The bank for a changing world

# Persistent Systems PSYS IN

## INDIA / SOFTWARE & SERVICES

TARGET PRIOR TP CLOSE UP/DOWNSIDE

INR510.00 INR530.00 INR398.15 E +28.1%

HOW WE DIFFER		THE STRE	ЕТ
	BNP	Consensus	% Diff
Target Price (INR)	510.00	489.14	4.3
EPS 2011 (INR)	34.14	35.40	-3.6
EPS 2012 (INR)	34.07	34.81	-2.1
	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Market Recs.	23	5	1
KEY STOCK DAT	ГА		
YE Mar (INR m)	201	1E 2012E	2013E
Revenue	7,6	97 9,902	12,198
Rec. net profit	1,3	69 1,394	1,786
Recurring EPS (INR)	34.	14 34.07	42.80
Prior rec. EPS (INR)	35.	93 35.82	45.62
Chg. In EPS est. (%)	(5.	.0) (4.9)	(6.2)
EPS growth (%)	6	6.5 (0.2)	25.6
Recurring P/E (x)	11	.7 11.7	9.3
Dividend yield (%)	1	.6 0.8	0.8
EV/EBITDA (x)	8	3.8 7.1	5.7
Price/book (x)	2	2.1 1.8	1.5
Net debt/Equity	(2.	.9) (6.7)	(13.2)
ROE (%)	19	0.8 17.3	18.8



<b>RECENT COMPANY &amp; SECTO</b>	R RESEARCH
Demand vs talent see-saw	21 Jan 2011
On a strong growth path	20 Dec 2010
China raises solar targets?	2 Apr 2011
Latest on BT resin shortage	31 Mar 2011

## INDUSTRY OUTLOOK **↑**

#### CHANGE IN NUMBERS

## If no scale, go for niche

- Recent management interaction suggests demand stays strong
- Infospectrum buy-out in line with company's long-term roadmap
- Revising estimates to factor in mid-term wage hike announced in 3Q
- We see the stock as a key long-term portfolio addition; retain BUY

## Growth momentum stays strong

We reiterate BUY on Persistent Systems after our recent management discussions. We believe FY11 is likely to close at the upper end of the company's USD revenue guidance of USD167m-170m. Momentum in Persistent's four focus areas (cloud, mobility, collaboration and analytics) remains strong with the company on track to increase its revenue contribution to close to 45% (from ~40% now) by FY12E. With healthy demand continuing in the outsourced product development market, we see our ~30% FY12 USD revenue growth estimate as being achievable, and



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## expect the company to conservatively guide for 26-29% growth in April.

## Recent acquisition in line with long-term roadmap

We believe Persistent's recent acquisition of Infospectrum (for USD6m) fits with its roadmap to achieve USD500m in revenue, the key aspects of which remain: 1) expanded offerings, 2) better client management, 3) efficient HR strategy, and 4) niche acquisitions in select verticals and in the four focus areas. Infospectrum's focus on maritime, industrial automation, aerospace and defense verticals would expand Persistent's footprint. We understand the integration process has been completed and revenue contribution from Infospectrum has started.

#### Mid-term wage hike drives our earnings cuts

We revise our estimates to factor in the 3Q results and the company's announcement of a mid-term wage hike of ~10% in 4Q to counter attrition. Thus, we lower our FY12-13 EBIT margin estimates 130-140bps, leading to 5-6% EPS cuts. But our view of Persistent as a growth stock stays unchanged given we are still looking for FY11-13 revenue and PBT CAGR of 26% and 28% respectively. We expect EPS growth to resume in FY13 once higher tax rates are factored in for FY12.

#### BUY: If no scale, go for niche

At a time when mid-cap IT services business models are coming into question and leading to weak valuations, we see Persistent as one that stands out because of its unique business. We see the stock as a leveraged play on the structural shifts that the software industry is undergoing (i.e., cloud computing, etc), and thus as a key long-term portfolio addition. We trim our DCF-based TP to INR510.00 (from INR530) to reflect the earnings revision. Our TP implies an FY13E P/E of 11.9x, in line with the current 12-m forward multiple. Risks: macro and FX uncertainty, and continued wage pressure.

BNP Paribas Securities Asia research is available on Thomson One, Bloomberg, TheMarkets.com, Factset and on http://equities.bnpparibas.com. Please contact your salesperson for authorisation. Please see the important notice on the back page.

