

## Kinsale

### 1Q22: Another Strong Quarter, Positive Momentum in Results to Persist

KNSL closed on another strong quarter with premium growth and underwriting margins coming in above expectations. We consider Kinsale a high-quality E&S franchise and expect it to perform well through the underwriting cycle. Also, we expect its financial results to exhibit positive momentum over the medium term as it unwinds excess reserves on its balance sheet, continues to write business at favorable prices/terms, and benefits from higher interest rates. Still, we remain Neutral on the stock given its valuation as well as the risk of multiple compression as the P&C pricing cycle continues to moderate (albeit more gradually than we had initially expected).

- EPS beat.** KNSL reported 1Q22 operating EPS of \$1.63, above our \$1.45 estimate and consensus of \$1.52, with a lower loss ratio (57.4% vs. 60.0%E) more than compensating for a higher expense ratio (21.6% vs. 21.2%E). Net written premium growth was strong (+50.0% vs. +31.6%E). Within the loss ratio attritional losses were higher (62.0% vs. 61.0%E), but lower catastrophes (de minimis vs. 2.0%E) and higher reserve releases (PYD of -4.7% vs. -3.0%E) were a larger offset. Overall, the 1Q22 CR was 79.0% (vs. 81.2%E) and the AY CR was 83.6% (vs. 82.2%E). KNSL's results have exceeded expectations for five consecutive quarters and we believe there could be upside in our estimates from a lower loss ratio (AY loss ratio, reserve releases), higher investment income, and premium growth.
- Operating conditions remained favorable in 1Q22.** Similar to past quarters KNSL attributed strong premium growth to higher submission activity from brokers and more favorable pricing, a dynamic partly captured by the company's disclosure on average premium per policy (\$14,200 in 1Q22 vs. \$12,300 in 1Q21). KNSL's disclosure indicates that while still growing, submissions/quotes/bound policies have actually been increasing at a slowing rate since 2019 (submissions +13% in 2021, +21% in 2020, and +32% in 2019), implying that positive pricing and exposure growth have been larger offsets considering that gross premium growth has stayed roughly consistent at 40% over the same time period. Turning to reserves, KNSL disclosed that the favorable development of \$8.3 million in 1Q22 was largely driven by reserve releases from accident years 2020 and 2021 (\$10.1 million), partly offset by unfavorable development on accident years 2016-2018 (\$2.0 million). KNSL's annual statutory filings indicate a faster pace of reserve development for AY 2020 (8 points in year 1) compared to AY 2017-2019 (3-5 points in year 1), and we believe that AY 2021 is likely to carry a reserve cushion more similar to the former.
- Similar to other insurers we expect investment income to be a source of upside for Kinsale over time.** KNSL's portfolio yield in 1Q22 was 2.5% (4.6 year duration and average rating of AA-), below the 3%+ yield available on comparable securities in the current environment.

Sources for: Style Exposure – J.P. Morgan Quantitative and Derivatives Strategy; all other tables are company data and J.P. Morgan estimates.

## Neutral

**KNSL, KNSL US**

Price (28 Apr 22): \$231.00

▲ Price Target (Dec-22): \$240.00  
Prior (Dec-22): \$225.00

## Insurance - Life & Nonlife

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## Key Changes (FYE Dec)

	Prev	Cur
Adj. EPS - 22E (\$)	6.47	6.83
Adj. EPS - 23E (\$)	7.45	7.87

## Quarterly Forecasts (FYE Dec)

Adj. EPS (\$)	2021A	2022E	2023E
Q1	1.11	1.63A	
Q2	1.28	1.65	
Q3	1.59	1.58	
Q4	1.76	1.90	
FY	5.74	6.83	7.87

## Style Exposure

Quant Factors	Current %Rank	Hist %Rank (1=Top)				
		6M	1Y	3Y	5Y	
Value	98	95	98	99	96	
Growth	4	5	5	8	1	
Momentum	4	80	84	5	14	
Quality	10	12	19	21	19	
Low Vol	80	47	39	63	72	
ESGQ	74	74	74	93	-	

