

Executive Summary and Chapter 3 of the McKinsey Report:

"Big data" refers to datasets that are too large for database technologies to acquire, store, manage, and analyze. In many industries today, big data will vary from a few hundred gigabytes to numerous petabytes. Data has infiltrated every sector and corporate function, and it is now a critical aspect in production. The possibilities of big data are rapidly evolving, driven by innovation in the underlying technologies, platforms, and analytic capabilities for managing data, as well as the transformation of user behavior as more and more people live digital lives. Large data adds value in a variety of ways, for example, making big data more easily available to important stakeholders in a timely manner may provide enormous

Big data is increasingly being used by leading firms to surpass their competitors. Across industries, we see value accruing to early adopters of big data at the expense of laggards, a tendency supported by accumulating evidence. Organizations may acquire more precise and thorough performance data (in real or near real time) on everything from product inventory to staff sick days as they develop and maintain more transactional data in digital form. A fundamental barrier to maximizing the benefits of big data will be a scarcity of talent, particularly those with deep experience in statistics and machine learning, as well as managers and analysts who understand how to run businesses utilizing big data insights.

Big data's potential in five fields

Health care: Health care systems in the United States and elsewhere have shown early success with big data utilization. There are four major data pools in US health care. Provider clinical data, payor activity (claims and expense data), pharmaceutical and medical product R&D data, and patient behavior and sentiment data are the four pools. As more data is digitized and moves beyond organizational borders, a number of regulatory challenges, including but not limited to privacy, security, intellectual property, and liability, will become increasingly significant.

Public sector administration (European Union)

Textual and numerical data are the most common types of data generated by government agencies. When opposed to health care, the public sector generates less data, yet it nevertheless generates a significant amount of unique data in terms of bytes.

In each of the five categories we've highlighted, the government may employ big data levers.

1. Transparency—Making data available across agencies and organizational silos can help both government personnel and their respective agency. This can shorten the time it takes for agencies to find one other and minimize the time it takes for them to find each other.
2. Allowing experimentation to uncover needs, reveal variability, and enhance performance
3. Grouping people into groups so that activities may be tailored to their specific needs.
4. Using automated algorithms to replace or supplement human decision making - Algorithms can crawl through large amounts of data from a number of sources, discovering discrepancies, mistakes, and fraud. Rule-based algorithms, for example, can detect questionable connections such as a person collecting unemployment benefits while making a claim for a work-related accident.
5. Using big data to create new business models, goods, and services

The retail industry (United States)

Big data is critical to the retail industry's understanding of consumer purchasing behavior and how to acquire new customers. Retailers may use big data analytics to offer personalized shopping experiences and enhance customer service by creating consumer recommendations

based on their purchasing history. Retailers collect data for a variety of reasons, including: Amazon utilizes consumer data to provide recommendations for you based on your previous searches and purchases. Customer Experience Personalization: Big data can help businesses give better customer experiences. Forecasting Retail Demand: To anticipate the next big thing in the retail business, several algorithms look at social media and online surfing habits. Walgreens and Pantene collaborated with the Weather Channel to take weather trends into consideration when making product suggestions to customers. The customer journey is not a straight line, according to customer journey analytics. From research to purchase, it's a zig-zag between channels. Big data is the only way to gain a hold on the customer journey and develop superior experiences.

Manufacturing (global)

Manufacturers may use big data analytics in manufacturing to unearth the most up-to date information and spot trends, allowing them to improve operations, increase supply chain efficiency, and identify variables that affect output. A KRC survey concluded, 67 percent of manufacturing executives believe that investing in data analytics, especially in the face of pressure, will help them lower costs in this volatile environment

Personal location data (global) With the fast proliferation of mobile phones, the number of personal location data has expanded dramatically. Personal location data (acquired using GPS) is being utilized to launch a slew of new enterprises and novel business models that are affecting individuals all over the world. This change will continue throughout the next decade and beyond, with prospects that we can only dream about. Unlike the previous domains we've looked at, new pools of personal location data aren't limited to a single industry, but rather span a variety of sectors, including telecommunications, retail, and media.

There are three types of applications that make use of personal location data.

Individuals' location-based apps and services

Organizational uses of individual personal location data fall into the second category, which includes geo-targeted advertising, electronic toll collection, insurance pricing, and emergency response.

The third application of aggregate location data is at the macro level, which encompasses urban planning and retail business intelligence.