

Grocery Outlet Holding Corp.

Valuation near all-time lows despite unique model & strong LT outlook; Reiterate Buy

Reiterate Rating: BUY | PO: 33.00 USD | Price: 26.47 USD

4Q EPS ahead, customer traffic continues tracking +HSD%

4Q adj. EPS of \$0.18 was above Street \$0.16. Net sales grew 6.3% y/y on 2.7% comps (vs. Street 2.1%) & 27 net new stores y/y. Comps incl. a 200bp headwind from systems integration & reflected cont'd strong traffic (+7.5%) partially offset by basket declines (-4.5%). Gross margin of 30.2% (vs. Street 30.1%) was flat y/y as healthy deal flow helped offset systems disruptions (130bp). SG&A ratio (incl. D&A & SBC) was +65bp y/y on higher IO commissions (on gross profit growth & support amidst systems transitions) and occupancy (from store growth), partially offset by lower incentive & SBC accruals.

GO expanding to Southeast through acquisition of 40 stores

GO expects to open 55-60 new stores in 2024E, which reflects 15-20 organic new store openings (evenly spaced throughout the year) as well as GO's recently announced acquisition of United Grocery Outlet ("UGO"), an extreme value grocery retailer operating 40 stores and a distribution center in the southeastern US. The acquisition is expected to close at the beginning of 2Q24 (with no financial impact in 1Q) and add incremental sales of ~\$125mn, adj. EBITDA of \$7mn & a modest benefit to adj. EPS.

Raising 2024E, expect strong traffic trends to continue

We raise 2024E adj. EPS +2c to \$1.16, which is in line with \$1.14-\$1.20 guide. In addition to expected benefits from the UGO acquisition, this reflects our 2024E outlook for +3% comps, 31.3% gross margin (flattish y/y) & investments in tech, supply chain, private label, personalization, marketing. While systems disruption is now expected to continue in 1Q (est. ~50bp comp headwind & ~100bp gross margin in 1Q), this should position the company better long term given improved functionality, scalability & data analytics. For 1Q, we forecast adj. EPS of \$0.16 and +2% comps on likely continued strong traffic.

Continue to see GO well-positioned long-term

We see support for GO as its strong value proposition drives strong traffic meaningfully above conventional & specialty peers (Exhibit 1). We reiterate our Buy & \$33 PO, which, as we roll forward valuation, is now 26-27x our 25E adj. EPS of \$1.25 (was 29x 24E), with a lower multiple given systems-related disruption now expected to trickle into 1Q. We see upside to GO's valuation (currently 21x 2-yr fwd. P/E near all-time lows) given its differentiated model, extreme customer value prop. & long-term/low-risk growth horizon (with opp. for 4k+ US stores vs. just 468 today), see our GO Bull/Bear analysis for more.

Estimates (Dec) (US\$)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
EPS	0.94	1.07	1.16	1.25	1.42
GAAP EPS	0.65	0.79	0.81	0.90	1.07
EPS Change (YoY)	19.0%	13.8%	8.4%	7.8%	13.6%
Consensus EPS (Bloomberg)			1.13	1.24	1.42
DPS	0	0	0	0	0
Valuation (Dec)					
P/E	28.2x	24.7x	22.8x	21.2x	18.6x
GAAP P/E	40.7x	33.5x	32.7x	29.4x	24.7x
EV / EBITDA*	18.0x	16.1x	14.5x	13.2x	12.1x
Free Cash Flow Yield*	1.2%	1.0%	1.8%	2.1%	2.5%
* For full definitions of <i>IQ</i> method SM measures, see page 6.					

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Refer to important disclosures on page 7 to 9. Analyst Certification on page 5. Price
Objective Basis/Risk on page 5.

Timestamp: 27 February 2024 11:27PM EST

27 February 2024

Equity

Key Changes		
(US\$)	Previous	Current
2024E Rev (m)	4,236.8	4,307.8
2025E Rev (m)	4,614.7	4,722.5
2026E Rev (m)	5,016.2	5,133.4
2024E EPS	1.14	1.16
2026E EPS	1.38	1.42

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Stock Data

Price	26.47 USD
Price Objective	33.00 USD
Date Established	2-Feb-2024
Investment Opinion	B-1-9
52-Week Range	23.41 USD - 36.54 USD
Mrkt Val (mn) / Shares Out	2,628 USD / 99.3
(mn)	
Free Float	91.7%
Average Daily Value (mn)	29.64 USD
BofA Ticker / Exchange	GO / NAS
Bloomberg / Reuters	GO US / GO.OQ
ROE (2024E)	9.2%
Net Dbt to Eqty (Dec-2023A)	105.0%
ESGMeter™	Low

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".

Key terms:

IO = Independent Operator

2H = second half

SBC = stock-based compensation

UGO = United Grocery Outlet

LT = long-term

iQprofile[™] Grocery Outlet Holding Corp.

<i>i</i> Q method [™] – Bus Performance*					
(US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
Return on Capital Employed	2.7%	3.4%	3.5%	3.6%	3.8%
Return on Equity	8.9%	9.3%	9.2%	9.2%	9.6%
Operating Margin	2.7%	3.2%	3.2%	3.3%	3.4%
Free Cash Flow	32	26	48	54	66

*iQ*method SM − Quality of Earnings*

(US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
Cash Realization Ratio	1.8x	1.8x	1.9x	1.9x	1.8x
Asset Replacement Ratio	1.8x	1.9x	1.7x	1.7x	1.7x
Tax Rate	27.4%	29.8%	30.0%	30.0%	28.0%
Net Debt-to-Equity Ratio	118.2%	105.0%	104.0%	102.2%	99.4%
Interest Cover	5.3x	7.7x	8.3x	9.2x	11.7x

Income Statement Data (Dec)

