

RELX

What's not to like? PO raised to 3,815p - reiterate Buy

Reiterate Rating: BUY | PO: 3,815 GBp | Price: 3,314 GBp

Reiterate Buy, PO raised to 3,815p

Shares traded indifferently in the aftermath, but we came away from FY23 results with renewed confidence in the mid-term outlook. Two main highlights: 1) Incrementally bullish commentary on momentum in the Legal division, as we still look for generative Al-enabled growth acceleration in 2024E; and 2) Management's pointing to a stronger long-term growth algorithm in Exhibitions vs. pre-COVID. Shares trade on 18x CY24E EV/EBITDA vs. US peers' c.23x for 11% 3yr EPS CAGR, we expect the discount to narrow further. Reiterate Buy, PO raised to 3,815p/€44.70/\$47.40 (prior 3,770p/€44.10/\$46.90).

Bullish tone on Lexis+ AI, Exhibitions

RELX delivered a solid FY23 result, with adj.EPS marginally ahead of consensus forecasts and an upsized £1bn buyback. We found management commentary on the Lexis+ Al rollout – referring to "a very, very positive early launch" incrementally bullish (see inside for details), helping to support our view the Legal division can accelerate to 7% growth (vs. consensus: 6%) in 2024E. Beyond Legal, the generative AI theme is broadening with the STM (Scientific, Technical & Medical) division's Scopus Al and ClinicalKey Al already announced and likely to support momentum, though we see STM's acceleration to 5% underlying revenue growth as more likely the story of 2025. The Risk division's market backdrop looks balanced, as hoped, leaving consensus expectations for c.8% growth this year well underpinned - we remain sanguine. And finally in the Exhibitions division, RELX achieved consensus' 2024 margin expectation a year early, helping to deliver a 3% beat in divisional adj. EBITA in the 2023 numbers. We are encouraged by 1) Recent KPIs/survey data from the industry suggestive of potential double-digit growth this year (we now model 10% for Exhibitions in 2024E); and 2) Management's view that Exhibitions is now a higher growth and higher margin business vs. pre-COVID. We make modest upward tweaks to forecasts, and now sit 2-5% ahead of consensus.

Re-rating has further to go

While shares have had a good run, we expect the discount to US peers to be further squeezed. RELX trades on 18x CY24E EV/EBITDA, a c.20% discount despite comparable underlying revenue growth and an appealing 11% 3yr EPS CAGR.

Estimates (Dec) (GBp)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
EPS (Adjusted Diluted)	102	113	122	137	154
EPS Change (YoY)	16.7%	11.5%	7.7%	12.0%	12.7%
Dividend / Share	54.6	58.8	63.3	70.9	79.9
Valuation (Dec)					
P/E	32.6x	29.2x	27.2x	24.3x	21.5x
Dividend Yield	1.6%	1.8%	1.9%	2.1%	2.4%
EV / EBITDA*	22.4x	20.2x	18.2x	16.8x	15.5x
Free Cash Flow Yield*	3.0%	3.0%	3.6%	4.1%	0%
* For full definitions of <i>Qmethod</i> measures, see page 10.					

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Refer to important disclosures on page 11 to 14. Analyst Certification on page 9. Price
Objective Basis/Risk on page 9.

Timestamp: 16 February 2024 12:45AM EST

16 February 2024

Equity

Key Changes		
(GBp)	Previous	Current
Price Obj.	3,770.00	3,815.00
2024E Rev (£m)	9,752.8	9,762.9
2025E Rev (£m)	10,330.4	10,355.8
2026E Rev (£m)	NA	11,104.0
2024E EBITDA (£m)	3,782.3	3,795.2
2025E EBITDA (£m)	4,081.0	4,100.3
2026E EBITDA (£m)	NA	4,469.4
2024E DPS	62.94	63.32

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Stock Data

Price (PLC, NV,PLC ADR)	3,314 GBp / 38.74 EUR /
	42.06 USD
Price Objective	3,815 GBp / 44.70 EUR /
	47.40 USD
Date Established	16-Feb-2024 / 16-Feb-2024
	/ 16-Feb-2024
Investment Opinion	A-1-7 / A-1-7 / B-1-7
Volatility Risk	LOW / LOW / MEDIUM
52-Week Range	2,414 GBp-3,430 GBp
Market Value (mn)	63,059 GBP
Shares Outstanding (mn)	1,903 / 1,903 / 1,883
Average Daily Value (mn)	87.55 USD
BofA Ticker / Exchange	RLXXF / LSE
BofA Ticker / Exchange	XFAFF / ENA
BofA Ticker / Exchange	RELX / NYS
Bloomberg / Reuters	REL LN / REL.L
ROE (2024E)	68.3%
Net Dbt to Eqty (Dec-2023A)	184.4%
Free Float	99.9%
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, refer to "BofA ESGMeter Methodology".

