

### Unilever

## Major changes, but no upside to FY24E **forecasts**

Reiterate Rating: UNDERPERFORM | PO: 3,600 GBp | Price: 4,025 GBp

### In-line results on good volume/mix in Beauty & wellbeing

Unilever headline 4023 results came in below consensus on organic growth (4.7% vs 5%) but its composition was reassuring with better volume/mix (1.8% vs 1.1%) offset by lower pricing (2.8% vs 3.8%). Clear bright spot was volume/mix performance in Beauty & Wellbeing (6.3% vs 2%), while biggest disappointment (Exhibit 1) was on Home Care (volume & price), followed by Ice Cream (pricing). Europe and APAC worse on volume/mix, while North America and LatAm better on volume/mix. On profitability, EBIT margin slightly better for FY23 (16.7% vs 16.5%), but EPS miss by 0.4%

### FY24E: neither EPS growth, nor upside to forecasts

Management FY24E guidance is multi-year range of 3-5% ("more balance between volume and price"), modest improvement in EBIT margin through gross margin expansion (up 200 bps in FY23, further improvements from productivity + normalization of COGS inflation to 2.5-3%). Management expects a step up in brand and marketing investment (130 bps up in FY23). Our model revisions (69 bps increase on OG, 7 bps higher EBIT margin) result in 0.8% increase in FY24E EPS (mostly due to 5% negative currency impact), 2.7% below current consensus.

### Management strategy make sense...

The magnitude of management changes is impressive and action plan with focus on investment in 30 core brands growth makes sense to us. SKU reduction plan has bottomed-out, portfolio changes (Elida, DSC, K18) should be growth and margin accretive.

### ...but tough quarters ahead

To turn more positive, we need to see 1) sustainability of Beauty& wellbeing volume outperformance (6.3% in 4Q23 vs. 3.7% in 9M23) in FY24E; 2) first signs of improvement in Home Care (BofAE: 1H24E still challenged); 3) aggressive price investments in Ice Cream translating in superior volumes. We are c50 bps < cons. on 1H24 OG and c3.3% < on EBIT. Consequently, we reiterate our Underperform rating.

Estimates (Dec) (EUR)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
EPS (Adjusted Diluted)	2.57	2.60	2.68	2.94	3.11
EPS Change (YoY)	-2.3%	1.3%	2.8%	9.7%	6.0%
Dividend / Share	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.88	1.99
ADR EPS (Adjusted Diluted - US\$)	2.70	2.82	2.88	3.16	3.35
ADR Dividend / Share (US\$)	1.80	1.85	1.84	2.02	2.14
Valuation (Dec)					
P/E	17.6x	17.8x	17.7x	16.1x	15.2x
Dividend Yield	3.62%	3.62%	3.62%	3.97%	4.21%
EV / EBITDA*	13.0x	13.2x	12.5x	11.8x	11.3x
Free Cash Flow Yield*	4.32%	5.96%	5.54%	6.25%	6.78%
* For full definitions of <i>IQ</i> method <sup>SM</sup> measures, see page 7.					

>> Employed by a non-US affiliate of BofAS and is not registered/qualified as a research analyst under the FINRA rules.

Refer to "Other Important Disclosures" for information on certain BofA Securities entities that take

responsibility for the information herein in particular jurisdictions.

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 8 to 11. Analyst Certification on page 6. Price

Objective Basis/Risk on page 6. Timestamp: 09 February 2024 12:30AM EST

#### 09 February 2024

#### Equity

Key Changes		
(EUR)	Previous	Current
2024E EPS	2.65	2.68
2025E EPS	2.85	2.94
2026E EPS	3.03	3.11
2024E DPS	1.75	1.71

Victoria Petrova >> Research Analyst BofA Europe (Frankfurt) +49 69 5899 5078

victoria.petrova@bofa.com

Antoine Prevot >> Research Analyst +44 20 7995 1688 antoine.prevot@bofa.com

Joffrey Bellicha Meller >> Research Analyst

+44 20 7995 7497 joffrey.bellichameller@bofa.com

#### **Stock Data**

Investment Opinion

Price (UK Ord, ENA Ord, 4,025 GBp / 48.90 USD /

47.15 EUR

Price Objective 3,600 GBp / 46.00 USD /

42.00 EUR

Date Established 11-Oct-2023 / 11-Jan-2024 /

11-lan-2024

A-3-7 / A-3-7 / A-3-7

Volatility Risk IOW/IOW/IOW 52-Week Range 3,681 GBp-4,483 GBp 100,598 GBP Market Value (mn) Shares Outstanding (mn) 2,500 / 2,500 / 2,500