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(US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
Sales	3,578	3,969	4,308	4,723	5,133
% Change	16.2%	10.9%	8.5%	9.6%	8.7%
Gross Profit	1,092	1,242	1,349	1,478	1,607
% Change	15.1%	13.7%	8.7%	9.5%	8.7%
EBITDA	226	253	282	309	338
% Change	13.8%	11.8%	11.5%	9.8%	9.1%
Net Interest & Other Income	34	28	29	29	31
Net Income (Adjusted)	94	108	118	129	147
% Change	19.4%	15.2%	9.2%	9.2%	14.2%

Free Cash Flow Data (Dec)

(US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP)	94	108	118	129	147
Depreciation & Amortization	75	88	102	114	124
Change in Working Capital	24	(46)	15	11	11
Deferred Taxation Charge	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other Adjustments, Net	(24)	46	(15)	(11)	(11)
Capital Expenditure	(137)	(170)	(172)	(189)	(205)
Free Cash Flow	32	26	48	54	66
% Change	152.9%	-18.8%	80.6%	13.6%	21.8%
Share / Issue Repurchase	7	1	0	0	0
Cost of Dividends Paid	0	0	0	0	0
Change in Debt	(49)	(20)	100	111	123

Balance Sheet Data (Dec)

(US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
Cash & Equivalents	103	115	105	108	126
Trade Receivables	15	19	21	23	25
Other Current Assets	349	382	421	462	502
Property, Plant & Equipment	561	642	713	788	869
Other Non-Current Assets	1,744	1,811	1,954	2,105	2,265
Total Assets	2,772	2,970	3,214	3,485	3,787
Short-Term Debt	0	6	6	6	6
Other Current Liabilities	218	301	326	358	389
Long-Term Debt	1,415	1,389	1,489	1,601	1,724
Other Non-Current Liabilities	29	55	55	55	55
Total Liabilities	1,662	1,750	1,876	2,019	2,173
Total Equity	1,110	1,219	1,337	1,466	1,614
Total Equity & Liabilities	2,772	2,970	3,214	3,485	3,787

^{*} For full definitions of *IQ*methodSM measures, see page 6.

Company Sector

Supermarkets/Food Retailers

Company Description

Grocery Outlet Holding Corp. operates over 400 stores in 9 states, primarily along the West Coast. GO stores operate under a unique Independent Operator (IO) model and feature a rotating selection of roughly 5,000 items. GO sources roughly 50% of products at a deep discount through its "opportunistic sourcing" model to deliver extreme customer value in a treasure hunt format. GO is based in Emeryville, CA and was founded in 1946.

Investment Rationale

Our Buy rating is based on our view that GO deserves a premium valuation vs. Food Retail peers given its unique and hard to replicate IO model, opportunistic sourcing model that delivers deep value and consistent margins, and long-term/low risk sustainable growth horizon (with opportunity for around 4,000 stores in the US).

Stock Data

Average Daily Volume 1,119,793

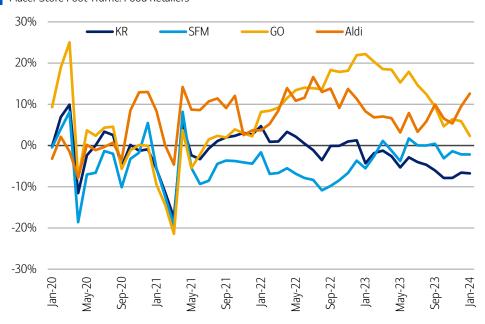
Quarterly Earnings Estimates

	2023	2024
Q1	0.27A	0.16E
Q2	0.32A	0.30E
Q3	0.31A	0.36E
Q4	0.18A	0.33E



Exhibit 1: Placer store foot traffic in January was +13% y/y for Aldi, +2% for GO, -2% for SFM & -7% for KR

Placer Store Foot Traffic: Food Retailers

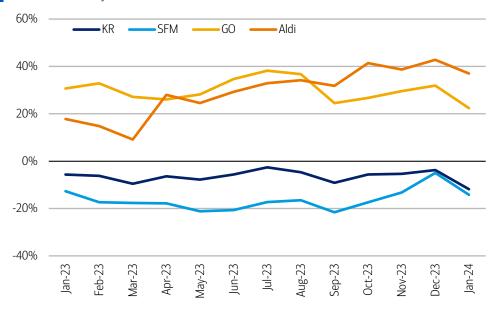


Source: Placer.ai, BofA Global Research

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Exhibit 2: On a 4-year basis, Placer foot traffic for SFM -14% in January, now tracking much closer to conventional grocery peer KR (-12% in Jan.)

Placer foot traffic 4-year trends: KR, SFM, GO & Aldi



Source: Placer.ai, BofA Global Research

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Exhibit 3: GO quarterly earnings analysisFollowing 3Q earnings, we lower our 2023E adj. EPS -3c to \$1.05

