verdantix

EHSQ Corporate Leaders

Global Corporate Survey 2025: EHS Budgets, Priorities And Tech Preferences

By Zain Idris
With Bill Pennington

August 2025

EHSQ Corporate Leaders

Global Corporate Survey 2025: EHS Budgets, Priorities And Tech Preferences

By Zain Idris
With Bill Pennington

August 2025

This report enables EHS executives to benchmark their firms' budgets, investment priorities and technology preferences against their global peers. The data gathered through this survey can also be used by EHS consulting and technology providers to help with strategic decision-making and business planning. The 2025 version of the annual global Verdantix EHS survey encompassed 25 countries and 24 industries. Of the respondents, 74% represented firms with revenues greater than $1 billion, and 66% held job titles of director or above. Survey data reveal that EHS spending will continue to rise over the next 12 months, at a steady rate, largely driven by sustainability-based initiatives around ESG and regulatory compliance. Technology remains a valuable tool for EHS functions, with further AI adoption planned, despite continuing concerns about budget and value.

Table of contents

Table of figures

Organizations mentioned

Avetta, Benchmark Gensuite, Cority, D4H, EcoOnline, ecoPortal, EHS Insight, Highmark Interactive, HSI, Praedicat, SafetyCulture, TPC Group, UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE), US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), VelocityEHS, Yokogawa.

Disclaimer

As an independent analyst firm, Verdantix does not endorse any vendor, product or service covered in our research publications, webinars and other materials. Verdantix does not advise technology users to select only those vendors with the highest ratings. Verdantix research publications consist of the opinions of the Verdantix research team based on its analysis of the market, survey data and review of vendor solutions. Verdantix disclaims all warranties, expressed or implied, with respect to this research, including any warranties of fitness for a particular purpose.

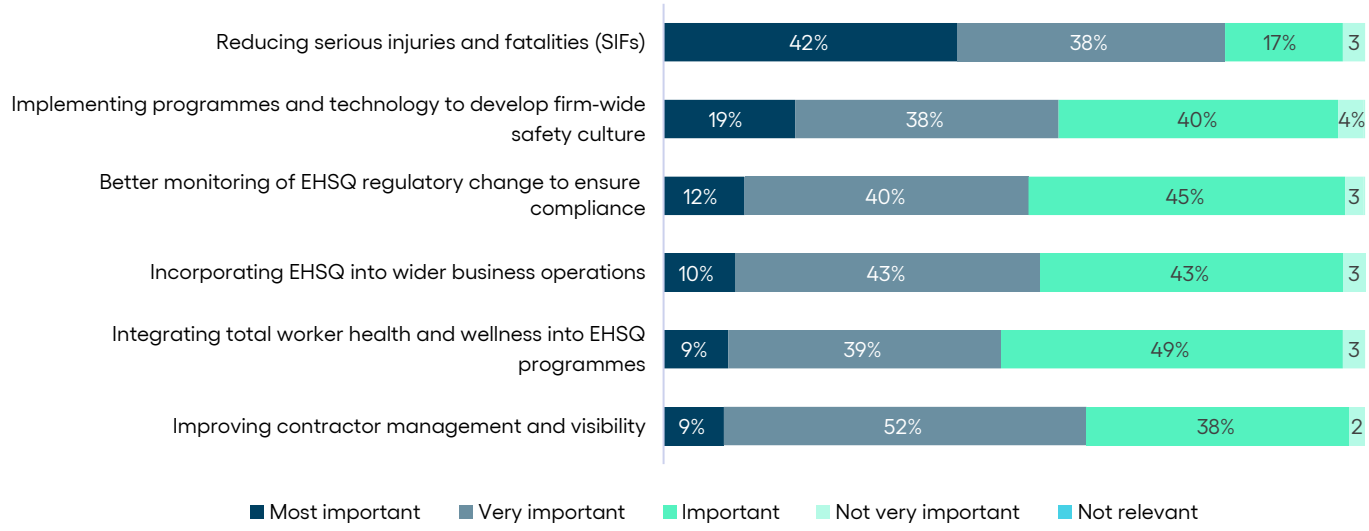
Summary for decision-makers

- EHS executives leverage both software and technological devices to improve performance and ensure compliance with applicable regulations. They should use the findings from this survey to assess their budgets, investment priorities and technology preferences relative to similar organizations across the globe.
- EHS software vendors seek insights into buyer preferences, to guide their future product development. This report helps executives at software vendors develop their EHS roadmaps and business plans.
- The 2025 global Verdantix EHS survey encompassed 304 senior decision-makers across 25 countries and 24 industries. The report uses survey responses, combined with Verdantix analysis of existing research, to identify prominent trends amongst EHS functions.
- With the growth and complexity of ESG, there has been a shift in focus towards environmental initiatives and total worker health in EHS. This has led to an increase in spending on ESG and sustainability, environmental compliance, GHG monitoring and occupational health.
- AI use cases gaining the most traction are those focused on automation, specifically around the streamlining of data management tasks. More progressive use cases, such as GenAI, lag behind.

Figure 6

EHSQ operational priority areas for the next two years

How important are the following EHSQ operational goals over the next two years?



Note: Data labels are rounded to zero decimal places; percentages less than 4% are written as numbers.
Source: Verdantix Global Corporate EHS Survey 2025

N=304

Global survey shows steady EHS spending, to keep pace with mounting regulation

This report enables EHS executives to measure their firms' budgets, investment priorities and technology preferences relative to their global network. Spanning 25 countries and 24 industries, the data collected through the 2025 Verdantix survey also support strategic decision-making and business planning for executives from EHS consulting and technology firms. Verdantix conducted telephone interviews between May and June 2025 with 304 decision-makers; interviewees had direct responsibility for corporate-wide EHS management strategies and initiatives at their firms.

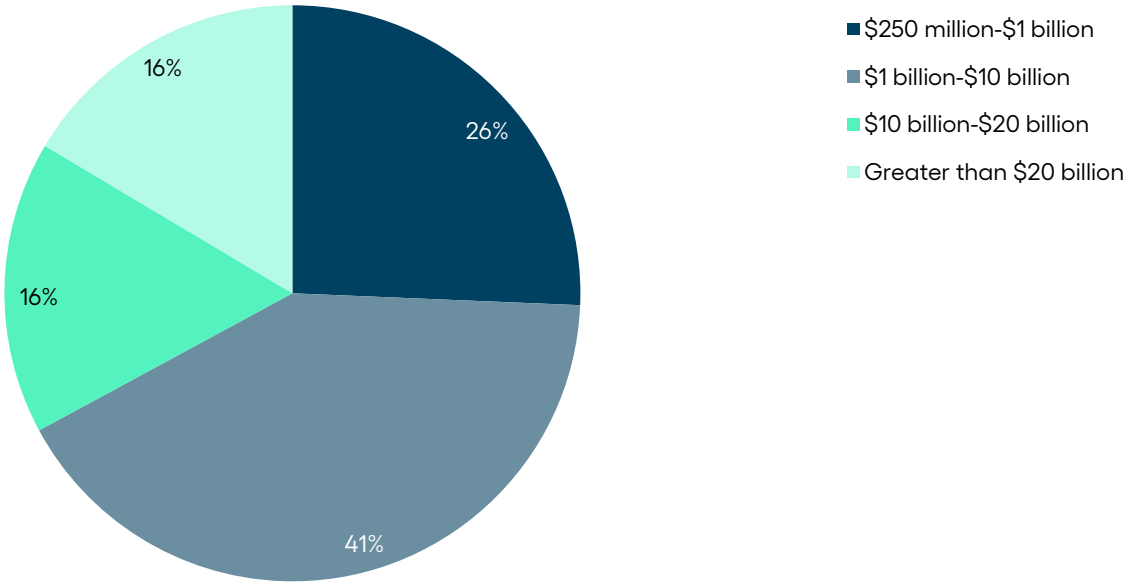
Annual global survey features 304 EHS executives across 24 industries

Data on EHS priorities, budget forecasts and technology adoption across various industries and geographies provide vital information that can help executives shape their EHS strategies and digital technology initiatives. For the 2025 Verdantix annual global survey of EHS decision-makers, we collected data from:

- **304 respondents with revenues of at least $250 million.**
  Of the 304 EHS decision-makers interviewed, 74% were employed at firms with revenues of at least $1 billion (see **Figure 1**). The respondents comprised 26% from firms in the mid-market segment with revenues of $250 million to $1 billion; 41% from organizations in the core enterprise segment with revenues of $1 billion to $10 billion; and 32% from the large enterprise segment with revenues above $10 billion. Breaking down the large enterprise segment further, 16% of firms had revenues greater than $20 billion. The seniority levels of respondents were split into three tiers: 34% in SVP, VP or head of function roles; 33% in senior director or director roles; and 34% in senior manager or manager roles (see **Figure 2**).
- **24 industries, 38% of which are high or very high EHS risk.**
  The 2025 global survey covered 24 industries, segmented into four categories based on perceived EHS risk: very high, high, medium and low (see **Figure 3**). In aggregate, 38% of the interviewed EHS decision-makers represented industries with high to very high EHS risk profiles. Industries with a very high EHS risk profile – chemicals; mining, metals and minerals; and oil and gas – accounted for 23% of respondents. This year's survey placed the greatest focus on industries with medium EHS risk profiles, represented by 52% of respondents. Industries categorized as medium EHS risk include healthcare, waste management and vehicle manufacturing.
- **25 countries, focused on regions with higher levels of EHS spend.**
  The 300 respondents that participated in the 2025 survey were spread across 25 countries, grouped into five geographical regions: Asia and Oceania; Europe; the Middle East and Africa; Latin America and the Caribbean; and North America (see **Figure 4**). Regions with higher levels of EHS spend – North America and Europe – constituted a larger percentage of surveyed EHS decision-makers. The North American region – Canada, Mexico and the US – accounted for 27% of respondents, while Europe comprised 31%. The Asia and Oceania region – which encompasses Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan and Korea – accounted for 19% of respondents.

