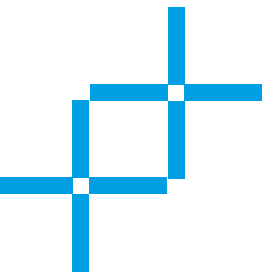




Canadian Private Equity Market Overview

Q1 2025



OUR VISION

A thriving Canadian economy driven by private capital.

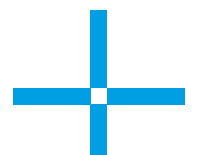
OUR MISSION

CVCA's mission is to help our members fuel the economy of the future by growing the businesses of today. We do this by supporting and connecting a vibrant private capital industry with advocacy, research, and education.

CVCA is also the nation's ultimate resource for data on Canadian private capital investments.



[Discover comprehensive Canadian PE data on CVCA Intelligence: deals, fundraising, exits and more.](#)



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Message from the CEO

The first quarter of 2025 opened with one of the largest private equity deals in Canadian history. The \$14B transaction for GardaWorld underscores the scale and global relevance that Canadian companies continue to command. Even excluding that deal, total PE investment remained consistent with Q1 2024, reflecting ongoing strength in the mid-market and a stable investment environment.

Québec led all provinces in both deal count and dollars invested, while activity in Ontario also remained strong. Industrial and manufacturing was the most active sector by deal count, with meaningful investment also directed toward ICT and financial services. This broad sector and geographic diversification points to the growing role of private equity in supporting Canadian competitiveness through operational transformation and strategic acquisitions.

While investment activity remained steady, PE exit activity was muted in Q1 with no IPOs and only a handful of disclosed M&A exits. Behind this trend lies growing caution among buyers, driven by macroeconomic uncertainty, ongoing tariff negotiations, and cross-border supply chain concerns. Liquidity remains a challenge, but we continue to see Canadian firms deploy capital to create long-term value and expand global reach.

At CVCA, we're working to ensure that this momentum is matched by enabling policy. [Our recent white paper](#), released ahead of the federal election outlines a set of proposals aimed at unlocking capital. These are critical measures to ensure Canadian businesses don't just survive global headwinds, but thrive.

We'll be discussing these themes and more at [Invest Canada '25 in Calgary, May 27–29](#). It's where Canada's private capital leaders gather to navigate change, build partnerships, and shape what comes next. I look forward to welcoming many of you there.

KIM FURLONG
CEO

CANADIAN VENTURE CAPITAL &
PRIVATE EQUITY ASSOCIATION



About CVCA Intelligence

CVCA Intelligence is the most comprehensive source of Canadian private equity and venture capital data, powered by the Canadian Venture Capital and Private Equity Association (CVCA).

With features like the investor search function, CVCA Intelligence provides you with advanced, real-time access to the most up-to-date and comprehensive Canadian private capital data available, refreshed daily and is compatible with all major desktop and mobile browsers.

As a CVCA member, your organization receives a designated number of **CVCA Intelligence licenses**. If you haven't received access to CVCA Intelligence, contact the account owner of your organization's CVCA membership to find out how to gain access. If you still have issues, **please contact CVCA's membership team here**.

Non-members can enjoy unlimited monthly or discounted annual access to high-quality industry data and analysis by becoming CVCA Intelligence subscribers. **Become a CVCA Intelligence subscriber here**.

Access to high-quality data, analysis, and tools is central to our members and the industry's ability to operate in the dynamic private capital environment. We invite interested private capital organizations to join us in our efforts. If you would like to have your firm included in future reports, please complete this form linked **here**.

CVCA
intelligence

Q1 Highlights

Following a record-setting year in 2024, 2025 is off to a strong start, with over \$18B invested across 141 deals in Q1, signaling continued momentum in private equity activity

The majority (77%) of investment value in the quarter can be attributed to a single mega deal: [the recapitalization of Montréal-Based GardaWorld, valued at \\$14B](#)

Ontario & Québec alone accounted for 81% of total deal flow and nearly all of the PE dollars invested in Canada in Q1 2025

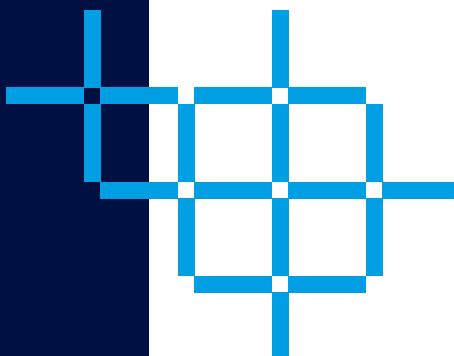
Québec represented 57% of all deals and 89% of total deal value

There were 3 Mega Deals (\$500M+) in Q1 2025 totalling over \$16.5B

Following the mega deal trend observed in 2024 (8 deals totaling \$18.4B) mega deal activity in 2025 is pacing above the levels set in 2024

Deals under \$25M remain the primary focus of Canadian PE activity, underscoring the crucial role of PE investments in small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs)

While the share of activity has shrunk from 85% in 2024, 80% of all deals with disclosed values remained under \$25M





Following the record low annual investment values in 2022 and 2023, PE investment activity returned in Q1 2025

While deal values in Q1 2025 have already exceeded the total annual investment values of both 2022 and 2023, deal counts are trending lower in 2025 than in those years

Exit activity has stalled with only 13 exits totaling \$130M in Q1 2025

Exits via M&A transactions accounted for the majority of exit activity (69%), with exits via secondary buyouts accounted for the remaining 31% in the first three months of 2025. There were no exits via IPO.

The Industrial and Manufacturing sector was the most active sector for investment in Q1 2025, with nearly \$1.6B invested across 37 deals

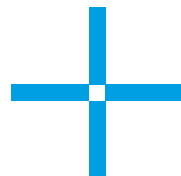
Activity into the Financial sector was also notable, surpassing annual levels of investment over the last 3 years with \$1.2B invested across 12 deals

Privatizations have continued in Q1 2025, with 2 companies being taken private for nearly \$1.4B

Investors deployed a record breaking \$14.7B taking 14 Canadian companies private in 2024, with activity continuing in 2025

