

# American Healthcare REIT Inc.

# A cheaper way to play the senior housing beta trade

Initiating Coverage: BUY | PO: 15.00 USD | Price: 13.68 USD

# Initiating coverage with a Buy rating & a \$15 PO

We initiate coverage on American Healthcare REIT (AHR) with a Buy and a \$15 price objective (PO). AHR has a diversified portfolio of healthcare assets dominated by senior housing and skilled nursing facilities. We think the company stands to benefit from senior housing population trends (Exhibit 8).

# Significant growth potential from the aging of America

As we show in our <u>Senior Housing Primer</u>, demographic trends bode well for demand for such housing. The 82+ population targeted by senior living operators is estimated to grow about six times faster than the overall US population. 40 years. AHR is well positioned to capture this demand and drive earnings growth via its RIDEA exposure in senior housing operating assets (SHOP) (8.1% of NOI) and Trilogy (40.4% of NOI).

#### AHR owns a unique healthcare real estate asset

AHR's owns a unique type of healthcare property; Integrated Senior Health Campuses (ISHC) in a RIDEA structure. These are operated by Trilogy Health Services. Trilogy represents 40.4% of AHR's pro-rata NOI. We view such campuses as a mix of traditional senior housing and skilled nursing facilities. The bed mix is 43% SH and 57% SNF.

# In a RIDEA structure, we see opportunities for AHR

Having the ISHC in a RIDEA allows AHR to participate in the upside and the downside of the facilities. We believe Trilogy has carved out a unique niche and we note we were impressed with the Trilogy management team. As a result, we have a positive bias.

# We see upside of 9.6%; Risks include Trilogy reliance

Our price objective ( $\sim$ 9.6% upside) is derived using an AFFO multiple. We apply a 14x AFFO multiple to our 2024 AFFO estimate of \$1.05. Our multiple is based on AHR's relative mix of healthcare real estate exposure and our view on its portfolio quality relative to publicly traded peers. We note the AFFOx is a discount to peers Ventas and Welltower (both Buy rated). Risks include: AHR's reliance on Trilogy & govt reimbursement risk via SNF exposure.

Estimates (Dec) (US\$)	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
FFO / Share (Reported)	NA	NA	1.27	0.82	0.94
GAAP EPS	NA	NA	(1.08)	(0.66)	(0.41)
FFO / Share Change (YoY)	NA	NA	NA	-35.4%	14.6%
DPS	NA	NA	1.15	1.04	1.07
FFO / Share (Normalized)	NA	NA	1.27	0.82	0.94
AFFO / Share	NA	NA	0.72	0.55	0.67
Valuation (Dec)					
P/FFO (Reported)	NA	NA	10.8x	16.7x	14.6x
GAAP P/E	NA	NA	-12.7x	-20.7x	-33.4x
Dividend Yield	NA	NA	8.4%	7.6%	7.9%
EV / EBITDA	NA	NA	13.5x	11.9x	10.8x
P/FFO (Normalized)	NA	NA	10.8x	16.7x	14.6x
P/AFFO	NA	NA	19.0x	24.9x	20.4x

BofA Securities does and seeks to do business with issuers covered in its research reports. As a result, investors should be aware that the firm may have a conflict of interest that could affect the objectivity of this report. Investors should consider this report as only a single factor in making their investment decision.

Refer to important disclosures on page 14 to 17. Analyst Certification on page 11. Price Objective Basis/Risk on page 11.

Timestamp: 04 March 2024 06:00AM EST

#### 04 March 2024

#### Equity

Joshua Dennerlein Research Analyst BofAS +1 646 855 1681 ioshua.dennerlein@bofa.com

Jeffrey Spector Research Analyst BofAS +1 646 855 1363 jeff.spector@bofa.com

Farrell Granath Research Analyst BofAS farrell.granath@bofa.com

REITs Team

#### **Stock Data**

Price Objective 15.00 USD Date Established 4-Mar-2024 Investment Opinion C-1-7 12.63 USD - 14.56 USD 52-Week Range Mrkt Val (mn) / Shares Out 881 USD / 64.4 (mn) Free Float 98.7% Average Daily Value (mn) NΑ BofA Ticker / Exchange AHR / NYS Bloomberg / Reuters AHRUS / AHR N ROF (2023F)

13 68 USD

0%

See Key terms on page 10.

Net Dbt to Eqty (Dec-2022A)

# iQprofile<sup>™</sup> American Healthcare REIT Inc.

Income Statement Data (Dec)					
(US\$ Millions)	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Rental Revenue	NA	NA	1,853	2,041	2,152
Property Net Operating Income (NOI)	NA	NA	1,853	2,041	2,152
EBITDA (Adjusted)	NA	NA	288	327	361
Net Income (Adjusted)	NA	NA	(87)	(88)	(58)
Funds From Operations (FFO)	NA	NA	84	99	123
% Change	NA	NA	NA	18.4%	24.4%
Normalized Funds from Operations (FFO)	NA	NA	84	99	123
% Change	NA	NA	NA	18.4%	24.4%
Fully Diluted Shares (Year Average)	NA	NA	66	122	131
Cash Flow Statement Data (Dec)					
(US\$ Millions)	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Funds from Operation (FFO)	NA	NA	84	99	123
Capital Expenditure	NA	NA	(74)	0	0
Straight Line Rent / FAS 141	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Adjusted FFO	NA	NA	9	99	123
Dividends	NA	NA	-76	-126	-140
Free Cash Flow	NA	NA	-67	-27	-17
Issue (Purchase) Equity	NA	NA	0	773	0
Share / Issue Repurchase	NA	NA	0	773	0
Cost of Dividends Paid	NA	NA	(76)	(126)	(140)
Change in Debt	NA	NA	(14)	(216)	(361)
Balance Sheet Data (Dec)					
(US\$ Millions)	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Cash & Marketable Securities	NA	NA	0	0	0
Properties at Cost	NA	NA	3,431	3,431	3,431
Total Assets	NA	NA	4,507	4,318	4,129
Total Debt	NA	NA	1,768	1,552	1,190
Total Liabilities	NA	NA	3,015	2,253	2,251
Preferred Stock	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Equity	NA	NA	1,491	2,065	1,879
Total Equity & Liabilities	NA	NA	4,507	4,318	4,129
Key Metrics (Dec)					
(US\$ Millions)	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Acquisitions	NA	NA	0	0	0
Cap Rate	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Developments	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Cap Rate	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Dispositions	NA	NA	(83)	0	0
6 0 .			00/		

NA

NA

2021

NA

NA

NA

NA

2022

NA

NA

NA

0%

NA

2023E

54.0%

1.8x

100.0%

 $\mathsf{N}\mathsf{A}$ 

2024E

59.5%

100.0%

1.9x

#### **Company Sector**

REITs

### **Company Description**

AHR owns a diversified portfolio of healthcare assets spanning: (1) senior housing, (2 medical office, (3) skilled nursing facilities and (4) hospitals. The largest asset type within the portfolio is "integrated senior health campuses (ISHC) in a RIDEA structure. The structure allows healthcare REITs to participate in the upside and downside of a property's performance.