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#### ABHIRAM ELESWARAPU

PERSISTENT SYSTEMS

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		RIS	SK		F	
—— Ва	ase ——	— В	est ——	Worst —		
2011E	2012E	2011E	2012E	2011E	2012E	
45.46	45.00	45.81	49.50	45.12	40.50	
34.14	34.07	35.11	46.24	33.27	21.91	
		2.7	35.7	(2.7)	35.7	
	<b>2011E</b> 45.46	45.46 45.00	2011E2012E2011E45.4645.0045.8134.1434.0735.11	2011E2012E2011E2012E45.4645.0045.8149.5034.1434.0735.1146.24	2011E2012E2011E2012E2011E45.4645.0045.8149.5045.1234.1434.0735.1146.2433.27	

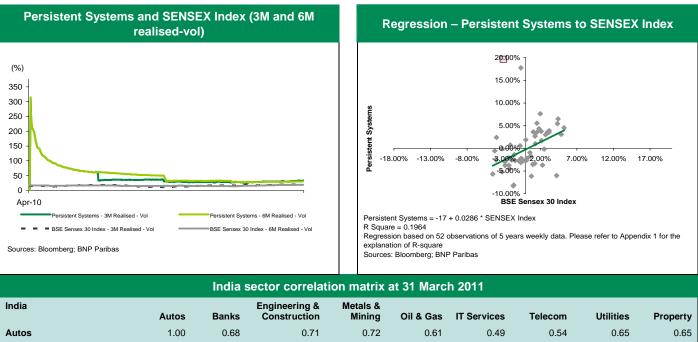
EXPERTS

## Key Earnings Drivers & Sensitivity

The key macro factor that can impact Persistent's earnings is currency fluctuation, specifically the USD/INR rate.

In our best and worst cases, we assume the FY12 average USD/INR rate changes by 10% vs. our base case. We calculate that, all else staying the same, this could cause a 36% variation to our base case FY12 EPS.

Sources: BNP Paribas estimates



				•··· =					
1	Banks	1.00	0.80	0.71	0.68	0.51	0.58	0.69	0.72
1	Engineering & Construction		1.00	0.75	0.70	0.49	0.62	0.74	0.78
1	Metals & Mining			1.00	0.73	0.50	0.55	0.73	0.77
	Oil & Gas				1.00	0.53	0.53	0.69	0.66
1	IT Services					1.00	0.40	0.47	0.37
•	Telecom						1.00	0.62	0.60
	Utilities							1.00	0.73
I	Property								1.00

Source: BNP Paribas Sector Strategy



## The risk experts

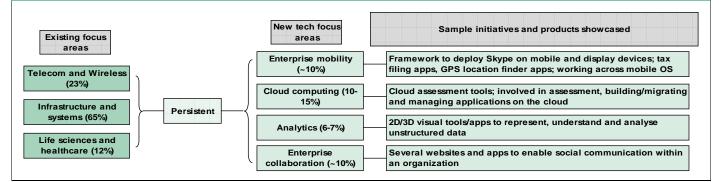
## The Risk Experts

- Our starting point for this page is a recognition of the macro factors that can have a significant impact on stockprice performance, sometimes independently of bottom-up factors.
- With our Risk Expert page, we identify the key macro risks that can impact stock performance.
- This analysis enhances the fundamental work laid out in the rest of this report, giving investors yet another resource to use in their decision-making process.

Sources: Bloomberg, BNP Paribas

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### Exhibit 1: New tech focus areas - sample initiatives presented at the technology day in December 2010



Note : Figures in brackets indicate contribution to total revenue Sources: Persistent Systems; BNP Paribas

