

**ANTHROPIC**

# **Measuring real-world AI usage and assessing its economic implications**

**An Introduction to the Anthropic Economic Index**

Peter McCrory  
Head of Economics, Anthropic

January 2026

# AI poised to have large but uncertain effects

- **AI is a general purpose technology**

Eloundou et al (2023)

- **Adoption has been fast**

Humlum & Vestergaard (2024); Bick et al (2025)

- **Capabilities are improving quickly**

METR (2025)

- **An innovation in the method of innovation**

Bontadini & Haskel (2025); Jones, Jones & Aghion (2017); Jones (2025); Trammell & Korinek (2023)

- **Uncertain effects on productivity and in the labor market**

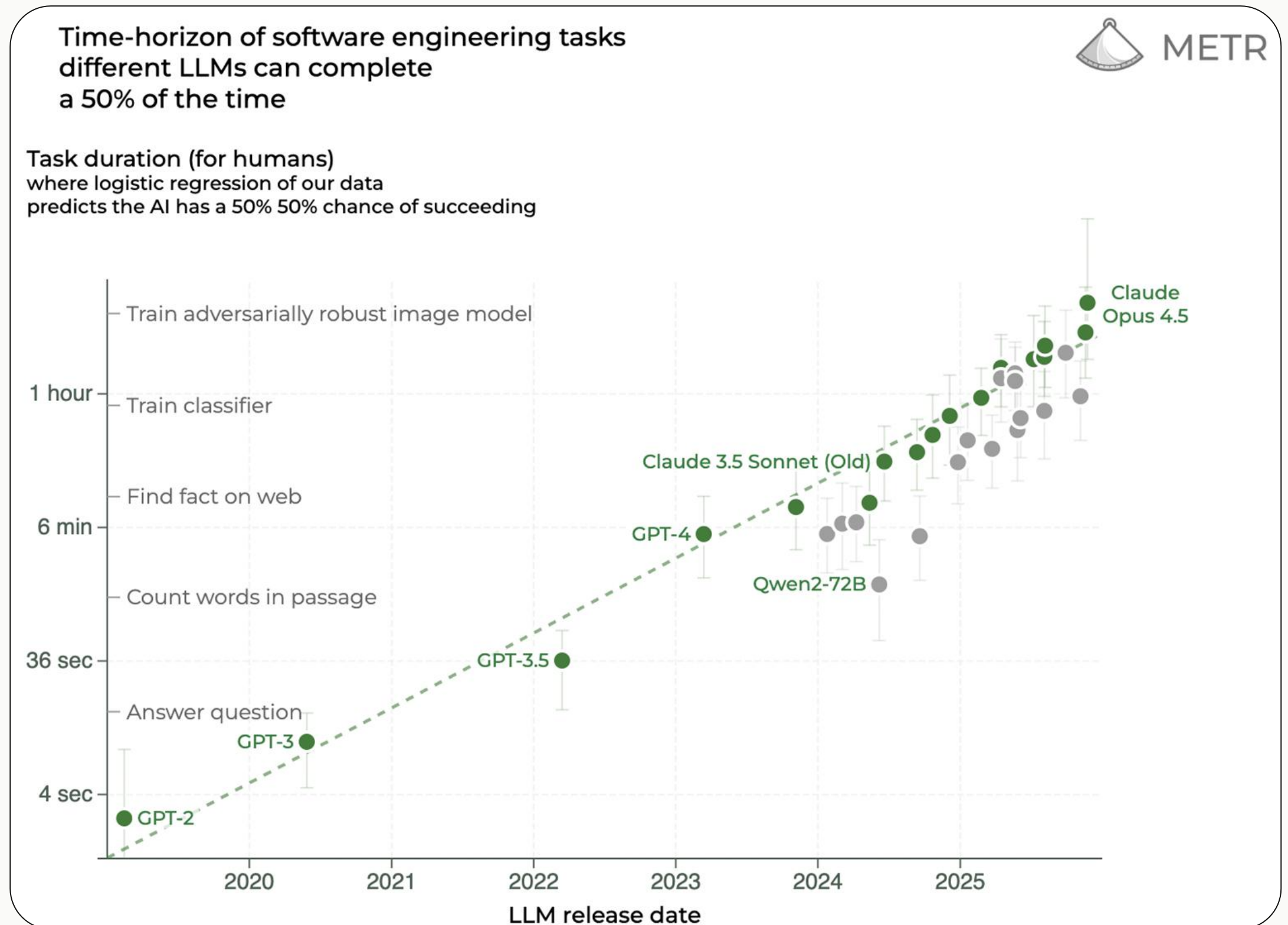
Filippucci et al (2025); Brynjolfsson, Chandar & Chen (2025); Gimbel et al. (2025)

# We need measurement to keep pace with capabilities

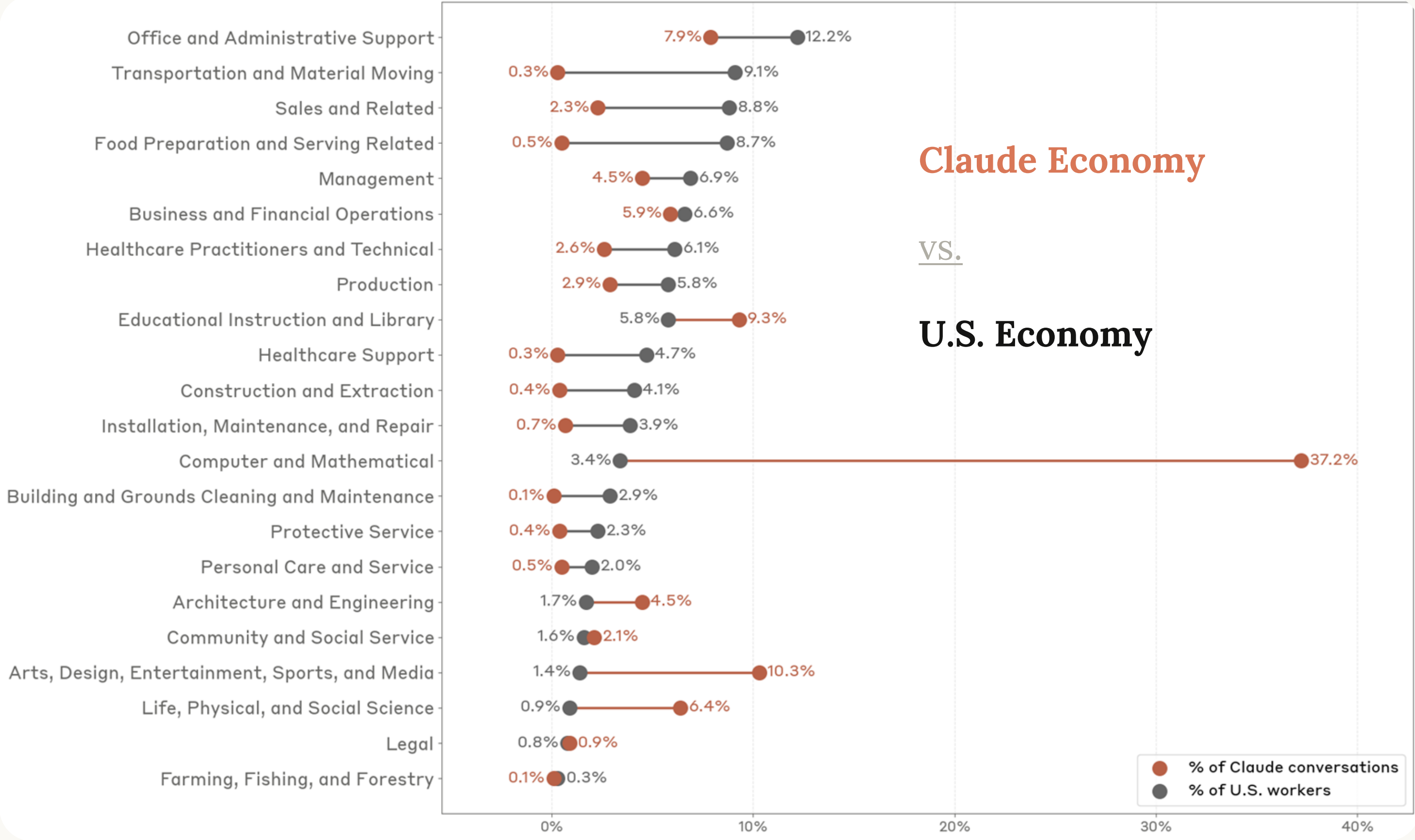
AI can reliably complete tasks that take humans 1.5 hours; **this task length doubles every 7 months**

**We need a rich understanding of how AI systems are being used in the real world**

The impact of this technology will be shaped by our societal response



# Claude usage is uneven across tasks and associated jobs





# Anthropic Economic Index

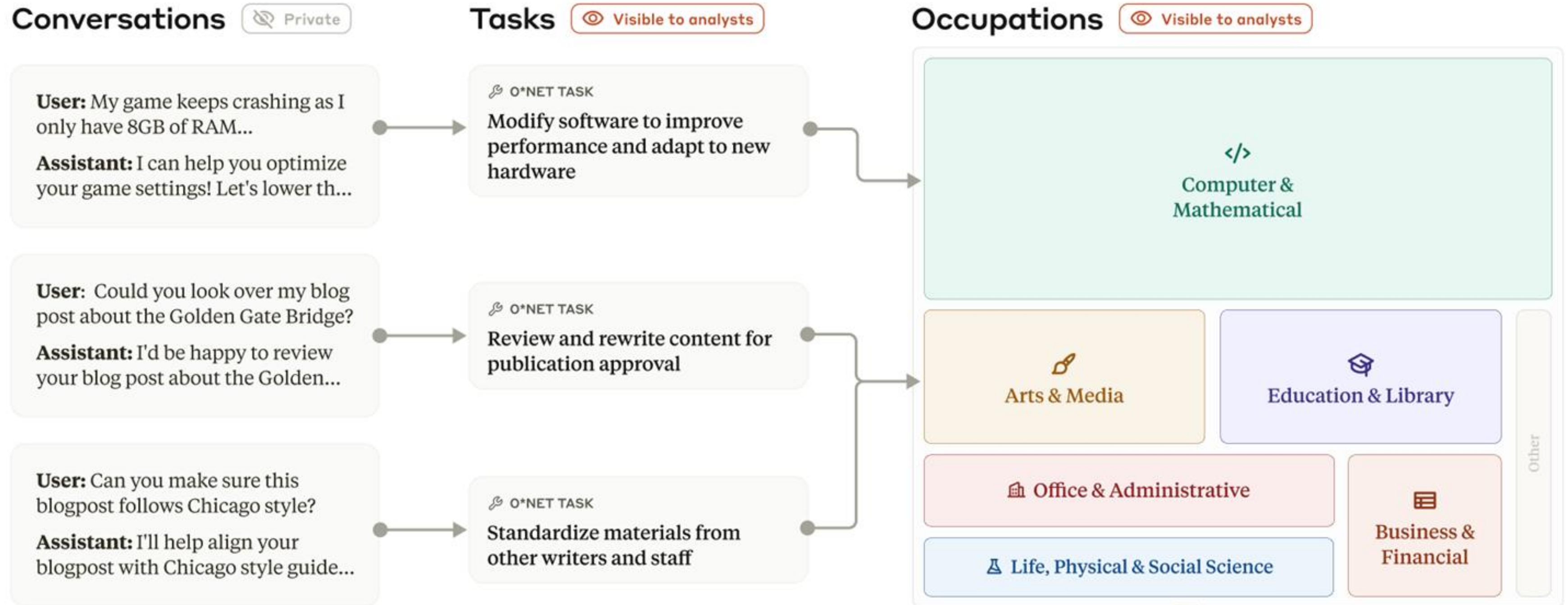
## Understanding AI's effects on the economy

