

Middle East Banks

GCC trip takeaways -Not just about higher rates

Industry Overview

Constructive on GCC banks despite some challenges

We came back constructive on Middle East banks from our recent fieldtrip where we met 18 financial institutions. GCC banks remain relatively insulated from global banking stress but their outlook is mixed as challenges include lower loan growth and asset quality pressures on higher rates, higher cost of funds, FX exposure to Egypt & Turkiye.

Higher rates environment to tame loan growth

Volume growth is expected to slow down across most GCC countries due to rising rates. Dubai based banks have continued to see corporate loans redemptions in 1Q23. In KSA, lower private sector volume growth is partly offset by higher SOE lending.

Time deposit migration manageable; more senior issuance

All banks we met have seen some time deposit migration on higher rates but the shift was manageable as CASA dominate. Saudi banks face liquidity pressures and have been increasingly refinancing part of their mortgage book with the State-owned mortgage finance business SRC. Meanwhile, GCC banks Eurobond issuance is down 21% y/y YTD to \$3.6bn but many banks aim to tap the market in senior format, even UAE banks.

Some asset quality pressure expected in 2H on rates up

Banks we met expect some asset quality pressure in 2H23 from the impact of higher rates on commercial loans, SMEs but also retail, but these should be offset by good recoveries in 1H. In Qatar, domestic banks are exposed to challenged hospitality and commercial real estate as the World cup is behind. In Oman, S2 loans started to ease on better macro. Despite recent market chatter, there remain little interest in NPL sales.

Basel III rules on RWA and liquidity amended in Qatar, KSA

In KSA, SAMA implemented final Basel III rules from Jan 1st with more granular risk-weights favouring banks with large exposures to resi. & commercial mortgages (RWA down to 20-40% based on LTV vs. 50% previously) and high-quality project finance. Also, capital charges on security collateral transactions were eased. In Qatar, the central bank amended its regulatory LDR, LCR and NSFR definitions in Mar. 2022 to incentivize banks to secure longer dated wholesale funding and reduce reliance on non-residents.

ESG getting more traction; medium-term targets needed

GCC banks are gradually embarking on the ESG wagon train with a couple of banks indicating setting up their ESG framework and looking to do more in that space (particularly in terms of "green lending"). Many recognised the need to do more on governance structures (i.e. independent board members, female representation).

Unrealised losses on securities not a cause of concern

We screen the 42 GCC bank Eurobond issuers on their security exposures and changes in 2022, as well as for their other comprehensive loss recorded last year. While the impact on profitability was material in some cases, it never exceeded 6% of banks' equity.

Trading ideas and investment strategies discussed herein may give rise to significant risk and are not suitable for all investors. Investors should have experience in relevant markets and the financial resources to absorb any losses arising from applying these ideas or strategies.

BofA Securities does and seeks to do business with issuers covered in its research reports. As a result, investors should be aware that the firm may have a conflict of interest that could affect the objectivity of this report. Investors should consider this report as only a single factor in making their investment decision.

Refer to important disclosures on page 9 to 11. Analyst Certification on page 8. 12544977

Timestamp: 17 April 2023 04:54AM EDT

17 April 2023

Global Emerging Markets | Corporate Credit
Middle East Banks

Ali Dhaloomal
Research Analyst
MLI (UK)
+44 20 7996 9107
ali.dhaloomal@bofa.com

Kay Hope
Research Analyst
MLI (UK)
+44 20 7995 9301
kay.hope@bofa.com

LDR: Loan to Deposit Ratio

LCR: Liquidity Coverage Ratio

NSFR: Net Stable Funding Ratio

SAMA: Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority

NPL: Non-Performing Loans

UAECB: UAE Central Bank

Higher rates environment to tame loan growth

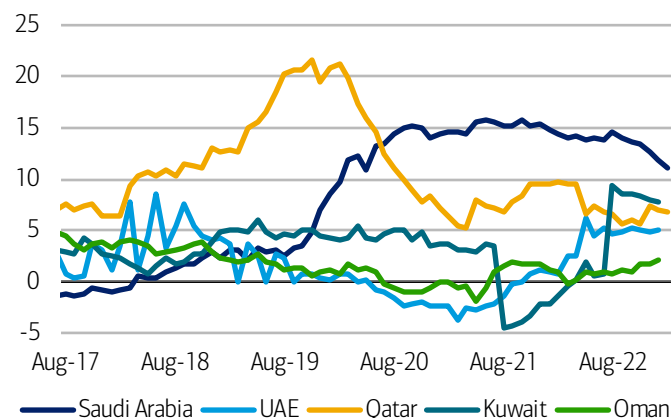
Volume growth is expected to slow down across most GCC countries due to rising interest rates but to remain at healthy levels. Also, Saudi, UAE and Omani banks expect fees and commissions to continue to support the topline on elevated capital market activity and strong demand for some retail products. In Saudi Arabia, lower private sector volume growth is partly mitigated by higher State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) lending (+15% y/y). The lower activity is likely to be more visible in corporate lending (particularly in trade & services, real estate and SMEs segments) and some areas of retail loans (mortgages, credit cards). The latter will remain the loan growth engine in the UAE as corporate loans redemptions have continued in 1Q23. We note though that Abu Dhabi banks see better lending prospects (as evidenced by FAB's strong 12% volume growth in FY22) driven by Government related projects in Abu Dhabi and in Saudi. In Kuwait, retail loan growth is expected to decelerate from its low teens level in absence of the mortgage law which doesn't seem on top of the parliament's agenda. In Oman, banks expect some slowdown as well from an already anaemic loan growth environment of 0-4% these last months (partly due to the Government settling some overdues to corporates which used the proceeds to settle loans). However, a strong of infrastructure projects have been announced lately (i.e. toll roads, green hydrogen, rail link with the UAE) which are likely to serve as a catalyst for higher lending to contractors and sub-contractors involved.

Time deposit migration manageable as CASA remain high

Cost of funding is increasing across countries, though KSA, Qatar and Oman are seeing higher liquidity tensions vs. the rest of the GCC. All banks we met have seen a migration to time deposits, but this was relatively small (+2-3 p.p.) and the share of CASA deposits remain high (even in KSA). Saudi banks' tight liquidity and their need to better manage their asset duration is pushing them to explore alternative funding routes by reselling part of their mortgage book to the Saudi Real Estate Refinancing Co (SRERC) which has now become the 4th largest player in the Saudi mortgage market after the 3 dominant banks in this segment (Al Rajhi – 51% of the loan book, SNB – 25% of the loan book, and Riyadh Bank). In Qatar, we note that while the system LDR has continued to grow driven by the dominant QNB, Qatari banks have seen a reduction in their negative foreign asset (NFA) position to -\$116bn at the end of Feb. vs. a peak of -\$133bn back in mid-2021 partly fuelled by new regulations in 2022 incentivizing banks to reduce their reliance on non-resident liabilities (particularly the short-dated ones).

