

State of Startups 2025

carta

Data on:

- Founder equity
- Early team equity
- SAFEs & notes
- Seed - Series D funding
- AI valuations
- Graduation rates
- Dilution per round
- Startup hiring
- Fund performance
- Fund mgmt fees
- Deep tech fundraising
- M&A
- Secondaries
- And much more...

Yes, you can get
this deck in full.



<https://carta.com/learn/resources/state-of-startups-2025/>

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VC-Backed Startups

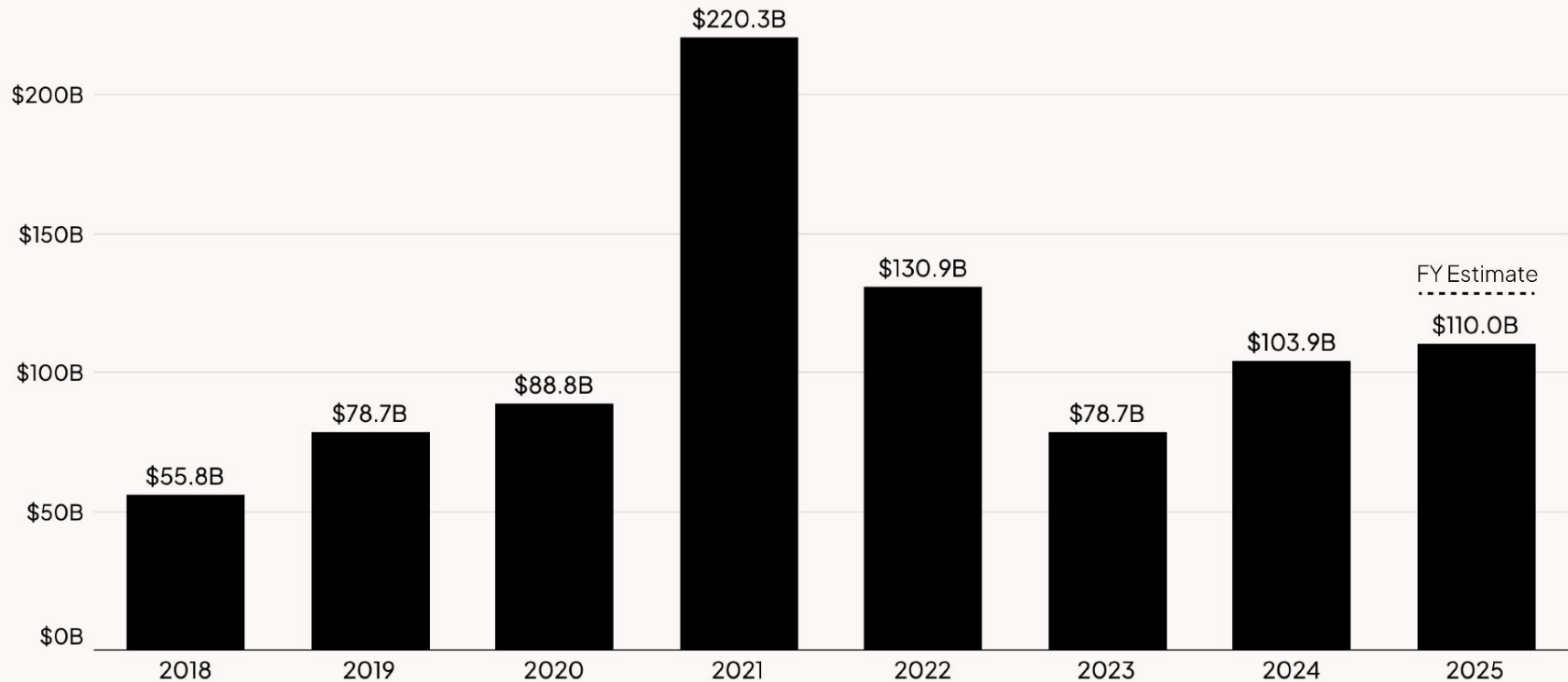
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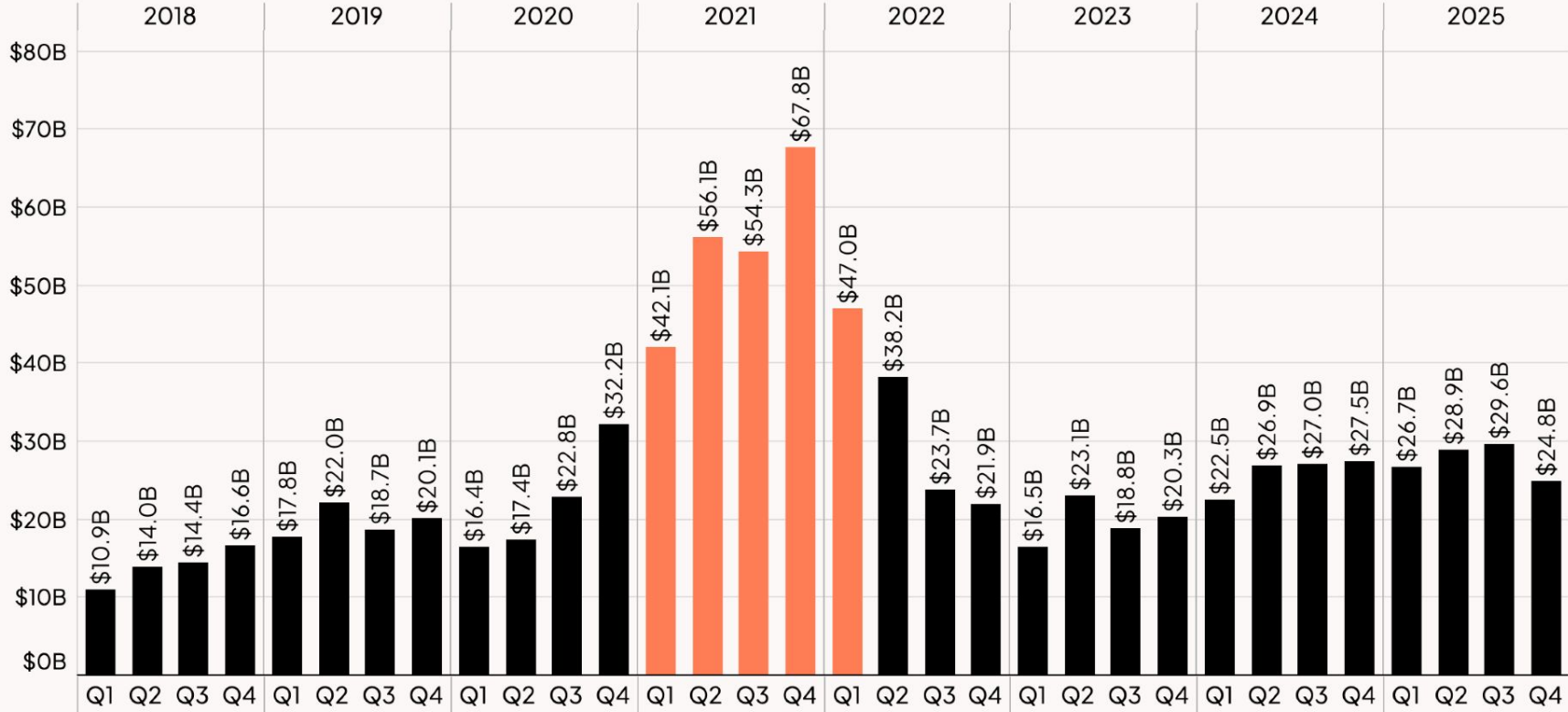
Startup fundraising continued to rise in 2025

Total capital raised by US startups on Carta by quarter | Q1 2018–Q4 2025



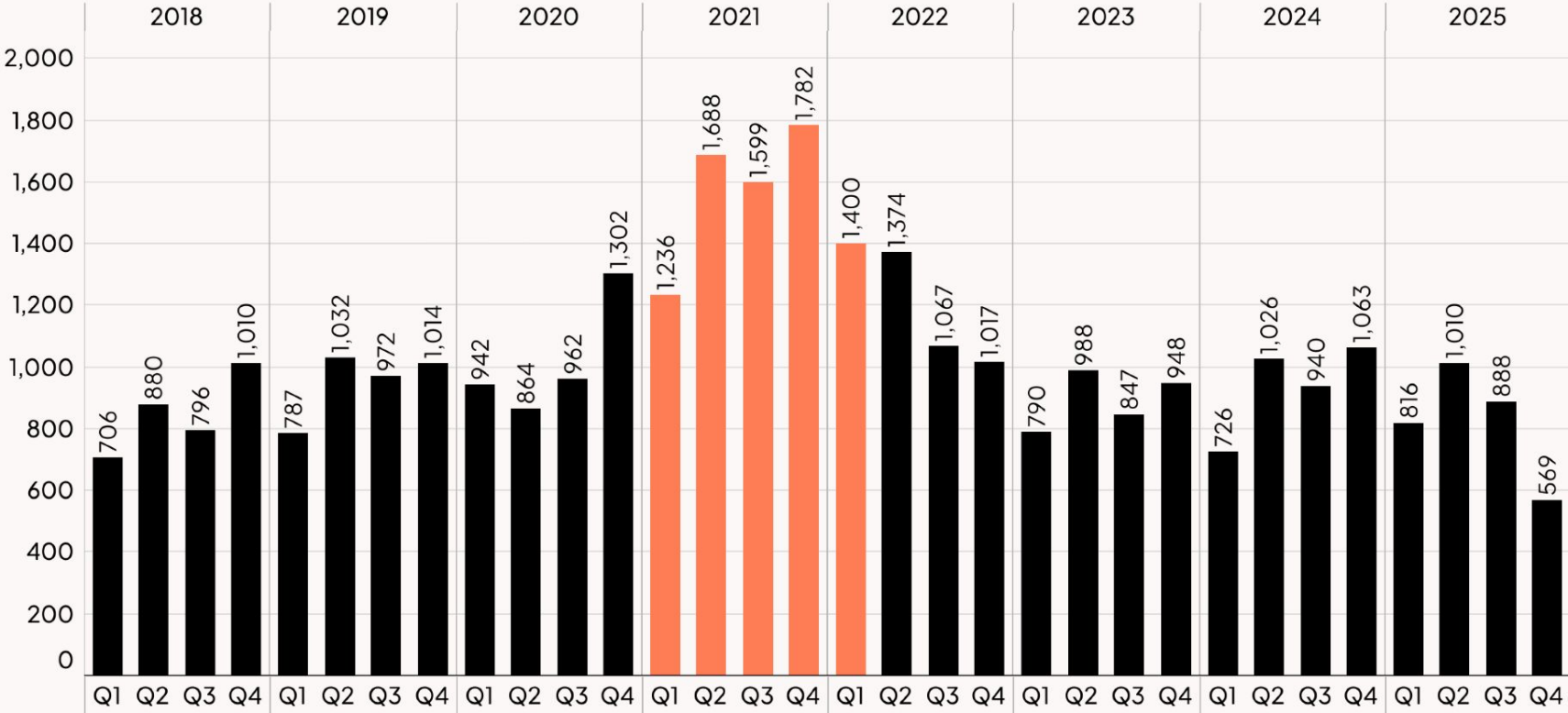
2021 remains a major outlier

Total capital raised by US startups on Carta | Q1 2018–Q4 2025 | Most recent quarter will continue to rise as new data comes in



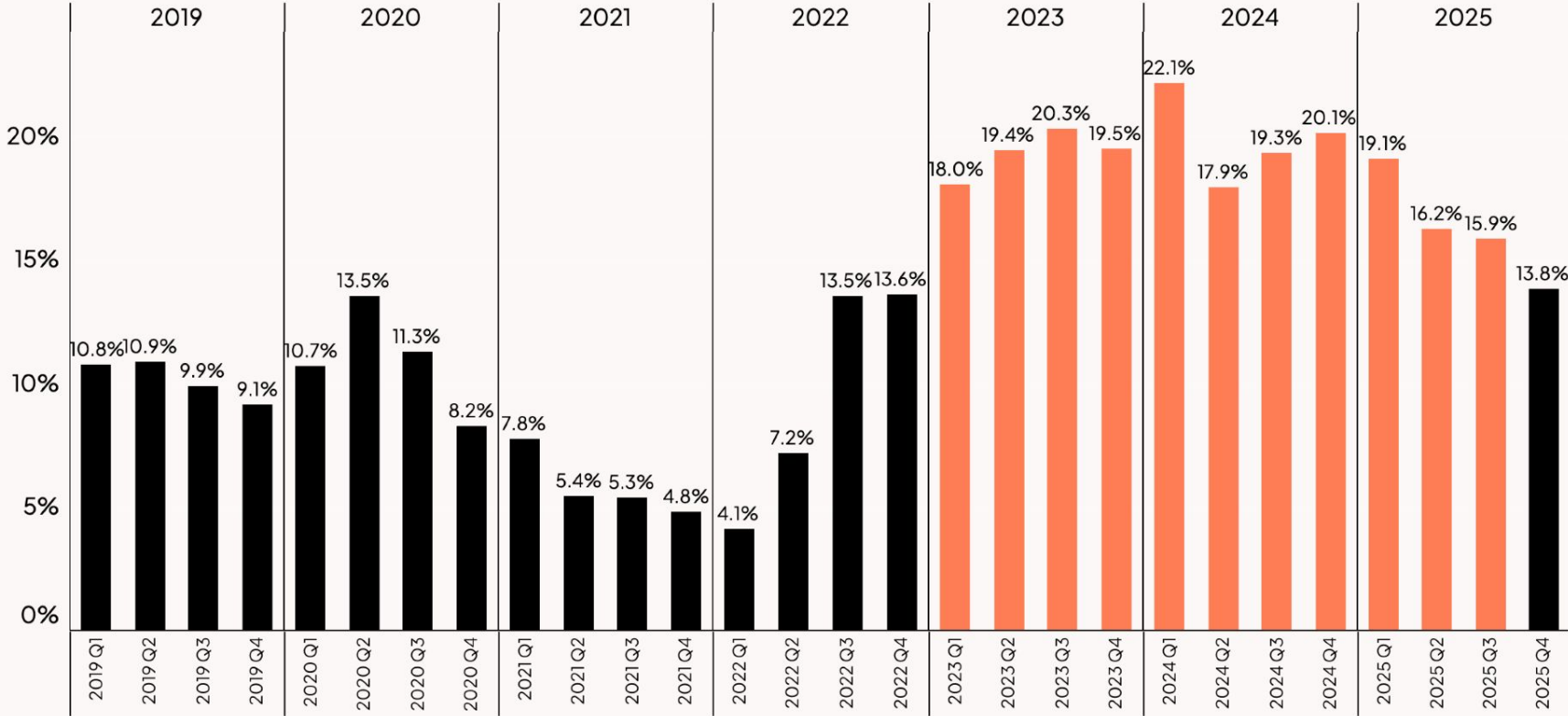
The number of rounds is not rising as much as total capital invested

Primary rounds raised by US startups on Carta | Q1 2018–Q4 2025 | Most recent quarter will continue to rise as new data comes in



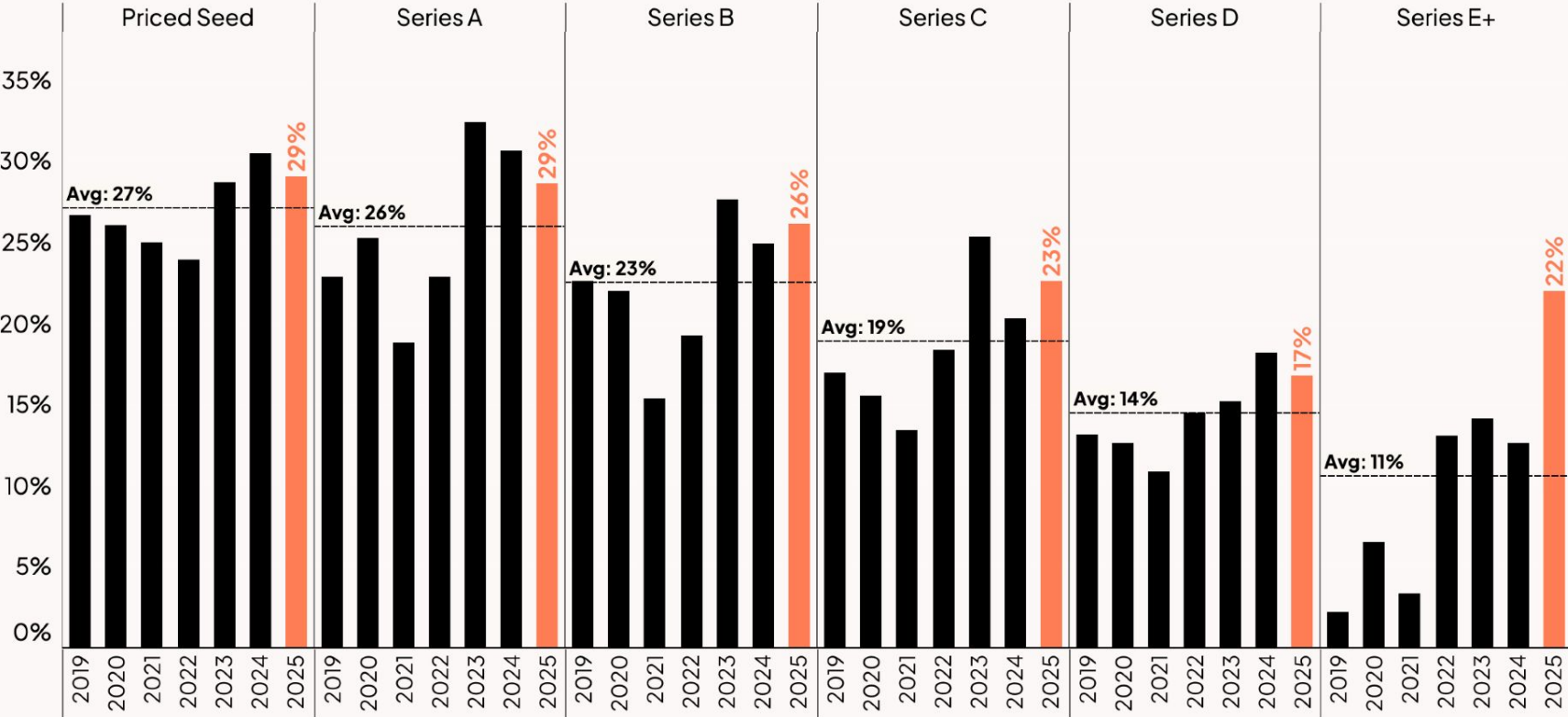
Down rounds are retreating but slowly

Percent of rounds that were down rounds | Q1 2019–Q4 2025 | 15% or more



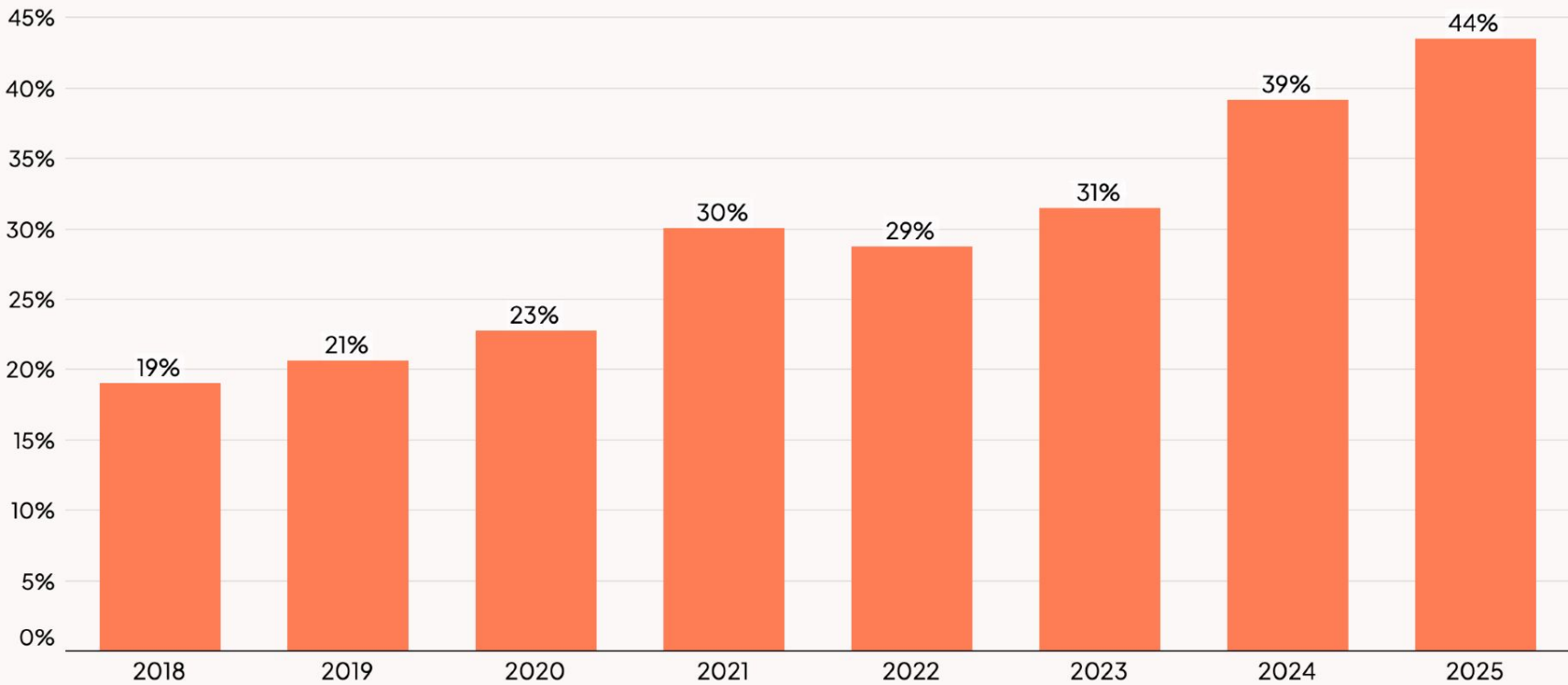
Bridge rounds are in fairly normal ranges

Percent of rounds that were bridge rounds rounds | Q1 2019–Q4 2025



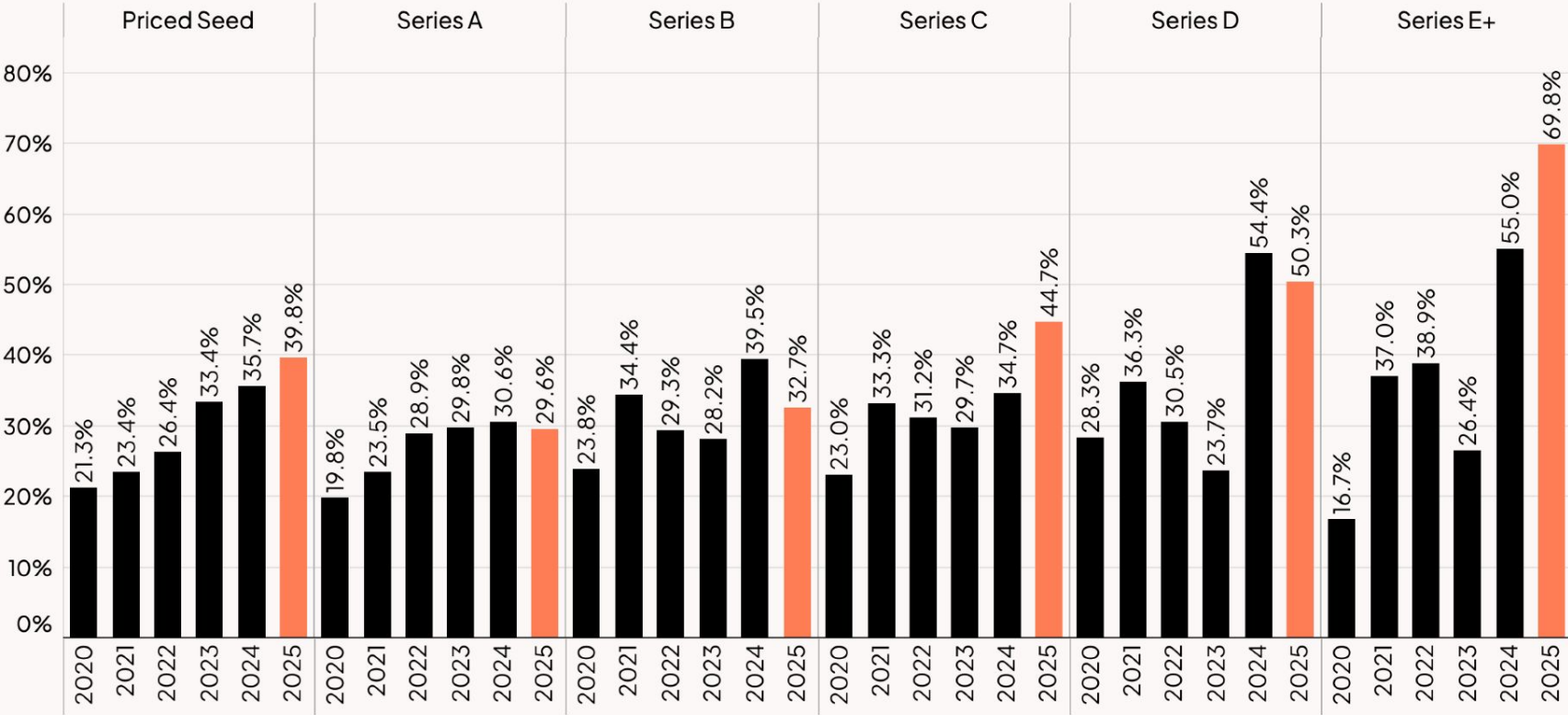
The share of capital going to AI companies is steadily climbing

Percent of total capital raised by US startups that went to AI companies | Q1 2018–Q4 2025



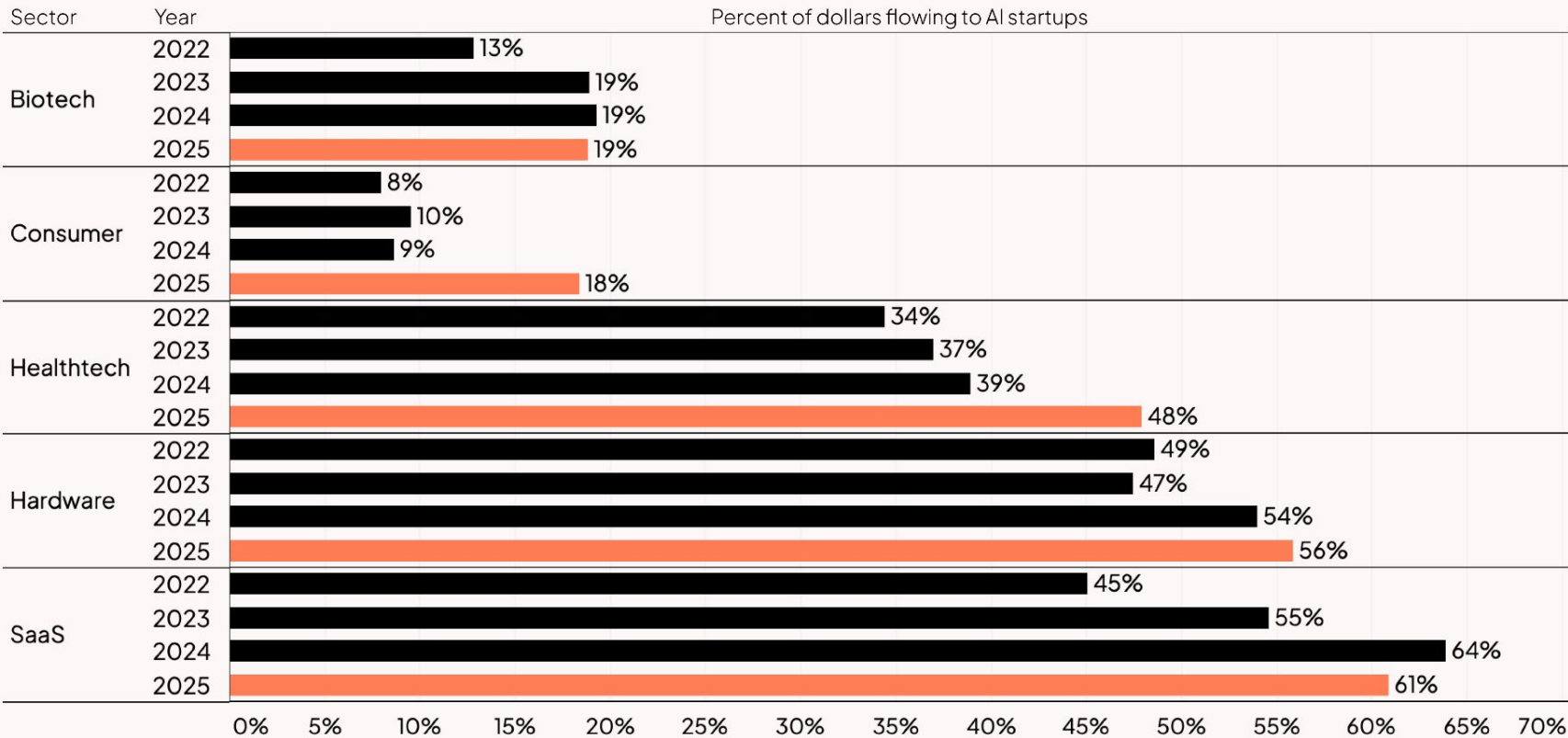
AI startups are eating share across basically every stage of VC

Percent of total capital raised by US startups that went to AI companies by stage | Q1 2020–Q4 2025



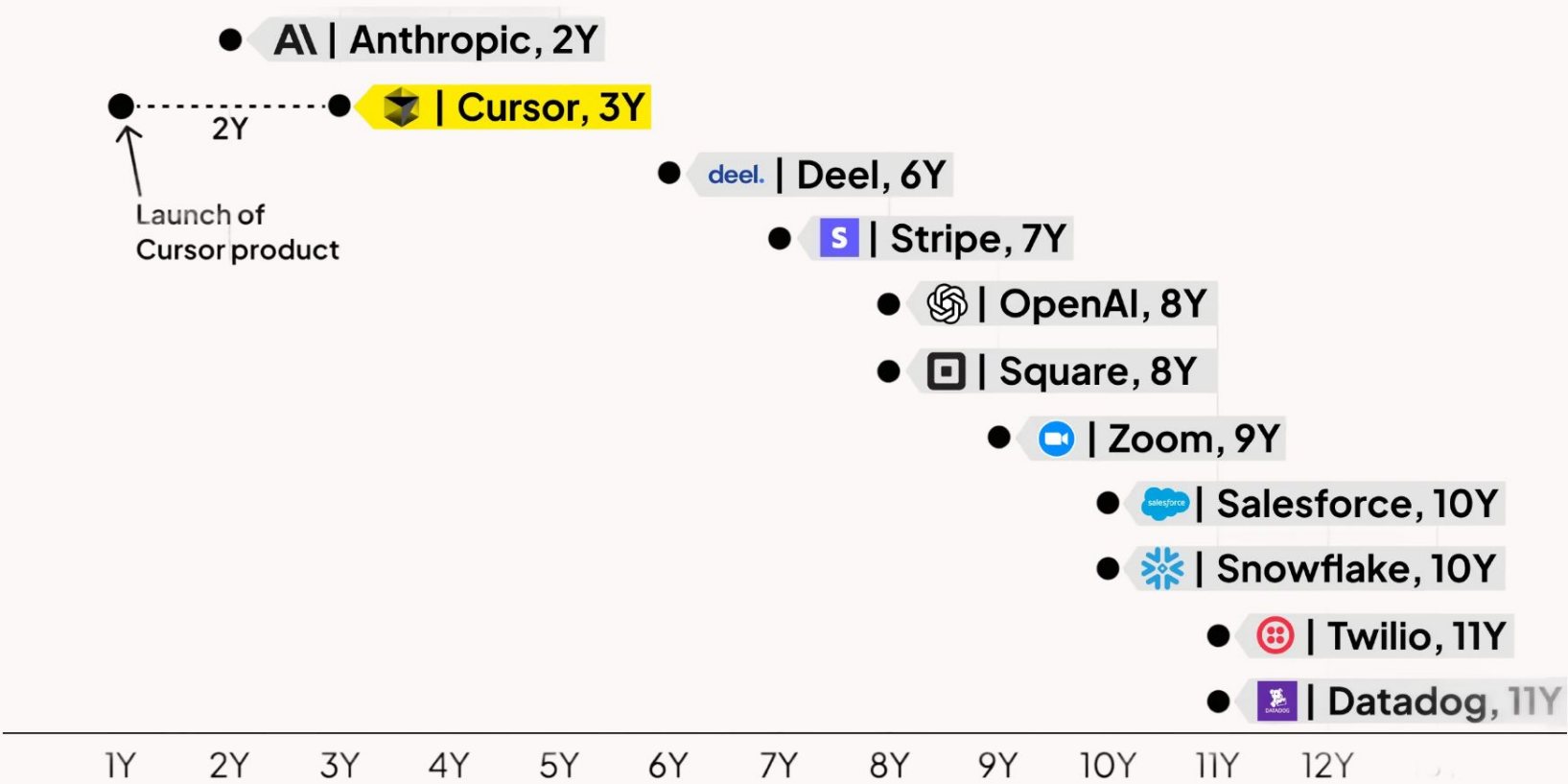
AI startups are taking share across many different sectors

Percent of total capital raised by US startups that went to AI companies by industry | Q1 2022–Q4 2025



Welcome to the AI age

Time from inception to \$1 billion in revenue for selected tech startups



VC-Backed Startups




























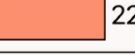







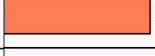
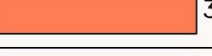
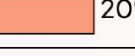




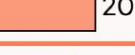







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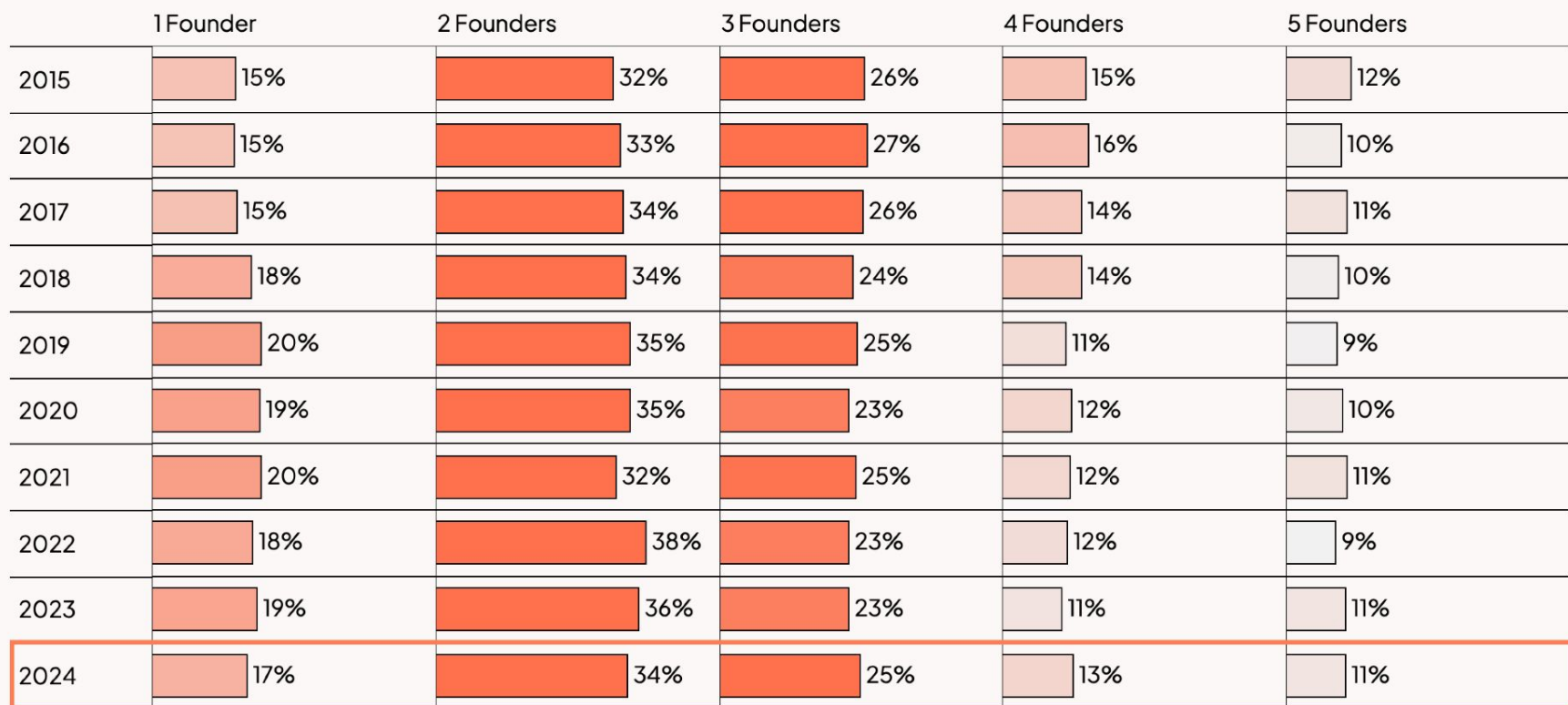
Solo founders are growing more more common...

Distribution of founding team size across 43,492 US startups on Carta | Includes startups with and without VC funding

| | 1 Founder | 2 Founders | 3 Founders | 4 Founders | 5 Founders | |
|------|--|--|--|---|---|-------|
| 2015 |  17% |  32% |  25% |  15% |  11% | 2,619 |
| 2016 |  18% |  33% |  26% |  14% |  9% | 2,581 |
| 2017 |  17% |  33% |  25% |  14% |  11% | 3,047 |
| 2018 |  21% |  33% |  23% |  14% |  9% | 3,686 |
| 2019 |  23% |  34% |  23% |  11% |  9% | 4,379 |
| 2020 |  24% |  35% |  22% |  11% |  9% | 5,315 |
| 2021 |  25% |  34% |  22% |  11% |  8% | 6,673 |
| 2022 |  27% |  38% |  20% |  9% |  6% | 5,762 |
| 2023 |  29% |  36% |  20% |  8% |  6% | 5,666 |
| 2024 |  35% |  37% |  16% |  7% |  4% | 3,764 |

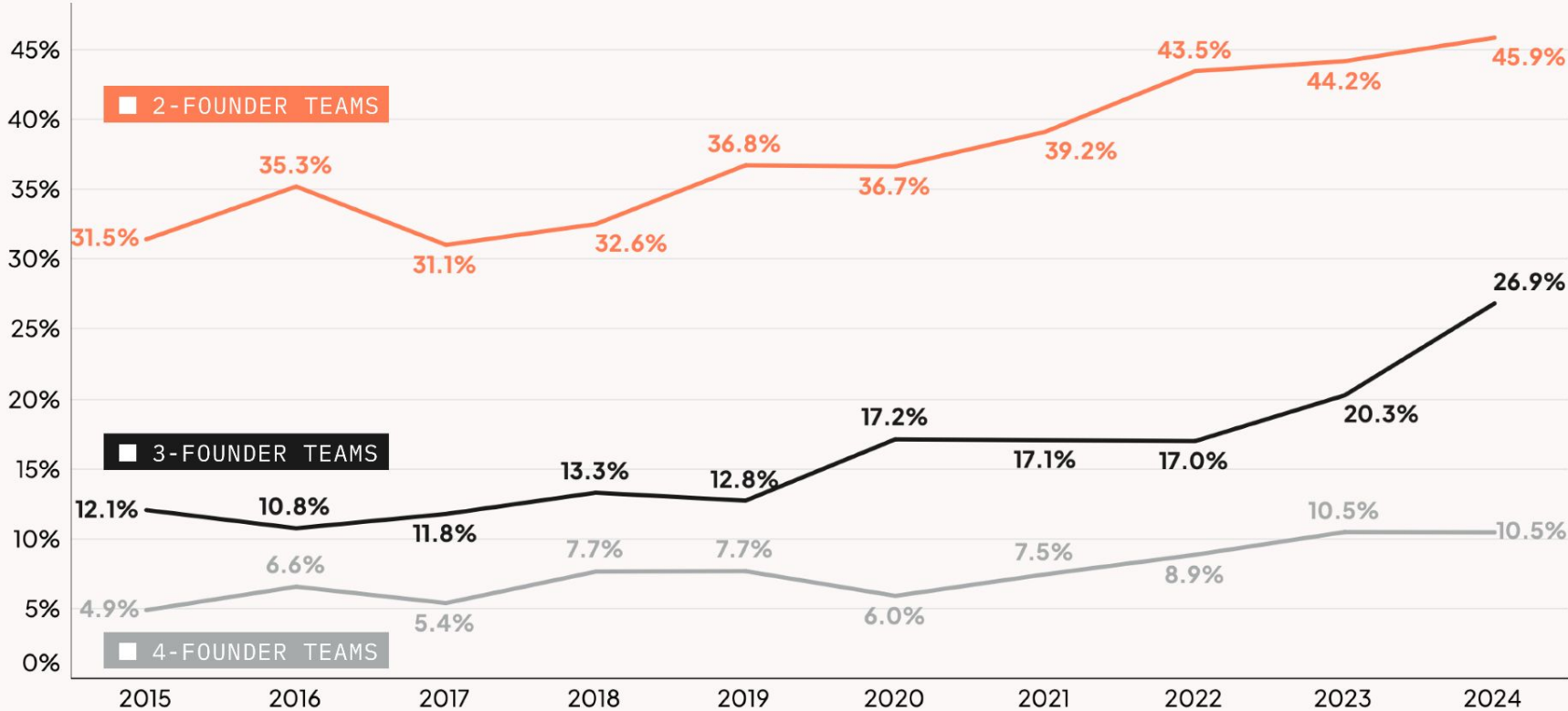
...but VCs still back them less often

Distribution of founding team size across 18,388 US startups on Carta | Only includes startups with VC funding



Exactly equal splits are more common today than ever before

Share of startups that had equal equity splits by founding team size and incorporation year



Garry from YC prefers “close to equal but not actually equal”

Share of startups that had equal equity splits by founding team size and incorporation year

Garry Tan @garrytan · Nov 26

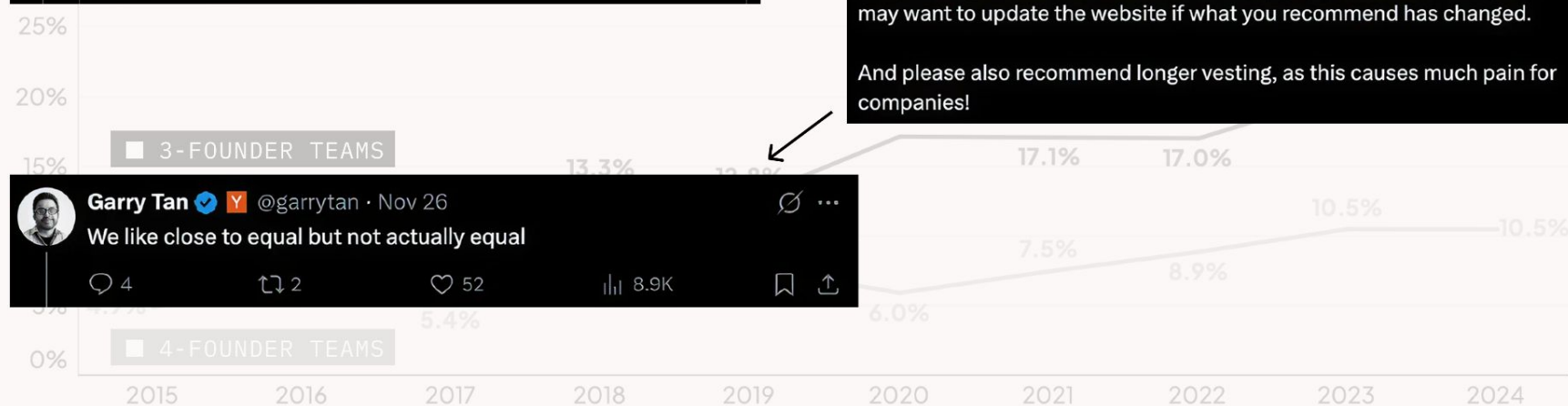
From a lot of experience with lots of founding teams: 50/50 deadlock cap tables are considered harmful

Peter Walker @PeterJ_Walker · Nov 26

Side A: Splitting equally is the sign of a weak CEO

Side B: Splitting unequally means you don't value your cofounders

Which side are you on, no nuance allowed.



Garry Tan @garrytan · Nov 26

We like close to equal but not actually equal

4 2 52 8.9K

Sheel Mohnot @pitdesi

Many have given me the feedback that they got the idea from YC- you may want to update the website if what you recommend has changed.

And please also recommend longer vesting, as this causes much pain for companies!

The lead founder typically takes an outsize share

Median equity for each founder by founding team size | Incorporated 2023–2024 | Percentages may not add to 100%

| | Founder A | Founder B | Founder C | Founder D | Founder E |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 2 Founders | 51% | 49% | | | |
| 3 Founders | 45% | 33% | 20% | | |
| 4 Founders | 41% | 25% | 18% | 10% | |
| 5 Founders | 36% | 23% | 17% | 12% | 8% |

Cofounder splits are a real concern

Percent of VC-backed, 2-founder teams that eventually lose a cofounder | 6,567 startups incorporated from 2015–2024

| | 1 Year | 2 Years | 3 Years | 4 Years | 5 Years | 6 Years | 7 Years | 8 Years |
|------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 2015 | 4.0% | 8.8% | 13.4% | 19.1% | 23.7% | 29.5% | 34.6% | 38.9% |
| 2016 | 4.8% | 8.0% | 13.0% | 18.7% | 24.2% | 28.4% | 33.8% | 38.0% |
| 2017 | 4.7% | 11.0% | 15.6% | 24.1% | 29.4% | 34.6% | 37.6% | 39.1% |
| 2018 | 4.5% | 10.6% | 17.6% | 24.2% | 29.0% | 34.8% | 36.4% | |
| 2019 | 5.5% | 12.3% | 19.8% | 26.0% | 30.7% | 32.1% | | |
| 2020 | 7.0% | 14.9% | 23.0% | 27.1% | 29.5% | | | |
| 2021 | 6.2% | 15.3% | 22.8% | 25.0% | | | | |
| 2022 | 5.8% | 12.8% | 16.0% | | | | | |
| 2023 | 6.9% | 10.3% | | | | | | |
| 2024 | 7.5% | | | | | | | |

Under 10%

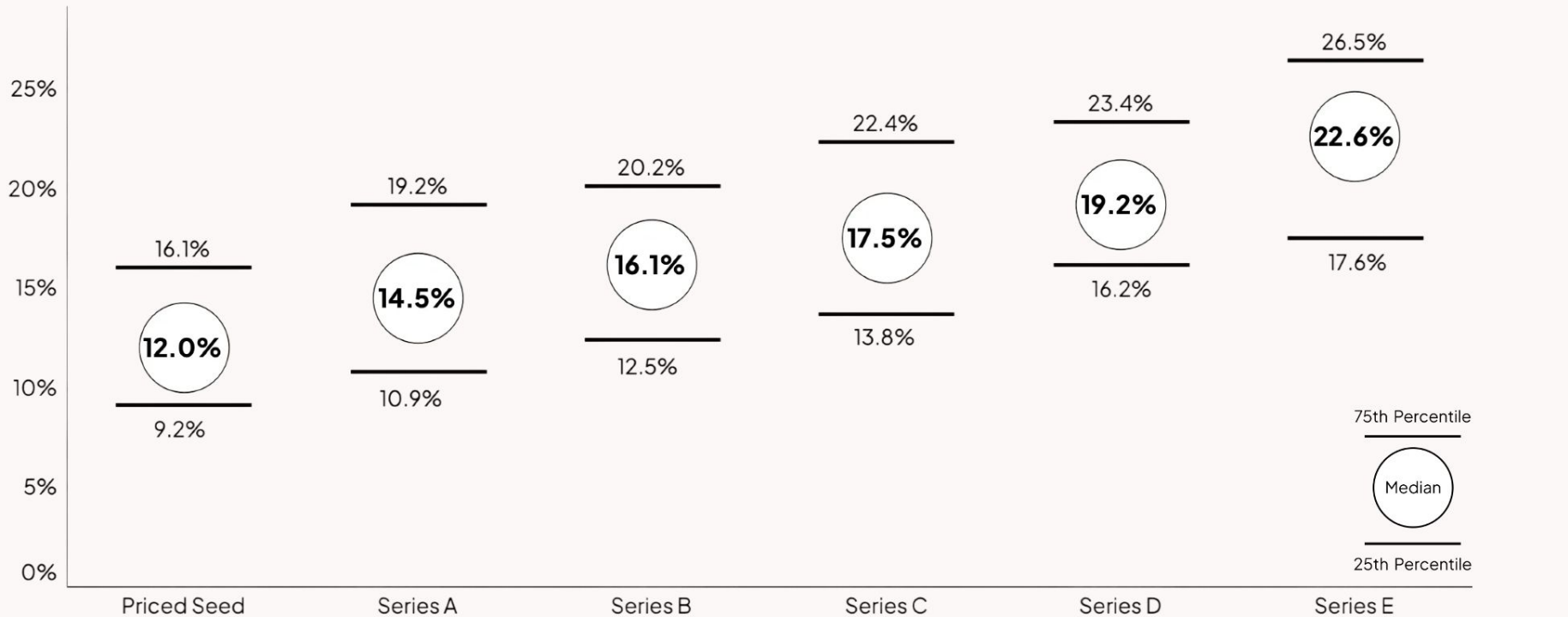
10%–19%

20%–29%

30%+

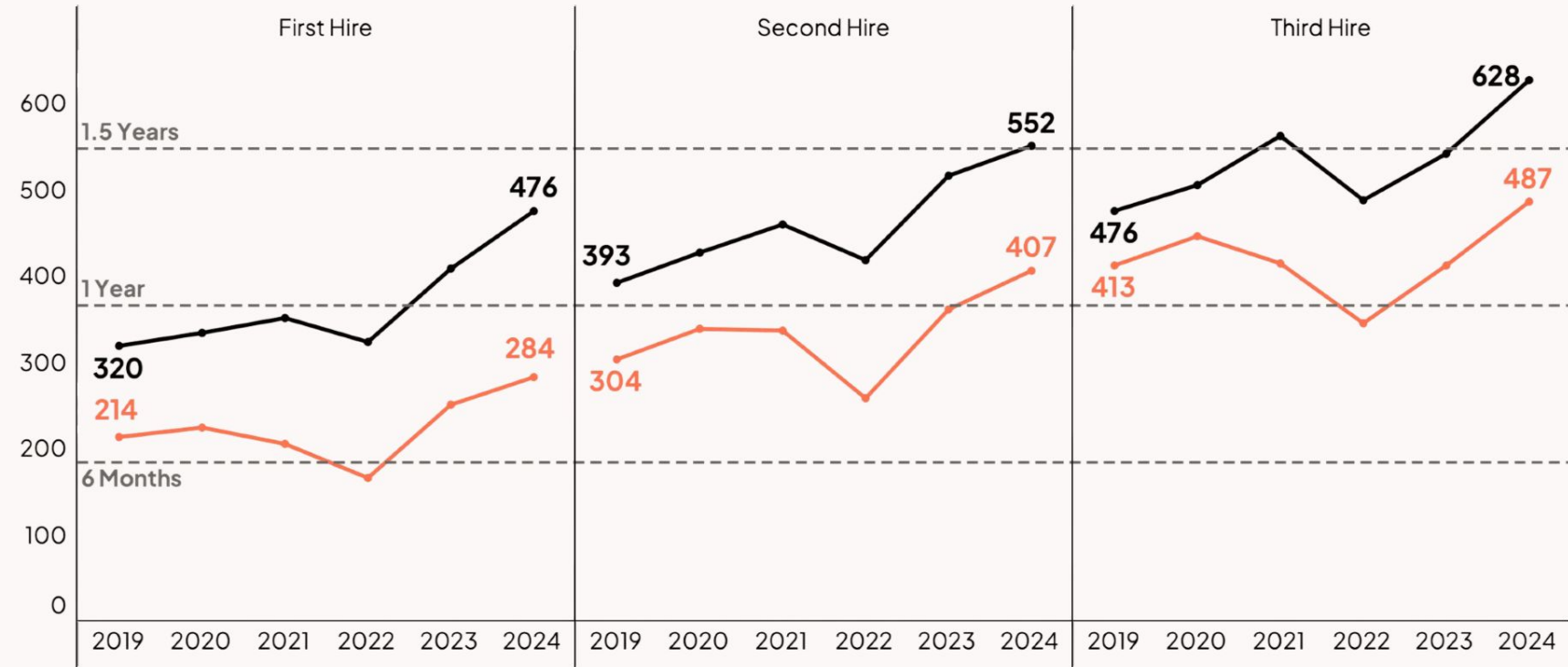
Employee option pools start at ~10% and grow with fundraising rounds

