



PANTHRISK WEEKLY RISK REPORT

Week of January 11–17, 2026

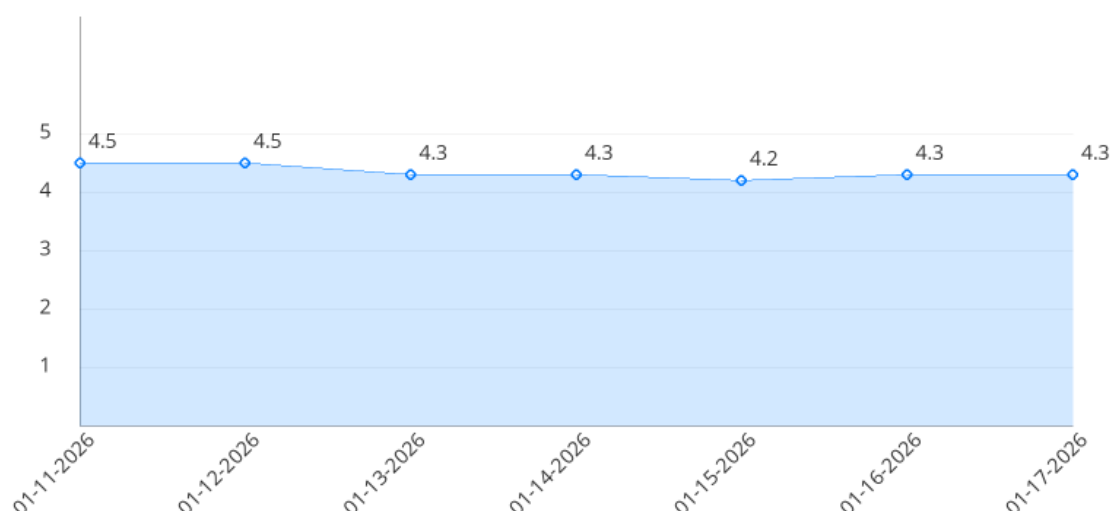
Pantrisk monitors humanity's most serious existential threats using curated news sources and AI-assisted analysis. Each day, our models evaluate key global developments, generate risk-level assessments, and propose actionable interventions. This weekly report summarizes the trends, risk shifts, and notable insights from January 11–17, 2026 across all tracked categories.

Generated: January 17, 2026



Nuclear War

Score Trend (Week of January 11–17, 2026)



This week, the nuclear threat level remains heightened due to several factors, including the potential resumption of nuclear weapons testing by the United States, the expiration of key arms control treaties, and the modernization of nuclear arsenals. These developments have contributed to increased geopolitical tensions and the risk of a new arms race. The situation is compounded by advancements in nuclear weapons technology and the lack of renewed diplomatic agreements to replace or extend expiring treaties. The consistent elevation of the threat level underscores the urgency for international diplomatic efforts to address these challenges and prevent further escalation.



Nuclear War

Recommended Risk Reduction Actions

- **[Government]** Reinstate diplomatic talks to renew and expand arms control treaties, including the New START.
- **[United Nations]** Convene an emergency session of the Security Council to address the risks of renewed nuclear testing.
- **[NGO]** Launch public awareness campaigns highlighting the dangers of nuclear testing and advocating for disarmament.
- **[Industry]** Develop and implement technologies that enhance nuclear security and verification measures.
- **[International Organizations]** Facilitate urgent diplomatic dialogues to extend or replace expiring arms control treaties.