Exhibit 1: GCC banking systems – y/y private sector growth by country

Private sector loan growth decelerating in KSA (partly balanced by higher Gov. related lending); Oman loan growth starting to slowly pickup

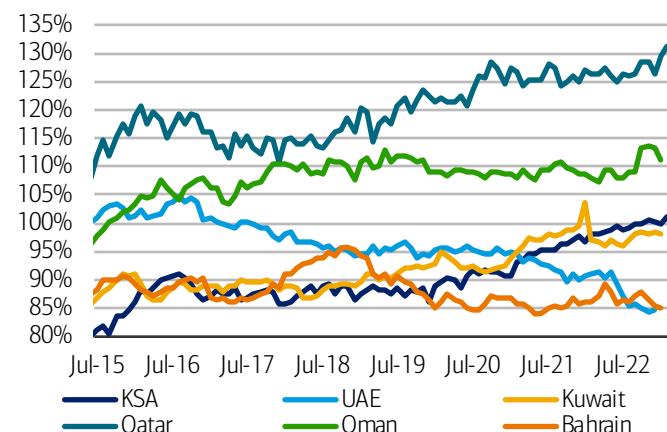


Source: Bloomberg, BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Exhibit 2: GCC banking systems – loan to deposit ratios by country

Liquidity tensions continued to rise in Qatar and Saudi while they eased in the UAE (on corporate loans redemptions which continued in 1Q23)



Source: GCC Banks central banks, BofA Global Research

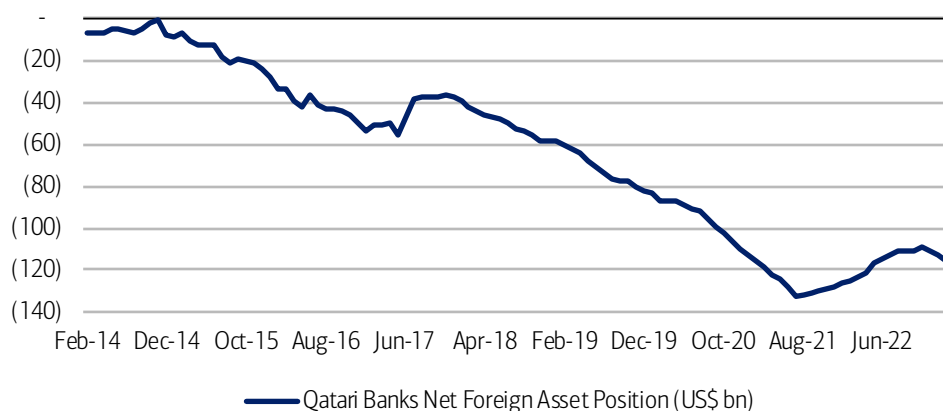
BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Senior issuance dominates; UAE banks most active YTD

We expect GCC banks to tap the Eurobond and sukuk market mainly in senior format as market conditions are currently unfavorable for AT1 transactions. YTD issuance is down 21% y/y to \$3.6bn and dominated by UAE banks despite the UAE banking system being one of the most liquid at this point of time. But we expect senior issuance from Saudi, Qatari, Kuwaiti and Omani banks this year as well. Meanwhile, Kuwaiti banks such as KFH and ABK could potentially issue Tier 2 instruments this year.

Exhibit 3: Qatari net foreign asset position (in US\$ bn)

Qatari banks have reduced their negative NFA by \$17bn since mid-July



Source: Bloomberg, BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Some asset quality pressure expected in 2H on rates up

Banks we met expect some asset quality pressure in 2H23 from the impact of higher rates on commercial loans, SMEs but also retail, but these should be manageable especially that a number of UAE banks expect good recoveries in 1H. In Qatar, domestic banks' relatively large exposure to commercial real estate is a potential risk as the World Cup is behind. The recent establishment of a regulatory authority for the real estate sector and amendments made to some provisions of the real estate development regulatory law may help better professionalize the sector, but concentration to real estate is likely to stay in absence of any major economic diversification. In Oman, the elevated Stage 2 loans (partly driven by the impact on corporates from shelved State infrastructure projects but also due to a conservative classification approach of the central bank) have started to ease to c.17.5% across the system vs. around 20-2% these last recent years. Despite recent chatter about potential NPL sales from UAE, Saudi and Qatari banks, banks we met during our fieldtrip were all dismissive of any plan to dispose NPL portfolios. While most of the GCC banks saw a mild NPL rise in FY22 partly driven by borrowers hit by the pandemic, there was a couple of outliers both in terms of asset quality and capital. Masraf Al Rayan (#3 largest Qatari bank by loans) saw the largest jump in NPLs (6% vs. 1.6% in FY21) driven by some exposure clean up post the merger with Al Khalij Commercial Bank in 4Q21. National champions (QNB, FAB, NBK) saw some pressure of c.30-50bp y/y as well.

Capital remains healthy; erosion at KIB, Bank Muscat

GCC banks remain well capitalised with an average CET1 ratio of 13.7%. Some banks could use their excess buffer for regional M&A, but no major erosion is expected this year despite potential risks (FX translation impact from exposure to Egypt / Turkiye, potential fair value losses on securities, some NIM pressure. In 2022, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) was the most pressured with 200bp of CET1 ratio erosion to 9.1% driven by aggressive corporate loan growth, unrealised security losses and weak profitability. The bank is in the process of a rights issue to reverse the capital erosion and rebuild some buffer above the regulatory minimum (especially that its 'bb-' viability

rating at Fitch is on negative watch). Bank Muscat CET1 was down 360bp y/y to 15.1% but this was due to an exceptional distribution to shareholders in the form of a retail AT1 OMR bond to better optimize the bank's capital structure. On the positive side, BBK saw the largest CET1 increase of 369bp to 26.2% driven by MtM gains on the security book and internal capital generation.

M&A still topical as banks look beyond the region

Banks we met didn't categorically denied recent M&A headlines (i.e. FAB /StanC, ENBD / IDBI) and highlighted how Saudi remains a main growth area as both Egypt and Turkiye are facing macro challenges. Emirates NBD's strong capital position puts the bank in a comfortable position to pursue a cash transaction in our view, while FAB can count on the support of its strong shareholders in case of a capital need. Meanwhile, Saudi banks are focused on their home market which offers robust growth opportunities and are not particularly looking at acquisitions abroad. In Bahrain, BBK sits on a large capital position and could look at potential acquisitions while sector consolidation may be at play over the medium term. Finally, in Oman, while Sohar International Bank is in the process to acquire / merge with both HSBC Oman and Bank Nizwa to become a Top3 bank in the country, Bank Dhofar (Oman's 2nd largest bank) recently launched a non-binder all-paper offer to merge with Ahli United Bank (AUB) Oman. The offer was rejected by AUB's shareholders.

