

MINISO Group Holdings

Key investor Qs: China SSSG, overseas (growth and policy) and guidance

Reiterate Rating: BUY | PO: 29.00 USD | Price: 19.45 USD

We hosted investor meetings post MINISO's Dec-Q results (<u>Dec-quarter results: Solid finish to 2023</u>). Most investors largely agreed on the solid result and outlook. Key investor questions were around China SSSG recovery upside, overseas (geopolitical concerns, US tariffs, business model), 2024 guidance, and margin upside. We maintain Buy on the company on potential earnings upside and undemanding valuation (MNSO trades at 15x our CY24E P/E, for 21% EPS CAGR over 2024-26E).

China SSSG still has upside potential

MNSO's 2M24 SSSG was -5% off a high base and is estimated to be flattish for 1Q24 (March base is relatively easier). The company expects a flattish SSSG for 2024, with little contribution from ASP (pausing after meaningful hikes in the past 1.5 years). Medium-term SSSG is still targeted at low-single-digit%, through 1) store upgrading for some small-sized stores, 2) optimizing locations for underperforming stores, 3) ASP hikes, 4) more contribution from IP-licensed products, and 5) raising brand awareness by adding more non-standard stores (such as IP land, transportation hub store, MINISO Pink, etc).

Overseas: strong outlook for longer

MNSO targets its overseas store count to grow by 550-650 stores in 2024, among which distributors and DTC markets should each contribute 50%. By regions, Indonesia should contribute 15-20%, US 13-14%, LatAm 20%, Europe 10-15%, Asia (ex China and Indonesia) 20-30%. Such expansion pace should continue into 2028. By then, Asia (ex China) will have 2k stores, North America, LatAm and Europe will have 1k stores each.

US market: quick ramp-up; tariff concerns addressed

MNSO added 100 stores in the US, taking the total to 172 in 2023, with most of them opened in 4Q. It saw an encouraging ramp-up pace for new stores. US contributed 7% to GMV and 11% of revenue in 4Q23. Responding to rising tariff concerns, MNSO adopts a cost-plus pricing model, allowing it to pass on additional tariffs (if any) to consumers. It is also building up a supply chain in ASEAN and is doing more local sourcing. Europe can serve as another important growth driver, apart from the US. (*More on page 3*)

Estimates (Jun) (CNY)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
Net Income (Adjusted - mn)	707.52	1,828	2,481	3,058	3,669
EPS	2.31	5.97	8.10	9.98	11.98
EPS Change (YoY)	39.9%	158.4%	35.7%	23.3%	20.0%
Dividend / Share	1.18	3.04	4.05	5.03	6.03
Free Cash Flow / Share	0.563	4.89	6.27	8.54	11.07
Common EPS (CNY)	0.577	1.49	2.02	2.50	2.99
Common Dividend / Share (CNY)	0.294	0.760	1.01	1.26	1.51
Valuation (Jun)					
P/E	56.39x	23.68x	17.28x	14.02x	11.69x
Dividend Yield	0.904%	2.15%	2.89%	3.59%	4.31%
EV / EBITDA*	27.92x	14.14x	10.48x	8.23x	6.86x
Free Cash Flow Yield*	0.402%	3.49%	4.48%	6.10%	7.91%
* For full definitions of <i>IQ</i> method SM measures, see page 6.					

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Refer to important disclosures on page 8 to 11. Analyst Certification on page 4. Price
Objective Basis/Risk on page 4.

