2026 Midyear Outlook Check-In: US private equity

July 23rd, 2026

PitchBook
a Morningstar company

Speakers

Steven Buibish, CFA

Director, US PE Research

Garrett Hinds

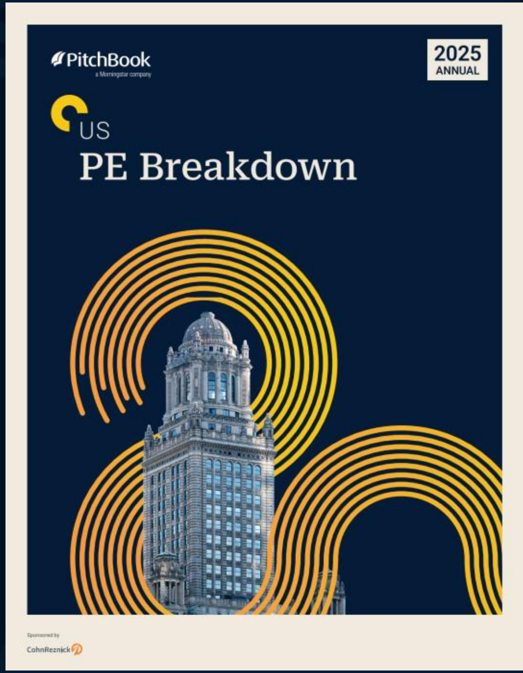
Senior Research Analyst, PE

Jinny Choi

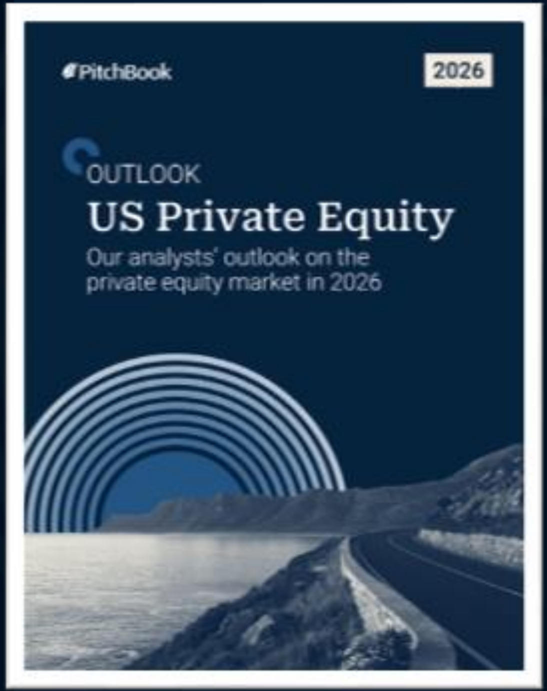
Senior Research Analyst, PE

Relevant Reports

[US PE Breakdown]



[US PE Outlook]



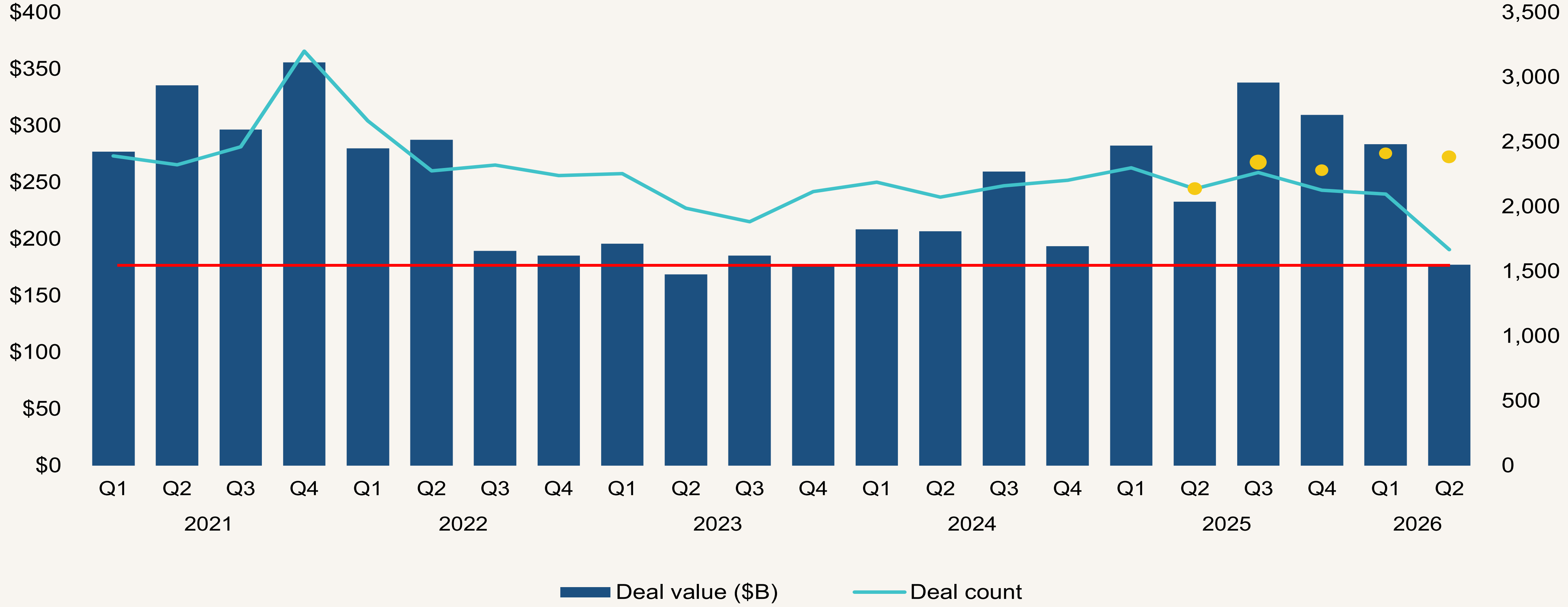
[Middle Market Report]

[Global M&A Report]

