

GOOGL Earnings Call – FY2025 Q1

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Date: April 24, 2025

Operator

Welcome, everyone. Thank you for standing by for the Alphabet First Quarter 2025 Earnings Conference Call. At this time, all participants are in a listen-only mode. After the speaker presentation, there will be a question-and-answer session. [Operator Instructions] I would now like to hand the conference over to your speaker today, Jim Friedland, Senior Director of Investor Relations. Please go ahead.

Jim Friedland

Thank you. Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to Alphabet's first quarter 2025 earnings conference call. With us today are Sundar Pichai; Philipp Schindler; and Anat Ashkenazi. Now I'll quickly cover the Safe Harbor. Some of the statements that we make today regarding our business, operations and financial performance may be considered forward-looking. Such statements are based on current expectations and assumptions that are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties. Actual results could differ materially. Please refer to our Forms 10-K and 10-Q, including the risk factors. We undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statement. During this call, we will present both GAAP and non-GAAP financial measures. A reconciliation of non-GAAP to GAAP measures is included in today's earnings press release, which is distributed and available to the public through our Investor Relations website located at abc.xyz/investor. Our comments will be on year-over-year comparisons unless we state otherwise. And now I'll turn the call over to Sundar.

Sundar Pichai

Thanks, Jim. Good afternoon, everyone. We are pleased with our strong results this quarter. We continue to see healthy growth and momentum across the business, including AI powering new features. In Search, we saw continued double-digit revenue growth. AI Overviews is going very well with over 1.5 billion users per month, and we are excited by the early positive reaction to AI mode. There's a lot more to come ahead. In Subscriptions, we surpassed 270 million paid subscriptions with YouTube and Google One as key drivers. And Cloud grew rapidly with significant demand for our solutions, and you saw our leadership in AI at Cloud Next across infrastructure, agents and more. Our differentiated full stack approach to AI continues to be central to our growth. This quarter was super exciting as we rolled out Gemini 2.5, our most intelligent AI model, which is achieving breakthroughs in performance and it's widely recognized as the best model in the industry. That's an extraordinary foundation for our future innovation, and we are focused on bringing this to people and customers everywhere. Looking ahead to I/O, Brandcast and Google Marketing Live, I can't wait for our teams to showcase the innovations they've been working on. Turning to our AI progress this quarter, which continues to enable significant growth opportunities. The elements of the AI stack I've previously mentioned are AI Infrastructure, World Class Research including models and tooling and our Products and Platforms. Starting with AI Infrastructure, our long-term investments in our global network have positioned us well. Google's network is robust and resilient supported by over 2 million miles of fiber and 33 subsea cables. Complementing this, we offer the industry's widest range of TPUs and GPUs and continue to invest in next-generation capabilities. Ironwood, our seventh-generation TPU and most powerful to-date, is the first designed specifically for inference at scale. It delivers more than 10x improvement in compute power or a recent high performance TPU while being nearly twice as power efficient. Our strong relationship with NVIDIA continues to be a key advantage for us and our customers. We were the first cloud provider to offer NVIDIA's groundbreaking B200 and GB200 Blackwell GPUs and will be offering their next-generation Vera Rubin GPUs. Second, this infrastructure powers our World Class Research, including our industry leading models. We released Gemini 2.5 Pro last month, receiving extremely positive feedback from both developers and consumers. 2.5 Pro is state-of-the-art on a wide range of benchmarks and debuted at number one on the chatbot arena by a significant margin. 2.5 Pro achieved big leaps in reasoning, coding, science and math capabilities, opening up new possibilities for developers and customers. Active users in AI Studio and Gemini API have grown over 200% since the beginning of the year. And last week, we introduced 2.5 Flash, which enables developers to optimize quality and cost. Our latest image and video generation models, Imagen 3 and Veo 2 are rolling out broadly and are powering incredible creativity. Turning to Open Models, we launched Gemma 3 last month delivering state-of-the-art performance for its size. Gemma models have been downloaded more than 140 million times. Lastly, we are developing AI models in new areas where there's enormous opportunity. For example, our new Gemini Robotics Models. And in health, we launched AI Co-Scientist, a multi-agent AI research system, while AlphaFold has now been used by over 2.5 million researchers. Third, turning to Products and Platforms. All 15 of our products with a 0.5 billion users now use Gemini models. Android and Pixel are two examples of how we are putting the best AI in people's hands, making it super easy to use AI for a wide range of tasks just by using their camera, voice or taking a screenshot. We are upgrading Google Assistant on mobile devices to Gemini and later this year we'll upgrade tablets, cars and devices that connect to your phone such as headphones and watches. The Pixel 9a launched a very strong reviews, providing the best of Google's AI offerings like Gemini Live and AI powered camera features. And Gemini Live camera and screen sharing is now rolling out to all Android devices including Pixel and Samsung S25. Now moving on to key highlights from across Search, Cloud, YouTube and Waymo. First, Search. AI is one of the most revolutionary technologies for enabling and expanding our information mission. And for Search, we see it growing the number and types of questions we can answer. We are already seeing this with AI Overviews, which now has more than 1.5 billion users every month. Nearly a year after we launched AI Overviews in the US, we continue to see that usage growth is increasing as people learn that Search is more useful for more of their queries. So we are leaning in heavily here, continuing to roll the feature out to new countries to more users and to more queries. Building on the positive feedback for AI Overviews, in March we released AI Mode, an experiment in labs. It expands what AI Overviews can do with more advanced reasoning, thinking, and multimodal capabilities to help with questions that need further exploration and comparisons. On average, AI Mode queries are twice as long as traditional Search queries. We're getting really positive feedback from early users about its design, fast response time, and ability to understand complex nuanced questions. We also continue to see significant growth in multimodal queries. Circle to Search is now available on more than 250 million devices with usage increasing nearly 40% this quarter and monthly visual searches with Lens have increased by 5 billion since October. Moving on to Cloud. At Cloud Next, we announced major innovations and over 500 companies shared the business results they are achieving by working with us. We provide leading cost performance and reliability for AI training and inference. This enables us to deliver the best value for AI leaders like any scale and contextual AI as well as global brands like Verizon. And for highly sensitive data and regulatory requirements, Google distributed Cloud and our Sovereign AI make Gemini available on premises or in country. Our Vertex AI Platform makes over 200 foundation models available, helping customers like Lowe's integrate AI. We offer industry leading models including Gemini 2.5 Pro, 2.5 Flash, Imagen 3, Veo 2, Chirp and Lyria, plus Open Source and third-party models like Llama 4 and Anthropic. We are the leading Cloud Solution for companies looking to the new era of AI agents, a big opportunity. Our Agent Development Kit is a new Open Source Framework to simplify the process of building sophisticated AI agents and multi-agent systems. And Agent Designer is a low code tool to build AI agents and automate tasks in over 100 enterprise applications and systems. We are putting AI agents in the hands of employees at major global companies like KPMG. With Google Agent Space, employees can find and synthesize information from within their organization, converse with AI agents and take action with their enterprise applications. It combines Enterprise Search, Conversational AI or Chat and access to Gemini and third-party Agents. We also offer prepackaged

