

### Citizens Financial Group

# Rate-cut expectations to drive investor sentiment

Reiterate Rating: NEUTRAL | PO: 37.00 USD | Price: 31.73 USD

### **Quarter meets expectations**

Citizens Financial Group (CFG) reported 4Q23 core EPS of \$0.85 vs. our/cons forecast of \$0.85/\$0.80. Net interest income (NII) and expenses were in line with our expectations, fees lighter (-3.7%), provisioning costs lower (-5.0%). Revise FY24/25e EPS to \$3.18/\$3.90 from \$3.06/\$3.80 on lower credit costs and higher fee revenue outlooks. CET1 capital ratio +20bp QoQ to 10.6% (9.0% including AOCI) vs. mgmt's 10.5% target. Mgmt. guidance calls for \$300mn in share buybacks in 1Q24, with expectation for buybacks to continue through 2024. Our forecast implies buybacks of \$800mn for FY24.

### Valuation undemanding, but reflects challenged ROTCE

Stock reacted positively to management's update, likely influenced by short covering given the still elevated short interest. We view the stock as a beneficiary of a potential soft-landing scenario (lower rates, less credit stress both positives) and expect the macro-outlook to influence investor sentiment towards the name. Valuation undemanding at 0.9x YE24e TBV (vs. our 10% FY24e ROTCE forecast) and 10x 2024e P/E. Mgmt. maintained its medium-term ROTCE target of 16-18%, not reflected in our forecast through 2026. See risk/reward as balanced based on EPS forecast and EPS headwind from fewer rate-cuts. Reiterate Neutral. Our \$37 PO (\$35 prior) reflects EPS revisions.

### Strategic actions could drive superior growth

Mgmt. highlighted the opportunity in the Private Bank, expecting to breakeven in 2H24, aiming to hire multiple wealth teams and open 5-6 new offices. Reiterated private bank balance sheet targets: \$9bn loans (\$0.3bn YE23), \$11bn deposits (\$1.2bn), \$10bn AUM (\$0.4bn) by YE25. Additionally, focus on growing market share in the NYC metro region (acquired NJ based Investors Bancorp, HSBC branches) and on growing the private equity focused offerings have the potential to drive superior growth. However, execution risk is not immaterial given what remains an intensely competitive operating environment.

### Margin bottom key to driving improved returns

While mgmt. is focused on growing fee revenues, the revenue mix remains reliant on spread income ( $\sim$ 75% of revenues). As a result, the trajectory of the net interest margin (NIM) will be key to whether CFG can make progress towards achieving its medium-term ROTCE target. Outlook for NIM to be impacted by depositor behavior, timing/frequency of Fed rate-cuts and mgmt's ability to meet its growth target. We forecast an average NIM of 2.83%/2.87% for FY24/25e, imply NII -9%/+4%, respectively.

Estimates (Dec) (US\$)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
EPS	4.84	3.87	3.18	3.90	4.48
GAAP EPS	4.10	3.13	3.18	3.90	4.48
EPS Change (YoY)	-9.4%	-19.9%	-18.0%	22.7%	14.8%
Consensus EPS (Bloomberg)			3.33	4.08	3.85
DPS	1.62	1.68	1.71	1.77	1.84
Valuation (Dec)					
P/E	6.4x	8.1x	9.8x	8.0x	7.0x
GAAP P/E	7.6x	10.0x	9.8x	8.0x	7.0x
Dividend Yield	5.2%	5.4%	5.5%	5.7%	5.9%

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Refer to important disclosures on page 7 to 9. Analyst Certification on page 4. Price
Objective Basis/Risk on page 4.

Timestamp: 17 January 2024 06:12PM EST

#### 17 January 2024

#### Equity

Key Changes		
(US\$)	Previous	Current
Price Obj.	35.00	37.00
2024E Rev (m)	7,825.0	7,822.7
2025E Rev (m)	8,236.7	8,171.3
2026E Rev (m)	8,505.8	8,556.5
2024E EPS	3.06	3.18
2025E EPS	3.80	3.90
2026E EPS	4.05	4.48

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#### **Stock Data**

Price	31.73 USD
Price Objective	37.00 USD
Date Established	17-Jan-2024
Investment Opinion	B-2-7
52-Week Range	22.77 USD -44.82 USD
Mrkt Val / Shares Out (mn)	17,131 USD / 539.9
Free Float	95.1%
Average Daily Value	173.28 USD
BofA Ticker / Exchange	CFG / NYS
Bloomberg / Reuters	CFG US / CFG.N
ROE (2024E)	6.3%
ESGMeter™	High

ESGMeter is not indicative of a company's future stock price performance and is not an investment recommendation or rating. ESGMeter is independent of BofA Global Research's equity investment rating, volatility risk rating, income rating, and price objective for that company. For full details, referrito "BofA ESGMeter Methodology".

