



New York Private Equity AI Adoption Benchmark

Pulse Survey Results | May 2026

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About This Survey

39

NYC respondents

Survey Context

- First benchmark survey conducted with the New York PE community, fielded ahead of our inaugural AI Strategy Breakfast Briefing on May 5, 2026.
- Covers AI maturity at firm and portfolio level, peer perception, readiness sentiment, agentic AI expectations, and barriers to adoption at scale.
- Respondent mix: Value Creation / Portfolio Operators (49%), Investment / Diligence (28%), Origination (10%), AI Operators (8%), Fund Ops (5%).
- AUM spans the full range: 45% at \$20bn or above, 21% at \$1-5bn, 18% below \$1bn.

Respondent Profile

Who completed the survey (n=39)

BY ROLE

Value Creation /
Portfolio Operator 49%

Investment /
Diligence 28%

Origination /
Deal Sourcing 10%

AI Operator 8%

Fund Ops /
Legal / Compliance 5%

BY AUM

\$100bn+ 13%

\$20–100bn 32%

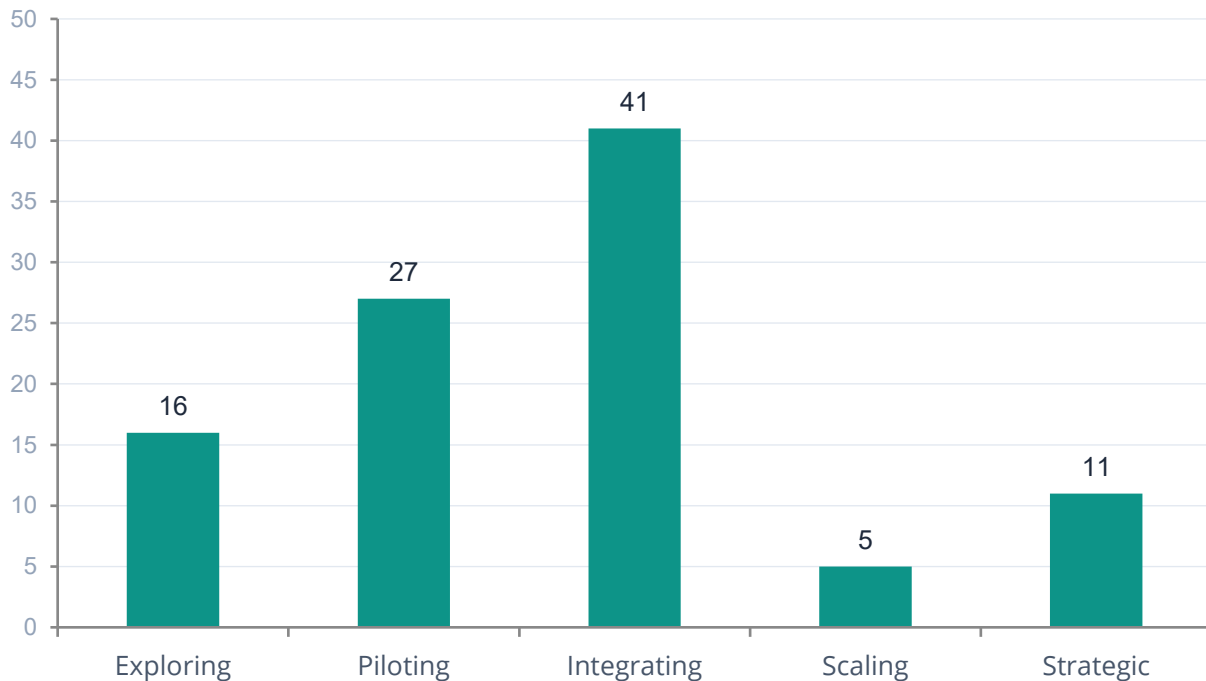
\$5–20bn 16%

\$1–5bn 21%

<\$1bn 18%

AI Maturity at Firm Level

Distribution of self-reported maturity across NYC respondents (n=37)



