

Key Takeaways

- Megadeals continued to play a big part in M&A activity in February. There were big increases in deal value in both U.S. and global activity compared to January, even as deal counts fell. This was driven by both strategic and sponsor deals globally, though sponsor activity fell in the U.S.
- Year over year (YOY), U.S. and global strategic deal values increased while sponsor deal values fell. Deal counts were down across all sectors.
- Inbound and outbound U.S. crossborder activity also each increased by deal value and fell by deal count, both compared to January and YOY.
- Computers & Electronics remained the leading U.S. industry by deal value and count in February and over the last twelve months (LTM). There was a significant jump in total deal value compared to January (though deal count fell modestly).
- Of U.S. public deals announced in February:
 - ◆ Average reverse break fees were 6.4%, above the 5.7% LTM average.
 - ◆ Go-shops were featured in 11.1% of deals compared to 7.7% LTM.
 - ◆ While cash deals remained dominant, the percentage of stock deals (6%) was significantly lower than the LTM average (24%).

Strategic vs. Sponsor Activity

U.S.	
Total	\$311.6 billion – ▲132.8%
	727 deals – ▼16.3%
Strategic	\$290.1 billion – ▲208.0%
	475 deals – ▼10.2%
Sponsor	\$21.5 billion – ▼45.8%
	252 deals – ▼25.9%
Global	
Total	\$540.4 billion – ▲98.2%
	2,366 deals – ▼20.2%
Strategic	\$438.1 billion – ▲107.7%
	1,750 deals – ▼18.5%
Sponsor	\$102.4 billion – ▲65.6%
	616 deals – ▼24.6%

Industry Activity

 most deals 213 deals Computers & Electronics	last 12 months 3,161 deals Computers & Electronics
 most dollar value 187.2 billion Computers & Electronics	last 12 months \$907.4 billion Computers & Electronics

Crossborder Activity

U.S. Inbound	U.S. Outbound
\$24.2 billion ▲36.3%	\$47.4 billion ▲211.6%
84 deals ▼8.7%	106 deals ▼23.7%
leading country Spain – \$13.0 billion Canada – 19 deals	leading country United Kingdom – \$24.4 billion United Kingdom – 24 deals
leading country last 12 months Japan – \$117.1 billion Canada – 231 deals	leading country last 12 months United Kingdom – \$88.4 billion United Kingdom – 374 deals

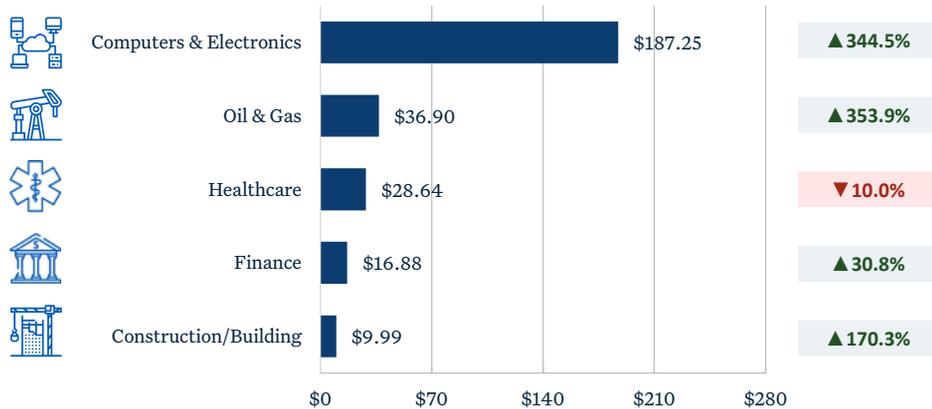
All data in this publication is for February 2026 and is as of March 10, 2026, unless otherwise specified. Each metric in this publication that references deal volume by dollar value is calculated from the subset of the total number of deals that includes a disclosed deal value.

Most Active U.S. Target Industries¹

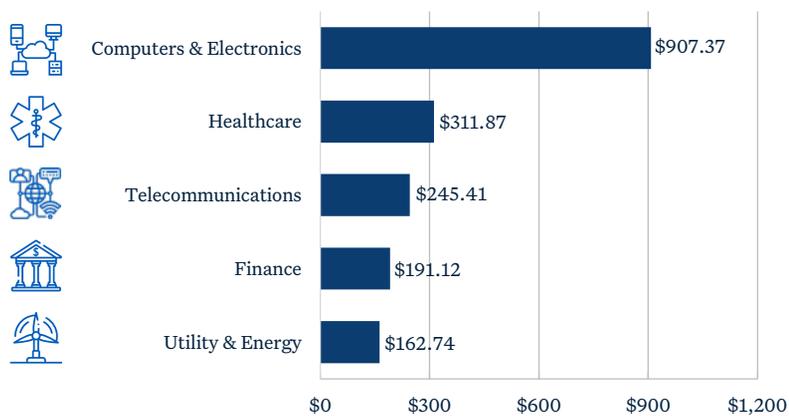
Deal Value (U.S.\$B)

