

### Raymond James Financial

# 1Q24E: Mixed results; Capital markets rebound offset by lingering sorting

Reiterate Rating: BUY | PO: 135.00 USD | Price: 112.53 USD

### EPS beat driven by rebound in capital markets activity

RJF reported better than expected adjusted EPS (\$2.40 vs. \$2.34 BofAe / \$2.24 cons) driven by a rebound in capital markets activity, specifically fixed income trading which benefitted from depository institution portfolio repositioning as well as better than expected expense control (non-comp -\$90M q/q). We forecast capital markets activity to continue to ramp through 2024 and beyond, aided by a pickup in investment banking activity which acts as a source of revenue that is negatively correlated with rates. RJF also reported strong NNA growth (+7.2% annualized) with management observing a strong pipeline across all channels while continuing to focus on high quality and productive advisors.

### Partially mitigated by continuation in compressing NIM

These positive results were partially mitigated by a continuation in client cash sorting dynamics despite a seasonal cash build with management noting deposits had declined \$1.5B qtd as clients paid advisory fees and redeployed liquidity built up from portfolio rebalancing and distributions. This weighed on combined NII and third-party bank fee income which declined -2% q/q while management guided to an expected additional -5% decline next quarter.

### Lowering EPS & PO driven by sorting activity

We revise our 2Q24/2025/2026 EPS estimates to 2.47/10.39/12.29 from 2.51/1.12/12.83 due to further NIM compression from additional client cash sorting which was partially mitigated by a pickup in capital markets activity. Our PO falls to foreviously 141 which is derived from an 11x multiple on our 2026 EPS estimate. 11x is on the low-end of its historical 10-17x range given the high-rate environment.

### Reiterate Buy: Robust NNA + multiple ways to outperform

RJF operates a high-growth well diversified business model building its platform around its wealth management segment. We believe RJF is attractively priced and well-positioned to: (1) maintain strong organic growth driven by the "breakaway broker" theme; (2) continue benefitting from higher rates as sorting slows and it can restart its migration of capital from third-party contracts into its bank; and (3) take advantage of stabilizing markets in both its asset management and capital markets segments.

Estimates (Sep) (US\$)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
EPS	7.06	7.50	8.33	9.68	10.39
GAAP EPS	6.64	6.99	7.98	9.25	9.92
EPS Change (YoY)	73.2%	6.2%	11.0%	16.3%	7.4%
Consensus EPS (Bloomberg)			8.49	9.45	9.86
DPS	0	0	0	0	0
Valuation (Sep)					
P/E	15.9x	15.0x	13.5x	11.6x	10.8x
GAAP P/E	16.9x	16.1x	14.1x	12.2x	11.3x

BofA Securities does and seeks to do business with issuers covered in its research reports. As a result, investors should be aware that the firm may have a conflict of interest that could affect the objectivity of this report. Investors should consider this report as only a single factor in making their investment decision.

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

Timestamp: 24 January 2024 10:48PM EST

#### 24 January 2024

### Equity

Key Changes		
(US\$)	Previous	Current
Price Obj.	141.00	135.00
2024E Rev (m)	12,872.8	12,715.0
2025E Rev (m)	14,273.0	14,047.9
2024E EPS	9.91	9.68
2025E EPS	11.12	10.39

#### Mark McLaughlin, CFA

Research Analyst BofAS +1 646 855 4234 mark.mclaughlin@bofa.com

### Craig Siegenthaler, CFA Research Analyst

BofAS +1 646 855 5004 craig.siegenthaler@bofa.com

#### Eli Abboud

Research Analyst BofAS +1 646 855 5791 eli.abboud@bofa.com

#### Maggie Cao

Research Analyst BofAS +1 646 855 5034 maggie.cao@bofa.com

#### **Stock Data**

ESGMeter™	Medium
ROE (2023E)	0%
Bloomberg / Reuters	RJF US / RJF.N
BofA Ticker / Exchange	RJF / NYS
Average Daily Value	121.43 USD
Free Float	90.0%
Mrkt Val / Shares Out (mn)	23,614 USD / 209.8
52-Week Range	82.00 USD -120.73 USD
Investment Opinion	B-1-9
Date Established	24-Jan-2024
Price Objective	135.00 USD
Price	112.53 USD

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".