Headlines

57%

at integrating, scaling, or strategic

16%

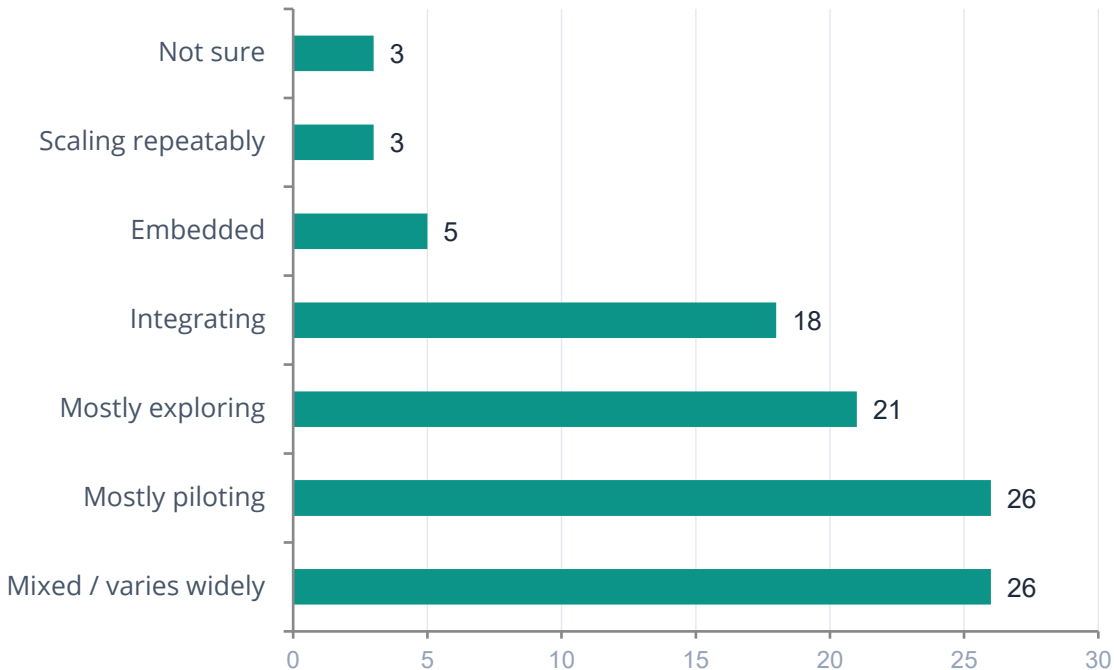
still exploring

11%

describe AI as strategic

Portfolio AI Maturity

How NYC respondents rate the AI maturity of portfolio companies they are closest to (n=39)



Notable

47%

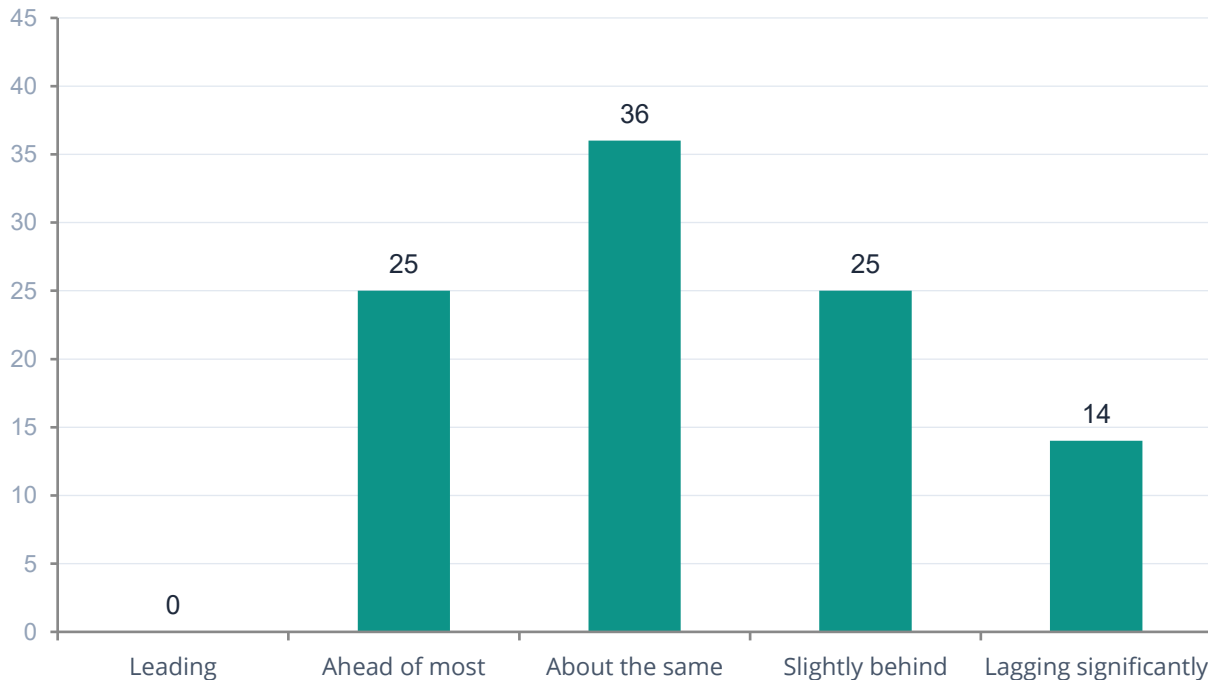
of portfolios mostly exploring or piloting

