

[tokenomics] Foundation

A vendor-neutral home for the AI Economics conversation

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Tokenomics in Ten Minutes: An Open Map of the AI Landscape



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What is Tokenomics?

AI Tokenomics (i.e., "**AI Economics**") is the discipline of converting energy and capital into AI capabilities and efficiently consuming that intelligence across the organization, to realize measurable business value.

— *Tokenomics draft definition v0.5.2, September 1 2026*

What is Tokenomics?

energy ➡ intelligence ➡ value

Everyone has a part to play in Tokenomics

Production

Turning energy and capital into AI capabilities and intelligence.

Energy

Capital Resources

AI Factories

AI Capacity Creation

Capacity Planning

Training

Consumption

Using that intelligence well, and managing the entire bill of materials.

Model Selection

Demand Forecasting

Caching Strategy

Harness

Graph Engineering

Value

What the output is worth, and how it impacts the business.

Consumer Demand

Monetization

Pricing

Labor

Accounting

Risk Reduction



FinOps Framework
finops.org/framework

Technology Strategy

FinOps

Business Strategy

A **FinOps Scope** is a defined segment of spending across **technology categories**, aligned to business constructs—such as products, cost centers, or environment—that guide the application of FinOps to maximize technology value

FinOps measures inputs here

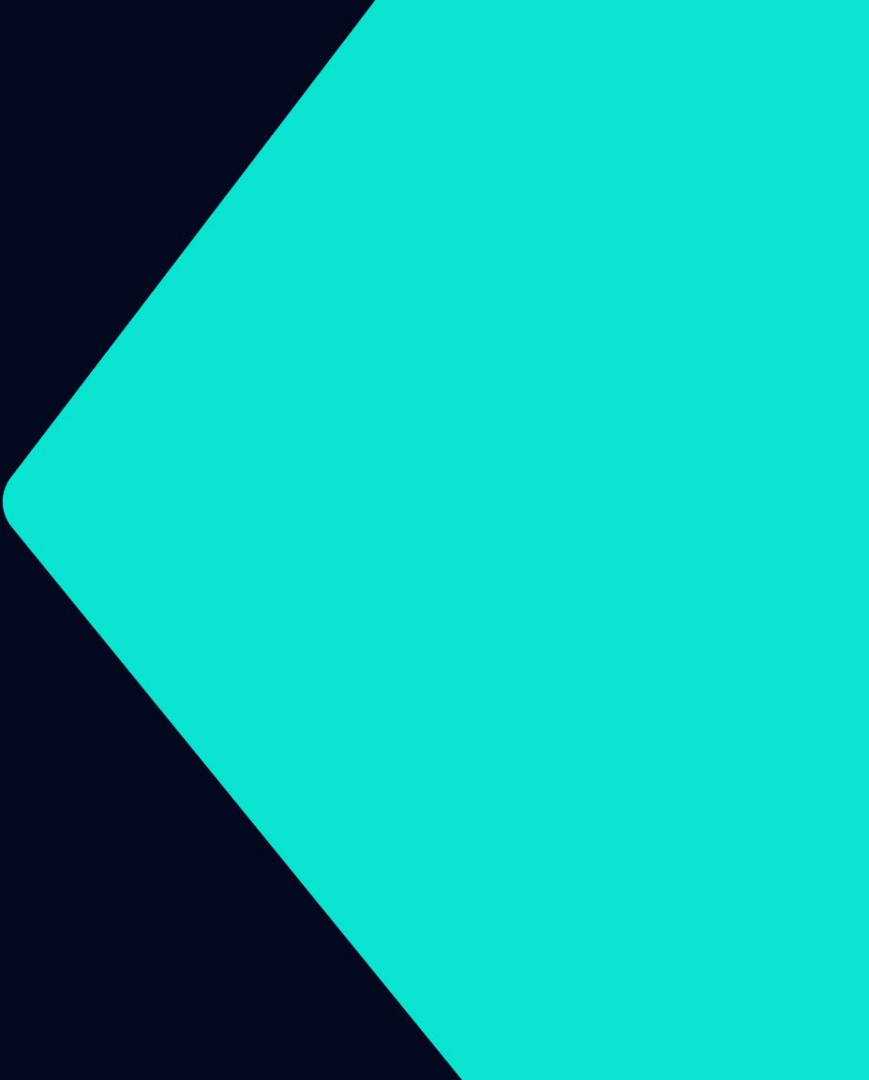
Domains: Understand Usage & Cost,
Optimize Usage & Cost