Exhibit 2: Changes to our projections											
Year-end 31 March		FY11E			—— FY12E —		FY13E				
	Previous	New	Change	Previous	New	Change	Previous	New	Change		
	(INR m)	(INR m)	(%)	(INR m)	(INR m)	(%)	(INR m)	(INR m)	(%)		
USD/INR, end period	45.07	45.46	0.9	44.00	45.00	2.3	44.00	45.00	2.3		
Revenue (USD m)	170	169	(0.3)	220	220	0.1	273	271	(0.5)		
y-y change (%)	33.4	33.0		29.5	30.0		24.0	23.2			
Revenue	7,651	7,697	0.6	9,672	9,902	2.4	11,992	12,198	1.7		
EBIT	1,315	1197	(9.0)	1,749	1,662	(5.0)	2,225	2,090	(6.1)		
EBIT margin (%)	17.2	15.6		18.1	16.8		18.6	17.1			
After-tax profit	1,448	1369	(5.5)	1,473	1,394	(5.4)	1,913	1,786	(6.6)		
EPS, diluted (INR)	35.93	34.14	(5.0)	35.82	34.07	(4.9)	45.62	42.80	(6.2)		

Source: BNP Paribas estimates

Exhibit 3: DCF valuation summary	
WACC (%)	13.3
Terminal growth rate (%)	5.0
Revenue growth – FY10-13E (%)	26.6
Revenue growth – FY13-20E (%)	10.0
Annual EBIT margin change – FY10-13E (bp)	(55)
Annual EBIT margin change – FY13-20E (bp)	(50)
DCF based March 2012 TP (INR)	510.00
Implied FY13E P/E (x)	11.9

Source: BNP Paribas estimates

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Exhibit 4: Co	Exhibit 4: Comparable company valuations														
				—— FY1	-3 ——	FY1									Div.
	BBG	Share	Market	CAGR	CAGR	EBIT		EV/EBIT			— P/E —		PEG*	P/BV	yield
	code	price	cap	rev.	EPS	margin	FY1E	FY2E	FY3E	FY1E	FY2E	FY3E	FY1E	FY1E	FY1E
		(LC)	(USD m)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(%)
Indian IT services	s companies														
Large caps															
TCS	TCS IN	1,238	54,627	23.9	19.0	27.6	23.0	18.9	15.1	28.2	24.1	19.9	1.5	9.9	0.9
Infosys	INFO IN	3,279	42,444	23.1	24.0	29.9	20.8	16.6	13.6	27.2	21.7	17.7	1.1	7.1	1.6
Wipro	WPRO IN	481	26,634	21.2	19.1	18.9	19.4	15.6	12.8	22.6	19.2	15.9	1.2	5.1	0.9
HCL Tech	HCLT IN	486	7,513	20.7	30.6	13.8	15.5	11.2	9.1	21.7	15.4	12.7	0.7	4.0	1.2
Median				22.2	21.5	23.2	20.1	16.1	13.2	24.9	20.5	16.8	1.2	6.1	1.1
Mid caps															
MphasiS	MPHL IN	445	2,109	12.0	3.0	17.7	8.2	7.6	7.0	11.3	11.4	10.7	3.8	2.4	0.9
Satyam	SCS IN	71	1,887	15.7	94.8	3.2	33.7	10.7	5.2	30.6	14.5	8.1	0.3	1.7	-
Tech Mahindra^	TECHM IN	721	2,046	6.6	10.4	15.8	9.2	9.3	8.6	8.4	7.5	6.9	0.8	2.4	0.6
Patni	PATNI IN	474	1,425	14.4	4.8	16.4	7.2	6.3	5.7	11.8	11.2	10.7	2.5	1.7	0.8
MindTree	MTCL IN	400	363	16.2	31.0	8.7	11.2	7.1	6.2	14.4	9.6	8.4	0.5	2.1	0.9
Persistent	PSYS IN	400	361	25.9	12.0	15.6	10.5	7.6	6.0	11.7	11.7	9.3	1.0	2.1	0.8
Infinite	ICSL IN	168	167	22.7	23.5	15.6	4.9	3.9	3.1	6.9	5.9	4.5	0.3	1.8	na
KPIT Cummins	KPIT IN	174	311	23.6	22.4	12.0	11.0	8.2	6.2	14.6	12.0	9.8	0.7	2.8	0.5
Polaris Software	POL IN	195	437	17.0	11.4	12.5	7.3	6.1	5.2	9.7	9.1	7.9	0.9	1.8	1.8
Infotech Ent.	INFTC IN	160	401	22.6	21.6	12.5	9.5	7.0	5.6	12.5	10.3	8.4	0.6	1.7	0.9
Hexaware	HEXW IN	69	451	13.6	14.2	11.5	10.1	8.7	9.3	14.3	12.3	11.0	1.0	1.9	1.6
Educomp	EDSL IN	462	996	16.7	17.4	36.4	9.8	8.1	6.5	13.5	12.3	9.8	0.8	2.2	0.5
Rolta India	RLTA IN	147	536	13.4	16.9	22.8	8.9	7.3	6.4	7.9	6.5	5.8	0.5	1.3	2.7
Median				16.2	16.9	15.6	9.5	7.6	6.2	11.8	11.2	8.4	0.8	1.9	0.8
Global IT service	s players														
Accenture	ACN US	55	43,423	8.2	13.2	13.5	11.6	10.6	9.8	17.2	15.3	13.5	1.3	11.4	1.5
CSC	CSC US	49	7,661	3.7	7.4	7.2	7.4	6.4	5.9	9.5	9.0	8.2	1.3	1.0	0.5
Capgemini	CAP FP	42	8,022	5.1	15.9	7.2	7.9	6.9	6.2	16.2	14.0	12.1	1.0	1.4	2.6
Cognizant	CTSH US	82	25,052	22.4	21.4	18.8	20.7	16.9	14.1	28.9	24.0	19.6	1.4	5.7	-
Median				6.7	14.5	10.3	9.8	8.8	8.0	16.7	14.6	12.8	1.3	3.6	1.0

