



From insights
to action



Finance AI Adoption Benchmarking Report

2026

Executive Summary

CFOs are spending too much time on execution, not enough on strategy

Nearly 70% of CFOs spend the majority of their time on day-to-day operations, limiting their ability to focus on strategic planning and leadership.

Human oversight is essential for responsible AI in finance

CFOs overwhelmingly agree that AI must know when to act autonomously and when to escalate decisions to humans to maintain control and auditability.

The monthly close is still slowing decision-making

Half of finance teams take 6–10 days to close, delaying insight and highlighting a clear opportunity for intelligent automation.

The value of AI is strategic leverage, not headcount reduction

CFOs see the primary benefit of AI as freeing time for higher-value work—improving forecasting, decision-making, and finance’s influence at the leadership table.

AI adoption is real but trust remains conditional

While most finance teams are already using AI tools, confidence in accuracy is not absolute, and many have experienced unreliable or hallucinated outputs.

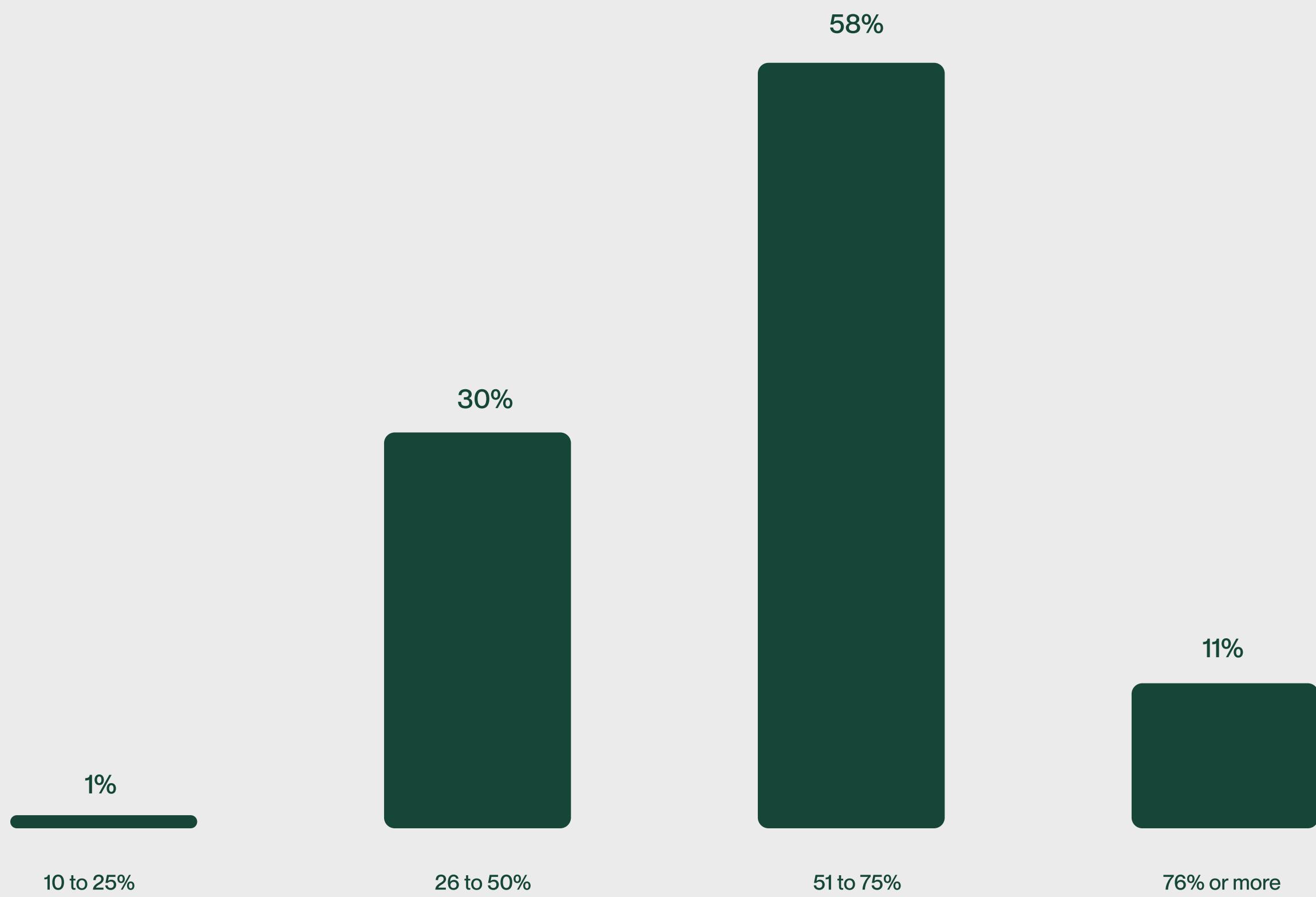
Research Methodology

The Maximor AI Survey was conducted by Wakefield Research among 100 CFOs at companies with between \$50 million and \$500 million in revenue, between September 23rd and September 30th, 2025, using an email invitation and an online survey.

Results of any sample are subject to sampling variation. The magnitude of the variation is measurable and is affected by the number of interviews and the level of the percentages expressing the results. For the interviews conducted in this particular study, the chances are 95 in 100 that a survey result does not vary, plus or minus, by more than 9.8 percentage points from the result that would be obtained if interviews had been conducted with all persons in the universe represented by the sample.

WAKEFIELD

Q1A: Approximately what percentage of your time is spent on day-to-day operations?



Expert Commentary

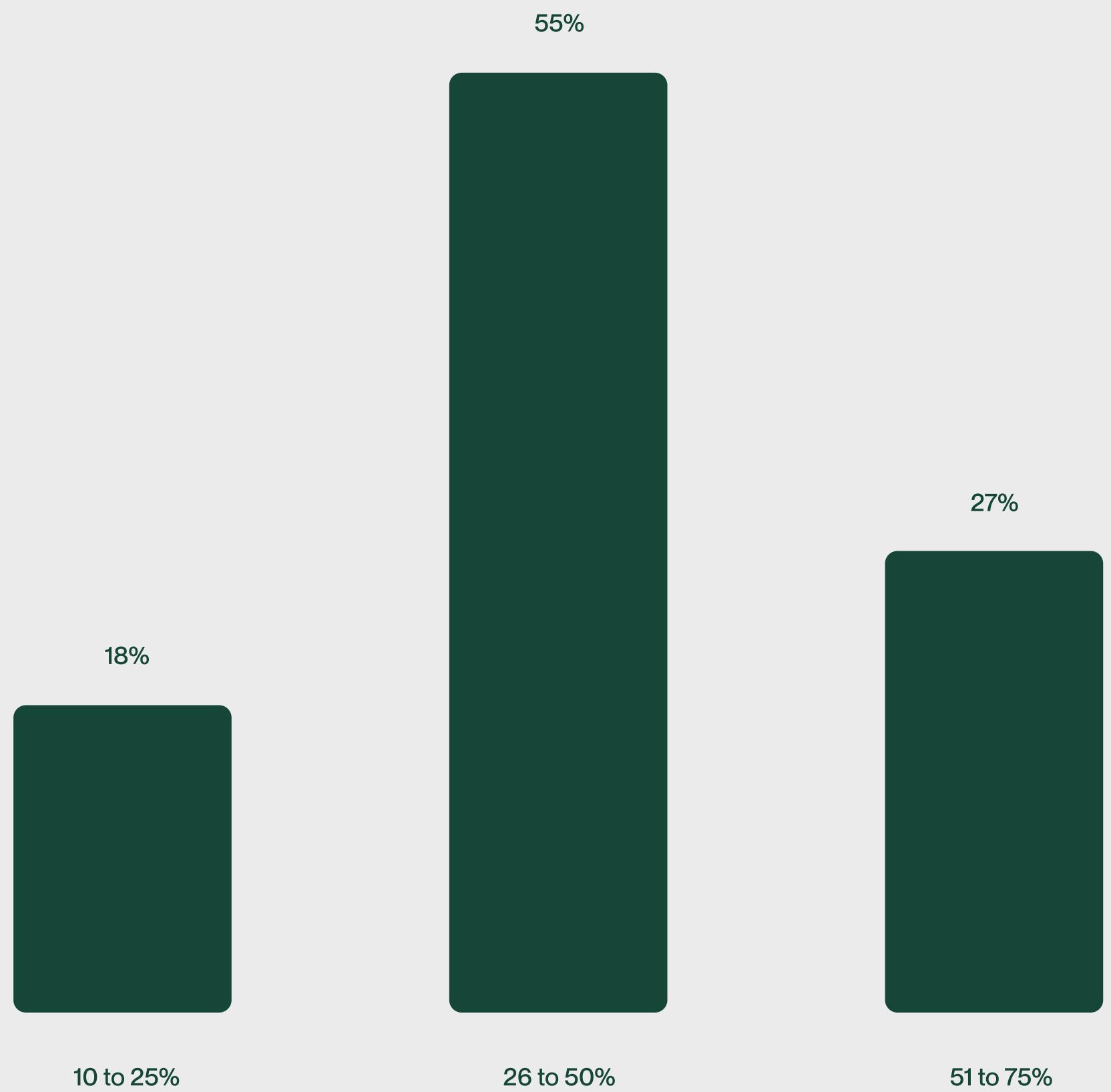
When operational work consumes most of a CFO's day, strategy becomes a side project. This data explains the shift toward automation that removes work entirely, not tools that simply reshuffle it.

