

Hesai

4Q23 beat on GPM but lower-thanexpected 1Q24 guidance; lower PO to \$7

Reiterate Rating: BUY | PO: 7.00 USD | Price: 5.37 USD

4Q23 GPM higher than expectations

Hesai reported 4Q23 results and hosted a conference call: 4Q23 total lidar shipments were 88k units, up 85% YoY and 85% QoQ, including 80k units of ADAS lidar and 7.3k units of robotaxi and robotic lidar. The 4Q GPM came in much higher than our forecast of 32.8% at 41.2%, up 11.2ppt YoY / 10.7ppt QoQ, thanks to higher production and shipment scale. OPEX was higher as well, due to increased headcount/payroll, credit loss, and legal consulting fees. The 4Q23 loss from operations was RMB163mn, compared to losses of RMB167mn in 3Q23 and RMB140mn in 4Q22. Net loss attributable to ordinary shareholders was RMB100mn, vs RMB102mn in 3Q23 and RMB110mn in 4Q22.

Strengthen cooperation with leading OEMs

Hesai has been selected by two global OEMs as an ADAS lidar supplier for EV models and continues to be engaged with nine global OEMs in 13 RFI/RFQ discussions. It also sees growing orders from Li Auto (MEGA/L7 Pro/L8 Pro) and deepening cooperation with the largest EV maker in China, GWM and Leapmotor. So far, it has confirmed ADAS lidar orders from 16 OEMs and 1 tier-1 supplier for 60 models.

Lifts ADAS shipment but 1Q24 guidance disappointing

Hesai expects 1Q24 lidar shipments at 50k units, tripling to 150k units in 2Q24, and further up to 200k units in 3Q24/4Q24, thanks to additional 13 vehicle models SOP and 6 ADAS OEM SOP from 2Q24. However, Hesai's revenue in 1Q24 should be hurt by slower robotaxi order/shipment (Cruise). The company guided for 1Q24 revenue of RMB320-350mn, down 19-26% YoY.

Lift shipment forecasts but cut revenue; new PO at \$7

We factor in the 4Q23 P&L and lift lidar shipment forecasts by 20%/8% in 2024/25E but lower 2024/25E revenue by 9%/19%, given the product mix change (lower robotaxi lidar of higher ASP) and ASP cut (AT128 ASP cut <20%). We slightly lift 2024E GPM by 0.4ppt, considering better scale economies and further cost reductions. Net-net, we cut 2024E net loss by 10%. Our new PO is US\$7 (US\$9.6 earlier, see more on P4). Reiterate Buy as we see it to be the leader in lidar industry with huge growth potential.

Estimates (Dec) (CNY)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
Net Income (Adjusted - mn)	(2,456)	(747)	(476)	(185)	73
EPS	(23.39)	(6.47)	(3.79)	(1.47)	0.583
EPS Change (YoY)	NM	72.3%	41.5%	61.2%	NM
Dividend / Share	0	0	0	0	0
Free Cash Flow / Share	(4.68)	(8.03)	(8.22)	(12.13)	(0.647)
Valuation (Dec)					
P/E	NM	NM	NM	NM	66.21x
EV / EBITDA*	NM	NM	NM	NM	24.18x
Free Cash Flow Yield*	-10.14%	-19.13%	-21.30%	-31.45%	-1.68%
* For full definitions of <i>IQ</i> method SM measures, see page 7.					

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Refer to important disclosures on page 8 to 10. Analyst Certification on page 5. Price
Objective Basis/Risk on page 5.

Timestamp: 12 March 2024 12:11PM EDT

12 March 2024

Equity

Key Changes		
(CNY)	Previous	Current
Price Obj.	US\$9.60	US\$7.00
2023E Rev (m)	1,846.6	1,877.0
2024E Rev (m)	3,453.1	3,155.1
2025E Rev (m)	5,351.2	4,360.1
2023E EPS	-3.52	-3.79
2024E EPS	-1.64	-1.47
2025E EPS	0.87	0.58
2023E EBITDA (m)	-449.5	-465.1
2024E EBITDA (m)	-188.6	-159.4
2025E EBITDA (m)	180.9	111.7

