

Arcos Dorados

MFA renewal: we look for flat royalties, faster expansion, and higher ROIs

Maintain Rating: BUY | PO: 14.50 USD | Price: 12.74 USD

A silver lining in ARCO's MFA renewal?

We expect ARCO to renew its Master Franchise Agreement (MFA) with McDonald's in 3Q24 and look for a new MFA that preserves existing franchise fees but accelerates growth. The existing MFA ends in August 2027. 4Q23 revenue growth and 2024E expansion (Exhibit 1) appear to foreshadow that expectation. Moreover, sharply improved store returns (Exhibit 5) and Latin America's considerable white space (Exhibit 3) suggest the likelihood of favorable market response. We model a 5% EBITDA hit from Argentina's devaluation and initial economic contraction (Exhibit 11). Reaffirm Buy.

EOTF returns appear greater in Latin America

Unlike other regions, ARCO's Experience of the Future (EOTF) re-imagings do not appear to have a simple single-year sales step-up, but a multi-year benefit. ARCO guest traffic is in-store oriented vs. drive-thru and exposed to a fuller brand experience. EOTF guests have also become increasingly comfortable with intuitive digital menu boards and payment, driving higher checks, in addition to crew cost and service opportunities.

ROIs on free-standing stores up about 6ppt

Though ARCO's food court locations have yet to fully recover fully, the company's free-standing locations are normalizing with higher sales levels, superior gross margins and leaner expense structures. Free-standing restaurants are also seeing sustained delivery demand, further leveraging fixed costs. We estimate pre-tax returns on ARCO's free standing locations to be up nearly 6ppts since 2019 (Exhibit 5).

Digital efforts appear likely to further enhance returns

ARCO now generates nearly 70% of all digital traffic for quick service restaurants in Brazil (Exhibit 9) and is rapidly improving its ability to identify and understand individual consumers. ARCO's monthly active user base is nearly 3x that of Burger King in Brazil (Exhibit 8). We look for ARCO to pioneer mass personalization in the region, exploiting client-specific insight into elasticity and ultimately generating superior activation and average ticket strategies while saving on store crew costs and improving service levels.

Estimates (Dec) (US\$)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
EPS	0.22	0.67	0.84	0.86	0.96
EPS Change (YoY)	NM	204.5%	25.4%	2.4%	11.6%
Underlying EPS	0.21	0.67	0.82	0.86	0.96
DPS	0	0.15	0.19	0.20	0.21
Valuation (Dec)					
P/E	57.9x	19.0x	15.2x	14.8x	13.3x
Underlying P/E	61.2x	18.9x	15.5x	14.8x	13.3x
Dividend Yield	0%	1.2%	1.5%	1.6%	1.6%
EV / EBITDA*	12.4x	8.7x	7.2x	6.5x	6.0x
Free Cash Flow Yield*	5.3%	4.8%	-0.1%	-0.5%	0.8%
* For full definitions of <i>IQ</i> method SM measures, see page 8.					

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Timestamp: 29 January 2024 06:58PM EST

29 January 2024

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Stock Data

Price Objective Date Established 27-Nov-2023 Investment Opinion B-1-7 7.02 USD - 13.20 USD 52-Week Range Mrkt Val (mn) / Shares Out 2,684 USD / 210.7 (mn) Free Float 94.9% 10.88 USD Average Daily Value (mn) BofA Ticker / Exchange ARCO / NYS Bloomberg / Reuters ARCO US / ARCO.N ROF (2023F) 43.6%

12 74 USD

14.50 USD

142.7%

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

ARCO: Arcos Dorados ROI: return on investment

Net Dbt to Eqty (Dec-2022A)

