

# Builders FirstSource Inc.

# 4Q beats; we see upside to 2024 guidance on stronger single-family starts

Reiterate Rating: BUY | PO: 217.00 USD | Price: 188.37 USD

# Strong finish to 2023; well positioned into '24 - Raise PO

We are incrementally bullish on Builders FirstSource (ticker: BLDR) following 4Q earnings that were well above our/street estimates (EPS of \$3.55 vs. \$2.68 forecast). We increase our above-consensus 2024E/2025E EPS forecast by 7%/10% to reflect improved sales and gross margin outlook. We raise our PO to \$217 (from \$200), still based on 9x 2025E EV/EBITDA. We reiterate our Buy rating – BLDR is one of the best positioned in our coverage for stronger single-family starts (2024 outlook: prefer new construction > R&R; upgrade BLDR). We think BLDR should trade at a premium to its historical valuation given increased exposure to value-added products/services and higher ROIC profile.

# 2024 guidance ahead of consensus and still conservative

Management initiated full year net sales guidance of \$17.5bn-\$18.5bn (vs. consensus \$17.7bn) with base business net sales at \$17.6bn and EBITDA \$2.4bn-\$2.8bn (vs. consensus \$2.57bn) with base EBITDA of \$2.4bn. 2024 guidance is based on mid-single digit growth in single-family housing starts and lumber at \$400-\$440/mbf. We see upside to their guidance given our outlook for 9% single-family starts growth (see report) and model 2024 adjusted EBITDA of \$2.76bn. BLDR expects 1Q revenue to be flat to down low-single digits and EBITDA to be down high teens to low twenties given unfavorable weather conditions and margin and some price/mix normalization.

# Gross margin in-line with long-term targets

Gross margin (GM) expanded 121bps YoY to 35.3% in 4Q23 driven by better productivity and multi-family strength. BLDR initiated 2024 gross margin guidance of 30-33%, which is down 220-520bps YoY. 2024 GM guidance is in-line with long-term targets. Multi-family (MF) will be a headwind to margins through the year: 1) volumes will decline in 2H24 after BLDR works through an elevated back half in 1H and starts decline (unfavorable mix given MF carries higher margin than single-family, and 2) MF margins will decline through the year as pricing normalizes. This will more than offset \$100mm in productivity improvements primarily driven by automation in value-add products.

# 4Q beats on revenue and margins

Revenue fell (4.7%) YoY (better than forecast -5.8% YoY), with a (1.3%) decline in core organic net sales and (5.0%) in commodity deflation offset by 1.6% growth from M&A. Adjusted EBITDA margin expanded 52bps YoY driven by gross margin expansion.

Estimates (Dec) (US\$)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
EPS	18.71	13.64	14.60	16.43	19.08
GAAP EPS	16.82	11.00	14.60	16.43	19.08
EPS Change (YoY)	81.4%	-27.1%	7.1%	12.5%	16.1%
Consensus EPS (Bloomberg)			12.12	13.63	17.24
DPS	0	0	0	0	0
Valuation (Dec)					
P/E	10.1x	13.8x	12.9x	11.5x	9.9x
GAAP P/E	11.2x	17.1x	12.9x	11.5x	9.9x
EV / EBITDA*	5.7x	9.0x	9.1x	8.7x	8.3x
Free Cash Flow Yield*	14.6%	8.6%	6.5%	8.4%	8.8%
* For full definitions of <i>IQ</i> method <sup>SM</sup> 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: 22 February 2024 07:37PM EST

#### 22 February 2024

### Equity

Key Changes		
(US\$)	Previous	Current
Price Obj.	200.00	217.00
2024E Rev (m)	17,927.6	18,357.3
2025E Rev (m)	18,915.0	19,429.1
2026E Rev (m)	19,961.7	20,500.8
2024E EPS	13.69	14.60
2025E EPS	14.92	16.43
2026E EPS	17.49	19.08

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### Stock Data

Price	188.37 USD
Price Objective	217.00 USD
Date Established	22-Feb-2024
Investment Opinion	C-1-9
52-Week Range	77.05 USD - 194.69 USD
Mrkt Val (mn) / Shares Out	22,265 USD / 118.2
(mn)	
Free Float	97.7%
Average Daily Value (mn)	223.72 USD
BofA Ticker / Exchange	BLDR / NYS
Bloomberg / Reuters	BLDR US / BLDR.N
ROE (2024E)	34.2%
Net Dbt to Eqty (Dec-2023A)	65.8%
ESGMeter™	Medium