Figure 1

Revenue categorization of respondents

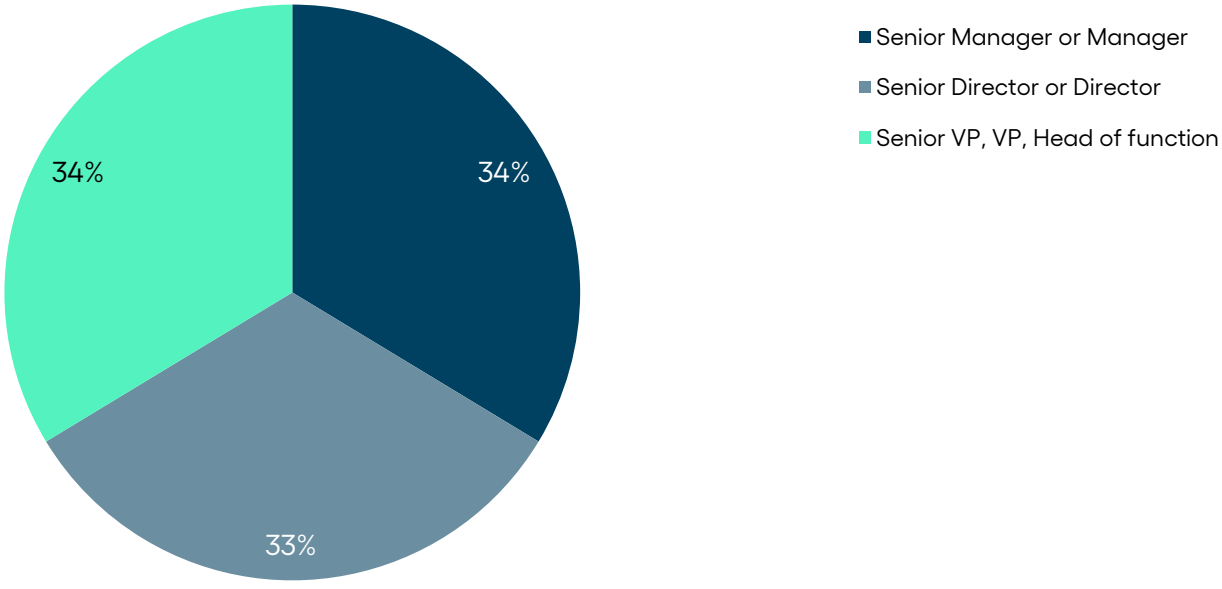


Note: Data are subject to rounding.
Source: Verdantix Global Corporate EHS Survey 2025

N=304

Figure 2

Job function breakdown of respondents

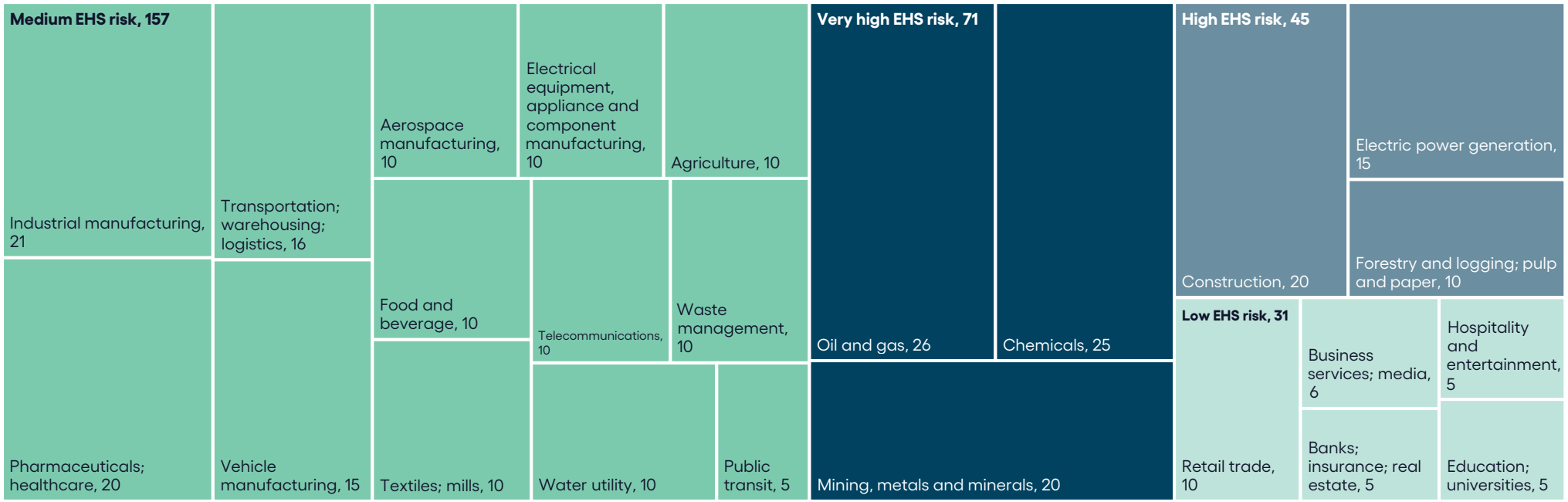


Note: Data are subject to rounding.
Source: Verdantix Global Corporate EHS Survey 2025

N=304

Figure 3

Industry categorization of respondents by risk level

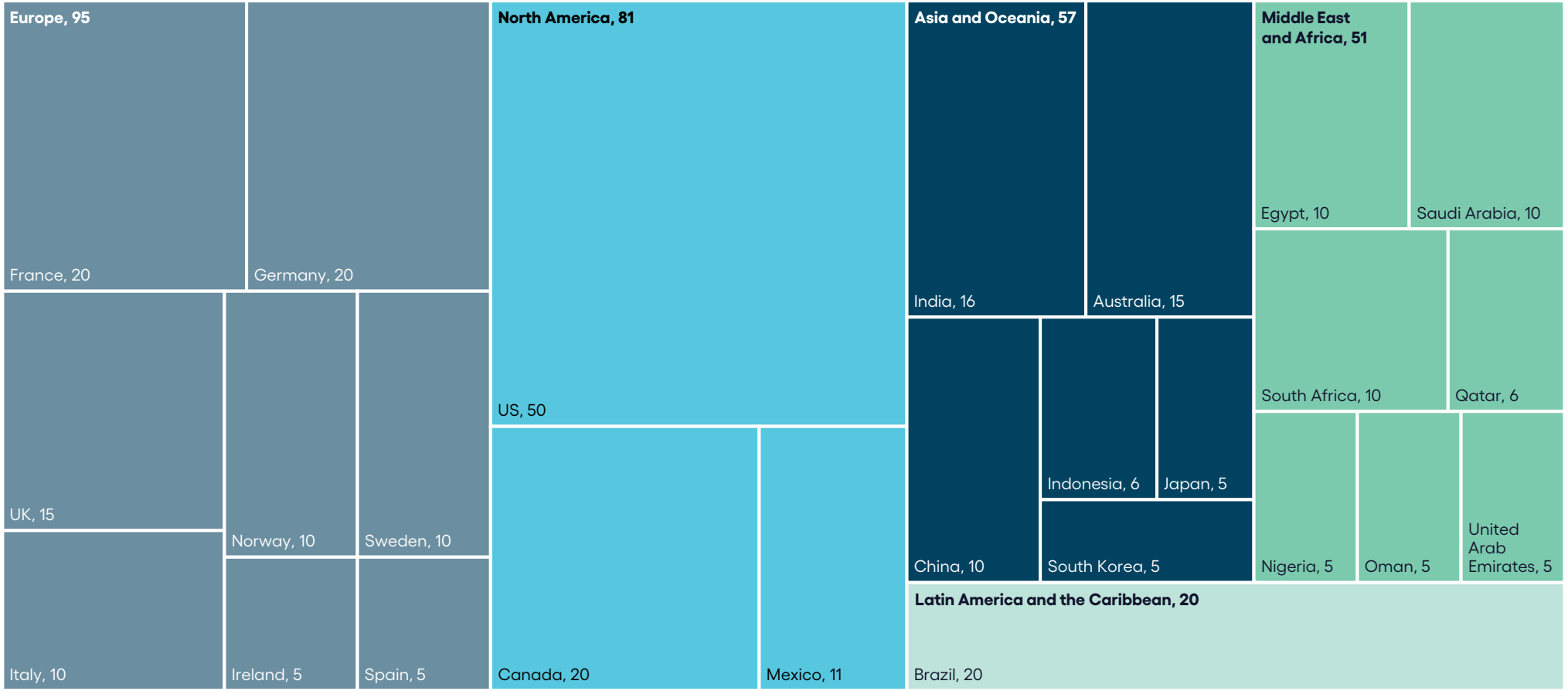


Source: Verdantix Global Corporate EHS Survey 2025

N=304

Figure 4

Geographic breakdown of respondents



Source: Verdantix Global Corporate EHS Survey 2025

N=304

Software and edge technologies are helping firms transform their approach to EHS

Verdantix amalgamated data from 304 EHS decision-makers across 24 industries, to gain a comprehensive overview of EHS strategies and technology budgets. The 2025 Verdantix survey identifies how EHS functions intend to spend their allocated budgets, which technologies they seek to implement and how they perceive consulting service providers. To learn more about EHS functions' long-term vision, Verdantix asked respondents what their priorities are for the next two years.

