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US PE Middle Market Report

Q1 2020

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Introduction

Despite the influence of COVID-19, Q1 mid-market deal flow kept pace with the elevated quarterly figures seen in 2019. This is largely because most of the deals to close in the quarter had already been negotiated before the full impact of the pandemic had been felt. Although the lower middle market, or LMM, remained resilient, deal sizes declined in the broader MM as GPs used add-ons in a greater capacity. Add-on deals are often easier to complete since they are smaller and less dependent on syndicated debt financing. Financial sponsors have also resorted to minority stakes investments as a way to deploy capital. Given that sponsor-backed companies have been mostly denied access to the Paycheck Protection Program, or PPP, we anticipate continuing hardships for these companies down the line.

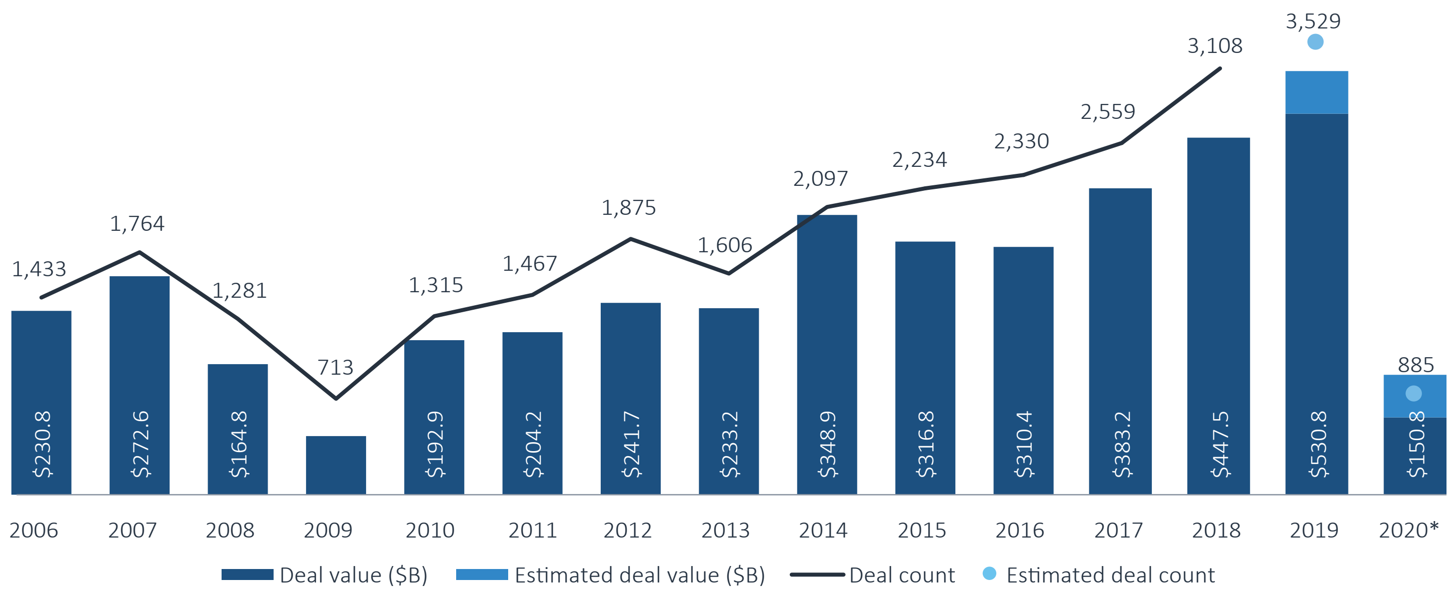
Exit activity in the middle market came in mixed, as declines in public equities left many sellers on the sidelines until the outlook improves. IPOs had a brief resurgence until COVID-19-driven declines in the equity markets took place. However, exiting to corporate acquirers was more popular than selling to other financial sponsors, bucking a long running trend, due to differing investment strategies for financial sponsors and corporations. We also saw the trend of GPs continuing to hold onto their assets past the usual ten-year fund life as they search for ways to keep reaping the benefits of well-performing companies.

Fundraising in the middle market remained stable, as relatively large $1 billion+ funds dominated fundraising activity. However, GPs were also busy raising smaller funds at the other end of the spectrum as part of their efforts to diversify their offerings for the benefit of their LP base. Still, not all GPs were as busy, and the quarter only saw a single first-time fund raised, as the impacts of COVID-19 adversely affected fundraising efforts for emerging managers. Regardless, LPs across the board plan to continue investing in the middle market.

Stephen-George Davis
Analyst, PE

Overview

PE MM deal activity

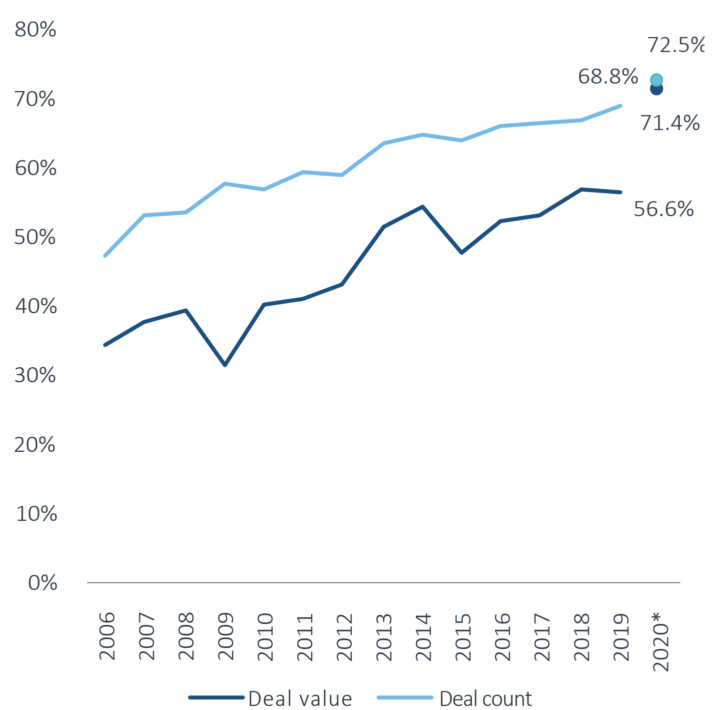


Source: PitchBook | **Geography:** US
*As of March 31, 2020

In the first quarter of 2020, MM deal activity kept up with the elevated levels of 2019. GPs closed on 885 deals for a value of $150.8 billion, gains of 14.2% and 31.3% YoY, respectively. The value of these deals is the highest quarterly figure ever. However, many of the deals that closed were negotiated before COVID-19's global impact had been felt. For instance, the largest deal of the quarter, Farol Asset Management's and One Rock Capital Partners' $932.0 million buyout of Innophos Holdings, was announced in October 2019. Given that the US is still coping with the virus, we expect the COVID-19's effect on dealmaking will fully materialize in Q2 and Q3.

The turmoil attributed to COVID-19 continues, and as of this writing there is no clear end in sight. The full impact the pandemic has had on the economy is equally vague. Since the start of the pandemic, total jobless claims as of June 11, 2020, have reached 44.2 million, compared to the 8.7 million jobs lost during the global financial crisis. In Q1 the US economy contracted by 5%, a large swing from the International Monetary Fund's projected 2% annual growth at the beginning of 2020.[1] Furthermore, PE-backed companies have been denied access to the PPP, one of the main small-business support programs implemented by the federal

Add-ons as proportion of PE MM deal activity



Source: PitchBook | **Geography:** US
*As of March 31, 2020

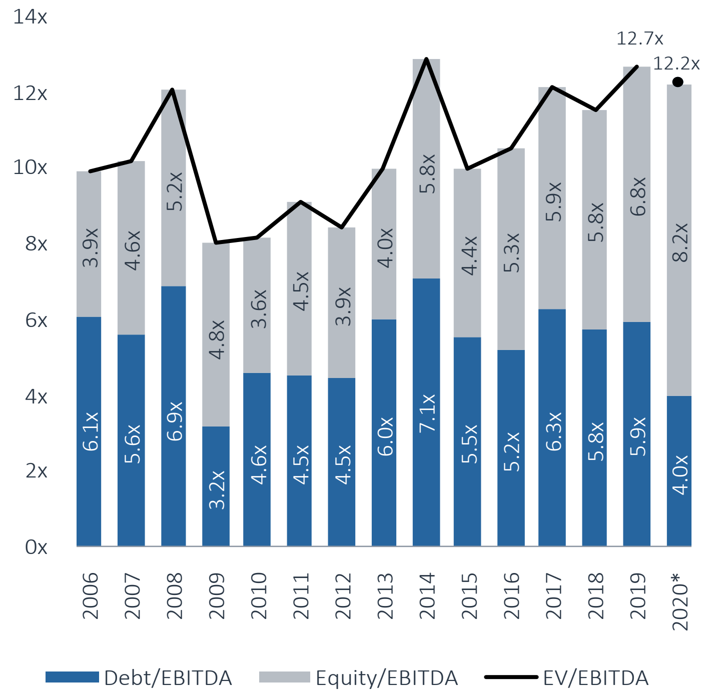
1: World Economic Outlook, January 2020: Tentative Stabilization, Sluggish Recovery? International Monetary Fund, January, 2020 government under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act to help firms stay afloat during the pandemic. Taking all of this into consideration, sponsor-backed portfolio companies are in for a particularly tough remainder of the year.