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

# **iQ**profile<sup>™</sup> Builders FirstSource Inc

<i>iQ</i> method <sup>SM</sup> − Bus Performance*					
(US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
Return on Capital Employed	34.4%	19.4%	18.5%	18.0%	18.1%
Return on Equity	62.7%	36.3%	34.2%	31.8%	30.8%
Operating Margin	18.3%	14.6%	13.4%	13.2%	13.1%
Free Cash Flow	3,259	1,919	1,455	1,870	1,968
iOmethod <sup>SM</sup> − Quality of Farnings*					

#### i**Q**method <sup>™</sup> – **Quality of Earnings**'

(US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
Cash Realization Ratio	1.2x	1.4x	1.1x	1.3x	1.3x
Asset Replacement Ratio	0.7x	0.9x	0.8x	0.8x	0.7x
Tax Rate	23.1%	23.9%	24.0%	25.0%	25.0%
Net Debt-to-Equity Ratio	58.5%	65.8%	52.0%	40.1%	27.8%
Interest Cover	22.7x	11.6x	11.4x	11.9x	12.6x

#### Income Statement Data (Dec)

(US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
Sales	22,727	17,097	18,357	19,429	20,501
% Change	14.2%	-24.8%	7.4%	5.8%	5.5%
Gross Profit	7,744	6,012	5,919	6,164	6,482
% Change	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
EBITDA	4,377	2,777	2,757	2,874	3,017
% Change	43.0%	-36.5%	-0.7%	4.3%	5.0%
Net Interest & Other Income	(171)	(191)	(191)	(191)	(191)
Net Income (Adjusted)	3,059	1,760	1,726	1,778	1,868
% Change	45.7%	-42.5%	-1.9%	3.0%	5.0%

### Free Cash Flow Data (Dec)

(US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP)	3,059	1,760	1,726	1,778	1,868
Depreciation & Amortization	497	558	573	591	615
Change in Working Capital	345	275	(437)	(91)	(106)
Deferred Taxation Charge	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other Adjustments, Net	(302)	(197)	52	52	52
Capital Expenditure	(340)	(476)	(460)	(460)	(460)
Free Cash Flow	3,259	1,919	1,455	1,870	1,968
% Change	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Share / Issue Repurchase	(2,628)	(1,847)	(1,225)	(1,400)	(1,400)
Cost of Dividends Paid	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Change in Debt	24	194	0	0	0

### **Balance Sheet Data (Dec)**

(US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
Cash & Equivalents	80	66	385	855	1,423
Trade Receivables	1,448	1,437	1,559	1,650	1,741
Other Current Assets	1,969	1,798	2,185	2,248	2,322
Property, Plant & Equipment	1,568	1,804	1,690	1,559	1,404
Other Non-Current Assets	5,530	5,395	5,395	5,395	5,395
Total Assets	10,595	10,499	11,214	11,708	12,285
Short-Term Debt	6	4	4	4	4
Other Current Liabilities	1,836	1,860	1,933	1,996	2,054
Long-Term Debt	2,978	3,177	3,177	3,177	3,177
Other Non-Current Liabilities	812	726	726	726	726
Total Liabilities	5,633	5,767	5,840	5,903	5,961
Total Equity	4,963	4,732	5,374	5,804	6,324
Total Equity & Liabilities	10,595	10,499	11,214	11,708	12,285

<sup>\*</sup> For full definitions of  $\emph{\textbf{IQ}} \textit{method}^{\text{SM}}$  measures, see page 6.

# **Company Sector**

**Building Products** 

# **Company Description**

BLDR is the largest building products supplier to US homebuilders (550 locations in 42 states). It's also a manufacturer of building materials, many of which are factory-built substitutes for products historically made onsite. BLDR generates revenue (\$17.1B in 2023) from 4 segments: Manufactured products, Windows, doors & millwork, Specialty building products & services, and Lumber & lumber sheet goods. The company more than doubled its market share from 2019-2022 (including BMC acquisition).

### **Investment Rationale**

We rate BLDR shares Buy. We see positive long-term tailwinds from share gains and mix shift to higher margin value-add services. BLDR should benefit from improving single-family housing starts.

