

Top 25 Tactical Trades for Earnings Season

We expect single stock call buying to be an unusually profitable strategy this earnings season for three reasons: (1) Put-buying pressure in single stocks remains at extreme levels despite Wednesday's equity rally and tends to be a signal that earnings-day relief rallies are likely, (2) Earnings-day implied moves near 15 year highs suggest investors are unusually nervous ahead of earnings events, and (3) The average upside to our analysts' price targets has reached its second highest level in 12 years, which tends to be associated with outsized earnings-season upside asymmetry. In short, due to bearish positioning in derivatives markets, equities are likely to rally if results are in-line with reduced expectations. **Top ideas:** We have spent the past two weeks collaborating with our equity analysts to identify the 25 most out-of-consensus opportunities from our Americas coverage. Our analysts see potential for upward earnings revisions to drive upside in 16 names including BAM, BAX, MO, TWLO and WWD; they expect downward earnings revisions to drive downside in 9 names including AAL, SMCI and WU.

With institutional investors de-risked, we expect individual investors will be the key market participants that decide the direction of the equity market over the coming months. Individual investors have remained net buyers of stocks and ETFs all year, including during the past week. We view individual investor equity buying decisions as more influenced by their employment status than their equity market view. If trade policy uncertainty eases, we would expect a variety of investors to buy equities. If trade policy uncertainty increases, we expect it would take time for job losses to occur and subsequent individual investor selling to materialize; this, combined with the elevated level of fear priced into derivatives markets (VIX, put-call skew and implied moves) suggests there is a window of several weeks when relief rallies are more likely than downside acceleration. We will be closely watching to see if job losses materialize as a warning sign for individual investor selling.

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Our 25 most differentiated ideas for the next 3 months of earnings

Exhibit 1: Companies where our analysts are most out-of-consensus for the coming quarter and expect shares to move

Goldman Sachs analyst estimates vs. consensus; options chosen are monthly expiry closest to first out of the money calls, puts

Upside to estimates

| Company | Ticker | Sector | Earnings date (e) | GS Rating | EPS: GS vs Consensus | | Chg in EPS consensus | Stock Move | | Options : (buy calls) | | |
|--------------------|--------|---------------|-------------------|-----------|----------------------|------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------|-------------|
| | | | | | Current Q | Next 4 Q's | vs 2 months ago | Implied Move % | 8Q avg move % | Term | strike | cost |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Installed Building | IBP | Discretionary | 9-May | B | 5% | 2% | (2%) | 11.4 | 5.4 | May | 180.00 | 5.3% |
| Universal Display | OLED | Energy | 2-May | B | 17% | 8% | (2%) | 15.7 | 9.7 | May | 110.00 | 10.7% |
| Brookfield Asset | BAM | Financials | 6-May | B | 5% | 1% | (0%) | 9.2 | 2.0 | May | 47.50 | 6.3% |
| Progressive | PGR | Financials | 16-Apr | B | 3% | 5% | 7% | 7.6 | 1.8 | April | 280.00 | 2.5% |
| Baxter Intl | BAX | Healthcare | 2-May | B* | 2% | 2% | 0% | 8.8 | 5.4 | May | 30.00 | 4.3% |
| Danaher | DHR | Healthcare | 22-Apr | B | 3% | 3% | 0% | 9.6 | 5.9 | May | 190.00 | 4.8% |
| Intuitive Surgical | ISRG | Healthcare | 22-Apr | B | 1% | 2% | (0%) | 8.0 | 6.2 | May | 490.00 | 7.3% |
| AerCap | AER | Industrials | 30-Apr | B | 8% | 6% | (1%) | 7.0 | 1.3 | May | 95.00 | 3.9% |
| Lennox Intl | LII | Industrials | 23-Apr | B | 17% | 3% | 0% | 10.3 | 5.4 | May | 560.00 | 6.2% |
| Woodward Inc. | WWD | Industrials | 29-Apr | B* | 5% | 3% | 0% | 11.8 | 7.3 | May | 170.00 | 6.4% |
| Corteva Inc. | CTVA | Materials | 7-May | B | 6% | 6% | 0% | 5.9 | 6.5 | May | 60.00 | 8.6% |
| Altria Group | MO | Staples | 29-Apr | B | 4% | 3% | (0%) | 5.8 | 3.4 | May | 57.50 | 3.6% |
| Arista Networks | ANET | TMT | 6-May | B | 5% | 6% | 1% | 10.6 | 10.8 | May | 75.00 | 8.1% |
| Monday.com Ltd. | MNDY | TMT | 15-May | B | 11% | 17% | 0% | 14.0 | 15.4 | May | 250.00 | 10.9% |
| Twilio | TWLO | TMT | 7-May | B | 5% | 8% | (1%) | 12.6 | 9.9 | May | 90.00 | 7.8% |
| Tyler Tech | TYL | TMT | 24-Apr | B | 3% | 6% | 0% | 8.5 | 6.3 | May | 560.00 | 6.0% |
| Average | | | | | 6% | 5% | 0% | 9.8 | 6.4 | | | 6.4% |

Downside to estimates

| Company | Ticker | Sector | Earnings date (e) | GS Rating | EPS: GS vs Consensus | | Chg in EPS consensus | Stock Move | | Options : (buy puts) | | |
|-------------------|--------|---------------|-------------------|-----------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------------|--------|-------------|
| | | | | | Current Q | Next 4 Q's | vs 2 months ago | Implied Move % | 8Q avg move % | Term | strike | cost |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Genuine Parts | GPC | Discretionary | 22-Apr | S | (1%) | (1%) | (3%) | 4.6 | 5.2 | May | 110.00 | 5.8% |
| Lazard Inc. | LAZ | Financials | 25-Apr | S | (10%) | < -20% | (11%) | 12.1 | 4.3 | May | 30.00 | 5.3% |
| American Airlines | AAL | Industrials | 25-Apr | S | (11%) | < -20% | (24%) | 12.7 | 4.2 | May | 9.00 | 8.2% |
| A.O. Smith | AOS | Industrials | 29-Apr | S | (5%) | (4%) | (0%) | 8.1 | 4.2 | May | 60.00 | 3.7% |
| Clorox Co. | CLX | Staples | 5-May | S | (2%) | (1%) | (0%) | 6.9 | 5.9 | May | 140.00 | 6.0% |
| Hershey Co. | HSY | Staples | 1-May | S | (5%) | (1%) | (0%) | 5.5 | 2.8 | May | 160.00 | 4.0% |
| eBay Inc. | EBAY | TMT | 1-May | S | (2%) | (1%) | 0% | 9.4 | 5.1 | May | 60.00 | 4.8% |
| Super Micro | SMCI | TMT | 30-Apr | S | (2%) | (4%) | (3%) | 19.9 | 14.1 | May | 30.00 | 8.6% |
| Western Union | WU | TMT | 24-Apr | S | (4%) | (5%) | (1%) | 8.1 | 5.7 | May | 9.00 | 3.7% |
| Average | | | | | (5%) | (6%) | (5%) | 9.7 | 5.7 | | | 5.6% |

BAX and WWD are on the Conviction List. See the following content for drivers of our analysts' views. Prices as of Apr 10, 2025. IBP, OLED, DHR, CTVA, TYL, AOS, EBAY & WU estimates are based on EBITDA.

Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research, Thomson Reuters, Bloomberg

Options risks: Call buyers risk losing their premium paid if shares close below the strike price at expiration. Put buyers risk losing their premium paid if shares close above the strike price at expiration.

Options prices and volatility levels in this note are indicative only, and are based on our estimates of recent mid-market levels and exclude transaction costs, unless otherwise stated. Practical implementation of any trading strategy discussed herein may not be achievable and as a result, any projected results of any such trading strategy discussed herein may not be replicable.

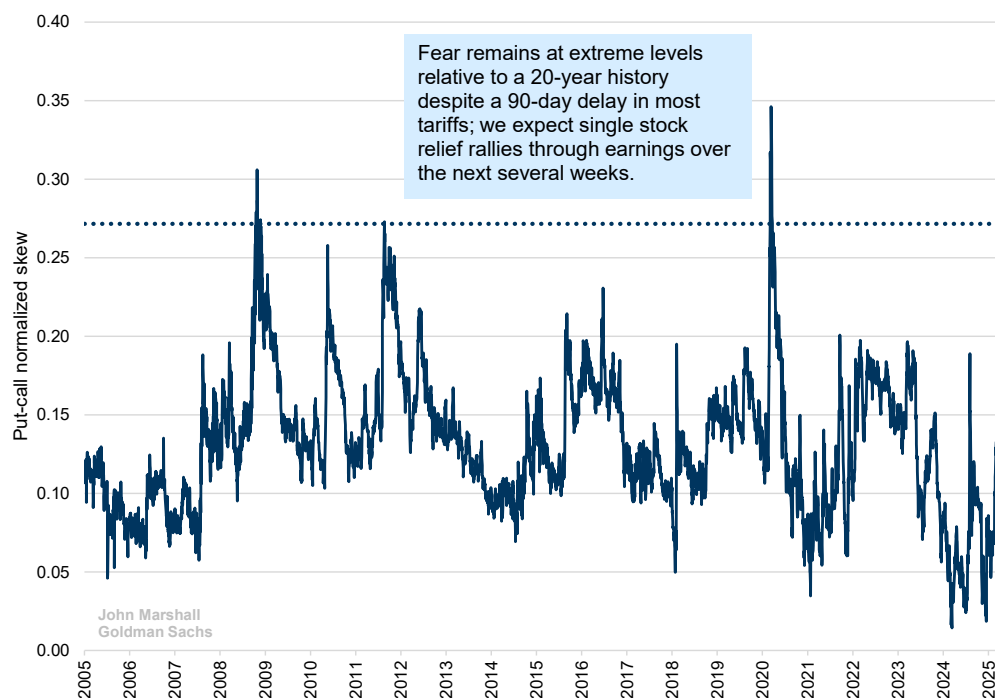
How are investors positioned ahead of earnings?