iQprofile[™] RELX

(ey Income Statement Data (Dec)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
£ Millions)					
Sales	8,553	9,161	9,763	10,356	11,104
EBITDA Adjusted	3,083	3,422	3,795	4,100	4,469
Depreciation & Amortization	(419)	(438)	(535)	(568)	(603)
EBIT Adjusted	2,664	2,984	3,260	3,533	3,867
Net Interest & Other Income	(210)	(387)	(335)	(308)	(293)
Tax Expense / Benefit	(481)	(507)	(576)	(644)	(724)
Net Income (Adjusted)	1,961	2,156	2,291	2,522	2,791
Average Fully Diluted Shares Outstanding	1,929	1,903	1,877	1,846	1,813
Cey Cash Flow Statement Data					
Net Income (Reported)	1,634	1,781	2,024	2,266	2,546
Depreciation & Amortization	419	438	535	568	603
Change in Working Capital	(74.0)	(115)	(20.0)	(20.0)	(20.0)
Deferred Taxation Charge	0	0	0	0	0
Other CFO	344	284	184	177	170
Cash Flow from Operations	2,323	2,388	2,723	2,990	3,299
Capital Expenditure	(436)	(477)	(470)	(501)	(527)
(Acquisition) / Disposal of Investments	(492)	(113)	(60.0)	(60.0)	(60.0)
Other CFI	69.0	21.0	30.9	31.4	31.8
Cash Flow from Investing	(859)	(569)	(500)	(530)	(556)
Share Issue / (Repurchase) Cost of Dividends Paid	(524)	(809)	(1,020)	(1,220)	(1,320)
	(992)	(1,066)	(1,163)	(1,237)	(1,364)
Increase (decrease) debt Other CFF	563	(233)	(73.0)	(76.0)	(70.0)
	(381)	51.0	(73.0)	(76.0)	(79.0)
Cash Flow from Financing	(1,334) 130	(2,057)	(2,156)	(2,533)	(2,763) (20.2)
Total Cash Flow (CFO + CFI + CFF)	91.0	(238) 60.0	67.9 73.0	(73.1) 76.0	79.0
FX and other changes to cash Change in Cash	221	(178)	141	2.88	58.8
Change in Net Debt	342	(55.0)	(40.9)	(2.88)	(58.8)
Net Debt (Reported)	6,396	6,341	6,300	6,297	6,238
Net Debt (Reported) Net Debt (Adjusted)	6,604	6,445	6,404	6,401	6,342
ey Balance Sheet Data	-,	2,1.2	2,121	2,121	2,2 :-
Property, Plant & Equipment	126	99.0	99.0	99.0	99.0
Goodwill	8,388	8,023	7,803	7,593	7,393
Other Intangibles	3,524	3,238	3,238	3,238	3,238
Other Non-Current Assets	722	683	683	683	683
Trade Receivables	2,405	2,323	2,323	2,323	2,323
Cash & Equivalents	334	156	2,323	300	359
Other Current Assets	330	396	352	352	352
Total Assets	15,829	14,918	14,795	14,588	14,447
Long-Term Debt	5,860	5,184	6,597	6,597	6,597
Other Non-Current Liabilities	1,028	804	804	804	804
Short-Term Debt	870	1,313	0	0	0
Other Current Liabilities	4,317	4,177	4,163	4,163	4,163
Total Liabilities	12,075	11,478	11,564	11,564	11,564
Total Equity	3,754	3,439	3,231	3,024	2,883
Total Equity & Liabilities	15,829	14,917	14,795	14,588	14,447
susiness Performance*					
Return On Capital Employed	18.8%	20.9%	23.8%	26.1%	29.1%
Return On Equity	56.0%	59.6%	68.3%	80.1%	93.8%
Operating Margin	27.2%	29.3%	30.1%	31.1%	32.1%
Free Cash Flow (MM)	1,887	1,911	2,253	2,489	0
Quality of Earnings*	,	•	•	•	
Cash Realization Ratio	1.18x	1.11x	1.19x	1.19x	1.18x
Asset Replacement Ratio	1.16x 1.04x	1.11x 1.09x	0.88x	0.88x	0.87x
Asset Vehiarettietti vario			22.1%	22.1%	22.1%
Tay Pato))) ()/2				// 1 1/0
Tax Rate Net Debt/Equity	22.8% 170%	22.1% 184%			
Tax Rate Net Debt/Equity Interest Cover	22.8% 170% 13.3x	184% 9.47x	195% 10.2x	208% 12.1x	216% 13.9x

Company Sector

Publishing

Company Description

RELX is a major B2B / information services company comprising four divisions: Science, Technical and Medical (Elsevier journals, books & software), Legal (LexisNexis), Risk & Business Analytics (Risk) and Exhibitions.

