Building a better working world Ontario M&A Quarterly Update Q2 2023 **EDITORS** Zahra Jamani Senior Vice President M&A Advisory Services zahra.jamani@ca.ey.com **Devon MacMurray** Vice President M&A Advisory Services devon.macmurray@ca.ey.com Evan Uba Associate

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Competing forces in the middle market

The first half of 2023 saw continued market volatility in terms of interest rates, inflation and geopolitical risks. Throughout this period of volatility, private middle market M&A activity continued in line with previous quarters.

As the middle market continues its historical levels of volume and valuations, succession planning has been the offsetting force to market headwinds. These companies are seeing increased inbound from strategic buyers, who believe they may get favourable valuations at this time, and from private equity that is hungry to deploy capital.

From the perspective of business owners, it is understandable that succession planning is a concern for the future of their business. Around 60% of Canada's small and mid-sized business owners are aged 50 or older, and there will continue to be a major shift in ownership in coming years¹.

From a structuring perspective, market volatility is creating the need to be more thoughtful around how a deal is funded and by how potential valuation gaps are bridged. We continue to see a rising trend of more creative financing solutions, including higher equity contribution, sellers' notes and earnouts.

Small and mid-sized businesses are an integral component of Canada's economy, and since many of these entrepreneurs will look to transition their business in the future, value drivers for these businesses can be achieved by:

- Focusing on continuous improvements up to the closing date of the transaction
- Strong and consistent financial performance
- Key differentiating factors from competitors
- ► Considering bringing in the right advisors early in the process¹.

The middle market in Ontario continues to be driven by entrepreneurs who are either seeking growth opportunities or looking to transition their business. As this trend continues to develop, it is critical that business owners look to identify key value drivers long before the transaction process begins. Whether they plan to sell in 12 months or further down the road, it's never too early to beginning planning around these areas.

Ontario M&A market activity

The Ontario M&A market was steady in Q2 2023 with previous quarters: 232 transactions were completed. Of these transactions, over 85% were transactions with strategic buyers.

The IT products and services sector maintained its position as the leading category for M&A activity, contributing to nearly a quarter of the total transaction volume. Valuations for reported deals in the Ontario market remained strong, as the average reported value for deals under \$500m was \$73m (prior quarter - \$77m).

The ongoing focus on growth and persistent strong valuation levels in the Ontario middle market will continue to offer growth avenues for strategic buyers and transaction opportunities for business owners.

85%

of transactions were transactions with strategic buyers which is consistent with the appetite we're seeing for M&A from strategic acquirers who see this market as a good buying opportunity.

¹ "How to maximize your company's value when planning to sell," <u>BDC</u>



EY transaction snapshot

EY IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE ORGANIZATIONAL SOLUTIONS INC.

TO LEARN MORE



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About the Company

Organizational Solutions Inc. (OSI) is the premier Canadian provider of short-term disability claims management, leaves administration and workers' compensation claims management in Canada. OSI is known for its expertise in early intervention disability and workers' compensation management services, return-to-work planning, and workplace accommodation consulting services, which minimize the duration and cost of disability leaves to employers.

The Win-Win

EY advised OSI and its shareholders on the sale of a majority interest in the business allowing for the shareholders to achieve a liquidity event and succession planning.

Over the past two decades, OSI has emerged as an industry leader in Canada. The acquisition by People Corporation offers OSI a strategic partnership to propel future growth and refine capital allocation. This transaction enables People Corporation to integrate a national front-runner into their suite of complementary services.

