

Fox Corporation

Healthy bottom line beat

Maintain Rating: NEUTRAL | PO: 38.00 USD | Price: 31.62 USD

F2Q review: Top and bottom-line beat

FOX's F2Q results reflect better revenue and EBITDA vs. our expectations. Total company revenue declined -8% Y/Y (vs. our -9% est.) and EBITDA declined 34% (vs. our -45% est.). Key drivers incl.: (1) better affiliate revenue growth of +4% (vs. +2% est.), (2) lower overall adv. rev. performance of -20% (vs. -19% est.), and (3) better EBITDA margins of 8.3% (vs. 6.9% est.). Adj. EPS of \$0.34 was better than our \$0.12 est. We are encouraged by Fox's solid results amid a challenging environment and believe Fox has the most to gain from the recently announced joint venture with Disney (DIS) and Warner Bros. (WBD) for a sports tier streaming service given Fox's current lack of a subscription video on demand (SVOD) platform.

Cable Networks: adv. -23%, affil. fees essentially flat

Cable Networks revenue growth was better than our estimate (\$1,658mn vs. our \$1,610mn) and EBITDA of \$564mn was above our \$545mn est. driven by: (1) essentially flattish affiliate fee revenue (vs. -2% est.) as contractual price increases were offset by net subscriber declines, (2) lower advertising revenue growth of -23% (vs. -16% est.), driven by the continued impact of elevated supply in the direct response, lower ratings and higher preemptions associated with breaking news coverage at FOX News Media and the absence of the Men's World Cup and (3) other revenue of \$279mn (vs. \$225mn est.) primarily due to higher sports sublicensing revenues at the national sports networks. Segment EBITDA margin of 34.0% was modestly above our 33.9% est. and was impacted by lower sports programming rights amortization and production costs, and lower legal, programming and production costs at FOX News Media.

Television: adv. -19%, affil. fees +10%

Television revenue and EBITDA were better than anticipated with revenue declines of -13% (vs. our -14% est.) and EBITDA of -\$138mn (vs. our -\$180mn) driven by: (1) Affiliate (i.e. retrans and reverse comp) revenue growth of +10% (vs. +8% est.), driven by higher rates at both the company's owned and operated stations and third-party affiliates, (2) better Advertising revenue growth of -19% (vs. -20% est.) primarily due to the absence of the Men's *World Cup* at FOX Sports, lower political advertising revenues at the FOX television stations partially offset by continued growth at Tubi and (3) other revenue of \$132mn (vs. \$144mn est.). Expenses were consistent with the prior year quarter, primarily driven by higher sports programming rights amortization led by the renewed Netflix (NFL) contract partially offset by the absence of the Men's *World Cup*.

Maintain Neutral rating and \$38 PO

Fox appears attractive trading <6x our CY24 EV/EBITDA, below other M&E peers (e.g. DIS at \sim 12x, Paramount (PARA) \sim 8x), and we believe valuation should provide downside protection to shares. Fox also has the least exposure to entertainment advertising given its asset mix, which is biased towards sports and news. Conversely, we anticipate Fox will have challenging Y/Y comparisons in FY24. We project Fox will return to earnings growth in FY25. Maintain Neutral and \$38 PO.

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Refer to important disclosures on page 4 to 7. Analyst Certification on page 3. Price
Objective Basis/Risk on page 3.

07 February 2024

Equity

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Stock Data

ESGMeter™

31.62 USD / 29.34 USD Price (NAS / NAS) Price Objective 38.00 USD / 38.00 USD Date Established 8-Aug-2023 / 8-Aug-2023 B-2-7 / B-2-7 Investment Opinion 52-Week Range 28.67 USD - 37.26 USD Market Value (mn) 19.130 USD Free Float 99.2% Average Daily Value 89.81 USD Shares Outstanding (mn) 6050 / 6050 BofA Ticker / Exchange FOXA / NAS BofA Ticker / Exchange FOX / NAS Bloomberg / Reuters FOXA US / FOXA.OO ROE (2024E) 14 2% Net Dbt to Eqty (Jun-28.1% 2023A)

