

44TH EDITION

Global Private Capital Barometer

Summer 2026



Coller Capital's Global Private Capital Barometer

In this edition of the *Global Private Capital Barometer*, we explore investor sentiment towards private markets and examine limited partners' (LP) views on allocations and risk in today's macroeconomic climate.

We uncover their perspectives on developments in secondaries, private credit, new access routes such as evergreen funds, and the adoption of artificial intelligence, and we delve further into their long-term convictions and near-term expectations of today's dynamic investment landscape.

Fieldwork for this edition of the *Barometer* took place from 18th February 2026 to 21st April 2026.

Contents

Key findings	3	Evergreen and tokenised funds	9
Allocation decisions	4	Artificial intelligence	10
Liquidity and secondaries	6	Public perceptions	11
Zombie funds	7	Methodology/demographics	12
Private credit	8	About Coller Capital	13

Key findings

1

Just over a third (37%) of LPs say geopolitical context is influencing their current private market allocations more than previously, with nearly half of APAC and European investors saying this.

2

Two-fifths (40%) of LPs believe that continuation vehicle activity will increase, even when exit conditions improve.

3

The proportion of LPs planning to increase their private credit allocations in the coming 12 months has fallen from 42% to 29% since the last *Barometer* six months ago.

Notes:

Limited Partners (or LPs) are investors in private equity funds. General Partners (or GPs) are private capital fund managers. In this *Barometer* report, the term private capital is a generic term encompassing the following asset classes: private equity, private debt, venture capital and real assets.

Contact:

Andrew Kelly
Barometer@collercapital.com



Allocation decisions

LPs continue to deploy capital in an uncertain environment, but geopolitics have become a bigger factor for some investors' allocation decisions

As an asset class with long-term investment horizons, private markets can often insulate LP portfolios from the effects of short-term shocks. It is therefore unsurprising that LPs are continuing to deploy capital in private markets even as world events take an unpredictable turn. A third expect to accelerate their commitment pace in the next two years while 57% expect it to remain the same.

Indeed, on the face of it, LPs appear sanguine about geopolitics when making allocation decisions. Nearly two-thirds (63%) of respondents overall say there is no change to how much the geopolitical environment and outlook are influencing their current allocation

decisions. With no respondents saying it has less bearing than it has had in the past, that leaves just over a third (37%) who say it is influencing their decisions more than in the past.

However, closer examination paints a more mixed picture. Among our North American respondents, just under a quarter (23%) consider geopolitics more than previously. By contrast, other regions appear more concerned: nearly half of respondents elsewhere are giving geopolitics more weight when allocating.

More LPs (23%) expect to reduce the number of GP relationships in their portfolios than in the past. This is a shift from the last time we asked this question – in 2020 –

Fig 1: How do you expect your rate of commitments to private markets to change over the next two years?

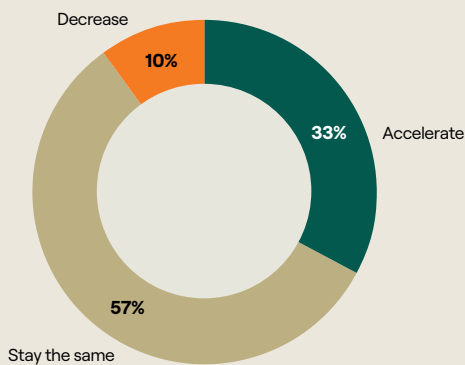


Fig 2: To what extent is the geopolitical environment and outlook influencing your allocation decisions currently?

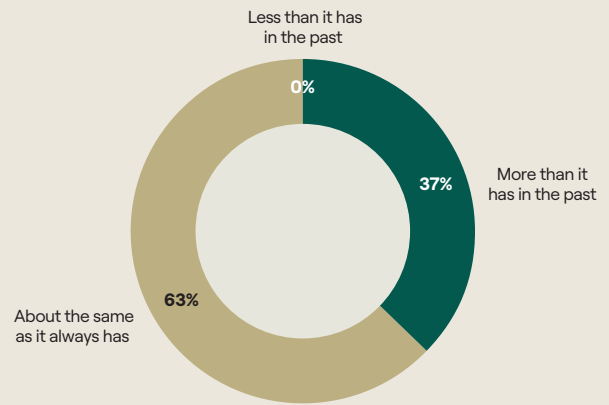
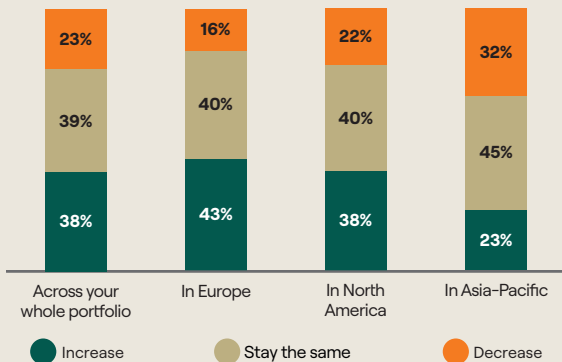


Fig 3: In the next three years, how do you expect the number of your GP relationships to change?