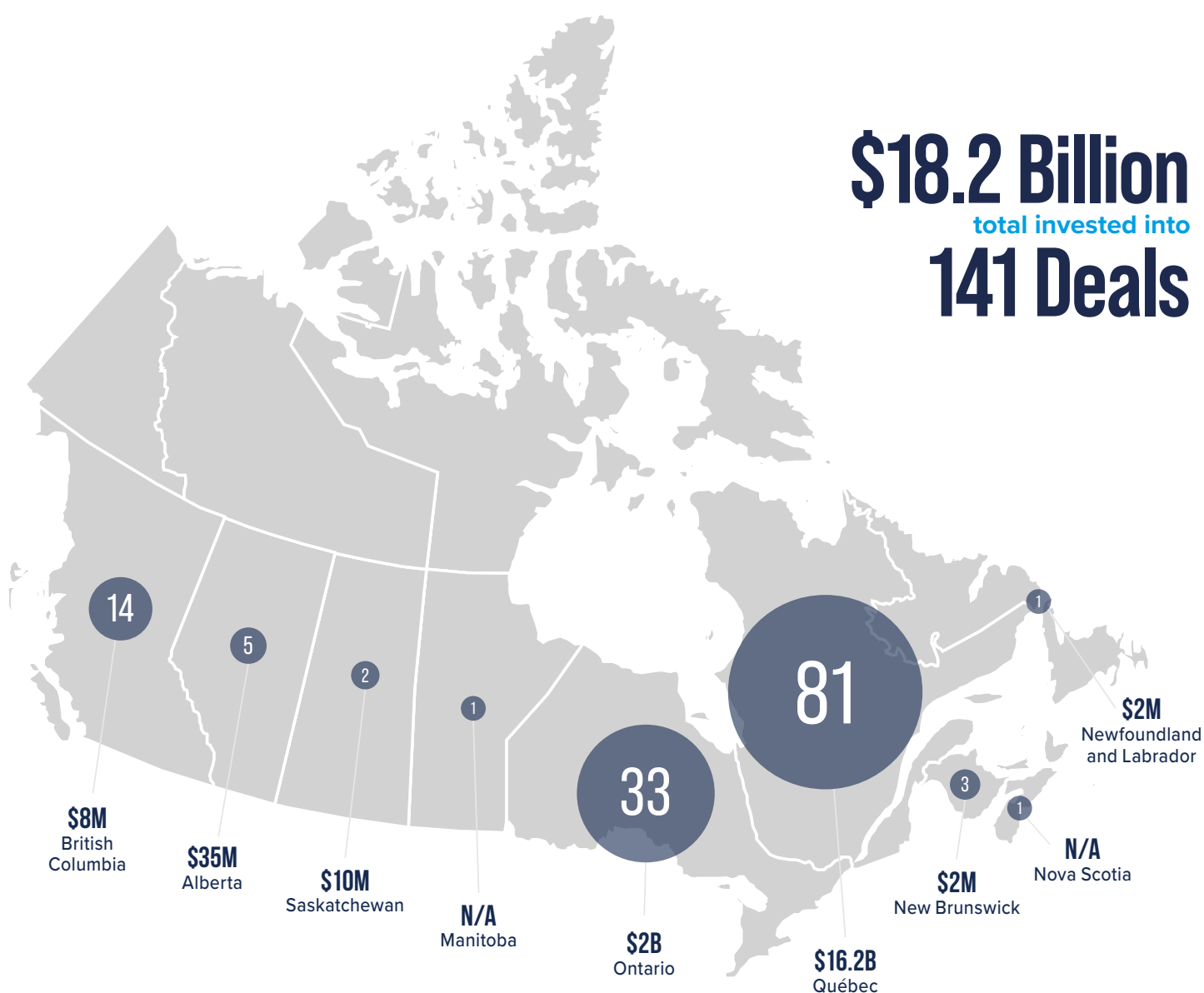
Minority investments in Q1 2025 comprised 25% of all PE transactions yet only accounted for 2% of total dollars invested in the quarter, with \$315 million invested across 35 deals

Minority investment deal counts decreased by 26% with average deal sizes also decreasing by 40% from Q1 2024



Private Equity Heat Map

All PE Deals



[Discover comprehensive Canadian PE data on CVCA Intelligence: deals, fundraising, exits and more.](#)

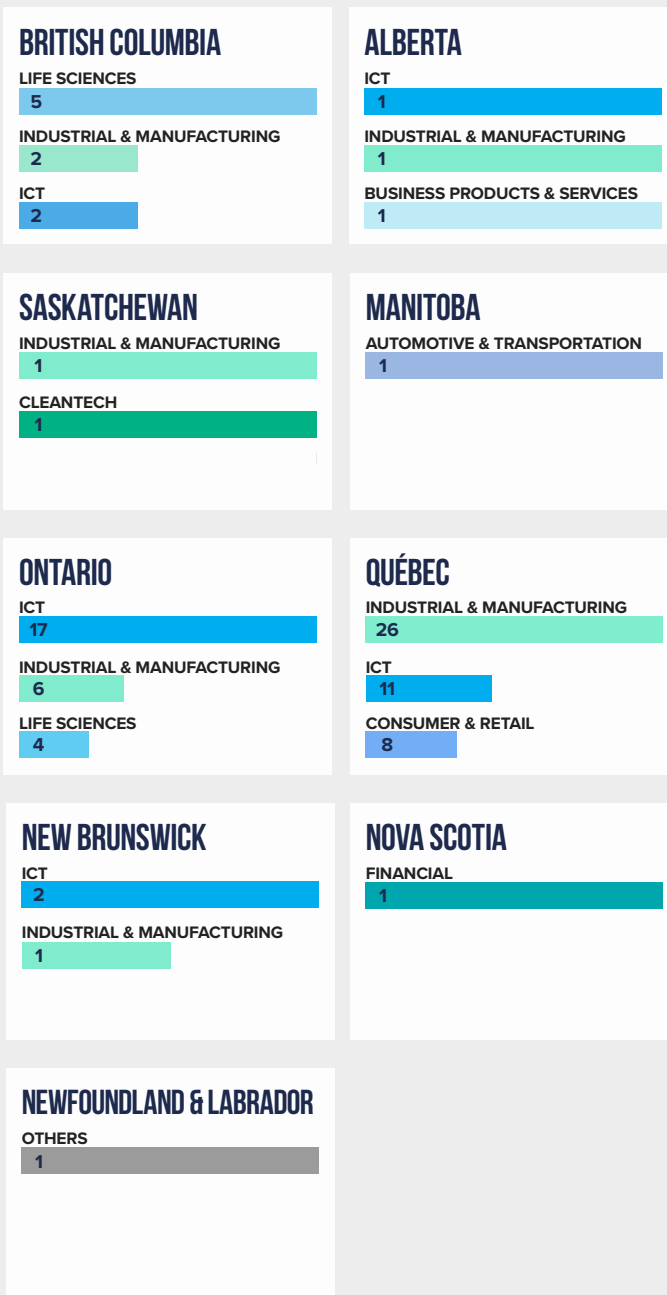
Canadian private equity investment began 2025 on a strong note, with \$18.2B invested across 141 deals in Q1.

Quebec led activity in the country, accounting for \$16.2B across 81 deals, driven primarily by the \$14B recapitalization of GardaWorld, the largest private equity deal on record. Ontario followed with \$1.98B across 33 deals, while the remaining provinces collectively only secured \$56M across 27 deals.

Together, Quebec and Ontario represented 99.7% of all PE dollars invested in Q1 2025. While the quarter's outlook appears skewed by a small number of mega-deals, underlying PE activity remains consistent with historical expectations across regions and deal sizes.

