

AI News Digest

06/22/2026 - 06/28/2026

WEEKLY DIGEST: BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

AI Investment Surge Amid Economic Uncertainties

This week, the AI sector witnessed significant developments, including substantial funding rounds for startups, indicating a robust investment trend despite concerns over a potential AI bubble. Experts at the AI and Society Forum discussed the societal impacts of AI, particularly on labor and civil discourse, while Gartner's report warned that many generative AI projects could exceed budgets by 2028. Retail giants like Macy's are adopting AI-first strategies to enhance operational efficiency. Meanwhile, OpenAI's strategic appointment of a new managing director for India highlights the growing importance of international markets.

KEY FINDINGS

- ✓ Gartner predicts 50% of generative AI projects will exceed budgets by 2028.
- ✓ Macy's is implementing an 'AI-first' approach to improve decision-making.
- ✓ Significant funding rounds in AI startups indicate a continued investment trend.

IMPLICATIONS

- Businesses must prioritize operational expertise to manage AI project budgets effectively.
- Retailers adopting AI strategies may gain competitive advantages in personalization and inventory management.
- The appointment of leaders in emerging markets like India suggests a strategic focus on global expansion for AI companies.

Key Metrics: 50% of generative AI projects projected to exceed budgets by 2028.; Macy's adopting AI across multiple operational functions.; Record funding rounds for AI startups this week.

1. Exploring the societal impacts of AI

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: Political Science & Public Administration, Economics & Finance, Computer Science, Sociology & Anthropology

Topics: AI Policy & Regulation, Labor Market Impacts, Workforce Adaptation Strategies, Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Impact Score: 25.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

At the AI and Society Forum held at MIT, experts discussed the implications of AI on labor, civil discourse, and election administration, emphasizing the need for interdisciplinary collaboration to address these challenges. Economist David Autor presented a keynote arguing that AI's impact on jobs depends on its effect on the value and scarcity of human expertise, suggesting that technology may create new specialized roles rather than simply eliminating jobs. Panelists, including Daniela Rus and David Mindell, highlighted the importance of human judgment in decision-making and the necessity of supporting the workforce in adapting to evolving job landscapes. The forum aimed to foster dialogue on the societal consequences of AI and the importance of proactive policies in workforce development.

<https://news.mit.edu/2026/exploring-societal-impacts-of-ai-0623>

2. 'The Daily' and 'The Opinions': How A.I. Is Changing Loneliness and Taste

Category: Applications

Departments: Computer Science, Psychology, Marketing, Management & Supply Chain, Electrical & Computer Engineering

Topics: Robotics, Domestic Robotics, AI in Gastronomy, Consumer Preference Modeling

Impact Score: 24.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 3

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

The article narrates the experience of a woman who integrated a robot into her household, exploring the implications of domestic robotics on daily life. It also examines the increasing interest of Silicon Valley in the sensory experience of taste, highlighting the intersection of technology and gastronomy. The discussion underscores the potential for AI to influence consumer preferences and the development of food-related technologies.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/06/26/podcasts/the-daily-and-the-opinions-how-ai-is-changing-loneliness-and-taste.html>

3. Gartner: Half of Gen AI Projects Could Exceed Budget by 2028

Category: Business

Departments: Computer Science, Accounting & Information Systems, Marketing, Management & Supply Chain, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: Generative AI, Cost Governance, Architectural Efficiency, Agentic AI

Impact Score: 23.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

Gartner's report predicts that by 2028, at least 50% of generative AI (GenAI) projects will exceed their budget due to inadequate architectural decisions and insufficient operational expertise. The report highlights that inference costs, which recur each time an AI model is utilized, will account for approximately 70% of a model's total lifetime expenses, shifting focus from initial training costs to ongoing operational expenditures. Additionally, the rise of agentic AI, which can execute complex workflows and multiple model calls, is expected to further escalate costs. Gartner emphasizes the need for organizations to prioritize cost governance, architectural efficiency, and usage monitoring to manage expenses effectively as they transition from pilot projects to full-scale production.

<https://campustechnology.com/articles/2026/06/22/gartner-half-of-gen-ai-projects-could-exceed-budget-by-2028.aspx>

4. How to Build a Credit Scoring Grid From a Logistic Regression Model

Category: Applications

Departments: Accounting & Information Systems, Economics & Finance

Topics: Finance AI, Credit Scoring Grid, Logistic Regression, Risk Classification, Model Interpretability

Impact Score: 21.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 2

The article discusses a method for converting model coefficients from a logistic regression model into a credit scoring grid that ranges from 0 to 1000. It outlines the process of categorizing risk classes and implementing stability checks to ensure the reliability of the scoring system. The approach aims to enhance the interpretability and usability of credit scores derived from statistical models in financial decision-making.

<https://towardsdatascience.com/how-to-build-a-credit-scoring-grid-from-a-logistic-regression-model/>

5. Beyond the Straight Line: Choosing Between OLS, Interaction Terms, and Tweedie Regression

Category: Research
Departments: Mathematical Sciences, Computer Science, Economics & Finance
Topics: Statistical Modeling, Tweedie Regression, Interaction Terms, Outlier Handling

Impact Score: 20.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4	Educational Value: 4	Innovation / Novelty: 3
Practical Impact: 4	Interdisciplinary Potential: 3	Ethical / Policy Implications: 2

The article discusses the decision-making process for selecting appropriate statistical models, specifically Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression, interaction terms, and Tweedie regression, based on the characteristics of the data being analyzed. It emphasizes the importance of considering the presence of zeros and extreme outliers in the dataset, which can significantly influence the effectiveness of the chosen modeling approach. The piece aims to guide researchers in making informed choices about regression techniques to better handle complex data scenarios.