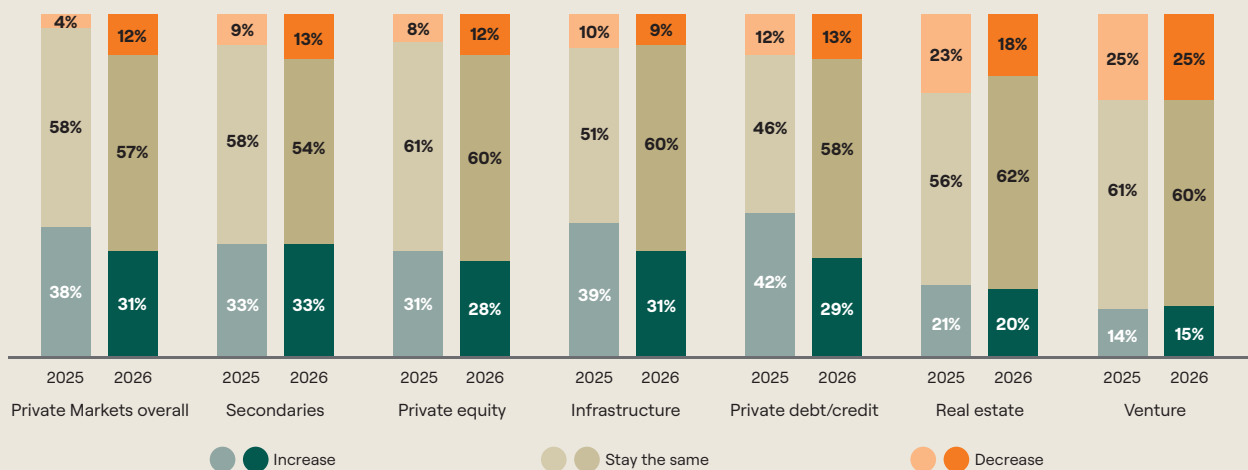
Allocation decisions

when just 16% were expecting to reduce GP relationship numbers. On the flip-side, just over a third (38%) of respondents anticipate an increase across their whole portfolio.

While most (57%) respondents expect no change to target allocations overall LPs have cooled on private credit and infrastructure when compared to our last Barometer six months ago when 42% expected to increase target allocations to private credit versus this time when just 29% say the same. In infrastructure, the proportion has fallen from 39% to 31% over the same period.

This may be a natural pause following periods of rapid growth for both asset types, yet recent negative headlines regarding private credit are also likely influencing LPs' allocation plans. Despite this, it's worth noting that the vast majority of investors (87%) still expect to maintain or increase private credit allocation targets in the next 12 months.

Fig 4: In the next 12 months, how do you expect your target allocation to private markets to change?



Liquidity and secondaries

GPs face a range of LP views on exit timings, while investors see continuation vehicles as an established feature of private markets

As private equity holding periods continue to lengthen, liquidity remains a priority for many GPs. Yet LPs often have differing investment horizons, which can make the decision of whether to sell or give companies more time for value creation a difficult balancing act.

Our survey clearly illustrates this. When asked whether GPs are correctly balancing liquidity needs and potential portfolio company value, the encouraging news is that 40% of LPs believe that they are getting it right. However, the same proportion say that GPs are not providing liquidity early enough, and a further 22% say the best companies are being sold too early.

By offering LPs the option of selling for liquidity or rolling to retain their investment, continuation vehicles (CVs) can offer a solution to conflicting investor holding period expectations. Following rapid growth in recent years, these transactions appear to have gained acceptance among LPs as an established feature of private markets. Even when exit conditions improve, 40% expect CV activity to continue increasing, 29% anticipate it will stay at current levels and just under a third (31%) say it will decline.

With LPs seeking liquidity and managing their portfolios more actively, secondaries transaction volume has increased substantially in recent years across all private markets asset types. Of these, LPs expect private credit secondaries to see the greatest proportional growth in the next three years. Primary private credit's considerable expansion in recent years is undoubtedly increasing deal flow and portfolio rebalancing is also likely a driver.

Fig 5: Are GPs correctly balancing the need for liquidity versus portfolio company value creation in their decisions on when to sell assets?