Top Sectors per Province

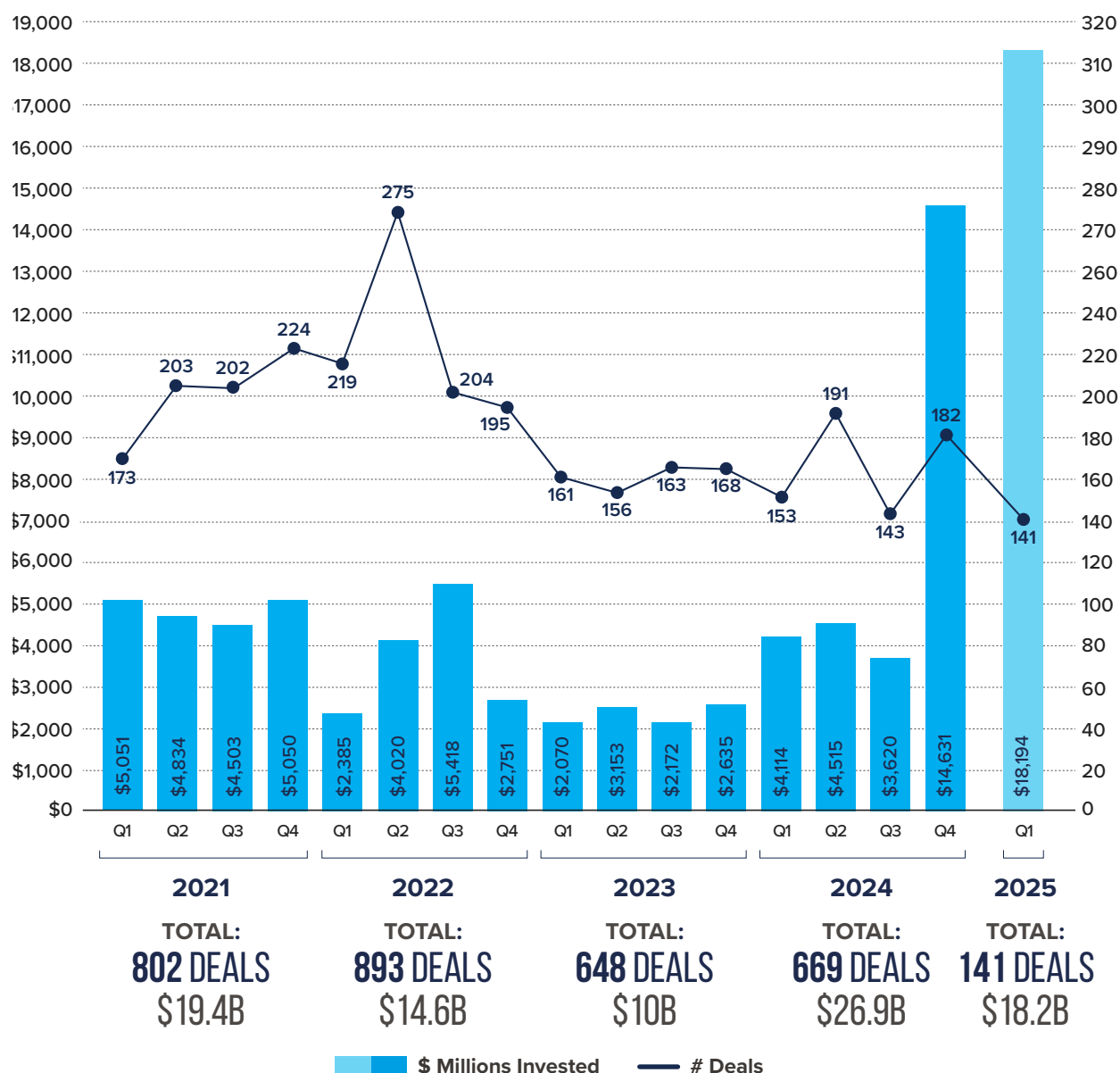
BY NUMBER OF DEALS



Private Equity Investment Activity

Quarterly Activity

Ignoring mega-deals, the average deal size in Q1 2025 was just under \$12M, consistent with typical levels observed in the Canadian PE ecosystem over the last 3 years. Including mega-deal values, this quarter marks both the highest total dollars invested and the highest average deal size in a single quarter over the past decade, while still reflecting steady growth of activity across smaller transactions.



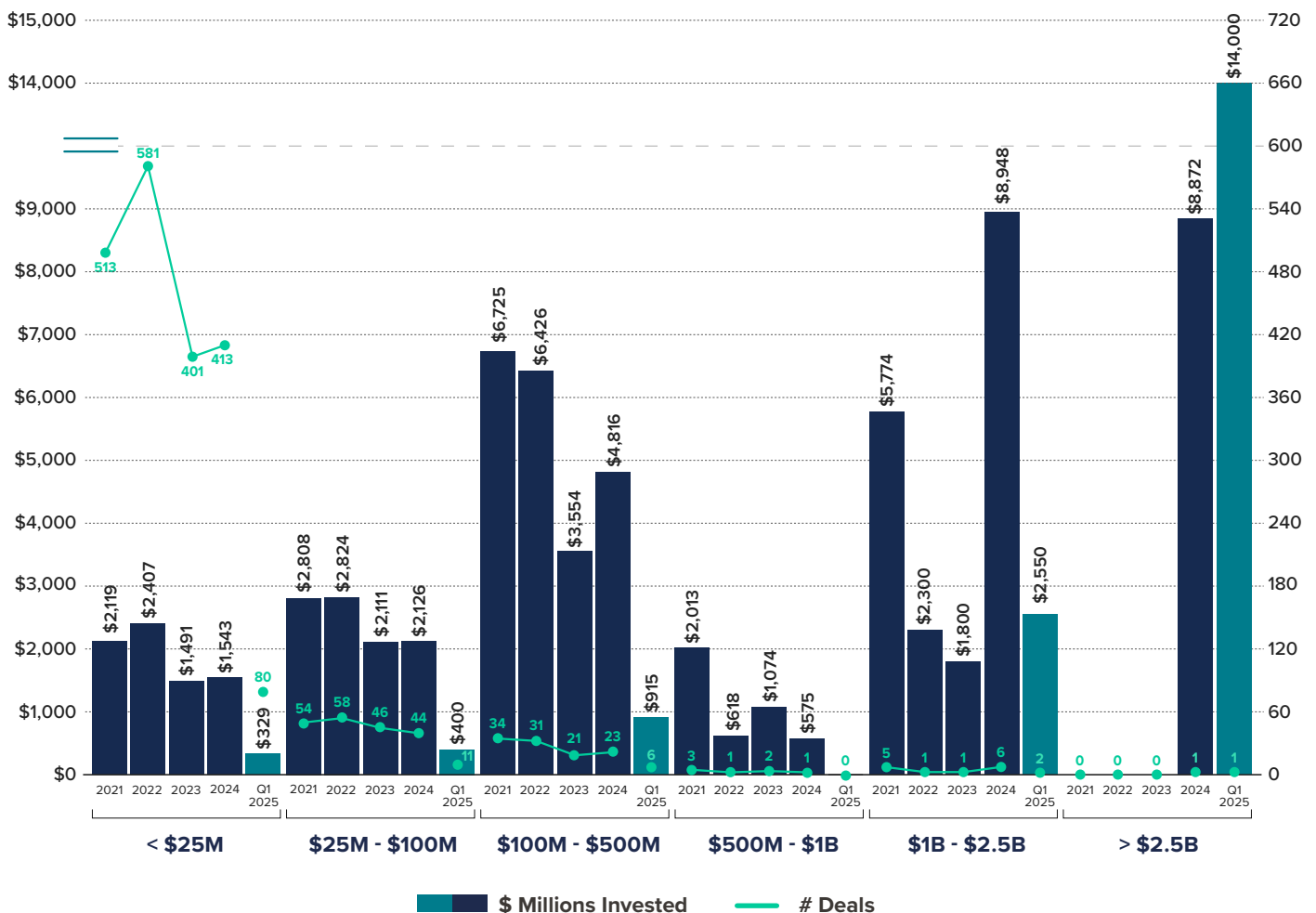
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Private Equity Investment Activity

Activity by Deal Size

Q1 2025 mirrors trends observed in 2023 and 2024, with 80% of all disclosed deals valued under \$25M, reaffirming the continued focus of Canadian PE on small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs). While this share is slightly down from 85% in 2024, sub-\$25M deals remain the dominant segment of the market.