Regulation: B3 rule changes in Qatar and Saudi Arabia

On regulatory frameworks, we see a few recent developments. In Saudi Arabia, SAMA implemented the final Basel III rules since Jan 1st introducing more granular risk-weights which favour banks with large exposures to residential and commercial mortgages (RWA down to 20-40% based on LTV vs. 50% previously) and high-quality project finance (80% RWA in operational phase vs. 100% before). In addition, we understand that the new rules allow for a better capital treatment on security collateral arrangements which should support banks as these increasingly tap SAMA's reverse repo facility. In Qatar, the central bank amended its regulatory LDR, LCR and NSFR definitions in Mar/Apr 2022 to incentivize banks to secure longer dated deposits / wholesale funding and reduce reliance on non-resident funding. It also decided to implement a revised Basel III framework on capital adequacy which will be effective next January. In the UAE, most of the banks are in compliance with the UAECB guideline on overall real estate & construction exposures (incl. mortgages and direct equity or debt investment in companies involved in the sector) to not overshoot 30% of RWA (effective since Jan. 2022 but non-binding at this stage). Finally, in Islamic banking, AAOIFI's revised FAS 1 standards will start applying for Islamic banks from Jan. 2023 in Qatar and Jan. 2024 in Bahrain, improving their financial reporting in line with KSA and UAE Islamic banks.

ESG getting more traction; medium-term targets needed

GCC banks are gradually embarking on the ESG wagon train with a couple of banks indicating setting up their ESG framework and looking to do more in that space (particularly in terms of "green lending"). Many recognised the need to do more on governance structures (i.e. independent board members, female representation). To date, 30% of the GCC bank issuers don't have any rating at MSCI or Sustainalytics, at this point of time, while another 5% are either 'CCC' or 'B' rated. We believe that FAB continues to lead on ESG in the region. FAB is the only regional bank part of the UN sponsored net-zero banking alliance and has started articulating portfolio-level emission reduction targets by 2030 for some sectors (-65% reduction in scope 1 & 2 emissions from the power sector for instance). We note though that ADCB has the best ESG ratings at MSCI and Sustainalytics in the region partly thanks to its robust data protection policies, initiatives to support micro enterprises and limited exposure to carbon intensive sectors of energy and agriculture.

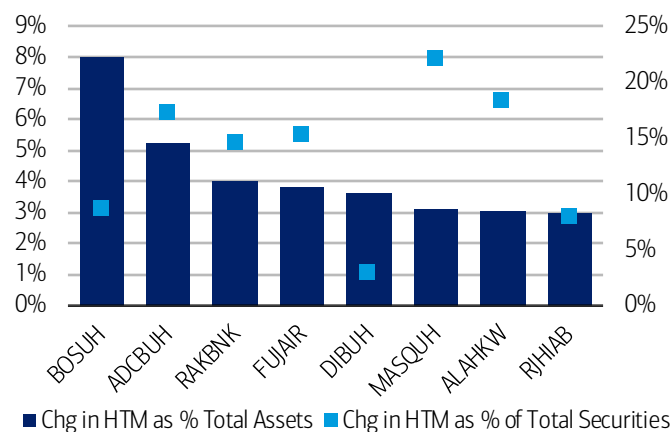
Unrealised losses on securities not a cause of concern

We screened the 42 GCC bank Eurobond issuers on their security exposures and changes

in FY22 as well as for their other comprehensive loss recorded in 2022 (which results in CET1 erosion through the fair value reserve). Kuwait International Bank (solely on securities), Burgan Bank (FX translation impact from Turkish subsidiary + negative change in FV in securities), Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (FX translation impact from Egyptian subsidiary + negative change in FV in securities) and Bank of Sharjah screen as some of the most impacted within the small-sized banks but the impact looks manageable vs. their equity position. Within the larger banks, Bank Saudi Fransi (BSF), Saudi National Bank (SNB) and Mashreqbank have seen the largest impact from comprehensive losses as a percentage of their equity in FY22. We note that First Abu Dhabi Bank had a minor impact in FY22 despite having as much 94% of its security book classifies under either available for sale (FVTOCI) or trading securities (FVTPL).

Exhibit 4: y/y change in the share of securities classified at HTM

In 2022, Bank of Sharjah shifted the larger portion of its security book to HTM as a % of its total assets; HTM securities make 82% of the investment book vs. 73% in FY21 (+9 pp; rhs)

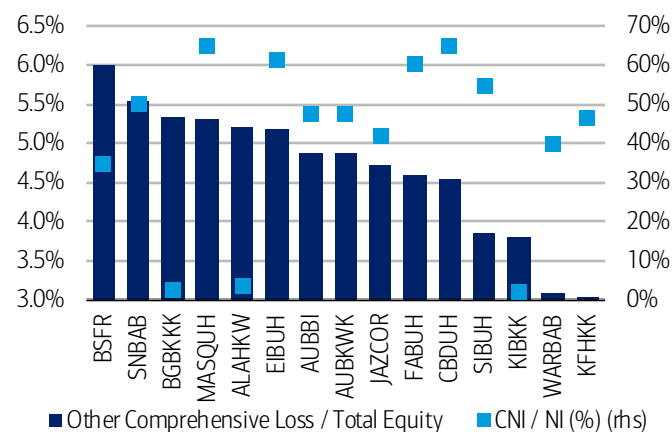


Source: Banks financial disclosures; BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Exhibit 5: FY22 other comprehensive loss as a % Equity

In 2022, Banque Saudi Fransi other comprehensive loss (mainly on a negative change in FV of cash flow hedges) represented 6% of its equity; as a result, its comprehensive net income (CNI) amounted to just 35% of NI



Source: Banks financial disclosures; BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Large other comprehensive losses at Burgan, ABK, KIB

Held to maturity (HTM) securities represent 61% of GCC banks total security book in average and some banks have shifted a material portion of their security book to HTM in 2022. While Commercial Bank of Dubai (CBD) shifted as much as 24% of its security book to HTM, this change only represent 1.8% of its total assets. CBD was followed by Mashreqbank which shifted 22% of its security book to HTM in FY22 representing 3% of its total assets. Bank of Sharjah saw the largest move as a percentage of total assets and this was likely attributable to the bank's exposure to Lebanon Eurobonds. Meanwhile, we screened for other comprehensive losses which we compared to either the equity or net income of the banks. These losses (booked below the NI line) captured 30% of the net income of GCC banks in average and the chart above captures all the cases where these represented more than 50% of net income. Other comprehensive losses captured almost all the net income generated in FY22 for Burgan Bank, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait International Bank. We couldn't do this analysis on Qatari and Bahraini Islamic banks which don't provide any disclosure on other comprehensive income (this will change with the implementation of AAOIFI FAS 1 revised standard in 2023/24).

