



KGID
2026
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Learning from Korea:
Scaling Green Growth
for Global Impact

Korea Green Innovation Days
May 6–8, 2026
Sejong, Republic of Korea

The Future of Governance:

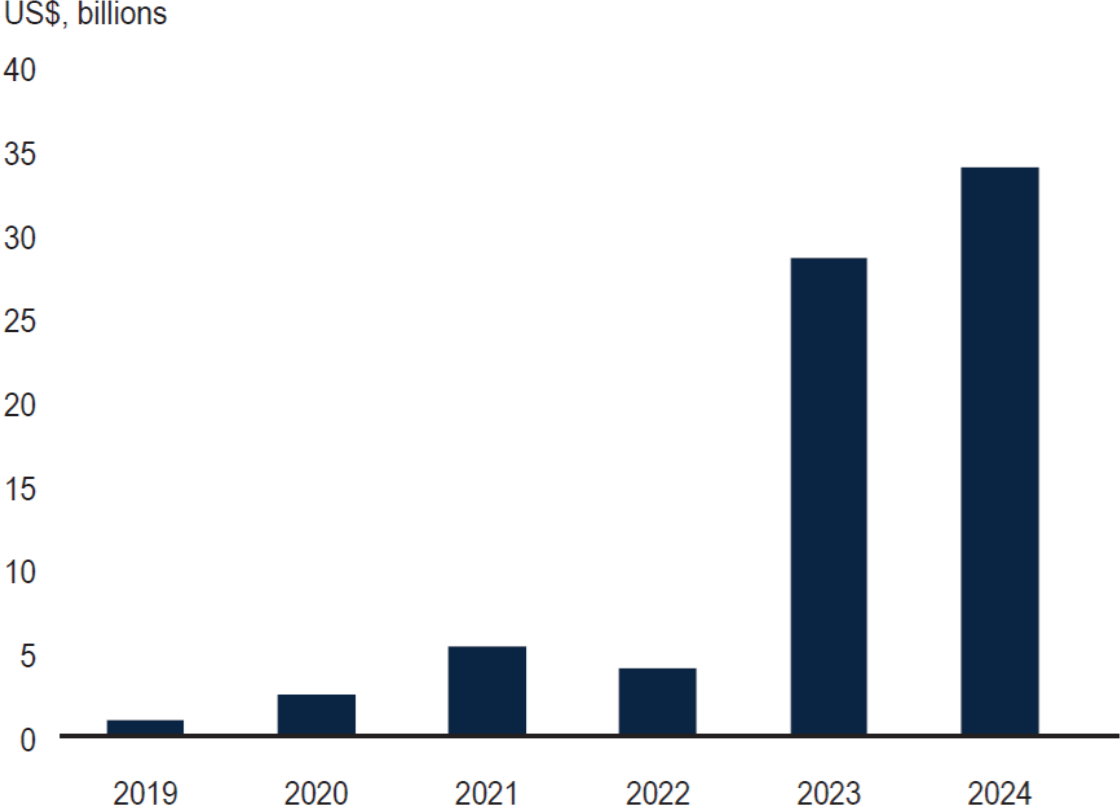
AI Adoption and Key Priorities in East Asia & Pacific

May 2026

Seunghan Lee

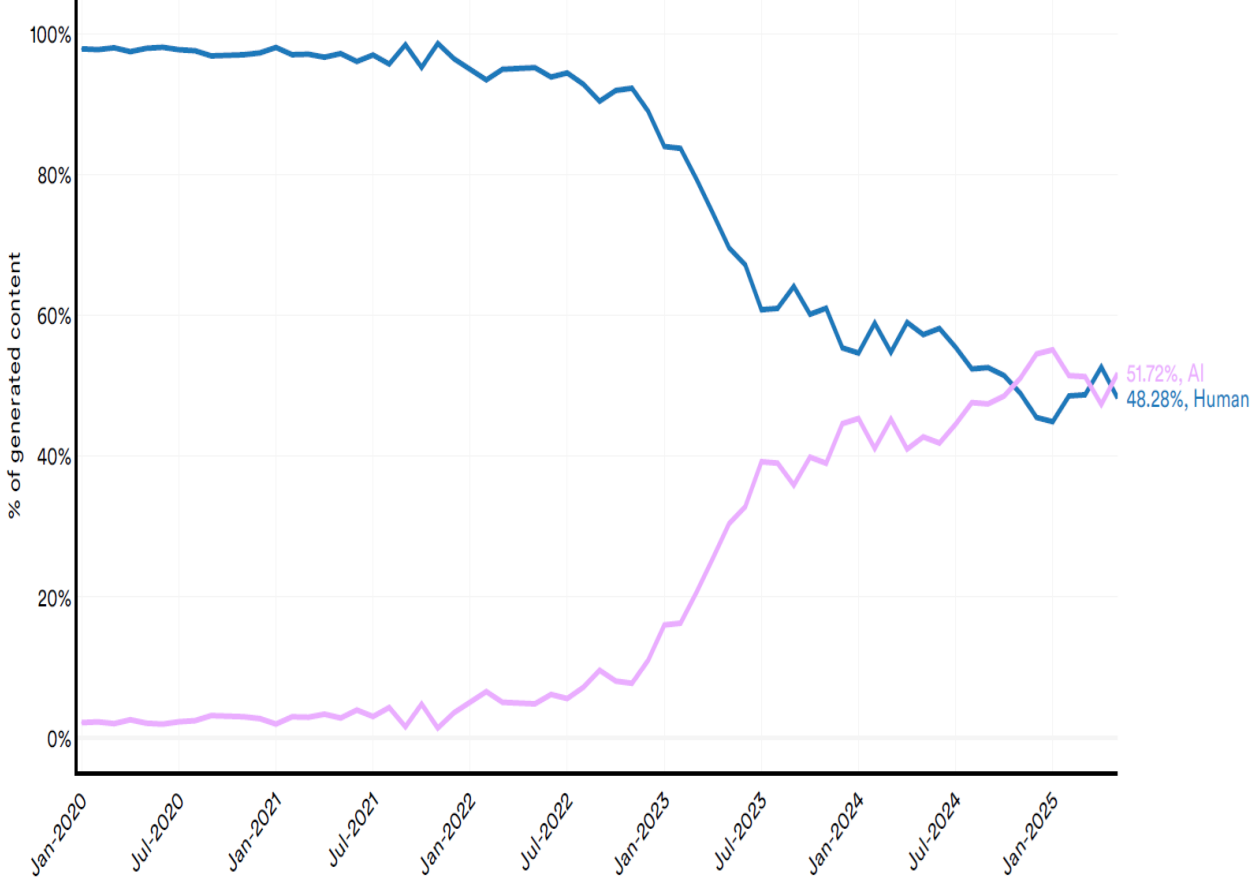
Generative AI investment is surging globally, with the rapid shift from human to AI-generated content

