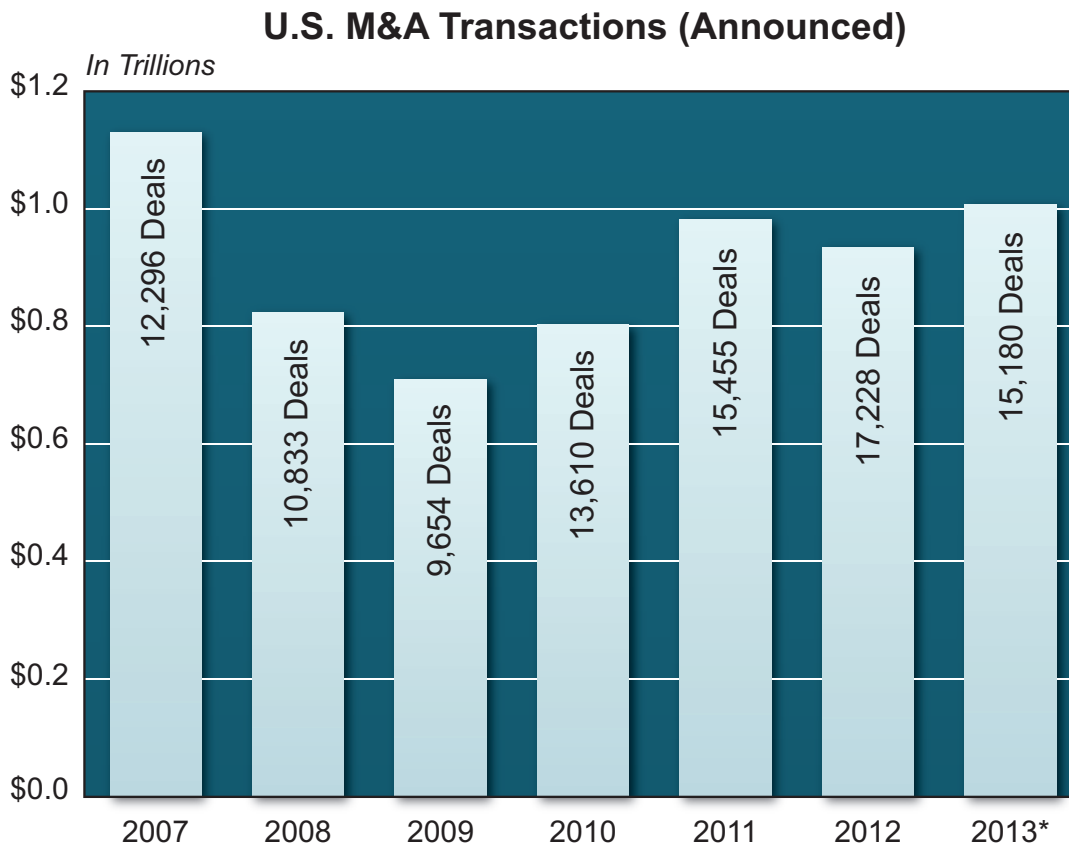


# U.S. Merger & Acquisition (M&A) Activity Tops \$1 Trillion In 2013



*Source: S&P Capital IQ. \*Through 11/22/13.*

## View from the Observation Deck

1. Today's blog post is just one more example of how the recovery following the 2008 financial crisis has broadened.
2. If stock dividends are a barometer of the financial strength of a company, M&A activity is a barometer of the strength of the overall economy, in our opinion.
3. Year-to-date through 11/22/13, the dollar volume of announced U.S. M&A deals totaled \$1.007 trillion. It is the first trillion dollar year since the \$1.303 trillion posted in 2007, just before the financial crisis.
4. The 15,180 deals announced this year already surpassed the 12,296 deals made in 2007. That is a sign of confidence in the state of the economy, in our opinion.
5. S&P Capital IQ reported that the typical deal announced this year was valued at a multiple of 5.4 times revenue, compared to 5.1 times revenue for all the announced deals in 2012.
6. By this measure, companies are paying more for acquisitions in 2013.

*This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment.*