Standardized AT1/T2 formats; priority of claims untested

GCC banks AT1 instruments follow a similar Basel III compliant structure with no hard trigger on the Point of Non viability (PONV) which is decided by the regulator with a contractual partial or full permanent write off. All the region's AT1s include a discretionary interest / profit rate feature coupled with a dividend stopper. Most of the prospectuses indicate that the issuer intends to respect the hierarchy of the capital

structure, “to the extent possible”, in case of insolvency but this has never been tested in the region.

AUB miss its AT1 call again; all eyes on ADIB and ABK

In late March, Ahli United Bank (Bahrain) didn't exercise its call options on its \$400mn AT1 for the 7th time since the initial call option in April 2020. We believe the non-call is partly driven by the ongoing merger with KFH (Kuwait). The next call decisions to watch will be in late August with both Abu Dhabi Bank and Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait due to decide on their AT1 call option. Based on current cash prices, the market assumes that ADIB AT1 will be called and assign a high call probability on ABK AT1 as well (despite recent price underperformance) despite the lack of “economics” supporting a call decision (as per the table below).

Exhibit 6: GCC Tier 2 and AT1 instruments – The “economics” table

AT1s and Tier 2s with the highest coupon step up reset have a higher chance to be called but some banks may be fine to accept a higher coupon temporarily

Bond Description	Country	Format	Next Call Date	Ask Price (Indic.)	Ask YTM (%)	Ask YTC (%)	Ask Z-Spd (bp)	Reset Spd (bp)	Coupon Step-up if No Call (%)	Curr.	Amount Outstanding	Moody's Rating	S&P Rating	Fitch Rating
ARNBAB 3.326%	KSA	Tier 2	28/10/2025	94.48	6.2	5.7	176	297	3.25	USD	750,000,000	Baa3	NR	BBB-
FABUH 4.5%	UAE	AT1	05/04/2026	94.82	7.4	6.4	266	414	3.24	USD	750,000,000	Baa3	NR	NR
AUBBI 5.839%	Bahrain	AT1	29/10/2023	96.90	8.8	12.1	697	539	3.23	USD	400,000,000	NR	NR	NR
CBDUH 6%	UAE	AT1	21/04/2026	98.74	8.5	6.5	269	560	3.22	USD	600,000,000	NR	NR	NR
KIBKK 2.375%	Kuwait	Tier 2	30/11/2025	90.29	5.9	6.5	257	199	3.22	USD	300,000,000	NR	NR	BBB+
NTBKK 2.5%	Kuwait	Tier 2	24/11/2025	90.98	5.9	6.3	241	211	3.21	USD	300,000,000	Baa1	NR	NR
EBIUH 6.125%	UAE	AT1	09/04/2026	99.37	8.6	6.4	261	570	3.20	USD	750,000,000	NR	NR	NR
BGBKK 2.75%	Kuwait	Tier 2	15/09/2026	77.22	8.0	10.9	727	223	3.08	USD	500,000,000	NR	NR	BBB+
DIBUH 4.625%	UAE	AT1	19/05/2026	94.97	7.4	6.4	270	408	3.08	USD	1,000,000,000	NR	NR	NR
ABQKQD 4%	Qatar	AT1	17/02/2026	89.21	7.2	8.4	404	345	3.05	USD	300,000,000	NR	NR	NR
SNBAB 3.5%	KSA	AT1	26/07/2026	91.45	6.4	6.4	274	289	3.01	USD	1,250,000,000	NR	NR	NR
CBQKQD 4.5%	Qatar	AT1	03/03/2026	90.70	7.5	8.2	399	387	2.97	USD	500,000,000	NR	NR	NR
NTBKK 3.625%	Kuwait	AT1	24/08/2026	87.04	6.7	8.1	443	288	2.87	USD	700,000,000	Baa3	NR	NR
NBOBOM 8%	Oman	AT1	01/04/2026	101.37	9.9	7.5	366	714	2.83	USD	300,000,000	NR	NR	NR
OMAB 7.625%	Oman	AT1	04/06/2026	98.96	9.8	8.0	424	681	2.78	USD	250,000,000	NR	NR	NR
AUBKWK 3.875%	Kuwait	AT1	17/06/2026	91.90	6.6	6.8	303	301	2.74	USD	600,000,000	NR	NR	NR
DUKHAN 3.95%	Qatar	AT1	14/07/2026	93.23	6.5	6.3	258	308	2.73	USD	500,000,000	NR	NR	NR
JAZCOR 3.95%	KSA	AT1	29/06/2026	93.53	6.6	6.2	249	304	2.69	USD	500,000,000	NR	NR	NR
KFHKK 3.6%	Kuwait	AT1	30/06/2026	92.80	6.1	6.1	239	263	2.63	USD	750,000,000	NR	NR	NR
BOUSKK 3.95%	Kuwait	AT1	01/10/2026	91.27	6.6	6.8	316	290	2.63	USD	500,000,000	NR	NR	NR
EBIUH 4.25%	UAE	AT1	27/02/2027	90.04	6.8	7.3	355	316	2.53	USD	750,000,000	NR	NR	NR
DIBUH 3.375%	UAE	AT1	19/10/2026	91.54	5.9	6.1	244	225	2.50	USD	500,000,000	NR	NR	NR
WARBAB 4%	Kuwait	AT1	29/11/2026	92.98	6.3	6.2	256	275	2.35	USD	250,000,000	NR	NR	NR
RIBL 3.174%	KSA	Tier 2	25/02/2025	95.56	5.5	5.7	149	179	2.22	USD	1,500,000,000	Baa3	NR	BBB-
FUJAIR 5.875%	UAE	AT1	01/10/2024	98.03	7.8	7.3	281	430	2.03	USD	350,000,000	NR	NR	NR
NTBKK 4.5%	Kuwait	AT1	27/08/2025	91.89	6.7	8.4	435	283	1.96	USD	750,000,000	Baa3	NR	NR
QIIKQD 4.875%	Qatar	AT1	20/11/2024	98.10	6.7	6.1	173	319	1.91	USD	300,000,000	NR	NR	NR
BGBKK 5.7492%	Kuwait	AT1	09/07/2024	88.88	8.4	16.1	1144	401	1.86	USD	500,000,000	NR	NR	NR
SIB 5%	UAE	AT1	02/07/2025	96.91	6.8	6.5	245	321	1.84	USD	500,000,000	NR	NR	NR
RIBL 4%	KSA	AT1	16/02/2027	92.27	5.8	6.3	255	217	1.77	USD	750,000,000	NR	NR	NR
KIBKK 5.625%	Kuwait	AT1	10/06/2024	98.58	7.2	6.9	219	360	1.58	USD	300,000,000	NR	NR	NR
EBIUH 6.125%	UAE	AT1	20/03/2025	99.15	7.2	6.6	240	366	1.16	USD	1,000,000,000	Ba3u	NR	NR
DIBUH 6.25%	UAE	AT1	22/01/2025	99.96	7.2	6.3	196	366	1.04	USD	750,000,000	B1u	NR	NR
BARKAB 8.775%	Bahrain	AT1	31/05/2023	97.28	9.7	32.5	2945	601	0.90	USD	400,000,000	NR	NR	NR
ADIBUH 7.125%	UAE	AT1	20/09/2023	100.27	7.8	6.4	128	427	0.74	USD	750,000,000	B1	NR	NR
ALAHKW 7.25%	Kuwait	AT1	26/09/2023	98.79	7.9	10.1	498	417	0.60	USD	300,000,000	Ba3	NR	NR
MASQUH 8.5%	UAE	AT1	07/07/2027	103.33	8.6	7.6	400	545	0.55	USD	300,000,000	NR	NR	NR
QATIQD 6.75%	Qatar	Tier 2	07/04/2028	100.59	7.0	6.6	315	354	0.41	USD	400,000,000	NR	BBB	NR
MASQUH 7.875%	UAE	Tier 2	24/11/2027	104.22	7.1	6.8	328	400	-0.28	USD	500,000,000	NR	NR	BBB+

