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### 4QFY07 net up 40% led by strong top line, rising fees

Strong top line drives earnings

UTI Bank's 4QFY07 net income grew 40%yoy to Rs2.1bn, higher than estimates, led by strong operating profit growth (+63%yoy). Top line grew 48%yoy as loan growth sustained at +65%yoy led by corporate credit demand. Key highlights of results were a) margin expansion of 6bps qoq to 3.06% driven by increasing share of CASA and b) 59%yoy growth in fee income led by both retail (distribution of life insurance products, credit cards and rising client base) and corporate fees.

### Operating efficiency improves; Asset quality a mixed bag

Despite the aggressive network expansion of UTI Bank the opex grew 41%yoy, as the higher opex in the previous few quarters seems to be normalizing. Asset quality was a mixed bag: gross NPL declined 11%qoq to <1% of advances, net NPLs were however flat qoq in absolute terms (0.6% of advances) as the bank seems to have reversed some floating provisions to minimize the impact of additional provision of Rs681mn on account of recent increase in standard provisioning on certain retail loans to 2% from 1% earlier. Tier 1 capital has declined to <6.5% and the bank is likely to raise fresh capital in next 12 months.

### Maintain Buy with PO of Rs600

We are maintaining our earnings growth forecast at 30% CAGR through FY09 (changed by <1%) after factoring in moderation in loan growth and sharper rise in credit costs in sync with our view of an uptick in the NPL cycle. We believe UTI Bank, trading at 3.4x FY08E adj book, could sustain its multiple given its strong earnings trajectory supported by rising ROE (24% in FY08). Hence one year from now we think it could trade at 3.3x FY09E adj book, underpinning our PO of Rs600. Sharp rise in NPL is the key risk to our PO.

### Estimates (Mar)

(Rs)	2005A	2006A	2007E	2008E	2009E
Net Income (Adjusted - mn)	3,346	4,852	6,590	8,685	11,143
EPS	13.24	17.57	23.65	31.16	39.98
EPS Change (YoY)	9.8%	32.7%	34.6%	31.8%	28.3%
Dividend / Share	3.21	3.50	4.50	4.50	5.00
GDR EPS (US\$)	0.295	0.397	0.544	0.743	0.954
GDR Dividend / Share (US\$)	0.071	.081	.107	0.107	0.119

#### Valuation (Mar)

	2005A	2006A	2007E	2008E	2009E
P/E	35.2x	26.5x	19.7x	14.9x	11.7x
Dividend Yield	0.688%	0.751%	0.966%	0.966%	1.07%
Pre-exceptional PE	35.18x	26.52x	19.70x	14.95x	11.65x
Price / Book	5.39x	4.52x	3.83x	3.15x	2.55x
RoE / PB	3.50x	4.07x	5.50x	7.34x	9.48x
Price / Pre-Provision Profit	19.71x	11.95x	8.78x	6.67x	5.16x

#### Stock Data

Price (Common / GDR) Rs465.80 / US\$11.30 Price Objective Rs600.00 / US\$13.50 Date Established 12-Jan-2007 / 12-Jan-2007 Investment Opinion C-1-7 / C-1-7 Volatility Risk HIGH / HIGH 52-Week Range Rs221.50-Rs615.00 Market Value (mn) US\$3,096 Shares Outstanding (mn) 278.7 / 278.7 Average Daily Volume 178,513 ML Symbol / Exchange UTBKF / BSE UTIBY / LIN ML Symbol / Exchange Bloomberg / Reuters UTIB IN / UTBK.BO ROE (2007E) 21.0% Total Dbt to Cap (Mar-2006A) NA Est. 5-Yr EPS / DPS Growth 30.0% / 20.0% Free Float 50.0%



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# *iQprofile*<sup>™</sup> UTI Bank

