



Special Report

Private Equity Factbook – Q1 2026

Focus: Global

May 2026

Q1 2026 marked a sharper but more concentrated phase of PE activity, with deal volumes pulling back as capital rotated into fewer, larger transactions



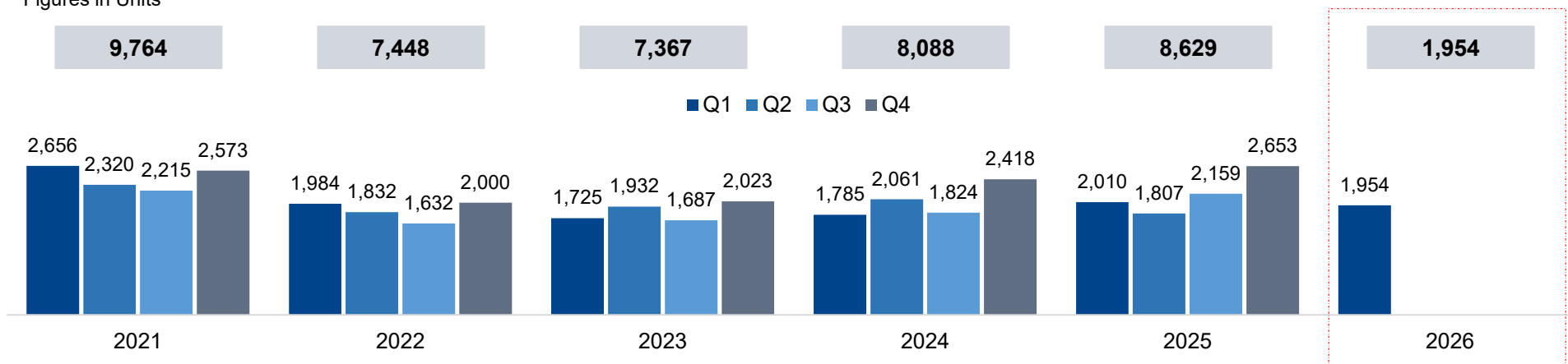
Source: Pitchbook, Aranca Analysis

Note: Quarter represents the calendar year

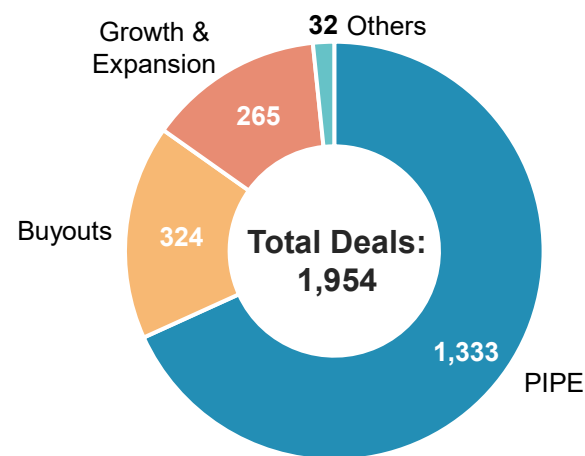
Deal volumes declined ~26% QoQ in Q1 2026, normalizing from the Q4 2025 surge, as PE firms remained selective amid improving but still cautious credit conditions

Number of Deals

Figures in Units



Type of Deals – Q1 2026



Indicates annual/YTD deals completed

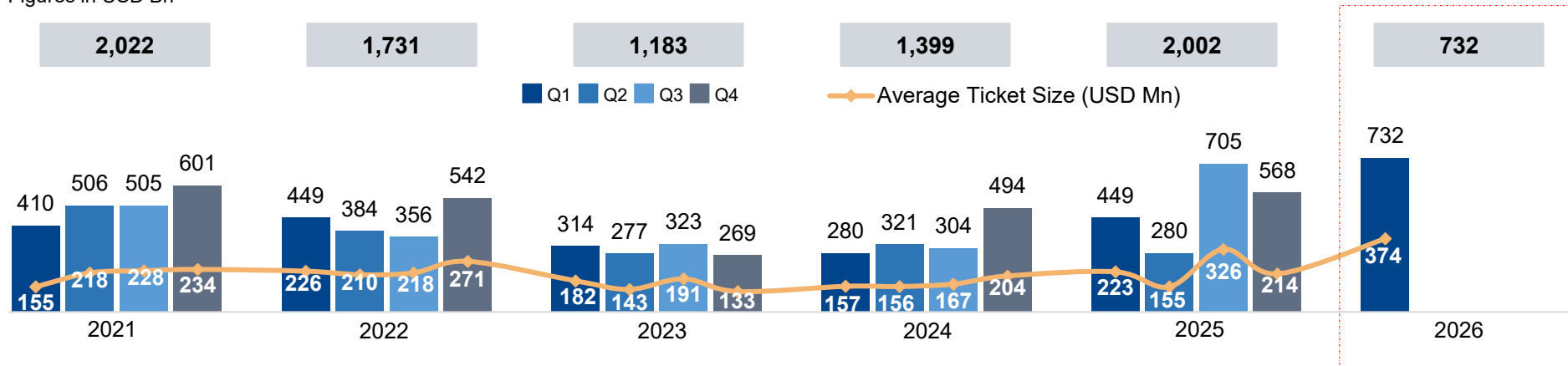
- Global PE deal activity moderated sharply in Q1 2026, with 1,954 deals completed, (↓26% QoQ) as sponsors became more selective amid still cautious credit conditions.
- The decline appears to reflect a normalization from elevated Q4 2025 activity rather than a broader market reset, with Q1 2026 deal volume remaining broadly in line with recent first-quarter levels, including 1,785 deals in Q1 2024 and 2,010 deals in Q1 2025.
- PIPE transactions dominated Q1 2026 deal flow, accounting for ~68% of total deal volume, highlighting continued sponsor preference for structured minority investments and public-market-linked opportunities.

