

# **First Read**

# Hiscox

# No change in thesis, though top-line a touch soft

#### Q: How did the results compare versus expectations?

A: Overall: Overall, a minor premium miss to UBSe at gross level across all 3 divisions (though partially FX driven) while a better net premium growth data point will help offset. This appears driven by dampening rate momentum. Investment performance and claims data points are in line. **Detail: 1.Premium**: Hiscox reported ICWP of \$1,558m, representing 3.3% growth at ccy, with FX lowering this to 2.4% YoY in USD, below UBSe 3.5%. Retail: Gross ICWP was a 2% miss to UBSe , +4% YoY on a like-for-like basis. UK & Europe growth was 4% YoY in \$ terms, driving the miss to UBSe with US growth in line with our expectation, while the dampening in UK was greater than we had forecast. Re&ILS: Net ICWP growth of 8% YoY was a 3% beat to UBSe. 2. Claims experience: The previously disclosed \$170m estimated loss for California Wildfire (based on a \$40bn industry loss) has been reiterated. We note that this consumes c.90% of UBSe assumed catastrophe budget and other catastrophe losses in the quarter are well within budget expectations. 3. Investment return: 3M inv. return of \$114m effectively met UBSe of \$112m as did the \$8.5bn investment portfolio. Reinvestment yield of 4.5%, meets UBSe.

#### Q: What were the most noteworthy areas in the results?

A: 1) US DPD: Q1 premium growth 6.6%, below our anticipated c.8%. Worth noting in absolute \$s this is only \$2m shy of UBSe, but still a heavily investor-focused line item. A new brand campaign has been launched and is expected to provide a tailwind. The progression of quarterly growth has been Q2: 6.3%, Q3: c.5%, Q4: 7.6%. 2) Buyback: Hiscox has acquired \$33m of its \$175m proposed share buyback programme by 30 April. 3) Pricing data: Clear that rate is dampening, albeit off a very high base. London Market rates -3%, Re&ILS -7% while Retail is positive but now just 2%. While there can be mix shifts, we do think that business is being written at a diminishing economic margin, though the debate on the call could centre on accounting offset potential: (i) earn through, (ii) reserve strength, (iii) initial loss booking in order to attain targets.

### Q: Any change to guidance?

A: unchanged >6% growth in ccy in 2025 in Retail with medium term growth of 5-15% targeted for Retail

## How would we expect investors to react?

A: We expect a neutral share price reaction

## **Equities**

United Kingdom Insurance, Property & Casualty

Buy
1,465p
1,099p

#### Trading data and key metrics

52-wk range	1,271p-1,014
Market cap.	£3.76b/US\$5.02b
Shares o/s	342m (ORD)
Free float	94%
Avg. daily volume ('000)	1,031
Avg. daily value (m)	£11.6
Common s/h equity (12/25	<b>E)</b> US\$3.91b
P/BV (12/25E)	1.2x

## EPS (UBS, diluted) (GBX)

	UBS	Cons.
12/25E	122.15	111.16
12/26E	156.59	132.60
12/27E	174.51	138.57

# Will Hardcastle, CFA

Analyst will.hardcastle@ubs.com +44-20-7567 9763

#### Qian Lu

Analyst gian-za.lu@ubs.com +44-20-7567 4657

#### Nasib Ahmed, FIA

Analyst nasib-za.ahmed@ubs.com +44-20-7568 8231

Highlights (US\$m)	12/22	12/23	12/24	12/25E	12/26E	12/27E	12/28E	12/29E
Net earnings (reported)	254	711	627	522	661	716	781	852
EPS (reported, diluted) (p)	58.97	160.43	139.09	122.15	156.59	174.51	195.97	219.99
EPS (UBS, diluted) (p)	58.97	160.43	139.09	122.15	156.59	174.51	195.97	219.99
DPS (net) (p)	29.75	29.53	34.42	34.81	36.55	38.38	40.30	42.31
BVPS (UBS, tangible) (p)	552.45	662.28	795.20	834.88	951.50	1,086.76	1,246.70	1,434.82
Profitability/valuation	12/22	12/23	12/24	12/25E	12/26E	12/27E	12/28E	12/29E
P/E (reported, diluted) x	15.9	6.7	8.2	9.0	7.0	6.3	5.6	5.0
P/E (UBS, diluted) x	15.9	6.7	8.2	9.0	7.0	6.3	5.6	5.0
ROE (UBS, tangible) %	10.9	23.9	18.5	14.5	16.5	16.1	15.7	15.3
P/BV x	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.7
Dividend yield (net) %	3.2	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.7	3.9

