

SPECIALTY FINANCE

MARKET UPDATE | SPRING 2022



Houlihan Lokey Specialty Finance Market Update

Dear Clients and Friends,

We are pleased to present our Specialty Finance Market Update for the spring of 2022.

We hope you and your families are having a great spring and looking forward to summer that is somehow right around the corner. As always, please reach out if you'd like to connect or brainstorm any current needs or relevant topics with us. Despite recent public market volatility, we continue to see strong appetite for differentiated platforms from both strategic and financial buyers/investors and expect a lot of deal activity to continue in 2022 as the seller's market continues.

As in prior newsletters, we have included select recent transaction announcements, a public markets overview, and industry insights to help you stay ahead in our dynamic and constantly evolving industry. We hope you find this quarterly update to be informative and that it serves as a valuable resource to you in staying abreast of the market. We look forward to staying in touch and hopefully getting together soon for a drink or coffee/lunch (or now golf!).

Best regards,



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Specialty Finance Subverticals Covered

ABL/FACTORING	AUTO FINANCE	CREDIT CARDS
DEBT BUYING/COLLECTION	EQUIPMENT LEASING	HEALTHCARE FINANCE
INSTALLMENT LOANS	LITIGATION FINANCE	PAYDAY LENDING/PAWN
POINT-OF-SALE FINANCE	PREMIUM FINANCE	SOLAR/HIP
SMALL BUSINESS LOANS	STUDENT LENDING	TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

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

No. 1 Advisor to Specialty Finance Companies

2017–2021 M&A Advisory Rankings All U.S. Specialty Finance Transactions						
	Advisor	Deals				
1	Houlihan Lokey	40				
2	Stifel/Keefe, Bruyette & Woods	20				
3	Piper Sandler	19				
4	Hovde Group	17				
5	Credit Suisse (USA)	15				
6	Morgan Stanley	14				
6	J.P. Morgan	14				
6	Wells Fargo	14				
9	Barclays Capital	12				
10	Citigroup Global Markets	11				
Source:	S&P Global Market Intelligence.					

2012–2021 M&A Advisory Rankings All U.S. Specialty Finance Transactions					
	Advisor	Deals			
1	Houlihan Lokey	92			
2	J.P. Morgan	42			
3	Piper Sandler	40			
4	Stifel/Keefe, Bruyette & Woods	37			
5	Credit Suisse (USA)	33			
6	Barclays Capital	32			
7	BofA Securities	31			
8	Citigroup Global Markets	28			
9	Wells Fargo	23			
10	Goldman Sachs	22			
Source: S	&P Global Market Intelligence.				

Exceptional Qualifications in Specialty Finance (Select Transactions)

2020-2022 YTD

















2018/2019

















2016/2017











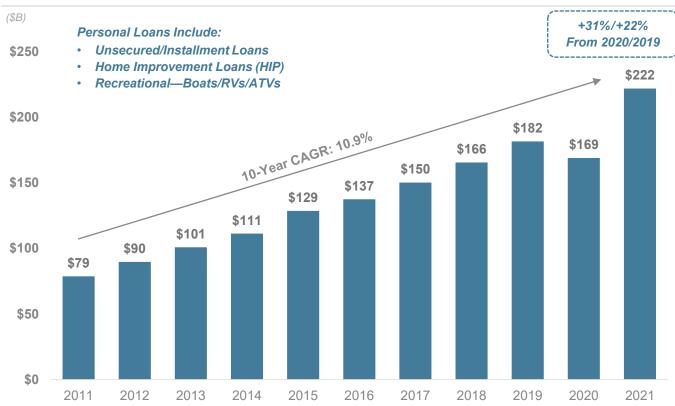






Current Market Update—Personal Loans Are Back

Personal Loan Originations



Supply

- Early 2020: Lenders significantly cut back when it seemed that the pandemic would devastate household finances.
- 2021: Personal lending returned in full force, including to lower credit borrowers.

Demand

- 2020: Stimulus payments both muted volumes and kept Americans afloat, reducing delinquencies and defaults.
- 2021 and 2022 YTD: Broad increase in spending and borrowing with no signs of slowing down.

Recent Highlights/ Conclusions

- \$222 billion personal loans originated in 2021, up 31% over 2020 and 22% over 2019.
- Nonmortgage consumer debt totaled \$4.3 trillion at the end of 2021 (highest on record).
- Lenders mailed 564 million personal-loan solicitations in Q1 2022, up 77% from Q1 2021.

