

BDO TECH & MEDIA · MARKET INTELLIGENCE · 2026

THE CONSOLIDATION ENDGAME.

European Workforce Management software has become the most contested corner of the HR stack. A €2.3B fragmented market, record deal volumes, and an AI divide that will decide who exits at a premium.

THE EUROPEAN WFM CONSOLIDATION MONITOR

Annual market study

Why we wrote this

“WFM has quietly become the most mission-critical layer of the HR stack, and the market has noticed.”

Maarten Kuil
Partner Deal Advisory, BDO Tech & Media

Acute labor shortages, a structurally flexible workforce and increasingly hyper-local labor legislation have turned efficient staff scheduling from an administrative task into a survival condition. Workforce Management (WFM) software now sits where scarce human capital meets daily operational execution – when it stops, the work floor stops.

That position is exactly why capital is moving. The European landscape – fragmented, full of local champions with hard-coded compliance engines – has become the hunting ground for PE-backed platforms and strategic consolidators. At the same time, Generative AI (“GenAI”) is redrawing what buyers are willing to pay for.

In this study we map the market, the deal dynamics and the AI divide – and we translate them into what they mean for the people we work with: founders and investors who own these businesses today. Our vantage point is first-hand: a recently closed transaction in this exact space and two ongoing WFM mandates across Europe.

Maarten Kuil | Partner Deal Advisory
maarten.kuil@bdo.nl
+31 306 336 330

Roel van Dijk | Sr. Manager Deal Advisory
roel.van.dijk@bdo.nl
+31 302 849 894

Susanne Friedrichs | Advisor Deal Advisory
susanne.friedrichs@bdo.nl
+31 302 849 877

Anneke Akkerman | Jr. Advisor Deal Advisory
anneke.akkerman@bdo.nl
+31 306 336 233

The argument of this report, in four chapters

01 The Market

A €2.3B TAM compounding at 8.5% — funded by regulation and labor scarcity, defended by hard-coded local compliance.

02 The Land Grab

Record deal volumes: PE-backed platforms are absorbing Europe's local champions, quarter by quarter.

03 The AI Divide

AI has replaced growth as the primary buyer lens — the line between premium and legacy exits.

04 For Founders & Investors

What the endgame means if you own a WFM business today: metrics, timing and the window.

Appendix

The buyer universe: strategic acquirers and PE-backed platforms across six geographies.

This report in 30 seconds

€2.3B

EUROPEAN TAM, 2025

Compounding at 8.5% to €3.7B by 2031 – driven by regulation and labor scarcity, not discretionary spend.

34

WFM DEALS SINCE JAN 2024

Record deal flow. PE-backed platforms are buying local champions for installed base and brand – no longer for technology.

<5%

GROSS CHURN DEFINES PREMIUM

Blue-collar WFM is operational infrastructure: hard-coded compliance and hardware integration create near-zero churn.

64%

OF WFM REVENUE IS CLOUD

The SaaS transition is largely complete. True cloud is now the entry ticket – the differentiation battle has moved to AI.

#1

AI: THE NEW PE METRIC

Proactive AI capability has replaced growth as the primary lens through which buyers assess defensibility and exit multiples.

24mo

THE FOUNDER WINDOW

Fragmentation is being absorbed fast. Local champions that wait risk negotiating with consolidated platforms, not against them.

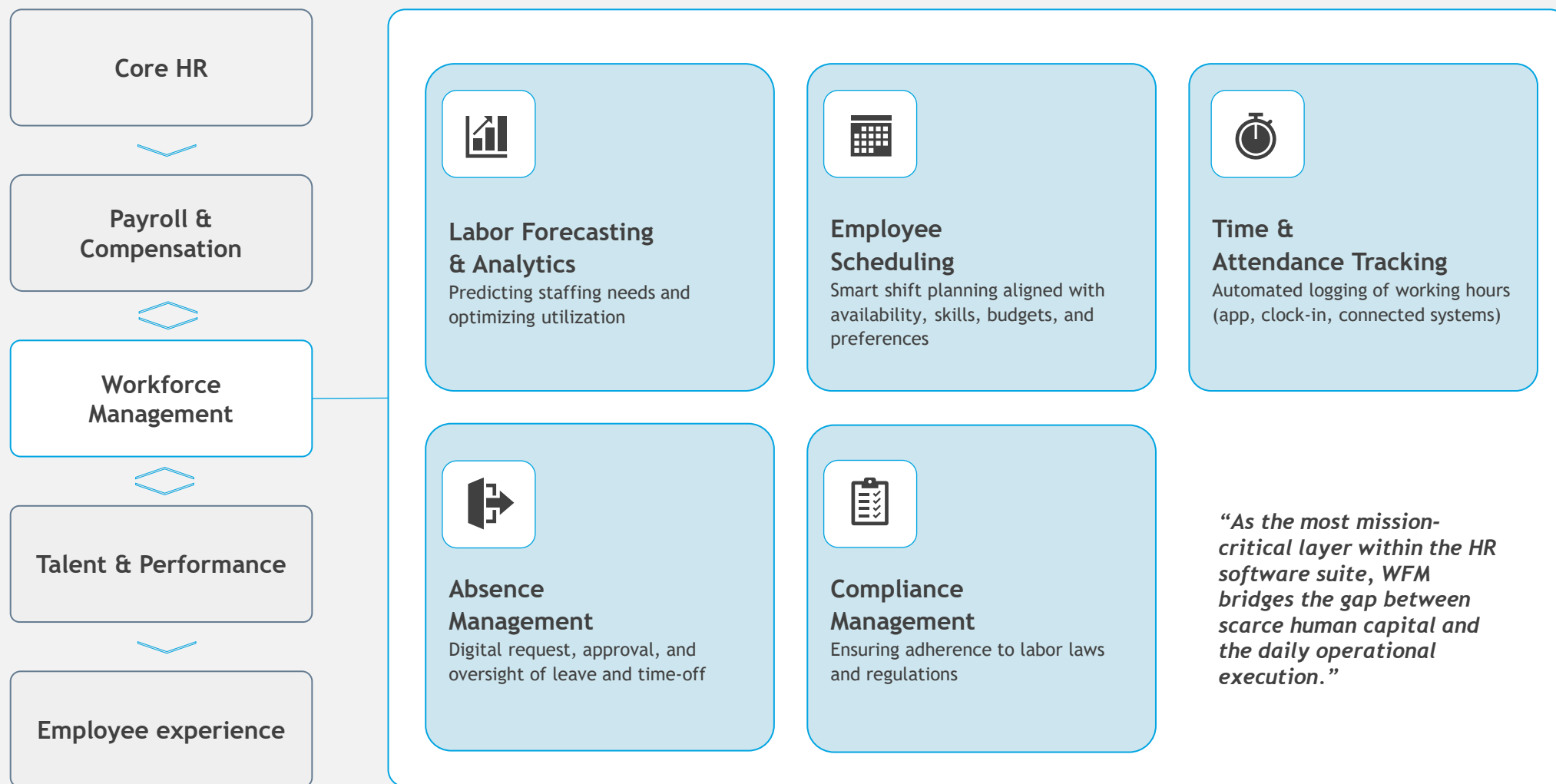
SECTION 01

The market

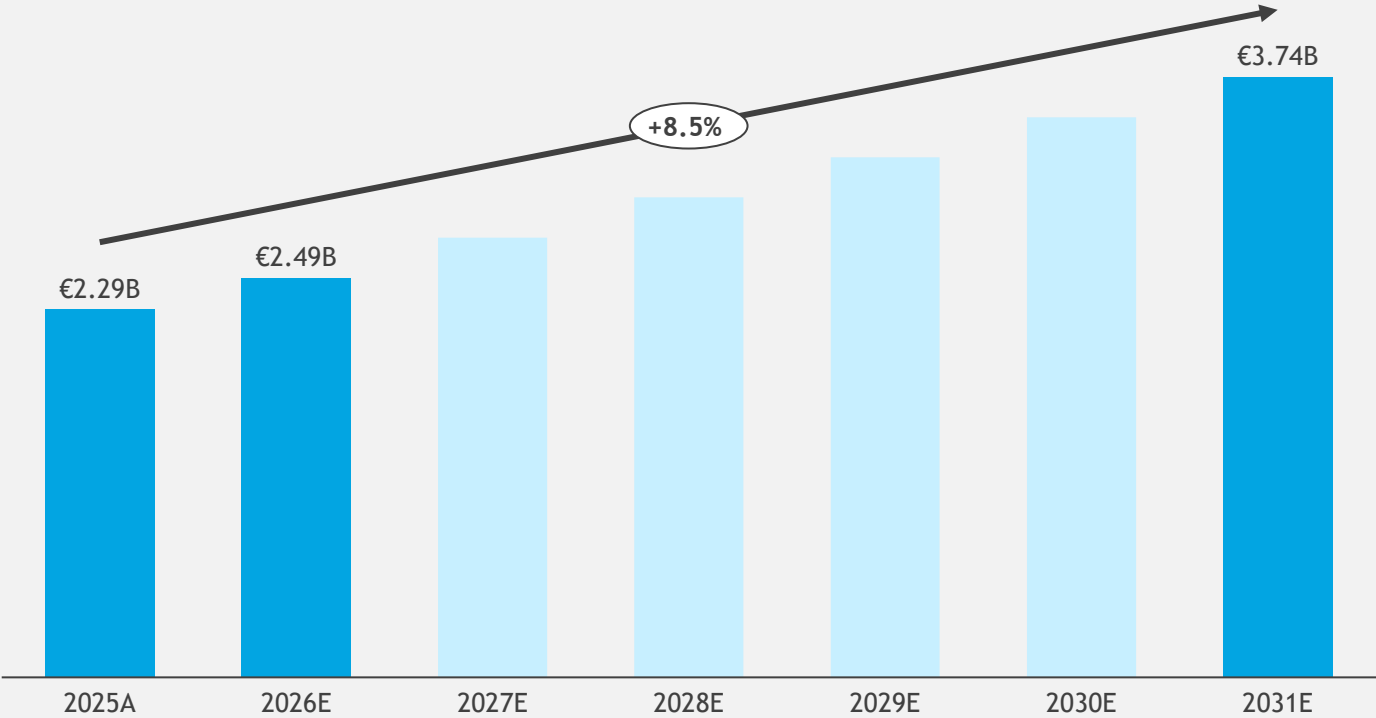
Defining the WFM moat and
mapping the consolidation
opportunity



WFM is the **operational engine** within the HR IT-stack



Compliance mandates and cloud adoption drive **accelerated momentum** in the European WFM market



“Strong adoption of digital HR solutions and stringent compliance mandates are driving a Total Addressable Market (TAM) expansion from €2.29B in 2025 to €3.74B by 2031.”