Deal Flow

US PE deal value faded in Q2 2026

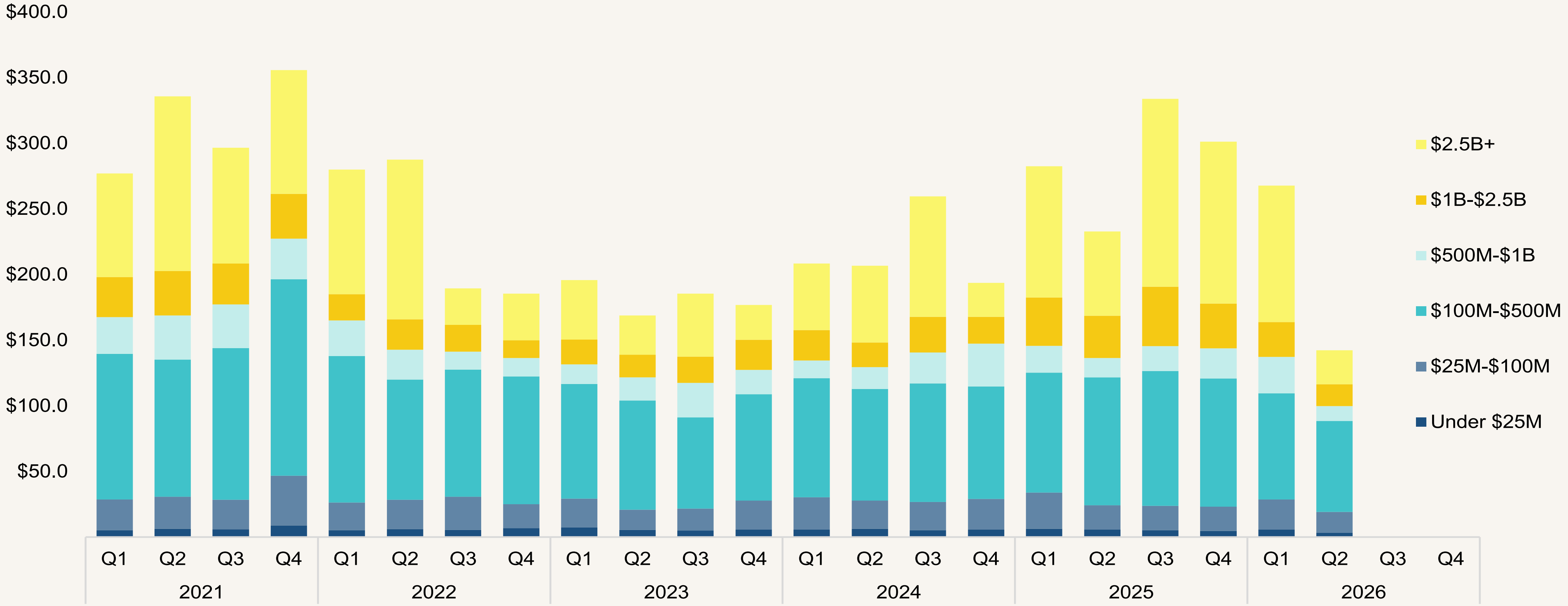
PE deal activity



Source: PitchBook | Geography: US | As of June 30, 2026

Megadeals ($1B+) retrench

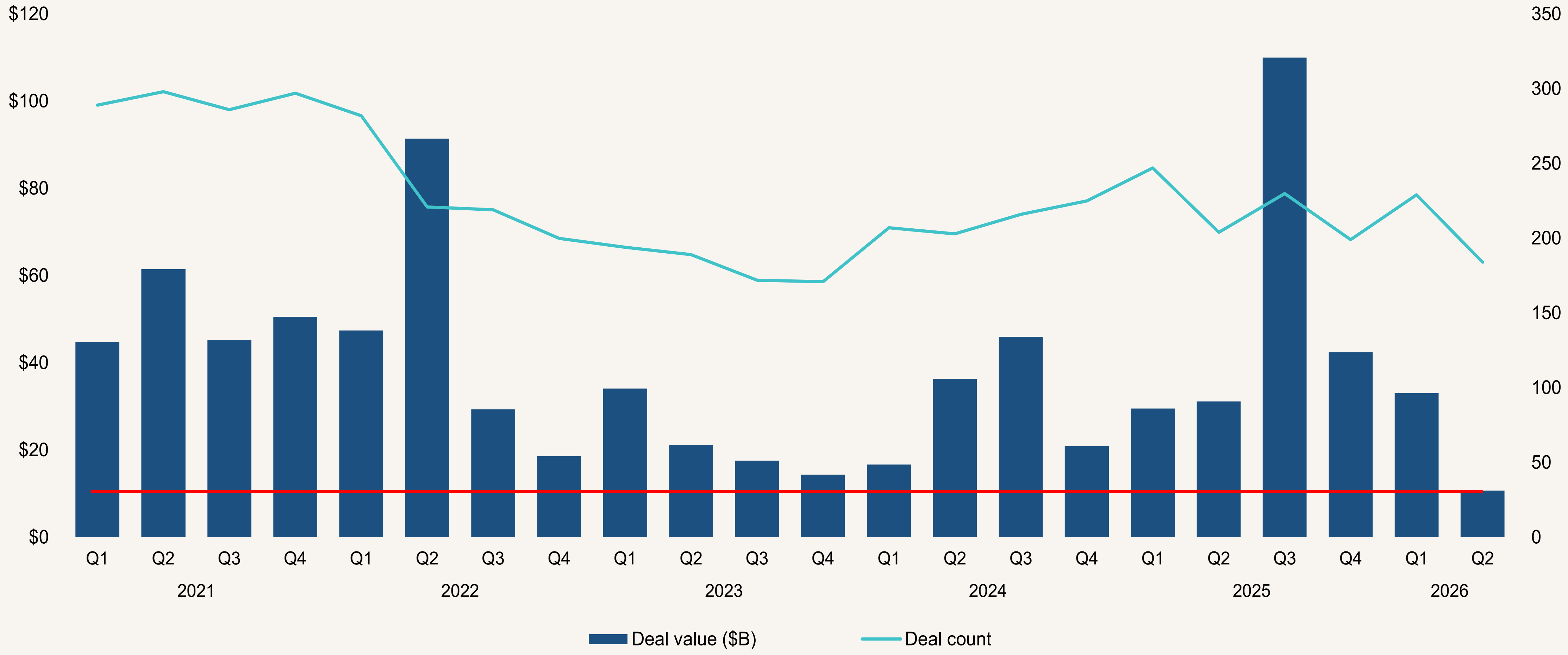
PE deal value by size bucket



Source: PitchBook | Geography: US | As of June 30, 2026

Software's recent peak… and new trough

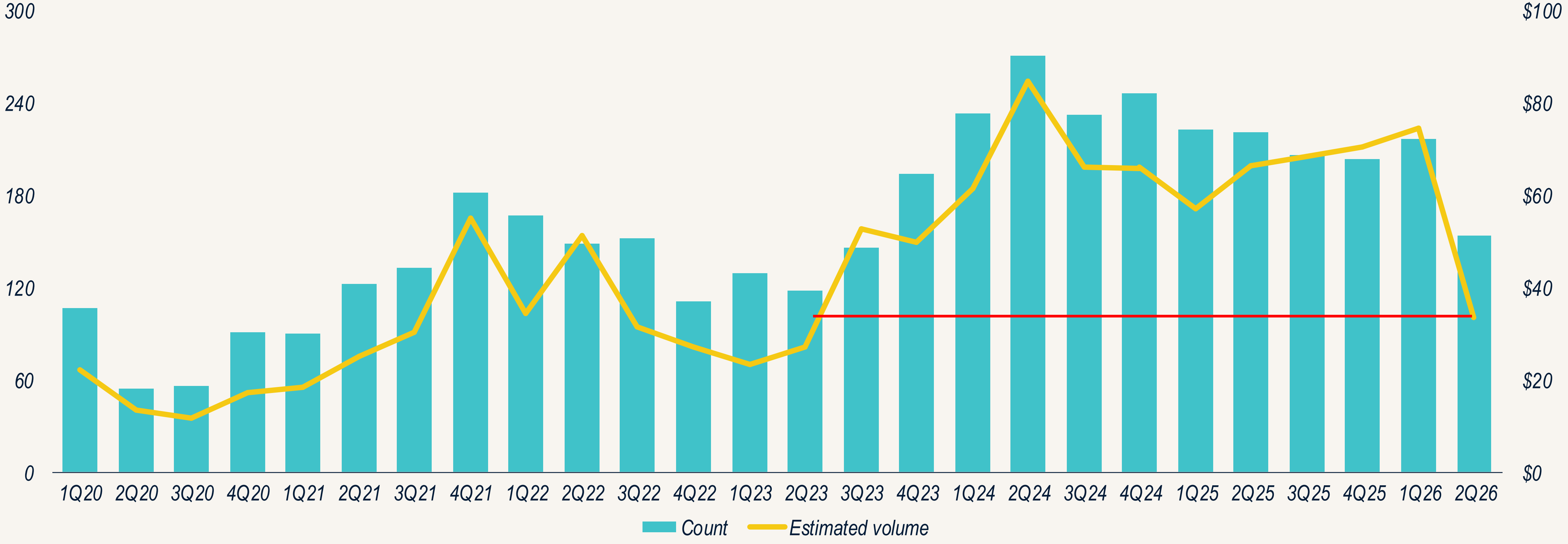
US PE software deal activity



Source: PitchBook | Geography: US | As of June 30, 2026