## 1Q22 Results

EPS: \$1.63A vs. \$1.45E  
NPW growth: +50.0% vs +31.6%E  
Comb. ratio: 79.0% vs. 81.2%E

## Positives

Overall margins  
Premium growth

## Negatives

AY combined ratio

**See page 10 for analyst certification and important disclosures.**

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## Price Performance



## Company Data

Shares O/S (mn)	23
52-week range (\$)	245.17-153.12
Market cap (\$ mn)	5,291.64
Exchange rate	1.00
Free float(%)	94.3%
3M - Avg daily vol (mn)	0.11
3M - Avg daily val (\$ mn)	22.7
Volatility (90 Day)	37
Index	RUSSELL 2000
BBG BUY HOLD SELL	3 3 0

## Key Metrics (FYE Dec)

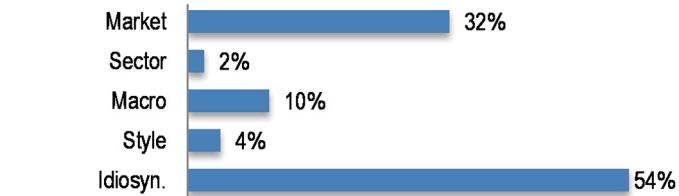
\$ in millions	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E
<b>Financial Estimates</b>			
NEP (Premium)	583	781	0
Underwriting income	134	159	(785)
Net investment income	57	39	43
Operating income	190	198	(743)
Adj. PBT	189	193	(750)
Adj. net income	132	158	182
Adj. EPS	5.74	6.83	7.87
BBG EPS	5.36	6.48	7.53
DPS	0.44	0.52	0.60
Investments	697	763	932
BVPS	30.63	33.53	40.92
NAVPS	-	-	-
<b>Margins and Growth</b>			
Adj. EPS growth	81.4%	19.0%	15.2%
<b>Ratios</b>			
Adj. tax rate	19.1%	18.1%	(5.7%)
Loss ratio	55.7%	58.2%	59.0%
Combined ratio	77.1%	79.7%	59.0%
Invest inc. % of Investments	-	-	-
Regulatory solvency ratio	-	-	-
Leverage (Debt/Debt+Equity)	-	-	-
ROE	20.8%	21.6%	21.5%
<b>Valuation</b>			
Dividend yield	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%
Adj. P/E	40.2	33.8	29.3
P/BV	7.5	6.9	5.6

## Summary Investment Thesis and Valuation

### Investment Thesis

KNSL is the only publicly traded P&C insurer that operates exclusively in the E&S insurance market with a focus on small commercial accounts. Our long-term outlook for KNSL is upbeat given its large addressable market, superior technology platform, and low cost base, which we view as a sustainable competitive advantage. Still, the stock's valuation seems full and we are concerned about the risk of multiple compression as the P&C pricing cycle continues to turn.

### Performance Drivers



Factors	6M Corr	1Y Corr
<b>Market:</b> MSCI US	0.60	0.50
<b>Sect:</b> Financials	-0.43	-0.27
<b>Ind:</b> Insurance	-0.48	-0.19
<b>Macro:</b>		
Economic Surprise	0.53	0.40
US 10yr yield	-0.43	-0.26
Credit Spread	0.24	0.26
<b>Quant Styles:</b>		
Quality	0.43	0.33
LowVol	0.24	0.23
Momentum	0.41	0.18

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## Investment Thesis

Please see Page 5 for tables summarizing 1Q22 results.

KNSL will hold its earnings conference call at 9:00 AM Eastern on April 29, 2022.

The dial-in number for the call is 844-239-5282, code: 8992208.

The call replay will be available on <https://ir.kinsalecapitalgroup.com>.

**We maintain our Neutral rating.** In our view, KNSL is well positioned to benefit from the hard P&C market from both a volume and margin perspective. Also, we think that its low-cost operating model is a sustainable competitive advantage in the E&S market across the pricing cycle, especially against higher-cost competitors such as Lloyd's writers. On the other hand, the stock's valuation seems full compared to commercial peers and specialist names even after accounting for KNSL's growth potential and above-average margins. Also, while favorable P&C market conditions have persisted longer than we had initially anticipated and will have positive implications for embedded margins, we believe that the eventual turn in the P&C pricing cycle presents downside risk to its above-average multiple.