NNA = net new assets

NIM = net interest revenue

CM = capital markets

AM = asset management

NII = net interest income

AuC = assets under custody

PO = price objective

ESP = enhanced savings program

QTD = quarter to date

## **iQ**profile<sup>™</sup>Raymond James Financial

Income Statement Data (Sep)	
-----------------------------	--

(US\$ Millions)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
Total Revenue	9,760	11,003	11,619	12,715	14,048
% Change	22.2%	12.7%	5.6%	9.4%	10.5%
Investment Advisory Fees	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Compensation & Benefits	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
% Change	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Non-Compensation Expenses	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Net Income to Ordinary Shareholders	1,403	1,505	1,733	1,972	2,096
Adjusted Net Income (Operating)	1,492	1,615	1,807	2,064	2,196
% Change	73.9%	8.2%	11.9%	14.2%	6.4%
Adjusted EBITDA (Operating)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Cash EPS	6.82	7.17	8.18	9.49	10.19
% Change	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

#### Performance Metrics (Sep)

(US\$ Millions)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
Operating Margin	18.4%	18.4%	19.6%	20.0%	19.4%
Pre-Tax Profit Margin	18.4%	18.4%	19.6%	20.0%	19.4%
Net Profit Margin	15.3%	14.7%	15.6%	16.2%	15.6%
Comp Expense/Revenue	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Non-Comp Expense / Revenue	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Net Revenue Growth	22.2%	12.7%	5.6%	9.4%	10.5%
Operating Expense Growth	14.9%	12.7%	4.0%	8.9%	11.4%

#### Asset Management Data (Sep)

(US\$ Millions)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
Assets Under Management (\$bn)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
% Change	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
% Equity	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
% Fixed Income	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
% Money Mkt / Other	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Net New Flows (\$bn)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Organic Growth	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Organic Growth ex-Money Market	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Advisory Fees / Avg. AUM	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

### **Balance Sheet Data (Sep)**

(US\$ Millions)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
Total Assets	61,891	80,951	78,360	80,611	90,067
Total Shareholders' Equity	8,303	9,432	10,187	11,388	12,673
Tangible Shareholders' Equity	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
BVPS (Stated Equity)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
ROE (Stated Equity)	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM
Cash & Investments	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Net Cash & Investments Per Share	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

### **Company Sector**

Securities Broker/Dealer

### **Company Description**

Raymond James Financial is a diversified financial services company with four segments providing brokerage, capital markets, asset management, and banking products and services to individuals, corporations, and municipalities. The firm operates predominately in the United States and to a lesser extent in Canada, the United Kingdom, and other parts of Europe. RJF was established in 1962 and has been public since 1983 under the ticker RJF. RJF's brokerage segment (PCG)

#### **Investment Rationale**

RJF operates a high-growth well diversified business model and has continued to expand its offerings to advisors and clients. We believe RJF is well-positioned to benefit from higher interest rates as well as a turnaround in markets including higher beta levels and less uncertainty given its diversified model.

### **Quarterly Earnings Estimates**

	2022	2023
Q1	2.18A	2.29A
Q2	1.60A	2.03A
Q3	1.61A	1.85E
Q4	2.08A	2.13E



### **Additional information**

### Expect sorting to linger but at decelerating pace

We expect sorting to persist at a decelerated pace although expect heightened levels this quarter as seasonal cash buildups reverse. Historically, December cash balances swell driven by portfolio rebalancing activities and distributions which are generally redeployed in the subsequent quarter in tandem with further pressure from the payment of RIA advisory fees. Management noted that total deposits had already declined \$1.5B quarter-to-date primarily due to quarterly fee billings of \$1.5B. While we forecast client cash levels as a % of total AuC declining for an additional 2 quarters, we expect an inflection in nominal cash levels by 2H24 as balances near transactional floors and strong NNA growth helps to partially offset outflows.

