

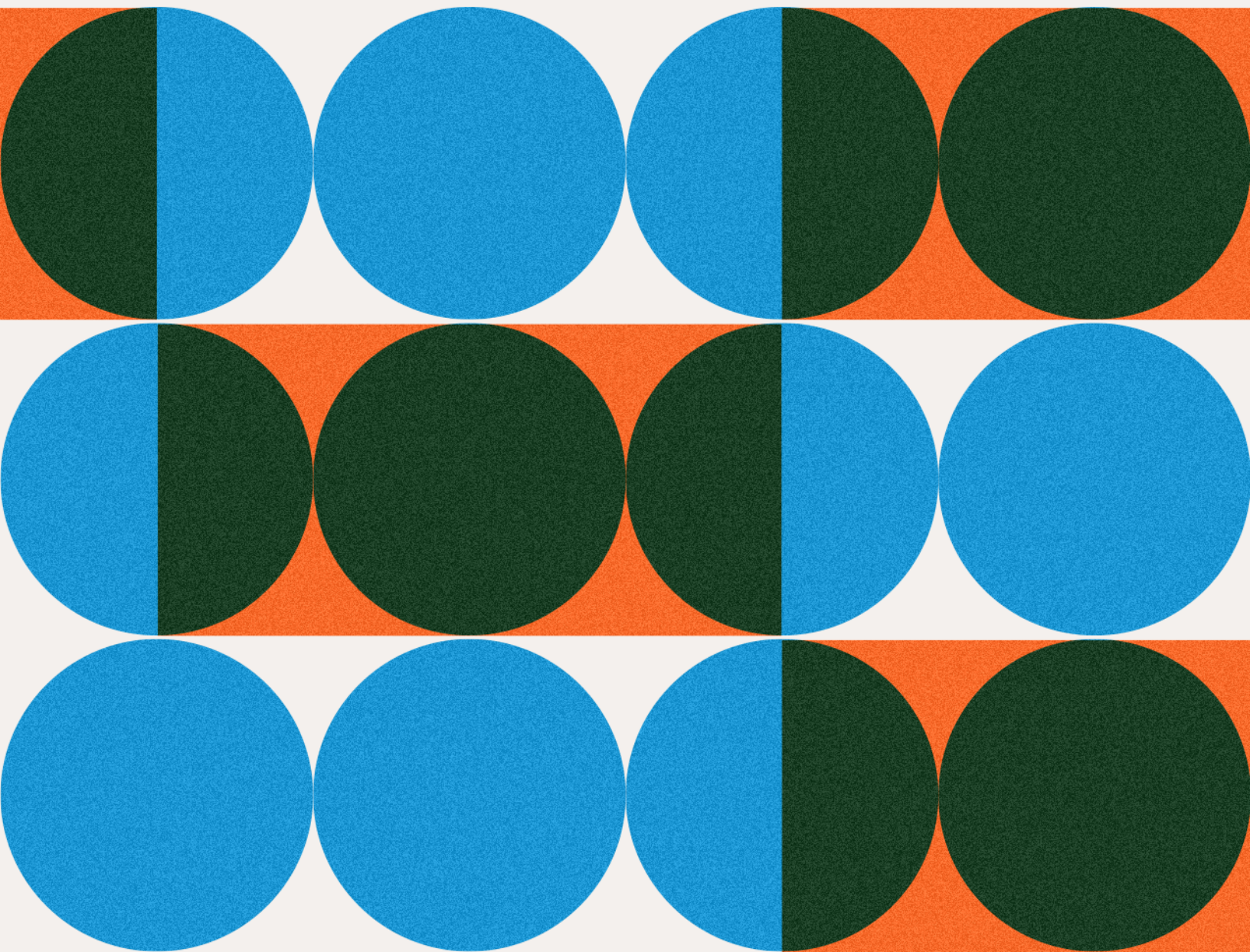


Partnered with:



# Deal Flow Bulletin

Q3 2023



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# Bulletin Highlights

- The number of announced **M&A transactions in North America is projected to increase in the third quarter**, the first rise in a year and a half, according to the Firmex model. Deals are also projected to increase in Europe by a smaller amount.
- Merger advisors overall are feeling neither positive or negative about the middle market. **In July, the most common answer to our question about their overall feeling about the M&A market was “neutral,”** the first time it hasn’t been “positive” or “very positive” in the three years we have been conducting this study.
- More advisors said **deal volume increased in the second quarter** than said it was flat or went down. The most common prediction for the third quarter is that volume will be flat.
- The deals that were done were at notably lower valuations than previous quarters. One-third of advisors called the prices of deals they were involved with “below average.” **Nearly half of the advisors say valuations will continue to fall in the third quarter.**
- Advisors say their success rate is decreasing. **They closed an average of 60% of the deals they worked on in the recent quarter**, compared to 70% a year ago.
- The biggest drags on dealmaking are higher interest rates and tougher lending standards at banks, as well as the general uncertainty about economic conditions. At the same time, **activity is being spurred on by the strong profitability of acquisition targets** and the prospect that a merger can help the combined company cope with continuing labor shortages.
- We asked for the first time about the financial results of advisory firms. **A bit more than a third said firm revenue had increased from a year ago.** A bit less than a third said revenue had fallen. Spending on technology is increasing while travel is being cut back.
- Private equity firms, which have dominated the M&A market in recent years, are pulling back somewhat, advisors said. **Those that are doing deals have been conducting more extensive due diligence.**
- With bank loans more expensive and harder to get, **deals are increasingly featuring more equity, earnouts, and other creative financing techniques.**
- More sellers are coming to market, and **there are some signs they are getting used to the market’s lower valuations.**
- The fastest-growing industry sector is renewable energy, according to 70% of advisors. **Real estate is the biggest laggard.**



# Introduction



Firmex started this quarterly survey of middle market merger advisors in 2021 and it has been heartening to see a community develop around the project since then. There are advisors around the world who take the time every three months to share their experiences with us and their peers, and it's with their perspective that we've been able to understand how this critical sector of the economy has adapted through a volatile period. Together, we've coped with the sudden shutdown of activity caused by a global pandemic, the frenzied rebound as it subsided, labor and supply chain issues, the onset of a land war in Europe, surging inflation, and the sharp rise in interest rates. It's been a period characterized by advisors' challenges, resiliency, and successes as well.

This quarter, it is the effect of rising rates and the accompanying tightening of bank lending standards that underpin the survey results. Advisors are working hard, as they always do, to find deals that satisfy buyers, sellers and funders in this environment. Based on activity on our platform, the Firmex projection that volume will increase in the third quarter, especially in North America, may provide some relief. Regardless, as the past has shown, I know this community has the strength to thrive in any environment.

***—Mark Wright, General Manager at Firmex***

# Overview

## **Middle-market merger advisors agree that getting deals done this year is tough, but they disagree about why.**

The overall mood of the advisors surveyed is wary, as they wait to see how the countervailing forces affecting the market balance out.

High-interest rates are taking a toll. Bank loans are more expensive and harder to get. Valuations have decreased over the last year. And buyers are looking for alternate forms of financing, often asking sellers to take equity or a note as part of the consideration.

To some advisors, however, the buyers have overreacted.

“Buyers are more cautious and less eager to close,” said a family office advisor in the United States. “They are making significant due diligence demands that are very time consuming.”

Even private equity funds, which have been the 800 pound-gorilla of M&A in recent years, are pulling back, according to many advisors.

“Private equity is being more cautious and making more demands,” said one investment banker in the United States. “At the same time, there are fewer strategic and individual buyers.”

Others say the biggest issue in the market is that business owners haven’t accepted that their companies aren’t worth as much today as they were amid a booming economy with rock-bottom rates.

“Sellers and, to an extent, their advisors, have a too optimistic view on the value of their businesses,” said Andrew Watkin, director of Assynt Corporate Finance, in Stevenage, England.

“Lots of buyers are available,” agrees Rick Grantham, chief executive of Deal Leaders International, in Johannesburg, South Africa. “It’s seller uncertainty that is the issue.”

Either way, it has been a standoff. It’s not surprising, then, that the advisors in our survey say that they are closing fewer deals than they did a year ago.

To some, there are signs this is turning around.

“Companies are now starting to review growth plans again and make strategic acquisitions,” said Colin Marson, managing partner at Lisergy Consulting in Leicester, United Kingdom. “Sellers are becoming more serious about selling and more open to negotiating on price.”

Yet even when an agreement can be struck on price, that’s not always enough to get the deal done in this market.

“We see an increasing number of sellers and buyers that want to do deals,” said Greg Kells, President of Sunbelt Business Brokers, in Ontario, Canada. “It is arranging financing for them, however, that will be a problem.”

# Observations

The lower middle market continues to be active, and deals are getting done by PE groups with conviction, but with more stringent due diligence.

– **Michael Schuster, Managing Director, Cross Keys Capital, Fort Lauderdale, Florida**

With less credit available, buyers are going for lower valuations or asking for rollover equity, seller notes, or contingent valuations.

– **John Mathis, Partner, Harbor View Advisors, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida**

Buyers need to consider their ability to raise funding before they start talking to sellers.

– **Andrew Watkin, Director, Assynt Corporate Finance, Stevenage, England**

We are in a holding position because of geopolitical risk.

– **Vladimir Mirchev, Founder and Managing Director, VHM Capital, Varna, Bulgaria**

There is more uncertainty now than 12 months ago, which is causing some buyers to pause.

– **Brian McCann, Partner, ONEtoONE Corporate Finance, Manchester, England**

Sellers have postponed selling and are getting anxious to sell. Buyers have held back, waiting to see if we have a recession, but they have so much dry powder they need to invest it soon.

