

Private Equity Insights

TWENTY-SIXTH EDITION | Q2 2022

CURRENT QUARTER PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

The State Street® Private Equity Index (SSPEI) posted an overall return of -4.71% in Q2 2022, a sharp decrease continued from the -0.64% in Q1 2022. Quarterly returns for Private Debt and Buyout also turned into negative territory in Q2 2022. But Private Debt continued to lead the group with -1.99% return, followed by -3.22% return from Buyout funds and -9.83% return from Venture Capital funds (see Exhibit 1).

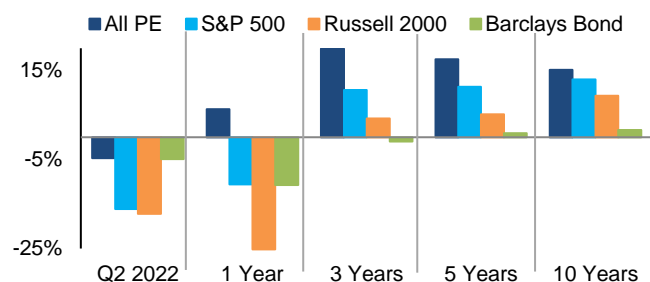
Exhibit 1. Private Equity Performance by Strategy

	All PE	Buyout	VC	Private Debt
2022 Q2	-4.71%	-3.22%	-9.83%	-1.99%
2022 Q1	-0.64%	0.53%	-4.40%	1.21%
YTD	-5.31%	-2.63%	-13.94%	-0.70%

Source: State Street®, as of Q2 2022.

SSPEI outperformed the US bond market (proxied by Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregated Bond Index), small-cap stocks (proxied by Russell 2000), and the US public equity market (proxied by S&P 500) at all horizons (See Exhibit 2). PE market yielded a close quarterly return to that of the US bond market, and outran the small-cap stocks and the US public equity market, which posted -17.2% and -16.1% returns respectively.

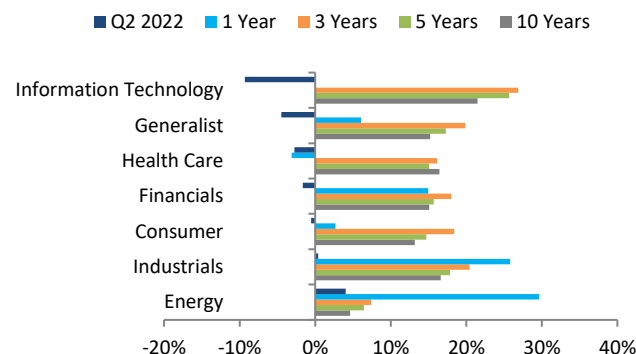
Exhibit 2. Investment Horizon Returns



Source: State Street®, DataStream, Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index (total returns as of Q2 2022).

Energy funds held their lead among the sectors for the second quarter in a row with a strong quarterly return of 4.02%, followed by Industrials funds with a quarterly return of 0.40% and Consumer funds with a quarterly return of -0.52%. Information Technology funds experienced worse returns and continued to lag behind other sectors with -9.28% in Q2 2022 (see Exhibit 3).

Exhibit 3. Returns of Sector Focused Private Equity Funds



Source: State Street®, as of Q2 2022.

Fund Raising and Dry Powder

The total capital raised in the first half of 2022 was \$206 billion, signaling a downturn in fund raising activities. In the first half of 2022, Buyout and Venture Capital funds raised \$136 billion and \$45.29 billion respectively. Private Debt funds raised \$24.47 billion, a faster slowdown from 2021 than those experienced by other strategies. Across regions, in the first half of 2022, the US and Rest of World funds raised \$160.41 billion and \$41.13 billion respectively. For Europe-focused funds, total fund size was only \$4.11 billion in the first half of 2022 (see Exhibit 6(B)).

Continued on page 5.

THE ENGAGEMENT OF PRIVATE EQUITY WITH EMPLOYEES OF PORTFOLIO COMPANIES

Insights from Harvard University and the Private Capital Research Institute¹

By Leslie Jeng, Josh Lerner



The Essential Challenge

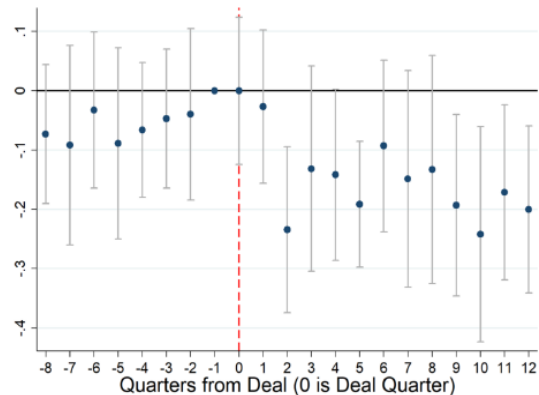
Concerns about inequality in the American economy have grown ever more substantial over the years. Often, discussions of this issue are linked to those about the “financialization” of the economy—worries that financial transactions can enrich the few while detrimentally affecting many others.

In 2021, according to Federal Reserve data, the wealthiest 10% of Americans held \$36 trillion in stocks and mutual funds, an increase of more than 21 times since 1989. In contrast, the bottom 50% held a mere \$260 billion, an increase of only 12 times over the same period.² This wealth disparity has drawn much attention to the relationship between private equity (PE) investors and the employees of the companies they own. Many perceive private equity investors as enriching themselves and senior management of their portfolio companies at the expense of lower-level employees (“making millionaires” rather than creating jobs).