We use a privacy-preserving method to **analyze millions of transcripts from Claude.ai and 1P API traffic**

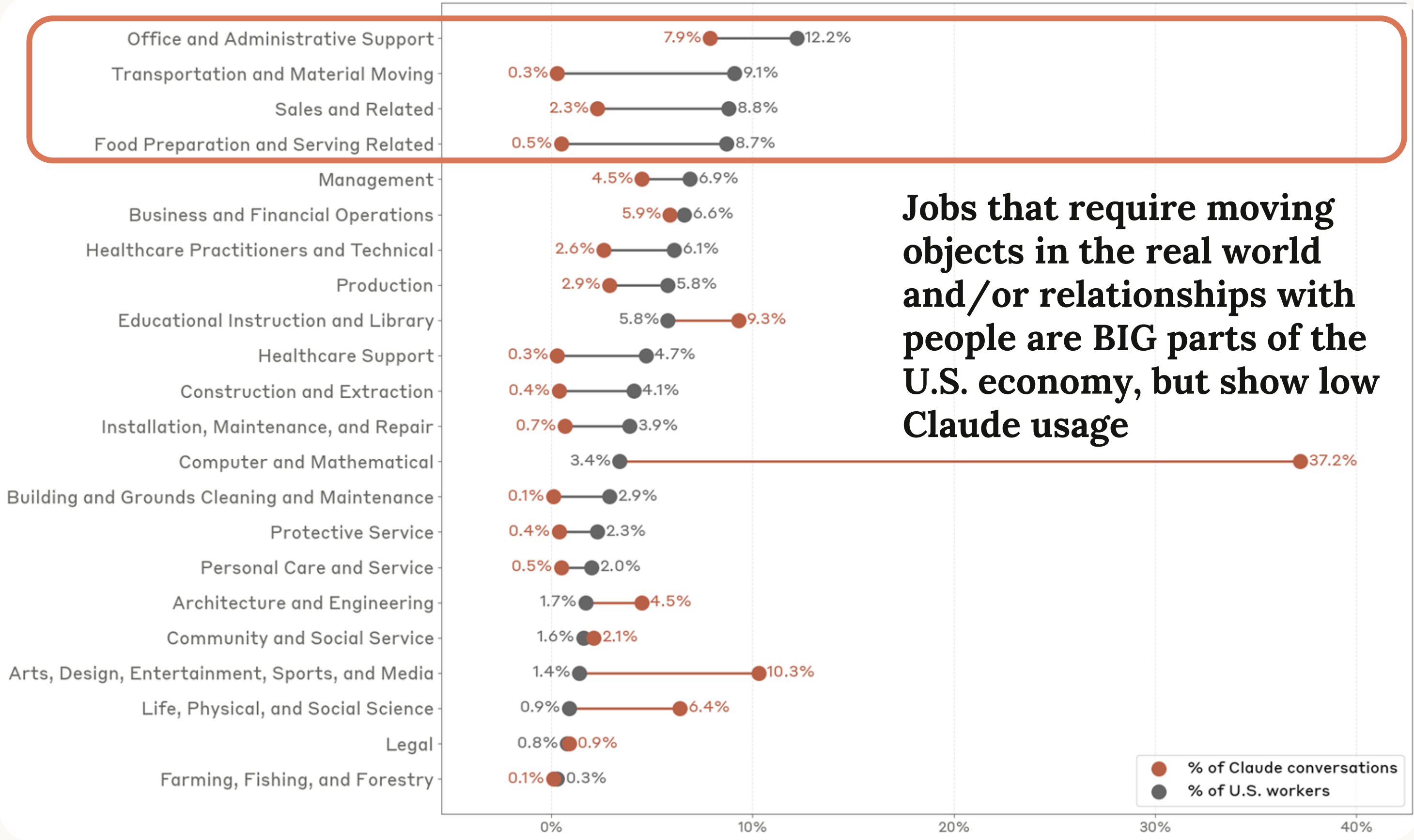


# The Anthropic Economic Index

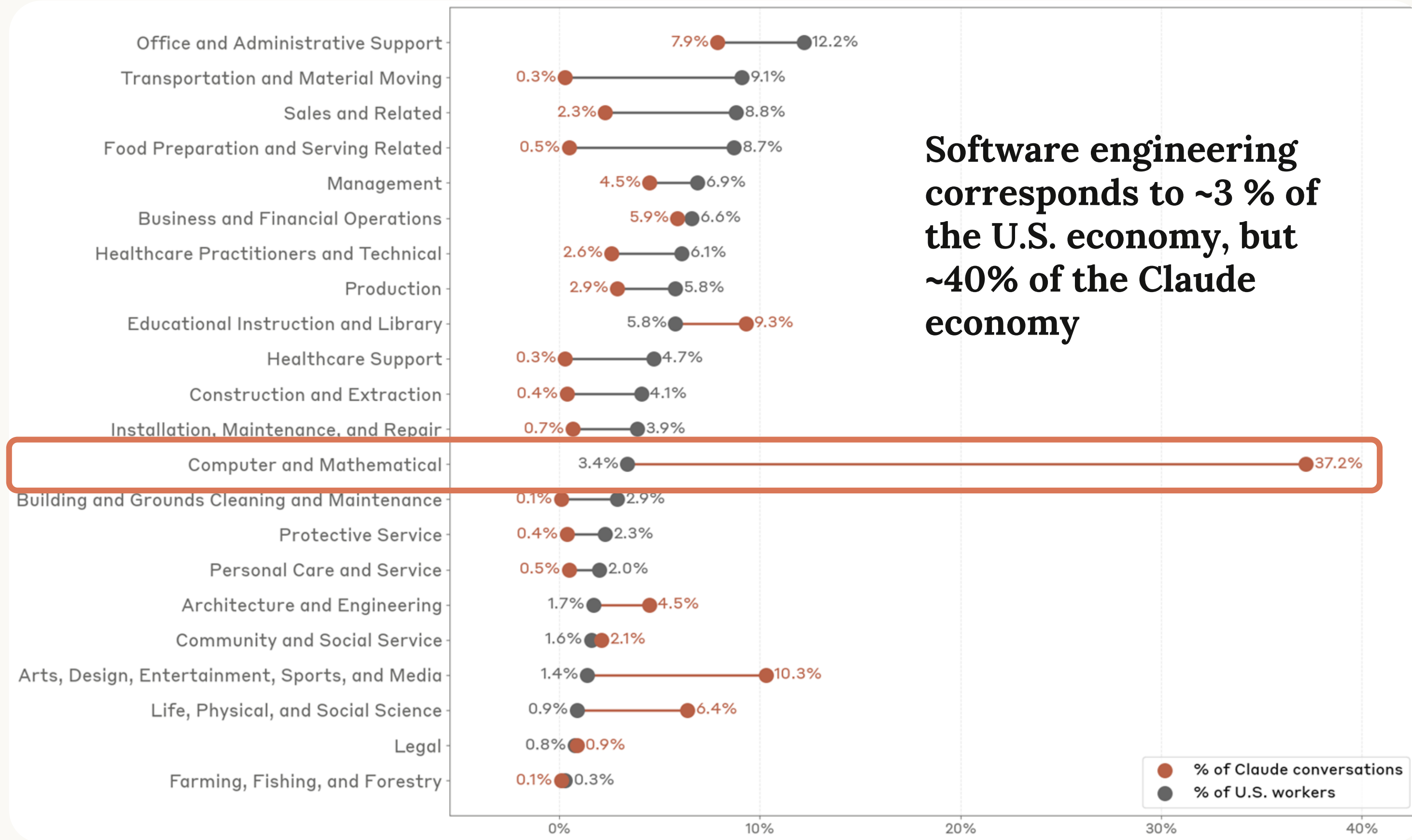
*Privacy preserving analysis of real-world usage data*