price of 1,099p on 30-Apr-2025

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Figure 1: Hiscox 1Q25 IMS actual vs UBSe

Hiscox 1Q25 \$mn	Actual 1Q24	UBS 1Q25E	Actual 1Q25	Actual vs UBSe (%)	Actual YoY (%)
Insurance contract written premium	1,538	1,591	1,558	-2%	1%
Retail	723	751	736	-2%	2%
London Market	317	333	330	-1%	4%
Re&ILS	497	507	492	-3%	-1%
Net insurance contract written premium			222		
London Market	205	215	222	3%	8%
Hiscox Retail					
UK	202	218	209	-4%	4%
Europe	263	280	274	-2%	4%
USA	242	253	253	0%	5%
ICWP	723	751	736	-2%	2%
Investment return	67	112	114	2%	71%
Total investments incl. cash vs 4Q24, \$bn	8.3	8.5	8.5	0%	2%
Reinvestment yield vs 4Q24	4.6%	4.5%	4.5%	0.1%	-0.1%

Source: Company data, UBS estimates

#### Forecast returns

Forecast price appreciation	33.3%
Forecast dividend yield	3.2%
Forecast stock return	36.5%
Market return assumption	8.6%
Forecast excess return	27.9%

## **Company Description**

Hiscox plc is a specialty lines insurer/reinsurer. It underwrites a balanced portfolio of catastrophe and internationally-traded insurance/reinsurance in London and Bermuda, and local specialty insurance business in the UK, US and Europe. The group differentiates itself from peers through the steady progress it has made in local specialty lines. The retail, London Market and reinsurance businesses account for ~70%, ~20% and ~10% of net earned premium respectively.

## **Valuation Method and Risk Statement**

Hiscox has exposure to catastrophe risk. Catastrophe losses, by their very nature, tend to be large and unpredictable. As it has been proven in the recent past, both the severity and frequency of catastrophe losses can be underestimated. Also, as the true profitability of a re/insurance contract is not known at the time of setting the premium, there is significant risk of mispricing. This is particularly the case with longer-tail liability cover, where the ultimate claims may not be known for many years in the future. Our PT is SOTP derived, rolled forward 12 months.

## **Quantitative Research Review**

UBS Global Research publishes a quantitative assessment of its analysts' responses to certain questions about the likelihood of an occurrence of a number of short term factors in a product known as the 'Quantitative Research Review'. The views for this month can be found below. Views contained in this assessment on a particular stock reflect only the views on those short term factors which are a different timeframe to the 12-month timeframe reflected in any equity rating set out in this note. For previous responses please make reference to (i) previous UBS Global Research reports; and (ii) where no applicable research report was published that month, the Quantitative Research Review which can be found at <a href="https://neo.ubs.com/quantitative">https://neo.ubs.com/quantitative</a>, or contact your UBS sales representative for access to the report or the Quantitative Research Team on <a href="mailto:ubs-quant-answers@ubs.com">ubs-quant-answers@ubs.com</a>. A consolidated report which contains all responses is also available and again you should contact your UBS sales representative for details and pricing or the Quantitative Research Team on the email above.