### Potential for NIM expansion subsequent cash sorting floor

As of 12/31/23, RJF has allocated \$17.8B of client cash sweep deposits to third-party banks, strategically setting them up with a large funding cushion and liquidity to utilize subsequent client cash sorting dynamics and when attractive loan growth opportunities resurface. While we expect an additional two quarters of declining cash balances excluding ESP, we ultimately expect upside potential following cash balances reaching their transactional cash floor levels, an inflection in deposit growth, and ultimately RJF's ability to migrate balances from lower yielding segments to its higher yielding bank. While its third-party bank deposits currently have a 3.61% net yield, RJF can earn +7% gross new money yields in its bank which will further expand its NIM in tandem with the opportunity for the reinvestment of its maturing securities portfolio and new investment from deposit growth from net new assets. In the case of rate cuts, RJF also has the ability to reprice the majority of its liabilities quickly which will provide further downside protection with the forward curve now predicting 5-6 cuts through 2024. We believe these are qualities that markets are not fully appreciating.

### Capital markets prepared for turnaround post rate-cuts

Capital markets returned to profitability this quarter showing signs of green shoots and offering a positive source of earnings that is negatively correlated to rates. While the positive results were driven by a rebound in brokerage revenues (+40% q/q), we expect investment banking activity to continue experiencing a gradual recovery over 2024 and beyond as companies grapple with the higher rate environment and volatility subsides and could be further accelerated in the case of additional rate cuts which would spur activity. This is in tandem with deferred comp amortization currently elevating compensation expenses which could further alleviate expense pressures as it winds down over subsequent quarters.



### Price objective basis & risk

### Raymond James Financial (RJF)

Our \$135 PO is based on 11x EPS multiple on our 2026 EPS estimate. Given that RJF operates four different business lines that offer different qualities (growth, volatility, capital), we derive our price objective using a sum-of-the-parts framework accounting for peers in wealth management (15x), traditional asset management (9x), capital markets (7x), and traditional banking (9x). This multiple is at the bottom of its 5Y historical range (11-20x), given a conservative stance on market conditions.

Downside risks are (1) breakaway broker theme threatening organic growth (2) cash sorting (3) challenging market backdrop for active management and capital markets.

### **Analyst Certification**

I, Mark McLaughlin, 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.

**US - Brokers, Asset Managers, & Exchanges Coverage Cluster** 

Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
BUY				
	AllianceBernstein	AB	AB US	Craig Siegenthaler, CFA
	Ameriprise Financial	AMP	AMP US	Craig Siegenthaler, CFA
	Ares Management Corp	ARES	ARES US	Craig Siegenthaler, CFA
	BlackRock, Inc.	BLK	BLK US	Craig Siegenthaler, CFA
	Blackstone	BX	BX US	Craig Siegenthaler, CFA
	Blue Owl Capital	OWL	OWL US	Craig Siegenthaler, CFA
	Cboe Global Markets	CBOE	CBOE US	Craig Siegenthaler, CFA
	Interactive Brokers	IBKR	IBKR US	Craig Siegenthaler, CFA
	Intercontinental Exchange	ICE	ICE US	Craig Siegenthaler, CFA
	KKR & Co. Inc.	KKR	KKR US	Craig Siegenthaler, CFA
	Raymond James Financial	RJF	RJF US	Mark McLaughlin, CFA
	TPG Inc	TPG	TPG US	Craig Siegenthaler, CFA
	Tradeweb Markets Inc.	TW	TW US	Craig Siegenthaler, CFA
	Victory Capital Holdings, Inc.	VCTR	VCTR US	Craig Siegenthaler, CFA
	Virtu Financial	VIRT	VIRT US	Craig Siegenthaler, CFA
NEUTRAL				
	Affiliated Managers Group	AMG	AMG US	Craig Siegenthaler, CFA
	Apollo Global Management	APO	APO US	Craig Siegenthaler, CFA
	Brookfield Asset Management	BAM	BAM US	Craig Siegenthaler, CFA
	CME Group Inc	CME	CME US	Craig Siegenthaler, CFA
	Invesco	IVZ	IVZ US	Craig Siegenthaler, CFA
	Janus Henderson Group	JHG	JHG US	Craig Siegenthaler, CFA
	LPL Financial Holdings	LPLA	LPLA US	Craig Siegenthaler, CFA
	Patria	PAX	PAX US	Craig Siegenthaler, CFA
UNDERPERFORM				
	Charles Schwab Corp.	SCHW	SCHW US	Craig Siegenthaler, CFA
	Franklin Resources	BEN	BEN US	Craig Siegenthaler, CFA
	Nasdaq	NDAQ	NDAQ US	Craig Siegenthaler, CFA
	Robinhood Markets	HOOD	HOOD US	Craig Siegenthaler, CFA
	T. Rowe Price	TROW	TROW US	Craig Siegenthaler, CFA
	The Carlyle Group	CG	CG US	Craig Siegenthaler, CFA