ESGMeter™

iQprofile[™] Arcos Dorados

2021A 4.6% 21.8% 5.2% 143 2021A 5.7x 1.0x 41.1% 225.8% 2.8x 2021A 2,660 34.1% 1,761 34.7%	2022A 8.9% 51.6% 7.3% 128 2022A 2.5x 1.8x 37.8% 142.7% 7.2x 2022A 3,619 36.1%	2023E 9.5% 43.6% 7.6% (2) 2023E 2.1x 2.6x 40.5% 126.5% 8.6x	2024E 9.6% 32.8% 7.8% (13) 2024E 2.0x 2.2x 39.0% 106.9% 7.7x	2025i 9.7% 28.8% 8.3% 22 2025i 2.0> 2.0> 38.0% 88.1% 8.5>
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2,660 34.1% 1,761	3,619			
2,660 34.1% 1,761	3,619			
34.1% 1,761	,	4,251	4000	
34.1% 1,761	,		4,399	4,535
		17.5%	3.5%	3.1%
	2,392	2,820	2,925	3,02
	35.8%	17.9%	3.7%	3.3%
272	387	471	516	557
304.9%	42.2%	21.8%	9.7%	7.9%
(64)	(38)	(26)	(46)	(47
45	140	176	182	202
NM	208.5%	25.4%	3.2%	11.2%
2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025
				202
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				134
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	304.9% (64) 45 NM	304.9% 42.2% (64) (38) 45 140 NM 208.5% 2021A 2022A 45 140 120 93 84 0 0 0 1 (115) (217) 143 128 NM -10.3% NA NA 0 (32) 7 (200) 2021A 2021A 2021A 279 304 82 124 179 256 744 856 1,078 1,096 2,361 2,637 24 37 594 722 754 730 61 75 2,140 2,312 221 324	304.9% 42.2% 21.8% (64) (38) (26) 45 140 176 NM 208.5% 25.4% 2021A 2022A 2023E 45 140 176 120 120 145 93 84 16 0 0 39 0 1 (2) (115) (217) (377) 143 128 -2 NM -10.3% NM NA NA NA NA NA NA 0 (32) (40) 7 (200) (9) 2021A 2022A 2023E 279 304 146 82 124 133 179 256 274 744 856 1,132 1,078 1,096 1,216 2,361 2,637 2,902 24 37	304.9% 42.2% 21.8% 9.7%

Company Sector

Restaurants

Company Description

Arcos Dorados is the world's largest McDonald's franchisee, and Latin America's leading quick service restaurant operator. The company has exclusive rights to operate or sub-franchise restaurants in over 20 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Brazil represents about half of revenues and nearly 60% of EBITDA. Arcos Dorados was created in 2007 via the acquisition of McDonald's assets in the region. The company completed a \$1.4bln initial public offering in April 2011.

Investment Rationale

ARCO's digitalization efforts could be the most advanced among regional QSR rivals. The company appears to be sustaining delivery as markets normalize, lowering crew costs, and mitigating food cost pressures with revenue management and client relationship management initiatives. Overall QSR penetration rates remain low, and we look for market exits and disruption to accelerate share gains. App adoption and data analytics also fuel new opportunities to drive traffic and ticket.

Stock Data

Average Daily Volume

854,348



4Q23 update and 2024 guidance

Arcos Dorados reported systemwide local currency comparable sales growth of 32.4% in 4Q23 (Exhibit 1), with total revenue up 15.4% y/y in USD. ARCO also announced that it opened 81 restaurants in 2023 and expects to open 80 to 90 restaurants in 2024 (Exhibit 2), with a pipeline composed of 90% free-standing restaurants. Total capex for 2024 is expected to be \$300mn-\$350mn.

Exhibit 1: Arcos Dorados reported a 32.4% growth in systemwide comparable sales for 4Q23

Arcos Dorados Systemwide Comparable Sales growth

	1Q23	2Q23	3Q23	4Q23	FY 2023
Brazil	13.8%	9.6%	10.8%	6.2%	9.9%
NOLAD	16.6%	10.4%	11.5%	5.4%	10.6%
SLAD*	91.8%	82.4%	93.8%	94.7%	90.9%
Total*	37.6%	31.5%	37.3%	32.4%	34.6%

*Includes Venezuela **Source:** Company filings

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Exhibit 2: Arcos Dorados expects to open 80-90 restaurants in 2024, compared to 81 in 2023

