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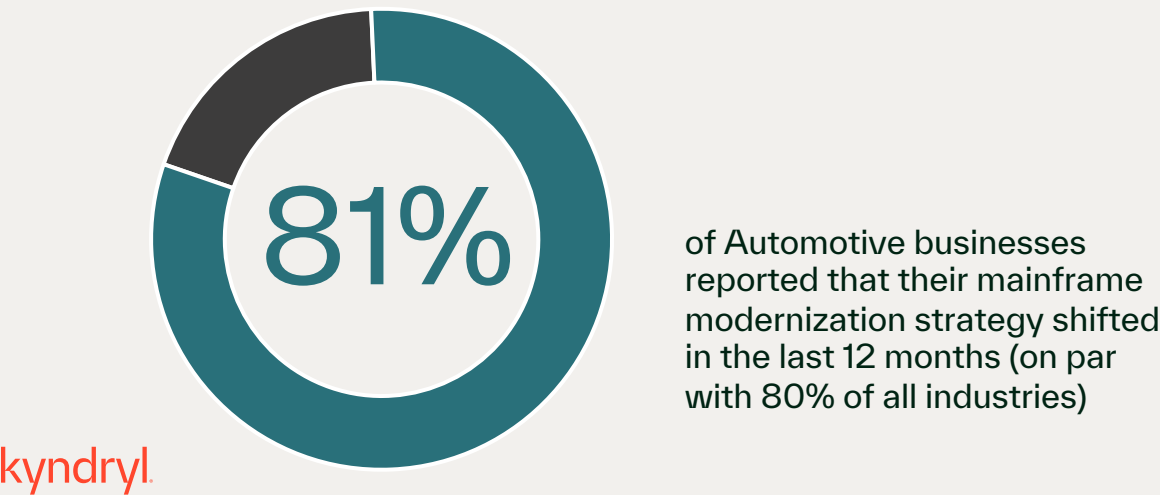# Mainframe Modernization Survey Report 2025

Industry focus: Automotive

How Automotive companies are approaching mainframe modernization in 2025

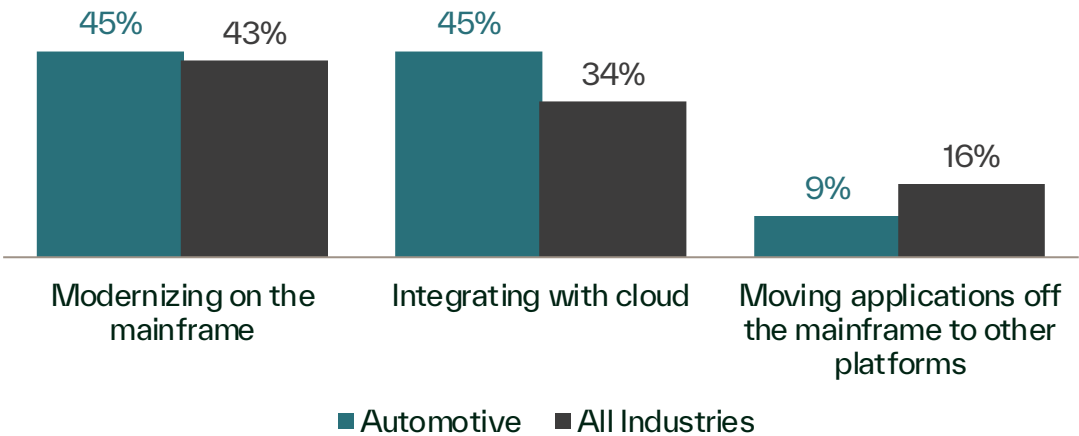Modernizing IT environments has never been more challenging – or more urgent.

In 2025, Kyndryl commissioned Coleman Parkes Research to undertake the third annual global survey of 500 senior leaders at enterprises that make use of mainframes. The research found that while the mainframe continues to offer businesses a reliable, secure, and high-performance platform for their core operations, enterprises are dynamically adapting mainframe modernization strategies in response to changing market opportunities.

The evolving capabilities of the mainframe allow it to remain central to IT strategies. Organizations continue to accelerate and steer their evolution, opening up a wealth of new possibilities.