# Claude usage is uneven across tasks and associated jobs

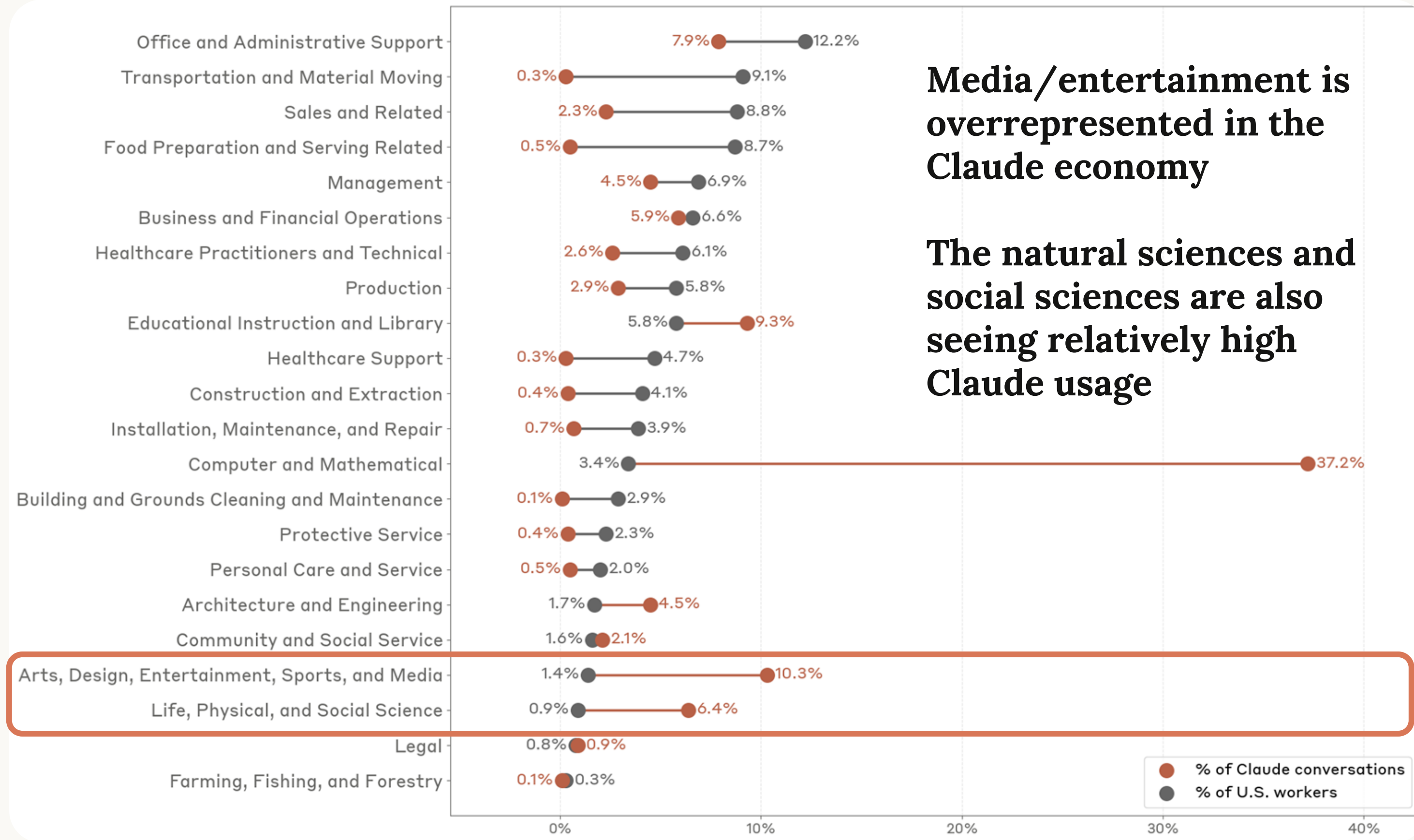


# Claude usage is uneven across tasks and associated jobs

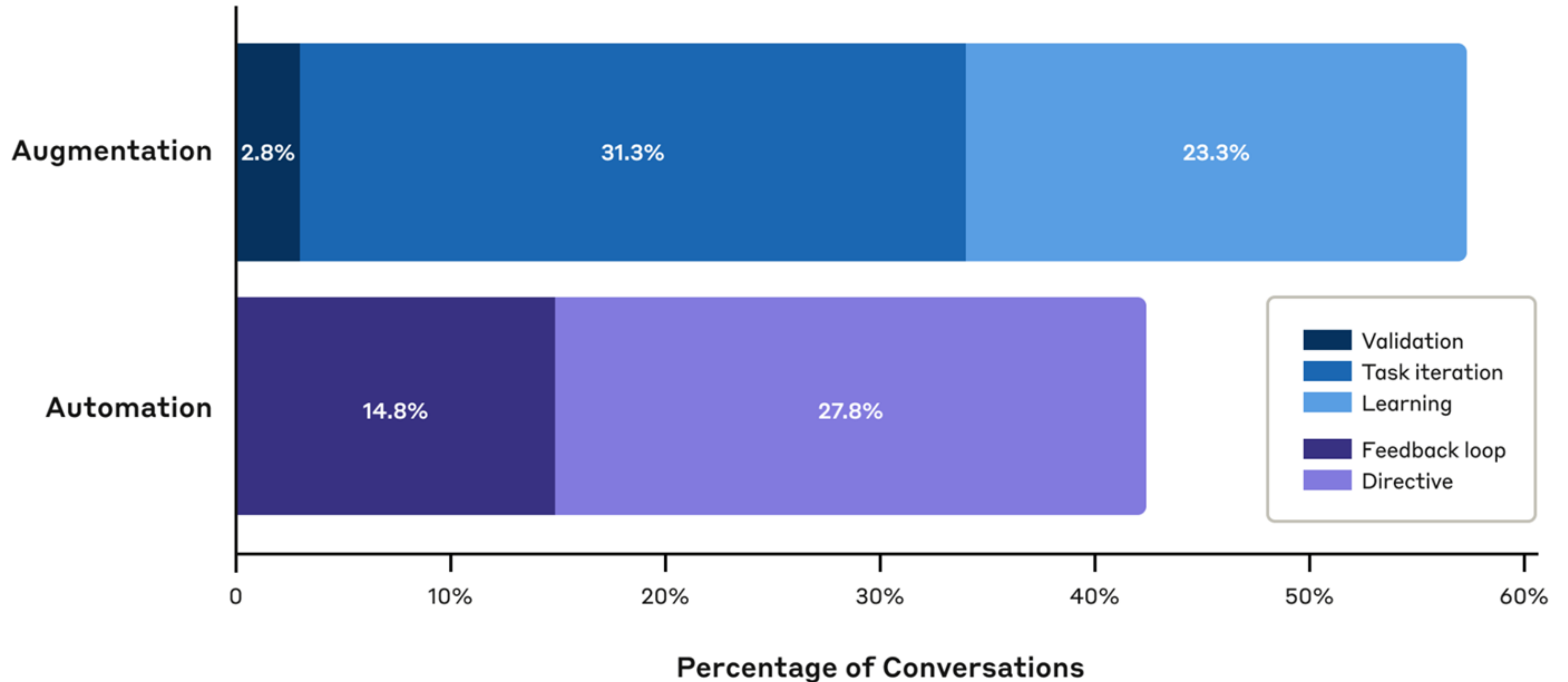




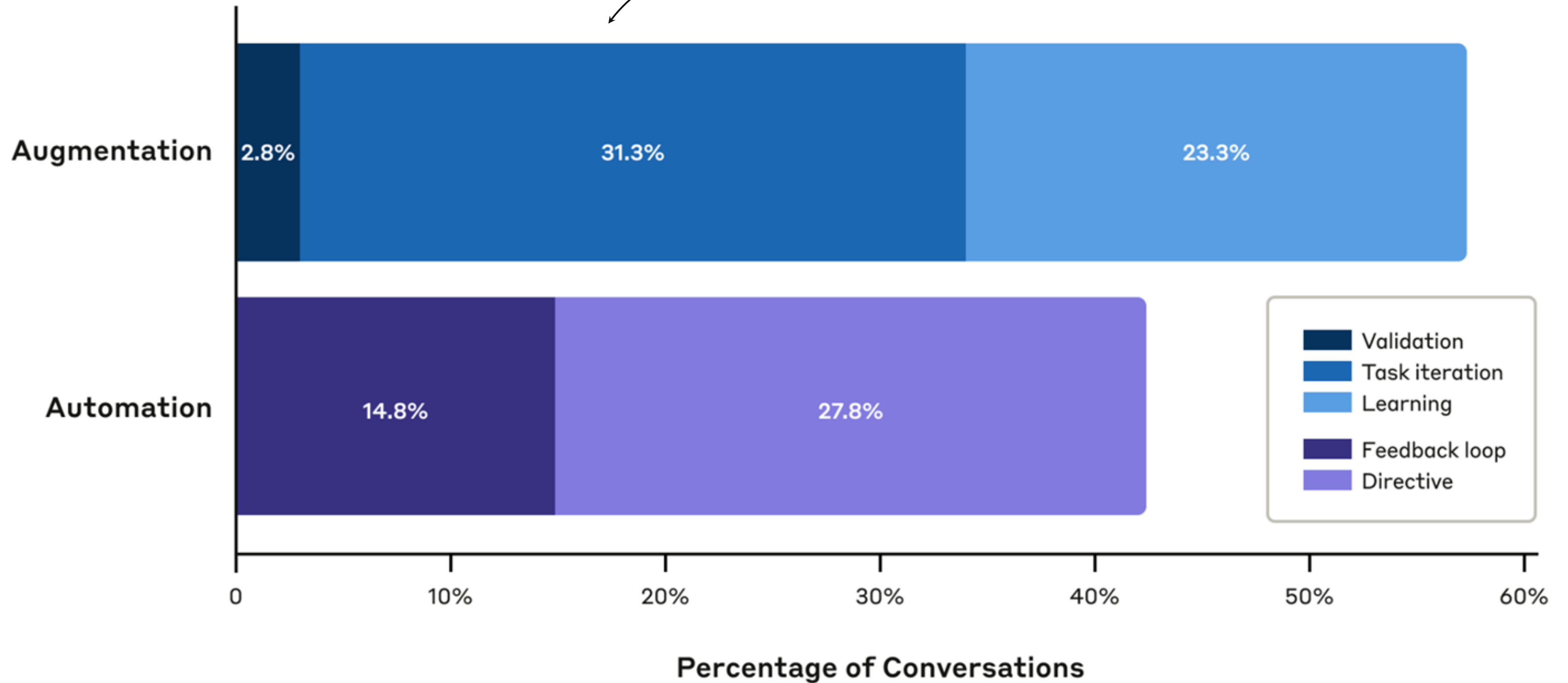
# Claude usage is uneven across tasks and associated jobs



