

PACKAGING CORP OF AMERICA
Form 11-K
June 28, 2004

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 11-K

(Mark One)

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 [NO FEE REQUIRED,
EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 7, 1996]**

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003

or

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 [NO FEE
REQUIRED]**

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number 1-15399

A. issuer named below:

Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different from that of the

Packaging Corporation of America

Thrift Plan for Hourly Employees

B. of its principal executive office:

Name of the issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address

Packaging Corporation of America

1900 West Field Court

Lake Forest, IL 60045

Packaging Corporation of America

Thrift Plan for Hourly Employees

	Page
A. Financial Statements	
<u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	<u>3</u>
Financial Statements:	
<u>Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Notes to Financial Statements</u>	<u>6</u>
B. Supplemental Schedule	
<u>Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)</u>	<u>11</u>
C. Exhibit	
Item 23.1 Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Benefits Administration Committee

Packaging Corporation of America Thrift Plan for Hourly Employees

We have audited the accompanying Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits of the Packaging Corporation of America Thrift Plan for Hourly Employees as of December 31, 2003 and 2002, and the related Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan at December 31, 2003 and 2002, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audits were performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2003 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. This supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Plan's management. The supplemental schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audits of the financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Ernst & Young LLP

Chicago, Illinois

June 22, 2004

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

	December 31,	
	2003	2002
Assets		
Interest in Master Trust	\$ 75,943,234	\$ 59,029,852
Participant loans	1,814,109	1,568,942
Contributions receivable:		
Company		25,319
Participants		86,142
	77,757,343	60,710,255
Liabilities		
Administrative expenses	18,178	15,878
Contribution refunds:		
Company	687	
Participants	2,269	
	21,134	15,878
Net assets available for benefits	\$ 77,736,209	\$ 60,694,377

See accompanying notes.

Packaging Corporation of America

Thrift Plan for Hourly Employees

Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

	Year Ended Dec. 31, 2003	Year Ended Dec. 31, 2002
Additions		
Contributions:		
Company	\$ 1,912,967	\$ 1,816,291
Participants	6,959,074	6,554,882
Rollover	45,389	11,257
Net investment income (loss) from Master Trust	11,055,062	(8,150,170)
Interest income, loans	64,283	75,884
Total additions	20,036,775	308,144
Deductions		
Administrative expenses	133,300	131,821
Benefit payments	2,861,643	3,505,182
Total deductions	2,994,943	3,637,003
Net increase (decrease)	17,041,832	(3,328,859)
Net assets available for benefits at beginning of year	60,694,377	64,023,236
Net assets available for benefits at end of year	\$ 77,736,209	\$ 60,694,377

See accompanying notes.

Packaging Corporation of America

Thrift Plan for Hourly Employees

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2003

1. Description of the Plan

The following description of the Packaging Corporation of America (the Company or PCA) Thrift Plan for Hourly Employees (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the applicable Summary Plan Description, including the special appendix sections (Special Appendix) for a more complete description of eligibility requirements, contribution limits, Company matching contributions, if any, and vesting provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan, established February 1, 2000, and is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as amended. The Plan covers eligible hourly employees of the Company, its subsidiaries, and covered groups that have adopted the Plan.

Contributions

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 location's Special Appendix, with such contributions limited to \$12,000 in 2003 for employees under age 50 and \$14,000 for employees age 50 and older. The limit in 2002 was \$11,000 for all employees. The Company contributes on behalf of the participants a matching contribution equal to an amount detailed in each location's Special Appendix.

The Company matching contributions are invested in the Plan's investment funds based on the participant investment elections.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions, Company contributions, and an allocation of Plan earnings/(losses) and is charged with an allocation of administrative expenses. Allocations are based on account balances, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's account.

Vesting

Participants are immediately 100% vested in the value of their pre-tax contributions and rollovers from other qualified plans.

The Company's matching contribution, if any, becomes vested in accordance with the schedule detailed in each covered location's Special Appendix.

Upon attainment of age 65, or termination of employment due to death or permanent disability, a participant will become 100% vested in the Company matching contributions. Forfeited non-vested accounts will be applied to reduce future Company matching contributions.