Summary Insight

69%

of CFOs spend 51-75% of their time on day-to-day operations.

Q1B: Approximately what percentage of your time is spent on long-term strategic planning?



Expert Commentary

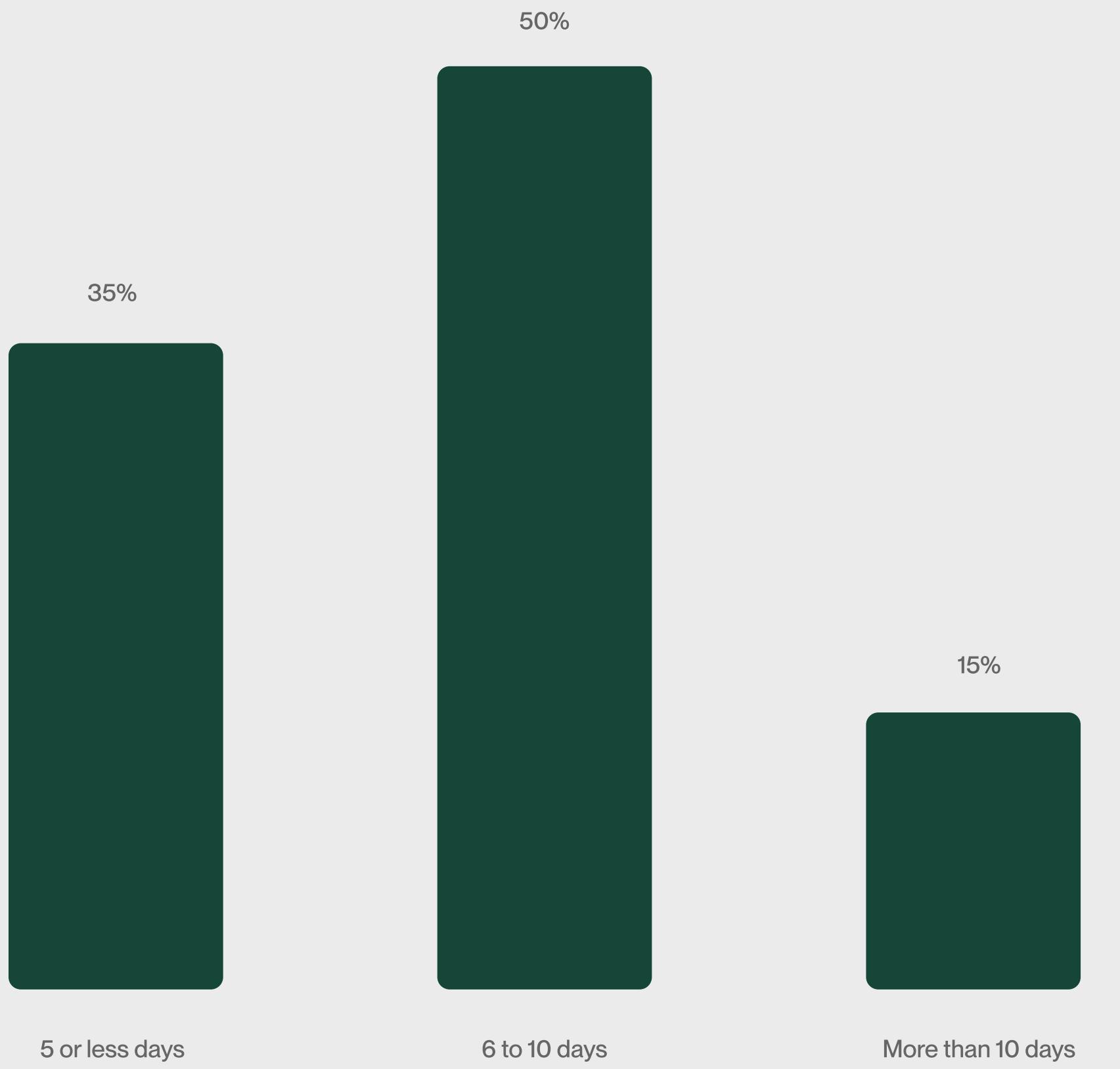
When operational work consumes most of a CFO's day, strategy becomes a side project. This data explains the shift toward automation that removes work entirely, not tools that simply reshuffle it.

Summary Insight

27%

of CFOs spend 51-75% of their time on long-term strategic planning.

Q2: On average, how many days does it take your finance team to complete the month-end close?



