



Partners Group

REALIZING POTENTIAL IN PRIVATE MARKETS

30 JUNE 2021

Q2 2021 Review

Partners Group Listed Investments SICAV - Listed Private Equity



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2021 Q2 review

Partners Group Listed Investments SICAV – Listed Private Equity continued to perform strongly and generated a total return of 15% during the second quarter and 30% during the first half of 2021. Market sentiment remained positive and was driven by increasing vaccination rates, particularly in the US and Europe, which led to opening economies, robust industrial production, and rising consumer confidence. All sectors of the listed private equity portfolio performed well and reported earnings in line or above expectations. The asset class benefitted from the favorable fundraising environment, increasing transaction activity, and strong portfolio returns, resulting in increasing NAVs.

Alternative asset managers performed best and generated a total return of 24% on average during the second quarter. The fundamental situation remained very favorable. All managers reported strong fundraising, which translates into higher fee-related earnings. Blackstone was among the best performers. Capital inflows were driven by long dated and perpetual strategies as well as an expansion into the insurance segment. The company acquired Allstate Life Insurance, which adds another USD 100bn to its assets under management. Transaction activity was high, which is reflected in strong deployments and exits. EQT was among the most active deployers and investors expect management to raise successor funds earlier than initially planned. In terms of exits, KKR performed strongly as intra-quarter realizations exceeded investor's expectations by 30%.

Direct investment companies were the second-best performer and gained 11% on average. The underlying companies performed well, in particular portfolios with higher exposure to defensive sectors such as technology. Among the best performers was Kinnevik. The company exited its main investment, Zalando, generating a money multiple of more than 8x. The remaining portfolio is focused on digital consumer sectors as well as healthcare services and is expected to have an even more attractive growth profile than Zalando. Another strong performer was Investor AB. The underlying portfolio companies reported NAV growth of 16% for the first quarter, driven by strong fundamentals with EBITDA of core holdings being up 26%.

Business development companies (BDCs) generated an average return of 7%. The sector benefitted from increasing transaction activity and consequently strong loan originations, which resulted in net investment income growth. In addition, BDCs are well positioned to benefit from rising interest rates as most of the loans in the portfolio have floating interest rates. However, an elevated level of non-accruals remains a key concern.

During the second quarter, fund-of-funds was the weakest sector, yet increased by 5% on average. The underlying portfolios posted solid, high single digit NAV growth. ICG Enterprise Trust was among the better performers and reported strong exits, realizing a 3.9x money multiple and an average uplift to NAV of 42% on divestments.

The portfolio remains well-positioned to benefit from the favorable fundraising environment and increasing transaction activity. We increased exposure to alternative asset managers, which will raise flagship funds near-term. During the second quarter, we added one new alternative asset manager, Brookfield Asset Management. The company has a diversified product platform, strong deployment capabilities and is at the start of a USD 200bn fundraising cycle. We also increased exposure to direct investment companies with exposure to software and IT. We reduced our allocation to BDCs after the sector recovered and added exposure to the direct investment company Kinnevik, given its improved growth potential.

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