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14 March 2024

Equity

Lucy Yu >> Research Analyst Merrill Lynch (Singapore) +65 6678 0417 lucy.yu@bofa.com

Chen Luo, CFA >> Research Analyst Merrill Lynch (Hong Kong) +852 3508 2009 chen.luo@bofa.com

Alice Ma >> Research Analyst Merrill Lynch (Hong Kong) +852 3508 8752 alice.ma@bofa.com

Stock Data

Price (ADR / Common) 19.45 USD / 38.45 HKD Price Objective 29.00 USD / 56.90 HKD 26-Feb-2024 / 26-Feb-2024 Date Established Investment Opinion C-1-7 / C-1-7 52-Week Range 14.46 USD-29.92 USD Market Value (mn) Shares Outstanding (mn) 306.4 / 1.225.6 Average Daily Value (mn) 30.18 USD Free Float 10.0% BofA Ticker / Exchange MNSO / NYS BofA Ticker / Exchange XKTAF / HKG Bloomberg / Reuters MNSO US / MNSO.N ROE (2024E) 26.1% Net Dbt to Eqty (Jun-2023A) -79 5%

SSSG- same store sales growth

DTC- direct to consumer

iQprofile[™] MINISO Group Holdings

Key Income Statement Data (Jun)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
(CNY Millions)					
Sales	10,086	11,473	15,217	18,428	21,721
Gross Profit	3,070	4,443	6,456	8,143	9,881
Sell General & Admin Expense	(2,259)	(2,350)	(3,424)	(4,278)	(5,226)
Operating Profit	882	2,223	3,081	3,897	4,685
Net Interest & Other Income	25	111	135	135	135
Associates	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Pretax Income	907	2,334	3,216	4,032	4,820
Tax (expense) / Benefit	(267)	(552)	(820)	(1,057)	(1,231)
Net Income (Adjusted)	708	1,828	2,481	3,058	3,669
Average Fully Diluted Shares Outstanding	306	306	306	306	306
Key Cash Flow Statement Data					
Net Income	638	1,769	2,385	2,967	3,578
Depreciation & Amortization	390	289	308	416	495
Change in Working Capital	361	(530)	(52)	(41)	44
Deferred Taxation Charge	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other Adjustments, Net	17	138	(119)	(127)	(125)
Cash Flow from Operations	1,406	1,666	2,522	3,216	3,993
Capital Expenditure	(1,234)	(169)	(600)	(600)	(600)
(Acquisition) / Disposal of Investments	(275)	(29)	0	0	C
Other Cash Inflow / (Outflow)	(617)	(95)	170	170	170
Cash Flow from Investing	(2,126)	(293)	(430)	(430)	(430)
Shares Issue / (Repurchase)	1	470	0	0	C
Cost of Dividends Paid	(325)	(413)	(1,240)	(1,540)	(1,847)
Cash Flow from Financing	(734)	(326)	(1,191)	(1,470)	(1,777)
Free Cash Flow	172	1,497	1,922	2,616	3,393
Net Debt	(5,611)	(7,091)	(7,992)	(9,307)	(11,093)
Change in Net Debt	1,418	(1,141)	(901)	(1,315)	(1,786)
Key Balance Sheet Data					
Property, Plant & Equipment	420	535	1,001	1,351	1,613
Other Non-Current Assets	2,789	3,009	3,155	6,756	10,268
Trade Receivables	1,056	1,150	1,435	1,602	1,807
Cash & Equivalents	5,618	7,098	7,999	9,314	11,100
Other Current Assets	1,399	1,656	2,019	2,167	2,525
Total Assets	11,282	13,448	15,610	21,190	27,313
Long-Term Debt	7	7	7	7	7
Other Non-Current Liabilities	445	604	604	604	604
Short-Term Debt	0	0	0	0	C
Other Current Liabilities	3,788	3,886	4,803	8,843	13,120
Total Liabilities	4,240	4,496	5,414	9,454	13,731
Total Equity	7,027	8,918	10,163	11,703	13,550
Total Equity & Liabilities	11,267	13,415	15,577	21,157	27,280
iQmethod SM - Bus Performance*					
Return On Capital Employed	9.1%	21.2%	23.8%	25.9%	27.2%
Return On Equity	10.3%	23.0%	26.1%	28.1%	29.2%
Operating Margin	8.7%	19.4%	20.1%	21.1%	21.6%
EBITDA Margin	12.6%	21.9%	22.3%	23.4%	23.8%
<i>iQ</i> method SM - Quality of Earnings*	/-	,-			
Cash Realization Ratio	2.0x	0.9x	1.0x	1.1x	1.1x
Asset Replacement Ratio Tax Rate (Reported)	3.2x 29.5%	0.6x	1.9x	1.4x	1.2x 25.5%
		23.6%	25.5%	26.2%	
Net Debt-to-Equity Ratio Interest Cover	-79.8% 26.4x	-79.5%	-78.6%	-79.5% NM	-81.9% NM
IIITETEST COVEI	20.4X	NM	NM	INIVI	INIV