At least some data seem to confirm this. At a high level, a recent study³ finds that after controlling for mergers and acquisitions, job losses are higher for PE-backed firms. In addition, the study also finds that even though there is about an annual one percentage point gain in productivity in buyouts (this is substantial as most buyouts are in mature industries), wages seem to fall after buyouts. Lastly, in Exhibit 4, a study by Sabrina Howell and her colleagues⁴ shows that employee

satisfaction with compensation declines in high-leveraged buyout transactions. Given these data, it is natural to wonder whether private equity is good or bad for society.

Exhibit 4. Effect of High leverage LBOs on Compensation Satisfaction



Closing the Gap

To further understand the nature of the relationship between private equity and employees, Howell and her co-authors study how the performance of private equity investments affects employee perceptions of job quality, which includes compensation and non-pecuniary amenities such as job satisfaction and work-life balance.⁵ In Exhibit 5 below, the authors show that there are benefits to job satisfaction when an LBO is successful, which is consistent with rent sharing. The top graph shows a positive correlation between satisfaction with compensation that employees experience and the total value to paid-in multiple (TVM) of the transaction. In the bottom two graphs, the authors show that this satisfaction is primarily driven by a marked increase in variable pay rather than base pay. They also find that a 10% higher deal IRR maps to approximately a 7% increase in incentive pay. Thus, providing equity ownership opportunities to employees of LBOs could help align interests further and increase overall job satisfaction.

¹ In this session, held on September 14, 2022, the Private Capital Research Institute explored these issues. The panelists included: Sabrina Howell, Associate Professor of Finance, NYU Stern School of Business; Andrew Stern, International President and President Emeritus, Service Employee International Union (SEIU), and Senior Fellow, Economic Security Project; Greg Jania, Global Co-head of Private Equity, APG Asset Management; and Peter Stavros, Co-Head of US Private Equity, KKR and Founder and Chairman, Ownership Works. Josh Lerner from the Harvard Business School and Private Capital Research Institute was the moderator.

² Miriam Gottfried, “Private Equity Giants Back New Nonprofit Promoting Employee Ownership,” *Wall Street Journal*, April 5, 2022, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/private-equity-giants-back-new-nonprofit-promoting-employee-ownership-11649151000>.

³ Steven J. Davis, John Haltiwanger, Kyle Handley, Ben Lipsius, Josh Lerner, and Javier Miranda, “The (Heterogenous) Economic Effects of Private Equity Buyouts,” Working Paper, 2019, https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3465723.

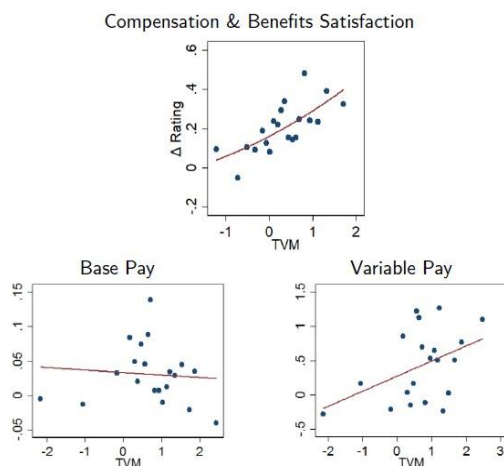
⁴ Will Gornall, Oleg Gredil, Sabrina Howell, Xing Liu, and Jason Sockin, “Do Employees Cheer for Private Equity? The Heterogenous Effects of Buyouts on Job Quality,” Working Paper, February 2021, https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3912230. Satisfaction was measured using Glassdoor job reviews (over 3 million reviews from 271K companies during 2008-19).

⁵ Gornall, op. cit.

However, these benefits are most likely for the top 35% of employees, who are already better off.

Worker dissatisfaction is an epidemic that impacts companies irrespective of whether they are PE-owned. According to the Gallup polls in 2022,⁶ only 32% of all workers are engaged on the job and 17% are actively disengaged, down two percent and up one percent from the previous year, respectively. This lack of engagement is hugely problematic as employees significantly impact the firms they work for: e.g., interfacing with customers, determining productivity, and facilitating on-time delivery. The high cost of recruitment, training, and loss of company-specific knowledge when an employee quits is also problematic. Thus, investors are seeking new ways of value creation by focusing on employees' welfare.

Exhibit 5. Change in Job Quality & Returns to investors (Total Value Multiple)



Equity Ownership Programs

A number of GPs are experimenting with providing ownership opportunities to employees to create higher retention and job satisfaction. Ownership programs are promising because they presumably help align employee interests with the interests of the firm. However, despite their potential, very few equity ownership programs have been implemented thus far.

Part of the challenge with these programs is that junior employees find equity sharing difficult to understand, as such schemes have typically not been offered beneath senior

management levels. Also, trust is a large part of the problem: many line workers simply do not trust management. Starting an equity ownership program takes years of education, as well as sharing of future plans for the business.

Standards for Labor

Whether or not workers are owners, another question is whether government regulation can play a role in creating more stability for workers. Unlike the U.S., many countries impose strict standards for labor. For example, many European countries have strict rules around dismissing employees, where severance pay is guaranteed. In Germany, employees have a voice on their companies' boards. In the U.S., there are few standards around pay equity, employee rights in case of job loss, employee input into corporate decision-making, healthcare programs, or retirement plans.

However, policy solutions have their own challenges. In today's highly polarized environment, the panelists agreed, it would be a long wait for an effective policy response to emerge. Moreover, some panelists raised concerns about the unintended consequences of the wholesale adoption of European labor standards to the U.S. In particular, a number of academic patterns have suggested that these rules in some cases can introduce rigidities that limit entrepreneurial dynamism and new hiring.⁷

Limited Partners' Influence

Although the PE industry as a whole is unlikely to self-impose labor standards, the limited partner community has a considerable influence over where money goes. In theory, it could play a role in influencing the relative weight that PE investors put on employment considerations.