Benchmarks for fully diluted employee option pool sizes in 2025



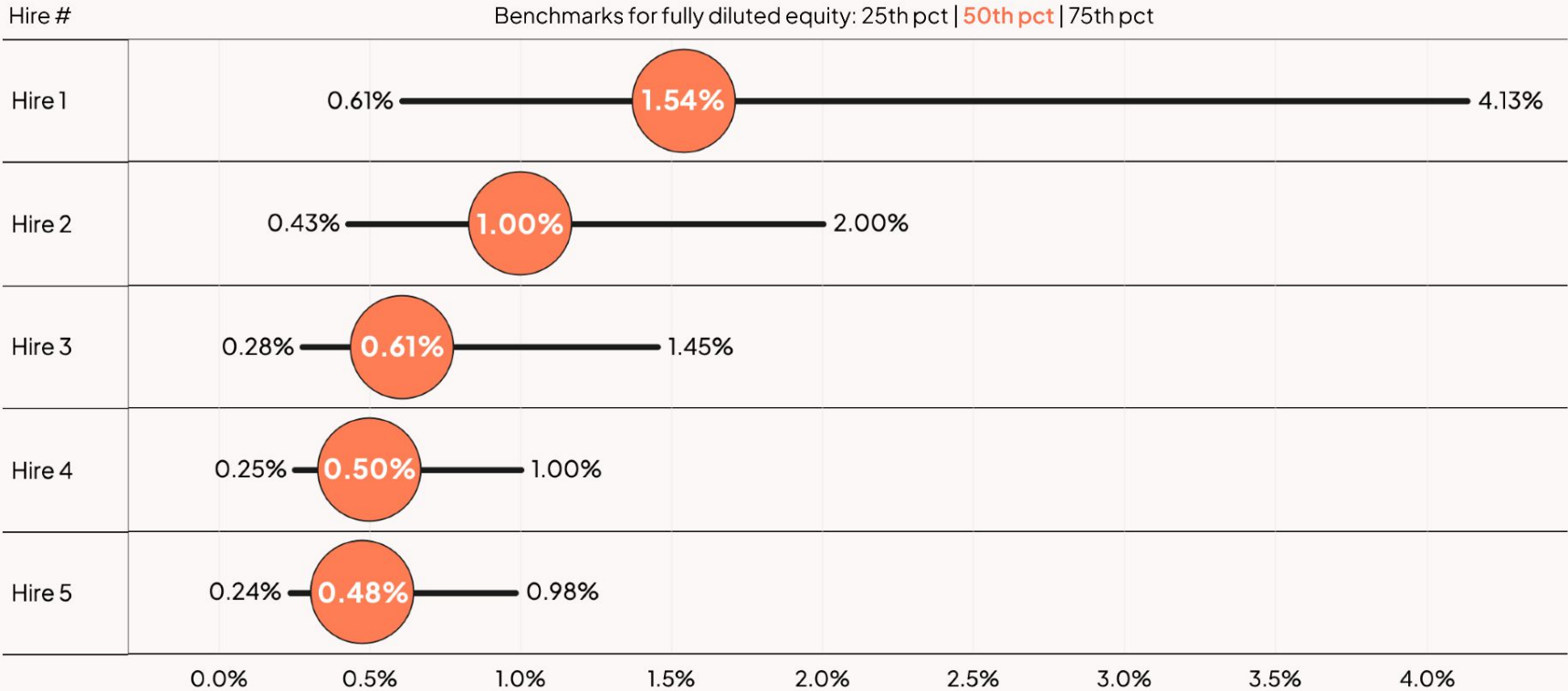
Founders are building without hiring for longer than ever

Days from incorporation to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd hire for startups on Carta | Median days | Average days



Equity granted to the first 5 engineers

Fully diluted equity grants given to first engineering employees | Typically vesting over 4 years with a 1-year cliff



VC-Backed Startups

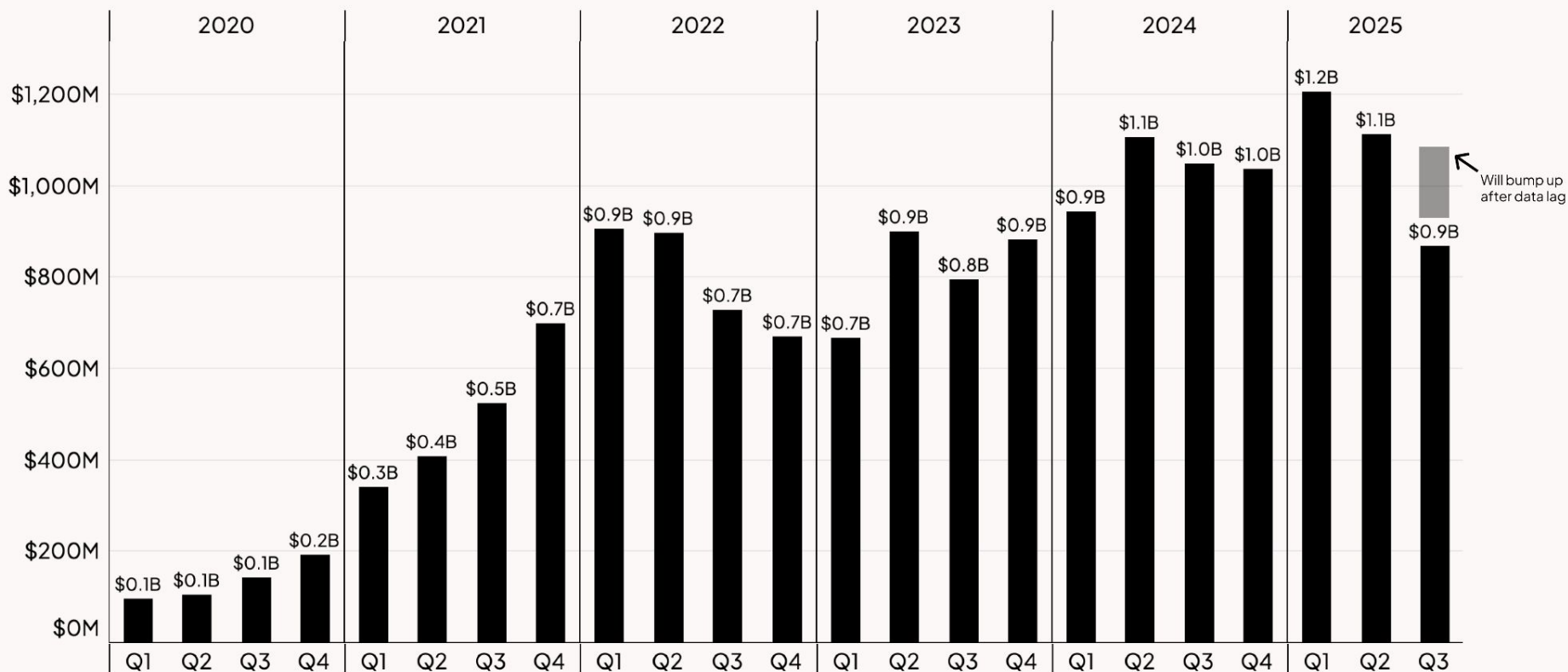
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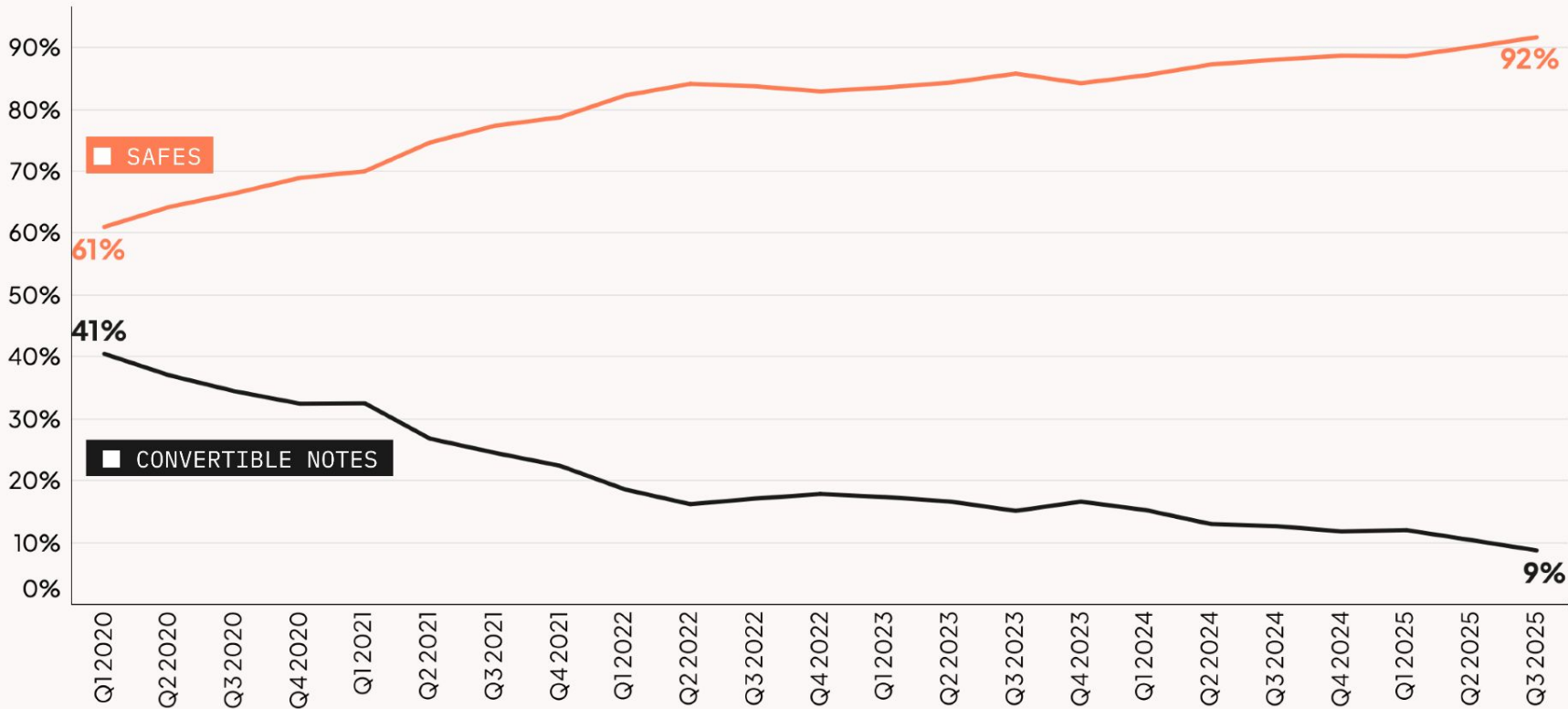
The pre-priced round wave is relentless

Capital invested into startups on Carta through SAFEs or Convertible Notes before any priced rounds | Q1 2020–Q3 2025



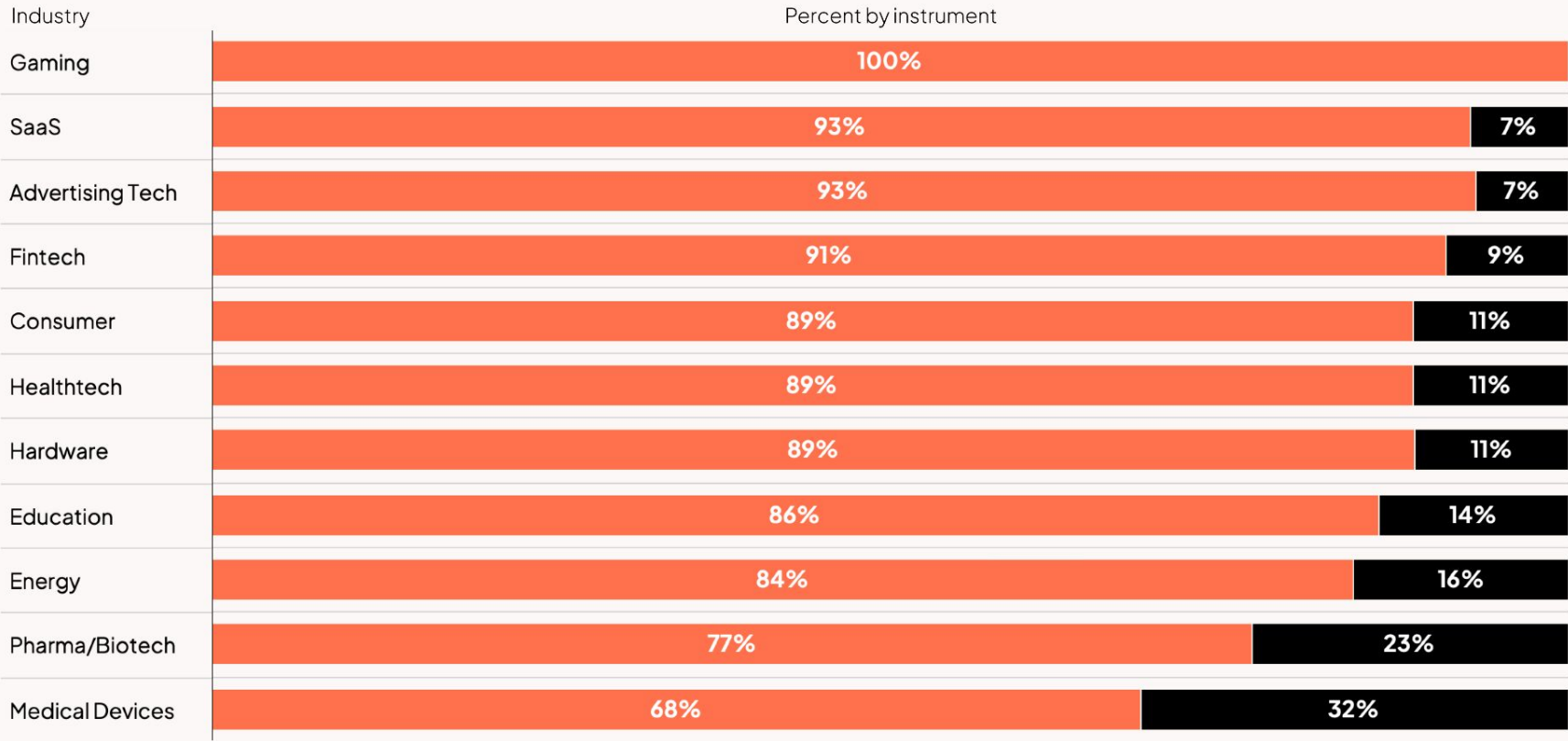
Everybody has chosen **SAFEs** as the default instrument

Percent of companies using SAFEs vs Convertible Notes for pre-priced fundraising by quarter | Q1 2020–Q3 2025



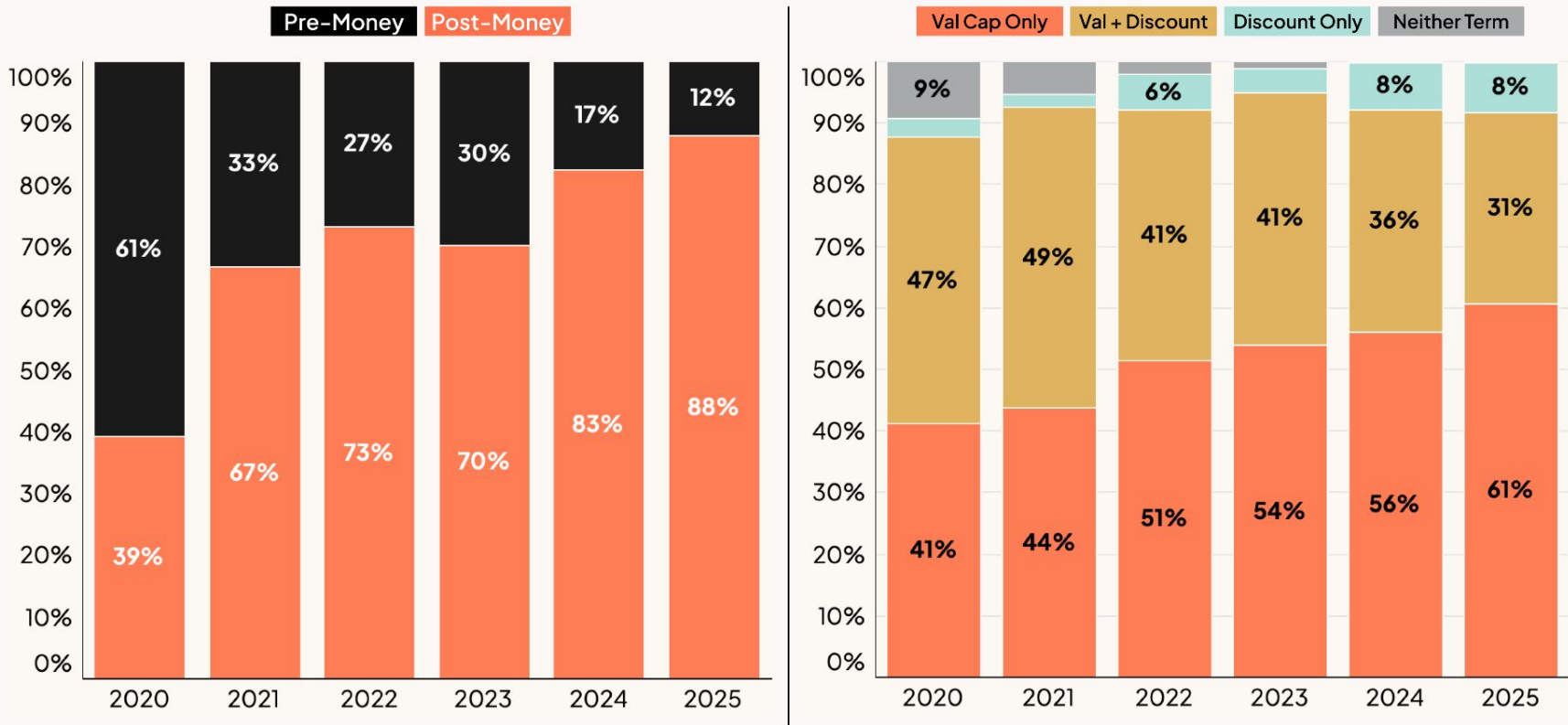
Convertible Note holdouts are usually in heavily regulated fields

Percent of companies using **SAFEs** vs **Convertible Notes** for pre-priced fundraising by industry | Q3 2024–Q3 2025



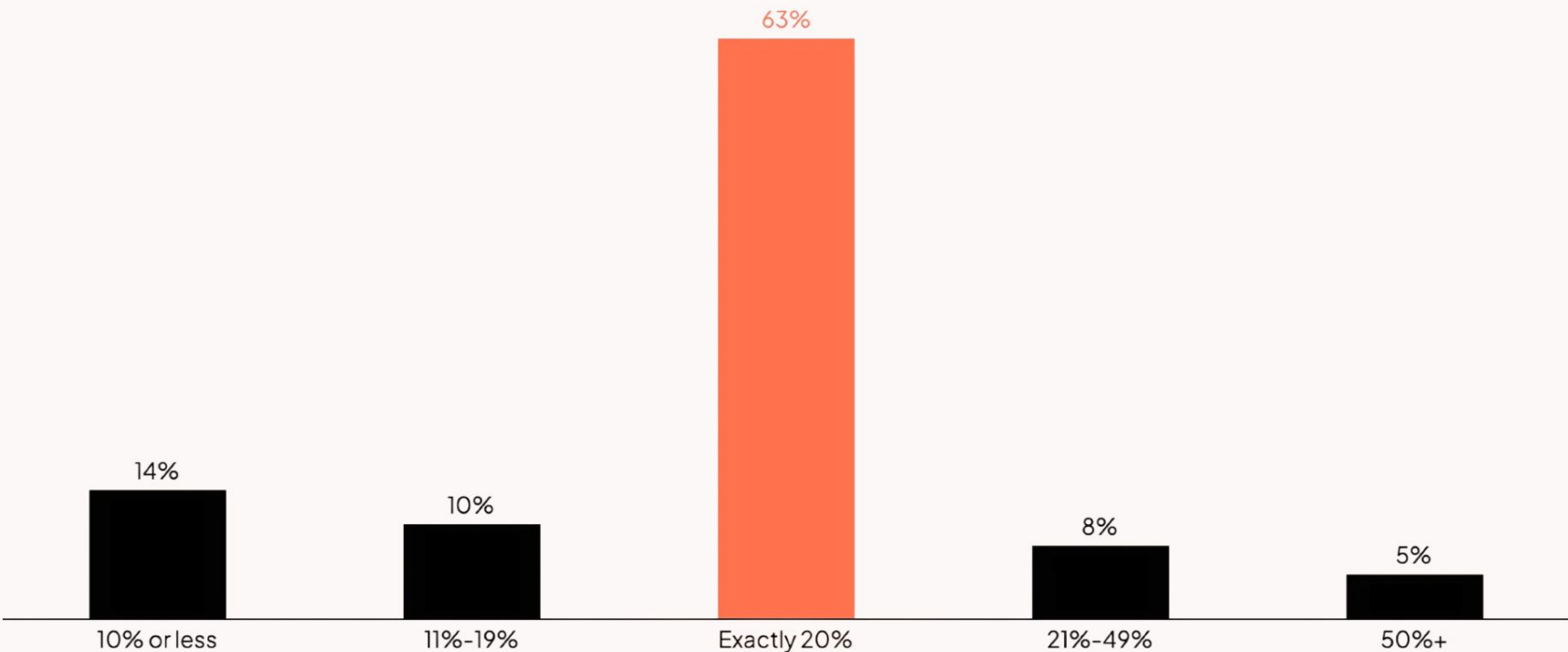
The consensus SAFE is: post-money, valuation cap only

Percent of SAFEs by type and conversion terms | Q1 2020–Q3 2025



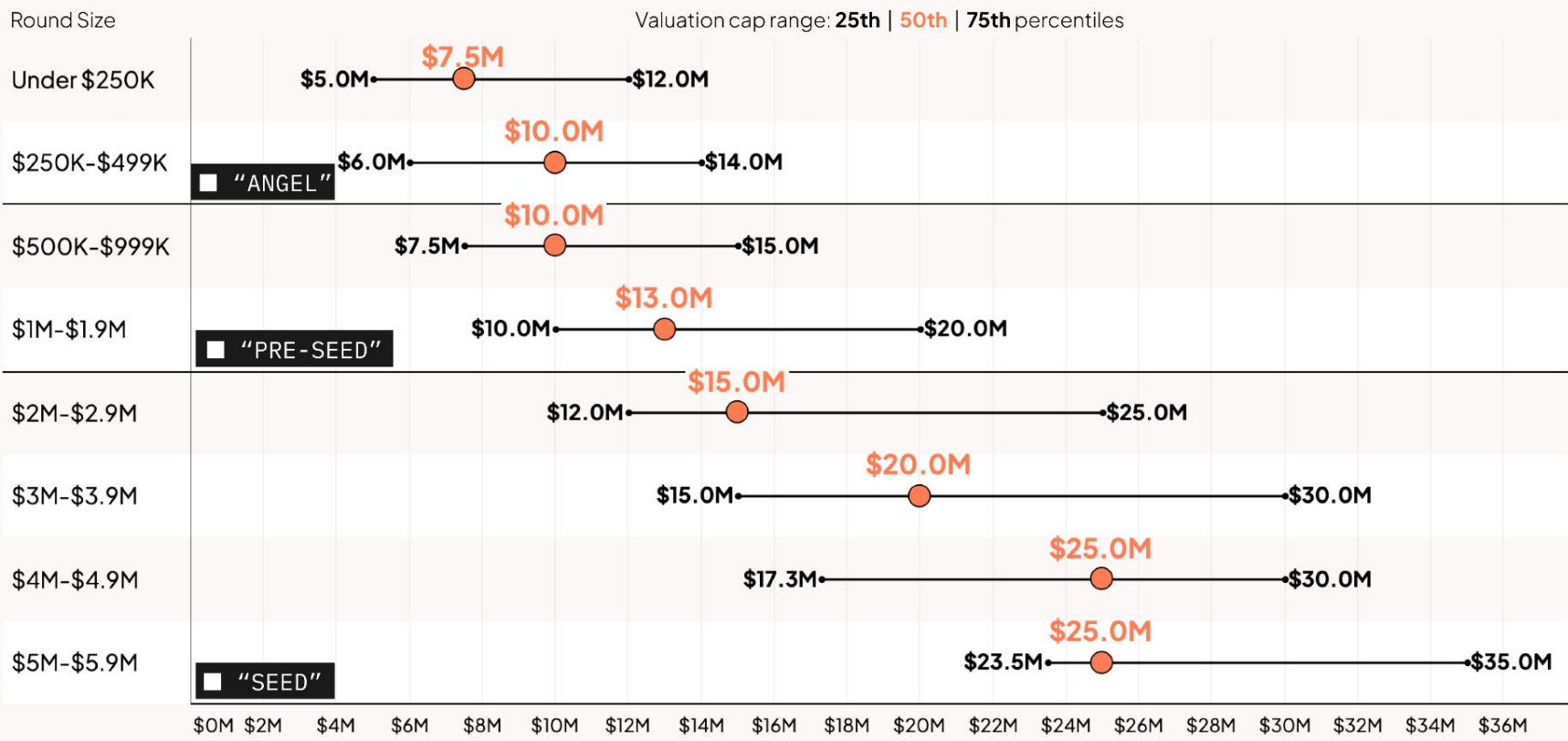
Discounts are not really negotiated much – they’re just 20%

Percent of post-money SAFEs with a discount by discount tier | 7,009 SAFEs signed in 2025



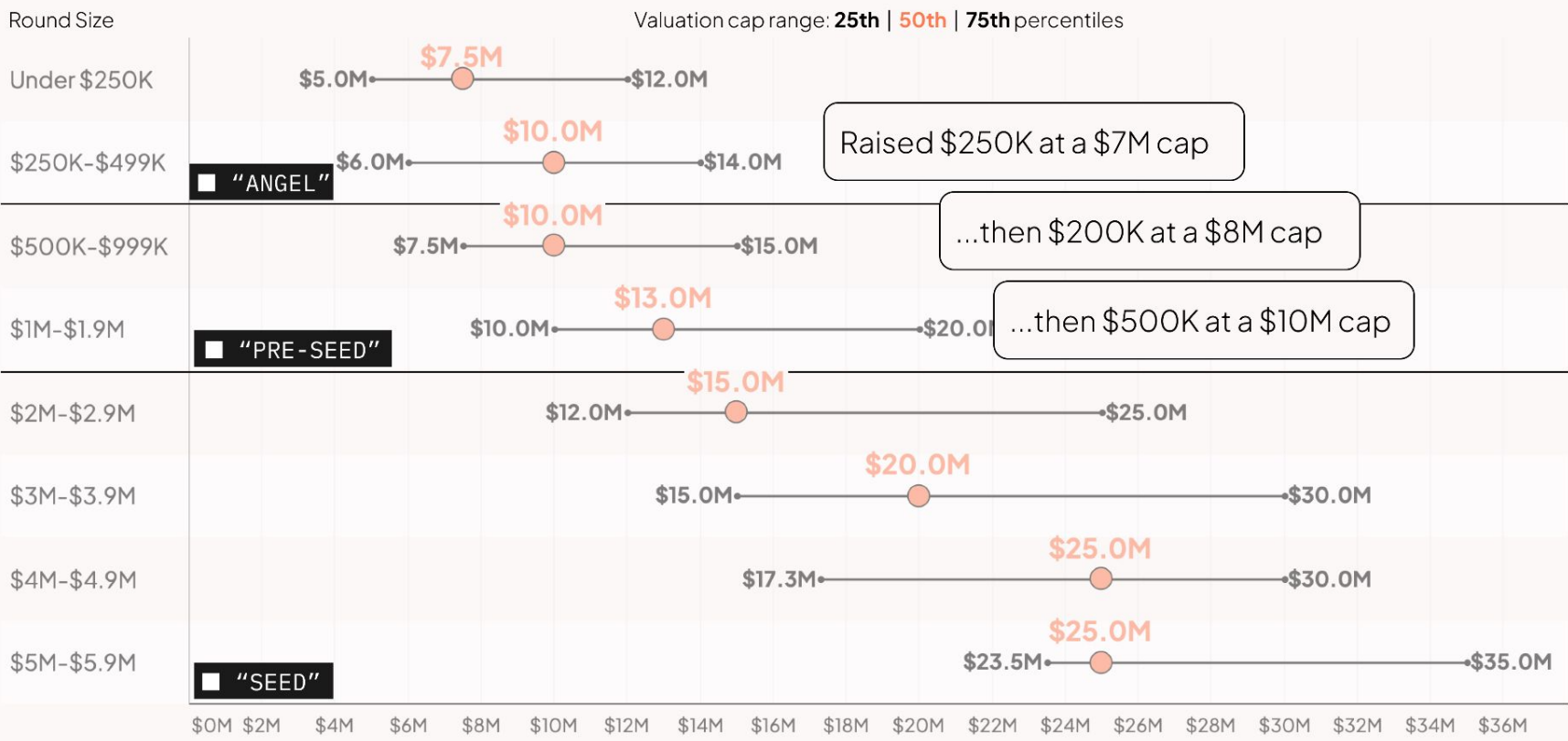
The perfect valuation cap does not exist

Range for post-money SAFE valuation caps by amount raised in the round | Q1–Q3 2025



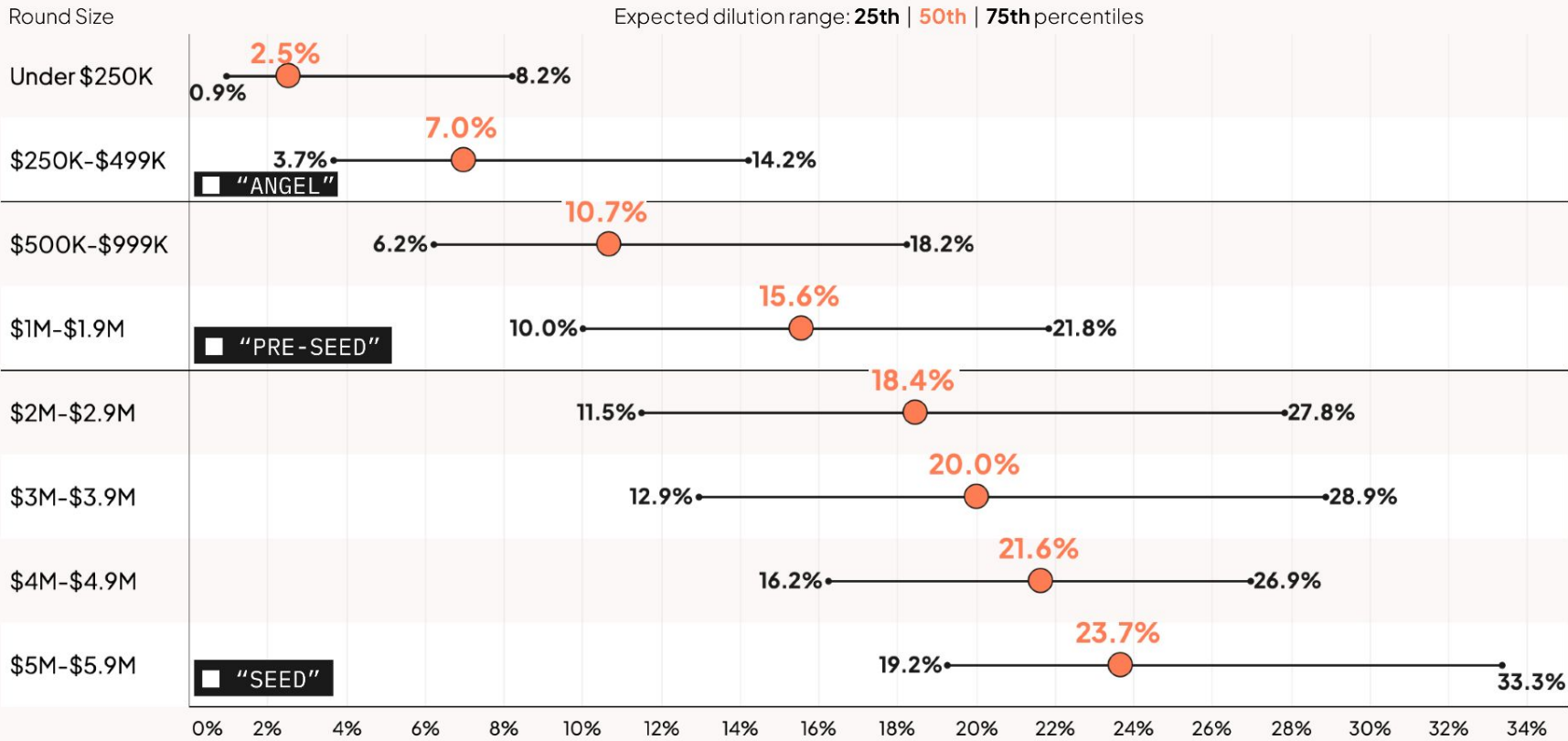
Sometimes rounds are cut into thin slices (or “tranches”)

Range for post-money SAFE valuation caps by amount raised in the round | Q1–Q3 2025



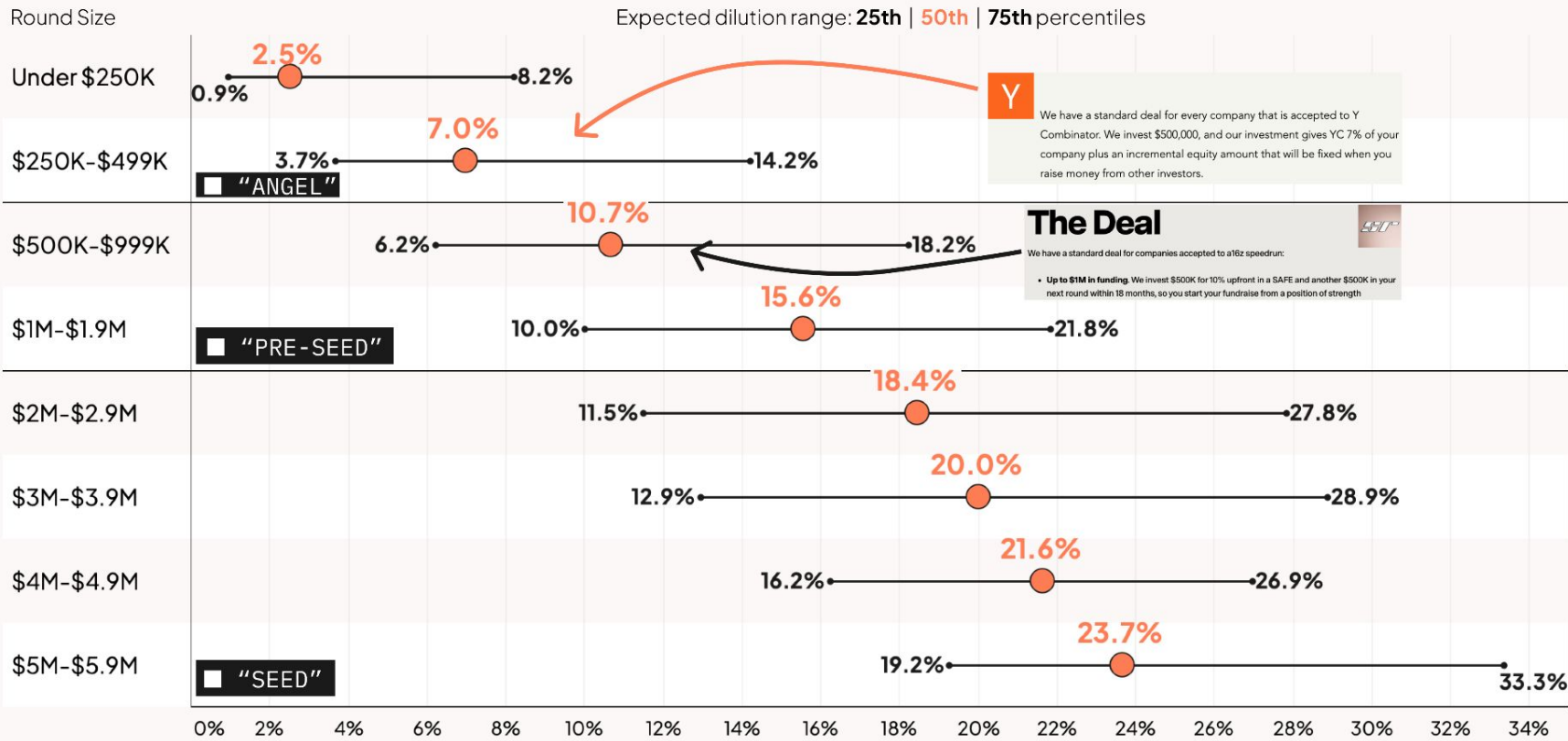
Dilution varies widely across early startups for the same amount of \$

Range for expected dilution by how much is raised in a post-money SAFE round | Q1-Q3 2025



Accelerators are setting the market (sometimes)

Range for expected dilution by how much is raised in a post-money SAFE round | Q1-Q3 2025



Round names are abstractions we have collectively agreed upon

In order to distract ourselves from the impending heat death of the universe

“Pre-Seed”



“Seed”



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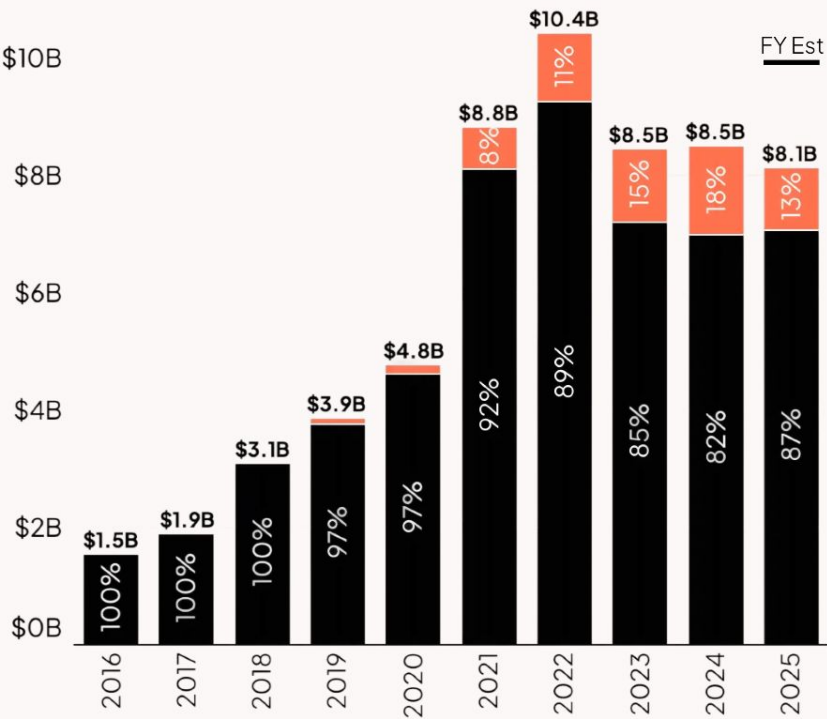
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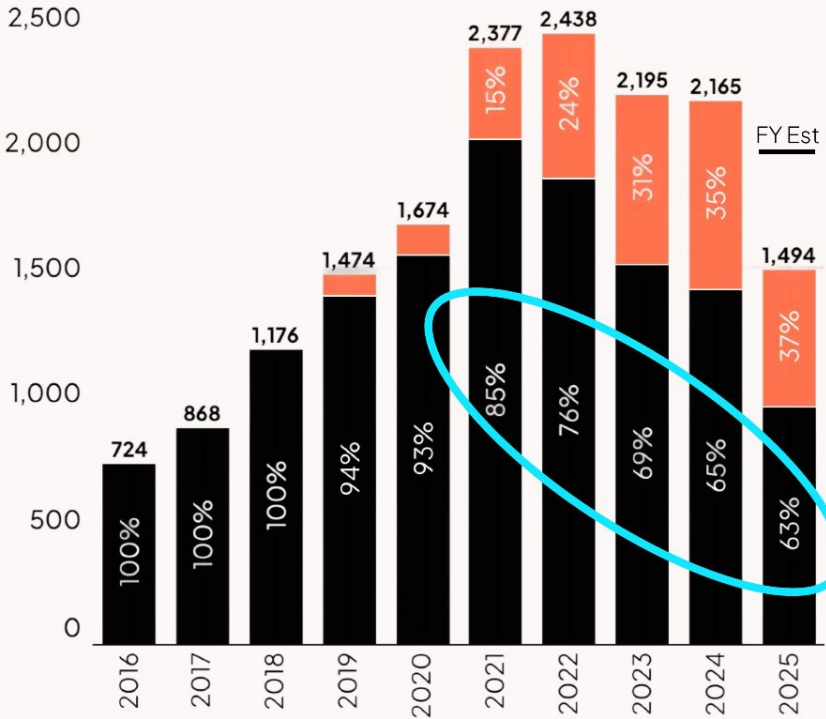
Today's seed stage: more \$, higher valuations, fewer rounds

Cash raised vs total primary rounds | Seed only | Q1 2016–Q3 2025 | **Priced equity rounds** | **SAFE rounds from \$2M–\$6M raised**

Total cash raised in primary seed rounds

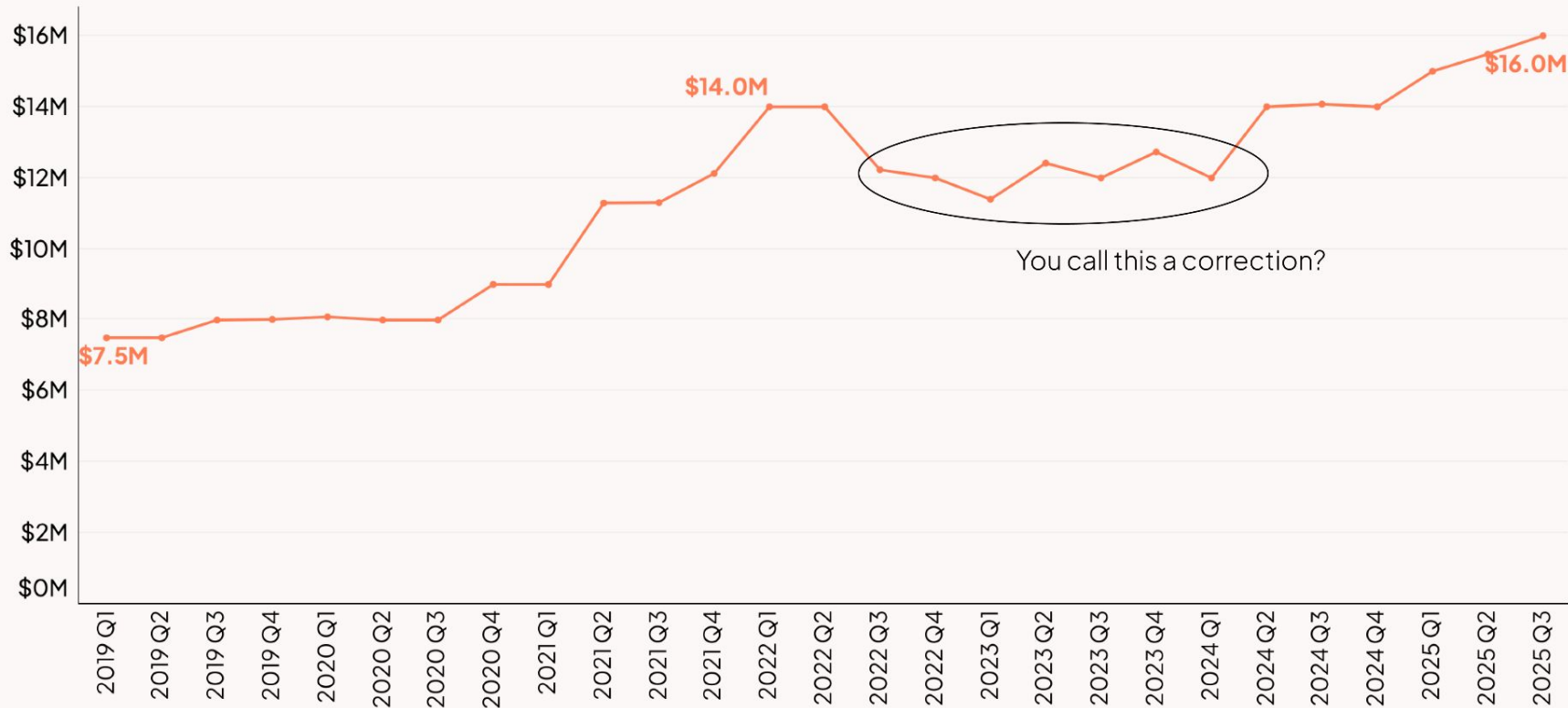


Total cash raised in primary seed rounds



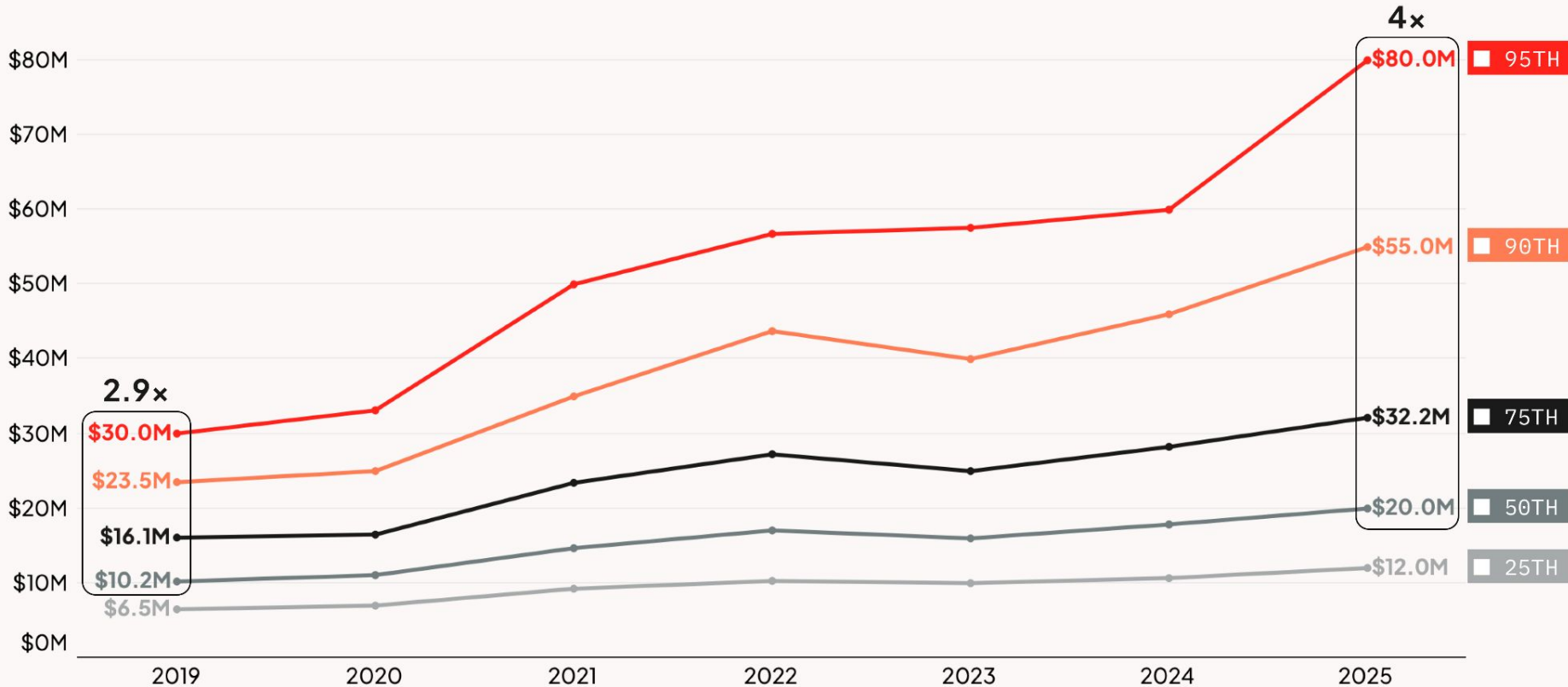
Seed stage valuations are at record highs and never truly declined

Median pre-money valuation for seed rounds on Carta by quarter | Q1 2019–Q3 2025



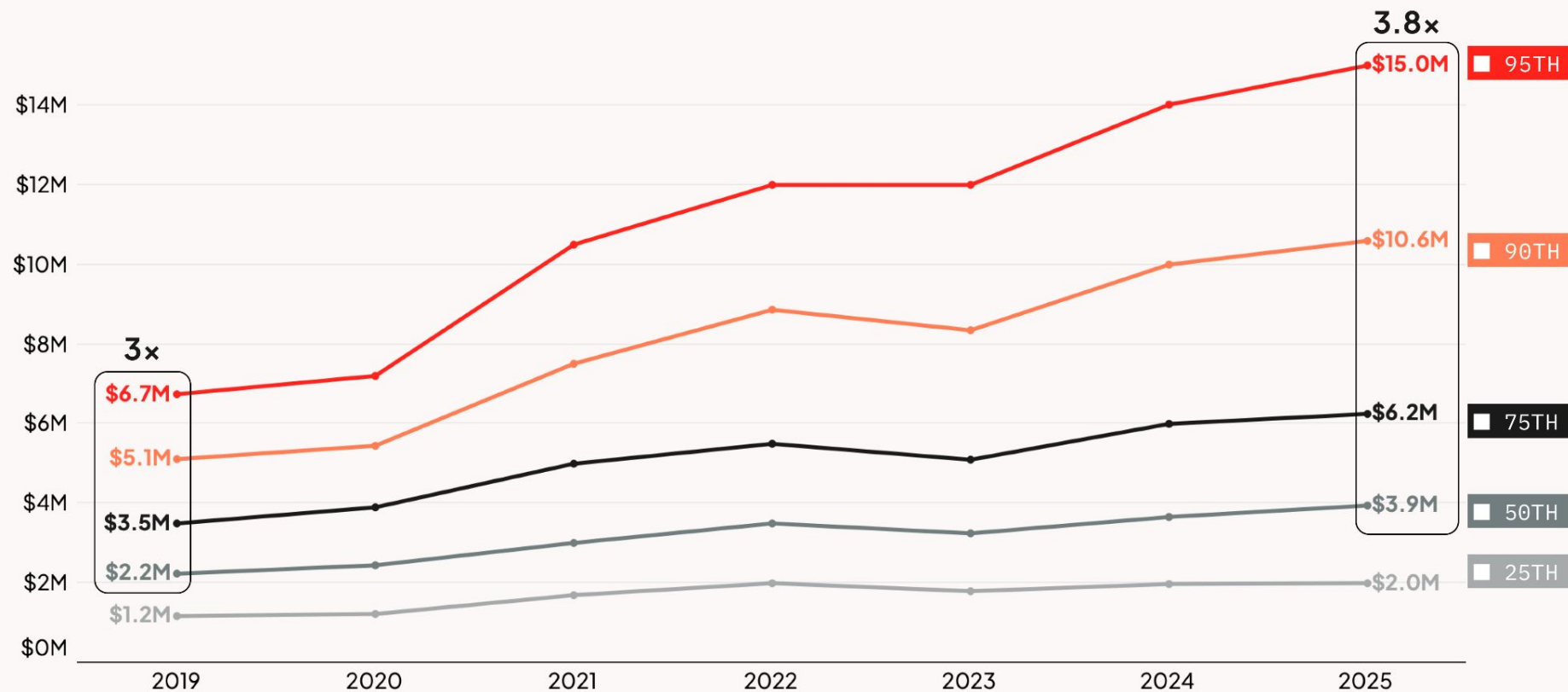
The valuation gap between top 5% and median is getting wider

Post-money valuation percentiles for seed rounds on Carta | Benchmarks by year



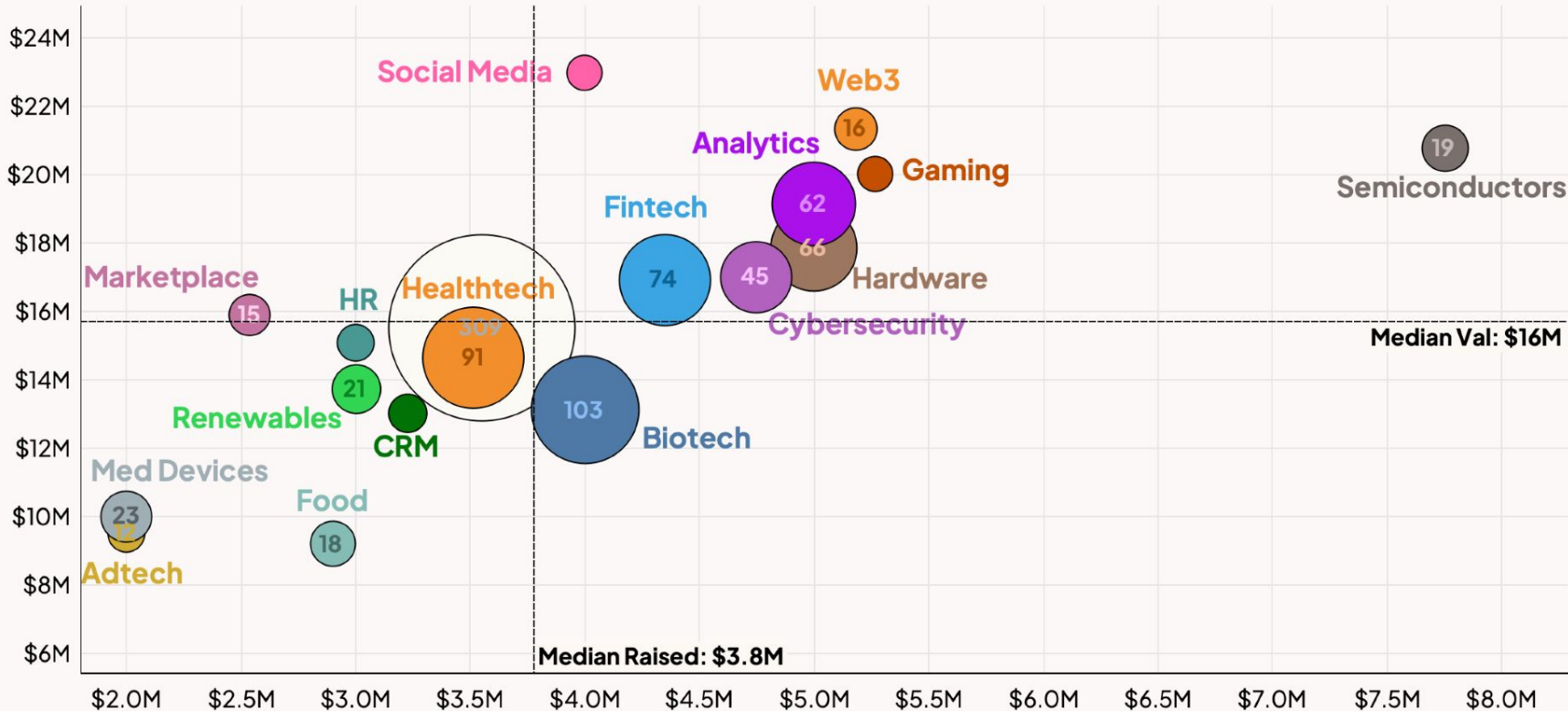
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Round size percentiles for seed rounds on Carta | Benchmarks by year



