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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

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**FORM 11-K**

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(Mark One)

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2020

or

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission file number 1-15399

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A. Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:

**Packaging Corporation of America  
Thrift Plan for Hourly Employees**

B. Name of the issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office:

**Packaging Corporation of America  
1 North Field Court  
Lake Forest, IL 60045**

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**Packaging Corporation of America  
Thrift Plan for Hourly Employees**

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\* Schedules required by Form 5500 that are not applicable have not been included.

## Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Plan Administrator and Plan Participants  
Packaging Corporation of America Thrift Plan for Hourly Employees

### Opinion on the financial statements

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of the Packaging Corporation of America Thrift Plan for Hourly Employees (the “Plan”) as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2020, and the related notes (collectively referred to as the “financial statements”). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2020 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### Basis for opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Plan’s financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (“PCAOB”) and are required to be independent with respect to the Plan in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. The Plan is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audits we are required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan’s internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

### Supplemental information

The schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2020 (“supplemental information”) has been subjected to audit procedures performed in conjunction with the audit of the Plan’s financial statements. The supplemental information is the responsibility of the Plan’s management. Our audit procedures included determining whether the supplemental information reconciles to the financial statements or the underlying accounting and other records, as applicable, and performing procedures to test the completeness and accuracy of the information presented in the supplemental information. In forming our opinion on the supplemental information, we evaluated whether the supplemental information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor’s Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. In our opinion, the supplemental information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

/s/ GRANT THORNTON LLP

We have served as the Plan’s auditor since 2020.

Chicago, Illinois  
June 10, 2021

**Packaging Corporation of America  
Thrift Plan for Hourly Employees  
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits**

	<u>December 31,</u>	
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Plan's interest in Master Trust	\$1,012,273,720	\$446,545,599
Notes receivable from participants	31,086,853	15,190,968
Contributions receivable:		
Company	1,036,062	—
Participant	1,030,689	—
<b>Total assets</b>	<u>1,045,427,324</u>	<u>461,736,567</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Administrative expenses payable	152,957	163,806
Refund of excess contributions	31,520	26,567
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<u>184,477</u>	<u>190,373</u>
Net assets available for benefits	<u>\$1,045,242,847</u>	<u>\$461,546,194</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

**Packaging Corporation of America**  
**Thrift Plan for Hourly Employees**  
**Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits**

	Year Ended December 31, 2020
<b>Additions to net assets attributed to:</b>	
Net investment income from Master Trust	\$ 196,942,530
Interest income from notes receivable from participants	1,246,962
Contributions:	
Participants	46,836,292
Company	46,134,245
Rollover	1,038,925
Total contributions	<u>94,009,462</u>
Total additions	<u>292,198,954</u>
<b>Deductions from net assets attributed to:</b>	
Benefits paid to participants	(156,062,777)
Administrative expenses	(1,522,185)
Total deductions	<u>(157,584,962)</u>
Net increase prior to transfer in	134,613,992
Assets transferred in (see Note 1)	449,082,661
Net assets available for benefits:	
Beginning of year	461,546,194
End of year	<u>\$1,045,242,847</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

**Packaging Corporation of America  
Thrift Plan for Hourly Employees  
Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2020 and 2019**

**1. Description of the Plan**

The following description of the Packaging Corporation of America Thrift Plan for Hourly Employees (the “Plan”) provides general information. The Plan Sponsor is Packaging Corporation of America (the “Company” or “PCA”). Participants should refer to the Plan document, including the special appendix sections (“Special Appendix”), for a more complete description of eligibility requirements, contribution limits, Company matching contributions, and vesting provisions. There is a Special Appendix for each Company location.

**General**

The Plan is a defined-contribution plan, established on February 1, 2000, and is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (“ERISA”). The Plan covers eligible hourly employees of the Company, its subsidiaries, and the covered groups that have adopted the Plan. The Benefits Administration Committee is responsible for the oversight of the Plan. The Investment Committee determines the appropriateness of the Plan’s investment offerings and monitors investment performance. Both committees are appointed by the Board of Directors of the Company.

Alight Solutions is the Plan’s record keeper. Northern Trust is the Plan’s trustee and custodian. Mercer is a §3(38) investment advisor to the Plan.

