

# PACKAGING M&A UPDATE

DECEMBER 2024

## Packaging Industry M&A Activity Tracking

Global Packaging M&A activity slowed slightly in December, with 25 deals announced – two below the monthly average for 2024. Despite a month-over-month decline in transaction volumes, several large and notable deals were announced, continuing a trend observed in November. In total, 322 transactions were recorded in 2024, making it one of the most active years since PMCF began tracking packaging M&A activity in 2013. Activity from foreign buyers and sellers which increased over 2023 volumes by 14%, coupled with strong deal flow in the second half of the year, contributed to the robust performance of packaging M&A in 2024.

### PACKAGING M&A BY SUBSECTOR

Subsector	Month-to-Date			Year-to-Date		
	2023	2024	Change	2023	2024	Change
Rigid Packaging	5	4	-1	67	68	1
Flexible Plastic	3	4	1	42	47	5
Paper	4	9	5	81	78	-3
Printing & Labels	2	3	1	39	37	-2
Protective Packaging	0	0	0	16	25	9
Machinery & Distribution	5	5	0	50	67	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>27</b>

### PACKAGING M&A BY BUYER TYPE

Type	MTD	% of Total	YTD	% of Total
Strategic	13	52%	170	53%
Add-On (PE)	11	44%	105	33%
Platform (PE)	1	4%	47	15%

### PACKAGING M&A BY GEOGRAPHY

Type	MTD	% of Total	YTD	% of Total
U.S.-to-U.S.	4	16%	106	33%
U.S.-to-Foreign	2	8%	32	10%
Foreign-to-U.S.	4	16%	14	4%
Foreign	15	60%	170	53%

### TOTAL PACKAGING M&A BY END MARKET

End Market	MTD	%	YTD	%
Food & Beverage	10	40%	94	29%
Industrial	9	36%	134	42%
Consumer	6	24%	74	23%
Medical	0	0%	20	6%

- Paper packaging recorded the most activity of any subsector during December, with nine deals posted, which represented a two deal increase over 2024 monthly averages. Machinery & Distribution also accounted for five deals, which was two more than November. This subsector recorded 17 additional deals year-over-year, which was the largest increase of any subsector
- Both strategic and financial buyers were active during December, posting 13 and 12 deals, respectively. Add-on activity was slightly elevated from annual averages with 11 deals tallied during the month. Only one platform transaction was recorded in December, which matched April as the least active month for this transaction type in 2024
- Deals involving a foreign buyer and seller drove activity in the month with 15 transactions recorded, or 60% of the total volume. In 2024, foreign deals accounted for over half of all activity. Domestic M&A had a lackluster month with only four deals announced
- The Food & Beverage end market posted 10 deals during the month, which marked the third consecutive month with nine or more deals attributable to this end market



**JOHN HART**  
 Managing Director  
 248.223.3468  
 john.hart@pmcf.com

If you are a packaging company considering a merger, acquisition, sale, or recapitalization in the short or longer term please consider leveraging PMCF's transaction planning and execution expertise to best position your company in a transaction.

# Packaging M&A Update – December 2024

## Industry Multiples and Trends

Packaging public entity valuation multiples remained strong in December with all subsectors maintaining median EV/EBITDA multiples of at least 7.9x. Paper Packaging entities experienced significant multiple expansion in 2024 with mean multiples expanding over 3.0x since the beginning of the year

## Public Stock Performance

The Rigid Plastic, Paper Packaging, and Other Packaging subsectors experienced declining stock prices in December with each subsector falling by high single digits on average. Flexible Plastic entities saw modest growth in the month. On the year, all subsectors except Other Packaging saw mean growth of at least 10%