Sources: Mordor Intelligence - Europe Workforce Management Software Market Size & Share Analysis (2026)
Notes: Figures converted from USD to EUR using exchange rate of 0.8615 (as of 16 June 2026). The graph shows a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 8.5% for the period 2025 - 2031.

Structural macro-shifts create strong tailwinds, shifting WFM from an operational tool to a **strategic asset**

“Workforce Management is shifting from an operational tool to a strategic, AI-driven platform within the HR suite, powered by cloud, compliance and labor market pressure”



Labor shortages

+ 2.7% impact on CAGR forecast

The “War for Talent” in Europe makes efficient workforce utilization a survival imperative, not a choice. Organizations are turning to software to optimize every billable hour.



Regulatory Pressure

+ 2.8% impact on CAGR forecast

Risk Mitigation: Complex, shifting labor laws make manual scheduling a severe financial liability. High Stickiness: Hard-coded compliance creates a structural moat with near-zero churn.



SaaS Transition

+ 2.7% impact on CAGR forecast

Ongoing transition from legacy on-premise systems to cloud-native platforms, whereby 64% of WFM revenue is already cloud-based with SMEs adopting SaaS rapidly.

Impact on WFM demand

AI-Driven Optimization: Maximizes overall productivity through automated staff allocation.

Workforce Retention: Embedded fatigue and well-being analytics protect staff and reduce turnover.

Automated Tracking: Replaces manual logging of hours, overtime, and mandatory rest periods.

The Compliance Moat: An embedded, localized compliance engine is now a non-negotiable buying criterion.

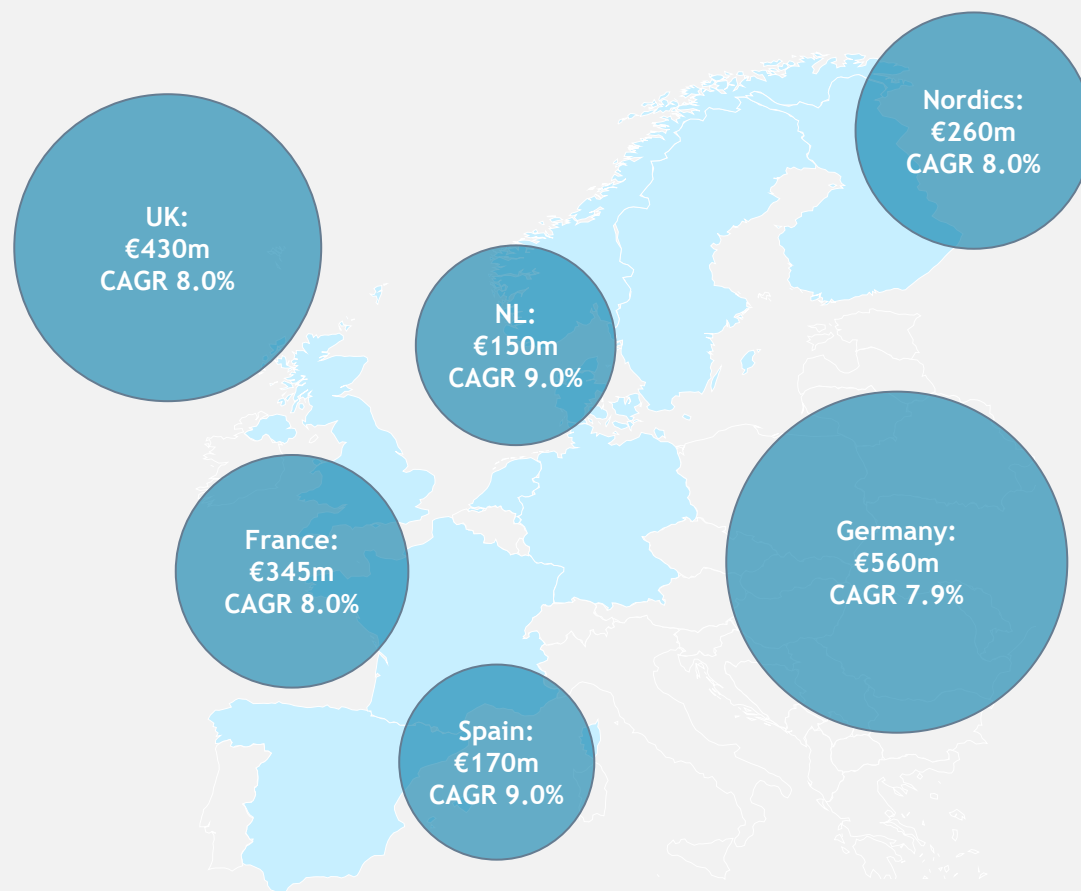
Rapid Scalability: Cloud-first platforms lower deployment barriers and provide real-time, multi-site visibility.

AI Readiness: True cloud infrastructure is the mandatory foundation for unlocking advanced AI capabilities.

Sources: Mordor Intelligence: Europe Workforce Management (January 2026); DataIntelto: Workforce Management Software Market Research Report 2034 (April 2026); BDO analysis
Notes: The Mordor Intelligence forecasts treat driver or restraint impacts as directional, not additive. The impact forecasts reflect baseline growth, mix effects, and variable interactions, which means that individual components may not sum exactly to the reported overall CAGR.

A fragmented **€2.3B TAM**: complex regional labor laws act as a **strong catalyst** for growing local WFM markets

“High regulatory fragmentation acts as a barrier to entry for global suites, making local champions the primary consolidation targets.”



ECJ 2022 ruling mandates objective time-tracking across all sectors



Employment Rights Bill 2024 drives compliance-aware scheduling



Article L1222-4 and the 35-hour week create complex scheduling requirements



Sophisticated absence management requirements



Ley de Control Horario (2019) mandates digital time-tracking for all employers



Strict Working Hours Act (ATW) and Balanced Labor Market Act (WAB) (2020) extending part-time worker protections drive demand for compliance-aware scheduling

Sources: Market Data Forecast (February 2026); Mordor Intelligence Europe WFM Software Market (January 2026); Market Research Future Europe WFM Market (February 2026); KBV Research Europe WFM (December 2023); BDO analysis

Workforce types dictate **competitive moat**: blue-collar WFM structurally benefits from higher stickiness and stronger barriers

Operational Impact	Blue-collar WFM Production Dependency Mission critical Software downtime immediately halts shift physical operations, causing direct revenue loss for the client.	White-collar WFM Efficiency Focused Productivity tool Downtime is an inconvenience to office planning but does not stop the core business from functioning.
Regulatory Moat	Hyper-Local Compliance (CLAs) High entry barriers Hard-coded local labor laws make it nearly impossible for global US-suites to enter the market easily.	Generic Global Rules Low barriers Standard 9-to-5 schedules are easily replicated by any generalist HR platform (e.g., Workday, Personio).
Switching Costs	Deep Hardware Integration Lock-in Tied to physical time-clocks, access gates, and highly complex local payroll integrations.	Cloud-to-Cloud API Low to medium Lightweight software implementations that can be replaced during standard IT procurement reviews.
Financial Resilience	Recession Proof Low churn Companies cannot cancel the software without impacting the work floor.	Discretionary Spend Vulnerable Viewed as ‘Nice to have’. Often consolidated into broader ERP packages during economic downturns.

Five key verticals within the blue-collar workforce represent the **vast majority of the European TAM**, with Healthcare and Manufacturing & Logistics offering premium defensibility

	Vertical	Description	TAM share	Key purchasing criteria	M&A Quality
	Hospitality	Highest scheduling complexity, mobile-first	22%	- Ease of use, mobile - POS integration	Medium
	Retail	Multi-location chains, peak-/off-peak demand, part-time heavy	24%	- Multi-site, demand forecasting - Payroll integration	Medium
	Healthcare & care	Complex scheduling, mandatory patient-to-staff ratios and 24/7 coverage requirements	18%	- Compliance - Qualification matching - On-call rules	Premium
	Manufacturing & logistics	Fatigue management, strict integration with collective labor agreements and hardware-based time and attendance tracking	14%	- ERP integration - Shift premiums - Works council rules	Premium
	Services & leisure	Event- and season-driven, high share of casual and part-time workers with frequent last-minute roster changes	14%	- Mobile clock-in - Casual payroll	Medium

"While Retail and Hospitality offer scale, Healthcare and Manufacturing & Logistics represent the highest 'Investment Quality' due to extreme compliance requirements and integration depth."