### **Stock Data**

Average Daily Volume 1,187,649

# **Quarterly Earnings Estimates**

	2023	2024
Q1	2.96A	2.50E
Q2	3.89A	4.13E
Q3	4.24A	4.45E
Q4	3.55A	3.55E



# **Exhibit 1: BLDR 4Q23 earnings variance compared to BofA estimate**BLDR beat on revenue and gross and EBITDA margins

	<b>\</b>	YoY Change				BofAe
Income Statement	F4Q22A	F4Q23A	YoY	<u>BofAe</u>	F4Q23A	Δ
Net Sales (\$ in mms)	\$4,358	\$4,151	(4.7%)	\$4,104	\$4,151	1.1%
Gross Margin	34.1%	35.3%	121 bps	32.0%	35.3%	329 bps
Adjusted SG&A % Sales	19.4%	20.7%	126 bps	20.0%	20.7%	67 bps
Adjusted EBITDA	\$697	\$686	(1.6%)	\$563	\$686	21.8%
Adjusted EBITDA Margin	16.0%	16.5%	52 bps	13.7%	16.5%	280 bps
Pre-tax Margin	13.7%	13.5%	-21 bps	10.8%	13.5%	272 bps
Operating EPS	\$3.21	\$3.55	10.7%	\$2.68	\$3.55	32.6%
GAAP EPS	\$2.62	\$2.83	8.2%	\$2.68	\$2.83	5.9%

Segment Metrics	F4Q22A	F4Q23A	YoY	BofAe F4Q23	<u>Δ</u>
<u>Sales</u>					
Lumber & Lumber Sheet Goods	\$1,097	\$1,040	(5.2%)	\$1,053 \$1,04	10 (1.2%)
Manufactured Products	\$1,150	\$1,106	(3.9%)	\$1,092 \$1,10	06 1.2%
Windows, Doors & Millwork	\$1,130	\$1,056	(6.5%)	\$1,017 \$1,05	56 3.9%
Specialty building products and services	\$981	\$949	(3.2%)	\$941 \$94	19 0.8%

**Source:** BofA Global Research estimates, Company Data

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# **Exhibit 2: BLDR Income statement (\$ millions, except per share data)** We expect BLDR to grow revenues and EPS in 2024

YE 12/31		202	4E		2023	2024E	2025E
(\$ mms)	3/31/2024	6/30/2024	9/30/2024	12/31/2024	12/31/2023	12/31/2024	12/31/2025
	<u>1QE</u>	2QE	<u>3QE</u>	4QE			
Sales	\$3,900.2	\$4,979.5	\$4,991.1	\$4,486.5	\$17,097.4	\$18,357.3	\$19,429.1
Cost of sales	2,632.6	3,361.1	3,393.9	3,050.9	11,085.0	12,438.6	13,264.6
Gross Profit	\$1,267.6	\$1,618.3	\$1,597.1	\$1,435.7	\$6,012.4	\$5,918.7	\$6,164.5
Selling, general & administrative	819.0	921.2	863.5	852.4	3,509.9	3,456.1	3,602.2
Operating income	\$448.5	\$697.1	\$733.7	\$583.3	\$2,502.5	\$2,462.6	\$2,562.2
Interest expense, net	47.8	47.8	47.8	47.8	191.4	191.2	191.2
Earnings before income taxes	\$400.7	\$649.3	\$685.9	\$535.5	\$2,311.0	\$2,271.4	\$2,371.0
Income tax expense	96.2	155.8	164.6	128.5	551.3	545.1	592.8
Earnings from continuing operations	\$304.5	\$493.5	\$521.3	\$406.9	\$1,759.7	\$1,726.3	\$1,778.3
Income (loss) from discontinued operations	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Net income attributable to BLDR	\$304.5	\$493.5	\$521.3	\$406.9	\$1,759.7	\$1,726.3	\$1,778.3
Non-recurring items		<u>=</u>	<u>=</u> _	<u> </u>	341.0	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
GAAP Net Income	\$304.5	\$493.5	\$521.3	\$406.9	\$1,418.7	\$1,726.3	\$1,778.3
Diluted EPS (Adjusted Shares, GAAP)	\$2.50	\$4.13	\$4.45	\$3.55	\$11.00	\$14.60	\$16.43
Diluted EPS (Adjusted Shares, Cont. Ops.)	\$2.50	\$4.13	\$4.45	\$3.55	\$13.64	\$14.60	\$16.43
Adjusted Common Shares Outstanding: Diluted	121.6	119.4	117.1	114.7	129.0	118.2	108.2
EBITDA Calculation							
Adjusted operating Profit	\$448.5	\$697.1	\$733.7	\$583.3	\$2,502.5	\$2,462.6	\$2,562.2
Amortization backed out of adjusted operating profit	(\$82.8)	(\$82.8)	(\$82.8)	(\$82.8)	(335.7)	(331.2)	(331.2)
Stock compensation expense	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	48.5	51.9	51.9
(Gain)/loss on sale of asset impairments	=	=	=	=	-	=	=
Other		<u>=</u>	<u>=</u> _	<u> </u>	4.0	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
(=) Adjusted EBIT	\$378.7	\$627.3	\$663.9	\$513.4	\$2,219.3	\$2,183.3	\$2,282.9
(+) D&A	142.6	143.1	143.6	<u> 144.1</u>	558.2	573.4	591.4
(=) Adjusted EBITDA	\$521.3	\$770.4	\$807.5	\$657.5	\$2,777.5	\$2,756.7	\$2,874.3
<u>Margins</u>							
Gross Margin	32.5%	32.5%	32.0%	32.0%	35.2%	32.2%	31.7%
Adjusted SG&A % Sales	21.0%	18.5%	17.3%	19.0%	20.5%	18.8%	18.5%
Adjusted SG&A % Sales (company definition)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Operating Margin	11.5%	14.0%	14.7%	13.0%	14.6%	13.4%	13.2%
EBIT Margin	9.7%	12.6%	13.3%	11.4%	13.0%	11.9%	11.7%
EBITDA Margin	13.4%	15.5%	16.2%	14.7%	16.2%	15.0%	14.8%