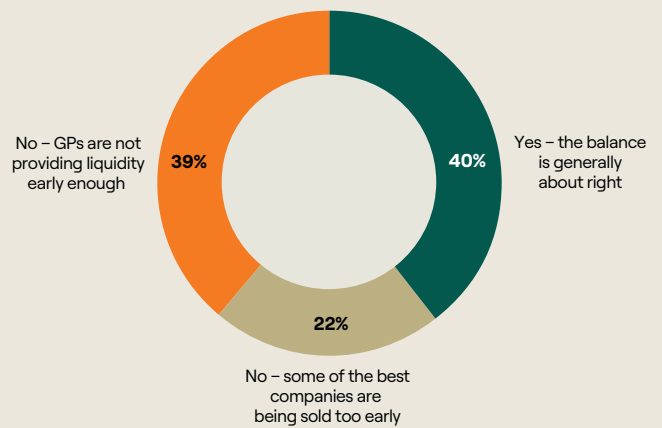


Fig 6: When traditional exit channels improve, what do you expect will happen to new continuation vehicle activity?

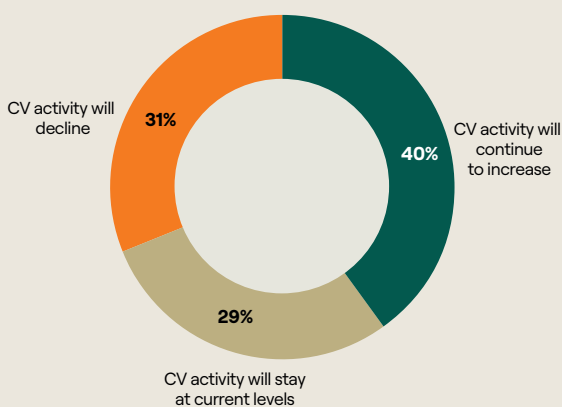
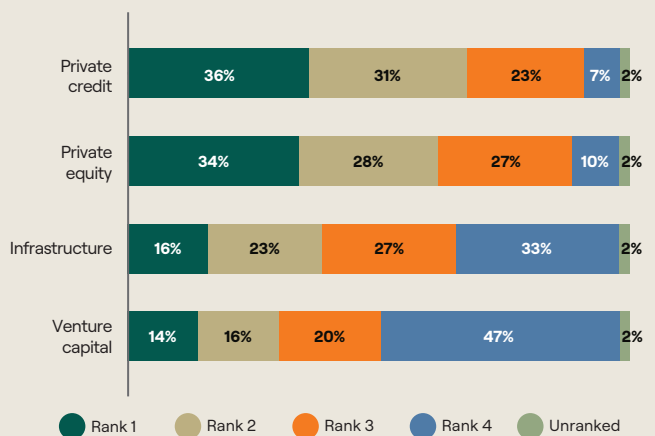


Fig 7: Which asset class do you expect to see the greatest proportional growth in the secondary market over the next three years? (Rank in order, 1 being the highest growth)



Note: Some totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Zombie funds

LPs expect more living dead funds to emerge in their private equity portfolios, and most are taking a pragmatic approach to managing the situation

Private equity's longer holding periods, plus the elevated entry valuations that some firms paid before interest rates rose, appear to be coming home to roost in investor portfolios. Over half (54%) of respondents expect the number of zombie funds (where a GP is prolonging a fund's life in order to maximise management fees) in their own portfolios to increase in the next two years. Nearly a third (31%) expect the number to remain stable, while 15% anticipate a decrease.

This builds on a previous finding from our summer 2024 *Barometer*, when 48% said they already had zombie funds in their portfolio and 28% expected them to appear later in the cycle.

LPs have a range of options for dealing with zombie funds, and our survey points to investors being largely pragmatic and supportive under these circumstances. The preferred course of action is stepping down the management fee. Manager incentive resets (whereby a fund's economic terms are changed to encourage timely exits) comes in a distant second (18%) while just 11% of LPs prefer to leave zombie funds to play out.

However, our survey suggests that North American LPs are somewhat more likely than others to take a proactive stance: 14% prefer manager removal (vs 11% overall) and 11% indicated they would refuse to extend a fund's life (vs 6% overall).

Fig 8: Within your private equity portfolio, how do you expect the number of zombie funds to change over the next two years?