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Key Income Statement Data (Mar)	2005A	2006A	2007E	2008E	2009E
(Rs Millions)					
Net Interest Income	7,312	10,782	15,671	22,192	29,481
Net Fee Income	3,305	4,889	6,600	9,042	12,026
Securities Gains / (Losses)	(113.41)	1,298	1,857	1,200	700.00
Other Income	966.44	1,109	1,644	2,109	2,707
Total Non-Interest Income	4,158	7,296	10,101	12,351	15,433
Total Operating Income	11,470	18,079	25,772	34,544	44,914
Operating Expenses	(5,814)	(8,141)	(12,146)	(16,521)	(21,559)
Pre-Provision Profit	5,656	9,938	13,626	18,023	23,355
Provisions Expense	(161.60)	(1,718)	(1,418)	(3,273)	(4,698)
Operating Profit	5,495	8,220	12,208	14,750	18,657
Non-Operating Income	(456.50)	(905.60)	(2,245)	(1,650)	(1,850)
Pre-Tax Income	5,038	7,314	9,962	13,100	16,807
Net Income to Comm S/Hold.	3,346	4,852	6,590	8,685	11,143
Adjusted Net Income (Operating)	3,346	4,852	6,590	8,685	11,143
Key Balance Sheet Data					
Total Assets	377,437	497,311	710,691	961,822	1,242,817
Average Interest Earning Assets	289,863	413,177	579,015	809,760	1,076,677
Weighted Risk Assets	237,995	385,985	577,751	777,535	1,016,586
Total Gross Customer Loans	156,029	223,124	376,054	528,083	709,355
Total Customer Deposits	317,120	401,135	587,860	799,674	1,039,576
Tier 1 Capital	21,110	28,022	33,933	41,238	50,848
Tangible Equity	21,110	28,022	33,933	41,238	50,848
Common Shareholders' Equity	24,082	28,722	33,933	41,238	50,848
Key Metrics					
Net Interest Margin	2.52%	2.61%	2.71%	2.74%	2.74%
Tier 1 Ratio	8.9%	7.3%	5.9%	5.3%	5.0%
Effective Tax Rate	33.6%	33.7%	33.8%	33.7%	33.7%
Loan / Assets Ratio	41.3%	44.9%	52.9%	54.9%	57.1%
Loan / Deposit Ratio	49.2%	55.6%	64.0%	66.0%	68.2%
Oper Leverage (Inc Growth - Cost Growth)	-34.9%	17.6%	-6.6%	-2.0%	-0.5%
Gearing (Assets / Equity)	15.7x	17.3x	20.9x	23.3x	24.4x
Tangible Common Equity / Assets	5.6%	5.6%	4.8%	4.3%	4.1%
Tangible Common Equity / WRAs	8.9%	7.3%	5.9%	5.3%	5.0%
Revenue Growth	3.8%	57.6%	42.6%	34.0%	30.0%
Operating Expense Growth	38.7%	40.0%	49.2%	36.0%	30.5%
Provisions Expense Growth	-93.6%	963.2%	-17.5%	130.8%	43.6%
Operating Revenue / Average Assets	3.7%	4.1%	4.3%	4.1%	4.1%
Operating Expenses / Average Assets	1.9%	1.9%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Pre-Provision ROA	1.8%	2.3%	2.3%	2.2%	2.1%
ROA	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%
Pre-Provision ROE	31.9%	37.6%	43.5%	48.0%	50.7%
ROE	18.9%	18.4%	21.0%	23.1%	24.2%
RoTE	15.8%	17.3%	19.4%	21.1%	21.9%
RoWRAs	1.4%	1.3%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%
Dividend Payout Ratio	26.2%	22.1%	20.9%	15.9%	13.8%
Efficiency Ratio (Cost / Income Ratio)	50.2%	48.5%	50.8%	49.5%	48.8%
Total Non-Interest Inc / Operating Inc	36%	40%	39%	36%	34%
Market-Related Revenue / Total Revenues	3.3%	12.0%	11.4%	7.6%	5.6%
Provisioning Burden as % of PPP	2.9%	17.3%	10.4%	18.2%	20.1%
NPLs plus Foreclosed Real Estate / Loans	1.4%	1.0%	0.7%	0.3%	0%
Loan Loss Reserves / NPLs	43.4%	71.9%	57.2%	321.9%	22,648.1%
Loan Loss Reserves / Total Loans	0.6%	0.7%	0.4%	0.9%	1.4%
Provisions Expense / Average Loans	0.1%	0.9%	0.5%	0.7%	0.8%
Other Metrics					
Income / Employee	2.41	2.76	2.58	4.08	4.85
(Operating Expenses) / Employee	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.95	2.33
Pre-Provision Profit / Employee	1.19	1.52	1.37	2.13	2.52
Net Profit / Employee	0.703	0.740	0.660	1.03	1.20

### **Company Description**

UTI Bank, promoted in 1994, is a new generation private sector bank, with a balance sheet size of Rs375bn. It has built a reasonable retail infrastructure, with 340 branches and a wide product range. The bank is poised to leverage on its multi-channel, technology-driven retail network. Well placed in a rising interest rate scenario.