– **Greg Carpenter, President, Horizon M&A Advisors, California, United States**

# About the Deal Projections

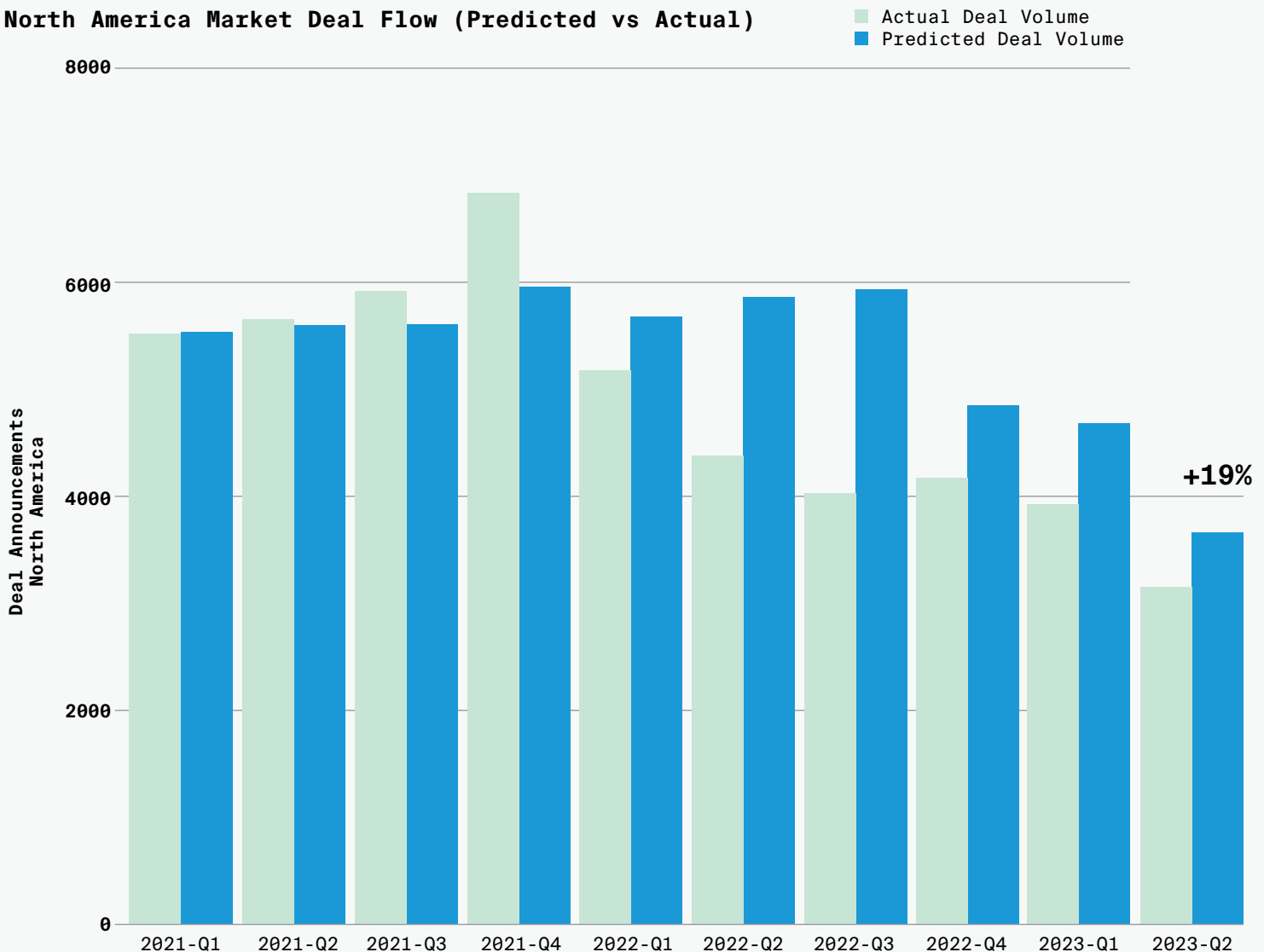
The forecasts of third-quarter deal volume are based on activity on the Firmex platform, one of the most widely used virtual data room providers. Each year, more than 20,000 rooms are created on Firmex for prospective buyers and sellers to exchange confidential information during due diligence. The level of data room creation has proven to be a reliable indicator of future M&A activity. As seen in 2022, like the market at large, the forecasting model was not immune to the impact of disrupting factors that slowed the close of deals already begun.

In January 2023 the model was revised to incorporate other measures of the activity in a deal room, such as the frequency of logins and the number of documents uploaded. This helps identify which deals are likely to be completed. The new model also uses results from the quarterly Deal Flow Bulletin survey of merger advisors and several indicators of economic activity and market sentiment.

As is common with time-series forecasts, getting the exact magnitude of volume correct will always be difficult, but it's reasonable to expect the model to correctly predict whether deals will go up or down. The revised 2023 model trend reflects this accuracy.

Our count of actual deals is provided by S&P Capital IQ.

North America Market Deal Flow (Predicted vs Actual)



# About the Survey

The insights about market dynamics are drawn from an online survey conducted between late June and early July 2023. The 104 respondents were investment bankers, business brokers, and other professionals involved in middle-market mergers and acquisitions. Firmex has conducted quarterly surveys with similar methodologies since 2021.

## About the Respondents:

- The most common respondent was an investment banker working in the United States who is the head of a firm with five or fewer employees that typically handles deals between \$6 million and \$50 million, mostly for sellers.
- Half the respondents described themselves as generalists. The most common industry specialties were “Business Services” and “Manufacturing, Construction, and Transportation.”
- Three-fifths of the respondents were based in North America, with one-fifth in Europe and the rest spread through South America, Africa, and the Asia-Pacific region.
- Two-thirds of the respondents are merger advisors or business brokers. Lawyers, business development executives, and others not directly doing deals made up 15% of respondents.
- Nearly three-quarters of them work in firms with 20 or fewer employees. Their firms typically complete fewer than ten deals a year.
- Advisors at firms with more than 100 people made up 28% of respondents. And 23% regularly handle deals valued at \$100 million and up.

[See the appendix for detailed information on respondents.](#)

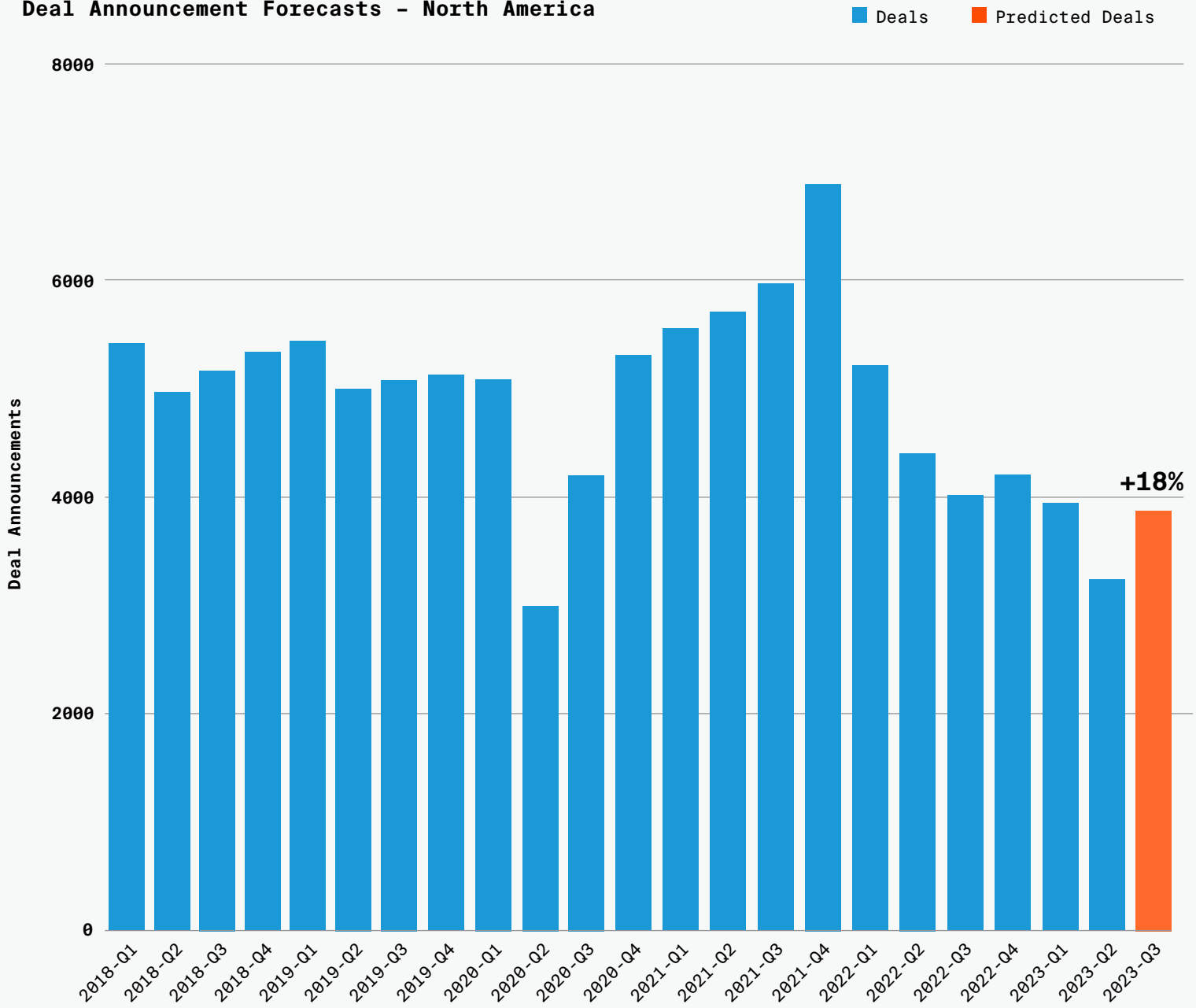


# The Firmex Deal Flow Forecast: North America

After falling steadily for a year and a half, the volume of M&A transactions in North America will rise by 18% in the third quarter, according to the Firmex model. That would put the number of publicly disclosed deals just 4% below the level in the equivalent period of 2022.

The number of data rooms opened on the Firmex platform increased by 10% in the second quarter, suggesting growing interest in exploring transactions. Advisors, however, say that they are starting to work on more deals that don't close. If that trend continues, some of the transactions projected for the third quarter may instead close in the fourth quarter.