#### **Investment Rationale**

Our investment thesis on AHR is driven by our positive view on senior housing and the aging of America. Demographic trends bode well for senior housing demand. The 82+ population targeted by senior living operators is estimated to grow about six times faster than the overall US population. AHR is well positioned to capture this demand and drive earnings growth via its RIDEA exposure in senior housing operating assets (SHOP) (8.1% of NOI) and Trilogy (40.4% of NOI).

#### **Stock Data**

NA

 $\mathsf{N}\mathsf{A}$ 

2025E

62.7%

100.0%

2.1x

Average Daily Volume

NA

#### **Quarterly Earnings Estimates**

	2022	2023
Q1	NA	0.31A
Q2	NA	0.37A
Q3	NA	0.35A
Q4	NA	0.24E

Same Store Revenue Growth

Performance Metrics (Dec)

Operating Margin

Interest Cover

Return on Invested Capital (ROIC)

(US\$ Millions)

# **Investment summary**

# Investment Thesis: Buy rating and a \$15 PO

We initiate coverage on American Healthcare REIT (AHR) with a Buy and a \$15 price objective (PO). AHR is a publicly traded self-managed real estate investment trust. The company went public via an IPO. On February 06, 2024, the Company's common shares were listed on the New York Stock Exchange. AHR was formed from non-traded REITs focused on the healthcare real estate sector.

Our investment thesis on AHR is driven by our positive view on senior housing and the aging of America. As we lay out in our <u>Senior Housing Primer</u>, demographic trends bode well for senior housing demand. The 82+ population targeted by senior living operators is estimated to grow about six times faster than the overall US population. AHR is well positioned to capture this demand and drive earnings growth via its RIDEA exposure in senior housing operating assets (SHOP) (8.1% of NOI) and Trilogy (40.4% of NOI).

#### **Exhibit 1: Summary of Investment positives and negatives**

We believe the investment positives outweigh the investment negatives at the current valuation

#### **Investment Positives**

AHR: the third option to ride the SH demographic wave Trilogy has carved out a niche with healthcare real estate Cheaper way to play the senior housing recovery BofA Global Research

#### **Investment Negatives**

Trilogy: concentration risk & unknown business model MOB portfolio is lower quality than public peers Dividend payout is elevated; roughly 100% in 2024

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# **Valuation**

Our \$15 price objective is derived using an AFFO multiple. We apply a 14x AFFO multiple our 2024 AFFO estimate of \$1.05. Our applied multiple is based on AHR's relative mix of healthcare real estate exposure and our view on its portfolio quality relative to publicly traded peers. Although we do not use a NAV approach to derive our PO, we calculated a one year forward NAV of \$21.

#### **Exhibit 2: Segments**

Blended Street AFFOx comps for AHR pro rata segmentation

Segments	Pro rata ABR	<b>AFFO</b> x
Integrated Senior Health Campuses	40.4%	15.4x
SHOP	43.0%	21.5x
SNFs	57.0%	10.8x
MOBs	36.0%	11.6x
SHOP	8.1%	21.5x
Senior Housing - Leased	4.4%	12.8x
SNFs	8.0%	10.8x
Hospitals	3.1%	11.0x
Total	100.0%	13.9x

**Source:** Factset Priced as of 02/28/2024

Note: Comps per segment: SHOP: WELL, VTR; SNF: OHI SBRA; MOB: HR, DOC; SH Leased: VTR, SBRA, OHI; Hospitals: SBRA, DOC, OHI

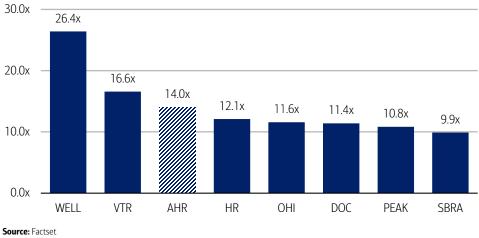
BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Price return to our PO indicates 9.6% potential upside and 17.2% potential total return, including the 7.6% dividend yield, which suggests a Buy rating. Upside and downside risks to our PO are: the performance of Trilogy which represents 40.4% of AHR's total NOI, the pace and timing of a recovery in AHR's senior housing operating assets (8.1% of NOI), external growth opportunities at yields higher than AHR's cost of capital, and releasing spreads and retention in their medical office portfolio.



#### **Exhibit 3: 2024 AFFO multiples**

2024 implied street AFFO multiples vs applied AHR AFFOx



Priced as of 2/28/2024

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# Company overview

#### A diversified healthcare REIT

The company was formed in 2015 and is headquartered in Irvine. The company's executive team has an average of 26 years of real estate experience. On February 06, 2024, the Company's common shares were listed on the New York Stock Exchange. As of September 30<sup>th</sup>, AHR's portfolio consists of 298 properties in 36 states, the United Kingdom and the Isle of Man.

#### Significant upside from its RIDEA portfolio (48.5% of total NOI)

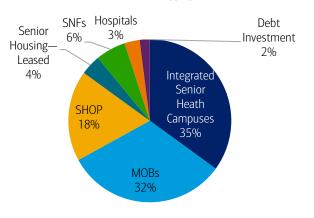
AHR owns a diversified portfolio of healthcare assets spanning: (1) senior housing, (2 medical office, (3) skilled nursing facilities and (4) hospitals. The largest asset type within the portfolio is "integrated senior health campuses (ISHC) in a RIDEA structure. The structure allows healthcare REITs to participate in the upside and downside of a properties performance. For more on the RIDEA structure see our <u>Senior Housing Primer</u>.

ISHC's are unique within our coverage universe and are a cross between traditional senior housing and skilled nursing facilities. Trilogy is the sole operator of the ISHC within AHR's portfolio. AHR's owns a 74% interest in Trilogy and has a purchase option to purchase the minority stake.



#### **Exhibit 4: Segment diversification**

ISHC and SHOP make up the most of the aggregate purchase price



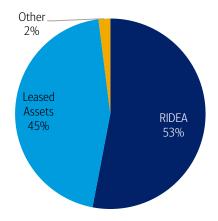
#### Source: Company filings

Note: Based on aggregate contract purchase price of \$4.1 billion on a pro rata ownership basis as of June 30, 2023.

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# Exhibit 5: RIDEA / operating portfolio concentration

More than 50% of the portfolio is in a RIDEA structure



Source: Company filings

Note: Based on aggregate contract purchase price of \$4.1 billion on a pro rata ownership basis as of June 30, 2023.

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# Unique in that it owns ISHCs; cross between SH & SNF

#### Trilogy's ISHC assets are AHR's largest property type exposure

AHR's owns a unique type of healthcare real estate property that AHR calls Integrated Senior Health Campuses (ISHC). These assets are operated by These assets are operated by Trilogy Health Services. Trilogy represents 40.4% of AHR's pro-rata NOI.

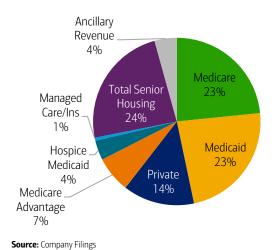
We view integrated senior health campus (Trilogy) as a crossover between traditional senior housing and skilled nursing facilities. In a way, they are similar to rental continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs) in that they offer a continuum of care as resident's acuity changes. Trilogy charges market rents and no entry fees - like rental CCRCs. However, the primary difference is that Trilogy has a higher percent of beds focused on skilled nursing care than CCRCs.