This dire outlook has led GPs, who would have formerly sought control investments, to move to minority deals, such as growth equity and PIPEs, as a way to put capital to work in the current environment. This is because bid-ask spreads expand dramatically during and after a crisis when buyers' mark-to-market prices rise more quickly than sellers', who are largely unwilling to depart with assets at depressed price levels. As with the global financial crisis, we expect to see increased equity contributions from GPs when acquiring assets due to a tighter debt-financing market. However, we expect overall EBITDA multiples to fall.

Parts of the middle market have remained comparatively stable, with the LMM and core middle market, or CMM, showing resiliency. In Q1, the LMM and CMM posted QoQ gains in deal value, in contrast with the upper middle market, or UMM, which posted declines. One of the reasons deal value in these lower-size segments kept pace, is that these deals are often less susceptible to systemic shocks than UMM deals. Many transactions in the LMM and CMM may be attributed to sellers' personal reasons. For instance, divorce, death, financial or succession issues may lead to the sale of a company, which means transactions in these segments are often completed at times when sellers of companies in higher segments are on the sidelines. Also, LMM deals are less likely to depend on broadly syndicated debt financing provided by banks, and more likely to depend on direct-lending funds. Furthermore, multiples are also generally lower in the LMM and CMM, meaning there are potential bargains to be found. As such, GPs have been moving down market and executing deals at the smaller end of the spectrum, contributing to the decline in median MM deal size to $135.0 million.

Another reason for the decline in deal size can be attributed to GPs' increasing use of add-ons. Q1 witnessed add-on deal value making up 71.4% of MM deal value whereas just 55.4% of deal value in Q1 2019 comprised add-ons. Moreover, add-ons were a component of 6 of the top 10 deals in the quarter, a testament to their prevalence in the first three months of 2020, given that in Q1 of 2019 only 1 of the top 10 deals were add-ons.

Median PE buyout EV/EBITDA multiples

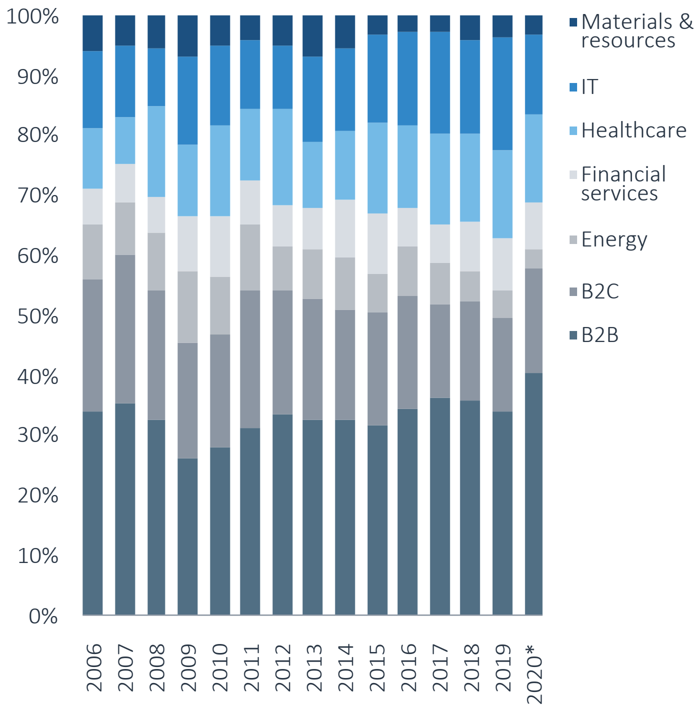


Source: PitchBook | **Geography:** US
*As of March 31, 2020

Pivoting to sectors, one of the largest deals in the tech sector was the $350.0 million buyout of Market Data Services by Calero Software via its financial sponsors, Oak Hill Capital and Riverside Partners. The deal was completed to accelerate growth for Calero, specifically in the areas of the "Internet of Things," cloud and software as a service, or SaaS. More broadly, many GPs find tech companies, especially SaaS companies, to be attractive. These companies are asset-light, requiring little capital to sustain their high growth prospects. SaaS firms are often mission critical as well, making them recession-resistant, coveted assets during potential downturns.

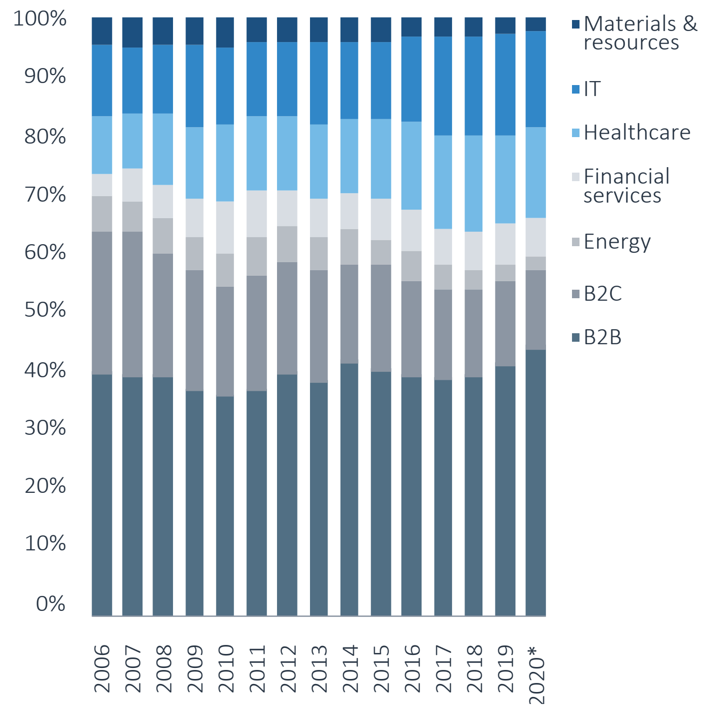
Deals by size and region

PE MM deals ($) by sector



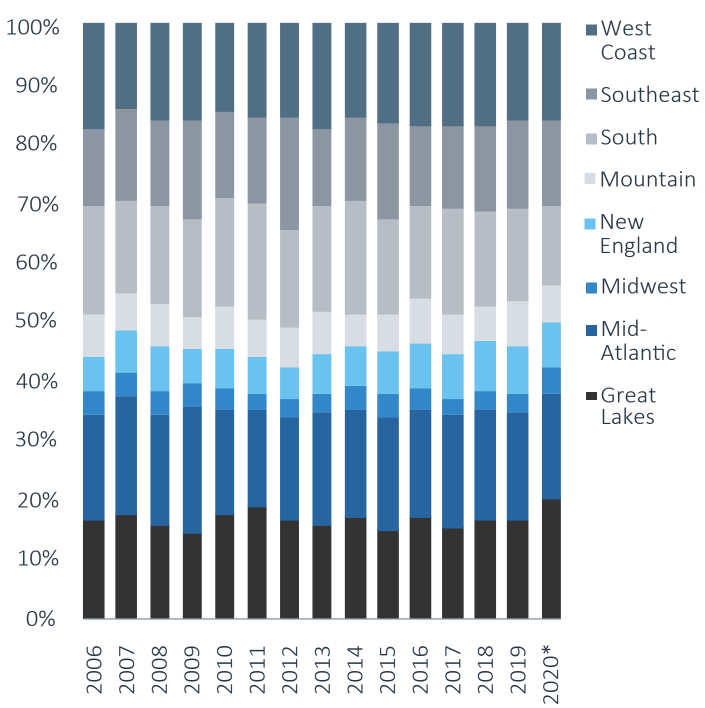
Source: PitchBook | Geography: US
*As of March 31, 2020