Q2 2023

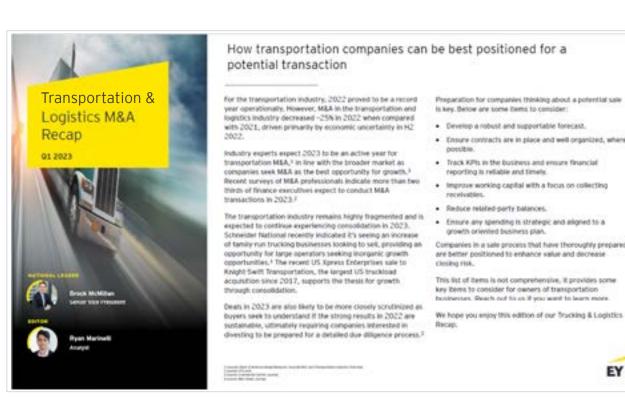


EY's sector focused quarterly recaps

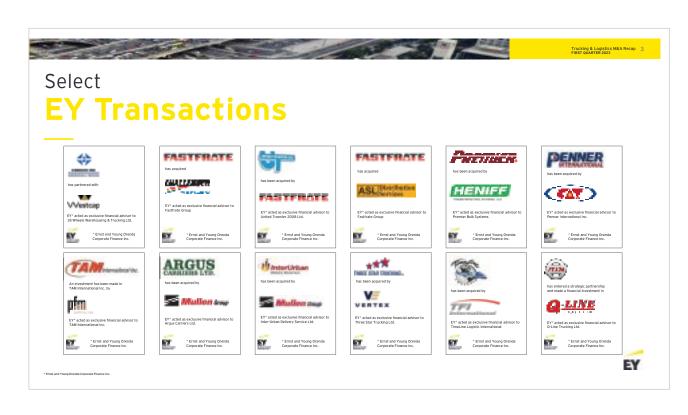
EACH QUARTER, WE WILL FEATURE SELECT SECTOR-FOCUSED RECAPS AND THOUGHT LEADERSHIP THAT OUR TEAM PRODUCES. THIS QUARTER, WE ARE **HIGHLIGHTING OUR TRANSPORTATION &** LOGISTICS M&A QUARTERLY RECAP

INTERESTED IN RECEIVING THESE TRANSPORTATION RECAPS **EACH QUARTER? REACH OUT TO US AT BROCK.MCMILLAN@CA.EY.COM**

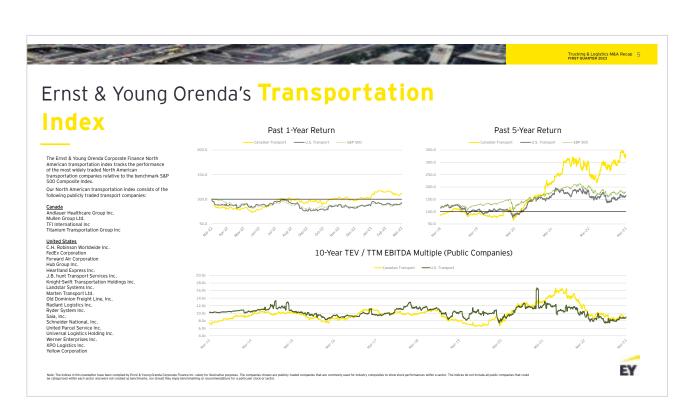
TRANSPORTATION QUARTERLY RECAP







EY





Illustrative Ontario transactions

Apr 03, 2023: The Reynolds and Reynolds Company ("Reynolds") acquired Ontario-based **DealerCorp Solutions Ltd.**, a developer of cloud applications for the automotive industry. The acquisition supports Reynolds' strategy to deliver a start-to-finish digital retailing process for automotive retailers. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Apr 05, 2023: Bouthillette Parizeau Inc. ("Bouthillette") acquired Ontario-based **Cleland Jardine Engineering Ltd.**, a provider of structural investigation, analysis, design, and construction review of new buildings and their components. The acquisition will enhance Bouthillette's presence in the Ottawa area and will strengthen its structural engineering practice as well as add the building science service to its offerings. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Apr 05, 2023: Training The Street, Inc. ("TTS") acquired Ontariobased **The Marquee Group Inc.**, a provider of financial modeling training services for financial professionals. The acquisition will enhance TTS's global reach and its training content. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Apr 11, 2023: SE Health ("SE Health") acquired Alberta-based Exquisicare Inc., an operator of a network of custom built small-scale elder care homes. The acquisition complements SE Health's strategy of exploring opportunities to increase the range and supply of innovative and affordable housing for seniors. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Apr 13, 2023: Stealth Monitoring, Inc. ("Stealth") acquired Ontario-based **Caliber Communications Inc.**, a developer of video surveillance systems offering live remote video monitoring and reporting services. The acquisition will expand Stealth's capabilities in technology-driven commercial video surveillance. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

The following is a snapshot of transactions that occurred in Ontario during the quarter, with a focus on mid-market, private company transactions. Companies headquartered in Ontario are noted in bold.

Apr 25, 2023: Thrive Operations, LLC ("Thrive") acquired Ontariobased **Storagepipe Solutions Inc.** ("**Storagepipe"**), a provider of cloud, data protection, managed and cybersecurity services. The acquisition will further expand Thrive's global presence while allowing Storagepipe clients to leverage Thrive's next-generation managed cybersecurity and cloud services. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

May 01, 2023: Exchange Income Corporation ("EIC") acquired Ontario-based BVGlazing Systems Ltd., a designer, manufacturer and supplier of window, door, and railing systems for mid-rise and high-rise building projects, for \$69.1 million. The acquisition will enable EIC to expand its product offerings and enter new markets.