Another unique aspect of AHR's exposure to Trilogy is that the assets are in a RIDEA structure allowing AHR to participate in the upside of the facilities. On the flip side, it also exposes AHR to downside if Trilogy underperforms. We are more familiar with senior housing assets being in a RIDEA structure. That said, PEAK has 9.4% of its NOI focused on traditional entry fee CCRCs. The main difference is that Trilogy has a much larger percent of its beds focused on SNFs. From our perspective, we are less familiar with how SNFs beds will perform across a cycle given that our historical coverage universe only has SNFs properties in traditional lease structures.



#### Exhibit 6: Trilogy's payment breakdown

Roughly half of Trilogy's revenues comes from government payers



Portfolio (operator) **Total** 

Source: Company filings; as of 3Q23

Cogir Senior Living (operator)

Vista Springs (tenant & operator)

TL Management (tenant & operator)

Senior Solution Management Group, Texas

Tenants/Operators

Trilogy Manager (operator)

Heritage Senior Living (operator)

Exhibit 7: Top 10 tenants/operators

Reliant Care Management (tenant & operator)

Methodist Health System (tenant & operator)

Bane Care Management (tenant & operator)

Good Shepherd Health System (tenant)

Trilogy Manager makes up 40.4% of pro rata ABR

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

% of ABR

40.4%

3.2%

3.0%

3.0%

2.7%

2.6%

2 4%

1.9%

1.7%

1.7%

62.6%

Property Segment

SHOP

SNF

SNF

MOBs

SHOP

SNF

SNF

Hospitals

SH-Leased

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

#### AHR has an option to acquire the remainder of Trilogy

On November 3, 2023, AHR entered into a Membership Interest Purchase Agreement, (the "Trilogy Holdings Option Agreement") with subsidiaries of NorthStar Healthcare Income, Inc. The agreement provides AHR with the option to purchase the 24.0% minority membership interest in Trilogy Holdings that it does not own. If exercised, AHR will own 100% of Trilogy Holdings. The purchase option is exercisable within three timing windows before September 30, 2025:

- Before March 31, 2024 for a cash purchase price of \$240.5M
- Between April 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024 for a cash purchase price of \$247M
- After January 1, 2025 for a cash purchase price of \$260M.

The agreement provides AHR with the option to issue preferred equity to NorthStar. Preferred equity can be used for up to 90% of the purchase price. The yield on the preferred would start at 4.75% but would increase over time. The preferred is perpetual but can be redeemed by AHR anytime. In addition, holders have the right to convert to AHR common equity on or after July 1, 2026.

We expect AHR to purchase the minority stake but timing is uncertain.

# Strategy: grow NOI in its RIDEA portfolio & modest Trilogy developments

Near term, we see AHR focused on two key initiatives:

- First, maximizing NOI in its RIDEA portfolio. AHR has significant upside in its SHOP portfolio as occupancy recovers. AHR's SHOP occupancy is 80.3% which is below the industry average occupancy of 85.8% and publicly traded peers VTR & WELL. We note that AHR has transitioned several properties from the net lease portfolio to RIDEA recently.
- Second, AHR will work with Trilogy on growing its portfolio via development. Over the last 7 years, AHR has added 3-5 facilities annually at high returns. For the last 7 properties, Trilogy development assets were stabilized at a weighted average yield of 11.2%.

Management also has a history of finding acquisition opportunities. Management has acquired over \$9.6B over the last 17 years on behalf of AHR and three other prior public reporting REITs. At this time, we are not factoring any external acquisitions into our base case. AHR's cost of capital remains higher than peers which suggests more limited external growth via acquisitions.



# **Investment positives**

# AHR: the third option to ride the SH demographic wave

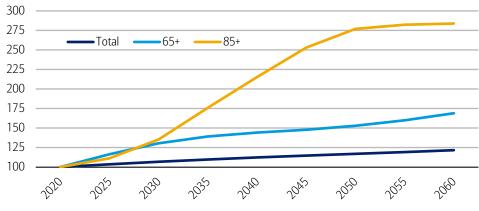
We are bullish on the outlook for senior housing fundamentals. AHR represents the third option for investors to play the senior housing story given its exposure to senior housing both via its Senior Housing Operating (SHOP) portfolio (8.1% of NOI) and Trilogy (40.4% of NOI). We note that we have Buy ratings on VTR and WELL which have 37.9% and 49.6% exposure to SHOP.

We are positive on senior housing given population trends (Exhibit 8) and increasing awareness of the benefits of assisted living and memory care options bode well for the industry's prospects. The 82+ population targeted by senior living operators is estimated to grow about six times faster than the overall US population.

Senior housing has high fixed costs which bodes well for AHR's NOI uplift. NOI break evens range from 30% to 50% occupancy, depending on acuity levels, amenities, activities, and property quality. From breakeven occupancy to 85%, NOI margin rises to 25 to 35%. Margins are typically on the higher end for IL and lower for AL. Above 85% occupancy, an incremental resident results in 80% to 90% of revenue flowing straight through to the bottom line. For more see our Senior Housing primer

#### Exhibit 8: Projected population size, indexed to 100 in 2020

The population of those 85+ is projected to grow at 5x the national average



Source: US Census

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# Trilogy has carved out a niche with healthcare real estate

AHR owns a unique type of healthcare real estate asset that management calls "Integrated Senior Health Campuses" (ISHC). In our view, the ISHC properties are similar to rental continuing care retirement communities in that they provide a continuum of care as residents acuity rises. However, the campus are smaller (similar in size to traditional senior housing assets) and have a higher skew of skilled nursing (SNF) beds. We believe Trilogy has carved out a strong niche within its markets with the type of product it offers.

We toured several Trilogy assets and met with the management team as part of our due diligence on AHR. We were impressed by both the quality of the assets and the management team. We believe AHR's management is focused on driving operational excellence via a strong culture. We saw the culture first hand in our meetings and tours.

Trilogy assets and strategy are unique but key drivers of its performance in our view. The portfolio is heavily concentrated in four Midwestern states (Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan). Trilogy's strategy is to cluster assets to drive operating efficiencies via its scale. Trilogy leverages its scale to centralize key business functions such as recruiting, marketing and compliance for use by multiple facilities. In addition, its developed an "internal agency" of nurses, called "Flex Force" that can work as needed at different



facilities. This eliminates the need for costly 3rd party staffing agencies and helps maintain a consistent, high-quality service across the portfolio.

For AHR, there are two key positives of having the exposure to Trilogy. First, the properties are structured in a RIDEA structure which allows AHR to participate in the upside of the operations. Second, AHR utilizes Trilogy's development team to identify, source and manage ground up developments. Over the last 7 years, AHR has added 3-5 facilities annually at high returns. For the last 7 properties, Trilogy development assets were stabilized at a weighted average yield of 11.2%.

