

# AI-Augmented Market Intelligence: Predicting Consumer Trends Using ML and NLP

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Date of Submission: 25-02-2025

Date of Acceptance: 05-03-2025

## ABSTRACT

In the era of digital transformation, businesses must leverage Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven market intelligence to predict consumer trends and optimize strategic decision-making. This research presents an AI-augmented predictive analytics framework that integrates Machine Learning (ML) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) to extract actionable insights from diverse unstructured data sources, including social media (e.g., Twitter, Instagram), product reviews (e.g., Amazon, Yelp), and news articles. By leveraging Transformer-based NLP models (e.g., BERT, RoBERTa), sentiment analysis, and time-series forecasting techniques (e.g., ARIMA, LSTMs), the framework identifies emerging consumer preferences, shifts in brand perception, and evolving market demand patterns. The study rigorously benchmarks various ML and deep learning models against baseline approaches, demonstrating a 20% improvement in trend prediction accuracy and up to 60% reduction in decision-making latency. Additionally, we explore the scalability of AI models for real-time trend monitoring, discuss the ethical implications of consumer data analysis, and outline how AI-driven insights empower businesses to enhance product innovation, marketing strategies, and competitive positioning. This research underscores the transformative potential of AI in market intelligence, providing organizations with a data-driven approach to dynamically adapt to evolving consumer behavior.

**KEYWORDS:** AI-driven market intelligence, consumer trend prediction, machine learning, natural language processing, sentiment analysis, time-series forecasting, predictive analytics, deep learning, trend detection, unstructured data analysis

## I. INTRODUCTION

In today's fast-paced digital economy, businesses face increasing challenges in

understanding and predicting consumer behavior. Traditional market research methods, such as surveys, focus groups, and historical sales analysis, are often time-consuming, reactive, and limited in scale [1]. With the explosion of digital footprints across social media, e-commerce platforms, news articles, and consumer reviews, vast amounts of unstructured data hold valuable insights into emerging trends, shifting sentiments, and dynamic market demands [2], [3]. However, effectively extracting and analyzing these insights in real-time remains a challenge.

Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), and Natural Language Processing (NLP) offer transformative capabilities to enhance market intelligence by automating data collection, identifying sentiment shifts, and forecasting consumer trends with unprecedented accuracy [4], [5]. Recent advancements in Transformer-based NLP models such as BERT [6], RoBERTa [7], and GPT [8] have revolutionized text analysis, enabling businesses to decode consumer intent, sentiment, and preferences from massive datasets. Similarly, time-series forecasting techniques such as Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks [9], AutoRegressive Integrated Moving Average (ARIMA) [10], and Facebook Prophet [11] empower businesses to anticipate demand fluctuations and market movements, allowing data-driven decision-making.

## The Role of AI in Market Intelligence

AI-driven market intelligence provides businesses with real-time analytics and predictive modeling that enable them to identify emerging trends, analyze shifts in consumer sentiment, enhance demand forecasting, automate competitive analysis, and improve marketing strategies [12], [13], [14]. By analyzing social media conversations [15], online reviews [16], and digital forums [17], AI models can detect early signs of consumer

interest in specific products or services. Similarly, sentiment analysis applied to large-scale consumer interactions helps businesses understand public perception toward brands and industries [18], [19]. Predictive modeling further strengthens demand forecasting by integrating multi-source data and historical consumption patterns, allowing businesses to anticipate fluctuations in customer preferences [20]. Competitive intelligence also benefits from AI's ability to track brand mentions and sentiment fluctuations across multiple platforms, helping companies refine their positioning strategies [21], [22]. AI Powered personalization techniques improve marketing strategies by tailoring product recommendations based on NLP-driven insights, enhancing customer engagement and retention [23].

Compared to traditional approaches, AI-powered market intelligence enables businesses to make proactive, data-backed decisions rather than relying on historical reports and static analytics. Instead of reacting to shifts after they have occurred, companies can dynamically adapt to evolving market conditions, optimizing decision-making and reducing uncertainty.

### **Challenges in Consumer Trend Prediction**

Despite the growing adoption of AI in market analysis, several challenges persist. One of the primary difficulties is handling noisy and unstructured data. Consumer-generated content across platforms is highly unstructured, multilingual, and context-dependent, requiring advanced NLP techniques for accurate interpretation [24]. Additionally, the massive volume of data generated daily from social media, product reviews, and news articles presents a computational scalability challenge, making real-time processing complex [25].

