Packaging Corporation of America Fundamental Analysis

Finance BroGuards

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11/04/2024



Investment Thesis

Business Model

Industry Analysis Governance

Risk & Growth Valuation Conclusion

Mature Industry

Consistent & High Momentum

Customer Centric Differentiation

Vertical Integration





Company Overview

Investment Thesis

Business Model

Historicals Industry Analysis

Analysis - Gov

Company Name	Packaging Corporation of America
Ticker Business Summary	PKG: Produces specialized packaging for shipping & agricultural needs
Current Price	\$229.99
Current Date	11/03/2024
Target Price	\$314.96
Target Date	12/31/2028
Industry	Materials
Sector	Paper & Packaging
Change in Shares Outstanding (TTM)	-0.11%
Market Cap	20.548 Billion
Monthly Trading Volume	11.54 Million
Beta	0.76
Sharpe Ratio	0.5376
EPS	9.1
PE Ratio	26.47
52-week Low/High	\$148.50 / \$232.98

Investment Thesis:

Buy 100 Shares PKG (\$23,000)

PROS

Last Year Return 50.82% Stock Growth

Last 5 Years Avg Stock Growth of 19.6%

Low Election Outcome Risk

CONS

Declining Paper Demand in North America

Competitive & Capital-Intensive Industry





Business Model



Corporate Headquarters
 Converting Facilities

Administrative Office

A Mills

• Hexacomb, Falconboard



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Historical Analysis

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Important Events:

- **2000**: PCA goes public, establishing itself as a major player in the packaging industry
- **2005-2010**: Rapid expansion, including new box plants & containerboard mills, enhancing production capacity
- **2013**: Acquired Boise Inc., doubling production capacity & solidifying PCA's position in the corrugated packaging market
- **2020**: Adjusted operations to meet increased e-commerce packaging demand during the pandemic, supporting record production levels
- **2023**: Reported highest-ever corrugated product shipments, with a focus on sustainability & customized packaging solutions
- **2024**: Third-quarter earnings hit new highs, supported by strong demand across key product lines

Historical Pricing:

<u>Currently trading at an all-</u>

<u>time high</u>

• <u>1816.58% growth since IPO</u>





Historical Analysis



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Financial Statement Analysis

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Financial Statement Overview

Revenue	\$8,175,100,000
Net Income	\$773,100,000
Operating Margin	\$13,240,000
Operating Cash Flow	\$1,213,500,000
CAPEX	(609,500,000)
Free Cash Flow	\$845,400,000
Total Assets	\$8,681,100,000
Total Liabilities	\$4,683,800,000
Dividends	\$5.00 (9% average over past 5 years)
ROA	8.39%
ROE	18.06%
ROI	10.75%
Operating Margin	13.67%
Goodwill / Intangibles	\$1,219,200,000

Where the Money is Going:

- PKG maintains steady operational cash flow
- Prioritizes mill upgrades & product diversification
- Adheres to ESG regulation
- Managed 3% reduction in operational costs
- Allocated \$440 Million to convert the Jackson Mill from freesheet to linerboard





Industry Trends

	Looking into the Paper & Packaging Sector:								
	Lumber Prices Heavily Fluctuate Due to Demand, Natural Disasters	Demand for Coated Paper in Decline	Small Companies Transitioning to Corrugated Packaging						
5Y Predicted Sector CAGR 6.1%	Supply chain vertically integrated; Only major suppliers are energy corps Relatively unaffected by recent hurricanes	Small share of revenue may suffer Competitors such as International Paper may have to shift	Constantly expanding; new plants being developed in SLC & Arizona Acquired 10 new companies since IPO						

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Investment Thesis	Historicals	Business Model	Industry An	alysis Governance	Risk & Growth	Valuation	Conclusion
Political	Econ	omic	S Social	Technological	Environmental		egal
Harris Proposed \$100 Billion in New Investments in Manufacturing Trump Proposed 20% Tariff on all Imported Goods, 60% on Chinese Goods	Packa Outperj S&P in Financia Prote from Vol Lum Prices/L	formed 2008 al Crisis ected Pe atility of ber	E-Commerce Growth aper Demand Decline	96 Active Patents, 8 Pending Patents	Bloomberg 5.32 Leading MSCI BB Rating FL Strawberry Fields Damaged in Hurricanes	2 Su Award	Explosion 2017: rvivors ed \$92.1M to Appeal





