

Bradesco

New driver but a winding road ahead; strategic plan won't save '24 (and '25)

Reiterate Rating: NEUTRAL | PO: 16.00 BRL | Price: 13.96 BRL

A gradual recovery in profitability

We lower our earnings estimates for '24 and thereafter, as recently reported weak results and subdued guidance indicate slower profitability improvement than expected. The new CEO shared the outline of a five-year strategic plan that aims to improve efficiency, recover profitability, and gain market share. However, Mr. Noronha emphasized that (1) ROE expansion should be gradual over the next five years; (2) '24 will be a transition year; and (3) ROE should only reach similar levels to cost of equity in '26.

Strategic plan is not a silver bullet

The strategic plan aims to: (1) lower the cost to serve low-income retail clients; (2) launch a new segment to serve high income retail clients; (3) create a new structure to serve the SME (small & medium-sized enterprises) segment; (4) lead to a leaner organizational structure; and (5) create a dedicated team to lead the strategic transformation. While we welcome the plan as recognition that recent operational struggles are structural (in addition to cyclical), it comes with several execution risks and associated costs. The plan was put together over the last 60 days and still lacks granularity on the financials.

Reducing earnings estimates

We lower our '24/'25 net income estimates by 17%/12% to R\$17.9bn/R\$24.5bn, yielding ROE of 10.8%/13.7%. Main changes are related to: (1) lower Client NII (net interest income), reflecting a slower loan growth expectation; (2) lower fee income generation; and (3) higher other non-operating expenses, more than offsetting (4) lower provision charges.

New PO of R\$16/US\$3.2

We reduce our GGM-derived PO to R\$16/US\$3.2 from R\$19/US\$3.8, reflecting lower sustainable ROE of 15% (vs. 17% previously) and cost of equity of 14.3% (unchanged). While we expect ROE to remain below the cost of equity through '25, we think that is already reflected in current valuation of 0.9x trailing P/BV. We keep our Neutral rating.

| Estimates(Dec) (BRL) | 2022A | 2023A | 2024E | 2025E | 2026E |
|---------------------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| EPS | 1.95 | 1.42 | 1.68 | 2.30 | 2.96 |
| GAAP EPS | 1.94 | 1.53 | 1.68 | 2.30 | 2.96 |
| EPS Change (YoY) | -5.2% | -27.0% | 18.2% | 36.8% | 28.8% |
| Consensus EPS (Bloomberg) | | | 2.11 | 2.61 | 3.19 |
| DPS | 0.81 | 1.06 | 0.84 | 0.69 | 0.89 |
| ADR EPS (US\$) | 0.38 | 0.28 | 0.34 | 0.46 | 0.60 |
| ADR DPS (US\$) | 0.16 | 0.21 | 0.17 | 0.14 | 0.18 |
| Valuation (Dec) | | | | | |
| P/E | 7.2x | 9.8x | 8.3x | 6.1x | 4.7x |
| GAAP P/E | 7.2x | 9.1x | 8.3x | 6.1x | 4.7x |
| Dividend Yield | 5.8% | 7.6% | 6.0% | 4.9% | 6.4% |

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Refer to important disclosures on page 6 to 9. Analyst Certification on page 4. Price Objective Basis/Risk on page 4.

Timestamp: 07 February 2024 05:45PM EST

07 February 2024

Equity

| Key Changes | | |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| (BRL) | Previous | Current |
| Price Obj. | 19.00 | 16.00 |
| 2024E Rev (m) | 123,780.8 | 117,481.6 |
| 2025E Rev (m) | 136,918.2 | 130,070.1 |
| 2026E Rev (m) | 149,924.6 | 142,769.8 |
| 2024E EPS | 2.02 | 1.68 |
| 2025E EPS | 2.60 | 2.30 |
| 2026E EPS | 3.26 | 2.96 |
| 2024E DPS | 0.60 | 0.84 |
| | | |

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Stock Data

| Price (Common / ADR) | 13.96 BRL / 2.83 USD |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Price Objective | 16.00 BRL / 3.20 USD |
| Date Established | 7-Feb-2024 / 7-Feb-2024 |
| Investment Opinion | B-2-7 / C-2-7 |
| 52-Week Range | 12.39 BRL - 17.74 BRL |
| Market Value (mn) | 148,565 BRL |
| Free Float | 97.6% |
| Average Daily Value | 96.20 USD |
| Shares Outstanding (mn) | 10,642.2 / 10,642.2 |
| BofA Ticker / Exchange | BRDPF / SAO |
| BofA Ticker / Exchange | BBD / NYS |
| Bloomberg / Reuters | BBDC4 BZ / BBDC4.SA |
| ROE (2024E) | 10.8% |