Average Daily Value (mn) 108.19 USD BofA Ticker / Exchange UNLYF / LSE BofA Ticker / Exchange UL / NYS BofA Ticker / Exchange UNLVF / ENA Bloomberg / Reuters ULVR LN / ULVR.L

ROF (2024F) 36.5% Net Dbt to Eqty (Dec-2023A) 118.9% Free Float 98.1% 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"

# **iQ**profile<sup>™</sup> Unilever

Key Income Statement Data (Dec)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
(EUR Millions)					
Sales	60,073	59,604	60,088	61,960	64,077
EBITDA Adjusted	11,629	11,510	12,116	12,789	13,390
Depreciation & Amortization	(1,946)	(1,579)	(1,863)	(1,921)	(1,986)
EBIT Adjusted	9,683	9,931	10,253	10,868	11,403
Net Interest & Other Income	(418)	(419)	(500)	(269)	(175)
Tax Expense / Benefit	(2,068)	(2,199)	(2,213)	(2,416)	(2,564)
Net Income (Adjusted)	6,582	6,594	6,690	7,293	7,732
Average Fully Diluted Shares Outstanding	2,560	2,532	2,500	2,484	2,484
Key Cash Flow Statement Data					
Net Income (Reported)	7,642	6,487	6,194	6,781	7,203
Depreciation & Amortization	1,946	1,579	1,863	1,921	1,986
Change in Working Capital	(422)	814	(138)	42.9	215
Deferred Taxation Charge	0	0	0	0	0
Other CFO	(1,884)	546	972	976	917
Cash Flow from Operations	7,282	9,426	8,891	9,721	10,322
Capital Expenditure	(1,627)	(1,703)	(1,863)	(1,921)	(1,986)
(Acquisition) / Disposal of Investments	3,643	(268)	150	0	0
Other CFI	437	(323)	685	672	659
Cash Flow from Investing	2,453	(2,294)	(1,028)	(1,249)	(1,327)
Share Issue / (Repurchase) Cost of Dividends Paid	(1,509)	(1,507)	(1,500)	(4.210)	(4.630)
	(4,329)	(4,363)	(4,246)	(4,219)	(4,628)
Increase (decrease) debt Other CFF	(1,080) (1,972)	(177) (1,146)	(460) (1,656)	(2,605) (1,647)	(2,790) (1,576)
Cash Flow from Financing	(8,890)	(7,140) ( <b>7,193</b> )	(7,863)	(8,471)	(8,995)
Total Cash Flow (CFO + CFI + CFF)	845	(61.0)	(7,003)	(0,471)	(0,555)
FX and other changes to cash	929	279	0	0	0
Change in Cash	1,774	218	0	0	0
Change in Net Debt	(2,854)	(395)	(460)	(2,605)	(2,790)
Net Debt	25,080	24,685	24,225	21,620	18,830
Key Balance Sheet Data	,	,	,	,	,
-	10,770	10,707	10,557	10,557	10,557
Property, Plant & Equipment Goodwill	21,609	21,109	21,109	21,109	21,109
Other Intangibles	18,880	18,357	18,357	18,357	18,357
Other Non-Current Assets	7,405	7,191	7,191	7,191	7,191
Trade Receivables	7,405	5,775	5,822	5,918	6,033
Cash & Equivalents	6,099	6,317	6,317	6,317	6,317
Other Current Assets	6,002	5,810	5,852	5,927	6,019
Total Assets	77,821	75,266	75,204	75,377	75,583
Long-Term Debt	25,404	25,915	25,455	22,850	20,060
Other Non-Current Liabilities	5,289	5,080	5,080	5,080	5,080
Short-Term Debt	5,775	5,087	5,087	5,087	5,087
Other Current Liabilities	19,652	18,420	18,370	18,586	19,006
Total Liabilities	56,120	54,502	53,992	51,602	49,233
Total Equity	21,701	20,764	21,212	23,774	26,350
Total Equity & Liabilities	77,821	75,266	75,204	75,377	75,583
Business Performance*					
Return On Capital Employed	13.4%	13.2%	13.6%	14.5%	15.2%
Return On Equity	36.4%	35.5%	36.5%	36.8%	34.5%
Operating Margin	17.9%	16.4%	16.0%	16.4%	16.7%
Free Cash Flow (MM)	5,198	7,091	6,499	7,290	7,907
Quality of Earnings*					
Cash Realization Ratio	1.11x	1.43x	1.33x	1.33x	1.33x
Asset Replacement Ratio	0.84x	1.08x	1.00x	1.00x	1.00x
Tax Rate	20.0%	23.5%	24.3%	24.4%	24.4%
Net Debt/Equity	116%	119%	114%	90.9%	71.5%
Interest Cover	19.6x	20.4x	18.9x	20.7x	25.8x
* For full definitions of <i>IQ</i> method <sup>SM</sup> measures, see page 7					

