Adobe
DIGITALINSIGHTS

STATE OF AI IN DOCUMENTS

How leading legal teams are turning AI adoption into measurable results.



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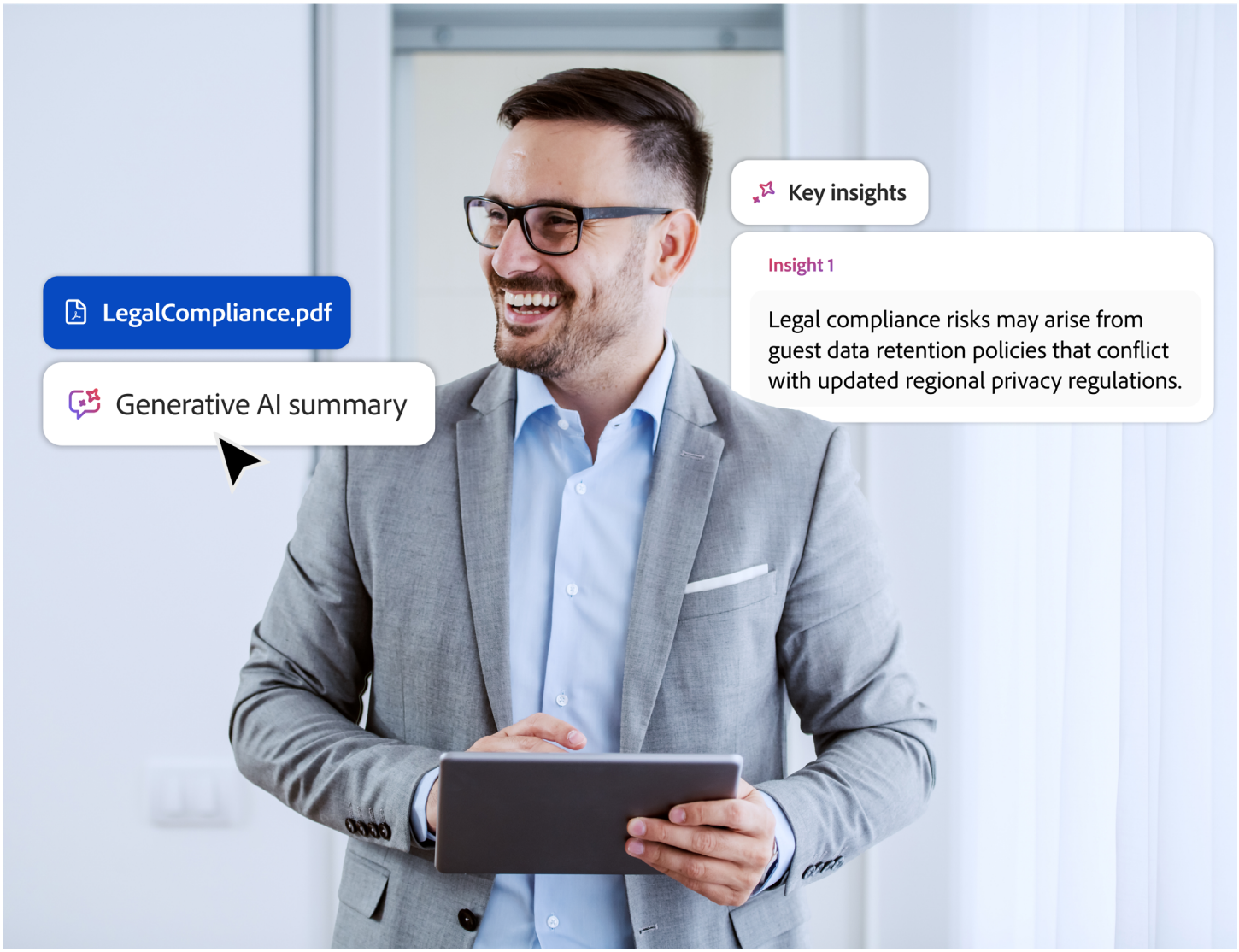
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AI trust varies across legal use cases.

Enterprise AI adoption is accelerating across the business, but not every team is moving at the same pace. Legal teams are taking a more deliberate approach to AI, with adoption patterns varying across document-related tasks. The higher stakes of legal work mean demand for speed and efficiency must be balanced with accuracy, compliance, and defensibility, making trust a critical factor. For legal leaders, the opportunity is to turn AI adoption into measurable business outcomes.

Drawing on the legal findings from Adobe's *State of AI in Documents* research, this report combines anonymized and aggregated Adobe Acrobat data with insights from a July 2026 survey of approximately 800 senior leaders across global regions and lines of business. Here are the key insights for legal leaders.