Direct lending slowed to a 3-year low

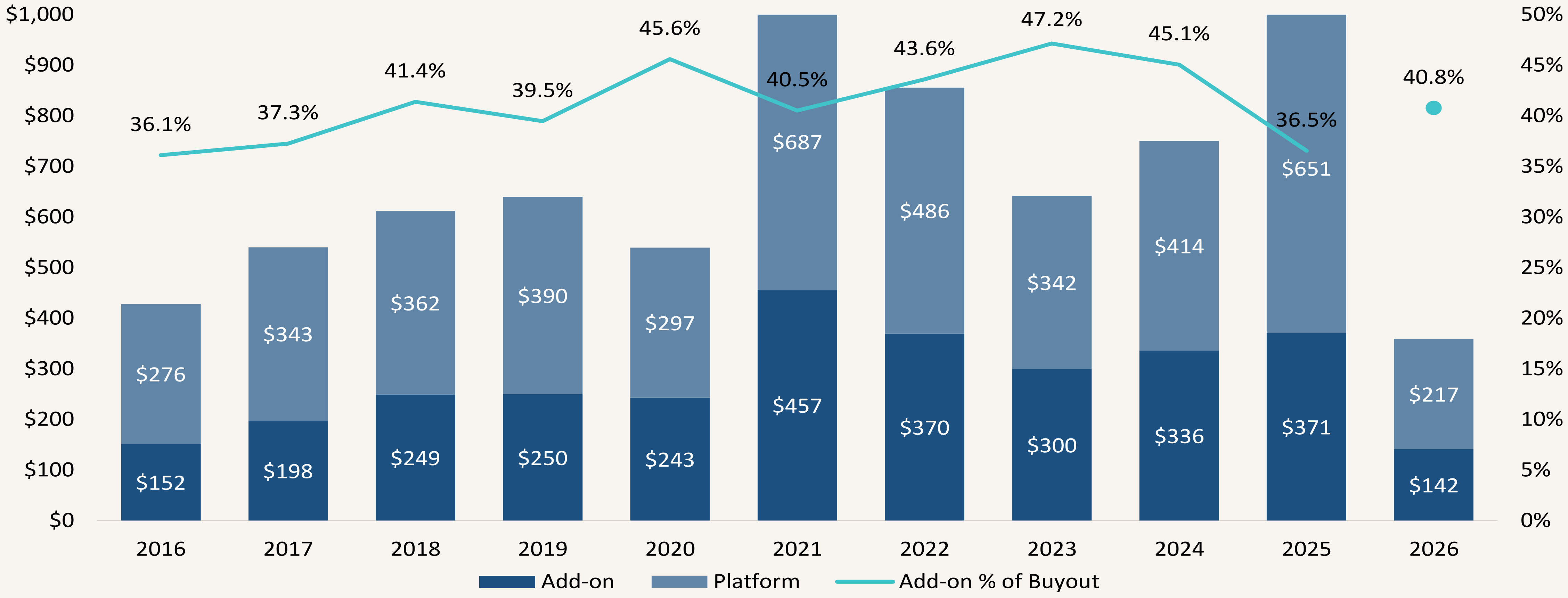
Direct lending deal count and estimated volume ($B)



Source: PitchBook | LCD | Geography: US | As of June 30, 2026

Add-ons increasing share of buyout value

Add-ons share up 430 bps YoY vs platform buyouts



Source: PitchBook | Geography: US | As of June 30, 2026

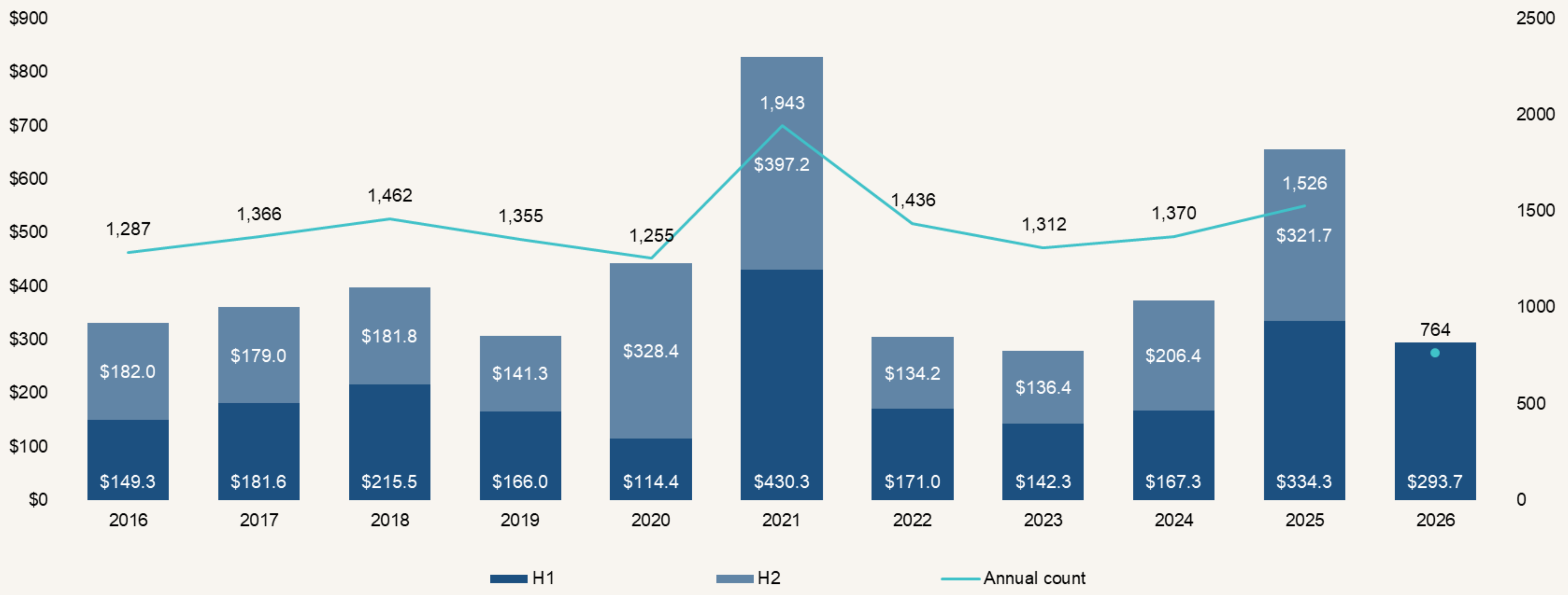
Poll: Which sector offers the most upside in the next 6 months?