Arcos Dorados' expansion and capex guidance for 2024

	2023 actual	2024 guidance	
Openings and Modernizations	81 EOTF openings	80 to 90 EOTF restaurants	
Openings and Modernizations	(72 free-standing units)	(90% free-standing)	
Campy	Approximately in line with guidance of	\$300mn-\$350mn, funded with cash on	
Capex	\$350 million	hand and cash generated from operations	
6 6 60			

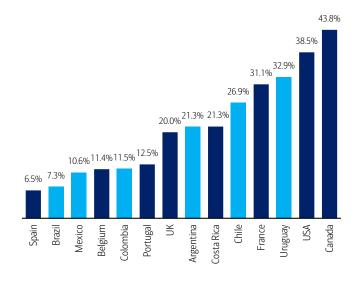
Source: Company filings

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QSR penetration rates and market closures suggest considerable white space to grow

Exhibit 3: QSR penetration rates in Latin America are generally well below global benchmarks

Quick-service-restaurants as a % of total restaurant sales

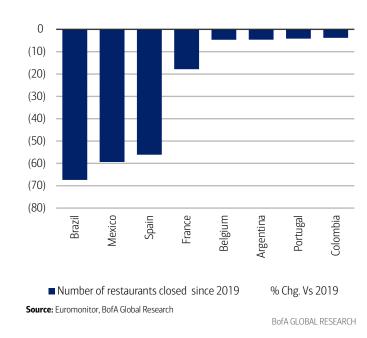


Source: Euromonitor, BofA Global Research

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Exhibit 4: Competition in Brazil and Mexico has yet to recover from

Total restaurant industry – number of restaurants closed since 2019



Returns on ARCO free-standing stores have improved sharply from pre-COVID levels

Exhibit 5: We estimate post-COVID, EOTF format returns are 5.7ppt higher (3.7% after tax)

Estimated store returns for a free-standing restaurant, USD '000

	Pre-COVID	Post-COVID	% chg
Total Investment	1,700	1,900	11.8%
Net Sales	2,500	2,850	14.0%
Food & Paper costs	(875)	(983)	12.4%
Gross Profit	1,625	1,867	14.9%
Gross Margin	65.0%	65.5%	50bp
Total expenses	(1,394)	(1,501)	7.7%
% of revenues	55.8%	52.7%	-309bp
Company Restaurant Direct Contribution	231	366	58.3%
Contribution Margin	9.2%	12.8%	359bp
plus D&A	119	133	11.8%
EBITDA	350	499	42.5%
EBITDA Margin	14.0%	17.5%	350bp
After-Tax Direct Contribution	152	241	58.3%
plus D&A	119	133	11.8%
After-Tax Cash Contribution	271	374	37.9%
Contribution Margin	10.9%	13.1%	228bp
ROI (Pre-Tax)	20.6%	26.3%	566bp
ROI (After-Tax)	16.0%	19.7%	374bp

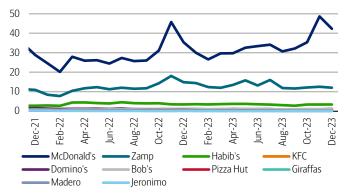
Source: BofA Global Research estimates

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Growing use of technology may further polarize share

ARCO is rapidly improving its ability to identify clients. Its use of technology appears to target mass personalization and should improve insights into client-specific elasticity and ultimately enable superior activation and average ticket strategies, while saving on store crew costs and improving service levels.

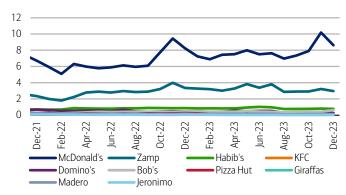
Exhibit 6: McDonald's leads peers in terms of digital traffic in Brazil Brazil, total monthly traffic – App & URL, mn



Source: Similarweb, SensorTower, BofA Global Research

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Exhibit 7: McDonald's monthly active users are nearly 3x Burger King Brazil, monthly active app users (MAU) – App & URL, mn



Source: Similarweb, SensorTower, BofA Global Research

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Exhibit 9: McDonald's has a dominant 70% of digital traffic in the Brazilian QSR segment