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Stock Data

Price	5.37 USD
Price Objective	7.00 USD
Date Established	12-Mar-2024
Investment Opinion	C-1-9
52-Week Range	3.28 USD-19.25 USD
Mrkt Val / Shares Out (mn)	675 USD / 125.7
Average Daily Value (mn)	5.82 USD
Free Float	7.9%
BofA Ticker / Exchange	HSAI / NAS
Bloomberg / Reuters	HSAI US / HSAI.OQ
ROE (2023E)	-106.1%
Net Dbt to Eqty (Dec-2022A)	-64.77%

ADAS: Advanced driver assistance systems; OEM: Original Equipment Manufacturer; RFI: request for information; RFQ: request for quote; SOP: Start of Production; ASP: average selling price

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Key Income Statement Data (Dec)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
(CNY Millions)					
Sales	721	1,203	1,877	3,155	4,360
Gross Profit	382	472	661	1,016	1,344
Sell General & Admin Expense	(306)	(306)	(469)	(521)	(627)
Operating Profit	(265)	(378)	(572)	(306)	(71)
Net Interest & Other Income	19	77	96	121	151
Associates	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Pretax Income	(246)	(301)	(475)	(185)	80
Tax (expense) / Benefit	1	0	(1)	0	(7)
Net Income (Adjusted)	(2,456)	(747)	(476)	(185)	73
Average Fully Diluted Shares Outstanding	105	116	126	126	126
Key Cash Flow Statement Data					
Net Income	(245)	(301)	(476)	(185)	73
Depreciation & Amortization	28	53	106	147	183
Change in Working Capital	(234)	(540)	(233)	(1,163)	(58)
Deferred Taxation Charge	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other Adjustments, Net	223	92	0	0	0
Cash Flow from Operations	(228)	(696)	(602)	(1,201)	199
Capital Expenditure	(263)	(231)	(430)	(324)	(280)
(Acquisition) / Disposal of Investments	(1,699)	1,392	0	0	0
Other Cash Inflow / (Outflow)	(18)	(41)	0	0	(200)
Cash Flow from Investing	(1,980)	1,120	(430)	(324)	(280)
Shares Issue / (Repurchase)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Cost of Dividends Paid	0	0	0	1,000	1,000
Cash Flow from Financing	2,404	15	2,362	1,000	1,000
Free Cash Flow	(492)	(927)	(1,032)	(1,525)	(81)
Net Debt	(2,792) 1,758	(1,841)	(2,170) (330)	(646) 1,525	(565)
Change in Net Debt	1,/56	(445)	(330)	1,525	81
Key Balance Sheet Data					
Property, Plant & Equipment	322	505	837	1,023	1,129
Other Non-Current Assets	137	199	191	182	173
Trade Receivables	86	485	399	1,087	967
Cash & Equivalents	2,792	1,859	3,189	2,664	3,583
Other Current Assets	615	791	1,162	1,938	2,151
Total Assets	3,952	3,839	5,779	6,895	8,004
Long-Term Debt	0 10	18 24	18 24	18 24	18
Other Non-Current Liabilities Short-Term Debt	0	0	1,000	2,000	24 3,000
Other Current Liabilities	892	956	1,000	1,310	1,345
Total Liabilities	903	998	2,051	3,352	4,387
Total Equity	3.050	2,842	3,728	3,543	3,617
Total Equity & Liabilities	3,952	3,839	5,720	6,895	8,004
iQmethod SM - Bus Performance*	2,222	2,222	2,	2,222	2,22
Return On Capital Employed	-10.0%	-9.7%	-11.3%	-3.2%	1.2%
Return On Equity	-10.0% NM	-9.7% NM	-106.1%	-5.1%	2.0%
Operating Margin	-36.8%	-31.4%	-30.4%	-9.7%	-1.6%
EBITDA Margin	-33.0%	-27.1%	-24.8%	-5.1%	2.6%
iQmethod [™] - Quality of Earnings*					
Cash Realization Ratio	NM	NM	NM	NM	2.7x
Asset Replacement Ratio	9.6x	4.4x	4.0x	2.2x	1.5x
Tax Rate (Reported)	0.5%	0%	NM	NM	8.2%
Net Debt-to-Equity Ratio	-91.5%	-64.8%	-58.2%	-18.2%	-15.6%
Interest Cover	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Key Metrics					

Company Sector Auto Parts

Company Description

Hesai, set up in 2014, is a global leader in LiDAR, which generates high-solution 3D image. By industries, Hesai's product lines and revenue could be divided into: 1) ADAS applied in passenger/commercial vehicle, 2) autonomous mobility (robotaxi) - autonomous vehicles that provide passenger/freight mobility service, 3) robotics. Hesai have become a leading supplier in the global LiDAR market, securing 47% share in 2022.

