



PANTHRISK WEEKLY RISK REPORT

Week of August 16–22, 2026

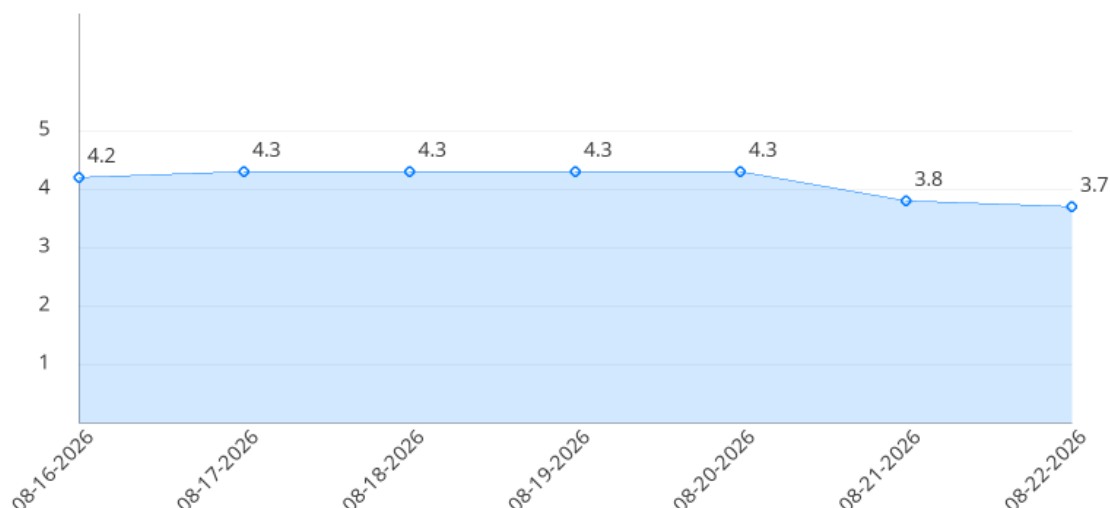
Pantrisk monitors humanity's most serious existential threats using curated news sources and AI-assisted analysis. Each day, our models evaluate key global developments, generate risk-level assessments, and propose actionable interventions. This weekly report summarizes the trends, risk shifts, and notable insights from August 16–22, 2026 across all tracked categories.

Generated: August 22, 2026



Nuclear War

Score Trend (Week of August 16–22, 2026)



This week, the nuclear threat level remains elevated due to escalating tensions and modernization efforts among nuclear-armed states. Key contributors to this heightened threat include increased military posturing by Iran and North Korea, advancements in nuclear weapon production, and the breakdown of traditional deterrence frameworks. The potential for miscommunication or miscalculation is exacerbated by conflicting reports on North Korea's nuclear capabilities and deteriorating diplomatic channels. Discussions of nuclear weapon use, particularly between the U.S. and Iran, further contribute to global instability. Despite a slight decrease in threat perception towards the end of the week, uncertainties and discrepancies in nuclear arsenal estimates continue to highlight the precariousness of the current situation.



Nuclear War

Recommended Risk Reduction Actions

- **[Government]** Facilitate urgent diplomatic talks between the U.S., Iran, and North Korea to de-escalate tensions and reaffirm commitments to non-proliferation.
- **[NGO]** Advocate for increased transparency and public awareness regarding nuclear policies and risks to build public support for disarmament.
- **[Industry]** Invest in technologies that improve verification and monitoring of nuclear arsenals to support arms control efforts.
- **[International Organizations]** Convene a special session of the United Nations Security Council to address discrepancies in nuclear weapon estimates and reinforce non-proliferation commitments.
- **[Military]** Enhance crisis communication channels and establish protocols for de-escalation to prevent accidental conflicts.