Key Metrics

Company Sector

Retailing-Broadline/General Merchandisers

Company Description

MINISO is the largest branded variety retailer of lifestyle products globally and in China. The first store was opened in 2003 in China. It sells the products under its own brands "MINISO". As of end-1QFY23 (Sep'23), MINISO has 6.1K stores globally with 3.8k stores in China and 2.2k stores in around 100 countries. Its founder, Guofu Ye, is the controlling shareholder with 72.5% stake. The company was listed on NYSE in Oct 2020.

Investment Rationale

1) MINISO offers value proposition with frequently refreshed product assortment, ensuring attractiveness and repurchase. 2) Leveraging China's massive supply chain as foundation, MINISO established best-in-class supply chain, supported by IT systems to deliver extreme value-formoney and minimize inventory risk. 3) Retail partner model could enable scalable expansion at asset-light model. 4) MINISO enjoys proven track record of overseas expansion leveraging flexible business models.

Stock Data

Shares / Common	0.25
Price to Book Value	4.2x



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

2024 guidance: normalizing, but still solid

The company guided for 20-30% revenue growth, on the back of 900-1.1k stores or implying 14-17% YoY growth and rising sales per store in overseas markets. Its China business revenue is expected to grow at mid-teens%, largely driven by store expansion. Overseas market is expected to grow at 30-40% driven by both expansion and improving sales per store. GPM should expand with rising overseas DTC, but SG&A might also increase as a result.

We expect a largely flattish NPM for 2024 with rising DTC contribution offset by improving individual business segment margins. But in the long term, its NPM could expand on rising DTC margins and headquarter expenses operating leverage.



Price objective basis & risk

MINISO Group Holdings (MNSO / XKTAF)

Our PO for MNSO is US\$29.0(HK\$56.9), based on a 50/50 blend of DCF and P/E. Our DCF-based valuation is US\$31.9/share, which is based on 12% WACC, 1x beta, and 4% terminal growth. Our P/E-driven valuation is US\$26.1/share, based on 20x CY24 P/E, which is in line with global value retailers' average. We see MNSO's competitive edge given faster growth, asset-light business model (enabling higher NPM and ROE), and deep-integration and digital-connection with suppliers with best-in-class global supply chain. We assume USDCNY of 7.2, based on our house view.

Downside risks to our PO are pandemic volatility, macro, competition, merchandise, the reliance on retail partners and distributors, execution risk in international markets, strategic collaborations with IP licensors, inventory risk, FX risk and key personnel.

Analyst Certification

I, Lucy Yu, 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.

