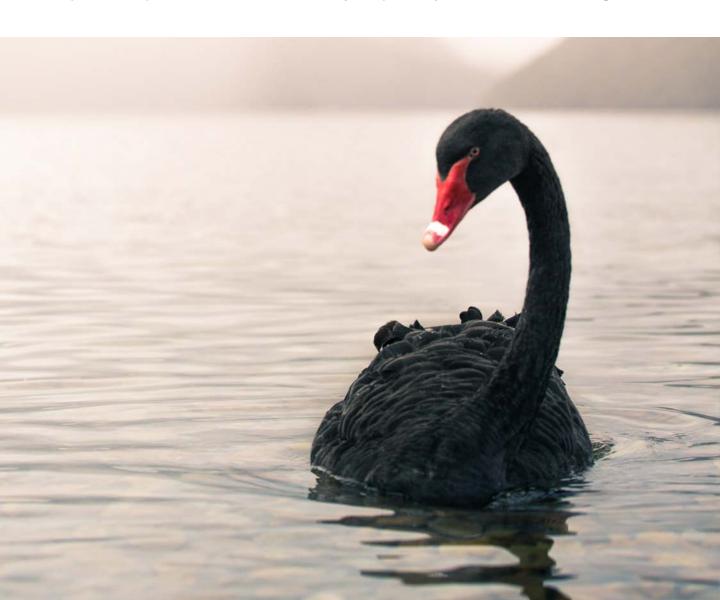


# The Food Distribution Sector's 'Black Swan' Shock

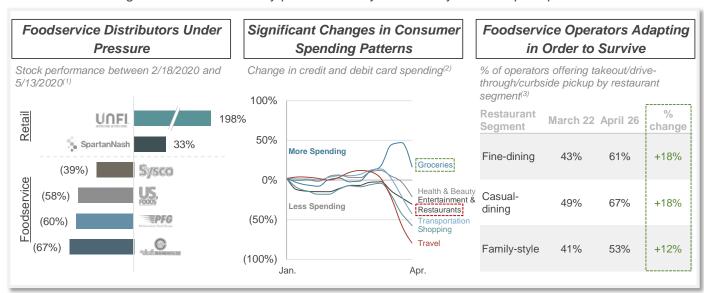
How Food Distribution Companies Are Addressing Threats and Opportunities Arising From COVID-19

A Special Report From Houlihan Lokey's Specialty Distribution Coverage Team



## Foodservice Distributors Facing Unprecedented Challenges, While Retail Distributors Focus on Execution

- The rapid and profound migration of food consumed away-from-home to food consumed in-home continues apace; the food industry has never experienced such a transformative shock over such a short period of time.
- Distributors to retail customers are experiencing moderation in order volumes from their customers during late April and May, albeit still at substantially higher levels compared to a year ago.
- Distributors, manufacturers, and service providers within the foodservice channel are experiencing year-over-year revenue declines generally between 30% and 90%.
  - Foodservice distributors reporting least pernicious volume declines: Distributors to customer segments that serve "habitual" consumption categories (e.g., coffee or pizza), value-priced, and/or non-food essentials (e.g., gloves, paper, and masks) within quick-serve, delivery-oriented, and/or healthcare segments of foodservice.
  - Foodservice distributors that have been particularly challenged: Specialty distributors of categories that are not easily consumed off-premise (e.g., produce, seafood, other fresh products); customer segments that more slowly pivoted to carry-out/delivery/curbside pickup.



#### Select Tactical Responses by Foodservice Distributors to the COVID-19 Crisis

Aggressively reducing labor and overhead costs

Pivoting to retail channel customers—distributing product and providing logistics services

Assisting restaurant customers to develop takeout/delivery capabilities

Assisting customers navigate the Federal PPP loan program

Leveraging kitting capabilities to serve meal solutions

Leveraging fleet to build direct-to-consumer delivery capabilities in high-density urban areas, such as New York City

Developing and scaling up e-commerce infrastructure to grow direct-to-consumer sales Partnering with retail distributors/warehousing companies to shift labor to productive adjacent opportunities

## Publicly Traded Foodservice Distributors Fortifying Their Balance Sheets for Fallout From COVID-19

- Although the consensus view on prospects for foodservice has improved since March as more states relax certain restrictive measures, there remains significant variation and uncertainty surrounding the path to some semblance of normalcy—below, we attempt to bookend the feedback we have heard from market participants.
- On earnings calls with Wall Street analysts during the week of May 4, 2020, Performance Food Group, Sysco, and US Foods each reported sequential restaurant volume growth beginning in late March, potentially indicating that restaurant volumes reached a nadir in the several weeks following nationwide lockdowns.