PE MM deals (#) by sector



Source: PitchBook | Geography: US
*As of March 31, 2020

PE MM deals ($) by region



Source: PitchBook | Geography: US
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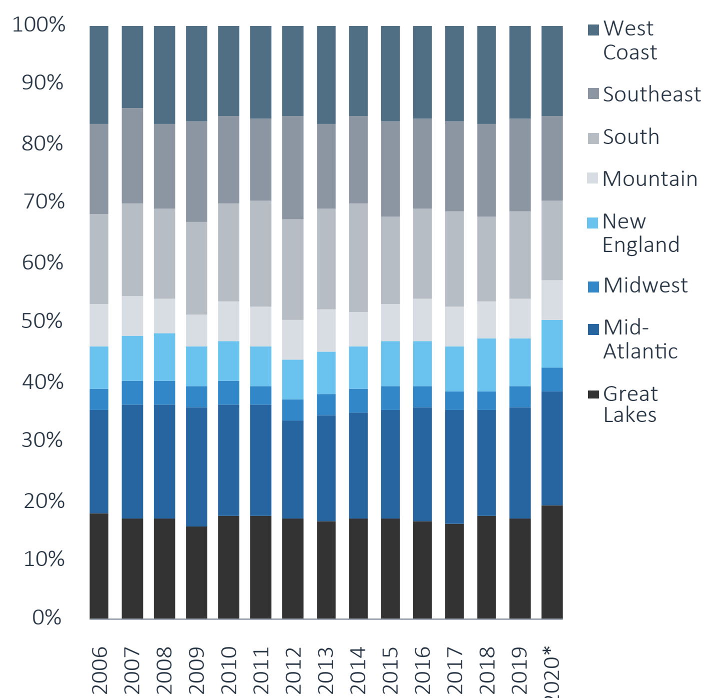
PE MM deals (#) by region



Source: PitchBook | Geography: US
*As of March 31, 2020

Antares: Keynote and Q&A

Dave Brackett

Chief Executive Officer
Antares Capital

Dave is a member of Antares' Investment Committee as well as Antares' Board of Directors. Previously, Dave served as president and CEO for GE Antares. He was a founding partner when Antares was formed in 1996. Prior to starting Antares, Dave was a senior executive with Heller Financial.

Teach your children well (the other vaccine)

Today in the US, there is great suffering and anger. The chronic affliction of racism and social injustice has once again flared, compounding the pain of lost lives and livelihoods from COVID-19. As the best of us work on the front lines of the virus crisis—for which we are so grateful—we have unfortunately been reminded once again how much work still needs to be done in developing antibodies to bigotry and discrimination. At Antares, we are listening, learning and committed to building a culture of diversity and inclusion—to real change. We want to thank all our stakeholders—sponsors, borrowers, employees, investors and others—who have expressed a shared commitment to such change, and who have been working tirelessly under difficult conditions to get through to the other side of these trying times. You inspire us.

A black swan cometh

The arrival of a downturn in 2020 should come as no surprise as many have been forecasting its arrival for years; however, the sharpness and swiftness of the economic shock that has followed this health emergency will clearly be one for the record books, with Q2 2020 GDP expected to drop 30%+.

In the face of such adversity, borrowers rushed to shore up their liquidity by drawing down on their revolvers. Lenders felt the stress of these drawdowns and loan value write-downs to varying degrees. Meanwhile, new LBO activity all but evaporated along with EBITDA visibility, and markets have shifted focus toward protecting existing portfolio investments. We have been through many cycles over the decades and remain as engaged as ever, working closely with our sponsors and borrowers to help them get through these challenging times while safeguarding value for our investors.

The dragon and the phoenix

At the time of this writing, in the skies above, SpaceX's Dragon 1 is now docked and looking down from the International Space Station. As societal woes reverberate across the land below, this monumental accomplishment offers a ray of hope that entrepreneurial vision and grit—attributes we find in many of the middle-market companies we lend to—will once again help lift the US from the proverbial ashes (at least on the economic front). Already, the stock market appears to be "looking past the valley" as scientists race ahead toward a vaccine, and businesses adapt and reopen.

Of course, no one knows how this pandemic will play out or what other looming geopolitical or other risks may yet strike. What we do know is that in the days ahead, we will remain committed to the health and safety of our employees, to an open and diverse culture, and to a passion for serving our investors, borrowers and sponsors. We'll be predictable, reliable and consistent in good times and bad. That's our DNA.

Q&A with Dave Brackett

How are credit providers adapting to the strains of the current environment?

Given stay-at-home orders, lenders, like other businesses, have had to adapt to a work-from-home environment that has posed a myriad of both personal and business challenges. I've been incredibly impressed by what our teams have accomplished.

In terms of the market environment, lenders have generally grown much more cautious and defensive versus the pre-COVID-19 period. This shift reflects obvious concerns around the economic outlook and, in some cases, increased lender balance-sheet constraints. Borrowers drew down sharply on their revolvers in March-April (e.g., to 60%+ of commitments versus a more normal level of 20-25%). Meanwhile, the values of existing loans on lender books were getting marked down—typically by 2%-9% in Q1 2020 for senior middle-market Business Development Company (BDC) loans, according to Cliffwater LLC.[2] Some lenders were hit—particularly those with significant exposure to troubled energy, retail,

2: "The Valuation of Private Middle Market Corporate Loans," Cliffwater LLC, June 1, 2020 restaurant, travel and/or accommodation-related industry segments—and with portfolio watchlist counts rising and unrealized losses mounting, lenders are closely monitoring their accounts and building up their workout capabilities in hopes of mitigating future "realized" losses.

Of course, where there is stress, there is also often dislocation and opportunity. Some were able to take advantage of the swoon in the secondary market in late March when the LPC 100 Leveraged Loan Index dipped below 80 (having since rebounded back into the low 90s since mid-April). Some were able to buy back shares below book value. Some have been successfully fund raising of late, enabling them to capitalize on opportunities ahead.

How does Antares foresee the broader M&A cycle for middle-market companies evolving going forward?

New LBO activity has been virtually nonexistent so far in Q2 2020 with syndicated sponsored M&A loan volume down 94% in April-May YoY, according to Refinitiv LPC;[3] however, some signs of life are emerging. According to a May 29 LPC survey, 71% of lenders said they are open to new business—albeit while being highly cautious/selective and with dramatically reduced maximum hold sizes. A wide variety of companies have tapped the loan market in recent weeks as of early June, but better-quality credits in industries such as technology, communications and insurance brokerage, which have been able to assuage any COVID-19-related concerns, have been able to obtain all-in pricing (i.e., spread, floor and OID) in the 6.0% to 6.5% range. Credits in such sectors as consumer and energy have been forced to offer yields of up to 10%+. New LBOs have received more scrutiny, particularly with respect to the components of adjusted EBITDA. Moreover, documentation has become tighter, with such things as add-back limitations and quarterly lender calls becoming the norm.

Looking forward, the market may continue to heal some in the months ahead, but a return to more normal M&A/LBO and loan market conditions may require getting past the US election and ultimately the successful development of a vaccine for COVID-19.

To what degree are the broader government relief programs potentially impacting PE portfolio companies thus far?

We have been working closely with our borrowers and sponsors to monitor and assess developments with regard to various government relief programs. Uptake in the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) has generally been limited, primarily due to company size constraints related to the PPP's affiliation rules. As things stand, we likewise don't expect many of our borrowers to participate in the soon-to-be-rolled-out Main Street Lending programs due to a variety of program constraints and considerations. That said, our borrowers may indirectly benefit from their suppliers' and customers' participation in these programs, and clearly government efforts in general have been critical in helping support markets.

Is direct lending still an attractive asset class for investors to be committing capital to today?

In a word, yes. We believe the asset class remains attractive, with the hunt for yield on a favorable risk-adjusted basis as urgent as ever. However, history has shown performance will likely vary significantly across lenders.

Clearly the next few quarters are poised to be challenging, with default rates forecast to rise. As of May 31, 2020, the TTM default rate for the S&P/LSTA Leveraged Loan Index was 3.14% by amount versus sub 2% levels seen in Q1 2020. How much further they rise depends on the rate of economic recovery ahead—and there, the range of forecast is quite wide. Leveraged-loan default projections seem to range from 5% in 2020 and 3.5% in 2021 on the optimistic side to more pessimistic forecasts of defaults climbing to a peak of 12%+ on a TTM basis.