# Cheaper way to play the senior housing recovery

As we mentioned previously, AHR is the third way within our coverage universe to play the senior housing story. We note that WELL and VTR trade at significant premiums on a multiple basis to AHR. As of 3/1/2024, WELL's 2024 AFFOx is 25.9x and VTR's is 17.3x Meanwhile, AHR trades at a 13.0x on our 2024 AFFO estimate.

Given differences in growth trajectories across the three REITs, we believe utilizing a PEG or PEGY helps to put the growth and multiple in context. Exhibit 9 shows the PEG and PEGY for AHR versus other healthcare REITs including VTR and WELL. We find that AHR screens best on a PEG basis within healthcare REITs.

#### **Exhibit 9: PEG & PEGY Analysis**

AHR screens well on both a PEG and a PEGY basis relative to other healthcare REITs

Ticker	Price	Dividend yield	2024 AFFOx	AFFO growth (4-year CAGR)	PEG (4-yr CAGR)	PEGY (4-yr CAGR)
AHR	\$13.64	7.6%	13.0x	12.7%	1.02	0.64
WELL	\$91.86	2.7%	25.8x	16.9%	1.53	1.31
VTR	\$42.48	4.4%	17.4x	6.4%	2.72	1.61
PEAK	\$16.55	7.3%	10.7x	3.4%	3.15	1.01
OHI	\$31.53	8.5%	12.2x	3.5%	3.45	1.01
ARE	\$121.40	4.3%	15.4x	3.9%	3.96	1.87
SBRA	\$14.00	8.8%	9.9x	2.5%	4.00	0.88
Average ex AHR		6.0%	15.2x	6.1%	2.50	1.26

**Source:** BofA Global Research Priced as of 02/29/2024

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# Investment risks/negatives

# Trilogy: concentration risk & unknown business model

We see three key risks from Trilogy.

- First, Trilogy is 40.4% of AHR's total NOI. As a result, the underlying performance of Trilogy will be the key driver of AHR's earnings. In other words, concentration risk is extremely high at AHR.
- Second, Trilogy has a unique business model which we are unfamiliar with. Key
  questions that are unknowns to us are: (1) it is not clear if another operator could
  step in to operate some or all of the Trilogy facilities if Trilogy runs into operating
  issues, (2) the strength of the current Trilogy management team appears to be a key
  driver of its performance, (3) we are not sure how Trilogy will performance across
  economic cycles and (4) there is significant geographic concentration risk given
  Trilogy assets are clustered in four states: Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio and Michigan.
- Third, given Trilogy's bed are 57% SNF beds, Trilogy is exposed to government reimbursement risk.



### Exhibit 10: Trilogy geographic diversification

Trilogy is split between 43% SH and 57% SNF beds

State	# of Buildings	Senior Housing	SNF	Total
Indiana	66	2,682	3,902	6,584
Michigan	14	652	741	1,393
Ohio	29	1,364	1,756	3,120
Kentucky	16	682	835	1,517
Total/Avg	125	5380	7234	12614

Source: Company filings

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

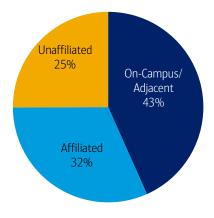
### MOB portfolio is lower quality than public peers

We view AHR's medical office building (MOB) portfolio as lower quality than public traded peers. Most publicly traded peers have focused on owning "on campus" or affiliated medical office buildings. On Campus MOBs are facilities located on a hospital campus. Affiliated MOBs are assets that are affiliated with a health system. In both cases, we believe retention of tenants is higher given the association with a large health system that attracts patients and doctors.

Using this metric as a gauge of AHR's medical office quality, AHR has the lowest quality MOB portfolio out of our comp set. Roughly, 25% of AHR properties are off campus and not affiliated based on their disclosures. However, the true figure is likely higher. AHR buckets it's on campus and affiliated exposure at 75%. However, this includes assets that management defines as "adjacent". We spoke to AHR who flagged that adjacent must be near a hospital and a health system and also needs to occupy at least 25% of the building. Exhibit 11 shows the exposure to off campus and unaffiliated assets across our coverage.

#### **Exhibit 11: MOB property composition**

On-Campus/Adjacent and Affiliated properties make up 75% of the composition



Source: Company Filings

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# Dividend payout is elevated; roughly 100% in 2024

We estimate that AHR's dividend payout as a percent of AFFO will be elevated in 2024 before falling to a more sustainable level in 2025. We project that the 2024 payout ratio will be 98.9% and 93.4% in 2025. We note peers' payout ratios for 2024 and 2025 in Exhibit 12 below.



#### Exhibit 12: 2024 dividend payout ratio

AHR's dividend payout ratio of 98.9% in 2024 is elevated compared to peer average of 80.7%

Ticker	AFFO p	er share	Dividends	per share	Dividend p	ayout ratio
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
ARE	\$7.90	\$8.15	\$5.27	\$5.53	66.7%	67.9%
OHI	\$2.59	\$2.91	\$2.68	\$2.68	103.5%	92.1%
PEAK	\$1.54	\$1.69	\$1.20	\$1.22	77.9%	72.4%
SBRA	\$1.41	\$1.50	\$1.24	\$1.27	87.7%	84.9%
VTR	\$2.44	\$2.57	\$1.89	\$1.98	77.5%	77.0%
WELL	\$3.55	\$4.35	\$2.53	\$2.63	71.1%	60.3%
AHR	\$1.05	\$1.15	\$1.04	\$1.07	98.9%	93.4%
Average ex AHR					80.7%	75.8%

Source: BofA Global Research

As of 2/28./024

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# Key terms

AFFO: Adjusted Funds from Operations CAGR: Compound Annual Growth Rate

EBITDAR: earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, amortization, and rent EBITDARM: earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, amortization, rent and

management fees. HC: Healthcare

ISHC: Integrated Senior Health Campus

MOB: Medical office building NAV: Net Asset Value NOI: Net Operating Income PEG: Price Earnings to Growth

PEGY: Price Earnings to Growth and Yield REVPOR: Revenue per occupied bed

RIDEA: REIT Investment Diversification and Empowerment

SHOP: senior housing operating portfolio

SS: same store SH: senior housing

SHOP: Senior housing operating portfolios

SNF: skilled nursing facilities

**US: United States** 

# **Companies mentioned**

#### **Exhibit 13: Companies mentioned**

Companies mentioned in this report

Ticker	Company Name
ARE	Alexandria Real Estate Equities
WELL	Welltower Inc
MPW	Medical Properties Trust Inc
OHI	Omega Healthcare Investors
PEAK	Healthpeak Properties Inc
SBRA	Sabra Health Care Reit Inc
VTR	Ventas Inc

DOC Physicians Realty Trust

HR Healthcare Realty Trust Inc

Source: Bloomberg



10

#### **Exhibit 13: Companies mentioned**

Companies mentioned in this report

Ticker

**Company Name** 

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

#### **Exhibit 14: Stocks mentioned**

Prices and ratings for stocks mentioned in this report

BofA Ticker	Bloomberg ticker	Company name	Price	Rating
VTR	VTR US	Ventas Inc.	US\$ 44	B-1-7
WELL	WELL US	Welltower	US\$ 92.72	B-1-7

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# Price objective basis & risk

#### American Healthcare REIT Inc. (AHR)

Our \$15 price objective is derived using an AFFO multiple. We apply a 14x AFFO multiple our 2024 AFFO estimate of \$1.05. Our applied multiple is based on AHR's relative mix of healthcare real estate exposure and our view on its portfolio quality relative to publicly traded peers. Although we do not use a NAV approach to derive our PO, we calculated a one year forward NAV of \$21.