Sources: Market Data Forecast Europe WFM Market by vertical (February 2026); Mordor Intelligence WFM Software Market (January 2026); BDO analysis.
Notes: The remaining ~8% represents other verticals not included on this slide.

Scalable market penetration requires a multi-layered **Go-To-Market (GTM) strategy**, balancing direct sales with partner ecosystems

Route A: Direct sales

Inbound & Outbound

Trend: High CAC¹, High ACV ➡

- **Strategy:** Targeted Acquisition. Outbound Account-Based Marketing (ABM) for Enterprise; SEO and content-driven Inbound for SMEs.
- **Primary Value:** Control & Predictability. Full ownership of the pipeline and the ability to steer complex, multi-stakeholder enterprise deals.
- **Target Market:** Mid-Market to Enterprise. Focus on segments where the Annual Contract Value (ACV) justifies the high cost of a direct sales force.

Route B: Ecosystem

Integrations

Trend: The Scale Multiplier ➡

- **Strategy:** Network Leverage. API-syncs with Payroll (AFAS, DATEV) combined with referrals from HR Consultants and Accountants.
- **Primary Value:** Low CAC & High Retention. Accelerates sales via "Trusted Advisors" and increases stickiness (2.5x higher retention for integrated setups).
- **Target Market:** SME & Mid-Market. Clients seeking connected, "best-of-breed" HR tech stacks without internal IT hassle.

Route C: Product Led Growth

Worker Engagement

Trend: Emerging Disruptor ➡

- **Strategy:** Employee Experience. Bottom-up adoption driven by mobile-first worker features, self-serve onboarding, and freemium funnels.
- **Primary Value:** Viral Expansion. Frontline worker satisfaction (e.g., easy shift swapping) forces top-down management adoption.
- **Target Market:** Frontline High-Volume. Retail, Healthcare, and Hospitality sectors facing severe talent retention challenges.

*"A winning WFM vendor knows that direct sales alone is no longer enough.
The real winners combine it with strong partner networks and a product that practically sells itself."*

Notes: (1) Customer Acquisition Cost (CAC)

Hyper-local labor laws forced an M&A roll-up strategy historically, but an organic play is becoming **increasingly attractive** due to GenAI

Route A: Organic

Build with AI

Trend: Increasingly Attractive ➡

- **Strategy:** AI-assisted R&D. Leveraging GenAI to automate the ingestion and coding of local labor laws and Collective Labor Agreements (CLA).
- **Speed to Market:** Fast (Months). GenAI reduces the traditional development timeline from years to a matter of months.
- **Investment Focus:** Internal R&D and building a local Go-to-Market team from scratch.
- **Primary Risk:** Brand & Trust. Building local market credibility and a customer base without a prior track record.

Route B: Strategic M&A

Buy Market Share

Trend: Shifting Rationale ➡

- **Strategy:** Buy Market Share. Acquiring an established "Local Champion" with a proven compliance engine.
- **Speed to Market:** Immediate. Instant access to a localized product, established annual recurring revenue (ARR), and a sticky customer base.
- **Investment Focus:** Paying an acquisition premium for established brand equity.
- **Primary Risk:** Valuation & Integration. High multiples are harder to justify if the underlying tech is replicable by AI.

Route C: Ecosystem

Partnering

Trend: Testing ground ➡

- **Strategy:** The "Bridge" Play. Deep API-integrations or white-labeling through dominant local payroll providers.
- **Speed to Market:** Moderate (6-12 Mo). Requires technical alignment and commercial negotiation with local partners.
- **Investment Focus:** Lower upfront costs but involves revenue sharing or commissions with partners.
- **Primary Risk:** Dependency. Reliance on third-party roadmaps and limited control over the end-to-end customer experience.

"As LLMs drastically reduce the time and cost required to translate complex, local legal texts (CLAs) into hardcoded software rules, the driver for European M&A shifts from acquiring technology to acquiring installed base and brand equity."

The WFM software market is led by **global HR suites**, complemented by **local pure specialists**