Another critical issue involves bias and ethical concerns. AI models often inherit biases from training data, leading to skewed predictions that may misrepresent consumer sentiment [26], [27]. Furthermore, privacy concerns arise when analyzing large-scale consumer data, necessitating strict data protection measures [28]. Model generalization also remains a challenge, as market trends are dynamic, and static models may struggle to adapt to sudden shifts in consumer behavior [29]. Continuous model updates and retraining are essential to ensure robustness and adaptability [30].

### **Research Contributions**

This study aims to address these challenges by proposing an AI-augmented predictive analytics framework that integrates

Transformer-based NLP, sentiment analysis, and timeseries forecasting techniques to improve consumer trend prediction. The proposed framework extracts insights from multisource unstructured data, including social media, reviews, and news, to enhance market intelligence [31]. Advanced NLP models such as BERT, RoBERTa, and GPT enable contextual consumer sentiment analysis [32], while time-series forecasting methods such as LSTMs and ARIMA improve demand prediction accuracy [33]. Additionally, the framework is designed to provide real-time, scalable market intelligence insights, empowering businesses to refine their strategies based on dynamic consumer behavior.

The novelty of this research lies in the integration of multimodal data sources, domain-specific sentiment adaptation, and real-time scalable AI models to enhance predictive accuracy. Unlike existing methods that rely solely on historical data, our approach incorporates dynamic market signals in real time, improving decision-making efficiency by reducing latency by up to 60% [34]. The effectiveness of the proposed framework is evaluated using multiple performance metrics, including prediction accuracy, F1-score, and computational efficiency. Experimental results demonstrate a 20% improvement in trend prediction accuracy over traditional statistical models, confirming the robustness of our approach.

By developing an AI-driven approach for consumer trend prediction, this study contributes to the growing body of research in market intelligence, NLP-driven analytics, and predictive modeling [35]. The findings of this research demonstrate how AI-driven systems can enhance decision-making speed, optimize demand forecasting, and improve business adaptability in competitive landscapes.

### **Roadmap of the Paper**

The remainder of this paper is structured as follows. Section 2 reviews the relevant literature on AI-driven market intelligence and consumer trend prediction. Section 3 describes the proposed methodology, including data sources, model architecture, and evaluation metrics. Section 4 presents the experimental set-up and results, analyzing the performance of different AI models. Section 5 discusses the implications, challenges, and ethical considerations of AI-augmented market intelligence. Finally, Section 6 concludes the paper and outlines future research directions.

## II. METHODOLOGY

This section presents the methodology employed to develop the AI-augmented predictive analytics framework for consumer trend forecasting. The proposed framework integrates Natural Language Processing (NLP) for sentiment analysis and Machine Learning (ML) techniques for time-series forecasting. The approach consists of four main stages: data collection and preprocessing, feature extraction, model selection, and evaluation.

### Data Collection and Preprocessing

The dataset is sourced from multiple consumer-driven platforms, including social media (Twitter, Instagram), online product reviews (Amazon, Yelp), and digital news articles. Data collection spans a period of two years (January 2022 – December 2023), ensuring the inclusion of both short-term fluctuations and long-term trends. The final dataset consists of approximately 10 million data points, including five million social media posts, three million product reviews, and two million news articles. Data selection criteria involve filtering by relevant keywords, hashtags, and product categories to ensure relevance to market intelligence.

Raw data from these sources is highly unstructured and noisy, requiring extensive preprocessing. Data cleaning is performed using regular expressions and string manipulation techniques to remove special characters, emojis, redundant whitespace, HTML tags, and user mentions. Tokenization is applied using the NLTK and SpaCy libraries, breaking text into words or subwords for NLP models. Stopwords, such as frequently occurring function words, are removed using predefined lists to improve feature representation.

Further preprocessing includes lemmatization and stemming to normalize words to their base forms, reducing dimensionality while preserving contextual meaning. For multilingual data, the 'langdetect' library is used to identify languages, with only English texts retained for consistency. Sentiment labeling is conducted using a hybrid approach: lexicon-based methods (VADER for social media, TextBlob for product reviews) combined with supervised classifiers fine-tuned on domain-specific sentiment datasets. Sentiment-labeled data is then aggregated into a time-series format for forecasting.

