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AI's 2027 Reality Gap: Big Expectations, Tight Supply, Hard Choices

1 · Big Expectations: value trails adoption

81%

- of enterprises report faster decisions and execution, but only 25% say they use AI to deeply transform the business. *(Deloitte, n=3,500)*

40%

now let AI systems execute decisions without human approval, but 23% say accountability is unclear when AI gets it wrong. *(Deloitte)*

2 · Tight Supply: AI is repricing infrastructure

+10–15% QoQ

conventional DRAM contract prices in 4Q26 (NAND +15–20%) as AI servers absorb supply. *(TrendForce)*

$5 → $20

avg. cost per million tokens for top US LLMs, start of 2025 to 2026; server prices peaking 80% above 2025. *(BCG)*

3 · Hard Choices: paying for AI

5% → 17%

AI's share of IT budgets in BCG's 2026 survey, with software inflation running 4–5x the market rate. *(BCG)*

71%

track total AI inference and API spend, only 51% track token volume and 44% track per-unit inference cost*(Deloitte)*

Sources: Deloitte, State of AI in the Enterprise (Oct 29, 2026) · TrendForce (Sep 30, 2026) · BCG, AI's Share of IT Budgets (Oct 2026)