A	B2B
B	B2C
C	Financial Services
D	Healthcare
E	Technology
F	Energy

Exits

The 2025 exit rebound finds difficulty in 2026

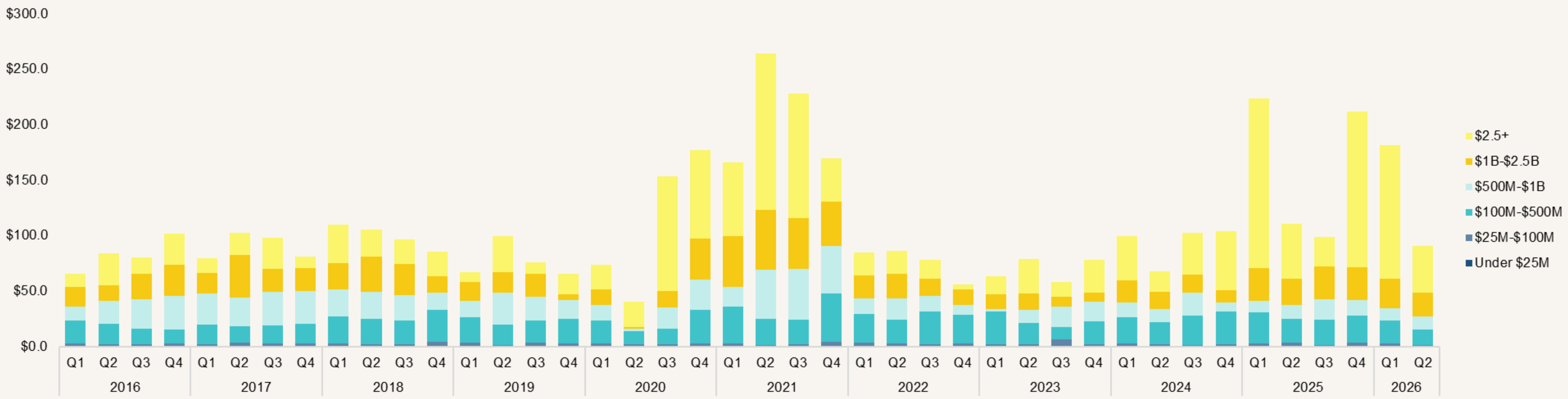
PE exit activity



Source: PitchBook | Geography: US | As of June 30, 2026

Larger exits continue to drive exit activity

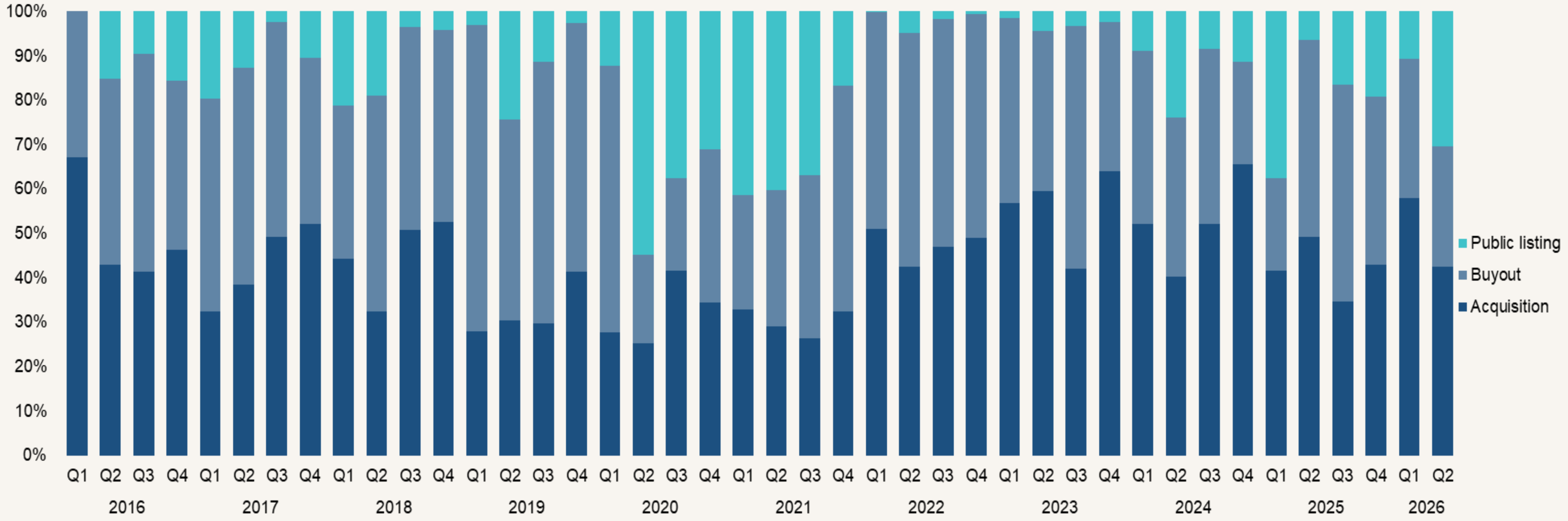
PE exit value by size quarterly



Source: PitchBook | Geography: US | As of June 30, 2026

Share of different exit routes shift

Quarterly share of PE exit value by type



Source: PitchBook | Geography: US | As of June 30, 2026

Mega exits and IPO prospects

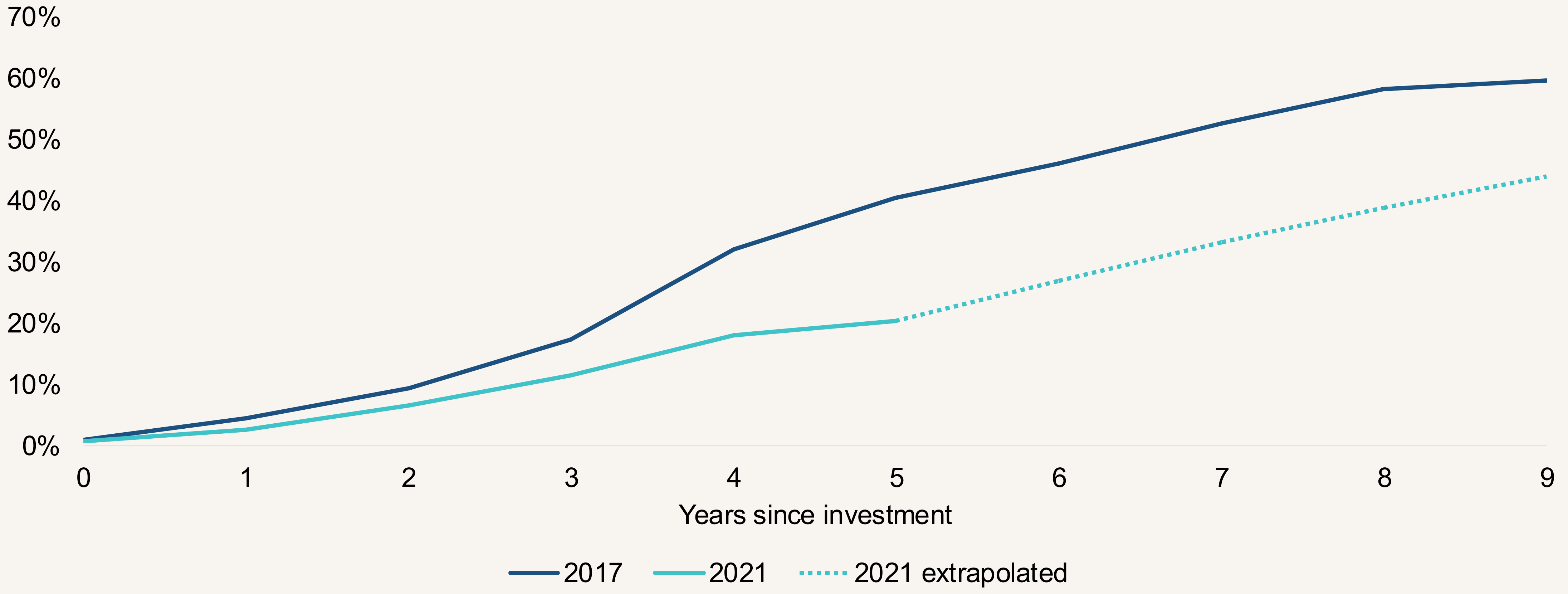
Likely PE-backed IPOs in the next 12-months