#### **Company Sector**

Cosmetics/Personal Care

#### **Company Description**

With €60bn+ revenue and fourteen €1bn brands, Unilever is one of the largest and most diversified company in our coverage. It covers Home & Personal Care (ca. 65% of sales) with leading brands such as Dove, Dirt is Good, Surf, Rexona and Axe, while the Food part (ca. 35% of sales) is focused on Ice Cream (Magnum, Ben & Jerry's) and Nutrition (Hellman's, Knorr). Unilever boasts global reach with emerging markets making up c60% of sales.

#### **Investment Rationale**

While we see as positive the new management team focus on reigniting topline growth through portfolio rotation, SKU reduction plans, R&D and Brands investments, it is early days and we need to see more detail as to how the company will manage 2024 as price deflation in Personal and Home Care in 2024 could partially offset volume/mix rebound, while in Food continued cost pressure could impact volume recovery.

#### Stock Data

Shares / ADR	1.00
Price to Book Value	63x

#### **Half-yearly Earnings Estimates**

	2023	2024
H1	1.39A	1.43E
H2	1.21A	1.24E

Key Changes		
(US\$)	Previous	Current
2024E EPS	2.86	2.88
2025E EPS	3.07	3.16
2026E EPS	3.26	3.35
2024E DPS	1.88	1.84



### **Results Snapshot**

While 4Q23 results came in line below Consensus on organic growth, its composition was reassuring with better volume/mix being offset by lower pricing. Clear bright spot was strong performance in Beauty & wellbeing, with a 430 bps beat on volume/mix expectation, mostly driven by Prestige beauty and Health & wellbeing both growing midteens and now accounting for 27% of the Beauty and Wellness division. Results were more disappointing in Personal Care (100bps volume/mix miss) and especially in Home Care with a miss on both volume (20 bps) and pricing (210 bps below Cons.) as COGS deflation forces Unilever to adjust down pricing especially in Emerging Markets (Brazil, South Asia). Following an important rebasing of its pricing architecture in the US Ice Cream business, volume/mix came in 250bps above but at the cost of 460 below Cons pricing. Highlighting the important elasticity of that category, and as a result, Adj. EBIT margins in 2H23 came in at 5.3% (vs Cons. at 7.7%).

Exhibit 1: Unilever Group 4Q23 results came below Cons on Organic growth but volume/mix was better by 70 bps.

Unilever 4Q23 results vs BofA estimates and Consensus (group Cons. based on company compiled consensus / Divisions based on Visible Alpha Cons.)