#### Suggested Reopening Dates(1)

Timeline for Reopening of Restaurant Dining Rooms Likely to Differ Materially Across States



\*States shaded in black have begun the reopening process

#### 'Optimistic' Foodservice Recovery Case

- Dining out is ingrained in American culture
- Pent-up demand for dining out
- Meals purchased at retail cannot fully replicate experience of dining out
- Rapid development of successful vaccine
- Relatively strong recovery in restaurant foot traffic in Europe and China following relaxation of social distancing

#### 'Pessimistic' Foodservice Recovery Case

- Longer duration of social distancing measures
- Subsequent "waves" of COVID-19
- Sustained consumer habits formed during COVID-19 lockdowns—home delivery of meal kits, home prepared meals
- Longer, deep recession that further constrains disposable income
- Capital may be constrained to support new restaurant formation
- All four of the publicly traded foodservice distributors have bolstered their liquidity positions in anticipation of a potentially prolonged demand impairment.
- UNFI and SpartanNash (as well as other privately held companies with which we have spoken) are primarily focused on managing supply chains and distribution networks to respond to unprecedented demand from retail customers and any "snap-back" effects from retail demand normalizing.

#### **Foodservice Distributors**

#### **Retail Distributors**

|   | Sysco                           | US.                                   | Performance Food Group              | *Chefswarehouse             | unfi               | SpartanNash            |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| LTM Revenue/LTM Adj.<br>EBITDA <sup>(2)(3)</sup><br>(\$ millions) | \$59,502/<br>\$3,310            | ~\$27,350/<br>~\$1,225 <sup>(4)</sup> | ~\$30,200/<br>~\$700 <sup>(5)</sup> | \$1,610/<br>\$56            | \$24,527/<br>\$587 | \$8,536/<br>\$178      |
| Stock Price Change<br>From 2/18/20 <sup>(2)</sup>                 | (39%)                           | (58%)                                 | (60%)                               | (67%)                       | +198%              | +33%                   |
| Q1 2020 Organic Case<br>Volume Growth <sup>(3)</sup>              | (6%) <sup>(6)</sup>             | (7%)                                  | (7%)                                | <b>(5%)</b> <sup>(7)</sup>  | +12%(8)            | Earnings to be         |
| March 2020 Case<br>Volume Growth <sup>(3)</sup>                   | (60%) weekly by<br>end of March | (50%) weekly by<br>end of March       | (50%) weekly by<br>end of March     | (28%) for month of<br>March | Not disclosed      | released end of<br>May |
| Funded Significant<br>Revolver Availability <sup>(3)</sup>        | ✓                               | ✓                                     | ✓                                   | ✓                           | ×                  | ×                      |
| Raised Incremental<br>Debt Financing <sup>(2)(3)</sup>            | ✓                               | ✓                                     | ✓                                   | ×                           | ×                  | ×                      |
| Raised Incremental<br>Equity <sup>(3)</sup>                       | ×                               | ✓                                     | ✓                                   | ✓                           | ×                  | ×                      |

## **Houlihan Lokey Specialty Distribution Team**

Houlihan Lokey has deep knowledge and experience advising leading distribution companies that provide food and related foodservice products to retail and foodservice channels.

#### **Houlihan Lokey Specialty Distribution Sector Contacts**



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#### Representative Food Distribution and Foodservice Channel Distribution Transactions





























