

Western Digital Corporation

Cyclical improvements underway; Raising PO to \$70

Reiterate Rating: BUY | PO: 70.00 USD | Price: 60.33 USD

Beat F2Q24 Revenue and EPS guidance

WDC reported its F2Q24 results with revenue of \$3.03bn (+10% q/q) vs company guidance of \$2.95bn at the midpoint and our/Street estimates of \$2.96bn/\$2.99bn. F2Q24 EPS came in at (0.69) vs company guidance of (1.20) at the midpoint and our/Street estimates of (1.05), (1.14). Mgmt. guided F3Q24 rev/EPS to be 3.30bn/0.05 at the midpoint. As cyclical tailwinds are starting to kick in on both HDD (Cloud recovery) and NAND (careful management of capacity should drive sustained pricing upside), we view room for significant positive estimate revisions. We reiterate our Buy rating on WDC on being close to the bottom of the cycle and potential strategic options. Company remains on track to split the HDD and NAND business in 2H24.

Flash: GM +18.2% q/q in F2Q

Flash revenue of \$1.7bn in F2Q was up +7% q/q (+0% y/y). ASPs increased +10% on a blended basis (up +7% on a like-for-like basis). Flash bit shipments declined -2% q/q (+21% y/y). Flash GM came in at 7.9% in F2Q (+18.2% q/q, -6.6% y/y). The underutilization charges of \$107mn created a 6.4% headwind to Flash GM. We do not see incremental underutilization charges in Flash and expect continued strong margin recovery.

HDD: GM +190bps q/q in F2Q

In F2Q HDD rev of \$1.4bn and grew +14% q/q (-6% y/y). HDD exabyte shipments grew +14% q/q and average price per HDD grew +9% q/q to \$122. HDD GM increased +190bps q/q to 24.8% despite underutilization charges of \$49mn which created a 3.6% headwind. We model GM growing +50bps q/q in F3Q. Recovery in nearline demand (including China Hyperscale) is driving improvement in exabyte shipments and in like for like pricing, which we see as sustainable over the next few qtrs. Company expects to introduce HAMR late 2025 or early 2026 when it can produce 4TB+/platter, at which point the company expects superior TCO relative to current generation products.

Adjusting estimates; PO moves to \$70

Our F24 revenue/EPS move to 12.6bn/(1.10) from 12.1bn/(1.79). We raise our P0 to 70 from 49 on 9x C25 EPS of 8.16 (prior 14x C24 EPS of 3.51). We lower the multiple as we roll forward to C25 based valuation as WDC is in the early stages of a deep cyclical recovery.

Estimates (Jun) (US\$)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
EPS	8.22	(3.58)	(1.10)	6.88	9.21
GAAP EPS	4.74	(5.42)	(2.20)	5.59	7.77
EPS Change (YoY)	81.1%	NM	69.3%	NM	33.9%
Consensus EPS (Bloomberg)			(2.92)	4.77	5.28
DPS	0	0	0	0	0
Valuation (Jun)					
P/E	7.3x	NM	NM	8.8x	6.6x
GAAP P/E	12.7x	NM	NM	10.8x	7.8x
EV / EBITDA*	6.2x	109.5x	22.5x	6.0x	5.1x
Free Cash Flow Yield*	3.5%	-6.1%	2.7%	8.7%	15.1%
* For full definitions of <i>IQ</i> method SM measures, see page 5.					

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Refer to important disclosures on page 6 to 8. Analyst Certification on page 4. Price
Objective Basis/Risk on page 4.