Porter's Five Forces

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<u>Threat of New Entrants</u> → (Low to Moderate)

- High capital requirements in facilities & distribution networks
- Established customer relationships create barriers
- Low risk from new entrants due to industry size & complexity

<u>Threat of Substitutes</u> → (Moderate)

- Growing environmental focus pushes demand for sustainable options
- PKG's use of renewable materials helps offset this threat
- Future tech in sustainable packaging could increase competition

<u>Bargaining Power of Buyers</u> → (Moderate)

- Diverse customer base minimizes reliance on single clients
- Large clients (e.g., Unilever, Federal Gov.) have pricing leverage
- Increased competition drives demand for competitive pricing

<u>Bargaining Power of Suppliers</u> → (Low)

- Multiple sources for fiber give PKG flexibility
- PKG generates a portion of its recycled fiber internally as a byproduct of the manufacturing process, decreasing reliance on external suppliers for some of their fiber needs

<u>Rivalry Among Existing Competitors</u> \rightarrow (High)

- Many small paper mills are switching to corrugated products due to paper industry decline
- Minimal differentiation leads to pricing pressure

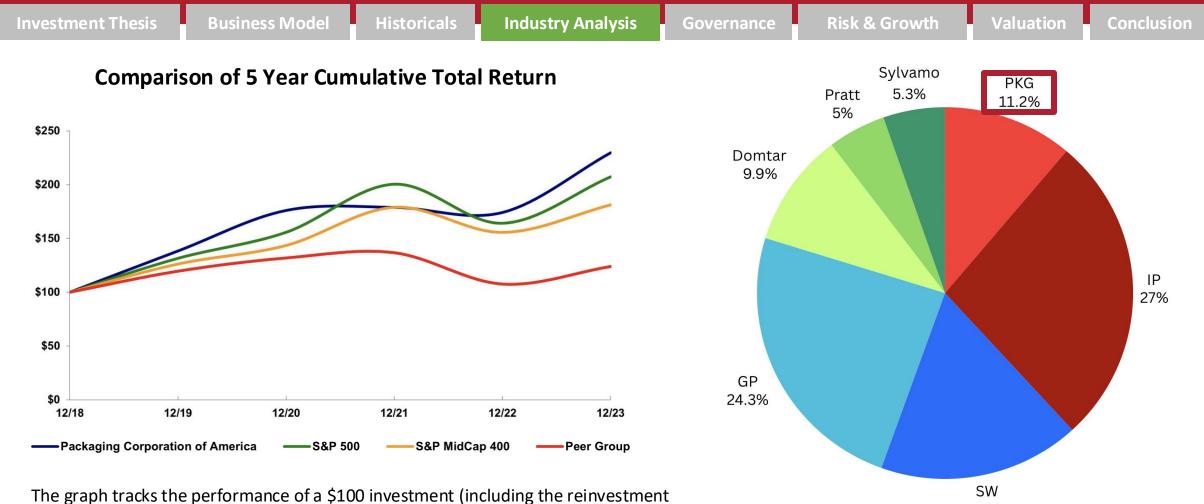
Historicals

• Continuous investments in efficiency & quality to remain competitive





Competitive Landscape



17.3%

Paper & Packaging Industry by Revenue %



The graph tracks the performance of a \$100 investment (including the reinvestme of all dividends) in PKG common stock, in each index, & in each peer group's common stock from December 31, 2018 through December 31, 2023.



Management & Employees

Investment Thesis

Business Model

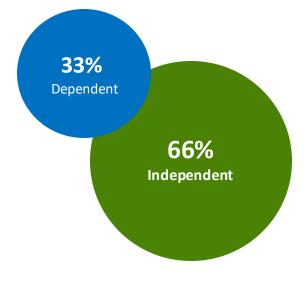
Historicals Industry Analysis

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Valuation Conclusion



Board of Directors

- Mark W. Kowlzan
 - CEO
- Sam Merkin Mencoff*

 Lead Director
- Roger B. Porter
- Cheryl K. Beebe
- Thomas S. Souleles*
- Robert C. Lyons
- Duane C. Farrington
- Paul Thomas Stecko

 Former CEO @
 PKG, Tenneco,
 (International Paper)
- Donna A. Harman

*Madison Dearborn Partners

- Buys PKG from Tenneco & establishes it as a new entity in 1999
- Facilitates IPO in 2000
- Retains presence on Board of Directors & presides over later acquisitions