EHS functions leverage new technologies while maintaining core principles

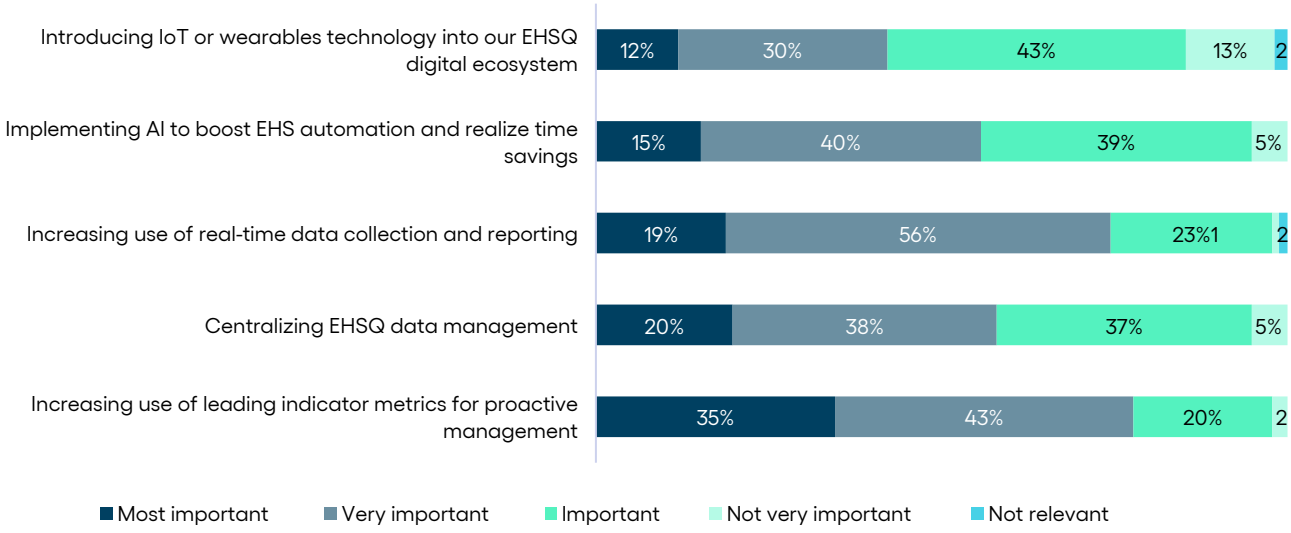
The diversification of EHS best practices has created a plethora of goals and priorities for firms to handle. These range from traditional aims such as compliance and reporting, to more contemporary issues, such as ESG strategy and worker wellbeing. To identify the current priorities for EHS functions, Verdantix interviewed decision-makers on the importance of various technology and operational initiatives. Our survey results show that:

- **Use of leading indicators to facilitate proactive management is still a top technological goal.** 'Proactive' management has been a major trend within EHS for a number of years and continues to be a significant aim. Out of six proposed technology goals, 35% of respondents consider the use of leading indicator metrics for proactive management to be the 'most important', with a further 43% suggesting it to be 'very important' (see **Figure 5**). Leading indicator metrics leverage a combination of incident data, near-miss reports, employee observations and key safety metrics such as corrective actions and training compliance. Collating these data sets enables EHS professionals to identify trends through thorough data analysis, and to forecast future performance.

Figure 5

EHSQ technology priority areas for the next two years

How important are the following EHSQ technology goals over the next two years?



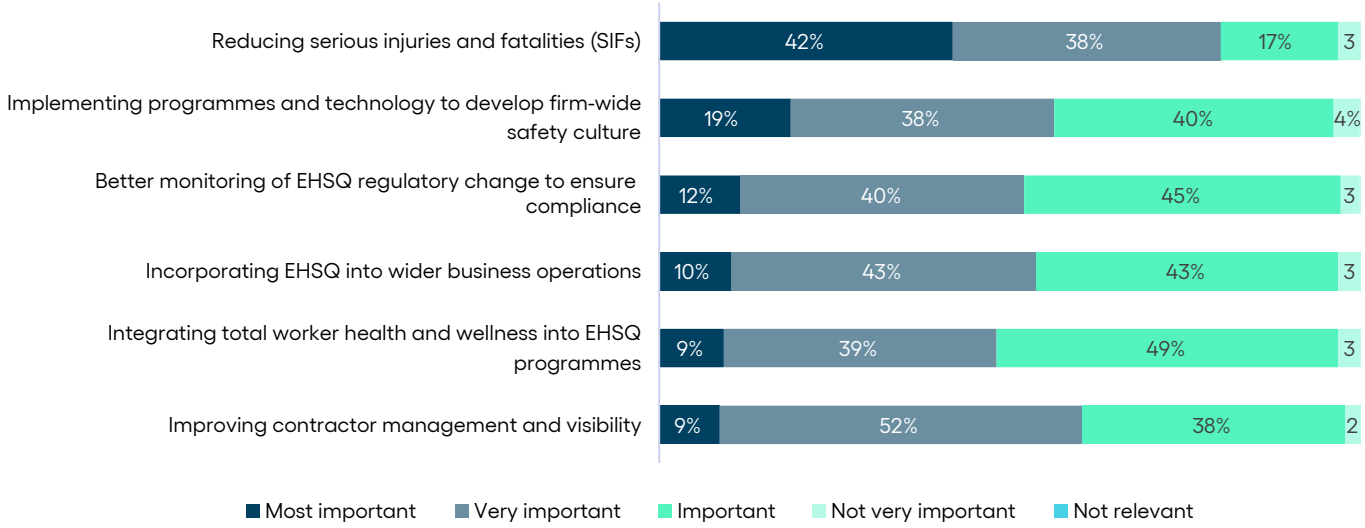
Note: Data labels are rounded to zero decimal places; percentages less than 4% are written as numbers.
Source: Verdantix Global Corporate EHS Survey 2025

N=304

Figure 6

EHSQ operational priority areas for the next two years

How important are the following EHSQ operational goals over the next two years?



Note: Data labels are rounded to zero decimal places; percentages less than 4% are written as numbers.
Source: Verdantix Global Corporate EHS Survey 2025

N=304

- **Real-time data collection plays an important role in determining underlying trends.**
  To develop these leading indicators on risk management, firms need a wealth of both current and historical data, to facilitate deep-dive analysis. Respondents to our survey acknowledge this, with 75% regarding the increased use of real-time data collection and reporting as either the 'most important' or a 'very important goal' for EHS functions. Collecting data in real time allows organizations to identify potential risks as they emerge and take immediate corrective actions to prevent incidents from occurring. Moreover, it helps provide a clearer picture of current EHS performance, empowering firms to take more informed decisions that protect the safety of their workers.
- **SIF reduction continues to dominate, as the key priority for EHS functions.**
  Reducing serious injuries and fatalities (SIFs) has been at the forefront of EHS operational goals for several years – and this is yet to change. Despite the diversification of EHS, its main purpose of minimizing and mitigating SIFs persists: in our survey, 42% of respondents consider reducing SIFs to be the 'most important' operational goal (see **Figure 6**). According to the Verdantix Safety Council, SIFs have remained fairly stagnant, notwithstanding a decrease in lost-time incidents (LTIs) over the last few decades (see Verdantix Strategic Focus: Five Key Takeaways From The Verdantix Safety Council). The main reason behind this phenomenon is the underreporting of near-misses and observations, which would enable EHS professionals to learn where potential incidents arise and implement measures to prevent them. Accessible technologies such as mobile applications are seen as valuable tools that can help boost the reporting and identification of SIF potentials.

- **Firms are seeking tools to help transform their organizational safety culture.**
  A factor in the underreporting of EHS incidents is frontline workers' attitudes towards safety. Negative attitudes around health and safety often discourage workers from engaging in EHS tasks and with data. Often, workers fail to understand the importance of health and safety to both themselves and the wider organization and view these processes as merely a tick-box exercise. Installing a positive safety culture can help workers realize the benefits of health and safety processes, increasing the chances of them engaging in them (see Verdantix Best Practices: Building Safety Engagement Through Technology). This aspect is captured in our survey, with respondents considering implementing programmes and technology to develop a firm-wide safety culture to be the second-most important goal for EHS functions. Some 19% of respondents consider it to be the 'most important', with a further 38% perceiving it as 'very important'.

