



European
Corporate
Insights

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M&A AND PE IN EUROPE
Q2 RESULTS AND FORECASTS

Q2
26

M&A and PE in Europe

2026
Q2



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Introduction

Executive Summary

European M&A and private equity activity remained resilient during the second quarter of 2026, demonstrating continued investor confidence despite a selective dealmaking environment. **M&A** reached approximately **€262.5 billion across 3.315 transactions**, while **private equity** recorded **€30.6 billion across 1.311 deals**, highlighting sustained capital deployment into strategically attractive assets.

A defining feature of the quarter is the divergence between deal value and transaction volume, with total investment levels supported by a limited number of larger transactions rather than a broad-based increase in activity. The United Kingdom maintained its leading position, followed by

Germany and Italy, while sector activity remained concentrated in financial services, industrials and technology. In private equity, investment continued to focus on industrial platforms, healthcare and technology-driven assets, with overall deployment remaining disciplined.

Looking ahead, dealmaking is expected to gradually strengthen through 2026, although the recovery is likely to remain uneven. Investors are expected to continue prioritizing scale, quality and execution certainty, with activity driven by high-conviction opportunities rather than volume. While financing conditions show signs of stabilization, a broader recovery in deal activity will depend on improved valuation alignment and reduced execution complexity.

Executive Summary

This edition of *Andersen's European Corporate and M&A Insights* analyses M&A and private equity activity across Europe during the second quarter of 2026. Drawing on Refinitiv market data and current market developments, the report examines transaction activity by country and sector, highlights the financial and strategic factors shaping dealmaking, and explores the trends expected to influence the European market over the coming quarters.

Despite a more selective investment environment, Q2 2026 demonstrated that capital continues to be actively deployed into high-quality strategic opportunities. The report explores how disciplined execution, sector specialisation and evolving financing dynamics continue to shape both corporate acquisitions and private equity investment across Europe.



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€262.5b M&A
(3.315 deals)

€30.6b PE
(1.311 deals)

Q2 Results: M&A and PE overview

M&A Market Overview

European M&A activity remained resilient throughout Q2 2026, demonstrating that **strategic** investment appetite **continues** despite a more selective dealmaking environment. Although transaction volumes remained below previous peaks, the quarter delivered **€262.51 billion** across **3,315 announced deals**, supported by a number of large-cap acquisitions across Europe's leading economies.



UK

€76.66 billion

Rank Value (bn, EUR)

523

Number of Deals

Activity remained concentrated in the United Kingdom, Germany and Italy, which together accounted for a significant share of total invested value. **Sector performance also reflected investors' preference for scale and resilience**, with Financials, Industrials and High Technology attracting the largest share of capital while Real Estate recorded a particularly strong quarter.

Overall, Q2 reinforced the growing divergence between deal value and transaction volume. Investors continue to deploy capital selectively, **prioritizing transactions with strong strategic rationale**, operational synergies and long-term growth potential over broader deal execution.

Germany

€60.60 billion

Rank Value (bn, EUR)

