Mesirow

Monthly Market Update: Food, Beverage & Agribusiness

Mesirow All-Food Equity Composite[1]	1.85%	S&P 500[3]	-1.06%
Mesirow All-Grain Commodity Composite[2]	-4.64%	NASDAQ Composite[4]	-2.81%

U.S. Food, Beverage & Agribusiness M&A activity in June centered on specialty ingredients and bakery, with two sizable strategic bakery deals announced within a week of each other. Private equity stayed active but selective, over-indexing to add-ons rather than new platforms. Among U.S. targets, June deal volume was flat month-over-month, but disclosed value fell more than 60% to roughly $1.6 billion, with strategic buyers leading at 45% of transactions, financial buyers 18% and hybrid structures 14%. Strategics still dominate by count, but sponsor activity accelerated.

Notable Transactions

- **Europastry agreed to acquire Highland Baking Company**, a family-owned, multi-site provider of premium breads and rolls into the foodservice and wholesale/retail channels, pushing combined revenue above $2.3 billion. Europastry plans to roll out a significant U.S. investment program to expand capacity, introduce new categories and bring the Group's broader bakery innovation to U.S. customers.
- **Rise Baking Company entered a definitive agreement to acquire New Jersey–based Jimmy's Gourmet Bakery**, adding the Jimmy's Cookies and Ecce Panis brands and expanding Rise's footprint and manufacturing capacity in the Northeast
- **Ingredion announced an all-cash acquisition of Tate & Lyle on June 8 for roughly £3.7B ($5.0B)**, creating a large scale specialty ingredients platform spanning texturants, sugar reduction and fortification
- **Warburg Pincus–backed FlavorSum acquired Beverage Flavors International**, adding beverage flavor base and sweetener capabilities out of its Chicago facility, its latest add-on since Warburg Pincus bought the platform from Riverside last summer

Regulatory + Policy

On June 23, Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman, John Boozman, released a discussion draft summary for the Agricultural Act of 2026 ("Farm Bill 2.0"). Based on the summary, the bill includes:

- Expanded crop insurance and risk-management/disaster support
- Modernized USDA credit and loan programs
- Increased trade-promotion funding (including a doubling of Market Access Program funding)
- Expanded rural development/credit-related tools

On June 30th, USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins announced the Strengthening Processing for U.S. Ranchers (SPUR) Program, deploying up to $500 million in payments to independent and regional beef processors outside the four companies that control roughly 85% of U.S. beef processing capacity, aimed at preserving processing diversity amid historically tight cattle supplies.

All data as of 6.30.2026. | Data sources: S&P Capital IQ, Trading Economics, Pitchbook, NASDAQ exchange, S&P Dow Jones Indices. | 1. Mesirow All-Food Composite tracks 188 food and beverage companies across 18 sub-sectors. The percentage change is calculated by comparing the sum of the equal-weighted closing stock prices on the final trading day of each month. | 2. Mesirow All-Grain Composite tracks CBOT wheat, soybeans and corn pricing. The percentage change is calculated by comparing the sum of equal-weighted closing prices on the final trading day of each month. | 3. The S&P 500 includes 500 of the largest publicly traded companies in the U.S. | 4. NASDAQ Composite includes all stocks traded on the NASDAQ exchange.

Consumer Sentiment + Spending

Consumer confidence showed a modest, uneven recovery in June. The Conference Board Consumer Confidence Index rose 0.6 points to 91.2 off a downwardly revised May reading, while the University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment Index climbed to 49.5 from May's record low of 44.8, still roughly 19% below year-ago levels, with elevated inflation expectations the dominant drag on both surveys. SNAP policy changes are adding pressure on categories exposed to food assistance spending. By the end of 2026, 19 states will restrict SNAP purchases of soda, candy and energy drinks, an estimated $830M combined revenue risk across those categories.

