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Industry-Specific Overview of Recent M&A and Capital Markets Activity

JULY 2023

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Recent Market Observations

As we move into the second half of 2023, Amherst Partners continues to actively track trends impacting businesses operating in the global food and beverage ("F&B") market, which according to The Business Research Company, is anticipated to grow at a 6.8% CAGR, from ~\$7.2 billion in 2023 to ~\$9.2 billion in 2027. Market participants are buoyed by a growing consensus among industry experts and analysts that the worst of inflationary price increases and supply chain constraints appear to be behind us, and according to a growing list of economists, the belief that the U.S. economy has likely avoided a widely anticipated recession. It also appears that consumers share this growing sense of optimism, as evidenced by the July 2023 University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment Survey, which showed an 11% month-overmonth increase and the highest reading since October 2021.

Despite improving sentiment, however, inflationary pressures are likely to impact consumers into the foreseeable future. Businesses throughout the F&B supply chain reacted to escalating input costs in recent years by raising prices to protect profit margins, often at the expense of volume growth. These price increases likely still have some runway to go before we see meaningful relief. Case in point, Kellogg's CEO, Steve Cahillane, noted at a recent conference that despite meaningful price increases in recent years, the company's gross margin is still below pre-pandemic levels, signaling that price increases have not been sufficient to offset higher costs. Of the input costs contributing to sustained higher prices throughout the F&B industry, the cost of labor is perhaps the most significant. Food manufacturers that experienced labor disruptions as a result of pandemic restrictions have been challenged to fill those positions without providing compensation packages that include meaningful increases in wages and benefits as well as improved working conditions.

While consumer spending remained resilient during much of the COVID-19 pandemic, the fatigue of chronically higher prices and economic headwinds appears to be setting in. Despite consumer surveys that show a growing preference for premium products, particularly those that fall into the better-for-you category and/or reflect sustainable manufacturing practices, consumers are increasingly scaling back purchases of such products in favor of lower priced store brands and private label products. Sales of private label products climbed throughout 2022 and today are estimated to comprise ~23% of total retail food sales.

Mergers & acquisitions ("M&A") activity within the F&B market, and for the broader consumer markets as a whole, was relatively modest during the first half of 2023, reaching its lowest levels since the beginning of the pandemic. Limitations on available capital and concerns about the strength of the economy generally put buyers in a "wait and see" mode. Likewise, valuations generally experienced a pullback from frothy highs experienced during 2021, although high-quality companies were an exception to that rule and continued to command scarcity-driven premium valuations. We anticipate that improving fundamentals and long-term trends will support more stable M&A activity as we progress through the second half of the year.

