M&A Market Analysis
H2 2017



What buyers value in the changing consumer sector

Valuation drivers and M&A trends in the global consumer sector – insights from Baird's 150 mid-market consumer deals



















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Executive Summary

- The consumer sector is arguably the fastest changing sector in our world today
- It is facing disruption from innovation, penetration of technology and rapidly evolving consumer preferences
- Companies taking advantage of these changes are breathing new life into mature categories, giving today's consumer more options
- Large, mature conglomerates are losing share to newer, more innovative consumer companies with differentiated business models
- We identified six of the most important **business model attributes** that **create value** when potential buyers evaluate M&A targets:

Brand Authenticity

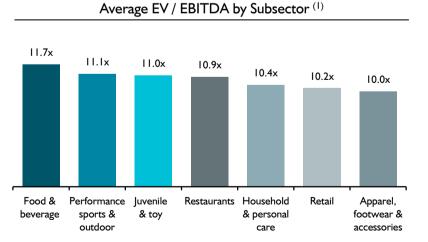
Innovation

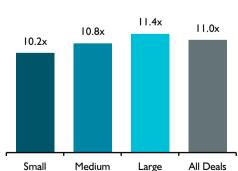
Digitalisation

Omni-channel

Amazon Resilient White Space Strategy

- Strategic buyers, struggling with slower organic growth, are using M&A to acquire more nimble, faster growing mid-market companies
- Private equity firms providing operational expertise and supporting growth initiatives are well placed to generate attractive returns
- Our analysis of 480 mid-market consumer transactions since 2013, including those by Baird, yielded an average valuation of 11x EBITDA





EV / EBITDA by Deal Size

PE
Portfolio
2%

Private
Equity
43%

Strategic
55%

M&A by Buyer Type









(<\$100m) (\$100-300m) (>\$300m)

⁽¹⁾ Average valuations for Baird's M&A analysis shown. Note that valuations vary significantly depending on the specific category and business model within each subsector.























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1.1. The changing consumer world

The consumer sector is arguably the fastest changing sector in our world today. It is facing disruption from innovation, penetration of technology and rapidly evolving consumer preferences. Large, mature conglomerates are losing share to newer, more innovative companies.

A substantial number of large consumer and retail companies have suffered from a lack of innovation, not adapting to online shopping or simply being "stuck in the middle" as hourglass consumers gravitate towards premium or value segments of the market. Many longstanding retail high street brands have already been lost, and those that remain will have to adapt.

Companies, taking advantage of these changes with differentiated business models, are therefore in demand from strategic and private equity (PE) buyers. Such companies usually benefit from secular growth themes as well as the continued penetration of Amazon as the world's largest e-commerce retailer.

Customer experience and service are increasingly areas of differentiation.

Companies are able to leverage customer data, online customer reviews and social media platforms to constantly improve their products, experience and service.

To ensure quality, personalisation and ownership of the customer journey, some companies are selling their products direct-to-consumer rather than via traditional third party brick-and-mortar retailers.

All of this change in the consumer world provides a stream of M&A opportunities to:

- Invest in newer high growth companies to build scale and sustainable profitability
- Refocus and revitalise older companies to adapt to the changing environment
- Invest in complementary companies, penetrating new markets and regions

Consumer M&A processes have also changed. Potential buyers are able to dig deeper during due diligence with readily available sell-through data and consumer feedback. During a deal, buyers are looking at yesterday's sales data from the target.

In this report, we analyse over 480 midmarket consumer transactions in North America and Europe since the end of 2013, including those by Baird's Global Consumer Investment Banking team, to discuss:

- Attractive business model characteristics
- Mid-market consumer M&A trends
- Investment themes by subsector

Examples of Recent Consumer Growth Stories





BIRCHBOX+

















































Example Secular Growth Themes

Hourglass spending habits

Convenience / e-commerce

Better-for-you / free-from

Rise of millennials (generation Y)

Asian demand for luxury products

Participation in outdoor lifestyle

Increasing demand for personalisation

Social media engagement

Spending on experiences

1.2. Valuation drivers in the middle-market

Strategic acquirers and private equity firms have paid premium prices for high quality consumer companies, averaging 11x EBITDA in our mid-market M&A analysis. Through our deal experience, we discuss what drives value, what is value neutral and what detracts from value when evaluating consumer acquisition targets.