agents across customer engagement, coding, creativity and more that are helping to provide conversational customer experiences, accelerate software development and improve decision making. And of course, Google Workspace, it delivers more than 2 billion AI assists monthly including summarizing Gmail and refining Docs. Lastly, our cybersecurity products are helping organizations detect, investigate and respond to cybersecurity threats. Our expertise coupled with integrated Gemini AI advances, detects malware, prioritizes threats, and speeds up investigative workflows. This quarter, we were excited to announce our intent to acquire Wiz, a leading cloud security platform that protects all major clouds and code environments. Together, we can make it easier and faster for organizations of all types and sizes to protect themselves, end-to-end and across all major clouds. We think this will help spur more multi-cloud computing, something customers want. Next, YouTube. Yesterday marked a historic milestone. The 20th anniversary of the first video uploaded to YouTube. From that single, 19-second upload, the platform has grown into a global phenomenon, fundamentally changing how billions of people create, share, and experience content. Through all this growth, subscriptions are now a big part of the business. We continue to diversify subscription options, recently expanding our Premium Lite pilot to the US, giving users a new way to enjoy most videos on YouTube ad-free. TV is the primary device for YouTube viewing in the US. According to Nielsen, YouTube has been number one in streaming watch time in the US for the last two years. And YouTube now has over 1 billion monthly active podcast users. YouTube Music and Premium reached over 125 million subscribers, including trials, globally. And finally, Waymo is now safely serving over a quarter of a million paid passenger trips each week. That's up 5x from a year ago. This past quarter, Waymo opened up paid service in Silicon Valley. Through our partnership with Uber, we expanded in Austin and are preparing for our public launch in Atlanta later this summer. We recently announced Washington, DC, as a future ride-hailing city, going live in 2026 alongside Miami. Waymo continues progressing on two important capabilities for riders, airport access and freeway driving. Thanks to all of our employees for their work this quarter. It was a great start to the year and Q2 will be even more exciting. With that, Philipp, over to you.