										Debt		Stock comp,								
				Stock						Ext. &		Acctg. Amort.	Adj.	Adj.	Adj.		GAAP	GAAP		Shs.
	Net	COGS	SG&A	Based		Adj.			int.	Other	Pre-Tax	Non-cash	Pre-Tax	inc.	Net	Adj.	inc.	Net	Rep.	Out
	Sales	& Dist.	& Occ.	Comp	EBITDA	EBITDA	D&A	EBIT	Exp.	Exp.	Inc.	rent & other	Inc.	Tax	Inc.	EPS	Tax	Inc.	EPS	(MM)
Mar-Q1	831.4	580.5	207.4	5.8	37.7	\$49.3	18.2	19.4	3.7	0.0	\$15.7	\$10.8	\$26.5	\$7.3	\$19.2	\$0.19	\$4.2	11.6	\$0.12	99.4
Jun-Q2	897.7	618.2	224.2	9.5	45.7	\$60.1	18.8	26.9	3.9	1.3	\$21.8	\$15.3	\$37.1	\$10.2	\$26.9	\$0.27	\$1.7	20.1	\$0.20	100.1
Sep-Q3	918.2	637.6	227.5	9.1	44.1	\$59.1	19.4	24.7	4.8	0.0	\$19.9	\$15.0	\$34.9	\$9.8	\$25.1	\$0.25	\$2.4	17.5	\$0.17	100.5
Dec-Q4	930.8	649.7	230.2	8.2	42.7	\$57.4	18.8	24.0	5.6	0.0	\$18.4	<u>\$12.5</u>	\$30.8	\$8.2	\$22.6	\$0.22	\$2.5	<u>15.9</u>	\$0.16	100.6
2022	\$3,578.1	\$2,486.0	\$889.3	\$32.6	\$170.2	\$225.9	\$75.2	\$95.0	\$18.0	\$1.3	\$75.7	\$53.6	\$129.3	\$35.5	\$93.9	\$0.94	\$10.7	\$65.1	\$0.65	100.2
Mar-Q1	965.5	664.9	240.4	6.7	53.5	\$63.1	20.7	32.8	5.9	5.3	\$21.6	\$16.5	\$38.1	\$11.0	\$27.0	\$0.27	\$7.8	13.7	\$0.14	100.6
Jun-Q2	1,010.3	683.7	257.7	11.3	57.6	\$70.5	21.1	36.5	4.8	0.0	\$31.7	\$14.3	\$46.1	\$14.1	\$31.9	\$0.32	\$7.2	24.5	\$0.24	100.6
Sep-Q3	1,003.9	688.2	248.7	7.5	59.4	\$68.1	21.9	37.6	4.2	0.0	\$33.3	\$10.1	\$43.5	\$12.5	\$31.0	\$0.31	\$6.2	27.1	\$0.27	101.0
Dec-Q4	989.8	690.9	250.1	<u>5.6</u>	43.2	\$50.9	24.3	18.9	1.5	0.0	\$17.5	<u>\$9.1</u>	\$26.6	\$8.4	\$18.2	\$0.18	\$3.4	14.1	\$0.14	101.1
2023	\$3,969.5	\$2,727.8	\$996.8	\$31.1	\$213.8	\$252.6	\$88.0	\$125.8	\$16.4	\$5.3	\$104.1	\$50.0	\$154.1	\$46.0	\$108.1	\$1.07	\$24.6	\$79.4	\$0.79	100.8
Mar-Q1E	1,021.4	710.9	262.5	7.7	40.4	\$50.9	23.2	17.2	5.7	5.3	\$6.2	\$17.5	\$23.7	\$7.1	\$16.6	\$0.16	\$1.9	4.3	\$0.04	101.6
Jun-Q2E	1,086.5	744.0	271.8	11.3	59.4	\$72.4	24.7	34.7	5.0	0.0	\$29.7	\$14.3	\$44.1	\$13.2	\$30.8	\$0.30	\$8.9	20.8	\$0.20	102.1
Sep-Q3E	1,108.7	758.3	269.9	7.5	73.0	\$81.7	25.6	47.3	4.5	0.0	\$42.9	\$10.1	\$53.0	\$15.9	\$37.1	\$0.36	\$12.9	30.0	\$0.29	102.1
Dec-Q4E	1,091.2	<u>745.3</u>	271.3	<u>5.6</u>	69.0	\$76.7	28.4	<u>40.6</u>	<u>1.7</u>	0.0	\$38.9	<u>\$9.1</u>	\$47.9	\$14.4	\$33.6	\$0.33	\$11.7	27.2	\$0.27	102.1
2024E	\$4,307.8	\$2,958.5	\$1,075.5	\$32.1	\$241.7	\$281.6	\$101.9	\$139.8	\$16.9	\$5.3	\$117.6	\$51.0	\$168.7	\$50.6	\$118.1	\$1.16	\$35.3	\$82.3	\$0.81	102.0
2025E	\$4,722.5	\$3,244.4	\$1,176.6	\$32.1	\$269.4	\$309.3	\$114.1	\$155.3	\$16.9	\$5.3	\$133.1	\$51.0	\$184.1	\$55.2	\$128.9	\$1.25	\$39.9	\$93.2	\$0.90	103.0
	PERCEN	NTAGE CH	ANGE %					MARGI	N ANAL	/SIS (% C	OF SALES)									
		Same-				Adj.					Adj.			Adj.	Adj.	Adj.	GAAP			
		Store	Total	Λ.,	Pre-Tax	Not	A J:		Cuasa	F	EDITO		lut	T	ъ .				# of	%
		JUIE	Total	Op	rie-iax	Net	Adj.		Gross	Exp.	EBITDA	EBIT	Int.	Tax	Pretax	Net	Net		πUI	70
	Sales	Sales	ор Ехр.	-	Inc.	Inc.	EPS		Margin	•	Margin	EBI I Margin	Exp.			Net Margin			Stores	
Mar-Q1	Sales 10.5%			-	Inc.	_	EPS -5.4%			•							Margin 1.4%			