Source: Bloomberg, BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH



**Exhibit 7: GCC banks compsheat**

Based on last reported financials

In USDmn / %	Qatar National Bank	First Abu Dhabi Bank	Saudi National Bank	Emirates NBD	Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank	National Bank of Kuwait	Riyad Bank	Dubai Islamic Bank	Qatar Islamic Bank	Commercial Bank of Qatar	Burgan Bank	
Ticker	QNBK	FABUH	SNBAB	EBIUH	ADCBUH	NTBKKK	RIBL	DIBUH	QIBKQD	COMQAT	BGBKKK	
Period	LTM 1Q23	FY22	FY22	FY22	FY22	FY22	FY22	FY22	LTM 1Q23	FY22	FY22	
Ratings (Moody's/S&P/Fitch)	Aa3 / A / A+	Aa3 / AA- / AA-	A1u / A- / A-	A3 / NR / A+	A1 / A / A+	Aa3 / A+ / AA-	A2u / BBB+ / BBB+	A3 / NR / A	A1 / A- / A	A3 / BBB+ / A	A3 / BBB+ / A+	Avg.
Profitability												
Net Interest Margin	2.9%	3.9%	4.3%	3.6%	2.2%	2.3%	3.5%	3.7%	3.9%	3.0%	2.2%	3.2%
Trading Income / Revenues	7.2%	18.8%	2.3%	0.2%	5.7%	7.1%	1.6%	0.0%	1.7%	5.0%	13.8%	5.8%
Cost-Income	21.3%	32.2%	29.6%	28.5%	35.4%	38.2%	32.4%	26.1%	19.5%	23.5%	43.0%	30.0%
Pre-Provision Profit / Loans	3.6%	6.2%	4.3%	5.6%	3.0%	3.0%	3.8%	4.2%	4.3%	4.3%	3.3%	4.1%
Provisions / Avg. Gross Loans	1.2%	1.3%	0.3%	1.1%	0.8%	0.2%	0.5%	1.1%	0.8%	1.0%	1.2%	0.9%
Return on Average Equity	17.2%	23.5%	11.3%	14.7%	10.1%	11.2%	13.2%	12.8%	15.5%	11.3%	5.1%	13.3%
Return on Average Assets	1.5%	2.5%	1.9%	1.8%	1.3%	1.4%	2.0%	1.9%	2.2%	1.7%	0.7%	1.7%
Liquidity & B/S structure												
Loans (net) / Deposits	97.9%	65.6%	96.0%	82.8%	91.5%	104.1%	101.0%	93.7%	99.8%	117.9%	109.1%	96.3%
Loans (net) / Assets	68.7%	41.4%	57.7%	56.1%	56.2%	57.8%	67.4%	64.5%	66.0%	58.0%	59.4%	59.4%
Deposits / Liabilities	77.0%	70.4%	73.0%	77.5%	69.9%	63.6%	79.1%	81.3%	78.1%	57.9%	63.2%	71.9%
Deposits / Assets	70.3%	63.1%	60.1%	67.8%	61.4%	55.5%	66.7%	68.9%	66.1%	49.2%	54.5%	62.1%
Liquid Assets / Total Assets	18.4%	25.7%	6.1%	33.7%	35.6%	37.3%	15.0%	11.1%	6.7%	22.3%	29.3%	21.9%
Solvency												
Equity (excl. AT1s) / Assets	7.0%	9.4%	15.9%	11.3%	10.9%	11.5%	13.8%	12.4%	13.1%	11.6%	11.6%	11.7%
CET 1 ratio	14.3%	12.6%	16.1%	15.4%	12.4%	12.9%	15.9%	12.9%	15.6%	11.6%	11.1%	13.7%
Tier I Ratio	18.2%	14.5%	18.3%	17.2%	14.1%	15.0%	18.1%	16.5%	18.5%	15.6%	13.6%	16.3%
Total Capital Ratio	19.3%	15.6%	19.0%	18.3%	15.2%	17.4%	21.1%	17.6%	19.6%	17.3%	17.3%	18.0%
Asset quality												
NPLs / Gross Loans	2.8%	3.9%	2.1%	6.0%	5.6%	1.4%	1.7%	7.5%	1.6%	4.9%	2.6%	3.6%
Stage 2 Loans / Gross Loans	6.0%	4.2%	4.5%	6.4%	6.2%	9.1%	5.6%	8.0%	18.1%	17.5%	15.7%	9.2%
Reserves / NPLs	136.4%	100.0%	95.5%	144.6%	69.7%	267.0%	112.0%	60.0%	322.1%	105.4%	152.9%	142.3%
Reserves / NPLs + S2 Loans	43.5%	48.0%	30.8%	70.0%	33.1%	36.0%	26.2%	29.1%	25.7%	23.0%	22.9%	35.3%
Reserves / Gross Loans	3.8%	3.9%	2.0%	8.6%	3.9%	3.8%	1.9%	4.5%	5.1%	5.1%	4.2%	4.3%
LTM y/y performance												
Net Interest Income	25%	23%	19%	37%	15%	12%	21%	22%	4%	11%	11%	18.2%
Pre-Provision Profit	27%	-11%	25%	47%	18%	13%	21%	12%	3%	12%	14%	16.4%
Net Income	27%	7%	46%	40%	23%	38%	16%	26%	12%	22%	21%	25.2%
Loans (net)	6%	12%	10%	-1%	7%	5%	12%	0%	-8%	0%	-8%	3.1%
L/D Ratio (in pt.)	1.0	-1.1	11.5	-9.7	-7.8	-3.8	-1.7	3.0	-3.4	-1.7	9.0	-0.4
Non-Performing Loans	29%	9%	11%	-7%	-5%	45%	16%	6%	-3%	5%	-45%	5.6%
CET1 (in bps)	58	20	-49	24	2	-44	9	50	100	-20	85	21
Total Assets	321,421	302,216	251,596	202,999	135,539	118,730	95,783	78,474	48,629	45,841	22,271	
Total Loans (net)	220,966	125,126	145,107	113,982	77,608	68,609	64,547	50,651	32,084	26,568	13,239	

Source: Banks' financial disclosures, BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Analyst Certification

I, Ali Dhaloomal, hereby certify that the views expressed in this research report accurately reflect my personal views about the subject securities and issuers. I also certify that no part of my compensation was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or view expressed in this research report.