Philipp Schindler

Thanks, Sundar, and hello, everyone. I'll quickly cover performance for the quarter and then frame the rest of my remarks around the progress we're delivering across Search, Ads, YouTube and partnerships. Google services revenues were \$77 billion for the quarter, up 10% year-on-year, driven by strong growth in Search and YouTube, partially offset by year-on-year decline in network revenues. To add some further color to the performance, the 10% increase in Search and other revenues was led by financial services, primarily due to strength in insurance, followed by retail. YouTube saw a similar performance across verticals. Its 10% growth in advertising revenues was driven by Direct Response followed by Brand. So let's start with Search, where we've seen robust growth in revenues. All around the world, over 2 billion people use Search every day to find information, compare products, or shop. And there are more than 5 trillion searches on Google annually. We've continued our efforts to help more people ask entirely new questions, bringing more opportunities for businesses to connect with consumers. And as we've mentioned before, with the launch of AI Overviews, the volume of commercial queries has increased. Q1 marked our largest expansion to-date for AI Overviews, both in terms of launching to new users and providing responses for more questions. The feature is now available in more than 15 languages across 140 countries. For AI Overviews overall, we continue to see monetization at approximately the same rate, which gives us a strong base on which we can innovate even more. Turning to Visual Queries. On the last earnings call, I mentioned the success we're seeing with Lens, where shoppers use their camera or images to quickly find information in ways they couldn't before. In Q1, the number of people shopping on Lens grew by over 10% and the majority of Lens queries are incremental. Sundar mentioned the significant growth we're also seeing with Circle to Search as multimodality continues to drive queries across Search. Moving to Ads. More businesses, big and small, are adopting AI powered campaigns. And the deployment of AI across our Ads business is driving results for our customers and for our business. Throughout 2024, we launched several features that leverage LLMs to enhance advertiser value, and we're seeing this work pay off. The combination of these launches now allows us to match Ads to more relevant Search queries, and this helps advertisers reach customers in searches where we would not previously have shown their Ads. Focusing on our customers, we continue to solve advertisers' pain points and find opportunities to help them create, distribute, and measure more performant Ads, infusing AI at every step of the marketing process. On Audience Insights, we released new asset audience recommendations, which tell businesses the themes that resonate most with their top audiences. On Creators, advertisers can now generate a broader variety of lifestyle imagery customized to their business to better engage their customers and use them across PMax, Demand Gen, Display, and App campaigns. Additionally, in PMax, advertisers can automatically source images from their landing pages and crop them, increasing the variety of their assets. On Media Buying, advertisers continue to see how AI powered campaigns help them find new customers. In Demand Gen, advertisers can more precisely manage ad placements across YouTube, Gmail, Discover, and Google Display Network globally and understand which assets work best at a channel level. Thanks to dozens of AI part improvements launched in 2024, businesses using Demand Gen now see an average 26% year-on-year increase in conversions per dollar spent for goals like purchases and leads. And when using Demand Gen with product feed, on average, they see more than double the conversion per dollar spent year-over-year. As an example, Royal Canin combined Demand Gen and PMax campaigns to find more customers for its cat and dog food products. The integration resulted in a 2.7 times higher conversion rate, a 70% lower cost per acquisition for purchases, and increased the value per user by 8%. Turning to YouTube, where we saw strong growth in revenues across Ads and subscriptions. This week, we're celebrating YouTube's 20th anniversary. We're proud of its leadership as a streaming destination where people come to watch everything they love, from live sports and creator produced content to shorts and podcasts. Creators are what drives viewership, and on average, they upload 20 million videos a day to YouTube. Our biggest creators generate a level of fandom and viewer engagement around large cultural moments on YouTube that brands can't find anywhere else. During March Madness, brands aligned not only with clips and highlights from the game, but also with the creators who drive basketball culture, like Jesser and The Ringer's J. Kyle Mann. In Q1, the growth of our reservation based Ads business more than doubled year-over-year. Brands and creators continue to use the opportunities that collaborations and partnerships offer. Toyota worked with Zach King, the king of short magical videos with over 42 million followers to take over his channel. The creator takeover and accompanying creator ad lifted Toyota's brand awareness by 25% compared to Control Group. And 9% compared to the Toyota brand ad. Looking at shorts, engaged views grew by over 20% in the first quarter. We continue to be pleased with the progress we're making globally in shorts monetization relative to in-stream viewing and are particularly encouraged by the trend in the US. As always, I'll wrap up with a strong momentum we're seeing in partnerships where our customers increasingly recognize the strength and breadth of what Google has to offer. For instance, Roblox is partnering Google Ad Manager to bring immersive Ads to gamers. Gen Z gamers are Roblox's biggest users, and thanks to our partnership, advertisers will be able to reach this audience with Ads that blend seamlessly into the gaming experience. We also launched a YouTube shorts effect to help people release iconic Roblox heads and inspire fans to create content at scale. In closing, I'd like to thank Googlers everywhere for their contributions and commitment to our success and to our customers and partners for their continued trust. Anat, over to you.