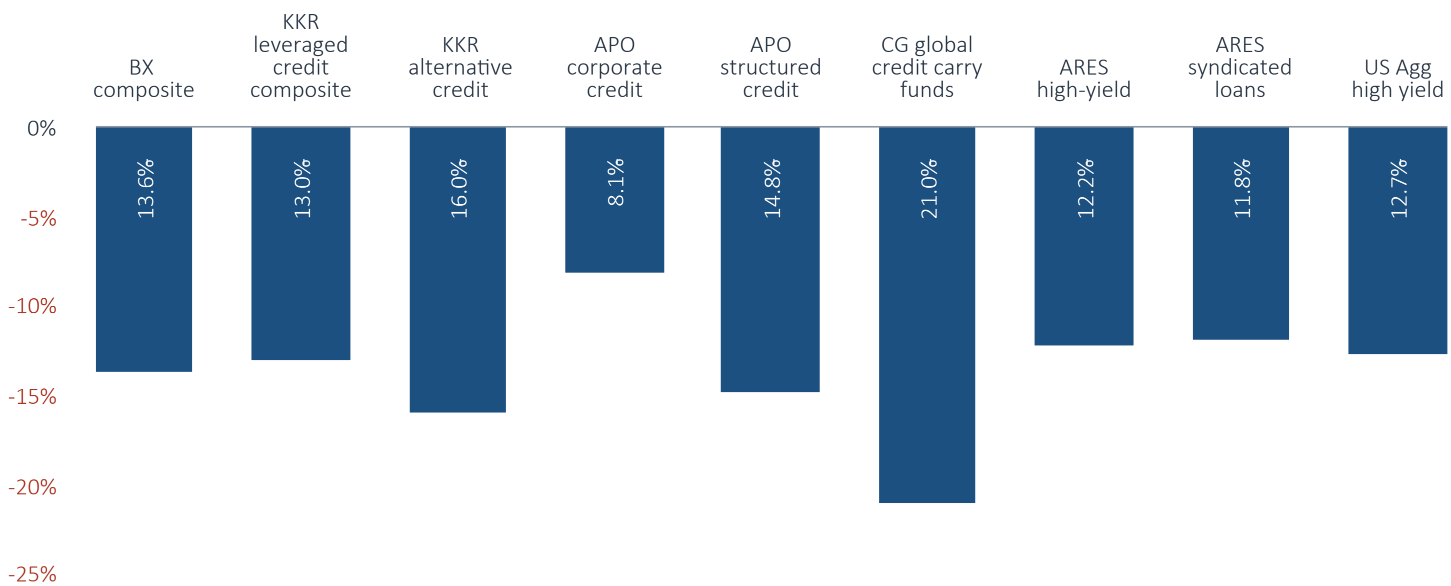
On the positive side for investors, the uncertain outlook has led to wider spreads, lower leverage and tighter documents for new deals. Investors have learned from prior cycles that some of the best vintage years follow downturns.

3: "US Leveraged Loan Market Scoreboard May 29th," Refinitiv LPC, May 29, 2020

Spotlight: Public PE Firm Earnings: Q1 2020

This is an excerpt from a note written by Wylie Fernyhough and released on May 12, 2020, titled "Analysis of Public PE Firm Earnings: Q1 2020."

Q1 2020 credit mark downs by select manager



Source: Public filings
*As of March 31, 2020

As a result of a global pandemic and volatile markets, the public GPs posted severely negative net profits according to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Much of this was a result of valuation markdowns across the board. The Q1 2020 earnings reports illustrated just how steeply valuations dropped, with Apollo (NYSE: APO) and Blackstone (NYSE: BX) marking their PE portfolios down 21.6%, while KKR (NYSE: KKR), Ares (NYSE: ARES) and Carlyle (NASDAQ: CG) marked theirs down 12.0%, 9.3% and 8.0% respectively. This means Apollo and Blackstone portfolios saw larger quarterly losses than the S&P 500, which dropped 20.0% in the quarter. However, Blackstone's portfolio was down 11.0% when stripping out energy. Credit portfolios saw a similar wave of double-digit mark downs.

Headline profit figures paint a dire, though somewhat inaccurate, picture of how these managers are performing. It is true that portfolio companies deserve to be written down in the quarter and some of them, especially in the oil space, are unlikely to fully recover; however, the magnitude was likely overstated because the portfolios were marked against public indices. Despite Blackstone posting a GAAP net loss of $2.6 billion on the quarter, the company made billions in operating profits for shareholders. The net loss was the result of $4.2 billion in unrealized investment losses. The other public managers posted comparable results for the same reason. The inclusion of unrealized gains and losses has been a hot button issue for investment firms ever since the FASB standard ASU 2016-01 was enacted in late 2017. For instance, Warren Buffett decried the changes and said they would cause "wild and capricious swings in our GAAP bottom line" as the mark-to-market changes in the portfolio now flow through to net income.

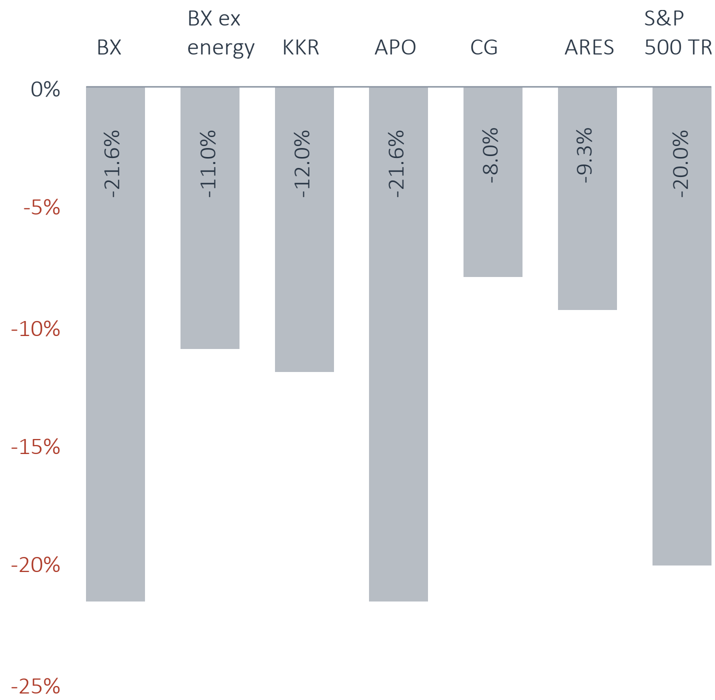
Spotlight

Continuing the Blackstone example, the firm posted YoY growth in fee-related earnings (FRE) and distributable earnings (DE) despite the net loss. As the year continues, realization (exit) activity is poised to fall substantially with the decline in valuations, meaning management fees will become even more important. GPs are unlikely to let go of assets in this environment because "buyers traditionally mark to market faster than sellers," as Carlyle co-CEO Kewsong Lee phrased it on the company's earnings call. For example, sellers of today may want to see an asset sell at 0.9x its 2019 marks, while a buyer may be willing to pay only 0.7x.

While DE is poised to dip in the coming quarters for the big five public PE managers—and is already down YoY for KKR since the company saw a slower pace of realizations in 2019 than in the year prior—FRE may continue to experience a rise due to the dearth of realizations. GPs' FRE ought to benefit from the calculation of management fees as well, which are typically based on the invested cost of assets and are not affected by marks. Future DE is poised to climb as well because of the GPs' aggressive capital deployment at depressed valuations. Apollo deployed more than $40 billion in the quarter, which is approximately twice the typical rate, and nearly $10 billion more in April. Likewise, Carlyle has already seen a pickup in credit deployment. Today's environment appears to favor these massive GPs, because each of them is either a credit specialist or has a significant in-house credit platform. Apollo has even pivoted its $24.7 billion PE Fund VIII, pursuing almost all distressed-for-control transactions rather than the typical low-multiple buyouts for which the firm is known.

