

Engineering, Industrial, and Infrastructure Services

Market Update—Q4 2023



About Our Firm

Houlihan Lokey, Inc. (NYSE:HLI) is a leading global investment bank with expertise in mergers and acquisitions, capital markets, financial restructuring, and financial and valuation advisory.

Our firm is the trusted advisor to more top decision-makers than any other independent global investment bank.

CORPORATE FINANCE

2023 M&A Advisory Rankings All Global Transactions

	Advisor	Deals
1	Houlihan Lokey	352
2	Rothschild & Co	349
3	Goldman Sachs & Co	300
3	JP Morgan	300
5	Morgan Stanley	253

Source: LSEG (formerly Refinitiv). Excludes accounting firms and brokers.

No 1

Global M&A Advisor

Leading

Capital Markets Advisor

FINANCIAL RESTRUCTURING

2023 Global Distressed Debt & Bankruptcy Restructuring Rankings

	Advisor	Deals
1	Houlihan Lokey	73
2	PJT Partners Inc	64
3	Rothschild & Co	51
4	Lazard	37
5	Evercore Partners	27

Source: LSEG (formerly Refinitiv).

No. 1

Global Restructuring Advisor

1,700+

Transactions Completed Valued at More Than \$3.5 Trillion Collectively

FINANCIAL AND VALUATION ADVISORY

1999-2023 Global M&A Fairness Advisory Rankings

	Advisor	
1	Houlihan Lokey	1,247
2	JP Morgan	1,035
3	Duff & Phelps, A Kroll Business	977
4	UBS	884
5	Morgan Stanley	716

Source: LSEG (formerly Refinitiv). Announced or completed transactions.

No. 1

Global M&A Fairness Opinion Advisor Over the Past 25 Years

2,000+

Annual Valuation Engagements



Learn more about how our advisors can serve your needs

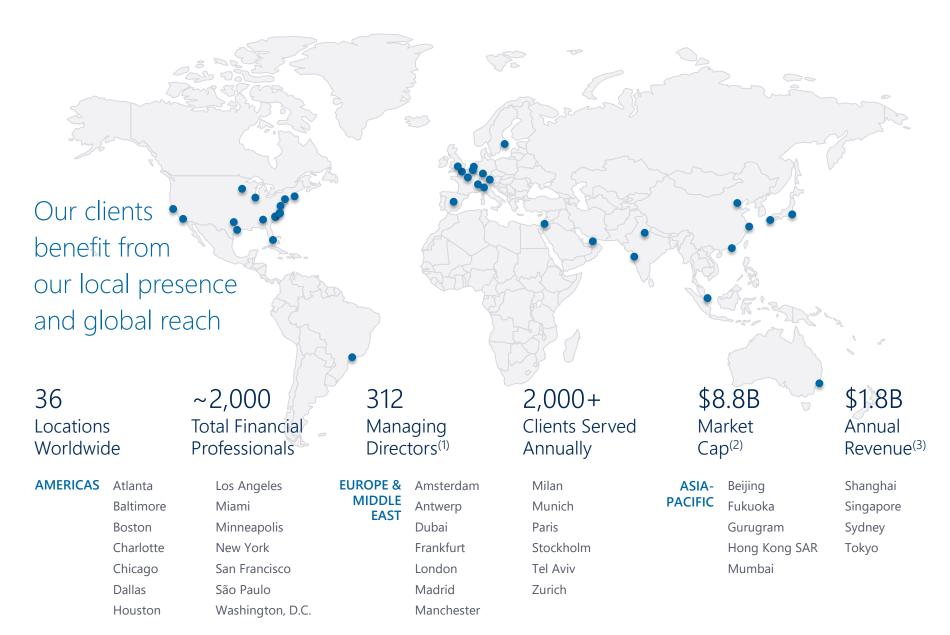
Corporate Finance



Financial and Valuation Advisory







⁽¹⁾ As of December 31, 2023; excludes corporate Managing Directors.

Fully Integrated Financial Sponsor Coverage

29

Senior officers dedicated to the sponsor community in the Americas and Europe

1,100+

Sponsors covered, providing market insights and knowledge of buyer behavior

730+

Companies sold to financial sponsors over the past five years



⁽²⁾ As of March 31, 2024.