Note: Based on FY1-3 EPS CAGR; ^ ex-Satyam for EV/EBIT Prices as of 5 April 2011 for Indian stocks and as of 4 April2011 for Global IT services players Sources: Bloomberg; Company reports; BNP Paribas estimates for Infosys (INFO IN, BUY), TCS (TCS IN, BUY), Wipro (WPRO IN, BUY), HCL Tech (HCLT IN, HOLD), Rolta India (RLTA IN, BUY), Tech Mahindra (TECHM IN, HOLD), Satyam (SCS IN, HOLD), MindTree (MTCL IN, HOLD), MphasiS (MPHL IN, HOLD) and Persistent (PSYS IN, BUY). Bloomberg consensus estimates for all other mentioned companies which are not rated.

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## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## **Persistent Systems**

Profit and Loss (INR m)						
Year Ending Mar	2009A	2010A	2011E	2012E	2013E	
Revenue	5,938	6,012	7,697	9,902	12,198	
Cost of sales ex depreciation	(3,324)	(3,687)	(5,084)	(6,573)	(8,156)	
Gross profit ex depreciation	2,614	2,324	2,613	3,329	4,042	
Other operating income	0	0	0	0	0	
Operating costs	(826)	(860)	(1,005)	(1,208)	(1,439)	
Operating EBITDA	1,788	1,464	1,608	2,121	2,602	
Depreciation	(297)	(335)	(410)	(458)	(512)	
Goodwill amortisation	(_0.1)	0	0	0	(0)	
Operating EBIT	1,491	1,128	1,197	1,662	2,090	
Net financing costs	(806)	112	300	329	356	
Associates	0	0	0	0_0	0	
Recurring non operating income	0 0	Õ	Ő	0	Õ	
Non recurring items	(15)	õ	2	0	õ	
Profit before tax	671	1,241	1,499	1,991	2,446	
Tax	(10)	(91)	(128)	(597)	(661)	
Profit after tax	<b>661</b>	1,150	1,371	1,394	1, <b>786</b>	
Minority interests	0	0	0	1,534 0	0	Tana
Preferred dividends	0	0	0	0	0	Transla
Other items	0	0	0	0	0	revenu
Reported net profit	661	1,150	1,371	1,394	1,786	FY11, 3
Non recurring items & goodwill (net)	15	0	(2)	0	0	23.2%
Recurring net profit	676	1,150	1,369	1,394	1,786	
	0.0	1,100	1,000	1,001	1,100	
Per share (INR)						
Recurring EPS *	18.84	32.05	34.14	34.07	42.80	
Reported EPS	20.69	35.74	35.72	35.61	44.73	
DPS	1.12	2.58	6.27	3.13	3.13	
Growth						
Revenue (%)	39.8	1.2	28.0	28.6	23.2	V
	39.8 95.8		28.0 9.8	28.6 31.9	23.2 22.7	
Operating EBITDA (%)	95.8 135.6	(18.1)		31.9	22.7 25.7	
Operating EBIT (%)		(24.3)	6.1 6.5			
Recurring EPS (%)	(22.1)	70.1 72.8	6.5	(0.2)	25.6 25.6	
Reported EPS (%)	(24.0)	12.0	0.0	(0.3)	25.6	🖉 🖉 EBIT m
Operating performance					/	to a mi
Gross margin inc depreciation (%)	39.0	33.1	28.6	29.0	28.9	but we
Operating EBITDA margin (%)	30.1	24.3	20.9	21.4	21.3_	
Operating EBIT margin (%)	25.1	18.8	15.6	16.8	17.1	led by a
Net margin (%)	11.4	19.1	17.8	14.1	14.6	wage c
Effective tax rate (%)	1.4	7.3	8.6	30.0	27.0	contrib
Dividend payout on recurring profit (%)	6.0	8.0	18.4	9.2	7.3	margin
Interest cover (x)	1.9	-	-			
Inventory days	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	$\langle \langle$
Debtor days	54.7	72.8	69.9	61.7	58.9	$\backslash \searrow$
Creditor days	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	$\setminus$
Operating ROIC (%)	37.1	25.8	23.9	28.7	33.4	
Operating ROIC – WACC (%)	21.7	10.3	8.5	13.3	17.9	$\langle \rangle$
ROIC (%)	28.6	18.1	13.6	13.5	16.3	
	28.6 13.2				0.9	( Tax rat
ROIC – WACC (%)		2.7	(1.8)	(1.0)		increas
	18.7	22.2	19.8	17.3	18.8	
ROA (%) * Bra avaantianal, pro goodwill and fully d	27.3	16.5	13.6	12.1	13.5	granted
* Pre exceptional, pre-goodwill and fully d	iiutea					expire.
Sources: Persistent Systems; BNP Paribas estimates						return i