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Exhibit 1: Fox – Variance Table
Fox beat our F2Q24 revenue and OIBDA estimates

This Quarter

	Act. Est. Old						
Fiscal Year Ends 06/30	FQ2/23A	FQ2/24A	Y/Y	FQ2/24E	Y/Y	D	+/-
OX: Actuals & BofA Estimates							
inancials							
Cable Network Programming Revenue							
Affiliate Fee	\$1,026	\$1,031	0%	\$1,005	-2%	\$26	+
Advertising	\$451	\$348	-23%	\$380	-16%	(\$32)	-
Other	<u>\$155</u>	<u>\$279</u>	<u>80%</u>	<u>\$225</u>	<u>45%</u>	<u>\$54</u>	<u>+</u>
OTAL Cable Network Revenue	\$1,632	\$1,658	2%	\$1,610	-1%	\$48	+
elevision Revenue							
Affiliate Fee	\$686	\$756	10%	\$741	8%	\$15	+
Advertising	\$2,052	\$1,654	-19%	\$1,650	-20%	\$4	+
Other	<u>\$196</u>	<u>\$132</u>	<u>-33%</u>	<u>\$144</u>	<u>-27%</u>	(\$12)	
OTAL Television Revenue	\$2,934	\$2,542	-13%	\$2,535	-14%	\$7	+
Other, Corporate and Eliminations	<u>\$39</u>	<u>\$34</u>	<u>==</u>	<u>\$47</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>(\$13)</u>	<u>=</u>
OTAL Revenue	\$4,605	\$4,234	-8%	\$4,192	- 9 %	\$42	+
Segment OIBDA							-
Cable Network Programming	\$353	\$564	60%	\$545	54%	\$19	+
elevision	\$256	(\$138)	-154%	(\$180)	-170%	\$42	+
Other, Corporate and Eliminations	(\$78)	(\$76)	-3%	(\$75)	-4%	(\$1)	-
OTAL Segment OIBDA	\$531	\$350	-34%	\$290	-45%	\$60	+
Margin %	11.5%	8.3%	-28%	6.9%	-40%		-
Net Income	\$321	\$115	-64%	\$68	-79%	\$47	<u>+</u>
Non Controlling Interests (Big Ten)	\$8	\$6	-25%	\$8	0%	(\$2)	Ξ
Net Income Attributable To New Fox	\$313	\$109	-65%	\$60	-81%	\$49	<u>+</u>
Adjustments	(\$54)	\$56	NM	-	NM	\$56	<u>+</u>
Adjusted Net Income	\$259	\$165	-36%	\$60	-77%	\$105	+
Diluted EPS - Adjusted	\$0.48	\$0.34	-28%	\$0.12	-75%	\$0.22	<u>+</u>
Diluted Shares Outstanding	543	482	-11%	495	-9%	-	_
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Source: BofA Global Research estimates

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Price objective basis & risk

Fox Corporation (FOXA / FOX)

Our \$38 PO is based on 10x CY24E P/FCF, an approximate 30% discount to our Media and Entertainment coverage group due to FOX's greater relative exposure to the linear TV ecosystem.

Upside risks to our PO are a stronger advertising/economic environment, continued strength in ratings/popularity of content, slower Pay TV subscriber losses and higher growth in digital assets and other strategic initiatives from investments.

Downside risks to our PO are a weaker advertising/economic environment, decline in ratings/popularity of content, accelerating Pay TV subscriber losses and higher than forecast investments in digital assets and other strategic initiatives.

Analyst Certification

I, Jessica Reif Ehrlich, 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.



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Fox Corp (FOXA) Price Chart



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

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Fox Corp (FOX) Price Chart



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Equity Investment Rating Distribution: Media & Entertainment Group (as of 31 Dec 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships R1	Count	Percent
Buy	35	53.85%	Buy	15	42.86%
Hold	15	23.08%	Hold	8	53.33%
Sell	15	23.08%	Sell	7	46.67%

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^{R2}

 Buy
 ≥ 10%
 ≤ 70%

 Neutral
 ≥ 0%
 ≤ 30%

 Underperform
 N/A
 ≥ 20%

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