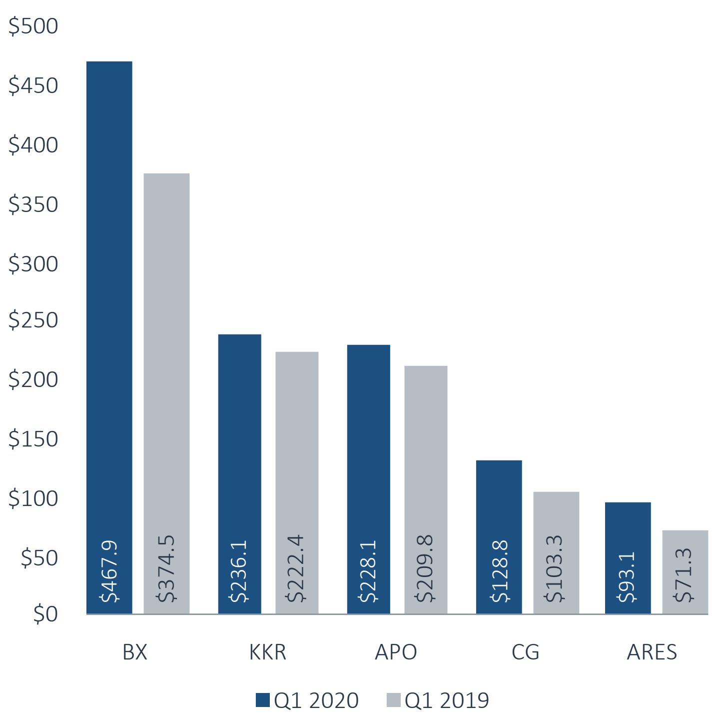
As these GPs have prioritized asset gathering and FRE growth in the past decade, the management companies are in great shape to weather this downturn—though their portfolio companies will likely struggle. For the GPs, FRE—mostly derived from management fees—alone should easily keep the lights on. Apollo and Ares should experience even less of a hit because realized carry typically accounts for an even smaller proportion of their DE due to their credit-heavy AUM balance. Additionally, these firms—especially Apollo—can leverage their credit expertise across disciplines and potentially deploy capital more quickly, despite the wide bid-ask spreads in buyout markets. Currently, with buyers marking to market more quickly than sellers, troubled businesses are less willing to sell equity to finance shortfalls. This means deployment opportunities for credit managers are abundant, and Apollo and Ares should see large relative increases in business.

Q1 2020 corporate PE portfolio mark downs by select manager



Source: Public filings

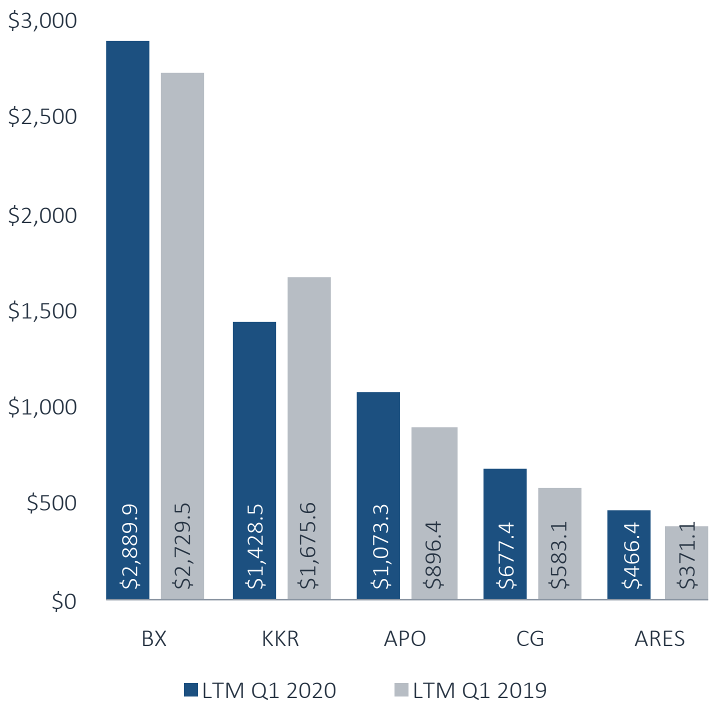
Quarterly FRE by select manager ($M)



Source: Public filings

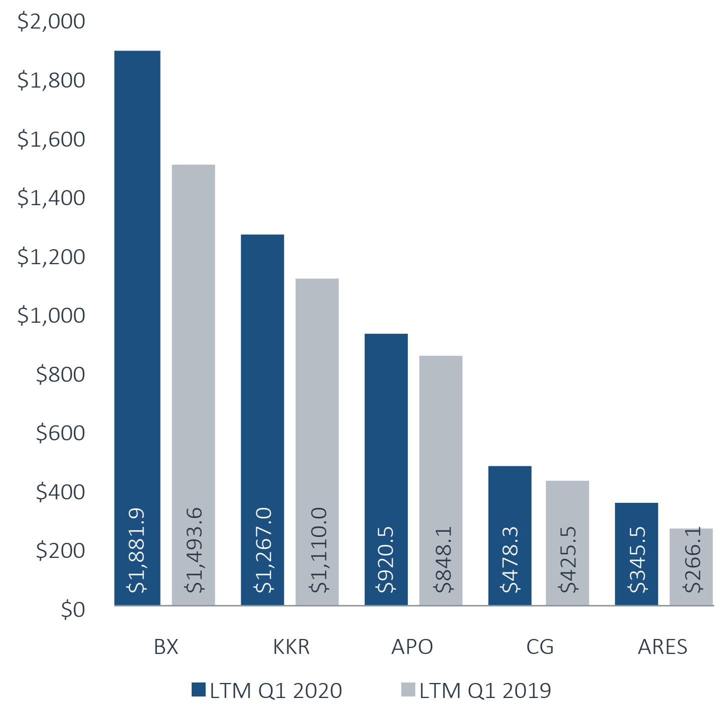
Spotlight

LTM DE by select manager ($M)



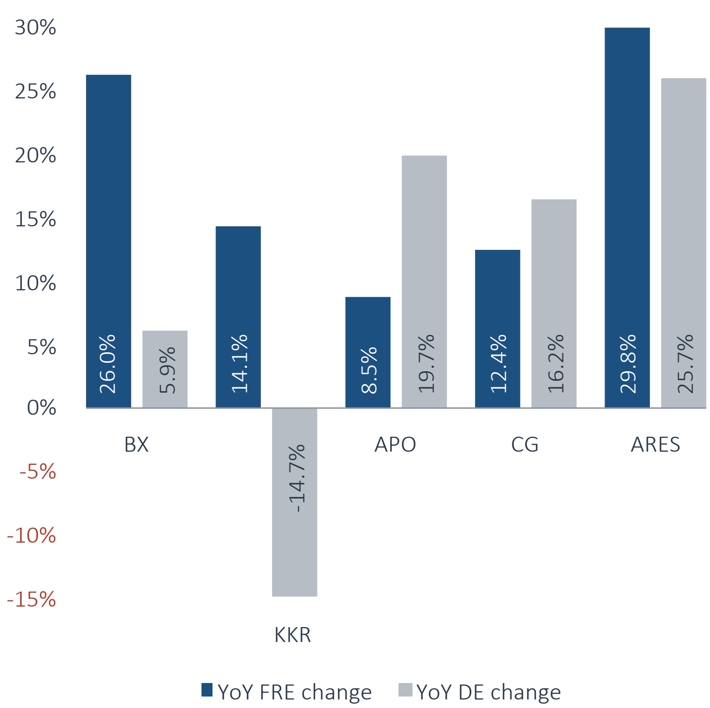
Source: Public filings

LTM FRE by select manager ($M)



