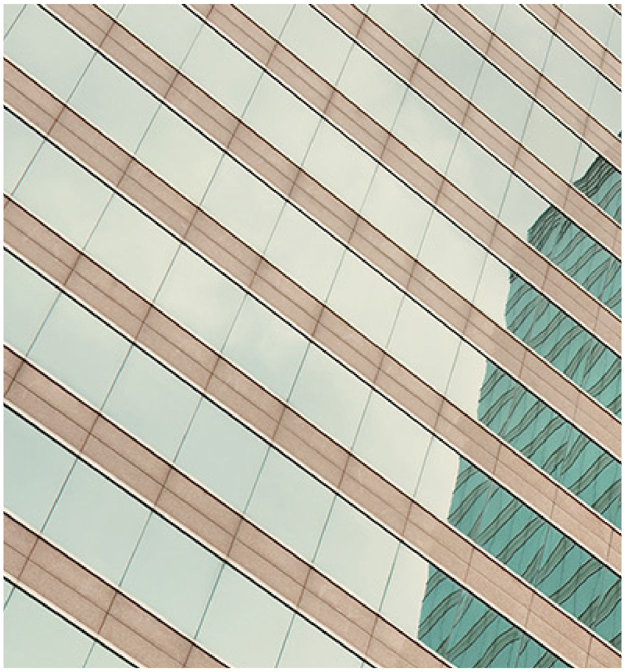
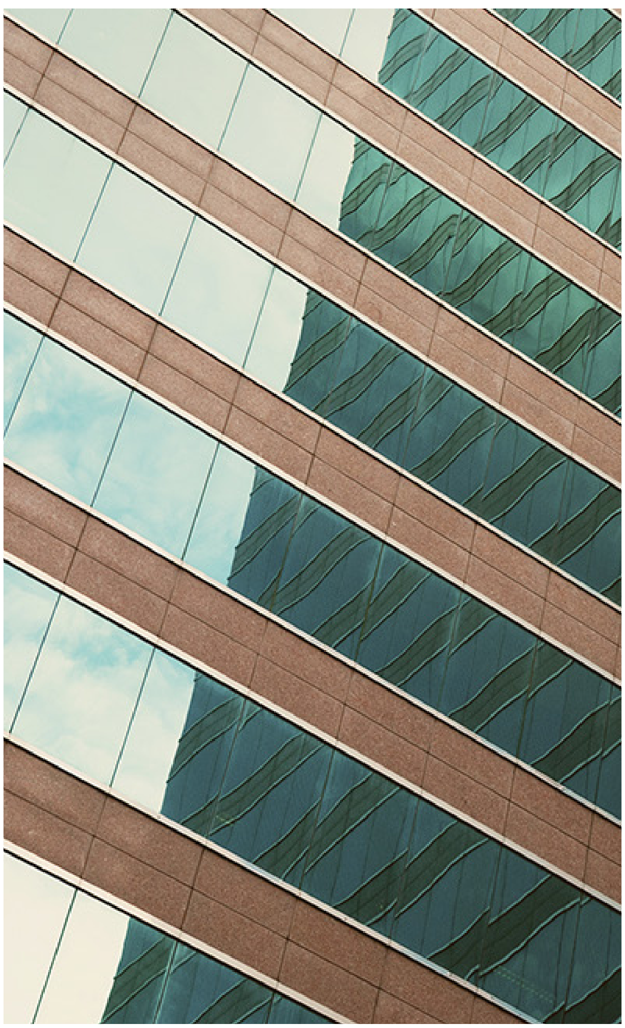
LINCOLN INTERNATIONAL

Q1 2025





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LINCOLN PMI

LINCOLN PRIVATE MARKET INDEX™

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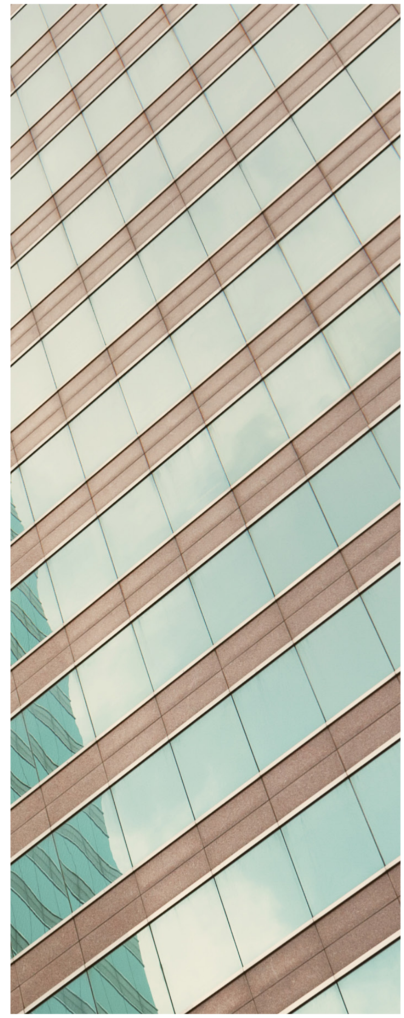