Global investment in generative AI



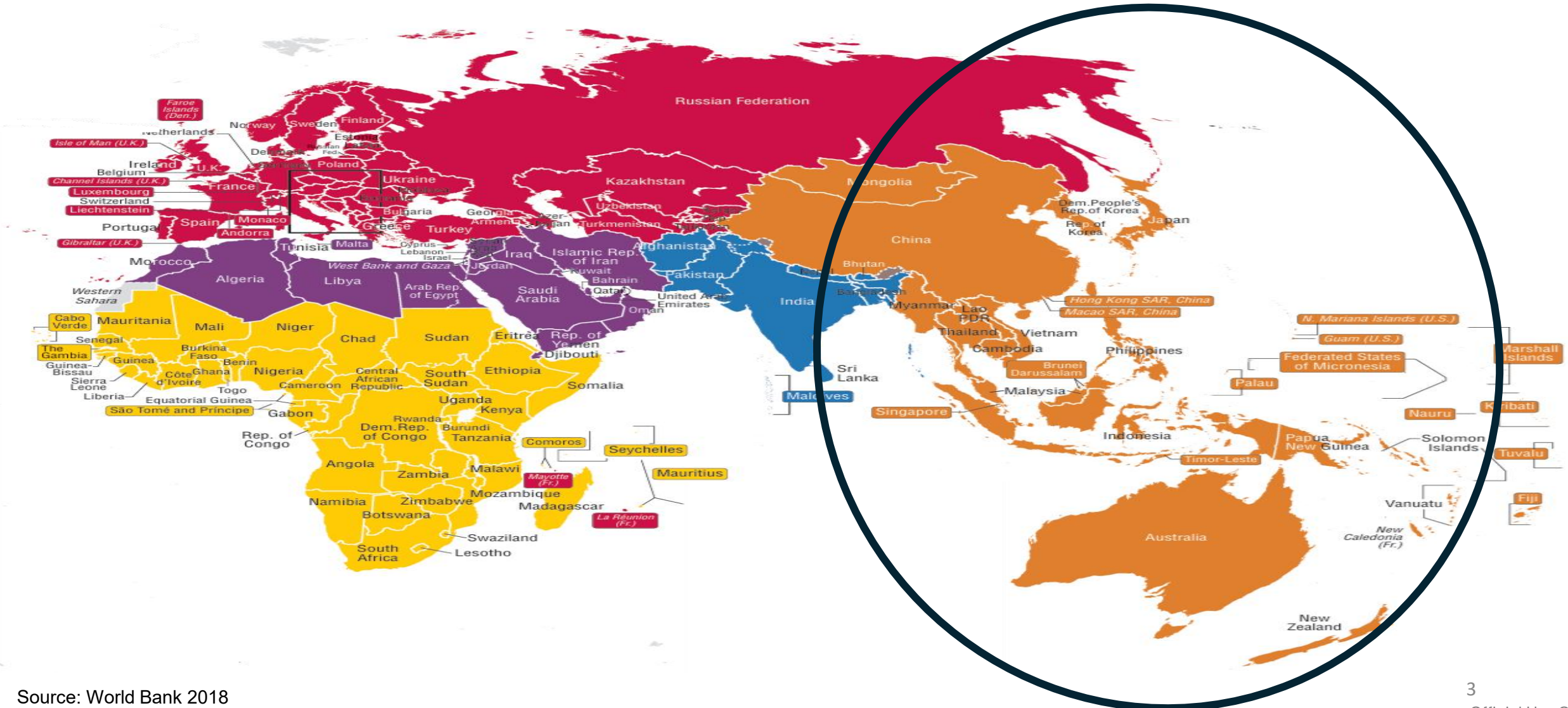
Source: Quid 2025

AI-generated vs. human content



Source: Stanford University 2026

The EAP region (in orange) is the world's most dynamic, with 30% of the global population and nearly half of the global growth

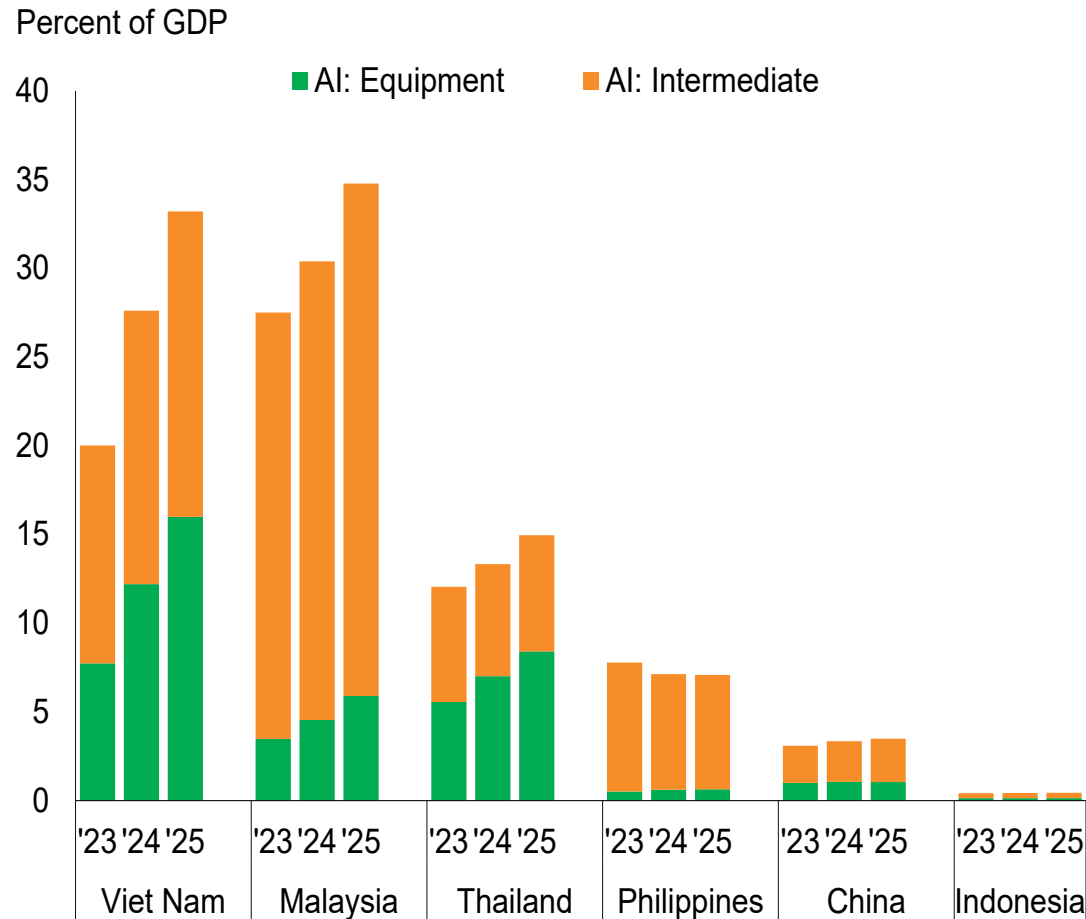


Source: World Bank 2018

Exports of AI-related goods are rising across EAP

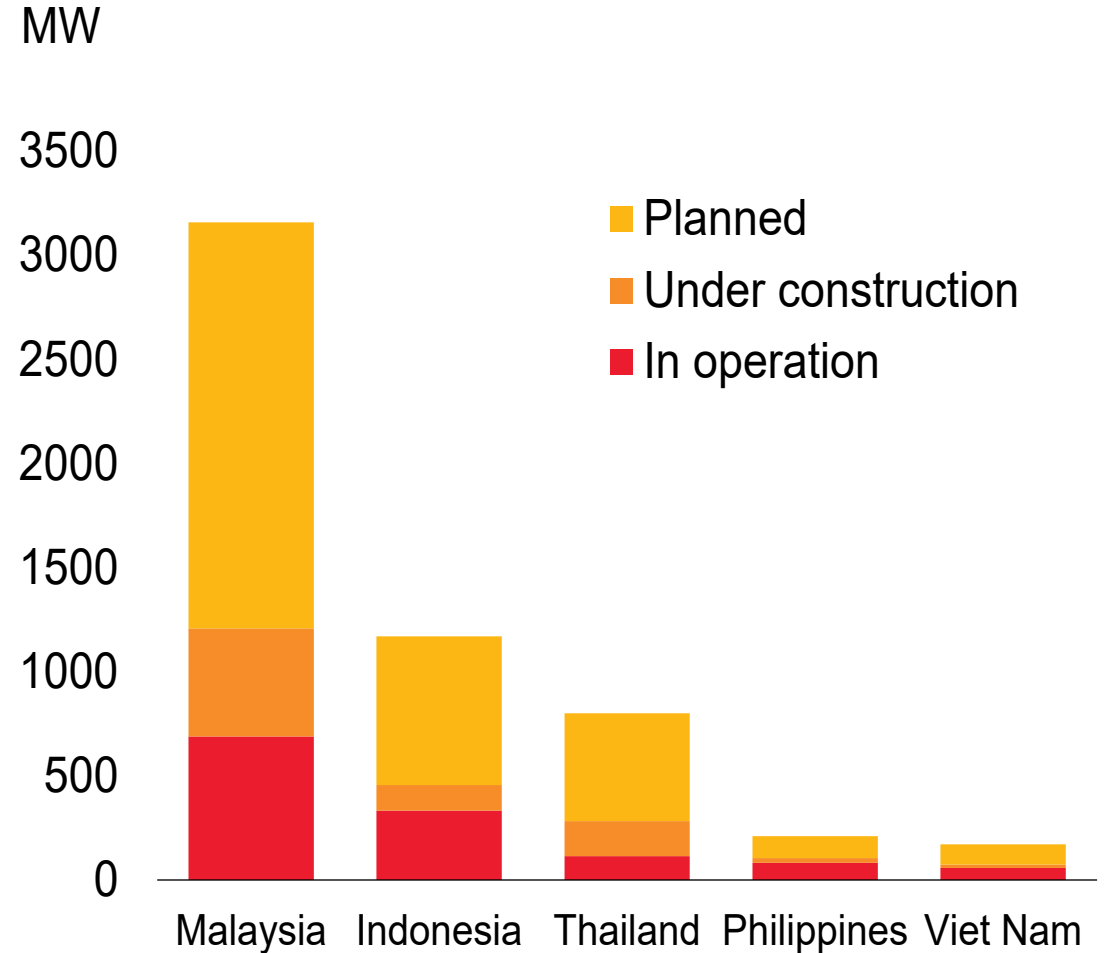
driving investments in data center capacity