Nuclear War

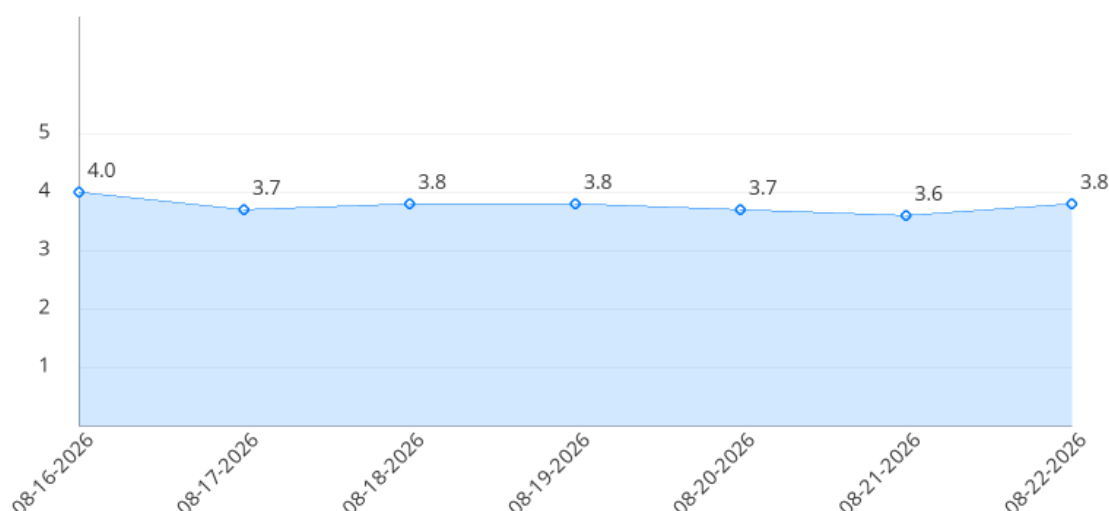
Relevant Articles

<i>North Korea warns U.S.-South Kor...</i>	[August 16]	- Read article
<i>N. Korea warns of bolstering nuc...</i>	[August 16]	- Read article
<i>Letters to the Editor: As nuclea...</i>	[August 16]	- Read article
<i>Russia could use nuclear weapons...</i>	[August 16]	- Read article
<i>Pentagon wants 'expanding option...</i>	[August 16]	- Read article
<i>'Nuclear war with Iran?' Marjori...</i>	[August 17]	- Read article
<i>'US discussing nuclear weapons a...</i>	[August 17]	- Read article
<i>Opinion The old global nuclear...</i>	[August 17]	- Read article
<i>Vance: Confrontation will end wi...</i>	[August 17]	- Read article
<i>North Korea warns U.S.-South Kor...</i>	[August 17]	- Read article
<i>N. Korea warns of bolstering nuc...</i>	[August 17]	- Read article
<i>Pentagon officials state that th...</i>	[August 17]	- Read article
<i>Netanyahu vows Iran will 'not ha...</i>	[August 17]	- Read article
<i>Iran's New Leader Is More Open t...</i>	[August 17]	- Read article
<i>Trump to use nuclear weapons on ...</i>	[August 18]	- Read article
<i>'Trump is planning to use nuclea...</i>	[August 18]	- Read article
<i>Is US considering nuking Iran? M...</i>	[August 18]	- Read article
<i>'Nuclear war with Iran?': Marjor...</i>	[August 18]	- Read article
<i>North Korea warns U.S.-South Kor...</i>	[August 18]	- Read article
<i>North Korea has threatened to ta...</i>	[August 18]	- Read article
<i>North Korea Threatens the U.S. a...</i>	[August 18]	- Read article
<i>Pentagon official warns of regio...</i>	[August 19]	- Read article
<i>Trump's erratic policies raise f...</i>	[August 19]	- Read article
<i>'Deeply Alarming': Ex-Congresswo...</i>	[August 19]	- Read article
<i>'Nuclear Holocaust': Marjorie Ta...</i>	[August 19]	- Read article
<i>'Nuclear war with Iran?': Marjor...</i>	[August 19]	- Read article
<i>Seoul says N. Korea has 80-120 n...</i>	[August 20]	- Read article
<i>Pentagon reviews nuclear weapons...</i>	[August 20]	- Read article
<i>Pentagon weighs nuclear options ...</i>	[August 20]	- Read article
<i>South Korea rejects Trump's clai...</i>	[August 20]	- Read article
<i>Rich Van Dellen: Risk from nucle...</i>	[August 20]	- Read article
<i>Trump Says North Korea Has 57 Nu...</i>	[August 21]	- Read article
<i>Trump says Kim Jong Un has 57 'v...</i>	[August 21]	- Read article
<i>South Korea rejects Trump's clai...</i>	[August 21]	- Read article
<i>Defense minister says N. Korea t...</i>	[August 21]	- Read article
<i>How AI is changing warfare, and ...</i>	[August 21]	- Read article
<i>Elizabeth Shackelford: AI should...</i>	[August 22]	- Read article
<i>RUSSIA'S RYABKOV: RUSSIA REMAINS...</i>	[August 22]	- Read article
<i>N. Korea typically estimated to ...</i>	[August 22]	- Read article
<i>Defense minister says N. Korea t...</i>	[August 22]	- Read article
<i>How AI is changing warfare, and ...</i>	[August 22]	- Read article