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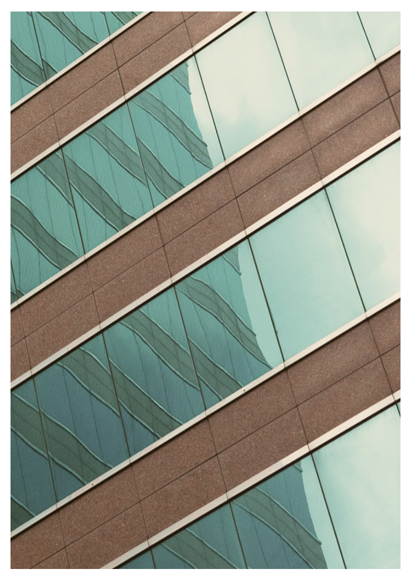

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WHILE THE LINCOLN PRIVATE MARKET INDEX GREW IN Q1, NEGATIVE TRENDS ARE BREWING

The Lincoln Private Market Index ("LPMI"), the only index that tracks changes in the enterprise value of U.S. privately held companies, increased by 2.3% during the first quarter of 2025 driven by sustained performance; however, multiple contraction continued to offset earnings growth in Q1 2025.

ABOUT THE LINCOLN PRIVATE MARKET INDEX

The Lincoln PMI is a first-of-its-kind index measuring changes in the enterprise values of private companies over time - and a barometer of the performance of private companies generally. The Lincoln PMI enables private equity firms and other investors to benchmark how private company investments are performing against peers, and how this performance correlates to the S&P 500.

Lincoln designed the Lincoln PMI to solve this problem by measuring the quarterly change in enterprise values for private companies primarily owned by private equity firms. Enterprise value ("EV") is the sum of a company's equity value and debt.

To review the results of an independent study on the quality and breadth of Lincoln's private market database, **click here**.

QUARTERLY OVERVIEW

- Thirty-first Edition:
  Covers Q1 2025
- Measures quarterly changes in the enterprise values of ~1,400 private companies, based on a population of approximately 6,000+ companies primarily owned by private equity firms with a median EBITDA of ~$50-60 million
- Analyzes the impact from the change in a company's earnings versus its valuation multiple
- Assess the change in value for six industry sectors

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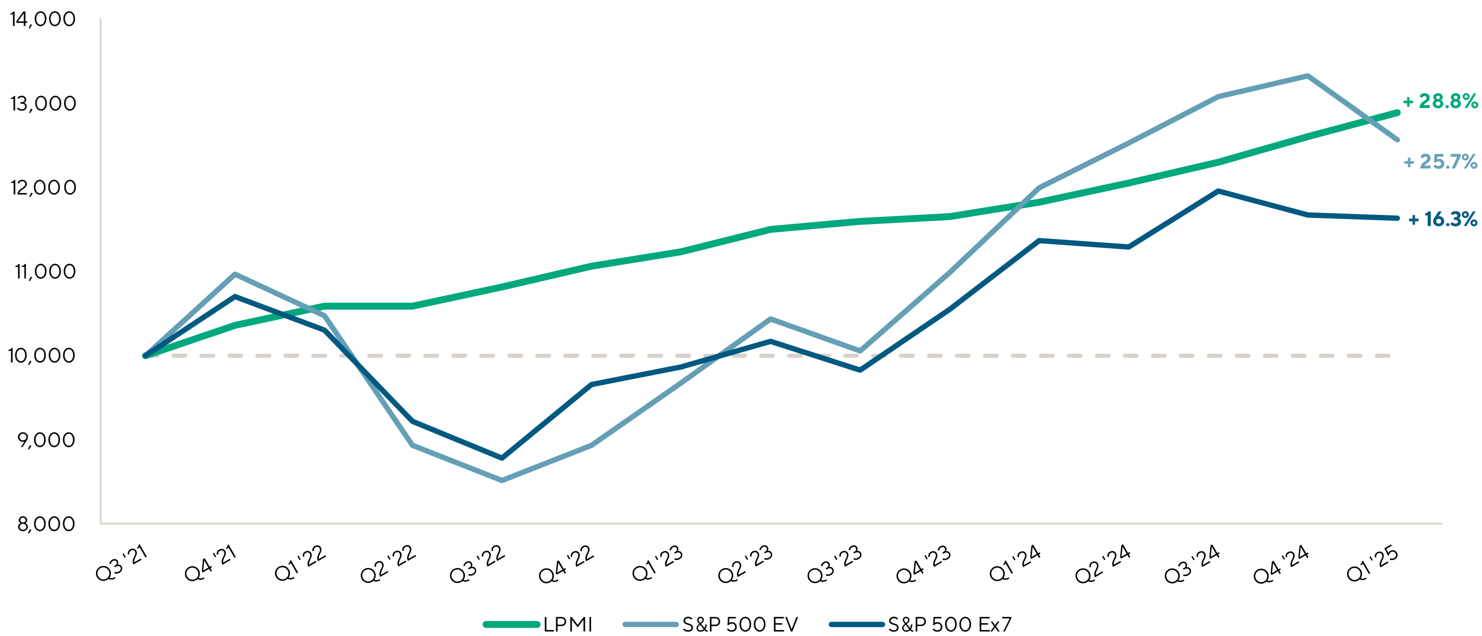
RESULTS:
Private Market Growth Remained Steady Despite Public Market Volatility



