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Woolworths Group (WOW-AU)



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Executive summary



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Recommendation	A BUY recommendation with a target price of \$41.40 and upside of 7.74%			
Industry Overview	The supermarket industry is a fiercely competitive landscape that is subjected to macroeconomic pressures that challenges players to respond to changing market demands			
Company Overview	Woolworths is the largest supermarket retailer due to its strong revenue growth as they lead in e-Commerce and sustainability opportunities			
Investment Thesis	eCommerce and Data Analytics investments to drive sales growth	Sustainability initiatives capturing shifting consumer sentiment and reducing WACC	Price-Freezing strategy to target inflation boosts revenue growth	
Valuation	Comparables and DDM suggest current price is at a premium	DCF implies current price is at a small discount	Valuation is moderately sensitive to capital spending and discount rates	
Risks & Mitigations	Increased Competition Improving digital scale & shopping experience	Inflationary Pressures Data driven insights, dynamic pricing strategy	Cybersecurity Threats Cybersecurity frameworks - Essential 8	Supply Chain Disruptions Sustainable initiatives amongst supply chain



Overview



PESTLE analysis reveals many macroeconomic factors will shape Woolworths' future business operations and opportunities



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POLITICAL	ECONOMICAL	SOCIAL	TECHNOLOGICAL	LEGAL	ENVIRONMENTAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Product pricing and profits impacted by trade regulations and tariffsSubject to Modern Slavery Act 2018 - mandatory reporting on risks and mitigations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Soaring levels of inflation to increase cost of productsDecrease in discretionary spendingPotential higher gross marginsPrice locking to retain customers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Consumer preferences shifting towards more health-conscious and sustainable productsCost-effective food items more appealing due to inflationRise in online grocery shopping and delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Strengthening cyber resilience + data protection lawsRise in online salesData analysis investment to personalise strategies and promotionsTechnology to improve supply chains and accelerate transport times	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Laws to enact more ambitious climate targets (e.g. single-use plastic ban)Subject to ACCC, Food Regulation Laws, Food and Grocery Code of ConductConcerns over unconscionable conduct and anti-competitive behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none">National and industry wide trend towards sustainable practices and productsSupply constraints caused by increasingly frequent natural disasters (e.g. 2022 Eastern NSW Floods)

Sources: Company Filings, IbisWorld, MarketLine



OVERVIEW



INVESTMENT THESIS



VALUATION



SIMILAR TECHNOLOGIES



RECOMMENDATION



Porter analysis indicates that Woolworths still manages to stand out in a highly competitive industry



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Threats of New Entrants

- Industry with **well-established** existing major players
- **High** barriers of entry
- Hard for new entrants to match existing economies of scales and low prices

Competitive Rivalry

- Woolworths is the **largest retailer** in an industry with a fair number of competitors
- Difficult to create unique value proposition due to lack of major specialisation opportunities
- Woolworths stands out due to its **low prices on essentials, market share, and focus on sustainability**
- Faces **competition from low cost retailers** such as Aldi and Costco

Bargaining Power of Suppliers

- As a large retailer, Woolworths has **access to a wide range of suppliers**
- **Limited** supplier bargaining power
- **Less susceptible** to disruptions and price fluctuations

Threats of Substitutes

- Few direct substitutes for groceries, a necessity
- However, still **easy to swap to similar competitors** (e.g. Coles)
- **Low switching costs** and cost of substitutes

Bargaining Power of Buyers

- Easy to swap to competitors
- **Highly competitive and price sensitive industry**
- Consumer **preference and trends can impact variety** of products available
- Incentive schemes to retain customers

Sources: MarketLine, IbisWorld

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SIMILAR TECHNOLOGIES

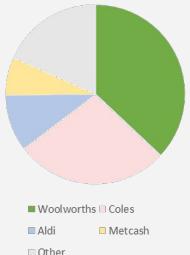
RECOMMENDATION



SWOT analysis exhibits Woolworths significant strengths and opportunities and where they can improve to maintain their dominant market position

Strengths

36.6% Market Share



1400+ Stores across Aus + NZ → large and diverse operations

9.2% Revenue Growth from FY21 to FY22

13% Net Profit Margin, higher than industry average of 7.8%

Opportunities



Continued Expansion into Online Retail

Increase fulfilment center and eCommerce investments to cater to growing demand for online grocery shopping.



Focus on Sustainability and Social Responsibility

Invest in CSR projects + sustainable practices and products to appeal to environmentally-conscious consumers. Opportunity to differentiate from competitors, decrease costs, and increase brand reputation

Weaknesses

7.6% Decline in Current Ratio, 0.6 in FY22, lower than competitors. Low liquidity could disadvantage funding potential future opportunities

\$390m In underpayments. Currently facing trials from Fair Work about underpayment. Previously underpaid 5,700 employees, leading to public outcry and loss in reputation

Threats



Supply Chain Disruptions

Woolworths' extensive supply chain is vulnerable to natural disasters. Potential for product shortages, increased costs, and customer displeasure leading to profit reduction



Increasing Online Theft

With the rise of online shopping, internet fraud is a major threat, with a 13% increase in cyber-crime reports in FY2021-22. May force Woolworths to increase investment into IT infrastructure, increasing operating costs

Sources: Company Filings, ABC News, ACSC, IbisWorld, MarketLine

Share price trends indicates Woolworths is performing well but needs to be wary of increasing consumer price-consciousness



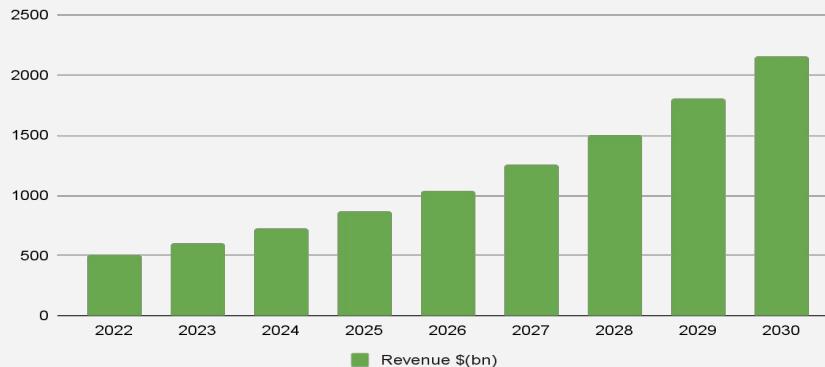
Note: Rebased from \$100. Share Prices from Refinitiv via Excel

Investment Thesis



Investment Thesis 1: eCommerce Growth and Data Analytics investments to drive sales growth over the long term

The global online grocery market is projected to grow steadily



Woolworths has invested ahead of the curve in eCommerce Infrastructure



Average weekly traffic Q4 F22
13.2M

▲ 28.3% from Q4 FY21

eCommerce Sales
\$4,677M

▲ 42.3% from FY21

eCommerce Penetration
10.3%

▲ 276bps from FY21

Sources: Precedence Research, WOW-AU Annual Report 2022, IBISWorld
Notes: Projected eCommerce sales derived from DCF

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Combined with investments into big data and IoT Technology



Analysing shopping habits to build consumer loyalty and expand consumer reach

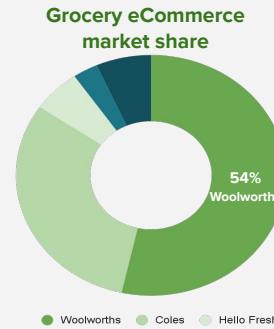


Creating **personalised consumer marketing** to provide a competitive edge in retaining shoppers

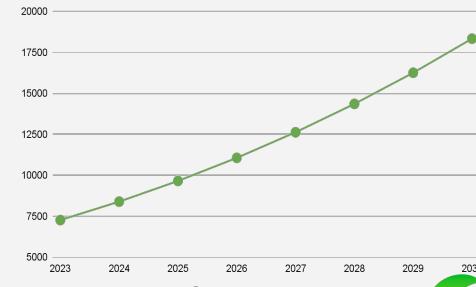


Developing strong **pricing strategies** to capture consumer market and remain competitive

Leading competitors in eCommerce market share and driving sales growth



Woolworths projected eCommerce sales



RISKS & MITIGATIONS

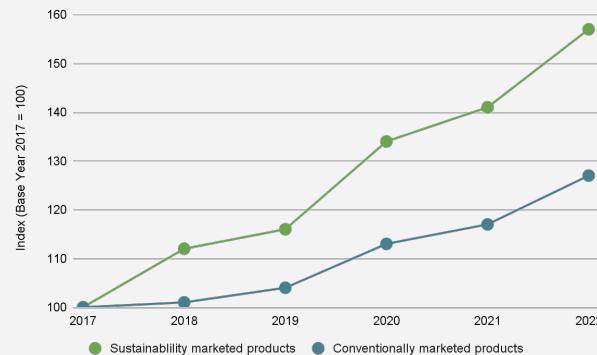
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Investment Thesis 2: Sustainability initiatives will capture shifting consumer sentiment and reduce cost of capital in the long term



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Sales of sustainable products have continued to grow annually



9.43% CAGR

For sustainability marketed products from 2017 to 2022

With increasing consumer demand for sustainable products



Of consumers say they are more likely to **trust companies** that are environmentally and socially conscious



Of consumers will be more loyal to a company that **produce sustainable goods**

Sources: Stern NYU, Forbes, Glow Data, ISS ESG
Notes: Decrease in WACC derived from financial model

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Woolworths has forefronted sustainability initiatives in the retail industry



- Phased **removal of plastic bags** and rollout of compostable barrier bags
- 31% reduction in scope 1 and 2 emissions from 2015
- **100% green electricity** by 2025
- Zero food waste to landfill by 2025



- Increasing sales from **organic and chemical free products** by 50bps
- **100% sustainable own brand packing and sourcing** by 2025
- Investment into **alternative protein innovation**

Solidifying a strong ESG presence and reducing cost of capital

ESG Rankings



10%
Drop in forecasted WACC

From **6.72%** to **6.05%**
due to sustainability benefits

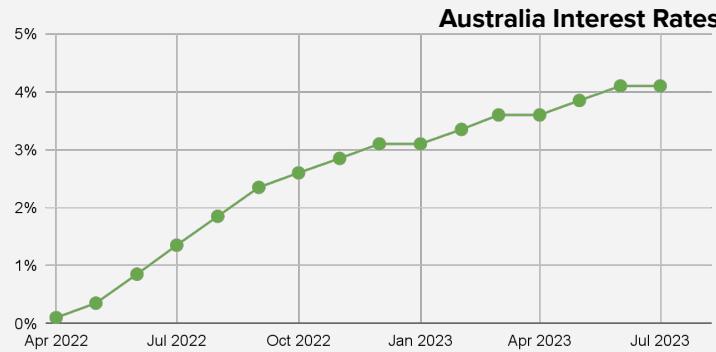
RISKS & MITIGATIONS

RECOMMENDATION



Investment Thesis 3: Inflation and Price-Freezing strategy driving defensive earnings and revenue growth

Macroeconomic Factors



Defensive Earnings

Consumer staple shares are regarded as the most defensive shares on the ASX.

Woolworths is more defensive than its competitors (Coles, Costco, etc) because:



▲ 8% In 2023, they had strong revenue growth.
4.1% higher than Coles and 6% higher than Costco.

Has paid dividends without fail since 1993.