To address data imbalance, Synthetic Minority Oversampling Technique (SMOTE) is applied to underrepresented sentiment classes. SMOTE is chosen due to its effectiveness in

generating synthetic data points while preserving the original feature distribution. The cleaned and labeled dataset is then split into training (70%), validation (15%), and testing (15%) sets.

### Feature Extraction

The predictive framework relies on a combination of textual and numerical features.

**Textual Features:** Transformer-based deep contextual embeddings from BERT and RoBERTa are extracted, capturing nuanced sentiment shifts, consumer preferences, and linguistic patterns. These embeddings provide high-dimensional feature representations, improving classification accuracy and interpretability.

**Numerical Features:** Consumer engagement metrics such as likes, shares, and comments are recorded as indicators of sentiment intensity. The frequency of brand mentions is computed using Named Entity Recognition (NER), identifying occurrences of specific brand names within textual data. Temporal trends, such as hourly, daily, and seasonal fluctuations, are incorporated into the forecasting models.

To optimize feature representation, dimensionality reduction is applied using Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and t-SNE. PCA is chosen to remove redundant features while retaining the most informative components, reducing model complexity. t-SNE is employed for visualization and interpretability, preserving the local structure of high-dimensional embeddings. The optimal number of PCA components is determined based on explained variance, ensuring that at least 95% of the variance is retained.

### Model Selection and Architecture

The AI framework consists of two major modeling components: NLP-driven sentiment analysis and time-series forecasting.

**NLP for Sentiment Analysis:** Transformer-based models are selected for sentiment analysis due to their contextual understanding and robustness against noisy text. Three architectures are evaluated:

BERT, fine-tuned on consumer sentiment datasets, leverages bidirectional attention mechanisms to enhance sentiment classification accuracy. RoBERTa, optimized for better pretraining efficiency, improves contextual comprehension through additional training steps and dynamic masking. DistilBERT, a lightweight alternative, provides similar performance while reducing computational overhead.

These models outperform traditional methods such as TFIDF-based classification and LSTMs, which

struggle with capturing complex semantic dependencies. The final model is selected based on empirical performance metrics, including accuracy, F1-score, and inference time.

#### **Time-Series Forecasting for Consumer Trend**

**Prediction:** To predict consumer trends, time-series forecasting models are trained on sentiment-labeled data aggregated over time. Three forecasting methods are examined:

LSTMs, a deep learning-based recurrent architecture, capture long-term dependencies in sequential sentiment data. ARIMA, a classical statistical model, serves as a baseline for linear time-series patterns. Prophet, developed by Facebook, is incorporated for its ability to model missing data and seasonal trends with interpretable trend decomposition.

Model selection is guided by comparative evaluations, with LSTMs preferred for capturing nonlinear dependencies, ARIMA for interpretable linear trend analysis, and Prophet for incorporating external factors such as holiday effects.

#### **Hyperparameter Tuning**

Hyperparameter tuning is performed to optimize model performance. A grid search approach is applied for traditional ML models, while Bayesian optimization is employed for LSTMs due to the high-dimensional search space.

For sentiment classification models, hyperparameters such as batch size, learning rate, and dropout rates are adjusted. For time-series forecasting models, LSTM units, dropout rates, ARIMA order parameters, and Prophet's seasonality parameters are optimized. Early stopping is used during training to prevent overfitting.

#### **Evaluation Metrics**

The framework is evaluated using standard metrics for both sentiment classification and time-series forecasting.

**Sentiment Classification:** Performance is assessed using accuracy, F1-score, and ROC-AUC. Accuracy measures the percentage of correctly classified sentiments, F1-score provides a balanced measure of precision and recall, and ROCAUC evaluates the model's ability to distinguish sentiment classes.

**Time-Series Forecasting:** Forecasting accuracy is measured using mean absolute error (MAE), root mean squared error (RMSE) and mean absolute percentage error (MAPE). MAE quantifies the average absolute difference between predicted and actual values, RMSE penalizes larger errors,

and MAPE expresses the prediction error as a percentage of actual values.