Regulatory change is driving a shift towards a more proactive approach to EHS

Regulatory compliance remains a key component of EHS. Failing to comply with regulation creates a host of issues that can significantly impact an organization and cause wider harm. In recent years, an influx of ESG and sustainability legislation, and changes to chemicals regulation, have thrown up some new questions and decisions for EHS functions. To understand the impacts of regulatory change, Verdantix questioned decision-makers on its significance. Our survey finds that:

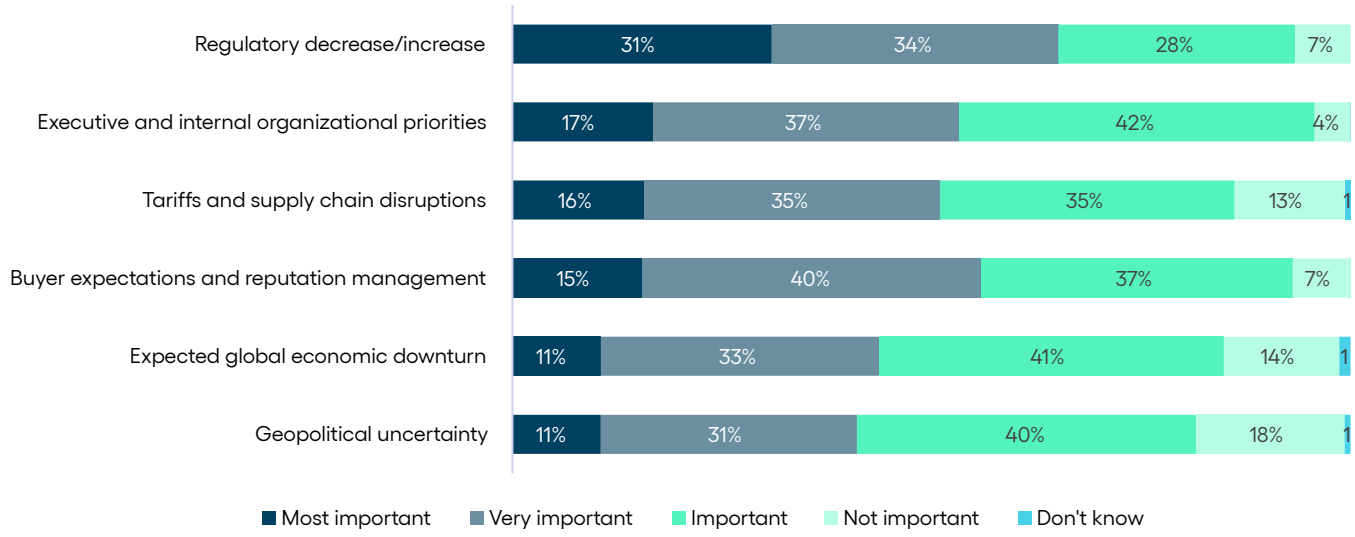
- **Regulatory change serves as the main driver of EHS investment.**
  Significant regulatory changes have reinforced compliance as a major goal for the EHS function. This is reflected in our survey, with 65% of respondents considering regulatory decrease/increase to be either the 'most important' or a 'very important' use case for EHS technology investment over the next two years (see **Figure 7**). Product compliance is one aspect of EHS where regulation has ramped up in recent times, and our survey reflects this. The tracking of regulatory change around chemicals, and the applicability of this, is considered to be either the 'most important' or a 'very important' chemical and product-compliance-related challenge by approximately half of our survey respondents (see **Figure 8**). A compliance-centric focus reduces the risk of violations, which can result in harsh financial penalties and negative brand perception. In May 2024 chemicals manufacturer TPC Group was fined $30 million after failing to prevent an explosion at its Port Neches facility, which released significant amounts of hazardous substances. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) identified that TPC failed to implement a robust risk management programme that would have prevented the explosion.

- **Firms are seeking solutions that can identify safe alternatives to hazardous substances.**
  The spike in new regulations around chemicals and product compliance has encouraged firms to proactively seek alternatives for hazardous substances. Although the US administration led by Donald Trump is considering relaxing certain limits, the demand for safer substitutes is still evident in our survey findings, with 36% of respondents describing it as the 'most important' chemical and product-compliance-related challenge. Software vendors have recognized this demand, providing advanced search capabilities to help users find alternatives. For example, Benchmark Gensuite leverages Praedicat, an AI web-scraping tool that enables firms to identify emerging chemical risks based on scientific literature, whilst EcoOnline uses a comparison feature to analyse the intrinsic properties of a product and any regulation to which it may be subject, from the local to the international level (see Verdantix Smart Innovators: Chemicals Management Software).

Figure 7

Impact of external and internal factors on EHSQ technology investment

How important are the following factors for your firm's EHS technology investment over the next two years?



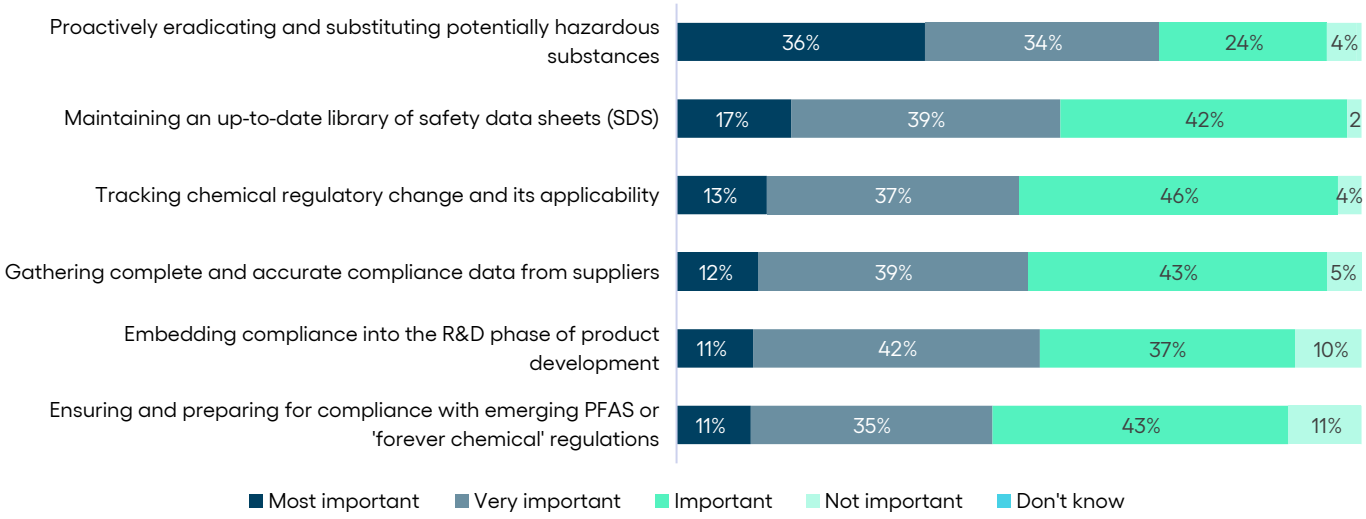
Note: Data labels are rounded to zero decimal places; percentages less than 4% are written as numbers.
Source: Verdantix Global Corporate EHS Survey 2025

N=304

Figure 8

Impact of chemical and product compliance challenges

How important are the following chemical and product-compliance-related challenges to your organization?



Note: Data labels are rounded to zero decimal places; percentages less than 4% are written as numbers.
Source: Verdantix Global Corporate EHS Survey 2025

N=304

Firms recognize the influence of contractor safety on overall safety performance

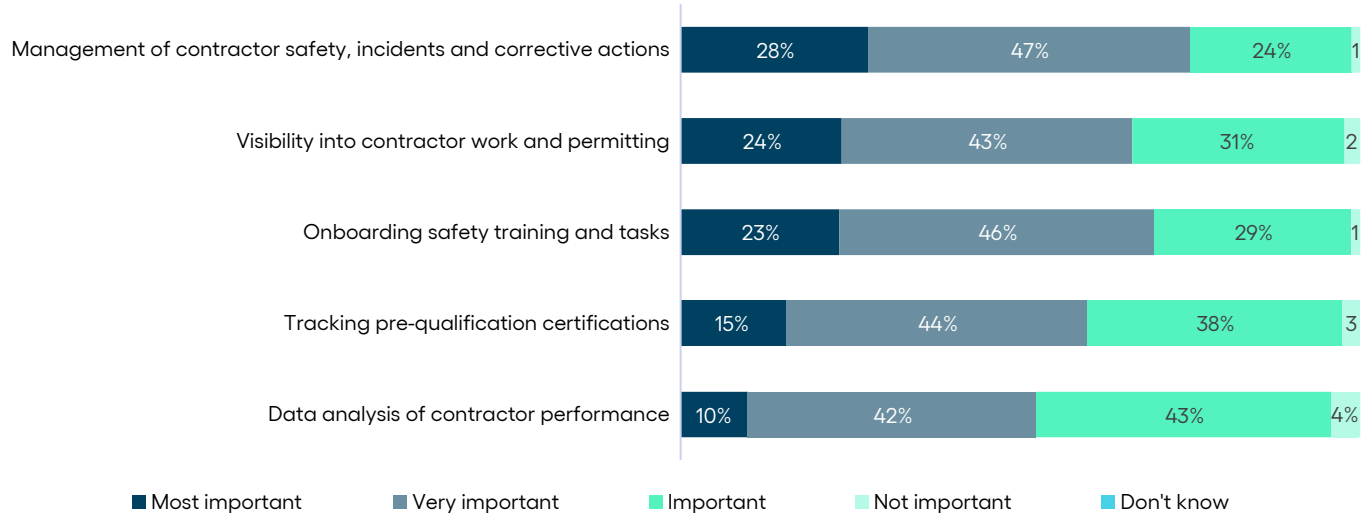
To meet project demands, firms often turn to hired contractors instead of long-term employees. The benefits of this strategy are flexibility and scalability, depending on the size of a project; cost savings through reduced overheads; and access to specialized skills to bridge knowledge gaps. However, for EHS functions, contractors pose a significant risk, due to their limited exposure to workplace culture and safety practices. To combat this, firms have invested in contractor management solutions that oversee contractor safety from pre-qualification to the end of their working tenure. Verdantix questioned EHS executives about their greatest challenges around contractor risk. The survey results show that:

- **Managing contractor safety is the most significant challenge for organizations.** In our survey, managing contractor safety, incidents and corrective actions emerges as the most important challenge for respondents, with approximately 75% considering it to be at least 'very important' (see **Figure 9**). Research from the UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the fatality rate for self-employed workers was more than double that of employed workers in the construction industry in 2024 (see Verdantix Smart Innovators: Contractor Safety Management (2025)). Construction, along with oil and gas, mining and manufacturing, is an example of a high risk industry with a pronounced dependence on contractors. Many firms still rely on traditional paper-based assessments for their contractor-based processes: this makes it difficult for contractors to record any observations, near-misses and incidents, leaving a host of underlying risks exposed. Through contractor management software, contractors can record observations in the same way as a full-time employee, ensuring that EHS executives have full oversight of their activity.