Selected valuation drivers are summarised on the right hand page. It shows there are common attributes, driving revenue and profitability, across the different subsectors that potential buyers focus on. In addition, valuation is also driven by the:

- Scarcity value of the target
- Potential synergies from the buyer
- Competitiveness of the sale process

The addressable market and secular growth themes are critical considerations for buyers. We discuss these on a subsector basis in section 4. The competitive landscape for a company depends on its barriers to entry and barriers to scale. Barriers to entry vary significantly across categories – some are high, some are low. Barriers to scale can be company driven e.g. companies that have built scale through infrastructure, distribution and technology (e.g. mobile access) can lead their markets.

The most common attributes that detract from value or lower buyer interest in a potential target include:

- Lack of product differentiation
- High customer concentration
- Small / low growth addressable market

Mid-market companies (e.g. \$50 – \$500m in revenue) with scale typically operate at a higher level of internal professionalism relative to smaller businesses in:

- Strategic planning and industry research
- Innovation / new product development
- Sales and marketing processes
- Robust financial controls / systems
- Sourcing processes and expertise

Furthermore, mid-market companies can benefit relative to large corporates, who are often tied to and focused on maintaining existing revenue streams, with:

- Nimble structures to execute strategies
- New products and brand excitement
- Entrepreneurial management teams



Brian McDonagh

"Highly valued and desired consumer companies have a lot of similar characteristics, regardless of subsector. Buyers want to hear a unique story, understand why that story speaks to the consumer, and believe that the company and its leadership have control over the plan that they have set out."

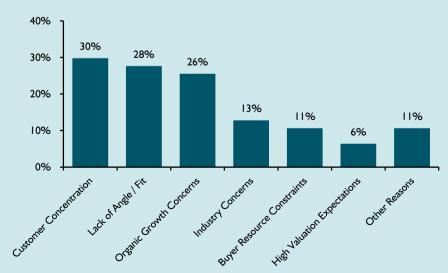


Terry Huffine

"The upheaval of channel dynamics and the impact of long living product reviews have driven considerable change, as companies scramble to reclaim their direct dialogue with the consumer, and buyers churn mountains of immediately available data to determine whether companies are going to be winners or losers in the 'new world'."

Select Baird Processes - Buyers Passing on the Opportunity

(% of potential buyers citing a specific reason for passing)



1.3. What business model characteristics are attractive?

What made companies great 10 years ago is not necessarily the same as what will enable companies to succeed in today's rapidly evolving consumer sector. Companies have to offer relevant products, create an emotional connection and sell through the right channels in order to own their dialogue with the consumer.

Potential buyers evaluate a target's commercial and financial profile, its business model for attractive characteristics and its exposure to secular growth themes. In this report, we focus on six of the most important business model characteristics evaluated in our consumer M&A processes:

- Brand authenticity
- Innovation
- Digitalisation
- Omni-channel
- Amazon resilient
- White space strategy

For many companies, its brand is its most valuable asset. Consumers, especially millennials, are increasingly looking for a brand that is authentic, not necessarily one that is just well known. Authenticity goes beyond an "original" product – it encapsulates a lifestyle and culture that consumers want to be part of.

Companies often have good products, but struggle to differentiate. Innovative companies that develop new products by "speaking to the consumer as an individual" can maintain an edge over the competition.

Digitalisation allows companies to leverage immediately available internal and external data to make informed decisions that better serve both its customer and supply chain constituents. Mid-market companies today can get more direct consumer feedback over a week than some conglomerates could over years in the not too distant past.

Omni-channel addresses the whole customer journey. Consumers expect to see the same messages from a brand across different channels. Consumers shop in non-linear ways; his or her journey may start in one channel and finish in another.

It has never been as important as it is today for companies to have an "Amazon resilient" business model. Potential buyers need to understand a target's past, present and future relationship with Amazon.

Growth opportunities should be mapped out and quantified in any white space strategy. A track record of execution is recommended to build trust with buyers evaluating the future return on investment.



Kevin McGee

"High quality businesses can adapt to change – innovation, digitalisation and omni-channel strategies are critical in today's consumer environment – wherever you are in the world."



Tahs Siddique

"Consumers like to see what stands behind a brand – a value system, a story or a local identity – this is where mid-market companies often have an edge over some of the world's largest corporates."