Sources: The Guardian, RetailWorld, Trading Economics, Financial Review, ABCNews

Price-Freezing Strategy



Ongoing inflationary pressures keep **item prices high**

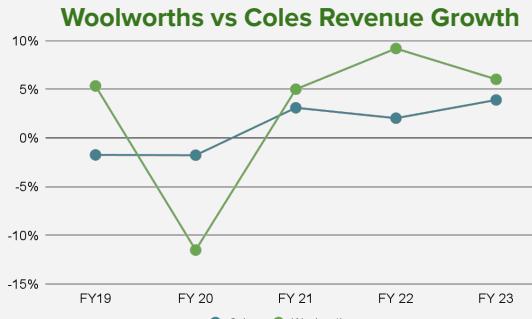
BUT Woolworths **price-locked 600 essential items**

Reliable prices maintains **customer loyalty + competitive advantage** over competitors

▲ 4%

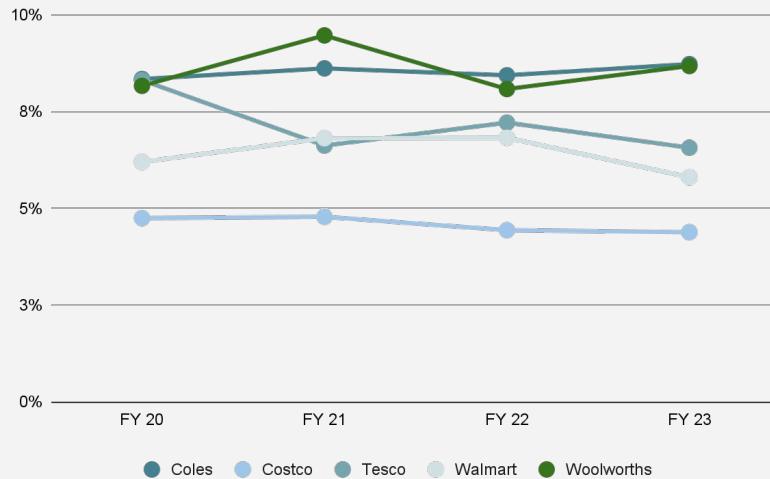
Increasing **revenue** as prices for goods are still generally rising.
Valuation: Forecasted **revenue growth of 4% per year**

Increasing Revenue Growth



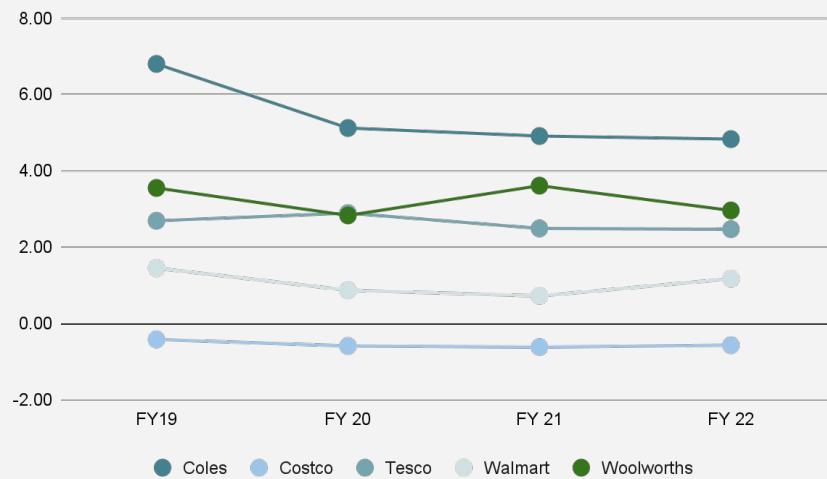
Financial Ratio Analysis against Competitors: High EBITDA, Low Net Debt/EBITDA

EBITDA Margin



- Woolworths' EBITDA Margin outperforms its competitors, signifying **lower operating costs**
- **Stronger** than the industry average of 6.83%

Net Debt/EBITDA



- Woolworths' Net Debt/EBITDA is **steadily decreasing** again after 2021
- Woolworths' Average: 3.24

Sources: Factset, FullRatio



Valuation



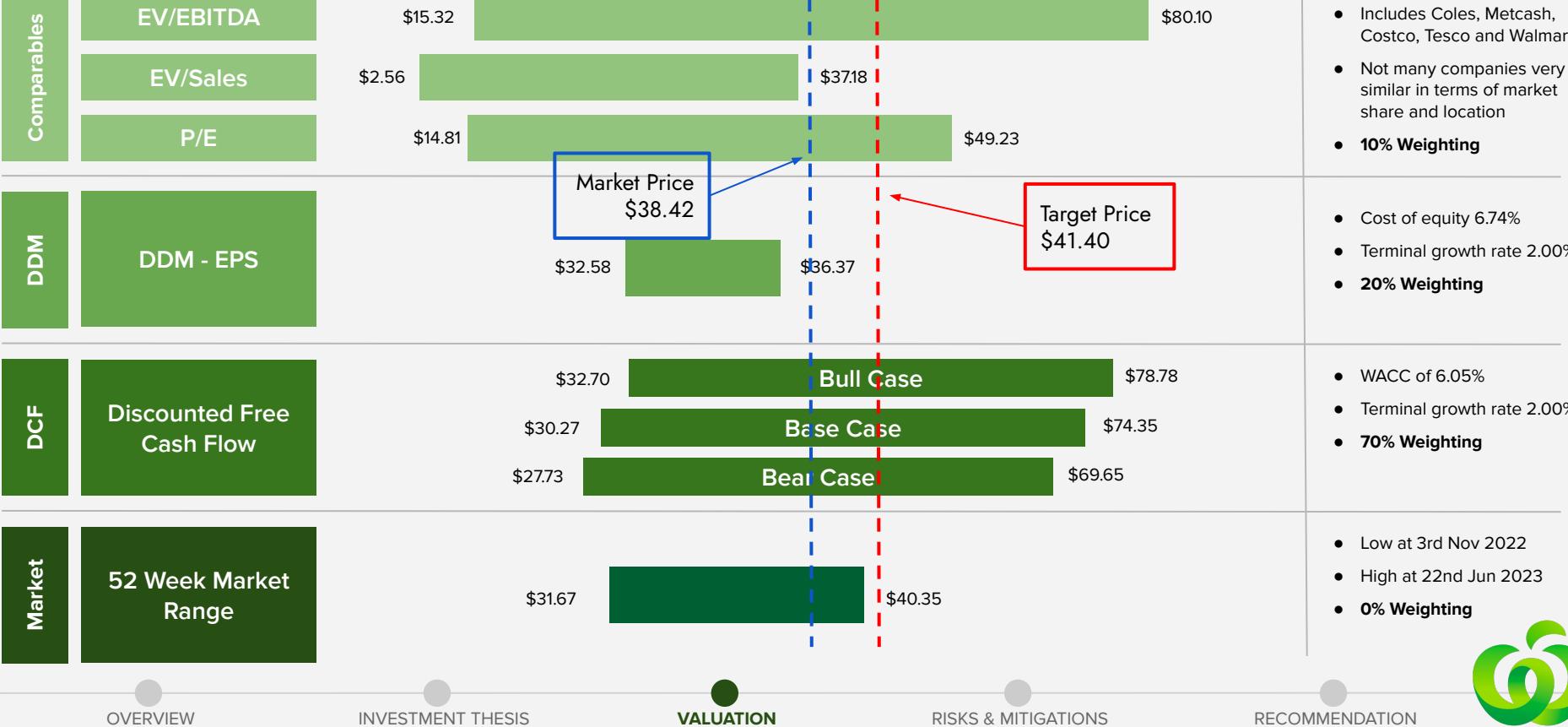
Football field analysis indicates a target price of \$41.40, 7.74% above the current market price



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Comments

- Includes Coles, Metcash, Costco, Tesco and Walmart
- Not many companies very similar in terms of market share and location
- **10% Weighting**



Financial analysis with account of investment thesis suggest a **BUY** with a fair share price of **\$45.05**

Rationale and Supporting Assumptions are as follows:

Shift towards higher percentage in eCommerce sales

- Supermarket eCommerce platforms will experience a **11.7% annualised year-on-year growth**
- Online stores could account for up to **18-30%** of the **food-at-home market**

Continued investment towards sustainability

- **\$2.7 million invested** in digital accelerator programs
- Continued funding into sustainability could result in **increased market share** in the future

Price freezes limit the impact of inflation on costs

- Promised freeze prices for items would **negate inflationary pressures**
- Inflation acting as a **lesser cost driver** for both revenue and expenses

DCF Model Outcomes



Base Case Share Price: WACC vs TGR Sensitivity Analysis

	Terminal Growth Rate (%)					
	1.60%	1.80%	2.00%	2.20%	2.40%	
WACC (%)	5.05%	57.88	61.23	65.03	69.36	74.35
	5.55%	48.32	50.75	56.46	56.46	59.87
	6.05%	40.95	42.76	44.75	46.95	49.39
	6.55%	35.06	36.45	37.96	39.61	41.42
	7.05%	30.27	31.36	32.54	33.81	35.19

Worst scenario: 32% price downside

Best scenario: 66% price upside

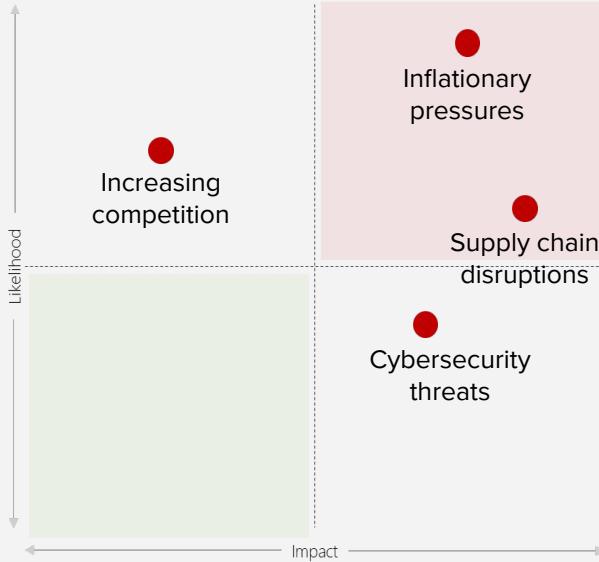
Sources: McKinsey, Grocery Dive, WOW-AU Annual Report 2022



Risk & Mitigations



The dampening of macroeconomic conditions presents the greatest risks to Woolworths' profit margins and share price.



Sources: IBISWorld, ABS, SkyNews

Rise of price-conscious and online grocery competitors	Post-pandemic inflationary pressures
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Online grocery delivery startups like MilkRun and low-cost competitors like Aldi and Costco compete on the basis of priceAldi increased market share from 8.8% in 2022 to 10.1% 2023 with their small range of value products	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Food and non-alcoholic beverages' price inflation reached 7.9% in 2023FYWith a projected pessimistic Consumer Confidence Index of 95 in 2024, increasingly frugal customers are likely to spend less or switch to price conscious competitorsHard to pass on costs to consumers
Geopolitical tensions & climate change causing supply chain disruptions	Cyber security threats due to increased eCommerce activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Russia-Ukraine conflicts causing damaged infrastructure, worker shortages, and export sanctions drive up global food and fuel pricesAustralia's Eastern state floods (2022) - closed critical supply lines, loss of perishable goods and inventory shortages which hikes up prices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Average cost of \$3M for a cyber crime attack to a business (source: UpGuard)2.2M customers of MyDeal, a Woolworths Group subsidiary, was affected in a data breach in 2022Caused an immediate 4% drop in share price and reputation damages



Woolworths must remain agile and transparent in mitigating macro risk factors that impact its long term sustainable growth

Today, the Group effectively applies the widely adopted **three lines of accountability risk management model** with clearly defined roles and responsibilities across all pillars.



Increased Competition

- **#3 ranking digital retailer** by weekly SimilarWeb website traffic rankings in 2022
- **Increasing digital scale** via Woolies X & Everyday Rewards App
- Differentiate via improvements to **in-person shopping experience** via market research and customer feedback



Inflationary Pressures

- Investments in **data driven insights** via Quantum & loyalty program Everyday Rewards to **influence dynamic strategic pricing decisions**
- Woolworths CEO Brad Banducci on customer centricity: “*always running hard to find out where our customers are at*”
- Green Supermarket of the Year by Finder FY22 - its **strong supplier relationships** to negotiate favorable pricing



Supply Chain Disruptions and Climate Change

- Increase **resilience in the value chain** via **Woolworths Dairy Innovation Fund** to support sustainable farmer projects that show efficiency and seasonal resilience.
- Encouraging **low carbon and green practices** across Woolworth's network of stores, communities and suppliers



Cybersecurity and Data Privacy Threats

- Woolworths has **doubled its cybersecurity team** and financial investment in this area over the last 3 years.
- Continually enhancing, monitoring and testing our critical technology processes
- **Adhere to cybersecurity frameworks like Essential Eight by the Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC)**

Source: WOW-AU Annual Report FY22, Deloitte

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RECOMMENDATION



Recommendation



Investment Theses

- eCommerce
- Data analytics
- Sustainability initiatives
- Price-freezing strategies



- Drive revenue growth
- Reduce cost of capital



Valuation

Weighed:

- 70% to DCF
- 20% to DDM
- 10% to comparables valuation

Moderately sensitive to WACC and terminal growth rate. Higher weighting towards upside supports buy.

Risks and Mitigations

- Grocery competitors
- Inflationary pressures
- Geopolitical tensions
- Cyber security

Mitigated by new investments and operations.