Investment Rationale

RELX trades at a discount to Information Services peers. We believe it could re-rate as it 1) demonstrates sustainability of growth in Risk & Business Analytics which supports the medium-term group outlook, and 2) leverages generative Al to drive accelerated growth in Legal. We expect STM to deliver continued stable underlying growth despite the perceived open access threat to academic subscription revenues, which partially overshadows inherent quality in the rest of the division.

Stock Data

Shares / Common - Dual Listed	1.00
Price to Book Value	19 Ox

Half-yearly Earnings Estimates

	2023	2024
н1	55.87A	NA
H2	57.23E	NA

Key Changes		
(EUR)	Previous	Current
Price Obj.	44.10	44.70

For full definitions of *iQ*method immeasures, see page 10

What management said about Lexis+ Al

"Our growth objectives are: for risk, to sustain strong long term growth in the current range; **for both STM and legal, to continue on the improving growth trajectory**; and for exhibitions, to continue on the improved long term growth profile."

"Traditionally, platform upgrades have come into play at the renewal cycle most of the time, which is typically three-year renewals, which is why deployment or penetration of new platforms come through gradually. But I think in this case, I think we're going to see a combination of both. I think we will see some that wait to renewal and I think we will see many that also step up as a new sale, as an upgrade whenever they see it available."

"...it's a **very**, **very positive early launch** that I think our customers are very happy with and that we are very happy with."

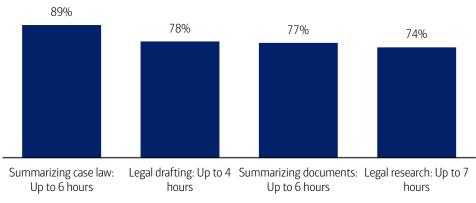
"...yes, we are seeing **very strong interest**, **very strong uptake**. We had many **thousands of law firms** signing up for the initial sort of commercial insider program ... And since it's gone commercial, we have seen **many firms signing up fully** with large and **wide deployment** and **significant step-up in usage**.

And we've seen some others that have done smaller, smaller initial tests. But it's a full range and it's very active out there. It's very active, it's very positive. And **the feedback we are getting is very good** ... But it is very positive and we have basically a full range of the alternatives that you mentioned. It is not one that's dominating."

- Erik Engstrom, CEO (with our emphasis)

We note a recent survey run by LexisNexis found significant time savings associated with the product, which supports the value proposition and our view demand for generative AI in legal services is likely to be high:

Exhibit 1: Beta tests show significant time/productivity savings from using Lexis+ Al Survey respondents reporting time savings per week according to a LexisNexis survey



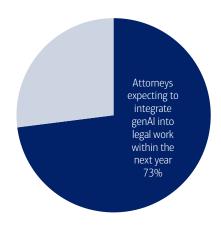
Source: LexisNexis

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Exhibit 2: GenAl is set to become industry standard in legal services

Attorneys expected to integrate genAl into legal work within the next year

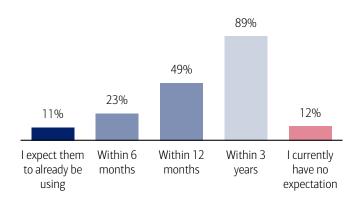


Source: Wolters Kluwer Future Ready Lawyer survey, n = 700, dates = May 17th – June 4th 2023

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Exhibit 3: And law firm clients expect it fast - half within 12 months

Timeframes in which in-house counsel expect their law firms to start using generative AI (cumulate %) – UK only



Source: LexisNexis, Generative AI and the future of the legal profession (n = 1,175, survey conducted between 24 May – 6 June 2023 in the UK)

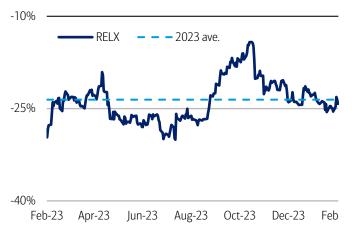
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Valuation remains appealing - PO raised to 3,815p

We raise our PO to 3,815p from 3,770p previously, reflecting forecast changes and peer group re-rating. We see still attractive upside potential given the persistent discount to US peers despite RELX's broadly comparative underlying growth.

