



BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE REPORT

November 2025 marks a defining phase in the global business and investment landscape. Markets are cautiously regaining momentum as inflationary pressures ease and capital flows return to high-growth sectors, such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and clean infrastructure. Yet, optimism remains tempered by persistent geopolitical tensions, regulatory uncertainty, and diverging regional growth trajectories. Across crypto, venture capital, and global finance, innovation continues to outpace policy adaptation — emphasising the growing demand for sharper intelligence, strategic foresight, and resilience amid rapid transformation.

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Executive Summary

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October 2025 delivered pivotal developments across digital assets, cybersecurity, and private capital markets.

- **Bitcoin** reached a new all-time high of **\$125,689 (+11%)**, supported by record ETF inflows and increasing safe-haven demand amid U.S. political uncertainty.
- **Cybersecurity incidents** escalated sharply, led by the largest data breach of the year involving over **1 billion records** across Salesforce-hosted databases.
- **Global venture funding** surged **38% year-over-year**, driven by record-breaking investment in artificial intelligence startups.
- **Financial markets** maintained resilience despite macro volatility, while **private equity** adapted through creative financing and secondary market growth.

Together, these developments reflect a dynamic market cycle — one marked by digital asset institutionalisation, AI-driven capital concentration, and intensifying cybersecurity threats.

Key Highlights

Sector	Key Development	Impact
Cryptocurrency	Bitcoin's record surge; ETF inflows exceed \$3.2B in one week	+11%
Financial Markets	S&P 500 reached 6,721 points amid economic uncertainty	+3.2%
Cybersecurity	Salesforce-linked breach exposed 1B+ records	Critical
Private Equity/VC	AI funding captured 46% of all global VC capital	+38% YoY

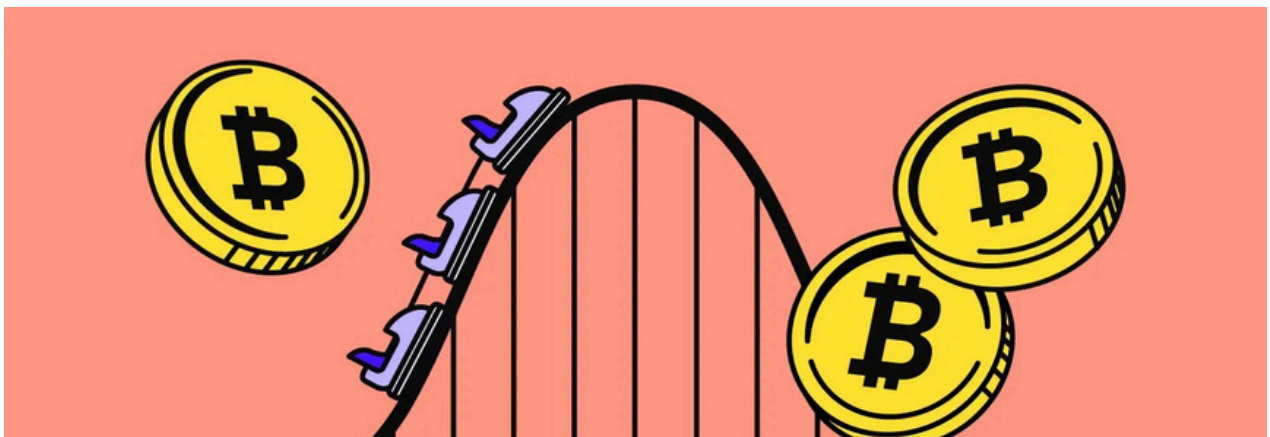


Blockchain Bulletin

Cryptocurrency	Symbol	Price August	Price September	Price October	Estimate % of Change
Bitcoin	BTC	\$108,236.71	\$114,050.00	\$109,914.70	+ 0.02%
Ethereum	ETH	\$4,373.73	\$4,425.75	\$3,875.13	- 11.4%
Cardano	ADA	\$0.86	\$0.89	\$0.63	- 19.1%
XRP	XRP	\$2.85	\$3.01	\$2.54	- 11.7%
Solana	SOL	\$200.88	\$225.30	\$192.42	- 3.1%
Binance	BNB	\$860.18	\$900.60	\$1,098.16	+ 30.2%

1. Cryptocurrency Markets: News, Updates & Major Shifts

Market Overview The global crypto market capitalisation reached **\$4.36 trillion**, marking another “Uptober” rally. Bitcoin’s rise to **\$125,689** underscored strong institutional adoption and its evolving role as a macro hedge.