BUY Recommendation

Target Share Price: \$41.40

Potential Upside: 7.74%

Investment theses, valuation and mitigated risks upside provides margin of safety to buy.



Appendix





Appendix Network

Main Deck

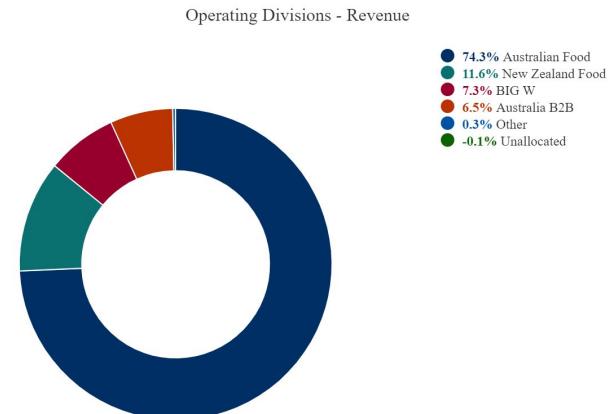
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- 7. [Woolworths' Price History](#)
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Woolworths Background

- Woolworths is a Public Company that generates the majority of its income from the Supermarkets and Grocery Stores industry.
- In 2022 the company generated total revenue of \$61,097,000,000 including sales and other revenue. In 2022 Woolworths had 198,000 employees including employees from all subsidiaries under the company's control
- Australian Food - The company operates approximately 1,064 Woolworths and Metro branded Supermarkets.
- New Zealand Food - Woolworths operates approximately 181 Countdown grocery stores across New Zealand, and is engaged in wholesale operations to an additional 70 stores.
- BIG W: The company operates approximately 179 Big W discount department stores in Australia retailing hardware, stationery, books, homewares, toys, sporting goods, clothing, recorded media, software, automotive goods, pet food and health & beauty products.
- Main competitors: Coles, Aldi, Metcash, Costco



Source: IbisWorld

Macroeconomic and Industry Trends

Key Trends

Inflationary pressures have boosted supermarket and grocery profit margins.

Increased demand for groceries during the COVID-19 pandemic has boosted industry revenue

The industry's consolidation has deterred new industry entrants

Industry competition is expected to remain fierce but not heavily focus on price-based strategies

Online sales are projected to become increasingly important for industry operators

Technological investment is anticipated to remain strong, with a focus on supply chain improvements

Demand for supermarkets and grocery stores rose significantly following the COVID-19 outbreak

The Supermarkets and Grocery Stores industry is one of the most fiercely competitive industries in Australia. The continued expansion of Aldi and Costco has forced the two established industry giants, Woolworths and Coles, to remain price competitive. To differentiate themselves from low-cost supermarkets, Coles and Woolworths have increasingly focused on improving customers' shopping experience through store refurbishments and increased online shopping capabilities. These supermarket giants are increasingly relying on loyalty programs and promotions rather than discounts. Coles and Woolworths have also displayed a lot of interest in data analytics, have strengthened their relationships with analytics firms and taken a lot of capabilities in house.

Supermarket and grocery store income rose significantly following the COVID-19 outbreak. Household expenditure shifted towards retail industries amid restrictions on many services industries. Panic buying behaviour by customers and supermarkets' discontinuation of many of their specials and promotions drove grocer turnover. Overall, revenue has stacked up by an annualised 2.2% to \$130.2 billion over the five years to 2022-23. The current cost-of-living crisis is primarily benefiting supermarket and grocery store incomes, with many stores passing on purchase cost increases onto customers. Inflationary pressures have pushed up profit margins for supermarkets and grocery stores to 4.2% and industry revenue is set to rise by 2.1% in 2022-23.

Supermarkets and grocery stores are set to continue performing positively and industry revenue is slated to climb at an annualised 1.8% over the five years through 2027-28, to \$142.2 billion. Continuing inflationary pressures are set to keep store prices and incomes high. Concerns over costs will continue driving some customers to price-conscious stores like Aldi and Costco. Eventually, when inflationary pressures subside and consumer sentiment returns to a positive level, supermarkets and grocers will be well positioned to take advantage of consumer appetite for value-added and premium goods. Strong growth in online sales is set to continue, benefiting larger supermarket chains that can augment their existing store networks to offer competitive delivery options.

ACCC Intervention

Date	6 June 2013
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The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission today announced it would oppose the proposed acquisition by Woolworths Limited (Woolworths) of a supermarket site at Glenmore Ridge in the suburb of Glenmore Park, New South Wales.

The ACCC concluded that the proposed acquisition would be likely to result in a substantial lessening of local supermarket competition.

"Woolworths already operates the only supermarket in the suburb of Glenmore Park, and it has the next closest supermarket located in the nearby suburb of South Penrith. The Glenmore Ridge site represents the only opportunity for a competing supermarket to enter Glenmore Park in the foreseeable future, other than an ALDI that is due to open in 2014," ACCC Chairman Rod Sims said.

Date	26 May 2023
------	-------------

The ACCC opposes Woolworths' proposed acquisition of the SUPA IGA in Karabar, NSW and its co-located Liquor Boss store, after concluding the transaction would be likely to substantially lessen competition in the supply of groceries in the local area.

"The proposed acquisition would see Woolworths operate three of six supermarkets in the local Queanbeyan/Jerrabomberra area. Local consumers would be left with just one Coles and two ALDI stores as alternatives," ACCC Chair Gina Cass-Gottlieb said.

"We concluded that the removal of the SUPA IGA would likely result in a substantial lessening of competition in the area."

Source: ACCC

Woolworths Underpayment Trial

Coles and Woolworths short-changed workers on overtime by setting up a payment structure that was foreign to Australia's industrial awards system, the Federal Court has been told.

A joint trial, brought by the Fair Work Ombudsman and two class action claimants against the supermarket giants, commenced in the Federal Court on Monday, alleging underpayment of workers over a number of years.

It comes after Coles last week said it had set aside another \$25 million to repay salaried managers it underpaid for years, while Woolworths has previously disclosed underpaying thousands of employees to the tune of around \$390 million.

In his opening address, Fair Work Ombudsman barrister Justin Bourke KC argued the "entirely foreign" payment structure covering some workers would always "end badly for Woolworths and Coles and its employees".

Key points:

- The joint trial commenced in the Federal Court today and is expected to last seven weeks
- The Fair Work Ombudsman and two class action claimants allege Coles and Woolworths underpaid workers for years
- Fair Work told the court the companies knew people were working above rostered hours "day in day out"

Source: ABC News (Posted 5th June 2023)

eCommerce Growth and Data Analytics

WooliesX F22 highlights



ConnectedX



Digital traffic
+22%
vs. F21



Rolling out new real-time loyalty platform enabling Rewards members to earn points in real-time and discover personalised product promotions throughout their online journey



Grew weekly users of Woolworths app by 53% vs. F21 and connected experiences between Rewards and Woolworths apps

Shopping Lists users: **+37%**
Recipes users: **+29%**



Expanded personalised product recommendations in the online journey, based on customer preferences and needs, including personalised search and recipes

eComX

Active customers
+22%
+840,000 vs. F21



eCom B2C sales
+42%
(up \$1.4b) vs. F21



+52 Direct to boot sites.
Now in 681 Supermarkets



Investing in our network
Opened Rochedale CFC in Qld and Caringbah CFC to open by end of August



Delivery Unlimited
B2C paid subscribers doubled vs. prior year following relaunch



UberEats & Metro60
Two new convenient propositions launched enabling customers to receive orders in under 60 mins

EverydayX

everyday rewards

13.7 million
+628,000 or 4.8% vs. F21



Everyday Rewards app active weekly users +70% vs. F21 and 1m members opted out of paper receipts



Launched Everyday Pay nationally within Woolworths Supermarkets, Metro Food Stores and BIG W



Launched Everyday Market providing customers with a curated online marketplace, making it easier for customers to earn and redeem points

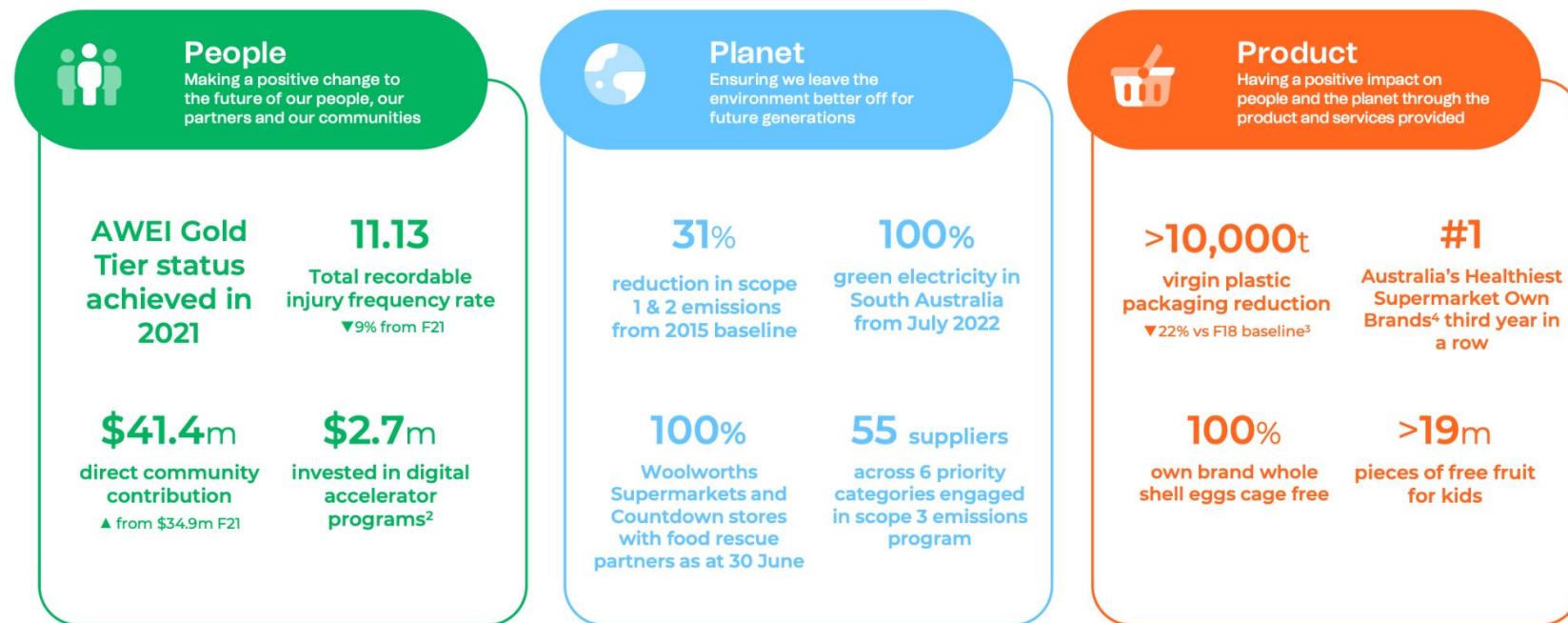


Record Bank for Christmas engagement as more customers choose how to redeem their points

Source: Woolworths Full Year Results 2022

Sustainability Initiatives

Consistent progress on our sustainability goals¹



Source: Woolworths Full Year Results 2022

Prize-Freezing Strategy

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Latest News

Woolworths announces massive Spring savings with 400+ essentials added to its Prices Dropped program

Monday 22 August, 2022: Woolworths is reducing the price of more than 400 springtime grocery staples, from chicken, bread, yoghurt, vitamins to entertaining essentials like cheeses, dips, and more to help millions of customers save across a wide range of food and everyday products.

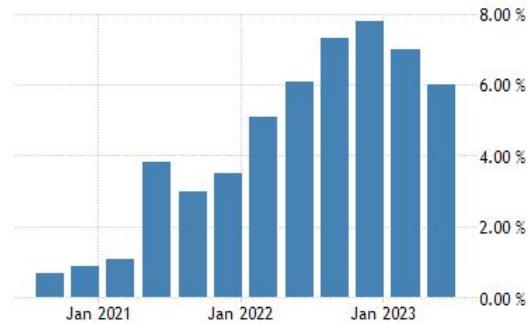
The investment by Woolworths represents millions of dollars in savings for customers to help them get more value from their overall basket this Spring. The prices dropped will be available online and in store from Wednesday August 24 - 29 November 2022 and reflect popular seasonal products, including spring entertaining and cleaning staples.