### Well-Positioned to Capitalize on Favorable P&C Market

We expect the E&S market, where KNSL operates exclusively, to see continued strong new business flows and healthy price hikes in the near to medium term despite a handful of major underwriters increasing their focus on growth. We believe this favorable operating backdrop will give KNSL ample opportunities to continue driving strong premium growth. Similarly, the combination of price hikes and conservative reserving should allow KNSL to report healthy (and likely improving margins) for the foreseeable future. Looking beyond the current hard market, we see KNSL sustaining growth by continuing to build out its product offering, expanding distribution, and gaining incremental market share from other insurers that have less pricing flexibility to compete because of their much higher expense ratios.

### Low Expenses a Durable Competitive Advantage

Kinsale operates with a proprietary and fully integrated technology platform that it built from the ground up, in contrast to many of its peers that use unwieldy hybrid systems consisting of legacy platforms and newer technologies. The net result has been an operating model that has the capacity to take on significant business volumes without sacrificing customer responsiveness, underwriting quality, and expense efficiency. We think that this operating leverage gives Kinsale the ability to outperform higher cost competitors (especially Lloyd's platforms, which constitute more than 20% of the E&S market) through the pricing cycle. During softer markets, KNSL has the ability to grow premiums as others pull back while maintaining above-average profitability. In hard markets, Kinsale can operate comfortably as a price taker and generate an even larger excess return relative to other companies.

### Eventual Turn in Pricing Cycle is a Risk

The P&C industry is well into the current hard market and we expect price hikes to continue moderating modestly through 2022 and 2023 as re/insurers re-position themselves for growth and clients push back on rate-on-rate price hikes. This seems to be reflected in multiples for commercial P&C names, which are essentially flat versus pre-COVID-19 levels, but less so for specialist names like KNSL, which are trading at a premium compared to historical levels. In our view, this presents the risk of multiple compression as pricing/volume swings tend to be more volatile in E&S given its function as a safety valve for the industry. Although we believe that KNSL will thrive even if prices soften, our view is that a reasonable valuation analysis will necessarily have to look several years out because of KNSL's above-average growth profile (our reference year is 2024), and would therefore have to account for how conditions in the P&C market are likely to be at that future time.

## 1Q22 Summary Results

The following tables and charts summarize KNSL's 1Q22 results as well as its operating performance over the past several years:

**Table 1: 1Q22 Earnings: Actual versus Expected**

\$ in millions, %, and bps

	JPM 1Q22E	Actual 1Q22	Actual v. Expected
<b>Underwriting Results</b>			
Net premiums written (\$)	189.9	216.5	14.0%
Net premiums earned (\$)	176.5	178.6	1.2%
Loss ratio			
AY loss ratio	60.0%	57.4%	-259 bps
Catastrophe losses	61.0%	62.0%	105 bps
Unfavorable (favorable) PYD	2.0%	0.0%	-197 bps
Expense ratio	-3.0%	-4.7%	-167 bps
Combined ratio	21.2%	21.6%	39 bps
AY combined ratio ex. cats	81.2%	79.0%	-221 bps
AY combined ratio ex. cats			
<b>Summary Income Statement</b>			
Underwriting income	33.2	37.5	13.1%
Net investment income	8.8	9.1	3.5%
Taxes and other	(8.3)	(8.9)	7.5%
Operating income	33.7	37.7	11.9%
Operating EPS	\$1.45	\$1.63	12.4%

Source: Company reports and J.P. Morgan estimates.

