

Trends in Japanese Private Equity Market (2025)

April 2026
Japan Investment Corporation

- Japan Investment Corporation (JIC) conducts research on domestic and international capital market trends for its own investment activities. This document discloses a portion of our research result and serves the public with available market information and reference.
- Unless otherwise noted, the following material is based on information available as of January 8, 2026.

- This publication has been prepared solely for informational purposes. This document is not or related to disclosure materials mandated by the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act of Japan.
- This publication should not be viewed as a current or past recommendation or a solicitation of an offer to buy or sell any financial product, transaction or investment strategy.
- The information contained herein is only as current as of the date indicated, and may be superseded by subsequent market events or for other reasons.
- The information in this document has been developed internally and/or obtained from sources believed to be reliable; however, neither JIC nor the author guarantees the accuracy, adequacy or completeness of such information.
- The information and analysis herein do not constitute advice of any kind, are not intended to be used for investment purposes, and neither JIC nor any of its subsidiaries or their respective officers, directors, shareholders, employees or agents accept any responsibility or liability with respect to the use of or reliance on any information or analysis contained in this document.
- The report is a copyrighted work of JIC and may not be published, transmitted, broadcast, copied, reproduced or reprinted in whole or in part without the explicit written permission of JIC.
- Ask JIC for more information: <https://www.j-ic.co.jp/en/contact/>

1	Deals	p.5
	M&A Trends Involving Japanese Companies	p.6
	Top 20 M&A deals in 2025	p.7
	Private Equity Deal Trends in Japan	p.8
	Top 10 Private Equity Deals in 2025	p.9
	Large PE deals since 2021 (Deal size: ¥50B+)	p.10
	PE Deal Trends (Carveout / Take-private)	p.11
	PE Deal Trends (Add-ons / Growth equity)	p.12
2	Exits	p.13
	Private Equity Exit Trends in Japan	p.14
	Top 10 Private Equity Exits in 2025	p.15
3	Fundraising	p.16
	Fund Size Trends of Japan-Focused PE Funds	p.17
	Global / Asian PE Funds Active in Japan	p.18

Deals

- M&A activity involving Japanese companies hit a record ¥33T in value in 2025.
 - Large transactions—such as corporate restructurings, take-privates, and outbound M&A deals—were the key drivers.
- Private equity investment in Japanese companies totaled ¥4.4T in 2025, 2nd highest level on record. PE funds are actively involved in large deals in Japan.
 - Large PE transactions (¥50B+) accelerated, driven by large international PE funds.
 - However, the number of large carveout remained relatively small.
 - The number of large add-ons was absent in 2025.
 - The deal counts of growth equity stayed at modest levels.

Exits

- Total number of exits, both M&A and IPOs, reached a record high of 121 in 2025.
- M&A exits totaled 110 in 2025, most of which were sales to strategics.
- IPO exits totaled 11 in 2025. One large IPO exit (¥100B+) was recorded.

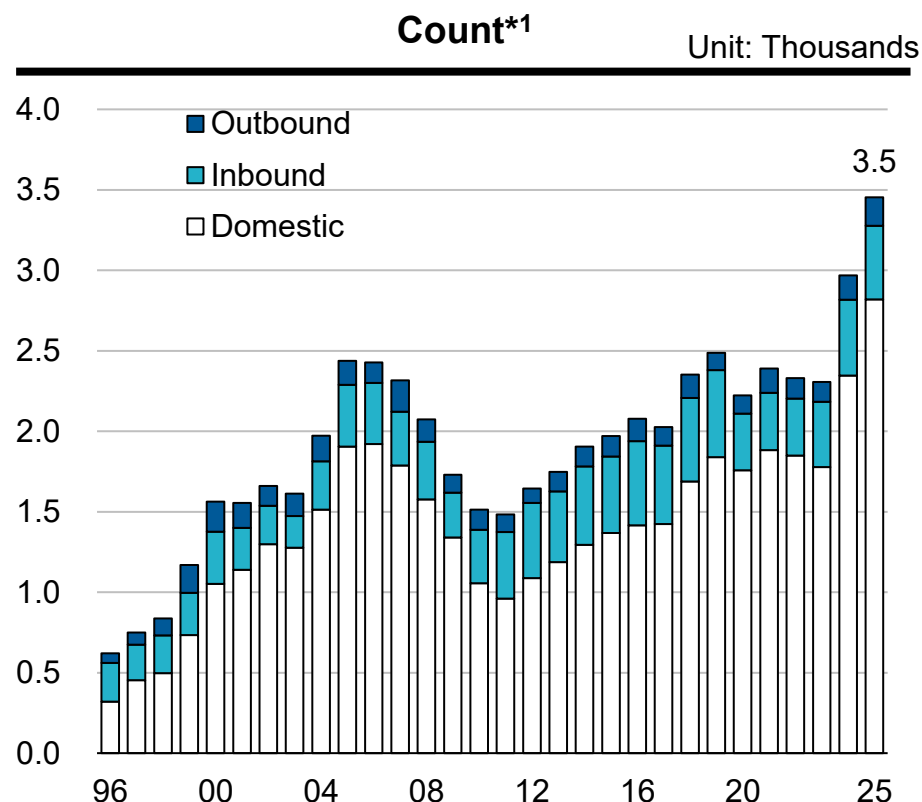
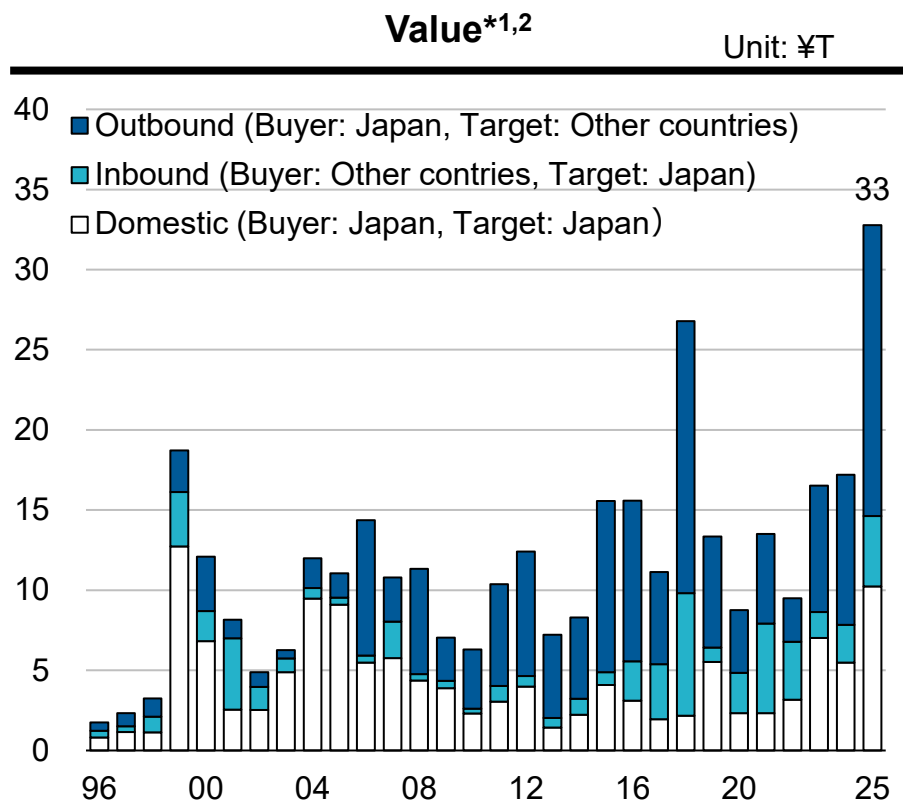
Fundraising