Nuclear War

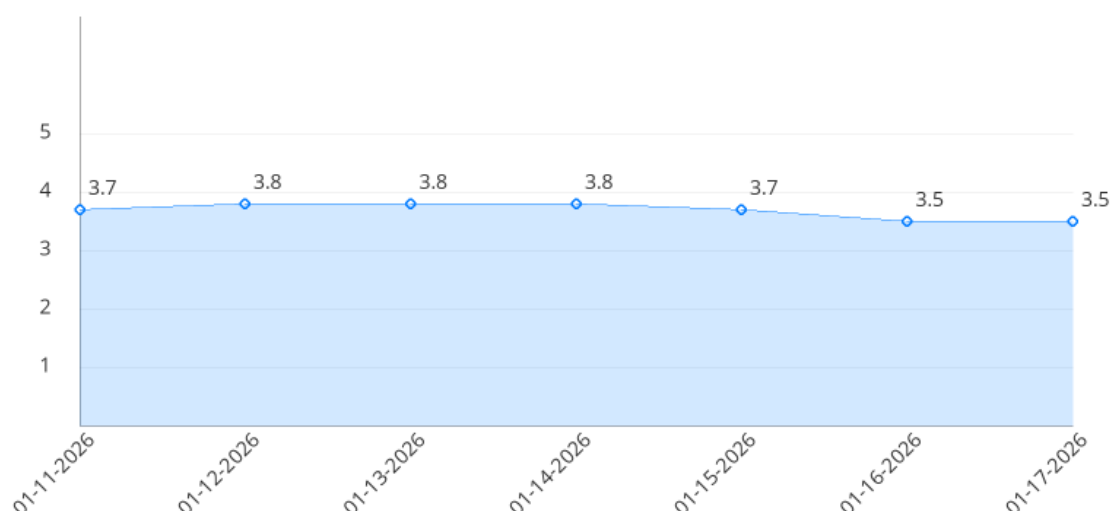
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Artificial Intelligence

Score Trend (Week of January 11–17, 2026)



This week, the AI risk level remained moderate, with a consistent score ranging from 3.5 to 3.8. The primary concerns centered around the rapid advancements in AI capabilities, their integration into critical sectors, and the potential for misuse, especially in military applications. Issues of alignment, control, and ethical governance were frequently highlighted, alongside worries about the concentration of power and the potential for misinformation. Despite the moderate risk level, the ongoing integration of AI into essential areas underscores the need for robust governance and safety measures to mitigate potential risks.



Artificial Intelligence

Recommended Risk Reduction Actions

- **[Government]** Develop and implement comprehensive AI governance frameworks to ensure alignment and safety in AI deployments across sectors.
- **[Industry]** Establish independent safety audits for AI models to assess and mitigate potential risks before widespread implementation.
- **[Academia]** Conduct interdisciplinary research on AI alignment and safety to address potential long-term existential risks.
- **[NGO]** Advocate for transparency and accountability in AI development and deployment to prevent misuse and concentration of power.
- **[Public]** Increase awareness and education on AI's societal impacts and risks to foster informed public discourse.



Artificial Intelligence

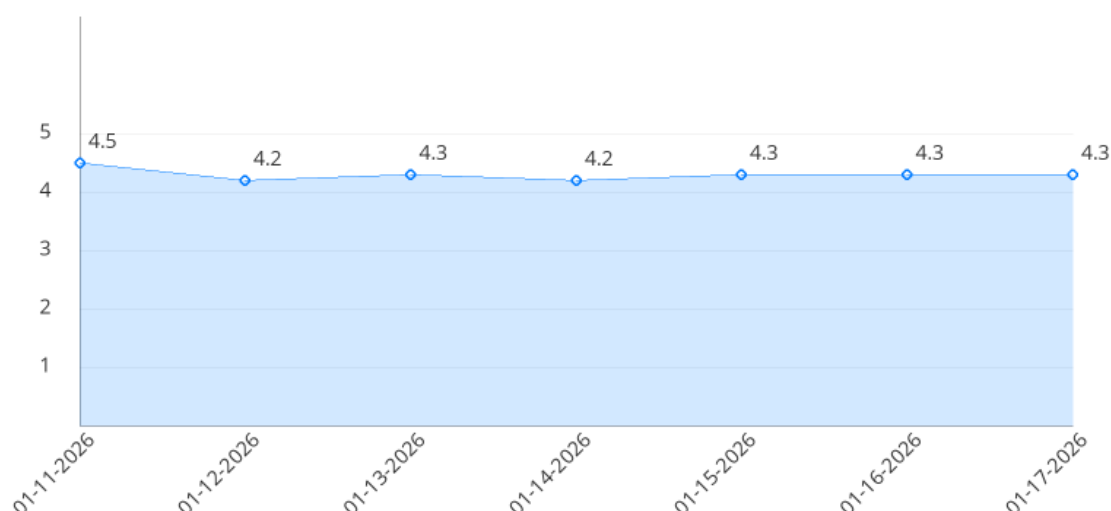
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Climate Change