For weekly updates on our favorite positioning indicators across stocks and macro markets, subscribe to our Weekend Cross-asset Charts within our [Custom Research Services](#) [here](#).

Professional investors have significantly de-risked, but individual investors remain steadfastly long equities. For many years, we have held the view that individual investors buy equities when they have jobs and sell equities when they face unemployment. We expect equities to see relief if policy news-flow is generally neutral over the next several weeks. Individual investors have demonstrated a willingness to own stocks through the volatility and professional investors will likely be compelled to re-risk if companies guide consistent with already lowered investor expectations. If economic uncertainty turns into job losses, further equity downside is likely (i.e. individual investors would start selling); however, we would see hypothetical job losses as several weeks away as we expect that companies will take time to assess the direct and indirect impact of proposed policies and would be reluctant to take actions prior to a better understanding of the balance of tariff policy and a potential tax cut bill.

Fear dominates positioning among short-term traders in stocks. We find that put-call skew on S&P 500 single stocks is a useful way to gauge positioning among short-term traders in single stocks. Put-call skew in the average S&P 500 stock has jumped from moderate levels last week to levels that show extreme fear relative to history. Our analysis shows that when investors are buying single stock puts (i.e. put-call skew is high), it shows sentiment is too bearish and likely to be a tailwind for stocks as they report earnings.

Exhibit 2: Single stock options prices suggest investors are bearishly positioning
Average S&P 500 single stock 1-month put-call normalized skew



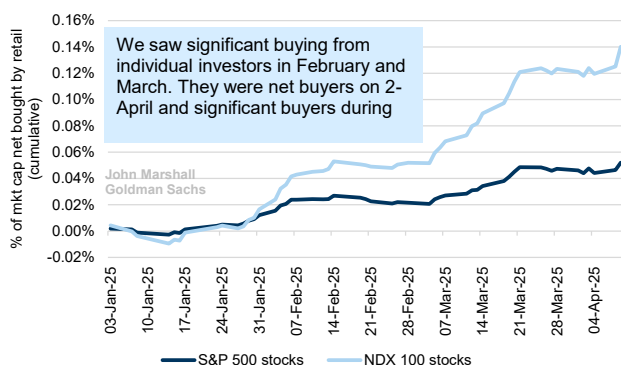
Source: Goldman Sachs FICC and Equities

Individual investors didn't lose faith in equities during the recent volatility. We

aggregate the net buying flow across all stocks in the SPX and NDX using analysis of public trade level data from Goldman Sachs Electronic Trading (GSET). GSET analyzes the size and direction of trades that received price improvement (i.e. retail trades) allowing us to understand aggregate buying/selling trends over time. Retail investors were sellers of stocks during the decline of 2022, but have been buyers during the recent equity volatility. Individual investors bought both stocks and ETFs in the Apr-9 rally.

Exhibit 3: Individual investors continue to buy single stock shares

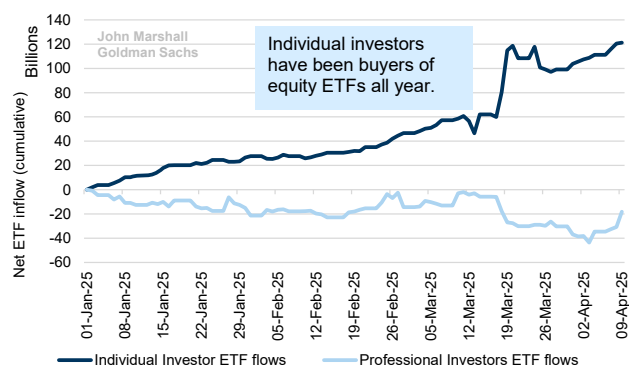
Net daily buying of single stocks in each index based on trades that go through PFOF



Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research, Goldman Sachs FICC and Equities

Exhibit 4: Individual investors have been buyers of ETFs all year

Net buying/selling of ETFs



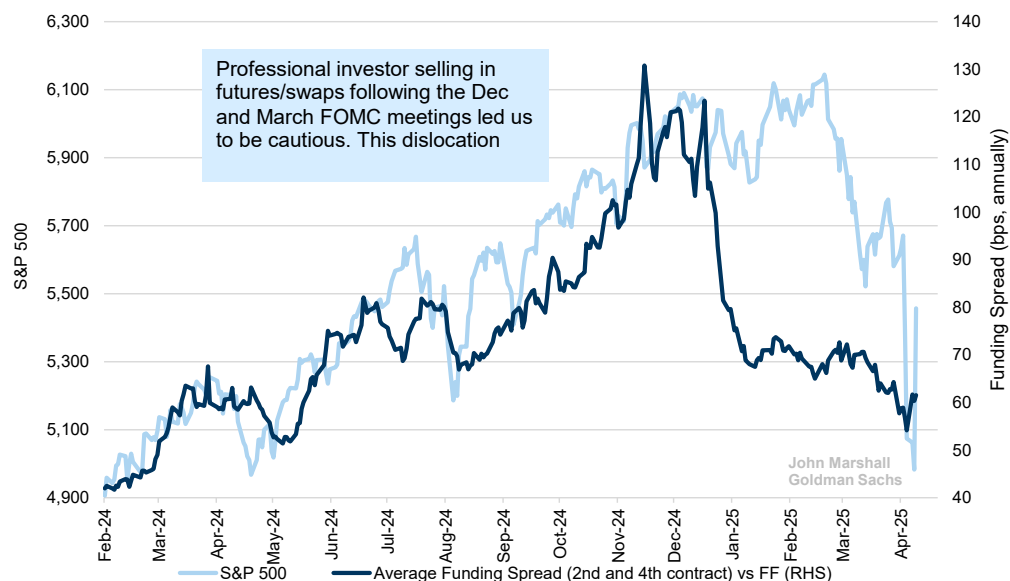
Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research, Bloomberg

The negative signal from futures funding spreads has been fully realized by recent equity declines (a view that we have held since 5-April).

The equity market has caught down to the extremely negative signal coming into the year. We believe asset allocators that transact in the futures/swaps/options markets reduced their exposure to US equities in the two weeks following the December FOMC meeting and again more modestly over the past month. As of 5-April, the SPX was down 15% since this negative signal was observed on 29-Dec and down 17% from its 19-Feb peak. We no longer see this signal from funding spreads as a negative signal for equities and in-fact see it as a potential cohort for re-risking when a more favorable monetary and fiscal policy environment returns.

Exhibit 5: The equity market has declined to reflect the decrease in demand for equities from investors in futures/swaps/options

S&P futures funding spreads (2nd and 4th contract average)



Source: Goldman Sachs FICC and Equities

GS Price Targets suggest average upside for S&P 500 names

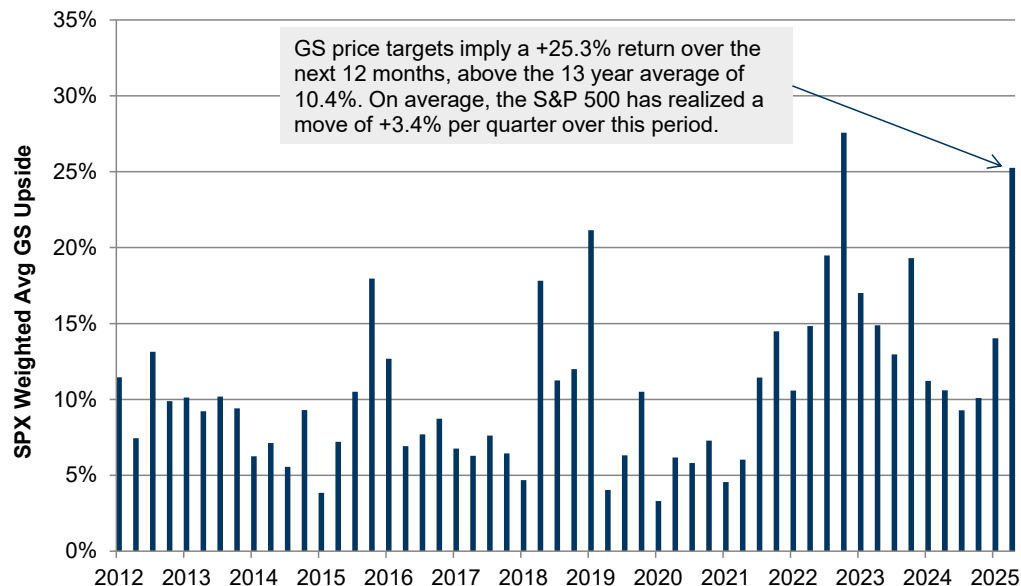
Our single stock analysts' price targets imply 25.3% upside over the next year for the weighted average of S&P 500 companies in our coverage, above all but one quarter over the past 12 years. All else equal, this would suggest a significantly above average return for the S&P 500 over the next 3 months (the average 3-month return for the S&P 500 over the past 13 years has been +3.4%).

We find the bottom up calculation of the weighted average upside to the S&P 500 (based on individual stock price targets from our analysts) has been a useful guide for assessing the potential for upside in the broad equity market ahead of earnings season. This has been particularly true for quarters where upside to price target was at extreme levels.

Over the past three months, Goldman Sachs price targets have risen by 0.6% while the S&P 500 has declined by 10.7%. Stocks appear significantly more attractive ahead of this quarter than last quarter.

Exhibit 6: S&P 500 weighted average price target ahead of earnings season is significantly above its average level over the past 13 years

Weighted average price target for S&P 500 companies (bottom up)



Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

The Biotech Sector stands out with the most elevated upside relative to July 2025 call prices.