Expert Commentary

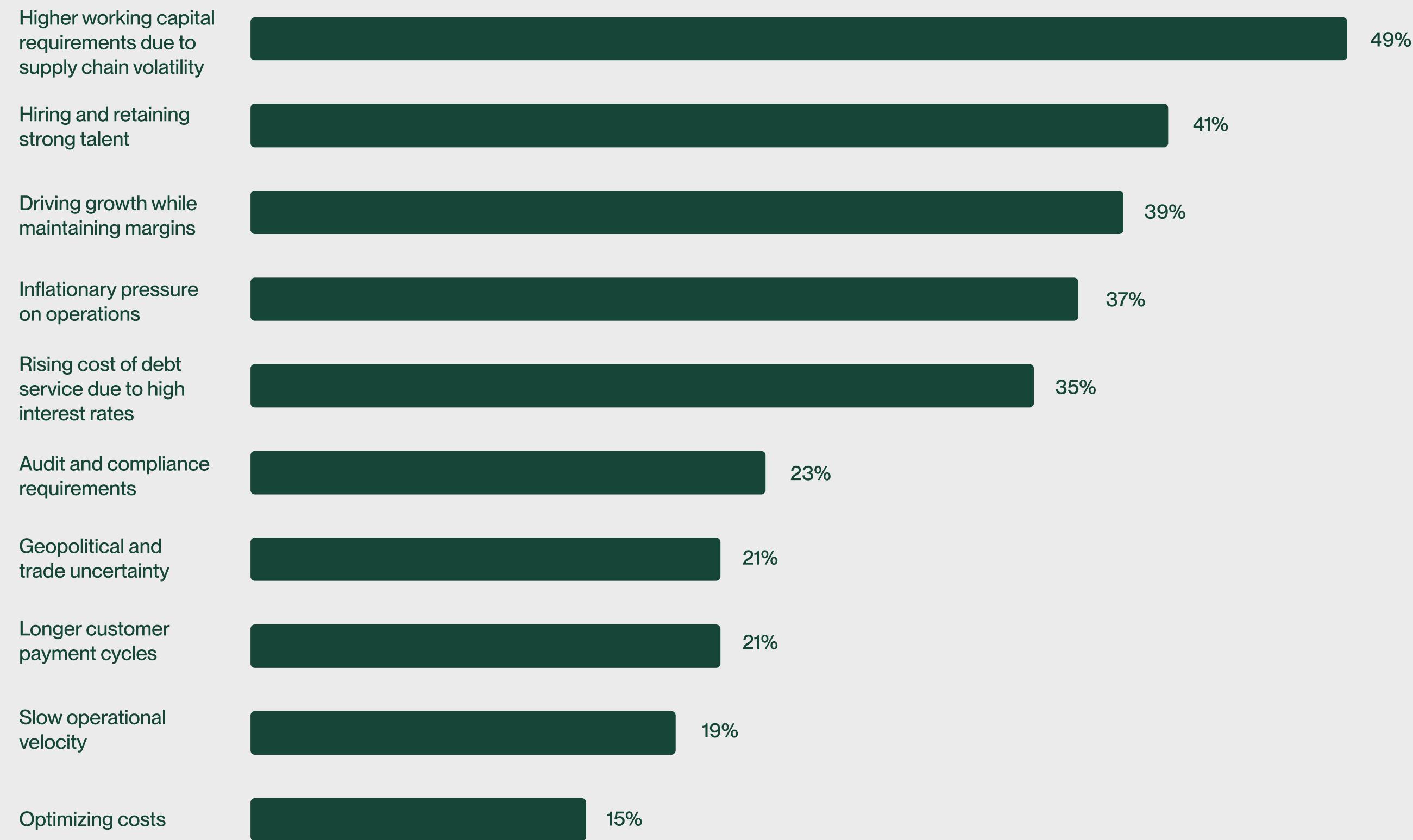
A slow close is not just inefficient. It delays insight, weakens trust in the numbers, and limits a CFO's ability to act when decisions still matter.

Summary Insight

50%

of CFOs say it takes their finance team 6 to 10 days on average to complete the month-end close.

Q3: Thinking about today's macroeconomic environment, what is placing the most financial pressure on your company?



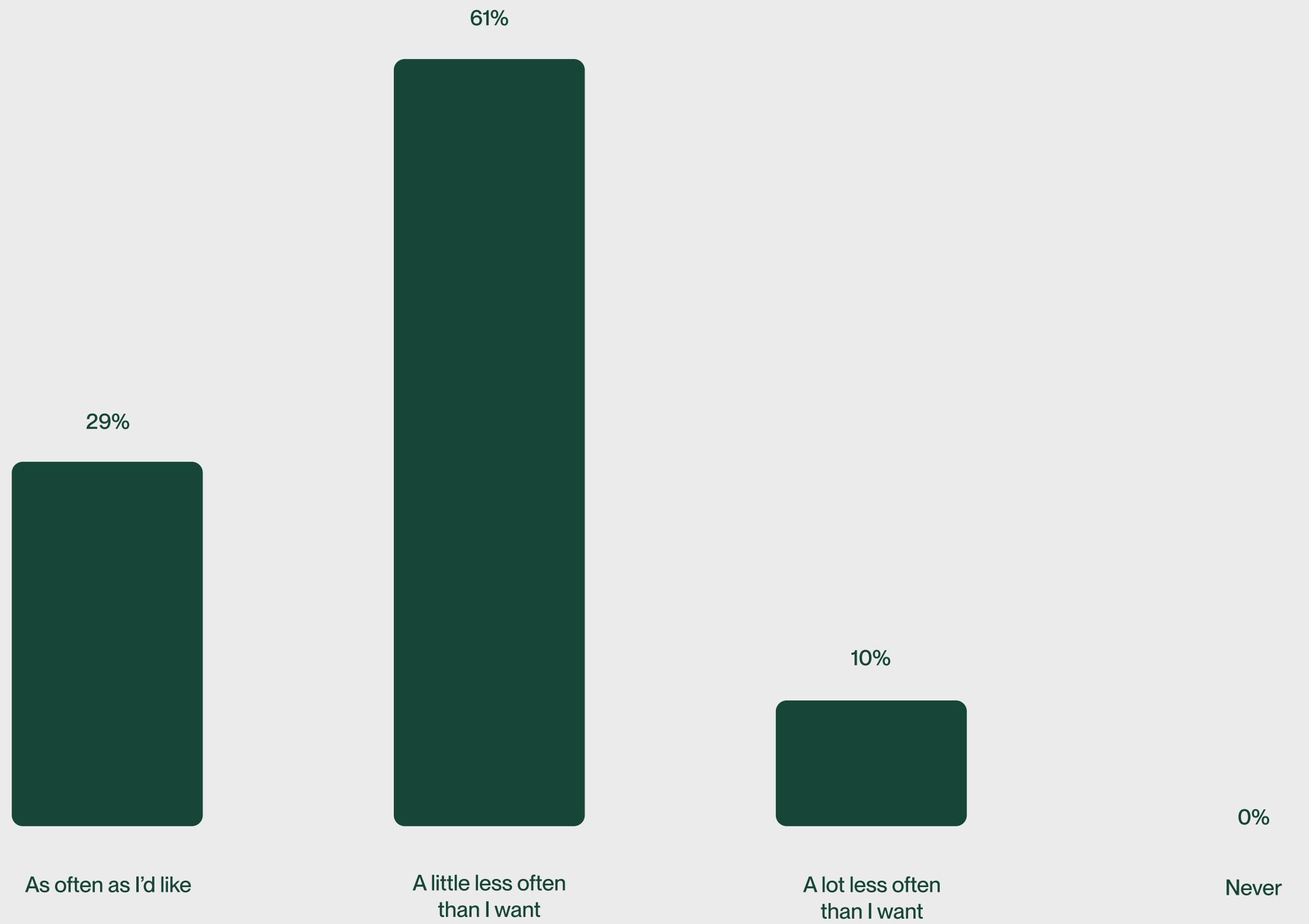
Expert Commentary

CFOs are managing growth, cost pressure, and resilience at the same time. Static processes cannot keep up. Finance teams need systems built to adapt when conditions change.

Summary Insight

Among CEOs, the top macroeconomic factors putting financial pressure on their company include higher working capital requirements due to supply chain volatility (49%), hiring and retaining strong talent (41%), and driving growth while maintaining margins (39%).

Q4: How often have your ideas been adopted by company leadership as strategic initiatives?



Expert Commentary

Strategy stalls when data is doubted. Without confidence in the numbers, even the best CFO insights struggle to translate into action.

Summary Insight

61%

of CFOs have had their ideas adopted by company leadership as strategic initiatives a little less often than they would want.

Q5: Which of the following tasks do you find most time-consuming in your role as a CFO?