Unilever			4Q23E					FY23E		
Dec YE, EURm	BofA	Cons.	Actual	Delta vs. Bofa	Delta vs. Cons	BofA	Cons.	Actual	Delta vs. Bofa	Delta vs. Cons
Group						<u> </u>				
Sales	14,145	14,279	14,177	0.2%	-0.7%	59,876	60,042	59,604	-0.5%	-0.7%
volume/mix	0.5%	1.1%	1.8%	130	70	-0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	37	20
Price	3.3%	3.8%	2.8%	-52	-100	7.1%	7.1%	6.8%	-26	-30
Organic Growth	3.8%	5.0%	4.7%	92	-30	6.8%	7.1%	7.0%	20	-10
Adj EBIT						9,885	9,881	9,931	0.5%	0.5%
Margin (%)						16.5%	16.5%	16.7%	15	20
Underlying EPS						2.58	2.61	2.60	0.8%	-0.4%
Beauty & Wellness										
Sales	3,053	3,176	3,181	4.2%	0.2%	12,391	12,515	12,466	0.6%	-0.4%
volume/mix	1.5%	2.0%	6.3%	480	430	3.1%	3.3%	4.4%	126	113
Price	2.0%	2.7%	1.5%	-50	-124	3.8%	4.0%	3.8%	-4	-23
Organic Growth	3.5%	4.7%	7.9%	437	316	7.1%	7.3%	8.3%	120	100
Adj EBIT						2,354	2,355	2,331	-1.0%	-1.0%
margin %						19.0%	18.8%	18.7%	-30	-12
Personal Care						15.070	10.0 %	10.7 /0	30	12
Sales	3,471	3,404	3,522	1.5%	3.5%	13,984	13,917	13,829	-1.1%	-0.6%
volume/mix	4.0%	3.5%	2.5%	-150	-100	3.6%	3.5%	3.2%	-40	-28
Price	2.0%	2.6%	3.8%	180	122	5.0%	5.3%	5.5%	47	23
Organic Growth	6.1%	6.1%	6.4%	32	32	8.8%	8.7%	8.9%	9	16
Adj EBIT	0.170	0.1 /0	0.4 /0	JZ	52	2,797	2,777	2,792	-0.2%	0.5%
margin %						20.0%	20.0%	20.2%	19	23
Home Care						20.0%	20.0%	20.270	19	23
Sales	3,048	3,029	2,974	-2.4%	-1.8%	12,362	12,332	12,181	-1.5%	-1.2%
volume/mix	1.5%	1.0%	0.8%	-2.4% -70	-1.6% -20	-0.7%	-0.9%	-0.9%	-1.5%	-1.2% -3
Price	2.0%	3.0%	0.8%	-70 -110	-20 -210	-0.7% 7.2%	-0.9% 7.3%	-0.9%	-20 -36	-3 -48
										-40 -51
Organic Growth	3.5%	4.0%	1.7%	-183	-230	6.4%	6.4%	5.9%	-51	
Adj EBIT						1,422	1,439	1,496	5.2%	4.0%
margin %						11.5%	11.7%	12.3%	78	61
Nutrition	2.270	2.440	2.416	1.10/	0.00/	12.227	12 207	12.204	0.20/	0.00/
Sales	3,378	3,449	3,416	1.1%	-0.9%	13,237	13,307	13,204	-0.2%	-0.8%
volume/mix	-3.0%	-1.0%	-1.1%	190	-10	-2.7%	-2.2%	-2.2%	46	-3
Price	6.0%	6.0%	5.9%	-10	-10	10.3%	10.1%	10.1%	-18	0
Organic Growth	2.8%	5.0%	4.7%	188	-30	7.3%	7.9%	7.7%	36	-23
Adj EBIT						2,396	2,414	2,460	2.7%	1.9%
margin %						18.1%	18.1%	18.6%	53	49
Ice Cream								_		
Sales	1,196	1,213	1,202	0.5%	-0.9%	7,903	7,918	7,924	0.3%	0.1%
volume/mix	-5.0%	-3.3%	-0.8%	420	254	-6.6%	-6.4%	-6.0%	61	41
Price	6.5%	5.0%	0.4%	-610	-459	9.7%	9.1%	8.8%	-94	-26
Organic Growth	1.2%	1.7%	-0.4%	-157	-205	2.5%	2.7%	2.3%	-19	-35
Adj EBIT						917	931	852	-7.1%	-8.5%
margin %						11.6%	11.8%	10.8%	-85	-101

Source: Company data, BofA Global Research estimates, Visible Alpha

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH



### **Model revisions**

We slightly increase our volume/mix growth forecast for FY24 by 20bps as we factor in better Ice Cream volume trajectory post 4Q23 results post rebasing of US business. We increase pricing by 50 bps for FY24 as we are more positive on Beauty & Wellbeing, Personal Care and Nutrition pricing, albeit remain cautious on home care and ice cream as we expect COGS deflation in the first one and increased promotional activity in the later. We slightly increase margin on better COGS outlook but offset it by increased Brand and Marketing investments. We now incorporate the EUR 1.5bn share buyback for 2024. We refresh for FX and on M&A front, we incorporate K18 acquisition from February 2024 and include Elida Disposal from start of 3Q24,

Exhibit 2: We increase FY24 volume/mix by 20bps and pricing by 50bps.

New vs Old BofA estimates, Dec YE, EURm.

