

MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

Dealmaker's Digest

A Top 10 Bulletin

January 2025

ROPES & GRAY



In this edition of *Dealmaker's Digest*, we bring you the latest transactional developments to keep you in the know, including a year-end review of highlights from 2024.

GLOBAL M&A ACTIVITY

BLOCKBUSTER DEALS

CROSSBORDER ACTIVITY

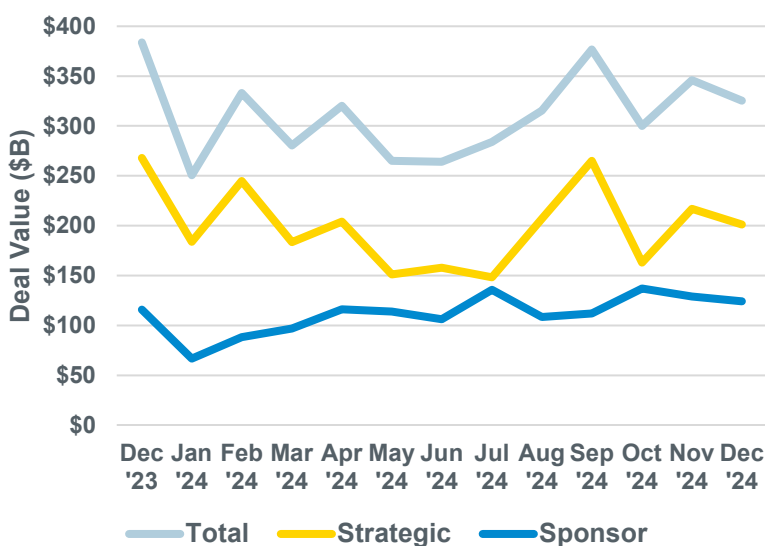
ACTIVE INDUSTRIES

2024 YEAR-END REVIEW

MONTHLY GLOBAL M&A ACTIVITY UPDATE

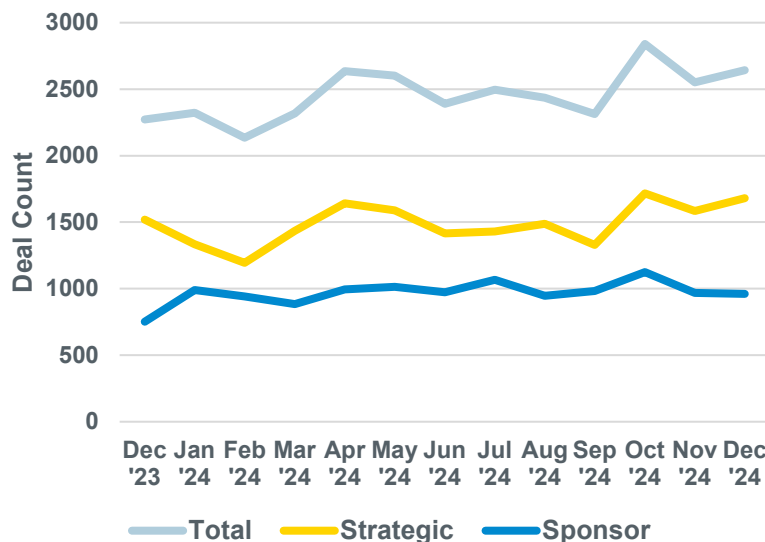
1 Deal Value Trends

- ↓ Aggregate global monthly deal value¹ decreased moderately in December, down about \$20 billion (6%) from November. Total monthly deal value decreased 15% year-over-year.
- ↓ Transactions involving strategic buyers in December also declined in value (7%) from November. Strategic deal value in December dropped 25% year-over-year.
- ↔ Financial, or sponsor, buyer transactions in December held steady, decreasing only 4% from November, rounding out a comparably steady Q4 for sponsor acquisitions. Sponsor buyer deal value increased 7% year-over-year.



