

Consumer Finance

Consumer Finance Tidbits: Issue 24-05

Price Objective Change

CFPB late fee rule facing legal pushback

Six trade groups, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, filed a lawsuit against the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), challenging the CFPB's new rule limiting credit card late fees. As expected, the lawsuit was filed in the Fifth Circuit, which has previously ruled the CFPB's funding authority violates the Constitution (currently being appealed at the Supreme Court). The lawsuit could potentially delay implementation (or even lead to the rule being overturned). Note that we will host a call with the CFPB's exhead of rulemaking to discuss the ruling and the path from here.

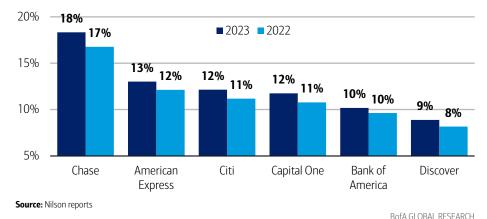
Separately, we note that the final rule removed the 25% of required minimum payment cap on late fees. Based on our conversations, we believe this is a positive for Bread (BFH) and makes the final rule incrementally better than feared in its initial outlook.

Card issuing becomes slightly more concentrated

The top 10 issuers increased their market share of card balances outstanding by 46bps y/y to 81.84% in 2023. While ranks of the top six issuers remained constant, they all increased market share during the year (Exhibit 1). Notably, Capital One (13.7% y/y) and Discover (13.5% y/y) grew faster than the average for the top 30 issuers (12.2% y/y).

Exhibit 1: Top card issuer market shares increased in 2023

Market share by general purpose credit card balances outstanding



Building the mosaic: Sector news

BFH card losses sharply higher in Feb: BFH (Bread Financial) noted that even though January losses were 8%, it still expects mid- to high-8% losses for 1Q. As such, we expect materially higher loss rates when BFH reports monthly stats later this week (usually the 15th).

Synchrony (SYF) closes acquisition of Ally Lending: SYF closed its acquisition of Ally Lending on 3/4/24. The company expects the acquisition to be EPS accretive in 2024 excluding the initial reserve build.

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Refer to important disclosures on page 9 to 12. Analyst Certification on page 7. Price
Objective Basis/Risk on page 4.

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Equity
United States
Consumer Finance

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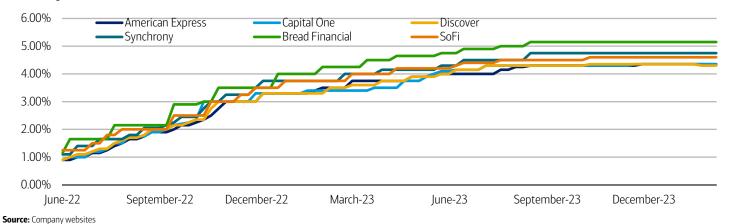
Caroline Latta Research Analyst BofAS caroline.latta@bofa.com

See inside for PO and estimate changes for American Express (\$247 from \$224 prior)

Timestamp: 11 March 2024 06:00AM EDT

Exhibit 2: Deposit pricing has been relatively stable over the last five months

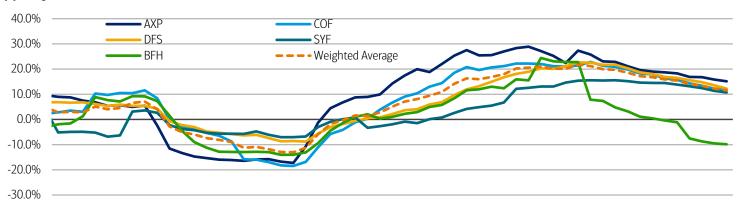
Online savings account interest rates



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Exhibit 3: Loan growth remains strong but has begun to slow on a y/y basis, BFH is down y/y

y/y loan growth



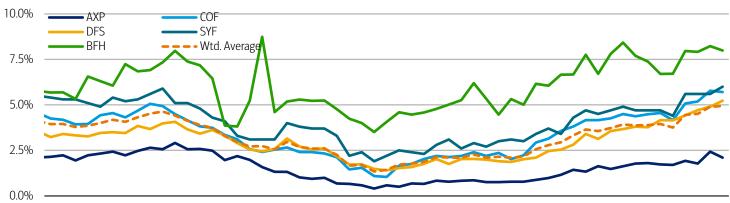
Jul-19 Oct-19 Jan-20 Apr-20 Jul-20 Oct-20 Jan-21 Apr-21 Jul-21 Oct-21 Jan-22 Apr-22 Jul-22 Oct-22 Jan-23 Apr-23 Jul-23 Oct-23 Jan-24