Timestamp: 25 January 2024 09:06PM EST

25 January 2024

Equity

Key Changes		
(US\$)	Previous	Current
Price Obj.	49.00	70.00
2024E Rev (m)	12,130.1	12,594.2
2025E Rev (m)	14,597.4	15,529.5
2026E Rev (m)	17,036.3	18,058.6
2024E EPS	-1.79	-1.10
2025E EPS	5.78	6.88
2026E EPS	8.24	9.21

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Stock Data

Price	60.33 USD
Price Objective	70.00 USD
Date Established	25-Jan-2024
Investment Opinion	C-1-9
52-Week Range	31.97 USD - 60.55 USD
Mrkt Val (mn) / Shares Out	19,562 USD / 324.2
(mn)	
Free Float	99.4%
Average Daily Value (mn)	340.82 USD
BofA Ticker / Exchange	WDC / NAS
Bloomberg / Reuters	WDC US / WDC.OQ
ROE (2024E)	-3.1%
Net Dbt to Eqty (Jun-2023A)	43.1%
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".

GM: Gross Margin, HDD: Hard Disk Drive FCF: Free Cash Flow

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US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026
Return on Capital Employed	13.1%	-2.6%	0.9%	12.6%	15.09
Return on Equity	22.7%	-9.5%	-3.1%	18.8%	20.79
Operating Margin	17.0%	-4.8%	1.6%	20.3%	22.49
Free Cash Flow	682	(1,201)	524	1,703	2,95
Q method SM − Quality of Earnings*					
US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026
Cash Realization Ratio	0.7x	NM	NM	1.1x	1.2
Asset Replacement Ratio	1.3x	1.0x	0.2x	0.7x	0.7
Tax Rate	11.0%	NM	NM	15.3%	15.29
Net Debt-to-Equity Ratio	38.4%	43.1%	41.5%	22.0%	1.5
Interest Cover	12.0x	-2.1x	0.5x	9.1x	12.8
ncome Statement Data (Jun)					
US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2020
Sales	18,793	12,318	12,594	15,529	18,05
% Change	11.1%	-34.5%	2.2%	23.3%	16.3
Gross Profit	6,188	1,938	2,532	5,728	6,98
% Change	28.1%	-68.7%	30.7%	126.2%	21.9
EBITDA	4,115	234	1,140	4,281	5,02
% Change	32.0%	-94.3%	387.0%	275.6%	17.5
Net Interest & Other Income	(265)	(288)	(366)	(348)	(31
Net Income (Adjusted)	2,600	(1,143)	(360)	2,324	3,11
% Change	85.0%	NM	68.5%	NM	33.9
Free Cash Flow Data (Jun)					
Free Cash Flow Data (Jun) US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	
Free Cash Flow Data (Jun) US\$ Millions) Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP)	2,599	(1,143)	(360)	2025E 2,325	3,11
Free Cash Flow Data (Jun) US\$ Millions) Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP) Depreciation & Amortization	2,599 929	(1,143) 828	(360) 943	2025E 2,325 1,127	3,11 98
Free Cash Flow Data (Jun) US\$ Millions) Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP) Depreciation & Amortization Change in Working Capital	2,599 929 (1,075)	(1,143) 828 90	(360) 943 379	2025E 2,325 1,127 (699)	3,11 98
Free Cash Flow Data (Jun) US\$ Millions) Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP) Depreciation & Amortization Change in Working Capital Deferred Taxation Charge	2,599 929 (1,075) 114	(1,143) 828 90 (34)	(360) 943 379 (46)	2025E 2,325 1,127 (699) 0	3,11 98 (19)
Free Cash Flow Data (Jun) US\$ Millions) Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP) Depreciation & Amortization Change in Working Capital Deferred Taxation Charge Other Adjustments, Net	2,599 929 (1,075) 114 (687)	(1,143) 828 90 (34) (149)	(360) 943 379 (46) (201)	2025E 2,325 1,127 (699) 0 (273)	3,11 98 (19)
Free Cash Flow Data (Jun) US\$ Millions) Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP) Depreciation & Amortization Change in Working Capital Deferred Taxation Charge Other Adjustments, Net Capital Expenditure	2,599 929 (1,075) 114 (687) (1,198)	(1,143) 828 90 (34) (149) (793)	(360) 943 379 (46) (201) (191)	2025E 2,325 1,127 (699) 0 (273) (776)	3,11 98 (19.