		2023			2024			2025	
Decembre Year end, EUR m	Old	New	% Change	Old	New	% Change	Old	New	% Change
Group Sales	59,876	59,604	-0.5%	59,602	60,088	0.8%	61,763	61,960	0.3%
Volume/mix (%)	-0.2%	0.2%	38	2.8%	3.0%	19	2.5%	2.5%	0
Pricing (%)	7.1%	6.8%	-26	-0.2%	0.3%	48	1.1%	1.1%	0
Organic Growth (%)	6.8%	7.0%	22	2.6%	3.3%	69	3.6%	3.6%	0
Group Adjusted Operating Profit	9,885	9,931	0.5%	10,126	10,253	1.3%	10,752	10,868	1.1%
Margin %	16.5%	16.7%	15	17.0%	17.1%	7	17.4%	17.5%	13
Adj. Net Income	6,506	6,594	1.4%	6,653	6,690	0.6%	7,145	7,293	2.1%
Margin %	10.9%	11.1%	20	11.2%	11.1%	-3	11.6%	11.8%	20
Group Adjusted EPS - diluted	2.58	2.60	1.0%	2.65	2.68	0.8%	2.85	2.94	3.0%

**Source:** BofA Global Research estimates

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Exhibit 3: We are 60 bps below consensus on organic growth and 3% below on adj. EPS for 2024 BofA Vs Visible alpha consensus

		E 10.1			5.05			E) (0.6	
December Year end, EUR m	BofA	FY24 Cons.	delta vs Cons	BofA	FY25 Cons.	delta vs Cons	BofA	FY26 Cons.	delta vs Cons
Unilever Group									
Sales	60,088	61,875	-2.9%	61,960	64,188	-3.5%	64,077	65,495	-2.2%
Volume/mix	3.0%	2.3%	73	2.5%	2.3%	18	2.1%	2.1%	-4
Price	0.3%	1.6%	-138	1.1%	2.0%	-86	1.4%	1.7%	-28
LFL	3.3%	3.9%	-64	3.6%	4.3%	-65	3.6%	3.8%	-29
Adj. EBITDA	12,116	12,238	-1.0%	12,789	12,961	-1.3%	13,390	13,489	-0.7%
Margin (%)	20.2%	19.8%	39	20.6%	20.2%	45	20.9%	20.6%	30
Adj. EBIT	10,253	10,446	-1.8%	10,868	11,063	-1.8%	11,403	11,489	-0.7%
Margin (%)	17.1%	16.9%	18	17.5%	17.2%	30	17.8%	17.5%	25
Adj. EBT	9,754	9,978	-2.3%	10,598	10,634	-0.3%	11,228	11,201	0.2%
Margin (%)	16.2%	16.1%	11	17.1%	16.6%	54	17.5%	17.1%	42
Adj. Net Income - Group share	6,690	6,842	-2.2%	7,293	7,306	-0.2%	7,732	7,632	1.3%
Adj. EPS (Diluted)	2.68	2.75	-2.7%	2.94	2.93	0.1%	3.11	3.09	0.8%
DPS	1.71	1.80	-5.1%	1.88	1.90	-1.3%	1.99	1.99	0.1%
Weighted average Shares outstanding (in millions)	2,500	2,495	0.2%	2,484	2,495	-0.4%	2,484	2,495	-0.4%
Capex	1,863	1,902	-2.1%	1,921	1,972	-2.6%	1,986	2,067	-3.9%
FCF	6,499	6,571	-1.1%	7,290	7,202	1.2%	7,907	7,672	3.1%

**Source:** Visible Alpha, BofA Global Research estimates

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH



**Exhibit 4: Our APV-driven model returns a price objective of EUR 42.6 / GBp3,600 for Unilever** BofA Unilever Price objective