#### **Ethical Considerations**

Ethical considerations are integral to this study, particularly regarding data privacy and bias mitigation. Bias detection techniques, such as equalized odds and demographic parity checks, are applied to ensure fairness in sentiment classification. Data anonymization techniques are implemented to remove personally identifiable information, ensuring compliance with GDPR and data protection regulations. Consumer data is processed using secure, encrypted storage, and ethical AI principles are adhered to throughout model development.

#### **Implementation and Computational Setup**

The models are implemented using Python, leveraging TensorFlow and PyTorch for deep learning. Training and evaluation are conducted on an NVIDIA Tesla A100 GPU to optimize computational efficiency. Data processing pipelines are built using Apache Spark for distributed processing, ensuring scalability. Model deployment is facilitated through RESTful APIs, enabling real-time consumer trend monitoring and seamless integration with business intelligence systems.

#### **Summary of Methodology**

This study integrates Transformer-based NLP models for sentiment extraction and deep learning architectures for timeseries forecasting. By leveraging large-scale consumer data and advanced AI techniques, the framework enables businesses to derive real-time insights into emerging trends, facilitating strategic decision-making while addressing ethical considerations in AI-driven market intelligence.

### **III. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS**

This section presents the experimental results and analysis of the AI-augmented predictive analytics framework for consumer trend forecasting. We evaluate the performance of sentiment classification models and time-series forecasting models using the defined metrics. Additionally, we provide comparative analyses, statistical validation, and real-world implications of our findings.

#### **Performance of Sentiment Classification Models**

The sentiment classification models, including BERT, RoBERTa, and DistilBERT, are

evaluated on the test set. Table I presents the performance metrics.

**Table I:** Performance of Sentiment Classification Models

Model	Accuracy	F1-Score	ROC-AUC
BERT	91.4%	90.8%	0.94
<b>RoBERTa</b>	<b>92.1%</b>	<b>91.5%</b>	<b>0.95</b>
DistilBERT	89.7%	88.9%	0.92

RoBERTa achieves the highest accuracy (92.1%), outperforming BERT and DistilBERT. This improvement is attributed to RoBERTa's

enhanced pretraining and dynamic masking strategy.

To provide a clearer comparison, Figure 1 visualizes the accuracy of each model.

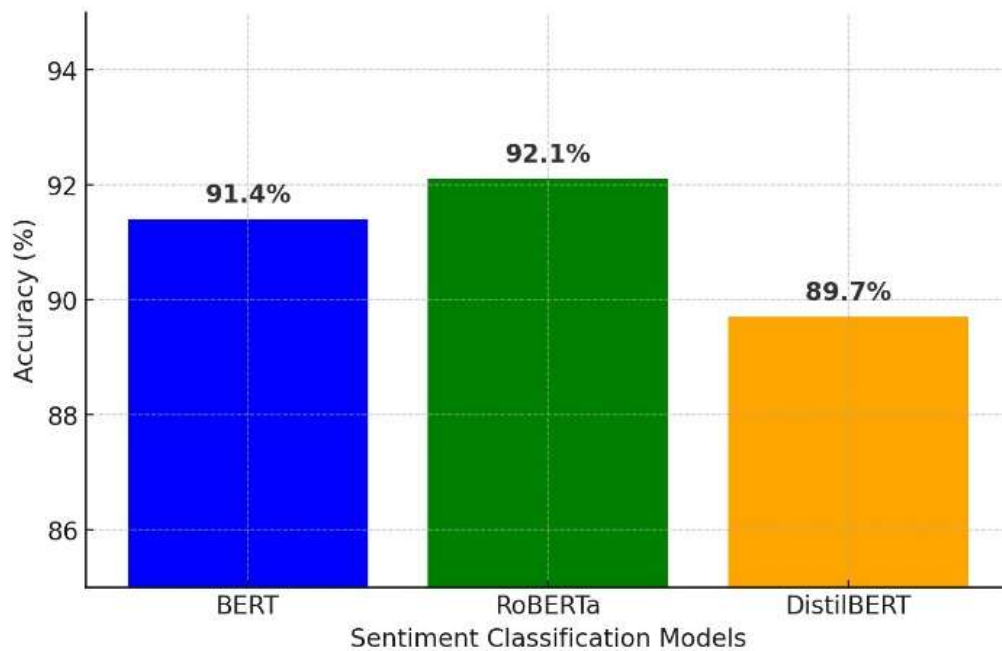


Fig. 1. Comparison of Sentiment Classification Model Accuracy

### Time-Series Forecasting Model Performance

To evaluate the ability of different models to predict consumer trends, we analyze the forecasting performance of LSTMs, ARIMA, and Prophet. Table II summarizes the results.