Source: BofA Global Research estimates, company reports

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Exhibit 4: Net charge-off rates are climbing, AXP remains below pre-pandemic levels

Net charge-off rates on domestic card loans



Jul-19 Oct-19 Jan-20 Apr-20 Jul-20 Oct-20 Jan-21 Apr-21 Jul-21 Oct-21 Jan-22 Apr-22 Jul-22 Oct-22 Jan-23 Apr-23 Jul-23 Oct-23 Jan-24

Source: BofA Global Research estimates, company reports

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Estimate and PO changes

American Express: We tweak our 2024/2025 EPS estimate to \$12.97/\$14.94 from \$12.91/\$14.92 previously as we account for 10-K data. We increase our PO to \$247 from \$223 prior based on a 16.5x multiple to 2025e EPS (15x prior) given increased confidence in a soft landing.

Consumer finance dashboard

In aggregate, consumer finance metrics remain solid by most measures (Exhibit 5). The unemployment rate is currently strong, but weakened 20bps m/m in February, which was worse than economists had forecast (3.8% estimate). Fed officials and BofA Global Research economists still expect a soft landing with a benign unemployment outlook – our economists expect unemployment to peak at 4.1% in 2025. Adjusted retail and food sales and credit card balances are up on a y/y basis as consumers continue to spend amid higher inflation. That said, inflation has been moderating, which has helped drive consumer confidence up on a y/y, but it did fall lower than expected in February.

Exhibit 5: Consumer finance dashboard

Key metrics for employment, income, spending, and lending are mixed

Item	Most recent	Reading	YoY Change	MoM Change
Employment				
Unemployment Rate	2/29/2024	3.9%	+30bps	+20bps
Initial Jobless Claims	3/1/2024	217	-11.4%	-1.4%
Continuing Jobless Claims	2/23/2024	1,906	7.0%	2.2%
Non-Farm Payrolls (000s)	2/29/2024	157,808	1.8%	0.2%
Income				
Average Hourly earnings (y/y change)	2/29/2024	4.30%	-40bps	-10bps
Personal Income	1/31/2024	23,615	+480bps	+100bps
New Bankruptcy Cases - Nonbusiness filings	12/31/2023	109,377	19.0%	NA
Spending and lending				
Adj. Retail and Food Service Sales	1/31/2024	700	+60bps	-80bps
Consumer Confidence	2/29/2024	77	14.9%	-2.7%
Revolving credit balances (\$B)	2/21/2024	1,039	8.6%	-0.6%
Rates				
30yr Mortgage rate	3/7/2024	7.16%	+2bps	+1bps
30yr Mortgage rate - MBS coupon spread	3/8/2024	1.31%	+40bps	+15bps

Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg, Census Bureau, Federal Reserve, Labor Department, Administrative office of US Courts

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EPS forecasts vs consensus

Exhibit 6 and Exhibit 7 highlight BofA forecasts versus consensus for the current quarter and 2024. For 1Q24, our estimates for card issuers we are above consensus on a lower reserve rate. For WEX and FLT (FleetCor) we are below consensus on a lower revenue contribution from Fuel. For mortgage insurers, our estimates are mostly lower than consensus due to reserve release assumptions. We are mostly in-line for RKT (Rocket).



Exhibit 6: 1Q24 forecasts BofA vs consensus

	BofAe	Bloomberg	
Ticker	Current Q	Current Q	BofA-Bb
Credit Card Issuers			
AXP	\$2.99	\$2.98	\$0.01
COF	\$3.78	\$3.32	\$0.46
DFS	\$3.09	\$3.07	\$0.02
SYF	\$1.64	\$1.46	\$0.18
BFH	\$3.44	\$3.32	\$0.13
Mortgage Insurers			
ACT	\$0.94	\$0.96	(\$0.02)
ESNT	\$1.54	\$1.60	(\$0.06)
MTG	\$0.63	\$0.61	\$0.03
NMIH	\$0.98	\$0.99	(\$0.01)
RDN	\$0.75	\$0.86	(\$0.11)
Fleet Cards			
FLT	\$4.10	\$4.10	(\$0.00)
WEX	\$3.45	\$3.47	(\$0.02)
Other			
OMF	\$1.64	\$1.44	\$0.21
SOFI	\$0.00	\$0.01	(\$0.01)
Mortgage Originato	ors		
RKT	\$0.02	\$0.01	\$0.01