At the same time, rising deal values are beginning to shift a portion of activity toward larger transactions, with a 5% decrease in sub-\$25M deal share redistributed across the \$25M–\$100M range (11%) the highest share this segment has received since 2017. This may be an early indicator of a growing appetite for larger, later-stage transactions while maintaining strong support for lower middle-market activity in 2025.

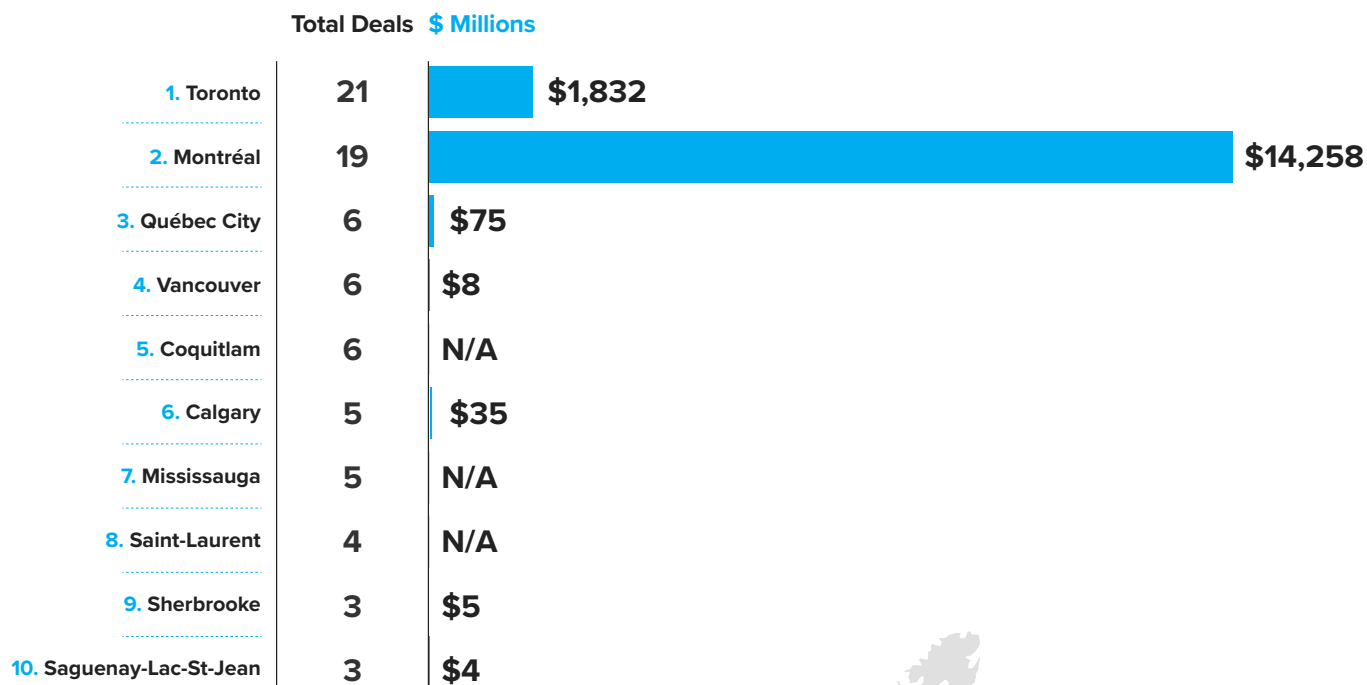


Top Disclosed Canadian PE Deals

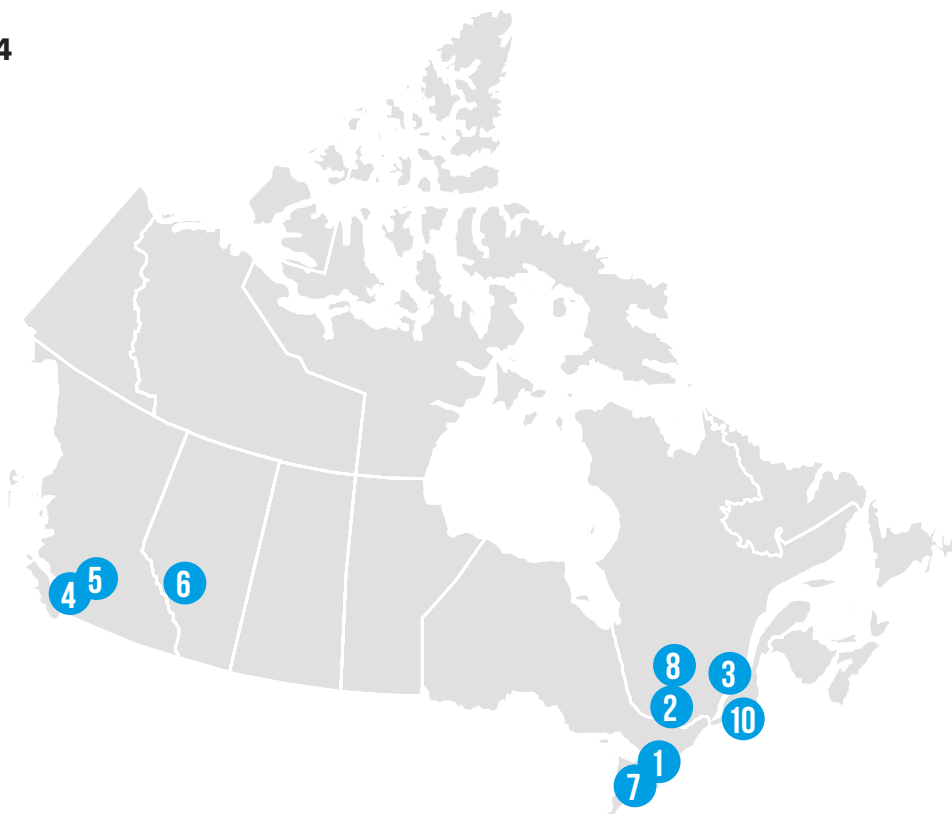
COMPANY	PROVINCE	FIRMS INVOLVED IN TRANSACTION	SECTOR	\$ MIL
GARDA WORLD SECURITY CORP.	QC	BC PARTNERS,HPS INVESTMENT PARTNERS,OAK HILL ADVISORS (OHA),ONE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT (ONEIM)	SECURITY	\$14,000
HÉROUX-DEVTEK INC.	QC	CAISSE DE DÉPÔT ET PLACEMENT DU QUÉBEC (CDPQ),FONDS DE SOLIDARITÉ FTQ,PLATINUM EQUITY, LLC	INDUSTRIAL & MANUFACTURING	\$1,350
RESTAURANT BRANDS INTERNATIONAL (RBI)	ON	3G CAPITAL	FOOD & BEVERAGES	\$224
HYDROSTOR INC.	ON	CANADA PENSION PLAN INVESTMENT BOARD (CPPIB),GOLDMAN SACHS ASSET MANAGEMENT,CANADA GROWTH FUND	ENERGY & POWER	\$200
FRESHBOOKS	ON	MORGAN STANLEY	SOFTWARE (NON INTERNET/MOBILE)	\$179
SHARED TOWER	ON	NORTHLEAF CAPITAL PARTNERS	MOBILE & TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$100
TRENCAP S.E.C.	QC	FONDS DE SOLIDARITÉ FTQ	ENERGY & POWER	\$53
GROUPE LEBEL INC.	QC	FONDS DE SOLIDARITÉ FTQ	FORESTRY	\$50
NAMAKOR HOLDINGS	QC	FONDS DE SOLIDARITÉ FTQ	FINANCIAL	\$29
NORDA STELO INC.	QC	CAISSE DE DÉPÔT ET PLACEMENT DU QUÉBEC (CDPQ)	INDUSTRIAL & MANUFACTURING	\$28