Free Cash Flow Data (Jun) US\$ Millions) Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP) Depreciation & Amortization Change in Working Capital Deferred Taxation Charge Other Adjustments, Net Capital Expenditure Free Cash Flow	2,599 929 (1,075) 114 (687) (1,198) 682	(1,143) 828 90 (34) (149) (793) -1,201	(360) 943 379 (46) (201) (191) 524	2025E 2,325 1,127 (699) 0 (273) (776) 1,703	3,11 98 (19 (28 (66 2,95
Free Cash Flow Data (Jun) US\$ Millions) Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP) Depreciation & Amortization Change in Working Capital Deferred Taxation Charge Other Adjustments, Net Capital Expenditure Free Cash Flow % Change	2,599 929 (1,075) 114 (687) (1,198) 682 - 39.4%	(1,143) 828 90 (34) (149) (793) -1,201 NM	(360) 943 379 (46) (201) (191) 524	2025E 2,325 1,127 (699) 0 (273) (776) 1,703 224.8%	3,11 98 (19 (28 (66 2,95
Free Cash Flow Data (Jun) US\$ Millions) Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP) Depreciation & Amortization Change in Working Capital Deferred Taxation Charge Other Adjustments, Net Capital Expenditure Free Cash Flow % Change Share / Issue Repurchase	2,599 929 (1,075) 114 (687) (1,198) 682 - 39.4% 32	(1,143) 828 90 (34) (149) (793) -1,201 NM 894	(360) 943 379 (46) (201) (191) 524 NM (15)	2025E 2,325 1,127 (699) 0 (273) (776) 1,703 224.8% 0	3,11 98 (19 (28 (66 2,95
Free Cash Flow Data (Jun) US\$ Millions) Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP) Depreciation & Amortization Change in Working Capital Deferred Taxation Charge Other Adjustments, Net Capital Expenditure Free Cash Flow % Change	2,599 929 (1,075) 114 (687) (1,198) 682 - 39.4%	(1,143) 828 90 (34) (149) (793) -1,201 NM	(360) 943 379 (46) (201) (191) 524	2025E 2,325 1,127 (699) 0 (273) (776) 1,703 224.8%	3,11 98 (193 (28) (66) 2,95 73.4 9
Free Cash Flow Data (Jun) US\$ Millions) Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP) Depreciation & Amortization Change in Working Capital Deferred Taxation Charge Other Adjustments, Net Capital Expenditure Free Cash Flow % Change Share / Issue Repurchase Cost of Dividends Paid	2,599 929 (1,075) 114 (687) (1,198) 682 - 39.4% 32 0	(1,143) 828 90 (34) (149) (793) -1,201 NM 894 0	(360) 943 379 (46) (201) (191) 524 NM (15)	2025E 2,325 1,127 (699) 0 (273) (776) 1,703 224.8% 0 0	2026 3,111 98 (192 (28 (66) 2,95 73.44
Free Cash Flow Data (Jun) US\$ Millions) Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP) Depreciation & Amortization Change in Working Capital Deferred Taxation Charge Other Adjustments, Net Capital Expenditure Free Cash Flow % Change Share / Issue Repurchase Cost of Dividends Paid Change in Debt Balance Sheet Data (Jun)	2,599 929 (1,075) 114 (687) (1,198) 682 - 39.4% 32 0 (1,727)	(1,143) 828 90 (34) (149) (793) -1,201 NM 894 0	(360) 943 379 (46) (201) (191) 524 NM (15) 0	2025E 2,325 1,127 (699) 0 (273) (776) 1,703 224.8% 0 0 (1,000)	3,11 98 (19. (28 (66 2,95 73.4 (
Free Cash Flow Data (Jun) US\$ Millions) Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP) Depreciation & Amortization Change in Working Capital Deferred Taxation Charge Other Adjustments, Net Capital Expenditure Free Cash Flow % Change Share / Issue Repurchase Cost of Dividends Paid Change in Debt Balance Sheet Data (Jun) US\$ Millions)	2,599 929 (1,075) 114 (687) (1,198) 682 - 39.4% 32 0 (1,727)	(1,143) 828 90 (34) (149) (793) -1,201 NM 894 0	(360) 943 379 (46) (201) (191) 524 NM (15) 0 857	2025E 2,325 1,127 (699) 0 (273) (776) 1,703 224.8% 0 0 (1,000)	3,11 98 (19 (28 (66 2,95 73.4 (1,00)
