup>	Longstanding BaaS platform; usage ~21% (2022)→15% (2023) of devs <sup>14 15</sup> (showing slight decline vs alternatives)
<b>Supabase</b>	~77 companies <sup>16</sup>	Open-source BaaS (Postgres) for web/mobile apps; Firebase alternative	Global	Smaller teams (e.g. Development, radrat) <sup>16</sup>	Emerging: ~3% of developers report using it (2023) <sup>17</sup> ; growing interest since 2020 as an open-source backend platform.

## Technology-specific Insights

**FastAPI:** A modern Python API framework, FastAPI is used by hundreds of companies (StackShare lists ~187) <sup>1</sup>. It excels in high-performance, async APIs – common use cases include fintech, e-commerce, healthcare and travel services <sup>2</sup>. It's also favored for ML/AI model deployments and data science endpoints <sup>3</sup>. Adoption has surged recently: JetBrains reports FastAPI usage among Python developers rose from 21% in 2021 to 29% in 2023 <sup>3</sup>. Notable users include Microsoft, Uber, and Netflix <sup>3</sup>. Geographically, FastAPI is used globally (with clusters in North America, Europe and Asia <sup>4</sup>). In summary, FastAPI's rapid growth reflects its popularity for building production APIs quickly and efficiently.

**Express.js:** Express is a minimal Node.js web framework and a core part of many backend stacks. Over 2,000 companies list Express in production <sup>5</sup>. It's used across industries for standard web APIs and server-side apps (e.g. social media, fintech, travel) – companies like Twitter, Accenture, and Intuit are known users <sup>5</sup>. Express underpins many Node.js services due to its simplicity. According to StackOverflow surveys, ~23% of developers had used Express in 2022, dropping to ~19.5% in 2023 <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup>, indicating a modest decline in share as newer frameworks (Fastify, Koa, etc.) emerge. Nevertheless, Express remains widely adopted globally in both startups and enterprises.

**Node.js:** As the JavaScript runtime, Node.js itself (often with frameworks) dominates backend development. Tens of thousands of companies use Node.js (StackShare cites ~7.5k) <sup>8</sup>, including Netflix, Uber, PayPal, and Twitter <sup>8</sup>. It's employed in streaming platforms, ride-sharing services, fintech, and real-time systems. StackOverflow surveys show Node.js was the most-used web framework (47% of devs in 2022, 42.7% in 2023 <sup>6</sup> <sup>9</sup>, ~40.8% in 2024 <sup>10</sup>). This indicates a high, if slightly ebbing, usage level. Node.js usage is globally distributed, reflecting its ubiquitous role in web and cloud applications. Overall, Node.js remains a dominant, mature backend runtime.

**NestJS:** NestJS is a newer progressive Node.js framework (TypeScript-based) for scalable server-side apps. StackShare lists about 438 companies using NestJS <sup>11</sup> (e.g. fintech firm Kevin.). It's favored for structured, enterprise-grade APIs and microservices. NestJS was essentially absent from the 2022 developer survey, but by 2023 about 5.8% of developers reported using it <sup>7</sup> ( $\approx 6.6\%$  of professional devs in 2024 <sup>18</sup>). This suggests rapid adoption, especially in new projects. Notable use cases include backend services in tech startups and companies adopting TypeScript at scale. In summary, NestJS is on a strong upward trend among Node ecosystems.

**Firebase:** Firebase is a Google-backed realtime BaaS/platform. Over 3,200 companies have Firebase in their stack <sup>12</sup>, including media and e-commerce players (Twitch, Instacart, LaunchDarkly) <sup>13</sup>. It's widely used for mobile and web apps needing real-time databases, authentication, and hosting. Industries range from gaming and social apps to IoT. Surveys show Firebase was used by about 21% of developers in 2022 <sup>14</sup>, dropping to  $\sim 15\%$  in 2023 <sup>15</sup>. This decline may reflect competition from other cloud and backend services. Nonetheless, Firebase remains a leading backend choice for real-time and event-driven applications worldwide.

**Supabase:** Supabase is an open-source Firebase alternative built on Postgres. It's much newer; only  $\sim 77$  companies are listed as using Supabase <sup>16</sup>. Typical use cases are similar to Firebase (web/mobile backends, real-time apps) but with SQL databases and open-source stack. Companies using it tend to be small teams or startups (StackShare examples like "Development" and "radrat" <sup>16</sup>). In the 2023 survey,  $\sim 3\%$  of respondents indicated using Supabase <sup>17</sup> (FastAPI use was  $\sim 7.7\%$  the same year), reflecting early-stage adoption. Supabase has seen rapid growth in popularity since 2020, especially among developers who prefer self-hosted, relational backends. Adoption is still nascent but rising quickly in recent years.

**Trend Summary:** Overall, Node.js and its frameworks continue to dominate backend APIs, with Node.js remaining the most-used platform ( $\sim 40\text{--}47\%$  of devs) <sup>6</sup> <sup>10</sup>. Express.js is ubiquitous in production backends, though its relative share has edged down slightly. FastAPI – the leading Python API framework – has seen significant uptake (growing use in recent surveys <sup>3</sup>), making it one of the faster-growing backend choices. NestJS has emerged strongly within the Node/TypeScript community. Firebase usage is large but has shown minor declines in developer surveys <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup>. Supabase, while still niche, is gaining traction. Geographically, all these technologies are used globally, with major tech hubs in North America, Europe, and Asia leading adoption.

**Sources:** Developer surveys (StackOverflow, JetBrains), StackShare stats, and tech reports as cited <sup>1</sup>  
<sup>5</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>10</sup> .

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<sup>1</sup> FastAPI - Reviews, Pros & Cons | Companies using FastAPI

<https://stackshare.io/fastapi>

<sup>2</sup> <sup>4</sup> 9 Companies that Use FastAPI - PLANEKS

<https://www.planeks.net/companies-using-fastapi/>

<sup>3</sup> How to Use FastAPI for Machine Learning | The PyCharm Blog

<https://blog.jetbrains.com/pycharm/2024/09/how-to-use-fastapi-for-machine-learning/>

<sup>5</sup> ExpressJS - Reviews, Pros & Cons | Companies using ExpressJS

<https://stackshare.io/expressjs>

<sup>6</sup> <sup>14</sup> Stack Overflow Developer Survey 2022

<https://survey.stackoverflow.co/2022>

7 9 15 17 **Stack Overflow Developer Survey 2023**

<https://survey.stackoverflow.co/2023>

8 **Why use node.js for backend : A complete case study with pros and cons - AshramTech**

<https://www.ashramtech.com/why-use-node-js-for-backend-development/>

10 18 **Technology | 2024 Stack Overflow Developer Survey**

<https://survey.stackoverflow.co/2024/technology>

11 **NestJS - Reviews, Pros & Cons | Companies using NestJS**

<https://stackshare.io/nestjs>

12 13 **Firebase - Reviews, Pros & Cons | Companies using Firebase**

<https://stackshare.io/firebase>

16 **Supabase - Reviews, Pros & Cons | Companies using Supabase**

<https://stackshare.io/supabase>