

# Rush

# 4Q23 earnings: better truck sales and cost control drive the beat

Maintain Rating: BUY | PO: 57.00 USD | Price: 46.28 USD

## New truck sales drive the beat

Rush 4Q23 EPS came in ahead of our expectations. New and used truck revenues were the key source of the beat, coming in at 13% y/y versus our (2.2)% forecast. The beat was specifically driven by new trucks; used truck sales fell (4)% short of our estimate. Pricing held in better than our expectations across new trucks. Pricing was flat sequentially in medium and light trucks and increased 5% sequentially for Class 8 vehicles. On a unit basis, medium duty and used trucks both came in well above our estimates. Parts & Services came in line with our estimate in sales but missed slightly on margins. We believe this reflects growing national account mix and slowing inflation. The commentary and outlook on Class 8 trucks for 2024 is consistent with our management meetings in November. On the margin, it seems that smaller customers have slowed more than management expected, on the back of rates. Management expects the freight recession to abate sometime in 2H24 with improvement by 4Q. Buy.

## Actual vs. variance in the quarter

4Q23 EPS of 0.95 came in above our \$0.84 forecast. Revenue of \$2.03bn (+7.8% y/y) was above our \$1.88bn estimate. New & used truck revenue was up +13% y/y versus our (2.2)% y/y forecast. Gross margins came in 10bp above our forecast, driving a \$0.14 beat relative to our forecasts. Parts & Services was a \$(0.02) miss as in-line revenues were offset by 50bp worse margins, which contracted 150bp y/y to 36.5%. Lease, finance, and other was a \$0.03 headwind. Overall, gross profit came in \$0.09 above our estimate. Lower SG&A was a \$0.03 benefit. SG&A dollars were sequentially down 2% from 3Q. Below-the-line items were a net \$(0.01) headwind, as lower D&A and share count were offset by higher interest expense, gain on sale of assets, and taxes.

## Outlook into 2024: looking for 2H24 inflection

CEO Rusty Rush stated in the press release: "Challenging freight conditions continue to impact our customers, including larger fleets. However, we are hopeful that the current freight recession may begin to ease by late summer, which we believe could provide a tailwind to the aftermarket industry in the second half of 2024". ACT Research is forecasting Class 8 truck sales to decline 21.1% y/y in 2024. Rush is confident in outperforming the market. The company has a strong track record of execution. The company added 215 service technicians in 2023, as it continues to expand its Parts & Services business. We plan to review our model after the call tomorrow.

Estimates (Dec) (US\$)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
EPS	2.80	4.80	4.04	3.38	4.27
EPS Change (YoY)	109.0%	71.4%	-15.8%	-16.3%	26.3%
Consensus EPS (Bloomberg)			4.05	3.12	3.50
DPS	0.47	0.53	0.55	0.58	0.61
Valuation (Dec)					
P/E	16.5x	9.6x	11.5x	13.7x	10.8x
Dividend Yield	1.0%	1.1%	1.2%	1.3%	1.3%
EV / EBITDA*	8.8x	5.9x	6.1x	6.9x	5.9x
Free Cash Flow Yield*	7.1%	9.2%	7.3%	10.4%	10.4%
* For full definitions of <i>IQ</i> method <sup>≤M</sup> measures, see page 6.					

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Timestamp: 14 February 2024 05:00AM EST

#### 14 February 2024

#### Equity

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#### Stock Data

Price

Price Objective 57.00 USD Date Established 18-Feb-2022 Investment Opinion 52-Week Range 33.37 USD - 50.50 USD Mrkt Val (mn) / Shares Out 4,073 USD / 88.0 98.7% Free Float Average Daily Value (mn) 41.26 USD

46 28 USD

BofA Ticker / Exchange RUSHA / NAS Bloomberg / Reuters RUSHA US / RUSHA.OQ ROE (2023E) 18 5% Net Dbt to Eqty (Dec-2022A) 14.2%

