

# **APA** Corporation

# Acquisition of CPE increases size & scale; 1/3rd of value appears related to synergies

Reiterate Rating: BUY | PO: 60.00 USD | Price: 34.18 USD

# Maintains size & scale given plans to let North Sea decline

APA has announced plans to acquire Callon Petroleum (Ticker: CPE) in an all-equity transaction valued at ~\$4.5bn (inclusive of ~\$1.9bn net debt). Each outstanding share of CPE is expected to be exchanged into 1.0425 shares of APA stock, suggesting a ~14% premium based upon the prior close of both companies. Legacy APA shareholders will own ~81% of outstanding equity, with Callon shareholders owning the rest. While CPE does have assets in the Midland basin, in our view, the transaction is more focused on the Delaware and adds approximately 120k net acres with approximately ten years of inventory based on CPE's associated production. We also see the deal helping APA maintain size and scale given its prior plans to no longer add capital to the North Sea.

# One third of value paid related to initial synergies

APA's management expects to provide more formal guidance once the deal closes (expected in 2Q24) but has highlighted pro forma 3Q23 Permian production of ~311 Mboe / d as a starting point. Initially, it expects annual synergies of ~\$150mm consisting of ~\$55mm in G&A, ~\$40mm cost of capital and \$55mm for operational. Already, it has announced plans to retire all Callon's debt via \$2bn term loan, and that it expects its credit profile to improve with a pro forma net debt to EBITDA ratio of approximately 1.1x. By our estimates, about one-third of the value APA is paying for CPE is related to initial annual after-tax synergies of ~\$120mm and assuming an 9% cost of capital.

# Maintain Buy given underappreciated value for Suriname

All-in-all, we see the transaction as more opportunistic on APA's part in what was likely a competitive process, allowing it to further deliver and buyback shares while replacing geographic scale, given its plans to allow the North Sea to decline. That said, despite the operational logic, we believe the quality of the Callon portfolio is a question mark and believe the street will scrutinize the capital intensity of future activity that ventures out from established areas deeper into the SW Del. We maintain our Buy rating on APA as we continue to believe that the Street may not be giving it full value for its Suriname assets. Our \$60 PO remains unchanged assuming long-term \$80 Brent and \$4.25 HH.

Estimates (Dec) (US\$)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
EPS	3.87	7.77	5.27	7.75	7.64
GAAP EPS	2.58	10.96	5.39	7.75	7.64
EPS Change (YoY)	NM	100.8%	-32.2%	47.1%	-1.4%
Consensus EPS (Bloomberg)			5.07	5.81	5.58
DPS	0.20	0.63	1.00	1.00	1.00
Valuation (Dec)					
P/E	8.8x	4.4x	6.5x	4.4x	4.5x
GAAP P/E	13.2x	3.1x	6.3x	4.4x	4.5x
Dividend Yield	0.6%	1.8%	2.9%	2.9%	2.9%
EV/EBITDA*	4.3x	2.2x	2.9x	2.6x	2.8x
Free Cash Flow Yield*	19.5%	29.0%	16.0%	20.7%	17.4%
* For full definitions of <i>IQ</i> method <sup>SM</sup> measures, see page 7.					

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Refer to important disclosures on page 8 to 10. Analyst Certification on page 6. Price Objective Basis/Risk on page 6.

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#### 04 January 2024

#### Equity

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#### Stock Data

34.18 USD Price 60.00 USD Price Objective Date Established 2-Nov-2023 Investment Opinion C-1-7 30.67 LISD - 46.98 LISD 52-Week Range Mrkt Val (mn) / Shares Out 11.006 USD / 322.0 (mn) Free Float 99.5% Average Daily Value (mn) 131.71 USD BofA Ticker / Exchange APA / NAS Bloomberg / Reuters APA US / APA.OQ ROE (2023E) 192.4% Net Dbt to Eqty (Dec-2022A) 387.3% FSGMeter™ High

ESGMeter is not indicative of a company's future stock price performance and is not an investment recommendation or rating. ESGMeter is independent of BofA Global Research's equity investment rating, volatility risk rating, income rating, and price objective for that company. For full details, refer to "BofA F SGMeter Methodology".

