

**Macroeconomic Commentary**

Market volatility roared back in Q1 2022 and further increased in early Q2 given multiple concerning developments. Inflation rates at 40-year highs have led to global monetary policy tightening, with the first U.S. interest rate increase in March, a second subsequent 75 basis point increase in June, and further projected for the balance of the year. Moreover, in addition to the tragic loss of life and devastating humanitarian crisis, Russia’s invasion of the Ukraine in late February led to a sharp and ultimately sustained increase in commodity prices, a further impediment to global economic growth. While these developments are alone enough to cause concern, the impact of COVID-19 also continues to linger. Omicron-related lockdowns across China, which seemingly now have eased a bit, exacerbated supply chain concerns for a number of industries. All of these factors led to a 1.5% decline in U.S. GDP in Q1 and temporary inversion of the yield curve, a development which has historically served as a precursor to an economic recession.

Although public markets declined in Q1, with the S&P 500, NASDAQ and MSCI ex-US down 4.9%, 9.1% and 6.0%, respectively, private equity activity, broadly speaking, was less impacted. Fundraising for many of the premier firms across all strategies continued apace, but there are some indications that elevated private equity and venture capital allocations may be impacting some of the less-differentiated firms currently raising capital. Transaction activity for new deals remained at a similar year-over-year pace, while exit activity across U.S. and Europe slowed considerably. Of all sectors, the later stage venture capital segment was most impacted during Q1, in terms of transaction activity and valuations, given the significant market re-rating for that part of the market. Lastly, the secondary market fundraising and transaction volume was more modest during the first quarter, as many investors waited for year-end 2021 valuations and more clarity regarding specific portfolio company performance before executing new secondary investments. Going forward, denominator effect concerns may lead to an increase in LP interest deal flow, which for years has been losing market share to GP-led transactions.

Since the end of Q1, the public equity markets have suffered considerable declines, while inflationary pressures have remained persistent. While Q1 private valuations across the venture capital and private equity landscape appeared to remain relatively unchanged since year-end 2021, investors should expect more volatility in interim marks as the public market declines slowly make their way into the private markets.

**U.S. Private Equity**

- U.S. private equity fundraising activity slowed relative to past quarters in Q1 2022; 98 funds closed on approximately \$65 billion during the quarter, which would put 2022 fundraising below the annualized paces seen in 2019-2021
- New private equity investment activity actually increased YoY, with 2,166 deals worth ~\$331 billion in valued transacted during Q1 2022
  - Subsequent transaction activity has slowed considerably given many of the aforementioned macro-economic concerns

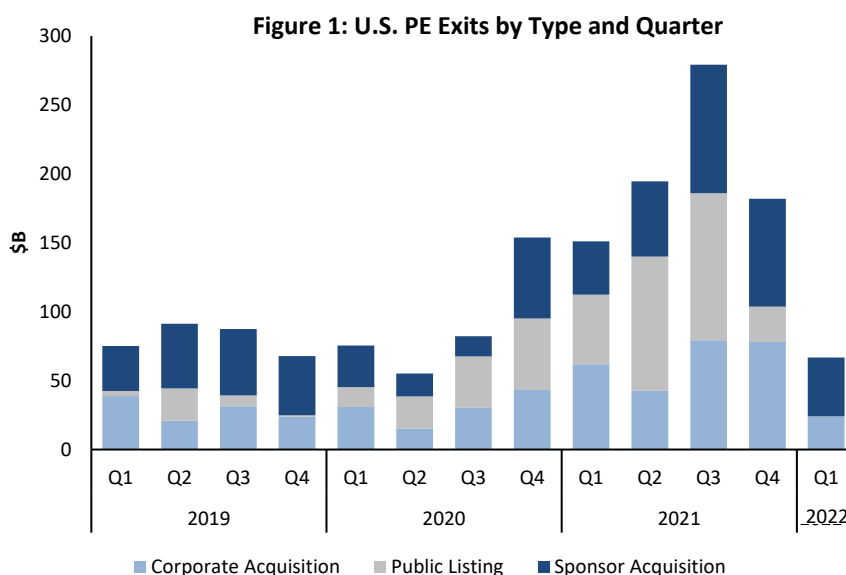


Figure 1 Data Source: PitchBook's Q1 2022 US PE Breakdown

- For deals that did transact in Q1, median EV/EBITDA multiples actually increased versus the full year 2021, signifying high-quality assets continue to attract premium pricing
- In contrast, private equity-backed exit activity during Q1 was limited relative to recent quarters
  - After a record-breaking 2021, 276 private equity-backed companies with a combined value of \$90 billion were exited during Q1, declines of 57% and 58%, respectively, from Q4 2021