ESGMeter™ Medium

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>Rush

i <b>Q</b> method <sup>™</sup> – Bus Performance*					
(US\$ Millions)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025
Return on Capital Employed	11.4%	17.7%	15.2%	12.6%	15.99
Return on Equity	17.7%	24.3%	18.5%	14.6%	19.29
Operating Margin	6.0%	7.1%	6.4%	5.5%	6.39
Free Cash Flow	289	375	297	424	42
iQmethod SM – Quality of Earnings*					
(US\$ Millions)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025
Cash Realization Ratio	1.9x	1.6x	1.6x	2.3x	1.8
Asset Replacement Ratio	1.0x	1.2x	1.2x	1.0x	1.1
Tax Rate	22.9%	23.0%	24.5%	24.0%	24.09
Net Debt-to-Equity Ratio	26.4%	14.2%	10.6%	2.1%	6.59
Interest Cover	NM	27.9x	9.8x	7.5x	9.4
Income Statement Data (Dec)					
(US\$ Millions)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025
Sales	5,126	7,102	7,776	7,537	8,05
% Change	8.2%	38.5%	9.5%	-3.1%	6.99
Gross Profit	1,092	1,487	1,583	1,499	1,64
% Change	24.8%	36.2%	6.5%	-5.3%	9.60
EBITDA	485	727	702	622	71
% Change	43.4%	49.9%	-3.4%	-11.4%	15.5°
Net Interest & Other Income	(2)	(19)	(51)	(56)	(5
Net Income (Adjusted)	242	392	340	276	34
% Change	110.3%	62.1%	-13.3%	-18.8%	26.49
Free Cash Flow Data (Dec)					
(US\$ Millions)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025
Free Cash Flow Data (Dec) (US\$ Millions)  Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP)	242	392	340	276	34
(US\$ Millions)  Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP)  Depreciation & Amortization	242 169	392 199	340 201	276 203	34 20
(US\$ Millions)  Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP)  Depreciation & Amortization  Change in Working Capital	242 169 (21)	392 199 (334)	340 201 (75)	276 203 195	34 20 (56
(US\$ Millions)  Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP)  Depreciation & Amortization  Change in Working Capital  Deferred Taxation Charge	242 169 (21) 14	392 199 (334) 4	340 201 (75) 8	276 203 195 (13)	34 20 (56 1
(US\$ Millions)  Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP)  Depreciation & Amortization  Change in Working Capital  Deferred Taxation Charge  Other Adjustments, Net	242 169 (21) 14 52	392 199 (334) 4 357	340 201 (75) 8 58	276 203 195 (13) (24)	34 20 (56 1
Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP) Depreciation & Amortization Change in Working Capital Deferred Taxation Charge Other Adjustments, Net Capital Expenditure	242 169 (21) 14 52 (167)	392 199 (334) 4 357 (243)	340 201 (75) 8 58 (235)	276 203 195 (13) (24) (213)	34 20 (56 1 13 (219
Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP) Depreciation & Amortization Change in Working Capital Deferred Taxation Charge Other Adjustments, Net Capital Expenditure Free Cash Flow	242 169 (21) 14 52 (167) <b>289</b>	392 199 (334) 4 357 (243) <b>375</b>	340 201 (75) 8 58 (235) <b>297</b>	276 203 195 (13) (24) (213) <b>424</b>	34 20 (56 1 13 (219
Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP) Depreciation & Amortization Change in Working Capital Deferred Taxation Charge Other Adjustments, Net Capital Expenditure Free Cash Flow % Change	242 169 (21) 14 52 (167) 289 220.7%	392 199 (334) 4 357 (243) 375 29.9%	340 201 (75) 8 58 (235) 297 -20.9%	276 203 195 (13) (24) (213) 424 42.7%	34 20 (56 1 13 (219 <b>42</b>
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	242 169 (21) 14 52 (167) <b>289</b> <b>220.7%</b> NA	392 199 (334) 4 357 (243) <b>375</b> <b>29.9%</b> NA	340 201 (75) 8 58 (235) <b>297</b> - <b>20.9%</b> NA	276 203 195 (13) (24) (213) 424 42.7% NA	34 20 (56 1 13 (219 <b>42</b> - <b>0.4</b> <sup>9</sup>
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	242 169 (21) 14 52 (167) <b>289</b> <b>220.7%</b> NA 0	392 199 (334) 4 357 (243) <b>375</b> <b>29.9%</b> NA 0	340 201 (75) 8 58 (235) <b>297</b> - <b>20.9%</b> NA 0	276 203 195 (13) (24) (213) <b>424</b> <b>42.7%</b> NA 0	34 20 (56 1 13 (219 <b>42</b> - <b>0.4</b> <sup>9</sup> N
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	242 169 (21) 14 52 (167) <b>289</b> <b>220.7%</b> NA	392 199 (334) 4 357 (243) <b>375</b> <b>29.9%</b> NA	340 201 (75) 8 58 (235) <b>297</b> - <b>20.9%</b> NA	276 203 195 (13) (24) (213) 424 42.7% NA	34 20 (56 1 13 (219 <b>42</b> - <b>0.49</b> N
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 (Dec)	242 169 (21) 14 52 (167) <b>289</b> <b>220.7%</b> NA 0 (79)	392 199 (334) 4 357 (243) <b>375</b> <b>29.9%</b> NA 0 59	340 201 (75) 8 58 (235) <b>297</b> - <b>20.9%</b> NA 0 (116)	276 203 195 (13) (24) (213) <b>424</b> <b>42.7%</b> NA 0 (331)	34 20 (56 1 13 (219 42 -0.4° N
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 (Dec) (US\$ Millions)	242 169 (21) 14 52 (167) <b>289</b> <b>220.7%</b> NA 0 (79)	392 199 (334) 4 357 (243) <b>375</b> <b>29.9%</b> NA 0 59	340 201 (75) 8 58 (235) <b>297</b> - <b>20.9%</b> NA 0 (116)	276 203 195 (13) (24) (213) <b>424</b> <b>42.7%</b> NA 0 (331)	34 20 (56 1 13 (219 42 -0.4° N
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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 (Dec) (US\$ Millions) Cash & Equivalents Trade Receivables	242 169 (21) 14 52 (167) <b>289</b> <b>220.7%</b> NA 0 (79)	392 199 (334) 4 357 (243) <b>375</b> <b>29.9%</b> NA 0 59 <b>2022A</b> 201 221	340 201 (75) 8 58 (235) <b>297</b> - <b>20.9%</b> NA 0 (116) <b>2023E</b> 256 237	276 203 195 (13) (24) (213) <b>424</b> <b>42.7%</b> NA 0 (331) <b>2024E</b> 418 230	344 200 (56 1 1 1 3 3 (21 9 4 2 4 - 0.4 9 N (36 3 2 2 2 2 5 3 4 2 4 2 4 2 4 2 6 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
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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 (Dec) (US\$ Millions) Cash & Equivalents Trade Receivables Other Current Assets Property, Plant & Equipment	242 169 (21) 14 52 (167) 289 220.7% NA 0 (79)  2021A 148 140 1,036 1,278	392 199 (334) 4 357 (243) <b>375</b> <b>29.9%</b> NA 0 59 <b>2022A</b> 201 221 1,446 1,369	340 201 (75) 8 58 (235) 297 -20.9% NA 0 (116)  2023E 256 237 1,479 1,402	276 203 195 (13) (24) (213) <b>424</b> <b>42.7%</b> NA 0 (331) <b>2024E</b> 418 230 1,358 1,412	344 200 (56 1 1 1 3 1 3 2 1 1 3 2 1 1 3 1 4 2 1 1 4 2 1 1 4 2 1 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 4
