Consumer & Automotive

In terms of M&A volume, Europe was the most active region with 5,724 deals, followed by Asia-Pacific (4,211 deals) and North America (3,107 deals). Europe was the most targeted region with $209B worth of deals in 2022.

Some of the likely drivers for M&A activity in 2022 include:
- Building resilience against inflation and supply chain disruptions
- Evolving preferences in retail and consumer goods (e.g., omnichannel, delivery logistics, sustainable products, emerging tech, hot markets, such as health and wellness)
- In the automotive sector, the generational shift to electric vehicle (EV) and associated supply chains and building resilient business models by divesting noncore assets such as dealer networks
- Trends toward nearshoring and digitization in the Logistics and Transportation sectors

**Observations**

After a record year in 2021, the Consumer sector saw YoY decline of 35% in M&A value to $614B in 2022.

**Forces shaping “new normal” conditions**

**Pressure on margins**
- Surges in inflation, customer demand, supply chain disruptions, and higher labor costs are leading to rapid increases in production costs and pressure on margins.

**Slower recovery in some subsectors**
- Post-pandemic uncertainty continues to affect the leisure, travel, and hospitality sectors.
- Revenue losses in these sectors, originally from the pandemic but now from inflation, could contribute to an increase in sales of distressed assets and restructuring.

**Direct-to-consumer (D2C) purchases will increase**
- D2C models will enable companies to increase customer-centricity through personalization, loyalty programs, and increased customer service levels.
- More companies will look to be active in the D2C space and acquire platforms to increase scale of distribution.

**Sustainability and wellness influences purchasing behavior**
- Consumers are increasingly willing to pay a premium for socially conscious products, ethical supply chains, and wellness-focused offerings.
- This trend is creating opportunities for new revenue streams.

**Short-term responses**

1. **Supply chain resilience**
   - Companies could consider investing in contingency supply chains, this includes considering partnerships with new suppliers, as well as with private equity to bolster supply chain systems.

2. **Technology-led transformation**
   - Digital transformation is fundamental to success. In addition to omnichannel capabilities, companies should consider investments in predictive demand analytics, fulfillment, and dynamic pricing.

**Medium-term responses**

3. **Pursue alliances**
   - Companies could consider alliances with their peers to alleviate supply-side pressure, as well as cross-sector arrangements with sectors like technology to enhance customer experience.

4. **Growth investments**
   - Companies could consider an ESG-aligned investment strategy to target assets such as sustainable product design and packaging, as well as in emerging growth segments such as personalized nutrition and carbon-neutral travel.

**CEO priorities**

1. **Defensive M&A strategy**
   - Building resilience
   - Unlock value from the ecosystem

2. **Offensive M&A strategy**
   - Accelerate business model transformation
   - Change the game

---

**Deal value by sector (in billions of US dollars)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Deal Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation, Hospitality &amp; Services</td>
<td>$293.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumer Products</td>
<td>$151.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail, Wholesale &amp; Distribution</td>
<td>$96.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto</td>
<td>$19.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Deal volume by sector**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Deal Volume</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation, Hospitality &amp; Services</td>
<td>6,869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumer Products</td>
<td>4,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail, Wholesale &amp; Distribution</td>
<td>2,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto</td>
<td>1,221</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Defensive M&A strategy

Offensive M&A strategy

Mild

Severe

Weak

Strong

Building resilience

Accelerate business model transformation

Unlock value from the ecosystem

Change the game

Unlocking value from the ecosystem

Change the game

Strategic positioning in the marketplace

CEO priorities

Medium-term responses

1. Software-centric partnerships for CASE development
   Access to a comprehensive software suite is critical to success for driving Connected, Autonomous, Shared, and Electric (CASE) products. OEMs should explore alliances and partnerships to drive this forward.

2. Future portfolio realignment
   Companies need to continue building a future portfolio that aligns major shifts in consumer trends. This could include value chain opportunities such as smart infrastructure, recycling, and sustainable materials.

Short-term responses

1. Safeguard supply chain
   Supply chain disruptions may prompt OEMs to vertically integrate critical aspects such as chips and divest auxiliary services such as auto financing, retail insurance, etc. to facilitate these critical investments.

2. Agile business models
   Companies should consider investments across the entire value chain to make the business more agile; these include opportunities for digitization, flexible manufacturing, and smart factories.

Connectivity is becoming standard

- The majority of cars are expected to have smart connectivity by 2035, driven by consumer demand and regulation.
- Data generated by 5G connectivity will be valuable and utilized by original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), dealers, fleet owners, and consumers.

Electric vehicle and fuel-cell ecosystems

- The EV market and associated ecosystem are expected to grow in double digits driven by customer preferences, favorable regulation, private capital investment, and the strategic push by OEMs.
- Hydrogen fuel-cell powered vehicles are starting to make up a more meaningful portion of the market.

Investment for autonomous vehicles (AVs) remains steady

- Both OEMs and tech companies are investing heavily in autonomous vehicle technologies. However, mass adoption remains distant owing to safety concerns.
- Stakeholders need to work closely with governments to shape future regulations that strike the balance between innovation and safety.

Forces shaping “new normal” conditions

Automotive

The path to thrive | M&A strategies for a brave new world

Forces shaping “new normal” conditions

Connectivity is becoming standard

- The majority of cars are expected to have smart connectivity by 2035, driven by consumer demand and regulation.
- Data generated by 5G connectivity will be valuable and utilized by original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), dealers, fleet owners, and consumers.

Electric vehicle and fuel-cell ecosystems

- The EV market and associated ecosystem are expected to grow in double digits driven by customer preferences, favorable regulation, private capital investment, and the strategic push by OEMs.
- Hydrogen fuel-cell powered vehicles are starting to make up a more meaningful portion of the market.

Investment for autonomous vehicles (AVs) remains steady

- Both OEMs and tech companies are investing heavily in autonomous vehicle technologies. However, mass adoption remains distant owing to safety concerns.
- Stakeholders need to work closely with governments to shape future regulations that strike the balance between innovation and safety.

Short-term responses

1. Safeguard supply chain
   Supply chain disruptions may prompt OEMs to vertically integrate critical aspects such as chips and divest auxiliary services such as auto financing, retail insurance, etc. to facilitate these critical investments.

2. Agile business models
   Companies should consider investments across the entire value chain to make the business more agile; these include opportunities for digitization, flexible manufacturing, and smart factories.

Medium-term responses

1. Software-centric partnerships for CASE development
   Access to a comprehensive software suite is critical to success for driving Connected, Autonomous, Shared, and Electric (CASE) products. OEMs should explore alliances and partnerships to drive this forward.

2. Future portfolio realignment
   Companies need to continue building a future portfolio that aligns major shifts in consumer trends. This could include value chain opportunities such as smart infrastructure, recycling, and sustainable materials.