Recent Transaction Profiles—Home Improvement

Fifth Third Bancorp/Dividend Finance (Announced January 2022)

Fifth Third Bancorp (Fifth Third) announced that it has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Dividend Finance (Dividend), a POS lender for residential renewable energy and sustainability-focused home improvement.



Buyer Profile—Fifth Third Bancorp

- Founded in 1974 and headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio, Fifth Third is a diversified financial services company and the indirect parent company of Fifth Third Bank, NA.
- Fifth Third operates four main businesses: commercial banking, branch banking, consumer lending, and wealth management.

Target Profile—Dividend Finance

Founded in 2013 and headquartered in San Francisco, Dividend is a fintech point-of-sale lender for home improvement and solar financing.

Transaction Overview

- Furthers Fifth Third's existing consumer POS capabilities with a proprietary tech-forward platform.
- Improves Fifth Third's loan portfolio granularity, geographic diversification, and consumer/commercial balance.

Wafra Capital Partners/Financeit (Announced February 2022)

Wafra Capital Partners Inc. (Wafra) announced that it has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Financeit Canada Inc. (Financeit) from Goldman Sachs Asset Management.



Buyer Profile—Wafra Capital Partners Inc.

- Founded in 1999, Wafra is an investment management firm that advises funds and accounts that specialize in assetbased finance and real estate investments.
- Wafra is based in New York with more than \$7 billion in fund assets and commitments under management.

Target Profile—Financeit Canada Inc.

- Founded in 2011, Financeit is a point-of-sale financing provider that serves home improvement, RVs, and retail industries.
- Offers a cloud-based platform that enables merchants to increase close rates and transaction sizes.

Transaction Overview

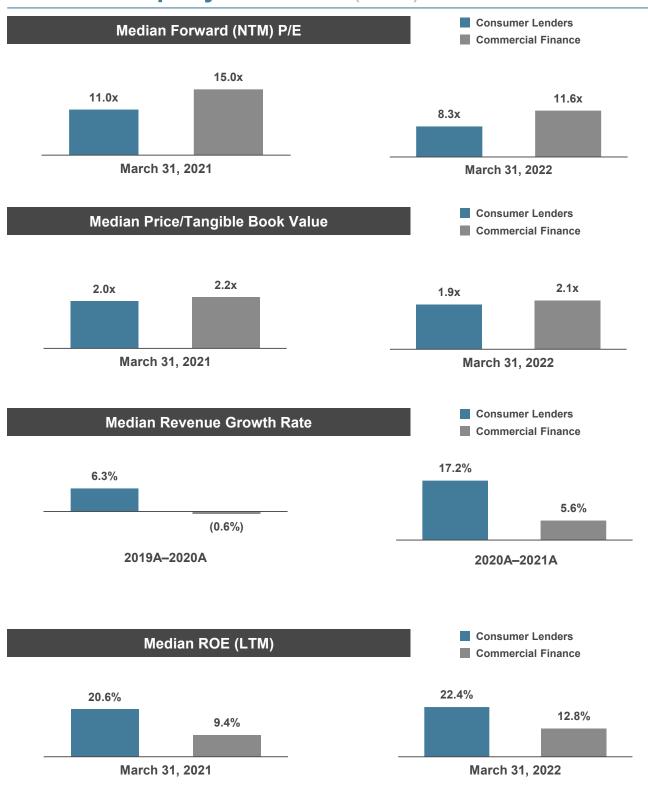
- Serves as a significant investment to Wafra's consumer finance portfolio.
- Capital to help support growth toward \$1 billion in originations and product enhancement.

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Public Company Valuation



Public Company Valuation (cont.)



Public Company Valuation (cont.)