Effective January 1, 2020, the Boise Paper Holdings L.L.C. Retirement Savings Plan (the “Boise Plan”) merged into the Packaging Corporation of America Thrift Plan for Hourly Employees. Participant balances were transferred into the Plan in January 2020.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act was signed into law on March 27, 2020. The following provisions were implemented by the Plan in response to the CARES Act:

- Participants were allowed to request penalty free distributions up to \$100,000 from their 401(k) account for reasons related to COVID-19, and
- Participants with existing loans were able to suspend payments for the remainder of 2020.

In order for plan participants to receive relief under these provisions, they were required to self-certify that they had been impacted by the COVID-19 virus.

**Contributions**

Upon hire, eligible employees receive written notice of the automatic enrollment process into the Plan, which occurs 45 days after the date of hire. Automatic enrollment will not occur if the employee decides to enroll prior to the automatic enrollment date or if the employee opts out of participation in the Plan. Eligible employees electing to participate in the Plan may make salary deferral contributions through payroll deductions based upon the deferral percentage limits specified in each covered Special Appendix that vary by geographic location, with such contributions limited to \$19,500 in 2020 for employees under age 50, and \$26,000 in 2020 for employees age 50 and older. The Company contributes on behalf of the participants a matching contribution equal to an amount detailed in each location’s Special Appendix. The Company’s matching contributions are invested in the Plan’s investment funds based on the participant investment elections.

The Company makes a retirement savings contribution to certain eligible employees of up to 6.5% of compensation based on years of service and/or age, as defined in the location’s Special Appendix. This contribution is made on behalf of the employee regardless of whether or not the employee is contributing to the Plan.

Participants may make Roth contributions to the Plan, which are after-tax contributions whose earnings are not taxable upon qualified distribution. Total 2020 employee contributions, both before-tax and Roth after-tax, cannot exceed \$19,500 for employees under age 50 and \$26,000 for employees age 50 and older.

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### **Participant Accounts**

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions, Company contributions, and an allocation of Plan earnings or losses. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's account.

### **Vesting**

Participants are 100% vested immediately in the value of their contributions, earnings thereon and rollovers from other qualified plans.

The Company's matching contribution and the retirement savings contribution, and earnings thereon, vest at a rate specified in each special appendix. To the extent a participant is not 100% vested in the Company's matching contributions or retirement savings contribution, upon attainment of age 65 or termination of employment due to death or permanent disability, a participant will become 100% vested in the Company's matching contributions and retirement savings contributions. Forfeited non-vested accounts are applied to reduce future Company contributions.

### **Investment Options**

Participants may elect to invest their account balances in any of the available investment options provided by the Plan through the PCA Defined Contribution Master Trust (the "Master Trust"). Participants may change their investment options on any business day, subject to certain short-term trading restrictions outlined in the Plan document.

The portion of the Plan's interest in the Master Trust currently invested in the PCA Common Stock Fund, and any future employee or employer contributions used to acquire PCA common stock, is invested in the Employee Stock Ownership Plan ("ESOP") component of the Plan. Plan participants may instruct the Plan's trustee to distribute future cash dividends paid on shares of PCA common stock credited to their PCA common stock ESOP directly to them. The election to receive cash dividends is made through the PCA Benefits Center, and dividends will be reported as taxable income.

### **Benefit Payments**

In the event of retirement (as defined in the Plan), death, permanent disability, or termination of employment, the vested balance in the participant's account will generally be distributed to the participant or the participant's beneficiary in a single lump-sum cash payment. The portion of the participant's account invested in the PCA Common Stock Fund will be distributed in cash unless elected to be distributed in kind. Benefit payments are recorded when paid.

Certain participants, as specified in each covered location's Special Appendix, who have attained age 55 may elect an in-service withdrawal from their vested Company matching contribution account. Participants, as specified in each location's Special Appendix, who have attained age 59 1/2 may elect to withdraw all or part of their account balance. A participant's entire account balance shall be distributed no later than April 1 following the later of the calendar year in which the participant attains age 69 or the calendar year in which the participant's termination of employment occurs.

### **Administrative Expenses**

Beginning in 2020, participant accounts are charged \$20.00 per quarter for administrative expenses. If administrative expenses exceed the amount paid by participants, the Company will pay the difference. Administrative expenses primarily include record keeper fees, investment management expenses, and professional service fees.

