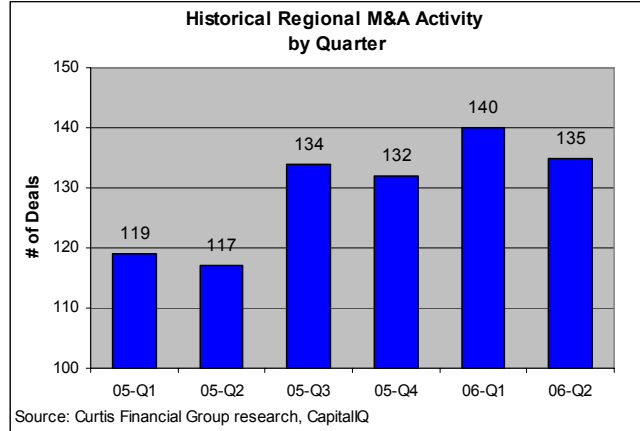


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**REGIONAL M&A ACTIVITY REPORT**  
- 275 YTD transactions is up 16.5% over 2005 -

**Philadelphia, PA August 2, 2006** – According to statistics released today by Curtis Financial Group LLC, a Philadelphia based investment banking and advisory firm, M&A volume in the Greater Philadelphia region<sup>1</sup> rose 16.5% to 275 transactions in the first six months of 2006 from 236 transactions in the same period of 2005. Although deal volume in the second quarter increased to 135 compared to 117 deals in the prior year period, the second quarter total was slightly down from 140 deals that occurred in the first quarter of the year.

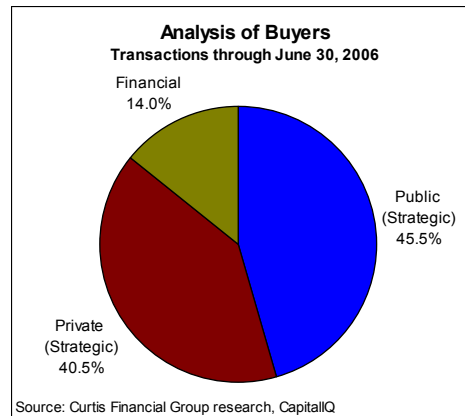
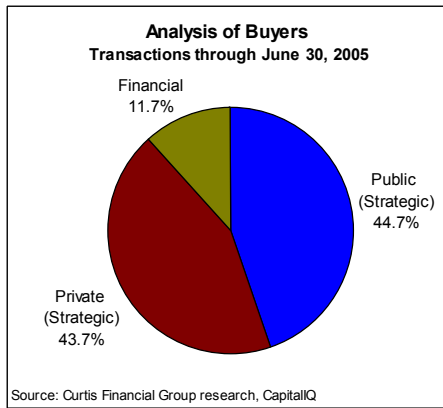
Acquisition interest from strategic buyers, both public and private, and private equity investment firms has yet to show any negative effect from rising interest rates as demand for quality companies continues.



**Local area companies remained net buyers.** Of the 135 transactions in the second quarter, 69, or 51%, were acquisitions by area companies and 66, or 49%, were sales of area companies. This is the sixth consecutive quarter that there were more acquisitions by companies in the region than sales of companies in the region. Of the 66 companies in the region that were sold during the quarter, approximately 73% were sold to acquirers from outside the region with local buyers accounting for the remaining 27%.