26%

report wide variation across the portfolio with some portcos integrating, others not

Perception vs Peers

How NYC respondents perceive their AI position relative to peer PE firms (n=36)



NYC stretch

Self-perception is bimodal, confidence and concern at both ends of the spectrum.

25%

feel ahead of most peers.

14%

feel they are lagging significantly behind.

Readiness Pulse

% of NYC respondents who agree or strongly agree with each statement (n=35-36)

We expect portcos to scale AI beyond pilots within 12 months



Clear ownership & accountability to scale AI in the next 6 months



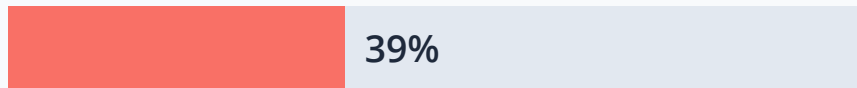
Governance & controls in place to deploy AI safely



We can articulate a credible ROI case for priority AI initiatives



Data foundations good enough for scaled AI adoption

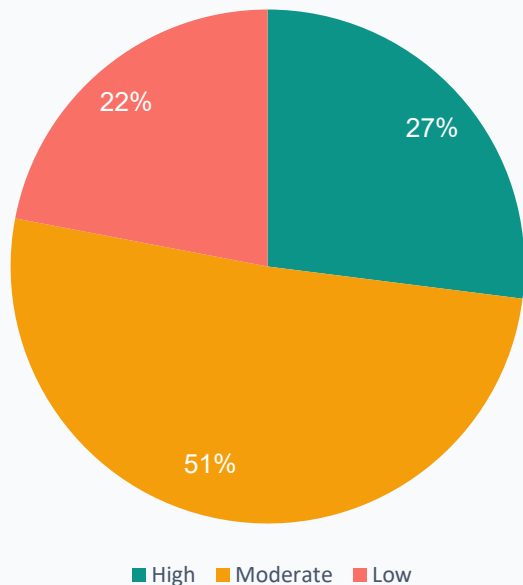


60%+ 40-59% <40%

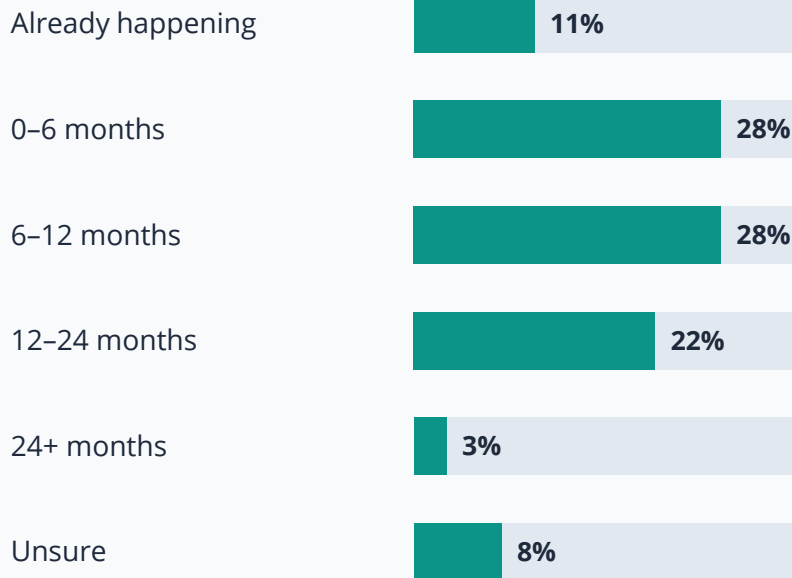
Agentic AI: Confidence & Timeline

How confident respondents are in their understanding, and when they expect impact (n=37-36)