Indeed, as private equity has become larger and its economic role more controversial, some LPs have added the welfare of workers to their list of priorities. More LPs are pushing for an environmental-social-governance (ESG) agenda, evolving away from return-seeking alone. Several LPs now require their GPs to track job growth, job satisfaction, higher pay, better-quality jobs, and diversity. But these efforts have inherent tensions, as promoting ESG may not always align with the maximization of financial returns. In the end, LPs, especially

⁶ Jim Harter, "U.S. Employee Engagement Slump Continues," Gallup Workplace, April 25, 2022. <https://www.gallup.com/workplace/391922/employee-engagement-slump-continues.aspx>.
⁷ For instance, see Luis Garicano, Claire LeLarge, and John Van Reenen, "Firm Size Distortions and the Productivity Distribution: Evidence from

France," *American Economic Review*, 106 (2016), 3439-79, and Alberto Alesina, Michele Battisti, and Joseph Zeira, "Technology and Labor Regulations: Theory and Evidence," *Journal of Economic Growth*, 23 (2018), 41-78.

underfunded pensions, must generate returns, so there may need to be some compromise. Moreover, ESG efforts can themselves become politicized, as the recent steps by Governor DeSantis to eliminate ESG considerations from the state pension investments illustrate.⁸

Moreover, it is challenging to ensure that these employment issues have the same priority as other ESG considerations. Pension funds, which have historically championed worker issues, are now investing less as a percentage in PE than in earlier decades. Another challenge is the lack of transparent data, which makes it difficult to assess how responsible a given GP is on worker issues.⁹

Summary

In an ideal world, employee engagement in PE transactions can be a “win-win,” leading to greater worker satisfaction and higher returns. Equity ownership programs can have an impact on retention but are hard to implement and take a long time to yield fruit. Meanwhile, there is a substantial need for systematic data that will allow LPs to assess different PE investors on these measures. While these tasks seem

daunting, there is a tremendous opportunity for GPs to differentiate themselves to create both firm value and happier employees.

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Leslie Jeng is Director of Research of the Private Capital Research Institute

The Private Capital Research Institute is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation formed to further the understanding of private capital and its global economic impact through a commitment to the ongoing development of a comprehensive database of private capital fund and transaction-level activity supplied by industry participants. The PCRI, which grew out of a multi-year research initiative with the World Economic Forum, also sponsors policy forums.

⁸ “Governor Ron DeSantis Eliminates ESG Considerations from State Pension Investments,” State of Florida, August 23, 2022, <https://www.flgov.com/2022/08/23/governor-ron-desantis-eliminates-esg-considerations-from-state-pension-investments/>.

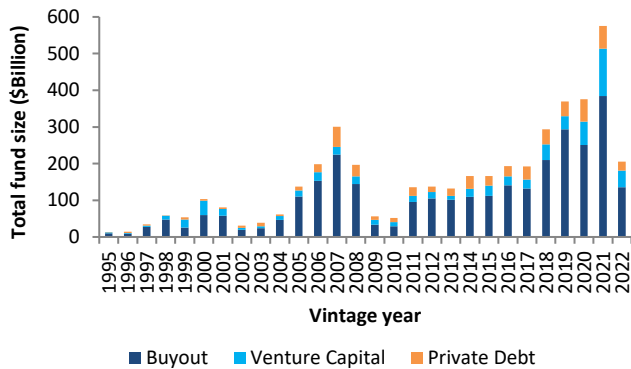
⁹ Given these challenges, a response by a number of LPs has been tilted away from distressed buyouts and more toward growth and venture capital, which they hope may be less problematic in this regard. Such a move may also have unintended consequences.

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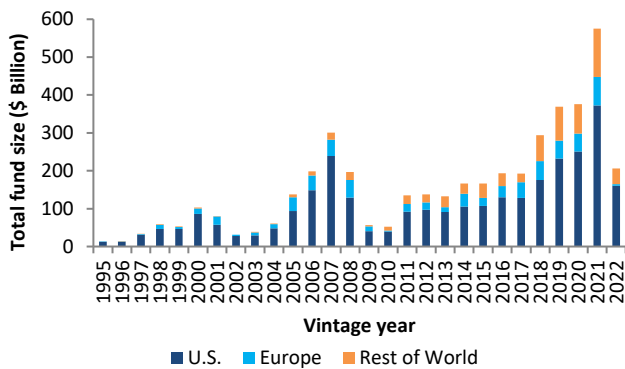
Although the average fund sizes have been on an upward trend in the last 5 years, the appetite for larger Buyout funds increased drastically in 2022. As of Q2 2022, 2022 Buyout funds posted their highest records of \$4.86 billion, which is 52% higher than that in 2021. The average fund size of Venture Capital funds remained relatively stable at \$0.91 billion, only slightly lower than \$0.92 billion for 2021 funds. Private Debt funds size had an average of \$1.62 billion, 16% lower than the average 2021 Private Debt funds of \$1.94 billion (see Exhibit 7).