Special Disclosures

Some of the securities discussed herein should only be considered for inclusion in accounts qualified for high risk investment.

Disclosures

Important Disclosures

BofA Global Research Credit Opinion Key

BofA Global Research provides recommendations on an issuer's bonds (including corporate and sovereign external debt securities), loans, capital securities, equity preferreds and CDS as described below. Convertible securities are not rated. An issuer level recommendation may also be provided for an issuer as explained below. BofA Global Research credit recommendations are assigned using a three-month time horizon.

Issuer Recommendations: If an issuer credit recommendation is provided, it is applicable to bonds and capital securities of the issuer except bonds and capital securities specifically referenced in the report with a different credit recommendation. Where there is no issuer credit recommendation, only individual bonds and capital securities with specific recommendations are covered. Loans, CDS and equity preferreds are rated separately and issuer recommendations do not apply to them.

BofA Global Research credit recommendations are assigned using a three-month time horizon:

Overweight: Spreads and /or excess returns are likely to outperform the relevant and comparable market over the next three months.

Marketweight: Spreads and/or excess returns are likely to perform in-line with the relevant and comparable market over the next three months.

Underweight: Spreads and/or excess returns are likely to underperform the relevant and comparable market over the next three months.

BofA Global Research uses the following rating system with respect to **Credit Default Swaps (CDS):**

Buy Protection: Buy CDS, therefore going short credit risk.

Neutral: No purchase or sale of CDS is recommended.

Sell Protection: Sell CDS, therefore going long credit risk.

BofA Global Research personnel (including the analyst(s) responsible for this report) receive compensation based upon, among other factors, the overall profitability of Bank of America Corporation, including profits derived from investment banking. The analyst(s) responsible for this report may also receive compensation based upon, among other factors, the overall profitability of the Bank's sales and trading businesses relating to the class of securities or financial instruments for which such analyst is responsible. BofA Securities fixed income analysts regularly interact with sales and trading desk personnel in connection with their research, including to ascertain pricing and liquidity in the fixed income markets.

Other Important Disclosures

From time to time research analysts conduct site visits of covered issuers. BofA Global Research policies prohibit research analysts from accepting payment or reimbursement for travel expenses from the issuer for such visits.

Prices are indicative and for information purposes only. Except as otherwise stated in the report, for any recommendation in relation to an equity security, the price referenced is the publicly traded price of the security as of close of business on the day prior to the date of the report or, if the report is published during intraday trading, the price referenced is indicative of the traded price as of the date and time of the report and in relation to a debt security (including equity preferred and CDS), prices are indicative as of the date and time of the report and are from various sources including BofA Securities trading desks.

The date and time of completion of the production of any recommendation in this report shall be the date and time of dissemination of this report as recorded in the report timestamp.

This report may refer to fixed income securities or other financial instruments that may not be offered or sold in one or more states or jurisdictions, or to certain categories of investors, including retail investors. Readers of this report are advised that any discussion, recommendation or other mention of such instruments is not a solicitation or offer to transact in such instruments. Investors should contact their BofA Securities representative or Merrill Global Wealth Management financial advisor for information relating to such instruments.

Rule 144A securities may be offered or sold only to persons in the U.S. who are Qualified Institutional Buyers within the meaning of Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. SECURITIES OR OTHER FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS DISCUSSED HEREIN MAY BE RATED BELOW INVESTMENT GRADE AND SHOULD THEREFORE ONLY BE CONSIDERED FOR INCLUSION IN ACCOUNTS QUALIFIED FOR SPECULATIVE INVESTMENT.

Recipients who are not institutional investors or market professionals should seek the advice of their independent financial advisor before considering information in this report in connection with any investment decision, or for a necessary explanation of its contents.

The securities or other financial instruments discussed in this report may be traded over-the-counter. Retail sales and/or distribution of this report may be made only in states where these instruments are exempt from registration or have been qualified for sale.

Officers of BofA or one or more of its affiliates (other than research analysts) may have a financial interest in securities of the issuer(s) or in related investments.

This report, and the securities or other financial instruments discussed herein, may not be eligible for distribution or sale in all countries or to certain categories of investors, including retail investors.

Information relating to Affiliates of BofA, MLPF&S and Distribution of Affiliate Research Reports:

Refer to [BofA Global Research policies relating to conflicts of interest](#).

"BofA Securities" includes BofA Securities, Inc. ("BofA") and its affiliates. Investors should contact their BofA Securities representative or Merrill Global Wealth Management financial advisor if they have questions concerning this report or concerning the appropriateness of any investment idea described herein for such investor. "BofA Securities" is a global brand for BofA Global Research.