## Deal Announcement Forecasts - North America



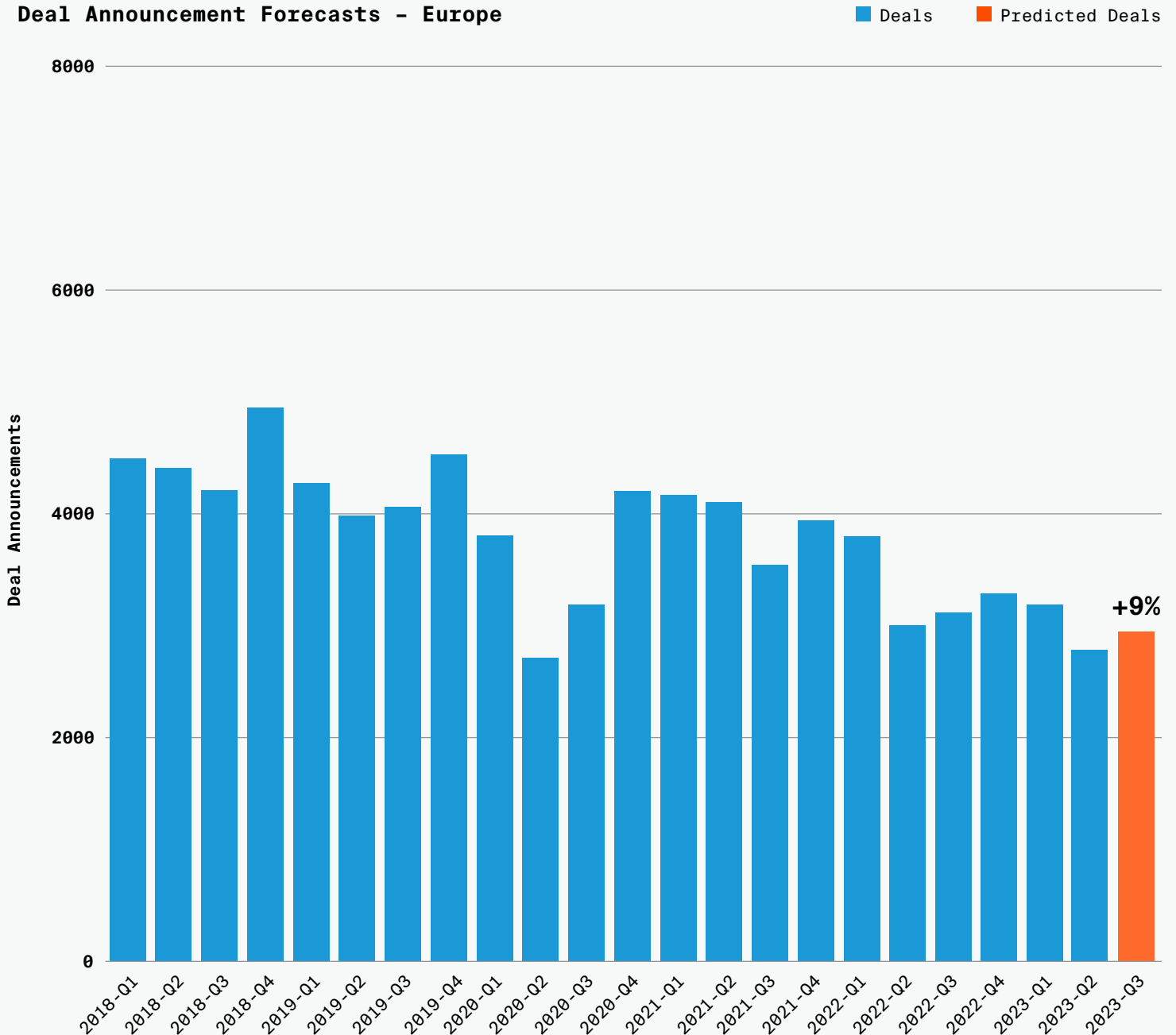
Source: S&P Capital IQ (2018 - 2023 Q1), Firmex analysis Q2 2023

# The Firmex Deal Flow Forecast: Europe

In Europe, where the swings in deal volume have been smaller than in North America, Firmex projects a 9% increase in announced M&A transactions in the third quarter. That would put the number of publicly disclosed deals just 1% below the level in the equivalent period of 2022.

The creation of data rooms on the Firmex Platform declined by 9% in the third quarter. Other factors in the model, such as the growing strength of the economy, however, suggest volume will rise.

## Deal Announcement Forecasts - Europe



Source: S&P Capital IQ (2018 - 2023 Q1), Firmex analysis Q2 2023

# Deal Volume

The middle market merger advisors in our most recent survey had a busier second quarter than the overall M&A market. A plurality (41%) said their deal volume increased from April to June. That's up from the last survey when the most common answer was that first-quarter deal volume had been unchanged (38%).

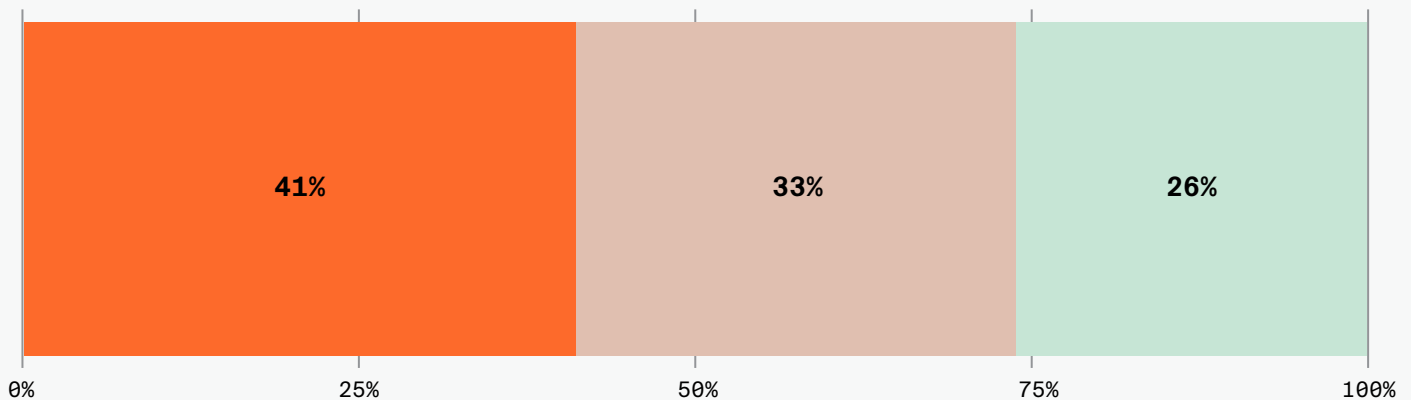
Looking forward, the consensus, narrowly, is that volume will stay steady (42%) in the third quarter.

The continued drag on dealmaking stems from the uncertainty of the economy.

“The bid asked spreads are difficult to overcome,” said a U.S.-based firm head. “When the cost of capital is uncertain, the purchase price multiple is uncertain.”

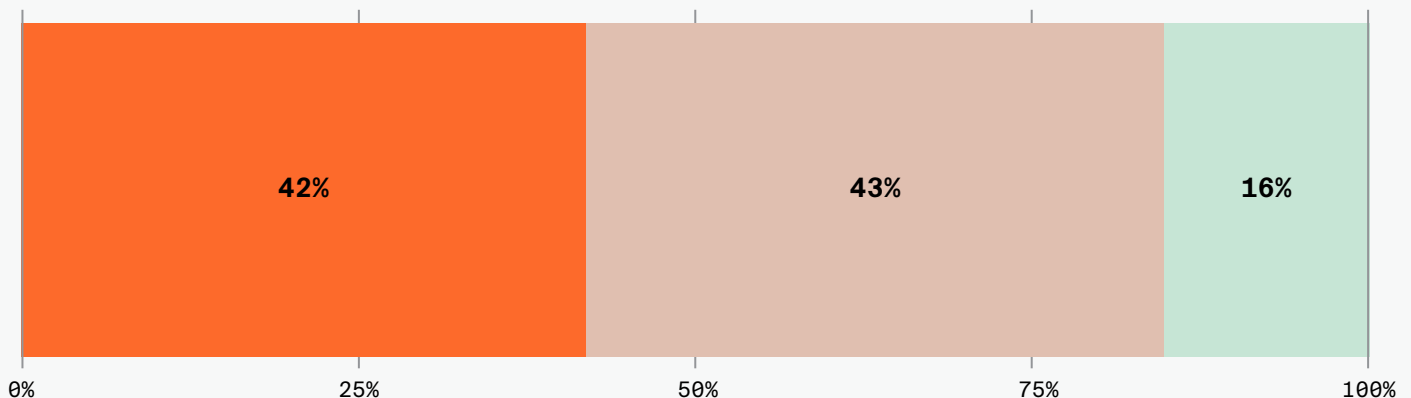
## Over the past three months, how has your deal volume changed?