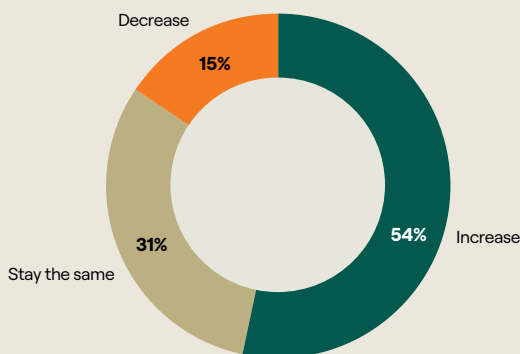
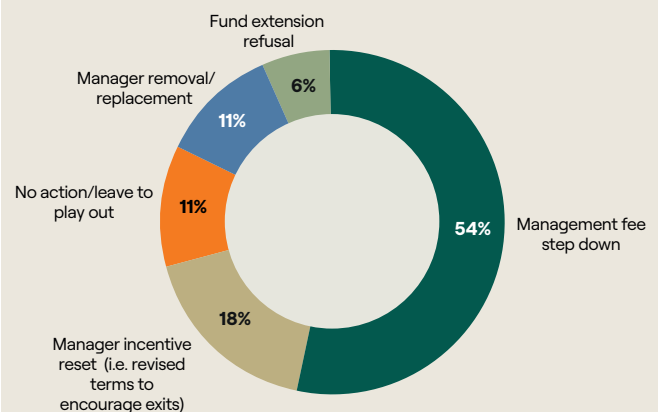


Fig 9: When dealing with zombie funds (where there is a no-fault situation) on balance, which is your preferred approach?



Private credit

LP capital looks set to flow to established private credit managers, although some are concerned about risks in the asset class

After several years of rapid expansion, private credit may be facing a period of consolidation. Capital was already starting to concentrate among existing players, and our results point to this trend accelerating in coming years.

Despite 87% of LPs planning to either maintain or increase their private credit target allocations, recently established GPs in the asset class face challenging fundraising conditions ahead: the majority of respondents perceive them as less attractive across all

regions in the next two years. This contrasts with our findings in 2022, when more than half of LPs ranked new private credit managers as more attractive in both North America and Europe in the coming two years.

This shift may be down to LPs focusing on existing relationships with established GPs as their private credit portfolios have matured in the intervening years. However, at least some reticence to fund new managers likely stems from a wider disquiet about potential losses and risk in private credit portfolios reported in the media in the past few months.

Indeed, our survey shows that some investors are clearly concerned about risks in private credit with 18% believing there is a systemic problem in the asset class. However, with nearly a third (29%) comfortable that the risk in the asset class is in line with expectations and just over half (53%) believing there is isolated risk above and beyond initial expectations, LPs appear to have a more nuanced take on private credit than is evident in some media reporting.

To gain more context, we asked respondents how well they understood expected loss ratios in their own private credit portfolios. Nearly half (49%) rate their understanding as good or very good, yet 45% characterising it as reasonable with a further 5% as poor. This suggests that there may be some gaps in investor knowledge of private credit risk profiles, and that there could be room for improvement in LP education and reporting.

Fig 10: How attractive will new private credit fund commitments (commitments to recently established credit funds) be in the next two years?

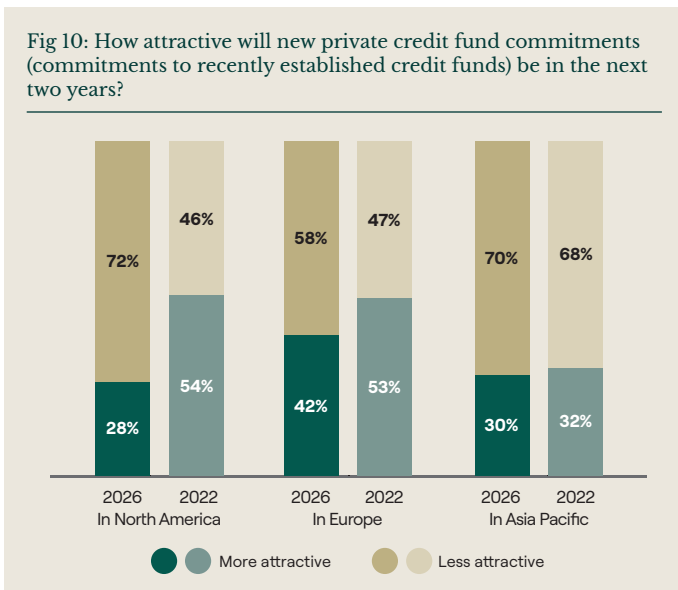


Fig 11: How do you feel about the current nervousness around private credit?

