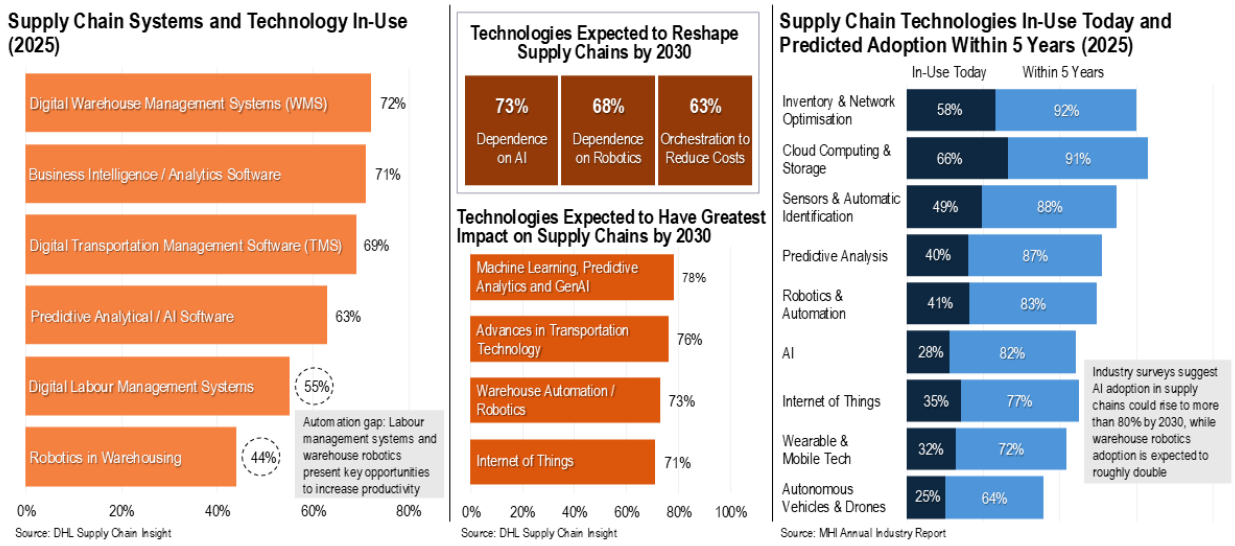
Supply Chains Are Digitising Rapidly as Automation Becomes the Next Technology Frontier

Surveys show that core digital systems are now widely deployed across supply chains and AI adoption is scaling rapidly. Robotics adoption in warehouses remains below 50%, but automation is expected to transform supply chain operations over the coming decade.



Note: DHL report is based on an online survey conducted in February-March 2025 with responses from 350 North American supply chain executives and C-level business leaders with decision-making influence over supply chain operations. MHI report is primarily based on in-depth global survey conducted in late 2024 of over 700 supply chain professionals worldwide from a wide range of company types and industries.
Source: DHL Supply Chain Insight 2030 Survey (2025), MHI Annual Industry Report (2025), ANDAMAN PARTNERS Analysis

Supply chain technology adoption in 2025-2026 shows a clear structural shift: core digital systems are now firmly embedded across large enterprises. Around 70% of supply chain executives report using warehouse management systems, transportation management software and analytics platforms, indicating that digital foundations are now widely established across logistics and operations.

Industry surveys point to a rapid acceleration in the next phase of supply chain technology adoption. AI adoption in supply chains could rise to more than 80% by 2030, while warehouse robotics adoption is expected to roughly double over the next five years. Technologies such as machine learning, advanced transportation systems and connected devices are widely expected to have the greatest operational impact.

Yet the next productivity wave remains uneven. While AI and predictive analytics are gaining traction, robotics adoption in warehouses remains below 50%. This gap highlights a key opportunity for productivity gains, particularly as labour management systems and automation technologies continue to evolve.

Taken together, the data suggest that supply chains are moving into a new phase of digital transformation. The first stage focused on deploying core systems to digitise operations; the

next stage will centre on integrating automation, AI and connected technologies to improve efficiency, resilience and responsiveness.

For supply chain operators, digital infrastructure is now the baseline. Competitive advantage will increasingly depend on how effectively companies scale automation, integrate intelligent systems and adapt their operations to a more technologically complex logistics environment.

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