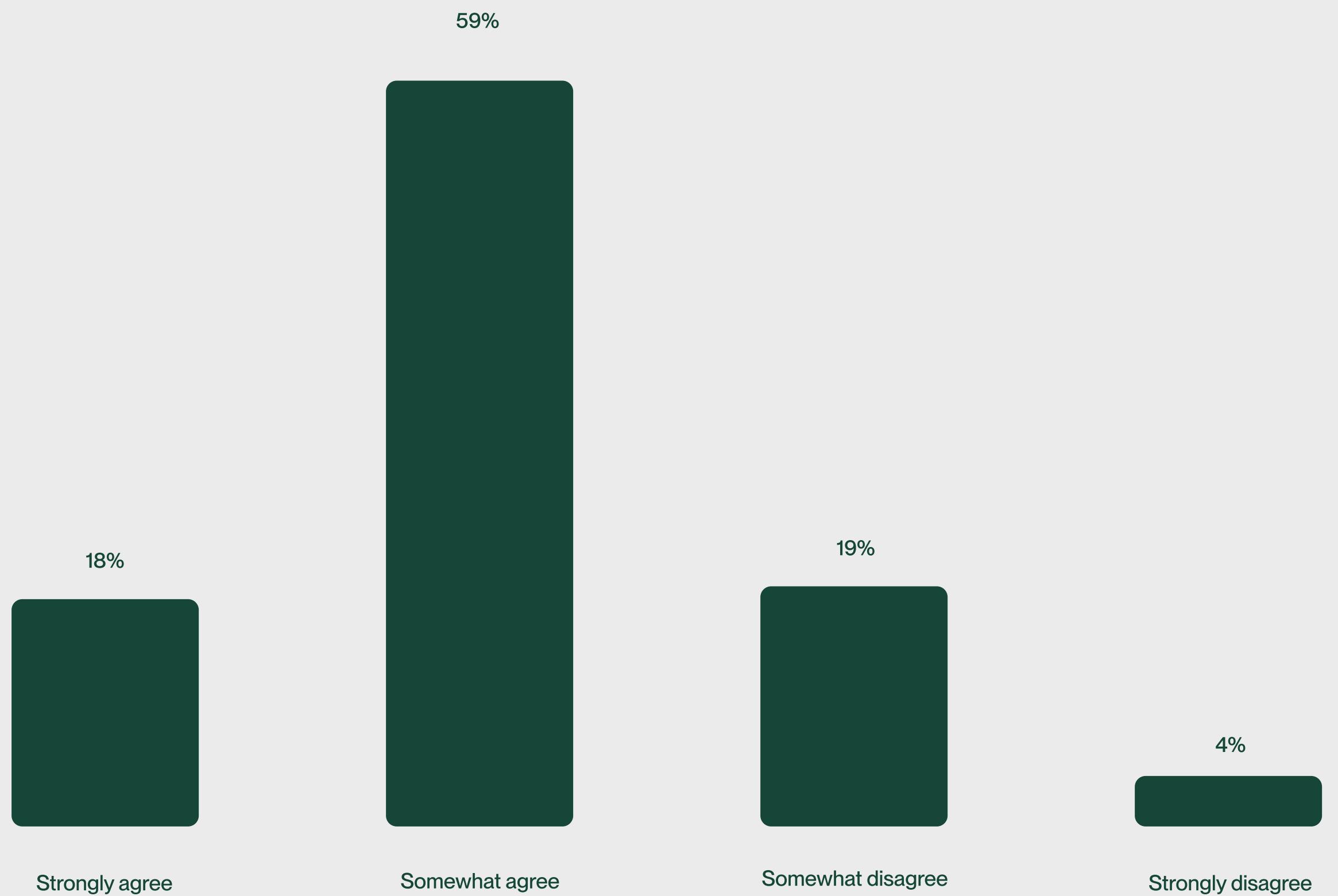
Expert Commentary

Coordination, forecasting, and reporting consume CFO bandwidth because they depend on fragmented data and manual reconciliation. That is exactly where agent-based automation can deliver disproportionate returns.

Summary Insight

CFOs find coordinating with other departments (54%) and planning and forecasting (53%) to be the two most time-consuming tasks in their role.

Q6: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Our finance team has embraced automation, but we still struggle with demands for custom analysis and reports.



Expert Commentary

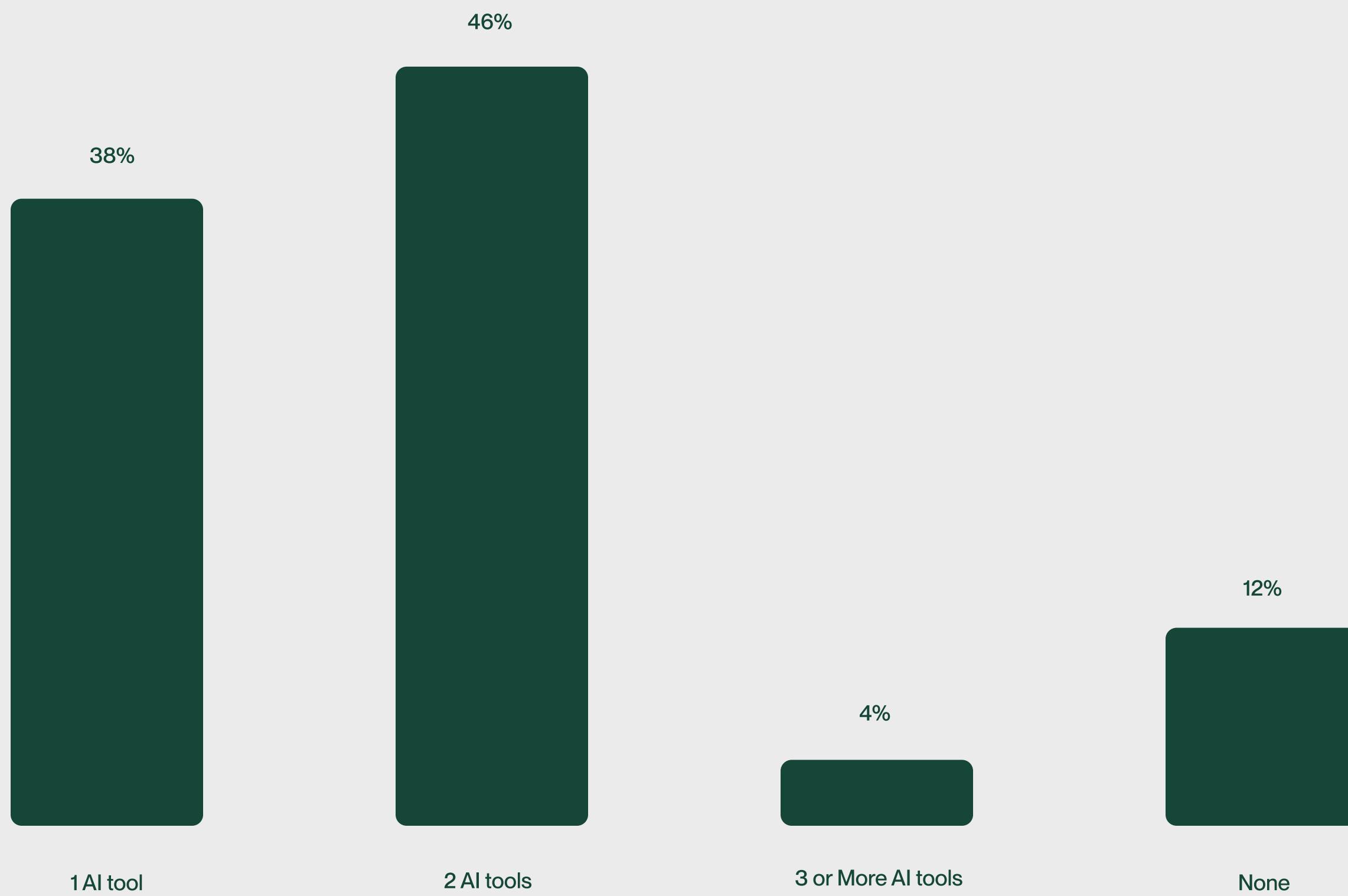
Many teams have automated tasks, not outcomes. When automation creates more exceptions and follow-ups, it adds complexity instead of leverage.