Mar-Q1 Jun-Q2		Sales	Op Exp. 11.2% 17.9%	Profit	-4.8% 33.5%	-5.6% 33.5%	EPS		Margin	27.8% 28.1%	Margin	Margin	Ехр.	Rate	Margin	Margin	Margin		Stores	Chg. 7.5% 6.3%
-	10.5%	Sales 5.2%	Op Exp. 11.2%	Profit -18.5%	Inc. -4.8%	Inc. -5.6%	EPS -5.4%		Margin 30.2%	Ratio 27.8%	Margin 5.9%	Margin 2.3%	Exp. 0.44%	Rate 27.6%	Margin 3.2%	Margin 2.3%	Margin 1.4%		Stores 418	Chg. 7.5%
Jun-Q2	10.5% 15.7%	Sales 5.2% 11.2%	Op Exp. 11.2% 17.9%	-18.5% 13.7% -5.6% 55.3%	-4.8% 33.5% 22.3% 29.3%	-5.6% 33.5%	EPS -5.4% 32.8%		Margin 30.2% 31.1%	27.8% 28.1%	Margin 5.9% 6.7%	Margin 2.3% 3.0%	0.44% 0.43% 0.52% 0.60%	Rate 27.6% 27.4%	Margin 3.2% 4.1%	Margin 2.3% 3.0%	Margin 1.4% 2.2%		418 425	Chg. 7.5% 6.3%
Jun-Q2 Sep-Q3	10.5% 15.7% 19.4% 18.9%	5.2% 11.2% 15.4%	Op Exp. 11.2% 17.9% 21.3%	-18.5% 13.7% -5.6%	-4.8% 33.5% 22.3%	-5.6% 33.5% 20.5%	-5.4% 32.8% 19.0%		Margin 30.2% 31.1% 30.6%	27.8% 28.1% 27.9%	5.9% 6.7% 6.4%	2.3% 3.0% 2.7%	0.44% 0.43% 0.52%	27.6% 27.4% 28.0%	3.2% 4.1% 3.8%	2.3% 3.0% 2.7%	1.4% 2.2% 1.9%		418 425 431	7.5% 6.3% 5.9%
Jun-Q2 Sep-Q3 <u>Dec-Q4</u>	10.5% 15.7% 19.4% 18.9%	5.2% 11.2% 15.4% 15.1%	Op Exp. 11.2% 17.9% 21.3% 13.5%	-18.5% 13.7% -5.6% 55.3%	-4.8% 33.5% 22.3% 29.3%	-5.6% 33.5% 20.5% 31.1%	-5.4% 32.8% 19.0% 29.2%		30.2% 31.1% 30.6% 30.2%	27.8% 28.1% 27.9% 27.6%	5.9% 6.7% 6.4% 6.2%	Margin 2.3% 3.0% 2.7% 2.6%	0.44% 0.43% 0.52% 0.60%	27.6% 27.4% 28.0% 26.7%	3.2% 4.1% 3.8% 3.3%	2.3% 3.0% 2.7% 2.4%	1.4% 2.2% 1.9% 1.7%		418 425 431 441	7.5% 6.3% 5.9% 6.3%
Jun-Q2 Sep-Q3 <u>Dec-Q4</u> 2022	10.5% 15.7% 19.4% 18.9% 16.2% 16.1%	5.2% 11.2% 15.4% 15.1% 11.9%	Op Exp. 11.2% 17.9% 21.3% 13.5% 16.0%	-18.5% 13.7% -5.6% 55.3% 6.6%	-4.8% 33.5% 22.3% 29.3% 19.7%	-5.6% 33.5% 20.5% 31.1% 19.4%	-5.4% 32.8% 19.0% 29.2% 18.5% 39.1% 17.9%		30.2% 31.1% 30.6% 30.2% 30.5%	27.8% 28.1% 27.9% 27.6% 27.9% 27.7% 28.7%	5.9% 6.7% 6.4% 6.2% 6.3%	Margin 2.3% 3.0% 2.7% 2.6% 2.7%	Exp. 0.44% 0.43% 0.52% 0.60% 0.50% 0.61% 0.47%	27.6% 27.4% 28.0% 26.7% 27.4%	3.2% 4.1% 3.8% 3.3% 3.6%	2.3% 3.0% 2.7% 2.4% 2.6%	1.4% 2.2% 1.9% 1.7% 1.8%		418 425 431 441 441	7.5% 6.3% 5.9% 6.3% 6.3%
Jun-Q2 Sep-Q3 <u>Dec-Q4</u> 2022 Mar-Q1	10.5% 15.7% 19.4% 18.9% 16.2% 16.1%	5.2% 11.2% 15.4% 15.1% 11.9% 12.1%	Op Exp. 11.2% 17.9% 21.3% 13.5% 16.0% 15.7%	-18.5% 13.7% -5.6% 55.3% 6.6% 68.9%	-4.8% 33.5% 22.3% 29.3% 19.7% 43.5%	-5.6% 33.5% 20.5% 31.1% 19.4% 40.7%	-5.4% 32.8% 19.0% 29.2% 18.5% 39.1%		30.2% 31.1% 30.6% 30.2% 30.5% 31.1%	Ratio 27.8% 28.1% 27.9% 27.6% 27.9% 27.7%	5.9% 6.7% 6.4% 6.2% 6.3% 6.5%	Margin 2.3% 3.0% 2.7% 2.6% 2.7% 3.4%	0.44% 0.43% 0.52% 0.60% 0.50% 0.61%	27.6% 27.4% 28.0% 26.7% 27.4% 29.0%	3.2% 4.1% 3.8% 3.3% 3.6% 3.9%	2.3% 3.0% 2.7% 2.4% 2.6% 2.8%	Margin 1.4% 2.2% 1.9% 1.7% 1.8% 1.4%		418 425 431 441 441 444	7.5% 6.3% 5.9% 6.3% 6.3% 6.2%