Company Name	Stock Performance Year-to-Date	Stock Performance Month-to-Date	Enterprise Value / LTM <sup>1</sup>	
			Revenue	EBITDA
<b>Rigid Plastic</b>				
AptarGroup, Inc.	26.8%	-9.4%	3.15x	14.07x
Berry Global Group, Inc.	-4.7%	-11.2%	1.26x	7.23x
Essentra plc	-23.2%	-10.1%	1.51x	10.20x
Nampak Limited	119.3%	-6.0%	0.91x	6.05x
Silgan Holdings Inc.	14.3%	-10.1%	1.55x	9.50x
Sonoco Products Company	-13.0%	-6.3%	1.21x	7.10x
<b>Mean</b>	<b>19.9%</b>	<b>-8.9%</b>	<b>1.60x</b>	<b>9.02x</b>
<b>Median</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>-9.7%</b>	<b>1.38x</b>	<b>8.37x</b>
<b>Flexible Plastic</b>				
Amcor plc	-3.1%	-12.2%	1.55x	10.22x
Huhtamaki Oyj	-6.9%	0.1%	1.20x	8.14x
Pactiv Evergreen Inc.	27.5%	28.8%	1.30x	7.74x
Sealed Air Corporation	-7.9%	-8.1%	1.70x	8.33x
Transcontinental Inc.	33.9%	7.6%	0.85x	5.44x
Winpak Ltd.	16.8%	-1.5%	1.57x	7.47x
<b>Mean</b>	<b>10.0%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>1.36x</b>	<b>7.89x</b>
<b>Median</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>	<b>1.42x</b>	<b>7.94x</b>
<b>Paper Packaging</b>				
Cascades Inc.	-6.8%	-2.1%	0.71x	7.13x
DS Smith Plc	76.4%	-7.0%	1.49x	10.45x
Graphic Packaging Holding Co.	10.0%	-9.9%	1.50x	7.15x
Greif, Inc.	-7.4%	-14.5%	1.11x	7.44x
International Paper Company	48.4%	-8.8%	1.26x	10.51x
Karat Packaging Inc.	20.4%	-3.1%	1.53x	10.74x
Packaging Corporation of America	38.1%	-9.6%	2.69x	12.45x
Smurfit Westrock Plc	NM	-2.5%	2.54x	15.59x
<b>Mean</b>	<b>25.6%</b>	<b>-7.2%</b>	<b>1.60x</b>	<b>10.18x</b>
<b>Median</b>	<b>20.4%</b>	<b>-7.9%</b>	<b>1.50x</b>	<b>10.48x</b>
<b>Other Packaging</b>				
Avery Dennison Corporation	-7.4%	-9.1%	2.07x	12.05x
Ball Corporation	-4.4%	-11.5%	1.54x	9.39x
CCL Industries Inc.	23.3%	-5.3%	2.07x	9.92x
Crown Holdings	-11.1%	-11.1%	1.38x	8.51x
Gerresheimer AG	-24.7%	-5.0%	1.80x	9.05x
O-I Glass, Inc.	-36.3%	-17.2%	0.92x	5.53x
Toyo Seikan Group Holdings, Ltd.	5.2%	1.4%	0.56x	5.54x
<b>Mean</b>	<b>-7.9%</b>	<b>-8.3%</b>	<b>1.48x</b>	<b>8.57x</b>
<b>Median</b>	<b>-7.4%</b>	<b>-9.1%</b>	<b>1.54x</b>	<b>9.05x</b>

<sup>1</sup>LTM as of latest available financials

Sources: S&P Capital IQ, Company Websites, Pitchbook, Company Reports, PMCF

## Notable M&A Activity

Date	Acquirer	Target	Category
12/19/2024	Multi-Color	Eximpro	Flexible Packaging
12/18/2024	TOPPAN Holdings Inc. (TSE:7911)	Thermoformed and Flexibles Packaging Business of Sonoco	Rigid Packaging
12/13/2024	Veritiv	Arjay Company	Distribution
12/12/2024	Duropac	FoodPak	Machinery
12/09/2024	Novolex Holdings	Pactiv Evergreen Inc. (NasdaqGS:PTVE)	Rigid Packaging
12/09/2024	Precision Roll Solutions	ARC International	Corrugated
12/09/2024	TricorBraun	Veritiv (Containers Division)	Distribution
12/06/2024	Inteplast Group	CoolSeal USA	Flexible Packaging

Sources: S&P Capital IQ, Company Websites, Pitchbook, Company Reports, PMCF

## Major News & Insights

- Novolex Buying Pactiv Evergreen in \$6.7B Deal (Plastics News)
- Toppan to Buy Sonoco's Thermoformed and Flexibles Business for \$1.8B (Packaging Dive)
- Aluminum Can Recycling in US at Lowest Point in Decades: Report (Packaging Dive)
- Global Plastic Pollution Treaty Talks Fail in Final Meeting of 2024 (Packaging Dive)
- Breaking Down Trump's Tariffs on China and the World, in Charts (The Wall Street Journal)
- U.S. Economy Is Doing What Few Others Are: Getting More Productive (The Wall Street Journal)