February 2026

+/- from
last month



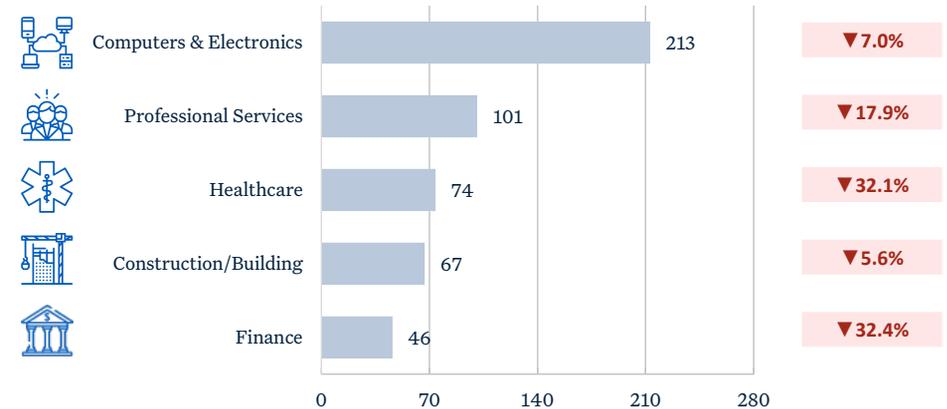
Last 12 Months



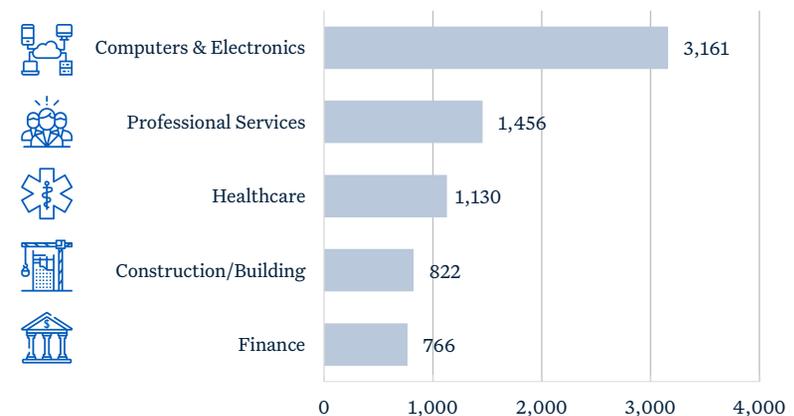
Number of Deals

February 2026

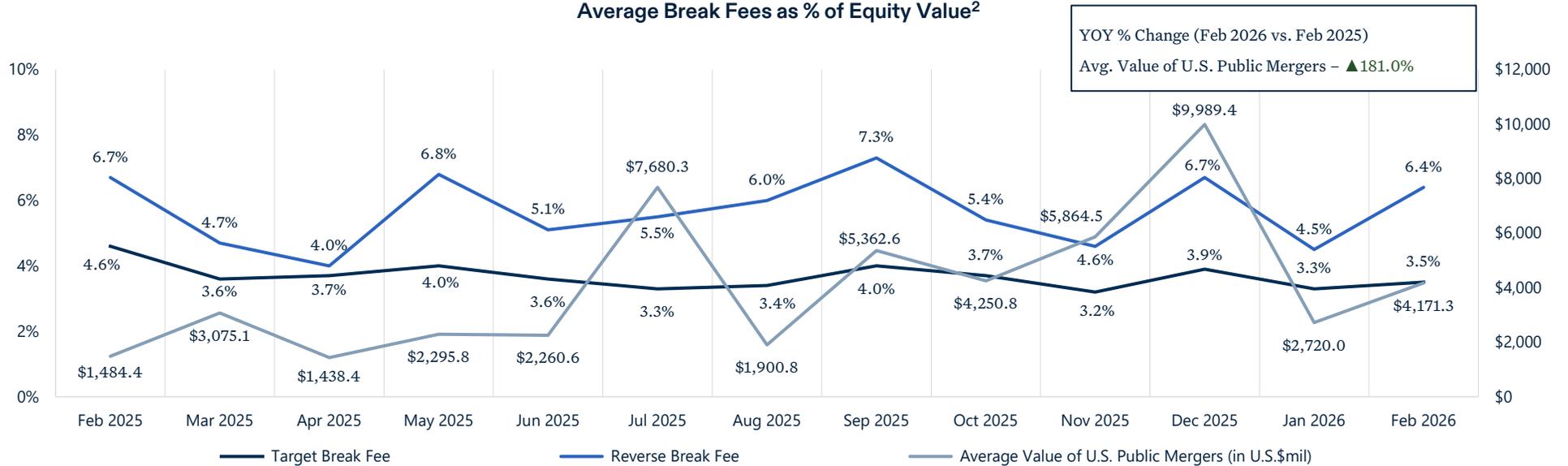
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Last 12 Months