### Stock Data

Shares / GDR	1.00
Price to Book Value	3.8x

## 4QFY07 Results snapshot

UTI Bank's 4QFY07 net income grew 40%yoy to Rs2.1bn, significantly ahead of ML estimates of 26%yoy growth, led by a better top line, rising fees and improving operating efficiency levels.

### Strong loan growth + margin improvement drives top line

Top line (net interest income) grew 48%yoy led by volume growth (+65%yoy despite the hike in lending rates) and margin expansion of 6bps qoq to 3.06%. UTI Bank, with a relatively lower exposure to retail (v/s other private sector banks) was less impacted by moderation in consumer credit demand and sustained its strong loan growth with increasing corporate credit demand. Margin expansion was led by increasing proportion of low cost demand deposits, as an aggressive expansion of the distribution network (added 80 branches in 4QFY07 to take the total to 561 branches and 2,341 ATMS) drove a sharp increase in retail client base.

#### Fee revenues too strong at 59% yoy

Fee income growth of 59%yoy was also higher than estimated as UTI Bank gained traction on distribution of life insurance products (it has recently entered into a tie-up with Metlife insurance company to distribute life insurance products) and also the launch of credit card business (in 3QFY07) started contributing to the fee revenues.

Improvement in operating efficiency (C/I ratio was down 400bpsyoy to 47%) was somewhat surprising as the bank expanded its distribution network and still managed to contain its opex growth to around 40%yoy.

### Improvement in asset quality partly offset by lower NPL provisions

Asset quality improvement was a mixed bag; while the 11%qoq decline in gross NPL (now down to <1% of advances) was positive the Net NPLs were flat qoq (0.6% of advances) in absolute terms as the bank seems to have reversed some floating provisions to minimize the impact of the one time additional provision of Rs681mn on account of the recent RBI directive requiring banks to increase standard provisioning on certain retail loans to 2% from 1% earlier.

Table 1: 4QFY07 Result update

Source: Company Reports, ML Research Estimates

Quarter Ended Mar (Rs mn)	4QFY06	4QFY07	yoy growth	4QFY07 Mle	Remarks
Interest earned	8,327	13,668	64%	13,069	Despite the hike in lending rates loan growth sustained at +65%yoy; also driven by corporate credit demand
Interest Expended	5,198	9,025	74%	8,693	
·					The key positive was margin expansion of 6bps qoq to 3.06%, which was driven by rising lending rates and improving CASA
Net Interest Income	3,129	4,642	48%	4,376	(led by aggressive expansion of distribution network- UTI bank opened 80 branches in 4QFY07).
Other income	2,281	3,011	32%	3,047	
					Another encouraging aspect of the result; 59%yoy growth in fees led by retail fees, income from distribution of life insurance
- Fee income	1,624	2,579	59%	2,447	and launch of credit card business
- Treasury income	657	432	-34%	600	Treasury gains positively surprised us and were driven by the buoyant equity markets
Operating income	5,409	7,653	41%	7,423	
Total Operating expenses	2,429	3,430	41%	3,788	Opex growth moderated as the bank seems to be leveraging from its expanded distribution network
Employee expenses	625	889	42%	1,050	
Other Operating expenses	1,804	2,541	41%	2,738	
Operating profit	2,981	4,223	42%	3,635	
					UTI Bank provided Rs680mn to increase standard provisions on certain retail loans to 2% (from 1%) in line with a recent
					RBI directive; actual NPL provisions were lower than estimates, resulting in improvement in net NPLs being lower than
Provisions and contingencies	682	1,065	56%	900	improvement in gross NPLs
PBT	2,299	3,158	37%	2,735	
Provision for Tax	782	1,039	33%	821	
					Net income was significantly higher than estimates on the back of stronger top line, higher fees and better operating
PAT	1,517	2,119	40%	1,914	efficiency levels
PPP (ex treasury)	2,324	3,791	63%	3,035	

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### Earnings to grow 32% in FY08E; 28% in FY09E