380

Number of Deals

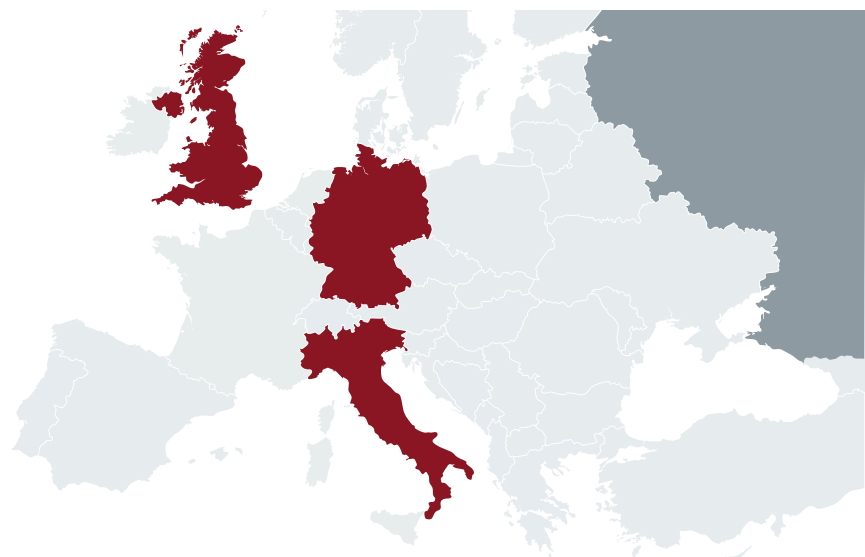
Italy

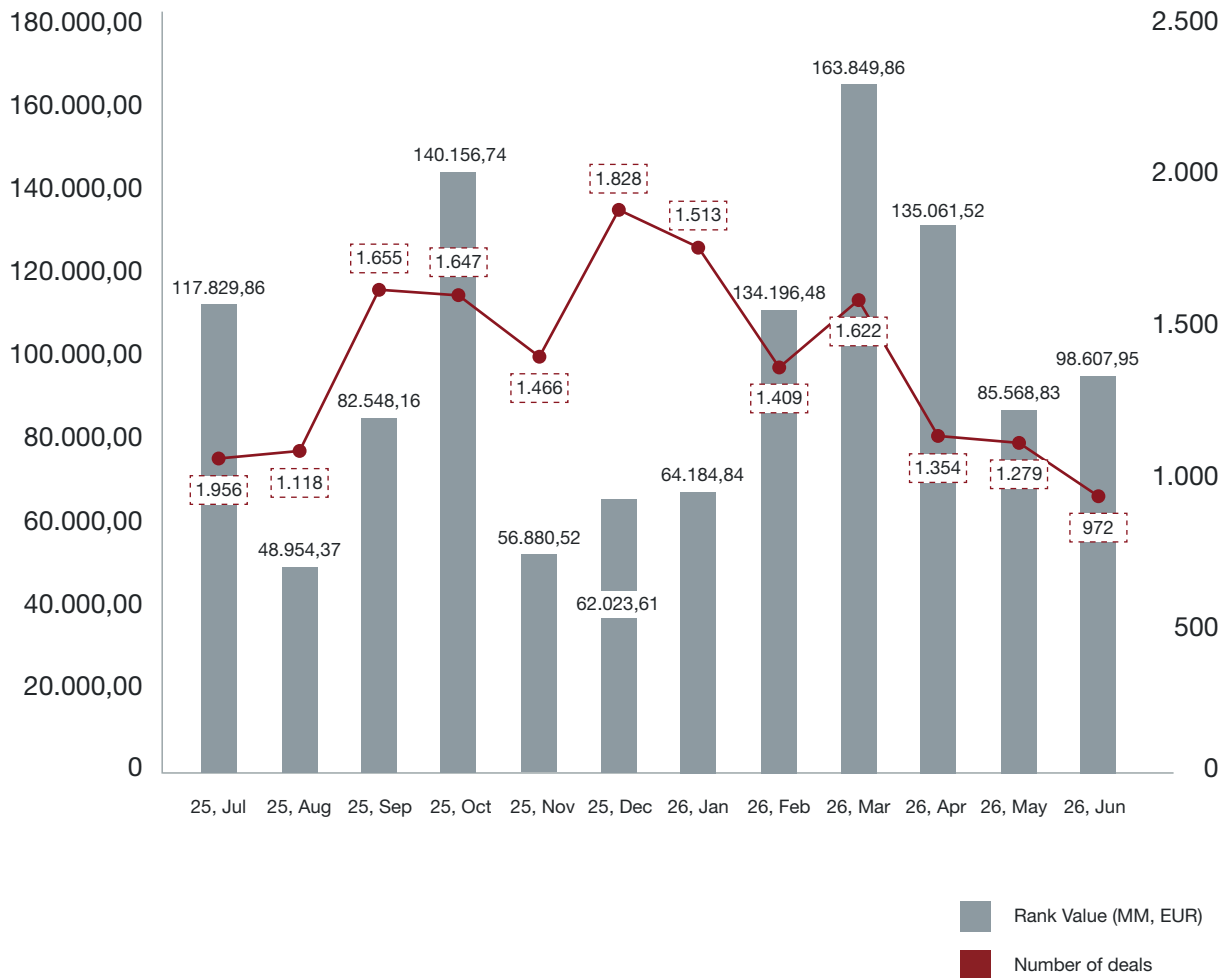
€40.30 billion

Rank Value (bn, EUR)

415

Number of Deals





M&A Deals Summary (Last 12 Months)

Over the last 12 months, European M&A activity remained **resilient in terms of invested value, although transaction volumes continued to soften**. March 2026 was the strongest month of the period, reaching €163.85 billion across 1.622 transactions, while July 2025 recorded the highest deal count with 1.956 transactions. In contrast, August 2025 posted the lowest monthly value (€48.95 billion), and June 2026 registered the weakest level of activity by volume, with just 972 deals.