**M&A Activity by Buyer Type**

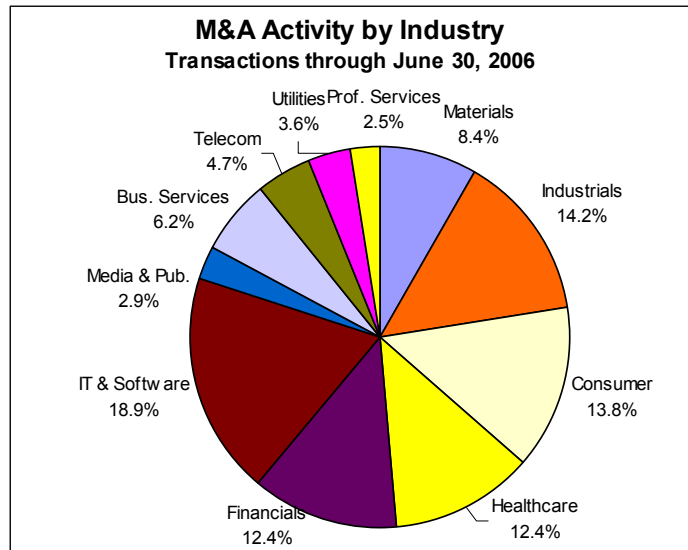
Of the 275 M&A transactions in the first six months of 2006, 121 represented the sale of regionally-based companies. Private equity buyers became more active during the current year-to-date period while accounting for 17 acquisitions, or 14% of the total versus 12 deals, or 11.7%, in the same period of 2005. Strategic buyers, comprised of both public and private companies, acquired 104 companies in the region representing 86% of the total.



<sup>1</sup> Including Southeastern Pennsylvania / South & Central New Jersey / Delaware

**M&A Activity by Industry**

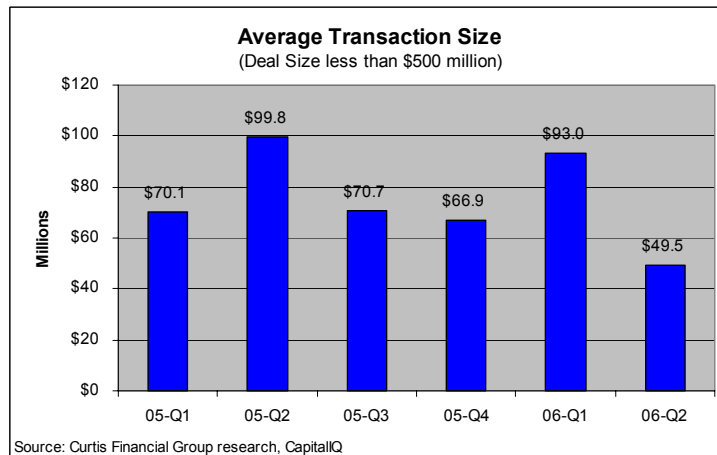
Regional M&A activity through the second quarter of 2006 was led by IT and Software with 52 deals including acquisitions of Primavera Systems, Inc. by Francisco Partners and Lucid Security Corp. by AmbironTrust Wave. There were 39 transactions in the Industrials sector. Notable Industrial deals included two acquisitions by Triumph Group (NYSE: TGI), Ames True Temper's acquisition of Acorn Products for \$41 million and Ametek, Inc.'s (NYSE: AME) \$64 million acquisition of PennEngineering Motion Technologies. The next three most active sectors were Consumer, Healthcare and Financials which accounted for 38, 34 and 34 deals, respectively.



**Average Deal Size**

In the first quarter of 2006, average deal size declined to \$49.5 million from \$93.0 million in the first quarter. The decrease was primarily due to the number of deals with values between \$250 and \$500 million which declined to 1 transactions compared to an average of five over the prior five quarters. During the period, there were ten transactions greater than \$500 million compared to nine in the first quarter.

Notable large transactions included Lincoln National Corp.'s (NYSE: LNC) acquisition of Jefferson-Pilot Corp. (NYSE: JP) for \$9.1 billion, Sovereign Bancorp's (NYSE: SOV) acquisition of Independence Community Bank Corp. (NASDAQ: ICBC) for \$3.6 billion, and the sale of Burlington Coat Factory Warehouse Corp. (NYSE: BCF) to Bain Capital for \$2.0 billion in a going-private transaction.





**Curtis Financial Group, LLC**

Curtis Financial Group is an investment banking firm that advises middle market companies on mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, raising capital, and provides fairness opinions, business valuations, and related corporate finance services. Our professionals have completed merger and acquisitions with over \$1.5 billion in transaction value, financing transactions of over \$1 billion, and over 100 fairness opinions and 1,000 valuations. [www.curtisfinancial.com](http://www.curtisfinancial.com)

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