- Japan-focused PE funds have raised larger funds in recent years.

1. Deals

M&A Trends Involving Japanese Companies

- M&A activity involving Japanese companies hit a record ¥33 trillion in value in 2025, driven by the following two types of large transactions.
 - Corporate restructuring and take-private deals of large corporations
 - Large outbound M&A deals by large Japanese companies
- Deal counts also rose year-on-year.



*1: Excludes real estate and hotel deals, activist minority investments, venture capital investments, and cross-shareholding transactions. Compiles based on announced dates, as of January 8, 2026.

*2: Excludes transactions where deal values have not been officially disclosed in press releases or other public sources.

Source: Compiled by JIC based on data from Recof Data's Recof M&A Database.

Top 20 M&A deals in 2025

- The largest M&A transactions in 2025 included carveout and take-private deals led by international PE funds, as well as cross-border acquisitions and equity investments by Japanese companies.

	Target (Description)	M&A type	Deal value	Buyer
1	Toyota Industries (Lift trucks)	Domestic	¥4.7T	Toyota Fudosan-led consortium
2	Stake in OpenAI (U.S. AI Company)	Outbound	¥4.5T	SoftBank Group
3	Air Lease Corporation (U.S. Aircraft Leasing Company)	Outbound	¥1.1T	Sumitomo Corporation-led Consortium
4	Ampere Computing (U.S. Server Chip Designer)	Outbound	¥970B	SoftBank Group
5	ABB's Robotics Business (Swiss Industrial Automation)	Outbound	¥819B	SoftBank Group
6	York Holdings (Retail Holding Company)	Inbound	¥815B	Bain Capital
7	Stake in the Rhodes Ridge Iron Ore Project (Australia)	Outbound	¥800B	Mitsui & Co.
8	Shriram Finance (Indian Retail Lender)	Outbound	¥682B	MUFG Bank
9	DigitalBridge (U.S. Digital Infrastructure Company)	Outbound	¥620B	SoftBank Group
10	15% Stake in W. R. Berkley (U.S. Specialty Insurer)	Outbound	¥565B	MS&AD
11	Aspen Insurance (Bermuda Re/Insurer)	Outbound	¥520B	Sompo Holdings
12	Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma (Pharmaceutical)	Inbound	¥510B	Bain Capital
13	TechnoPro (Engineer staffing service)	Inbound	¥507B	Blackstone
14	Diageo's East Africa Operation (Alcoholic beverage)	Outbound	¥465B	Asahi Group Holdings
15	CSG Systems (U.S. Billing Software Provider)	Outbound	¥442B	NEC
16	66% Stake in SBI Sumishin Net Bank (Internet Bank)	Domestic	¥420B	NTT Docomo
17	Fujitec (Elevator/Escalator)	Inbound	¥408B	EQT
18	Tanabe Pharma's ALS treatment business (Pharmaceutical)	Outbound*	¥394B	Shionogi
19	Seiyu (Supermarket)	Outbound*	¥383B	Trial Holdings
20	Legal & General America (U.S. Life Insurer)	Outbound	¥352B	Meiji Yasuda Life Insurance

*: Given that the target was a portfolio company owned by an international PE fund, the deal was categorized as outbound.