Sources: Persistent Systems; BNP Paribas estimates

return in FY13 after higher tax rates are factored in FY12

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## **Persistent Systems**

Cash Flow (INR m)	2000 4	20404	2014E	20425	20425
Year Ending Mar	2009A	2010A	2011E	2012E	2013E
Recurring net profit	676	1,150	1,369	1,394	1,786
Depreciation	297	335	410	458	512
Associates & minorities	0	0	0	0	0
Other non-cash items	127	(373)	(176)	0	0
Recurring cash flow	1,100	1,112	1,603	1,852	2,298
Change in working capital	(386)	126	(254)	(246)	(255)
Capex - maintenance Capex – new investment	(503)	(476)	(603)	(495)	(610)
Free cash flow to equity	0	0	0	0	0
Net acquisitions & disposals	211	762	746	1,111	1,433
Dividends paid	16	1 (27)	2 (188)	0 (144)	0 (146)
Non recurring cash flows	(36) (164)	(27) (710)	(1,898)	(144)	(146) (500)
Net cash flow	(104) <b>27</b>	(710) <b>26</b>	(1,898) (1,338)	(800) <b>367</b>	(300) <b>787</b>
Equity finance	(15)	1,618	(1,330) (417)	0	0
Debt finance	(13)	89	(417)	0	0
Movement in cash	43 57	1,733	(1,684)	367	787
	57	1,755	(1,004)	507	101
Per share (INR)	- · · · ·	o ·		4= 22	
Recurring cash flow per share	34.42	34.56	41.77	47.32	57.56
FCF to equity per share	6.61	23.68	19.44	28.37	35.89
Balance Sheet (INR m)	2000 4	20404	20445	20425	204.25
Year Ending Mar	2009A	2010A	2011E	2012E	2013E
Working capital assets	1,618	2,341	2,801	3,229	3,819
Working capital liabilities	(914)	(1,710)	(1,593)	(1,775)	(2,110)
Net working capital	705	630	1,208	1,454	1,709
Tangible fixed assets	2,177	2,318	2,511	2,547	2,645
Operating invested capital	2,882	2,949	3,718	4,001	4,354
Goodwill	0	0	0	0	0
Other intangible assets	0	0	0	0	0
Investments	880	1,562	3,483	4,083	4,583
Other assets	20	7	14	14	14
Invested capital	3,783	4,517	7,215	8,098	8,951
Cash & equivalents	(165)	(1,918)	(212)	(579)	(1,365)
Short term debt	0	0 0	0 0	0	0
Long term debt *	0	-	-	0 (570)	0 (1 265)
Net debt Deferred tax	(165)	<b>(1,918)</b>	(212)	(579)	(1,365)
Other liabilities	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Total equity	3,948	6,435	7,427	8,677	10,316
Minority interests	3,948 0	0,435	0	0,077	10,310
Invested capital	3,783	4,517	7,215	8,098	8,951
* includes convertibles and preferred st	,			0,030	0,951
		ng treated as			
Per share (INR)					
Book value per share	124	169	194	222	258
Tangible book value per share	124	169	194	222	258
Financial strength					
Net debt/equity (%)	(4.2)	(29.8)	(2.9)	(6.7)	(13.2)
Net debt/total assets (%)	(3.4)	(23.5)	(2.3)	(5.5)	(11.0)
Current ratio (x)	2.0	2.5	1.9	2.1	2.5
CF interest cover (x)	1.3	-	-	-	-
Valuation	2009A	2010A	2011E	2012E	2013E
Recurring P/E (x) *	21.1	12.4	11.7	11.7	9.3
Recurring P/E @ target price (x) *			14.9		9.3 11.9
Reported P/E (x)	27.1 19.2	15.9 11.1	14.9	15.0 11.2	8.9
Dividend yield (%)	0.3	0.6	1.6	0.8	0.9 0.8
P/CF (x)	11.6	11.5	9.5	8.4	6.9
P/FCF (x)	60.3	16.8	9.5 20.5	14.0	11.1
Price/book (x)	3.2	2.4	20.5	14.0	1.5
Price/tangible book (x)	3.2	2.4	2.1	1.8	1.5
EV/EBITDA (x) **	6.9	8.8	8.8	7.1	5.7
EV/EBITDA @ target price (x) **	8.8	11.5	11.5	9.1	7.4
EV/invested capital (x)	3.3	2.9	2.1	1.9	1.6
* Pre exceptional, pre-goodwill and fully		2.5	£.1	1.5	1.0
** FBITDA includes associate income a					