Source: BofA Global Research estimates, Bloomberg

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Exhibit 7: 2024 forecasts BofA vs consensus

Ticker	BofAe 2024	Bloomberg 2024	BofA-Bb
Credit Card Issuers	2024	2024	DOIA-DO
AXP	\$12.97	\$12.86	\$0.11
COF	\$13.87	\$13.99	(\$0.12)
DFS	\$11.06	\$11.04	\$0.02
SYF	\$5.55	\$5.56	(\$0.01)
BFH	\$8.25	\$7.30	\$0.95
Mortgage Insurers			
ACT	\$3.86	\$3.79	\$0.07
ESNT	\$6.52	\$6.61	(\$0.09)
MTG	\$2.47	\$2.47	\$0.01
NMIH	\$4.17	\$4.11	\$0.06
RDN	\$3.08	\$3.42	(\$0.34)
Fleet Cards			
FLT	\$19.30	\$19.39	(\$0.09)
WEX	\$16.24	\$16.23	\$0.01
Other			
OMF	\$6.15	\$5.88	\$0.27
SOFI	\$0.06	\$0.07	(\$0.01)
Mortgage Originator	S		
RKT	\$0.38	\$0.32	\$0.06

Source: BofA Global Research estimates, Bloomberg

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Exhibit 8: Relative valuation

Comp sheet

Ticker	Rating	3/8/2024 Stock Price	PO	QRQ	Upside / Downside	Div. yield	BofAe P/E 2024	BofAe P/E 2025	'23-'25 Rev CAGR	'23-'25 EPS CAGR	Current P/BV	Current P/TBV	2024 ROE
Credit card issuers													
AXP	Buy	\$223.45	\$247.00	B-1-7	10.5%	1.3%	17.3x	15.0x	10%	15%	5.8x	N/A	31%
COF	Buy	\$138.11	\$152.00	B-1-7	10.1%	1.9%	9.9x	8.6x	5%	14%	0.9x	1.4x	9%
DFS	No Rating	\$121.74	N/A	-6-	N/A	2.4%	11.0x	9.4x	3%	7%	2.1x	2.1x	17%
SYF	Neutral	\$41.97	\$43.00	B-2-7	2.5%	2.4%	7.6x	6.9x	2%	8%	1.3x	1.5x	19%
BFH	Neutral	\$38.53	\$40.00	C-2-7	3.8%	2.2%	4.7x	3.6x	-4%	-14%	0.7x	0.9x	13%
Mortgage Insurers													
ACT	Buy	\$28.80	\$35.00	B-1-7	21.5%	4.0%	7.5x	7.3x	3%	-2%	1.0x	1.0x	13%
ESNT	Buy	\$54.17	\$60.00	B-1-7	10.8%	2.1%	8.3x	7.5x	11%	6%	1.1x	1.1x	13%
MTG	Buy	\$19.86	\$22.50	B-1-7	13.3%	2.3%	8.0x	7.7x	2%	1%	1.1x	1.1x	13%
HIMN	Buy	\$29.50	\$38.00	B-1-9	28.8%	0.0%	7.1x	6.5x	10%	9%	1.2x	1.2x	16%
RDN	U/P	\$29.71	\$28.00	B-3-7	-5.8%	3.3%	9.6x	9.5x	3%	-10%	1.0x	1.0x	14%
Fleet Cards													
FLT	Buy	\$293.50	\$326.00	B-1-9	11.1%	0.0%	15.2x	13.1x	8%	15%	6.4x	N/A	42%
WEX	Buy	\$229.34	\$267.00	B-1-9	16.4%	0.0%	14.1x	12.5x	7%	11%	5.3x	N/A	23%
Other													
OMF	Buy	\$48.22	\$51.00	C-1-7	5.8%	8.3%	7.8x	6.1x	7%	20%	1.8x	3.9x	23%
SOFI	Neutral	\$7.62	\$9.50	C-2-9	24.8%	0.0%	129.2x	17.6x	22%	N/A	1.4x	2.1x	0%
Mortgage Originators													
RKT	U/P	\$12.72	\$7.00	C-3-9	-45.0%	0.0%	33.5x	28.3x	21%	N/A	3.0x	3.6x	8%