M&A Market Data

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS BY STATUS

	May	June
Announced	44	45
Closed/Effective/Expired	33	21
Total Number of Transactions	77	66

TABLE 2: NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS BY TYPE

	May	June
Private Placement	49	39
Merger/Acquisition	21	22
Public Offering	7	4
Bankruptcy	0	1
Total Number of Transactions	77	66

TABLE 3: M&A STATS

Valuation Summary	May	June
Total Deal Value ($mm)	$4,414.6	$1,595.2
Average Deal Value ($mm)	$882.9	$531.7
Average EV/Revenue	1.36x	–
Average EV/EBITDA	9.8x	–
Average Day Prior Premium	–	–
Average Week Prior Premium	–	–
Average Month Prior Premium	–	–

TABLE 4: NUMBER OF M&A DEALS BY RANGE OF VALUE

Valuation Summary	May	June
Greater than $1 billion	1	1
$500 – $999.9mm	0	0
$100 – $499.9mm	2	0
Less than $100mm	2	2
Undisclosed	16	19

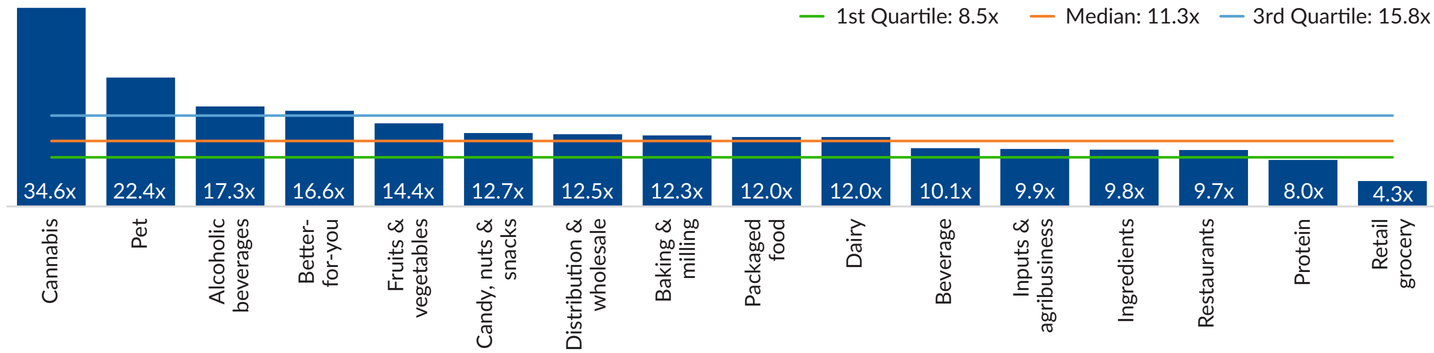
TABLE 5: ACTIVE BUYERS/INVESTORS BY TOTAL TRANSACTION SIZE (FOR MONTH ENDED 6.30.2026)

Company name	Total transaction size ($mm)
LongRange Capital, L.P.	$1,575
VMG Partners	$24
Purchase Capital LLC	$20
Tom Collins Distilling LLC	$20

Source: Mesirow and S&P Capital IQ for months ended May 31, 2026 and June 30, 2026.

M&A Multiples by Sub-sector

Latest five years



S&P Capital IQ as of June 30, 2026. M&A deals with disclosed multiples over the latest five to ten years depending on sector. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