Source: Pitchbook, Aranca Analysis

Capital invested rose 29% QoQ, while average ticket size jumped ~75%, signalling a clear return of megadeals after a more diffuse Q4 2025

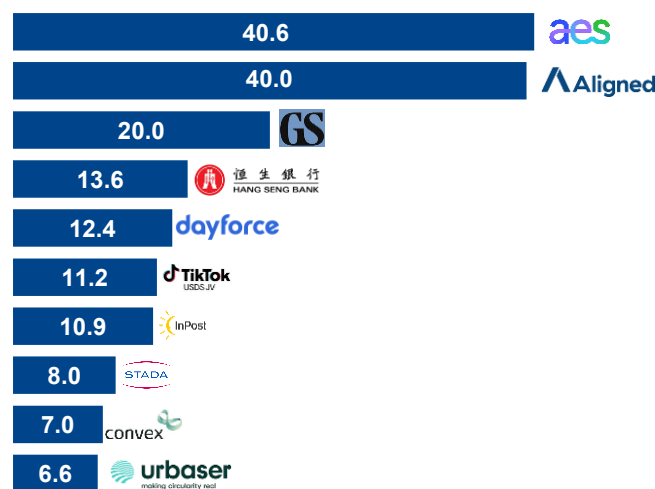
Capital Invested

Figures in USD Bn



Top 10 Deals – Q1 2026

Deal Value in USD Bn



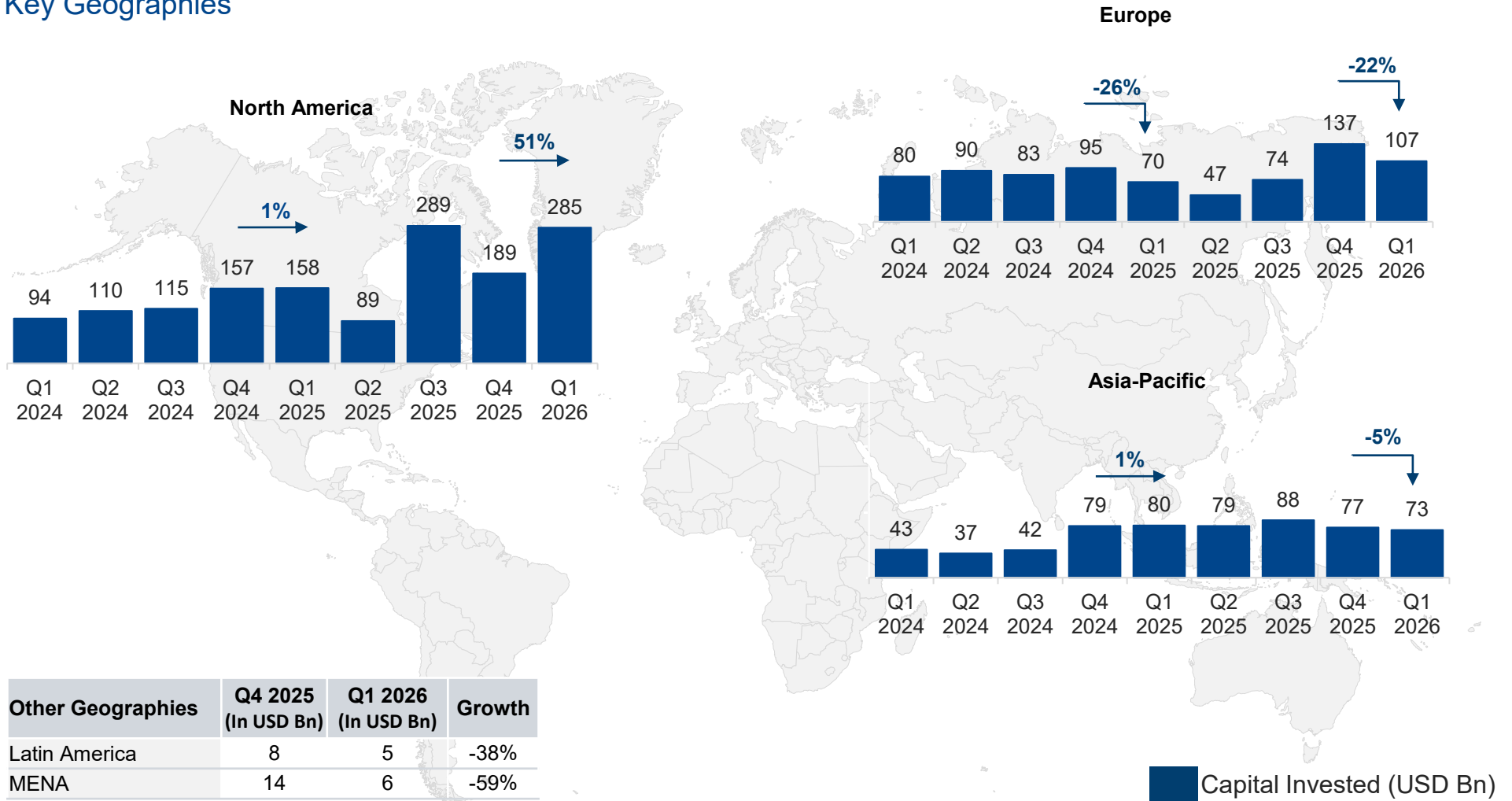
Indicates annual/YTD capital invested

- Global PE capital invested rose sharply in Q1 2026, reaching USD 732 Bn, despite lower deal volumes, indicating that capital deployment was concentrated across fewer, larger transactions.
- Average ticket size significantly expanded to USD 374 Mn, reflecting a barbell market in which large-cap take-privates and platform deals continued to attract capital, while broader mid-market activity remained more subdued.