## Hiscox

Question	Response
1. Is the industry structure facing the firm likely to improve or deteriorate over the next six months? Rate on a scale of 1-5 (1 = getting worse, 3 = no change, 5 = getting better, N/A = no view)	3
2. Is the regulatory/government environment facing the firm likely to improve or deteriorate over the next six months? Rate on a scale of 1-5 (1 = getting tougher 3 = no change, 5 = getting better, N/A = no view)	3
3. Over the last 3-6 months in broad terms have things been improving/no change/getting worse for this stock? Rate on a scale of 1-5 (1 = getting a lot worse, 3 = not much change, 5 = getting a lot better, N/A = no view)	3
4. Relative to the current CONSENSUS EPS forecast, is the next company EPS update likely to lead to: (1 = negative surprise vs consensus, 3 = in-line with consensus, 5 = positive surprise vs consensus expectations, N/A = no view)	3
5. What's driving the difference?	
6. Relative to YOUR current earnings forecast, is there relatively greater risk at the next earnings result of:(1 = downside skew risk to earnings, 3 = equal upside or downside risk to earnings, 5 = upside skew risk to earnings, N/A = no view)	3
7. What's driving the difference?	
8. Is there an upcoming catalyst for the company over the next three months?	No Catalyst
9. Is there an actual or approximate date for the catalyst?	
10. Is the catalyst date an actual or approximate date?	N/A
11. What is the catalyst?	

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12-Month Rating	Definition	Coverage <sup>1</sup>	IB Services <sup>2</sup>
Buy	FSR is > 6% above the MRA.	52%	24%
Neutral	FSR is between -6% and 6% of the MRA.	40%	20%
Sell	FSR is > 6% below the MRA.	8%	22%
Short-Term Rating	Definition	Coverage <sup>3</sup>	IB Services <sup>4</sup>
Buy	Stock price expected to rise within three months from the time the rating was assigned because of a specific catalyst or event.	<1%	<1%
Sell	Stock price expected to fall within three months from the time the rating was assigned because of a specific catalyst or event.	<1%	<1%

Source: UBS. Rating allocations are as of 31 March 2025.

- 1:Percentage of companies under coverage globally within the 12-month rating category.
- 2:Percentage of companies within the 12-month rating category for which investment banking (IB) services were provided within the past 12 months.
- 3: Percentage of companies under coverage globally within the Short-Term rating category.
- 4:Percentage of companies within the Short-Term rating category for which investment banking (IB) services were provided within the past 12 months.

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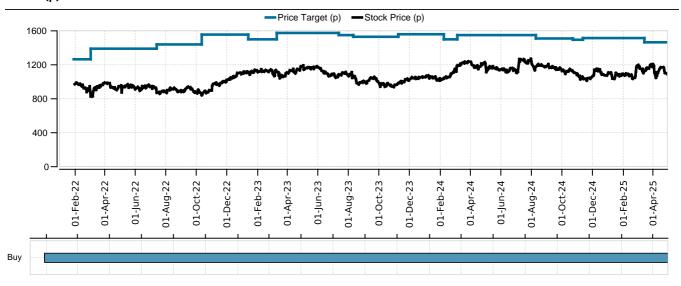
Company Name	Reuters	12-month rating	Price	Price date
Hiscox <sup>28</sup>	HSX.L	Buy	1,099p	30 Apr 2025

Source: UBS Global Research; LSEG Eikon. All prices as of local market close. Ratings in this table are the most current published ratings prior to this report. They may be more recent than the stock pricing date.

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## Hiscox (p)



Rating	Price Target (p)	Stock Price (p)	Date
Buy	1265	961	2022-01-28
Buy	1390	890	2022-03-03
Buy	1440	918	2022-07-13
Buy	1556	862	2022-10-11
Buy	1500	1117	2023-01-12
Buy	1575	1127	2023-03-10

Date	Stock Price (p)	Price Target (p)	Rating
2023-07-12	1082	1550	Buy
2023-08-10	1075	1530	Buy
2023-11-08	979	1560	Buy
2024-02-07	1036	1500	Buy
2024-03-05	1181	1550	Buy
2024-08-09	1167	1510	Buy
2024-10-22	1132	1495	Buy
2024-11-11	1060	1515	Buy
2025-03-14	1117	1465	Buy

Source: UBS Global Research; LSEG Eikon as of 30-Apr-2025. All prices as of local market close. Ratings as of date shown.

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