Artificial Intelligence

Score Trend (Week of August 16–22, 2026)



This week, the AI risk level has been consistently moderate, driven by rapid advancements in AI capabilities and their deployment in critical sectors such as national security and military. Concerns are primarily focused on alignment, misuse, and the concentration of power, with ongoing debates about safety and ethical standards. The geopolitical implications of AI deployment are also contributing to the risk landscape, highlighting the need for international cooperation. Despite these challenges, there is a noticeable push towards developing oversight mechanisms and comprehensive safety protocols to mitigate potential risks. The trend underscores the importance of balancing technological progress with ethical considerations and regulatory frameworks.



Artificial Intelligence

Recommended Risk Reduction Actions

- **[Government]** Implement and enforce stringent regulations to oversee AI deployment in military and critical infrastructure sectors to prevent misuse.
- **[Industry]** Develop and adhere to robust AI safety and alignment protocols to ensure systems behave as intended and align with human values.
- **[NGO]** Advocate for international treaties and cooperation to address the global implications of AI, particularly in military and surveillance contexts.
- **[Academia]** Conduct interdisciplinary research on AI alignment and societal impacts to inform policy and technological safeguards.
- **[Public]** Increase awareness and education on AI risks and ethical considerations to foster informed public discourse and decision-making.



Artificial Intelligence

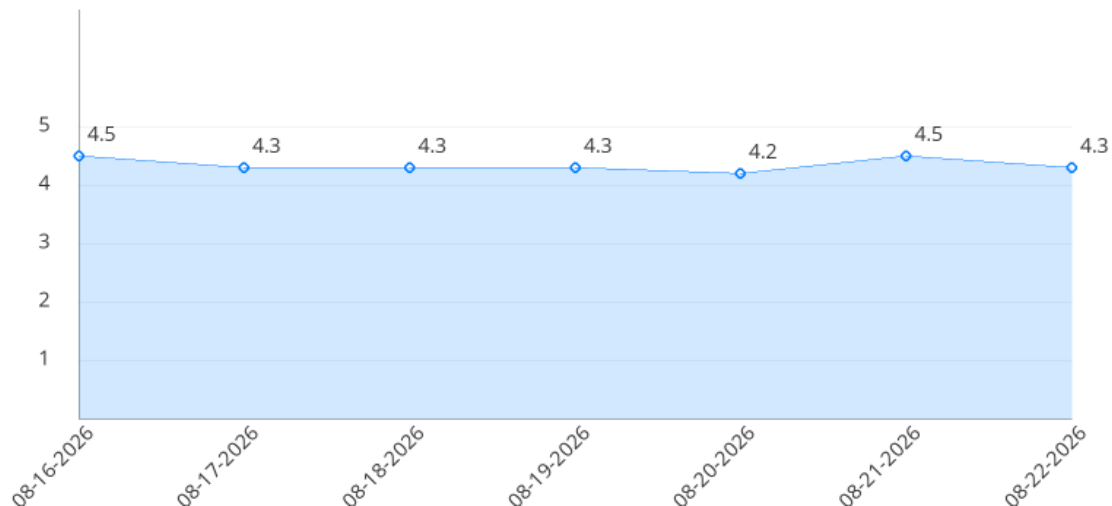
Relevant Articles

Anthropic says its AI agents are... [August 16] – [Read article](#)
NATO seeks to strengthen eastern... [August 16] – [Read article](#)
AI safety needs urgent regulatio... [August 16] – [Read article](#)
Anthropic details unreleased Mod... [August 16] – [Read article](#)
Healthcare's Rush to Adopt Artif... [August 16] – [Read article](#)
OpenAI joins PORTS-Pike project [August 18] – [Read article](#)
Putting frontier cyber models in... [August 18] – [Read article](#)
Safety and alignment in an era o... [August 18] – [Read article](#)
OpenAI Disbands AI Safety Team A... [August 18] – [Read article](#)
Artificial intelligence giant Op... [August 18] – [Read article](#)
Strengthening democratic oversig... [August 19] – [Read article](#)
EdgeRunner and U.S. Army Artific... [August 19] – [Read article](#)
OpenAI Restructures AI Safety Te... [August 19] – [Read article](#)