⁽³⁾ LTM ended December 31, 2023.

About Our Business Services Industry Group

Houlihan Lokey's Business Services Group combines extensive industry relationships with substantial experience to offer a broad array of M&A, corporate finance, restructuring, and financial and valuation advisory services to the business services industry.

2023 M&A Advisory Rankings All Global Business Services Transactions			
	Advisor	Deals	
1	Houlihan Lokey	63	
2	Rothschild & Co	46	
3	Lincoln International	32	
4	Clearwater International	31	
5	Goldman Sachs & Co	27	

Based on number of transactions and according to data provided by LSEG, Houlihan Lokey was ranked the

No. 1

investment bank for all global business services M&A transactions in 2023.



⊗HOST

Medical

Source: LSEG (formerly Refinitiv). Excludes accounting firms and brokers.

Selected Business Services Industry Transactions

















Centerbridge CDPQ

Industry Sector Coverage

We cover a broad array of sectors, with financial professionals dedicated to each of our primary coverage areas.



BPO Services



Equipmentas-a-service



IT Services



Specialty Consulting and Risk Services



Transportation and Logistics



Engineering and Infrastructure



Facility and **Residential Services**



Marketing Services



Testing, Inspection, Certification and Compliance



Environmental Services



HCM Services



Pharma Commercialization



Training and Education

Key Facts and Figures

170 +

Dedicated Business Services financial professionals

63

Completed Business Services M&A/private placement transactions in CY23

Our Engineering, Industrial, and Infrastructure Team

The engineering, industrial, and infrastructure (EI&I) sector operates within Houlihan Lokey's Business Services Group, which has earned a reputation for providing superior service and achieving outstanding results in M&A advisory, capital raising, restructuring, and financial and valuation advisory services.

Our clients run the gamut from early-stage businesses and midsized companies to large, publicly traded corporations. We understand that an industry driven by innovation and change requires the sophistication of an advisor who can think ahead of the market and utilize solid industry relationships to help advance your vision. We optimize client outcomes by running executed, competitive processes by focusing on deep domain knowledge to position for synergy and scarcity value and by leveraging our world-class strategic and private equity access to bring the right senior decision-makers to the negotiation table.

Featured Transactions

















Subsector Coverage



Services



Industrial Services



Construction Software











Program/

Construction

Management

Leadership



Scott Kolbrenner Managing Director SKolbrenner@HL.com +1 310.712.6524



Ranon Kent Managing Director RKent@HL.com +1 310.712.6523



Scott Sergeant Managing Director SSergeant@HL.com +1 212.497.4275



Sebastian Weindel Director Sebastian.Weindel@HL.com +49 (0) 89 413 121 26



Ronnie Grenier-Hemphill Vice President RGrenier@HL.com +1 310.789.5790

Contact us

Please reach out to us to schedule a call to discuss this quarter's market update or to explore how we can serve your business needs.



Request a Meeting



Learn More About Us

Join Us at Our

Upcoming Spring and Fall Conferences

Attendees will gain insights into the market dynamics and strategies employed within a variety of business services sectors and participate in insightful discussions on the state of the market and current issues.



BPO Services



Equipmentas-a-Service



IT Services



Specialty Consulting and Risk Services



Transportation and Logistics



Engineering and Infrastructure



Environmental Services



Facility and Residential Services



HCM Services



Marketing Services



Pharma
Commercialization



Testing, Inspection, Certification, and Compliance



Training and Education



Presentations from highly successful companies



Targeted one-on-one meetings

1,000+

Registered conference attendees

2024 Global Business Services Spring Summit

April 17 and 18, 2024 Virtual Conference



Register today

2024 Global Business Services Conference

October 10, 2024 Lotte New York Palace



Request an invite

Interested in presenting your company at our conferences?



Email us

April 17 and 18, 2024

Global Business Services Virtual Spring Summit

Examples of Previous EI&I Sector Participating Companies





Provides capital program advisory and consulting services.

Provides engineering and construction management services.

Provides engineering services for civil, structural, and transportation-related projects.

Provides building and design services for integrated





IN-PLACE

Provides solutions for wireless, wireline, and critical infrastructure projects.

