# OPTIS PARTNERS

Agent & Broker
Merger & Acquisition Update

1st Quarter 2022

# Table of Contents 1st Quarter 2022 Agent M&A Report

| OPTIS Partners View           | Page | 3  |
|-------------------------------|------|----|
| Summary Information           | Page | 5  |
| Most Active Buyers            | Page | 9  |
| Totals by Buyer / Seller Type | Page | 11 |
| Significant Transactions      | Page | 14 |

#### **OPTIS Partners View**

## **Observations & Comments**

OPTIS Partners has provided M&A reports since 2012. Since that time, our reports have been focused on North American acquisitions of businesses directly involved in the placement of property-casualty and employee benefits insurance (both retail and wholesale) as well as third-party claims administrators.

The industry has evolved in countless ways since 2012, and we don't see that changing any time soon. One of the ways it has changed is the appetite of many buyers that go beyond P&C and employee benefits agency and broker activities. We are seeing an increasing number of buyers completing transactions in life insurance, financial services/wealth management, Medicare agencies, title insurance, various consulting businesses, PEOs, insuretech ventures, and more.

Starting Q1 '22, we are expanding the range of buyers to include North American acquisitions of these businesses. We will categorize these segments and provide commentary when it is meaningful.



#### **OPTIS Partners View**

## **Observations & Comments**

- ▶ It's common to see first quarter M&A transactions fall significantly from the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the prior year as inventory shrinks and deal teams take a pause. Q1 '22 was no different. Total deal activity in this past quarter fell 14% to 149 recorded transactions, 14% below Q1 '21 and 7% below the 5-year average. This is the lowest 1<sup>st</sup> quarter volume since 2016.
- When we adjust for the 26 life/financial services, consulting, and other types of sellers from the Q1 '22 count, there were a net 123 transactions. This represents a 17% decline in transactions using our past reporting criteria (P&C, Employee Benefits, TPAs).
- Announced deals from the 10 most active acquirers over the last 5 years was a mixed bag. Acrisure and Hub recorded the most transactions in Q1 '22, and they at least kept pace with same results in the prior year. At the other end of the spectrum, AssuredPartners and Alera announced no transactions in Q1 '22, and OneDigital announced just one.
- History would tell us that activity in the remainder of 2022 will likely rise, and conversations with a number of buyers shows that will be true as many are reporting double digit number of LOIs in hand going into the Q2.