While monthly **invested values have remained relatively robust** throughout the year, **deal volumes have followed a downward trajectory**, suggesting that investors continue to prioritize high-value strategic acquisitions over a greater number of smaller transactions. This trend points to a more **selective dealmaking environment, with capital concentrated on transactions offering stronger strategic rationale** and long-term value creation opportunities.

Overall, the data reflects a market increasingly characterized by fewer but larger transactions.



Dealmaking increasingly focused on larger transactions.

M&A Q2 Deals Market Overview

European M&A activity reached €262.51 billion across 3.315 announced transactions during Q2 2026, reflecting another quarter characterized by **selective dealmaking** and a continued **focus on high-value transactions**. While overall transaction volumes remained below historical peaks, investment activity was supported by several sizeable strategic acquisitions across Europe's leading markets.

The United Kingdom remained the largest M&A market in Europe during the quarter, recording **€76.66 billion** in announced deal value across **523 transactions**. Germany ranked second with **€60.60 billion** and **380 deals**, while Italy secured third place, generating **€40.30 billion** across **415 transactions**, reflecting strong activity in both value and volume.

Ireland once again stood out for the size of its transactions, reaching €21.71 billion from just 66 deals, highlighting the concentration of several large-cap acquisitions. France remained one of the most active markets with 316 transactions, although total deal value (€16.79 billion) was lower than that of the leading countries. Sweden also posted a solid quarter, combining 281 deals with €12.75 billion in announced value.

Elsewhere, Spain recorded 252 transactions with a total deal value of €3.32 billion, while Switzerland, Denmark, Finland and Norway all reported more moderate activity, supported by a steady pipeline of mid-market transactions.

Overall, **Q2 2026 reinforced the concentration of European M&A activity within a handful of core markets, with capital continuing to flow towards larger, strategically significant transactions.**



The top three markets generated over two-thirds of total deal value.

Country	Rank Value (MM, EUR)	Number of Deals
United Kingdom	76.661,27 €	523
Germany	60.600,99 €	380
Italy	40.304,26 €	415
Ireland	21.712,86 €	66
France	16.792,33 €	316
Sweden	12.747,96 €	281
Switzerland	3.568,40 €	92
Spain	3.318,78 €	252
Denmark	3.274,20 €	83
Finland	3.161,97 €	100

Country	Rank Value (MM, EUR)	Number of Deals
Norway	2.781,17 €	87
Russia	2.542,09 €	109
Gibraltar	2.179,02 €	1
Austria	2.163,93 €	38
Luxembourg	1.977,69 €	25
Romania	1.292,88 €	20
Netherlands	1.263,02 €	141
Turkey	1.085,25 €	14
Lithuania	1.082,64 €	21
Poland	815,84 €	84

Top 20 countries ranked by total deal value (MM, EUR)

M&A Q2 Deals


Industry Segmentation

European M&A activity in Q2 2026 remained broadly diversified, with **capital concentrated in sectors combining scale, resilience and long-term growth potential**. Financials emerged as the leading sector by invested value, reaching **€54.11 billion** across **264 transactions**, driven by several large-scale deals despite a relatively moderate transaction count.

By contrast, **High Technology and Industrials** dominated overall deal activity, recording **630** and **619 transactions**, respectively. While Industrials generated **€49.38 billion** in announced value, High Technology reached **€35.92 billion**, reinforcing continued investor appetite for digital transformation, automation and technology-enabled businesses.

Real Estate also delivered one of the strongest performances of the quarter, attracting **€31.59 billion** across **220 deals**, while **Consumer Products and Services** remained highly active with **455 transactions** and **€21.43 billion** in deal value. Energy and Power and Healthcare continued to attract strategic investment, reflecting sustained interest in infrastructure, energy transition and essential services.

Overall, Q2 2026 highlighted a market where **investment remained concentrated in sectors offering long-term structural growth**, while transaction activity continued to be supported by a balanced mix of traditional industries and innovation-driven businesses.

	Total Rank Value	Nº. of Deals
	€262.511,90	3.315

#1 **Financials**
54.107,53 €
 Rank Value (EUR)
264
 Number of Deals

#2 **Industrials**
49.377,50 €
 Rank Value (EUR)
619
 Number of Deals

#3 **High Technology**
35.916,90 €
 Rank Value (EUR)
630
 Number of Deals

	Industry	Rank Value (MM, EUR)	Nº. of Deals
#4	Real Estate	31.586,86 €	220
#5	Consumer Prod. & Services	21.427,09 €	455
#6	Energy & Power	17.817,44 €	213
#7	Healthcare	16.620,68 €	192
#8	Media & Entertainment	10.372,52 €	208
#9	Consumer Staples	9.385,64 €	175
#10	Telecom.	9.146,75 €	38
#11	Materials	3.433,61 €	154
#12	Retail	3.259,79 €	142
#13	Government & Agencies	59,59 €	5