FinOps feeds outputs here

Domains: Quantify Business Value

FinOps provides the understanding and efficient use of technology through unit economics
ITFM/TBM supplies the financial reporting for budgets, allocation, chargeback and value attribution
ITAM/SAM/HAM brings the compliance, policy and lifecycle of the assets

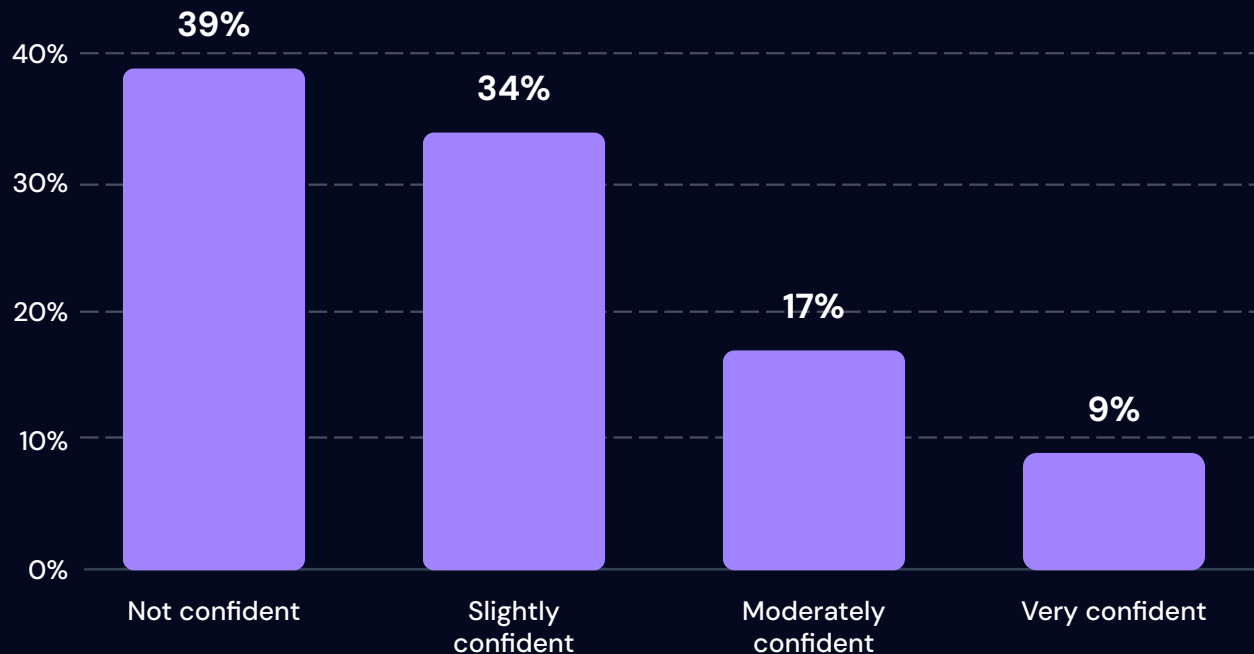
