



Agentic Coding Survey

January 2026 Results

271 responses · Hacker News sample · January 24-28, 2026

THE BIG PICTURE

90%

of developers report productivity
gains from AI coding tools

Industry-wide, **85% of developers** now use AI tools regularly · **41% of all code** is AI-generated or assisted

JANUARY 2026 SNAPSHOT

Three Numbers That Matter

90%

Report productivity gains

+5 pts vs Dec

69%

Use Claude Code

+34 pts vs Dec

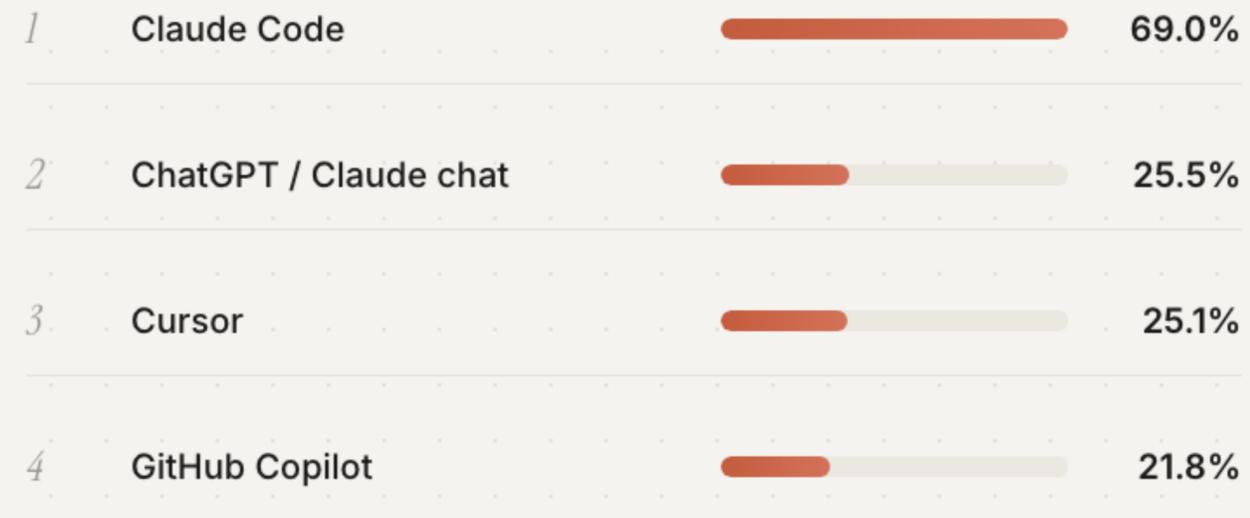
55%

Heavy AI users (76%+ of coding time)

The productivity-adoption feedback loop is accelerating. More usage drives more gains, which drives more usage.

AGENTIC CODING TOOL INDEX

Market Share — January 2026



ANALYSIS

Why Claude Code Won

PARADIGM SHIFT

From autocomplete to agentic. Claude Code doesn't suggest code—it writes entire features.

CODEBASE AWARENESS

Understands your entire project, not just the current file. Context is everything.

TERMINAL NATIVE

Runs where developers already work. No context-switching to a separate app.

MODEL QUALITY

Claude's rapid improvement in late 2025 made complex reasoning reliable at scale.

Market velocity: Claude Code scaled **\$0 → \$400M ARR in 5 months** · Cursor grew to **18% market share** from zero in 18 months

THE BIG SHIFT

One Month of Change

DECEMBER 2025

~35%

GitHub Copilot #1



JANUARY 2026

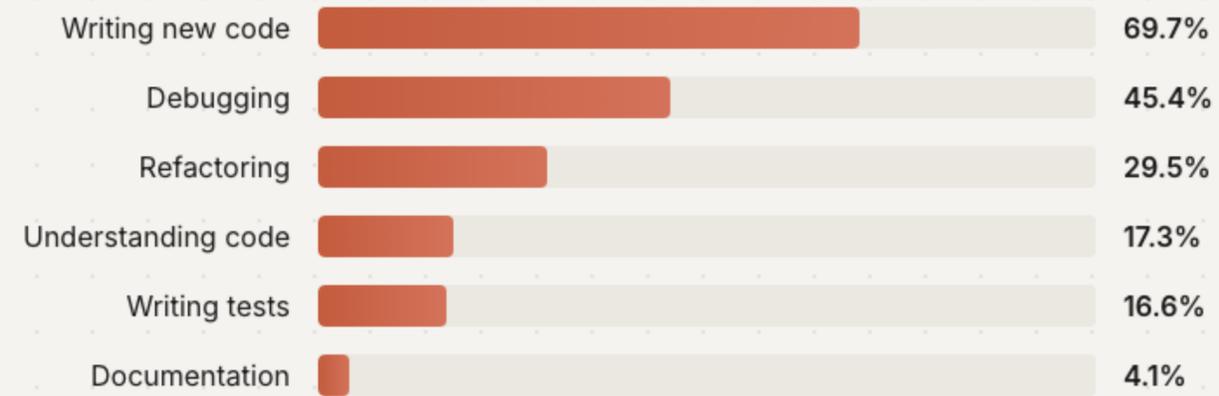
69%

Claude Code #1

This is not a feature war—it's a paradigm shift. Copilot optimizes typing. Claude Code replaces thinking.

USE CASES

What Developers Use AI For



Testing (16.6%) and documentation (4.1%) are underutilized. These represent the next frontier for AI-assisted development.

ADOPTION BY EXPERIENCE

Veterans Adopt at the Same Rate

EXPERIENCE	HEAVY USERS (76%+)	REPORT GAINS
<2 years	70.0%	85%
2-5 years	60.0%	94%
6-10 years	47.5%	93%
11-20 years	52.6%	91%
20+ years	58.3%	100%

Experience doesn't breed skepticism—it breeds recognition. Veterans know a genuine productivity shift when they see one.

THE MOST EXPERIENCED DEVELOPERS

100%

of developers with 20+ years
experience report productivity gains

*These developers have seen many "revolutions" come and go. They
only adopt what genuinely changes their workflow.*

USAGE TREND (PAST 6 MONTHS)

The Curve Is Still Steep

64.1%

Increased significantly

16.4%

Increased slightly

5.3%

Started using recently

86% of developers are on an upward adoption curve

KEY INSIGHT

Heavy AI users (76%+ usage) report 2.9× higher productivity gains than light users (1-25%)

\$4.8B

AI coding tools market (2025)

\$17.2B

Projected by 2030

35%

Annual growth rate

IN THEIR WORDS

"Claude Code was a game changer."

— Developer with 20+ years experience

THE TAKEAWAY

From Autocomplete to Agentic

The December → January transition represents a paradigm shift from AI as autocomplete to AI as agentic collaborator



Agentic Coding Tool Index

Independent, non-profit research tracking AI coding tool adoption.
Founded late 2025. By developers, for developers.

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