Anat Ashkenazi

Thank you, Philip. My comments will focus on year-over-year comparisons for the first quarter unless they state otherwise. I will start with results at the Alphabet level and will then cover our segment results. I'll end with some commentary on our outlook for the second quarter and 2025. We had another strong quarter in Q1, Consolidated revenues of \$90.2 billion increased by 12% or 14% in constant currency. Search and YouTube advertising, subscription platforms and devices, and Google Cloud, each had double-digit revenue growth this quarter reflecting strong momentum across the business. Total cost of revenue was \$36.4 billion up 8%. TAC was \$13.7 billion up 6%. We continue to see a revenue mix shift with Google Search growth at double-digit levels, while network revenues, which have much higher TAC rate, declined. Other costs of revenue was \$22.6 billion up 9%, with the increase primarily driven by content acquisition costs largely for

YouTube, followed by depreciation other technical infrastructure operations costs. Total operating expenses increased 9% to \$23.3 billion. R&D investments increased by 14%, primarily driven by increases in compensation, and depreciation expenses. Sales and marketing expenses decreased 4%, primarily reflecting a decline in compensation expenses. G&A expenses increased by 17% reflecting the impact of charges for legal and other matters. Operating income increased 20% this quarter to \$31 billion and operating margin increased to 33.9% representing 2.3 points of margin expansion. Operating margin benefited from healthy revenue growth a moderated pace of compensation growth, and a favorable mix shift towards lower TAC advertising revenues, partially offset by a year-on-year increase in depreciation expenses of just over \$1 billion. Other income and expenses was \$11.2 billion primarily due to unrealized gain on our non-marketable equity securities related to our investment in a private company, which we noted in our 10-K as a subsequent event. Net income increased 46% to \$34.5 billion and earnings per share increased 49% to \$2.81. We delivered free cash flow of \$19 billion in the first quarter and \$74.9 billion for the trailing 12 months. We ended the quarter with \$95 billion in cash and marketable securities. Turning to segment results. Google services revenues increased 10% to \$77.3 billion reflecting strength in Google Search and YouTube advertising as subscription. Google Search and other advertising revenues increased by 10% to \$50.7 billion. The robust performance of Search was once again broad-based across verticals led by financial services due primarily to strength in insurance, followed by retail. YouTube advertising revenues increased 10% to \$8.9 billion driven by Direct Response advertising followed by Brand. Network advertising of \$7.3 billion were down 2%. Subscription platforms and device revenues increased 19% to \$10.4 billion primarily reflecting growth in subscription revenues. This growth was primarily driven by YouTube subscription offerings followed by Google One, with growth in the number of subscribers being the biggest driver of revenue growth. Google services operating income increased 17% to \$32.7 billion and operating margin increased from 39.6% to 42.3%. Turning to the Google Cloud segment, which continued to deliver very strong results this quarter. Revenue increased by 28% to \$12.3 billion in the first quarter, reflecting growth in GCP across core and AI products at a rate that was much higher than Cloud's overall revenue growth rate. Growth in Google Workspace was primarily driven by an increase in average revenue per seat. Google Cloud operating income increased to \$2.2 billion and operating margin increased from 9.4% to 17.8%. As we scale our fleet, we continue to focus on driving improvements in productivity, efficiency, and utilization to offset the growth in expenses particularly from higher depreciation. As to Other Bets, for the first quarter, revenues were \$450 million and operating loss was \$1.2 billion. The year-on-year decline in revenue and increase in operating loss primarily reflect the milestone payment received in the first quarter of 2024 for one of our Other Bets. With respect to CapEx, our reported CapEx in the first quarter was \$17.2 billion primarily reflecting investment in our technical infrastructure, with the largest component being investment in servers, followed by data centers to support the growth of our business across Google Services, Google Cloud, and Google DeepMind. In Q1, we returned value to shareholders, in the form of \$15.1 billion in share repurchases and \$2.4 billion in dividend payments. As we announced today, our Board of Directors declared a 5% increase in our quarterly dividend and also approved and used \$70 billion share repurchase authorization. Turning to our Outlook. I would like to provide some commentary on several factors that will impact our business performance in the second quarter and the remainder of 2025. First, in terms of revenue, I'll highlight a couple of items that we mentioned last quarter that will have an impact on second quarter and 2025 revenue. First, in Google Services, advertising revenue in 2025 will be impacted by lapsing the strength we experience in the financial service vertical throughout 2024. Second in Cloud, we're in a tight demand supply environment and given that revenues are correlated with the timing of deployment of new capacity, we could see variability in cloud revenue growth rates depending on capacity deployment each quarter. We expect relatively higher capacity deployment towards the end of 2025. Moving to investments, starting with our expectation for CapEx for the full year 2025. We still expect to invest approximately \$75 billion in CapEx this year. The expected CapEx investment level may fluctuate from quarter-to-quarter, due to the impact of changes in the timing of deliveries and construction schedules. In terms of expenses, first, as I mentioned on our previous earnings call, the significant increase in our investments in CapEx over the past few years will continue to put pressure on the P&L, primarily in the form of higher depreciation. In the first quarter, we saw 31% year-on-year growth in depreciation from the increase in technical infrastructure assets placed in service. Given the increase in CapEx investments over the past few years, we expect the growth rate in depreciation to accelerate throughout 2025. Second, as we've previously said, we expect some headcount growth in 2025 in key investment area. As we've disclosed previously, due to a shift in the timing of our annual employee stock-based compensation award beginning in 2023, our first quarter stock-based comp expenses is relatively lower compared to the remaining quarters of the year. In conclusion, as you heard from Sundar and Philip, we're pleased with the progress we're making across the organization. The results for the quarter and the opportunities ahead. Our success as a company is grounded in our experience driving advancements in deep computer science that enables us to create innovative new products and services for users, businesses, and partners around the world. We have a strong track record of incubating and then building these offerings into new profitable businesses for Alphabet. As we announced last quarter, YouTube and Cloud exited 2024 at a combined annual run rate of \$110 billion. And as you heard from Sundar earlier, Waymo is continuing to progress in building on its impressive technological achievements to scale rapidly and develop a sustainable business model. Thank you. Sundar, Philip, and I will now take your questions.