### **IQ**method<sup>™</sup> 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 + Other LT Liabilities	Sales

EV / EBITDA Enterprise Value Basic EBIT + Depreciation + Amortization

\*\*Menethod 3\*\*\*is the set of BofA Global Research standard measures that serve to maintain global consistency under three broad headings: Business Performance, Quality of Earnings, and validations. The key features of iQmethod are: A consistently structured, detailed, and transparent methodology. Guidelines to maximize the effectiveness of the comparative valuation process, and to identify some common pitfalls.

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

**IQ**profile<sup>≤M</sup>, **IQ**method<sup>≤M</sup> are service marks of Bank of America Corporation. **IQ**database® is a registered service mark of Bank of America Corporation.

### **Disclosures**

### **Important Disclosures**

#### Raymond James (RJF) 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: 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: 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<sup>R2</sup>

Buy	≥ 10%	≤ 70%
Neutral	≥ 0%	≤ 30%
Inderperform	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.

Price Charts for the securities referenced in this research report are available on the Price Charts website, or call 1-800-MERRILL to have them mailed.

BofAS or one of its affiliates acts as a market maker for the equity securities recommended in the report: Raymond James.

The issuer is or was, within the last 12 months, an investment banking client of BofAS and/or one or more of its affiliates: Raymond James.

BofAS or an affiliate has received compensation from the issuer for non-investment banking services or products within the past 12 months: Raymond James.

The issuer is or was, within the last 12 months, a non-securities business client of BofAS and/or one or more of its affiliates: Raymond James.

BofAS or an affiliate has received compensation for investment banking services from this issuer within the past 12 months: Raymond James.

BofAS or an affiliate expects to receive or intends to seek compensation for investment banking services from this issuer or an affiliate of the issuer within the next three months: Raymond lames

BofAS together with its affiliates beneficially owns one percent or more of the common stock of this issuer. If this report was issued on or after the 9th day of the month, it reflects the ownership position on the last day of the previous month. Reports issued before the 9th day of a month reflect the ownership position at the end of the second month preceding the date of



the report: Raymond James.

BofAS or one of its affiliates is willing to sell to, or buy from, clients the common equity of the issuer on a principal basis: Raymond James.

The issuer is or was, within the last 12 months, a securities business client (non-investment banking) of BofAS and/or one or more of its affiliates: Raymond James.

BofA Global Research personnel (including the analyst(s) responsible for this report) receive compensation based upon, among other factors, the overall profitability of Bank of America Corporation, including profits derived from investment banking. The analyst(s) responsible for this report may also receive compensation based upon, among other factors, the overall profitability of the Bank's sales and trading businesses relating to the class of securities or financial instruments for which such analyst is responsible.

### **Other Important Disclosures**

From time to time research analysts conduct site visits of covered issuers. BofA Global Research policies prohibit research analysts from accepting payment or reimbursement for travel expenses from the issuer for such visits.

Prices are indicative and for information purposes only. Except as otherwise stated in the report, for any recommendation in relation to an equity security, the price referenced is the publicly traded price of the security as of close of business on the day prior to the date of the report or, if the report is published during intraday trading, the price referenced is indicative of the traded price as of the date and time of the report and in relation to a debt security (including equity preferred and CDS), prices are indicative as of the date and time of the report and are from various sources including BofA Securities trading desks.