May 02, 2023: Citation Limited ("Citation") acquired Ontario-based HR Downloads Inc., a provider of HR software, content and advisory support. This acquisition will enable Citation to deliver a broader range of compliance offerings into Canada. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

May 02, 2023: Kent Road Capital ("Kent") acquired Ontariobased CuBE Packaging Solutions Inc. ("CuBE"), a manufacturer of sustainable packaging solutions for restaurant and retail customers. The acquisition will enable Kent to support CuBE's growth. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed

May 03, 2023: Pinewood Group Limited ("Pinewood Group") announced the acquisition of Ontario-based Pinewood Toronto Studios Inc., a state-of-the-art, purpose-built film and TV studio in Toronto, for \$326.7 million. The acquisition expands Pinewood Group's presence in Toronto.

May 04, 2023: PartnerHero North America, LLC ("PartnerHero") acquired Ontario-based **Summatti Inc.**, a developer of a customer service management platform that is Al-powered and features

a dashboard that provides real-time actionable insights. The acquisition accelerates PartnerHero's plan to build an omnichannel CX operations platform. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

May 08, 2023: GEI Consultants, Inc. ("GEI") acquired Ontario-based GM BluePlan Engineering Limited, a provider of asset management, environmental engineering, infrastructure planning and structural engineering services. The acquisition expands GEI's service offerings and broadens its geographic reach. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

May 09, 2023: Groupe CIMA+ Inc ("CIMA+") acquired Ontariobased Eramosa Engineering Inc., a provider of consulting engineering services offering construction management, contract administration, feasibility study and troubleshooting services. The acquisition will expand CIMA+'s geographic presence and will enhance its digital solutions vision, the Internet of Things (IoT) and big data initiatives. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

May 10, 2023: Datamine Corporate Limited ("Datamine") acquired Ontario-based AssayNet Inc., a provider of LIMS (Laboratory Information Management Systems) for mine-site and environmental laboratories. The acquisition will help Datamine to expand its portfolio comprised of solutions for mining operational needs. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

May 11, 2023: SGS SA ("SGS") acquired Ontario-based **Nutrasource Diagnostics Inc.**, a provider of diagnostic, clinical trial, product analysis and regulatory consulting as well as third-party natural ingredient certification programs. The acquisition will expand SGS's health and nutriton capabilities in North America and compliment its global portfolio of solutions into the converging industries of health, nutrition and wellness. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.



May 22, 2023: Varsteel Ltd. ("Varsteel") acquired Ontariobased Atlantic Tube & Steel Inc., a manufacturer of automotive tubes, mechanical tubes and structural tubes. The acquisition will enhance Varsteel's tubing capabilities and its range of tubing products. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

May 25, 2023: Recursion Pharmaceuticals, Inc. ("Recursion") acquired Ontario-based Cyclica Therapeutics Inc., a developer of a patented cloud-based predictive analytics software designed to discover safer and more effective medicines, for \$40 million. The acquisition enables Recursion to add capabilities in digital chemistry, as well as machine-learning and artificial intelligence.

May 31, 2023: Cerrado Gold Inc., acquired Ontario-based Voyager Metals Inc., which engages in the exploration of base and precious metals, for \$15.2 million. The combined company would create a mid-tier market capitalization once all assets are in operation.

Jun 01, 2023: Addtech Industrial Solutions AB ("Addtech") acquired Ontario-based **Darby Manufacturing Ltd.**, a supplier of driver seats to special vehicles offering both standard and customized operator seats. The acquisition complements and strengthens Addtech's existing operations within the Vehicle Solutions business unit. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Jun 01, 2023: A group of investors, managed by the B Hospitality Group ("B Hospitality"), acquired Ontario-based Windermere House Resort Inc. ("Windermere House"), a 58-suite hotel and resort with amenities, including an on-site restaurant and pub with live entertainment. B Hospitality intends to improve the operations of Windermere House while upholding its history. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Jun 05, 2023: Advanced Web Technologies, Inc. ("AWT") acquired Ontario-based **ASL Print FX Ltd.**, a provider of innovative print solutions to beverage, consumer packaged