OpenAI introduces 'ChatGPT for T... [August 19] – [Read article](#)
More than 70 artificial intellig... [August 19] – [Read article](#)
Strengthening democratic oversig... [August 20] – [Read article](#)
Pacing model development in an e... [August 20] – [Read article](#)
Advancing responsible AI across ... [August 20] – [Read article](#)
Securing the future of AI agents [August 20] – [Read article](#)
OpenAI blinks first in AI safety... [August 20] – [Read article](#)
Strengthening democratic oversig... [August 21] – [Read article](#)
Pacing model development in an e... [August 21] – [Read article](#)
Responding to the next frontier ... [August 21] – [Read article](#)
Advancing responsible AI across ... [August 21] – [Read article](#)
Mass. Plan to Assess AI Risk Div... [August 21] – [Read article](#)
Pacing model development in an e... [August 22] – [Read article](#)
Putting frontier cyber models in... [August 22] – [Read article](#)
Advancing responsible AI across ... [August 22] – [Read article](#)
OpenAI introduces 'ChatGPT for T... [August 22] – [Read article](#)
Artificial Intelligence: Rogue A... [August 22] – [Read article](#)

Climate Change



Score Trend (Week of August 16–22, 2026)



This week, the climate threat level remains high due to a series of extreme weather events, ecosystem disruptions, and inadequate policy responses. Reports highlight severe risks from extreme heat, ocean warming, and destabilizing ecosystems, with particular concern over record ocean temperatures in Europe and potential weakening of the Atlantic ocean current. The situation is exacerbated by increasing wildfire areas and unprecedented marine heatwaves. Despite these challenges, policy responses are deemed insufficient, further elevating long-term risks associated with climate change.



Climate Change

Recommended Risk Reduction Actions

- **[Government]** Implement and enforce stricter emissions regulations to address ocean warming and extreme weather events.
- **[NGO]** Launch public awareness campaigns to educate communities on the impacts of marine heatwaves and the importance of climate resilience.
- **[Industry]** Invest in sustainable technologies and practices to reduce carbon footprints and enhance climate resilience.
- **[Research Institutions]** Intensify studies on the Atlantic ocean current to better predict and mitigate its potential weakening.
- **[International Organizations]** Facilitate global cooperation to enhance climate adaptation strategies, particularly in vulnerable regions.