The date and time of completion of the production of any recommendation in this report shall be the date and time of dissemination of this report as recorded in the report timestamp.

Recipients who are not institutional investors or market professionals should seek the advice of their independent financial advisor before considering information in this report in connection with any investment decision, or for a necessary explanation of its contents.

Officers of BofAS or one or more of its affiliates (other than research analysts) may have a financial interest in securities of the issuer(s) or in related investments. Refer to BofA Global Research policies relating to conflicts of interest.

"BofA Securities" includes BofA Securities, Inc. ("BofAS") and its affiliates. Investors should contact their BofA Securities representative or Merrill Global Wealth Management financial advisor if they have questions concerning this report or concerning the appropriateness of any investment idea described herein for such investor. "BofA Securities" is a global brand for BofA Global Research.

Information relating to Non-US affiliates of BofA Securities and Distribution of Affiliate Research Reports:

BofAS and/or Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated ("MLPF&S') may in the future distribute, information of the following non-US affiliates in the US (short name: legal name, regulator): Merrill Lynch (South Africa): Merrill Lynch South Africa (Pty) Ltd., regulated by The Financial Service Board; MLI (UK): Merrill Lynch International, regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA); BofASE (France): BofA Securities Europe SA is authorized by the Autorité de Contrôle Prudentiel et de Résolution (ACPR) and regulated by the ACPR and the Autorité des Marchés Financiers (AMF). BofA Securities Europe SA ("BofASE") with registered address at 51, rue La Boétie, 75008 Paris is registered under no 842 602 690 RCS Paris. In accordance with the provisions of French Code Monétaire et Financier (Monetary and Financial Code), BofASE is an établissement de crédit et d'investissement (credit and investment institution) that is authorised and supervised by the European Central Bank and the Autorité de Contrôle Prudentiel et de Résolution (ACPR) and regulated by the ACPR and the Autorité des Marchés Financiers. BofASE's share capital can be found at www.bofaml.com/BofASEdisclaimer; BofA Europe (Milan): Bank of America Europe Designated Activity Company, Milan Branch, regulated by the Bank of Italy, the European Central Bank (ECB) and the Central Bank of Ireland (CBI); BofA Europe (Frankfurt); Bank of America Europe Designated Activity Company. Frankfurt Branch regulated by BaFin, the ECB and the CBI; BofA Europe (Madrid): Bank of America Europe Designated Activity Company, Sucursal en España, regulated by the Bank of Spain, the ECB and the CBI; Merrill Lynch (Australia): Merrill Lynch (Australia): Merrill Lynch (Hong Kong): Merrill (Hong Kong): Merr (Asia Pacific) Limited, regulated by the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission (HKSFC); Merrill Lynch (Singapore): Merrill Lynch (Singapore) Pte Ltd, regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS); Merrill Lynch (Canada): Merrill Lynch Canada Inc, regulated by the Canadian Investment Regulatory Organization; Merrill Lynch (Mexico): Merrill Lynch Mexico, SA de CV, Casa de Bolsa, regulated by the Comisión Nacional Bancaria y de Valores; Merrill Lynch (Argentina): Merrill Lynch Argentina SA, regulated by Comisión Nacional de Valores; BofAS Japan: BofA Securities Japan Co., Ltd., regulated by the Financial Services Agency; Merrill Lynch (Seoul): Merrill Lynch International, LLC Seoul Branch, regulated by the Financial Supervisory Service; Merrill Lynch (Taiwan): Merrill Lynch Securities (Taiwan) Ltd., regulated by the Securities and Futures Bureau; BofAS India: BofA Securities India Limited, regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI); Merrill Lynch (Israel): Merrill Lynch (Israel): Merrill Lynch (Israel): Merrill Lynch (International (DIFC) Branch), regulated by the Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA); Merrill Lynch (Brazil): Merrill Lynch S.A. Corretora de Títulos e Valores Mobiliários, regulated by Comissão de Valores Mobiliários; Merrill Lynch KSA Company: Merrill Lynch Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Company, regulated by the Capital Market Authority.