Summary Insight

77%

of CFOs agree that while their finance team has embraced automation, they still struggle with demands for custom analysis and reports.

Q7: How many different agentic AI tools are you currently using in your accounting and finance processes?



Expert Commentary

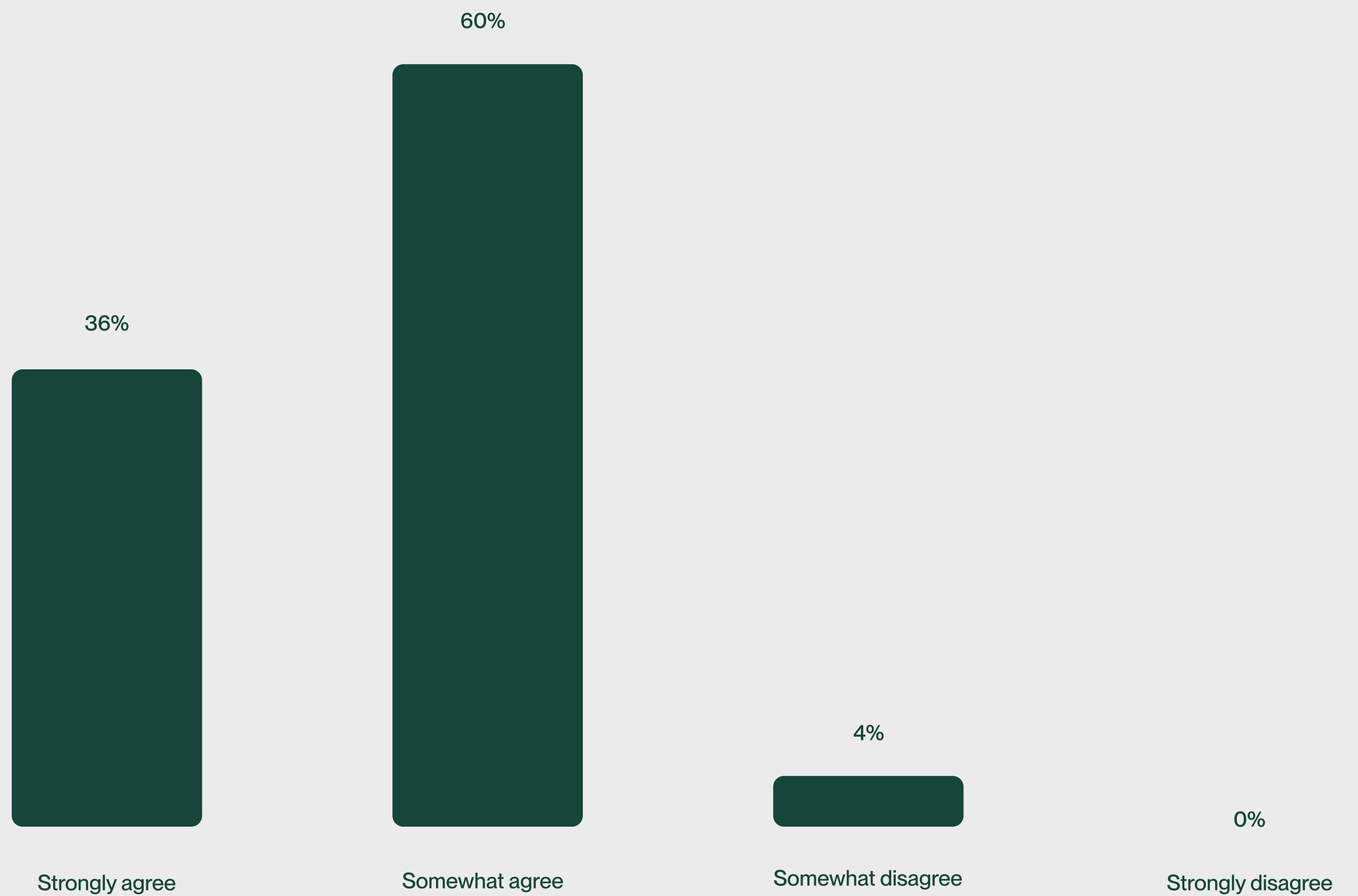
Adoption is already underway, quietly and unevenly. The next gains will come from orchestration and control across tools, not from adding more of them.

Summary Insight

88%

of CFOs are currently using at least 1 agentic AI tool in their accounting and finance processes.

Q8: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The biggest benefit of AI is that it allows me to spend more time on strategic work.



Expert Commentary

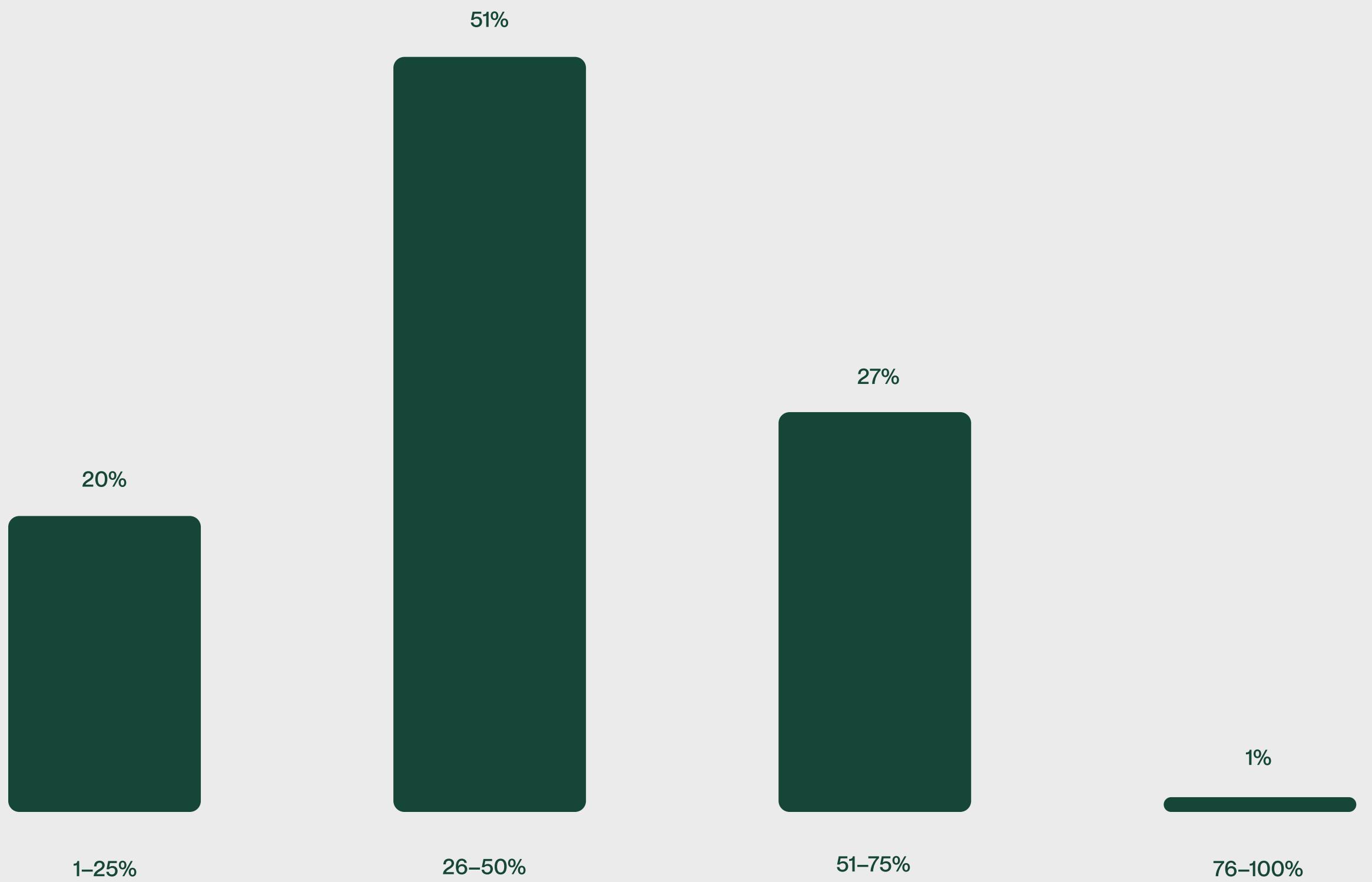
CFOs do not see AI as a cost-cutting exercise. They see it as a leadership multiplier. The goal is not fewer accountants, but better decisions.