■ Increase ■ No change ■ Decrease



## How do you anticipate your deal volume to change over the next three months?

■ Increase ■ No change ■ Decrease



# Deal Volume *CONTINUED*

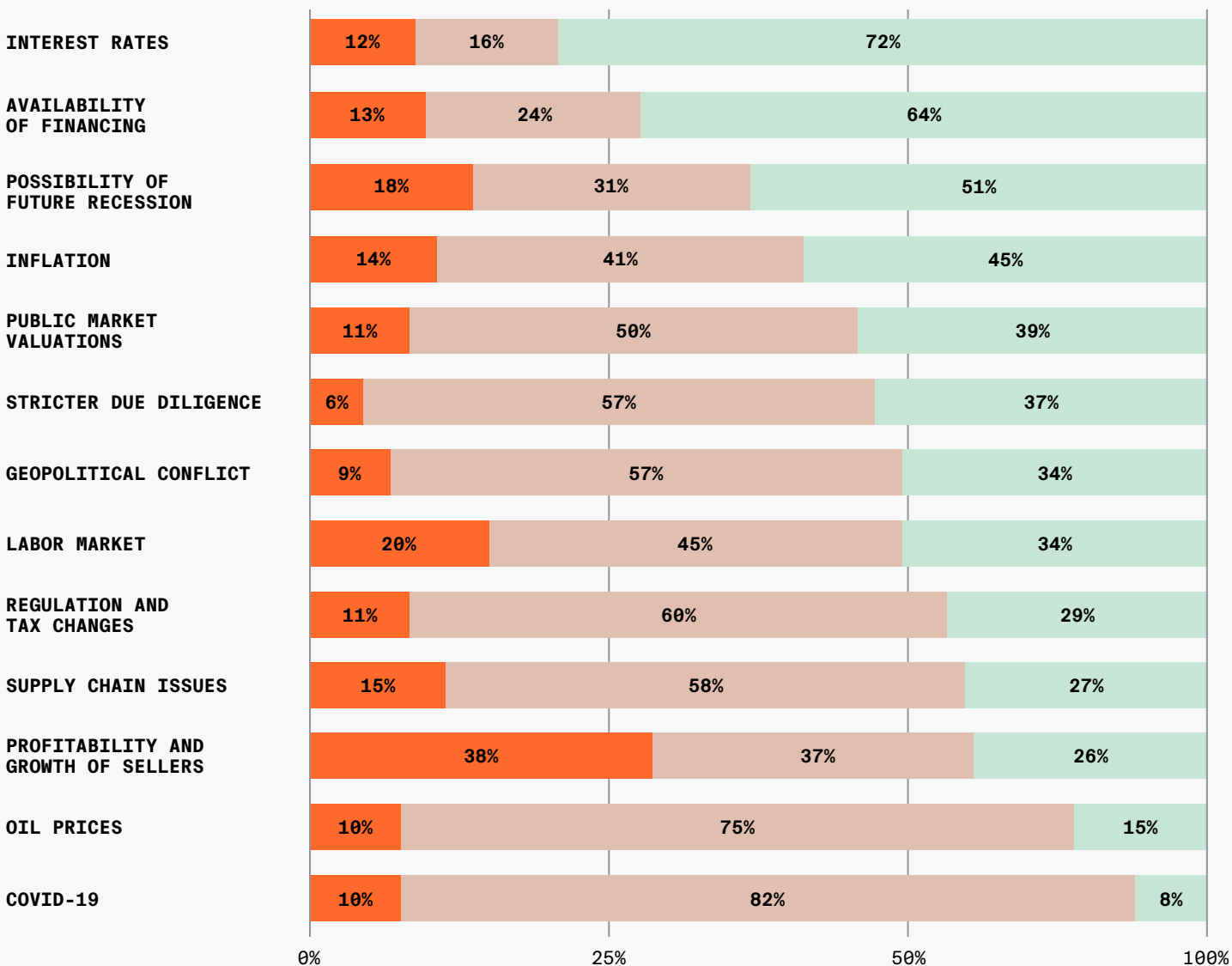
Indeed, those who were more upbeat cited increasing confidence among buyers and sellers.

“We see more solid companies wanting to sell and more private equity funds expressing serious interest in buying,” said Jim Kniffen, President of Gulfstream Mergers & Acquisitions, in Cornelius, North Carolina.

Interest rates, the availability of financing, and the possibility of a future recession were all cited by a majority of the advisors as depressing M&A activity. The biggest accelerant for deal flow was the profitability and growth of sellers, followed by the labor market.

**In the next three months, which of these factors are most likely to encourage or discourage increased deal volume?**

Encourage No change Inhibit



# Observations

Valuations are down, and clients prefer to wait.

– **David Rowat, Partner, Strategic Exits Partners, Vancouver, British Columbia**

PE firms are very cautious. They are worried about inflation, recession, and higher interest rates.

– **Greg Carpenter, President, Horizon M&A Advisors, California, United States**

There is a shortage of good quality assets available.

– **Rick Grantham, Chief Executive, Deal Leaders International, Johannesburg, South Africa**

We're starting to see Gen X owners in their late 40s and 50s make a decision to explore an exit.

– **Michael Vann, President, Vann Group, Springfield, Massachusetts**

Deal volume is going up for equity participants. Business owners are turning to raising equity because of higher interest rates and caution from banks.

– **Siya Nhlumayo, Partner, Vuna Partners, Johannesburg, South Africa**



# Valuations

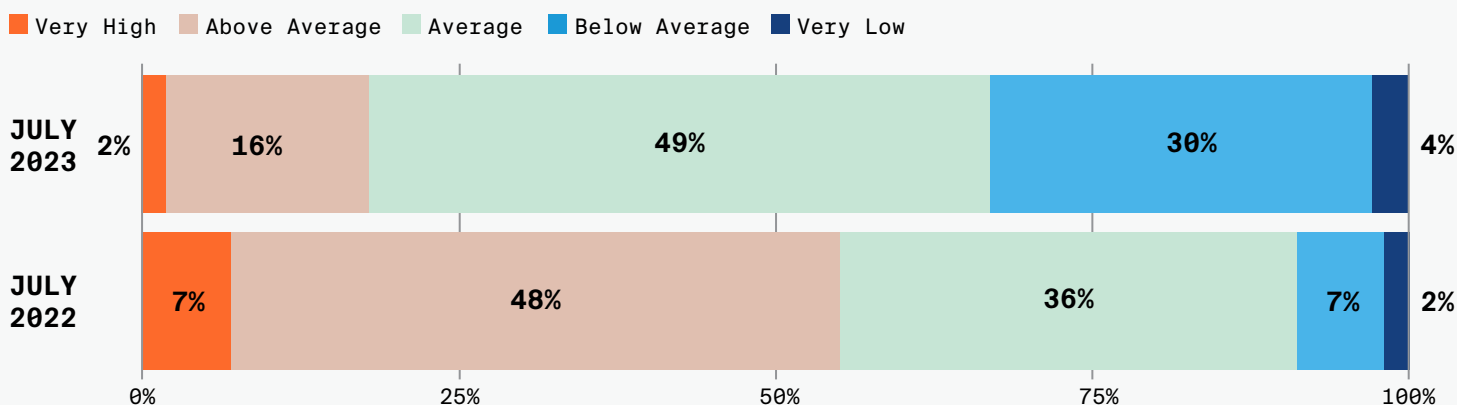
There was a very dramatic reassessment of valuations in the most recent survey. Only 17% of the advisors called the valuations of deals they were involved with in the previous three months above average. That's less than half the level of the survey in April.

In the recent survey, 34% said valuations were below average, up from only 9% three months ago.

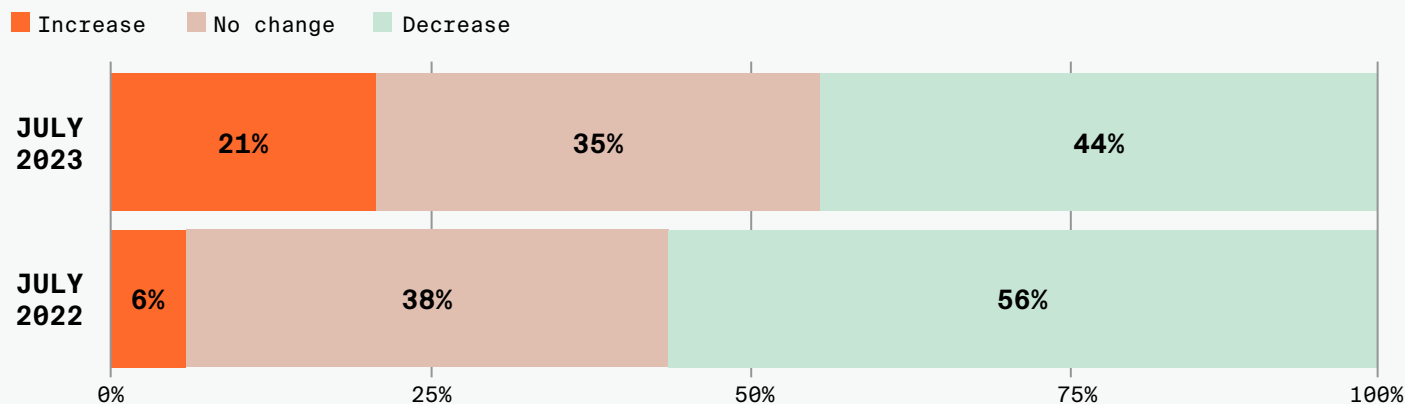
When asked to predict valuations for the coming three months, a plurality (44%) expect further declines. But that is less than 54% who were expecting values to fall three months ago. The most common reasons cited for falling values include rising rates, economic uncertainty, and reduced financing availability.

In a modest sign of hope, 21% said values were likely to increase, up from only 5% three months ago. Those advisors mentioned that in the markets they serve, conditions had stabilized, allowing the fundamental forces that drive deals to reemerge.

## Over the past three months, how would you describe the valuation of companies in deals your firm was involved in?



## Over the next three months, how do you expect company valuation to change for deals your firm is involved in?



# Observations

Values are falling because of economic uncertainty and poorer performance of companies up for sale.

– *Ian Wooden, Chairman, JW & Co., Montreal, Quebec*

With a more predictable macroeconomic outlook, decelerating inflation, and expectations of lower interest rates, valuations are starting to increase a little. – *Jan Slabý, ECOVIS, Prague, Czechia*

Prices have stopped falling in our markets because interest rates have stabilized, and there is clarity around 2024 home healthcare reimbursement rates.