Companies	Industry Group	Description
INSPIRE	Restaurants and Bars	Multi-brand restaurant franchisor operating Dunkin', Baskin-Robbins, Buffalo Wild Wings, Arby's, Jimmy John's and Sonic across ~33,000 locations worldwide.
Jersey Mike's Subs	Restaurants and Bars	Predominantly franchised sub sandwich chain with ~3,300 locations, ~$4.2B in systemwide sales and ~$1.4M average unit volumes.
Mavis Tires & Brakes	Automotive	Leading U.S. auto repair and tire services platform operating brands including Mavis Discount Tire, Midas, Tuffy and Express Oil Change & Tire Engineers, offering tire replacement, brakes, alignment and preventive maintenance.
SB Energy	Energy Infrastructure	Developer and operator of energy and digital infrastructure, evolving from a utility-scale solar/storage developer into an integrated power-plus-data-center platform for AI. Selected to build and operate a 1.2 GW OpenAI data center campus in Texas.
FIRSTstudent	Automotive	Largest student transportation provider in North America, operating ~40,000+ school buses across 1,100+ districts and completing ~5 million student journeys per day, with 60,000+ employees.

Source: PitchBook | Geography: US | As of June 30, 2026

Outlook: PE assets nearing maturity will exit at a slower pace than five years ago

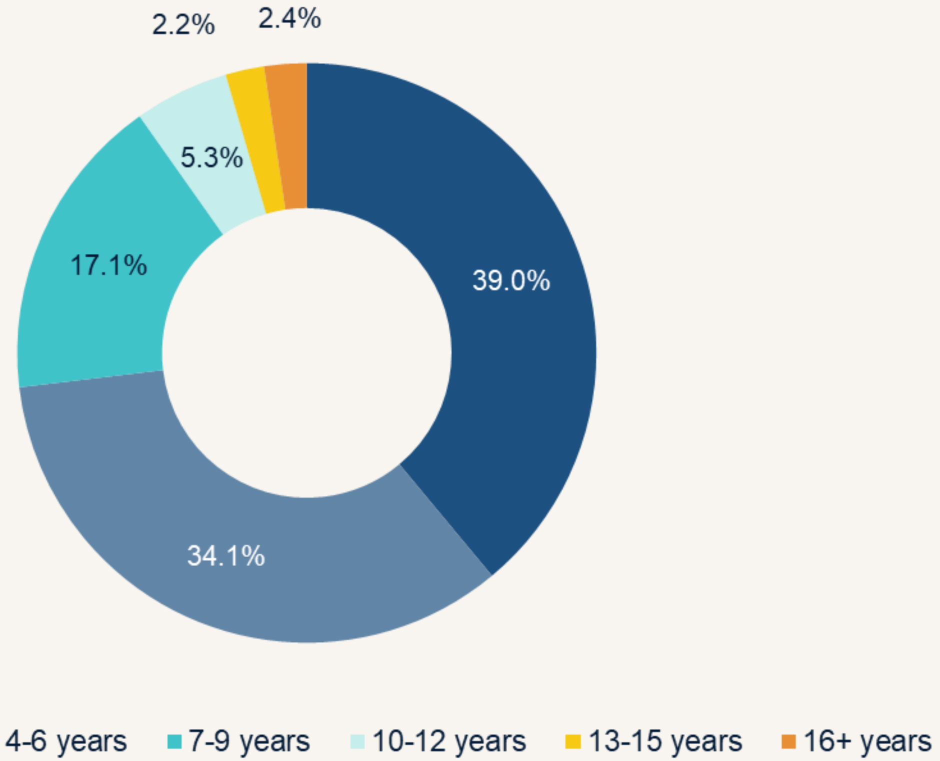
Share of LBOs exited (2017 cohort versus 2021 cohort)



Source: PitchBook | Geography: US | As of May 30, 2026

Aging portfolio companies remain with sponsors

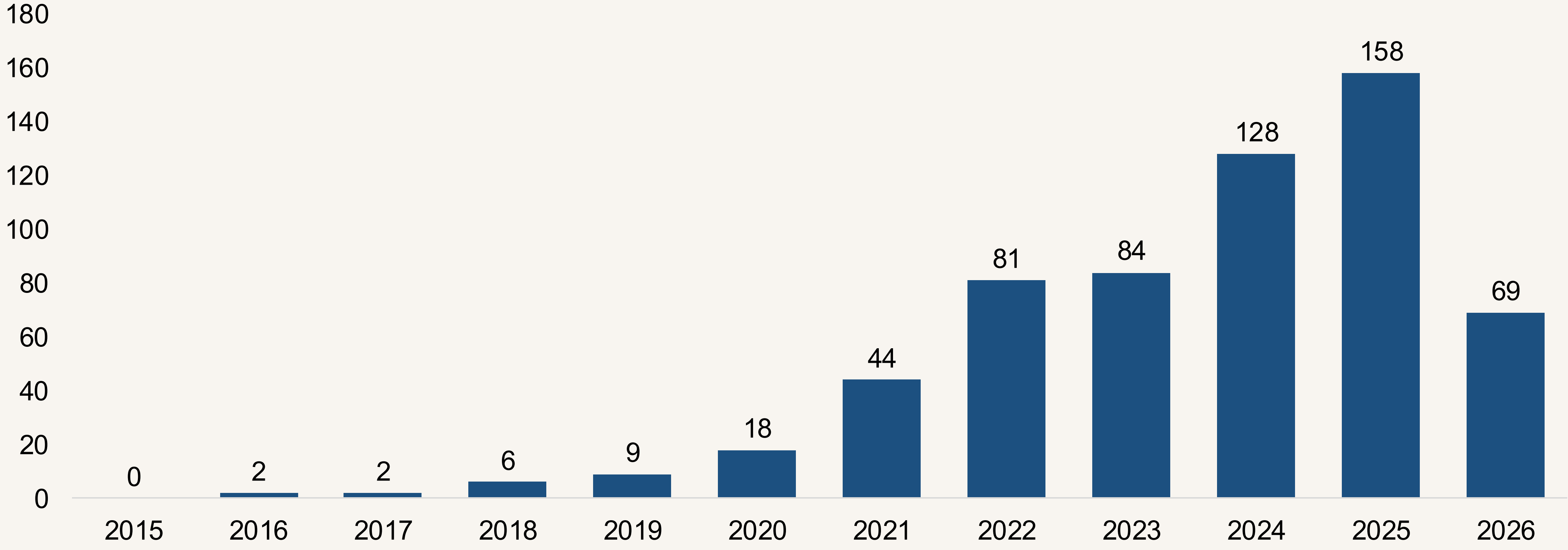
Share of PE-backed company inventory by deal year



Source: PitchBook | Geography: US | As of May 16, 2026

Outlook: The number of continuation fund-related exits in 2026 will fall below the 2025 peak