Q2 2026 Top Industries in M&A: Q2 2025 vs Q2 2026

M&A	2026 Q2		2025 Q2		Evolution	
	Rank Value (MM, EUR)	#of Deals	Rank Value (MM, EUR)	#of Deals	Rank Value (MM, EUR)	#of Deals
United Kingdom Real Estate	22.811,26 €	22	4.612,94 €	38	394,51%	-42%
Germany Industrials	33.391,64 €	85	3.204,10 €	58	942,15%	47%
Italy Financials	35.381,91 €	40	8.625,03 €	32	310,22%	25%
Ireland High Technology	12.342,24 €	14	431,50 €	10	2.760,31%	40%
France Industrials	3.506,46 €	61	3.335,67 €	73	5,12%	-16%
Sweden Real Estate	9.968,38 €	2	916,08 €	40	988,16%	-95%
Switzerland Healthcare	2.199,24 €	13	1.968,93 €	22	11,70%	41%
Spain Real Estate	876,75 €	18	939,52 €	27	-6,68%	-33%
Denmark Energy	2.015,00 €	4	22,88 €	2	8.706,82%	100%
Finland Materials	1.103,25 €	24	22,13 €	23	4.885,31%	4%

10



100%

Evolution of Deals

Denmark
Energy

47%

Evolution of Deals

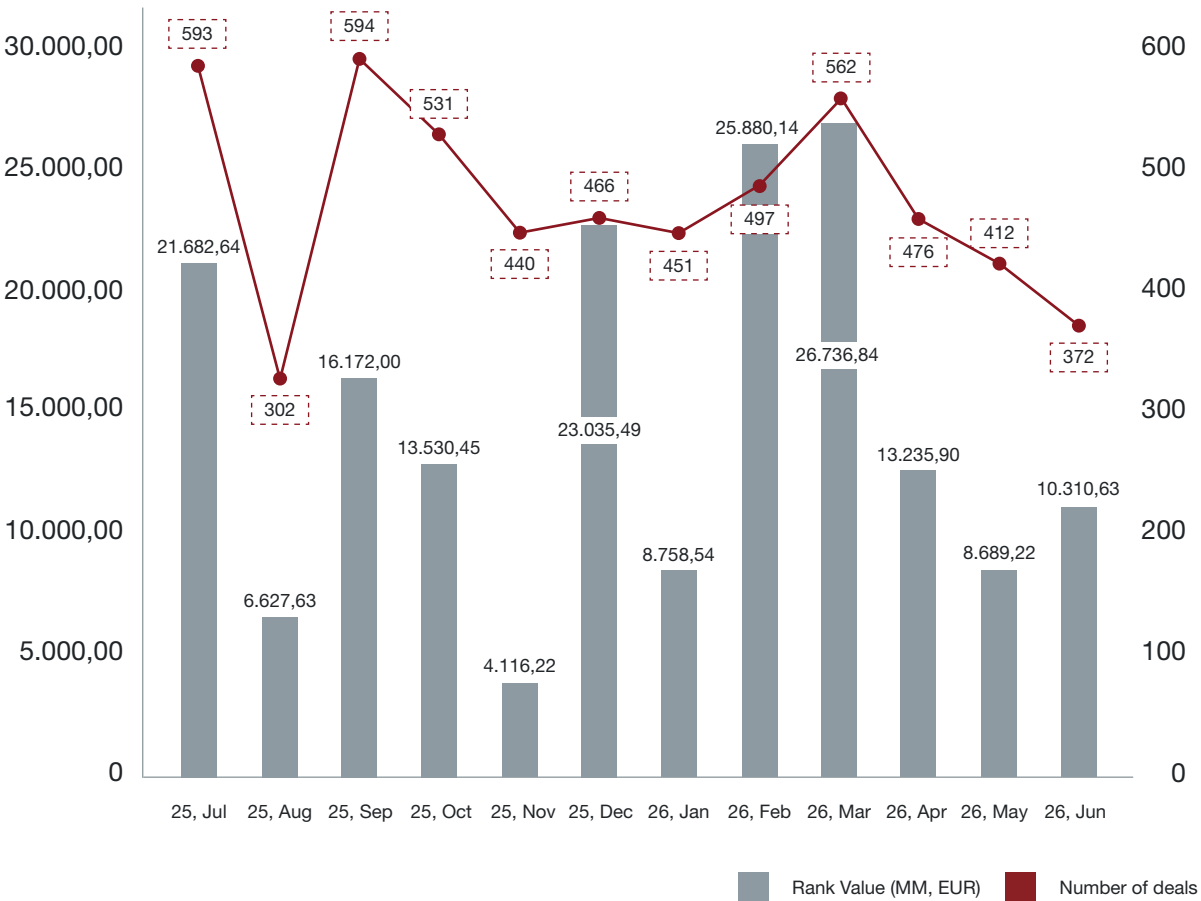
Germany
Industrials

PE Market Overview

European private equity activity remained resilient during Q2 2026, with investors continuing to **deploy capital selectively into high-quality assets** despite a measured pace of dealmaking. The quarter generated **€30.56 billion** across **1.311 transactions**, reflecting a market where investment decisions continue to prioritise scalability, operational resilience and long-term value creation.

Investment remained highly concentrated across both geographies and sectors. The **United Kingdom accounted for more than 40% of total invested value**, while Technology, Healthcare and Industrials attracted most of the capital deployed, highlighting investors' continued preference for businesses supported by structural growth trends and strong value creation potential.

Although private equity firms remain cautious in an evolving macroeconomic environment, capital continues to be actively deployed where strategic opportunities emerge. The **focus remains firmly on disciplined execution, operational improvement and platform investments capable of delivering sustainable long-term returns.**



PE Deals

Summary (Last 12 Months)

Over the last 12 months, **European private equity activity has shown a mixed performance**, with invested value fluctuating significantly while transaction volumes gradually moderated. March 2026 marked the strongest month of the period, reaching €26.74 billion, whereas September 2025 recorded the highest level of activity with 594 announced transactions. In contrast, November 2025 posted the lowest monthly invested value (€4.12 billion), while August 2025 registered the fewest transactions, with 302 deals.

Overall, the data reflects a **market characterized by periods of strong capital deployment alongside a more measured pace of dealmaking**. Although investment values remained supported by several sizeable transactions throughout the year, transaction volumes softened in recent months, highlighting an increasingly selective private equity environment where **investors continue to favor high-conviction opportunities over broader market activity**.