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Free Cash Flow Data (Jun) US\$ Millions) Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP) Depreciation & Amortization Change in Working Capital Deferred Taxation Charge Other Adjustments, Net Capital Expenditure Free Cash Flow % Change Share / Issue Repurchase Cost of Dividends Paid Change in Debt Balance Sheet Data (Jun) US\$ Millions) Cash & Equivalents Trade Receivables Other Current Assets Property, Plant & Equipment Other Non-Current Assets	2,599 929 (1,075) 114 (687) (1,198) 682 -39.4% 32 0 (1,727) 2022A 2,327 2,804 4,322 3,670 13,136 26,259	(1,143) 828 90 (34) (149) (793) -1,201 NM 894 0 0 2023A 2,023 1,598 4,265 3,620 12,923 24,429	(360) 943 379 (46) (201) (191) 524 NM (15) 0 857 2024E 3,225 1,757 3,092 2,806 13,248 24,129	2025E 2,325 1,127 (699) 0 (273) (776) 1,703 224.8% 0 0 (1,000) 2025E 3,929 2,006 3,847 2,412 13,444 25,637	3,1 ¹ 98 (19 (28 (66 2,95 73.4 (1,00 202 5,64 2,34 4,19 2,27 13,66 28,12
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Free Cash Flow Data (Jun) US\$ Millions) Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP) Depreciation & Amortization Change in Working Capital Deferred Taxation Charge Other Adjustments, Net Capital Expenditure Free Cash Flow % Change Share / Issue Repurchase Cost of Dividends Paid Change in Debt Balance Sheet Data (Jun) US\$ Millions) Cash & Equivalents Trade Receivables Other Current Assets Property, Plant & Equipment Other Non-Current Assets Total Assets Short-Term Debt Other Current Liabilities Long-Term Debt Other Non-Current Liabilities	2,599 929 (1,075) 114 (687) (1,198) 682 -39,4% 32 0 (1,727) 2022A 2,327 2,804 4,322 3,670 13,136 26,259 0 4,557 7,022 2,459	(1,143) 828 90 (34) (149) (793) -1,201 NM 894 0 0 2023A 2,023 1,598 4,265 3,620 12,923 24,429 1,213 4,221 5,857 1,415	(360) 943 379 (46) (201) (191) 524 NM (15) 0 857 2024E 3,225 1,757 3,092 2,806 13,248 24,129 1,042 3,600 6,851 1,397	2025E 2,325 1,127 (699) 0 (273) (776) 1,703 224.8% 0 0 (1,000) 2025E 3,929 2,006 3,847 2,412 13,444 25,637 1,042 3,852 5,851 1,397	3,1 ¹ 98 (19 (28 (666 2,95 73.4 (1,00 202 5,64 2,34 4,19 2,27 13,66 28,12 1,04 4,28 4,85 1,35
Free Cash Flow Data (Jun) US\$ Millions) Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP) Depreciation & Amortization Change in Working Capital Deferred Taxation Charge Other Adjustments, Net Capital Expenditure Free Cash Flow % Change Share / Issue Repurchase Cost of Dividends Paid Change in Debt Balance Sheet Data (Jun) US\$ Millions) Cash & Equivalents Trade Receivables Other Current Assets Property, Plant & Equipment Other Non-Current Assets Total Assets Short-Term Debt Other Current Liabilities Long-Term Debt	2,599 929 (1,075) 114 (687) (1,198) 682 -39,4% 32 0 (1,727) 2022A 2,327 2,804 4,322 3,670 13,136 26,259 0 4,557 7,022	(1,143) 828 90 (34) (149) (793) -1,201 NM 894 0 0 2023A 2,023 1,598 4,265 3,620 12,923 24,429 1,213 4,221 5,857	(360) 943 379 (46) (201) (191) 524 NM (15) 0 857 2024E 3,225 1,757 3,092 2,806 13,248 24,129 1,042 3,600 6,851	2025E 2,325 1,127 (699) 0 (273) (776) 1,703 224.8% 0 0 (1,000) 2025E 3,929 2,006 3,847 2,412 13,444 25,637 1,042 3,852 5,851	3,1 ¹ 98 (19 (28 (666 2,95 73.4 (1,00 202 5,64 2,34 4,19 2,27