Refer to "Other Important Disclosures" for information on certain BofA Securities entities that take responsibility for the information herein in particular jurisdictions.

iQprofile[™] Bradesco

| Income Statement Data (Dec) | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| (BRL Millions) | 2022A | 2023A | 2024E | 2025E | 2026E |
| Net Interest Income | 67,772 | 64,885 | 64,428 | 70,573 | 79,640 |
| % change | 22.0% | -4.3% | -0.7% | 9.5% | 12.8% |
| Net Fee Income | 35,694 | 35,642 | 37,117 | 39,439 | 41,414 |
| Securities Gains / (Losses) | (1,390) | 311 | 4,100 | 5,000 | 5,200 |
| Total Operating Income | 113,158 | 111,995 | 117,482 | 130,070 | 142,770 |
| Operating Expenses | (53,220) | (54,877) | (58,457) | (61,682) | (65,539) |
| % change | 7.5% | 3.1% | 6.5% | 5.5% | 6.3% |
| Provisions Expense | (32,297) | (39,545) | (37,513) | (33,854) | (29,320) |
| % change | 114.8% | 22.4% | -5.1% | -9.8% | -13.4% |
| Operating Pre-Tax Income | 27,772 | 17,712 | 21,779 | 34,802 | 48,179 |
| Operating Net Income to Comm S/Hold. | 20,681 | 16,297 | 17,867 | 24,450 | 31,486 |
| GAAP Net Income | 20,734 | 15,122 | 17,867 | 24,450 | 31,486 |

Balance Sheet Data (Dec)

| (BRL Millions) | 2022A | 2023A | 2024E | 2025E | 2026E |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Total Assets | 1,830,247 | 1,964,052 | 2,114,273 | 2,305,378 | 2,532,621 |
| Average Interest Earning Assets | 1,745,635 | 1,843,618 | 1,956,292 | 2,127,089 | 2,330,121 |
| Total Gross Customer Loans | 656,431 | 627,241 | 678,685 | 738,566 | 814,730 |
| % change | 7.6% | -4.4% | 8.2% | 8.8% | 10.3% |
| Total Customer Deposits | 609,574 | 642,689 | 688,647 | 752,432 | 830,031 |
| % change | 3.9% | 5.4% | 7.2% | 9.3% | 10.3% |
| Tangible Equity | 134,513 | 138,825 | 149,494 | 168,210 | 191,727 |
| Common Shareholders' Equity | 154,263 | 161,182 | 170,115 | 187,230 | 209,271 |

Key Metrics (Dec)

| (BRL Millions) | 2022A | 2023A | 2024E | 2025E | 2026E |
|--|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Net Interest Margin | 3.88% | 3.52% | 3.29% | 3.32% | 3.42% |
| Effective Tax Rate | 24.3% | 5.8% | 16.5% | 28.8% | 34.0% |
| Loan / Deposit Ratio | 107.7% | 97.6% | 98.6% | 98.2% | 98.2% |
| Tangible Common Equity / Assets | 7.3% | 7.1% | 7.1% | 7.3% | 7.6% |
| ROA | 1.2% | 0.8% | 0.9% | 1.1% | 1.3% |
| ROE | 13.8% | 9.6% | 10.8% | 13.7% | 15.9% |
| RoTE | 15.6% | 11.1% | 12.4% | 15.4% | 17.5% |
| Dividend Payout Ratio | 41.8% | 69.4% | 50.0% | 30.0% | 30.0% |
| Efficiency Ratio (Cost / Income Ratio) | 46.5% | 49.1% | 51.6% | 49.3% | 47.6% |
| | | | | | |

Quality of Earnings (Dec)

| (BRL Millions) | 2022A | 2023A | 2024E | 2025E | 2026E |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total Non-Interest Inc / Operating Inc | 40.1% | 42.1% | 45.2% | 45.7% | 44.2% |
| NPLs plus Foreclosed Real Estate / Loans | 4.3% | 5.2% | 4.7% | 3.9% | 3.1% |
| Loan Loss Reserves / NPLs | 205% | 165% | 171% | 183% | 192% |
| Loan Loss Reserves / Total Loans | 8.80% | 8.59% | 8.03% | 7.13% | 5.94% |

Company Sector

Banks-Retail

Company Description

Bradesco is the second largest private-sector bank in Brazil, with over 38 million checking account customers and a market share close to 15% in term of assets. Bradesco is the leader among private-sector banks in various financial segments, such as leasing, insurance, private pension funds, and asset management, among others.