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 (Dec) (US\$ Millions) Cash & Equivalents Trade Receivables Other Current Assets Property, Plant & Equipment Other Non-Current Assets	242 169 (21) 14 52 (167) 289 220.7% NA 0 (79)  2021A 148 140 1,036 1,278 517	392 199 (334) 4 357 (243) <b>375</b> <b>29.9%</b> NA 0 59 <b>2022A</b> 201 221 1,446 1,369 585	340 201 (75) 8 58 (235) 297 -20.9% NA 0 (116)  2023E 256 237 1,479 1,402 562	276 203 195 (13) (24) (213) <b>424</b> <b>42.7%</b> NA 0 (331) <b>2024E</b> 418 230 1,358 1,412 470	344 200 (560 1 1 1 3 1 3 2 1 1 1 3 1 3 1 4 2 1 1 4 2 1 1 4 2 1 1 4 2 1 1 4 2 1 1 4 2 1 1 4 2 1 1 4 2 1 1 4 2 1 1 4 2 1 1 1 1
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 (Dec) (US\$ Millions) Cash & Equivalents Trade Receivables Other Current Assets Property, Plant & Equipment Other Non-Current Assets Total Assets	242 169 (21) 14 52 (167) 289 220.7% NA 0 (79)  2021A 148 140 1,036 1,278 517 3,120	392 199 (334) 4 357 (243) <b>375</b> <b>29.9%</b> NA 0 59 <b>2022A</b> 201 221 1,446 1,369 585 <b>3,821</b>	340 201 (75) 8 58 (235) 297 -20.9% NA 0 (116)  2023E 256 237 1,479 1,402 562 3,937	276 203 195 (13) (24) (213) 424 42.7% NA 0 (331)  2024E 418 230 1,358 1,412 470 3,888	34 20 (5) 1 13 (21) 42 -0.44 N (36) 2029 34 24 1,43 1,42 42 3,87
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 (Dec) (US\$ Millions) Cash & Equivalents Trade Receivables Other Current Assets Property, Plant & Equipment Other Non-Current Assets Total Assets Short-Term Debt	242 169 (21) 14 52 (167) 289 220.7% NA 0 (79)  2021A 148 140 1,036 1,278 517 3,120 27	392 199 (334) 4 357 (243) <b>375</b> <b>29.9%</b> NA 0 59 <b>2022A</b> 201 221 1,446 1,369 585 <b>3,821</b> 0	340 201 (75) 8 58 (235) 297 -20.9% NA 0 (116)  2023E 256 237 1,479 1,402 562 3,937 0	276 203 195 (13) (24) (213) 424 42.7% NA 0 (331)  2024E 418 230 1,358 1,412 470 3,888 0	34 20 (5) 1 13 (21) 42 -0.44 N (36) 202! 34 24 1,43 1,42 42 3,87
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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 (Dec) (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	242 169 (21) 14 52 (167) 289 220.7% NA 0 (79)  2021A 148 140 1,036 1,278 517 3,120 27 965 509	392 199 (334) 4 357 (243) <b>375</b> <b>29.9%</b> NA 0 59 <b>2022A</b> 201 221 1,446 1,369 585 <b>3,821</b> 0 1,384 458	340 201 (75) 8 58 (235) 297 -20.9% NA 0 (116)  2023E 256 237 1,479 1,402 562 3,937 0 1,397 458	276 203 195 (13) (24) (213) 424 42.7% NA 0 (331)  2024E 418 230 1,358 1,412 470 3,888 0 1,386 458	2025 34 20 (56 1 133 (219 42 -0.49 N (363 2025 34 24 1,43 1,42 42 3,87 1,47 45 17 1,75