SWOT Analysis

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Strengths

Strategic focus on smaller customers & custom orders

Ability to shift fiber sourcing offering adaptability & cost control

PKG uses renewable raw materials & biogenic fuels, aligning with growing demand for eco-friendly practices

Opportunities

Growing preference for eco-friendly packaging presents a chance for PKG to expand its sustainable offerings

PKG's capital investments in mill productivity & plant efficiencies can enhance profitability & reduce production costs

Weaknesses

Heavy reliance on ODP (Office Depot) for a significant portion of paper sales creates vulnerability if partnership weakens

Products are not easily differentiated, which intensifies pricing competition & limits pricing power

Threats

Strong competition from industry giants like Internation Paper & Smurfit WestRock drives pricing pressure & limits market share growth

Potential for stricter environmental regulations may increase operational costs (i.e., emissions & waste)





DCF - WACC

Investment Thesis	Business Model	Historicals	Industry Analysis	Governance	Risk & Growth	Valuation	Conclusion
			WACC Calculation	ons			
		Share Price		22	9.99		
		Diluted Share	es Outstanding	89,50	0.00		
		Cost of Debt		3	<mark>3.69%</mark>		
		Tax Rate			<mark>31%</mark>		
		After-tax Cos	t of Debt	2	2.56%		
		Cost of Equity	/	8	8.65%		
		Market Rate			10%		
		Beta			0.76		
		Rf		4	1.37%		
		Total Debt (\$	5)	3,173,20	0.00		
		Total Equity	(\$)	20,584,10	5.00		
		Total Capita	1	23,757,30	5.00		
		Debt Weighti	ng	13	3.36%		

(Debt Weighting	13.36%
E	Equity Weighting	86.64%





DCF – Assumptions Base

stment Thesis	Business Model	Historica	ls Indu	stry Analysis	Govern	nance	Risk & Grow	th Valu	ation	Conclu
Select Operat	ing Data									
						Pro	jected Annual Fo	orcast		
		2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024	2025	2026	2027	2	028
Revenue		7,730,300.00	8,478,000.00	7,802,400.00	8,356,514.00	9,113,965.98	9,170,000.00	10,551,388.06	12,457,412	.95
Revenue Growt	h Rate	16.10%	9.67%	-7.97%	7.10%	9.06%	12.06%	15.06%	18.0	06%
EBITDA		1,748,800.00	1,905,700.00	1,610,600.00	1,628,800.00	1,956,000.00	2,083,000.00	2,525,070.41	3,060,960	.42
EBITDA Margin		21.71%	22.32%	20.32%	19.49%	21.46%	22.72%	21.22%	21.2	22%
EBIT		1,331,300.00	1,448,900.00	1,092,900.00	1,133,550.00	1,416,500.00	1,527,000.00	1,759,913.69	2,028,353	.76
EBIT Margin		16.31%	16.93%	13.68%	13.56%	15.54%	16.65%	15.25%	15.2	25%
Depreciation &	Amortization	417,500.00	456,800.00	517,700.00	491,840.00	517,958.39	540,062.29	546,684.57	564,773	.76
D&A as a % of R	Revenue	5.40%	5.39%	6.64%	5.89%	5.68%	5.89%	5.18%	4.5	53%
Accounts Receiv	vable Growth	22.28%	-3.660%	0.136%	7.10%	9.06%	12.06%	15.06%	18.0	06%
Inventories Gro	wth	7.77%	8.288%	3.663%	6.57%	6.17%	5.47%	6.07%	6.2	29%
Prepaid Expense	es Growth	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		0%
Accounts Payab	le Growth	16.90%	-9.28%	-1.95%	7.10%	9.06%	12.06%	15.06%	18.0	06%
Accrued Expens	es Growth	19.74%	16.92%	-13.74%	7.10%	9.06%	12.06%	15.06%	18.0	06%
Capital Expendi	tures Growth	43.66%	36.21%	-43.01%	2.91%	3.40%	3.90%	4.12%	4.4	10%