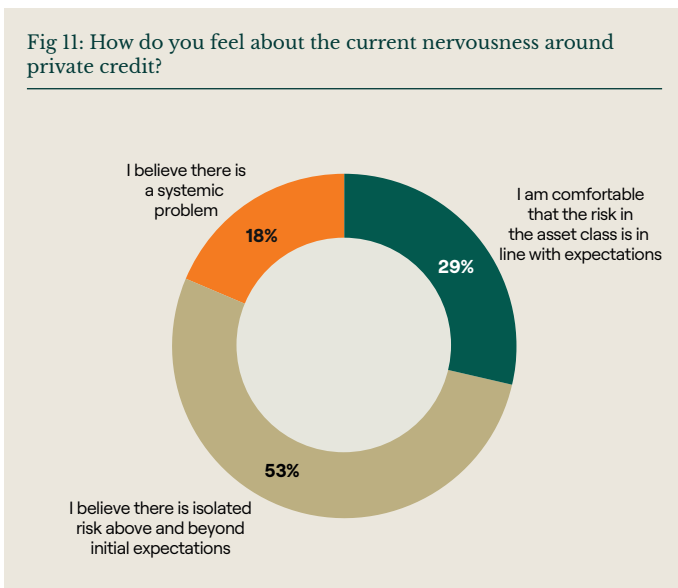
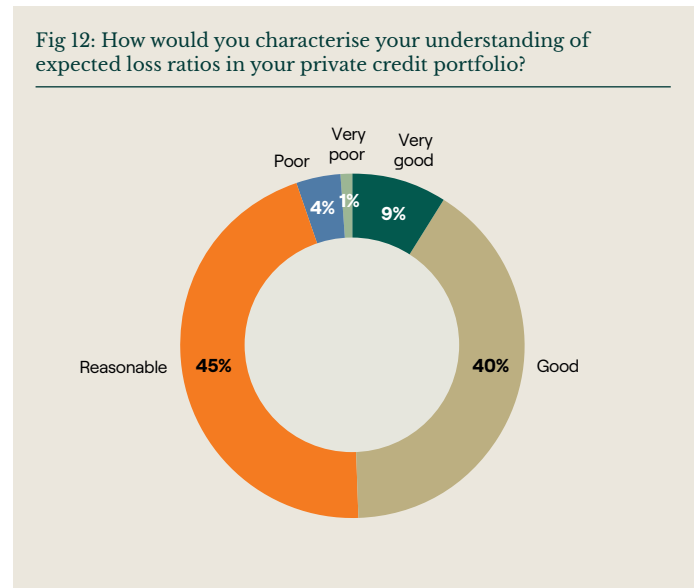


Fig 12: How would you characterise your understanding of expected loss ratios in your private credit portfolio?



Note: Some totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Evergreen and tokenised funds

As private markets innovate to attract more capital, LPs believe evergreen funds will expand, yet most remain unconvinced about tokenised funds

The number of evergreen funds is continuing to rise, and LPs see further assets under management (AUM) growth in this area. Nearly three-quarters (73%) of our respondents expect the proportion of total private markets AUM held in evergreen funds to have increased by 2035, including 36% who anticipate a significant increase. Despite recent scrutiny of these vehicles, just 9% expect a decline.

Overall, the vast majority (85%) do not expect to invest using tokenised funds. This could be because these funds are relatively nascent or LPs may view them as access points more suited to individual investors.

Fig 13: By 2035, how would you expect the proportion of total private markets AUM held in evergreen vehicles to have changed?

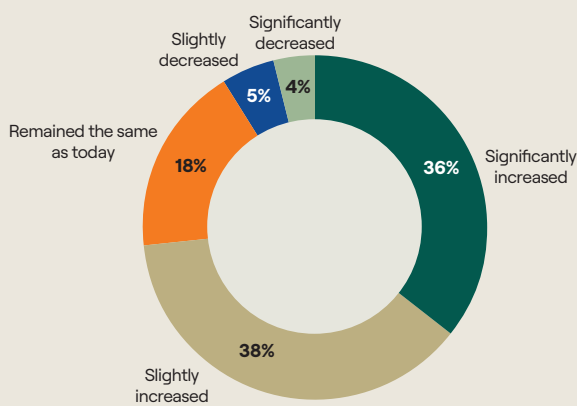
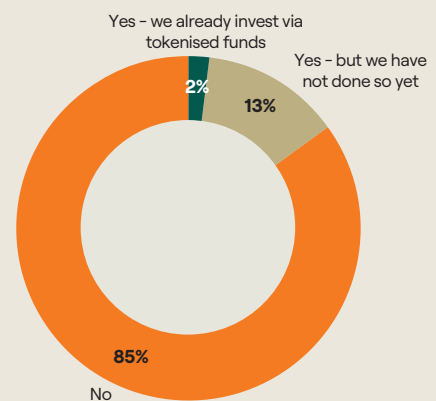


Fig 14: Do you expect your institution to access private markets investments via tokenised funds?