- In terms of the deal type, capital deployment was led by buyouts/LBOs, public-to-private transactions, and secondary buyouts, which increased by approximately 42%, 77%, and 114% QoQ, respectively, and together accounted for the bulk of the quarter's megadeal activity.

Source: Pitchbook, Aranca Analysis

Capital was heavily concentrated in North America in Q1 2026, while Europe, APAC, Latin America, and MENA saw lower activity as megadeals drove capital deployment

Key Geographies

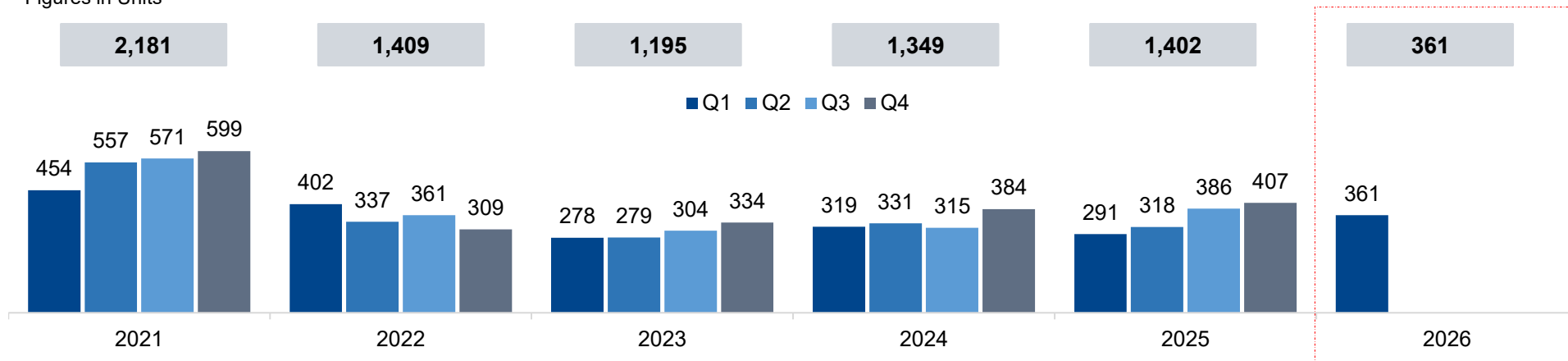


Source: Pitchbook, Aranca Analysis

Q1 2026 exits declined 11% QoQ, as exit recovery remained uneven and buyers stayed selective