European
Private Equity
€26.7bn peak
uneven activity
fewer deals **more selective**
market

PE Q2 Deals Market Overview

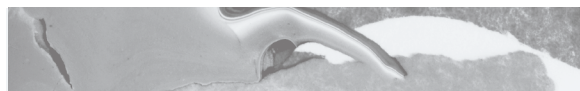
European private equity activity reached **€30.56 billion** across **1.311 announced transactions** during Q2 2026, reflecting a market where investment remained focused on high-quality assets despite a measured pace of dealmaking.

While activity was broadly distributed across Europe, capital continued to concentrate in a limited number of mature markets and larger transactions.

The **United Kingdom remained the dominant private equity market**, generating **€12.50 billion across 375 transactions** and accounting for more than 40% of total European invested value during the quarter. Sweden ranked second with €2.50 billion despite completing only 65 deals, while Denmark followed closely, recording €2.21 billion from just 35 transactions, underlining the concentration of several high-value investments.

France and Germany continued to demonstrate balanced activity, combining solid invested values with relatively high deal volumes, reinforcing their position as Europe's core private equity markets.

Elsewhere, Finland, Belgium and Luxembourg stood out for attracting significant capital despite limited transaction counts, whereas Spain, Italy and the Netherlands maintained a steady flow of mid-market investments. Overall, **Q2 2026 reinforced the selective nature of the European private equity market**, with investors increasingly concentrating capital on larger, strategically positioned opportunities while maintaining a disciplined approach to deal execution.



Country	Rank Value (MM, EUR)	Number of Deals
United Kingdom	12.503,05 €	375
Sweden	2.503,82 €	65
Denmark	2.214,16 €	35
France	2.059,89 €	160
Germany	2.054,98 €	175
Finland	1.234,02 €	36
Belgium	1.082,66 €	31
Luxembourg	986,17 €	7
Turkey	952,34 €	15
Lithuania	886,65 €	6

Country	Rank Value (MM, EUR)	Number of Deals
Netherlands	845,26 €	63
Ireland	816,75 €	24
Spain	784,51 €	77
Switzerland	505,87 €	59
Italy	411,91 €	73
Poland	210,04 €	18
Greece	175,00 €	3
Austria	108,92 €	19
Norway	66,73 €	13
Estonia	43,11 €	7

Top 20 countries ranked by total deal value (MM, EUR)

PE Q2 Deals Industry Segmentation

Private equity investment in Q2 2026 remained highly concentrated in a handful of strategic sectors, with **Technology, Healthcare and Industrials accounting for nearly three-quarters of total invested value**. This concentration reflects investors continued focus on businesses offering scalable growth, operational resilience and long-term value creation.