Exhibit 4: The discount to the peer group has hardly narrowed

Consensus 1BF EV/EBITDA discount vs. info services peers



Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

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Exhibit 5: Yet RELX grows as fast as the best of them

Underlying sales growth, average CY23-25E



Source: BofA Global Research estimates, Visible Alpha

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Exhibit 8: RELX remains attractively valued relative to peers

Comparative valuation

Calendarised	EV		EV/EBITDA		EV/EBITA		P/E		FCF yield		nd yield	EBITDA margin	EPS 2yr
		2024E	2025E	2024E	2025E	2024E	2025E	2024E	2025E	2024E	2025E	2024E	CAGR
European Publishers/B2B		15.3x	12.4x	16.9x	15.2x	20.4x	15.2x	4.5%	5.1%	1.9%	2.1%	31%	13%
Informa	€14,489	11.7x	10.3x	12.8x	11.2x	16.4x	14.4x	6.3%	7.5%	2.4%	2.8%	31%	13%
Pearson	€8,157	8.0x	7.7x	11.3x	10.7x	14.8x	13.8x	7.0%	7.5%	2.6%	2.8%	23%	9%
RELX	€81,322	18.3x	16.9x	21.3x	19.7x	27.3x	24.4x	3.6%	4.1%	1.9%	2.1%	39%	10%
Wolters Kluwer	€36,717	19.2x	18.0x	23.3x	21.7x	29.6x	26.9x	3.4%	3.8%	1.4%	1.6%	32%	9%
Information Services		22.5x	20.5x	27.6x	22.7x	33.4x	26.5x	3.0%	3.5%	0.9%	1.0%	38%	12%
Thomson Reuters	€68,259	26.4x	24.2x	35.9x	32.5x	42.8x	38.1x	2.5%	2.8%	1.4%	1.5%	38%	9%
Factset	€17,566	22.1x	20.4x	24.1x	22.3x	28.9x	26.1x	3.5%	3.9%	0.9%	0.9%	38%	8%
Experian	€40,174	16.1x	14.9x	20.7x	18.8x	26.8x	24.3x	4.7%	5.2%	1.5%	1.6%	35%	10%



Exhibit 8: RELX remains attractively valued relative to peers

Comparative valuation

Calendarised EV		EV/EBITDA		EV/EBITA		P/E		FCF yield		Dividend yield		EBITDA margin	EPS 2yr	
		2024E	2025E	2024E	2025E	2024E	2025E	2024E	2025E	2024E	2025E	2024E	CAGR	
Equifax	€34,545	19.1x	16.1x	27.9x	22.6x	33.4x	26.1x	2.9%	3.8%	0.6%	0.7%	34%	22%	
Gartner	€34,429	24.5x	22.2x	32.1x	28.2x	39.9x	34.9x	3.1%	3.5%	-	-	24%	8%	
Verisk	€35,668	24.2x	22.3x	29.2x	26.5x	37.2x	33.0x	2.7%	3.0%	0.6%	0.6%	55%	14%	
S&P Global	€137,025	22.5x	20.5x	24.5x	22.7x	30.1x	26.5x	3.2%	3.8%	0.9%	0.9%	49%	13%	
LSE Group	€65,103	13.6x	12.5x	17.9x	15.9x	24.5x	21.7x	2.9%	3.4%	1.4%	1.6%	48%	12%	
TransUnion	€18,424	14.0x	12.4x	22.1x	17.5x	20.9x	17.6x	3.1%	5.1%	0.6%	0.6%	36%	16%	
Moody's	€66,578	24.0x	21.3x	27.6x	24.3x	34.6x	29.9x	3.0%	3.4%	0.9%	1.0%	46%	11%	
MSCI Inc.	€46,098	29.3x	26.3x	32.0x	28.5x	38.7x	33.8x	2.7%	3.1%	1.1%	1.2%	60%	14%	

Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

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Raising forecasts in the Exhibitions division

We make modest forecast changes, notably in Exhibitions where we were encouraged by management commentary regarding higher growth and margin potential vs. pre-COVID.

Exhibit 9: We raise forecasts in the Exhibitions division, and continue to see 7% underlying growth in Legal Changes to our forecasts