More affordable spring essentials include:

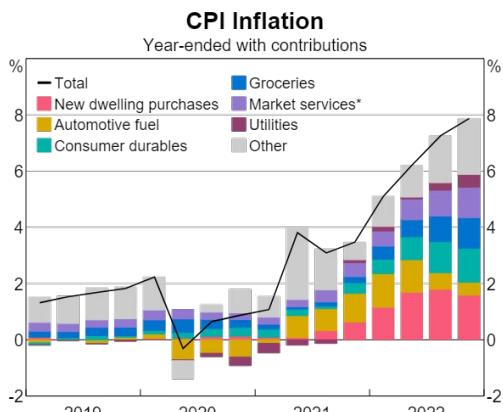
- WW RSPCA Chicken Mince 500g (was \$6.50/each, now \$6/each)
- KB's Prawn Gyoza 1kg (was \$22.70 now \$17.00)
- Chobani Fit 170g (was \$2.50 now \$2.00)
- Mersey Valley Cheese 180g (was \$7.50 now \$6.00)
- Dilmah Premium Leaf Tea 50g (was \$5.30 now \$3.70)
- Western Star Salt/Butter 500g (was \$7.50, now \$7.00)

Source: Woolworths Group

Australia Inflation Figures

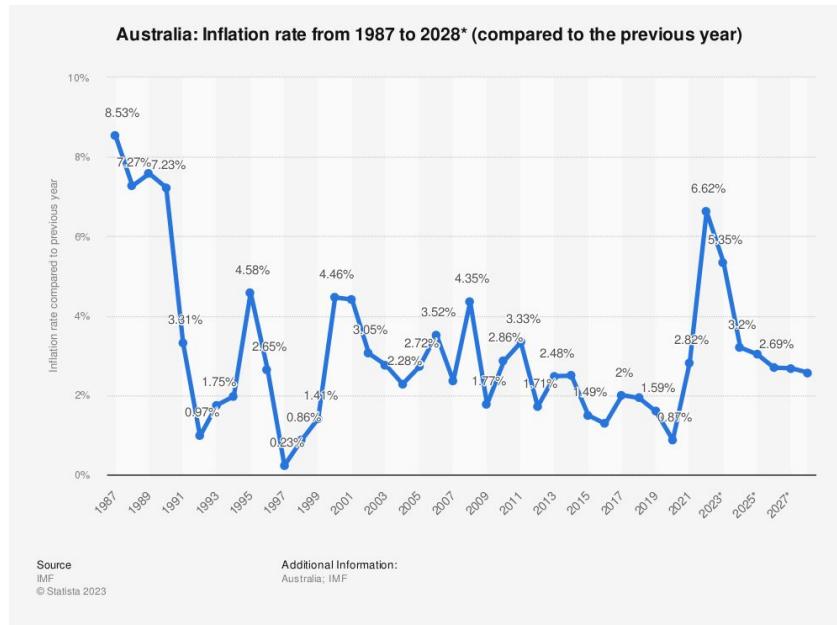


Source: Trading Economics



* Excludes domestic travel and telecommunications.

Sources: ABS, RBA

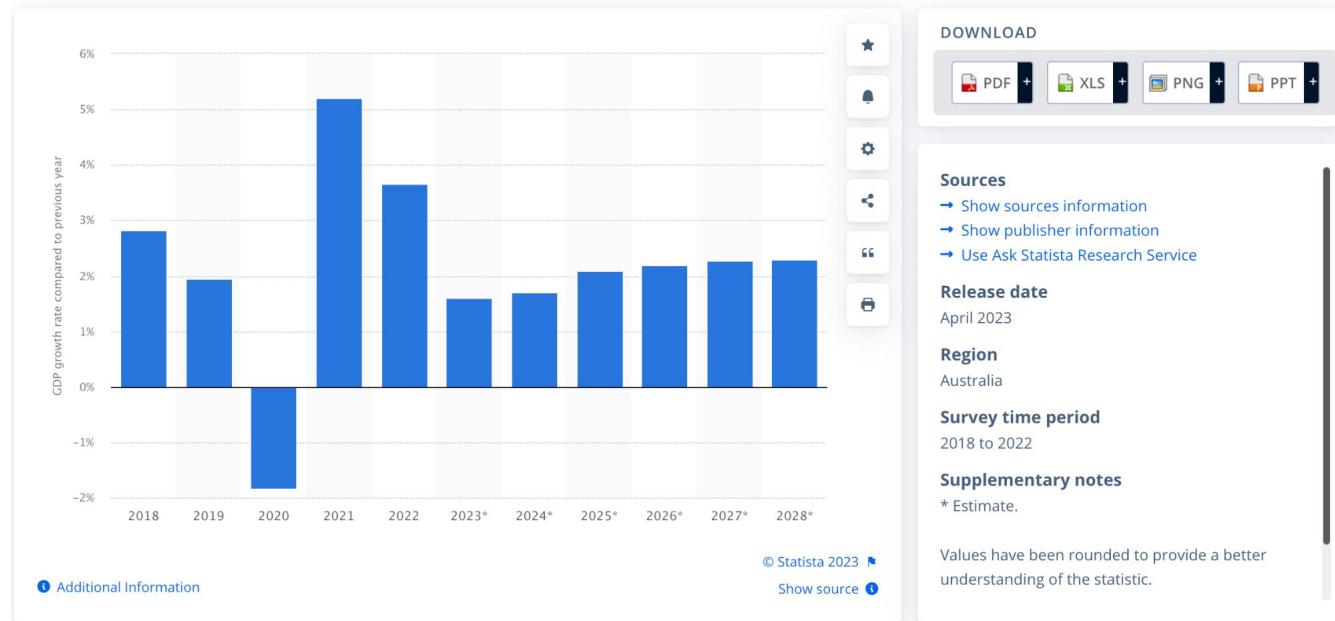


Source: Statista

Terminal Growth Justification

Australia: Real gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate from 2018 to 2028*

(compared to the previous year)



- “GDP in Aus has been able to get a steady foothold, whereas the GDP growth rate in the US plummeted into the minus zone” - Statista
- GDP growth is forecast to 1.5% over 2023, and to remain around that rate before picking up slightly towards the end of the forecast period in 2025.” - RBA

Adjusted WACC Justification (Cost of Equity)

Robin Nuttal: The first question you need to answer is, to what extent does good ESG translate into good financial performance? On that, there have been more than 2,000 academic studies and around 70 percent of them find a positive relationship between ESG scores on the one hand and financial returns on the other, whether measured by equity returns or profitability or valuation multiples. Increasingly, another element is the cost of capital. Evidence is emerging that a better ESG score translates to about a 10 percent lower cost of capital as the risks that affect your business, in terms of its license to operate, are reduced if you have a strong ESG proposition.

Sean Brown: And with a lower cost of capital you have higher value and more dry powder to make acquisitions—which brings us back to the M&A conference and your discussion there. What are some of the key findings you shared with the audience?

Robin Nuttal: We looked at the reasons behind the relationship between ESG performance and financial outcomes and identified five sources of fundamental business value that explain these findings. The first is top-line growth. If you are a consumer goods company with a stronger sustainability proposition, you are more likely to attract customer loyalty and new customer segments. There is

evidence that brands with more sustainable impact grow faster than brands that have a less sustainable proposition. On the business-to-business side, there also is a link. Large companies are seeking to channel ESG through their value chain. If you want to be a supplier to one of the world's largest retailers, for example, you had better have a strong sustainability proposition on plastics, packaging, water use, and so on.

The second aspect is cost. If you are more resource-efficient, more water-efficient, have less packaging, you will generally have a lower unit-cost structure. The third area are your regulatory relationships. If you are more responsible about your assets' environmental footprint, then the chances of an adverse, punitive regulatory outcome are lower, so there is potentially regulatory value here.

Source: McKinsey and Company (Why ESG scores are here to stay)

The fourth is talent. These days, newer recruits and millennials demand purposeful work and if you are an employer that can meet that need, you will attract and retain that talent, and likely higher productivity in the workplace. The evidence suggests that this is worth roughly 2 percent of your stock price each year. Then the fifth factor we found is investment optimization. There are downside risks of holding assets that become stranded. Coal assets and oil tankers, for example, have seen significant write-downs in recent years. Conversely, there are enormous opportunities in ESG-related investments. For example, there is a huge demand for technology that could improve air quality. When you add up all five factors, they explain this roughly 10 percent advantage in your cost of capital.

Does sustainability foster the cost of equity reduction? The relationship between corporate social responsibility (CSR) and riskiness worldwide

Salvia A. 

2018-01-01

Abstract

The relationship between sustainable practices and a firm's financial performance is an open debate among academics, managers and investors worldwide. Despite large literature in the field of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and corporate financial performance (CFP), there is still a lack of unanimous consensus around the impact of sustainability on a firm's economic achievements. This study aims to analyse this relationship and fill some of the gaps within existing literature using two geographical samples, a European and a global one, proceeding to compare obtained results. Such analysis was performed employing an ex ante implied proxy for the cost of equity, which has been selected in order to overcome methodological weaknesses of previous studies. Results show that sustainability can reduce the cost of equity due to lower firm riskiness, as perceived by markets and investors. Geographical specificities, on the other hand, do not play a significant role. CSR practices have the potential to create a type of goodwill or moral capital for more sustainable firms that acts as protection when negative events occur, preserving shareholder value and reducing the firms' cost of equity.

Source: African Journal of Business Management (Does sustainability foster the cost of equity reduction?)

Adjusted WACC Justification (Cost of Debt)

Abstract

As sustainable investing becomes central to capital allocation in many markets, the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) metrics and scores have become of critical importance. This study aims to analyze the relation between the cost of debt and ESG scores. We provide evidence that the cost of debt for borrowing firms is associated with their ESG score/rating. Firms that have low ESG scores are considered to be riskier, in the sense that they are exposed to liabilities related to Environmental, Social and Corporate factors that ultimately increase their probability of default. In case of a bankruptcy unsecured bondholders' claims may be subordinate to those liabilities. Using a framework for evaluating ESG performance developed by Refinitiv, this study investigates whether firms within S&P 500 over the period 2010–2019 that exhibit strong ESG scores benefit from lower bond spreads and better bond ratings relative to firms with weaker ESG scores. After controlling for other risk characteristics our analysis points that better ESG rating is associated with lower cost of unsecured debt in the primary bond market. Our findings are consistent over the aggregate metric and all E,S, and G pillars. Furthermore, they support the ongoing calls for improved transparency, which would allow for the reporting of quantifiable ESG information in firms' disclosures.

Source: Energy Economics (ESG Scores and Cost of Debt)

Box 1 provides an example where ING bank links the interest rate on a loan facility for health technology company Philips to its sustainability performance and rating. If the rating goes up, the interest rate goes down and vice versa. Philips is thus incentivised to improve its sustainability, while ING reduces the risk of its loan.

Box 1: Banks provide sustainable credit facilities

In April 2017, the healthcare technology company Philips agreed an innovative €1bn loan facility with a consortium of banks that features an interest rate linked to the technology firm's year-on-year sustainability performance. The nature of the revolving credit facility means if Philips' sustainability performance improves, the interest rate it has to pay goes down, and vice versa. The five-year loan facility, which matures in April 2022, will be used for "general corporate purposes". The loan is different to previous green loans and bonds, where the pricing is linked to specific green covenants, or the use of proceeds is limited to green purposes.

As part of the consortium of 16 banks offering the loan, ING Bank has conducted the credit risk assessment and acts as the sustainability coordinator for the syndicated loan. Philips' current sustainability performance has been assessed and benchmarked by Sustainalytics, an independent provider of environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) research and ratings. The potential discount is around 5 to 10 per cent of the credit spread.

ING indicates that the loan agreement with Philips was an additional way for the bank to support and reward clients seeking to become more sustainable. The loan facility follows Philips' 'Healthy People, Sustainable Planet' programme, through which it is aiming to become 'carbon-neutral' throughout its global operations and source all of its electricity needs from renewable sources by 2020 (SDG 12) and to improve the lives of three billion people a year by 2025 by making the world healthier and more sustainable through innovation (SDG 3).

Source: ING and Philips

Source: Rotterdam School of Management Erasmus University (Cost of Capital and Sustainability: A literature Review)

Financial Model: Assumptions made in relation to Investment Thesis: Justification

Gross Profit



Continued Expansion into Online Retail

Assumption: As online grocery shopping grows, it is inevitable that the growth in in-person grocery shopping will reduce.