Investment Rationale

We have a Buy rating on Hesai. We expect 1) Hesai to post 52% revenue CAGR in 2023-25E, driven by solid new client/project lineup, 2) GPM to sustain at 30-32% in 2024-25, owing to new in-house capacity ramp-up and ASICs design upgrade and scale economies for further cost down, 3) a visible breakeven timeline.

Stock Data

Price to Book Value 1.3x

^{*} For full definitions of *IQ*methodSM measures, see page 7.

Earnings review and revisions

Exhibit 1: Quarterly comparison

4Q23 GPM significantly improved YoY/QoQ and higher than our forecast

(RMB mn)	4Q23 (A)	4Q23 (F)	Diff (%)	YoY	QoQ	3Q23	2Q23	1Q23	4Q22
Revenue	561	531	5.7%	37.1%	25.9%	446	440	430	409
COGS	330	357	-7.6%	15.1%	6.6%	309	309	267	286
Gross profit	231	174	33.1%	88.4%	70.0%	136	131	163	123
Operating exp	394	304	29.6%	50.0%	30.0%	303	245	291	263
Loss from operations	-163	-130	25.0%	16.2%	-2.6%	-167	-113	-128	-140
Loss before income taxes	-140	-107	31.0%	3.6%	-1.1%	-142	-74	-119	-135
Net loss	-141	-107	31.7%	4.1%	-0.6%	-142	-74	-119	-135
Net loss attributable to ordinary shareholders	-141	-107	31.7%	3.9%	-0.6%	-142	-74	-119	-136
Non-GAAP net loss attributable to ordinary shareholders	-100	-67	49.8%	-9.0%	-1.6%	-102	-41	2	-110
Net loss per ADS attributable to ordinary shareholders (RMB)	-1.12	-0.85	31.7%	-4.5%	-0.6%	-1.13	-0.59	-0.95	-1.17
Key ratios (%)									
GM	41.2%	32.8%				30.6%	29.8%	37.8%	30.0%
Op. margin (clean EBIT)	-29.0%	-24.5%				-37.5%	-25.8%	-29.8%	-34.2%
NM	-25.1%	-20.1%				-31.8%	-16.9%	-27.7%	-33.1%
OPEX to sales	70.3%	57.3%				68.1%	55.5%	67.6%	64.3%

Source: BofA Global Research estimates, company report

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Exhibit 2: New vs. old estimates

We lift 2024/25E shipment but cut 2024/25E revenue

		2023F			2024F			2025F	
(RMB mn)	Old	New	diff. (%)	Old	New	diff. (%)	Old	New	diff. (%)
LiDAR shipment (unit)	220,926	222,116	0.5%	497,880	596,514	19.8%	984,112	1,067,150	8.4%
Sales	1,847	1,877	1.6%	3,453	3,155	-8.6%	5,351	4,360	-18.5%
Gross Profit	604	661	9.5%	1,100	1,016	-7.6%	1,661	1,344	-19.1%
Operating profit / Loss from operations	-539	-572	6.0%	-320	-306	-4.2%	14	-71	-619.2%
Pretax income / Loss before income taxes	-442	-475	7.5%	-206	-185	-10.3%	119	80	-33.1%
Net income (loss)	-442	-476	7.7%	-206	-185	-10.3%	110	73	-33.2%
Net income (loss) attribute to ordinary shareholder	-442	-476	7.7%	-206	-185	-10.3%	110	73	-33.2%
Non-GAAP net income (loss) attributable to ordinary shareholders	-208	-241	16.1%	-46	-20	-57.1%	270	233	-13.5%
Net income (loss) per ADS attributable to ordinary shareholders (RMB)	-3.52	-3.79	7.7%	-1.64	-1.47	-10.3%	0.87	0.58	-33.2%
Key ratios (%)									
LiDAR shipment growth	174.6%	176.1%		125.4%	168.6%		97.7%	78.9%	
Sales growth	53.5%	56.1%		87.0%	68.1%		55.0%	38.2%	
EPS growth	-45.6%	-41.5%		-53.4%	-61.2%		-153.2%	-139.6%	
Gross margin	32.7%	35.2%		31.8%	32.2%		31.0%	30.8%	
Operating margin	-29.2%	-30.4%		-9.3%	-9.7%		0.3%	-1.6%	
Net margin	-23.9%	-25.4%		-6.0%	-5.9%		2.0%	1.7%	
OPEX to sales	61.9%	65.7%		41.1%	41.9%		30.8%	32.5%	

