

Insights

3Q2020 Capital Markets & Investment Banking Market Update

M&A 3Q2020 review: Packaging sector

After a sharp decline in share prices and a collapse in M&A activity in late 1Q2020 / early 2Q2020, the packaging sector has experienced a recovery with share prices for plastic packaging slightly above those at the beginning of the year. As the packaging sector overall has performed well during the pandemic, valuations have also recovered and are currently above their past three-year average. M&A activity is expected to be very active in 2021.

M&A activity is gradually picking up and is expected to be quite strong in 2021 for the following reasons:

- Packaging in general is a primary beneficiary of the impacts resulting from COVID-19
- Pent-up demand due to lack of M&A transactions in 2020
- Private equity sponsors have significant equity capital (over \$1.7 trillion of “dry powder” [Chart 6]) that they need to deploy
- Strategic buyers looking for acquisitions to obtain growth, scale, diversification and synergies
- Availability of debt capital at very attractive cost from a historical perspective

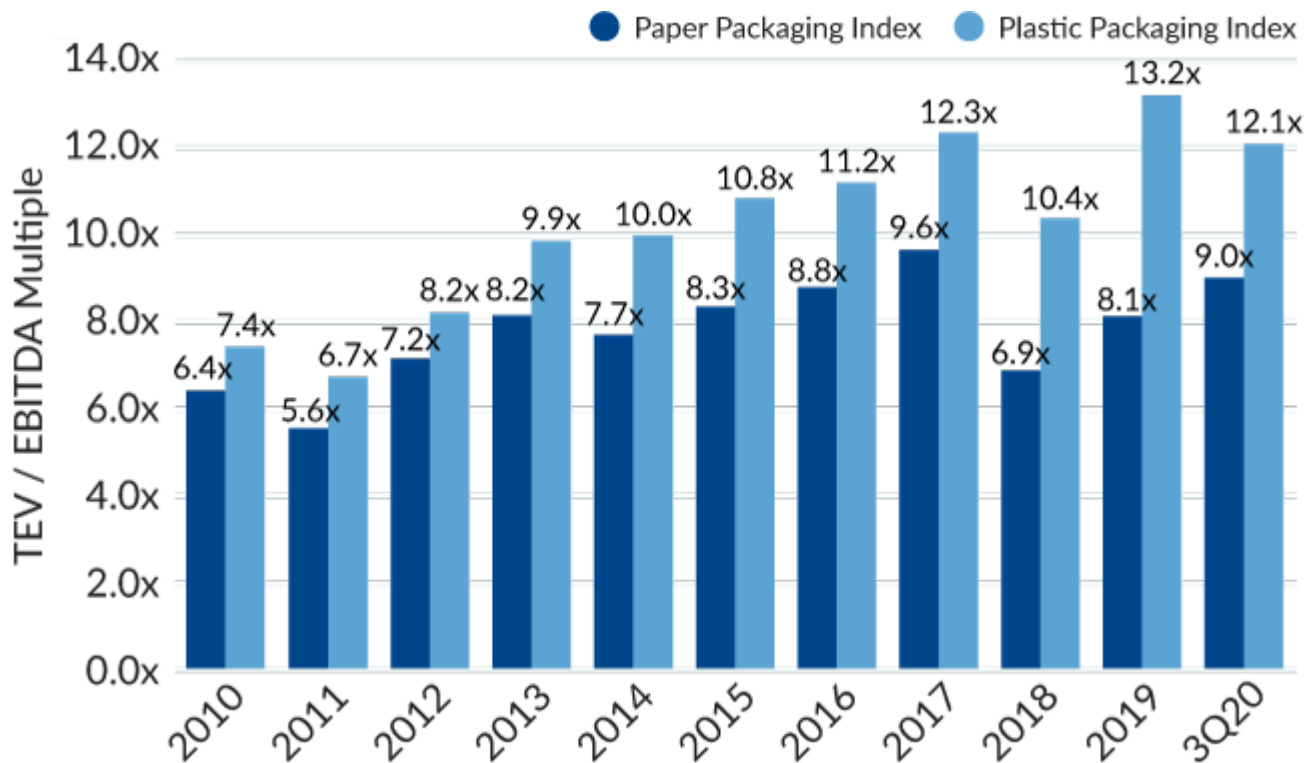
Share price performance and public market valuations

Share prices of packaging companies have begun to rebound nicely after their sharp decline following the lock-down in mid-March (Chart 1). These share prices are currently slightly above the levels at the beginning of the year with plastic packaging up 4% on average YTD, though they are down 10% on average YTD for paper packaging.