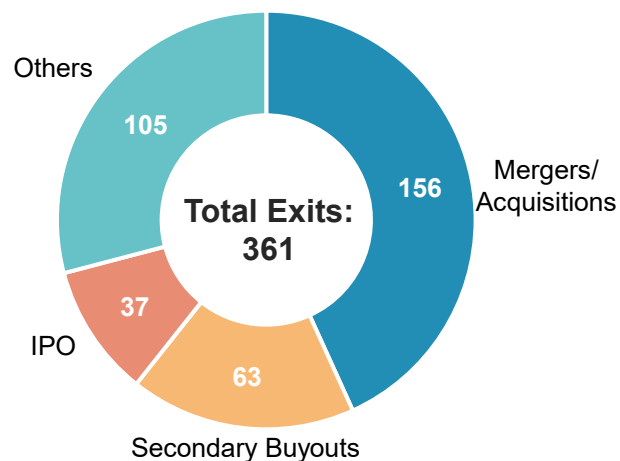
Number of Exits

Figures in Units



Key Exit Routes – Q1 2026

Figures in Units



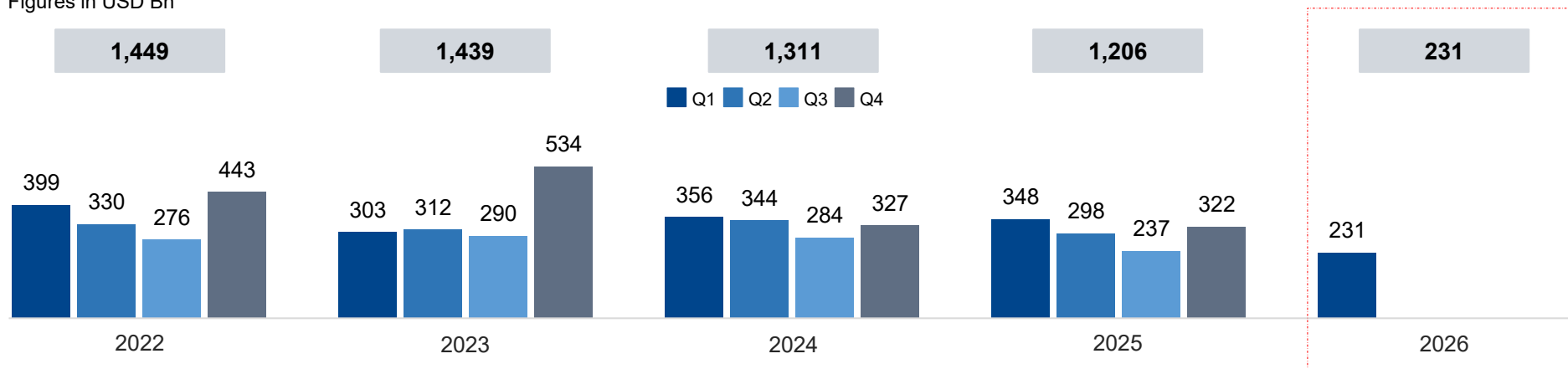
- Exit momentum softened in Q1 2026, with 361 exits completed, down 11% QoQ from Q4 2025, following a total of 1,402 exits in 2025.
- The slower start reflects a bifurcated exit environment, where large strategic acquisitions and platform exits remained viable, while broader mid-market exit activity stayed constrained.
- M&A remained the leading exit route, accounting for 156 exits, or ~43% of total exit count, supported by continued strategic buyer demand for high-quality assets.
- Secondary buyouts and IPOs remained limited, representing ~17% and ~10% of exits, respectively, underscoring weaker sponsor-to-sponsor and public-market exit activity.

Source: S&P Global, Aranca Analysis

PE capital raise softened in Q1 2026, reflecting a slower fundraising environment after a weaker 2025 close

Capital Raised

Figures in USD Bn



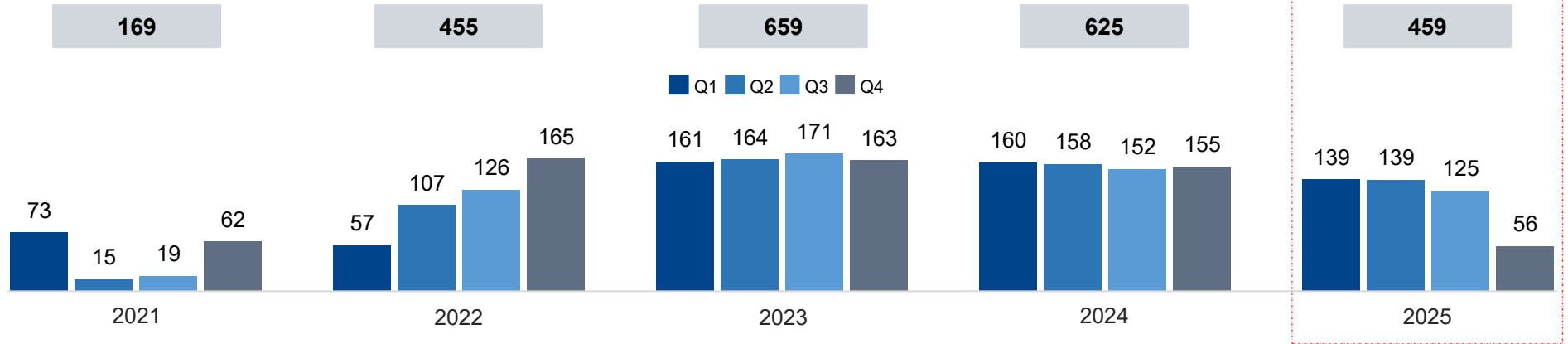
- Capital raised declined as LPs remained cautious, with slower distributions from older funds limiting their ability to commit fresh capital to new vehicles.
- Fundraising continued to favor established managers, as investors prioritized proven platforms with strong track records, creating a tougher environment for smaller or emerging funds.
- The decline may constrain near-term deal activity, particularly in the mid-market, as lower fundraising reduces dry powder formation and reinforces a more selective capital deployment environment.

Source: Pitchbook, Aranca Analysis

Global dry powder declined ~27% in 2025, reaching ~USD 459 Bn, as accelerating megadeal deployment outpaced new fund closes

Dry Powder*

Figures in USD Bn



- Global dry powder fell to ~USD 459 Bn in 2025, down ~27% from 2024 highs, as PE firms deployed capital into megadeals.
- Fundraising has stabilized but remains below deployment levels, driving a net drawdown of uncalled capital across the broader manager universe.
- Rising Q1 2026 deployment despite fewer deals suggests GP capital utilization could stay elevated if megadeal activity continues.

“Entering Q126, private equity sentiment was cautiously optimistic, supported by significant dry powder, signs of improving exit conditions, and a stabilizing macro backdrop. This momentum softened as geopolitical conflict in the Middle East triggered a brief pullback in deal activity.”

– KPMG

“With an estimated \$2.2 trillion in global dry powder (over \$1 trillion in the U.S.), pressure to deploy capital will be intense.”