PE GP-led secondary exit activity



Source: PitchBook | Geography: Global | As of June 30, 2026

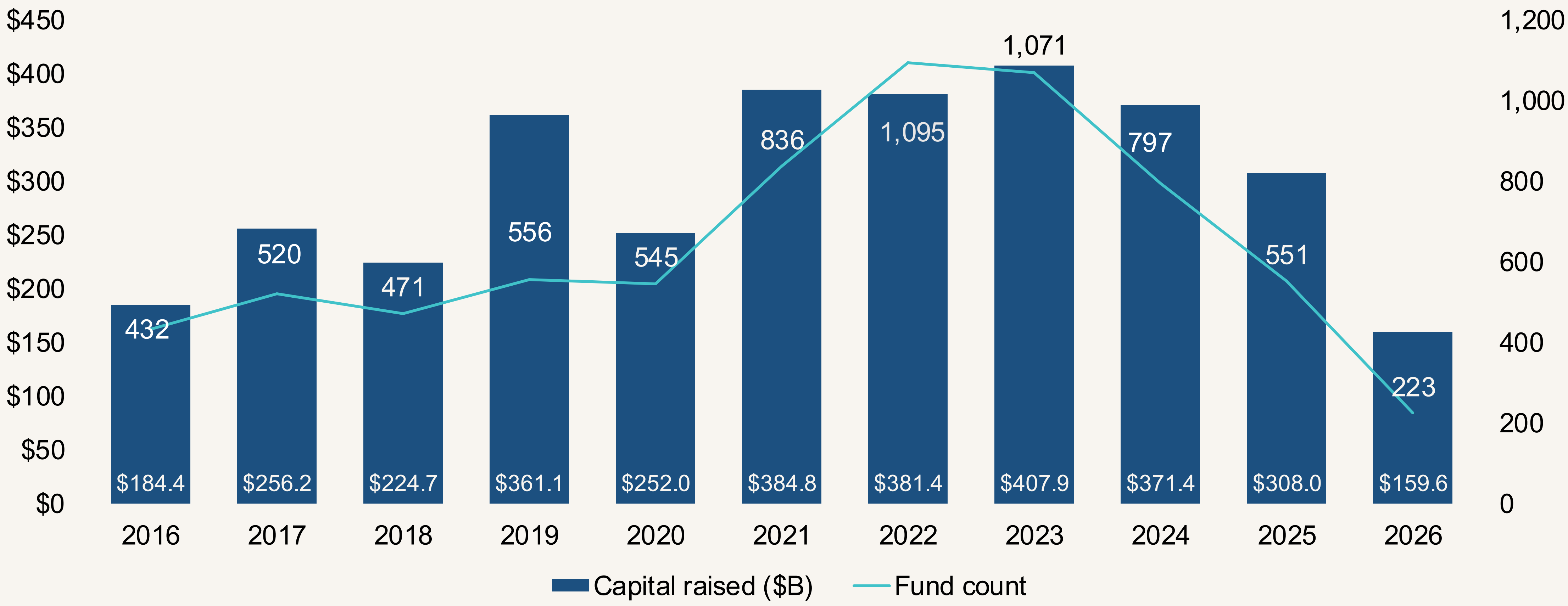
Poll: Exits via continuation funds will...

A	Increase because exit opportunities remain constrained
B	Decrease because exit opportunities will rebound
C	Decrease because investor appetite for CFs will decrease
D	Stabilize as an ongoing liquidity tool for PE players