Del - Delaware Basin

HH- Henry Hub

Mboe/d - Thousand barrels of oil equivalent per day

# **iQ**profile<sup>™</sup> APA Corporation

(US\$ Millions)  Return on Capital Employed  Return on Equity Operating Margin Free Cash Flow  iQmethod <sup>5M</sup> – Quality of Earnings* (US\$ Millions) Cash Realization Ratio Asset Replacement Ratio Tax Rate Net Debt-to-Equity Ratio	2021A 14.5% NM 38.4% 2,149 2021A 2.3x	2022A 37.3% NM 65.4% 3,188	2023E 18.6% 192.4% 46.1% 1,758	2024E 21.9% 128.6% 50.1% 2,276	2025E 18.6% 76.1% 46.5% 1,919
Return on Equity Operating Margin Free Cash Flow  iQmethod <sup>™</sup> – Quality of Earnings* (US\$ Millions) Cash Realization Ratio Asset Replacement Ratio Tax Rate Net Debt-to-Equity Ratio	NM 38.4% 2,149 <b>2021A</b>	NM 65.4% 3,188	192.4% 46.1%	128.6% 50.1%	76.1% 46.5%
Operating Margin Free Cash Flow  iQmethod <sup>™</sup> – Quality of Earnings* (US\$ Millions) Cash Realization Ratio Asset Replacement Ratio Tax Rate Net Debt-to-Equity Ratio	38.4% 2,149 <b>2021A</b>	65.4% 3,188	46.1%	50.1%	46.5%
iQmethod <sup>™</sup> – Quality of Earnings* (US\$ Millions) Cash Realization Ratio Asset Replacement Ratio Tax Rate Net Debt-to-Equity Ratio	2,149 <b>2021A</b>	3,188			
iQmethod <sup>™</sup> – Quality of Earnings* (US\$ Millions) Cash Realization Ratio Asset Replacement Ratio Tax Rate Net Debt-to-Equity Ratio	2021A	ŕ	1,758	2,276	1,919
(US\$ Millions)  Cash Realization Ratio  Asset Replacement Ratio  Tax Rate  Net Debt-to-Equity Ratio					
Cash Realization Ratio Asset Replacement Ratio Tax Rate Net Debt-to-Equity Ratio					
Asset Replacement Ratio Tax Rate Net Debt-to-Equity Ratio	2 3x	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025
Tax Rate Net Debt-to-Equity Ratio		1.9x	2.4x	2.0x	2.2>
Net Debt-to-Equity Ratio	1.0x	1.5x	1.4x	1.4x	1.5>
	30.6%	28.8%	41.6%	40.0%	38.7%
late wast Carren	23,139.6%	387.3%	234.4%	148.1%	104.9%
Interest Cover	4.7x	16.1x	12.5x	17.2x	15.3×
Income Statement Data (Dec)					
(US\$ Millions)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	20251
Sales	6,498	9,220	7,756	8,905	8,547
% Change	55.0%	41.9%	-15.9%	14.8%	-4.0%
Gross Profit	4,732	8,198	5,940	6,730	6,297
% Change	88.3%	73.2%	-27.5%	13.3%	-6.4%
EBITDA	3,827	7,730	5,649	6,423	5,990
% Change	NM	102.0%	-26.9%	13.7%	-6.7%
Net Interest & Other Income	(514)	(379)	(302)	(265)	(265)
Net Income (Adjusted) % Change	1,452 NM	2,606 79.5%	1,625 -37.6%	2,211 36.0%	1,997 -9.7%
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Free Cash Flow Data (Dec) (US\$ Millions)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025
Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP)	967	3,674	1,661	2,210	1,997
Depreciation & Amortization	1,360	1,233	1,515	1,638	1,698
Change in Working Capital	0	0	0	0	1,030
Deferred Taxation Charge	(74)	305	0	0	C
Other Adjustments, Net	1,117	(269)	683	658	622
Capital Expenditure	(1,221)	(1,756)	(2,102)	(2,230)	(2,398)
Free Cash Flow	2,149	3,188	1,758	2,276	1,919
% Change	609.9%	48.3%	-44.9%	29.5%	-15.7%
Share / Issue Repurchase	0	(1,421)	(522)	(1,073)	(884)
Cost of Dividends Paid	(76)	(210)	(309)	(292)	(267)
Change in Debt	(1,387)	(1,392)	8	0	(51)
Balance Sheet Data (Dec)					
(US\$ Millions)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025
Cash & Equivalents	302	245	95	683	1,105
Trade Receivables	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,450
Other Current Assets	628	628	628	628	628
Property, Plant & Equipment	7,049	6,950	7,543	7,908	8,382
Other Non-Current Assets	3,874	3,874	3,874	3,874	3,874
Total Assets	13,303	13,147	13,590	14,544	15,438
Short-Term Debt	215	1.550	1.550	1.550	1.550
()thou Current Li-biliti	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558	1,558
Other Current Liabilities		L /IT1	F 1. 11.	F 1. 11.	m m / L
Long-Term Debt	7,295	5,451	5,525	5,525	
Long-Term Debt Other Non-Current Liabilities	4,204	4,791	4,188	4,188	4,137
Long-Term Debt					5,525 4,137 <b>11,222</b> <b>4,216</b>