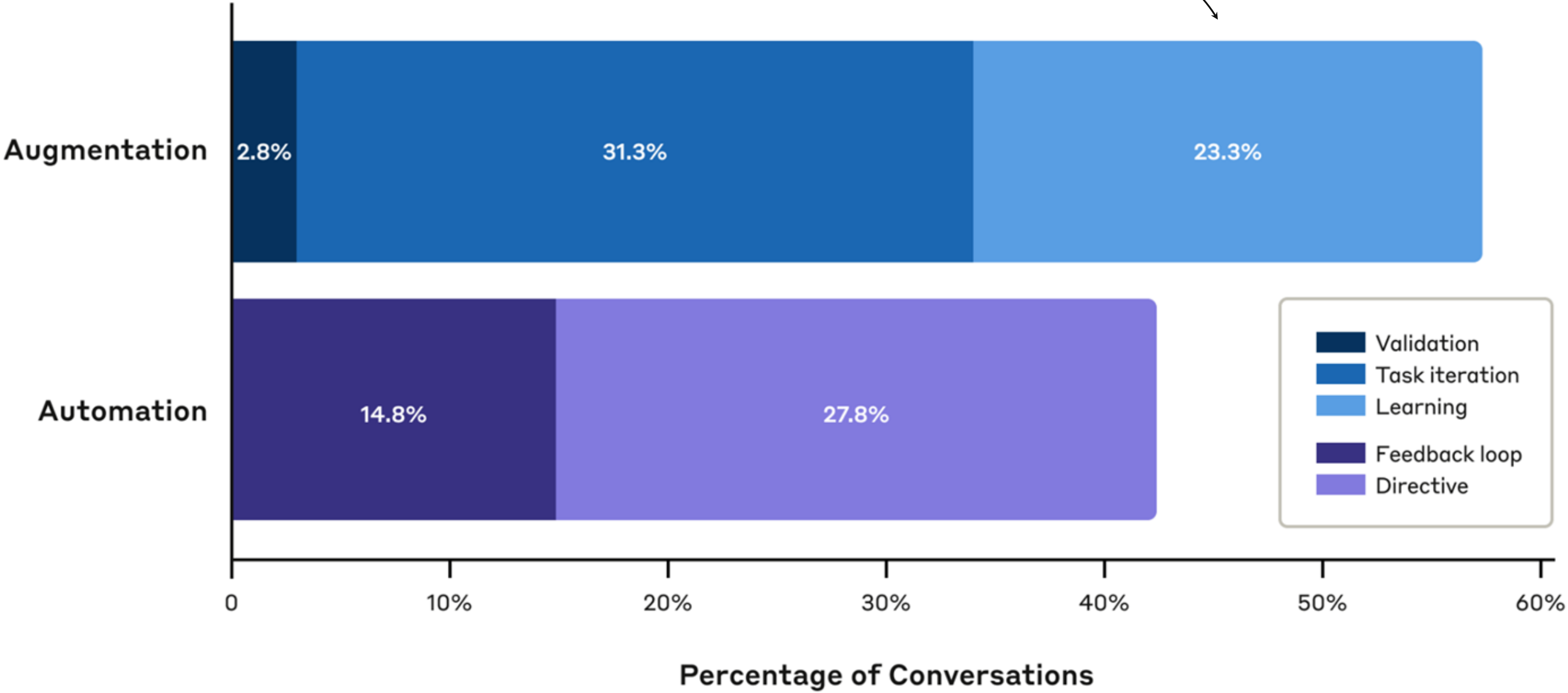
# We assess how users interact with Claude



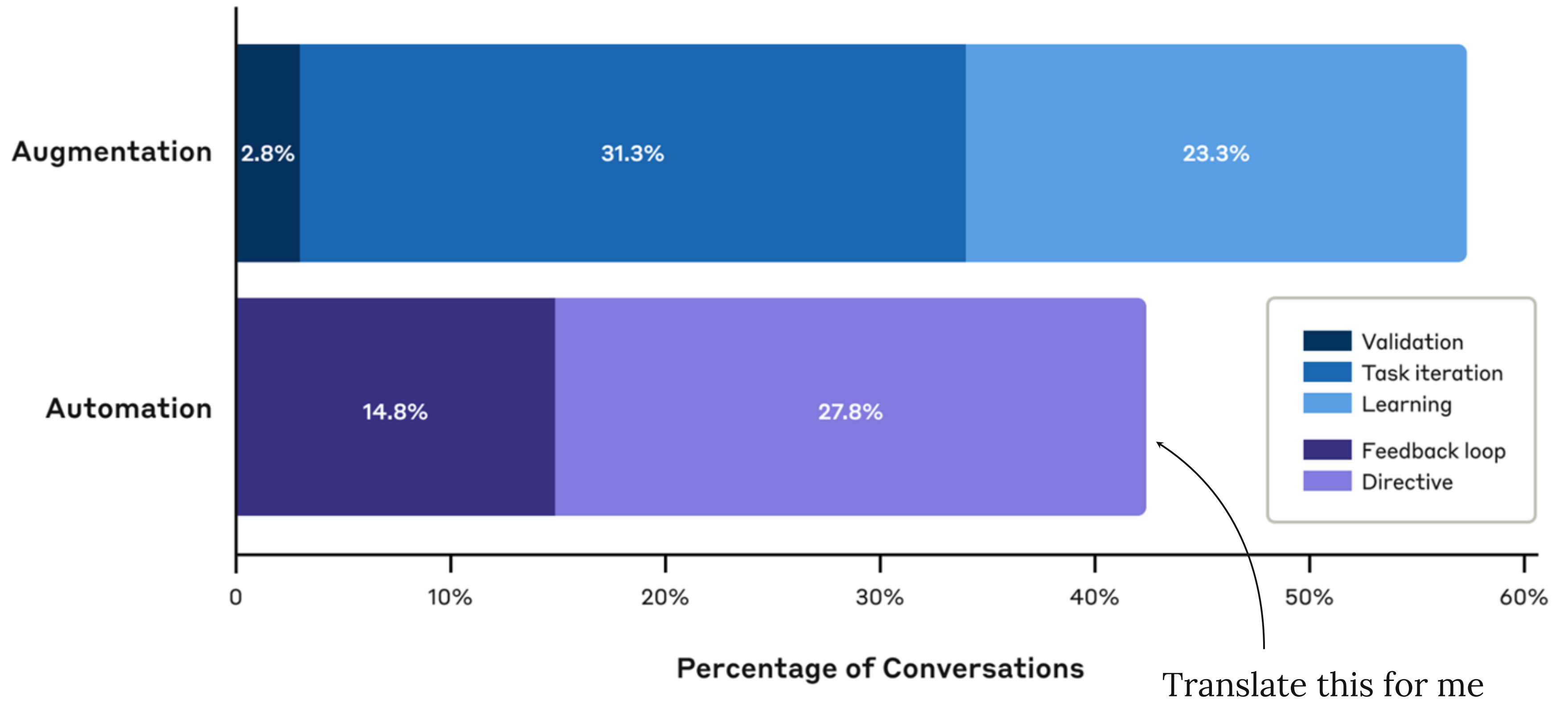
Tighten up section 2... Now work in this quote...



Explain the Baumol effect in the context of AI







# Claude use is geographically concentrated in the US

## Anthropic AI Usage Index (AUI)

A measure of whether AI is over- or underrepresented in a state given its working age population.

### Top states:

1. DC	3.8
2. Utah	3.8
3. California	2.1
4. New York	1.6
5. Virginia	1.6

### Usage Index

Understand if a state uses Claude more (>1) or less (<1) than expected, based on its population.

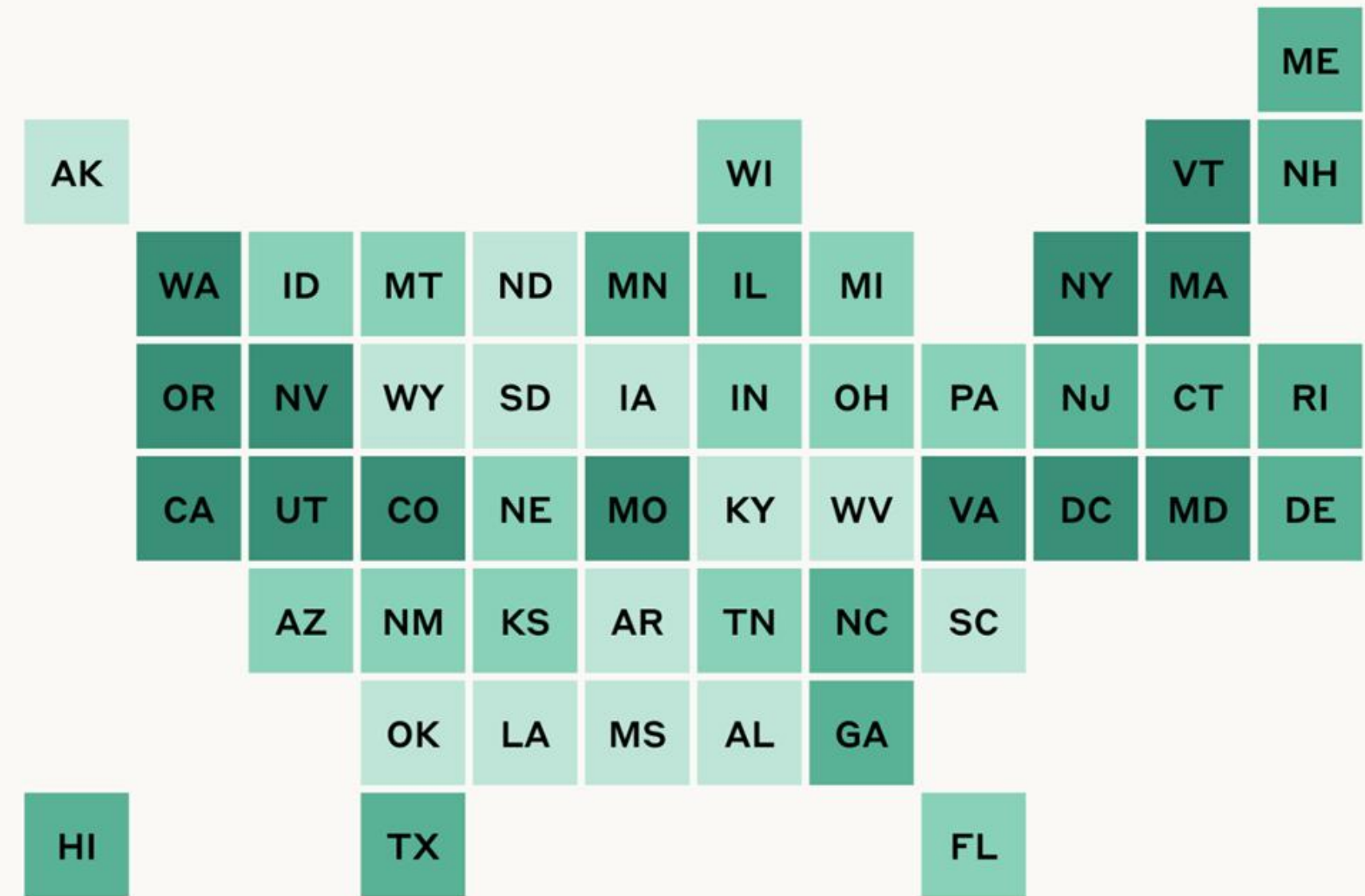
- Leading (top 25%)
- Upper middle (50-75%)
- Lower middle (25-50%)
- Emerging (bottom 25%)

### Augmentation vs. automation

See how people prefer to work with Claude—collaborating together or fully delegating tasks.

