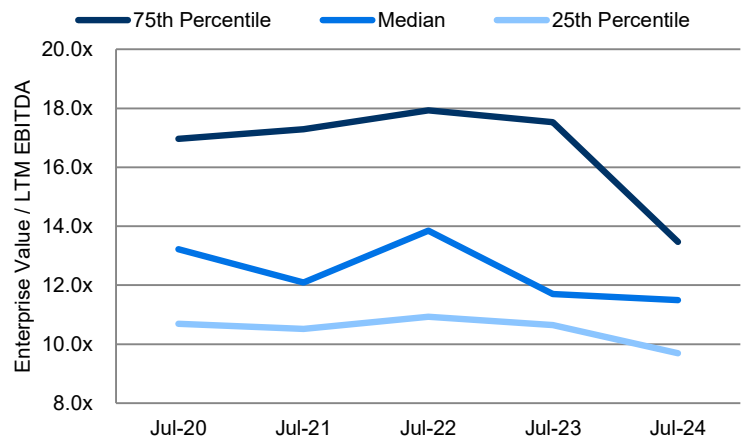


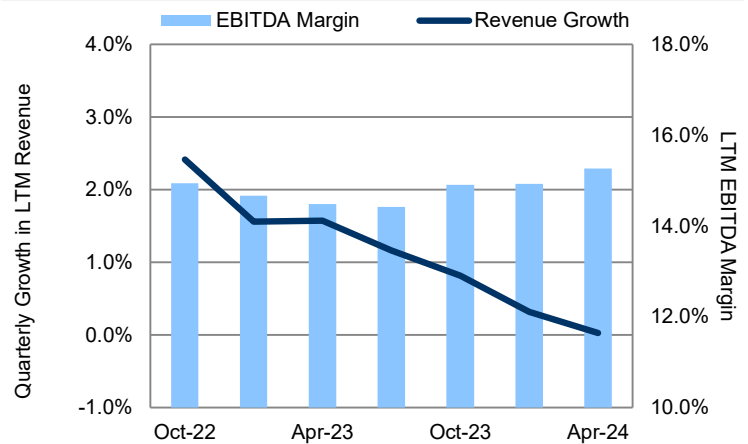
M&A Activity

- Over the previous few years M&A activity has been highly volatile. After a strong run, the deal environment came to a standstill in 2020 due to the pandemic. M&A activity spiked in 2021 due to government relief and pent-up investor demand, and then slowed again in 2022 and 2023 as financing costs crept up, geopolitical tensions rose, and growth in some sectors waned. After consecutive years of overall decline, M&A seems poised for a strong 2024 with near double-digit growth expected for North America in the second half of 2024 when compared to the first half of the year. At least one interest rate cut is expected this fall which along with low unemployment, strong consumer spending, and rising investment activity should provide a strong deal environment for the remainder of 2024.
- The food and beverage industries have benefited to some degree from rising prices and relatively strong consumer spending although revenue growth and equities has declined recently. Managing inflation, rising costs, shrinking margins, while catering to the evolving tastes and preferences of consumers could provide a number of challenges for even the strongest and most diversified portfolios.

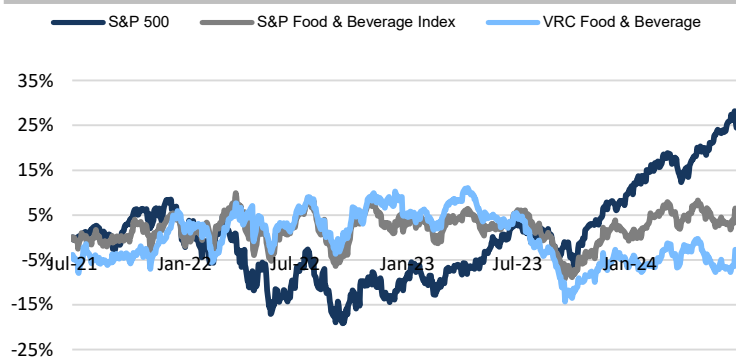
Trend in Industry EBITDA Multiples²



Trends in Revenue Growth and EBITDA Margins²



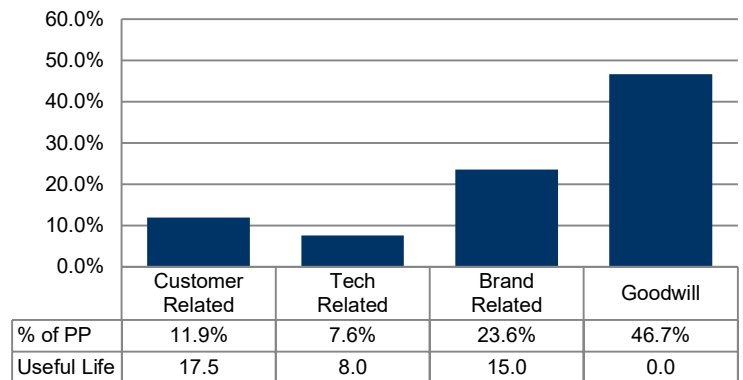
Relative Stock Price Returns¹



¹ The CPG Food & Beverage Industry is a custom, equal-weighted index constructed with the below listed companies.

² Calculated using aggregated data for KHC, MDLZ, GIS, K, HSY, TSN, CAG, HRL, PEP, CPB, SJM, MKC, INGR, PF, LW, PPC, POST, THS, SEB, BUFF, and FLO.

Purchase Price Allocation (PPA) % from Recent Transactions



Notable M&A Deals



On April 30, 2024, General Mills announced that it completed the acquisition of Edgard & Cooper, one of Europe's leading independent premium pet food brands. With this transaction, the company further advances its Accelerate strategy, including the prioritization of its core markets, global platforms and local gem brands to drive sustainable and profitable growth.



On March 12, 2024, Campbell Soup Company announced it completed the acquisition of Sovos Brands, Inc. for \$23 per share in an all-cash transaction, which represents a total enterprise value of approximately \$2.9 billion. The Sovos Brands portfolio consists of a variety of premium products including pasta sauces, dry pasta, soups, frozen entrées, frozen pizza and yogurts under the brand names Rao's, Michael Angelo's and noosa.