Recent Stock Price Performance – Food & Beverage Indices

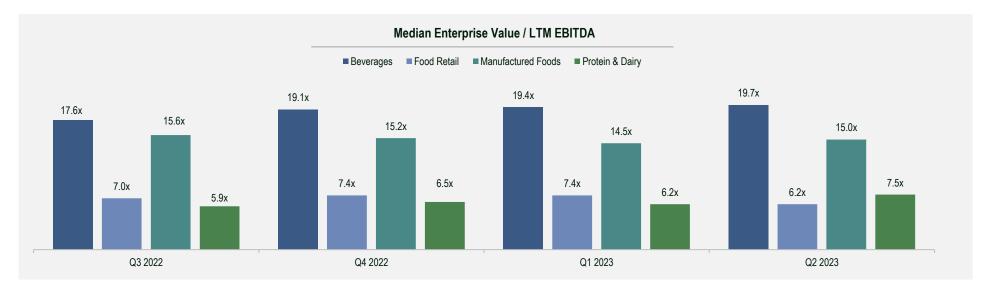


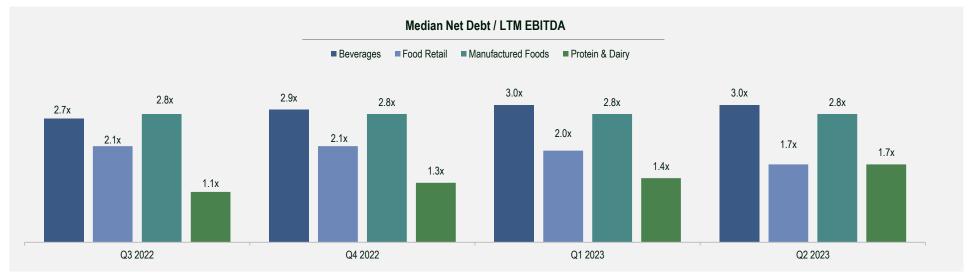
Source: Capital IQ
Food & Beverage Universe – **Beverage**: FIZZ, KDP, KO, PEP, PRMW | **Food Retail**: IMKT.A, KR, VLGE.A, WMK **Manufactured Foods**: BGS, BRID, FLO, GIS, HSY, JJSF, K, KHC, LANC, MDLZ, THS **Protein & Dairy**: CALM, HRL, TSN

(\$ in millions, other than stock price) Company		6/30/2023	Quarterly Price ∆	Market Cap.	Total	LTM		Gross	EBITDA	Net Debt /	Enterprise Value / LTM		
		Stock Price			EV ⁽¹⁾	Revenue	EBITDA	Margin	Margin	EBITDA	Revenue	EBITDA	
Beverage	Oca Cola	The Coca-Cola Company	\$60.22	(3%)	\$260,426	\$291,649	\$43,493	\$13,456	58%	31%	2.1x	6.7x	21.7x
	(Keurig DrPepper	Keurig Dr Pepper	31.27	(11%)	43,896	57,551	14,332	3,574	52%	25%	3.6x	4.0x	16.1x
	Sational George	National Beverage Corp.	48.35	(8%)	4,514	4,392	1,173	207	34%	18%	NM	3.7x	21.2x
	PEPSICO	PepsiCo	185.22	2%	255,176	291,872	88,038	14,816	53%	17%	2.3x	3.3x	19.7x
	COTT	Primo Water Corporation	12.54	(18%)	1,995	3,694	2,236	389	59%	17%	3.8x	1.7x	9.5x
	Median								53%	18%	3.0x	3.7x	19.7x
Food Retail	ingles	Ingles Markets	\$82.65	(7%)	\$1,570	\$1,918	\$5,784	\$460	24%	8%	0.7x	0.3x	4.2x
	Kroger	Kroger	47.00	(5%)	33,734	51,604	148,823	7,683	22%	5%	2.1x	0.3x	6.7x
		Village Super Market	22.82	(0%)	339	610	2,140	99	28%	5%	1.7x	0.3x	6.2x
	weis	Weis Markets	64.21	(24%)	1,727	1,583	4,737	253	25%	5%	NM	0.3x	6.2x
		Median							25%	5%	1.7x	0.3x	6.2x
	Bag Foods, Inc.	B&G Foods	\$13.92	(10%)	\$1,005	\$3,322	\$2,142	\$296	20%	14%	7.3x	1.6x	11.2x
	(Bridgford)	Bridgford Foods	11.51	(18%)	104	98	259	12	26%	5%	NM	0.4x	8.1x
	Flowers Foods	Flowers Foods	24.88	(9%)	5,271	6,608	4,904	483	47%	10%	2.3x	1.3x	13.7x
Manufactured Foods	General Mills	General Mills	76.70	(10%)	44,884	56,496	20,094	3,694	33%	18%	2.9x	2.8x	15.3x
	HERSHEY.	The Hershey Company	249.70	(2%)	51,038	55,603	10,741	2,709	43%	25%	1.7x	5.2x	20.5x
	Já Suci Foos	J&J Snack Foods	158.36	7%	3,049	3,149	1,470	125	28%	9%	0.7x	2.1x	NM
	Kelloggis	Kellogg Company	67.40	1%	23,102	30,657	15,696	1,945	30%	12%	3.4x	2.0x	15.8x
	Kraft <i>Heinz</i>	The Kraft Heinz Company	35.50	(8%)	43,567	63,120	26,929	6,017	31%	22%	2.6x	2.3x	10.5x
	Lancaster Colony	Lancaster Colony	201.09	(1%)	5,534	5,469	1,820	222	22%	12%	NM	3.0x	24.6x
	Mondelēz,	Mondelez International	72.94	5%	99,334	118,444	32,898	6,139	36%	19%	2.8x	3.6x	19.3x
	TreeHouse	TreeHouse Foods	50.38	(0%)	2,837	4,413	3,576	301	16%	8%	4.3x	1.2x	14.7x
		Median							30%	12%	2.8x	2.1x	15.0x
Protein & Dairy	Cal-Naine Foods, Inc.	Cal-Maine Foods	\$45.00	(26%)	\$2,204	\$1,558	\$3,051	\$1,042	39%	34%	NM	0.5x	1.5x
	Hormel Foods	Hormel Foods Corporation	40.22	1%	21,971	24,681	12,267	1,475	17%	12%	1.4x	2.0x	16.7x
Prot	Tyson	Tyson Foods	51.04	(14%)	18,150	26,592	53,625	3,538	8%	7%	1.9x	0.5x	7.5x
		Median							17%	12%	1.7x	0.5x	7.5x