Risks: AHR's reliance on Trilogy & govt reimbursement risk via SNF exposure..

#### Ventas, Inc. (VTR)

Our \$49 price objective is derived by applying an AFFO multiple to our 2024 forward AFFO estimate as we look to a more normalized earnings period. We apply a target AFFO multiple of 20x, which reflects the current market conditions.

Upside risks to our price objective are better-than-expected senior housing fundamentals, declining interest rates, and lower tenant risk.

Downside risks to our price objective are weaker-than-expected senior housing fundamentals, increased tenant credit risk, and rising interest rates

#### Welltower (WELL)

Our \$129 price objective for WELL is now derived by running a 5 year forward analysis of WELL's growth prospects under various scenarios. Our base case implies a share price of \$152 in 2028. Then we discount that share price back using a discount rate of 4.28% (the 10-year Treasury rate as of 02.26.2024) to back into our PO of \$129. Upside risks to our PO are better-than-expected senior housing or medical office building performance, higher-than-forecast dividend growth and lower interest rates. Downside risks to our PO are further public-pay reimbursement cuts, a more competitive acquisitions environment, weaker-than-expected senior housing fundamentals, increased tenant credit risk, and rising interest rates.

# **Analyst Certification**

I, Joshua Dennerlein, 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 - REITs Coverage Cluster**

Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
BUY				
	Agree Realty Corp	ADC	ADC US	Joshua Dennerlein
	Alexandria Real Estate Equities	ARE	ARE US	Joshua Dennerlein
	American Healthcare REIT Inc.	AHR	AHR US	Joshua Dennerlein
	American Homes 4 Rent	AMH	AMH US	Jeffrey Spector
	Americold Realty Trust	COLD	COLD US	Joshua Dennerlein
	AvalonBay Communities Inc	AVB	AVB US	Joshua Dennerlein
	Boston Properties	BXP	BXP US	Jeffrey Spector
	Brixmor Property Group	BRX	BRX US	Jeffrey Spector
	COPT Defense Properties	CDP	CDP US	Camille Bonnel
	Cousins Properties Inc.	CUZ	CUZ US	Camille Bonnel
	EastGroup Properties	EGP	EGP US	Jeffrey Spector
	Empire State Realty Trust	ESRT	ESRT US	Camille Bonnel
	Equity Residential	EQR	EQR US	Jeffrey Spector
	Essential Properties	EPRT	EPRT US	Joshua Dennerlein
	Federal Realty	FRT	FRT US	Jeffrey Spector
	Invitation Homes Inc	INVH	INVH US	Joshua Dennerlein
	Kimco Realty	KIM	KIM US	Jeffrey Spector
	Kite Realty Group	KRG	KRG US	Jeffrey Spector
	Phillips Edison & Company	PECO	PECO US	Jeffrey Spector
	Prologis, Inc.	PLD	PLD US	Camille Bonnel
	Public Storage, Inc.	PSA	PSA US	Jeffrey Spector
	Regency	REG	REG US	Jeffrey Spector
	Rexford Industrial Realty	REXR	REXR US	Camille Bonnel
	Sabra Health Care	SBRA	SBRA US	Joshua Dennerlein
	Simon Property	SPG	SPG US	Jeffrey Spector
	Ventas, Inc.	VTR	VTR US	Jeffrey Spector
	Welltower	WELL	WELL US	Joshua Dennerlein
UTRAL	.ve.ice.ve.			jeshaa bermenem
J I IVAL	Acadia Realty Trust	AKR	AKR US	Jeffrey Spector
	CubeSmart	CUBE	CUBE US	Jeffrey Spector
	EPR Properties	EPR	EPR US	Joshua Dennerlein
	Equity LifeStyle Properties	ELS	ELS US	Jeffrey Spector
	Essex Property Trust, Inc.	ESS	ESS US	Joshua Dennerlein
	Extra Space Storage, Inc.	EXR	EXR US	Jeffrey Spector
	Getty Realty Corp.	GTY	GTY US	Joshua Dennerlein
	Highwoods Properties	HIW	HIW US	Camille Bonnel
	Ingriwoods Properties InvenTrust Properties	IVT	IVT US	Jeffrey Spector
		KRC	KRC US	Camille Bonnel
	Kilroy Realty Corporation		MAC US	
	Macerich	MAC		Jeffrey Spector
	OMEGA Healthcare	OHI	OHI US	Joshua Dennerlein
	Realty Income	0	O US	Jeffrey Spector
	Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.	ROIC	ROIC US	Jeffrey Spector
	SL Green Realty	SLG	SLG US	Camille Bonnel
	Sun Communities	SUI	SULUS	Joshua Dennerlein
	UDR, Inc.	UDR	UDR US	Joshua Dennerlein
	Veris Residential Inc Vornado Realty	VRE VNO	VRE US VNO US	Joshua Dennerlein Camille Bonnel
NDERPERFORM	*Situate reality	V140	VIVO 03	Carrille Doffici
	American Assets Trust	AAT	AAT US	Camille Bonnel
	Armada Hoffler Properties	АНН	AHH US	Camille Bonnel
	Camden Property Trust	CPT	CPT US	Joshua Dennerlein
	Douglas Emmett	DEI	DELUS	Camille Bonnel
	Healthpeak Properties, Inc.	DOC	DOC US	Joshua Dennerlein
	Hudson Pacific Properties, Inc.	HPP	HPP US	Camille Bonnel
	Kennedy Wilson	KW	KW US	Joshua Dennerlein
	LXP Industrial Trust	LXP	LXP US	Camille Bonnel
	Medical Properties Trust, Inc.	MPW	MPW US	Joshua Dennerlein
	Mid-America Apartment Communities, Inc.	MAA	MAA US	Joshua Dennerlein
	National Storage Affiliates Trust	NSA	NSA US	Jeffrey Spector
	NetSTREIT	NTST	NTST US	Joshua Dennerlein
	NNN REIT Inc	NNN	NNN US	Joshua Dennerlein
	Paramount Group	PGRE	PGRE US	Camille Bonnel
	D. L. D. L. T	DICT	. SILE OS	

PKST

PKST US

Joshua Dennerlein



Peakstone Realty Trust

#### **US - REITs Coverage Cluster**

Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
	STAG Industrial	STAG	STAG US	Camille Bonnel
	Tanger Inc	SKT	SKT US	Jeffrey Spector
	WP Carey	WPC	WPC US	Joshua Dennerlein

# *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 +	Sales
	Other LT Liabilities	
EV / EBITDA	Enterprise Value	Basic EBIT + Depreciation + Amortization

Manethod 3<sup>ss</sup> 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.

\*\*Ratachase\*\* 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.