DCF - Calculations

Investment Thesis	Business Model	Historicals	Industry Analysis	Governance	Risk & Growth	Valuation	Conclusion
	Su	im of present	values of FCFs	5,722,122	2.75		
		erminal Value					
			etuity method				
	Lo	ong term growt	h rate	4.	.37%		
	W	ACC		7.	.84%		
	Fr	ee cash flow (t	+1)	1,786,197	7.47		
	Τe	erminal Value		51,535,611	L.00		
	Рг	esent Value o	f Terminal Value	35,341,878	3.27		
	Enterprise	Value to Equ	iity Value				
	Enterprise	Value to Equity	v Value	41,	,064,001.01		
	Less: Net D	ebt		2,	,031,700.00		
	Equity Valu	Equity Value			,032,301.01		
	Diluted Sha	iluted Shares Outstanding			89,500.00		
	Equity Valu	e Per Share			436.12		

DCF	Implied Sha	Implied Shared Price					
	Base	Downside	Upside				
	43	6.12 344	.19 465.13				





Multiples Chart

Investment Thesis

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Valuation Conclusion

	Market and Financial Data							
Company Name	Price	Market Cap (B)	Enterprise Value (B)	LTM Sales (B)	YTD EBITDA (B)	Earnings (B)		
Target								
Packaging Corporation of America	\$229.99	20.54	22.62	8.180	1.524	0.778		
Comparable Companies								
International Paper	55.77	19.37	24.00	18.640	2.524	0.751		
Smurfit WestRock	51.46	26.76	26.75	12.197	2.159	1.142		
Sylvamo Corporation	85.00	3.49	4.26	3.699	0.560	0.305		

		Valuation		Peer Group Relevance				
Company Name	EV/Sales	EV/EBITDA	P/E	Industry	Sector	Largest Geographical Segment	Largest Revenue Segment	
Target								
Packaging Corporation of America	2.765	14.84	26.47	Materials	Paper/Packaging	United States	Corrugated products	
Comparable Companies								
International Paper	1.288	9.51	45.34	Materials	Pulp/Paper	United States	Industrial packaging	
Smurfit WestRock	2.193	12.39	11.72	Materials	Paper/Packaging	Eurozone	Corrugated products	
Sylvamo Corporation	0.868	7.61	11.85	Materials	Paper	United States	Paper products	

Mean	1.4x	9.8x	23.0x
Median	1.3x	9.5x	11.9x
25 Percentile	1.1x	8.6x	11.8x
75 Percentile	1.7x	11.0x	28.6x
Standard Deviation	0.677	2.407	19.372





Multiples Chart

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		1	SUMMARY			
Metrics	Comps	Implied EV	Net Debt	Equity Value S	Shares	Share Price
EV/Sales						
25 Percentile	1.1x	8,817	2,031.70	6,786	89.5	75.82
75 Percentile	1.7x	14,236	2,031.70	12,204	89.5	136.36
Mean	1.4x	11,858	2,031.70	9,827	89.5	109.79
EV/EBITDA						
25 Percentile	8.6x	13,048	2,031.70	11,016	89.5	123.08
75 Percentile	11.0x	16,691	2,031.70	14,659	89.5	163.79
Mean	9.8x	14,994	2,031.70	12,962	89.5	144.83
P/E						
25 Percentile	11.8x	9,171	2,031.70	7,140	89.5	79.77
75 Percentile	28.6x	22,249	2,031.70	20,218	89.5	225.90
Mean	23.0x	17,873	2,031.70	15,841	89.5	177.00

Key Assumptions - PKG	
Current Price	\$ 229.99
Shares Outstanding (M)	89.5
Debt (M)	3,173.200
Cash (M)	1,141.500
Revenue (LTM) (M)	8,180.000
EBITDA (YTD) (M)	1,524.259
Earnings (M)	778.00

Implied Stock Price	
25 Percentile	92.89
75 Percentile	175.35
Mean	143.87





Precedent Transactions

Investment Thesis	Business Model	listoricals	Industry Analysis	Governance	Risk & Gro	wth	Valuati	ion	Conclusion
Date Target	Buyer	Target Business	Descrption		Transcation Value (M)	Revenue	EBITDA	EV / Reven	ue EV/EBITDA
7/5/24 WestRock	Smurfit Kappa	Large US manufact	urer of corrugated packaging and con	sumer packaging.	\$11,000.00	\$19,456.00	\$2,302.70	0.57x	4.78x
11/2/18 Kapstone Paper & Packagir	ng WestRock	Manufacturer of u	nbleached kraft paper and corrugated	packaging products.	3,474.70	3,464	514.65	1.00x	6.75x
10/25/13 Boise Paper	Packaging Corporation of America	Manufacturer of p	apers and other packaging products, i	ncluding containerboard.	2,100	2,501.36	254.34	0.84x	8.26x
1/22/19 Europac Group	D\$ Smith	Manufacturer and	seller of custom corrugated cardboar	d packaging solutions.	1,904	1,116	226.55	1.71x	8.41x
2/1/23 Liquibox	Sealed Air	Producer of bag-in	-box flexible packaging and related fil	ling equipment systems.	1,150	362	85.00	3.18x	13.53x
				1					
					Mean			1.46x	9.24x
					Median			1.00x	8.33x
					25 Percentile			0.84x	7.88x
					75 Percentile			1.71x	9.69x
					Standard deviation			1.049	2.958