– Foley and Lardner, Private Markets Data Provider

*Note: Dry powder data is as of December 2025
Source: Pitchbook, Aranca Analysis

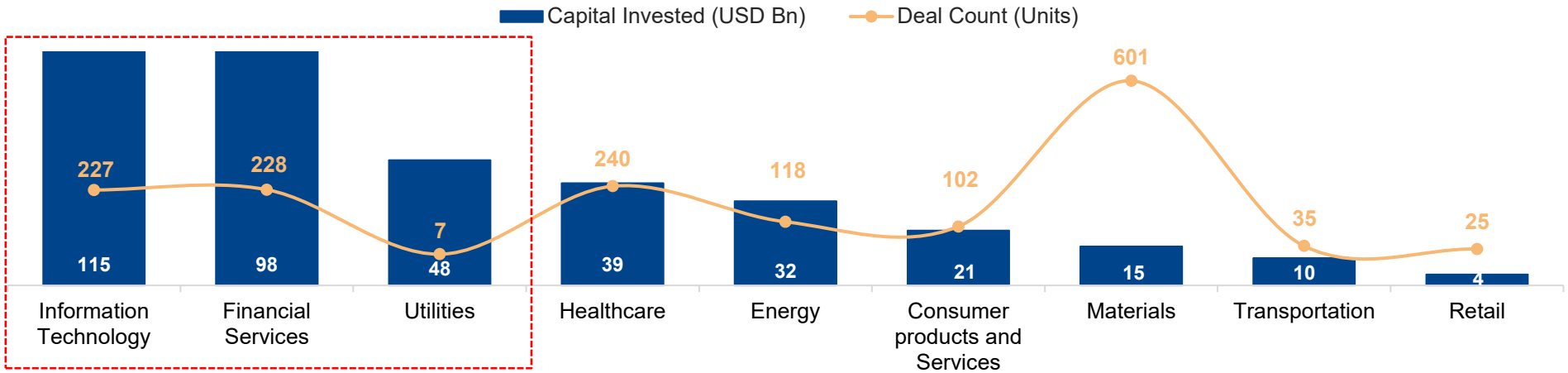
Top 15 PE firms (based on available dry powder) *(Illustrative)*

Investors	Geography	Dry Powder (USD Bn) <small>As of Dec 2025</small>	Last Investment			Investments (Last 6 Months)	Investment Targets
			Target	Deal Value (USD Bn)	Date		
Blackstone	The US	133.4	Oracle	16.0	Apr 2026	55	Real estate, public debt, private equity, infrastructure, life sciences, and growth equity
Ardian	France	64.6	GDT Brasil	-	Apr 2026	25	Healthcare & life sciences, technology and innovation
Kohlberg Kravis Roberts	The US	59.2	Deighton Manufacturing	-	Apr 2026	56	Media, telecommunications, materials, resources, SaaS, manufacturing, and life sciences
EQT	Sweden	56.3	Miller Mendel	-	Apr 2026	33	Healthcare, technology, services, and industrial tech sectors
TPG	The US	55.5	Optum UK	1.7	Apr 2026	31	Consumer, healthcare, business services, and internet services
ICG	The UK	50.3	Magellan Partners	-	Jun-2026	12	B2B and infrastructure sectors
Thoma Bravo	The US	38.3	V2 Forensics	-	Apr 2026	13	Technology and software sectors
The Carlyle Group	The US	35.8	Embrace Healthcare	-	Apr 2026	52	Aerospace, government services, consumer, media, retail, and financial services
Bain Capital	The US	32.8	Future Technology Lead	-	Apr 2026	33	B2B, B2C, retail, non-financial services, transportation, energy, healthcare, information technology, and software as a service
Advent International	The US	32.1	Granier Assurances	-	Apr 2026	15	Healthcare, technology, business, and financial services, and consumer and services
Apollo Global Management	The US	31.6	Forvia	1.6	Apr 2026	29	A private equity firm
Partners Group	Switzerland	25.3	Armistead Mechanical	-	Apr 2026	9	Private equity, infrastructure, real estate, private credit, and royalties investments
Permira	The UK	24.4	Covergrup	-	Apr 2026	5	Technology, consumer, healthcare, and service sectors
HPS Investment Partners	The US	23.8	Wett Car Wash	-	Mar 2026	9	A private equity firm
Hellman & Friedman	The US	23.1	ACD	-	Apr 2026	6	Consumer services, retail, energy, industrials, financial services, and technology

Source: Pitchbook, Aranca Analysis

IT, financial services, and utilities accounted for ~55% of total capital invested by PE firms in Q1 2026

Top Sectors* – Q1 2026



Note: *Only includes deals for which sector-level information is available. Deals include those completed and announced.

“TMT remained the global anchor of aggregate value,” while “EMEA’s largest value pool was Financial Services” and Germany’s activity was “skewed towards Energy & Utilities.”

– PwC, Global M&A Outlook 2026 – Private Equity and Principal Investors

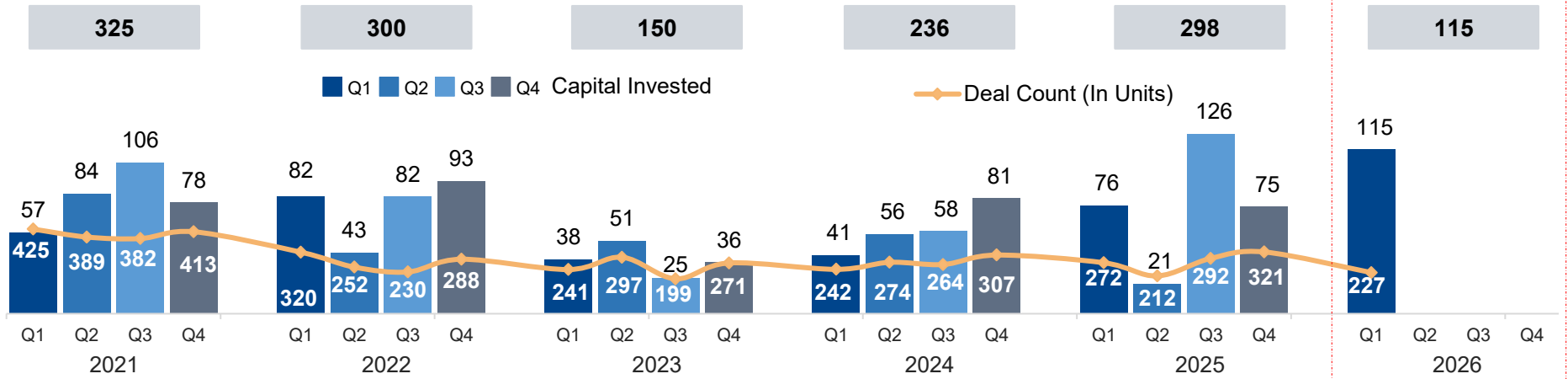
“The technology, media and telecommunications sector recorded the most deal activity in November, with 245 private equity-backed transactions, accounting for a quarter of all private equity-backed deals during the month.”