### **Notes Receivable from Participants**

Certain participants, as specified in each covered location's Special Appendix, may borrow an amount up to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of their vested account balance. The minimum loan amount is \$1,000. Such loans bear interest at the prime rate as published by *The Wall Street Journal* and are secured by the participant's account balance in the Plan. Loans must be repaid within 60 months, with principal and interest payments made primarily through payroll deductions. There may be loans that exceed the 60 month re-payment period, but only if they were transferred in from another plan, and that plan had allowed for a payment period beyond 60 months. Employees on unpaid leave may continue to repay loans via personal check or money order during their period of absence. Participants also have the ability to elect to make a one-time repayment of their outstanding loan balance, of which the payment can be made via personal check or money order. Participants may take up to two general purpose loans. A loan is considered in default and becomes a taxable event when a loan is not current at the end of the cure period, the quarter following the quarter in which the payment was missed.

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Interest rates on loans outstanding in the Plan at December 31, 2020 and 2019 ranged from 3.25% to 9.75% and 3.25% to 6.00%, respectively.

### **Forfeited Accounts**

At December 31, 2020 and 2019, forfeited non-vested accounts totaled approximately \$1,520,000 and \$933,000, respectively. These accounts will be used to reduce future employer contributions. In 2020, employer contributions were reduced by approximately \$1,466,000 for forfeited non-vested accounts.

### **Plan Termination**

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, participants will become 100% vested in the Company's matching and retirement savings contributions and earnings thereon.

## **2. Significant Accounting Policies**

### **Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

### **Investment Valuation and Income Recognition**

The Plan's beneficial interest in the Master Trust represents the Plan's share of the Master Trust's investments stated at fair value (except for fully-benefit responsive investment contracts, which are reported at contract value). Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (an exit price). Contract value is the amount that participants would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan. See Note 3 for further discussion and disclosures related to fair value and contract value measurements.

Purchases and sales of securities in the Master Trust are recorded on the settlement date. Interest income within the Master Trust is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends within the Master Trust are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation/depreciation in the Master Trust includes the gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

### **Use of Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires the Plan Administrator to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

### **Notes Receivable from Participants**

Notes receivable from participants represent participant loans that are recorded at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income on notes receivable from participants is recorded when it is earned. Related fees are recorded as administrative expenses and are expensed when they are incurred. If a participant ceases to make loan repayments and the provisions of the Plan document deem the participant loan to be a distribution, the participant loan balance is reduced and a benefit payment is recorded. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of December 31, 2020.

### **Recently Adopted Accounting Standards**

Effective January 1, 2020, the Plan adopted Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2018-13, *Fair Value Measurement (Topic 820): Disclosure Framework – Changes to the Disclosure Requirements for Fair Value Measurement*. ASU 2018-13 removes or modifies certain disclosure requirements and adds additional requirements to improve the usefulness of the fair value measurement disclosure for financial statement users. Certain amendments of ASU 2018-13 are required to be applied prospectively for the first interim period of the initial year of adoption. However, the modifications and removal of certain information needs to be applied retrospectively. The adoption of this Update did not have a significant impact on the Plan's related disclosures as reflected in Note 3 of this Annual Report on Form 11-K.

There were no other accounting standards recently issued that had or are expected to have a material impact on the Plan's financial statements and associated disclosures.



### 3. Investments in Master Trust

The Master Trust includes assets of the Plan and the Packaging Corporation of America Retirement Savings Plan for Salaried Employees. All of the Plan's investments are invested in the Master Trust. The purpose of the Master Trust is the collective investment of assets of the participating plans. Each participating plan's interest in the Master Trust is based on the aggregate account balances of the participants in the respective participating plan. The Master Trust specifically identifies contributions, benefit payments, and plan-specific expenses attributable to each participating plan. Investment gains (losses) are allocated to each participating plan in the Master Trust on a daily basis based on each plan's divided interest in the Master Trust. At December 31, 2020 and 2019, the Plan's interest in the net assets of the Master Trust was \$1,012,273,720 and \$446,545,599, respectively.