Source: BofA Global Research estimates

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Valuation

Our PO of USD7 (USD9.6 earlier) is based on average from DCF valuation and EV/sales valuation.

DCF valuation methodology: The fair value of USD6.3 (from USD12.1) is derived from our DCF calculation, with an assumption of 3.5% FCF perpetuity growth and 12.5% (from 13.2% earlier, change related to capital structure) WACC. We come up with a WACC of 12.5%, consisting of 2.7% risk free rate and 12% expected market return. We mainly revise down its mid-term shipment growth and also mid-term net margin.

EV/Sales methodology: The fair value of USD7.7 (USD7.2 earlier) is derived from our EV/sales valuation, as we assign 2x EV/sales (unchanged) to Hesai's 2024E sales, lower than its peers' average (4x) but higher than some peers who do not have comparable shipment volume, client lineup/order backlog and financials.

Exhibit 3: Valuation summary

Our new PO is USD7

Valuation methodology	Implied value (USD)	Upside/ downside potential	Parameters
DCF fair value	6.3		12.5% WACC, 3.5% perpetual growth
EV/sales fair value	7.7		2x 2024 EV/sales
PO	7.0	40%	

Source: BofA Global Research estimates

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Price objective basis & risk

Hesai (HSAI)

Our PO of USD7 is based on average of DCF valuation and EV/sales valuation.

DCF valuation methodology:

The fair value of USD6.3 is derived from our DCF calculation, with an assumption of 3.5% FCF perpetuity growth and 12.5% WACC. We come up with WACC of 12.5%, consisting of 2.7% risk free rate and 12% expected market return. Lastly, we assigned 3.5% perpetual growth rate to the company, which is reasonable, in our view, given the overall LiDAR penetration in ADAS is still relatively low and CAGR growth could be sustained in longer term.

EV/Sales methodology:

The fair value of USD7.7 is derived from our EV/sales valuation, as we assign 2x EV/sales to Hesai's 2024E sales, lower than its peers' average (4x) but higher than some peers who do not have comparable shipment volume, client lineup/order backlog and financials. We believe that Hesai deserves a valuation premium considering its leading position in the industry (market share in terms of shipment, order gain), superior margins, faster breakeven timeline, and stronger B/S management. This characteristic set Hesai a solid foundation to survive through industry shuffling and remain as one of the top suppliers in the segment. However, this is offset by the stock's low liquidity, resulting in a peers' average multiple.

Risk: client concentration, ASP/GPM downside, slower EV/ smart vehicle growth

Analyst Certification

I, Jessie Lo, 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.

