The *Transaction News Advisor*, published monthly, covers selected M&A, private equity, and credit and capital market transactions of note.

Transaction News Advisor

June 2025

All in the Family: X Corp. Merges with x.AI Corp.

Mercer Capital

This presentation explores the fairness and corporate governance issues surrounding the March 2025 merger of x.AI Corporation and X Corporation, both controlled by Elon Musk. With a combined enterprise value of $125 billion, the stock-for-stock transaction raises questions about valuation methodology, board independence, conflicts of interest, and procedural rigor. Drawing comparisons to Musk's past deals—such as Tesla's acquisition of SolarCity and the leveraged buyout of Twitter—the analysis examines whether this latest "all in the family" merger meets the standards of fairness typically expected in transactions involving controlling shareholders.

>> Click here to download the slide deck

Stryker Corporation (SYK): Many Acquisitions in 2024

Mercer Capital

Stryker Corporation made bold moves in 2024, snapping up a number of companies and setting the stage for growth in 2025. With a $4.8 billion deal among a series of strategic acquisitions, and stock surging 34%, what's next for this medical tech giant? CEO Kevin Lobo states "M&A will be the number one use of the company's cash going forward." In this article we look into some of the SYK acquisitions over 2024.

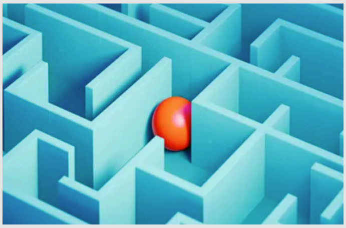
>> Click here to read the article

The PE Glut: a 'Towering' $3.6TR of Value Is Locked in 29,000 Unsold Companies

Institutional Investor

The private equity industry is grappling with an unprecedented backlog, with approximately 29,000 unsold companies valued at $3.6 trillion languishing in portfolios. This glut, a consequence of the aggressive buyout spree during the low-interest-rate era, has been exacerbated by recent economic uncertainties and policy shifts. As a result, firms are struggling to exit investments and return capital to investors, leading to a significant slowdown in fundraising activities. The situation underscores the pressing need for private equity firms to adapt their strategies and navigate the evolving financial landscape.

>> Click here to read the article



Facing a Liquidity Crisis, Venture Must Move Past the 'IPO or Bust' Mentality

Institutional Investor

Venture capital is facing a liquidity crunch, with startups staying private longer and traditional IPO exits drying up. As the "IPO or bust" model falters, direct secondaries are emerging as a key alternative—offering much-needed liquidity and bringing in investors to support long-term growth.

>> Click here to read the article

Almost Daily | Grant's Interest Rate Observer

Thursday, February 20, 2025

I hate to be critical of our industry, but we haven't done the best job of returning capital to our investors," Apollo co-founder Josh Harris commented at a conference today

>> Click here download the PDF

Market Snapshot

	5/30/25	2/28/25	5/30/24	90 Day Δ	Y/Y Δ
SOFR	4.35%	4.39%	5.33%	-4 bps	-98 bps
2-Year UST	3.92%	4.06%	4.87%	-14 bps	-95 bps
10-Year UST	4.44%	4.30%	4.44%	14 bps	0 bps
BB Corp Bond Yield	5.98%	5.87%	6.54%	11 bps	-56 bps
B Corp Bond Yield	7.38%	6.92%	7.68%	46 bps	-30 bps
CCC and Lower Corp Bond Yield	12.87%	11.61%	13.77%	126 bps	-90 bps
S&P 500	5912	5955	5235	-0.7%	12.9%
NASDAQ	19114	18847	16737	1.4%	14.2%
Russell 2000	2066	2163	2057	-4.5%	0.5%
Rolling Four Quarters	*1Q25*	*4Q24*	*1Q24*		
$10-$25M PE Deals	6.5x	6.4x	5.9x	0.1x	0.6x
$25-$50M PE Deals	7.0x	6.8x	6.9x	0.2x	0.1x
$50-$100M PE Deals	8.4x	8.3x	8.0x	0.1x	0.4x
$100-$250M PE Deals	8.8x	8.5x	9.6x	0.3x	-0.8x
$250-$500M PE Deals	9.9x	9.7x	10.1x	0.2x	-0.2x
Number of Transactions	343	384	305	-41	38
Quarter Only					
Median Multiple-All Deals	7.6x	7.3x	6.8x	0.3x	0.8x
Number of Transactions	59	98	100	-39	-41

Source: St. Louis Federal Reserve (FRED), S&P Global Market Intelligence, GF Data® (an ACG Company)

Mercer Capital's Recent Transactions

First Missouri Bancshares, Inc.

VERIMORE BANK

Brookfield, Missouri

has agreed to acquire

CCSB Financial Corp.

Clay County Savings Bank

Liberty, Missouri

Mercer Capital served as financial advisor to First Missouri and rendered a fairness opinion

— **January 2025** —

innovations FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION

Panama City, FL

has acquired

FIRST NATIONAL BANK NORTHWEST FLORIDA

Panama City, FL

Mercer Capital provided valuation and advisory services to Innovations

— **August 2024** —

U.S. Based Manufacturer of Flow Control and Process Equipment

Mercer Capital rendered a solvency opinion for the manufacturer related to payment of a $200 million dividend following the sale of a business unit

— **June 2024** —

>> Click here to see more transactions <<

For more information or to discuss your needs in confidence, please contact us.

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