We compare the weighted average single stock price targets of sector and factor ETFs to July 2025 call prices to identify attractive risk-adjusted upside opportunities. For example, our analysts cover 61% of the weight of the SPDR S&P Biotech ETF (XBI) and have a weighted average upside to price target of +61.2%; this implies a return of 534% on buying an XBI Jul-2025 at-the-money call for 7.7%. While this would be a shorter time-frame than implied by the 12-month single stock price targets, it helps to give perspective on risk-adjusted return expectations.

The upside implied by our analysts' price targets is low relative to the cost of options for Consumer Staples (XLP), Financials (XLF) and Low volatility stocks (SPLV).

Exhibit 7: Biotech and Materials ETFs have the highest implied call return based on our analysts' single stock price targets

Weighted average valuation for major ETFs and implied return on buying Jul-2025 ATM calls if ETFs reach their implied valuation

| | | | | | | Jul-2025 OTC ATM call | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|--------|---------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--|
| ETF Type | Name | Ticker | Implied wgtd upside | % of ETF wgt covered by analysts | Current ETF Price | Cost of call | Implied call return | |
| Sector | iShares NASDAQ Biotechnology | IBB | 49.0% | 75% | 113.06 | 7.7% | 537% | |
| Sector | SPDR S&P Biotech | XBI | 61.2% | 60% | 71.61 | 9.7% | 534% | |
| Sector | Materials SPDR | XLB | 30.3% | 69% | 78.18 | 6.4% | 374% | |
| Sector | SPDR S&P Oil & Gas E&P | XOP | 48.9% | 69% | 104.39 | 11.0% | 344% | |
| Sector | Health Care SPDR | XLV | 24.4% | 72% | 134.89 | 5.6% | 339% | |
| Smart Beta | Invesco S&P 500 Equal Weight | RSP | 25.0% | 69% | 159.60 | 5.7% | 335% | |
| Sector | Communication Services SPDR | XLC | 25.4% | 81% | 90.50 | 6.3% | 304% | |
| Sector | Energy SPDR | XLE | 33.4% | 91% | 76.98 | 8.4% | 299% | |
| Broad Index | Vanguard Total Stock Market | VTI | 25.9% | 73% | 257.43 | 6.5% | 298% | |
| Broad Index | SPDR S&P 500 | SPY | 25.3% | 76% | 524.58 | 6.6% | 286% | |
| Sector | Technology Select Sector SPDR | XLK | 30.6% | 63% | 194.37 | 8.2% | 272% | |
| Broad Index | Invesco QQQ | QQQ | 26.7% | 72% | 446.19 | 7.5% | 255% | |
| Sector | Industrial SPDR | XLI | 22.4% | 83% | 123.49 | 6.4% | 248% | |
| Sector | Utilities SPDR | XLU | 15.2% | 73% | 75.40 | 4.8% | 214% | |
| Sector | Consumer Discretionary SPDR | XLY | 24.1% | 96% | 187.90 | 7.8% | 210% | |
| Smart Beta | iShares Select Dividend | DVY | 21.5% | 61% | 122.35 | 7.0% | 208% | |
| Sector | Financial SPDR | XLF | 20.8% | 77% | 45.91 | 7.1% | 191% | |
| Sector | SPDR S&P Retail | XRT | 24.3% | 56% | 66.07 | 8.5% | 187% | |
| Sector | Consumer Staples SPDR | XLP | 10.2% | 90% | 79.35 | 4.8% | 111% | |
| Smart Beta | Invesco S&P 500 Low Volatility | SPLV | 11.1% | 72% | 70.41 | 6.4% | 72% | |

Pricing as of 10-Apr-25 close

Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research, Bloomberg

Methodology: We calculate the sum of the weight of each stock in each index that underlies each ETF and multiply by the upside to price target and divide by the total weight that is covered by our analysts.

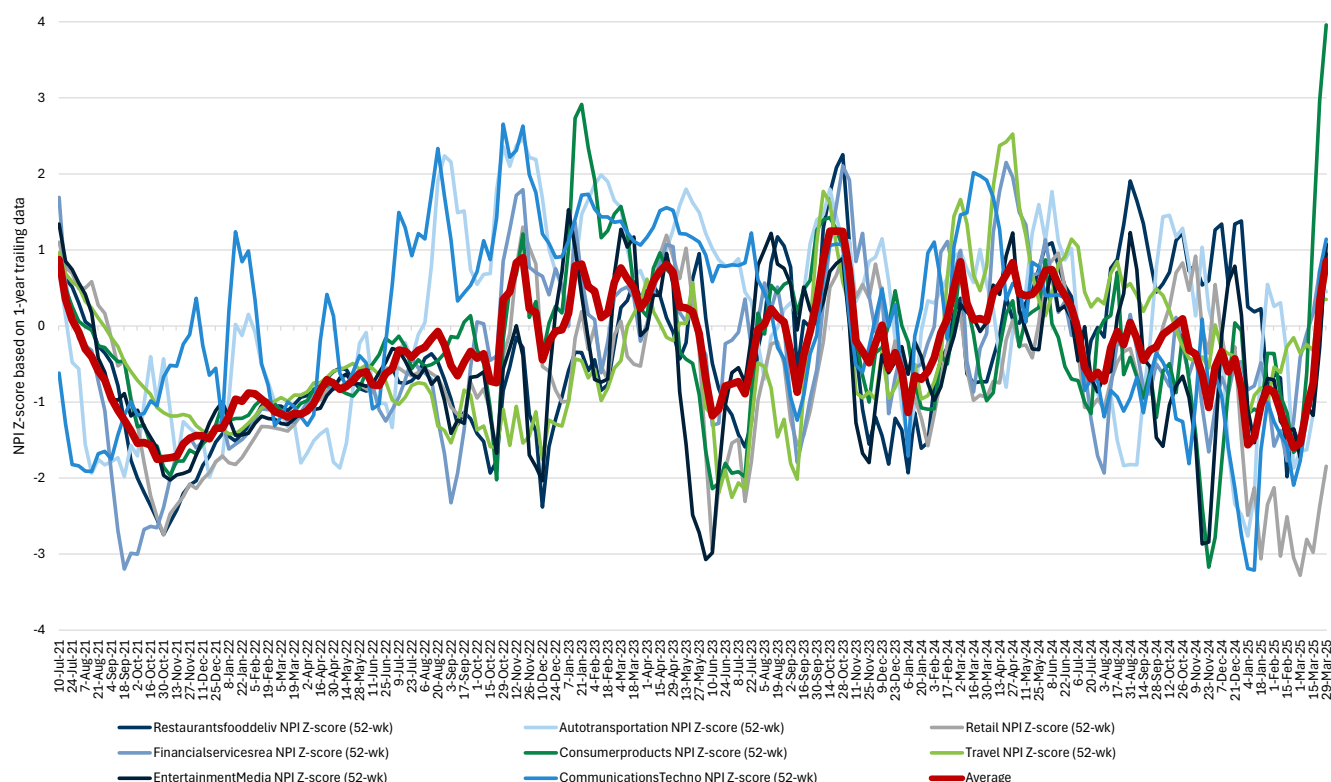
Consumer spending intentions rebounded prior to tariff announcements

Aggregate HundredX data suggests that consumer spending trends were more resilient than investors assumed in the lead up to the tariff announcement (data below is as of 29-March). Similar to the individual investor buying trends in stocks and ETFs that we observed, HundredX data suggests that consumer spending trends may be more resilient than recent equity performance suggests. Net Purchase Intent (NPI) across the respondents surveyed by HundredX improved significantly over the 5 weeks ending 29-March. The 1-year trailing z-score bottomed at -1.6 in the week ending 22-Feb and has risen to 0.8 for the week ending 29-March. We will closely monitor these trends as data becomes available for the post-tariff announcement period.

What is HundredX? HundredX is a mission-based data and insights company that takes an innovative approach to monitoring consumer perceptions and gathering consumer feedback to understand trends across 80+ industries and 3,000+ brands. HundredX analyzes collective opinions of everyday customers and evaluates how their priorities influence purchasing decisions and attitudes toward businesses and brands.

Exhibit 8: Prior to the Tariff announcements Consumer spending expectations had rebounded

HundredX Net Purchase Intent 1-year z-score by sector (last data 29-March)



Source: HundredX

GS-EQMOVE: probability of upside is still underestimated by options markets

What is GS-EQMOVE? The GS-EQMOVE model estimates the probability of a large SPX up or down move separately. Our research shows that in certain fundamental environments, the equity market was more or less likely to see asymmetry in a particular direction. For example, when free cash flow yield was high for the average stock in the S&P 500, the index had a lower probability of making a large downside move. Conceptually, this makes sense as high free-cash-flow means that companies are de-levering their balance sheets at a rapid pace (all else equal). Separately, when return-on-equity is high, it suggests an unusually high probability of large upside moves. We include variables such as ISM New Orders and US Capacity Utilization which help to calibrate the broad volatility expectations (i.e. these have similar upside and downside coefficients). The model is designed to predict the probability of a 5% up or down move in the S&P 500 over a 1-month period. We compare this modeled probability with the probability priced into binary options to assess whether upside/downside asymmetry is overpriced/underpriced.