Operator

Thank you. [Operator Instructions] And our first question comes from Brian Nowak from Morgan Stanley. Your line is now open.

Brian Nowak

Great. Thanks for taking my questions. I have two. The first one is sort of the macro advertising backdrop. Maybe, Anat, I know it's April '24, and you call out some factors. You're kind of thinking about the second quarter. Any other factors you're seeing in advertising verticals or regions or categories that could be showing any signs of weakness quarter dates? We should think through any other changes from typical seasonality in 2Q '25 versus prior quarters? Then the second one on Philipp, I think I heard you mention now the volume of commercial queries has increased. Maybe can you just walk us through which of the products are driving that increase in commercial queries. And as you sort of think about the pipeline of Search products are there any others that you're particularly excited about to kind of continue to drive further commercial query growth throughout '25-'26? Thanks.

Philipp Schindler

So let me take the first one as well. We saw broad-based strength across ad verticals in Q1, and we saw it give you a bit of vertical color here, Search was led again, by finance due primarily to ongoing strength in the insurance, retail, healthcare, and travel were actually also sizable contributors here to growth. With regard to Q2, we're only a few weeks in, so it's really too early to comment. I mean, we're obviously not immune to the macro environment. But we wouldn't want to speculate about potential impacts beyond noting that the changes to the de minimis exemption will obviously cause slight headwind to our Ads business in 2025, primarily from APAC-based retailers. And maybe to zoom out, I would say, we have a lot of experience in managing through uncertain times, and we focus on helping our customers by providing deep insights into changing consumer behavior that is relevant to their business. Examples are auction dynamics, query trend insights on topics replacement purchases, and so on. So we have a lot of experience in this area. On the commercial query side, look, AI Overviews continue to drive higher satisfaction and Search usage. And as I noticed, Q1 was really our largest expansion to-date for AI Overviews, both in terms of launching to new users and providing responses for more questions. That's really the core already of the answer. AI Overview sits at the center of your question here. And when it comes to other products, look, I don't want to speculate on this, but we're happy with what we're seeing here on AI Overviews. And I am confident we can expand this to more products over time.

Operator

Thank you. Your next question is from Doug Anmuth from JPMorgan. Your line is now open.

Doug Anmuth

Great. Thanks for taking the questions. Philipp, maybe just to go back to AI Overviews for a moment. Can you just tell us how we should think about the 1.5 billion AI Overviews users just in terms of breadth of rollout? And I know you're saying monetization at approximately the same rate. But what does that mean in terms of click-through rates and conversion? And then, Anat, just curious if there have been any changes to Google's approach to durably reengineering the cost base since you've joined and if macro weakens and we see more of a slowdown, would you expect to find additional opportunities to cut back more on costs? Thank you.

Philipp Schindler

Yes, look, on the Ads of in AI Overviews late last year actually we launched them within the AI Overviews on mobile in the US and this builds on our previous rollout of Ads above and below. So this was a change we have. But as I talked about it before, for AI Overviews overall, we see the monetization at approximately the same rate, which gives us a strong base on which we can innovate even more. So I'm very happy with this. I don't think this is the moment to go into the details of click-through rates and conversion and so on. But overall, we're happy with what we're seeing.

Anat Ashkenazi

And to your question on our approach to productivity and efficiency, it hasn't really changed. I've mentioned my approach and our approach as a company at the end of 2024. And we're still focused on driving efficiency and productivity throughout the organization both in our operating expenses and in our CapEx. I've mentioned some of these during my prepared remarks. But certainly this helps us as we think about the investments we need to make in innovation to drive long-term sustainable growth profile for the company. We're able to repurpose some of these efficiencies into these investments as well as you think about the increase in CapEx we've seen over the past several years and what we're investing this year, this will put additional pressure on the income statement and the form of depreciation. So we're working hard to try and offset some of the headwinds. As well as within the CapEx investments themselves \$75 billion, we're looking at how do we make sure every dollar is used efficiently. We have a highly rigorous process to determine the demand behind it and then the allocation of the compute associate with our technical infrastructure investments ensuring that we're utilizing that appropriately and that we're highly efficient with everything we're doing. You've seen some of the announcement and some of the changes, but we're focusing on continue to moderate the pace of compensation growth, looking at our real estate footprint and, again, the build-out and utilization of our technical infrastructure across the business.