81%

of Automotive businesses reported that their mainframe modernization strategy shifted in the last 12 months (on par with 80% of all industries)

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Businesses are embracing a surprisingly nimble approach to their modernization strategy
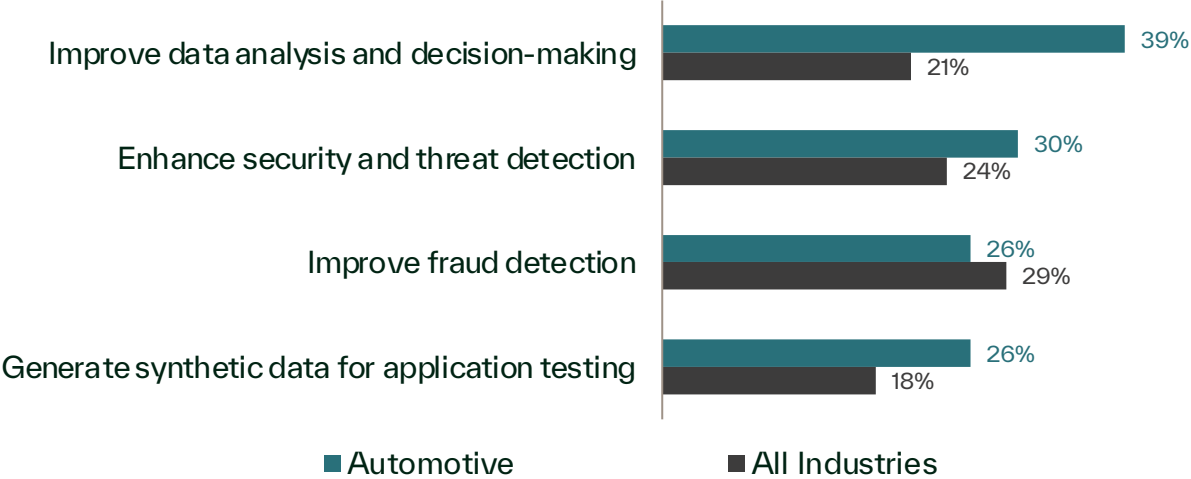
HOW STRATEGIES HAVE CHANGED

	Automotive	All Industries
Modernizing on the mainframe	45%	43%
Integrating with cloud	45%	34%
Moving applications off the mainframe to other platforms	9%	16%

■ Automotive   ■ All Industries

ANNUAL EXPECTED SAVINGS FROM MODERNIZATION PROJECTS (AUTOMOTIVE ONLY)

$22.3 million

Modernizing on the mainframe

$22.4 million

Integrating with cloud

$28.3 million

Moving applications off the mainframe to other platforms

FINDING 2
Deployment of AI and generative AI on the mainframe starts to pay off

TOP AI MAINFRAME USE CASES

Improve data analysis and decision-making
- Automotive: 39%
- All Industries: 21%

Enhance security and threat detection
- Automotive: 30%
- All Industries: 24%

Improve fraud detection
- Automotive: 26%
- All Industries: 29%

Generate synthetic data for application testing
- Automotive: 26%
- All Industries: 18%

■ Automotive   ■ All Industries

$52 million
Estimated revenue projected over the next three years from AI/gen AI initiatives (vs. $44 million for all industries)

$22 million
Projected savings (labor, operational, business) over the next three years from AI/gen AI initiatives (vs. $29 million for all industries)

FINDING 3
The majority of businesses are increasing usage of the mainframe, despite respondents reporting a decline in the platform's importance to overall strategy
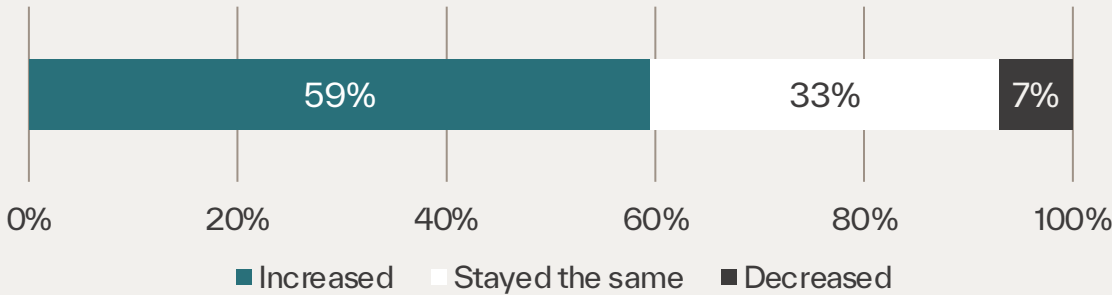
78%
of Automotive organizations say mainframe is very or extremely important to their strategy and operations (on par with 78% across all industries)