Based on our GS-EQMOVE models, we see upside asymmetry as attractive: Our

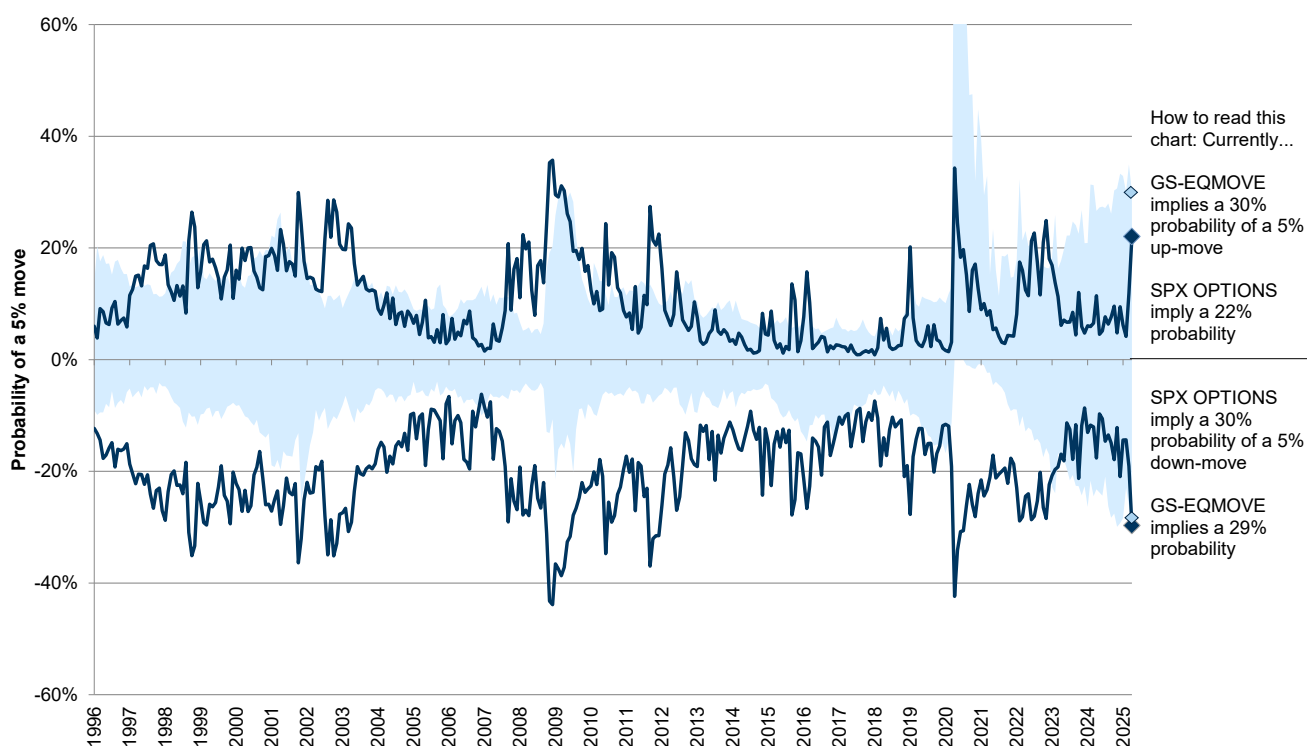
model estimates a 30% probability that the SPX trades up more than 5% in the next month while options are pricing in only a 22% probability of that size up-move.

Downside asymmetry appears to be fairly priced: Our model estimates a 29% probability that the SPX trades down more than 5% in the next month while options are pricing in an 30% probability of that size down-move. This suggests that SPX put options are also very slightly overpriced.

For more context on this model and our views on harnessing volatility within your portfolio, see our 70+ page report from April 10, 2023 titled ["New Models for Asymmetric Investing: a 27-year Asset Allocation Perspective"](#).

Exhibit 9: Probability of 1-month 5%-move implied by GS-EQMOVE compared to SPX options implied probability

Light blue = probability of a 5% up/down move over the next month; dark blue = probability of a 5% up/down move implied by options

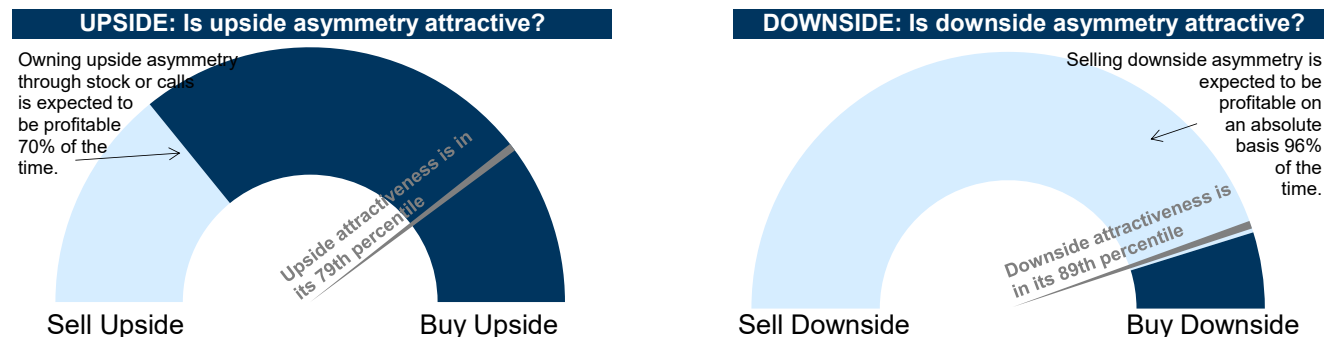


Pricing as of 9-Apr close.

Source: Goldman Sachs FICC and Equities, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 10: Where is options attractiveness now? SPX 1-month call and put buying appear unusually attractive

Call and put buying attractiveness vs history and absolute profitability expectations



Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Options liquidity remains elevated in specific stocks

Daily options volumes in SPX, SPY, NDX and QQQ are significantly higher than any single stock; however, the notional value traded in the top single stocks is remarkable. TSLA, NVDA, META and AAPL options are all more liquid than Russell 2000 index options. We believe it is critical to monitor options positioning for stocks on the first list below as they represent a large percentage of risk traded in the stock on a daily basis. For interested investors, we provide weekly updates on positioning ahead of [Catalysts](#) and when [retail/options activity suggests elevated short-squeeze potential](#).

Exhibit 11: Mega Cap Tech stocks have the most liquid options market

Top 20 single stocks by 3m average daily notional trading volume (\$ mn)

| Ticker | Name | Mktcap (\$bn) | 3m avg notional volume (\$ mn) |
|--------|------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| TSLA | Tesla Inc | 876 | 79,999 |
| NVDA | Nvidia Corp | 2,790 | 50,278 |
| META | Meta Platforms Inc-Class A | 1,283 | 32,128 |
| AAPL | Apple Inc | 2,987 | 23,092 |
| MSTR | Microstrategy Inc-CL A | 73 | 17,788 |
| MSFT | Microsoft Corp | 2,903 | 13,766 |
| AMZN | Amazon.com Inc | 2,025 | 13,258 |
| NFLX | Netflix Inc | 404 | 13,011 |
| PLTR | Palantir Technologies Inc-A | 207 | 8,009 |
| GOOGL | Alphabet Inc-CL A | 926 | 6,587 |
| AVGO | Broadcom Inc | 871 | 6,380 |
| AMD | Advanced Micro Devices | 157 | 6,332 |
| COIN | Coinbase Global Inc -Class A | 37 | 5,471 |
| BABA | Alibaba Group Holding-SP Adr | 250 | 4,890 |
| COST | Costco Wholesale Corp | 428 | 4,503 |
| TSM | Taiwan Semiconductor-SP Adr | 823 | 3,603 |
| LLY | Eli Lilly & Co | 715 | 3,505 |
| GOOG | Alphabet Inc-CL C | 885 | 3,208 |
| APP | Applavin Corp-Class A | 85 | 2,581 |
| SMCI | Super Micro Computer Inc | 22 | 2,380 |

Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research, Bloomberg, OptionMetrics

Exhibit 12: Most of the options trading is concentrated in SPX, NDX and RUT

Top 5 indexes by 3m average daily notional trading volume (\$ mn)

| Ticker | Name | Index Mktcap (\$bn) | 3m avg notional volume (\$ mn) |
|--------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| SPX | S&P 500 Index | 43,874 | 2,153,595 |
| NDX | Nasdaq 100 Index | 21,132 | 134,105 |
| RUT | Russell 2000 Index | 2,457 | 15,655 |
| XSP | S&P 500 Mini | 43,874 | 6,338 |
| VIX | VIX Index | -- | 2,314 |

Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research, Bloomberg, OptionMetrics

Exhibit 13: Broad-based ETFs have the most liquid options market

Top 20 ETFs by 3m average daily notional trading volume (\$ mn)

| Ticker | Name | AUM (\$bn) | 3m avg notional volume (\$ mn) |
|--------|--------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| SPY | SPDR S&P 500 ETF Trust | 573 | 562,169 |
| QQQ | Invesco QQQ Trust Series 1 | 293 | 232,656 |
| IWM | iShares Russell 2000 ETF | 60 | 32,901 |
| GLD | SPDR Gold Shares | 93 | 7,858 |
| TLT | iShares 20 Year Treasury Bond ETF | 49 | 5,610 |
| HYG | iShares iBoxx \$ HY Corp Bond Fund | 15 | 4,231 |
| SMH | VanEck Semiconductor ETF | 19 | 2,547 |
| TQQQ | ProShares UltraPro QQQ | 22 | 2,324 |
| DIA | SPDR DJIA ETF Trust | 36 | 2,111 |
| XLI | Industrial Select Sector SPDR Fund | 19 | 1,656 |
| XLF | Financial Select Sector SPDR Fund | 48 | 1,315 |
| SLV | iShares Silver Trust | 14 | 1,151 |
| XLE | Energy Select Sector SPDR Fund | 28 | 1,052 |
| EEM | iShares MSCI Emerging Mkts ETF | 16 | 845 |
| KWEB | KraneShares CSI China Internet ETF | 7 | 824 |
| FXI | iShares China Large-Cap ETF | 6 | 757 |
| KRE | SPDR KBW Regional Banking ETF | 3 | 622 |
| GDX | VanEck Gold Miners ETF | 14 | 545 |
| ARKK | ARK Innovation ETF | 5 | 513 |
| SOXL | Direxion Daily Semiconductor Bull 3X | 9 | 500 |

Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research, Bloomberg, OptionMetrics

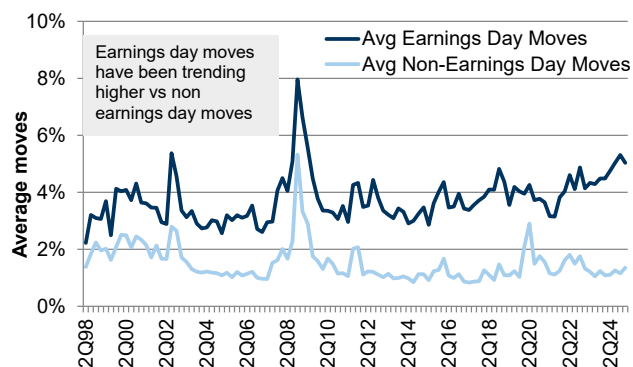
Earnings day moves remain large

Single stock volatility on earnings events were near a 14-year high again last

quarter. We expect earnings day moves to remain elevated as most of the key debates for the market have winners and losers in the equity market (Tariffs, AI, Rates, Government Policy). We continue to see option buying strategies as attractive ahead of earnings events and option selling strategies as attractive between earnings events. Earnings-day moves were 3.7 times the size of non-earnings-day moves last quarter; stock volatility is clearly more concentrated on earnings-days, increasing the potential for idiosyncratic alpha around earnings events.