## **iQ**profile<sup>™</sup> Citizens Financial Group

Income Statement Data (Dec)					
(US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026
Net Interest Income	6,023	6,258	5,714	5,926	6,250
% change	33.2%	3.9%	-8.7%	3.7%	5.5%
Net Fee Income	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Securities Gains / (Losses)	9	28	0	0	C
Total Operating Income	8,063	8,241	7,823	8,171	8,557
Operating Expenses	(4,630)	(5,001)	(5,078)	(5,176)	(5,332)
% change	16.4%	8.0%	1.5%	1.9%	3.0%
Provisions Expense	(305)	(687)	(720)	(650)	(700)
% change	NA	125.2%	4.8%	-9.7%	7.7%
Operating Pre-Tax Income	3,128	2,553	2,025	2,346	2,524
Operating Net Income to Comm S/Hold.	2,521	2,094	1,658	1,855	1,978
GAAP Net Income	2,634	2,211	1,792	1,992	2,115
Balance Sheet Data (Dec)					
(US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026
Total Assets	226,733	221,964	223,539	227,261	233,588
Average Interest Earning Assets	194,013	201,691	202,124	206,216	211,860
Total Gross Customer Loans	157,644	146,738	151,469	156,432	162,758
% change	19.8%	-6.9%	3.2%	3.3%	4.0%
Total Customer Deposits	180,724	177,342	179,498	185,175	191,225
% change	17.1%	-1.9%	1.2%	3.2%	3.3%
Tangible Equity	13,730	14,416	15,613	16,591	17,610
Common Shareholders' Equity	21,676	22,328	23,518	24,454	25,457
Key Metrics (Dec)					
(US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026
Net Interest Margin	3.10%	3.10%	2.83%	2.87%	2.95%
Effective Tax Rate	22.5%	23.0%	22.1%	22.5%	22.5%
Loan / Deposit Ratio	87.2%	82.7%	84.4%	84.5%	85.1%
Tangible Common Equity / Assets	6.1%	6.5%	7.0%	7.3%	7.5%
ROA	1.1%	0.8%	0.6%	0.7%	0.8%
ROE	10.6%	8.6%	6.3%	7.0%	7.3%
RoTE	16.3%	13.1%	9.6%	10.4%	10.6%
Dividend Payout Ratio	30.7%	38.3%	46.7%	41.2%	37.9%
Efficiency Ratio (Cost / Income Ratio)	57.5%	60.9%	64.9%	63.3%	62.3%
Quality of Earnings (Dec)					
(US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
Total Non-Interest Inc / Operating Inc	25.3%	24.1%	27.0%	27.5%	27.0%
NPLs plus Foreclosed Real Estate / Loans	0.6%	0.9%	1.4%	1.4%	1.5%
Loan Loss Reserves / NPLs	206.56%	152.25%	99.18%	85.82%	80.10%
Loan Loss Reserves / Total Loans	1.26%	1.43%	1.35%	1.24%	1.22%

### **Company Sector**

Banks-US Regionals

### **Company Description**

CFG operates 1,200 branches primarily throughout 11 states across the New England, Mid-Atlantic and Midwest regions. It has consolidated total assets of \$227 billion. CFG offers a broad range of retail and commercial banking products and services to more than five million individuals, institutions, and companies.

#### **Investment Rationale**

While we don't see absolute downside in the stock from current levels, we don't believe valuation support will be enough to drive sustained stock outperformance and we see better relative risk/reward elsewhere in the group. Given our cautious view on the sector, we see downside risk to consensus EPS from higher funding costs and worsening credit quality.