**Table 2: Historical Operating Performance**

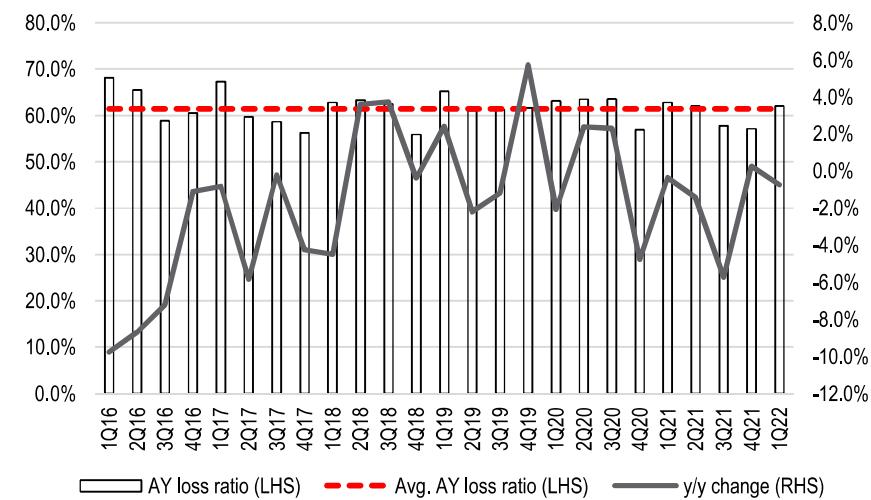
\$ in millions and %

	2016	2017	2018	2019	1Q20	2Q20	3Q20	4Q20	2020	1Q21	2021	3Q21	4Q21	2021	1Q22
<b>Premium Trends</b>															
Gross written premiums	188.5	223.2	275.5	389.7	124.0	134.1	144.8	149.9	552.8	168.9	194.1	197.6	203.8	764.4	245.5
% ceded	11.3%	15.1%	14.5%	12.2%	12.9%	12.3%	15.6%	13.1%	13.5%	14.6%	13.6%	13.6%	12.9%	13.6%	11.8%
Net written premiums	167.3	189.5	235.6	342.1	108.1	117.6	122.2	130.3	478.2	144.3	167.8	170.7	177.5	660.2	216.5
% growth y/y	99.1%	13.3%	24.4%	45.2%	47.9%	42.2%	40.9%	30.9%	39.8%	33.5%	42.6%	39.6%	36.2%	38.1%	50.0%
Net earned premiums	133.8	176.1	212.7	283.0	89.8	97.0	108.2	117.8	412.8	123.0	137.7	156.9	165.3	582.9	178.6
% growth y/y	80.0%	31.6%	20.8%	33.0%	46.0%	46.7%	49.1%	42.3%	45.9%	37.1%	42.0%	44.9%	40.3%	41.2%	45.1%
<b>Underwriting Results</b>															
AY loss ratio	63.0%	60.2%	60.9%	62.2%	63.1%	63.5%	63.5%	56.9%	61.5%	62.8%	62.0%	57.8%	57.1%	59.7%	62.0%
Catastrophe losses	0.0%	5.0%	2.6%	1.1%	0.1%	0.4%	15.4%	5.1%	5.6%	0.1%	2.1%	3.7%	-0.1%	1.5%	0.0%
Unfavorable (favorable) PYD	-10.0%	-6.4%	-3.3%	-3.3%	-3.4%	-3.7%	-2.8%	-3.1%	-3.2%	-5.7%	-6.6%	-5.9%	-4.0%	-5.5%	-4.7%
Loss ratio	53.0%	58.9%	60.2%	59.9%	59.9%	60.1%	76.2%	58.9%	63.9%	57.1%	57.5%	55.7%	53.1%	55.7%	57.4%
Expense ratio	21.3%	25.1%	25.1%	24.8%	24.0%	23.7%	21.2%	22.8%	22.8%	21.7%	20.1%	21.4%	21.4%	21.6%	
<b>Combined ratio</b>	<b>74.4%</b>	<b>84.0%</b>	<b>85.3%</b>	<b>84.7%</b>	<b>83.9%</b>	<b>83.8%</b>	<b>97.3%</b>	<b>81.6%</b>	<b>86.8%</b>	<b>80.0%</b>	<b>79.2%</b>	<b>75.7%</b>	<b>74.5%</b>	<b>77.1%</b>	<b>79.0%</b>
AY combined ratio ex. cats	84.4%	85.3%	86.0%	87.0%	87.2%	87.1%	84.7%	79.6%	84.4%	85.7%	83.7%	77.9%	78.6%	81.1%	83.6%
<b>Investment Results</b>															
Net investment income	7.5	10.6	15.7	20.1	6.0	6.6	7.0	6.5	26.1	6.9	7.4	8.1	8.6	31.0	9.1
% growth y/y	32.7%	41.2%	48.4%	28.3%	32.0%	38.3%	33.1%	17.1%	29.7%	16.5%	11.8%	15.5%	32.1%	18.9%	30.9%
Duration	3.7	3.9	3.9	4.3	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.6
Gross yield ex. cash (YTD)	2.2%	2.4%	3.0%	3.1%	2.9%	3.0%	3.0%	2.9%	2.9%	2.6%	2.6%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Cash and invested assets	480.3	561.1	643.1	908.2	955.0	1,100.0	1,200.0	1,300.0	1,300.0	1,400.0	1,500.0	1,600.0	1,700.0	1,700.0	1,700.0
% growth y/y	16.8%	14.6%	41.2%	34.9%	49.8%	38.1%	43.1%	43.1%	46.6%	36.4%	33.3%	30.8%	30.8%	21.4%	