2 Deal Count Trends

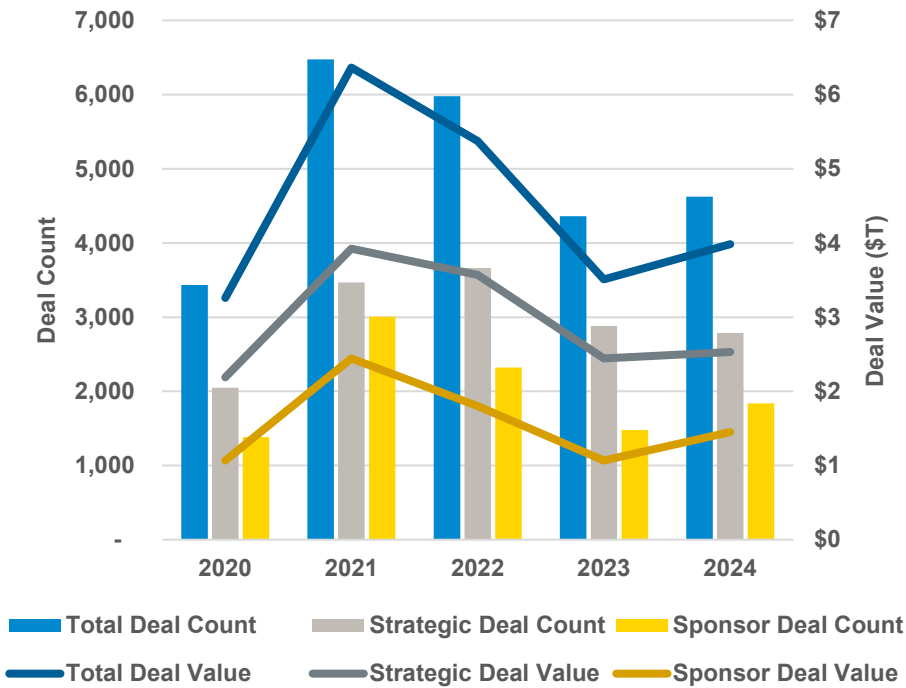
- ↔ Global deal count held steady from November to December, ticking up 4%, and rounded out the most active quarter by count for the year. Monthly deal count increased 16% year-over-year.
- ↑ Strategic buyer deal count in December increased moderately, up 6% from November and 11% year-over-year.
- ↔ Sponsor buyer deal count in December remained steady month-over-month, decreasing just 1% from November. However, sponsor deal count rose dramatically (28%) year-over-year.



¹ Unless otherwise noted, charts compiled using Mergermarket data for December 2024 as of January 6, 2025. Aggregate deal values by dollar amount are calculated from the subset of deals with disclosed values.

3

Annual Global M&A Activity
(Transactions \$100M+)