Predicted 11.7% annualised growth year on year for eCommerce supermarket stores

- Leads to a 11.7% reduction in annualised growth year on year for in-person stores

There was an initial, unrealistic boom in online sales due to COVID-19, hence Woolworth's year on year growth was above this average

Impact of Inflation



Woolworth's Price Freeze Initiative

Assumption: Inflation plays a lesser degree in revenue prices. Maintain constant inflation impact on prices of 1.47% (average inflation rate for next 10 years (est.))

Inflation will ultimately drive prices for goods upwards so that Woolworths can keep a reasonable profit margin on their items. However, their price freeze schemes will keep customers loyal and shopping at Woolworths.

Capex Investments Growth Rate



Continued Expansion into Online Retail

Assumption: Woolworth's Capex Growth rate will decline as the demand to open new brick-and-mortar stores decline



"Capex investments mainly relate to investment in new stores" - WOW Annual Report

Woolworths opens new stores when there is demand. Currently the Australian net population growth is -0.06%. Assume that Capex's growth rate decreases by 0.06% per year due to less demand for new stores

Capex & Opex Lease Obligations + Appropriate Reserves



Return to pre-COVID figures

Assumption: before COVID-19, Woolworths took on 0 lease obligations. Assume that Woolworths will return to this debt structure eventually

Woolworths had maintained consistent asset and liability management before COVID-19. We predict that Woolworths will return to their original structure once the impacts of COVID-19 die off

Inputs: Key Drivers

Inputs: Assumptions

Assumptions

INCOME STATEMENT ASSUMPTIONS

		EXPLANATION
COGS % sales	67.3%	Maintain the past
Non-operating income % sales	0.33%	
Equity in Earnings of Affiliates % sales		
Current tax % EBIT (implied tax rate)	28.70%	Maintain the past
Deferred tax % EBIT	-3%	

BALANCE SHEET ASSUMPTIONS

Long-term investments % sales	1.31%
Intangible Assets % sales	11.26%
Deferred Tax Assets % sales	1.96%
Other Assets % sales	0.22%
Other Liabilities	347.3

DEPRECIATION ASSUMPTIONS

Buildings % PPE	7.37%	6 year average used
Construction in Progress % PPE	4.47%	6 year average used
Machinery & Equipment % PPE	52.06%	6 year average used
Other PPE % PPE	16.29%	6 year average used
Operating Lease % PPE	19.81%	6 year average used

EXISTING ASSET DEPRECIATION

Useful Life: Buildings	30
Useful Life: Other PPE	13
Useful Life: Machinery & Equipment	13
<i>Straight-line depreciation assumed for all</i>	

Inputs: Recalculated WACC

Forecast Period WACC

Cost of Debt (Post-Tax)	5.55%
Cost of Equity	7.70%
Debt Ratio	45.61%
WACC	6.72%
Adjusted WACC due to sustainability benefits	6.05%

Reduce by 10% due to benefits from sustainability initiatives

Adjusted For Sustainability

Cost of Debt Reduction Multiplier	1	Work backwards from adjusted WACC above to determine individual adjustment for cost of debt and cost of equity
Cost of Equity Reduction Multiplier	3	Reduction due to lower risks and borrowing costs as higher ESG is associated with lower bond spreads and better bond ratings
Base Reduction Benefit	0.32%	Reduction due to lower firm riskiness, as perceived by markets and investors. Higher weighting as more factors reduce cost of equity compared to cost of debt
Cost of Debt (Post-Tax)	5.23%	Working backwards from adjusted WACC
Cost of Equity	6.74%	
Debt Ratio	45.61%	
Adjusted WACC due to sustainability benefits	6.05%	

Sources

Cost of Equity Impact	Does sustainability foster the cost of equity reduction? The relationship between corporate social responsibility (CSR) and riskiness worldwide
	Why ESG scores are here to stay McKinsey
Cost of Debt Impact	ESG scores and cost of debt
	Cost of Capital and Sustainability: A Literature Review

Cost of Debt

Effective Interest Rate on Debt

	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Interest Expense	154.0	126.0	671.0	613.0	600.0
Total Debt (including lease liability)	2,199.0	2,855.0	14,806.0	13,274.0	14,837.0
Effective Interest Rate	7.00%	4.41%	4.53%	4.62%	4.04%
Implied Pre-Tax Cost of Debt	4.92%				
Tax Rate		30.71%	30.46%	32.33%	22.20%
Implied Tax rate	22.41%				
Implied Post-Tax Cost of Debt	3.82%				

Market Comparables - Moody Credit Reporting

Credit Rating	Baa2
Implied Credit Risk Spread	5.37%
Risk Free Rate	4.01%
Implied Pre-Tax Cost of Debt	9.38%
Tax Rate	22.41%
Implied Post-Tax Cost of Debt	7.28%

Method

	Cost of Debt	Weighting
Effective Interest Rate on Debt	3.82%	50%
Credit Rating	7.28%	50%
Triangulated Cost of Debt	5.55%	

Inputs: Recalculated WACC

Cost of Equity

CAPM Pricing Model

Risk-free rate	4.01%	
Market risk premium	5.96%	https://www.gurufocus.com/economic_indicators/5878/australia-total-equity-risk-premium
Beta	0.48	Factset (52 week average)
Cost of equity	6.87%	

Dividend Discount Model

Current Share Price	\$38.42	(as of 21st July)
Current Dividend	\$0.99	
Dividend Growth Rate	6.50%	Factset (5 yr)
Cost of equity	9.24%	

Method

	Cost of Equity Weighting	
CAPM	6.87%	65% Increase CAPM Weighting as it considers risk
DDM	9.24%	35%
Triangulated Cost of Equity	7.70%	

Model: Income Statement

	Historical										Forecasted								Terminal
	2017A	2018A	2019A	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F	2026F	2027F	2028F	2029F	2030F	2031F	2032F			
Income Statement																			
All figures in AUD millions and million units unless stated																			
Inflation	1.95%	1.91%	1.61%	0.85%	2.86%	7.30%	6.75%	3.50%	3.00%	2.86%	2.71%	2.57%	2.43%	2.29%	2.14%	2%	2%		
Revenue year on year growth (%)	55,034.00	56,944.00	59,984.00	53,080.00	55,733.00	60,849.00	64,518.55	67,263.06	69,992.63	72,725.82	75,481.07	78,276.19	81,127.80	84,050.95	87,058.68	90,161.68	93,471.30		
COGS	38,067.00	39,132.00	41,320.00	35,292.00	36,797.00	40,446.00	43,432.17	45,279.70	47,117.17	48,957.08	50,811.85	52,693.44	54,613.07	56,580.86	58,605.58	60,694.44	62,922.39		
Gross Profit	16,967.00	17,812.00	18,664.00	17,788.00	18,936.00	20,403.00	21,086.38	21,983.36	22,875.46	23,768.73	24,669.23	25,582.74	26,514.73	27,470.09	28,453.10	29,467.24	30,548.91		
SG&A year on year growth (%) % difference between sales growth & SG&A growth	13,809.00	14,352.00	15,379.00	13,452.00	13,657.00	15,483.00	16,353.36	16,982.09	17,601.74	18,217.05	18,832.67	19,452.99	20,082.07	20,723.47	21,380.26	22,054.82	22,774.15		
EBITDA	3,158.00	3,460.00	3,285.00	4,336.00	5,279.00	4,920.00	4,733.02	5,001.28	5,273.72	5,551.68	5,836.56	6,129.75	6,432.66	6,746.61	7,072.84	7,412.42	7,774.76		
Depreciation & Amortisation D&A % sales	1,038.00	1,103.00	1,222.00	2,458.00	2,608.00	2,361.00	2,110.12	2,265.56	2,426.88	2,594.20	2,767.65	2,947.34	3,133.39	3,325.91	3,525.02	3,730.82	3,943.41		
EBIT Operating profit margin %	2,120.00	2,357.00	2,063.00	1,878.00	2,671.00	2,559.00	2,622.91	2,735.72	2,846.84	2,957.48	3,068.91	3,182.42	3,299.27	3,420.70	3,547.82	3,681.60	3,831.35		
Interest	202.0	154.0	126.0	671.0	613.0	600.0	599.83	653.93	539.72	542.77	472.51	445.98	394.00	348.82	296.23	243.82	213.74		
Non-Operating Income	252.0	191.0	288.0	148.0	152.0	109.0	235.49	245.51	255.47	265.45	275.51	285.71	296.12	306.79	317.76	329.09	341.17		
Unusual Expense - Net	38.0	-	-	-	-	23.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Pre Tax Income	2,132.00	2,394.00	2,225.00	1,355.00	2,210.00	2,091.00	2,258.57	2,327.29	2,562.59	2,680.16	2,871.91	3,022.15	3,201.39	3,378.67	3,569.35	3,766.88	3,958.78		
Current Tax	651.0	718.0	667.0	417.0	604.0	534.0	752.77	785.15	817.04	848.80	880.78	913.35	946.89	981.74	1,018.22	1,056.62	1,099.60		
Deferred Tax	122	98	-48	-118	-140	-42	-78.69	-82.07	-85.41	-88.72	-92.07	-95.47	-98.98	-102.62	-106.43	-110.45	-114.94		
Total Tax	773	816	619	299	464	492	674.09	703.08	731.64	760.07	788.71	817.88	847.91	879.12	911.79	946.17	984.66		
Consolidated Net Income	1,481.00	1,676.00	1,558.00	938.00	1,606.00	1,557.00	1,505.79	1,542.14	1,745.55	1,831.37	1,991.13	2,108.79	2,254.49	2,396.93	2,551.13	2,710.26	2,859.18		

Model: Projected Gross Profit Schedule

	Historical								Forecasted								Terminal	
	2017A	2018A	2019A	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F	2026F	2027F	2028F	2029F	2030F	2031F	2032F		
Projected Gross Profit Schedule																		
Inflation	1.95%	1.91%	1.61%	0.85%	2.86%	7.30%	6.75%	3.50%	3.00%	2.86%	2.71%	2.57%	2.43%	2.29%	2.14%	2%	2%	
Revenue	55,034.00	56,944.00	59,984.00	53,080.00	55,733.00	60,849.00												
year on year growth (%)	3.47%	5.34%	-11.51%	5.00%	9.18%													
Total eCommerce Sales	2,534.00	3,523.00	5,364.00	6,263.00	\$7,249.29	\$8,358.30	\$9,599.37	\$10,981.54	\$12,513.34	\$14,202.53	\$16,055.86	\$18,078.82	\$20,275.35	\$22,647.57	\$25,297.34			
year on year growth (%)		39.03%	52.26%	16.76%	15.75%	15.30%	14.85%	14.40%	13.95%	13.50%	13.05%	12.60%	12.15%	11.70%	11.70%			
Total brick-and-mortar Sales	56,944.00	57,450.00	49,557.00	50,369.00	54,586.00	\$56,337.14	\$57,933.00	\$59,382.06	\$60,693.58	\$61,877.23	\$62,942.78	\$63,899.86	\$64,757.82	\$65,525.56	\$66,211.52	\$66,823.56		
year on year growth (%)		0.89%	-13.74%	1.64%	8.37%	3.21%	2.83%	2.50%	2.21%	1.95%	1.72%	1.52%	1.34%	1.19%	1.05%	0.92%		
eCommerce sales % of sales						11.40%	12.61%	13.92%	15.32%	16.82%	18.41%	20.08%	21.82%	23.63%	25.49%	27.46%		
Total Revenue						\$63,586.43	\$66,291.29	\$68,981.42	\$71,675.12	\$74,390.57	\$77,145.31	\$79,955.72	\$82,836.64	\$85,800.92	\$88,859.09	\$92,120.89		
Increase in rev. due to inflation							\$932.12	\$971.77	\$1,011.20	\$1,050.69	\$1,090.50	\$1,130.88	\$1,172.08	\$1,214.31	\$1,257.76	\$1,302.59	\$1,350.41	
Total Revenue (inflation adjusted)																		
						\$64,518.55	\$67,263.06	\$69,992.63	\$72,725.82	\$75,481.07	\$78,276.19	\$81,127.80	\$84,050.95	\$87,058.68	\$90,161.68	\$93,471.30		

