



AI Quarterly Pulse Survey

Asset Management & Private Equity

Q1 2026

April 2026



Executive summary

Investment projections nearly continue to rise

Capital continues to flow into AI, with Asset Management and Private Equity organizations projecting average AI spending of \$148 million over the next 12 months, up nearly 1.5x from Q4 of 2025.

AI's potential value is no longer in question. However, realizing that value depends on how effectively and securely asset managers and private equity firms can reengineer work at enterprise scale.

AI agent deployment reaches new levels

Today, about 39% of AM & PE organizations are actively deploying AI agents – up from 24% in Q4 of 2025. As AI agents move deeper into day-to-day operations, their most immediate impact is how work gets coordinated across the enterprise.

AI agents are facilitating collaboration across functions by automating workflows, routing information and supporting joint decision-making.

The great skills reset

AI agents deliver the most value when people remain firmly in the lead, setting intent, exercising judgment and retaining accountability. Notably, asset managers and private equity firms are willing to pay more for AI skills, with 46% willing to pay 11% to 15% more for strong AI skills, 26 percentage points higher than Q4 2025.

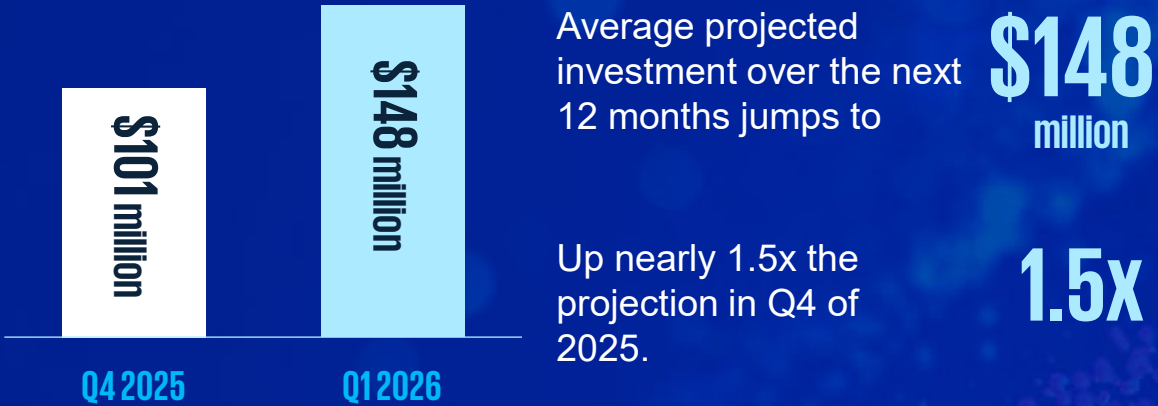
Employee resistance to AI agents has declined quarter over quarter, with 81% of AM & PE leaders now reporting mixed or positive employee adoption.

Governance is a prerequisite for scale

Nearly all AM & PE leaders say data security, privacy and risk considerations, as well as pressures to demonstrate value to their board, will influence their AI strategies over the next six months.

AI agent deployment is also bringing questions of trust, control and accountability to the forefront – three out of four organizations now require human validation of AI agent outputs, and four of five organizations are looking to deploy agents developed by trusted tech providers.

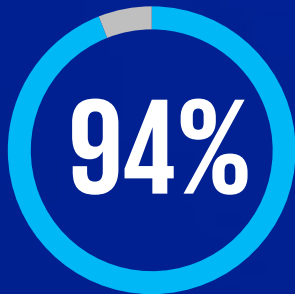
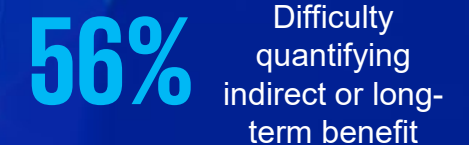
ROI and investment



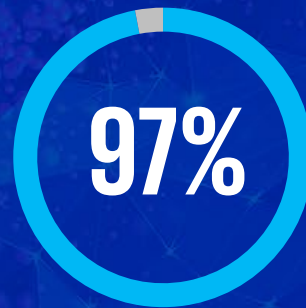
Top investment categories between \$10 to \$49 million include:



Employee skill gaps and difficulty scaling use cases are **top barriers to demonstrating ROI**



say AI will continue to be a top investment priority, even if a recession occurs in the next 12 months.



of AM & PE leaders express confidence in their organization's ability to measure ROI tied to improved C-suite analytics.