Exhibit 14: Earnings day moves continue to trend higher vs Non-Earnings day moves

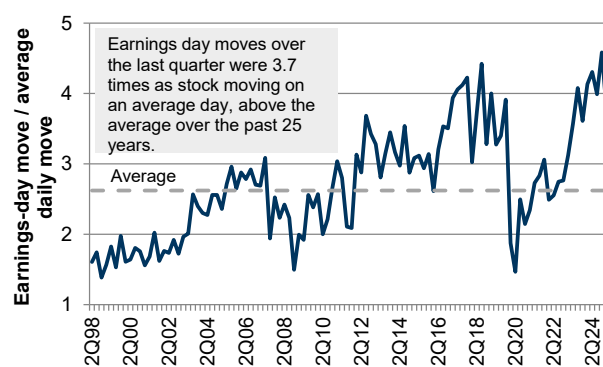
Average earnings day move; Average daily move for 1 month before and after the earnings event; S&P 500 stocks



Source: Bloomberg, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 15: Earnings day moves were 3.7 times an average daily move last quarter, above the long term average

Average earnings day move / Average daily move 1-month before and after earnings; S&P 500 stocks



Source: Bloomberg, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Timing of earnings reports by sector

For investors that aim to trade earnings revisions at the sector level with options, it is important to be aware of the timing of reports within the sector. Below, we highlight the percentage of market cap reporting in each week of this earnings season; at the top of the list are the sectors with the highest concentration of earnings reports early in this season.

Exhibit 16: Financials and Health Care are the most concentrated early reporters, while Consumer earnings are well spread over earnings season

% of index weight reporting in each week (weeks with >20% of ETF weight reporting are highlighted); Apr options expire Thursday Apr 17th

| Sector/Wk Ending | | 11-Apr | 18-Apr | 25-Apr | 2-May | 9-May | later |
|--------------------|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| Late <-----> Early | Financials (XLF) | 18% | 21% | 15% | 42% | 4% | 1% |
| | Health Care (XLV) | 0% | 22% | 34% | 33% | 8% | 3% |
| | Communication Services (XLC) | 0% | 10% | 41% | 21% | 24% | 5% |
| | Industrials (XLI) | 1% | 3% | 45% | 29% | 12% | 9% |
| | Materials (XLB) | 0% | 0% | 22% | 64% | 11% | 3% |
| | Information Technology (XLK) | 0% | 0% | 28% | 23% | 6% | 43% |
| | Energy (XLE) | 0% | 4% | 19% | 53% | 24% | 0% |
| | Real Estate (XLRE) | 0% | 9% | 11% | 70% | 10% | 0% |
| | Utilities (XLU) | 0% | 0% | 29% | 39% | 31% | 0% |
| | Consumer Staples (XLP) | 0% | 0% | 30% | 30% | 5% | 35% |
| | Consumer Discretionary (XLY) | 0% | 1% | 23% | 43% | 5% | 26% |

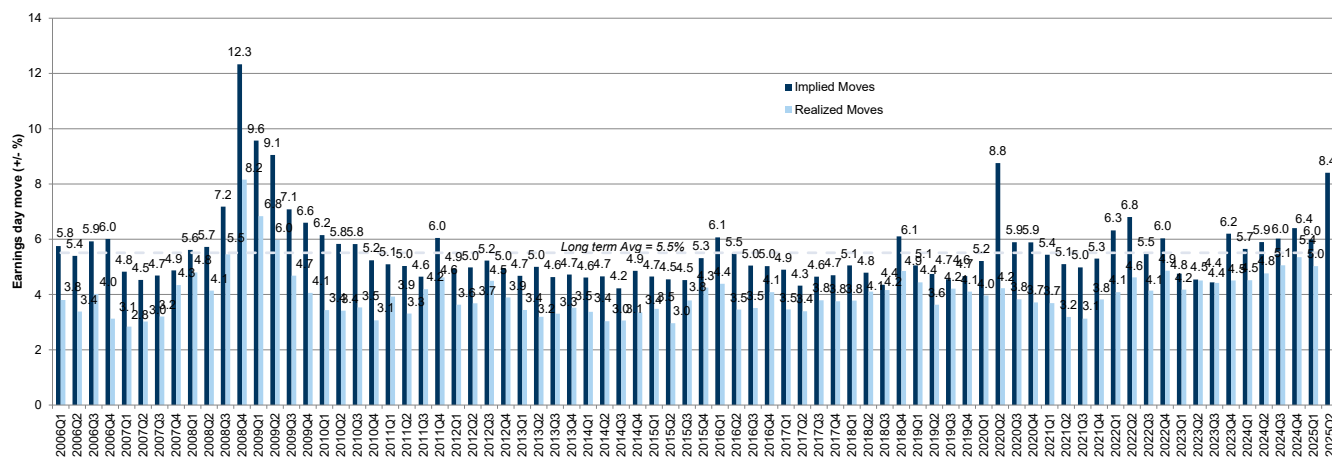
Source: Bloomberg, StreetEvents, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Implied earnings-day moves are in line vs history

The average implied earnings day move ahead of this earnings season is +/-8.4%, higher than all but four quarters over the past 20 years. This metric suggests investors are extremely nervous and avoiding earnings-day risk in stocks. We expect stocks to see relief rallies on earnings days as companies discuss with investors how they are adapting to the new environment.

Exhibit 17: The average stock is implying an earnings-day-move of 8.4%, much above its long term average

S&P 500 average stock implied and realized earnings day moves; based on index members in each quarter

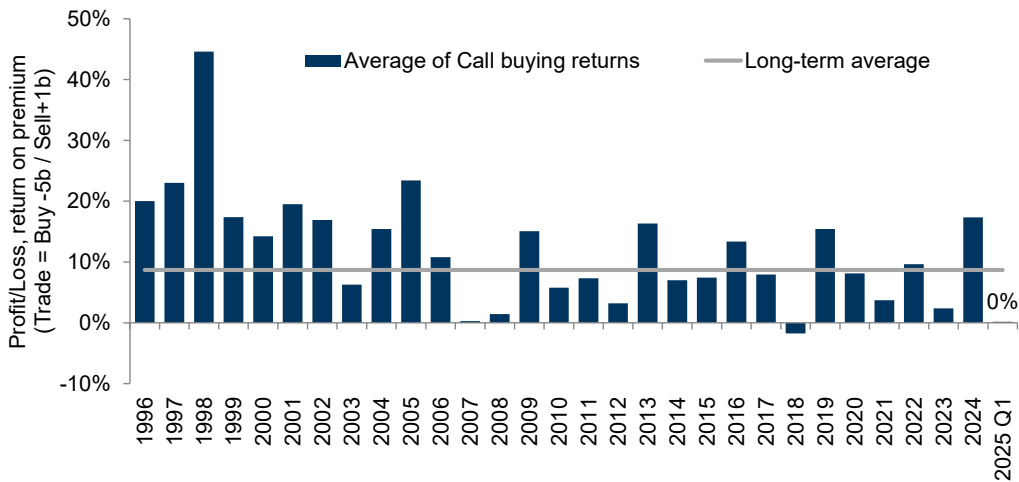


Source: Bloomberg, Goldman Sachs FICC and Equities

Call buying strategies where breakeven last quarter, but put buying was profitable. We expect call buying to be profitable this quarter given the potential for relief rallies.