BofA and/or Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated ("MLPF&S") may in the future distribute, information of the following non-US affiliates in the US (short name: legal name, regulator): Merrill Lynch (South Africa): Merrill Lynch South Africa (Pty) Ltd., regulated by The Financial Service Board; MLI (UK): Merrill Lynch International, regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA); BofASE (France): BofA Securities Europe SA is authorized by the Autorité de Contrôle Prudentiel et de Résolution (ACPR) and regulated by the ACPR and the Autorité des Marchés Financiers (AMF). BofA Securities Europe SA ("BofASE") with registered address at 51, rue La Boétie, 75008 Paris is registered under no. 842 602 690 RCS Paris. In accordance with the provisions of French Code Monétaire et Financier (Monetary and Financial Code), BofASE is an établissement de crédit et d'investissement (credit and investment institution) that is authorised and supervised by the European Central Bank and the Autorité de Contrôle Prudentiel et de Résolution (ACPR) and regulated by the ACPR and the Autorité des Marchés Financiers. BofASE's share capital can be found at www.bofam.com/BofASEdisclaimer; BofA Europe (Milan): Bank of America Europe Designated Activity Company, Milan Branch, regulated by the Bank of Italy, the European Central Bank (ECB) and the Central Bank of Ireland (CBI); BofA Europe (Frankfurt): Bank of America Europe Designated Activity Company, Frankfurt Branch regulated by BaFin, the ECB and the CBI; BofA Europe (Madrid): Bank of America Europe Designated Activity Company, Sucursal en España, regulated by the Bank of Spain, the ECB and the CBI; Merrill Lynch (Australia): Merrill Lynch Equities (Australia) Limited, regulated by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission; Merrill Lynch (Hong Kong): Merrill Lynch (Asia Pacific) Limited, regulated by the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission (HKSF); Merrill Lynch (Singapore): Merrill Lynch (Singapore) Pte Ltd, regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS); Merrill Lynch (Canada): Merrill Lynch Canada Inc, regulated by the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada; Merrill Lynch (Mexico): Merrill Lynch Mexico, SA de CV, Casa de Bolsa, regulated by the Comisión Nacional Bancaria y de Valores; Merrill Lynch (Argentina): Merrill Lynch Argentina SA, regulated by Comisión Nacional de Valores; BofA Japan: BofA Securities Japan Co., Ltd., regulated by the Financial Services Agency; Merrill Lynch (Seoul): Merrill Lynch International, LLC Seoul Branch, regulated by the Financial Supervisory Service; Merrill Lynch (Taiwan): Merrill Lynch Securities (Taiwan) Ltd., regulated by the Securities and Futures Bureau; BofA India: BofA Securities India Limited, regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI); Merrill Lynch (Israel): Merrill Lynch Israel Limited, regulated by Israel Securities Authority; Merrill Lynch (DIFC): Merrill Lynch International (DIFC Branch), regulated by the Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA); Merrill Lynch (Brazil): Merrill Lynch S.A. Corretora de Títulos e Valores Mobiliários, regulated by Comissão de Valores Mobiliários; Merrill Lynch KSA Company: Merrill Lynch Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Company, regulated by the Capital Market Authority.



This information: has been approved for publication and is distributed in the United Kingdom (UK) to professional clients and eligible counterparties (as each is defined in the rules of the FCA and the PRA) by MLI (UK), which is authorized by the PRA and regulated by the FCA and the PRA - details about the extent of our regulation by the FCA and PRA are available from us on request; has been approved for publication and is distributed in the European Economic Area (EEA) by BofA (France), which is authorized by the ACPR and regulated by the ACPR and the AMF; has been considered and distributed in Japan by BofA Japan, a registered securities dealer under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act in Japan, or its permitted affiliates; is issued and distributed in Hong Kong by Merrill Lynch (Hong Kong) which is regulated by HKSCF; is issued and distributed in Taiwan by Merrill Lynch (Taiwan); is issued and distributed in India by BofA India; and is issued and distributed in Singapore to institutional investors and/or accredited investors (each as defined under the Financial Advisers Regulations) by Merrill Lynch (Singapore) (Company Registration No 198602883D). Merrill Lynch (Singapore) is regulated by MAS. Merrill Lynch Equities (Australia) Limited (ABN 65 006 276 795), AFS License 235132 (MLEA) distributes this information in Australia only to 'Wholesale' clients as defined by s.761G of the Corporations Act 2001. With the exception of Bank of America N.A., Australia Branch, neither MLEA nor any of its affiliates involved in preparing this information is an Authorised Deposit-Taking Institution under the Banking Act 1959 nor regulated by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority. No approval is required for publication or distribution of this information in Brazil and its local distribution is by Merrill Lynch (Brazil) in accordance with applicable regulations. Merrill Lynch (DIFC) is authorized and regulated by the DFSA. Information prepared and issued by Merrill Lynch (DIFC) is done so in accordance with the requirements of the DFSA conduct of business rules. BofA Europe (Frankfurt) distributes this information in Germany and is regulated by BaFin, the ECB and the CBI. BofA Securities entities, including BofA Europe and BofA (France), may outsource/delegate the marketing and/or provision of certain research services or aspects of research services to other branches or members of the BofA Securities group. You may be contacted by a different BofA Securities entity acting for and on behalf of your service provider where permitted by applicable law. This does not change your service provider. Please refer to the [Electronic Communications Disclaimers](#) for further information.

This information has been prepared and issued by BofA and/or one or more of its non-US affiliates. The author(s) of this information may not be licensed to carry on regulated activities in your jurisdiction and, if not licensed, do not hold themselves out as being able to do so. BofA and/or MLPF&S is the distributor of this information in the US and accepts full responsibility for information distributed to BofA and/or MLPF&S clients in the US by its non-US affiliates. Any US person receiving this information and wishing to effect any transaction in any security discussed herein should do so through BofA and/or MLPF&S and not such foreign affiliates. Hong Kong recipients of this information should contact Merrill Lynch (Asia Pacific) Limited in respect of any matters relating to dealing in securities or provision of specific advice on securities or any other matters arising from, or in connection with, this information. Singapore recipients of this information should contact Merrill Lynch (Singapore) Pte Ltd in respect of any matters arising from, or in connection with, this information. For clients that are not accredited investors, expert investors or institutional investors Merrill Lynch (Singapore) Pte Ltd accepts full responsibility for the contents of this information distributed to such clients in Singapore.

General Investment Related Disclosures:

Taiwan Readers: Neither the information nor any opinion expressed herein constitutes an offer or a solicitation of an offer to transact in any securities or other financial instrument. No part of this report may be used or reproduced or quoted in any manner whatsoever in Taiwan by the press or any other person without the express written consent of BofA Securities. This document provides general information only, and has been prepared for, and is intended for general distribution to, BofA Securities clients. Neither the information nor any opinion expressed constitutes an offer or an invitation to make an offer, to buy or sell any securities or other financial instrument or any derivative related to such securities or instruments (e.g., options, futures, warrants, and contracts for differences). This document is not intended to provide personal investment advice and it does not take into account the specific investment objectives, financial situation and the particular needs of, and is not directed to, any specific person(s). This document and its content do not constitute, and should not be considered to constitute, investment advice for purposes of ERISA, the US tax code, the Investment Advisers Act or otherwise. Investors should seek financial advice regarding the appropriateness of investing in financial instruments and implementing investment strategies discussed or recommended in this document and should understand that statements regarding future prospects may not be realized. Any decision to purchase or subscribe for securities in any offering must be based solely on existing public information on such security or the information in the prospectus or other offering document issued in connection with such offering, and not on this document.