Let us tell your story...

"Every business has a story to tell. To tell that story well, you need someone who understands your perspective, appreciates your culture and shares your passion. We identify why a particular brand story can generate sustainable and profitable growth. We know the global strategic buyers and private equity buyer universe to match sellers and buyers, achieving exceptional outcomes. Let us tell your story..."



Example Baird Deals

Attractive Business Model Characteristics









- √ "Shares my values, and shares my passion"
- ✓ Engage the customer in a journey with the brand
- ✓ Established brand with sustainable premium pricing

contigo°







- ✓ Differentiated product, disrupting the category
- ✓ Solves a problem or improves customer wellbeing
- ✓ Continuous innovation, creating addressable markets







Digitalisation

- ✓ At the forefront of technology internally and externally
- ✓ Control over dialogue with the consumer "know your customer"
- ✓ Capture customer and supplier data to improve operations



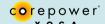




Omni-channel

- √ The right mix diversification of channels and customers
- ✓ Control over pricing, channels and customer interaction
- ✓ Reach customers regardless of their preferences, whether in-store or online







Amazon Resilient

- ✓ Retain brand and pricing power with / despite Amazon
- ✓ Leverage Amazon to grow online sales profitably
- ✓ Quality product or experience that Amazon cannot offer









White Space Strategy

- ✓ Proven brand resonance beyond core category or geography
- ✓ Replicable model / track record for geographic expansion
- ✓ Brand permission from consumers to develop adjacencies





Introduction

Attractive Business Model Characteristics

Mid-Market Consumer M&A Trends

Investment Themes by Subsector

Baird's Consumer Practice

3.1. Baird's M&A analysis

Mid-market consumer M&A

The consumer sector accounts for almost half of global GDP. There are thousands of mid-market companies throughout the supply chain, from upstream primary processing companies to consumer facing retail. Recent M&A activity in the sector has been strong, driven by:

- Rapidly changing retail environment, creating investment opportunities
- Strategic buyers acquiring growth in a low growth economic environment
- Private equity injecting capital and providing operational expertise to drive businesses forward

We analysed over 480 mid-market M&A transactions since the end of 2013 where the enterprise value was typically between \$50m and \$1bn. This report discusses the M&A trends and investment themes across seven consumer subsectors:

- Household & personal care
- Performance sports & outdoor
- Juvenile & toy
- Food & beverage
- Apparel, footwear & accessories
- Retail
- Restaurants

We have selected transactions across these subsectors, primarily in North America and Europe. Food & beverage is the largest subsector and juvenile & toy the smallest subsector. We focus on fragmented categories where mid-market companies and M&A are commonplace.

Consumer M&A valuation levels vary depending on the subsector, business model and addressable market growth trends. The average multiple in our midmarket M&A analysis is IIx EBITDA.

Many M&A auction processes have been extremely competitive, as demand has exceeded supply for high quality consumer targets. Both strategic and PE buyers have been willing to pay premium valuations (mid-teen EBITDA multiples) in auction processes as well as pre-process to avoid the uncertainty of an auction.

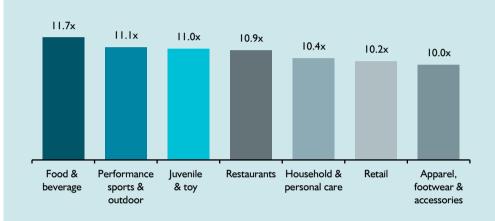
In the medium term, global economic growth is not expected to return to levels prior to the economic downturn. This will help to ensure that high quality mid-market consumer companies with a proven track record of growth will be in high demand.

Consumer mid-market M&A analysis

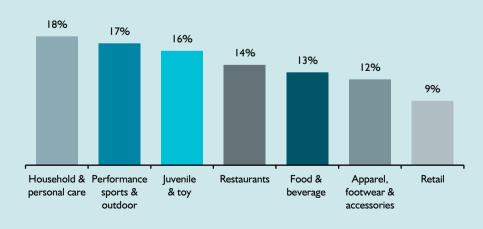
Average valuation: I I.0x EBITDA

Average profitability: 14% EBITDA margin

Average EV / EBITDA by Subsector (I)



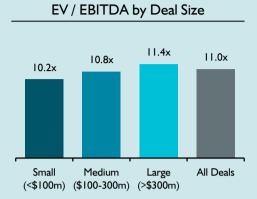
Average EBITDA Margin by Subsector (1)

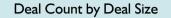


(1) Average valuations and margins for Baird's M&A analysis shown. Note that valuations and margins vary significantly depending on the specific category and business model within each subsector.