				ted Present Va					
08/02/2024	31/12/2024	31/12/2025	31/12/2026	31/12/2027	31/12/2028	31/12/2029	31/12/2030	31/12/2031	31/12/2032
Year count	0.40	1.40	2.40	3.40	4.40	5.40	6.40	7.40	8.40
EURm	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	TV
Net Revenue	60,088	61,960	64,077	66,206	68,338	70,471	72,600	74,721	
EBIT (after restructuring)	9,592	10,186	10,698	11,190	11,687	12,193	12,706	13,227	
Depreciation and Amortisation	1,863	1,921	1,986	2,052	2,118	2,185	2,251	2,316	
Decrease/(Increase) in working capital	-138	43	215	218	-10	-10	-11	-11	
Other	-214	-14	-14	-14	-14	-14	-14	-14	
Cash From operating	11,103	12,136	12,886	13,446	13,782	14,353	14,933	15,519	
Net CapEx	-1,863	-1,921	-1,986	-2,052	-2,118	-2,185	-2,251	-2,316	
Tax	-2,398	-2,547	-2,675	-2,797	-2,922	-3,048	-3,177	-3,307	
Free Cash Flow	6,842	7,669	8,225	8,596	8,741	9,120	9,505	9,895	
Discount factor	0.97	0.89	0.82	0.75	0.69	0.63	0.58	0.54	0.49
Discounted Free Cash Flow	6,618	6,819	6,723	6,459	6,037	5,790	5,548	5,309	84,521
Revenue Growth	0.8%	3.1%	3.4%	3.3%	3.2%	3.1%	3.0%	2.9%	
EBIT margin (after restructuring)	16.0%	16.4%	16.7%	16.9%	17.1%	17.3%	17.5%	17.7%	
CapEx/DD&A	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
DD&A/Sales	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	
Net Capex/Sales	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	
Underlying Tax Rate	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%	
Tax Shield									
Cost of Debt (pre tax)	2.2%	2.3%	2.2%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	
Net Debt	24,225	21,620	18,830	15,912	27,611	28,755	29,914	31,087	
Interest	-537	-496	-414	-335	-581	-606	-630	-655	
Tax shield	134	124	103	84	145	151	157	164	
Discounted Tax Shield	133	121	100	79	136	139	142	146	8,565
Net Debt/EBITDA	2.0	1.7	1.4	1.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	
FCF growth %	-7.0%	12.1%	7.3%	4.5%	1.7%	4.3%	4.2%	4.1%	
	EUR m	EUR/share	GBp/share		Rf			3.5%	
Free Cash Flow NPV	133,824				Beta			0.9	
Net Debt	-24,225				Equity Risk Prem	ium		6.0%	
Non-controlling interest	-22,085			•	Cost of Equity (F	(e)		8.8%	
Associates	4,851				Cost of Debt (pr	e tax)		2.2%	
Equity Value	92,366				Tax rate	•		25.0%	
Tax shield	9,561				Cost of Debt (Kd)			1.7%	
Implied share price	101,928	40.8			Terminal Growt			2.5%	
Price Objective (12 months)	*	42.6	3600		Shares outstandi			2,500	

**Source:** Company data, BofA Global Research estimates

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH



### Price objective basis & risk

#### Unilever (UNLYF / UL)

Our price objective (PO) for Unilever plc shares is GBP 3,600 / EUR 42 / \$46 and is based on the Adjusted Present Value methodology (a variation of the DCF) whereby we discount the business' operating cash flows at the cost of equity (for Unilever we use 8.9%) and the tax shield at the cost of debt (2.4%). We assume a terminal growth rate of 2.5%

Downside risks to PO: slowdown of organic growth, increased competition from emerging challengers/global peers/private label players, change of consumer trends, insufficient investment on digitalisation, raw materials inflation, changing macro trends, unfavourable currency swings, and deterioration of brand image.

Upside risks to PO: stronger-than-expected macroeconomic recovery, increase of consumer confidence, higher-than-expected margins/organic growth, raw materials deflation, favourable currency swings, and increase of dividend.

#### Unilever (UNLVF)

Our price objective (PO) for Unilever plc shares is GBP 3,600 / EUR 42 / \$46 and is based on the Adjusted Present Value methodology (a variation of the DCF) whereby we discount the business' operating cash flows at the cost of equity (for Unilever we use 8.9%) and the tax shield at the cost of debt (2.4%). We assume a terminal growth rate of 2.5%

Downside risks to PO: slowdown of organic growth, increased competition from emerging challengers/global peers/private label players, change of consumer trends, insufficient investment on digitalisation, raw materials inflation, changing macro trends, unfavourable currency swings, and deterioration of brand image.

Upside risks to PO: stronger-than-expected macroeconomic recovery, increase of consumer confidence, higher-than-expected margins/organic growth, raw materials deflation, favourable currency swings, and increase of dividend.

### **Analyst Certification**

I, Victoria Petrova, 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 - HPC, Food & Tobacco Coverage Cluster** 

•	•			
Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
BUY				
	Beiersdorf	BDRFF	BEI GY	Victoria Petrova
	Beiersdorf	BDRFY	BDRFY US	Victoria Petrova
	British American Tobacco	BTAFF	BATS LN	Joffrey Bellicha Meller
	British American Tobacco	BTI	BTI US	Joffrey Bellicha Meller
	British American Tobacco	XTALF	BTI SJ	Joffrey Bellicha Meller
	Haleon	HLNCF	HLN LN	Victoria Petrova
	Haleon	HLN	HLN US	Victoria Petrova
	Henkel	HENOY	HENOY US	Victoria Petrova
	Henkel	HENOF	HEN3 GY	Victoria Petrova
	Nestle	NSRGF	NESN SW	Victoria Petrova
	Nestle	NSRGY	NSRGY US	Victoria Petrova
NEUTRAL				
	Imperial Brands	IMBBF	IMB LN	Joffrey Bellicha Meller
	Imperial Brands	IMBBY	IMBBY US	Joffrey Bellicha Meller