## PMCF's Plastics & Packaging Group

PMCF's Plastics and Packaging investment bankers are dedicated solely to serving the needs of middle-market transactions within the plastics and packaging industries. Our exclusive focus on plastics and packaging sale, merger, and acquisition advisory provides significant advantages to our clients and the opportunity to maximize value in a transaction. PMCF's extensive coverage of these industries has provided us with specialized, in-depth knowledge of the sector dynamics and relationships with key strategic and financial industry players. Our firm has been serving the plastics and packaging industries for over 20 years and has a long track record of successful transactions involving specialty, niche players in these industries.

## Use Our Expertise to Maximize Shareholder Value

### STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

- PMCF is frequently requested to complete an analysis of a company's strategic positioning within the plastics and packaging marketplace
- Our review may consider your operations, products, end markets, financial trends, growth opportunities, and management team
- We are available to brief your management team, ownership, or board with our thoughts on your value in today's market
- PMCF can provide a benchmark comparison of your organization's strengths, weaknesses, and anticipated buyer viewpoints

### WORKING WITH PMCF

- PMCF is a licensed FINRA-registered investment banking organization
- Confidentiality is of the highest importance and we welcome the execution of appropriate agreements prior to the exchange of data
- PMCF's senior bankers will respond to any inquiries and will be directly involved in all discussions
- If engaged, the majority of PMCF's costs are contingent on a successful transaction



Two-time winner, Boutique Investment Banking Firm of the Year by M&A Advisor

Awarded, Cross Border Corporate and Strategic Acquisition of the Year by M&A Advisor

Awarded, Cross Border M&A Deal of the Year by M&A Advisor

Awarded, Deal of the Year by ACG Detroit

120 S Riverside Plaza  
Suite 2100  
Chicago, IL 60606

## Experienced Professionals. Trusted Advisors. Proven Results.

This Plastics & Packaging M&A Update is not an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any security. It is not intended to be directed to investors as a basis for making an investment decision. This Plastics & Packaging M&A Update does not rate or recommend securities of individual companies, nor does it contain sufficient information upon which to make an investment decision.

PMCF will seek to provide investment banking and/or other services to one or more of the companies mentioned in this Plastics & Packaging M&A Update.

PMCF, and/or the analysts who prepared this Plastics & Packaging M&A Update, may own securities of one or more of the companies mentioned in this Plastics & Packaging M&A Update.

The information provided in this Plastics & Packaging M&A Update was obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but its accuracy cannot be guaranteed. It is not to be construed as legal, accounting, financial, or investment advice. Information, opinions, and estimates reflect PMCF's judgment as of the date of publication and are subject to change without notice. PMCF undertakes no obligation to notify any recipient of this Plastics & Packaging M&A Update of any such change.

The charts and graphs used in this Plastics & Packaging M&A Update have been compiled by PMCF solely for illustrative purposes.

All charts are as of the date of issuance of this Plastics & Packaging M&A Update, unless otherwise noted.

The PMCF Plastics and Packaging Indices may not be inclusive of all companies in the Plastics and Packaging industries and is not a composite index of the Plastic and Packaging industry sector returns. Index and sector returns are past performance which is not an indicator of future results.

This Plastics & Packaging M&A Update is not directed to, or intended for distribution to, any person in any jurisdiction where such distribution would be contrary to law or regulation, or which would subject PMCF to licensing or registration requirements in such jurisdiction.

PMCF is a trade name for PMCF Advisors, LLC and P&M Corporate Finance, LLC, a FINRA-registered broker-dealer and SIPC member firm. The term "PMCF" refers to one or more of these legally separate and independent advisory practices. P&M Corporate Finance, LLC provides capital-raising and private placement services that require registration as a broker-dealer. PMCF Advisors, LLC provides M&A-related services that do not require registration in reliance upon the SEC M&A Brokers No-action Letter (2014) and comparable state-level exemptive relief.

Please see [pmcf.com](http://pmcf.com) to learn more.

For more information, check out our new website, where you can access the electronic version of this report, sign up for future emails, read our latest industry reports, and more!



Affiliate



Member of CFI