– *Doug Harper, Vice President of Growth Development, AccentCare, Dallas, Texas*

Values are increasing for recession-proof companies with strong cash flow and good management in place. – *Jim Kniffen, President, Gulfstream Mergers & Acquisitions, Cornelius, North Carolina*

# Success Rates

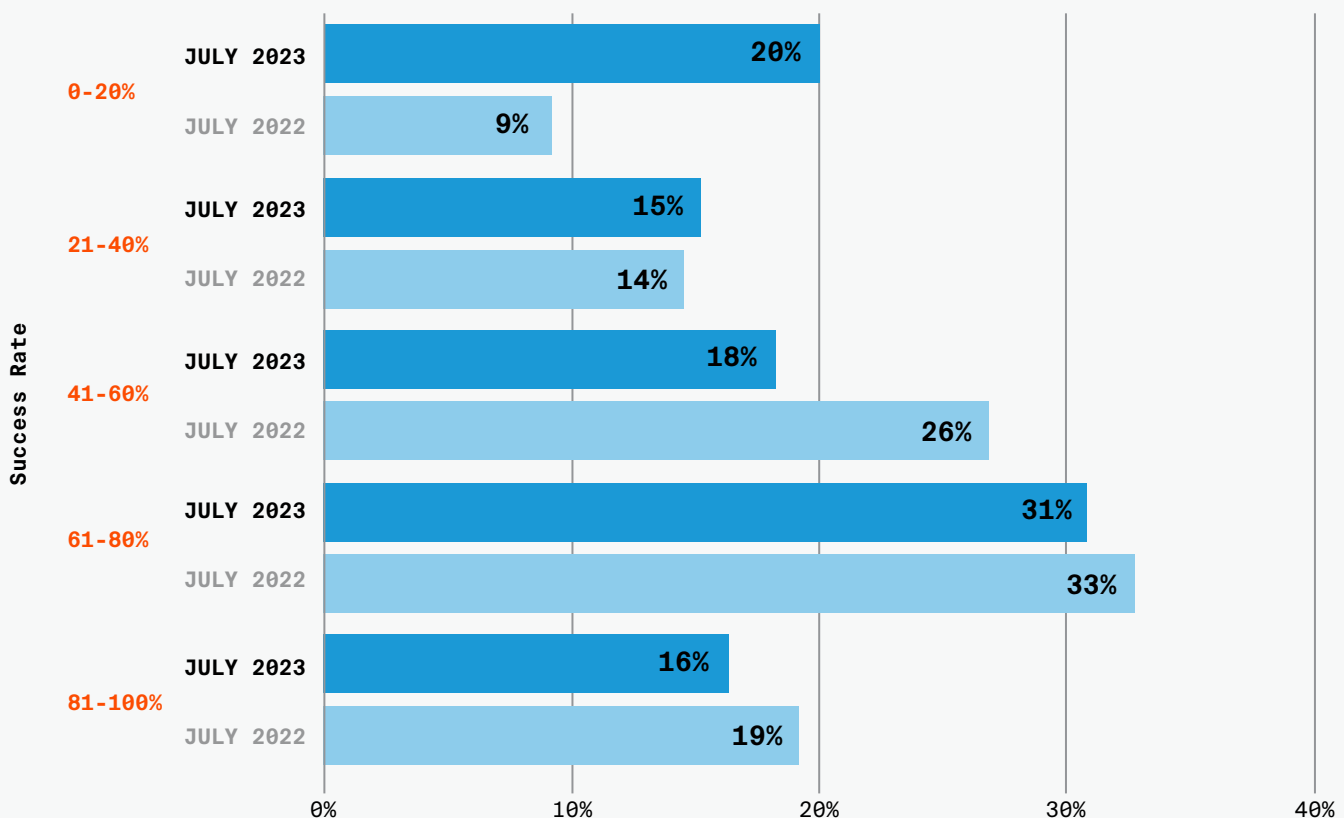
It's a challenging environment to close deals in. We asked advisors about their success rate, the proportion of transactions they start working on that eventually close. The median response was 60%, down from 66% in January of this year and 70% a year ago.

This quarter, more than one-third of advisors say their success rate is 40% or less. Six months ago, only one-quarter had success rates that low.

The consensus is this is as bad as it's going to get. Only 4% say success rates are going to fall in the next three months. Most say they will be flat, and two-fifths predict more success in the future.

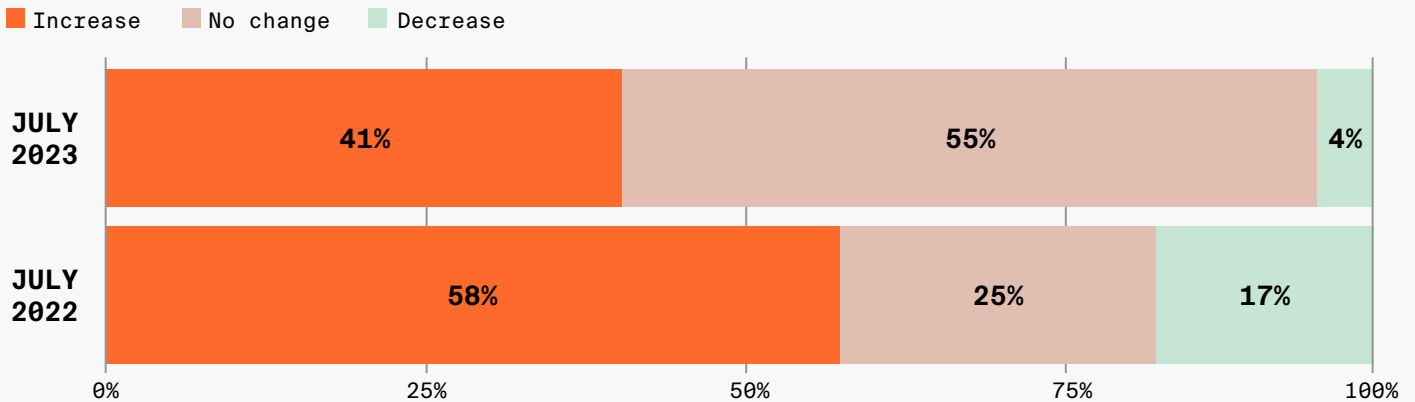
What's the difficulty in getting deals done? The biggest obstacle stems from the high values sellers expect for their businesses. A growing impediment is the difficulty of borrowing money to fund deals. In the survey, 37% of advisors said financing represents a high level of difficulty compared to 15% a year ago.

**As a percentage, what do you estimate your firm's success rate (deals started vs completed) has been over the last quarter?**



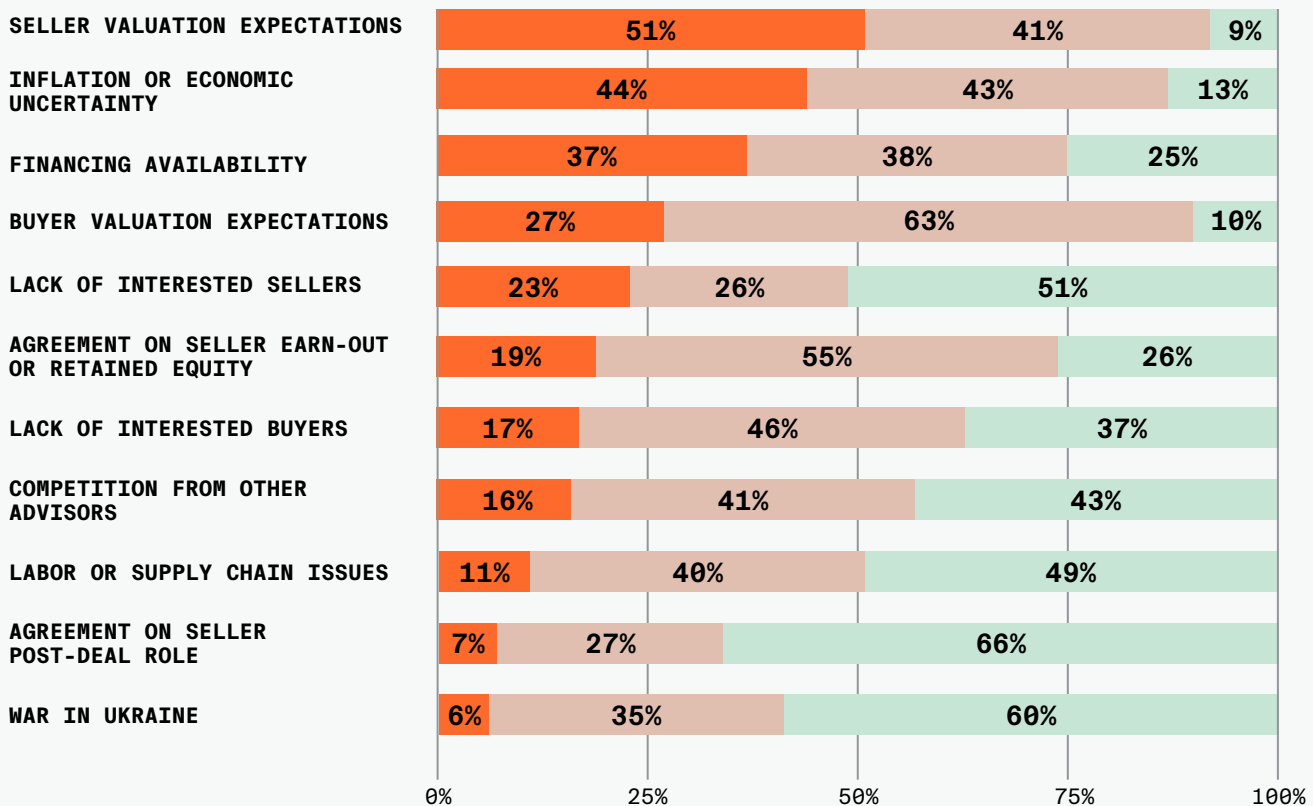
# Success Rates *CONTINUED*

How do you anticipate your firm's success rate to change over the next three months?



How much do these factors increase the difficulty of closing deals in the market currently?

Legend: High Difficulty (Orange), Moderate Difficulty (Tan), Little or no Difficulty (Light Green)



# Business Metrics

For the first time, we asked advisors about how their own business was performing. Slightly more than one third (38%) said their revenue is up from a year ago. Another third said revenue fell. Profitability was split largely the same way.