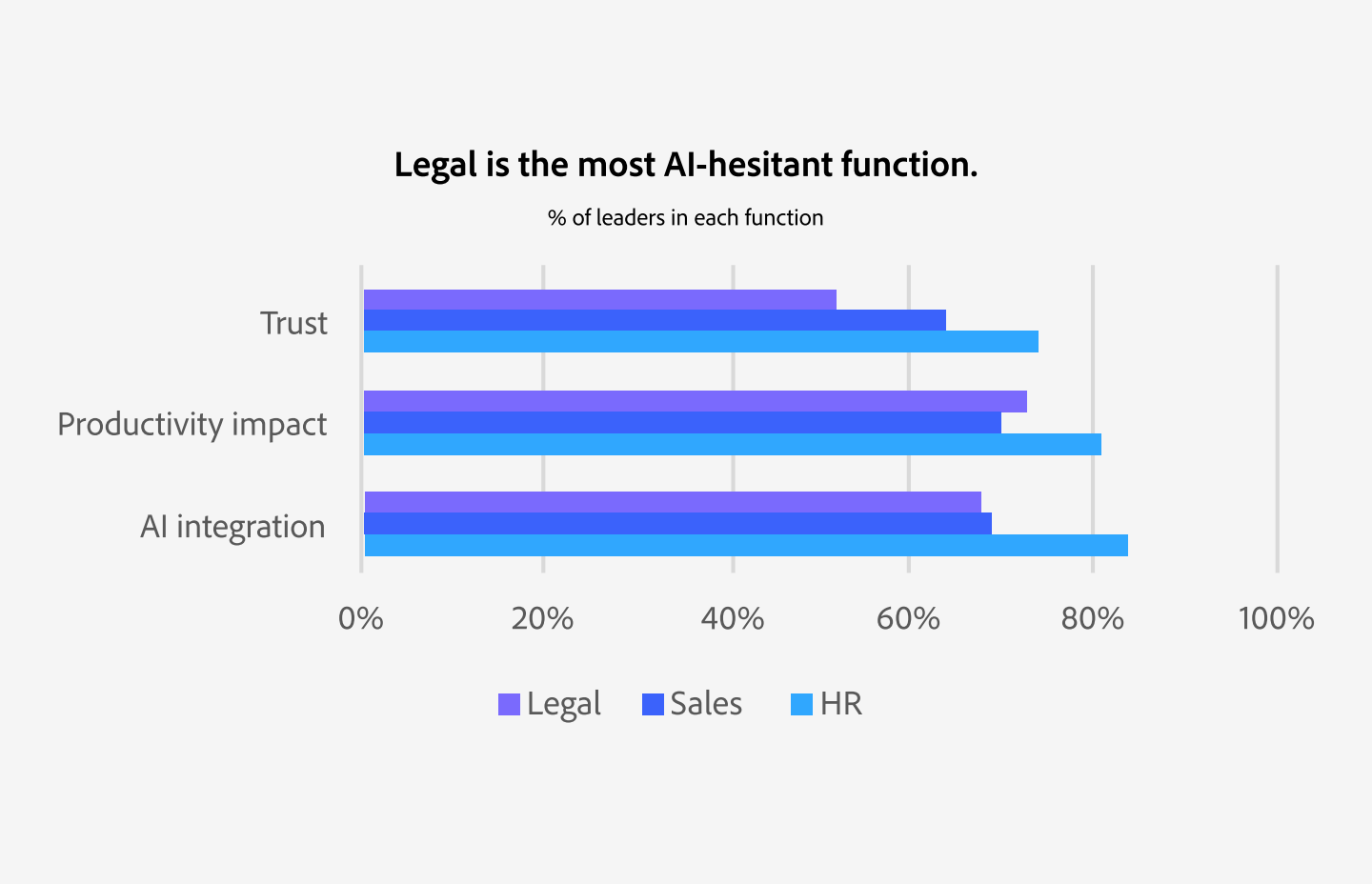


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WHERE LEGAL STANDS

Legal teams prioritize accuracy over speed.

Legal teams are more likely to use AI for understanding and analyzing information than for drafting content, with top use cases including document summarization, contract analysis, identifying key terms and clauses, and legal research. This more deliberate approach reflects the need to balance AI's productivity benefits with the accuracy and reliability required in legal work. Despite strong productivity gains (73%) and high leadership prioritization (74%), legal reports lower levels of integration (68%) and trust (52%) than other functions. These findings suggest AI adoption in Legal is shaped by both AI's potential value and the standards required to use it responsibly.



