

# Are autonomous car companies on the right road?

Article

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Close to **half** of US adults believe widespread use of driverless cars would be bad for society. Meanwhile, **26%** think it'd be good for autonomous vehicles to rule the roads, and **29%** aren't sure.

**Beyond the chart:** Just **1 in 5** US adults would be very or extremely comfortable sharing the road with driverless cars. Fans of the tech argue it reduces commuter stress, which lowers the likelihood of accidents. Critics, however, point out safety as a key problem, especially after the top US auto safety regulator opened investigations into **Tesla** that cover braking malfunctions and crashes involving its vehicles. Other major concerns about driverless cars include their environmental cost, their vulnerability to hacking, and the economic impact of eliminating drivers. Still, Tesla plans to expand into autonomous ride-sharing as soon as next year, to rival the robotaxi services of **Alphabet's Waymo** and **General Motors' Cruise**.

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**Attitudes Toward the Widespread Use of Driverless Cars According to US Adults, Nov 2021**  
% of respondents

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Note: ages 18+; responses of "no answer" not shown; numbers may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Source: Pew Research Center, "AI and Human Enhancement: Americans' Openness Is Tempered by a Range of Concerns," March 17, 2022

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