Provides engineering, design, consulting, and program management services.



digital networks.



Provides broadband solutions servicing communications providers.





Provides on-site machining, wire-cutting, and other field services.



KLEINFELDER

and asset quality services.

Provides track and transit system solutions.

Provides engineering consulting services for government and private clients.



Provides engineering, environmental, and







Provides utility line and related engineering services in telecom and power industries.

Provides consulting, engineering, and construction management services.

Selected Prior Conference Attendees











































































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Disclaimer

Introduction

Engineering, Industrial, and Infrastructure Market Update

The EI&I industry is currently experiencing strong growth, primarily fueled by a combination of retrofitting or replacing aging infrastructure and new construction needs being underpinned by infrastructure initiatives across the U.S. and Europe. These factors have created a favorable environment for companies operating in the sector, leading to increased growth opportunities for companies to capture particularly with acquisitions.

The second half of 2023 had several notable deals to highlight as companies have continued to find and execute M&A opportunities during a time of economic uncertainty, with robust demand for opportunities deemed resilient and capable of growth through a potential cycle.

Overall, deal volume has shown resilience despite the prevailing macroeconomic conditions. Mergers and acquisitions within the El&I sector have experienced a surge in investments, targeting the growing demand for specialized labor and the expansion of service offerings to cater to various end markets such as roads, renewables, electricity, airports, telecommunications, rail, and water. 2024 may witness heightened M&A activities, with private equity firms holding an estimated \$4 trillion in dry powder and companies actively seeking exit opportunities from prior deals.

In the public markets, El&I companies have generally outperformed, particularly industrial and infrastructure service firms. This trend is attributed to evolving regulatory dynamics, government initiatives, and an overall improvement in market sentiment within these industries.



Sources: S&P Capital IQ, Bain & Company.

Featured Sector News

Government initiatives persist in allocating resources to strengthen infrastructure, concentrating on various critical areas such as green energy, power and electrical systems, transportation-related infrastructure, and telecommunication.

Date	Company	Description	Article Link
12/13/2023	Jacobs	Jacobs has been chosen by Naarea, a French nuclear startup, to support nuclear safety and engineering disciplines such as control, instrumentation, and mechanical processes. This partnership is focused on advancing safety and sustainability objectives for enhanced energy security and a more interconnected global community.	Read More
12/7/2023	NY Project	The South Fork offshore wind project in New York has successfully transmitted power to the state grid, signaling the U.S.'s debut in large-scale offshore wind energy. Orsted and Eversource have installed two turbines of 12, with the remainder expected by early 2024, supporting New York's objective of achieving 9GW offshore wind capacity by 2035.	Read More
11/29/2023	wsp	WSP named Brian McCarthy as the national hydrogen market lead to advance its comprehensive energy system strategy covering hydrogen production, storage, distribution, and utilization. With a background in process technology from leading a hydrogen-focused team and developing decarbonization strategies in Europe and the U.S., he brings valuable expertise to the position.	Read More
11/21/2023	The state of the s	The EPA has opened applications for \$2 billion in grants to support environmental and climate justice initiatives in underserved communities. The funding will aid projects focusing on clean energy, resilience, and tackling challenges like urban heat islands, extreme weather, pollution, and low-emission technologies.	Read More
11/21/2023	Trimble.	Autodesk unveiled its latest artificial intelligence tool at the annual Autodesk University user conference. The company's strategic investment in AI-enabled workflows aims to streamline processes for designers, contractors, and product users, enhancing efficiency across the board.	Read More
11/21/2023	Washington National Records Center	A GAO report has found that deferred maintenance has added billions to repair costs across four federal agencies between 2017 and 2022, as some delayed items now require replacement instead of repair. Age and lack of consistent funding contributed to an 80% rise in estimated maintenance backlogs.	Read More
11/20/2023	Jacobs	Jacobs has announced the spin-off of Critical Mission Solutions and Cyber & Intelligence businesses, merging them with Amentum to establish a new \$13 billion public company centered on government services. This collaboration positions the combined entity as a premier provider of systems integration and technology, specializing in delivering client solutions in critical areas.	Read More
11/16/2023	The state of the s	The EPA has introduced a new initiative, named Get the Lead Out, to offer technical support to 200 underserved communities in locating and replacing lead service lines. The initiative is backed by \$15 billion from the 2021 infrastructure legislation and will be executed in collaboration with the Labor Department.	Read More

Source: Press releases.