Key Drivers

- **ETF Inflows:** Over **\$3.24B** weekly net inflows into spot Bitcoin ETFs.
- **Policy Frameworks:** The **GENIUS Act** introduced clear U.S. regulation for stablecoins, requiring 100% backing with Treasuries or USD.



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- **Safe-Haven Demand:** Continued geopolitical instability and U.S. fiscal debates pushed capital toward decentralised assets.
 - **Institutional Positioning:** Neutral-to-bullish sentiment as global markets stabilise.

U.S. Strategic Crypto Policy: Fact vs. Fiction

Amid claims of a U.S. “debt reset” via crypto, policy evidence shows a very different strategy — one focused on **preserving dollar dominance** in the digital era.

Claim

Reality

U.S. plans to devalue debt using crypto

U.S. using crypto to strengthen Treasury demand

Crypto replaces dollar reserves

Stablecoins require full USD/Treasury backing

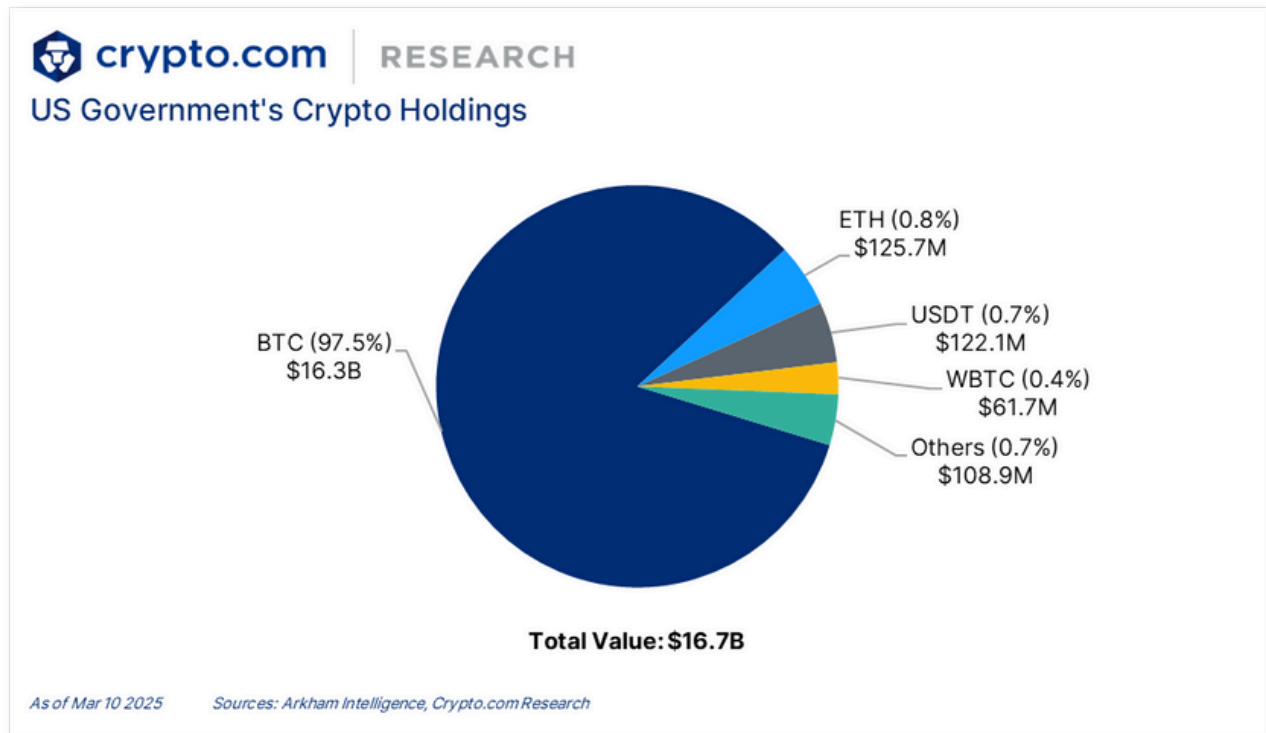
Financial reset via manipulation

Regulatory clarity for sustainable growth



Strategic Takeaway:

The **GENIUSAct** and **StrategicBitcoinReserve** initiatives signal accelerating institutional integration of digital assets. Qwantiv can position itself as a trusted cybersecurity and technology solutions partner supporting blockchain infrastructure and compliance systems for enterprise clients.



THE BUZZ

Gold Just Had Its Worst Day in 12 Years — Will Bitcoin Benefit?



After reaching record highs, gold is undergoing a notable correction. On October 21, the precious metal experienced its steepest one-day drop in over 12 years. Read more [HERE](#)

KDA Crashes 60% as Kadena Organisation Walks Away — What Happens, Now?



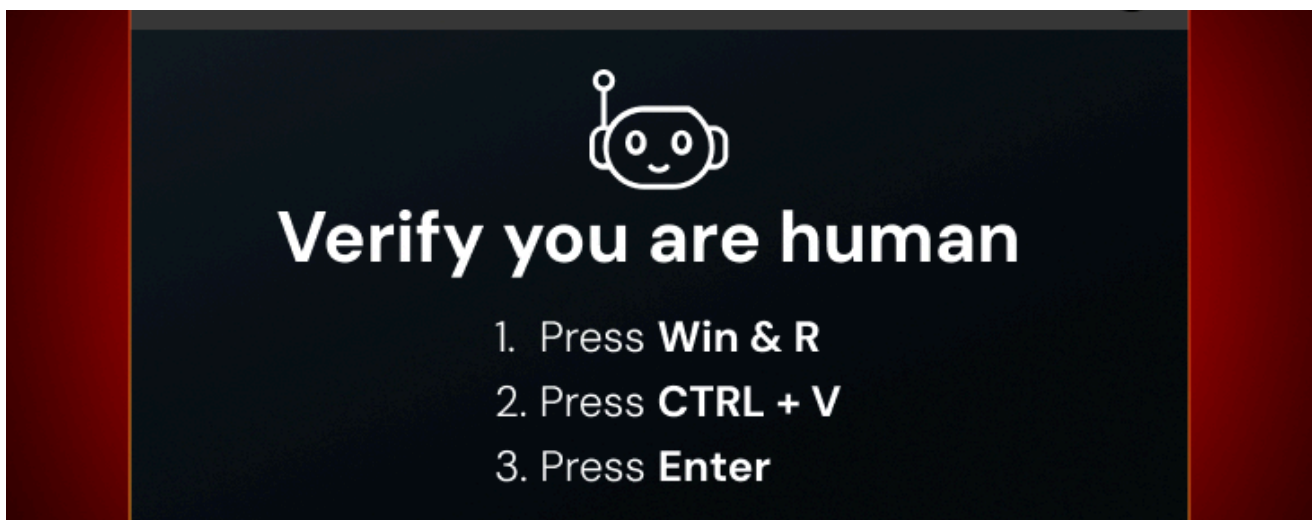
The Kadena organisation has ceased all business operations and will no longer maintain its blockchain, resulting in a decline of more than 60% for the native token KDA. Read more [HERE](#)

Japan's exports and imports grow in September despite Trump's tariffs



Japan's exports grew 4.2% in September, according to government data on Wednesday, on robust shipments to Asia that offset a decline in exports to the U.S., which were impacted by President Donald Trump's tariffs. Read more [HERE](#)