Exhibit 6. Total Fund Size (USD Billion)

(A) By Strategy

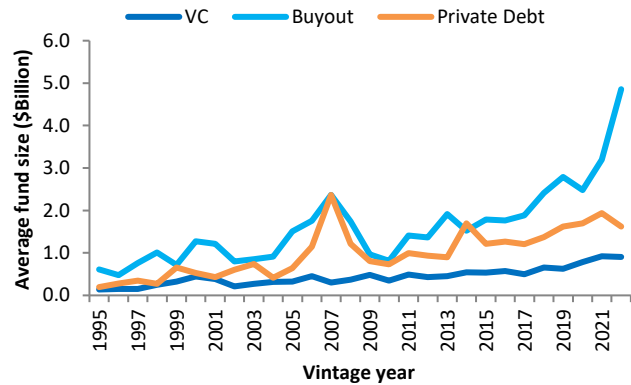


(B) by Region



Source: State Street®, as of Q2 2022.

Exhibit 7. Average Fund Size (USD Billion)

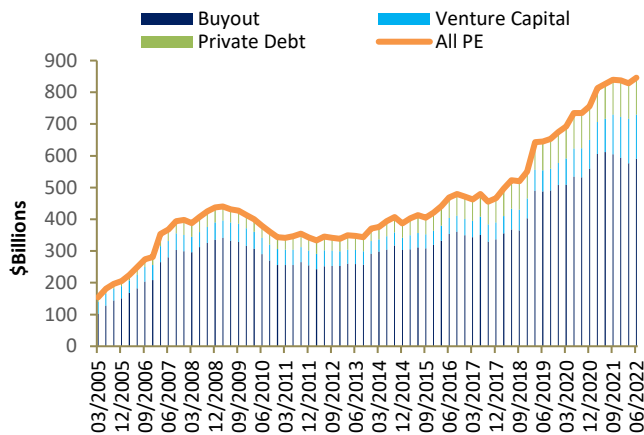


Source: State Street®, as of Q2 2022.

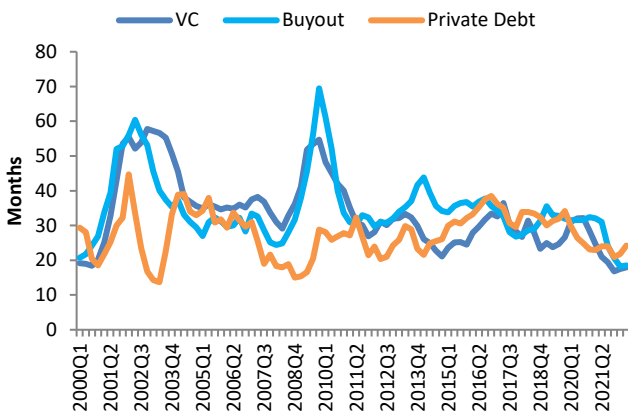
Dry powder is the part of the fund's committed capital that has not yet been called by the fund manager. It represents the amount of capital that can be used for future investment opportunities. As of 2022 Q2, SSPEI posted a monthly dry powder of \$846 billion, increased from \$828 billion in Q1 of 2022. Exhibit 8(A) shows that monthly dry powder follows an increasing trend and it's at a historical high in Q2 2022. Dry powder inventory measured by quarterly dry powder normalized by the monthly average contribution of the past 12 months, shows signs of increase across strategies compare to Q1 2022, but they are still near historical low for Buyout and Venture Capital funds. At the recent average capital call rate without new fund raising activities, current dry powder inventory can last Buyout and Venture Capital funds 18 months, which is much lower than the historical average, and Private Debt funds 24 months (see Exhibit 8(B)). An increase in dry powder inventory is likely with dampened deal activity and decrease in capital calls (see Exhibit 6 and 9).

Exhibit 8. Dry Powder

(A) Monthly Dry Powder



(B) Quarterly Dry Powder Normalized by Average Contribution



Source: State Street®, as of Q2 2022.

Cash Flow Activity

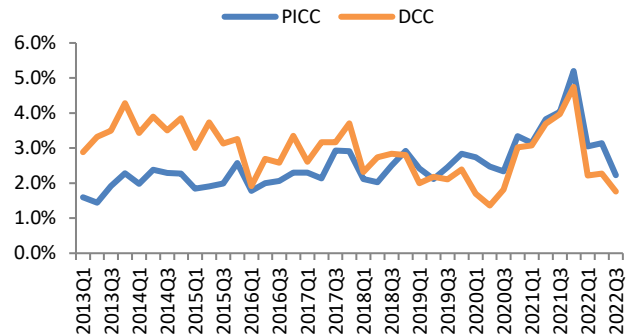
After a sharp decline in Q1 2022, quarterly Paid-in Capital over Committed Capital (PICC) was stable in Q2 2022, but dipped to 2.23% in Q3 2022. The quarterly Distribution over Committed Capital (DCC) marginally rebounded after its sharp fall of 2.5 percentage points in Q1 2022, but fell again in Q3 2022 to 1.76%. Despite similar trends, the net cash flow rebounded in Q3 due to a sharper drop in PICC. At the end of Q3, the net cash flow was at -0.47%, a slight increase from the -0.86% in Q2 (see Exhibit 9(A)).

Exhibit 9(B) provides a closer look of the net cash flow among strategies. Net cash flow of all strategies remained negative, but we see signs of an increase across all strategies. Net cash flows of Venture Capital and Private Debt funds started to

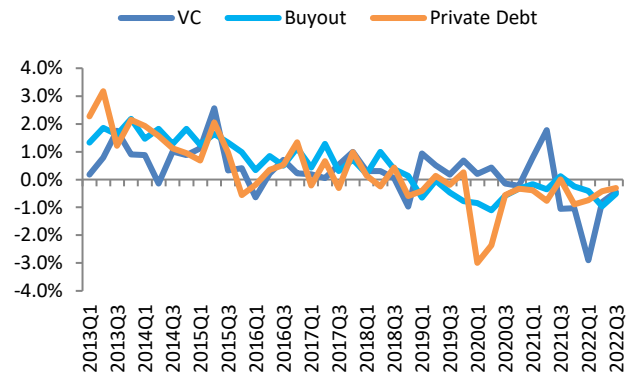
rebound in Q2. In particular, in Q3, the net cash flow of Venture Capital funds was -0.44%, increased from the -2.9% reported in Q1 2022. The net cash flow for Buyout funds increased to -0.51% in Q3 after hitting -0.96% in Q2 2022 (see Exhibit 9(B)).