Featured Sector News (cont.)

Date	Company	Description	Article Link
11/16/2023	AECOM	A memorandum of understanding has been signed between AECOM and Boryspil International Airport to bolster and uphold Ukraine's aviation sector. AECOM will provide infrastructure advisory support, encompassing asset assessment, design, engineering, program management, and construction management.	Read More
11/16/2023	NIVI5	NV5 Global Inc. has acquired Technology Design Services, a company specializing in technology infrastructure design and consulting services. This will enhance NV5's capabilities in the rapidly growing data center and technology design sectors while broadening client relationships in the aviation and government sectors.	Read More
11/14/2023	Stantec	Stantec has agreed to acquire ZETCON Engineering, a respected firm based in Germany. ZETCON brings expertise in infrastructure planning, inspection, and project management. The German market presents significant growth opportunities due to the high demand for infrastructure renovation and transition to sustainable energy sources.	Read More
11/9/2023	THE BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION	Approaching the two-year milestone of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Biden administration has provided an update. Approximately \$400 billion of the \$1.2 trillion measure has been allocated to more than 40,000 projects across 4,500+ communities nationwide, including D.C., territories, and tribal lands.	
11/6/2023	THE BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION	The Biden Administration has allocated \$1.3 billion for three transmission projects spanning six states to enhance grid capacity by adding 3.5 GW. This initiative is designed to bolster investor confidence, stimulate new capacity purchases, and mitigate developer risks, as stated by the DOE.	
11/6/2023	THE BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION	The Biden administration has allocated \$16.4 billion for 25 major projects along Amtrak's Northeast Corridor, funded by the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, with \$66 billion designated for rail. The \$16.4 billion encompasses both immediate funding and phased agreements spanning several years.	
11/3/2023	Party of Taken	The U.S. Department of Transportation allocated \$653 million to improve port infrastructure across 25 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Key grants were designated for projects in Tacoma, Washington; Long Beach, California; Wilmington, Delaware; Baltimore County, Maryland; and Norfolk, Virginia.	
10/27/2023	SUPERIOR	Superior Construction is set to commence the construction of a 4,100-foot pedestrian swing bridge over the Ashley River in Charleston, South Carolina, next year. This unique bridge will showcase a 225-foot cable-stayed center section, marking a pioneering endeavor in the U.S., with a groundbreaking scheduled for Q2 next year.	Read More

Source: Press releases.



Featured Sector News (cont.)

Date	Company	Description	Article Link
10/9/2023	FLUOR _®	Fluor Corporation's contract for managing and operating the Naval Nuclear Laboratory has been extended for an additional five years until 2028 by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration. Initially granted in 2018, the contract supports the collaborative Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program of the Department of Energy and the Department of Navy.	Read More
10/5/2023	AECOM	AECOM has been awarded a three-year program management contract by the Chicago Department of Water Management. In partnership with DB Sterlin, AECOM will oversee capital improvements to DWM's water infrastructure assets, with a focus on enhancing facilities and replacing lead service lines to ensure equitable access to safe drinking water in communities.	Read More
10/5/2023	Federal Highway Administration	The Federal Highway Administration has allocated \$61 billion for highway and bridge funding to states and territories in fiscal year 2024. Texas led with \$5.38 billion, followed by California at \$5.06 billion, Florida at \$2.61 billion, New York at \$2.31 billion, and Pennsylvania at \$2.26 billion.	Read More
10/3/2023	wood.	Wood has entered into a collaboration agreement with OMV to commercially license its plastic recycling technology, ReOil. This move supports the advancement of chemical-based plastic recycling for plastic waste that would otherwise be landfilled or incinerated. The ReOil plastic recycling solution is projected to utilize 60% of plastics from recycled feedstock by 2050.	Read More
9/26/2023	KBR	KBR has secured a contract for blue hydrogen process technology and FEED for the HPP2 low-carbon hydrogen facility at HyNet. The agreement encompasses technology licensing, engineering design, and equipment for a plant capacity of up to 1000 MW. HyNet is a U.K. industrial decarbonization initiative aimed at curbing carbon emissions in high-energy consumption sectors.	Read More
9/4/2023	wood.	Wood and Harbour Energy have forged a strategic partnership for U.K. North Sea operations. The collaboration spans an initial five-year term with extension options. Wood is poised to provide EPC, O&M, digital, and decarbonization solutions for Harbour's offshore assets.	Read More
8/8/2023	NIVI5	NV5 Global, Inc. has completed the acquisition of Red Technologies, a provider of IT and utility infrastructure services for data centers serving international tech and financial firms, utilizing cash and stock. This strategic decision by NV5 reflects the growth of the data center market in Asia.	Read More