Figure 9

Impact of contractor management challenges

What are the biggest challenges your firm faces with managing contractor risk?



Note: Data labels are rounded to zero decimal places; percentages less than 4% are written as numbers.
Source: Verdantix Global Corporate EHS Survey 2025

N=304

- **Each stage of the contractor management process plays an important role.**
  Our survey addressed all aspects of the contractor management process, asking about challenges at each stage. The results show that a comparable share of respondents view three of the five options as either the 'most important' or a 'very important' difficulty. The gap between the most and the third-most important challenge is only 5 percentage points, highlighting the importance of each stage. Hiring firms need to ensure that workers have received the correct training and been assigned tasks that match their credentials. They must be able to monitor contractors whilst they are on site, with clear visibility of their activity and any observations they record. To help manage this, software vendors such as Avetta and Yokogawa have integrated control of work solutions into their contractor management platforms. These solutions comprise a system of processes that ensures work is conducted safely and risks handled appropriately. Given contractors' inexperience with their hiring clients' processes, firms find it highly useful to have a system that provides increased visibility into their activity (see Verdantix Strategic Focus: Integrating Control Of Work Into The Contractor Management Life Cycle).

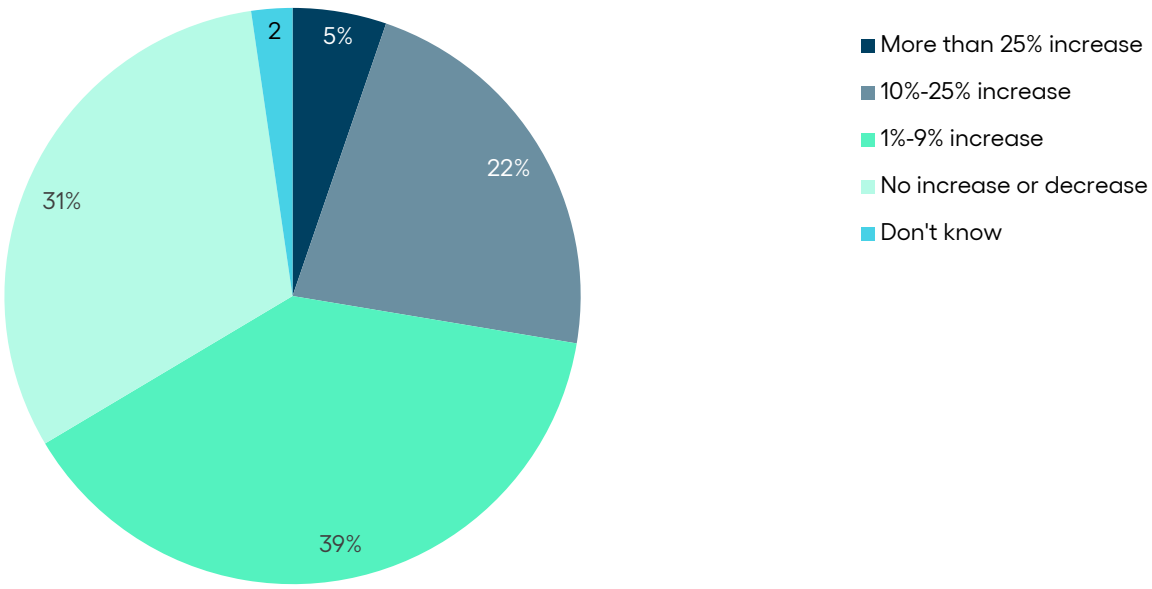
EHS budgets will continue to increase at a steady rate

The digital age has seen EHS functions transition from paper and Excel-based spreadsheets to software-based solutions that house their data and processes. ESG pressure means that current spending tends to be focused on environment-based modules, instead of more traditional safety tools such as for incident management. To understand how global trends are impacting EHS budgets overall, Verdantix asked respondents about their spending plans for the next 12 months.

Figure 10

Change in EHSQ spend over the next 12 months

How will your firm's overall EHS budget change over the next 12 months?



Note: Data labels are rounded to zero decimal places; percentages less than 4% are written as numbers.
Source: Verdantix Global Corporate EHS Survey 2025

N=304

Environmental initiatives still dominate EHS spending

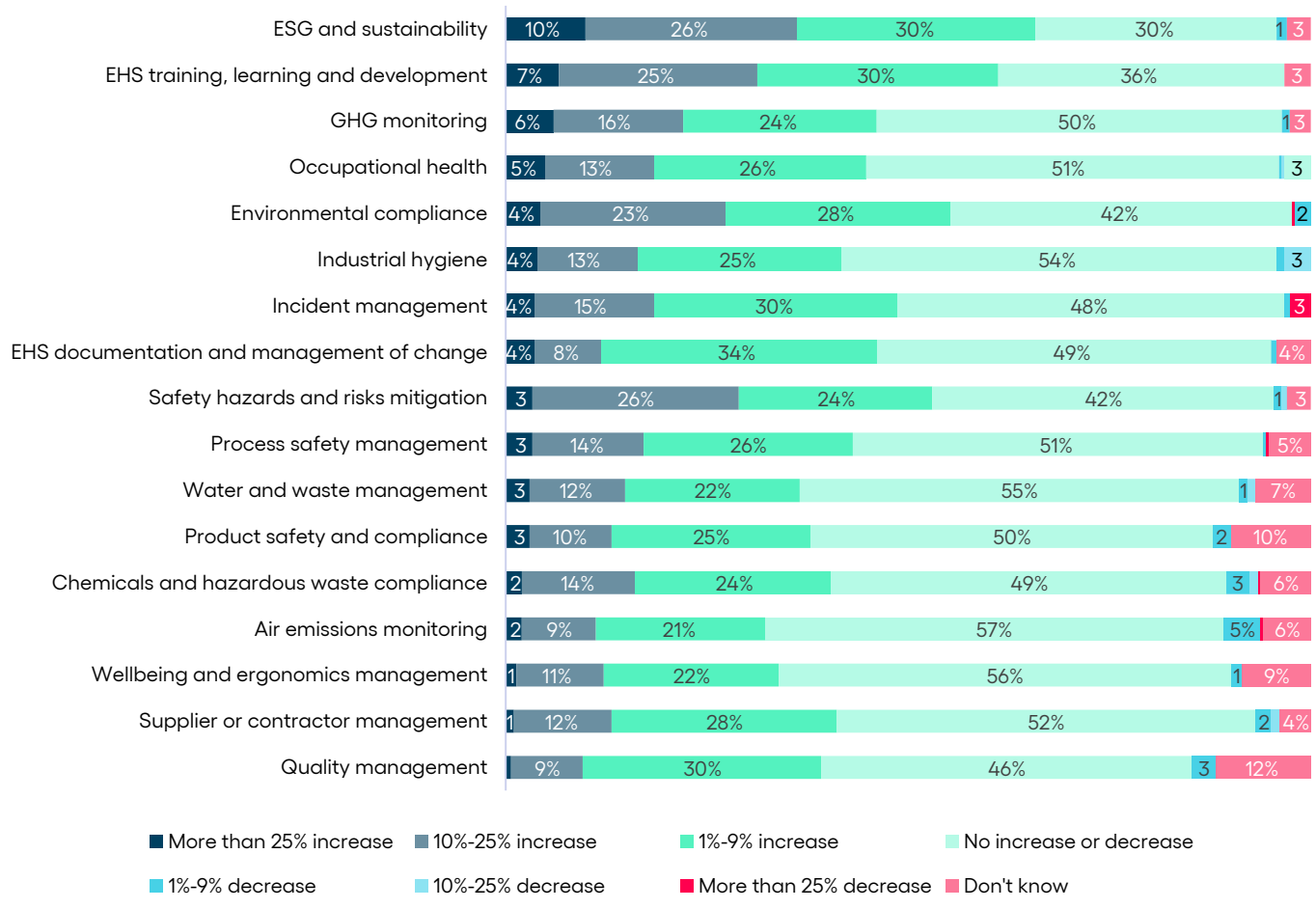
The volatile EHS spending witnessed during the years around COVID-19 has been replaced by more steady expenditure. Notwithstanding the heightening of socio-political issues over the last year, EHS spending is set to continue to rise. To understand the breakdown of spending over the next 12 months, Verdantix surveyed firms on their overall budget plans for each EHSQ category. Our survey results show:

- **Steady growth in global spending, but a large proportion citing no changes.** EHS spending is projected to maintain its upward trajectory over the next 12 months. Some 66% of organizations plan to increase their spending, with the vast majority (39%) predicting a rise of 1% to 9% (see **Figure 10**). The latest survey data indicate a decline in the proportion of respondents planning to boost their spending by over 10%, coupled with a rise in those intending to maintain their current expenditure levels. This trend is primarily driven by Europe and North America – the two largest, yet most mature EHS markets. These two regions are expected to achieve CAGRs for EHS software of 14.5% and 12.6% by 2029, respectively, which remains below the global rate of 14.6% (see Verdantix Market Size And Forecast: EHS Software 2023-2029 (Global)). Corporate firms in these regions are likely to have an established EHS ecosystem in place, with a significant proportion having already deployed software solutions.