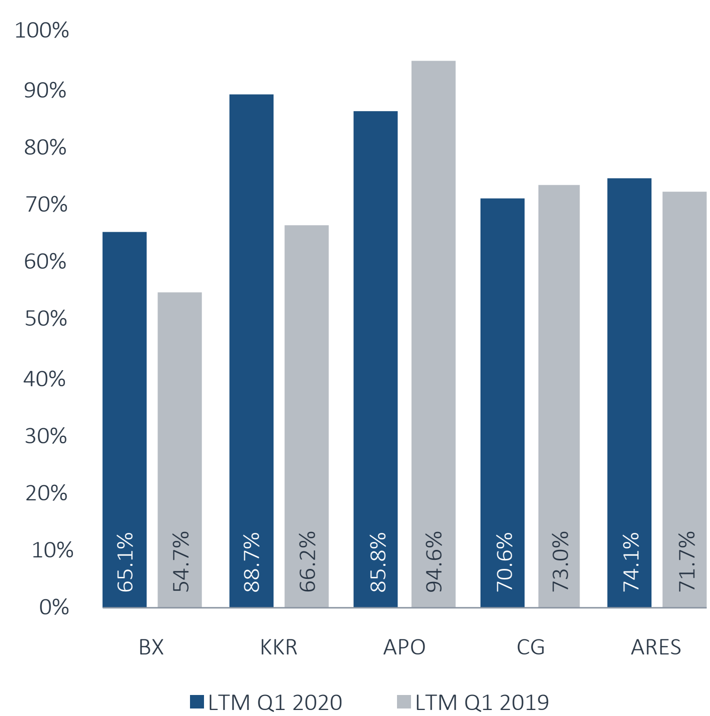
Source: Public filings

Change in LTM financials by select manager



Source: Public filings

LTM FRE as proportion of DE by select manager



Source: Public filings

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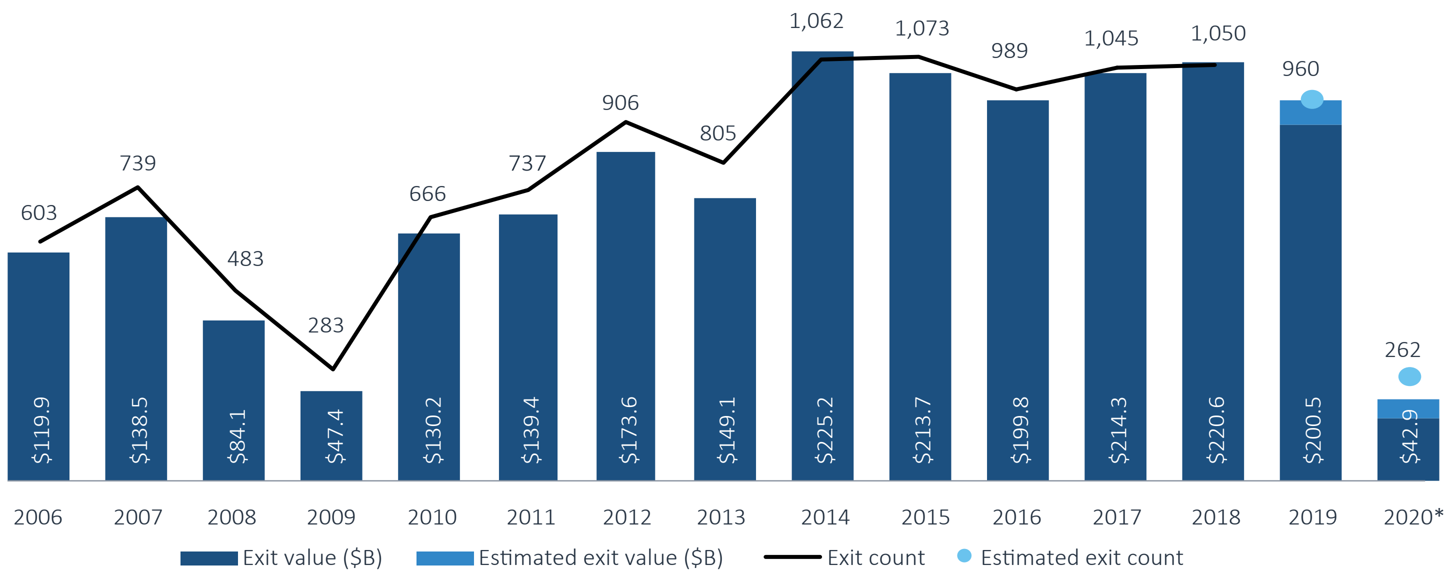
Exits

PE MM exit activity

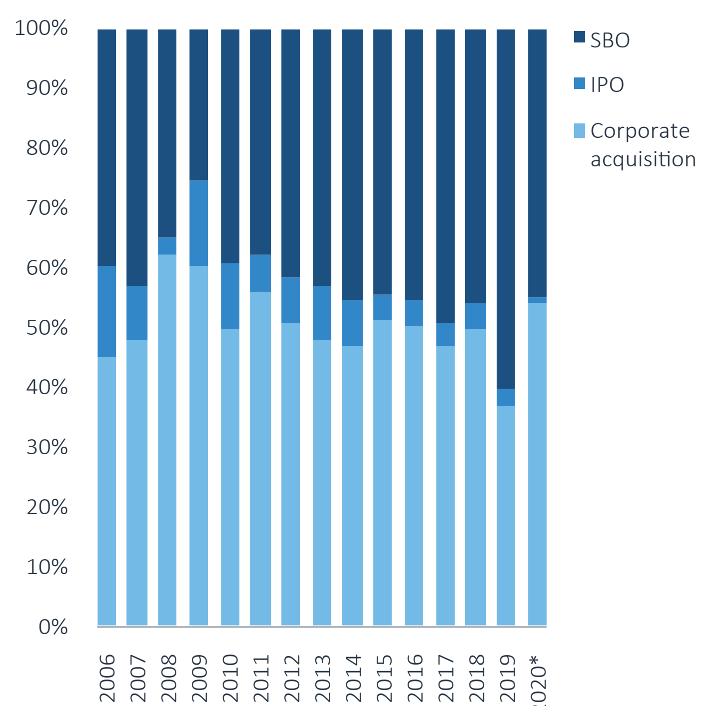


Source: PitchBook | **Geography:** US
*As of March 31, 2020

In the quarter, GPs exited 262 mid-market companies for a total value of $42.9 billion, a YoY gain of 21.3% and decline of 7.9%. These figures likely fell in part because of public market declines in the beginning of the quarter, which weakened mark-to-market valuations and led some GPs to hold off on selling assets at depressed prices. Public PE firms echoed this sentiment on Q1 2020 earnings calls, telling shareholders they could expect lower carry in the coming quarters because of a reduction in exits. While the stock market has picked up some of the losses from earlier in the quarter, the S&P 500 is still below its February highs. Furthermore, the true impact of COVID-19 has yet to reverberate through the entire economy, leaving many GPs wary of a larger economic downturn that threatens to extinguish liquidity and decimate multiples. Select assets may be sold if they are particularly insulated from the downturn or if the fund is nearing the end of its lifecycle, but in general it will be difficult for buyers and sellers to agree on price in such an environment.

The value of PE-backed IPOs was greater in Q1 than in the previous quarter or Q1 2019 (the latter being largely due to the government shutdown last year). However, the IPO resurgence was short-lived as all the public offerings occurred in the first half of the first quarter. GPs chose to pull IPOs or find alternative exit routes due to the volatility seen in the public markets. In fact, the largest PE-backed

PE MM exits ($) by type



Source: PitchBook | **Geography:** US
*As of March 31, 2020

IPO of the quarter was that of Velocity Financial, which was taken public by PIMCO and Snow Phipps Group. The company immediately faced a treacherous equity market shortly after being taken public, and by the end of the quarter, its share price was down more than 40%.

Elsewhere in the exit market, the value of corporate acquisitions surpassed secondary buyouts, or SBOs, for the first time since Q4 2018. Corporate acquisitions only outpaced SBOs in the last month of Q1 as financial sponsors—more sensitive to market dynamics—were quicker to apply the brakes in the early days of the pandemic. In this uncertain environment, a corporate acquirer need not factor in a potential exit after an acquisition, whereas a GP has that focus from the outset. Despite this, significant SBO exits did occur in the first three months of the year.

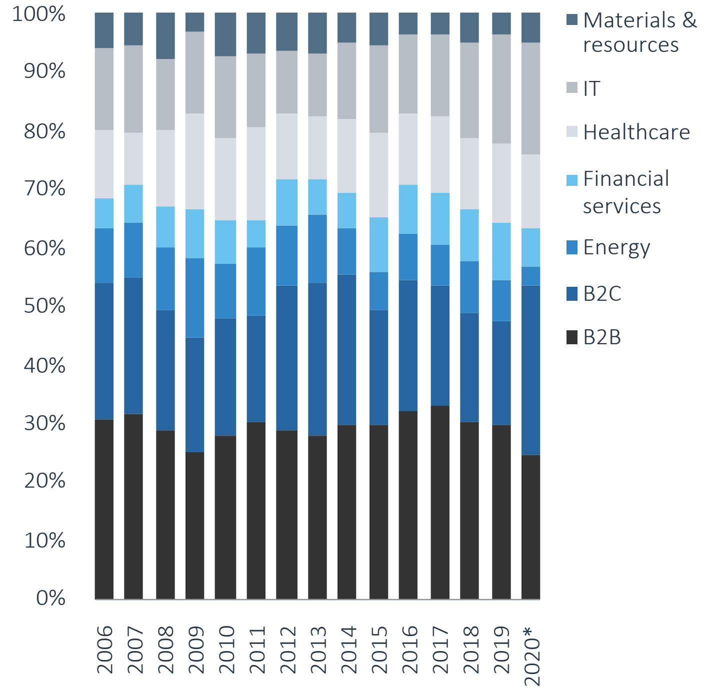
The largest exit of the quarter was the sale of Cura Cannabis Solutions by Curaleaf for $948.8 million. The Curaleaf company, though public, is still sponsor-backed and bought Cura Cannabis in an all-stock transaction.[4] The exit is notable in that many believe investors are overpaying for acquisitions in the space, as groups vie for market share. Often, a large percentage of the amount paid for these acquisitions is marked as goodwill, which may be become a ticking time-bomb in the cannabis subsector space if companies are eventually forced to write down these acquired assets—an action that may impact equity holdings.