goods, envelope and promotional markets. The acquisition will expand AWT's geographic footprint and enhance its portfolio of print solutions. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Jun 06, 2023: Lynx Equity Limited ("Lynx") acquired Ontario-based Henry's Enterprises Inc. ("Henry"), an operator of specialty retail stores providing various products such as cameras, lighting and studio equipment, printers and supplies, etc. This acquisition will further strengthen Henry's position as a specialty digital-imaging retailer. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Jun 07, 2023: Seal Shield, LLC ("Seal Shield") acquired Ontario-based CleanSlate UV, Inc., a provider of UV-C and device sanitization solutions. The acquisition will strengthen Seal Shield's product and intellectual property portfolio and enhance its ability to offer tailored solutions to various industries, including healthcare, education, retail and hospitality. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Jun 08, 2023: NFP Corp. ("NFP") acquired Ontario-based Rhodes & Williams Limited, a provider of insurance brokerage services such as insurance planning, claim settlement and premium payment. The acquisition will expand NFP's presence in Ontario and increase its capabilities in property and casualty (P&C) and scale across personal risk and commercial lines. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Jun 12, 2023: Simplex Equipment Rental ("Simplex") acquired Ontario-based Skytec Rentals Inc., a provider of equipment rental services specializing in aerial work platforms. The acquisition will strengthen Simplex's position in the Canadian tool and equipment rental market. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

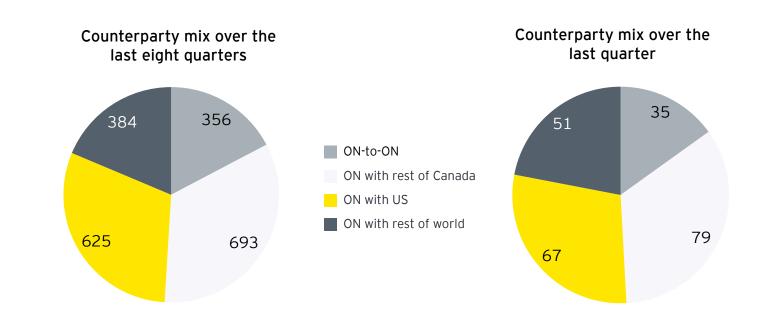
Jun 20, 2023: Axcel Learning ("Axcel") acquired Ontariobased **ExitCertified Corp.**, a provider of information technology training to corporate and government clients, offering education consultation services and certification courses. The acquisition will enhance Axcel's portfolio and will enable it to provide new services and solutions. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

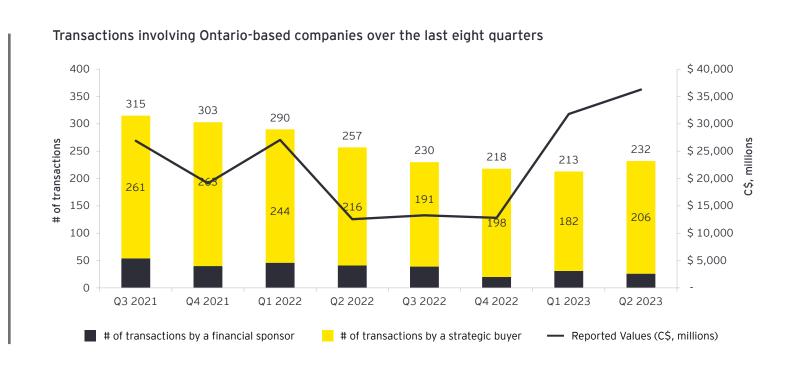
Jun 20, 2023: HRSoft, Inc. ("HRSoft") acquired Ontario-based **CompTrak Inc.**, a developer of a compensation management system offering solutions including equity plan management, total rewards statements and others. The acquisition complements HRSoft's existing portfolio of compensation management solutions. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

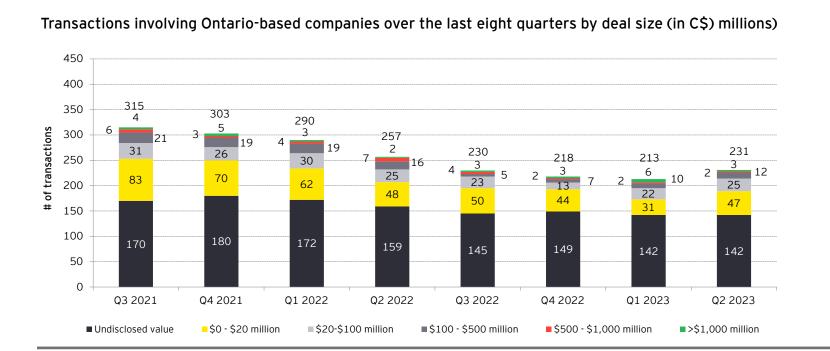
Jun 30, 2023: Chadwick BaRoss Ontario Ltd. acquired Ontario-based Amaco Construction Equipment ("Amaco"), a heavy equipment dealer for the construction market offering a wide range of new and used heavy equipment leasing, renting, parts, service, and sales options. The acquisition will enable Amaco to carry additional inventory and introduce new lines to its customers. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