Source: Press releases.

Featured Transactions Executed by Houlihan Lokey's Team

Houlihan Lokey Advises Anser Advisory



- Anser Advisory, a portfolio company of Sterling Investment Partners, has been acquired by Accenture (NYSE: ACN). Anser Advisory is a leading advisory and management company for infrastructure projects in the United States.
- Sterling Investment Partners is a private equity firm investing in and building middlemarket companies for over 30 years and has completed over 220 transactions.
- Accenture is a leading global professional services company that helps the world's leading businesses, governments and other organizations build their digital core, optimize their operations, accelerate revenue growth and enhance citizen services.
- This deal exemplifies the continued success in partnership with Anser management, having represented the company in its sale to Sterling in 2021.
- Houlihan Lokey served as financial advisor to Anser Advisory and Sterling Investment Partners in this transaction.

Houlihan Lokey Advises Comtech Group Inc.



- Comtech Group Inc. (Comtech) has been acquired by Accenture (NYSE:ACN).
- Comtech is a leading consulting and program management company for infrastructure projects in Canada and the United States. Its clients are transportation, infrastructure, industrial manufacturing, building, and power and utility companies.
- Accenture is a leading global professional services company that helps the world's leading businesses, governments, and other organizations build their digital core, optimize their operations, accelerate revenue growth, and enhance citizen services.
- Houlihan Lokey served as the exclusive financial advisor to Comtech in this transaction.

Houlihan Lokey Advises CHA Consulting



- CHA Consulting (CHA), a portfolio company of First Reserve, has been acquired by H.I.G.
 Capital. CHA is an innovative, full-service engineering, design, consulting, and program
 management firm providing a wide range of technology-enhanced services to public,
 private, and institutional clients.
- Founded in 1983, First Reserve is a leading global private equity firm that has raised more than \$33 billion of aggregate capital since inception.
- H.I.G. Capital is a leading global alternative investment firm with \$60 billion of capital under management and has invested in 400+ companies worldwide.
- This deal exemplifies the continued success in partnership with CHA management, having represented the company in its sale to First Reserve in 2018.
- Houlihan Lokey served as the lead financial advisor and assisted in marketing, structuring, and negotiating the transaction on behalf of CHA and First Reserve.

Houlihan Lokey Advises The Kleinfelder Group Inc.



- The Kleinfelder Group, Inc. (Kleinfelder), a portfolio company of Wind Point Partners, has been acquired by Lindsay Goldberg.
- Based in California, Kleinfelder is an engineering, construction management, design, and environmental professional services firm.
- Wind Point Partners is a Chicago-based private equity investment firm with approximately \$6 billion in assets under management.
- Lindsay Goldberg is a private investment firm that has raised more than \$17 billion of equity capital and has invested in over 60 platform companies since 2001.
- This deal exemplifies the continued success in partnership with Kleinfelder management, having represented the company in its sale to Wind Point Partners in 2018.
- Houlihan Lokey served as the exclusive financial advisor to Kleinfelder in this transaction.