APR - Autos Coverage Cluster

Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
BUY				
	Aima Technology	XIHBF	603529 CH	Joey Yang, CFA
	Bajaj Auto	XBJBF	BJAUT IN	Gunjan Prithyani
	BYD	BYDDF	1211 HK	Ming Hsun Lee, CFA
	BYD	XYMPF	002594 CH	Ming Hsun Lee, CFA
	BYD	BYDDY	BYDDY US	Ming Hsun Lee, CFA
	CATL	XMOQF	300750 CH	Ming Hsun Lee, CFA
	DENSO	DNZOF	6902 JP	Kentaro Hosoda
	Fuyao Glass	XFGIF	600660 CH	Edward Leung, CFA
	Fuyao Glass	FIGIF	3606 HK	Edward Leung, CFA
	Great Wall Motor	GWLLF	2333 HK	Ming Hsun Lee, CFA
	GS Yuasa	GYUAF	6674 JP	Kentaro Hosoda
	Guangzhou Automobile Group	GNZUF	2238 HK	Ming Hsun Lee, CFA
	Hankook Tire	XHTRF	161390 KS	KJ Hwang
	Hero Motocorp	HRHDF	HMCL IN	Gunjan Prithyani
	Hesai	HSAI	HSAI US	Jessie Lo
	HL Mando	XMADF	204320 KS	KJ Hwang
	Honda Motor	HMC	HMC US	Kentaro Hosoda
	Honda Motor	HNDAF	7267 JP	Kentaro Hosoda
	Huayu	XHASF	600741 CH	Jessie Lo
	Hyundai Motor	HYMLF	005380 KS	KJ Hwang
	Joyson	XQMWF	600699 CH	Jessie Lo
	Leapmotor	XZSSF	9863 HK	Ming Hsun Lee, CFA
	Li Auto	LI	LI US	Ming Hsun Lee, CFA
	Li Auto	LAAOF	2015 HK	Ming Hsun Lee, CFA



APR - Autos Coverage Cluster

Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
	Maruti	MUDGF	MSIL IN	Gunjan Prithyani
	Mazda Motor	MZDAF	7261 JP	Kentaro Hosoda
	Minth	MNTHF	425 HK	Jessie Lo
	Ningbo Tuopu	XNCGF	601689 CH	Joey Yang, CFA
	Nissan Motor	NSANF	7201 JP	Kentaro Hosoda
	Nissan Motor	NSANY	NSANY US	Kentaro Hosoda
	SAMIL (Motherson International)	XMSUF	MOTHERSO IN	Gunjan Prithyani
	Shenzhen Kedali	XWCSF	002850 CH	Jessie Lo
	Shuanghuan Driveline	XZSHF	002472 CH	Jessie Lo
	Sumitomo Rubber Industries	SMTUF	5110 JP	Kentaro Hosoda
	Suzuki Motor	SZKMF	7269 JP	Kentaro Hosoda
	Tata Motors	XTTSF	TTMT IN	Gunjan Prithyani
	Toyo Tire	TOTTF	5105 JP	Kentaro Hosoda
			,	
	Toyota Motor	TOYOF	7203 JP	Kentaro Hosoda
	Toyota Motor	TM	TM US	Kentaro Hosoda
	Wencan	XSCDF	603348 CH	Joey Yang, CFA
	XPeng Inc	XPEV	XPEV US	Ming Hsun Lee, CFA
	XPeng Inc.	XPNGF	9868 HK	Ming Hsun Lee, CFA
	Yadea	YADGF	1585 HK	Joey Yang, CFA
	Zhejiang Sanhua	XZSIF	002050 CH	Jessie Lo
	Zhongsheng Auto	ZHSHF	881 HK	Joey Yang, CFA
FUTDAL	Ü			. J
EUTRAL				
	Aisin	ASEKF	7259 JP	Kentaro Hosoda
	Ashok Leyland	XDBVF	AL IN	Gunjan Prithyani
	Bridgestone	BRDCF	5108 JP	Kentaro Hosoda
	Bridgestone	BRDCY	BRDCY US	Kentaro Hosoda
	CALB	XCLSF	3931 HK	Ming Hsun Lee, CFA
	Dong Feng	DNFGF	489 HK	Ming Hsun Lee, CFA
	Eicher Motors	XEIMF	EIM IN	Gunjan Prithyani
	Hyundai Mobis	HYPLF	012330 KS	KJ Hwang
	Kia Corp	KIMTF	000270 KS	KJ Hwang
	•		MM IN	
	Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M)	XKQRF		Gunjan Prithyani
	MeiDong Auto	CMEIF	1268 HK	Joey Yang, CFA
	Motherson Sumi Wiring	XMWDF	MSUMI IN	Gunjan Prithyani
	NIO	NIO	NIO US	Ming Hsun Lee, CFA
	NIO	NIOIF	9866 HK	Ming Hsun Lee, CFA
	NIO	XLTWF	NIO SP	Ming Hsun Lee, CFA
	Shenzhen Senior	XHYRF	300568 CH	Jessie Lo
	Subaru Corp	FUJHF	7270 JP	Kentaro Hosoda
	Subaru Corp	FUJHY	FUJHY US	Kentaro Hosoda
	Toyota Industries Corporation	TYIDF	6201 JP	Kentaro Hosoda
	Toyota Industries Corporation	TYIDY	TYIDY US	Kentaro Hosoda
	TVS Motors	XFKMF	TVSLIN	Gunjan Prithyani
	Wuxi Lead	XZSRF	300450 CH	
				Ming Hsun Lee, CFA
	Yokohama Rubber	YORUF	5101 JP	Kentaro Hosoda
	Yongda	CYYHF	3669 HK	Joey Yang, CFA
	Yunnan Energy	XLGFF	002812 CH	Jessie Lo
NDERPERFORM				
	Astra International	PTAIF	ASII IJ	Paul Dewberry
	BAIC Motor	BMCLF	1958 HK	Ming Hsun Lee, CFA
				•
	Bharat Forge	XUUVF	BHFC IN	Gunjan Prithyani
	China Grand Auto	XMURF	600297 CH	Joey Yang, CFA
	Desay SV	XGDFF	002920 CH	Jessie Lo
	Escorts Kubota	XSCOF	ESCORTS IN	Gunjan Prithyani
	EVE	XEVEF	300014 CH	Ming Hsun Lee, CFA
	GAC	XGNHF	601238 CH	Ming Hsun Lee, CFA
	Great Wall Motor	XGWMF	601633 CH	Ming Hsun Lee, CFA
	Hyundai Wia	XWHYF	011210 KS	KJ Hwang
	Mitsubishi Motors	MMTOF	7211 JP	Kentaro Hosoda
	Nextage	NXAGF	3186 JP	Kentaro Hosoda
	<u> </u>		1316 HK	
	Nexteer	NTXVF		Jessie Lo
	Putailai	XVHGF	603659 CH	Jessie Lo
	SAIC Motor	XZNJF	600104 CH	Ming Hsun Lee, CFA
	Sona Comstar	XBNXF	SONACOMS IN	Gunjan Prithyani