Summary Insight

96%

of CFOs agree that the biggest benefit of AI is that it allows them to spend more time on strategic work.

Q9: Approximately what percentage of your accounting and finance workload is currently handled by agentic AI tools?



Expert Commentary

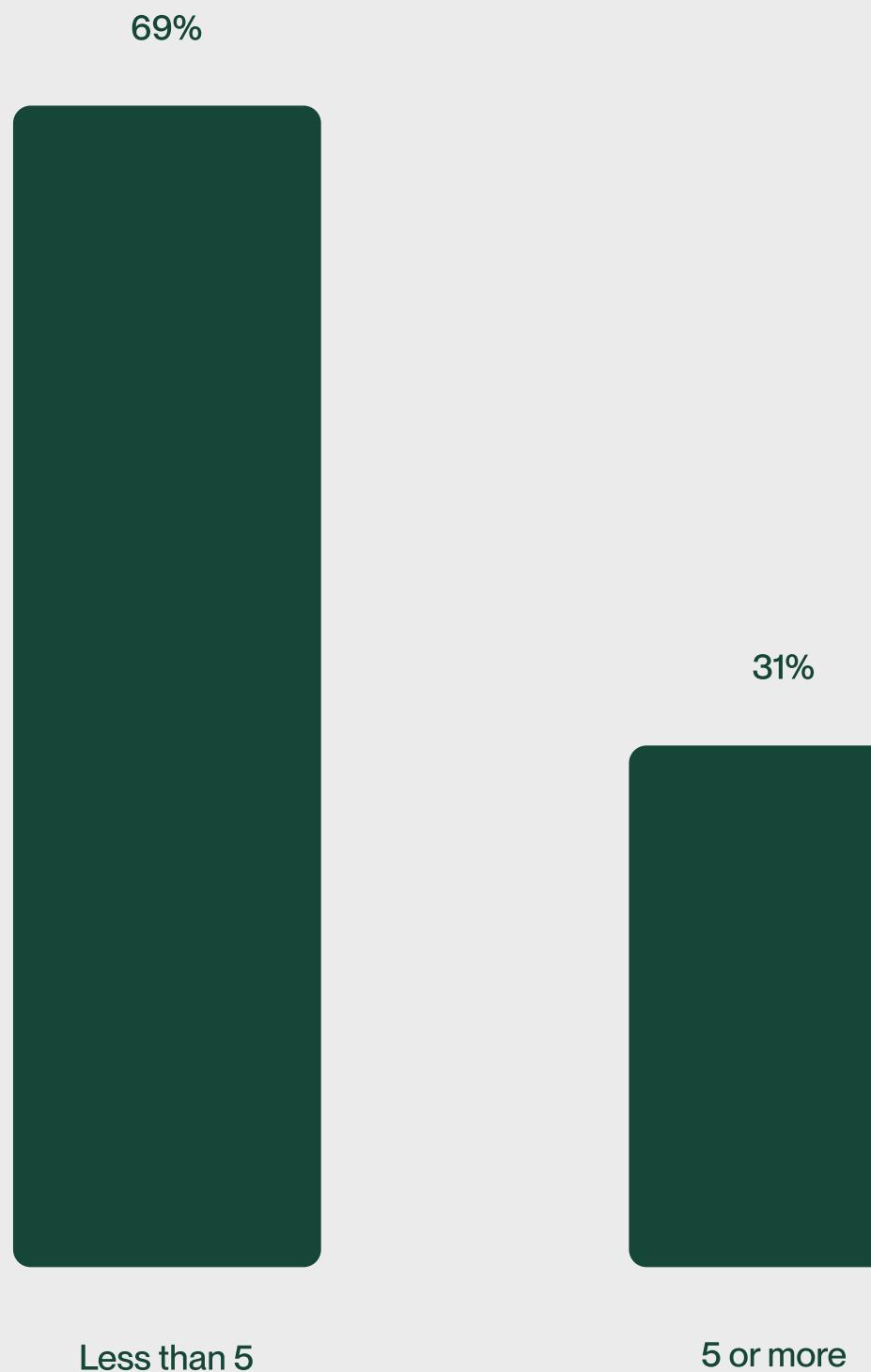
Partial automation is now standard. The real challenge is knowing which processes can run independently and which must escalate. Most tools still blur that line.

Summary Insight

72%

of CFOs report that up to 50% of accounting and finance workloads are now managed by agentic AI.

Q10: By approximately how many business days do you expect AI to reduce your monthly close time?



Expert Commentary

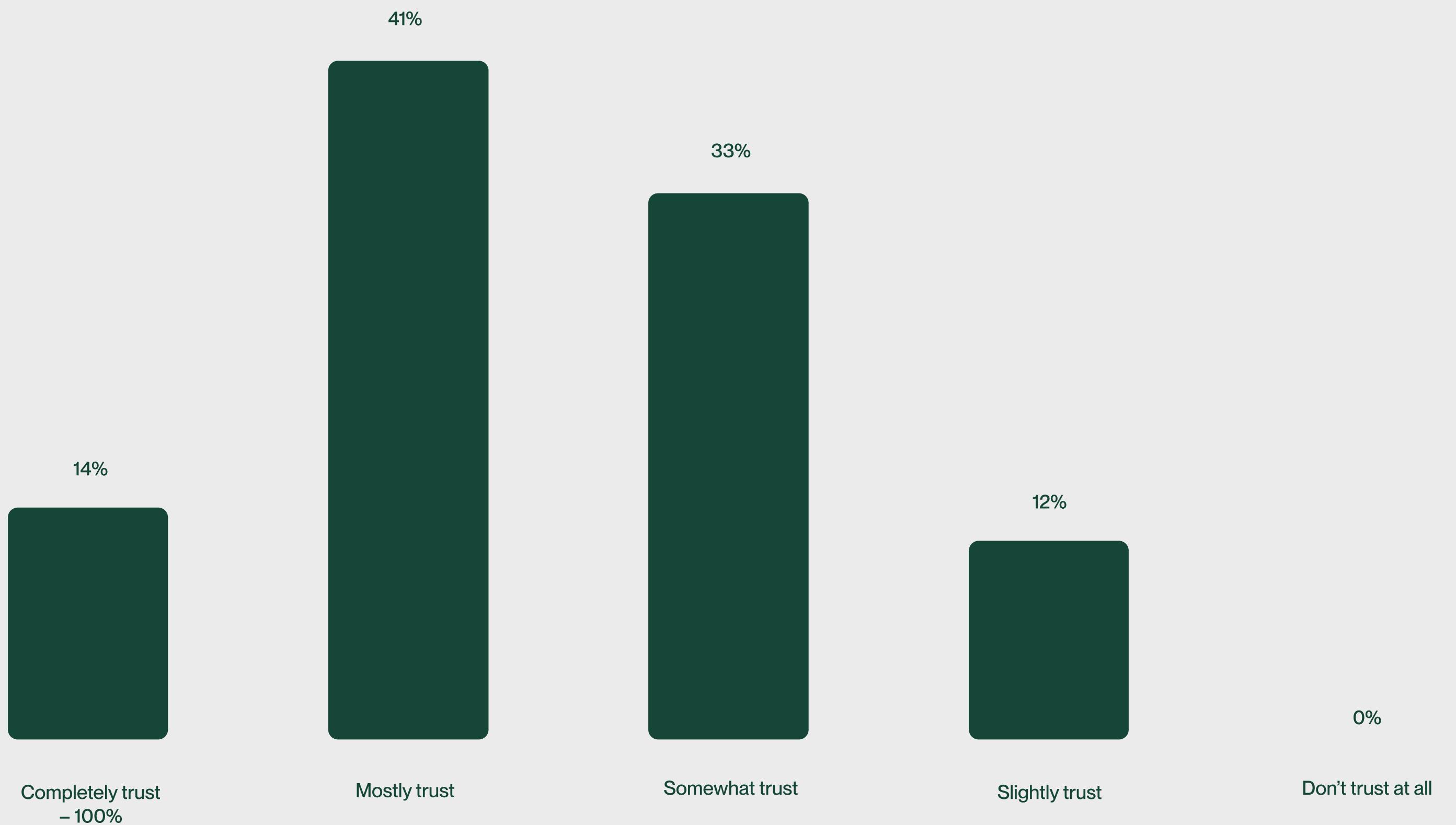
CFOs are not looking for miracles. They want measurable progress. Even a few days off the close can materially improve planning, forecasting, and confidence.