State of Tokenomics



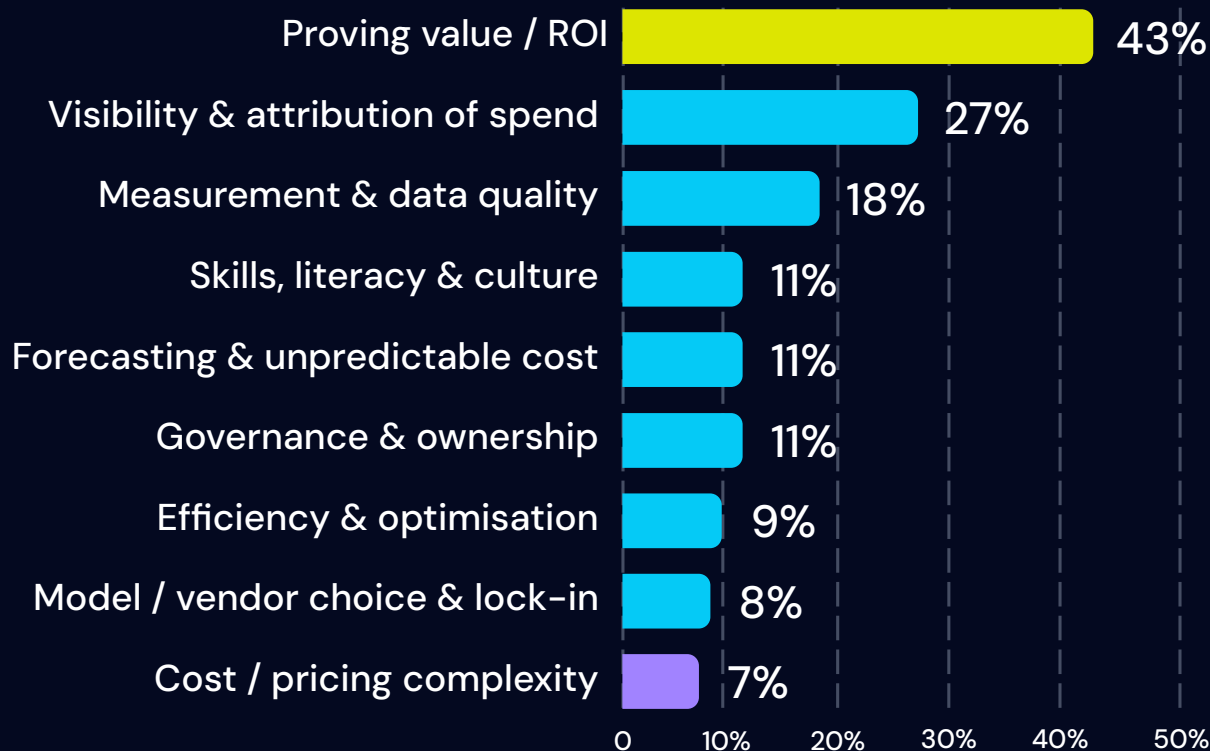
September 23, 2026

Release Candidate 1.0

Yet, **three in four** enterprises cannot confidently prove AI business outcomes to the CFO



What are your biggest Tokenomics challenges?



43%

named proving value or ROI, the single largest challenge reported.