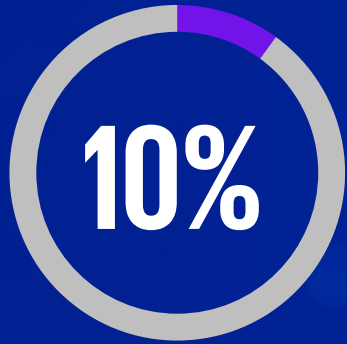
Compared to



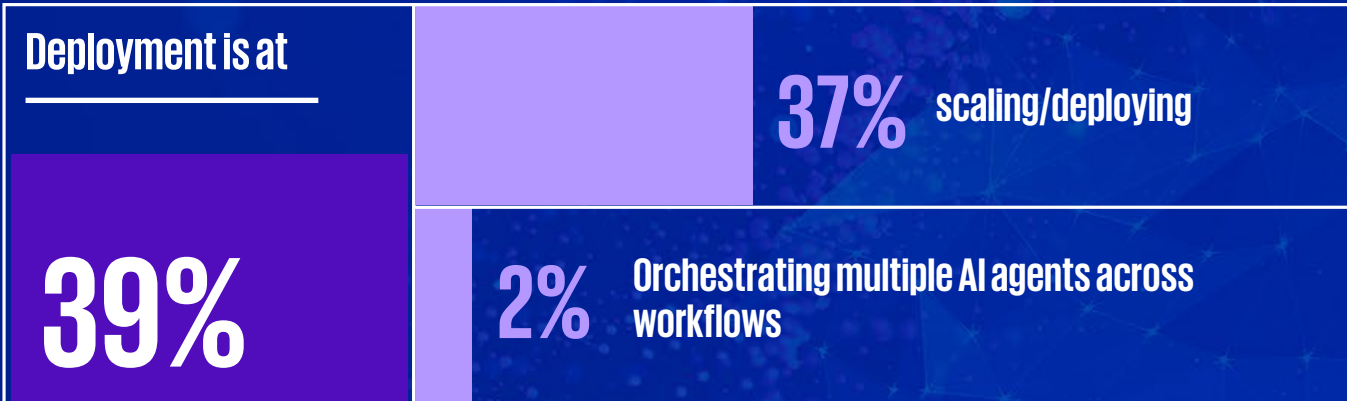
in Q4 FY25

AI Agent deployment crosses the tipping point

Experimenting at



Piloting at



AI agents are facilitating collaboration across functions:

80% Automating workflows that span multiple functions



64% Providing shared knowledge bases or unified dashboards



63% Supporting joint decision-making - shared insights, recommendations



60% Routing information or decisions between teams



The great skill reset

Upskilling and reskilling employees, recruiting for new roles, and redesigning job roles are **top strategies** leaders are pursuing to enable an AI workforce:

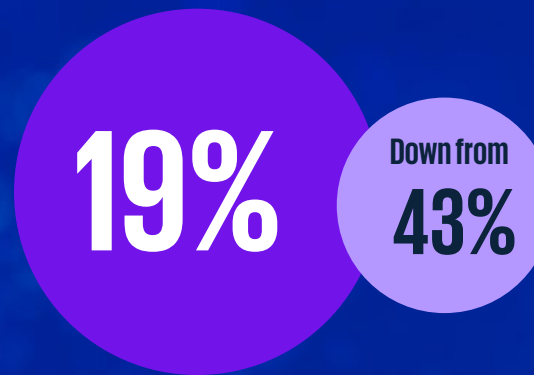
100% Upskilling/reskilling current workforce

78% Recruiting for new roles (e.g., AI architects, prompt engineers)

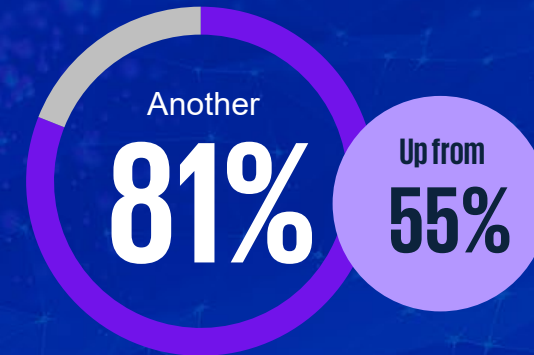
73% Redesigning job roles

42% Managed services/outsourcing

40% Acquire



Employee resistance dropped quarter over quarter with only 19% now saying that employees show a small degree of resistance.



are seeing mixed, slight or significant adoption (employees having a mixed response or beginning to accept and integrate agents in their work).

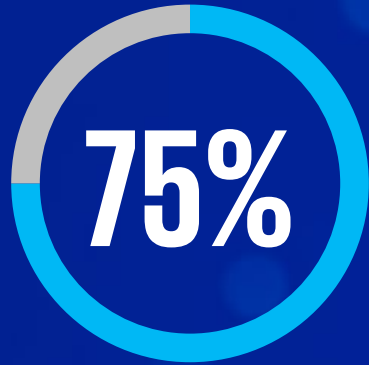
AI agent resistance from employees is largely due to

88%
Skill and capability gaps

75%
Concerns about job security

70%
Trust, ethical or transparency concerns

The great skill reset



expect humans to primarily manage and direct AI agents in the next two to three years

46%
of leaders are willing to pay **11% to 15%** more for strong AI skills

26 percentage points higher than Q4 FY25

97%
Adaptability and continuous learning

outweigh

80%
technical or programming abilities

as it relates to skills that entry-level employees need to work with AI agents.

77% say agents have already changed their approach to entry-level hiring



Governance becomes a prerequisite for scale

87%

Up from
32%

Leaders cite **cyber and bad actor misuse** as the most difficult society-wide challenge with AI between now and 2030.

Data security, privacy, and risk concerns (100%) and Pressures to demonstrate value to our board (99%) are the top factors influencing AI strategy in the next 6 months.

When it comes to **managing agent risk** in the next 6-12 months:

80%

are looking to **deploy AI agents** developed by trusted tech providers or have identified high-risk use cases where autonomous agent decision-making is not allowed.

77%

are taking a **"human-in-the-loop"** approach where a human validates outputs but does not oversee each agentic action or decision.

65%

have **identified high-risk use-cases** where autonomous agent decision-making is not allowed, such as hiring decisions or approving loans.



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