[Discover comprehensive Canadian PE data on CVCA Intelligence: deals, fundraising, exits and more.](#)

Top Canadian Cities/ Administrative Centres

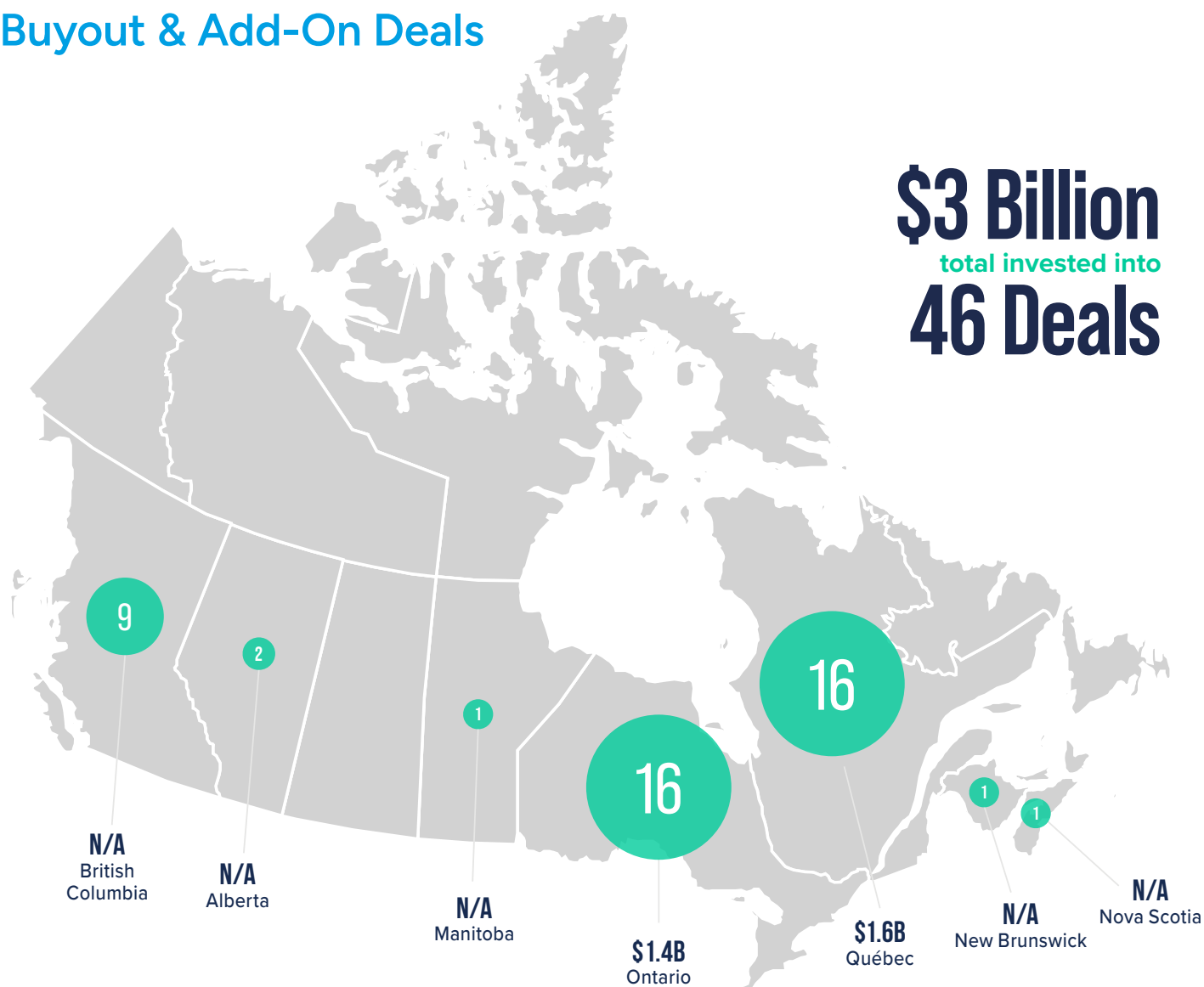


#1 Toronto
\$1.8 Billion
21 Deals



Private Equity Heat Map

Buyout & Add-On Deals



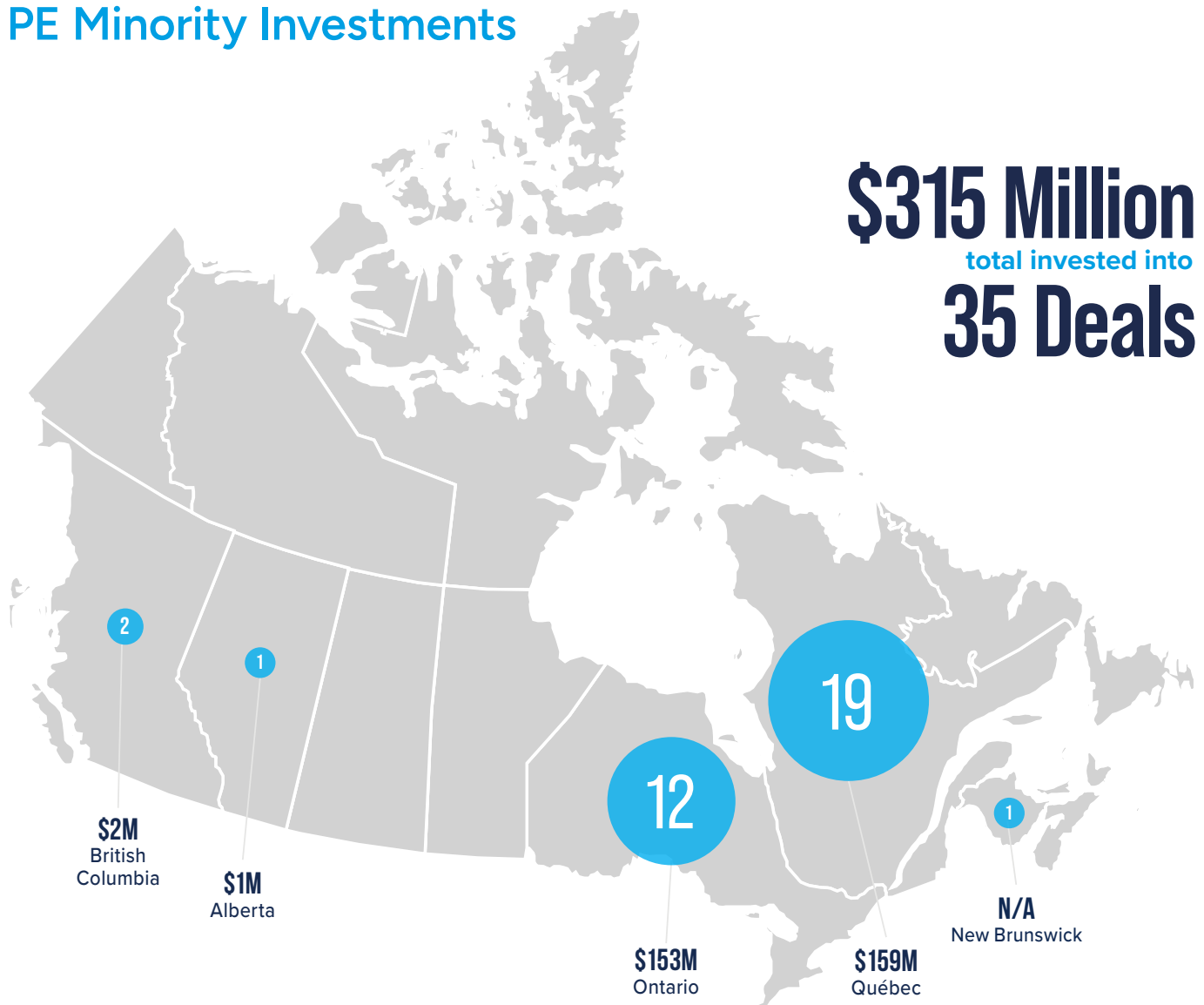
Buyout and add-on deals remained the cornerstone of Canadian PE activity in Q1 2025, with \$3B invested across 46 transactions. These deal types continue to represent a significant portion of private equity strategies in Canada, particularly in the lower and mid-market segments.