(NOTE: Both the Lincoln PMI and S&P 500 EV returns above reflect enterprise values)
(S&P 500 EV excludes financial companies for which enterprise value is generally not meaningful; however, including such companies produces similar results)

	Q1'25	LTM	CAGR Since Inception
LPMI	**2.3%**	**8.9%**	**7.7%**
S&P 500 EV	**(5.6%)**	**4.8%**	**9.3%**
S&P 500 Ex7 EV	**(0.4%)**	**2.4%**	**NA**

The Lincoln PMI's quarter-over-quarter enterprise value increase of 2.3% surpassed the S&P 500's decrease of 5.6%. When excluding the "Magnificent Seven" from the S&P 500, which are less comparable to private market companies, the change in public market enterprise values was more muted, declining only 0.4%. Public market enterprise values were driven primarily by multiple contraction, likely driven by investor apprehension and uncertainty surrounding elevated interest rates, potential tariffs, and overvaluations. Volatility in the broader S&P 500 contributed to the reversal of much of the index's gains in 2024, whereas the Lincoln PMI experienced stable growth driven by sustained increases in performance.

Initial expectations for 2025 indicated there was positive momentum behind a return in M&A activity; however, M&A activity was slow to start the year and is likely only going to be further dampened post the announcement of proposed tariffs, further straining valuations.

Historically, growth in the S&P 500 has been largely reliant on the performance of NVIDIA and several other of the "Magnificent 7" companies included within the index. In contrast, the Lincoln PMI has no equivalent to NVIDIA or any of the "Magnificent 7" and exhibits very low levels of concentration; therefore, the volatility seen in public markets is not apparent in the Lincoln PMI.

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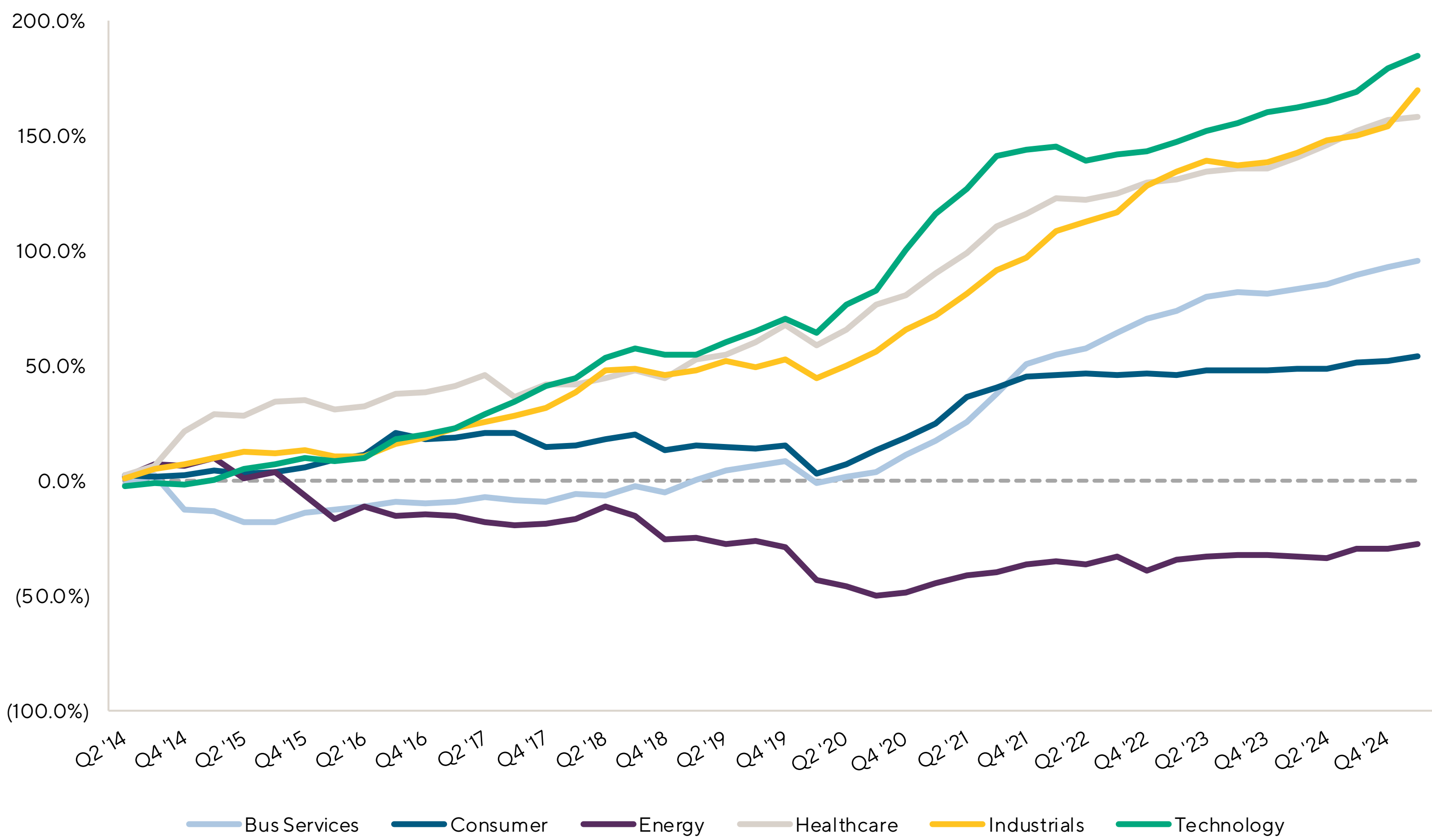
SECTOR BREAKDOWN:

Enterprise value growth in Industrials supported by a higher degree of multiple expansion

Q1 2025



Industry	Q1 '25	LTM
Business Services	**1.4%**	**6.7%**
Consumer	**1.2%**	**3.7%**
Energy	**2.7%**	**7.9%**
Healthcare	**0.5%**	**7.4%**
Industrials	**6.3%**	**11.3%**
Technology	**2.0%**	**8.5%**

Industrials experienced outsized enterprise value growth, driven by availability of attractive valuations that remained less impacted from the post-COVID exuberance experienced to a greater degree by other industries. The trend of enterprise value growth within Industrials could continue for longer driven by the potential reshoring of production in the U.S. prompted by tariffs and intensified global trade tensions. Furthermore, Industrials growth in the LTM period encompassed a period of resurgence in deal activity, with quality assets trading at higher multiples than initially expected.

In contrast, Consumer businesses continued to exhibit sluggish growth amidst persistent inflationary pressure, diminished consumer confidence, and macroeconomic uncertainty. Further, the usage of PIK interest was more prominent among Consumer companies relative to other industries, a trend that coincided with elevated LTVs for such companies, highlighting a broader strain on cash flows and thin fixed charge coverage.

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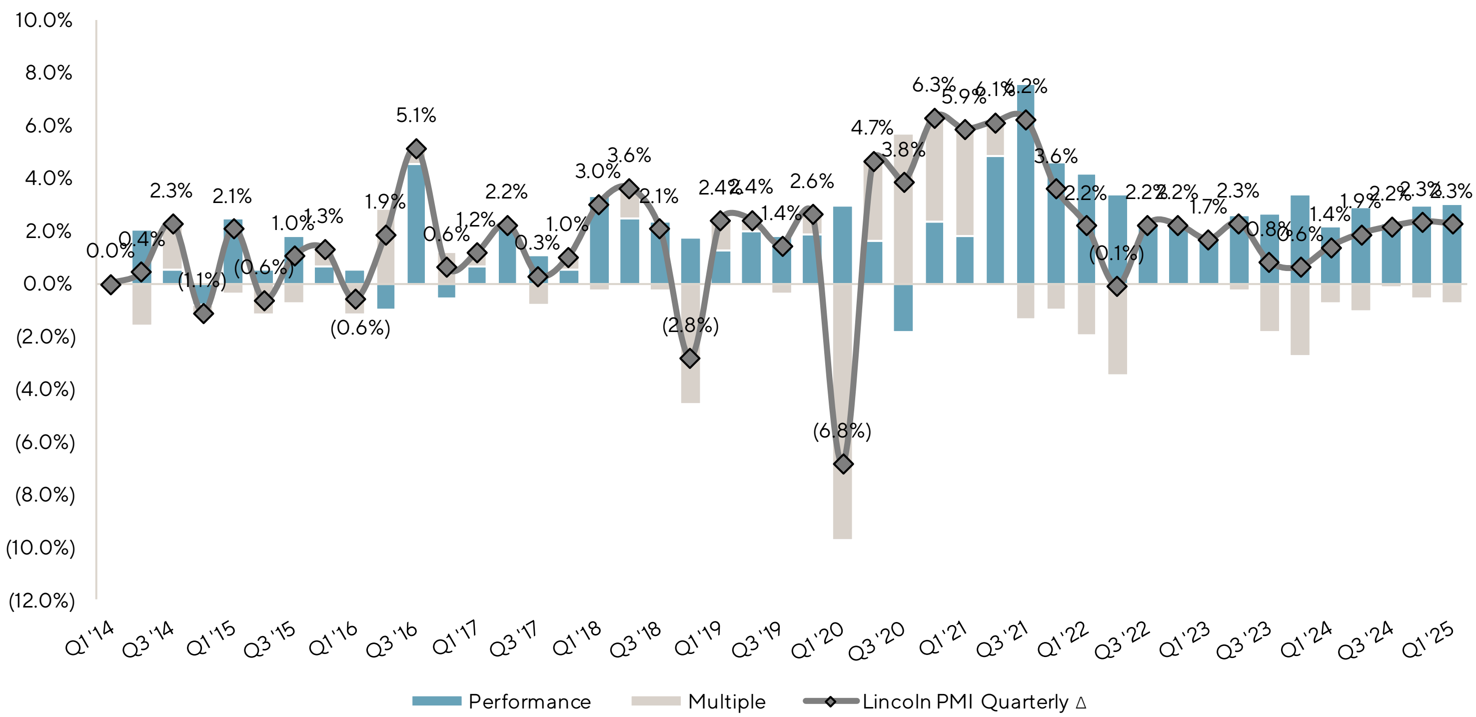
EXAMINING THE LPMI:

Examining the Lincoln PMI - EBITDA Multiples versus Earnings

Q1

2025



40%

Expansion of LPMI valuation multiples since Q2 2014

The grey line in Graph 3 indicates the quarterly change in Lincoln PMI enterprise values; this change is based on changes in performance (i.e., EBITDA) combined with the change in EBITDA multiples.

The Lincoln PMI saw the 18th consecutive quarter of earnings growth; however, index growth continued to be constrained by multiple contraction. Despite a myriad of headwinds, including but not limited to potential tariff implications, elevated interest rates, and supply chain disruptions, private company performance remained resilient. Specifically, of the companies tracked by Lincoln's proprietary database, 62% reported EBITDA growth in Q1 2025, in contrast to 58% of constituents reporting EBITDA growth in Q4 2024. The combination of lower prevailing market multiples, increased leverage, and widened credit market spreads pose a significant challenge for private equity returns.

"Private markets have proved to be resilient over time," said Steve Kaplan, Neubauer Distinguished Service Professor of Entrepreneurship and Finance at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, who assists and advises Lincoln on the LPMI. "While short-term public market volatility may not impact private market valuations over the long run, tariffs and recessionary impacts may negatively impact private company earnings, which will have a direct impact on valuations."

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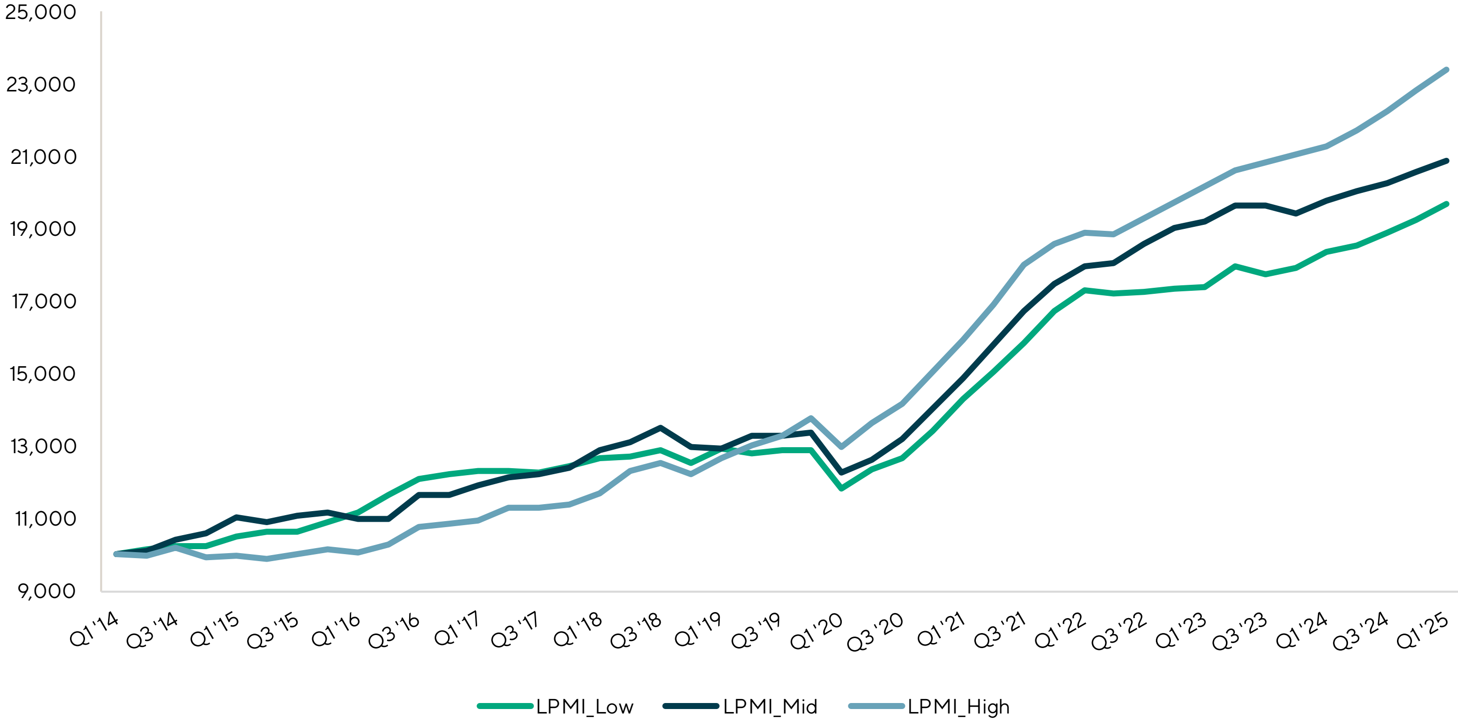
EXAMINING THE LPMI:

Lower Middle Market vs Middle Market vs Large Corporate Sub-Indices

Q1
2025



(Low includes companies with LTM EBITDA <$20 million, Mid includes companies with LTM EBITDA of $20 million to $50 million, and High includes companies with $50 million to $250 million)

For the third consecutive quarter, all size categories tracked by the Lincoln PMI grew in aggregate; however, the indices continue to see variability within performance trends and the movement of multiples.