WHY AUTOMOTIVE BUSINESSES ARE KEEPING WORKLOADS ON THE MAINFRAME

1. Business criticality of the data (37%)
2. Privacy and data protection concerns (33%)
3. Access to AI technologies (33%)
4. Reliability of mainframe (33%)

MAINFRAME USE: LAST 12 MONTHS (AUTOMOTIVE ONLY)

- Increased: 59%
- Stayed the same: 33%
- Decreased: 7%

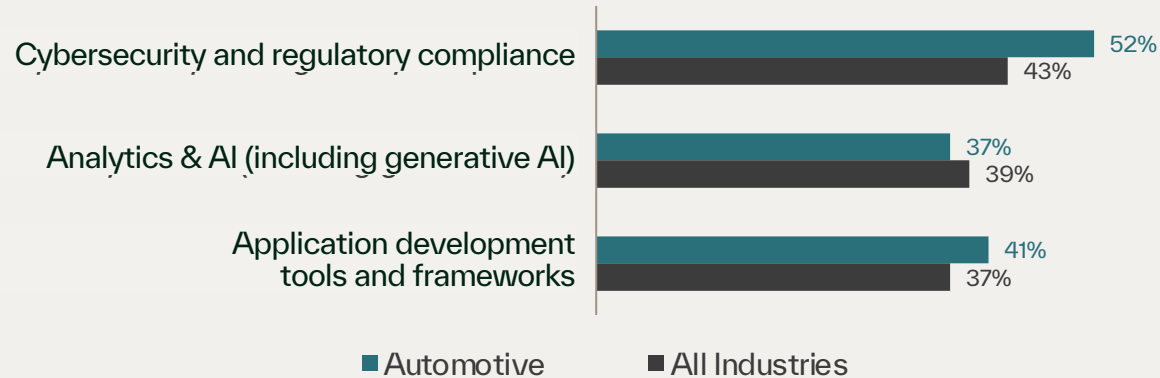■ Increased   ■ Stayed the same   ■ Decreased

Mainframe modernization requires a multi-skilled organization

81% of Automotive organizations **struggle to find skilled talent** for mainframe modernization projects (vs. 70% across all industries)

TOP CHALLENGES IN MAINTAINING A SKILLED WORKFORCE

People entering the workforce do not have mainframe skills
- Automotive: 52%
- All Industries: 46%

Employees don't want to learn new mainframe technologies/skills/languages
- Automotive: 37%
- All Industries: 42%

Staff are retiring and taking the skills with them
- Automotive: 26%
- All Industries: 39%

MAIN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENTS

Cybersecurity and regulatory compliance
- Automotive: 52%
- All Industries: 43%

Analytics & AI (including generative AI)
- Automotive: 37%
- All Industries: 39%

Application development tools and frameworks
- Automotive: 41%
- All Industries: 37%

■ Automotive   ■ All Industries

Regulatory compliance requirements have an outsized influence on modernization plans and strategies, while security remains a top concern

100% of Automotive organizations say regulatory compliance is influencing their organizations' decision-making regarding mainframe mod (vs. 94% of All Industries)

#1 Automotive organizations say **security is the #1 key area** their organizations factor into their decision-making when developing a mainframe modernization strategy

HOW REGULATORY COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS INFLUENCE DECISION-MAKING

1. **Increasing collaboration** between IT, security, and compliance teams (37%)
2. **Driving investment** in robust security and resiliency measures (30%)
3. **Accelerating modernization timelines** to meet compliance requirements (26%)

For more information on Kyndryl's work with Automotive businesses, visit:
https://www.kyndryl.com/us/en/industries/Automotive

To read Kyndryl's 2025 Mainframe Modernization Survey Report, scan the QR code

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"We have modernized parts of our mainframe and connected it to cloud systems, which lets us process things like real-time vehicle data. That kind of integration is a real impact because it feeds into connected services and customer apps and things that generate revenue."

Chief Enterprise Architect
Germany Automotive Company

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