Doug Anmuth

Great. Thank you, both.

Operator

Thank you. Our next question comes from Eric Sheridan from Goldman Sachs. Your line is now open.

Eric Sheridan

Thank you for taking the questions. First, maybe for Sundar. When you look across the consumer AI landscape today, how are you thinking about continuing to drive differentiation for Gemini as a platform through the lens of usage, utility or putting product innovation at the forefront of driving consumer habits? And then the second one may be for Anat. If the macro environment were to change and become more downwardly volatile, how should investors think about the investments that are must make this year almost fixed in nature versus where there might be more flexibility to alter the investment priorities of the company if the macro environment were to worsen. Thank you so much.

Sundar Pichai

Thanks, Eric. Obviously, it's an exciting moment on the AI front. I think the foundation for everything is obviously the frontier model progress we are seeing and particularly with 2.5 Pro and Flash I think we're well positioned. We are seeing tremendous reception from developers, enterprises, and consumers too. And obviously, we are delivering consumer AI experiences across our product portfolio, including the primary way people experience it is obviously in Search with AI Overviews and very early days with AI Mode, but that will be a consumer AI forward experience. And we're already seeing very positive feedback. Queries are people are typing in roughly 2x longer queries compared to a traditional Search. So there's a lot of excitement there. And in the Gemini app, which you asked about, we've really seen increased momentum, particularly over the last few weeks as we have rolled out not just the newer models, but we are seeing users are really responding well to all the innovation Gemini Live, which is based on Project Astra has been very well received. Deep Research, I think, based on 2.5 Pro is SOTA and that's been well received. And Canvas, we've had a lot of traction as well. And so we are definitely investing more. We have recently organized ourselves better to capitalize on this momentum and I'm excited about our road map there.

Anat Ashkenazi

And on the investments this year and overall should there be any macroeconomic changes. As I said, we're still planning to invest approximately \$75 billion in CapEx this year. We do see a tremendous opportunity ahead of us across the organization, whether it's to support Google Services, Google Cloud, and Google DeepMind. Recall, I've stated on the Q4 call that we exited the year in Cloud specifically with more customer demand than we had capacity. And that was the case this quarter as well. So we want to make sure we ramp up to support customer needs and customer demands. Having said that, we're investing in long-term and we're investing in innovation. That's the essence of our business. And we want to do it in a responsible fashion. So you've seen us over the past couple of years and we're continuing to do this and you're seeing this in our results drive efficiency and productivity throughout the business. And we've announced things such as consolidation of teams which helps not just with cost, but with velocity and speed. We're able to get things to market faster. So that's one of the areas we're focused on. You heard from Sundar the last couple of calls on just a rapid pace of innovation we're bringing to the marketplace. So the way we're doing this across the business to drive productivity and efficiency should help us have a more resilient organization irrespective of macroeconomic condition. But certainly we don't ignore that. We always look at what's happening outside the organization as well as inside, but invest appropriately to drive both the short-term growth

as well as the long-term growth.

Eric Sheridan

Thank you.

Operator

Thank you. Our next question comes from Ross Sandler from Barclays. Your line is now open.

Ross Sandler

Great. Thanks. One for Sundar, one for Philipp. Sundar, it was disclosed this week in the trial that's going on that Gemini has 35 million DAUs. And just curious that number obviously trails ChatGPT by a pretty wide margin. Could you talk about the strategy to get that DAU figure much higher than you guys are deploying. And then Philipp, just curious to hear what you're seeing on the brand advertising side at YouTube in 1Q and into early 2Q. Are brands holding up relatively well like Direct Response or are they starting to react to some of these macro jitters that we're all experiencing? Any thoughts there? Thank you very much.

Sundar Pichai

Thanks, Ross. I think I touched upon this to Eric's question as well, but we are definitely I think there's been a lot of momentum in terms of product features we've been introducing, and we are definitely seeing reception including increased adoption and usage based on those features. So I think we are in a good positive cycle. The recent advances on the model frontier. By many metrics I think we have the best model out there now and I think that's going to drive increased adoption as well. And again I would reiterate people are using obviously we have 1.5 billion users through AI Overviews interacting with AI in a deep way, in a very engaged way. Obviously, we are innovating with AI Mode. And we have a very exciting road map ahead with the Gemini app as well. So across the board, super, super excited about what's ahead.

Philipp Schindler

And on your brand question, look, brand and by the way also Direct Response had a very solid growth in Q1. Brand advertisers really enjoyed cultural moments we had like Coachella for example or March Madness. We had strong contributions overall from the finance and retail verticals in Q1 on the side as well. The operating metrics for YouTube were strong in Q1. Watch time growth remains robust particularly in key monetization opportunity areas such as shorts and living room. It's also, by the way, nice to see the strong position of our creators who obviously benefit from the brand piece which gives us a lot of confidence when we look at it more closely. And on the Q2 side I think I mentioned it's too early to really comment on that.