Privatization activity also continued into 2025, with two companies taken private for a combined total of nearly \$1.4B in Q1. This follows a record-breaking 2024, in which investors deployed \$14.7B to take 14 Canadian companies private, the highest annual total on record for Canadian PE privatizations.

[Discover comprehensive Canadian PE data on CVCA Intelligence: deals, fundraising, exits and more.](#)

Private Equity Heat Map

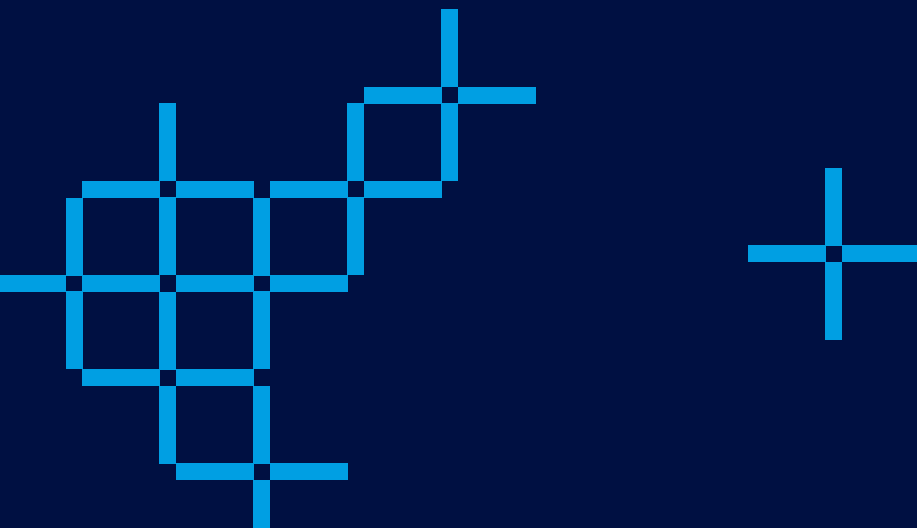
PE Minority Investments



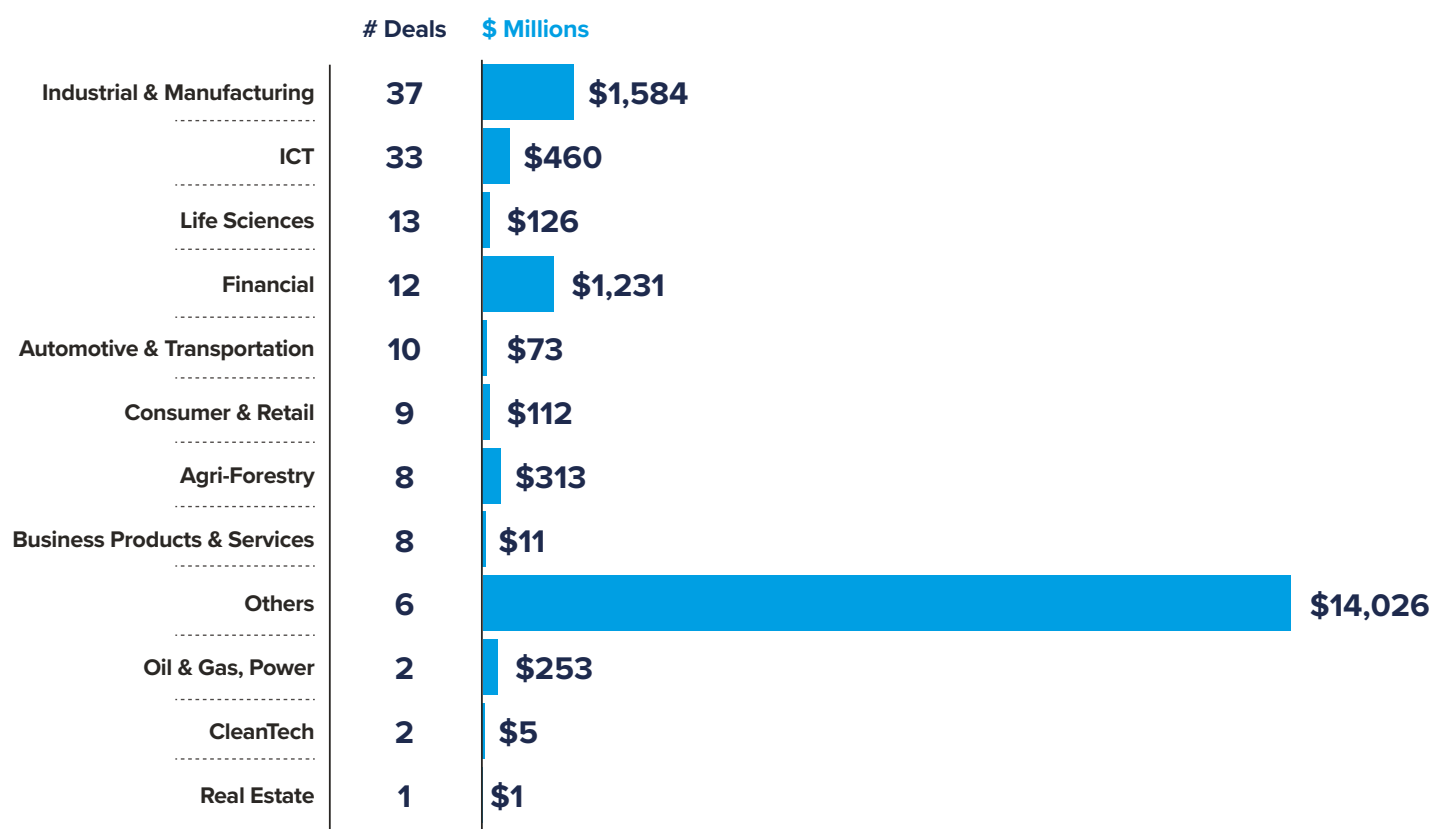
Minority investments in Q1 2025 totaled \$315M across 35 deals, comprising 25% of all PE transactions but only 2% of total dollars invested in the quarter. The percentage share of deal activity aligns with historical trends for this category, while the lower share of capital reflects the skew caused by large-scale mega-deals across other deal types.