#### **EMEA - HPC, Food & Tobacco Coverage Cluster**

Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
	Reckitt Benckiser	RBGPF	RKT LN	Victoria Petrova
	Reckitt Benckiser	RBGLY	RBGLY US	Victoria Petrova
UNDERPERFORM				
	Danone	DANOY	DANOY US	Victoria Petrova
	Danone	GPDNF	BN FP	Victoria Petrova
	Unilever	UL	UL US	Victoria Petrova
	Unilever	UNLYF	ULVR LN	Victoria Petrova
	Unilever	UNLVF	UNA NA	Victoria Petrova
RSTR				
	Essity	ETTYF	ESSITYB SS	Othmane Bricha
RVW				
	BIC	BICEF	BB FP	Othmane Bricha
	Ontex	ONXXF	ONTEX BB	Othmane Bricha

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

<b>Business Performance</b>	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

Manethod 3<sup>M</sup> is 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.

\*\*Ratachase\*\* 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.

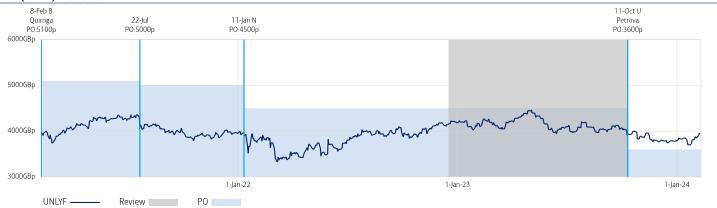
\*\*Deprofile SM\*\*, \*\*\*Deprofile SM\*\* are service marks of Bank of America Corporation. \*\*\*Deprofile SM\*\* are service mark of Bank of America Corporation.



### **Disclosures**

### **Important Disclosures**

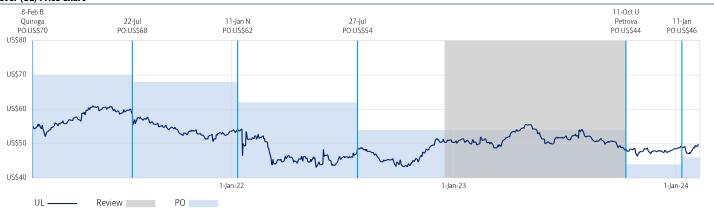
#### **Unilever (UNLYF) Price Chart**



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.

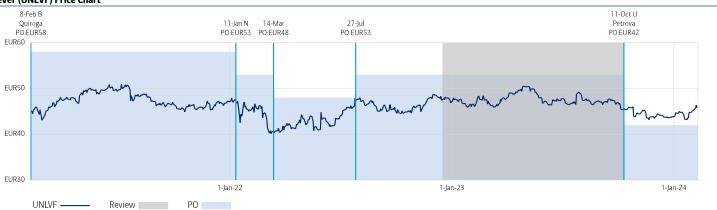
#### Unilever (UL) Price Chart



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

#### **Unilever (UNLVF) 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: Consumer Products Group (as of 31 Dec 2023)**

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships R1	Count	Percent
Buy	32	50.00%	Buy	16	50.00%
Hold	19	29.69%	Hold	8	42.11%
Sell	13	20.31%	Sell	7	53.85%

#### 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<sup>R2</sup>

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.

INCOME RATINGS, indicators of potential cash dividends, are: 7 - same/higher (dividend considered to be secure), 8 - same/lower (dividend not considered to be secure) and 9 - pays no cash dividend. Coverage Cluster is comprised of stocks covered by a single analyst or two or more analysts sharing a common industry, sector, region or other classification(s). A stock's coverage cluster is included in the most recent BofA Global Research report referencing the stock.

Price Charts for the securities referenced in this research report are available on the Price Charts website, or call 1-800-MERRILL to have them mailed.

BofAS or one of its affiliates acts as a market maker for the equity securities recommended in the report: Unilever.

The issuer is or was, within the last 12 months, an investment banking client of BofAS and/or one or more of its affiliates: Unilever.

BofAS or an affiliate has received compensation from the issuer for non-investment banking services or products within the past 12 months: Unilever.

