



# GPP DEALMAKERS SURVEY 2026

Gladstone Place Partners conducted its annual survey of dealmakers from January 30 to March 2. †  
Nearly 100 respondents shared their sentiment about the 2026 M&A market. Here's what we found:

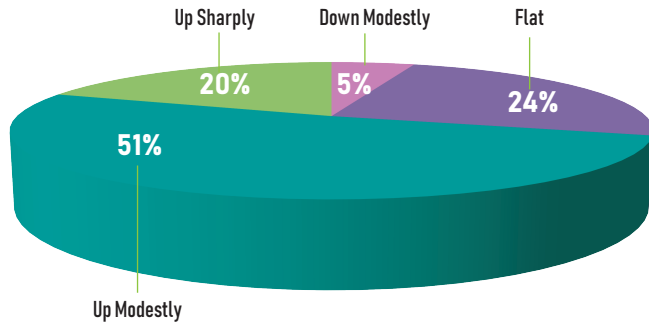
The vast majority of respondents are optimistic. 51% believe M&A will be "up modestly" and 20% believe M&A will be "up sharply."

Dealmakers believe private equity will drive M&A in 2026, along with horizontal and vertical integration.

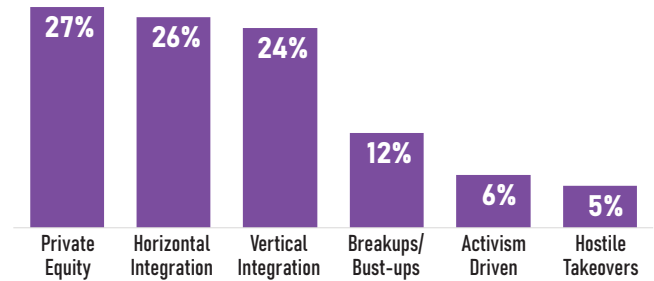
Consistent with last year's predictions, technology and healthcare are industries most ripe for M&A.

M&A demands are expected to be the most prominent trend during the 2026 proxy season.

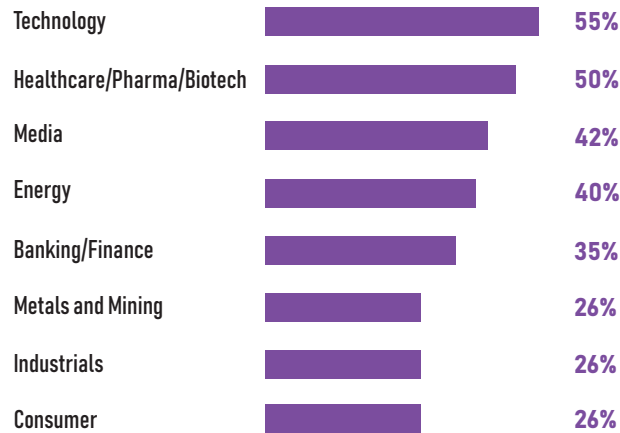
## 1 What is your expectation for the M&A market in 2026 compared to 2025?



## 2 What kinds of deals will drive M&A in 2026?



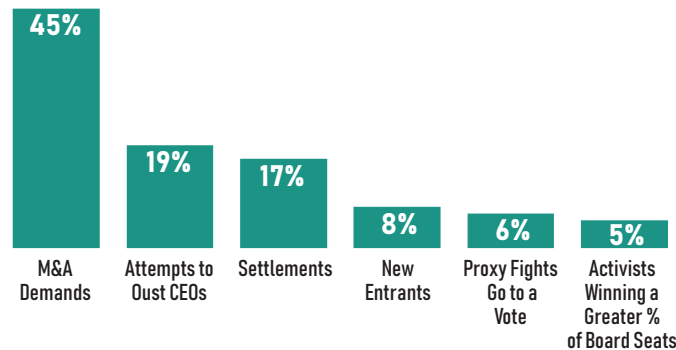
## 3 What industries are ripe for M&A activity in 2026?\*



## 4 What macro factors will have the most significant impact on dealmaking activity for 2026?\*



## 5 What will be the most prominent activism trend during the 2026 proxy season?



\* Respondents were allowed to select multiple answers.

† The survey launched before the start of the Iran war.

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