Figure 11

Change in spend across EHSQ categories in 2026

How will your firm's spend on the following categories change in 2026 compared with 2025?



Note: Data labels are rounded to zero decimal places; percentages less than 4% are written as numbers.
Source: Verdantix Global Corporate EHS Survey 2025

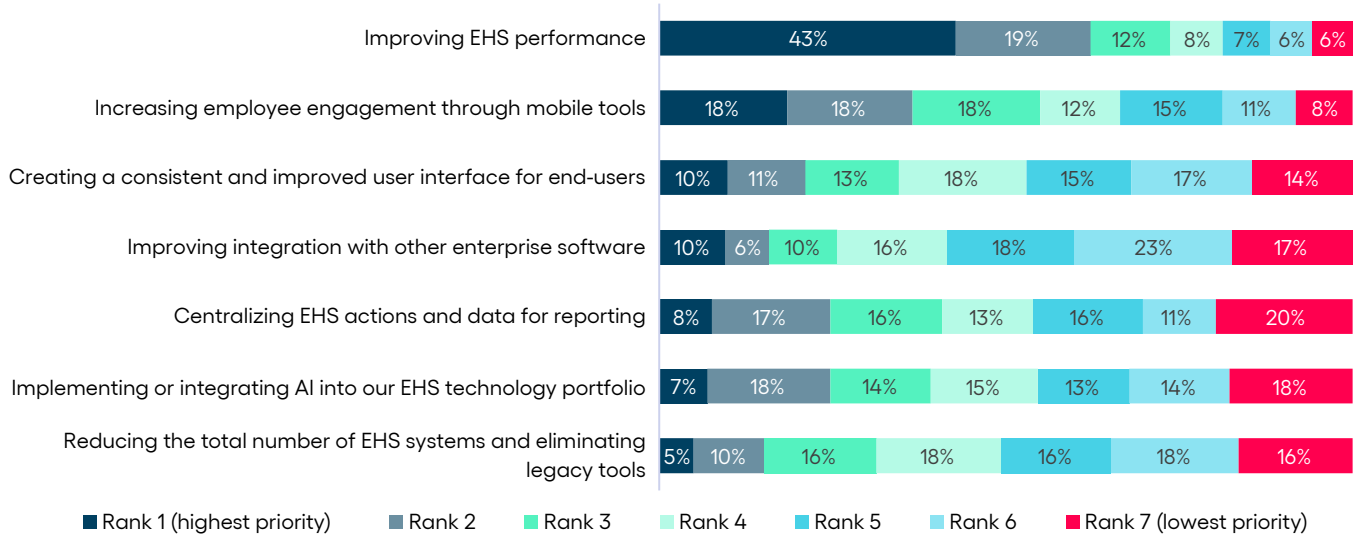
N=304

- **ESG and sustainability continuing to rank as the primary focus for EHS spending.**
  Since 2022, there has been a significant shift in global EHS spending away from core safety modules towards ESG and sustainability. As ESG regulations go live, firms have no choice but to report and to maintain compliance with legislation. Although EHS functions now have less responsibility over ESG issues, they still play a prominent role, providing support through access to environmental data on air and GHG emissions, product compliance and water and wastewater. These trends are reflected in spending, with 36% of respondents suggesting an increase of at least 10% on ESG and sustainability spending (see **Figure 11**).
  There is an acknowledgement that health and safety also supports the 'S' (social) aspect of ESG, particularly with regard to total worker health. This is now seen as the bridge between EHS and ESG, with its focus on worker conditions and mental health and wellbeing (see Verdantix Market Insight: How The Intersection With ESG Is Transforming The EHS Software Landscape).
- **A thirst for EHS training to equip workers with the knowledge needed to reduce the risk of injuries.**
  Training also receives a significant boost in the EHS spending budget. EHS training, learning and development is the second-highest category for spend, with 62% of respondents suggesting a rise. Software vendors help firms assign and monitor EHS training programmes dedicated to their specific industries and roles. Analysis of training data can reveal patterns in events related to specific tasks or equipment, showing where the gaps are in employees' knowledge and skills, to help firms address these. EHS training can also create a more proactive approach to safety, where firms take precautionary measures to prevent incidents occurring in the first place (see Verdantix Green Quadrant: EHS Software 2025).

Figure 12

Digital strategy development priorities

When developing a digital EHS strategy, what level of priority are the following objectives?



Note: Data labels are rounded to zero decimal places.
Source: Verdantix Global Corporate EHS Survey 2025

N=304

Ease of use is seen as a key component in digital strategies, to achieve widespread adoption

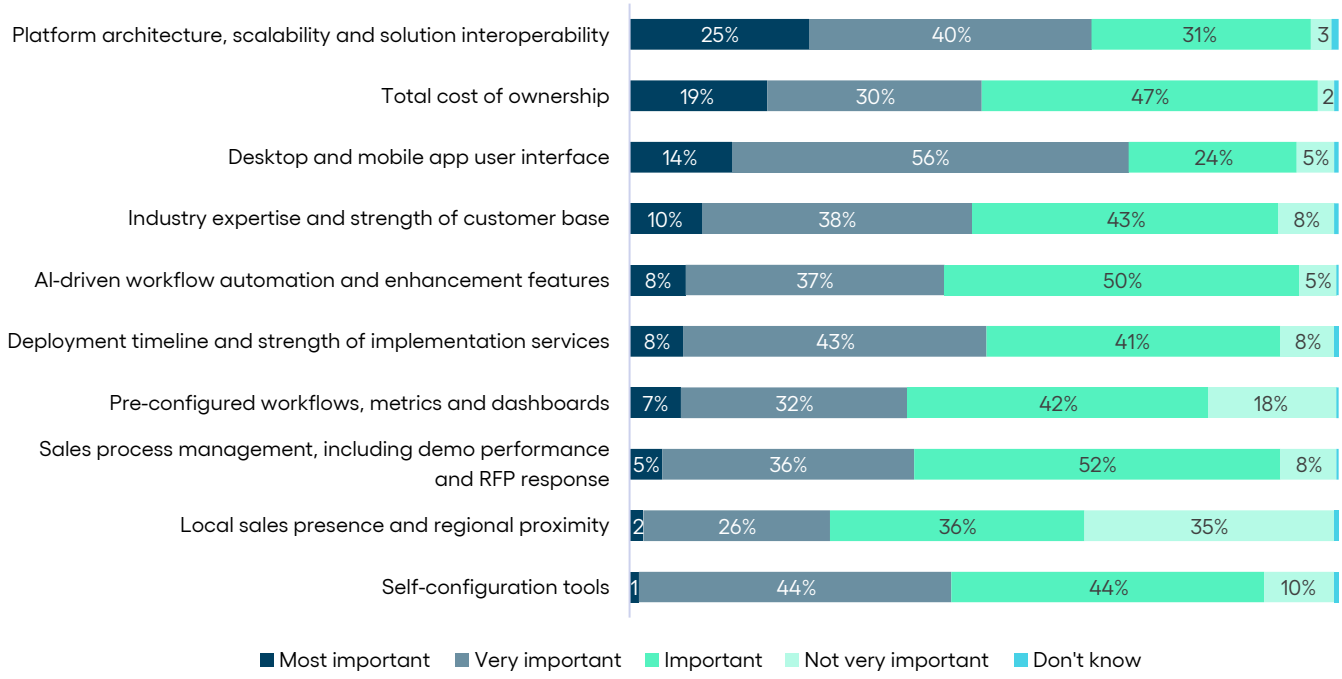
The implementation of EHS software is a fundamental aspect of digital strategy, helping to transform processes and solving the function's key issues. Although EHS software solutions boast various innovative capabilities that can help streamline workflows, failure to properly engage with tools can prevent firms from realizing these advantages. To reap the full benefits of an EHS solution, several organizational and technical factors must be considered. Verdantix questioned subject-matter experts on their digital EHS strategies and the factors influencing their selection decisions. Their answers show that:

- **Mature EHS markets are transitioning towards tertiary objectives.**
  As in previous surveys, improving EHS performance is ranked as the fundamental objective, with 43% of respondents viewing it as their highest priority – some 25 percentage points in front of the next objective (see **Figure 12**). However, it is worth noting that in some regions, such as Europe, firms are now prioritizing more tertiary objectives. For example, the gap between the first and second-highest priority ('improve EHS performance' and 'increase employee engagement through mobile tools') is just 5% in Germany, while in France, both priorities are jointly ranked as the highest priority by 35% of respondents. The European EHS market is one of the most mature, with the majority of mid-market and enterprise firms having an established software ecosystem. This healthy position can allow these firms to focus on tertiary objectives such as employee engagement and an improved user interface (UI).