We have tweaked our earnings estimates by <1% for FY08 and FY09 despite stronger 4QFY07 results as we have now factored in a slightly sharper moderation in loan growth for UTI Bank to around 37% for FY07 (v/s 45% earlier) and 32% for FY09 (v/s 38% earlier). We still expect earnings to grow at a CAGR of 30% over FY07-09, led by

- Strong loan growth of 30-40%p.a. largely led by sustained demand for corporate credit and +30% in retail owing to the lower base and sustained buoyancy in non-mortgage retail demand. 70% of the bank's loan portfolio is still comprising corporate loans.
- 2. Margins are expected to expand by 6-8 bps through FY09 to 2.8% by FY09, driven by a) rising loan yields; and b) improving investment yields.
- 3. Fee income is estimated to grow +30% CAGR as the bank continues to leverage its expanding retail franchise and also launches new products

### Factored in lower treasury; high NPL provisions

We have, however, factored in a 40% decline in treasury gains and have also factored in higher NPL provisioning building in 40-50% increase in fresh slippages in sync with our view that the asset quality cycle could see an upturn in 12 months. Gross NPLs (as a % of advances) are estimated to increase to 1.4% by FY09; net NPLs are however estimated to decline to become almost negligible by FY09 as the bank continues to make aggressive provisions. Credit costs are estimated to rise significantly from <40bps to around 70bps by FY09.

### Likely to raise capital over the next 12 months

UTI Bank's tier I capital has declined <6.5% in Mar-07, and based on our current projections we expect it to decline to <5.5% by FY08 and hence expect the bank is likely to raise capital within the next 12 months. We have, however, not factored in any impact of implementation of the Basle II norms, which could, result in some savings on tier I capital due to lower risk weights on retail lending.

### Reiterate Buy; PO of Rs600

UTI Bank, trading at 3.4x FY08E adj book, could, in our view, sustain its current multiple going forward, given

- Strong earnings trajectory of +30% with improved visibility as the bank expands distribution and also penetrates into the smaller towns, including all district headquarters, a key strategy adopted by UTI Bank.
- Expanding distribution network that should help it enhance its share of low cost deposits, positively impacting its margins (key investor concern) and also generate stronger fee revenues by leveraging on its widening customer base.
- 3. ROE expanding to +23% by FY08 (not factoring in the capital dilution post dilution the sustainable ROE, in our view, would be 18-20%)

Hence one year from now we think it could trade at 3.3-3.5x FY09E adj book (15-20% discount to HDFC Bank), implying a price range of Rs600-640, underpinning our PO of Rs600, at the lower end of the valuation range. Sharp rise in NPL is the key risk to our PO.

Table 2: Income Statement

Year to March	FY05A	FY06	FY07E	FY08E	FY09E
Interest Income	19,242	28,888	45,604	64,934	86,838
Interest expense	11,930	18,106	29,933	42,742	57,357
Net interest income	7,312	10,782	15,671	22,192	29,481
Other income	4,158	7,296	10,101	12,351	15,433
- Treasury Gains	(113)	1,298	1,857	1,200	700
Total income	11,470	18,079	25,772	34,544	44,914
Operating expenses	5,814	8,141	12,146	16,521	21,559
Pre-provision Profit	5,656	9,938	13,626	18,023	23,355
Total Provision	618	2,624	3,664	4,923	6,548
-Provision for NPL	162	1,718	1,418	3,273	4,698
- Provision for Investments	483	910	2,245	1,650	1,850
PBT	5,038	7,314	9,962	13,100	16,807
Provision for Tax	1,692	2,462	3,372	4,415	5,664
PAT	3,346	4,852	6,590	8,685	11,143