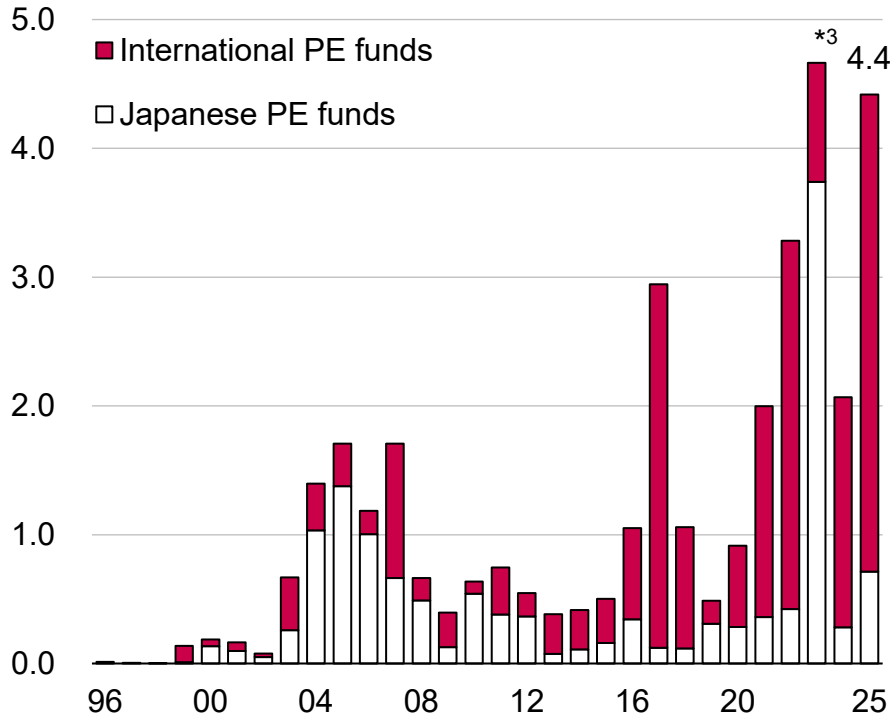
Source: Corporate disclosures, Media reports

Private Equity Deal Trends in Japan

- Private equity investment in Japanese companies totaled ¥4.4T in 2025, 2nd highest level on record.
- Carveouts and take-privates involving large corporates accelerated, led by international PE funds.
- Japanese companies seem to remain highly attractive to international PE funds due to low valuations, significant value-upside potential through operational improvement, and low acquisition financing costs.

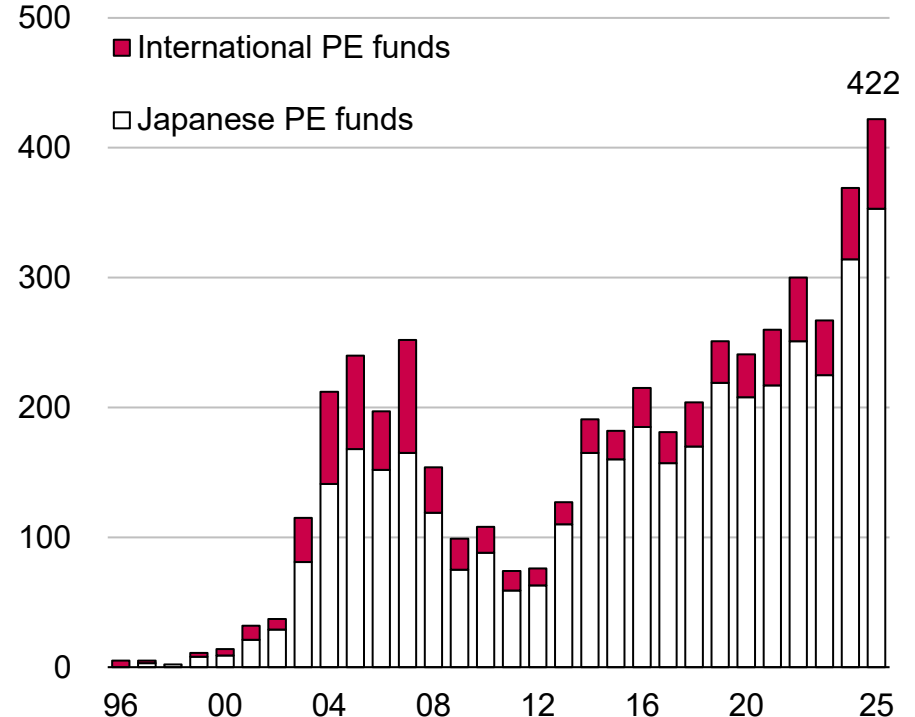
Value*1,2

Unit: ¥T



Count*1

Unit: Counts



*1: Excludes real estate and hotel deals, activist minority investments, venture capital investments, and cross-shareholding transactions. Compiles based on announced dates, as of January 8, 2026.

*2: Excludes transactions where deal values have not been officially disclosed in press releases or other public sources.

*3: Key deals in 2023 were Toshiba (Buyer: Japan Industrial Partners, Deal value: ¥2T), JSR (Buyer: JIC Capital, Deal value: ¥904B), and Shinko Electric Industries, Deal value: ¥685B).

Source: Compiled by JIC based on data from Recof Data's Recof M&A Database.

Top 10 Private Equity Deals in 2025

- Most large carveout and take-private deals were led by large international PE funds.
- Japanese PE funds participated in three of the top 10 deals.