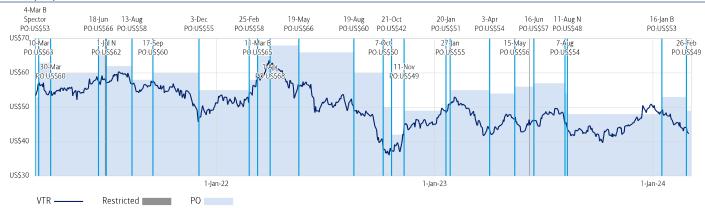
\*\*Morofile 5M\*\*, \*\*Momethod 5M\*\* are service marks of Bank of America Corporation. \*\*\*/Motobase\*\* is a registered service mark of Bank of America Corporation.



# **Disclosures**

# **Important Disclosures**

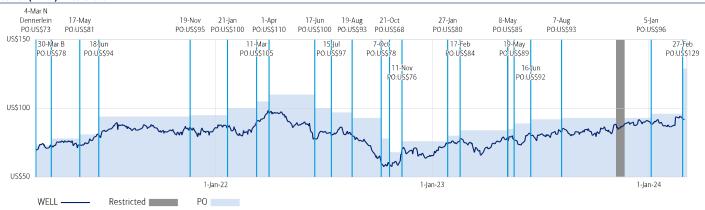
#### Ventas Inc. (VTR) Price Chart



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.

#### **Welltower (WELL) 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: REITs (Real Estate Investment Trusts) Group (as of 31 Dec 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships R1	Count	Percent
Buy	40	46.51%	Buy	33	82.50%
Hold	27	31.40%	Hold	21	77.78%
Sell	19	22.09%	Sell	16	84.21%

#### 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<sup>R2</sup>

 Buy
 ≥ 10%
 ≤ 70%

 Neutral
 ≥ 0%
 ≤ 30%

 Underperform
 N/A
 ≥ 20%

INCOME RATINGS, indicators of potential cash dividends, are: 7 - same/higher (dividend considered to be secure), 8 - same/lower (dividend not considered to be secure) and 9 - pays no cash dividend. Coverage Cluster is comprised of stocks covered by a single analyst or two or more analysts sharing a common industry, sector, region or other classification(s). A stock's coverage cluster is included in the most recent BofA Global Research report referencing the stock.

Price Charts for the securities referenced in this research report are available on the Price Charts website, or call 1-800-MERRILL to have them mailed.

BofAS or one of its affiliates acts as a market maker for the equity securities recommended in the report: American Healthcare, Ventas Inc., Welltower.

BofAS or an affiliate was a manager of a public offering of securities of this issuer within the last 12 months: American Healthcare, Ventas Inc., Welltower.

The issuer is or was, within the last 12 months, an investment banking client of BofAS and/or one or more of its affiliates: American Healthcare, Ventas Inc., Welltower.

BofAS or an affiliate has received compensation from the issuer for non-investment banking services or products within the past 12 months: American Healthcare, Ventas Inc., Welltower.

The issuer is or was, within the last 12 months, a non-securities business client of BofAS and/or one or more of its affiliates: American Healthcare, Ventas Inc., Welltower.

BofAS or an affiliate has received compensation for investment banking services from this issuer within the past 12 months: American Healthcare, Ventas Inc., Welltower.

BofAS or an affiliate expects to receive or intends to seek compensation for investment banking services from this issuer or an affiliate of the issuer within the next three months: Ventas Inc., Welltower.

BofAS together with its affiliates beneficially owns one percent or more of the common stock of this issuer. If this report was issued on or after the 9th day of the month, it reflects the ownership position on the last day of the previous month. Reports issued before the 9th day of a month reflect the ownership position at the end of the second month preceding the date of the report: Welltower.

BofAS or one of its affiliates is willing to sell to, or buy from, clients the common equity of the issuer on a principal basis: American Healthcare, Ventas Inc., Welltower.
The issuer is or was, within the last 12 months, a securities business client (non-investment banking) of BofAS and/or one or more of its affiliates: Ventas Inc., Welltower.
BofA Global Research personnel (including the analyst(s) responsible for this report) receive compensation based upon, among other factors, the overall profitability of Bank of America Corporation, including profits derived from investment banking. The analyst(s) responsible for this report may also receive compensation based upon, among other factors, the overall profitability of the Bank's sales and trading businesses relating to the class of securities or financial instruments for which such analyst is responsible.

# **Other Important Disclosures**

From time to time research analysts conduct site visits of covered issuers. BofA Global Research policies prohibit research analysts from accepting payment or reimbursement for travel expenses from the issuer for such visits.

Prices are indicative and for information purposes only. Except as otherwise stated in the report, for any recommendation in relation to an equity security, the price referenced is the publicly traded price of the security as of close of business on the day prior to the date of the report or, if the report is published during intraday trading, the price referenced is indicative of the traded price as of the date and time of the report and in relation to a debt security (including equity preferred and CDS), prices are indicative as of the date and time of the report and are from various sources including BofA Securities trading desks.

The date and time of completion of the production of any recommendation in this report shall be the date and time of dissemination of this report as recorded in the report timestamp.

Recipients who are not institutional investors or market professionals should seek the advice of their independent financial advisor before considering information in this report in connection with any investment decision, or for a necessary explanation of its contents.

Officers of BofAS or one or more of its affiliates (other than research analysts) may have a financial interest in securities of the issuer(s) or in related investments. Refer to BofA Global Research policies relating to conflicts of interest.

"BofA Securities" includes BofA Securities, Inc. ("BofAS") and its affiliates. Investors should contact their BofA Securities representative or Merrill Global Wealth Management financial advisor if they have questions concerning this report or concerning the appropriateness of any investment idea described herein for such investor. "BofA Securities" is a global brand for BofA Global Research.