APR - Consumer Coverage Cluster

nvestment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
BUY				
	ABC-MART	AMKYF	2670 JP	Arashi Nishizawa
	Adastria	PNMOF	2685 JP	Arashi Nishizawa
	AmorePacific Corp	AMRPF	090430 KS	Ahyung Cho
	Anta Sports	ANPDF	2020 HK	Lucy Yu
	Asahi Group Holdings	ASBRF	2502 JP	Haruka Ono
	Avenue Supermarts	XWCVF	DMART IN	Aditya Mathur
	BGF Retail	XWAHF	282330 KS	Ahyung Cho
	Bosideng	BSDGF	3998 HK	Lucy Yu
	BUD APAC	BDWBF	1876 HK	Chen Luo, CFA
	China Resources Beer (Holdings) Co Ltd	CRHKF	291 HK	Chen Luo, CFA
	Cosmos Pharmaceutical	CSMYF	3349 JP	Arashi Nishizawa
	Dabur India	DBUIF	DABUR IN	Aditya Mathur
	DESCENTE	DESLF	8114 JP	Arashi Nishizawa
	DPC Dash Ltd	DPCDF	1405 HK	Lucy Yu
	Eastroc	XEBSF	605499 CH	Jack Chen
	Eclat	ECLAF	1476 TT	Ronald Leung, CFA
	GOLDWIN	GWNCF	8111 JP	Arashi Nishizawa
	H&H International Holdings	BTSDF	1112 HK	Lynn Wu
	Haier Smart Home Co Ltd	TTHEF	600690 CH	Lucy Yu
	Haier Smart Home Co Ltd	HRSHF	6690 HK	Lucy Yu
	Henan Shuanghui Investment & Dev	HSUIF	000895 CH	Chen Luo, CFA
	Hindustan Unilever	HINLF	HUVR IN	Aditya Mathur
	Hisense Home Appliance	XMBQF	000921 CH	Lucy Yu
	Hisense Home Appliance	HISEF	921 HK	Lucy Yu
	ITC	ITCTF	ITC IN	Aditya Mathur
	JINS HOLDINGS	INDOF	3046 JP	Arashi Nishizawa
	Kobe Bussan	KOBNF	3038 JP	Arashi Nishizawa
	KT&G	KTCIF	033780 KS	Ahyung Cho
	Kweichow Moutai Co. Ltd.	XHJBF	600519 CH	Chen Luo, CFA
	Li Ning Co Ltd	LNNGF	2331 HK	Lucy Yu
	Luzhou Laojiao	XMBBF	000568 CH	Lynn Wu
	Makalot Industrial	MAKAF	1477 TT	Ronald Leung, CFA
	Man Wah Holdings	MAWHF	1999 HK	Yoyo Pang
	MatsukiyoCocokara & Co	MSMKF	3088 JP	Arashi Nishizawa
	Mengniu Dairy	CIADF	2319 HK	Chen Luo, CFA
	Merida Industry Co Ltd	MIUYF	9914 TT	Ronald Leung, CFA
	MINISO Group Holdings	MNSO	MNSO US	Lucy Yu