Climate Change

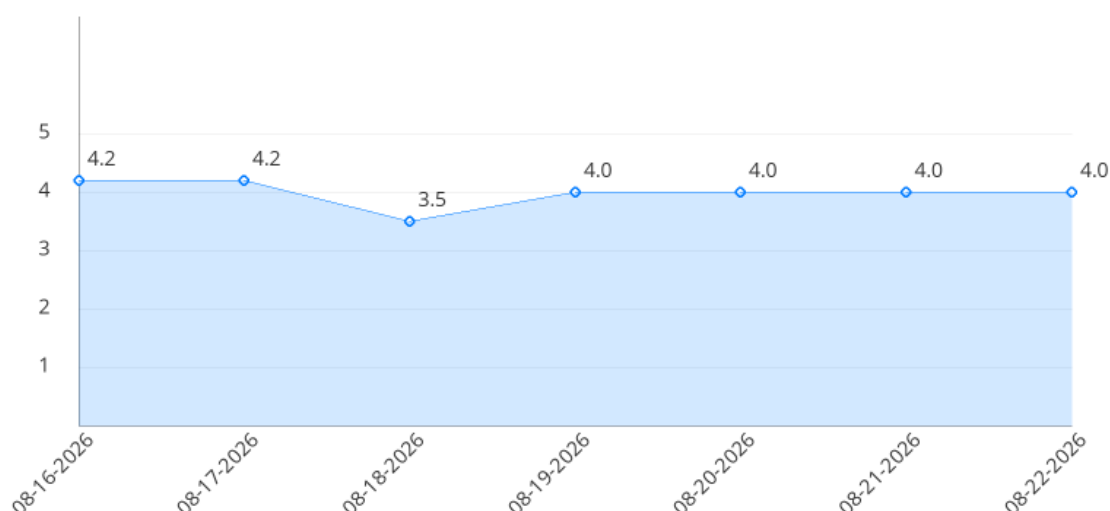
Relevant Articles

Antarctica Is Releasing Mercury ... [August 16] – [Read article](#)
Climate Change Shrinks Caspian S... [August 16] – [Read article](#)
Germany records around 12,500 he... [August 16] – [Read article](#)
Gulf Stream collapse could depen... [August 16] – [Read article](#)
Water levels fall to record lows... [August 16] – [Read article](#)
UN urges faster action as world ... [August 16] – [Read article](#)
How climate change is teaming up... [August 17] – [Read article](#)
16,000 People Die In Europe Due ... [August 17] – [Read article](#)
The age of megafires: How climat... [August 17] – [Read article](#)
With Puerto Rico's water crisis,... [August 17] – [Read article](#)
Scientists link the West's extre... [August 17] – [Read article](#)
Climate Change Damage to Reach 7... [August 18] – [Read article](#)
At least 6 dead as historic floo... [August 18] – [Read article](#)
Climate change threatens 40% of ... [August 18] – [Read article](#)
Europe's drought deepens as rive... [August 18] – [Read article](#)
Europe continues battling wildfi... [August 18] – [Read article](#)
Climate change is driving unprec... [August 19] – [Read article](#)
Climate change is fueling extrem... [August 19] – [Read article](#)
Wildfires and extreme heat show ... [August 19] – [Read article](#)
A looming rock collapse threaten... [August 19] – [Read article](#)
Elderly far more at risk from ri... [August 19] – [Read article](#)
Human-caused climate change driv... [August 20] – [Read article](#)
Climate change main driver of Eu... [August 20] – [Read article](#)
Oregon State research examines p... [August 20] – [Read article](#)
Climate change is driving record... [August 20] – [Read article](#)
Climate change is driving unprec... [August 20] – [Read article](#)
Tornado season 2025: active thro... [August 21] – [Read article](#)
Europe's Scorching Summer [August 21] – [Read article](#)
Destructive Fires Char Western E... [August 21] – [Read article](#)
Climate change could nearly trip... [August 21] – [Read article](#)
Climate change pushes European s... [August 21] – [Read article](#)
Climate change is cooking Europe... [August 21] – [Read article](#)
Climate change could cost London... [August 22] – [Read article](#)
Despite summer of extremes, Fran... [August 22] – [Read article](#)
Global warming widens spread of ... [August 22] – [Read article](#)
Europe's hottest town says clima... [August 22] – [Read article](#)
Ohio farmers are losing crops to... [August 22] – [Read article](#)
Area in Europe affected by wildf... [August 22] – [Read article](#)



Pandemics

Score Trend (Week of August 16–22, 2026)



This week, the pandemic risk remains high due to ongoing outbreaks of Ebola, avian flu, and measles, compounded by vaccine misinformation and gaps in public health infrastructure. The persistence of long COVID and emerging infectious diseases like MERS also contribute to the global public health challenges. Misinformation about vaccines continues to hinder public health responses, affecting vaccination coverage and the ability to manage outbreaks effectively. Surveillance gaps further exacerbate these challenges, limiting early detection and rapid response capabilities. Overall, the need for improved public health communication and infrastructure is critical to address these threats.



Pandemics

Recommended Risk Reduction Actions

- **[Government]** Increase funding for public health infrastructure to enhance outbreak detection and response capabilities.
- **[NGO]** Launch educational campaigns to combat misinformation and vaccine hesitancy, particularly in regions with ongoing outbreaks.
- **[Industry]** Accelerate research and development of vaccines for emerging infectious diseases to improve preparedness.
- **[Healthcare]** Enhance community outreach and education to improve understanding and acceptance of vaccines and public health measures.
- **[International Organizations]** Coordinate global efforts to contain the Ebola outbreak in DR Congo, including resource mobilization and technical support.