Figure 13

EHSQ software buyer priorities

When selecting EHS software, how important are the following criteria in influencing your purchase decision?



Note: Data labels are rounded to zero decimal places; percentages less than 4% are written as numbers.
Source: Verdantix Global Corporate EHS Survey 2025

N=304

- **Software interoperability is an influential lever behind firms' purchasing decisions.**
  Platform architecture, scalability and solution interoperability together represent a major factor influencing firms' purchasing decisions, with 65% of respondents considering this to be either the 'most important' or a 'very important' aspect (see **Figure 13**). Consolidation of various point solutions has been a major theme for EHS functions for a number of years. Software providers have in turn expanded their solutions to create broad platforms that offer modules across the entire EHS ecosystem. However, many software providers have achieved this through aggressive acquisition strategies, rather than by improving their in-house capabilities. This has, in some cases, created software platforms with solutions that are not fully integrated. The consequences of this can include data silos across an organization, with important data lost between different departments and regions. By contrast, integrated platforms enable senior executives to view all EHS data on a single pane, providing a more accurate picture of performance (see Verdantix Best Practices: Reassessing EHS Digital Strategy In 2025).

- **Mobility and UI are key factors in driving increased engagement.**
  To help overcome the underreporting of observations, vendors have leveraged the power of mobile apps, which enable frontline workers to complete EHS tasks without the need for a desktop or paper. In recent years, mobile apps have improved significantly, with a focus on providing a simple UI. This makes it easier to work through processes, which in turn, encourages more users to engage with EHS data. Our survey illustrates this: 70% of survey respondents state that desktop and mobile app UI is either the 'most important' or a 'very important' factor influencing their purchasing decisions. Several software vendors, such as ecoPortal, EHS Insight and SafetyCulture, have positioned themselves as mobile-centric providers focused on high to medium risk industries that require a simple but easy-to-use EHS solution.

Firms are yet to unlock the full potential of emerging EHS technologies

Despite a slight dip from previous years, EHS investment is set to continue increasing over the next 12 months, mainly fuelled by greater pressure to meet tough environmental regulations. ESG and sustainability remains the focus, along with other environment tracking modules such as GHG monitoring and water and wastewater management. To understand which EHS technologies are gaining traction, Verdantix asked respondents about their investment plans over the next year.

ESG and sustainability heavily influence the rollout of EHS digital technologies

In conjunction with software, workers can leverage various technological devices to help streamline EHS processes. EHS functions have now begun to consolidate their role within ESG, providing support through data collection and aggregation. As a result, EHS-based technologies that support ESG have gained traction. To identify specific technologies enjoying widespread market adoption, Verdantix polled survey respondents on their deployment plans across 12 specific use cases. Results indicate that:

- **Lone worker devices and industrial wearables are beginning to see greater uptake.**
  Lone worker devices and industrial wearables have finally started to gain some traction within the EHS sphere. Some 18% of survey respondents have already widely rolled out the technology, whilst a further 27% have partially rolled it out and are looking to increase its use (see **Figure 14**). Although these technologies have existed for a number of years, uptake has been somewhat slow to date, with concerns around cost and integration with existing EHS software ecosystems limiting their adoption. However, as firms continue to digitize and consolidate their EHS solutions, there is a genuine opportunity to leverage this technology. One software vendor taking advantage of this is Benchmark Gensuite, which partnered with industrial wearables provider MākuSafe in June 2024, to improve worker safety by delivering real-time data collection

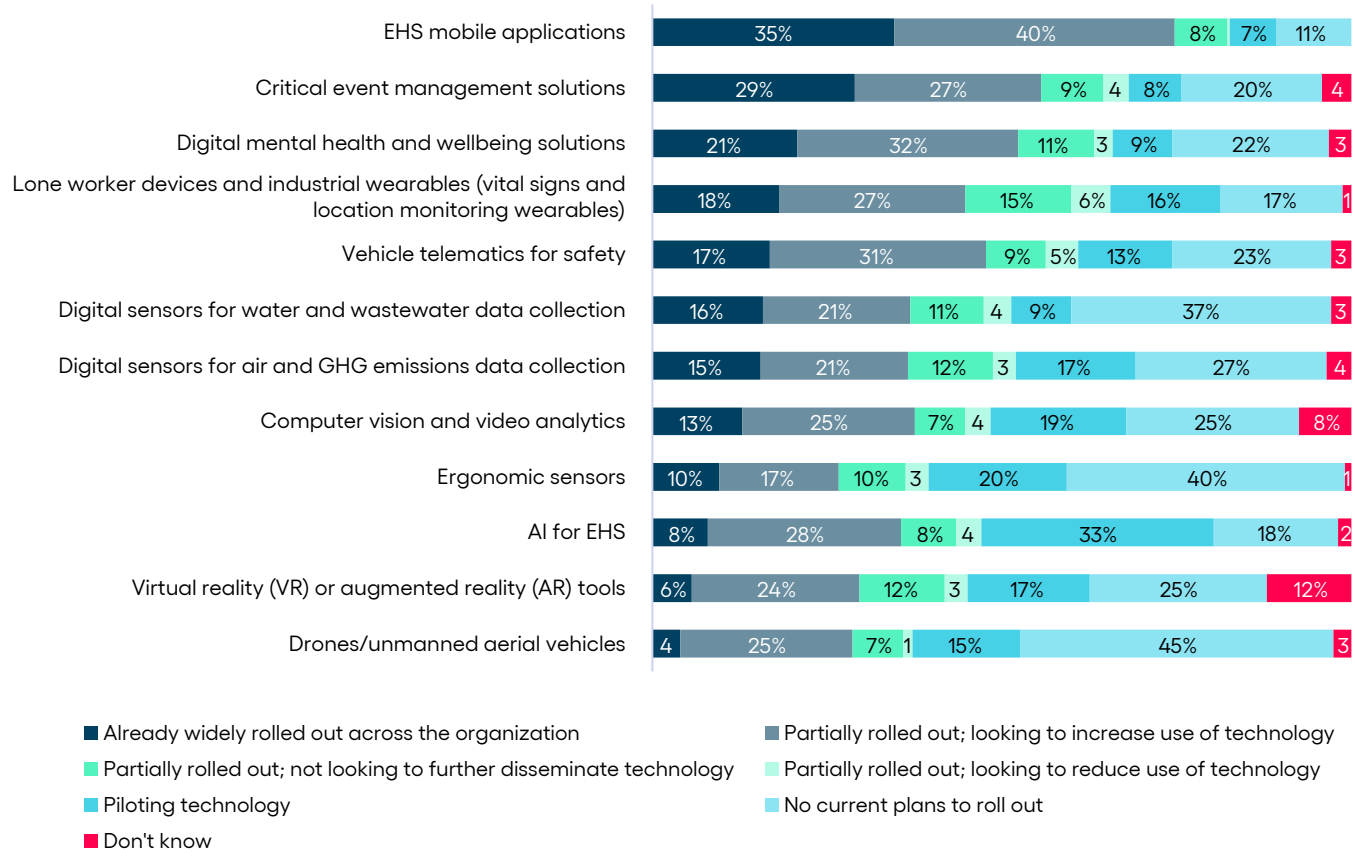
to help form predictions. Lone worker devices and industrial wearables can also help firms achieve their overarching goals of real-time data collection and developing leading indicators, by providing granular insights into data – such as the performance of field safety workers – that would previously have been difficult to obtain (see Verdantix Strategic Focus: EHS Technologies For Protecting Field Service Workers).

- **Adoption of mental health and wellbeing solutions increases sharply on last year.** Another technology with higher adoption rates compared with last year is digital mental health and wellbeing solutions. Some 21% of respondents have already widely rolled out the technology, with a further 32% looking to increase use, compared with just 12% and 16% for the same categories in 2024. This rise coincides with growth concepts such as sustainable workforces and total worker health. Although these strategies encompass more than mental health, they acknowledge that worker wellbeing has a significant effect on performance and productivity. While mental health solutions tend to be specialist standalone apps, some EHS software vendors have incorporated this functionality into their wider solutions. For example, HSI has created extensive libraries of health and wellness courses, while Cority has partnered with Highmark Interactive, a technology provider that enables users to access neurological assessment tools via its EQ At Work solution, to ensure staff are cognitively and emotionally fit to work.

Figure 14

Digital technology adoption in 2026

To what extent will your firm roll out the following digital technologies in 2026?



Note: Data labels are rounded to zero decimal places; percentages less than 5% are written as numbers.
Source: Verdantix Global Corporate EHS Survey 2025

N=304

- **Critical event management solutions see traction, with a growing need to manage risk from natural disasters.** One of the impacts from climate change is an increase in both the amount and scale of natural disasters. Although the number of natural disasters in 2024 was lower than in 2023, fatalities caused by these events were still significantly higher than the 21st century average. The impact of these issues goes beyond just physical safety, with potential economic disruption and supply chain issues just some examples of the long-term effects. With climate change projected to persist, if not accelerate, natural disasters are likely to continue occurring at a high rate. As a result, buyers are seeking critical event management solutions, which can help detect, assess and manage these disasters, to minimize their impact. According to our survey, some 29% have already widely rolled out critical event management solutions across their organizations, with a further 27% looking to increase their use of this technology. Some EHS software vendors offer dedicated crisis management solutions. In June 2025 EcoOnline acquired D4H – a crisis readiness and response solution – and connected it to its broader EHS platform.