Average Break Fees as % of Equity Value²



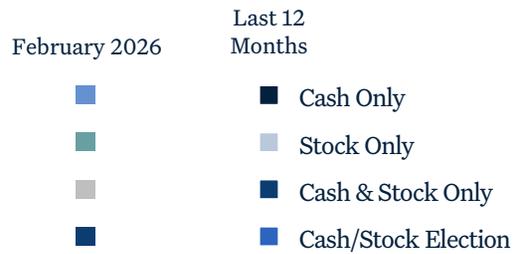
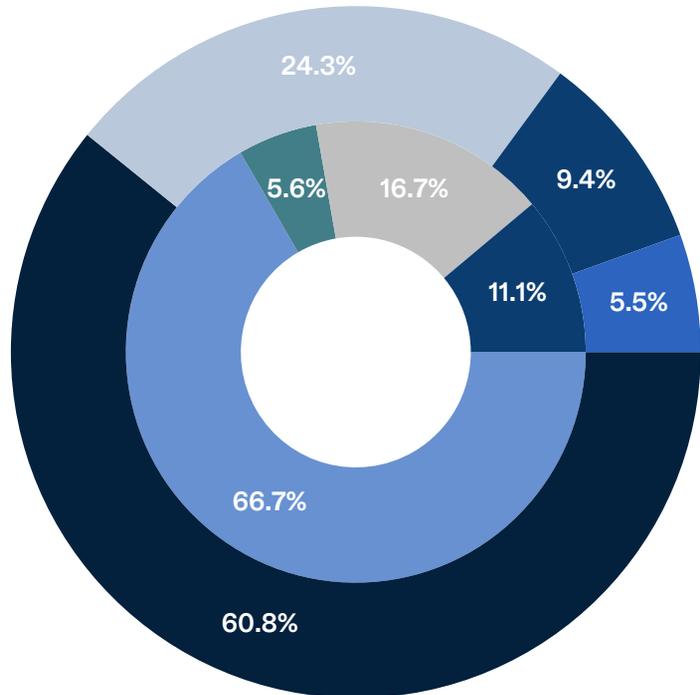
Average Break Fees as % of Equity Value^{3, 4}

	February 2026	Last 12 Months
Target Break Fee for All Mergers	3.5	3.6
Reverse Break Fee for All Mergers ⁵	6.4	5.7
Reverse Break Fee for Mergers Involving Financial Buyers ⁶	6.0	6.3
Reverse Break Fee for Mergers Involving Strategic Buyers ⁷	6.5	5.5

U.S. Public Merger Go-Shop Provisions^{3, 4}

	February 2026	Last 12 Months
% of Mergers with Go-Shops	11.1	7.7
% of Mergers Involving Financial Buyers with Go-Shops ⁸	25.0	23.3
% of Mergers Involving Strategic Buyers with Go-Shops ⁹	7.1	2.9
Avg. Go-Shop Window (in Days) for All Mergers with Go-Shops ¹⁰	37.5	34.0
Avg. Go-Shop Window (in Days) for Mergers Involving Financial Buyers with Go-Shops ¹¹	45.0	32.1
Avg. Go-Shop Window (in Days) for Mergers Involving Strategic Buyers with Go-Shops ¹²	30.0	38.8

