

# Mainland China AI perception check

Published on 11 November 2023 by Nik Samoylov

We conducted a study similar to the [Taiwan AI perception check](#) among adults in China between 7 and 8 November 2023 with N=510, representative by gender and age. The results were re-weighted again to match the demographic pyramid.

In the resulting dataset, 10% of sample worked manufacturing. 74% were parents.

## Comparison with x-risk perception in Taiwan

	Taiwan: 24 to 25 October 2023	PRC: 7 to 8 November 2023	Significant difference at 5% level?
artificial intelligence (AI) poses grave dangers (such as human extinction) in the next few years	33%	19%	✓
in a matter of a few years, artificial intelligence (AI) companies can develop capabilities of AI above human level	60%	68%	✓
you cannot simply switch off a sufficiently advanced artificial intelligence (AI) system if it does not want to be switched off	52%	37%	✓
governments must implement a pause on advancing artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities, at least until there are solutions to make AI development safe	43%	40%	
an international moratorium on advancing artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities is viable and can be effective	36%	42%	✓
there is no risk of human extinction from artificial intelligence (AI)	36%	67%	✓
artists and content creators should be paid if their work is used in training artificial intelligence (AI) models	58%	77%	✓
software that uses artificial intelligence (AI) is trustworthy	43%	78%	✓
N	503	510	

Average margin of error for a 90% confidence interval  $\pm 0.1$  for the mean score and  $\pm 4$  p.p. for top 2 box (agreement percentage)

Younger people express more x-risk-related concerns than older people:

	Female	Male	Segment 30 or under	Segment 31 - 56	57 and above
artificial intelligence (AI) poses grave dangers (such as human extinction) in the next few years	25%	16%	31%	21%	10%
in a matter of a few years, artificial intelligence (AI) companies can develop capabilities of AI above human level	74%	66%	63%	69%	78%
you cannot simply switch off a sufficiently advanced artificial intelligence (AI) system if it does not want to be switched off	39%	38%	57%	38%	22%
governments must implement a pause on advancing artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities, at least until there are solutions to make AI development safe	40%	48%	50%	40%	46%
an international moratorium on advancing artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities is viable and can be effective	42%	47%	55%	39%	50%
there is no risk of human extinction from artificial intelligence (AI)	73%	65%	58%	70%	78%
artists and content creators should be paid if their work is used in training artificial intelligence (AI) models	79%	80%	69%	80%	85%
software that uses artificial intelligence (AI) is trustworthy	81%	78%	73%	79%	87%
N	275	235	102	301	107

This table is unweighed. Results are indicative for each subgroup.

## Familiarity with AI chat bots

Reported usage and familiarity with AI chat bots is closer to USA than Taiwan:

Are you familiar with ...?	USA: 27 to 28 August 2023	Taiwan: 24 to 25 October 2023	PRC: 7 to 8 November 2023	
	Chat-GPT		Ernie-Bot	Doubao chatbot
Never heard of it	27%	16%	24%	23%
Heard of it, but have not used it	40%	40%	47%	48%
I have used it once or a few times	21%	31%	22%	22%
I use it frequently	12%	14%	8%	7%

## Overall perception of AI

Overall perception of AI in mainland China is indicatively more positive than in Taiwan (but we find no significant difference between the 63% in Taiwan and 69% in mainland China):

	Australia	Taiwan	Mainland China
artificial intelligence (AI) creates more problems than it solves	57%	37%	32%
artificial intelligence (AI) solves more problems than it creates	43%	63%	69%
N	1481	503	510

For this question, we used the same de-biasing methodology as in the Roy Morgan study (i.e. asking roughly half of the respondents "Do you agree that artificial intelligence (AI) creates more problems than it solves? (Yes/No) and other half "Do you agree that artificial intelligence (AI) solves more problems than it creates? (Yes/No). Then we invert the "No" answers and count them as "Yes" for the opposite question.

Using the same de-biasing methodology, we find that 76% of Chinese adults think that humanity should try to create superhuman general-purpose artificial intelligence in the next few decades.

## Open-ended responses

Respondents were given an option to share additional thoughts about AI. Most opted not to, but among those who did there are mixed opinions on the overall impact of AI, with more seeing it as a positive force for progress:

1. **Limited interest:** Many respondents do not have any additional thoughts to share about artificial intelligence.
2. **Convenience and safety:** Some see the potential for AI to make life more convenient, while others are cautious about potential safety concerns.
3. **AI as a tool:** Some view AI as a helpful tool that can make our lives easier, like a torch in the caveman era.
4. **AI as a tool for progress:** Some view AI as a necessary tool for human progress and development, rather than something to be feared or destroyed.
5. **Impact on daily life:** Many recognize that AI is already changing our daily lives and will continue to do so in the future, from smart homes to self-driving cars to healthcare and education.
6. **Broad applications:** Others see the wide range of applications for AI and its potential to solve various problems.
7. **Future development:** Many believe that AI will continue to develop and play a crucial role in various industries and areas of life.
8. **Need for regulation:** Some emphasize the need for global legislation and regulation to ensure the safe and ethical development of AI.
9. **High security:** There were ambiguous mentions of "security".
10. **Ethical considerations:** Some emphasize the importance of addressing ethical and moral issues related to AI.
11. **Lack of demand:** A few respondents do not see a need for AI in their lives.
12. **Mixed feelings:** Some have both positive and negative thoughts about AI, recognizing its potential benefits but also expressing concerns.
13. **Positive impact on society:** Many believe that AI can bring convenience, efficiency, and happiness to people's lives and benefit society as a whole.
14. **Potential for job displacement:** There are concerns about the potential loss of jobs due to AI, but also recognition of the creation of new job opportunities.
15. **Self-learning capabilities:** Some see the potential for AI's self-learning and evolution to drive technological progress.
16. **Need for control:** Some emphasize the need to control and limit the use of AI to prevent negative consequences.
17. **Advancements in various fields:** Respondents recognize the potential for AI to advance various fields such as healthcare, education, transportation, and environmental protection.

Overall, perception of AI among adults in mainland China appears to be more positive than in Taiwan.