### Top industries

Track which jobs are using Claude the most.



🔗 Explore the map to see how people are using AI in each state

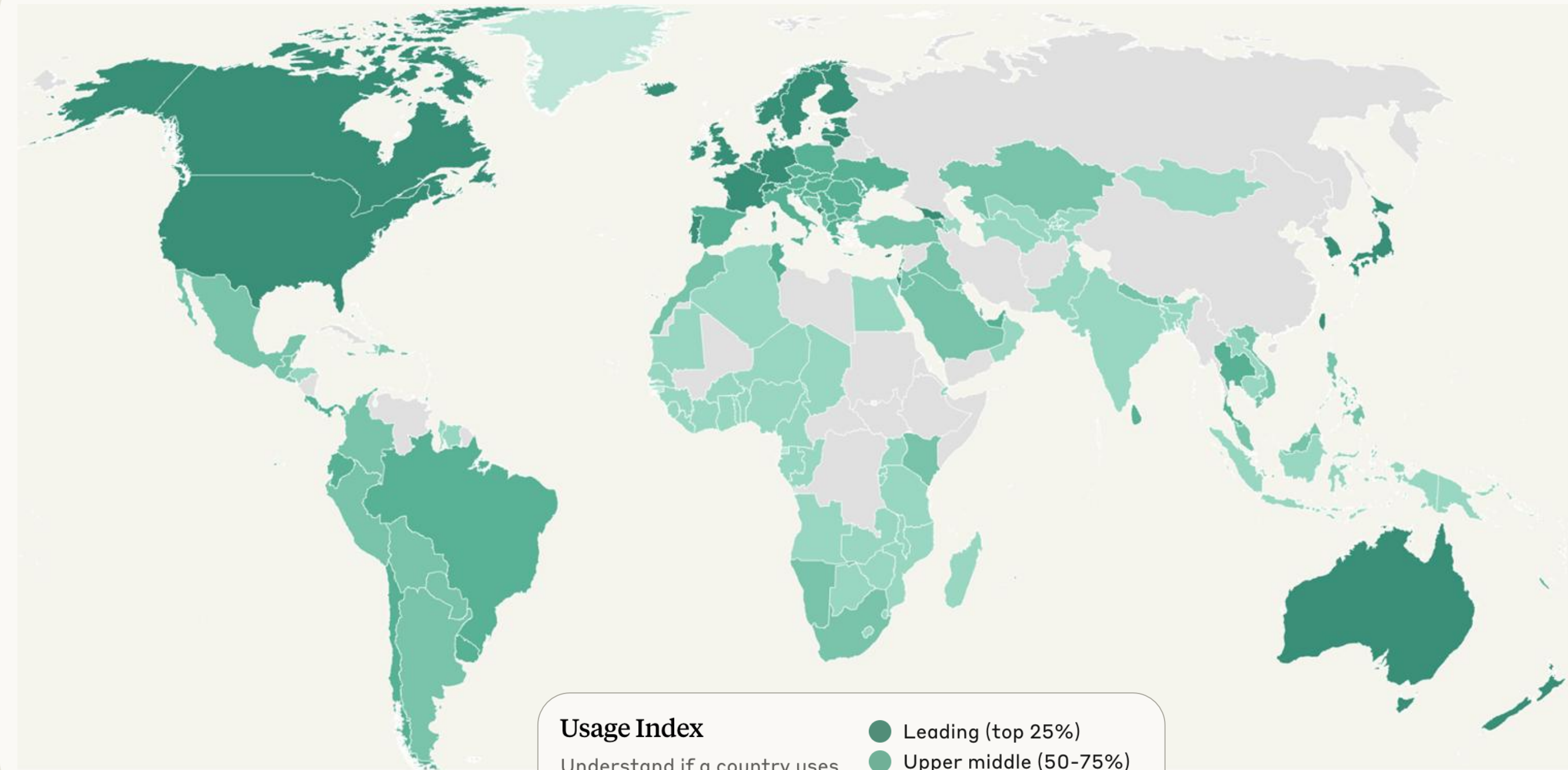
# Claude use is also concentrated globally

## Anthropic AI Usage Index (AUI)

A measure of whether AI is over- or underrepresented in a country given its working age population.

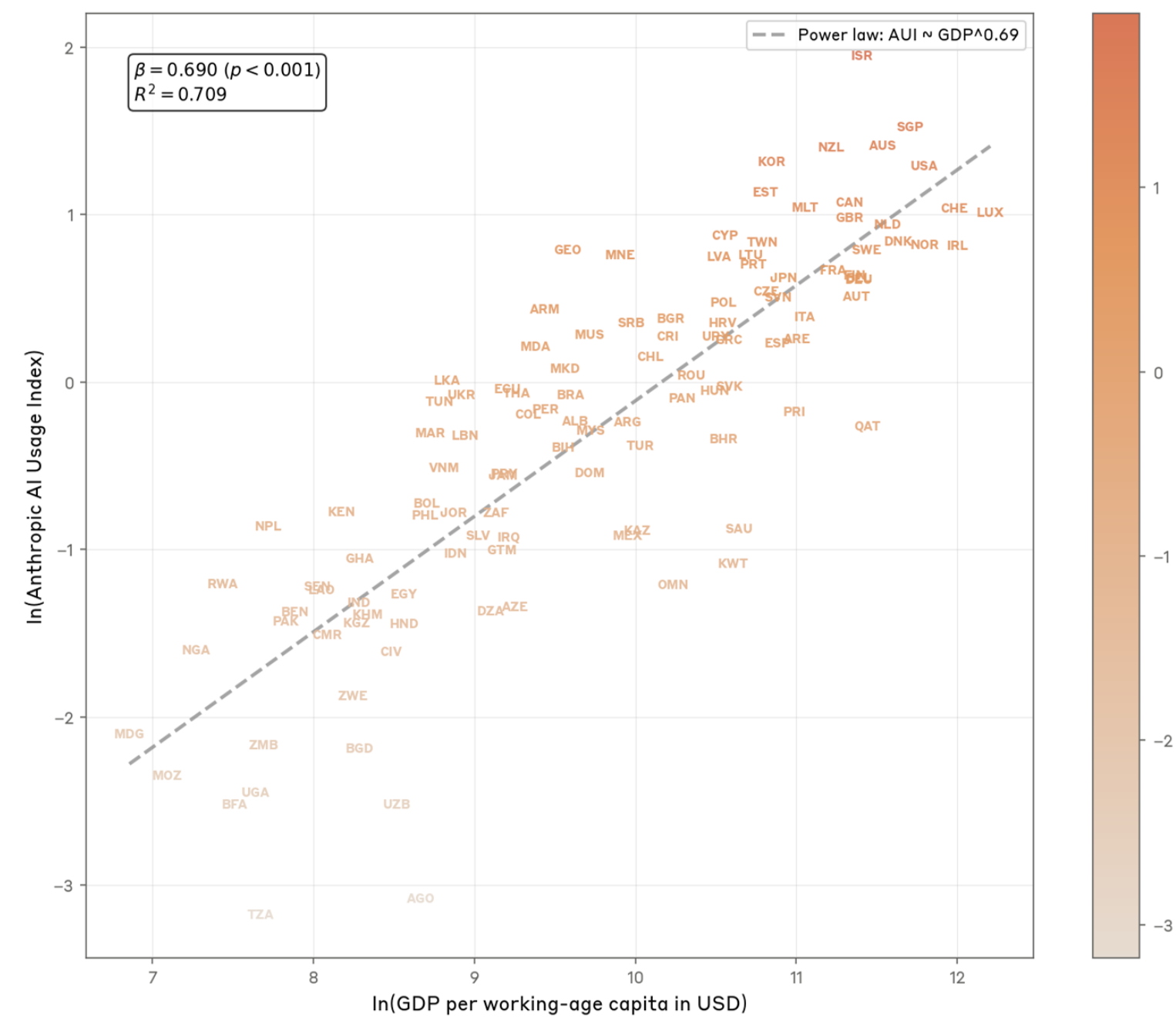
### Top Countries:

1. Israel	7.0
2. Singapore	4.6
3. Australia	4.1
4. New Zealand	4.1
5. South Korea	3.7

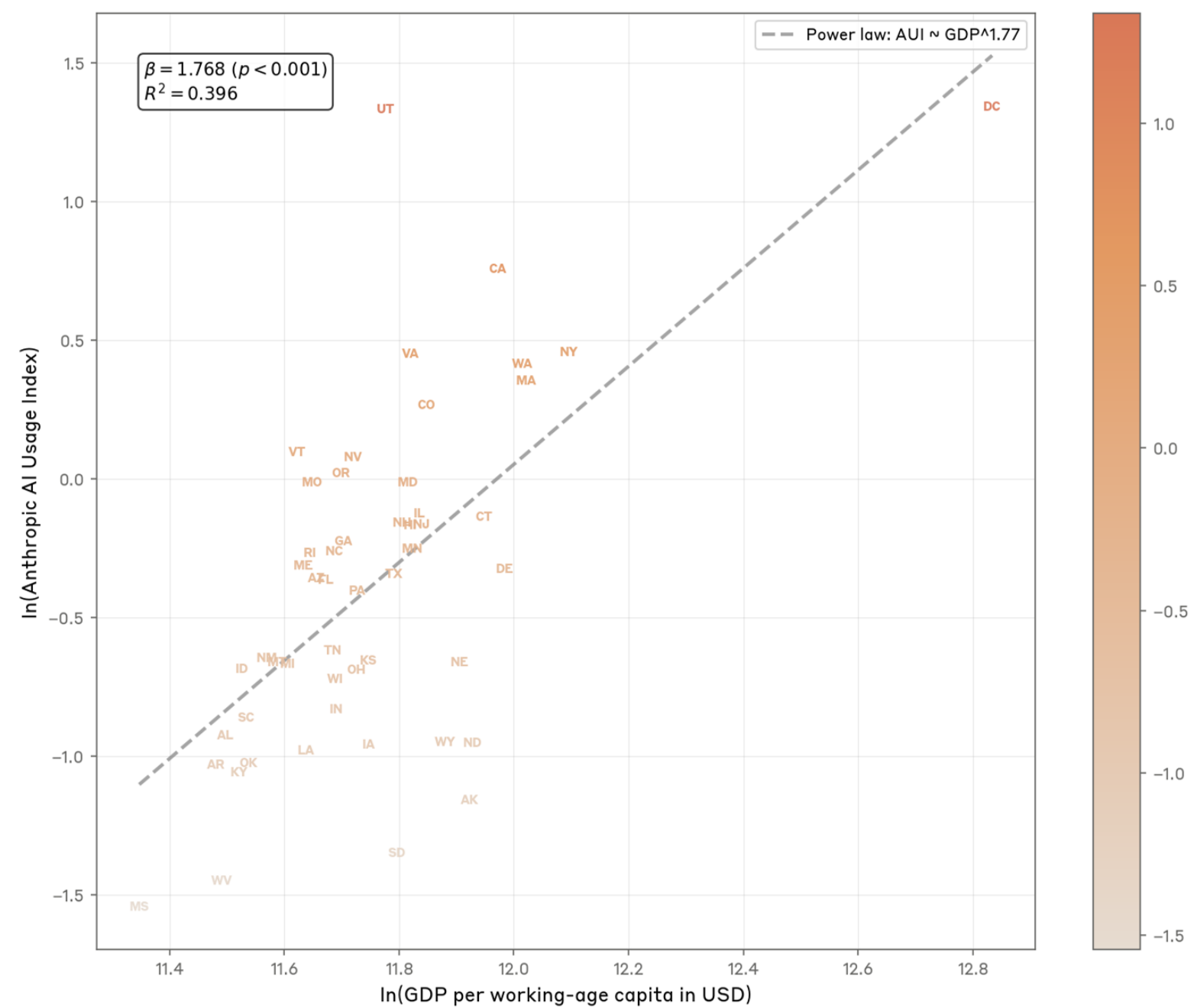


# Income is a key predictor of usage

Income and Anthropic AUI by country

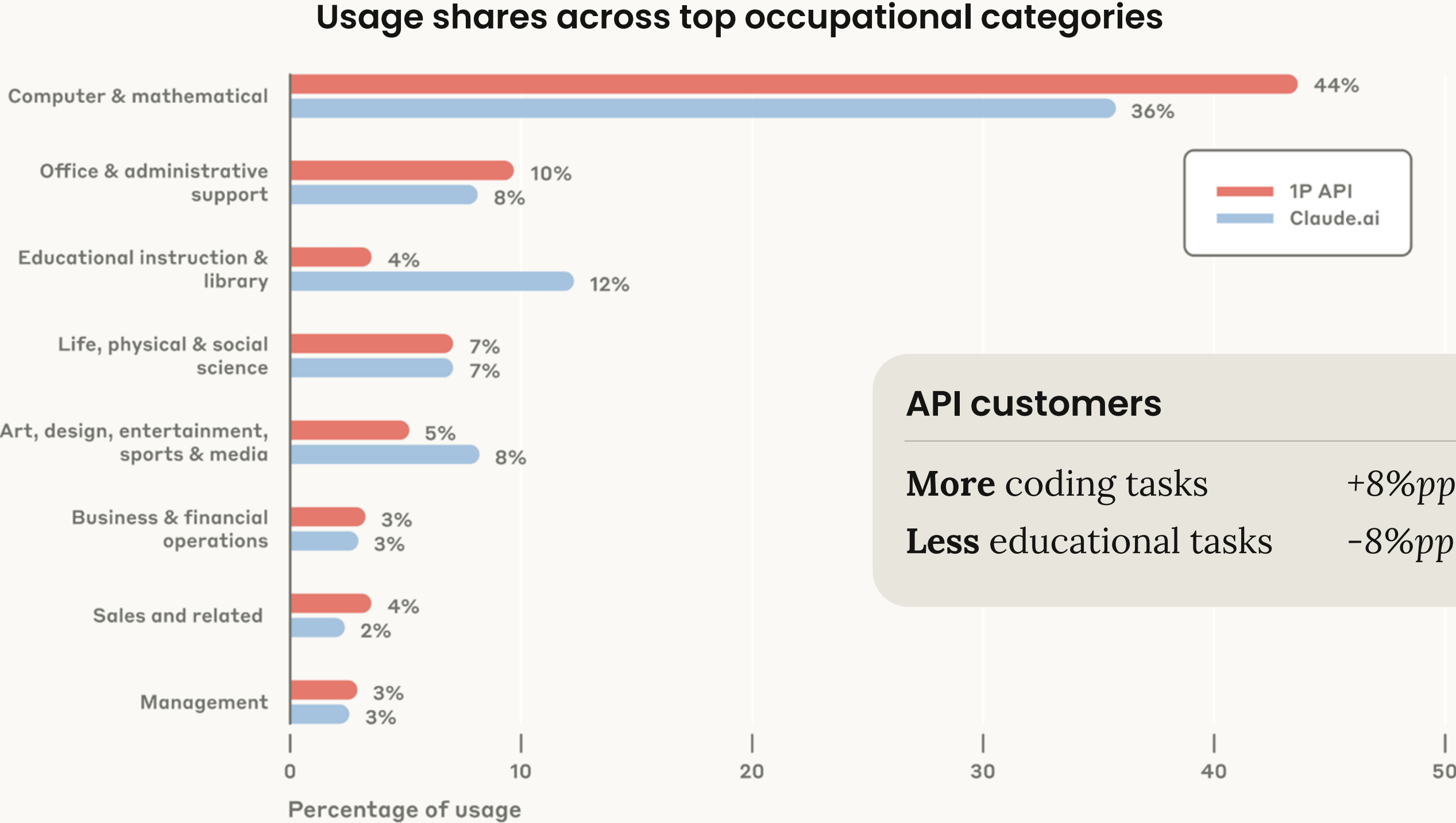


Income and Anthropic AUI by US state

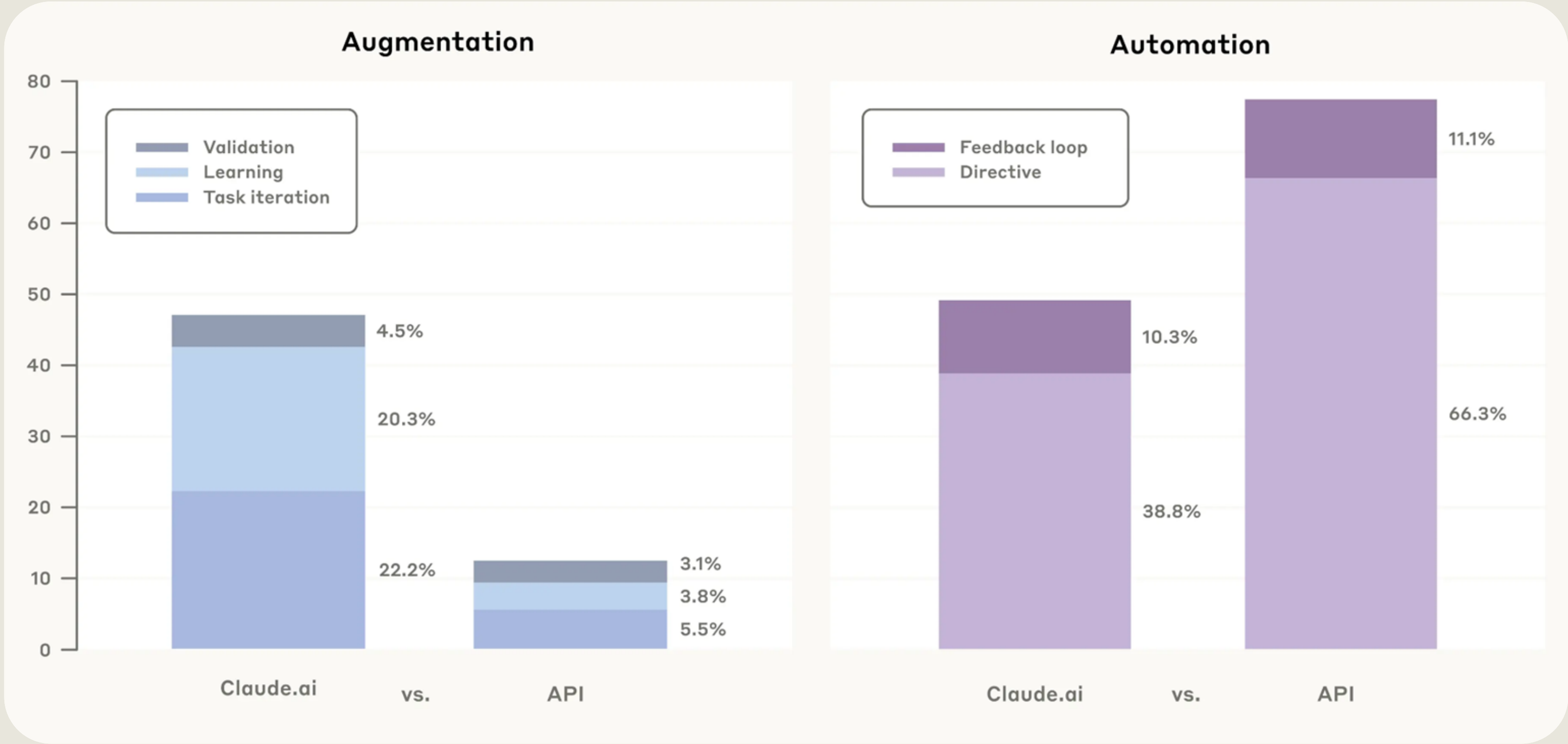




# Businesses use Claude in similar but distinctive ways



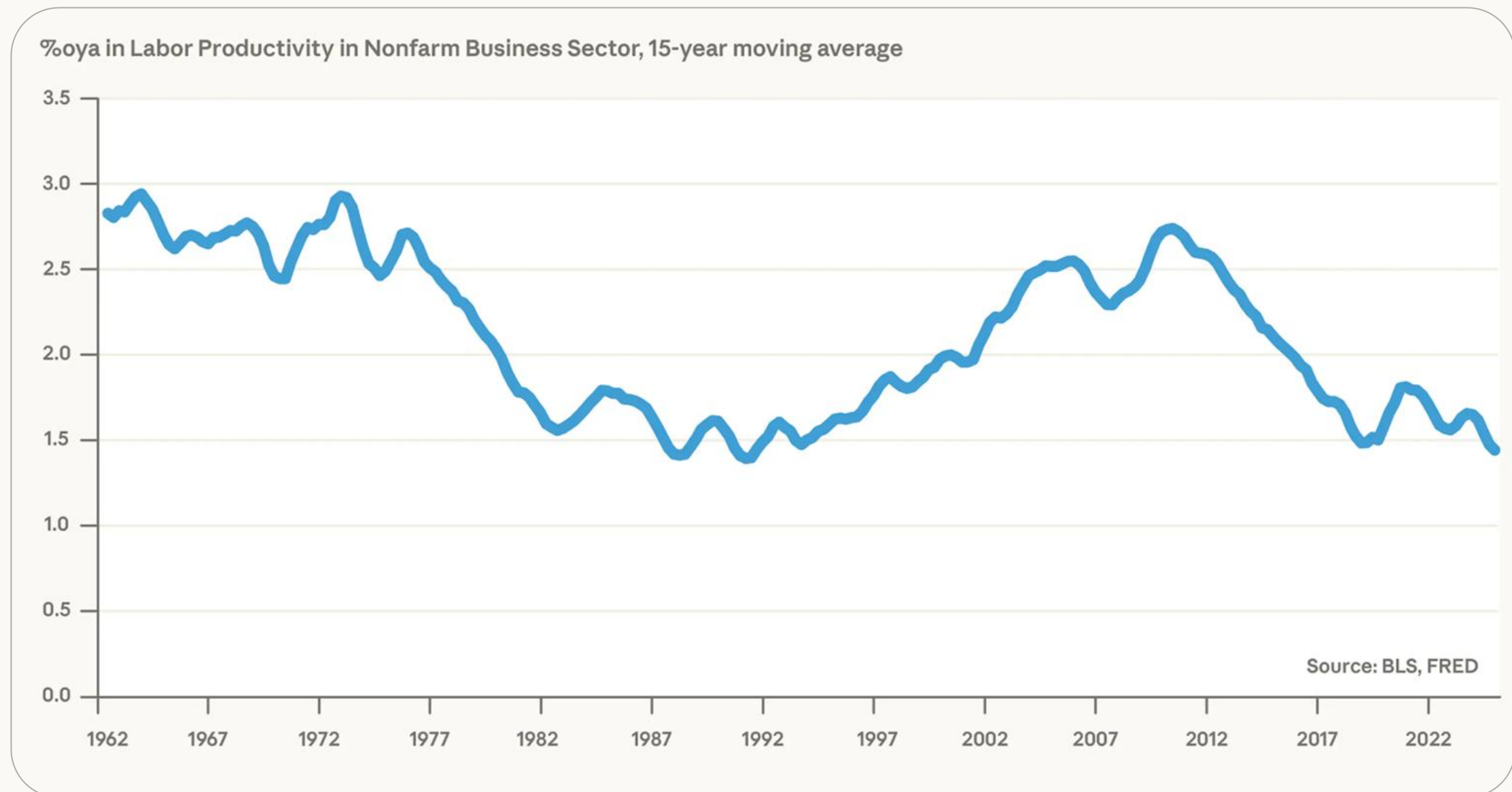