Technology remained the clear leader, generating **€9.44 billion** across **572 transactions**, representing **almost one-third of total invested value and more than 40% of all private equity deals** completed during the quarter. **Healthcare** followed with **€7.20 billion** across **181 transactions**, maintaining its position as one of the most attractive sectors for private equity investment, while **Industrials** reached **€5.47 billion** through **258 deals**, demonstrating sustained interest in manufacturing, engineering and business services.

Outside the leading sectors, **Energy** stood out by attracting **€2.95 billion** from just **12 transactions**, highlighting the presence of several sizeable investments in infrastructure and energy transition assets. **Basic Materials** and **Consumer Cyclical**s also recorded steady activity, whereas investment across Utilities, Financials and Real Estate remained comparatively more selective.


Overall, Q2 2026 reinforced the **concentration of private equity capital in sectors combining technological innovation, essential services and industrial transformation**, while investors continued to prioritize larger, high-conviction opportunities over broader market deployment.

	Total Rank Value	N°. of Deals
	€30.555,56	1.311

#1 Technology
9.440,41 €
Rank Value (EUR)
572
Number of Deals

#2 Healthcare
7.201,44 €
Rank Value (EUR)
181
Number of Deals

#3 Industrials
5.465,42 €
Rank Value (EUR)
258
Number of Deals

 Industry	Rank Value (MM, EUR)	N°. of Deals
#4 Energy	2.952,58 €	12
#5 Basic Materials	1.544,28 €	35
#6 Cons. Cyclical	1.517,54 €	97
#7 Utilities	847,26 €	23
#8 Financials	745,28 €	44
#9 Real Estate	433,02 €	28
#10 Consumer Non-Cyclical	248,69 €	49
#11 Consumer Non-Cyclical	133,85 €	8
#12 Government Act.	25,79 €	3

Q2 2026 Top Industries in PE: Q2 2025 vs Q2 2026

PE	2026 Q2		2025 Q2		Evolution	
	Rank Value (MM, EUR)	#of Deals	Rank Value (MM, EUR)	#of Deals	Rank Value (MM, EUR)	#of Deals
United Kingdom Healthcare	5.072,07 €	56	315,89 €	34	1.505,64%	65%
Sweden Basic Materials	1.433,01 €	3	3,00 €	1	47.667,00%	200%
Denmark Energy	2.015,81 €	2	-	-	-	-
France Technology	765,56 €	66	479,18 €	50	59,76%	32%
Germany Industrials	939,69 €	42	272,00 €	22	245,47%	91%
Finland Technology	1.169,88 €	20	54,42 €	8	2.049,72%	150%
Belgium Industrials	883,34 €	8	28,00 €	2	3.054,79%	300%
Luxembourg Cons. Cyclical	975,00 €	2	-	-	-	-
Turkey Energy	859,77 €	1	-	-	-	-
Lithuania Technology	884,65 €	5	4,40 €	2	20.005,68%	150%



300%

Evolution of Deals

Belgium
Industrials

200%

Evolution of Deals


Sweden
Basic Materials

Financial Highlights

Q2 2026 confirms that European dealmaking remained resilient despite a selective investment environment. M&A activity reached approximately €262.5 billion across 3.315 transactions, while private equity totaled around €30.6 billion across 1.311 deals, reflecting **continued capital deployment into larger, strategically attractive opportunities.**

Financing conditions remained broadly supportive of larger transactions, with debt markets and private credit continuing to facilitate well-structured deals. Overall, **Q2 reinforces a market where capital remains available, but successful execution increasingly depends on valuation discipline and strong underlying business fundamentals.**


The gap between invested value and transaction volume remains a defining feature of the market. While several high-value transactions supported overall investment levels, deal volumes continued to reflect a disciplined approach, with investors prioritizing pricing, strategic fit and execution certainty over transaction volume.



Key takeaway:
Capital remains available, but successful deals depend on valuation discipline and strategic quality.