6 I	2023	D: D (4	. %	2024E	011	. %	2025E	01.1	. %
£m unless stated £:\$	Actual 1.24	Prior BofAe 1.24	change	New 1.26	Old 1.26	change	New 1.26	Old 1.26	change
Revenues	9,161	9,170	0%	9,763	9,753	0%	10,356	10,330	0%
Science Technical & Medical	3,062	3,041	1%	3,165	3,145	1%	3,310	3,289	1%
Risk & Business Analytics	3,133	3.113	1%	3,325	3,323	0%	3,582	3,580	0%
Legal	1,851	1.880	-2%	2,001	2.001	0%	2,150	2,150	0%
Exhibitions	1,115	1,137	-2%	1,272	1,284	-1%	1,313	1,311	0%
Organic growth	8%	8%		7%	7%		7%	7%	
Science Technical & Medical	4%	4%		4%	4%		5%	5%	
Risk & Business Analytics	8%	8%		8%	8%		8%	8%	
Legal	6%	6%		7%	7%		7%	7%	
Exhibitions	30%	29%		10%	9%		8%	7%	
Adjusted operating profit	3,030	3,020	0%	3,292	3,280	0%	3,566	3,547	1%
Science Technical & Medical	1,165	1,160	0%	1,212	1,208	0%	1,277	1,272	0%
Risk & Business Analytics	1,165	1,157	1%	1,248	1,247	0%	1,357	1,355	0%
Legal	393	408	-4%	465	473	-2%	549	557	-1%
Exhibitions	319	308	4%	380	367	4%	397	378	5%
Corporate	-12	-13		-13	-14		-14	-15	
Adjusted profit margin	33.1%	32.9%		33.7%	33.6%		34.4%	34.3%	
Science Technical & Medical	38.0%	38.1%		38.3%	38.4%		38.6%	38.7%	
Risk & Business Analytics	37.2%	37.2%		37.5%	37.5%		37.9%	37.9%	
Legal	21.2%	21.7%		23.2%	23.6%		25.5%	25.9%	
Exhibitions	28.6%	27.1%		29.9%	28.6%		30.3%	28.8%	
Adjusted financing costs	-314	-285		-310	-309		-283	-280	
Adjusted PBT	2,716	2,735	-1%	2,983	2,972	0%	3,283	3,267	0%
Adjusted tax	-553	-621		-686	-683		-755	-751	
Adjusted tax rate	20.4	22.7		23.0	23.0		23.0	23.0	
Non-controlling interests	-7	-6		-6	-6		-6	-6	
Adjusted net profit	2,156	2,108	2%	2,291	2,282	0%	2,522	2,510	0%
Diluted no. of shares	1,903	1,906	0%	1,877	1,876	0%	1,846	1,845	0%
Adjusted diluted EPS (p)	113.3	110.6	2%	122.0	121.6	0%	136.6	136.1	0%
EPS growth	11%	9%		8%	10%		12%	12%	
DPS (p)	58.8	57.2	3%	63.3	62.9	1%	70.9	70.4	1%

 $\textbf{Source:} \ \mathsf{BofA} \ \mathsf{Global} \ \mathsf{Research} \ \mathsf{estimates}, \mathsf{company} \ \mathsf{report}$

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Exhibitions operators are upbeat on growth prospects in 2024 (see Informa: Industry data points flashing green, <u>07 February 2024</u>), with the UFI Global Barometer survey pointing to 15% growth this year – above the c.8% currently assumed for RELX's Exhibitions division in the consensus forecasts. Our tracking of events year-to-date shows a similarly encouraging double-digit growth in many trade shows' KPIs.

Exhibit 8: Exhibitions companies expect growth of 15% in 2024 according to the UFI Global Barometer

Revenue expectations as a percentage of 2019

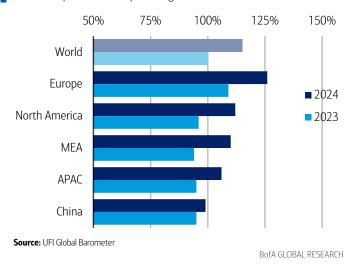
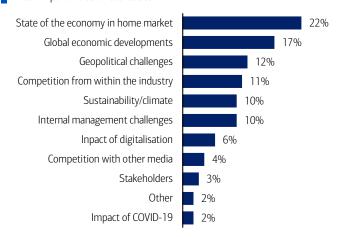


Exhibit 9: Exhibitions companies' concerns about the economy have increased but remain low by pre-COVID standards

Most important business issues



Source: UFI Global Barometer

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Exhibit 12: A snapshot of industry trade shows' KPIs YTD provides a supportive read-across

BofA tracking of selected trade shows

	Date	City	Approx. % YoY		Current E	dition	2023 Edition			
				Visitors	Exhibitors	Space (sqm/sqft)	Visitors	Exhibitors	Space (sqm)	
Consumer Electronics Show	09-Jan-24	Las Vegas	15%	>135k	>4,300	>2.5m	115k	3,200	2.2m	
Surf Expo	10-Jan-24	Orlando	2%		794	177k		756	174k	
NRF Retail's Big Show	14-Jan-24	New York City	9%	Up to 40k	1,030	>329k	35.5k	1,000	302k	
SHOT Show	17-Jan-24	Las Vegas	1%	55k	2,619	821k	52k	2,488	816k	
Arab Health*	29-Jan-24	Dubai	5%	>110k	>3,450		130k+	3,300+		
World of Concrete*	31-Jan-24	Las Vegas	19%	Up to 60k	1,432	>700k	48k	1,145	>587k	
NAMM Show	25-Jan-24	Anaheim, California	33%	>62k	>1,600		>46k	>1,200		
International Production & Processing Expo	30-Jan-24	Atlanta	16%	c.30k	1,434	620k	27k	1,184	532k	
Spielwarenmesse	30-Jan-24	Nuremberg	10%	57k	2,354					
Integrated Systems Europe	31-Jan-24	Barcelona	44%	>73k	1,408	82	>58k		>56k	
Medlab Middle East*^	05-Feb-24	Dubai	20%	>30k	>900					