Investment Rationale

We rate Bradesco a Neutral, as we think that earnings momentum should remain pressured in the medium-term from weak client NII growth and elevated provision charges. On the other hand, we like the bank's earnings diversification and think that valuation limits downside potential.

| Stock Data | |
|----------------------|------------|
| Average Daily Volume | 34,194,300 |
| Shares / ADR | 1.00 |

Quarterly Earnings Estimates

| | 2023 | 2024 |
|----|-------|-------|
| Q1 | 0.40A | 0.38E |
| Q2 | 0.42A | 0.40E |
| Q3 | 0.43A | 0.44E |
| Q4 | 0.16A | 0.46E |

| Previous | Current |
|----------|------------------------------|
| 3.80 | 3.20 |
| 0.41 | 0.34 |
| 0.52 | 0.46 |
| 0.66 | 0.60 |
| 0.12 | 0.17 |
| | 3.80 0.41 0.52 0.66 |



Revised earnings estimates

Exhibit 1: Summary earnings model - Old vs New

We have reduced our earnings estimates for '24-'26; expect ROE to reach COE by '26

| | 2023E | | 2024E | | | 2025E | | | 2026E | |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| R\$mn | Actual | Old | New | Change | Old | New | Change | Old | New | Change |
| NII with clients | 64,885 | 67,066 | 64,428 | -4% | 76,035 | 70,573 | -7% | 85,676 | 79,640 | -7% |
| NII with market | 311 | 4,100 | 4,100 | 0% | 5,000 | 5,000 | 0% | 5,200 | 5,200 | 0% |
| Net interest income | 65,196 | 71,166 | 68,528 | -4% | 81,035 | 75,573 | -7% | 90,876 | 84,840 | -7% |
| Fee income | 35,642 | 38,105 | 37,117 | -3% | 40,490 | 39,439 | -3% | 42,518 | 41,414 | -3% |
| Net insurance, pension, cap. | 17,879 | 19,342 | 19,074 | -1% | 20,890 | 20,600 | -1% | 22,561 | 22,248 | -1% |
| Other non-interest income | (6,722) | (4,833) | (7,237) | 50% | (5,497) | (5,542) | 1% | (6,030) | (5,732) | -5% |
| Non-interest expense | 54,877 | 57,095 | 58,457 | 2% | 60,518 | 61,682 | 2% | 64,304 | 65,539 | 2% |
| Provision for loan losses | 39,545 | 38,985 | 37,513 | -4% | 36,791 | 33,854 | -8% | 32,520 | 29,320 | -10% |
| Extraordinary income | (1,175) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Net income - reported | 15,122 | 21,457 | 17,867 | -17% | 27,685 | 24,450 | -12% | 34,689 | 31,486 | -9% |
| Net income before extra | 16,297 | 21,457 | 17,867 | -17% | 27,685 | 24,450 | -12% | 34,689 | 31,486 | -9% |
| EPS - reported | 1.42 | 2.02 | 1.68 | -17% | 2.60 | 2.30 | -12% | 3.26 | 2.96 | -9% |
| EPS - before extra | 1.53 | 2.02 | 1.68 | -17% | 2.60 | 2.30 | -12% | 3.26 | 2.96 | -9% |
| Gross loans | 627,241 | 695,711 | 678,685 | -2% | 757,048 | 738,566 | -2% | 835,115 | 814,730 | -2% |
| Total assets | 1,964,052 | 2,121,530 | 2,114,273 | 0% | 2,314,549 | 2,305,378 | 0% | 2,543,406 | 2,532,621 | 0% |
| Deposits | 642,689 | 680,696 | 688,647 | 1% | 743,744 | 752,432 | 1% | 820,447 | 830,031 | 1% |
| Equity | 161,182 | 179,054 | 170,115 | -5% | 198,434 | 187,230 | -6% | 222,716 | 209,271 | -6% |
| ROAE - reported | 9.6% | 12.5% | 10.8% | -170 bps | 14.7% | 13.7% | -100 bps | 16.5% | 15.9% | -60 bps |
| ROAE - before extra | 10.3% | 12.5% | 10.8% | -170 bps | 14.7% | 13.7% | -100 bps | 16.5% | 15.9% | -60 bps |
| NIM | 3.5% | 3.6% | 3.5% | -10 bps | 3.8% | 3.6% | -20 bps | 3.9% | 3.6% | -20 bps |
| Efficiency ratio | 49.0% | 46.1% | 49.8% | 360 bps | 44.2% | 47.4% | 320 bps | 42.9% | 45.9% | 300 bps |
| Effective tax rate | 6% | 21% | 17% | -470 bps | 29% | 29% | -40 bps | 34% | 34% | 0 bps |
| Provisions/ Avg. gross loans | 6.2% | 5.8% | 5.7% | -10 bps | 5.1% | 4.8% | -30 bps | 4.1% | 3.8% | -30 bps |
| NPLs/ Gross loans | 5.2% | 5.6% | 4.7% | -90 bps | 4.8% | 3.9% | -90 bps | 4.0% | 3.1% | -90 bps |
| LLR/ NPLs | 165% | 156% | 171% | 1480 bps | 168% | 183% | 1520 bps | 176% | 192% | 1550 bps |