#### Information relating to Non-US affiliates of BofA Securities and Distribution of Affiliate Research Reports:

BofAS and/or Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated ("MLPF&S") may in the future distribute, information of the following non-US affiliates in the US (short name: legal name, regulator): Merrill Lynch (South Africa): Merrill Lynch South Africa (Pty) Ltd., regulated by The Financial Service Board; MLI (UK): Merrill Lynch International, regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA); BofASE (France): BofA Securities Europe SA is authorized by the Autorité de Contrôle Prudentiel et de Résolution (ACPR) and regulated by the ACPR and the Autorité des Marchés Financiers (AMF). BofA Securities Europe SA ("BofASE") with registered address at 51, rue La Boétie, 75008 Paris is registered under no 842 602 690 RCS Paris. In accordance with the provisions of French Code Monétaire et Financier (Monetary and Financial Code), BofASE is an établissement de crédit et d'investissement (credit and investment institution) that is authorised and supervised by the European Central Bank and the Autorité de Contrôle Prudentiel et de Résolution (ACPR) and regulated by the ACPR and the Autorité des Marchés Financiers. BofASE's share capital can be found at www.bofaml.com/BofASEdisclaimer; BofA Europe (Milan): Bank of America Europe Designated Activity Company, Milan Branch, regulated by the Bank of Italy, the European Central Bank (ECB) and the Central Bank of Ireland (CBI); BofA Europe (Frankfurt): Bank of America Europe Designated Activity Company, Frankfurt Branch regulated by BaFin, the ECB and the CBI; BofA Europe (Madrid): Bank of America Europe Designated Activity Company, Sucursal en España, regulated by the Bank of Spain, the ECB and the CBI; Merrill Lynch (Australia): Merrill Lynch (Australia): Merrill Lynch (Hong Kong): Merrill (Hong Kong): Merr (Asia Pacific) Limited, regulated by the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission (HKSFC); Merrill Lynch (Singapore): Merrill Lynch (Singapore) Pte Ltd, regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS); Merrill Lynch (Canada): Merrill Lynch (Canada): Merrill Lynch (Canada): Merrill Lynch (Mexico): Merrill Ly de Bolsa, regulated by the Comisión Nacional Bancaria y de Valores; Merrill Lynch (Argentina): Merrill Lynch Argentina SA, regulated by Comisión Nacional de Valores; BofAS Japan: BofA Securities Japan Co., Ltd., regulated by the Financial Services Agency; Merrill Lynch (Seoul): Merrill Lynch International, LLC Seoul Branch, regulated by the Financial Supervisory Service; Merrill Lynch (Taiwan): Merrill Lynch Securities (Taiwan) Ltd., regulated by the Securities and Futures Bureau; BofAS India: BofA Securities India Limited, regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI); Merrill Lynch (Israel): Merrill Lynch (Israel): Merrill Lynch (Israel): Merrill Lynch (Israel) (Israel): Merrill Lynch (Israel): Merr Financial Services Authority (DFSA); Merrill Lynch (Brazil): Merrill Lynch S.A. Corretora de Títulos e Valores Mobiliários, regulated by Comissão de Valores Mobiliários; Merrill Lynch KSA Company: Merrill Lynch Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Company, regulated by the Capital Market Authority.



R2 Ratings dispersions may vary from time to time where BofA Global Research believes it better reflects the investment prospects of stocks in a Coverage Cluster.

This information: has been approved for publication and is distributed in the United Kingdom (UK) to professional clients and eligible counterparties (as each is defined in the rules of the FCA and the PRA) by MLI (UK), which is authorized by the PRA and regulated by the FCA and the PRA - details about the extent of our regulation by the FCA and PRA are available from us on request; has been approved for publication and is distributed in the European Economic Area (EEA) by BofASE (France), which is authorized by the ACPR and regulated by the ACPR and the AMF; has been considered and distributed in Japan by BofAS Japan, a registered securities dealer under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act in Japan, or its permitted affiliates; is issued and distributed in Hong Kong by Merrill Lynch (Hong Kong) which is regulated by HKSFC; is issued and distributed in Taiwan by Merrill Lynch (Taiwan); is issued and distributed in India by BofAS India; and is issued and distributed in Singapore to institutional investors and/or accredited investors (each as defined under the Financial Advisers Regulations) by Merrill Lynch (Singapore) (Company Registration No 198602883D). Merrill Lynch (Singapore) is regulated by MAS. Merrill Lynch Equities (Australia) Limited (ABN 65 006 276 795), AFS License 235132 (MLEA) distributes this information in Australia only to 'Wholesale' clients as defined by s.761G of the Corporations Act 2001. With the exception of Bank of America N.A., Australia Branch, neither MLEA nor any of its affiliates involved in preparing this information is an Authorised Deposit-Taking Institution under the Banking Act 1959 nor regulated by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority. No approval is required for publication or distribution of this information in Brazil and its local distribution is by Merrill Lynch (Brazil) in accordance with applicable regulations. Merrill Lynch (DIFC) is authorized and regulated by the DFSA. Information in Germany and is regulated by Merrill Lynch (DIFC) is done so in accor

This information has been prepared and issued by BofAS and/or one or more of its non-US affiliates. The author(s) of this information may not be licensed to carry on regulated activities in your jurisdiction and, if not licensed, do not hold themselves out as being able to do so. BofAS and/or MLPF&S is the distributor of this information in the US and accepts full responsibility for information distributed to BofAS and/or MLPF&S clients in the US by its non-US affiliates. Any US person receiving this information and wishing to effect any transaction in any security discussed herein should do so through BofAS and/or MLPF&S and not such foreign affiliates. Hong Kong recipients of this information should contact Merrill Lynch (Asia Pacific) Limited in respect of any matters relating to dealing in securities or provision of specific advice on securities or any other matters arising from, or in connection with, this information. Singapore recipients of this information should contact Merrill Lynch (Singapore) Pte Ltd in respect of any matters arising from, or in connection with, this information. For clients that are not accredited investors, expert investors or institutional investors Merrill Lynch (Singapore) Pte Ltd accepts full responsibility for the contents of this information distributed to such clients in Singapore.

#### General Investment Related Disclosures:

Taiwan Readers: Neither the information nor any opinion expressed herein constitutes an offer or a solicitation of an offer to transact in any securities or other financial instrument. No part of this report may be used or reproduced or quoted in any manner whatsoever in Taiwan by the press or any other person without the express written consent of BofA Securities. This document provides general information only, and has been prepared for, and is intended for general distribution to, BofA Securities clients. Neither the information nor any opinion expressed constitutes an offer or an invitation to make an offer, to buy or sell any securities or other financial instrument or any derivative related to such securities or instruments (e.g., options, futures, warrants, and contracts for differences). This document is not intended to provide personal investment advice and it does not take into account the specific investment objectives, financial situation and the particular needs of, and is not directed to, any specific person(s). This document and its content do not constitute, and should not be considered to constitute, investment advice for purposes of ERISA, the US tax code, the Investment Advisers Act or otherwise. Investors should seek financial advice regarding the appropriateness of investing in financial instruments and implementing investment strategies discussed or recommended in this document and should understand that statements regarding future prospects may not be realized. Any decision to purchase or subscribe for securities in any offering must be based solely on existing public information on such security or the information in the prospectus or other offering document issued in connection with such offering, and not on this document.

Securities and other financial instruments referred to herein, or recommended, offered or sold by BofA Securities, are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and are not deposits or other obligations of any insured depository institution (including, Bank of America, N.A.). Investments in general and, derivatives, in particular, involve numerous risks, including, among others, market risk, counterparty default risk and liquidity risk. No security, financial instrument or derivative is suitable for all investors. Digital assets are extremely speculative, volatile and are largely unregulated. In some cases, securities and other financial instruments may be difficult to value or sell and reliable information about the value or risks related to the security or financial instrument may be difficult to obtain. Investors should note that income from such securities and other financial instruments, if any, may fluctuate and that price or value of such securities and instruments may rise or fall and, in some cases, investors may lose their entire principal investment. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Levels and basis for taxation may change.

This report may contain a short-term trading idea or recommendation, which highlights a specific near-term catalyst or event impacting the issuer or the market that is anticipated to have a short-term price impact on the equity securities of the issuer. Short-term trading ideas and recommendations are different from and do not affect a stock's fundamental equity rating, which reflects both a longer term total return expectation and attractiveness for investment relative to other stocks within its Coverage Cluster. Short-term trading ideas and recommendations may be more or less positive than a stock's fundamental equity rating.