Source: BofA Global Research estimates, Bloomberg

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Price objective basis & risk

American Express Company (AXP)



Our \$247 price objective is based on a 16.5x multiple to our 2025 EPS forecast. The 16.5x PE multiple is on the higher end of the historical range (12-18x) for AXP, which we think is appropriate given the growth outlook and strong operating momentum it is experiencing.

Downside risks to our PO are weaker-than-expected macroeconomic conditions, softer consumer and business spending, weaker loan growth, increasing competition, weaker US consumer credit performance, disruptions in capital markets, or an increasing regulatory burden.

Bread Financial Holdings Inc (BFH)

Our \$40 PO is based on a 0.9x multiple to current book value. We believe more investors are looking at BFH through a book value lens given potential profitability challenges if the CFPB's late fee rule was to come into effect. We view a book value of <1.0 as appropriate in such a backdrop.

Downside risks to our price objective are: an economic downturn, which could lead to elevated loan loss rates, increased defaults, higher credit costs and slower loan growth. Deteriorating economic conditions would likely hurt investor sentiment and drive valuations lower. Loss of retail partners also poses a risk to growth and the earnings outlook.

Capital One Financial (COF)

Our \$152 PO is based on a 9.5x PE multiple to our 2025 EPS forecast. A 9.5x PE multiple is in the middle of the historical range (7-12x) which we think is appropriate given the more optimistic macro outlook and strong loan growth, partially offset by rising credit costs.

Downside risks are: slower than expected revolving credit growth, faltering economic recovery and rising loan losses, which could drive earnings below our estimates, and result in valuation compression. Cybersecurity and regulations are also risks.

Discover Financial (DFS)

We have removed the investment opinion on the company's stock. Investors should no longer rely on our previous opinion or price objective.

Enact Holdings (ACT)

Our \$35 PO is based on a 9x PE multiple to our 2024 EPS forecast. A 9x PE multiple is at the high-end of the historical range for mortgage insurers (6x-11x) and reflects the current favorable backdrop for housing credit, as well as, ACT's strong book value growth, and the more resilient business model.

Downside risks to our price objective are an economic downturn, which could lead to elevated defaults on mortgages and fewer mortgage originations, increased competitive pressures and price competition from private and / or government competitors. Changes to the regulatory environment could also impact future returns. Genworth's large concentrated ownership stake limits float and could be a risk.

Essent Group (ESNT)

Our \$60 PO is based on a 9x PE multiple to our 2024 EPS forecast. A 9x PE is at the high end of recent range for mortgage insurers (6-11x forward PE) and reflects ESNTs cost discipline, lower tax rate, strong capital position, and the favorable housing backdrop.

Downside risks to our price objective are an economic downturn, which could lead to elevated defaults on mortgages and fewer mortgage originations, increased competitive pressures and price competition from private and / or government competitors. Changes



to the regulatory environment could also impact future returns. Successful M&A integration could also be a risk.

FleetCor Technologies Inc. (FLT)

We calculate our price objective of \$326 based on a 14.5x multiple to our 2025 non-GAAP EPS estimate. Our PE multiple is approximately a 20% discount to the S&P, which we view as warranted given fuel exposure and potential for idiosyncratic risks, slightly offset by FleetCor's strong fundamentals and upside potential from capital deployment.

Downside risks to our price objective are 1) weakening macro environment reduces demand for trucking/fuel, 2) increased competition, and 3) large fluctuations in fuel prices/foreign exchanges rates.

MGIC Investment Corp. (MTG)

Our \$22.50 PO is based on an 9x PE multiple to our 2024 EPS forecast. A 9x PE multiple is at the high-end of the historical range for mortgage insurers (6x-11x) and reflects the current favorable backdrop for housing credit, as well as, MTG's strong book value growth and capital return potential.