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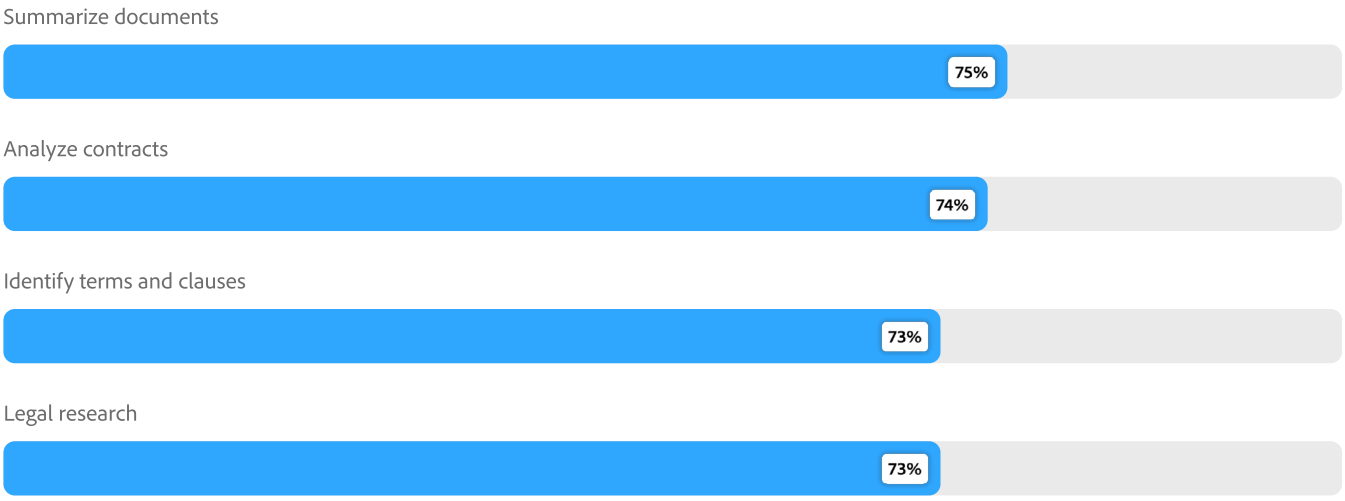
Legal turns to AI to understand, not create.

From document review and contract analysis to legal research and clause identification, legal teams are applying AI across high-value document workflows. Yet adoption remains more measured when it comes to content creation, reflecting the higher bar for trust in legal work.

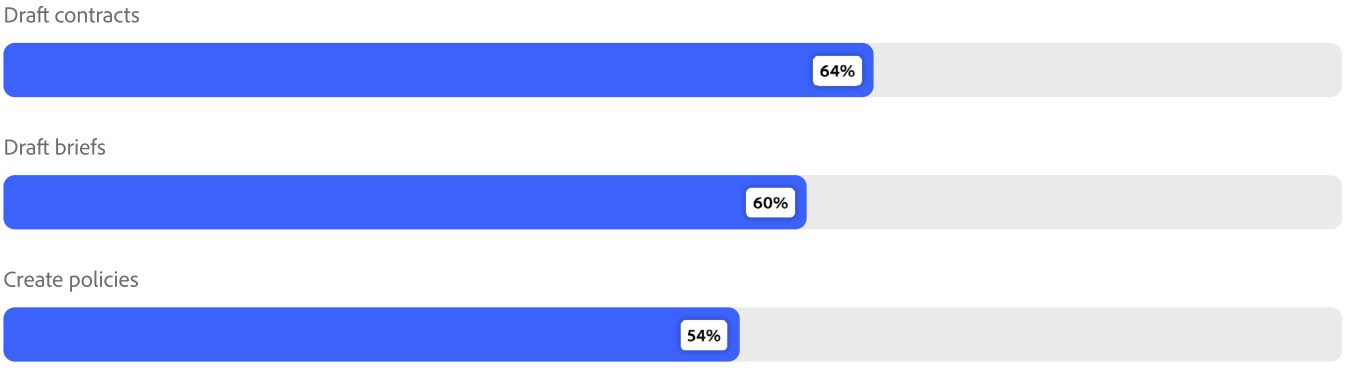
How legal teams use AI in documents.