Operator

Thank you. Your next question is from Mark Shmulik from Bernstein. Your line is now open.

Mark Shmulik

Great. Thanks for taking my questions. Sundar, appreciate the color on Gemini deployment across kind of the 15 products with 0.5 billion users or more. It would be great to hear more about where you're seeing the most usage and deployment of Gen AI internally at Google. Perhaps whether the capabilities are they in a place today in terms of either supplementing or augmenting the workforce? And then just to build on that earlier AI Mode type questions, appreciate AI Mode has 2x longer queries than traditional Search. But any color you can share perhaps on how AI Mode behavior differs from how consumers are using the Gemini app? Thank you.

Sundar Pichai

Look, on internally, I mean, this has been an extraordinary amount of focus and excitement both because I think we are the early use cases have been transformative in nature and I think this still feels like early days and long ways to go. Obviously, I had mentioned a few months ago in terms of how we are using AI for coding. We are continuing to make a lot of progress there in terms of people using coding suggestions. I think the last time I had said the number was like 25% of code that's checked in involves people accepting AI suggested solutions. That number is well over 30% now. But more importantly, we have deployed more deeper flows and particularly with the newer models I think we are working on early agentic workflows and how we can get those coding experiences to be much deeper. We are deploying it across all parts of the company. Our customer service teams are deeply leading the way there. We've both dramatically enhanced our user experience as well as made it much more efficient to do so. And we are actually bringing all our learnings and expertise in our solutions through cloud to our other customers. But beyond that all the way from the finance team preparing for this earnings call to everything. It's deeply embedded in everything we do, but I still see it as early days, and there's going to be a lot more to do. On AI Mode, look, I think we are just leaning in on the early positive feedback, well, as we scale up AI Overviews. It's been one of our most positive launches and but it's been clear people have wanted even more of it. And so with AI Mode we are bringing our state-of-the-art Gemini models right into Search. And I mentioned people typing in longer queries. There's a lot more complex nuance questions. People are following through more. People are appreciating the clean design, the fast response time, and the fact that they can kind of be much more open-ended can undertake more complicated tasks, product comparisons, for example, has been a positive one exploring how-tos, planning a trip. So those are the kinds of early feedback we are seeing. And I think we are obviously really focused on improving the product across all of AI Mode, AI Overviews and the Gemini app and we are seeing positive user traction as well.

Operator

Thank you. Your next question is from Mark Mahaney from Evercore. Your line is now open.

Mark Mahaney

Okay, thanks. One for Anat and one for Sundar. Anat, getting back to a question I think that Doug was asking earlier on. You just put up record high or multi-year record high margins for both Google Services and for Google Cloud. You talked, Philipp, about depreciation expenses accelerating rapidly throughout the year

because of all the investments you've already warn people about. Back in the September quarter, you seemed relatively confident that you had enough levers to kind of offset kind of rising infrastructure costs. Was that still your, six months later, is that still your view that you've got enough levers that even with the rising infrastructure costs you can there's enough in there to kind of counterbalance that. And then just briefly on Waymo, it continues to rise aggressively, the numbers, Sundar. The long-term business model for Waymo. Is there a reason to make a decision on that soon or have you already made the decision on whether this is a long-term licensing model or you really want to run this as a standalone ride-sharing delivery autonomous vehicle business. Thank you very much.

Anat Ashkenazi

Thanks. So on your first question on profitability and what levers do we have and do we still have levers to pull first, I think, every organization can always push a little further. I don't view productivity goals or efficiency as an episodic kind of project-based effort, but rather a continuous effort that when you get to a certain place, you push a little further. Having said that, we do have significant investments we're making across the organization and we have been making them for the past several quarters. And we've been able to do it because we were able to find efficiency to fund those investments across the organization. Those are for products and services that are going to drive long-term growth for the company. So while we're trying to offset as much of the headwind associated with the increase in infrastructure costs, it will become more difficult. As I said, the depreciation will accelerate. We had about a 31% year-over-year growth in depreciation this quarter and it will be higher as we go throughout the year. So think about that kind of as a headwind that we have to manage against. But we're continuing with, pushing across the organization leveraging, Sundar mentioned, the use of AI and kind of an AI-first Google across several of our functions to help us manage a larger scope of work using our AI, AI agents, and AI tools. As Sundar mentioned, we did leverage it in preparation for the earnings call and we're leveraging across several functions. So there are opportunities, but there are also great opportunities for investment and we want to make sure that we make room for, to make these investments to drive long-term growth and ensure we have a very resilient long-term growth profile for the company.

