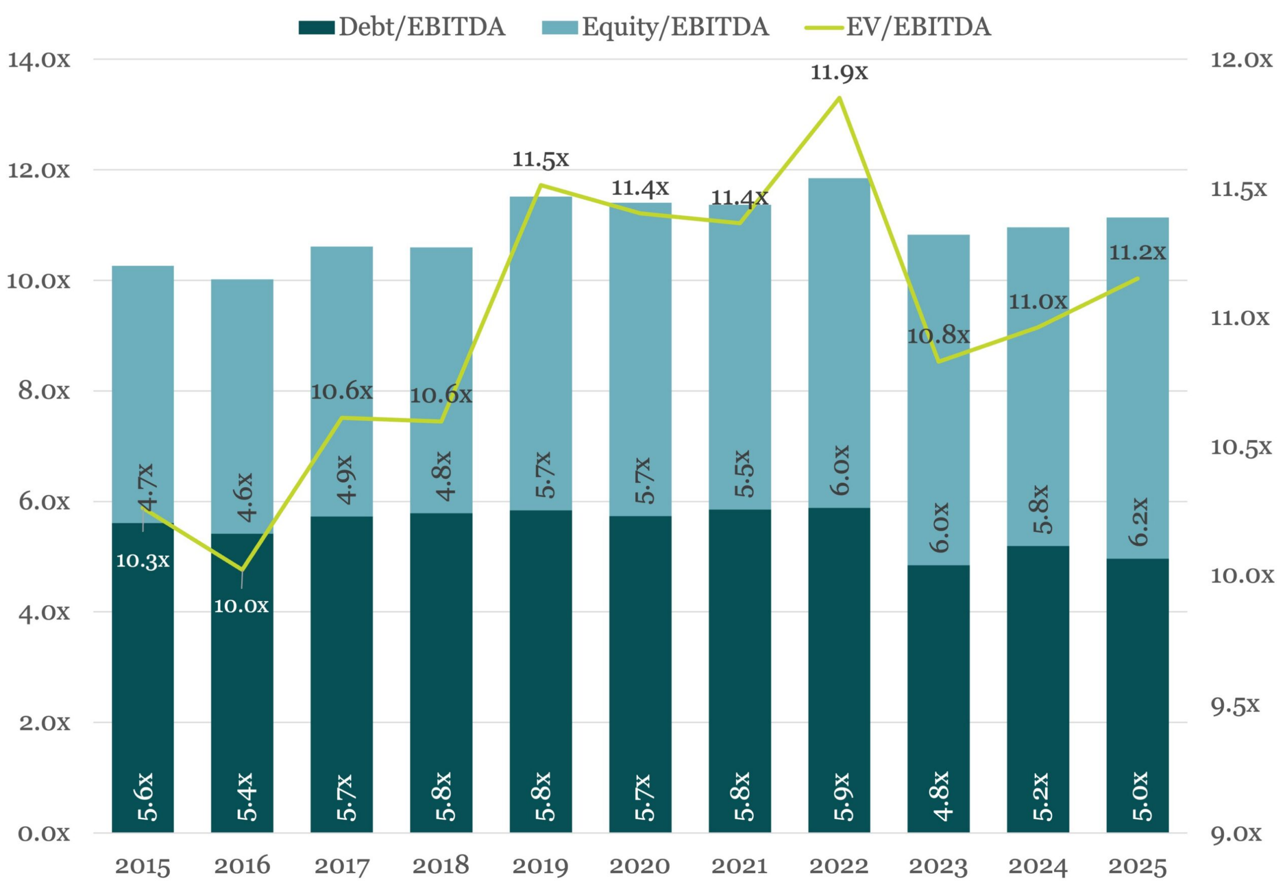
THE LEAD
https://theleadpc.com/the-pulse-of-private-equity-3-9-2026/

Multiples on BSL-funded LBOs

PitchBook | March 11, 2026



Source: PitchBook | LCD • Geography: US • As of December 31, 2025

Download PitchBook's Report here.

Debt capacity limitations have meant sponsors are pressured to deploy more equity capital to fund their portfolio investments. The average BSL-financed LBO transaction leverage (debt/ EBITDA) decreased by almost a full turn (0.9x) in 2025 to 5x from peak levels of 5.9x achieved in 2022. On an EV basis, multiples dropped to 11.2x in 2025 from 11.9x in 2022. However, BSL LBO transaction announcements over the fourth quarter could raise both leverage levels and equity contribution levels once they close, as ultra megadeals such as the $55 billion EA Sports acquisition by a PE consortium led by Saudi Arabia's PIF is backed by a $20 billion debt commitment and up to a $36 billion equity commitment—reflecting a 62% to 69% equity contribution level.

(Past performance is no guarantee of future results.)