This information: has been approved for publication and is distributed in the United Kingdom (UK) to professional clients and eligible counterparties (as each is defined in the rules of the FCA and the PRA) by MLI (UK), which is authorized by the PRA and regulated by the FCA and the PRA - details about the extent of our regulation by the FCA and PRA are available from us on request; has been approved for publication and is distributed in the European Economic Area (EEA) by BofASE (France), which is authorized by the ACPR and regulated by the ACPR and the AMF; has been considered and distributed in Japan by BofAS Japan, a registered securities dealer under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act in Japan, or its permitted affiliates; is issued and distributed in Hong Kong by Merrill Lynch (Hong Kong) which is regulated by HKSFC; is issued and distributed in Taiwan by Merrill Lynch (Taiwan); is issued and distributed in India by BofAS India; and is issued and distributed in Singapore to institutional investors and/or accredited investors (each as defined under the Financial Advisers Regulations) by Merrill Lynch (Singapore) (Company Registration No 198602883D). Merrill Lynch (Singapore) is regulated by MAS. Merrill Lynch Equities (Australia) Limited (ABN 65 006 276 795), AFS License 235132 (MLEA) distributes this information in Australia only to 'Wholesale' clients as defined by s.761G of the Corporations Act 2001. With the exception of Bank of America N.A., Australia Branch, neither MLEA nor any of its affiliates involved in preparing this information is an Authorised Deposit-Taking Institution under the Banking Act 1959 nor regulated by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority. No approval is required for publication or distribution of this information in Brazil and its local distribution is by Merrill Lynch (Brazil) in accordance with applicable regulations. Merrill Lynch (DIFC) is authorized and regulated by the DFSA. Information in Germany and is regulated by Merrill Lynch (DIFC) is done so in accor

This information has been prepared and issued by BofAS and/or one or more of its non-US affiliates. The author(s) of this information may not be licensed to carry on regulated activities in your jurisdiction and, if not licensed, do not hold themselves out as being able to do so. BofAS and/or MLPF&S is the distributor of this information in the US and accepts full responsibility for information distributed to BofAS and/or MLPF&S clients in the US by its non-US affiliates. Any US person receiving this information and wishing to effect any transaction in any security discussed herein should do so through BofAS and/or MLPF&S and not such foreign affiliates. Hong Kong recipients of this information should contact Merrill Lynch (Asia Pacific) Limited in respect of any matters relating to dealing in securities or provision of specific advice on securities or any other matters arising from, or in connection with, this information. Singapore recipients of this information should contact Merrill Lynch (Singapore) Pte Ltd in respect of any matters arising from, or in connection with, this information. For clients that are not accredited investors, expert investors or institutional investors Merrill Lynch (Singapore) Pte Ltd accepts full responsibility for the contents of this information distributed to such clients in Singapore.

#### General Investment Related Disclosures:

Taiwan Readers: Neither the information nor any opinion expressed herein constitutes an offer or a solicitation of an offer to transact in any securities or other financial instrument. No part of this report may be used or reproduced or quoted in any manner whatsoever in Taiwan by the press or any other person without the express written consent of BofA Securities. This document provides general information only, and has been prepared for, and is intended for general distribution to, BofA Securities clients. Neither the information nor any opinion expressed constitutes an offer or an invitation to make an offer, to buy or sell any securities or other financial instrument or any derivative related to such securities or instruments (e.g., options, futures, warrants, and contracts for differences). This document is not intended to provide personal investment advice and it does not take into account the specific investment objectives, financial situation and the particular needs of, and is not directed to, any specific person(s). This document and its content do not constitute, and should not be considered to constitute, investment advice for purposes of ERISA, the US tax code, the Investment Advisers Act or otherwise. Investors should seek financial advice regarding the appropriateness of investing in financial instruments and implementing investment strategies discussed or recommended in this document and should understand that statements regarding future prospects may not be realized. Any decision to purchase or subscribe for securities in any offering must be based solely on existing public information on such security or the information in the



prospectus or other offering document issued in connection with such offering, and not on this document.