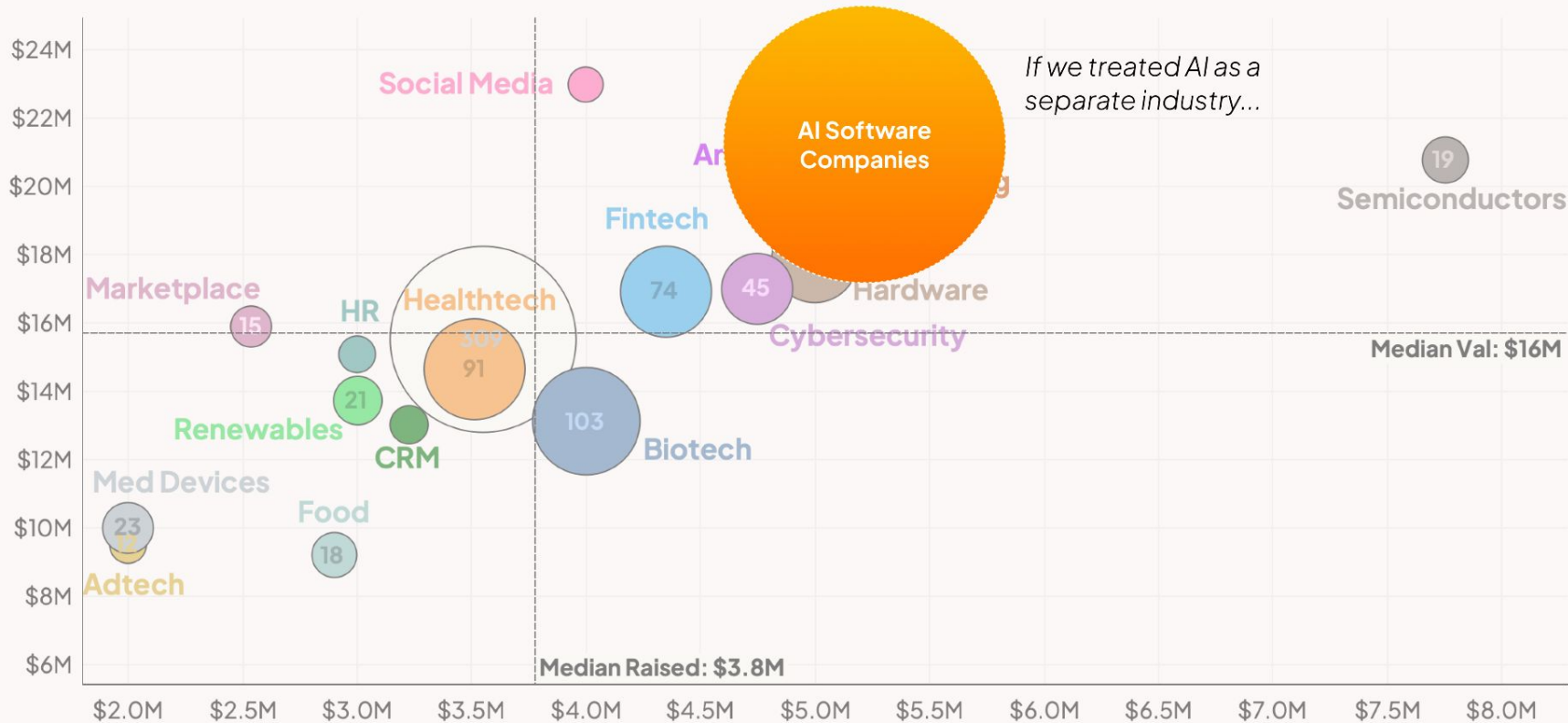
Significant differences emerge at seed between industries

X-axis = median cash raised, Y-axis = median pre-money valuation, Bubble Size = number of rounds | January -Oct 2025



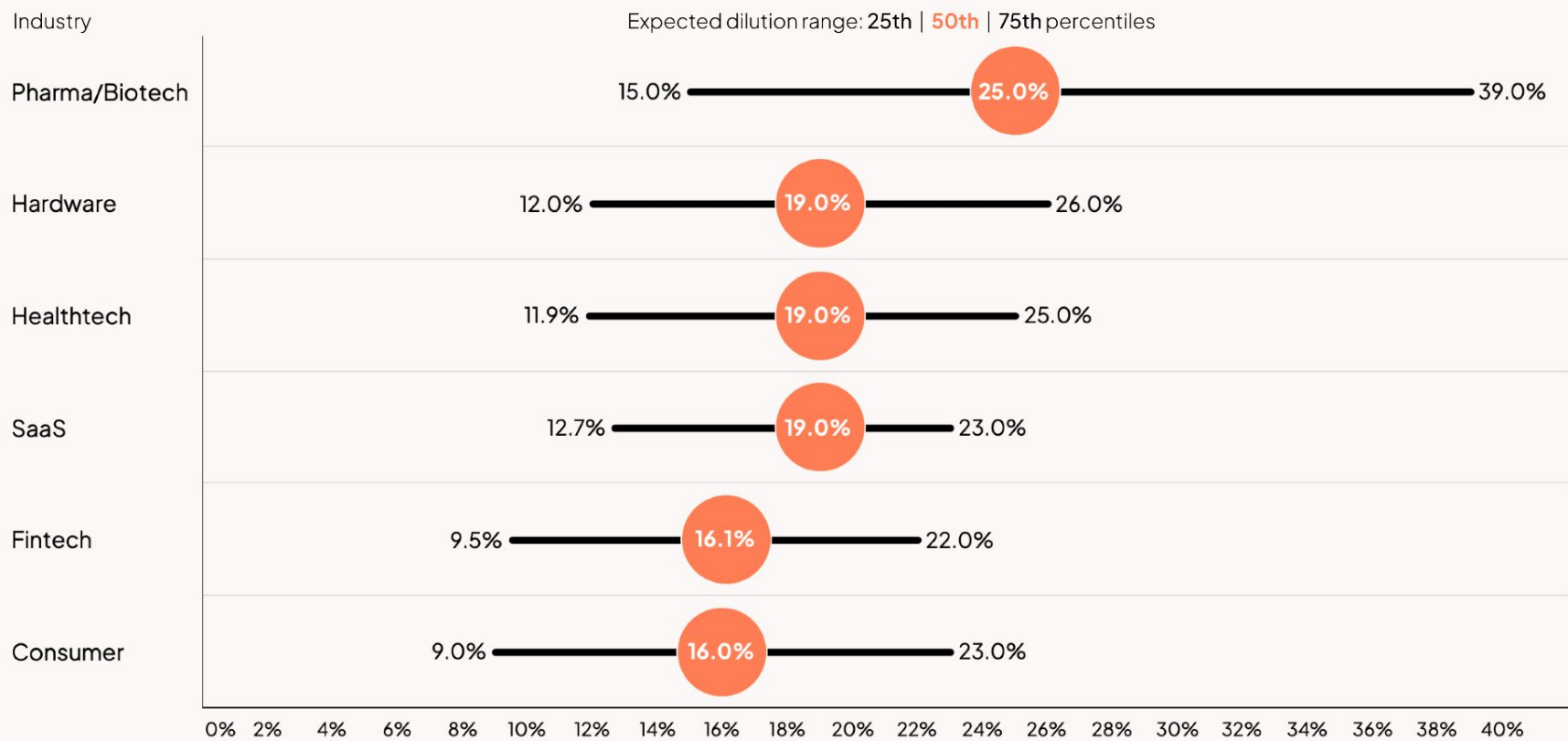
AI is in every single sector these days

X-axis = median cash raised, Y-axis = median pre-money valuation, Bubble Size = number of rounds | January -Oct 2025



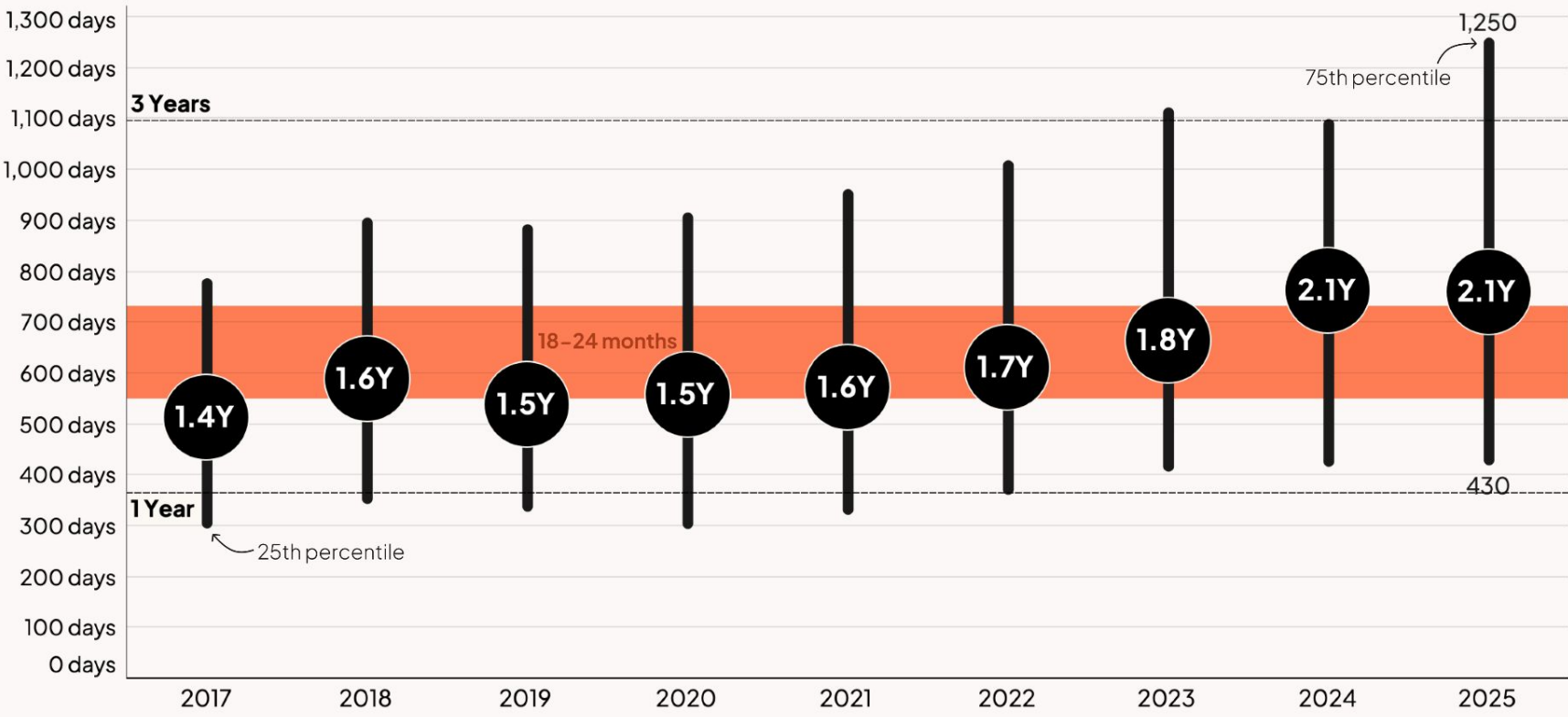
Dilution in the seed round has come down a little in 2025

Range for percent sold in a seed round in 2025 by industry



Startups are taking longer to go from Seed to Series A

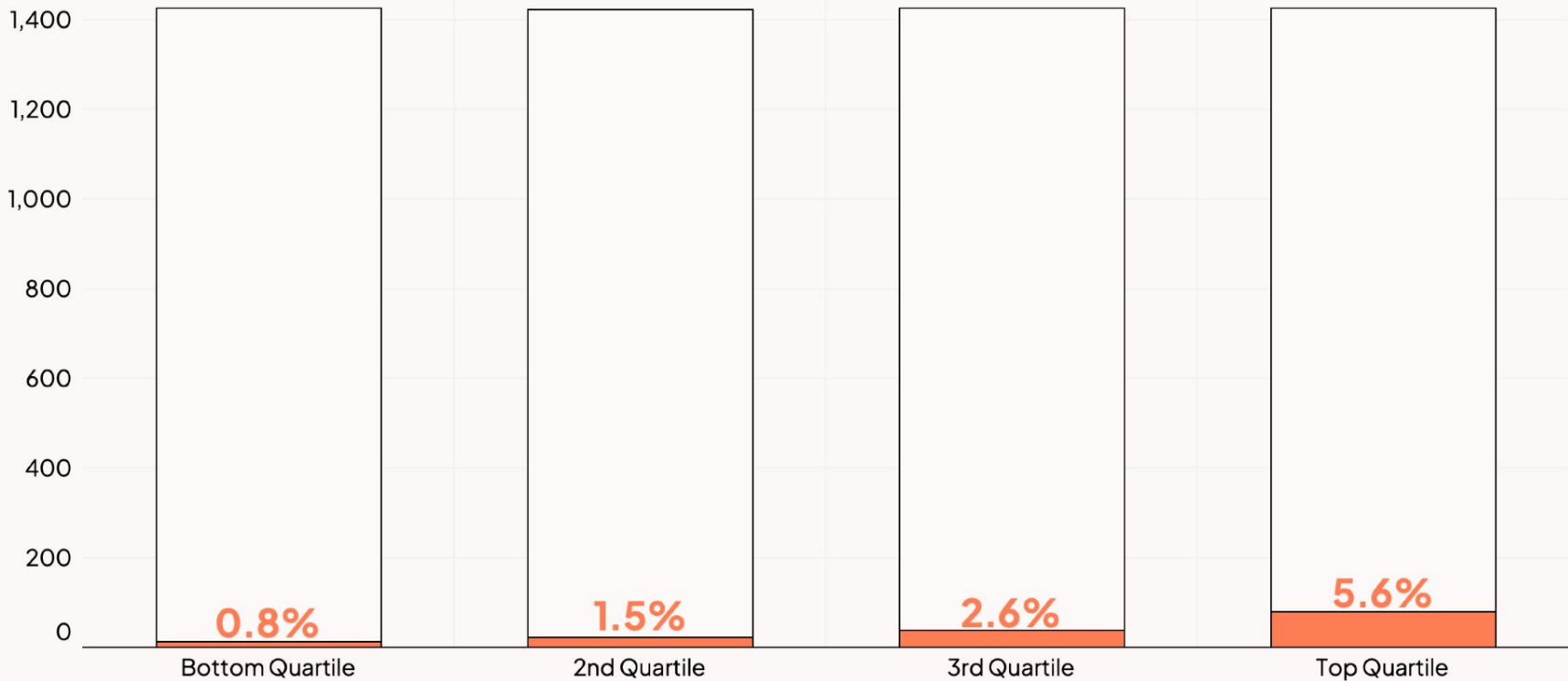
Days between primary Seed and Series A rounds | Q1 2017–Q3 2025 | Circle = median years



Unicorns often appear from the highest quartile of seed valuations

Percent of seed-stage companies on Carta funded between 2106–2020 that became unicorns *at some point*

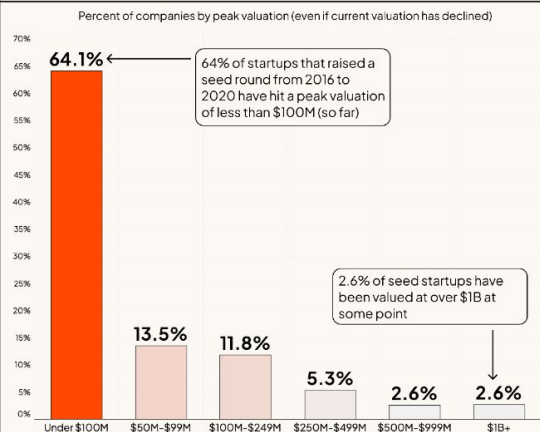
Quartiles split by valuation of the seed relative to other seed rounds in the same year



Extra seed stage graphics

Seed startups grow how big?

Data: 5,705 US software startups on Carta that raised seed between 2016 and 2020

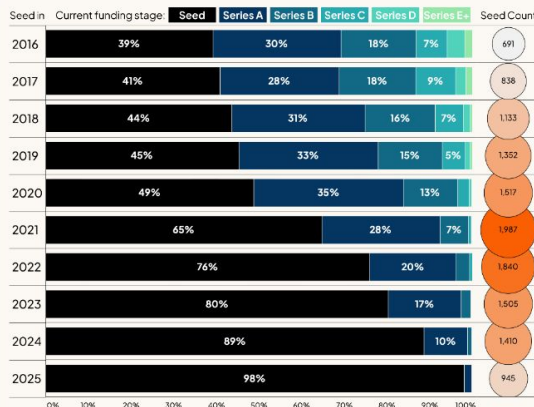


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Will you ever get past Seed?

Is it true that about 50% of startups get to the next round each time?

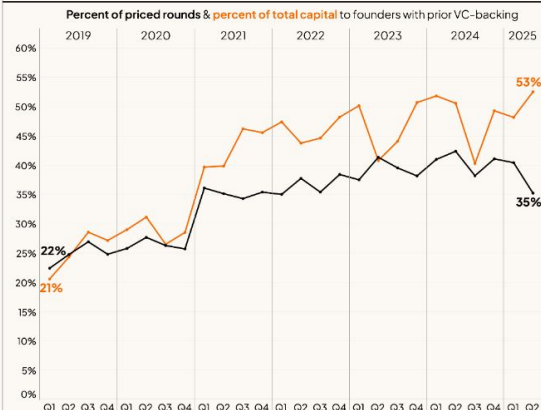
Data: 13,466 seed rounds raised by companies on Carta | Funding stage as of Nov 5th, 2025



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VCs **love** repeat founders

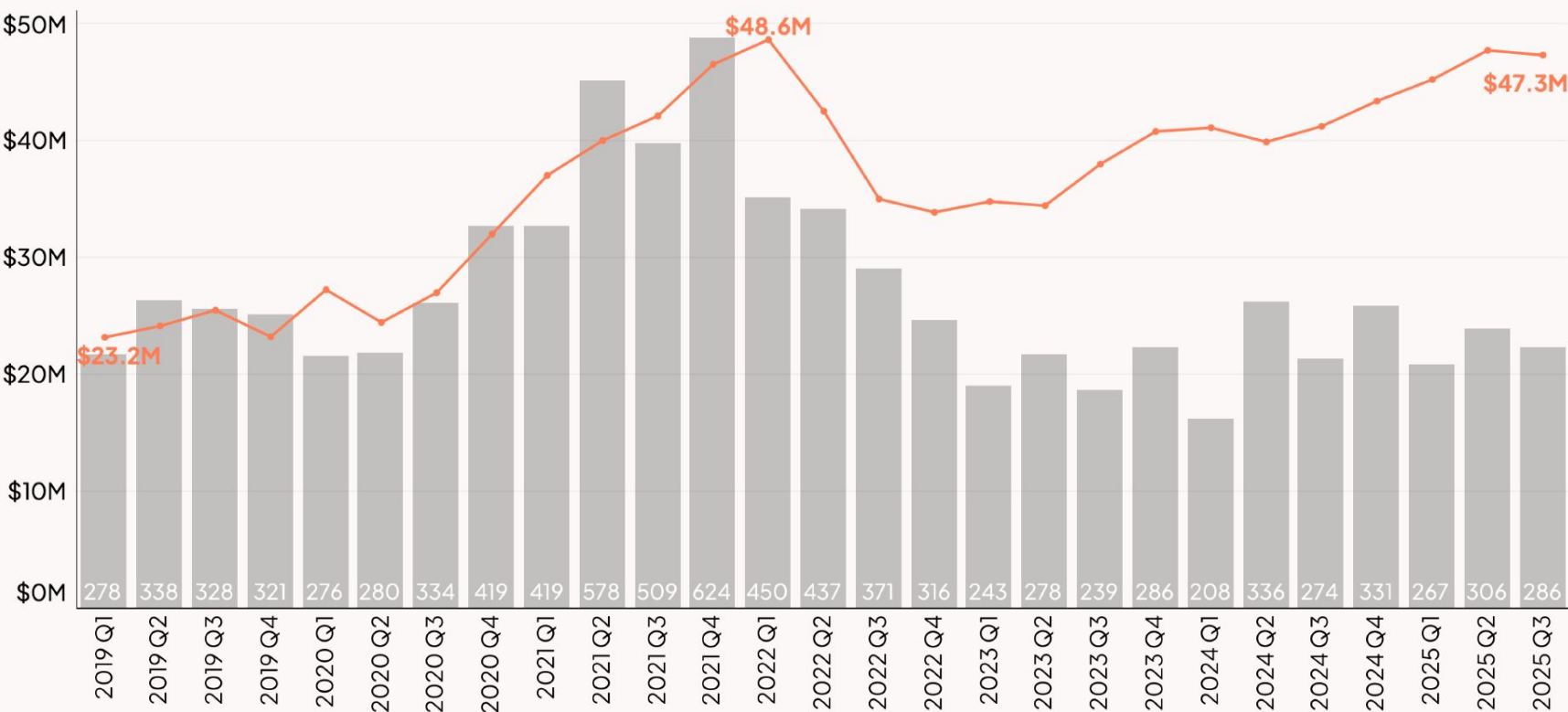
50%+ of Seed & Series A capital goes to founders with a prior VC-backed company | \$242 billion invested into Carta companies, 2019-H1 2025



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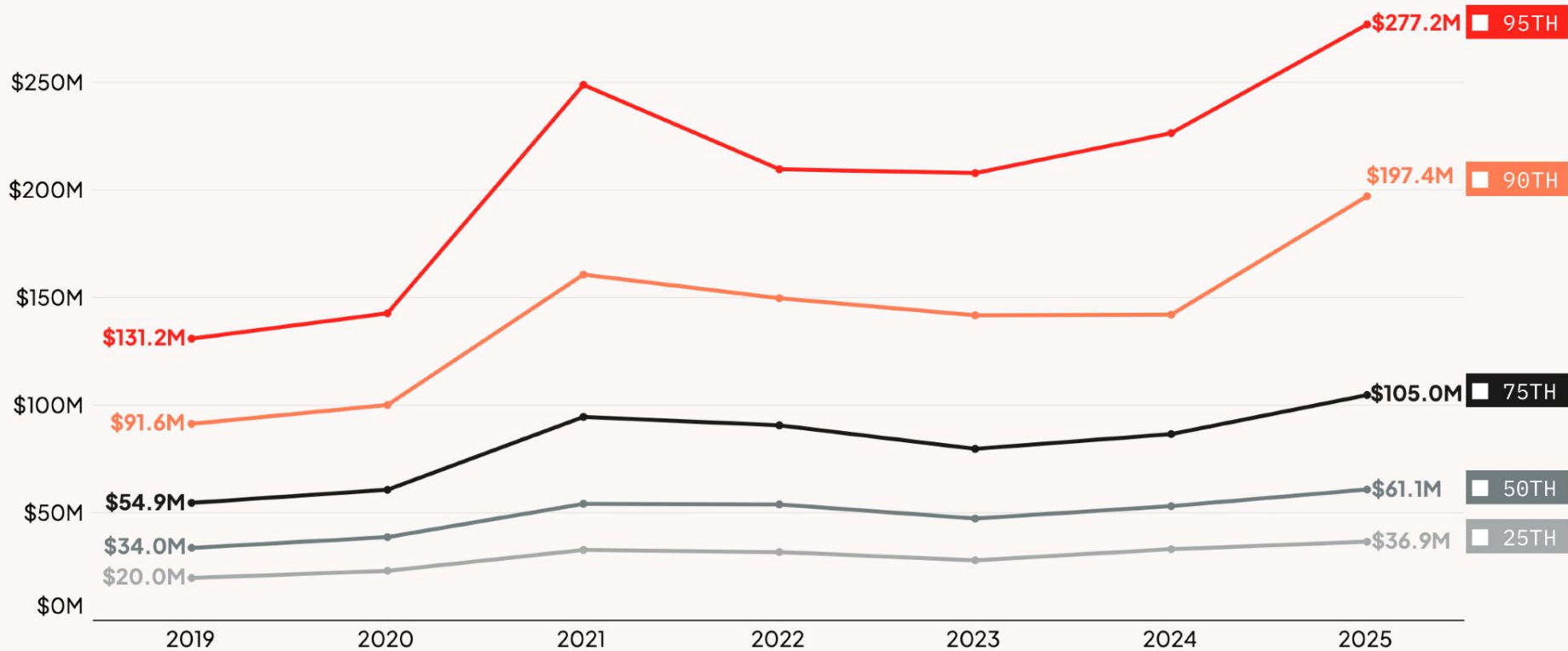
Series A valuations are near record highs

Median **pre-money valuations** and **total primary Series A rounds** on Carta by quarter | Q1 2019–Q3 2025



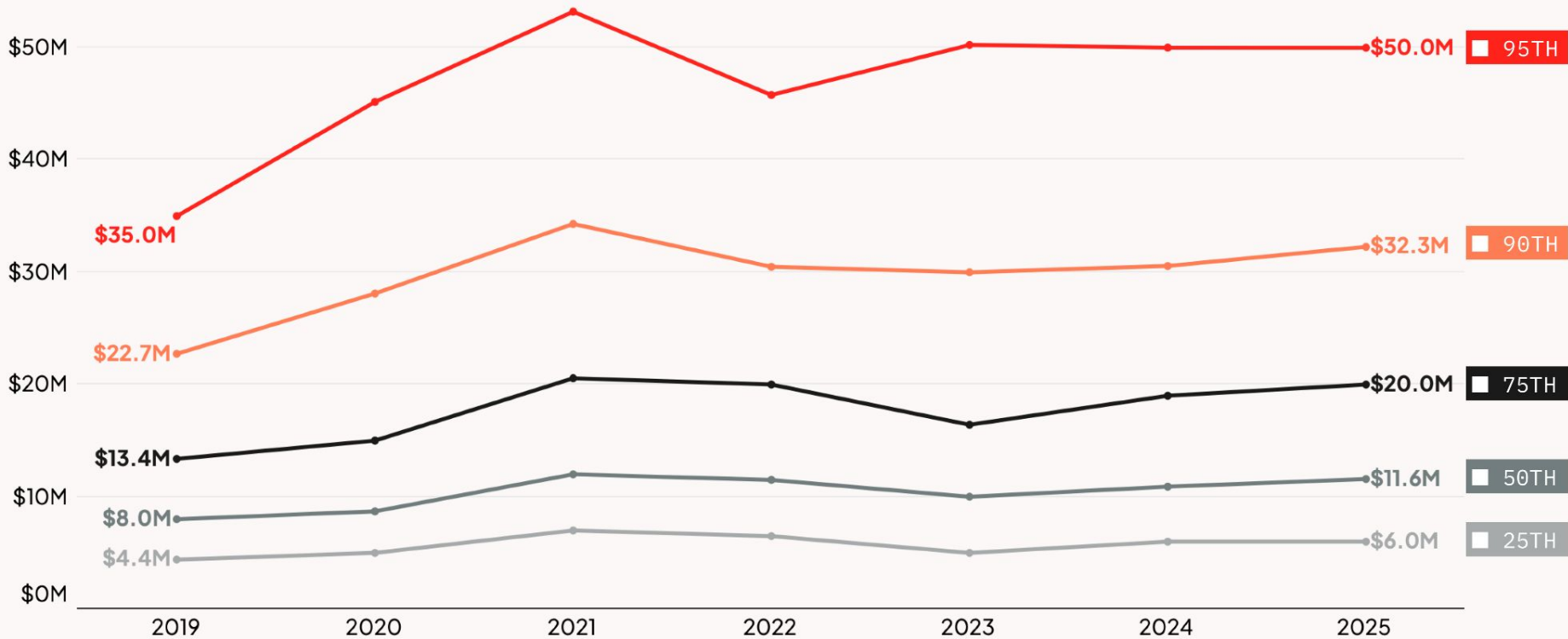
Series A valuations by percentiles

Post-money valuation percentiles for Series A rounds on Carta | Benchmarks by year



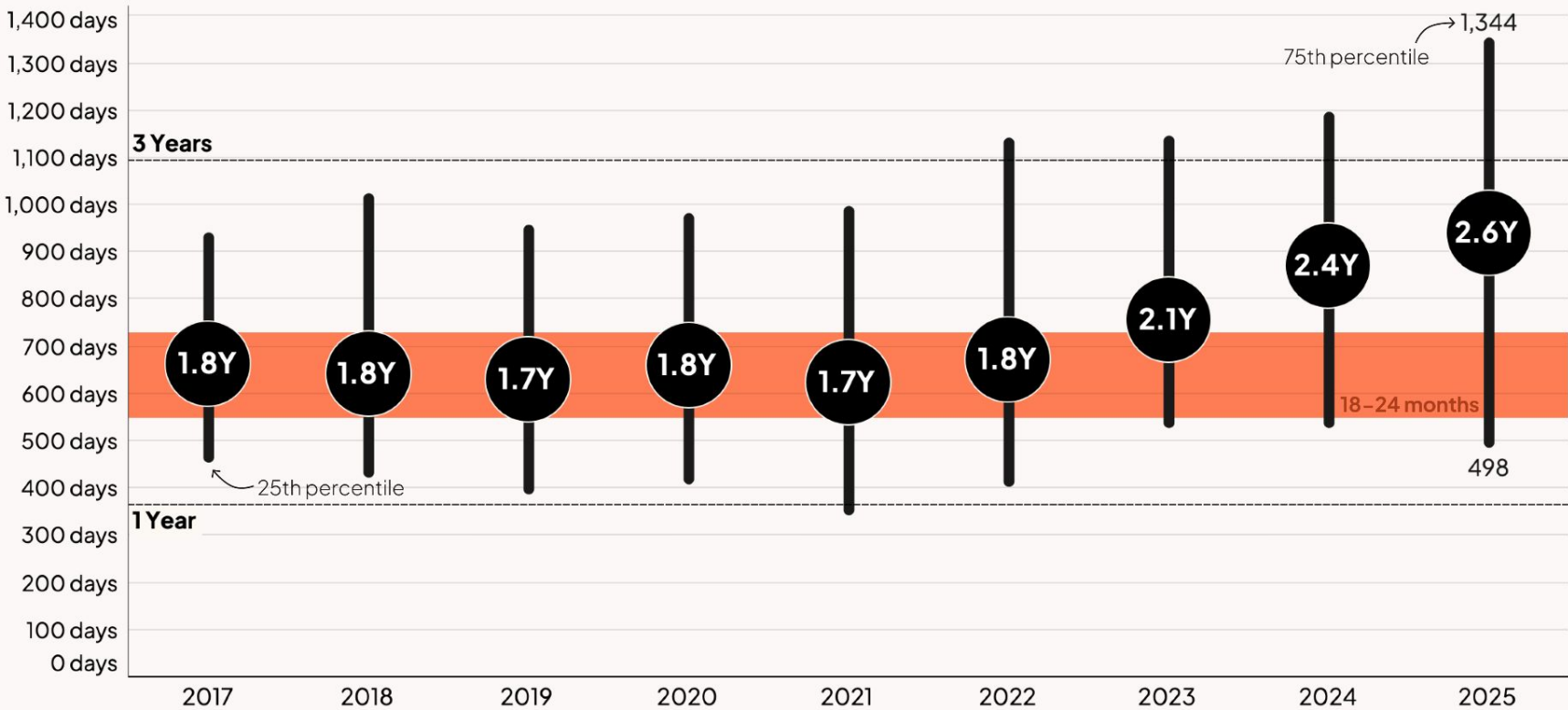
Series A round sizes by percentiles

Round size percentiles for Series A rounds on Carta | Benchmarks by year



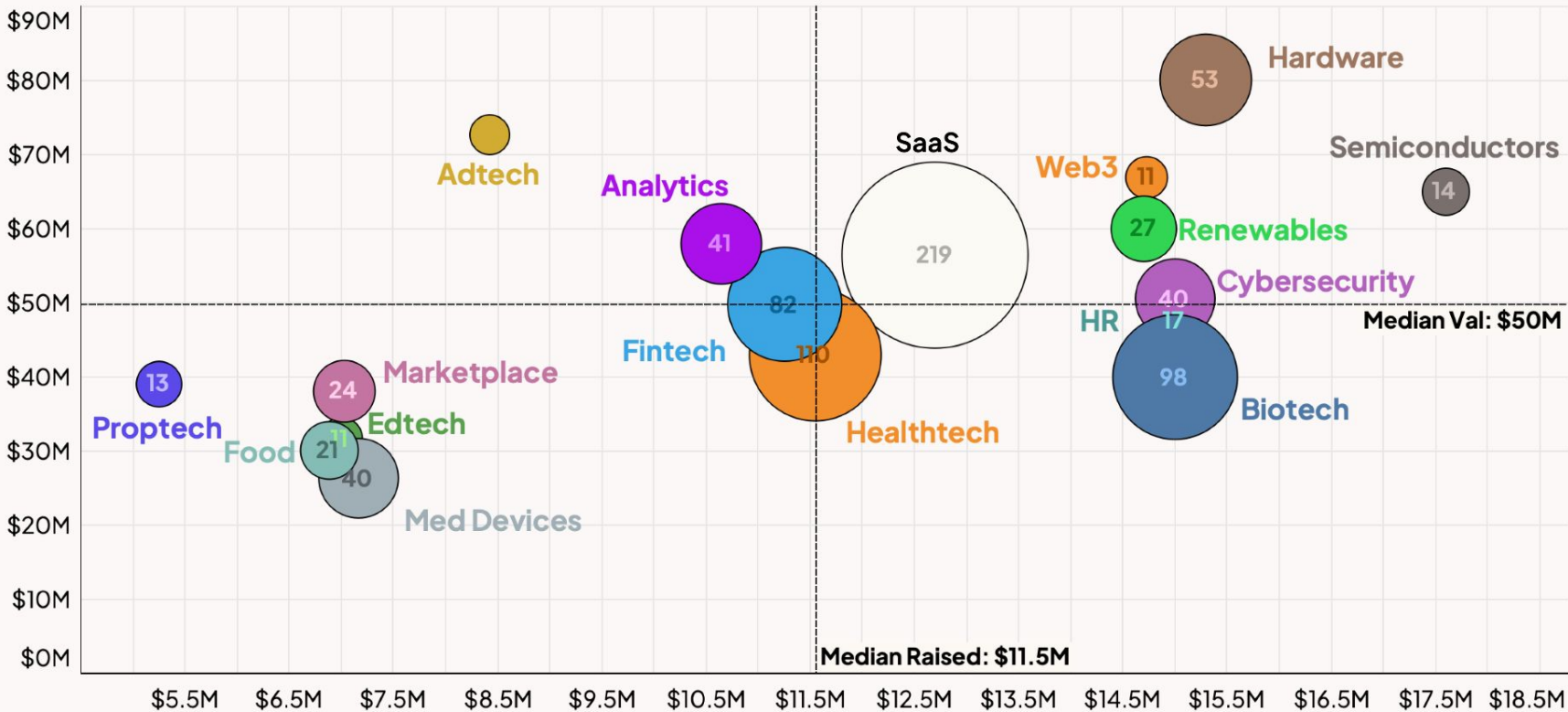
Series A to Series B is elongating

Days between primary Series A and Series B Rounds | Q1 2017–Q3 2025 | Circle = median years



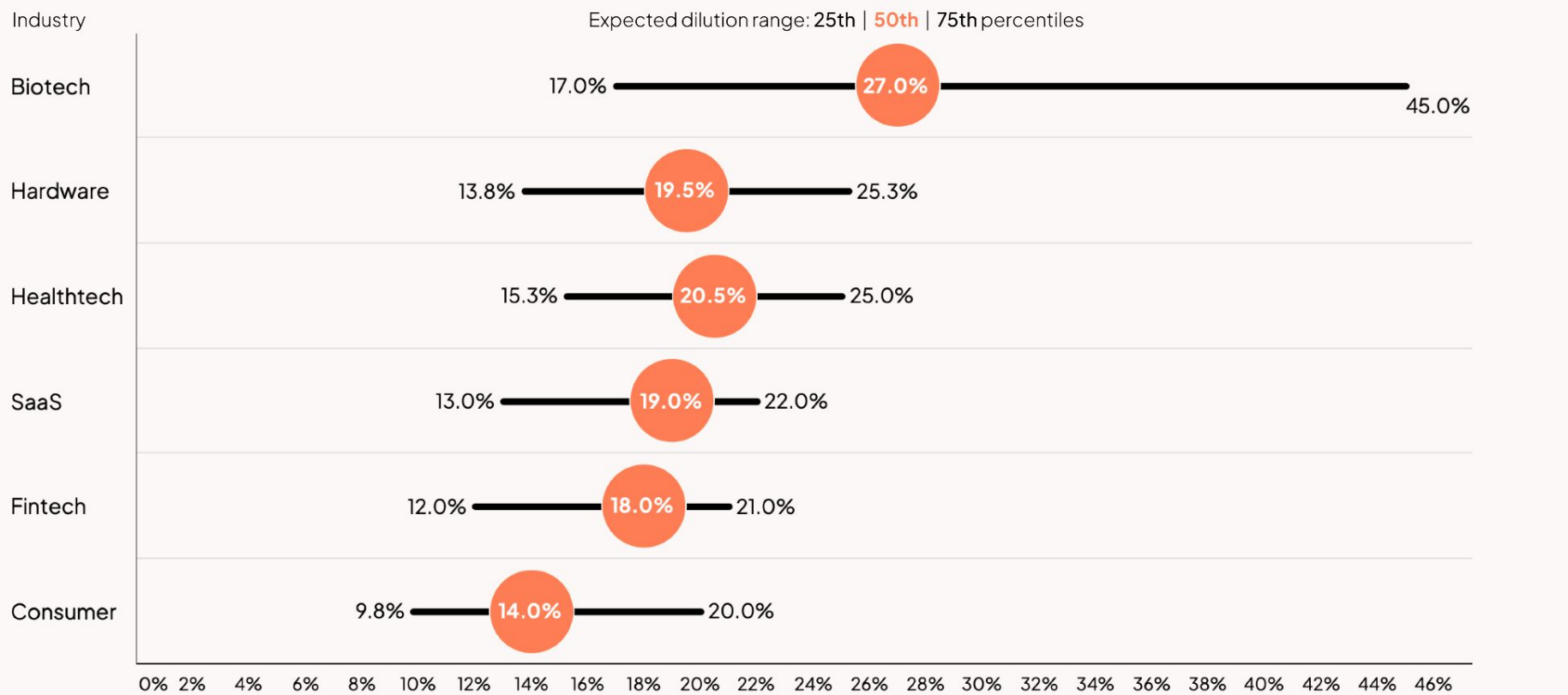
Series A industry benchmarks (there are AI startups in every bubble)

X-axis = median cash raised, Y-axis = median pre-money valuation, Bubble Size = number of rounds | January -Oct 2025



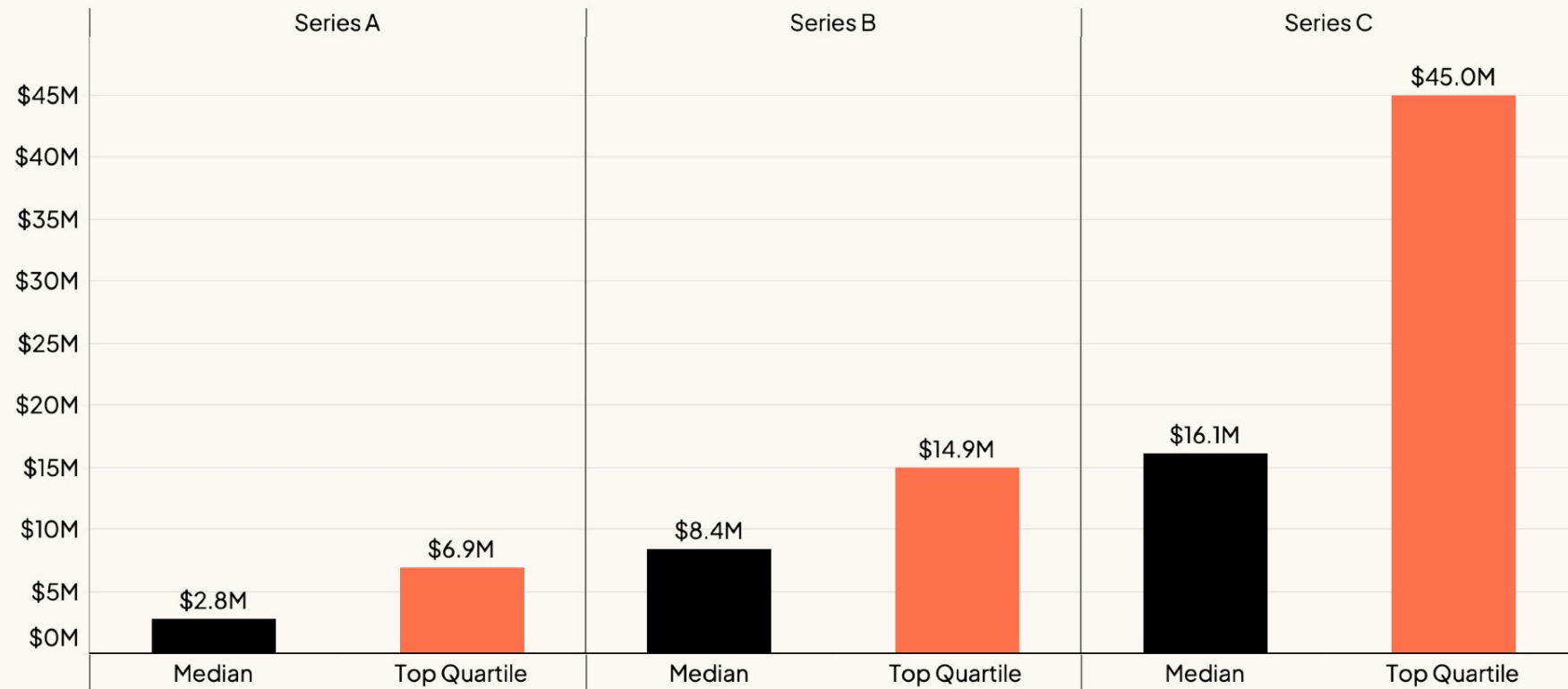
Dilution in the Series A round

Range for percent sold in a Series A round in 2025 by industry



Data from Silicon Valley Bank: ARR at time of fundraise in 2025

Data relates to ARR at fundraise for VC-backed tech companies



VC-Backed Startups

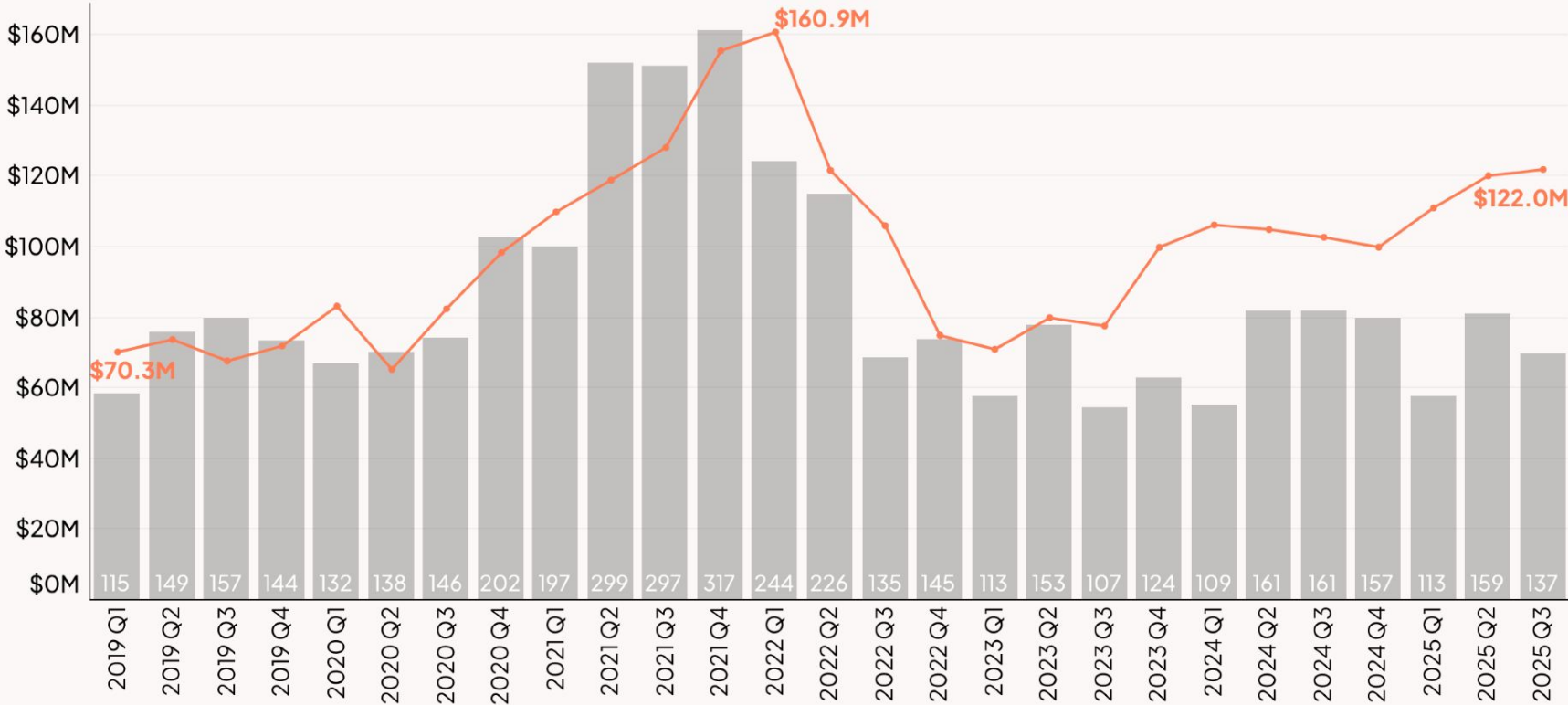
- Overall fundraising landscape
- Cofounders & early teams
- Pre-seed SAFEs & notes
- Early stage (Seed + Series A)
- Growth stage (Series B + C)
- Late stage (Series D+)
- Hiring & employee comp
- Metro area comparisons
- Founder ownership over time

Venture Funds

- Funds & dry powder
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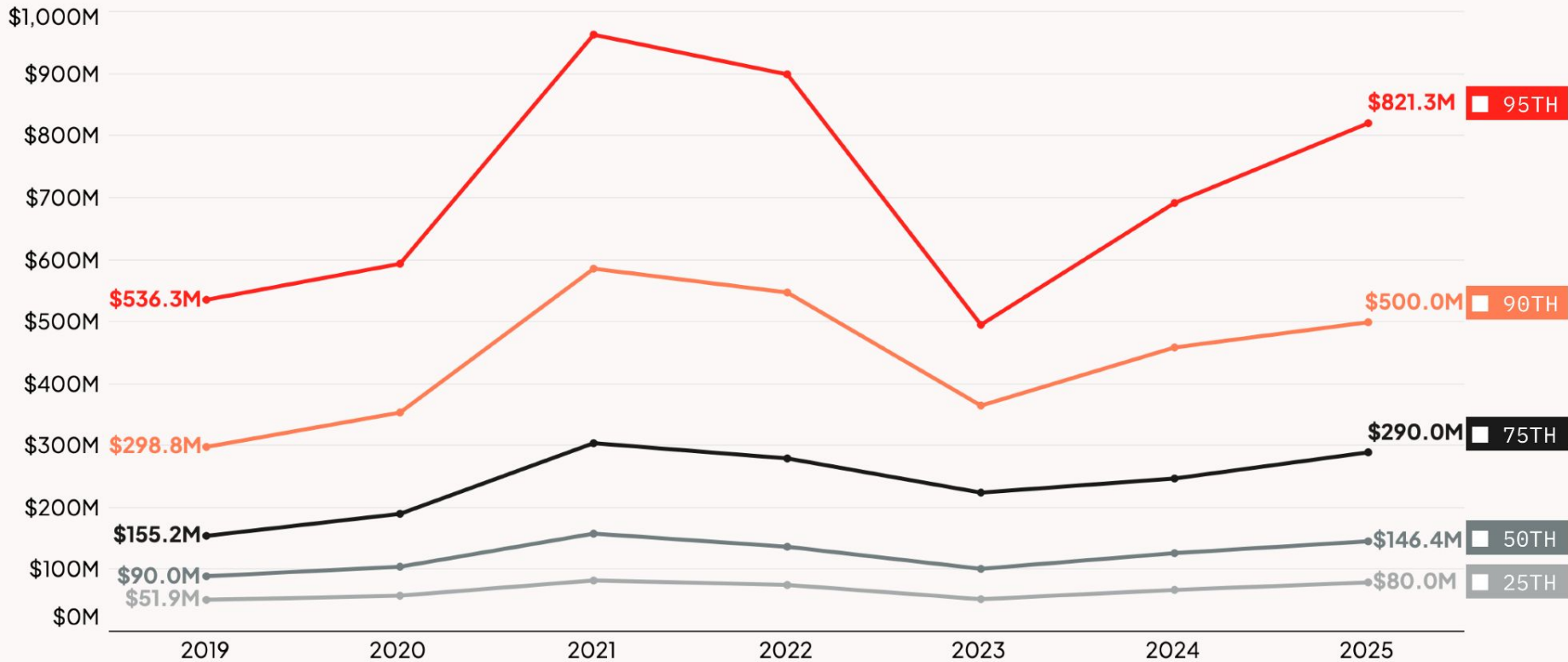
Series B valuations are climbing again

Median **pre-money valuations** and total primary Series B rounds on Carta by quarter | Q1 2019–Q3 2025