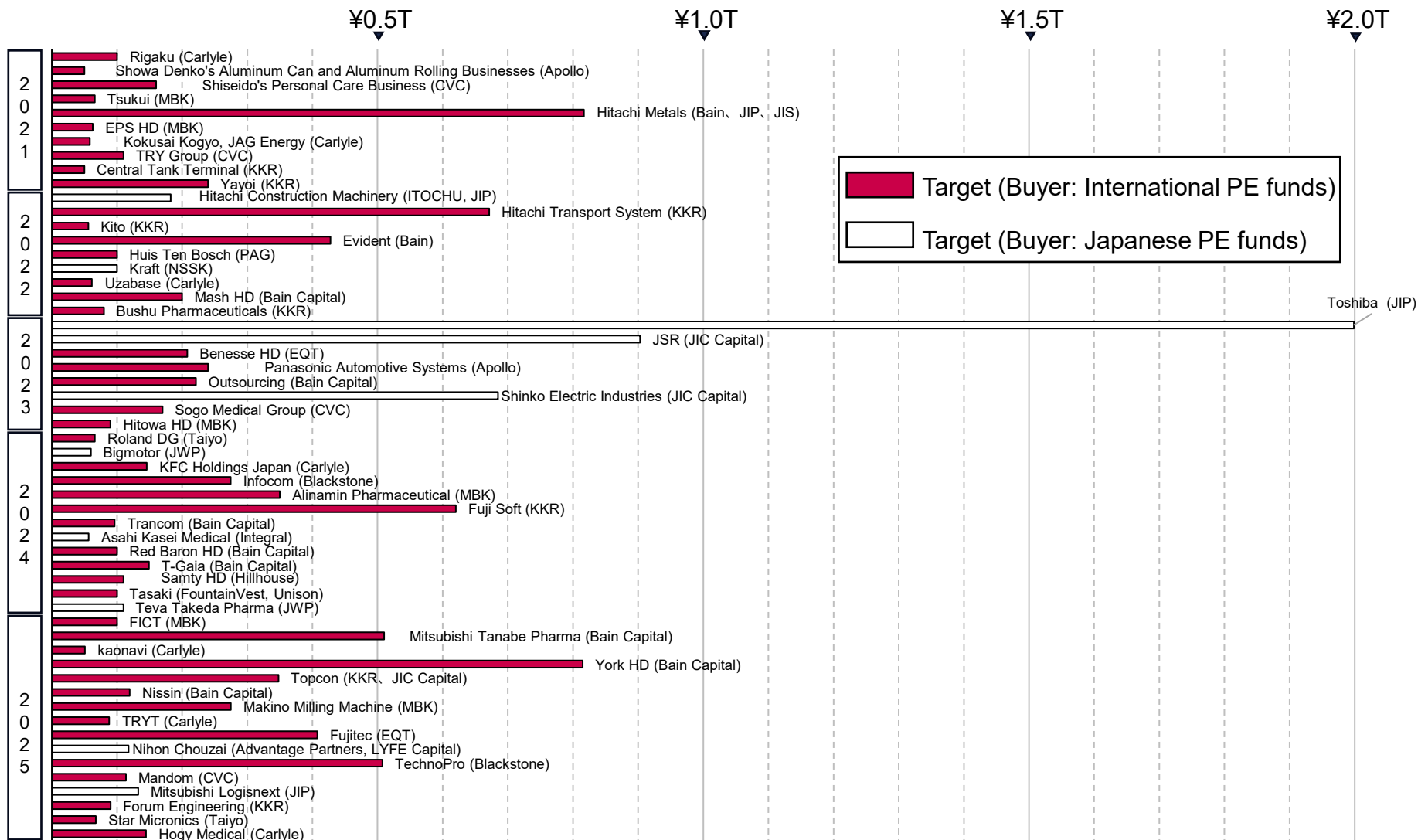
	Target (Description)	PE types	PE Buyer	Deal value*	Seller
1	York Holdings (Retail Holding Company)	Carveout	Bain Capital	¥815B	Seven & i Holdings
2	Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma (Pharmaceutical)	Carveout	Bain Capital	¥510B	Mitsubishi Chemical Group
3	TechnoPro (Engineer staffing service)	Take-private	Blackstone	¥507B	-
4	Fujitec (Elevator/Escalator)	Take-private	EQT	¥408B	-
5	Topcon (Precision Equipment Maker)	Take-private	KKR, JIC Capital	¥348B	-
6	Makino Milling Machine (Machine Tool Maker)	Take-private	MBK	¥275B	-
7	Hogy Medical (Medical Disposable Products)	Take-private	Carlyle	¥145B	-
8	Mitsubishi Logisnext (Lift trucks)	Carveout Take-private	Japan Industrial Partners	¥133B	-
9	Nissin Corporation (Logistics)	Take-private	Bain Capital	¥118B	-
10	Nihon Chouzai (Pharmacy Operator)	Take-private	Advantage Partners, LYFE	¥118B	-
(Ref.)					
11	Mandom (Cosmetics)	Take-private	CVC	¥102B	-
12	FICT (Printed circuit)	Secondary	MBK	n.a. (¥100B)	Advantage Partners

*: Amounts shown in parentheses are based on media reports.

Source: Corporate disclosures, Media reports

Large PE deals since 2021 (Deal size: ¥50B+)