Securities and other financial instruments referred to herein, or recommended, offered or sold by BofA Securities, are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and are not deposits or other obligations of any insured depository institution (including, Bank of America, N.A.). Investments in general and, derivatives, in particular, involve numerous risks, including, among others, market risk, counterparty default risk and liquidity risk. No security, financial instrument or derivative is suitable for all investors. Digital assets are extremely speculative, volatile and are largely unregulated. In some cases, securities and other financial instruments may be difficult to value or sell and reliable information about the value or risks related to the security or financial instrument may be difficult to obtain. Investors should note that income from such securities and other financial instruments, if any, may fluctuate and that price or value of such securities and instruments may rise or fall and, in some cases, investors may lose their entire principal investment. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Levels and basis for taxation may change.

This report may contain a short-term trading idea or recommendation, which highlights a specific near-term catalyst or event impacting the issuer or the market that is anticipated to have a short-term price impact on the equity securities of the issuer. Short-term trading ideas and recommendations are different from and do not affect a stock's fundamental equity rating, which reflects both a longer term total return expectation and attractiveness for investment relative to other stocks within its Coverage Cluster. Short-term trading ideas and recommendations may be more or less positive than a stock's fundamental equity rating.

BofA Securities is aware that the implementation of the ideas expressed in this report may depend upon an investor's ability to "short" securities or other financial instruments and that such action may be limited by regulations prohibiting or restricting "shortselling" in many jurisdictions. Investors are urged to seek advice regarding the applicability of such regulations prior to executing any short idea contained in this report.

Foreign currency rates of exchange may adversely affect the value, price or income of any security or financial instrument mentioned herein. Investors in such securities and instruments, including ADRs, effectively assume currency risk.

BofAS or one of its affiliates is a regular issuer of traded financial instruments linked to securities that may have been recommended in this report. BofAS or one of its affiliates may, at any time, hold a trading position (long or short) in the securities and financial instruments discussed in this report.

BofA Securities, through business units other than BofA Global Research, may have issued and may in the future issue trading ideas or recommendations that are inconsistent with, and reach different conclusions from, the information presented herein. Such ideas or recommendations may reflect different time frames, assumptions, views and analytical methods of the persons who prepared them, and BofA Securities is under no obligation to ensure that such other trading ideas or recommendations are brought to the attention of any recipient of this information. In the event that the recipient received this information pursuant to a contract between the recipient and BofAS for the provision of research services for a separate fee, and in connection therewith BofAS may be deemed to be acting as an investment adviser, such status relates, if at all, solely to the person with whom BofAS has contracted directly and does not extend beyond the delivery of this report (unless otherwise agreed specifically in writing by BofAS). If such recipient uses the services of BofAS in connection with the sale or purchase of a security referred to herein, BofAS may act as principal for its own account or as agent for another person. BofAS is and continues to act solely as a broker-dealer in connection with the execution of any transactions, including transactions in any securities referred to herein.

#### BofA ESGMeter Methodology:

ESGMeter is a proprietary metric based on quantitative analysis and fundamental analyst inputs that reflects our assessment of a company's Environmental, Social and Governance-related attributes. The ESGMeter is intended to indicate a company's likelihood of experiencing stronger financial stability (higher return on equity and lower earnings and price volatility) over the next three years relative to peer group. There are three ESGMeter levels - Low, Medium, and High - which indicate whether a company has attributes most likely to translate into superior financial stability (in the case of a High level) or weaker financial stability (in the case of a Low level) over the next three years relative to its peer group. A Medium level suggests that a company exhibits ESG characteristics that are likely associated with financial stability results in line with its peer group over the next three years. Full details of our methodology, financial stability definition and disclaimers are available at BofA ESGMeter methodology. ESGMeter is not indicative of a company's future stock price performance and is not an investment recommendation or rating. ESGMeter is independent of the BofA Global Research fundamental equity analyst's investment rating, volatility risk rating, income rating or price objective for that company.