BofA Securities is aware that the implementation of the ideas expressed in this report may depend upon an investor's ability to "short" securities or other financial instruments and that such action may be limited by regulations prohibiting or restricting "shortselling" in many jurisdictions. Investors are urged to seek advice regarding the applicability of such regulations prior to executing any short idea contained in this report.

Foreign currency rates of exchange may adversely affect the value, price or income of any security or financial instrument mentioned herein. Investors in such securities and instruments, including ADRs, effectively assume currency risk.

BofAS or one of its affiliates is a regular issuer of traded financial instruments linked to securities that may have been recommended in this report. BofAS or one of its affiliates may, at any time, hold a trading position (long or short) in the securities and financial instruments discussed in this report.

BofA Securities, through business units other than BofA Global Research, may have issued and may in the future issue trading ideas or recommendations that are inconsistent with, and reach different conclusions from, the information presented herein. Such ideas or recommendations may reflect different time frames, assumptions, views and analytical methods of the persons who prepared them, and BofA Securities is under no obligation to ensure that such other trading ideas or recommendations are brought to the attention of any recipient of this information. In the event that the recipient received this information pursuant to a contract between the recipient and BofAS for the provision of research services for a separate fee, and in connection therewith BofAS may be deemed to be acting as an investment adviser, such status relates, if at all, solely to the person with whom BofAS has contracted directly and does not extend beyond the delivery of this report (unless otherwise agreed specifically in writing by BofAS). If such recipient uses the services of BofAS in connection with the sale or purchase of a security referred to herein, BofAS may act as principal for its own account or as agent for another person. BofAS is and continues to act solely as a broker-dealer in connection with the execution of any transactions, including transactions in any securities referred to herein.

#### BofA ESGMeter Methodology:

ESGMeter is a proprietary metric based on quantitative analysis and fundamental analyst inputs that reflects our assessment of a company's Environmental, Social and Governance-related attributes. The ESGMeter is intended to indicate a company's likelihood of experiencing stronger financial stability (higher return on equity and lower earnings and price volatility) over the next three years relative to peer group. There are three ESGMeter levels - Low, Medium, and High - which indicate whether a company has attributes most likely to translate into superior financial stability (in the case of a High level) or weaker financial stability (in the case of a Low level) over the next three years relative to its peer group. A Medium level suggests that a company exhibits ESG characteristics that are likely associated with financial stability results in line with its peer group over the next three years. Full details of our methodology, financial stability definition and disclaimers are available at <a href="mailto:BofA ESGMeter methodology">BofA ESGMeter methodology</a>. ESGMeter is not indicative of a company's future stock price performance and is not an investment recommendation or rating. ESGMeter is independent of the BofA Global Research fundamental equity analyst's investment rating, volatility risk rating, income rating or price objective for that company.

#### Copyright and General Information:

Copyright 2024 Bank of America Corporation. All rights reserved. iQdatabase® is a registered service mark of Bank of America Corporation. This information is prepared for the use of BofA Securities clients and may not be redistributed, retransmitted or disclosed, in whole or in part, or in any form or manner, without the express written consent of BofA Securities. BofA Global Research information is distributed simultaneously to internal and client websites and other portals by BofA Securities and is not publicly-available material. Any unauthorized use or disclosure is prohibited. Receipt and review of this information constitutes your agreement not to redistribute, retransmit, or disclose to others the contents, opinions, conclusion, or information contained herein (including any investment recommendations, estimates or price targets) without first obtaining express permission from an authorized officer of BofA Securities. Materials prepared by BofA Global Research personnel are based on public information. Facts and views presented in this material have not been reviewed by, and may not reflect information known to, professionals in other business areas of BofA Securities, including investment banking personnel. BofA Securities has established information barriers between BofA Global Research and certain business groups. As a result, BofA Securities does not disclose certain client relationships with, or compensation received from, such issuers. To the extent this material discusses



any legal proceeding or issues, it has not been prepared as nor is it intended to express any legal conclusion, opinion or advice. Investors should consult their own legal advisers as to issues of law relating to the subject matter of this material. BofA Global Research personnel's knowledge of legal proceedings in which any BofA Securities entity and/or its directors, officers and employees may be plaintiffs, defendants, co-defendants or co-plaintiffs with or involving issuers mentioned in this material is based on public information. Facts and views presented in this material that relate to any such proceedings have not been reviewed by, discussed with, and may not reflect information known to, professionals in other business areas of BofA Securities in connection with the legal proceedings or matters relevant to such proceedings.

This information has been prepared independently of any issuer of securities mentioned herein and not in connection with any proposed offering of securities or as agent of any issuer of any securities. None of BofAS any of its affiliates or their research analysts has any authority whatsoever to make any representation or warranty on behalf of the issuer(s). BofA Global Research policy prohibits research personnel from disclosing a recommendation, investment rating, or investment thesis for review by an issuer prior to the publication of a research report containing such rating, recommendation or investment thesis.

Any information relating to the tax status of financial instruments discussed herein is not intended to provide tax advice or to be used by anyone to provide tax advice. Investors are urged to seek tax advice based on their particular circumstances from an independent tax professional.

The information herein (other than disclosure information relating to BofA Securities and its affiliates) was obtained from various sources and we do not guarantee its accuracy. This information may contain links to third-party websites. BofA Securities is not responsible for the content of any third-party website or any linked content contained in a third-party website. Content contained on such third-party websites is not part of this information and is not incorporated by reference. The inclusion of a link does not imply any endorsement by or any affiliation with BofA Securities. Access to any third-party website is at your own risk, and you should always review the terms and privacy policies at third-party websites before submitting any personal information to them. BofA Securities is not responsible for such terms and privacy policies and expressly disclaims any liability for them.

All opinions, projections and estimates constitute the judgment of the author as of the date of publication and are subject to change without notice. Prices also are subject to change without notice. BofA Securities is under no obligation to update this information and BofA Securities ability to publish information on the subject issuer(s) in the future is subject to applicable quiet periods. You should therefore assume that BofA Securities will not update any fact, circumstance or opinion contained herein.

Subject to the quiet period applicable under laws of the various jurisdictions in which we distribute research reports and other legal and BofA Securities policy-related restrictions on the publication of research reports, fundamental equity reports are produced on a regular basis as necessary to keep the investment recommendation current.

Certain outstanding reports or investment opinions relating to securities, financial instruments and/or issuers may no longer be current. Always refer to the most recent research report relating to an issuer prior to making an investment decision.

In some cases, an issuer may be classified as Restricted or may be Under Review or Extended Review. In each case, investors should consider any investment opinion relating to such issuer (or its security and/or financial instruments) to be suspended or withdrawn and should not rely on the analyses and investment opinion(s) pertaining to such issuer (or its securities and/or financial instruments) nor should the analyses or opinion(s) be considered a solicitation of any kind. Sales persons and financial advisors affiliated with BofAS or any of its affiliates may not solicit purchases of securities or financial instruments that are Restricted or Under Review and may only solicit securities under Extended Review in accordance with firm policies.

Neither BofA Securities nor any officer or employee of BofA Securities accepts any liability whatsoever for any direct, indirect or consequential damages or losses arising from any use of this information.