Jun-Q2 Sep-Q3 <u>Dec-Q4</u> 2022 Mar-Q1 Jun-Q2	10.5% 15.7% 19.4% 18.9% 16.2% 16.1% 12.5%	5.2% 11.2% 15.4% 15.1% 11.9% 12.1% 9.2%	Op Exp. 11.2% 17.9% 21.3% 13.5% 16.0% 15.7% 14.9%	Profit -18.5% 13.7% -5.6% 55.3% 6.6% 68.9% 35.6%	Inc4.8% 33.5% 22.3% 29.3% 19.7% 43.5% 24.1% 24.6%	-5.6% 33.5% 20.5% 31.1% 19.4% 40.7% 18.5%	-5.4% 32.8% 19.0% 29.2% 18.5% 39.1% 17.9%		30.2% 31.1% 30.6% 30.2% 30.5% 31.1% 32.3%	27.8% 28.1% 27.9% 27.6% 27.9% 27.7% 28.7%	5.9% 6.7% 6.4% 6.2% 6.3% 6.5% 7.0%	2.3% 3.0% 2.7% 2.6% 2.7% 3.4% 3.6%	Exp. 0.44% 0.43% 0.52% 0.60% 0.50% 0.61% 0.47%	27.6% 27.4% 28.0% 26.7% 27.4% 29.0% 30.7%	3.2% 4.1% 3.8% 3.3% 3.6% 3.9% 4.6%	2.3% 3.0% 2.7% 2.4% 2.6% 2.8% 3.2%	Margin 1.4% 2.2% 1.9% 1.7% 1.8% 1.4% 2.4%		418 425 431 441 441 444 447	7.5% 6.3% 5.9% 6.3% 6.3% 6.2% 5.2%
Jun-Q2 Sep-Q3 <u>Dec-Q4</u> 2022 Mar-Q1 Jun-Q2 Sep-Q3	10.5% 15.7% 19.4% 18.9% 16.2% 16.1% 12.5% 9.3%	5.2% 11.2% 15.4% 15.1% 11.9% 12.1% 9.2% 6.4%	11.2% 17.9% 21.3% 13.5% 16.0% 15.7% 14.9% 8.7%	Profit -18.5% 13.7% -5.6% 55.3% 6.6% 68.9% 35.6% 52.1%	Inc4.8% 33.5% 22.3% 29.3% 19.7% 43.5% 24.1% 24.6%	-5.6% 33.5% 20.5% 31.1% 19.4% 40.7% 18.5% 23.4%	-5.4% 32.8% 19.0% 29.2% 18.5% 39.1% 17.9% 22.8%		Margin 30.2% 31.1% 30.6% 30.2% 30.5% 31.1% 32.3% 31.4%	27.8% 28.1% 27.9% 27.6% 27.7% 28.7% 27.7% 28.3% 28.1%	5.9% 6.7% 6.4% 6.2% 6.3% 6.5% 7.0% 6.8%	2.3% 3.0% 2.7% 2.6% 2.7% 3.4% 3.6% 3.7%	Exp. 0.44% 0.43% 0.52% 0.60% 0.50% 0.61% 0.47% 0.42%	27.6% 27.4% 28.0% 26.7% 27.4% 29.0% 30.7% 28.7%	3.2% 4.1% 3.8% 3.3% 3.6% 3.9% 4.6% 4.3%	Margin 2.3% 3.0% 2.7% 2.4% 2.6% 2.8% 3.2% 3.1%	Margin 1.4% 2.2% 1.9% 1.7% 1.8% 1.4% 2.4% 2.7%		418 425 431 441 441 444 447 455	Chg. 7.5% 6.3% 5.9% 6.3% 6.2% 6.2% 5.2% 5.6% 6.1% 6.1%
Jun-Q2 Sep-Q3 Dec-Q4 2022 Mar-Q1 Jun-Q2 Sep-Q3 Dec-Q4	10.5% 15.7% 19.4% 18.9% 16.2% 16.1% 12.5% 9.3% 6.3%	5.2% 11.2% 15.4% 15.1% 11.9% 12.1% 9.2% 6.4% 2.7%	11.2% 17.9% 21.3% 13.5% 16.0% 15.7% 14.9% 8.7% 8.8%	Profit -18.5% 13.7% -5.6% 55.3% 6.6% 68.9% 35.6% 52.1% -21.0%	9.3% 22.3% 29.3% 19.7% 43.5% 24.1% 24.6% -13.9% 19.2%	-5.6% 33.5% 20.5% 31.1% 19.4% 40.7% 18.5% 23.4% -19.6%	-5.4% 32.8% 19.0% 29.2% 18.5% 39.1% 17.9% 22.8% -20.0%		Margin 30.2% 31.1% 30.6% 30.2% 30.5% 31.1% 32.3% 31.4% 30.2%	27.8% 28.1% 27.9% 27.6% 27.9% 27.7% 28.7% 27.7% 28.3%	5.9% 6.7% 6.4% 6.2% 6.3% 6.5% 7.0% 6.8% 5.1%	2.3% 3.0% 2.7% 2.6% 2.7% 3.4% 3.6% 3.7% 1.9% 3.2% 1.7%	Exp. 0.44% 0.43% 0.52% 0.60% 0.50% 0.61% 0.47% 0.42% 0.15%	27.6% 27.4% 28.0% 26.7% 27.4% 29.0% 30.7% 28.7% 31.5%	3.2% 4.1% 3.8% 3.3% 3.6% 3.9% 4.6% 4.3% 2.7%	2.3% 3.0% 2.7% 2.4% 2.6% 2.8% 3.2% 3.1% 1.8%	1.4% 2.2% 1.9% 1.7% 1.8% 1.4% 2.4% 2.7% 1.4% 2.0% 0.4%		418 425 431 441 441 444 447 455 468	7.5% 6.3% 5.9% 6.3% 6.2% 5.2% 5.6% 6.1%
Jun-Q2 Sep-Q3 <u>Dec-Q4</u> 2022 Mar-Q1 Jun-Q2 Sep-Q3 <u>Dec-Q4</u> 2023	10.5% 15.7% 19.4% 18.9% 16.2% 16.1% 12.5% 9.3% 6.3% 10.9%	5.2% 11.2% 15.4% 15.1% 11.9% 12.1% 9.2% 6.4% 2.7% 7.5%	0p Exp. 11.2% 17.9% 21.3% 13.5% 16.0% 15.7% 14.9% 8.7% 8.8% 11.9%	Profit -18.5% 13.7% -5.6% 55.3% 6.6% 68.9% 35.6% 52.1% -21.0% 32.4%	9.3% 22.3% 29.3% 19.7% 43.5% 24.1% 24.6% -13.9% 19.2%	-5.6% 33.5% 20.5% 31.1% 19.4% 40.7% 18.5% 23.4% -19.6% 15.2%	-5.4% 32.8% 19.0% 29.2% 18.5% 39.1% 17.9% 22.8% -20.0% 14.4%		Margin 30.2% 31.1% 30.6% 30.2% 30.5% 31.1% 32.3% 31.4% 30.2% 31.3%	27.8% 28.1% 27.9% 27.6% 27.7% 28.7% 27.7% 28.3% 28.1%	5.9% 6.7% 6.4% 6.2% 6.3% 6.5% 7.0% 6.8% 5.1% 6.4%	2.3% 3.0% 2.7% 2.6% 2.7% 3.4% 3.6% 3.7% 1.9% 3.2%	Exp. 0.44% 0.43% 0.52% 0.60% 0.50% 0.61% 0.47% 0.42% 0.15% 0.41%	27.6% 27.4% 28.0% 26.7% 27.4% 29.0% 30.7% 28.7% 31.5% 29.8%	3.2% 4.1% 3.8% 3.3% 3.6% 3.9% 4.6% 4.3% 2.7% 3.9%	2.3% 3.0% 2.7% 2.4% 2.6% 2.8% 3.2% 3.1% 1.8% 2.7%	1.4% 2.2% 1.9% 1.7% 1.8% 1.4% 2.4% 2.7% 1.4% 2.0%		418 425 431 441 441 444 447 455 468 468	Chg. 7.5% 6.3% 5.9% 6.3% 6.2% 6.2% 5.2% 5.6% 6.1% 6.1%