Stock Data	
Average Daily Volume	5,461,167

### **Quarterly Earnings Estimates**

	2023	2024
Q1	1.10A	0.78E
Q2	1.04A	0.84E
Q3	0.89A	0.75E
Q4	0.85A	0.80E

**Exhibit 1: CFG Variance Table**New vs. old EPS estimates, assumptions

KEY FORECAST VARIABLES:	Actual <b>4Q23</b>	Estimate <b>4Q23E</b>	Variance	New <b>2024E</b>	Old <b>2024E</b>	Variance	New <b>2025E</b>	Old <b>2025E</b>	Variance
EOP Loans	146,738	149,337	-1.74%	151,469	151,730	-0.17%	156,432	156,705	-0.17%
Average Loans	149,235	149,965	-0.49%	148,412	150,427	-1.34%	153,951	154,218	-0.17%
Average Earning Assets	203,121	198,907	2.12%	202,124	197,248	2.47%	206,216	200,367	2.92%
Net Interest Margin (%)	2.91	2.98	-7bp	2.83	2.93	-10bp	2.87	3.01	-14bp
Net Interest Income (FTE)	1,492.0	1,496.5	-0.30%	5,714.1	5,772.6	-1.01%	5,925.8	6,033.8	-1.79%
Loan Loss Provision	171.0	180.0	-5.00%	720.0	800.0	-10.00%	650.0	700.0	-7.14%
Noninterest Revenues	491.0	509.9	-3.70%	2,108.6	2,052.3	2.74%	2,245.5	2,202.9	1.93%
Tot. Revenue	1,992	2,006	-0.72%	7,823	7,825	-0.03%	8,171	8,237	-0.79%
Total Expenses	1,267.0	1,270.7	-0.29%	5,077.8	5,006.0	1.43%	5,175.8	5,124.7	1.00%
Pre-Tax Income (FTE)	554.0	555.7	-0.31%	2,024.9	2,019.0	0.29%	2,345.5	2,411.9	-2.75%
FTE Tax Rate (%)	22.5	22.0	1pp	21.5	22.5	-1pp	22.0	22.5	Орр
Net Income	426.0	430.3	-1.01%	1,577.0	1,552.3	1.59%	1,817.0	1,856.8	-2.14%
Available For Common	396.0	399.9	-4mn	1,442.5	1,417.8	25mn	1,680.5	1,720.0	-40mn
Op. EARNINGS PER SHARE (F.D.)	\$0.85	\$0.85	-1%	\$3.18	\$3.06	4%	\$3.90	\$3.80	3%
GAAP EPS (F.D.)	\$0.34	\$0.50	-33%	\$3.18	\$3.06	4%	\$3.90	\$3.80	3%
GAA! E! 3 (1.b.)	Ş0.5 <del>1</del>	<b>\$0.50</b>	-55 /0	\$5.10	<del></del>	7 /0	\$5.50	\$5.00	3 /0
Book Value Per Share	\$47.87	\$45.54	\$2.33	\$53.22	\$50.10	\$3.11	\$58.58	\$54.52	\$4.07
Tangible Book Value Per Share	\$30.91	\$28.52	\$2.38	\$35.33	\$32.73	\$2.60	\$39.75	\$36.84	\$2.90
Dividends Per Share	\$0.42	\$0.42	\$0.00	\$1.71	\$1.71	\$0.00	\$1.77	\$1.77	\$0.00
Average Fully-Diluted Shares	468.2	467.7	0mn	454.0	462.7	-9mn	431.2	452.7	-22mn
CAPITAL RATIOS:									