Source: Company reports and J.P. Morgan estimates.

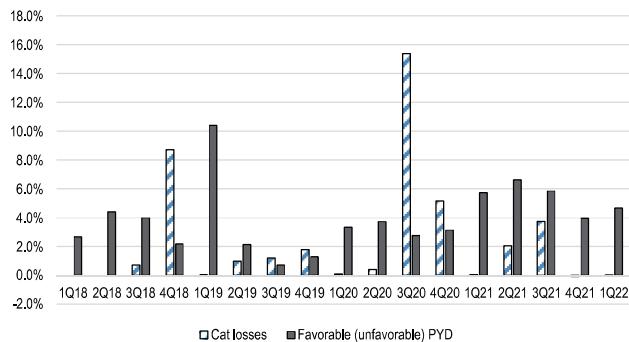
**Figure 1: Historical AY Loss Ratio Trends**

% of net earned premiums



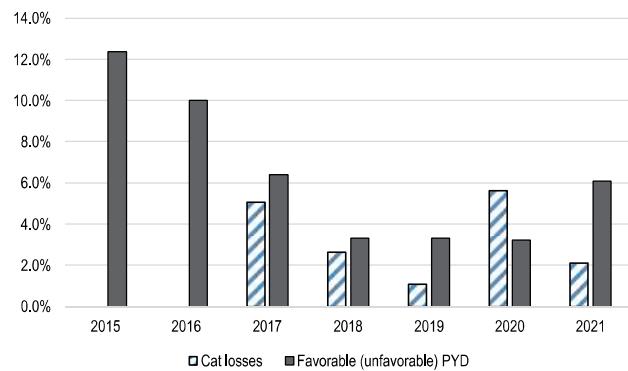
Source: Company reports and J.P. Morgan estimates.

**Figure 2: Historical Catastrophe and PYD Trends (Quarterly)**  
 % of net earned premiums



Source: Company reports and J.P. Morgan estimates.

**Figure 3: Historical Catastrophe and PYD Trends (Annual)**  
 % of net earned premiums



Source: Company reports and J.P. Morgan estimates.

## Raising Estimates

We are increasing our EPS estimates (2Q22 from \$1.61 to \$1.65, 2022 from \$6.47 to \$6.83, 2023 from \$7.45 to \$7.87) to reflect modest increases in our assumptions for premium growth, margins/combined ratio, and investment income, partly offset by higher interest expense on debt we assume KNSL will issue in 2H22.

## Investment Thesis, Valuation and Risks

### Kinsale Capital (Neutral; Price Target: \$240.00)

#### Investment Thesis

KNSL is the only publicly traded P&C insurer that operates exclusively in the E&S insurance market with a focus on small commercial accounts. Our long-term outlook for KNSL is positive given its large addressable market, superior technology platform, and low cost base, which we view as a sustainable competitive advantage. Still, the stock's valuation seems full at current levels and we are concerned about the risk of multiple compression as the P&C pricing cycle continues to moderate.