Percentage of legal leaders using AI for each task

Understand and analyze



Create and draft



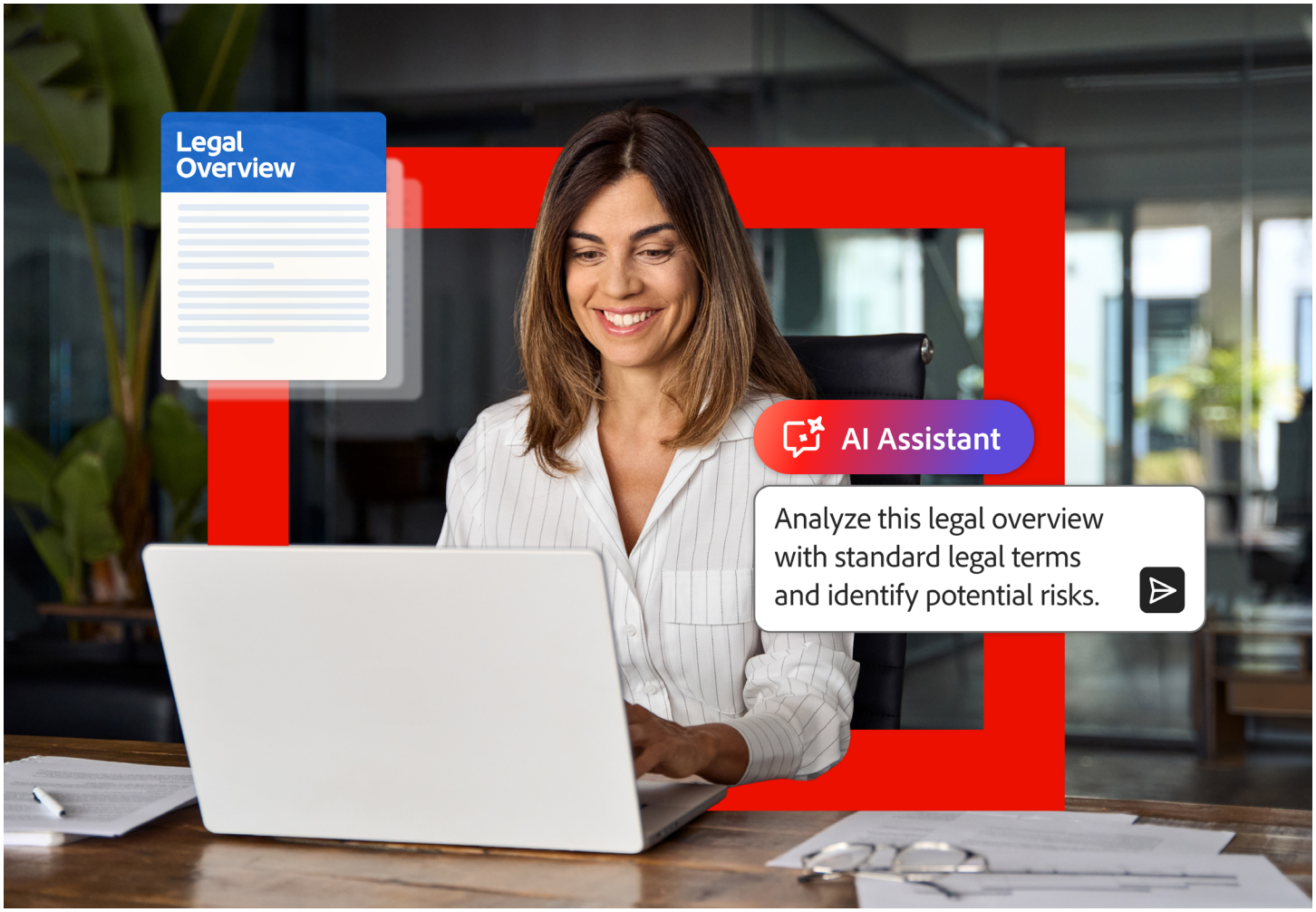
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CLOSE THE GAP

Expand AI's role with connected workflows.

Legal teams see clear value in AI-powered analysis. The challenge is extending that value into work where every output requires greater scrutiny. As demand for contracts, briefs, policies, and other written content continues to grow, AI-mature organizations are using connected legal workflows. They bring together document intelligence, stakeholder input, and governed collaboration — making information easier to review, validate, and act on. This expands AI's role across legal work while maintaining the visibility, accountability, and control legal work requires. The result:

- Broader AI use across legal work
- Faster drafting and review cycles
- Greater value from AI investments



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HOW ADOBE ACROBAT STUDIO HELPS

Turn analysis into action with AI-powered collaboration.

AI-mature organizations are leading the way, recognizing that AI's potential extends beyond analysis. As they expand AI across a broader range of legal workflows, they pair technology with the people, processes, and governance needed to support it. The result is a more scalable approach to legal work that helps teams achieve efficiency gains, reduce costs, and increase AI adoption.



Read the full State of AI in Documents report to learn how legal compares with other lines of business and how AI-mature organizations turn adoption into impact.

Adobe Acrobat Studio for legal.

Acrobat Studio brings AI-powered document intelligence, legal knowledge, collaboration, and content creation into one workspace. With it, legal teams can accelerate document review, surface key information, and work with source-linked AI answers that make information easier to verify and act on.

Discover how Acrobat Studio helps legal teams turn trusted insights into defensible actions.

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