Securities and other financial instruments referred to herein, or recommended, offered or sold by BofA Securities, are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and are not deposits or other obligations of any insured depository institution (including, Bank of America, N.A.). Investments in general and, derivatives, in particular, involve numerous risks, including, among others, market risk, counterparty default risk and liquidity risk. No security, financial instrument or derivative is suitable for all investors. Digital assets are extremely speculative, volatile and are largely unregulated. In some cases, securities and other financial instruments may be difficult to value or sell and reliable information about the value or risks related to the security or financial instrument may be difficult to obtain. Investors should note that income from such securities and other financial instruments, if any, may fluctuate and that price or value of such securities and instruments may rise or fall and, in some cases, investors may lose their entire principal investment. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Levels and basis for taxation may change.

BofA Securities is aware that the implementation of the ideas expressed in this report may depend upon an investor's ability to "short" securities or other financial instruments and that such action may be limited by regulations prohibiting or restricting "shortselling" in many jurisdictions. Investors are urged to seek advice regarding the applicability of such regulations prior to executing any short idea contained in this report.

This report may contain a trading idea or recommendation which highlights a specific identified near-term catalyst or event impacting a security, issuer, industry sector or the market generally that presents a transaction opportunity, but does not have any impact on the analyst's particular "Overweight" or "Underweight" rating (which is based on a three month trade horizon). Trading ideas and recommendations may differ directionally from the analyst's rating on a security or issuer because they reflect the impact of a near-term catalyst or event.

Certain investment strategies and financial instruments discussed herein may only be appropriate for consideration in accounts qualified for high risk investment.

Foreign currency rates of exchange may adversely affect the value, price or income of any security or financial instrument mentioned in this report. Investors in such securities and instruments effectively assume currency risk.

BofA or one of its affiliates is a regular issuer of traded financial instruments linked to securities that may have been recommended in this report. BofA or one of its affiliates may, at any time, hold a trading position (long or short) in the securities and financial instruments discussed in this report.

BofA Securities, through business units other than BofA Global Research, may have issued and may in the future issue trading ideas or recommendations that are inconsistent with, and reach different conclusions from, the information presented herein. Such ideas or recommendations may reflect different time frames, assumptions, views and analytical methods of the persons who prepared them, and BofA Securities is under no obligation to ensure that such other trading ideas or recommendations are brought to the attention of any recipient of this information.

In the event that the recipient received this information pursuant to a contract between the recipient and BofA for the provision of research services for a separate fee, and in connection therewith BofA may be deemed to be acting as an investment adviser, such status relates, if at all, solely to the person with whom BofA has contracted directly and does not extend beyond the delivery of this report (unless otherwise agreed specifically in writing by BofA). If such recipient uses the services of BofA in connection with the sale or purchase of a security referred to herein, BofA may act as principal for its own account or as agent for another person. BofA is and continues to act solely as a broker-dealer in connection with the execution of any transactions, including transactions in any securities referred to herein.

Copyright and General Information:

Copyright 2023 Bank of America Corporation. All rights reserved. iQDatabase® is a registered service mark of Bank of America Corporation. This information is prepared for the use of BofA Securities clients and may not be redistributed, retransmitted or disclosed, in whole or in part, or in any form or manner, without the express written consent of BofA Securities. BofA Global Research information is distributed simultaneously to internal and client websites and other portals by BofA Securities and is not publicly-available material. Any unauthorized use or disclosure is prohibited. Receipt and review of this information constitutes your agreement not to redistribute, retransmit, or disclose to others the contents, opinions, conclusion, or information contained herein (including any investment recommendations, estimates or price targets) without first obtaining express permission from an authorized officer of BofA Securities.

Materials prepared by BofA Global Research personnel are based on public information. Facts and views presented in this material have not been reviewed by, and may not reflect information known to, professionals in other business areas of BofA Securities, including investment banking personnel. BofA Securities has established information barriers between BofA Global Research and certain business groups. As a result, BofA Securities does not disclose certain client relationships with, or compensation received from, such issuers. To the extent this material discusses any legal proceeding or issues, it has not been prepared as nor is it intended to express any legal conclusion, opinion or advice. Investors should consult their own legal advisers as to issues of law relating to the subject matter of this material. BofA Global Research personnel's knowledge of legal proceedings in which any BofA Securities entity and/or its directors, officers and employees may be plaintiffs, defendants, co-defendants or co-plaintiffs with or involving issuers mentioned in this material is based on public information. Facts and views presented in this material that relate to any such proceedings have not been reviewed by, discussed with, and may not reflect information known to, professionals in other business areas of BofA Securities in connection with the legal proceedings or matters relevant to such proceedings.

This information has been prepared independently of any issuer of securities mentioned herein and not in connection with any proposed offering of securities or as agent of any issuer of any securities. None of BofA or any of its affiliates or their research analysts has any authority whatsoever to make any representation or warranty on behalf of the issuer(s). BofA Global Research policy prohibits research personnel from disclosing a recommendation, investment rating, or investment thesis for review by an issuer prior to the publication of a research report containing

such rating, recommendation or investment thesis.

Any information relating to the tax status of financial instruments discussed herein is not intended to provide tax advice or to be used by anyone to provide tax advice. Investors are urged to seek tax advice based on their particular circumstances from an independent tax professional.

The information herein (other than disclosure information relating to BofA Securities and its affiliates) was obtained from various sources and we do not guarantee its accuracy. This information may contain links to third-party websites. BofA Securities is not responsible for the content of any third-party website or any linked content contained in a third-party website. Content contained on such third-party websites is not part of this information and is not incorporated by reference. The inclusion of a link does not imply any endorsement by or any affiliation with BofA Securities. Access to any third-party website is at your own risk, and you should always review the terms and privacy policies at third-party websites before submitting any personal information to them. BofA Securities is not responsible for such terms and privacy policies and expressly disclaims any liability for them.

All opinions, projections and estimates constitute the judgment of the author as of the date of publication and are subject to change without notice. Prices also are subject to change without notice. BofA Securities is under no obligation to update this information and BofA Securities ability to publish information on the subject issuer(s) in the future is subject to applicable quiet periods. You should therefore assume that BofA Securities will not update any fact, circumstance or opinion contained herein.

Certain outstanding reports or investment opinions relating to securities, financial instruments and/or issuers may no longer be current. Always refer to the most recent research report relating to an issuer prior to making an investment decision.

In some cases, an issuer may be classified as Restricted or may be Under Review or Extended Review. In each case, investors should consider any investment opinion relating to such issuer (or its security and/or financial instruments) to be suspended or withdrawn and should not rely on the analyses and investment opinion(s) pertaining to such issuer (or its securities and/or financial instruments) nor should the analyses or opinion(s) be considered a solicitation of any kind. Sales persons and financial advisors affiliated with BofAS or any of its affiliates may not solicit purchases of securities or financial instruments that are Restricted or Under Review and may only solicit securities under Extended Review in accordance with firm policies.

Neither BofA Securities nor any officer or employee of BofA Securities accepts any liability whatsoever for any direct, indirect or consequential damages or losses arising from any use of this information.