Exports of AI-related goods



Source: World Bank calculations based on World Trade Report 2025

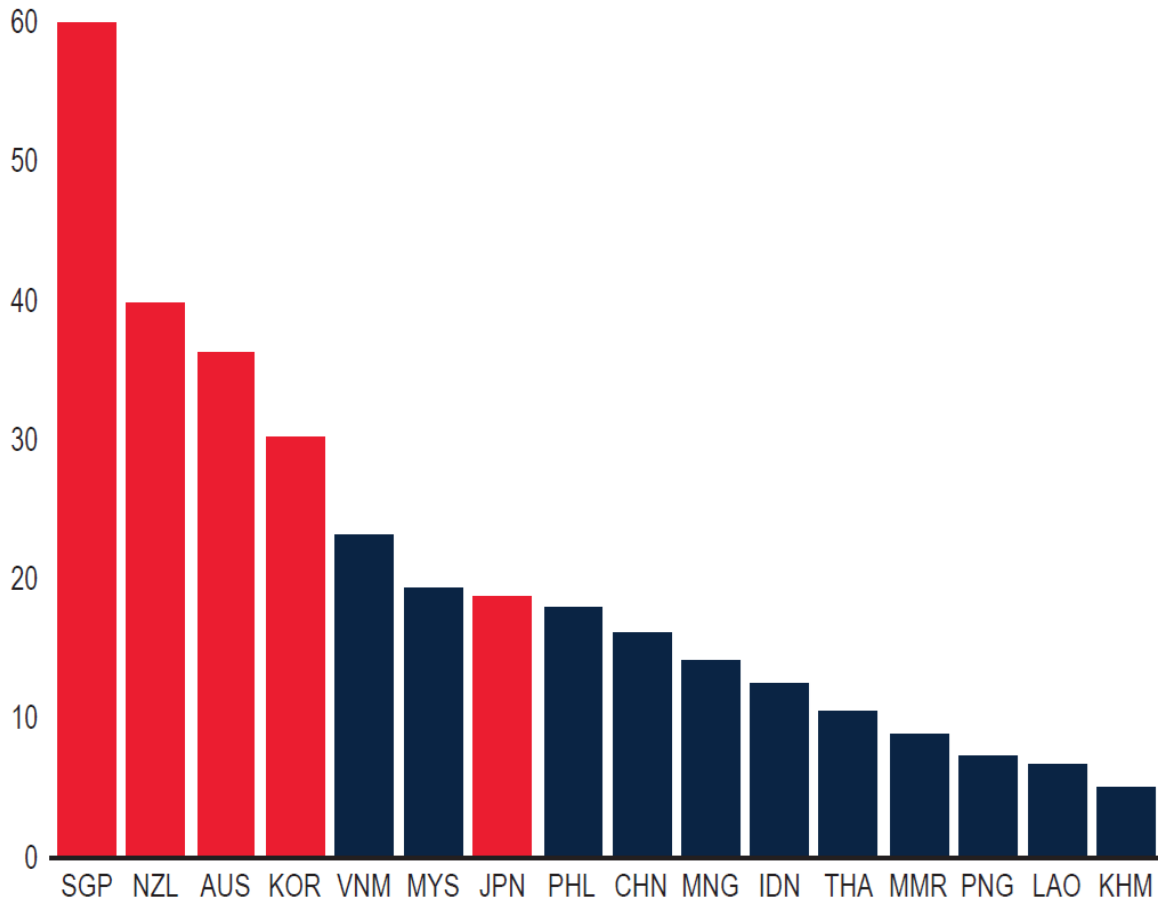
Data center capacity in EAP (2025 Q2)



Source: Cushman and Wakefield 2025

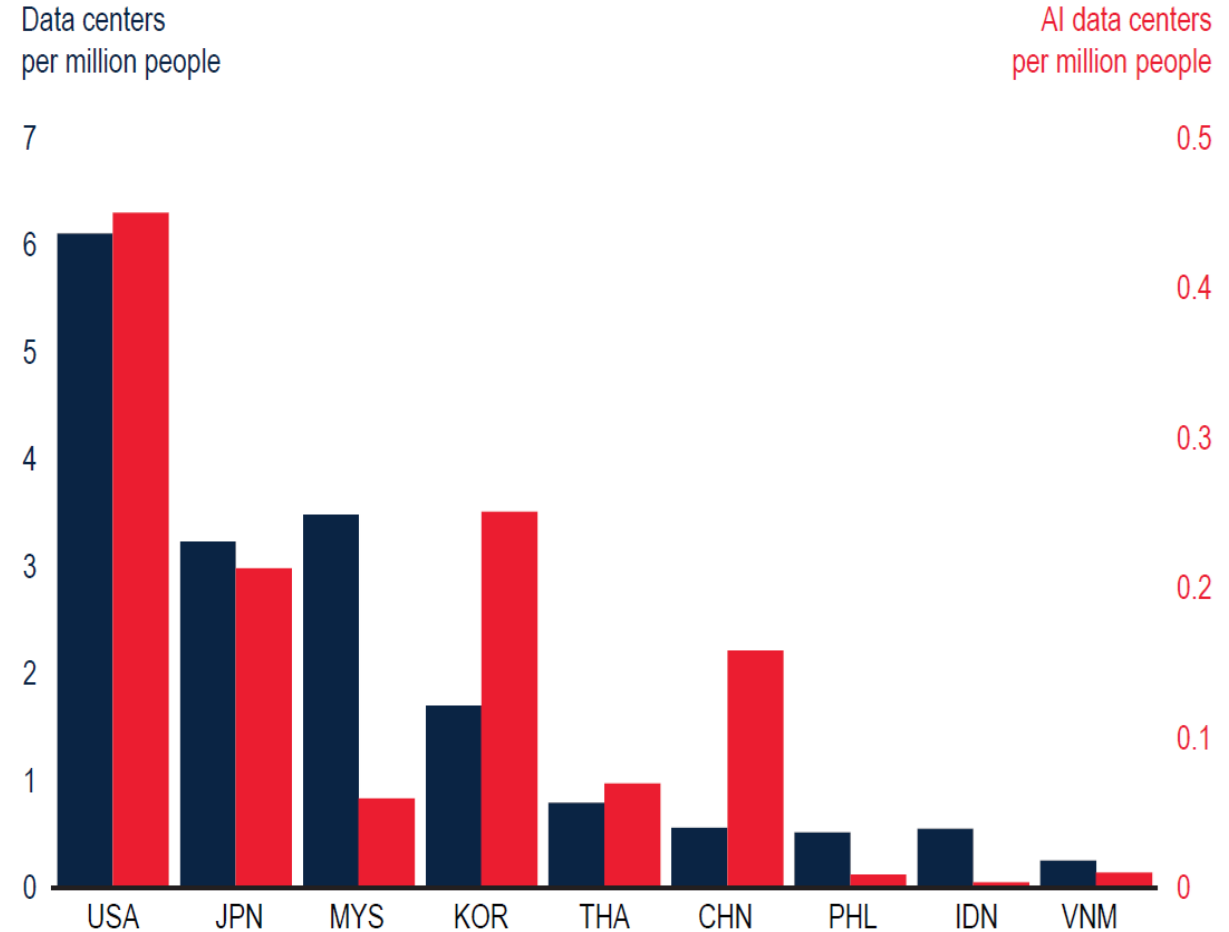
AI use is uneven across EAP, with cloud computing data centers scarce in much of EAP

AI users per capita (percent)