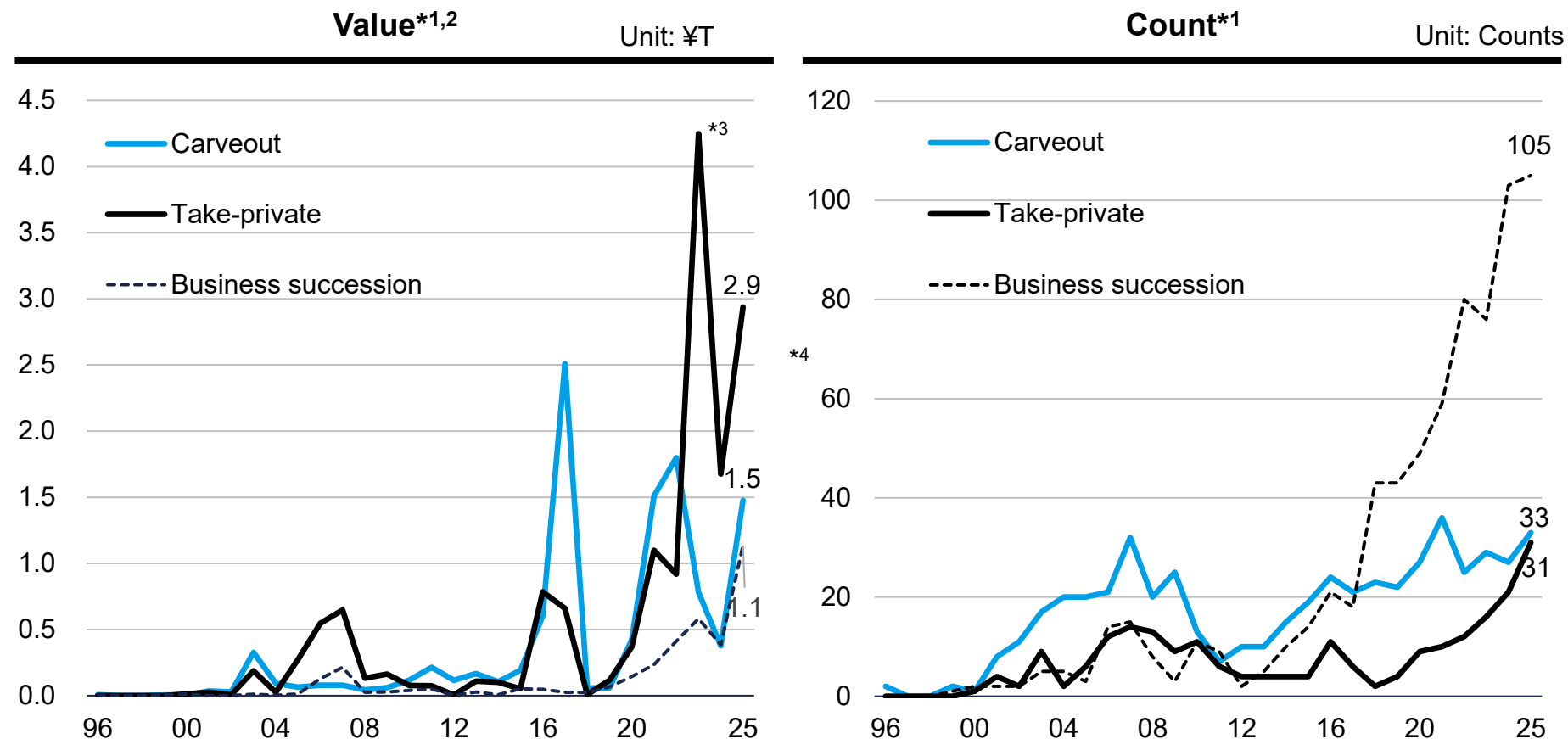
- Historically, most large PE transactions in Japan have been closed by international PE funds, and the same trend continued in 2025.



Source: Corporate disclosures, Media reports

PE Deal Trends (Carveout / Take-private)

- Carveouts increased year-on-year in both value and count; however, large transactions were limited.
- Take-privates also increased year-on-year in both value and count, likely driven by governance reforms and activist pressure.



*1: Excludes real estate and hotel deals, activist minority investments, venture capital investments, and cross-shareholding transactions. Compiles based on announced dates, as of January 8, 2026.