Analysing ClickFix: 3 Reasons Why Copy/Paste Attacks Are Driving Security Breaches



ClickFix, FileFix, fake CAPTCHA — whatever you call it, attacks where users interact with malicious scripts in their web browser are a fast-growing source of security breaches. Read more [HERE](#)

FINANCIAL TRENDS

2. Financial Markets: Recent Trends & October Outlook

U.S. Equity Markets

Current Performance:

- **S&P 500 (US500):** Rose to 6,721 points on October 8, 2025,
- **Monthly Performance:** Up 3.20% over the past month.
- **Year-over-Year:** Gained 16.04% compared to October 2024
- **Daily Movement:** +0.10% in the latest trading session

Market Context & Trends

Economic Backdrop: The U.S. economy continues to demonstrate resilience despite persistent policy uncertainty and geopolitical risks. Consumer spending remains relatively strong, though expectations point to a substantial slowing in 2026.

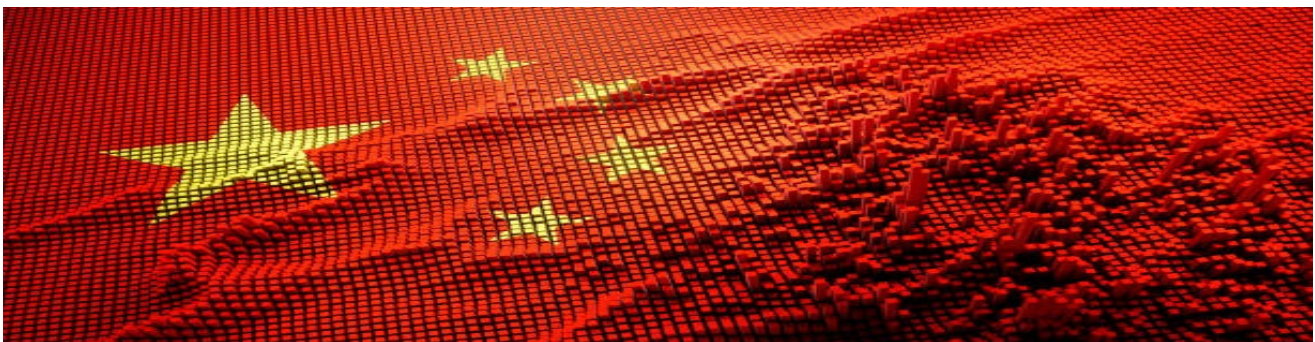
Key Economic Indicators:

1. **Consumer Spending:** Expected to remain strong for the remainder of 2025
2. **Wage Growth:** Aggregate wages growing faster than aggregate spending at the start of Q3—positive trends supporting near-term growth
3. **Employment:** The labour market is maintaining stability

China Market Developments

A significant development in October 2025 has been the remarkable performance of Chinese equities:

- **China Large Cap Stocks:** Up 36% year-to-date in 2025
- **Market Impact:** Contributing to global market optimism



Market Outlook for Q4 2025

Macroeconomic Environment: Financial markets are facing a persistent backdrop of policy uncertainty, coupled with geopolitical risks, which is expected to create increased macroeconomic volatility for the remainder of 2025.

Key Considerations:

1. **Government Shutdown Impact:** Markets have historically disregarded shutdowns; conventional wisdom suggests the bull rally can continue if the suspension doesn't extend beyond the typical duration
2. **Interest Rates:** Federal Reserve rate cuts may not necessarily lower longer-term bond yields or mortgage rates due to persistent inflation concerns
3. **Volatility Expectations:** Increased volatility anticipated through year-end

Sector Performance & Themes

Technology Sector:

- Nasdaq-100 performance is showing strength, but lagging the S&P 500 slightly
- Artificial intelligence continues as a major structural shift, reshaping economies

Small-Cap Premium:

- Measured softening observed in small-cap performance relative to large-cap indices