Public Sector Valuations, Margins and Growth

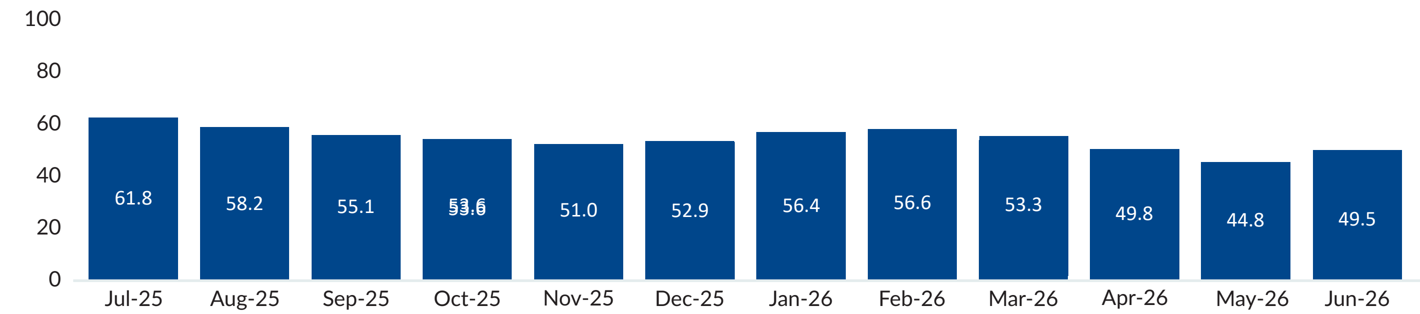
Food, beverage and agribusiness

		Enterprise value as a multiple of: Revenue		EBITDA					
	% of 52 week high	LTM	NTM	LTM	NTM	LTM gross margin	LTM EBITDA margin	LTM – NTM revenue growth	Net debt / LTM EBITDA
Agribusiness	82.7%	0.60x	0.58x	12.9x	8.6x	10.7%	4.6%	7.3%	3.9x
Baking	83.2%	0.95x	0.95x	7.3x	6.8x	39.6%	11.4%	0.5%	2.2x
Beverages: Non-Alcoholic	79.3%	2.18x	2.15x	13.5x	11.6x	43.7%	17.3%	4.1%	4.2x
Better-for-you	41.2%	1.09x	1.14x	6.9x	8.4x	30.2%	8.0%	0.7%	1.4x
Biofuels	95.1%	0.73x	0.71x	8.8x	6.6x	11.5%	7.8%	8.5%	1.0x
Candy, Nuts and Snacks	75.3%	1.57x	1.60x	11.9x	10.1x	32.6%	12.8%	2.5%	1.4x
Cannabis	37.6%	1.21x	0.98x	15.8x	7.3x	41.0%	(8.8%)	16.9%	4.6x
Dairy	89.5%	1.94x	1.77x	11.9x	10.8x	29.7%	10.9%	1.2%	1.7x
Distribution and Wholesale	86.9%	0.33x	0.36x	11.6x	11.6x	15.1%	3.1%	3.9%	3.0x
Food Services and Facilities Management	88.4%	1.00x	0.95x	9.9x	8.5x	16.3%	7.2%	5.0%	3.0x
Fruits and Vegetables	75.9%	1.01x	0.80x	8.1x	8.9x	12.2%	6.4%	5.2%	2.1x
Ingredients	90.8%	2.17x	2.32x	13.9x	12.5x	36.3%	17.2%	0.5%	2.2x
Inputs	60.3%	1.50x	1.56x	7.7x	7.1x	30.9%	18.4%	2.5%	2.3x
Meal / Home Delivery	75.1%	3.16x	2.80x	13.7x	10.1x	56.4%	19.4%	12.8%	1.0x
Packaged Foods	70.2%	1.77x	1.80x	9.7x	9.1x	29.1%	16.5%	(1.4%)	3.4x
Protein	74.4%	0.54x	0.60x	6.8x	6.3x	17.1%	9.4%	1.1%	2.4x
Restaurants	79.1%	1.85x	1.71x	13.7x	12.6x	25.3%	11.6%	4.1%	3.8x
Retail Grocery	77.7%	0.44x	0.59x	8.2x	9.4x	27.4%	5.3%	2.1%	1.9x
3rd Quartile	89.3%	2.24x	2.22x	16.1x	12.8x	37.7%	17.4%	7.7%	4.1x
Median	77.6%	1.23x	1.30x	10.8x	9.5x	28.2%	10.8%	2.9%	2.7x
1st Quartile	58.5%	0.60x	0.68x	7.8x	7.3x	17.2%	5.8%	(0.1%)	1.6x

Source: S&P Capital IQ as of June 30, 2026.

Consumer Sentiment Index

Latest twelve months



Source: Surveys of Consumers (umich.edu).

Market Performance (1/2)

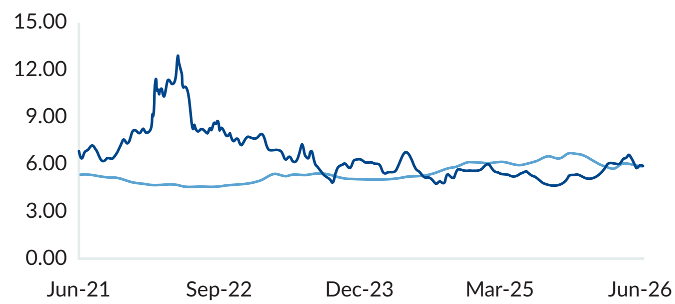
Last five years and latest twelve months

LTM 5 years

CHART 1: CORN ($ PER BUSHEL)

Source: S&P Capital IQ as of June 30, 2026. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

CHART 2: WHEAT ($ PER BUSHEL)



Source: S&P Capital IQ as of June 30, 2026. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