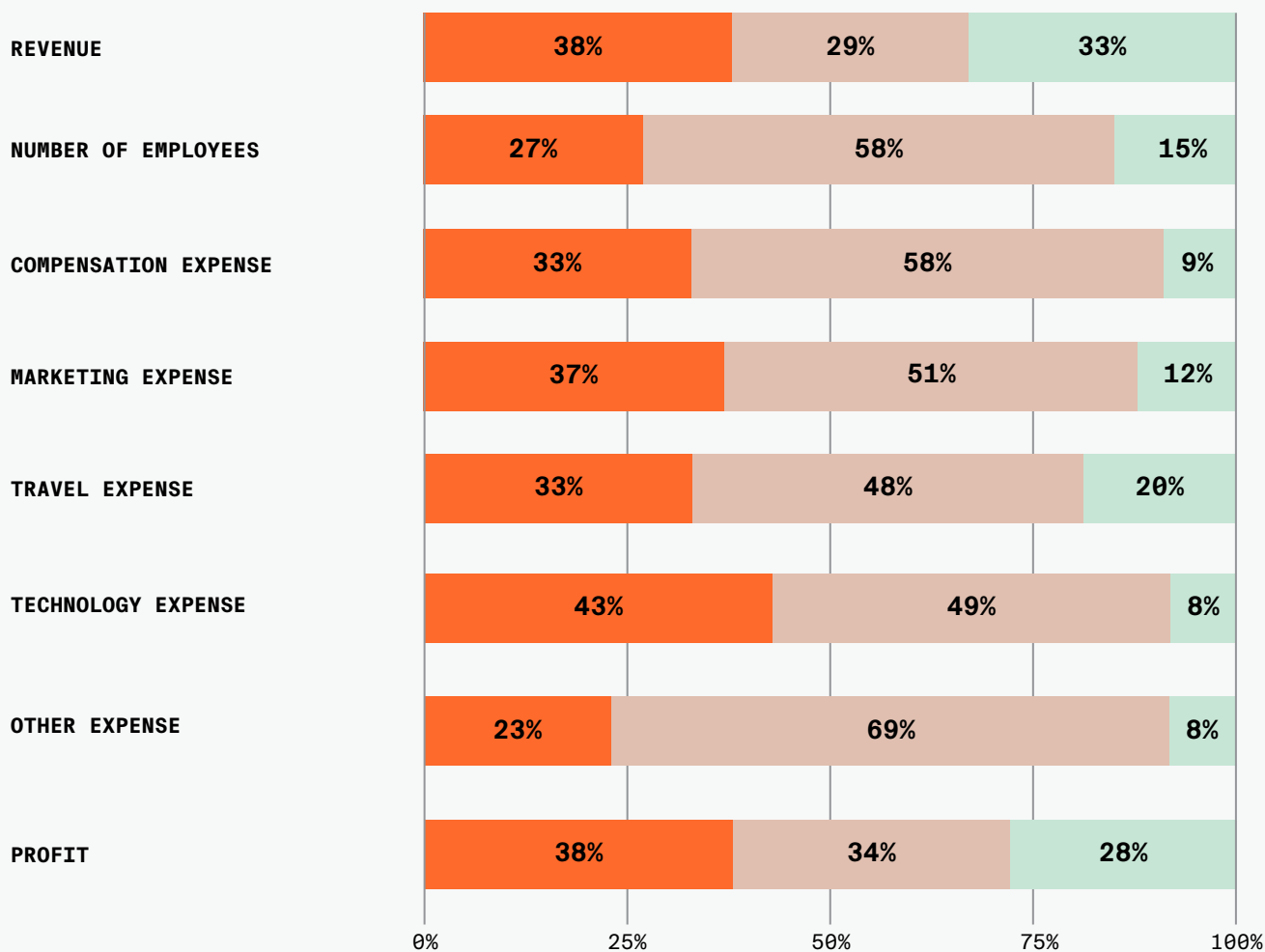
The firms that are experiencing reduced financial performance are largely the ones finding it difficult to complete transactions.

“No close. No income,” quipped a private investment advisor in the United States.

As for expenses, firms were more likely to say they had increased than decreased, but the most common answer for every expense category is that they hadn't changed in a year. Technology expenses was the category advisors were most likely to say increased, followed by marketing. Travel costs were the most likely to be cut.

## Compared to a year ago, how have these business metrics changed at your firm?

■ Increased
 ■ No Change
 ■ Decreased





# Observations

We're being hurt by economic headwinds and diminishing buyer competitiveness.

– **Greg Carpenter, President, Morizon M&A Advisors, California, United States**

It's hard to do business when you can't get a buyer and seller to agree on a valuation.

– **Family office advisor, United States**

We've increased revenue by focusing on deal volume and the diversity of industries covered.

– **Investment banker, United States**

We have been able to identify potential sellers in our target industry and convince them to do deals.

– **Christophe Batan-Lapeyre, Managing Partner, ONIX Associates, Belgium**

We are managing our profitability by focusing on internal systems, processes, and headcount.

– **Investment banker, Saudi Arabia**

# Buyers

The growth of private equity firms as buyers for middle-market companies has stopped, at least for now. For the first time, as many advisors say the buying activity by PE firms is decreasing as say it is increasing (both 25%). Half say there's no change in PE activity.

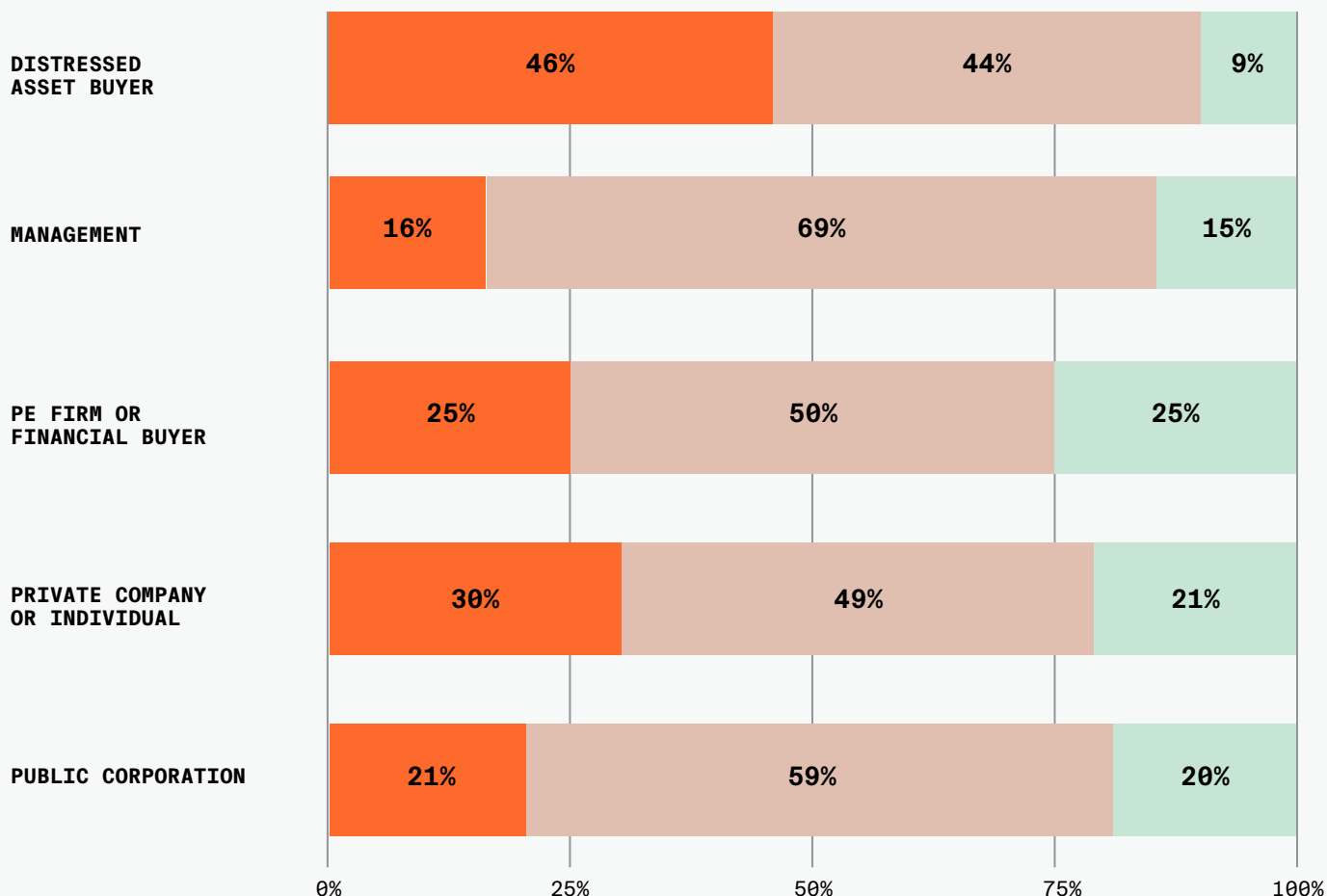
Many advisors said that private equity firms have become very risk-averse and are engaging in a lot of time-consuming due diligence. Some see a change in the type of deals they are doing.

“PE groups are being more cautious, not so much for the platform companies, but for the portfolio add-ons,” said John Mathis, Partner, Harbor View Advisors, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

Distressed asset buyers continue to be increasingly active in the market, although the number of advisors who see more vultures (46%) is down sharply from January (71%). Indeed, across all categories, fewer advisors say buyers are increasing, and more say they are decreasing.

## How is activity changing by these types of buyers?

■ Increasing
 ■ No change
 ■ Decreasing



# Observations

There is more uncertainty among buyers and concern about their ability to raise funding from external sources.

– **Andrew Watkin, Director, Assynt Corporate Finance, Stevenage, England**

There are buyers being aggressive, but they need more equity in their deals.

– **Greg Kells, President, Sunbelt Business Brokers, Ottawa, Ontario**

We see strategic buyers with a clear view of the type of business they want to acquire in terms of region and activity.

– **Christophe Batan-Lapeyre, Managing Partner, ONIX Associates, Belgium**

There is much more rigorous due diligence, and fewer buyers are moving forward in the process.