#### Valuation

**We are raising our December 2022 price target from \$225 to \$240.** Our December 2022 target assumes a 4.8x P/BV target multiple on 2024 book value and a 26.0x P/E target on 2024 EPS, which we believe is justified given KNSL's above-average premium growth (+20% growth versus mid- to high-single-digit growth for most large commercial peers) and margin profile (80-85% combined ratio versus 85-90% for peers). KNSL trades at 6.9x book value, well above the specialty peer average (ex. PLMR) of 2.0x and commercial peers at 1.6x.

#### Risks to Rating and Price Target

We believe the main upside risks to our rating and price target are:

- **The hard P&C market lasts longer than expected.** Kinsale is seeing higher prices and greater submission flow because of dislocation in the P&C market. If current conditions persist longer than we assume, there could be upside to our forecasts and investor sentiment would likely improve.
- **Premium growth surpasses already elevated expectations.** In our view, part of KNSL's premium valuation is attributable to its above-average growth. We would expect KNSL's valuation multiple to expand if it consistently exceeds growth expectations in the next few years.
- **Margin improvement is greater than assumed.** The combination of earned pricing exceeding loss cost trends and management's conservative reserving suggests margin improvement in the next few years. If KNSL's margin improvement tracks higher than expectations, there could be upside to forecasts.

We believe the main downside risks to our rating and price target are:

- **Increased competition and/or push back from insurance clients dampens the pricing cycle.** The insurance industry is well into the hard market and clients are beginning to push back more strongly on price hikes while more insurers are deploying capital and positioning themselves for growth. If the cycle begins to turn, we believe there is a risk of multiple compression for insurers that have seen an outsized benefit from higher prices.
- **Adverse loss trends or social inflation re-emerge in casualty reserves.** Although unlikely to be a material risk for KNSL given its specific exposures and low limits, the re-opening of the economy and the court system could drive a surge in pent-up liability claims.

- **Unfavorable loss experience emerges from new lines of business.** Kinsale has a strong underwriting track record and it is entering new lines of business in a very strong part of the cycle. Still, given the long-tail nature of casualty coverage, the impact of badly underwritten risks is likely to persist.

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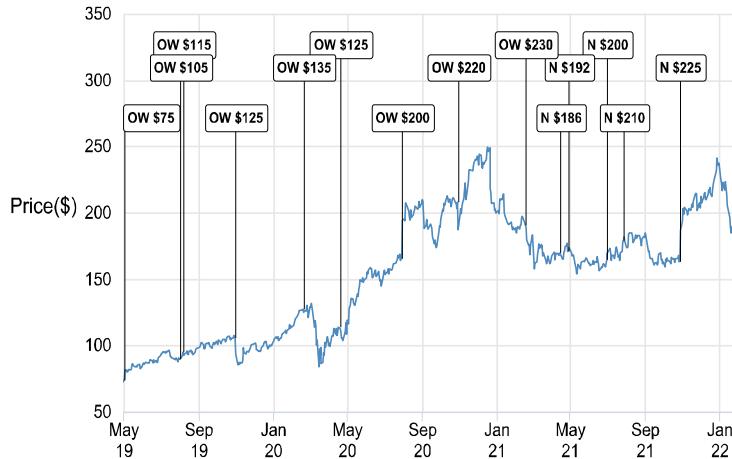
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### Kinsale (KNSL, KNSL US) Price Chart



Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P. and J.P. Morgan; price data adjusted for stock splits and dividends.  
 Initiated coverage Aug 22, 2016. All share prices are as of market close on the previous business day.

The chart(s) show J.P. Morgan's continuing coverage of the stocks; the current analysts may or may not have covered it over the entire period.

J.P. Morgan ratings or designations: OW = Overweight, N= Neutral, UW = Underweight, NR = Not Rated

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"Other Disclosures" last revised April 09, 2022.

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North America Equity Research  
28 April 2022

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