The issuer is or was, within the last 12 months, a non-securities business client of BofAS and/or one or more of its affiliates: Unilever.

BofAS or an affiliate has received compensation for investment banking services from this issuer within the past 12 months: Unilever.

BofAS or an affiliate expects to receive or intends to seek compensation for investment banking services from this issuer or an affiliate of the issuer within the next three months: Unilever. BofAS together with its affiliates beneficially owns one percent or more of the common stock of this issuer. If this report was issued on or after the 9th day of the month, it reflects the ownership position on the last day of the previous month. Reports issued before the 9th day of a month reflect the ownership position at the end of the second month preceding the date of the report: Unilever.

BofAS or one of its affiliates is willing to sell to, or buy from, clients the common equity of the issuer on a principal basis: Unilever.

The issuer is or was, within the last 12 months, a securities business client (non-investment banking) of BofAS and/or one or more of its affiliates. Unilever.

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.

### **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.

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.

Officers of BofAS 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. Refer to BofA Global Research policies relating to conflicts of interest.

"BofA Securities" includes BofA Securities, Inc. ("BofAS") 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.

Information relating to Non-US affiliates of BofA Securities and Distribution of Affiliate Research Reports:

BofAS 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 <a href="https://www.bofaml.com/BofASEdisclaimer">www.bofaml.com/BofASEdisclaimer</a>; 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 (HKSFC); 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 Canada Investment Regulatory Organization; Merrill Lynch (Mexico): Merrill L

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 BofASE (France), which is authorized by the ACPR and regulated by the ACPR and the AMF; has been considered and distributed in Japan by BofAS 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 HKSFC; is issued and distributed in Taiwan by Merrill Lynch (Taiwan); is issued and distributed in India by BofAS 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 conduct of business rules. BofA Europe and BofASE (France), may outsource/delegate t

This information has been prepared and issued by BofAS 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. BofAS and/or MLPF&S is the distributor of this information in the US and accepts full responsibility for information distributed to BofAS 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 BofAS 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.

This report may contain a short-term trading idea or recommendation, which highlights a specific near-term catalyst or event impacting the issuer or the market that is anticipated to have a short-term price impact on the equity securities of the issuer. Short-term trading ideas and recommendations are different from and do not affect a stock's fundamental equity rating, which reflects both a longer term total return expectation and attractiveness for investment relative to other stocks within its Coverage Cluster. Short-term trading ideas and recommendations may be more or less positive than a stock's fundamental equity rating.

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.

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

BofAS or one of its affiliates is a regular issuer of traded financial instruments linked to securities that may have been recommended in this report. BofAS 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 BofAS for the provision of research services for a separate fee, and in connection therewith BofAS may be deemed to be acting as an investment adviser, such status relates, if at all, solely to the person with whom BofAS has contracted directly and does not extend beyond the delivery of this report (unless otherwise agreed specifically in writing by BofAS). If such recipient uses the services of BofAS in connection with the sale or purchase of a security referred to herein, BofAS may act as principal for its own account or as agent for another person. BofAS is and continues to act solely as a broker-dealer in connection with the execution of any transactions in any securities referred to herein.

#### BofA ESGMeter Methodology:

ESGMeter is a proprietary metric based on quantitative analysis and fundamental analyst inputs that reflects our assessment of a company's Environmental, Social and Governance-related attributes. The ESGMeter is intended to indicate a company's likelihood of experiencing stronger financial stability (higher return on equity and lower earnings and price volatility) over the next three years relative to peer group. There are three ESGMeter levels - Low, Medium, and High - which indicate whether a company has attributes most likely to translate into superior financial



stability (in the case of a High level) or weaker financial stability (in the case of a Low level) over the next three years relative to its peer group. A Medium level suggests that a company exhibits ESG characteristics that are likely associated with financial stability results in line with its peer group over the next three years. Full details of our methodology, financial stability definition and disclaimers are available at <u>BofA ESGMeter methodology</u>. ESGMeter is not indicative of a company's future stock price performance and is not an investment recommendation or rating. ESGMeter is independent of the BofA Global Research fundamental equity analyst's investment rating, volatility risk rating, income rating or price objective for that company.

#### Copyright and General Information:

Copyright 2024 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 inform

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 BofAS 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.

Subject to the quiet period applicable under laws of the various jurisdictions in which we distribute research reports and other legal and BofA Securities policy-related restrictions on the publication of research reports, fundamental equity reports are produced on a regular basis as necessary to keep the investment recommendation current.

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.