Note: Some totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Artificial intelligence

Most LPs see AI adoption among GPs as a way of achieving cost-efficiency, but they also expect it to widen return dispersion

With GPs rolling out artificial intelligence (AI) tools across their firms, less than a quarter of LPs (22%) believe the use of this technology will become a source of alpha in the next five years. Instead, most (70%) are expecting GPs to use AI primarily to bring down costs.

Even so, LPs anticipate that AI will affect return dispersion. Around two-thirds (67%) of respondents expect AI adoption to widen the gap between the best performing funds and the laggards, with just a third believing that it will level the playing field. Given the findings above, this may seem counterintuitive. However, LPs may be expecting the best performing GPs to implement AI effectively both in their own firms and in portfolio companies, which could improve returns.

LPs are also increasingly adopting AI in their own organisations. Should this reduce the amount of time required for administrative and analytical tasks, around half of LPs expect to spend more time focusing on their own strategic or team development (54% put this in their top two) and cultivating new GP relationships (with 49%). Just 16% rank developing direct investment capabilities in the top two activities they would prioritise.

Even as analytical and quantitative AI tools are improving, most investors believe there is no change to the importance of gut instinct in private markets investing, underscoring the importance of human relationships and judgement in the asset class. Nearly a quarter (22%) of LPs believe that gut instinct is increasing in importance when making fund and co-investment decisions. Fewer (16%) say this about GPs' company investment decisions.

Fig 15: Do you believe the effective use of AI by GPs will become a meaningful source of return outperformance over the next five years, or will it be used primarily as a cost-efficiency or risk management tool?

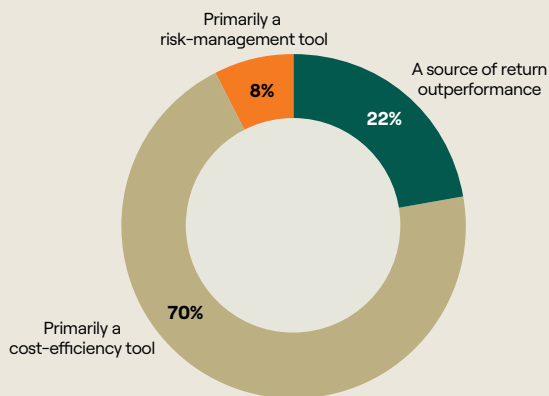


Fig 16: Do you expect AI adoption by GPs to widen return dispersion between the leading and lagging performers or level the playing field?

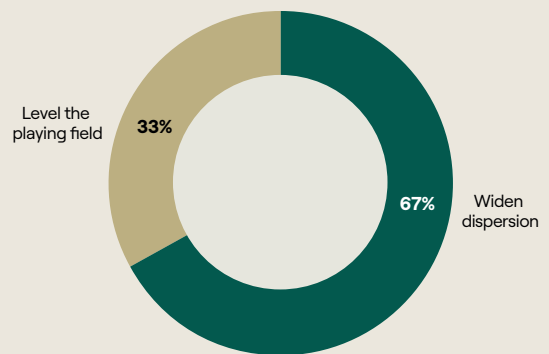


Fig 17: If technology reduces the amount of time required for administrative/analytical tasks, what will you/your team spend more time on? (Please select two answers)

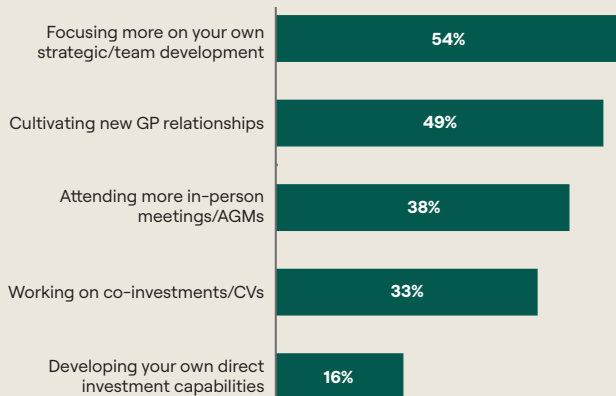
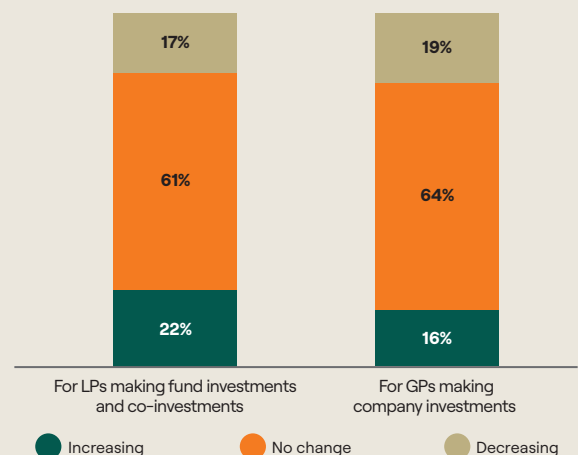


Fig 18: Do you think gut instinct is increasing or decreasing in importance in terms of investment decision-making?