Form of Consideration as % of U.S. Public Mergers¹³



Tender Offers as % of U.S. Public Mergers

February 2026	11.1
Last 12 Months	13.8

Hostile/Unsolicited Offers as % of U.S. Public Mergers¹⁴

February 2026	10.0
Last 12 Months	11.6

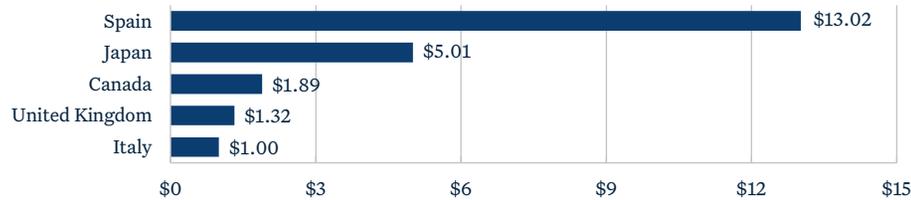
Unaffected Premium %^{14, 15}

February 2026	30.4
Last 12 Months	46.9

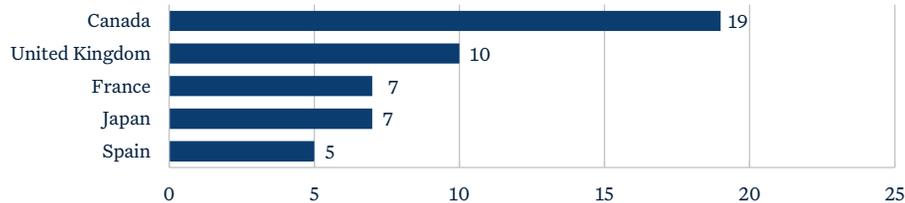
Top Five Countries of Origin for Inbound U.S. Crossborder Transactions

Inbound U.S. Crossborder Transactions for February 2026

Deal Value (U.S.\$B)

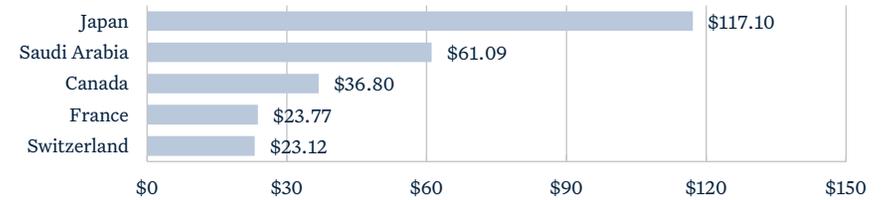


By Number of Deals

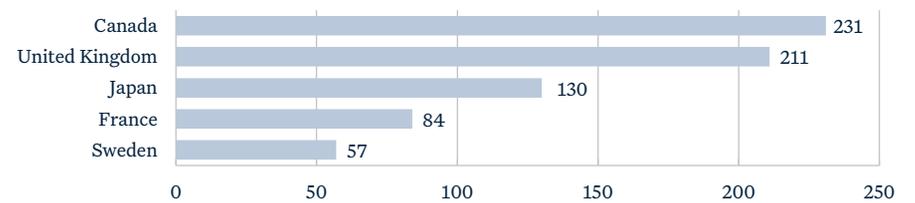


Inbound U.S. Crossborder Transactions for the Last 12 Months

Deal Value (U.S.\$B)



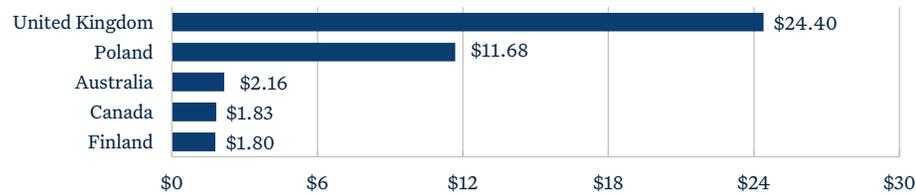
By Number of Deals



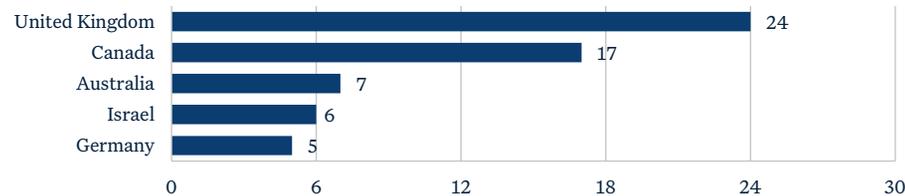
Top Five Countries of Destination for Outbound U.S. Crossborder Transactions

Outbound U.S. Crossborder Transactions for February 2026

Deal Value (U.S.\$B)

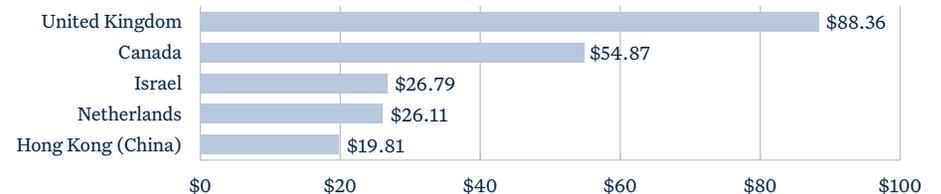


By Number of Deals

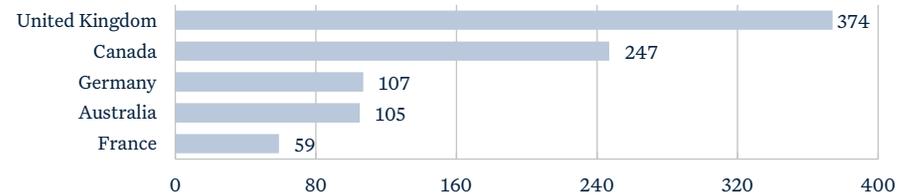


Outbound U.S. Crossborder Transactions for the Last 12 Months

Deal Value (U.S.\$B)