									O LTM	perating M	letrics 2020A-	-2021 ∆
Company	Industry Focus	Market Cap	% of 52- Week High		EPS 2023E	Pr BV	ice TBV	ROA	ROE	Pre-Tax Margin	Revenue Growth	Pre-Tax Growth
Consumer Lenders	<u> </u>	Сар	vveek mgn	2022L	2023E	DV	164	KUA	KOL	Margin	Growth	Growth
Credit Acceptance Corp.	Auto Financing	\$7,974.7	78.3%	10.5x	10.7x	4.8x	4.8x	13.2%	48.5%	NM	101.2%	NM
OneMain Holdings, Inc.	Installment	6,042.8	75.0	5.5	5.2	1.9	4.3	5.6	37.6	48.6%	55.9	85.7%
FirstCash Holdings,	Pawn	3,410.6	72.5	13.9	11.1	1.9	NM	4.1	7.8	8.1	2.6	NM
Nelnet, Inc.	Student Loan Servicing	3,209.4	85.2	12.1	13.9	1.0	1.1	2.1	15.4	39.5	15.3	101.3
Navient Corp.	Student Loan Servicing	2,592.3	71.6	5.1	5.6	0.9	1.2	0.7	21.6	38.0	(24.3)	80.5
PRA Group, Inc.	NPLs	1,834.1	88.4	17.2	15.3	1.4	2.2	4.9	12.2	20.1	2.4	14.9
goeasy Ltd.	POS/Installment	1,805.0	51.5	12.4	10.0	2.4	4.4	7.4	24.4	36.8	77.8	NM
LendingClub Corp.	Online Lender	1,594.5	32.1	10.2	7.6	1.8	2.2	2.1	13.1	10.8	73.6	NM
PROG Holdings, Inc.	Retail Leasing	1,586.9	50.7	8.5	7.0	2.5	8.0	18.3	22.9	9.8	8.3	(16.7)
Encore Capital Group, Inc.	NPLs	1,538.8	86.3	4.8	6.4	1.2	4.5	9.7	34.2	32.1	7.8	NM
ECN Capital Corp.	Diversified Consumer	1,310.6	43.6	13.7	10.7	6.3	NM	0.8	2.3	7.5	NM	NM
Enova International,	Online Lender	1,246.6	79.3	6.0	5.3	1.2	1.6	9.0	22.4	30.9	99.5	NM
Inc. World Acceptance	Installment	1,149.8	72.2	16.6	32.0	3.0	3.2	5.7	13.9	11.3	(10.0)	181.6
Corp. Sunlight Financial	Solar/MIP	672.2	48.1	18.0	13.3	0.8	NM	NM	NM	NM	63.6	NM
Holdings Inc. ⁽¹⁾ CURO Group	Online/Installment	525.2	64.9	12.0	4.0	3.4	NM	3.1	22.3	5.4	(3.5)	18.0
Holdings Corp. America's Car-Mart,	ВНРН	518.8	45.4	6.4	7.1	1.2	1.2	10.5	27.0	12.4	16.8	63.4
Inc. Regional	Installment	477.3	71.8	6.6	6.5	1.6	1.6	7.4	30.9	25.9	17.5	62.1
Management Corp. Oportun Financial	Online Lender	459.8	51.4	5.6	4.8	0.7	1.1	3.6	16.1	17.7	17.5	NM
Corp. OppFi Inc.	Online Lender	378.3	30.1	8.1	4.5	0.3	0.3	14.5	37.1	29.3	88.1	0.3
EZCORP, Inc. Katapult Holdings,	Pawn	341.4	68.6	10.7	7.5	0.5	1.0	2.9	4.4	5.6	(13.5)	NM
Inc.	Retail Leasing	232.9	15.9	NM	NM	6.8	7.1	NM	NM	2.2	21.4	NM
Elevate Credit, Inc.	Online Lender	94.7	71.7	NM	2.9	0.5	0.5	6.6	NM	(16.8)	(10.8)	NM
FlexShopper, Inc.	Retail Leasing	36.9	44.8	7.3	2.6	0.7	NM	4.2	6.9	0.7	26.0	NM
Median Mean			68.6% 60.8%	10.2x 10.1x	7.1x 8.8x	1.4x 2.0x	1.9x 2.8x	5.6% 6.5%	22.0% 21.1%	12.4% 17.9%	17.2% 28.8%	62.7% 59.1%
Commercial Finance	9		33.370	10.12	O.OX	2.07	2.00	0.070	211170	11.070	20.070	00.170
Air Lease Corp.	Aircraft Leasing	\$5,101.2	87.6%	9.8x	7.7x	0.8x	0.8x	2.8%	NM	(7.4%)	0.3%	NM
GATX Corp.	Rail	4,384.9	96.7	20.7	19.1	2.1	2.3	1.9	9.1%	19.7	3.6	48.1%
Element Fleet Management Corp.	Fleet Mgmt.	3,874.5	63.4	12.6	11.7	1.3	4.1	2.6	9.9	30.8	(32.3)	20.9
McGrath RentCorp	Heavy Equipment	2,061.6	95.6	20.1	18.0	2.8	3.7	6.0	12.8	19.4	7.7	(8.1)
Textainer Group Holdings Ltd.	Equipment Finance	1,859.0	90.9	6.3	5.6	1.2	1.2	4.1	18.7	34.1	18.9	NM
Chesswood Group Ltd.	Equipment Finance	208.7	79.2	8.0	6.6	1.2	2.0	1.8	15.9	31.2	116.1	NM
Median			89.2%	11.2x	9.7x 11.4x	1.3x 1.6x	2.1x 2.3x	2.7% 3.2%	12.8% 13.3%	25.2%	5.6%	20.9% 20.3%