Source: BofA Global Research, various *Denotes an Informa show ^Denotes preliminary/expected KPIs

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Exhibit 13: We are 2-5% ahead of consensus forecasts

Our forecasts vs. consensus

£m unless stated	2024E		%	2025E		%	2026E		%
6.6	BofA	Cons.	Variance	BofA	Cons.	Variance	BofA	Cons.	Variance
£:\$	1.26			1.26			1.26		
Revenues	9,763	9,772	0%	10,356	10,291	1%	11,104	10,973	1%
Science Technical & Medical	3,165	3,158	0%	3,310	3,290	1%	3,462	3,434	1%
Risk & Business Analytics	3,325	3,351	-1%	3,582	3,605	-1%	3,860	3,870	0%
Legal	2,001	1,986	1%	2,150	2,113	2%	2,318	2,252	3%
Exhibitions	1,272	1,276	0%	1,313	1,283	2%	1,464	1,418	3%
Organic growth (%)	6.7%	6.3%		6.7%	5.8%		6.7%	5.9%	
Science Technical & Medical	4%	4%		5%	4%		5%	4%	
Risk & Business Analytics	8%	8%		8%	7%		8%	7%	
Legal	7%	6%		7%	6%		8%	6%	
Exhibitions	10%	8%		8%	5%		7%	5%	
Adjusted operating profit	3,292	3,242	2%	3,566	3,446	3%	3,900	3,711	5%
Science Technical & Medical	1,212	1,205	1%	1,277	1,261	1%	1,343	1,320	2%
Risk & Business Analytics	1,248	1,250	0%	1,357	1,349	1%	1,475	1,452	2%
Legal	465	439	6%	549	484	13%	644	536	20%
Exhibitions	380	365	4%	397	369	8%	453	420	8%
Corporate	-13	-17	-23%	-14	-17	-20%	-15	-17	-11%
Adjusted profit margin (%)	33.7%	33.2%		34.4%	33.5%		35.1%	33.8%	



Exhibit 13: We are 2-5% ahead of consensus forecasts

Our forecasts vs. consensus

£m unless stated	2024E		%	2025E		%	2026E		%
	BofA	Cons.	Variance	BofA	Cons.	Variance	BofA	Cons.	Variance
Science Technical & Medical	38.3%	38.2%		38.6%	38.3%		38.8%	38.4%	
Risk & Business Analytics	37.5%	37.3%		37.9%	37.4%		38.2%	37.5%	
Legal	23.2%	22.1%		25.5%	22.9%		27.8%	23.8%	
Exhibitions	29.9%	28.6%		30.3%	28.7%		31.0%	29.6%	
Adjusted financing costs	-310	-293		-283	-277		-268	-269	
Adjusted PBT	2,983	2,949	1%	3,283	3,169	4%	3,632	3,442	6%
Adjusted tax	-686	-665	3%	-755	-716	5%	-835	-774	8%
Adjusted tax rate	23.0%	22.5%	2%	23.0%	22.6%	2%	23.0%	22.5%	2%
Non-controlling interests	-6	3		-6	3		-6	2	
Adjusted net profit	2,291	2,283	0%	2,522	2,452	3%	2,791	2,666	5%
Diluted no. of shares	1,877	1,877	0%	1,846	1,850	0%	1,813	1,832	-1%
Adjusted diluted EPS (p)	122.0	121.7	0%	136.6	132.6	3%	153.9	145.7	6%
DPS (p)	63.3	63.7	-1%	70.9	68.8	3%	79.9	75.5	6%

Source: BofA Global Research estimates, Visible Alpha

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FY23 results recap

RELX reported EPS a touch ahead, led by margin with underlying revenue growth in line:

- **Headline numbers:** Underlying revenue growth came in at +8% as expected (cons: +8%), resulting in revenue: £9,161m (cons: £9,203m). Adj.EBITA of £3,030m is a touch better (cons: £3,019m) and implies 33.1% margin vs. 31.4% in prior year with Exhibitions' adj.EBITA 3% ahead. adj.EPS is 114.0p, c.1% ahead (cons: 112.7p) while DPS came in at 58.8p (cons: 59.1p).
- **Divisional underlying revenue growth:** Largely as expected, albeit Exhibitions came in a bit stronger STM was 4% (cons: 4%), Risk 8% (cons: 8%), Legal 6% (cons: 6%), and Exhibitions 30% (cons: 25%).
- **Buyback:** £1bn announced (BofAe: £1bn, median consensus is £875m) vs. 2023: £800m. We think this is a bit better than most had expected.