– **Doug Harper, Vice President of Growth Development, AccentCare, Dallas, Texas**

Buyers are trying to minimize or mitigate the FX, Interest rate, and Country risks as much as they can.

– **Ahmed El-Badawy Diab, Managing Director, Ostoul Capital Group, Cairo, Egypt**

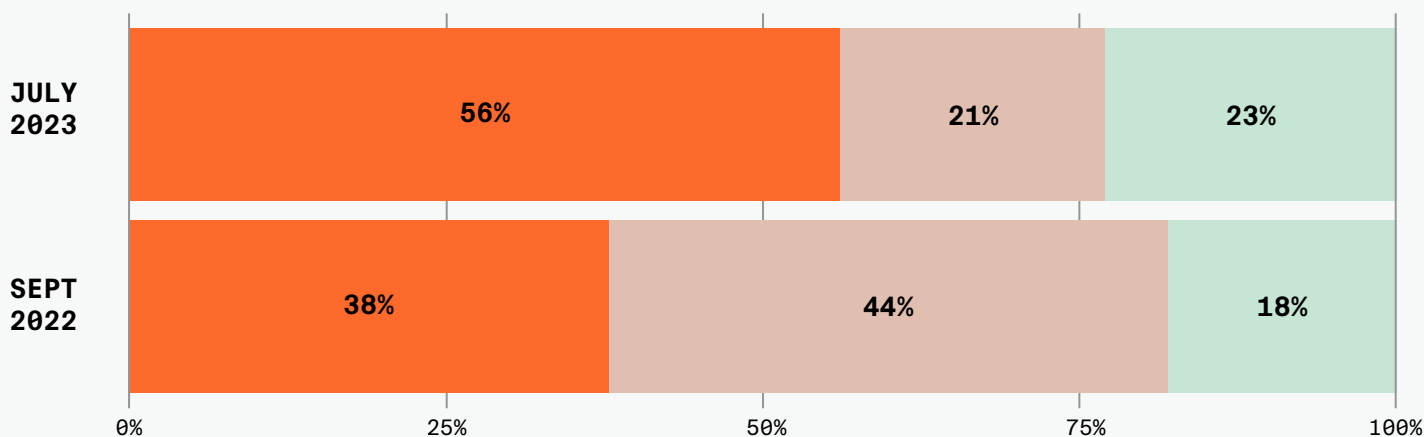
# Sellers

Despite lower valuations, a majority of advisors (56%) say they expect the number of sellers in the market to increase over the next three months. When we asked this question in September 2022, only 38% were expecting more sellers. Interestingly the number of advisors who think there will be fewer sellers increased to 23% from 18%.

As for types of companies, those owned by local investors were cited most frequently as increasing in frequency.

## How is the number of active sellers in the market changing?

Increasing No change Decreasing



## Observations

Some sellers are working to prepare companies for sale. They are addressing their earnings, EBITDA, staffing, and other issues that buyers will scrutinize.

– *Doug Harper, Vice President of Growth Development, AccentCare, Dallas, Texas*

Sellers are accepting lower valuation and more flexible terms (e.g., seller notes) to get deals done.

– *John Mathis, Partner, Harbor View Advisors, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida*

Lower quality sellers are emerging.

– *Jeff Brown, Managing Partner, NAVANT Partners, Houston, Texas*

More companies are motivated to sell due to the economic and political climate.

– *Jim Kniffen, President, Gulfstream Mergers & Acquisitions, Cornelius, North Carolina*

We're seeing more realistic expectations on valuation among sellers.

– *Michael Schuster, Managing Director, Cross Keys Capital, Fort Lauderdale, Florida*

# Industries

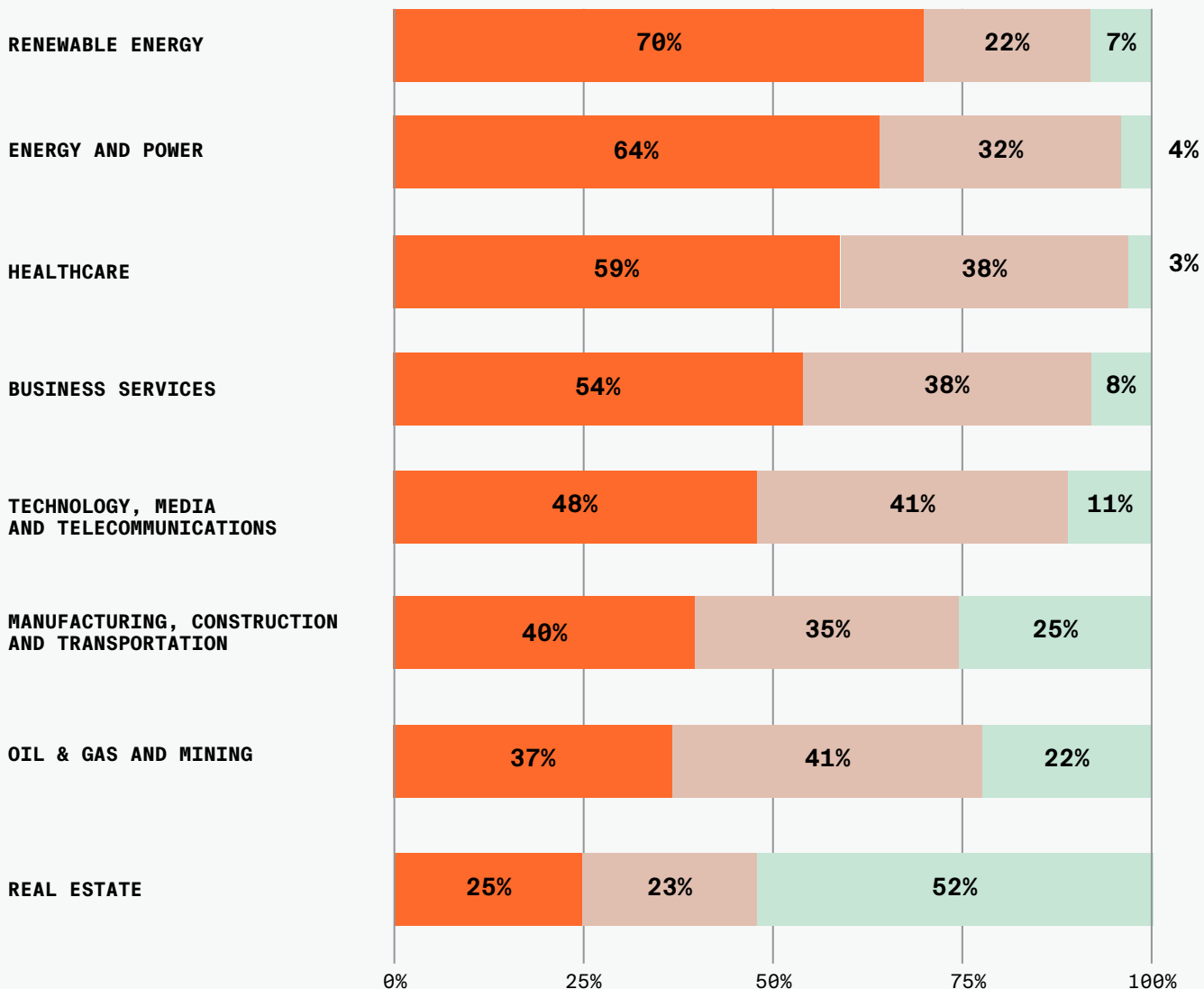
Renewable energy is hot. Real estate is not.

Those are the extremes of the industry groups we asked advisors about. Compared to a year ago, however, the minority of advisors who are seeing an increase in real estate deals (25%) was a bit larger than it was a year ago (18%).

The biggest change was among business services companies. In the recent survey, 54% of advisors say they are seeing more of them, compared to 35% a year ago. Healthcare is also seeing an increase in activity. Despite the well-publicized slowdown in the technology industry, advisors are seeing even more tech deals than they did a year ago.

**How do you see deal volume changing in these sectors over the next three months?**

■ Increased
 ■ No Change
 ■ Decreased





# Observations

We see an increase in demand for business services because of employee shortages and owners looking to retire. – **Russ Fergusson, Business Broker, Transworld Business Advisors, Richmond, Virginia**

There is more emphasis on sustainable and growth-type companies. – **Jim Kniffen, President, Gulfstream Mergers & Acquisitions, Cornelius, North Carolina**

Private equity is moving more into defense and technology manufacturers. – **Ron Klammer, President and Managing Director, OEM Capital, Southport, Connecticut**

Oil and gas deals are increasing as the oil price is expected to be stable for the next two years. – **Todd Cummiskey, Managing Director, Vercor Advisors, Charlotte, North Carolina**

Prime manufacturers are driving for consolidation in their supply chains. – **Brian McCann, Partner, ONEtoONE Corporate Finance, Manchester, England**

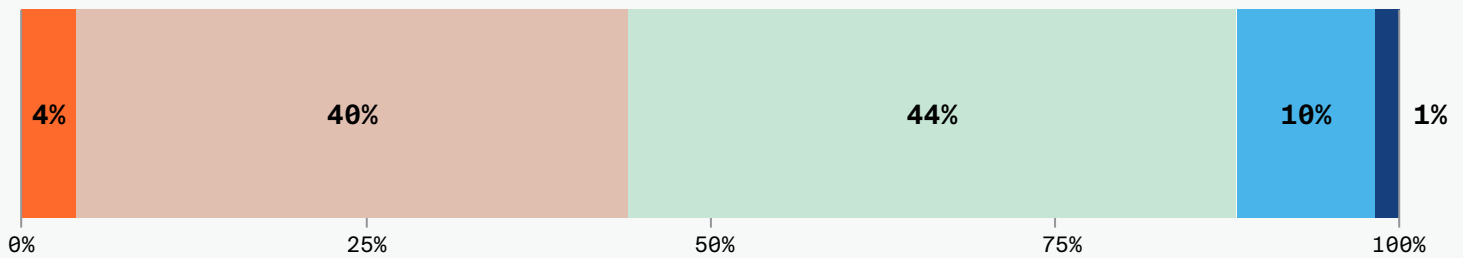
# Overall Mood

The advisors were as cautious as they have been in the three years we have been conducting this survey. This was the first time that neutral was the most frequent answer (44%) when we asked them to rate their feeling about the M&A market over the next three months, using a scale from very positive to very negative. It's also the first time that the number of advisors who said they are very positive (4%) was under 10%.