Note: Some totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Public perceptions

LP opinions are split on whether private equity has the reputation it deserves among the wider public

As private equity – and the private markets asset class more generally – reaches further into economies globally and as GPs increasingly seek to raise capital from individual investors, the industry’s wider reputation is becoming more critical to its success.

Encouragingly, nearly half of LPs (47%) believe private equity’s public reputation is about where it should be. However, at 39%, the proportion who say it is worse than it deserves remains high, with North American respondents most likely to say this (at 49%). Compared with previous results, little has changed since 2018, although we observe a slight improvement on 2016, when 44% said the industry’s reputation was worse than it deserved.

On balance, LPs believe that focusing on private equity’s economic benefits would improve its reputation. About a third (34%) say that a better understanding among the public of private equity’s contribution to economic growth would enhance perception, with 30% saying the same about job creation.

APAC respondents have a different perspective: for these LPs, pension fund performance is the most important aspect for the public to understand (36% say this, versus 20% overall). This may reflect the fact that many pension funds in the region are relative newcomers to private markets and that many APAC economies are growing faster than those elsewhere.

Fig 19: Currently, what do you think the private equity industry’s public reputation looks like?

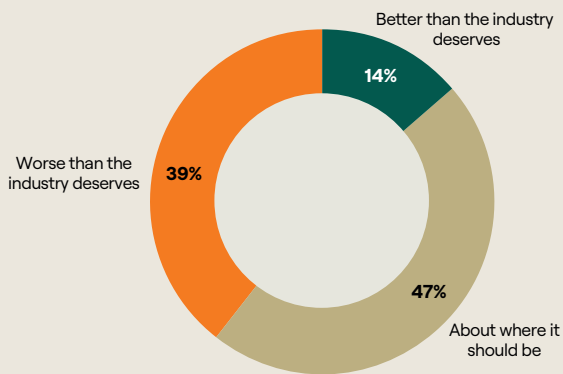
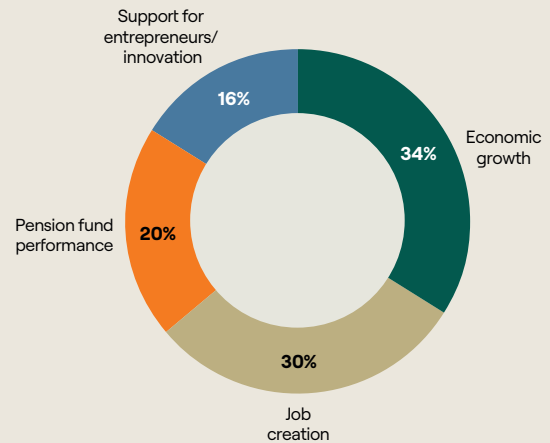


Fig 20: To enhance the perception of private equity investments, which of the following would be the most important area for the public to understand better?



Methodology/demographics

Respondent breakdown

The *Barometer* researched the plans and opinions of 108 investors in private capital funds. These investors, based in North America, Europe, Asia Pacific and the rest of the world (RoW) including the Middle East and

North Africa, comprise a representative sample of the LP population worldwide. In total, the investors surveyed oversee an aggregate \$2.045 trillion assets under management.