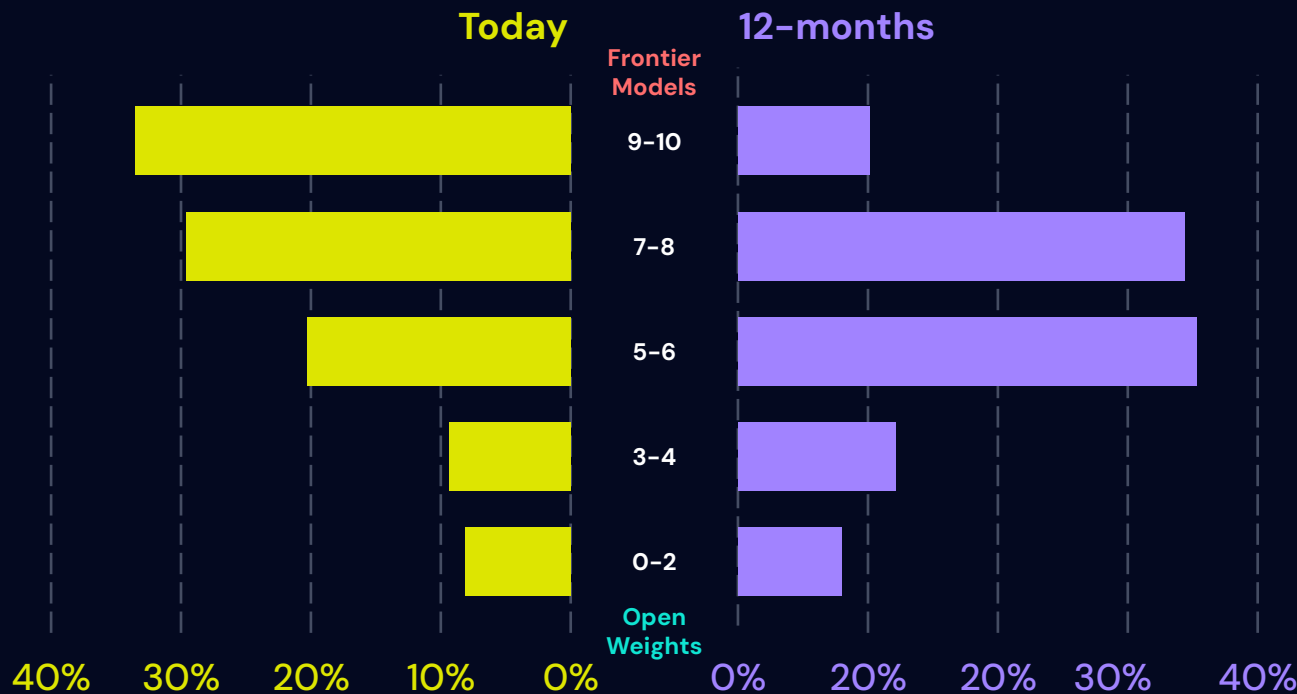


Only 7%

named cost or pricing complexity as a challenge



The **frontier labs** have the workloads today. Enterprises considering shift toward **open weights**.



51% describe themselves as 8-10 Frontier now; only 24% expect to be there next year.

The heaviest Frontier users plan the biggest shift: those at 10 today expect to **drop 2.7 points**.

Only **17%** are expecting to shift to more frontier next year

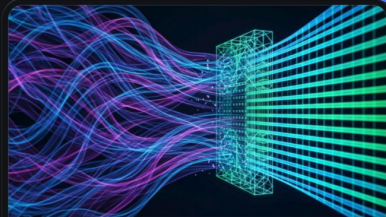
Tokenomics Foundation Projects



Sep 22, 2026 **Release Candidate**

AI Tokenomics Prompt Cache Explainer

How prompt caching works, and how to monitor, measure, and optimize cache hits, a core lever in AI tokenomics.



Sep 16, 2026 **Release Candidate**

Classifying and Measuring Realized Value from AI

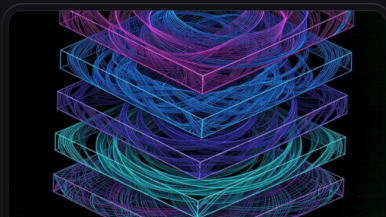
A structured approach for classifying AI's realized value, from ledger dollars to labor gains, that turns estimates into real figures for stakeholders.



Aug 5, 2026 **Draft**

AI Tokenomics Mind Map: Interactive Concepts and KPIs

Explore AI tokenomics in one interactive map. Trace how tokens are produced, consumed, and turned into business value, from hardware to unit economics.