Jun-Q2 Sep-Q3 <u>Dec-Q4</u> 2022 Mar-Q1 Jun-Q2 Sep-Q3 <u>Dec-Q4</u> 2023 Mar-Q1E	10.5% 15.7% 19.4% 18.9% 16.2% 16.1% 12.5% 9.3% 6.3% 10.9% 5.8% 7.6%	5.2% 11.2% 15.4% 15.1% 11.9% 12.1% 9.2% 6.4% 2.7% 7.5% 2.0%	11.2% 17.9% 21.3% 13.5% 16.0% 15.7% 14.9% 8.7% 8.8% 11.9%	Profit -18.5% -13.7% -5.6% -5.3% -6.6% -68.9% -35.6% -21.0% -21.0% -47.6% -4.8% -4.8% -4.1%	-4.8% 33.5% 22.3% 29.3% 19.7% 43.5% 24.1% 24.6% -13.9% 19.2% -37.8% -4.3% 21.9%	-5.6% 33.5% 20.5% 31.1% 19.4% 40.7% 18.5% 23.4% -19.6% 15.2% -38.7%	-5.4% 32.8% 19.0% 29.2% 18.5% 39.1% 17.9% 22.8% -20.0% 14.4% -39.3% -4.8% 18.3%		Margin 30.2% 31.1% 30.6% 30.2% 30.5% 31.1% 32.3% 31.4% 30.2% 31.3% 30.4%	27.8% 28.1% 27.9% 27.6% 27.7% 28.7% 28.7% 28.1% 28.7% 28.3% 28.3% 27.3%	5.9% 6.7% 6.4% 6.2% 6.3% 6.5% 7.0% 6.8% 5.1% 6.4% 5.0%	2.3% 3.0% 2.7% 2.6% 2.7% 3.4% 3.6% 3.7% 1.9% 3.2% 4.3%	Exp. 0.44% 0.43% 0.52% 0.60% 0.50% 0.61% 0.47% 0.42% 0.15% 0.41% 0.56% 0.46% 0.40%	27.6% 27.4% 28.0% 26.7% 27.4% 29.0% 30.7% 28.7% 31.5% 29.8% 30.0% 30.0% 30.0%	3.2% 4.1% 3.8% 3.3% 3.6% 3.9% 4.6% 4.3% 2.7% 3.9% 2.3%	2.3% 3.0% 2.7% 2.4% 2.6% 3.2% 3.1% 1.8% 2.7% 1.6% 2.8% 3.3%	1.4% 2.2% 1.9% 1.7% 1.8% 1.4% 2.4% 2.7% 1.4% 2.0% 0.4% 1.9% 2.7%		\$\frac{418}{425}\$ \$\frac{431}{441}\$ \$\frac{441}{441}\$ \$\frac{444}{455}\$ \$\frac{468}{468}\$ \$\frac{473}{518}\$ \$523	7.5% 6.3% 5.9% 6.3% 6.3% 6.2% 5.2% 5.6% 6.1% 6.1% 6.5% 15.9% 14.9%
Jun-Q2 Sep-Q3 Dec-Q4 2022 Mar-Q1 Jun-Q2 Sep-Q3 Dec-Q4 2023 Mar-Q1E Jun-Q2E	10.5% 15.7% 19.4% 18.9% 16.2% 16.1% 12.5% 9.3% 6.3% 10.9% 5.8% 7.6% 10.4% 10.2%	5.2% 11.2% 15.4% 15.1% 11.9% 12.1% 9.2% 6.4% 2.7% 7.5% 2.0% 2.5%	11.2% 17.9% 21.3% 13.5% 16.0% 15.7% 14.9% 8.7% 8.8% 11.9% 9.6% 6.1%	Profit -18.5% 13.7% -5.6% 55.3% 6.6% 68.9% 35.6% 52.1% -21.0% 32.4% -47.6% -4.8%	-4.8% 33.5% 22.3% 29.3% 19.7% 43.5% 24.1% 24.6% -13.9% 19.2% -37.8% -4.3% 21.9%	-5.6% 33.5% 20.5% 31.1% 19.4% 40.7% 18.5% 23.4% -19.6% 15.2% -38.7% -3.4%	-5.4% 32.8% 19.0% 29.2% 18.5% 39.1% 17.9% 22.8% -20.0% 14.4% -39.3% -4.8%		Margin 30.2% 31.1% 30.6% 30.2% 30.5% 31.1% 32.3% 31.4% 30.2% 31.3% 30.4% 31.5%	27.8% 28.1% 27.9% 27.6% 27.9% 27.7% 28.7% 28.3% 28.1% 28.3%	5.9% 6.7% 6.4% 6.2% 6.3% 6.5% 7.0% 6.8% 5.1% 6.4% 5.0% 6.7%	2.3% 3.0% 2.7% 2.6% 2.7% 3.4% 3.6% 3.7% 1.9% 3.2% 1.7% 3.2%	Exp. 0.44% 0.43% 0.52% 0.60% 0.50% 0.61% 0.47% 0.42% 0.15% 0.41% 0.56% 0.46%	27.6% 27.4% 28.0% 26.7% 27.4% 29.0% 30.7% 28.7% 31.5% 29.8% 30.0% 30.0%	Margin 3.2% 4.1% 3.8% 3.3% 3.6% 3.9% 4.6% 4.3% 2.7% 3.9% 2.3% 4.1%	2.3% 3.0% 2.7% 2.4% 2.6% 2.8% 3.2% 3.1% 1.8% 2.7% 1.6% 2.8%	1.4% 2.2% 1.9% 1.7% 1.8% 1.4% 2.4% 2.7% 1.4% 2.0% 0.4% 1.9% 2.7% 2.5%		\$\frac{418}{425}\$ \$\frac{431}{441}\$ \$\frac{441}{441}\$ \$\frac{444}{455}\$ \$\frac{468}{468}\$ \$\frac{473}{518}\$	7.5% 6.3% 5.9% 6.3% 6.3% 6.2% 5.2% 5.6% 6.1% 6.1% 6.5% 15.9%