Company Sector

IT Hardware

Company Description

Western Digital Corporation (WDC) designs, manufactures and markets hard disk drives for use in enterprise storage, servers, desktop and laptop computers, and consumer electronic devices. It also has a growing solid state drive and storage systems portfolio, and is currently the third largest enterprise SSD manufacturer. The company sells its products directly to OEMs, as well as distributors and retailers and its production capabilities are vertically integrated.

Investment Rationale

WDC should benefit from share gains in the Enterprise Capacity/Nearline HDD market and from more stability in the NAND market. We see the stock as inexpensive at current levels. Buy.

Stock Data

Average Daily Volume 5,649,282

Quarterly Earnings Estimates

	2023	2024
Q1	0.20A	-1.76A
Q2	-0.42A	-0.69A
Q3	-1.37A	0.14E
Q4	-1.98A	1.14E



* For full definitions of \emph{iQ} method $^{\text{SM}}$ measures, see page 5.

Model

Exhibit 1: WDC Income Statement

We model F24 rev/EPS of \$12.6bn/\$(1.10)

	F2024E				F	2025E							
(\$ Millions Except Per Share Data)	9/23	12/23	3/24E	6/24E	9/24E	12/24E	3/25E	6/25E	F2022	F2023	F2024E	F2025E	F2026E
Income Statement													
Total Revenue HDD Revenue	\$2,750.1 1194.0	\$3,031.6 1366.9	\$3,314.9 1623.5	\$3,497.6 1734.8	\$3,698.2 1858.2	\$4,011.6 1989.4	\$3,827.0 1896.6	\$3,992.7 1944.8	\$18,792.8 9040.2	\$12,318.1 6254.9	\$12,594.2 5919.3	\$15,529.5 7689.0	\$18,058.6 8638.9
Total Other Revenue (Flash)	1556.0	1664.7	1691.4	1754.8	1840.0	2022.2	1930.4	2047.9	9753.4	6063.2	6674.9	7840.5	9419.7
Other Revenue	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
WDC Enterprise SSD Revenue	127.4	137.8	133.1	107.2	140.2	151.6	146.4	117.9	1080.2	531.4	505.6	556.1	611.7
SanDisk NAND/SSD Product Revenue	1346.6	1444.9	1476.3	1573.6	1617.8	1788.5	1702.0	1848.0	8345.2	5203.8	5841.3	6956.4	8479.9
SanDisk Licencing Revenue	82.0	82.0	82.0	82.0	82.0	82.0	82.0	82.0	328.0	328.0	328.0	328.0	328.0
Cost of Goods Sold	2638.0	2562.0	2534.7	2327.0	2419.7	2550.3	2388.7	2442.4	12605.0	10380.0	10061.7	9801.1	11078.5
Gross Profit	112.1	469.6	780.2	1170.6	1278.4	1461.3	1438.3	1550.3	6187.8	1938.1	2532.5	5728.3	6980.0
Total Operating Expense	555.0	561.0	613.9	605.9	638.2	655.9	638.6	641.3	3002.3	2532.0	2335.8	2574.0	2932.4