The following table presents the investments and other assets and liabilities of the Master Trust and the Plan's divided interest in the Master Trust as of December 31, 2020:

	<u>Master Trust Balances</u>	<u>Plan's Divided Interest in Master Trust Balances</u>
Master Trust investments, at fair value:		
Mutual funds	\$ 179,080,904	\$ 58,776,664
Self-directed brokerage accounts	52,347,940	27,373,078
Collective trust funds	1,076,634,208	439,387,256
Company common stock fund	165,915,085	34,855,445
Target date collective funds	609,897,000	332,266,693
Short-term investment funds	3,554,083	1,438,813
Total Master Trust investments, at fair value	2,087,429,220	894,097,949
Master Trust investments at contract value (a):		
Synthetic guaranteed investment contracts	267,755,578	118,175,771
Total Master Trust investments	<u>\$2,355,184,798</u>	<u>\$ 1,012,273,720</u>

The following table presents the investments and other assets and liabilities of the Master Trust and the Plan's divided interest in the Master Trust as of December 31, 2019:

	<u>Master Trust Balances</u>	<u>Plan's Divided Interest in Master Trust Balances</u>
Master Trust investments, at fair value:		
Mutual funds	\$ 142,892,641	\$ 29,358,413
Self-directed brokerage accounts	35,265,491	2,946,946
Collective trust funds	889,423,782	207,070,944
Company common stock fund	169,727,367	30,524,698
Target date collective funds	561,436,523	103,623,793
Short-term investment funds	4,749,980	853,619
Total Master Trust investments, at fair value	1,803,495,784	374,378,413
Master Trust investments at contract value (a):		
Synthetic guaranteed investment contracts	202,953,697	72,167,186
Total Master Trust investments	<u>\$2,006,449,481</u>	<u>\$ 446,545,599</u>

- (a) The Master Trust holds a portfolio of synthetic guaranteed investment contracts within the PCA Stable Value Fund at December 31, 2020, which are measured at contract value and are therefore not included in the calculation of total net assets at fair value. The prior year presentation was adjusted to conform to the current year presentation, as the same asset was held in the Master Trust at December 31, 2019 and was previously classified as a Level 2 asset.

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Investment income for the Master Trust was as follows:

	Year Ended December 31, 2020
Interest income	\$ 483,247
Dividends	4,935,132
Other income	4,681
Net realized and unrealized appreciation in fair value of investments	436,923,475
Net investment income	<u>\$442,346,535</u>

### ***Fair Value Measurement***

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (i.e., an exit price). The fair value hierarchy prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are described below:

Level 1 — Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets that are accessible to the reporting entity at the measurement date for identical assets and liabilities.

Level 2 — Inputs other than quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities that are observable either directly or indirectly for substantially the full term of the asset or liability. Level 2 inputs include the following:

- Quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets
- Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active
- Observable inputs other than quoted prices that are used in the valuation of the assets or liabilities (e.g., interest rate and yield curve quotes at commonly quoted intervals)
- Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means

Level 3 — Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability (i.e., supported by little or no market activity). Level 3 inputs include management's own assumption about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability (including assumptions about risk).

Assets that are measured at fair value using the net asset value ("NAV") per share as a practical expedient are not categorized within the fair value hierarchy.

The level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement is classified is determined based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety.

The following is a description of the valuation techniques and inputs used for each major class of asset measured to estimate fair value by the Master Trust.

Mutual funds: Valued at the daily closing price reported by the funds. Mutual funds held by the Master Trust are open-ended mutual funds that are registered with the Securities Exchange Commission. These funds are required to publish daily net asset values and to transact at that price. The mutual funds held by the Master Trust are considered actively traded.

Self-directed brokerage account: Valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which the individual securities are traded.

Company common stock fund: Valued using the unit value calculated from the observable market price of the PCA common stock plus the cost of a small short-term investment fund held for liquidity purposes, which approximates fair value.

Collective trust funds, target date collective funds, and short-term investment funds: Most of the assets in these categories are valued at the NAV provided by the administrator of the fund. The NAV is based on the underlying assets owned by the fund, minus its liabilities, and then divided by the number of shares outstanding. The assets without readily determinable fair values are valued using the NAV per share practical expedient and are subsequently excluded from the fair value hierarchy. In general, there are no restrictions on the redemption of these funds, which is permitted daily upon proper notice, and there are no unfunded commitments associated with these funds.