Model: Cash Flow Statement

Model: External Financing Schedule

	Historical								Forecasted								
	2017A	2018A	2019A	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F	2026F	2027F	2028F	2029F	2030F	2031F	2032F	Terminal
External Financing Schedule																	
Total Assets	24,061	23,917	38,474	39,237	33,274	35,707.32	36,519.80	37,432.56	38,184.42	38,955.79	39,641.80	40,310.11	40,934.13	41,530.02	42,093.41	42,637.51	
Total Current Liabilities	9,029.0	8,885.0	13,457.0	23,117.0	10,750.0	11,549.23	12,040.87	12,525.89	13,016.07	13,503.27	13,977.16	14,497.46	15,016.30	15,549.39	16,099.16	16,684.57	
Total Long-Term Liabilities excl. Long-Term Debt	1,983	1,692	14,079	11,627	12,481	11,694	10,654	9,614	8,574	7,534	6,494	5,454	4,414	3,373	2,333	1293.333333	
Total External Financing Required	13,049	13,340	10,938	4,493	10,043	12,464.15	13,825.04	15,292.85	16,594.59	17,918.82	19,171.00	20,359.07	21,504.32	22,607.17	23,660.85	24,659.61	
Debt Outstanding before Financing:	2,777.0	2,199.0	2,855.0	14,806.0	13,274.0	3,938	4,065.88	5,185.20	5,012.92	5,516.76	5,378.55	5,557.58	5,479.25	5,405.12	5,194.57	4,940.36	
Common Equity before Financing:	9,999	10,269	8,578	2,110	6,067	6,898	9,320	9,580	11,228	12,040	13,513	14,600	15,879	17,113	18,440	18,981	
Change in Common Stock:	482	-168	164	-731	-87	1500	-680	700	-150	500	100	280	220	300	280	500	
Debt Outstanding after Financing:	2,568	3,239	2,196	3,114	4,063	4,065.88	5,185.20	5,012.92	5,516.76	5,378.55	5,557.58	5,479.25	5,405.12	5,194.57	4,940.36	5,178.90	
Long-Term Debt/External Financing	19.68%	24.28%	20.08%	69.31%	40.45%	32.62%	37.51%	32.78%	33.24%	30.02%	28.99%	26.91%	25.14%	22.98%	20.88%	21.00%	
Equity/External Financing	80.32%	75.72%	79.92%	30.69%	59.55%	67.38%	62.49%	67.22%	66.76%	69.98%	71.01%	73.09%	74.86%	77.02%	79.12%	79.00%	
Debt/Equity Ratio	0.22	0.28	0.22	1.30	0.65	0.58941	0.55636	0.52327	0.49135	0.44671	0.41126	0.37530	0.34039	0.30355	0.26791	0.27285	
Debt/Equity Ratio Objective						0.61	0.57	0.53	0.49	0.44	0.40	0.36	0.32	0.28	0.24	0.24	

Model: Balance Sheet

	Historical										Forecasted							
	2017A	2018A	2019A	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F	2026F	2027F	2028F	2029F	2030F	2031F	2032F	Terminal	
Balance Sheet																		
All figures in AUD millions and million units unless stated																		
Cash & Short-Term Investments	925	1,273	1,066	2,068	1,009	1,032	1,396.40	1,430.11	1,618.74	1,698.32	1,846.48	1,955.59	2,090.71	2,222.80	2,365.79	2,513.36	2,651.47	
Short-Term Receivables	411	420	470	548	480	856	764.98	797.52	829.88	862.29	894.96	928.10	961.91	996.57	1,032.23	1,069.02	1,108.27	
Inventories	4,207.0	4,233.0	4,280.0	4,434.0	3,132.0	3,593.0	4,526.09	4,718.63	4,910.11	5,101.85	5,295.13	5,491.22	5,691.26	5,896.33	6,107.32	6,325.00	6,557.18	
Other Current Assets	1,578.0	1,088.0	482.0	1,075.0	11,165.0	629.0	1,114.94	1,162.37	1,209.54	1,256.77	1,304.38	1,352.69	1,401.96	1,452.48	1,504.46	1,558.08	1,615.27	
Total Current Assets	7,122	7,015	6,299	8,127	15,787	6,111	7,802.41	8,108.62	8,568.27	8,919.23	9,340.95	9,727.59	10,145.85	10,568.17	11,009.80	11,465.47	11,932.18	
Net PPE	8,438.0	9,026.0	8,252.0	20,804.0	17,030.0	18,226.0	18,387.20	18,488.60	18,539.05	18,536.75	18,479.95	18,366.99	18,196.38	17,966.86	17,677.41	17,327.39	16,916.54	
Long Term Investments	578	599	736	339	268	1,945	843.25	879.12	914.80	950.52	986.53	1,023.06	1,060.33	1,098.54	1,137.85	1,178.41	1,221.66	
Intangible Assets	6,533.0	6,465.0	7,793.0	7,717.0	4,671.0	5,278.0	7,262.93	7,571.88	7,879.15	8,186.83	8,496.99	8,811.64	9,132.65	9,461.71	9,800.29	10,149.60	10,522.17	
Deferred Tax Assets	998.0	940.0	736.0	1,327.0	1,371.0	1,337.0	1,267.05	1,320.95	1,374.55	1,428.23	1,482.34	1,537.23	1,593.23	1,650.64	1,709.71	1,770.64	1,835.64	
Other Assets	1	16	101	160	110	377	144.48	150.62	156.73	162.86	169.03	175.28	181.67	188.22	194.95	201.90	209.31	
Total Non-Current Assets	16,548.0	17,046.0	17,618.0	30,347.0	23,450.0	27,163.0	27,904.91	28,411.18	28,864.29	29,265.19	29,614.83	29,914.20	30,164.27	30,365.96	30,520.22	30,627.94	30,705.32	
Total Assets	23,670	24,061	23,917	38,474	39,237	33,274	35,707.32	36,519.80	37,432.56	38,184.42	38,955.79	39,641.80	40,310.11	40,934.13	41,530.02	42,093.41	42,637.51	
ST Debt and Current LT Debt	254.0	604.0	274.0	3,853.0	1,614.0	1,926.0	1,600.46	1,668.54	1,736.25	1,804.05	1,872.40	1,941.73	2,012.47	2,084.98	2,159.59	2,236.56	2,318.66	
Accounts Payable	5,195.0	5,149.0	5,219.0	5,843.0	4,832.0	5,216.0	5,960.69	6,214.25	6,466.43	6,718.94	6,973.49	7,231.72	7,495.17	7,765.24	8,043.11	8,329.79	8,635.56	
Income Tax Payable	81.0	110.0	84.0	131.0	252.0	12.0	111.67	116.78	117.91	123.56	122.32	100.70	115.49	116.13	116.02	115.70	114.39	
Other Current Liabilities	3,422.0	3,166.0	3,308.0	3,630.0	16,419.0	3,596.0	3,876.41	4,041.31	4,205.31	4,369.52	4,535.06	4,703.00	4,874.33	5,049.96	5,230.67	5,417.11	5,615.96	
Total Current Liabilities	8,952.0	9,029.0	8,885.0	13,457.0	23,117.0	10,750.0	11,549.23	12,040.87	12,525.89	13,016.07	13,503.27	13,977.16	14,497.46	15,016.30	15,549.39	16,099.16	16,684.57	
Long-Term Debt	2,777.0	2,199.0	2,855.0	14,806.0	13,274.0	14,837.0	14,466.49	14,545.75	13,333.41	12,797.18	11,618.91	10,757.89	9,639.49	8,525.30	7,274.69	5,980.42	5,178.90	
Long-Term Debt excl Lease Obligations	2,775	2,199	2,855	1,904	2,753	3,938	4,065.88	5,185.20	5,012.92	5,516.76	5,378.55	5,557.58	5,479.25	5,405.12	5,194.57	4,940.36	5,178.90	
Capital and Operating Lease Obligations	2	0	0	12,902	10,521	10,899	10,401	9,361	8,320	7,280	6,240	5,200	4,160	3,120	2,080	1,040	0	
Provision for Risks & Charges	1,074.0	993.0	1,041.0	918.0	804.0	846.0	946.0	946.0	946.0	946.0	946.0	946.0	946.0	946.0	946.0	946.0	946.0	
Deferred Tax Liabilities	626.0	669.0	345.0	204.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other Liabilities	364.0	321.0	306.0	55.0	302.0	736.0	347.3	347.3	347.3	347.3	347.3	347.3	347.3	347.3	347.3	347.3	347.3	
Total Non-Current Liabilities	4,841.0	4,182.0	4,547.0	15,983.0	14,380.0	16,419.0	15,759.82	15,839.08	14,626.74	14,090.52	12,912.25	12,051.22	10,932.82	9,818.63	8,568.02	7,273.76	6,472.24	
Debt Ratio	12.81%	11.65%	13.08%	48.50%	37.94%	50.38%												
Total Liabilities	13,793.0	13,211.0	13,432.0	29,440.0	37,497.0	27,169.0	27,309.05	27,879.95	27,152.63	27,106.58	26,415.52	26,028.38	25,430.29	24,834.94	24,117.42	23,372.92	23,156.81	
Common Stock	5,719	6,201	6,033	6,197	5,466	5,379	6,879	6,199	6,899	6,749	7,249	7,349	7,629	7,849	8,149	8,429	8,929	
Retained Earnings	3,554	4,073	3,783	2,329	3,115	8,173	8,310	8,450	8,609	8,776	8,957	9,149	9,354	9,572	9,805	10,051	10,311	
Other Appropriate Reserves	253	207	285	216	-7,202	-7,572	-6,791	-6,010	-5,228	-4,447	-3,666	-2,885	-2,103	-1,322	-541	240	240	
Total Shareholders' Equity	9,526	10,481	10,101	8,742	1,379	5,980	8,398	8,640	10,280	11,078	12,540	13,613	14,880	16,099	17,413	18,720	19,481	
Accumulated Minority Interest	351	368	383	290	360	124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Equity	9,877	10,849	10,484	9,032	1,739	6,104	8,398	8,640	10,280	11,078	12,540	13,613	14,880	16,099	17,413	18,720	19,481	
Total Liabilities & Shareholders' Equity	23,670	24,060	23,916	38,472	39,236	33,273	35,707.32	36,519.80	37,432.56	38,184.42	38,955.79	39,641.80	40,310.11	40,934.13	41,530.02	42,093.41	42,637.51	

Model: Debt Schedule

	Historical						Forecasted										
	2017A	2018A	2019A	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F	2026F	2027F	2028F	2029F	2030F	2031F	2032F	Terminal
Debt Schedule																	
EXISTING LONG TERM DEBT																	
Beginning Balance	2,775	2,199	2,855	1,904	2,753	3,938	3,938.00	4,065.88	5,185.20	5,012.92	5,516.76	5,378.55	5,557.58	5,479.25	5,405.12	5,194.57	4,940.36
Ending Balance	2,775	2,199	2,855	1,904	2,753	3,938	4,065.88	5,185.20	5,012.92	5,516.76	5,378.55	5,557.58	5,479.25	5,405.12	5,194.57	4,940.36	5,178.90
Interest Rate	4.10%	4.10%	4.10%	4.10%	4.10%	4.10%	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04
Debt Interest	56.89	101.97	103.61	97.56	95.47	137.17	164.08	189.65	209.06	215.86	223.35	224.19	226.26	223.13	217.29	207.77	207.44
Old Operating Lease Interest	145.1	52.0	22.4	573.4	517.5	462.8	426.42	383.78	341.14	298.50	255.85	213.21	170.57	127.93	85.28	42.64	0.00
Total LT Debt Interest	202.0	154.00	126.00	671.00	613.00	600.00	590.50	573.43	550.20	514.36	479.21	437.40	396.82	351.06	302.58	250.41	207.44
Interest rate	4.10%																
NEW LONG TERM DEBT																	
Beginning Balance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Increase/(Decrease)							127.88	1,119.32	-172.28	503.84	-138.21	179.03	-78.34	-74.13	-210.55	-254.20	238.54
Paying off new debt							19.18	167.90	-25.84	75.58	-20.73	26.85	-11.75	-11.12	-31.58	-38.13	35.78
Ending Balance	0	0	0	0	0	0	147.07	1,287.21	-198.12	579.41	-158.94	205.89	-90.09	-85.25	-242.13	-292.33	274.32
Total Debt (incl. operating leases)	2,777	2,199	2,855	14,806	13,274	14,837	14,466.49	14,545.75	13,333.41	12,797.18	11,618.91	10,757.89	9,639.49	8,525.30	7,274.69	5,980.42	5,178.90
Debt match up?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes						
Interest Rate	4.10%	4.10%	4.10%	4.10%	4.10%	4.10%	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04
Debt Interest	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.01	26.39	-4.06	11.88	-3.26	4.22	-1.85	-1.75	-4.96	-5.99	5.62
Operating Lease/Debt %							2.60	2.02	1.63	1.38	1.15	0.95	0.75	0.57	0.39	0.21	0.00
New Operating Lease Interest							7.84	53.40	-6.63	16.43	-3.73	4.01	-1.39	-1.00	-1.95	-1.23	0.00
Total New LT Debt Interest							10.85	79.79	-10.69	28.30	-6.99	8.23	-3.24	-2.75	-6.91	-7.22	5.62
Total Debt Interest (LT and ST)	56.89	101.97	103.61	97.56	95.47	137.17											
Total Operating Lease Interest (Old and New)	145.1	52.0	22.4	573.4	517.5	462.8											
Total Interest Expense	202.00	154.00	126.00	671.00	613.00	600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest							601.35	653.22	539.51	542.66	472.22	445.64	393.59	348.31	295.67	243.19	213.07