Key Assumptions - P	KG			S	UMMARY			
Current Price	\$299.99	Metrics	Comps	Implied EV	Net Debt	Equity Value	Shares	Share Price
Shares Outstanding	89.50	EV/Sales 25 Percentile	0.8x	6,867	2,032	4,836	89.5	54.03
Debt (M)	3,173	75 Percentile	1.7x	13,954	2,032	11,922	89.5	133.21
Cash (M)	1,142	Mean	1.5x	11,927	2,032	9,896	89.5	110.57
Revenue (M)	8,180	EV/EBITDA						
EBITDA (M)	1,524	25 Percentile	7.9x	12,012	2,032	9,980	89.5	111.51
		75 Percentile	9.7x	14,765	2,032	12,733	89.5	142.27
Earnings	778	Mean	9.2x	14,078	2,032	12,046	89.5	134.59

Implied Stock Price						
25 Percentile	82.77					
75 Percentile	137.74					
Mean	122.58					





Weighted Valuation

Investment Thesis

Business Model

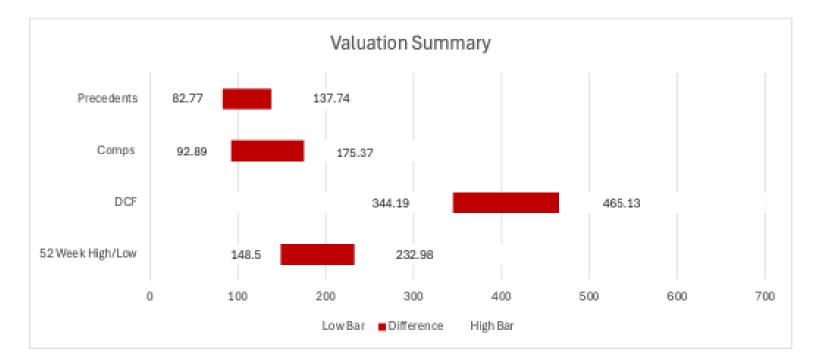
Historicals Industry Analysis

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Valuation Conclusion



Football Field Data						
	Low Bar	Difference	High Bar			
52 Week High/Low	148.5	84.48	232.98			
DCF	344.19	120.94	465.13			
Comps	92.89	82.48	175.37			
Precedents	82.77	54.97	137.74			

Price	Weights
\$436.12	60.00%
\$143.87	20.00%
\$122.58	20.00%
	\$436.12 \$143.87

Target Price \$314.96







Investment Thesis

Investment Thesis/Company Overview – Buy PKG

Business Model – Corrugated products, emphasis on customer service & high quality

Industry Analysis – Stable & mature industry, medium-high barriers to entry

Risks and Growth – Growth potential through localized expansion, established competition

Governance – Madison Dearborn Partners members involved in governance since 1999 buyout and 2000 IPO, retains presence in governance

Valuation – Expected Stock Price of \$314.96, which is 36.9% higher than current price

Recommendation - Buy 100 shares of PKG (\$23,000) decreases fund beta by 0.01





Exhibits

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Exhibit 1 – Assumptions Downside