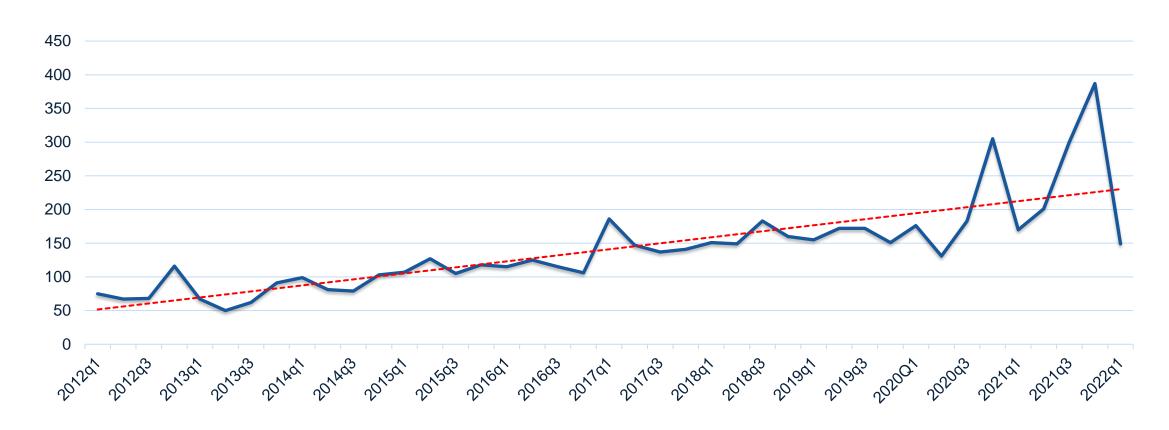
### **OPTIS Partners View**

## Highlights of 2022 Q1 M&A Activity

- > 149 transactions in Q1 2022, down from 173 in Q1 2021
- Acrisure led all buyers with 14 transactions in Q1 2022, up nearly 50% from the 9 they did in the same period of 2021
- > Following were Hub (12), Inszone (10), and High Street Partners (9)
- Private Equity-Backed / Hybrid ("PE/Hybrid") continues to be the leading force in M&A activity as they accounted for 70% of all announced transactions in Q1 2022 (65% in 2021) and 78% over all transactions in the trailing 12-months ended March 2022
- There was just one large agency transaction that was reported in Q1 '22 with Baldwin Risk Partners purchase of Westwood Insurance Agency (\$82 million revenue)
- There was one announced investment from private equity investors in the insurance agency/brokerage as Peloton Risk Advisors made a significant minority investment in Unison, the combined business of Oswald Companies and RCMD