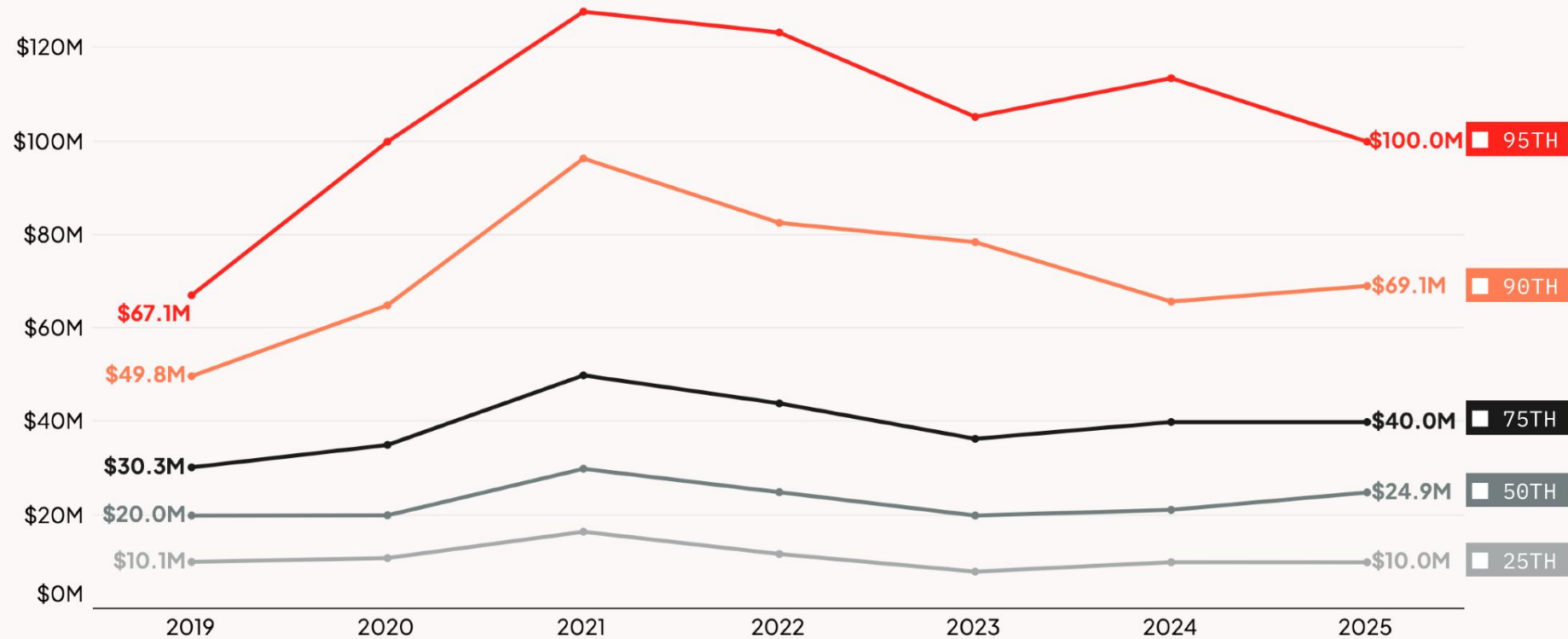
Series B valuations by percentiles

Post-money valuation percentiles for rounds on Carta | Benchmarks by year



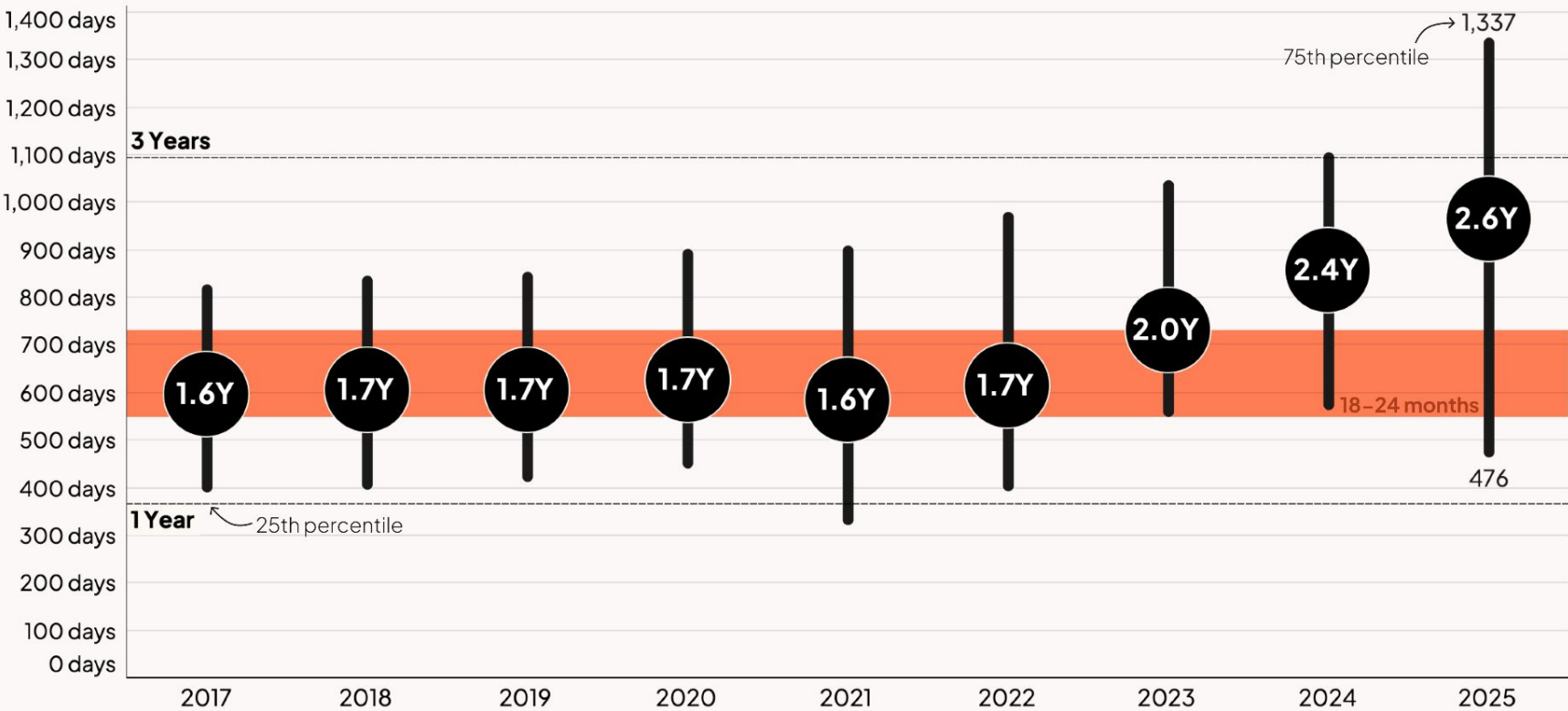
Series B round sizes by percentiles

Round size percentiles for ounds on Carta | Benchmarks by year



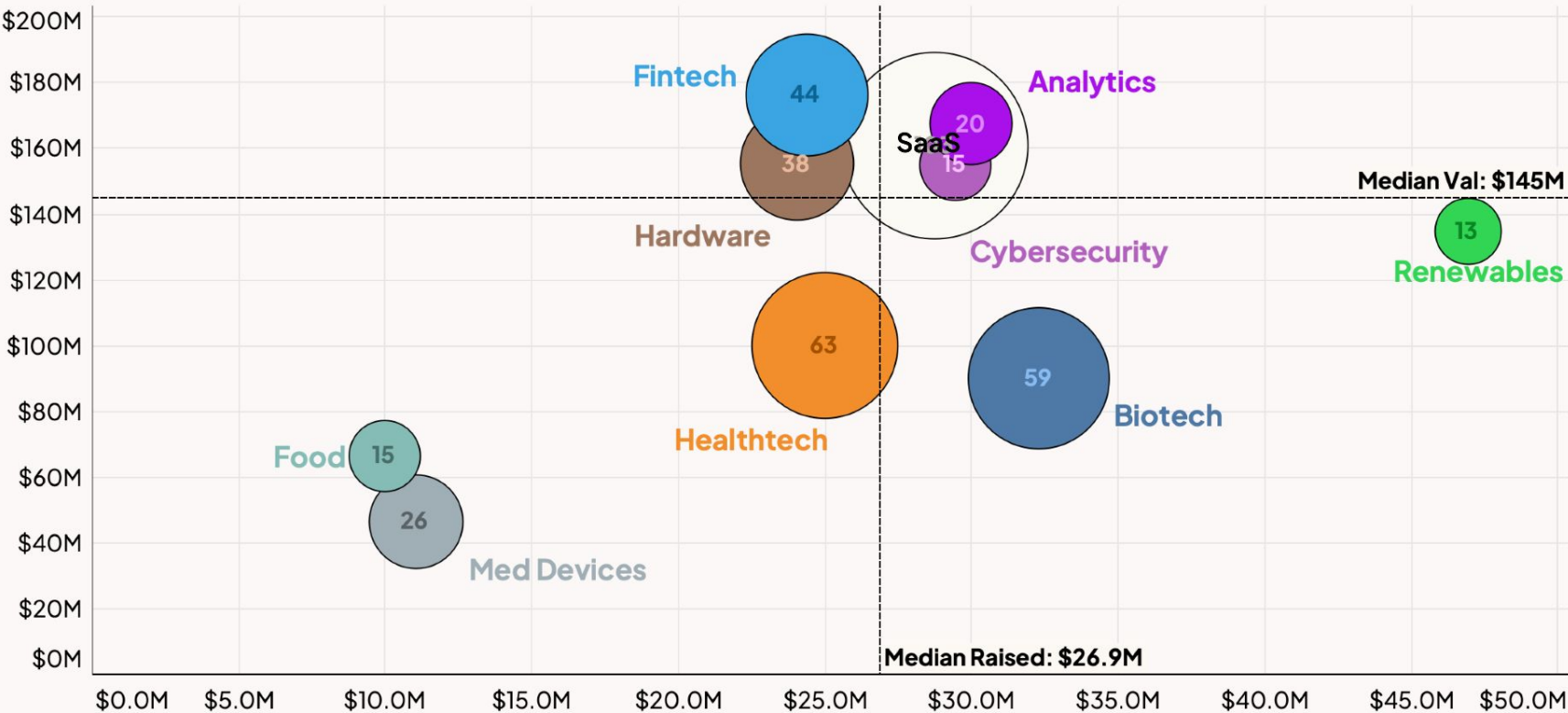
Series B to Series C is longer than ever

Days between primary Series B and Series C rounds | Q1 2017–Q3 2025 | Circle = median years



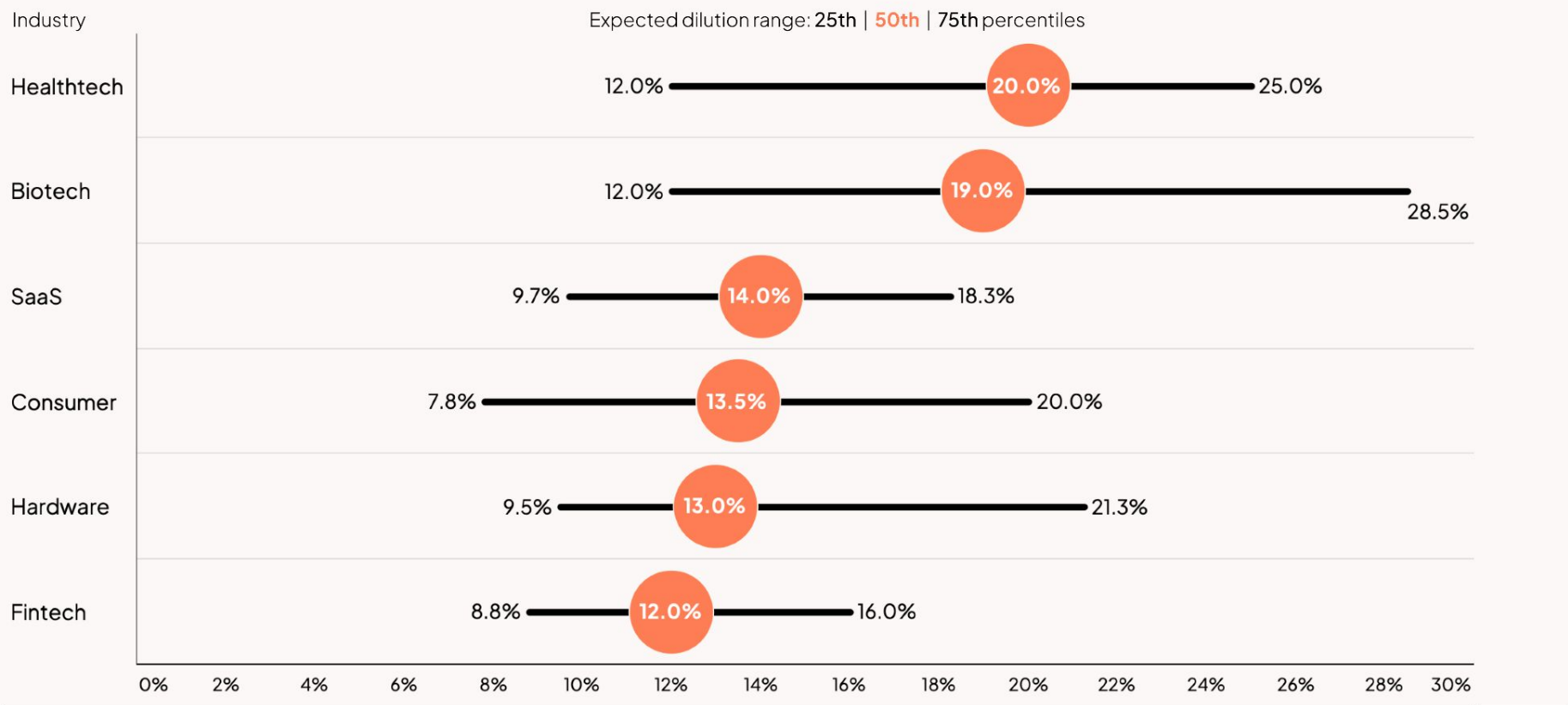
Series B industry benchmarks (there are AI startups in every bubble)

X-axis = median cash raised, Y-axis = median pre-money valuation, Bubble Size = number of rounds | January - Oct 2025



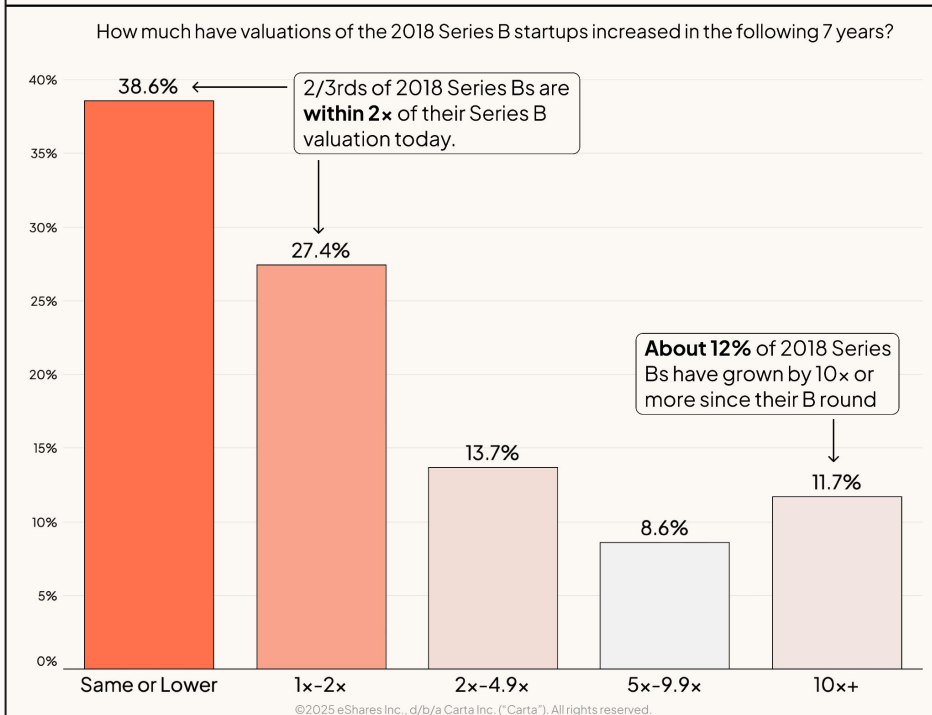
Dilution in the Series B round

Range for percent sold in a Series B round in 2025 by industry



What happened to the other Series B companies from Figma's year (2018)? 🎨

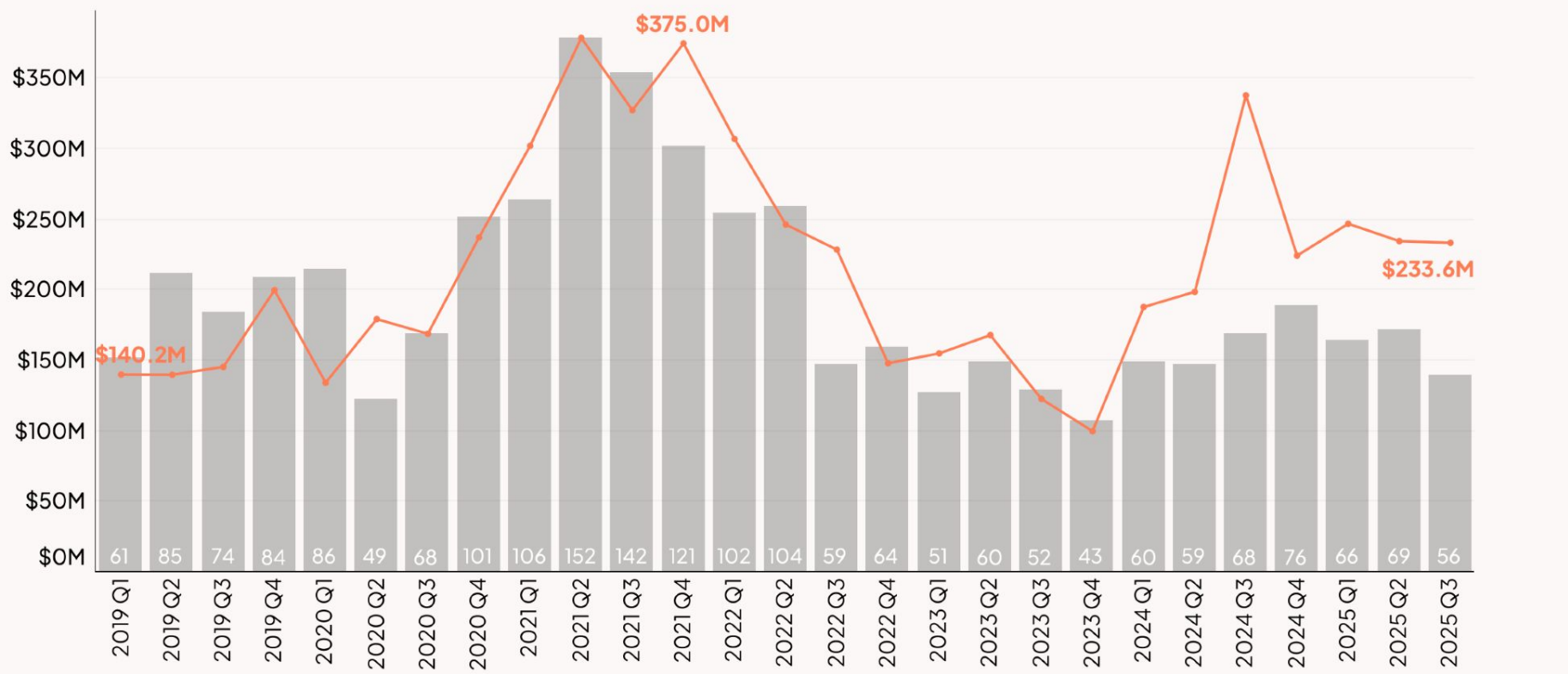
Data: 547 US startups on Carta that raised primary Series B capital in 2018



Stats on the progression from Series B to eventual outcome from the 2018 Series B class

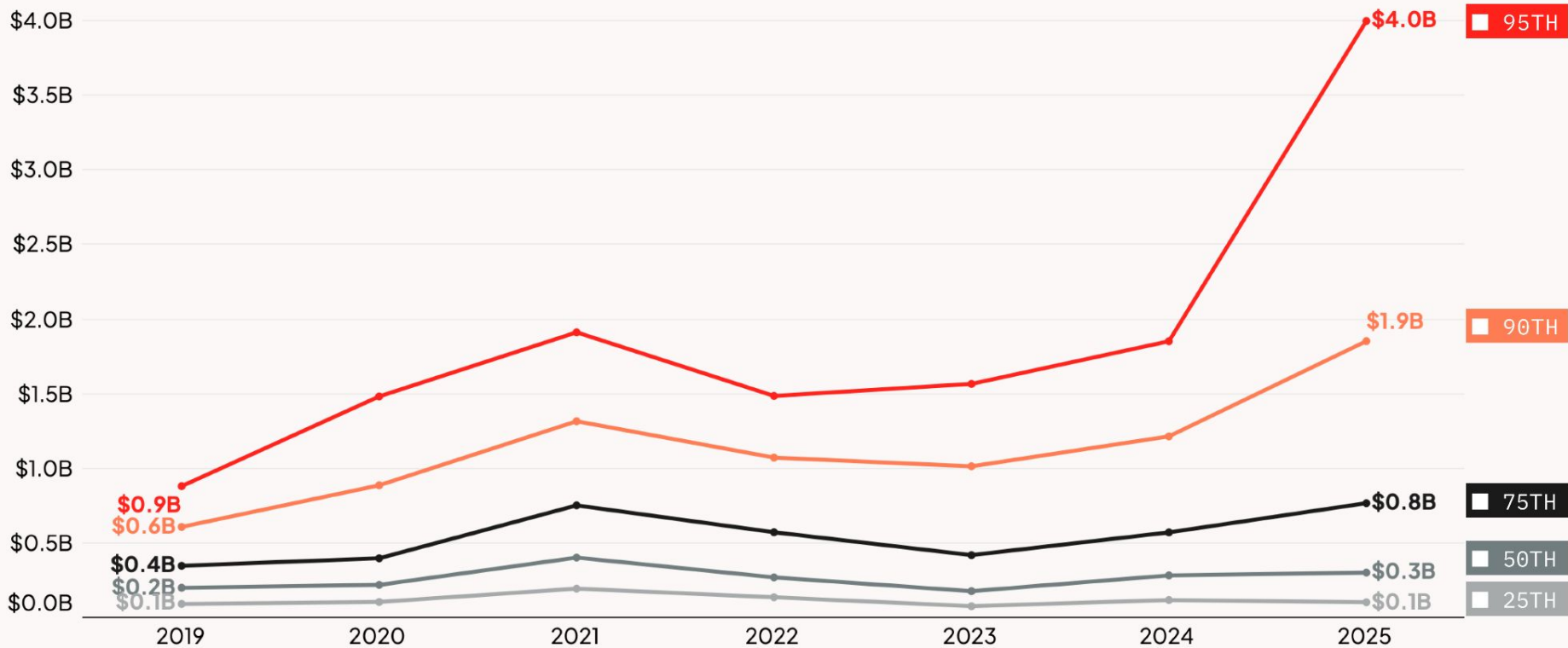
Series C valuations are well above recent lows

Median **pre-money valuations** and total primary Series C rounds on Carta by quarter | Q1 2019–Q3 2025



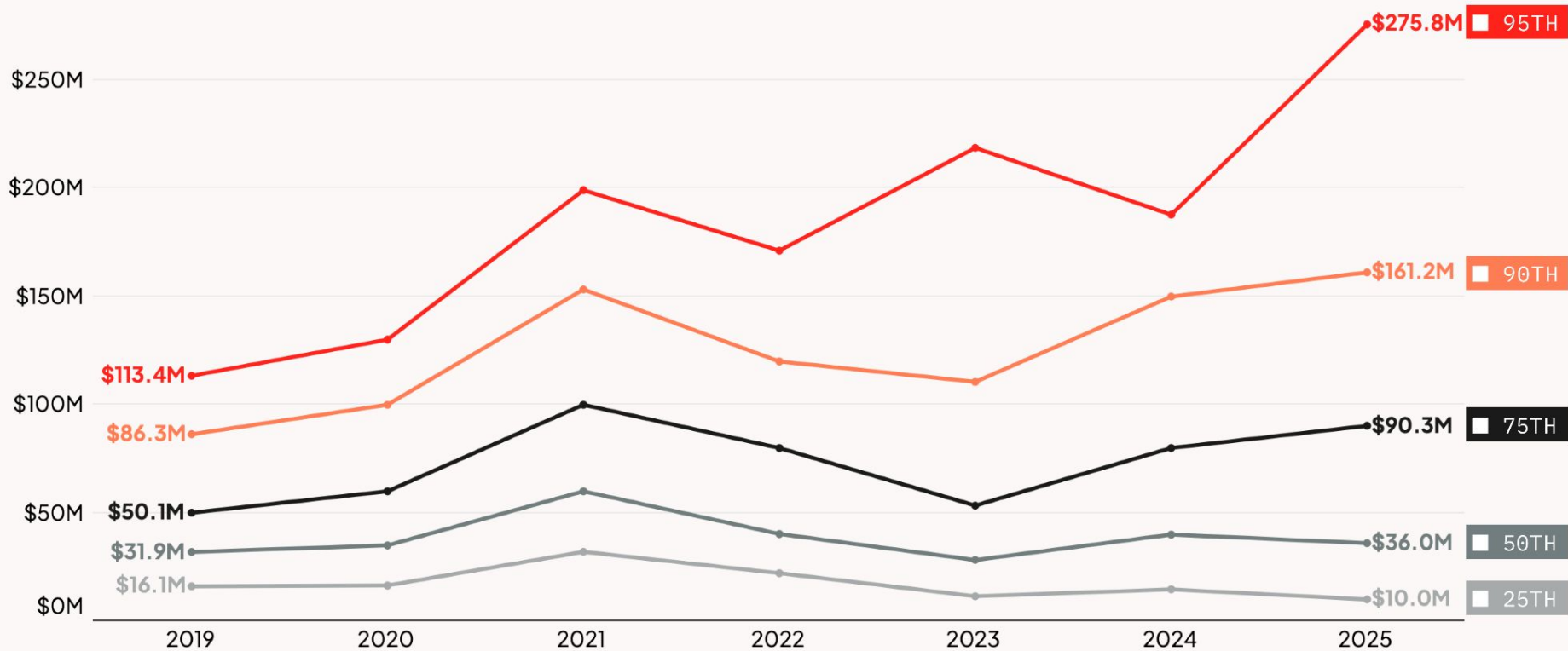
Series C valuations by percentiles

Post-money valuation percentiles for rounds on Carta | Benchmarks by year



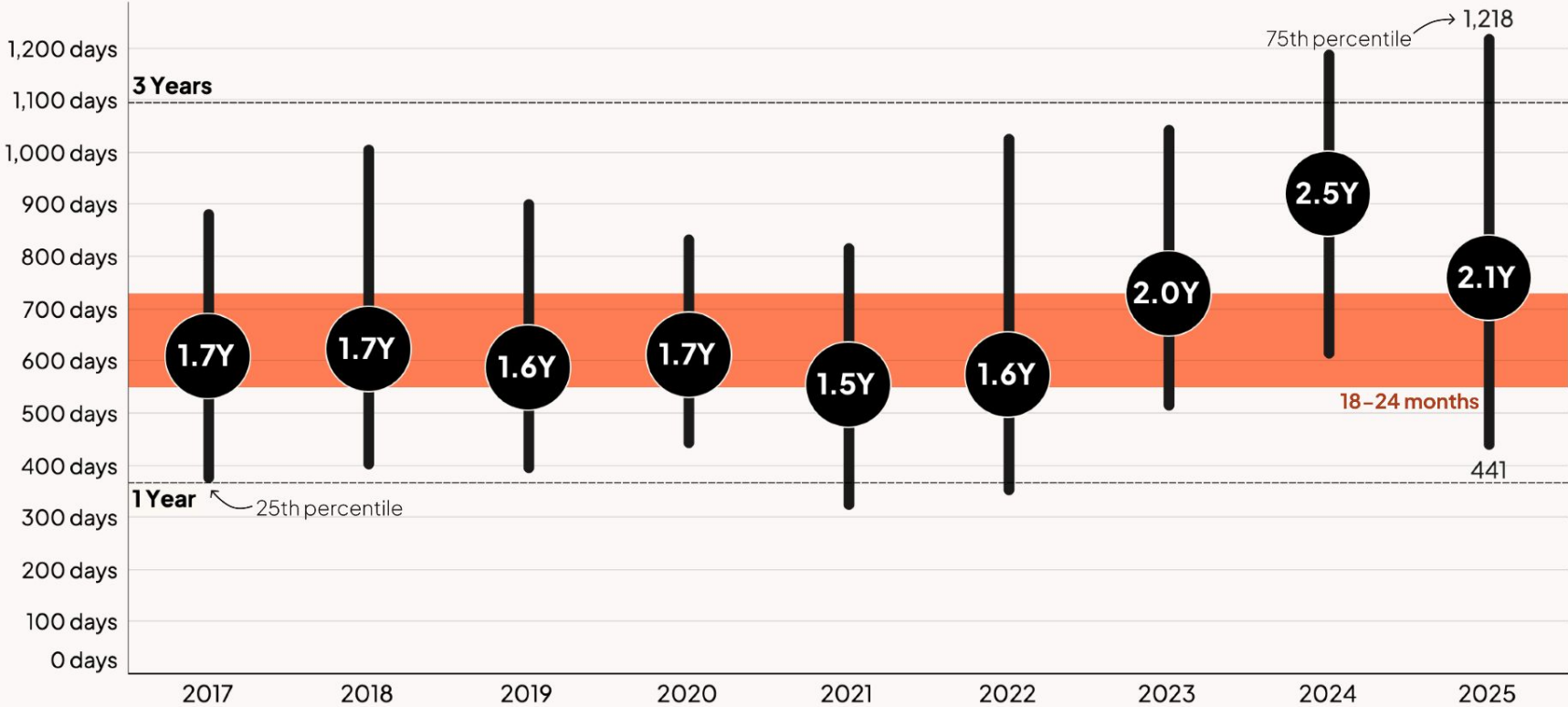
Series C round sizes by percentiles

Round size percentiles for rounds on Carta | Benchmarks by year



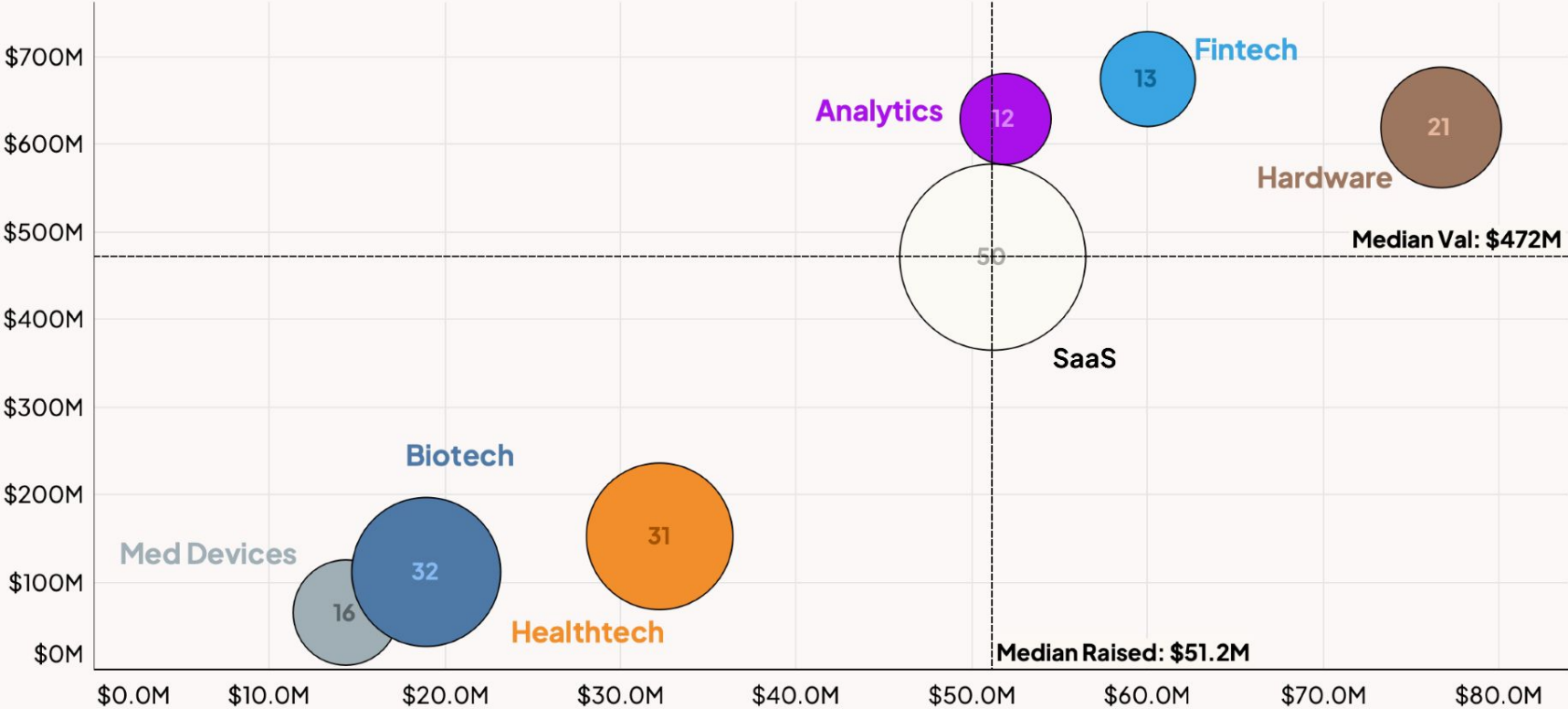
Series C to Series D got shorter this past year

Days between primary Series C and Series D rounds | Q1 2017–Q3 2025 | Circle = median years



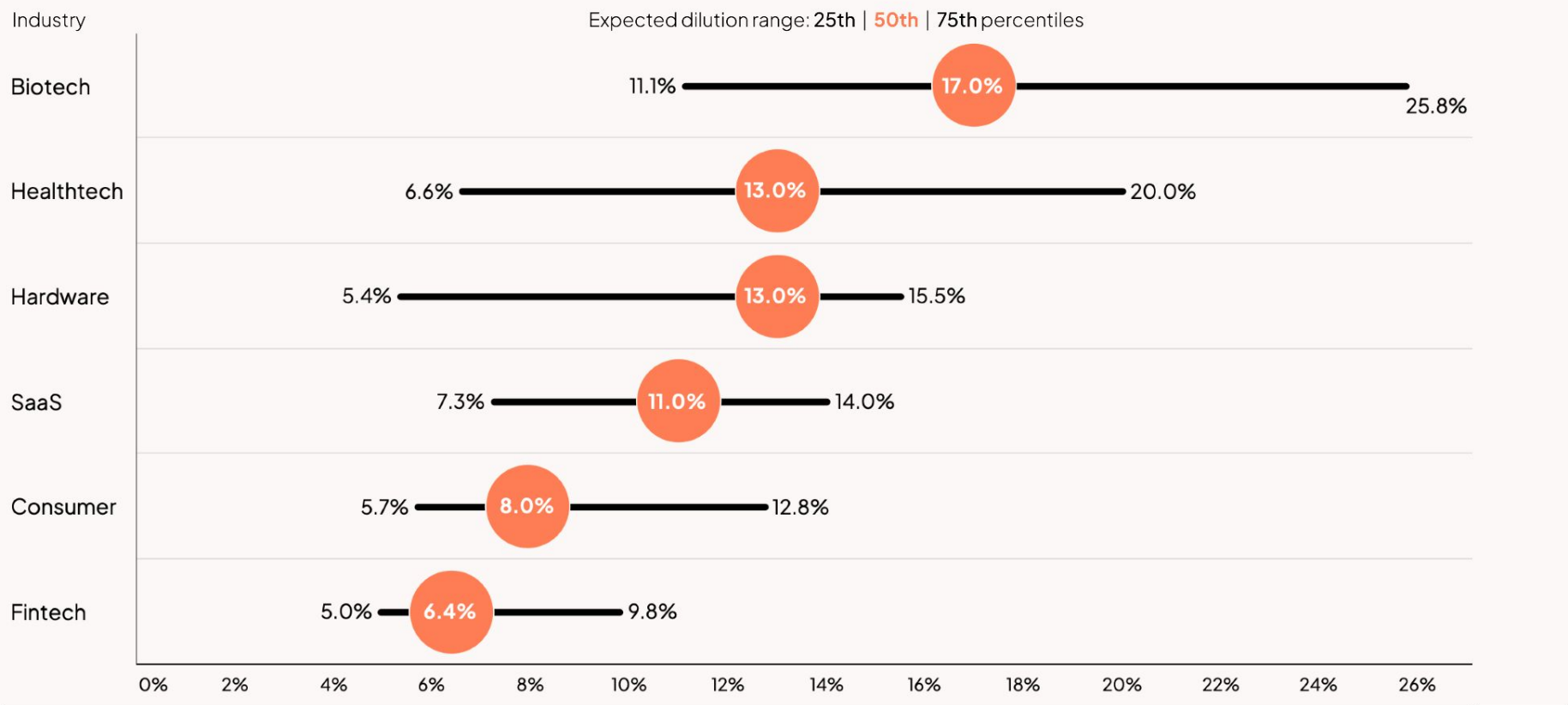
Series C industry benchmarks (there are AI startups in every bubble)

X-axis = median cash raised, Y-axis = median pre-money valuation, Bubble Size = number of rounds | January - Oct 2025



Dilution in the Series C round

Range for percent sold in a Series C round in 2025 by industry



VC-Backed Startups

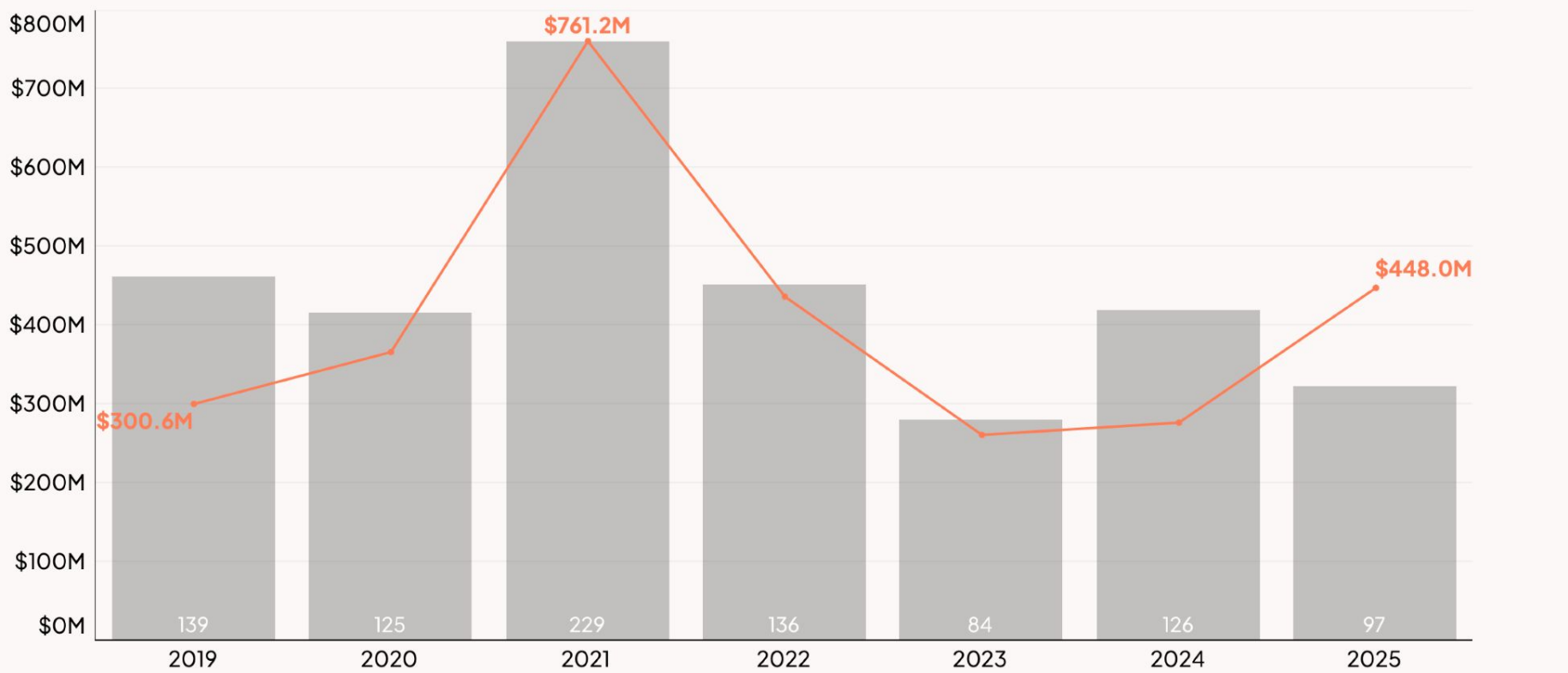
- Overall fundraising landscape
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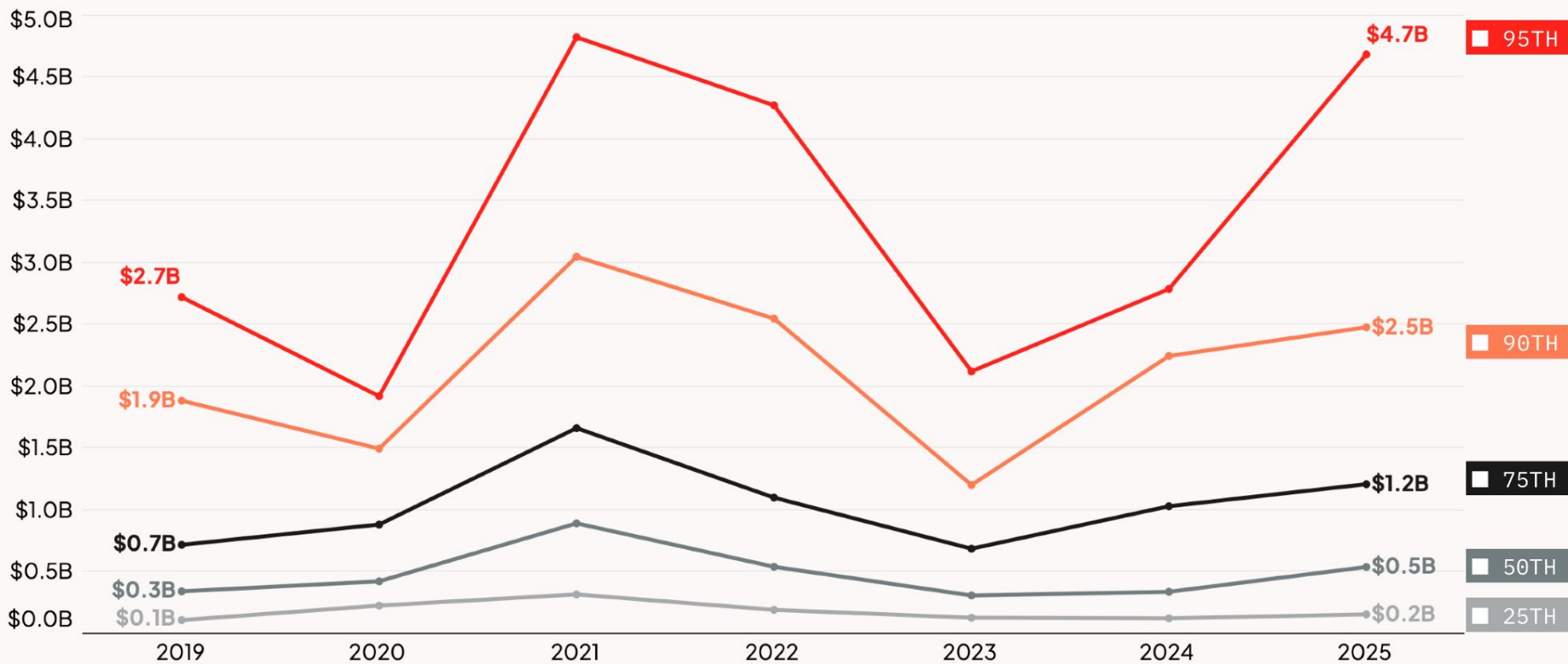
Series D valuations are well above recent lows

Median **pre-money valuations** and total primary Series C rounds on Carta by quarter | Q1 2019–Q3 2025



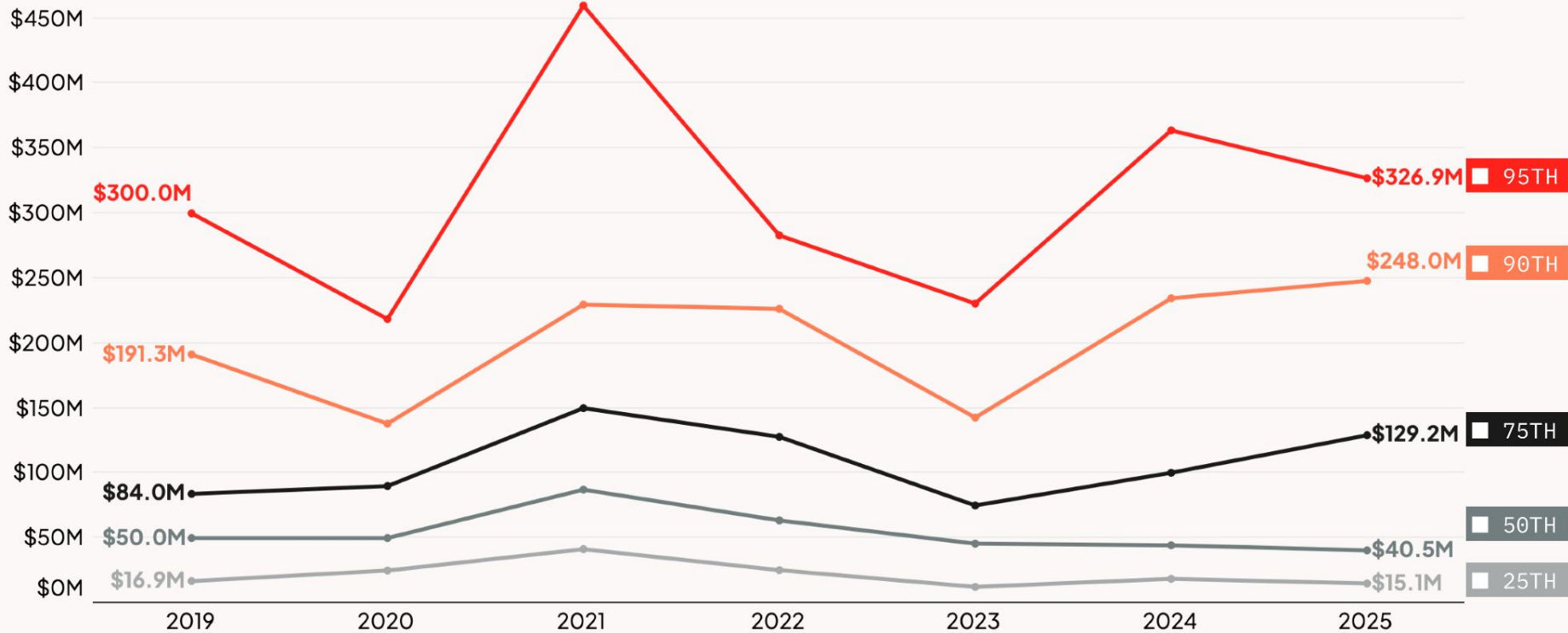
Series D valuations by percentiles

Post-money valuation percentiles for rounds on Carta | Benchmarks by year



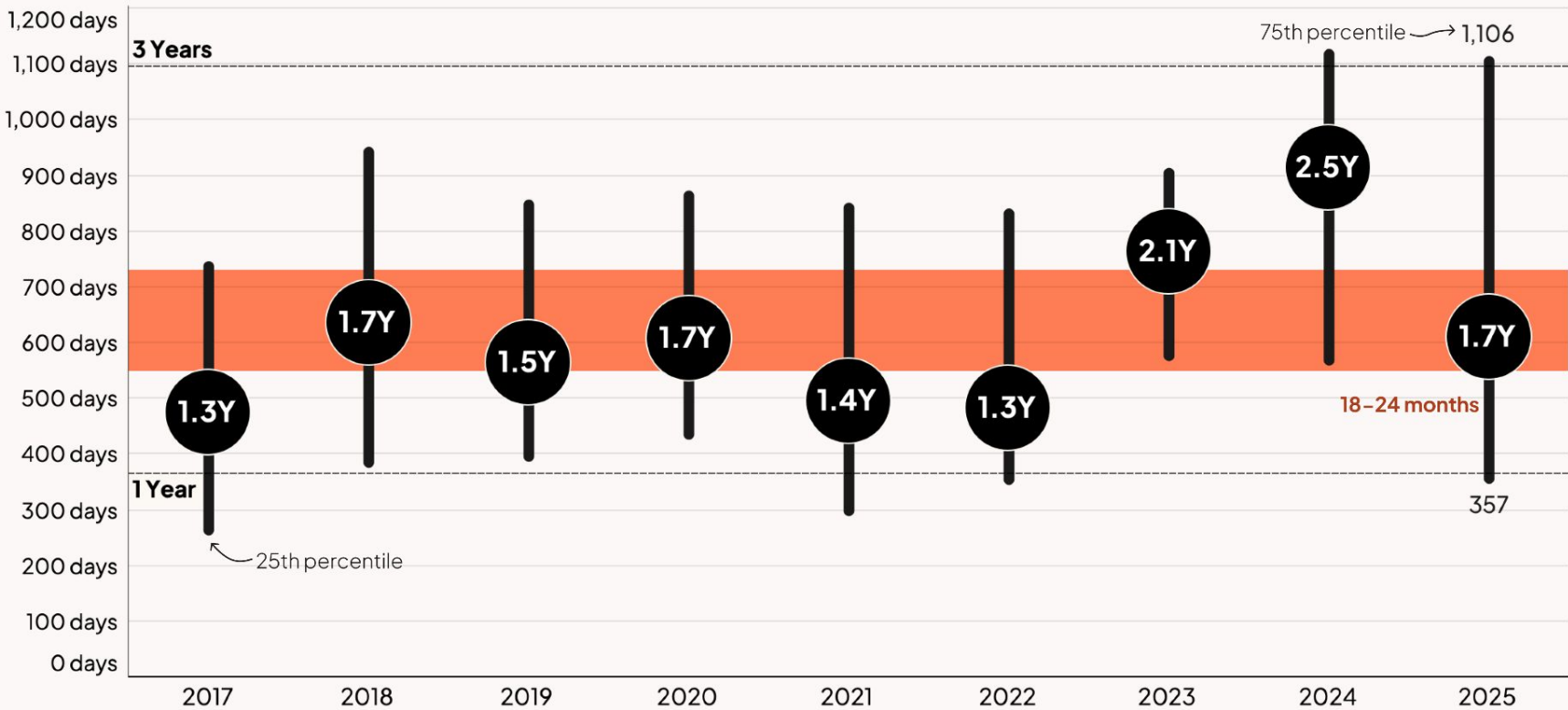
Series D round sizes by percentiles

Round size percentiles for rounds on Carta | Benchmarks by year



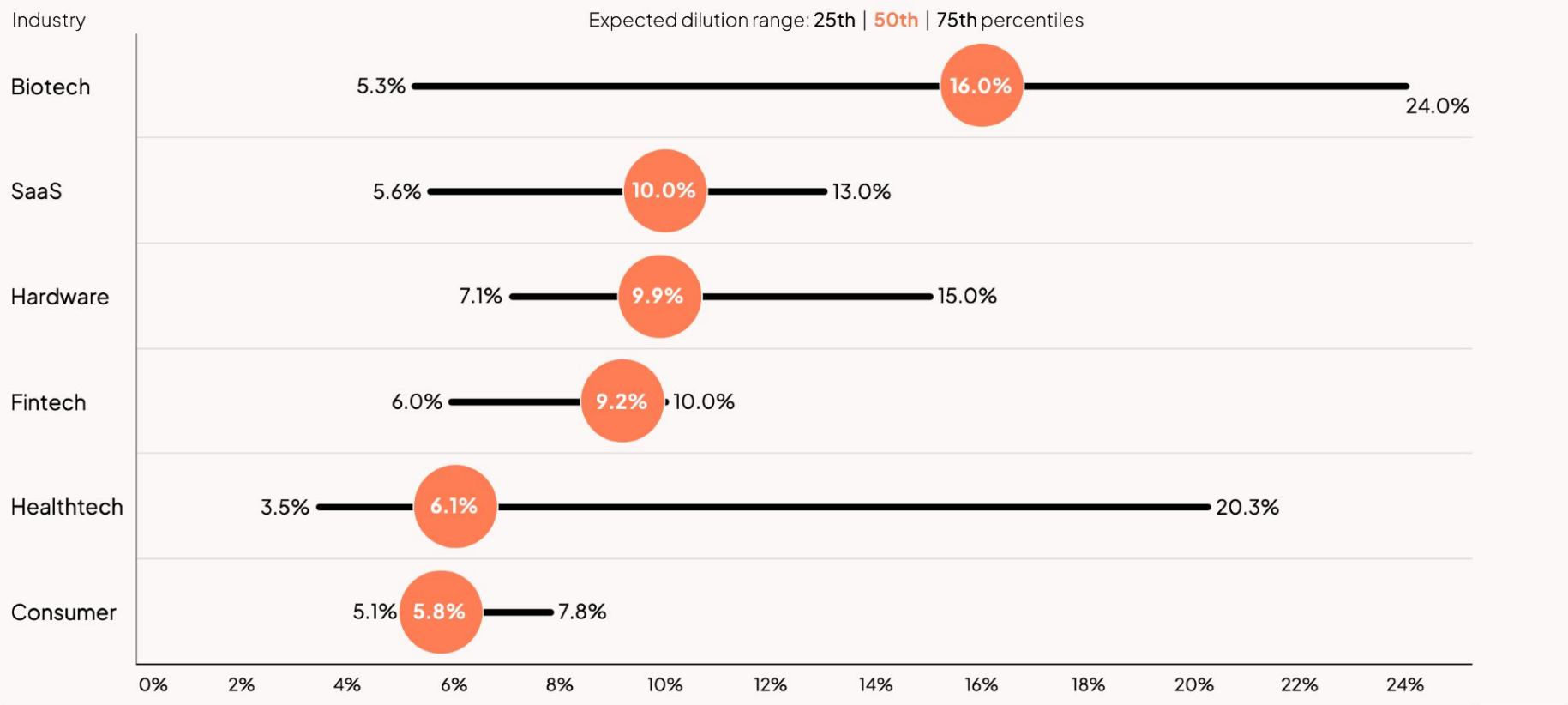
Series D to Series E got shorter this past year

Days between primary Series D and Series E rounds | Q1 2017–Q3 2025 | Circle = median years