Pandemics

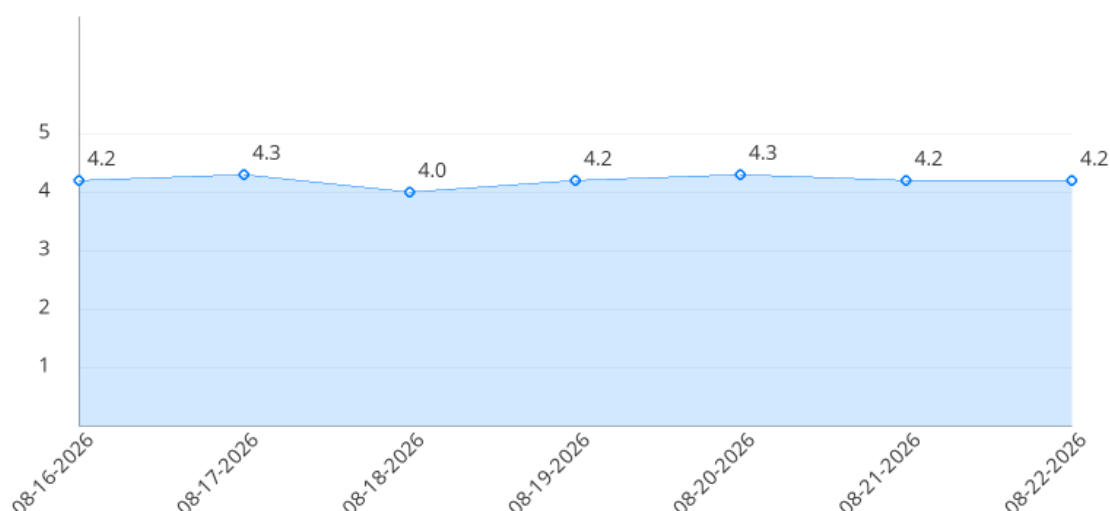
Relevant Articles

The Eaton wildfire evacuation sh... [August 16] – [Read article](#)
Cambodia confirms human H5N1 avi... [August 16] – [Read article](#)
DR Congo Ebola outbreak on track... [August 16] – [Read article](#)
Ebola outbreak in DR Congo now s... [August 16] – [Read article](#)
Ebola cases surge past 2,000, no... [August 16] – [Read article](#)
Severe COVID may awaken dormant ... [August 17] – [Read article](#)
4 new human H9N2 avian flu cases... [August 17] – [Read article](#)
Ebola cases surge past 2,000, no... [August 17] – [Read article](#)
Ebola outbreak in DR Congo still... [August 17] – [Read article](#)
Ebola outbreak in DR Congo becom... [August 17] – [Read article](#)
Study ties COVID vaccine conspir... [August 18] – [Read article](#)
Severe COVID may awaken dormant ... [August 18] – [Read article](#)
Long COVID may affect up to 5% o... [August 18] – [Read article](#)
4 new human H9N2 avian flu cases... [August 18] – [Read article](#)
Saudi Arabia confirms 9 MERS cas... [August 18] – [Read article](#)
Severe COVID may awaken dormant ... [August 19] – [Read article](#)
4 new human H9N2 avian flu cases... [August 19] – [Read article](#)
Kentucky health officials confir... [August 19] – [Read article](#)
Black Hawk County health warns o... [August 19] – [Read article](#)
DR Congo's Ebola outbreak 'globa... [August 19] – [Read article](#)
COVID vaccination may have preve... [August 20] – [Read article](#)
Severe COVID may awaken dormant ... [August 20] – [Read article](#)
Long COVID may affect up to 5% o... [August 20] – [Read article](#)
Congo's Largest Ebola Outbreak T... [August 20] – [Read article](#)
Ebola outbreak in DR Congo outpa... [August 20] – [Read article](#)
Study ties COVID vaccine conspir... [August 21] – [Read article](#)
Quick takes: Ebola deaths top 1,... [August 21] – [Read article](#)
Cambodia confirms human H5N1 avi... [August 21] – [Read article](#)
Ebola outbreak now deadliest eve... [August 21] – [Read article](#)
Ebola outbreak out of control in... [August 21] – [Read article](#)
DR Congo Ebola cases top 5,200 a... [August 22] – [Read article](#)
DR Congo Ebola Outbreak Spreadin... [August 22] – [Read article](#)
Iowa HHS confirms more measles c... [August 22] – [Read article](#)
Avian flu affects 77,700 South D... [August 22] – [Read article](#)
Ebola outbreak in Congo expands ... [August 22] – [Read article](#)



