

AI technologies is low in the risk ranking. In fact, it has slightly declined in the two-year outlook, with the risk now ranking #31 compared with #29 in last year's report. ¹ In this report we highlight how AI models are a factor in the relationship between technology and polarization. [Section 1.5: Technology and polarization](#) explores the risks for citizens resulting from the combination of greater connectivity, rapid growth in computing power, and more powerful AI models. In [Section 2.4: Losing control of biotech?](#) we highlight the role of AI in accelerating developments in this field, for both good and bad.

Respondents also express unease over Cyber espionage and warfare, which is #5 in the two-year ranking, echoing concerns outlined in the World Economic Forum's 2024 *Chief Risk Officers Outlook*, where 71% of Chief Risk Officers expressed concern about the impact of Cyber risk and criminal activity (money laundering, cybercrime etc.) severely impacting their organizations. ²

Elevated cyber risk perceptions are one aspect of a broader environment of heightened geopolitical

and geoeconomic tensions. ³ The risk of further destabilizing consequences in Ukraine, the Middle East, and Sudan are likely to be amplifying respondents' concerns. In a world that has been seeing an increasing number of armed conflicts for a decade, as detailed in [Section 1.3: "Geopolitical recession"](#), national security considerations are increasingly dominating government agendas. That section of the report dives deep into the dangers of unilateralism taking hold, including its implications for deepening humanitarian crises.

⁴ Biological, chemical, or nuclear weapons or hazards (#23) and Geoeconomic confrontation (#9) are up eight and five positions, respectively, since the GRPS 2023-24. [Section 1.4: Supercharged economic tensions](#) explores how global geoeconomic tensions could unfold over the next two years. Private-sector concern with the two-year outlook for Geoeconomic confrontation has moved up from last year's edition of the report, where it was not a top 10 risk; it now is #6. ⁵

FIGURE 1.7

Global risks over the short term (2 years), by stakeholder group



Source
World Economic Forum Global Risks
Perception Survey 2024-2025.

- A- The rising likelihood of threat actor activity and more sophisticated technological disruption were noted as particular concerns.
- B- Which are reflected in the two-year ranking of State-based armed conflict moving up from #5 in last year's report to #3 now.
- C- There is also concern among both governments and academia, who rank this risk #9 and #10, respectively (Figure 1.7).
- D- Many experts argue that the development of artificial intelligence in customer service will reshape corporate interactions in unexpected ways
- E- However, complacency around the risks of such technologies should be avoided given the fast-paced change in the field of AI and its increasing ubiquity.
- F- Overall, the GRPS risks with some of the sharpest rises in ranking compared to the previous year are geostrategic in nature.