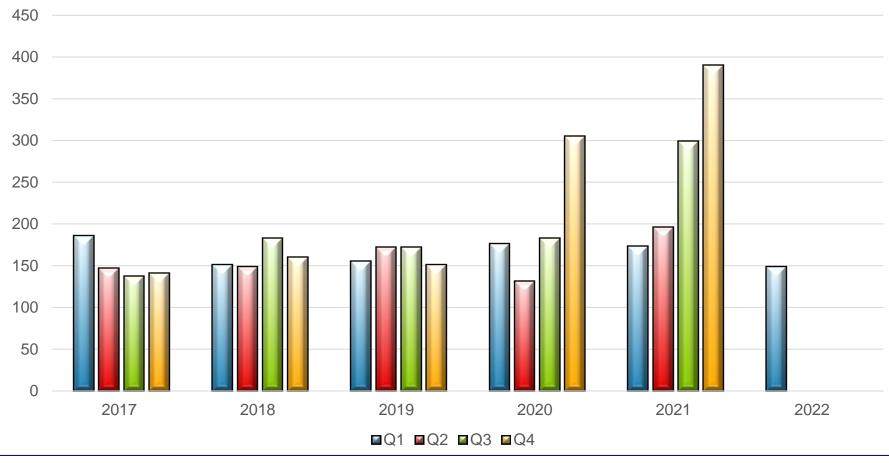


## Quarterly M&A Activity

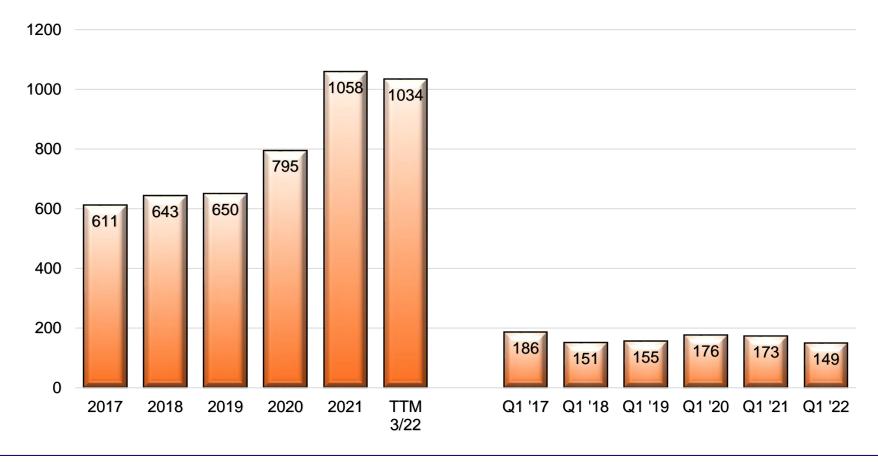




# Quarterly M&A Activity



## Agency Acquisitions By Year and Quarter





# Active Acquirers With 5 or More Deals in Q1 2022

| Buyer by Type               | Ownership   | Q1-2018 | Q1-2019 | Q1-2020 | Q1-2021 | Q1-2022 |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Acrisure                    | PE / Hybrid | 29      | 17      | 18      | 9       | 14      |
| Hub International           | PE / Hybrid | 13      | 12      | 17      | 12      | 12      |
| Inszone Insurance Services  | PE / Hybrid |         |         | 4       | 2       | 10      |
| High Street Partners        | PE / Hybrid |         |         |         | 4       | 9       |
| Integrity Marketing Group   | PE / Hybrid | 1       | 1       |         |         | 7       |
| PCF                         | PE / Hybrid | 0       | 0       | 9       | 8       | 6       |
| World Insurance Associates  | PE / Hybrid | 3       | 5       | 4       | 6       | 5       |
| Alkeme Holdings             | PE / Hybrid |         |         |         |         | 5       |
| Broadstreet Partners        | PE / Hybrid | 7       | 9       | 16      | 12      | 5       |
| Westland Insurance Group    | PE / Hybrid | 3       |         | 1       | 5       | 5       |
| Higginbotham & Assoc        | PE / Hybrid | 1       |         | 1       | 3       | 5       |
| Alliant Insurance Services  | PE / Hybrid | 1       | 1       | 1       | 7       | 5       |
| All Other                   |             | 93      | 110     | 105     | 99      | 61      |
| Total Reported Transactions |             | 151     | 155     | 176     | 150     | 149     |



## **Most Active Buyers**

## Buyers With 20 or More Deals in Past 12 Months

| Buyer by Type              | Ownership   | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | TTM 3/22 |
|----------------------------|-------------|------|------|------|------|----------|
| Acrisure                   | PE / Hybrid | 101  | 98   | 108  | 122  | 127      |
| PCF Insurance              | PE / Hybrid | 4    | 6    | 36   | 99   | 93       |
| High Street Partners       | PE / Hybrid | 1    | 3    | 9    | 71   | 76       |
| Hub International          | PE / Hybrid | 59   | 51   | 65   | 61   | 60       |
| World Insurance Associates | PE / Hybrid | 9    | 18   | 42   | 50   | 49       |
| AssuredPartners            | PE / Hybrid | 38   | 44   | 38   | 52   | 41       |
| Alera                      | PE / Hybrid | 28   | 24   | 18   | 45   | 40       |
| Broadstreet Partners       | PE / Hybrid | 34   | 34   | 58   | 45   | 38       |
| Patriot Growth Services    | PE / Hybrid |      | 25   | 21   | 31   | 31       |
| Relation Insurance         | PE / Hybrid |      | 6    | 11   | 33   | 31       |



## **Most Active Buyers**

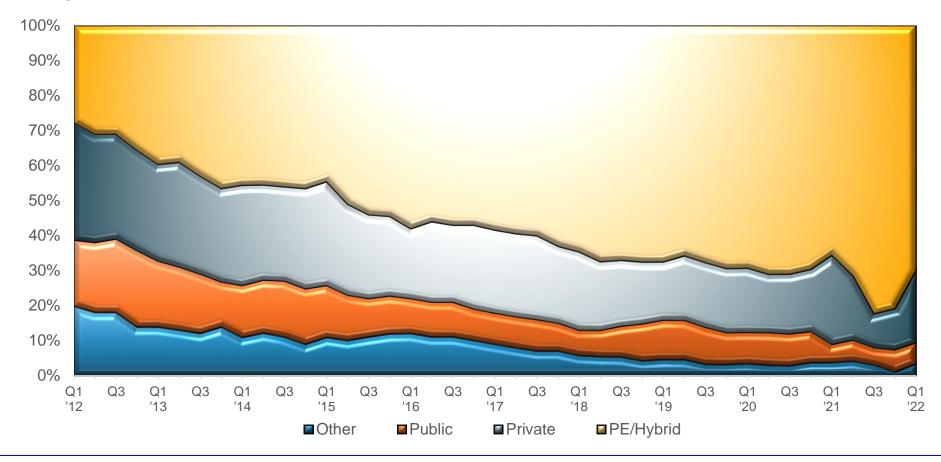
# Buyers With 20 or More Deals in Past 12 Months (continued)

| Buyer by Type               | Ownership   | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021  | TTM 3/22 |
|-----------------------------|-------------|------|------|------|-------|----------|
| Gallagher                   | Public      | 36   | 34   | 23   | 25    | 25       |
| Risk Strategies             | PE / Hybrid | 10   | 22   | 18   | 24    | 22       |
| The Hilb Group              | PE / Hybrid | 12   | 25   | 22   | 25    | 22       |
| Alliant Insurance Services  | PE / Hybrid | 7    | 7    | 6    | 22    | 20       |
| Inszone Insurance Services  | PE / Hybrid | 2    | 6    | 10   | 12    | 20       |
| All Other                   |             | 403  | 345  | 418  | 463   | 466      |
| Total Reported Transactions |             | 643  | 650  | 795  | 1,058 | 1,034    |