Source: Microsoft 2026

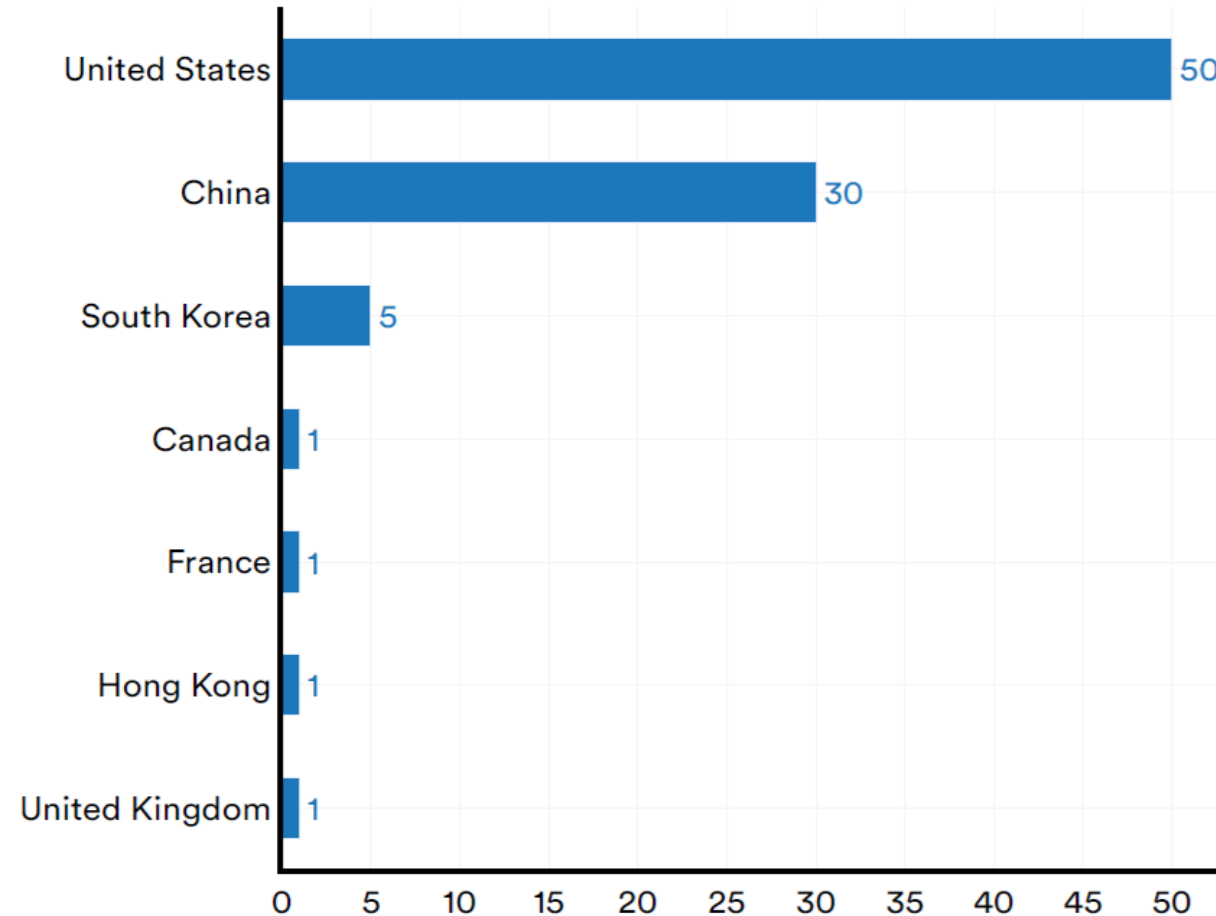
Data centers and AI data centers



Source: Straub et al. 2026, Epoch.AI

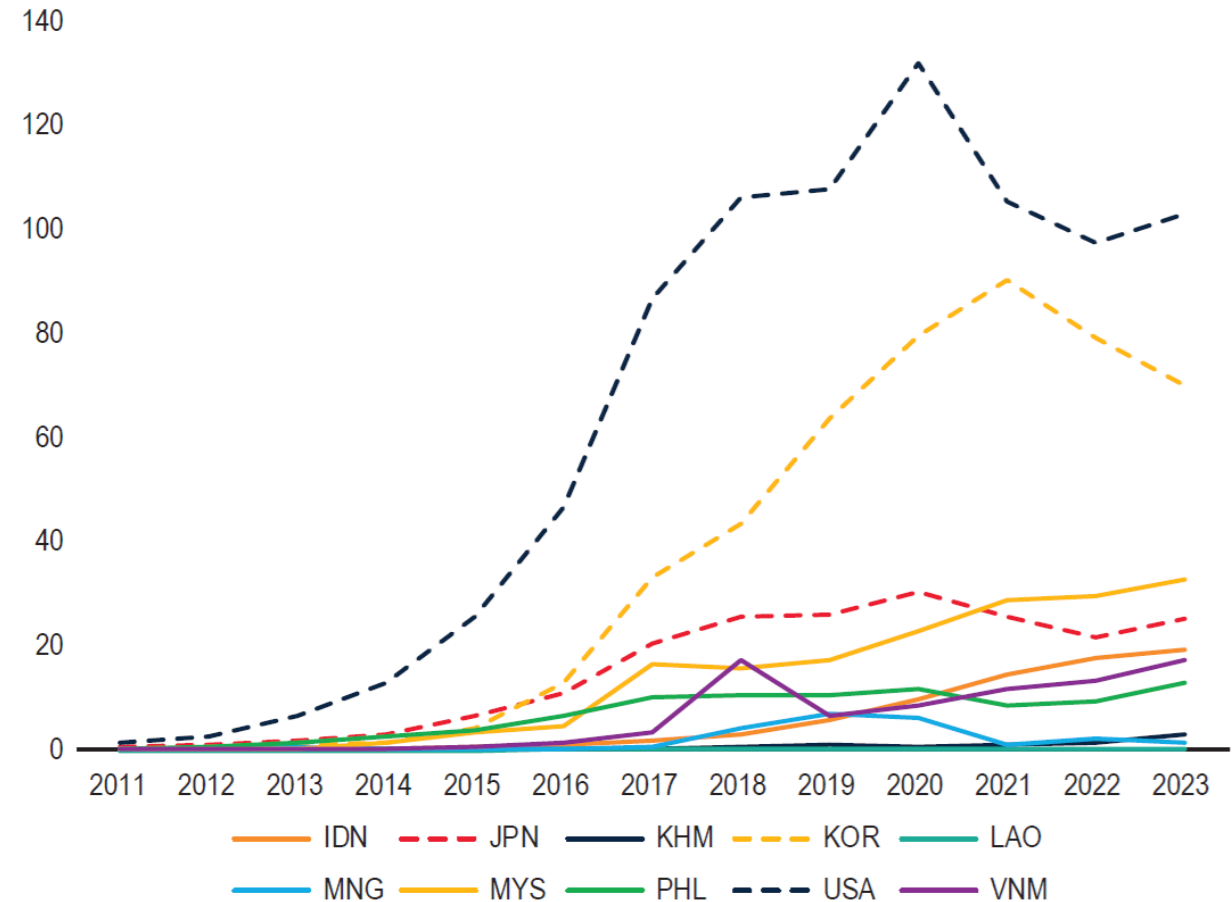
AI models (LLMs) are developed mostly in China and the United States, with development of AI software mostly in advanced economies