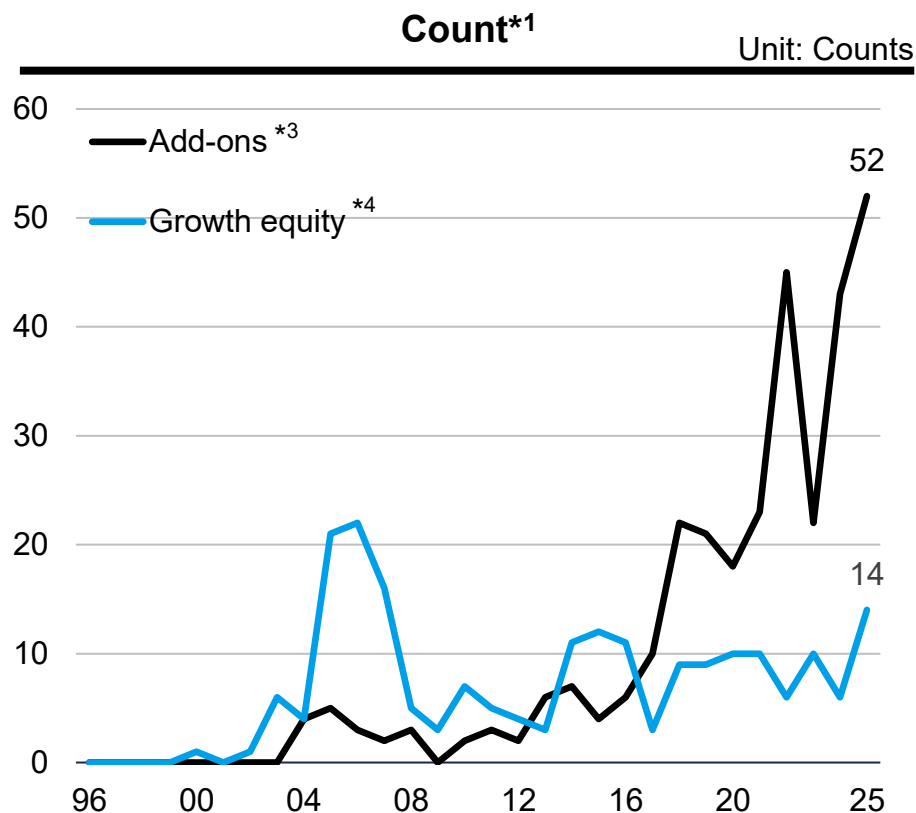
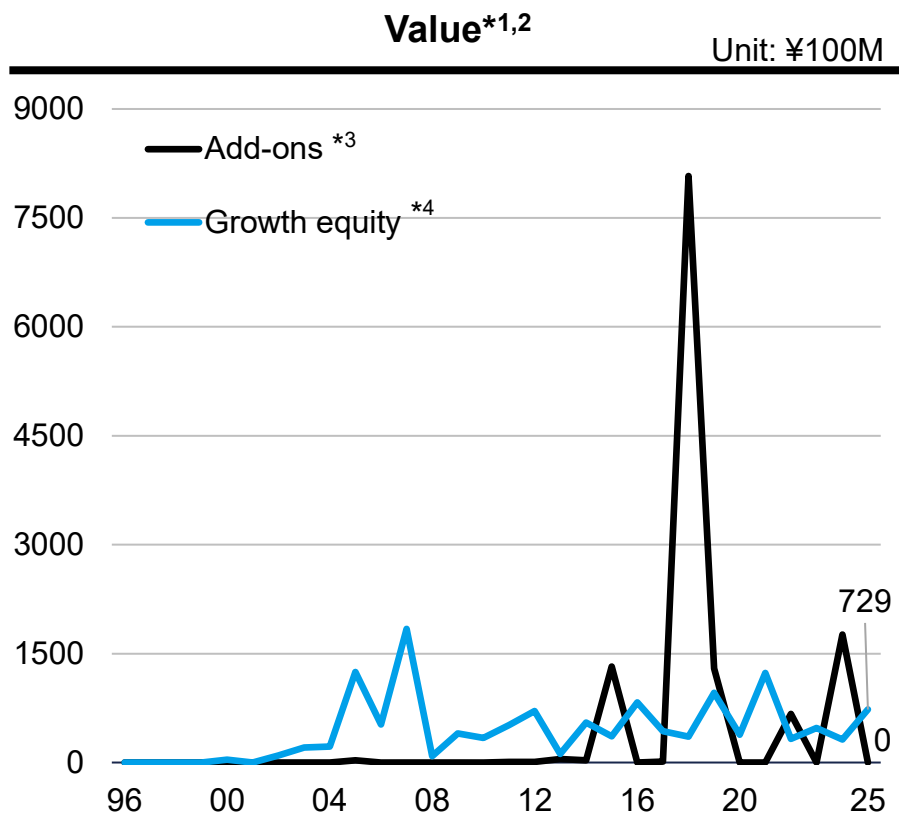
*2: Excludes transactions where deal values have not been officially disclosed in press releases or other public sources.

*3: Key deals in 2023 were Toshiba (Buyer: Japan Industrial Partners, Deal value: ¥2T), JSR (Buyer: JIC Capital, Deal value: ¥904B), and Shinko Electric Industries, Deal value: ¥685B).

Source: Compiled by JIC based on data from Recof Data's Recof M&A Database.

PE Deal Trends (Add-ons / Growth equity)

- Add-ons have mainly taken the form of roll-ups of smaller peers by PE portfolio companies.
- The deal counts of growth equity remained limited. In 2025, three deals exceeding ¥10B were announced.



*1: Excludes real estate and hotel deals, activist minority investments, venture capital investments, and cross-shareholding transactions. Compiles based on announced dates, as of January 8, 2026.

*2: Excludes transactions where deal values have not been officially disclosed in press releases or other public sources are excluded.

*3: Targets include overseas subsidiaries of Japanese companies, foreign companies, and Japan-based companies owned by international PE funds.