Engineering, Industrial, and Infrastructure M&A Highlights

Deal Volume

■ Deal Volume 411 368 363 298 282 2022 2019 2020 2021 2023

Notable Transactions

Date	Acquirer	Target
12/21/2023	H. I. G.	COMPANY
12/21/2023	TRANSYSTEMS	BLE 900
12/12/2023	Bowman	HESS - ROUNTHEE, INC.
12/12/2023	BainCapital PRIVATE EQUITY	← E L E D A
12/5/2023	TOWER ARCH	SEN
11/30/2023	Trinity	WestLand Resources
11/20/2023	LOCHNER	TRIUNITY
11/14/2023	Stantec	ZETCON INGENIEURE
11/14/2023	Blue Sage Capital	Geo-Solutions
11/10/2023	Bowman	cfa
11/7/2023	Verdantas PEOPLE FOCUSED FUTURE	WAAN nood 600 th 100 to come
10/26/2023	accenture	Comtech
10/23/2023	(A) OAKTREE	<i>ACCON</i>
10/4/2023	GEMSPRING	AMPAM Parks Mechanical

Key Takeaways

At the end of 2023, transaction volume showed ongoing growth and is set to continue its upward trajectory.

Additionally, increased infrastructure spending across diverse end markets has created additional project backlog and opportunities for players to grow by acquisition to fulfill key areas of focus.

Target acquisitions have offered buyers expanded geographies, advanced specialized services, additional customer bases, and a focus on technologysupported services.

Source: S&P Capital IQ.

Note: Data as of December 31, 2023.

Capital Markets

Overview

Amid a slowdown in LBOs in the syndicated loan and high-yield markets in 2023, the direct lending market has exhibited stability and continues to offer competitive terms relative to the public markets, with sponsors seeking certainty.

Direct lending volume in 2023 exceeded \$148 billion, inching past 2022's \$144.8 billion volume, driven by a substantial second-half rally as well as a boost in jumbo financings. Direct lenders continue to deploy capital, with pricing compressing for top credits.

Unitranche volume surged to new heights over the past few years as the private credit market took increasing market share from the broadly syndicated market given their ability to provide large commitments, speed and flexibility.

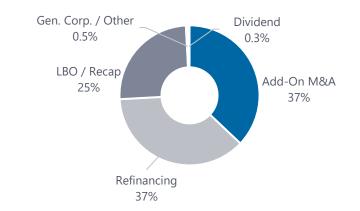
Sources: DLD Weekly, KBRA DLD, LCD. (1) December 2023 volume by proceeds.

Direct Lending Volume

(\$ in Billions)



Use of Proceeds(1)

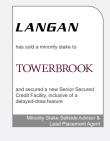


Featured Recent Capital Markets Transactions



Sale of Minority Stake

ENTRUST is the nation's premier consulting services platform serving utility, renewables, and other critical infrastructure end markets. Houlihan Lokey served as the exclusive financial advisor and assisted in marketing, structuring, and negotiating the transaction on behalf of ENTRUST and Kohlberg.

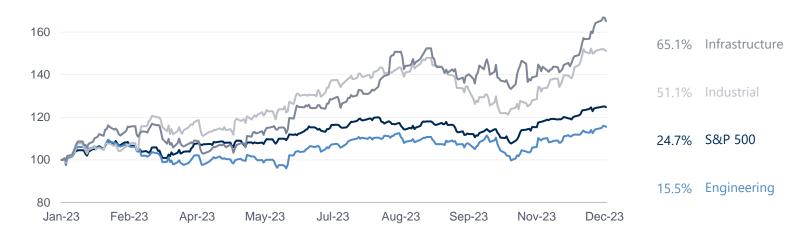


Sale of Minority Stake

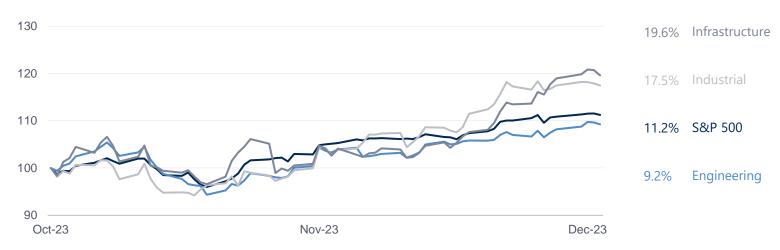
Langan is a leading provider of comprehensive environmental and engineering consulting services to a broad array of clients on a national and international scale. Houlihan Lokey served as the lead financial advisor and placement agent to Langan, assisting in arranging, structuring, and negotiating the concurrent sale of a minority equity stake in and debt financings on behalf of the company.