Number of notable AI models



Source: Stanford University 2026

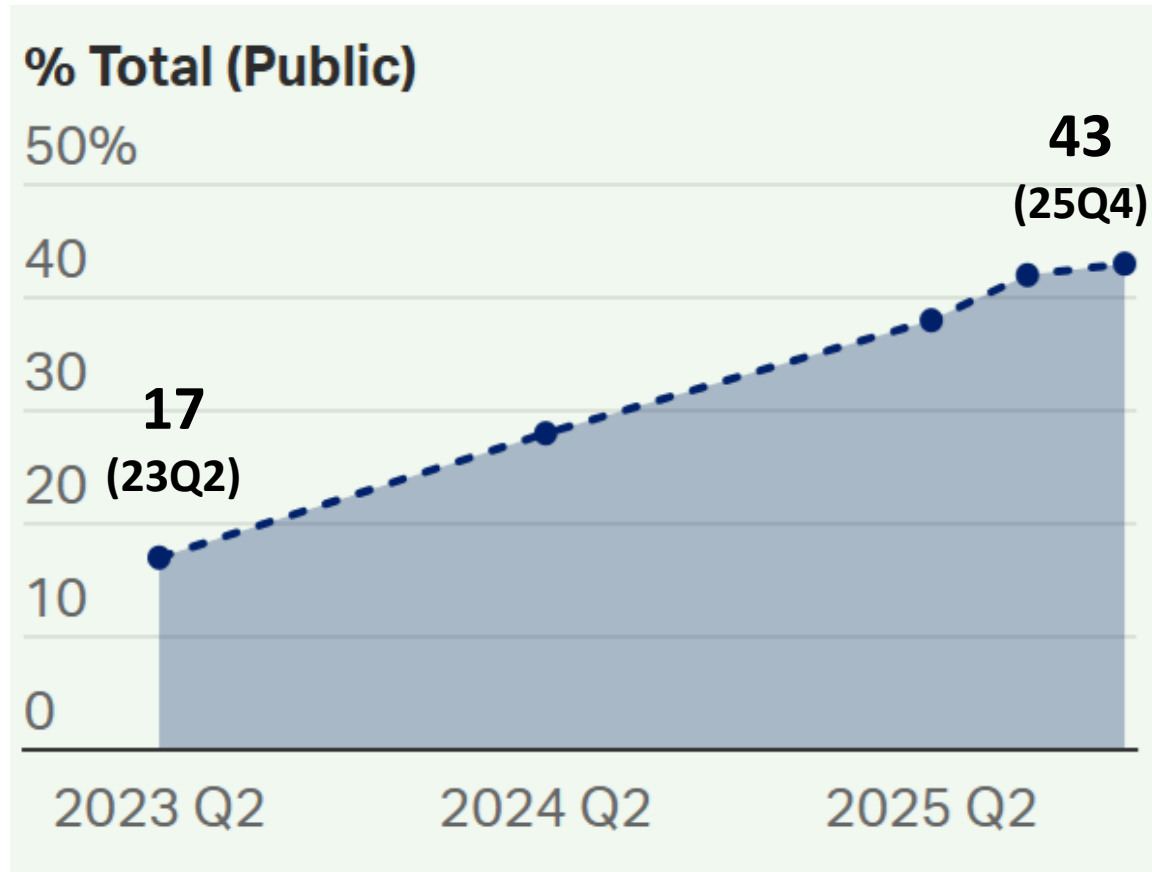
AI software projects per million people



Source: OECD.AI 2026, using data from GitHub

AI adoption in the public sector is rapidly growing, bringing significant potential benefits for government services

Share of US public workers using AI



Source: Gallup 2026

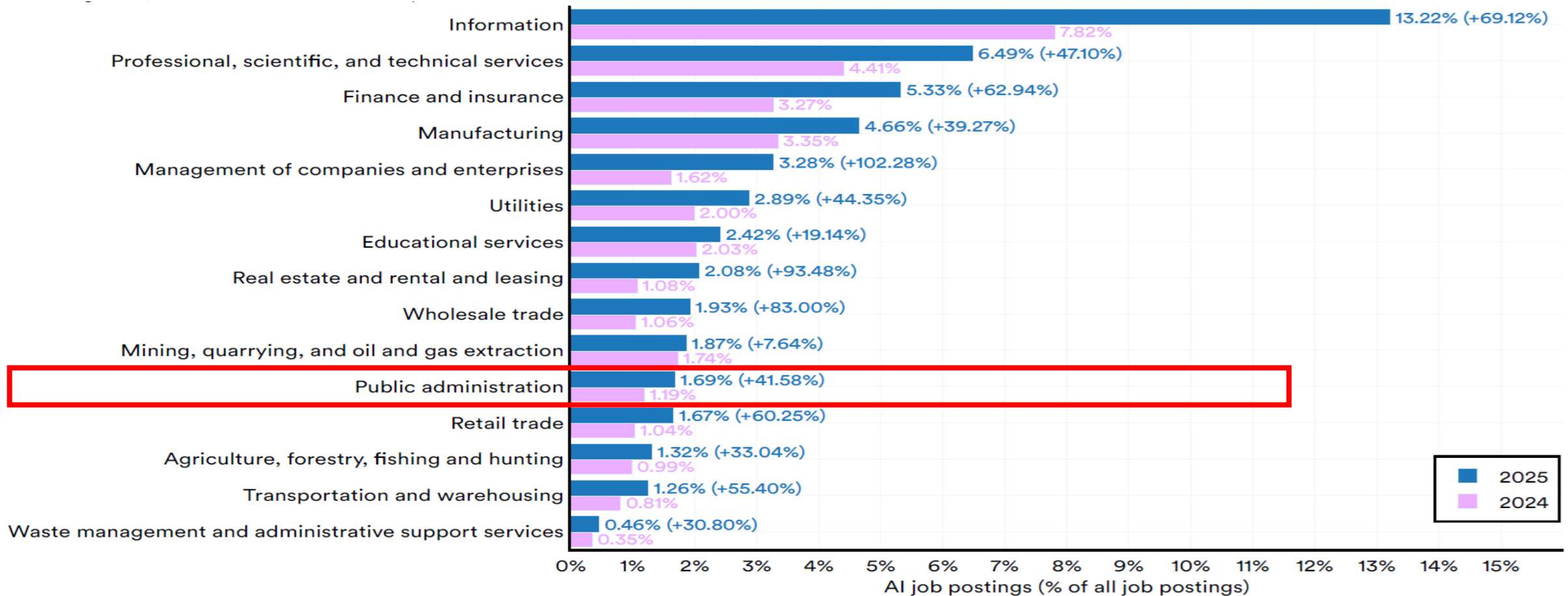
Opportunity for Gov Use of AI

- ✓ **Productivity**
: focus less on mundane tasks, more on mission-critical activities
- ✓ **Responsiveness**
: offer more personalized public services more proactively
- ✓ **Accountability**
: enhance capacity for oversight and transparency through real-time monitoring

Source: Adapted from OECD 2025

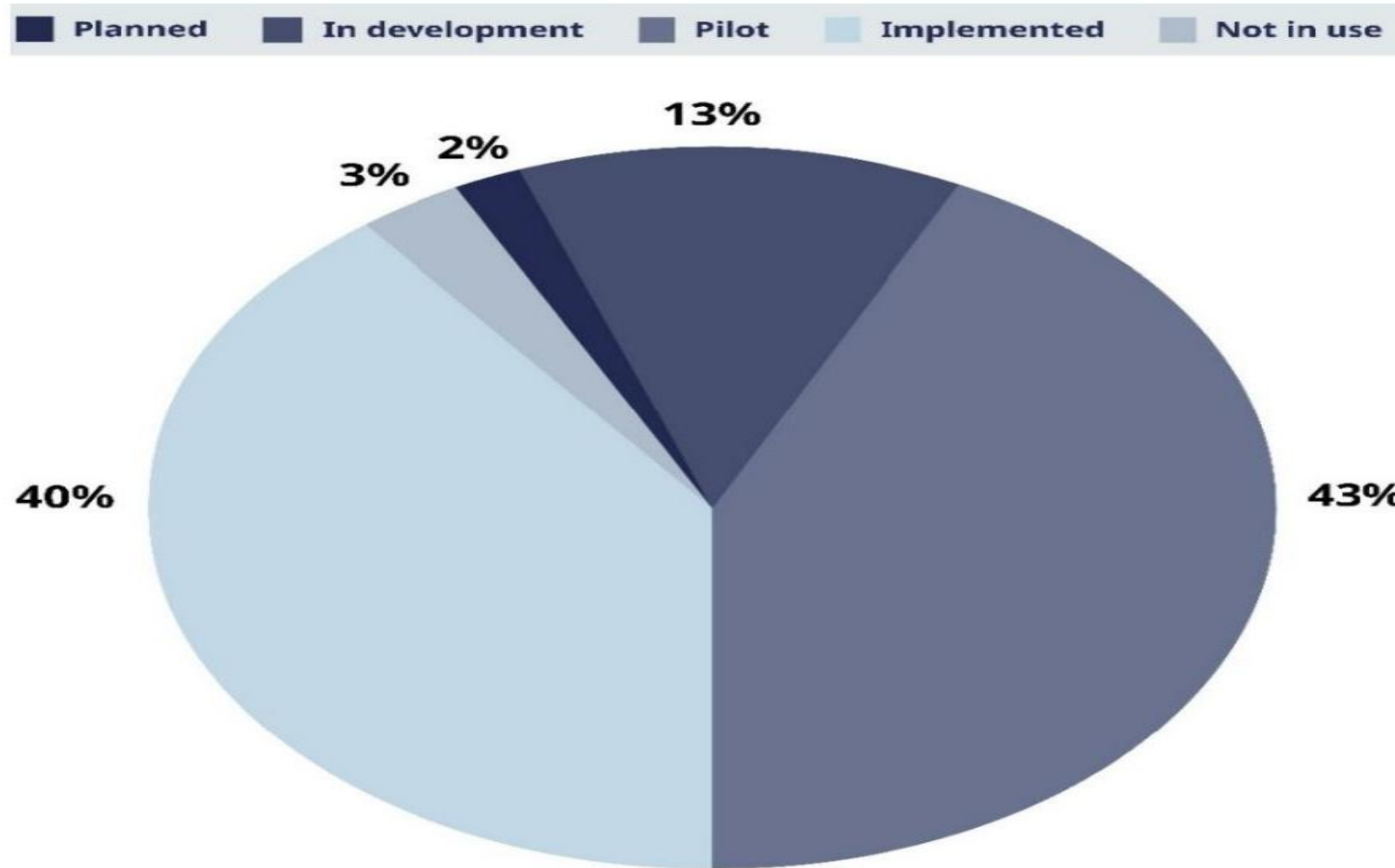
AI job postings in public administration have grown modestly, yet remain far below most private-sector industries