Investment Themes for Remainder of 2025

1. **Mega Forces:** Structural shifts like artificial intelligence adoption are reshaping the investment landscape
2. **Quality Over Growth:** Focus shifting toward profitable, established companies
3. **Geographic Diversification:** China's outperformance creates opportunities
4. **Risk Management:** Heightened volatility requiring active portfolio management

Inflation & Interest Rate Environment

Current Challenges: Despite Federal Reserve rate cut actions, longer-term borrowing costs remain elevated due to persistent inflation concerns. This disconnect between short-term policy rates and longer-term market rates continues to create complexity for:

- Mortgage markets
 - Corporate financing
 - Consumer credit
 - Investment portfolio positioning
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THE CYBER PULSE

3. Cybersecurity: Latest Threats, Breaches & Infrastructure Attacks

Major Breach: Salesforce Ecosystem Compromised

A coordinated campaign by **Lapsus\$ / ScatteredSpider / ShinyHunters** compromised over **1 billion records** stored in Salesforce-hosted cloud environments. Confirmed victims included Google, Allianz, Kering, Qantas, and TransUnion.

Emerging Threat Trends

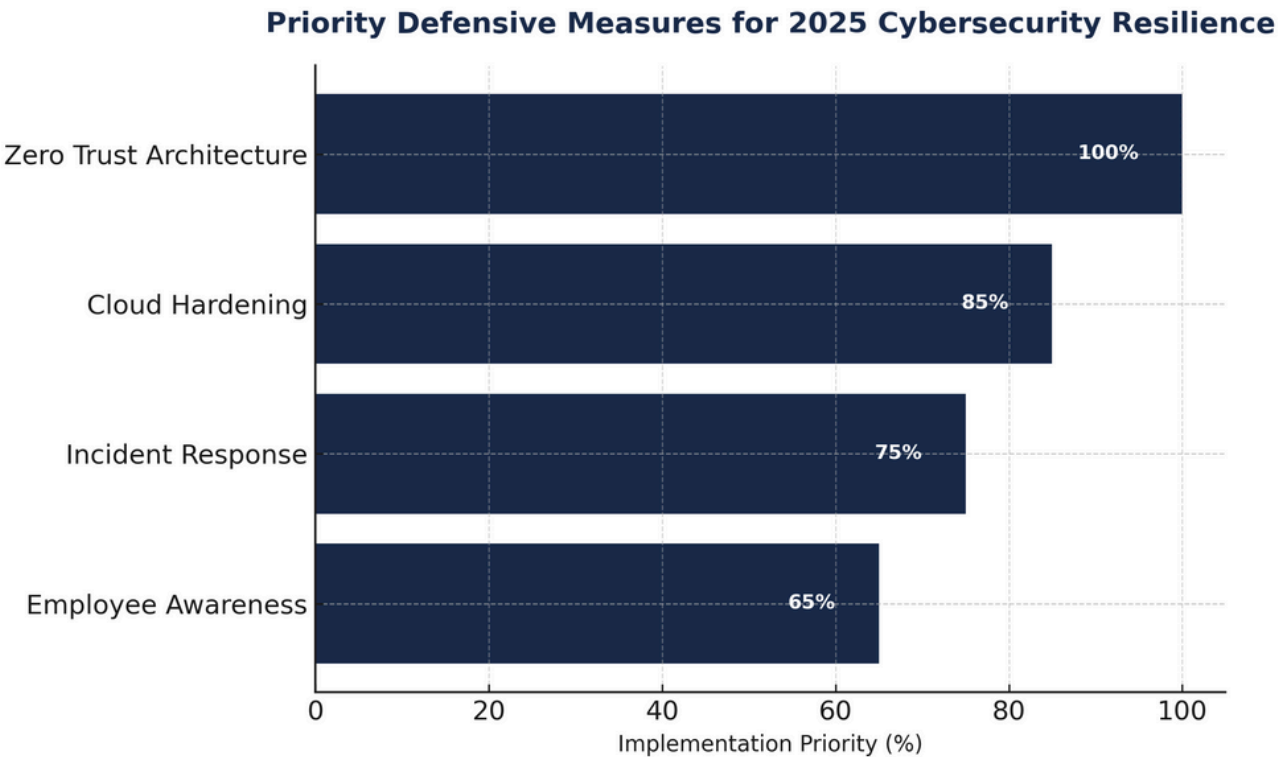
1. **Cloud Database Targeting:** Attackers are exploiting misconfigured SaaS platforms.
2. **ExtortionOver Encryption:** Data theft and public shaming replacing traditional ransomware.
3. **Nation-State Campaigns:**
 - **China:** Targeting UK and EU infrastructure.
 - **Russia:** Coordinated attacks on NATO supply chains.
4. **AI-Enhanced Attacks:** Adversaries leveraging automation for phishing and penetration testing.



