

AI Tool Launches Hit Record Pace as Industry Moves From Experimentation to Infrastructure

NEW YORK, NY, UNITED STATES, March 17, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The number of artificial intelligence tools for businesses and consumers has increased faster than ever before, with industry trackers now listing over 16,000 AI products worldwide, and analysts believe the total, including private systems, is more than 50,000 active tools.

That figure, drawn from aggregated data across directories including Product Hunt, G2, Futurepedia, and

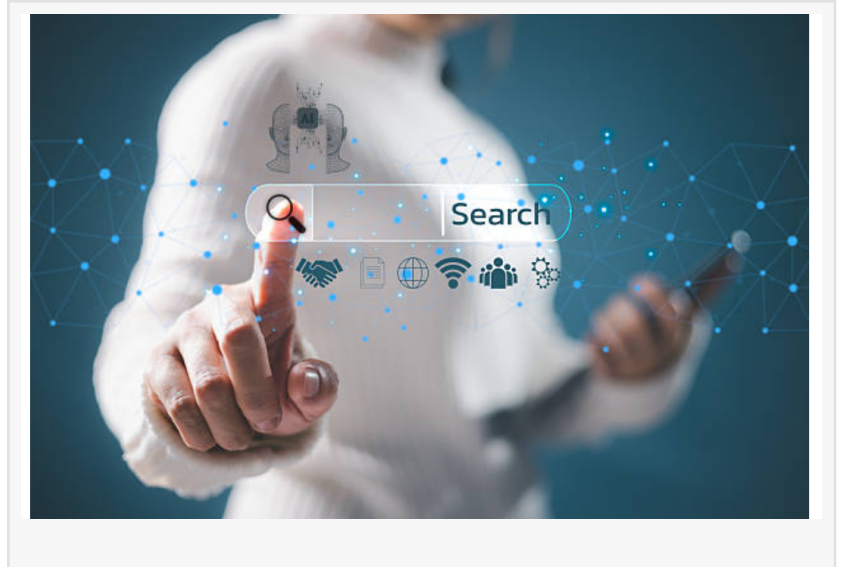
GitHub, represents a landscape that barely existed three years ago. The surge began in late 2022 following the mass adoption of large language models, and it has accelerated in each subsequent year.

The velocity became particularly visible in 2025. Of the top 15 launches on Product Hunt, the technology industry's leading platform for new product discovery, 13 were tagged as artificial intelligence products, according to the platform's annual review. A single quarter, the first three months of 2025, saw AI-focused startups raise \$59.6 billion in venture capital, a 35% increase over the \$44 billion raised in the final quarter of 2024, per Crunchbase data.

For the full year 2024, funding of AI-related companies reached \$100 billion globally, an 80% increase compared to 2023.

Stanford University's annual AI Index, published in 2025, documented the scale of the shift in production terms. Nearly 90% of notable AI models released in 2024 came from the private sector, up from 60% the year before, as industry outpaced academic institutions in both volume and deployment. The United States alone produced 40 notable AI models in 2024, compared with 15 from China and three from Europe.

Adoption Spreads Across Every Sector



The applications span virtually every sector. Tools covering coding, legal research, clinical decision support, financial analysis, marketing, customer service, and domain-specific search have entered commercial operation at a pace that is straining both enterprise procurement processes and the ability of users to evaluate competing products.

Adoption data from McKinsey shows that 78% of organizations now use AI in at least one business function, up from 55% in 2023. In the United Kingdom, Amazon Web Services has reported that one new company adopts AI every 60 seconds.

"There are SO many AI tools right now for writing, meetings, code, design, finance," one developer noted on Product Hunt's community forums in early 2026, a sentiment that has become a recurring theme among enterprise technology buyers attempting to assess an increasingly fragmented market.

Vertical Search Emerges as a Distinct Category

Among the categories that has seen particular growth is domain-specific, or "vertical," AI search. Unlike general-purpose platforms such as ChatGPT or Gemini, [vertical search engines](#) are built to answer queries within a defined industry context, drawing on proprietary data sets and sector-specific knowledge that broader models do not reliably handle.

Harvey, a legal AI used by more than 337 client organisations across 53 countries, surpassed \$100 million in annual recurring revenue in July 2025. OpenEvidence, a clinical intelligence platform for physicians, handles more than 15 million queries per month and reached a reported valuation of \$6 billion in its latest funding round. Both companies have cited access to specialist data, not model architecture, as the primary source of their competitive advantage.

The pattern has extended to other regulated and information-dense industries. [marvn.ai](#), a vertical search engine launched in November 2025 by Marlin Media Ltd., applies the same architecture to consumer-facing discovery, enabling natural language queries across a network of more than 500 licensed operators. The platform added a curated news and knowledge hub in January 2026 with follow-up query capability, reflecting an expansion toward the kind of contextual intelligence that has driven adoption in the legal and medical categories.

The broader economic stakes of the build-out are significant. Worldwide spending on generative AI is estimated to reach \$644 billion in 2025, a 76.4% increase compared to 2024, according to Gartner. The global AI market, valued at roughly \$391 billion in 2025, is projected by Grand View Research to reach \$3.5 trillion by 2033.

Questions of Quality and Longevity

Not all analysts are sanguine about the pace of expansion. Gartner research shows that the average AI startup lifespan remains under four years without sustained revenue, and a 2024 Boston Consulting Group survey found that just 26% of companies have developed the necessary capabilities to move beyond proofs of concept and generate tangible value from their

AI investments.

The European Union's AI Act, which entered into force in 2024, is expected to constrain product releases in regulated categories such as health and finance, while leaving creative and productivity tools largely unrestricted. That regulatory divergence may increasingly shape where new tools are developed and to which markets they are first deployed.

For enterprise buyers, the challenge is no longer access. With more than 50,000 tools in active use, the question, analysts say, has shifted to selection, integration, and determining which among the current generation of products will still be operating in five years.

Sources: Stanford HAI AI Index 2025; Crunchbase; McKinsey State of AI; Gartner; Grand View Research; Product Hunt; Amazon Web Services; Boston Consulting Group; IDC; Softycracker.

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