Exhibit 18: Buying calls ahead of last quarter's earnings yielded a +0% return on premium

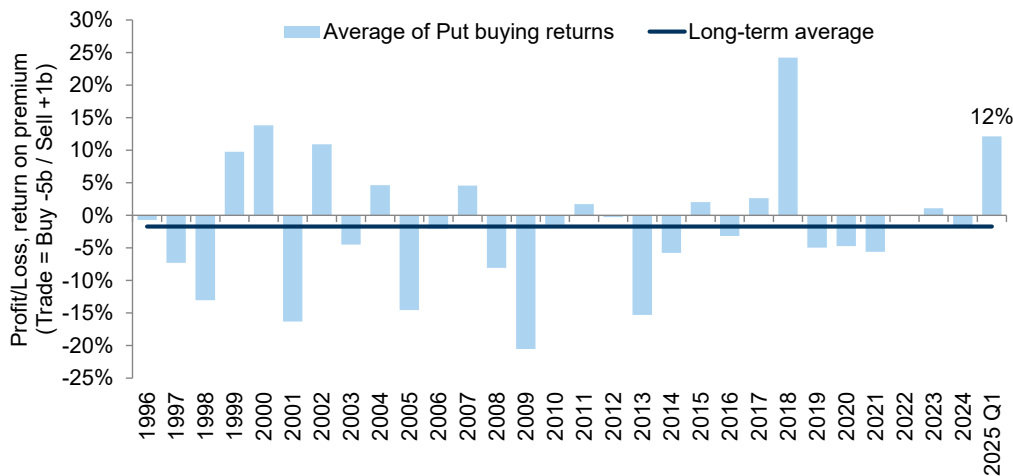
Profit at mid-market for buying first OTM calls, five days before earnings event and selling one day after



Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research, OptionMetrics

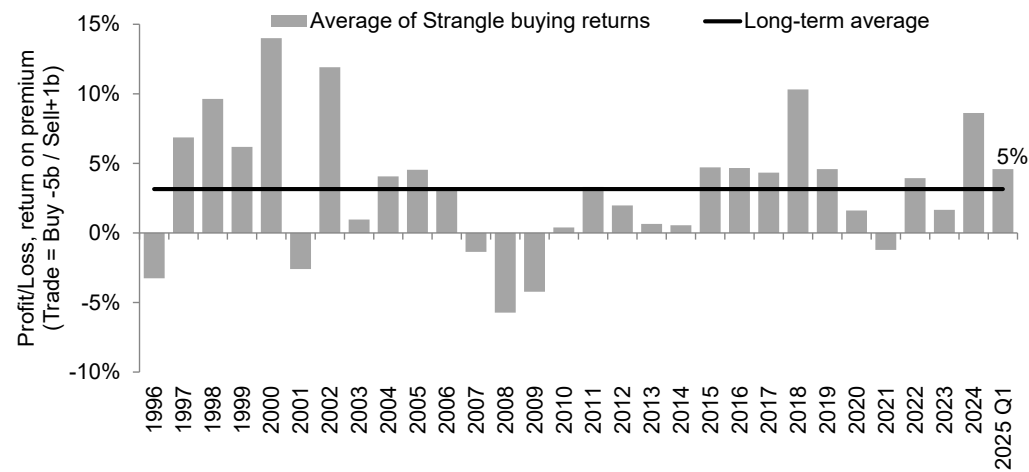
Exhibit 19: Buying puts ahead of last quarter's earnings yielded a 12% return on premium

Profit at mid-market for buying first OTM puts, five days before earnings event and selling one day after



Source: Goldman Sachs FICC and Equities, OptionMetrics

Exhibit 20: Buying strangles ahead of last quarter's earnings yielded a 5% return on premium
Profit at mid-market for buying closest to ATM strangles 5 days before earnings event and selling one day after



Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research, OptionMetrics

Upside to consensus: Fundamental ideas in brief

Our investment process: We screened for the top 25 opportunities out of the entire Goldman Sachs US coverage universe of approximately 1,000 companies. We focused our analysis on stocks with liquid options to improve the tradability of the view. We generally only considered companies where earnings are greater than \$0.05 per share for the next four quarters. These first two criteria reduced the tradable events to 453 stocks. We only considered stocks where our analysts are above/below Refinitiv/LSEG consensus for the upcoming quarter and for the year on a key financial metric. All of the criteria combined narrowed the list of potential opportunities to 227 stocks.

Discussions with our analysts were the key to narrowing the list of 227 down to 25. We spoke with each analyst to understand their reasons for being above or below consensus. We then selected those stocks that our analysts believe are most likely to react in the direction of their earnings view.

Below are brief summaries of the drivers of our analysts' out-of-consensus earnings views for the companies highlighted with "upside to estimates". Please refer to each analyst's recent research for more details.

Discretionary: IBP

Installed Building Products Inc. (IBP): Upside from Idiosyncratic factors and residential construction exposure

Goldman Sachs Homebuilders & Building Products analyst Susan Maklari sees 20% upside to Buy-rated IBP over the next 12 months. Susan believes IBP is among the best positioned names in her coverage given its greater exposure to the new construction end-market which she believes has a relative advantage over Repair & Remodel activity (R&R) in the near-term. Susan remains confident that the company can continue to execute well and outperform the industry despite near-term uncertainty given its operating acumen, deep customer relationships, and margin focused initiatives. During 4Q earnings, management detailed their continued focus on aligning price to the value brought to customers given the impact of higher rates and an uncertain macro on prospective buyers' confidence. She notes that the company also commented on the development of an internal distribution network to drive savings over time. Overall, Susan sees upside from both idiosyncratic factors and the company's exposure to the residential construction market and views current valuations as an attractive entry point into the stock. She is 5%/2% above consensus EBITDA for the current/next four quarters.

Energy: OLED

Universal Display Corp. (OLED): Growth through Blue material commercialization and capacity investments

Goldman Sachs Clean Energy analyst Brian Lee sees >20% upside to Buy-rated OLED over the next 12 months. He expects 2025 revenues to grow close to 8% as OLED

stated its blue phosphorescent materials commercialization timeline was in the next few months and not years. He also notes that OLED is seeing a normal buying pattern/inventory level heading into 2025, with a projected square area growth of 3.5% during the year. Additionally, Samsung, BOE, and Visionox have collectively announced nearly ~\$20bn in capacity investments for Gen 8.6 fabs which are expected to ramp in 2026. Brian anticipates this will serve as a tailwind to set OLED up for a year of reaccelerated growth. He is 17% and 8% above consensus EBITDA for the current and next four quarters.

Financials: BAM, PGR

Brookfield Asset Management (BAM): Most resilient amid Macro uncertainty

Goldman Sachs Asset Managers & Capital Markets analyst Alexander Blostein sees 24% upside to Buy-rated BAM over the next 12 months. He believes BAM is among the best-positioned among US Alt Managers even in a recession induced stress scenario. He sees BAM's earnings screen as the most resilient in the group, with a technical tailwind from index inclusion providing further support. Following his investor meeting with BAM, Alex noted that management anticipates a stronger fundraising outlook for 2025, exceeding the 2024 total of ~\$85 billion, with healthy LP sentiment for multiple asset classes. They also see an improving monetization backdrop across BAM's portfolios, particularly in Real Estate and rapidly evolving opportunities in Private Credit, with BAM well-positioned to tap into its unique origination capabilities across a wide range of hard-asset portfolios. Combined, Alex sees BAM as well positioned to generate a durable 15%-20% Fee-related earnings (FRE) / Distributable Earnings (DE) per share growth over the course of 2025-2027E, with incremental upside potential from acquisitions. Alex is 5%/1% above consensus EPS for the current/next four quarters.

Progressive Corp. (PGR): Improving market share and Underwriting Strength

Goldman Sachs Insurance analyst Robert Cox sees 11% upside to Buy-rated PGR over the next 12 months. He has a favorable outlook for PGR in the short term based on expectations for a re-acceleration in Policies in Force (PIF) growth and continued strong core underwriting performance. Over the longer term, Robert believes PGR is a market share winner that is likely to outperform competitors due to its agile business model. Robert also indicates that if tariffs work into claim costs, PGR could likely start to raise prices in 2H25 and thinks this industry event could extend the duration of PGR's above-average market share gains versus peers. He anticipates PGR's PIF growth will re-accelerate as a result of increased advertising expenditures coupled with favorable 1H seasonality. As he considers PGR's strong YTD underlying loss ratio results and favorable YTD physical damage severity data, he expects PGR to be well positioned to deliver a better than-street personal auto underlying loss ratio in 1Q25. His EPS estimate is 3% and 5% above consensus for the current and next four quarters.

Healthcare: BAX, DHR, ISRG

Baxter International (BAX): Optimizing a profitable footprint

Goldman Sachs Medical Technology analyst David Roman sees >20% upside to

Buy-rated Baxter (BAX; also on Americas Conviction List) over the next 12 months. He believes BAX is well positioned to deliver stable mid-single-digit revenue growth augmented by significant operating margin expansion and free cash flow growth. Further, he notes that the current valuation likely considers significant tariff-related downside risk, David believes that this concern is overblown. Beyond macro considerations, he sees a scenario where the company can de-lever faster, start returning more cash to shareholders, or identify discrete drivers to accelerate revenue growth and potentially drive a valuation re-rating and yield further upside (beyond compounding with teens earnings growth). Additionally, David notes that the spin-off of BAX's kidney business (Vantive) could be an opportunity to realize substantially higher margins than were realized in 2024. Overall, he continues to see Baxter offering exposure to a cyclical margin recovery story against a stable top-line outlook and meaningful EPS upside potential. David is 2% above consensus EPS for the current/next four quarters.

Danaher Corp (DHR): Bioprocessing recovery beneficiary at a more attractive valuation

Goldman Sachs Life Sciences Tools & Services analyst Matthew Sykes sees >20% upside to Buy-rated DHR over the next 12 months. He believes the bioprocessing market is poised for recovery presenting a long-term opportunity for DHR especially given its attractive valuations. He believes their 2025 guide of ~3% growth along with an eventual recovery in bioprocessing market (~25% of overall revenue for DHR) have realigned growth expectations. This should allow the company to get back to their historical beat and raise dynamic creating a catalyst for stock outperformance. He also highlights the current valuation of 17.4x FY2 EV/EBITDA offers a more attractive entry point than when they downgraded to Neutral in December 2023 when it was trading at 21.6x. Overall, Matt sees a recovery in the biotech segment along with current valuations as an attractive entry point into a stock which he believes is a long-term compounder. His EPS estimate is 3% above consensus for the current quarter and the next four quarters.