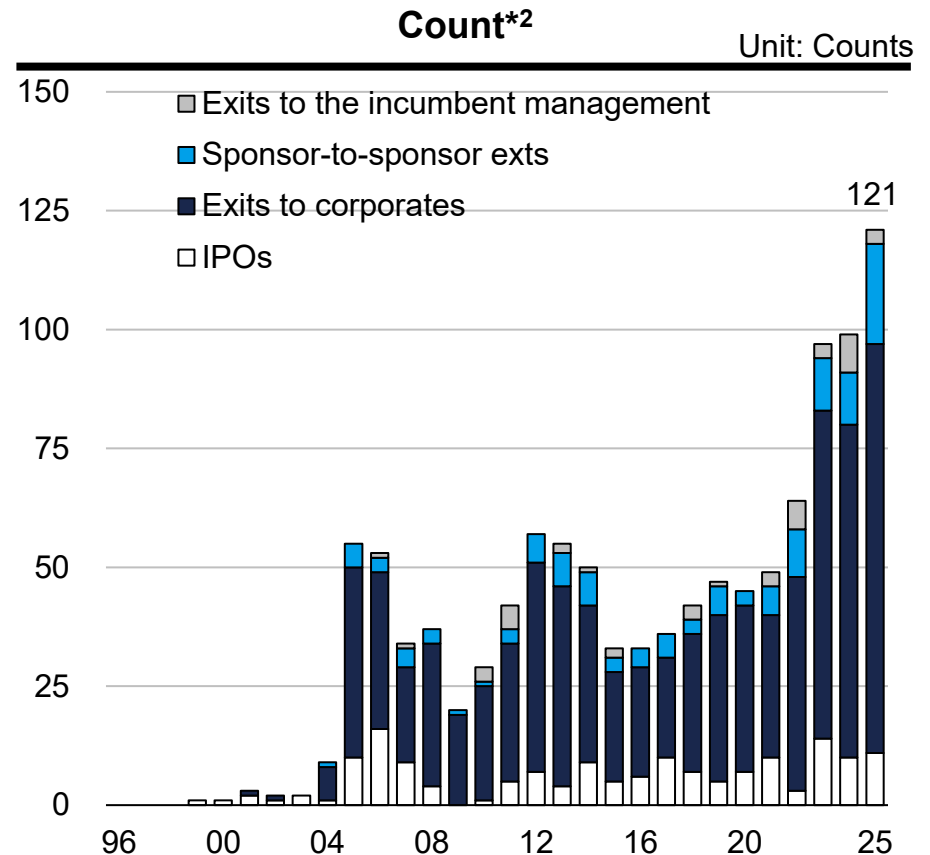
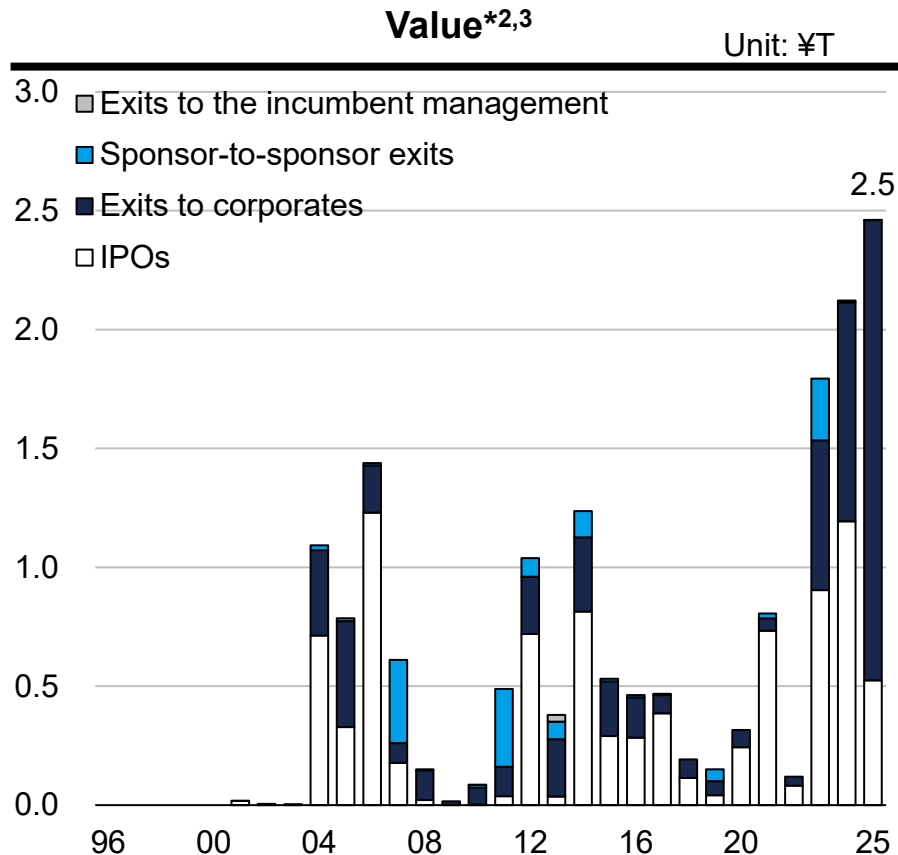
*4: Targets exclude overseas subsidiaries of Japanese companies. Deals with a fully diluted valuation of ¥1 billion or more but less than ¥100 billion are included.

Source: Compiled by JIC based on data from Refcof Data's Refcof M&A Database.

2. Exits

Private Equity Exit Trends in Japan

- Total number of exits*¹, both M&A and IPOs, reached a record high of 121 in 2025, up from 22 in 2024.
 - M&A exits totaled 110 in 2025, most of which were sales to strategics, while fund-to-fund transactions remained limited.
 - IPO exits totaled 11 in 2025, broadly flat year-on-year. One large IPO exit (¥100B+) was recorded.



*1: Includes partial exits (e.g., divestment of business units of portfolio companies).

*2: IPOs are compiled based on completed dates. Other transactions are compiled based on announced dates, as of January 8, 2026. Real estate and hotel deals are excluded.

*3: Excludes deals for which values have not been disclosed.

Source: [PitchBook](#), a Morningstar company, Compiled by JIC based on data from Recof Data's Recof M&A Database.

Top 10 Private Equity Exits in 2025

- Most large M&A exits were sales to strategic buyers.

	Target name (sector)	Exit types	PE owners	Deal value	Holding Period	Buyer
1	Tanabe Pharma's ALS treatment business (Pharmaceutical)	Exit to corporate	Bain	¥394B	< 1 year* ³	Shionogi
2	Seiyu (Supermarket)	Exit to corporate	KKR	¥383B	4 years	Trial Holdings
3	Tekscend Photomask (Semiconductor Photomask)	IPOs	Integral	¥298B* ²	4 years	-
4	Evident's Inspection Technologies division (Microscope Manufacturer)	Exit to corporate	Bain Capital	¥282B	3 years* ³	Wabtec
5	Pioneer Corporation (Automobile Component)	Exit to corporate	EQT	¥164B	7 years	Innolux
6	19% Stake in Logisteed Holdings (Logistics)	Exit to corporate	KKR	¥142B	3 years* ³	Japan Post Holdings
7	FICT (Printed Circuit Manufacturer)	Sponsor-to-sponsor exits	Advantage Partners	Not disclosed (¥100B)* ¹	5 years	MBK
8	JSR' in vitro diagnostics and in vitro diagnostics materials businesses (Pharmaceutical)	Exit to corporate	JIC Capital	¥82B	2 years* ³	Tokuyama Corporation
9	ADK Holdings (Marketing service)	Exit to corporate	Bain Capital	¥75B	8 years	Krafton
10	Burger King Japan Holdings (Fast-food restaurant)	Sponsor-to-sponsor exits	Affinity	Not disclosed (¥70B)* ¹	8 years	Goldman Sachs

*1: Amounts shown in parentheses are based on media reports.