# Firms use Claude to automate tasks



# What might AI mean for growth & productivity?

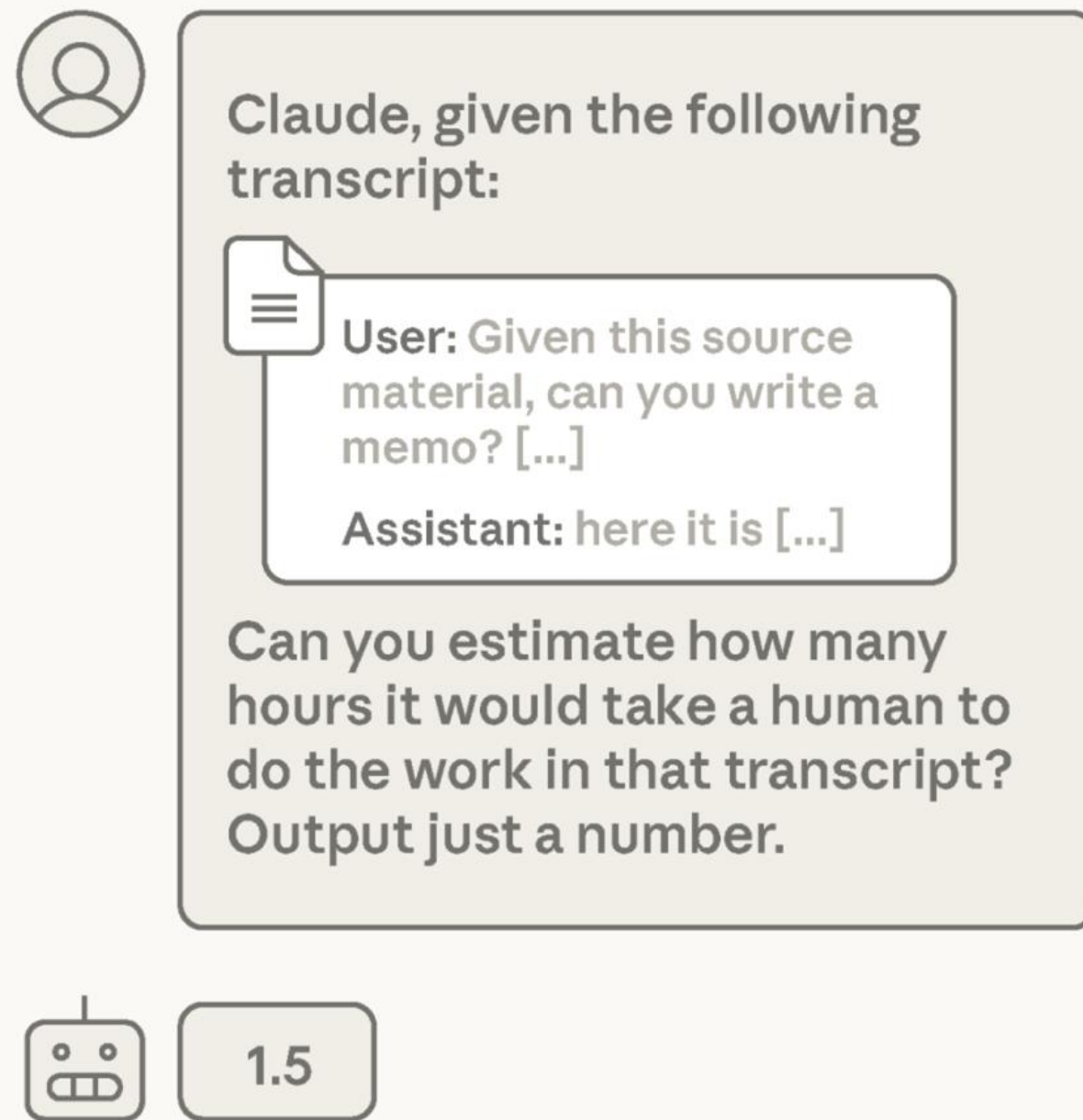
# Will AI reverse the productivity slowdown?

- AI productivity gains have policy implications:
  - Economic forecasts (GDP growth, inflation, interest rates)
  - Tax revenue and labor market dynamics
- Lab studies have strong internal validity but are **narrow**
- The Economic Index currently captures **breadth** of usage across tasks, but not the **time savings** of that usage