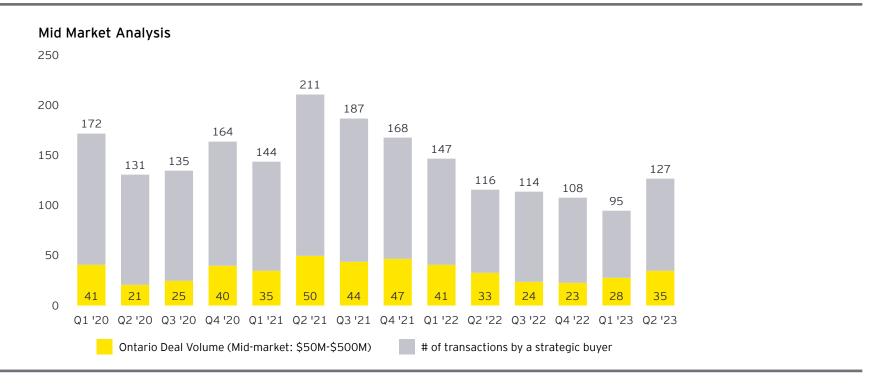


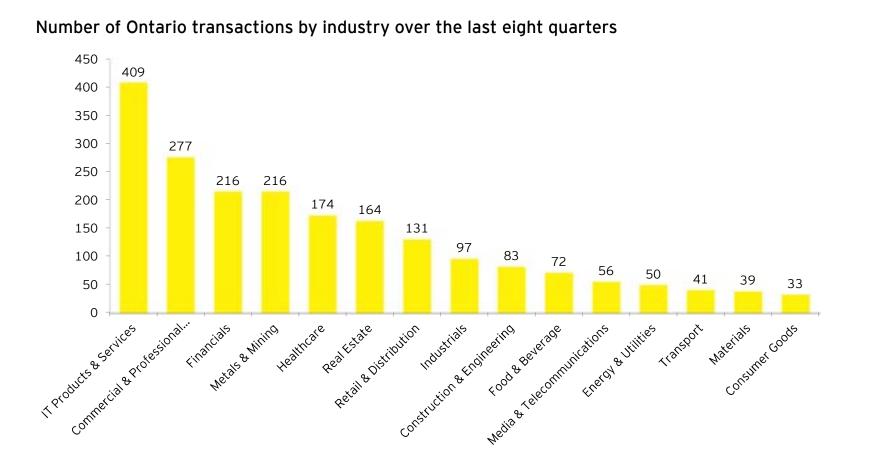
Historical M&A activity

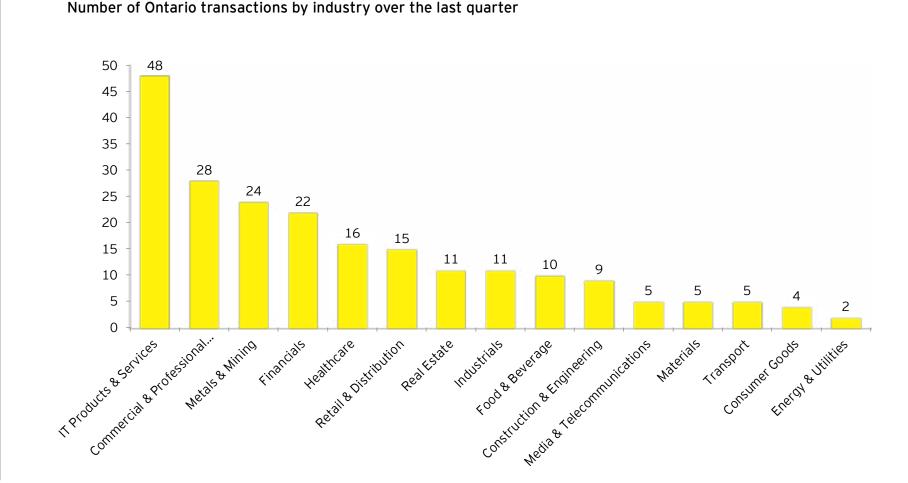














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