Global strategies

One-stop-shop

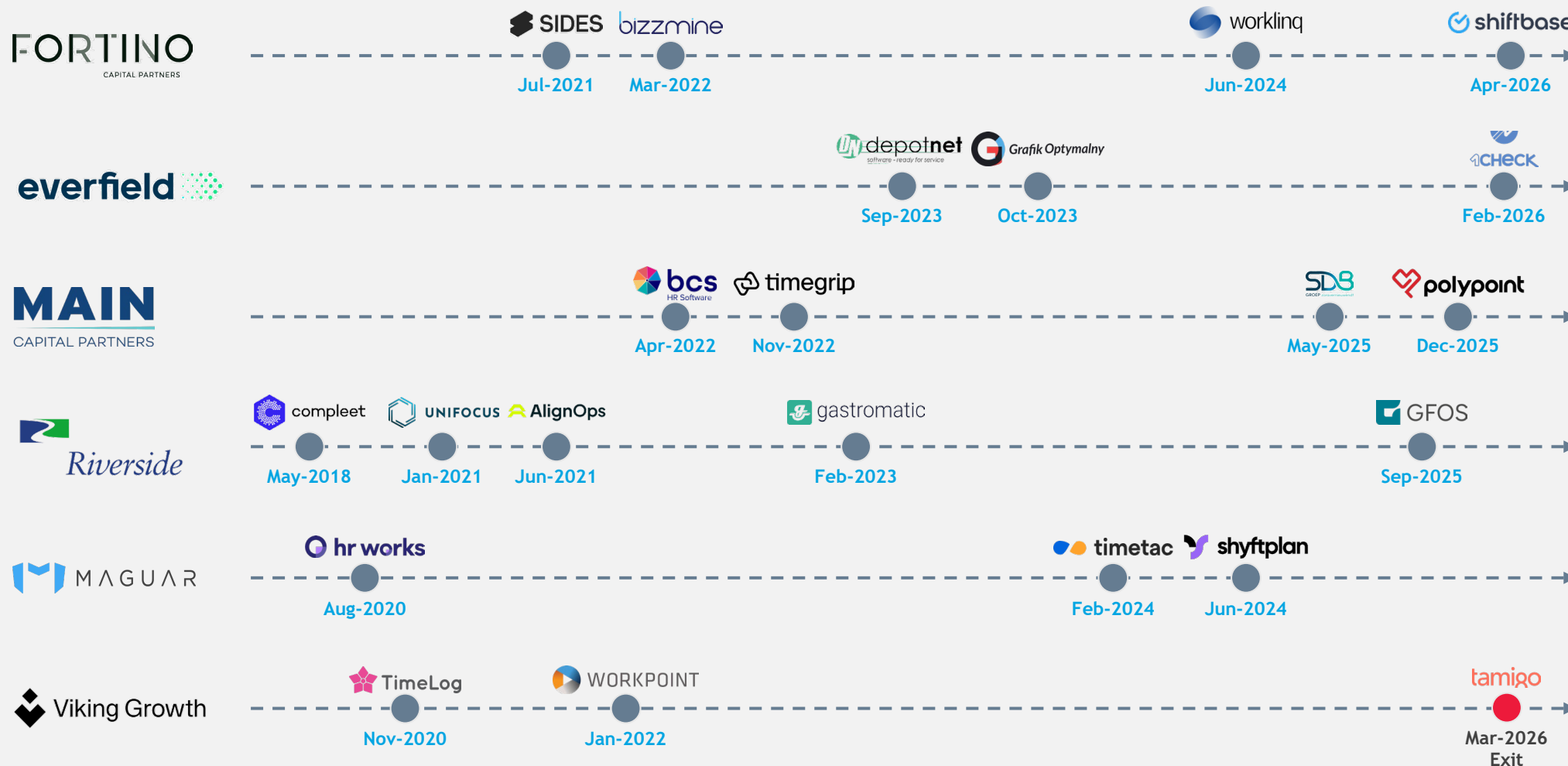


Pure WFM players

In-depth knowledge



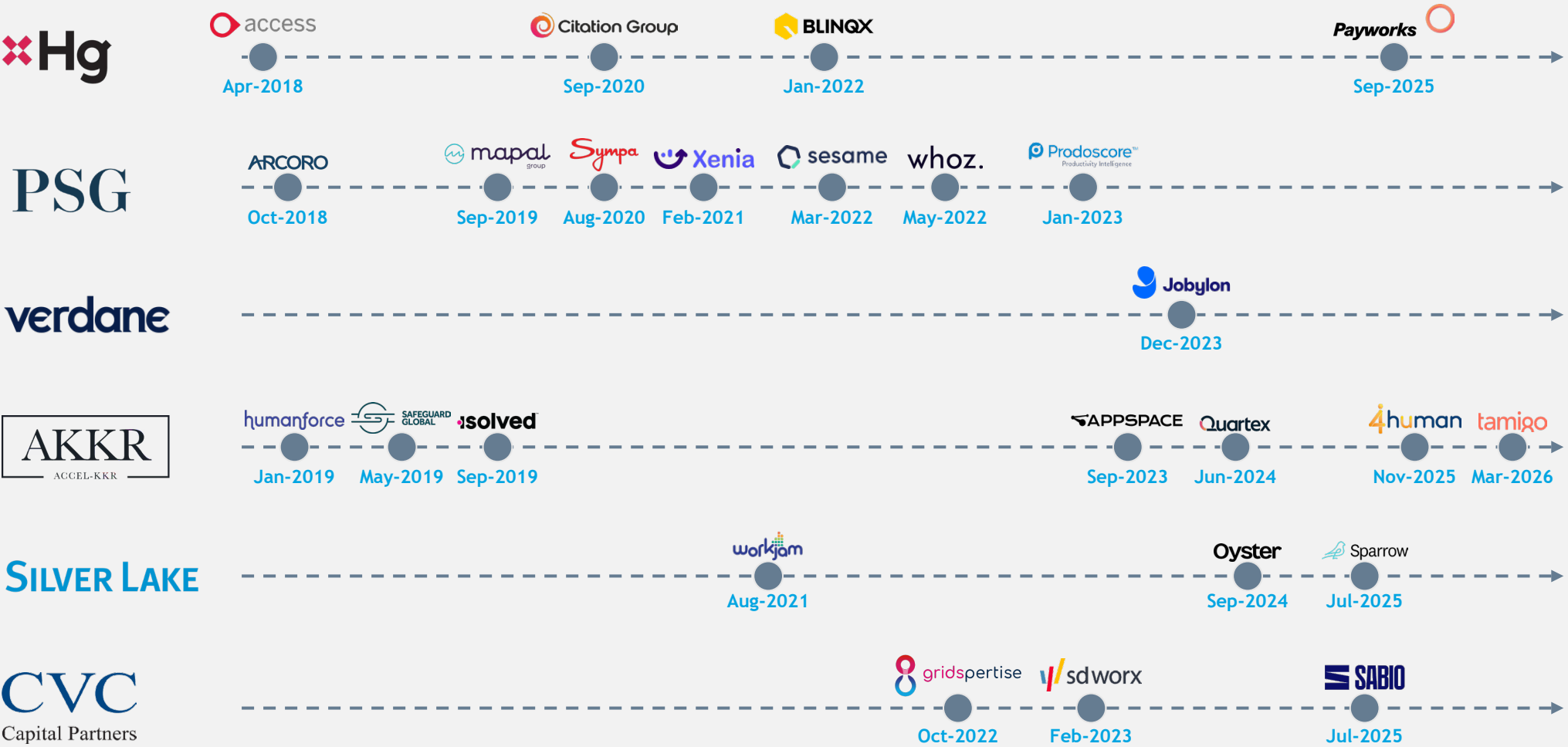
Significant PE presence with **active portfolios** across Europe and the US



Source: Gain

Notes: Non-exhaustive overview of PE investments in WFM & HR software

Significant PE presence with **active portfolios** across Europe and the US

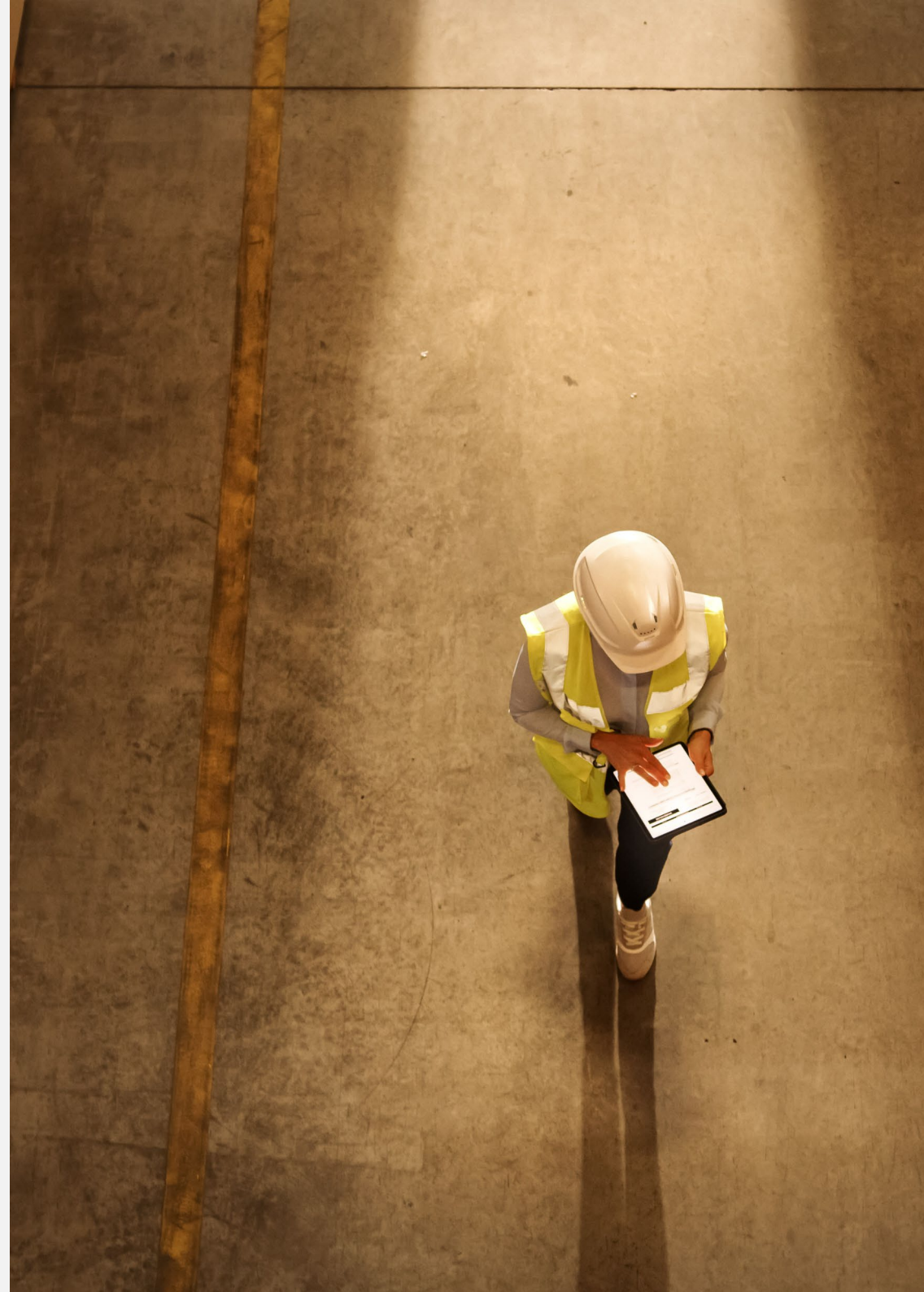


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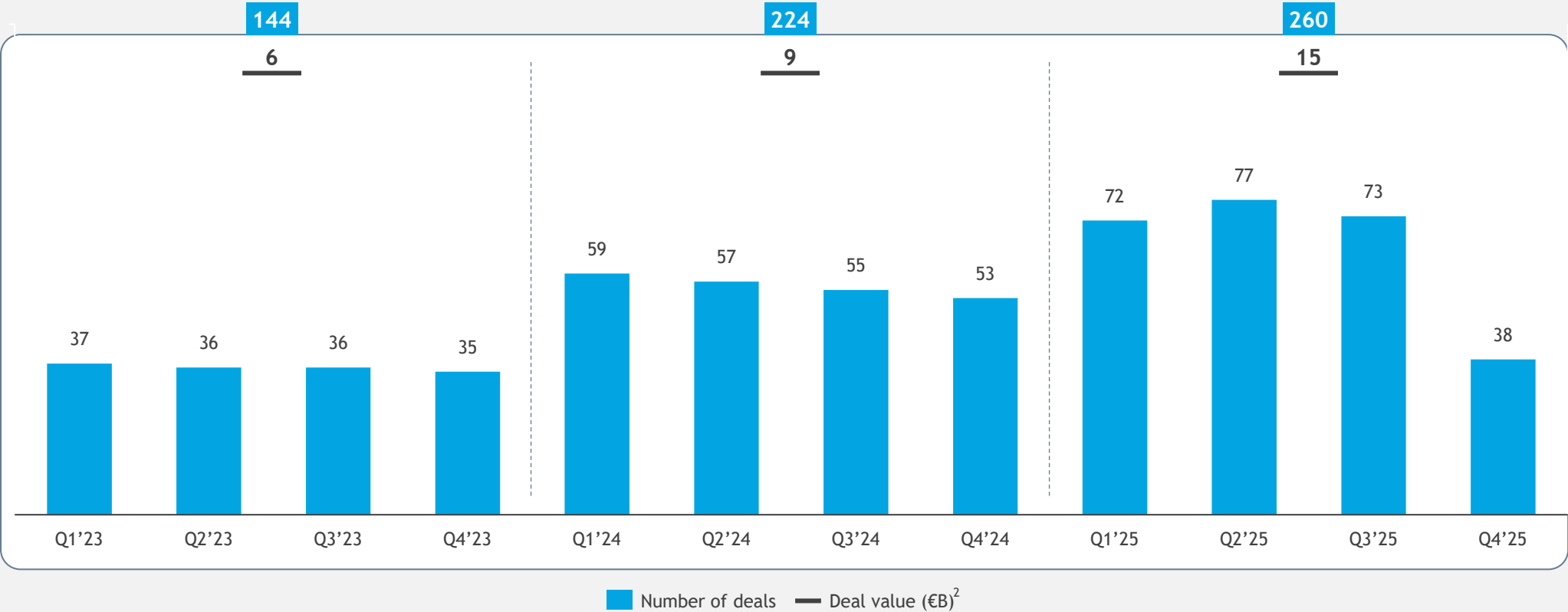
SECTION 02