Recent Transactions

Consumer Finance: 2018–2022YTD Select Transactions

(\$ in millions)

				Deal		Price	
nn. Date ⁽¹⁾	Target	Target Description	Acquirer	Value	LTM Earnings	BV	тву
Feb-22*	Financeit Canada Inc.	Canadian HIP/consumer POS	Wafra Capital Partners	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jan-22*	Dividend Finance	Resi solar and home improvement	Fifth Third Bancorp	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jan-22*	Bay Equity	Residential mortgage	Redfin Corp.	\$135	NA	2.2x	NA
Nov-21	Aqua Finance, Inc.	HIP lender	Athene Holding Ltd.	\$1,000	NA	NA	NA
Nov-21	Heights Finance Corp.	B+M installment	CURO Group Holdings Corp.	\$360	8.8x ⁽²⁾	NA	NA
Oct-21	Fair Square Financial Holdings	Digital credit card company	Ally Financial Inc.	\$750	NA	NA	NA
Oct-21	American First Finance, Inc.	Nonprime POS/lease purchase	FirstCash, Inc.	\$1,297	16.4x	NA	NA
Oct-21	United Auto Credit Corp.	Nonprime auto financing	Vroom, Inc.	\$300	NA	NA	NA
Sep-21*	GreenSky, Inc.	HIP lender	Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.	\$2,232	26.2x	NA	NA
Sep-21	First Investors Financial Services Group, Inc.	Automotive specialty leasing services	Sellantis N.V.	\$285	NA	NA	NA
Aug-21	HomeBridge Financial Services, Inc.	Mortgage services provider	Figure Technologies, Inc.	NA	NA	NA	NA
Aug-21	Synchrony Bank's Credit Card Portfolio	Co-branded and private label credit card accounts	Barclays Bank Delaware	\$3,900	NA	NA	NA
Aug-21	Service Finance	Sales finance company and an approved FHA Title I lender	Truist Fnancial Corp.	\$2,000	NA	NA	NA
Aug-21	Team Canales	Provides conventional, FHA, VA, and USDA loans	Churchill Mortgage	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jun-21	Exeter Finance Corp.	Tech-enabled auto finance	Warburg Pincus LLC	NA	NA	NA	NA
May-21	Premier Financial Services, LLC	Automotive specialty leasing services	1st Financial Bank USA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Apr-21	Auto Lenders Liquidation Center, Inc.	Auto dealer in buying, selling, and leasing used vehicles	Crestview Partners, LP	NA	NA	NA	NA
Apr-21	LendCare Holdings Inc.	Point-of-sale (POS) platform for consumer purchases	goeasy Ltd.	\$255	13.0x ⁽³⁾	NA	NA
Feb-21	Flexiti Financial, Inc.	POS platform	CURO Group	\$119	NA	NA	NA
Jan-21	Allegro Credit	POS platform for music, hearing, and	Synchrony Financial (NYSE:SYF)	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jan-21	Social Finance, Inc.	dental Online personal finance platform	Social Capital Hedosophia Holdings	\$8,650	NM	NA	NA
Dec-20	Acima Holdings LLC	Provider of virtual lease-to-own	Corp. V Rent-A-Center, Inc. ⁽⁴⁾	\$1,653	9.9x	NA	NA
Dec-20	Katapult Holding, Inc.	solutions POS platform for nonprime consumers	FinServ Acquisition Corp. ⁽⁵⁾	\$962	35.6x	NA	NA
Oct-20	Spanish Moss Premium Finance LLC	Insurance premium lending	RTCORE Inc.	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oct-20	FIFS Holdings Corp.	Automobile finance receivables and	Gallatin Point Capital LLC	NA	NA	NA	NA
May-20	Asta Funding, Inc.	promissory notes NPL consumer debt consolidator	RBF Capital LLC	\$81	11.7x	0.9x	0.9x
Apr-20	Tidewater Credit	Financing services for furniture/home	Genesis FS Card Services, Inc.	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA
Feb-20	North State Acceptance, LLC	improvement retailers Subprime automobile finance	Fourshore Capital, LLC	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA
Feb-20	Fairstone Financial Inc.	company Nonprime credit card and consumer	Duo Bank	\$417	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA
Jul-19	Health Credit Services, LLC	finance lender Digital POS payment solution for	Ally Financial Inc.	\$417 \$190	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA
		healthcare space	•				
Jul-19	Merchants Preferred	Lease purchase services for furniture	Rent-A-Center, Inc.	\$48	NA NA	NA	NA
Apr-19	Athena Art Finance Corp.	Loan provider for global art market	YieldStreet Management, LLC	\$170	NA	NA	NA
Aug-18	LenderLive Network, LLC	Mortgage services provider	Computershare Loan Services	\$32	NA	1.5x	NA
Aug-18	Mortgage Lenders of America LLC	Mortgage brokers and services	Zillow Group Inc.	\$67	NA	5.2x	6.5x