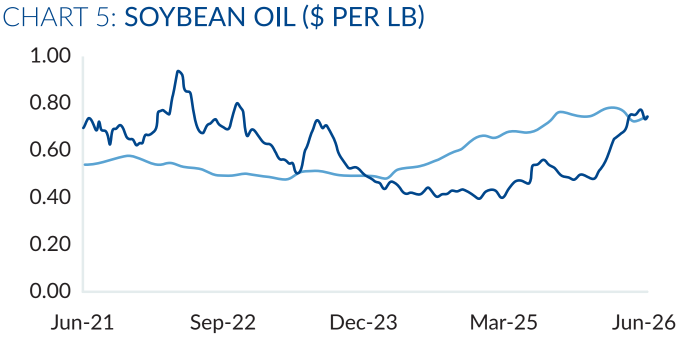
CHART 3: SOYBEANS ($ PER BUSHEL)

Source: S&P Capital IQ as of June 30, 2026. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

CHART 4: SOYBEAN MEAL ($ PER TON)

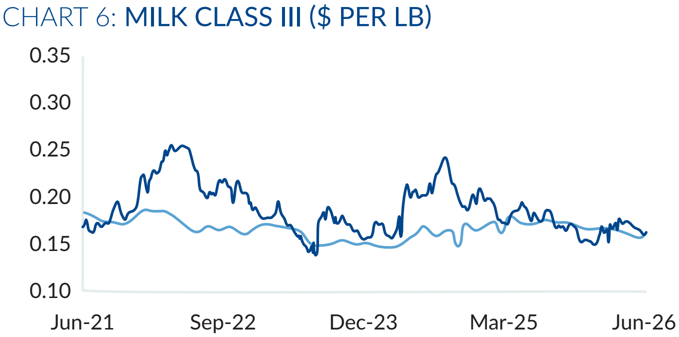
Source: S&P Capital IQ as of June 30, 2026. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

CHART 5: SOYBEAN OIL ($ PER LB)



Source: S&P Capital IQ as of June 30, 2026. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

CHART 6: MILK CLASS III ($ PER LB)



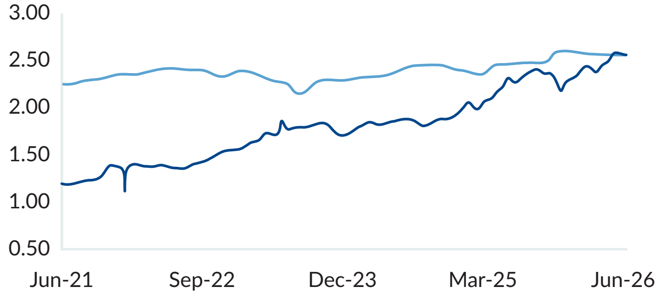
Source: S&P Capital IQ as of June 30, 2026. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

Market Performance (2/2)

Last five years and latest twelve months

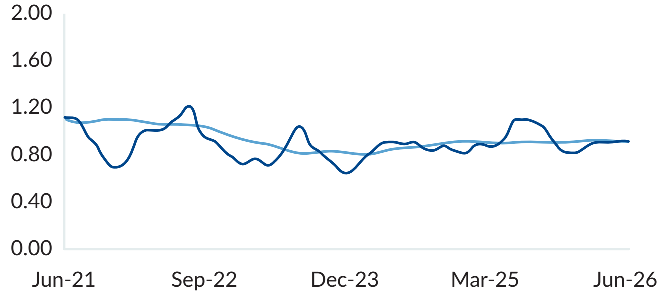
LTM — 5 years

CHART 7: LIVE CATTLE ($ PER LB)



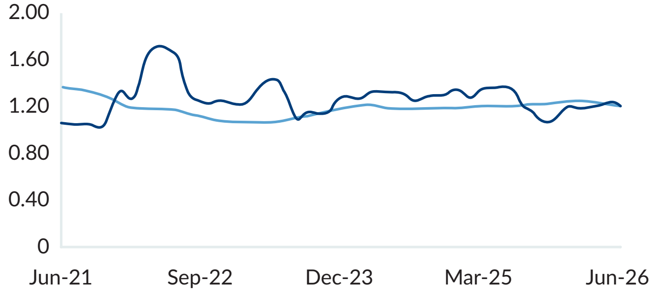
Source: S&P Capital IQ as of June 30, 2026. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

CHART 8: LEAN HOGS ($ PER LB)