EOP Common Equity/Assets (%)	10.06	9.41	65bp	10.52	10.23	29bp	10.76	10.68	8bp
Tang. Common Equity/Assets (%)	6.73	6.11	63bp	7.24	6.93	31bp	7.56	7.48	9bp
Tangible Common Equity/RWA (%)	8.35	7.57	78bp	9.16	8.59	57bp	9.57	9.27	30bp
Tier 1 Common/RWA (%)	10.64	10.48	16bp	10.64	10.71	-6bp	10.43	10.77	-34bp
Tier 1/RWA (%)	11.80	11.62	18bp	11.82	11.86	-4bp	11.60	11.91	-31bp
PROFITABILITY RATIOS:									
Return On Assets (%)	0.76	0.76	0bp	0.70	0.69	2bp	0.81	0.82	-2bp
Return On Common Equity (%)	7.41	7.54	-13bp	6.30	6.43	-12bp	7.01	7.29	-28bp
Return On Tangible Common Equity (%)	11.83	12.10	-27bp	9.63	10.03	-40bp	10.44	10.97	-53bp
Operating Expenses/Revenues (%)	63.89	63.33	56bp	64.9	63.97	94bp	63.3	62.22	112bp
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BALANCE SHEET ITEMS:									
EOP Total Deposits	177,342	178,761	-0.79%	179,498	177,807	0.95%	185,175	183,080	
AVG Total Deposits	177,128	178,479	-0.76%	179,099	178,617	0.27%	182,337	180,444	1.05%
EOP Total Assets	221,964	225,727	-1.67%	223,539	223,504	0.02%	227,261	227,821	-0.25%
EOP Equity	24,342	23,246	4.71%	25,532	24,872	2.65%	26,468	26,340	
EOP Preferred Equity	2,014	2,014	0.00%	2,014	2,014	0.00%	2,014	2,014	0.00%
EOP Common Equity	22,328	21,232	5.16%	23,518	22,858	2.89%	24,454	24,326	0.53%
EOP Tangible Common Equity	14,416	13,298	8.41%	15,613	14,932	4.57%	16,591	16,441	0.91%
CREDIT QUALITY INDICATORS:									
Net Charge-Offs	171	170	0.59%	780	820	-4.88%	750	750	0.00%
% Average Loans	0.45	0.45	0bp	0.53	0.55	-2bp	0.49	0.49	
Nonperforming Assets	1,378	1,640	•	2,055	2,444		2,258	2,685	-15.91%
% EOP Loans + OREO	0.94	1.10	-16bp	1.36	1.61	-25bp	1.44	1.71	-27bp
Nonperforming Loans	1,378	1,640		2,055	2,444		2,258	2,685	-15.91%
% EOP Loans (excl. OREO)	0.94	1.10	-16bp	1.36	1.61	-25bp	1.44	1.71	-27bp
Loan Loss Reserve	2,098	2,090	0.38%	2,038	2,070		1,938	2,020	
% EOP Loans	1.44	1.41	3bp	1.35	1.37	-2bp	1.25	1.30	
% Nonperforming Loans	152.25	127.40		99.18	84.70		85.82	75.22	1060bp
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**Source:** BofA Global Research estimates, company filings