Brazil, Digital Indicators - App & URL, mn

4Q23/4Q22																
	Ар	p & URL Tr	affic	A	pp Traffic	C	URL Ti	affic	Organic 1	raffic²	Paid	Traffic	MAU ³	Bounce ⁴	Frequency ⁵	Duration ⁶
	Share ¹	Inc/Dec	Growth	% of Traffic	% chg	% of MAU	% of Traffic	% chg	% of URL	% chg	% of URL	% chg	% chg	% chg	% chg	% chg
McDonald's	69.9%	+7.6p.p	13%	96%	16.6%	86.7%	4%	-42%	91%	-27%	9%	-80%	5%	-11p.p	7%	-27%
Burger King	20.1%	-5.7p.p	-22%	90%	-20.7%	74.2%	10%	-32%	77%	-30%	23%	-38%	-13%	-12p.p	-10%	-27%
Popeyes	0.2%	-0.2p.p	-47%	61%	-55.1%	34.3%	39%	-29%	99%	-11%	1%	-96%	-37%	-4p.p	-17%	-20%
Zamp	20.3%	-5.9p.p	-22%	90%	-21.1%	73.7%	10%	-32%	77%	-29%	23%	-39%	-14%	-12p.p	-10%	-27%
Habib's	5.6%	-0.5p.p	-7%	87%	-11.1%	61.1%	13%	35%	94%	33%	6%	65%	-9%	-13p.p	2%	-32%
Bob's	1.9%	+0.0p.p	1%	56%	-17.8%	35.0%	44%	41%	86%	33%	14%	114%	16%	-27p.p	-13%	-9%
KFC	1.2%	+0.0p.p	2%	78%	6.7%	40.9%	22%	-13%	58%	-38%	42%	111%	-10%	-6р.р	13%	-26%
Domino's	1.1%	-0.5p.p	-32%	50%	-27.6%	19.7%	50%	-35%	69%	-48%	31%	35%	-34%	-12p.p	3%	3%
Pizza Hut	0.3%	-0.6p.p	-64%	43%	-71.2%	13.7%	57%	-57%	62%	-60%	38%	-51%	-58%	-17p.p	-16%	59%
Giraffas	0.3%	-0.2p.p	-44%	65%	-54.4%	31.1%	35%	-7%	97%	-5%	3%	-37%	-30%	-8р.р	-20%	-27%
Madero	0.3%	-0.1p.p	-25%	1%	-96.2%	0.4%	99%	-1%	95%	-3%	5%	33%	-10%	-15p.p	-17%	65%
Jeronimo	0.0%	-0.1p.p	-65%	1%	-99.4%	0.3%	99%	-47%	92%	-45%	8%	-60%	-53%	-26p.p	-26%	-40%
Total			0.3%													

^{1.} Share of category traffic. 2. Based solely on URL accesses. 3. Monthly Active Users. 4. URL traffic immediately exiting landing page. 5. Includes both App and URL 6. Based on both app and URL use.

Source: Similarweb, SensorTower, BofA Global Research

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Argentine devaluation may be 5% hit to EBITDA

BofA economist Sebastian Rondeau forecasts a 6.8% real contraction in Argentine consumption and 3.0% decline in GDP in 2024E. Inflation is expected to remain elevated.

Exhibit 10: Our economist expects a 6.8% contraction to real consumption in Argentina in 2024

Argentina macroeconomic estimates

Argentina	2023E	2024E	2025E				
Real GDP Growth	-1.2%	-3.0%	3.5%				
Real Consumption Growth	2.3%	-6.8%	3.8%				
Inflation, Period-End	211.4%	199.9%	100.9%				
Inflation, Average	133.5%	278.0%	150.4%				
Policy Rate, Period-End	133.0%	83.0%	55.0%				
Source: BofA Global Research estimates							

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We expect devaluation and fiscal policy tightening to adversely impact ARCO's Argentine operations, which represented 16.7% of consolidated revenue in 2022. ARCO maintains a substantive back-office and shared service structure in Argentina, or about half of its total, enabling it to mitigate expected contraction. We estimate the net impact on consolidated EBITDA from the Argentine devaluation to be about 5% of ARCO's 2024E EBITDA.