Score Trend (Week of January 11–17, 2026)



This week, the climate change risk level remains high, driven by the U.S. withdrawal from major international climate agreements, which undermines global efforts to combat climate change. Record ocean temperatures and increased fossil fuel production plans further exacerbate the situation, contributing to global warming. Reports indicate that the last three years have exceeded the 1.5°C global warming limit, signaling severe potential impacts. Insufficient policy responses and escalating environmental and economic consequences highlight the urgent need for coordinated action. Extreme weather events and inadequate policy measures continue to pose significant challenges to addressing climate change effectively.



Climate Change

Recommended Risk Reduction Actions

- **[Government]** Recommit to international climate agreements to restore global cooperation and strengthen emission reduction targets.
- **[NGO]** Increase advocacy and public awareness campaigns to pressure governments and industries to commit to climate action and sustainable practices.
- **[Industry]** Invest in and transition to renewable energy sources and sustainable technologies to reduce carbon footprints and support global decarbonization efforts.
- **[Research Institutions]** Conduct further studies on climate feedback loops and their potential to accelerate warming, providing data-driven insights to inform policy and adaptation strategies.
- **[Local Communities]** Implement local adaptation strategies to manage immediate climate impacts and build resilience against extreme weather events.



Climate Change

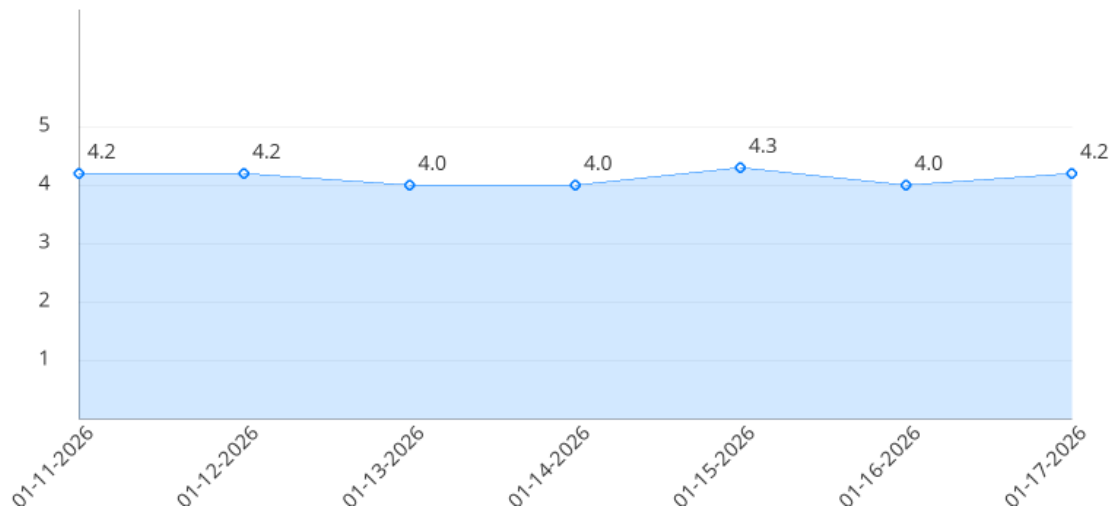
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Pandemics



Score Trend (Week of January 11–17, 2026)



This week, the pandemic risk remains high due to a combination of factors, including rising cases of flu, RSV, measles, and avian flu. Persistent misinformation about vaccines and challenges in public health responses are exacerbating the situation. The ongoing impact of COVID-19 continues to strain healthcare systems, while surveillance challenges hinder effective outbreak management. The situation is compounded by global infectious disease outbreaks and the need for improved public health communication to counter misinformation and promote vaccination.