*2: Market capitalization calculated based on the IPO offering price.

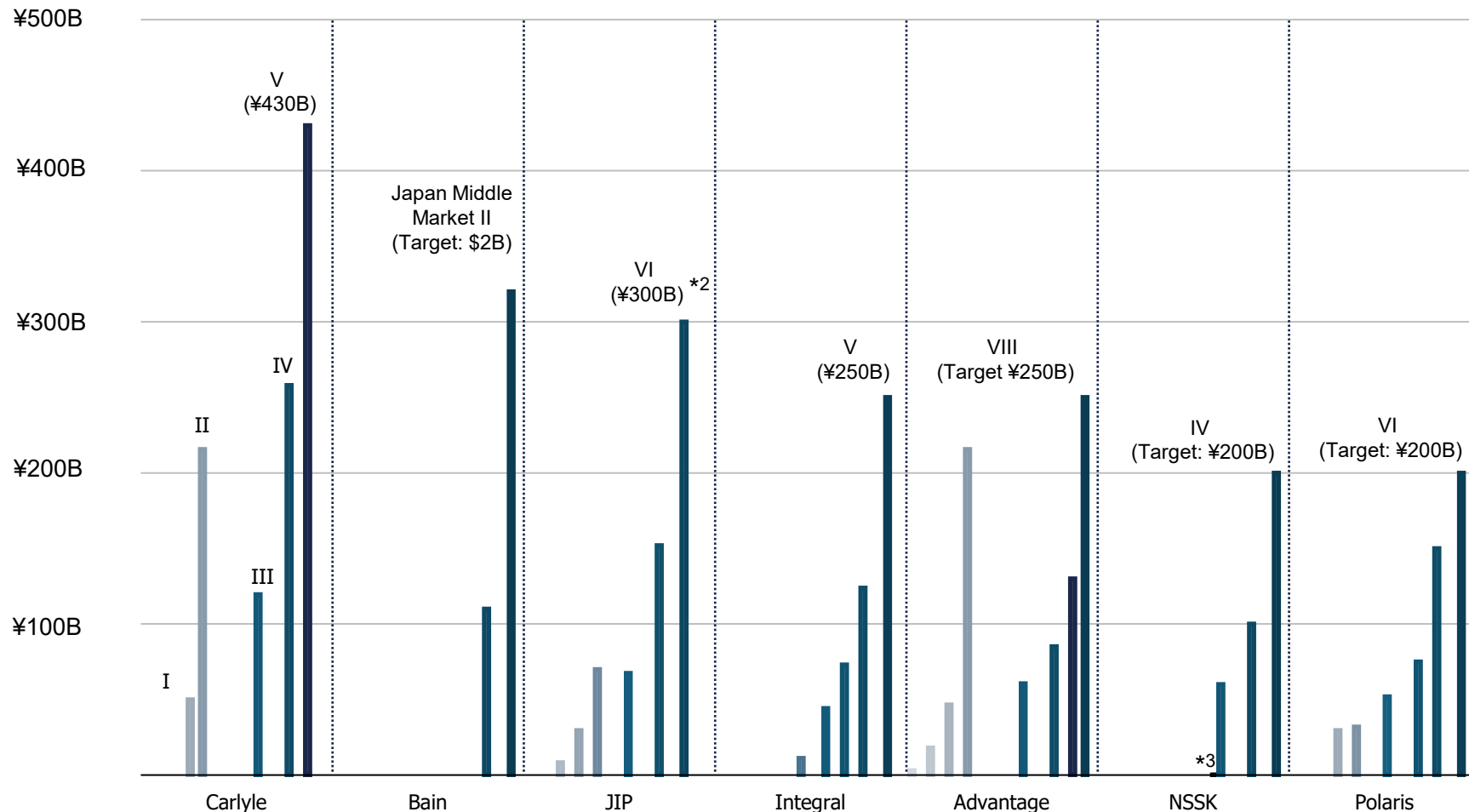
*3: Partial exits (e.g., divestment of business units of portfolio companies, and).

Source: Corporate disclosures, Media reports

4. Fundraising

- Japan-focused PE funds has raised larger funds in recent years.

Fundraising history of Japan-focused PE funds (public disclosures and media reports)*1



*1: GPs managing Japan-focused funds (¥100B+; recently launched).

*2: Hard cap (as reported).

*3: The fund size of the inaugural fund has not been publicly disclosed.

Source: Corporate disclosures, Media reports

- Several international PE funds are active in PE investments in Japanese companies.

GP	Funds currently in market / in fundraising* ¹	Fund size (based on publicly available information)
Apollo	Apollo Investment Fund XI (Announced)	\$25.0B
KKR	KKR Asian Fund V (Raising)	\$15.0B
BPEA/EQT	BPEA Private Equity Fund IX (Raising) BPEA EQT Mid-Market Growth Fund (2023)	\$12.5B* ² \$1.6B
Blackstone	Blackstone Capital Partners Asia III (Raising)	\$10B* ²
Bain	Bain Capital Asia VI (Raising) Bain Capital Japan Middle Market Fund II (Raising)	\$7.0B* ² \$2.0B* ²
Hillhouse	Hillhouse Fund VI (Raising)	\$7.0B* ²
CVC	CVC Capital Partners Asia Pacific VI (2024)	\$6.8B
MBK	MBK Partners Fund VI (2024)	\$5.5B
PAG	PAG Asia IV (2024)	\$4.0B
FountainVest	FountainVest Capital Partners Fund IV (2021)	\$2.9B

*1: Figures in parentheses indicate vintage (based on PitchBook).

*2: Target size.

Source: [PitchBook](#), a Morningstar company, Corporate disclosures, Media reports