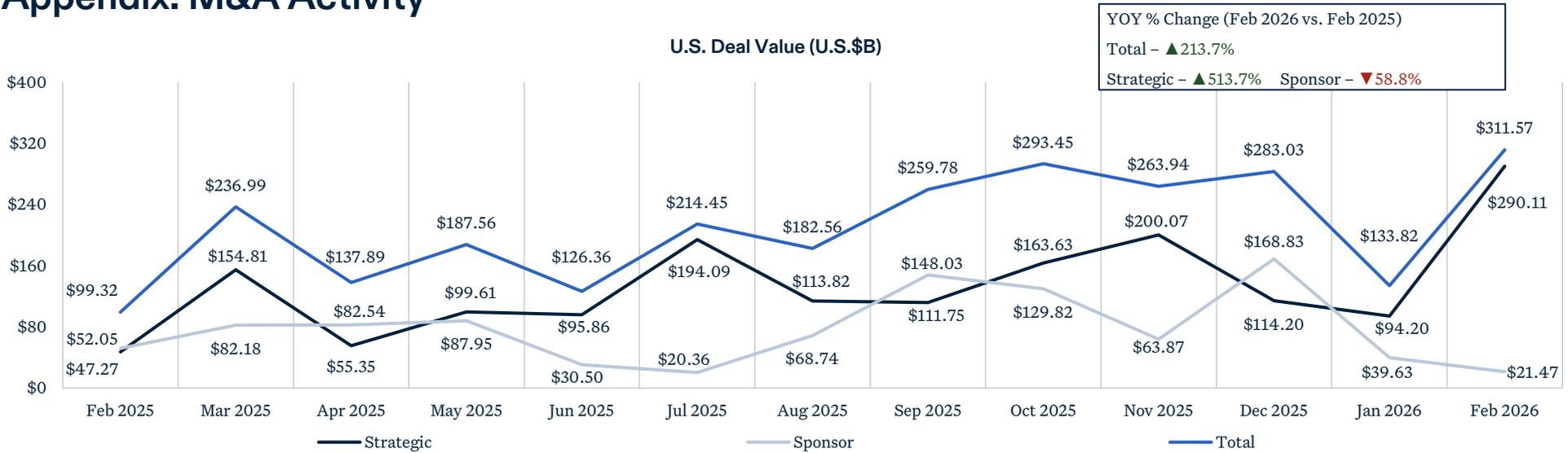


By Number of Deals

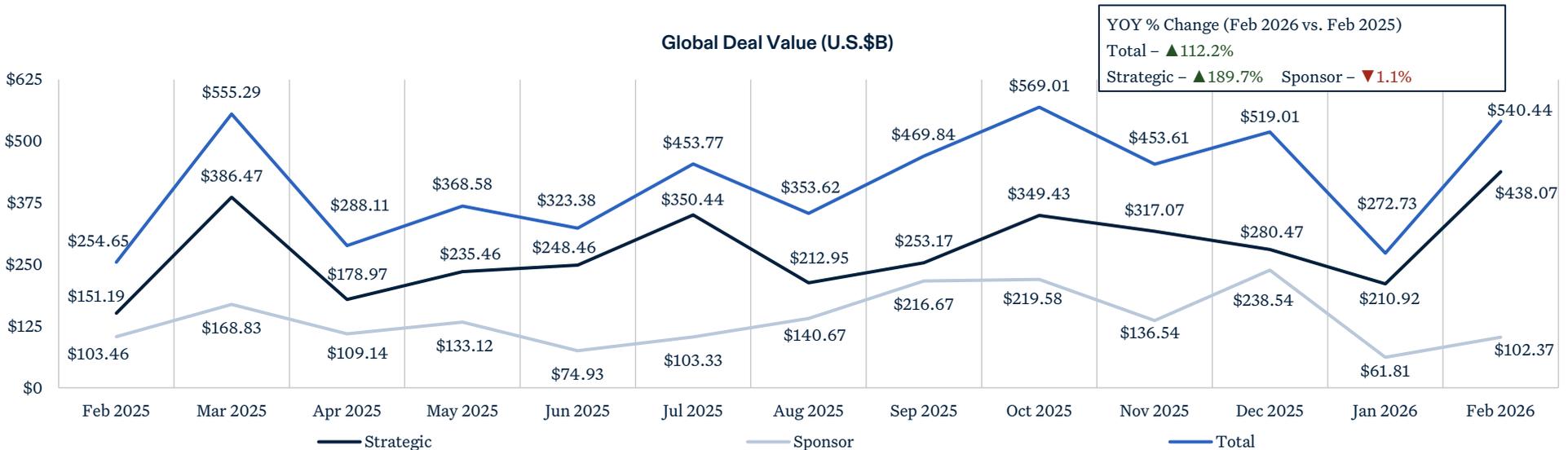