Sundar Pichai

And, Mark, thanks. I think this is probably the first question I've got on our earnings call on Waymo. So thank you. And I think it's a sign of its progress. Look, the thing that excites me is I think we've been laser-focused and we'll continue to be on building the world's best driver. And I think doing that well really gives you a variety of optionality and business models across geographies et cetera. It'll also require a successful ecosystem of partners and we can possibly do it all ourselves. And so I'm excited about the progress the teams have made through a variety of partnerships. Obviously highlight of it is a partnership with Uber. We are very pleased with what we are already seeing in Austin in terms of rider satisfaction. We look forward to offering the first paid rides in Atlanta via Uber later this year. But we are also building up a network of partners, for example, for maintaining fleets of vehicles and doing all the operations related to that with the recently announced partnership with Moove in Phoenix and Miami obviously partnerships with OEMs. There are future optionality around personal ownership as well. So we are widely exploring and but at the same time clearly staying focused and making progress both in terms of safety, the driver experience and progress on the business model and operationally scaling it up.

Mark Mahaney

Okay. Thank you very much.

Operator

Thank you. Our next question comes from Ken Gawrelske from Wells Fargo. Your line is now open.

Ken Gawrelske

Thank you. Two if I may please. First on AI-powered Search, you have a number of AI-powered Search interfaces including three most prominently, AI Overviews, AI Mode, and Gemini. In the future, should we think of these as distinct experiences that will be long-lasting or more experimental now and Google will eventually focus on one approach going forward? And the second one is more on the financial side. You continue to experience very healthy gross margin expansion. We see the TAC, sure, but Anat you also talked about the offsetting depreciation expense. Could you talk about beyond those two buckets where you're seeing the real savings on the COGS line and driving that gross margin expansion? And maybe even how we should be thinking about that going forward? Thank you.

Sundar Pichai

Okay. Now maybe on AI-powered Search and how do we see our consumer experience. Look I do think Search and Gemini obviously will be two distinct efforts, right? I think there are obviously some areas of overlap, but there are also like expose very, very different use cases. And so for example, in Gemini, we see people iteratively coding and going much deeper on a coding workflow as an example. So I think both will be around. Within Search we think of AI Overviews scaling up and working for our entire user base, but an AI Mode is the tip of the tree for us pushing forward on an AI forward experience. There will be things which we discover there which will make sense in the context of AI Overviews. So I think will flow through to our user base. But you almost want to think of what are the most advanced 1 million people using Search for, the most advanced 10 million people and then how do 1.5 billion people use Search for. And we want to innovate and so I think this allows us to do that. But the true north through all of this is user feedback, user satisfaction, user experience. And so that will determine where this all works out in the future.

Anat Ashkenazi

And to your question on gross margin, a couple of trends to highlight there. And I've mentioned this in the prepared remarks, you've seen improvement in TAC that's really driven by the change in revenue mix with a continued Search, growth and then network revenue declines. Network revenue has a much higher TAC rate. So that mix is helping us from a gross margin perspective. So think about that as well. Now we do have depreciation for technical infrastructure hits in two places primarily in two places in the income statement. One is in other cost of sales and the rest is in R&D. So it is in that line item that's impacting cost of sales. Now we've had some efficiencies there and I did mention the improvement in our overall cost of headcount growth and compensation kind of moderating those growth. So that helps us as well more than offset the depreciation increases in Q1. But as I mentioned this number will be higher in the coming quarters. Recall, we have we set approximately \$75 billion in CapEx, which is up from \$55 billion or just over \$50 billion last year. So there's expected to be quite a significant increase in depreciation.

Operator

Thank you. And our last question comes from Ron Josey from Citi. Your line is now open.

Ronald Josey

Great. Thanks for taking the question. Philipp, I wanted to touch a little more on your comments around Direct Response and YouTube. I think it's been improving and been a driver over the past couple of quarters. Love to hear more just about what's driving that. Is that the Demand Gen and integration with Pmax or are users perhaps more involved on Direct Response now that shorts usage is driving? Would love your thoughts there. Thank you.

Philipp Schindler

Yes, I think, there's a lot of different factors. Mostly, we continue to help our customers really using our AI powered tools. You mentioned a few of them to drive performance. That's a very big one. As I mentioned before we're also happy with the progress we're seeing on shorts and closing the monetization gap here to the overall business, which is actually really nice to see especially in the US. So we're very happy with that.

Sundar Pichai

And I'll just chime in to say, YouTube just celebrated its 20th birthday and we now have more than 20 billion videos on YouTube and we get 20 million videos uploaded every day. So I think it's a tremendous platform and thanks to all the creators and users who have supported us there over the years.

Ronald Josey

Great. Thank you.

Operator

Thank you. And that concludes our question-and-answer session for today. I would like to turn the conference back over to Jim Friedland for any further remarks.

Jim Friedland

Thanks, everyone, for joining us today. We look forward to speaking with you again on our second quarter 2025 call. Thank you and have a good evening.

Operator

Thank you, everyone. This concludes today's conference call. Thank you for participating. You may now disconnect.