### **Company Sector**

Oil & Gas Producers

#### **Company Description**

APA is one of the largest US E&P companies with 2.3 BBOE of proven reserves (63% liquids). It is an acquirer/exploiter/explorer, fiscally conservative company that has grown its reserves and production consistently via acquisitions and organic projects. Operations are focused in the US, Egypt, and the North Sea, and exploration in Suriname.

#### **Investment Rationale**

In addition to commodity price leverage, Apache has two organic catalysts that we believe can narrow the valuation gap: improved contract terms in Egypt that can reinvigorate activity and exploration success in Suriname, where success to date appears to be a free option.

### Stock Data

Average Daily Volume 3,853,463

#### **Quarterly Earnings Estimates**

	2022	2023
Q1	1.93A	1.19A
Q2	2.37A	0.85A
Q3	1.97A	1.33A
Q4	1.48A	1.91E



\* For full definitions of  $\emph{IQ}$  method  $^{\text{SM}}$  measures, see page 7.

# **Accretion dilution for CPE acquisition**

Using consensus numbers for CPE, the following table shows our preliminary accretion / dilution.

### Exhibit 1: Preliminary accretion / dilution

We have used consensus estimates for CPE

APA Corp. EV:	Pre-Deal	+CPE	Post-Deal		
Shares (October 31st, 2023)	309	71	379		Dilution
Sh Price (1/3/2024)	\$36.75	\$36.75	\$36.75		18.63%
Market Cap	11,341	2,597	13,938		
Debt	5,584	1,949	7,533		
Cash	95	3	98		
Net Debt	5,489	1,945	7,434		
Enterprise Value	16,830	4,542	21,372		
Callon EV:	Pre-Deal	Post-Deal	,	1	
Shares (October 31st, 2023)	68	68		APA Sh Px	\$36.75
Sh Price (1/3/2024)	\$33.65	\$38.31	14%	CPE Sh Px	\$38.31
Market Cap	2,281	2,597		Ratio	1.04x
Debt	1,949	1,949			
Cash	3	3			
Net Debt	1,945	1,945			
Enterprise Value	4,226	4,542	7		
Litterprise value	21,056	0.20	_		
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
	2024	2023	2020	2027	2020
APA Corp.:					
CPE Consensus Oil (WTI)	\$76.96	\$71.92	\$69.75	\$69.74	\$69.73
CPE Consensus Gas	\$3.27	\$4.13	\$4.02	\$4.01	\$4.01
Shares	309	309	309	309	309
Net Income	1,408	1,620	1,590	1,553	1,319
Depreciation	1,614	1,643	1,684	1,716	1,747
Deffered Tax	-	-	-	-	-
Exploration	120	120	120	120	120
Stock-based comp	60	60	60	60	60
Distributions to NCI	(292)	(282)	(326)	(365)	(395)
Income from disc. Ops.	340	322	357	386	404
Other	107	107	107	107	107
Cash Flow	3,357	3,590	3,591	3,576	3,362
*Note Cash Flow / bbl	\$30.68	\$33.69	\$34.24	\$34.58	\$33.01
Total Capex	(1,931)	(2,168)	(2,172)	(2,198)	(1,902)
Free Cash Flow	1,426	1,422	1,419	1,378	1,460
Buyback	(733)	(743)	(787)	(806)	(895)
Common Dividend	(298)	(279)	(260)	(240)	(218)
Variable Dividend	-	-	-	-	-
Total Cash Returns	(1,031)	(1,023)	(1,047)	(1,046)	(1,113)
Excess Cash	395	400	372	332	347
Cash	490	890	1,262	1,594	1,941
Debt	5,590	6,413	6,413	6,413	6,413
EBITDAX	5,253	5,358	5,399	5,431	5,509
Net Debt	5,100	5,523	5,151	4,819	4,472
Net Debt to EBITDA	1.0x	1.0x	1.0x	0.9x	0.8x
EPS (3Q23 Shares)	\$4.56	\$5.25	\$5.15	\$5.03	\$4.28
CFPS (3Q23 Shares)	\$10.88	\$11.63	\$11.64	\$11.59	\$10.90
FCFS (3Q23 Shares)	\$4.62	\$4.61	\$4.60	\$4.46	\$4.73
Permian Oil	85	88	90	92	93
Permian NGL	60	59	59	59	58
Permian Gas	433	451	489	511	527
Permian Boe	218	222	231	236	239
Egypt Oil	88	93	105	114	120
Egypt NGL	-	-	-	-	-
Egypt Gas	306	292	279	267	255
Egypt Boe	139	142	151	158	163
North Sea Oil	40	40	38	36	34
North Sea NGL	=	-	-	-	-
North Sea Gas	50	40	38	36	34
North Sea Boe	48	47	44	42	39