WDC R&D	143.0	151.0	193.2	184.2	199.8	214.1	204.3	206.3	1295.0	919.8	671.5	824.5	925.1
WDC SG&A	5.9	1.2	7.0	7.4	8.0	8.6	6.1	6.2	145.3	31.9	21.4	28.9	226.7
SanDisk Opex	481.1	483.8	488.6	489.3	505.4	508.2	503.1	503.9	1861.7	1880.3	1942.9	2020.7	2080.7
Cost Synergies	(75.0)	(75.0)	(75.0)	(75.0)	(75.0)	(75.0)	(75.0)	(75.0)	(299.7)	(300.0)	(300.0)	(300.0)	(300.0)
Operating Income (Pre Stock-based Comp Expense)	(442.9)	(91.4)	166.3	564.7	640.2	805.4	799.7	909.0	3185.5	(593.9)	196.7	3154.3	4047.7
Operating Income (Post Stock-based Comp Expense)	(519.9)	(163.4)	87.6	481.6	552.4	710.1	708.8	814.2	2859.5	(911.9)	(114.1)	2785.5	3618.8
Total Interest and Other Income/(Expenses)	(86.0)	(94.0)	(94.2)	(92.2)	(90.1)	(88.1)	(86.0)	(83.9)	(265.0)	(288.0)	(366.4)	(348.1)	(315.1)
Pretax Income	(528.9)	(185.4)	72.0	472.5	550.1	717.4	713.7	825.1	2920.5	(881.9)	(169.7)	2806.2	3732.6
Provision for Income Taxes (Credit)	25.0	25.0	10.8	70.9	82.5	107.6	107.1	123.8	322.0	237.0	131.7	420.9	559.9
Net Income (Pre Stock-based Comp Expense)	(568.9)	(224.4)	46.2	386.7	452.6	594.8	591.6	686.3	2598.5	(1142.9)	(360.4)	2325.3	3112.7
Stock-based Comp Expense (net of tax)	80.6	81.7	66.9	70.6	74.7	81.0	77.3	80.6	290.0	252.5	299.9	313.5	364.6
Net Income (Post Stock-based Comp Expense)	(649.6)	(306.1)	(20.7)	316.0	377.9	513.8	514.4	605.7	2308.5	(1395.4)	(660.3)	2011.8	2748.1
Diluted EPS (Pre Stock-based Comp Expense)	-\$1.76	-\$0.69	\$0.14	\$1.14	\$1.34	\$1.76	\$1.75	\$2.03	\$8.22	-\$3.58	-\$1.10	\$6.88	\$9.21
Diluted EPS (Post Stock-based Comp Expense)	-\$2.01	-\$0.94	-\$0.06	\$0.94	\$1.12	\$1.52	\$1.52	\$1.79	\$7.30	-\$4.37	-\$2.01	\$5.95	\$8.13
Diluted Weighted Average Shares	323.0	325.0	325.0	337.8	337.8	337.8	337.8	337.8	316.3	3193	327.7	337.8	337.8
Income Statement (Cont'd)													
% of Revenues													
Gross Profit (35-40% goal)	4.1%	15.5%	23.5%	33.5%	34.6%	36.4%	37.6%	38.8%	32.9%	15.7%	20.1%	36.9%	38.7%
Opex (14-16% goal) WDC R&D (as % legacy revs)	20.2% 10.8%	18.5% 10.0%	18.5% 11.0%	17.3% 10.0%	17.3% 10.0%	16.4% 10.0%	16.7% 10.0%	16.1% 10.0%	16.0% 6.9%	20.6% 7.5%	18.5% 5.3%	16.6% 5.3%	16.2% 5.1%
WDC SG&A (as % legacy revs)	0.4%	0.1%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.8%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	1.3%