Similar to deal flow, the tech sector was also prominent in the quarter and had an outsized showing in terms of exit value. The third largest exit of the quarter was the sale of AP Wireless Infrastructure Partners. KKR and Associated Partners exited the company in an $860.0 million cash and stock deal. The company was acquired in 2013, and thus is a good example of a GP exit near the end of a fund's life.

In contrast, GPs have also become more comfortable holding onto their winners in order to extract value from a company they may believe can continue to show growth, leading to a more attractive exit down the line. GPs have numerous ways of holding onto these winners: One example is GP-led secondaries. Often, the ability of a GP to successfully execute on a play such as this depends upon their fund mandate. Given the lack of information surrounding COVID-19 and potential exits, GPs will continue trying to hold onto their winners while simultaneously attempting to sell off weaker assets.

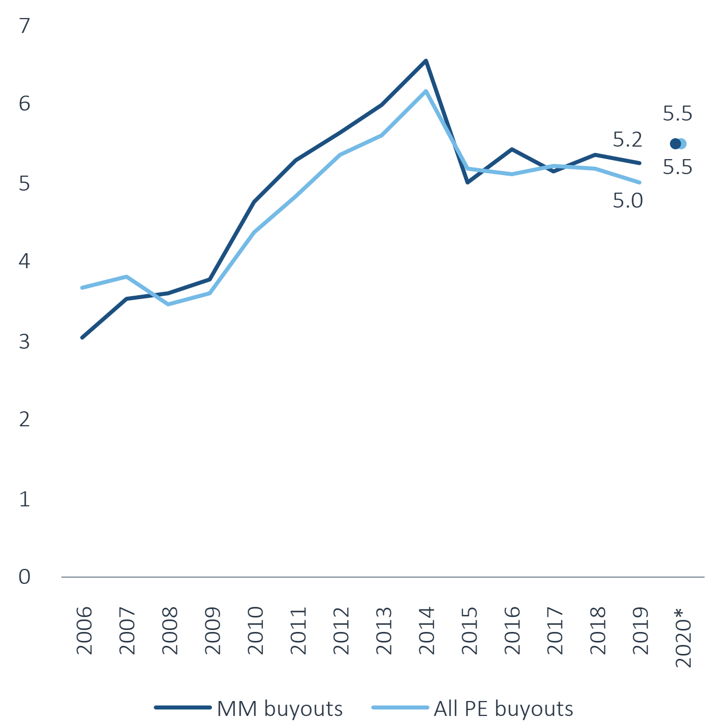
4: It should be noted that Curaleaf, although US-based, is listed in Canada due to federal cannabis regulation.

PE MM exits ($) by sector



Source: PitchBook | **Geography:** US
*As of March 31, 2020

Median holding time (years) for PE MM buyouts



Source: PitchBook | **Geography:** US
*As of March 31, 2020

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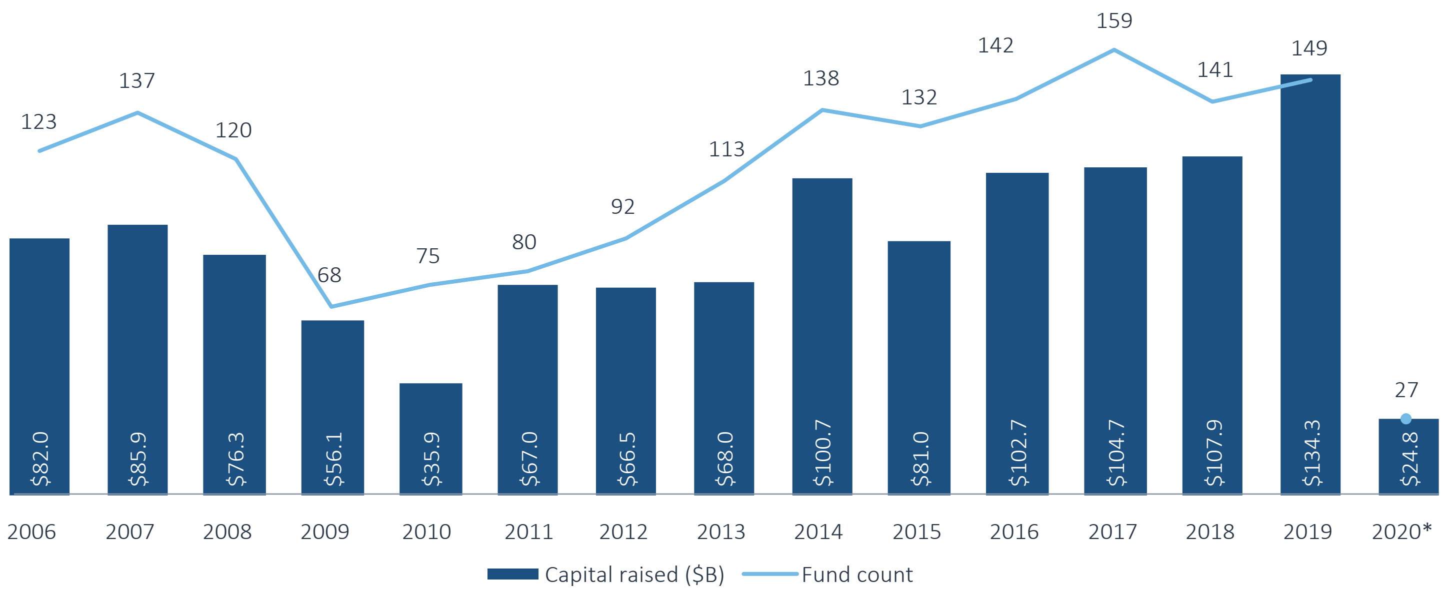
Fundraising

PE MM fundraising activity



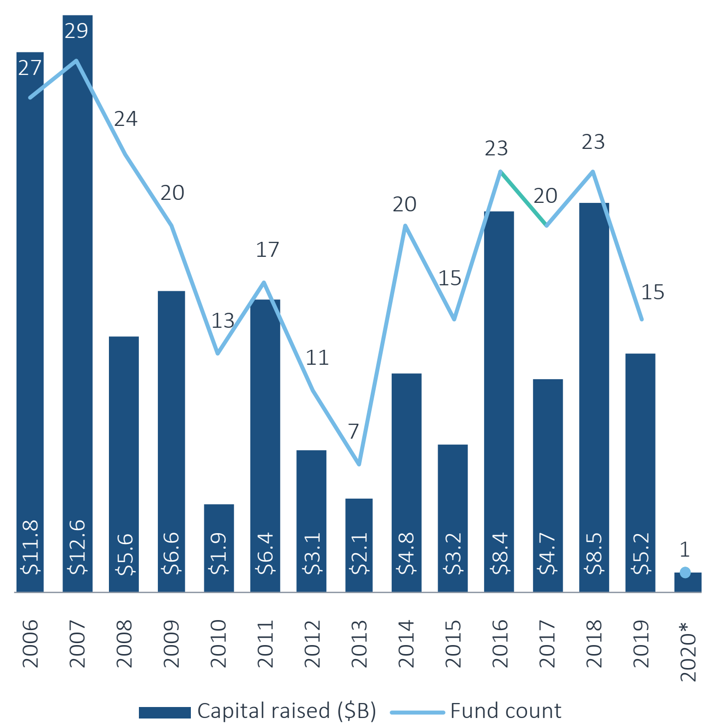
Source: PitchBook | **Geography:** US
*As of March 31, 2020

Fundraising activity in Q1 2020 slowed modestly. GPs raised 27 mid-market funds totaling $24.81 billion, YoY declines of 18.2% and 12.1%, respectively. In recent quarters, MM fundraising has made up a dwindling percentage of all PE fundraising, although Q1 reversed the trend, and MM fundraising composed 58.7% of all PE funds raised. $1 billion+ funds drove activity in the quarter, accounting for almost half of the MM funds raised in Q1. Odyssey Investment Partners' $3.25 billion buyout fund was the largest fund of the quarter, and it was up $1.25 billion from their 2014 buyout fund.