The land grab

Platform building and add-on acquisitions reshaping the workforce solutions landscape



Record transaction volumes indicate accelerating **M&A momentum** in the HR software market



Sources: Carlsquare – Human Capital Management (HCM) Software Market Update (November 2025)
Notes: (1) Data presented for Q4 2025 includes transactions recorded up to 7 November 2025; (2) Figures are converted from \$ to € based on the average yearly exchange rates of the ECB for 2023-2024 and the average exchange rate from 1 January 2025 to 7 November 2025 for 2025 figure

Platform builders fuel record WFM deal activity

Target		Buyer		Date	PE / VC ¹	Description of the target's solution
				Apr-26		WFM and employee scheduling software
				Apr-26		Online payroll and HR administration software
				Apr-26		Leave management software
				Apr-26		HR software including WFM solutions
				Mar-26		Field & workflow management software for construction sector
				Jan-26		Workforce scheduling and staffing software
				Jan-26		WFM platform
				Dec-25		HR software including WFM solutions
				Nov-25		HR software including WFM solutions
				Oct-25		HR software including WFM solutions
				Oct-25		WFM software for the construction industry
				Oct-25		Compensation planning management software
				Oct-25		Cloud-based software solutions to streamline workforce
				Sep-25		Total WFM software solutions
				Sep-25		Planning software
				Jul-25		Scheduling and team management software
				Jun-25		Workforce scheduling and employee scheduling software

Sources: Media overview, Gain, CapitalIQ

Notes: (1) The buyer is either a PE/VC firm or a strategic acquirer backed by a PE/VC firm

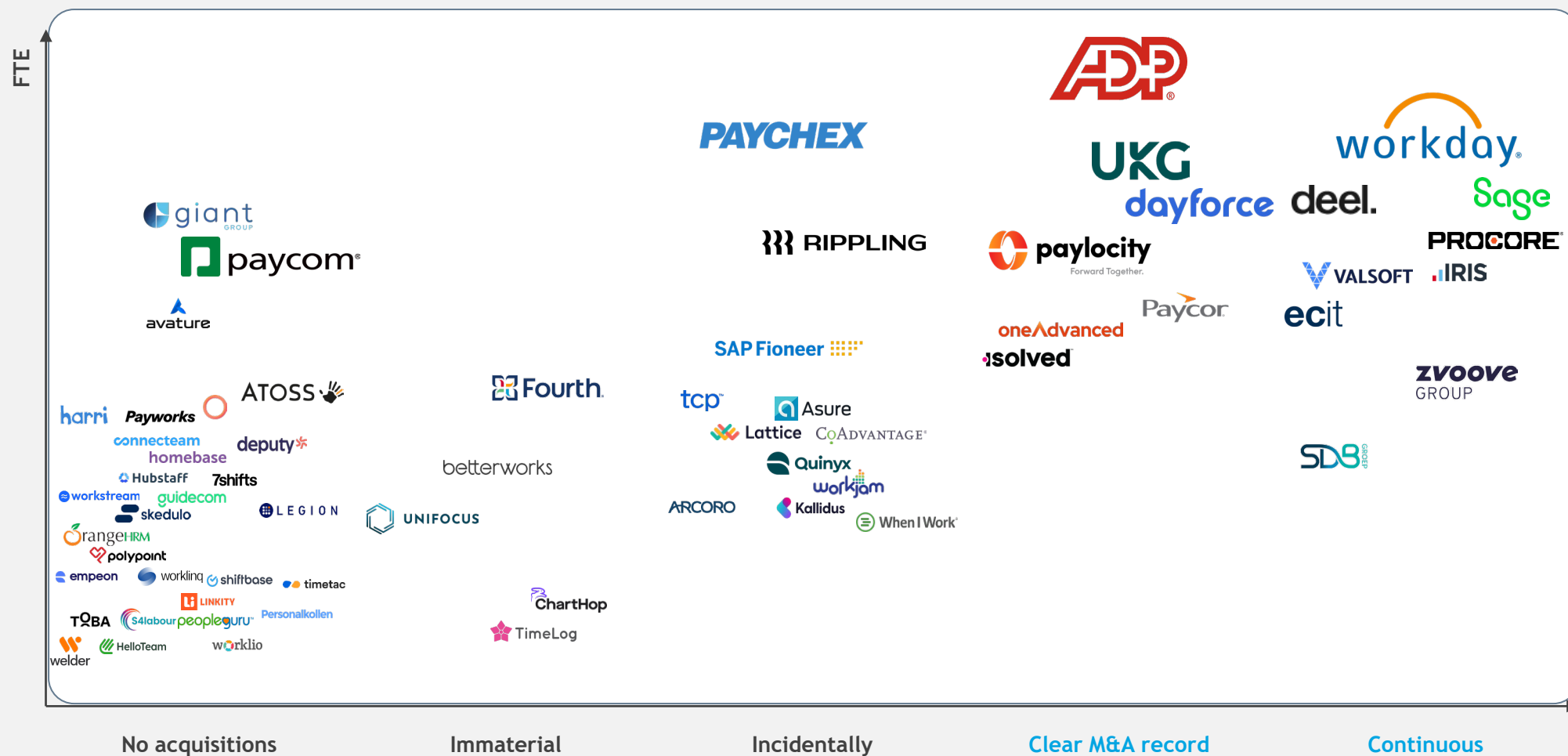
Platform builders fuel record WFM deal activity

Target		Buyer		Date	PE / VC ¹	Description of the target's solution
 LINDA		 total specific solutions		Jun-25		WFM and scheduling software
 TIMEULAR		 timetac		Jun-25		Project management software
 rotagEEK		 ELMO		May-25		AI-driven WFM and rota software provider
 S4labour		 YFM Equity Partners		May-25		Workplace Management software provider for hospitality businesses
 SAU SOFTWARE 4 YOU		 timegrip		Mar-25		HR and WFM software
 elementsuite Powerful. Smart. HR Software.		 zellis		Jan-25		Cloud-based HR and payroll software
 Paycor		 PAYCHEX		Jan-25		Human capital management platform including WFM solutions
 sameSYSTEM		 ecit		Jan-25		SaaS WFM
 TimeChimp		 VISMA		Dec-24		SaaS platform focused on time tracking, expense reporting, and project management
 PERBILITY		 Rivean Capital		Oct-24		HCM software provider within Germany
 workforce SOFTWARE - An ADP Company		 ADP		Oct-24		Enterprise WFM platform
 JCMS		 MAVEN Caring. Inspiring.		Oct-24		Workforce optimisation software
 shyftplan		 MAGUAR		Jun-24		Workforce scheduling and planning software
 zeit ag		 VOLARIS		Mar-24		Time management and workforce software
 SHEEPBLUE WORKFORCE		 sdworx		Mar-24		Workforce scheduling and communication platform
 Planbition		 zvoove		Jan-24		A cloud-based software for streamlining tasks like planning, scheduling, and reporting on a centralised platform
 timetac		 MAGUAR		Jan-24		Time tracking and absence management software

Sources: Media overview, Gain, CapitalIQ

Notes: (1) The buyer is either a PE/VC firm or a strategic acquirer backed by a PE/VC firm

M&A activity is **concentrated among global platforms**, leaving regional players in organic mode



Sources: Gain - based on a non-exhaustive selection of companies active in WFM

PE-backed platforms and independent strategics **dominate the global consolidation play**

Strategic players

Organic growth



PE-backed platforms

Buy-and-build strategy



Sources: Gain - based on a non-exhaustive selection of companies active in WFM

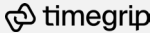
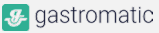
Overview of primary **strategic buyers** and **PE-backed** consolidation platforms

	ATOSS 	Quinyx 	planday 	ARCORO 	DYFLEXIS 	intus 	tamigo 	SYNTEGRO 	shiftbase 	UKG 
Foundation year	1987	2005	2004	2018	2006	2000	2006	2007	2011	2020
Country										
Employees ¹	864	294	252	179	125	101	99	52	83	16,337
PE/VC-backed	-		-		-	-				
Region of operation	Global	Global	Global	Global	Global	Europe	Global	Europe	Europe	Global
Activity	WFM	WFM	WFM	HR	WFM	WFM	WFM, Payroll Management	WFM, Access Management	WFM	WFM, Payroll Management
Blue-collar / White-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar
Number of markets ²	52	20	39	20	20	3	20	5	7	100+
LinkedIn subscribers ³	35,607	22,000	22,600	5,772	6,347	3,129	3,881	2,514	4,688	326,114

Sources: Companies' websites; LinkedIn website

Notes: (1) Based on data from companies' official websites or, when absent, on LinkedIn; (2) The number of countries where the company offers its solutions; (3) As of 19 May 2026