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### Price objective basis & risk

### Citizens Financial Group (CFG)

Our \$37 PO is based on 50%/50% weighting between our 2024e EPS and 2024e TBV. We assign 12.0x/1.0x multiples respectively, below the bank's 5 year pre pandemic median of 13.2x/1.2x given heightened uncertainty surrounding EPS/ROTCE outlooks, owing to the macro backdrop.

Downside risks to our PO: higher than expected credit losses, greater than expected revenue pressure, regulatory changes that would impact growth/profitability, less than expected synergies from acquisition of First Republic private bankers, JMP, HSBC New York branches and ISBC.

### **Analyst Certification**

I, Ebrahim H. Poonawala, 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.

#### **North America - Banks Coverage Cluster**

Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
BUY				
	Ares Capital Corporation	ARCC	ARCC US	Derek Hewett
	Ares Commercial Real Estate Corporation	ACRE	ACRE US	Derek Hewett
	Bank of Montreal	ВМО	BMO US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	Bank of Montreal	YBMO	BMO CN	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	Barings BDC Inc	BBDC	BBDC US	Derek Hewett
	Blackstone Mortgage Trust Inc	BXMT	BXMT US	Derek Hewett
	Blue Owl Capital Corporation	OBDC	OBDC US	Derek Hewett
	Carlyle Secured Lending Inc	CGBD	CGBD US	Derek Hewett
	Citigroup Inc.	С	C US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	Compass Diversified Holdings	CODI	CODIUS	Derek Hewett
	Crescent Capital BDC	CCAP	CCAP US	Derek Hewett
	Cullen/Frost Bankers Inc	CFR	CFR US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	East West Bancorp, Incorporated	EWBC	EWBC US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	Fifth Third Bank	FITB	FITB US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	First Bancorp Puerto Rico	FBP	FBP US	Brandon Berman
	First Horizon Corporation	FHN	FHN US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	FNB Corporation of Pennsylvania	FNB	FNB US	Brandon Berman
	Goldman Sachs	GS	GS US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	JPMorgan Chase & Co.	JPM	JPM US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	KeyCorp	KEY	KEY US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	M&T Bank	MTB	MTB US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	Morgan Stanley	MS	MS US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	New Mountain Finance Corporation	NMFC	NMFC US	Derek Hewett
	New York Community Bancorp	NYCB	NYCB US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	Northern Trust Corporation	NTRS	NTRS US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	Royal Bank of Canada	RY	RY US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	Royal Bank of Canada	YRY	RY CN	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	Safehold, Inc	SAFE	SAFE US	Derek Hewett
	Sixth Street Specialty Lending, Inc	TSLX	TSLX US	Derek Hewett
	Starwood Property Trust	STWD	STWD US	Derek Hewett
	Synovus Financial Corp.	SNV	SNV US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation	BK	BK US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	Truist Financial	TFC	TFC US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	U.S. Bancorp	USB	USB US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	Webster Financial Corp.	WBS	WBS US	Brandon Berman
	Wells Fargo & Company	WFC	WFC US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	Western Alliance Bancorp	WAL	WAL US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
NEUTRAL				
	AGNC Investment Corp	AGNC	AGNC US	Derek Hewett

### North America - Banks Coverage Cluster

Investment rating	Company	<b>BofA Ticker</b>	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
	Ally Financial	ALLY	ALLY US	Brandon Berman
	Annaly Capital Management	NLY	NLY US	Derek Hewett
	Apollo Commercial Real Estate Finance	ARI	ARI US	Derek Hewett
	Associated Banc-Corp	ASB	ASB US	Brandon Berman
	Bain Capital Specialty Finance, Inc.	BCSF	BCSF US	Derek Hewett
	Bank of Nova Scotia	YBNS	BNS CN	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	Bank of Nova Scotia	BNS	BNS US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	Blackstone Secured Lending Fund	BXSL	BXSL US	Derek Hewett
	BrightSpire Capital Inc.	BRSP	BRSP US	Derek Hewett
	Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce	CM	CM US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce	YCM	CM CN	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	Citizens Financial Group	CFG	CFG US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	Comerica Incorporated	CMA	CMA US	Brandon Berman
	Commerce Bancshares Inc.	CBSH	CBSH US	Brandon Berman
	Goldman Sachs BDC, Inc.	GSBD	GSBD US	Derek Hewett
	Golub Capital BDC, Inc.	GBDC	GBDC US	Derek Hewett
	Huntington Bancshares Inc.	HBAN	HBAN US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	Ladder Capital Corp	LADR	LADR US	Derek Hewett
	PennyMac Mortgage Investment Trust	PMT	PMT US	Derek Hewett
	Popular Inc	BPOP	BPOP US	Brandon Berman
	Regions Financial	RF	RF US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.	PNC	PNC US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	Toronto-Dominion Bank	TD	TD US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	Toronto-Dominion Bank	YTD	TD CN	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	TPG RE Finance Trust, Inc.	TRTX	TRTX US	Derek Hewett
UNDERPERFORM				
	Bank of Hawaii Corp.	ВОН	BOH US	Brandon Berman
	First Hawaiian Inc.	FHB	FHB US	Brandon Berman
	Guild Holdings Company	GHLD	GHLD US	Derek Hewett
	Invesco Mortgage Capital, Inc.	IVR	IVR US	Derek Hewett
	loanDepot Inc	LDI	LDI US	Derek Hewett
	MidCap Financial Investment Co	MFIC	MFIC US	Derek Hewett
	Prosperity Bancshares Inc	РВ	PB US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	State Street Corporation	STT	STT US	Ebrahim H. Poonawala
	Texas Capital Bancshares Inc.	TCBI	TCBI US	Brandon Berman
	Zions Bancorp	ZION	ZION US	Brandon Berman