Priority Defensive Actions

Area	Recommendation
Zero Trust Architecture	Minimise lateral movement across systems
Cloud Hardening	Enforce strict IAM, least-privilege access, and continuous monitoring
Incident Response	Test and update playbooks for extortion-driven scenarios
Employee Awareness	Expand MFA and phishing resilience training

Strategic Takeaway: Companies should strengthen their client offerings around **cloud security assessments, threat intelligence, and data resilience architectures**, positioning themselves as a proactive partner in the age of digital extortion.



VENTURE CAPITAL SPOTLIGHT

4. Private Equity & Venture Capital: Major Deals & Market Dynamics

Executive Summary

The PE/VC landscape in Q3 2025 and early October has demonstrated remarkable resilience and concentration, with artificial intelligence dominating investment flows. Venture funding reached **\$97 billion in Q3**, up 38% year-over-year, while private equity has navigated significant headwinds, including tariff uncertainty and liquidity pressures.

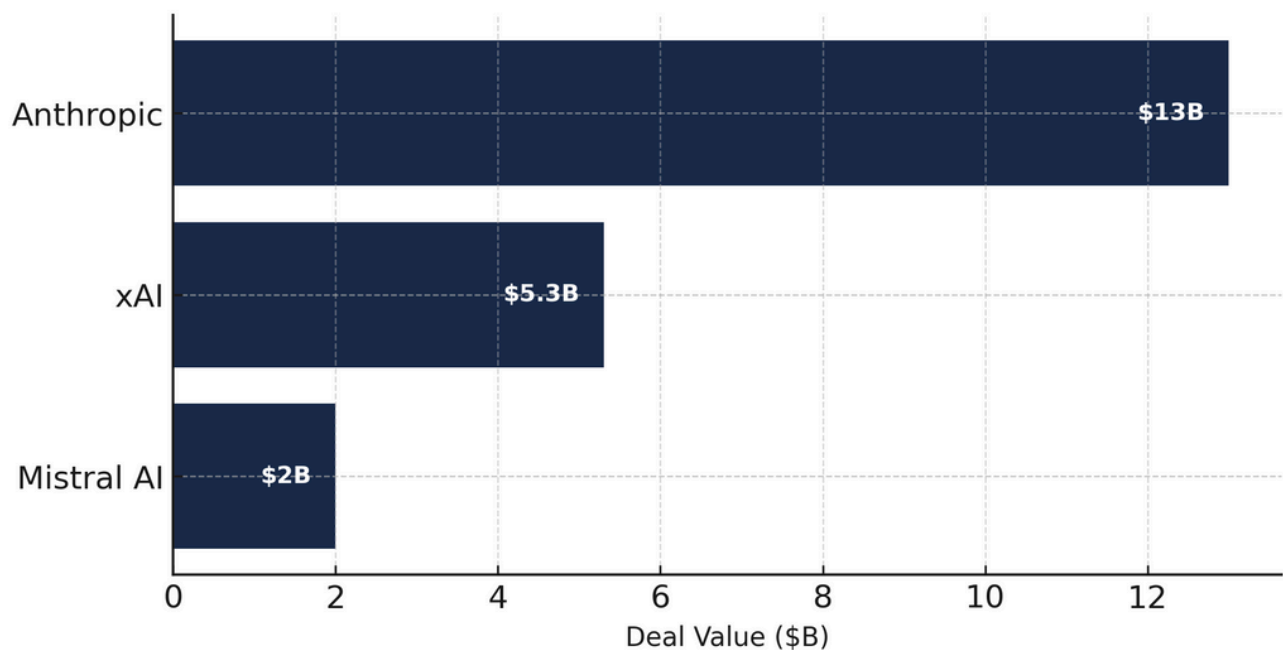
Q3 2025 Overview

Global VC funding reached **\$97 billion (+38% YoY)** with AI startups capturing **46%** of total capital.