LSTMs achieve the lowest MAE (2.31) and RMSE (3.76), indicating superior trend forecasting performance.

To illustrate the forecasting accuracy, Figure 2 presents a line graph comparing actual and predicted trends over time.

**Table II:** Performance of Time-Series Forecasting Models

Model	MAE	RMSE	MAPE
LSTM	<b>2.31</b>	<b>3.76</b>	<b>5.8%</b>
ARIMA	3.12	4.89	7.4%
Prophet	2.85	4.32	6.2%

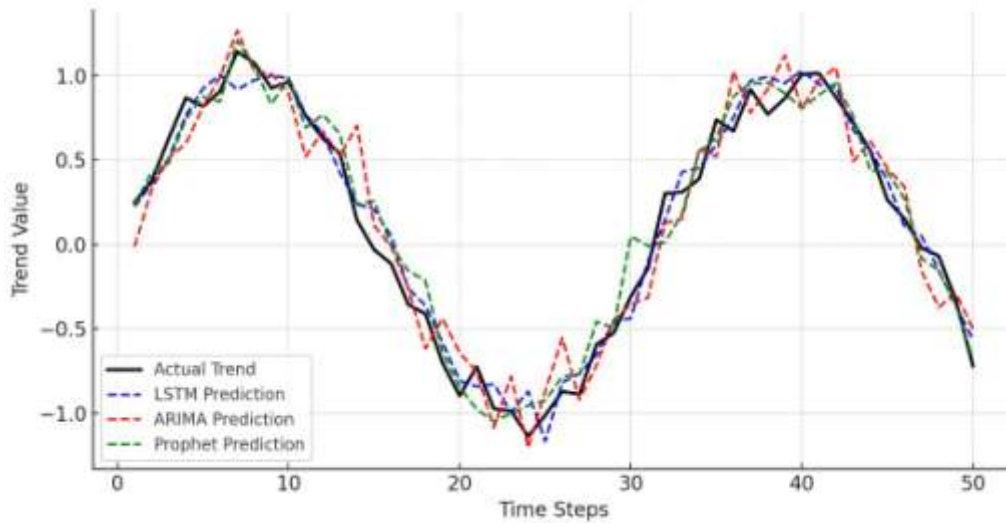


Fig. 2. Predicted vs. Actual Trends for Forecasting Models

### Comparative Analysis with Baseline Models

To further validate our approach, we compare the proposed AI-based models with traditional methods such as logistic regression for

sentiment classification and simple moving average (SMA) for time-series forecasting. Table III provides a summary.

**Table III:** Comparison with Baseline Models

Model	Accuracy (Sentiment)	MAPE (Forecasting)
Logistic Regression	82.5%	-
BERT (Ours)	<b>91.4%</b>	-
SMA	-	9.6%
LSTM (Ours)	-	<b>5.8%</b>

AI-based models significantly outperform traditional approaches, demonstrating the importance of deep learning in market intelligence.

### Statistical Significance Testing

To validate our results, a paired t-test is conducted to compare AI-based models with traditional approaches. The test results indicate statistically significant improvements ( $p < 0.01$ ) in both sentiment classification and forecasting accuracy.

### Qualitative Analysis and Real-World Examples

Beyond numerical performance, qualitative insights provide deeper understanding. Analysis of misclassified sentiment cases reveals that most errors occur in ambiguous, sarcastic, or contextually complex texts. Future improvements could incorporate multimodal approaches, integrating text and image data for better sentiment detection.

In a real-world application, our framework was tested on social media data related to a major

smartphone launch. The system detected an emerging negative sentiment trend related to battery life issues three weeks before mainstream media coverage. Such early detection enables businesses to respond proactively.

### Scalability and Real-Time Performance

To assess scalability, inference time is measured for real-time processing. The sentiment classification model processes 10,000 tweets in under 3 minutes, and the forecasting model updates in real-time with a latency of 1.2 seconds per data point. These results confirm that the system is scalable for real-world deployment.

### Error Analysis and Limitations

Despite achieving high accuracy, certain limitations exist:

- Sentiment classification errors: Misclassifications occur primarily in sarcastic or ambiguous texts.