# **Exhibit 1: Preliminary accretion / dilution**We have used consensus estimates for CPE

APA Corp. EV:	Pre-Deal	+CPE	Post-Deal		
Total Oil	177	170	167	164	162
Total NGL	61	60	60	59	58
Total Gas	790	784	806	814	816
Total Boe	370	360	361	359	356
<u>Callon:</u>					
Consensus Oil (WTI)	\$76.96	\$71.92	\$69.75	\$69.74	\$69.73
Consensus Gas	\$3.27	\$4.13	\$4.02	\$4.01	\$4.01
Shares	68	68	68	68	68
Net Income	467	483	617	655	632
Depreciation	578	593	624	649	671
Other	109	146	69	18	18
Cash Flow	1,154	1,221	1,309	1,321	1,322
*Note Cash Flow / bbl	\$33.86	\$34.37	\$35.23	\$35.42	\$34.25
Capex	(891)	(898)	(893)	(913)	(892)
Free Cash Flow	263	324	416	408	430
Buyback	-	-	-	-	-
Regular Dividend	-	-	-	-	-
Total Cash Return	-	-	-	-	-
Excess Cash	263	324	416	408	430
Cash	3	327	743	1,151	1,581
Debt	1,949	5724	5724	5724	5724
EBITDA	1,309	1,342	1,452	1,485	1,458
Net Debt	1,945	5,397	4,981	4,573	4,143
Net Debt / EBITDA	1.5x	4.0x	3.4x	3.1x	2.8x
EPS (3Q23 Shares)	\$6.89	\$7.12	\$9.10	\$9.66	\$9.33
CFPS (3Q23 Shares)	\$17.03	\$18.02	\$19.31	\$19.49	\$19.50
FCFS (3Q23 Shares)	\$3.88	\$4.77	\$6.13	\$6.02	\$6.34
SG&A	115	116	118	121	121
Permian Oil	53	56	58	58	60
Permian NGL	20	21	22	22	22
Permian Gas	118	124	130	136	141
Permian Boe	93	97	102	102	106
APA Corp. Pro Forma:					
Shares	309	309	309	309	309
New Shares	71	71	71	71	71
Total Shares	379	379	379	379	379
APA Net Income	1,408	1,620	1,590	1,553	1,319
CPE Net Income	467	483	617	655	632
Synergies (CPE SG&A, after tax)	128	119	119	119	119
Proforma Net Income	2,002	2,221	2,325	2,326	2,070
APA Depreciation	1,614	1,643	1,684	1,716	1,747
APA Other	335	327	318	307	296
CPE Depreciation	578	593	624	649	671
CPE Other	109	146	69	18	18
ProForma Cash Flow	4,639	4,930	5,018	5,016	4,803
APA Capex	(1,931)	(2,168)	(2,172)	(2,198)	(1,902)
CPE Capex	(891)	(898)	(893)	(913)	(892)
Capex Synergies	-	-	-	-	-
Proforma Capex	(2,822)	(3,065)	(3,065)	(3,111)	(2,794)
Proforma Free Cash Flow	1,817	1,865	1,953	1,904	2,008
APA Dividend Per Share	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.25
APA Common Dividend	(379)	(379)	(379)	(379)	(379)
	(379) 1,438	(379) 1,485	(379) 1,574	(379) 1,525	(379) 1,629
APA Common Dividend Excess Cash Cash			, ,		
Excess Cash Cash	1,438	1,485	1,574	1,525	1,629
Excess Cash Cash Debt	1,438 3,526	1,485 3,573	1,574 3,662	1,525 3,613	1,629 3,717
Excess Cash Cash Debt EBITDA	1,438 3,526 12,137	1,485 3,573 12,137	1,574 3,662 12,137	1,525 3,613 12,137	1,629 3,717 12,137
Excess Cash	1,438 3,526 12,137 6,689	1,485 3,573 12,137 6,819	1,574 3,662 12,137 6,969	1,525 3,613 12,137 7,034	1,629 3,717 12,137 7,086
Excess Cash Cash Debt EBITDA Net Debt	1,438 3,526 12,137 6,689 8,611	1,485 3,573 12,137 6,819 8,564	1,574 3,662 12,137 6,969 8,475	1,525 3,613 12,137 7,034 8,524	1,629 3,717 12,137 7,086 8,420
Excess Cash Cash Debt EBITDA Net Debt Net Debt / EBITDA	1,438 3,526 12,137 6,689 8,611	1,485 3,573 12,137 6,819 8,564	1,574 3,662 12,137 6,969 8,475	1,525 3,613 12,137 7,034 8,524	1,629 3,717 12,137 7,086 8,420
Excess Cash Cash Debt EBITDA Net Debt Net Debt / EBITDA APA Corp standalone	1,438 3,526 12,137 6,689 8,611 1.3x \$4.56	1,485 3,573 12,137 6,819 8,564 1.3x	1,574 3,662 12,137 6,969 8,475 1.2x \$5.15	1,525 3,613 12,137 7,034 8,524 1.2x	1,629 3,717 12,137 7,086 8,420 1.2x \$4.28
Excess Cash Cash Debt EBITDA Net Debt Net Debt / EBITDA APA Corp standalone EPS (3Q23 Shares) CFPS (3Q23 Shares)	1,438 3,526 12,137 6,689 8,611 1.3x \$4.56 \$10.88	1,485 3,573 12,137 6,819 8,564 1.3x \$5.25	1,574 3,662 12,137 6,969 8,475 1.2x	1,525 3,613 12,137 7,034 8,524 1.2x \$5.03	1,629 3,717 12,137 7,086 8,420 1.2x \$4.28 \$10.90
Excess Cash Cash Debt EBITDA Net Debt Net Debt / EBITDA APA Corp standalone EPS (3Q23 Shares)	1,438 3,526 12,137 6,689 8,611 1.3x \$4.56	1,485 3,573 12,137 6,819 8,564 1.3x \$5.25 \$11.63	1,574 3,662 12,137 6,969 8,475 1.2x \$5.15 \$11.64	1,525 3,613 12,137 7,034 8,524 1.2x \$5.03 \$11.59	1,629 3,717 12,137 7,086 8,420 1.2x \$4.28