Sources: SNL, S&P Capital IQ, and public filings.

Note: Screening criteria includes select FY18, FY19, FY20, and FY21 specialty finance (consumer-focused) transactions over \$10 million in deal value located in the United States.

Deals that include an asterisk (*) denote pending transactions.

Represents post-tax 2022E adjusted earnings multiple grossed up from pre-tax multiple of 6.5x.

Represents forward P/E multiple on 2021 earnings.

To calculate P/E multiple: Divided deal value by tax-effected 2020E EBITDA of \$225 million, assuming 26.0% tax rate. To calculate P/E multiple: Divided \$962 million equity value by \$27 million 2020E net income.

Recent Transactions (cont.)

Commercial Finance: 2018–2022YTD Select Transactions

(\$ in millions)

	nance Transactions			Deal	Price	
Ann. Date ⁽¹⁾	Target	Target Description	Acquirer	Value	BV	TBV
Mar-22*	Southeast Commercial Finance, LLC	Asset-based lending	Renasant Corp.	NA	NA	NA
Feb-22*	Vantage Financial, LLC	Equipment financing	Peoples Bancorp Inc.	\$75	NA	NA
Feb-22*	Safe Harbor Financial, LLC	Commercial finance (cannabis)	Northern Lights Acquisition Corp.	\$327	NA	NA
Jan-22*	Merchants Mortgage & Trust	Fix and flip	KKR	NA	NA	NA
Jan-22*	HomeVestors	Fix and flip	Bayview Asset Management	NA	NA	NA
Jan-22*	ACG Equipment Finance	Equipment financing	American Bank Holding Corp.	NA	NA	NA
Dec-21	Encina Equipment Finance, LLC	Equipment leasing and financing	Franklin Resources, Inc./Benefit Street Partners	NA	NA	NA
Dec-21	Balboa Capital Corp.	Small and medium-sized business lending	Ameris Bank	NA	NA	NA
Dec-21	Summit Funding Group, Inc.	Equipment leasing and financing	First Financial Bancorp	\$121	NA	NA
Oct-21	K2 Capital Group LLC	Equipment leasing and financing	Popular Equipment Finance, LLC	\$188	NA	NA
Sep-21	North Avenue Capital, LLC	Asset-backed lending	Veritex Community Bank	\$58	NA	NA
Aug-21	FastPay Partners LLC	Asset-backed lending services for	North Mill Capital LLC	NA	NA	NA
Jul-21	GemCap Partners	media companies Asset-backed lending	VION Investments	NA	NA	NA
Jun-21	OTR Capital	Factoring and working capital	Summit Partners, LP	NA	NA	NA
Jun-21	Yardline Capital Corp.	services for the freight industry Growth capital solutions and insights	,	NA	NA	NA
May-21	Fountain Leasing, LLC	to Amazon sellers Equipment financing to SME	SmartBank	NA	NA	NA
Apr-21	Marlin Business Services Corp.	Credit and service solutions to small	HPS Investment Partners, LLC	\$299	1.5x	1.5x
Apr-21	(NASDAQ:MRLN) General Finance Corp.	and mid-sized businesses Specialty rental services	United Rentals, Inc. (NYSE:URI)	\$996	3.9x	NA
Mar-21	(NASDAQ:GFN) Genesis Capital Finance LLC	Commercial lending to long-haul	Fourshore Capital, LLC	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA
Mar-21	Southwest Rail Industries, Inc.	trucking industry Railcar leasing and management	•	NA	NA NA	NA NA
		services Commercial property assessed	Sojitz Corporation of America			
Feb-21	Greenworks Lending, LLC	clean energy financing	Nuveen, LLC	NA	NA	NA
Feb-21	Civic Financial Services, LLC BB&T Commercial Equipment	Residential business-purpose loans Commercial equipment leasing and	Pacific Western Bank	NA	NA	NA
Jan-21	Capital Corp. Donlen Corp.	financing Fleet leasing and management	TCF National Bank	NA	NA	NA