Exhibit 9. Quarterly Cash Flow Ratios Normalized by Commitment

(A) Contribution and Distribution for All PE



(B) Net Cash Flow By Strategy



Source: State Street®, as of Q2 2022.

Valuations

The Dollar Value Added (DVA) is the sum of NAV changes and net cash flows. It measures the realized and unrealized gain and loss in dollar amounts.

$$DVA = \text{Ending NAV} - \text{Beginning NAV} + \text{Distribution} - \text{Contribution}$$

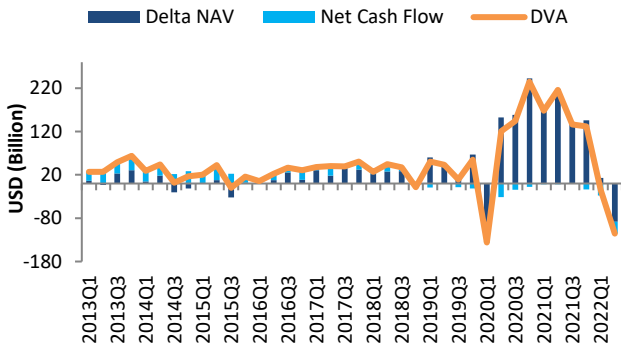
The quarterly DVA of overall PE continued to drop from -\$15 billion in the previous quarter to -\$115 billion in Q2 2022. We see that the DVA across all strategies swung back to the negative territory after the recovery from the COVID shock in Q1 2020.

Furthermore, the negative DVAs are mostly contributed by the negative change in remaining values (Delta NAV) over the

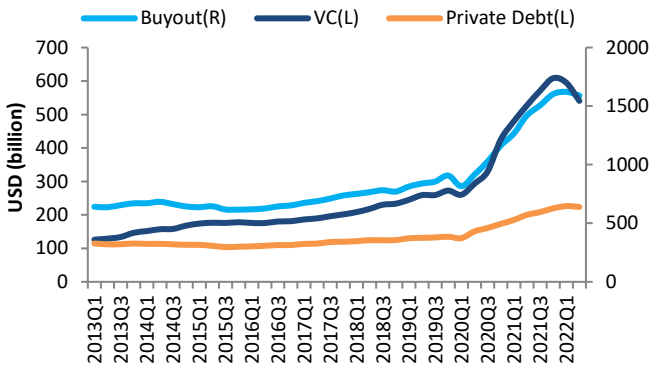
quarter. The Delta NAV for overall PE turned negative for the first time since Q1 2020 (see Exhibit 10(A)). In particular, as shown in Exhibit 10(B), the NAV decline was most salient for Venture Capital funds in Q2 2022.

Exhibit 10. Dollar Value Added

(A) All PE



(B) NAV by Venture Capital, Buyout, and Private Debt



Source: State Street®, as of Q2 2022.

NEXT QUARTER PERFORMANCE FORECAST

Nowcasting

Inspired by the concept of Nowcasting, SSPEI research team developed a model, aspiring to estimate the concurrent performance of private equity market, of which the reporting is otherwise delayed at least by one quarter. We hereby only share the model predictions for Q2 2022 without going into theoretical background. For model details, please refer to State Street Private Equity Insights Q3 2021 publication 10. Nowcasting results are out-of-sample predictions based on the regression coefficients from the past 5 year rolling window and the observed public market returns and private market cash flows.

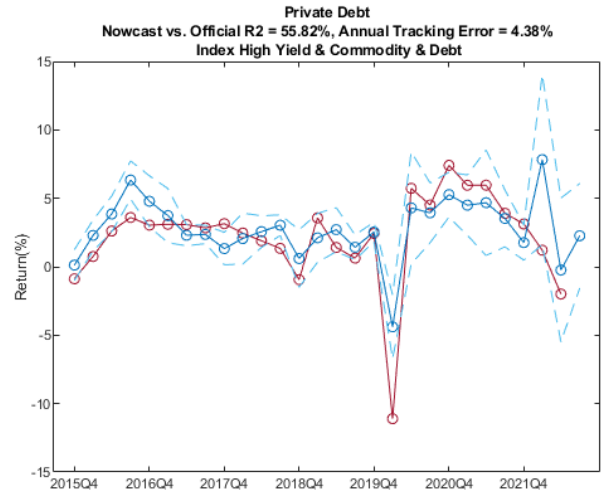
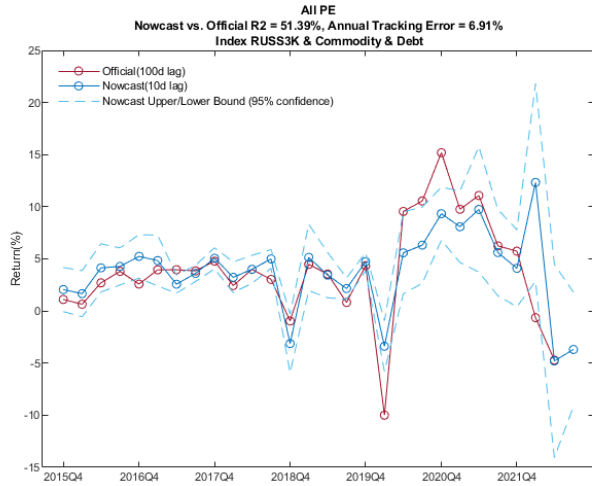
For Q2 2022, the realized PE returns converged to the nowcasting model predicted returns. As shown in Exhibit 11, the actual Q2 2022 returns of All PE, Buyout, Venture Capital and Private Debt were -4.71%, -3.22%, -9.83% and -1.99% respectively. Correspondingly, the nowcasting model predicted returns were -4.79%, -5.64%, -13.56% and -0.24%. The nowcasting was able to accurately predict the Q2 overall PE performance with only 8 bps difference; Given the public markets decrease in Q2, the nowcasting model's predictions for Buyout and Venture Capital strategies were more conservative than the actual returns, and the Private Debt strategy exceeded the prediction, but they all fell within the predicted 95% confidence intervals.