Model: Working Capital Schedule

	Historical													Forecasted							Terminal		
	2017A	2018A	2019A	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F	2026F	2027F	2028F	2029F	2030F	2031F	2032F							
Working Capital Schedule																							
<i>All figures in AUD millions and million units unless stated</i>																							
Days in Period	365	365	365	365	365	365	365	365	365	365	365	365	365	365	365	365	365	365	365	365	365		
Revenue	55,034.00	56,944.00	59,984.00	53,080.00	55,733.00	60,849.00	64,518.55	67,263.06	69,992.63	72,725.82	75,481.07	78,276.19	81,127.80	84,050.95	87,058.68	90,161.68	93,471.30						
COGS	38,067.00	39,132.00	41,320.00	35,292.00	36,797.00	40,446.00	43,432.17	45,279.70	47,117.17	48,957.08	50,811.85	52,693.44	54,613.07	56,580.86	58,605.58	60,694.44	62,922.39						
AMOUNTS PER DAY																							
Accounts Receivable	(Days)	3.4	3.5	3.6	4.6	4.0	6.8	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3		
Inventory	(Days)	40.3	39.5	37.8	45.9	31.1	32.4	37.8	37.8	37.8	37.8	37.8	37.8	37.8	37.8	37.8	37.8	37.8	37.8	37.8	37.8		
Accounts Payable	(Days)	49.8	48.0	46.1	60.4	47.9	47.1	49.9	49.9	49.9	49.9	49.9	49.9	49.9	49.9	49.9	49.9	49.9	49.9	49.9	49.9		
TOTAL AMOUNTS																							
Accounts Receivable & ST Receivables		517	549	591	676	611	1,129	764.98	797.52	829.88	862.29	894.96	928.10	961.91	996.57	1,032.23	1,069.02	1,108.27					
% of revenue		0.94%	0.96%	0.99%	1.27%	1.10%	1.86%																
Inventory		4,207	4,233	4,280	4,434	3,132	3,593	4,526.09	4,718.63	4,910.11	5,101.85	5,295.13	5,491.22	5,691.26	5,896.33	6,107.32	6,325.00	6,557.18					
% of revenue		7.64%	7.43%	7.14%	8.35%	5.62%	5.90%																
Accounts Payable		5,195	5,149	5,219	5,843	4,832	5,216	5,960.69	6,214.25	6,466.43	6,718.94	6,973.49	7,231.72	7,495.17	7,765.24	8,043.11	8,329.79	8,635.56					
% of revenue		9.44%	9.04%	8.70%	11.01%	8.67%	8.57%																
Accounts Receivable & ST Receivables		517	549	591	676	611	1,129	764.98	797.52	829.88	862.29	894.96	928.10	961.91	996.57	1,032.23	1,069.02	1,108.27					
Inventory		4,207	4,233	4,280	4,434	3,132	3,593	4,526.09	4,718.63	4,910.11	5,101.85	5,295.13	5,491.22	5,691.26	5,896.33	6,107.32	6,325.00	6,557.18					
Other Current Assets		1,578	1,088	482	1,075	11,165	629	1,114.94	1,162.37	1,209.54	1,256.77	1,304.38	1,352.69	1,401.96	1,452.48	1,504.46	1,558.08	1,615.27					
Total Current Assets		6,302	5,870	5,353	6,185	14,908	5,351	6,406.01	6,678.51	6,949.53	7,220.91	7,494.48	7,772.00	8,055.14	8,345.37	8,644.01	8,952.11	9,280.72					
ST Debt and Current LT Debt		254	604	274	3,853	1,614	1,926	1,600.46	1,668.54	1,736.25	1,804.05	1,872.40	1,941.73	2,012.47	2,084.98	2,159.59	2,236.56	2,318.66					
Accounts Payable		5,195	5,149	5,219	5,843	4,832	5,216	5,960.69	6,214.25	6,466.43	6,718.94	6,973.49	7,231.72	7,495.17	7,765.24	8,043.11	8,329.79	8,635.56					
Income Tax Payable		81	110	84	131	252	12	111.67	116.78	117.91	123.56	122.32	100.70	115.49	116.13	116.02	115.70	114.39					
Other Current Liabilities		3,422	3,166	3,308	3,630	16,419	3,596	3,876.41	4,041.31	4,205.31	4,369.52	4,535.06	4,703.00	4,874.33	5,049.96	5,230.67	5,417.11	5,615.96					
Total Current Liabilities		8,952	9,029	8,885	13,457	23,117	10,750	11,549.23	12,040.87	12,525.89	13,016.07	13,503.27	13,977.16	14,497.46	15,016.30	15,549.39	16,099.16	16,684.57					
NET WORKING CAPITAL																							
Current Assets		6,302	5,870	5,353	6,185	14,908	5,351	6,406.01	6,678.51	6,949.53	7,220.91	7,494.48	7,772.00	8,055.14	8,345.37	8,644.01	8,952.11	9,280.72					
Current Liabilities		8,952	9,029	8,885	13,457	23,117	10,750	11,549.23	12,040.87	12,525.89	13,016.07	13,503.27	13,977.16	14,497.46	15,016.30	15,549.39	16,099.16	16,684.57					
Net Working Capital	-	-	2,650	3,159	-	3,532	-	7,272	-	8,209	-	5,399	-5,143.21	-5,362.36	-5,576.36	-5,795.16	-6,008.79	-6,205.16	-6,442.33	-6,670.93	-6,905.38	-7,147.06	-7,403.85
Change in NWC		-	509	-	373	-	3,740	-	937		2,810	255.79	-219.15	-214.00	-218.80	-213.63	-196.37	-237.17	-228.60	-234.45	-241.68	-256.79	

Model: Depreciation Schedule

	Historical										Forecasted							Terminal
	2017A	2018A	2019A	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F	2026F	2027F	2028F	2029F	2030F	2031F	2032F		
Depreciation Schedule																		
All figures in AUD millions and million units unless stated																		
Capex Increase Percentage																		
ALLOCATION OF FUTURE CAPEX																		
Gross PPE	13,932	14,970	14,886	29,058	24,366	26,192	28,192	30,269	32,424	34,660	36,977	39,378	41,863	44,436	47,096	49,845	52,686	
Buildings	1,436	1,472	1,647	1,527	1,027	924	147.3	153.0	158.8	164.7	170.7	176.9	183.1	189.5	196.0	202.6	209.2	
% of PPE	10.31%	9.83%	11.06%	5.26%	4.21%	3.53%	7.37%	7.37%	7.37%	7.37%	7.37%	7.37%	7.37%	7.37%	7.37%	7.37%	7.37%	
Construction in Progress	519	729	722	1,055	1,096	1,369	89.3	92.8	96.3	99.9	103.5	107.2	111.0	114.9	118.8	122.8	126.9	
% of PPE	3.73%	4.87%	4.85%	3.63%	4.50%	5.23%	4.47%	4.47%	4.47%	4.47%	4.47%	4.47%	4.47%	4.47%	4.47%	4.47%	4.47%	
Machinery & Equipment	9,258	10,241	9,534	10,645	9,247	10,188	1,041.3	1,081.3	1,122.2	1,163.9	1,206.5	1,249.9	1,294.2	1,339.2	1,385.0	1,431.6	1,478.8	
% of PPE	66.45%	68.41%	64.05%	36.63%	37.95%	38.90%	52.06%	52.06%	52.06%	52.06%	52.06%	52.06%	52.06%	52.06%	52.06%	52.06%	52.06%	
Other Property, Plant & Equipment	2,719	2,528	2,983	3,769	3,443	3,716	325.8	338.3	351.1	364.1	377.5	391.0	404.9	419.0	433.3	447.9	462.6	
% of PPE	19.52%	16.89%	20.04%	12.97%	14.13%	14.19%	16.29%	16.29%	16.29%	16.29%	16.29%	16.29%	16.29%	16.29%	16.29%	16.29%	16.29%	
Operating Lease	0	0	0	12,062	9,553	9,995	396.3	411.5	427.0	442.9	459.1	475.7	492.5	509.6	527.1	544.8	562.7	
% of PPE	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	41.51%	39.21%	38.16%	19.81%	19.81%	19.81%	19.81%	19.81%	19.81%	19.81%	19.81%	19.81%	19.81%	19.81%	
NEW ASSET DEPRECIATION																		
TOTAL ASSET DEPRECIATION																		
Existing Buildings							64.32	64.32	64.32	64.32	64.32	64.32	64.32	64.32	64.32	64.32	64.32	
Existing Construction in Progress							0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Existing Machinery & Equipment							1,048.99	1,048.99	1,048.99	1,048.99	1,048.99	1,048.99	1,048.99	1,048.99	1,048.99	1,048.99	1,048.99	
Existing Other PPE, Plant & Equipment							328.17	328.17	328.17	328.17	328.17	328.17	328.17	328.17	328.17	328.17	328.17	
Existing Operating Lease Right-of-Use Assets							518.94	518.94	518.94	518.94	518.94	518.94	518.94	518.94	518.94	518.94	518.94	
Existing Assets							1,960.42	1,960.42	1,960.42	1,960.42	1,960.42	1,960.42	1,960.42	1,960.42	1,960.42	1,960.42	1,960.42	
New Buildings							4.91	10.01	15.30	20.79	26.48	32.38	38.48	44.80	51.33	58.08	65.06	
New Land & Improvements							0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
New Machinery & Equipment							80.10	163.28	249.60	339.13	431.93	528.08	627.64	730.65	837.19	947.31	1,061.07	
New Other PPE, Plant & Equipment							25.06	51.08	78.09	106.10	135.13	165.21	196.36	228.58	261.91	296.37	331.95	
New Operating Lease Right-of-Use Assets							39.63	80.77	123.48	167.77	213.68	261.24	310.49	361.46	414.16	468.64	524.91	
New Assets							149.70	305.14	466.46	633.78	807.23	986.92	1,172.97	1,365.49	1,564.60	1,770.40	1,982.99	
Existing Assets							1,960.42	1,960.42	1,960.42	1,960.42	1,960.42	1,960.42	1,960.42	1,960.42	1,960.42	1,960.42	1,960.42	
New Assets							149.70	305.14	466.46	633.78	807.23	986.92	1,172.97	1,365.49	1,564.60	1,770.40	1,982.99	
Total Depreciation							2,110.12	2,265.56	2,426.88	2,594.20	2,767.65	2,947.34	3,133.39	3,325.91	3,525.02	3,730.82	3,943.41	