Summary Insight

31%

of CFOs expect AI to reduce their monthly close time by 5 or more business days.

Q11: How much do you trust AI to deliver accurate data in accounting processes?



Expert Commentary

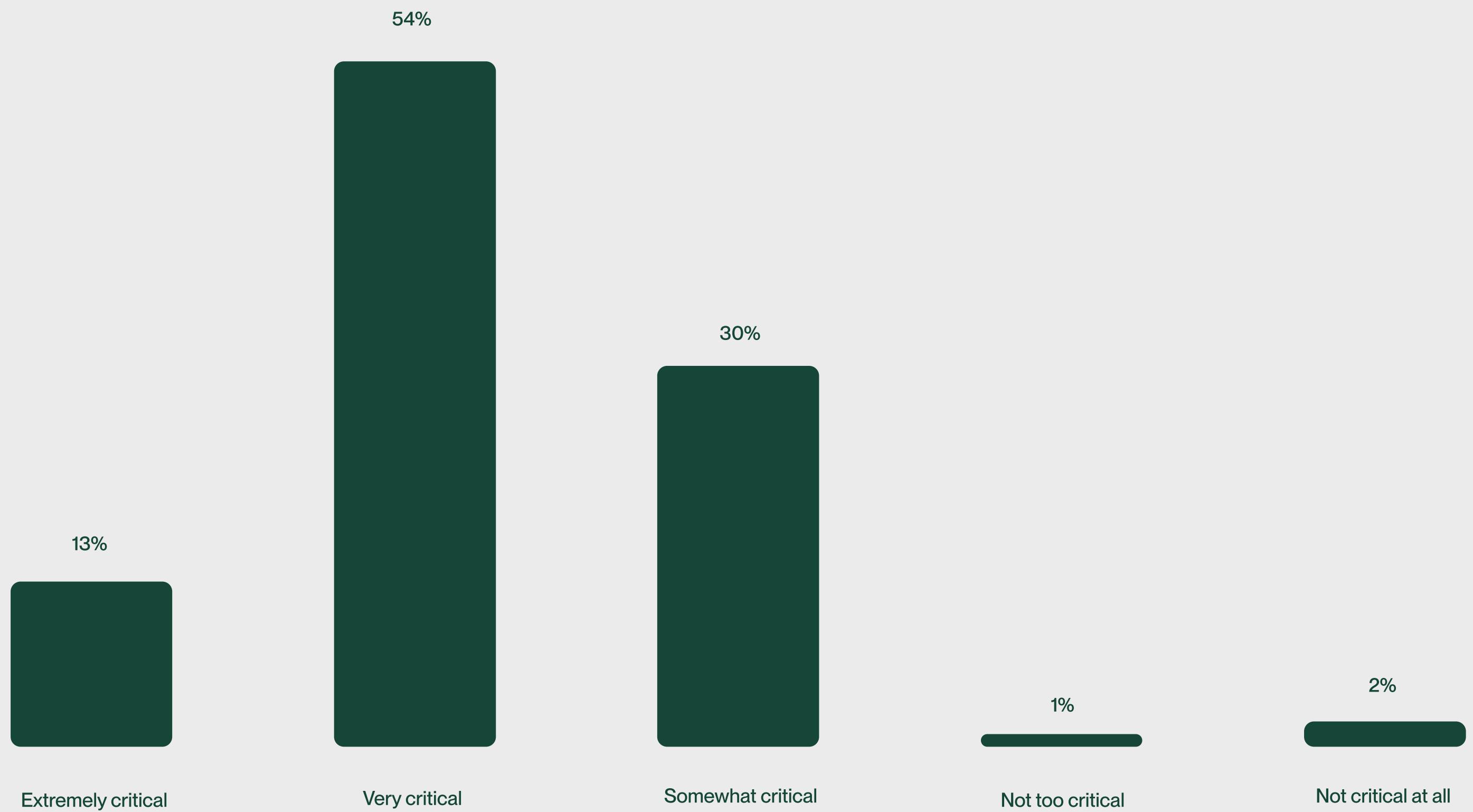
Finance leaders will trust AI when they can audit it. Verifiable, traceable, and explainable outputs are non-negotiable in high-scrutiny environments.

Summary Insight

88%

of CFOs somewhat, mostly, or completely trust AI to deliver accurate data in accounting processes.

Q12: How critical is it to have human oversight (“a human in the loop”) to ensure data accuracy in accounting?