Aug 4, 2026 **Release Candidate**

The Seven-Layer Tokenomics Stack

Introducing The Seven-Layer Tokenomics Stack. What AI costs is decided in the lower layers. How much AI spend is decided in the upper ones. L0 · L1 · L2 · L3 · L4 · L5 · L6



State of Tokenomics

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sep 23, 2026 **Report**

State of Tokenomics, September 2026: AI Tokenomics Insights

The September 2026 State of Tokenomics: 472 responses across 11 industries on AI token cost, ROI proof, model routing, open weights, and pricing.



Production: Tokenomics Stack

L6 • Entry points

demand for AI: people, agents, harnesses, and use cases

L5 • Routing and governance

routes to the cheapest model that clears the quality bar; enforces budgets and circuit breakers

L4 • Model management

fixes which weights run, right-sizing the model to the task

L3 • Inference stack

connects the hardware to the model: software that decides how efficiently each request runs

L2 • Infrastructure deployment

takes booted hardware and makes it ready to serve

L1 • Physical infrastructure

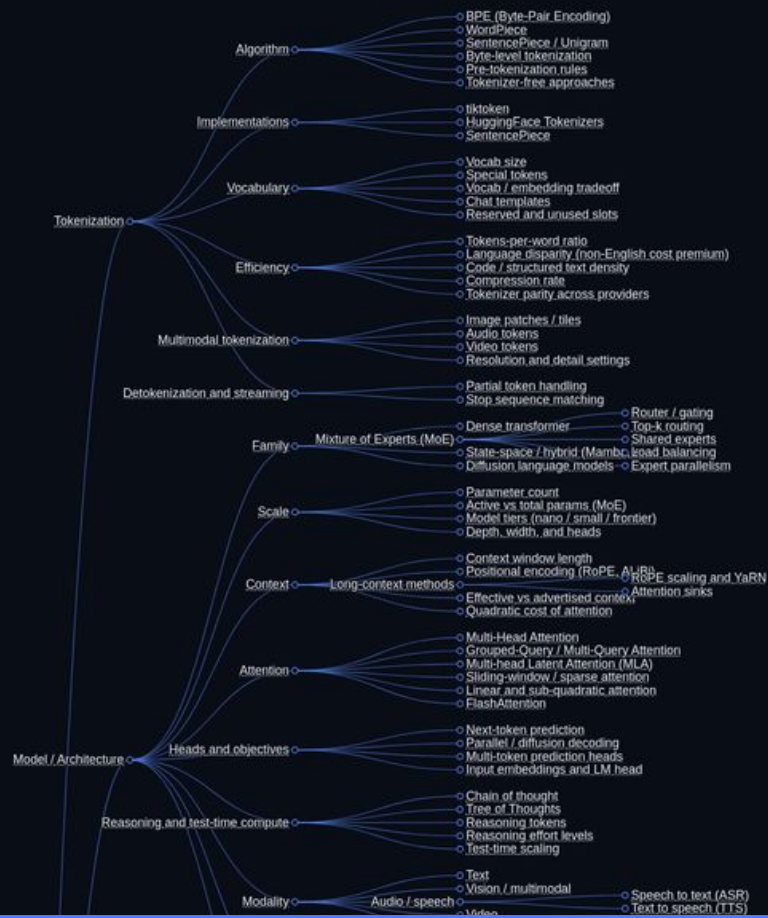
silicon, and regions that convert energy into tokens