Jun-Q2 Sep-Q3 Dec-Q4 2022 Mar-Q1 Jun-Q2 Sep-Q3 Dec-Q4 2023 Mar-Q1E Jun-Q2E Sep-Q3E	10.5% 15.7% 19.4% 18.9% 16.2% 16.1% 12.5% 9.3% 6.3% 10.9% 5.8% 7.6%	5.2% 11.2% 15.4% 15.1% 11.9% 12.1% 9.2% 6.4% 2.7% 7.5% 2.0% 2.5% 3.5%	11.2% 17.9% 21.3% 13.5% 16.0% 15.7% 14.9% 8.7% 8.8% 11.9% 9.6% 6.1%	Profit -18.5% -13.7% -5.6% -5.3% -6.6% -68.9% -35.6% -21.0% -21.0% -47.6% -4.8% -4.8% -4.1%	-4.8% 33.5% 22.3% 29.3% 19.7% 43.5% 24.1% 24.6% -13.9% 19.2% -37.8% -4.3% 21.9%	1nc5.6% 33.5% 20.5% 31.1% 19.4% 40.7% 18.5% 23.4% -19.6% 15.2% -38.7% -3.4% 19.7%	-5.4% 32.8% 19.0% 29.2% 18.5% 39.1% 17.9% 22.8% -20.0% 14.4% -39.3% -4.8% 18.3%		30.2% 31.1% 30.6% 30.2% 30.5% 31.1% 32.3% 31.4% 30.2% 31.3% 30.4% 31.5% 31.6%	27.8% 28.1% 27.9% 27.6% 27.7% 28.7% 28.7% 28.1% 28.7% 28.3% 28.3% 27.3%	5.9% 6.7% 6.4% 6.29 6.3% 6.5% 7.0% 6.8% 5.11% 6.4% 5.0% 6.7% 7.4%	2.3% 3.0% 2.7% 2.6% 2.7% 3.4% 3.6% 3.7% 1.9% 3.2% 4.3%	Exp. 0.44% 0.43% 0.52% 0.60% 0.50% 0.61% 0.47% 0.42% 0.15% 0.41% 0.56% 0.46% 0.40%	27.6% 27.4% 28.0% 26.7% 27.4% 29.0% 30.7% 28.7% 31.5% 29.8% 30.0% 30.0% 30.0%	Margin 3.2% 4.1% 3.8% 3.3% 3.6% 3.9% 4.6% 4.3% 2.7% 3.9% 4.1% 4.8%	2.3% 3.0% 2.7% 2.4% 2.6% 3.2% 3.1% 1.8% 2.7% 1.6% 2.8% 3.3%	1.4% 2.2% 1.9% 1.7% 1.8% 1.4% 2.4% 2.7% 1.4% 2.0% 0.4% 1.9% 2.7%		\$\frac{418}{425}\$ \$\frac{431}{441}\$ \$\frac{441}{441}\$ \$\frac{444}{455}\$ \$\frac{468}{468}\$ \$\frac{473}{518}\$ \$523	7.5% 6.3% 5.9% 6.3% 6.3% 6.2% 5.2% 5.6% 6.1% 6.1% 6.5% 15.9% 14.9%
Jun-Q2 Sep-Q3 Dec-Q4 2022 Mar-Q1 Jun-Q2 Sep-Q3 Dec-Q4 2023 Mar-Q1E Jun-Q2E Sep-Q3E Dec-Q4E	10.5% 15.7% 19.4% 18.9% 16.2% 16.1% 12.5% 9.3% 6.3% 10.9% 5.8% 7.6% 10.4% 10.2% 8.5%	5.2% 11.2% 15.4% 15.1% 11.9% 12.1% 9.2% 6.4% 2.7% 7.5% 2.0% 2.5% 3.5% 4.0%	11.2% 17.9% 21.3% 13.5% 16.0% 15.7% 14.9% 8.7% 8.8% 11.9% 9.6% 6.1% 8.9% 9.1%	Profit -18.5% -13.7% -5.6% -5.6% -5.3% -6.6% -21.0% -21.0% -47.6% -4.8% -46.1% 114.3%	-4.8% 33.5% 22.3% 29.3% 19.7% 43.5% 24.1% 24.6% -13.9% 19.2% -37.8% -4.3% 21.9%	1nc5.6% 33.5% 20.5% 31.1% 19.4% 40.7% 18.5% 23.4% -19.6% 15.2% -38.7% -3.4% 19.7% 84.6%	-5.4% 32.8% 19.0% 29.2% 18.5% 39.1% 17.9% 22.8% -20.0% 14.4% -39.3% -4.8% 18.3% 82.8%		30.2% 31.1% 30.6% 30.2% 30.5% 31.1% 32.3% 31.4% 30.2% 31.3% 30.4% 31.5% 31.6% 31.7%	27.8% 28.1% 27.9% 27.6% 27.9% 27.7% 28.7% 28.3% 28.1% 28.3% 27.3% 28.3% 27.3% 28.0% 28.1%	5.9% 6.7% 6.4% 6.29 6.3% 6.5% 7.0% 6.8% 5.11% 6.4% 5.0% 6.7% 7.4% 7.0%	2.3% 3.0% 2.7% 2.6% 2.7% 3.4% 3.6% 3.7% 1.9% 3.2% 4.3% 3.7%	0.44% 0.43% 0.52% 0.60% 0.50% 0.61% 0.47% 0.42% 0.15% 0.41% 0.56% 0.46% 0.40% 0.16%	27.6% 27.4% 28.0% 26.7% 27.4% 29.0% 30.7% 28.7% 31.5% 29.8% 30.0% 30.0% 30.0%	3.2% 4.1% 3.8% 3.3% 3.6% 3.9% 4.6% 4.3% 2.7% 3.9% 2.3% 4.1% 4.8% 4.4%	2.3% 3.0% 2.7% 2.4% 2.6% 2.8% 3.1% 1.8% 2.7% 1.6% 2.8% 3.3% 3.1%	1.4% 2.2% 1.9% 1.7% 1.8% 1.4% 2.4% 2.7% 1.4% 2.0% 0.4% 1.9% 2.7% 2.5%		\$\frac{418}{425}\$ 431 441 441 444 447 455 468 468 473 518 523 528	7.5% 6.3% 5.9% 6.3% 6.3% 6.2% 5.2% 5.6% 6.1% 6.1% 6.5% 11.9% 12.8%