Source: Company Reports, ML Research Estimates

Table 3: Balance Sheet

As at March	FY05	FY06	FY07E	FY08E	FY09E
Cash balances	52,760	36,418	38,190	65,780	83,310
Advances	156,029	223,124	368,760	511,800	684,904
Investments	142,749	215,274	268,970	342,442	424,385
Fixed assets	5,184	5,677	6,238	6,238	6,438
Current assets	20,714	16,818	28,532	35,562	43,782
Total Assets	377,437	497,311	710,691	961,822	1,242,817
Equity Capital	2,738	2,787	2,787	2,787	2,787
Reserves & Surplus	21,344	25,935	31,146	38,451	48,061
Shareholders' funds	24,082	28,722	33,933	41,238	50,848
ESOPs	134	134	134	134	134
Deposits	317,120	401,135	587,860	799,674	1,039,576
<ul> <li>Demand deposits</li> </ul>	120,457	160,355	234,300	322,368	419,078
- Term deposits	196,663	240,780	353,560	477,306	620,498
Borrowings	25,700	44,695	65,419	91,679	116,438
<ul> <li>Subordinated debt</li> </ul>	7,886	17,886	27,886	42,886	57,886
Current liabilities	10,401	22,624	23,345	29,096	35,821
Total Liabilities	377,437	497,311	710,691	961,822	1,242,817

Source: Company Reports, ML Research Estimates

Table 4: Key Ratios

Table 4. Rey Ratios					
Key Ratios	FY05	FY06	FY07E	FY08E	FY09E
EPS	13.24	17.57	23.65	31.16	39.98
Earnings growth	2%	42%	36%	32%	28%
CEPS	15.2	20.7	27.8	36.3	46.4
PPP / Share	23.6	39.0	53.0	69.8	90.3
BV/share	88.0	103.1	121.8	148.0	182.5
Adjusted BV / Share	80.0	95.2	112.2	142.6	182.3
ROAA	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%
ROAE	18.9%	18.4%	21.0%	23.1%	24.2%
NIM	2.5%	2.61%	2.72%	2.78%	2.79%
Gross NPLs	2.0%	1.7%	1.1%	1.2%	1.4%
Net NPLs	1.4%	1.0%	0.7%	0.3%	0.0%
Coverage	30%	42%	36%	76%	100%
Capital Adequacy Ratio	12.7%	11.1%	11.6%	10.8%	10.7%
- Tier I CAR	8.9%	7.3%	6.4%	5.3%	5.0%
C/D ratio	49%	56%	63%	64%	66%
Cost-Income ratio (Excl Treasury)	50%	48.5%	50.8%	49.5%	48.8%
Other Inc (Excl treasury) / Total Inc (Excl					
Treasury)	18.2%	17.2%	15.3%	14.7%	14.5%
Cost Asset Ratio	1.5%	1.6%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%
Loan Growth	67%	43%	65%	39%	34%
Equity / Assets	6.4%	5.8%	4.8%	4.3%	4.1%
Equity / Loans	15.4%	12.9%	9.2%	8.1%	7.4%
Provision/ Loans	0.10%	0.77%	0.38%	0.64%	0.69%
CASA	38%	40%	40%	40%	40%
Tax rates	34%	34%	34%	34%	34%
Yield on Advances	7.8%	8.1%	9.1%	9.4%	9.4%
Yield on Investments	7.1%	7.2%	7.2%	7.4%	7.4%
Cost of Funds	4.2%	4.6%	5.4%	5.5%	5.6%
Divid per share	3.2	3.5	4.5	4.5	5.0
Divid. Payout	26%	22%	21%	16%	14%
Dividend Yield	0.7%	0.7%	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%
P/E	35.2	26.5	20.30	15.40	12.01
P/ PPP	20.3	12.3	9.1	6.9	5.3
P/ABV	6.00	5.04	4.28	3.37	2.63

Source: Company Reports, ML Research Estimates

### Price Objective Basis & Risk

UTI Bank, trading at 3.4x FY08E adj book could, in our view, sustain its current multiple going forward, given its strong earnings trajectory and rising ROE.

Hence one year from now we think it could trade at 3.3-3.5x FY09E adj book (15-20% discount to HDFC Bank), implying a price range of Rs600-640, underpinning our PO of Rs600, at the lower end of the valuation range. Sharp rise in NPL is the key risk to our PO

### **Analyst Certification**

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### iQmethod™ Measures Definitions

Business Performance Numerator Denominator

Return On Capital Employed NOPAT = (EBIT + Interest Income) \* (1 - Tax Rate) + Goodwill Total Assets - Current Liabilities + ST Debt + Accumulated Goodwill

Amortization Amortization

Net Income Shareholders' Equity

Return On Equity Net Income Shareholders
Operating Margin Operating Profit Sales

Earnings Growth Expected 5-Year CAGR From Latest Actual N/A
Free Cash Flow Cash Flow From Operations – Total Capex N/A