APR - Autos Coverage Cluster

Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
	Tinci Materials	XCVHF	002709 CH	Miriam Chan, CFA
RVW				
	Geely	GELYF	175 HK	Ming Hsun Lee, CFA

IQmethod[™] Measures Definitions

Business Performance Return On Capital Employed	Numerator NOPAT = (EBIT + Interest Income) × (1 — Tax Rate) + Goodwill Amortization	Denominator Total Assets – Current Liabilities + ST Debt + Accumulated Goodwill Amortization
Return On Equity Operating Margin Earnings Growth Free Cash Flow	Net Income Operating Profit Expected 5 Year CAGR From Latest Actual Cash Flow From Operations — Total Capex	Shareholders' Equity Sales N/A N/A
Quality of Earnings Cash Realization Ratio Asset Replacement Ratio Tax Rate Net Debt-To-Equity Ratio Interest Cover	Numerator Cash Flow From Operations Capex Tax Charge Net Debt = Total Debt — Cash & Equivalents EBIT	Denominator Net Income Depreciation Pre-Tax Income Total Equity Interest Expense
Valuation Toolkit Price / Earnings Ratio Price / Book Value Dividend Yield Free Cash Flow Yield Enterprise Value / Sales	Numerator Current Share Price 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	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

EV / EBITDA Enterprise Value Basic EBIT + Depreciation + Amortization

Memethod 3*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.

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

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Disclosures

Important Disclosures

Hesai (HSAI) 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: Autos Group (as of 31 Dec 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships R1	Count	Percent
Buy	67	55.83%	Buy	39	58.21%
Hold	30	25.00%	Hold	15	50.00%
Sell	23	19.17%	Sell	12	52.17%

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

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

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

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

Buy	≥ 10%	≤ 70%
Neutral	≥ 0%	≤ 30%
Inderperform	N/A	≥ 20%

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