Fundraising

Fundraising on pace with 2025

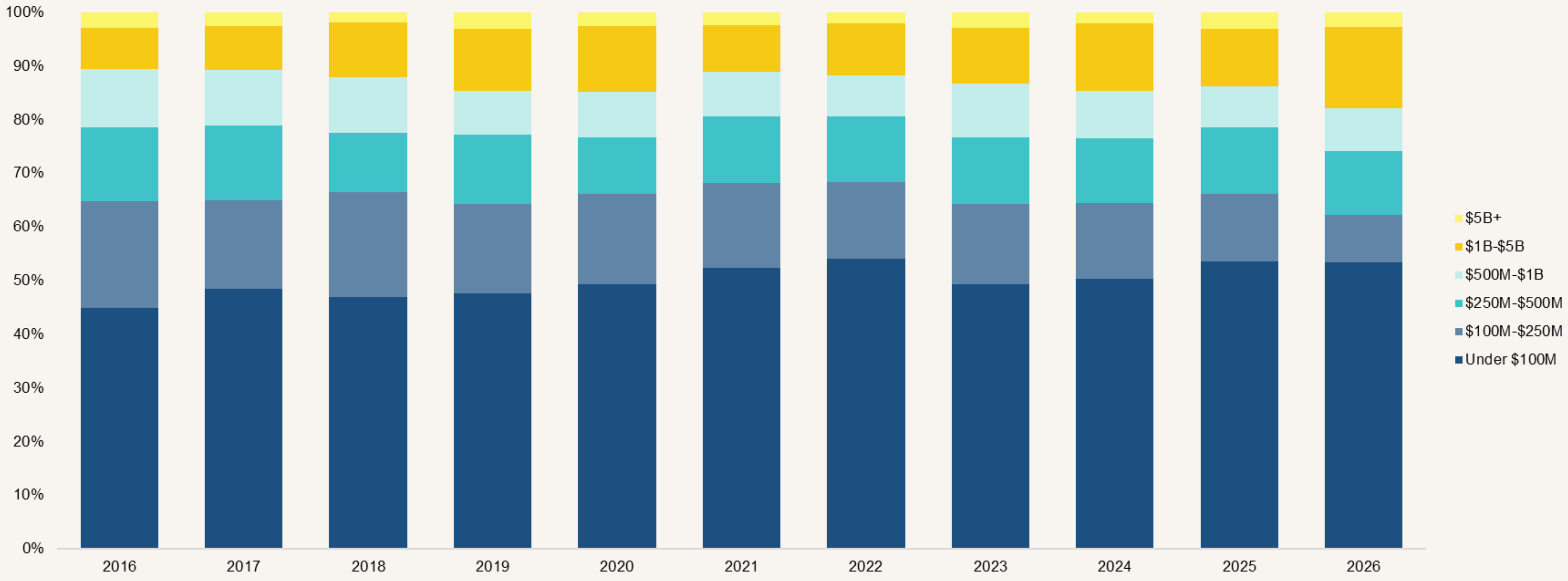
PE fundraising activity



Source: PitchBook | Geography: US | As of June 30, 2026

Capital is pooling at the top

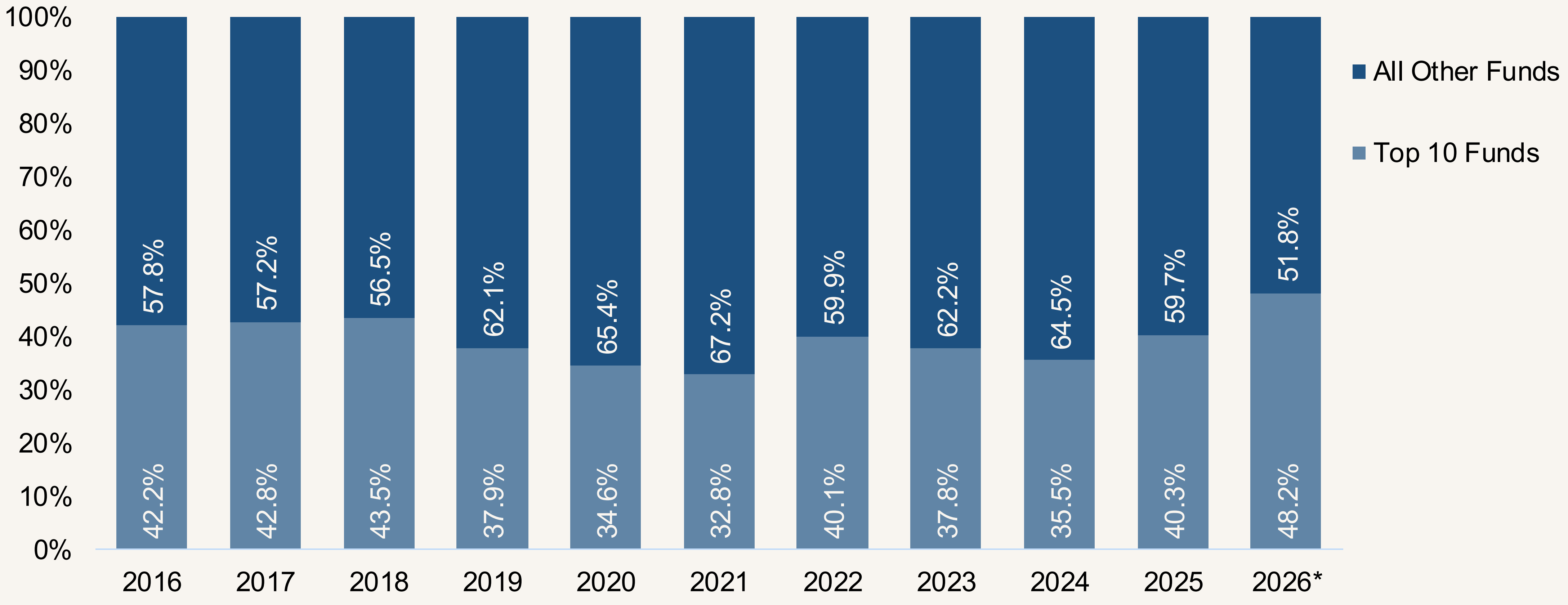
Share of US PE fund count by fund size



Source: PitchBook | Geography: US | As of June 30, 2026

Outlook: PE manager consolidation will drive the top 10 funds to capture over 40% of PE fundraising capital

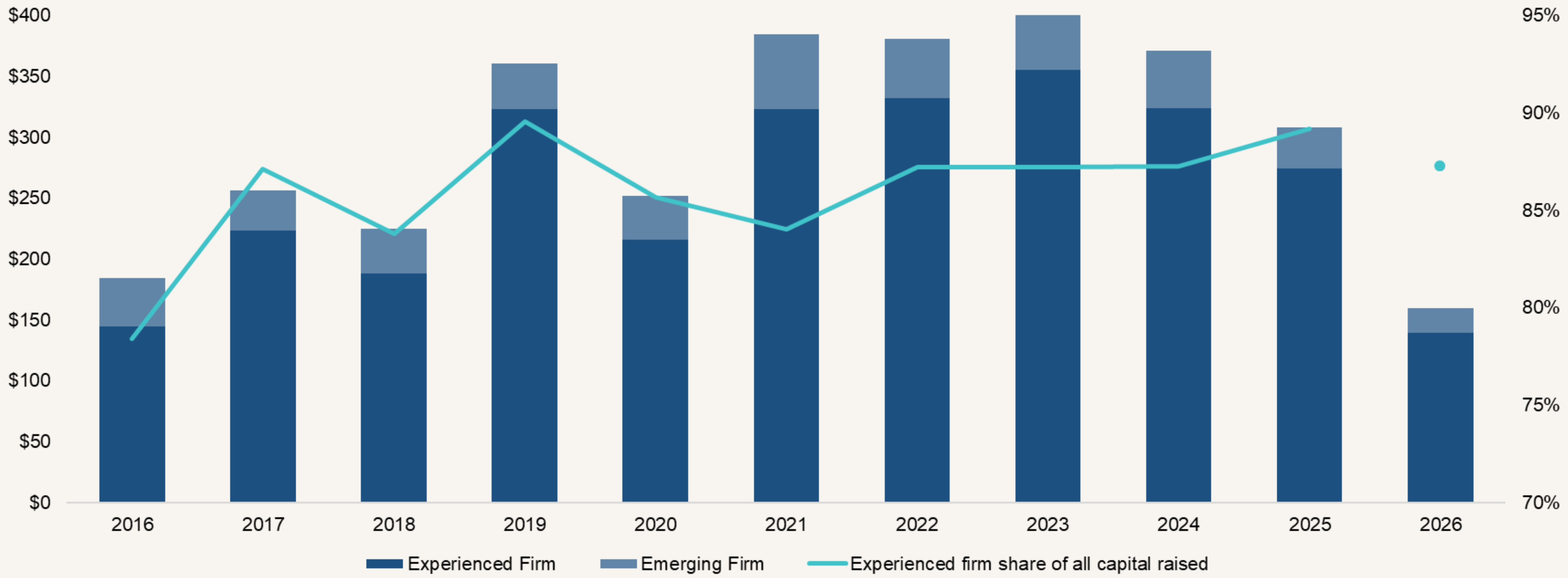
Share of capital concentration by top 10 and all other funds



Source: PitchBook | Geography: US | As of May 30, 2026

Experienced managers' share trends higher

Experienced versus emerging manager PE capital raised ($M)