\*\* EBITDA includes associate income and recurring non-operating income

Sources: Persistent Systems; BNP Paribas estimates

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#### HISTORY OF CHANGE IN INVESTMENT RATING AND/OR TARGET PRICE



Abhiram Eleswarapu started covering this stock from 6 September 2010 Price and TP are in local currency

Valuation and risks: Key risks to our DCF-based TP are macro and FX uncertainty, and continued wage pressure

Sources: Bloomberg, BNP Paribas

#### DISCLAIMERS & DISCLOSURES

#### ANALYST(S) CERTIFICATION

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NA	NA			

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#### Stock Ratings

Stock ratings are based on absolute upside or downside, which we define as (target price\* - current price) / current price.

BUY (B). The upside is 10% or more.

HOLD (H). The upside or downside is less than 10%.

REDUCE (R). The downside is 10% or more.

Unless otherwise specified, these recommendations are set with a 12-month horizon. Thus, it is possible that future price volatility may cause a temporary mismatch between upside/downside for a stock based on market price and the formal recommendation.

\* In most cases, the target price will equal the analyst's assessment of the current fair value of the stock. However, if the analyst doesn't think the market will reassess the stock over the specified time horizon due to a lack of events or catalysts, then the target price may differ from fair value. In most cases, therefore, our recommendation is an assessment of the mismatch between current market price and our assessment of current fair value.

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Improving (A): The analyst expects the fundamental conditions of the sector to be positive over the next 12 months.

Neutral ( $\leftarrow$ ): The analyst expects the fundamental conditions of the sector to be maintained over the next 12 months.

Deteriorating ( $\Psi$ ): The analyst expects the fundamental conditions of the sector to be negative over the next 12 months.

#### Country (Strategy) Recommendations

Overweight (O). Over the next 12 months, the analyst expects the market to score positively on two or more of the criteria used to determine market recommendations: index returns relative to the regional benchmark, index sharpe ratio relative to the regional benchmark and index returns relative to the market cost of equity.

Neutral (N). Over the next 12 months, , the analyst expects the market to score positively on one of the criteria used to determine market recommendations: index returns relative to the regional benchmark, index sharpe ratio relative to the regional benchmark and index returns relative to the market cost of equity.

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Buy	366	Buy	5.46
Hold	140	Hold	3.57
Reduce	53	Reduce	1.89

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