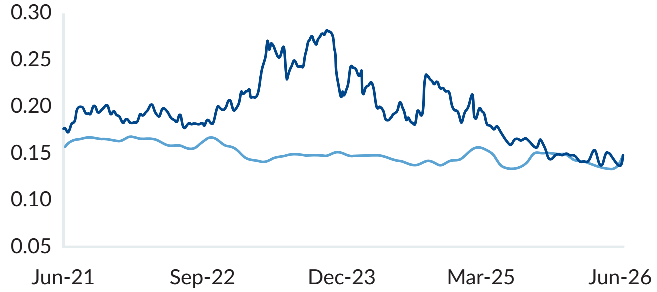
Source: S&P Capital IQ as of June 30, 2026. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

CHART 9: BROILERS ($ PER LB)



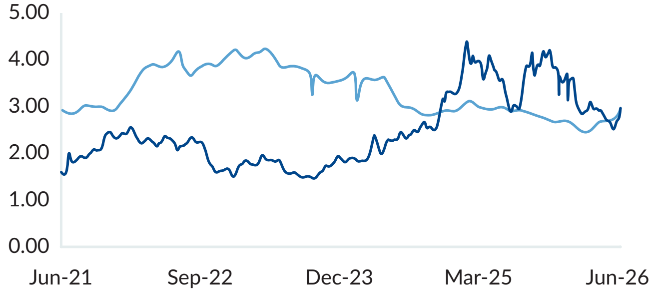
Source: S&P Capital IQ as of June 30, 2026. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

CHART 10: SUGAR ($ PER LB)



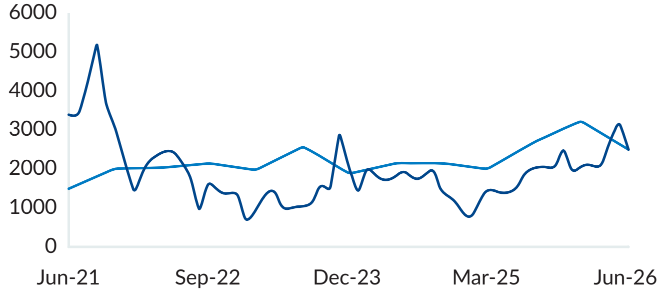
Source: S&P Capital IQ as of June 30, 2026. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

CHART 11: COFFEE ($ PER LB)



Source: S&P Capital IQ as of June 30, 2026. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

CHART 12: BALTIC DRY INDEX



Source: S&P Capital IQ as of June 30, 2026. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

Mesirow is committed to delivering an exceptional client experience through every engagement. With deep sector expertise across the food value chain and long-standing industry relationships, we offer a nuanced understanding of evolving consumer trends and category dynamics. Our exclusive focus on the middle market gives us insight into the priorities of entrepreneurial owners and private equity sponsors. Backed by decades of relevant transaction experience and a global network, our senior bankers provide tailored, hands-on advisory to enable food, beverage, and agribusiness companies achieve their strategic and financial goals.

Sector Focus

Branded & private label

- Packaged food & beverage
- Emerging brands
- Heritage brands
- Natural and organic
- Prepared foods

Distributors & wholesalers

- Foodservice
- Retail
- Re-distributors

Fruits & vegetables

- Growers
- Packers
- Shippers
- Processors

Ingredients & flavors

- Functional & sensory
- Edible oils
- Inclusions
- Sauces
- Spices & sweeteners
- Upcycled

Inputs & agribusiness

- Agronomy
- Agtech
- Biofuels
- Crop inputs
- Feed & ingredients
- Production
- Storage & distribution

Multi-unit

- Independent grocery chains
- Food services management
- Franchisors & franchisees
- Multi-unit concepts
- Multi-concept chains

Specialty beverage

- Coffee, tea & kombucha
- Beer, wine, spirits & zero proof
- Functional beverages
- Craft soda & seltzers
- Bottlers & co-packers

Other Industry Cconcentrations

In addition to food, beverage and agribusiness, we are a dedicated advisor to a wide array of middle-market companies and have developed an in-depth expertise in a range of industries, including:

- Aerospace & Defense
- Business Services
- Consumer & eCommerce
- Distribution & Supply Chain
- Healthcare
- Industrials
- Industrial Technology
- Packaging
- Technology & Services

About Mesirow

Mesirow is an independent, employee-owned financial services firm founded in 1937. Headquartered in Chicago, with offices around the world, we serve clients through a personal, custom approach to reaching financial goals and acting as a force for social good. With capabilities spanning Private Capital & Currency, Capital Markets & Investment Banking, and Advisory Services, we invest in what matters: our clients, our communities and our culture. To learn more, visit mesirow.com, follow us on LinkedIn and subscribe to Spark, our quarterly newsletter.

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LATEST INSIGHTS

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