Addbacks:

Source: Company reports, BofA Global Research estimates

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Price objective basis & risk

Grocery Outlet Holding Corp. (GO)

Our \$33 price objective is based on 26-27x our 2025E adj. EPS of \$1.25, a premium to the Food Retailers & Discount Stores group average (roughly 18-20x). We believe a premium valuation is warranted given our view of: 1) GO's unique and hard-to-replicate IO model aligns incentives while reducing costs and risks, 2) GO's opportunistic sourcing model delivers deep value and consistent margins, and 3) GO's low-risk/steady model supports stable/highly predictable margins and a sustainable LT growth horizon (with potential to establish over 4,000 stores in the US).

Downside risks to our PO are: 1) GO operates in a highly competitive food and discount retail industry, 2) treasure hunt model makes grocery ecommerce difficult 3) any disruptions or inability to source products could adversely impact sales, 4) store growth opportunity depends on attracting and maintaining Independent Operators, 5) IO concept still unproven outside of five core West Coast states, 6) IO model results in reduced fixed cost leverage for GO relative to traditional retail model, 7) the build out of East Coast talent, systems, real-estate, and infrastructure could pressure expenses more than expected, and 8) a less favorable inflationary environment.

Analyst Certification

I, Robert F. Ohmes, CFA, 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.

Special Disclosures

BofA Securities is currently acting as buyside advisor to Grocery Outlet Holding Corp regarding the acquisition of United Grocery Outlet which was announced on 15 February 2024.

US - Broadlines, Hardlines, Food Retailers & Leisure Coverage Cluster

Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
BUY				
	Academy Sports + Outdoors	ASO	ASO US	Robert F. Ohmes, CFA
	BJ's Wholesale Club Holdings	BJ	BJ US	Robert F. Ohmes, CFA
	Costco Wholesale Corporation	COST	COST US	Robert F. Ohmes, CFA
	Grocery Outlet Holding Corp.	GO	GO US	Robert F. Ohmes, CFA
	Harley-Davidson	HOG	HOG US	Alexander Perry
	Life Time	LTH	LTH US	Alexander Perry
	Planet Fitness, Inc.	PLNT	PLNT US	Alexander Perry
	Sprouts Farmers Market, Inc.	SFM	SFM US	Robert F. Ohmes, CFA
	Sysco Corporation	SYY	SYY US	Kendall Toscano
	Target Corp.	TGT	TGT US	Robert F. Ohmes, CFA
	The Kroger Co.	KR	KR US	Robert F. Ohmes, CFA
	Topgolf Callaway Brands Corp	MODG	MODG US	Alexander Perry
	Walmart Inc	WMT	WMT US	Robert F. Ohmes, CFA
NEUTRAL				
	Dick's Sporting Goods	DKS	DKS US	Robert F. Ohmes, CFA
	Fox Factory Holding Corp	FOXF	FOXF US	Alexander Perry
	Xponential Fitness	XPOF	XPOF US	Alexander Perry
	YETI Holdings, Inc.	YETI	YETI US	Robert F. Ohmes, CFA
UNDERPERFORM				
	Canada Goose Holdings Inc	YGOOS	GOOS CN	Alexander Perry
	Canada Goose Holdings Inc	GOOS	GOOS US	Alexander Perry
	Columbia Sportswear	COLM	COLM US	Alexander Perry
	Dollar General Corporation	DG	DG US	Robert F. Ohmes, CFA



US - Broadlines, Hardlines, Food Retailers & Leisure Coverage Cluster

Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
	Dollar Tree, Inc.	DLTR	DLTR US	Robert F. Ohmes, CFA
	Hibbett Sports, Inc.	HIBB	HIBB US	Alexander Perry
	National Vision	EYE	EYE US	Robert F. Ohmes, CFA

IQmethod[™] 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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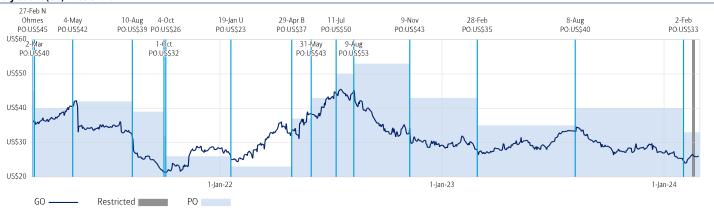
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Grocery Outlet (GO) Price Chart



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: Retailing Group (as of 31 Dec 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships R1	Count	Percent
Buy	96	57.83%	Buy	39	40.63%
Hold	32	19.28%	Hold	12	37.50%
Sell	38	22.89%	Sell	18	47.37%

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^{R2}

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

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