– S&P Global Market Intelligence

Capital deployed in IT increased 53% QoQ in Q1'26, despite a 29% decline in deal volume, as investments remain concentrated in IT platform and software transactions

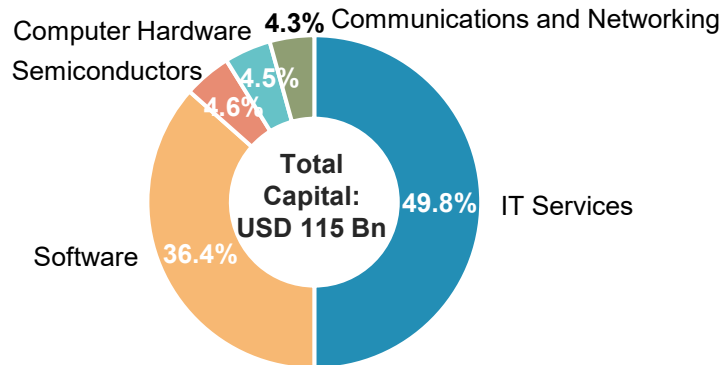
Top Sectors – IT

Figures in USD Bn



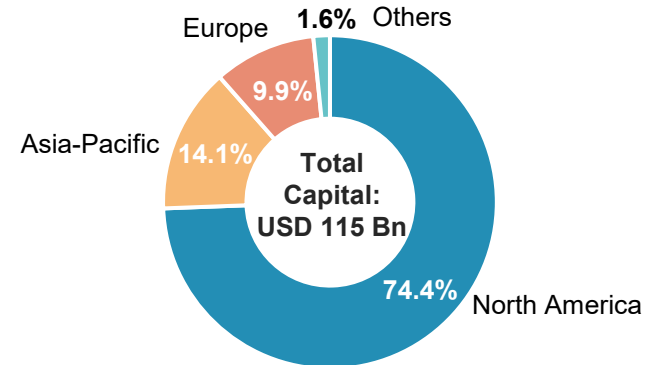
IT by Primary Sectors in Q1 2026

Figures in Percentage and USD Bn



IT by Geography in Q1 2026

Figures in Percentage and USD Bn



Source: Pitchbook, Aranca Analysis

*Note: Deals include completed and announced ones

Top PE investments in the IT sector in Q1 2026 *(Illustrative)*

IT Sectors	Subsectors	Company Name	Company Description	Geography	Deal Size (USD Mn)	Deal Type	Investors
IT Services	IT Consulting and Outsourcing, Systems and Information Management	Aligned Data Centers	Provider of modular, scalable data center and cloud infrastructure solutions	The US	40,000	Buyout/LBO	BlackRock, Global Infrastructure Partners, Kuwait Investment Authority, MGX, Microsoft, Nvidia, Temasek Holdings
		ST Telemedia Global Data Centre	Operator of a global network of data centers	Singapore	5,160	Buyout/LBO	Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, Singtel
Software	Business/Productivity Software	Dayforce	Provider of cloud-based human capital management solutions	The US	12,415	Buyout/LBO	Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, Thoma Bravo
	Entertainment Software, Social/Platform Software	TikTok USDS Joint Venture	Operator of a video sharing application	The US	11,214	Buyout/LBO	Alpha Wave Global, DFO Management, Dragoneer Investment Group, General Atlantic, MGX, NJJ Capital, Oracle, Revolution Capital Group, Silver Lake, Susquehanna
Semiconductors	Application Specific Semiconductors	Marvell Technology	A fabless chip designer focused on wired networking	The US	2,000	PIPE	Nvidia
		Rapidus	Manufacturer of advanced logic semiconductors	Japan	1,776	PE Growth/Expansion	Dai Nippon Printing, Development Bank of Japan, Government of Japan
Computer Hardware	Electronic Equipment and Instruments	Coherent	Develops, manufactures, and markets lasers, transceivers, and other optical devices	The US	2,000	PIPE	Nvidia
	Computers, Parts and Peripherals	Nanya Technology	Specializes in DRAM (Dynamic Random Access Memory) chips	Taiwan	977	PIPE	Sandisk Technologies
Communications and Networking	Telecommunications Service Providers	Lumentum Holdings	A California-based technology firm	The US	2,000	PIPE	Nvidia
		IHS Holding	Provider of wireless tower infrastructure services	Brazil	952	Buyout/LBO	Macquarie Asset Management