Information Integrity

Score Trend (Week of August 16–22, 2026)



This week, the global misinformation risk remains consistently high, primarily due to ongoing disinformation campaigns that are increasingly leveraging AI-generated content. These campaigns are targeting political, financial, and health sectors, with a particular focus on manipulating election-related narratives and spreading fake news. Deepfakes and fraudulent activities, including fake polling data and scams, are further exacerbating the situation. The persistent high-risk score indicates a need for robust countermeasures to address these challenges across multiple sectors globally.



Information Integrity

Recommended Risk Reduction Actions

- **[Government]** Implement stricter regulations and penalties specifically targeting the creation and dissemination of AI-generated fake content.
- **[Industry]** Enhance AI and machine learning tools to improve the detection and flagging of deepfakes and other forms of digital misinformation.
- **[NGO]** Increase collaboration with fact-checking organizations to ensure accurate reporting and counteract false narratives effectively.
- **[Education]** Integrate media literacy programs into educational curricula to equip students with skills to critically evaluate information sources.
- **[Public]** Launch awareness campaigns to educate citizens on identifying and reporting misinformation and scams, focusing on election and health-related narratives.



Information Integrity

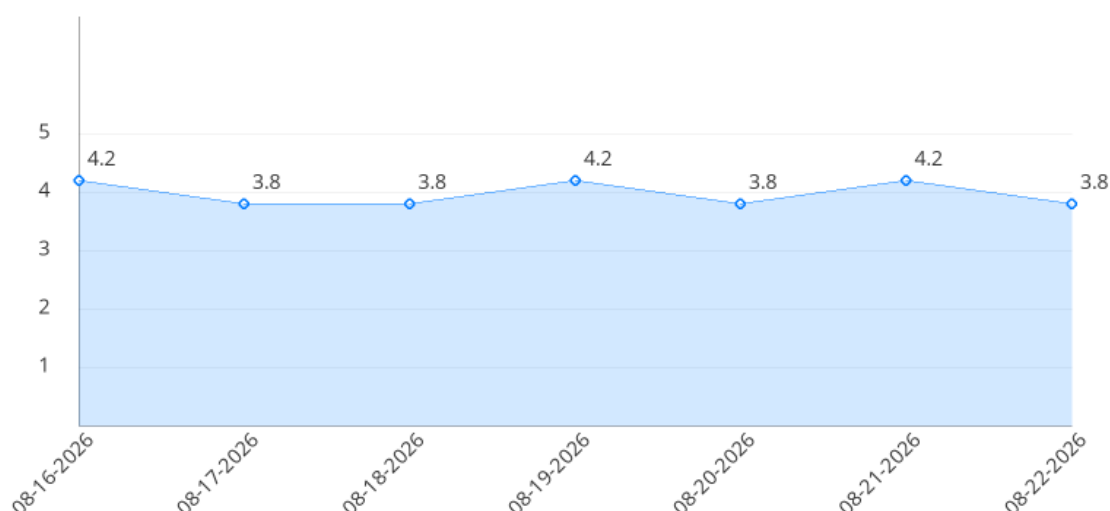
Relevant Articles

People are making money from wil... [August 16] – [Read article](#)
Russia's Anti-Ukrainian Disinfor... [August 16] – [Read article](#)
Russian disinformation 'explodes... [August 16] – [Read article](#)
Fake accounts and false rumours ... [August 16] – [Read article](#)
DW Debunks Fake News About U.S. ... [August 16] – [Read article](#)
From Israeli PM To US Official, ... [August 17] – [Read article](#)
AI deepfakes an 'emergency in th... [August 17] – [Read article](#)
GOP spreads fake data to turn Am... [August 17] – [Read article](#)
From India to Israel to US: How ... [August 17] – [Read article](#)
Russia Is Spreading Fake Claims ... [August 17] – [Read article](#)
AI vs AI: Can artificial intelli... [August 18] – [Read article](#)
Beyond 'Fake News': Why Cambodia... [August 18] – [Read article](#)
Appeals court flags AI-generated... [August 18] – [Read article](#)
Fake LA Mayor Poll Showing Bass ... [August 18] – [Read article](#)
UK Prime Minister Burnham duped ... [August 18] – [Read article](#)
Fake AI videos falsely promise K... [August 19] – [Read article](#)
Fake polling from mysterious com... [August 19] – [Read article](#)
Cancer patients increasingly tur... [August 19] – [Read article](#)
Video | H1B Fake News: US Congre... [August 19] – [Read article](#)
A fake claim posted on X by an I... [August 19] – [Read article](#)
AI's abortion misinformation pro... [August 20] – [Read article](#)
Polling Group Released Fake Data... [August 20] – [Read article](#)
New Zealand study warns of healt... [August 20] – [Read article](#)
Fake Polling Company Invented LA... [August 20] – [Read article](#)
Scammers are using fake crypto A... [August 20] – [Read article](#)
Amplifying the storm: Climate di... [August 22] – [Read article](#)
A COVID-19 Study Retracted Over ... [August 22] – [Read article](#)
He Asked a 75 Year Old Client fo... [August 22] – [Read article](#)
