

THE NEW YORK PRIVATE EQUITY AI BENCHMARK



Results and what they could mean

New York, October 2026 · $n = 48$ · First full NY benchmark

A summary for delegates. © 2026 AI Pathfinder. Insights may be shared with attribution.

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Five things the data is telling us

The through-line: from AI adoption to AI advantage



57% → 89%

integrate AI or beyond, up from 57% in May. Not one firm is still just exploring.

86% vs 21%

expect portcos to scale AI within 12 months, but only 21% see a durable advantage in portcos today.

34%

rate their AI use as an established or durable advantage. Adoption is not yet advantage.

55% vs 41%

use AI mostly to do existing work faster, versus in genuinely new ways.

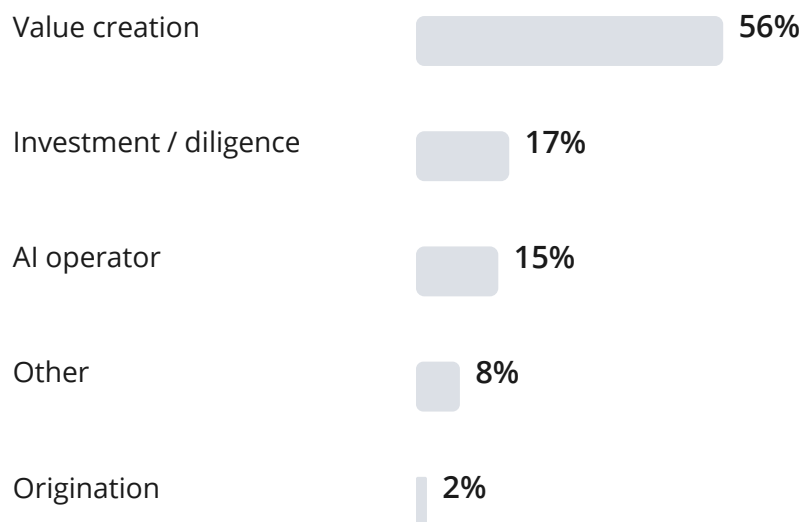
82%

say what stalls AI in portcos is people, conviction, clarity, capability, culture, not technology.

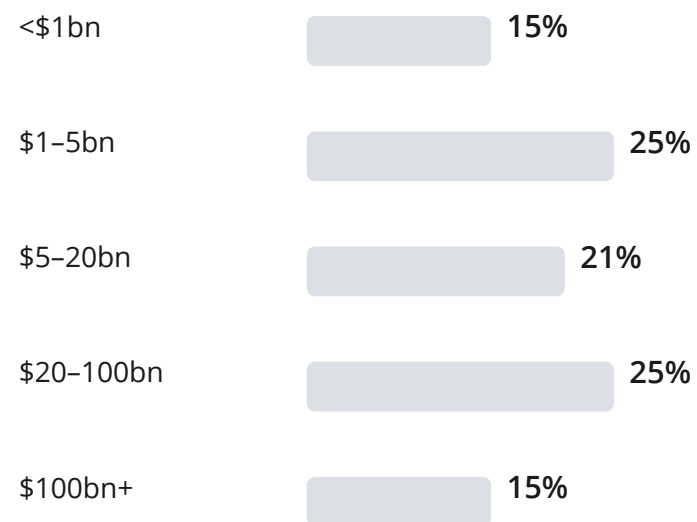
Who we heard from

48 New York PE respondents, our first full NY benchmark

By role



By firm AUM

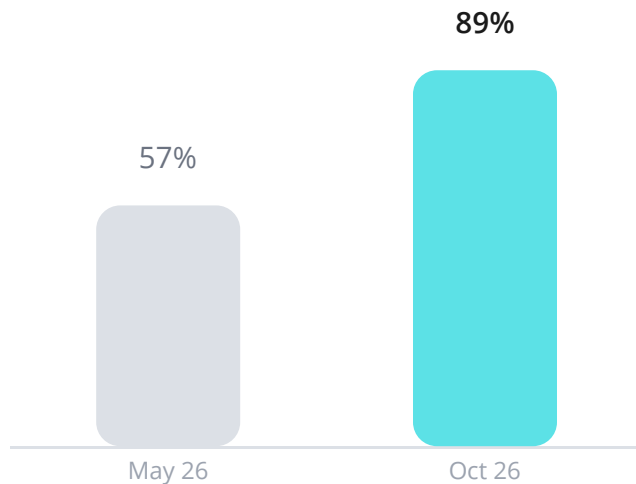


A senior, large-fund room: two-thirds manage \$5bn or more, and value creation leads the mix.