Source: BofA Global Research estimates and Company data

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH



Price objective basis & risk

Bradesco (BRDPF / BBD)

Our price objective (PO) for Bradesco of R\$16/US\$3.2 is derived from the Gordon Growth Model, assuming a sustainable ROE of 15%, a COE of 14.3%, and 4% growth in perpetuity. Our PO implies a target '24E P/BV multiple of 1.0x. Our USD/ADR PO is derived from the local PO converted at a 5.0 FX rate.

Downside risks to our PO are 1) weaker economic activity could negatively impact loan growth, 2) corporate NPL deterioration, and 3) regulatory changes could be detrimental to profitability. Upside risks include: 1) stronger than forecasted loan portfolio growth, 2) stronger than expected Selic rate cuts benefiting Market NII and, 3) lower than expected provision charges.

Analyst Certification

We, Mario Pierry, Antonio Ruette and Flavio Yoshida, hereby certify that the views each of us has expressed in this research report accurately reflect each of our respective personal views about the subject securities and issuers. We also certify that no part of our respective compensation was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or view expressed in this research report.

Special Disclosures

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The Brazilian affiliate of BofA Securities is currently acting as a Buy-side Advisor to Elo Participações Ltda. (an affiliate of Banco Bradesco S.A. and Banco do Brasil SA) in connection with its proposed share acquisition of Cielo SA by means of a delisting tender offer, which was announced on Monday, February 5, 2024.

Latin America - Financials Coverage Cluster

| Investment rating | Company | BofA Ticker | Bloomberg symbol | Analyst |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------|
| BUY | | | | |
| | B3 | XIMAF | B3SA3 BZ | Mario Pierry |
| | B3 | BOLSY | BOLSY US | Mario Pierry |
| | Bajio | BBAJF | BBAJIOO MM | Ernesto Gabilondo |
| | Banco do Brasil | XBBAF | BBAS3 BZ | Mario Pierry |
| | Banco do Brasil | BDORY | BDORY US | Mario Pierry |
| | Banco Santander Chile | BSAC | BSAC US | Ernesto Gabilondo |
| | Banco Santander Chile | XLDTF | BSAN CI | Ernesto Gabilondo |
| | Banorte | GBOOF | GFNORTEO MM | Mario Pierry |
| | Banorte | GBOOY | GBOOY US | Mario Pierry |
| | Bci | BZCIF | BCI CI | Ernesto Gabilondo |
| | BTG Pactual | XNXCF | BPAC11 BZ | Flavio Yoshida |
| | Caixa Seguridade | XDXUF | CXSE3 BZ | Mario Pierry |
| | Credicorp Ltd | BAP | BAP US | Ernesto Gabilondo |
| | Gentera | CMPRF | GENTERA* MM | Ernesto Gabilondo |
| | Grupo BMV | BOMXF | BOLSAA MM | Ernesto Gabilondo |
| | IFS | IFS | IFS US | Ernesto Gabilondo |
| | Inter | XBZIF | INBR32 BZ | Mario Pierry |
| | Inter | INTR | INTR US | Mario Pierry |
| | Itau Unibanco | ITUBF | ITUB4 BZ | Mario Pierry |
| | Itau Unibanco | ITUB | ITUB US | Mario Pierry |
| | PagSeguro Digital Ltd | PAGS | PAGS US | Mario Pierry |
| | Regional | RGNLF | RA MM | Ernesto Gabilondo |
| | StoneCo | STNE | STNE US | Mario Pierry |
| | XP Inc. | XP | XP US | Mario Pierry |