Dilution in the Series D round

Range for percent sold in a Series D round in 2025 by industry



VC-Backed Startups

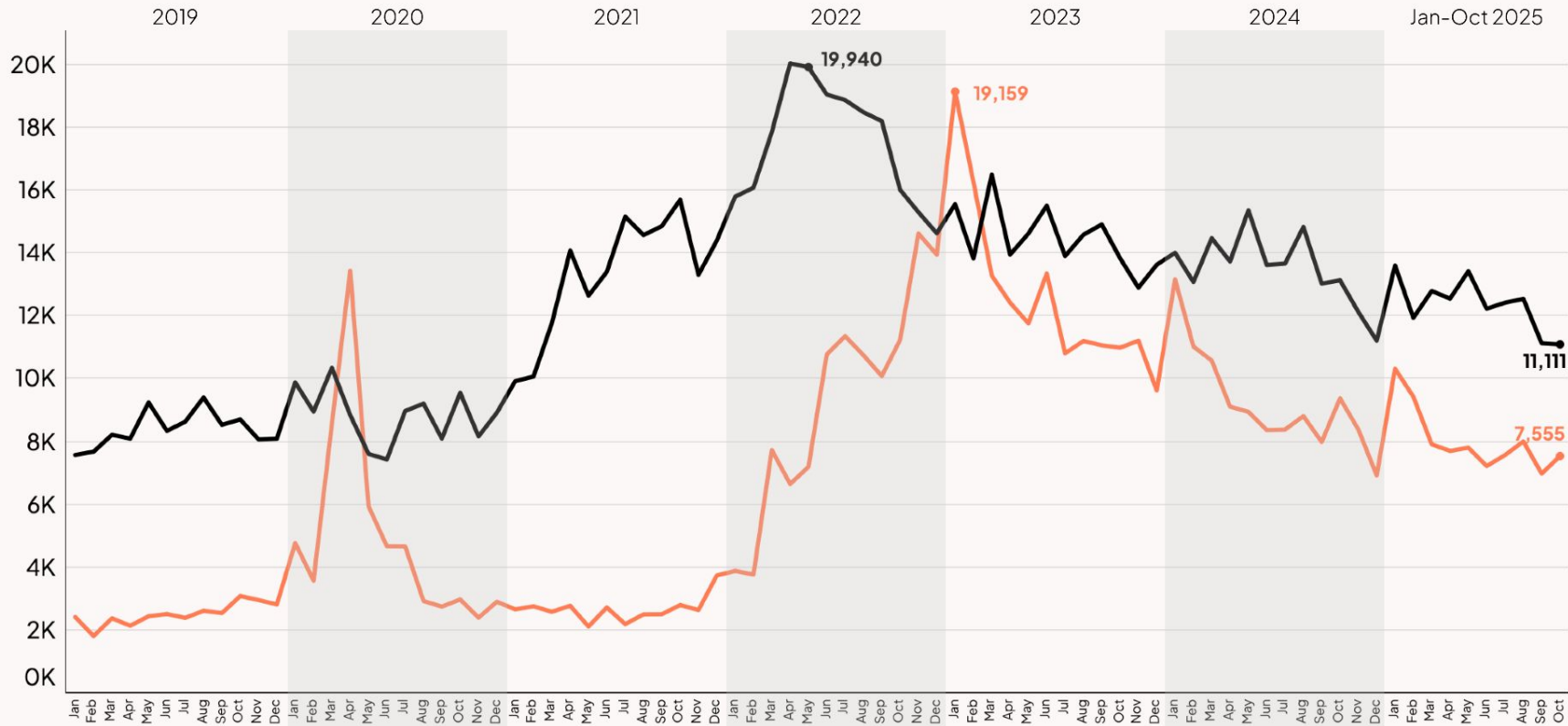
- Overall fundraising landscape
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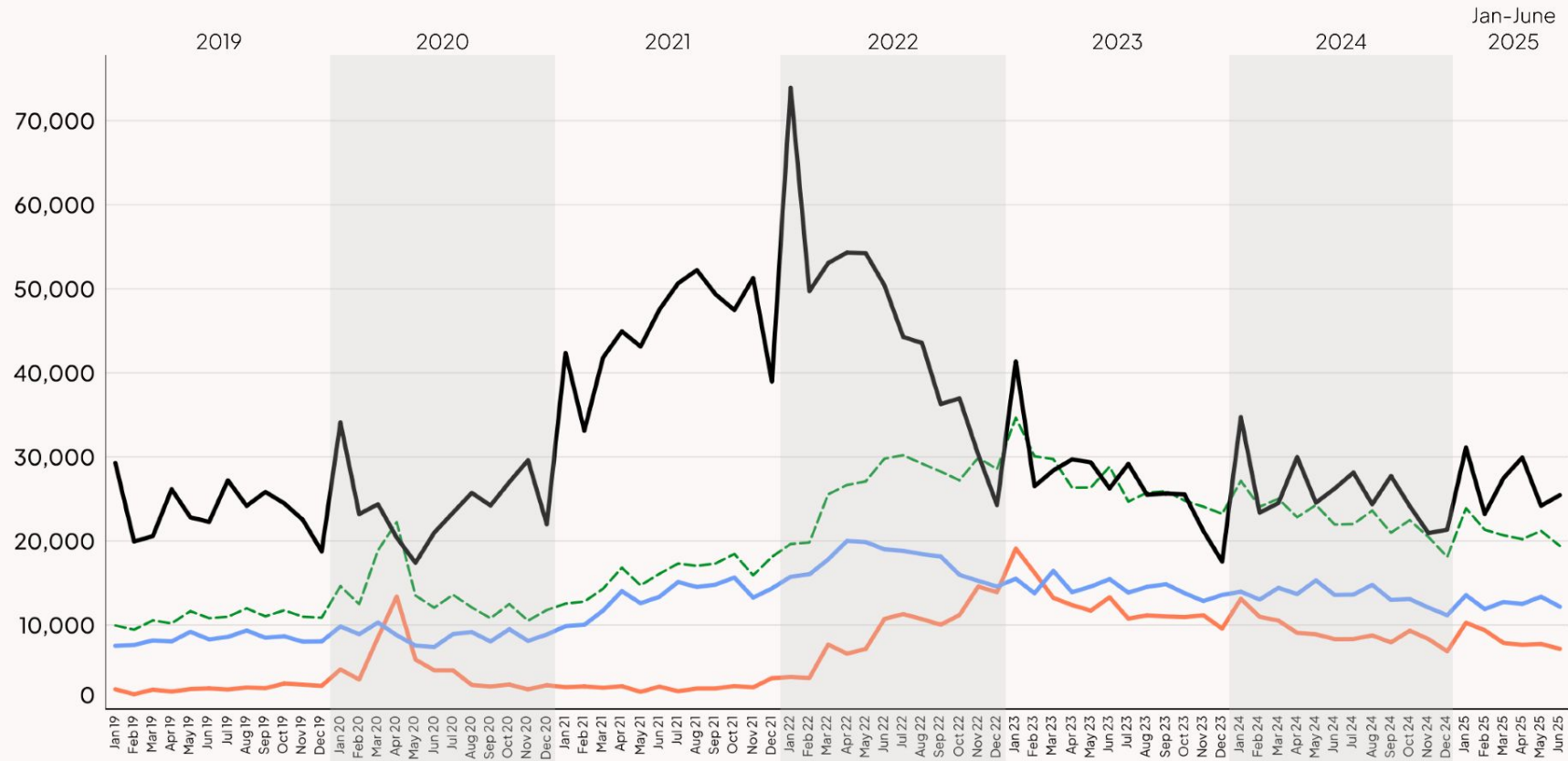
Layoffs have declined but quite slowly since 2022

Layoffs vs departures by choice by month from US startups on Carta | Jan 2019–Oct2025



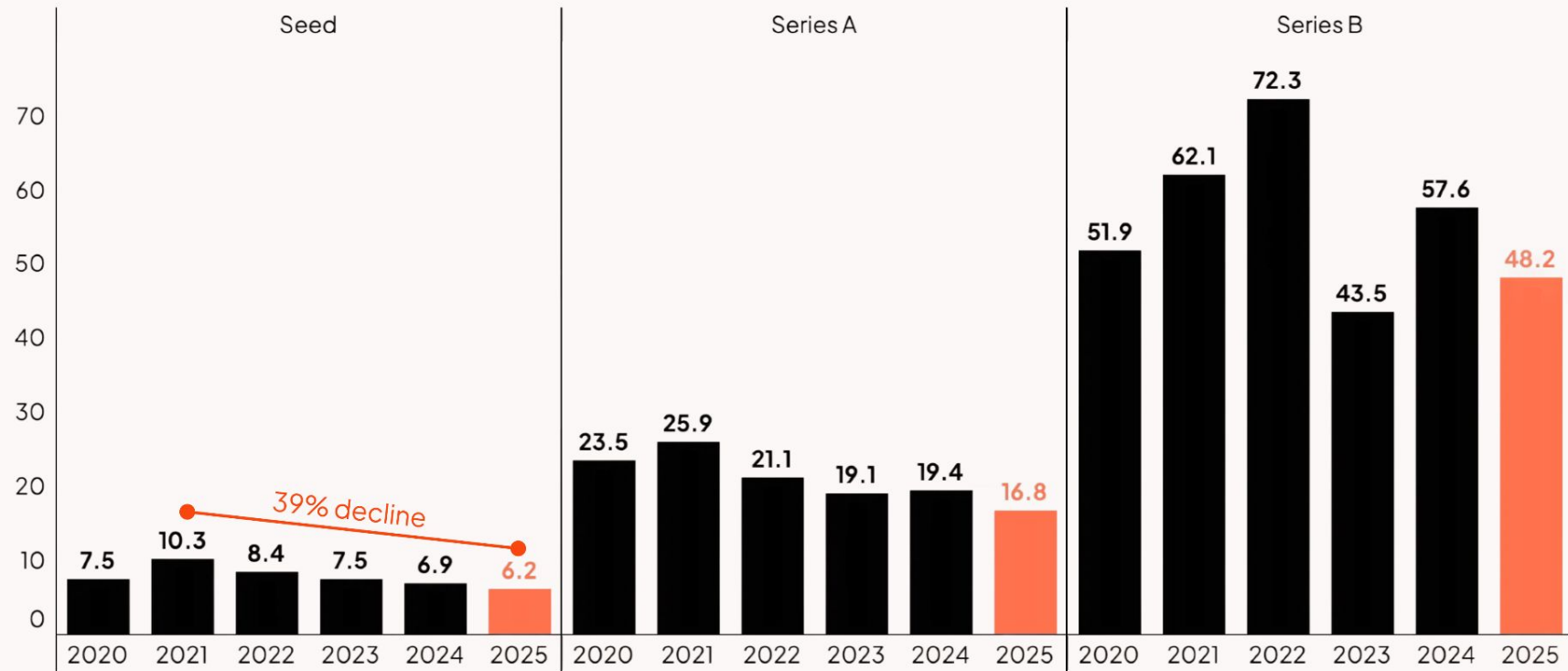
Hiring may be turning slightly across startups

Hires, layoffs, departures, and total leaves by month from US startups on Carta | Jan 2019–June 2025



Team size is trending lower and lower by the year

Average number of full-time, equity holding employees at software startups by date of fundraise | H1 of each year included



Hardware startups lead in headcount growth in 2025

Ratio of new hires to departing employees by industry, 2019–June 2025 | 1 = total headcount kept flat that quarter

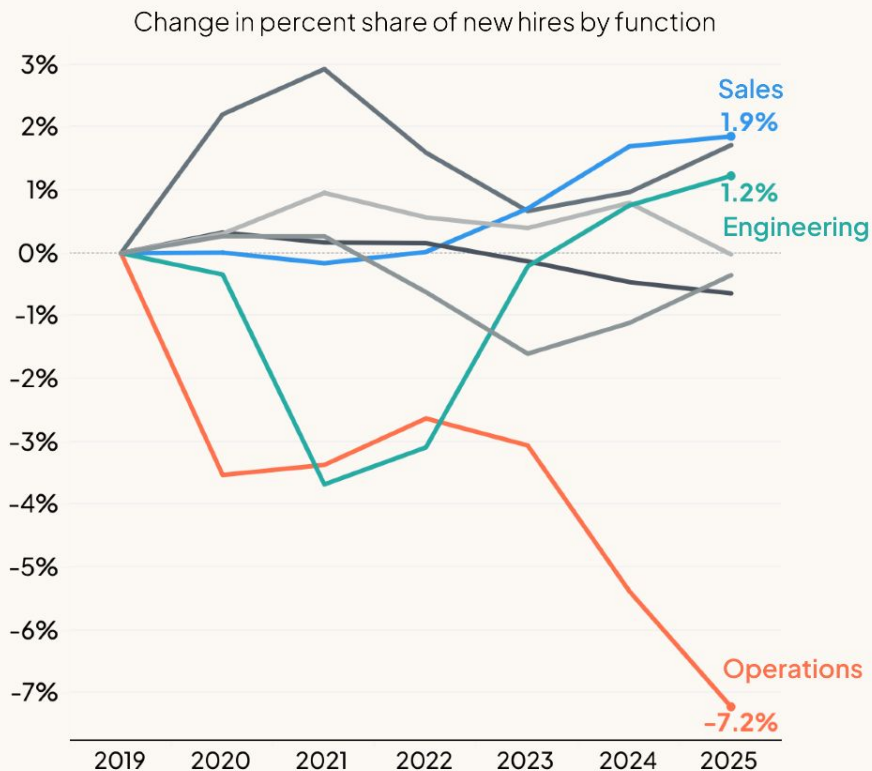
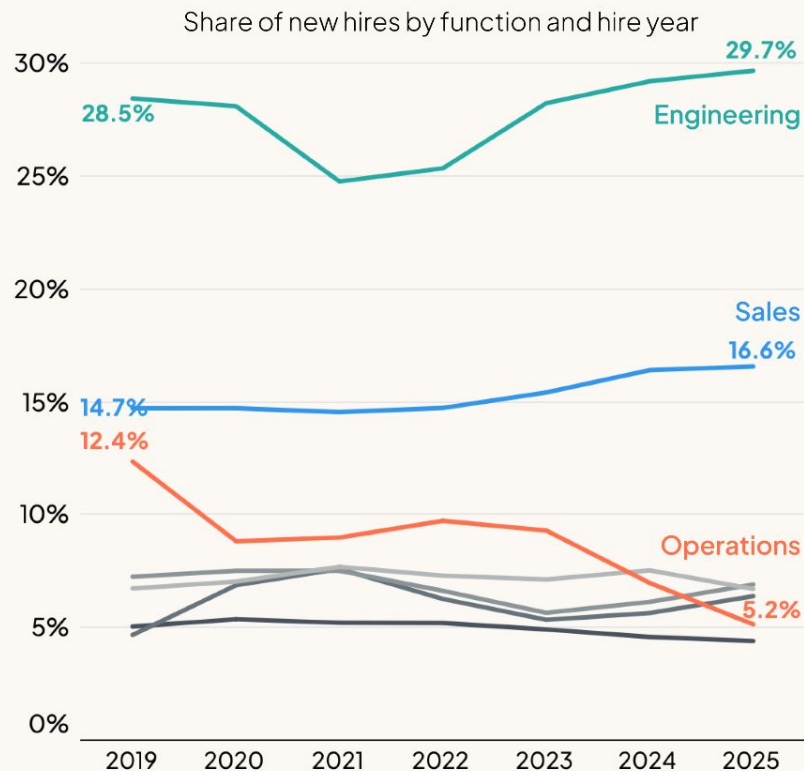
| | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|-----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Hardware | 3.2 | 1.9 | 3.3 | 2.3 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.3 |
| Medical Devices | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.2 |
| SaaS | 2.6 | 1.9 | 3.1 | 1.9 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.1 |
| Healthtech | 2.6 | 2.8 | 3.5 | 1.9 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.1 |
| Fintech | 2.9 | 2.9 | 4.0 | 1.6 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.1 |
| Energy | 2.2 | 2.9 | 4.6 | 3.8 | 2.0 | 1.5 | 1.0 |
| Adtech | 1.8 | 1.2 | 2.3 | 1.6 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 1.0 |
| Consumer | 2.6 | 1.8 | 2.8 | 1.6 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Pharma/Biotech | 3.6 | 3.1 | 4.3 | 2.3 | 1.4 | 1.1 | 0.8 |
| Gaming | 3.0 | 2.9 | 3.4 | 2.2 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 0.8 |
| Education | 1.9 | 2.5 | 2.9 | 1.8 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.6 |

4.0

0.5

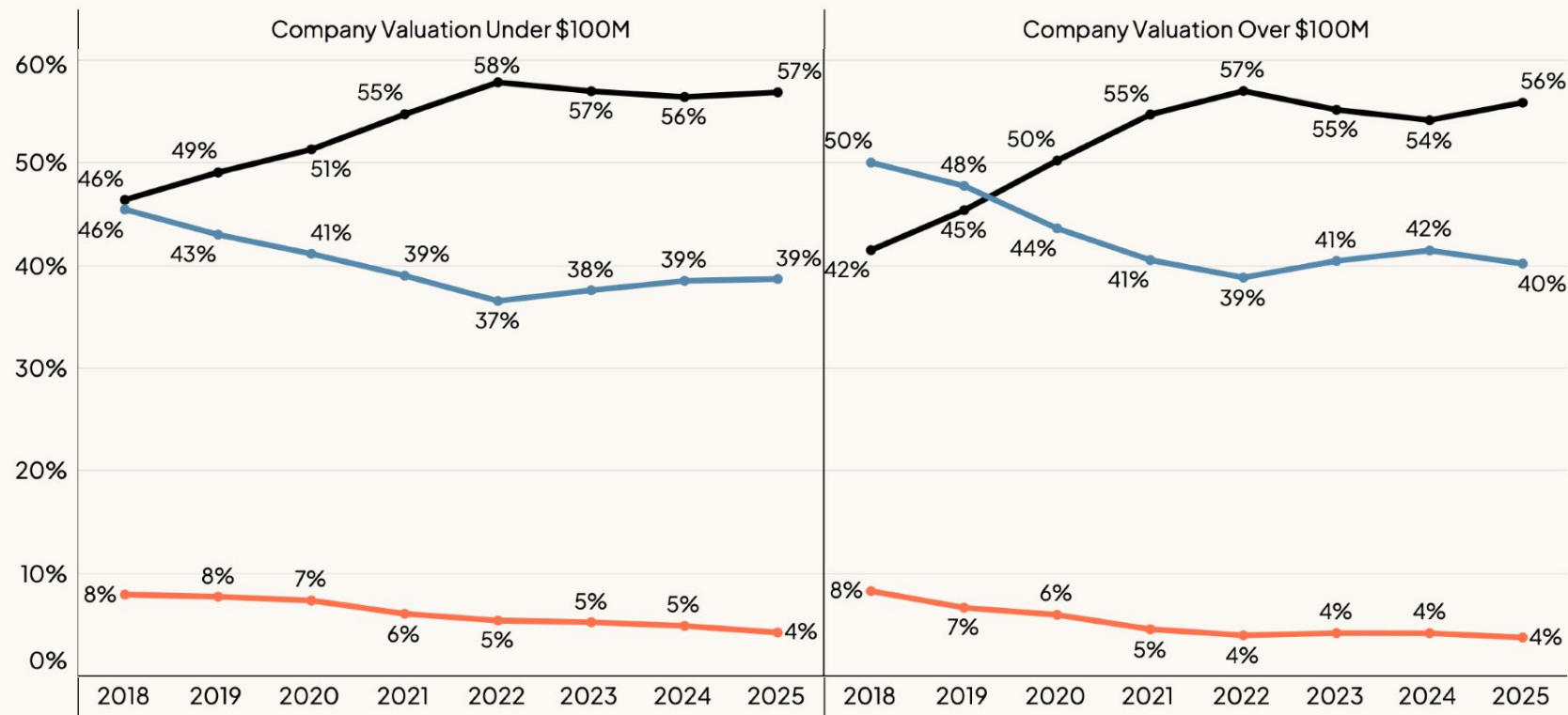
Operations has lost ground to other functions in share of new hires

Share of new hires in select startup functions & change in percent share of each function vs 2019 | Jan 2019 – June 2025



Startups are hiring a greater share of Individual Contributors (ICs)

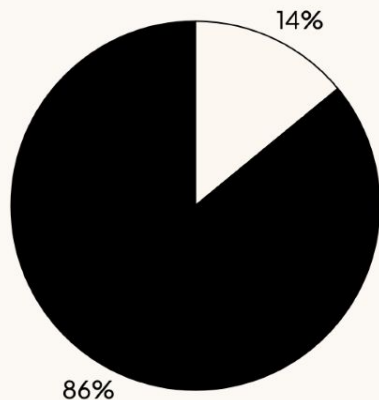
Share of new hires in by employee level and hire year | Jan 2019 – June 2025 | **IC** | **Manager** | **Exec**



Startups of all sizes typically adjust compensation by location

Percent of startups that adjust employee compensation based on location | Data as of June 30, 2025

Percent overall



Adjustment

No adjustment

Percent by post-money valuation

\$1M to \$10M

89%

11%

\$10M to \$25M

92%

8%

\$25M to \$50M

81%

19%

\$50M to \$100M

82%

18%

\$100M to \$250M

77%

23%

\$250M to \$500M

81%

19%

\$500M to \$1B

78%

22%

\$1B to \$10B

76%

24%

Only three startup metros pay top rate for talent: SF, NY, and San Jose

Salary by Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as a percentage of current San Francisco salaries | % difference from 2024

| Region | MSA | Percent of SF salary rate | % Δ |
|---------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----|
| Midwest | Cleveland, OH | 90% | 3% |
| | Minneapolis, MN | 89% | 1% |
| | Chicago, IL | 87% | -1% |
| | St. Louis, MO | 87% | 2% |
| | Columbus, OH | 83% | 1% |
| | Detroit, MI | 81% | -2% |
| | Ann Arbor, MI | 82% | 2% |
| | Kansas City, MO | 78% | -4% |
| | Cincinnati, OH | 78% | 3% |
| | Indianapolis, IN | 78% | 3% |
| | Omaha, NE | 78% | 3% |
| West | San Francisco, CA | 100% | 0% |
| | San Jose, CA | 100% | 0% |
| | Seattle, WA | 95% | -2% |
| | Santa Cruz, CA | 95% | 5% |
| | Boulder, CO | 92% | 1% |
| | Los Angeles, CA | 91% | 0% |
| | Sacramento, CA | 92% | 2% |
| | Portland, OR | 89% | -3% |
| | San Diego, CA | 91% | 1% |
| | Denver, CO | 88% | -2% |
| | Oxnard, CA | 88% | -2% |
| | Santa Barbara, CA | 85% | 0% |
| | Las Vegas, NV | 80% | -5% |
| | San Bernardino, CA | 85% | 5% |
| | Provo-Orem, UT | 83% | 2% |
| | Salt Lake City, UT | 83% | 3% |
| | Phoenix, AZ | 78% | -4% |
| | Tucson, AZ | 77% | 0% |

| Region | MSA | Percent of SF salary rate | % Δ |
|-----------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----|
| Northeast | New York City, NY | 100% | 0% |
| | Bridgeport, CT | 93% | -2% |
| | Boston, MA | 90% | -2% |
| | Philadelphia, PA | 87% | -3% |
| | Pittsburgh, PA | 87% | 2% |
| | Providence, RI | 85% | 2% |
| | Worcester, MA | 80% | 0% |
| | Burlington, VT | 75% | -5% |
| South | Washington, DC | 93% | 0% |
| | Durham, NC | 91% | 1% |
| | Baltimore, MD | 90% | 0% |
| | Raleigh, NC | 90% | 0% |
| | Austin, TX | 87% | -2% |
| | Miami, FL | 88% | 0% |
| | Richmond, VA | 87% | 2% |
| | Orlando, FL | 85% | 0% |
| | Atlanta, GA | 82% | -4% |
| | Tampa, FL | 83% | -2% |
| | Dallas, TX | 80% | -5% |
| | Houston, TX | 80% | -4% |
| | Charlotte, NC | 79% | -4% |
| | Charleston, SC | 80% | 2% |
| | Jacksonville, FL | 80% | 5% |
| | Nashville, TN | 75% | -5% |
| | San Antonio, TX | 72% | -4% |

Only three startup metros pay top rate for talent: SF, NY, and San Jose

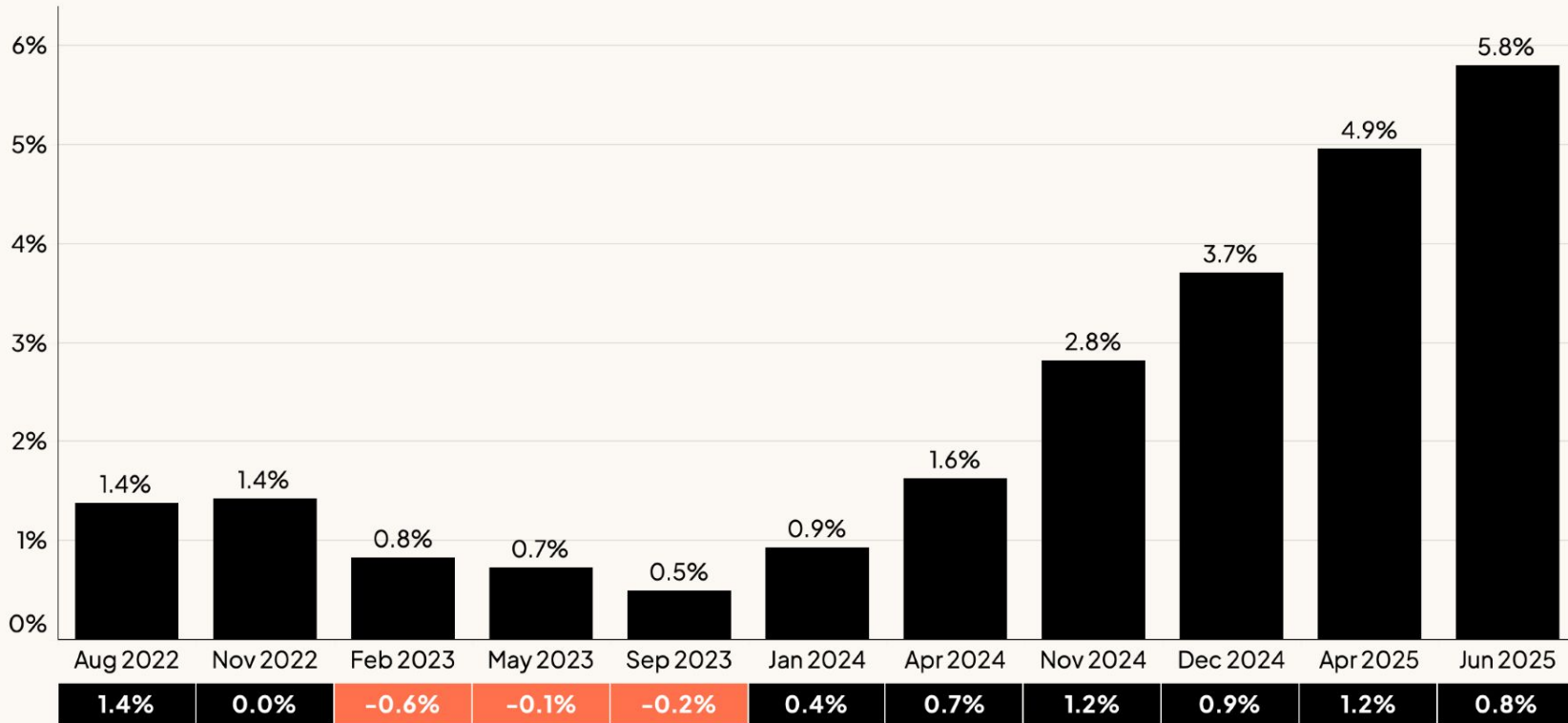
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| | Dallas, TX | 80% | -5% |
| | Houston, TX | 80% | -4% |
| | Charlotte, NC | 79% | -4% |
| | Charleston, SC | 80% | 2% |
| | Jacksonville, FL | 80% | 5% |
| | Nashville, TN | 75% | -5% |
| | San Antonio, TX | 72% | -4% |

Average startup salaries have seen consistent growth since Jan 2024

Change in average startup salaries relative to April 2022 | Bottom bar shows change vs previous period



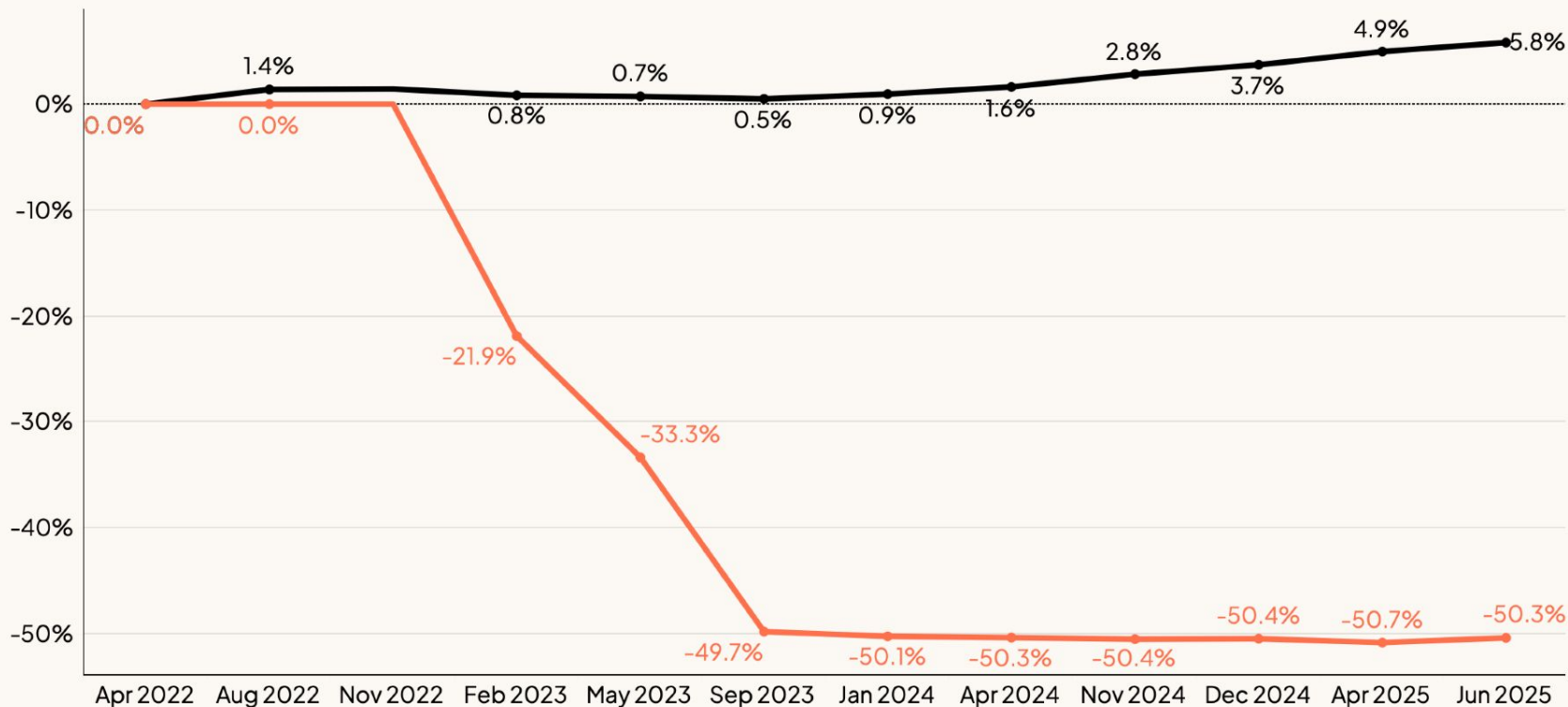
Note: Data above from the following job functions - Customer Success, Data, Design, Engineering, HR/Recruiting, Marketing, Operations, Product, Sales, Support

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The average initial equity grant is 50% smaller today than in late 2022

Change in average startup **salaries** and **equity packages** relative to April 2022



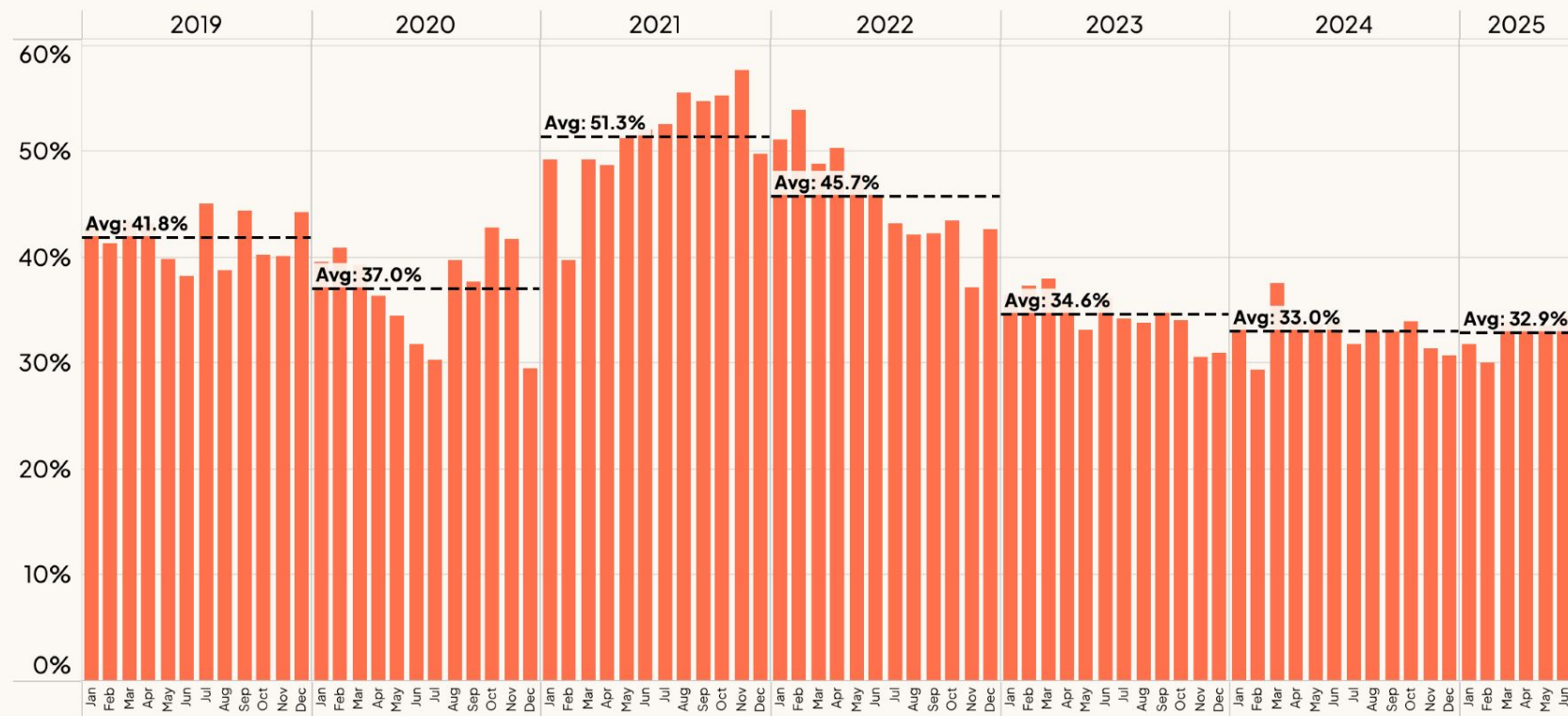
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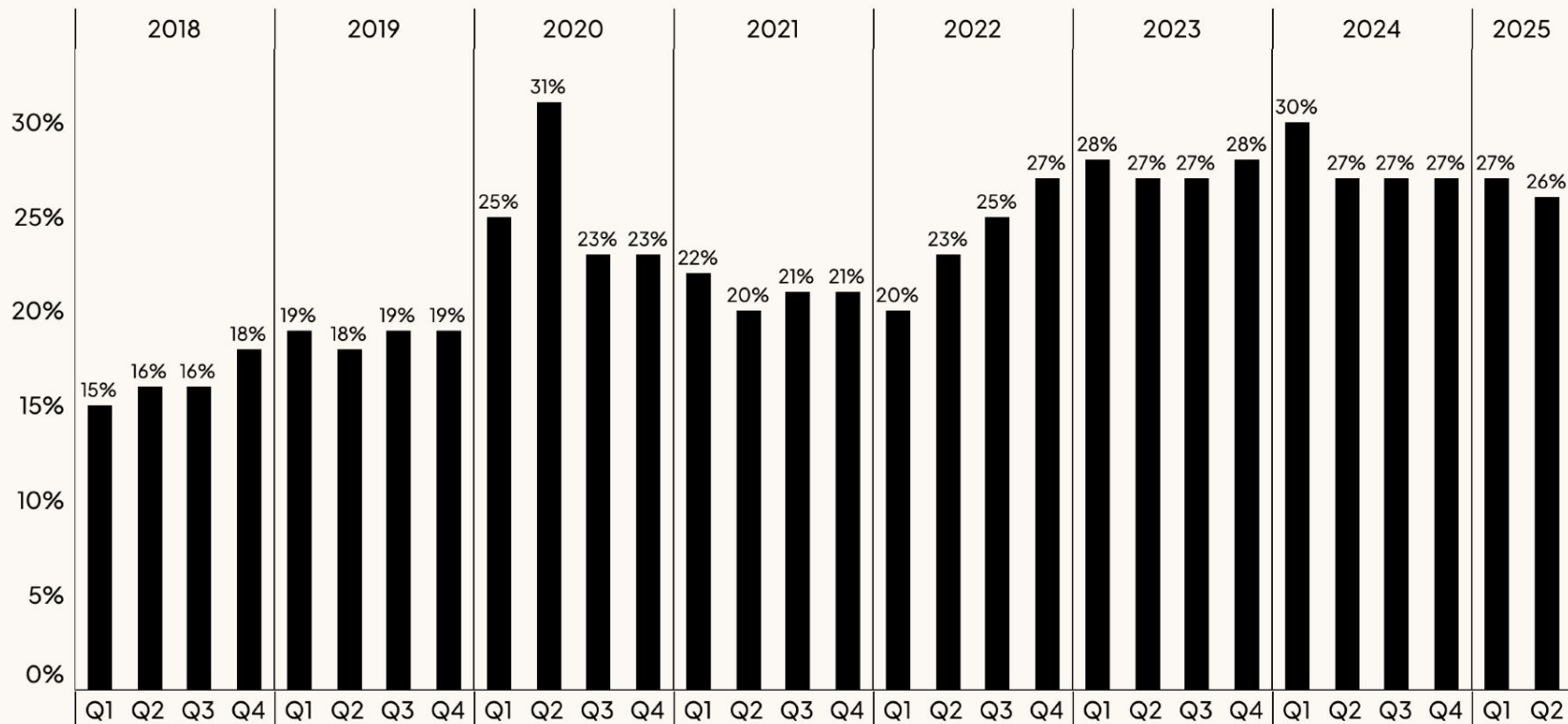
About 70% of option grants are not exercised by exiting employees

The percent of in-the-money option grants exercised before expiration by month



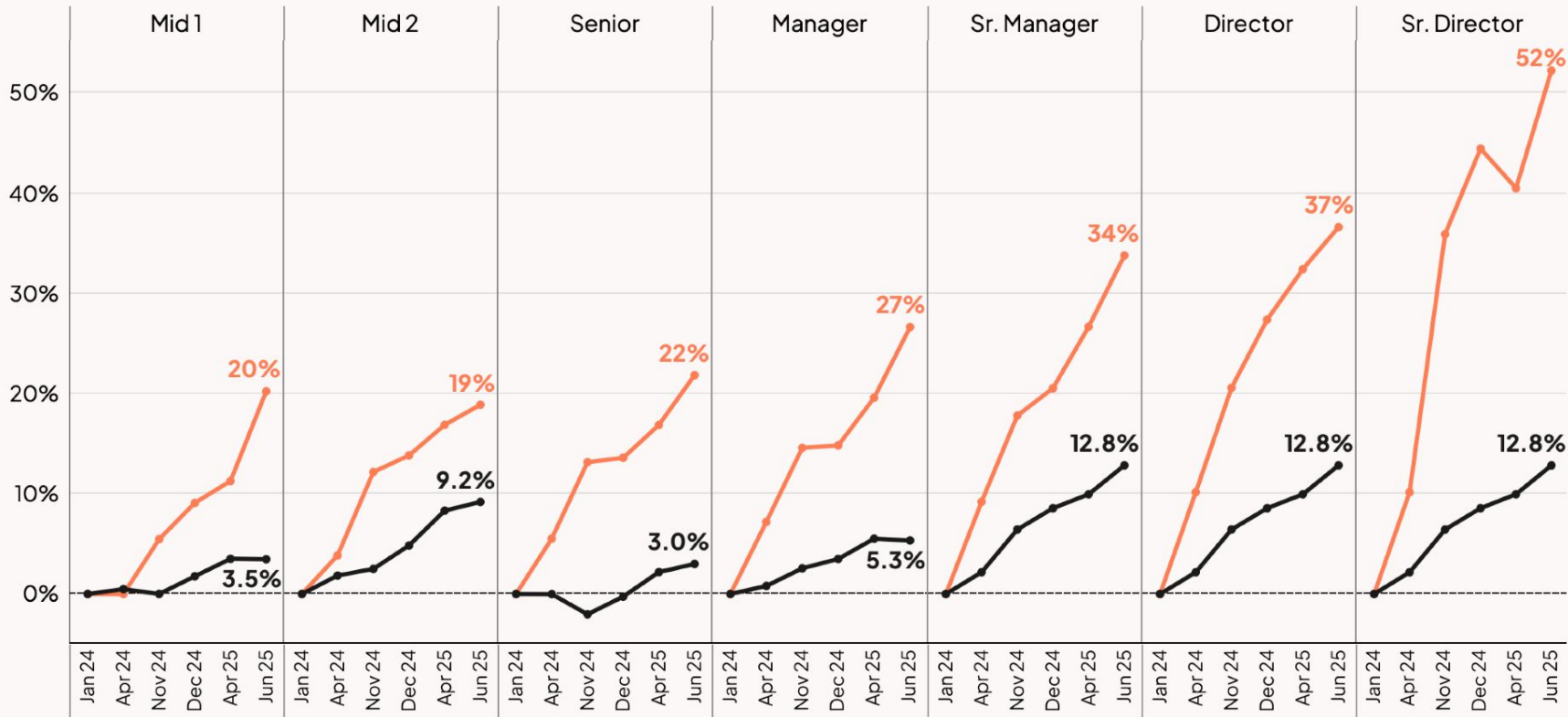
Longer post-termination exercise windows are more common

Percent of terminated options with post-termination exercise windows over 90 days



Even as hiring has declined, AI/ML engineering comp has boomed

Change in **average salary** and **average equity package** for AI/ML Engineers | Relative to Jan 2024 | Companies worth \$5M-\$50M



VC-Backed Startups

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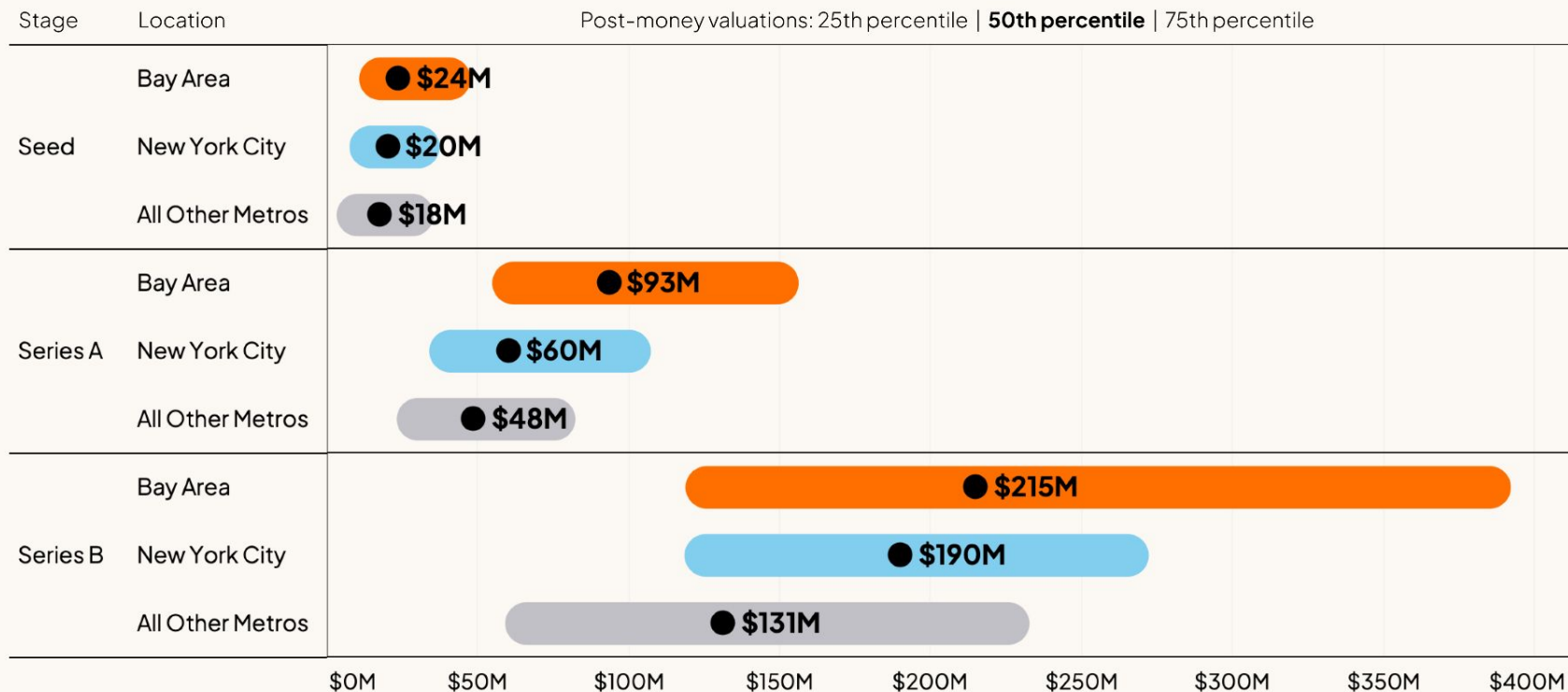
Early stage venture still starts with the Bay Area

\$29 billion invested into Seed + Series A startups on Carta | Location = company HQ | Q3 2024–Q2 2025

| | Overall | AI | SaaS | Biotech | Hardware | Healthtech | Fintech | Consumer |
|-----|--|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| #1 | Bay Area 40.3% of all capital \$11.32B | #1 Bay Area 50.6% | #1 Bay Area 55.4% | #1 Bay Area 31.1% | #1 Bay Area 37.5% | #1 New York 20.6% | #1 Bay Area 39.2% | #1 Bay Area 31.8% |
| #2 | New York 14.1% of all capital \$3.97B | #2 New York 14.8% | #2 New York 12.0% | #2 Boston 28.4% | #2 Austin 11.8% | #2 Bay Area 18.2% | #2 New York 24.5% | #2 New York 21.6% |
| #3 | Boston 9.0% of all capital \$2.53B | #3 Boston 6.6% | #3 Boston 5.2% | #3 New York 8.8% | #3 Los Angeles 7.5% | #3 Boston 10.8% | #3 Los Angeles 8.7% | #3 Los Angeles 14.7% |
| #4 | Los Angeles 5.7% of all capital \$1.59B | #4 Seattle 3.9% | #4 Los Angeles 3.8% | #4 San Diego 8.1% | #4 New York 7.2% | #4 San Diego 10.1% | #4 Boston 3.4% | #4 Chicago 2.7% |
| #5 | Seattle 3.1% of all capital \$0.88B | #5 Los Angeles 3.5% | #5 Seattle 3.7% | #5 Austin 2.9% | #5 Boston 7.1% | #5 Chicago 5.3% | #5 DC 2.9% | #5 Austin 2.6% |
| #6 | Austin 3.0% of all capital \$0.85B | #6 Austin 2.5% | #6 DC 3.0% | #6 Seattle 2.9% | #6 DC 4.7% | #6 Seattle 3.6% | #6 Denver/Boulder 1.9% | #6 Dallas–Fort Worth 2.5% |
| #7 | San Diego 2.8% of all capital \$0.78B | #7 DC 1.7% | #7 Austin 1.9% | #7 Chicago 1.8% | #7 Las Vegas 4.3% | #7 Philly 2.8% | #7 Austin 1.8% | #7 San Diego 2.1% |
| #8 | DC 2.3% of all capital \$0.64B | #8 Chicago 1.6% | #8 Dallas–Fort Worth 1.4% | #8 Research Triangle 1.7% | #8 Seattle 3.8% | #8 Austin 2.6% | #8 Salt Lake/Park City 1.7% | #8 Boston 2.0% |
| #9 | Denver/Boulder 1.6% of all capital \$0.46B | #9 Denver/Boulder 1.5% | #9 Denver/Boulder 1.4% | #9 Houston 1.7% | #9 Dallas–Fort Worth 2.6% | #9 Los Angeles 2.3% | #9 Seattle 1.5% | #9 Detroit 1.7% |
| #10 | Chicago 1.5% of all capital \$0.41B | #10 Salt Lake/Park City 1.3% | #10 Atlanta 1.1% | #10 Miami 1.2% | #10 Portland–Vancouver 2.2% | #10 Denver/Boulder 2.2% | #10 Atlanta 1.3% | #10 Denver/Boulder 1.6% |

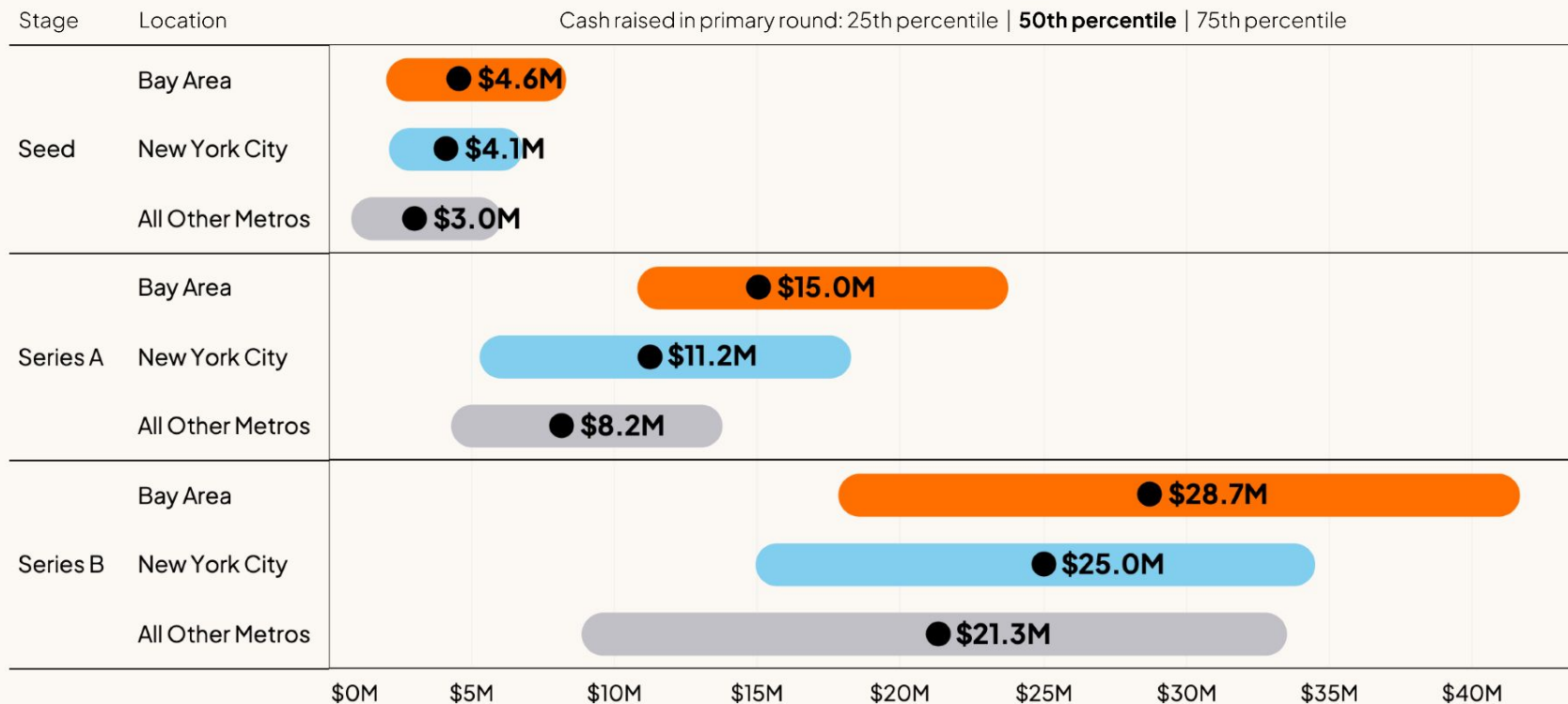
Bay Area valuations outpace every other startup ecosystem