## **Company Sector**

Industrials/Multi-Industry

### **Company Description**

Rush Enterprises (RUSHA), the largest truck dealer in the US, is the only publicly traded pure truck distributor. The company's strategy is focused on distributing and servicing trucks along major highways in the Southern US. The company currently operates a network of 100+ Rush Truck Centers in 20 states. Rush specializes primarily in heavy (Class 8) trucks by Peterbilt and Navistar.

#### **Investment Rationale**

As the largest Peterbilt dealer and a leading Navistar dealer, we believe Rush is uniquely positioned to benefit from ongoing high service rates in its highest margin Parts & Services business. We also think there is earnings upside from higher Parts & Service penetration through the cycle.

#### **Stock Data**

Average Daily Volume 441,776

## **Quarterly Earnings Estimates**

	2022	2023
Q1	1.06A	1.07A
Q2	1.28A	1.17A
Q3	1.06A	0.96A
Q4	1.16A	0.84E

\* For full definitions of  $\emph{iQ}$  method  $^{\text{SM}}$  measures, see page 6.

## Exhibit 1: 4Q23 earnings variance analysis

RUSHA reported 4Q23 EPS of \$0.95

**BofA Estimate BofA Est.** Actual Reported Dollar 4Q:22A 4Q:23A YOY % Chg. 3Q:23E YOY % Chg. Percentage **EPS Segment Sales** New and Used Truck Sales 1,175 1,310 11.4% -1.1% 148 12.7% 1,162 Parts and Service 609 619 1.7% 618 1.5% 0.2% 1 Lease and Rental 85 89 5.2% 86 1.0% 4 4.2% 5 7 Finance and Insurance 7 -23.9% 3.0% (2) -26.1% Other 7 6 -15.4% 7 0.1% <u>-15.5%</u> (1) Total 1,883 2,029 7.8% 1,880 -0.2% 149 7.9% **Gross Profit by Segment** 8.8% 108 New and Used Truck Sales 113 123 -4.5% 15 13.9% \$ 0.14 Parts and Service 233 226 -3.1% 229 -1.9% -1.1% \$ (0.02)(3) Lease and Rental 25 25 0.0% 25 -2.4% 1 2.4% \$ 0.01 Finance and Insurance 7 5 -23.9% 7 3.0% (2) -26.1% \$ (0.02)Other 7 6 <u>-15.4%</u> 7 0.1% (1) <u>-15.5%</u> \$ (0.01)\$ **Total Gross Profit** 386 386 0.0% 376 -2.6% 10 2.7% 0.09 **Gross Margins by Segment** New and Used Truck Sales 9.4% 9.3% 9.6% (20 bp) (30 bp) 10 bp Parts and Service 38.3% 36.5% (180 bp) 37.0% (130 bp) (50 bp) 29.8% 28.8% Lease and Rental 28.4% (150 bp) (100 bp) (50 bp)Finance and Insurance N/M N/M N/M N/M N/M N/M --Other N/M N/M N/M N/M N/M N/M = **Total Gross Margins** 19.0% 20.0% (100 bp) 20.5% (150 bp) (50 bp) **Net Sales** 1,883 2,029 7.8% 1,880 -0.2% 149 7.9% COGS 1,497 1,643 9.8% 1,504 0.5% 139 9.3% 2.7% \$ **Gross Profit** 386 386 0.09 0.0% 376 10 -2.6% SG&A 235 251 6.6% 255 8.2% (4) -1.4% \$ 0.03 D&A 14 6.9% 13.1% (1) -5.5% \$ 0.01 15 16 13.8% \$ **Operating Income** 137 120 -12.2% 105 -22.8% 14 0.13 Interest Expense, net 8 15 84.6% 14 69.0% \_ 1 9.2% (0.01)Gain on sale of assets 0 0 1 1 (0.01)105 -18.3% 93 -27.7% 13.1% \$ **Pretax Income** 128 12 0.11 Taxes 30 27 -10.6% 22 -25.9% 5 20.6% Tax Rate 23.4% 25.6% 220 bp 24.0% 60 bp 160 bp (0.02)Net Income (Op. Earnings) 98 78 -20.6% 70 -28.3% 8 10.7% \$ 0.09 **FULLY DILUTED EPS** \$1.16 \$0.95 -18.0% \$0.84 -27.1% \$0.11 12.5% Diluted Shares Outstanding 85 82 -3.1% 83 -1.6% -1.5% 0.01 (1) \$

	Actual	Reported	BofA Estimate	Variation (b.	p.)
Margin Analysis	4Q:22A	4Q:23A	3Q:23E	BofA Est.	4Q:22A
COGS	79.5%	81.0%	80.0%	100 bp	150 bp
Gross Margin	20.5%	19.0%	20.0%	(100 bp)	(150 bp)
SG&A	12.5%	12.4%	13.6%	(120 bp)	(10 bp)
Operating Margin	7.3%	5.9%	5.6%	30 bp	(130 bp)
Pretax Margin	6.8%	5.2%	4.9%	20 bp	(160 bp)
Net Margin	5.2%	3.8%	3.7%	10 bp	(140 bp)

**Source:** BofA Global Research estimates, company filings

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**Variation Versus** 

# **Valuation**

We base our \$57 price objective on a 13x P/E multiple of our 2025 EPS estimate. Our target multiple is below the company's long term P/E multiple of 14x, which we think is fair given near-term cyclical pressures on the US truck cycle.