Pandemics

Recommended Risk Reduction Actions

- **[Government]** Increase funding for public health surveillance systems to enhance early detection and response to outbreaks.
- **[Healthcare Providers]** Educate patients on the importance of vaccinations and preventive health measures to combat misinformation.
- **[Media]** Collaborate with public health officials to disseminate accurate and timely information about disease outbreaks and vaccine safety.
- **[NGO]** Support community outreach programs to improve vaccine uptake and awareness, especially in underserved areas.
- **[International Organizations]** Coordinate global efforts to monitor and respond to avian flu and other emerging infectious diseases.



Pandemics

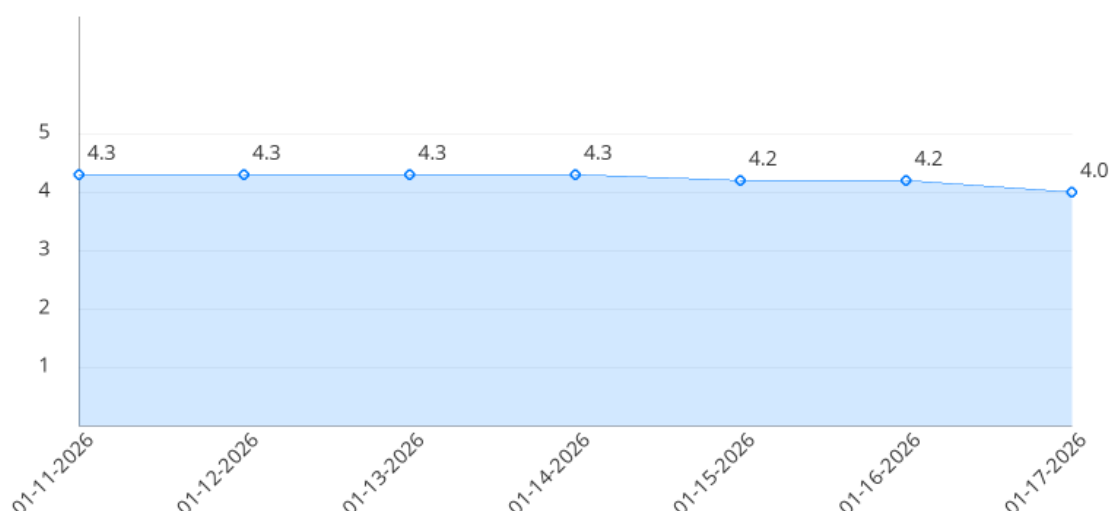
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Information Integrity

Score Trend (Week of January 11–17, 2026)



This week, the global threat of misinformation remains high, primarily fueled by the proliferation of AI-generated content, deepfakes, and state-sponsored disinformation campaigns. These activities are impacting political, social, and international domains, with particular emphasis on election-related disinformation and health falsehoods. The risk scores have consistently hovered around 4.2 to 4.3, indicating a persistent and significant challenge to information integrity. The widespread use of AI technologies in generating misleading content continues to complicate efforts to maintain public trust and stability. The ongoing situation underscores the need for enhanced detection systems, regulatory measures, and public education to mitigate the effects of misinformation.



Information Integrity

Recommended Risk Reduction Actions

- **[Government]** Implement stricter regulations and penalties for the creation and dissemination of AI-generated misinformation and deepfakes.
- **[Industry]** Enhance AI detection tools to better identify and flag misleading content, including deepfakes, on digital platforms.
- **[NGO]** Launch public awareness campaigns to educate citizens on recognizing and reporting misinformation, emphasizing critical thinking skills.
- **[Education]** Integrate comprehensive media literacy programs into school curricula to equip students with skills to critically evaluate information sources.
- **[International Organizations]** Foster global cooperation to address cross-border misinformation threats and share best practices for combating disinformation.