Post-money valuation benchmarks by location | Software startups only | H1 2025



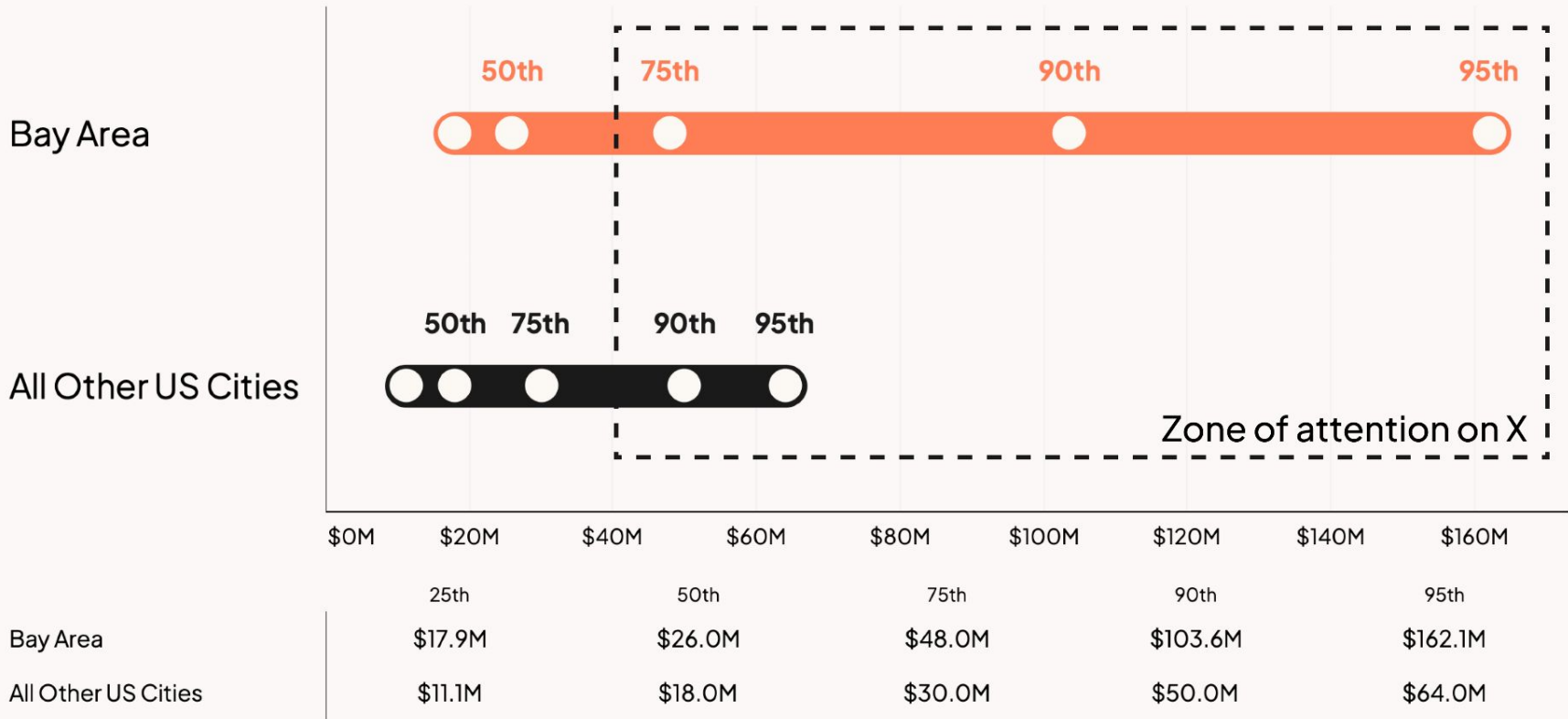
Bay Area round sizes outpace every other startup ecosystem

Cash raised benchmarks by location | Software startups only | H1 2025



San Francisco is basically a Patagonia-wearing cage fight at this point

Post-money valuation benchmarks for seed rounds in software companies by location | 2025



VC-Backed Startups

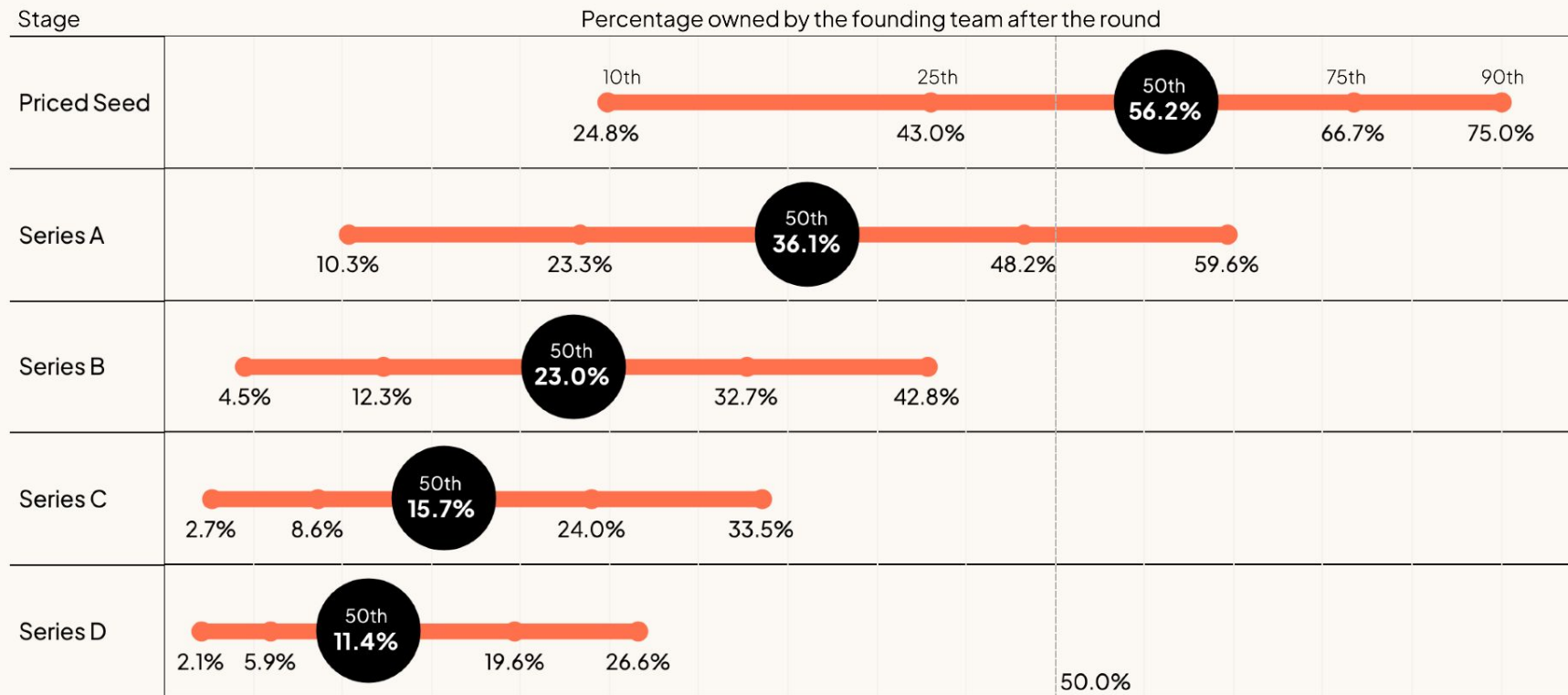
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Venture Funds

- Funds & dry powder
- LP dynamics
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- Graduation rate benchmarks
- Ownership, bridges, & pre-emption
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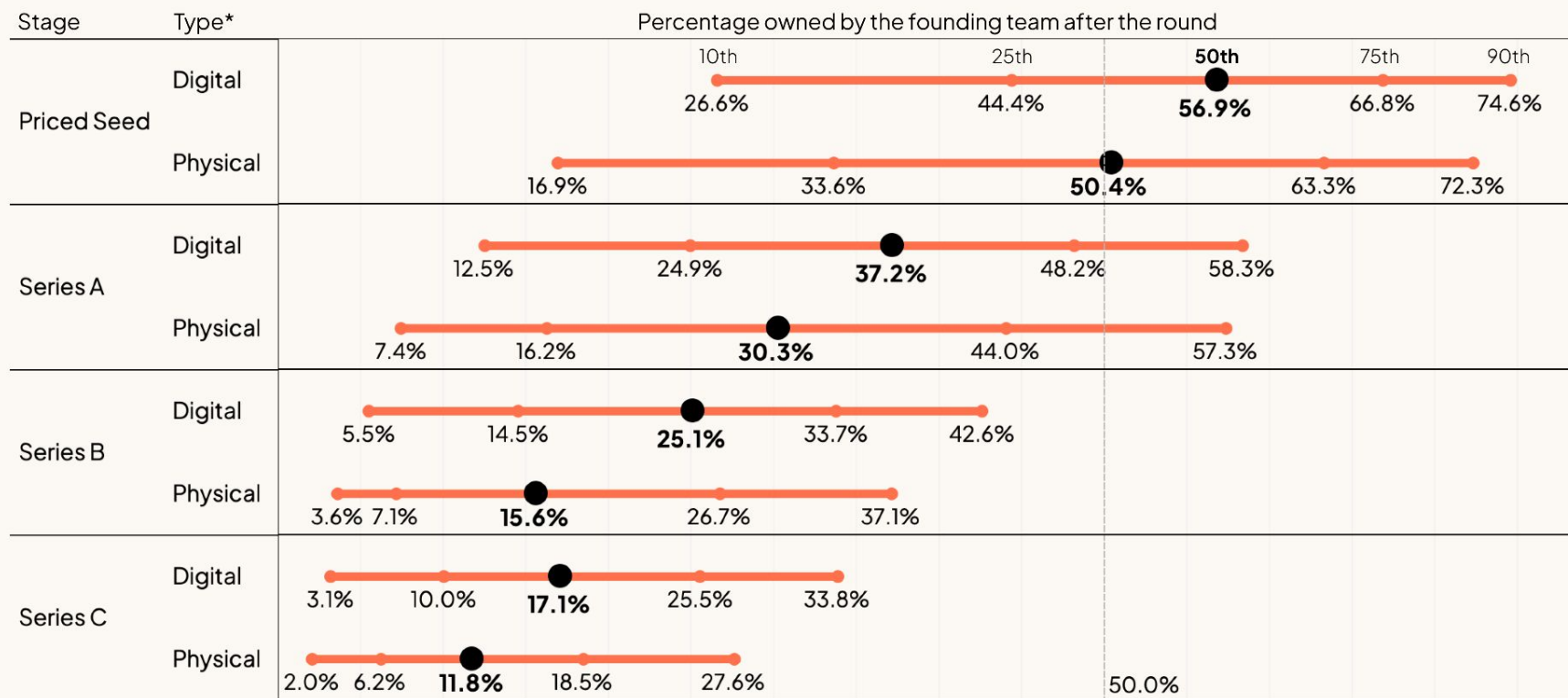
Founding team ownership decreases more rapidly across early rounds

Founding team ownership benchmarks following key fundraising stages | Rounds raised from 2020–2024



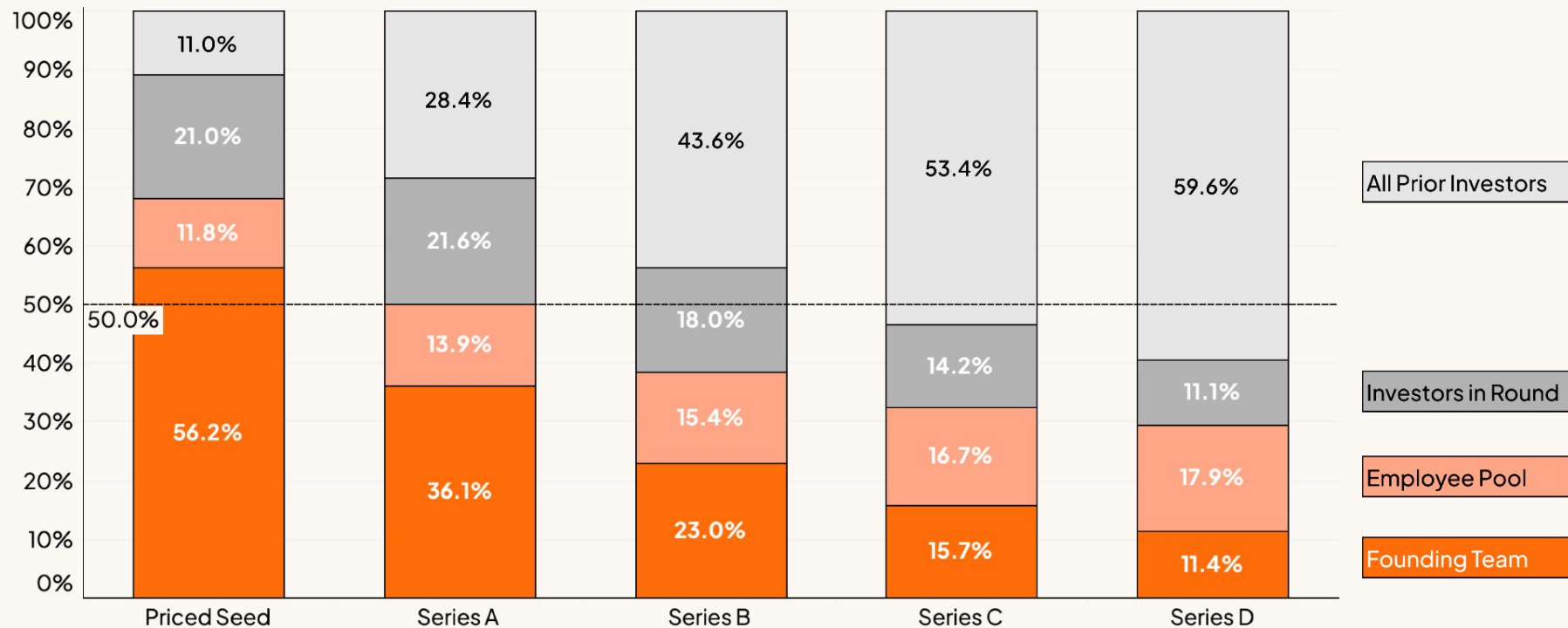
Startups that build physical products see higher founding team dilution

Founding team ownership benchmarks following key fundraising stages by industry group | Rounds raised from 2020–2024



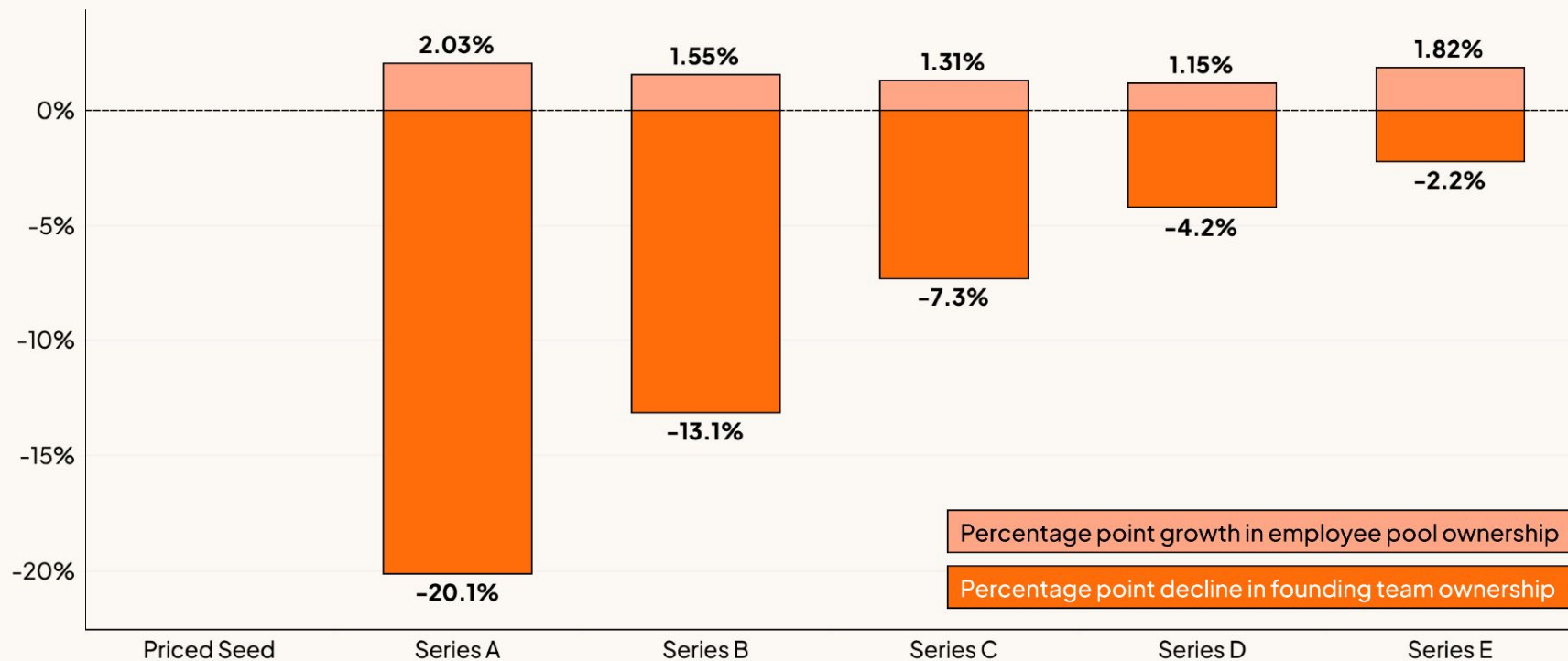
Median total investor ownership crosses 50% between Series A and B

Median share of fully diluted company equity owned by stakeholder group after each round | Rounds raised from 2020–2024



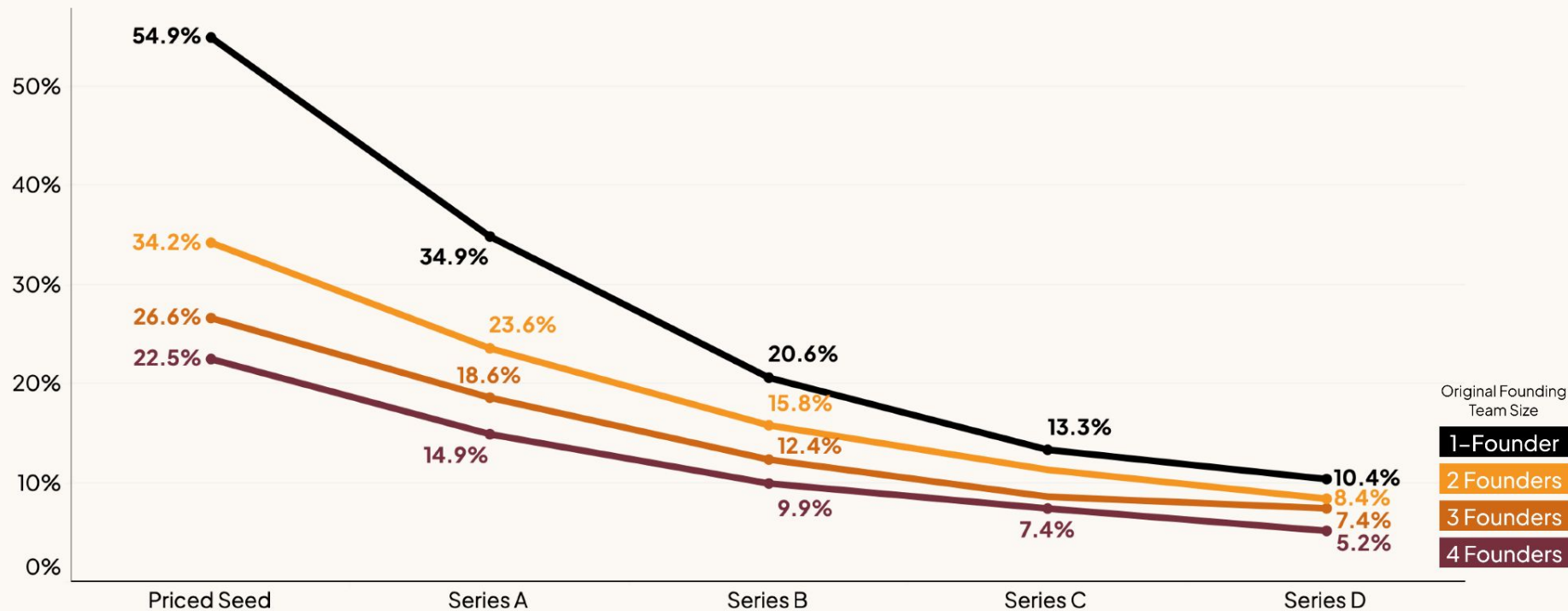
Employee pool grows by 1–2 percentage points after each round

Percentage point change in ownership for each group from the prior round | Rounds raised between 2020–2024



CEO ownership over time is sensitive to original founding team size

Median share of fully diluted company equity owned by CEO after each rounds | Rounds from 2020–2024



VC-Backed Startups

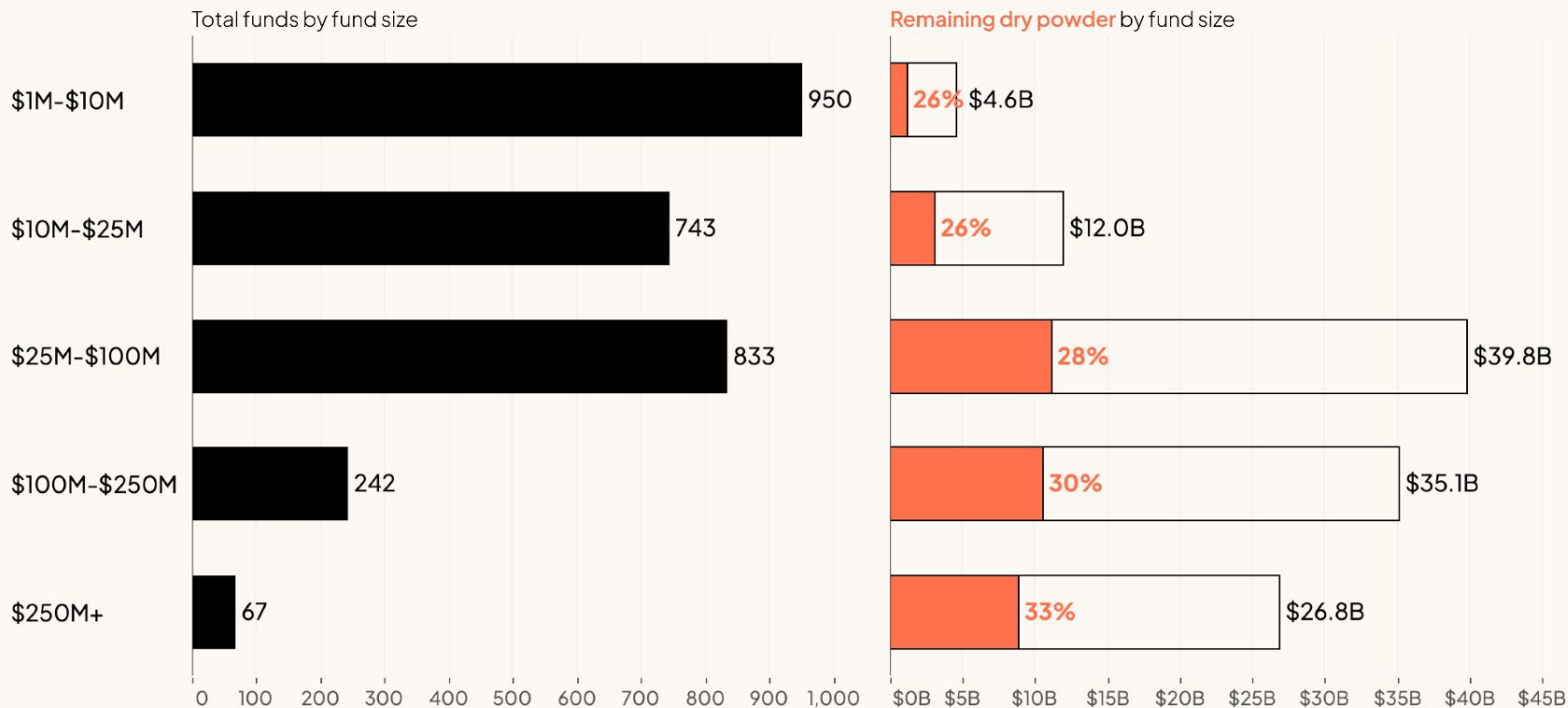
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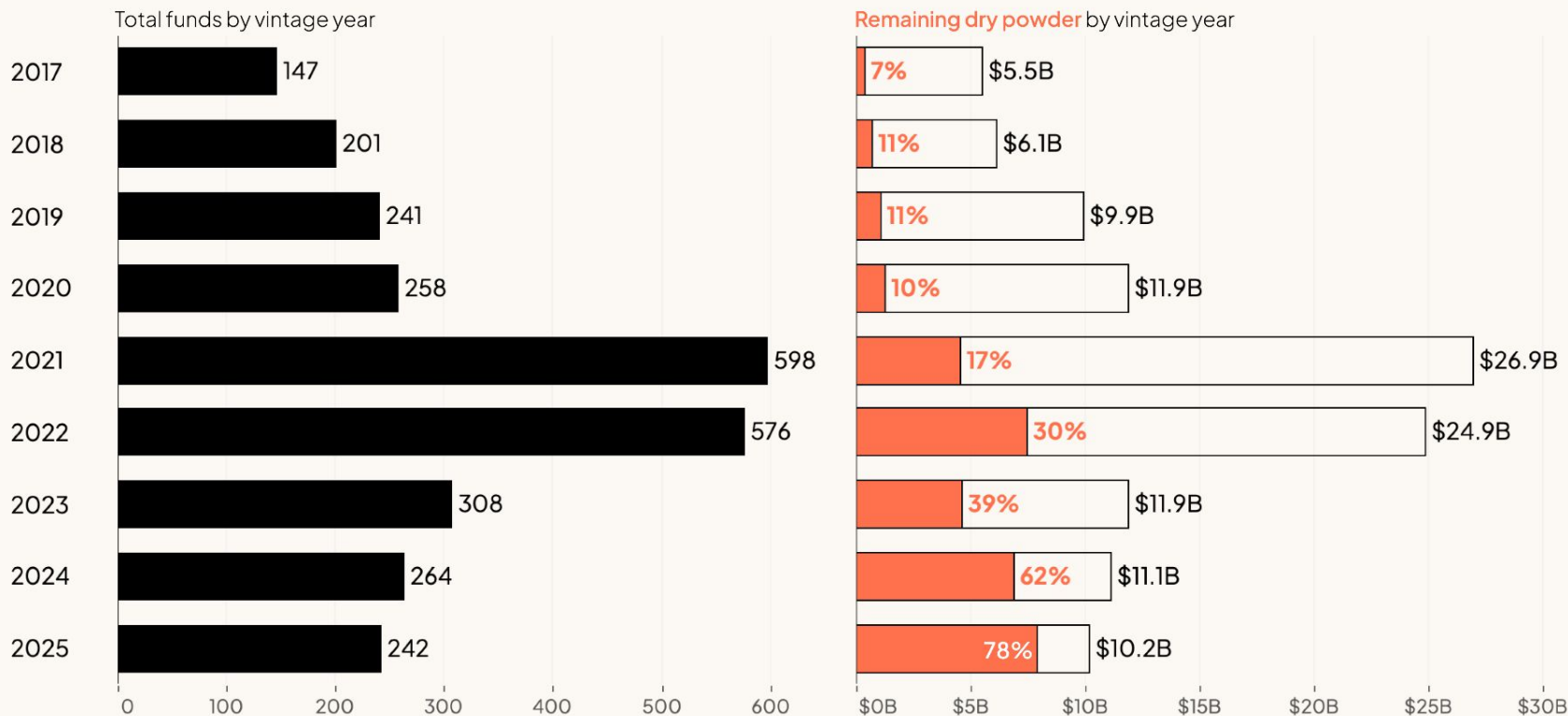
2,835 venture funds analyzed

Total venture funds by committed capital | Vintage years 2017–2025 | Data as of Q3 2025



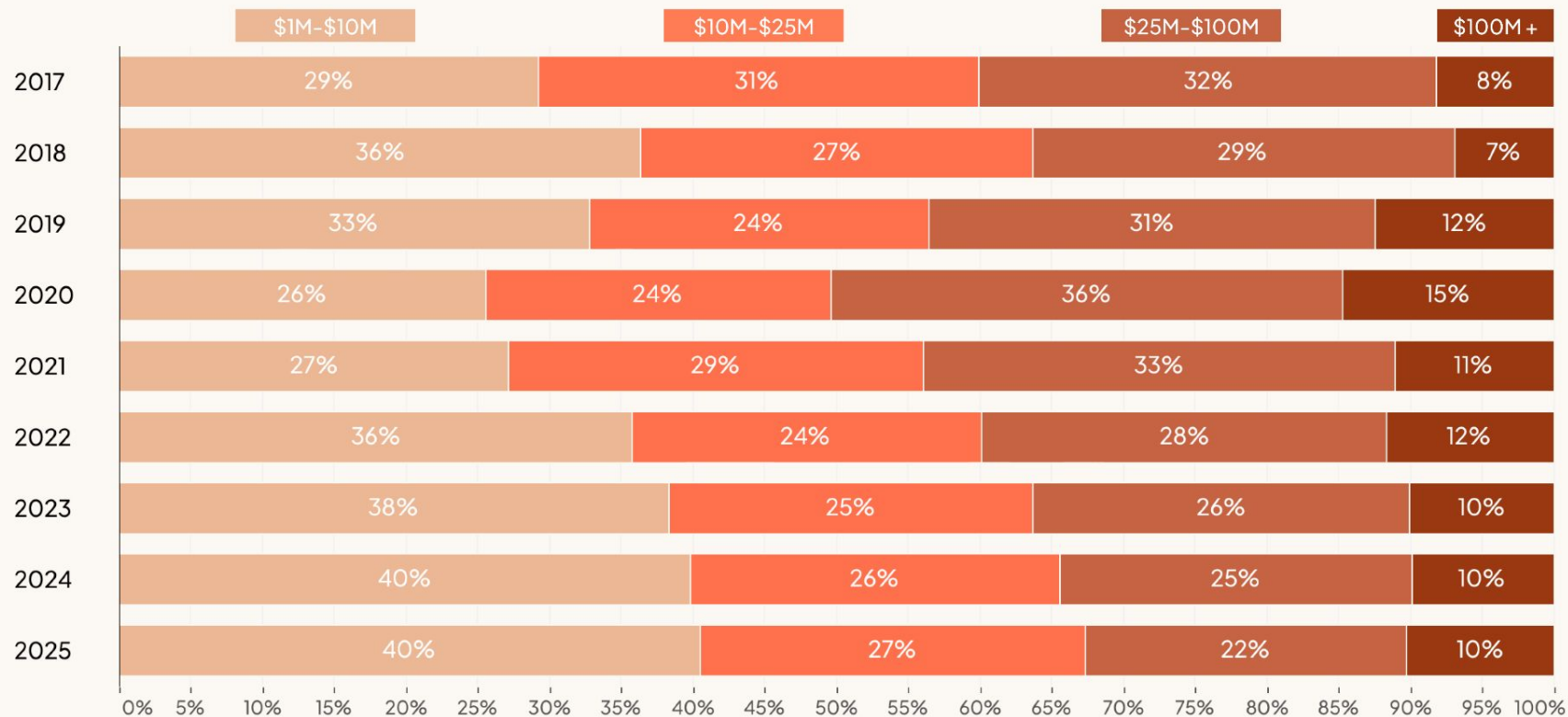
Significant dry powder remains in funds from 2023 onwards

Total venture funds by committed capital | Vintage years 2017–2025 | Data as of Q3 2025



Recent fund vintages have had a higher percentage of small funds

Percent of funds in each vintage year by fund size tier | Vintage years 2017–2025 | Data as of Q3 2025



VC-Backed Startups

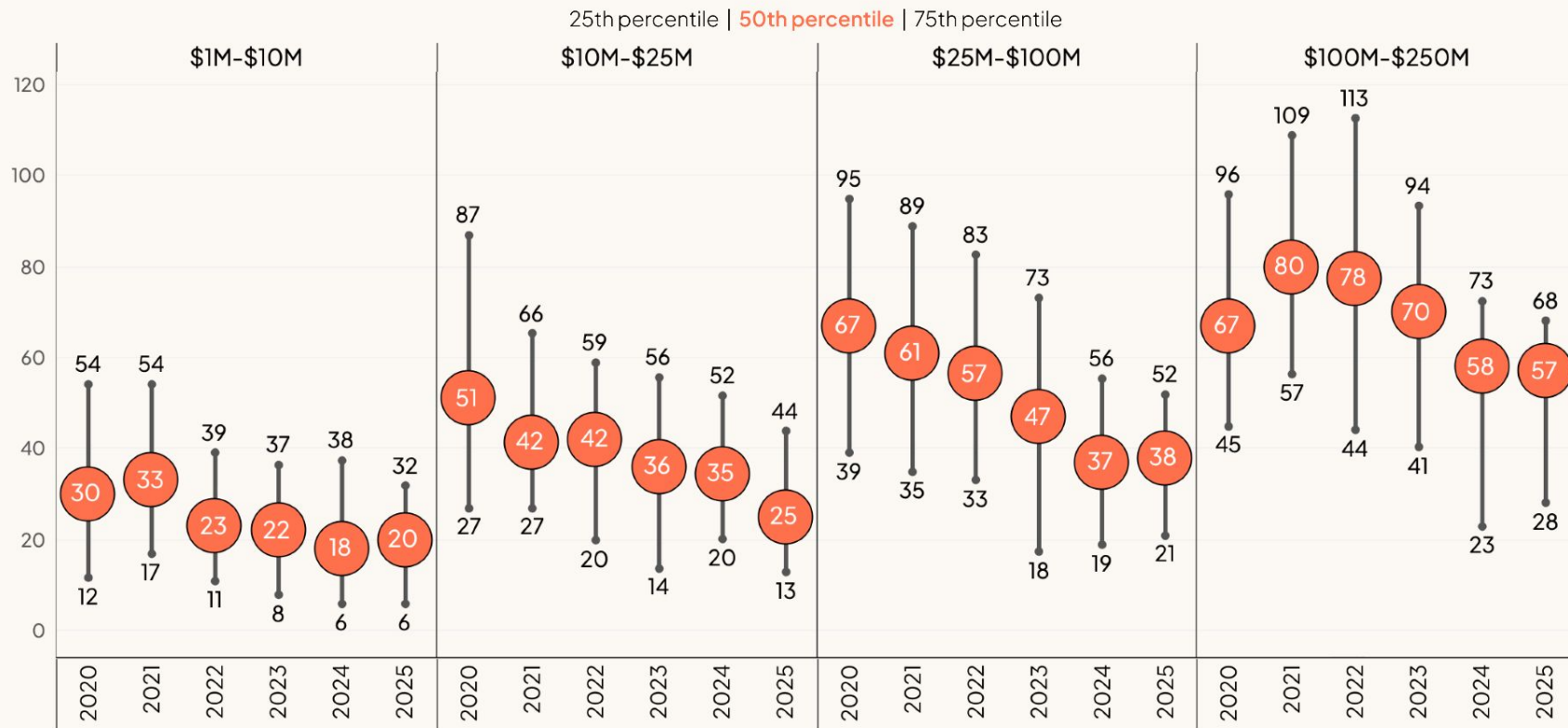
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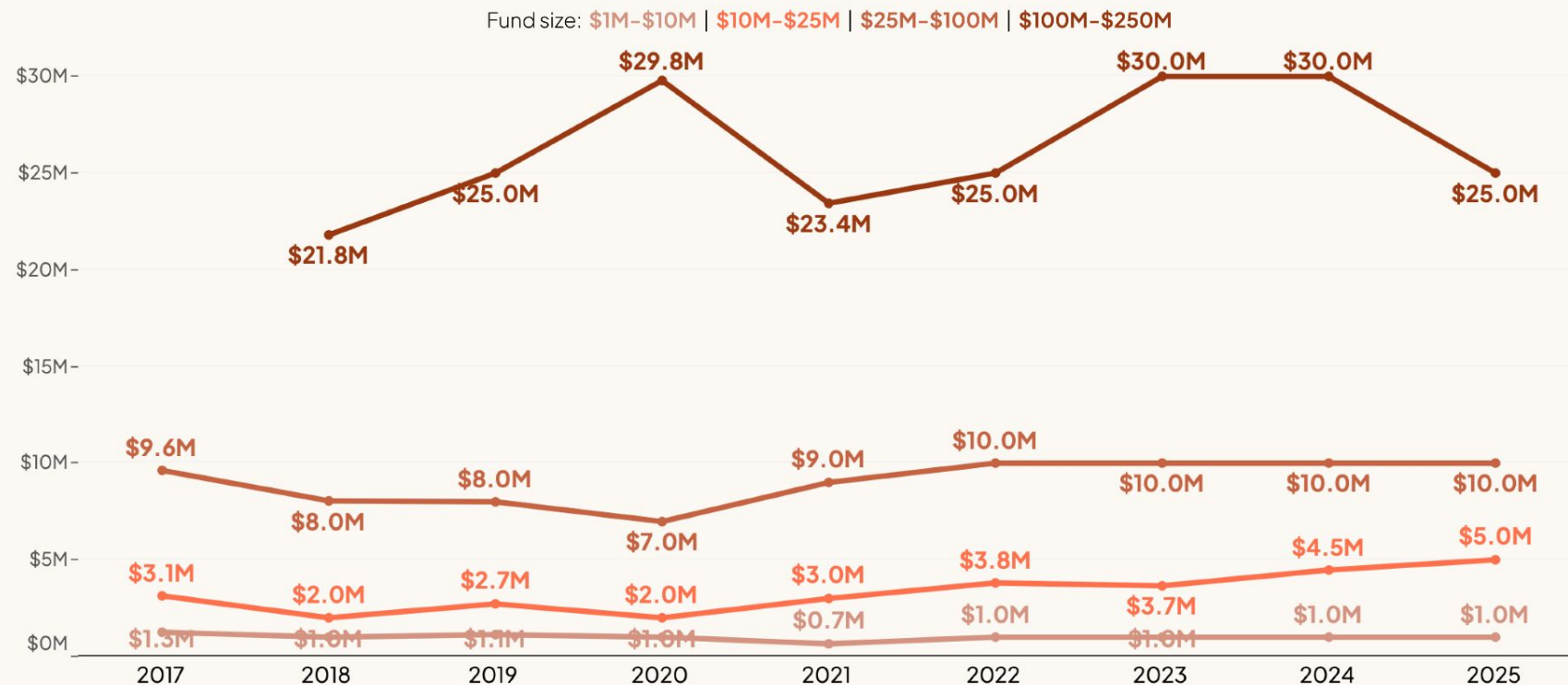
Median number of LPs has declined across fund sizes

Number of Limited Partners (LPs) in funds by committed capital | Vintage years 2020–2025 | Data as of Q3 2025



The median LP anchor check is mostly flat with a few exceptions

Median size of the largest LP commitment to a fund by vintage year and fund size | Data as of Q3 2025



VC-Backed Startups

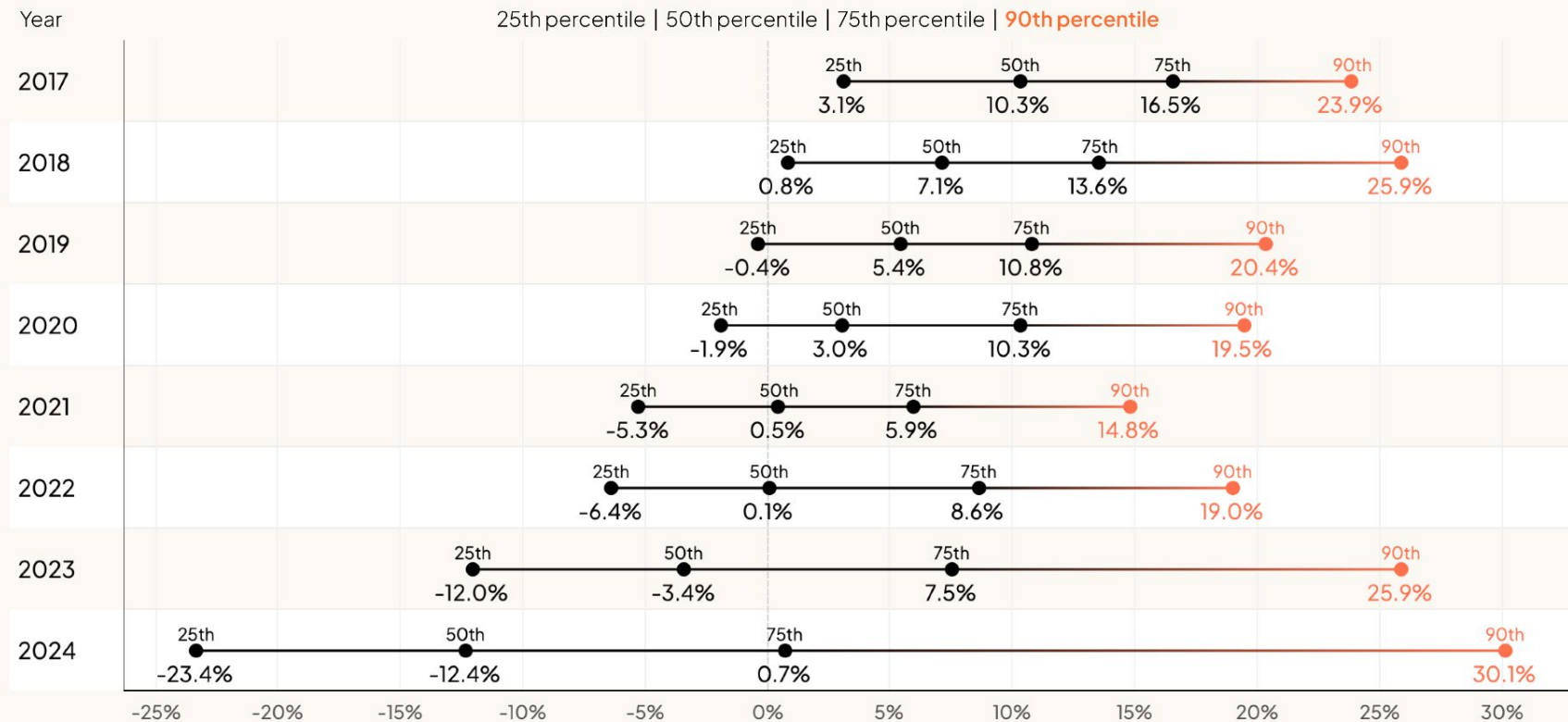
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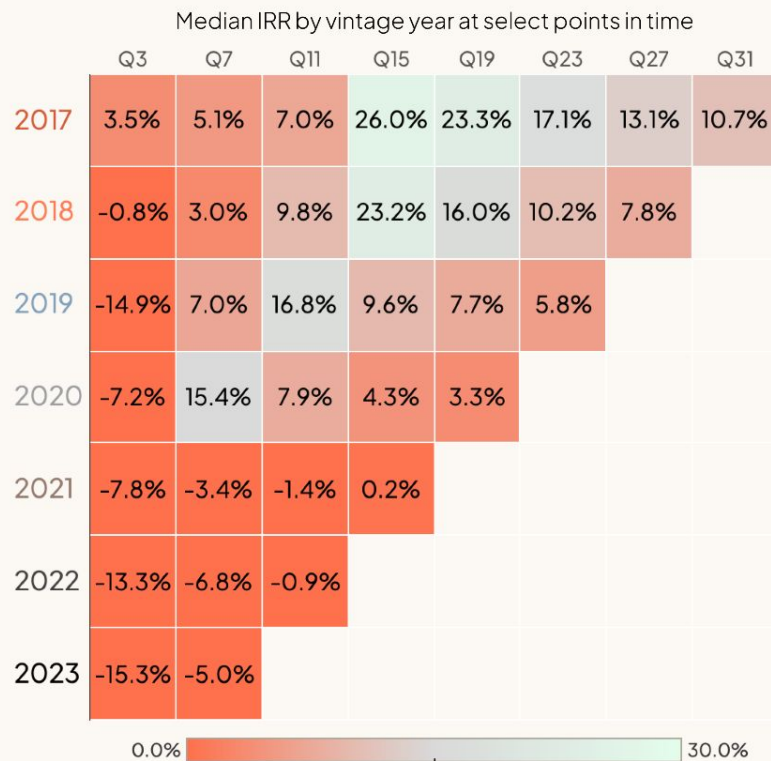
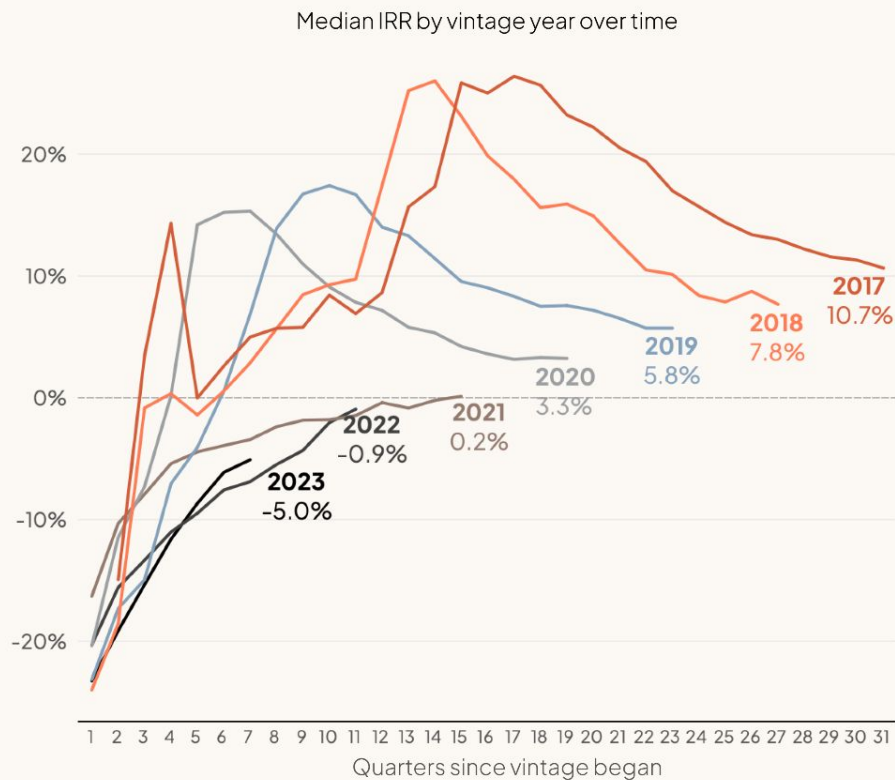
Funds in vintage year 2021 continue to struggle

Net IRR by vintage year across all fund sizes | Data as of Q3 2025



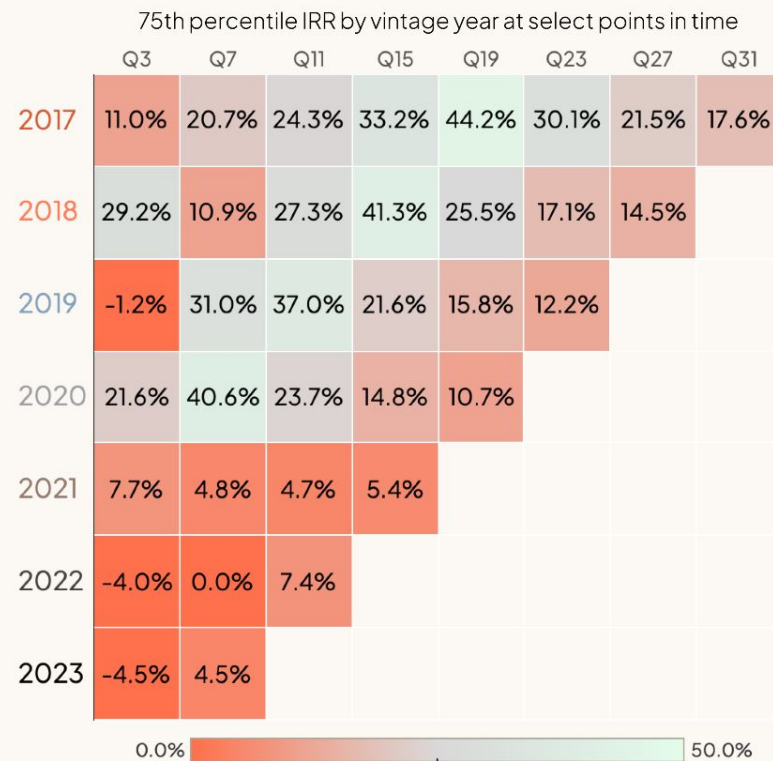
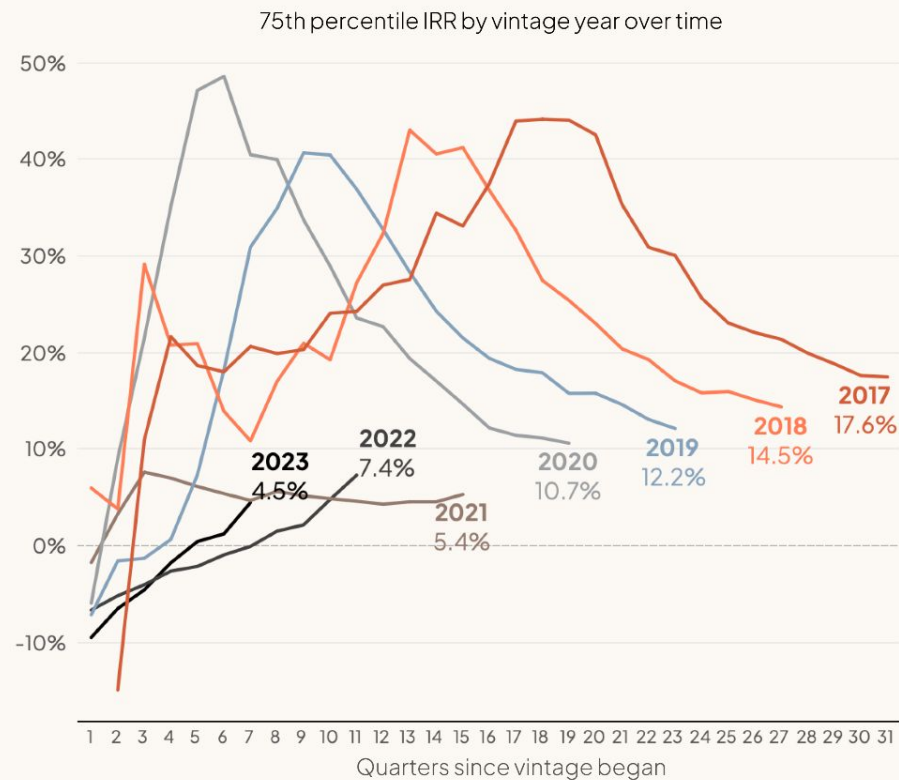
Median net IRR for vintage year 2021 barely positive as of Q3 2025

Median net IRR* by quarters since vintage began | Data as of Q3 2025



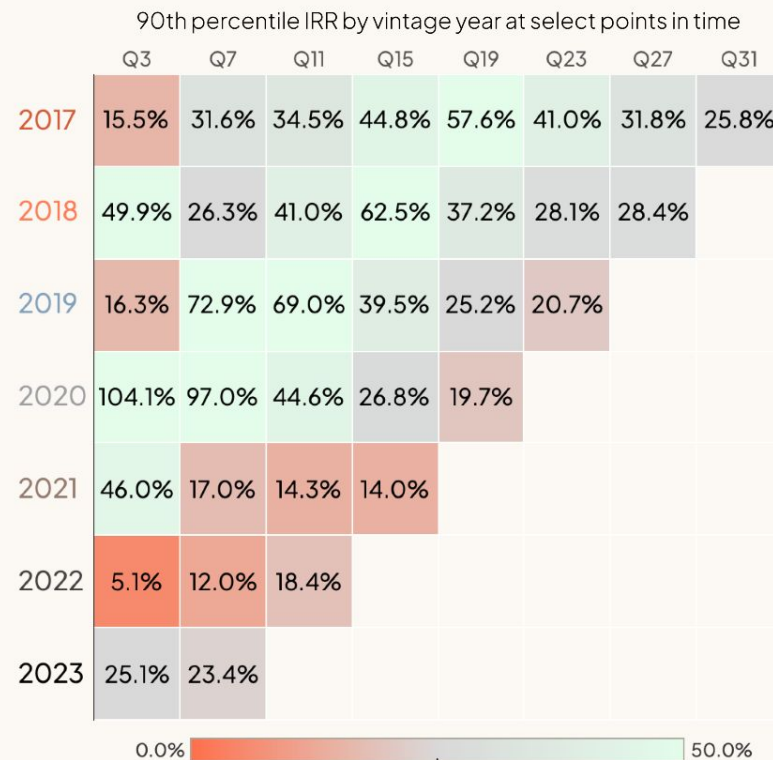
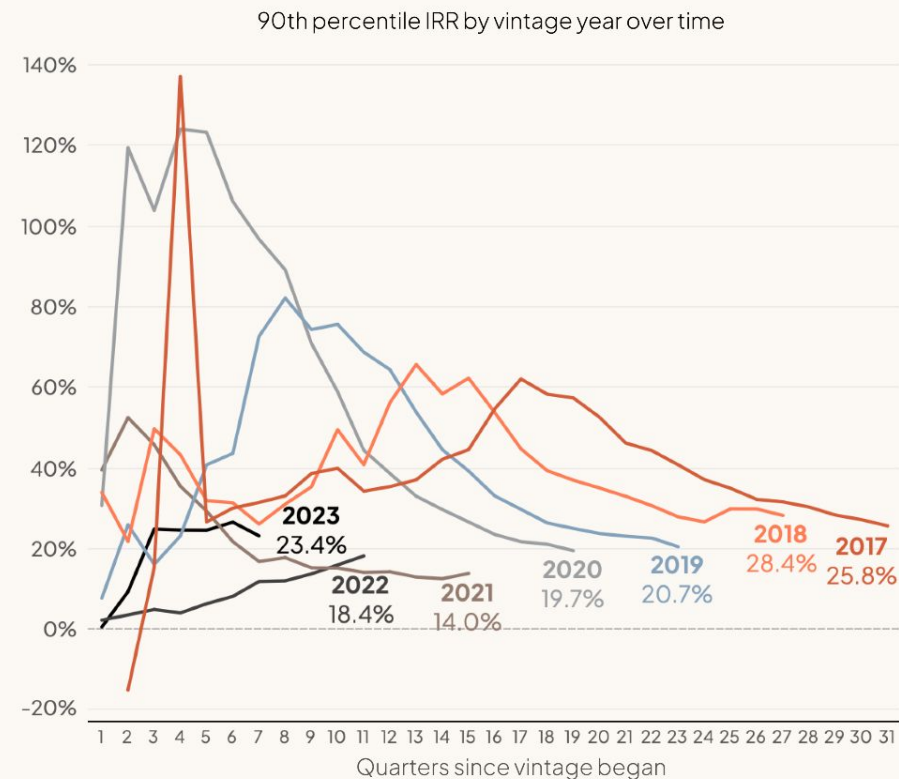
Top quartile net IRR rising faster for 2022 and 2023 vintages