Looking forward, our nowcasting model expects the Q3 2022 returns of all strategies to increase, with All PE, Buyout and Venture Capital remaining in the negative territory with returns of -3.69%, -2.79% and -6.03% respectively; The Private Debt is predicted to turn positive from nowcasted -0.24% in Q2 to 2.27% in Q3. The predicted improvement in quarterly IRRs is mainly contributed by the slowdown in the downward trend from public markets. Among the strategies, Venture Capital remains to have the lowest predicted return. NASDAQ composite is the only input for Venture Capital, which decreased by only 3.91% in Q3 compared to the significant drop of 22.28% in Q2. Similarly, Russell 3000, which is a common input for both all PE and Buyout nowcasting models, is still weak with a -4.5% decrease in Q3, but the magnitude is smaller compared to the -16.7% decrease in Q2. The decrease

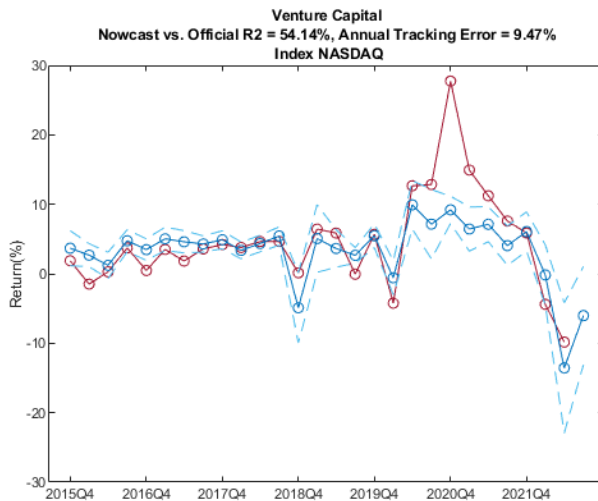
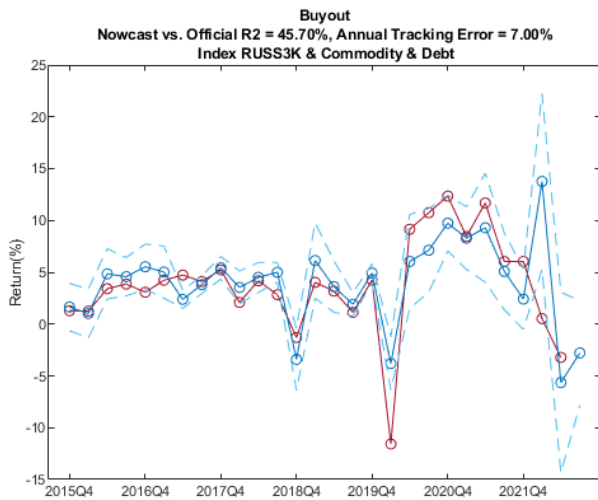
¹⁰ State Street Private Equity Insights Q3 2021
<https://globalmarkets.statestreet.com/portal/peindex/pe-insights/>

in the Bloomberg U.S. Corporate High Yield slows down from -10.3% in Q2 to -0.68% in Q3.

Exhibit 11. Actual vs. Out-of-sample Nowcast IRRs



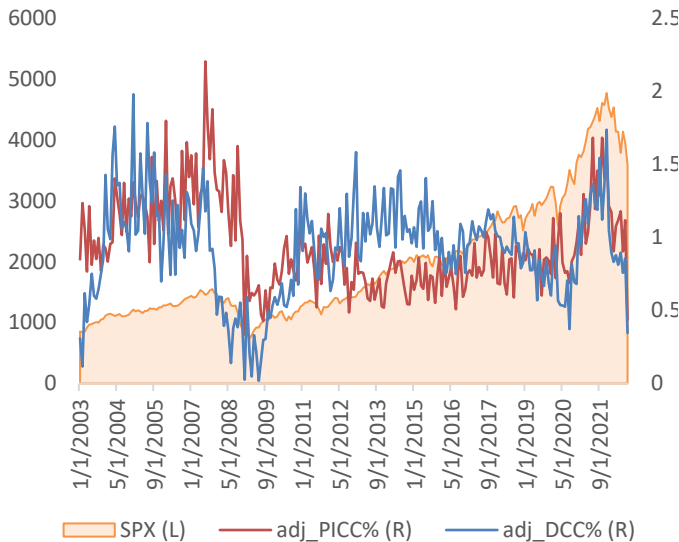
Source: State Street®, as of Q2 2022.