**European Private Equity**

- Q1 2021 European private equity fundraising activity was essentially flat YoY, as 23 funds closed on nearly €21 billion
  - The average amount raised per fund continued to increase, with funds raised in Q1 2022 up almost 50% when compared to the average fund size raised in 2021
- 1,978 European investments totaling €241 billion of value closed in Q1 2022, YoY increases of 9% and 35%, respectively
- Similar to the U.S., European PE exit activity was more subdued in Q1, as 338 liquidity events totaling €75 billion of value transacted during the quarter, representing YoY declines of 2% and 32%, respectively

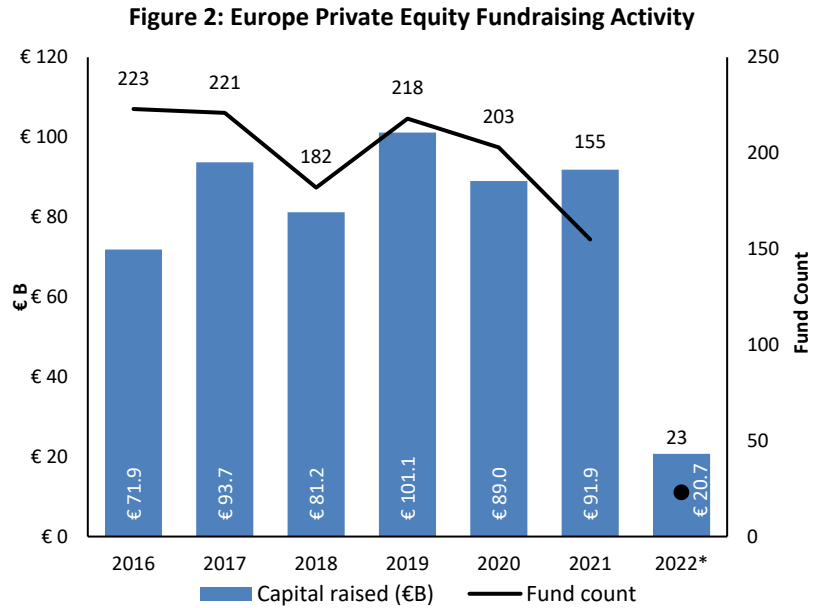


Figure 2 Data Source: PitchBook's Q1 2022 European PE Breakdown. \*As of 3/31/2022

- It is notable that Q1 2021 was a near record quarter, second to only Q4 2021 over the recent past; despite the YoY decline, Q1 2022 activity still remained greater than every quarter from 2017 to 2020

**Venture Capital and Growth Equity**

- Venture capital and growth equity fundraising remained robust despite the broader market challenges and general level of uncertainty
  - In Q1, 199 U.S. venture capital funds closed on approximately \$74 billion, which represented 56% of the total amount raised in 2021, itself a record year for the industry.
- Venture capitalists invested \$71 billion in 3,723 deals in Q1, which was comparable to investment activity in Q1 2021. Late stage activity totalled \$44 billion of that amount, which while a meaningful share of the total invested, represented an amount well below the pace seen in 2021