SanDisk Opex (as % legacy SNDK product revs)	35.7%	33.5%	33.1%	31.1%	31.2%	28.4%	29.6%	27.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
EBIT (Pre-Stock-based Comp) (20-25% goal)	-16.1%	-3.0%	5.0%	16.1%	17.3%	20.1%	20.9%	22.8%	17.0%	-4.8%	1.6%	20.3%	22.4%
Stock-based Comp Expense	2.8%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	1.7%	2.6%	2.5%	2.4%	2.4%
EBIT (Post-Stock-based Comp) Pretax Income	-18.9% -19.2%	-5.4% -6.1%	2.6% 2.2%	13.8% 13.5%	14.9% 14.9%	17.7% 17.9%	18.5% 18.6%	20.4% 20.7%	15.2% 15.5%	-7.4% -7.2%	-0.9% -1.3%	17.9% 18.1%	20.0% 20.7%
Tax Rate (10% goal)	-4.7%	-13.5%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	11.0%	-26.9%	-77.6%	15.0%	15.0%
Net Income (Operating, pre-Stock-based Comp)	-23.6%	-10.1%	-0.6%	9.0%	10.2%	12.8%	13.4%	15.2%	12.3%	-11.3%	-5.2%	13.0%	15.2%
Net Income (Operating, post-Stock-based Comp)	-20.7%	-7.4%	1.4%	11.1%	12.2%	14.8%	15.5%	17.2%	13.8%	-9.3%	-2.9%	15.0%	17.2%
% Growth Rates													
Revenues (Y/Y)	(26%)	(2%)	18%	31%	34%	32%	15%	14%	11%	(34%)	2%	23%	16%
Opex (Y/Y)	(19%)	(15%)	2%	4%	15%	17%	4%	6%	3%	(16%)	(8%)	10%	14%
R&D (Y/Y)	(50%)	(42%)	(5%)	8%	40%	42%	6%	12%	3%	(29%)	(27%)	23%	12%
SG&A (Y/Y)	1618%	(44%)	(16%)	(65%)	36%	635%	(13%)	(16%)	(12%)	(78%)	(33%)	35%	685%
Op. Income (Y/Y) Protey Income (Y/Y)	(244%)	(23%) 1%	(155%) (120%)	(218%) (184%)	(245%) (204%)	(981%) (487%)	381% 891%	61% 75%	67% 80%	(119%) (130%)	(133%) (81%)	1504% (1753%)	28% 33%
Pretax Income (Y/Y) Net Income (Y/Y)	(990%)	67%	(120%)	(161%)	(180%)	(365%)	1180%	77%	85%	(144%)	(68%)	(745%)	34%
Op. EPS (Y/Y)	(979%)	63%	(110%)	(158%)	(176%)	(355%)	1131%	77%	81%	(144%)	(69%)	(726%)	34%
Op. EPS Option adj (Y/Y)	(1695%)	51%	(96%)	(142%)	(156%)	(261%)	(2493%)	92%	99%	(160%)	(54%)	(396%)	37%
Diluted Shares (Y/Y)	1%	2%	2%	5%	5%	4%	4%	0%	2%	1%	3%	3%	0%
Revenues (Q/Q)	3%	10%	9%	6%	6%	8%	(5%)	4%					
Gross Profit (Q/Q)	8%	319%	66%	50%	9%	14%	(2%)	8%					
Opex (Q/Q)	(5%)	1%	9%	(1%)	5%	3%	(3%)	0%					
R&D (Q/Q)	(16%)	(2004)	28%	(5%)	8%	7%	(5%)	1% 1%					
SG&A (Q/Q) Op. Income (Q/Q)	(72%) (7%)	(80%) (79%)	503% (282%)	5% 240%	8% 13%	7% 26%	(28%) (1%)	14%					
Source: Company reports PofA Global Possarch		,	, ,	. /-	- · · ·	. /-	/	*					