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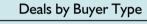
Consumer mid-market M&A analysis







Deals by Subsector







Deals by Target Region

Deals by Buyer Region





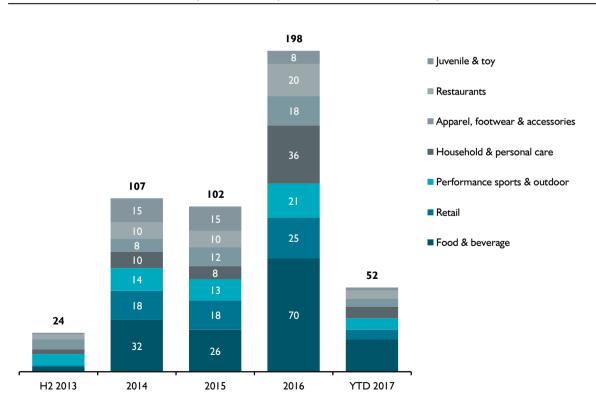
Cross-border: 35%



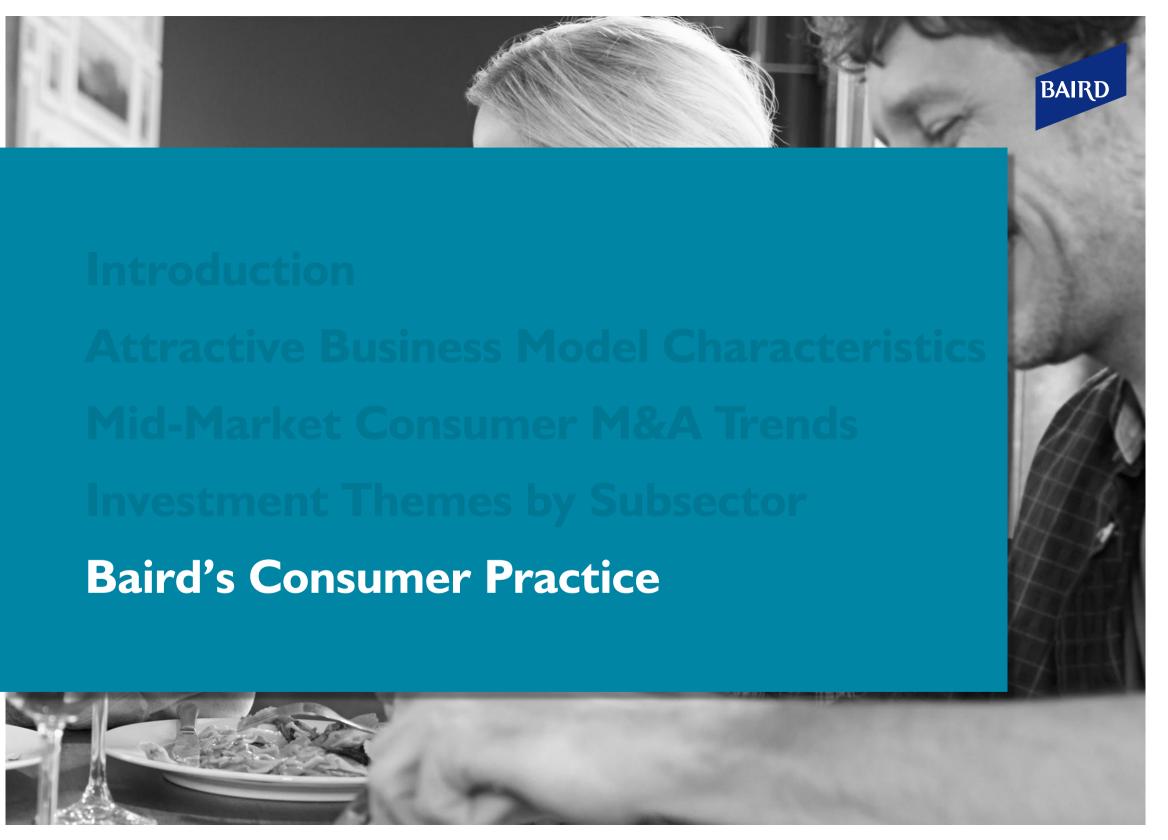
"Consumer M&A activity is reflecting rapid changes in the underlying market, shifting towards less cyclical or high growth companies. Potential buyers are more focused on differentiating between the winners and the losers, regardless of subsector. Targets with strong medium term growth and sustainable margins are in demand."