### Copyright and General Information:

Copyright 2024 Bank of America Corporation. All rights reserved. iQdatabase® is a registered service mark of Bank of America Corporation. This information is prepared for the use of BofA Securities clients and may not be redistributed, retransmitted or disclosed, in whole or in part, or in any form or manner, without the express written consent of BofA Securities. BofA Global Research information is distributed simultaneously to internal and client websites and other portals by BofA Securities and is not publicly-available material. Any unauthorized use or disclosure is prohibited. Receipt and review of this information constitutes your agreement not to redistribute, retransmit, or disclose to others the contents, opinions, conclusion, or information contained herein (including any investment recommendations, estimates or price targets) without first obtaining express permission from an authorized officer of BofA Securities. Materials prepared by BofA Global Research personnel are based on public information. Facts and views presented in this material have not been reviewed by, and may not reflect information known to, professionals in other business areas of BofA Securities, including investment banking personnel. BofA Securities has established information barriers between BofA Global Research and certain business groups. As a result, BofA Securities does not disclose certain client relationships with, or compensation received from, such issuers. To the extent this material discusses any legal proceeding or issues, it has not been prepared as nor is it intended to express any legal conclusion, opinion or advice. Investors should consult their own legal advisers as to issues of law relating to the subject matter of this material. BofA Global Research personnel's knowledge of legal proceedings in which any BofA Securities entity and/or its directors, officers and employees may be plaintiffs, defendants, co-defendants or co-plaintiffs with or involving issuers mentioned in this material is based on public inform

This information has been prepared independently of any issuer of securities mentioned herein and not in connection with any proposed offering of securities or as agent of any issuer of any securities. None of BofAS any of its affiliates or their research analysts has any authority whatsoever to make any representation or warranty on behalf of the issuer(s). BofA Global Research policy prohibits research personnel from disclosing a recommendation, investment rating, or investment thesis for review by an issuer prior to the publication of a research report containing such rating, recommendation or investment thesis.

Any information relating to the tax status of financial instruments discussed herein is not intended to provide tax advice or to be used by anyone to provide tax advice. Investors are urged to seek tax advice based on their particular circumstances from an independent tax professional.

The information herein (other than disclosure information relating to BofA Securities and its affiliates) was obtained from various sources and we do not guarantee its accuracy. This information may contain links to third-party websites. BofA Securities is not responsible for the content of any third-party website or any linked content contained in a third-party website. Content contained on such third-party websites is not part of this information and is not incorporated by reference. The inclusion of a link does not imply any endorsement by or any affiliation with BofA Securities. Access to any third-party website is at your own risk, and you should always review the terms and privacy policies at third-party websites before submitting any personal information to them. BofA Securities is not responsible for such terms and privacy policies and expressly disclaims any liability for them.

All opinions, projections and estimates constitute the judgment of the author as of the date of publication and are subject to change without notice. Prices also are subject to change without notice. BofA Securities is under no obligation to update this information and BofA Securities ability to publish information on the subject issuer(s) in the future is subject to applicable quiet periods. You should therefore assume that BofA Securities will not update any fact, circumstance or opinion contained herein.

Subject to the quiet period applicable under laws of the various jurisdictions in which we distribute research reports and other legal and BofA Securities policy-related restrictions on the publication of research reports, fundamental equity reports are produced on a regular basis as necessary to keep the investment recommendation current.

Certain outstanding reports or investment opinions relating to securities, financial instruments and/or issuers may no longer be current. Always refer to the most recent research report relating to an issuer prior to making an investment decision.

In some cases, an issuer may be classified as Restricted or may be Under Review or Extended Review. In each case, investors should consider any investment opinion relating to such issuer (or its security and/or financial instruments) to be suspended or withdrawn and should not rely on the analyses and investment opinion(s) pertaining to such issuer (or its securities and/or financial instruments) nor should the analyses or opinion(s) be considered a solicitation of any kind. Sales persons and financial advisors affiliated with BofAS or any of its affiliates may not solicit purchases of securities or financial instruments that are Restricted or Under Review and may only solicit securities under Extended Review in accordance with firm policies.

Neither BofA Securities nor any officer or employee of BofA Securities accepts any liability whatsoever for any direct, indirect or consequential damages or losses arising from any use of this information.