Downside risks to our price objective are an economic downturn, which could lead to elevated defaults on mortgages and fewer mortgage originations, increased competitive pressures and price competition from private and / or government competitors. Changes to the regulatory environment could also impact future returns.

NMI Holdings (NMIH)

Our \$38 price objective is based on a 9x P/E multiple to our 2024 EPS forecast. A 9x multiple is at the higher end of the range for MI companies (6-11x) reflecting the favorable housing credit backdrop.

Downside risks to our price objective are an economic downturn, a weaker housing credit backdrop, increased competitive intensity, and regulatory changes.

OneMain Holdings, Inc. (OMF)

Our \$51 price objective is based on a 6.5x multiple of our 2025 EPS forecast. The 6.5x PE multiple is in the middle of the historical range (4-8x), which is an approximate 20% discount to peers trading at 8x. We think that this valuation is justified given OMF's subprime exposure heading into a weakening macro environment.

Downside risks to our price objective are deterioration in credit, execution risk on the credit card portfolio, macroeconomic risk, regulatory risk, and a dividend cut.

Radian Group Inc (RDN)

Our \$28 PO is based on an 9x PE multiple to our 2024 EPS forecast. A 9x PE multiple is in line with the recent range for mortgage insurance (MI) stocks (6-11x) and reflects the solid operating backdrop for mortgage insurance, somewhat offset by execution risk from the homegenius segment.

Upside risks to our price objective are stronger than expected economic growth, fewer loan delinquencies and strong housing credit performance which could lead to elevated new business written and fewer mortgage defaults. Execution in the homegenius segment could also be better than forecast and lead to higher / faster profit growth.

Downside risks to our price objective are an economic downturn, which could lead to elevated defaults on mortgages and fewer mortgage originations, increased competitive pressures and price competition from private and / or government competitors. Changes to the regulatory environment could also impact future returns. Successful M&A integration could also be a risk.



Rocket Companies, Inc. (RKT)

Our \$7 PO is based on a 19x PE multiple to our 2024 EPS forecast. A 19x PE multiple is in-line with mortgage comps currently trading at 19x, which we think is warranted by RKT's superior technology and brand, somewhat offset by a smaller refinance market.

Downside risks to our PO are: 1) lower-than-forecast origination volumes or gain-on-sale margins, 2) macroeconomic risk from a weaker-than-expected recovery or a downturn in the housing market, 3) regulatory changes, 4) execution risk, and 5) complex ownership structure and limited float.

Upside risks to our PO are: higher-than-forecast mortgage origination volumes or gainon-sale margins, a stronger-than-expected housing market backdrop, and faster market share gains than expected. There is also risk RKT utilizes its strong balance sheet for M&A, dividends, and buybacks, which could improve sentiment and valuation for the shares.

SoFi Technologies Inc (SOFI)

Our \$9.50 price objective is based on a sum-of-the-parts of 2x current tangible book value and 6x on Technology segment's 2024 net revenue. 2x TBV reflects SOFI's faster growth and 6x to Technology net revenue is in-line with its closest peer.

Risks are dependence on volatile gain-on-sale (GoS) margins, execution risk, consumer credit / recession risk, customer concentration risk and regulation / consumer data privacy concerns.

Synchrony Financial (SYF)

Our \$43 PO is based on a 7x P/E multiple on 2025E EPS. Our multiple is on the low end of the typical trading range for SYF (6-12x), which we think is appropriate given the relatively uncertain macro backdrop and rising credit costs, execution risk on late fee mitigants, somewhat balanced by the potential for high capital returns.

Downside risks to our price objective are an economic downturn, which could lead to elevated loan loss rates, increased defaults, higher credit costs and slower loan growth. Deteriorating economic conditions would likely hurt investor sentiment and drive valuations lower. Loss of retail partners also poses a risk to growth and earnings outlook.

Upside risks are: Consumer balance sheets continue to hold strength and credit metrics remain strong. Increased visibility in peak loss rates shifts investor sentiment. Federal reserve achieves a soft landing. Outsized capital return.

WEX Inc. (WEX)

We calculate our price objective of \$267 based on 14.5x our 2025 non-GAAP EPS estimate. Our PE multiple is a 20% discount to the S&P, which we view as warranted given fuel exposure and potential for business cyclicality slightly offset by WEX's strong fundamentals and favorable long-term trends.