## **Exhibit 2: RUSHA valuation vs. comparables**

RUSHA trades at a discount to distributor peers, slightly below Truck OEMs and Construction Dealer peers, and at a premium to auto dealer peers

		Stock Price	P	/E	EV/EI	BITDA	EBITDA	margins	EPS G	owth
Company	Ticker	2/13/2024	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Traton SE	8TRA GR	EUR 22.64	4.6 x	4.1 x	3.7 x	3.6 x	12.8%	13.5%	-8.0%	12.4%
Paccar	PCAR	\$105.19	<u>16.1 x</u>	13.7 x	<u>11.9 x</u>	10.2 x	14.5%	15.0%	<u>-19.6%</u>	<u>17.6%</u>
Truck OEM Average			10.3 x	8.9 x	7.8 x	6.9 x	13.6%	14.2%	-13.8%	15.0%
Asbury Automotive Group	ABG	\$218.35	7.1 x	6.9 x	6.9 x	6.6 x	6.4%	5.9%	-8.0%	3.2%
AutoNation	AN	\$147.82	6.7 x	6.6 x	6.1 x	6.2 x	6.0%	5.7%	-3.1%	2.0%
Group 1 Automotive	GPI	\$274.65	6.7 x	6.6 x	6.3 x	6.4 x	5.0%	4.8%	-8.5%	1.7%
Lithia Motors Inc.	LAD	\$298.33	7.2 x	6.6 x	6.6 x	6.1 x	5.4%	5.2%	9.1%	9.7%
Sonic Automotive	SAH	\$57.45	9.0 x	9.4 x	6.2 x	6.2 x	3.8%	3.5%	-3.8%	-3.9%
Penske Automotive Group	PAG	\$150.35	<u>9.1 x</u>	<u>8.6 x</u>	<u>8.5 x</u>	<u>8.6 x</u>	<u>4.5%</u>	<u>4.3%</u>	0.3%	6.1%
Auto Dealer Average			7.7 x	7.4 x	6.8 x	6.7 x	5.2%	4.9%	-2.3%	3.1%
Barloworld Ltd.	BRRAF	ZAR 74.37	5.5 x	5.1 x	3.0 x	2.8 x	13.7%	13.9%	8.0%	7.1%
Finning	YFTT	C\$ 36.07	8.0 x	7.7 x	5.3 x	5.2 x	13.7%	13.8%	8.4%	4.4%
Titan Machinery*	TITN	\$26.05	5.8 x	6.1 x	5.2 x	5.1 x	6.7%	6.7%	-8.2%	-5.3%
Toromont Industries*	TIH CT	C\$ 117.33	<u>18.9 x</u>	18.1 x	<u>10.6 x</u>	<u>10.1 x</u>	18.4%	18.4%	<u>-0.8%</u>	4.7%
Construction Dealer Average			9.6 x	9.3 x	6.0 x	5.8 x	13.1%	13.2%	1.9%	2.7%
Fastenal *	FAST	\$68.92	32.0 x	29.4 x	21.9 x	20.3 x	23.1%	23.1%	7.5%	9.0%
WW Grainger *	GWW	\$935.41	23.9 x	22.0 x	16.5 x	15.2 x	16.8%	16.8%	7.5%	8.8%
MSC Industrial *	MSM	\$96.80	15.7 x	14.1 x	9.9 x	9.0 x	14.3%	14.8%	-0.1%	11.0%
Watsco *	WSO	\$384.17	26.2 x	23.7 x	15.4 x	13.8 x	11.5%	11.9%	4.9%	10.7%
Wesco*	WCC	\$132.59	<u>8.2 x</u>	<u>7.2 x</u>	<u>5.9 x</u>	<u>5.3 x</u>	<u>7.8%</u>	7.9%	2.3%	13.5%
Industrial Distributor Average			21.2 x	19.3 x	13.9 x	12.7 x	14.7%	14.9%	4.4%	10.6%
Rush Enterprises	RUSHA	\$46.28	13.3 x	11.2 x	6.5 x	5.8 x	8.2%	8.5%	-15.9%	18.8%
Rush Enterprises at PO		\$57.00	16.3 x	13.8 x	7.9 x	7.1 x	8.2%	8.5%	-15.9%	18.8%