75th percentile net IRR* by quarters since vintage began | Data as of Q3 2025

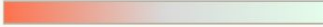


Top decile funds from 2022 vintage are steadily gaining

90th percentile net IRR* by quarters since vintage began | Data as of Q3 2025



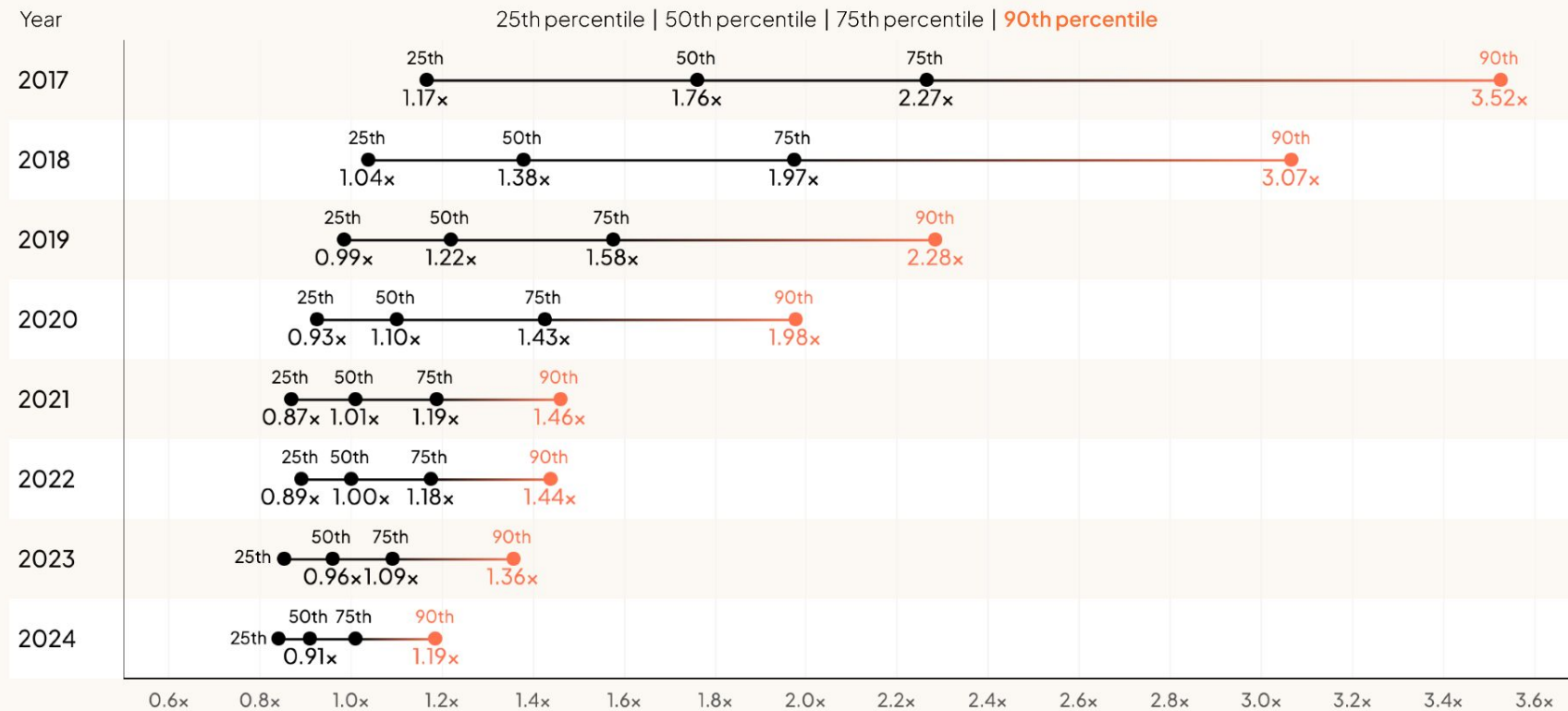
Top decile net IRR highly variable by fund size and vintage year

Net IRR by vintage year across all fund sizes | Data as of Q3 2025 | -10%  30%

| Vintage | 25th percentile net IRR | | | | 50th percentile net IRR | | | | 75th percentile net IRR | | | | 90th percentile net IRR | | | |
|---------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------|
| | \$1M - \$10M | \$10M - \$25M | \$25M - \$100M | \$100M+ | \$1M - \$10M | \$10M - \$25M | \$25M - \$100M | \$100M+ | \$1M - \$10M | \$10M - \$25M | \$25M - \$100M | \$100M+ | \$1M - \$10M | \$10M - \$25M | \$25M - \$100M | \$100M+ |
| 2017 | 6.7% | 4.1% | 2.1% | N/A | 13.4% | 10.5% | 6.4% | N/A | 18.3% | 15.2% | 12.9% | N/A | 29.3% | 24.5% | 18.0% | N/A |
| 2018 | 3.5% | 0.1% | 0.3% | 1.0% | 9.3% | 6.5% | 6.4% | 6.2% | 13.7% | 14.6% | 13.5% | 8.7% | 23.6% | 23.7% | 27.6% | 21.5% |
| 2019 | -0.2% | 1.8% | -2.3% | -3.5% | 5.5% | 5.5% | 5.6% | 3.6% | 10.7% | 9.3% | 11.9% | 9.2% | 28.2% | 17.2% | 17.3% | 14.4% |
| 2020 | -1.8% | -1.3% | -2.0% | -4.2% | 2.7% | 3.4% | 3.1% | 2.4% | 11.5% | 9.0% | 9.0% | 9.1% | 18.9% | 19.0% | 18.8% | 19.2% |
| 2021 | -5.3% | -6.0% | -4.7% | -4.5% | 0.2% | 0.2% | 1.2% | 0.3% | 5.4% | 4.5% | 7.2% | 4.4% | 16.1% | 14.2% | 15.0% | 9.9% |
| 2022 | -7.2% | -7.1% | -4.7% | -2.4% | -0.5% | -0.1% | 0.1% | 2.3% | 7.3% | 7.5% | 9.2% | 11.6% | 16.0% | 17.7% | 22.4% | 19.8% |
| 2023 | -10.2% | -13.2% | -14.8% | -13.2% | -3.9% | -6.4% | -0.5% | -2.4% | 3.7% | 7.3% | 10.8% | 5.6% | 20.2% | 25.4% | 29.6% | 28.3% |
| 2024 | -27.1% | -21.5% | -17.7% | -22.8% | -13.8% | -12.2% | -9.4% | -13.1% | -0.8% | -1.6% | 8.0% | 6.2% | 12.3% | 13.2% | 55.7% | 80.1% |

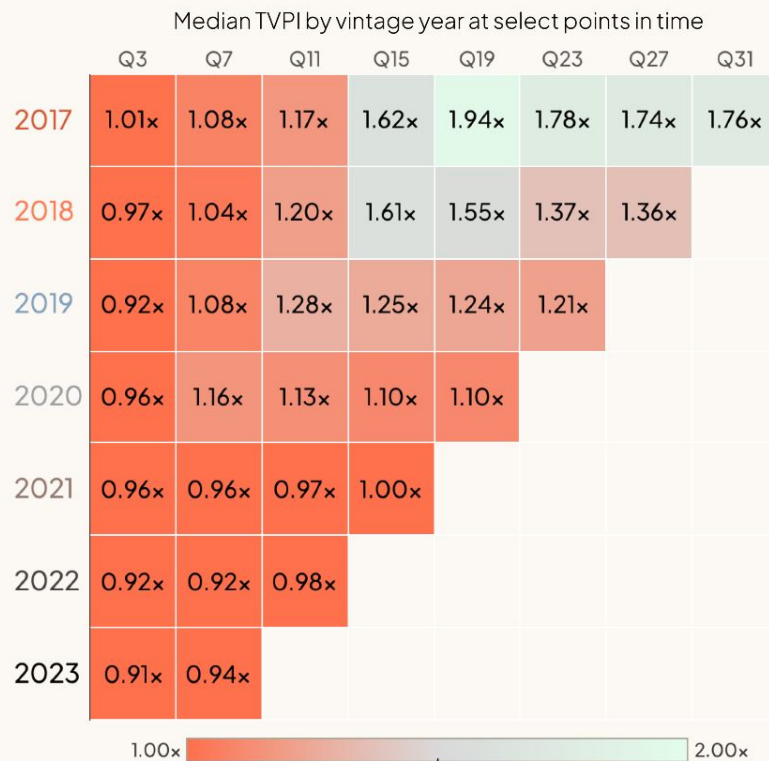
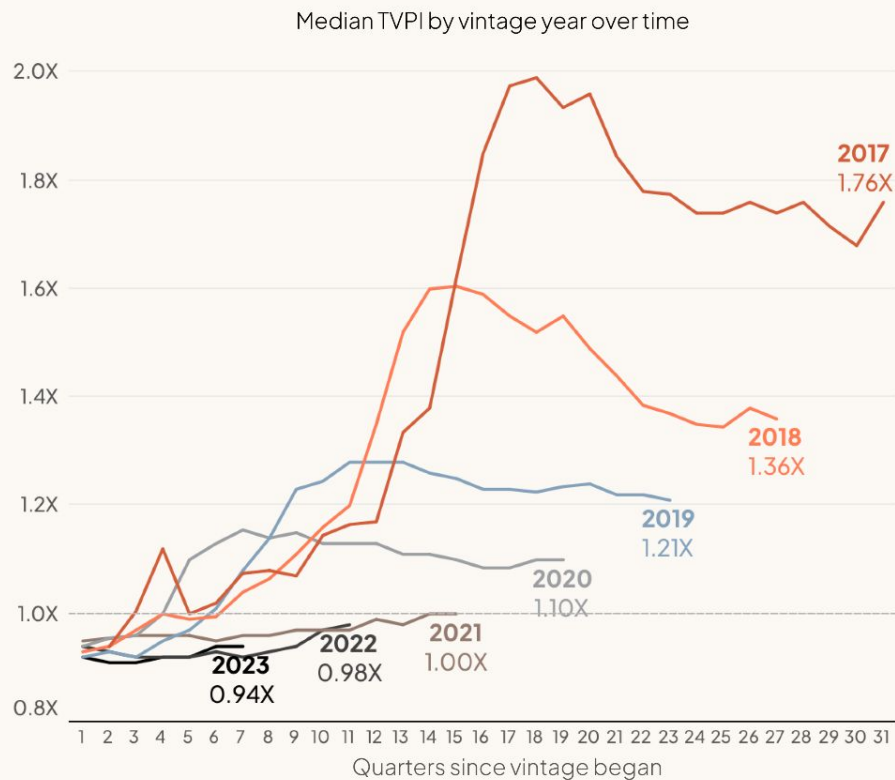
3x net TVPI elusive beyond the top 10% of funds in maturing vintages

Net TVPI by vintage year across all fund sizes | Data as of Q3 2025



Median net TVPI stayed relatively flat for most vintages

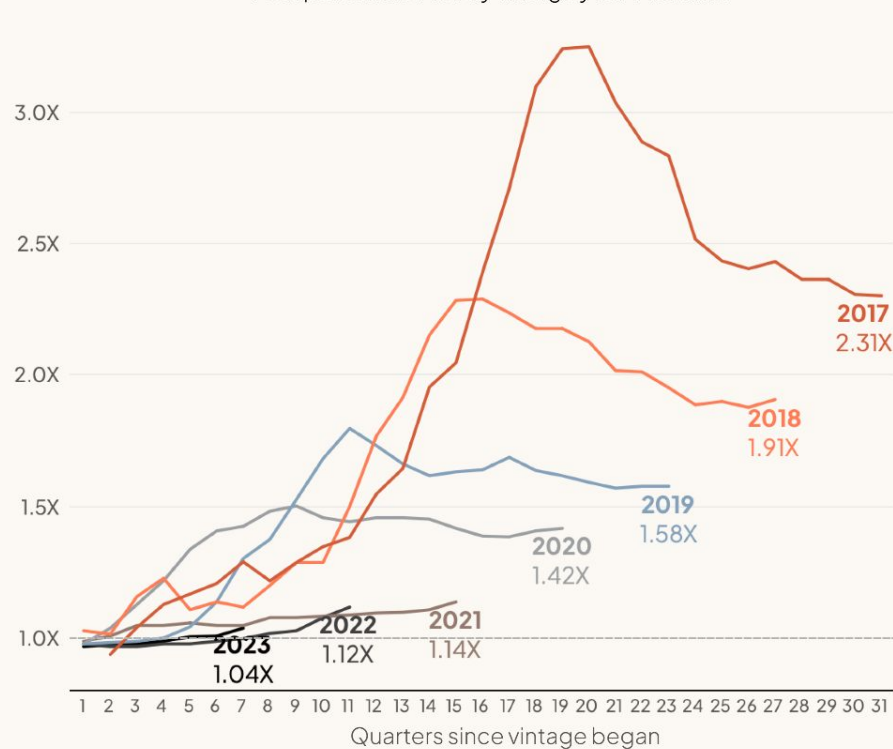
Median net TVPI* by quarters since vintage began | Data as of Q3 2025



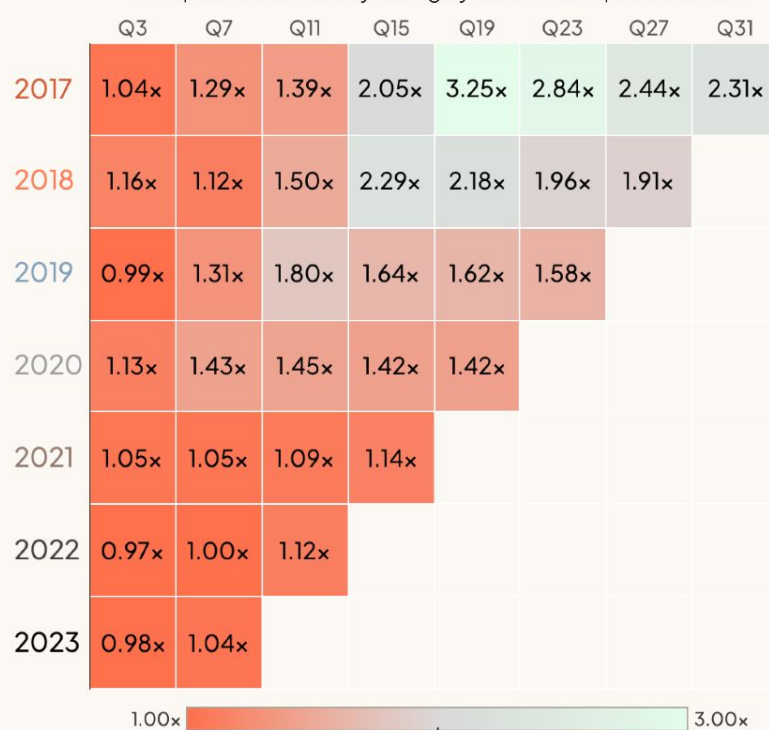
Top quartile net TVPI rose marginally for most vintage years

75th percentile net TVPI* by quarters since vintage began | Data as of Q3 2025

75th percentile TVPI by vintage year over time

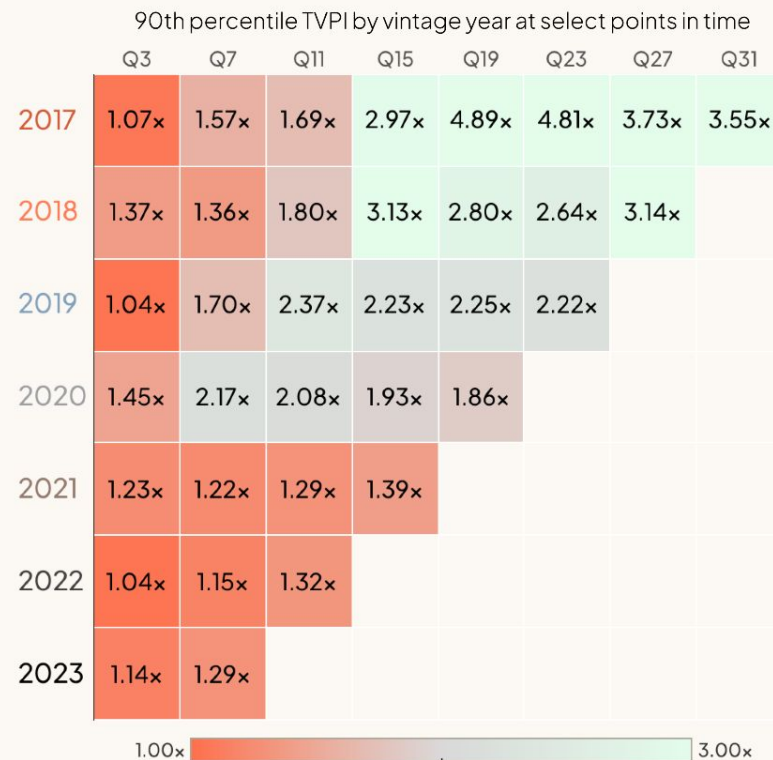
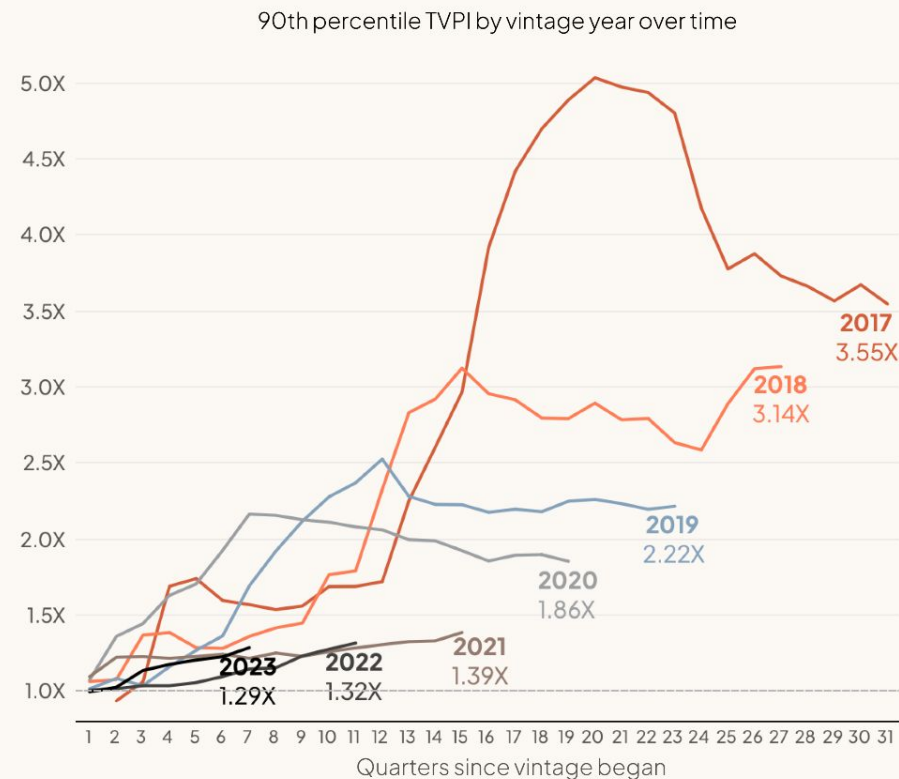


75th percentile TVPI by vintage year at select points in time



Top decile TVPI for 2023 vintage is pacing better than 2022 or 2021

90th percentile net TVPI* by quarters since vintage began | Data as of Q3 2025



Even in more mature vintages, top quartile funds may not hit 3x net TVPI

Net TVPI by vintage year across all fund sizes | Data as of Q3 2025 | 0.8x  3x

| Vintage | 25th percentile net TVPI | | | | 50th percentile net TVPI | | | | 75th percentile net TVPI | | | | 90th percentile net TVPI | | | |
|---------|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------|
| | \$1M - \$10M | \$10M - \$25M | \$25M - \$100M | \$100M+ | \$1M - \$10M | \$10M - \$25M | \$25M - \$100M | \$100M+ | \$1M - \$10M | \$10M - \$25M | \$25M - \$100M | \$100M+ | \$1M - \$10M | \$10M - \$25M | \$25M - \$100M | \$100M+ |
| 2017 | 1.31x | 1.20x | 1.09x | N/A | 2.10x | 1.76x | 1.44x | N/A | 3.03x | 2.17x | 1.95x | N/A | 4.05x | 3.56x | 2.66x | N/A |
| 2018 | 1.25x | 1.01x | 1.02x | 1.05x | 1.57x | 1.35x | 1.34x | 1.29x | 2.07x | 2.02x | 1.93x | 1.46x | 3.46x | 3.01x | 3.15x | 1.71x |
| 2019 | 0.99x | 1.09x | 0.92x | 0.86x | 1.27x | 1.21x | 1.23x | 1.17x | 1.57x | 1.58x | 1.58x | 1.37x | 3.08x | 2.01x | 2.14x | 1.80x |
| 2020 | 0.92x | 0.95x | 0.94x | 0.84x | 1.10x | 1.12x | 1.11x | 1.09x | 1.68x | 1.34x | 1.31x | 1.38x | 2.33x | 1.92x | 1.86x | 1.88x |
| 2021 | 0.83x | 0.88x | 0.88x | 0.90x | 1.01x | 1.00x | 1.03x | 1.01x | 1.17x | 1.16x | 1.21x | 1.12x | 1.53x | 1.43x | 1.41x | 1.35x |
| 2022 | 0.85x | 0.89x | 0.92x | 0.95x | 0.98x | 1.00x | 1.00x | 1.04x | 1.16x | 1.15x | 1.16x | 1.22x | 1.36x | 1.41x | 1.55x | 1.31x |
| 2023 | 0.86x | 0.86x | 0.85x | 0.88x | 0.95x | 0.94x | 0.99x | 0.98x | 1.06x | 1.10x | 1.15x | 1.04x | 1.31x | 1.29x | 1.43x | 1.49x |
| 2024 | 0.82x | 0.84x | 0.89x | 0.84x | 0.89x | 0.91x | 0.92x | 0.89x | 0.99x | 0.99x | 1.07x | 1.04x | 1.10x | 1.11x | 1.41x | 1.32x |

VC-Backed Startups

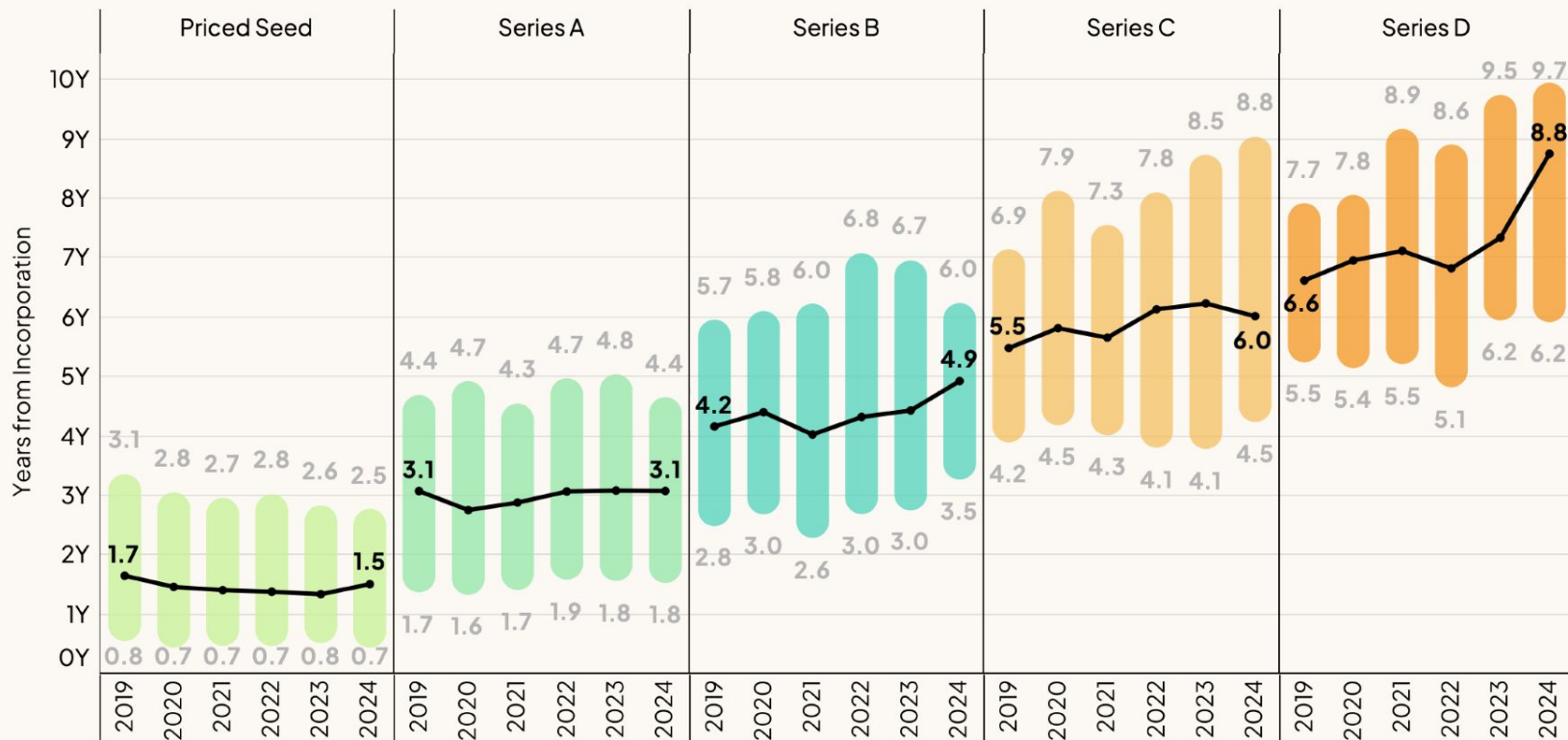
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Private companies are staying private longer

Time from incorporation to priced round by companies that raised in a given year | Q1 2019–Q2 2024



Graduation rates to Series A improving for recent cohorts

Percent of companies that get from priced seed to Series A by cohort of seed fundraise, Q1 2019–Q3 2025 | Data as of Q3 2025

Cumulative percent of seed-stage companies that graduated to Series A | 0–9% 10–19% 20–29% 30–39% 40–49% 50+%

| Seed Round Year / Quarter | | Year 1 | | | | Year 2 | | | | Year 3 | | | | Year 4 | | | |
|------------------------------|----|--------|------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q5 | Q6 | Q7 | Q8 | Q9 | Q10 | Q11 | Q12 | Q13 | Q14 | Q15 | Q16 |
| 2019 | Q1 | 1.5% | 3.0% | 8.3% | 13.6% | 15.2% | 21.2% | 24.6% | 28.8% | 34.5% | 38.6% | 43.2% | 43.9% | 44.7% | 48.1% | 49.2% | 49.2% |
| | Q2 | 2.7% | 3.6% | 7.4% | 11.0% | 14.2% | 20.0% | 24.7% | 30.7% | 34.5% | 40.0% | 44.4% | 46.6% | 48.2% | 49.0% | 52.1% | 52.1% |
| | Q3 | 2.2% | 4.2% | 6.1% | 10.0% | 13.9% | 18.6% | 25.2% | 30.7% | 36.6% | 41.0% | 44.0% | 47.4% | 49.6% | 50.1% | 50.4% | 51.2% |
| | Q4 | 1.0% | 3.8% | 6.3% | 9.5% | 15.3% | 24.4% | 28.9% | 32.4% | 35.7% | 39.4% | 42.0% | 43.2% | 44.5% | 46.0% | 47.0% | 47.7% |
| 2020 | Q1 | 1.8% | 3.4% | 8.3% | 13.0% | 22.3% | 27.0% | 30.4% | 34.5% | 39.2% | 41.0% | 42.9% | 44.4% | 45.7% | 46.2% | 47.3% | 47.5% |
| | Q2 | 2.7% | 5.8% | 9.4% | 17.6% | 25.5% | 31.9% | 36.5% | 39.5% | 43.8% | 45.3% | 46.8% | 48.9% | 49.8% | 51.1% | 52.3% | 52.9% |
| | Q3 | 3.2% | 8.2% | 13.7% | 19.9% | 29.2% | 35.1% | 37.7% | 40.1% | 42.4% | 43.6% | 44.7% | 45.6% | 46.5% | 47.4% | 48.2% | 49.1% |
| | Q4 | 3.1% | 7.8% | 12.0% | 19.8% | 25.3% | 30.2% | 33.9% | 36.5% | 38.0% | 38.8% | 40.2% | 41.4% | 42.0% | 43.1% | 43.3% | 45.1% |
| 2021 | Q1 | 4.9% | 7.4% | 13.5% | 18.7% | 24.6% | 27.8% | 30.0% | 32.7% | 35.1% | 36.1% | 37.3% | 38.1% | 39.3% | 40.0% | 40.8% | 41.8% |
| | Q2 | 1.9% | 5.8% | 10.5% | 15.1% | 20.0% | 24.0% | 26.6% | 27.7% | 29.1% | 30.6% | 32.0% | 33.3% | 34.5% | 34.9% | 35.5% | 36.4% |
| | Q3 | 3.8% | 5.5% | 7.6% | 11.6% | 14.0% | 15.7% | 18.2% | 20.5% | 21.4% | 23.3% | 25.9% | 27.1% | 28.4% | 29.5% | 31.3% | 32.4% |
| | Q4 | 1.6% | 3.6% | 4.3% | 6.7% | 8.5% | 10.8% | 12.8% | 15.1% | 17.1% | 20.2% | 21.7% | 24.2% | 25.0% | 26.3% | 27.5% | |
| 2022 | Q1 | 3.9% | 5.1% | 6.5% | 7.7% | 10.0% | 12.0% | 14.4% | 15.9% | 17.9% | 19.7% | 21.7% | 23.0% | 23.4% | 24.0% | | |
| | Q2 | 1.3% | 2.1% | 2.8% | 4.7% | 6.5% | 9.3% | 11.6% | 13.5% | 15.4% | 17.6% | 19.7% | 21.6% | 23.3% | | | |
| | Q3 | 1.7% | 2.6% | 4.8% | 6.2% | 9.8% | 11.7% | 14.0% | 17.4% | 20.7% | 23.1% | 24.5% | 25.7% | | | | |
| | Q4 | 1.7% | 3.4% | 4.1% | 6.5% | 9.0% | 13.3% | 14.0% | 16.2% | 17.9% | 19.1% | 21.5% | | | | | |
| 2023 | Q1 | 0.6% | 0.9% | 3.1% | 3.7% | 7.5% | 11.5% | 13.0% | 15.5% | 19.3% | 20.5% | | | | | | |
| | Q2 | 3.4% | 3.9% | 5.6% | 8.5% | 12.2% | 15.8% | 17.8% | 20.4% | 22.9% | | | | | | | |
| | Q3 | 1.9% | 2.1% | 5.4% | 8.0% | 11.5% | 13.4% | 16.1% | 18.0% | | | | | | | | |
| | Q4 | 1.2% | 2.5% | 3.4% | 5.2% | 7.6% | 10.8% | 14.5% | | | | | | | | | |
| 2024 | Q1 | 1.0% | 2.8% | 5.9% | 9.0% | 11.7% | 13.4% | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Q2 | 2.6% | 4.4% | 6.7% | 9.0% | 14.7% | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Q3 | 2.6% | 5.2% | 9.2% | 12.9% | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Time since seed fundraise

Graduation rates to Series B are improving slowly

Percent of companies that get from Series A to Series B by cohort of Series A fundraise, Q1 2019–Q3 2024 | Data as of Q3 2025

Cumulative percent of Series A companies that graduated to Series B | 0–9% 10–19% 20–29% 30–39% 40–49% 50%+

| Series A Round Year / Quarter | | Year 1 | | | | Year 2 | | | | Year 3 | | | | Year 4 | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q5 | Q6 | Q7 | Q8 | Q9 | Q10 | Q11 | Q12 | Q13 | Q14 | Q15 | Q16 |
| 2019 | Q1 | 3.6% | 4.7% | 10.9% | 14.5% | 18.9% | 21.8% | 26.5% | 32.7% | 38.5% | 41.1% | 46.5% | 49.1% | 52.0% | 52.7% | 53.8% | 54.9% |
| | Q2 | 1.2% | 2.1% | 4.7% | 7.4% | 11.5% | 18.3% | 21.2% | 28.0% | 33.6% | 37.5% | 41.6% | 44.8% | 46.0% | 48.4% | 49.0% | 50.7% |
| | Q3 | 2.7% | 3.0% | 4.5% | 8.8% | 12.1% | 18.2% | 24.5% | 30.0% | 34.8% | 38.5% | 41.5% | 43.3% | 45.2% | 46.1% | 47.9% | 48.8% |
| | Q4 | 4.0% | 4.6% | 6.8% | 11.1% | 16.1% | 22.9% | 31.3% | 35.0% | 37.2% | 39.9% | 42.1% | 42.1% | 43.0% | 44.3% | 44.6% | 44.9% |
| 2020 | Q1 | 1.1% | 1.8% | 5.7% | 9.3% | 21.0% | 31.3% | 37.4% | 42.3% | 47.0% | 48.4% | 50.9% | 52.0% | 54.4% | 54.4% | 55.5% | 55.5% |
| | Q2 | 3.2% | 7.2% | 12.6% | 20.5% | 27.0% | 34.5% | 38.1% | 41.0% | 45.0% | 46.8% | 48.2% | 50.7% | 52.2% | 52.2% | 53.6% | 54.7% |
| | Q3 | 4.5% | 8.1% | 15.3% | 21.0% | 28.2% | 35.1% | 39.6% | 40.5% | 43.8% | 44.4% | 45.9% | 47.7% | 48.3% | 49.5% | 50.8% | 51.7% |
| | Q4 | 3.3% | 6.2% | 11.5% | 19.8% | 25.5% | 31.7% | 33.9% | 38.2% | 40.1% | 41.3% | 42.7% | 44.4% | 45.8% | 46.8% | 48.0% | 48.7% |
| 2021 | Q1 | 4.3% | 10.0% | 18.1% | 23.3% | 27.4% | 30.7% | 33.8% | 35.5% | 37.1% | 39.3% | 41.0% | 41.9% | 43.3% | 44.3% | 46.9% | 48.3% |
| | Q2 | 2.8% | 7.1% | 12.5% | 16.6% | 18.7% | 21.3% | 23.1% | 26.2% | 27.0% | 28.6% | 29.6% | 31.5% | 33.8% | 34.8% | 35.9% | 36.6% |
| | Q3 | 2.5% | 5.1% | 7.4% | 9.8% | 11.5% | 14.1% | 16.6% | 19.2% | 21.9% | 23.5% | 25.2% | 28.0% | 29.2% | 29.9% | 32.1% | 32.5% |
| | Q4 | 1.6% | 2.6% | 3.2% | 4.8% | 6.7% | 10.4% | 12.5% | 14.9% | 16.1% | 20.1% | 22.0% | 23.8% | 25.1% | 26.2% | 27.0% | |
| 2022 | Q1 | 0.9% | 1.5% | 2.4% | 3.7% | 5.5% | 7.3% | 9.0% | 13.2% | 15.6% | 17.2% | 19.8% | 21.4% | 23.8% | 26.4% | | |
| | Q2 | 1.8% | 2.3% | 2.5% | 3.9% | 5.3% | 6.2% | 7.1% | 9.6% | 12.6% | 14.9% | 17.4% | 19.2% | 21.3% | | | |
| | Q3 | 1.4% | 1.9% | 2.7% | 3.0% | 3.8% | 5.4% | 8.6% | 10.8% | 14.3% | 14.9% | 16.8% | 18.6% | | | | |
| | Q4 | 2.8% | 3.1% | 4.7% | 7.5% | 9.4% | 12.2% | 15.0% | 18.5% | 20.7% | 23.5% | 24.5% | | | | | |
| 2023 | Q1 | 1.6% | 1.6% | 3.3% | 6.6% | 9.5% | 11.9% | 14.0% | 15.2% | 19.8% | 21.8% | | | | | | |
| | Q2 | 2.2% | 3.6% | 5.4% | 7.9% | 9.7% | 13.3% | 13.3% | 14.7% | 19.4% | | | | | | | |
| | Q3 | 1.2% | 1.6% | 3.7% | 6.6% | 10.3% | 14.8% | 18.5% | 19.8% | | | | | | | | |
| | Q4 | 1.7% | 2.4% | 4.5% | 5.9% | 7.2% | 13.8% | 16.2% | | | | | | | | | |
| 2024 | Q1 | 2.4% | 4.3% | 5.3% | 10.1% | 13.0% | 16.4% | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Q2 | 1.8% | 3.6% | 4.7% | 8.0% | 10.1% | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Q3 | 2.6% | 5.1% | 7.0% | 10.7% | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Time since seed fundraise

VC-Backed Startups

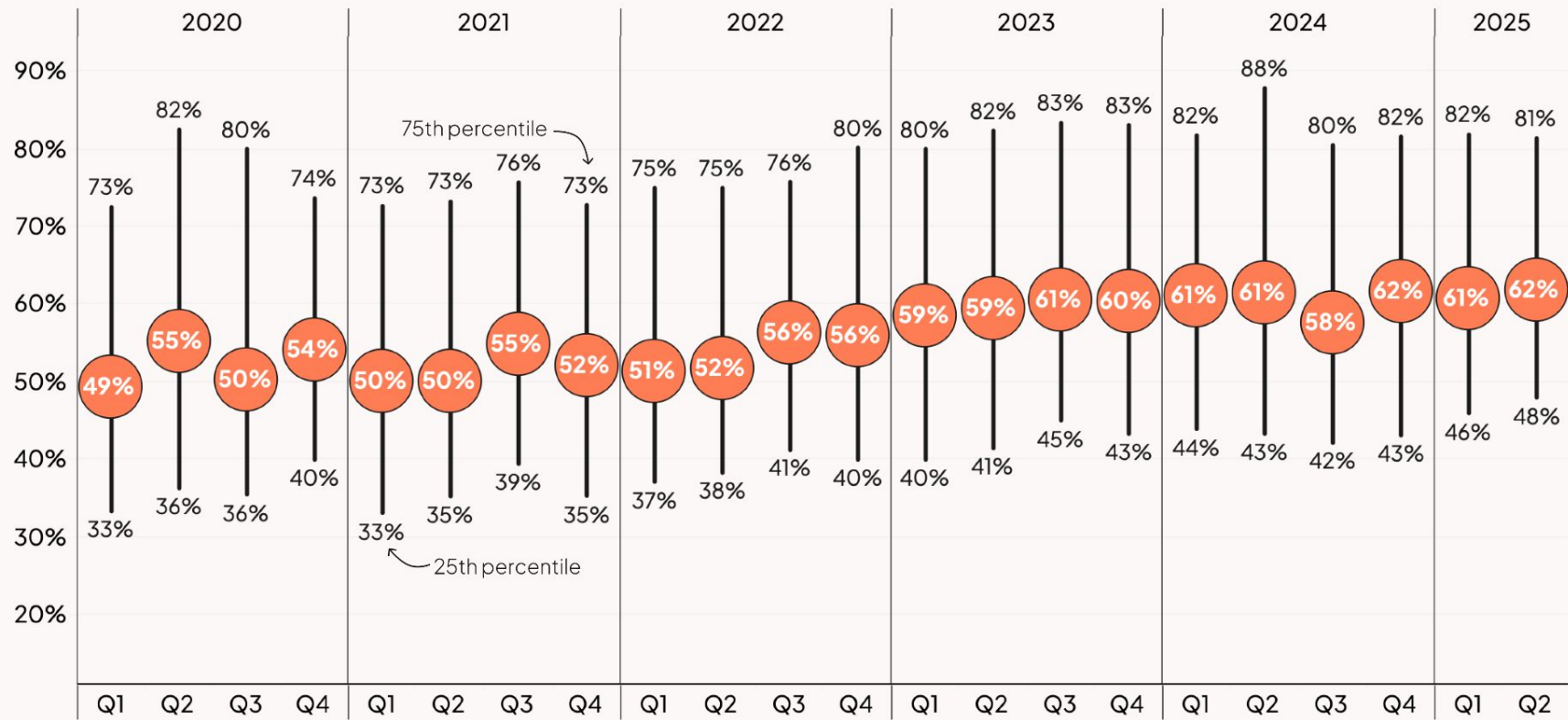
- Overall fundraising landscape
- Cofounders & early teams
- Pre-seed SAFEs & notes
- Early stage (Seed + Series A)
- Growth stage (Series B + C)
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Venture Funds

- Funds & dry powder
- LP dynamics
- Fund performance
- Graduation rate benchmarks
- Ownership, bridges, & pre-emption
- Fund economics
- DPI & liquidity opportunities

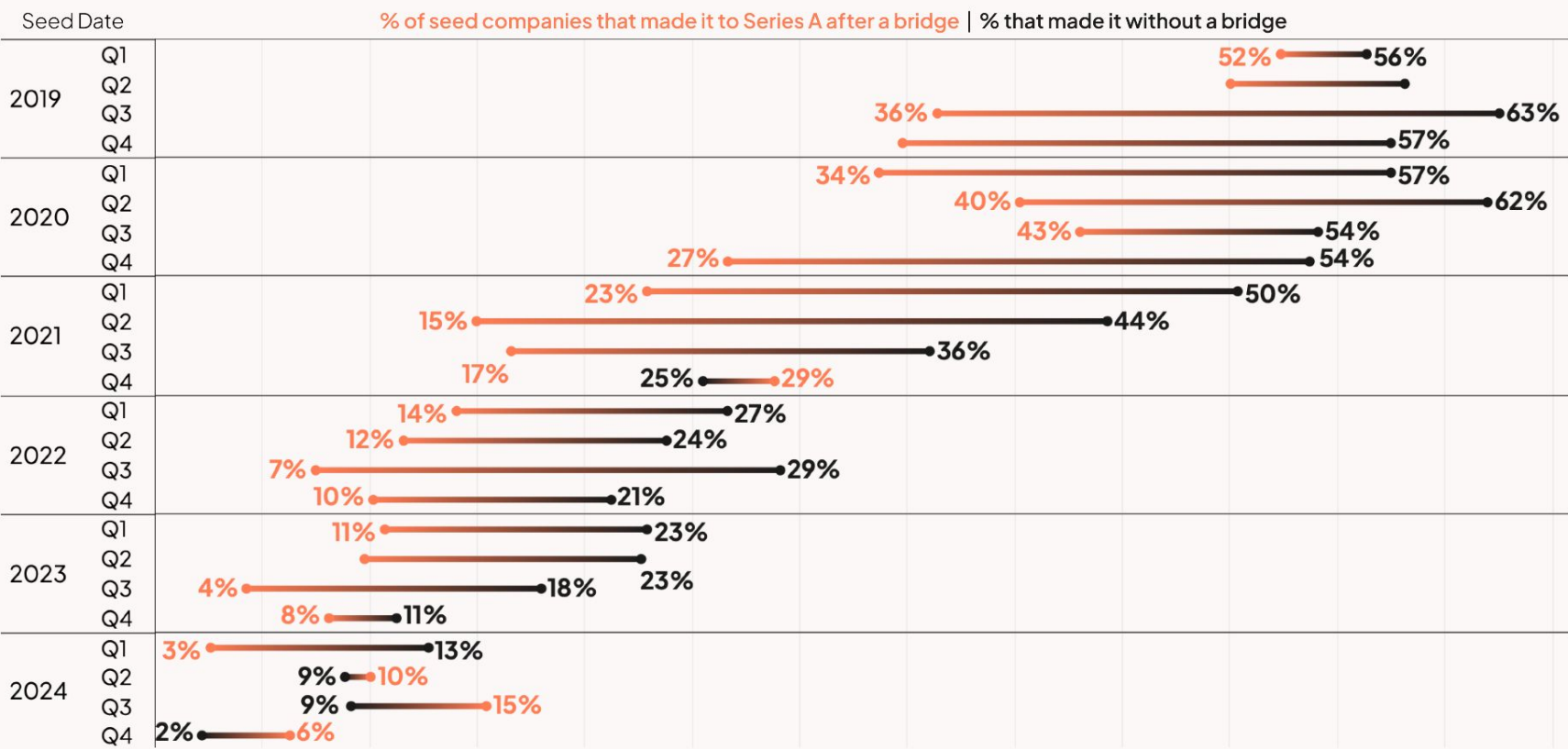
The lead investor is taking more of the available equity

Percent of a seed round taken by the lead investor by quarter | Q1 2020–Q2 2025 | **Circle = median**



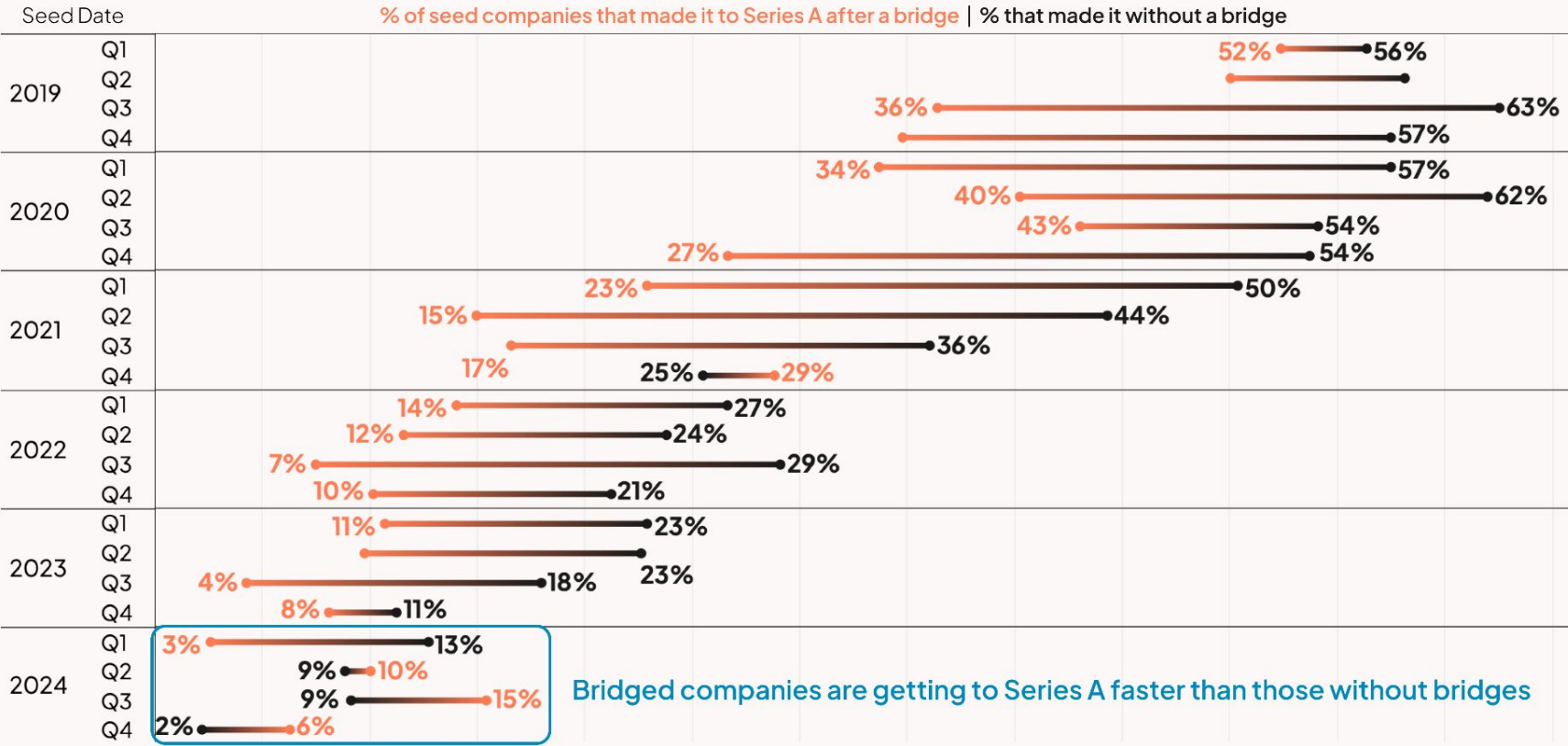
Bridges are usually bad ideas...

Percent of seed companies that made it to Series A by date of seed round



Can't buy enough upfront? How about a pre-emption?