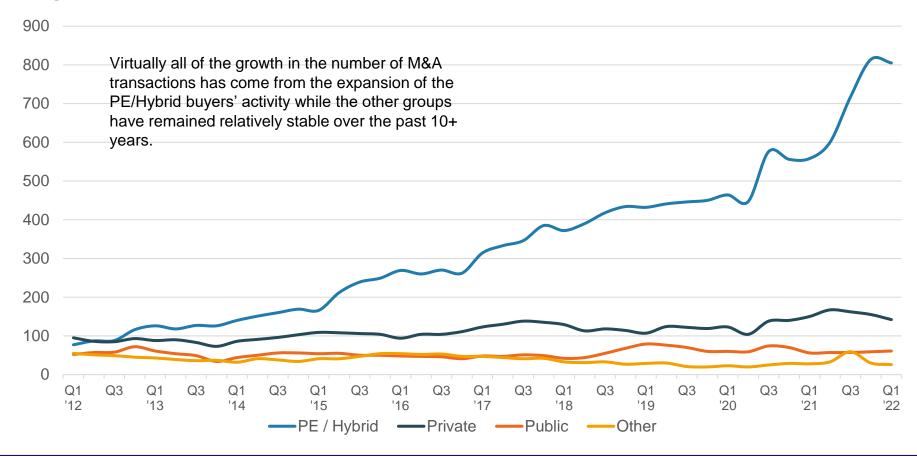
## Totals By Buyer / Seller Type

# Rolling 12-Month Activity by Buyer Type (% Total)



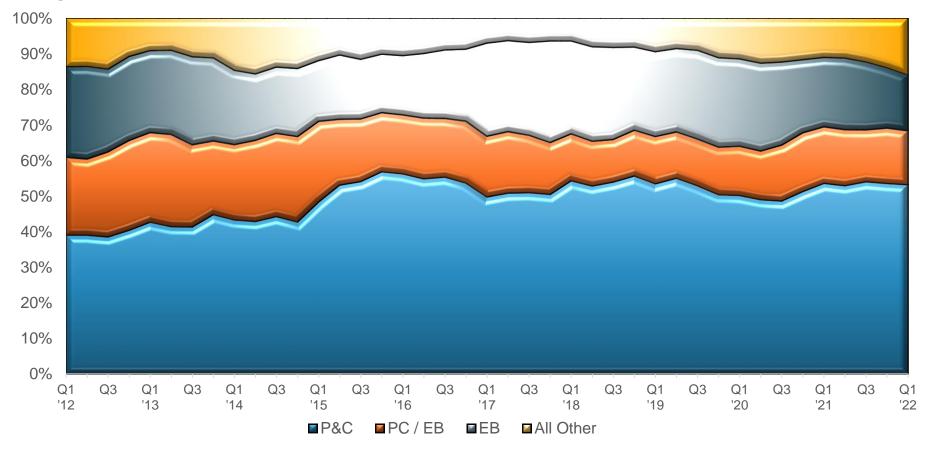
## Totals By Buyer / Seller Type

# Rolling 12-Month # Transaction by Buyer Type



## Totals By Buyer / Seller Type

# Rolling 12-Month Activity by Seller Type (% Total)





## **Significant Transactions**

# Significant Broker Transactions in 2022

| Seller  | Buyer                    | Estimated<br>Revenue | 2020 Business<br>Insurance Rank | Date       |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| Westwood Insurance Agency<br>(West Hills, CA) | Baldwin Risk<br>Partners | \$82M                | Not Ranked                      | March 2021 |



## **Significant Transactions**

# Private Equity Backed Ownership Changes in 2022

| Insurance Agency                        | Lead Buyer / Investor | Description   | Date       |
|---|-----------------------|---|------------|
| Unison (Oswald/RCMD)<br>(Cleveland, OH) | Peloton Risk Advisors | Significant Minority Interest;<br>Management Retains Majority | March 2022 |





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