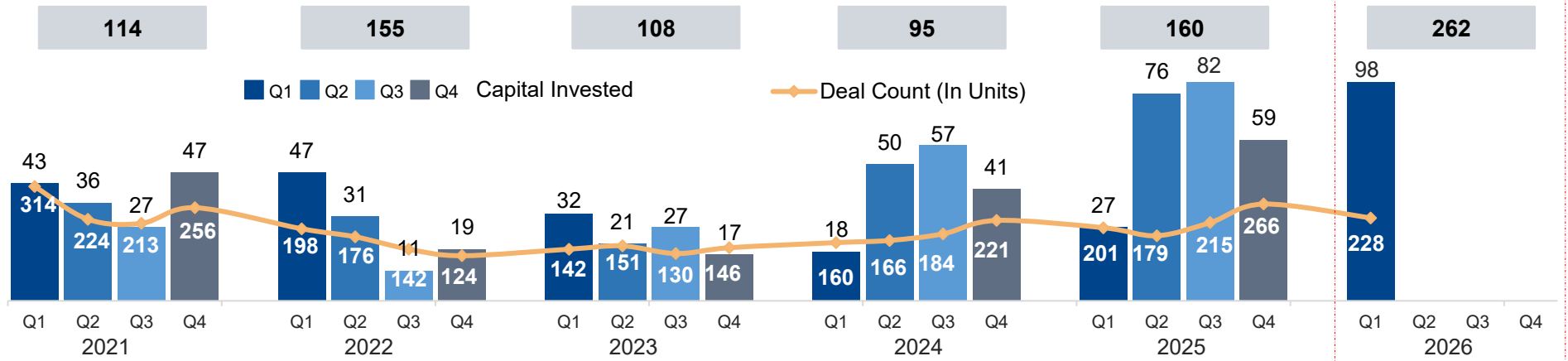
Source: Pitchbook, Aranca Analysis

*Note: Deals include completed and announced

Capital deployed into financial services rose 66% QoQ, driven by broader financial services activity and the return of large bank-divestiture and insurance platform deals

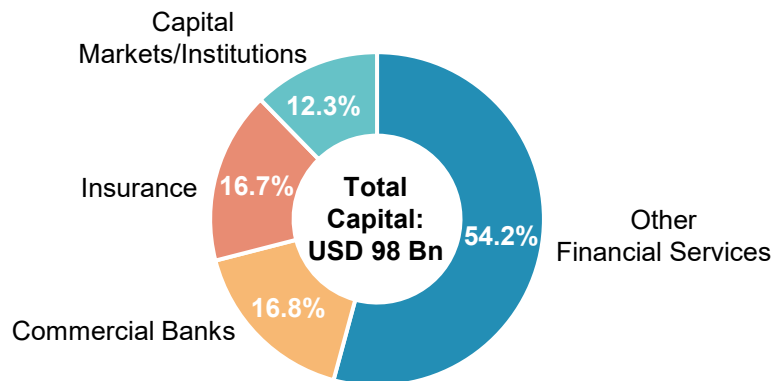
Top Sectors – Financial Services

Figures in USD Bn



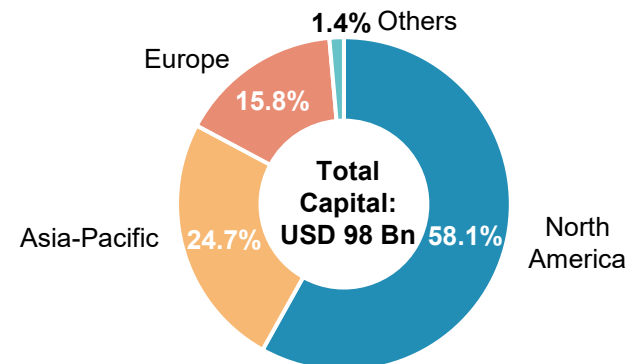
Financial Services by Primary Sectors in Q1 2026

Figures in Percentage and USD Bn



Financial Services by Geography in Q1 2026

Figures in Percentage and USD Bn



Source: Pitchbook, Aranca Analysis

*Note: Deals include completed and announced ones

Top PE investments in the financial services sector in Q1 2026 *(Illustrative)*

Financial Services Sectors	Subsectors	Company Name	Company Description	Geography	Deal Size (USD Mn)	Deal Type	Investors
Insurance	Commercial/ Professional Insurance	Convex Insurance	Operator of a specialty insurer and reinsurer firm	The US	7,000	Buyout/ LBO	American International Group, Onex
	Multi-line Insurance	Zurich Insurance Group	A multiline insurer that writes business across both life and nonlife insurance	Switzerland	5,043	PIPE	-
Other Financial Services	Other Financial Services	Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.	Provider of credit cards and retail banking services	The US	20,000	Buyout/ LBO	JP Morgan Chase
	Electric Utilities, Gas Utilities	Duke Energy	A US utility company	The US	6,000	PIPE	Brookfield Asset Management
Capital Markets/ Institutions	Asset Management	MAI Capital Management	Provider of wealth management and advisory services	The US	2,800	Buyout/ LBO	The Carlyle Group
		Teciem	Provider of treasury and capital market services	The UK	2,000	Buyout/ LBO	Apax Partners
Commercial Banks	International Bank	Hang Seng Bank	A Hong Kong-based financial institution	Hong Kong	13,600	Buyout/ LBO	HSBC Global Asset Management
	Regional Bank	Bankinter	A Spain-based financial institution	Spain	1,160	PIPE	Plenium Partners