AI job postings (% of all job postings) in the United States, 2024 vs 2025



Most government AI efforts exist in exploratory or pilot phases, with limited scaling and documentation due to possible challenges

European Union (EU) AI use cases in the public sector



Common challenges shared across core government functions, hindering the strategic use of AI in government

Skills Gaps

- 60% of public sector workers cite skills gap (Salesforce, 2024)
- 92% of Australian public servants received no AI training (2024)

Lack of High-Quality Data & Ability to Share it

- Data often does not exist, is undigitized, or is poor quality
- Data sharing is impeded by rules and fragmented governance

Lack of Actionable Frameworks & Guidance

- National strategies exist, but lack operational detail
- Sub-national governments are especially underserved

Driving Innovation While Mitigating Risks

- Governments over-index on risk avoidance than benefit realization
- AI initiatives are treated as high-risk regardless of actual impact

Demonstrating Results & Return on Investment

- Isolated successes exist, but systematic evaluation is lacking
- Cost-benefit analysis is impossible for most AI investments

Public sector faces inherent constraints on AI adoption

	Private Sector	Public Sector
Key Decision Criteria	Efficiency, Cost reduction	Accountability, Explainability, and Regulatory alignment
Final Accountability	Internal corporate decision making	Must consider impact on policy decisions and public services
Constraints	Relatively flexible	Security, Data privacy, and Network isolation environments
Approach to Adoption	Technology and solution-oriented	Careful evaluation within the context of existing operational frameworks
Level of Discussion	Autonomous decision by individual firms	Variance in discussion depth and approach across different agencies

AI in Government (1): Key Functions & Case Studies

1

Tax Administration

Austria

Predictive Analytics Competence Centre (PACC): ML risk models analysed 6.5M tax cases in 2023, detecting fraud & generating €185M in additional tax revenue

2

Public Financial Management

Korea

dBrain+: AI system integrating 63 platforms across 46 institutions for real-time risk assessment, budget execution monitoring & fiscal transparency

3

Regulatory Design & Delivery

UK

Legislative drafting AI: Assists officials in drafting legislation and regulatory impact analysis, reducing drafting time and improving consistency

4

Civil Service Reform

France

National HR AI strategy: Uses AI for talent mapping, workforce analytics & skills gap analysis across the entire civil service, informing training policy

5

Public Procurement

Brazil

Alice (AI Licitações): AI tool monitoring 100% of federal procurement contracts in real time, flagging irregularities & preventing corruption at procurement stage

AI in Government (2): Key Functions & Case Studies

6

Fighting Corruption & Public Integrity

Lithuania

AI analyses draft legislation for anti-corruption risk indicators before enactment, screening legal texts for provisions that could enable corrupt practices

7

Policy Evaluation

OECD

OECD Climate Policy Study: AI evaluated 1,500+ climate policy interventions across 41 countries (1998–2022), identifying 63 policies with significant emission reductions

8

Public Service Design & Delivery

France

Services Publics+: AI platform covering 45M citizens & 2.5M civil servants — speech-to-text, automated response drafting & real-time analysis of user feedback

9

Law Enforcement & Disaster Risk Management

Singapore

Virtual Singapore: World's first national digital twin — 3D real-time model enabling policymakers to simulate disaster scenarios, plan emergency response & optimise resources

10

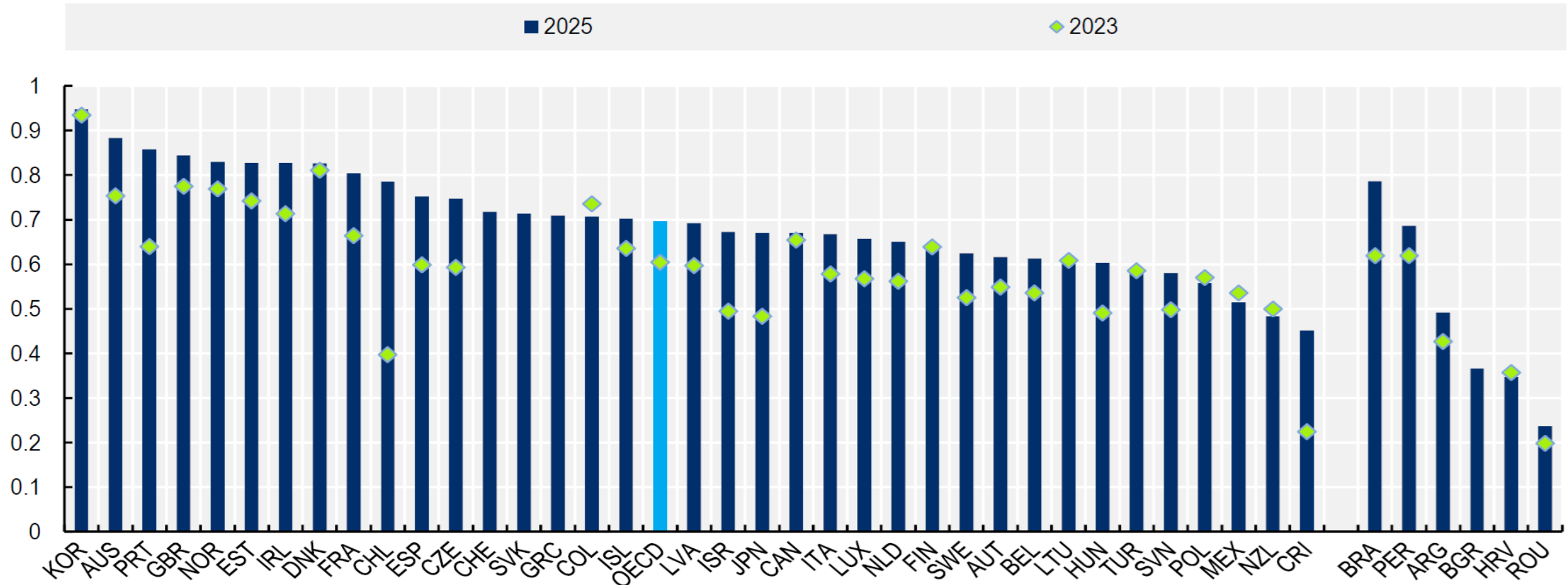
Justice Administration & Access to Justice

Argentina

Prometea: AI system predicting case outcomes with 90% accuracy; resolved 658 cases (2017–2020), boosting prosecutor productivity by 300% (130→490 cases/month)

Korea ranks 1st globally in 2025 OECD Digital Government Index, leading the world in data-driven public services

2025 Digital Government Index (results by country)



Public AX: A strategic area of the 2026 Korea AI Action Plan

12 Strategic Areas

(Pillar I) AI Innovation Ecosystem

- ① AI Highway Construction
- ② Next-Gen AI Technology Leadership
- ③ AI Core Talent Development
- ④ Domestic AI Model Acquisition
- ⑤ AI Regulation Reform

(Pillar II) National AI Infrastructure Transformation

- ⑥ Industrial AX
- ⑦ **Public AX**
- ⑧ Regional AX
- ⑨ AI-based Cultural Power
- ⑩ AI-based Defense Power