Fig 21: Respondents by region

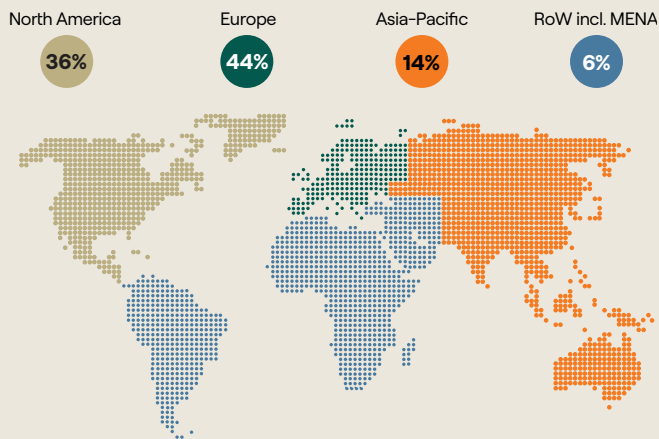


Fig 22: Respondents by total assets under management

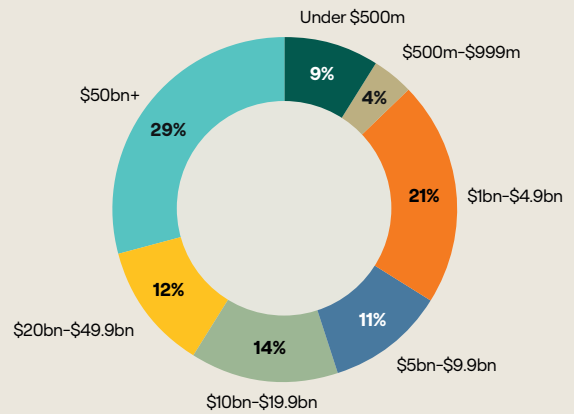


Fig 23: Respondents by year in which they started to invest in private markets

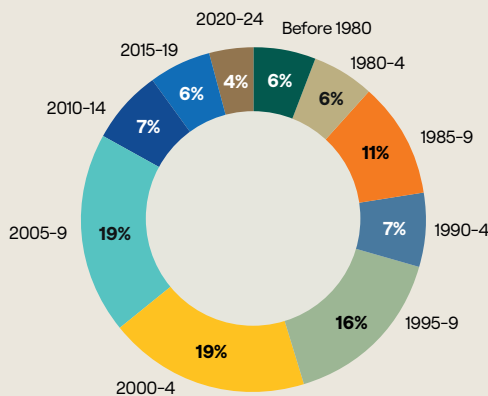


Fig 24: Respondents by type of organisation

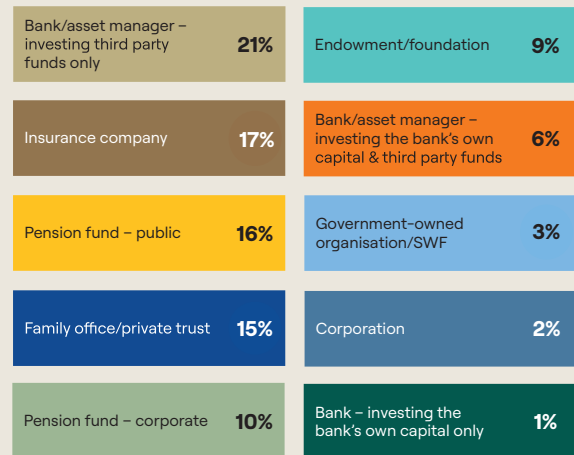
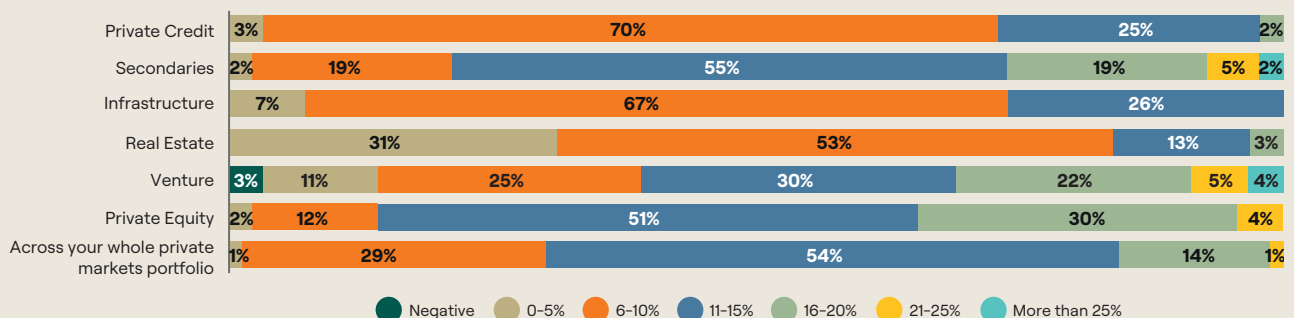


Fig 25: What have been your annual net returns across your private markets portfolio since it began?





About Collier Capital

Collier Capital is a global leader in the secondary market for private assets, renowned for being a pioneer and innovator in the asset class. Founded in 1990, Collier provides investment and liquidity solutions to private market investors worldwide, and currently manages \$54 billion in private equity, private credit, and other private market vehicles. With headquarters in London and offices across North America, Europe, and Asia-Pacific, our multinational team offers a truly global reach.

Collier has exclusively focused on secondary investing since inception and today boasts one of the largest dedicated investment teams in the asset class.

Collier's Private Wealth Secondaries Solutions (PWSS) business offers perpetual funds to eligible private wealth investors globally.

For more information, visit www.collicapital.com



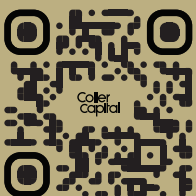
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