# Exhibit 2: BLDR Income statement (\$ millions, except per share data) We expect BLDR to grow revenues and EPS in 2024

YE 12/31		2024E			2023	2024E	2025E
Incremental EBITDA Margin	(653.6%)	0.3%	(1.3%)	(8.4%)	28.4%	(1.6%)	11.0%
Pre-tax Margin	10.3%	13.0%	13.7%	11.9%	13.5%	12.4%	12.2%
Net Margin (attributable to BLDR)	7.8%	9.9%	10.4%	9.1%	10.3%	9.4%	9.2%
Tax rate	24.0%	24.0%	24.0%	24.0%	23.9%	24.0%	25.0%
YoY % Change							
Sales	0.4%	9.9%	10.1%	8.1%	(24.8%)	7.4%	5.8%
Gross Profit	(7.6%)	1.5%	1.0%	(2.0%)	(22.4%)	(1.6%)	4.2%
Operating Profit	(21.0%)	(0.4%)	(2.1%)	(3.9%)	(39.7%)	(1.6%)	4.0%
EBIT	(23.5%)	(0.4%)	(1.3%)	(5.5%)	(42.8%)	(1.6%)	4.6%
EBITDA	(17.5%)	0.2%	(0.7%)	(4.1%)	(36.5%)	(0.7%)	4.3%
Pre-tax Profit	(23.8%)	0.3%	(1.9%)	(4.4%)	(41.9%)	(1.7%)	4.4%
Net Income (attributable to BLDR)	(25.8%)	(1.0%)	(2.3%)	(7.4%)	(42.5%)	(1.9%)	3.0%
EPS	(15.5%)	6.2%	4.9%	(0.1%)	(27.1%)	7.1%	12.5%
YoY BPS Change							
Gross Margin	-281 bps	-272 bps	-287 bps	-329 bps	109 bps	-292 bps	-51 bps
SG&A % Sales	31 bps	-127 bps	-104 bps	-167 bps	471 bps	-170 bps	-29 bps
Operating Margin	-312 bps	-145 bps	-183 bps	-163 bps	-362 bps	-122 bps	-23 bps
EBIT Margin	-304 bps	-131 bps	-153 bps	-165 bps	-409 bps	-109 bps	-14 bps
EBITDA Margin (Traditional)	-290 bps	-151 bps	-176 bps	-186 bps	-301 bps	-123 bps	-22 bps
Pre-tax Margin	-326 bps	-126 bps	-168 bps	-156 bps	-399 bps	-114 bps	-17 bps
Net Margin (attributable to BLDR)	-276 bps	-110 bps	-132 bps	-152 bps	-317 bps	-89 bps	-25 bps
Tax rate	203 bps	98 bps	29 bps	242 bps	73 bps	14 bps	100 bps

**Source:** BofA Global Research estimates, Company Data

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# Price objective basis & risk

# **Builders FirstSource Inc (BLDR)**

Our \$217 price objective (PO) is based on a 2025E EV/EBITDA multiple of roughly 9x (around 14x P/E on 2024E EPS), above its average of roughly 6.5x from 2017-2023. We think that BLDR deserves a premium to its historical average given structurally higher margins, increased exposure to value-added products, and a higher ROIC profile.