Latin America - Financials Coverage Cluster

| Investment rating | Company | BofA Ticker | Bloomberg symbol | Analyst |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------|
| NEUTRAL | | | | |
| | ABC Brasil | XBABF | ABCB4 BZ | Flavio Yoshida |
| | Banco Pan | XQSFF | BPAN4 BZ | Flavio Yoshida |
| | Banrisul | XGRBF | BRSR6 BZ | Flavio Yoshida |
| | BB Seguridade | XBDPF | BBSE3 BZ | Mario Pierry |
| | BB Seguridade | BBSEY | BBSEY US | Mario Pierry |
| | Bradesco | BRDPF | BBDC4 BZ | Mario Pierry |
| | Bradesco -A | BBD | BBD US | Mario Pierry |
| | Nubank | NU | NU US | Mario Pierry |
| | Porto Seguro | PSGUF | PSSA3 BZ | Mario Pierry |
| UNDERPERFORM | | | | |
| | Banco Chile-ADR | ВСН | BCH US | Ernesto Gabilondo |
| | Banco de Chile | XHNDF | CHILE CI | Ernesto Gabilondo |
| | Banco Macro | BMA | BMA US | Ernesto Gabilondo |
| | Banco Macro | BCVMF | BMA AR | Ernesto Gabilondo |
| | GFInbur | GPFOF | GFINBURO MM | Ernesto Gabilondo |
| | Grupo Financiero Galicia | GGAL | GGAL US | Ernesto Gabilondo |
| | Grupo Financiero Galicia | GGABF | GGAL AR | Ernesto Gabilondo |
| | Qualitas | QUCOF | Q* MM | Ernesto Gabilondo |
| | Santander Brasil | XCBDF | SANB11 BZ | Mario Pierry |
| | Santander Brasil | BSBR | BSBR US | Mario Pierry |
| | Supervielle | SUPV | SUPV US | Ernesto Gabilondo |
| | Supervielle | XAZFF | SUPV AR | Ernesto Gabilondo |
| RSTR | | | | |
| | Bancolombia | CIB | CIB US | Ernesto Gabilondo |
| | Bancolombia | XAFFF | PFBCOLO CB | Ernesto Gabilondo |
| | Cielo | CIOXF | CIEL3 BZ | Mario Pierry |
| | Cielo | CIOXY | CIOXY US | Mario Pierry |
| | | | | |

Pmethod[™] Measures Definitions

| Business Performance | Numerator | Denominator |
|--|---|---|
| Return On Capital Employed | NOPAT = (EBIT + Interest Income) \times (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 |
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| ' ' | • | |
| | : | ' |
| 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 |
| Tax Rate Net Debt-To-Equity Ratio Interest Cover Valuation Toolkit Price / Earnings Ratio Price / Book Value Dividend Yield Free Cash Flow Yield Enterprise Value / Sales | Current Share Price Annualised Declared Cash Dividend Cash Flow From Operations — Total Capex EV = Current Share Price × Current Shares + Minority Equity + Net Debt + Other LT Liabilities | Pre-Tax Income Total Equity Interest Expense Denominator Diluted Earnings Per Share (Basis As Specified) Shareholders' Equity / Current Basic Shares Current Share Price Market Cap = Current Share Price × Current Basic Shares Sales |

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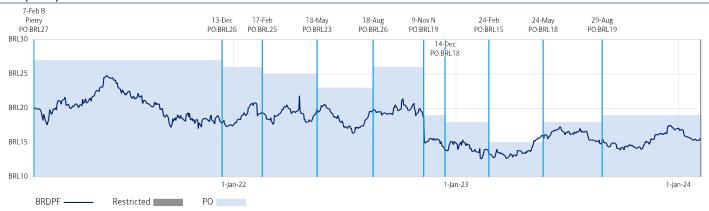
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Disclosures

Important Disclosures

Bradesco (BRDPF) 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.

Bradesco - A (BBD) Price Chart



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

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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.



FUNDAMENTAL EQUITY OPINION KEY: Opinions include a Volatility Risk Rating, an Investment Rating and an Income Rating. VOLATILITY RISK RATINGS, indicators of potential price fluctuation, are: A - Low, B - Medium and C - High. INVESTMENT RATINGS reflect the analyst's assessment of both a stock's absolute total return potential as well as its attractiveness for investment relative to other stocks within its Coverage Cluster (defined below). Our investment ratings are: 1 - Buy stocks are expected to have a total return of at least 10% and are the most attractive stocks in the coverage cluster; 2 - Neutral stocks are expected to remain flat or increase in value and are less attractive than Buy rated stocks and 3 - Underperform stocks are the least attractive stocks in a coverage cluster. An investment rating of 6 (No Rating) indicates that a stock is no longer trading on the basis of fundamentals. Analysts assign investment ratings considering, among other things, the 0-12 month total return expectation for a stock and the firm's guidelines for ratings dispersions (shown in the table below). The current price objective for a stock should be referenced to better understand the total return expectation at any given time. The price objective reflects the analyst's view of the potential price appreciation (depreciation).

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%

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