Despite the development of specific use cases, AI adoption remains relatively slow

AI technologies have started to see adoption in the business world, with a list of specific use cases on offer to improve workflows. In the EHS sphere, several use cases where AI can be leveraged have been introduced. As these technologies are still relatively nascent, take-up has been mixed, with some firms widely rolling out these tools across their organization, whilst others express some scepticism. Verdantix surveyed decision-makers on the AI technologies they are deploying and the barriers they face. Results show that:

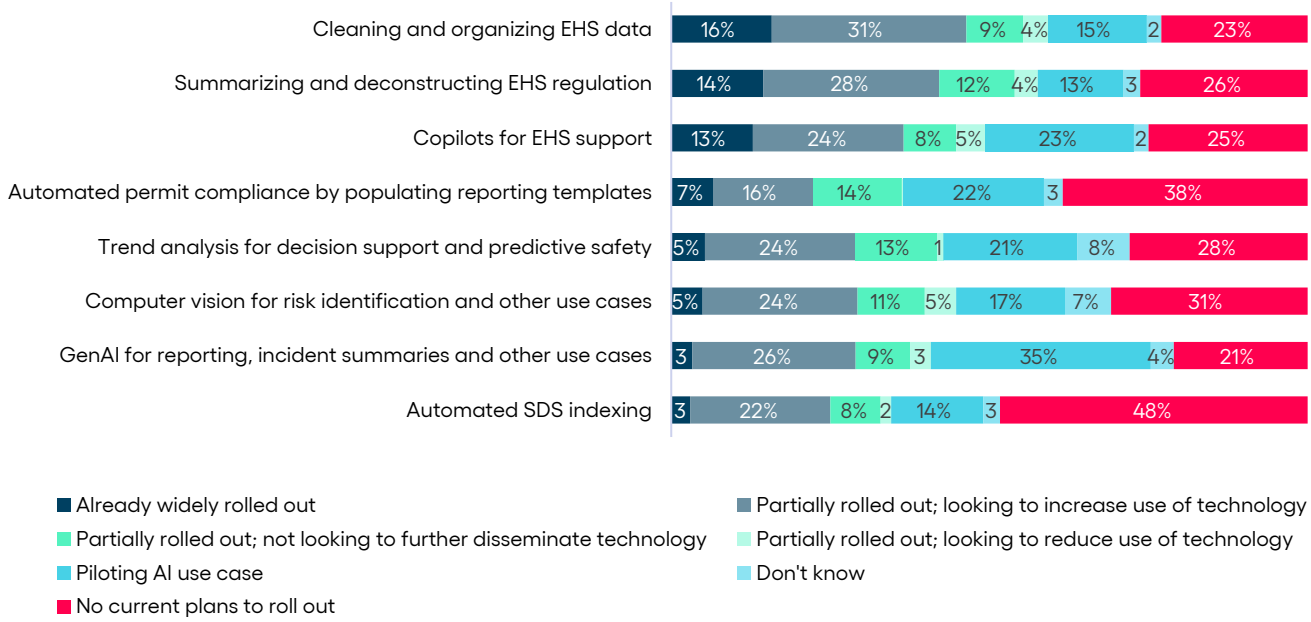
- **Generative AI (GenAI) capabilities lag behind automation-focused tools.** EHS software vendors have started to implement specific AI use cases into their products. These range from use cases around automation to streamline manual tasks, to the provision of predictive capabilities based on historical data. Use cases driving adoption tend to focus more on automation than GenAI, with cleaning and organizing data the most widely deployed option. Specifically, 16% of respondents have already widely rolled out technology for this use case, with a further 31% looking to increase use (see **Figure 15**). This is closely followed by summarizing and deconstructing EHS regulation. In our 2024 survey, data quality was seen as the primary barrier restricting AI use in EHS. This year's responses demonstrate how firms have turned these barriers into use cases, with software vendors acknowledging the impact of data quality on meeting EHS objectives. Take VelocityEHS, which is set to release its Description Quality Assessment feature, to improve incident documentation quality through automated scoring and feedback. Ensuring EHS data excellence could prove to be the necessary step firms must take before they start to leverage more transformative AI applications.

- **Scepticism around the value of AI solutions hampers budget allocation for investment.** EHS functions regularly compete with other business functions to secure investment. C-Suite executives often fail to see EHS as a critical business unit, placing it at a disadvantage compared with other functions when building a business case for investment. This is further compounded by the infancy of AI solutions and the ambiguity around their benefits to the organization. In our survey, respondents consider a lack of budget allocation and prioritization of AI investment to be the second-most important barrier to successful implementation, cited by 26% of respondents (see **Figure 16**). Many firms may feel that they can only invest in AI solutions once there is clear evidence of their benefits to the wider business. This is reflected in our survey findings, with the perception that existing commercial EHS AI solutions lack maturity or are not yet proven the leading 'most important' barrier to using AI. With proven use cases, firms can quantify their benefit and are therefore more likely to allocate budget to EHS departments to prioritize AI investment (see Verdantix Best Practices: Reassessing EHS Digital Strategy In 2025). Many software vendors are in the process of building and deploying AI use cases, but it may be some time before their exact benefits can be quantified.

Figure 15

Deployment of AI use cases

To what extent will your firm deploy AI for the following use cases over the next two years?



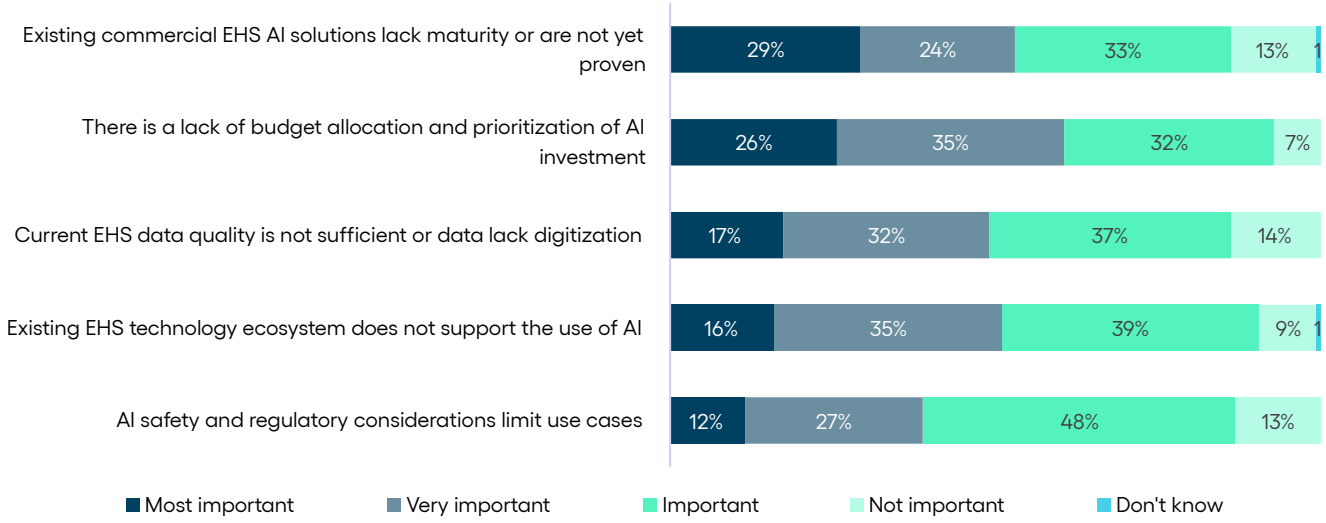
Note: Data labels are rounded to zero decimal places; percentages less than 4% are written as numbers.
Source: Verdantix Global Corporate EHS Survey 2025

N=304

Figure 16

Barriers to AI adoption

How important are the following barriers to successfully using AI for EHS?



Note: Data labels are rounded to zero decimal places; percentages less than 4% are written as numbers.
Source: Verdantix Global Corporate EHS Survey 2025

N=304

- **Although current EHS data lack quality, AI is helping to clean and organize.**
  With EHS data often sprawled over various point solutions and paper-based systems, the quality of the data can be questionable. Applying AI to these data to provide further insights may be risky, revealing trends that may not be entirely true. Instead, AI should be used to clean and organize data into a more presentable state, to enable accurate trend analysis. Our global survey shows that cleaning and organizing data is the most widely deployed AI use case for EHS. By leveraging data management capabilities, users will be able to access more transformative AI functionality, such as trend analysis, prediction creation and GenAI – all of which, as of mid-2025, are yet to exhibit widespread adoption.

verdantix

Master the detail

reimagine the big picture

Verdantix is an independent analyst firm that supports a global client base through research, data and advisory.

Unlimited analyst inquiry service

The world's most influential businesses and forward-looking tech leaders rely on Verdantix to inform their critical decisions.

Verdantix analyst inquiries help you apply our research and data to your unique business context, so you can evaluate your market position, benchmark against competitors, sharpen your product and messaging, and navigate evolving market dynamics.

Inquire now

Explore our research

Contact

Verdantix Ltd,
Woolyard, 52-56 Bermondsey Street,
London SE1 3UD, United Kingdom

contact@verdantix.com
@Verdantix