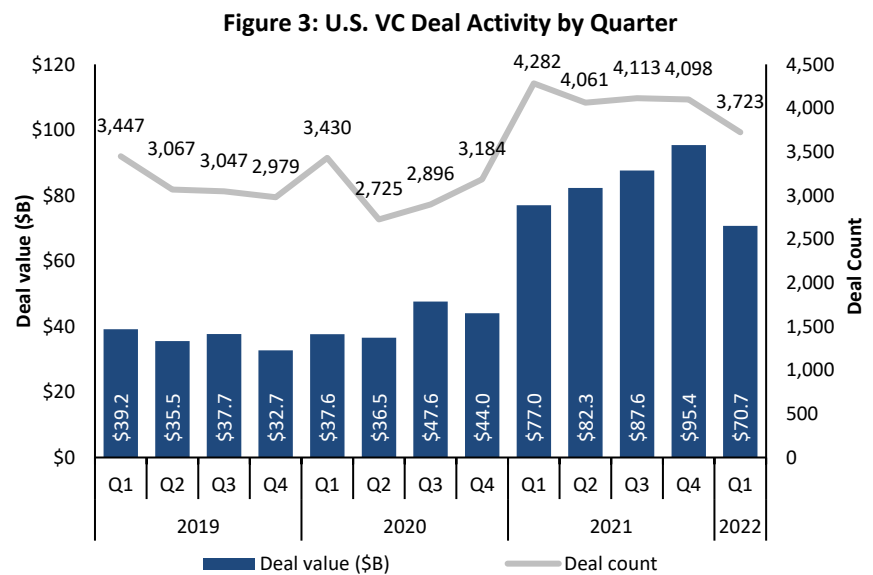


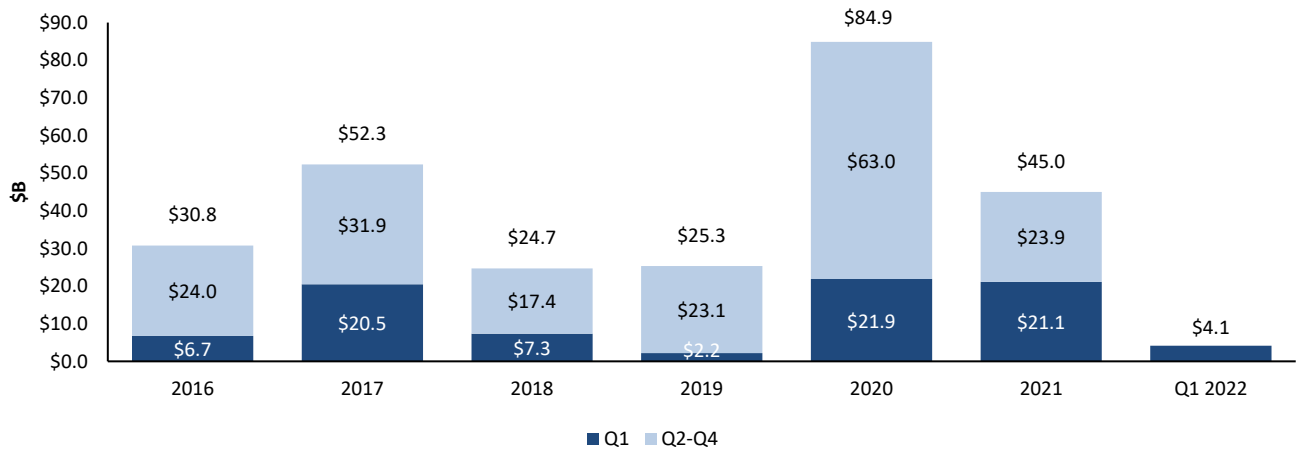
Figure 3 Data Source: Q1 2022 PitchBook-NVCA Venture Monitor (includes estimated deal count)

- The amount of dry powder in the venture capital ecosystem was estimated at \$230 billion at YE 2021, which may provide a backstop to prevent a prolonged and material decline in investment activity
- Exit conditions changed markedly in Q1, with rising interest rates and public market volatility negatively affecting demand for high-growth technology companies
  - The IPO markets effectively closed for venture-backed companies in Q1 2022 and conditions have worsened subsequent to quarter end. Only 28 VC-backed companies went public in Q1, the fewest in any quarter since Q1 2020

**Secondaries**

- Secondary fundraising slowed in Q1 2022, with \$4.1 billion in aggregate capital raised globally
  - YoY this represented a stark decline of 80%, although that is less relevant given the absence of mega funds seeking to raise capital
  - GP-led deals comprised slightly over 50% of secondary market volume in 2021 and are projected to represent a similar, if not larger proportion of the market in 2022.

**Figure 4: Aggregate Capital of Secondary Funds Raised**



*Figure 4 Data Source: Preqin historical fundraising data for secondaries and direct secondaries funds. Downloaded 6/21/2022. Data based on total fund size at final close.*

### **SOURCES CONSULTED**

With respect to macroeconomic commentary, material sourced through: <https://www.bea.gov/data/gdp/gross-domestic-product>. WSJ, Markets Digest, January 3, 2022

With respect to private equity information, material sourced through: PitchBook's Q1 2022 US PE Breakdown and PitchBook's Q1 2022 European PE Breakdown.

With respect to venture capital information, material sourced through: Q1 2022 PitchBook-NVCA Venture Monitor.

With respect to secondary investment information, material sourced through: Preqin and Private Equity International – GP-Led Secondaries, March 2022.

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