Source: Company reports, BofA Global Research estimates

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH



Price objective basis & risk

Western Digital Corporation (WDC)

Our PO of \$70 is based on 9x C25E EPS of \$8.16. This multiple is inline with the HDD/SSD historical average of 9x, which we view as justified as it balances near-term sluggish end markets offset by longer-term improving trajectory of the business both in HDDs and in NAND. WD is a cyclical company. Near-term estimates are lower given lower demand from weaker macro.

Downside risks are: (1) unit declines in desktops and notebooks (2) worse than expected high-capacity HDD industry, (3) faster declines in NAND Flash pricing, (4) higher NAND manufacturing cost from either stronger Yen, or manufacturing yield issues, (5) lower royalty revenue from NAND licensing, (6) degradation of cash position and lower free cash flow and (7) failure of strategic actions to drive incremental value

Upside risks are: (1) significant pickup in high capacity/nearline HDDs, which could drive ASPs and gross margin higher, (2) share gains in enterprise NAND flash SSDs, (3) consumer PC refresh cycle, (4) improved free cash flow generation and faster debt pay down and (5) strategic options that drive the stock higher.

Analyst Certification

I, Wamsi Mohan, 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 - IT Hardware and Technology Supply Chain Coverage Cluster

Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
BUY			3.7	• •
DUT	Amphenol	APH	APH US	Wamsi Mohan
	Apple Inc.	AAPL	AAPL US	Wamsi Mohan
	Corning Inc.	GLW	GLW US	Warnsi Mohan
	Dell Technologies Inc.	DELL	DELL US	Wamsi Mohan
	Flex Ltd.	FLEX	FLEX US	Ruplu Bhattacharya
	HP Inc.	HPO	HPQ US	Wamsi Mohan
	International Business Machines Corp.	IBM	IBM US	Warnsi Mohan
	Jabil Inc.	JBL	JBL US	Ruplu Bhattacharya
	Nutanix Inc	NTNX	NTNX US	Wamsi Mohan
	Roku, Inc.	ROKU	ROKU US	Ruplu Bhattacharya
	Seagate Technology	STX	STX US	Wamsi Mohan
	Sensata Technologies Holdings Plc	ST	ST US	Wamsi Mohan
	TD Synnex Corp	SNX	SNX US	Ruplu Bhattacharya
	TE Connectivity Ltd.	TEL	TEL US	Wamsi Mohan
	Teradata Corporation	TDC	TDC US	Wamsi Mohan
	Western Digital Corporation	WDC	WDC US	Wamsi Mohan
	western pigital corporation	WDC	WDC 03	Wallist Molidit
NEUTRAL				
	Arrow Electronics Inc.	ARW	ARW US	Ruplu Bhattacharya
	Avnet Inc.	AVT	AVT US	Ruplu Bhattacharya
	CDW Corp	CDW	CDW US	Ruplu Bhattacharya
	Concentrix Corporation	CNXC	CNXC US	Ruplu Bhattacharya
	Hewlett-Packard Enterprise	HPE	HPE US	Wamsi Mohan
	Pure Storage	PSTG	PSTG US	Wamsi Mohan
UNDERPERFORM	-			
	DigitalOcean	DOCN	DOCN US	Wamsi Mohan
	NetApp Inc.	NTAP	NTAP US	Wamsi Mohan
	Sanmina Corporation	SANM	SANM US	Ruplu Bhattacharya
	Vishay Intertechnology, Inc.	VSH	VSH US	Ruplu Bhattacharya
	Vizio	VZIO	VZIO US	Wamsi Mohan

US - IT Hardware and Technology Supply Chain Coverage Cluster

Investment rating Company BofA Ticker Bloomberg symbol Analyst

*i***@**method[™] Measures Definitions

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

Manethod suis 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.

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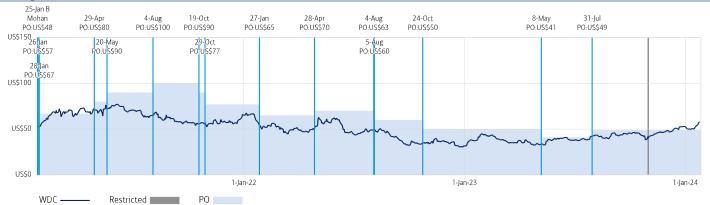
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Important Disclosures

Western Digital (WDC) 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: 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.

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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%	≤ /0%
Neutral	≥ 0%	≤ 30%
Jnderperform	N/A	≥ 20%

R2Ratings dispersions may vary from time to time where BofA Global Research believes it better reflects the investment prospects of stocks in a Coverage Cluster.

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