While all size categories saw improved fundamental performance, larger companies (i.e. companies with EBITDA > $50 million) continued to grow at a greater rate than smaller companies, thus demonstrating relative resilience and insulation from public market factors. Smaller companies experienced the greatest degree of multiple compression. Investors continue to remain focused on larger and higher-quality companies while smaller companies tend to have less diverse product and service offerings with higher customer or supplier concentration and therefore less stable earnings and higher risk.

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SUMMARY:
Q1 2025 LPMI

Q1
2025

Q1 2025 LINCOLN PMI: GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

- Private company enterprise values increased for the eleventh consecutive quarter as the Lincoln PMI increased 2.3%, driven by improved earnings.
- Growth of the Lincoln PMI outpaced the S&P 500 given the private markets are comprised of service-focused businesses that remained relatively insulated from tariff impacts, while the announcement of tariffs sent immediate shockwaves and volatility in the public markets.
- Since its inception in Q1 2014, the Lincoln PMI has shown that private company enterprise value multiples have been less volatile than public company multiples and that earnings are the primary factor driving long term value creation.

Q1 2025 LINCOLN PMI: ENTERPRISE VALUE RESULTS

- While the Lincoln PMI experienced steady earnings growth, the full impact of tariffs has yet to be uncovered in private markets, signaling an uncertain trajectory for private market performance in 2025.
- Large companies in the Lincoln PMI continued to drive overall index growth as smaller companies remain hampered by their inherently higher risk and the risk-off sentiment from investors.

Q1 2025 LINCOLN PMI: INDUSTRY BREAKDOWN ON AN ENTERPRISE VALUE BASIS

- All industries experienced enterprise value growth for the third consecutive quarter.
- Consumer companies saw the lowest enterprise value growth of the six industries from the outset of 2025, given more direct exposure to inflationary headwinds and the slower recovery of consumer spending.

IN SUMMARY, WE BELIEVE THE LINCOLN PMI:

- Enables investors in private companies, including private equity firms, to benchmark their investments against their peers and the S&P 500 on both enterprise value and equity value bases;
- Demonstrates that private companies generate returns comparable to major public stock market indices with less volatility;
- Offers many unique valuation insights into the fair value of private companies for a wide array of stakeholders and investors; and
- Represents a significant enhancement to the information available to investors in private companies.

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METHODOLOGY:
Source of Data and Sample Size

Q1
2025

SOURCE OF DATA AND SAMPLE SIZE

On a quarterly basis, Lincoln determines the enterprise fair value of over 6,000 portfolio companies for over 200 sponsors (i.e., private equity groups and lenders to private equity groups). These portfolio companies report quarterly financial results to the sponsor or lender. Lincoln obtains this information and determines the appropriate enterprise value multiple so as to compute the enterprise value in accordance with the fair value measurement principles of generally accepted accounting principles. In assessing enterprise value, Lincoln relies on well accepted valuation methodologies such as the market approach and income approach considering each company's historical and projected performance and other qualitative and quantitative factors. Finally, each valuation is then vetted by auditors, company management, boards of directors and regulators. Upon concluding each quarterly valuation cycle, Lincoln aggregates the underlying financial performance and enterprise value data for analysis.

To construct the Lincoln PMI, Lincoln selects a subsection of the companies valued each quarter, including private companies each generating earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization of less than $250.0 million, disregarding venture-stage businesses and non-operating entities, such as special purpose entities that own real estate and specialty finance assets.

INDEPENDENT ACADEMIC VALIDATION OF LINCOLN'S DATA

In January 2024, an Assistant Professor of Finance at Penn State University's Smeal College of Business conducted a study to evaluate the statistical significance of Lincoln's private market Database as compared to other independent sources, like Pitchbook, BDC Collateral, and Preqin. The test was akin to an FDA pharmaceutical drug effectiveness test wherein Lincoln's data was tested in relation to the independent data sets, measuring overlap of deals detailed and congruency of reported terms. The results were robust and concluded that Lincoln's data was representative of the private debt universe, and comprehensive of sponsor backed deals, in particular. Lincoln's Database featured 53% of reported private debt deals with terms in Pitchbook and 48% of sponsor backed deals with reported debt terms that appeared in BDC Collateral. However, beyond the abundance of pure deals, Lincoln's database goes a step beyond and includes vital operating performance figures from the portfolio company level that the other databases don't feature. Lincoln's data is more comprehensive, inclusive of enterprise value and financial performance metrics that allow for a much clearer picture of the state of the private markets.