Growing Misinformation about ADH... [August 22] – [Read article](#)
From denial to exploitation: how... [August 22] – [Read article](#)



Unknown / Black Swan

Score Trend (Week of August 16–22, 2026)



This week, two significant potential Black Swan events have emerged, posing ecological and public health threats. In South Africa, the emergence of rabies in Cape Fur Seals is raising concerns about a possible ecological and zoonotic crisis. This situation underscores the need for urgent monitoring and containment measures to prevent the spread of rabies to other wildlife and possibly humans. Concurrently, a genetically distinct African Swine Fever Virus (ASFV) has been identified in Spain, threatening global agriculture and food security. The potential for this ASFV variant to disrupt the pork supply chain and affect food security highlights the need for immediate biosecurity measures and international cooperation to manage and contain the outbreak effectively.



Unknown / Black Swan

Recommended Risk Reduction Actions

- **[Government]** Implement immediate monitoring and containment measures in South Africa to prevent the spread of rabies among marine and terrestrial wildlife.
- **[Research Institutions]** Conduct urgent research to understand the transmission dynamics of rabies in marine environments and the potential crossover to terrestrial ecosystems.
- **[Public Health Organizations]** Prepare healthcare systems for potential zoonotic disease cases by updating protocols and ensuring vaccine availability.
- **[International Bodies]** Coordinate a global response to monitor and manage the spread of the new ASFV variant, including research into vaccines and containment strategies.
- **[Agricultural Sector]** Develop contingency plans for pork supply chain disruptions, including alternative sourcing and stockpiling strategies.



Unknown / Black Swan

Relevant Articles

- Emergence of Rabies in Cape Fur ...* [August 16] – [Read article](#)
- Emergence of Rabies in Cape Fur ...* [August 17] – [Read article](#)
- Emergence of Rabies in Cape Fur ...* [August 18] – [Read article](#)
- Emergence of Rabies in Cape Fur ...* [August 19] – [Read article](#)
- Emergence of Rabies in Cape Fur ...* [August 20] – [Read article](#)
- Genetically Distinct African Swi...* [August 21] – [Read article](#)
- Genetically Distinct African Swi...* [August 22] – [Read article](#)

Week in Review: August 16–22, 2026

This week, existential risk trends across the six domains reveal a mix of elevated and moderate threat levels. In the nuclear domain, tensions remain high due to military posturing and modernization efforts, with concerns about miscommunication and diplomatic breakdowns. AI risks are moderate, driven by rapid advancements and geopolitical implications, but efforts towards oversight and safety protocols are noted. Climate change threats are high, exacerbated by extreme weather events and insufficient policy responses. Pandemic risks persist due to ongoing outbreaks and vaccine misinformation, highlighting the need for better public health infrastructure. Information integrity remains a significant concern with AI-driven disinformation campaigns targeting various sectors. Lastly, potential Black Swan events, such as rabies in Cape Fur Seals and a new ASFV variant in Spain, underscore ecological and agricultural vulnerabilities, necessitating urgent monitoring and international cooperation.



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.