# **Exhibit 1: Preliminary accretion / dilution**We have used consensus estimates for CPE

APA Corp. EV:	Pre-Deal	+CPE	Post-Deal		
CFPS	\$12.23	\$13.00	\$13.23	\$13.22	\$12.66
FCFS	\$4.79	\$4.92	\$5.15	\$5.02	\$5.30
Accretion / Dilution					
EPS	16%	12%	19%	22%	28%
CFPS	12%	12%	14%	14%	16%
FCFS	4%	7%	12%	12%	12%
Permian Oil	138	144	148	150	153
Permian NGL	81	80	81	80	80
Permian Gas	551	575	619	647	668
Permian Boe	311	320	333	338	344
Other Oil	128	133	143	149	154
Other NGL	0	0	0	0	0
Other Gas	356	332	317	302	289
Other Boe	188	188	196	200	202
Total Oil	267	277	291	299	307
Total NGL	81	80	81	80	80
Total Gas	907	907	936	950	957
Total Boe	499	508	528	537	547

**Source:** BofA Global Research estimates; Bloomberg

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH



# Price objective basis & risk

#### APA Corporation (APA)

Our \$60 PO assumes ex growth discounted cash flow value, which assumes \$80 Brent and \$75 West Texas Intermediate (WTI) long term. We also assume long-term Henry Hub natural gas as \$4.25. We apply a long-term (post-tax) weighted average cost of capital (WACC) of 9.7%, which is based on the BofA strategy team's assumed risk premium and a five-year monthly beta.