For more information, visit
https://www.lincolninternational.com/perspectives/an-overview-of-the-lincoln-private-market-index/

6,000+

Portfolio companies are evaluated by Lincoln on a quarterly basis to determine their enterprise fair value

200+

Sponsors participate in LPMI i.e. private equity groups & lenders to private equity groups

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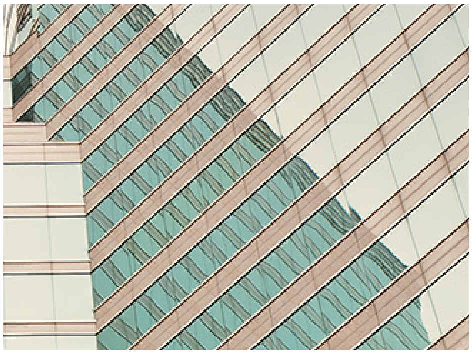
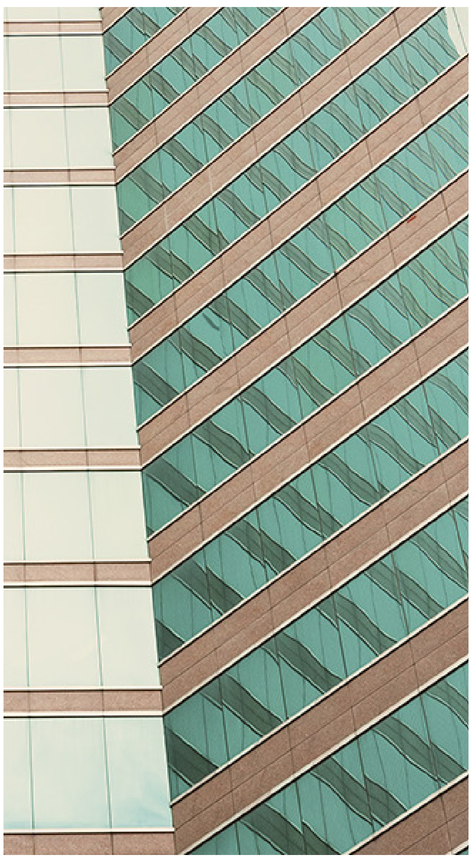
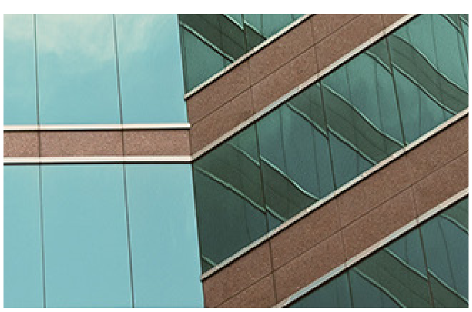
METHODOLOGY:
Academic Advisors







PROFESSOR STEVEN KAPLAN

Professor Steven Kaplan is a Senior Advisor to Lincoln's Valuations and Opinions Group. He is the Neubauer Family Distinguished Service Professor of Entrepreneurship and Finance and Kessenich E.P. Faculty Director at the Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. Among other courses, Professor Kaplan teaches advanced Master of Business Administration and executive courses in entrepreneurial finance and private equity, corporate finance, corporate governance, and wealth management. Professor Kaplan conducts research on a wide array of issues in private equity, venture capital, corporate governance, boards of directors, mergers and acquisitions, and corporate finance. He has been a member of the Chicago Booth faculty since 1988.

Professor Kaplan serves on the board of Morningstar and several fund and company advisory boards. He is also a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Professor Kaplan received a Bachelor of Arts, summa cum laude, in applied mathematics and economics from Harvard College and earned a Doctor of Philosophy in business economics from Harvard University.

PROFESSOR MICHAEL MINNIS

Professor Michael Minnis is a Senior Advisor to Lincoln's Valuations and Opinions Group. He is the Deputy Dean for Faculty and Fuji Bank and Heller Professor of Accounting at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, where he researches the role of accounting information in allocating investment efficiently by both managers and capital providers. His recent research focuses on understanding the role of privately held companies in the U.S. economy and how these firms use financial reporting to access, deploy, and manage capital. He particularly enjoys identifying unique data and methods to empirically examine issues in a novel way.

In January 2018, Professor Minnis became a member of the Private Company Council, the primary advisory council to the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) on private company issues. Professor Minnis received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and his B.S. from the University of Illinois, where he graduated with Highest Honors.