Overview of primary **strategic buyers** and **PE-backed** consolidation platforms

	 timegrip	 shyftplan	 gastromatic	 LINKITY	 dayforce	 Payworks	 zvoove GROUP	 SDS	 icp	 timetac
Foundation year	1995	2013	2014	2009	2009	2000	1994	1976	1988	2009
Country										
Employees ¹	81	63	203	63	6,719	542	759	384	1,343	86
PE/VC-backed										
Region of operation	Europe	Europe	Europe	Europe	Global	Global	Global	Europe	Global	Europe
Activity	WFM	WFM	WFM	WFM and Payroll	HR	WFM and Payroll	WFM	HR	WFM	WFM
Blue-collar / White-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar
Number of markets ²	30	~3-10	~3-10	3	200	~3-10	~10-15	~2-5	~20-40	30
LinkedIn subscribers ³	2,017	4,986	6,235	763	317,320	14,089	1,630	3,739	106,501	7,020

Sources: Companies' websites; LinkedIn website

Notes: (1) Based on data from companies' official websites or, when absent, on LinkedIn; (2) The number of countries where the company offers its solutions; (3) As of 19 May 2026

Overview of primary **strategic buyers** and **PE-backed** consolidation platforms

										
Foundation year	2013	2000	2013	2003	2011	1999	1998	1986	1997	1978
Country										
Employees ¹	3,000	208	344	49	58	883	227	82	622	3,033
PE/VC-backed										
Region of operation	Europe	Global	Global	Benelux	Europe	Global	Global	Europe	US	Global
Activity	HR	Performance management	WFM	WFM	WFM	HR	WFM	WFM	HR	HR
Blue-collar / White-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	White-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	White-collar
Number of markets ²	11	n.d.	28	2	2	60	31	5	1	135
LinkedIn subscribers ³	~40,000	8,797	69,770	1,606	1,295	28,228	13,587	2,027	22,098	212,721

Sources: Companies' websites; LinkedIn website

Notes: (1) Based on data from companies' official websites or, when absent, on LinkedIn; (2) The number of countries where the company offers its solutions; (3) As of 19 May 2026

Driving premium valuations: the five **key pillars** of blue-collar WFM asset resilience

1

< 5% Churn

Gross revenue churn

Mission-Critical Operations

Because the software runs daily shift patterns and essential sector rules, turning it off means the business stops running. This absolute necessity is exactly why switching costs are high and gross churn stays low.

2

> 110% NRR

Net revenue retention

Growing Existing Clients

An NRR above 110% shows that the vendor successfully expands within its current customer base. This is achieved through smart pricing models and by continuously adding new features and modules that clients want to buy.

3

> 4.0x Ratio

CLTV / CAC¹

Smart Customer Acquisition

A high ratio is increasingly critical as traditional GTM channels shift (e.g., users moving from Google Search to AI-driven discovery). Platforms leveraging strong partner ecosystems maintain efficient acquisition costs despite this top-of-funnel volatility.

4

> 60% Ratio

DAU / MAU engagement²

Loved by the Frontline

When frontline workers use the app daily for shift swapping and communication, it creates strong loyalty. Management won't easily cancel a tool their team relies on.

5

Rule of 40

Sales growth and margin

Highly Efficient Growth

Investors demand a healthy equilibrium between top-line expansion and EBITDA margins. Controlled, profitable scaling now heavily outranks the historical, high-burn “growth-at-all-costs” playbook.

“In today's market, the highest multiples go to platforms that acquire customers efficiently and keep them on board through undeniable product value.”

Notes: (1) Customer lifetime Value (CLTV) / Customer Acquisition Cost (CAC); (2) Daily Activity Users (DAU) / Monthly Activity Users (MAU)

SECTION 03

The AI Divide

From a reactive
administrative burden
into a proactive engine



The AI disruption: WFM evolving from record-focused tools to truly **agentic assistants**

The WFM market is splitting

GenAI and Machine Learning are fundamentally dividing the landscape into premium "intelligent platforms" and legacy commoditized tools.

AI transforms software from a reactive administrative burden into a proactive engine that protects margins and optimizes talent.

"In our view, AI in WFM is no longer just an option or vague idea on a roadmap: it is today's primary evaluation metric for Private Equity to assess future market defensibility and exit multiples."

The Data Moat: History is the Edge

AI models are only as good as their training data. Established vendors with decades of local scheduling, compliance, and attendance data hold a significant advantage over new entrants.

M&A Value: Proprietary Datasets

From Tracking to Proactive Execution

Traditional systems act as a 'System of Record' (what happened yesterday). AI enables a 'System of Action' predicting what is needed tomorrow and resolving conflicts automatically.

M&A Value: Higher Pricing Power

The Valuation Premium

Vendors that successfully embed AI into their core workflows experience lower churn and higher net retention. AI is rapidly becoming the baseline requirement for premium valuations.

M&A Value: Peak Valuation

From manual puzzle to **automated execution**: AI is the new baseline for blue-collar WFM

Predictive Demand Forecasting **Anticipating volume-driven staffing needs**

- **The challenge:** Shift-based industries (retail, logistics, healthcare) face high demand volatility. Traditional historical scheduling leads to costly over- or understaffing.
- **The AI engine:** Machine learning synthesizes internal history with external data streams (e.g., weather, local events, supply chain volume) to predict precise labor requirements per location.
- **The impact:** Optimized resource allocation, maximized labor margins, and the elimination of idle time.

Algorithmic Shift Planning **Automated, multi-variable scheduling**

- **The challenge:** Planners struggle to manually balance complex business rules, employee preferences, and cost constraints.
- **The AI engine:** Advanced algorithms instantly solve millions of scheduling combinations to generate the optimal roster, dynamically adjusting to real-time call-outs or sick leaves.
- **The impact:** A massive reduction in manual administrative workload, optimized labor spend, and higher employee retention through fairer schedules.

Predictive Compliance **Real-time regulatory risk mitigation**

- **The challenge:** Hyper-local labor laws and union rules are increasingly complex, creating significant financial risk for non-compliance.
- **The AI engine:** Hardcoded legal constraints are embedded into the AI. It proactively flags violations (e.g., inadequate rest periods, overtime limits) before a shift is published.
- **The impact:** Zero-defect scheduling, elimination of regulatory fines, and real-time audit readiness.

"The divide in the WFM software market is becoming clear: legacy vendors track what happened yesterday, while winning AI platforms predict and optimize what needs to happen tomorrow."

Sources: Emerald Insight (October 2025); Nature (March 2026).

While AI automates scheduling in blue-collar sectors, it **redefines value capture** in white-collar environments by directly impacting billable revenue and talent retention

Revenue & Margins enhancing

Zero-Touch Time Tracking

Passive revenue capture

- **The challenge:** Manual timesheets cause structural revenue leakage and high administrative fatigue for consultants.
- **The AI engine:** Passive tracking cross-references calendars, emails, and app usage to automatically allocate and draft billable hours.
- **The impact:** Instant recapture of lost billable revenue and zero-friction administration.

Resource Allocation

Margin-optimized staffing

- **The challenge:** Suboptimal project staffing leads to expensive bench time (underutilization) or project delays.
- **The AI engine:** Machine learning analyzes historical project data and current pipelines to forecast specific resource needs and flag capacity risks early.
- **The impact:** Maximized billable utilization, improved project margins, and reduced bench time.

Talent & Retention enhancing

Dynamic Skills Ontology

Real-time talent mapping

- **The challenge:** Static HR profiles fail to capture the rapidly changing skill sets required for modern project delivery.
- **The AI engine:** Natural Language Processing (NLP) extracts skills from job data, project outputs, and communications to build a self-updating, dynamic talent taxonomy.
- **The impact:** Total visibility into workforce capabilities, enabling precise talent-to-project matching.