Information Integrity

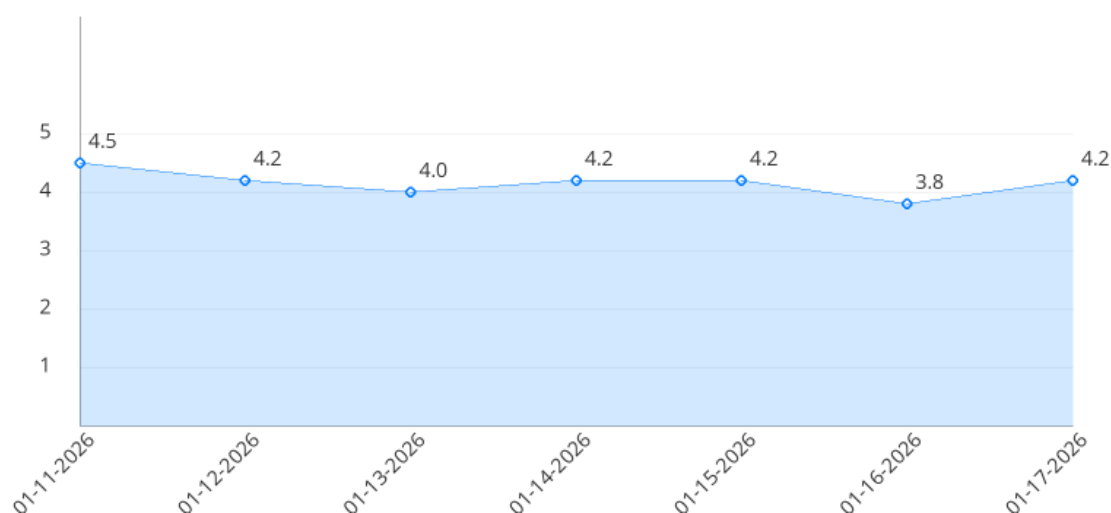
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Unknown / Black Swan

Score Trend (Week of January 11–17, 2026)



This week's developments highlight significant existential threats with potential global implications. Iceland has raised alarms about the potential collapse of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), which could disrupt climate systems and pose a security risk. Concurrently, Iran is experiencing severe internal instability due to widespread protests against the regime, marking its most significant existential threat since the 1979 revolution. Additionally, increased fire activity in the Arctic presents unpredictable environmental challenges with far-reaching impacts. Meanwhile, US actions in Greenland are perceived as a destabilizing factor in Arctic geopolitics, adding to the regional tensions.



Unknown / Black Swan

Recommended Risk Reduction Actions

- **[Government]** Increase diplomatic efforts to address and de-escalate tensions in Iran, focusing on peaceful resolutions and supporting human rights initiatives.
- **[Research Institutions]** Intensify studies on AMOC dynamics and develop potential mitigation strategies to address climate-induced disruptions.
- **[NGO]** Mobilize resources to support civil society and human rights organizations in Iran, ensuring protection for protestors and affected civilians.
- **[Industry]** Analyze potential impacts of geopolitical instability in Iran on global energy markets and propose strategic responses.
- **[International Organizations]** Facilitate dialogue among Arctic nations to address shared environmental and security concerns, promoting cooperation on sustainable resource management.



Unknown / Black Swan

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Week in Review: January 11–17, 2026

This week's analysis of existential risks across six domains reveals a continuation of heightened concerns, with nuclear war and climate change remaining particularly pressing. The nuclear threat is exacerbated by potential weapons testing and the expiration of arms control treaties, while climate change risks are intensified by the U.S. withdrawal from international agreements and record ocean temperatures. The AI risk level is moderate, with ongoing concerns about the integration of AI into critical sectors and the potential for misuse. Pandemic risks are high, driven by rising cases of various infectious diseases and persistent misinformation about vaccines. Information integrity is challenged by AI-generated content and disinformation campaigns, maintaining a high threat level. In the unknown/black swan domain, potential disruptions to climate systems and geopolitical tensions in the Arctic and Iran highlight unpredictable threats with global implications.



Closing Notes

Thank you for reviewing this week's Panthrisk report. To stay informed, visit **panthrisk.com** — our dashboard is updated daily with the latest risk levels, GPT summaries, and recommended actions.

If you find this information valuable, please share it with colleagues working to reduce global catastrophic risk. Awareness is the first step toward action.