Equity Market Index Performance

2023 Performance



October– December 2023 Performance



Source: S&P Capital IQ.

Notes: Data as of December 31, 2023. All share prices are rebased to 100.

The Houlihan Lokey Infrastructure Services, Industrial Services, and Engineering Services Indexes consist of a diversified set of 38 companies. See page 18 for a complete list.

Strongest Performance in Q4

Despite the economic uncertainty heading into 2023, there has been strong growth across the El&I sectors.

The Houlihan Lokey Infrastructure Services Index is up 65.1% in 2023, vastly outperforming the S&P 500 Index, which is up 24.7% during the same period.

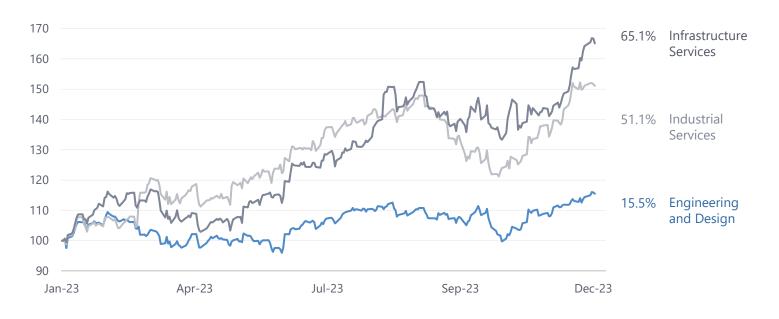
The U.S. government infrastructure spending bill (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act), passed in late 2021, continues to act as a market tailwind, creating jobs and growth opportunities for EI&I firms.

In the period October–December 2023, the S&P 500 has been underperforming in the market compared to the industrial and infrastructure sectors, and only slightly better than the engineering sector.

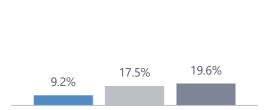
Equity Market Index Performance

Engineering, Industrial, and Infrastructure Subsectors

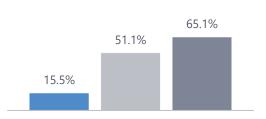
2023 Performance by Subsector



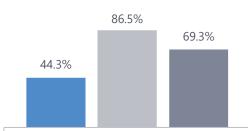




2023 Performance



Three-Year Performance



Robust Market Performance

Despite the ongoing challenges of high

interest rates and bank runs, the EI&I

demonstrate strong performance in

2023. This evidences robust industry

who are actively deploying capital

across the sector.

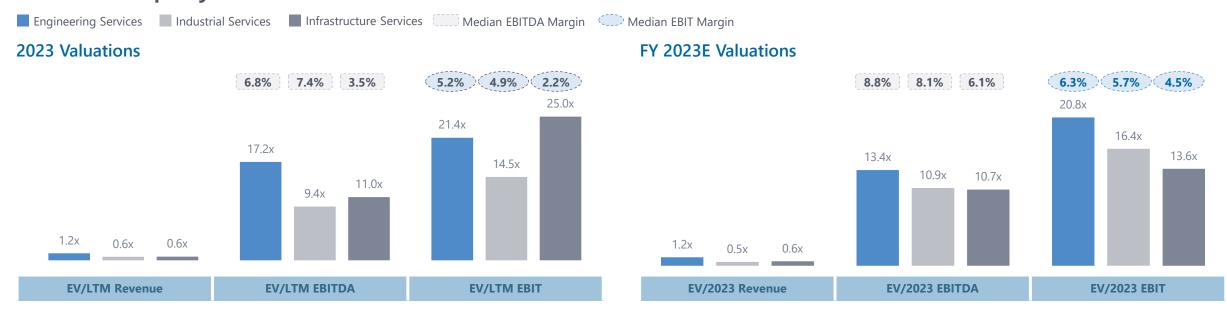
resilience and enduring positive market trends, instilling confidence in investors

public markets continued to

Source: S&P Capital IQ.

Notes: Data as of December 31, 2023. All share prices are rebased to 100.

Public Company Valuations



Engineering Services



























Industrial Services



























Infrastructure Services





















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