Burnout & Flight Risk Analytics

Proactive retention intelligence

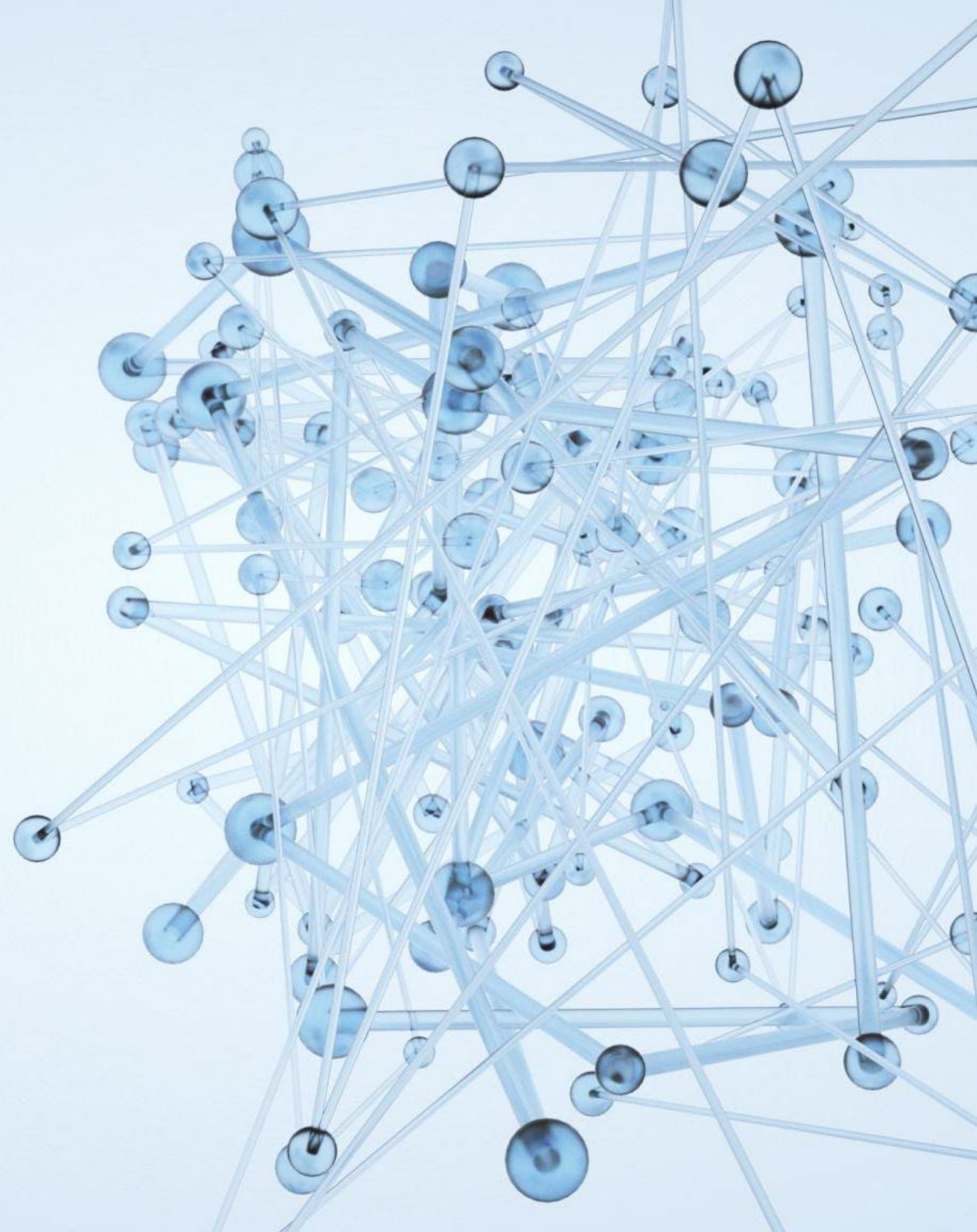
- **The challenge:** Losing key knowledge workers disrupts client projects and incurs massive replacement costs.
- **The AI engine:** Algorithms analyze workload patterns, paid time off usage, and behavioral signals to identify early signs of attrition before they manifest.
- **The impact:** Enables highly targeted proactive interventions, lowering churn and preserving institutional knowledge.

“In the white-collar space, AI features are increasingly blurring the lines between WFM, HRIS and Employee Experience (EX) platforms. Investors looking at white-collar resource management tools must evaluate whether the target’s AI capabilities are truly proprietary, or if they are vulnerable to being replicated by Microsoft or large ERP systems”

Sources: LogTime.ai (2025), Rize (2026), Timegrip (2025), WEF Future of Jobs Report (2025), Gartner (2026), Emerald (2025), Nexius (2025), Gallup, Global Talent Trends (2024), INOP (2026), Fortune (2026), Satalia (2026)

SECTION 04

For Founders & Investors



What this means if you own a WFM business today

1

Your scarcity premium is real – but it is dated

Buyers pay for installed base, local compliance depth and brand. As GenAI makes the technology layer replicable, the premium migrates to assets that cannot be rebuilt: your customers and your data.

2

The metrics that move your multiple are knowable

Sub-5% gross churn, NRR above 110%, CLTV/CAC above 4x and a credible Rule of 40 story. Eighteen months of deliberate preparation on these five pillars routinely changes the multiple conversation.

3

Timing is now a strategic variable

With 34 deals in 28 months, the map of independent local champions is being redrawn each quarter. Optionality is highest while multiple platforms still need your geography – not after.

Curious what this wave means for your business? Maarten Kuil, Partner Deal Advisory · maarten.kuil@bdo.nl · +31 306 336 330



“IT WAS INTENSE, AND IT MATTERED.”

Shiftbase started as a side project – built in evenings and weekends for a single restaurant. Today, it serves 8,000+ businesses across Europe. With Fortino Capital as new majority shareholder, BDO Deal Advisory acted as sole financial advisor for Shiftbase.



“The process was intense and fast-paced, but at every step we felt that our priorities were understood and respected. That gave us the confidence to fully commit.”

Kars Frijters, Co-founder & CEO



“The personal connection matters just as much as the track record. We had a team that was both sharp and genuinely invested in the right outcome for us, besides that the BDO team understood our market from day one. We didn’t have to explain why Shiftbase matters.”

Jurrien Strobel, Co-founder & CRO



Why we are poised to realize the best deal for you

Market leader

Extensive mid-market track-record of delivering quality deals

International reach

Local insights on a global scale

Sector specialists

Dedicated team with vast experience in your industry

One-stop-shop

Technical specialists for every step of the process

Sector expertise

Software

Enterprise software, mobile applications, and vertical market software; supported by recurring revenue streams

IT services

Provide the necessary infrastructure, support, and expertise to meet the evolving demands of the digital landscape

Digital agencies

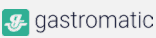
Technology-based services provided by businesses, transforming the way businesses market their solutions and attract new customers

SECTION 05

Appendices



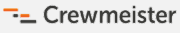
Overview of primary **strategic buyers** and **PE-backed** consolidation platforms in Germany

										
Foundation year	2021	2013	2014	1995	1987	1888	1974	1993	2017	2015
Country										
Employees ¹	56	63	203	167	864	146	329	41	99	54
PE/VC-backed				-	-	-	-	-		
Region of operation	Europe	Europe	Europe	Global	Global	Europe	Global	Europe	Global	Global
Activity	WFM	WFM	WFM	WFM	WFM	WFM	WFM & Security	WFM	HR	HR
Blue-collar / White-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar
Number of markets ²	3	~3-10	~3-10	30	52	3	11	1	15	10
LinkedIn subscribers ³	2,935	4,986	6,235	6,588	35,607	1,061	4,494	506	7,823	2,454

Sources: Companies' websites; LinkedIn website; PitchBook website

Notes: (1) Based on data from companies' official websites or, when absent, on LinkedIn; (2) The number of countries where the company offers its solutions; (3) As of 19 May 2026

Overview of primary **strategic buyers** and **PE-backed** consolidation platforms in Germany

										
Foundation year	1997	2018	2013	2014	1989	2012	2014	2015	1994	1989
Country										
Employees ¹	18	70	13	16	50	19	90	75	30	12
PE/VC-backed	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region of operation	Global	Europe	Europe	Global	Europe	Europe	Europe	Europe	Europe	Global
Activity	WFM	WFM	WFM	WFM	WFM	WFM	WFM	WFM	WFM	WFM
Blue-collar / White-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar
Number of markets ²	1	~3-10	1	8	1	5	~3-10	~3-10	3	1
LinkedIn subscribers ³	155	2,552	147	589	407	417	1,892	5,642	1,299	1,285

Sources: Companies' websites; LinkedIn website; PitchBook website

Notes: (1) Based on data from companies' official websites or, when absent, on LinkedIn; (2) The number of countries where the company offers its solutions; (3) As of 19 May 2026

Overview of primary **strategic buyers** and **PE-backed** consolidation platforms in Germany

										
Foundation year	1994	1992	2008	1968	1985	1984	2007	2000	2009	1977
Country										
Employees ¹	759	1,590	583	214	318	360	293	350	220	250
PE/VC-backed								-		
Region of operation	Global	Global	Europe	Europe	Europe	Europe	Europe	Europe	Europe	Europe
Activity	HR	HR	WFM	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR
Blue-collar / White-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	White-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	White-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	White-collar	White-collar	White-collar
Number of markets ²	~10-15	50	~3-10	14	1	24	19	1	~1-3	~1-3
LinkedIn subscribers ³	1,630	12,438	4,183	3,160	7,744	2,799	2,735	4,392	2,314	2,048

Sources: Companies' websites; LinkedIn website; PitchBook website

Notes: (1) Based on data from companies' official websites or, when absent, on LinkedIn; (2) The number of countries where the company offers its solutions; (3) As of 19 May 2026

Overview of primary **strategic buyers** and **PE-backed** consolidation platforms in the United Kingdom

	 Sona.	 Kallidus	 S4labour	 rotageek	 edays	 GOOD SHAPE	 oneAdvanced	 CROWN Workforce Management	 WFM	 IRIS
Foundation year	2021	2000	2010	2009	2005	2004	2008	1987	1999	1978
Country										
Employees ¹	202	208	56	59	50	90	2,283	57	21	3,033
PE/VC-backed				-				-	-	
Region of operation	Europe	Global	Europe	Europe	Global	Europe	Global	Europe	Europe	Global
Activity	WFM	Performance Management	WFM	WFM	WFM	WFM	HR	WFM	WFM	HR
Blue-collar / White-collar	Blue-collar	White-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	White-collar
Number of markets ²	~1-3	n.d.	n.d.	~1-3	120	~1-3	~1-3	2	1	135
LinkedIn subscribers ³	15,408	8,797	3,172	3,599	2,233	2,181	91,449	2,512	854	212,721

Sources: Companies' websites; LinkedIn website; PitchBook website

Notes: (1) Based on data from companies' official websites or, when absent, on LinkedIn; (2) The number of countries where the company offers its solutions; (3) As of 19 May 2026

Overview of primary **strategic buyers** and **PE-backed** consolidation platforms in the United Kingdom