Upside risks to our PO: 1) faster-than-expected recovery in new home starts, 2) further residential market share gains through organic growth and M&A, 3) higher commodity prices, and 4) lower interest rates.

Downside risks: 1) a downturn in the housing market leading to less starts, 2) margins normalizing lower than anticipated, 3) a decline in commodity prices, and 4) higher than expected capex related to tech investments.

# **Analyst Certification**

I, Rafe Jadrosich, 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 - Homebuilders and Building Products Coverage Cluster**

Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
BUY				
	Armstrong World Industries, Inc.	AWI	AWIUS	Rafe Jadrosich
	Builders FirstSource Inc	BLDR	BLDR US	Rafe Jadrosich
	D.R. Horton, Inc.	DHI	DHIUS	Rafe Jadrosich
	Latham Group, Inc.	SWIM	SWIM US	Shaun Calnan, CFA
	Leslie's	LESL	LESL US	Shaun Calnan, CFA
	NVR, Inc.	NVR	NVR US	Rafe Jadrosich
	Owens Corning	OC	OC US	Rafe Jadrosich
	PulteGroup Inc.	PHM	PHM US	Rafe Jadrosich
	The AZEK Company Inc.	AZEK	AZEK US	Rafe Jadrosich
	Toll Brothers, Inc.	TOL	TOL US	Rafe Jadrosich
	TopBuild Corp	BLD	BLD US	Rafe Jadrosich
	Trex Company, Inc.	TREX	TREX US	Rafe Jadrosich
NEUTRAL				
	Dream Finders Homes, Inc.	DFH	DFH US	Rafe Jadrosich
	KB Home	KBH	KBH US	Rafe Jadrosich
	Lennar Corporation	LEN	LEN US	Rafe Jadrosich
	Smith Douglas Homes Corp.	SDHC	SDHC US	Rafe Jadrosich
UNDERPERFORM				
	Fortune Brands Innovations Inc	FBIN	FBIN US	Rafe Jadrosich
	Hayward Holdings, Inc.	HAYW	HAYW US	Rafe Jadrosich
	Masco Corp	MAS	MAS US	Rafe Jadrosich
	Mohawk Industries	MHK	MHK US	Rafe Jadrosich
	Patrick Industries, Inc.	PATK	PATK US	Rafe Jadrosich
	Pool Corporation	POOL	POOL US	Shaun Calnan, CFA



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

<b>Business Performance</b>	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	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.

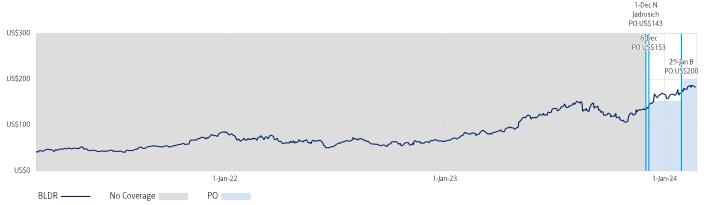
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# **Disclosures**

# **Important Disclosures**

### **Builders FirstSource (BLDR) 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: Building Group (as of 31 Dec 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships R1	Count	Percent
Buy	39	44.83%	Buy	22	56.41%
Hold	18	20.69%	Hold	11	61.11%
Sell	30	34.48%	Sell	8	26.67%

### Equity Investment Rating Distribution: Global Group (as of 31 Dec 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships R1	Count	Percent
Buy	1895	53.62%	Buy	1083	57.15%
Hold	832	23.54%	Hold	454	54.57%
Sell	807	22.84%	Sell	383	47.46%

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# Investment rating Total return expectation (within 12-month period of date of initial rating) Ratings dispersion guidelines for coverage cluster<sup>R2</sup>

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

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