**Quality of Earnings** 

 Cash Realization Ratio
 Cash Flow From Operations
 Net Income

 Asset Replacement Ratio
 Capex
 Depreciation

 Tax Rate
 Tax Charge
 Pre-Tax Income

 Net Debt-To-Equity Ratio
 Net Debt = Total Debt, Less Cash & Equivalents
 Total Equity

Interest Cover EBIT

Valuation Toolkit

Price / Earnings RatioCurrent Share PriceDiluted Earnings Per Share (Basis As Specified)Price / Book ValueCurrent Share PriceShareholders' Equity / Current Basic Shares

Dividend Yield Annualised Declared Cash Dividend Current Share Price

Free Cash Flow Yield Cash Flow From Operations – Total Capex Market Cap. = Current Share Price \* Current Basic Shares

Enterprise Value / Sales EV = Current Share Price \* Current Shares + Minority Equity + Net Debt + Sales

EV / EBITDA Enterprise Value Basic EBIT + Depreciation + Amortization

iQmethod stricts in the set of Merrill Lynch standard measures that serve to maintain global consistency under three broad headings: Business Performance, Quality of Earnings, and validations. The key features of iQmethod are: A consistently structured, detailed, and transparent methodology. Guidelines to maximize the effectiveness of the comparative valuation process, and to identify some common pitfalls.

Interest Expense

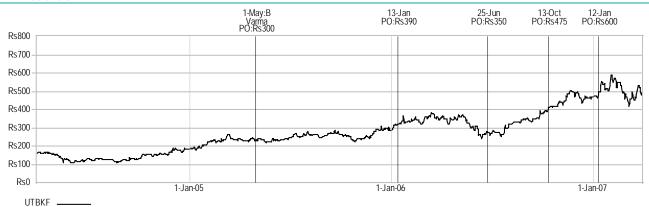
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Other LT Liabilities

### **Important Disclosures**

#### **UTBKF Price Chart**



B: Buy, N: Neutral, S: Sell, PO: Price objective, NA: No longer valid

The Investment Opinion System is contained at the end of the report under the heading "Fundamental Equity Opinion Key". Dark Grey shading indicates the security is restricted with the opinion suspended. Light Grey shading indicates the security is under review with the opinion withdrawn. Chart current as of March 31, 2007 or such later date as indicated.

#### **UTIBY Price Chart**



B: Buy, N: Neutral, S: Sell, PO: Price objective, NA: No longer valid

The Investment Opinion System is contained at the end of the report under the heading "Fundamental Equity Opinion Key". Dark Grey shading indicates the security is restricted with the opinion suspended. Light Grey shading indicates the security is under review with the opinion withdrawn. Chart current as of March 31, 2007 or such later date as indicated.

### Investment Rating Distribution: Banks Group (as of 31 Mar 2007)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships*	Count	Percent
Buy	119	44.57%	Buy	49	52.13%
Neutral	122	45.69%	Neutral	57	54.81%
Sell	26	9.74%	Sell	14	58.33%
Investment Rating Distribution: Global G	oup (as of 31 N	Vlar 2007)			
Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships*	Count	Percent
Buy	1562	45.16%	Buy	415	30.09%
Neutral	1615	46.69%	Neutral	446	30.65%
Sell	282	8.15%	Sell	49	19.76%

<sup>\*</sup> Companies in respect of which MLPF&S or an affiliate has received compensation for investment banking services within the past 12 months.

FUNDAMENTAL EQUITY OPINION KEY: Opinions include a Volatility Risk Rating, an Investment Rating and an Income Rating. VOLATILITY RISK RATINGS, indicators of potential price fluctuation, are: A - Low, B - Medium, and C - High. INVESTMENT RATINGS, indicators of expected total return (price appreciation plus yield) within the 12-month period from the date of the initial rating, are: 1 - Buy (10% or more for Low and Medium Volatility Risk Securities - 20% or more for High Volatility Risk securities); 2 - Neutral (0-10% for Low and Medium Volatility Risk securities - 0-20% for High Volatility Risk securities); 3 - Sell (negative return); and 6 - No Rating. INCOME RATINGS, indicators of potential cash dividends, are: 7 - same/higher (dividend considered to be secure); 8 - same/lower (dividend not considered to be secure); and 9 - pays no cash dividend.



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