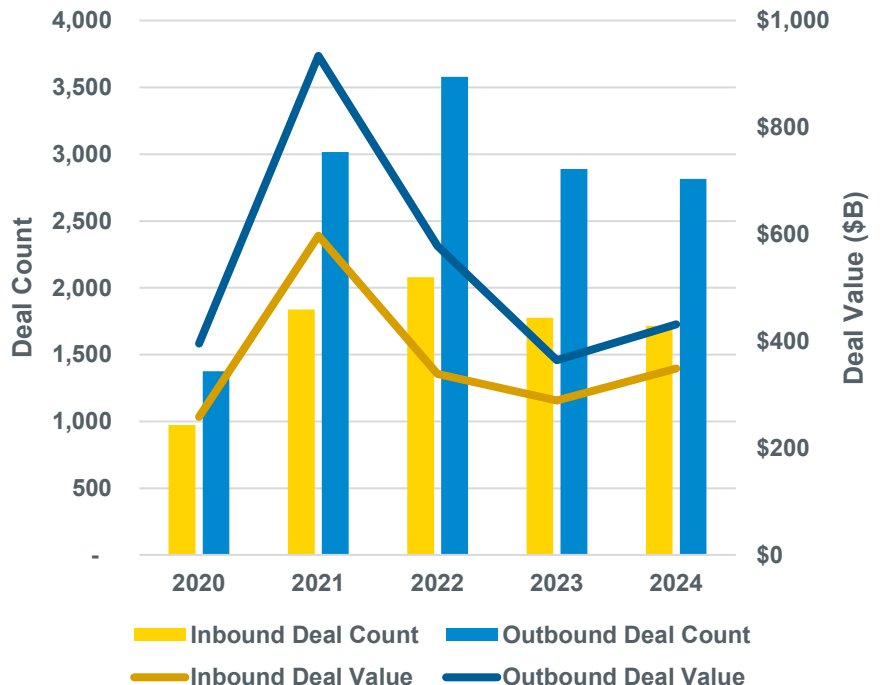


- M&A activity increased in 2024 by nearly all metrics as dealmakers seized opportunities amid more favorable transacting conditions, including consecutive interest rate cuts and tamped inflation.
- Aggregate value of transactions \$100m+ increased significantly in 2024 compared with 2023, up 14% across all buyer types. Aggregate value of sponsor buyer deals led the increase with a 36% jump, while strategic acquisitions held steady, up just 4%.
- The number of transactions valued at \$100 million or greater increased 6% globally in 2024 vs 2023. Sponsor acquisitions jumped 24% by count, while acquisitions by strategic buyers held steady (declining a marginal 3%).
- The uptick in 2024 M&A activity was a noticeable rebound following consecutive declines in dealmaking since 2021's \$6.4 trillion record.

4

Annual U.S. Crossborder Activity

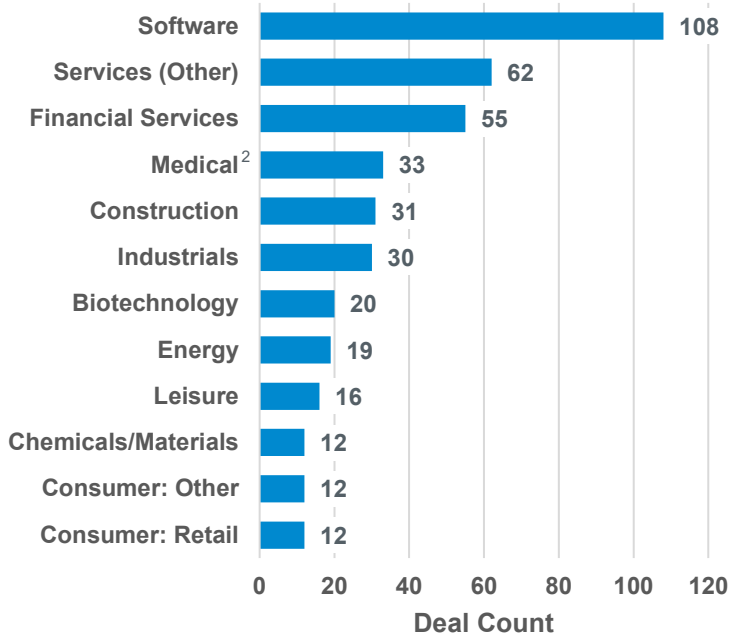
- Inbound U.S. activity in 2024 jumped 21% by deal value from 2023 and held steady by deal count (declining just 3%). The value of U.S. companies acquired by non-U.S. buyers in 2024 totaled nearly \$350 billion.
- Outbound activity in 2024 jumped 18% by deal value from 2023 and remained stable by deal count, declining just 3%. The value of non-U.S. companies acquired by U.S. buyers in 2024 totaled over \$430 billion.
- Canada-based acquirers drove the most inbound transactions in 2024 (287), followed closely by the UK (278). Japan-based buyers took third at 147 transactions.
- U.S. acquirers most frequently looked to targets in the UK during 2024 (572), with Canada (382) and Germany (198) rounding out the top three ex-U.S. target countries.



ACTIVE M&A INDUSTRIES (U.S. TARGETS)