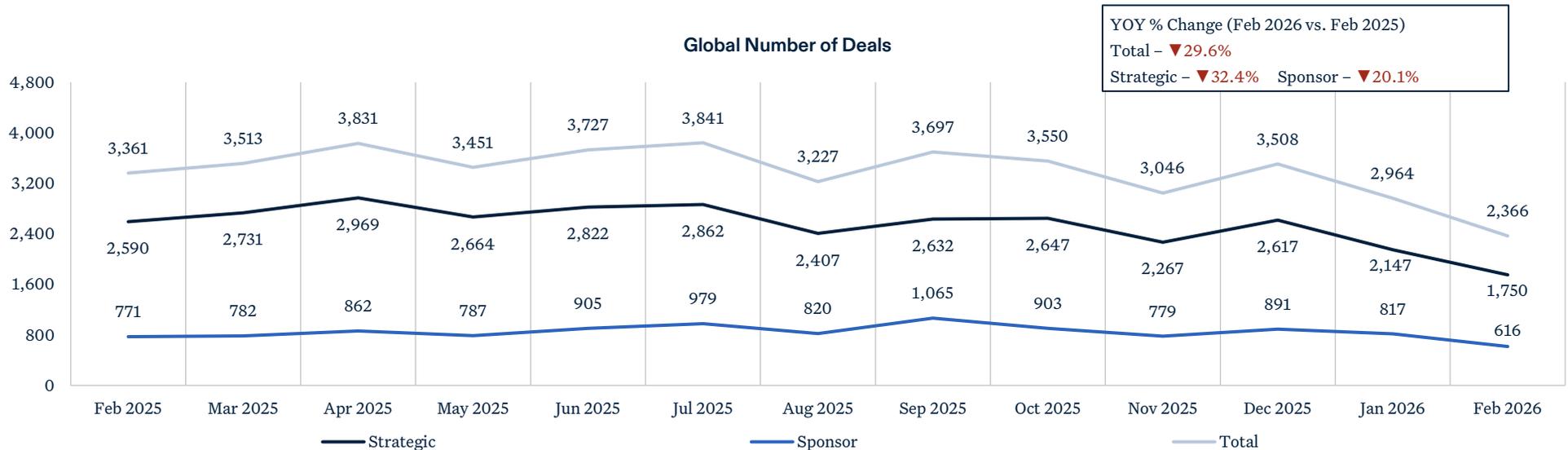
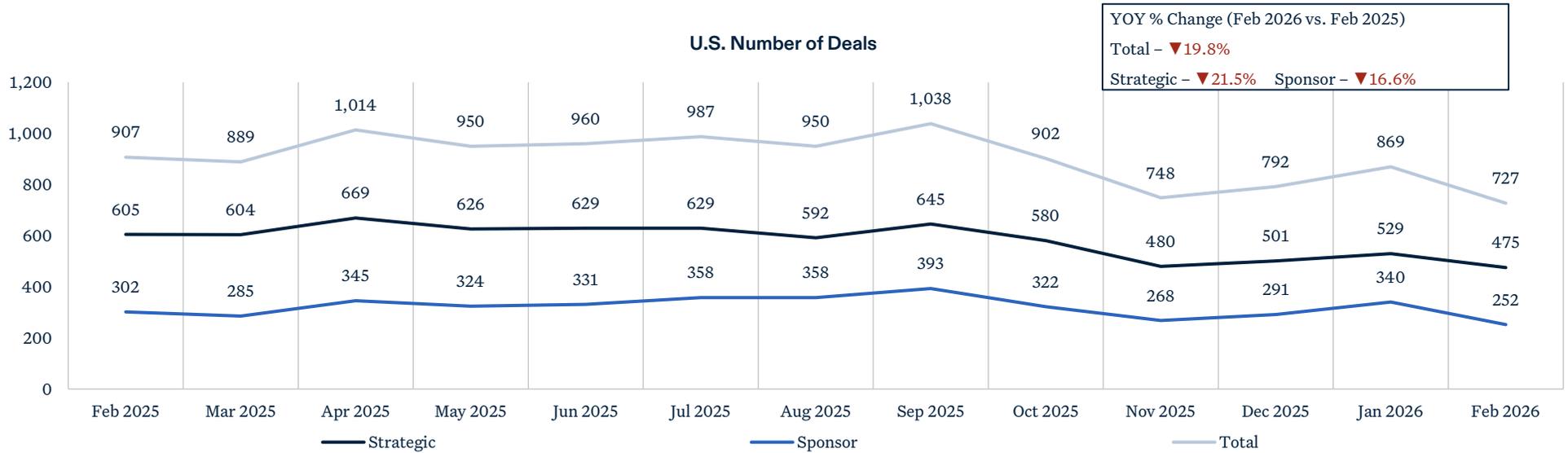
Appendix: M&A Activity