Exhibit 11: We forecast a 5% hit to ARCO EBITDA due to Argentina's currency devaluation

Estimated impact from Argentina's currency devaluation; USD mn

	2024E
Argentina EBIT impact	(27.2)
Corporate savings	<u>3.6</u>
Net impact	(23.6)
% of 2023E EBITDA	-5.0%

Source: BofA Global Research estimates

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Price objective basis & risk

Arcos Dorados (ARCO)

Our \$14.50 price objective is based on a 15x forward-year (2025E) EPS, within ARCO's historical valuation range and supported by strong execution and market share gains.

Risks to our price objective are weaker investor sentiment, operating restrictions, COVID or other transmission concerns, corporate governance, including differential voting and no tagalong rights, competition, weaker local FX rates, asset write-downs, higher input costs, rising labor costs, excessive investment requirements, restrictions on promotions and advertising, other regulatory changes, execution challenges, competition, macroeconomic sluggishness, debt and/or franchise agreement breaches, and political uncertainties.

Analyst Certification

We, Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA, Vinicius Pretto and Wellington Santana, hereby certify that the views each of us has expressed in this research report accurately reflect each of our respective personal views about the subject securities and issuers. We also certify that no part of our respective compensation was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or view expressed in this research report.

Latin America - Consumer Coverage Cluster

Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
BUY				
	Alsea	ALSSF	ALSEA* MM	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	Arcos Dorados	ARCO	ARCO US	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	Arezzo & Co	XARZF	ARZZ3 BZ	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	Assaí Atacadista	XFCXF	ASAI3 BZ	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	Assaí Atacadista	ASAI	ASAI US	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	Chedraui	GCHEF	CHDRAUIB MM	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	CVC	CVCBF	CVCB3 BZ	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	FEMSA	FMX	FMX US	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	FEMSA	FMXUF	FEMSAUBD MM	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	Grupo SOMA	XNASF	SOMA3 BZ	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	Hypera Pharma	XHPYF	HYPE3 BZ	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	Kimberly-Clark de México	KCDMF	KIMBERA MM	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	Lojas Quero-Quero	XZUXF	LJQQ3 BZ	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	Mercadolibre	MELI	MELI US	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	Natura &Co Holding SA	XZVAF	NTCO3 BZ	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	Natura &Co Holding SA	NTCO	NTCO US	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	RaiaDrogasil S.A.	RAIAF	RADL3 BZ	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	Smartfit	XSMRF	SMFT3 BZ	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	Track & Field	XWZRF	TFCO4 BZ	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	Vivara	XUVZF	VIVA3 BZ	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
NEUTRAL				
	Alpargatas S.A.	SRDDF	ALPA4 BZ	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	Cencosud	XCSCF	CENCOSUD CI	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	Falabella	XDIYF	FALAB CI	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	Grupo Carrefour Brasil	XLDPF	CRFB3 BZ	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	Magazine Luiza	MGZZF	MGLU3 BZ	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	Multilaser	XMTLF	MLAS3 BZ	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	Petz	XUXUF	PETZ3 BZ	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
UNDERPERFORM				
	CBD	CBD	CBD US	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	CBD	GPSAF	PCAR3 BZ	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	El Puerto de Liverpool	ELPQF	LIVEPOLC MM	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	Grupo Casas Bahia SA	GBXPF	BHIA3 BZ	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	Lojas Renner SA	LORPF	LREN3 BZ	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	Soriana	ONZBF	SORIANAB MM	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA
	Walmex	WMMVF	WALMEX* MM	Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA



Latin America - Consumer Coverage Cluster

Investment rating Company BofA Ticker Bloomberg symbol Analyst

Walmex WMMVY WMMVY US Robert E. Ford Aguilar, CFA

Penethod[™] 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 3³¹ 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.

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Arcos Dorados (ARCO) 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: Restaurants Group (as of 31 Dec 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships R1	Count	Percent
Buy	21	58.33%	Buy	10	47.62%
Hold	10	27.78%	Hold	3	30.00%
Sell	5	13.89%	Sell	4	80.00%

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%

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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%
Indernerform	N/A	> 20%

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