APR - Consumer Coverage Cluster

vestment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
	MINISO Group Holdings	XKTAF	9896 HK	Lucy Yu
	New Oriental Education & Technology	EDU	EDU US	Lucy Yu
	New Oriental Education & Technology	NWOEF	9901 HK	Lucy Yu
	Nitori Holdings	NCLTF	9843 JP	Arashi Nishizawa
	Proya Cosmetics	XPXCF	603605 CH	Lynn Wu
	Ryohin Keikaku	RYKKF	7453 JP	Arashi Nishizawa
	Ryohin Keikaku	RYKKY	RYKKY US	Arashi Nishizawa
	Samsonite International	SMSOF	1910 HK	Jack Chen
	Seven & i Holdings	SVNDF	3382 JP	Arashi Nishizawa
	Shenzhou International	SZHIF	2313 HK	Chen Luo, CFA
	Shinsegae	SDKLF	004170 KS	Ahyung Cho
	Sun Art Retail Group	SURRF	6808 HK	Chen Luo, CFA
		SDGCF	9989 JP	Arashi Nishizawa
	Sundrug		•	
	TAL	TAL	TAL US	Lucy Yu
	Tingyi	TCYMF	322 HK	Jack Chen
	Titan Company	XNXAF	TTAN IN	Aditya Mathur
	Topsports International Holding Ltd.	TPSRF	6110 HK	Lucy Yu
	Tsingtao Brewery	TSGTF	168 HK	Lynn Wu
	Tsingtao Brewery	XTSOF	600600 CH	Lynn Wu
	Uni-president China	UNPSF	220 HK	Jack Chen
	UNITED ARROWS	UARWF	7606 JP	Arashi Nishizawa
	United Breweries	UBWRF	UBBL IN	Aditya Mathur
	Varun Beverages	XMKDF	VBLIN	Aditya Mathur
	WH Group Limited	WHGRF	288 HK	Chen Luo, CFA
		YBWUF	000858 CH	Chen Luo, CFA
	Wuliangye Yibin			
	Yili Industrial Group	XIDRF	600887 CH	Chen Luo, CFA
	Yum China	YUMC	YUMC US	Chen Luo, CFA
	Yum China	XYUMF	9987 HK	Chen Luo, CFA
UTRAL				
	Anjoy Foods	XSWCF	603345 CH	Jack Chen
	Asian Paints	XSAFF	APNT IN	Aditya Mathur
	China Feihe	CHFLF	6186 HK	Lynn Wu
		CJEWF	1929 HK	Ronald Leung, CFA
	Chow Tai Fook Jewellery	FRCOF		Arashi Nishizawa
	Fast Retailing		9983 JP	
	Fast Retailing	FRCOY	FRCOY US	Arashi Nishizawa
	Fenbi Ltd	XFTTF	2469 HK	Lucy Yu
	Giant Manufacturing	GTMUF	9921 TT	Ronald Leung, CFA
	Godrej Consumer Products	XGOCF	GCPL IN	Aditya Mathur
	Gree Electric Appliances	ZHUHF	000651 CH	Chen Luo, CFA
	GS Retail	XGLTF	007070 KS	Ahyung Cho
	Haidilao International Holding Ltd.	HDALF	6862 HK	Lucy Yu
	Hengan Intl	HEGIF	1044 HK	lack Chen
	Hotel Shilla	HSLLF	008770 KS	Ahyung Cho
	Jason Furniture	XVZDF	603816 CH	Yoyo Pang
	Jubilant FoodWorks	XJUBF	JUBI IN	Aditya Mathur
	Kirin Holdings	KNBWF	2503 JP	Haruka Ono
		KNBWY	KNBWY US	Haruka Ono
	Kirin Holdings			
	LG H&H	LGHHF	051900 KS	Ahyung Cho
	L'Occitane International S.A.	LCCTF	973 HK	Lynn Wu
	Nestle India	XNTEF	NEST IN	Aditya Mathur
	Nongfu Spring	NNFSF	9633 HK	Jack Chen
	Pan Pacific International HD	DQJCF	7532 JP	Arashi Nishizawa
	Robam Appliance	XVPDF	002508 CH	Lucy Yu
	Sapphire Foods	XLQLF	SAPPHIRE IN	Aditya Mathur
	Tata Consumer Products	XTCUF	TATACONS IN	Aditya Mathur
	Yamada Holdings	YMDAF	9831 JP	Arashi Nishizawa
	Yankershop Food	XYNKF	002847 CH	Jack Chen
	. 3	73113131	3320 17 611	,
DERPERFORM				
	Bairun	XSBZF	002568 CH	Jack Chen
	Dive Mean	XBMGF	6993 HK	Jack Chen
	Blue Moon			
	Britannia Industries	XJNDF	BRIT IN	Aditya Mathur
			BRIT IN CLGT IN	Aditya Mathur Aditya Mathur
	Britannia Industries	XJNDF		3



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APR - Consumer Coverage Cluster

Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
	Foshan Haitian Flavouring & Food Co Ltd	XCMJF	603288 CH	Lynn Wu
	Fuling Zhacai	XSRTF	002507 CH	Lynn Wu
	Heilan Home Co Ltd	XYWDF	600398 CH	Lucy Yu
	Hyundai Dept Store	HDTSF	069960 KS	Ahyung Cho
	Jiangsu Yanghe Brewery	XJBTF	002304 CH	Chen Luo, CFA
	Ligao Foods	XLFLF	300973 CH	Jack Chen
	Lotte Shopping	LOSPF	023530 KS	Ahyung Cho
	Marico	MAIOF	MRCO IN	Aditya Mathur
	Oppein Home Group	XKXRF	603833 CH	Yoyo Pang
	Pidilite Industries	PDLFF	PIDI IN	Aditya Mathur
	Seria	SAOGF	2782 JP	Arashi Nishizawa
	Shanghai Jahwa	SNJUF	600315 CH	Lynn Wu
	Shanghai M&G Stationery	XBHUF	603899 CH	Yoyo Pang
	Shanxi Fen Wine	XCKZF	600809 CH	Lynn Wu
	SHIMAMURA	SHAOF	8227 JP	Arashi Nishizawa
	Smoore	SMORF	6969 HK	Jack Chen
	Suofeiya Home Collection Co Ltd	XGUZF	002572 CH	Yoyo Pang
	United Spirits	XUNIF	UNSPIN	Aditya Mathur
	Want Want China	WWNTF	151 HK	Chen Luo, CFA
	WORKMAN	WKISF	7564 JP	Arashi Nishizawa
	Xiabu Xiabu	XIAXF	520 HK	Lucy Yu
	Yihai Intl	YNNHF	1579 HK	Lucy Yu
	Yihai Kerry Arawana	XYIHF	300999 CH	Lynn Wu
	Yonghui Superstores Co Ltd	XQYXF	601933 CH	Lucy Yu
	Zhejiang Semir Garment Co Ltd	XARGF	002563 CH	Lucy Yu
RSTR				
	Midea Group Co Ltd	XMGEF	000333 CH	Chen Luo, CFA
RVW				
	Adani Wilmar	XWMAF	AWLTD IN	Aditya Mathur
	Fancl	FACYF	4921 JP	Yuri Nishizaki
	Kose	KOSCF	4922 JP	Yuri Nishizaki
	Pola Orbis HD	PORBF	4927 JP	Yuri Nishizaki
	Shimano	SHMDF	7309 JP	Yuri Nishizaki
	Shiseido	SSDOF	4911 JP	Yuri Nishizaki
	Shiseido	SSDOY	SSDOY US	Yuri Nishizaki

IQmethodSM 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	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

Tax Rate Net Debt-To-Equity Ratio Interest Cover	Tax Charge Net Debt = Total Debt — Cash & Equivalents EBIT
Valuation Toolkit	Numerator
Price / Earnings Ratio	Current Share Price
Price / Book Value	Current Share Price

Capex

Dividend Yield Annualised Declared Cash Dividend Free Cash Flow Yield Cash Flow From Operations — Total Capex EV = Current Share Price × Current Shares + Minority Equity + Net Debt + Enterprise Value / Sales

Other LT Liabilities EV / EBITDA Enterprise Value

Denominator Diluted Earnings Per Share (Basis As Specified) Shareholders' Equity / Current Basic Shares Current Share Price

Market Cap = Current Share Price × Current Basic Shares

Depreciation

Pre-Tax Income **Total Equity** Interest Expense

Basic EBIT + Depreciation + Amortization



Asset Replacement Ratio

Valuation Toolkit Numerator Denominator

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

Matarbase* 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

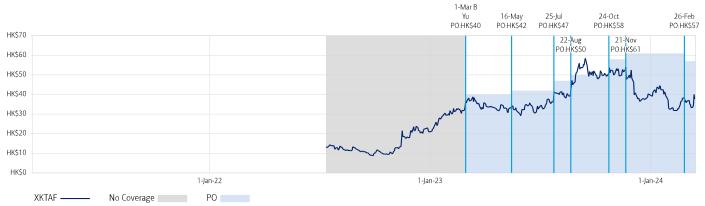
MINISO (MNSO) Price Chart



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.

MINISO (XKTAF) Price Chart



B: Buy, N: Neutral, U: Underperform, PO: Price Objective, NA: No longer valid, NR: No Rating

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

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

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

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

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^{R2}

 Buy
 ≥ 10%
 ≤ 70%

 Neutral
 ≥ 0%
 ≤ 30%

 Underperform
 N/A
 ≥ 20%

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