**Source:** BofA Global Research estimates, Bloomberg, company files. \* based on Bloomberg consensus estimates

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# Price objective basis & risk

### Rush (RUSHA)

We base our \$57 price objective on a 13x P/E multiple of our 2024 EPS estimate. Our target multiple is below the company's long term P/E multiple of 14x, which we think is fair given near-term pressures on the truck cycle.

Upside risks are: 1) improving mix of service-related revenue, 2) accretive use of free cash flow in either share repurchases or acquisitions, 3) an improvement in US truck market. Downside risks are: 1) Rush's relationship with PACCAR given the majority of revenue comes from the sale of PACCAR products, namely Peterbilt trucks and parts. 2) PACCAR has ultimate veto power on Rush's growth plans by virtue of having a right of first refusal on the purchase of additional Peterbilt dealerships. PACCAR may terminate Rush's dealership agreements upon change of control of the company from the Rush family or if the Rush family's aggregate voting power falls below 30%. 3) The heavy truck market is a highly cyclical business that can be affected by fuel prices, interest rate fluctuations, economic recessions and customer business cycles.

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**US - Multi-Industrials/Engineering and Construction Coverage Cluster** 

Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
BUY				
	APi Group	APG	APG US	Andrew Obin
	AspenTech	AZPN	AZPN US	Andrew Obin
	Atmus Filtration	ATMU	ATMU US	Andrew Obin
	Dover Corp	DOV	DOV US	Andrew Obin
	Eaton Corp PLC	ETN	ETN US	Andrew Obin
	Emerson Electric Co	EMR	EMR US	Andrew Obin
	Flowserve	FLS	FLS US	Andrew Obin
	General Electric Company	GE	GE US	Andrew Obin
	Honeywell International Inc.	HON	HON US	Andrew Obin
	ITT Inc.	ITT	ITT US	Andrew Obin
	Montrose Environmental Group, Inc.	MEG	MEG US	Andrew Obin
	Parker Hannifin Corporation	PH	PH US	Andrew Obin
	PTC Inc.	PTC	PTC US	Andrew Obin
	Rush	RUSHA	RUSHA US	Andrew Obin
	Vertiv	VRT	VRT US	Andrew Obin
	Vontier	VNT	VNT US	Andrew Obin
NEUTRAL				
	3M Company	MMM	MMM US	Andrew Obin
	AMETEK Inc	AME	AME US	Andrew Obin
	Fortive Corporation	FTV	FTV US	Andrew Obin
	Johnson Controls International PLC	JCI	JCI US	Andrew Obin
	Pentair plc	PNR	PNR US	Andrew Obin
	Rockwell	ROK	ROK US	Andrew Obin
	Trane Technologies PLC	TT	TT US	Andrew Obin
UNDERPERFORM				
	Allegion	ALLE	ALLE US	Andrew Obin
	Carrier Global Corp.	CARR	CARR US	Andrew Obin
	Core & Main	CNM	CNM US	Andrew Obin
	Illinois Tool Works	ITW	ITW US	Andrew Obin
	John Bean Technologies	JBT	JBT US	Andrew Obin
	Keysight	KEYS	KEYS US	David Ridley-Lane, CFA



#### **US - Multi-Industrials/Engineering and Construction Coverage Cluster**

Investment rating Company BofA Ticker Bloomberg symbol Analyst

# *i***@**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

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# **Important Disclosures**

#### Rush (RUSHA) 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: Industrials/Multi-Industry Group (as of 31 Dec 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships R1	Count	Percent
Buy	45	50.56%	Buy	25	55.56%
Hold	26	29.21%	Hold	13	50.00%
Sell	18	20.22%	Sell	7	38.89%

#### 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%

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# 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%
Inderperform	N/A	≥ 20%

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