Intuitive Surgical Inc. (ISRG): Strong underlying Momentum to drive growth

Goldman Sachs Medical Technology analyst David Roman sees 20% upside to Buy-rated ISRG over the next 12 months. He believes that ISRG has significant market opportunity still ahead for robotic-assisted surgery with dv5 momentum extending their market leading position. His above street 2025 outlook for Worldwide procedure volume growth (16.6% y/y versus Street of 15.0%) is driven by his 13% y/y growth estimate in total system placements in 2025 (~1,700 versus ~1,500 for GSe 2024) and stable to increasing utilization. He believes ISRG's 4Q24 EPS beat was particularly driven by dv5 robotic surgical system sales and believes their initial 2025 guidance which includes a sizable step-down y/y in gross margin at 67-68% versus 69.1% in 2024 could set the bar for beat-and-raises throughout the year. Overall, he sees strong underlying fundamental drivers with some transient macro and P&L headwinds near term and continues to see Intuitive driving mid-teens long-term revenue growth with significant P&L leverage.

Industrials: AER, LII, WWD**Aercap. (AER): Lower Interest Expense and Share Repurchases as key tailwinds**

Goldman Sachs Airlines and Aircraft Lessors analyst Catherine O'Brien sees 34% upside to Buy-rated AER over the next 12 months. She anticipates interest expense to decline slightly year over year vs. the company's expectation of ~\$100 million higher expense. This outlook is based on a modestly lower average cost of debt, attributed to the roll-off of relatively higher rates on 2025 maturities and an essentially flat level of outstanding debt. Share repurchases are the second driver of her bullish outlook. Catherine notes that management expects the 2025 gain on sale margin to remain above the historical average (~10%), driven by demand from financial investors focused on young-to-midlife aircraft/engines. Additionally, she highlights that management extending/re-leasing aircraft in today's leasing environment would provide a revenue tailwind for the company. She is 8%/6% above consensus EPS for the current/next four quarters.

Lennox International (LII): New products to drive market share and margins

Goldman Sachs Multi-Industry analyst Joe Ritchie sees 20% upside to Buy-rated LII over the next 12 months. He anticipates that LII's new product lineup will enable them to expand market share in both national accounts and in the emergency replacement market. Joe notes that only two national accounts have secured the new A2L Model L product (HVAC) due to capacity constraints and expects this will ramp up in the coming months, thereby driving higher dollar margins. He further highlights that LII has significant upside to earnings given stronger residential heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) trends to the start of the year. Additionally, he notes that emergency replacement is about 30% of the total rooftop market of which LII has <5% and that the management has ambitions to grow this to mid to high-teens % over the next 3 years. His EPS estimate is 17%/3% above consensus for the current and next four quarters.

Woodward (WWD): Content Gains & Aftermarket Growth driving margins upside

Goldman Sachs Aerospace & Defense analyst Noah Poponak sees 27% upside to Buy-rated Woodward (WWD; also on Americas Conviction List) over the next 12 months. Noah believes that WWD is poised to deliver more products to planes just as the Original Equipment (OE) airplane cycle takes off. He also sees a path for WWD to follow these content gains with a higher participation in high margin after-market activity as planes are serviced. F1Q25 earnings results where WWD delivered above consensus EBIT and EPS and largely reiterated full-year guidance bolster his view. In the short term, he continues to see a strong aerospace aftermarket growth, a recovery in aerospace OE, the capture of latent pricing power, and margin upside. He expects WWD to beat and raise through the remainder of FY2025. In the medium-to-long term, he continues to see content gains on the LEAP engine, as the most differentiated product cycle in the aerospace supply chain, in addition to the powerful cash flow compounding of the aerospace aftermarket. Noah is 5%/3% above consensus EPS for the current/next four quarters.

Materials: CTVA**Corteva Inc. (CTVA): High-Quality Seed and Crop Protection Businesses**

Goldman Sachs Chemicals analyst Duffy Fischer sees 26% upside to Buy-rated CTVA over the next 12 months. He notes that CTVA is a high-quality Seed and Crop protection business that is IP protected and R&D heavy, with formidable barriers to entry and EBITDA margins in the low 20s. Duffy highlights that roughly 2/3s of CTVA's EBITDA comes from Seed business, which is more R&D intense than crop protection and has significant pricing power as a result, enabling it to maintain pricing effectively during downturns. He expects that CTVA will benefit from larger tailwinds arising from increased corn acreage in the United States. He thinks the Crop protection markets have reached a bottom and that business continues to realize benefits from productivity initiatives that can cushion the impact of reduced price, thereby driving EBITDA margins in the high teens. Duffy is also optimistic about CTVA's management and expects them to sustain their solid track record of execution. Compared to its peers, he believes CTVA has room to trade at a higher multiple as margins improve over the next twelve months. His EBITDA estimate is 6% above consensus for the current and next four quarters.

Staples: MO**Altria Group (MO): Smoke-free growth ambitions funded by a stable and highly profitable core tobacco business**

Goldman Sachs Beverages, HPC, Tobacco & C-Stores analyst Bonnie Herzog sees 8% upside to Buy-rated MO over the next 12 months. Bonnie believes MO will retain its leadership position in the total nicotine market and continue to drive long-term sustainable profitable growth given management's deliberate and disciplined strategy to maximize profitability while balancing investments. She expects the company to leverage its strong pricing power to offset accelerated decline in cig volumes and expects MO's pricing strategy to translate into a healthy +240bp/+160bp increase in adj Smokeable operating margin and very LSD operating income growth in 2025/26E. On smoke-free, Bonnie notes that volume growth in this category has more than offset cig industry vol declines, and she expects MO to continue investing behind its smoke-free growth ambitions. She believes the company's core tobacco business remains strong, stable, and highly profitable with >\$1bn in FCF generation per year (after dividends) which management leverages to fund buybacks and its growth investments. She also highlights the company's attractive dividend yield of 7% as favorable in the current market environment. Bonnie is 4%/3% above consensus EPS for the current/next four quarters.

TMT: ANET, MNDY, TWLO, TYL**Arista Networks Inc. (ANET): Durable growth driven by strong momentum in AI networking**

Goldman Sachs Hardware, Media and SMID Fintech analyst Michael Ng sees >20% upside to Buy-rated ANET over the next 12 months. Michael expects ANET to deliver strong double-digit annual revenue and EPS growth over the coming years driven by ongoing momentum in its portfolio of AI, traditional cloud, and enterprise networking

solutions. In particular, ANET's AI business should benefit from continued strength in hyperscale demand for AI buildouts due to its best-of-breed Ethernet solutions and differentiated EOS platform. Michael expects investor focus to remain on its expectations for \$750 mn in back-end 2025 AI revenue and competitive dynamics versus whitescale players. He is 6% above consensus EPS for 2025.

Monday.Com Ltd. (MNDY): Emerging product traction and enterprise execution to support growth

Goldman Sachs Software analyst Kash Rangan sees >20% upside to Buy-rated MNDY over the next 12 months. Monday.com is a unique work operating system product cutting across operational silos built on a low-code no-code platform. The low-code no-code technology, intuitive interface, robust integrations and network effects of the platform continue to drive customer growth. As Monday.com continues to execute in the face of macro uncertainty while exhibiting strong pricing power, durable new customer demand, and traction within enterprise, Kash believes the company is executing in front of a significant TAM, with potential to reach +\$3bn in revenue by FY30. Though no AI revenue is baked into the company's FY25 guidance, Kash sees meaningful long-term upside potential from Monday's AI roadmap. Notably, the 500 AI credit threshold is set to maximize adoption and AI actions have spiked significantly since reporting 10mn AI actions at the end of FY24 (~3x qoq). His EPS estimate is 11% above consensus for the current quarter and 17% above for the next four quarters.

Twilio. (TWLO): Cleaner narrative and execution ahead

Goldman Sachs Software analyst Kash Rangan sees >20% upside to Buy-rated TWLO over the next 12 months. Twilio is the leader in its core CPaaS market with 22.3% market share (as of CY23), ~2x its nearest competitor Sinch (per Gartner). We view the company's deep technology stack and developer ecosystem (10m+) as a significant competitive advantage. Following multiple years of growth compression and several strategic actions, Kash believes Twilio is now hitting an inflection point both in terms of narrative and fundamentals. He notes that Twilio's major cost reduction initiatives and ongoing efficiency measures support strong FCF generation ahead, complemented by his view for an inflecting growth profile. Overall, Kash believes Twilio's turnaround story is firmly underway and see solid upside to Revenue/FCF in FY25. His EPS estimate is 5% above consensus for the current quarter and 8% above for the next four quarters.

Tyler Technologies Inc. (TYL): Benefiting from technology upgrades and cloud migrations

Goldman Sachs Emerging Software analyst Gabriela Borges sees 31% upside to Buy-rated TYL over the next 12 months. She believes that Tyler is well positioned to benefit from the ongoing government modernization efforts, and is several years (2027/2028) from seeing a peak in maintenance conversions to SaaS. While there has been increasing investor concern around potential implications of funding freezes at the state and local government, Gabriela notes that Tyler's demand is driven by governments replacing end of life or failing systems and should there be a push for efficiency, she sees a scenario where this replacement cycle is accelerated. She also

notes that Tyler continues to make progress on its cloud transition, driving an accelerated pace of conversions with larger clients flipping. Overall, she believes that continued revenue mix shift to SaaS and benefits of cloud optimization and version consolidation could be key drivers of margin expansion over the next 2 years. Her EBITDA estimate is 3% above consensus for the current quarter and 6% above for the next four quarters.

All EPS consensus estimates are from Refinitiv/LSEG and EBITDA consensus estimates are from Bloomberg unless stated otherwise.

Downside to consensus: Fundamental ideas in brief

Below are brief summaries of the drivers of our analysts' out-of-consensus earnings views for the companies highlighted with "downside to estimates". Please refer to each analyst's recent research for more details.