⁽¹⁾ EV ("Enterprise Value") is defined as market capitalization plus net debt, preferred equity and minority interest. (2) Median and mean values exclude all non-meaningful values.

Valuation and debt levels have remained relatively stable across the Food & Beverage industry over the past year; however, Food Retail players experienced the most significant compression in valuation multiples





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Aggregate deal value in Q2 2023 increased ~14% to \$4.9 billion from \$4.3 billion in Q2 2022. Year over year deal volume was slightly lower for the second consecutive quarter, with 100 Food & Beverage reported deals in Q2 2023 as compared to 120 in Q2 2022



Recent Transaction Activity

Date	Target	Acquiror	Enterprise Value (\$M)	Target Description
06/23	DOMAINE CURRY	Constellation Brands	Undisclosed	Manufactures and sells wine and wine products
06/23	PENELOPE BOURBON	luxco	\$105.0	Operates distillery to produce and sell craft Whiskey through distributors and restaurants
05/23	EMERALD	FLAGSTONE	\$40.0	Manufactures and distributes various nuts to consumers
05/23	CURRENT FOODS	WICKED	Undisclosed	Produces plant-based seafood to prevent environmental harm
05/23	Hardies	chefs warehouse	\$38.0	Processes and distributes fruits and vegetables to food service and retail markets
05/23	ESBENSHADE FARMS	The Wenger Group™	Undisclosed	Produces and distributes eggs and egg products
04/23	LEGACY BAKEHOUSE	B·C·P Benford Capital Partners	Undisclosed	Produces bread baked snack products and foods such as berries and chocolate sweets
04/23	KAUFHOLD'S KURDS	SKY ISLAND	Undisclosed	Provides hand-breaded Wisconsin cheese curds
03/23	WALT	malteries franco-belges	\$1,542.2	Processes and supplies malt and craft ingredients to breweries and distilleries worldwide
03/23	SKREWBALL PEANUT BUTTER WHISKEY	Pernod Ricard	Undisclosed	Produces and sells peanut butter flavored whiskey
03/23	RIOT	SERRA NEVADA	Undisclosed	Produces and sells energy drinks
02/23	UNO	NEWPORT GLOBAL ADVISORS	Undisclosed	Produces pizzas and related items, extending to calzones, entrees, and other appetizers
02/23	SAUSAGE	Tyson	Undisclosed	Produces and distributes breakfast foods with a concentration on sausage products
02/23	TOFURKY	morinaga _®	\$12.4	Produces vegetarian food products, offering kosher, vegan, organic soybean, and tofu products
02/23	GULLIUM E	Flagship*	\$17.5	Produces and sells guacamole, salsa, and other dips
01/23	RC	MACRY HOLDINGS	\$45.9	Produces and markets bottled soft drinks
01/23	BIRCH BENDERS	sovos brands	\$40.0	Produces baking mixes and frostings, pancakes and waffle mixes, birch benders cups, and toaster waffles sold online and through distributors
01/23	ORCA BAY.	ilver Bay	Undisclosed	Processes seafood products such as crab, salmon, tuna, and more for consumer direct sale

Source: Capital IQ

























With a track record spanning over 25 years, Amherst Partners is a boutique investment banking firm focused on providing M&A advisory and capital raising services primarily for closely-held businesses

Boutique investment bank with significant Wall Street experience









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