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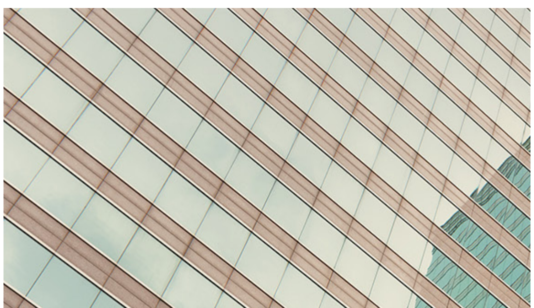
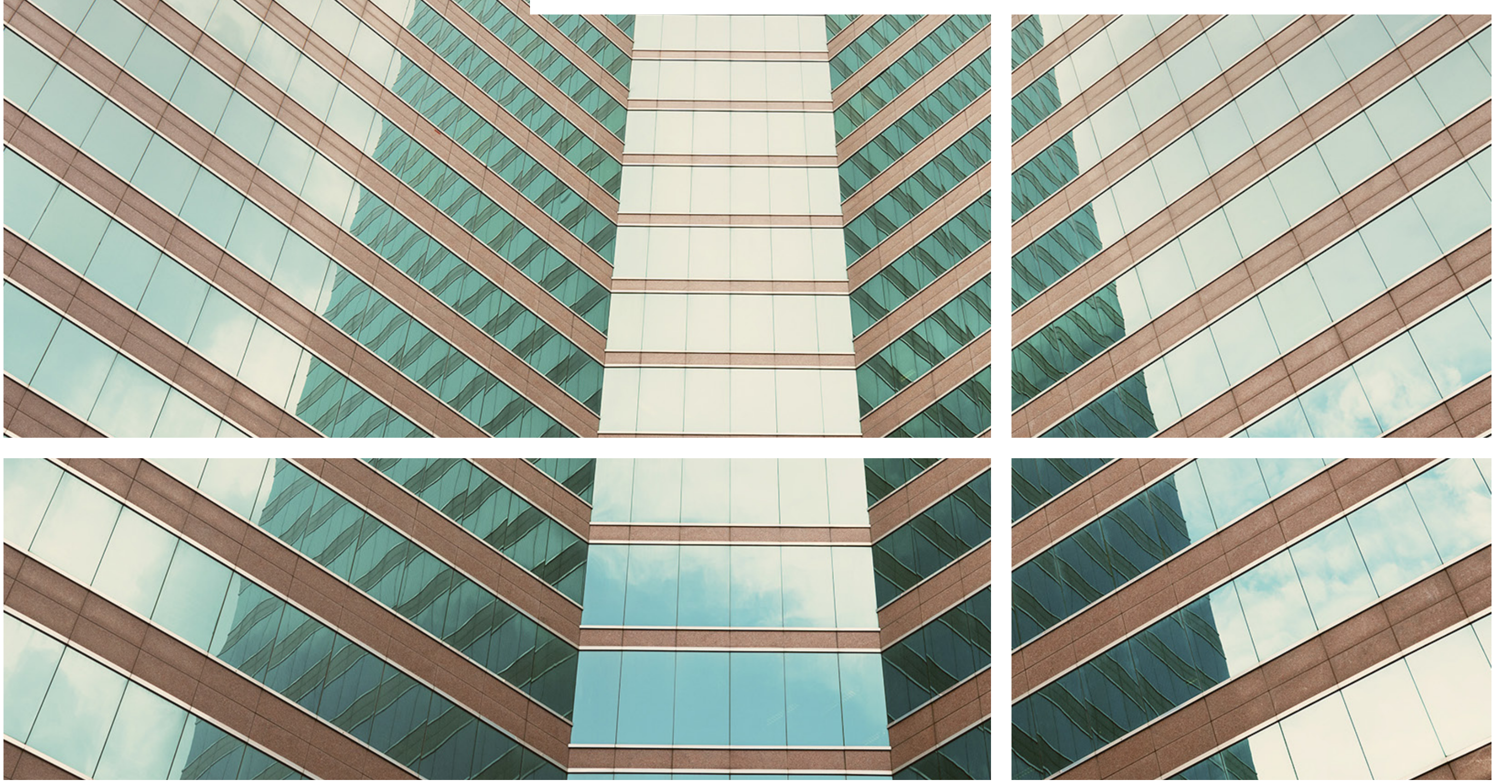
ABOUT LINCOLN INTERNATIONAL

We are trusted investment banking advisors to business owners and senior executives of leading private equity firms and their portfolio companies and to public and privately held companies around the world. Our services include mergers and acquisitions advisory, private funds and capital markets advisory, and valuations and fairness opinions. As one tightly integrated team of over 1,000 professionals in more than 25 offices across 15 countries, we offer an unobstructed perspective on the global private capital markets, backed by superb execution and a deep commitment to client success. With extensive industry knowledge and relationships, timely market intelligence and strategic insights, we forge deep, productive client relationships that endure for decades. Connect with us to learn more at www.lincolninternational.com.

Lincoln's Valuations & Opinions Group is a leading independent valuation advisor to managers of illiquid assets and lenders to alternative assets funds. The group specializes in the valuation of illiquid debt, equity and derivative securities. Additionally, they provide independent fairness, solvency and other transaction opinions for a variety of corporate transactions for both public and private companies.

Lincoln's Valuations & Opinions Group is widely recognized for leveraging Lincoln International's "real world" transaction experience from its M&A and debt advisory practices to assist its clients in the determination of fair value. Lincoln International's highly skilled professionals have extensive experience in determining and supporting fair value measurements for traditional and complex securities.





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