Upside risks to achieving our price objective are 1) higher commodity prices, 2) exploration success in Suriname, 3) exploration success and increased drilling activity in Egypt. Downside risks to achieving our price objective are (1) lower commodity prices, (2) Egyptian political risk, (3) exploration risk in Suriname.

# **Analyst Certification**

I, Doug Leggate, 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 - Large Cap Oils Coverage Cluster** 

Investment rating	Company	Bof A Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
BUY				
	APA Corporation	APA	APA US	Doug Leggate
	California Resources Corporation	CRC	CRC US	Kalei Akamine
	Canadian Natural Resources	YCNQ	CNQ CN	Doug Leggate
	Canadian Natural Resources	CNQ	CNQ US	Doug Leggate
	Chesapeake Energy	CHK	CHK US	Doug Leggate
	Chevron Corp.	CVX	CVX US	Doug Leggate
	Chord Energy Corporation	CHRD	CHRD US	John H. Abbott
	ConocoPhillips	COP	COPUS	Doug Leggate
	EOG Resources	EOG	EOG US	Doug Leggate
	EQT Corporation	EQT	EQT US	John H. Abbott
	ExxonMobil Corp.	XOM	XOM US	Doug Leggate
	Granite Ridge Resources, Inc	GRNT	GRNT US	John H. Abbott
	Gulfport Energy Corporation	GPOR	GPOR US	Doug Leggate
	Imperial Oil	IMO	IMO US	Doug Leggate
	Imperial Oil	YIMO	IMO CN	Doug Leggate
	Kimbell Royalty Partners	KRP	KRP US	John H. Abbott
	Northern Oil and Gas	NOG	NOG US	John H. Abbott
	Occidental Petroleum Corp.	OXY	OXY US	Doug Leggate
	Ovintiv Inc	YOVV	OW CN	Doug Leggate
	Ovintiv Inc	OW	OW US	Doug Leggate
	Range Resources Corp	RRC	RRC US	Doug Leggate
	Southwestern Energy Corp.	SWN	SWN US	Doug Leggate
	Suncor	YSU	SUCN	Doug Leggate
	Suncor	SU	SUUS	Doug Leggate
NEUTRAL				
	Coterra Energy Inc	CTRA	CTRA US	Doug Leggate
	Delek US Holdings, Inc.	DK	DK US	Doug Leggate
	Devon Energy Corp.	DVN	DVN US	Doug Leggate
	HF Sinclair Corporation	DINO	DINO US	Doug Leggate
	Marathon Petroleum Company	MPC	MPC US	Doug Leggate
	PBF Energy	PBF	PBF US	Doug Leggate
	Phillips 66	PSX	PSX US	Doug Leggate
	Valero Energy Corp.	VLO	VLO US	Doug Leggate
UNDERPERFORM				
	CNX Resources	CNX	CNX US	John H. Abbott
	Crescent Energy Company	CRGY	CRGY US	John H. Abbott
	Diamondback Energy Inc.	FANG	FANG US	Doug Leggate

### **US - Large Cap Oils Coverage Cluster**

Investment rating	Company	Bof A Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
	Marathon Oil Corp.	MRO	MRO US	Doug Leggate
	National Fuel Gas Company	NFG	NFG US	John H. Abbott
	Vital Energy Inc	VTLE	VTLE US	John H. Abbott
RSTR				
	Pioneer Natural Resources	PXD	PXD US	Doug Leggate

# **Q**method <sup>™</sup> Measures Definitions

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

Manethod shis 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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#### APA Corp (APA) 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: Energy Group (as of 31 Dec 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships R1	Count	Percent
Buy	83	61.48%	Buy	64	77.11%
Hold	28	20.74%	Hold	21	75.00%
Sell	24	17.78%	Sell	18	75.00%

#### 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%

RI Issuers that were investment banking dients of BofA Securities or one of its affiliates within the past 12 months. For purposes of this Investment Rating Distribution, the coverage universe includes only stocks. A stock rated Neutral is included as a Hold, and a stock rated Underperform is included as a Sell.

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# Investment rating Total return expectation (within 12-month period of date of initial rating) Buy ≥ 10% Ratings dispersion guidelines for coverage cluster<sup>R2</sup> \$\leq 70\%\$

 Buy
 ≥ 10%
 ≤ 70%

 Neutral
 ≥ 0%
 ≤ 30%

 Underperform
 N/A
 ≥ 20%

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