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The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Master Trust's assets carried at fair value:

	December 31, 2020				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Net Asset Value (NAV)	Total
Master Trust assets (b)(c):					
Mutual funds	\$179,080,904	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 179,080,904
Self-directed brokerage	52,347,940	—	—	—	52,347,940
Company common stock fund	165,915,085	—	—	—	165,915,085
Short-term investment funds	—	—	—	3,554,083	3,554,083
Target date collective funds	—	—	—	609,897,000	609,897,000
Collective trust funds	—	—	—	1,076,634,208	1,076,634,208
Total Master Trust assets	<u>\$397,343,929</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$1,690,085,291</u>	<u>\$2,087,429,220</u>
	December 31, 2019				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Net Asset Value (NAV)	Total
Master Trust assets (b)(c):					
Mutual funds	\$142,892,641	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 142,892,641
Self-directed brokerage	35,265,491	—	—	—	35,265,491
Company common stock fund	169,727,367	—	—	—	169,727,367
Short-term investment funds	—	—	—	4,749,980	4,749,980
Target date collective funds	—	—	—	561,436,523	561,436,523
Collective trust funds	—	—	—	889,423,782	889,423,782
Total Master Trust assets	<u>\$347,885,499</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$1,455,610,285</u>	<u>\$1,803,495,784</u>

- (b) The Plan determined that certain assets held in the Master Trust at December 31, 2020 that do not have readily-determinable fair values are measured at fair value using the NAV per share practical expedient and are not classified within the fair value hierarchy. The prior year presentation was adjusted to conform to the current year presentation, as these same assets were held in the Master Trust at December 31, 2019 and were previously classified as Level 2 assets.
- (c) The Master Trust holds a portfolio of synthetic guaranteed investment contracts within the PCA Stable Value Fund at December 31, 2020, which are measured at contract value and are therefore not included in the fair value hierarchy. The prior year presentation was adjusted to conform to the current year presentation, as the same asset was held in the Master Trust at December 31, 2019 and was previously classified as a Level 2 asset.

### Synthetic Guaranteed Investment Contracts

During the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, the Plan, through the PCA Stable Value Fund within the Master Trust, held investments in a portfolio of synthetic guaranteed investment contracts managed by JPMorgan. The contracts in the PCA Stable Value Fund are fully benefit-responsive and therefore they are reported at contract value. Contract value is the relevant measure for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts because this is the amount that participants would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Master Trust and Plan. The contract value is calculated from the contributions made under the contracts plus interest credited less participant withdrawals and fees.

The PCA Stable Value Fund primarily invests in synthetic security-backed investment contracts and money market funds. Synthetic security backed investment contracts are issued by insurance companies and other financial institutions (the "wrap contracts") that are backed by a portfolio of bonds, fixed income common/collective trust funds, or other fixed income securities (the "underlying assets") that are owned by the Master Trust and Plan.

The wrap contract issuers provide a rate of return that has a zero percent floor and provide full benefit responsiveness, provided that all terms of the wrap contracts have been met. Under the contracts, realized and unrealized gains and losses on the underlying assets are not immediately recognized in the net assets of the Master Trust and Plan, but are amortized over the maturity or duration of the underlying assets, through adjustments to the future interest crediting rate of the wrap contracts. Wrap contracts are normally agreements entered with issuers rated in the top three long-term rating categories (equaling A- or above) as determined by any of the nationally recognized rating organizations in the United States.

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As of December 31, 2020 and 2019, there were no reserves against the wrap contract's carrying values due to credit risks of the issuers. Certain events limit the ability of the Master Trust and Plan to transact at contract value with the wrap contract issuers. Such events may include, but are not limited to: amendments to the Plan's documents (including complete or partial plan termination or merger with another plan), changes to the Plan's prohibition on competing investment options or deletion of equity wash provisions, bankruptcy of the Plan's sponsor or other Plan sponsor events that cause a significant withdrawal from the Plan, or the failure of the Plan's trust to qualify for exemption from federal income taxes or any required prohibited transaction exemption under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act. However, the Master Trust and Plan's management is not aware of the occurrence, or likely occurrence of any such events, which would limit the Master Trust and Plan's ability to transact at contract value with the wrap contract issuers. The wrap contracts cannot be terminated by the issuer at a value other than contract value except under a limited number of very specific circumstances including termination of the Master Trust or Plan or loss of qualified status of the Master Trust or Plan, material misrepresentations by the Master Trust or Plan sponsor or investment manager, failure by these same parties to meet material obligations under the contracts, or other similar types of events. However, the Master Trust and Plan's management is unaware of any such events occurring that would allow the wrap contract issuers to terminate the contracts held by the Master Trust and Plan.