Model: Asset Schedule

	Historical										Forecasted												
	2017A	2018A	2019A	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F	2026F	2027F	2028F	2029F	2030F	2031F	2032F	Terminal						
Asset Schedule																							
All figures in AUD millions and million units unless stated																							
Opening Net PPE		8,438.0	9,026.0	8,252.0	20,804.0	17,030.0	18,226.0	18,387.2	18,488.6	18,539.1	18,536.8	18,479.9	18,367.0	18,196.4	17,966.9	17,677.4	17,327.4						
Opening Intangibles		6,533.0	6,465.0	7,793.0	7,717.0	4,671.0	5,278.0	7,262.9	7,571.9	7,879.1	8,186.8	8,497.0	8,811.6	9,132.6	9,461.7	9,800.3	10,149.6						
Opening Net PPE & Intangibles		14,971.0	15,491.0	16,045.0	28,521.0	21,701.0	23,504.0	25,650.1	26,060.5	26,418.2	26,723.6	26,976.9	27,178.6	27,329.0	27,428.6	27,477.7	27,477.0						
Capex	-	1,910.0	-	1,848.0	-	1,991.0	-	2,149.0	-	2,389.0	-	2,416.0	-2,318.00	-2,407.01	-2,498.00	-2,590.92	-2,685.75	-2,782.44	-2,880.93	-2,981.19	-3,083.15	-3,186.74	-3,291.90
Depreciation & Amortisation expense		1,038.0	1,103.0	1,222.0	2,458.0	2,608.0	2,361.0	2,110.12	2,265.56	2,426.88	2,594.20	2,767.65	2,947.34	3,133.39	3,325.91	3,525.02	3,730.82	3,943.41					
Closing Net PPE & Intangibles		14,971.0	15,491.0	16,045.0	28,521.0	21,701.0	23,504.0	23,711.9	25,791.6	26,131.6	26,414.9	26,641.7	26,812.0	26,926.2	26,984.3	26,986.7	26,933.6	26,825.5					
Closing Net PPE							18,226.0	18,387.2	18,488.6	18,539.1	18,536.8	18,479.9	18,367.0	18,196.4	17,966.9	17,677.4	17,327.4	16,916.5					
Closing Intangibles							5,278.0	7,262.9	7,571.9	7,879.1	8,186.8	8,497.0	8,811.6	9,132.6	9,461.7	9,800.3	10,149.6	10,522.2					
Closing Net PPE + Intangibles							23,504.0	25,650.1	26,060.5	26,418.2	26,723.6	26,976.9	27,178.6	27,329.0	27,428.6	27,477.0	27,477.0	27,438.7					

APPENDIX

Model: Unlevered Free Cash Flow Schedule

Comparables Valuation

Company Name	Ticker	EV/EBITDA (x)	EV/Sales (x)	P/E (x)	Market Share Grocery Retail (2023)	Key Figures	FY22
Woolworths Group	WOW-AU	11.6x	1.x	28.5x	37% in Australia	EBITDA	\$4,920.00
Coles Group	COL-AU	9.1x	0.8x	22.2x	27.7% in Australia	Sales	\$60,849.00
Metcash	MTS-AU	7.7x	0.3x	12.3x	6.8% in Australia	Net Income	\$1,557.00
Costco Wholesale	COST-US	23.1x	1.x	38.9x	2.4% in Australia	Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,032
Tesco	TSCO-GB	6.9x	0.5x	11.7x	27.1% in UK	Other non-core assets	\$629
Walmart Inc	WMT-US	12.7x	0.7x	22.9x	25.2% in USA	Total debt	\$16,763
Forward Multiples Summary							
Forward Multiples:	EV / FY23 EBITDA	EV / FY23 Sales	Price / FY23 Earnings				
Average	11.85x	0.72x	22.75x				
Median	10.35x	0.75x	22.55x				
Minimum	6.9x	0.3x	11.7x				
Maximum	23.1x	1.x	38.9x				
Price (\$/share)							
Forward Multiples:	EV / FY23 EBITDA	EV / FY23 Sales	Price / FY23 Earnings				
# Shares	1,219	1,219	1,219				
Average	\$35.45	\$23.39	\$29.07				
Median	\$29.39	\$25.06	\$28.81				
Minimum	\$15.46	\$2.59	\$14.95				
Maximum	\$80.86	\$37.54	\$49.70				
Weighting	1/3	1/3	1/3				
Implied Share Price							
Average Share Price		\$29.30					
Median Share Price		\$27.75					

APPENDIX

Financial Ratio Analysis

Risks and Mitigation References

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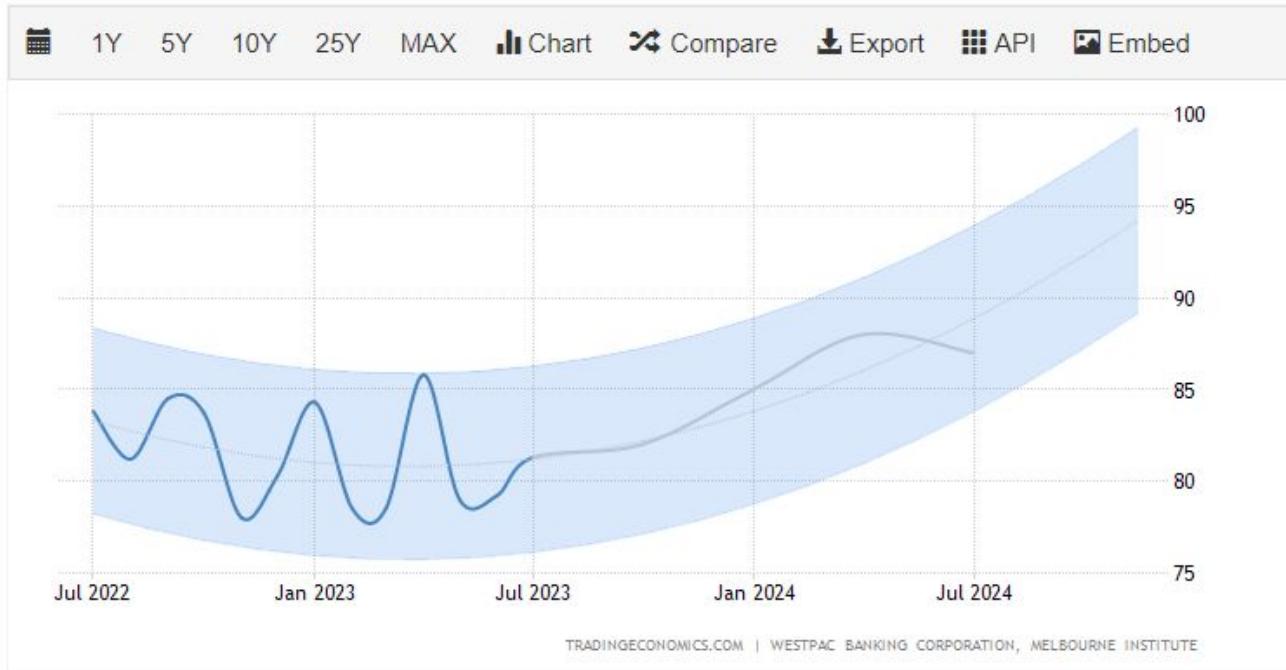
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Risks and Mitigation - Woolworth's current risk management model

Risk management oversight

Below is an overview of risk governance and management at Woolworths Group together with key responsibilities of the Board and Board Committees, the Group Executive Committee, the risk community, Internal audit and business leaders. The Group applies a three lines of accountability model approach to managing risk and compliance obligations.

THREE LINES OF ACCOUNTABILITY

1 ST LINE OF ACCOUNTABILITY	2 ND LINE OF ACCOUNTABILITY	3 RD LINE OF ACCOUNTABILITY
Business	Oversight functions	Independent assurance
Owns and manages risk	Oversees and sets frameworks and standards. Independently monitors and provides analysis and reporting on risks and controls	Provides independent assurance of frameworks and controls effectiveness
Group businesses Group platforms	Group Risk People team Group Safety, Health & Wellbeing Group Legal & Compliance Group Finance Group Sustainability	Internal audit External audit

Woolworths Group Annual report FY22

Explore the three lines of defense model

Regardless of how mature and integrated the three lines of defense model is within organizations, there are a number of challenges that limit its effectiveness:

Challenges that limit its effectiveness

- **Early-stage adoption** – In early stages of the 3LOD framework, management does not have a strong awareness or ownership of risk and controls. There may be a risk function in place, but often its role is to facilitate the maintenance of the risk register, without insight or challenge by IA. Depending on the industry and sector, regulatory compliance risks are absorbed into both risk and IA functions, with specialist teams existing in pockets or one-off "silos" not seen as assurance functions (for example, health and safety in construction firms or clinical governance in the health care industry) nor well integrated within a broader risk management program. In smaller firms, given the similar risk and control skill sets, the IA and risk functions are seen crossing the boundaries between the second and third lines, causing inefficiencies and duplication.

- **Established lines of defense** – As the 3LOD framework becomes established, the focus on stakeholder management, developing internal capabilities, and delivering the assurance activities in the second-line functions often creates a silo mentality, leading to a lack of coordination, duplication of risk areas, gaps, and misaligned or conflicting assurance opinions. Where these positions become entrenched, the third line is typically perceived as combative, reactionary, and retrospective in its approach. This combination has led to an ineffective 3LOD model, where the board are receiving conflicting and disjointed points of view of its key risks. This challenge was highlighted in Deloitte's 2018 CAE Global survey, where respondents cited improvements in coordination within the 3LOD as an important business imperative.

<https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/pages/advisory/articles/modernizing-the-three-lines-of-defense-model.html>

Risks and Mitigation - Cybersecurity Risk Case Study

Australia News

Woolworths group's MyDeal website hit by data breach compromising personal details of 2.2 million customers

The latest data breach has exposed the email addresses, phone numbers, delivery addresses and birth dates of about 2.2 million MyDeal customers.



About 2.2 million customers of a website owned by Woolworths have had their personal details exposed in a data breach.

MyDeal, which is owned by the Woolworths Group, said it identified on Friday that a compromised user credential was used to gain unauthorised access to its Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system.

The details exposed in the data breach include email addresses, phone numbers, delivery addresses and birth dates.

Risks and Mitigation - Analysing the supermarket industry risks

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AUSTRALIA INDUSTRY (ANZSIC) REPORT G4111 / RETAIL TRADE

Supermarkets and Grocery Stores in Australia ↴

Report by: Darcy Gannon | January 2023

About

Recent Developments Last updated January 10, 2023

Russia-Ukraine conflict drives up menu prices

The Russia-Ukraine conflict is causing price increases among many staple foods, hitting Australian food service providers. As fuel prices and fertiliser costs soar, the hospitality sector is struggling to feasibly compete, and is often being forced to pass these price increases onto consumers. Both the COVID-19 pandemic and eastern state floods have also contributed to supply-side pressures, as the Russia-Ukraine conflict stifles the supply of key inputs for food service providers. In addition, as COVID-19 restrictions continue to ease, demand for key Russian and Ukrainian food exports will continue to rise. Rising menu prices are expected to reflect this demand until alternative supply solutions are found, or the Russia-Ukraine conflict deescalates significantly.

Australia's flood crisis disrupts supply for fresh food retailers

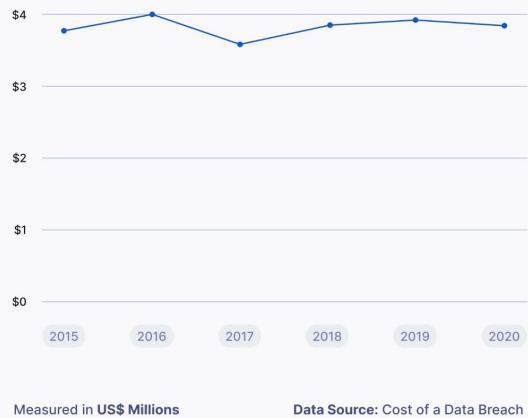
The Australian eastern state floods have disrupted the supply of many staple fruit and vegetables, hindering downstream retailers. As fuel prices and fertiliser costs soar, food retailers struggled to keep prices down even before the flood crisis. Therefore, key fruit and vegetable prices will likely remain elevated until supply chains have recovered and flood damage is mitigated.

Rising food and beverage prices are squeezing profit margins

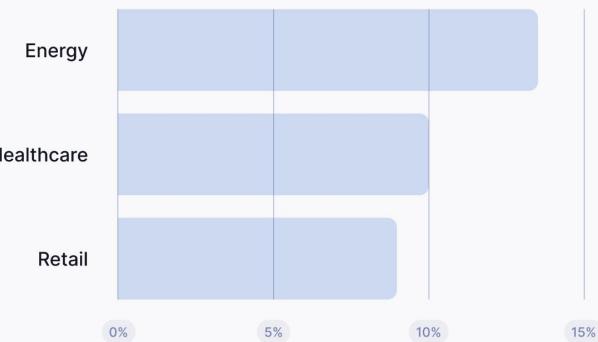
According to the ABS, food and non-alcoholic beverages' price inflation reached 5.9% over the year through June 2022. This rise stems from strong price increases across several product segments, including fruit and vegetables and non-alcoholic beverages. Prolonged labour shortages, soaring fuel costs, disrupted logistics due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and extreme flooding on Australia's east coast can underpin price rises in ingredients and finished goods. Operators cannot easily pass these costs on to consumers due to competitive pressures, and industry profit margins are likely to shrink as a result.

Risks and Mitigation - Costs of cybercrime

Average Cost of a Data Breach



Percentage Change in Average Total Data Breach Cost by Industry



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Mitigation - Essential 8 framework for Cybersecurity