Tahs Siddique, M&A Research

Deals by Subsector by Year in Baird's M&A Analysis







5.1. Global consumer investment banking team

What makes us unique

- Deep sector expertise with dedicated senior level coverage of subsector verticals
- 275 investment bankers in the US, Europe and Asia working together on one global P&L
- Fully integrated department, leveraging our M&A advisory, equity financing and debt advisory capabilities
- Leading independent, employee-owned mid-market investment bank headquartered in the US since 1919
- Award-winning equity research platform with over 40 sector teams covering 725 companies (1)
- Recognised as one of the FORTUNE 100 Best Companies to Work For® (2004–2017)

Senior Consumer Team

Glen Clarke Managing Director Food & Beverage



Terry Huffine Managing Director European Consumer



Andrew Martin Managing Director Sporting & **Enthusiast Brands**



Nick Pavlidis Managing Director Household Products



loe Pellegrini Managing Director Sporting & **Enthusiast Brands**



Rob Rosenfeld Managing Director Household & **Juvenile Products**



David Silver Managing Director Head of European **Investment Banking**

Brian McDonagh

Managing Director

Co-Head of Global

Investment Banking



"Every business has a story to tell. To tell that story well, you need someone who understands your perspective,

appreciates your culture and shares your passion.

We identify why a particular brand story can generate

strategic buyers and private equity buyer universe to

sustainable and profitable growth. We know the global

match sellers and buyers, achieving exceptional outcomes."

Other Senior Resources

Let us tell your story

Lvdia Xu Managing Director Head of Greater China Investment Banking



Satoshi Matsumoto Managing Director Director of Japan M&A



Chris Sciortino Managing Director Retail & Restaurants



Mark Karns Director Consumer



Kevin McGee Director Consumer



Katie Melzer Director Consumer



Matt Tingler Director Sports, Fitness & Outdoor



Maria Watts Director Retail & Apparel



Thomas Fetzer Managing Director Head of DACH Investment Banking



Tahs Siddique Director M&A Research

5.2. Selected consumer transactions

Mergers and acquisitions (M&A)























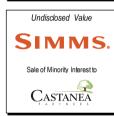




























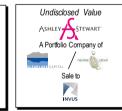






















O PMI

Recapitalization with

ENDEAVOUR Joshua Green

And acquisition of

FORMATION BRANDS LLC



















5.2. Selected consumer transactions

Mergers and acquisitions (M&A)

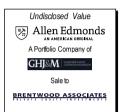


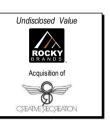








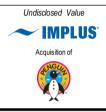




















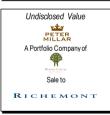




Sale to





































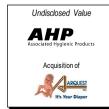


















5.2. Selected consumer transactions

Initial public offerings (IPOs)







Initial Public Offering



Initial Public Offering

















































5.3. Consumer equity research coverage



Mark Altschwager Retail - Softlines / Beauty

Abercrombie & Fitch

Aritzia

COACH

G A P

JCPenney



Limitedbrands





NORDSTROM





Urban Outfitters





Peter Benedict Retail - Hardlines

































Ionathan Komp Retail. Footwear & Apparel

adidas

GROUP **BOOT BARN**

Columbia

crocs

deckers

DULUTH

finish Line

Foot Locker GENESCO





David Tarantino

DARDEN

dunkin'



Restaurants



Colin Sebastian Internet / Interactive

































Craig Kennison Powersports, Auto Parts Retail / Services























































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Baird's Consumer bankers have advised on transactions involving the following companies and brands...





































































































































































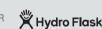






























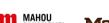






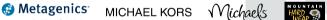




















































Van Geloven





Pillsbury PAYCORE POC Potbelly prana







prince*





























































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