Compared to Q1 2024, minority investment deal count declined by 26%, and the average deal size dropped by 40%, indicating a pullback in both volume and value within the minority investment category.

Private Equity Sector Breakdown



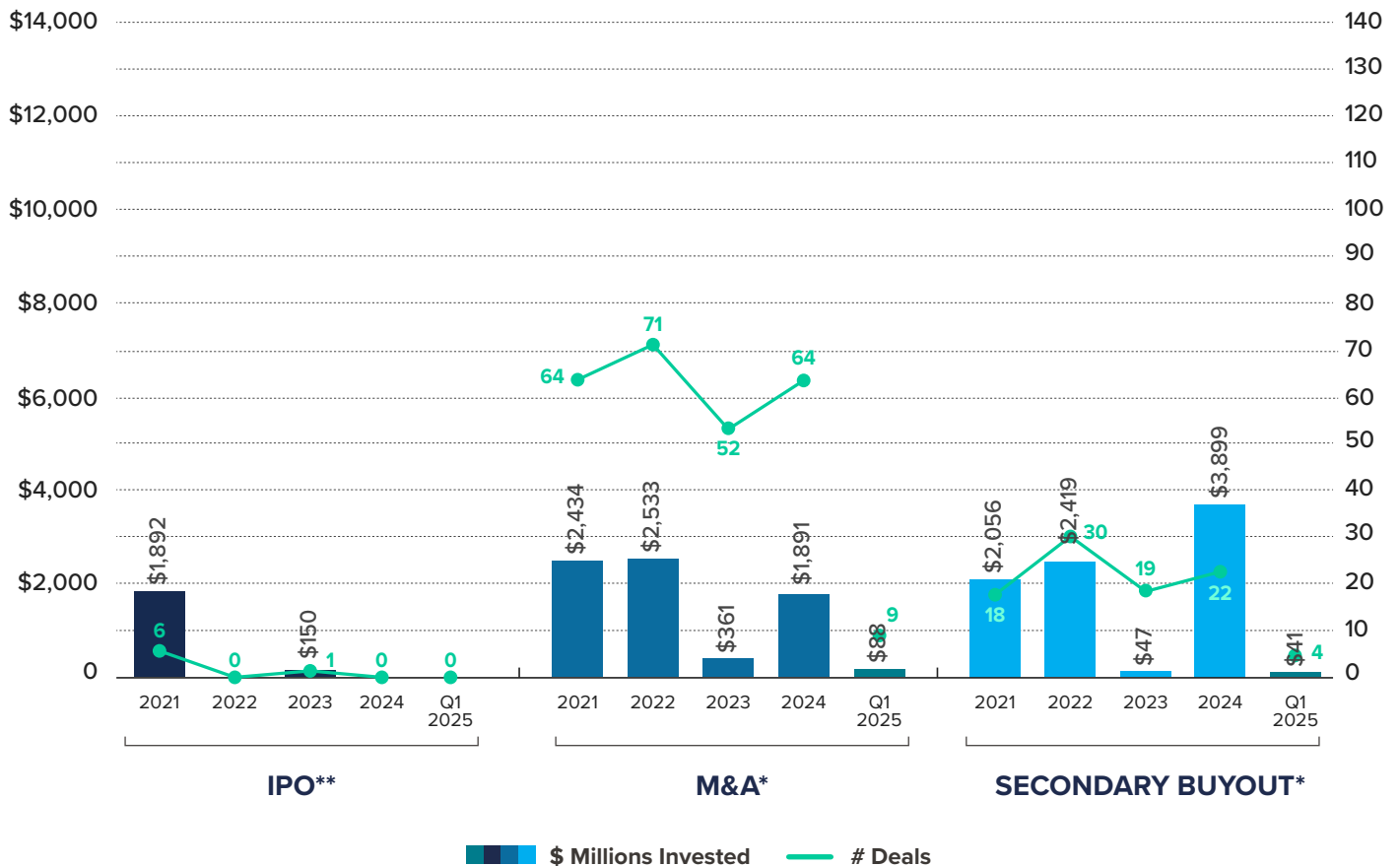
Q1 2025 saw the Industrial & Manufacturing sector lead in both dollars raised and total deals closed, securing \$1.6B across 37 deals and accounting for just over 26% of all deals this quarter. Investment activity in the Information, Communication & Technology (ICT) sector followed in second place with 33 deals closed this quarter. The Financial sector took third place in dollars invested with \$1.2B marking levels of capital investment levels not seen since 2021, already surpassing average annual investment values of \$542M over the past 3 years.



Private Equity Exits

Exit activity in Q1 2025 stalled, with only 13 exits totaling \$130M. There were no IPOs, and reductions were observed in both M&A and secondary buyout activity compared to previous periods.

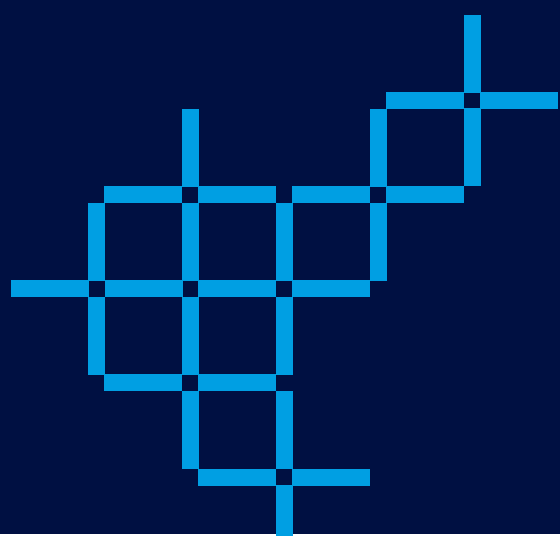
M&A exits accounted for the majority of activity, representing 69% of the total number of exits and generated \$88M across 9 deals. Secondary buyouts comprised the remaining 31%, with \$41M across 4 deals. The decline in secondary buyout activity may reflect investor caution around liquidity in the face of ongoing global economic uncertainty.