Q2 2026 European Dealmaking in Focus

 €262.5B M&A ACTIVITY 3.315 TRANSACTIONS	 €30.6B PRIVATE EQUITY 1.311 DEALS	 CAPITAL DEPLOYMENT Continued capital deployment into larger, strategically attractive opportunities.	 DISCIPLINED APPROACH Investors prioritize pricing, strategic fit and execution certainty over transaction volume
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Capital remains available, but successful deals depend on valuation discipline and strategic quality



Challenges and Opportunities

Although financing conditions have continued to improve, investors remain focused on valuation discipline and execution certainty. Negotiations are still influenced by pricing expectations, particularly in the mid-market, where financing structures and transaction complexity continue to shape deal timelines.

At the same time, sectors such as technology, healthcare, infrastructure and energy transition continue to generate attractive investment opportunities. Businesses with scalable operating models, resilient earnings and clear strategic positioning remain well placed to attract both corporate and private equity interest.

While the market remains selective, improving access to capital and sustained investor appetite for high-quality assets continue to create favorable conditions for strategically driven transactions.

Forecasts for upcoming quarters

Market Predictions

The European dealmaking outlook for the second half of 2026 remains **constructive**, supported by **gradually improving financing conditions** and sustained investor appetite for **high-quality assets**. While transaction volumes are unlikely to return to previous cycle highs in the near term, investment values are expected to remain supported by **larger strategic acquisitions** and platform investments.

“
European M&A remains resilient, driven by selective high-value deals and disciplined capital deployment.”

Market Drivers

2026 Key Drivers

- ⊗ Financing improving.
- ⊗ Strong confidence.
- ⊗ Valuation gaps persist.

Investment Focus

Where capital is flowing

- ⊗ Technology & Healthcare.
- ⊗ Financial Services.
- ⊗ Energy Transition.

Outlook

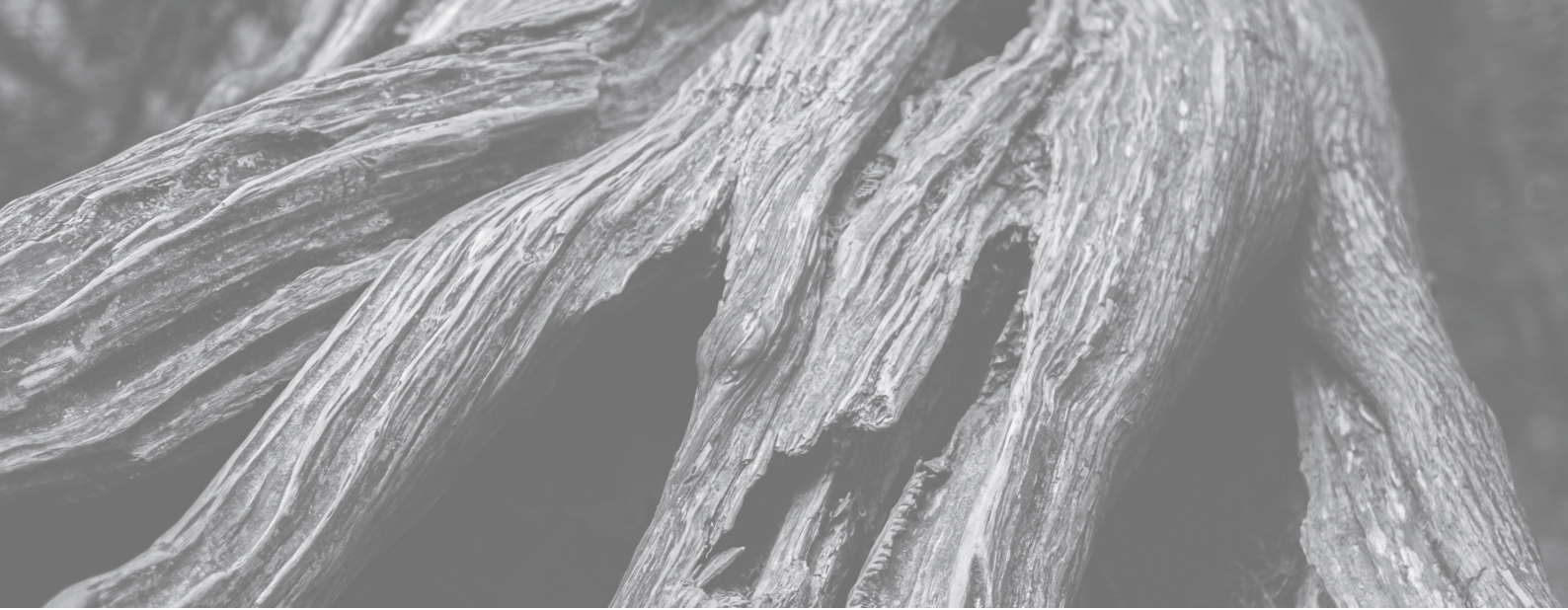
H2 2026

- ⊗ Selective market continues.
- ⊗ Large deals dominate.
- ⊗ Mid-market recovery starts.