Discretionary: GPC

Genuine Parts Co. (GPC): Weakening Business Segments and Challenging Environment

Goldman Sachs Retail and Hardlines analyst Kate McShane believes that Sell-rated GPC is positioned less defensively in the current environment than peers due to recent underperformance in its NAPA Auto parts business, slowing trends at their European Automotive business, and concerns that their Industrial segment could be exposed to an uncertain macro environment. She also highlights that comps are currently running at or below GPC management's expected rates for FY25 which increases downside risk. She notes that GPC's US automotive business remains heavily skewed to independently-operated stores which purchase inventory from the company's distribution centers—a strategy that could prove challenging if local market demand weakens or if independents reduce inventory purchases. Additionally, she observes that both GPC's European Automotive business and Industrial segment have softened over the past year and anticipates that these trends may persist in the near term.

Financials: LAZ

Lazard Inc. (LAZ): Headwinds from slowing IBanking activity and higher comp ratios

Goldman Sachs Banks and Advisors analyst James Yaro sees downside to Sell-rated LAZ over the next 12 months. James sees a slowing M&A backlog trend driven by the continued weakening of leading indicators including lower GDP growth forecasts, higher market volatility, equity market sell-off and diminishing CEO/consumer confidence. In a downside scenario with deteriorating IBanking environment, James sees no growth in M&A for 2025 (vs. ~5% yoy growth in his base case). Given this backdrop, he remains cautious on LAZ and lowered his revenue estimates for the next 3 years (reduced by ~14%/10%/7% for 2025E/26E/27E vs. ~10%/6%/4% for industry). He also notes that IBanks have lost M&A market share to US bulge brackets in 1Q25 based on Dealogic data. James also sees risk to profitability as he expects a larger increase in the comp ratio relative to the industry average (2.66pp change in 2025E comp ratio vs. 1.44pp for industry) and estimates LAZ to have the highest % of fixed compensation as a % of revenue in 2025E. James is 19%/11% below consensus 2025E/26E EPS.

Industrials: AAL, AOS

American Airlines Group (AAL): Elevated leverage and Reduced Profitability for 2025

Goldman Sachs Airlines and Aircraft Lessors analyst Catherine O'Brien sees 16%

downside to Sell-rated AAL over the next 12 months. She expects AAL's higher operating leverage and a weaker balance sheet to drive a significantly larger impact on the bottom line vs industry peers if macroeconomic and geopolitical uncertainties intensify and weigh on demand. Given her reduced outlook, she now expects 2025 free cash flow to be more than cut in half, which combined with lower 2025 profitability will drive net debt-to-EBITDAR higher year-over-year to 5.0x vs. 4.2x previously. The primary driver of her lower-than-consensus outlook is revenue, where she is 2% below consensus in 2025 and 1% below in 2026.

A.O. Smith Corp. (AOS): Persistent macro uncertainty across regions pressuring profitability

Goldman Sachs Homebuilders & Building Products analyst Susan Maklari sees downside to Sell-rated AOS over the next 12 months. Susan maintains a cautious view on AOS as she sees incremental pressures in 1H25 driven by persistent macro uncertainty across regions, restructuring headwinds and challenging comparisons. Susan expects a challenging 1H comp for the core North America Water Heater business given the 4% residential price increase during last spring, and she notes the company's expectation for a flat residential and commercial water heater demand in 2025 relative to her expectations for a contraction in residential volumes this year. On China, Susan believes a broader shift in the macro is likely necessary to see a larger and more sustained improvement in performance given the ongoing weakness in the real estate sector and uncertainty around the future of government stimulus. She is 5%/4% below consensus EBITDA for the current/next four quarters.

Staples: CLX, HSY

Clorox Co. (CLX): Headwinds from soft end-market demand and volatility from upcoming ERP transition

Goldman Sachs Beverages, HPC, Tobacco & C-Stores analyst Bonnie Herzog sees downside to Sell-rated CLX over the next 12 months. Bonnie expects promotional intensity to remain elevated in the near-term given a soft end-market demand backdrop (as suggested by recent scanner data) and notes that the company also called out heightened competition within certain categories such as litter and trash bags. Bonnie lowered her EPS estimates for CLX as she sees pressures to gross margins from a potential volume de-leverage given broad-based consumption slowdown. She notes that the company remains committed towards its investment levels, which along with fixed costs could suggest potential downside risks to her current operating margin estimates for the quarter. She also sees idiosyncratic headwinds for the company from its upcoming ERP transition as she expects volatility around this to result in lower visibility into its underlying growth momentum and normalized earnings power until 2H26.

Hershey Co. (HSY): Soft category and market share trends

Goldman Sachs Packaged Food & Food Retail analyst Leah Jordan is cautious on Sell-rated HSY, as she sees near-term headwinds such as increased competition and soft trends for the sweet snacking category broadly. Although HSY has had strong pricing power historically, she notes that competition from smaller brands and private label has

increased which may constrain the company in the near-term. She notes that investor concerns on the sweet snacking category could continue to weigh on shares as consumption trends shift toward better-for-you products. Additionally, she sees ongoing pressure tied to cocoa volatility, noting costs remain historically elevated. These factors combined with an elevated valuation keeps her bearish on the stock. Her EPS estimate is 5% below consensus for the current quarter.

TMT: EBAY, SMCI, WU

eBay Inc. (EBAY): Challenging operating environment driven by macro and idiosyncratic factors

Goldman Sachs Internet analyst Eric Sheridan sees 10% downside to Sell-rated EBAY over the next 12 months. Eric believes growth will remain a key investor debate for EBAY in the near-term and notes that the company reduced their Q1 guide below expectations on the back of a challenging operating environment driven by macro uncertainty and revenue pressure from the phased ramp of the UK C2C initiative (Consumer to Consumer). Based on his more recent investor conversations, he believes there is a rising debate about whether tariffs might push the US consumer away from goods towards more services and notes the continued softening of the lower end consumer with respect to discretionary eCommerce goods. Beyond the near-term, Eric sees investor debates around the company's competitive positioning within the wider eCommerce and Consumer Internet landscape (especially outside of focus categories) that inform his framing of a more negative risk/reward. Eric is 2% below consensus EBITDA for the current quarter.

Super Micro Computer Inc. (SMCI): Margin pressures from intensifying competition and uncertain tariff environment

Goldman Sachs Hardware, Media and SMID Fintech analyst Michael Ng sees 17% downside to Sell-rated SMCI over the next 12 months. Michael recently downgraded SMCI to Sell from Neutral due to growing competition within the AI server market and gross margin compression. First, growing competition from OEM and ODM suppliers has intensified, which has resulted in less differentiation and greater pricing pressure. As such, gross margins have declined over time (Non-GAAP gross margins of 13.9% in F2024 v. 18.1% in F2023), and should continue to be pressured through its position as a price taker due to high supplier and customer concentration. Lastly, Michael notes that SMCI trades at a premium relative to other server OEMs like DELL and HPE, but sees convergence over time given lack of product differentiation and customer & supplier concentration risks. In a more recent note, Michael reduced his target multiple for SMCI to 8X (v. 9X prior) to reflect increased uncertainty given ongoing tariff rollouts. He is 4% below consensus EPS for F2025.

Western Union Co. (WU): Macro trends to weigh on revenue

Goldman Sachs Payment and Financial Technology analyst Will Nance is cautious on Sell-rated WU over the next 12 months as he continues to see their retail business declining and digital revenue growth decelerating modestly. He sees further deceleration of the U.S. outbound revenues to -5%, combined with the commentary

around recent immigration trends. He believes these factors are likely to weigh on sentiment given market focus on the potential ramifications of changes to immigration policy in US, as well as the related border policies in several Central American corridors. Additionally, on Tariff impact he notes that given WU's entire business is cross border, the company is likely to be negatively impacted by the scrutiny of cash remittance channels. Overall, Will believes underlying macro trends combined with the stalling out of transaction/revenue spread sets the company up for a challenging quarter. His EBITDA estimate is 4% below consensus for the current quarter and 5% below for the next four quarters.

All EPS consensus estimates are from Refinitiv/LSEG and EBITDA consensus estimates are from Bloomberg unless stated otherwise.

A list of the investment recommendations of the author(s) disseminated during the preceding 12 months is available upon request.

Our studies of options trading around events

"Trading Events: Earnings Volatility (Part 1)," July 14, 2011.

"Trading Events: Earnings Volatility (Part 2); Options Sticker Shock," July 19, 2011.

"Trading Events: Earnings (Part 3); Conditional on VIX," October 5, 2011.

"Trading Events: Earnings Volatility (Part 4); Consistent Winners," October 12, 2011.

"The case for owning stocks on earnings day," May 23, 2012.

"Trading Events: Analyst Days," May 2, 2013.

"The Anatomy of Preannouncements," July 7, 2014.

"Trading Events: Analyst Days 2002-2015," June 9, 2015.

"Trading Events: European Earnings: 14 Year Study," September 9, 2016.

"Trading Events: Asia Earnings and Preannouncements, a 15 year study," January 16, 2018.

"Trading Events: European Analyst Days, a 10-year study of 3,000+ events," March 5, 2018.

"Predicting Earnings Day Direction: a 20-year Study," July 9, 2018.

"The Earnings Liquidity Wave: a 12-year study," March 28, 2019.

"New Models for Asymmetric Investing: a 27-year Asset Allocation Perspective," April 10, 2023

"Trading Events: Earnings Season: Added Volatility or Fundamental Opportunity?," October 7, 2024

Disclosure Appendix

Reg AC

We, John Marshall and Arun Prakash, CFA, hereby certify that all of the views expressed in this report accurately reflect our personal views about the subject company or companies and its or their securities. We also certify that no part of our compensation was, is or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or views expressed in this report.

Unless otherwise stated, the individuals listed on the cover page of this report are analysts in Goldman Sachs' Global Investment Research division.

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Rating and pricing information

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Goldman Sachs Investment Research global Equity coverage universe

| | Rating Distribution | | | | Investment Banking Relationships | | |
|--------|---------------------|------|------|--|----------------------------------|------|------|
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| Global | 49% | 34% | 17% | | 63% | 57% | 42% |

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