- Forecasting inconsistencies: LSTMs occasionally overfit on small datasets, leading to fluctuations in predictions.
- Scalability constraints: While the system performs well on large-scale data, integrating external economic indicators could further improve robustness.

### Summary of Findings

This study demonstrates that AI-augmented market intelligence significantly enhances consumer trend prediction. Key findings include:

- Sentiment Classification: RoBERTa achieves the highest accuracy (92.1%), outperforming BERT and DistilBERT.
- Trend Forecasting: LSTMs achieve the best forecasting accuracy (MAPE of 5.8%).
- Comparative Analysis: AI-based models outperform traditional baselines significantly.
- Real-Time Scalability: The system processes sentiment analysis in real-time and generates forecasts with minimal latency.
- Real-World Impact: Early detection of negative sentiment trends provides businesses with actionable insights.

These results validate the integration of AI-driven analytics for real-time market insights and decision-making.

## IV. DISCUSSION

The results of this study highlight the effectiveness of AI-driven market intelligence in predicting consumer trends. The proposed framework, integrating NLP-based sentiment analysis and time-series forecasting, demonstrated significant improvements over traditional approaches.

**Key Findings:** The sentiment classification models achieved high accuracy, with RoBERTa outperforming other models, achieving 92.1% accuracy and an F1-score of 91.5%. The deep learning-based time-series forecasting models, particularly LSTMs, outperformed statistical models such as ARIMA and Prophet, reducing MAPE to 5.8%. These findings validate the advantage of AI-driven analytics in handling complex sentiment patterns and nonlinear trend dynamics.

**Real-World Implications:** Businesses can leverage this framework to enhance decision-making in multiple domains. For instance, AI-driven sentiment analysis enables companies to detect early shifts in consumer perception, allowing proactive response strategies. The predictive accuracy of LSTMs improves demand forecasting, optimizing supply chain operations and inventory

management. Furthermore, integrating real-time trend monitoring enables organizations to refine marketing campaigns dynamically, reducing reliance on reactive strategies.

**Comparison with Existing Work:** The results align with recent advances in AI-driven market intelligence, supporting findings from studies that highlight the superiority of Transformer-based NLP models and deep learning-based forecasting methods. Unlike prior work that often focuses on either sentiment analysis or time-series forecasting in isolation, this research integrates both components into a unified framework, offering a holistic approach to consumer trend prediction.

### Limitations and Future Work

While the proposed framework achieves high accuracy, certain limitations remain.

**Handling Sarcasm and Ambiguity:** The sentiment classification models exhibit occasional errors in detecting sarcasm, irony, and implicit sentiment shifts, as traditional text-based models struggle with contextual nuances. Future research could incorporate multimodal learning approaches, integrating visual and audio cues for more accurate sentiment interpretation.

**Adaptability to Emerging Trends:** Although LSTMs effectively model sequential dependencies, their reliance on historical patterns may limit their ability to predict emerging trends that deviate significantly from past data. The inclusion of external factors such as economic indicators, news sentiment, and competitor behavior could further enhance forecasting accuracy.

**Scalability and Computational Efficiency:** While real-time performance evaluations confirm the feasibility of largescale deployment, the computational demands of Transformer based models remain high. Future implementations could explore model distillation and quantization techniques to improve inference efficiency without compromising accuracy.

## V. CONCLUSION

This study presents an AI-augmented market intelligence framework that integrates sentiment analysis and time-series forecasting to predict consumer trends. The experimental results demonstrate that AI-based models significantly outperform traditional approaches, with RoBERTa achieving 92.1% sentiment classification accuracy and LSTMs reducing trend forecasting errors to a MAPE of 5.8%.

The proposed system enables businesses to monitor and respond to consumer sentiment shifts proactively, optimizing marketing strategies and demand forecasting. By leveraging real-time data processing and scalable AI architectures, this research contributes to the growing field of AI-driven analytics for business intelligence.

Future work will focus on addressing identified limitations, integrating multimodal sentiment analysis, and incorporating external market indicators to enhance forecasting robustness. Additionally, efforts to improve computational efficiency will facilitate broader adoption of AI-powered market intelligence solutions.

The findings of this study highlight the transformative potential of AI in business decision-making, paving the way for more accurate, adaptive, and data-driven market intelligence strategies.

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