DISCUSSION – COMOVEMENT OF PE CASH FLOW AND PUBLIC MARKET

Robinson and Sensoy(2011)¹¹ documented the co-cyclicality between private equity cash flows and public market business cycles using a dataset of 837 private equity funds formed between 1984 and 2009. They found that quarterly capital calls and distributions rise with public equity valuations of the prior quarter (proxied by Price/Dividend ratio) and distributions are more sensitive than calls, and venture capital cash flows were more procyclical than buyout. Can similar co-cyclicality be observed in the larger SSPEI universe? Does co-cyclicality still exist in the recent decade after Robinson and Sensoy’s study? What can we find if we look at a higher frequency such as monthly cash flows?

Exhibit 12. Monthly Private Equity cash flows (seasonality adjusted) vs S&P500 Index



Source: State Street®, as of Sep 30 2022. PICC and DCC are in percentages of total active commitment. PICC and DCC are seasonality adjusted. (see [PE Insights 2022 Q1](#) for more details)

Exhibit 12 shows the monthly seasonality adjusted Paid-in Capital to Commitment (PICC) and Distribution to Committed Capital (DCC) between 2003-2022 from the SSPEI universe of more than 3700 primary funds. At a glance, we can see significant co-movements between the SPX and PE cash flows in recent two decades: the falls of PE cash flows coincided with 2008 GFC, 2020 Covid crisis, and 2022 Fed rate hikes, as well as the rises of PE cash flows in robust growth periods in 2003-2006, 2010-2013 and 2nd half of 2020 – 2021.

To more precisely answer our questions, we devised a simple VAR(2) model with only three variables: SPX monthly returns, monthly PICC and monthly DCC.

$$PICC_t = a_{11} * PICC_{t-1} + a_{12} * DCC_{t-1} + a_{13} * SPX_{t-1} + a_{14} * PICC_{t-2} + a_{15} * DCC_{t-2} + a_{16} * SPX_{t-2} + u_{PICC,t}$$

$$DCC_t = a_{21} * PICC_{t-1} + a_{22} * DCC_{t-1} + a_{23} * SPX_{t-1} + a_{24} * PICC_{t-2} + a_{25} * DCC_{t-2} + a_{26} * SPX_{t-2} + u_{DCC,t}$$

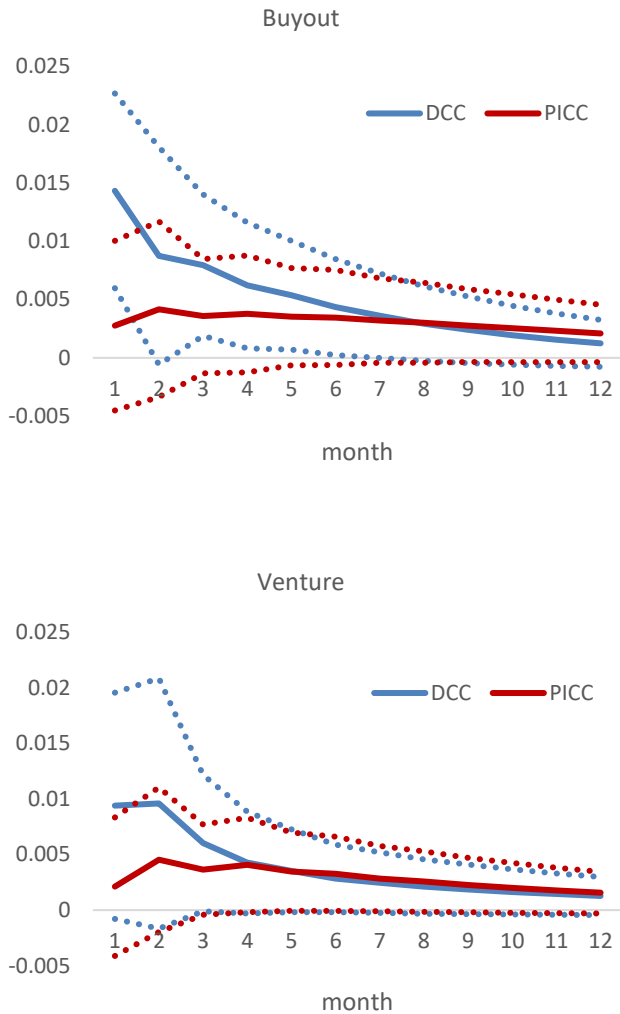
$$SPX_t = a_{31} * PICC_{t-1} + a_{32} * DCC_{t-1} + a_{33} * SPX_{t-1} + a_{34} * PICC_{t-2} + a_{35} * DCC_{t-2} + a_{36} * SPX_{t-2} + u_{SPX,t}$$

We tested this model with buyout and venture cash flows between 2003-2022 and sub-periods of 2003-2009, 2010-2022.

Exhibit 13 shows the impulse responses of buyout cash flows to 1 percentage point SPX return shocks. The IR magnitude is economically meaningful and statistically significant in the first several months. For example, Buyout distributions can increase by 0.15% of the total active commitment if the SPX return in the prior month had a +10 percentage point shock (For comparison, the average monthly DCC is ~1% of the total active commitment. See Exhibit 12) and is significantly positive until 7 months later.