#### 4. Tax Status

The Plan has received a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") dated March 2, 2017 stating that the Plan is qualified under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code ("the Code") and therefore, the related trust is exempt from taxation. Subsequent to this determination by the IRS, the Plan was amended. Once qualified, the Plan is required to operate in conformity with the Code to maintain its qualified status. The Plan Administrator believes the Plan is being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code and, therefore, believes the Plan, as amended, is qualified and the related trust is tax-exempt.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States require plan management to evaluate uncertain tax positions taken by the Plan. The financial statement effects of a tax position are recognized when the position is more likely than not, based on the technical merits, to be sustained upon examination by the IRS. The Plan Administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan and has concluded that as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken. The Plan has recognized no interest or penalties related to uncertain tax positions. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

#### 5. Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan, through the Master Trust, invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic. Since that time, federal, state, and local authorities have taken measures to control the outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States, where the Company primarily operates. Many businesses in the United States have been required to cease or curtail operations, which has resulted in a negative impact to the economy. While the Company did not experience significant disruptions in its operations as a result of the pandemic, the impact of COVID-19 on investment fund and common stock share prices, and the overall economy, continues to evolve. As a result, the future impact of the pandemic on the Plan's net assets available for benefits and changes in net assets available for benefits remains uncertain.

#### 6. Reconciliation of Financial Statements to Form 5500

The following is a reconciliation of net assets available for benefits per the financial statements to Form 5500:

	December 31,	
	2020	2019
Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$1,045,242,847	\$461,546,194
Amounts allocated to withdrawn participants	(209,753)	(720,343)
Net assets available for benefits per Form 5500	<u>\$1,045,033,094</u>	<u>\$460,825,851</u>

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The following is a reconciliation of net increase per the financial statements to Form 5500:

	<b>Year Ended December 31, 2020</b>
Total net increase prior to transfer in per the financial statements	\$134,613,992
Amounts allocated to withdrawing participants at December 31, 2019	720,343
Amounts allocated to withdrawing participants at December 31, 2020	(209,753)
Total net increase per the Form 5500	<u>\$135,124,582</u>

### **7. Transactions with Parties-in-Interest**

Under ERISA rules related to 401(k) plans, transactions with related parties of the Plan such as a sponsor, administrator, trustee, acquired entities by the Plan sponsor, or participant are considered either exempt or non-exempt from ERISA prohibited transaction provisions. Non-exempt transactions are subject to penalty taxes.

The Plan invests in the common stock of the Company through a common stock fund. These transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions; however, they are exempt from the prohibited transactions rules under ERISA. During 2020, the Plan received \$1,020,363 in common stock dividends from the Company.

The Plan's record keeper, trustee, custodian and investment advisor described in Note 1 are each a party-in-interest to the Plan as defined by ERISA.

### **8. Subsequent Events**

The Plan has evaluated subsequent events after the statement of net assets available for plan benefits date through June 10, 2021, the date that the financial statements were available to be issued.

[Table of Contents](#)

Packaging Corporation of America  
Thrift Plan for Hourly Employees  
Schedule H, Line 4i — Schedule of Assets  
(Held at End of Year)  
EIN 36-4277050 Plan 001  
December 31, 2020

	<u>Rate of Interest</u>	<u>Maturity</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Current Value</u>
Notes Receivable from Participants	3.25%-9.75%	Maturity dates through	**	\$31,086,853
*Various (5,616 loans to 3,672 participants)		March 11, 2030		
Total Assets (Held at End of Year)				<u>\$ 31,086,853</u>

\* Denotes a party-in-interest to the Plan as defined by ERISA

\*\* Cost information is omitted as all assets are participant-directed

See accompanying report of independent registered public accounting firm.

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
23.1	Consent of Grant Thornton LLP

**SIGNATURES**

*The Plan.* Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Benefits Administration Committee of Packaging Corporation of America has duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Packaging Corporation of America  
Thrift Plan for Hourly Employees

Date: June 10, 2021

/s/ PAMELA A. BARNES

Pamela A. Barnes  
*Senior Vice President, Finance and Controller*



**Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

We have issued our report dated June 10, 2021, with respect to the financial statements and supplemental information included in the Annual Report of Packaging Corporation of America Thrift Plan for Hourly Employees on Form 11-K for the year ended December 31, 2020. We consent to the incorporation by reference of said report in the Registration Statement of Packaging Corporation of America in Forms S-8 (File No. 333-179620, File No. 333-202723, and File No. 333-238155).

/s/ GRANT THORNTON LLP

Chicago, Illinois  
June 10, 2021