										
Foundation year	2013	2013	2022	1999	1994	2015	2016	2020	1963	1978
Country										
Employees ¹	46	67	54	19	20	9,732	13	48	1,523	134
PE/VC-backed	-	-	-	-						
Region of operation	Global	Europe	Europe	Europe	Europe	Global	Europe	Global	Global	Europe
Activity	WFM	WFM	HR	WFM	HR	HR	WFM	HR	HR	HR
Blue-collar / White-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar
Number of markets ²	~3-10	n.d.	~1-3	~1-3	~1-3	~15	~1-3	n.d.	n.d.	~2-5
LinkedIn subscribers ³	1,677	2,285	1,772	1,432	472	177,932	945	13,381	63,978	3,654

Sources: Companies' websites; LinkedIn website; PitchBook website

Notes: (1) Based on data from companies' official websites or, when absent, on LinkedIn; (2) The number of countries where the company offers its solutions; (3) As of 19 May 2026

Overview of primary **strategic buyers** and **PE-backed** consolidation platforms in the United Kingdom

										
Foundation year	2013	1981	1992	1985	1998	1998	1989	2005	1982	2015
Country										
Employees ¹	115	11,094	7,811	426	150	400	500	332	220	602
PE/VC-backed		-								
Region of operation	Global	Global	Global	Global	Global	Global	Global	Global	Europe	Global
Activity	HR	HR	HR	WFM	WFM	WFM	WFM	WFM	HR	HR
Blue-collar / White-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	White-collar	Blue-collar	White-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar
Number of markets ²	120	~25	58	~5-10	~5-10	~10-15	150	40	n.d.	~5-10
LinkedIn subscribers ³	10,107	621,733	66,329	24,908	1,799	29,675	10,224	10,726	29,970	23,693

Sources: Companies' websites; LinkedIn website; PitchBook website

Notes: (1) Based on data from companies' official websites or, when absent, on LinkedIn; (2) The number of countries where the company offers its solutions; (3) As of 19 May 2026

Overview of primary **strategic buyers** and **PE-backed** consolidation platforms in France

										
Foundation year	2012	1998	1987	2005	2016	2016	1868	1988	1998	2002
Country										
Employees ¹	14	300	200	151	159	445	1,140	76	628	18
PE/VC-backed								-		-
Region of operation	Europe	Global	Europe	Global	Europe	Global	Global	Europe	Global	Global
Activity	WFM	WFM	Time Management	WFM	WFM & Payroll	WFM & Payroll	Time management	WFM	WFM & Payroll	WFM
Blue-collar / White-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar
Number of markets ²	~1-10	60		~15	~3-10	~5-10	140	50	~50	49
LinkedIn subscribers ³	2,640	7,249	8,417	7,920	7,317	26,664	11,387	2,100	16,323	509

Sources: Companies' websites; LinkedIn website; PitchBook website

Notes: (1) Based on data from companies' official websites or, when absent, on LinkedIn; (2) The number of countries where the company offers its solutions; (3) As of 19 May 2026

Overview of primary **strategic buyers** and **PE-backed** consolidation platforms in France

	 m-work	 e2Time	 Hublo	 noous	 lumapps	 lucca	 PayFit	 cegid	 silae	 njbelis
Foundation year	2021	2011	2016	1999	2012	2002	2016	1983	2010	2001
Country										
Employees ¹	11	26	200	285	600	1,019	788	5,000	465	600
PE/VC-backed		-								
Region of operation	Europe	Europe	Europe	Europe	Global	Global	Europe	Global	Europe	Europe
Activity	WFM	WFM	WFM & Recruitment	HR	HR	HR	WFM & Payroll	HR	HR	HR
Blue-collar / White-collar	White-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar	White-collar	White-collar	White-collar	White-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	White-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar
Number of markets ²	25	~3-10	~6-10	~3-10	~25	~130	~4-10	130	~1-10	~1-10
LinkedIn subscribers ³	3,369	2,211	19,323	9,883	21,843	48,924	90,653	125,057	59,476	31,790

Sources: Companies' websites; LinkedIn website; PitchBook website

Notes: (1) Based on data from companies' official websites or, when absent, on LinkedIn; (2) The number of countries where the company offers its solutions; (3) As of 19 May 2026

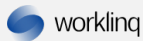
Overview of primary **strategic buyers** and **PE-backed** consolidation platforms in the Nordics

	 timegrip	 Quinyx	 planday	 LINKITY	 Personalkollen	 ecit	 tamigo	 SaarniCloud	 sameSYSTEM	 Milient
Foundation year	1995	2005	2004	2009	2011	2013	2006	2020	2008	2023
Country										
Employees ¹	81	294	252	63	58	3,000	99	167	75	150
PE/VC-backed										
Region of operation	Europe	Global	Global	Europe	Europe	Europe	Global	Global	Europe	Global
Activity	WFM	WFM	WFM	WFM and Payroll	WFM	HR	WFM, Payroll Management	HR	HR	WFM
Blue-collar / White-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar
Number of markets ²	30	20	39	3	2	11	20	n.d.	24	69
LinkedIn subscribers ³	2,017	22,000	22,600	763	1,295	~40,000	3,881	1,008	5,505	2,594

Sources: Companies' websites; LinkedIn website; PitchBook website

Notes: (1) Based on data from companies' official websites or, when absent, on LinkedIn; (2) The number of countries where the company offers its solutions; (3) As of 19 May 2026

Overview of primary **strategic buyers** and **PE-backed** consolidation platforms in the Nordics

										
Foundation year	1981	1996	2001	2006	2017	2006	2009	2008	1999	2014
Country										
Employees ¹	85	15,000	60	33	28	280	9	22	58	9
PE/VC-backed							-			
Region of operation	Europe	Global	Global	Europe	Europe	Europe	Global	Europe	Europe	Europe
Activity	WFM	HR	WFM	WFM	WFM	WFM	WFM	WFM	WFM	WFM
Blue-collar / White-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	White-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar
Number of markets ²	20	33	15	~3-5	6	18	45	n.d.	~1-3	~3-5
LinkedIn subscribers ³	2,488	149,791	3,680	1,839	1,243	3,397	74	445	1,016	1,862

Sources: Companies' websites; LinkedIn website; PitchBook website

Notes: (1) Based on data from companies' official websites or, when absent, on LinkedIn; (2) The number of countries where the company offers its solutions; (3) As of 19 May 2026

Overview of primary **strategic buyers** and **PE-backed** consolidation platforms in the Netherlands

	 DYFLEXIS	 intus	 shiftbase	 LINDA	 Nostradamus Software met een plan	 eitje	 Fleks	 TimeChimp	 yoobi	 werktijdennl
Foundation year	2006	2000	2011	2009	2006	2017	2017	2015	2000	2011
Country										
Employees ¹	125	101	83	13	30	12	38	27	22	8
PE/VC-backed	-	-				-	-		-	-
Region of operation	Global	Europe	Europe	Europe	Europe	Europe	Europe	Europe	Europe	Europe
Activity	WFM	WFM	WFM	WFM	WFM	WFM	WFM	WFM	HR	WFM
Blue-collar / White-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar & White-collar	White-collar	Blue-collar
Number of markets ²	20	3	7	1	~2-4	1	1	~2-3	1	1
LinkedIn subscribers ³	6,347	3,129	4,688	2,146	830	2,243	1,843	2,453	1,354	321

Sources: Companies' websites; LinkedIn website; PitchBook website

Notes: (1) Based on data from companies' official websites or, when absent, on LinkedIn; (2) The number of countries where the company offers its solutions; (3) As of 19 May 2026

Overview of primary **strategic buyers** and **PE-backed** consolidation platforms in Spain

										
Foundation year	2015	2013	2007	2016	2015	2016	1986	1978	1979	2024
Country										
Employees ¹	427	235	231	2,701	87	40	110	93	324	29
PE/VC-backed										
Region of operation	Global	Global	Europe	Global	Europe	Europe	Europe	Global	Global	Europe
Activity	HR	HR	HR	HR	WFM	HR	WFM	WFM	HR	HR
Blue-collar / White-collar	Blue-collar / White-collar	Blue-collar / White-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar / White-collar	Blue-collar / White-collar	Blue-collar / White-collar	Blue-collar	Blue-collar / White-collar	Blue-collar / White-collar	Blue-collar
Number of markets ²	30	40	5	95	3	20	2	44	40	1
LinkedIn subscribers ³	31,351	256,360	28,016	157,381	6,668	7,203	3,036	2,335	8,197	1,842

Sources: Companies' websites; LinkedIn website; PitchBook website

Notes: (1) Based on data from companies' official websites or, when absent, on LinkedIn; (2) The number of countries where the company offers its solutions; (3) As of 19 May 2026

BDO Deal Advisory

Address

Van Deventerlaan 101
3528 AG Utrecht, the Netherlands

55 Baker Street
London, United Kingdom

Katharina-Heinroth Ufer 1
Berlin, Germany

One Bush Street
San Francisco, United States

100 Park Avenue
New York, United States

Maarten Kuil
maarten.kuil@bdo.nl
+31 306 336 330

Susanne Friedrichs
susanne.friedrichs@bdo.nl
+31 302 849 877

Roel van Dijk
roel.van.dijk@bdo.nl
+31 302 849 894

Anneke Akkerman
anneke.akkerman@bdo.nl
+31 306 336 233