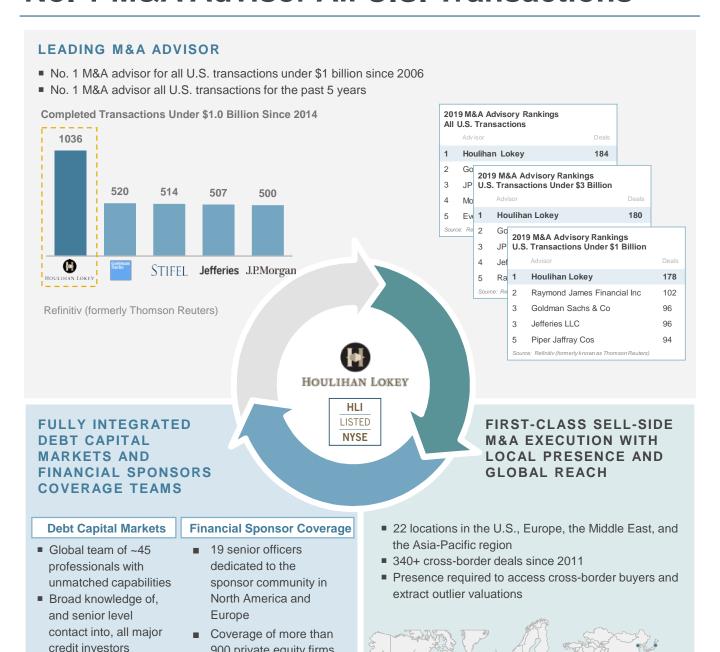








### No. 1 M&A Advisor All U.S. Transactions



Our integrated project teams work hand-in-hand from day one and are fully aligned to reach one common goal: delivering the maximum result for our clients in any situation.

900 private equity firms,

250 hedge funds, and

Worked on more than

financial sponsors in

1,000 engagements for

125 family offices

worldwide

Raised more than \$30

past three years

Among largest

in the industry

billion of capital in the

dedicated alternative

investor coverage team

Houlihan Lokey Locations

## Houlihan Lokey Capital Markets Capabilities

Houlihan Lokey's Capital Markets Group is comprised of approximately 45 dedicated professionals across eight offices in five countries that raised approximately \$11.5 billion in more than 55 transactions during 2019 with over 40 different financial sponsors.

#### **Capabilities**

#### Private Capital Solutions

- Placement of solution-oriented capital for a wide range of financing needs
- Differentiated investor relationships and access to decision-makers
- High-touch, confidential, targeted process
- Senior debt to minority equity
- Market leading franchise

#### Capital Markets **Advisory**

- Independent advisor on bank commitments and securities offerings
- Liability management—tender offers, exchange offerings, and consent solicitations
- Evaluate public vs. private markets
- Value-added distribution (anchor investors)
- Ability to act as bookrunner/co-manager

#### **Syndicated** Leveraged Finance **Platform** (LBO Finance)

- Arranger of underwritten financings, via HL Finance, LLC
- "Side-car" committed funding—up to \$1 billion per transaction
- Dedicated team of seasoned professionals
- Club distribution, broadly syndicated loans, and bond/bridge underwritings

#### **Bespoke Capital for Complex** Assets/Situations

#### Opportunistic/Situational Capital **Needs**

- Working capital
- Short timeline
- Growth initiatives
- Confidentiality/
- Opportunistic acquisitions
- discretion
- Recapitalizations Covenant-lite/loose
   Market dislocation
- Equity minimization Delayed-draw
- Shareholder
- facilities
- liquidity
- Liquidity facilities
- Bridge/transitional
   Rescue finance capital

#### **Complex Stories or Financial Performance**

- Carve-outs
- High capex
- Customer
- Hypergrowth
- concentration
- Misunderstood
- Cyclical business
- trends
- Geographic
  - diversity

sectors

- Add-backs/ synergies
- Misunderstood
- Run-rate adjustments
- Operational turnarounds
- Maturity adjustments

## **How Houlihan Lokey Can Help**

Our firm is extremely well-equipped to help our clients navigate uncertain times. We respond quickly to challenging situations and are constantly helping clients to analyze, structure, negotiate, and execute the best possible solutions from both a strategic and a financial perspective.

## What We Offer Corporate Finance **Mergers and Acquisitions Capital Markets Private Funds Advisory Board Advisory Services** Financial Restructuring **Company Advisory Distressed M&A Liability Management Creditor Advisory** 3 Financial and Valuation Advisory **Portfolio Valuation and Fund Advisory Transaction Opinions Corporate Valuation Advisory Services Transaction Advisory Services Real Estate Valuation and Advisory**

**Dispute Resolution Consulting** 

#### **Corporate Finance**

We have been the most active advisor to the North American food and beverage industry for over a decade and have long-standing relationships with capital providers, including private equity funds, family offices, commercial banks and other senior credit providers, insurance funds, asset managers, and mezzanine fund investors.

#### **Financial Restructuring**

We have the largest financial restructuring practice of any global investment bank. Since 1988, we have advised on more than 1,000 such transactions (with aggregate debt claims in excess of \$2.5 trillion). We served as an advisor in 12 of the largest 15 bankruptcies from 2000–2019.

#### **Financial and Valuation Advisory**

For nearly four decades, we have established ourselves as one of the largest financial and valuation advisory firms. Our transaction expertise and leadership in the field of valuation helps inspire confidence in financial executives, boards of directors, special committees, investors, and business owners we serve.

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