Exhibit 1: EPS came in c.1% ahead of expectation

FY23 results vs. expectations

£m unless stated	FY23 Actual	FY23 Cons.	Actual vs cons.	FY23 BofAe	Actual vs BofAe	FY22 Actual	YoY growth	BofAe vs FY22
Revenues	9,161	9,203	0%	9,170	0%	8,553	7%	7%
Science Technical & Medical	3,062	3,049	0%	3,041	1%	2,909	5%	5%
Risk & Business Analytics	3,133	3,142	0%	3,113	1%	2,909	8%	7%
Legal	1,851	1,886	-2%	1,880	-2%	1,782	4%	5%
Exhibitions	1,115	1,126	-1%	1,137	-2%	953	17%	19%
Underlying growth	8%	8%	1%	8%	-4%	10%	-20%	
Science Technical & Medical	4%	4%		4%	7%	4%	0%	
Risk & Business Analytics	8%	8%		8%	2%	8%	0%	
Legal	6%	6%		6%		5%		
Exhibitions	30%	25%		29%		64%		
Adjusted operating profit	3,030	3,019	0%	3,020	0%	2,683	13%	13%
Science Technical & Medical	1,165	1,158	1%	1,160	0%	1,100	6%	5%
Risk & Business Analytics	1,165	1,167	0%	1,157	1%	1,078	8%	7%
Legal	393	404	-3%	408	-4%	372	6%	10%
Exhibitions	319	308	3%	308	4%	162	97%	90%
Corporate Costs	-12	-17	-30%	-13	-8%	-29	-59%	-55%
Adjusted operating margin	33.1%	32.8%	1%	32.9%	0%	31.4%	5%	
Science Technical & Medical	38.0%	38.0%	0%	38.1%	0%	37.8%	1%	
Risk & Business Analytics	37.2%	37.1%	0%	37.2%	0%	37.1%	0%	
Legal	21.2%	21.4%		21.7%		20.9%		
Exhibitions	28.6%	27.4%		27.1%		17.0%		
Adjusted financing costs	-314	-285	10%	-285	10%	-194	62%	47%
Adjusted PBT	2,716	2,734	-1%	2,735	-1%	2,489	9%	10%
Adjusted tax	-553	-596	-7%	-621	-11%	-530	4%	17%

Exhibit 1: EPS came in c.1% ahead of expectation FY23 results vs. expectations

£m unless stated	FY23	FY23	Actual	FY23	Actual	FY22	YoY	BofAe
	Actual	Cons.	vs cons.	BofAe	vs BofAe	Actual	growth	vs FY22
Adjusted tax rate	20%	22%		23%		21%		
Adjusted net profit	2156	2135	1%	2108	2%	1961	10%	8%
Adjusted EPS (p)	114.0	112.7	1%	111.3	2%	102.2	12%	9%
DPS (p)	58.8	59.1	0%	57.2	3%	54.6	8%	5%
Free cash flow	1,970	2,076	-5%	2,114	-7%	1,970	0%	7%

Source: BofA Global Research estimates, company report, Visible Alpha

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH



Price objective basis & risk

RELX (RLXXF / XFAFF)

We set our price objectives at 3,815p / €44.70 based on our DCF valuation with WACC at 7.7% and a long-term growth rate of 3.75%, and comparative valuation based on 20x CY24E EV/EBITDA, in line with peer group multiples.

Downside risks to our PO are: 1) A slowdown in insurance market conditions could impact RELX's ability to grow its Risk & Business Analytics division, where a significant proportion of revenue is transactional 2) Major geopolitical disruption can impact revenue growth and profitability in the Exhibitions division 3) RELX operates in regulatory complex markets and future changes to regulation could be detrimental 4) RELX handles large amounts of data, which puts it at risk from cyber-attacks or other data misuse.

RELX (RELX)

We set our price objective at \$47.40 based on our DCF valuation with WACC at 7.7% and a long-term growth rate of 3.75%, and comparative valuation based on 20x CY24E EV/EBITDA, in line with peer group multiples.

Downside risks to our PO are: 1) A slowdown in insurance market conditions could impact RELX's ability to grow its Risk & Business Analytics division, where a significant proportion of revenue is transactional 2) Major geopolitical disruption can impact revenue growth and profitability in the Exhibitions division 3) RELX operates in regulatory complex markets and future changes to regulation could be detrimental 4) RELX handles large amounts of data, which puts it at risk from cyber-attacks or other data misuse.