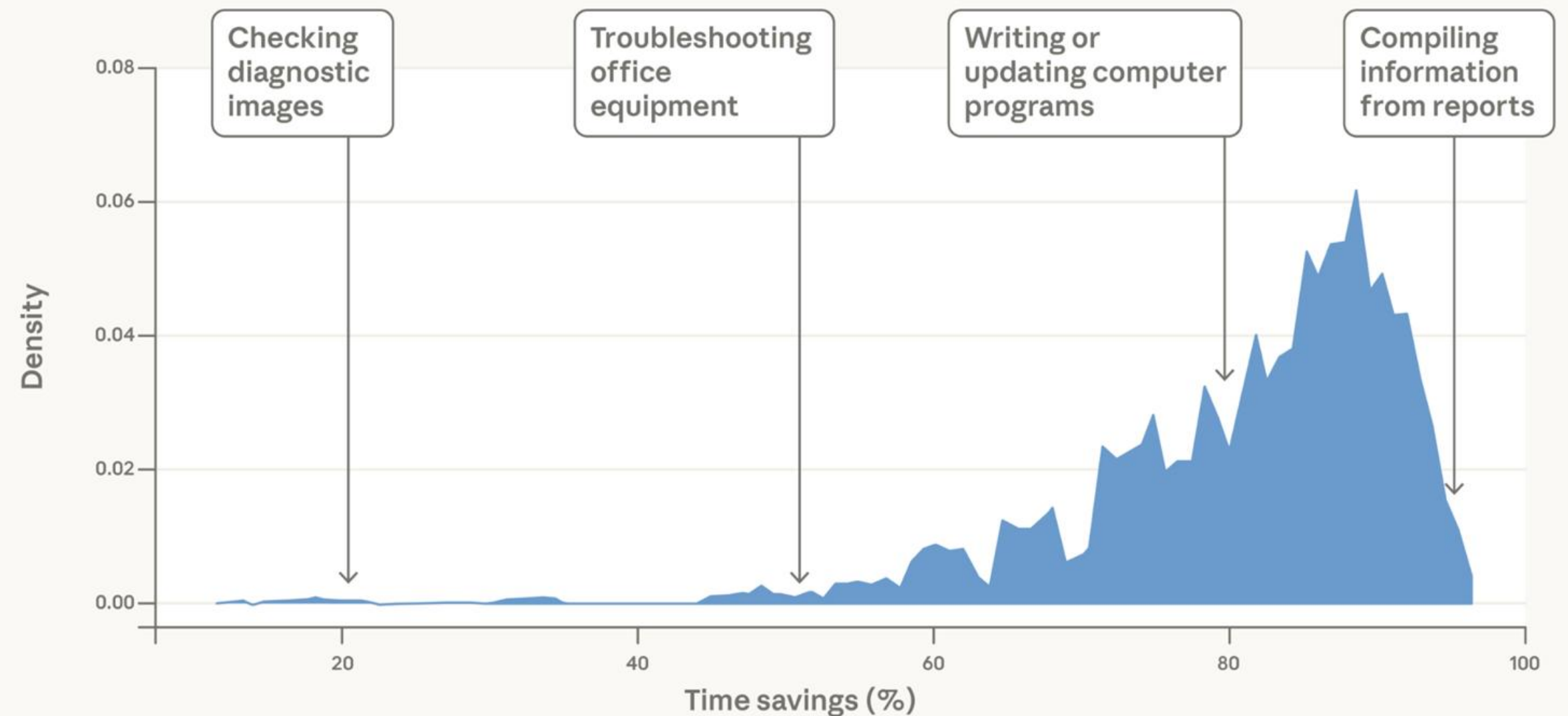




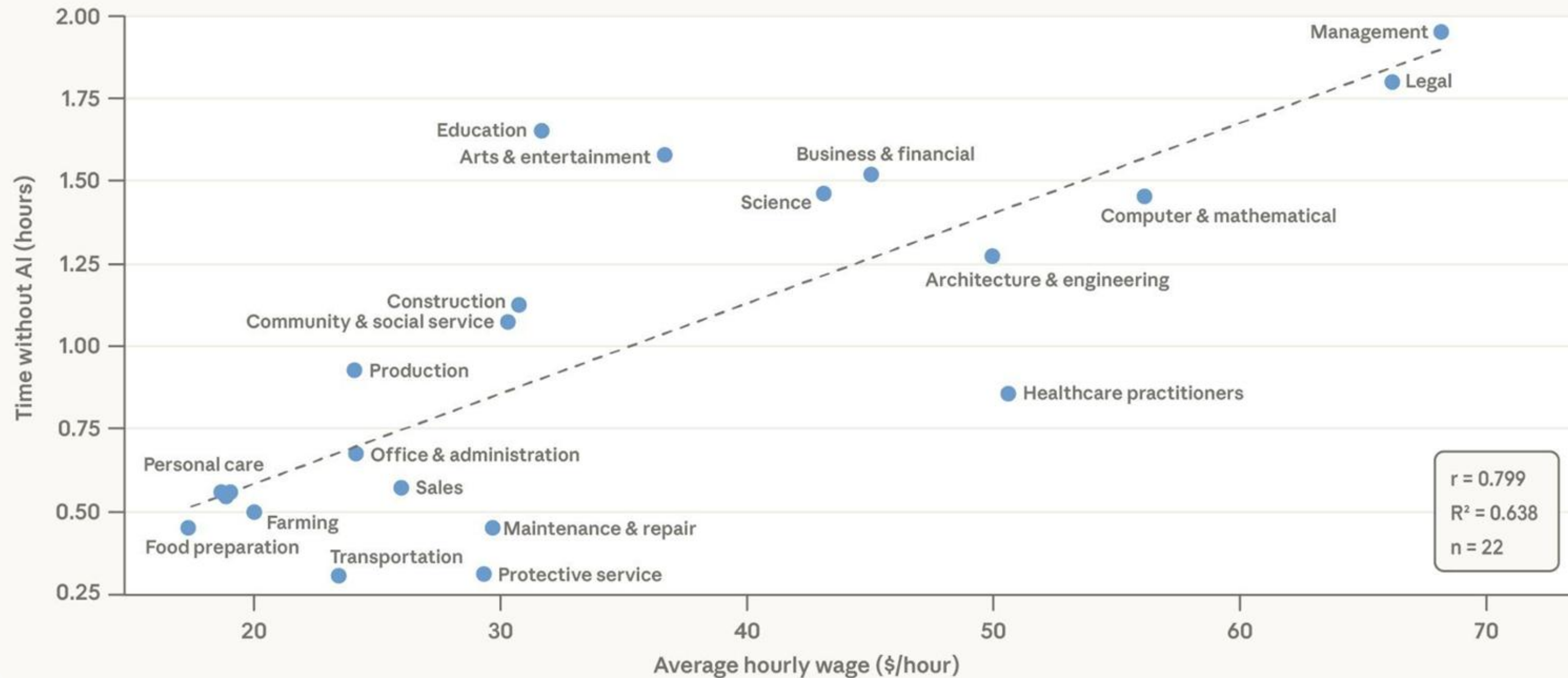
We use Claude to estimate how long it would take to do real-world tasks with and without AI assistance



This generates implied time savings across a range of tasks that people ask Claude to handle



# Task duration estimates without AI correlates with occupational wage of associated tasks

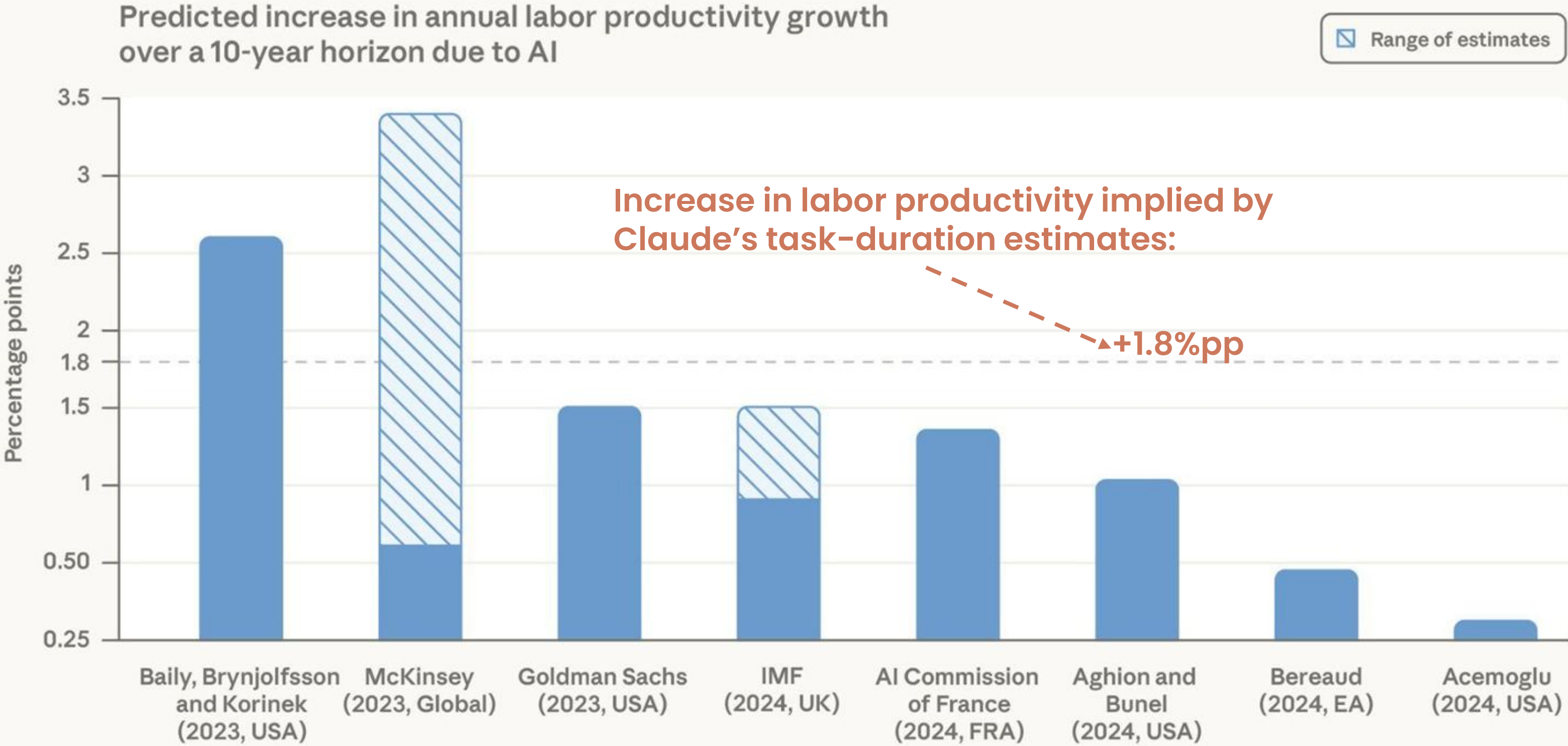


# Labor productivity contribution by occupation

Occupation	Employment	Wage bill	Wage bill share	ln (time est. ratio)	Annual labor prod contrib.
Overall economy	154.1M	\$10.46T	100.00%	0.196	1.80%
Software developers	1.65M ●	\$239.18B ●	2.3%	1.507	0.34% ●
General and operation managers	3.58M ●	\$477.16B ●	4.6%	0.224	0.10% ●
Market research analysts and marketing specialists	0.86M ●	\$74.47B ●	0.7%	1.271	0.09% ●
Secondary school teachers, except special and career/technical education	1.07M ●	\$79.05B ●	0.8%	0.820	0.06% ●
Lawyers	0.75M ●	\$136.66B ●	1.3%	0.451	0.06% ●
Customer service representatives	2.73M ●	\$123.70B ●	1.2%	0.431	0.05% ●
Retail salespersons	3.80M ●	\$141.18B ●	1.3%	0.360	0.05% ●
Computer and information systems managers	0.65M ●	\$121.44B ●	1.2%	0.379	0.04% ●
Marketing managers	0.38M ●	\$66.03B ●	0.6%	0.697	0.04% ●
Elementary school teachers, except special	1.39M ●	\$97.24B ●	0.9%	0.384	0.04% ●



# Implied labor productivity gain is on upper end of estimates





# Concluding remarks

- **Existing AI capabilities already set to transform the economy**
- **Early AI adoption is strikingly uneven**
- **AI automation may bring both productivity & job displacement**
- **Adoption and impact of new technology is not predetermined**

**“Ultimately, the economic effects of transformative AI will be shaped as much by technical capabilities as by the policy choices societies make.”**

AI