Activity is expected to remain concentrated in sectors such as **Technology, Healthcare, Financial Services and Energy Transition**, where long-term structural drivers continue to create attractive investment opportunities. At the same time, **improving valuation alignment** and greater financing flexibility could support a gradual recovery in mid-market transactions.

Overall, the market is expected to remain selective rather than subdued, with **strategic rationale, operational value creation and disciplined capital deployment** continuing to shape European M&A and private equity activity.





Influencing Factors

Deal activity is being shaped by financing conditions, valuation alignment, regulatory pressures, and the selective deployment of private capital.



Interest rates and financing conditions

Following the ECB's June rate increase, financing conditions remain an important factor shaping European dealmaking. While capital is still available for well-structured transactions, higher borrowing costs continue to influence leverage levels, valuations and execution timelines, particularly in the mid-market.



Valuation discipline

Valuation gaps between buyers and sellers remain a key constraint on transaction activity. Although larger strategic deals continue to support overall market value, pricing discipline and execution certainty remain essential for deals to progress, reinforcing a more selective investment environment.



Geopolitical and regulatory environment:

Geopolitical uncertainty, trade tensions and regulatory complexity continue to affect investor confidence and cross-border activity. These factors are not preventing capital deployment, but they are increasing due diligence requirements and contributing to longer, more carefully structured transaction processes.

Main Trends

The M&A market is increasingly focused on defensive sectors and technology, driven by AI and digital transformation, while companies prioritize portfolio optimization and a gradual recovery in cross-border transactions.

→ **Greater emphasis on resilient & defensive sectors**

Healthcare, financial services, infrastructure and energy transition are expected to remain at the forefront of deal activity, supported by structural demand, regulatory priorities and long-term investment themes.

→ **AI and digital transformation continue to drive investment**

Artificial intelligence, automation and digital infrastructure are expected to remain among the strongest drivers of both corporate M&A and private equity investment. Companies with scalable technology platforms and data-driven capabilities are likely to continue attracting significant investor interest.

→ **Cross-border transactions to recover gradually**

As financing conditions and valuation expectations become more aligned, cross-border M&A activity is expected to recover progressively. However, geopolitical developments and regulatory scrutiny are likely to keep investors focused on carefully selected strategic opportunities.

→ **Strategic portfolio optimization continues**

Companies are expected to remain focused on portfolio optimization through targeted acquisitions, divestitures and carve-outs. Rather than pursuing expansion for its own sake, dealmakers are increasingly prioritizing transactions that strengthen core businesses and improve operational efficiency.



Emerging Countries

Emerging European countries are attracting increasing investor interest due to their strong innovation ecosystems, stable environments and exposure to key growth sectors such as technology, healthcare and sustainability. Ireland, Sweden, Denmark and Finland stand out for their strategic positioning and long-term investment potential.



IRELAND

Continues to strengthen its position as one of Europe’s attractive markets for strategic investment. Its international business environment, strong presence in technology, energy and financial services, and positive dealmaking outlook continue to attract both corporate and private equity investors.



SWEDEN

Sweden has reinforced its role as a leading Nordic investment hub, supported by strong activity in technology, industrial innovation and sustainability-driven businesses. The country’s mature capital markets and innovation ecosystem continue to attract international investors seeking scalable growth opportunities.



DENMARK

Denmark continues to attract high-value investment despite more limited transaction volumes. Its strengths in healthcare, life sciences and renewable energy, together with a stable business environment, make it an attractive market for strategic buyers and private equity firms.



FINLAND

Finland is gaining visibility as an attractive market for advanced manufacturing, clean technologies and digital infrastructure. Continued investment in innovation and industrial transformation is supporting growing interest from international investors, particularly in technology-driven businesses.

Qualified professionals

Highly Recognized



Practice Areas

17 Recognized in
Corporate and M&A

Individuals

21 Recognized in
Corporate and M&A



Practice Areas

23 Recognized in
Corporate and M&A

Individuals

37 Recognized in
Corporate and M&A

Legal500

Practice Areas

40 Recognized in
Corporate and M&A

Individuals

48 Recognized in
Corporate and M&A



Practice Areas

1 Recognized in
Corporate and M&A

Individuals

2 Recognized in
Corporate and M&A



Practice Areas

1 Recognized in
Corporate and M&A

Individuals

3 Recognized in
Corporate and M&A

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