Understanding of Agentic AI



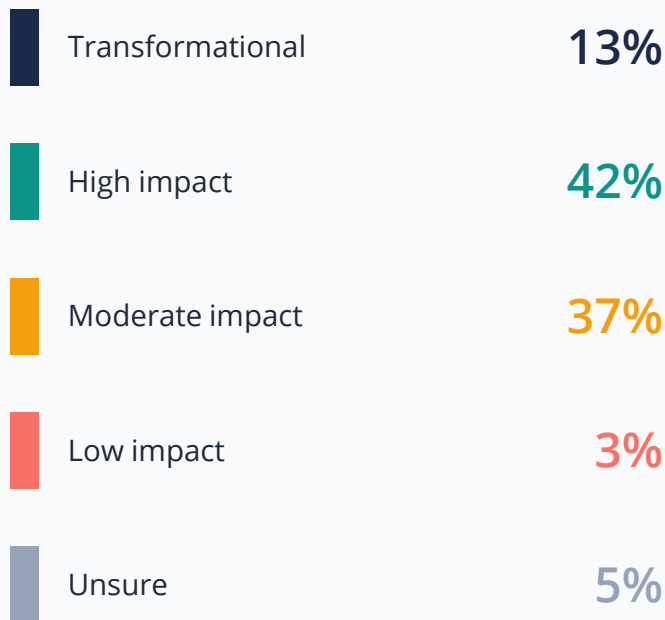
Expected Timeline for Impact



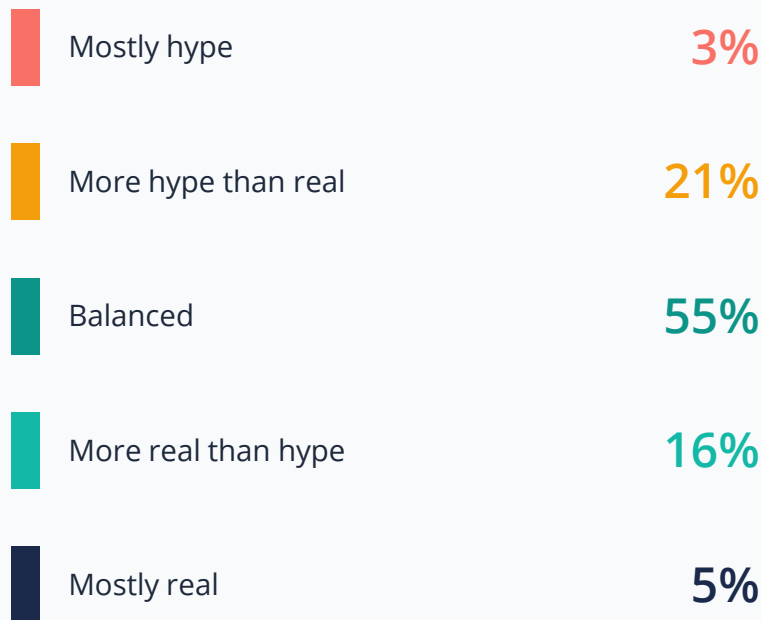
Agentic AI: Significance & Perception

Expected significance and current sentiment (n=38)