Largest Deals:

- **Anthropic:** \$13B
- **xAI:** \$5.3B
- **Mistral AI:** \$2B

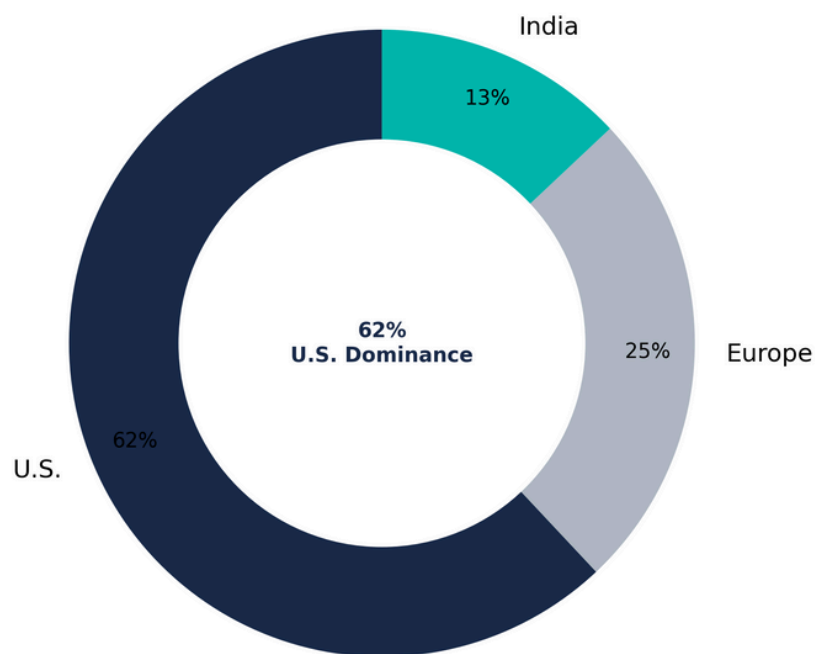
Top AI Venture Deals - Q3 2025



Regional Trends

- **U.S.:** \$60B (62% of global VC volume)
- **Europe:** Cooling due to macro pressures
- **India:** Rapid emergence of deep-tech investment alliances

Global VC Funding by Region - Q3 2025 (\$97B Total)



Private Equity Snapshot

- **Dry Powder:** \$1.2trillion awaiting deployment

Liquidity Constraints: Fundraising slowest in a decade

- **Secondaries Market:** Surging as LPs seek early exits

Investment Themes

1. **Artificial Intelligence:** Dominating both VC and PE portfolios.
2. **Private Credit & Infrastructure:** Growing as defensive assets.
3. **Sponsor-to-Sponsor Transactions:** Increasing amid liquidity pressures.
4. **Geographic Rebalancing:** Diversification away from U.S. exposure.

Strategic Takeaway:

AI's dominance in capital allocation positions to expand its technology and cybersecurity solutions to emerging AI infrastructure ventures and deep-tech startups seeking scalable protection and compliance systems.

Conclusion & Strategic Implications

October 2025 underscores a year defined by **digital convergence** —the intersection of financial innovation, AI acceleration, and cybersecurity urgency.

Key Takeaways

1. **Crypto:** Institutional momentum reshaping digital asset markets.
2. **Financial Markets:** Resilient but increasingly volatile.
3. **Cybersecurity:** Cloud and data protection are now core strategic imperatives.
4. **PE/VC:** AI-led capital concentration redefining investment priorities.