Source: PitchBook | Geography: US | As of May 30, 2026

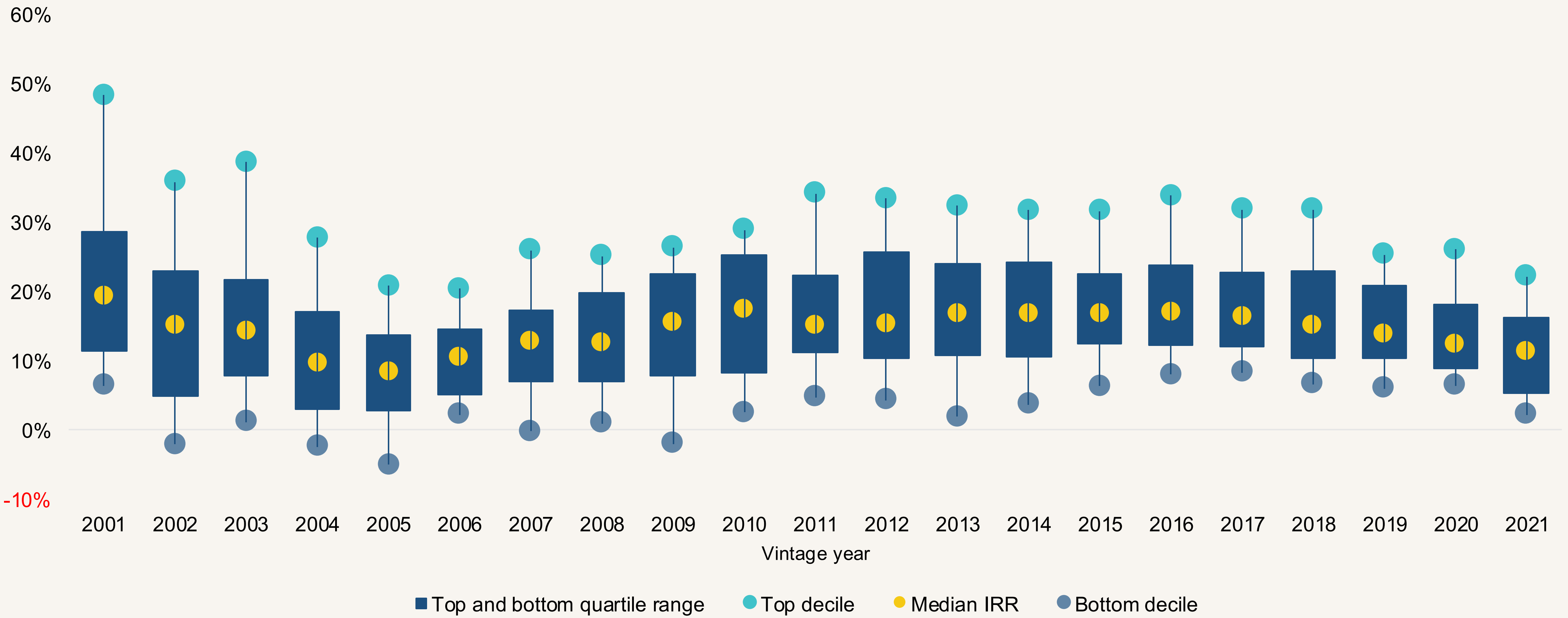
Performance

Poll: What is a “good” expected return for a PE fund today?

A	8-12%
B	12-16%
C	16-20%
D	20+%

Returns and dispersion have both decreased in recent vintages

Dispersion of IRRs by vintage

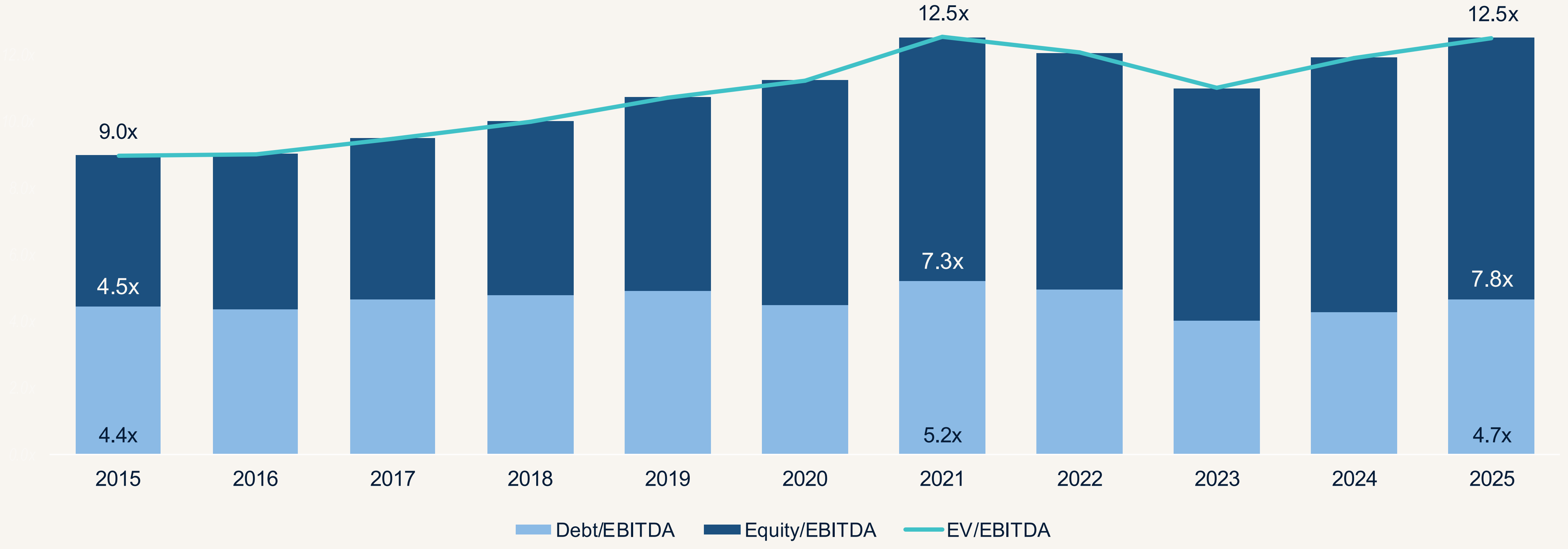


Source: PitchBook | Geography: North America | As of December 31, 2025

Valuations

EBITDA multiples are back to the 2021 peak

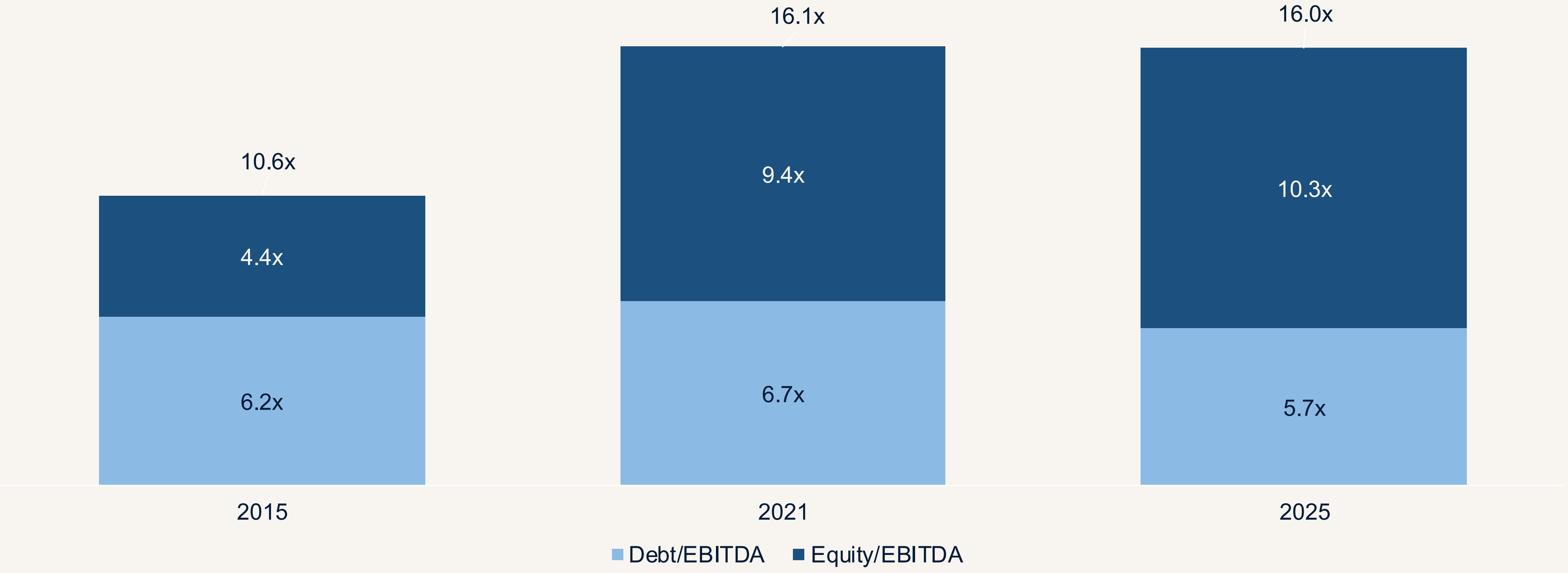
Median US buyout EV/EBITDA multiples



Source: SPI by Stepstone | Geography: US | As of December 31, 2025

Mega-deal valuations have increased, funded by additional equity contribution

Median US buyout EV/EBITDA multiples greater than $1bn



Source: SPI by Stepstone | Geography: US | As of December 31, 2025

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Q&A

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