Significance Over Next 18 Months

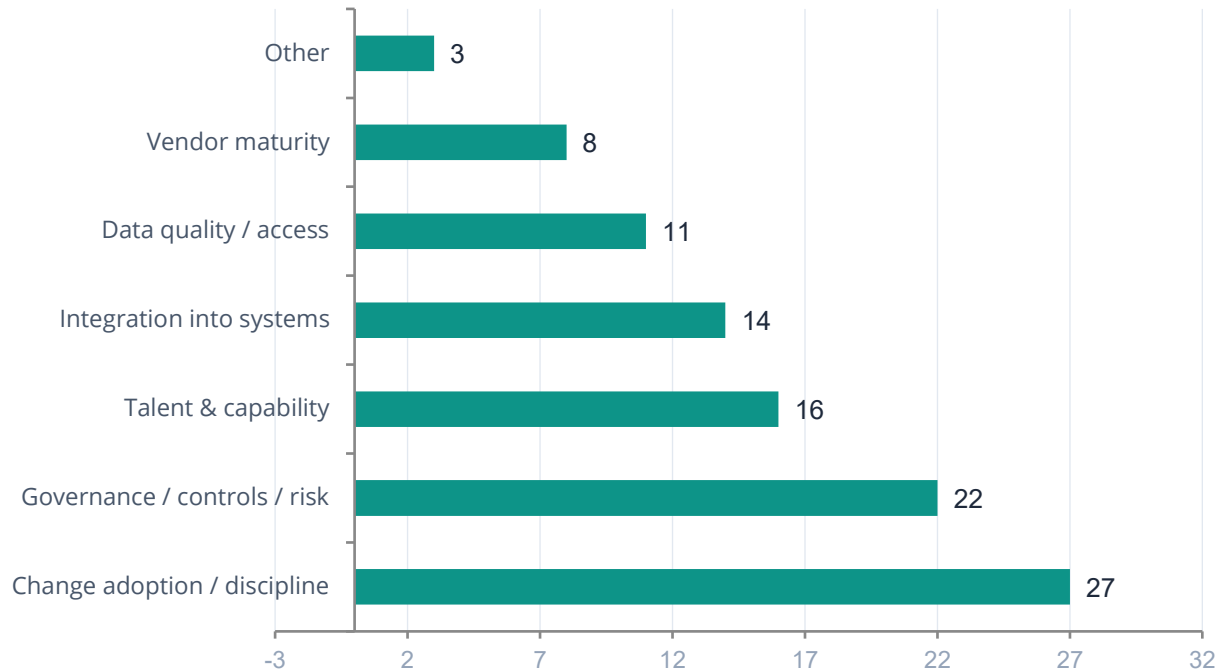


Right Now, Agentic AI Is...



Agentic AI: #1 Barrier to Adoption at Scale

Single-choice question — respondents selected their top barrier (n=37)



The headline

Change adoption is the #1 barrier, not data, not governance.

27%

named operating discipline as their biggest challenge to adopting agentic AI at scale.

Key Themes

Firms are concentrated at integration; portfolios are fragmented

57% of firms describe themselves as integrating or beyond. Across portfolios, the picture is uneven - 26% describe wide variation across portcos, with another 47% mostly exploring or piloting.

Ambition is high, but data foundations lag

75% expect portcos to scale AI beyond pilots within 12 months. Only 39% feel their data foundations are good enough to support it - the lowest readiness score by some margin.

Agentic AI is expected to deliver impact soon

39% expect meaningful, repeatable impact within 6 months. 67% within 12 months. And 55% of respondents already describe agentic AI as balanced between hype and reality - not predominantly hype.

The #1 barrier is change adoption, not technology

27% named operating discipline as their top barrier. Governance (22%), talent (16%), integration (14%), and data (11%) follow. The harder problem is human and organisational, not technical.

Questions to Consider

Based on these results, some prompts for reflection across your firm and portfolio.

Maturity

Where do you genuinely sit on the maturity curve, and what would need to be true to move up one stage?

Timeline

Agentic AI within 6 months feels fast. What would your firm need to see to back that timeline?

Portfolio

If your portfolio looks uneven - some portcos integrating, some not - what's driving that variation?

Change

If change adoption is the #1 barrier, what does that look like in your firm or portfolio today?

Data

Is your data confidence well-founded, or are the foundations weaker than the optimism suggests?

Ownership

Who owns AI at your firm and do they have the mandate and discipline to scale it?



Thank You

Thank you to all NYC participants. This is the start of an ongoing benchmark for the New York PE community, building on our established London series.

Insights may be shared with attribution.

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