Select Operating Data								
					Proje	ected Annual Fore	cast	
	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Revenue	7,730,300.00	8,478,000.00	7,802,400.00	8,356,514.00	8,946,835.70	9,170,000.00	10,092,888.06	11,310,515.27
Revenue Growth Rate	16.10%	9.67%	-7.97%	7.10%	7.06%	9.06%	10.06%	12.06%
EBITDA	1,748,800.00	1,905,700.00	1,610,600.00	1,617,800.00	1,931,000.00	1,995,000.00	2,411,945.17	2,916,029.83
EBITDA Margin	21.71%	22.32%	20.32%	19.36%	21.58%	21.76%	20.90%	20.90%
EBIT	1,331,300.00	1,448,900.00	1,092,900.00	1,082,550.00	1,115,500.00	1,126,000.00	1,267,507.54	1,426,798.72
EBIT Margin	16.31%	16.93%	13.68%	12.95%	12.47%	12.28%	12.57%	12.57%
Depreciation & Amortization	417,500.00	456,800.00	517,700.00	501,120.00	521,418.46	545,004.59	553,461.25	571,018.18
D&A as a % of Revenue	5.40%	5.39%	6.64%	6.00%	5.83%	5.94%	5.48%	5.05%
Accounts Receivable Growth	22.28%	-3.660%	0.136%	3.40%	4.21%	6.22%	6.89%	7.11%
Inventories Growth	7.77%	8.288%	3.663%	6.57%	6.17%	5.47%	6.07%	6.29%
Prepaid Expenses Growth	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Accounts Payable Growth	16.90%	-9.28%	-1.95%	-5.60%	-4.79%	-2.78%	-2.11%	-1.89%
Accrued Expenses Growth	19.74%	16.92%	-13.74%	6.80%	6.76%	8.76%	10.06%	12.06%
Capital Expenditures Growth	43.66%	36.21%	-43.01%	2.91%	4.70%	5.50%	5.72%	6.40%





Exhibit 2 – Downside Calculations

Sum of present values of FCFs	4,806,975.00
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Terminal Value	
Growth in perpetuity method	
Long term growth rate	4.37%
WACC	7.84%
Free cash flow (t+1)	1,416,652.23
Terminal Value	40,873,441.73
Present Value of Terminal Value	28,030,019.90

Enterprise Value to Equity Value	
Enterprise Value to Equity Value	32,836,994.90
Less: Net Debt	2,031,700.00
Equity Value	30,805,294.90
Diluted Shares Outstanding	89,500.00
Equity Value Per Share	344.19





Exhibit 3 – Assumptions Upside

Select Operating Data								
				Projected Annual Forecast				
	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Revenue	7,730,300.00	8,478,000.00	7,802,400.00	8,356,514.00	9,364,661.40	9,170,000.00	10,826,488.06	13,107,002.24
Revenue Growth Rate	16.10%	9.67%	-7.97%	7.10%	12.06%	15.06%	18.06%	21.06%
EBITDA	1,748,800.00	1,905,700.00	1,610,600.00	1,639,800.00	1,971,000.00	2,087,000.00	2,528,255.96	3,062,806.99
EBITDA Margin	21.71%	22.32%	20.32%	19.62%	21.05%	22.76%	21.14%	21.14%
EBIT	1,331,300.00	1,448,900.00	1,092,900.00	1,132,550.00	1,415,500.00	1,521,000.00	1,750,442.50	2,014,496.35
EBIT Margin	16.31%	16.93%	13.68%	13.55%	15.12%	16.59%	15.08%	15.08%
Depreciation & Amortization	417,500.00	456,800.00	517,700.00	501,120.00	521,418.46	544,559.58	552,842.91	569,488.30
D&A as a % of Revenue	5.40%	5.39%	6.64%	6.00%	5.57%	5.94%	5.11%	4.34%
Accounts Receivable Growth	22.28%	-3.660%	0.136%	3.10%	4.21%	6.22%	6.89%	7.11%
Inventories Growth	7.77%	8.288%	3.663%	6.57%	6.17%	5.47%	6.07%	6.29%
Prepaid Expenses Growth	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Accounts Payable Growth	16.90%	-9.28%	-1.95%	3.10%	4.21%	6.22%	6.89%	7.11%
Accrued Expenses Growth	19.74%	16.92%	-13.74%	8.00%	12.96%	15.96%	18.06%	21.06%
Capital Expenditures Growth	43.66%	36.21%	-43.01%	2.91%	3.40%	3.90%	4.12%	4.40%





Exhibit 4 – Upside Calculations

Sum of present values of FCFs	5,956,920.11	
Terminal Value		
Growth in perpetuity method		
Long term growth rate	4.37%	
WACC	7.84%	
Free cash flow (t+1)	1,905,564.24	
Terminal Value	54,979,597.32	
Present Value of Terminal Value	37,703,680.97	
prise Value to Equity Value		
prise Value to Equity Value	ue 43,660,601.	



Less: Net Debt

Equity Value

Diluted Shares Outstanding

Equity Value Per Share



2,031,700.00

89,500.00

465.13

41,628,901.08