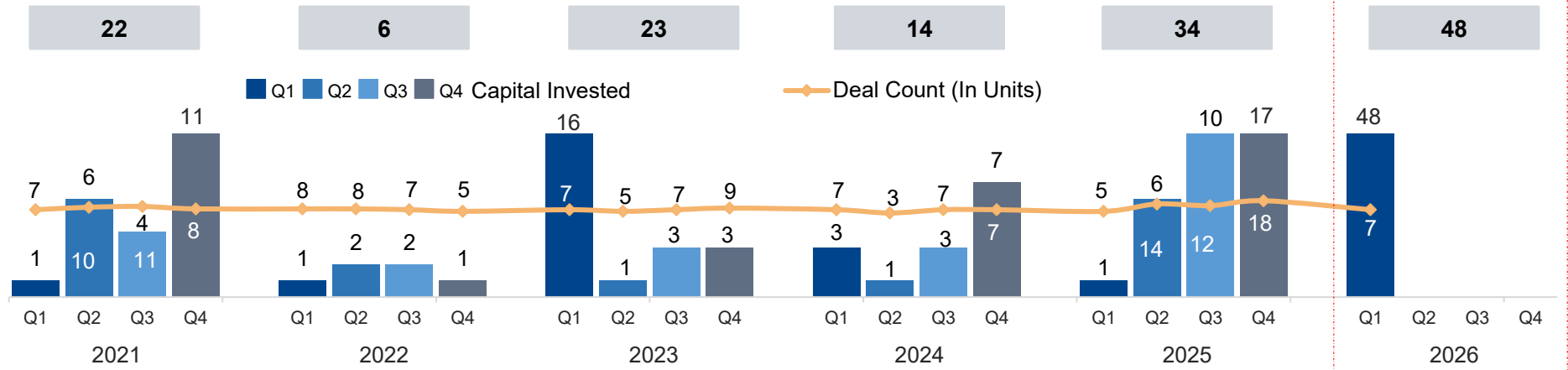
Source: Pitchbook, Aranca Analysis

*Note: Deals include completed and announced ones

Capital invested in Utilities rose to USD 48 Bn in Q1 2026, driven by fewer, larger deals concentrated in North America

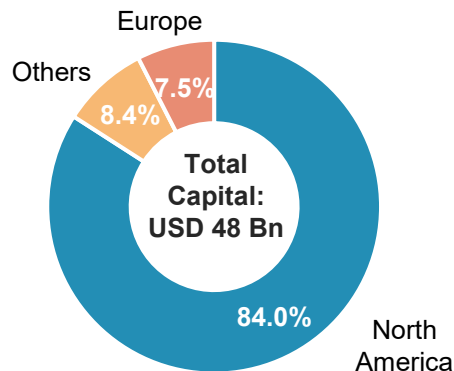
Top Sectors – Utilities

Figures in USD Bn



Utilities by Geography in Q1 2026

Figures in Percentage and USD Bn



“As one of the largest energy infrastructure investors globally, we are seeing first-hand the increasing need for a secure energy supply amid expanding power demand worldwide. EQT’s acquisition of AES will support the growth and modernization of essential energy infrastructure that underpins energy security, electrification, digitalization and resilient power systems across key markets.”

– Masoud Homayoun, Head of EQT Infrastructure

Source: Pitchbook, Aranca Analysis

*Note: Deals include completed and announced ones

Top PE investments in the utility sector in Q1 2026 *(Illustrative)*

Utility Sectors	Subsectors	Company Name	Company Description	Geography	Deal Size (USD Mn)	Deal Type	Investors
Energy (Utilities)	Electric Utilities	AES (Electric Utilities)	A global power company	The US	40,597	Buyout/ LBO	California Public Employees' Retirement System, Global Infrastructure Partners, Qatar Investment Authority
		Energia Group NI Holdings	Operator of an integrated energy utility company	The UK	3,407	Buyout/ LBO	Ardian France
		OPC Energy	Engaged in the generation and supply of electricity	Israel	255	PIPE	Harel Insurance Investments & Financial Services, Menora Mivtachim Holdings
	Energy Production	Inkia Energy	Operator of an energy production company	Peru	3,400	Buyout/ LBO	CPP Investments
		Enlight Renewable Energy	Develops, finances, constructs, owns, and operates utility-scale renewable energy projects	Israel	425	PIPE	-
	Environmental Services (B2B)	Affinity Water	Operator of a water supply company	The UK	204	PE Growth/ Expansion	Allianz, CVC DIF, HICL Infrastructure
	Other Utilities	Gardner Retail	Operator of six strategically located petrol station forecourts	The UK	24	Buyout/ LBO	Roadside Real Estate

Source: Pitchbook, Aranca Analysis

*Note: Deals include completed and announced ones

Aranca View



- **Stable rates and tighter credit spreads are likely to sustain large-cap take-privates and platform buyouts, with sponsor-led M&A continuing to drive headline capital deployment**



- **Capital concentration in megadeals will deepen in 2026, as scaled managers leverage dry powder advantage; sub-scale managers face increasing fundraising headwinds**



- **Capital will continue to flow into AI-enabled IT infrastructure, regulated/renewable utilities, and capital-markets-adjacent financial services**



- **Exit recovery is expected to remain uneven through 2026, with trade sales and large secondary buyouts gaining traction while mid-market exits and IPO activity remain selective**

Source: Aranca Analysis



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across multi-disciplinary domains

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researched by our analysts

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Countries where we have
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