Expert Commentary

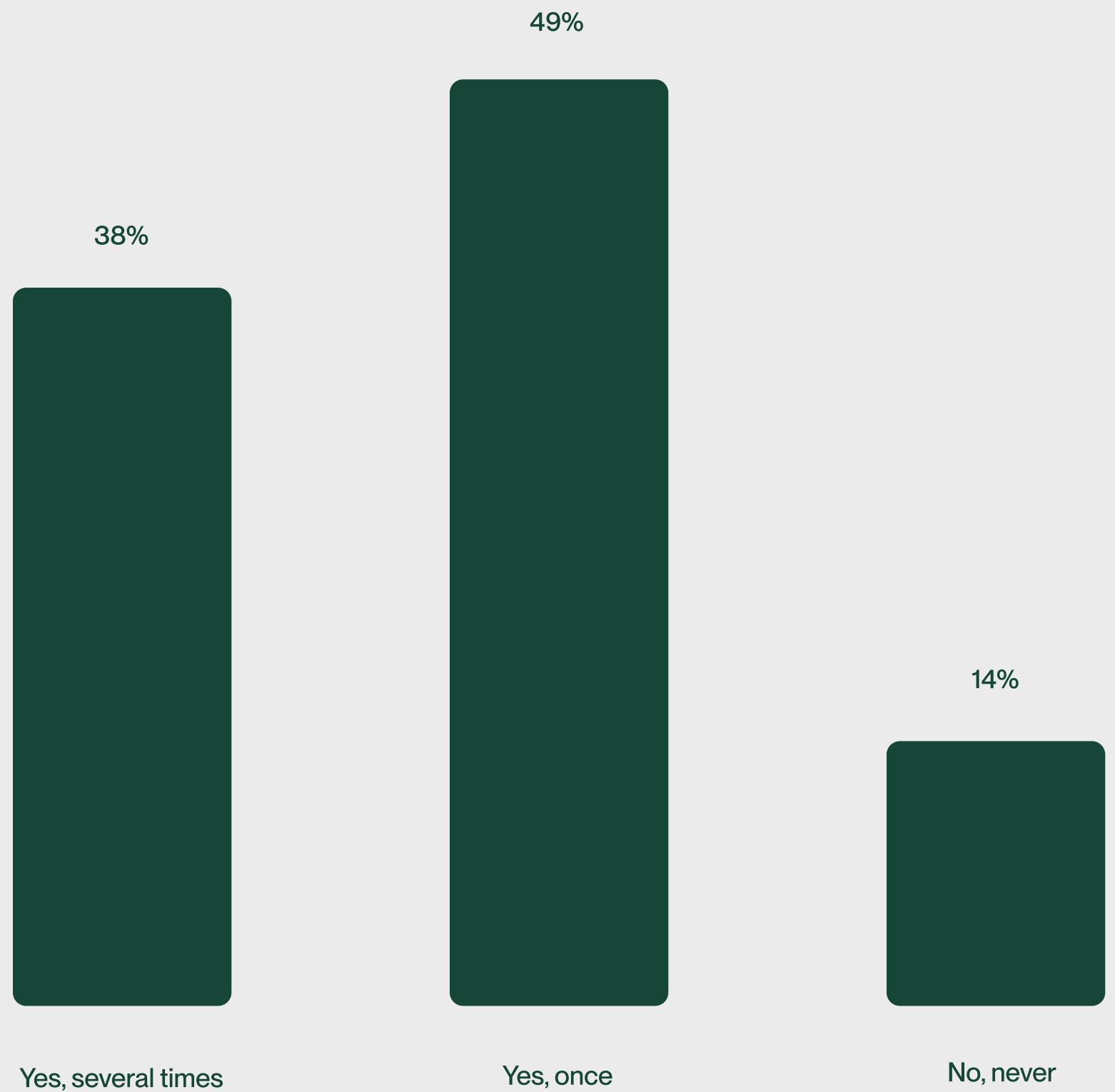
Human oversight is not resistance. It is responsible adoption. CFOs want automation that knows when to act and when to pause for judgment.

Summary Insight

67%

of CFOs feel it's extremely or very critical to have “a human in the loop” to ensure data accuracy in accounting.

Q13: Has your finance team ever encountered inaccurate or hallucinated data while using AI for finance tasks?



Expert Commentary

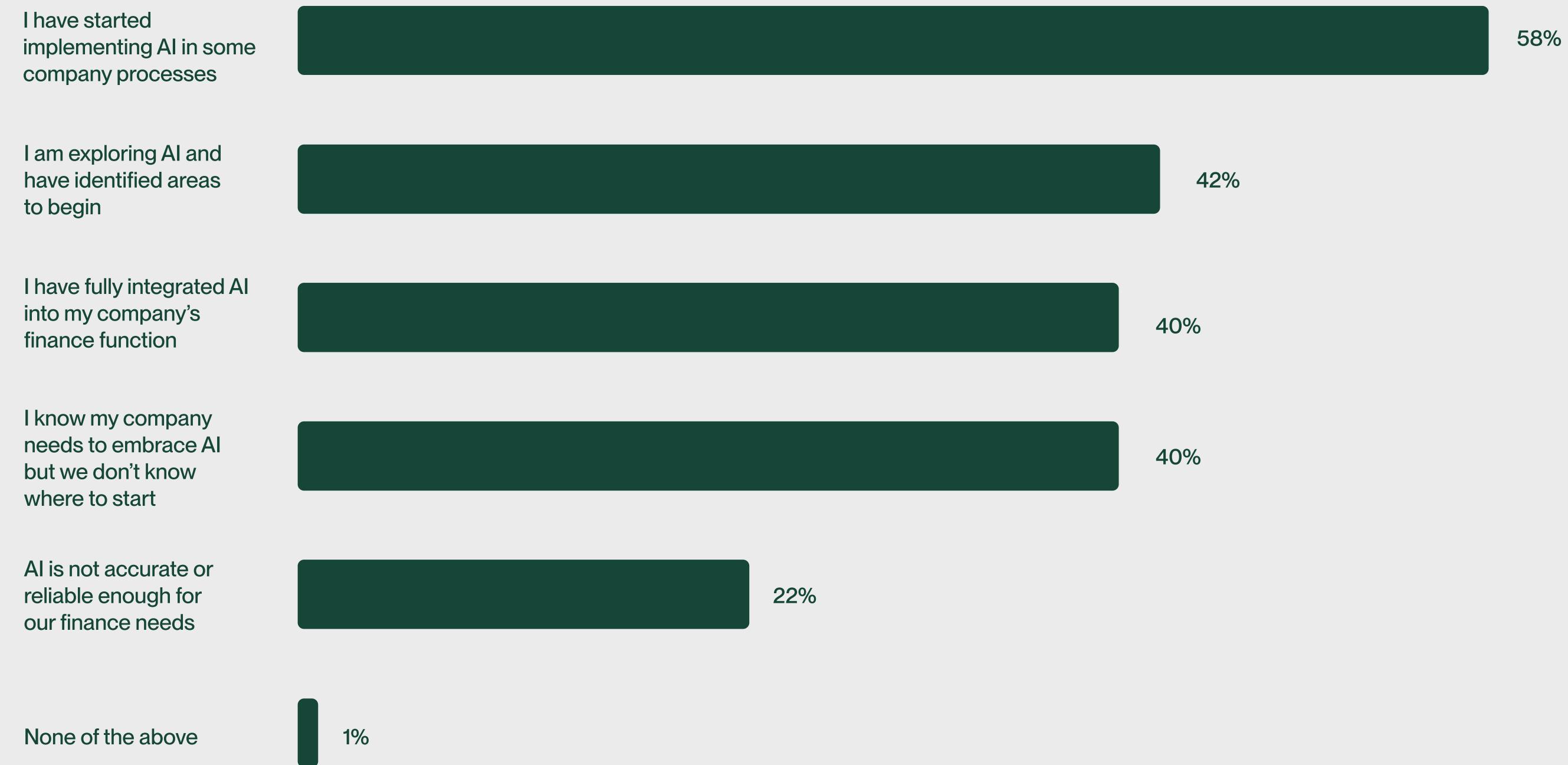
Inaccuracy is the hidden tax on finance. It does not just cause rework. It erodes confidence in every decision that follows.

Summary Insight

86%

of CFOs have had one or more instances where their finance team encountered inaccurate or hallucinated data while using AI for finance tasks.

Q14: Which statement best describes your approach to adopting AI in accounting and finance?



Expert Commentary

Most teams are still experimenting. The advantage will belong to those who move from isolated pilots to governed, enterprise-ready systems.

Summary Insight

40%

of CFOs only, have fully integrated AI into their company's finance function.

Q15: In what ways do you expect AI to benefit your company's finance function?



Expert Commentary

CFOs are clear on the outcome: better decisions, faster insight, scalable operations. AI only earns its place when it improves judgment, not just efficiency.

Summary Insight

56%

of CFOs expect AI to benefit their company's finance function by improving decision-making with predictive analytics.

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