### **IQ**method<sup>™</sup> Measures Definitions

Numerator

**Business Performance** 

Return On Capital Employed	NOPAT = (EBIT + Interest Income) × (1 - Tax Rate) + Goodwill Amortization	Total Assets — Current Liabilities + ST Debt + Accumulated Goodwill
		Amortization
Return On Equity	Net Income	Shareholders' Equity
Operating Margin	Operating Profit	Sales
Earnings Growth	Expected 5 Year CAGR From Latest Actual	N/A
Free Cash Flow	Cash Flow From Operations — Total Capex	N/A
Quality of Earnings	Numerator	Denominator
Cash Realization Ratio	Cash Flow From Operations	Net Income
Asset Replacement Ratio	Capex	Depreciation
Tax Rate	Tax Charge	Pre-Tax Income
Net Debt-To-Equity Ratio	Net Debt = Total Debt — Cash & Equivalents	Total Equity
Interest Cover	EBIT	Interest Expense
Valuation Toolkit	Numerator	Denominator
Price / Earnings Ratio	Current Share Price	Diluted Earnings Per Share (Basis As Specified)
Price / Book Value	Current Share Price	Shareholders' Equity / Current Basic Shares
Dividend Yield	Annualised Declared Cash Dividend	Current Share Price
Free Cash Flow Yield	Cash Flow From Operations – Total Capex	Market Cap = Current Share Price × Current Basic Shares
Enterprise Value / Sales	EV = Current Share Price × Current Shares + Minority Equity + Net Debt + Other LT Liabilities	Sales
EV / EBITDA		Pacic EDIT + Depreciation + Americation
EV / EDITUA	Enterprise Value	Basic EBIT + Depreciation + Amortization

Denominator



Valuation Toolkit Numerator Denominator

Manethod Suis the set of BofA Global Research standard measures that serve to maintain global consistency under three broad headings: Business Performance, Quality of Earnings, and validations. The key features of iQmethod are: A consistently structured, detailed, and transparent methodology. Guidelines to maximize the effectiveness of the comparative valuation process, and to identify some common pitfalls.

Matarbase\* is our real-time global research database that is sourced directly from our equity analysts' earnings models and includes forecasted as well as historical data for income statements, balance sheets, and cash flow statements for companies covered by BofA Global Research.

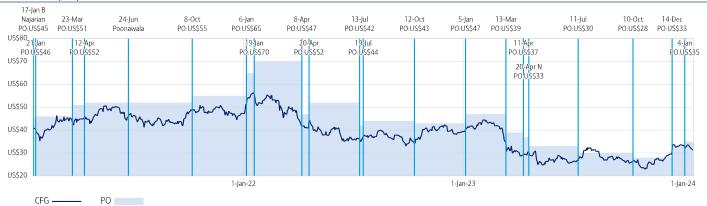
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### **Disclosures**

### **Important Disclosures**

#### Citizens Financial (CFG) Price Chart



B: Buy, N: Neutral, U: Underperform, PO: Price Objective, NA: No longer valid, NR: No Rating

The Investment Opinion System is contained at the end of the report under the heading "Fundamental Equity Opinion Key". Dark grey shading indicates the security is restricted with the opinion suspended. Medium grey shading indicates the security is under review with the opinion withdrawn. Light grey shading indicates the security is not covered. Chart is current as of a date no more than one trading day prior to the date of the report.

#### Equity Investment Rating Distribution: Banks Group (as of 31 Dec 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships R1	Count	Percent
Buy	100	49.75%	Buy	84	84.00%
Hold	54	26.87%	Hold	41	75.93%
Sell	47	23.38%	Sell	35	74.47%

#### Equity Investment Rating Distribution: Global Group (as of 31 Dec 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships R1	Count	Percent
Buy	1895	53.62%	Buy	1083	57.15%
Hold	832	23.54%	Hold	454	54.57%
Sell	807	22.84%	Sell	383	47.46%

R1 Issuers that were investment banking clients of BofA Securities or one of its affiliates within the past 12 months. For purposes of this Investment Rating Distribution, the coverage universe includes only stocks. A stock rated Neutral is included as a Hold, and a stock rated Underperform is included as a Sell.

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# Investment rating Total return expectation (within 12-month period of date of initial rating) Ratings dispersion guidelines for coverage cluster<sup>R2</sup>

Buy	≥ 10%	≤ /0%
Neutral	≥ 0%	≤ 30%
Underperform	N/A	≥ 20%

R2Ratings dispersions may vary from time to time where BofA Global Research believes it better reflects the investment prospects of stocks in a Coverage Cluster.

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