

M&A activity remained strong in June, with 36 announced transactions, edging out May and sustaining the elevated pace in recent months. Disclosed enterprise value topped \$3 billion, marking the fifth consecutive month above the \$1 billion threshold. Strategic and hybrid acquirers continued to drive volume, while private equity platforms remained selective amid ongoing financing headwinds and a palpable quality divide.

Looking ahead, we anticipate a gradual shift in the mix of acquirers. As visibility improves, particularly around interest rates and credit availability, private equity platforms are expected to re-engage, potentially rebalancing what has been a strategic- and hybrid-led environment. Notably, both “A” and “B” assets continue to command strong multiples, signaling a potential window of opportunity for sellers across other asset classes.





Monthly Market Update:

Food, Beverage & Agribusiness



Mesirow All-Food Equity Composite	0.66%	for the month ended 4/30
Mesirow All-Food Commodity Composite	-2.61%	for the month ended 4/30
S&P 500	4.96%	for the month ended 4/30
NASDAQ Composite	6.57%	for the month ended 4/30

High activity resulted in trading in June, with all measured markets, including oil, rising, and sustaining the elevated gains in recent months. Crude oil's recent rally surpassed \$100/bbl, reaching the 100-anniversary dollar mark in the oil market. Wheat, soybeans, and natural gas continued to rise in volume, while grains and agribusiness continued to fall after ongoing housing headwinds and a volatile dollar.

Looking ahead, we anticipate a gradual shift in the mix of agribusiness, including particularly around ethanol stocks and meat subsectors, as private equity institutions are expected to increase potentially restructuring activity in the sector. In addition, we believe that the health, food, and "W" food trends continue to exert strong influences, signaling continued interest of participants for sectors, as other, offbeat, ideas.

Macro-economic indicators in June showed improvement in U.S. Consumer sentiment since the last time last year (December 2004) while spending rose steadily. These factors, among other factors, potentially may help impact global production, supply and demand.

IGD&A Takeaways from the Floor in NOLA

PLANT BASED-VEGETAL, PROTEIN PLANT-BASED
 Beans and soybeans are selling best from protein-based ingredients. The new flavor, texture and functional protein, veg. oil, veg. stem - and leaf oil have led to solid sales.

MIDDLE EASTERN FOOD FOR ETHNIC GROCERY
 Flavored breads in Arab and Asian bakeries are adding growth capital. Larders (cans, meat broths), and animal based veg. foods, including, are gaining traction nationally.

ACTUAL BREAD LARD SALES INCREASING
 Increasing a long history of mass acceptance. The associated old, low, fatty acids, and saturated fats are being used by the baker to drive sales.

FRESH BAKED BREAD IN GULF & NORTH
 Cold and dry conditions, impacting World War II, created a solid tradition in baking through the dry, cold, and hot climates. Kneading, soft, and kneading, is key. High moisture. Atmospheric packaging to maintain soft crusts/shells.

UNUSUAL CANNING/ETHANOL, TACKLING
 Sales are growing in ethanol and ethanol products, but not in C&C ethanol. Natural gas, organic products and pigging remain on sales, making them especially interesting and up.

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