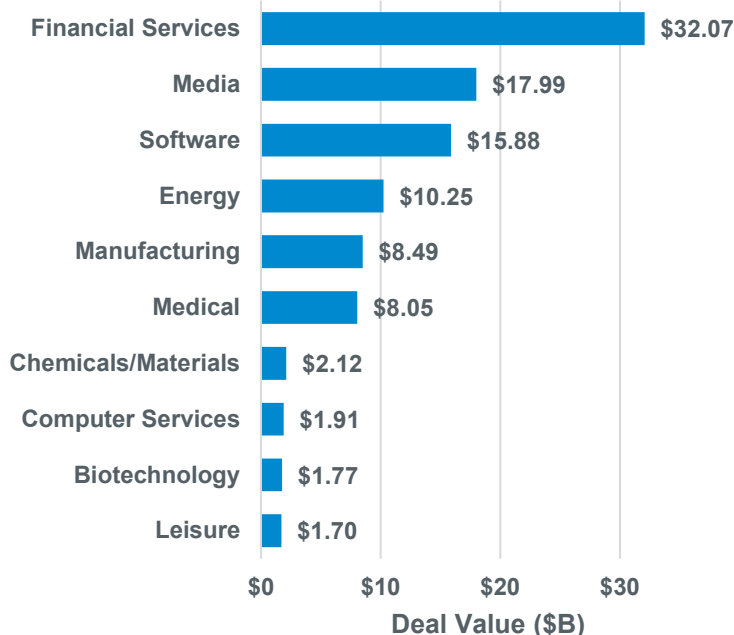
5 By Deal Count

- The software industry once again topped the list of U.S. M&A activity by deal count in December, continuing its streak as the leading industry by volume and rounding out a full year at number one.
- Services industries also remained active, with financial services and other professional services again rounding out the top three sectors in December by deal count.



6 By Deal Value

- Financial services was the leading U.S. industry by deal value in December, with two of the five largest deals of the month, together totaling more than \$25 billion in deal value.
- Media was the second most active by deal value in December, bolstered by Omnicom's blockbuster acquisition of Interpublic. Software targets were the third most active, at just over \$15 billion in deal value.



December Blockbuster Deals

7
Largest U.S. Media Deal

Omnicom has agreed to acquire **IPG** in an all-stock transaction valued at approximately **\$13.75 billion.**

BlackRock has agreed to acquire **HPS** in an all-stock transaction valued at approximately **\$12 billion.**

8
Largest U.S. Asset Management Deal

² Medical industry classification principally includes medical devices/technology/services, excluding biotech and pharmaceutical deals.

9 Selected Annual Highlights

More than 35 transactions exceeding \$10 billion were announced globally during the year, demonstrative of the comparably favorable market conditions following tempered activity in 2023. Transformative deals were struck in a variety of sectors, including those highlighted below.

INDUSTRY	TARGET	BUYER	DEAL VALUE
Consumer Goods			\$36 B
Financial Services			\$35 B
Software			\$34 B
Media			\$28 B
Energy			\$28 B
Pharma			\$16 B

10 2024 M&A Activity Recap

A snapshot of 2024 metrics, and how they stack up against 2023.

	2024	2023	Δ%
Global Deal Value	\$3.91 T	\$3.49 T	↑ 12%
Global Deal Count	43,101	42,546	↑ 1%
U.S. Deal Value	\$1.77 T	\$1.58 T	↑ 12%
U.S. Deal Count	11,412	11,695	↓ 2%
# of \$10B+ Deals (U.S.)	27	22	↑ 23%

About our M&A Practice

Ropes & Gray's award-winning M&A practice is regularly ranked among the world's leading practices by *Chambers*, *The Legal 500* and *U.S. News*, among others. With over 250 M&A attorneys located in the United States, Europe and Asia, our practice offers global scope and on-the-ground service where and when needed. In 2023-2024, Ropes & Gray navigated more than 400 M&A transactions, with an aggregate deal value of \$260+ billion.

RECENT RECOGNITION

THE
AMERICAN LAWYER

The American Lawyer 2024
"Dealmakers of the Year"



The Legal 500 US 2024
Ranked nationally as a leader for M&A Corporate and Commercial: Large Deals (\$1 billion+) and M&A Corporate and Commercial: Private Equity Buyouts: Large Deals (\$500 million+)



Law360
Eight-time winner of "Private Equity Group of the Year"

Chambers
AND PARTNERS

Chambers USA 2024

Band 1 Nationwide Private Equity Buyouts, Mid-Market Ranking

Band 1 New York Corporate / M&A Highly Regarded Ranking

Band 1 Massachusetts Corporate / M&A Ranking



U.S. News & World Report – Best Lawyers "Best Law Firms" 2025

Tier 1 Nationwide, Boston and New York Mergers and Acquisitions Law Ranking

Tier 1 Nationwide, Boston and New York Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law Ranking

DEPTH OF EXPERIENCE

400+

Signed transactions in 2023-2024

\$260B+

in total transaction value in 2023-2024

80+

Industries and sectors

Our Commitment

350+
Specialty-support lawyers

250+
M&A lawyers

150+
Years of practice history

14
Offices to support deals

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