* Includes transactions with undisclosed values

** IPO valuation

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Most Active Private Equity Investors

	# Deals	\$ Millions*
Fonds de solidarité FTQ	47	\$2,014
BDC Capital Inc.	27	\$195
Investissement Québec	11	\$201
Desjardins Capital	10	\$229
Fondaction	8	\$139
SeaFort Capital Inc.	5	N/A
Peloton Capital Management	5	N/A
Export Development Canada (EDC)	4	\$147
Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (CDPQ)	3	\$1,378
Canadian Business Growth Fund (CBGF)	3	\$16

MOST ACTIVE PE BUYOUT & ADD-ON INVESTORS	# DEALS	\$ MILLIONS* (CDN\$ MIL)
FONDS DE SOLIDARITÉ FTQ	6	\$1,507
PELTON CAPITAL MANAGEMENT	5	N/A
SEAFORT CAPITAL INC.	4	N/A
FONDACTION	4	\$107
BDC CAPITAL INC.	3	\$108
VIKING GLOBAL INVESTORS	3	N/A
COATUE MANAGEMENT, L.L.C.	3	N/A
CAISSE DE DÉPÔT ET PLACEMENT DU QUÉBEC (CDPQ)	2	\$1,350
EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CANADA (EDC)	2	\$127
HGCAPITAL / HG CAPITAL	2	N/A

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MOST ACTIVE PE MINORITY INVESTORS	# DEALS	\$ MILLIONS* (CDN\$ MIL)
BDC CAPITAL INC.	9	\$40
FONDS DE SOLIDARITÉ FTQ	8	\$59
INVESTISSEMENT QUÉBEC	4	\$51
FONDACTION	3	\$17
CANADIAN BUSINESS GROWTH FUND (CBGF)	3	\$16
NORTHLEAF CAPITAL PARTNERS	2	\$100
EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CANADA (EDC)	2	\$20
DESJARDINS CAPITAL	2	\$15

* Total deal values - includes all participating investors

Participating Data Contributors

CVCA thanks the following firms who participated in its Q1 2025 survey.

VENTURE CAPITAL FIRMS

5G Open Innovation Lab	DigitalDx Ventures	McRock Capital	The51 Food and Agtech Fund
Accelerate Fund	Emerald Technology Ventures	NAventures	The51 Ventures Fund
Accelia Capital	Espresso Capital Ltd.	New Brunswick Innovation Foundation	Tidal Venture Partners
Active Impact Investments	FACIT	NGIF Capital	TLT East Ventures
adMare Bioinnovations	Ferst Capital	Nimbus Synergies	Top Down Ventures
Alberta Ecotrust Foundation	Finchley Healthcare Ventures	Pangaea Ventures	Trillick Ventures
AmorChem Fund	First Ascent Ventures	Pelorus Venture Capital Ltd.	Triptyq Capital
Amplitude Ventures	Forum Ventures	Pender Ventures	True North Fund
Anges Quebec	Front Row Ventures	Quark Venture	Uncork Capital
Anges Québec Capital / AQC Capital	Genesys Capital	RBC Capital Partners	Version One Ventures
Antler	Good News Ventures	Real Ventures	Vistara Growth
Azure Capital Partners	Grand Ventures	Relay Ventures	Volta Labs
BCF Ventures	Graphite Ventures	Renewal Funds	Waterpoint Lane
BDC Cleantech Practice	GreenSky Capital Inc.	Resolve Growth Partners	White Star Capital
BDC Intellectual Property-Backed Financing	Highline Beta	Roadmap Capital	Yaletown Partners
BKR Capital	iGan Partners	Round 13 Capital	
BlackPines Capital Partners	InBC Investment Corp.	Sand Hill North	
Boreal Ventures	Information Venture Partners	Sandpiper Ventures	
Build Ventures	Innovobot	Scale Good Fund	
CEMEX Ventures	inovia Capital	Sectoral Asset Management Inc.	
Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation	Invest Nova Scotia	Spring Impact Capital	
CIBC Innovation Banking	Investeco Capital Corp	Staircase Ventures	
CIC Capital Ventures	Lalotte Ventures	Startup TNT	
Climate Innovation Capital	Lumira Ventures	Telegraph Hill Capital	
CTI Life Sciences	MaRS Investment Accelerator Fund (IAF)	TELUS Global Ventures	
	Math Venture Partners		

PRIVATE EQUITY & LSVCC FIRMS

ARC Financial	Fengate Private Equity	Peloton Capital Management	Waterous Energy Fund
Ardenton Capital Corporation	Fulcrum Capital Partners	Persistence Capital Partners	Weathervane Investments
BDC Growth & Transition Capital (BDC GTC)	Golden Triangle Angel Network (GTAN)	Pillarfour Capital	Westcap Mgt. Ltd
BDC Growth Equity	Highland West Capital	PRIVEQ Capital Funds	Yellow Point Equity Partners
CAI Capital Partners	Instar Asset Management Inc.	Roynat Capital Inc.	
Canadian Business Growth Fund	Ironbridge Equity Partners	Seafort Capital	
Clairvest Group Inc.	Killick Capital Inc.	TerraNova Partners L.P.	
Clearspring Capital Partners	McCain Capital Partners	Tricor Pacific Capital Ltd.	
Export Development Canada (EDC)	Mink Capital	Upper Stage Ventures	
	Novacap Management Inc.	Vertu Capital	

LIMITED PARTNERS

Alberta Enterprise Corporation	Fondaction	Kensington Capital Partners Ltd.
BDC Venture Capital	Fonds de solidarité FTQ	Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP)
Bluesky Equities Ltd.	Fonds régionaux de solidarité FTQ	Teralys Capital
Dancap Private Equity Inc	HarbourVest Partners (Canada) Ltd	Venture Ontario
Desjardins Capital		
Farm Credit Canada	Investissement Quebec	

If you would like to have your firm included in future reports, please [click here](#).

CVCA Methodology: Private Equity

PRIVATE EQUITY DATA:

Dataset includes only completed private equity deals (announced but yet to be completed deals are not included).

PE DEAL TYPE	
BUYOUT	INVESTMENT FOR THE CONTROL OF A PORTFOLIO COMPANY, INCLUDING PLATFORM CREATION, SECONDARY BUYOUT
GROWTH	SIGNIFICANT MINORITY INVESTMENT INTO A PORTFOLIO COMPANY, THROUGH NEW CAPITAL INFUSION AND RECAPITALIZATION
ADD-ON	CORPORATE ACQUISITIONS BY MAJORITY CONTROLLED PE BACKED PORTFOLIO COMPANIES
DEBT	DEBT INVESTMENT INTO PORTFOLIO COMPANIES
INFRASTRUCTURE	INVESTMENTS INTO DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS BUT PE DOES NOT OWN THE UNDERLYING ASSETS
PE SECTORS	
AGRI-FORESTRY	AGRICULTURE, FOODS AND FORESTRY
AUTOMOTIVE & TRANSPORTATION	TRANSPORTATION LOGISTICS AND RELATED SERVICES
BUSINESS PRODUCTS & SERVICES	BUSINESS PRODUCTS AND SERVICES
CLEANTECH	ENERGY AND FUEL TECHNOLOGIES, EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION, RENEWAL ENERGY, ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES AND OTHER ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES.
CONSUMER & RETAIL	CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND SERVICES, BRICK AND MORTAR RETAIL
FINANCIAL	FINANCIAL SERVICES
ICT	COMPUTER HARDWARE/SOFTWARE & SERVICES, INTERNET SOFTWARE & SERVICES, ECOMMERCE, ELECTRONIC & SEMICONDUCTOR, MOBILE & TELECOM AND SERVICES
INDUSTRIAL & MANUFACTURING	EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL MANUFACTURING
LIFE SCIENCES	BIOTECH, MEDICAL DEVICES, PHARMACEUTICALS, EHEALTH, HEALTHCARE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES, AND OTHER MEDICAL RELATED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES
MINING & RESOURCES	NON OIL AND GAS NATURAL RESOURCES
OIL & GAS, POWER	OIL & GAS, POWER AND UTILITIES
REAL ESTATE	PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

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