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I, David Amira, CFA, 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.

EMEA - Media Coverage Cluster

Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
BUY				
	Auto Trader	ATDRF	AUTO LN	David Amira, CFA
	Deliveroo	DROOF	ROO LN	Kiranjot Grewal
	Entain	GMVHF	ENT LN	Kiranjot Grewal
	Evolution	EVVTY	EVVTY US	Kiranjot Grewal
	Evolution Gaming	EVGGF	EVO SS	Kiranjot Grewal
	Flutter	XZMVF	FLTR LN	Kiranjot Grewal
	Flutter	FLUT	FLUT US	Kiranjot Grewal
	Informa	IFPJF	INF LN	David Amira, CFA
	Interpublic	IPG	IPG US	Adrien de Saint Hilaire
	JCDecaux	JCDXF	DEC FP	Adrien de Saint Hilaire
	Just Eat Takeaway	TKAYF	TKWY NA	Kiranjot Grewal
	Just Eat Takeaway	JTKWY	JTKWY US	Kiranjot Grewal
	Playtech	PYTCF	PTEC LN	Kiranjot Grewal
	Publicis	PUBGY	PUBGY US	Adrien de Saint Hilaire
	Publicis Groupe	PGPEF	PUB FP	Adrien de Saint Hilaire
	RELX	XFAFF	REN NA	David Amira, CFA
	RELX	RLXXF	REL LN	David Amira, CFA
	RELX	RELX	RELX US	David Amira, CFA
	Schibsted	SBSNF	SCHA NO	Adrien de Saint Hilaire
	Schibsted	SBBTF	SCHB NO	Adrien de Saint Hilaire
	Scout24	SCOTF	G24 GY	David Amira, CFA
	Universal Music Group	UMGNF	UMG NA	Adrien de Saint Hilaire



EMEA - Media Coverage Cluster

Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
	Vivendi	VIVEF	VIV FP	Adrien de Saint Hilaire
	Vivendi	VIVHY	VIVHY US	Adrien de Saint Hilaire
NEUTRAL				
	Ascential	AIAPF	ASCL LN	David Amira, CFA
	AUTO1 Group	ATOGF	AG1 GY	David Amira, CFA
	Baltic Classifieds Group	XZXXF	BCG LN	David Amira, CFA
	Chegg Inc.	CHGG	CHGG US	David Amira, CFA
	Delivery Hero	DLVHF	DHER GY	Kiranjot Grewal
	La Francaise Des Jeux	LFDJF	FDJ FP	Kiranjot Grewal
	Pearson	PSORF	PSON LN	David Amira, CFA
	Pearson	PSO	PSO US	David Amira, CFA
	Wolters Kluwer	WOLTF	WKL NA	David Amira, CFA
	Wolters Kluwer	WTKWY	WTKWY US	David Amira, CFA
UNDERPERFORM				
	Embracer Group	THQQF	EMBRACB SS	Adrien de Saint Hilaire
	HelloFresh	HLFFF	HFG GY	Kiranjot Grewal
	ITV	ITVPF	ITV LN	Adrien de Saint Hilaire
	Omnicom	OMC	OMC US	Adrien de Saint Hilaire
	ProSiebenSat.1	PBSFF	PSM GY	Adrien de Saint Hilaire
	Rightmove	RTMVF	RMV LN	David Amira, CFA
	Rightmove	RTMVY	RTMVY US	David Amira, CFA
	RTL Group	ZRLQF	RRTL GY	Adrien de Saint Hilaire
	Ubisoft	UBSFF	UBI FP	Adrien de Saint Hilaire
	Ubisoft	UBSFY	UBSFY US	Adrien de Saint Hilaire
	WPP	WPPGF	WPP LN	Adrien de Saint Hilaire
	WPP	WPP	WPP US	Adrien de Saint Hilaire

IQmethodSM Measures Definitions

Business Performance	Numerator	Denominator
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 +	Sales
•	Other LT Liabilities	
EV / EBITDA	Enterprise Value	Basic EBIT + Depreciation + Amortization

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RELX PLC (RLXXF) Price Chart



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

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RELX PLC (XFAFF) 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

RELX PLC (RELX) 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: Media & Entertainment Group (as of 31 Dec 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships R1	Count	Percent
Buy	35	53.85%	Buy	15	42.86%
Hold	15	23.08%	Hold	8	53.33%
Sell	15	23.08%	Sell	7	46.67%

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%

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Investment rating Total return expectation (within 12-month period of date of initial rating) Ratings dispersion guidelines for coverage cluster^{R2}

Buy	≥ 10%	≤ 70%
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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