Consequently, public market valuations for both plastic and paper packaging companies have also recovered. Plastic packaging companies' valuations are slightly above (1%) their past three year-average, while paper packaging companies' valuations are up 19% from their past three-year average (Charts 2 and 3).

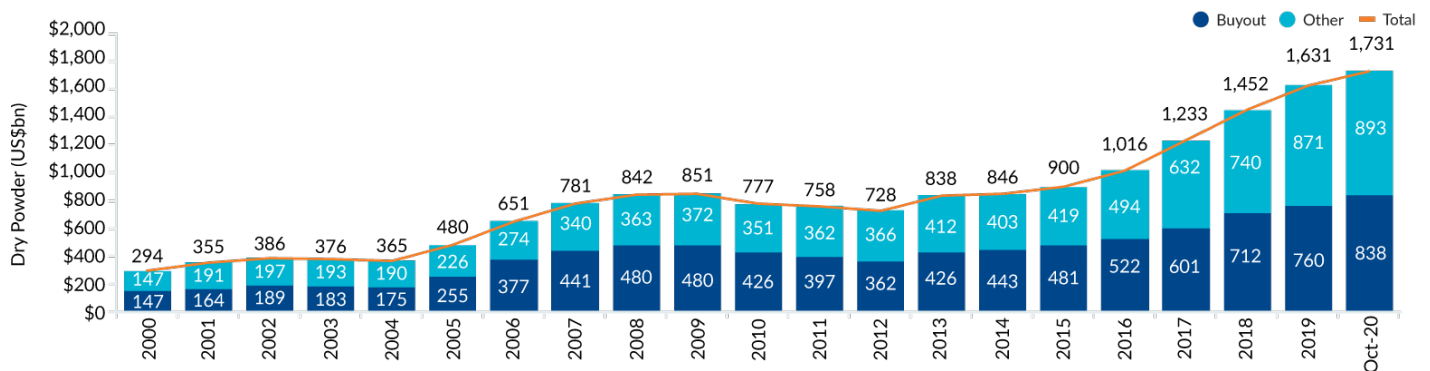
Source: FactSet as of October 8, 2020. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

CHART 3: PUBLIC PACKAGING COMPANY AVERAGE TEV / EBITDA MULTIPLES¹



Source: FactSet as of October 8, 2020. Note: Average TEV / EBITDA multiples as of December 31 for 2010-19 and September 30 for 3Q2020.

CHART 6: GLOBAL PRIVATE EQUITY DRY POWDER OF BUYOUT FUNDS



Source: MergerMarket, Preqin. Others include venture, growth, early stage, fund of funds, early stage, expansion, co-investment, among others

1. Paper Packaging Index: BillerudKorsnäs AB (BILL:OME); DS Smith Plc (SMDS-LON); International Paper Company (IP-US); Mayr-Melnhof Karton AG (MMK-WBO); Mondi plc (MNDI-LON); Smurfit Kappa Group plc (SKG-LON); Stora Enso Oyj (STERV-HEL); UPM-Kymmene Oyj (UPM-HEL); WestRock Company (WRK-US). Plastic Packaging Index: Amcor PLC (AMCR-US), Aptargroup, Inc. (ATR-US), Avery Dennison Corporation (AVY-US), Berry Global Group Inc (BERY-US), CCL Industries Inc. Class B (CCL.B-CA), Sealed Air Corporation (SEE-US), Silgan Holdings Inc. (SLGN-US).

Market Update

M&A g2020 review: Packaging sector

After a sharp decline in share prices and a collapse in M&A activity in late Q32020 / early Q42020, the packaging sector has experienced a recovery with share prices for publicly packaging slightly above those at the beginning of the year. As the packaging sector overall has performed well during the pandemic, valuations have also recovered and are currently above their past three-year average. M&A activity is expected to be very active in 2021.

M&A activity in publicly traded M&A is expected to be quite strong in 2021 for the following reasons:

- Packaging is general a primary beneficiary of the impact resulting from COVID-19
- High up demand due to lack of M&A transactions in 2020
- Private equity sponsors have significant equity capital from Q3 / 4th quarter of the period (Chart 6) that they need to deploy
- Strategic equity looking for acquisitions to offset growth, scale, diversification and synergies
- Availability of M&A capital at very attractive cost from a historical perspective

Share price performance and public market valuations

Share prices of packaging companies have largely recovered since their sharp decline following the full stop in M&A (Chart 1). These share prices are currently slightly above the levels at the beginning of the year with publicly packaging up 4% on average (YTD through Aug), as down 12% on average (YTD) for paper packaging.

Consequently, public market valuations for both public and paper packaging companies have also recovered. Public packaging companies' valuations are slightly above (up) their past three-year average, while paper packaging companies' valuations are up 12% from their past three-year average (Charts 2 and 3).

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