While MM specialist firms are enjoying step-ups, there are also MM funds being raised by larger GPs at the smaller end of the spectrum in order to appease their LP bases' wishes for variety. Examples of this include Trivest's $235.0 million Discovery Fund, as well as KKR's $1.3 billion Global Impact Fund. It should also be noted that these funds are being raised with incredible swiftness. In Q1, median and average time to close were both under 12 months.

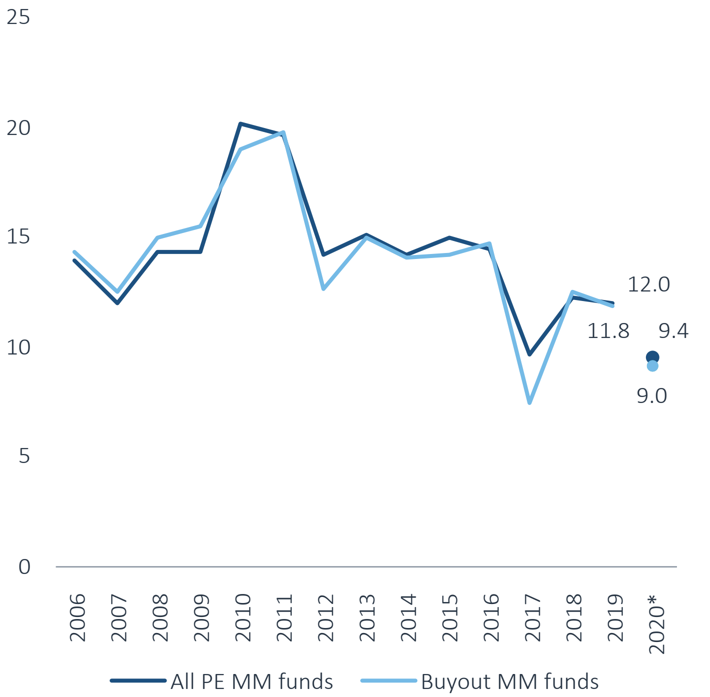
Still, not all GPs have benefitted from the trend of larger funds and quicker times to close. One group that has seemingly suffered is first-time funds. Emerging managers, including first-time funds, were particularly susceptible to travel shutdowns, given their lack of existing relationships with allocators, making it more difficult to go through a full

PE MM first-time fundraising activity



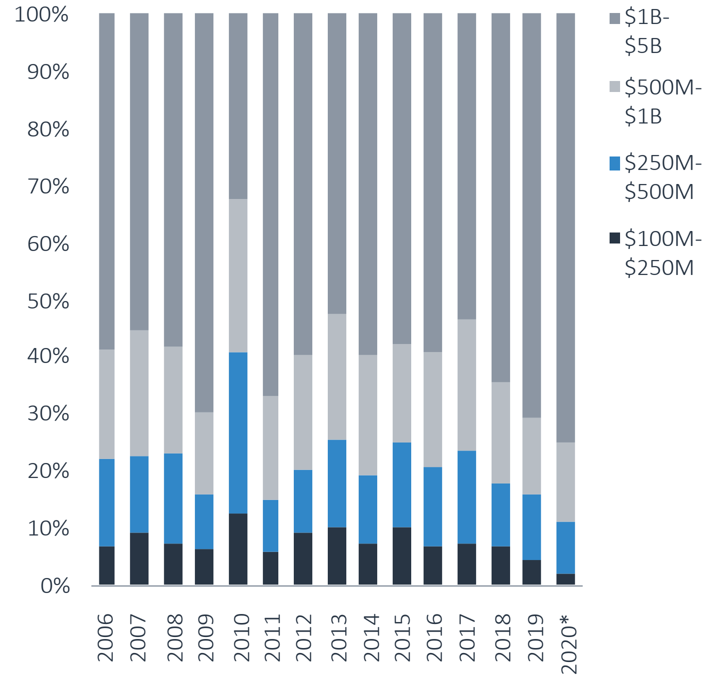
Source: PitchBook | **Geography:** US
*As of March 31, 2020

Median time (months) for PE MM fund to close



Source: PitchBook | **Geography:** US
*As of March 31, 2020

PE MM funds ($) by size

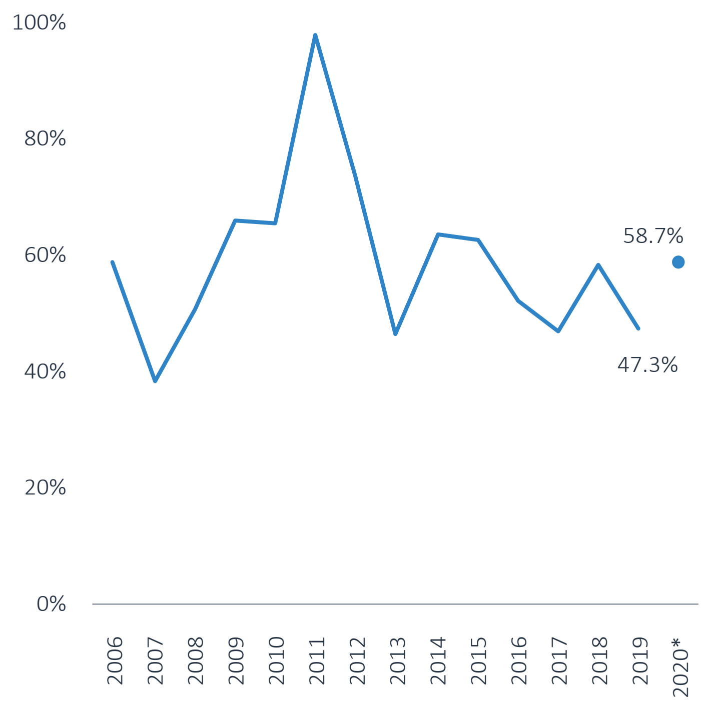


Source: PitchBook | **Geography:** US
*As of March 31, 2020

manager-diligence process. In the quarter, there was only one first-time fund raised, compared to seven in Q1 of 2019. American Pacific Group raised $450 million for its debut fund in February. The group, which was spun out of HIG Capital, is set to acquire LMM companies in software and tech, spaces that many believe bode well despite potential downturn considerations.

Nonetheless, we still expect LPs to allocate to the middle market. Despite COVID-19 concerns, LPs are still looking to allocate to private markets due to the potential for outperformance, which many believe outweighs the liquidity risks (also mitigated by the secondaries market) inherent in private market investment. Furthermore, according to a Probitas Partners LP Survey,[5] the US MM is the area where LPs across the board are still focusing most of their attention. Moving forward, we believe the MM will continue to be an attractive space for LP investment.

MM funds as proportion ($) of overall PE funds



Source: PitchBook | **Geography:** US
*As of March 31, 2020

5: "Probitas Partners 2020 Institutional Investors Private Equity Survey," Probitas Partners, December 2019

Q1 2020 US PE MM lending league tables

Overall

1	Antares Capital	39
2	Churchill	36
3	Barings	30
4	Ares	29
5	Twin Brook Capital Partners	23
6	BMO Financial Group	20
7	MidCap Financial	19
8	NXT Capital	18
9	Madison Capital Funding	17
10	The Carlyle Group	15
10	Varagon Capital Partners	15
12	Crescent Capital Group	14
13	Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors	12
13	Capital One	12
13	Jefferies Group	12
13	Citizens Bank	12
17	The Goldman Sachs Group	11
18	BBVA Bank	10
19	Blackstone / GSO Secured Lending	9
19	Golub Capital	9
21	Credit Suisse	8
21	Audax Group	8
23	First Eagle Private Credit	7
23	Monroe Capital	7
23	PNC	7
23	Bank of Ireland	7
23	KeyBank	7

Source: PitchBook

Select roles*

1	Antares Capital	36
2	Twin Brook Capital Partners	21
3	MidCap Financial	17
4	Madison Capital Funding	16
5	Ares	15
6	Churchill	14
7	Varagon Capital Partners	13
8	Citizens Bank	11
9	BMO Financial Group	10
9	NXT Capital	10
11	Capital One	8
12	Credit Suisse	7
12	Jefferies Group	7
14	Bank of Ireland	6
14	Crescent Capital Group	6
16	The Carlyle Group	5
16	CIT Group	5
18	Bain Capital	4
18	Barings	4
18	BBVA Bank	4
18	Audax Group	4

Source: PitchBook. *Select roles comprise bookrunners, lead arrangers, mandated lead arrangers and administrative agents only.