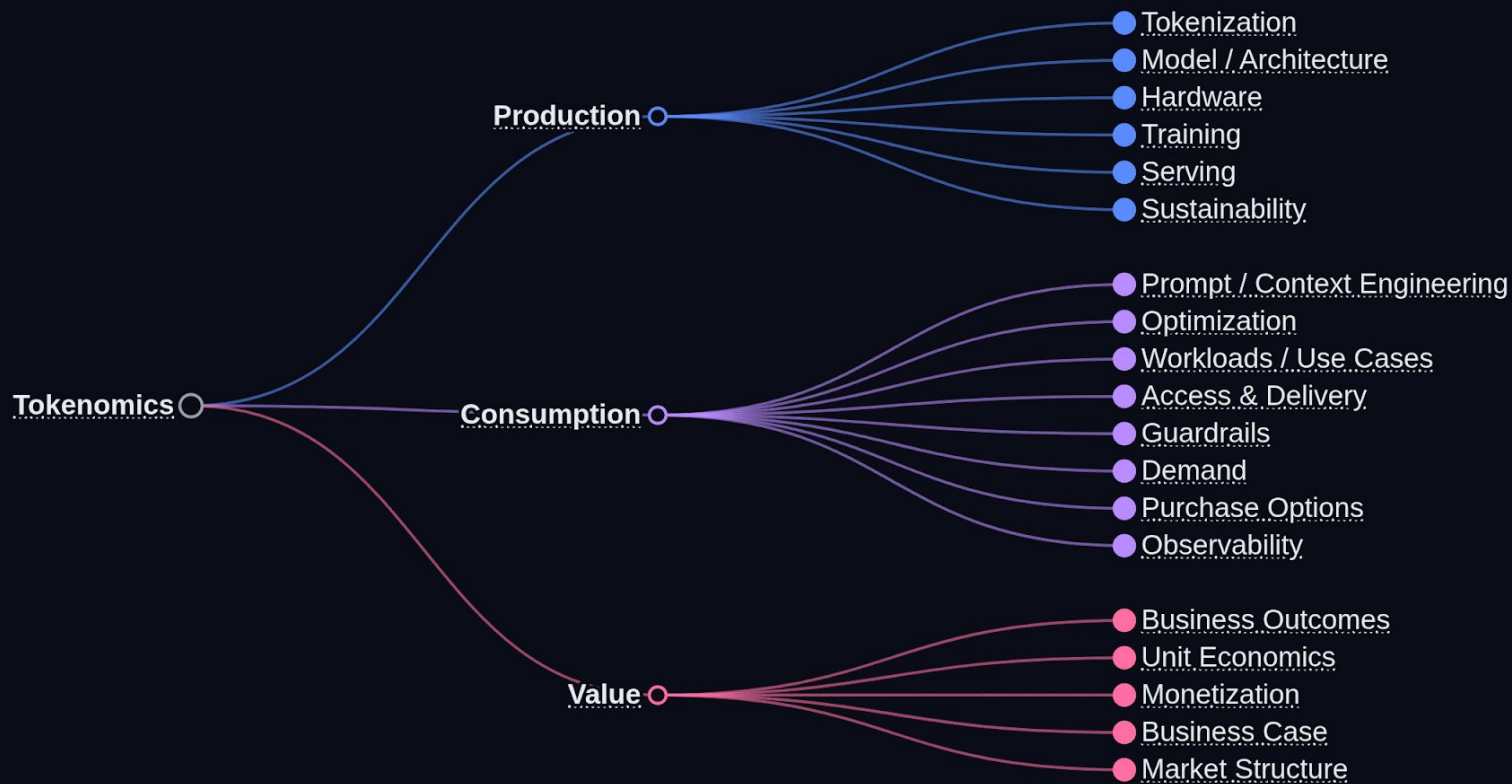
L0 • Energy

the power and water it all draws on

Definitions: Tokenomics Mind Map

Foundational concepts that explore the tokenomics landscape. Terms are organized hierarchically and defined.





Visit the Tokenomics Foundation at Booth D6

BOOTH

D6

EXPO HALL

October 22-23

San Jose McEnery Convention Center

Explore the map hands-on

The mind map runs on a large touchscreen kiosk. Tap any concept to go deeper, from caching to value categories.

Bring your agent's cost questions

Caching, routing, fan-out, retries: find where your workload sits on the seven-layer stack.

Join a working group

Production, Consumption, and Value meet weekly and in the open. Pick one and we will point you to the next call.



tokenomics.com



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