Percent of seed companies that made it to Series A by date of seed round



VC-Backed Startups

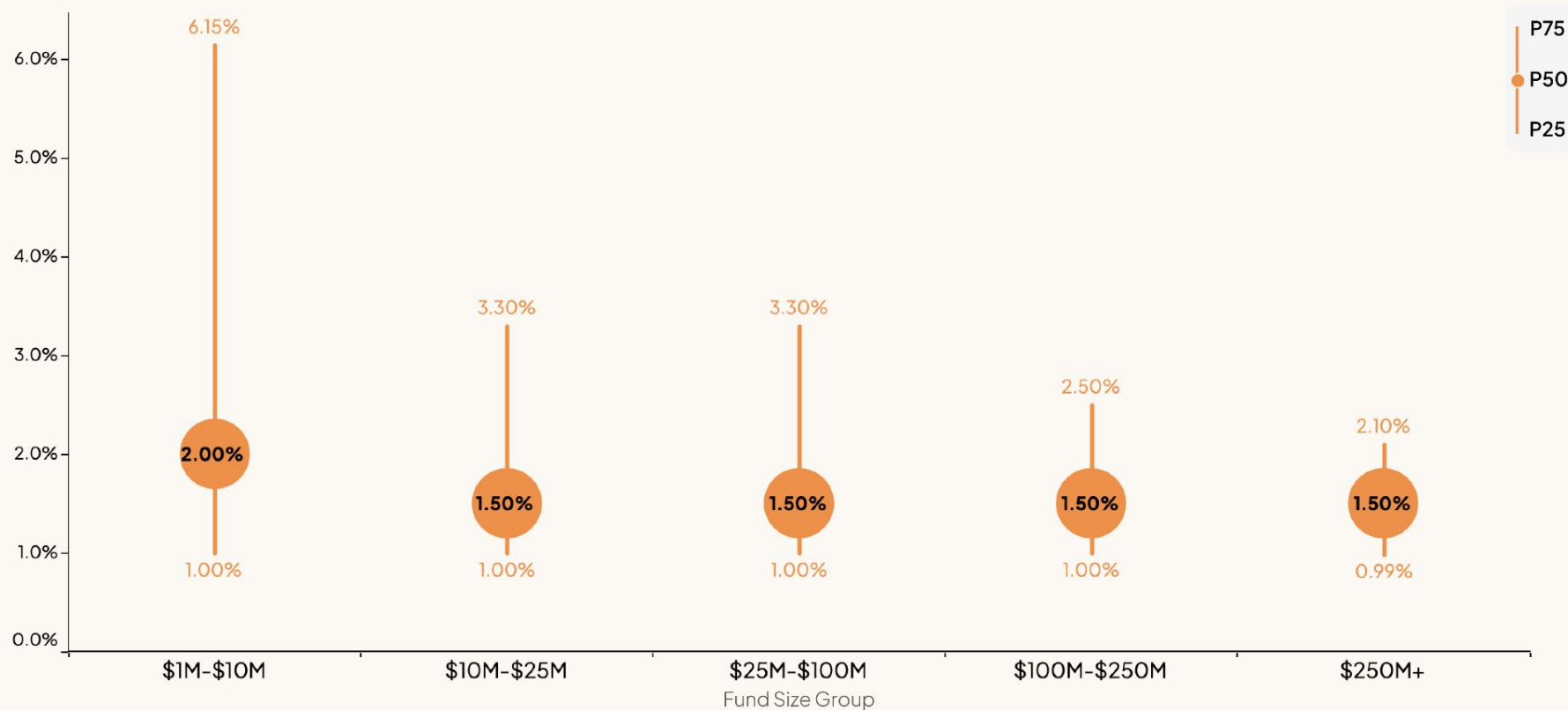
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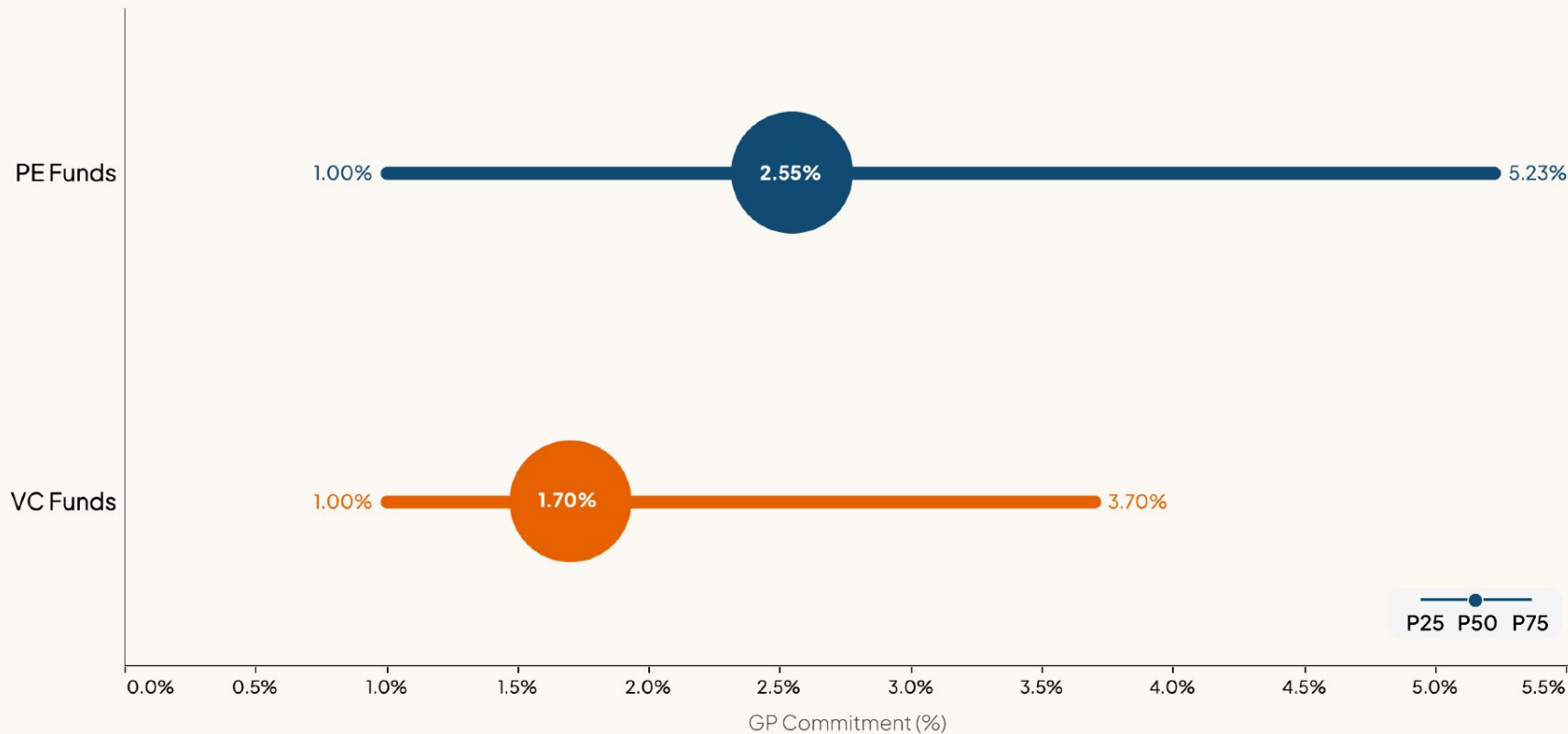
GP “skin in the game” tends to be higher for smaller VC funds

Distribution of GP entity commitment* as a percent of VC fund size (P25 / P50 / P75) by fund size group | Data as of Oct. 2025



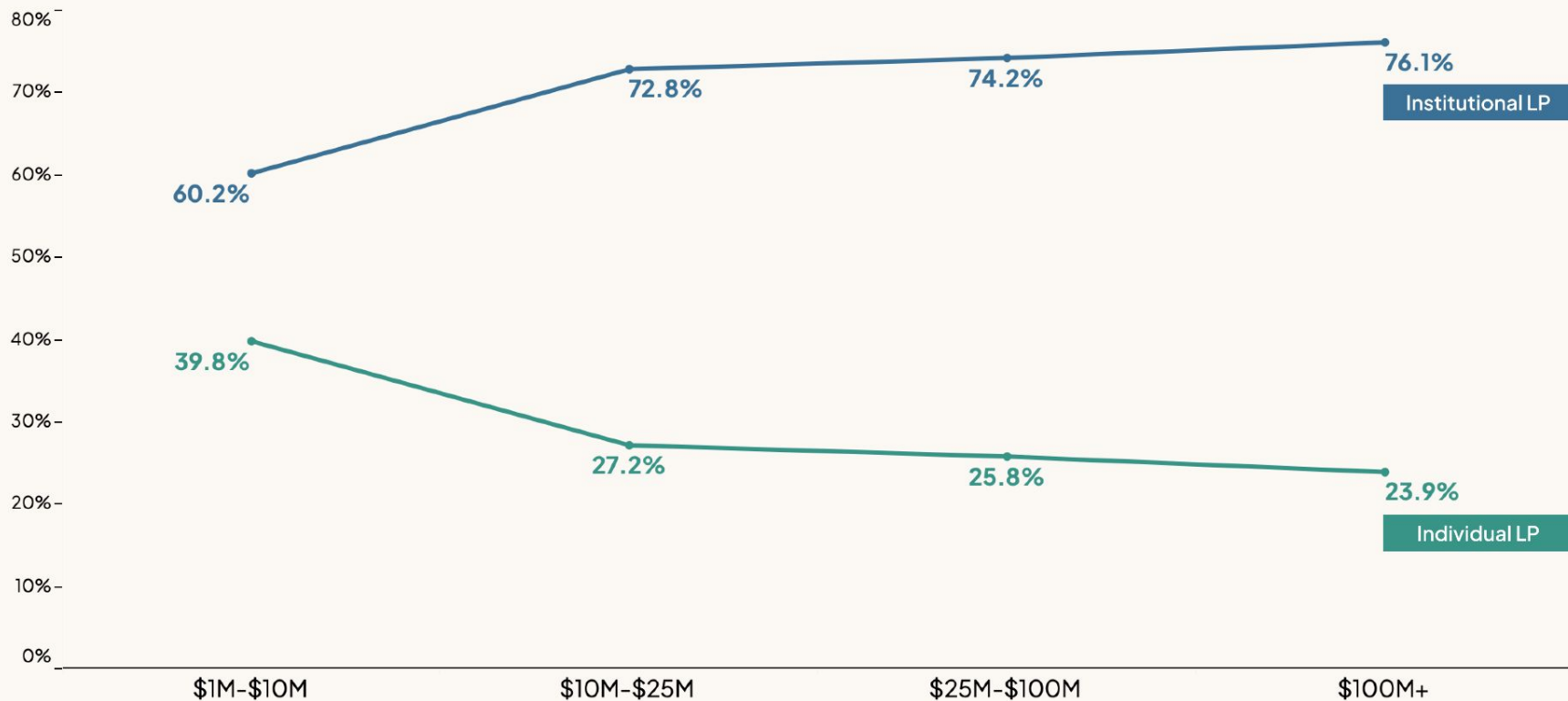
PE GPs usually have more “skin in the game” than VC GPs

Distribution of GP entity commitment* as a percent of fund size (P25 / P50 / P75) by fund type | Data as of Oct. 2025



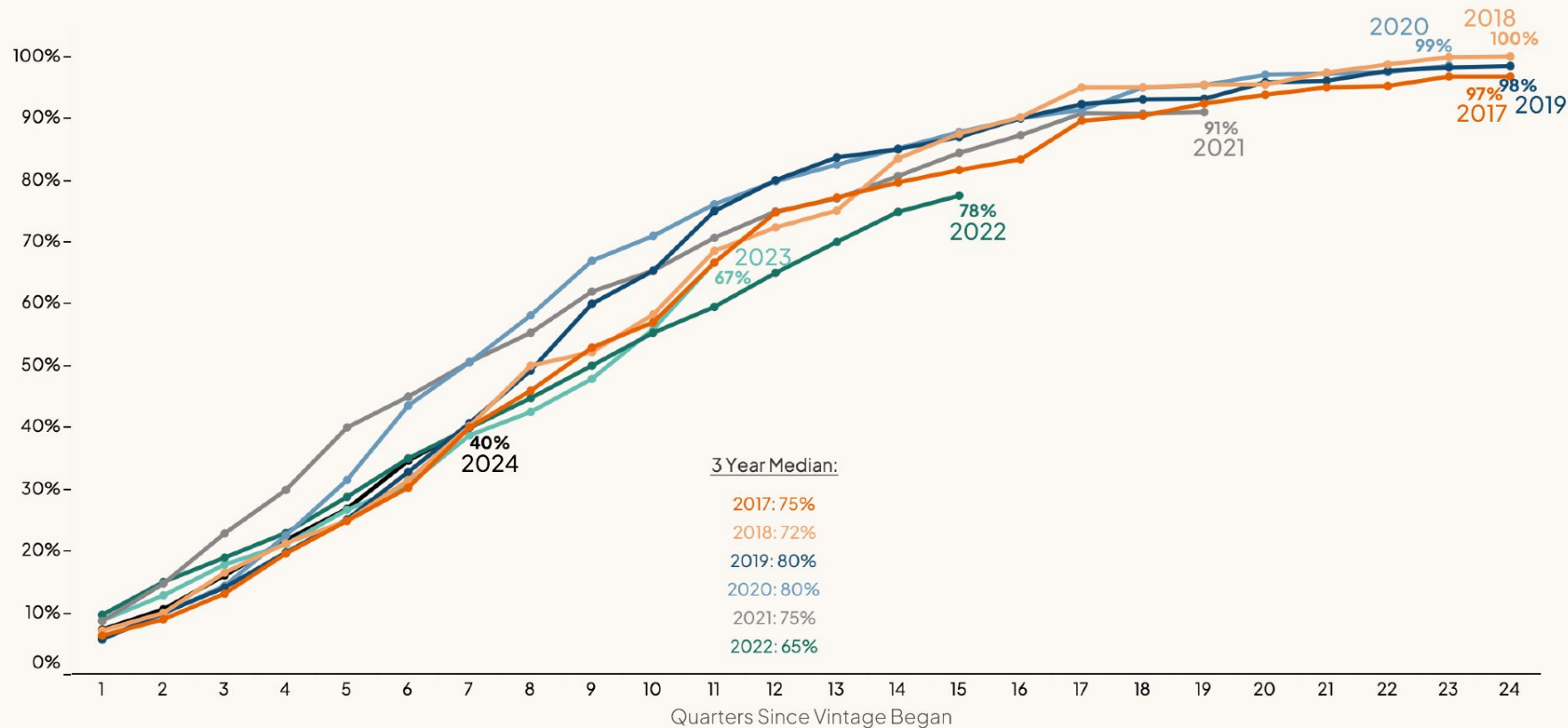
A quarter of VC funds between \$25M-\$100M have an individual as the anchor LP

Percent of VC funds by anchor LP type (**individual** vs. **institutional**) and fund size | Data as of Oct. 2025



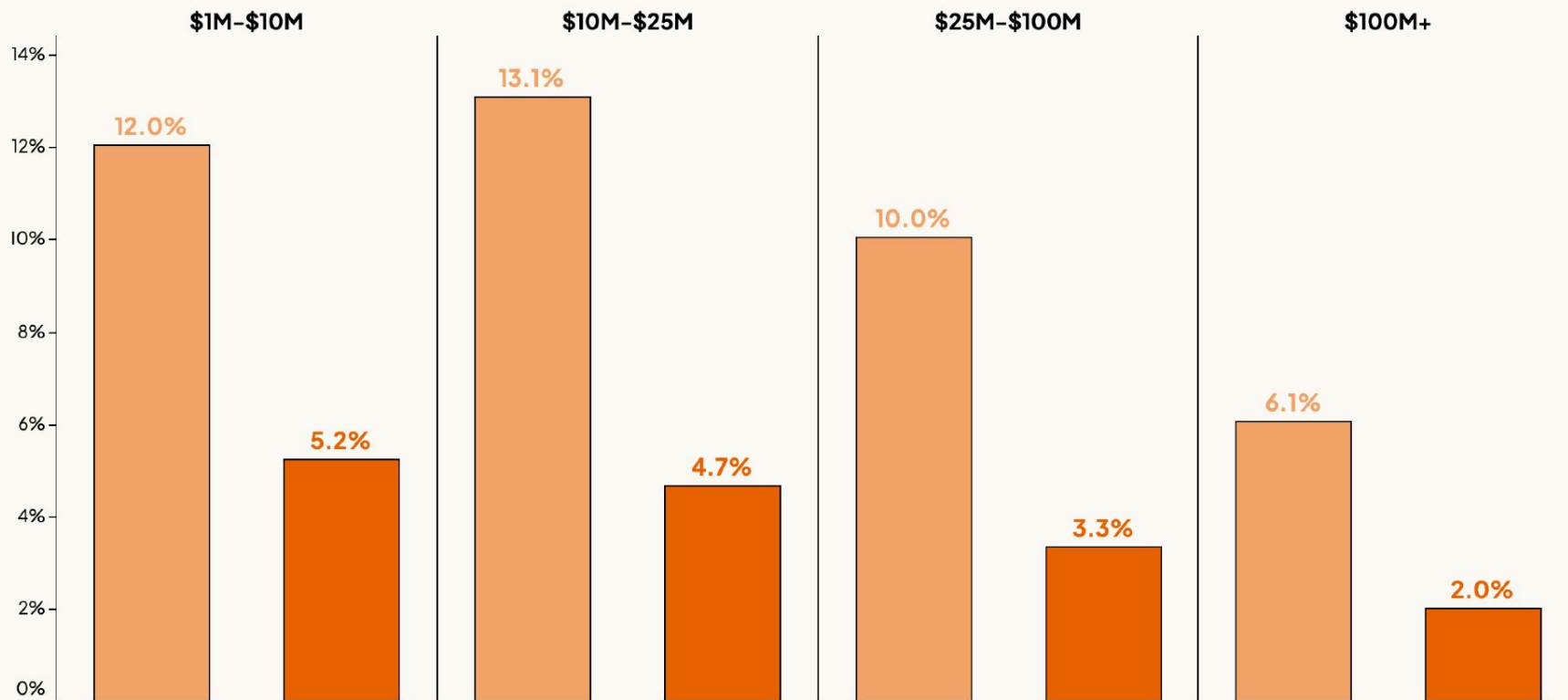
The median 2024 vintage VC fund has received 40% of its LP commitments

Median LP contributions received by VC funds over time as a share of total LP commitments by vintage year | Data as of Oct. 2025



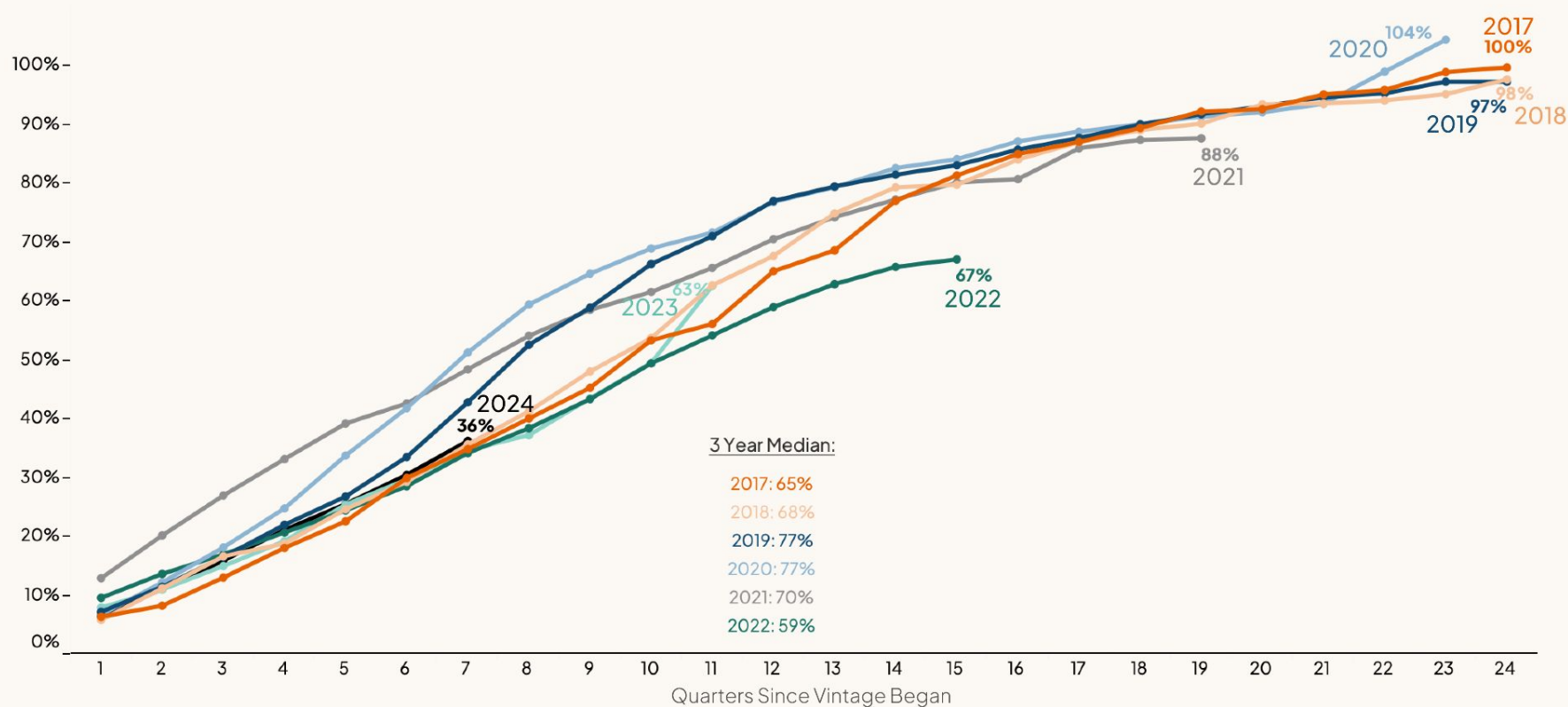
LPs at smaller VC funds are more likely to pay their capital calls late

Percentage of LP capital calls paid **at least 1 week late** and **at least 1 month late** by VC fund size group | Jan 2024–Oct 2025



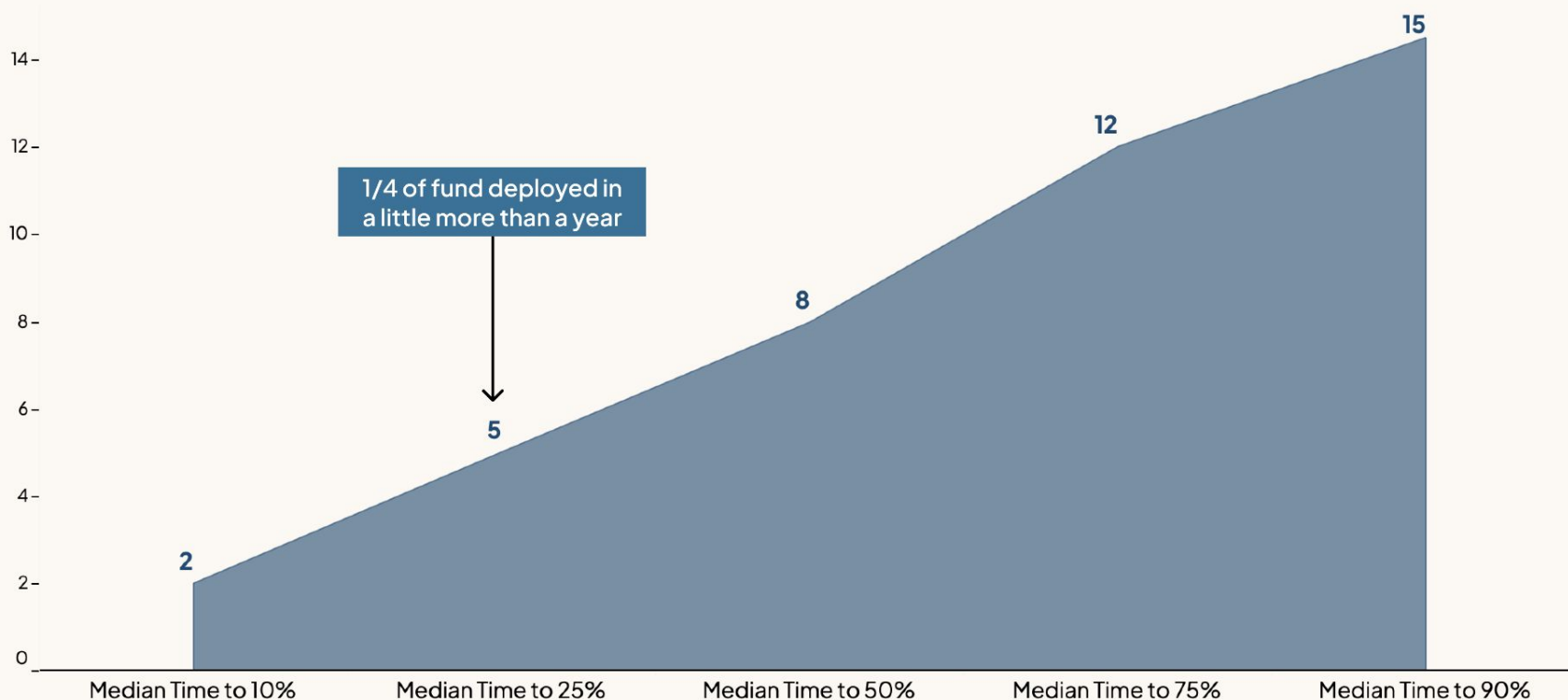
Deployment pace has slowed for 2021 and 2022 vintage funds

Median percent of total fund size deployed* by VC funds over time by vintage year | Data as of Oct. 2025



Vintage 2017–20 funds took a median of 2 years to deploy 50% of capital

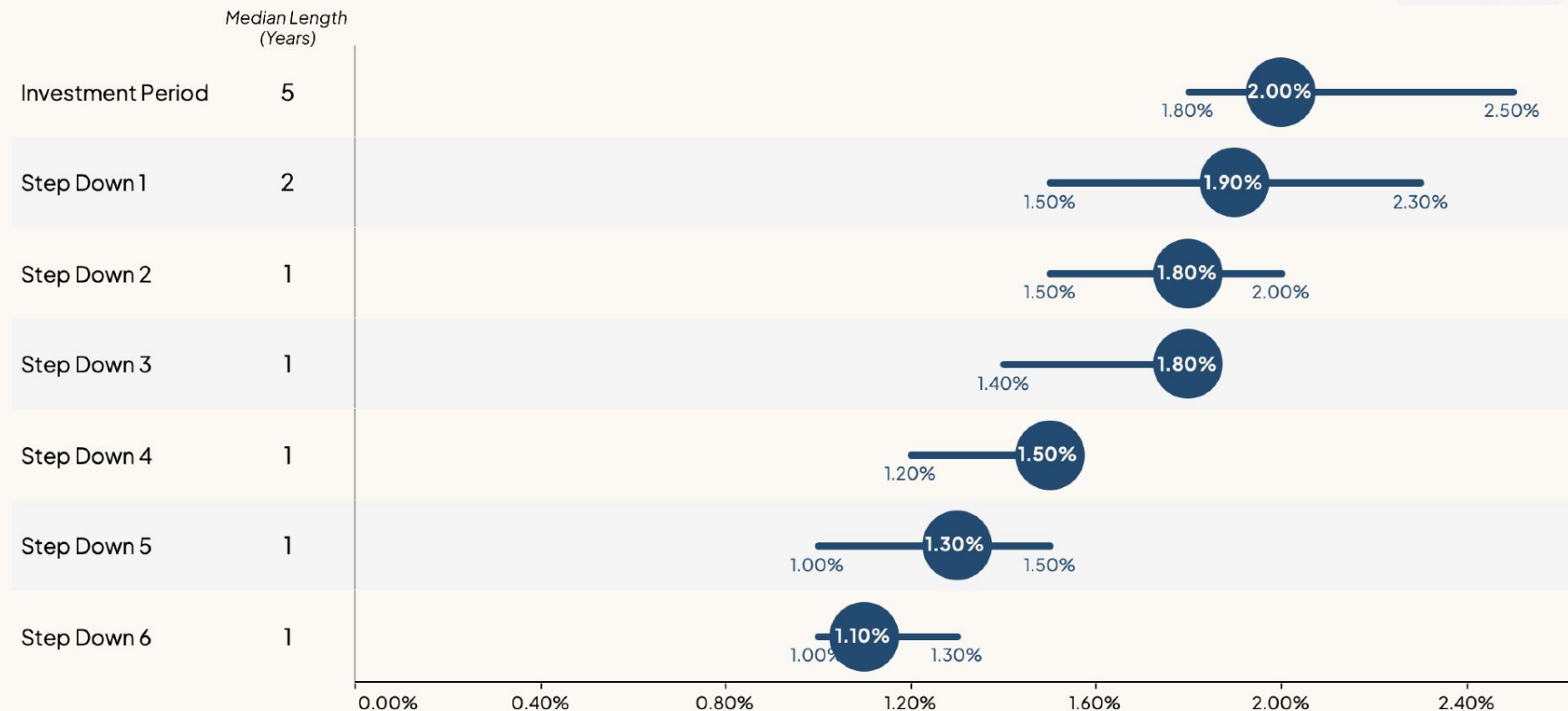
Median number of quarters to reach certain levels of capital deployment | VC funds from vintage years 2017–20



Management fees decrease over the lifetime of a venture fund

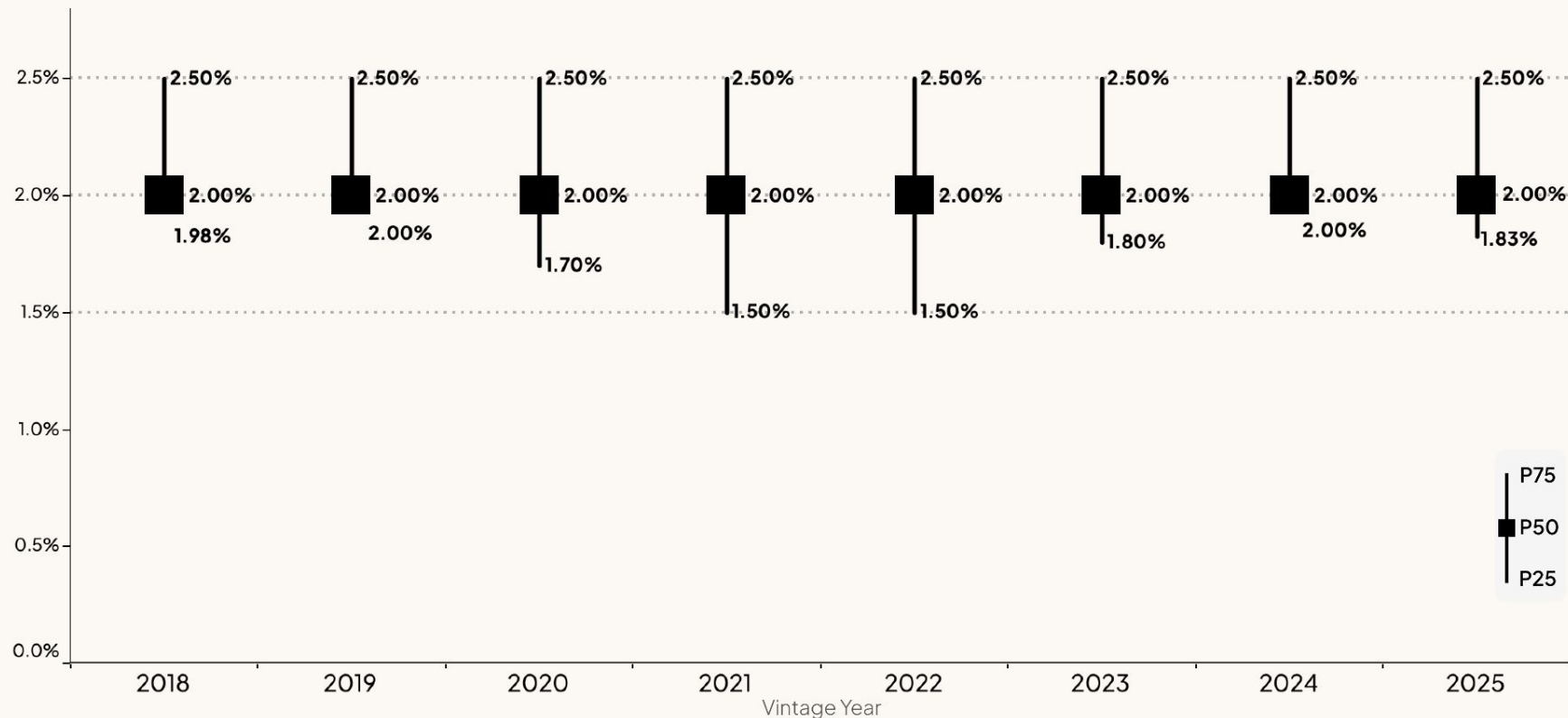
Distribution of VC management fee benchmarks by fund period | Data as of Oct. 2025

P25 P50 P75



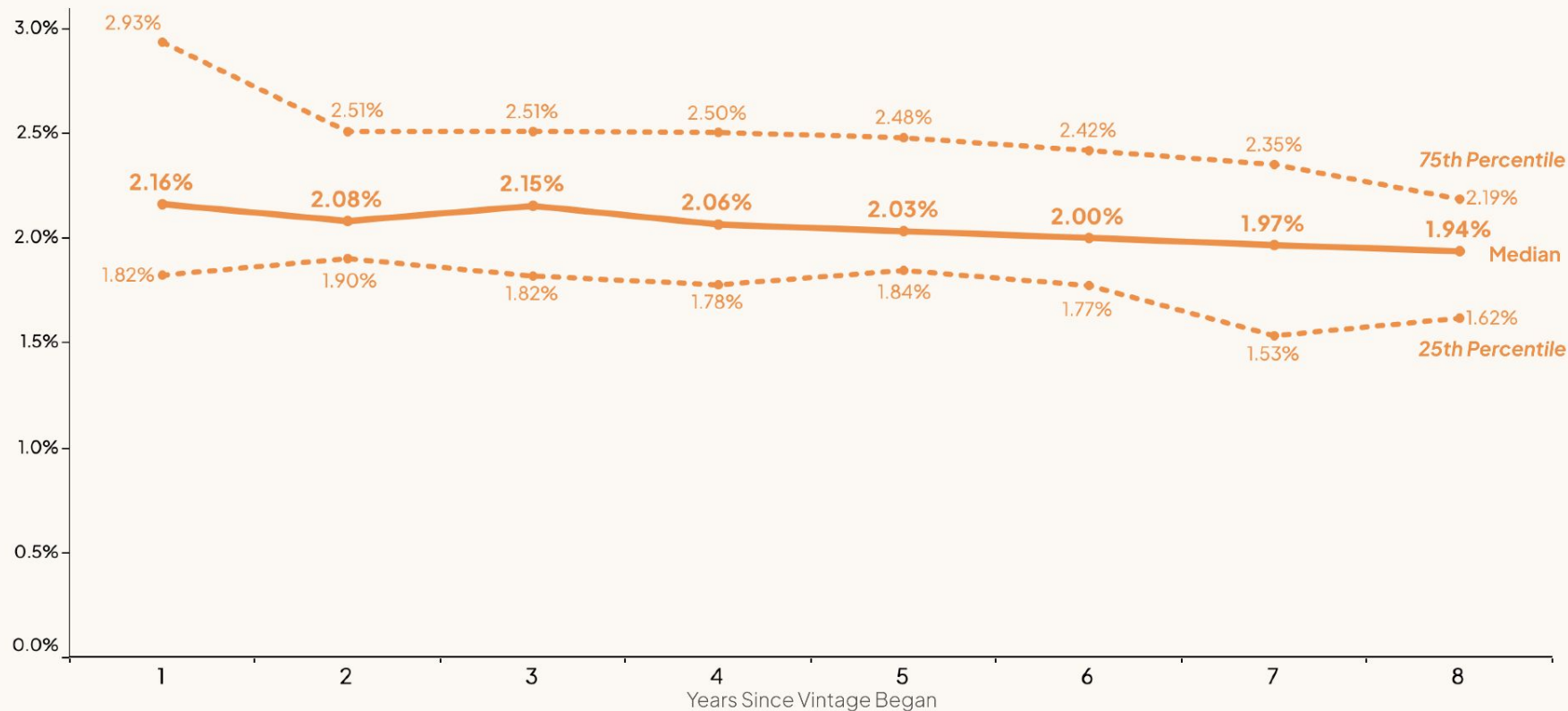
Management fees have held steady for the top 50% of VC funds

Distribution of VC management fee benchmarks (P25 / P50 / P75) for the investment period by vintage year | Data as of Oct. 2025



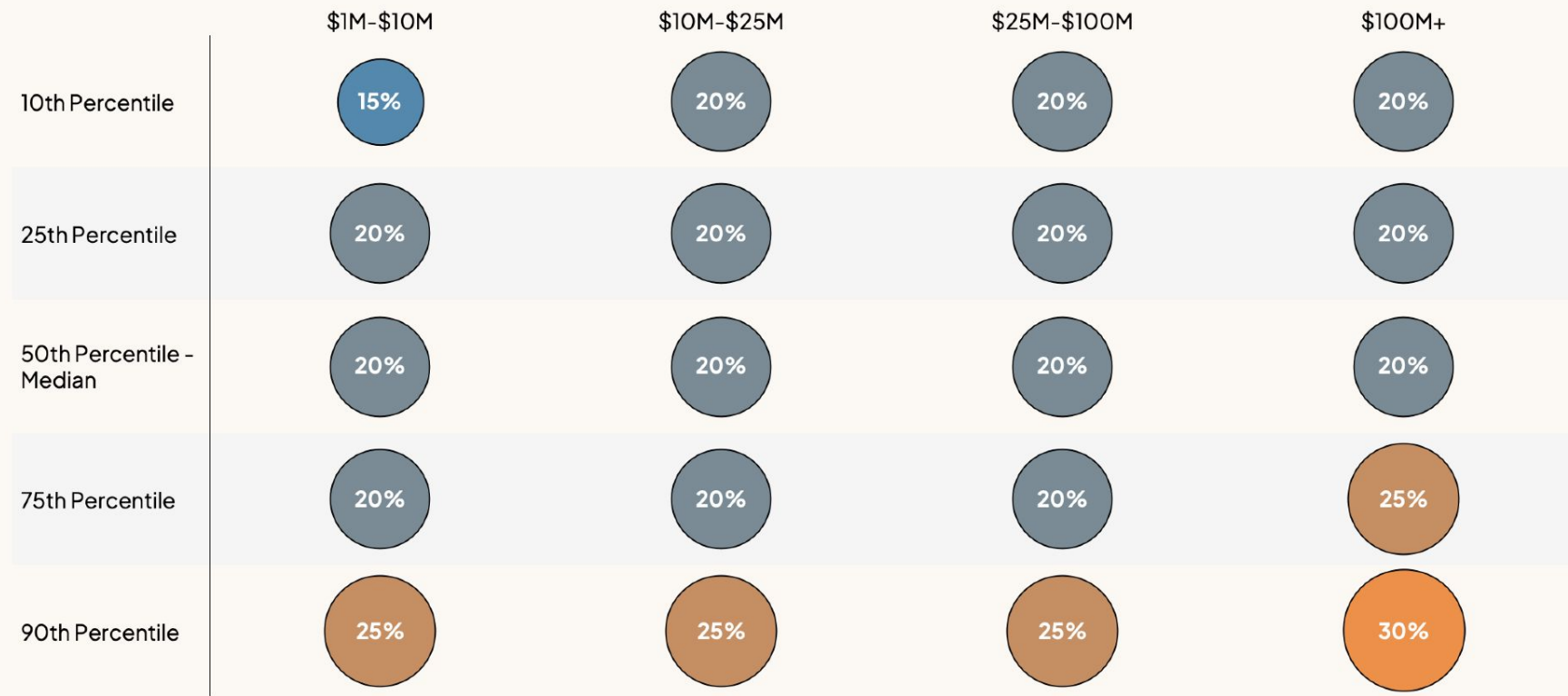
The effective management fee rate paid by LPs declines with fund age

Distribution of annualized VC management fee* paid by LPs (P25 / P50 / P75) by years since vintage began | Data as of Oct. 2025



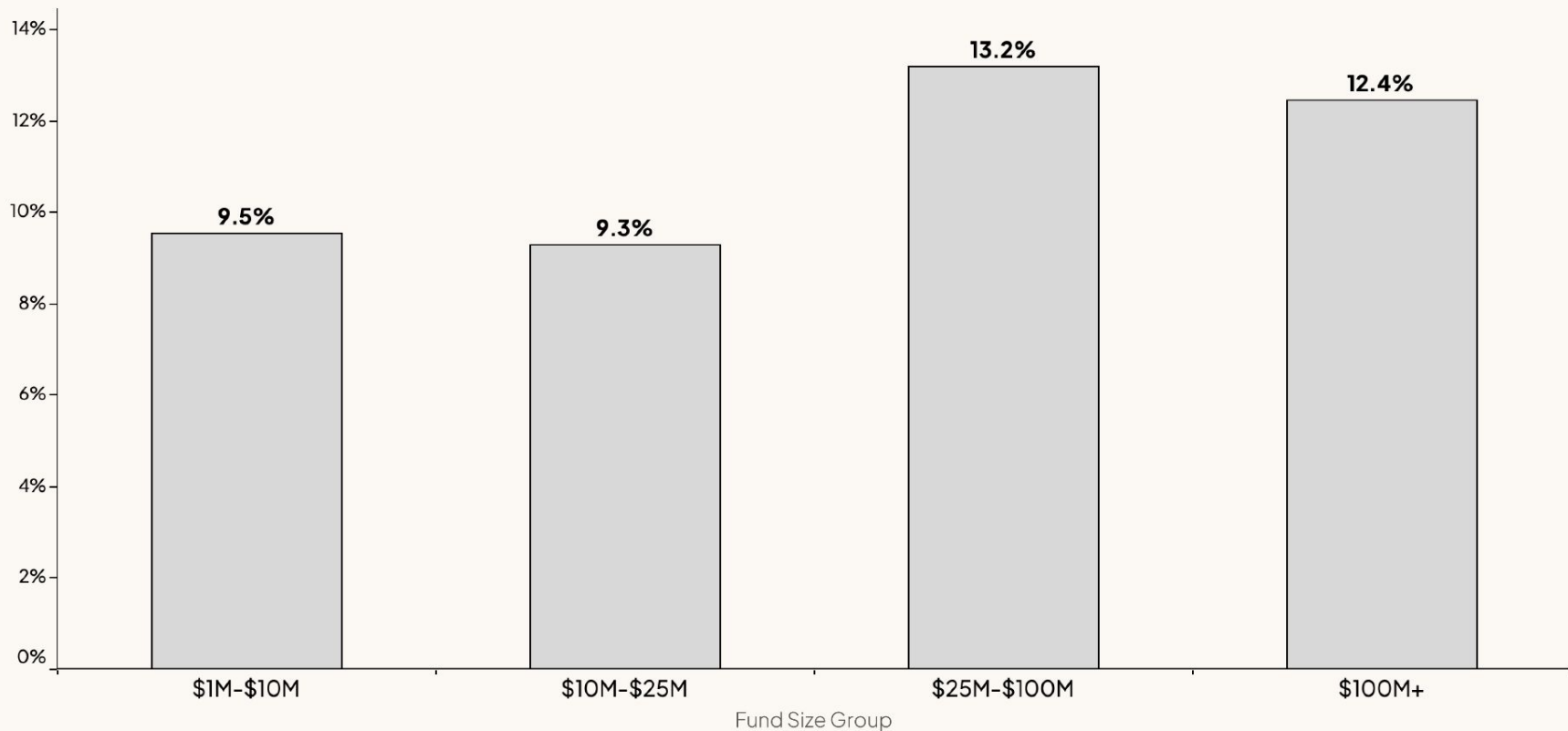
Very few venture funds take less than 20% carry, though some take more

Distribution of VC carried interest benchmarks (P10 / P25 / P50 / P75 / P90) by fund size group | Data as of Oct. 2025



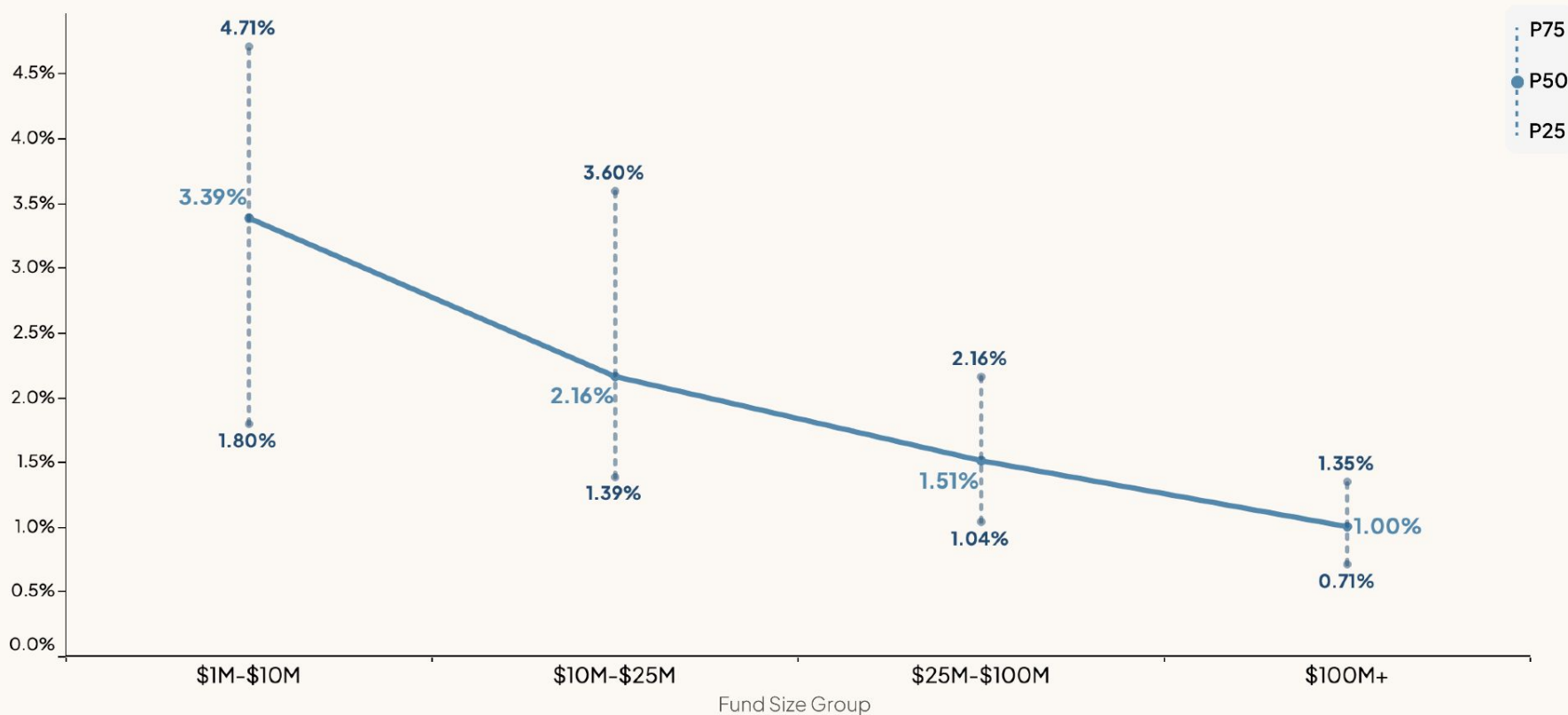
Larger venture funds are more likely to give LPs a preferred return

Percentage of VC funds with a preferred return (hurdle rate) by fund size group | Data as of Oct. 2025



\$50M VC funds spend 1.5% of their fund on operating expenses in the first 5 years

Median percent of committed capital spent on operating expenses in the first 5 years by VC fund size group | Vintage years 2017–20



VC-Backed Startups

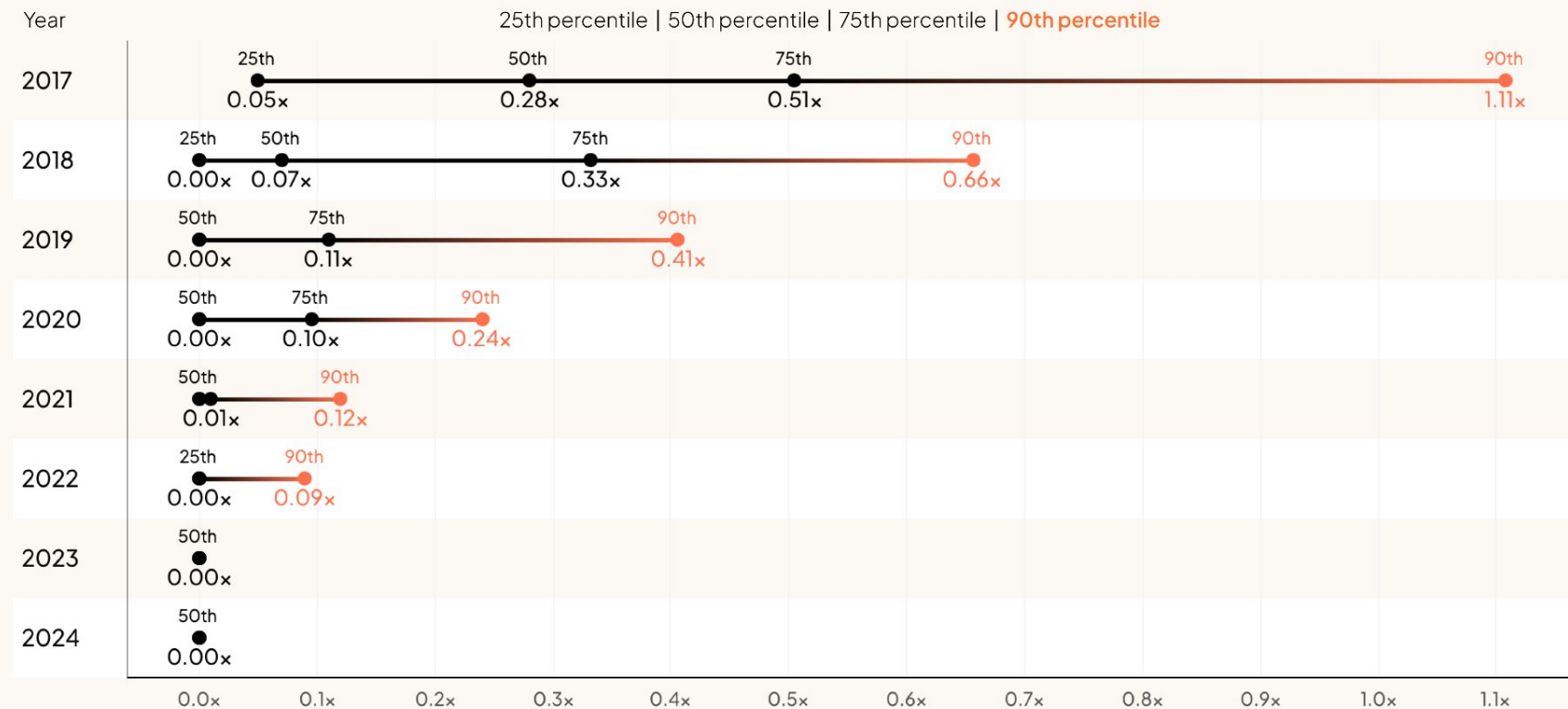
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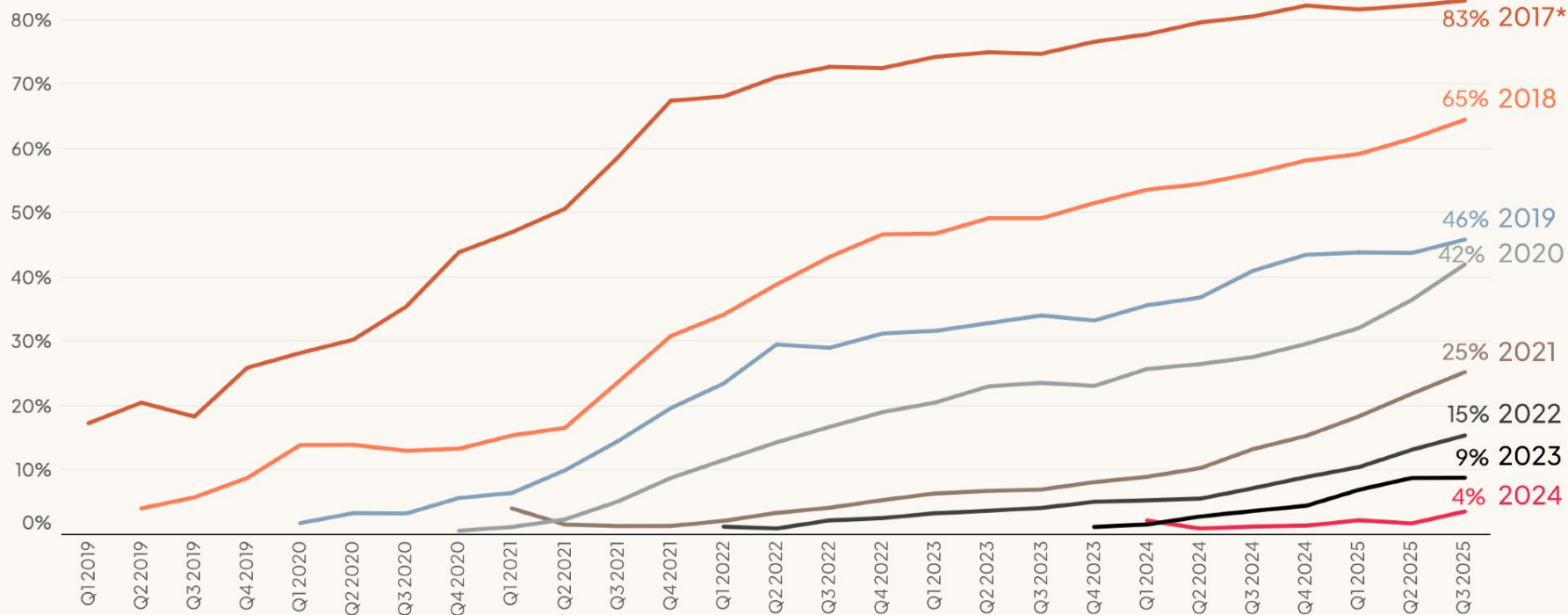
Top quartile DPI passes 0.5x for vintage year 2017

Net DPI by vintage year across all fund sizes | Data as of Q3 2025



2020 vintage has the most rapid increase in funds with some DPI lately

Percent of funds with DPI over zero per vintage each | Data as of Q3 2025



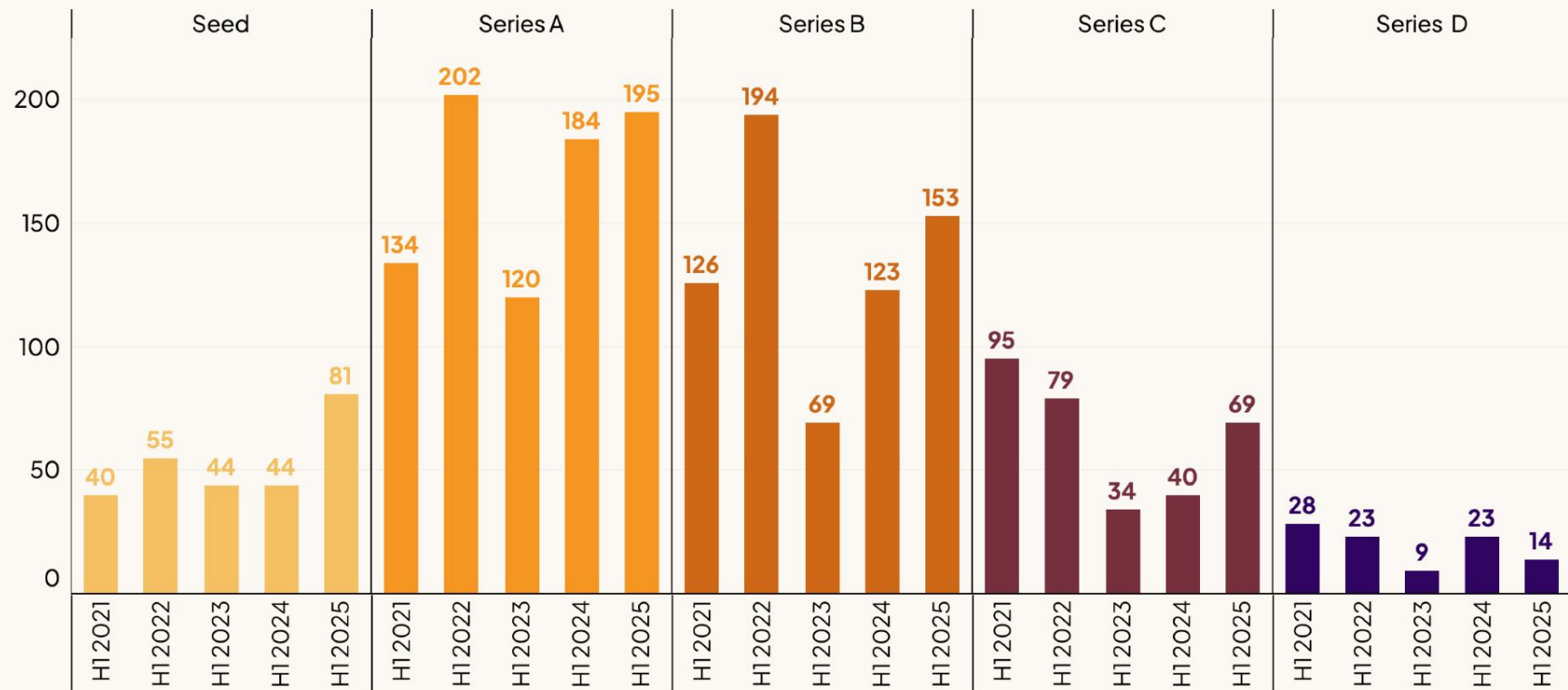
3 straight quarters with a new record M&A deal count

Companies on Carta acquired by quarter | Q1 2019–Q3 2025



Founder secondaries are rising fast (even at early stages)

Number of founders taking secondary liquidity out by first half of each year & most recent round raised



The Carta Insights Team



Peter Walker

Head of Insights



Ashley Neville

Insights Director



Hamza Shad

Insights Manager

We'd love to hear from you. Email us at data@carta.com



Thank you.

- <https://carta.com/learn/resources/state-of-startups-2025/>