U.S. Deal Value (U.S.\$B)

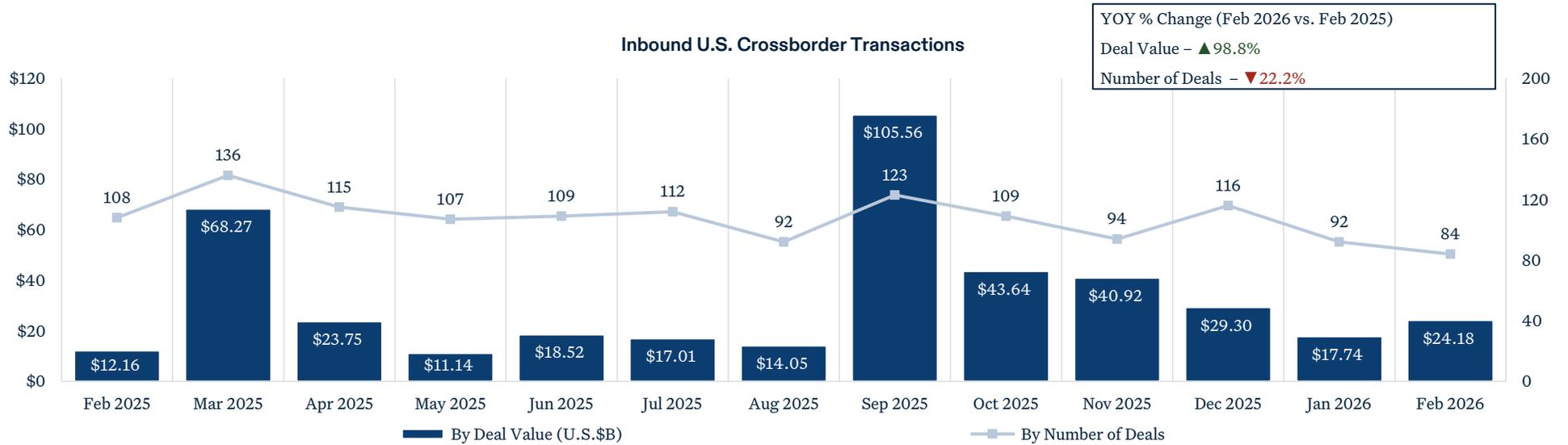


Global Deal Value (U.S.\$B)