Nov-20	(Hertz Global Holdings Inc.)	solutions	Athene Holding Ltd.	\$875	2.3x	2.5x
Nov-20	Kingsbridge Holdings, LLC	Equipment finance solutions	Solar Capital Ltd.	\$216	NA	NA
Oct-20	CIT Group Inc.	Commercial and consumer banking services	First Citizens Bancshares, Inc.	\$2,158	0.4x	0.4x
Jul-20	OnDeck Capital, Inc.	Online lending to small businesses	Enova International, Inc.	\$117	0.5x	N/A
Jul-20	Prosperity Funding, Inc.	Funding services to staffing firms	eCapital Corp.	NA	NA	NA
Jul-20	Sky Bridge Business Funding, LLC	Short-term capital advance solutions for small businesses	Revenued	NA	NA	NA
Jul-20	Vero Business Capital LLC	Freight factoring services for trucking company owners		NA	NA	NA
May-20	19th Capital	Credit and financing solution for fleet management firms	Hilco Global	NA	NA	NA
Oct-19	CoreVest American Finance Lender, LLC	Business-purpose lending originator	Redwood Trust, Inc.	\$492	1.0x	1.4x
Feb-19	Pavestone Capital, LLC	Factoring solutions to transportation industry	WEX Inc.	\$28	1.8x	NA
Feb-19	Flex Fleet Rental	Truck rental and leasing	Waterfall Asset Mgmt./TRP Capital Partners	NA	NA	NA
Jan-19	Pacific Rim Capital, Inc.	Financial leasing services to material handling equipment		NA	NA	NA
Jun-18	Vend Lease Company, Inc.	Equipment financing services	LEAF Commercial Capital, Inc.	\$37.5	2.8x	NA
May-18	Metro Truck and Tractor	Truck leasing and rental services	Ryder System, Inc.	\$52.0	2.6x	2.7x
	Leasing, Inc.				1.9x	1.7x

Sources: SNL, S&P Capital IQ, and public filings.

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Houlihan Lokey (NYSE:HLI) is a global investment bank with expertise in mergers and acquisitions, capital markets, financial restructuring, and valuation. The firm serves corporations, institutions, and governments worldwide with offices in the United States, Europe, the Middle East, and the Asia-Pacific region. Independent advice and intellectual rigor are hallmarks of the firm's commitment to client success across its advisory services. Houlihan Lokey is the No. 1 investment bank for all global M&A transactions, the No. 1 M&A advisor for the past seven consecutive years in the U.S., the No. 1 global restructuring advisor for the past eight consecutive years, and the No. 1 global M&A fairness opinion advisor over the past 20 years, all based on number of transactions and according to data provided by Refinitiv.

Locations

Atlanta	Miami	Amsterdam	Milan	Beijing	Osaka
Boston	Minneapolis	Dubai	Munich	Fukuoka	Shangha
Chicago	New York	Frankfurt	Paris	Ho Chi Minh City	Singapo
Dallas	San Francisco	Lausanne	Stockholm	Hong Kong SAR	Sydney
Houston	Washington, D.C.	London	Tel Aviv	Mumbai	Tokyo
Los Angeles		Madrid	Zurich	Nagoya	
		Manchester		New Delhi	
HLI					

Product and Industry Expertise

Product Expertise	Dedicated Industry Groups	Financial Sponsors
Mergers and Acquisitions	Business Services	Active Dialogue
Capital Markets	Consumer, Food, and Retail	With a Diverse Group of 1,000+ Sponsors
Financial Restructuring	Energy	•
Financial and Valuation Advisory	Financial Services	Private Equity Firms
	Healthcare	Hedge Funds
	Industrials	Capital Alliances
	Real Estate, Lodging, and Leisure	·
	Technology	

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