Downside risks to our price objective are 1) weakening macro environment reduces demand for trucking/fuel, 2) increased competition, 3) large fluctuations in fuel prices/foreign exchanges rates, 4) travel volumes remain muted.

Analyst Certification

I, Mihir Bhatia, 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.





US - Payments, Processors, Specialty Finance and IT services Coverage Cluster

Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
BUY				
	Accenture Plc	ACN	ACN US	Jason Kupferberg
	American Express Company	AXP	AXP US	Mihir Bhatia
	Block Inc	SQ	SQ US	Jason Kupferberg
	Capital One Financial	COF	COF US	Mihir Bhatia
	Enact Holdings	ACT	ACT US	Mihir Bhatia
	Essent Group	ESNT	ESNT US	Mihir Bhatia
	Fidelity National Information Services	FIS	FIS US	Jason Kupferberg
	Fiserv Inc	FI	FLUS	Jason Kupferberg
	FleetCor Technologies Inc.	FLT	FLT US	Mihir Bhatia
	Flywire	FLYW	FLYW US	Jason Kupferberg
	Global Payments Inc	GPN	GPN US	Jason Kupferberg
	Jack Henry & Associates	JKHY	JKHY US	Jason Kupferberg
	Margeta	MO	MQ US	Cassie Chan
	Mastercard Inc	MA	MA US	Jason Kupferberg
	MGIC Investment Corp.	MTG	MTG US	Mihir Bhatia
	NMI Holdings	NMIH	NMIH US	Mihir Bhatia
	Nuvei	NVEI	NVELUS	Jason Kupferberg
	Nuvei	YNVEI	NVEI CN	Jason Kupferberg
	OneMain Holdings, Inc.	OMF	OMF US	Mihir Bhatia
	Shift4 Payments, Inc	FOUR	FOUR US	Jason Kupferberg
	Telus International	TIXT	TIXT US	Cassie Chan
	Telus International	YTIXT	TIXT CN	Cassie Chan
	Visa Inc.	V	V US	Jason Kupferberg
	WEX Inc.	WEX	WEX US	Mihir Bhatia
MELITRAL				
NEUTRAL	400	400	ADDIIG	
	ADP	ADP	ADP US	Jason Kupferberg
	Affirm Holdings	AFRM	AFRM US	Jason Kupferberg
	Bread Financial Holdings Inc	BFH	BFH US	Mihir Bhatia
	DLocal	DLO	DLO US	Jason Kupferberg
	Globant SA	GLOB	GLOB US	Jason Kupferberg
	PayPal Holdings Inc	PYPL	PYPL US	Jason Kupferberg
	SoFi Technologies Inc	SOFI	SOFI US	Mihir Bhatia
	Synchrony Financial	SYF	SYF US	Mihir Bhatia
	Thoughtworks	TWKS	TWKS US	Jason Kupferberg
	Toast	TOST	TOST US	Jason Kupferberg
	TTEC Holdings	TTEC	TTEC US	Cassie Chan
UNDERPERFORM				
	CGI Inc.	GIB	GIB US	Jason Kupferberg
	CGI Inc.	YGIBA	GIB/A CN	Jason Kupferberg
	Cognizant Technology Solutions	CTSH	CTSH US	Jason Kupferberg
	Coinbase	COIN	COIN US	Jason Kupferberg
	DXC Technology	DXC	DXC US	Jason Kupferberg
	EPAM Systems	EPAM	EPAM US	Jason Kupferberg
	Paychex	PAYX	PAYX US	Jason Kupferberg
	Radian Group Inc	RDN	RDN US	Mihir Bhatia
	Rocket Companies, Inc.	RKT	RKT US	Mihir Bhatia
	TaskUs	TASK	TASK US	Cassie Chan
	Western Union	WU	WU US	Jason Kupferberg

Disclosures

Important Disclosures

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

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships R1	Count	Percent
Buy	156	53.79%	Buy	94	60.26%
Hold	72	24.83%	Hold	48	66.67%
Sell	62	21.38%	Sell	35	56.45%



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

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships R1	Count	Percent
Buy	215	53.09%	Buy	111	51.63%
Hold	97	23.95%	Hold	45	46.39%
Sell	93	22.96%	Sell	24	25.81%

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%

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.

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