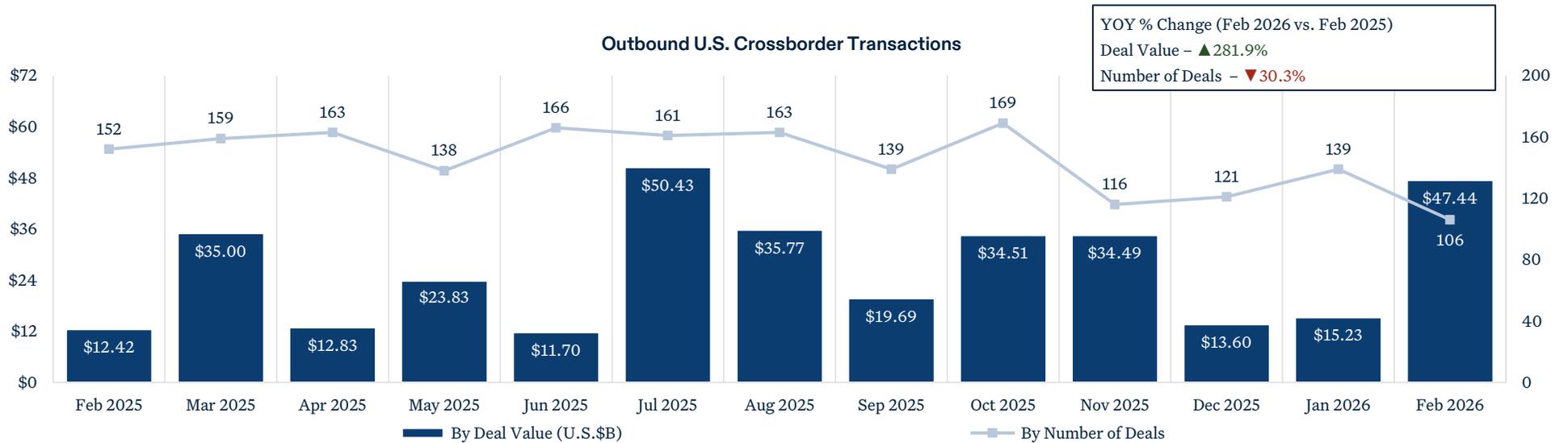




Inbound U.S. Crossborder Transactions



Outbound U.S. Crossborder Transactions



Global Crossborder Transactions



Endnotes

- Industry categories are determined and named by Dealogic.
- Based on the highest target break fees and reverse break fees payable in a particular deal.
- There were 18 transactions in February 2026.
- Financial and strategic categories are determined by Deal Point Data.
- Twelve transactions in February 2026 had a reverse break fee.
- Four transactions in February 2026 involving a financial buyer had a reverse break fee.
- Eight transactions in February 2026 involving a strategic buyer had a reverse break fee.
- Four transactions in February 2026 involved a financial buyer.
- Fourteen transactions in February 2026 involved a strategic buyer.
- Two transactions in February 2026 had a go-shop provision.
- One transaction in February 2026 involving a financial buyer had a go-shop provision.
- One transaction in February 2026 involving a strategic buyer had a go-shop provision.
- Due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100%.
- This data includes both announced transactions for which a definitive merger agreement was reached and filed and those for which a definitive merger agreement was never reached and filed (including withdrawn transactions).
- Unaffected Premium % indicates the difference between the current price per share offered as consideration in the transaction and the “unaffected price,” reflected as a percentage. The “unaffected price” is the target’s closing stock price on the date that is one calendar day prior to the first public disclosure regarding a potential deal involving the target and on which the target’s stock price was unaffected by the news of the deal.

The charts on pp. 1–2 and 5–9 were compiled using Dealogic and are for the broader M&A market, including public and private transactions of any value. Deal volume by dollar value and average value of deals are calculated from the subset of deals that include a disclosed deal value. The charts on pp. 3–4 were compiled using Deal Point Data and include acquisitions seeking majority or higher control of U.S. public targets valued at \$100 million or higher announced during the period indicated and for which a definitive merger agreement was reached and filed (except with respect to data regarding premiums and hostile/unsolicited offers, which is for all announced deals). “Last 12 Months” data is for the period from March 2025 to February 2026, inclusive, and “year-over-year” data compares February 2025 and February 2026. Data obtained from Dealogic and Deal Point Data has not been reviewed for accuracy by Paul, Weiss.

Strategic M&A Firm Highlights

	\$11.0B	IBM	Acquisition of Confluent
	\$9.5B	Eaton	Acquisition of the Boyd Thermal business of Boyd Corporation
	\$10.0B	Metsera	Sale to Pfizer
	–	Kraft Heinz	Proposed separation into two independent publicly traded companies
	\$18.4B	Keurig Dr Pepper	Acquisition of JDE Peet's
	\$2.4B	Qualcomm	Acquisition Alphawave Semi
	\$34.5B	Advance Publications	Charter Communications' combination with Cox Communications
	\$14.2B	Rocket Companies	Acquisition of Mr. Cooper Group
	\$8.5B	Crown Castle	Sale of its small cells and fiber solutions businesses
	\$55.0B	Chevron Corporation	Acquisition of Hess Corporation

Private Equity M&A Firm Highlights

	–	KPS Capital Partners	Acquisition of a controlling interest in Jenmar
	–	L Catterton	Acquisition of a minority stake in EX NIHILO
	\$1.5B	Blackstone Infrastructure Partners	Equity commitment and acquisition of a 19.9% ownership interest in GenCo
	\$2.7B	Madison Dearborn Partners	Acquisition of a significant majority of NFP's wealth business
	\$13.0B	General Atlantic	Investment in Anthropic as part of a \$13 billion Series F funding round
	\$1.2B	Bain Capital	Strategic joint venture with Warner Music Group
	–	Brookfield Asset Management	Acquisition and strategic investment in Hotwire Communications
	\$9.0B	3G Capital	Acquisition of Skechers U.S.A.
	\$1.0B	Brigade Capital Management	Acquisition of Family Dollar
	\$11.0B	Funds managed by affiliates of Apollo Global Management, Inc.	Investment to acquire from Intel Corporation a 49% equity interest in a joint venture entity

This publication is not intended to provide legal advice, and no legal or business decision should be based on its content. Questions concerning issues addressed in this memorandum should be directed to:

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