

# Report on the Distribution and Mobility of Global Young AI Scientists 2025 (summary)

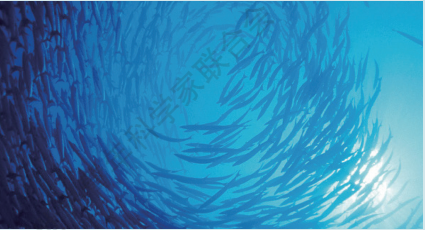


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**Compiling Organization:** Scientometrics & Evaluation Research Center,  
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# Executive Summary

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a strategic technology spearheading a new wave of scientific and industrial revolution, positioning itself as a key frontier and a strategic priority for major countries globally. Young scientists have become central drivers of AI innovation. They are not only active in academia but also deeply engaged in industrial R&D and real world applications.

This report leverages publication data from top-tier AI journals and conferences, combined with information on authors' educational backgrounds, research output, and career histories. Using scientometric analysis and machine learning methods, it systematically identifies and filters a cohort of young scientists aged 45 and below, and analyzes their geographical distribution, mobility characteristics.

This study is based on approximately 1.6 million AI papers and a disambiguated sample of around 2 million researchers. By estimating age through author publication feature indicators and applying additional filters such as publication volume and recent research activity, a final sample of 126,820 qualified young scientists was identified, along with their 448,842 associated papers. Building on this foundation, the report analyzes the global geographical distribution and cross-border mobility patterns of these young scientists by examining the institutional addresses of publication authors and their changes over time. Among the 126,820 scientists, 572 lack institutional address data, resulting in an effective sample size of 126,248 for geographical distribution and mobility analysis.

This report conducts an in-depth analysis of the global distribution and mobility paths of young AI scientists, with the goal to provide a global perspective on their regional distribution, and the overall mobility scale and directions from 2000 to 2024. It is hoped that this report will offer valuable insights for promoting the development of global AI talent.

# 1 Global Distribution: Highly Concentrated in Top 10 Countries

Based on the latest institutional affiliations of authors, the 126,248 young AI scientists worldwide are distributed across 133 countries and regions, with the majority concentrated in a limited number of research powerhouses. The top 10 countries/regions collectively account for approximately 105,000 individuals, which represents 83.74% of the total sample. Among these top 10 countries/regions by headcount, China and the United States together make up more than half of the global total, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Top 10 Countries/Regions by Number of Global Young AI Scientists

No.	Country/Region	Count	Share
1	China	53,935	42.72%
2	United States	21,595	17.11%
3	India	6,562	5.20%
4	England	4,608	3.65%
5	Germany	4,547	3.60%
6	Japan	3,038	2.41%
7	South Korea	3,017	2.39%
8	France	2,879	2.28%
9	Canada	2,802	2.22%
10	Australia	2,743	2.17%

# 2 Overall Mobility Scale: The United States Leads in Net Inflow, While India Shows Significant Net Outflow

Based on aggregate inflow and outflow counts by country/region, the 30,123 young AI scientists who have experienced cross-border mobility<sup>1</sup> collectively generated 58,388 cross-border moves. Among the top 30 countries/regions ranked by mobility scale (see Table 2), the United States recorded the highest net inflow count, followed by England in second place. Middle Eastern countries such as the UAE and Saudi Arabia also rank among the top net inflow destinations. In contrast, countries including India and Iran show pronounced net outflows, while several traditional research powerhouses—such as Italy, France, South Korea, Japan, and China—also experienced varying degrees of net talent loss. It should be noted that Table 2 only includes the top 30 countries/regions by overall mobility scale and does not represent a comprehensive global listing.

<sup>1</sup> In this report, cross-border mobility refers to changes in the institutions where scientists publish academic papers.

Table 2 Talent Inflows and Outflows in Top 30 Countries/Regions by Mobility Scale

No.	Country	Inflow Count	Outflow Count	Net Inflow Count
1	United States	10,212	9,921	291
2	England	3,864	3,611	253
3	Canada	2,100	1,960	140
4	United Arab Emirates	452	346	106
5	Netherlands	887	788	99
6	Saudi Arabia	752	666	86
7	Singapore	2,032	1,965	67
8	Denmark	379	322	57
9	Scotland	550	497	53
10	Sweden	434	404	30
11	Finland	382	362	20
12	Australia	2,651	2,632	19
13	Pakistan	694	685	9
14	Poland	340	341	-1
15	Germany	2,404	2,414	-10
16	Switzerland	1,167	1,180	-13
17	Belgium	383	397	-14
18	Austria	397	421	-24
19	Brazil	377	408	-31
20	China	12,840	12,876	-36
21	Spain	1,066	1,108	-42
22	Israel	444	492	-48
23	Turkey	328	389	-61
24	Japan	1,265	1,360	-95
25	South Korea	950	1,053	-103
26	Malaysia	355	495	-140
27	France	1,790	1,933	-143
28	Italy	1,385	1,539	-154
29	Iran	472	657	-185
30	India	1,641	1,839	-198

### 3 Overall Mobility Direction: Cross-border mobility is highly concentrated in specific countries

The cross-border mobility of young AI scientists is highly concentrated within a small number of countries. The top 20 mobility directions involve only nine countries: China, the United States, Australia, Singapore, England, Canada, Japan, India, and Germany. There are significant two-way flows between China and countries such as Australia and Singapore.

For detailed reports, please contact World Association of Young Scientists  
(email: [secretariat@ways.science](mailto:secretariat@ways.science))