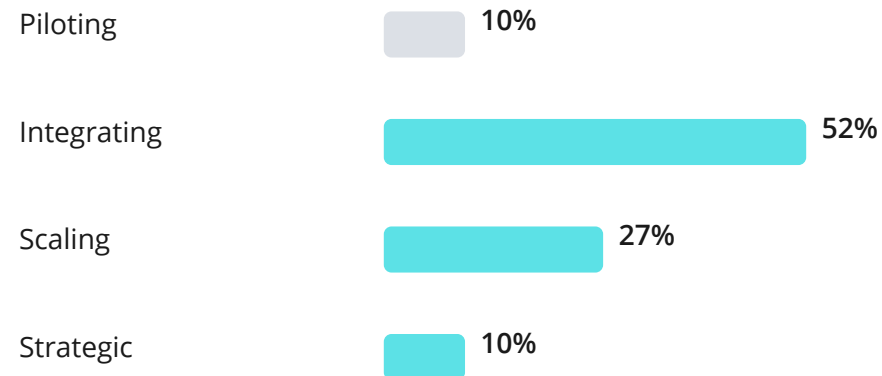
AI maturity: the sprint up the curve

Firms integrating AI or beyond, May to October

Integrating or beyond (%)



Where the room sits today (October 2026)



Not one firm is still just exploring. In five months this room moved from a narrow majority integrating to nearly nine in ten.



Readiness: big ambition, early reality

% agreeing, October 2026, with change since May



Read together: 86% expect their portfolios to scale AI within 12 months, but only 21% see a durable advantage in portfolios today. Near-universal ambition, rare advantage.

One to sit with. 77% feel governance and controls are in place. But this room is value creation and AI operators, not CISOs or risk leads. The open question, in the current climate of AI-tool security incidents: would that number survive if your own security team were answering, especially across the portfolio?



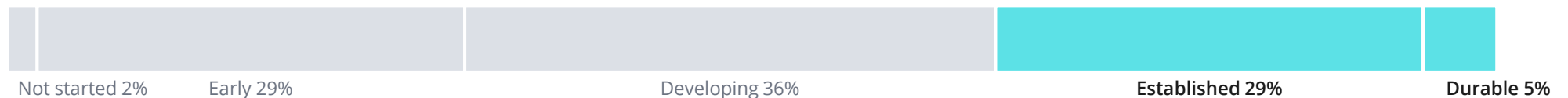
Coordination and advantage: adopted, not yet ahead

Self-rated 1 (ad hoc) to 5 (durable advantage)



34% of firms rate their AI use as an established or durable advantage

Firm advantage, full distribution (n=42). Cyan = established or durable



Firm coordination and advantage sit level (means 3.1 and 3.0). Getting organized has not yet become getting ahead.

How AI is used: faster, or genuinely different

Which best describes how AI is being used today



55% vs 41%

use AI mostly to do existing tasks faster, versus in genuinely new ways

Grouped distribution (n=42). Cyan = working in new ways



New York is further along than most on this. But the majority are still accelerating the old workflow, not rebuilding it.

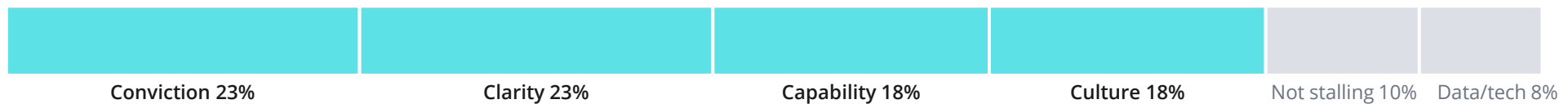
Where adoption stalls: the people challenge

The single biggest reason AI stalls in portfolio companies



82% cite people, conviction, clarity, capability, culture, versus 8% data or technical

Full distribution (n=39). Cyan = the four people causes, together 82%



In this mature, well-resourced room the constraint is almost pure: leadership priority and how teams work, not foundations.

By fund size: who is reimagining, who is accelerating

Using AI in genuinely new ways, by firm AUM



53%

of sub-\$5bn funds use AI in genuinely new ways

32%

of \$5bn+ funds do the same

Scale buys adoption, not reinvention. Larger funds are marginally further up the maturity curve and feel more locked-down on firm basics like ownership and governance. But the smaller, nimbler shops are the ones more likely to be rebuilding workflows rather than just speeding them up. (Directional: sub-\$5bn n=19, \$5bn+ n=29.)

What it could mean

Reading the New York benchmark as a whole

Adoption is now table stakes.

Nearly nine in ten firms integrate AI, up from 57% in May. Having it no longer sets you apart.

The gap has moved to advantage.

Only 34% can call their AI use a durable advantage. Is that where the next year is won or lost?

The binding constraint is people.

Not data, not technology. Conviction, clarity, capability and culture decide who scales.

Confidence deserves a second look.

Readiness is high across the board. The useful question is whether it would survive closer scrutiny.



You've adopted, faster.

Can you prove it's become an
advantage yet?

The benchmark runs across New York and London. Thank you for taking part.
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