¹¹ Cyclicity, performance measurement, and cash flow liquidity in private equity, David T. Robinson and Berk A. Sensoy, Journal of Financial Economics, 2016

Exhibit 13. Impulse responses of monthly PE cash flows to 1% SPX return shock (2003-2022)

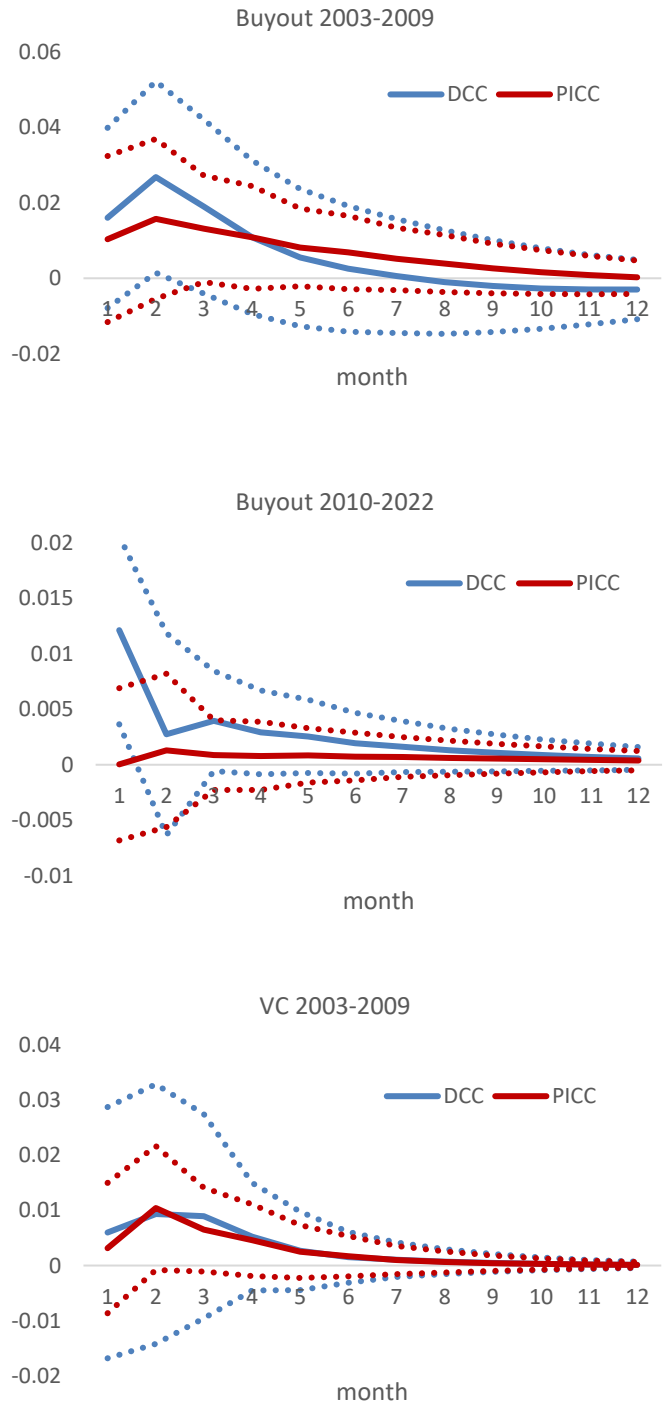


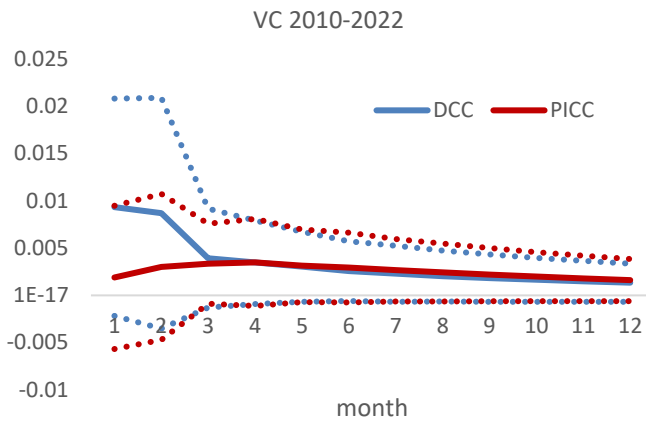
Source: State Street®, as of Q2 2022. Dotted lines represent 95% confidence interval.

Similar to Robinson and Sensory (2011), we see positive co-movements of PE cash flows and public market returns even at monthly frequency. The distribution is much more sensitive than contributions and the impact of public market shocks can last for at least 6 months. Unlike Robinson and Sensory (2011), we find Buyout distributions to be more responsive than those of Venture Capital.

As shown in Exhibit 14, we find the PE cash flow responses, especially the distributions, to public market return shocks became stronger after the GFC.

Exhibit 14. Impulse responses of monthly PE cash flows to 1% SPX return shock pre-GFC vs post-GFC





Source: State Street®, as of Q2 2022. Dotted lines represent 95% confidence interval.

ABOUT THE STATE STREET PRIVATE EQUITY INDEX

Participants in private capital markets need a reliable source of information for performance and analytics. Given the non-public nature of the private equity industry, collecting comprehensive and unbiased data for investment analysis can be difficult. The State Street Private Equity Index (“SSPEI”) helps address the critical need for accurate and representative insight into private equity performance.

Derived from actual cash flow data of our Limited Partner clients who make commitments to private equity funds, SSPEI is based on one of the most detailed and accurate private equity data sets in the industry today. These cash flows received as part of our custodial and administrative service offerings are aggregated to produce quarterly Index results. Because the SSPEI does not depend on voluntary reporting of information, it is less exposed to biases common among other industry indexes. The result is an index that reflects reliable and consistent client data, and a product that provides analytical insight into an otherwise opaque asset class.

- Currently comprises more than 3,700 funds representing more than \$4.4 trillion in capital commitments as of Q2 2022
- Global daily cash-flow data back to 1980.
- The Index has generated quarterly results since Q3 2004.
- Published approximately 100 days after quarter-end.

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