<https://towardsdatascience.com/beyond-the-straight-line-choosing-between-ols-interaction-terms-and-tweedie-regression/>

6. Should we fear an AI bubble bust?

Category: Business
Departments: Economics & Finance, Political Science & Public Administration, Computer Science
Topics: AI Policy & Regulation, AI Investment Sustainability, Market Valuation Risks, Economic Impact of AI

Impact Score: 18.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 2	Educational Value: 3	Innovation / Novelty: 2
Practical Impact: 4	Interdisciplinary Potential: 3	Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

Recent fluctuations in technology stocks have reignited concerns regarding a potential AI bubble, with experts cautioning that its collapse could result in unprecedented repercussions for the financial market. Analysts suggest that the rapid rise in AI-related investments may not be sustainable, leading to speculation about the long-term viability of these valuations. The implications of a bubble burst could extend beyond the tech sector, affecting broader economic stability.

<https://techxplore.com/news/2026-06-ai.html>

7. Repositioning retail for the AI era

Category: Business
Departments: Marketing, Management & Supply Chain, Computer Science, Electrical & Computer Engineering
Topics: Enterprise AI, AI-Powered Shopping Assistant, Personalization Techniques, Inventory Management Optimization

Impact Score: 17.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 2	Educational Value: 3	Innovation / Novelty: 3
Practical Impact: 4	Interdisciplinary Potential: 3	Ethical / Policy Implications: 2

Macy's is adopting an "AI-first" approach to integrate artificial intelligence into its operational systems, enhancing decision-making processes across various functions such as personalization, search, and inventory management. This strategy reflects a broader trend in retail, shifting from isolated AI applications to comprehensive systems that streamline actions based on customer behavior. The company has implemented tools like Ask Macy's, an AI-powered shopping assistant that provides personalized recommendations based on user input and past purchases. Macy's emphasizes that AI serves to augment human judgment rather than replace it, aiming for a seamless and adaptive retail experience.

<https://www.technologyreview.com/2026/06/25/1137848/repositioning-retail-for-the-ai-era/>

8. David Autor named head of the Department of Economics

Category: Education
Departments: Economics & Finance, Political Science & Public Administration, Computer Science
Topics: AI Policy & Regulation, Labor Market Impact, Job Polarization, Technological Change Effects

Impact Score: 17.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 2	Educational Value: 3	Innovation / Novelty: 2
Practical Impact: 3	Interdisciplinary Potential: 4	Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

David Autor has been appointed as the head of the MIT Department of Economics, effective July 1, succeeding Jon Gruber. Autor, a prominent labor economist, focuses on the effects of technological change and globalization on labor markets, including job polarization and inequality. He aims to enhance the department's research and teaching in light of advancements in artificial intelligence while addressing budget constraints and political shifts. Autor has received multiple accolades for his contributions to labor economics and education, including the National Science Foundation CAREER Award and recognition as a NOMIS Distinguished Scientist.

<https://news.mit.edu/2026/david-autor-named-head-department-economics-0626>

9. The Week's 10 Biggest Funding Rounds: AI Drives Another Spree Of Megadeals

Category: Business

Departments: Computer Science, Economics & Finance, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: AI Policy & Regulation, Startup Funding Trends, Investment in AI Technologies, Biotechnology and AI Integration

Impact Score: 16.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 2

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 2

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 2

This week, significant funding rounds for U.S. startups predominantly focused on the artificial intelligence sector, indicating a continued trend in investment towards AI technologies. In addition to AI, biotechnology emerged as the second-largest area for startup funding. The data reflects ongoing investor interest in these two fields, highlighting their prominence in the current startup landscape.

<https://news.crunchbase.com/venture/biggest-funding-rounds-ai-marketing-robotics-baseten/>

10. OpenAI poaches Uber India chief to lead its biggest market outside the US

Category: Business

Departments: Political Science & Public Administration, Computer Science, Marketing, Management & Supply Chain

Topics: Generative AI, Consumer Growth Strategies, Regulatory Engagement, Market Expansion in India

Impact Score: 15.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 1

Educational Value: 2

Innovation / Novelty: 2

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

OpenAI has appointed Prabhjeet Singh, former president of Uber India and South Asia, as its first managing director for India, aiming to enhance its operations in the country, which it considers its second-largest market after the U.S. Singh will oversee various aspects of OpenAI's performance in India, including consumer growth and regulatory engagement. This appointment follows OpenAI's previous investments in India, including the establishment of offices in New Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru, and partnerships with local conglomerates like Reliance and Tata Group. The company's strategic focus on India is driven by the country's large developer base and increasing demand for generative AI technologies.

<https://techcrunch.com/2026/06/26/openai-poaches-uber-india-chief-to-lead-its-biggest-market-outside-the-u-s/>