(Pillar III) Global AI Basic Society Contribution

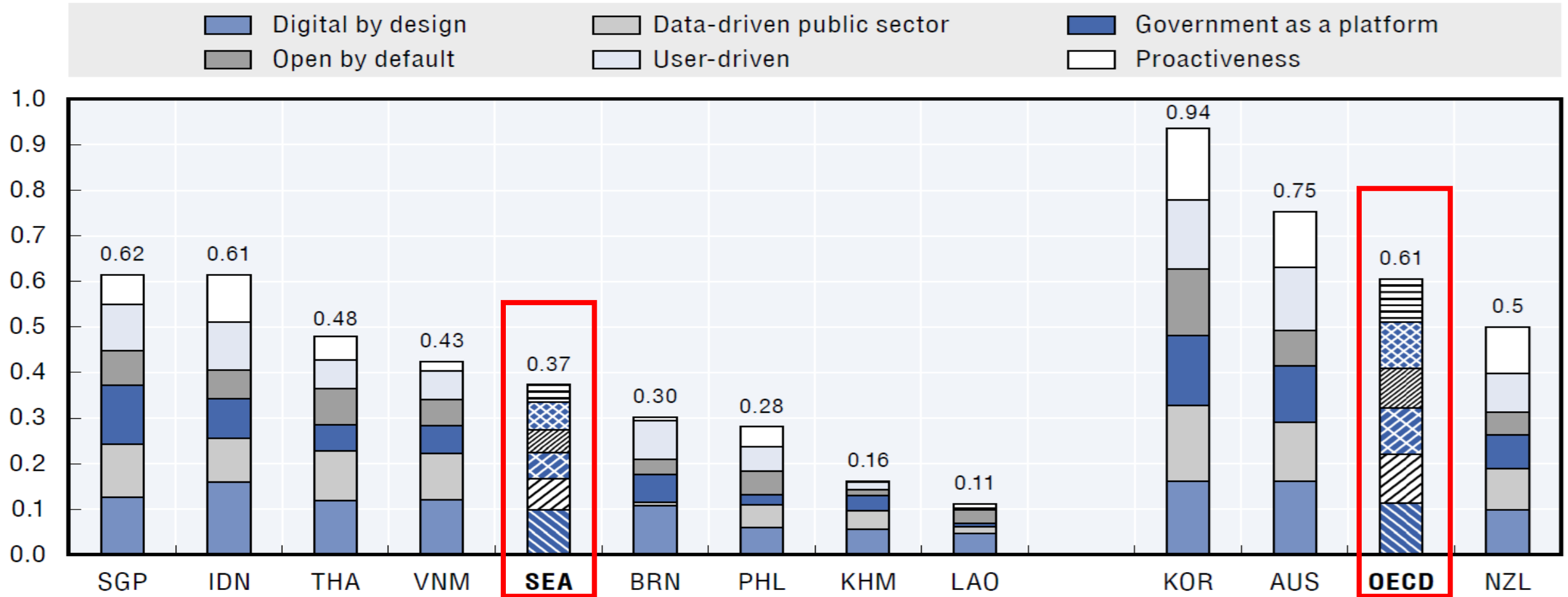
- ⑪ AI Basic Society Realization
- ⑫ Global AI Initiative Implementation

⑦ Public AX: 15 Sub-Tasks

- 1 AI-Native Government Collaboration System
- 2 AI Work Management Platform (Data & Context)
- 3 Public Informatization Projects → Private Cloud
- 4 World #1 AI Government & AI Champion Workforce
- 5 Citizens' Rights on AI & Public AI Impact Assessment
- 6 Safe AI Use & Public AI Ethics Standards
- 7 Accelerated Public AI Transformation & Audit Incentives
- 8 Performance Evaluation for Public AX Policies
- 9 AI-Powered Best Citizen Services
- 10 Open Public Data for Admin/Legal Transparency
- 11 AI Teaching Assistants & AI-based Education Reform
- 12 Domestic AI Real-World Testbed & Public Market
- 13 K-Gov AX Model Global Expansion & K-AI Alliance
- 14 Public AX Governance & Implementation Framework
- 15 AI & Digital Inclusion in Public Sector

Most SEA digital government performance lags behind OECD averages, despite Singapore and Indonesia nearing global benchmarks

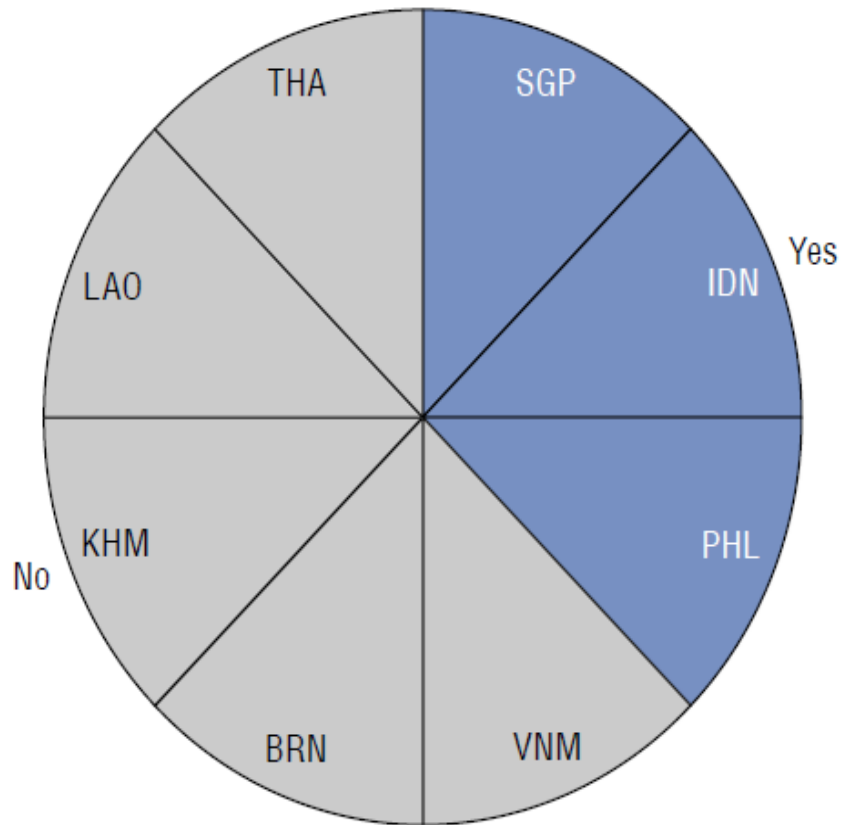
Digital Government Index scores (SEA countries: 2023, OECD countries: 2022)



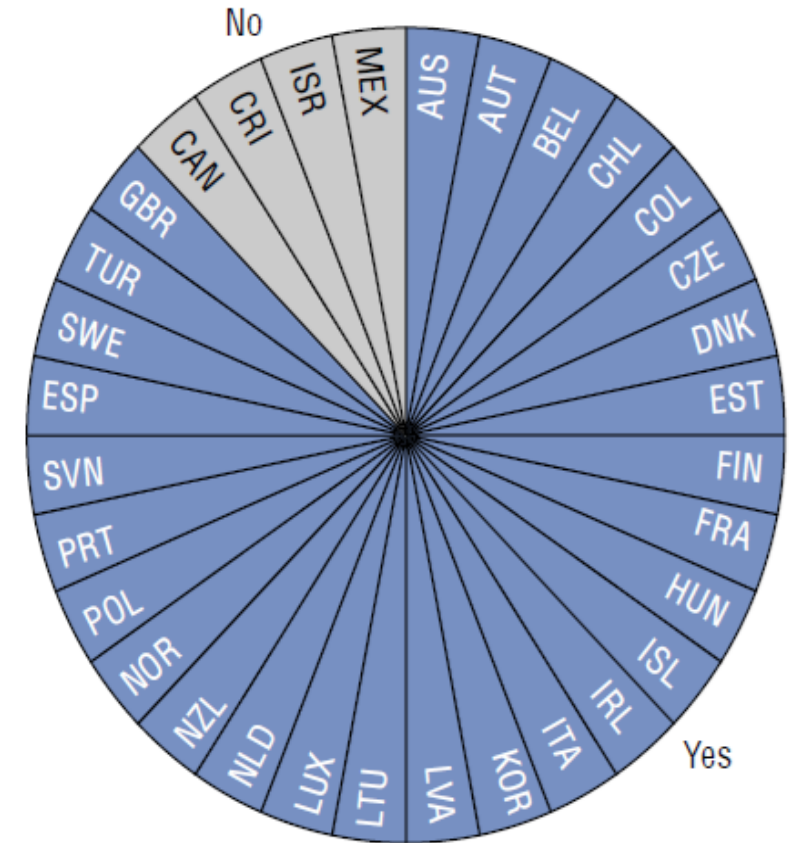
Only 37.5% of SEA nations possess public sector AI plans, contrasting with widespread adoption across the OECD