Investment Options

Participants may elect to invest their account balances in any of the available investment options provided by the Plan.

Participants may change their investment options on any business day.

Benefit Payments

In the event of retirement (as defined), death, permanent disability, or termination of employment, the vested balance in the participant's account will 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 kind.

Certain participants, as specified in each covered location's Special Appendix, who have attained age 55 may elect an in-service withdrawal from the value of their vested Company matching contribution account. Certain participants, as specified in each location's Special Appendix, who have attained age 59½ may elect to withdraw all or part of their entire account balances.

Certain participants, as specified in each covered location's Special Appendix, may, subject to the approval of the Plan Administrator, make a hardship withdrawal from their salary deferral contributions. A hardship withdrawal shall only be made in the event of a financial need constituting a hardship.

Administrative Expenses

Administrative expenses are paid from Plan assets, to the extent not paid by the Company.

Participant Loans

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, which are payable over a term specified by the Plan, bear interest at the prime rate as published by the *Wall Street Journal* and are secured by a participant's account balance in the Plan. Loans must be repaid within 54 months with principal and interest payments made through payroll deductions.

Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, participants will become 100% vested in their accounts.

2. Significant Accounting Policies

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

The Plan's beneficial interest in the PCA Master Trust (Master Trust) represents the Plan's share of the Master Trust's investments stated at fair value. Securities traded on a national securities exchange are valued by the Master Trust at the last reported sales price on the last business day of the plan year; investments traded in the over-the-counter market and listed securities for which no sale was reported on that date are valued by the Master Trust at the average of the last reported bid and ask prices. The fair value of participation units owned by the Master Trust in the common collective trust and mutual funds and the fair value of the commingled fund were based on quoted redemption value on the last business day of the Plan's fiscal year. Participant loans are stated at their unpaid principal balance, which approximates fair value.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date plus one day basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

Contributions

Participant contributions are made through payroll deductions and recorded in the period the deductions are made. Company contributions are deposited as soon as administratively practicable after each pay period.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles 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.

Reclassifications

Certain amounts in the prior year's financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

3. Master Trust

The Master Trust includes assets of the Plan and the Packaging Corporation of America Retirement Savings Plan for Salaried Employees. The Plan's investment in the Master Trust is stated at the Plan's equity in the assets of the Master Trust at December 31, 2003 and 2002.

The following table presents the fair value of investments for the Master Trust:

	December 31,	
	2003	2002
Assets		
Mutual funds	\$ 93,707,825	\$ 61,153,513
Common collective trust fund	61,675,100	60,892,586
Common stock	35,897,056	30,269,524
Commingled fund	15,108,198	10,378,146
Short-term investment fund	331,607	
Total assets	\$ 206,719,786	\$ 162,693,769
Plan's percentage interest in Master Trust at December 31, 2003 and 2002	36.74%	36.28%

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The common stock fund included 1,103,638 and 946,626 shares of PCA, with a market value of \$24,125,536 and \$17,699,259 at December 31, 2003 and 2002, respectively.

Investment income is allocated to each participating plan in the Master Trust at the end of each month. The allocation is based on each plan's individual interest in the Master Trust.

Investment income (loss) for the Master Trust was as follows:

	Year Ended December 31, 2003	Year Ended December 31, 2002
Interest	\$ 2,740,908	\$ 2,950,569
Dividends	1,147,071	1,164,758
Other income	25,142	
Net realized and unrealized appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of:		
Mutual funds	18,857,265	(21,689,641)
Common stock	5,011,561	2,567,464
Commingled fund	3,116,208	(2,983,859)
Total investment income (loss)	\$ 30,898,155	\$ (17,990,709)

4. Tax Status

The Plan has received a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service dated May 9, 2001, 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 and restated. Once qualified, the Plan is required to operate in conformity with the Code to maintain its qualification. The Plan Administrator believes the Plan is being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code and, therefore, believes that the Plan, as amended and restated, is qualified and the related trust is tax exempt.