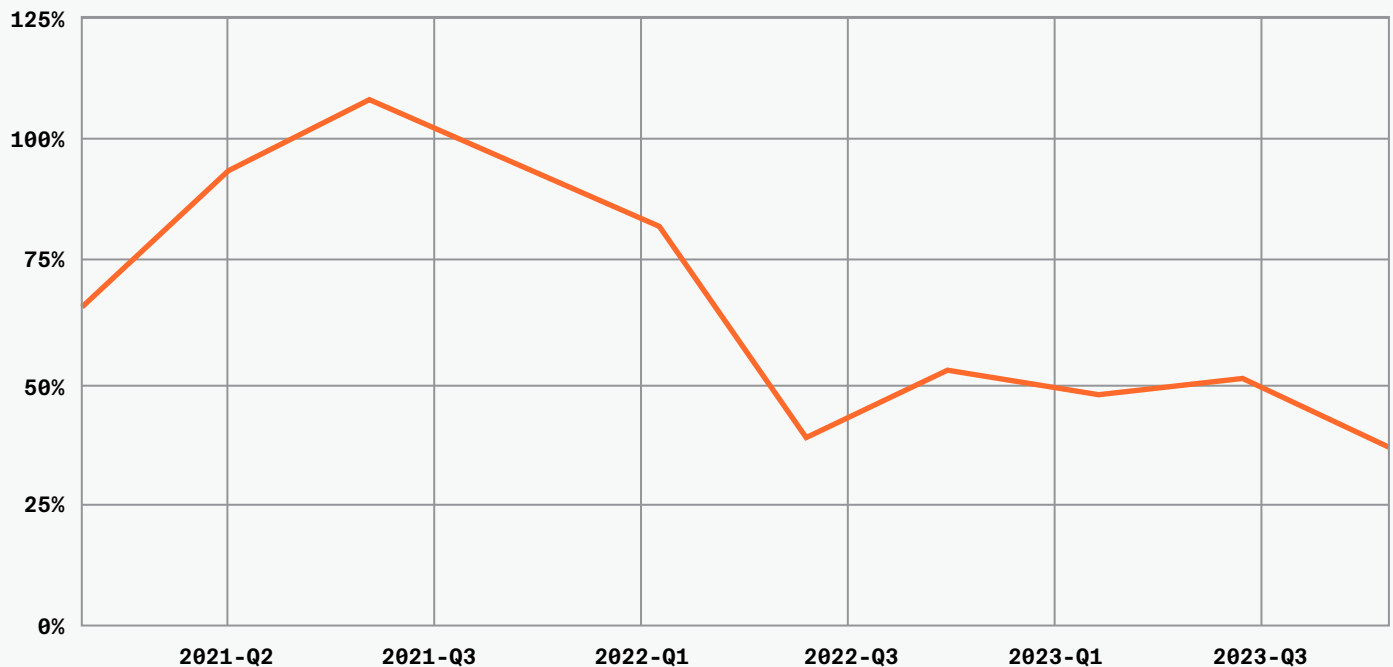
Still, middle-market merger advisors are hard to beat down. Despite all the challenges they are facing, only 11% express negative feelings heading into the next quarter.

## As a whole, how are you feeling about the M&A market over the next three months?

Very positive Positive Neutral Negative Very negative



## Net Positive Outlook



Net Positive (The number of respondents with a positive outlook less the number with a negative outlook.)

# Observations

I feel the market has already had a pullback in valuations and will remain relatively flat. Interest rates have run their course in terms of valuation erosion. We won't see any further decline in values unless there is a recession. – **Todd Cummiskey, Managing Director, Vercor Advisors, Charlotte, North Carolina**

The market is waiting for positive news from the Federal Reserve and equity markets that will show stability in the economy and encourage investment. – **investment banker, United States**

Confidence has been restored for the mid-term future and is bringing more M&A activity. Supply chains improved significantly and commodity prices stabilized at lower levels (pushing the inflation down). – **Jan Slabý, ECOVIS, Prague, Czechia**

The appetite for strategic acquisitions by international private and listed companies is still there. But the sellers prefer to put the transaction on hold instead of selling at a low price. – **Christophe Batan-Lapeyre, Managing Partner, ONIX Associates, Belgium**

# Conclusions

As you read through this snapshot of middle-market dealmaking halfway through 2023, you might have noticed a bit of an anomaly. Merger advisors are facing strong headwinds. It's harder to get a buyer and seller to agree on terms, and it's harder to get that deal financed.

Yet advisors still say that revenue and profits at their firm are more likely to be up than down. How could that be?

Because these advisors know how to hustle to get business and close deals. Even in good times, they don't get clients because the name of a giant bank is on the door. They earn every mandate.

In our survey, they talked about many ways that they are responding to the current environment with creativity and agility. Many mentioned approaches to marketing.

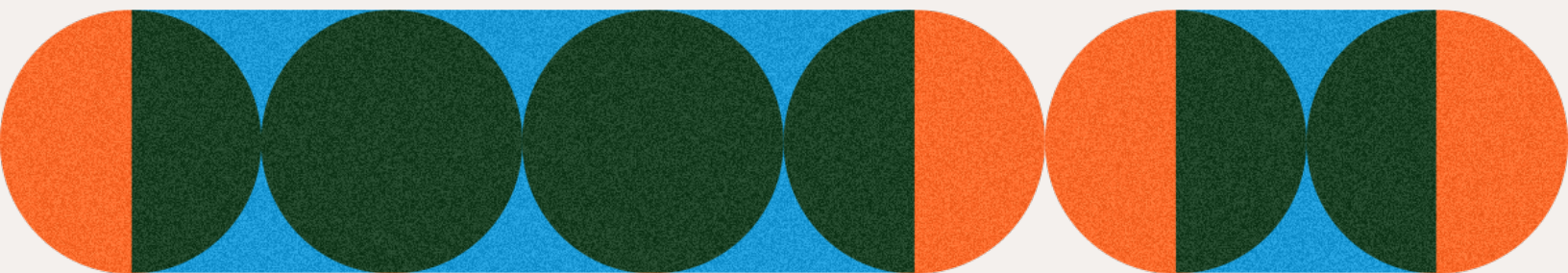
"To maintain deal volume, I'm keeping in contact with my contacts via one-to-ones and email marketing," said Andrew Watkin, Director of Assynt Corporate Finance, in Stevenage, England.

And others talked about finding new ways to structure deals and lining up investors who can replace bank financing.

"Our success rate is increasing because we've focused on the speed of execution and built a strong funder network willing to get deals done," said the head of a Canadian merger advisory firm.

The economy may be uncertain, but the commitment of merger advisors to find opportunities persists.

**Stay up to date on deal flow with our upcoming quarterly bulletins and [subscribe here](#).**



# Appendix: Respondent Demographics

Which of the following best describes your current occupation?

<b>58%</b>	Investment Banker/M&A Advisor
<b>10%</b>	Executive
<b>10%</b>	Business Broker
<b>5%</b>	Lawyer
<b>5%</b>	Investor (Fund Manager, Family Office, etc.)
<b>5%</b>	Corporate/Business Development

Which of the following best describes your job title?

<b>52%</b>	Head of Firm (CEO, Managing Partner)
<b>23%</b>	Executive (Managing Director, Vice President, Partner)
<b>8%</b>	Staff (Associate, Analyst)
<b>7%</b>	Senior Executive (Senior Managing Director, Senior Vice President)
<b>6%</b>	C-Suite (CFO, President, CXO)

Do you specialize in any of the following industries?

<b>48%</b>	Generalist
<b>31%</b>	Business Services
<b>31%</b>	Manufacturing, Construction and Transportation
<b>30%</b>	Technology, Media and Telecommunications
<b>16%</b>	Healthcare
<b>15%</b>	Financial Services
<b>13%</b>	Consumer and Retail
<b>12%</b>	Real Estate
<b>10%</b>	Oil & Gas and Mining
<b>10%</b>	Renewable Energy
<b>7%</b>	Other

# Appendix: Respondent Demographics *CONTINUED*

How many employees does your firm have?

<b>51%</b>	5 or fewer
<b>20%</b>	6-20
<b>7%</b>	21-50
<b>6%</b>	51-100
<b>10%</b>	101-500
<b>6%</b>	501+

What is the size of deals that your firm is typically involved in?

<b>48%</b>	\$0-5 million
<b>49%</b>	\$6-10 million
<b>55%</b>	\$11-25 million
<b>48%</b>	\$26-50 million
<b>26%</b>	\$51-100 million
<b>15%</b>	\$101-200 million
<b>9%</b>	\$201-500 million
<b>0%</b>	\$501+ million

What country do you primarily work in?

<b>60%</b>	North America
<b>22%</b>	Europe
<b>8%</b>	South America
<b>7%</b>	Africa
<b>3%</b>	Asia-Pacific
<b>2%</b>	Middle East

Are your clients:

<b>21%</b>	More on buy-side
<b>53%</b>	More on sell-side
<b>25%</b>	Roughly equally on buy- and sell-side

How many M&A engagements did your firm work on in the most recent year?

<b>53%</b>	5 or fewer
<b>30%</b>	6-10
<b>4%</b>	11-15
<b>13%</b>	16 or more

# About Divestopedia

Divestopedia is a leading resource for all topics related to Middle Market M&A. We provide educational insights and tools to help business owners and intermediaries effectively complete transactions.

For more information, please visit [divestopedia.com](https://divestopedia.com).

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# About Firmex

Firmex is a global provider of virtual data rooms where more deals, diligence, and compliance get done. As one of the world's most widely used virtual data rooms, Firmex supports complex processes for organizations of all sizes, including diligence, compliance, and litigation. Whenever professionals need to share sensitive documents beyond the firewall, Firmex is their trusted partner.

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