Availability of national strategy, agenda, or plan for AI in the public sector

A. SEA countries



B. OECD countries



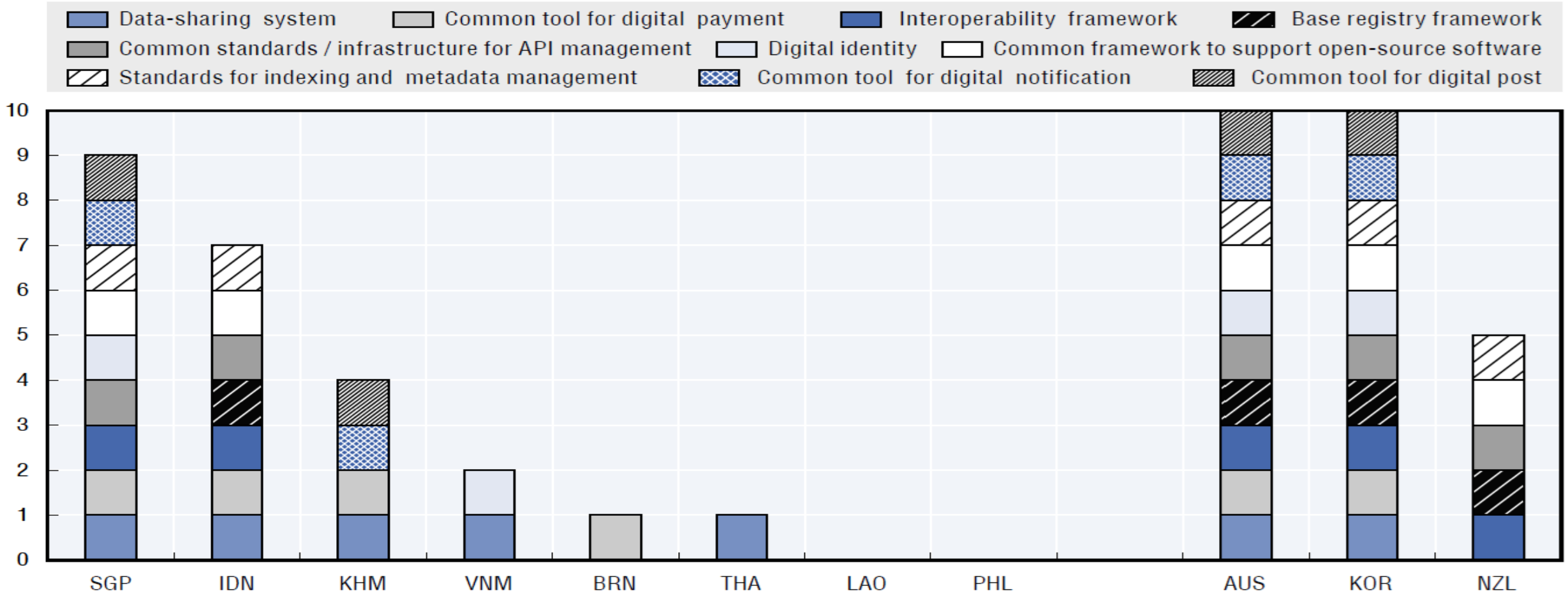
Most OECD countries utilize AI in the public sector, while only two SEA countries follow suit

Use of AI in the public sector: Existence of at least one AI use case per category and per country

Country	Public sector internal processes	Service design and delivery	Improve policymaking	No initiative in place
SEA				
Brunei Darussalam	○	○	○	●
Cambodia	○	○	○	●
Indonesia	○	●	○	○
Lao PDR	○	○	○	●
Philippines	○	○	○	●
Singapore	●	●	●	○
Thailand	○	○	○	●
Viet Nam	○	○	○	●
Total				
● Yes	1	2	1	6
○ No	7	6	7	2
OECD				
Australia	●	●	○	○
Korea	●	●	●	○
New Zealand	●	●	●	○
OECD total				
● Yes	23	22	11	7
○ No	10	11	22	26

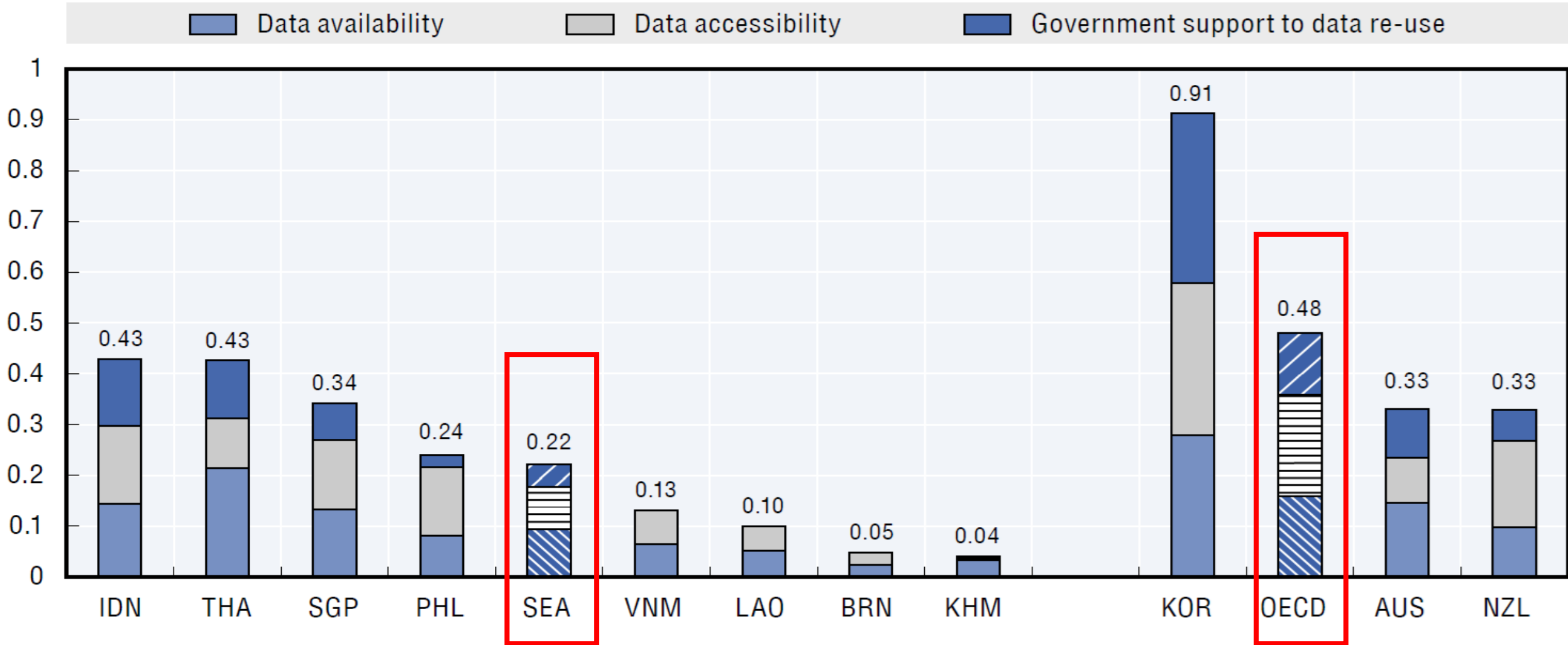
Advanced EAP countries boast seamless digital public infrastructure, while SEA counterparts face severe limitations

Digital public infrastructure components and enablers



SEA Data availability and accessibility both fall short of OECD averages

OURdata index (OUR: Open, Useful, and Re-usable)



Policy recommendations for public AI adoption in SEA countries

Leaders (Singapore)

- Deepen AI integration, Lead international standards
- Act as a regional role model

Early Adopters (Indonesia, Thailand)

- Sophisticate national AI strategies, Expand high-value data sets
- Accelerate digital public infrastructure standardization

Infrastructure Builders (Vietnam, Philippines)

- Establish AI governance foundations
- Targeted investments in data infrastructure

Readiness Starters (Brunei, Cambodia, Laos)

- Formulate national AI plans, Capacity building
- Build fundamental digital public infrastructure

Public sector AI done right: Key lessons from Korea

Acknowledge build limits

- Move beyond the 'build it ourselves' approach
- Start with high-impact, results-verifiable areas; expand gradually

AI as a assistive tool

- Position AI as a work-support tool, not a decision-maker
- Preserve existing workflows; humans make the final call

Define micro-level problems

- Identify recurring inefficiencies before evaluating any technology
- Ask: 'Where is time being wasted most?' before any AI discussion

Integrate with existing tools

- Use AI to augment current tools, not replace them with standalone solutions
- Combine with Excel, admin systems, and automation tools already in use

Tiered security classification

- Apply risk-based security standards aligned with the sensitivity of each task
- Distinguish high / mid / low security environments by task type